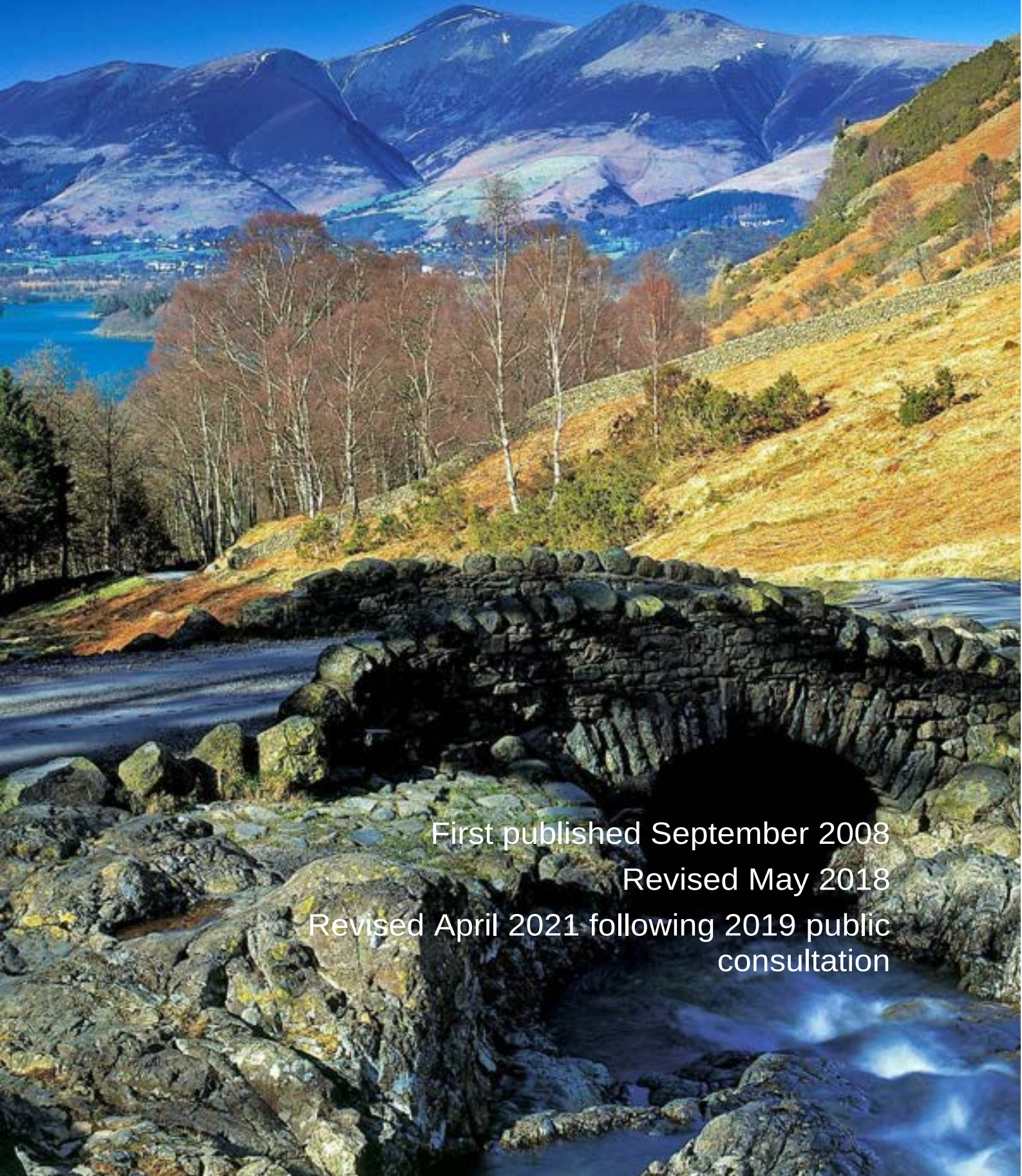


Lake District National Park Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines



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consultation

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

In 2007, a partnership of organisations (The Lake District National Park Authority, Friends of the Lake District, The National Trust and Natural England) commissioned Chris Blandford Associates (CBA) to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines for the Lake District National Park.¹ This was first published in September 2008. It was adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document by the Lake District National Park Authority in October 2011.²

In 2017 the Lake District National Park Partnership agreed to carry out a review of the Landscape Character Assessment to ensure it referred to the full extent of the National Park (following its extension in 2016) and reflected key studies that have been published since 2008. These include the World Heritage Site, Cumbria Biodiversity Evidence Base and Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Structures. It has been updated to reflect the current forces for change affecting the Park and Lake District National Park Management Plan ambitions.

In line with good practice, the Lake District Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines are distinct elements of a single document. The Character Assessment captures baseline information about the character of the Park's landscapes in a value-free way. The Guidelines involve making judgements about the inherent sensitivities of the different landscape character units, their capacity to accommodate change and future management needs.

The Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines is a large document. To improve ease of use it is available on the Lake District National Park's website via a mapping portal as well as pdf section downloads.

1.2 Purpose of the Assessment

The Assessment seeks to provide a framework for developing a shared understanding of the current character of the Lake District's landscapes and its future management needs.

The Assessment is intended to be a reference document for everyone with an interest in the future management of the Park – including residents, businesses, visitors, students, national and local agencies, farmers and other land managers. It also seeks to provide an inspirational source of ideas and guidance to help encourage locally appropriate management and use of land in ways that conserve valued features of the landscape. In this way, the Assessment will provide an evidence base against which proposals for change can be judged in an objective and transparent manner.

The specific aims and objectives for the two elements of the Assessment are:

¹ Details of the Project Brief and individuals involved in the preparation of the original Study and the revised Study can be found in Appendices A and B.

² It is planned for the revised version to be adopted as SPD in 2018.

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Character Assessment

Aims

- To improve the knowledge and understanding of the Lake District landscape to help conserve and enhance the overall characteristics, qualities and diversity of landscape character, its sense of place and local distinctiveness;
- To identify and understand factors influencing landscape change; and
- To provide baseline data to facilitate future monitoring.

Objectives

- To highlight and describe the character of the physical, cultural, historical, ecological, visual and sensory landscape;
- To identify past, present and future forces for change and describe their impacts; and
- To assess the sensitivity to and capacity for change, for each defined landscape character unit.

Guidelines

Aims

- To support a holistic approach to managing change and encourage the sustainable planning and management of the Lake District landscape including the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment and the enrichment of biological diversity.

Objectives

- To provide planning, management and design guidelines, integrated with the Local Development Framework and the National Park Management Plan, for each landscape character type and area of distinctive character; and
- To suggest indicators for monitoring landscape change.

Specific applications of the assessment and guidelines are to:

Land Management

- Provide essential information and guidance to land owners and managers;
- Inform the targeting and monitoring of agri-environment grant aid schemes, such as Environmental Stewardship;
- Highlight the key landscape management issues that need to be considered in greater detail in relation to land management proposals;
- Provide guidance for anyone implementing projects/work on the ground; and
- Inform option choices for agri-environment schemes related to attributes of a locally distinctive nature.

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Planning

- Provide valuable information to influence the full extent of the land use planning system from strategic planning, the Local Development Framework to the development control decision-making process;
- Add to the transparency of the planning process by setting out a method of assessment in line with national guidelines;
- Act as an information resource to our partners and customers from national agencies to students and visitors;
- Provide a baseline for State of the Park reporting and identify critical indicators of change;
- Be an information source for the National Park Management Plan review;
- Support the management of the I World Heritage Site ;
- Add to the outputs of the Lake District Historic Landscape Classification;
- Inform the development of Strategic Area Management Plans;
- Assist in developing property management plans;
- Provide supporting information for Supplementary Planning Documents;
- Provide a framework for Parish Plans, Neighbourhood Plans, Village Design Statements, Conservation Area Appraisals, Settlement Master Plans and Planning Development Briefs
- Underpin the application of criteria-based landscape development control policies within the Local Development Framework by highlighting the key landscape planning and design issues that need to be considered in greater detail;
- Help guide the location and fit of appropriate new development within the landscape, and to promote high quality architectural and public realm design that respects the particular characteristics of the contextual landscape setting; and
- Provide an evidence base to support the Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment of spatial development options and policies within the Local Development Framework.

1.3 Approach and Methodology

The overall approach for undertaking the original and review of the Landscape Character Assessment is based on published national guidance³, taking into account current best practice. Landscape Character Assessment addresses both the analytical process of character assessment (or 'characterisation'), which involves identifying,

³ Original LCA Landscape Character Assessment – Guidance for England and Scotland (Countryside Agency/Scottish Natural Heritage 2002) and the Review - An approach to Landscape Character Assessment, October 2014, Natural England

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mapping, classifying and describing landscape character, and the evaluative process of developing guidelines for informing planning and land management decisions.

The landscape character assessment takes into account more than just the visible components of landscape. It is about the relationship between people, place and nature. The approach recognises that historical and cultural associations and the total experience of landscape through all the senses, and through knowledge, are integral to defining landscape character and its distinctiveness. Some components of landscape character are tangible features capable of being mapped and measured, whilst others are more intangible and less easy to define objectively. The components of the landscape are its:

- visible physical components (e.g. geology, landform, buildings, vegetation)
- visible spatial components (e.g. scale, pattern, colour, texture); and
- non-visible components (e.g. sense of tranquillity, wildness, cultural associations).

These components of the landscape that combine to form landscape character, vary considerably from place to place, and usually provide such a unique combination of components that it is distinctive and not quite like anywhere else. This gives a sense of place and identity unique to each area. Landscape observation, description and classification necessarily involve objective and subjective matters; this Study embraces these subjective elements by confining description to the components of the landscape rather than recording the assessor's responses to it.

The 2018 review of the landscape character assessment and guidelines has focused on a desk based approach. This reviewed the LCA to cover the full extent of the National Park following its extension in 2016. All landscape units have been reviewed against new information including the World Heritage Site Inscription document, Volume 2 – Valley Descriptions and History, the Cumbria Biodiversity Evidence Base and Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure. An assessment of boundaries, types and adjacent landscape types outside the Lake District National Park has been undertaken. Clarification on the role of the setting of the National Park has been added.

Field surveys were not undertaken. The original assessment was based on field surveys. There has been no significant change to the overall condition of the landscape since the original surveys were carried out. For the extension areas, studies provided in support of the park boundary extension were considered relevant to use. These studies involved field surveys.

The Study Area

The Lake District National Park boundary defines the Study Area (see Figure 1.1). However, landscape character units do not always coincide with administrative boundaries. The assessment also considers landscapes outside, but immediately adjacent, to the Park boundary. This approach helps place the Lake District's landscapes in the context of Cumbria's landscapes as a whole (see Section 3 for details). Landscape units that continue beyond the boundary of the park are identified in the character description. In some cases, these areas form the setting to the National Park.

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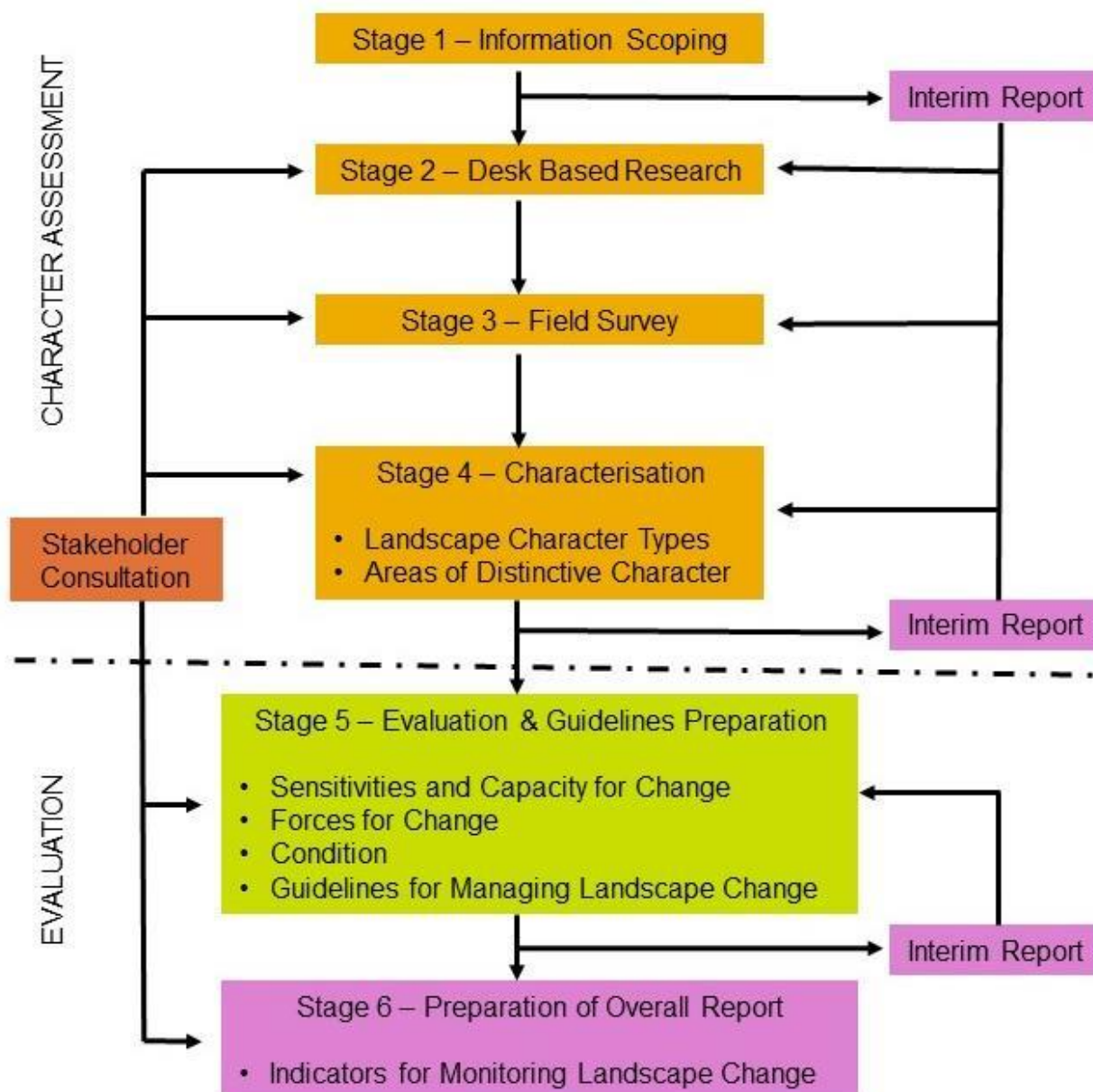
Figure 1.1 The Study Area



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The original study process is illustrated on Figure 1.2. This illustrates the iterative nature of the overall process and highlights the relationship between the distinct but linked character assessment and evaluation stages involved in preparation of the Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines.

Figure 1.2 The LCA Study Process 2008



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Character Assessment

The landscape character assessment has been carried out at a scale of 1:25,000. The Study Area was classified into:

- **Landscape Character Types** – generic units of landscape with a distinct and recognisable pattern of elements that occur consistently throughout the type; and
- **Areas of Distinctive Character** – discrete geographical areas with a distinct and recognisable pattern of elements that occur consistently throughout the area.

The Landscape Character Types provide a spatial framework within which generic forces for change, land management issues and guidelines for managing landscape change can be developed – such as ‘Low Fell’ for example. The Areas of Distinctive Character allow guidelines to be developed that address place-specific management issues and opportunities – such as ‘Kentmere Fells’ for example.

Evaluation

The character of the landscape varies across the National Park as a result of different patterns of physical, cultural, historical and ecological characteristics. The landscape is not static and will continue to change in response to a range of social, economic and environmental factors. The scale and speed of change have all increased with technological progress, and landscapes have different capacities to tolerate change.

Landscape character has evolved over time in response to traditional ways of building and utilising the land that respected natural constraints and used natural, locally available materials and techniques. In considering potential future changes it is important to understand and respect this historical context, to appreciate why features are like they are, to inform today’s decision making.

The evaluation process involves making judgements about the inherent sensitivities/vulnerabilities of a landscape, its capacity to accommodate different forces for change and its current condition. These judgements are used to develop guidelines that highlight needs and opportunities for managing landscape change to inform land use planning and land management decisions. These have been reviewed in light of new studies.

The original indicators are being reviewed during 2018 to assist in monitoring changes in the landscape character of the National Park. Monitoring impacts will be published in the State of the Lake District National Park Report.

Stakeholder and Public Consultation

Major landowners and managers, statutory agencies and other key stakeholder organisations and the general public were involved in the process of developing the original Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines. This helped to strengthen the evidence base by incorporating the views of both communities of interest and place,

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and promoted awareness of the value of the Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines as a tool for informing planning and land management decisions.

Consultation will be carried out following the 2018 review of the Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines as a requirement for its re-adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document.

The 2007/8 involved consulting organisations within the Lake District National Park Partnership and other key stakeholder groups through workshops, interviews and discussions. The Study has also engaged the general public through a questionnaire-based survey of residents, businesses and visitors. The survey aimed to find out what people value about the character of the Lake District's landscapes, and the way in which changes to the landscape should be managed in the future.

Full details of the 2007/8 study methodology are provided in **Appendix D**.

1.4 Structure of the Landscape Character Assessment

The Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines is structured as follows:

- Section 1 Introduction
- Section 2 Evolution of the Landscape and Forces for Change - provides an overview of the past physical and cultural influences that have shaped the Lake District's landscapes, and examines the current forces for change affecting the National Park's landscapes in the future;
- Section 3 The Lake District Character Assessment: An Overview - describes the context provided by the hierarchical classification of Landscape Character Areas and Types defined at the national and county levels. Within this context, the classification of Landscape Character Types and Areas of Distinctive Character defined within the Lake District is presented;
- Section 4 Landscape Character Types - sets out descriptions and guidelines for 13 generic Landscape Character Types (and their sub types) identified within the National Park;
- Section 5 Areas of Distinctive Character - presents the descriptions and guidelines for the 71 geographically unique Areas of Distinctive Character defined within the National Park; and
- Section 6 - Monitoring Landscape Change sets out indicators for monitoring landscape change in the National Park.

2 EVOLUTION OF THE LANDSCAPE AND FORCES FOR CHANGE

2.1 Introduction

The Lake District has been, is and always will be a dynamic evolving landscape and this is part of its richness and interest.

This section provides an overview of the past physical, cultural and socio-economic influences that have shaped the Lake District's landscapes and examines the forces for change affecting the National Park's landscapes in the future.

This contextual overview is key to understanding and defining the variations in landscape character within the National Park set out in Sections 3, 4 and 5; it also provides a basis for developing guidelines for positive management of change within different types of landscape and locations.

2.2 Physical Influences on Landscape Character

The Lake District landscape was formed during the course of 500 million years of geological processes when the climatic conditions periodically underwent great changes. Slate, crystalline rocks, limestone, coal and red sandstone constituted the basic layers, with the formation of a central dome through volcanic intrusion about 280 million years ago. The topography of the Lake District is often compared to a wheel, with the hub approximately at Dunmail Raise and the valleys and lakes radiating out as the spokes. The resulting topography of the Lake District includes England's highest mountain and deepest and longest lakes.

Geology and Landform

The underlying geology has had a profound influence on the shape and character of the Lake District (see Figure 2.1). The development of the main geological formations is described below.

Skiddaw Group

The Skiddaw Group formation began 450 million years ago when pressures of earth movements solidified huge amounts of accumulated mud and clay on the seabed. The sedimentary rocks in the form of mudstones, siltstones and greywackes were then uplifted by surges in earth movements⁴. Once above sea level, erosion through water and frost caused the dark grey rocks to subsequently break up to form small thin flakes. As the rocks were evenly eroded they formed curved or angular mountain profiles with steep smooth sides such as at Skiddaw or Blencathra, north of Keswick.

Borrowdale Volcanic Group

Following the deposition of the Skiddaw Group, several subterranean vents opened causing volcanic eruptions. The explosions widely scattered a mixture of volcanic material and shattered rocks and formed the dark lavas to light green slaty rocks of the 'Borrowdale Volcanics'. The Borrowdale Volcanics were hard and less affected by erosion, forming the highest and most rugged part of the Lake District and lead to the formation of the dramatic, towering craggy pikes and fells of Langdale Pike, Bowfell, Conistون Old Man, Great Gable, Helvellyn and Scafell Pike, and the crags, hollows and peaks on the minor fells⁵.

Conistون Limestone

Approximately 440 million years ago, the majority of the area was submerged under a shallow sea until earth movements again uplifted the central fells and produced fracture lines. Storm water then flowed into the fracture lines and other structural weaknesses and brought silt down into the sea. The resultant rock formed from this silt is called Conistون Limestone. It formed a narrow band from the Duddon Estuary across the southern slope of the Old Man of Conistون, through Tarn Hows and Ambleside to Shap on the edge of the Lake District.

Silurian Flags and Slates

Between 435 and 395 million years ago, the Silurian Flags and Slates were created through large extents of erosion silt and mud that were rapidly deposited. Areas of comparatively low relief (the highest hills reached elevations of below 400m) and craggy fells mark the outcrop of the Silurian Flags and Slates. The underlying rocks dip gently to the south, leaving generally steeper north facing hillsides. The mudstone or gritstone breaks down fairly easily and produces a good depth of acidic soils that supports much of the semi-natural woodland found in the south of the Park, such as the wooded hills around the shores of Windermere.

Granite

Between 400 and 350 million years ago, the area was thrust out of the sea into a high dome as a result of the northern and the European continental masses colliding. These earth movements opened up subterranean cavities into which magma flowed changing the rock within contact both chemically and physically. Condensing vapours crystallised into the metal minerals, lead, zinc, copper and iron. Magma that reached shallow earth and cooled more slowly formed granites. Granite is found on the surface at Ennerdale, Eskdale, Shap and the Caldew Valley where it has been quarried to

⁴ Countryside Commission (1999) Countryside Character Volume 2 – North West

⁵ T. Marsh (2000) The Lake District The Official National Park Guide

provide building materials.

Carboniferous Limestone

Carboniferous Limestone was formed 350 to 270 million years ago when a shallow sea rich in aquatic life inundated the area. The remains of these creatures accumulated in thick beds to form carboniferous limestone. The seas receded leaving behind tropical swamp forest as the climate subsequently warmed. When the sea levels rose again, the tropical swamp forest drowned and became buried and the organic matter slowly decomposed to form peat beds. Over time, these peat beds underwent chemical changes to become coal. Carboniferous Limestone occurs around the northern and southern edges of the National Park and can be seen in areas such as at Clints Crag near Blindcrake, and at Clints Quarry north of Egremont.

Sandstone

After the uplift 350 million years ago when the volcanic minerals such as lead, copper and haematite were formed, desert conditions prevailed with abrasive sandstorms. Carboniferous layers were stripped away, which together with the debris of older broken rocks, settled around the dome created in the uplift, and was consolidated to form sandstone. Due to its iron content and the absence of organic material, the red desert sand created a sand-based rock known as 'new red sandstone'. Outcrops of this rock encircle the Lake District.

Glaciation

In addition to the underlying geology of the area, glaciation during the last glacial period (which ended around 10,000BP) has also had a profound influence on the National Park's landscape. The profile of the area's valleys was considerably modified by the scouring effects of valley glaciers producing the distinctive 'U'-shaped cross section, numerous hanging valleys and, higher on the mountain slopes, corries. Erosion of rock outcrops by passing glaciers formed the smooth, rounded 'roche moutonee' form of outcrop seen on many hillsides⁶. Over-deepening of valley floors produced the rock basins that are now occupied by lakes. Deposition of glacial debris, in the form of boulder clay, drumlins and moraines, has given a distinctive character to many valley floors and has, in place, created natural dams behind which lakes and tarns have formed.

Soils and Agricultural Capability

The majority of the fells have poor to very poor quality agricultural land due to the shallow nature of the soils and topography of the area. Therefore, this area is mostly used to graze sheep, with some cattle. In the valleys towards the edges of the Lake District the agricultural land quality improves to good to moderate quality, which are suitable for a range of arable crops. However, the majority of the land in the valleys is used to graze cattle and sheep instead, while arable farming is now rare in the Lake District. Detailed information on agricultural land classification can be searched for free of charge on [MAGiC interactive maps](#).

⁶ Countryside Commission (1999) Countryside Character Volume 2 – North West

Hydrology and Drainage

Approximately 10,000 years ago, the Lake District was freed from ice and sea levels rose to current levels. The rivers developed from vast braided systems emanating from the ice sheet margins during the ice ages. In the upland areas, rivers are often 'misfit' streams located in the glacial trough valleys or locally follow deeply incised meltwater channels, often crossing earlier watersheds and diverting drainage. In lowlands towards the south of the Lake District, completely new river and estuarine systems developed after the last ice age on the till and glacial outwash plains.

The networks of becks and rivers radiate out from the central fells of the Lake District and meander through the main valleys, predominantly towards the Solway Firth, Duddon Estuary or Morecambe Bay. The Lake District river systems are all relatively short, reflecting the proximity of the upland sources to the coast. These short and powerful 'flashy' river systems have shaped and continue to shape the landscape. The rivers originate high on the fells where surface water often creates waterfalls over the steeper hillsides. The becks flow down the hillsides into the deeper and wider valleys where they join to form the main rivers. The principal rivers in the Lake District are the Rivers Cocker, Derwent, Eamont, Lowther, Leven, Bela, Winster, Crake, Gilpin, Kent, Lickie, Duddon, Annas, Esk, Calder and Ehen.

There are sixteen major lakes located in the ice-scoured valleys which radiate out from the central fells. The shapes of the lakes were determined by the degree of underlying geology resistance met by the glaciers. The longest lake is Windermere⁷. A wide and flat alluvial plain now divides Crummock Water and Buttermere, once a single large lake⁸. Derwentwater and Bassenthwaite Lake have been separated in the same way⁹.

The innumerable smaller water bodies in the Lake District are known as tarns. Tarns were formed where glaciers survived longest after the ice had retreated, persisting in deep hollows and gradually melting, leaving small water bodies. Many are located high up in the fells often separated by ridges or arêtes. Ecological succession has led to some tarns developing into basin mires or bogs in the higher areas of the fells, which provide a rich palaeo-environmental record of past landscape changes.

Ecological Character

The Lake District National Park falls within five National Character Areas¹⁰. The vast majority falls within the Cumbria High Fells National Character Area.

The *Cumbria High Fells National Character Area* contains the most biologically diverse range of upland habitats in England. The extensive mosaic of fell habitats includes montane and upland heath, blanket bog, scree and ledge communities, springs, flushes, tarns, lakes and rivers, valley mires and wetlands, purple moor grass, juniper scrub and Arctic Alpine plant communities. In places a few species rich meadows

⁷ J. Wyatt (2004) Cumbria The Lake District and its County

⁸ R. Talbot and Whiteman, R (2000) The English Lakes

⁹ T. Marsh (2000) The Lake District The Official National Park Guide

¹⁰ National Character Areas were defined by Natural England and contain profiles and descriptions of the natural and cultural features that shape an area. They include guidance for managing change. This section summarises information from NCA statements 7, 8, 19, and 20.

EVOLUTION OF THE LANDSCAPE AND FORCES FOR CHANGE

remain. Native broadleaf woodland and conifer plantations are extensive on the valley sides and bottoms, while the fells support scattered trees and scrub, plus a few small, high level and gill woodlands. Many of these habitats are internationally important.

Immediately to the south of the central high Lakeland mountains lies the *South Cumbria Low Fells National Character Area*, an area of undulating, rugged low fells and ridges radiating from the central massif of the Cumbria High Fells. There is a mosaic of fell habitats, including upland heathland, valley and basin mires, springs and flushes, lakes, tarns, juniper scrub, upland calcareous grassland and lowland dry acid grassland, among fast-flowing rocky becks, rough pasture, bracken beds, and small broadleaved and coniferous woodlands.

The area has extensive ancient, semi-natural woodlands, especially in the central area of South Cumbria Low Fells National Character Area, extending from Coniston Water and the River Crake to the Winster Valley, and contiguous with large conifer plantations and mixed woodland in Grizedale and the surrounding area. Rivers and streams drain southwards from the uplands and major lakes such as Windermere and Coniston, and flow through the area in a distinctive north–south orientation to drain into the Duddon Estuary or Morecambe Bay.

In the south east of the National Park the *Morecambe Bay Limestones National Character Area* is characterised by limestone geology and habitats alongside open intertidal mudflats, saltmarsh and lowland raised mire. The limestone pavement, scars, cliffs, screes and pavements, are separated by valleys containing grassland and woodland. Species-rich calcareous grassland, limestone pavements, scrub and semi-natural woodland often form valuable habitat mosaics in this area. In addition, the heads of the estuaries and floodplains of the Rivers Kent, Gilpin, Winster, and Leven support areas of lowland raised mire, saltmarsh, and mudflats.

The south western part of the National Park lies within the *West Cumbria Coastal Plain National Character Area*. The area behind the coast is gently undulating and dominated by agriculturally improved grasslands of generally low nature conservation value. The coastal strip contains a range of habitats of high biodiversity value, including salt marsh and dunes. The coast from Silecroft to Ravenglass, including the estuary complex at Ravenglass and the Duddon Estuary has a number of internationally and nationally designated nature conservation sites. These are important for their coastal sand dune, vegetated shingle and salt marsh communities as well as for breeding seabirds, wintering waders and wildfowl, natterjack toad, specialist flora and lowland raised bogs around the Duddon estuary.

A very small part of the National Park lies within the *Eden Valley National Character Area*. Managed estate and farm woodlands characterise the valley floor, with numerous shelterbelts, copses and mature hedgerow trees giving a wellwooded character. Semi-natural native woodlands, including oak/ash/birch hangers and wet woodland line the river valleys forming good woodland habitat networks. Coastal and flood plain grazing marsh are associated with the river valleys – wetland habitats supporting important numbers of breeding and wintering waders and wildfowl. Upland hay meadow occurs in the Lowther and Swindale valleys

The coverage of statutory and non-statutory nature conservation designations within the National Park is presented below¹¹:

¹¹ State of the Lake District National Park Report, Lake District National Park Partnership, 2013. This will be updated in October 2018 and should be referred to for the latest data.

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Designation	Designated sites within the National Park
	Hectares (ha.)
Ramsar Site	772
Special Area of Conservation	37,310
Special Protection Area	1849
Site of Special Scientific Interest	42,901
National Nature Reserve	1,386
County Wildlife Sites	18,924
Ancient Woodland	9,989

Overall, almost one fifth of the National Park is covered by sites of international or national importance.

The Lake District supports a wide range of semi-natural habitat types, many of which are of high value for nature conservation. Priority habitats include¹²:

- Native broadleaved woodland and scrub
- Orchards
- Wood pasture and parklands
- Heathland
- Bog and mire
- Montane heath and grassland
- Lowland dry acid grassland
- Calcareous grassland
- Rivers
- Rock habitats
- Hay meadows and pastures
- Hedgerows
- Fen, marsh and swamp
- Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh

¹² Cumbria Biodiversity Evidence Base, Cumbria Biological Data Network, 2016

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- Aquatic habitats
- Coastal habitats.

A description of the above priority habitat types are contained in the [Cumbria Biodiversity Evidence Base](#), and summarised below.

Whilst the dominant woodland type in the National Park is commercial conifer forestry, the Lake District supports proportionally more ancient semi-natural woodland than most other areas of the UK. Sessile oak, birch, ash and alder woodlands occur on the upland areas of the high fells. These woodlands support important assemblages of ferns, mosses and liverworts, populations of red squirrels and birds such as flycatchers and wood warbler. The upland ash woodlands, characteristic of the limestone areas, are often associated with species- rich shrub and field layers and frequently contain yew and a ground flora of dog's mercury wild garlic, primrose and herb robert. Three are extensive woodlands in Borrowdale, Ullswater and other valleys, supporting the best oceanic western oak woods in England. The Lake District also supports important stands of juniper scrub on the crags and fell sides. This mixed composition of these native broadleaved woodlands make a significant contribution to the natural beauty of the National Park through the complexity of their pattern, texture and mosaic of green shades colours, and also seasonal colour changes - including the distinctive assemblages of mosses and lichens that are particularly evident during the winter months. Wood pasture and parklands generally provides large trees in a matrix of grazed grassland, heathland and woodland flora. They are often associated with wooded commons, medieval deer parks and ornamental landscaped parks. Orchards are found in the southern valleys of the Lake District and often host fruit trees of a considerable age. Damson orchards are notable in the Lyth and Winster valleys. Apples are grown elsewhere. The low intensity of their management has led to them becoming biodiversity hotspots, with old fruit trees supporting a range of uncommon invertebrates and epiphytic lichens.

The fells represent a significant part of England's upland dry heath, wet heath, blanket bog and mire. The upland heathland is dominated by heather, with smaller areas of bilberry, and grasses including sheep's fescue, common bent and wavy hair grass. It supports a range of bird species including red grouse, golden plover and curlew. Montane heath and grassland covers most of the vegetated summits and slopes of the highest mountain tops, above 600m, and characteristically contains an abundance of mosses and lichens as well as arctic alpine plant species. Both of these habitats have been exposed to ecological overgrazing in the recent past and are experiencing a decline in quality and extent. Montane heath is particularly vulnerable to climate change.

Grasslands include calcareous grassland, found on shallow, well drained soils derived from a variety of lime or base rich rock types. Blue moor, bent and fescue grasses are common alongside a range of plants including birds foot trefoil, salad burnet, and fly orchid. They support a variety of invertebrates such as the wall mason bee and pearl bordered fritillary. Lowland dry acid grassland is associated with windblown and glacial deposits of sand and thin based soils over acid rocks. It can be found in small areas around the edges of the northern and southern fells.

The rocky habitats within the National Park include crags, ledges, screes and limestone scars and pavements. The most inaccessible crags support relict arctic alpine communities which were formerly far more extensive. The limestone pavements in the south support a number of important plants, including rigid buckler fern, downy

currant and Lancastrian whitebeam, endemic to the limestones around around Morecambe Bay.

The Lake District is uniquely identified with its freshwater habitats ranging from mountain tarns, rivers, streams and the large valley lakes which, depending on the underlying geology, range from acid and nutrient poor to the moderately base and nutrient rich. The aquatic environment supports some of the Lake District's rarest species, including the only British population of vendace (a fish), as well as important invertebrate and bird populations.

Blanket bog are peatlands that receive their nutrients from rainfall. They are extensive in the central fells where peat mantles have formed over gently undulating hills. In contrast, the southern fells support some of the most extensive areas of lowland raised mire in England. These have formed in low lying land near to estuaries or in river floodplains. Bog vegetation is characterized by sphagnum bog mosses, cotton grasses, cross leaved heath and heather. Sundews, bog rosemary and cranberry are also common.

Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh is abundant around lakes, rivers and estuaries. Seasonal flooding gives the vegetation a distinctive composition, including species such as creeping bent, marsh foxtail, marsh marigold and silverweed. Grazing marshes are of major significance for breeding, passage and overwintering birds. There are pockets of fen, marsh and swamp found around the margins of lakes, ponds and slow moving sections of rivers. Reeds, sedges, purple moor grass are common. These habitats are important for marsh fritillary butterfly, variable damselfly and snipe.

2.3 Human and Cultural Influences on Landscape Character

As described above, the physical character of the Lake District landscape is the product of millions of years of geomorphological processes. The landscape also bears the imprint of successive periods of human settlement and land use dating from as early as 12,000 BC. This section provides an overview of the interaction of cultural processes with the natural environment in the Lake District over time, highlighting the main human influences that have created the current character of the landscape. It also gives a broad overview of the settlement character patterns and vernacular building styles and examines past and current perceptions of the Lake District landscape.

Historical Development of the Landscape – An Overview¹³

The landscape of the English Lake District has been primarily moulded by the interaction of humans with the natural environment, especially through farming. The farmed landscape has developed over millennia helping to produce a landscape that is uniquely distinctive. This distinctiveness has been reinforced by the relative geographical isolation of the Cumbrian mountains and, at least in more recent times, by the district's distance from centres of power, its economic marginality and the relative

¹³ This overview is based on the World Heritage Site Nomination document, Vol 1, Section 2b, 2015

freedom enjoyed by its medieval and later tenant farmers. While the present form and beauty of the landscape is mainly the result of the living agro-pastoral system which has evolved over the last millennium, the earliest evidence of a human presence goes back to the end of the last glaciation, around 11,000 BC. .

The Prehistoric Landscape

After the end of the last glaciation around 11,000 BC, the entire area below 800m was eventually colonised by dense deciduous woodland. The earliest human groups came to the Lake District following the last glaciation, in the Upper Late Palaeolithic period, in pursuit of large game animals.

The initial open tundra upland landscape of this period was very different from that of the present day, and dry land extended across what is now the Irish Sea basin. During the Mesolithic (c.8,000 – 4,000 BC), with the gradual improvement in climate, groups of hunter-gatherers lived in semi-permanent or permanent settlements on the coast of the Lake District making use of the abundance of resources within the estuaries and the sea, and exploiting the woodlands, rivers and lakes inland. Throughout this long period, changes to the landscape would have been limited to development of widespread forest cover and then small clearings in the forest cover for settlement and possibly for creating grazing areas to attract wild herbivores.

During the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age periods (c.4,000 – 1,500 BC) settlement remained highly mobile and woodland clearings were small and temporary. Agriculture began to have an increasingly important role in subsistence, with domesticated crops and animals introduced, but wild animals and plants continued to provide important sources of food.

The earliest visible archaeological monuments in the Lake District date from the Neolithic and comprise large stone circles such as Swinside and Castlerigg and also causewayed enclosures at Green Howe and possibly Carrock Fell. High quality polished stone axes were manufactured from volcanic tuff quarried in the High Fells. These were traded widely and have been found not only in the Lake District but also as far away as Ireland, Scotland and Southern England.

By 2,500 BC the climate had warmed sufficiently to allow settlement and agriculture on the lower fells up to around 300 metres above sea level.. This has left an important archaeological legacy of hut circles, enclosures, clearance cairn fields and early field walls. Extensive Bronze Age settlement remains survive in the south-western fells, for example Town Bank, and in the north-east, in Glencoyne Park. By the later Bronze Age (after c. 1,000 BC) woodland clearance was more extensive and agriculture more intensive. Houses were constructed of timber and by the end of the Bronze Age some settlements were enclosed by stone walls. The construction of stone circles continued, for example on Burnmoor, and related monuments such as ring cairns were constructed in the high fells. Large fell-top burial cairns were also raised, often using stone from field clearance on lower ground.

Towards the end of the second millennium BC the climate seems to have deteriorated and some of the agricultural land of earlier centuries may have been abandoned. There is evidence of continuity of settlement into the Iron Age, from c. 800 BC. Both open and enclosed settlements are known, including a series of sites on Aughertree Fell, Tongue How (north of Gosforth), and excavated examples at Matterdale and Glencoyne Park. Houses were now more substantial, with stone foundations supporting a wooden superstructure and many Iron Age settlements

continued in use into the Roman period..

The Roman Landscape

The Romans arrived in the Lake District in the early 2nd century AD, establishing a network of forts and roads, with major forts at Troutbeck, Ambleside, Hardknott and Ravenglass. Large civilian settlements developed by the forts at Ambleside and Ravenglass. Roads connected the centres of Roman administration. Many sections have survived in the English Lake District, including the road from Brougham to Ambleside where it crosses High Street Fell. Romano-British settlements and field systems are relatively common in both the lower fells and valleys in the English Lake District, many continuing on the same sites as the preceding Iron Age. There is extensive survival of both enclosures and fields in the modern landscape. This good survival indicates that once these sites were abandoned, the arable exploitation of the uplands declined and for the most part was never re-established.

In the last centuries of the 1st millennium BC the pollen record indicates a major resurgence of woodland clearance that intensified in the Roman period. It is likely that many of the later prehistoric native settlements in the Lake District would have continued in occupation throughout this time.

Forest clearance and cultivation in the valleys was now relatively permanent and some woodland would have been managed. Agriculture was assisted by a short-lived improvement of the climate.

The Early Medieval Landscape

Land use in the immediate post-Roman period, the 5th and early 6th centuries, is uncertain. From the late 6th/early 7th centuries there is evidence of woodland clearance and intensified agricultural activity. The nature of settlement at this time is unclear, but there seems to have been a need for defence, for example at a small hillfort at Shoulthwaite, above Thirlmere. Although there is little evidence, there were almost certainly established settlements in the English Lake District valleys at this time. There is more evidence for activity in the uplands, with, for example, a shieling (summer settlement) at Bryant's Gill in Kentmere (Windermere) in the 7th century AD, indicating some form of transhumant agriculture. It is also known from the writing of the Venerable Bede, and from archaeological excavation, that a monastery was established at Dacre, between Keswick and Penrith, in the 7th century. There is also new evidence for 8th century iron smelting in Bryants Gill in Kentmere. While the overall picture of settlement in the English Lake District between the end of the Roman period in the early 5th century and the onset of Norse settlement in the later 10th century is far from clear, it is evident that occupation did continue. Between the 8th and 10th centuries the English Lake District's farming system and settlement pattern seems to have undergone significant and lasting modifications. The process of primary upland clearance and colonisation may have reached its peak at this time. These changes foreshadow many of the elements of settlement and agriculture that became key elements of the agro-pastoral system.

Areas of settlement and cultivation in the valleys would by now be permanent and there is evidence of the development of a system of transhumance (movement of stock to summer pastures in the fells) from at least as early as the 9th century. Small huts known as shielings were constructed by the graziers for occupation during the

summer and often survive as low foundations on the fells. This pattern of transhumance continued into the medieval period but seems to have disappeared by the end of the 15th century, with some former shielings becoming permanent farmsteads.

The Medieval Landscape and development of the agro-pastoral system

In the later 10th century immigrants of Scandinavian origin came to the English Lake District from Norse colonies in Ireland. Place-names indicate the extent of Norse settlement, both on the coast and in central valleys. The widespread occurrence of the Scandinavian suffix 'thwaite', meaning 'clearing', may indicate an extension of cultivation at this time. The Norse place-name elements '-skali' and '-saetr', denoting shieling sites may indicate the further development of transhumant farming, an important feature of early medieval farming in the English Lake District.

The Norse settlers may also have introduced the Herdwick sheep, although there is no firm evidence for this. The Norse also left an impressive legacy of ecclesiastical sculpture, including hog-back tombstones and crosses with intricately carved designs. The most impressive of these is the Gosforth cross, which combines both pagan and Christian imagery.

The Normans captured Carlisle in 1092 and over the following decades ownership of the Lake District was divided between Norman aristocratic families. In time, these families donated some of their holdings to monastic institutions that were established in the Lake District (e.g. Furness, Shap and Calder Abbeys) or outside (e.g. Fountains Abbey). The monasteries were adept at developing their assets and were responsible for the development of two key industries in the Lake District namely sheep farming/wool production and iron smelting. Both of these would in time have major impacts on the landscape.

Settlement in the early medieval period was generally dispersed, with individual farms and hamlets distributed throughout the valleys. The feudal system introduced by the Normans came to underpin economic life later during the medieval period. It created a structure within which an agro-pastoral system flourished, along with the development of rural industries. Farmsteads, settlements and population increased during the 12th and 13th centuries. The underlying pattern or 'blue-print' of tracks, farmsteads, fields and enclosures was indelibly traced out in the first part of the medieval period.

The medieval and later agrarian landscape of the English Lake District was characterized by inbye land in the valley bottom and common grazing on the open fell. Most arable land was farmed in strips in the valley bottom, enclosed and separated from the fell land by a wall known as a 'ring garth'. Individual farmsteads were built alongside the ring garth wall with the medieval buildings of wood and thatch being replaced in stone from the late 16th century. This system was fully developed by the late 13th century and still underpins the farming landscape and agro-pastoral system of the Lake District today, especially within the extensive and distinctive common grazing lands.

Grazing land on the fell was controlled by the lord of the manor together with other rights to resources such as wood and peat (for fuel) and bracken (for animal bedding and roofing). Dairy farms or 'vaccaries' were established in some of the valleys these were sited on newly-cleared pastures, once waste but well drained, at the flat valley heads, examples include Buttermere and Ennerdale.

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After prosperity and growth for two centuries, the 14th century was a period of decline, with invasions from Scotland and outbreaks of the plague known as the Black Death. There was also a marked deterioration in climate from about 1350. Families of wealth and status were obliged to build stone fire-proof tower houses (peles), adding a new element to the larger farmsteads generally on the edges of the English Lake District. These include examples at Kentmere Hall, Askham Hall, Isel Hall on the River Derwent, Muncaster Castle and Irton Hall.

Prosperity gradually returned in the 15th and especially the 16th centuries as a result of increased wealth from wool and better farming practices. The need for improved land was satisfied by the creation of intakes upslope of the ring garth in the central valleys. As with the tower houses, the farming gentry displayed their wealth with fine stone houses and larger farm buildings, to store more crops and animals. Yet still the tenant farmer had a humble dwelling, probably with an oak timber cruck frame, sod, boulder or cobble walls and a bracken thatched roof. The last phase of colonising the edges of commons and waste was still underway in the 16th century.

By the 15th century the pattern of life in the English Lake District focused on arable and pastoral farming, fisheries in the lakes and rivers, small-scale industries including charcoal burning, metal ore mining, iron and lead smelting and the production of wool. A series of small market towns including Keswick and Ambleside had established to service this rural economy and these were beginning to attract industrial processes such as wool production and tanning. Transport of goods and people was along well-developed tracks, packhorse routes and by boat along the lakes.

Medieval industry in the English Lake District, as in later periods, was based on the raw materials that were available locally. Iron smelting took place on a relatively small scale during the medieval period using iron ore from Low Furness and charcoal produced from the extensive broad-leaved woodland in the Lake District. The distribution of the archaeological remains of medieval smelting, known as 'bloomeries', is largely coincident with the present day distribution of ancient semi-natural woodland. The scale of the industry developed in the 16th and 17th centuries with the introduction of water-powered tilt hammers and bellows and in the 18th century with the introduction of the blast furnace. The greatest landscape impact of iron production was on the extent and character of the Lake District woodlands. The medieval industry is likely to have had a limited effect, but as the scale of production increased, the demand for greater quantities of charcoal led firstly to a depletion of the woods in the 16th century and then the development of the coppice rotation system which produced more sustainable supplies. However, by the end of the 19th century even this was insufficient for the demands of the blast furnaces and shortages of charcoal led first to the expansion of the industry to the Scottish west coast and later to furnaces standing idle for longer periods. The last blast furnace, at Backbarrow, ceased production in 1965.

The areas of former coppiced woodland in the Lake District contain well-preserved evidence of charcoal production in the form of woodsmen's huts and charcoal burning platforms (pitsteads) and some local surnames still reflect this important industry (e.g. Ashburner). Most of the coppice woodlands have reverted to high forest and where they do survive their survival is in large part due to the existence of the local iron industry.

Wool processing was also a major part of the medieval economy, particularly after the Cistercian monasteries developed farms and granges on their lands in the Lake District. Wool from the Lake District was highly valued and widely exported.

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Copper and graphite, in areas such as Coniston and Seathwaite, were among the earliest minerals to be exploited in the 16th century. The copper mines opened by the Mines Royal Company in the Caldbeck Fells are especially significant as the first well-documented large-scale copper mining operation in the UK. The landscape impacts of the intensifications of mining and quarrying include larger extraction complexes, and widespread spoil heaps, with one of the most dramatic spoil-affected landscapes being the Copper Mines Valley, near Coniston.

The Statesmen's Landscape (c1550-1750)

Following the dissolution of the monasteries (1536) and the gradual acquisition of farms by individual families, a new social class who were to become known in the late 18th century as 'the (e)statesmen' emerged during the later 16th century. They were yeoman farmers with customary rights but with freehold claim on their various landholdings.

The statesmen were not bound by a total oath to their lords as others had been before and were able to pass down their farmsteads (including the right of pasture, peat-cutting and wood-collecting on the commons) to their families.

This custom ensured a continuous possession within the family and consequently led to continuous investment and improvement in individual farm holdings and subsequently a gradual accumulation of wealth. The only exception to their freedom was during times of border raids when they had to place men and horses at their lords' disposal. It is due to this reduction in the lords' influence that the capacity to change the landscape fell into the hands of the statesmen farmers.

The system of cultivation in strips with a common, open field enclosed by a 'ring garth' wall, began to break down as a result of these changes in society and tenure. Walls and hedges were erected through private agreement to demarcate individual landholding in areas that had previously been managed as common land and the number of intake fields also increased thus further reducing the amount of common land. The pattern of small, irregular fields that resulted from this process still survive in the central Lake District valleys. At the same time, on remaining common land, a new pattern of land use developed, with each farm having common rights attached to it. This pattern of use has had a strong influence on upland land use, and this influence continues today. Approximately 30% of the remaining English common land is in Cumbria.

Statesmen had the common right to graze their animals on the open fells. Although there were no exclusive rights for individual farmers to particular parts of the land beyond the ring garths, for decades farmers used to stick to the same areas. The ability of the Herdwick sheep to instinctively stay within the bounds of their 'home patches' enforced this heafing system. The sheep were led to the upper fells for grazing and the lower fells with better sheltered pastures were reserved for cattle. The common use of the uplands was significant as a social binding for the tenants. Routes that provided communication between farms located on the valley bottom and the common fells were established to allow stock to reach their particular grazing allotments or 'heafs'. These routes, known locally as out-gangs, can often be recognised in the landscape today, carefully picking a route through the network of small intakes and enclosures on the valley sides, and funnelling up onto the fells.

The farming system at the end of the 18th century had developed a distinct character influenced by the particular social and economic developments that took

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place in the English Lake District. It comprised a small-scale farming economy based on the grazing of stock (Herdwick sheep and cattle) on the open fell and the cultivation of oats, barley and vegetables in the valley fields. As the open field system gradually disappeared, arable cultivation was organised in separate walled or hedged fields as opposed to the strips of earlier centuries.

From the 17th century, an increasingly independent and wealthy yeomanry invested in new buildings throughout the English Lake District, often providing date stones for major phases of rebuilding. A functional local vernacular architecture developed to accommodate the needs of this way of life – substantial stone houses to protect against the harsh winters, shelter for cows, sheep and pigs; storage for grain and hay from the fields; and storage for charcoal, peat and bracken. These new houses, either on or near their medieval footings, were two storeys high, of lime-washed rubble stone walls, with a slate roof, and oak used for window mullions, beams, roof trusses, flooring, panelling, stairs and cupboards.

Parliamentary Enclosure (c1750-1870)

In the Lake District, the Parliamentary Enclosure of the mid 18th century had two effects. First, it was a land reform that allowed the enclosure of the former waste lands, and by doing so taking it out of the control of the lord of the manor and handing it over to individual farmers.

It was only the wealthy statesmen farmers who profited from this process since the small farmers lost their rights for grazing and their shares were incorporated into the estates of the yeomen farms. Gradually the number of working farms was reduced and land was consolidated into fewer hands. Second, the enclosure led to a change in land-use, in some areas such as the Lyth Valley, since the enclosed fields could be drained and cultivated at will by their new owners.

Parliamentary Enclosure in the Lake District was a gradual and slow process, which lasted for more than a century. Parliamentary Enclosure was also, generally, confined to the periphery of the Lake District. The 'Statesmen' farmers of the central Lake District continued as before, and a lack of major land improvement allowed the pattern of small irregular field to survive. Thus, during this time, farming methods basically remained the same, and in summer the animals were still grazed on the High Fells as the farmers of the central area managed to keep their uplands unenclosed and under common right. Discernible remnants of the enclosure period are the ruler-straight dry stonewalls which were erected around any privately owned field or fell compartment. As a result, many large areas of upland fell were divided up with ruler straight precision which did not reflect the underlying landform and contrasted with the medieval organic field pattern.

The 18th and 19th Century Industrial Landscape

The Lake District is rich in minerals and other natural resources such as wood and running water, which provided an ideal basis for the development of a number of important industries. While some of these will have had their origins in prehistory, it was not until the medieval period that production took place on what could be termed an 'industrial' scale. The peak period of Lake District industry, however, was the 18th and 19th centuries from which time quarrying, mining, metal processing, wood and water-powered industries have left a rich heritage throughout the entire area.

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Slate, limestone, and granite were all quarried within the central Lake District fells. Slate from the Lake District was in great demand as a building material from the 17th century. Many of the quarries are still clearly identifiable today. Limestone was used for building mortar and also as an improver for areas of acid pasture, the stone was first quarried, roasted and crushed before it was spread on the field. Limestone quarries can be hard to detect since they become well vegetated after abandonment, although the limekilns themselves remain a common sight in many areas. Granite was quarried for use as a hard wearing building material and later for use as road stone. Craggy rock faces and waste heaps are reminders in today's landscape.

The role of mining for the various minerals to be found deep beneath the Lake District fells in shaping the contemporary landscape is sometimes missed by the casual visitor. Vast quantities of iron, copper, lead, zinc and barites were extracted from these fells over the centuries, along with more unusual minerals such as graphite, cobalt and tungsten wolfram.

The miners of the early and mid-19th century have left a wealth of archaeological evidence of their energy and determination in the form of stone-arched levels, ore smelters and crushing mills, water leats, wheelpits, mineral railways, spoil heaps and derelict buildings.

During the 18th and 19th centuries bark peeling, charcoal burning, potash manufacture, swill basket making as well as the manufacture of bobbins, tools and tool handles, hoops and barrels, brushes, and furniture was undertaken throughout the Lake District. Corn mills, paper mills and woollen mills are testimonies of the use of waterpower in the 18th and early 19th centuries.

Farming continued to play an important role during the early age of industrialisation. There were continuing agricultural improvement of enclosed fields both in the valley bottoms and on fellsides. Use of the fells for sheep and cattle continued with some evidence of increased stocking. Local materials were used in building, resulting in the distinctive vernacular styles of the different geological areas. There is also evidence of active management of the fells, such as the cutting of bracken for bedding. A first phase (c.1750s to 1780s) of agricultural production was spurred by the demand from industrialising communities. In the meantime turnpike roads facilitated exportation of surplus production to other parts of the country. The second phase (lasting until c.1815) was marked by the Napoleonic Wars, which brought great prosperity for agriculture and farm-based occupations. During the third phase (c.1815 to 1880) efficiency of the farming was increased by the introduction of mechanisation and new scientific methods (improved crops and animal breeds). However, the repeal of the Corn Laws in 1848 led to a major decline in the Cumbrian grain production, especially after the opening up of the American prairies by the railway system.

This prosperous period of Lake District farming came to an end, and numerous small-scale farmers left the area to seek work in factories elsewhere in England or abroad. Others found employment in local industries of smelting and mineral extraction, and farming became a part-time source of income for many.

The Picturesque and Romantic Tourist Landscape

From the mid-18th century, the English Lake District became a focus of aesthetic interest with the discovery of the Lake District 'picturesque' landscape. It became a desired destination for the leisured classes (and later an early tourist destination). The attraction of the Lake District grew with the publication of impressions

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and guides and the curtailment of the 'grand tour' of Europe due to the Napoleonic Wars.

Popularity increased through two philosophical and artistic movements, the Picturesque and the Romantic. As the Romantic poets and writers (among others William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Robert Southey, Thomas Gray, William Gilpin and the popular written guide by Thomas West in 1778) revealed more about the Lake District. Artists such as William Bellers and Thomas Smith produced prints of the Lake District which were widely circulated. Paintings by Sir George Beaumont and Joseph Farington generated much publicity. Viewing stations were built for people to savour the picturesque vistas, with around 40 being recognised across the Lake District. The writings, poetry, paintings and viewing stations generated more interest from artists, writers, and visitors and brought about a new way of viewing the landscape and changes to the landscape.

The easy access to the wild, open uplands of the Lake District in the 18th and 19th centuries contrasted with the more restrictive conditions in other areas where land ownership (and control) was quite different. There was no one landowner that could man the land with gamekeepers to keep out poets, daydreamers or tourists. Thus, Wordsworth and his contemporaries were able to roam the English Lake District and derive inspiration just as walkers, ramblers and climbers can today. The self-sufficient character of the 'Yeoman' farming families, although somewhat idealized by the Romantic poets, was a unique and not replicated elsewhere.

The extension of the railway network to the centre of the Lake District in the 1840s made journeys to the area much easier. Day trips were possible and popular in combination with a lake tour on a steamboat. 'Mass tourism' for the emerging Middle Classes arrived during the mid to late 19th century when travelling became more affordable with higher wages and more free time. Hotels, villas and other tourist infrastructure proliferated along Lake Windermere and Derwentwater. Property in the Lake District became increasingly valuable as visitors settled in the area. Many of the small-scale farmers took the opportunity to sell their land and move away. Farmland, especially in areas of scenic quality, was thus transformed into sites of villas often with designed gardens, parkland or woodland. The villa came to prominence as an English building type in the early 18th century as an aristocratic retreat from the social whirl of London. The villas built in the English Lake District in the late 18th century were among the first genuinely rural villas in Britain.

The first villa 'Belle Isle' built by Thomas English in 1774 was, according to Wordsworth writing seventy years later, 'the first house that was built in the Lake District for the sake of the beauty of the country'. By the 19th century villas proliferated along many lakesides. Villas continued to be built well into the 20th Century, when arts and crafts movement architecture flourished in this genre, contributing to the variety and notable quality of architectural styles found in the lake district.

The 20th Century and the Conservation Movement

The Picturesque interest in the English Lake District from the mid-18th century was accompanied by a recognition by a small number of new landowners and guidebook writers that the innate natural beauty of the English Lake District could be damaged by inappropriate development and that this could be prevented by direct action in terms of ownership and management. William Wordsworth and John Ruskin were prominent figures in the early conservation movement.

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Strong lobbies for the protection of the Lake District's landscapes emerged in the late 19th century with 'The Lake District Defence Society' lead by Canon H D Rawnsley, also a founder of The National Trust in 1895. During the early 20th century this movement developed as part of a wider conservation movement in the UK. Through the efforts of eminent conservationists such as Spence, Symonds, Abercrombie and Trevelyan, The Lake District Defence Society evolved into the Friends of the Lake District in 1934. The Friends strongly supported landscape conservation and public access, and their campaign for a National Park influenced the drafting of the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, and the designation of the Lake District National Park in 1951.

The conservation movement promoted campaigns to raise public awareness of the effects of intrusive development and land use change on the Lake District's landscapes. These ranged from the closure of footpaths, commercial forestry, increased traffic and new roads, and over-abstraction of water and new reservoirs, to electricity transmission lines and other utility improvements.

The era of agricultural industrialisation in the 20th century, especially the post-1950s period, had a major impact on the landscape, although the effects have not been as significant as in other parts of the country. Developments in agricultural practice and methods in this period gave rise to changes in the landscape such as:

- introduction of new larger purpose built buildings to store machinery;
- disuse/redundancy or conversion of traditional farm buildings;
- increased sheep stocking evolving from CAP headage payments;
- decline in mixed stocking in favour of sheep dominance;
- neglect of field boundaries;
- mechanisation of land management;
- loss of pockets of arable in valley bottoms;
- loss of hay meadows as silage became universal; and
- the impact of these losses on vegetation and water quality.

As has been the case since the time of Wordsworth and Ruskin, the special qualities of the Lake District's landscapes continue to inspire and nurture a strong conservation ethic for many people. This philosophy has continued to underpin management and planning policies for the National Park from 1951 to the present day.

The Historic Landscape Today

Today's landscape includes surviving remnants from each of the major historic periods outlined above. Some are archaeological or architectural vestiges while others are recognisable in the field patterns, patches of woodland, vegetation and quarries. The pattern of selected key archaeology features, designed landscapes and built heritage assets within the National Park is summarised below¹⁴. More detailed information can be found in the [Lake District World Heritage nomination document](#).

¹⁴ State of the Lake District National Park Report 2013, Lake District National Park Partnership. This will be updated in October 2018 and should be referred to for the latest data.

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Asset	Number/Extent
Scheduled Monuments	287
Registered Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest	10
Listed Buildings:	1,791
Grade I	31 (inc. 10 churches)
Grade II*	120 (inc. 25 churches)
Grade II	1,640 (inc. 43 churches)
Conservation Areas	23
Records in the Lake District Historic Environment Record (LDHER)	17,215

The Lake District has always been and is still a living and working cultural landscape. The fell farming is and remains an exceptionally well-preserved and distinctive example of man's ability to respond to a marginal physical landscape. In addition, the present day landscape has largely retained much of the character of the 18th and 19th century landscapes that inspired the Romantic poets, painters and other thinkers.

The Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) Programme for Cumbria provides an understanding of the historic origins and development of the current landscape through a desk based programme of mapping and analysis. This joint initiative between Cumbria County Council and the Lake District National Park Authority has determined the 'time-depth' of the landscape (i.e. the visible evidence in the landscape for change and continuity over periods of time). It also provides an interpretation of the composite historic character of the present day landscape (not merely those aspects depicted on historic maps from specific periods), and classifies previous landscapes (i.e. relict landscapes), which helps to unravel how a landscape has formed.

The Cumbria HLC has classified the landscape within the National Park into different 'Historic Landscape Character Types' related to age, origin, land use such as woodland, designed parkland or field enclosure pattern.

The relevant Historic Landscape Character Types that underpin the landscape character assessment are broadly categorised as:

- Anciently Enclosed Land
- Planned Enclosure
- Unenclosed Land
- Woodland and Water
- Settlement
- Ornamental Parks and Recreation

- Communications
- Industry.

National Park Parishes

The origins of the parish boundaries date from the 15th century, and these were adopted during the post medieval period for secular and judicial purposes¹⁵. Parishes boundaries in the Lake District have generally not changed as much as others in England, and they still represent the original ecclesiastical system centred on churches and defined by topographical and natural features such as dales or fells.

The Importance of Common Land in the Lake District

In general terms, 'common land' is land owned by one person over which another person is entitled to exercise rights of common (such as grazing animals or cutting bracken for livestock bedding), and these rights are generally exercisable in common with others. 'Commoners' are holders of registered rights of common that could be for sheep, cattle, pigs, turbary, pannage, estovers, etc.

Over 112,000ha of the Cumbrian fells are common land which represents the largest concentration of common land in Britain. Cumbria has 630 registered commons, ranging in size from less than half a hectare to over 3000ha. In addition to this, there are over 200 registered town and village greens. Many of the smaller commons have no registered rights of common and thus no commoners. The larger commons have 20 or more registered entries. The majority of common land comprises uplands and high grazing, although there are some saltmarsh commons on the coast. They often have ecological and geological importance. 40% of Cumbria's common land is designated SSSI and 6.5% is designated SAC.

Common land in Cumbria is mainly privately owned, although the National Trust owns sixteen commons and the National Park Authority owns two. The Federation of Cumbrian Commoners estimate that a thousand commoners actively use their grazing rights as a vital element in the economy of hill farming.

The concept of shared use of land has protected common land from changes that have impacted on land in individual ownership elsewhere. The significance of common land for the Lake District can be summarised as follows:

- culture and heritage - links to past history and traditions, communal grazing;
- aesthetics and sense of place - defines the visual appearance of the upland fells;
- health and quality of life - all common land is open for access;
- social cohesion and community activity - communal grazing and traditional forms of management; and

¹⁵ Roger and Richard, (2001) Historic Parishes of England & Wales

- environmental assets - reservoirs for rich biodiversity, landscape beauty, links with wider wildlife zones and corridors.

Past and Current Perceptions of the Landscape

Descriptive and Literary Associations

The Lake District caught the attention of key poets, writers and thinkers. In particular, these include the Romantic poets William Wordsworth (1770-1850), Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834), Robert Southey (1774-1843), and the thinker John Ruskin (1819-1900). Each was fundamentally influenced by the special qualities of the Lake District landscape. In the context of Britain undergoing an industrial revolution from the late 18th century to the early 20th century, Wordsworth and Ruskin thought deeply about the relationship of people and nature. Each in different ways nurtured a tradition of environmental understanding and landscape conservation in the Lake District that, during the 20th and 21st centuries, has continued to be of great influence both nationally and internationally.

World-famous children's book author Beatrix Potter (1866-1943) was not only inspired by the Lake District scenery to sketch the distinct landscape and vernacular architectural features for her stories, she was also a strong force in the movement to protect the lake district landscape and its traditions when it was most threatened. She acquired 15 farms before she died together with a 1620 hectare estate, ensuring their survival and then entrusting them to the National Trust.

Other well-known writers inspired by the Lake District landscape include amongst others, Harriet Martineau (1802-1876), Hugh Walpole (1884-1941), Arthur Ransome (1884-1967), Norman Nicholson (1914-1987), Alfred Wainwright (1907-1991), and Melvyn Bragg (1939 -).

Artistic Associations

During the second half of the 18th century people began to be more responsive to nature, as a new form of appreciation of mountains and scenery helped cause a quest for beautiful landscapes in 'wild' Britain. The Lake District became the epitome of picturesque landscape. The earliest explorers to promote the beauty of the Lake District by means of their guidebooks were Father Thomas West, Dr John Brown, Thomas Grey, and the Rev. William Gilpin. Visitors to the Lake District were in search of the picturesque – a formulaic and limited view of landscape based on what would look best in a picture. This 'cult' of the picturesque attracted relatively large numbers of professional connoisseurs and amateur enthusiasts. Appreciation emphasised form and composition of the Lakeland landscape, rather than its detail and meaning.

Among the masterpieces of Lake District depiction were works by JMW Turner (1775-1851), John Constable (1776-1837) and Thomas Gainsborough (1727-1788). From the early 18th century onwards engravings, sketches, oils and watercolours of the Lake District landscape by national and local artists proliferated, with notable contributions to the genre by Mathias Reed, Sawrey Gilpin, John Ruskin, William Green, JC Ibbetson and William Westall and many others. This tradition has continued, with more recent artists such as Kurt Schwitters, Delmar Banner, Sheila Fell, Percy Kelly, and Andy Goldsworthy influenced and inspired by Lake District landscapes. The

readily available prints of Lake District watercolours by Alfred Heaton Cooper have done much to introduce landscape images to a wider public.

Socio-Economic Character of the National Park

Some of the key characteristics and trends in the socio-economic profile of the National Park today¹⁶ are:

- The Lake District is experiencing profound changes in its social composition due to demographic change, driven by migration. Overall it has an ageing population, with over a quarter of the population being over 65. There are notable declines in the population aged under 45 which has created an ageing workforce in the Lake District;
- The population of the Park is significantly better qualified than that in the rest of Cumbria, with a high proportion of residents with degree level qualifications. There is also a concentration of those in less skilled occupations and lower paid jobs which demonstrates that the area has a clear cut two tier labour market;
- The economic base has a very narrow focus with tourism forming 50% or more of all economic activity in the Park;
- Average household incomes within the Park are £33,868 p.a, which is higher than incomes in the rest of Cumbria (£32,641 p.a);
- Farm incomes are low across the National Park and there is a decline in full time farms.
- The estimated average house price in the National Park is 60% above the average for the rest of Cumbria. The higher house prices are concentrated in the more accessible areas within the centre and eastern areas of the Park.
- The availability of affordable local housing is causing changes in the population of the National Park as younger people are forced to move away to where homes are more affordable. This coupled with lack of employment opportunities is creating an ever aging population.; and
- Parts of the National Park have relatively poor access to services because of their remote nature. This is reflected in private vehicle ownership where many households within the Park, especially those outside of the main towns, are wholly reliant on the use of a vehicle.
- Like the rest of the UK, the general economic downturn continues to impact the Park. With much less income, funding and investment, houses and other developments do not get built, visitor and local spending is less and businesses located in the Park have to work harder to sell their products and services.

¹⁶ State of the Lake District National Park Report 2013, Lake District National Park Partnership. This will be updated in October 2018 and should be referred to for the latest data.

The Value of Tourism

Tourism is an important part of the economy of the Park. It is the dominant employment sector, contributing more than £993 million to the economy and employing just short of 15,000 people.¹⁷ This reflected trends from the previous 3 years.

In 2016 there were an estimated 18.41 million visitors to the Park contributing £1.3billion to the local economy¹⁸. This figure is likely to increase following the World Heritage inscription. Tourism activity is subject to seasonal variations; the National Park receives the greatest proportion of its visitors, and tourism revenue, during the six months from April to September. More than half the total tourist days and numbers for Cumbria are generated by the National Park. Accommodation and food and drink are the primary sectors supporting direct tourism employment. The top reason that over two thirds of visitors give for visiting the Park is because of the physical scenery and landscape of the area. Over half also visit because of the atmospheric characteristics of the area - peaceful, relaxing beautiful and so on.¹⁹

The Value of Agricultural Production

The agricultural sector continues to make a small but important direct input to the Lake District's economy. The unique farmed landscape and concentration of common land is one of the special qualities of the Lake District National Park and Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site. It contributes significantly to the landscape character..

About 2,500 people are employed in farming in the National Park. Based on national and Lake District total employment and agricultural employment figures, on average the Lake District National Park is eight to ten times more reliant on agriculture for employment than the rest of the UK. But farm incomes are low, with a net farm income of £9,594 in 2011 to 2012.

There are 64,544 hectares of Common Land in the Lake District which makes up 28 per cent of the total National Park area. The majority of land in the National Park is in an agri-environment scheme agreement;

- In 2013, 68 per cent of the National Park was in an agri-environment scheme managed by Natural England.
- Over 24,000 hectares of land have been in Woodland Grant Schemes since 2007.

Entry and Higher Level Stewardship has now replaced previous agri-environment schemes. Most of the land in older expiring schemes will enter into these schemes. These schemes encourage the management of land for multiple benefits including the protection and enhancement of the environment, rather than just food production,

Benefits from agri-environment schemes will provide gains for landscape and biodiversity, which can offer indirect benefits to the farming community. The schemes can assist and encourage agriculture to face the competitive challenges of the growing

¹⁷ STEAM data (Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Monitor), 2012

¹⁸ STEAM data (Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Monitor), 2016, Cumbria Tourism

¹⁹ Cumbria Visitor Survey, Cumbria Tourism, 2012

and diversifying rural markets. Agri-environment payments are often a very significant component of total farm income, and can make the difference between profit and loss.

The Value of the Environmental Sector

Investment in the natural and historic environment by the public, private and voluntary sectors makes a significant contribution to the Lake District's economy through activities such as:

- recreation and tourism based on the natural environment (e.g access to the countryside projects);
- the diversification of the rural economy and land based businesses associated with natural environment activities (e.g. sustainable forestry/agri-environmental land management projects);
- direct employment and skills development relating to environmental enhancement and conservation activities (e.g. woodland management/social enterprises based on delivering environmental improvements).

The willingness of visitors to donate towards this is demonstrated by the Visitor Giving scheme, operated by the Lake District Foundation. This scheme enables visitors to make a voluntary contribution towards conservation, environmental and cultural heritage projects. Tourism businesses promote and contribute to specific projects in their locality. In 2016-17, the Foundation gave grants worth over £100,000 to projects across the National Park.

The National Trust is a major landowner and employer across the Park, with its work contributing to the management and conservation of the natural environment and directly supporting the visitor economy. Repairs to historic buildings by the National Trust and other building owners supports jobs, helps to preserve traditional skills and contributes to the local economy.

The role of forestry as an economic driver is significant in the Lake District. There are 28,500 ha of woodlands in the National Park, 12% of the area. About 9,500 hectares are owned or managed by the Forestry Commission and about 19,000 hectares under other ownership²⁰. These assets range from large public forests such as Grizedale and Whinlatter with multiple benefits, in particular timber and tourism, to small undermanaged woodlands, often on farms, that have potential for greater economic and environmental value and to the culturally and ecologically significant individual yews and ash pollards in many valleys. A Cumbria and the Lake District, Trees, Woodlands and Forestry Strategy and Action Plan was completed in June 2013.

Forest related expenditure associated with tourism day visits in the Lake District is considerable and is offsetting losses from falls in timber prices. The recreational use of the forests in the Lake District has seen an increase in the number of forest shops, cafés, bike hire, which has therefore lead to a significant increase in the number of jobs created in the area¹⁷.

²⁰ National Inventory of Trees and Woodlands 1999

2.4 Forces and Opportunities for Change

The following section examines the forces and opportunities for change related to land use and management practices in the Lake District National Park.

Agricultural Land Use

Agriculture is the dominant land use in the National Park. A combination of traditional farming practices and recent agri- environmental land management has created and maintained some of the many distinctive features of the landscape. These include the distinctive high quality produce, the character of the cultural landscape and its biodiversity, farm woodlands and the open nature of the fells.

Agriculture has a long history in this area and one that follows a hill farming system of hill sheep and some suckler herds on the fells. Dairy is also an important aspect, although one that is mainly carried out in the lowland fringes. There has been very little in the way of recent arable farming in the area due to the nature of landscape and environmental conditions, though some crops such as oats were grown in favoured spots in the past such as in the 1930s.

Due to the intensification of agriculture since the Second World War, and in particular, since the 1970s, there has been an increase in the stocking numbers, giving higher stocking levels which has placed pressure upon the environment. Farming incomes have seen a general decline since the mid 1990's.. Animal health scares such as Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in the 1990s and Foot & Mouth Disease (FMD) in 2001, saw a large decline in the amount of livestock and many livestock farms in the area were lost. Other factors such as other better paid rural jobs, the rapid house price increase, increased regulations and tighter commodity markets (especially in the dairy sector), have seen many younger people leave the area and in many cases farms have been sold with the house and converted buildings going to second home owners or holiday letting.

The Lake District has seen a steady decline in dairy cattle numbers. The number of dairy cattle in livestock units has fallen by 70% over the last decade. The pressures in the marketplace, including a decline in farm gate prices and increased imports of milk, have contributed to this decline.

Beef numbers saw a small increase in 1995, due to headage payments, but this declined sharply post mid-1990s to 2003 by 7%. The BSE scare, FMD and pressures within the market place has forced many small and medium farm businesses to sell up. Sheep numbers are traditionally (and still remain) the highest number of stock within the Lake District. Breeding ewe numbers in 2016 were 28% lower than in 1998 according to the Defra annual June survey. The reasons for this reduction are a combination of Foot and Mouth Disease in 2001, the removal of headage payments, and agri-environment agreements. The number of general cropping farms, horticulture and mixed farms still remains at an insignificant level within the Lake District.

Since 2000 there has been an increase in holdings under 5ha. This trend in fragmentation of larger farm holdings indicates that farming is no longer the main contributor to many Lake District communities, with an increasing number of farmers now having an off farm source of income (e.g. part-time employment elsewhere). A more competitive market place and a decline in gate prices will have contributed to these shifts in farm size.

The main land use in the National Park is permanent pasture with some rough pasture. Due to the upland terrain within much of the Lake District, the majority of the

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land used for cereals and temporary pasture is found in the lower areas. This trend has not altered significantly from 1990, as the environment does not lend itself to many different types of land use. However, the Lake District has seen a small increase in land used for cereals, which is then re-seeded with temporary grass as part of the rotation. Change in market demands and animal health scares such as BSE and FMD will have forced many farms to switch to mixed farming²¹. Silage production has resulted in changes to valley bottoms with the loss of hay meadows and creation of bright green patches in the landscape.

Major Land Ownership

Land owner	% of Park (approximate)
Private ownership	60
National Trust	20
United Utilities	11
Forest Enterprise	5
Lake District National Park Authority	3.7
Ministry of Defence	0.2

Most of the land in the Park is privately owned, with the National Trust as the major single land-owning organisation. The National Trust protects and manages around a fifth of the Lake District National Park through a legacy of land purchase, donation, lease or covenant. Its land in the Lake District makes up by far the biggest portion of its holdings in Britain. It owns a mixture of upland estate, farms, houses and common land. Such a landholding makes the Trust the main landowner within several valleys such as the Langdales, Borrowdale, Wasdale and Patterdale. It includes England's highest mountain, Scafell Pike, and deepest lake, Wastwater. Almost all the central upland area and major valley heads are owned or managed by the Trust, including fells such as Great Gable, Harrison Stickle and Crinkle Crag, together with 24 lakes and tarns, including Grasmere and Buttermere.

Other large land owners include United Utilities, Forest Enterprise, and the Lake District National Park Authority.

Conservation Management in the National Park

National Park Management Plans

[The Lake District National Park Management Plan \(2015-2020\)](#) sets out how the Park partners work together to proactively and effectively manage the Lake District as a National Park and as a World Heritage Site.

The Lake District National Park Authority has also taken the lead in producing Area Management Plans. These Plans set out proposals for the future management of locations within the Park that are experiencing resource demand management and land use conflict issues. These include:

- Wasdale Valley Plan (2015);
- Ullswater Valley Plan (2015); and
- Windermere Lake Action Plan (2017).

National Trust Management Plans

Property Management Plans have been prepared by the National Trust for all of its countryside land holdings to provide a framework for land and resource management at a local level. The Plans contain 'Statements of Significance' that identify the key attributes of each property, and three-year action plans that articulate how these are to be conserved and enhanced within the context of the current National Trust Strategic Plan. A significant number of separate farms also have whole farm plans in place. These Plans provide a mechanism to negotiate a balance between providing solutions to issues of environmental compliance and improvement, with improvements to ensure sustained business viability. Whole Valley plans are being considered where the Trust own significant amounts of land in a catchment.

Currently, 41 of the National Trust's 91 Lake District tenanted farms have in place completed Whole Farm Plans.

Agri-Environmental Land Management Schemes

The majority of land in the National Park is in an agri-environment scheme agreement. In 2013 it was recorded that 68 per cent of the National Park area was in an agri-environment scheme, covering 64,286 hectares.²¹ There are 28,500 ha of woodlands in the National Park, 12 per cent of the area. 24,000 hectares of woodland has entered Woodland Grant Schemes since 2007 to 2008.

Conservation Led Land Management Initiatives

There are a significant number of conservation led management initiatives and landscape scale projects that contribute to the positive management and restoration of the Park's landscape character. The current projects are listed on the Lake District National Park's [website](#).

The Lake District World Heritage Site

In 2017 the Lake District National Park became a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Lake District National Park Management Plan will ensure that the Outstanding Universal Values of the World Heritage Site and the Special Qualities of the National Park are managed well in the future. The Management Plan is available on the Lake District National Park's [website](#).

Biodiversity Planning for the National Park

²¹ State of the Lake District National Park Report, 2013, Lake District National Park Partnership. This will be updated in October 2018 and should be referred to for the latest data.

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Biodiversity is of vital importance to the Lake District National Park. There has been a reported decline in biodiversity across the country.

In 2018 the Government published “A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment”. This sets out a comprehensive and long-term approach to protecting and enhancing England’s natural landscapes and habitats, enabling them to regain and retain good health. There is a target to achieve a growing and resilient network of land, water and sea that is richer in plants and wildlife. National Parks have a role in delivering this and will continue to conserve and enhance the elements that add to their natural beauty, such as biodiversity. The Park Partnership is working with the Cumbria Local Nature Partnership deliver biodiversity priorities and monitor changes in biodiversity.

The protection and maintenance of biodiversity throughout the Lake District National Park relies on sympathetic management regimes for land both within and outside designated areas. Historically, many of the habitats and their associated species in the Lake District have experienced decline through the intensification of agricultural practices, notably overgrazing driven by high stocking rates supported by agricultural subsidies. Land improvements through fertiliser application, changes from hay to silage and bracken control using chemicals (and more intensive stocking) have also contributed to this trend. The past 15-25 years has, however, seen significant changes in national agricultural and forestry policies that have promoted more sympathetic management of habitats and species and in some instances have started to redress past losses

The National Park supports nationally important populations of red squirrel, natterjack toad, vendace, high brown fritillary, netted carpet moth, white-faced darter, and slender green feather moss. All species of Principal Importance under the NERC Act 2006. The Lake District also supports significant populations of bats, dormouse, Atlantic salmon, sea lamprey and floating waterplantain, all of which are species of European importance.

The condition of the National Park’s Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) is a key issue for the future. Over 42,000ha is designated SSSI. Biodiversity 2020 seeks the following target in Outcome 1A: ‘Better wildlife habitats with 90 per cent of priority habitats in favourable or recovering condition and at least 50 per cent of SSSIs in favourable condition, while maintaining at least 95 per cent in favourable or recovering condition. There have been significant improvements in the last decade. The main outstanding issues on the remaining eight per cent of SSSIs that are not in favourable or unfavourable recovering status are invasive non-native species, which are unlikely to be resolved, and grazing by both sheep and deer.

The State of the Lake District National Park 2012 report stated that the condition of the National Park’s SSSIs was assessed as:

• Favourable	-	26%
• Unfavourable Recovering	-	66%
• Unfavourable No Change	-	8%
• Unfavourable Declining	-	4%

Other designations in the Park include 772ha of international RAMSAR, 37,310 ha of Special Area of Conservation, 1849 ha of Special Protection Area, 1,386ha of National Nature Reserve, 18,924ha of County Wildlife Sites and 9,989 ha of Ancient

Woodland. Action is needed to maintain or improve the wildlife value of these sites in some cases.

Priority habitats occur within SSSIs, County Wildlife Sites and in the wider countryside. The “Priority Habitat Inventory” provides information on the extent of these. We do not currently have a full picture of the condition of all priority habitats in the National Park. The Cumbria Biodiversity Evidence Base provides management guidance for Priority Habitats.

The Future of Agriculture and Forestry

Agriculture has been an important part of the Lake District’s history and has formed some of the most distinctive and renowned features of the area that attracts large numbers of tourist each year. However, in recent years, upland agriculture has been adversely affected by global price competition, rising input costs and reductions in livestock support payments. This has had a significant impact on farms in the Lake District with many full-time farmers leaving the industry or diversifying to develop new income streams.

The current trend towards amalgamation of some farms to produce more economically viable larger businesses, and a reduction in medium to small family farms, is expected to continue in the Lake District. A difficult market place, together with CAP reforms, gradually removing support payments from an already sensitive industry, have both contributed to this trend. The increase in average working farm size will have a significant impact on the character of the Lake District landscape.

With greater numbers of farmers leaving the industry, and more people visiting the area, there is an increasing number of farmhouses and associated buildings being sold and converted into housing, often for second or holiday homes. The domestication of buildings can have a significant impact on the character of the landscape, especially in remoter locations. The external pressure on the local housing market also continues to exacerbate the increased house prices, forcing many local people and accompanying agricultural skills to leave the area. There is concern that the reduction in the number of smaller family farms will reduce the opportunity for younger people to enter the agricultural industry and live locally.

Agri-environment schemes, which are partly funded through the European Union’s Common Agricultural Policy, have become a very important part of supporting Lake District farm incomes and farm viability through delivery of sustainable farming management. They provide payments, both revenue and capital, to enable farmers to deliver environmental outcomes as part of their farming management. The first generation of agri-environment scheme was the Lake District Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) which commenced in 1992. This was superseded by the national Environmental Stewardship scheme in 2005, and most recently the Countryside Stewardship scheme in 2015. Uptake of these schemes has been high, with a peak of 96% of Lake District farms in the original ESA scheme.

Agri-environment schemes have enabled farmers to practice sustainable land management that has benefitted the full array of habitats found on the Lake District’s farmed land. These ecological changes have also delivered landscape change, including increased species mix and depth of vegetation. The increased abundance of heather and bilberry in upland habitats is clearly visible in some valleys.

Changes to farming management have included reductions in hill sheep flocks to

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improve the condition of upland habitats on the unenclosed fells. This has been particularly driven by national biodiversity policy seeking to improve the habitat condition across Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). These changes have provided opportunities for agri-environment schemes to support traditional common land management practices. There have also been some unintended consequences for hill farming from reducing sheep numbers, such as increasing the difficulty of gathering sheep from the open upland fells.

The exit of the UK from the EU in 2019 also means exit from the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). This will see the responsibility for funding future agri-environment and wider farm business support become a solely UK matter. CAP has been the dominant agricultural policy and public funding mechanism since the UK entered the EU (then EEC) in 1973. This significant change will provide both challenges and opportunities for hill farming businesses in the Lake District. A policy shift by the UK government towards increased environmental requirements and outcomes is expected, with a consequent end to direct farming production subsidies. Lake District hill farmers, who have considerable experience of such schemes, are well placed to be able to respond positively. However, the uncertainty over future support is a significant risk for individual farms, local farming communities and the long-term resilience of key farming landscape features, particularly dry stone walls and traditional barns. A lengthy transition period is envisaged to help smooth the shift in farm support payments and requirements for farmers.

Woodland and forestry within the Lake District are vitally important to the area for landscape, biodiversity, forest products and the increasing business they attract from tourism and recreation. There is an aim to maximise public benefits from forests through social, environmental and economic management objectives. Forest Design Plans have also been developed for a number of areas within the National Park. These Plans advocate a multi-purpose approach to forest design that encapsulates public access, interpretation and education objectives as an integral element of forestry management. In addition, the Cumbria and the Lake District Tees, Woodlands and Forestry Strategy provides a widely agreed vision for the future management of Cumbria's existing woodlands and sets out a strategy for increasing woodland cover in the County and seeks to see:

- Forests for timber, the economy and employment;
- Forests for environmental quality and the natural environment;
- Forests for recreation, access and tourism, and
- Resilient forests for the future.

Access, Recreation and Tourism

Tourism, recreation and amenity are already key economic factors within the Lake District National Park and the surrounding areas. This is set to increase with the World Heritage designation and people's continued desire to visit the area. Innovative measures such as those that brand or market the place and its traditions can both help develop a more sustainable economy and support landscape protection.

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The National Park has over 3,000 km²² of public footpaths, bridleways and other public rights of way. These rights of way are a valuable recreational resource throughout the whole of the National Park.

Active pursuits such as walking, fell running, orienteering, rock climbing, horse riding, mountain biking, canoeing, fishing, inland boating, as well as other activities such as picnicking, camping and visiting cultural attractions are all vital to the Lake District. They also require different facilities and types of landscape as well as resources such as camping sites and shops. This therefore may have an effect upon the local landscape and put pressure on available resources.

To be successful, the Special Qualities and Outstanding Universal Value of the Lake District need to continue to be protected, increasingly understood and appreciated. Businesses associated with the visitor industry have a responsibility to ensure the Lake District's Special Qualities and Outstanding Universal Value are protected, understood, and appreciated too by delivering initiatives such as 'responsible visiting', as they ultimately benefit from the high quality environment.

The National Park Authority will continue to seek opportunities to improve many rights of way, particularly in the vicinity of the larger lakes such as Coniston, Derwentwater and Ullswater. Enhanced access to the lakeshores needs to be balanced with nature conservation objectives, as some areas are sensitive to damage by trampling and disturbance to birds, and public access may need to be managed in such areas. Outdoor facilities, such as interpretation signage and way marking, if not sensitively designed and located can create visual clutter in the landscape. The Cumbria Rights of Way Improvement Plan aims to integrate countryside access with health objectives, the local economy, sustainable tourism, social inclusion, education, sustainable transport, and the environment.

Erosion scars caused by high volumes of use and the weather can damage the upland landscape. A partnership project involving the National Park Authority, the National Trust and Natural England has been addressing the problem over recent years. 'Fix the Fells' is an award winning path restoration project that is working with partners and volunteers to improve the footpath network in the fells.

Many of the lakes and tarns in the National Park provide a range of recreational opportunities for local people and visitors such as sailing, canoeing, rowing, swimming, motor cruising. Waterbus and ferry services on the larger lakes (Windermere, Coniston Water, Ullswater and Derwentwater) provide opportunities to enjoy the landscape from the water and connect one part of the shoreline to another. The recreation and transport opportunities that the lakes provide also support a number of businesses providing hire craft, ferry services, boat and equipment sales and maintenance. The attractiveness of lakeshore sites means that there is continuous development pressure on available sites. Sailing, canoeing, boating, and ferry services require a network of shoreline access points, jetties, moorings, and slipways. There is increasing demand for such facilities along the shore of popular lakes like Windermere.

Tranquillity

Tranquillity is an important aspect of landscape character and quality of life. It is

²² State of the Lake District National Park Report, 2013, Lake District National Park Partnership. This will be updated in October 2018 and should be referred to for the latest data.

a quality of calm that people experience in places full of the sights and sounds of nature. Tranquillity can be defined as freedom from the noise and visual intrusion, including light pollution associated with developed areas, roads, transport and traffic, power lines and areas with intensive recreational activities and other uses that contribute to disturbance.

Through tourism, tranquillity can directly support jobs and businesses and contribute to the rural economy; for example, visitor research carried out by Cumbria Tourism consistently shows that the tranquillity of the Lake District is in the top 3 reasons people visit the National Park. Access to tranquil areas can also provide physical and mental health benefits, helping to reduce stress and related medical conditions typically associated with modern day urban living.

The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) has developed a methodology to measure tranquillity within England²³.

The degree of relative tranquillity within the Lake District National Park as measured by CPRE is shown on the Cumbria map on their website. This shows that the likelihood someone would experience tranquillity in the National Park is greatest in the remoter upland areas, and in other areas served only by narrow minor roads where built development and infrastructure is generally unobtrusive. These areas include:

- The valleys of the western fells from Newlands to the Lickle Valley;
- The eastern valleys from Martindale and the Lowther Valley to the Head of Troutbeck;
- The northern fringes of the National Park around the less frequented fells north of Skiddaw and Blencathra;
- The south-western valleys, Duddon Valley, Eskdale and Wasdale;
- Woodland, Rusland Valley and Dale Park; and
- The Winster Valley and Whitbarrow in the south east.

Away from the above quieter areas, tranquillity is affected by increasing levels of noise and light pollution associated with traffic along the National Park's busiest road corridors. New road schemes are also contributing to this trend. Other infrastructure development, such as improvements to electricity transmission lines, could add to this too.

Settlement and Built Environment

Buildings make a valuable contribution to the scale and identity of the Lake District landscape and their appearance, style and materials give us strong evidence of a long period of settlement evolution and continuity. Today, the distinctive character of Lake District buildings and settlements is a product of both local vernacular circumstances and a particular unique series of wave after wave of external influences, each causing significant investment in the built environment and the landscape.

Wealthy and influential families living in medieval Hall houses, faced a real threat from Border raiders in the 14th century, and they responded by building

²³ www.cpre.org.uk/tranquil-places

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prominent, stone fortified Pele Towers, mainly on the fringes of the Lake District. In direct contrast, the simple, humble dwellings of the tenant farmer have not survived, because they were not constructed of long-lasting materials. However, following the union with Scotland, the rise of the Yeoman 'Statesman' farmer and prosperity from wool, the 'Great Rebuilding' in stone took place in the mid to late 17th century. This transformed the timber and thatch dwellings into robust, stone, slate, lime and oak structures, producing a very strong characteristic identity to the Lake District settled landscape.

Other factors were at work during the second half of the 18th century. With increased prosperity from water-powered industries, improvements to road and water transport, market towns expanded with new trade. In addition, as the wealthy were unable to carry out their European grand tours during the Napoleonic Wars, they were enticed to discover the Lake District landscapes, and the picturesque/romantic movement began. The landscape became a source of inspiration to writers and artists. This encouraged the development of Georgian, Regency, Italianate and Classical Revival houses and villas, each set within carefully planned parkland to create a picturesque setting. Elegant, well proportioned buildings, so different from the rugged vernacular farmsteads, started to appear in the landscape. People with means now purposely chose to live within this attractive area and initially the southern valleys and more accessible places were sought after, in particular, near the shorelines of the main lakes and in pastoral valleys. Yet in many respects the area was still relatively isolated.

With the arrival of the railways in the mid-19th century, the greatest transformation of the Lake District began. Ironically, it was the slate quarries, copper mines and gunpowder works that provided the economic incentive to have branch lines penetrating into the southern Lake District, and in the north, it was fortuitous that the new railway line to carry Durham coke to the Workington steelworks passed through Keswick. But soon, the tourist potential of railways was realised, giving rise to the Victorian creation of Windermere Town and considerable expansion of places such as Bowness-on-Windermere, Ambleside, Grasmere, Coniston and Keswick. Wealthy industrialists from the north of England, especially Lancashire textile and engineering entrepreneurs, built imposing mansions, using both local and provincial architects to produce a variety of styles from Victorian Gothic, Tudoresque and Jacobean to Arts and Crafts. Today, with their mature landscaped gardens and grounds, they help to create a very distinctive character, especially in the Windermere-Keswick corridor, in contrast to the vernacular farmsteads of the rural valleys.

Each of the above phases of development has its own recognisable and distinctive architectural 'vocabulary' in the design, use of materials and detailing. The 17th century farmhouses are generally long and low with roughcast render and limewash over rough rubble walls, a random arrangement of small window openings, under a heavy slate roof, with probably only one chimney. Georgian houses and villas are usually taller buildings and have a precise smooth render finish or neat ashlar stonework, with symmetrical arrangement of carefully proportioned sash windows and doorcases. Victorian mansions, houses and hotels use exposed, coursed slate quarry waste, laid 'watershot' (tilting outwards to shed rainwater), with imported sandstone dressings for quoins, lintels and cills. Steep roofs, gables, turrets, large groups of imposing chimney stacks, intricate bargeboards and terracotta detailing also characterises these buildings. This reflects a period of wealth, confidence and substantial investment in the Lake District. It also saw the introduction of completely new forms of building, such as railway stations, viaducts, lake steamer facilities and grand hotels.

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At the very end of the 19th century there was a strong trend away from the high Victorian, over elaborate gothic architecture, towards vernacular revival, now commonly referred to as the Arts and Crafts period. The use of solid designs, roughcast rendered walls, robust gables, swept-down slated roofs, chunky chimney stacks, as well as mullioned and leaded windows, heralded a new architectural style, with pioneers such as Voysey and Baillie Scott. This distinctive style lasted well into the 1920s in this area, and designs that were originally conceived for the high status large houses were now permeating down the social scale to detached and semi-detached suburban houses.

Through all these periods, quality of materials, design and 'fitness-for-purpose' was a key feature, giving a sense of permanence to the buildings. Today, the survival of these varied buildings is a testament to their inherent longevity, charm and lasting appeal. Since the mid 20th century, in particular in the 1960s and 1970s with urban, suburban and commercial developments, cheapness and speed of construction sometimes overcame the need for quality. To some extent this has been recognised and addressed but is a caution for the planning and development process. Just as landscapes change and evolve architecture too must move forward to reflect the needs of modern society. Good modern architecture for the future can get inspiration from the past but need not slavishly copy past designs. There needs to be good architecture of now, which is not only well designed to look at, but is fit for its purpose and makes a lasting contribution to the settlement and overall character of the Lake District. Only the main urban areas are probably capable of successfully assimilating large contemporary buildings, which can help to enrich the street scene, but in the remaining rural areas, buildings will need to be 'anchored' to their locality and relate to local distinctiveness. In many cases, this may be achieved through the careful use of building shape and form, together with the use of local building materials to retain a sense of continuity.

In a landscape of international quality, all new developments from simple social housing to prestige commercial premises need to be of the highest quality. Very often, simplicity of design and proportion is preferable to over-fussy and cluttered detailing. A thorough understanding of the context of a new development is crucial. New buildings can add to character and diversity by either contrasting or complementing the existing settlement character. It is essential that authorities, communities and designers celebrate what is special about Lake District towns, villages and individual buildings and reflect this in new developments or changes to existing buildings.

Over the centuries, all the phases and influences outlined above have added to and strengthened the distinctiveness and identity of the Lake District built environment. Unless carefully but pragmatically managed current threats and forces for change could lead to a significant erosion of character, especially with the standardisation of building materials, methods of construction and external finishes.

The delicate balance of the key components which make up the Lake District building character must be understood and acknowledged if inappropriate alterations and renovations which erode it are to be avoided. The increasing use of plastic windows, synthetic wall finishes and imported roofing slates are examples which can combine to dilute local identity and sense of place. Advocating the use of local building materials is not only more sustainable but helps with the regeneration of local skills, so essential for future building continuity. Redundant buildings, particularly farm buildings pose a range of issues. Barn conversions should avoid over-domesticated and fussy detailing which affects not only the building itself, but a much wider landscape setting. Accommodating the needs of vehicles can adversely affect the character and tranquillity of the Lake District, and also the setting of buildings with parked cars and expanses of tarmac surfaces. The cumulative effect of road markings, road signs and

other traffic management measures can adversely affect the character of a settlement and in a busy tourist area these need very careful thought.

There is a growing awareness for the use and reuse of local building materials and the recognition that traditional craft skills are the vital ingredient for the continuity of the Lake District's building tradition. Award winning schemes have shown to the public that quality modern designs can make a worthwhile contribution to the character and appearance of the Lake District. The Landscape Character Assessment identifies the distinctive features of each Character Type and Areas of Distinctive Character, reinforcing the need to understand the local context and appreciate the variety of building materials and specific local identity from place to place and building to building. For the landscape as a whole to retain and strengthen its unique character, it is paramount that the settlement and built environment is given due regard in both broad strategies and in detailed considerations.

Water Supply Infrastructure

The Lake District has a long history of supply of drinking water to the North West of England. It is likely that there will be drivers for further changes to or removal of existing infrastructure, and development of new infrastructure

Climate Change

The Lake District of 2050 could feel very different from today. As climate change takes hold, weather patterns will alter and extreme events will become more common. The coastline will change, as will conditions for all wildlife. We are already seeing more extreme weather events and changing weather patterns such as more variable rainfall. Higher temperatures, changes to habitats and rising sea levels are also predicted, all of which have the potential to impact on the Lake District's values and Special Qualities and landscape character,

Changing temperatures, changing rainfall patterns and more extreme weather events all play a big part on our landscape, land management and tourism. 2012 was the wettest on record for England, this affected both farming practices and the numbers of staying visitors in the Lake District. And in March 2013, the heaviest snowfall for 50 years resulted in thousands of sheep deaths across Cumbria and the Lake District. The Storm Desmond floods in December 2015 caused immense amounts of damage to settlements, infrastructure and the landscape in the national park. The Lake District recorded the highest 24 and 48 hour rainfall totals ever measured in the UK during this storm²⁴.

Climate change is likely to affect farming in a variety of ways:

- Longer growing seasons for many crops;
- Possibilities of growing new crops from warmer climates;
- Possibility of increased drought stress or heat damage;

²⁴ <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate/uk/interesting/december2015>

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- Changes in the nature and distribution of pests and plant diseases;
- Increased soil erosion from both wind and rain;
- A longer grass growing season and increased livestock grazing opportunities in winter;
- Scope for increased heat stress amongst livestock in summer requiring greater provision of shade and shelter; and
- The potential for the agricultural sector to contribute to reductions in carbon dioxide emissions through such activities as the production of energy crops (both biofuels and biomass) and land management practices that would enhance carbon sequestration.

Some of these issues could have impact on land use and landscape. These may include reduced soil moisture, possible new pests and diseases and a requirement for new pasture varieties and species. Increased carbon dioxide concentrations and a longer growing season may increase pasture and tree growth rates where adequate water and nutrients are available.

Climate change is likely to put, natural habitats and species under severe pressure, especially those that may not be able to adapt to changing climate, such as those at higher altitudes and/or those that depend on regular rainfall, such as arctic alpenes, blanket peat bog and atlantic oak woods with their important assemblages of mosses. For these species, the available habitats may potentially diminish and be squeezed out as they already occupy the coldest and wettest parts of the Lake District. Other potential consequences may include the risk of fire damage to extensive areas of upland heath and displacement of species from flooding.

The impacts of climate change on peat bogs in the Lake District are a particular concern. If they dry out, they could potentially release thousands of years' worth of stored carbon into the atmosphere; the erosion of vegetation cover from blanket bogs can reduce its water retention capacity and increase the risk of downstream flood peaks. In this context, the implementation of the Water Framework Directive is likely to have a significant influence on land use and water resource policy in the National Park in the medium to long-term. This may assist in the preservation of blanket peat bog areas and increase the extent and quality of wetland habitats through more integrated and ecosystem-led approaches to catchment management.

Climate change could negatively impact on visually important mature specimen trees, both in parkland and the informal plantings around most lake shores. In many valleys they could be threatened by increased summer water stress, as well as by increased frequency and severity of storm events.

Management of Archaeological Sites in the Landscape

The rich archaeology, and distinctive areas and settlement character are key special features of the Lake District National Park and its landscape character.

None of the Conservation Areas in the National Park are currently assessed as 'at risk'. A network of appraisals and management plans for all the Conservation Areas in the National Park will help manage change in their future.

Surveys have identified that a proportion of listed buildings are at risk, as well as

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a proportion of Scheduled Monuments in the National Park. Management plans are helping to reduce the number of buildings and monuments at risk, often being managed by volunteers and staff at the Park.

Archaeological sites in the Lake District National Park on upland pasture are particularly susceptible to damage from bracken infestation. Bracken obscures archaeological remains for most of the year, and it has been demonstrated through research that the rhizomes damage subsurface archaeological deposits through bioperturbation (movement of soil). There are opportunities for clearing bracken from archaeological remains through general land management strategies.

3 THE LAKE DISTRICT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT – AN OVERVIEW

3.1 Introduction

Established in 1951, the Lake District is England's biggest National Park covering 2,362 km². The Lake District's landscapes are the direct product of the interaction of innumerable and often extremely complex physical and cultural influences over thousands of years. Geological and glacial processes have shaped the spectacular mountain scenery and created deep glaciated valleys that radiate out from the central fells like spokes of a wheel. The high open fells contain a mosaic of craggy peaks and screes, heaths, bogs, heather moorland and grassland, as well as remote valleys with fast flowing streams and tarns. In contrast, the valleys shelter lakes and woodland alongside enclosed farmland with traditional stone farm buildings.

These spectacular landscapes contain a wealth of habitats and wildlife, rich archaeology and distinctive settlements. The opportunities for quiet enjoyment and outdoor activities attract visitors from all over the world, and the Lake District has rich literary and artistic associations with strong social and cultural roots. The character of the landscape varies across the National Park as a result of different patterns of physical, cultural, historical and ecological characteristics. The landscape is not static and will continue to change in response to a range of social, economic and environmental factors.

This section describes the context provided by the hierarchical classification of Landscape Character Types and Areas defined at the national and county levels. Within this context, the classification of Landscape Character Types and Areas of Distinctive Character defined for the Lake District National Park is presented.

The descriptions of individual Landscape Character Types and Areas of Distinctive Character in Sections 4 and 5 should be read in conjunction with this information to ensure that the contextual relationship with the wider landscape is understood.

National and Regional Landscape Context

England has 159 National Character Areas (NCAs) Natural England revised the national landscape character profiles in 2014. NCAs areas that share similar landscape characteristics, follow natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries, and provide a good decision-making framework for the natural environment. The NCAs provide a national framework for more detailed assessments carried out by local authorities and others. The NCAs have provided context for the Lake District National Park Landscape Character Assessment.

The Lake District is covered by the following NCAs:

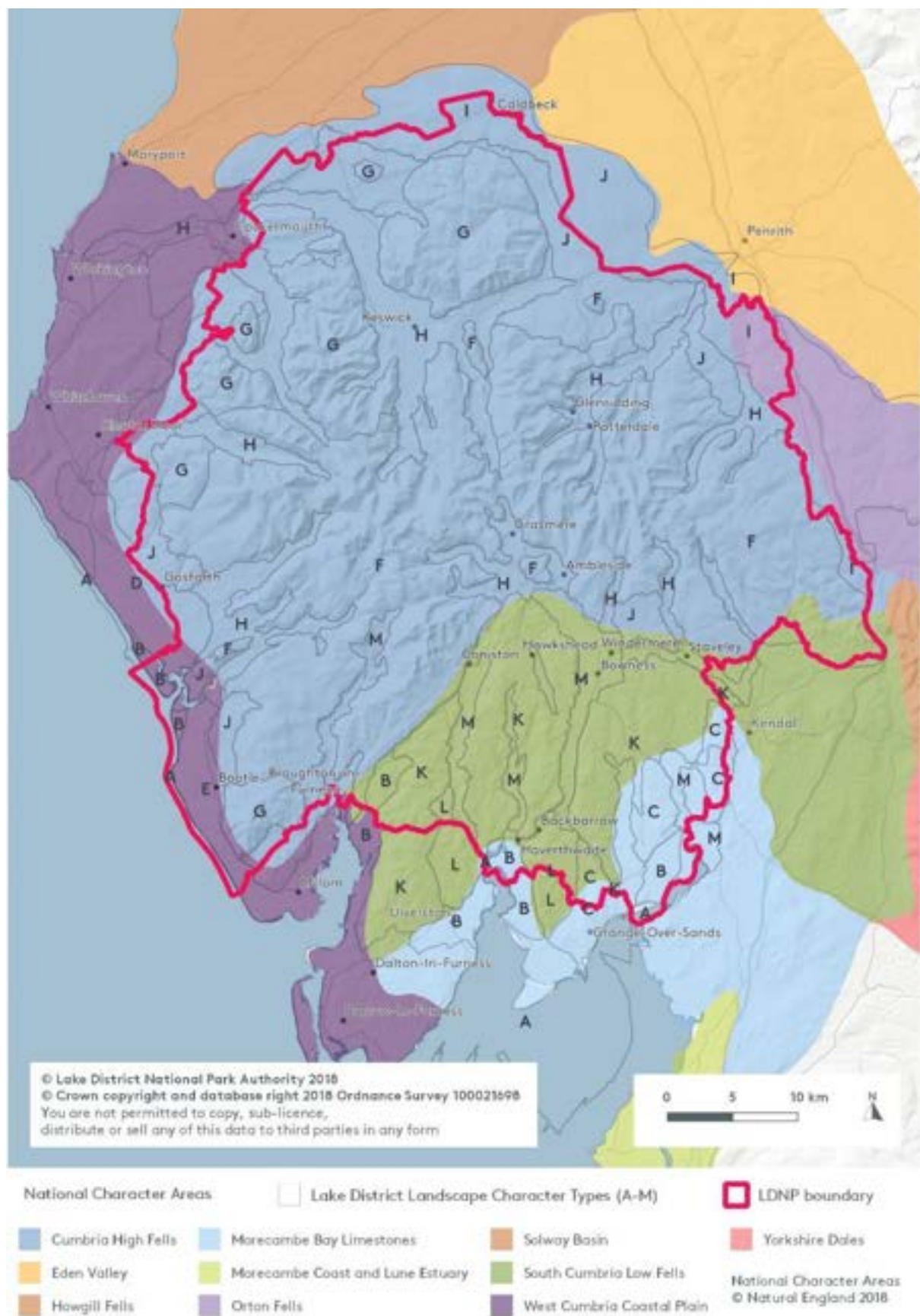
- Cumbria High Fells (NCA 8);
- South Cumbria Low Fells (NCA 19);
- West Cumbria Coastal Plain (NCA 7);

- Morecambe Bay Limestone (NCA 20); and
- Orton Fells (NCA 17).

The Cumbria High Fells NCA covers the vast majority of the northern, western and eastern parts of the National Park, with the South Cumbria Low Fells and the Morecambe Bay Limestone N CAs in the south eastern area. The West Cumbria Coastal Plain NCA extends into the south western part of the National Park, and a small part of the Orton Fells NCA occupies the extreme east of the Park. The characteristics, opportunities, forces for change and key data are set out in each NCA profile²⁵. These are illustrated in figure 3.1.

²⁵ National Character Area Profiles are hosted on Natural England's [website](#)

Figure 3.1 National Character Areas



County Landscape Context

Set within the framework provided by NCAs, the Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit²⁶ classifies the landscape character of Cumbria outside the National Park into 13 separate 'Landscape Types', 10 of which are further divided into 'Landscape Sub-Types' making a total of 37 different units of land. These are illustrated in figure 3.2.

Descriptive information on the key characteristics, physical character, land cover and land use, geology/geomorphology, ecology, historic and cultural character and perceptual character of each Landscape Sub-Type is provided.

Landscape Types and Sub-Types defined by the Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit that are close or adjacent to, and in some cases are shared with and provide the setting to, the National Park include:

Cumbria Landscape Type	Cumbria Landscape Sub Type
1 – Bay and Estuary	1a. Intertidal Flats
	1b. Coastal Marsh
2 - Coastal Margins	2a. Dunes and Beaches
	2b. Coastal Mosses
	2c. Coastal Plain
3 - Coastal Limestone	3a. Open Farmland and Pavements
4 - Coastal Sandstone	
5 - Lowland	5b. Low Farmland
	5c. Rolling Lowland
6 - Intermediate Land	
7 - Drumlins	7b. Drumlin Field
8 - Main Valleys	8b. Broad Valleys
	8c. Valley Corridors
9 - Intermediate Moorland & Plateau	9d. Ridges
11 - Upland Fringes	11a. Foothills
12 - Higher Limestone	12a. Limestone Farmland
	12b. Rolling Fringe
	12c. Limestone Foothills
	12d. Moorland and Commons
13 - Fells and Scarps	13c. Fells

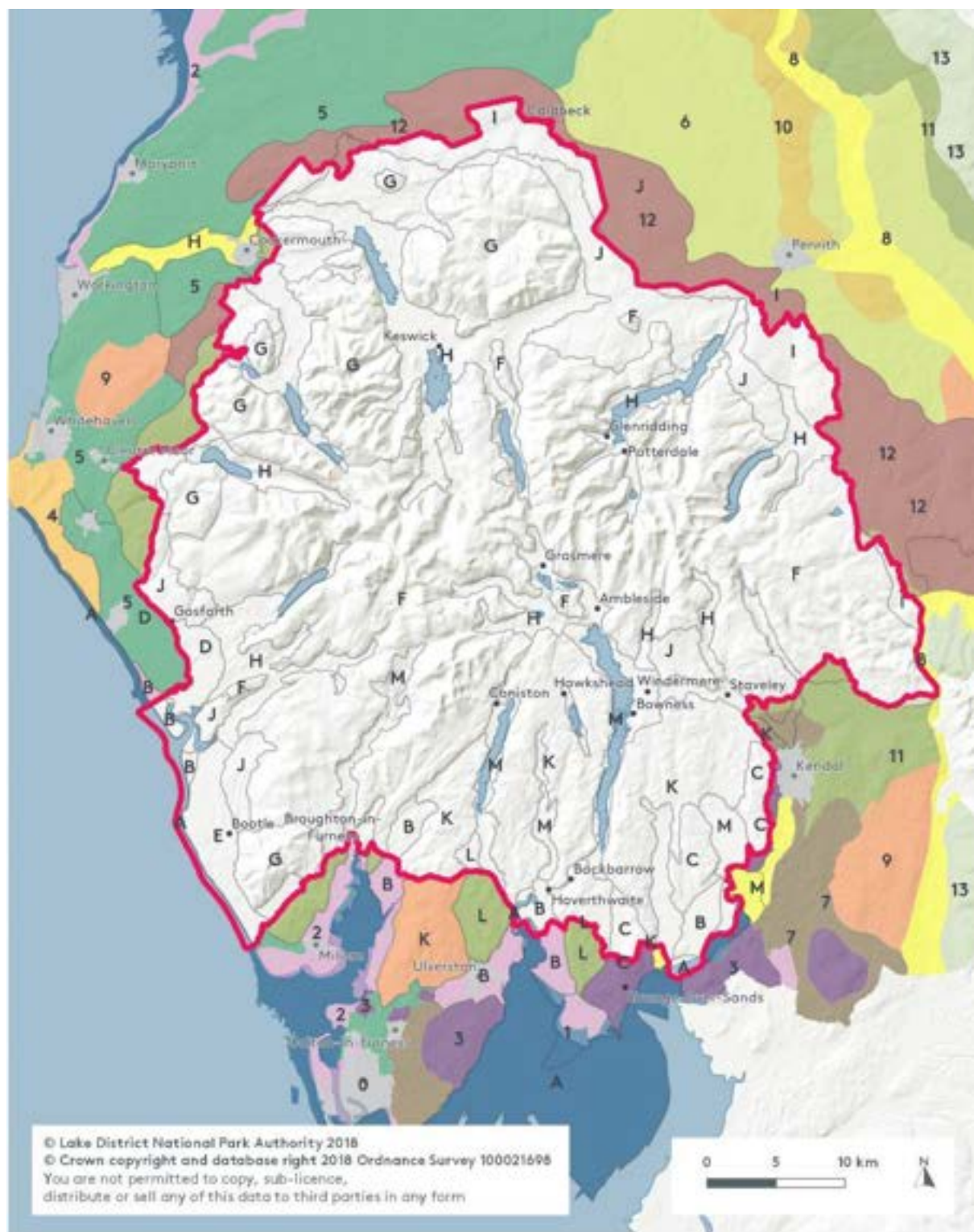
²⁶ [Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit, Cumbria County Council, 2012](#)

For those Landscape Character Types defined with the Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit that are also identified within the Lake District National Park, there is consistency in terms of the description of the Definitive Attributes and Physical Character of the landscape on both sides of the National Park boundary.

Where possible, Landscape Character Types within the National Park were given the same name as adjacent Landscape Character Types defined within the Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit to ensure a consistent approach. Where names differ between similar Landscape Character Types within and at the edges of the National Park, naming reflects the predominant or definitive attributes of that landscape that occur within the National Park.

For each Landscape Character Type that is identified both within the National Park and surrounding Cumbrian landscape, reference is made to the corresponding relevant Landscape Character Type within the Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit.

Figure 3.2 Cumbria Landscape Character Types



Cumbria Landscape Character Types			Lake District Landscape Character Types (A-M)		LDNP boundary
1 Estuary and Marsh	5 Lowland	9 Intermediate Moorland and Plateau	13 Fells and Scarp		
2 Coastal Margins	6 Intermediate Land	10 Sandstone Ridge	Urban Areas		
3 Coastal Limestone	7 Drumlins	11 Upland Fringes	Cumbria Landscape Character Types © Cumbria County Council 2018		
4 Coastal Sandstone	8 Main Valleys	12 Higher Limestone			

3.2 The Lake District Landscape Typology

Defining a Landscape Character Typology for the Lake District

The Lake District National Park Landscape Character Assessment was produced in 2008 by Chris Blandford Associates. The methodology used to define the landscape character typology is provided in Appendix D.

Landscape Character Types

Figure 3.3 shows the distribution of Landscape Character Types defined within the National Park. They have a distinct and relatively homogenous composition and pattern of physical and cultural attributes - including geology, landform, hydrology, land cover/ecological habitats and historical land use. Landscape Character Types are generic in form and may occur in different areas of the National Park. Examples include:

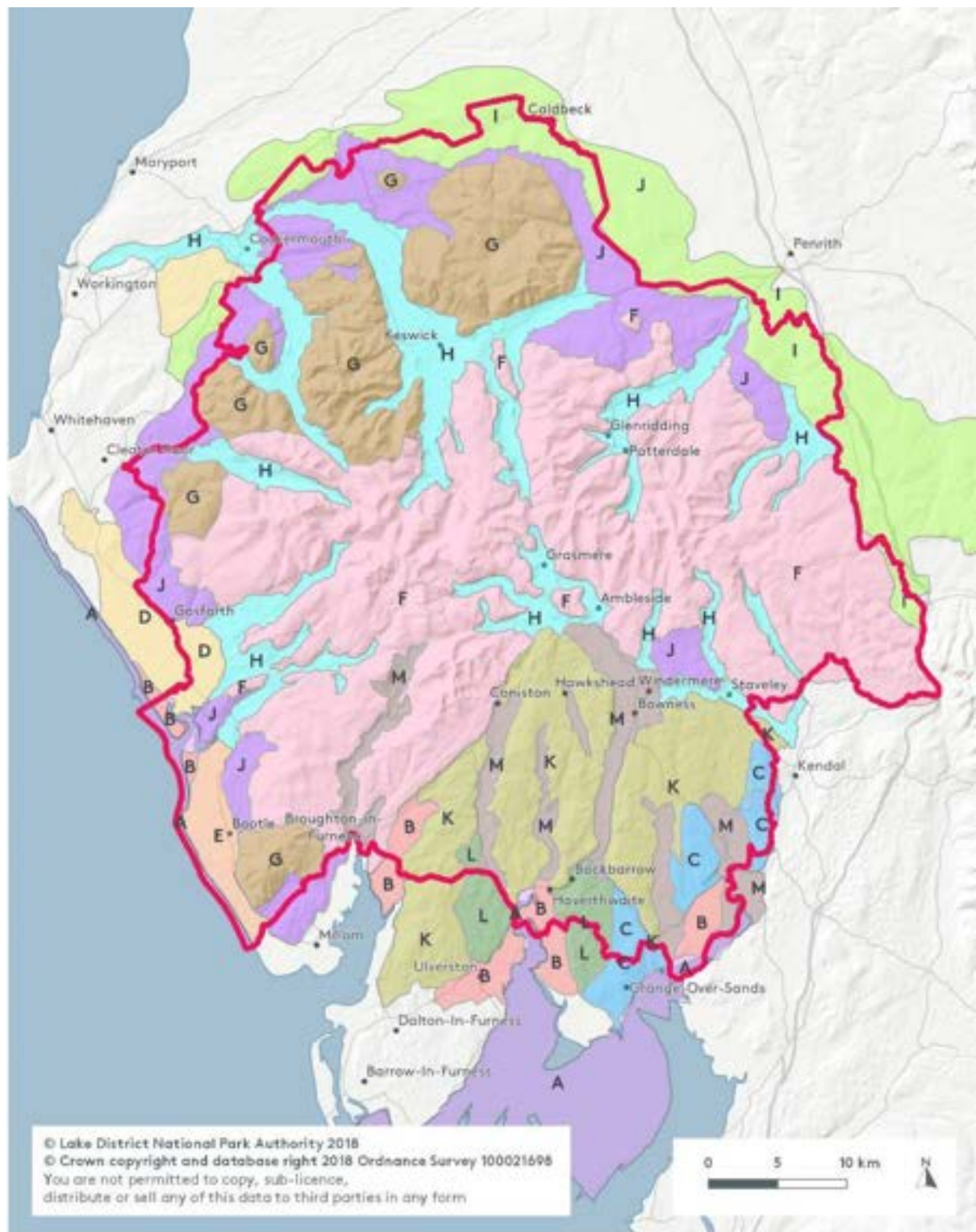
- Rugged/Craggy Volcanic High Fell;
- Upland Valley; and
- Low Fell Fringe.

Landscape Sub-Types

Also generic in form, these represent localised variations in character within a Landscape Character Type due to specific physical or cultural land use attributes. The Landscape Sub- types are shown on Figures 3.3a and 3.3b. Examples include:

- Upland Tarns;
- Valley with River Floodplain; and
- Low Fell Parkland.

Figure 3.3 Lake District National Park Landscape Character Types



Lake District Landscape Character Types (A-M)			Lake District National Park boundary	
 A Estuary and Marsh	 D Lowland	 H Upland Valley		
 B Coastal Margins	 E Coastal Sandstone	 I Upland Limestone Farmland		
 C Coastal Limestone	 F Rugged/Craggy Volcanic High Fell	 J High Fell Fringe		
 G Rugged Angular Slate High Fell	 K Low Fell	 L Low Fell Fringe		
		 M Lowland Valley		

Figure 3.3a Lake District National Park Landscape Character Sub Types (north)

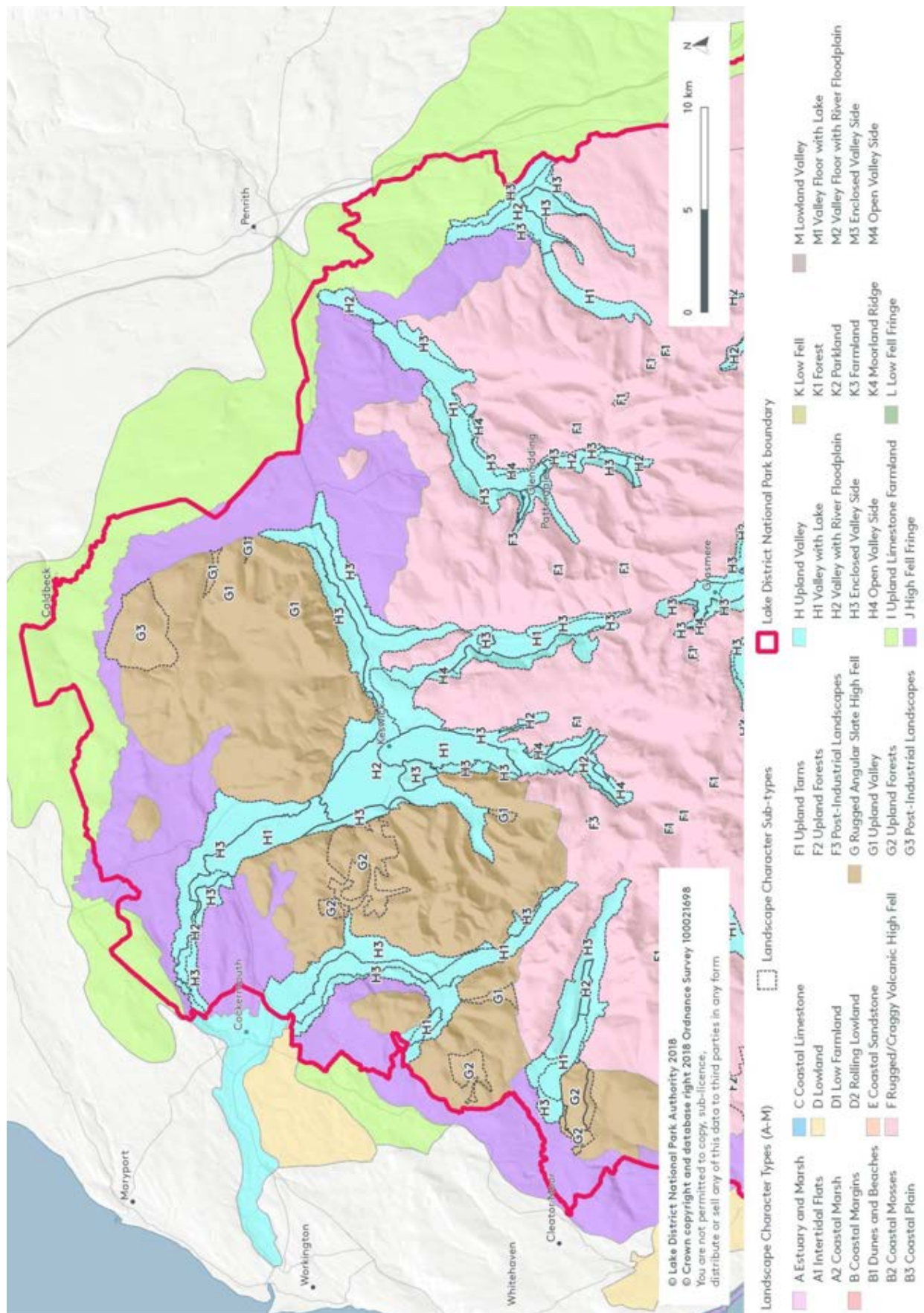
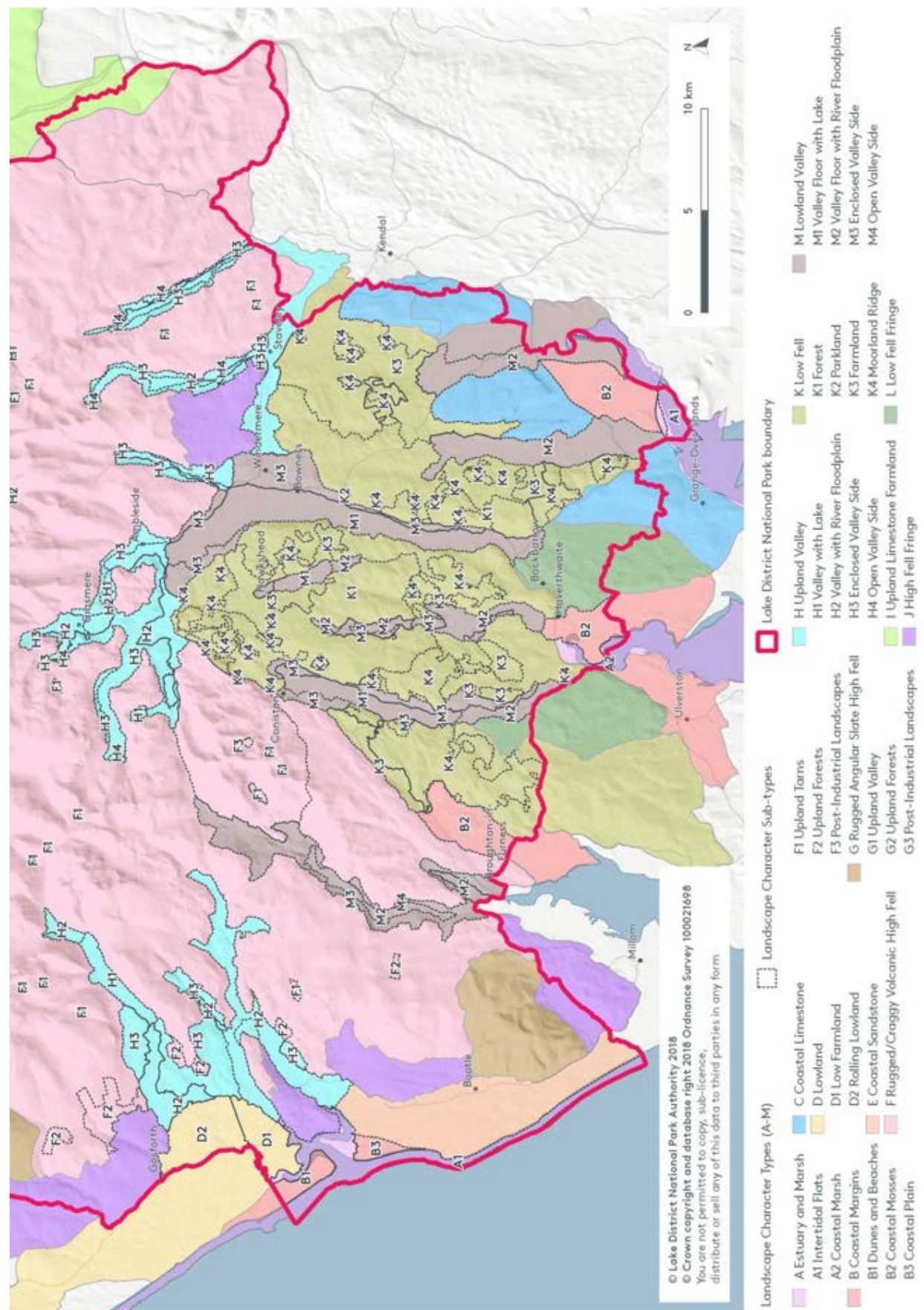


Figure 3.3b Lake District National Park Landscape Character Sub Types (south)



The 13 Landscape Character Types that have been defined within the Lake District are listed below, along with their Sub-Types where relevant. They can be directly accessed within this document by clicking on the name:

TYPE A: ESTUARY AND MARSH

Sub-Type A1: Intertidal Flats

Sub-Type A2: Coastal Marsh

TYPE B: COASTAL MARGINS

Sub-Type B1: Dunes and Beaches

Sub-Type B2: Coastal Mosses

Sub-Type B3: Coastal Plain

TYPE C: COASTAL LIMESTONE

TYPE D: LOWLAND

Sub-Type D1: Low Farmland

Sub-Type D2: Rolling Lowland

TYPE E: COASTAL SANDSTONE

TYPE F: RUGGED/CRAGGY VOLCANIC HIGH FELL

Type F1: Upland Tarns

Type F2: Upland Forests

Type F3: Post-Industrial Landscapes

TYPE G: RUGGED/ANGULAR SLATE HIGH FELL

Sub-Type G1: Upland Valley

Sub-Type G2: Upland Forests

Sub-Type G3: Post-Industrial Landscapes

TYPE H: UPLAND VALLEY

Sub-Type H1: Valley with Lake

Sub-Type H2: Valley with River Floodplain

Sub-Type H3: Enclosed Valley Side

Sub-Type H4: Open Valley Side

TYPE I: UPLAND LIMESTONE FARMLAND

TYPE J: HIGH FELL FRINGE

TYPE K: LOW FELL

Sub-Type K1: Forest

Sub-Type K2: Parkland

Sub-Type K3: Farmland

Sub-Type K4: Moorland Ridge

TYPE L: LOW FELL FRINGE

TYPE M: LOWLAND VALLEY

Sub-Type M1: Valley Floor with Lake

Sub-Type M2: Valley Floor with River Floodplain

Sub-Type M3: Enclosed Valley Side

Sub-Type M4: Open Valley Side

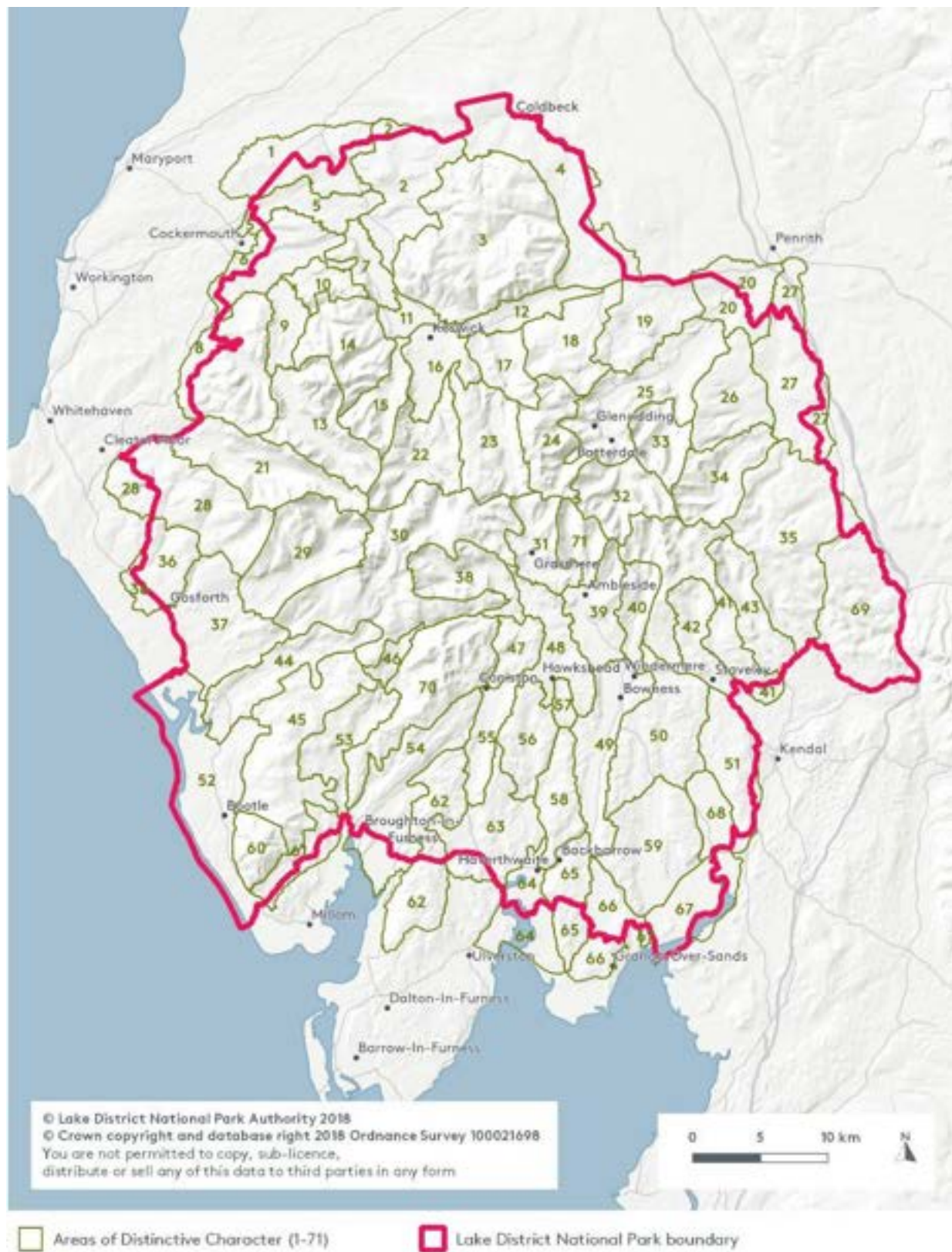
Defining Areas of Distinctive Character in the Lake District

‘Areas of Distinctive Character’ have been identified within the National Park. These are individual geographical areas with a unique composition, character and identity that are locally distinctive and have a strong sense of place.

The methodology used to define the Areas of Distinctive Character for the Lake District is provided in Appendix D.

Figure 3.4 shows the 71 Areas of Distinctive Character within the Lake District National Park.

Figure 3.4 Lake District National Park Areas of Distinctive Character



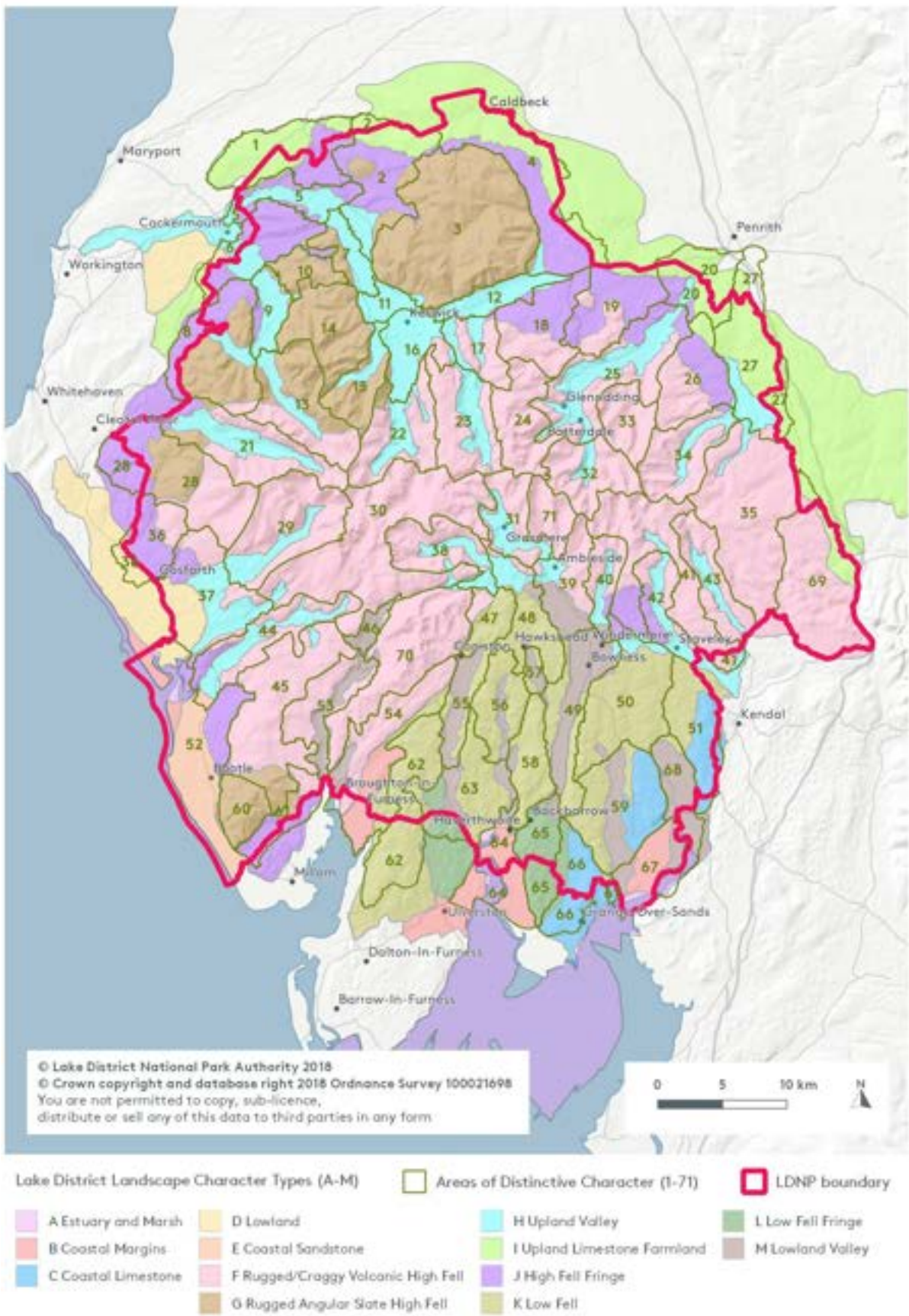
The 71 Areas of Distinctive Character that have been defined within the Lake District are listed below. They can be directly accessed within this document by clicking on the name.

AREA 1: BLINDCRAKE
AREA 2: BASSENTHWAITE & ULDALE
AREA 3: SKIDDAW & BLENCATHRA
AREA 4: MUNGRISDALE & CALDBECK
AREA 5: DERWENT VALLEY
AREA 6: SETMURTHY COMMON & EMBLETON
AREA 7: BASSENTHWAITE LAKE
AREA 8: LOWESWATER
AREA 9: LORTON VALE
AREA 10: BROOM, LING & KIRK FELLS
AREA 11: BASSENTHWAITE & DERWENT ALLUVIAL PLAIN
AREA 12: GLENDERAMACKIN VALLEY
AREA 13: BUTTERMERE & CRUMMOCK WATER
AREA 14: GRIZEDALE PIKE & WHINLATTER
AREA 15: NEWLANDS
AREA 16: KESWICK & DERWENTWATER
AREA 17: ST. JOHN'S IN THE VALE & NADDLE
AREA 18: THRELKELD & MATTERDALE COMMONS
AREA 19: GREAT MELL & LITTLE MELL VALLEYS
AREA 20: EAMONT VALLEY
AREA 21: ENNERDALE
AREA 22: BORROWDALE
AREA 23: THIRLMERE
AREA 24: HELVELLYN RANGE
AREA 25: ULLSWATER
AREA 26: BAMPTON COMMON
AREA 27: LOWTHER VALLEY
AREA 28: KINNISIDE COMMON
AREA 29: WASTWATER & WASDALE
AREA 30: SCAFELL MASSIF
AREA 31: GRASMERE & RYDAL
AREA 32: BROTHER'S WATER & HARTSOP
AREA 33: MARTINDALE
AREA 34: HAWESWATER
AREA 35: SHAP & BIRKBECK FELLS
AREA 36: CALDER VALLEY
AREA 37: BLENG & IRT VALLEYS
AREA 38: GREAT AND LITTLE LANGDALE
AREA 39: UPPER WINDERMERE
AREA 40: TROUTBECK VALLEY

AREA 41: KENTMERE FELLS
 AREA 42: KENTMERE VALLEY
 AREA 43: LONGSLEDDALE VALLEY
 AREA 44: ESKDALE
 AREA 45: ULPHA & CORNEY FELL
 AREA 46: UPPER DUNNERDALE
 AREA 47: LOW FURNESS FELLS
 AREA 48: CLAIFE HEIGHTS & LATTERBARROW
 AREA 49: LOWER WINDERMERE
 AREA 50: CROOK
 AREA 51: CUNSWICK & SCOUT SCAR
 AREA 52: RAVENGLASS & BOOTLE
 AREA 53: LOWER DUNNERDALE
 AREA 54: BROUGHTON & TORVER
 AREA 55: CONISTON WATER
 AREA 56: GRIZEDALE & SATTERTHWAITE
 AREA 57: ESTHWAITE
 AREA 58: DALE PARK
 AREA 59: WHITBARROW & THE WINSTER VALLEY
 AREA 60: BLACK COMBE
 AREA 61: WHICHAM VALLEY
 AREA 62: BLAWITH FELLS
 AREA 63: RUSLAND & CRAKE VALLEYS
 AREA 64: HAVERTHWAITE & LEVEN ESTUARY
 AREA 65: BACKBARROW & BIGLAND
 AREA 66: FIELD BROUGHTON
 AREA 67: FOULSHAW & MEATHOP
 AREA 68: LYTH VALLEY
 AREA 69: BIRKBECK FELLS COMMON, BRETHERDALE & BORROWDALE FELLS
 AREA 70: CONISTON FELLS
 AREA 71: FAIRFIELD HORSESHOE

Figure 3.5 illustrates Areas of Distinctive Character and Landscape Character Types. A table that cross references each Area of Distinctive Character to the relevant Landscape Character Types can be found in Appendix E.

Figure 3.5 Lake District National Park Areas of Distinctive Character and Landscape Character Types



It should be noted that landscape is a continuum and character does not often change abruptly on the ground. More commonly, the character of the landscape will change gradually. The boundaries between landscape character units should be considered to reflect zones of transition in many cases. The boundaries have been defined and mapped at a scale of 1:25,000, and the assessment is only suitable for use at this scale. This should be taken into consideration when the assessment is being used to inform decision-making in relation to development and land management proposals at the local level.

The integrity and security of a national park's landscape is in part supported by the landscape adjoining and surrounding the national park boundary. This is known as the setting. The World Heritage Site also has a setting outside its boundary. The landscape setting for the Lake District National Park and World Heritage Site is the area outside of the park boundary whose landscape character compliments that of the National Park itself, either through similarity or contrast, and in some way supports or enhances its landscape through views into or out of the National Park. The setting is also defined by the intervisibility of the landscapes on either side of the park boundary. Inappropriate development in these locations could adversely affect the Special Qualities of the Lake District National Park and the Outstanding Universal Values of the World Heritage Site.

4 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES

4.1 Introduction

This section sets out descriptions and guidelines for the Landscape Character Types identified within the Lake District.

4.2 Landscape Character Type Descriptions and Guidelines

Character Assessment

For each defined Landscape Character Type, its boundaries are mapped (see Figure 3.3) and its character described under the following headings:

Landscape Character Type Reference and Name

- *Location* – a short paragraph detailing location of the Landscape Character Type in relation to the National Park, its setting and adjacent Landscape Character Types;
- *Definitive Attributes* – a bullet point list of the main landscape attributes that contribute to character;
- *Physical Character* – a summary description of geology/soils, landform, hydrology and land cover elements that contribute to character;
- *Ecological Character* – a summary description of ecological habitats and their relative nature conservation importance that contribute to character, by reference to designated sites citations and the distribution of designated sites;
- *Cultural and Historical Character* – a summary description of the main cultural associations and historical features that contribute to character, by reference to the historic landscape characterisation data and distribution of designated assets and World Heritage Site Valleys;
- *Development, Settlement and Building Character* – a summary description of the settlement forms/origins and patterns, building styles and vernacular materials that contribute to character, by reference to fieldwork, research and existing assessments; and
- *Landscape Character Sub-Types* – where identified, a bullet point list of the main landscape attributes that contribute to the character of the Sub-Type that reflects a local variation in the character of the overall Landscape Character Type.

A table that cross references each Landscape Character Type to the relevant Areas of Distinctive Character can be found in Appendix E.

Current and Future Landscape Changes and Opportunities

Each Landscape Character Type is evaluated as follows:

- *Forces for Change* – a bullet point list of recent past changes in the Landscape Character Type; a concise description of how the intactness of the different components create a perception of the overall current condition of the landscape; and a separate bullet point list of the positive and negative future changes and opportunities that are considered likely to affect the landscape over the short term (5 years) and long term (20 years +).
- *Sensitivities and Capacity for Change* – a short paragraph summarising the key positive attributes that are judged to be inherently sensitive and providing a judgement on the capacity of the overall Landscape Character Type to accommodate change.

Guidelines for Managing Landscape Change

The guidelines comprise a concise statement setting out the overall management strategy for the Landscape Character Type, supported by a bullet point list of specific guidelines for managing landscape change for the overall Type. Where relevant, specific guidelines that apply to Sub-Types are also identified.

TYPE A: ESTUARY AND MARSH

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

The Estuary and Marsh Landscape Character Type (LCT) is situated at the western and south western edges of the Lake District, running along the western coastline and fringing the Ravenglass (a combination of the Rivers Irt, Mite and Esk) and Leven Estuaries and Morecambe Bay to the south. At its inland boundaries, this Landscape Character Type borders Coastal Margins (L B), Coastal Limestone (C), Lowland (D) and Coastal Sandstone (E), High Fell Fringe (J), Lowland Valley (M). This Landscape Character Type also continues outside the National Park boundary and forms the setting of the Park in some places.²⁷

Definitive Attributes

- Predominantly flat topography;
- Land cover consisting of large expanses of mudflats, shingle and pebble beaches and saltmarsh;
- Surface deposits (sand, mud and pebbles) are predominantly underlain by a combination of Permian and Triassic mudstones;
- Tidal landscapes;
- Predominantly open landscape, with very few buildings or built forms visible, other than distant industrial structures (within adjacent Landscape Character Types);
- Patchwork of intertidal ecological habitats, consisting of saltmarshes, mudflats and dunes;
- Habitats support a rich variety of invertebrates, which provide a source of food for migrating waders and wildfowl;
- Vast skies and coastal breezes; and
- Strong sense of tranquillity throughout much of this Landscape Character Type.

²⁷ This Landscape Character Type is identified within the Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance Character Guidance as Landscape Character Type 1: Estuary and Marsh and as Intertidal Flats in the Arnsdale and Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment. For further information on this Landscape Character Type outside the boundaries of the National Park, refer to [Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit](#), Cumbria County Council (March 2011) and [Arnsdale & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment](#) (November 2015).

TYPE A: ESTUARY AND MARSH



1. Tidal landscape with vast skies and coastal breezes © CSA
2. Aerial Photograph of Estuary and Marsh area © GeoPerspectives
3. The diverse patchwork of intertidal habitats, includes saltmarshes and mudflats © CSA
4. Land cover consisting of large expanses of mudflats, shingle and pebble beaches and saltmarsh © NPL / Joe Cornish



Physical Character

The Estuary and Marsh Landscape Character Type consists of bands of mudflats, sandy/ pebble beaches and saltmarshes lining the western coast and southern estuaries of the Lake District National Park. Permian and Triassic mudstones and sandstones predominantly underlie most of the beaches and marshes throughout the Type.

Topography is predominantly flat, with the most noticeable gradient visible where beaches slope upwards from the seashore (quite steeply in places) to meet adjacent lowland and coastal farmland.

The large expanses of mudflats, which are generally visible within estuaries, are often exposed at low tide, whilst saltmarshes exhibit a dynamic pattern of interlinked, meandering river channels, which change with the rise and fall of the tide. There is a strong sense of openness throughout the Landscape Character Type, with very little woodland cover to contribute to sense of enclosure.

The physical character of the surface of this Landscape Character Type is constantly changing as a result of the processes of coastal erosion and deposition (interlinked with the processes of long shore drift).

Ecological Character

This landscape is of significant ecological interest, consisting of a diverse patchwork of intertidal habitats, including saltmarshes and mudflats, which support a rich variety of invertebrates (including ragworm, lugworm, bivalves and snails) providing food for wading birds and wildfowl (such as oystercatchers, dunlin, knot, curlew, redshank, turnstone, bar-tailed godwit, grey plover, ringed plover, shelduck, pintail, eider, red breasted merganser and goldeneye).

Ecological importance is signified through designation of several habitats within this Landscape Character Type.

Morecambe Bay is a designated Special Protection Area (SPA), for its wide range of bird species throughout the year. In summer, areas of shingle and sand hold breeding populations of terns, whilst very large numbers of geese, ducks and waders overwinter and use the site in spring and autumn migration periods. Morecambe Bay is also a designated Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Ramsar site for its combination of mudflats and sandflats (not covered by seawater at high tide); large shallows inlets and bays; perennial vegetation of stony banks; annuals colonising the mud and sand; Atlantic Sea Meadows, Shifting and Fixed Dunes; and Humid Dune Slacks. In addition to this, the bay is also a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its diverse saltmarsh vegetation (including common saltmarsh grass and glasswort) intertidal flats, wintering wading birds and wildfowl.

Drigg Coast (to the west of Ravenglass) is designated as a SAC for its mudflats and sandflats and also as a SSSI for its broad range of maritime habitats, supporting a particularly rich and varied flora of sea kale and Isle of Man cabbage.

Priority habitats associated with this Landscape Character Type include intertidal mudflats, coastal saltmarsh, reef and sand dunes. The Natterjack toad is a rare internationally protected species found in this LCT.

Cultural and Historical Character

The Estuary and Marsh Landscape Character Type is characterised by a predominant pattern of unenclosed or common land. There is a lack of recorded archaeological evidence in this area, but this is mainly due to a lack of investigation rather than limited previous activity. The estuary and marshes would have been prime food gathering locations, which indeed may have attracted temporary settlement.

This Type can be found in the following World Heritage Site Valleys:

- [Coniston](#)
- [Wasdale](#)

Development, Settlement and Building Character

There is an overall lack of built structures or buildings within this Landscape Character Type as a result of the constantly changing inter-tidal nature of the landscape. Visible buildings are usually located on adjacent, slightly higher, farmland, apart from the visually distinctive Kent Viaduct.

Landscape Character Sub-Types

Two Sub-Types have been identified within the overall Landscape Character Type. The attributes that define the character of these Sub-Types are generally typical of the Estuary and Marsh Landscape Character Type. Specific characteristics that are unique to these Sub-Types are:

Sub-Type A1: Intertidal Flats

- Wide beaches and expanses of mudflats within the estuaries and along the coastline, which are exposed at low tide;
- Dissected by dynamic, meandering river channels; and
- Beaches comprising mud, sand, shingle and pebbles (which often form the upper foreshore, associated with increased gradient).

Sub-Type A2: Coastal Marsh

- Extensive areas of salt marsh occurring around the sheltered waters of the estuaries;
- Often marked by low erosion cliffs to around 5m AOD where they are usually enclosed by man-made sea dykes;
- On the seaward edges, saltmarshes are characterised by a closely grazed fine sward, etched by an intricate maze of creeks and channels in a dendritic pattern;

TYPE A: ESTUARY AND MARSH

- Higher, older saltmarshes meander towards the sea, which are frequently colonised by gorse scrub;
- Essentially open, other than patches of scrub and remnant field hedges on the higher marshes;
- Series of terraces within the marshes, which can be, related to isostatic uplift and creek migrations; and
- Sections of creeks can be cut off, leaving isolated sections of water known as pans or flushes.

CURRENT AND FUTURE LANDSCAPE CHANGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Forces for Change

Past Landscape Changes

Observable changes in the past include:

- An ever changing landscape created and maintained through natural processes (tidal erosion and deposition); and
- Evidence of human use in the past is limited due to lack of research and continual erosion by the sea. Likely to also have been used for gathering food (sustainable use leading to little historic record).

Current Landscape Condition

The condition of the Estuary and Marsh Landscape Character Type is generally good. The closely grazed fine sward saltmarshes, mudflats, remnant hedges and other habitats enrich the ecological condition of this landscape. There are some elements showing signs of decline in places, including the loss of some hedgerows, set back from the coastline.

Future Landscape Changes and Opportunities

In both the short term (5 years) and long term (20+ years) this dynamic landscape is likely to continue to be predominantly affected by natural processes. Within this Landscape Character Type, the key agent of change will be the tides. The Lake District National Park Management Plan will provide a key tool in managing change and ensuring a positive future for the area. Within this context, potential longer-term changes and key opportunities within Landscape Character Type A: Estuary and Marsh are outlined below:

- *Agricultural Change and Land Management* - An intensification of farming in this area could result in a dramatic decrease in species diversity on the saltmarshes. Similarly, a decrease in water quality as a result of agricultural run-off or other pollution sources could damage the water-based habitats within the mudflats and saltmarshes. An increase in erosion, as a result of increased access to this

TYPE A: ESTUARY AND MARSH

and adjacent Landscape Character Types, or lack of natural erosion (e.g. through coastal defences) could lead to reduced species diversity.

- *Climate Change* - Rising sea levels would have a dramatic impact on this Landscape Character Type as it would alter the shoreline, tidal flows and potentially inundate significant habitats. An increase in storm events could change the pattern and spread of habitats and therefore alter the character of the landscape (e.g. through erosion of saltmarsh). Depending on the nature of the change in climate, an increase in global temperatures might encourage alien species/ more competitive species to dominate and reduce plant life diversity.
- *Development* - Increased tourism use of the coastline could introduce buildings into a very open landscape with few vertical elements or enclosing features. Pressure to develop land and changes in climate, e.g. storm and flooding events, can lead to increasing amounts of engineered features such as flood defences, drainage works and raising of land levels, all of which would detract from the flat, open and wild characteristics. Offshore/ inshore renewable energy developments would introduce industrial features into a character type where remoteness and tranquillity are key attributes. Associated diffuse or point source pollution could lead to a decrease in water quality and damage to water-based habitats and saltmarshes.

Sensitivities and Capacity for Change

The diverse patchwork of intertidal habitats, consisting of saltmarshes and mudflats, provide delicate naturally sensitive environments. This is recognised by the designation of much of the Landscape Character Type as SPA, SAC, Ramsar Site and SSSI. In addition to this, the strong sense of openness, with generally uninterrupted skylines; and strong intervisibility with surrounding Landscape Character. Adjacent Landscape Character Types (B: Coastal Margins, J: High Fell Fringe and E: Coastal Sandstone) contribute to overall high visual sensitivity.

This Landscape Character Type is considered to have limited capacity to accommodate change or new development without compromising key characteristics, as a result of its valuable network of ecological habitats and high visual sensitivity. The cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure within this Landscape Character Type are likely to be significant.²⁸

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

Due to the ecological importance of this area the overall strategy for this Landscape Character Type, is to conserve the diverse patchwork of intertidal habitats, including saltmarshes, mudflats and dunes. These habitats support a rich variety of species, which are protected through international and national designations. Specific guidelines include:

²⁸ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure study, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

TYPE A: ESTUARY AND MARSH

Ecological Character

- **Encourage** extensive grazing on saltmarshes to maintain low growing vegetation and diversity of sward;
- **Encourage** habitat linkage to increase robustness to climate change;
- **Protect** watercourses from agricultural run-off or other pollution sources in order to maintain a very high level of water quality;
- **Manage** access to prevent increased erosion of vulnerable habitats through disturbance; and
- **Manage** alien species/ more competitive species which threaten to dominate and reduce plant life diversity.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Conserve** the open character and wildness of the landscape by minimising the introduction of new buildings and other built features. Where these are essential careful siting and design should avoid strong vertical or enclosing elements; and
- **Ensure** that where development for renewable energy, large scale drainage works, coastal defences, raising of levels or other significant works are proposed they should be accompanied by a landscape character and visual impact assessment and appropriate habitat/species assessment clearly demonstrating how these developments might be accommodated in an open and sensitive landscape and adequately assessed for potential impact on key habitats.

In addition to the above, selected guidelines for managing landscape change within specific Sub-Types include:

Sub-Type A1: Intertidal Flats

Ecological Character

- **Monitor** water quality and prevent point and diffuse pollution occurring within water courses to maintain healthy aquatic ecosystems.

Sub-Type Type A2: Coastal Marsh

Ecological Character

- **Support** extensive grazing on saltmarshes through provision of information, good practice, sources of financial help in order to maintain characteristic vegetation and habitat diversity;
- **Identify** and **implement** opportunities for managed coastal realignment in appropriate locations to increase coastal habitats and mitigate the impact of storm events; and

TYPE A: ESTUARY AND MARSH

- **Manage** access to vulnerable habitats and breeding areas during critical times of year to prevent disturbance and potential reduction/ loss of key species.

TYPE B: COASTAL MARGINS

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

The Coastal Margins LCT is situated at the western and southern edges of the Lake District, around Ravenglass (a combination of the Irt, Mite and Esk rivers) and Duddon, Leven and Kent Estuaries around Morecambe Bay to the south. At its inland boundaries, this Landscape Character Type borders a range of different Landscape Character Types including Coastal Limestone (C), Lowland (D), Coastal Sandstone (E), Rugged/Craggy Volcanic High Fell (F), High Fell Fringe (J), Low Fell (K), and Lowland Valley (M). This Landscape Character Type also continues outside the National Park boundary and forms the setting to the Park in some places.²⁹

Definitive Attributes

- Low-lying landscape with flat to undulating topography;
- Predominantly underlain by marine alluvium or undulating boulder clay;
- Combination of hummocky dunes, raised beaches and coastal mosses;
- Ecological habitats comprising shingle bank and dune communities; raised bogs and sphagnum filled pools in wetter areas and occasional remnant mosses;
- Pockets of pasture land;
- Settlement pattern generally consists of scattered farmsteads, with some good examples of stone bank barns;
- Remains of early prehistoric settlement beneath the sand dunes;
- Broughton-in-Furness is the only significant settlement; an 18th century planned Market Square, with formal render and stone buildings giving this small town a coherent visual character;
- A variety of building materials used, particularly on farm buildings, from river cobbles, quarry waste slatestone, to neater dressed limestone and sandstone; and
- Relatively strong sense of tranquillity throughout most of this Landscape Character Type.

²⁹ This Landscape Character Type is identified within the Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit as Landscape Character Type 2: Coastal Margins, and Sub Types 2a: Dunes, 2b: Coastal Mosses and 2c: Coastal Plain. For further information on this Landscape Character Type outside the boundaries of the National Park, refer to [Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit](#), Cumbria County Council (March 2011).

TYPE B: COASTAL MARGINS



1. Agricultural improvements of coastal plain through drainage, fertilising and reseeded
© CBA
2. Aerial Photograph showing typical land pattern
© GeoPerspectives
3. Low-lying landscape with flat to undulating topography © CBA



Physical Character

The Coastal Margins Landscape Character Type encompasses a combination of dunes, raised beaches, coastal mosses and Coastal Plain, which is based on marine alluvium or reclaimed mosses and undulating boulder clay areas.

The landscape is low lying and topography is flat to undulating, with occasional low mounds. There is a stark topographical contrast between the Coastal Margins Landscape Character Type and adjacent Low Fell, Low Fell Edge and Rugged/Craggy Volcanic High Fells which provide a higher enclosing backdrop within views inland.

Dunes and Beaches vary from hummocky dunes to flat raised beaches, which have occasionally been regraded. The coastal mosses, which have been formed by peat accumulation in alluvial or boulder clay basins, rise up to three metres above surrounding levels.

Ecological Character

The landscape is of ecological interest, encompassing shingle bank and dune communities; raised bogs and sphagnum filled pools in wetter areas and occasional remnant mosses. The shingle bank, dune and maritime heath communities support great crested newt, natterjack toad and adders, whilst the Coastal Mosses (Sub-Type B2) support bog rosemary and cotton grass; and in drier areas: cranberry, cross-leaved heath, heather and purple moor grass. They are also rich in other wildlife, with adders, frogs, lizards, butterflies and a variety of birds and insects present. On the margins of the Sub-Type, Willow Carr and wet birch scrub give way to wet meadow. The Coastal Plain (Sub-Type B3) has been subject to agricultural improvement through drainage, fertilising and re-seeding, limiting ecological interest mainly to hedges, copses, ditches, small woodlands and scrub.

Duddon Mosses SSSI encompasses an extensive system of raised mires, supporting areas with typical bog communities as well as areas of wet heath, scrub, broad-leaved and mixed woodland and acid grasslands. The mosses also display a rich fauna, including Roe deer, nightjar, woodcock, heron, curlew, cuckoo, tawny and barn owls and buzzard. They are also designated as a SAC.

Important examples of lowland raised mire, including Meathop and Foulshaw Moss SSSI are also located where this type lies adjacent to Morecambe Bay. These two sites form part of a suite of SSSI's that form the Witherslack Mosses SAC site. Foulshaw and Meathop mosses encompass large areas of open peat bog surrounded by woodland. The open bog is dominated by heather and cotton grass, in hummock and hollow topography with shallow bog pools, formed by several species of sphagnum moss.

To the west of Ravenglass, parts of this Landscape Character Type fall within the Drigg Coast SAC/ and SSSI, which is designated, amongst other things, for its fixed dunes (which fall within this Landscape Character Type).

Priority habitats associated with this Landscape Character Type include dunes, lowland raised bog, coastal and flood grazing marsh, lowland calcareous grassland, hay meadow and woodlands. Great crested newt and natterjack toad are internationally protected species found in this LCT.

Cultural and Historical Character

The coast of the Lake District was settled in the early prehistoric period and the sand dunes cover the remains of Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age sites. To the west, the Coastal Margins are predominately unenclosed or common land, whereas towards the southern boundary they have a more mixed history with planned private enclosure and parliamentary enclosure surrounded by single ancient farms, wastes and commons and ancient woodland. The single ancient farms form the basis for the dispersed settlement pattern, which is evident today.

This Type can be found in the following World Heritage Site Valleys:

- [Coniston](#)
- [Windermere](#)

Development, Settlement and Building Character

- Settlement pattern is mixed, with dispersed farms spread throughout the Type;
- The landscape is accessed via minor tracks and paths and bounded by minor roads which serve a string of linear villages and isolated farms;
- Buildings tend to be substantial stone construction, closely spaced for shelter;
- Cobble stone banks, often with a hedge on top (known locally as kests) walls and hedgerows form the boundaries of farms and roads, though there is a tendency for these to be replaced by fences;
- Vernacular farm buildings lie on the fringes of the Coastal Mosses;
- Coastal plain settlements tend to be small villages or isolated farms connected by a network of minor roads and tracks, with a notable rectilinear pattern in the very flat areas;
- Vernacular buildings in stone, slate, cobbles, brick and clay are interesting features in this landscape;
- On exposed coasts, villages tend to be closely knit with stone walls for shelter; and
- Inland, buildings are more spread out and softened by hedges; some are lower lying where they are sited on the fringes of former mossland.

Landscape Character Sub-Types

Three Sub-Types have been identified within the overall Landscape Character Type. The attributes that define the character of these Sub-Types are generally typical of the Coastal Margins Landscape Character Type. Specific characteristics that are unique to these Sub-Types are:

Sub-Type B1: Dunes and Beaches

- Hummocky dunes and flat raised beaches; and
- Beaches comprising mud, sand, shingle and pebbles (which often form the upper foreshore, associated with increased gradient).

Sub-Type B2: Coastal Mosses

- Flat to undulating mosses (peat bogs or raised mires) have been formed by peat accumulation in alluvial or boulder clay basins, they rise up to three metres above surrounding levels. Formerly much more extensive, they have been reclaimed since the 12th century;
- Mosaic of moss, heath and willow carr or birch scrub woodland and pasture;
- Field shapes range from the small and irregular to undulating areas to large rectangular fields on flat mosses;
- Remnant patches of moss provide a rich note of interest in the rich agricultural landscapes which surround them; and
- Variety of moss plants is colourful and rough textured, contrasting with the monochrome smooth pasture fields.

Sub-Type B3: Coastal Plain

- Improved pasture predominates, which is mainly used for dairy cattle, but beef cattle and sheep are also found;
- In drier areas, particularly on boulder clay, arable crops are grown, whilst rougher pasture with rushes or gorse scrub occur around the moss and saltmarsh fringes;
- Tree cover is scarce on the outer exposed edges, whilst further inland small copses or shelterbelts associated with farms or churches are prominent features; and
- Birch woodland occurs on the edges of the mosses.

CURRENT AND FUTURE LANDSCAPE CHANGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Forces for Change

Past Landscape Changes

Observable changes in the past include:

- Agricultural improvement of coastal plain through drainage, fertilising and reseeded;
- Parliamentary and other enclosures in the Foulshaw, Ulpha and Meathop area;
- Coastal margins left as common land or unenclosed land;
- Historic development of Broughton-in-Furness as a key settlement within the area;
- Stone banks and walls replaced by fencing; and
- Reclamation of mosses since 12th century.

Current Landscape Condition

The overall condition of the Coastal Margins Landscape Character Type is considered to be moderate. The semi-natural vegetation within this landscape is occasionally grazed or mown, contributing to ecological diversity. There is, however, evidence of decline within this landscape, where cobble stone banks have been replaced by wire fences, leading to a loss of traditional vernacular landscape pattern. Run down industrial buildings or dilapidated agricultural buildings are also detractors. Decline in the condition and extent of hedgerows within this landscape is also evident, particularly on the coastal mosses, where they are tending to become overgrown or gappy. There is also evidence that the edges of some of the mosses are drying out due to drainage.

Future Landscape Changes and Opportunities

In the short term (5 years) it is likely that there will be continued positive changes in the form of continued management and enhancement of the numerous valuable SSSIs. This area is off the main tourist routes, however small scale local improvements in access, and the roll out of the English Coastal Path may increase the popularity of the area.

Negative changes are likely to include continuing loss of mosses through drainage and conversion to pasture. As the mosses dry out along their margins, birch and willow scrub invade.

Longer-term changes (20+ years) will be dependent on prevailing incentives and policies and it is therefore challenging to be prescriptive. The Lake District National Park Management Plan will provide a key tool in managing change and ensuring a positive future for the area. Potential longer-term changes and key opportunities within Landscape Character Type B: Coastal Margins are outlined below:

TYPE B: COASTAL MARGINS

- *Agricultural Change and Land Management* - Encroaching pasture is weakening the visual appeal of the mosses, as well as reducing species diversity and the neglect of hedges and kests around enclosure land reduces the potential landscape and wildlife benefits of hedgerows and in many places leads to substitution by wire fences. Mosses are also being lost through drainage, resulting in birch and willow invasion of dried out margins. Small-scale coniferous forestation is also changing the character and nature of the landscape along the coastal margins and runs against a general trend towards favouring native broadleaves. Dunes are dynamic features and an increase in erosion (e.g. through access) or lack of natural erosion (e.g. through coastal defences) could lead to reduction in species diversity.
- *Climate Change* - The coastal margins are vulnerable to a range of climate change effects such as increased salination of coastal mosses and increased storm events could change the pattern and spread of habitats and therefore alter the character of the landscape (e.g. through increasing erosion of the dunes). There could also be an increase in invasive species, better suited to new climatic conditions, affecting key landscape characteristics.
- *Development* - Within a relatively flat landscape, new farm buildings, pylons, renewable energy and other similar developments are much more obtrusive in terms of scale and visibility and in some places already detract from the existing vernacular style. There is likely to be continued pressure for access to water for recreation, creating pollution and loss of overall tranquillity.

Sensitivities and Capacity for Change

The coastal mosses (including a patchwork of bog rosemary and cotton grass, cranberry, cross-leaved heath and heather) and coastline (including shingle bank and dune communities, raised bogs, sphagnum filled pools in wetter areas, remnant mosses, fixed dunes, mudflats and sandflats) provide ecologically rare and sensitive habitats. This is recognised by the designation of much of the coastline as SPA and mosses as SSSI. This patchwork of habitats results in an intricate landscape pattern. The Coastal Margins Landscape Character Type (B) has strong intervisibility with the Estuary and Marsh Landscape Character Type (A) and other adjacent Landscape Character Types. In places, there is a strong sense of openness, however, patches of willow carr and birch woodland provide a sense of enclosure, denoting moderate visual sensitivity overall. As a result, this Landscape Character Type is considered to have limited capacity to accommodate change overall without compromising key characteristics.

The cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure within this Landscape Character Type are variable. There is a great significance around Ravenglass and Meathop, a significant effect likely around Furness Fells and Seascale (both within and outside the Park). The impacts are considered to be intermediate around Broughton in Furness.³⁰

³⁰ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

The overall strategy for this Landscape Character Type is to conserve and manage the rich ecological heritage of the coastal habitats whilst protecting the moorland from further encroachment and loss. The inherent characteristics of flat to undulating topography and dispersed vernacular farmsteads should be retained with key landscape features such as hedgerows and hedge banks being targeted for better management. Specific guidelines include:

Physical Character

- **Enhance** existing coniferous woodland through reversion to broadleaved and discourage new conifer planting to reinforce the landscape structure; and
- **Encourage** increased woodland cover as a new and viable land use of degraded or derelict land, restored open cast site and land on the fringes of major settlements, whilst conserving the overall sense of openness.
- **Target** agri-environment schemes to **conserve** and manage traditional features such as kest banks, to strengthen sense of place.

Ecological Character

- **Restore** edge habitats through removal of invasive species and increasing water levels to maintain distinct species populations;
- **Manage** access to prevent increased erosion of vulnerable habitats through disturbance;
- **Encourage** retention and planting of hedgerows and restoration of hedge banks; and
- **Encourage** habitat linkage to increase robustness to climate change.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Prevent** loss of distinct settlement pattern and general open character of area through control of large scale and intrusive developments; and
- **Conserve** the archaeological and historic environment in order to maintain a rich cultural landscape.
- **Target** agri-environment payments and use development control to protect and maintain landscape features and support the maintenance and restoration of vernacular buildings and the careful design of new buildings.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Conserve** the open character and wildness of the landscape by minimising the introduction of new buildings and other built features. Where these are essential careful siting and design should avoid strong vertical or enclosing elements; and

TYPE B: COASTAL MARGINS

- **Ensure** that where development for renewable energy, large scale drainage works, coastal defences, raising of levels or other significant works are proposed they should be accompanied by a landscape character and visual impact assessment and appropriate habitat/species assessment clearly demonstrating how these developments might be accommodated in an open and sensitive landscape and adequately assessed for potential impact on key habitats; and
- **Protect** skylines and key views to and from the area from tall, vertical and large-scale developments that may erode the open and undeveloped character of the area. This is particularly the case around Ravenglass and Meathop and the Furness Fells and Seascale where there is likely to be great significance or significance of cumulative landscape and visual impacts.

In addition to the above, selected guidelines for managing landscape change within specific Sub-Types include:

Sub-Type B1: Dunes and Beaches

Ecological Character

- **Manage** access to dunes and beaches during critical times of year (e.g. breeding season and prolonged dry periods) to prevent reduction in/ loss of key species.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Manage** dune environments to prevent erosion of archaeological sites located within the sand dunes.

Sub-Type Type B2: Coastal Mosses

Physical Character

- **Restore** edges of mosses through removal of birch and willow and increased water levels to maintain wet habitat and distinct bog habitat.

Ecological Character

- **Conserve** the visual appeal and ecological richness of the mosses by preventing further encroachment, drainage and conversion to pasture.

Sub-Type Type B3: Coastal Plain

Physical Character

- **Encourage** retention of hedgerows around enclosure land and support planting of hedges where previously replaced by wire fences to strengthen landscape structure and provide habitat network; and

TYPE B: COASTAL MARGINS

- **Enhance** existing coniferous woodland through encouraging natural regeneration of native broadleaves. New planting of woodland should be discouraged in open coastal margins to conserve distinct open landscape characteristic.

Ecological Character

- **Identify** and **implement** opportunities for managed coastal realignment in appropriate locations to increase coastal habitats and mitigate the impact of storm events.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Control** intrusive farm and other developments (consider scale, location and use of vernacular materials) to minimise loss/ erosion of vernacular style.
-

TYPE C: COASTAL LIMESTONE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

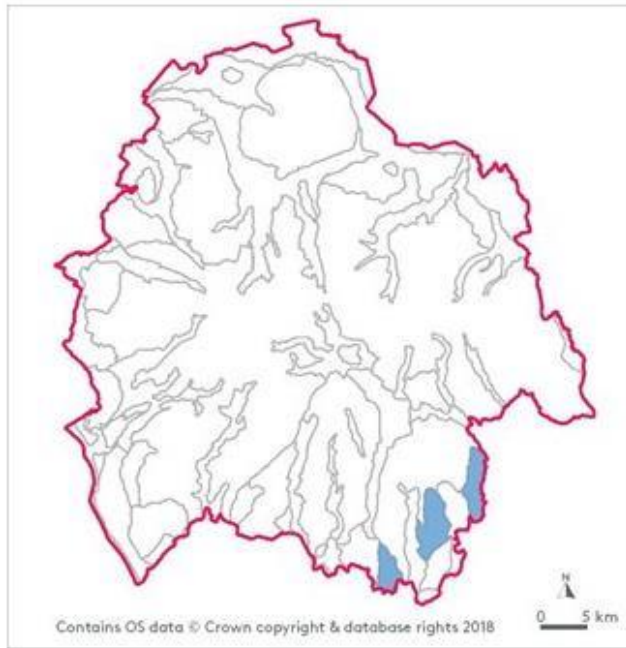
The Coastal Limestone Landscape Character Type is situated at the southern edge of the Lake District National Park, to the west of Kendal and north of Grange-Over-Sands. The Type is situated in between fingers of Low Fell (K), Low Fell Fringe (L) and Lowland Valley (M), which provide a sense of enclosure. This Landscape Character Type also continues outside the National Park boundary and forms the setting to the Park in some places.³¹

Definitive Attributes

- Rolling farmland is underlain by Carboniferous Limestone geology, which has a rough texture where limestone outcrops occur;
- Limestone hills (Scout and Cunswick Scars, Whitbarrow and Hampsfield Fell), with cliffs and scree slopes, rise above the low-lying pastures and wetlands;
- Limestone features include steep scarp slopes, rocky outcrops and limestone pavements, set within a grazed landscape, with patches of woodland;
- A combination of semi-improved pasture, species-rich calcareous grassland (often with pockets of limestone heath and juniper scrub) and semi-natural woodland dominate land cover and provide ecological interest;
- Parkland atSizergh; and
- Open uninterrupted views from limestone ridges.

³¹ This Landscape Character Type is identified within the Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit as Landscape Character Type 3: Coastal Limestone, and as Type F: Wooded Limestone Hills and Pavement in the Arnsdale and Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment. For further information on this Landscape Character Type outside the boundaries of the National Park, refer to [Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit](#), Cumbria County Council (March 2011) and [Arnsdale & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment](#) (November 2015).

TYPE C: COASTAL LIMESTONE



1. Aerial Photograph showing typical land use pattern © GeoPerspectives
2. Rolling limestone has a rough texture where limestone outcrops occur, Cunswick Scar © LDNPA



Physical Character

The Coastal Limestone Landscape Character Type is underlain by Carboniferous Limestone geology, which denotes a rough texture in places where limestone outcrops occur. The predominantly rolling topography rises to 235m AOD at Scout Scar, west of Kendal.

The landscape exhibits features which are typical of limestone geology in NW England, including areas of steep scarp slopes, rocky outcrops and limestone pavement. These are set within an overall grazed land cover, with scrub and woodland on the steep scarp slopes and pavements. In addition to limestone outcrops, underlying geology is visible within the stone walls as field boundaries.

The limestone hills and scarps contrast sharply with adjacent lower lying coastal and valley areas. Limestone pavements are protected by Limestone Pavement Orders under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) at Hampsfield Fell, Latterbarrow, Meathop Fell, Newton Heads, Whitbarrow and Yewbarrow.

Ecological Character

Semi-improved pasture on the dip slopes, species-rich calcareous grassland (often with pockets of limestone heath and juniper scrub) and semi-natural woodland associated with the limestone provide ecological interest throughout this Landscape Character Type.

The ecological importance of the limestone landscape of this Landscape Character Type is recognised by the designation of Cunswick and Scout Scars and Whitbarrow as SSSIs. These sites are also components of the larger Morecambe Bay Pavements SAC. Morecambe Bay Pavements represents a diverse combination of limestone pavement flora, including Yew, Juniper, Hazel, Buckthorn and Ash. Yew woodland here represents the development of long-established stands on unstable scree and rocky slopes.

Yewbarrow (consists of a north-south ridge of Carboniferous Limestone) comprising a diverse and complex association of limestone and acidic grasslands, heath, scree, cliff, pavement and woodland habitats. At Hampsfell, the woodland and pavement habitat are more extensive and diverse whereas the dwarf shrub, heath and wetland components are better represented at Scout and Cunswick Scars.

Scout and Cunswick Scars, located 2km west of Kendal form a Carboniferous Limestone ridge. The Scars are made up of a complex of limestone habitats, which support a very rich flora of unimproved calcareous grassland, areas of dry dwarf shrub heath with scattered trees and shrubs, woodland, open water and fen. Many areas of limestone scree within the grassland and heath communities support a distinctive flora of fern species.

Cultural and Historical Character

The Coastal Limestone Landscape Character Type is characterised by a network of historic land uses but is dominated by open fields, with ancient woodland, parliamentary enclosure and single ancient farms. These farms form the basis of the dispersed settlement pattern, which is evident today. There are a wide variety of settlement types including a Romano British Settlement at Hampsfield Hall, high status

TYPE C: COASTAL LIMESTONE

medieval defended farmsteads such as Cunswick Hall, and examples of later designed landscapes associated with county houses atSizergh and Lindale.

This Type can be found in the following World Heritage Site Valley:

- [Windermere](#)

Development, Settlement and Building Character

- Settlement pattern consists of scattered farmsteads and houses, with Lindale, Levens and Brigsteer as the main settlements characterized by large nucleated groups of 19th and early 20th century buildings;
- The widespread use of limestone as a building material gives visual coherence to the traditional buildings built between the 17th and 19th centuries; and
- North of Cartmel, the Field Broughton area is characterised by a number of formal Georgian villas, each with its attractive parkland landscape setting.
- Sizergh Castle and parkland form an attractive feature south west of Kendal.

Landscape Character Sub-Types

There are no Sub-Types within the Coastal Limestone Landscape Character Type.

CURRENT AND FUTURE LANDSCAPE CHANGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Forces for Change

Past Landscape Changes

Observable changes in the past include:

- Enclosure leading to a distinct pattern of open fields and dispersed settlements within the landscape; and
- Past mineral workings and removal of limestone pavements (now fully protected).
- Agricultural improvements and inappropriate grazing regimes has led to the decline of species diversity in limestone grassland giving rise to scrub invasion.

Current Landscape Condition

The overall condition of the Coastal Limestone Landscape Character Type is considered to be good. The historic pattern of fields bounded by stone walls is generally intact, although in places, neglect and loss of field boundaries is evident. The

TYPE C: COASTAL LIMESTONE

patchwork of semi-improved pasture, semi-natural woodland (with pockets of limestone heath and juniper scrub) and limestone pavements contribute to good ecological condition overall, though some species rich pastures are declining owing to lack of mixed grazing.

Future Landscape Changes and Opportunities

In the short term (5 years) it is likely that there will be continued positive changes in the form of continued protection of limestone pavements, restoration of unimproved calcareous grassland and ancient woodland through agri-environment schemes.

Negative changes are likely to include changes to hill farming practices which may alter the visual characteristics of the limestone hills and outcrops which are highly visible in the landscape. Increasing development pressure could clutter the current openness within views to the coast and interrupt skylines.

Longer-term changes (20+ years) will be dependent on prevailing incentives and policies and it is therefore challenging to be prescriptive. The Lake District National Park Management Plan will provide a key tool in managing change and ensuring a positive future for the area. Potential longer-term changes and key opportunities within the Landscape Character Type C: Coastal Limestone are outlined below:

- *Agricultural Change and Land Management* - Changes in agri-environment grants could lead to further reduction in stocking levels which in turn, may lead to increased rough grassland and scrub on the hills and outcrops. Conservation grazing initiatives re-introducing hardy cattle breeds can help to maintain limestone grassland and control scrub regeneration, especially on SSSIs. The continuing trend in the amalgamation of farming businesses may result in key landscape features being lost through neglect or removal to enable the amalgamation of adjacent fields. This, in turn, may lead to the creation of a more homogenous landscape with less distinctiveness and loss of localised character. Changes to hill farming practices may also alter the visual characteristics of the limestone hills and outcrops, which are highly visible in the landscape. This over-intensification could impact directly on important species and habitats and the visual characteristics of the landscape.
- *Climate Change* - Some niche and vulnerable species may not be able to adapt to climate change and maybe lost from this distinctive range of habitats.
- *Development* - Further limestone extraction would directly affect the limestone features of this area and may fundamentally alter the texture and pattern of the landscape. Energy related development (wind turbines, pylons) would interrupt key skylines and views out towards the coast or of the rocky outcrops and hills, eroding valuable landscape quality. An increase in traffic associated with tourism and recreation pressurising the road system could also lead to inappropriate highway developments. Increased accessibility would also put pressure on sensitive habitats.

Sensitivities and Capacity for Change

The patchwork of very rich flora on unimproved, species-rich calcareous grassland, ancient woodland and limestone pavement flora, including yew, juniper, hazel, buckthorn and ash, contribute to the ecological sensitivity of this Landscape

TYPE C: COASTAL LIMESTONE

Character Type. Ecological value is further recognised by designation of parts of the limestone landscape as SSSI and SAC.

A strong sense of openness, with generally uninterrupted skylines, coupled with strong inter visibility with adjacent Landscape Character Types to the south, contribute to overall high visual sensitivity.

Taking into account the above sensitive natural attributes and the dispersed settlement pattern of ancient farms, overall capacity to accommodate change without compromising key characteristics is considered to be limited.

The cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure within this Landscape Character Type are variable. There is a great significance for a small area of land at Grange Golf Course, near Meathop. The rest of the type has a significant effect likely both within and outside the Park.³²

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

The overall strategy for this Landscape Character Type is to conserve important limestone grassland/ ancient woodland habitats and manage changing upland landscape to retain key aesthetic and ecological qualities. Specific guidelines include:

Physical Character

- **Target** agri-environment payments to conserve distinctive limestone characteristics; and
- **Conserve, enhance and expand** characteristic woodlands close to the coast and on limestone scarps and summits.

Ecological Character

- **Conserve and enhance** significant ecological assets such as calcareous grassland and other limestone habitats, semi-natural and ancient woodland and fen, maintaining a patchwork of habitats within the landscape;
- **Encourage** habitat linkage to increase robustness to climate change; and
- **Avoid** woodland planting on sensitive mossland, limestone pavement and limestone grasslands.
- **Encourage** appropriate management to under-managed and unmanaged grassland, including scrub clearance and conservation grazing.

³² Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

TYPE C: COASTAL LIMESTONE

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** past mineral workings taking into account an assessment of the historic value of such sites;
- **Encourage** management of designed landscape that retains design qualities;
- **Target** agri-environment payments and use development control to protect and maintain landscape features and support the maintenance and restoration of vernacular buildings and the careful design of new buildings; and
- **Identify** and plan for potential impacts of climate change on designed landscape in order to better understand ability to adapt, for example succession planning for parkland trees.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Protect** key views and skylines from inappropriate development and clutter in order to retain strong sense of openness within views.

TYPE D: LOWLAND

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

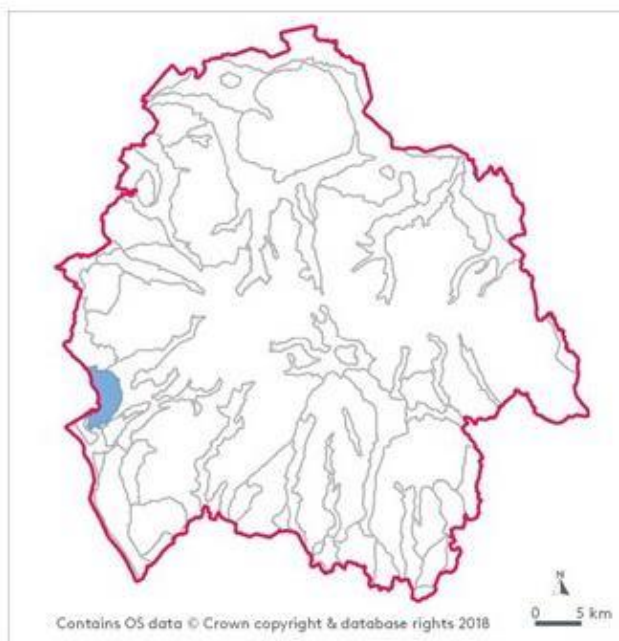
The Lowland Landscape Character Type is situated at the western edges of the Lake District National Park, to the north of Ravenglass. Adjacent Landscape Character Types include High Fell Fringe (J), Coastal Margins (B), Estuary and, Marsh (A), and the Upland Valleys (H) of Eskdale and Wasdale. This Landscape Character Type also continues outside the National Park boundary and forms the setting of the Park³³.

Definitive Attributes

- Gently rolling or undulating low-lying topography, dissected by meandering river valleys;
- Underlain by sandstone;
- Pasture fields dominate land cover, with pockets of woodland, arable fields, scrub and more marginal land, dominated by hedgerow field boundaries;
- Ecological character comprises a combination of semi-natural ancient woodland and wetland habitats, along river corridors and within botanically rich exposures of sand; and
- Settlement pattern consists of a combination of dispersed and nucleated settlements and scattered farmsteads.

³³ This Landscape Character Type is identified within the Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance as Landscape Character Type 5:Lowland. For further information on this Landscape Character Type outside the boundaries of the National Park, refer to [Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit](#), Cumbria County Council (March 2011).

TYPE D: LOWLAND



1. The High Fell Ridge provides a dramatic backdrop to this low-lying area. © CEA
2. Aerial Photograph showing typical field pattern. © GeoPerspectives
3. Gently rolling or undulating topography. © CEA
4. Predominately pasture land cover. © CEA



Physical Character

This Landscape Character Type is underlain by the Sherstone sandstone group. Occasional meandering valleys dissect an otherwise generally rolling or undulating topography. The landscape is low-lying in nature (generally below 100m AOD).

The predominant land cover is pasture, often intensively managed, with pockets of woodland, arable fields, scrub and more marginal land. This combination exhibits a muted and relatively harmonious colour across the landscape. Hedges, fences and hedgerow trees dominate field boundaries, denoting a recognisable landscape pattern.

Ecological Character

Within this Landscape Character Type, ecological interest is particularly notable within areas of semi-natural woodland, wetland habitats along river corridors and botanically rich exposures of sand. Hedgerows also provide key wildlife habitats and corridors.

The ecological importance of part of the Lowland Landscape Character Type is recognised by the designation of Drigg Holme (on the floodplain of the River Irt) as a SSSI. The site comprises a suite of neutral and acidic grasslands within a rich and varied hay meadow flora, with over 150 different flowering plants visible. Species-rich hedgerows with guelder rose, willow, hawthorn, blackthorn and sycamore present also divide up the area.

Cultural and Historical Character

A mixture of historic landscape types is visible within the current landscape, consisting of former common fields, ancient enclosures, small patches of intakes, blocks of planned enclosures and a small area of designed landscape around Irton. There are also large blocks of plantation woodland, with fragments of ancient woodland. The pattern of distribution of these landscape types relates to topography, with the former common fields situated on the low-lying western side of the area, and the planned enclosure plus much of the plantation woodland, on the higher ground. Between are zones of ancient enclosure interspersed with blocks of planned enclosure, some intakes and scattered ancient woodland. Hedgerows are the dominant type of field boundary with stone walls restricted largely to the planned enclosures of the fell edges. The churches at Irton and Gosforth are significant for their Anglo-Saxon and Anglo-Norse crosses and monumental stonework.

This Type can be found in the following World Heritage Site Valleys:

- [Buttermere](#)
- [Wasdale](#)

Development, Settlement and Building Character

- Settlement pattern consists of dispersed and nucleated settlements and scattered farmsteads, and a number of late Georgian houses in mature landscaped grounds;
- The main settlement of Gosforth has a linear core of 17th to 19th century buildings, surrounded by large housing estates; and
- The use of local building materials, in particular Eskdale granite and St Bees red sandstone, forms a consistent feature of farmsteads, houses and older parts of settlements.

Landscape Character Sub-Types

Two Sub-Types have been identified within the overall Landscape Character Type. The attributes that define the character of these Sub-Types are generally typical of the Lowland Landscape Character Type. Specific characteristics that are unique to these Sub-Types are:

Sub-Type D1: Low Farmland

- Intensively farmed agricultural land below 100m AOD;
- Predominantly pasture land cover, with occasional patchy woodland and arable farmland; and
- Generally large fields bounded by hedges or fences and/or hedgerow trees, however, tree clumps, riverside and hedgerow trees are notable features as well as hedge banks.

Sub-Type D2: Rolling Lowland

- This Sub-Type is located adjacent to the western edges of the National Park and lies predominantly outside the Park boundary;
- Lowland agricultural landscape, dominated by undulating topography, with dissecting valleys;
- Land cover is dominated by pasture and some woodland, scrub and other marginal land; and
- Hedgerow trees and hedgerows are dominant on lower ground, with variable field patterns relating to topography.

CURRENT AND FUTURE LANDSCAPE CHANGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Forces for Change

Past Landscape Changes

Observable changes in the past include:

- Commons created on low lying ground;
- Planned enclosure fields on higher ground;
- Inter-mixing of enclosure, intakes and ancient woodland on middle ground; and
- Historic development of Gosforth as the key settlement within this area.

Current Landscape Condition

The overall condition of the Lowland Landscape Character Type is considered to be good. Most landscape features are generally well managed. Patches of unmanaged woodland are, however, visible and there is also evidence of neglected stone walls and loss of hedgerows, which have been replaced by fences.

Future Landscape Changes and Opportunities

An overall consistency in the use of vernacular building materials indicates a local desire to retain traditional character of the area.

Negative changes may include the amalgamation of farms, leading to a change in the character of the valley floors with new access tracks and larger fields being created to improve efficiency. Amalgamation of farms may also result in farmhouses and associated buildings being converted to new uses and key landscape features being lost through neglect or removal to enable the amalgamation of adjacent fields. The increased farm size may lead to the demand for new large agricultural buildings (potentially for over-wintering stock) affecting character and views. Increased financial pressures and reduced availability of higher level agri-environmental payments leading to field boundaries, walls and hedges suffering from lack of management.

Longer-term changes (20+ years) will be dependent on prevailing incentives and policies and it is therefore challenging to be prescriptive. The Lake District National Park Management Plan will provide a key tool in managing change and ensuring a positive future for the area. Potential longer-term changes and key opportunities within the Landscape Character Type D: Lowland are outlined below:

- *Agricultural Change and Land Management* - The amalgamation of farms and increased drive for efficient farm businesses or farms being sold as farmers and their families leave the industry, all have a direct impact on how the land is managed. As the landscape characteristics of this area are significantly influenced by agricultural practices, change in the industry could lead to an erosion of landscape quality.
- *Climate Change* - The likely effects of climate change on this landscape are not easily identifiable with current information, however, agricultural practices could be affected, with a move to plough up pasture and plant new crops.

TYPE D: LOWLAND

- *Development* - Diversification of farm businesses leading to introduction of new buildings and the conversion of farm buildings for residential and other uses gradually change the nature of the working landscape and its associated attributes. The erosion and loss of vernacular building styles through introduction of cheaper alternatives will reduce the distinct characteristics of this area. Encroachment of large scale vertical developments such as wind farms, masts and pylons into the area would also have a significant effect on landscape character both within the Park and its setting. It is likely that there will also be increased pressure from residential and tourist related developments, affecting the character and quality of the landscape. New nuclear facilities close to the nearby Sellafield complex and other similar industrial complexes in the wider farmland landscape type may result in visually intrusive buildings in open landscape. Electricity pylons associated with any new nuclear energy production could result in visually intrusive features both within the Park and in its setting.

Sensitivities and Capacity for Change

The natural or ecological sensitivity of this Landscape Character Type is represented by a combination of semi-natural woodland, wetland and hedgerows. A pattern of ancient enclosures, the predominantly rural character, pockets of parkland and the low density, dispersed settlement pattern, contributes to overall cultural sensitivity. Overall, visual sensitivity is judged to be moderate. In places, woodland and hedgerows limit views, whilst there is strong intervisibility with adjacent High Fells. Overall the Lowland Landscape Character Type is considered to have limited to moderate capacity to accommodate change without compromising key/characteristics.

The cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure within this Landscape Character Type are variable. Within the Park there is likely to be an intermediate effect. Outside the Park, a significant effect is likely across West Cumbria and west and south of Cockermouth.³⁴

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

The overall strategy for this Landscape Character Type is to manage the impact of changes in land and building use, conserve or restore neglected landscape features and encourage the retention and restoration of historic and vernacular building materials and details and the careful design of new buildings. This landscape is a patchwork of different land uses on low-lying topography dissected by meandering river valleys. This diversity is its key characteristic. Specific guidelines include:

Physical Character

- **Conserve and enhance** woodland, hedges and stone walls.

³⁴ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

TYPE D: LOWLAND

Ecological Character

- **Encourage** conservation of existing key landscape features and habitats; and
- **Encourage** habitat linkage to increase robustness to climate change,

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Encourage** conservation of significant historic features and buildings;
- **Encourage** sympathetic new uses for disused farm buildings to ensure they remain a viable and contributory feature within this landscape; and
- **Encourage** the use of local building materials, in particular Eskdale granite and St Bees red sandstone.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- Protect skylines and key views to and from the area from tall, vertical and large-scale developments that may erode the open and undeveloped character of the area. This is particularly the case in the western area along the coastal area where there is a great significance of cumulative landscape and visual impacts from vertical infrastructure.

In addition to the above, selected guidelines for managing landscape change within specific Sub-Types include:

Sub-Type D1: Low Farmland

Ecological Character

- **Target** agri-environment schemes toward wetland, hedgerow, and small woodland management, to mitigate against the negative impacts of farm intensification on landscape character and reduction of habitat value and water quality due to climate change.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Manage** recreational development, housing, farm development and road improvements/traffic management to prevent cumulative urbanisation of rural landscape and loss of rural roads character; and
- **Conserve** and **manage** boundary features (hedges, hedge banks and stone walls) where possible within the agricultural landscape to enhance landscape structure.

Sub-Type D2: Rolling Lowland

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Target** agri-environment payments and use development control to protect and maintain landscape features and support the maintenance and restoration of vernacular buildings and the careful design of new buildings.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** the open landscape and the distinct patchwork of land uses to reinforce landscape character.

TYPE E: COASTAL SANDSTONE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

The Coastal Sandstone Landscape Character Type is located along the West Coast adjacent to the Estuary and Marsh (A) and Coastal Margins (B) Landscape Character Types, and bordered inland by the High Fell Fringe (J), Rugged/Angular Slate High Fell (G) and Upland Valley (H). Outside the National Park, this Landscape Character Type is found to the north along the coastline of the sandstone cliff scenery of St. Bees Head, with its lighthouse and rolling coastal hills. This Landscape Character Type continues outside the National Park boundary³⁵.

Definitive Attributes

- Landscape underlain by a relatively broad band of Triassic sandstone (and mudstones), producing low-lying ground that is suitable for agriculture;
- Gently rolling topography slopes gradually upwards in a west to easterly direction, from the sea towards the dramatic rising High Fells to the east;
- Strong sense of openness prevails in several locations, with extensive views westwards across the Irish Sea and eastwards towards the imposing High Fell backdrop;
- Hedgerow network, pockets of semi-natural woodland and a number of small river or stream corridors running through the landscape, provide ecological interest; and
- Settlement pattern consists of a combination of small red sandstone hamlets or villages and dispersed farmsteads.

³⁵ This Landscape Character Type is identified within the Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance as Landscape Character Type 4: Coastal Sandstone. For further information on this Landscape Character Type outside the boundaries of the National Park, refer to [Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit](#), Cumbria County Council (March 2011).

TYPE E: COASTAL SANDSTONE



1. Subtle gradient of the sandstone coastal profile ● C&A
2. The imposing High Fell backdrop to the east of the LCT ● C&A
3. Landscape underlain by Triassic sandstone, producing low-lying ground that is suitable for agriculture ● C&A



Physical Character

The landscape is underlain by a relatively broad band of Triassic sandstone (and mudstones), which line the western coast from Silecroft in the south, to Drigg and further north, outside the National Park, at St. Bees. Most of the underlying rocks are fairly soft, producing low-lying ground that is suitable for agriculture. For a long time, this sandstone has provided a key resource as a local building material (as is evident at the 12th century Calder and Furness Abbeys).

Gently rolling topography slopes gradually upwards in a west to easterly direction, from wide expanses of sea towards the dramatic rising High Fells to the east. Sandstone cliffs do not dominate the western edge of this Landscape Character Type (as is the case further north at St. Bees) however to the north of Bootle, the subtle gradient of a steeper coastal profile begins to develop.

As a result of the predominantly flat to rolling topography, a strong sense of openness prevails in several locations, with extensive views westwards across the Irish Sea and eastwards towards the imposing High Fell backdrop.

Ecological Character

Land cover is dominated by rolling pasture fields, divided by a combination of hedgerow and hedgebank field boundaries. Woodland cover is generally absent; however, occasional small patches and copses of trees punctuate the landscape.

Within this Landscape Character Type, the hedgerow network, pockets of semi-natural woodland and a number of small river or stream corridors running through the landscape, provide ecological interest. Where this Type extends to the north outside the National Park, the dramatic cliffs at St. Bees provide an important breeding site for a variety of seabirds. There are several areas of priority habitat through this Type. There is a small area of coastal cliff between Bootle and Silecroft. Also around Silecroft there are pockets of dunes, coastal and floodplain grazing marsh and lowland heath. Around Annaside there is an area of coastal and floodplain grazing marsh.

Annaside SSSI (between the sea to the west and the River Annas to the east) provides a nationally important site for Natterjack toads, whilst Annaside and Gutterby Banks SSSI encompasses a sequence of interbedded tills, sands, gravels and silts along a thin coastal strip (related to the glacial history of the Cumbrian coast). There are also several natterjack toad sites and ponds along the coastal edge and throughout the farming hinterland. At Silecroft, Shaw Meadow and Sea Pastures SSSI supports a mosaic of species rich wet pasture, lowland heath, more and acid grassland.

Cultural and Historical Character

The coastal sandstone is markedly different to most of the other Landscape Character Types. The area was heavily settled in the prehistoric and later periods, and the cropmarks of enclosures and other features are visible from the air. The area contains very little woodland, and is characterised by large former common fields, surrounded by ancient enclosures and blocks of planned enclosure. Field boundaries are mainly hedgerows and hedge banks, with fencing where hedges have not been maintained. The settlement pattern is mixed, with dispersed farms across the whole character type, and small settlements such as Silecroft, Bootle and Hycemoor sited

TYPE E: COASTAL SANDSTONE

next to their associated former common fields. Two further common fields appear to relate to Annaside, which can be considered as an agglomerated settlement (a loose nucleated settlement) where dwellings may be widely spread, but clearly grouped. Single ancient farms form the basis of the dispersed settlement pattern.

This Type can be found in the following World Heritage Site Valleys:

- [Duddon](#)
- [Eskdale](#)

Development, Settlement and Building Character

- Settlement pattern consists of a combination of small hamlets or villages and dispersed farmsteads spread across the Landscape Character Type;
- The settlements of Silecroft, Bootle and Hycemoor, sited next to their associated former common fields contribute to the pattern;
- The distinctive red colour of the local sandstone is visible as a building material within the buildings of several of these settlements, such as Bootle; and
- In this exposed, open landscape, the older buildings are tightly grouped for shelter, with farm buildings using locally available cobbles and rubble, in contrast to the houses which have a neater, weatherproof render finish

Landscape Character Sub-Types

There are no Sub-Types within the Coastal Sandstone Landscape Character Type.

CURRENT AND FUTURE LANDSCAPE CHANGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Forces for Change

Past Landscape Changes

Observable changes in the past include:

- Construction of Sellafield Nuclear Power Station where this landscape type occurs outside the Park;
- Creation of caravan parks along the coastline; and
- Railway line developed parallel to the shoreline in the south.
- Siting of electricity pylons parallel to the coastline along the coastal strip.

Current Landscape Condition

The overall condition of the Coastal Sandstone Landscape Character Type is

TYPE E: COASTAL SANDSTONE

considered to be moderate to good. The rolling pasture fields are generally in moderate ecological condition, however, there is evidence of the loss of traditional hedge banks that delineate field boundaries. This has led to a weakened landscape pattern.

Future Landscape Changes and Opportunities

In the short term (5 years) it is likely that there will be continued positive changes in the form of access to the coast. However, negative changes are likely to include the associated increase in recreational and development pressure.

Longer-term changes (20+ years) will be dependent on prevailing incentives and policies and it is therefore challenging to be prescriptive. The Lake District National Park Management Plan will provide a key tool in managing change and ensuring a positive future for the area. Potential longer-term changes and key opportunities within the Landscape Character Type E: Coastal Sandstone are outlined below:

- *Agricultural Change and Land Management* - The current neglect of boundary features, enabling the amalgamation of adjacent fields and in many places substitution by fences, could continue as financial pressures increase within the farming industry. The amalgamation of farming businesses could also create more homogenous landscapes with less distinctiveness and loss of localised character. Meanwhile access related pressures on the landscape are likely to increase and will require intervention in order to manage conflicting land uses and mis-use.
- *Climate Change* - The erosion of the distinct sandstone cliffs and dune areas due to increasing storm events and/ or sea level changes may, over time, change the defining characteristics of this area. Climate change could also lead to an increase in invasive species better suited to climatic conditions affecting key landscape characteristics.
- *Development* - Increased development around Sellafield. New nuclear facilities close to the nearby Sellafield complex and other similar industrial complexes may result in visually intrusive buildings in open landscape. Electricity pylons associated with any new nuclear energy production could result in visually intrusive features both within the Park and in its setting. Similarly the spread of residential development around villages without appropriate consideration of siting and effect on local landscape character is likely to affect the quality of the landscape. A loss of traditional skills and reduction in the use of appropriate local materials will erode distinctive characteristics of the landscape. The increase in size of residential properties could also lead to greater visibility and loss of landscape quality.

Sensitivities and Capacity for Change

The Coastal Sandstone Landscape Character Type is considered to have high visual sensitivity as a result of the strong sense of openness throughout and strong inter-visibility with the High Fells. Patches of semi-natural ancient woodland, and the network of mature hedgerows contribute to ecological sensitivity, whilst the pattern of former common fields, surrounded by ancient enclosures, contribute to overall cultural sensitivity. Overall, the capacity of this Landscape Character Type to accommodate

TYPE E: COASTAL SANDSTONE

change without compromising key characteristics is considered to be limited to moderate.

The cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure within this Landscape Character Type considered to be of great significance.³⁶

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

The overall strategy for this Landscape Character Type is to sensitively manage increased access to the coast and ensure appropriate new development minimises impact on local character. The extensive views, rolling coastal topography and dramatic cliff scenery are important features to conserve and enhance. Specific guidelines include:

Physical Character

- **Identify** and **implement** opportunities for managed coastal realignment in appropriate locations to mitigate the impact of storm events and prevent coastal squeeze; and
- **Conserve** and **enhance** boundary features to improve and maintain landscape structure;

Ecological Character

- **Improve** and **restore** habitat for Natterjack toads; and
- **Encourage** habitat linkage to increase robustness to climate change.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** the archaeological and historic environment in order to maintain a rich cultural landscape;
- **Manage** future increased access to the coast in order to avoid conflict with other land uses and loss of landscape quality and biodiversity;
- **Manage** development around Sellafield and other similar industrial complexes to minimise visually intrusive buildings and associated features in open landscape; and
- **Guide** new development around villages to ensure appropriate siting, use of local materials such as sandstone and consideration of effect on local landscape character; and

³⁶ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

TYPE E: COASTAL SANDSTONE

- **Target** agri-environment payments and use development control to protect and maintain landscape features and support the maintenance and restoration of vernacular buildings and the careful design of new buildings.

TYPE F: RUGGED/CRAGGY VOLCANIC HIGH FELL

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This is the largest Landscape Character Type and covers land above the fell wall, encompassing a broad band running east to west across the central part of the Lake District. To the north, Rugged/Angular High Fells (G) High Fell Fringe (J) dominate, to the east Upland Limestone Farmland (I), whilst to the south Upland Valleys (H), High Fell Fringe (J), Low Fell (K), Lowland Valleys (M) and Coastal Margins (B) border this Landscape Character Type. The Landscape Character Type extends beyond the boundary of the Park around Broughton in Furness where it forms the setting to the Park.³⁷

Definitive Attributes

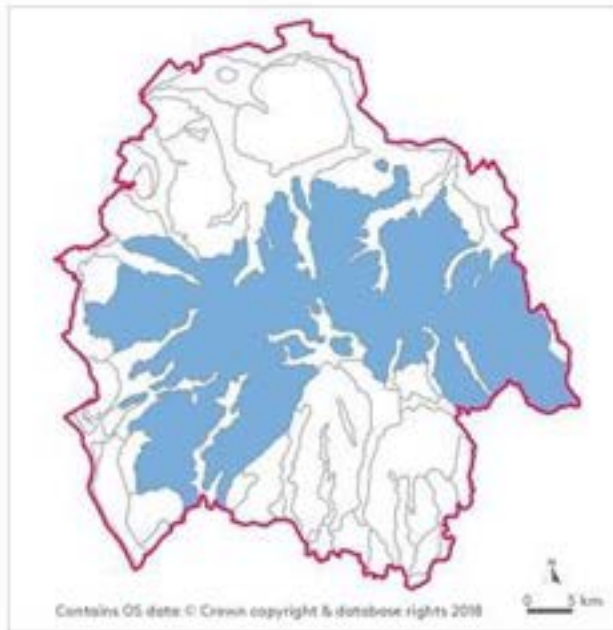
- The underlying geology is the Borrowdale Volcanic Group of igneous rocks, with areas of granite to the west;
- At the largest scale, this type has a dome-shaped topography, with the highest point being Scafell Pike;
- From the highest point, ridges radiate out, with the landform gradually lowering towards the edges of the Lake District;
- Uplifting panoramic external views from the fell summits, including the Cumbria Coastal Plain, Irish Sea, Isle of Man and Morecambe Bay from western and southern fells, the North Pennines, Howgills and Yorkshire Dales from the Helvellyn Range and eastern fells;
- Superimposed on this are complex topographical patterns caused by glacial and fluvial erosion;
- Land cover is generally either bare rock, scree or low-growing vegetation, with low-density sheep grazing occurring over much of the area;
- There are scattered tarns and a complex network of becks;
- Woodland cover is most extensive along the valley margins, with important areas of juniper and native oak woodland (particularly extensive in Borrowdale), and small areas of commercial conifers (particularly in the west);
- The fell wall marks the edge of the open land, with remains of archaeologically earlier enclosures and field systems within upland areas;

³⁷ This Landscape Character Type is identified within the Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance as Landscape Character Type 11: Upland Fringes (11a Foothills). For further information on this Landscape Character Type outside the boundaries of the National Park, refer to [Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit](#), Cumbria County Council (March 2011).

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- Settlement above the moorland line is limited to isolated farms, with hill farming the main form of activity, with very few occupied buildings; and
- Archaeological remains of settlement and industrial sites scattered within the Upland Fell landscape.

TYPE F: RUGGED/CRAGGY VOLCANIC HIGH FELL



1. Tens of thousands of years of erosion by ice, water and weather have created a highly complex topography © NPS / ArcGIS
2. Aerial Photograph showing typical field pattern © GeoPerspectives
3. Land cover is generally either bare rock, scree or low-growing vegetation © NPS / ArcGIS
4. View across the fells, Base Brown, Borrowdale © LONPA



Physical Character

The Borrowdale Volcanic Group of rocks underlies this Landscape Character Type. These rocks are igneous and formed as volcanic lavas and ash flows, which erupted approximately 450 million years ago, with areas of granite towards the west of the area. The Borrowdale Volcanics Group forms the highest and craggiest part of the Lake District. The highest peaks are Scafell Pike (978m), Scafell (964m), Helvellyn (950m), the Old Man of Conistone (803m) and the Langdale Pikes (736m). At the largest scale, the area has a dome-shaped topography, with the ridges radiating out from the highest point of Scafell Pike. Between the ridges lie the lakes and valleys of the central Lake District. The landform gradually lowers towards the edges of the National Park.

Tens of thousands of years of erosion by ice, water and weather have created a highly complex topography within this Landscape Character Type. There are classic examples of glacial features such as arêtes, corries, and corrie lakes, pyramidal peaks, hanging valleys, drumlins, moraines and U-shaped valleys. There are also examples of V-shaped valleys, which have been eroded by streams, and of frost shattering of rocks to produce scree slopes.

Soils are thin and generally acidic, although base minerals in crags have weathered to produce small pockets of fertile soils, particularly alongside watercourses. Where underlying rocks are sufficiently impermeable, peat has developed on the surface. The pooriness of the soils means that vegetation growth is generally limited to low-growing vegetation on the higher ground, although there is a wide diversity of species present. The majority of the Landscape Character Type is grazed by hardy sheep, predominantly the locally distinctive Herdwick breed, resulting in an upland mosaic of vegetation cover of grass, bracken, heather and bilberry. There are remnant areas of native oak woodland and juniper, particularly on valley sides; these are extensive in some areas such as Borrowdale and Hartsop. There are also areas of wood pasture and occasional small trees such as rowan or birch, particularly within gills.

Ecological Character

The upland fells of the Lake District contain a number of habitats, which are rare in the UK. Key UK priority habitats include rock habitats, blanket bogs, montane heath, heathland, and woodland.

Certain species thrive here on the relatively poor soils and in the harsh environment. Consequently, extensive tracts of fell within the Landscape Character Type are designated Special Areas of Conservation for the species and habitats they support. Additional areas are designated SSSIs. Due to historic overgrazing and loss of upland habitats, the ecological character of the High Fells is in large parts highly impoverished. Grazing levels have reduced in many areas and if they remain low (and are not replaced by increasing red deer numbers), fragmented habitats may recover in these places. However where habitats or species have been lost entirely, further management measures may be required. In some areas grazing pressure remains high and habitat recovery is not expected here.

There is a concentration of rock habitats in the central area of this type. These support specialized and characteristic flora and invertebrate fauna in rock outcrop, ledge and scree habitats. The species vary with rock type and include Hay scented Buckler-fern, Alpine Cinquefoil, bilberry and Greater Wood-rush. These habitats have

TYPE F: RUGGED/CRAGGY VOLCANIC HIGH FELL

retreated to the most inaccessible places due to high grazing levels. If grazing pressure is reduced these rich habitats will be able to expand over wider areas.

Many of the upland tarns contain rare aquatic plant and animal species, some of which are confined to individual tarns, such as the powan fish (locally known as “schelly” in Red Tarn, Helvellyn). Areas of exposed rock, including screes and rocky slopes support a variety of ferns, grasses, mosses, and occasional scattered trees including aspen, holly, rowan, hawthorn and rock whitebeam.

The ground cover vegetation contains important wet and dry upland heathland habitats, blanket bog, and montane heath. Montane heath and grassland is widely distributed among the High Fells (above 600m) and supports unique invertebrate fauna. On some of the highest summits (particularly Helvellyn), there are remnant alpine species such as moss campion, and areas of disturbed ground due to frost heave and solifluction, which provides a rare, changing habitat for colonising species. There is a rich variety of flora within the Landscape Character Type, including tall herb communities. These species grow on deep moist soils (e.g. on Helvellyn and Fairfield, Honister Crag, Scafell Pikes, Pillar, and Wasdale Screes), particularly where base-rich rocks have weathered to form relatively fertile basic soils. Heathland can be a distinctive feature when flowering in late summer.

There are some stands of juniper on valley sides (Birk Fell supporting the most extensive), and juniper bushes are also scattered on inaccessible cliffs and slopes around the area. Associated with them are open silver birch woods, with scattered rowan, ash, bird cherry, holly, hawthorn and dog rose. The cliffs of Helvellyn contain the only known population of upland downy willow in England. Naddle Forest on the south east side of Haweswater forms an extensive tract of ancient semi natural woodland.

There are important areas of atlantic oak woodland with rich bryophyte communities along some valley sides. These woods are particularly extensive in Borrowdale and near Hartsop, though smaller remnant patches occur throughout the area.

Cultural and Historical Character

The area forms the hub of Wordsworth’s representative figure of a wheel with valleys radiating from these hard and most resistant volcanic rocks.

Although today the Upland Fells are sparsely populated, the archaeological record reveals a rich history of settlement and industry across the area spanning several thousand years. Indeed, many of the areas, which appear the most ‘empty’ today (e.g. the areas around Devoke Water, Ulpha Fell, Caw Fell and Stockdale moor) contain the most extensive archaeological remains of earlier settlement and activity. Prehistoric sites include the Central Fells Stone Axe Production Sites, the extensive prehistoric landscapes on Burnmoor, Ulpha Fell, Townbank and Stockdale Moor, Kinniside Common, Nether Wasdale Common and Askam Fell, with examples of isolated prehistoric ritual monuments, hut circles and cairnfields scattered throughout the area. The routes of Roman Roads are still used along High Street and Wrynose/Hardknott Pass, and examples of Romano- British settlement, such as Lamb Pasture (Bannisdale) can be seen. There are many examples of medieval shielings, field systems and settlements in areas higher than those enclosed and settled today, such as those in the Duddon Valley and Mickleden, above Langdale, and close to the

TYPE F: RUGGED/CRAGGY VOLCANIC HIGH FELL

medieval Abbey at Shap. This settlement pattern may have been due to a milder climate, or to increased population pressure on the land. The archaeology of the Medieval period reflects the develop of industry in the High Fells and includes the remains of thousands of mines and mineral workings. As well as slate and building stone, the Upland Fells also produced lead, copper and silver ores, gold, and other minerals. In many areas, the shafts and entrances of these mines are still visible, along with their spoil tips, hushes, and occasionally abandoned buildings, trackways and pieces of machinery.

Hill sheep farming is the dominant land use and has been for at least 800 years. Single farms, inbye, intakes and open fell grazing are the most common characteristics. Extensive areas of post medieval enclosure define the field patterns within the eastern fells, with intakes, created through private agreement and by the Act of Enclosure, extending up onto the high moorland. The enclosures are large and regular in shape creating ruler straight boundaries made of rugged stone walls of volcanic rock crossing crags and fell tops. In places enclosure boundaries have not been maintained and the character is starting to revert to open moor.

The enclosure is slightly different in the central fells. The early 12th century witnessed the enclosure of many upland valley bottoms within a single wall known regionally as a 'ring-garth'. From the late medieval period, enclosure extended up the lower fell sides through intaking, and in the post-medieval period the intakes became extensive where topography allowed, creating large cow pastures in many areas. Open fields were usually small in these valleys, often being enclosed for private use from the sixteenth century in most areas. There is a small area in Great Langdale where part of the open field survived as a common until the 19th century.

Herdwick sheep are the traditional breed in the central and western parts of the Lake District landscape. Swaledale and Rough Fell sheep breeds are more common traditional breeds in the eastern areas. Open common land across the fells provides a communal grazing resource, with rights given to farmers to graze their sheep on individual sections. On this open land it was important that the sheep remained within a particular section of the fell, known as a 'heaf' - common land attached to specific farms by custom. Over time, and with diligent shepherding, this has become learnt behaviour that is passed from ewe to lamb over succeeding generations. Commons are more prevalent in the eastern part of this character type.

This Type can be found in the following World Heritage Site Valleys:

- [Borrowdale & Bassenthwaite](#)
- [Buttermere](#)
- [Coniston](#)
- [Duddon](#)
- [Ennerdale](#)
- [Eskdale](#)
- [Grasmere & Rydal](#)
- [Haweswater](#)
- [Langdale](#)
- [Thirlmere](#)
- [Ullswater](#)
- [Wasdale](#)
- [Windermere](#)

Development, Settlement and Building Character

- Few occupied buildings, as the landscape has so little shelter, and is often a long way from farmed land;
- Occasional isolated farms in high valleys such as Boredale (to the east of Ullswater) but these are relatively rare;

TYPE F: RUGGED/CRAGGY VOLCANIC HIGH FELL

- Several of the highest occupied buildings (a former shepherd's bothy in the Black Sail valley above Ennerdale and former mine buildings in Coniston, Glenridding and Honister) are now Youth Hostels;
- The majority of the industrial buildings in the area (mostly now abandoned) were constructed in the 19th or early 20th century, when the scale of mining and quarrying in the area increased to supply the needs of the industrial revolution and its associated urban expansion. The difficulty of transporting building materials in the Upland Fells meant that any construction used locally available stone; and
- Within these landscapes of old industry are impressive examples of high quality stonemasonry, using the very hard volcanic rock for wheelpits, associated water leats, retaining walls and inclined tramways.

Landscape Character Sub-Types

Three Sub-Types have been identified within the overall Landscape Character Type. The attributes that define the character of these sub-types are generally typical of the Rugged/Craggy High Fells Landscape Character Type. Specific characteristics that are unique to these Sub-Types are:

Type F1: Upland Tarns

- Tarns are scattered throughout the Landscape Character Type;
- Each has a very different character and sense of place;
- Some tarns such as Easedale Tarn and Red Tarn are deep corrie lakes; and
- Other tarns (such as Angle Tarn) are shallower and have formed in upland basins.

Type F2: Upland Forests

- Relates to scattered patches of 20th century coniferous plantations; and
- Sessile upland oak dominated woodland remnants, examples include Keskadale oak woodlands in the Newlands Valley.

Type F3: Post-Industrial Landscapes

- The summit of Honister Pass has a large and active slate quarry - the presence of large-scale moving machinery, and its visual impact within the landscape give it a distinct character within this Landscape Character Type;
- The grey, craggy rocks with little vegetation in the area to the west of Coniston, including the Old Man of Coniston and Wetherlam has a long history of slate and mineral extraction, which is clearly visible in today's landscape - this visible industrial archaeology makes the area a distinct cultural sub- type; and

CURRENT AND FUTURE LANDSCAPE CHANGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Forces for Change

Past Landscape Changes

Observable changes in the past include:

- A dynamic landscape constantly changing, evidence of past glacial activity and still being shaped by weathering;
- Significant archaeological record demonstrating several thousand years of settlement which has influenced the landscape through farming, mining, cultural and religious activities, road building and fluctuating population density;
- Substantial evidence of increased industrial activity in the 19th and 20th century changing large parts of the landscape with current mining/ quarrying activity continuing the process in a few places.;
- Post-medieval enclosure defining field patterns within the eastern fells of large irregular fields defined limited by topography. Central fells with extensive intakes utilised as valley side cow pastures. In some areas the high fell and moorland has been enclosed through a process of later eighteenth and nineteenth century private and parliamentary enclosure creating a series of ruler straight walls and regular shaped compartments;
- More recent changes such as footpath erosion as the result of recreational pressures on key routes; and
- Lack of stone wall management and introduction of fencing in some areas, which may lead to a change in landscape pattern and visual clutter.

Current Landscape Condition

The overall condition of the Rugged/ Craggy Volcanic High Fell Landscape Character Type is considered to be poor to moderate, due mainly to historic overgrazing of montane heathland habitats and blanket bogs. The condition, composition and structure of these habitats is, however, beginning to change with lower stocking rates and grazing levels increasing white moor grass, natural scrub and woodland regeneration. Much of the remaining semi-natural woodland has a poor age structure and suffers from grazing, preventing regeneration. Scrub is starting to develop in some areas of fell, often in enclosed areas, where grazing pressure has been reduced within this Landscape Character Type. In places, lack of stone wall management and replacement with fences is a visual detractor. Upland path erosion is also increasingly a visual detractor despite efforts to restore the worst affected areas.

Future Landscape Changes and Opportunities

In the short term (5 years) it is likely that there will be little discernable change in

TYPE F: RUGGED/CRAGGY VOLCANIC HIGH FELL

the landscape of the High Fells as the area is remote and the key agents of change are cultural and natural processes with changes having an impact over the medium to long term. However, negative changes within this timescale could occur as the result of any wind farm or other large-scale energy developments, increase in mining or quarrying activity and sustained pressure from recreational activities and increased fencing to restore habitats.

Longer-term changes (20+ years) will be dependent on prevailing incentives and policies and it is therefore challenging to be prescriptive. The Lake District National Park Management Plan will provide a key tool in managing change and ensuring a positive future for the area. Potential longer-term changes and key opportunities within Landscape Character Type F: Rugged/Craggy Volcanic High Fell are outlined below:

- *Agricultural Change and Land Management* – The traditional system of commons management is changing and at risk of fragmenting. Changes to grazing pressure will affect the composition and structure of the vegetation in the long term. A retreat from marginal land may also lead to a loss of enclosed fields, changes in vegetation structure and an increase in large agricultural buildings for over wintering stock. In areas where sheep numbers are reduced, this may lead to a spread of invasive species, such as bracken and gorse, leading to development of scrub, then woodland and changed characteristics. This can be balanced by other changes to management such as re-introduction of cattle. More extensive farming of livestock may also result in a loss of key landscape features to enable the amalgamation of adjacent fields. Recent and future efforts to promote tree regeneration will also become increasingly apparent in the next 20 years, in some instances, right up to the tree line. Management of recreational activities, whether large national events or more local activities, can have positive and negative effects on the landscape. Careful planning and sensitive management can avoid or mitigate impacts; over management can compound effects and lead to deterioration in landscape quality. A reduction in non-native conifer woodland and planting or natural colonisation or regeneration of native woodland along gills and on valley sides would transform the existing character through reinforcement of positive attributes.
- *Climate Change* - Climate change has the potential to increase weathering activity, especially through flash floods, although it is unlikely to dramatically change what is already a dynamic landscape. Increased flash flooding has led to gully erosion in upland becks, streams and rivers and landslips on steep slopes. This could require engineering solutions if it takes place close to key roads within the Park. Flood inundations from increased storm events in lower lying land will give rise to flood management at a catchment scale. This could result in more wet areas and upland tree planting. An increase in invasive species better suited to new climatic conditions could affect key landscape characteristics. Arctic alpine vegetation currently confined to the highest summits will be under increasing threat.. The altitudinal limit of woodland and dry heath could also increase. Fluctuating temperatures could also lead to an increase in incidences of moorland fires and an increase in the severity of storm events and summer droughts, could impact on open grown trees and woodlands.
- *Development* - Large scale wind farms (within and near to the National Park) would radically change the nature of the uninterrupted fells skyline and key views and other large scale energy developments, including pylon upgrades,

could introduce built elements into a landscape with few buildings or major structures, eroding the open and undeveloped character of this landscape. Increases in mining or quarrying activity, whilst not new to this landscape, could rapidly transform significant landscape features and lead to increased traffic on the roads and inappropriate highway improvements, changing the character of minor road corridors. Sustained pressure from recreational activities may cause long lasting scars without sensitive management. A loss of vernacular styles of building and use of inappropriate building materials may result in the loss of local landscape characteristics. In turn, this could also lead to a loss of traditional skills.

Sensitivities and Capacity for Change

The Rugged Craggy High Fells Landscape Character Type is considered to have high visual sensitivity overall, as a result of the strong sense of openness and generally uninterrupted skylines, coupled with strong intervisibility with adjacent Landscape Character Types. Rare, niche habitats associated with the upland tarns; and patchwork of wet and dry heathland habitats, montane habitats, blanket bogs, alpine and boreal heaths and tall herb communities and remnant atlantic oak woods contribute to very high ecological sensitivity. This is recognised by the fact that much of the Landscape Character Type is designated as SAC and SSSI. Coupled with this, the type is considered to have high cultural sensitivity on account of its rich farming heritage and the rich archaeological record of settlement and industry, including a range of sites and monuments from Prehistoric to Medieval periods. In addition, there is a strong sense of tranquillity and remoteness throughout. As a result of the above factors, this Landscape Character Type is considered to have very limited capacity to accommodate change without compromising key characteristics, apart from change which reinforces positive attributes, such as habitat enhancements, including sensitively placed gill and other woodland.

Parts of this type have a great sensitivity to the cumulative impact of vertical infrastructure, such as pylons and wind turbines. There is likely to be a great significance of effect around Shap Fells, Borrowdale and Bretherdale and Whinell. Development in areas around Bampton Common and Kentmere could have a significant effect, with other areas experiencing an intermediate effect. The very central area of this Type is unlikely to be adversely affected due to the distance from the Park boundary and tighter planning controls within the Lake District National Park.³⁸

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

The overall strategy for this Landscape Character Type is to conserve and enhance the mosaic of vegetation types, the exposed and undeveloped character of skylines and the overall strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity. The rich archaeological record and rare niche ecosystems and habitats should be protected

³⁸ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

TYPE F: RUGGED/CRAGGY VOLCANIC HIGH FELL

against disturbance and development pressures. Specific guidelines include:

Physical Character

- **Encourage** the creation of native woodland on valley sides and lower fells at sites where it would enhance the local landscape character;

Ecological Character

- **Promote** land management designed to achieve favourable condition of its important vegetation types and to improve resilience to the effects of climate change, including expansion of sensitively placed native broadleaved gill and other woodland and scrub, improve quality and reduce fragmentation of heaths, and improve other habitat linkages;
- **Encourage** broadleaved woodland regeneration or planting in appropriate locations which are at high risk of erosion and run off, to benefit water quality, and flood mitigation downstream. New native woodland can enhance the landscape, biodiversity and nature conservation interest of the area when properly planned;
- **Encourage** grazing management that improves ecological linkage and promotes more favourable condition of upland semi-natural vegetation whilst supporting the farming heritage;
- **Control** invasive species that may spread as a result of new climatic conditions to ensure retention of key landscape characteristics of the high fells;
- **Prevent** damage and loss of blanket bog.
- **Encourage** peatland restoration and habitat conservation; and
- **Encourage** sensitive management and restoration of wood pasture habitat.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** the archaeological and historic environment in order to maintain a rich cultural landscape.
- **Protect** the stone axe production sites in the Central Fells from erosion, including that from footpaths;
- **Ensure** archaeological sites are cleared of bracken and scrub vegetation. A low level of stock grazing is a sustainable way of achieving this but at a level that avoids erosion;
- **Ensure** careful planning and sensitive management of recreational and tourism activities in order to maintain landscape quality;
- **Control** other large-scale energy, mining/ quarrying developments which could rapidly transform significant landscape features and characteristics;
- **Encourage** ongoing active management of enclosure fields, intakes and cow pasture as well as restoration of walls and isolated vernacular buildings;

TYPE F: RUGGED/CRAGGY VOLCANIC HIGH FELL

- **Prevent** woodland establishment on historically important enclosed valley sides and archaeological sites, particularly in cases where new woodland planting would impact upon the authenticity or legibility of the cultural landscape;
- **Promote** whole fell grazing management where possible, erecting new fences on open fell only where alternatives are not practicable;
- **Avoid** stone clearance and the use of ancient cairns, walls and buildings as sources of building or repair material;
- **Conserve** footpaths, bridleways or byways along with their associated features such as pinch stiles and gates, which represent historic routeways;
- **Ensure** careful design of new fence lines to minimise visual and perceptual impacts, for example avoiding crossing or siting in close proximity to fell paths, siting below ridgelines etc; **Remove** redundant fencing from the fell: and
- **Target** agri-environment payments and use development control to protect and maintain landscape features and support the maintenance and restoration of vernacular buildings and the careful design of new buildings.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Protect** skylines and key views to and from the area from tall, vertical and large-scale developments that may erode the open and undeveloped character of the area. This is particularly the case in the eastern area around the M6 corridor where there is a great significance of landscape and visual effects³⁹; and
- **Maintain** the sense of openness and control the level and impact of fencing on unenclosed fell land.

In addition to the above, selected guidelines for managing landscape change within specific Sub-Types include:

Sub-Type F1: Upland Tarns

Physical Character

- **Prevent** point and diffuse pollution to retain water quality.

Ecological Character

- **Manage** recreational activities to prevent trampling of rare, niche ecosystems and habitats or development of erosion scars; and
- **Conserve** native flora and fauna through managing invasive species.

³⁹ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council 2014

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Ensure** that large scale developments are subject to landscape character and visual impact assessment in order to minimise impact on key attributes and the undeveloped, open and tranquil character.

Sub-Type F2: Upland Forests

Physical Character

- **Encourage** active management of woodland and conversion of coniferous plantations to broadleaved; and
- **Restore** woodland boundaries, to encourage regeneration of broadleaves and maintain varied structure.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Encourage** extensive grazing that utilises enclosure fields, intakes and cow pasture and reduces pressure on woodland areas; and
- **Conserve** and extend broadleaved woodland, protecting against loss from development or agricultural intensification.

Sub-Type F3: Industrial Landscapes

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **Enhance** industrial archaeological heritage, recognising its significant contribution to the cultural landscape;
- **Control** major new mining or quarrying activity which has the potential to rapidly transform significant landscape features; and
- **Ensure** careful planning and sensitive management of recreational and tourism activities in order to maintain landscape quality.

TYPE G: RUGGED/ANGULAR SLATE HIGH FELL

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

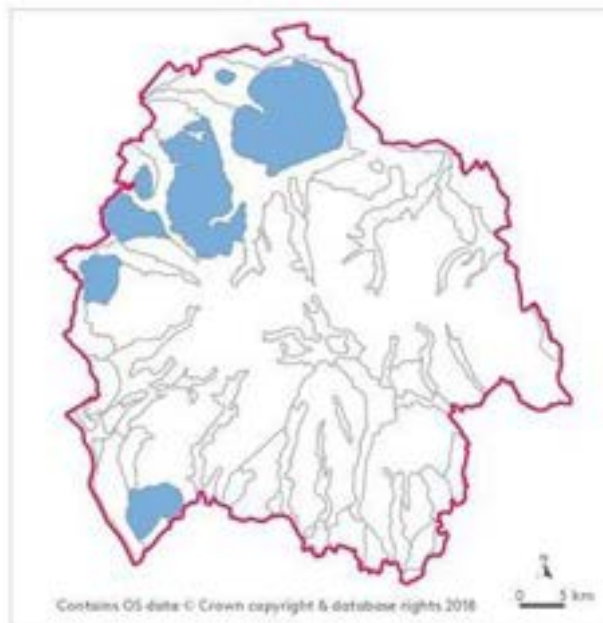
Location

This Landscape Character Type is predominantly situated to the north of the National Park, with the outlier of Black Combe located further to the south-west. The High Fells of the Skiddaw Group are highly visible and form prominent landmarks within most of the northern Lake District, with the rounded peak of Skiddaw summit, the saddle-shape of Blencathra, and the pointed top of Grizedale Pike being particularly distinctive features visible from a very wide area within and without the National Park. To the north this Landscape Character Type is bounded by Upland Valley (H) and High Fell Fringe (J) and to the south, it borders Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fells (F). The Black Combe outlier is bounded by High Fell Fringe (J), Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fells (F) and Coastal Sandstone (E).

Definitive Attributes

- Geology of the Skiddaw Group, containing various mineral and metal deposits;
- The Skiddaw Group are easily weathered, and this has resulted in the smooth profile of much of the Landscape Character Type;
- Elevated land within the type includes the summits of Skiddaw, Blencathra, Grizedale Pike, Causey Pike, Grassmoor and Black Combe;
- Uplifting panoramic external views from the fell summits, including the Irish Sea, Isle of Man and Morecambe Bay from Black Combe, and the Solway Coast and North Pennines from the northern fells;
- Predominantly covered by acid grassland and blanket bog, with some extensive blocks of forestry, including Whinlatter and Lamplugh Fell and generally little deciduous woodland;
- Enclosed fields and inbye are rare and restricted to lower ground and occasional settled valleys, with the majority of the Landscape Character Type as open moorland above the fell wall; much of this is common land.
- Settlement is limited to occasional isolated buildings such as Skiddaw House hostel and properties in Mosedale; and
- Archaeology includes a Neolithic enclosure on Carrock Fell, and evidence of prehistoric settlement and stone axe production. The majority of the archaeology is industrial on the Caldbeck Fells, and relates to the extensive mining, which has taken place in the area for several thousand years. In contrast, Black Combe has little or no remains of former extractive industries.

TYPE G: RUGGED/ANGULAR SLATE HIGH FELL



1. Prehistoric monuments indicate enduring influence of humans on this landscape © NPL / Joe Cornish
2. Aerial photograph showing typical field © GeoPerspectives
3. Relatively narrow stream-cut valleys © C&A
4. The distinctive profile of the Fells' edge, Back o'Skidda' from Barkbethdale © LDNPA



Physical Character

The fells' distinctive smooth, steep outlines are formed by their geology of easily-weathered Skiddaw Group. Within the general Skiddaw Group area, the geology is extremely complex and contains numerous mineral veins and extrusions of relatively rare rocks such as gabbro. The area is therefore of great geological importance and has been extensively mined in the past. Evidence of mining activity is clearly visible in the form of tips, entrances and hushes on the hillsides.

The topography is complex. The overall structure of the Skiddaw massif is dome-shaped and is cut by several narrow stream-cut valleys, including those of Glenderaterra Beck, Dash Beck and Mosedale. There are also glaciated valleys, which are more rounded in profile. Blencathra and Bowscale Fell exhibit classic glacial features, including corries with craggy headwalls, corrie lakes and arrêtes. Of these, Sharp Edge on the eastern side of Blencathra is particularly well known as a challenging route.

The range of hills between Derwentwater and Crummock Water still retain a smooth profile, but their topography is much more pronounced, with steeper valleys and more pointed peaks. Further west, around Loweswater, the hills are lower, with a similar but smaller-scale topography.

The significant bulk of Black Combe dominates the coastal plain in the south west of the national park. Its rounded grassy hulk is cut with some steep faces and crags on its south east flank.

Soils are generally thin and acidic, and peat formation has occurred in less well-drained areas. There are some areas of scree, and some recent landslips, particularly on steeper slopes in the western part of the area, and on the western side of Skiddaw, but the vast majority of the area is covered by surface vegetation. Vegetation is predominantly low growing, with rough acid grassland and heather, with some areas of bracken. The lower slopes support some higher vegetation, including gorse, juniper and small trees such as rowan and hawthorn. In areas of lower grazing pressure, bilberry is beginning to re-appear.

Ecological Character

Since the foot and mouth outbreak in 2001, which saw a dramatic reduction in sheep numbers, the grazing pressure on the area has been reduced and this has already had a marked effect on the vegetation of the area.

A large proportion of this Landscape Character Type is designated SSSI and also forms part of the much larger Lake District High Fells SAC. The majority of the area is designated as a Special Area of Conservation. The type contains a number of priority habitats, which are rare within the UK, and have developed on the thin, acidic soils, and in the relatively harsh environment of this Landscape Character Type. Such habitats include wet and dry heathland, montane heaths, upland fens/flushes and extensive areas of blanket bog.

Skiddaw has the largest extent of heather and bilberry heath in the Lake District (approximately 3000ha). On the summit of Skiddaw, frost heave and solifluction create patches of disturbed ground, which provide suitable environments for moss and lichen species. Scree slopes also provide a suitable micro-climate for siliceous scree communities, and there are several rare species of fern and moss.

TYPE G: RUGGED/ANGULAR SLATE HIGH FELL

There is an important upland bird population, including merlin, buzzard, and red grouse. Twelve species of mammal (including roe deer) and five species of amphibian and reptile have been recorded on the Skiddaw massif. Old sessile oak woodlands (e.g. Birkrigg, Keskadale and Brundholme) are found on steep south-facing slopes, and contain rich bryophyte and lichen communities

Buttermere Fells SSSI supports a range of montane and sub-montane dwarf shrub heath communities, including one of the largest known areas of bilberry heath in the Lake District with peregrine, merlin, raven and occasionally dotterel. This site also encompasses the nationally important sites of Keskadale and Birkrigg sessile oak woods mentioned above.

Pillar and Ennerdale SSSI provides another area of ecological interest within this Landscape Character Type, designated as one of the best known examples of altitudinal succession in England. The varying woodland and heathland habitats within this site support one of the best breeding bird assemblages in West Cumbria, including buzzard, peregrine, merlin, raven, red grouse, wheat-ear, whinchat and ring ouzel.

Cultural and Historical Character

The archaeology of this Landscape Character Type reflects its centuries old traditions of exploitation for traditional upland farming and settlement, alongside small and later large scale industry.

There is a concentration of archaeology around Carrock Fell spanning several thousand years, including prehistoric cairnfields, field systems and axe factory, a Neolithic causewayed enclosure, and a medieval sheiling. There is also a significant concentration of industrial archaeology, including the Carrock End Copper Mine, and the Carrock Fell mines, which were used until the late 20th century and featured a particularly complex and geologically important mineralization, producing lead, tungsten, copper and arsenic. The remains of a 16th century wooden railway have recently been discovered in Silver Gill mine (Roughton Gill). Radiocarbon dating evidence has recently been obtained for both 12th century mining and smelting and part of a 16th century wooden railway at Silver Gill mine. The richness of the minerals in the Caldbeck Fells is summed up in the 18th century quote, Caldbeck and the Caldbeck Fells “are worth all England else” (*Hutchinson, W, 1974, The History of the County of Cumberland*).

The historical significance of this areas industrial wealth can also be seen in the Newlands Valley and is represented by a number of post medieval mining landscapes exploiting either copper or lead ores. Some of these sites, such as Longwork and St.Thomas’ Work are small in scale, while others such as Goldscope have transformed the appearance of the landscape in which they sit. The most extensive industrial landscapes are often 19th and 20th century in date, with Yewthwaite and Force Crag being good examples.

The past use of the Black Combe area of this Landscape Character Type is markedly different, with little known archaeology and no remains of former extractive industries present.

There is a strong connection with the tradition of communal farming, with an evolved pastoral system with hefted grazing, inbye, intake and outgangs to the open fell and commons. In many places the inbye fields directly abut the common land and open fell grazing, including around the Skiddaw Massif, Black Combe, Lank Rigg and

TYPE G: RUGGED/ANGULAR SLATE HIGH FELL

Whiteside. The surrounding valleys have intact pastoral character where sheep farming prevails as the principle land use. The fell grazing is intrinsic to the pastoral character. There are some important 17th and 18th century farmhouses on the northern fringes of the Skiddaw Massif.

This Type can be found in the following World Heritage Site Valleys:

- [Borrowdale & Bassenthwaite](#)
- [Buttermere](#)
- [Duddon](#)
- [Ennerdale](#)

Development, Settlement and Building Character

- Distinctive lack of built structures in this elevated, exposed landscape;
- Very few walls, with buildings limited to isolated slate-built properties including the hostel at Back- o'-Skiddaw and properties in Mosedale; and
- Some Forestry Commission buildings, including a modern visitor centre, offices, and mid 19th century foresters' cottages within Whinlatter Forest.

Landscape Character Sub-Types

Two Sub-Types have been identified within the overall Landscape Character Type. The attributes that define the character of these sub-types are generally typical of the Rugged/Angular Slate High Fell Landscape Character Type. Specific characteristics that are unique to these Sub-Types are:

Sub-Type G1: Upland Valley

- A narrow settled valley to the north east of Blencathra at Mosedale;
- The valley contains improved fields, a farmstead and block of woodland; and
- There is a surfaced road running up the valley, which provides access to the higher fells.

Sub-Type G2: Upland Forests

- Whinlatter forest is an extensive upland area of Forestry Commission planted forest (acquired by the Forestry Commission in 1919);
- It is managed for commercial timber production and for recreation;
- Whinlatter Pass runs through the forest; and
- Blocks of plantation forestry exist on valley sides elsewhere, especially on slopes above Bassenthwaite Lake at Dodd Wood, Wythop Wood and Lamplugh Fell.

Sub-Type G3: Post-Industrial Landscapes

- The mineral workings in the Skiddaw/ Caldbeck area have a long history of mineral extraction, which is clearly visible in the today's landscape.

CURRENT AND FUTURE LANDSCAPE CHANGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Forces for Change

Past Landscape Changes

Observable changes in the past include:

- Glacial activity and continual weathering which has shaped geology and created a distinct upland landscape;
- Extensive mining of minerals leaving an area rich in industrial archaeology;
- Loss of dry heath and increase in acid grassland due to high grazing pressures (grouse butts now in grassland). Recent reductions in stock numbers leading to the appearance of, heather, bilberry and juniper heath in areas of low grazing pressure;
- Retreat from marginal land leading to the loss of some enclosure fields and a change in vegetation structure;
- Sustained pressure from recreational activities causing lasting scars;
- More extensive farming of livestock leading to key landscape features suffering, such as drystone walls, outgangs, and historic field systems; and
- Lack of management (e.g. walls) and introduction of fencing, leading to some visual clutter.

Current Landscape Condition

The overall condition of the Rugged/Angular Slate High Fell is considered to be poor to moderate, though improving. As a result of historic overgrazing, the condition of acid grassland, blanket bog and rough grassland is generally poor though recovery is beginning as a result of recent reductions in grazing. The condition, composition and structure of these habitats is, however, beginning to change with lower stocking rates and grazing levels leading to improved mosaics of upland vegetation. In places, lack of stone wall management, and replacement with fences is a visual detractor. Upland path erosion is also a visual detractor. There is generally good survival of historic and archaeological features.

Future Landscape Changes and Opportunities

In the short term (5 years) it is likely that there will be continued positive changes

TYPE G: RUGGED/ANGULAR SLATE HIGH FELL

in the form of several schemes, which aim to diversify the vegetation in parts of the area. The schemes involve gillside woodland planting, stock reduction on moorland and an attempt to increase juniper cover through off-site germination of seeds. Negative changes are likely to include an increase in the spread of invasive species such as bracken and gorse in areas where stocking numbers are reduced on existing pasture.

Longer-term changes (20+ years) will be dependent on prevailing incentives and policies and it is therefore challenging to be prescriptive. The Lake District National Park Management Plan will provide a key tool in managing change and ensuring a positive future for the area. Potential longer-term changes and key opportunities within the Landscape Character Type G: Rugged/Angular Slate High Fell are outlined below:

- *Agricultural Change and Land Management* - The regeneration and enhancement of moorland, woodland, gill and bog habitats will mature over the long term and enhance and reinforce the key landscape characteristics of the high fell. Conversely the increase in the spread of invasive species such as bracken and gorse in areas where stocking numbers are reduced, may lead to reduced biodiversity and changed characteristics, though this would eventually develop into woodland, potentially reinforcing positive attributes where sites are not sensitive. The sustainable management of heather moorland will help to contain excessive erosion and retain a key habitat. The reduction in non-native conifer woodland and the planting of native woodland in gills will gradually transform the existing character through reinforcement of positive attributes. Conifers may be acceptable in mixed woodland when this appropriate in the landscape, and nature conservation interests are not compromised, however, small-scale coniferous forestation will change the character and nature of the landscape.
- *Climate Change* - Fluctuating temperatures, increasing and/or more intense precipitation and general weather patterns will continue to affect this dynamic landscape, leading to increases in incidences of flash flooding and gully erosion in upland becks, streams and rivers, moorland fire leading to excessive soil erosion, and the possible spread of invasive species and changes in species composition of habitats. Arctic alpine vegetation currently confined to the highest summits will be under increasing threat. The altitudinal limit of woodland and dry heath could also increase.
- *Development* - Large-scale renewable energy developments, pylons or other large scale development within or adjacent to this landscape type would break up the uncluttered skyline and key views and erode the open and undeveloped character of the area. There is also the potential for an increase in large agricultural buildings for over wintering stock and an increase in the size and visibility of residential properties. There is also potential pressure from tourist related developments and infrastructure affecting the quality of the landscape. Related to this, increasing traffic on narrow roads and car park development is likely to change the character of minor roads and tracks.

Sensitivities and Capacity for Change

The Rugged/Angular Slate High Fell Landscape Character Type is considered to have very high visual sensitivity, as a result of the very open character, uncluttered skylines and associated long distance views. Areas that may appear to be hidden within

TYPE G: RUGGED/ANGULAR SLATE HIGH FELL

one viewpoint are likely to be highly visible and exposed from another. There is strong intervisibility with the Upland Valley, and Rugged/Craggy Volcanic High Fell Landscape Character Types, towards the edges of the Fells, and with surrounding landscape types outside the National Park. In higher locations, views are limited by the elevated topography. The area also forms a striking backdrop in views from surrounding areas outside the park. In addition, the Rugged/Angular Slate High Fells encompass extensive rare and fragile natural habitats, coupled with a rich archaeological resource. Sense of remoteness and tranquillity is generally very strong throughout the Landscape Character Type. As a result, overall capacity to accommodate change within this Landscape Character Type without compromising key characteristics is considered to be very limited apart from change which reinforces positive attributes such as habitat enhancements including sensitively placed gill and other woodland.

The cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure within this Landscape Character Type are variable. Within the Park effects are likely to be significant in the north east (around Loweswater and High Lorton) and south west (around Black Combe). To the north east the impacts are likely to be intermediate.⁴⁰

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

The overall strategy for this Landscape Character Type is to conserve and enhance the diversity of habitat and species in the high fell and to protect key skylines and views from development. The open moor, rich mosaic of wet and dry heathland, exposed, uncluttered skylines and lack of built structures are valuable attributes of this landscape type that should be conserved. Specific guidelines include:

Physical Character

- **Restore** areas at high risk of erosion where this threatens Bassenthwaite and other lakes through siltation; and
- **Encourage** the establishment of native woodland on valley sides and lower fells at sites where it will enhance the landscape character.
- **Ensure** geological sites are clear of bracken and scrub vegetation.

Ecological Character

- **Manage** the spread of invasive species;
- **Support** and **promote** schemes focused on the regeneration, extension and enhancement of moorland, woodland, gill and bog habitats to enhance and reinforce the key landscape characteristics of the High Fell;
- **Encourage** the sustainable management of heather moorland and blanket bog to contain excessive erosion and retain key habitats;

⁴⁰ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

TYPE G: RUGGED/ANGULAR SLATE HIGH FELL

- **Encourage** grazing management that improves ecological linkage and promotes more favourable condition of upland semi-natural vegetation whilst supporting the farming heritage;
- **Encourage** habitat **linkage** to increase robustness to climate change;
- **Encourage** broadleaved woodland regeneration or planting in appropriate locations, which are at risk of erosion and run off, to benefit water quality, and flood mitigation downstream. New native woodland can enhance the landscape, biodiversity and nature conservation interest of the area; and
- **Encourage** sensitive management and restoration of wood pasture habitat.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** the archaeological and historic environment in order to maintain a rich cultural landscape.
- **Protect** the stone axe production sites in the High Fells from erosion, including that from footpaths;
- **Ensure** archaeological sites are cleared of bracken and scrub vegetation. A low level of stock grazing is a sustainable way of achieving this but at a level that avoids erosion;
- **Prevent** woodland establishment on historically on archaeological sites;
- **Ensure** effective planning for controlling moorland fires;
- **Conserve** footpaths, bridleways or byways along with their associated features such as pinch stiles and gates, which represent historic routeways;
- **Target** agri-environment payments and use development control to protect and maintain landscape features and support the maintenance and restoration of vernacular buildings and the careful design of new buildings;
- **Promote** whole fell grazing management where possible erecting new fences on open fell only where alternatives are not practicable; and
- **Remove** redundant fencing from the fell.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Maintain** the sense of openness and control the level of impact of fencing on unenclosed fell land;
- **Protect** skylines and key views to and from the area from tall, vertical and large-scale developments that may erode the open and undeveloped character of the area; and
- **Ensure** careful design of new fence lines to minimise visual and perceptual impacts, for example avoiding crossing and siting in close proximity to fell paths, siting below ridgelines etc.

TYPE G: RUGGED/ANGULAR SLATE HIGH FELL

In addition to the above, selected guidelines for managing landscape change within specific Sub-Types include:

Sub-Type G1: Upland Valley

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Encourage** sensitive location and design of large agricultural buildings for over-wintering stock and inappropriate development of prominent residential properties in order to maintain landscape quality.

Sub-Type Type G2: Upland Forests

Physical Character

- **Encourage** reversion of non-native conifer woodland to broadleaved, outside strategic Forestry Commission plantations; and
- **Expand** native woodland on valley sides and in gills, reinforcing landscape structure and diversity

Sub-Type G3: Post-Industrial Landscapes

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **Enhance** industrial archaeological heritage recognising its significant contribution to the cultural landscape;
- **Control** major new mining or quarrying activity which has the potential to rapidly transform significant landscape features; and
- **Manage** existing and increased pressure from recreational and tourism developments throughout the area.

TYPE H: UPLAND VALLEY

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

The Upland Valley Landscape Character Type dissects the High Fells within the National Park, creating a distinctive pattern like the spokes of a wheel. The valleys dissect and are bounded by several different Landscape Character Types, including Rugged/Craggy Volcanic High Fell (F), Rugged/Angular Slate High Fell (G), Upland Limestone Farmland (I) and High Fell Fringe (J). Around Cockermouth and Kendal, this Landscape Character Type continues outside the National Park boundary. Here it provides the setting to the Park.⁴¹

Definitive Attributes

- U-shaped valleys, formed by glaciers cutting through underlying rock, during the last Ice Age;
- Underlying geology varies, largely depending upon the geology of surrounding Landscape Character Types;
- Topography differs greatly, ranging from dramatic and steep valley sides with screes, sloping down towards a deep lake (in the case of Wasdale) to valleys with gently rolling sides with a slow-moving river on the broad valley floor;
- Valley floors are either dominated by a lake or river; and pastoral farmland, with distinctive patterns of dry stone walls and barns;
- Valley sides are generally covered by a mixture of predominantly pastoral farmland (in-bye land) and woodland (deciduous, coniferous and mixed), with some of the steeper valley sides characterised by screes;
- Settlement pattern consists of isolated farms on the valley sides, small nucleated and linear settlements and large towns on the valley floor, at the edge of a lake or adjacent to a river;
- Many archaeological features can be found in the Upland Valley landscape; the cairnfields in the Ennerdale valley, the prehistoric rock art near Buttermere are all evidence of the rich cultural history of the landscape;
- Designed landscapes, parkland and former deer parks occur throughout the area, associated particularly with lakeshores and large country houses; and
- Communications (from winding single-track paths to busy dual carriage ways) generally run along the valley sides or follow the edge of the valley floor.

⁴¹ This Landscape Character Type is partly identified within the Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance as Landscape Character Type 8: Main Valleys. For further information on elements of this Landscape Character Type outside the boundaries of the National Park, refer to [Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit](#), Cumbria County Council (March 2011).

TYPE H: UPLAND VALLEY



1. Drystone walls bound regular fields in the dry valley bottoms © NTPU/JOE CORNISH
2. Typical settlement pattern, Ambleside © LONPA
3. The vast scale of the landscape is evident from the valley floor © NTPU/JOE CORNISH
4. Valleys, are often dominated by a lake or river © NTPU/JOE CORNISH



Physical Character

The U-shaped valleys of the Upland Valley landscape were shaped by glacial activity in the last Ice Age, when glaciers cut through the underlying geology (predominantly Borrowdale Volcanic Group). This has created a dramatic landscape where some of the deepest lakes are flanked by the highest mountains. Some of the other valleys are less dramatic with shallower valley sides and slow-moving rivers.

The soils of the lower valley slopes and valley bottoms often include stony, river-washed gravels. Lakeshores may be silty, shingled or rocky and sometimes abut scree slopes rising steeply to adjacent fells. Fallen boulders and rock outcrops occur on the lower valley sides with occasional rocky promontories protruding from the valley floor.

Land cover is dominated by rough pasture, many of the steeper slopes being covered with bracken, scrub and wood pasture. Many of the lower fields form the inbye for hill sheep farms. Fields predominantly consist of semi-improved and improved grassland, whilst irregular tracts of unimproved grassland and wetland are associated with lower-lying and wetter land. Mires, reed swamps and carr woodland are also present at lake-heads and in places along lakeshore. Many of the rivers and other watercourses have been modified, including straightening and moving of channels.

Ecological Character

Ecological character consists of a range of priority habitats, including a diverse patchwork of lakes, mires, and rivers, grazing marsh, purple moor grass/rush pasture, woodland and bogs, which support a rich variety of invertebrates and wildfowl. Linear broadleaved woodlands often edge streams and watercourses draining the valley bottom. Small patches of birch, willow and alder carr are typical in lowland mires, around deltas and at the lake edges. Copses and individual broadleaved trees, usually ash and sycamore, are found by hamlets and farmsteads. Single mature and veteran trees, especially pollarded ash, are also a feature, as are clusters following walls or in close proximity to buildings. Grazing marsh is found along river floodplains and are of major significance to breeding waders including redshank, snipe and lapwing. A few remnants of upland hay meadow are found around Longsleddale, Kentmere and Claife. Flower and pollinator-rich habitats tend to be otherwise restricted to places such as road verges, hedge banks, river banks and lakesides. Upland hay meadows occur in the Lowther and Swindale valleys.

Within the Upland Valley Landscape Character Type, areas of important semi-natural Atlantic oak woods and associated rich bryophyte flora remain on lower valley sides. Naddle Forest, Birk Fell, Low Wood, Lodore Wood, Troutdale Woods, Borrowdale Wood Complex and Wast Water are all designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC). In addition, Duddon Valley Woodlands, Baybrown Wood and Thirlmere Woods are designated as SSSI. The woodlands exhibit dramatic seasonal colour changes.

Bassenthwaite Lake is designated as a National Nature Reserve (NNR), SSSI and SAC. The lake supports a population of vendace, a fish that is only found in one other location in the UK. There is also an extremely rich aquatic flora, including the nationally scarce floating water-plantain, six-stamened waterwort and thread rush. The reserve has a range of habitats from open water to wet woodland and supports important collections of breeding and wintering birds.

TYPE H: UPLAND VALLEY

The River Derwent and tributaries SSSI and SAC encompasses a diverse natural succession of plant communities from source to mouth and contains salmon, brook and river lampreys. The River Eden and tributaries SSI and SAC is important too. Derwentwater also has populations of the nationally rare fish, vendace. Schelley occur in Ullswater. Other lake-related ecological designations include Wast Water SSI and SAC, Ennerdale SSSI – for its characteristics freshwater flora and fauna which include examples of nationally rare willow and alder carr and drier oak woodland; and Elterwater SSSI – one of the least disturbed examples of lakeshore wetlands in South Cumbria. Many stretches of river have been artificially straightened, resulting in misolation of rivers from their floodplains and poorer and more simplified ecological function.

Cultural and Historical Character

The agro pastoral agricultural connection is strong in the valleys. The pattern of field boundaries is dominated by formal and informal boundaries that are representative of historic enclosure. A small to medium scale, predominantly rectilinear, intricate pattern of fields crosses the valley bottoms, where fields are enclosed by a mixture of well-maintained hedgerows and dry-stone walls with occasional, traditional, vertical slate flag walls and iron railings. At the valley heads and floor edges, an irregular, smaller-scale, more ancient pattern of walled enclosures (which are generally those that pre-date the enclosure acts of the late 18th and early 19th centuries) reflects the undulating landform. In places, walls and hedges have been removed, become derelict, or modern fencing materials have been introduced and new boundaries created. This weakens the traditional, ordered patterns of fields.

Many archaeological features can be found in the Upland Valley landscape. The cairnfields in the Ennerdale valley, the ancient stone art near Buttermere, are all evidence of the rich cultural history of the landscape.

There are important former deer parks, designed landscapes and areas of parkland within this area which are key characteristics, particularly around lakes and associated with large country houses, for example around Rydal and Grasmere which often cross into neighbouring areas of high fell. Their mature trees make a highly significant positive contribution to the lakeland landscape.

The upland valleys were key areas for the early visitors to the Lake District from the mid 18th Century onwards. Several areas became celebrated nationally as landscape of great Sublime and Picturesque beauty and are featured in works by poets and writers from this period.

This Type can be found in the following World Heritage Site Valleys:

- [Borrowdale & Bassenthwaite](#)
- [Buttermere](#)
- [Coniston](#)
- [Ennerdale](#)
- [Eskdale](#)
- [Grasmere & Rydal](#)
- [Haweswater](#)
- [Langdale](#)
- [Thirlmere](#)
- [Ullswater](#)
- [Wasdale](#)
- [Windermere](#)

Settlement and Built Character

- This Landscape Character Type contains the majority of settlements in the Lake District, from individual vernacular farmsteads to the busy town of Keswick;
- Settlement pattern generally consists of hamlets and tight-knit small and medium settlements, huddled close to the lakeshores, with farmsteads and barns scattered on the rising ground of the lower valley sides and valley heads;
- A great wealth of fine historic buildings, villas and designed landscapes, including 10 Conservation Areas;
- Architecture ranges from medieval halls, traditional vernacular, romantic picturesque Georgian, to railway tourism and imposing Victorian developments of housing, hotels and terraces;
- Settlement character ranges from traditional agricultural (Hartsop, Troutbeck, Watendlath, Kentmere) to former industrial communities (Glenridding, Chapel Stile, Elterwater, Staveley), to the picturesque wooded settlement (Grasmere, Rydal) to key market towns/ tourist centres (Keswick and Ambleside);
- Traditional stone and slate buildings are a distinctive part of the landscape fabric. Together with the pattern of field boundaries they represent a continuity of traditional agricultural land use for inbye land, linked to the hill sheep farming system;
- This type has particularly good examples of buildings illustrating the history of farming, from impressive 17th, 18th and 19th century bank barns to small field barns; and
- Many examples of bridges, from packhorse to more formal 18th and 19th century structures, which add an important element to the built character.

Landscape Character Sub-Types

Four Sub-Types have been identified within the overall Landscape Character Type. The attributes that define the character of these Sub-Types are generally typical of the Upland Valley Landscape Character Type. Specific characteristics that are unique to these Sub-Types are:

Sub-Type H1: Valley with Lake

- Predominantly flat landscape, dominated by lakes of varying sizes and shapes;
- Combination of habitats along the immediate lakeshore, including reeds, parkland, pasture with copses and broadleaved trees and woodland giving a soft appearance; and
- Footpaths often follow lakeshore.

Sub-Type H2: Valley with River Floodplain

TYPE H: UPLAND VALLEY

- Predominantly flat landscape;
- Valley floor dominated by river floodplain which may include a broad or relatively narrow river corridor;
- Pasture fields generally run alongside the river, often with grazing marsh and occasional meadows and clumps of woodland adjacent to the river course; and
- Scattered farmsteads within the valley bottom and pattern of stone walls at field boundaries.

Sub-Type H3: Enclosed Valley Side

- Sloping landform, forming the lower slopes of the dale;
- Patchwork of predominantly pastoral fields, delineated by a series of stone walls, or in some cases, hedgerows ('in-takes'); and
- Often lined with clumps of trees, with some wood pasture or more extensive patches of woodland.

Sub-Type H4: Open Valley Side

- Sloping landscape, forming the higher slopes of the dale, which form a transition a transition zone with adjacent High Fells on both sides of the dale;
- Generally open landscape, with few divisionary walls or boundaries; and
- Often grazed, with some areas of juniper scrub, wood pasture and patches of woodland.

CURRENT AND FUTURE LANDSCAPE CHANGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Forces for Change

Past Landscape Changes

Observable changes in the past include:

- Gradual change in the pattern of settlements as population and land use change over time;
- Increasing influence of linear elements such as road and rail interfering with natural contours and sinuous lines in the landscape and disruption of tranquillity from traffic noise and movement;
- Improvement of pasture to create fields that are intensively grazed and subsequent loss of species diversity and changes in colour and texture of the landscape;

TYPE H: UPLAND VALLEY

- Historic straightening and other modifications of rivers and other watercourses
- Small to medium rectilinear and intricate field pattern created through historic enclosure, now being eroded through lack of management and introduction of new boundaries and materials;
- Pollution from agricultural run-off from adjacent pastoral fields; and
- Lack of management of some parkland landscapes as use reverted to purely agricultural.

Current Landscape Condition

The overall condition of the Upland Valley Landscape Character Type is considered to be good, with high water quality within many lakes, rivers and waterbodies, rich biodiversity in the largely intact hedgerow network and patchwork of woodlands, and a strong archaeological record. There are, however, some elements of declining condition: some water bodies have poor water quality; some hedgerows, hay meadows, walls, pollards, mature trees, woodlands, wood pasture, and vernacular buildings are in poor condition and evidence of a gradual loss of traditional management is apparent.

Future Landscape Changes and Opportunities

In the short term (5 years) it is likely that there will be continued positive changes in the form of managing important habitats through nature reserves and key landscape features in the wider landscape such as maintaining ash pollards and important boundary features. However, negative changes are likely to include an increasing pressure on the quality of the landscape from residential and tourist related developments. Increasing traffic problems may also lead to highway improvements that detract from the rural character of some roads and reduce tranquillity. Other short term negative changes could arise from agricultural changes, tree pests and diseases, and immediate effects of climate change, including extreme weather events.

Longer-term changes (20+ years) will be dependent on prevailing incentives and policies and it is therefore challenging to be prescriptive. The Lake District National Park Management Plan will provide a key tool in managing change and ensuring a positive future for the area. Potential longer-term changes and key opportunities within Landscape Character Type H: Upland Valley are outlined below:

- *Agricultural Change and Land Management* - Farming is no longer the main contributor to many Lake District communities with many farmers now having an off-farm source of income. This area is vulnerable to reduced farming activity and a potential amalgamation of farming businesses into more extensive holdings increasing the demand for new agricultural buildings with an intensive approach to livestock rearing affecting character and views. Potential amalgamation of farming businesses may also lead to the creation of more homogenous landscape with less distinctiveness and loss of localised character. This may have a knock-on effect on the maintenance of key landscape characteristics, in particular boundary features and species rich pasture and floodplain habitats. The neglect of hedges around enclosed land may reduce potential landscape and wildlife benefits and lead to substitution by fences. Woodland is not currently extensive in this character type, however existing

TYPE H: UPLAND VALLEY

coniferous woodland may over time be replaced by native broadleaves. Many of the existing broadleaved woodlands are unmanaged, with a poor age structure and thus vulnerable to loss over the longer term. Many designed landscapes and parkland are at risk of gradual loss from lack of replacement planting or conservation of key features.

- *Climate Change* - Increasing temperatures may encourage further expansion of tourist related activities putting further pressure on limited resources. Water quality in rivers and lakes may also be affected, having a negative effect on aquatic habitats and expansion of alien species into upper catchments. Open-grown trees and some woodland may be at risk from a combination of summer drought and increased severity and frequency of storm events. Flooding may become a common feature with increased rainfall and storm events. Flood management approaches will include both hard engineered and soft engineered solutions which need to be sensitively designed and sited within the wider landscape and settlements.
- *Development* - The built environment is predominantly in the vernacular style and is currently a distinct element of the landscape fabric. A loss of traditional skills and a reduction in the use of appropriate local materials will erode this distinct characteristic of the landscape, with increasing pressure on the landscape around towns from residential and other development. Features are vulnerable to highway improvements, expansion of villages and tourism facilities. Potential large-scale renewable energy developments and overhead transmission lines on the skyline may erode key views. Increasing traffic associated with tourism and recreation pressurising the road system may lead to inappropriate highway improvements, increased provision for car parking on undeveloped land and reduced tranquillity from noise and movement. Increased tourism and growth in holiday developments and second homes will lead to a loss of pasture or estate land developments.

Sensitivities and Capacity for Change

Overall character and visual sensitivity within this Landscape Character Type are considered to be high, as a result of the generally strong intervisibility with surrounding Landscape Character Types. A diverse patchwork of lakes, mires and rivers, floodplain and lakeshore habitats, woodland, designed landscapes, parkland and bogs contribute to overall high ecological sensitivity. In addition to this, the rectilinear, intricate pattern of fields crossing the valley bottom, delineated by a network of well-maintained hedgerows and dry-stone walls and ancient pattern of walled enclosures at dale heads, contribute to overall high cultural sensitivity. As a result of the above factors, this Landscape Character Type is considered to have very limited capacity to accommodate change without compromising key characteristics.

The cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure within this Landscape Character Type are variable. The effects are likely to be significant around Kentmere, and close to the Park boundary at Bampton, Pooley Bridge, Lorton and Loweswater. The rest of the landscape character type is likely to have an intermediate effect.⁴²

⁴² Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

The overall strategy for this Landscape Character Type, is to conserve and enhance the distinct pattern of settlement, fields, boundaries, parkland and woods to maintain landscape quality. The inherent characteristics of the Upland Valley should be reinforced through ensuring an appropriate balance between definitive attributes of pasture, settlement and the patchwork of diverse habitats. Specific guidelines include:

Physical Character

- **Encourage** replacement of coniferous species by native broadleaves in order to strengthen landscape character; and
- **Conserve**, enhance and sensitively expand broadleaved woodland; and
- **Seek** opportunities for well designed and fully considered river restoration; and
- **Identify** and **plan** for impacts of climate change, including natural floodplain and river management and other forms of natural flood management.

Ecological Character

- **Manage** water quality in rivers and lakes to minimise pollution on aquatic habitats; and
- **Encourage** habitat linkage to increase robustness to climate change.
- **Restore** habitats rich in flowering plants for pollinators

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** the distinctive pattern of early enclosure of upland moor as typified by the presence of small irregular intakes, bounded by stone walling, outgangs and isolated farmsteads or hamlets;
- **Support** and **encourage** an actively but sensitively farmed landscape. In particular farms that use extensive grazing methods on sensitive sites and maintain key landscape characteristics such as boundary features, trees and species rich habitats;
- **Conserve** historic routeways preserved as footpaths, bridleways or byways along with their associated features such as pinch stiles and gates;
- **Ensure** that the expansion of tourist-related activities does not compromise landscape character and quality;
- **Encourage** the development and use of traditional skills through training and promotion of appropriate local materials that reinforce the distinct qualities of the landscape. For example repairs to stone walls should reflect the local traditional construction;

TYPE H: UPLAND VALLEY

- **Conserve and enhance** designed landscapes, parkland, deer parks and historic estates, encouraging their active and sympathetic management and restoration;
- **Encourage** replacement planting of mature in-field and boundary trees;
- **Clear** archaeological sites of bracken and scrub vegetation. A low level of stock grazing is a sustainable way of achieving this but at a level that avoids erosion;
- **Identify** and plan for potential impacts of climate change on designed landscape in order to better understand ability to adapt, for example succession planning for parkland trees;
- **Conserve** distinct landscape features and areas that are vulnerable to developments such as highway improvements or the expansion of villages and tourism facilities;
- **Encourage** development proposals, which respect or reinforce local vernacular character; and
- **Conserve** archaeological and historic environment features such as packhorse and other bridges which have a strong influence on landscape character.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Conserve** the distinctive field patterns.
- **Maintain** the scenic beauty of the diversity of semi-natural habitats, undeveloped lakeshores and designed landscapes.

In addition to the above, selected guidelines for managing landscape change within specific Sub-Types include:

Sub-Type H1: Valley with Lake

Ecological Character

- **Protect** water bodies from diffuse and point source pollution and non-native invasive species in order to maintain water quality and conserve aquatic habitats.

Sub-Type Type H2: Valley with River Floodplain

Ecological Character

- **Protect** watercourses from point source and diffuse pollution
- **Encourage** more natural drainage systems where appropriate, and more natural functioning of rivers and connectivity with their floodplains.

TYPE H: UPLAND VALLEY

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** vernacular bridges (including stone Packhorse bridges), which facilitate access and contribute to the cultural and aesthetic value of the landscape

Sub-Type Type H3: Enclosed Valley Side

Physical Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** wood pasture and mature individual trees especially pollards and open grown specimens and encourage succession planning.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** stone walls and field barns in order to strengthen and reinforce distinctive landscape pattern.

Sub-Type Type H4: Open Valley Side

Physical Character

- **Support** grazing regimes that maintain and encourage juniper scrub and wood pasture on the higher valley sides and contribute to a key characteristic of the valley landscape.

TYPE I: UPLAND LIMESTONE FARMLAND

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

The Upland Limestone Farmland Landscape Character Type extends along the northern and eastern edge of the Lake District, flanked by the High Fell Fringe (J) Rugged/Craggy Volcanic High Fell (F) and Upland Valley (M) Landscape Character Types. It is part of a broader band of Limestone, which stretches north and eastwards outside the National Park and forms the setting of the Park in some places.⁴³

Definitive Attributes

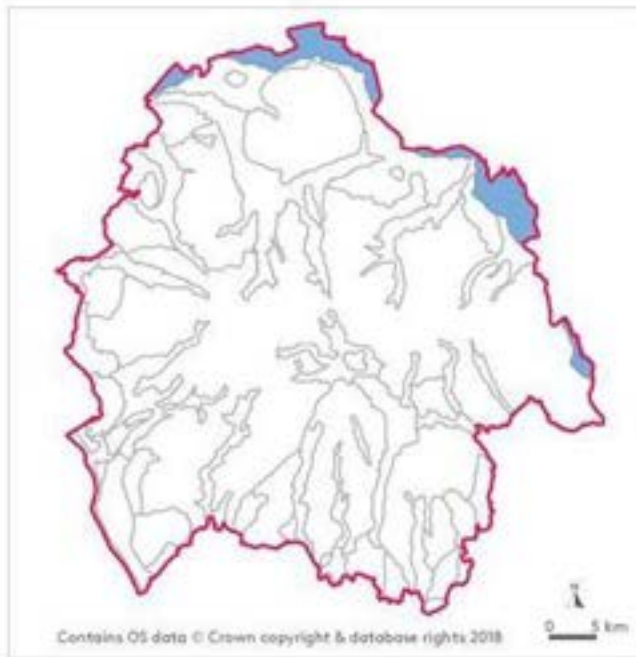
- Dominated by Carboniferous Limestone geology, which gives rise to a typical upland limestone farmland landscape;
- Topography is primarily gently rolling, forming a stark contrast with the ruggedness of the neighbouring volcanic rocks of Borrowdale and Skiddaw;
- The openness of the landscape facilitates panoramic views in places;
- Strong intervisibility with landscape to the north of the National Park boundary and with the rising mass of Blencathra;
- Typical limestone landscape features such as pavements and scars are less common than the Coastal Limestone LCT in the south;
- Improved and semi-improved pastoral farmland (the fields lined with hedgerows) dominates this landscape in the north, with occasional clumps of trees and small woods adding variety. To the west and east dry stone walls predominate, with, extensive parkland and (mainly coniferous) plantations, associated with the Lowther Estate, in the east;
- Lacking in large expanses of ancient woodland and woodland plantations; ancient woodland, with occasional small copses (both deciduous and coniferous) more of a feature towards the east;
- Settlement pattern consists of several small villages (for example, the historic villages of Caldbeck and Askham) and dispersed farmsteads. Several historic halls and Estates and deer parks are also dotted across the landscape;
- Archaeological features such as limekilns (for example at Aughertree Fell, near Caldbeck) and old quarries are evidence of the industrial activities, which helped to shape this landscape. Other archaeological elements include stone circles, 'tumuli' and Roman forts;

⁴³ This Landscape Character Type is identified within the Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance as Landscape Character Type 12: Higher Limestone (12c Foothills). For further information on this Landscape Character Type outside the boundaries of the National Park, refer to [Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit](#), Cumbria County Council (March 2011).

TYPE I: UPLAND LIMESTONE FARMLAND

- A network of secondary roads connects the scattering of villages and farms;
and
- To the west of Shap and east of Bampton, the landscape is characterised by a pattern of medium to large-scale regular-shaped fields.

TYPE I: UPLAND LIMESTONE FARMLAND



1. Improved pastoral farmland with hedgerow lined fields dominated in the north of this LCT
© CSA
2. Aerial Photograph showing typical field pattern
© GeoPerspectives
3. The openness of the landscape facilitates panoramic views in places
© CSA



Physical Character

Typical limestone surface features such as large scars and gorges are generally absent in this predominantly open farmland landscape. There are localised outcrops of pavement and small scars in places, particularly in the east at Burtree Scar and Knipe Scar, and Clints Crag in the west. The underlying geology of the area is reflected in the building materials used for dispersed farms, field boundaries and village buildings and stone wall field boundaries. This is generally a gentle and rolling landscape, the topography of which offers extensive views towards the central High Fells and in open parts, across the lowland landscapes outside the National Park.

Clints Crag SSSI provides one of the best examples of limestone pavement in West Cumbria with additional interest provided by an area of calcareous grassland to the south. The pavement at Clints Crag comprises one major block with a steep scar to the south and moderate terracing to the north. The clints are massive and uniform in size with very few solution features, whilst a high proportion of the grikes are deep and narrow. The pavement supports open ash woodland with wych elm, rowan, hawthorn and hazel.

The improved and semi-improved pastoral farmland is divided in small, generally regular fields, which are typically lined with hedgerows. Tree cover is generally sparse or absent, apart from some occasional extensive coniferous plantations and occasional woodland clumps.

Ecological Character

Herb-rich calcareous grassland and woodland habitats, including ancient clough woodland, provide considerable ecological interest throughout this Character Type, as do the becks, rivers and mires. There are small pockets of moorland and upland heath around Uldale and Caldbeck.

The River Eden and its tributaries cross this Landscape Character Type in several places and are designated as Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and SSSI for the high diversity of aquatic plants, native, white-clawed crayfish and a high diversity of breeding birds associated with the riparian habitats.

Clints and Moots disused quarries contain several pools that support large great crested newt populations. In addition, habitats associated with the quarry spoil, early successional vegetation and surrounding pasture, culminate in designation of these sites as a SAC and SSSI.

Cultural and Historical Character

Archaeological features such as limekilns (for example at Aughertree Fell, near Caldbeck) and old quarries are evidence of the industrial activities, which helped to shape this landscape. Other archaeological elements include stone circles, 'tumuli' and Roman forts. To the north, the landscape is dominated by the former common field systems of the villages of Caldbeck, Uldale and Ireby, though the latter lies just outside the National Park boundary. These former common fields are larger than average for the National Park. Around these are ancient enclosures, and beyond these, to the north are some intakes and then open commons, which extend beyond the Park boundary. There are only a few small patches of planned enclosures, on the edges of the former

TYPE I: UPLAND LIMESTONE FARMLAND

common fields around Caldbeck and Ireby. There are a number of dispersed farms, which tend to be scattered across the ancient enclosures, with some following the fell edge near Caldbeck. The field boundaries are almost all hedgerows and contain large numbers of standard trees. In the west the village of Blindcrake has anciently enclosed, narrow, walled strip fields fossilising the ancient open field structure, and the remains of medieval deer parks associated with Isel Hall. In the East are extensive parkland remains, designed landscapes and estate villages associated with several historic estates, including Lowther Estate, which extend outside the National park in several places.

This Type can be found in the following World Heritage Site Valleys:

- [Borrowdale & Bassenthwaite](#)
- [Haweswater](#)
- [Ullswater](#)

Settlement and Built Character

- Settlements are generally dispersed or nucleated in form stretching evenly across the Upland Limestone Farmland. Building styles reflect the local vernacular, using locally available limestone;
- A strong architectural unity throughout this fringing area, with fairly formal 17th, 18th, and 19th century traditional buildings using locally available limestone and sandstone, with slate roofs;
- A range of attractive settlements characterises this Landscape Character Type, from the linear arrangement at Blindcrake, to the village greens of Askham, Helton, Hesketh Newmarket and part of Caldbeck, and to the 18th century planned estate village of Lowther. 5 of these settlements are designated Conservation Areas;
- These settlements illustrate very clearly factors such as geology, land quality and ownership, as well as reflecting Medieval field patterns and later agricultural and economic prosperity.

Landscape Character Sub-Types

There are no Sub-Types within the Upland Limestone Farmland Landscape Character Type.

CURRENT AND FUTURE LANDSCAPE CHANGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Forces for Change

Past Landscape Changes

Observable changes in the past include:

- Improved and semi-improved pasture with occasional planned woodland and tree planting;
- Influence of large managed estates establishing a mixture of parkland and small hamlets;
- Former common field systems around villages showing move from mixed farming to predominantly livestock based farming; and
- Disused limekilns and quarries indicating previous industrial activity shaping the landscape.

Current Landscape Condition

The overall condition of the Upland Limestone Farmland Landscape Character Type is considered to be good to moderate, resulting from the rich ecological condition of herb-rich calcareous grassland and woodland habitats, becks, rivers and mires and the survival of historic estate features. Woodland and clumps of trees are generally well managed, and there is an intact hedgerow and wall network. There are some elements showing signs of decline in places, particularly the loss and poor maintenance of occasional hedgerows and replanting of historic parkland with conifers. Much of the remaining parkland is in moderate condition with key features lacking maintenance and a lack of replanting of parkland trees.

Future Landscape Changes and Opportunities

In the short term (5 years) it is likely that there will be continued positive changes in the form of small- scale changes such as low impact diversification into bed & breakfast accommodation or other tourism related ventures. The diverse patchwork of herb-rich calcareous grassland and woodland habitats are likely to continue in positive management as much of the land is part of the wider National Trust estate.

Negative changes are likely to include a slow erosion of character within villages through loss of vernacular styles of building and use of inappropriate materials. Wind energy or pylon upgrades occurring on important skylines would have a significant impact on landscape quality.

Longer-term changes (20+ years) will be dependent on prevailing incentives and policies and it is therefore challenging to be prescriptive. The Lake District National Park Management Plan will provide a key tool in managing change and ensuring a positive future for the area. Potential longer-term changes and key opportunities within Landscape Character Type I: Upland Limestone Farmland are outlined below:

TYPE I: UPLAND LIMESTONE FARMLAND

- *Agricultural Change and Land Management* - The mature hedgerow and wall networks contribute to a recognisable landscape pattern and if not supported through agri-environment payments, could fall out of active management, particularly where very narrow strip fields still persist. This could then have a significant effect on both biodiversity and landscape character. More extensive farming of livestock could also lead to a loss of key landscape features through neglect or removal to enable the amalgamation of adjacent fields. Larger farm sizes increase the demand for new large agricultural buildings, affecting character and views. In turn, this could lead to the creation of a more homogenous landscape with less distinctiveness and loss of localised character. Small-scale coniferous forestation could change the character and nature of the landscape.
- *Climate Change* - Climate change could have an impact on agricultural practices and with evidence of mixed farming in the past, there could be a move in the future to plough up pasture and plant crops. These could be anything from vegetables, animal feed, biofuel to new types of crops, however any increase in arable production would significantly change the character of this area. Climate change could also lead to increased numbers and severity of storm events and summer drought, impacting on open grown trees and woodland.
- *Development* - Sustained pressure to develop renewable energy resources could lead to increased development of key skylines and views eroding valuable landscape quality. Similarly, the loss of vernacular styles of building and use of inappropriate building materials will result in the loss of local landscape characteristics and have a knock on effect on this distinct Landscape Character Type. At present the road network is predominantly rural and could face significant highway improvements in the future as the result of increasing traffic flows. Increased mining or quarrying activity could also rapidly transform significant landscape features. Limestone extraction could also fundamentally affect the texture and pattern of the landscape. A potential increase in tourism and growth in holiday developments and second homes could lead to a loss of pasture or estate land to development.

Sensitivities and Capacity for Change

Herb-rich calcareous grassland and woodland, moorland and heath and disused quarries, contribute to the relatively high ecological sensitivity of this Landscape Character Type. Cultural and archaeological sensitivity is high in the west and east associated with historic estates and parks, and moderate elsewhere. Overall visual sensitivity is moderate to high. In the north this is judged to be moderate owing to the rolling landform, but in the west and east, visual sensitivity is judged to be high where sensitive cultural landscapes coincide with open landforms. There is a predominant sense of openness, however patches of woodland provide a sense of enclosure and limit long distance views in places, particularly in the north of the area. Intervisibility with the adjacent High Fell and High Fell Fringe Landscape Character Types is strong making the area highly sensitive to interruption by large scale vertical features which would interrupt views into and out of the area. Overall, the Upland Limestone Landscape Character Type is considered to have limited to moderate capacity to accommodate change without compromising key characteristics.

The cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure within this Landscape Character

Type are variable. Effects are likely to be significant in the NW, East and along the M6 corridor both within and outside the Park. Elsewhere an intermediate effect is likely.⁴⁴

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

The overall strategy for this Landscape Character Type, is to conserve and maintain the diverse patchwork of habitats, historic landscape and vernacular built character and to protect skylines and views into and out of the area. This landscape type is particularly vulnerable to neglect and loss of diversity of its key landscape features such as common field systems, strip fields, parkland, dispersed settlement and mature hedgerow and wall networks. Specific guidelines include:

Physical Character

- **Conserve** areas of limestone pavement through sympathetic grazing management.

Ecological Character

- **Encourage** habitat linkage to increase robustness to climate change.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Target** agri-environment schemes to provide support for the conservation and maintenance of key landscape features, including parkland;
- **Ensure** highway improvement schemes respect and reflect the local character to retain local landscape quality;
- **Conserve** and **maintain** the wall and hedgerow network (with hedgerow and in field trees) to contribute to the reinforcement of landscape pattern;
- **Identify** and plan for potential impacts of climate change on designed landscape in order to better understand ability to adapt, for example succession planning for parkland trees;
- **Ensure** that historic buildings and features are conserved and restored and that new buildings and construction is located and designed appropriately;
- **Target** agri-environment payments and use development control to protect and maintain landscape features and support the maintenance and restoration of vernacular buildings and the careful design of new buildings; and
- **Conserve** the archaeological and historic environment in order to maintain a rich cultural landscape.

⁴⁴ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Protect** skylines and key views to and from the area from tall and vertical large-scale developments that may erode the open and undeveloped character of the area, especially around the highly sensitive, strip field, estate and parkland areas in the West and East.

TYPE J: HIGH FELL FRINGE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

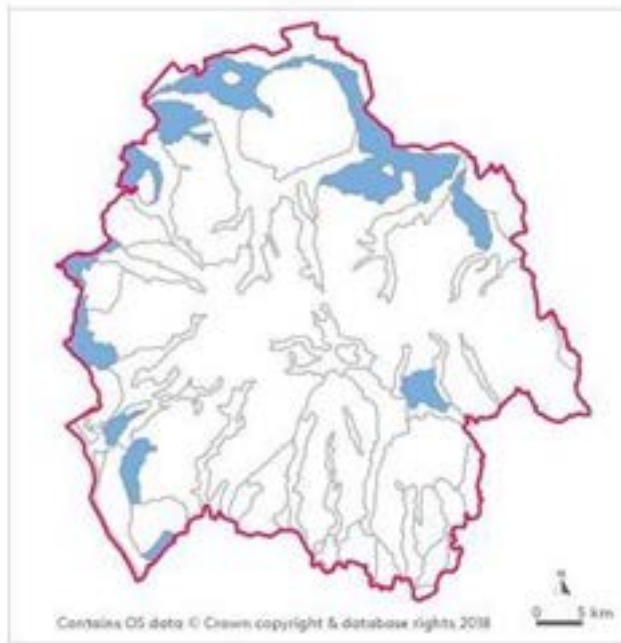
The High Fell Fringe Landscape Character Type is found most frequently around the north and west of the Park, with small areas adjacent to Black Combe, with an isolated area to the southeast around Troutbeck Bridge. It is bordered almost entirely to the north and west by the Upland Limestone Farmland (I) and to the south by Rugged/Craggy Volcanic High Fells (F), Rugged/Angular Slate High Fells (G), Coastal Sandstone (E) or Upland Valley (H) Landscape Character Types. This Landscape Character Type extends outside the Park in several areas in the north west and south of the Park. Here it forms the setting to the Park.⁴⁵

Definitive Attributes

- Within this fringe environment the underlying geology is transitional, with six different types of underlying geology represented;
- To the north, the transition from Carboniferous Limestone through the Borrowdale Volcanic Group and into the Skiddaw Group is represented, whilst to the west, the transition from sandstone to Borrowdale Volcanic Group and south east, the transition from Silurian Flags and Slates to Coniston Limestone is visible;
- Topographically, landscapes within this type vary from 100m to 300m AOD;
- A transitional landscape, between more open moorland or fell and lower, more enclosed landscapes;
- Hills are dissected by numerous streams and minor river valleys;
- Predominantly improved pasture and meadows with a pattern of stone walls giving way to hedges at lower levels;
- Small patches of woodland on steeper slopes and alongside streams and rivers, with numerous field boundary trees and tree clumps occurring around farms;
- Scattered farms and hamlets, served by minor roads and specifically located at the base of the slopes; and
- Archaeological remains are prolific throughout this Type, with many scheduled monuments including prehistoric funerary cairns, field systems, hut circles, stone circles and Roman forts.

⁴⁵ This Landscape Character Type is identified within the Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance as Landscape Character Type 11: Upland Fringe (11a Foothills). For further information on this Landscape Character Type outside the boundaries of the National Park, refer to [Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit](#), Cumbria County Council (March 2011).

TYPE J: HIGH FELL FRINGE



1. Predominantly improved pasture and meadows at lower levels © CEA
2. Aerial Photograph showing typical field patterns © GeoPerspectives
3. Dispersed farms are generally of the 'great rebuilding' of the late 17th century © NTPL/Alastair Ogilvie



Physical Character

The transitional geology creates a wide ranging character within this Landscape Character Type. The landscape varies between intimate pastoral patterns of small fields to rolling higher topography with long distance views.

To the south east, the landscape comprises rolling hills with occasional rocky outcrops, which are dissected by numerous streams and minor river valleys. Here, landcover is predominantly improved pasture and meadows with a strong pattern of stone walls giving way to hedges at lower levels.

The rich and varied geology of this Landscape Character Type has led to designation of several sites as Sites of Special Scientific interest for their geological interest. The quarry at Little Mell Fell provides an example of an outcrop of Cockermouth Lavas, whilst Thornsgill Beck, Mosedale Beck and Wolf Crag show strongly weathered sections of pre-Devensian till overlain by Late Devensian till. These deposits, together with a Loch Lomond Stadial moraine at Wolf Crag and meltwater deposits in Mosedale, provide an exceptional geomorphological and sedimentary record in this part of the country. The weathered tills are particularly significant in providing the clearest evidence available of pre-Devensian glaciation in north west England.

In addition, the Waberthwaite Quarry faces and outcrops within this site provide exposures of a rock- type known as granodiorite.

Ecological Character

Priority habitats are sparse and fragmented and include heathland, moorland, bog and woodlands. Ecological interest has been depleted by agricultural improvement. The strongest ecological interest is mainly confined to small sites designated as National Nature Reserves (NNR) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Many of these are wetlands or woodlands. There are, however, a number of small ancient semi-natural woodlands scattered within the landscape.

Eycott Hill SSSI comprises three separate parts; the largest centred on Naddles Crag with smaller areas alongside the road to the north and adjacent to Greenah Crag Farm to the south. The interest of the site is both geological and biological though the latter is restricted to the mire-swamp system around Naddles Crag and the unimproved grasslands of the roadside verge to the north.

The mire-swamp system at Eycott Hill covers approximately 12 ha and has a topographical situation, which is unique in West Cumbria, combined with an unusual drainage pattern. It occupies several parallel troughs in the underlying Eycott Volcanic Rock, which is important in providing a source of bases to the mire. The troughs are partially blind-ended and peculiar in that they largely drain through clefts in the intervening ridges towards the lower lying Skiddaw Group landscape to the west. These physical attributes, together with the relatively unimproved and closed nature of the catchment, have given rise to an interesting combination and variety of mire communities supporting several nationally uncommon plant species. Mungrisdale Mires and Overwater are also designated as SSSIs within this Landscape Character Type.

Cultural and Historical Character

Fells within this Landscape Character Type are dominated by intakes and ancient enclosures, which probably represent late medieval intaking from the commons or 'waste'. Field boundaries are mainly hedgerows, with stone walls restricted to the intakes, and around the edges of 'thwaite' farms. The vast number of Scheduled Monuments (SM) within this Landscape Character Type, including prehistoric cairnfields, monuments and earthworks, copper mines, hillforts, Roman forts and medieval moated sites, demonstrates lengthy human occupation, giving a strong historical character. There are some areas of parkland and designed landscapes associated with historic estates around Dalemmain, Dacre and Muncaster Castle. The historic core of Ravenglass village has been designated as a Conservation Area to protect its special architectural and historic interest and character.

This Type can be found in the following World Heritage Site Valleys:

- [Borrowdale & Bassenthwaite](#)
- [Buttermere](#)
- [Duddon](#)
- [Ennerdale](#)
- [Eskdale](#)
- [Haweswater](#)
- [Ullswater](#)
- [Wasdale](#)
- [Windermere](#)

Development, Settlement and Building Character

- Predominantly dispersed settlement pattern, with building groups, hamlets and small villages scattered over the area;
- Settlement names include a number of 'thwaites', such as Branthwaite, Farthwaite, Orthwaite and Sillathwaite, indicating that these settlements were established from woodland clearings;
- The dispersed farms are generally good examples of the 'great rebuilding' of the late 17th century, as most of the sites were already established in medieval times along the river and valley sides;
- Buildings reflect the very varied underlying geology and surface river/ glacial materials, with the use of boulders, cobbles, Skiddaw black slates, green slates, granite, limestone and sandstone; and
- Of particular significance in this Landscape Character Type are the well known examples of Grade 1 listed medieval buildings, such as Dacre Castle and Church, Muncaster Castle and Church, and Hutton John Fortified Hall House.

Landscape Character Sub-Types

There are no Sub-Types within the Hill Fell Fringe Landscape Character Type.

CURRENT AND FUTURE LANDSCAPE CHANGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Forces for Change

Past Landscape Changes

Observable changes in the past include:

- A wide variety of settlements and land use over time, demonstrated through the varied archaeology of the area;
- Improved pasture surrounded by stone walls where intensive farming has spread onto higher ground;
- Overgrazing, resulting in a lack of taller vegetation, particularly alongside streams and on valley sides and lack of woodland regeneration;
- Outside of protected nature conservation areas ecological interest has been depleted through agricultural improvement; and
- In the past the creation of settlements through woodland clearances, indicated through place names (thwaites).

Current Landscape Condition

The overall condition of the High Fell Fringe Landscape Character Type is considered to be generally good. There are relatively few sites important for their ecological habitats in this type as it is predominantly improved agricultural land, but there are numerous sites of historic and archaeological interest, including prehistoric funerary cairns, field systems, hut circles, stone circles and Roman forts. The stone walls and hedgerow network are generally well maintained. However, there is some evidence of the loss and poor maintenance of some hedgerows and loss of field boundary trees. The limited areas of parkland and designed landscapes in this type are generally in good condition.

Future Landscape Changes and Opportunities

In the short term (5 years) it is likely that there will be continued positive changes in the form of on-going management within SSSIs and National Nature Reserves. Similarly, the vast number of Scheduled Monuments will ensure a continued protection of important archaeological features within the landscape.

Negative changes are likely to include reduced budgets of national agencies and organisations to actively conserve protected areas and the continued decline of valuable habitats and features within the wider landscape. Increasing tourist visits to and through this area may increase the pressure on vulnerable areas.

Longer-term changes (20+ years) will be dependent on prevailing incentives and policies and it is therefore challenging to be prescriptive. The Lake District National Park Management Plan will provide a key tool in managing change and ensuring a positive future for the area. Potential longer-term changes and key guidelines within Landscape Character Type J: High Fell Fringe are outlined below:

TYPE J: HIGH FELL FRINGE

- *Agricultural Change and Land Management* - The intimate stream and river corridors are vulnerable to pollution and run-off associated with the predominantly adjacent pastoral fields. As these aquatic features have a high biodiversity value, improvements in catchment sensitive land management will have a positive effect on key habitats and landscape features in the area. Stone walls on higher ground are vulnerable to any moves to more extensive farming of livestock. These key landscape features could be lost through neglect or removed to enable the amalgamation of adjacent fields. Increased financial pressures and reduced availability of higher level agri-environment payments leading to field boundaries, walls and hedges and traditional farm buildings suffering from lack of management.
- *Climate Change* - In this area climate changes are likely to be less marked and provide for a more gradual change in for example, species composition or habitat characteristics. Increasing erosion activity could deplete the historic landscape record and increase the deterioration of important historical features. High rainfall events could add to erosion and flooding along becks, streams and rivers.
- *Development* - As with many rural areas in the Lake District, increasing traffic associated with tourism and recreation could put pressure on the road system. This in turn could lead to inappropriate highway improvements or large scale schemes that permanently alter the character of the landscape. Large-scale renewable and other energy developments and pylons could impact negatively on the skyline, and in key views could erode the open and generally undeveloped character of this Landscape Character Type. Loss of vernacular building styles and use of inappropriate building materials may also result in a loss of local landscape characteristics.

Sensitivities and Capacity for Change

Overall, this Landscape Character Type is considered to have moderate ecological sensitivity, with valuable ecological sites confined to wetlands or woodland (depleted in places by agricultural improvement). Cultural and historic sensitivity is high as a result of the rich archaeological record of prehistoric cairnfields, monuments and earthworks and local areas of parkland and designed landscapes. In addition to this, a dispersed settlement pattern predominates throughout. There is strong intervisibility with adjacent higher Landscape Character Types giving high visual sensitivity. Overall the High Fell Fringe Landscape Character Type has limited to moderate capacity to accommodate change without compromising key characteristics.

The cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure within this Landscape Character Type are variable. The effects are likely to be of great significance in the west around Ravenglass and Waberthwaite. Significant effects are likely close to the Park boundary and outside the park into its setting in the west and north west around the Whicham Valley, Gosforth, Lorton, and Cockermouth and in the East around Bampton, and the South around Kentmere. Elsewhere there is likely to be an intermediate effect.⁴⁶

⁴⁶ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

The overall strategy for this Landscape Character Type is to protect and conserve the existing rich landscape resource and seek to conserve and enhance the wider landscape beyond protected areas. The strongly recognisable landscape pattern and its important natural and cultural features need special attention. Specific guidelines include:

Physical Character

- **Actively manage** the changing landscape to ensure key landscape features and attributes are not lost through climate change or other significant agents of change;
- **Encourage** broadleaved/native woodland planting in selected areas, away from archaeological remains; and
- **Encourage** the appropriate management of semi-natural woodland, including the **conservation** of historic features such as charcoal pitsteads, charcoal burners huts, woodbanks, pollards, saw-pits, stone walls and tracks.

Ecological Character

- **Improve** water quality within surrounding upland catchments to protect and conserve aquatic habitats.
- **Encourage** restoration of bankside vegetation along watercourses; and
- **Encourage** sustainable management of moorland, wood pasture, gill woodland and wetland habitats.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** the archaeological and historic environment in order to maintain a rich cultural landscape;
- **Clear** archaeological sites of bracken and scrub vegetation. A low level of stock grazing is a sustainable way of achieving this but at a level that avoids erosion;
- **Retain** landscape elements such as stone gateposts and limekilns;
- **Avoid** stone clearance and the use of ancient cairns, walls and buildings as sources of building or repair material;
- **Target** agri-environment schemes and use development control to protect, enhance and maintain landscape features including gill woodland, and support the maintenance and restoration of vernacular buildings, including traditional farm buildings, and rich archaeological features; and
- **Maintain** the strong landscape pattern through active management and enhancement of stone walls and other boundary features.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Conserve** the rural character of the existing road network; and
- **Protect** uncluttered skylines and key views to and from the area from tall, vertical and large-scale developments that may erode the character of the area. The effects are likely to be of great significance in the west around Ravenglass and Waberthwaite. Significant effects are likely close to the Park boundary and outside the park into its setting in the west and north west around the Whicham Valley, Gosforth, Lorton, and Cockermouth and in the East around Bampton, and the South around Kentmere.

TYPE K: LOW FELL

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

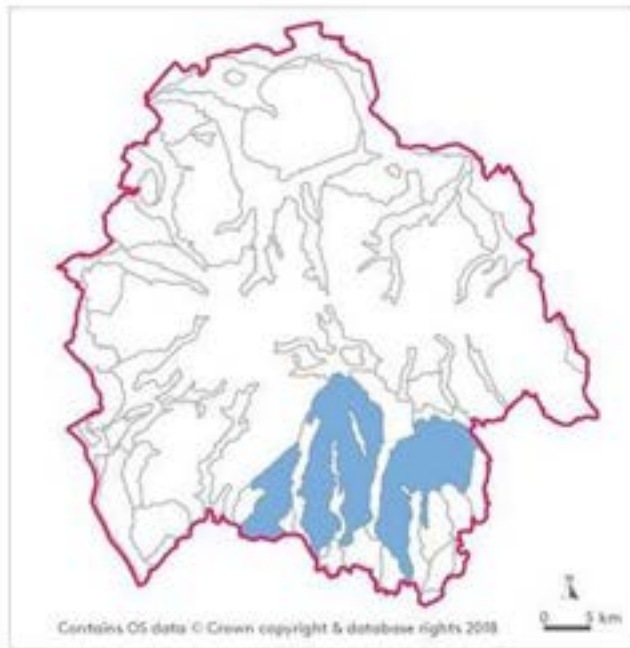
The Low Fell Landscape Character Type occupies a large proportion of the south eastern corner of the National Park and is dissected by a number of Lowland Valleys (Type M). To the south, the Low Fell slopes downwards to meet the Low Fell Fringe (L), Coastal Limestone (C) and Coastal Margins (B) Landscape Character Types. To the north, the dramatic backdrop of the Rugged/Craggy Volcanic High Fells (F) and Upland Valley (H) provide the setting to the Low Fell Landscape Character Type. The Landscape Character Type extends beyond the boundary of the Park between Kirkby in Furness and Ulverston, forming the setting to the Park.⁴⁷

Definitive Attributes

- A landscape of low undulating fells and ridges, which are dissected by Lake Windermere and Coniston Water;
- Rugged Fells which rise to approximately 300m in height and are dissected by streams and lowland river valleys;
- Underlying geology of siltstones and mudstones;
- Large areas of semi-natural and coniferous woodland;
- Land cover consists of a diverse patchwork of rough grassland, semi-improved pasture, small broadleaved and coniferous copses, rock outcrops, heathland, tarns and becks, small wetlands, mires and bracken;
- Dispersed settlement pattern served by a network of minor roads and tracks;
- Strong landscape pattern of dry stone walls and shard walls, villages, hamlets, and isolated farms and barns, built in a vernacular style from local limestone and slate;
- Examples of fine villas and parkland with views of Windermere and Coniston; and
- Traffic noise impacts from the A590 trunk road.

⁴⁷ This Landscape Character Type is identified within the Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance as Landscape Character Type 9: Intermediate Moorland Plateau (9d Ridges). For further information on this Landscape Character Type outside the boundaries of the National Park, refer to [Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit](#), Cumbria County Council (March 2011).

TYPE K: LOW FELL



1. Strong landscape pattern of dry stone walls with a diverse patchwork of land use types
© CDA
2. Aerial Photograph showing land use pattern
© GeoPerspectives
3. Rural settlement is predominately dispersed and built of local material, then lime rendered



Physical Character

The Low Fell Landscape Character Type is predominantly underlain by a combination of siltstones and sandstones of the Silurian Age (from the Windermere Group). The rocks dip gently to the south, leaving generally steeper north facing hillsides. Despite their relative low height in comparison with adjacent High Fells, the elevated open land on tops of ridges within this Landscape Character Type provides striking long distance views northwards towards the Higher Fells and to Morecambe Bay to the south.

The folded and fractured shales have produced a smooth and more rounded landscape of rolling wooded hills (semi-natural and coniferous woodland) and valleys with rocky ridges and basins of improved grassland. Large 'allotments' also exhibit complex mosaics of grassland, heath, mire and juniper scrub, with a diverse and luxuriant ground flora. The forest cover often hides an uneven topography with frequent rocky outcrops.

The landscape to the west of Windermere is one of the most densely wooded areas in England, with extensive stands of oak and birch interspersed with stretches of ash and alder. These woodlands are often associated with the numerous stream valleys that cut through them. Woodland is thinner on some of the western slopes, leaving yew, oak, birch and hazel, juniper and holly. In places there are extensive conifer plantations, especially around the Grizedale area.

At lower levels, the fells form a patchwork of pasture and woodland. There is a greater sense of enclosure and intimacy. Open grassland predominates the pastured areas, with notable contrast between rich green improved pasture enclosed by stonewalls and open moorland of rough grass, bracken and remnant heather. In places, however, the contrast is weakened by intervening semi-improved grassland.

Intricate patterns of undulating and twisting minor roads which serve the scattered hamlets and farmsteads are sporadically lined with hedges or shrubby vegetation and mature individual trees including ash, oak and hazel. The network of narrow lanes is an important part of the landscape.

Ecological Character

The Low Fell Landscape Character Type supports a diverse range of priority habitats, including significant areas of broadleaved and mixed woodland, basin mires, man-made tarns, pockets of moorland and heathland, calcareous grassland semi improved pastures and flushes, swamps and mosses.

Ecological interest is signified through designation of several habitats within this Landscape Character Type. Yewbarrow Woods SSSI, which lies within the well-wooded Rusland Valley is also designated as SAC for its extensive stands of yew.

This Landscape Character Type is particularly rich in important wetland sites including Claife Tarns and Mires SSSI, noted for its rich wetland flora and its outstanding assemblage of dragonflies; and Ludderburn and Candlestick Mires SSSI in which 15 species of bog moss have been recorded. In addition to this, Jenny Dam supports a population of medicinal leech. Blelham Bog was thought to be an example of a natural 'hydrosere' succession from wet willow woodland to sphagnum bog, however, recent research has suggested that the character of the site might be largely man-made, the result of peat cutting and the diversion of local streams in the 19th century.

TYPE K: LOW FELL

Although a small reserve, the site has diverse habitats including two bog types, wet woodland, dry acidic woodland and acid grassland and is notable for its invertebrate population.

Subberthwaite, Blawith and Torver Low Commons SSSI (which is also designated SAC) offers another wetland habitat of transition mires and quaking bogs, located on a broad hilly plateau with mires dominated by tall sedges and rushes with mixed herbs over a ground layer of bog-mosses and feather mosses. Tarn Hows is also noted for its aquatic plants and mire habitat. Additional ecological interest is provided within Tarn Hows SSSI, which is designated for its particularly diverse aquatic flora.

Cultural and Historical Character

This Landscape Character Type is characterised by a patchwork of ancient woodland and farmland, with a strong industrial heritage. Much of the woodland was coppiced to serve various woodland industries, such as iron smelting, gunpowder manufacture and bobbin making. Single ancient farms form the basis of the dispersed settlement pattern, which is evident in the landscape today. The field systems within the structure of woodlands comprise blocks of ancient enclosures, amongst extensive former common waste, which were enclosed systematically in the late 18th and 19th centuries.

Grizedale Forest, is a significant woodland which was planted from the late 18th century onwards within intakes and planned enclosure, and much of which is still coniferous. In other areas, such as Claife, small patches of plantation woodland are scattered amongst the ancient and planned enclosures, whilst there are a number of small tarns in the former common waste. Claife Woods is understood to be one of the most significant Picturesque landscapes in the national park and world heritage site. Although successive planting and replanting has largely obliterated the original physical planted elements.

Important villas are sited on the very edge of this type, often set in significant parkland, garden and pleasure garden, built in the 18th and 19th centuries. They add to the other villas that are often sited closer to the lakeshore (and are found in LCT M). Villas of note include Blackwell close to Windermere and Brantwood and Monk Coniston around Coniston.

Parkland dominates along the western shore of Windermere and occurs throughout the type. The apparently natural site of Tarn Hows is a designed landscape, with the lake formed from three smaller tarns and extensive woodland plantings, which attracts very large numbers of visitors.

Thomas West identified Claife viewing station in 1778, and a gothic style building was constructed here at the turn of the 18th century. This is the only viewing station on which a major structure was erected.

Farming is an important land use outside of the woodland areas. The area contains some important examples of iconic historic farms, such as Yew Tree Farm, which was owned by Beatrix Potter. Broughton in Furness is the location of the most important Herdwick market in the Lake District. Furness Abbey was important in establishing parks and grange farms in the area. This led to the development of market towns like Hawkshead. Around Hawkshead, flag (or shard) fences are a localised feature.

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The historic core of Broughton-in-Furness and Hawkshead are designated Conservation Areas to protect their special architectural and historic interest.

This Type can be found in the following World Heritage Site Valleys:

- [Coniston](#)
- [Windermere](#)

Development, Settlement and Building Character

- Outside the main settlements, a predominantly dispersed settlement pattern of farmsteads and hamlets, with some good examples of large houses from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, including the grand villas and houses of Monk Coniston and Brantwood.
- The extensive parklands, gardens and pleasure gardens of Monk Coniston and Brantwood have particular significance.
- Overall character is of an intimate settlement pattern, with a complex network of narrow, winding roads, a strong agricultural character with clusters of buildings dotted about the landscape;
- Hawkshead is an outstanding, unique example of a late medieval, 17th and 18th century small market town, packed with historic buildings and intimate yards and spaces,;
- Industrial heritage linked to coppiced woodlands, iron works, gunpowder and bobbin making, with some buildings restored or redeveloped; and
- Building materials of Silurian slates, limestone, rubble and dressed stone, together with limewashed render add to the identity of this Landscape Character Type.

Landscape Character Sub-Types

Four Sub-Types have been identified within the overall Landscape Character Type. The attributes that define the character of these Sub-Types are generally typical of the Low Fell Landscape Character Type. Specific characteristics that are unique to these Sub-Types are:

Sub-Type K1: Forest

- Expanses of dense semi-natural broadleaf, and coniferous woodland;
- Generally strong sense of enclosure; and
- Rough grassland clearings.

Sub-Type K2: Parkland

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- Well-managed landscape with a parkland character of single mature native and ornamental trees amongst areas of managed grassland;
- Large country houses or halls and associated estate cottages form the main (often central) built elements; and
- Generally manicured appearance, which contrasts with surrounding more rugged types of landscape.

Sub-Type K3: Farmland

- Open, semi-improved pasture on shallow relief, which often consists of ridges and hollows;
- Dry stone walls, and some shard walls, built from local limestone or slate;
- Landscape peppered with vernacular farmsteads and small hamlets; and
- Strong recognisable pattern of enclosure.

Sub-Type K4: Moorland Ridge

- Series of prominent knolls and ridges;
- Predominant land cover is grassland and moorland (generally open grazing common); and
- Strong pattern of stone walls forming field boundaries.

CURRENT AND FUTURE LANDSCAPE CHANGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Forces for Change

Past Landscape Changes

Observable changes in the past include:

- Improvement of pasture leading to marked difference between enclosed fields and open moor;
- Introduction of a network of small tracks between settlements with the only major change over time being one of surface improvement;
- Large scale tree planting – coniferous woods making up Grizedale Forest, other plantations and individual specimen trees within parkland; and
- Amalgamation of farming businesses and associated selling up of farm assets creating more homogenous landscapes that are less distinct and less typical of the locality.

Current Landscape Condition

The overall condition of the Low Fell Landscape Character Type is considered to be good. There is rich biodiversity within the large areas of semi-natural and coniferous woodland (much of which is on ancient woodland sites) and patchwork of rough grassland, semi-improved pasture, small broadleaved and coniferous copses, rock outcrops, heathland, tarns and becks, small wetlands, mires and bracken. The landscape pattern of dry stone walls (with a predominance of local limestone and slate) is strong. Parkland and designed landscapes are generally in good condition though there is a need to plan for long term replacement of trees. In places, there is evidence of decline of stone walls and occasional loss of hedgerow field boundaries.

Future Landscape Changes and Opportunities

In the short term (5 years) it is likely that there will be continued positive changes in the form of improvements in biodiversity within forestry plantations. Where possible, natural regeneration and planting of broadleaves is being introduced to improve species diversity and landscape quality. On- going management of key SSSIs and other areas designated for nature conservation purposes. Opening up of key views to facilitate a better understanding and appreciation of the landscape.

Negative changes are likely to include spread of bracken where grazing is lost, increasing traffic on small roads and pressure on sensitive habitats from increased access. Stone walls, hedge banks and have historically been managed with support from agri-environment grants. Changes in the grant regimes may result in changes in management. A590 trunk road upgrading damaging the topography of the landscape and further eroding tranquillity through increased traffic noise.

Longer-term changes (20+ years) will be dependent on prevailing incentives and policies and it is therefore challenging to be prescriptive. The Lake District National Park Management Plan will provide a key tool in managing change and ensuring a positive future for the area. Potential longer-term changes and key opportunities within Landscape Character Type K: Low Fell are outlined below:

- *Agricultural Change and Land Management* - Changes to agri-environment grants could result in important landscape features that make up this distinct landscape being lost or falling into disrepair, such as stone walls, hedge banks and pollards. Neglect of hedges around enclosed land could reduce the potential landscape and wildlife benefits in many places, leading to substitution by fences. Managing the transition between the end of one agri-environment scheme and another is important. Increased farm sizes may increase the demand for new large agricultural buildings and associated development affecting key views. Achieving sustainable grazing levels will be critical to maintaining the higher ground within the Low Fell. Where grazing activity is reduced, it is likely that there will be a spread of bracken. The changing nature and economics of forestry in the long term could impact on significant parts of the Low Fell through increased or decreased timber production. Small-scale coniferous forestation could change the character and nature of the landscape.
- *Climate Change* - Climate change may have a variety of potential impacts on the designed landscape (a key feature within this landscape type) and retaining the historical integrity of some landscapes may be difficult to achieve over the long

TYPE K: LOW FELL

term. Increasing storm events and flash flooding may cause erosion of valley streams. Changes in temperatures may result in an increase in alien species, with water courses serving to rapidly distribute seed and plant material throughout catchments. It is also possible that climate change will change the temperature of key lakes, increasing eutrophication and putting pressure on niche fish species such as Arctic Char;

- *Development* – This Landscape Character Type is adjacent to some of the largest towns within this part of the Lake District and therefore will be directly affected by increasing pressure for residential and other town related developments. Recreational developments and associated pressures such as car parking and transport may erode some of the key attributes found within this landscape type, including the network of minor roads and tracks. Also, increased tourism and growth in holiday development and second homes, will potentially lead to land originally under pasture or part of large estates being sold for development. There will also be continued pressure for access to water for recreational pursuits potentially creating pollution, loss of tranquillity and pressure on sensitive habitats. Increased pressure for new residential development may also lead to a loss of vernacular buildings and loss of local distinctiveness.

Sensitivities and Capacity for Change

The diverse range of ecological habitats within this Landscape Character Type (including rough grassland, heathland, moorland, tarns and becks, woodland, wetland, and mires, contribute to overall high ecological sensitivity. Visual sensitivity is also considered to be high, as a result of the strong sense of openness throughout and strong intervisibility with adjacent Landscape Character Types. Coupled with this, a generally rural character predominates throughout, alongside a largely dispersed settlement pattern, including ancient enclosures. Patches of parkland contribute to high cultural sensitivity. Overall, the Low Fell Landscape Character Type is considered to have limited capacity to accommodate new development without compromising key characteristics.

The cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure within this Landscape Character Type are variable. The effects are likely to be significant around Claife Heights and close to the Park boundary around Blawith, Furness Fell, Cartmel, High Newton and Kendal. Elsewhere there is likely to be an intermediate effect.⁴⁸

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

The overall strategy for this Landscape Character Type, is to conserve and enhance the interface between settlements and their surrounding landscape and support the conservation of key landscape features within the wider landscape. The key landscape elements include, semi-natural woodland, heathland, parkland, stone walls,

⁴⁸ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

TYPE K: LOW FELL

hedges, hedge banks and other boundary features. Specific guidelines include:

Physical Character

- **Target** agri-environment scheme support for heathland, small woods, parkland, and boundary features which strengthen the landscape pattern within this landscape type;
- **Manage** and maintain hedgerows.
- **Encourage** the creation of new native woodland at the edges of existing unsympathetic conifer plantations that is informed by an understanding of past land use; and
- **Encourage** the creation of new woodland along appropriate riverbanks, which complements existing woodland pattern.

Ecological Character

- **Encourage** the creation of new native woodland to infill between existing woods where this would be of landscape or wildlife benefit;
- **Encourage** traditional coppicing to continue.
- **Control** deer browsing and grazing pressures; and
- **Expand** and **enhance** semi natural habitats between designated sites to improve the existing ecological network and increase robustness to climate change.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** lakeshore and inland villas, and their associated parkland.
- **Conserve** the archaeological and historic environment in order to maintain a rich cultural landscape;
- **Prepare** and **plan for** the potential impacts of economic change in order to minimise negative landscape impacts within the landscape;
- **Ensure** incremental change in and around towns/villages conserves the distinctive qualities of the towns/villages and the wider landscape;
- **Conserve** the distinctive vernacular character of traditional farmhouses, farmsteads and hamlets;
- **Target** agri-environment payments and use development control to protect and maintain landscape features and support the maintenance and restoration of vernacular buildings and the careful design of new buildings;
- **Conserve** traditional boundary features, including dry stone walls and shard/flag fences; and
- **Conserve** and **enhance** yards and spaces in villages.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Conserve** the rural character of the existing network of small lanes and roads;
- **Protect** uncluttered skylines and key views to and from the area from tall, vertical and large-scale developments that may erode the undeveloped character of the area. The effects are likely to be significant around Claife Heights and close to the Park boundary around Blawith, Furness Fell, Cartmel, High Newton and Kendal.

In addition to the above, selected guidelines for managing landscape change within specific Sub-Types include:

Sub-Type K1: Forest

Physical Character

- **Enhance** existing patterns of woodland cover and maintain a range of woodland types;
- **Encourage** natural regeneration and replanting with native broadleaves

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Encourage** the retention of smaller, irregular fields and the maintenance of the boundaries and field furniture;
- **Manage** the impacts of large/ frequent recreation events or regular visits in order to reduce the pressure on sensitive landscape characteristics and features.

Sub-Type K2: Parkland

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** parkland boundaries and key relict parkland features that provide time depth within the modern landscape;
- **Actively manage** the non-native and exotic species to maintain and sustain their historic character;
- **Conserve** the character of parks and designed landscapes by replacement planting. This should reflect the balance of plant species in the original design. Consideration should be given to complete felling and replacement of features such as avenues which have become over-mature; and
- **Identify** and plan for potential impacts of climate change on designed landscape in order to better understand ability to adapt, for example succession planning for parkland trees.

Sub-Type K3: Farmland

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **repair** the intact network of limestone and slate walls in order to strengthen and maintain landscape pattern.

Sub-Type K4: Moorland Ridge

Ecological Character

- **Sustain** an appropriate grazing regime in order to manage the mosaic of habitats and contribute to the biodiversity value and perception of naturalness.

TYPE L: LOW FELL FRINGE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

The Low Fell Fringe Landscape Character Type is situated at the south eastern edge of the National Park (to the north of Grange-over-Sands and Ulverston) and extends outside the Park to the south, forming its setting in some places. It adjoins the lower edges of the adjacent Low Fell Landscape Character Type (K) and is bordered to by a combination of Coastal Limestone (C) and Coastal Margins (B) and Lowland Valley (M) Landscape Character Types.⁴⁹

Definitive Attributes

- Forms the sloping topographical transition between High Fells to the north and lower coastal landscapes to the south;
- Open views across transitional landscapes into the Fells and out to the Coast.
- Underlain by a range of different geology types including siltstones and sandstones;
- Dissected by a series of small valleys;
- Combination of rolling, undulating or plateau farmland; and
- Recognisable landscape pattern of stone walls at field boundaries.

⁴⁹ This Landscape Character Type is identified within the Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance as Landscape Character Type 11: Upland Fringes (11a Foothills). For further information on this Landscape Character Type outside the boundaries of the National Park, refer to [Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit](#), Cumbria County Council (March 2011).

TYPE L: LOW FELL FRINGE



1. Aerial Photograph showing typical field pattern and the transition between High Fells and lower coastal landscapes © *GeoPerspectives*
2. Combination of rolling, undulating or plateau farmland with recognisable landscape pattern of stone walls at field boundaries © *CSA*



Physical Character

The Low Fell Fringe Landscape Character Type forms transitional landscape between the higher land of the Low Fell to the north and the predominantly lower Coastal Landscape Character Types to the south. The landscape is underlain by a varying geology and exhibits a combination of rolling, undulating or plateau, predominantly pastoral farmland.

The Low Fell Fringe is characterised by rolling, hilly or plateau farmland and moorland. Most farmland has a pattern of large fields, with a strong presence of field boundary and in field trees or clumps of trees. On the higher ground, stone walls are the dominant field boundary, with hedges featuring at the lower levels.

Small valleys with semi-natural woodland are a feature in some parts, with numerous streams and minor rivers dissecting the valleys evident from a distance, by the growth of trees along their banks. Minor roads serve scattered farms and hamlets.

Ecological Character

The ecological character of this Landscape Character Type is dominated by improved or semi-improved pastoral farmland, with areas of ancient and deciduous woodland. Small areas of moorland form a patchwork with the woodlands. In some areas scrub encroachment provides cover, refuge and feeding grounds for many species of fauna. In general, this landscape has been depleted by agricultural improvements, however there are still several small ecologically rich sites (designated as SSSIs). Many of these are wetlands or woodlands.

Roudsea Woods and Roudsea Mosses are located within this Landscape Character Type. Woodland is exceptionally diverse, lying almost at sea level and dominated by ash and pedunculate oak. To the eastern side of this site, several estuarine raised bogs/ mosses form extensive areas of lowland raised mire, with waterlogged peat-filled hollows scattered amongst them and the adjacent woodland. The importance of Roudsea Wood and Mosses is reflected in its designation as SSSI and SAC. It is also managed as a National Nature Reserve. Outley Mosses are also located within this Landscape Character Type and designated as a SSSI.

Cultural and Historical Character

The character of this area is distinguished by a patchwork of enclosure types and ancient woodland which occurs across the area, but is concentrated in the eastern half, between the Rusland Valley and Lake Windermere. The field boundaries are a mix of stone walls, generally in the more upland and anciently enclosed land, and hedgerows, in the low-lying planned and ancient enclosures. Settlement comprises a number of small nucleated villages, particularly around Haverthwaite and Backbarrow, where iron and gunpowder industries developed harnessing the energy of the River Leven for blast furnaces and gunpowder works, such as Low Wood Gunpowder Works. This was followed by the construction of the railway and the growth of this area as a key tourist route into the Lake District. Dispersed settlement within the landscape is based on the pattern of former single ancient farms.

This Type can be found in the following World Heritage Site Valleys:

- [Coniston](#)

TYPE L: LOW FELL FRINGE

- [Windermere](#)

Settlement and Building Character

- Settlement pattern is dominated by a series of scattered farmsteads and houses, within a network of minor roads;
- Main settlements of Backbarrow and Haverthwaite/Low Wood, clustered along the Leven Valley, with the influence of past industry still contributing significant features, from individual sites to the associated workers housing; and
- Stone used for buildings reflects the underlying geology, with rubble slatestone, quarry waste, dressed sandstone and limestone, but also the very distinctive yellow Furness brickwork of the railway buildings between Lakeside and Haverthwaite.

Landscape Character Sub-Types

There are no Sub-Types within the Low Fell Fringe Landscape Character Type.

CURRENT AND FUTURE LANDSCAPE CHANGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Forces for Change

Past Landscape Changes

Observable changes in the past include:

- Continued use and management of ancient woodland;
- Development of industries such as iron smelting;
- Settlement around industrial workings;
- Construction of the railway and expansion of the tourism industry; and
- Construction of the A590 High and Low Newton Bypass.

Current Landscape Condition

The overall condition of the Low Fell Fringe Landscape Character Type is considered to be good. Full hedgerows or intact stone walls often frame fields, and pockets of woodland, scrub and mosses enrich the ecology and visual interest of this Landscape Character Type. There are some elements showing signs of decline in some places, particularly the loss or poor maintenance of stone wall and hedgerow field boundaries. Overall, however, there is a predominantly intact landscape pattern throughout this Landscape Character Type.

Future Landscape Changes and Opportunities

In the short term (5 years) it is likely that there will be continued positive changes in the form of continuing management of ancient woodlands and increasing focus on biodiversity. An increasing recognition of the cultural landscape and an integration of tourism with sustainable management of the landscape (local foods/traditional breeds/working woodlands).

Negative changes are likely to include increasing pressure from traffic and large numbers of people in the small villages and rural lanes. Other associated pressures such as increasing air and water pollution would result in a deteriorating quality of environment. Any additional A590 trunk road upgrading could damage the topography of the landscape and further erode tranquillity through increased traffic noise.

Longer-term changes (20+ years) will be dependent on prevailing incentives and policies and it is therefore challenging to be prescriptive. The Lake District National Park Management Plan will provide a key tool in managing change and ensuring a positive future for the area. Potential longer-term changes and key opportunities within Landscape Character Type L: Low Fell Fringe are outlined below:

- *Agricultural Change and Land Management* - Being a predominantly pastoral landscape lying between High Fell and Lowland, this area is vulnerable to significant changes in agriculture eroding its distinct characteristics. The impact of the amalgamation of farming businesses and associated selling up of farm assets may not be immediately obvious in these transition zones. However, the effect may be to create more homogenous landscapes that are less distinct and less typical of the locality, with a loss of key landscape features.
- *Climate Change* - The small valleys of this landscape type with their numerous streams and minor rivers could be widely affected by increased rainfall and flood events. The water courses may become overwhelmed during periods of heavy rainfall causing erosion and damage to farmland and settlements. There may also be an increase in alien species as a result of climate change, where water courses will serve to rapidly distribute seed and plant material throughout catchments and could be a significant challenge to manage.
- *Development* - With a trend towards increased farm size, there may be an increased demand for new large agricultural buildings and associated development that could have significant local impacts. These new buildings and changes in traditional building use into residential or tourist related infrastructure could affect key views. Communication developments could also lead to increased visual clutter from mobile phone masts and inappropriately designed transport schemes. There could also be increased pressure for further road upgrading and infrastructure such as signage, lighting and safety barriers.

Sensitivities and Capacity for change

Patches of semi-improved pasture, small river valleys and ancient deciduous woodlands contribute to a generally moderate ecological sensitivity within the Low Fell Fringe Landscape Character Type. A recognisable pattern of stone walls at field boundaries and small nucleated settlements contribute to cultural sensitivity within the Type. Overall, intervisibility with adjacent Landscape Character Types is strong. The Low Fell Fringe Landscape Character Type is judged to have limited to moderate

TYPE L: LOW FELL FRINGE

capacity to accommodate change without compromising key characteristics.

The cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure within this Landscape Character Type are likely to be significant for the majority of areas (including around Allithwaite, Backbarrow and to the north of Ulverston). To the south of Ulverston the effects are likely to be intermediate.⁵⁰

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

The overall management strategy for this Landscape Character Type, is to mitigate the effect of the changing rural economy through the conservation and enhancement of natural and cultural landscape through the retention and active management of positive landscape attributes. These are the traditional farm buildings, boundary features, rural road network and ancient woodland and other nature conservation assets. Specific guidelines include:

Physical Character

- **Target** agri-environment scheme support for traditional farm building conservation, boundary features such as hedgerows and stone walls and nature conservation areas such as small ancient woodlands; and
- **Encourage** the creation of new woodland along appropriate riverbanks, which complements existing woodland pattern.

Ecological Character

- **Encourage** habitat linkage to increase robustness to climate change; and
- **Manage** water courses to prevent the spread of alien species in order to retain species diversity and landscape character.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Provide** appropriate support for rural businesses planning on diversifying or changing the scale of their operation, in order to minimise the potential impacts on the key landscape characteristics within this landscape type;
- Target agri-environment schemes and use development control to protect and maintain landscape features and support the maintenance and restoration of vernacular buildings and the careful design of new buildings.
- **Ensure** new significant developments retain the distinct landscape and vernacular building characteristics of this area.

⁵⁰ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

TYPE L: LOW FELL FRINGE

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Conserve** the rural character of the existing road network.

TYPE M: LOWLAND VALLEY

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

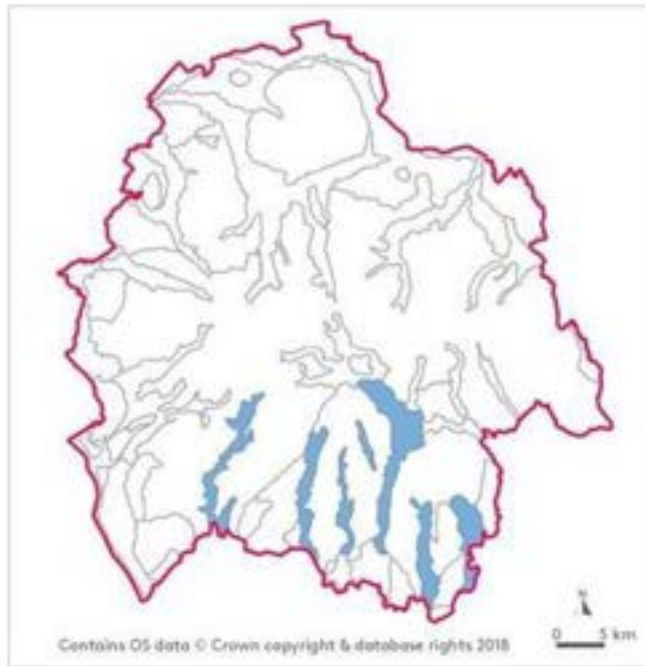
Location

The Lowland Valley Landscape Character Type encompasses a series of river valleys (including the Lyth, Winster, Windermere, Rusland, Crake and Duddon), which cut through the Low Fell (Type K), Coastal Limestone (C) and Rugged/Craggy Volcanic High Fell (F) in the southern part of the Lake District National Park.

Definitive Attributes

- Broad U-shaped valleys, containing either a river or lake on the valley floor;
- Valleys cut through adjacent Low Fell and Coastal Limestone Landscape Character Types;
- Underlying geology varies, but predominantly consists of mudstones and siltstones from the Silurian Age;
- Panoramic and framed views of classic upland skylines and iconic lakes.
- Mixed landcover of pastoral grazing land and woodland (predominantly broadleaved) adjacent to the rivers or lakes;
- Parkland is a key feature (exhibiting mature landscape structure) along dale sides and around lakeshores; and
- Pattern of stone walls and hedgerows delineating field boundaries.

TYPE M: LOWLAND VALLEY



1. Underlying geology varies, but predominantly consists of Mudstones and Siltstones
© NTPL/Paul Harris
2. Aerial Photograph showing typical field pattern
© GeoPerspectives
3. Broad valleys, containing a river or lake on the valley floor
© NTPL/Paul Harris



Physical Character

The Lowland Valleys cut through surrounding Low Fell and Coastal Limestones and contain either a main river or lake within their floodplains or valley bottoms. Similarly to the adjacent Low Fell Landscape Character Type (K), the underlying geology of these valleys predominantly consists of siltstones and sandstones from the Silurian Age. Two of the Lake District's largest lakes, Windermere and Coniston, occur in this landscape type.

The topography varies from flat shallow valley bottoms to classic U-shaped glaciated valley sides, which provide a relatively strong sense of enclosure. The adjacent fells contrast with the valleys, forming distinctive skylines and a strong upland character in places. Extensive lake view. Floodplains are wide and criss crossed with a regular pattern of drainage ditches and levees crossing improved and semi improved pasture.

Land cover is mixed, but predominantly pastoral with plantations, scrub and other woodland often present along the valley sides and bottom. Woodland tends to be broadleaved with some coppice and mixed plantations. Hedges, replaced in areas by fences, form most field boundaries with frequent hedgerow trees and occasional stone walls. Parkland and designed landscapes with mature open-grown trees is also a key feature within several of the Lowland Valleys.

Ecological Character

The ecological character of this Landscape Character Type is dominated by the priority habitats associated with the numerous rivers, streams and lakes, including floodplain grazing marsh, low fen, purple grass and several areas of lowland raised bogs. On the valley sides deciduous woodland occurs. The Lyth and Winster valleys have extensive areas of floodplain grazing marsh with a strong tradition of orchards.

Situated in a glacial valley between Windermere and Coniston Water, Esthwaite Lake, a nutrient-rich (mesotrophic) lake is one of the best examples of its kind in England and Wales. The complex of associated open water, fen and grassland communities support a characteristically rich flora. The lake supports a rich assemblage of pondweed species and is designated SSSI. The site was designated as the only known locality in England and Wales for the slender naiad, although this has not been recorded since 1982. The nationally scarce elongated sedge has also been recorded here. In addition to its botanical interest Esthwaite Water is of local importance for breeding birds. Great crested grebe, teal, tufted duck, red breasted merganser, pochard and sedge warbler all breed regularly and for this reason the lake is designated as a Ramsar Site.

Rusland Moss NNR, at the head of the Rusland Valley forms the northern part of one of the few remaining raised mires (peat bogs) in the country. Sphagnum (bog) mosses dominate the uncut areas of the moss, with purple moor grass in the cut areas and fen and carr woodland at the edges. Lake Windermere provides a valuable ecological habitat for Arctic Char. Considerable ecological interest is provided by hydroseres – which display a range of plant communities from underwater plants to reedy fringes to wet woodland to dry oak woods.

The Duddon Valley is flanked by extensive deciduous woodlands, including the Duddon Valley Woodlands SSSI on the steep western slopes. These woodlands are one of the largest series of woodlands in the Lake District and form a mosaic with flushes, mires, streams and acid grassland habitats. Woodland communities vary and include upland oak-birch woodland, sessile oak, small leaved lime, sycamore, hazel and holly. Dodgson Wood, located above the eastern shores of Coniston Water, supports a rich and

diverse composition of woodland types. Low Wray Bay and Nichols Moss are also both designated as SSSIs. Low Wray Bay is the type site for the Windermere Interstadial (a warmer interlude during a period of cold climate) and Nichols Moss is a raised peat bog, which is surrounded by dense Scots Pine and birch woodland.

Cultural and Historical Character

Evidence of early land use can be found with numerous archaeological remains of prehistoric settlement, agriculture, burial and ritual monuments. This Landscape Character Type includes the relatively extensive formal lakeshore landscapes of managed grassland, broadleaf woodland, parkland and designed landscapes, as well as some farmland and sheltered valley landscapes. The lake shores have grand and ornate buildings, gardens and estates created by the influx of wealth from Victorian industrialists. The agro-pastoral agricultural connection is strong in the valleys.

The valleys are generally without lakes and consist of planned enclosure land, with some intakes and inbye (particularly in Dunnerdale). There are also a number of large 18th and 19th century villas and country houses within the valleys, many with extensive landscaped gardens. The area is well wooded, and many of the trees are exotic species, introduced for their perceived landscape value. An ancient open field system is however still present at the southern end of Coniston Lake.

There are a number of single ancient farms within the area, which form the basis of the dispersed settlement pattern, which is still evident in the landscape today.

Despite the concentrations of settlements and key towns and villages of Bowness, Broughton in Furness, Coniston, Hawkshead and Windermere, the Landscape Character Type maintains a sense of remoteness in many parts.

This Type can be found in the following World Heritage Site Valleys:

- [Coniston](#)
- [Duddon](#)
- [Windermere](#)

Development, Settlement and Building Character

- Although grouped within one Landscape Character Type, these linear valleys contrast with each other in terms of historical development, as well as the character of buildings and settlements;
- Includes the largest urban area in the Lake District, with Windermere and Bowness on Windermere, as well as the large village of Coniston;
- Building materials include rubble and limewashed render, Silurian slatestones, green slate, smooth stucco render, neatly laid quarry waste and dressed sandstone detailing. Victorian buildings display quality timberwork, especially with ornate, fretted bargeboards;
- Coniston Water and Lake Windermere were major transport routes for bulky products in the pre- railway period, which influenced the lakeshore settlements and prosperity of the area. Post-railway, both settlements experienced significant Victorian expansion, related to local industries and tourism;

TYPE M: LOWLAND VALLEY

- Bowness on Windermere, originally a compact settlement grouped around a large medieval church, is a designated Conservation Area. In contrast, Windermere was a creation of railway tourism after the mid-19th century;
- The historic cores of Bowness, Broughton-in-Furness, Hawkshead and Windermere have been designated as a Conservation Areas to protect special architectural and historic interest.
- The north west shoreline and in particular the eastern shoreline of Lake Windermere has a very distinctive character, with numerous grand villas and houses, set within well matured landscaped and wooded parkland and gardens. This is also seen, albeit to a lesser extent, around Coniston. Key villas, such as Belle Isle, Wray Castle, Storrs Hall and Broadleys punctuate the shoreline and are very fine nationally important exemplars of Georgian, Regency, Classical Revival, Victorian Gothic and Arts and Crafts architecture.
- The parklands, gardens and pleasure gardens of Wray Castle have particular significance.
- Victorian architecture, with confident use of local imported materials, not only dominates the urban settlements, but also adds significantly to the valleys and lakeshore character;
- Outside the main settlements, the pattern is predominantly dispersed, consisting of isolated farmsteads, houses, small groups and hamlets; and

Landscape Character Sub-Types

Four Sub-Types have been identified within the overall Landscape Character Type. The attributes that define the character of these Sub-Types are generally typical of the Lowland Valley Landscape Character Type. Specific characteristics that are unique to these Sub-Types are:

Sub-Type M1: Valley Floor with Lake

- Wide, predominantly flat valley floor and floodplain; and
- Landscape is dominated by lake.

Sub-Type M2: Valley Floor with River Floodplain

- Wide, predominantly flat valley floor and floodplain; and
- Broad or narrow river dominates landscape unless screened by trees.

Sub-Type M3: Enclosed Valley Side

- Sloping landscape forming the lower valley sides; and
- Visible network of walls of hedgerows delineate field boundaries.

Sub-Type M4: Open Valley Side

- Sloping to higher plateau-shaped topography, where lower valley sides meet adjacent Low Fell Landscape Character Types; and
- General absence of boundaries dividing fields.

CURRENT AND FUTURE LANDSCAPE CHANGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Forces for Change

Past Landscape Changes

Observable changes in the past include:

- Glacial activity that created distinct valley form;
- Development of a wide range of aquatic habitats and species associated with the streams, rivers and lakes;
- Deterioration of water quality in Esthwaite Lake;
- Loss of reedbeds on Windermere, increased algal blooms on Windermere;
- Deterioration of lakeshore vegetation associated with increased access and development;
- Spread of development through valleys associated with cotton and tourism industry in the 19th century;
- Managed and formal landscapes have developed along many lakeshores associated with large houses and estates; and
- Marked change in the type of recreational use of Windermere and increased use through the winter months.

Current Landscape Condition

The overall condition of the Lowland Valley Landscape Character Type is considered to be good, with its high water quality (within numerous rivers, streams and lakes) and rich biodiversity in woodland and other habitats. The largely intact, strong pattern of hedgerows and stone walls delineating field boundaries and mature, well maintained parkland landscapes further contribute to the predominantly good condition of landscapes within this Landscape Character Type. Occasionally there is evidence of decline in the management of stone walls and hedgerows.

Future Landscape Changes and Opportunities

In the short term (5 years) it is likely that there will be continued positive changes in the form of stricter controls managing recreation in and around the major lakes. A relatively buoyant economy leading to a regeneration of key buildings and recreational

facilities following a significant period of decline. The

introduction of the Water Framework Directive should begin to have an impact on the quality of water within the main catchments.

Negative changes are likely to include increased pressure for new residential buildings and energy and communication developments. There is also likely to be a continuing pressure for access to water for recreational pursuits.

Longer-term changes (20+ years) will be dependent on prevailing incentives and policies and it is therefore challenging to be prescriptive. The Lake District National Park Management Plan will provide a key tool in managing change and ensuring a positive future for the area. Potential longer-term changes and key opportunities within Landscape Character Type M: Lowland Valley are outlined below:

- *Agricultural Change and Land Management* - The greatest change within this Landscape Character Type is likely to come from changing land use. With increased tourism and a growth in holiday developments and second homes, land originally under pasture may be sold for development. Large estates may be divided up into lots and sold off gradually reducing the unity of land management within the landscape and threatening the integrity of parkland landscapes. The Water Framework Directive should have a significant long term impact on improving the quality of water resources and their management within this Landscape Character Type. Changes in funding for drainage and the development of Drainage Management Boards may have an impact on seasonal flooding in the future.
- *Climate Change* - Climate change is already having a marked effect on the temperature of key lakes with measurements taken over the last sixteen years showing an average rise of four degrees. Temperature rise will increase eutrophication and put pressure on niche fish species such as Arctic Char. Increased storm events and rainfall is increasing the incidence of flooding. Floodplains could have a more active role in future flood management and areas of floodplain could become wetter for larger parts of the year.
- *Development* - Similar to changes in land use and management, development pressures may lead to a loss of vernacular buildings and reduction in use of local building materials. Communication developments may lead to increased visual clutter from mobile phone masts and inappropriately designed transport schemes. Flood management engineering could introduce new features that would need to be designed well within the landscape character.

Sensitivities and Capacity for Change

Ecological sensitivity within this Landscape Character Type is considered to be relatively high overall, resulting from a series of valuable habitats associated with the numerous rivers, streams and lakes. Cultural and historical sensitivity is also relatively high, resulting from the formal and designed lakeshore landscapes and single ancient farms. This Landscape Character Type is judged to have high visual sensitivity on account of the strong intervisibility with surrounding Low Fell, Low Fell Fringe and Coastal Limestone Landscape Character Types. Overall, the Lowland Valley Landscape Character Type is considered to have limited to moderate capacity to accommodate change without compromising key characteristics.

The cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure within this Landscape Character

Type are variable. Effects are likely to be of great significance at the southern end of the Winster Valley, with effects likely to be significant in the southern ends of the valleys close to the Park boundary. Further inland the effects are likely to be intermediate.⁵¹

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

The overall strategy for this Landscape Character Type is to conserve and enhance the wide variety of distinct landscape attributes through development control. Water quality and sustainable water and land use management should be a key priority. Specific guidelines include:

Physical Character

- **Ensure** effective catchment management to sustain water quality and improve flood management; and
- **Encourage** the creation of new woodland along appropriate riverbanks, which complements the existing woodland pattern.

Ecological Character

- Restore, enhance and create wetland habitats;
- **Target** agri-environment scheme support for management of broadleaved woodland, wetland, grazing marsh, pasture and meadow habitats and parkland;
- **Encourage** habitat linkage to increase robustness to climate change; and
- **Encourage** the creation of new orchards in the Lyth and Winster valleys.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Encourage** use of local materials and vernacular styles in developments to strengthen local character including simple rubble and limewashed render, Silurian slates, green slate, smooth stucco render, neatly laid quarry waste and dressed sandstone detailing and fretted timber bargeboards.
- **Ensure** new significant developments retain the distinct landscape characteristics of this area;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** the distinct pattern of stone walls and hedgerows delineating field boundaries in order to maintain landscape structure;
- **Target** agri-environment payments and use development control to protect and maintain landscape features and support the maintenance and restoration of vernacular buildings and the careful design of new buildings; and

⁵¹ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

TYPE M: LOWLAND VALLEY

- **Encourage** owners of designed landscapes to restore and maintain the integrity of the planting for the future, especially planning for the replacement of specimen trees, and to consider the effects of climate change in so doing;

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Maintain** open views of upland skylines and lake vistas.

In addition to the above, selected guidelines for managing landscape change within specific Sub-Types include:

Sub-Type M1: Valley Floor with Lake

Physical Character

- **Protect** water courses and lakes from diffuse and point source pollution to prevent damage of aquatic habitats and reduction of recreational and aesthetic enjoyment of the water environment;

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Encourage** sympathetic management of property adjacent to lakeshore to ensure conservation of distinctive local character and lakeshore vegetation.

Sub-Type M2: Valley Floor with River Floodplain

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Protect** and **conserve** vernacular bridges (especially packhorse bridges) in order to retain key historic features within the landscape.

Sub-Type M3: Enclosed Valley Side

Ecological Character

- **Encourage** sensitive management and restoration of wood pasture habitat.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Encourage** new development that reflects the scattered settlement pattern, use of vernacular building styles and locally appropriate building materials;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** boundary features; and
- **Prevent** woodland establishment on historically important enclosed valley sides.

Sub-Type M: Open Valley Side

Physical Character

- **Encourage** the creation of native woodland on valley sides and lower fells.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Control** development on open valley side encouraging scattered settlement pattern, use of vernacular building styles and locally appropriate building materials.

5 AREAS OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER

5.1 Introduction

This section presents descriptions and guidelines for geographically unique Areas of Distinctive Character defined within the National Park.

5.2 Area of Distinctive Character Descriptions and Guidelines

Character Assessment

For each Area of Distinctive Character, its boundaries are mapped (see Figure 3.5) and its character described under the following headings:

- Location – a short paragraph detailing location of the Area of Distinctive Character in relation to the National Park, World Heritage Site Valleys and key landscape features;
- Relevant Landscape Character Types – a bullet point list of the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) that underlie the Area of Distinctive Character;
- Distinctive Characteristics – a bullet point list of the main distinctive visible and non- visible experiential characteristics of the landscape that contribute to the area's distinctive character; and
- Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place - a summary description of the main locally distinctive characteristics and features that give the area its unique sense of place.

A table that cross references each Area of Distinctive Character to the relevant Landscape Character Types can be found in [Appendix E](#).

Landscape Evaluation

Each Area of Distinctive Character is evaluated as follows.

- Landscape Sensitivities – a bullet point list of the key positive attributes that are judged to be inherently sensitive; the inherent character of the Area of Distinctive Character would be changed if these attributes were lost or altered.
- Forces for Change – a bullet point list of forces for change specific to each Area of Distinctive Character.

Guidelines for Managing Landscape Change

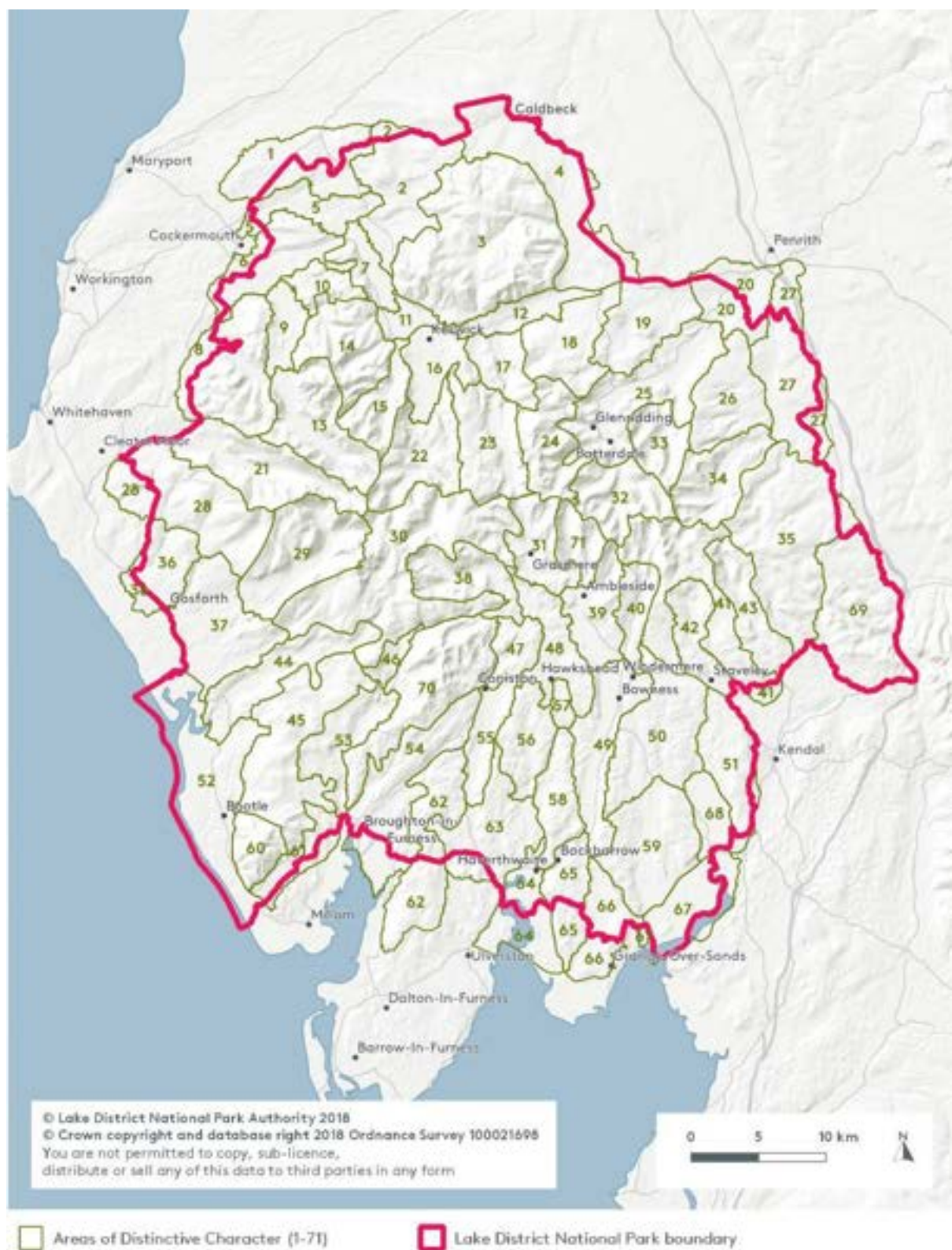
The guidelines comprise a bullet point list of specific guidelines for managing landscape change for each Area of Distinctive Character.

AREAS OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER

The following descriptions and guidelines for the Areas of Distinctive Character should be read in conjunction with the underlying Landscape Character Types set out in Section 4. The guidelines do not apply to areas of landscape outside the boundary of the Lake District National Park. Where relevant the Cumbria County Council or Arnside and Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty landscape character guidelines apply.

AREAS OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER

Figure 3.6 Areas of Distinctive Character



AREA 1: BLINDCRAKE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

Blindcrake Area of Distinctive Character is situated at the north western edge of the Lake District, to the northeast of Cockermouth and extends outside the northern boundary of the National Park, forming part of its setting. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Borrowdale & Bassenthwaite](#).

Relevant Landscape Character Types

- [Upland Limestone Farmland](#) (I); and
- [High Fell Fringe](#) (J).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Gently rolling upland pastoral farmland, of a high open nature, divided by a network of low hedgerows and well maintained limestone walls which follow the rising and falling topography;
- Network of narrow (often straight) road corridors, which are often lined with hedgerows or stone walls; and the straight corridor of the main (A595) Roman Road running across the centre of the area;
- Blindcrake is a unique linear settlement with a string of traditional rendered and limewashed farmhouses and stone barns lining the village street;
- The village green, specimen trees and some woodland add to the distinctive character of this historic village;
- Stretching back from the individual farms, the fossilised Medieval field strip pattern, later enclosed with hedges and a few stone walls, is undoubtedly the finest example of its type in the Lake District;
- Outcrop of Limestone crags and pavement at Clints Crag and Sunderland Heads dropping in tiers down towards Isel in the Derwent Valley;
- Dramatic open views southwards, with an intermediate backdrop of rising land of Setmurthy Common and more distant backdrop of High Fells further to the south, and the Solway Firth to the north;
- Although limestone is a predominant material for field walls, the traditional buildings use a variety of rubble stones, as well as limestone and sandstone; and
- Predominantly a tranquil area away from the A595 and A591 due to the absence of road, train and urban area noise and night time light pollution.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The predominant characteristic of this area is its high, open nature, with patchworks of muted and harmonious pasture fields, which are divided by a series of traditional limestone dry stone walls and mature hedgerows. The nature of the underlying topography creates a varied sense of enclosure and influences the nature and extent of views to adjacent areas of distinctive character. The southern boundary is partially delineated by the craggy outcrop of limestone at Clint Craggs, dropping in tiers down towards the wooded old Deer Park at Isel, in the Derwent Valley.

The landscape is cut by a number of straight, minor roads, which are often lined with hedgerows and have a rural and quiet character, in contrast with the main A595 road corridor, which introduces a source of noise and movement in the east of the area.

In this area, the most distinctive settlement is Blindcrake, which displays a former medieval linear village layout and field pattern. The former large open fields were subdivided into long, thin arable strips, running at right angles to the village street. Good visual evidence of medieval 'ridge and furrow' in most strips. Later enclosure with thorn hedges and a few stone walls has fossilised this historic landscape pattern and is perpetuated in the current fragmented arrangement of land ownership. The varying brightly coloured painted gables of many of the white lime-washed houses and other small buildings create a strong sense of local identity and recognisable sense of place. The village and field system have been designated a Conservation Area due to 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). In places, dramatic views southwards towards the imposing Higher Fells further contribute to this. The area is predominantly tranquil away from the A595 and A591. In close proximity to these roads, the sense of tranquillity is disturbed by traffic noise.

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Substantial network of hedgerows and stone walls, which are often poorly managed;
- Small-scale settlement pattern, which is vulnerable to potential expansions at the edges of villages, such as Blindcrake and Bewaldeth; and the introduction of large-scale buildings, or those which do not respect local vernacular building materials and character;
- Dramatic open views southwards towards imposing High Fells and northwards to the Solway Coast AONB and the Solway Firth;
- Small, species-rich patches of woodland, which provide a sense of enclosure;
- Predominantly rural nature of the road network, which is sensitive to potential increases in traffic volume and signage clutter; and
- Strong sense of tranquillity at distance from main road corridors.

AREA 1: BLINDCRAKE

- Significant sensitivity to the cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure⁵².

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Sustained pressure to develop wind turbines close to the National Park boundary leading to increased development of key skylines and views eroding valuable landscape quality.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** the network of hedgerows and limestone, dry stone walls which provide evidence of the medieval field system.

Ecological Character

- **Conserve** small, species-rich patches of woodland.

Cultural and Historic Character

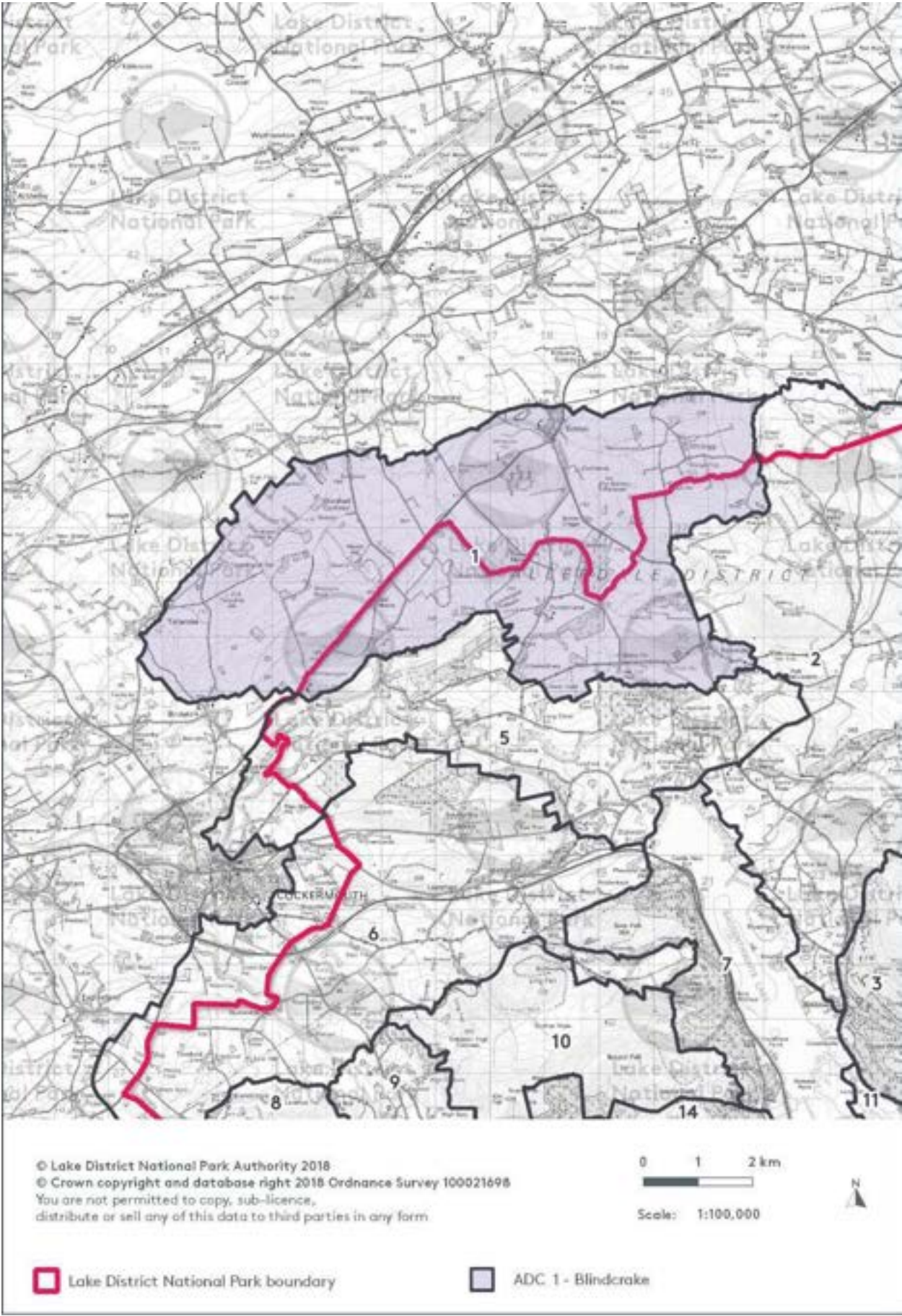
- **Conserve** the small-scale settlement pattern from significant large scale village edge development; and
- **Ensure** that large-scale buildings respect local vernacular building materials and character.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Conserve** the open character of the village green;
- **Protect** key open views in all directions, especially north towards the Solway Coast AONB/Solway Firth;
- **Conserve** the rural nature of the road network; and
- **Conserve** the predominantly strong sense of tranquillity throughout.

⁵² Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

AREA 1: BLINDCRAKE



AREA 2: BASSENTHWAITE & ULDALE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

Bassenthwaite and Uldale Area of Distinctive Character is situated in the north western corner of the Lake District National Park, to the north east of Bassenthwaite Lake. A small area extends outside the northern boundary of the National Park, forming part of its setting. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Borrowdale & Bassenthwaite](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4)

- [Rugged/Angular Slate High Fell](#) (G);
- [Upland Valley](#) (H);
- [Upland Limestone Farmland](#) (I); and
- [High Fell Fringe](#) (J).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Over Water nestled comfortably against a colourful backdrop of surrounding grass covered fells;
- Dominated to the south by the dramatic rising High Fell backdrop of the Skiddaw massif and Uldale Fells (forming part of this area) to the east, and Binsey Fell to the west, which provide strong recognisable sense of place and sense of enclosure;
- Distinctive topographical unit (rounded fell) of Binsey with a heather covered top to the east, rising to a height of 447m, affording significant 360 degree views;
- Relatively soft, rolling, pastoral landscape, with deciduous vegetation in woodland blocks, hedgerows and hedgerow trees;
- Strongly textured landscape, due to the pattern of a diversity of field sizes, dominated by hedgerows;
- The underlying geology of slates, mudstone and limestone is reflected in the variety of building materials used in the farmsteads, hamlets and villages;
- Uldale, an attractive village grouped around the cross-roads and village green, has a variety of buildings from rugged barns to formal 18th century houses, using rubble, sandstone, limestone, slate and render;
- Bassenthwaite has a tight, intimate character with older buildings using boulders, cobbles, various slates and render. Modern development has helped the sense of enclosure around the village green.

AREA 2: BASSENTHWAITE & ULDALE

- Strongly rural character with a noticeable sense of tranquillity and little traffic or tourist influence;
- Strong cultural associations with Sir Hugh Walpole's 'Herries Chronicle'.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This landscape comprises a relatively uniform mixture of smooth pasture fields, with regular blocks of woodland and mature hedgerows at field boundaries. In the north eastern corner of the area, Over Water, with its narrow fringe of surrounding shoreline wet grassland and woodland, sits comfortably within the surrounding landscape overlooking Uldale, Binsey and Aughertree Fells.

The dramatic rising High Fell backdrop of Skiddaw and Blencathra to the south and east of the area and the distinct topographical unit of Binsey to the west provides a strong sense of enclosure and dominate both immediate and longer views. From within the area, this backdrop provides instantly recognisable sense of place and orientation.

Bassenthwaite village to the north east of Bassenthwaite Lake has a village green and a mixture of traditional limewashed rendered houses and stone rubble barns, together with modern houses and extensions. A prominent late Victorian church with its tall, narrow spire lies alongside the A591, but the Norman church of St Bega, near the lakeshore is a more interesting landscape feature, as well as possessing a fine 12th and 13th century interior. The heather-topped, rounded Binsey Fell is a landmark feature, which affords panoramic views across surrounding landscape from its top.

The village of Uldale (another small nucleated settlement) overlooking the narrow corridor of the River Ellen to the west has a traditional rural feel, with a sense of isolation from the busier tourist areas associated with Bassenthwaite Lake to the south west. This historic village encompasses several traditional white, lime-washed buildings, with brightly coloured painted window frames, and has strong cultural associations with the writer Sir Hugh Walpole, who based several of his novels on Uldale. The area has a strong sense of tranquillity due to minimal sources of artificial noise and lack of major roads and developments. To the south of the area, sense of tranquillity is locally disturbed by the presence of the A591 and traffic noise on this busy trunk road.

'The possibility of getting off the beaten track, and the osprey at Bassenthwaite are highlights to our visit.'

Yearly visitor from London, 2007, Public Consultation Questionnaire

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Regular blocks of deciduous woodland, which provide a sense of enclosure and are sensitive to changes in agricultural practice;
- Mature hedgerow network which is also sensitive to agricultural changes;

AREA 2: BASSENTHWAITE & ULDALE

- Over Water, which is vulnerable to potential pollution from run-off associated with adjacent pastoral fields;
- Open views towards Skiddaw massif and the Uldale Fells, which are vulnerable to interruption from any potential vertical or tall built developments;
- Panoramic 360° views from the top of Binsey Fell which are vulnerable to interruption;
- Small-scale settlement pattern, which is sensitive to the introduction of large-scale buildings, or those which do not respect local vernacular building materials, scale and character; and
- Strongly rural character and associated rural road network, coupled with strong sense of tranquillity.
- Intermediate sensitivity to the cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure.⁵³

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Change in agri-environment payments having a knock on effect on both biodiversity and landscape character;
- Increased pressure from residential and tourist related developments affecting the quality of the landscape;
- Sustained pressure to develop wind farms leading to increased development of key skylines and views eroding valuable landscape quality;
- Loss of vernacular styles of building and use of inappropriate building materials resulting in the loss of local landscape characteristics; and
- Loss of traditional skills and a reduction in the use of appropriate local materials eroding distinct characteristics of the landscape.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** regular blocks of woodland, which provide a sense of enclosure; and

⁵³ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

AREA 2: BASSENTHWAITE & ULDALE

- **Protect** water bodies such as Over Water, which are vulnerable to potential pollution from run-off.

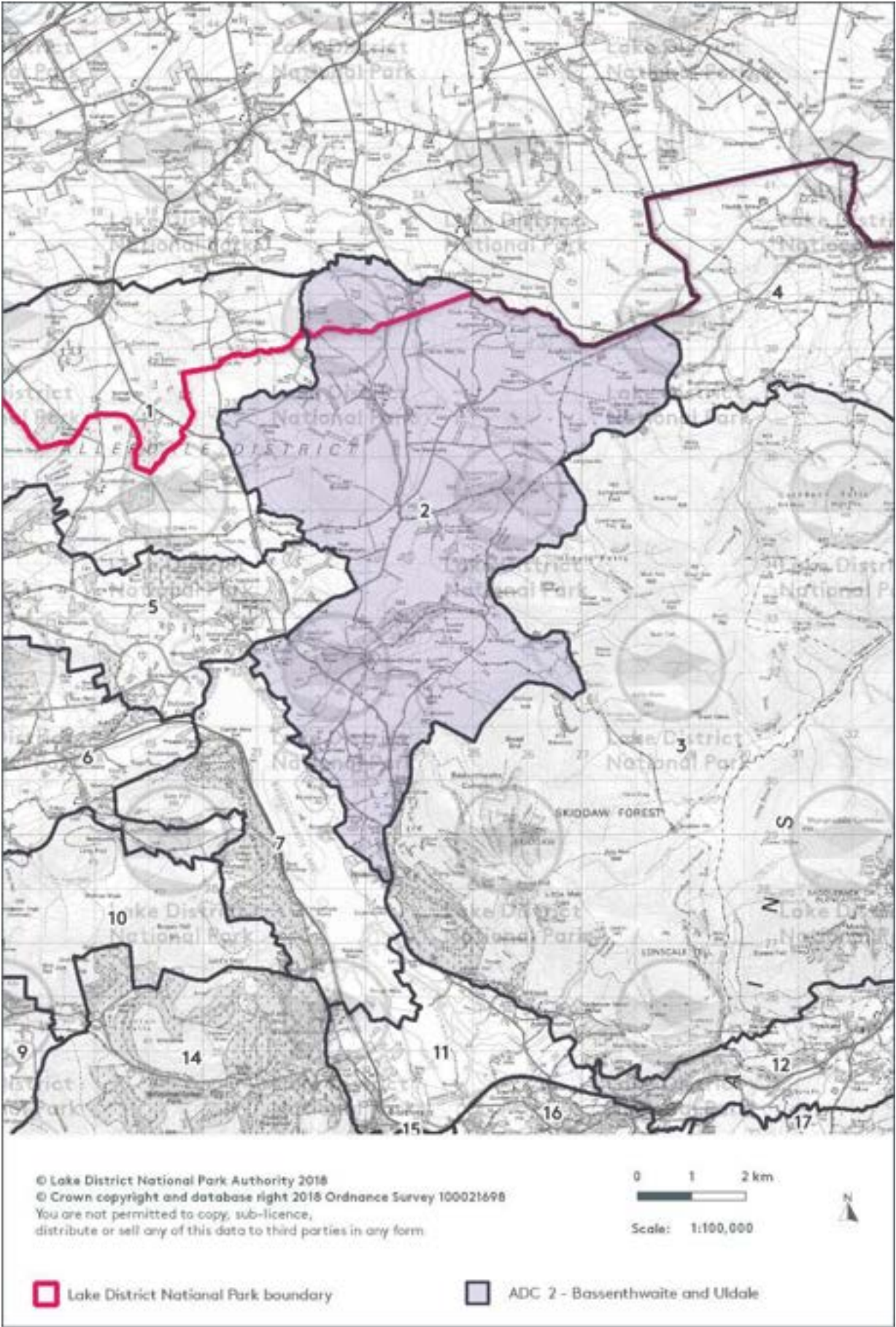
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** mature hedgerow network;
- **Protect** the small-scale settlement pattern from significant large -scale village edge development;
- **Ensure** new buildings are sensitively designed to respect local vernacular building materials, scale and character; and
- **Encourage** and support the conservation or restoration of existing historic building fabric and landscape features.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Conserve** uncluttered skylines and key open views towards Skiddaw massif and the Uldale Fells and panoramic views from the top of Binsey Fell;
- **Conserve** the open character of the village green; and
- **Conserve** rural character and associated rural road network; and
- **Protect** strong sense of tranquillity

AREA 2: BASSENTHWAITE & ULDALE



AREA 3: SKIDDAW & BLENCATHRA

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the north of the National Park, to the north east of Keswick. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Borrowdale & Bassenthwaite](#).

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4)

- [Rugged/Angular Slate High Fell](#) (G)
- [Upland Valley](#) (H)

Distinctive Characteristics

- Distinctive profiles of the hills are landmarks within views from a large area;
- The smooth texture of acid grassland, mixed with rougher heather moorland, blanket bog and juniper scrub, gives a seasonally-changing kaleidoscope of colours;
- Native broadleaved woodlands on Latrigg contribute to the complexity of pattern, texture and colours
- Sharp Edge on Blencathra is one of the Lake District's most challenging and exposed walking routes;
- Popular summits with many views of walkers on ridges against the skyline;
- A lack of built development makes the area feel extraordinarily remote and tranquil;
- A large-scale and open landscape, generally very simple in its form and appearance;
- Within plateau areas, rolling topography encloses views;
- From higher areas around the perimeter of the massif there are panoramic views in all directions;
- The striking rounded landform of this area, rising from surrounding flatter ground is one of the key defining features;
- Walls built from thin, angular pieces of Skiddaw rock slate; and
- Predominantly a very tranquil landscape due to the relative absence of dwellings, few sources of artificial noise and few obvious signs of human influence. The exception being the southern fell slopes facing the constant A66 traffic noise.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

With the exception of the summit crags, the texture of the landscape in this area is relatively smooth across moorland and common land. The weathering of the slate, the lack of stone walls or other structures and the low-growing nature of the vegetation give a distinctive smooth, rounded profile to the landform, which is in contrast to the more craggy appearance of the landscape in other parts of the Lake District. This sense of smoothness is enhanced by the uniform texture of the heather, grass, bracken and scree. The colour of the acid grassland, bracken, heather and other ground-cover vegetation varies throughout the year, giving a continually changing backdrop of greens, browns, gold and purples. Areas of woodland, now mostly coniferous, cloak the lower south-western slopes, with oak on Latrigg and remnant gill woodlands contributing different textures and splashes of seasonal colour.

The summit crags of Blencathra have very different qualities, being rocky and angular in appearance. Sharp Edge is one of the Lake District's most challenging walking/ scrambling routes, being a narrow ridge with steep drops down on either side. Walking it gives a sense of vulnerability and exposure, combined with exhilaration and a strong sense of being detached from the softer landscape below.

The area is unusual for its lack of built structures. There are few walls and other boundary features, and buildings are limited to the isolated bunkhouse at Back-o'-Skiddaw and properties in Mosedale. Nestled on the lower slopes of Skiddaw around Millbeck there is a significant group of late 18th century mill buildings. Millbeck Towers was a former carding mill. The only surfaced road is in Mosedale. This lack of development, combined with the enclosing effect of the rolling topography, which covers most of the area, makes this Area of Distinctive Character feel extraordinarily remote and tranquil away from the busy A66 road skirting the area to the south.

The lack of enclosure by walls, fences or vegetation gives the landscape a simple form, with a large scale and an open feel. From the higher slopes, there are magnificent views over long distances in all directions. To the north there are views across the Solway Firth to Scotland, to the west to the Derwent fells, to the south over Keswick and Derwentwater to the central fells and to the east over the Eden Valley to the Pennines.

At the large scale the summit area of Skiddaw is renowned for its periglacial features with good examples of stone stripes in the Skiddaw slate. The massif supports one of the largest areas of montane heath in the Lake District and one of the best examples of altitudinal transition from dwarf shrub heath to montane heath. One of the only two examples of relict oak woodland at its upper altitudinal limit is found at Young Wood in Mungrisedale. This area also has a rich archaeological record of mining sites.

The distinctive profile of Skiddaw, with its rounded summits, and the classic saddle-shape of Blencathra are important local landmarks, contributing to the sense of place for much of the northern Lake District and the latter is an important landmark on the approaches to the Lake District from the east.

‘Skiddaw and its outliers rise magnificently across the wide Vale of Keswick in a beautifully- symmetrical arrangement as if posed for a family photography. The old man himself is the central figure at the back of the group, with the five old children in a line before him (the favourite son, Little Man, being placed nearest) and the two younger at the front.’

For those who Love the Hills – Quotations from Wainwright’s Pictorial Guides to the Lakeland Fells,

Dyer1994.40 (v Skiddaw 4)

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Undeveloped, rural character with associated strong sense of isolation and tranquillity;
- Predominantly open character, with a lack of enclosure and built development;
- Strong visual relationship and intervisibility with adjacent settlements, including Keswick, Threlkeld and Mungrisdale and neighbouring ADCs;
- Rich archaeological record of mining sites, which are sensitive to disturbance from walkers and visitors; and
- Open, uninterrupted and undeveloped skylines, which are sensitive to any potential vertical or large- scale developments (with an intermediate sensitivity to cumulative impacts of such development)⁵⁴.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- High stocking rates in the past have lead to the replacement of heather habitat with acid grassland. Since foot and mouth disease in 2001 significant reductions in stocking rates on parts of the massif have yielded improvements in the vegetation mosaic;
- Reduction in non-native conifer woodland and planting of native woodland on gill sides enhancing habitat diversity and visual interest;
- High rainfall events could cause erosion from run off and flash flooding;
- Continued grazing within Young Wood preventing regeneration and leading to its continued decline; and

⁵⁴ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

AREA 3: SKIDDAW & BLENCATHRA

- Pressure for large-scale renewable energy developments on the skyline and surrounding area.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Restore** areas identified as being at high risk of erosion through development of appropriate vegetation, including broadleaved woodland, and restore woodland more widely in order to protect Bassenthwaite Lake from siltation and manage flood water more effectively.

Ecological Character

- **Restore** and **enhance** upland vegetation types, which are vulnerable to overgrazing, inappropriate burning and recreational pressures.

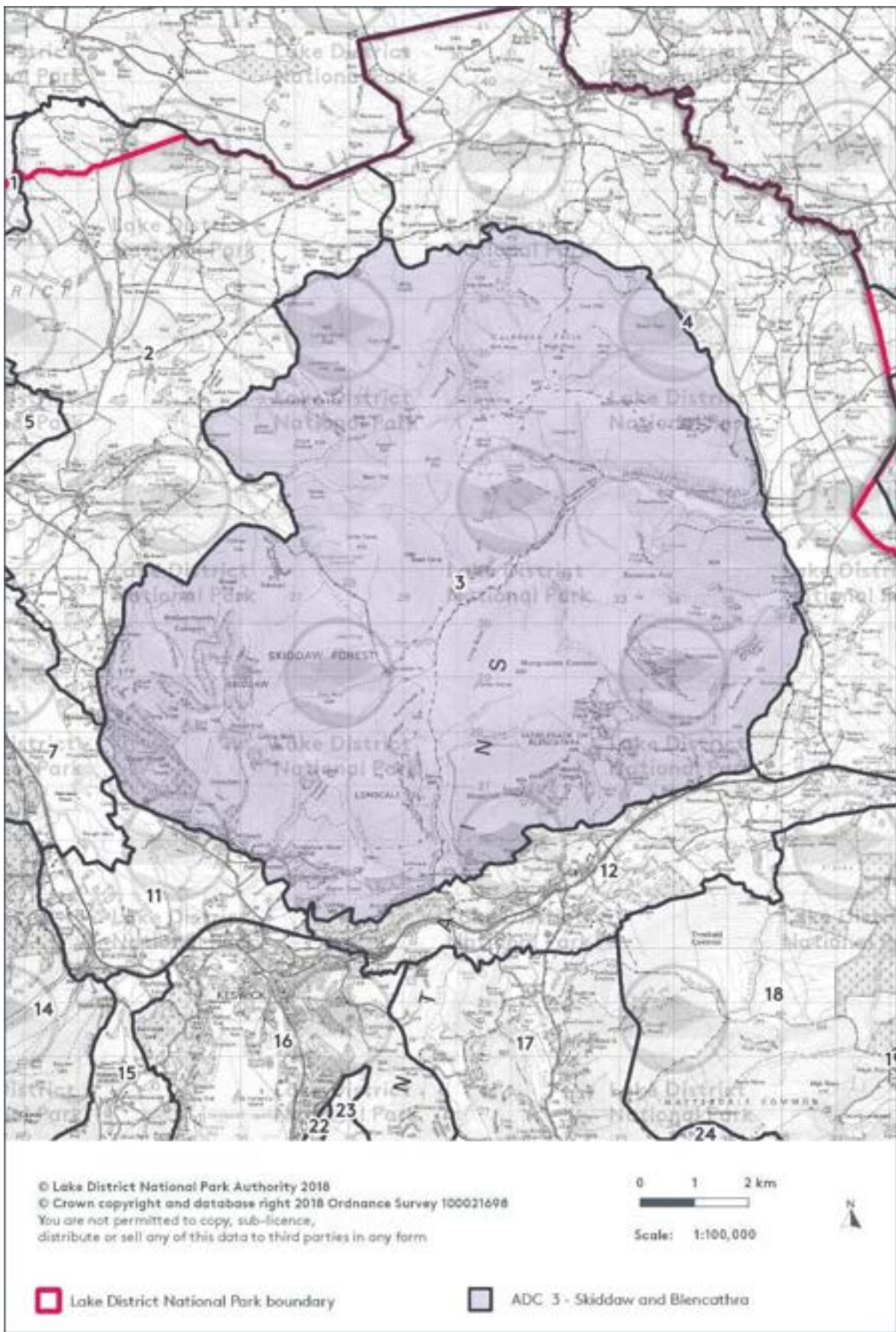
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Manage** risk of fire to minimise potential damage; and
- **Conserve** mining and other archaeological sites.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Retain** the undeveloped, rural character of the area with its associated strong sense of isolation and tranquillity;
- **Reduce** noise pollution from the A66 and **ensure** no further upgrading;
- **Conserve** the open character, with a lack of enclosure and absence of built development;
- **Protect** dramatic uncluttered open views to and from the fells, including towards the Pennines from interruption from tall vertical or large-scale developments; and
- **Maintain** the strong visual relationship and intervisibility with adjacent settlements, including Keswick, Threlkeld and Mungrisdale.

AREA 3: SKIDDAW & BLENCATHRA



AREA 4: MUNGRISEDAL & CALDBECK

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

Mungrisdale and Caldbeck Area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the northeast of the Lake District National Park, curving around the north eastern flanks of Skiddaw massif. The ADC extends beyond the Park boundary and forms part of the its setting. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Borrowdale & Bassenthwaite](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section

- [Upland Limestone Farmland](#) (I)
- [High Fell Fringe](#) (J)

Distinctive Characteristics

- Patchwork of predominantly pastoral fields, within the shadow of the dramatic bulk of Blencathra;
- Dramatic views of the surrounding sweeping fells, the saddleback shape of Blencathra, which provides a strong sense of distant enclosure;
- Clear views towards the North Pennines, with Greystoke Forest a dominant ridge feature;
- Range of intricate mineral mines scattered within the landscape;
- Craggy outcrops such as Naddles Crag with Eycott Hill, offering extensive views over the surrounding landscape;
- The Rivers Caldew and Glenderamackin
- Traditional buildings make a significant contribution to the character of this area, and there are striking contrasts between the main settlements;
- Caldbeck has a distinctive air of former prosperity and confidence, reflected in the quality of buildings. The medieval church is one of the finest in the Lake District. Buildings of the 18th and 19th centuries use the distinctive local pale pink, purple or buff sandstones for walling and door/window surrounds;
- Hesketh Newmarket 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;
- Mungrisdale and Mosedale have a more rugged, agricultural character, through the use of dark Skiddaw slates, cobbles, rubble and red sandstone detailing;

AREA 4: MUNGRISEDAL & CALDBECK

- Hedge field boundaries give way to limestone dry stone walls travelling east through the area past Hesket Newmarket;
- Several narrow rural roads without boundaries provide a sense of openness and clear views; and
- Predominantly a tranquil landscape due to the relative absence of large settlements, minimal sources of artificial noise and absence of main roads.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

Mungrisdale and Caldbeck's distinctiveness lies within its unique, stark contrast between the rich patchwork of rolling pastoral farmland (delineated by hedges, dry stone walls or fences), small clumps of woodland, wildflower meadows (near Hesket Newmarket) and heather moorland to the north, and vernacular hamlets and buildings scattered throughout. The towering bulk of Blencathra and the Skiddaw massif, forming the western edge of the area, provides a strong and dramatic sense of enclosure, whilst patches of woodland frame short distance views. The only elements disturbing the overall harmony of the landscape are relatively discordant patches of coniferous woodland.

The constant presence of the Skiddaw and Blencathra Range, towering over the area, contributes to a strongly recognisable sense of place and provides orientation. Clear views to the north Pennines, with Greystoke Forest providing a dominant feature on the horizon are also characteristic of this area.

The large village of Caldbeck has a very strong identity. It reflects a prosperous past through agriculture, mining, quarrying and in particular, water-powered industries, e.g., corn milling, textiles, bobbins and a brewery. Nearby is Hesket Newmarket, a much more formal arrangement of buildings, with an overall sense of unity and coherence. Both villages fit comfortably within the gentle rolling farmland landscape.

Other than the sense of enclosure provided by Skiddaw and Blencathra to the west, there is a generally strong sense of openness within the area, facilitating extensive views to adjacent sweeping fells. From higher points (such as Priest's Brow), towards the north of the area, the intrinsic landscape mosaic of fields area can be admired, with views northwards towards the Solway Estuary, and Scotland. From the eastern slopes of Blencathra uninterrupted views across the Greystoke ridge to the gentle Eden Valley and distant North Pennines provide a rich contrast.

Eycott Hill, to the south of the area, offers stunning views of the surrounding landscape, including the magnificent Skiddaw massif in the west, framing Glenderamackin Valley; the distinctive round shapes of Great Mell Fell and Little Mell Fell to the south, Threlkeld and Matterdale Commons to the south west and the more treed, rolling landscape to the east which is reminiscent of the Pennines. An absence of main roads contributes to the overall sense of tranquillity within this area, which is relatively strong, despite the presence of small hamlets and villages.

'These places [Caldbeck Fell Mines], for so long scenes of great activity, have today the sad desolation of death about them, but Nature is a great healer, given time, and traces of many former workings have disappeared except for the adits to the old levels.'

For those who Love the Hills – Quotations from Wainwright's Pictorial Guides to the Lakeland Fells,

Dyer1994.54 (v High Pike 3)

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Dramatic, open views to and from the surrounding sweeping fells and the saddleback shape of Blencathra, which provide a strong sense of distant enclosure and are highly vulnerable to interruption by tall vertical or large-scale development;
- Mineral mines scattered across the landscape, which are sensitive to disturbance from walkers and visitors;
- Network of rural roads, which are vulnerable to increases in traffic volume and frequency;
- Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout the area; and
- Small-scale and contained settlement pattern, represented by the hamlets of Caldbeck and Heskett Newmarket, which are sensitive to the introduction of large-scale buildings, or those which do not respect local vernacular building materials, scale and character.
- Intermediate sensitivity to the cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure.⁵⁵

Forces for Change

The forces for change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above.

⁵⁵ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

AREA 4: MUNGRISEDAL & CALDBECK

Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Conserve** the matrix of pasture, woodland, meadow and heather.

Ecological Character

- **Conserve** and **manage** heather moorland.

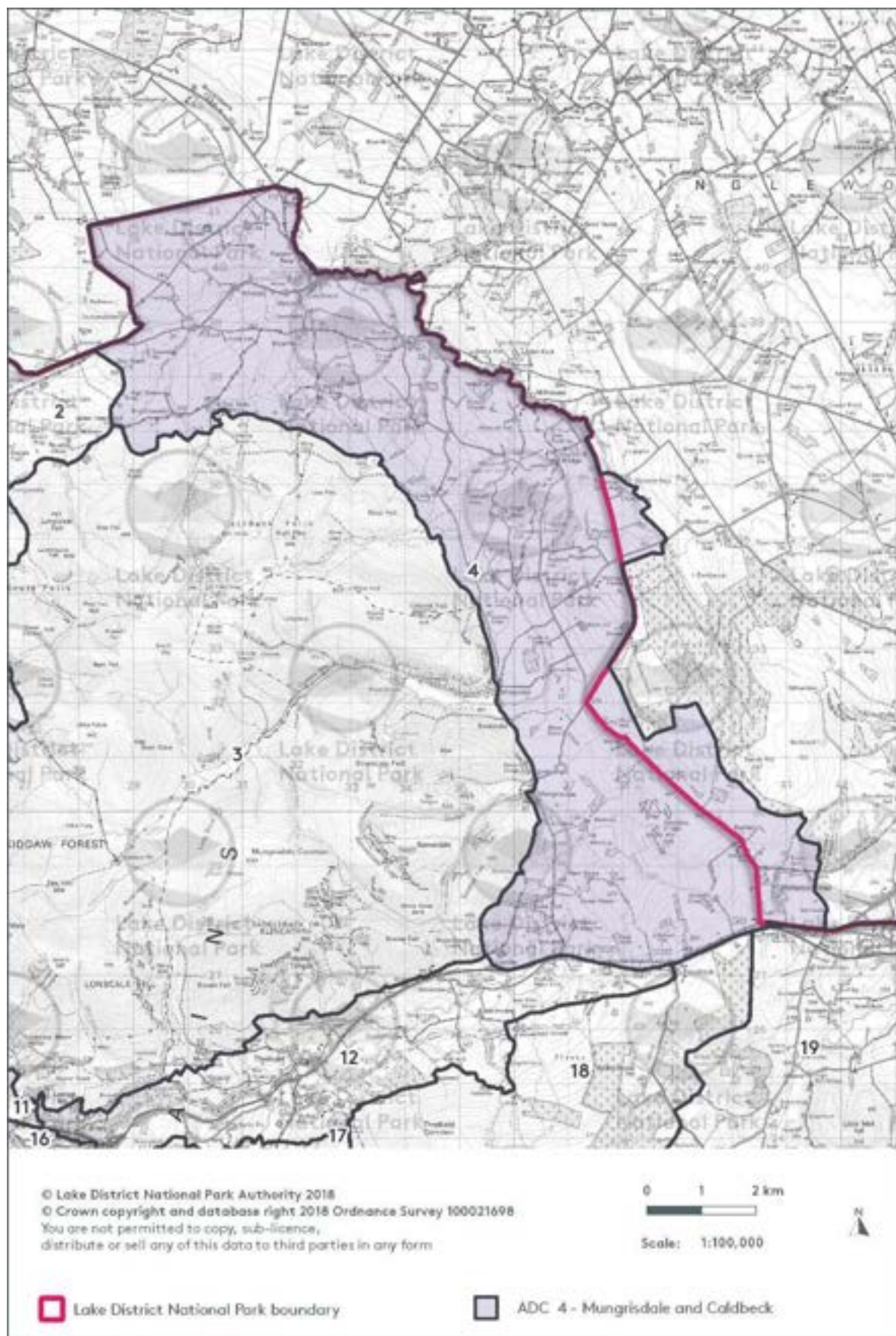
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** mineral mines scattered across the landscape, which are sensitive to disturbance from walkers and visitors;
- **Retain** small-scale and contained settlement pattern, represented by the hamlets of Caldbeck and Hesket Newmarket;
- **Ensure** that new developments and large-scale buildings respect or strengthen local vernacular building materials (including red sandstone) and character;
- **Maintain** and **restore** the hedges and dry stone walls; and
- **Encourage** and **support** the conservation or restoration of existing historic building fabric (e.g. fenestration) and landscape features (e.g. traditional paving, boundary treatments), where appropriate.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Protect** dramatic, open views to and from the surrounding sweeping fells and the saddleback shape of Blencathra from interruption from tall vertical or large-scale developments;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** the network of rural roads by resisting excessive signage;
- **Conserve** the strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout the area; and
- **Conserve** the open character of the village greens.

AREA 4: MUNGRISEDALE & CALDBECK



AREA 5: DERWENT VALLEY

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

The Derwent Valley is situated at the northern edge of the Lake District National Park and flows from the northern end of Bassenthwaite Lake in the east towards the northern edges of Cockermouth in the west. A small area extends outside the northern boundary of the National Park, forming part of its setting. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Borrowdale & Bassenthwaite](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section

- [Upland Valley](#) (H); and
- [High Fell Fringe](#) (J).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Strong recognisable sense of place provided by the imposing rising backdrop of the high horizons of Whinlatter and Grizedale Pike to the south (with Broom Fell and Kirk Fell in the foreground) and the Skiddaw massif to the east;
- Sinuous, meandering path of the River Derwent, within its adjacent relatively wide floodplain, running from the northern end of Bassenthwaite towards Cockermouth in the west;
- Medium-scale patchwork of relatively regular, lush green, pasture fields divided by a combination of low trimmed hedges and mature hedgerows often with hedgerow trees (which are sometimes veteran) and some walls;
- Mature parkland landscape with a distinctive combination of single parkland trees within fields and mature Oak avenues lining road corridors create a green canopy in spring and summer;
- Large grand buildings (such as Isel, Higham and Armathwaite Halls), neatly presented estate cottages and a harmonious combination of mature parkland trees set within organised parkland contributes to an organised character and reflecting the neighbouring limestone geology.
- Sense of enclosure provided by regular-sided patches and belts of mixed woodland, interspersed within the pasture fields; and
- Predominantly a tranquil landscape in the central and eastern part of the area (at distance from the edge of Cockermouth) due to the relative absence of settlements minimal sources of artificial noise and absence of main roads.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The wide and meandering River Derwent flows through the landscape set within a predominantly flat floodplain of pasture fields and a patchwork of other wetland habitats, with land sloping up quickly to Setmurthy on the south and more gently to the north. At the eastern end of the area, the river joins Bassenthwaite Lake and is crossed by the B5291 road, marking the point at which the river becomes a corridor feature.

Adjacent to the river, a network of relatively regular-shaped medium-scale pasture fields lines the corridor, which are divided by a combination of mature hedgerows and stone walls, with small broadleaved woodlands. Longer distance views to imposing rising backdrop of the high horizons of Whinlatter and Grizedale Pike to the south (with Broom Fell and Kirk Fell in the foreground) and the Skiddaw massif to the east provide strong recognisable sense of place and distant sense of enclosure. From several locations, views are more restricted to the immediate river corridor. The snaking network of minor roads tends to follow the course of the river, with a main crossing at Kirk Hill on a humpbacked stone bridge. In places the road corridors are lined with mature oak avenues, the canopies of which extend to form a green umbrella cover.

One of the key distinguishing characteristics of this landscape is the presence of estate parkland. The designed nature of the landscapes associated with large grand buildings such as Isel Hall with its prominent fortified tower, early 19th century Higham Hall and late Victorian Armathwaite Hall, neatly presented estate cottages and a harmonious combination of mature parkland trees set within parkland contributes to an organised character, which contrasts with adjacent High Fell Fringe landscapes.

The medieval deer parks at Isel Hall and Isel Old Park are now predominantly replanted with coniferous woodland, introducing an element of discord in an otherwise harmonious landscape. Overall, there is strong visual coherence and unity in terms of colour and texture.

The area has a strong sense of tranquillity towards the centre and eastern half. This is due to a relative absence of settlements, minimal sources of artificial noise and absence of main roads. Sense of tranquillity is slightly disturbed in the west by the visibility of the edge of Cockermouth and increased night time light pollution.

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Open views to Whinlatter and Grizedale Pike to the south (with Broom Fell and Kirk Fell in the foreground), which are sensitive to interruption by vertical or large-scale development;
- River Derwent and its adjacent floodplain habitats, which are vulnerable to pollution from run-off associated with adjacent pasture fields;

AREA 5: DERWENT VALLEY

- Network of mature hedgerows and stone walls which provide enclosure and are sensitive to changes in farming practice, potentially resulting in lack of maintenance;
- Veteran field and hedgerow trees that are recognisable landscape features;
- Patches of woodland, which provide a sense of enclosure and are also provide valuable ecological habitats;
- Distinctive historic halls, which are symbiotically linked with the parkland landscapes that surround them; and
- Parkland sensitive to changes in agricultural practice and lack of succession planning for mature trees.
- Intermediate sensitivity to the cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure.⁵⁶

Forces for Change

The forces for change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Encourage** reversion of coniferous woodland to broadleaved, especially on old deer park sites;
- **Maintain** the sense of enclosure provided by regular-sided patches and belts of mixed woodland, interspersed within the pasture fields;

Ecological Character

- **Conserve** the River Derwent and its adjacent floodplain habitats;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** patches of broadleaved woodland, which provide a sense of enclosure and are also provide valuable ecological habitats;
- **Encourage** sensitive succession planting for areas of parkland and estate landscapes;

⁵⁶ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

AREA 5: DERWENT VALLEY

- **Protect** distinctive historic halls, which are symbiotically linked with the parkland landscapes that surround them;

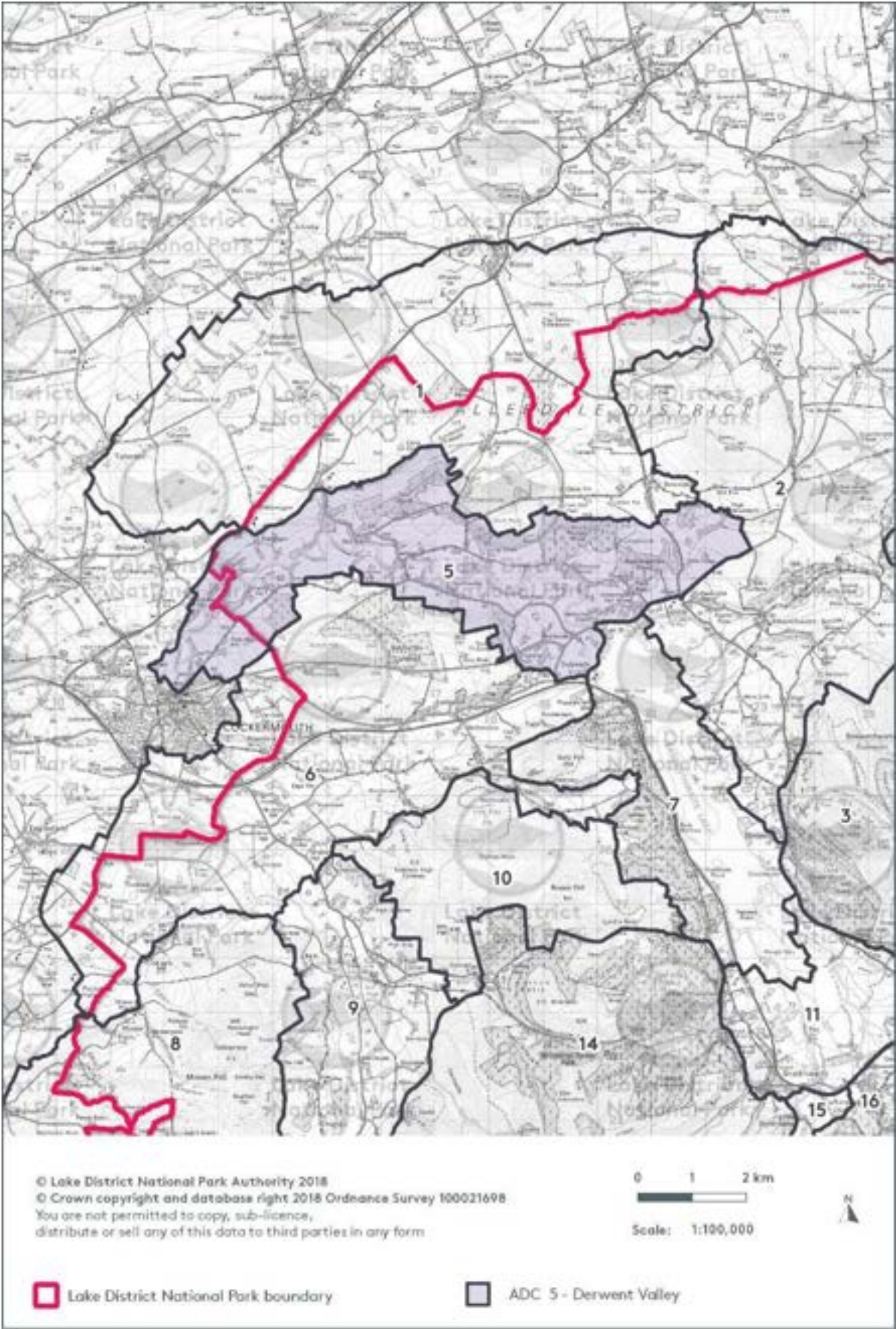
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Encourage** the conservation and restoration of historic buildings and landscape features.
- **Conserve** and **maintain** the network of mature hedgerows and vernacular stone walls;
- **Conserve** veteran field and hedgerow trees that are recognisable landscape features.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Protect** open views to Whinlatter and Grizedale Pike to the south (with Broom Fell and Kirk Fell in the foreground) from interruption from tall vertical or large-scale developments.

AREA 5: DERWENT VALLEY



AREA 6: SETMURTHY COMMON & EMBLETON

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

Setmurthy Common and Embleton Area of Distinctive Character is situated at the north eastern edge of the Lake District National Park, directly to the east of Cockermouth. A small area extends outside the northern boundary of the National Park, forming part of its setting. It is in World Heritage Site Valleys: [Borrowdale & Bassenthwaite](#) and [Buttermere](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section

- [Upland Valley](#) (H)
- [High Fell Fringe](#) (J).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Contained, broad, dome-shaped hill, accommodating Setmurthy Common (also known as Watch Hill), punctuated with angular plantation woodlands;
- The south and east of the area is flatter and more open and is dominated by views of Skiddaw;
- Relatively large fields enclosed predominately with fences and hedges, many of which are in poor condition;
- Scattered farmsteads with a range of building styles;
- Embleton is a linear village, stretching along the former main road to west Cumbria. The distinctive grey micro-granite from the large village quarry is used on 19th century buildings;
- Framed views into and across the meandering Derwent Valley to the north and southwards towards the dramatic High Fell backdrop of Grizedale Pike and Whinlatter (which provides a distant sense of enclosure);
- Predominantly pastoral landscape, encompassing a series of regular pastoral fields, with a combination of hedges and stone walls at field boundaries; and
- Predominantly a tranquil landscape away from the edge of Cockermouth and the A66 where the sense of tranquillity is disturbed by traffic noise along this busy road.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The combination of the underlying dome-shaped topography of Setmurthy Common (also known as Watch Hill) with several angular blocks of plantation, coniferous woodland, imparts a sense of regularity and dominance over adjacent pastoral farmland.

The higher nature of this land facilitates long-distance framed views northwards across the meandering course of the Derwent corridor, and southwards towards an imposing High Fell backdrop.

Towards the centre of the area, the small linear settlement of Embleton follows a minor road corridor; to the north of the busier A66 (the latter introduces a source of noise and movement). The former Keswick to Cockermouth railway, now the A66 road, has left its mark on the area, with well-built station buildings still surviving.

Features such as the remains of a stone circle to the west of Big Wood and in contrast, Cockermouth golf course to the north west of Embleton, provide variety and interest. The somewhat discordant character of this area is a result of the combination of coniferous and mixed woodland and rough pasture fields.

Along the A66 corridor, particularly close to Cockermouth, the landscape is heavily influenced by the constant traffic noise along this busy road. Over the summit from the A66 corridor and away from Cockermouth, the area has a strong sense of tranquillity, due to the general absence of settlement.

'Open vistas of mountains and farmland.

The dramatic view along the A66 towards Keswick, which is available for everyone to see.'

Local Resident, 2007

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Small-scale and intimate settlement pattern, consisting of farmsteads and the small, linear settlement of Embleton, which is vulnerable to the introduction of large-scale buildings, or those which do not respect existing scale and character;
- Framed views northwards into the Derwent Valley, that are sensitive to interruption by vertical or large-scale developments, significant sensitivity to the cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure⁵⁷;
- Open views and strong intervisibility with Skiddaw, Grizedale Pike and Whinlatter to the south and east. These are vulnerable to interruption by vertical or large-scale developments; and

⁵⁷ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

AREA 6: SETMURTHY COMMON & EMBLETON

- Network of mature hedgerows and vernacular stone walls at field boundaries, which provide enclosure and are vulnerable to changes in agricultural practices.

Forces for Change

The forces for change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Maintain** the open character of Setmurthy Common

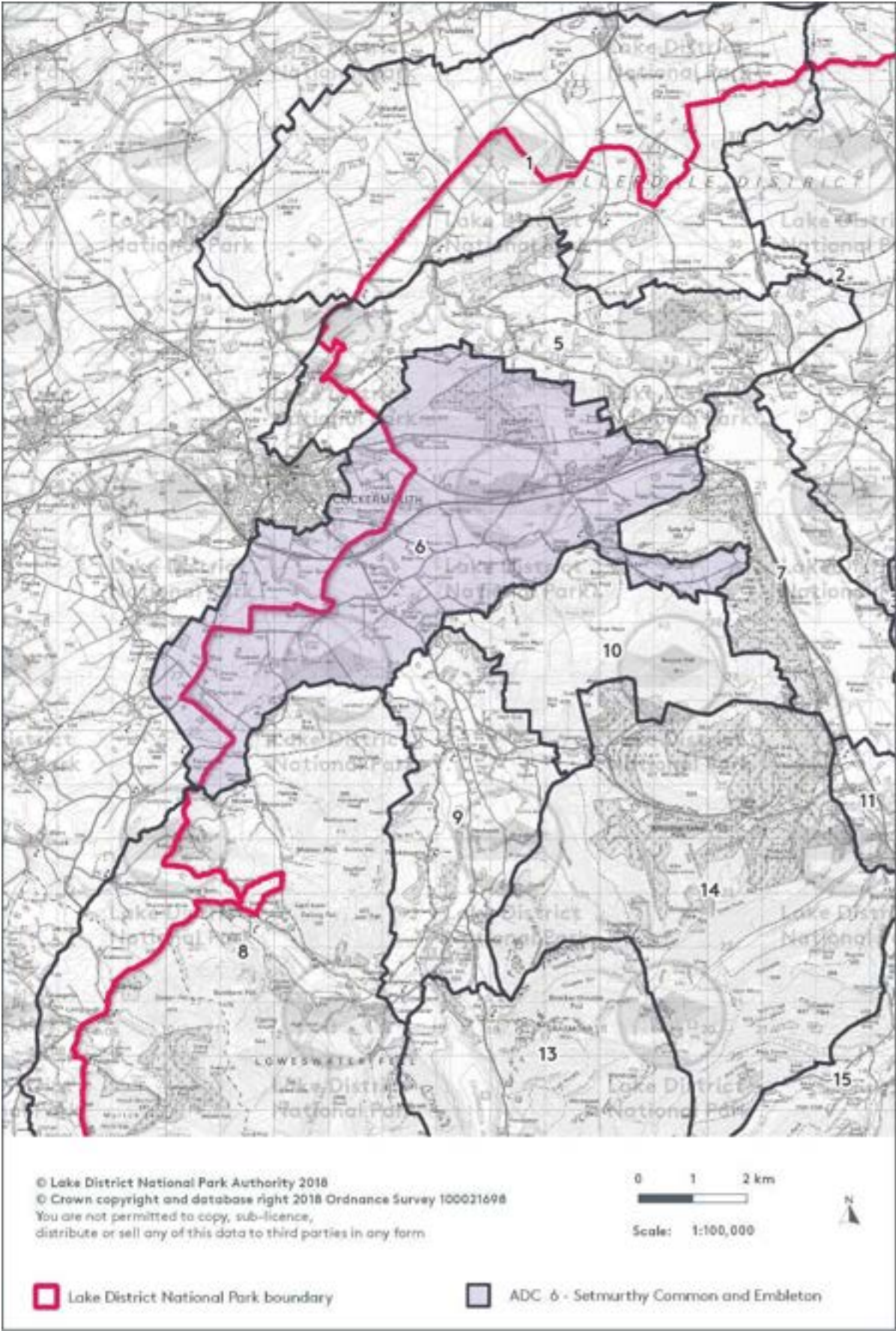
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Retain** small-scale and intimate settlement pattern, consisting of farmsteads and the small, linear settlement of Embleton;
- **Ensure** new large-scale buildings designed appropriately to respect local vernacular building form, setting and materials;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** existing mature hedgerow and stone wall network and **encourage** re- instatement of redundant hedge lines; and
- **Encourage** and **support** the conservation or restoration of existing historic building fabric (e.g. fenestration) and landscape features (e.g. traditional paving, boundary treatments) where appropriate.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Protect** framed views northwards into the Derwent Valley and maintain open views and strong intervisibility with Skiddaw, Grizedale Pike and Whinlatter to the south and east from interruption from tall vertical or large-scale developments.

AREA 6: SETMURTHY COMMON & EMBLETON



AREA 7: BASSENTHWAITE LAKE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

Bassenthwaite Lake is situated to the north west of Keswick and east of Cockermouth, towards the north eastern corner of the Lake District National Park. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Borrowdale & Bassenthwaite](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section

- [Rugged/Angular Slate High Fell](#) (G)
- [Upland Valley](#) (H).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Bassenthwaite Lake, with its sinuous eastern edges, and western woodland-clad sides, is overlooked by the dramatic towering dome-shaped profile of Ullock Pike and Skiddaw to the east;
- Bassenthwaite Lake, with its well-preserved patchwork of shoreline habitats, is set within a wider, broad upland valley with steeply sloping dale sides and heather on Barf on the west;
- Absence of development along the lakeshore;
- Mature woodland on the north and east shores;
- Vast expanse of grey water contrasts with the dark greens of coniferous woodland within Wythop Wood, Thornwaite Forest and Dodd Wood;
- Strong visual contrasts, with weather affecting the feel and appearance of the lake resulting in the sun casting shadows; with the surrounding High Fells, reflecting in the lake on clear days;
- Shore path along the eastern edge, provides a number of access points to the Lake, in contrast to the western edge which is inaccessible due to the A66;
- Distinctive area of accessible woodland clumps and parkland at Mirehouse on eastern shore, with many veteran and mature broadleaved trees and close associations with the romantic movement; and
- Predominantly a tranquil landscape away from the A66 and A591 main road corridors.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

Bassenthwaite Lake (one of the largest waterbodies in the Lake District and national nature reserve) sits within a broad upland, glacially-eroded valley context, with steep high fell sides of Ullock Pike and Skiddaw to the east and Grizedale Pike and Lord's Seat to the west. These landforms create a strong sense of containment within close proximity to the Lake and contribute to strong recognisable sense of place. There is a clear sense of land dropping gently from Skiddaw massif and draining away towards the coast.

The dramatic, yet simple contrasts, both in colour (between the dark greens and browns of mainly coniferous woodland-clad dale sides, with seasonal splashes of colour where broadleaves occur and views of areas of heather higher on Skiddaw, and the blue-grey lake) and shape (the broad flat dale floor and steep, angular dale sides) contribute to the distinctive appearance of this area. Sunlight can have a dramatic effect on this landscape, casting shadows over the lake from the adjacent higher fells and making the relatively shallow water of the lake glisten and sparkle. On clear, calm days, the reflection of Skiddaw in the background, with Ullock Pike in the foreground is striking (particularly in winter when the peaks are often snow-capped).

Dramatic views across the Lake from all sides, and towards large-scale coniferous plantations on slopes of Whinlatter and Wythop to the west and at Dodd Wood on the east, further contribute to recognisable sense of place and distinctive character. The eastern shore of Bassenthwaite Lake is disturbed by A66 noise; otherwise the ADC is predominantly tranquil.

A distinctive and accessible area of parkland with many veteran and mature trees and patches of broadleaved woodland along eastern shore is associated with Mirehouse, an estate that dates from 1666, with important literary connections with the Romantic Movement, including Thomas Carlyle and Tennyson. Armathwaite Hall at the northern end of the Bassenthwaite has ornamental parkland and traces of ancient farms. Armathwaite was identified as one of four viewing stations around Bassenthwaite by Thomas West, 1778.

During spring and summer, the flowers and meadows, often found in small nature reserves, contribute a range of colours and visual interest to the character of this area. The overall strong sense of tranquillity is locally disturbed along the A66 and A591 road corridors by the constant traffic noise along these busy roads.

'Pride of place in the view must be given to Bassenthwaite Lake, directly below and seen in its entirety, intensely blue on a day of bright skies and then forming a beautiful picture enhanced often by beautiful sails of many yachts. All this can be viewed from a position of repose in fragrant and springy heather. On a warm day some resolution is needed to get back on one's feet and move on.'

For those who Love the Hills – Quotations from Wainwright's Pictorial Guides to the Lakeland Fells,
Dyer1994.88 (v Ullock Pike 8)

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Bassenthwaite Lake and associated lakeshore habitats, which are vulnerable to pollution from adjacent agricultural run off associated with pastoral farmland, other waste facilities (e.g. septic tanks) and changing water levels;
- Open views towards Ullock Pike and Skiddaw to the east and other surrounding High Fells, which are sensitive to interruption by vertical elements or large-scale development. Intermediate sensitivity to the cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure likely⁵⁸;
- Large areas of woodland, along the upper lakeshore, which provide a sense of enclosure; and
- Relatively strong sense of tranquillity on the lake, which is sensitive to disturbance by boat-related activities.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Climate change and increasing storm events and localized flooding leading to the need for flood water management
- Improvements to water quality in rivers and lakes and changing aquatic habitats;
- Move to more continuous cover forestry management reducing landscape scars and supporting soil conservation;
- Alien fish and plants affecting native species in the Lake; and
- Increasing traffic associated with tourism and recreation pressurising the road system and leading to inappropriate highway improvements and further loss of tranquillity.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

⁵⁸ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

AREA 7: BASSENTHWAITE LAKE

Physical Character

- **Protect** Bassenthwaite Lake and associated lakeshore habitats from pollution, siltation and changing water levels
- **Support** appropriate natural flood management options that retain the sense of place; and
- **Encourage** reversion of woodland to broadleaved where possible.

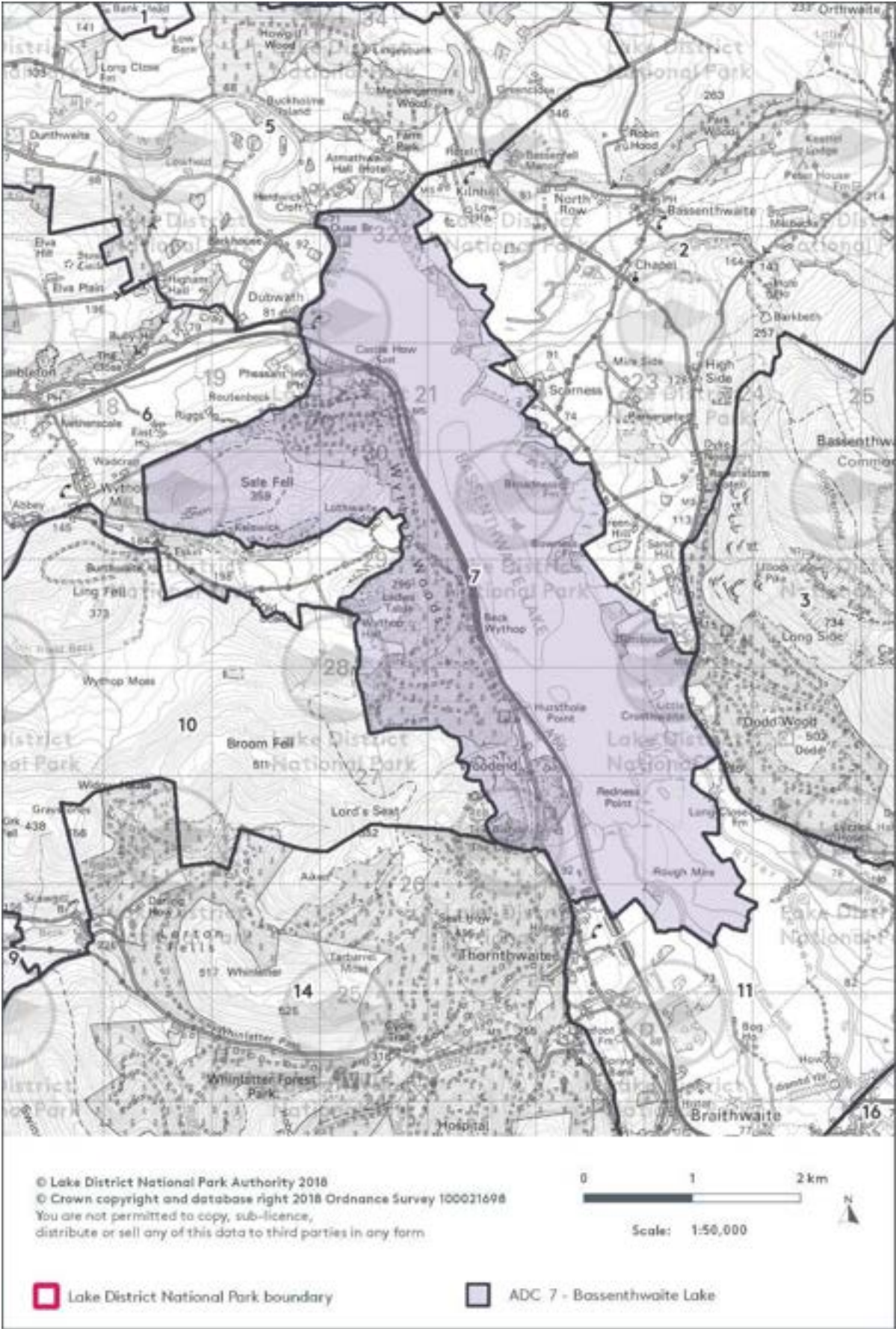
Ecological Character

- **Support** appropriate natural flood management options that preserve the ecological importance of wetland and meadow sites. Cultural and Historic Character
- **Encourage** sensitive succession planning for areas of parkland and estate landscapes,

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Protect** open views towards Ullock Pike and Skiddaw to the east and other surrounding High Fells, from interruption by vertical or elements or large-scale development;
- **Retain** large areas of mature woodland, along the upper northern and eastern lakeshores to provide a sense of enclosure;
- **Maintain** the strong sense of tranquillity on the lake; and
- **Reduce** noise pollution and **ensure** no further upgrading of the A66.

AREA 7: BASSENTHWAITE LAKE



AREA 8: LOWESWATER

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the north-western edge of the National Park. It includes Loweswater Lake and the fells to the north and south. The western part extends outside the northern boundary of the National Park, forming part of its setting. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Buttermere](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section

- [Rugged, Angular Slate High Fell](#) (G);
- [Upland Valley](#) (H); and
- [High Fell Fringe](#) (J).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Relatively low, smooth profile open moorland and heather clad fells in the north and south of the area contrasting with the more enclosed, verdant, wooded and intricately-patterned Loweswater valley in the centre;
- The western part of the area has a very different feel with its open views out to the coastal plain and its towns and villages;
- Loweswater with its attractive wooded lakeshores provides popular walks but is not widely visible from across the area. Signs around the lake highlight the significant problem with blue-green algae which can turn the whole lake a remarkably vivid green;
- In contrast to many central parts of the Lake District, the area feels quiet, with relatively few visitors;
- Small areas of commercial forestry around Lamplugh Fell and significant forest cover around the tarn of Cogra Moss in the south west;
- Field boundaries are marked by a combination of hedges and dry stone walls;
- Area of Distinctive Character 14 (Grizedale Pike and Whinlatter) forms the backdrop of views across Crummock water to the east;
- Raven Crag, at the north end of Mellbreak, is a prominent feature in the central part of the area;
- High Nook Farm is a probable medieval farm and deserted settlement; and
- Predominantly a very tranquil landscape characterised by scattered settlements.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The Loweswater Fells are distinctive for the smoothness of their form and texture. They are relatively low compared to the hills of the central Lake District and contain very few areas of bare rock. Maps show the northern fells within the area to be covered with a regular network of straight dry stone walls, but these are not particularly noticeable on the ground, and the fells retain their open quality. The upland vegetation is almost entirely low growing. The majority of the hills are covered with grassy moorland vegetation, with patches of heather and bracken, which give seasonal variations in colour on the hillsides. Even on areas of uniform vegetation, the effects of changing light can create dramatic patterns on the fells.

There are small patches of commercial forestry on Lamplugh Fell and significant forest amphitheatre around the tarn of Cogra Moss. The darker colour and tall, coniferous vegetation in these areas contrast with the surrounding open fells. Holme Wood to the south-west of the lake adds a very distinctive character to the lakeshore with its mix of mature broadleaf and coniferous trees.

The Loweswater valley is settled and enclosed. Most buildings are in traditional vernacular slate stone, often whitewashed. It is well vegetated, including woods and hedgerows with many mature trees, and consequently feels much softer. Large amounts of hedgerow restoration in the past 25 years have significantly altered the landscape. The scale of the valley landscape is much smaller and intimate, with views enclosed by the surrounding hills, and a much smaller pattern of mostly irregularly-shaped fields. The steep rounded form of Mellbreak is a prominent feature within the valley.

Whilst there is a scattering of hotels and guesthouses, development is discrete and does not intrude on the largely rural and agricultural feel to the area. The lake, valley and fells of Loweswater all feel particularly tranquil, and there is a sense of 'getting away from it all'.

Views east towards Grassmoor and the higher upland fells towards Keswick provide a dramatic backdrop to the area and also give a sense of place and orientation. Views west are over the coastal plains landscape outside the National Park.

'one of the most beautiful and little-visited of the lakes.'

Grevel Lindop, A Literary Guide to the Lake District, 2005

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- The sense of openness in the north and south of the area, coupled with open, far-reaching views towards Grassmoor to the east, which are sensitive to interruption by vertical, large or small-scale developments.

AREA 8: LOWESWATER

- The western part of the area will be particularly sensitive to developments on the coast;
- Overall strong sense of tranquillity, which is vulnerable to potential increases in tourist-related activity and associated traffic;
- Hedgerow and stone wall field boundary network, which provides enclosure and is sensitive to changes in agricultural practices;
- Forestry plantations around Cogra Moss and the woodlands around Loweswater lakeshore which will have a significant impact on the area;
- Significant sensitivity to the cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure⁵⁹;
- Water quality in Loweswater; and
- Strong intervisibility with Crummock Water.

Forces for Change

The forces for change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Protect** Loweswater lakeshore habitats from pollution, siltation and changing water levels
- **Support** appropriate natural flood management options that retain the sense of place; and
- **Reduce** enrichment to mitigate algal blooms.

Ecological Character

- **Conserve** Loweswater and Cogra Moss tarn and associated rich ecological habitats; and

⁵⁹ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

AREA 8: LOWESWATER

- **Conserve** and **enhance** areas of woodland for their nature conservation value.

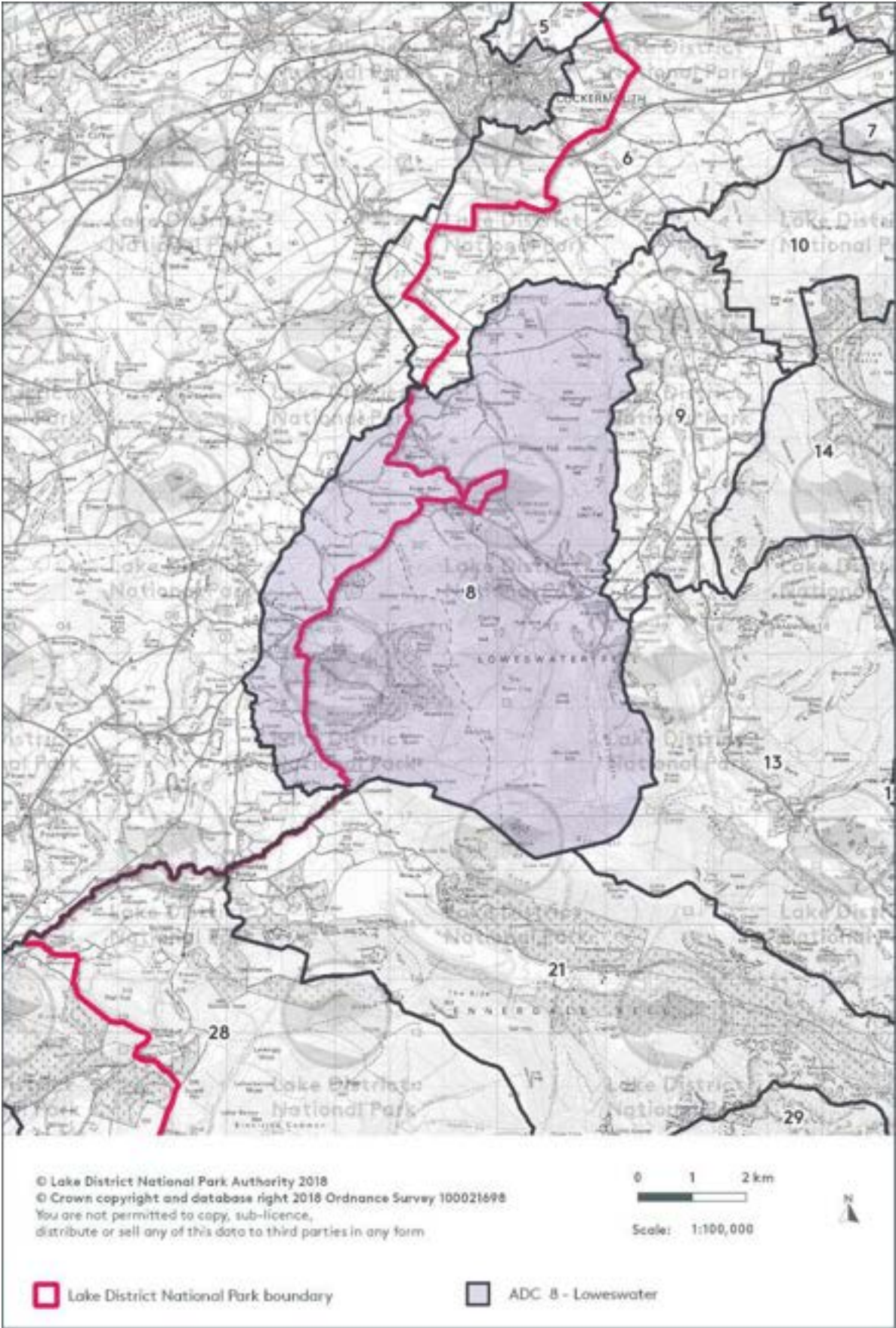
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Encourage** more sympathetic design and management of coniferous plantations and reversion to broadleaved where appropriate;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** hedgerow and stone wall field boundary network; and
- **Encourage** and **support** the conservation or restoration of existing historic building fabric and landscape features (e.g. traditional paving, boundary treatments), where appropriate.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Retain** sense of openness in the north and south of the area;
- **Protect** open, far-reaching views from interruption from tall vertical or large-scale developments;
- **Retain** strong intervisibility with Crummock Water to the west; and
- **Maintain** overall strong sense of tranquillity.

AREA 8: LOWESWATER



AREA 9: LORTON VALE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

Lorton Vale is situated in the northeast of the Lake District National Park, to the north of Crummock Water and south of Cockermouth. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Buttermere](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section

- [Upland Valley](#) (H); and
- [High Fell Fringe](#) (J)

Distinctive Characteristics

- Broad vale, encompassing the gently meandering course of the River Cocker, flowing from Crummock Water in the south towards Cockermouth in the north;
- Intricate patchwork of pasture fields following the river channel, divided by a combination of mature hedgerows containing mature trees, and traditional stone walls;
- Strong, yet distant sense of enclosure provided by High Fells to the west (Loweswater Fell) and east (Whiteside and Kirk Fell);
- Sinuous belts of soft woodland following the river corridor, interspersed with a network of minor roads which mainly follow, rather than cross the river corridor;
- Series of dispersed farmsteads scattered across the flat to gently undulating valley floor, with evidence of former medieval open fields;
- Linear village of High and Low Lorton displays a variety of buildings, from medieval defensive, rugged 17th century, to more formal stone and rendered houses and cottages, all strung out distinctively along sinuous roads, with large open areas between, without a nucleated core; and
- Predominantly a tranquil landscape due to the relative absence of major roads and their associated traffic noise.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The broad corridor of Lorton Vale, which is enclosed to the east and west by adjacent heath and grassland-covered High Fells, has a strongly rural character. The gentle managed landscape, has a striking pattern of pasture fields and traditional hay meadows which are delineated by a combination of stone walls and mature hedgerows,

AREA 9: LORTON VALE

pattern the valley floor, with woodland adjacent to the course of the River Cocker. These contrast sharply with the rougher texture and greys and browns of the surrounding fell.

This mature landscape of hedgerows, many with mature trees, and sinuous belts of woodland contributes to a green and lush character, providing contrast to some of the harsher and more angular landscapes associated with Crummock Water and Buttermere to the south. Wordsworth recognised this characteristic in his poem about an ancient solitary Yew Tree, which is over 1000 years old and still stands in Lorton Vale.

'... a Yew-tree, pride of Lorton Vale,
Which to this day stands single, in the midst
Of its own darkness, as it stood of yore ...
Not loathe to furnish weapons for the Bands
Of vast circumference and gloom profound
This solitary Tree! -a living thing
Produced too slowly ever to decay;
Of form and aspect too magnificent
To be destroyed.'
'Yew-Trees' Wordsworth, 1803

Vernacular (predominantly stone) farmsteads punctuate the surrounding green pasture fields. Evidence is still apparent today of former medieval open fields at High and Low Lorton suggesting that Lorton Hall had its own holding. Lorton Hall includes the most significant medieval building in the valley, a 15th century pele tower with 17th and 19th century additions. High Hollins and Low Hollins are notable 16th century farmhouses. Lorton Park is a fine Regency Villa in a parkland setting, with its unique cylindrical, castellated smoke house near the main street. The village has an old terrace of workers' cottages related to the local mills, notably the flax mill. Lorton village has seen few changes in the 20th century.

The overall feel of the area is one of tranquillity, stillness and relaxation. The area has a strong sense of tranquillity, which is seasonally disturbed by traffic noise, particularly from tourists, on the B5289 that crosses the area. The sense of tranquillity is due to the relative absence of major roads, lack of night-time light pollution and small-scale settlement pattern. The meandering River Cocker helps enhance the sense of naturalness and therefore the sense of tranquillity.

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

AREA 9: LORTON VALE

- Gently meandering course of the River Cocker, which is a distinctive landscape feature and is vulnerable to canalisation or embanking works;
- Mature network of hedgerows and predominantly intact stone walls which contribute to landscape pattern and are vulnerable to changes in agricultural practice;
- Views to Loweswater Fell to the west and Whiteside and Kirk Fell to the east, which contribute to recognisable sense of place and are sensitive to interruption from tall vertical or large-scale development;
- Sinuous belts of woodland following the river corridor, which provide a sense of enclosure;
- Predominantly rural character with associated relatively strong sense of isolation and tranquillity; and
- Small-scale and intimate settlement pattern, consisting of dispersed farmsteads and the small, nucleated settlements of Thackthwaite and Low and High Lorton, which are sensitive to the introduction of large-scale buildings, or those which do not respect local vernacular building materials, scale and character.
- Intermediate sensitivity to the cumulative effects of vertical infrastructure⁶⁰.

Forces for Change

The forces for change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Retain** sinuous belts of broadleaved woodland following the river corridor.

Ecological Character

- **Conserve** the meandering course of the River Cocker and protect river habitats from pollution.

⁶⁰ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

AREA 9: LORTON VALE

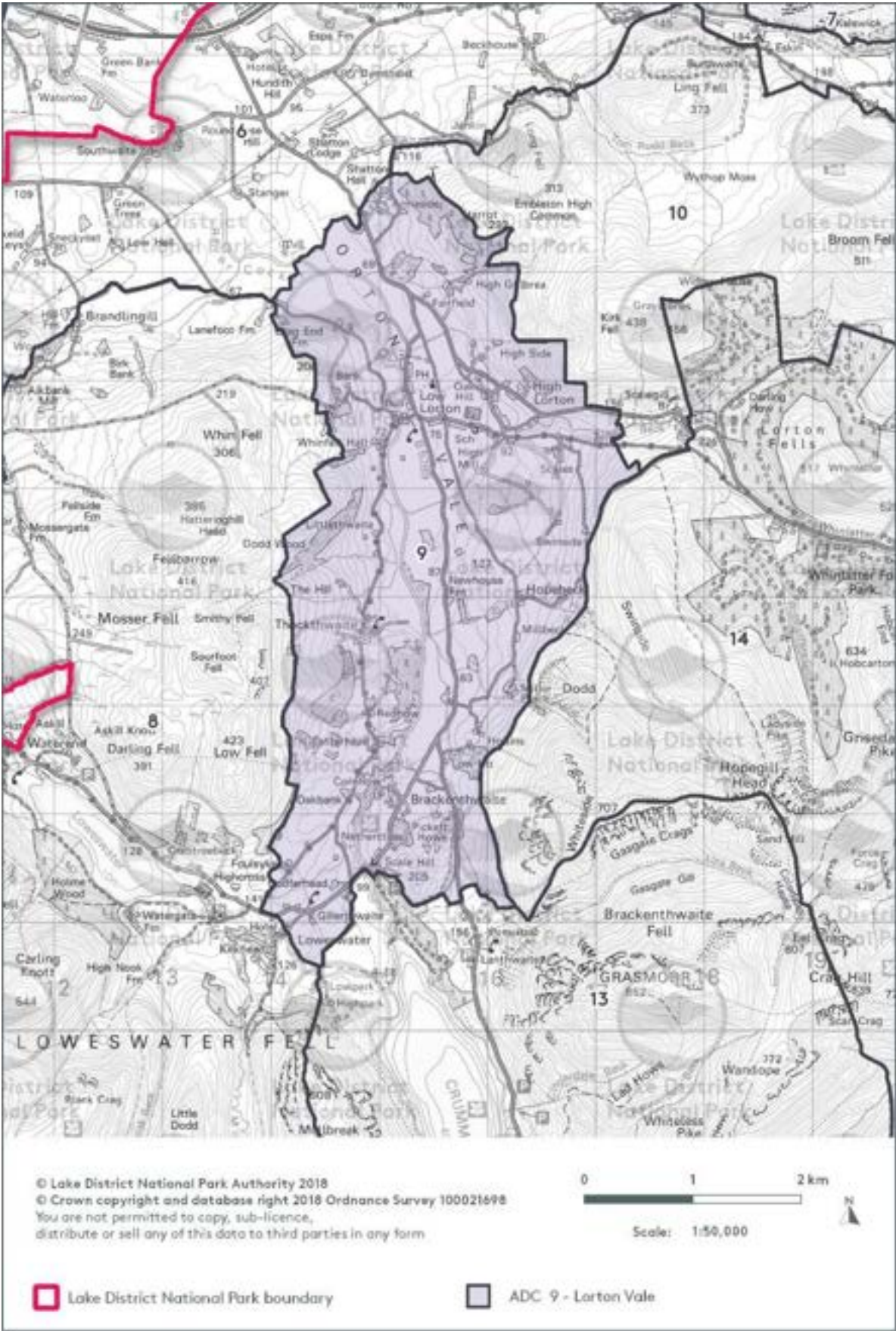
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** network of hedgerows and maintain and enhance stone walls, traditional hay meadows and in field and boundary trees;
- **Retain** small-scale and intimate settlement pattern, consisting of dispersed farmsteads and the small, nucleated settlement of Thackthwaite;
- **Encourage** and **support** the conservation or restoration of existing historic building fabric and landscape features (e.g. traditional paving, boundary treatments), where appropriate; and
- **Encourage** sensitive siting, design and scale in new building schemes.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Retain** views to Loweswater Fell to the west and Whiteside and Kirk Fell to the east; and
- **Maintain** rural character with associated relatively strong sense of isolation and tranquillity.

AREA 9: LORTON VALE



AREA 10: BROOM, LING & KIRK FELLS

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This is a relatively small Area of Distinctive Character, situated close to the north-western boundary of the National Park, to the north of Whinlatter and the west of Bassenthwaite. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Buttermere](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4)

- [Rugged, Angular Slate High Fell](#) (G); and
- [High Fell Fringe](#) (J).

Distinctive Characteristics

- The three open, rounded peaks of Ling Fell, Broom Fell and Kirk Fell, set in a triangular formation, with the lower ground of Wythop Moss between them;
- An extremely remote-feeling and isolated area, with a general absence of settlement or public rights of way;
- Straight dry-stone walls, with regular-shaped pattern of enclosures on Wythop Moss contrasts with the sinuous pattern of stream channels;
- Forms a relatively dramatic backdrop to valleys to the north and west;
- Predominantly a very tranquil landscape due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the heather moorland and upland bog; and
- Minimal sources of artificial noise and few obvious signs of human influences.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This is one of the most remote-feeling areas of the Lake District and contains no settlements or rights of way. Wythop Moss, in the centre of the area, feels very enclosed, as the hills of Ling Fell, Kirk Fell and Broom Fell surround it and restrict views out.

The heather moorland on the fell sides appears open and expansive, and the smoothness of the texture is enhanced by the gentle profile of the hills. The stream channels draining Wythop Moss into Tom Rudd beck are deeply incised, and create sinuous patterns on the valley floor, which contrast with the straight, regular patterns of the stone walls.

Differences in vegetation, particularly between heather and marshy vegetation, create a mosaic pattern of colours and textures, with strong seasonal variations.

AREA 10: BROOM, LING & KIRK FELLS

The hills within this Area of Distinctive Character are most frequently seen from outside it. Ling Fell is the southern backdrop to the Setmurthy Common and Embleton Area of Distinctive Character, whilst the western slopes of Kirk Fell form the eastern side of the Lorton Vale.

The area has a very strong sense of tranquillity due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the heather moorland and upland bog. Apart from the distant hum of traffic noise of the A66, there is a relative absence of dwellings, minimal sources of artificial noise and few obvious signs of human influences all of which enhance the overall strong sense of tranquillity.

'Ling Fell is dome-shaped, like the top of a Christmas pudding. A Christmas pudding in its pristine state, has no ridges. Neither has Ling Fell.'

For those who Love the Hills – Quotations from Wainwright's Pictorial Guides to the Lakeland Fells,

Dyer 1994.37 (vi Hopegill Head 6)

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Type, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Undeveloped, rural character with associated strong sense of isolation, remoteness and tranquillity;
- Regular pattern of straight dry stone walls and enclosures, which contribute to recognisable landscape pattern and are vulnerable to changes in land management and agricultural practices;
- Strong intervisibility with valleys to the north and west;
- Strong sense of openness throughout with uncluttered skylines;
- Significant sensitivity to the cumulative impacts of vertical structures⁶¹; and
- Patchwork of heather, which is vulnerable to overgrazing.

Forces for Change

The forces for change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

⁶¹ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Encourage** replacement of conifers with broadleaved trees on cleared conifer site.

Ecological Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** upland heath habitats; and
- **Maintain** habitat mosaic, controlling spread of bracken when necessary.

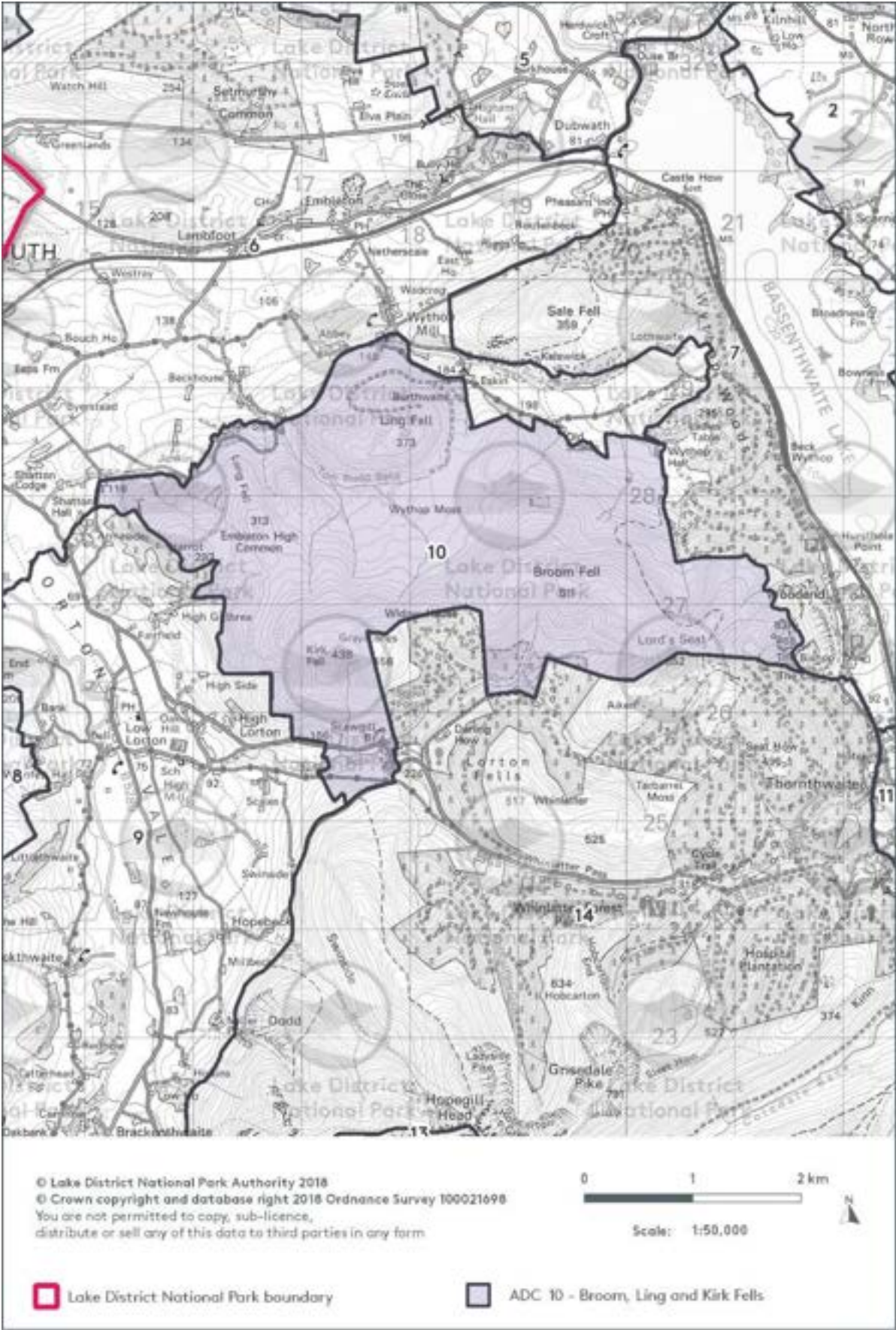
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Retain** the regular pattern of straight dry-stone walls and enclosures.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Maintain** the undeveloped, rural character with associated strong sense of isolation, remoteness and tranquillity;
- **Maintain** strong intervisibility with valleys to the north and west; and
- **Retain** strong sense of openness throughout area with uncluttered skyline.

AREA 10: BROOM, LING & KIRK FELS



AREA 11: BASSENTHWAITE & DERWENT ALLUVIAL PLAIN

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated in the north west of the Lake District National Park, between Bassenthwaite Lake to the north and Derwentwater to the south. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Borrowdale & Bassenthwaite](#).

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4)

- [Upland Valley](#) (H).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Wide, flat alluvial plain and grazing marsh between Derwentwater and Bassenthwaite Lake;
- Spectacular open views towards surrounding fells;
- Land cover contrast between green colours of improved green fields and fawn of wetland at the southern end of Bassenthwaite;
- Situated within the same Upland Valley as Derwentwater and Bassenthwaite Lake and overlooked by High Fells, with mature coniferous woodland on the lower slopes of Skiddaw (Dodd Wood) to the east and Whinlatter Forest to the west, providing a strong sense of enclosure;
- Noticeable absence of farmsteads, houses and buildings on the break of slope; and
- Predominantly a tranquil landscape in the west. In the rest of the area the sense of tranquillity is disturbed by the traffic noise on the A66.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The flat, low-lying Bassenthwaite and Derwent Delta Alluvial Plain, provides dramatic views north and south across Bassenthwaite Lake and Derwentwater. In places, these views are restricted by vegetation on the floodplain.

The wooded lower slopes of Skiddaw to the east and Whinlatter Forest to the west provide an overall strong sense of enclosure and containment to the alluvial plain beneath. The muted colours of these slopes, match the generally harmonious and balanced character of the landscape, which they enclose. There is, however, noticeable contrast between the green colours of improved fields and fawns of wetland and grazing marsh.

AREA 11: BASSENTHWAITE & DERWENT ALLUVIAL PLAIN

The gently meandering course of the River Derwent passes through the area, connecting Bassenthwaite Lake to the north to Derwentwater to the south (it is claimed that Derwentwater and Bassenthwaite Lake were once one large lake). The river corridor is less dominant as a landscape feature here than within its upper course (as it meanders through Borrowdale). The west of the area has a strong sense of tranquillity due; however, overall sense of tranquillity is disturbed due to the constant presence of traffic noise on the busy A66 and the visibility of the edge of Keswick.

'A high mountain ridge leaps like a rainbow from the woods and fields of Brackenthwaite and arcs through the sky for five miles to the east, where the descending curve comes down to the village of Braithwaite.'

For those who Love the Hills – Quotations from Wainwright's Pictorial Guides to the Lakeland Fells,

Dyer 1994.36 (vi Hopegill Head 2)

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Type, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Views towards surrounding fells, which are vulnerable to interruption from tall vertical or large-scale developments;
- Wetland and grazing marsh habitats associated with Bassenthwaite Lake, which are vulnerable to pollution from adjacent agricultural run off associated with pastoral farmland and changing water levels;
- Series of low hedgerows, which provide enclosure and are sensitive to changes in agricultural practice or land management;
- Strong intervisibility with adjacent Skiddaw High Fells and Whinlatter Forest to the west;
- Intermediate sensitivity to the cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure;⁶² and
- Absence of farmsteads, houses or buildings on the break of slope.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Climate change and diffuse pollution affecting water quality in the River Derwent and Newlands Beck

⁶² Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

AREA 11: BASSENTHWAITE & DERWENT ALLUVIAL PLAIN

- Increased rainfall and storm events could lead to flooding;
- Re-wetting of previously drained land ;
- Loss of traditional skills and a reduction in the use of appropriate local materials eroding distinct characteristics of the landscape; and
- Increasing traffic associated with tourism and recreation pressurising the road system and leading to inappropriate highway improvements.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Support** appropriate natural flood management options that retain the sense of place; and

Ecological Character

- **Conserve** and **maintain** wetlands grazing marsh;
- **Maintain** water quality in lakes and watercourses.

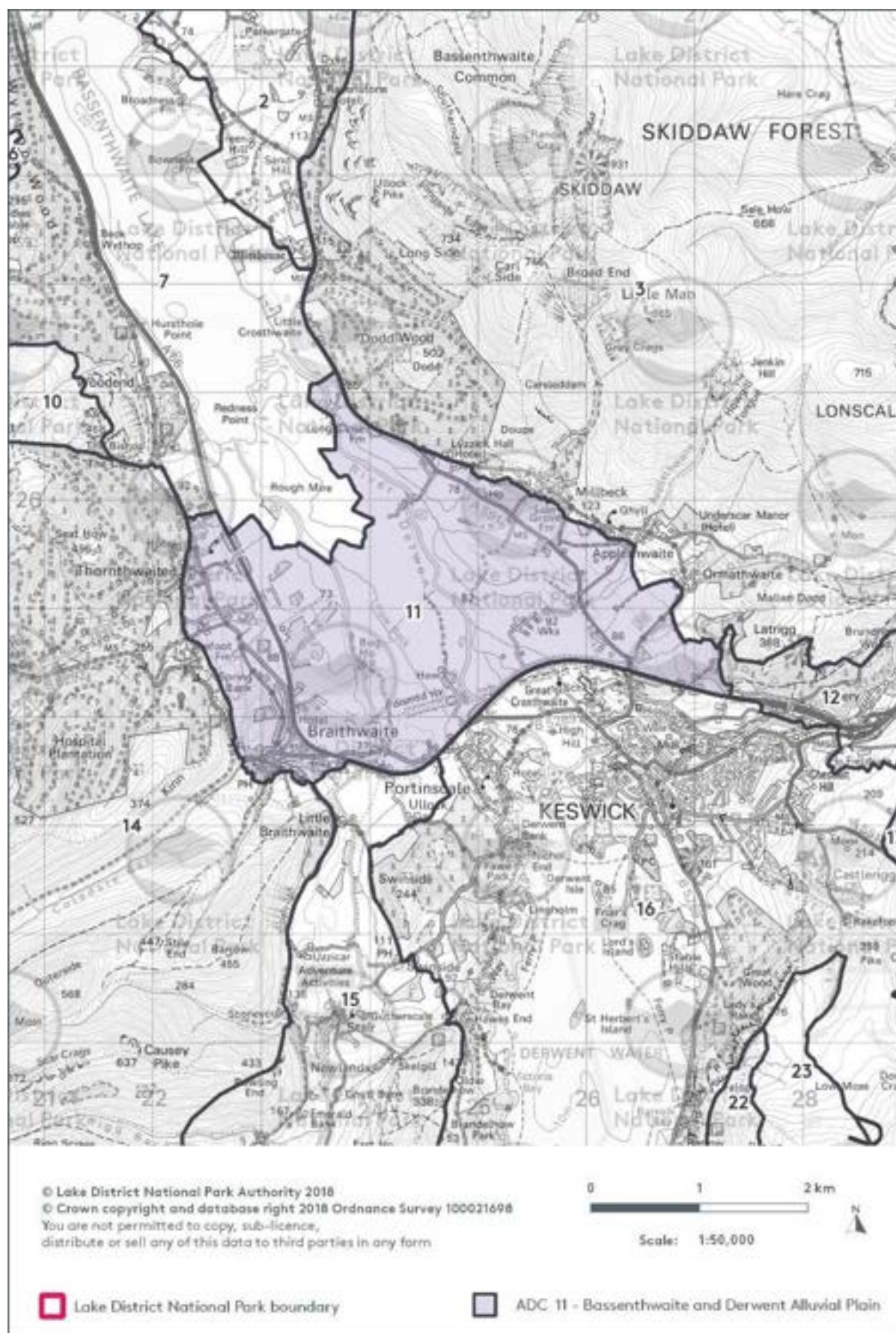
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **maintain** the characteristic series of low hedgerows; and
- **Retain** overall absence of buildings.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Protect** dramatic views towards surrounding fells from interruption from tall vertical or large-scale developments;
- **Retain** strong intervisibility with adjacent High Fells and Whinlatter Forest to the west; and
- **Reduce** noise pollution from the A66 and **ensure** no further upgrading.

AREA 11: BASSENTHWAITE & DERWENT ALLUVIAL PLAIN



AREA 12: GLENDERAMACKIN VALLEY

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

Glenderamackin Valley Area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the north of the Lake District National Park, to the south of the Skiddaw Range. It stretches from Troutbeck village in the east to Keswick in the west, following the course of the lower Glenderamackin River, with the A66 main road running parallel. It is in World Heritage Site Valleys: [Borrowdale & Bassenthwaite](#) and [Thirlmere](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section

- [Upland Valley](#) (H); and
- [High Fell Fringe](#) (J).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Intricate patchwork of small pastoral fields and small traditional hamlets, criss-crossed by minor roads and the sinuous corridor of the Glenderamackin River;
- The distinctive saddle shape of Blencathra forms a prominent backdrop in views to the north;
- Smooth rounded fell sides of Clough Head, Threlkeld and Matterdale Commons dominate views southwards;
- Heavily wooded River Greta Gorge to the west of Threlkeld with a series of impressive railway bridges now forming part of a popular cycle/ walk way from Keswick to Threlkeld;
- Strong influence on the landscape from linear east-west running A66 and old Keswick to Cockermouth Railway lines;
- Archaeological features scattered within the area, including site of a Roman Fort, camp and road;
- Evidence of medieval strip and open fields, and a number of 17th century farmhouses survive;
- Predominantly a weak sense of tranquillity due to the constant traffic noise along the busy A66 which dominates the area; and
- Threlkeld village and its nearby farmsteads use a very distinctive type of slate-stone with its characteristic rusty- brown staining, so unlike other parts of the Lake District.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This area of gently rolling pastoral farmland is dominated by the sinuous course of the lower Glenderamackin River, which curves its way from east to west through the landscape, becoming the River Greta west of Threlkeld. Trees and wooded areas line the river. Several quarries, the dismantled railway and the striking form of the Mosedale viaduct are prominent features within the landscape.

The patchwork of green pastoral fields, delineated by a combination of dry stone walls and hawthorn hedges, small clumps of deciduous trees and patches of woodland, provide a strongly recognisable landscape pattern. The ever-moving, trickling and rushing water within Glendermackin River, nestled between lush, green fields is also a striking feature.

‘Starting as a trickle from a marsh below the col linking Bannerdale Craggs and Blencathra, it [Glenderamackin River] soon gathers strength and aims purposefully for a gap in the hills to the south, eager to be away from its desolate place of birth and join other waters in a tranquil and pleasant passage through Lakeland ...’

For those who Love the Hills – Quotations from Wainwright’s Pictorial Guides to the Lakeland Fells,

Dyer 1994.101 (v Souther Fell 3)

The smooth and majestic grandeur of the Skiddaw Range (with the distinctive saddle shape of Blencathra) forms a backdrop for views northwards. Evidence of medieval strip and open fields, and a number of 17th century farmhouses survive. The historic village of Threlkeld (Norse for ‘well of the thrall’) sits snugly at the foot of Blencathra; 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. Troutbeck has an attractive combination of traditional rendered houses, mainly limewashed, contribute to the overall recognisable sense of place within the area. The sense of tranquillity within the area is disturbed by the constant traffic noise along the busy A66. Archaeological features are scattered throughout the area including the site of a Roman fort, camp and road near Troutbeck reflecting its long use as a transport corridor.

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

AREA 12: GLENDERMACKIN VALLEY

- Small-scale settlement pattern, consisting of traditional historic, vernacular hamlets, which are sensitive to the introduction of large-scale buildings, or those which do not respect local vernacular building materials, scale and character;
- Network of minor and predominantly rural roads, that are vulnerable to potential increases in traffic volume;
- Strong intervisibility between Blencathra to the north and Thelkeld and Matterdale Commons to the south;
- Archaeological features, which are vulnerable to potential disturbance from visitors;
- Recognisable landscape pattern of hedgerows and vernacular stone walls; and
- Intermediate sensitivity to the cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure⁶³.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Increasing traffic demands for highway upgrading on the A66, and the potential re-opening of the railway between Penrith and Keswick.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Retain** trees and woodlands along the river corridor.
- **Support** appropriate natural flood management options alongside the river corridor that retain the sense of place.

Ecological Character

- **Maintain** water quality in rivers and streams.

⁶³ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

AREA 12: GLENDERMACKIN VALLEY

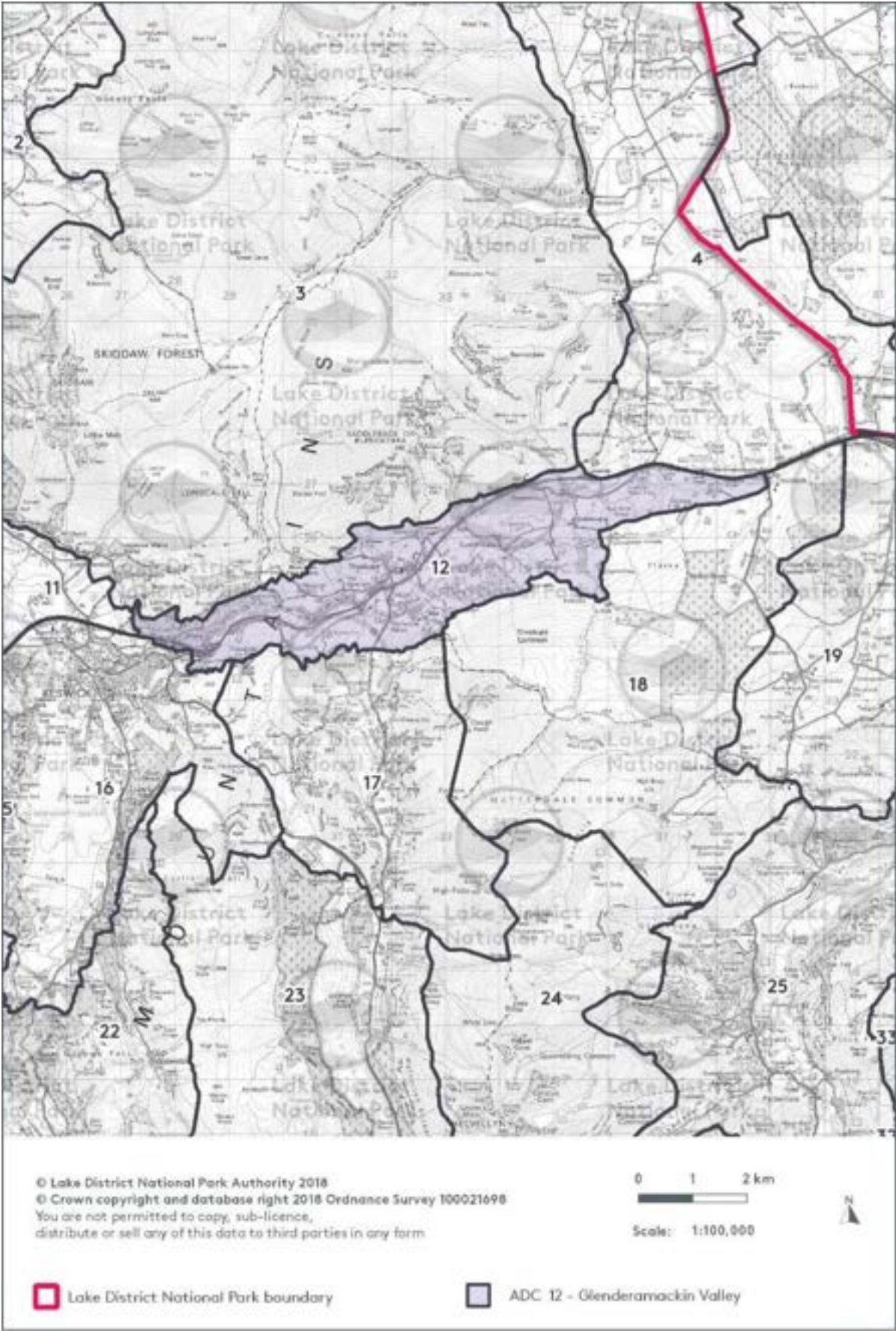
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Retain** the small-scale settlement pattern;
- **Protect** traditional historic and vernacular hamlets from the introduction of large-scale buildings, or those which do not respect local vernacular building materials, scale and character;
- **Retain** network of minor and rural roads;
- **Conserve** archaeological features, which are vulnerable to potential disturbance from visitors or walkers;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** recognisable landscape pattern of hedgerows and vernacular stone walls; and
- **Encourage** and **support** the conservation or restoration of existing historic building fabric and landscape features (e.g. traditional paving, boundary treatments), where appropriate.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Protect** strong intervisibility with Skiddaw High Fell to the north and Thelkeld and Matterdale Commons to the south from tall vertical or large-scale developments; and
- **Reduce** noise pollution from the A66 and **ensure** no further upgrading.

AREA 12: GLENDERMACKIN VALLEY



AREA 13: BUTTERMERE & CRUMMOCK WATER

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the northeast of the Lake District National Park, to the south of Loweswater. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Buttermere](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section

- [Rugged/Craggy Volcanic High Fell](#) (F);
- [Rugged/Angular Slate High Fell](#) (G); and
- [Upland Valley](#) (H).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Buttermere and Crummock Water form part of a unique twin lake system, in a classic U-shaped glacial valley, flanked by an amphitheatre of steep-sided high fells, which are generally devoid of dense vegetation cover;
- The highly recognisable north-west ridge of Fleetwith Pike runs down to the key valley head farm of Gatesgarth;
- A generally smooth texture, despite the presence of crags and rocky outcrops of underlying geology;
- The smooth rounded Mellbreak Fell, which runs along the entire western side of Crummock Water, is a constant focal point in the area, whilst the dominant peaks of Grassmoor, Fleetwith and Haystacks provide instantly recognisable landscape features, contributing to a strong recognisable sense of place;
- The dramatic Scale Force (the highest waterfall in the Lake District) has been a popular attraction for generations of visitors;
- Significant expanses of heather and montane heath interspersed with grasslands provide a smooth texture and seasonal colour.
- The almost hidden hanging valley of Rannerdale, to the east of Crummock Water, is renowned for its spectacular blue-purple carpet of bluebells in spring;
- Predominantly a very strong sense of tranquillity due to perceived naturalness of the landscape, a relative absence of major roads, dwellings and minimal sources of artificial noise;

AREA 13: BUTTERMERE & CRUMMOCK WATER

- Settlement comprises a small number of isolated dwellings on the east side of Crummock Water and the traditional village of Buttermere which nestles on the valley floor between the two lakes;
- Gatesgarth Farm has medieval origins and dominates the inbye at the head Buttermere. It is one of the most important Herdwick farms in the Lake District. Scales Beck is a medieval settlement.
- The north of Crummock Water is dominated by the mixed woodland of Lanthwaite Wood and the distinctive, smooth, rounded shape of High Park (on site of a former moated Pele tower);
- To the south of the lake and lying to the west of Buttermere village lies the important semi-natural, ancient oak woodland of Scales Wood, with an adjacent area of wood pasture. The non-native conifers of Burtness Wood (which sits alongside the deciduous Scale Wood) form rather incongruous features in the landscape;
- Views of Buttermere from Crummock Water are restricted by the enclosing high fell topography;
- Strong contrast between the intimate and enclosed feel on the valley bottom and the strong sense of remoteness and exposure on top of the surrounding high fell;
- The feeder streams of Buttermere and Crummock Water are part of the River Derwent SAC and are important spawning areas for migratory salmonids.
- Prehistoric rock art at Low Park, Crummock

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

Both lakes have a strong sense of enclosure as a result of the surrounding High Fells and steep valley sides of the classic U-shaped glacial valley. To the south of Buttermere, Fleetwith Pike and Haystacks provide recognisable landscape features, with Mellbreak and Grassmoor towering over Crummock Water and contributing to recognisable sense of place. The imposing fellsides facilitate extensive views across the lakes and contribute to a strong sense of enclosure. A path that runs around Buttermere Lake also offers clear views of the dramatic pikes of the High Stile range to the south west, Robinson to the north east, Fleetwith Pike and Haystacks (which has a strong association with Wainwright to the south, with it being his favourite fell and where his ashes were scattered) and Grassmoor to the north.

The lakes occupy the whole width of the valley floor leaving little scope for inbye pasture, apart from a few places at the south end and east shore of Buttermere, the isthmus between the two lakes, at Rannerdale on the east shore of Crummock Water, and at the north end of Crummock Water around Loweswater village.

There is a sense of inaccessibility to the northern end of Buttermere, with access via the steep, snaking Honister Pass at the south eastern end of the lake. A general absence of built elements and main roads contributes to the overall strong sense of tranquillity and remoteness within the area, particularly in locations at distance from Buttermere village and the minor road, which follows the lake shores (B5289). The road network is narrow and twisting often enclosed by

AREA 13: BUTTERMERE & CRUMMOCK WATER

walls or high hedges. This all adds to its perceived sense of remoteness and tranquility.

There is striking colour contrast within the area. The rich blue-purple of the Rannerdale Bluebells (in spring) contrasts with the seasonally changing spectrum of different greens, browns, purples and yellows offered by the mosaic of upland habitats and the large expanses of dark green coniferous woodland, whilst the changing hues of the lake and the grey-blue of the dry stone walls all contribute to the landscape colour palette. Wainwright (whose ashes have been scattered on Haystacks to the south of Buttermere) was just one of the many artists who has been inspired by the rich colourful landscape of this area.

Rannerdale Valley (a hanging valley on the eastern shore of Crummock Water) is famous for its inspiring display of bluebells, which, for a couple of weeks every spring, transforms the entire valley into a vast sea of blue. From Rannerdale, the perfect pyramid of Whiteless Pike dominates views eastwards towards the Skiddaw Fells.

Large expanses of semi-natural ancient oak woodland, with very little understorey, cover the lower western valley sides of Buttermere, alongside which the predominantly coniferous woodland to the south sits rather incongruously. At higher levels, in the valley sides and fells, a patchwork of predominantly open heathland habitat is apparent. The commons within this ADC are extensive and offer grazing rights to many farmers.

There is Neolithic or Bronze Age rock art at Mill Beck, Buttermere and at the north west end of Crummock Water. There is a possible bivallate hill fort at Loweswater Pele, which may be Iron Age in date. Woodlands contain evidence of charcoal burning and there are traces of medieval iron production.

The pastoral character of the Buttermere Valley remains intact, with sheep farming still the principal occupation. Gatesgarth Farm, has medieval origins, and is one of the most important Herdwick farms in the Lake District with a long history of agricultural improvements and Herdwick breeding. More medieval open field features are in evidence in the flat delta between the two lakes.

The traditional historic village of Buttermere, nestled to the north west of Buttermere Lake and adjacent to Mill Beck, has (uniquely for a Lakeland village) four working farms in the heart of the village. Built up around the church, this popular tourist village has a strong vernacular character, with building materials exhibiting the underlying geology of the area. The Fish Inn dates back to the 18th century. St James Church, Buttermere, is famous for the memorial to Alfred Wainwright, the famous walker and author of guide books. His famous mountain 'Haystacks' can be seen from the church window. Despite the popularity with tourists, the valley remains tranquil, largely due to the absence of main roads on the unforgiving surrounding High Fell and dwellings other than Buttermere Village.

The scenic beauty of the area is due to the composition of the steep imposing fells, the flat valley floor, large lakes and the softening influence of the inbye field pattern, woodland, hedgerow and field trees and vernacular buildings.

'Mellbreak and Crummock Water, essential partners in a successful scenery enterprise, depending on each other for effectiveness. Crummock Water's eastern shore, below Grasmooor, is gay with life and colour – trees, pastures, farms, cattle, traffic, tents and people

– but it is the view across the lake, where the water laps the sterile base of Mellbreak far beneath the mountain's dark escarpment, where loneliness, solitude and silence prevail' that make the scene unforgettable.'

For those who Love the Hills – Quotations from Wainwright's Pictorial Guides to the Lakeland Fells,

Dyer 1994.100 (vii Mellbreak 2)

In his 'Guide to the Lakes' of 1778, Thomas West identified three viewing stations around Loweswater and Crummock Water and Peter Crosthwaite added a further three stations on his map of 1794 at Buttermere Hause, on the east side of Crummock Water, on the road up to Newlands Hause above Buttermere village and at the southern end of Buttermere near Gatesgarth Farm. These viewing stations still exist and can be visited where there is public access

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Open views to and from the surrounding fells, which are vulnerable to interruption by tall, vertical or large-scale developments.
- Strong sense of tranquillity throughout, especially within the almost hidden hanging valley of Rannerdale to the east of Crummock Water and on the surrounding high fells and on the lakes, resulting from the absence of motorised craft;
- Strong intervisibility with the surrounding amphitheatre of high fells, which are generally devoid of dense vegetation cover;
- Strong vernacular character resulting from use of local building materials form and detailing;
- Water quality in the lakes and their feeder streams;
- Carpet of bluebells within Rannerdale Valley (in spring) which is vulnerable to disturbance and damage from walkers and visitors as well as grazing;
- Overall absence of built elements and overall predominantly rural character and rural road network;
- Patches of heather and remnant gorse on the higher valley sides, which are sensitive to grazing pressure;

AREA 13: BUTTERMERE & CRUMMOCK WATER

- Mature network of hedgerows and interlocking vernacular stone walls and iron railings, which are vulnerable to changes in land management and agricultural practices;
- Clumps of deciduous trees, broadleaved woodland and wood pasture vulnerable to lack of management and grazing controls; and
- Intermediate sensitivity to the cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure⁶⁴.

Forces for Change

The forces for change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** clumps of deciduous woodland and the wood pasture adjacent to Scale Wood.

Ecological Character

- **Protect** and **conserve** the carpet of bluebells within Rannerdale Valley from inappropriate grazing, walkers and visitors;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** diversity and mosaic of upland heath habitats;
- **Protect** spawning areas for migratory salmonids and enhance habitats for juvenile fish; and
- **Protect** lakes and associated lakeshore habitats from pollution, enrichment, siltation and changing water levels.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Maintain** strong vernacular character resulting from the use of local building materials, forms and detailing by conserving and restoring existing historic

⁶⁴ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

AREA 13: BUTTERMERE & CRUMMOCK WATER

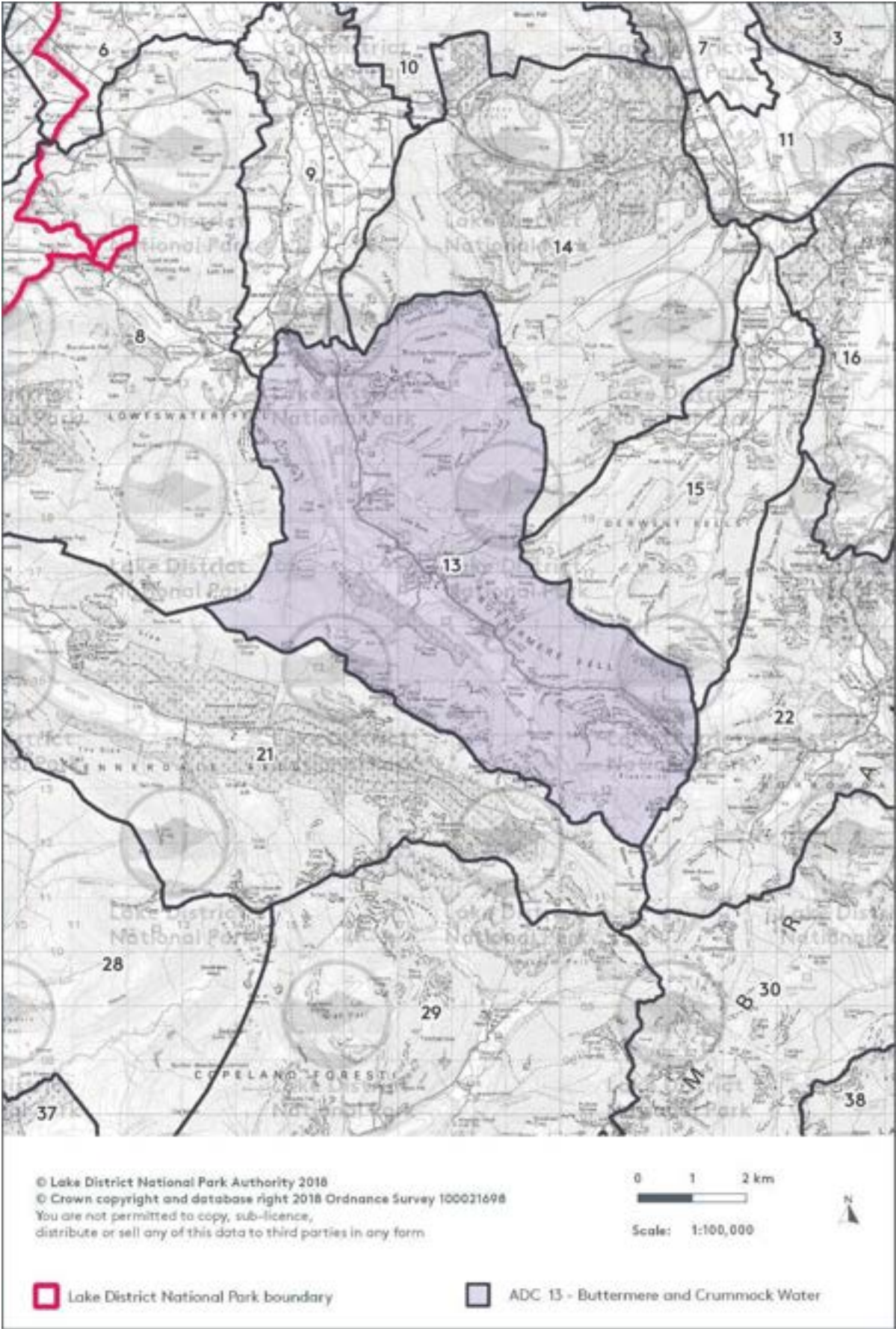
building stock and associated landscapes and by designing new buildings to fit in;

- **Conserve** and **enhance** mature network of hedgerows and interlocking vernacular stone walls;
- **Retain** general absence of built elements and maintain overall rural character and rural road network.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Retain** intervisibility with surrounding amphitheatre of high fells (stiles and pikes);
- **Protect** open views to and from the area from interruption by tall, large or small-scale developments;
- **Maintain** strong sense of openness and tranquillity throughout, especially on the lakes and within the hanging valley of Rannerdale to the east of Crummock Water; and
- **Maintain** strong sense of remoteness and exposure on top of surrounding high fells.

AREA 13: BUTTERMERE & CRUMMOCK WATER



AREA 14: GRIZEDALE PIKE & WHINLATTER

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the north of the Lake District National Park, between Keswick and Crummock Water, and to the north of Newlands Valley. It is in World Heritage Site Valleys: [Borrowdale & Bassenthwaite](#) and [Buttermere](#).

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4)

- [Rugged, Angular Slate High Fell](#) (G);
- [Upland Valley](#) (H).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Framed views out of the area towards Derwentwater to the east and Red Pike (above Buttermere) to the west;
- Expansive panoramas from the hilltops, encompassing many lakes and valleys;
- Angular, pointed peaks with straight sides separated by V-shaped valleys create a strong sense of place within this area, and also form an important backdrop to views from adjacent Areas of Distinctive Character;
- A relatively smooth texture of heather, grassland bracken and scree. Colours change seasonally;
- There are well-used footpaths along most of the peaks, ridges and valleys;
- Whilst this is a wild landscape and the open moorland peaks create a perceived naturalness, the presence of footpaths and walkers contribute a human aspect to its character;
- The extensive coniferous plantation of Whinlatter Forest, in the north of the area has similar underlying topography, but has a very different feel due to the enclosing qualities of the trees, their dark colour, the movement of vehicles over Whinlatter Pass, and the commercial and recreational functions of the forest; and
- Predominantly a tranquil landscape especially at distance from Whinlatter Pass located in the main valley.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

From the valleys (which are V-shaped, with steep scree-covered sides) there are

AREA 14: GRIZEDALE PIKE & WHINLATTER

framed views out towards Skiddaw, Newlands, Crummock Water and Buttermere. From the hill tops there are expensive panoramas encompassing many lakes and valleys.

The topography is a very distinctive feature of this Area of Distinctive Character, with pointed peaks separated by steep V-shaped valleys. The straight sides of the hills emphasise their angular form and can make them appear quite overwhelming when viewed straight up or down. There are large patches of scree on valley sides, and the majority of vegetation is bracken and heather. Together they give a relatively simple texture to the landscape, and colours change seasonally from grey, brown and purple during the Autumn and Winter months, to green in Spring.

The distinctive angular profile of this area forms the backdrop and setting to the surrounding Areas of Distinctive Character. Perhaps the most famous view is Grisedale and Causey Pike as seen across Derwentwater from Crow Park in Keswick. The open moorland has remained unenclosed for centuries and is common land.

The area contains several popular walking routes, and the ridge-top paths are often reasonably busy. The movement and sound of people and their visibility on neighbouring ridge skylines is part of the character of the area. The valleys attract far fewer walkers, and consequently feel far more secluded, isolated and peaceful.

The part of the area planted as Whinlatter Forest Park has a very different character. The dark-coloured coniferous vegetation gives it a much greater sense of enclosure. There is also a stronger sense of development, and of connection with the outside world in this area, due to the presence of vehicles on Whinlatter Pass, and the many visitors to the forest visitor centre and recreational trails.

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.

Overall, the area has a strong sense of tranquillity. There is a relative absence of dwellings and settlements, minimal sources of artificial noise and few obvious signs of human influences. The sense of tranquillity is locally disturbed around Whinlatter Pass due to traffic noise and car rally teams practising on the tracks through the woods. However, the dense woodland surrounding the majority of the road minimises the impact of traffic noise on the sense of tranquillity.

'Grassmoor is a very formidable object above Lanthwaite, its tiered crags seeming almost impregnable. The direct climb, up the angle between the north and west faces, is a continuously steep and rough scramble and a severe test in route selection.'

For those who Love the Hills – Quotations from Wainwright's Pictorial Guides to the Lakeland Fells,

Dyer 1994.13 (vi Grassmoor 6)

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Type, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- The predominantly undeveloped character of the area, other than buildings and car parking associated with Whinlatter Forest Park;
- Framed views to Derwentwater to the east and Red Pike to the west, which are vulnerable to interruption by new woodland or, vertical or large-scale developments;
- Intermediate sensitivity to the cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure;⁶⁵
- Areas of heather, which are vulnerable to overgrazing; and
- Overall strong sense of tranquillity, despite traffic on Whinlatter Pass and visitor facilities associated with Whinlatter Forest Park.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Reduction in non-native conifer woodland and increase in native broadleaved regeneration, with the aim of developing mixed age and mixed species stands through natural regeneration;¹

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Encourage** broadleaved regeneration to provide diversity in large scale conifer plantations.

Ecological Character

- **Conserve** areas of upland heath.

⁶⁵ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

AREA 14: GRIZEDALE PIKE & WHINLATTER

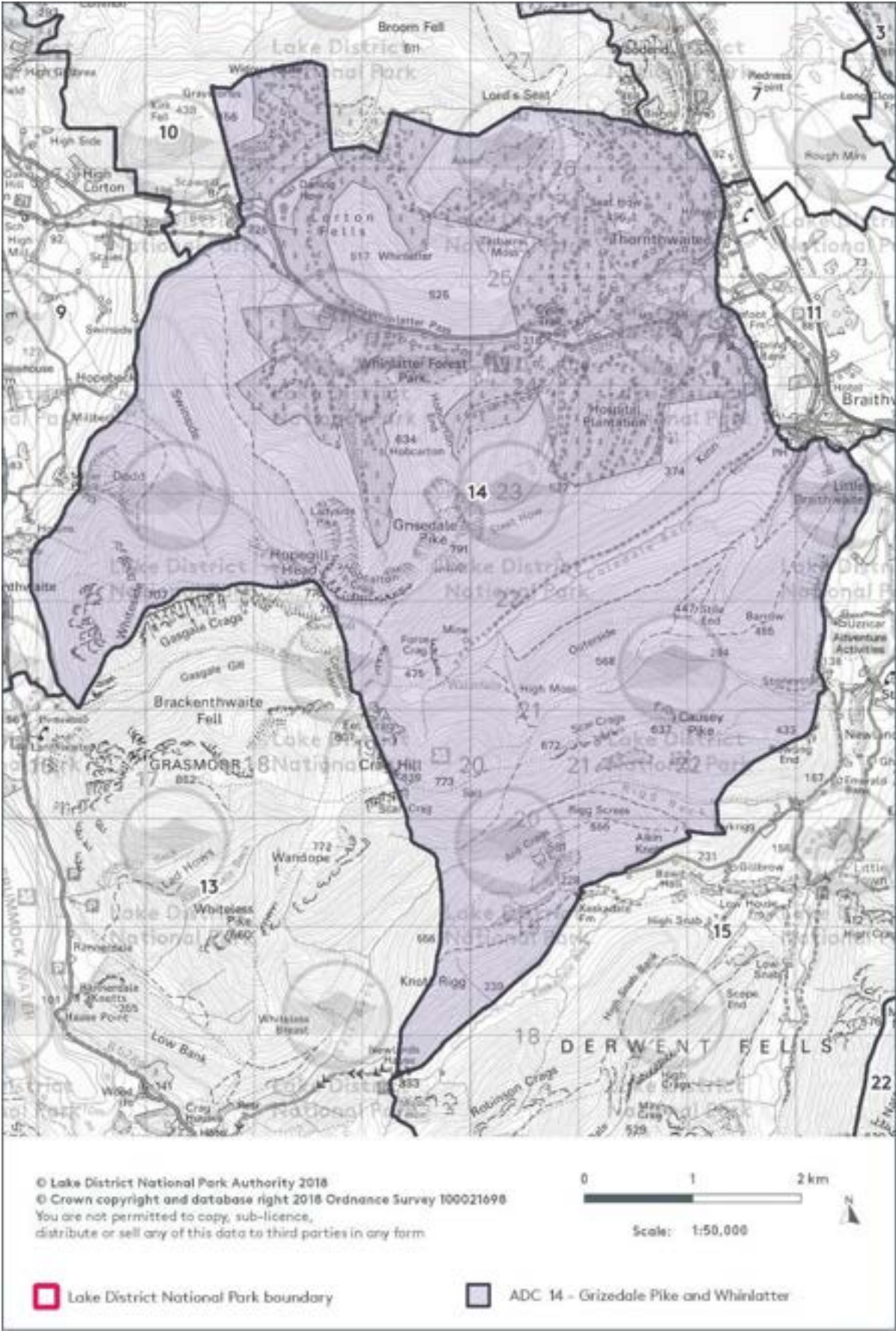
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Take account of** the Whinlatter Forest Design Plan for further guidance on guidelines and objectives for the forest; and
- **Encourage** and **support** the conservation or restoration of existing historic building fabric and landscape features (e.g. traditional paving, boundary treatments) where appropriate.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Retain** the undeveloped character of the area;
- **Protect** framed views to Derwentwater to the east and Red Pike to the west from interruption by new woodland or, vertical or large-scale developments; and
- **Maintain** overall strong sense of tranquillity.

AREA 14: GRIZEDALE PIKE & WHINLATTER



AREA 15: NEWLANDS

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

The Newlands valley is on the western side of the central Lake District National Park, between Derwentwater and Buttermere. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Borrowdale & Bassenthwaite](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section

- [Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fells](#) (F); and
- [Upland Valley](#) (H).

Distinctive Characteristics

- The distinctive profile of Cat Bells, Maiden Moor and High Spy separates Newlands valley from Derwentwater, with the path erosion running along the ridge;
- The three-branched form of the valley, with each branch containing its own stream, joining mid-way down the valley;
- A settled upland valley, in its lower part, with deciduous vegetation, giving a sense of shelter and enclosure from the surrounding fells;
- Settlement pattern of distinctive, vernacular hamlets and farmsteads on the edges of the valley floor with dry stone walls making an important contribution.
- Upstream the valley becomes wilder, the open bare upland valleys devoid of habitation gently sloping upwards to the valley heads of. Newlands Pass and the Valley Head area;
- Extensive areas of common land and strong traditions of herdwick sheep farming;
- The twisting Newlands Pass, over Newlands Hause, historic route into Buttermere;
- A long history of mining and mineral extraction; and
- Predominantly a very tranquil landscape especially on the Derwent Fells away from the road crossing over Newlands Pass, due to the relative absence of dwellings and minimal sources of artificial noise.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

There are many features, which give the Newlands valley its distinct, magnificent

AREA 15: NEWLANDS

and varied identity and sense of place. Some are physical features, such as the famous stepped profile of the Cat Bells ridge, which separates the valley from Derwentwater, and the distinctive pointed top of Causey Pike together with the higher hills of Robinson, Hindscarth and Valley Head, which frame the southern end of the valley. The valley itself has three branches, containing the Newlands, Keskadale, Rigg and Scope becks, with each branch forming a finger off the main valley, taking you into hidden landscapes, each with a unique character, many of which have passes into adjacent valleys. The becks converge at Little Town to flow north into Bassenthwaite.

The scales, textures, colours and patterns of the valley vary between the higher and lower ground, and even between the three branches of the valley. Keskadale beck valley contains the Newlands Pass, whilst the Newlands beck valley feels very wild, surrounded by the high, steep scree slopes and crags of Dale Head, High Spy and Hindscarth. Remnant ancient upland oak woods such as Keskadale and Birkrigg cling on to the flanks of Causey Pike – reflecting what would once have been a far more wooded landscape.

Much of Newlands valley, in its lower sections, is surprisingly lush and verdant, and provides a sense of shelter and relief from the higher fells, particularly when the weather is poor. There are several scattered farms, and the hamlets of Little Town (with its distinctive whitewashed church) and Stair. Dry stone walls make a significant contribution to the character of the landscape.

The Newlands valley was settled in the 14th century, following the draining of Uzzicar tarn. There has been mineral extraction here since Elizabethan times, continuing until the beginning of the 19th century. Minerals mined here included copper, lead and zinc and were processed at Keswick. The remains of the Mines Royal copper and lead mines can be seen at Goldscope in the Newlands valley. Given the peaceful, lush nature of the valley today, it is difficult to imagine it as a busy industrial landscape.

The area is generally very tranquil especially on the Derwent Fells between Newlands Pass and Derwentwater due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the landscape. In the lower area of Newlands Valley around the village of Newlands and in proximity of Portinscale the sense of tranquillity is disturbed by road noise especially near the A66. There is also some night-time light pollution from the villages and neighbouring Keswick.

‘ [Newlands] present themselves an arrangement of vast mountains, entirely new, both in form and colouring of rock; large hollow craters scooped in their bosoms, once the seeming seats of raging liquid fire, though at present overflowing with the purest water, that foams down the craggy brow.’

West's 1778 Guide

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

AREA 15: NEWLANDS

- Newlands, Keskadale, Rigg and Scope becks, which are vulnerable to diffuse and point pollution from agriculture and old mineral workings and erosion from increased storm events and higher levels of rainfall;
- Views to Catbells ridge, and the higher hills of Robinson, Hindscarth and Dale Head;
- Archaeological record of disused industrial mines, which are vulnerable to disturbance from walkers and visitors;
- Strong sense of tranquillity; and
- Intermediate sensitivity to the cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure.⁶⁶

Forces for Change

The forces for change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Encourage** natural flood management measures that retain the characteristics of the landscape.

Ecological Character

- **Protect** Newlands, Keskadale and Scope becks from pollution.

Cultural and Historic Character

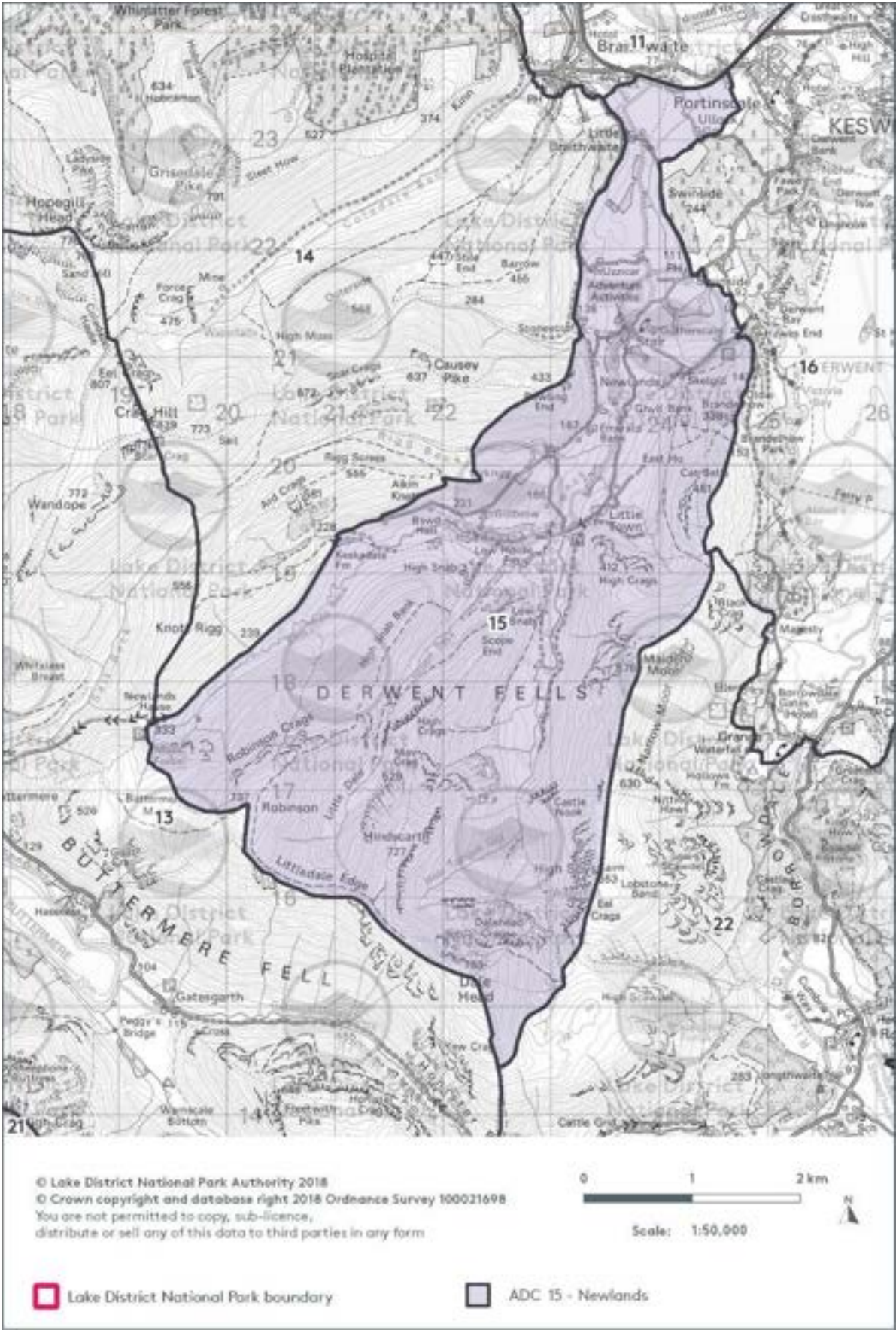
- **Conserve** archaeological record of disused industrial mines;
- **Maintain** and restore dry stone walls and hedges in central valley; and
- **Encourage** and **support** the conservation or restoration of existing historic building fabric (e.g. fenestration) and landscape features (e.g. traditional paving, boundary treatments), where appropriate.

⁶⁶ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Retain** open, uncluttered views to Catbells ridge and the higher hills of Robinson, Hindscarth and Dale Head; and
- **Maintain** strong sense of tranquillity.

AREA 15: NEWLANDS



AREA 16: KESWICK & DERWENTWATER

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

Keswick and Derwentwater Area of Distinctive Character is situated to the south east of Bassenthwaite Lake, south of Skiddaw and Blencathra and at the northern end of Borrowdale. The town of Keswick nestles at the northern edge of Derwentwater. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Borrowdale & Bassenthwaite](#) and [Thirlmere](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section

- [Rugged/Craggy Volcanic High Fell](#) (F);
- [Rugged/Angular Slate High Fell](#) (G); and
- [Upland Valley](#) (H).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Expanse of Derwentwater, with its small islands including the distinctive villa on Derwent island and a number of other early villas set in parkland and designed landscapes, developed by Joseph Pocklington around its shore and strongly wooded western shores;
- The bustling market town of Keswick occupies a unique setting, with a surrounding amphitheatre of impressive fells.
- Keswick's present form and character reflect three main phases of growth from medieval market town, with its fossilised burgage plot pattern of parallel yards, to 18th century water-powered industrial town, to the railway induced Victorian tourist resort;
- The town's identity is also the result of an amazing variety of building materials, seen nowhere else in the Lake District. Every colour of brick, terracotta, stone and slate is clearly evident throughout the town, a reflection of the railway development and Victorian prosperity;
- The approach from Thirlmere along the A591 has fine examples of traditional bank barns, built in a distinctive local style using cobbles, split cobbles and thin slate levelling courses;
- Bleaberry Fell, Catbells and Skelgill Bank are important local landmarks, that form a sense of enclosure and connection to the fells;
- Open and expansive views into the steeply enclosed 'Jaws of Borrowdale';
- Skiddaw and Latrigg provide an overwhelming backdrop to Keswick and are both important landmarks and viewpoints across the Lake.

AREA 16: KESWICK & DERWENTWATER

- Easily accessible and popular landscape destination for visitors and tourists since the 18th century period;
- Strong cultural and literary associations with Coleridge, Southey, Wordsworth and Ruskin – who were all influential in attracting the first visitors to the area, and celebrating the area as a landscape of great Sublime and Picturesque beauty and the early conservation movement.
- Predominantly a tranquil landscape surrounding Derwentwater and away from the main roads. Keswick, the A66, A591 and B5289 have disturbed sense of tranquillity due to traffic noise on the busy roads and visibility of the roads and urban development.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The expanse of Derwentwater with its four small islands, in a dramatic setting of High Fells to the west, south and east, forms the heart of this Area of Distinctive Character. The highly accessible soft lakeshore, with distinctive wooded jetties protruding into the lake, often tethered with wooden rowing boats, contributes to a sense of arrival at the northern end of the lake (closest to Keswick), although this welcome is diluted by the introduction of many motor boats moored here.

The bustling market town of Keswick occupies a unique setting, with a surrounding amphitheatre of impressive fells. It is set comfortably within the surrounding soft landscape with its many mature trees, has its origin as a medieval planned town, which was granted a market charter in 1276. Several of the original burgage plots laid out on either side of the main street and market place can still be seen within the town today. 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. In 1866, the railway reached Keswick, which led to Victorian expansion of the town, as it became one of the first tourist destinations of the Lake District. Grand Victorian terraced villa houses, with their intricate detailing and uniform architectural style, form a key component of the current urban fabric of the town. At the centre of the town, the bustling Market Place/Market Square is now pedestrianised, surrounded by a variety of imposing frontages of shops and hotels, and contributes to recognisable identity. Of particular significance is the Moot Hall (1813 building on site of Medieval structure), a unique historic building, probably the most readily identifiable, well known building in the Lake District.

The High Fell setting that surrounds Derwentwater and Keswick provides a dramatic sense of enclosure to the lake and settlement. Adjacent to the northern end of the lake, extensive areas of primarily deciduous woodland climb up the steep, craggy lower fell sides. Further south, the looming and well-known mass of Catbells (which features in Beatrix Potter's paintings) and Friar's Crag provide dramatic viewpoints across the landscape. There are open views into the craggy 'Jaws of Borrowdale'. Whilst to the east, the muted mass of Castlerigg, rises above, with the dramatic outline of the Skiddaw massif, perhaps the most dominant feature of the town providing yet further enclosure to the north. The fell backdrop introduces a change in texture and seasonal colour from heathland and bog. Overall, there is a sense of balance in the composition

AREA 16: KESWICK & DERWENTWATER

and form of water, fells and sky throughout this landscape.

The Picturesque movement influenced the character around Derwentwater. There are a number of 18th century viewing stations around Derwentwater (as described in Thomas West's guidebook of 1778), that provide panoramic views and are still accessible and mostly owned by the National Trust. There are also a number of mansions and villas, often set in designed landscape and parkland, such as Derwent Isle House, Derwent Bank and Derwent Bay, that provide a grand character to the area and introduce exotic tree species and designed gardens that blend with the pastoral landscape. Many of these buildings are listed.

The area varies in strength of tranquillity. There is a strong sense of tranquillity surrounding Derwentwater and away from the main roads due to the perceived naturalness of the landscape and presence of the lake and streams flowing through the wooded edges of the valley. However, around Keswick, and the A66, A591 and B5289 the sense of tranquillity is disturbed by road noise, views of the roads and urban development. At night there is light pollution from Keswick.

'... Around and about With endless rebound! Smiting and fighting,
A sight to delight in; Confounding, astounding,
Dizzying and deafening the ear with its sound.'
Lodore Falls, Derwentwater, Southey, Poet Laureate 1813-1843

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Woodland on the western shores of Derwentwater, which provides a sense of enclosure and important ecological habitats;
- Generally green setting and edge to the town of Keswick, which hides buildings within several views from the surrounding landscape, and is sensitive to any possible town expansion;
- Changes and redevelopment of villas, mansions and designed landscapes on the shores and islands of Derwentwater;
- Open views to Castlerigg, Catbells and Skelgill Bank High Fells, and the 'Jaws of Borrowdale' which are vulnerable to interruption;
- Original burgage plots within Keswick, that are sensitive to potential new developments, which do not respect existing townscape scale and vernacular character;
- Derwentwater, which is vulnerable to potential pollution associated with adjacent pastoral fields and Keswick Town;

AREA 16: KESWICK & DERWENTWATER

- Increased storm events and higher levels of rainfall causing erosion and flooding; and
- Overall sense of tranquillity at distance from Keswick and the main road network.⁶⁷

Forces for Change

The forces for change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** broadleaved woodland on the western shores of Derwent Water.
- **Ensure** natural flood and other flood management measures are sensitive to the landscape character.

Ecological Character

- **Protect** Derwentwater and associated lakeshore habitats from pollution, siltation and changing water levels.
- Ensure natural flood and other flood management measures are sensitive to the landscape character.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** original burgage plots within Keswick; and
- **Protect** the character of villas and designed landscapes on the shores and islands of Derwentwater. .

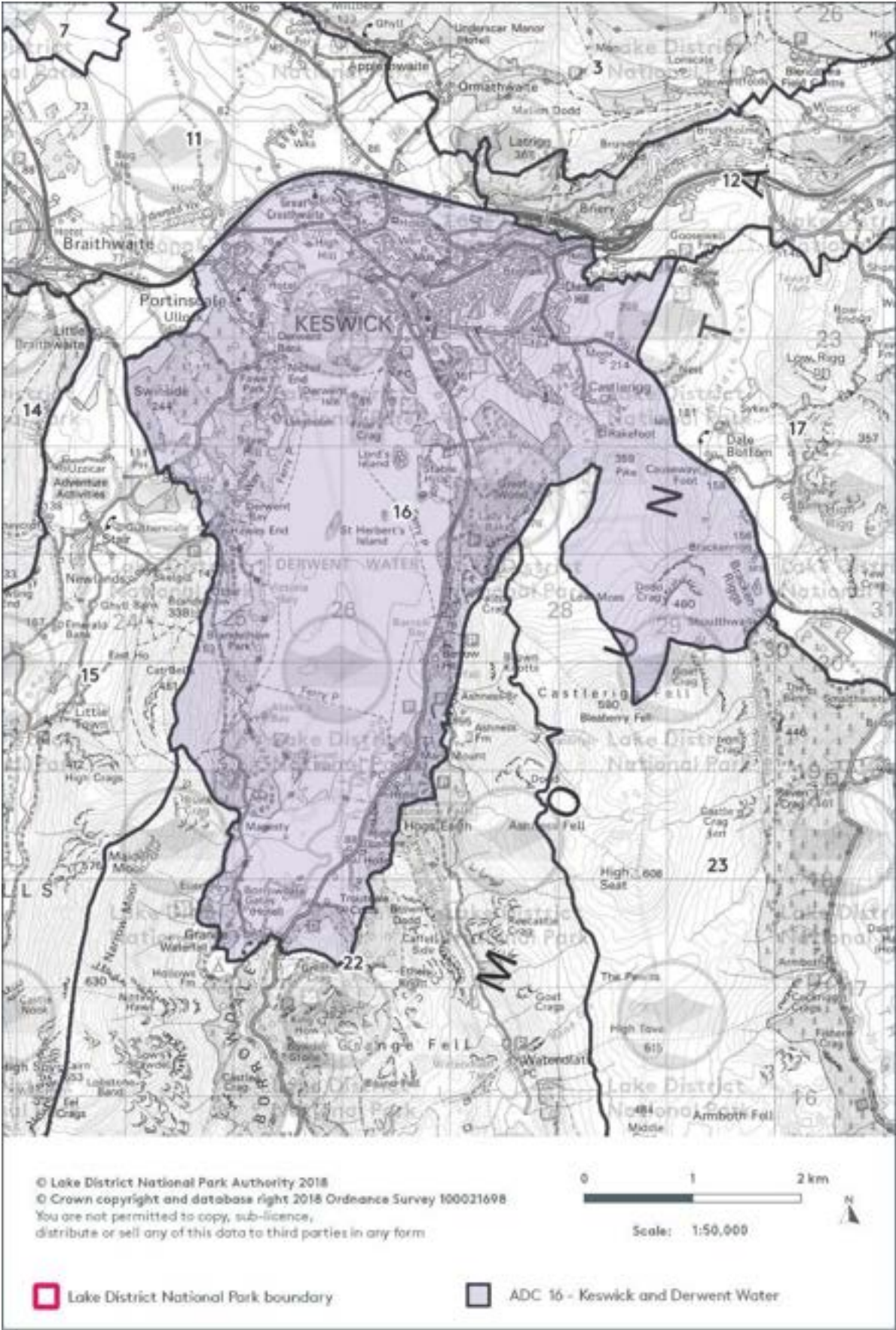
⁶⁷ This ADC is not covered by the Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure study.

AREA 16: KESWICK & DERWENTWATER

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Maintain** the generally green setting and edge to the town of Keswick;
- **Retain** open views to Castlerigg, Catbells and Skelgill Bank High Fells and the 'Jaws of Borrowdale';
- **Maintain** the wide variety of building materials resulting from railway and Victorian prosperity; and
- **Maintain** overall sense of tranquillity.

AREA 16: KESWICK & DERWENTWATER



AREA 17: ST. JOHN'S IN THE VALE & NADDLE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the north of the Lake District National Park, to the south of the Skiddaw massif and north of Thirlmere. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Thirlmere](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section

- [Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell](#) (F); and
- [Upland Valley](#) (H).

Distinctive Characteristics

- A landscape which slowly unfolds as you move through the valley with dramatic views of the fells all around;
- Strong field pattern punctuated with single and pollarded trees, framed on either side by steep-sided adjacent High Fells, with stone-scattered intakes below the fell wall and small field barns;
- Approaching from the south the vast bulk of Blencathra (forming part of the Skiddaw massif) is a prominent landmark;
- Strong contrast between the lush green pasture fields, punctuated with trees and soft clumps of woodland in the valleys, and the adjacent rugged-craggy high fells with their moorland and slanting bedding planes and screes;
- Castlerigg Stone Circle, a strong and powerful landscape feature, set within a dramatic and evocative setting;
- The abandoned micro-granite quarries, strung along the lower fell sides form significant landscape features of the post railway exploitation and provide important habitats;
- The Manchester Corporation/Water Authority workers houses at Fisher Place and Stanah are of an urban style and show the influence of major investment in the Thirlmere Reservoir and local settlements;
- Strong sense of enclosure provided by towering adjacent High Fells;
- Many mature pollards;
- Cultural associations with John Richardson, builder, poet and vicar;

AREA 17: ST. JOHN'S IN THE VALE & NADDLE

- Strong sense of tranquillity and a sense of openness and perceived naturalness of the landscape;
- Intricate corridor of the tree-lined Naddle Beck, to the west of St John's in the Vale; and
- Distinctive tiered geology of High Rigg.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The experience and rural charm of this Area of Distinctive Character unfolds, moving through the St John's valley landscape. The small-scale and intricate nature of lush green pasture fields, mature deciduous trees and clumps of woodland within the valley bottom, contrasts with the large-scale, rough texture and muted colours of adjacent moorland on the High Fells (with jagged Borrowdale Volcanic geology). There are extensive areas of common land on the east side of the Vale. There is a sense of long-term habitation with extensive areas along the valley bottom divided into the small, irregular stone-walled fields characteristic of small, ancient farms, traditional stone farmsteads, packhorse routes along the valley side, and many mature pollarded trees.

Approaching from the south, the mighty bulk of the Skiddaw range and Blencathra in particular, comes into view, framed by the valley and the approach into Keswick on the crest of the A591. This striking view conveys a strong feeling of enclosure and dominates the horizontal and vertical composition of elements within the valley. Approaching from the north, the strong impact of the exposed slanting bedding planes on High Rigg is particularly striking.

The relatively narrow corridor of the Naddle Beck, separated from St John's in the Vale by High Rigg and Low Rigg Fells, is a recognisable landscape feature. Mature trees and vegetation delineate the course of the river, which is crossed by several traditional stone packhorse bridges; including a fine 18th century example at Sosgill. A number of late 17th century stone farmhouses survive, such as Stanah, and contrast with the houses built for workers of Thirlmere reservoir, many of which are listed.

In the north west corner of the area and separated from the rest by the Naddle Beck is Castlerigg, with its neolithic stone circle providing an intangible link with the past use of this landscape. Its raised open location gives panoramic views of the surrounding fells in all directions.

The rugged nature of the exposed slanting rocks and screes flanking the valley sides contributes to a sense of openness and perceived naturalness and wildness above the valley floor. Throughout the area, a powerful sense of tranquillity is apparent with an absence of villages and a dispersed settlement pattern of isolated farmsteads and cottages, that is not eroded by the B5322 road which is a main route for traffic travelling on to Penrith via the A66. .

AREA 17: ST. JOHN'S IN THE VALE & NADDLE

'[St John's in the Vale] is esteemed one of the most celebrated scenes of beauty in the country: but it did not answer our expectation. The ground, consisting of patches of fenced meadow, adorned with farm-houses, and clumps of trees, was beautifully tumbled about in many parts: but the whole was rather rich, then picturesque: and on this account, I suppose, it hath obtained it's celebrity. It's circular form, every where within the scope of the eye, wanted that variety, which the winding vale affords.'

Gilpin, 1772

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Mature single trees which are distinctive landscape features;
- Soft clumps of woodland lining the course of St. John's Beck and mature vegetation lining Naddle Beck, which provide enclosure and are sensitive to changes in agricultural practices;
- Open views to Blencathra, High and Low Rigg Fells, especially from Castlerigg Stone Circle, which are vulnerable to interruption by vertical or large-scale developments with an intermediate sensitivity to the cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure:⁶⁸ and
- Predominantly rural character and overall strong sense of tranquillity.

Forces for Change

The Forces for Change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Conserve**, and **encourage** replacement mature single trees, including ash pollards which are distinctive landscape features; and

⁶⁸ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

AREA 17: ST. JOHN'S IN THE VALE & NADDLE

- **Conserve** and **enhance** clumps of woodland, including those lining the course of St. John's Beck,

Ecological Character

- **Conserve** moorland habitats.

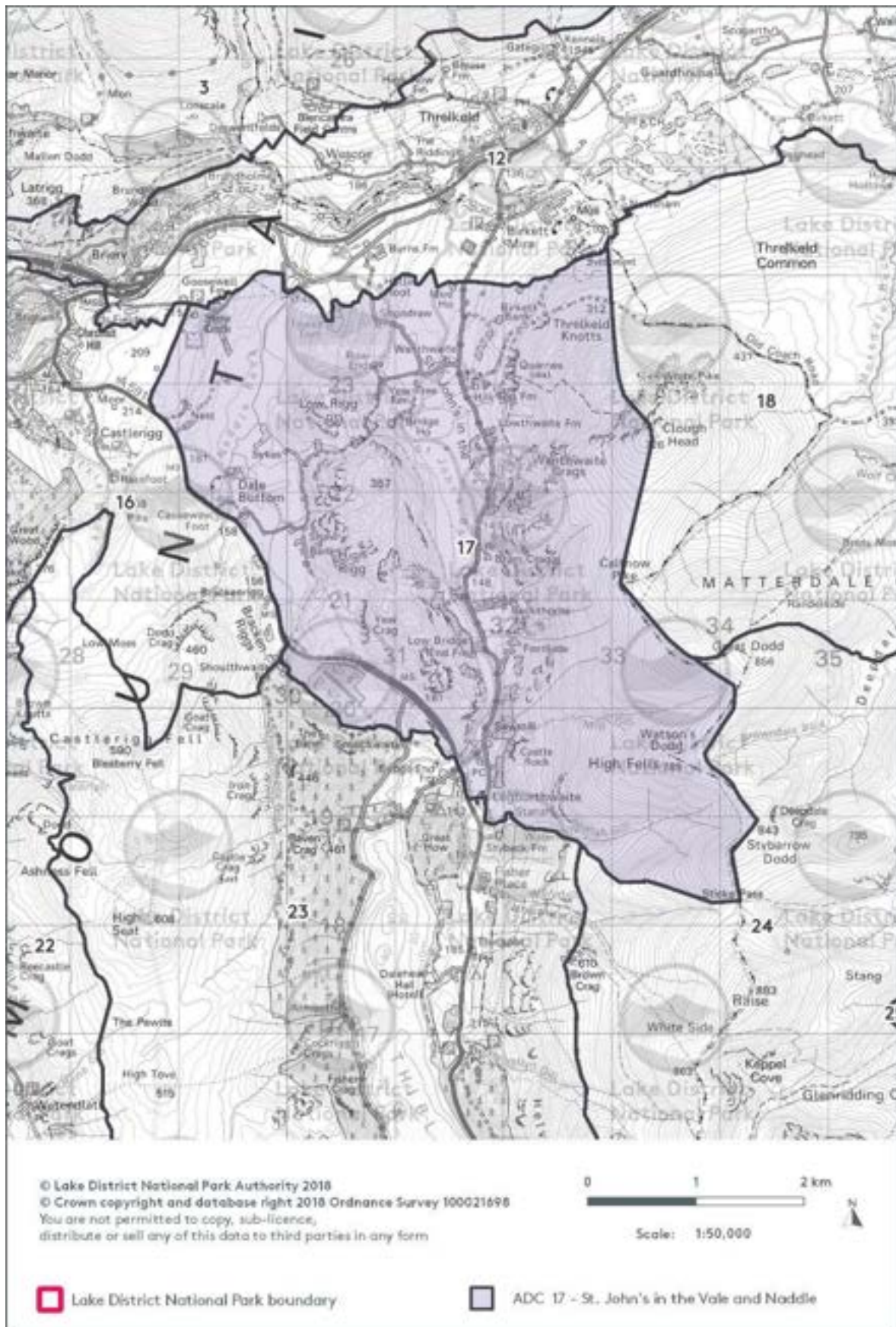
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** small field barns, stone walls and pack horse bridges.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Protect** open views towards surrounding fells, which are vulnerable to interruption from tall vertical or large-scale developments; and
- **Maintain** rural character and overall strong sense of tranquillity.

AREA 17: ST. JOHN'S IN THE VALE & NADDLE



AREA 18: THRELKELD & MATTERDALE COMMONS

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated in the northeast of the Lake District National Park, to the south-east of the Skiddaw Range, flanked by Helvellyn in the south and overlooking Thirlmere Reservoir to the west. It is in World Heritage Site Valleys: [Thirlmere](#) and [Ullswater](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section

- [Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell](#) (F);
- [Upland Valley \(H\)](#); and
- [High Fell Fringe](#) (J).

Distinctive Characteristics

- A relatively simple, fell landscape, which is draped by large expanses of blanket bog and heather moorland;
- Juxtaposition of open moorland and commons with irregular straight edged dark coniferous plantations;
- A strong sense of isolation, remoteness and exposure to the elements is apparent throughout this, large-scale landscape;
- Far reaching views from higher points, to the Skiddaw massif to the north and Helvellyn in the south;
- The texture of the landscape is predominantly smooth, aided by the uniformity of the moorland vegetation
- Till deposits at Thornsgill and Mosedale Beck provide important geological glacial record;
- Predominantly a very tranquil landscape due to the relative absence of main roads, dwellings, minimal sources of artificial noise and few obvious signs of human influences; and
- Traffic noise and movement disturbs the tranquillity in the north of the area.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This Area of Distinctive Character is characterised by uniformity in colour and

AREA 18: THRELKELD & MATTERDALE COMMONS

texture offered by the blanket bog and heather moorland, which is draped over the fells. This relatively simple fell landscape is almost completely devoid of settlement and man-made elements, (apart from the old coach road which traverses the area, suggesting greater access in the past), giving a sense of isolation. This is augmented by the nature of the surrounding topography and blanket bog and moorland vegetation on Matterdale and Threlkeld Commons, the monochrome colour of the latter broken in places by the vibrant yellows of occasional patches of gorse and purple of heather. Strong vertical elements are the coniferous plantations, including Matterdale Forest, predominantly in the east of the area. There are areas of regular fields from 18th century enclosures at Matterdale Beck and Matterdale End.

Throughout the area, fell-walkers and soaring birds of prey are often the only sources of movement, although in addition herds of red deer can sometimes be seen. The nature of the topography of the area facilitates far-reaching views towards the Skiddaw Massif, and Blencathra, in the north and Helvellyn in the south.

The area has a predominantly strong sense of tranquillity due to the openness and away from the forestry plantations, perceived naturalness of the landscape. It is also an area of low noise away from the A66 with a relative absence of dwellings and few obvious signs of human influence.

'On stern Blencathra's perilous height The winds are tyrannous and strong;
And flashing forth unsteady light From stern Blencathra's skiey height As loud
the torrents throng ...'

Coleridge, c.1802

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Large expanses of heather moorland, which are sensitive to overgrazing and inappropriate burning;
- Strong sense of isolation, exposure and tranquillity, as a result of the absence of main roads and almost complete lack of settlement; and
- Far reaching and predominantly open views from higher points to the Skiddaw massif and Helvellyn which contribute to recognisable sense of place and are vulnerable to interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments with an intermediate sensitivity to cumulative impacts of such development. ⁶⁹

⁶⁹ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

Forces for Change

The Forces for Change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above. There are no additional specific forces for change.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Manage** Mosedale Beck to reduce erosion and siltation of Bassenthwaite Lake.

Ecological Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** large expanses of blanket bog and heather moorland.

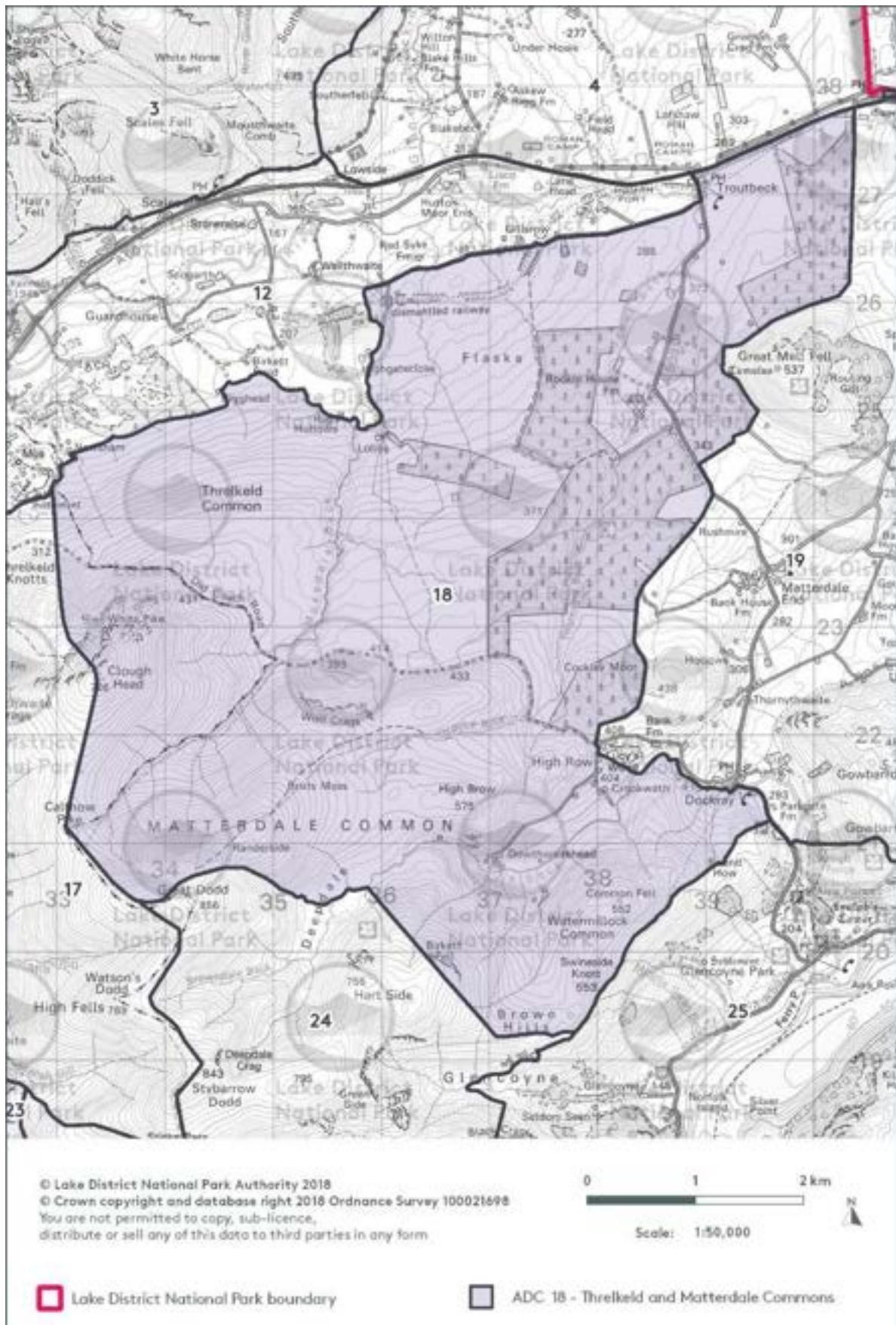
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Maintain** the open, unenclosed character of the commons.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Maintain** strong sense of isolation, exposure and tranquillity; and
- **Protect** far reaching and predominantly open views from higher points to the Skiddaw massif and Helvellyn from interruption by tall, vertical or large-scale developments.

AREA 18: THRELKELD & MATTERDALE COMMONS



AREA 19: GREAT MELL & LITTLE MELL VALLEYS

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated at the northern edge of the Lake District National Park, to the north of Ullswater. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Ullswater](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4)

- [Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell](#) (F);
- [Upland Limestone Farmland \(I\)](#) and
- [High Fell Fringe](#) (J).

Distinctive Characteristics

- A gentle rolling landscape, with the bulging domes of Great Mell Fell (with its distinctive wooded eastern side) and Little Mell Fell as distinct landmarks;
- These two landforms, formed from a localised conglomerate geology, form the focus of many views throughout the area and contribute to strong recognisable sense of place and orientation;
- The tops of the Mells provide extensive panoramic views towards Saddleback, Helvellyn and Martindale;
- Significant coniferous blocks are dominant in closer views;
- The heather dominated Gowbarrow Fell in the south of the area rising up from Ullswater provides contrast to the grassland and woodland of Great Mell Fell;
- The rolling hills predominantly covered by pastoral farmland, interspersed with many clumps of coniferous and deciduous woodland, which often frame views;
- Many small rectangular fields with wet, rushy areas in hollows;
- Scattered farmsteads and small hamlets, and a feeling of being 'tucked away' south of the Mells; and
- Predominantly a tranquil landscape away from the traffic noise of the busy A66 and A50591 due to the openness of the landscape and absence of large settlements and night-time light pollution.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The prominent, isolated rounded hills of Great Mell Fell and Little Mell Fell, towering over the surrounding lower farmland, are distinctive landscape features within this area. The two landmark hills, together with the lower surrounding hills and Gowbarrow Fell, create a landscape consisting of several small valleys, with many narrow beck cutting through the landscape.

The vast round shapes of Great Mell Fell, with its large expanse of pine trees covering the eastern side, and Little Mell Fell, are visible throughout the area, giving a sense of security and contributing strongly to the sense of place. The Mell Fells themselves facilitate extensive views across the character area in all directions, including, from Little Mell Fell, views to the lower reaches of Ullswater, Saddleback, Caldbeck Fells and the North Pennines. Views, in most directions throughout the area, are framed by blocks of conifer trees.

Pastoral fields, the main land use within the area, are predominantly lined by mature hedgerows, with a few dry stone walls. Disused quarries and a vast array of historic features littered across the rolling hills landscape highlight the long history of settlement within the area. These provide a contrast in texture and colour with the grassland, woodland and heathland of the higher fells.

The Great Mell and Little Mell Fell Valleys are served by a network of secondary roads, which generally do not detract from the sense of tranquillity apparent throughout the area, away from the A66 main road corridor. The area is predominantly a tranquil landscape due to the openness of the landscape and absence of large settlements and night-time light pollution. The sense of tranquillity can be disturbed by the traffic noise on the nearby busy A66 and A50591 roads

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Woodland on the eastern side of Great Mell Fell, which provides a sense of enclosure;
- Open views to and from Great and Little Mell Fells, which are vulnerable to interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments;
- Changes in grazing regimes for heathland areas;
- Network of mature hedgerows and field trees, which are sensitive to changing agricultural practices and land management;
- Generally strong sense of tranquillity throughout the area, coupled with the predominantly rural character of the minor road network; and
- Intermediate sensitivity to the cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure.⁷⁰

⁷⁰ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

Forces for Change

Forces for Change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Types(s) listed above. There are no additional specific forces for change.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** woodland on the eastern side of Great Mell Fell.

Ecological Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** the heathland and moorland.

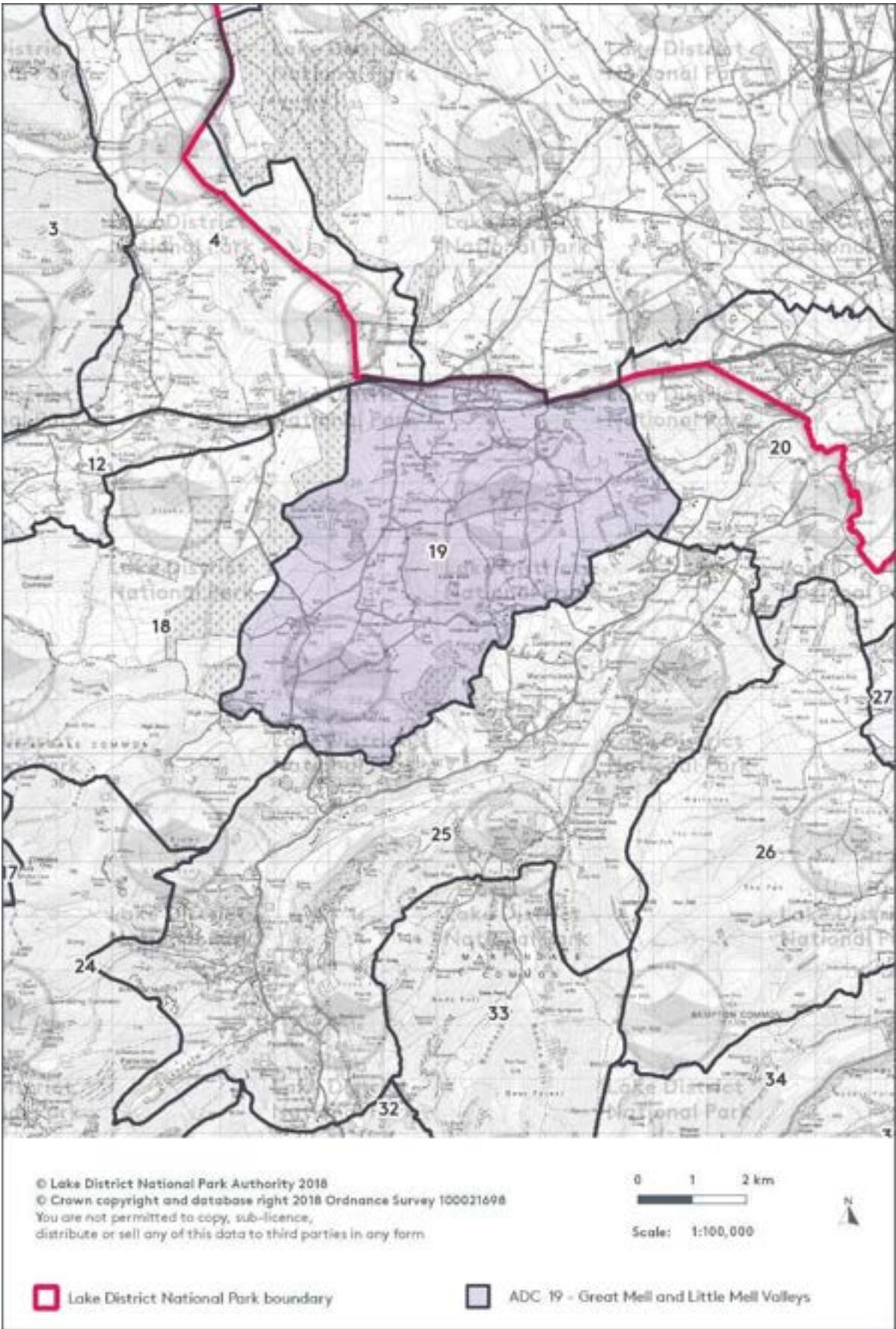
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** the network of mature hedgerows.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Maintain** the strong sense of tranquillity throughout the area; and
- **Protect** open views towards surrounding areas, which are vulnerable to interruption from tall vertical or large-scale developments.

AREA 19: GREAT MELL & LITTLE MELL VALLEYS



AREA 20: EAMONT VALLEY

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated within the north east of the National Park, north of Ullswater and close to Penrith. The ADC extends beyond the Park boundary and forms part of the its setting. It is in World Heritage Site Valleys: [Haweswater](#) and [Ullswater](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section

- [Upland Valley](#) (H);
- [Upland Limestone Farmland](#) (I); and
- [High Fell Fringe](#) (J).

Distinctive Characteristics

- A very shallow and broad valley, with the underlying topography of carboniferous limestone giving rise to a gently rolling landscape exhibiting a mixture of lowland farmland and estate Parkland;
- Large pastoral fields (generally demarcated by hedgerows, but with walls and field barns on the higher limestone ground from Dalemmain towards Dacre and Hutton), set back from the River Eamont, dominate this character area;
- The course of the River Eamont contributes to recognisable sense of place;
- Outcrops of limestone crags south west of Stainton;
- In places, the topography allows far reaching views across the surrounding landscape to Barton Fell and High Street in the south and the Pennines to the east;
- Predominantly a tranquil landscape, especially away from the A66, due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the valley. The sense of tranquillity is enhanced by the relative absence of settlements; and
- St Andrews Church and Castle at Dacre and Dalemmain Mansion with its surrounding designed landscape parkland, and deer park bounded by iron railings.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The gentle rolling hills within this Area of Distinctive Character are underlain by carboniferous limestone, which is evident as building materials within farmsteads and

AREA 20: EAMONT VALLEY

settlements. Apart from the mass of Barton Fell to the south, which can be seen from higher points within the area, no obvious landmarks serve as focus points. Estate woodland and parkland, which is punctuated with mature and veteran trees, surrounds Dalemmain, Dacre Castle and some of the other halls dotted in the landscape, with fallow deer a feature of the deer park at Dalemmain.

The River Eamont, which starts at Pooley Bridge and flows its way towards Penrith; and the Dacre Beck, which joins the Eamont from the west; fit comfortably within the landscape, contributing to a recognisable sense of place.

The relatively intricate patchwork of different habitats near the river, including pastoral farmland (the mainly regular fields of which are generally lined by hedgerows), clumps of deciduous and coniferous woodland, riverside vegetation and traditional buildings following the rolling topography of the area contributes to a recognisable landscape pattern. To the north-east between Dalemmain and Hutton, the land rises onto limestone, the field boundaries suddenly change to limestone and limestone field barns are a feature, with strips of broadleaved woods contributing seasonal colour. In close proximity to the A66, A592 and the B5320, sense of tranquillity is disturbed by sound and movement associated with these main roads.

Settlement is concentrated in the villages of Pooley Bridge, and hamlets of Dacre, Barton, Hutton, Stainton, Sockbridge, Tirril and Yanwath; all of which, with their local stone character, fit comfortably within the rolling hills. Dacre Castle and very historic St Andrew's Church (with its four early medieval stone carved bears) and Dacre Castle (a 14th century pele tower with projecting corner turrets, originally surrounded by a moat which has now been filled in), Barton Church and Dalemmain mansion, with its Elizabethan origins, fine Georgian frontage and medieval Pele tower, is surrounded by 17th and 18th century designed landscape parkland, provide focal points within the landscape.

The area is predominantly a tranquil landscape especially away from the A66 due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the valley. The sense of tranquillity is enhanced by the relative absence of settlement, night-time light pollution away from Penrith and minimal sources of artificial noise. In the north of the area the sense of tranquillity is disturbed by traffic noise on the busy A66, M6 and views of the traffic on the roads and Penrith.

'I am no solitary, but repair
To woods and streams what time my duties spare:
Musing my fancies, silent and unseen.
I build my hovel 'mong thy alders green! –
Emont! I wish – I will not say I pray –
Thou wouldst not wash my little works away!
Emont Vale, Wilkinson 1824

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types,

AREA 20: EAMONT VALLEY

sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Predominantly intact hedgerow network, which is vulnerable to changes in land management and agricultural practices;
- Far reaching views to the Barton Fell and the High Street Fells in the south and the Pennines to the east, which are sensitive to interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments with a significant sensitivity to the cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure;⁷¹
- The River Eamont and tributaries, which are vulnerable to pollution from run off associated with adjacent pastoral fields, increasing discharges from tourism development, and flooding from increased storm events and rainfall;
- A sense of tranquillity throughout the area, which is vulnerable to increased traffic on the predominantly rural road network; and
- Sparse and small-scale settlement pattern, consisting of the hamlets of Dacre, Barton, Sockbridge and Tirril, which are sensitive to the introduction of large-scale buildings, or those which do not respect local building materials, scale and character.

Forces for Change

Forces for Change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Types(s) listed above. There are no additional specific forces for change.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. In addition to the generic guidelines for managing landscape change within the relevant Landscape Character Types. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Protect** the River Eamont from pollution.
- **Encourage** natural flood management approaches that respect the physical character of the river corridor.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** the hedgerow network;

⁷¹ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

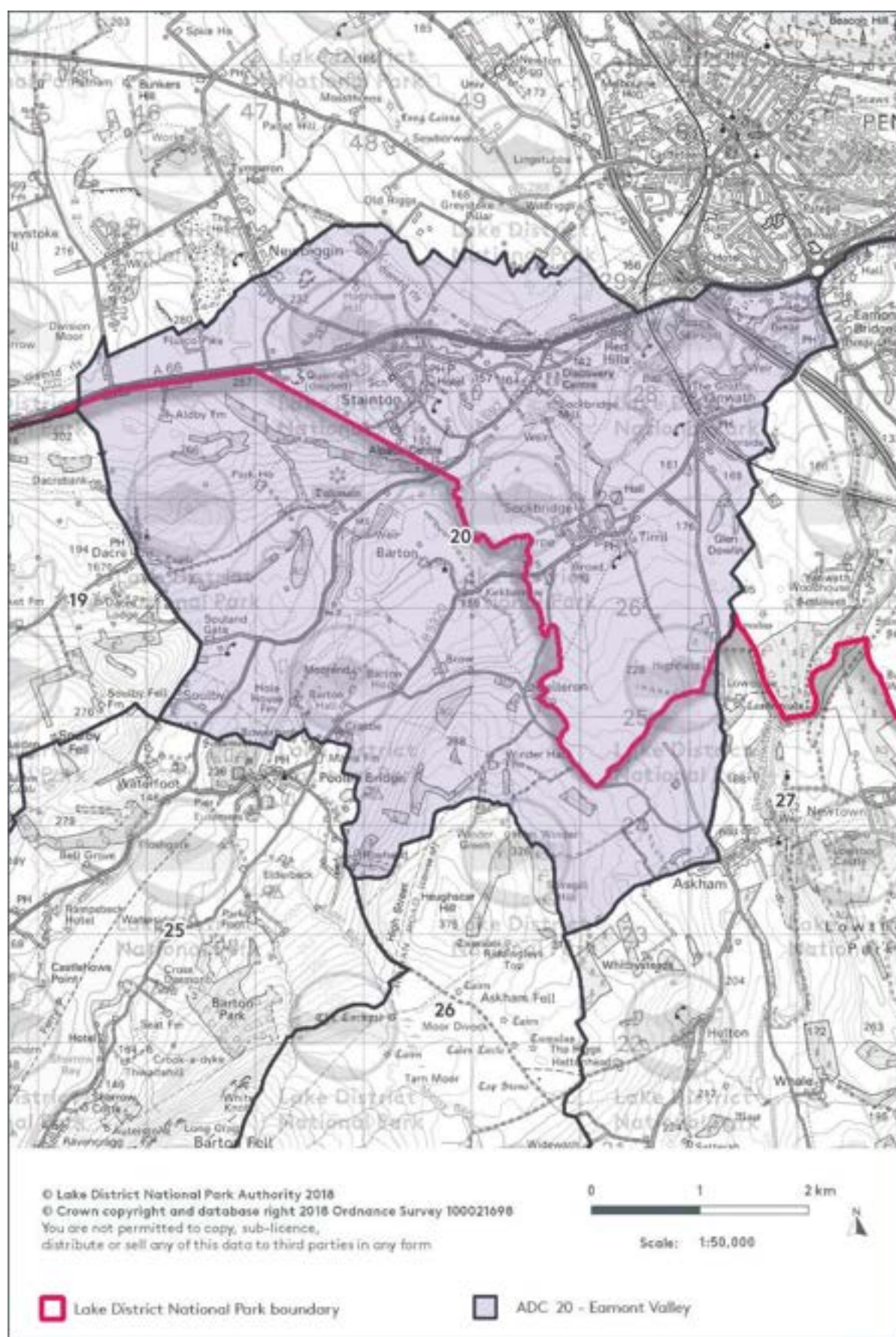
AREA 20: EAMONT VALLEY

- **Conserve** and **enhance** limestone walls and field barns;
- **Retain** sparse and small-scale settlement pattern, consisting of the hamlets of Dacre, Barton Sockbridge and Tirril; and
- **Conserve** and **enhance** designed parkland areas and retain and enhance mature infield and boundary trees.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Protect** far reaching views to the Barton Fell and High Street in the south and the Pennines in the east from interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments; and
- **Maintain** the sense of tranquillity throughout the area.

AREA 20: EAMONT VALLEY



AREA 21: ENNERDALE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

Ennerdale is the most westerly of the Upland Valleys within the Lake District National Park. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Ennerdale](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4)

- [Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell](#) (F).
- [Rugged, Angular Slate High Fell](#) (G);
- [Upland Valley](#) (H); and
- [High Fell Fringe](#) (J)

Distinctive Characteristics

- Craggy ridges of Borrowdale Rock form a dramatic backdrop with the steep fells of Herdus to the north and Crag Fell to the south evoking a sense of enclosure;
- The lake occupies the central and lower parts of the area was formed by glacial action with a fine series of rounded moraines at the head of the valley, at Black Sail;
- Outside of the nuclear settlement of Ennerdale Bridge, at the western most edge of the area, there are only a few scattered and isolated dwellings and farmsteads;
- The eastern part of the valley, which is narrower and becomes more enclosed by the high rocky fells is dominated by the conifer forests planted in the early part of the last century by the Forestry Commission.
- The steep rocky craggy faces of Kirk Fell, Great Gable, Steeple Pillar and Brandreth provide a strong sense of enclosure to the valley head. Pillar rock forms an imposing feature in the valley and is regarded as one of the birthplaces of mountaineering;
- This contrasts with the open pastoral farmland to west end of valley with its rich network of hedgerows and mature trees giving the west end a much gentler feel;
- The openness and proximity to the coastal plain gives the west end of the valley a much lighter and more open feel;
- To the east of the lake, a small compact valley bottom with fields and wall boundaries contrast with an area of wet heath;

AREA 21: ENNERDALE

- The woodlands in the valley are increasingly diverse with areas of semi-natural ancient birch-oak woodland, mature non-native conifers, areas of clear fell, recent conifer planting and areas open to natural regeneration;
- There is a very strong sense of enclosure within parts of the forest where the only built features are a small number of bridges (some incongruous in the landscape), the forest roads and the hostels at Gillerthwaite and Black Sail;
- At the east end of the valley there is a softening boundary between the grazed fell and the remains of a cleared conifer forest. This contrasts with the area to the south of the lake where The Side provides one of the best examples of altitudinal succession in the Lake District;
- The head of the valley is crossed by one of the major Lakeland mountain walking routes, approaching from Wasdale over Black Sail Pass and continuing on to Buttermere over Scarth Gap.
- The River Liza is a mobile, high energy river and has seen almost no human intervention along its length. As such it is one of the most geomorphologically important rivers in England;
- The lake which provides water for the west coast has a stone and concrete revetment around its north-western most part; despite these built features there is a strong sense of tranquillity;
- The sense of isolation is reinforced by the fact that this is the only major Lakeland valley with no public road along it and virtually no habitation beyond the western most edge; Due to its location and relative inaccessibility, Ennerdale receives few visitors but is an important recreational resource for the urban communities of west Cumbria; and
- Predominantly very tranquil due to the lack of roads and other built structures and the relatively small number of visitors.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This is a landscape of stark contrasts between spruce plantations on the valley sides, large areas of recent clear fell, wet heath; and montane heath (on the higher open fells), semi-natural deciduous woodlands and the pastoral farmland in the valley bottom. These contrasts are framed by some of the Lake District's highest summits, including Green Gable, Great Gable, Pillar, Kirk Fell and Steeple, all of which contribute to a very strong recognisable sense of place within the valley and also provide orientation.

The valley is relatively narrow at its head with rough grazing on the steep open fells where clear of crags, outcrops and screes. Lower down the valley slopes, large scale, mature conifer forests dominate the landscape. Continued harvesting has created a diversity of dense conifers, areas of clear-fell, conifer re-planting, natural regeneration and further west some areas of ancient oak woodland. This evokes an ongoing sense of change in the valley, enhanced by the strong visual presence of the mobile, high energy River Liza. Ennerdale Water, known as Broad Water until the late 18th century, is a large glacial lake which has been deepened by a dam at its west end. It is relatively shallow, but has a resident population of Arctic Char.

West of the lake the valley suddenly opens out to a landscape of rolling pastoral

AREA 21: ENNERDALE

farmland with a rich network of hedgerows and trees with a much gentler feel and including the village of Ennerdale Bridge. The river from the lake westwards is the River Ehen.

The agricultural field pattern of the valley is a typical Lake District one with inbye, intake and open fell grazing patterns but now obscured largely by conifers. The inbye areas in the valley bottom, by Gillerthwaite, are still intact. Evidence of medieval open fields can still be found in the wider Ennerdale Valley, often as fossilised strip fields in the landscape. At Croasdale a very small amount of arable is shown on historic maps as strips, and some of these survive in modern boundaries. The valley experiences some enclosure, introducing regular walls which extend up the steep sides.

Pillar Rock presents one of the most dramatic mountain faces in England and can lay claim to being one of the birth places of climbing and mountaineering. It effectively splits the valley in half, with the lake forming the other half. Infrastructure associated with the 'reservoir' detracts from the natural feel around the western end of the lake (with concrete walls, fish pass and revetments around much of the lake).

Contrasts in terms of scale are also evident, with a sense of intimacy and enclosure within the forests, and a strong sense of openness within the immediate environs of the lake and on the fells. From the higher land of Bowness Knott, to the north and the surrounding High Fells, dramatic long-distance views across the dale and adjacent landscapes can be gained.

Significant enclosure for afforestation took place in the early 20th century and is still a dominant characteristic today. Work is taking place to remove conifers and allow natural regeneration that will reinforce the sense of wildness of the area in time.

Since 1864 Ennerdale Water has been used as a water supply for West Cumbria, but the impact on the valley of the water industry is relatively minor.

There is a prehistoric cairnfield on the banks of the River Liza. There is also some evidence for Romano-British settlement in Ennerdale with farmsteads at Low Gillerthwaite and the remains of a medieval settlement at Gillerthwaite.

There is evidence of mining and mineral extraction from the medieval period onwards.

There are literary associations with Wordsworth who demonstrated the time depth of the pastoral system in the Lake District prior to enclosure and afforestation.

There is a very strong sense of tranquillity, isolation and wildness, within this area, and particularly towards the eastern end of the valley. Ennerdale and Black Sail Youth Hostels and the Low Gillerthwaite Field Centre, to the east of the lake, and the small village of Ennerdale Bridge, to the north-west, provide some of the only built elements. The lack of settlement, coupled with very few roads or motor vehicles, and a strong sense of enclosure provided by the dramatic backdrop of surrounding High Fells provide the sense of tranquillity and isolation.

. From the higher fells there are dramatic long distance views across the coastal plan and the Solway Firth to Scotland and the Isle of Man.

'Wake, England, wake! 'tis now the hour,
To sweep away this black disgrace –
The want of locomotive power, In so enjoyable a place.
Nature has done her part, and why, Is mightier man in his to fail?
I want to hear the porter's cry, 'Change here for Ennerdale!'

Canon Rawnsley and the Lake District Defence Society opposing the plan to run a railway through the valley, published 'Poetical Lamentation on the Insufficiency of Steam Locomotion in the Lake District, in the Pall Mall Gazette, 1883

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Dispersed and small-scale settlement pattern, consisting of the small village of Ennerdale and scattered farmsteads, which is sensitive to the introduction of large-scale buildings, or those which do not respect local vernacular building materials, scale and character;
- Strong sense of isolation and tranquillity, particularly at the lakeshore and throughout most of the area;
- Large areas of woodland, which provides a sense of enclosure;
- Dramatic open views to the surrounding peaks of Great Gable, Steeple and Pillar, which contribute to recognisable sense of place, and are vulnerable to interruption from tall vertical or large-scale developments with an intermediate sensitivity to the cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure;⁷²
- Water within the River Liza, River Ehen and Ennerdale Water which is sensitive to the potential impacts of farming and forestry activities and increased storm events and rainfall; and
- Predominantly rural and undeveloped character.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- The Wild Ennerdale Partnership, is the key driver for change, leading towards a naturalisation of the landscape, increased sense of wildness, more diverse and dynamic habitats with less distinction between forestry and farmed land and removal of intrusive built structures; and

⁷² Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

AREA 21: ENNERDALE

- Reduction in non-native conifer woodland and planting native woodland on gill and valley sides, transforming the existing character through reinforcement of positive attributes.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Encourage** low intervention management on the River Liza and Ehen and mitigate any impacts from farming and forestry activity, especially on pearl mussel and fish populations;
- **Reduce** non native coniferous woodland..

Ecological Character

- **Conserve** the important altitudinal succession habitats of The Side; and
- **Conserve** and restore heathland and deciduous woodland.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Retain** dispersed and small scale settlement pattern, consisting of the small village of Ennerdale and scattered farmsteads.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Enhance** the sense of wildness in the valley and enable natural processes to play a greater role in the development of a more diverse and dynamic landscape;
- **Protect** the incredibly strong sense of isolation and tranquillity, particularly at the lakeshore and throughout most of the area;
- **Protect** dramatic open views to the surrounding peaks of Great Gable, Steeple and Pillar, which contribute to recognisable sense of place, from interruption from tall vertical or large-scale developments; and
- **Maintain** rural and undeveloped character.

AREA 21: ENNERDALE



AREA 22: BORROWDALE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

Borrowdale is situated to the south of Keswick and Derwentwater in the north eastern part of the Lake District National Park. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Borrowdale & Bassenthwaite](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section

- [Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell](#) (F);
- [Rugged, Angular Slate High Fell](#) (G); and
- [Upland Valley](#) (H)

Distinctive Characteristics

- Extremely diverse and intricate patchwork of fell, farmland, rivers, woodland and settlements, contained within the dramatic valley, which sits between the underlying smooth Skiddaw Group and the Rugged, Craggy Borrowdale Volcanic geology;
- The fellsides are cloaked in native oak woodland with Borrowdale being one of the most wooded of all the Lake District valleys. The extensive sinuous atlantic oak woodland with its important assemblages of mosses and lichens clothing the valley sides, is a key landscape feature;
- Overlooked by a series of imposing, large-scale High Fells (including the northern end of the Scafell massif, the western part of the Central Fells and Glaramara Ridge), which provide a strong sense of dramatic enclosure;
- The underlying geology changes in a well-wooded narrowing of the valley between King How and Castle Crag. The valley narrows moving southwards from Derwentwater at the confluence of the narrow, imposing, wooded 'Jaws of Borrowdale', before unexpectedly opening up again further to the south to show an instantly recognisable pattern of farmsteads and pastures within the valley bottom;
- Series of U-shaped valleys (including Seathwaite, Stonethwaite and the timeless hanging valley of Watendlath) feed into the main valley of Borrowdale;
- A number of traditional, small-scale farmsteads are nestled tightly within these side valleys. The villages of Rosthwaite and Grange in Borrowdale are focal points in the valley bottom, and their appearance is a contrast of limewash, render and rubble of the 17th century farmhouses, to the neat exposed green slate from the local quarries for the formal more imposing 19th century houses and hotels;

AREA 22: BORROWDALE

- Larger scale hamlets of Rosthwaite and Grange sit in the valley bottom, where lush pastures are divided by a network of stone walls which rise onto the lower sides of the surrounding fells;
- The alluvial soils of the valley floor give rise to lush inbye pastures divided by a network of hedges and rubble stone walls, which rise onto the lower sides of the surrounding fells, where intakes continue the pastoral character, with significant numbers of fell going herdwick flocks;
- Nationally-significant rare upland hay meadows are found in the Borrowdale Valley, an important remnant of past land management and local farming heritage.;
- Water and the many watercourses have a huge influence on the character of this landscape, with seasonally changing amounts of rainfall, which at times can lead to immense cascading discharges of water down waterfalls, along the valleys, and into the main river Derwent with their distinctive gravel banks and important vernacular bridges such as Grange and Ashness. Most of these water courses have been highly modified by man over centuries for agricultural improvement;
- The valley has strong cultural associations with mountaineering and mining and has inspired writers such as Wordsworth, Beatrix Potter, Ruskin, Wainwright, Dalton, and Walpole;
- The volcanic green slate quarries and mines at Honister (still active) and Rigg Head form a distinct feature of industrial archaeological importance. Similarly, the world famous graphite or wad mines at Seathwaite are of both landscape and socio- economic importance, giving rise to the celebrated Keswick pencil industry. The mines were abandoned in 1891;
- Significant native woodland contributes to the natural beauty of the area, with dramatic seasonal colour changes;
- Pollarded trees a strong feature of the landscape and evidence of past and current management; and
- Predominantly a very tranquil valley due to the perceived naturalness of the landscape, the presence of the River Derwent and relative absence of large settlements.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This relatively narrow and contained valley encompasses a diverse patchwork of different elements, including dramatic, smooth and craggy Fells with heathland and moorland to the west, pastoral farmland, traditional hay meadows, with many veteran trees and pollards, which is divided by an interlocking network of traditional stone walls with hedgerows around the valley bottom, and, extensive mature native woodland along the valley sides. The woodland is a rare survival of extensive stands of atlantic oak woodland, which has important assemblages of bryophytes (mosses). The valley also holds the famous ancient yews known as the Borrowdale Yews, celebrated in verse by Wordsworth.

The strong sense of containment, which contributes to the intimate scale of the valley-bottom landscape, is a result of the imposing, craggy High Fells, which form the

AREA 22: BORROWDALE

backdrop to the valley. The instantly recognisable, convergence of Grange Fell and Castle Crag clothed in woodland, (known as the 'Jaws of Borrowdale') creates a narrow access route, with a strong sense of containment, following the River Derwent through the valley and giving visitors little clue to what lies beyond to the south.

Once through the narrow gap, the valley opens up again to reveal a patchwork of pastoral fields, scattered farmsteads and houses. Pastoral farming is the overriding land use. Farming traditions are strong and historic. Strip fields fossilised from a previous pattern of agriculture can be seen at Rosthwaite. The remains of two separate ring garths can be traced in the present field system in the side valley of Watendlath. Early enclosures can be seen around Seathwaite, Rosthwaite and Stonethwaite. Intaking took place in the mid 18th century, with 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.

The overriding green colour of the valley as a result of the almost continuous swathe of soft mature broadleaved woodland, set against the muted greys and browns of the surrounding High Fells, exhibits strong contrast in summer. The woodland also contributes major seasonal colour changes when clothed in spring and autumn colour, and in winter the visually important assemblages of woodland lichens and mosses, and the watercourses add further highlights depending on the weather.

A series of narrow U-shaped valleys feed the main dale, each with their intricate pattern of stone-bridge crossed streams on the valley floor, small hamlets and pasture fields, overlooked by imposing crags and peaks of the High Fells.

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.

The walls and farm buildings in Borrowdale are constructed from local slate, stone with buildings often whitewashed. The valley has numerous fine examples of Lake District vernacular style. Important, and attractive, 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 Watendlath, Ashness and Stockley south of Seathwaite, and there is a graceful double-arched bridge that is a key approach feature at Grange, rebuilt in the early 19th century.

There is a strong sense of intimacy and tranquillity within both Stonethwaite and Seathwaite Valleys, especially within the small-scale vernacular stone hamlets. To the northeast of the Jaws of Borrowdale, the spectacular hanging valley of Watendlath, with its spectacular views from the Northern reaches of the valley towards Derwentwater, and its timeless woodland, beck and pastures, and remote combination of Tarn, farmhouse and stone bridge at the valley head, creating an intimate and almost hidden landscape.

When it rains in Borrowdale, the landscape comes alive both visually and sensually as water gushes down waterfalls (such as Sour Milk Gill), cascading over boulders along the narrow stream corridors towards the River Derwent and Derwentwater to the north. At all times of the year however, regardless of rain, water has a presence within the landscape, as it trickles along the boulder and pebble strewn Derwent River corridor.

The area has a very strong sense of tranquillity, locally disturbed in places by traffic noise on the B5289. The sense of tranquillity is due to perceived naturalness of the landscape and the presence of the River Derwent. There is also a relative absence of

AREA 22: BORROWDALE

large settlements and night-time light pollution and minimal sources of artificial noise.

'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. Beloved names came to meet him as he looked. Towards Derwentwater, Brown Dodd and Ashness Fell and High Seat; towards Thirlmere, Ambroth and Watendlath Fell; towards the Langdales, Coldbarrow and Ullscarf and High White Stones. 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, depths of violet under shadow of rose, and a great and perfect stillness everywhere.'

From *Rogue Herries* Part IV, Hugh Walpole

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Open views to surrounding large-scale High Fells (including Scafell, the Central Fells and Glaramara Ridge) which are sensitive to interruption by large scale or tall vertical developments;⁷³
- Small-scale and intricate settlement pattern, consisting of the small farmsteads and hamlets, which are sensitive to the introduction of large-scale buildings, or those which do not respect local vernacular building materials, including slate, scale and character;
- Large areas of internationally important semi-natural deciduous woodland along the valley sides, which provide a sense of enclosure and an important ecological habitat;
- Mature network of hedgerows, combined with a strongly recognisable series of vernacular stone walls, which contribute to recognisable sense of place and are sensitive to changes in land management or agricultural practices;
- Strong sense of tranquillity throughout, especially within the hanging valley of Watendlath;
- Predominantly rural character throughout, with a series of minor rural roads crossing the landscape;

⁷³ This ADC is not covered by the Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure study.

AREA 22: BORROWDALE

- Water within the sinuous River Derwent, several smaller streams, becks and waterfalls, which is sensitive to potential pollution from run off associated with adjacent pastoral fields, and potential changes to water levels;
- Vernacular stone bridges, which cross the rivers and are historic landscape features; and
- Mining and tourism development at Honister has a significant impact on the surrounding landscape.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Regeneration of native woodland;
- Much of the valley bottom land may be significantly influenced by any changes in the management regime of the river and increased storm events and rainfall;
- Viability of maintaining agricultural flood defences leading to the naturalisation of river channels and the loss of in-bye agricultural land;
- Sustained pressure on the use of Grains Gill and impacts on tranquillity of the Three Peaks Challenge around Seathwaite; and
- Increase in large agricultural buildings for over wintering stock and in size of new residential properties leading to greater visibility and loss of landscape quality.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Conserve** and **expand** semi-natural deciduous woodland along the valley sides.

Ecological Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** traditional hay meadows and heather moorland.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Ensure** a holistic and sustainable approach is taken to the future management of the River Derwent and any consequent effects on farming in the valley;

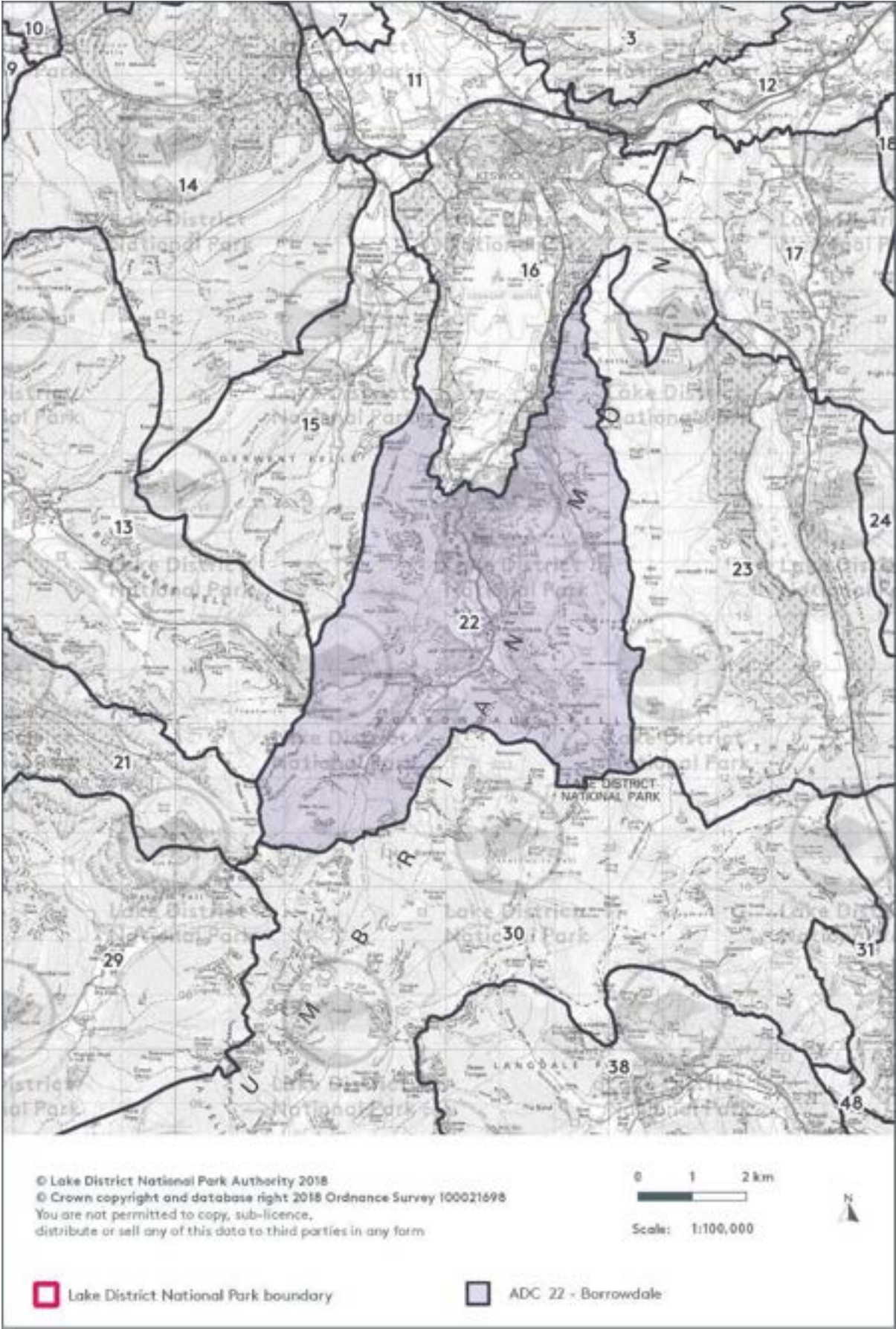
AREA 22: BORROWDALE

- **Retain** small-scale and intricate settlement pattern, consisting of the small farmsteads and hamlets;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** mature network of hedgerows and stone walls, especially at the valley head;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** distinctive ash pollards and other mature open-grown trees in farmed land and on valley sides; and
- **Conserve** vernacular stone river bridges.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Retain** open views to surrounding large-scale High Fells (including Scafell, the Central Fells and Glaramara Ridge);
- **Protect** views from interruption by vertical or large-scale developments; and
- **Maintain** strong sense of tranquillity throughout, especially within the hanging valley of Watendlath;

AREA 22: BORROWDALE



AREA 23: THIRLMERE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated to the north of the centre of the Lake District National Park and to the west of Helvellyn Range, providing a connecting feature between the valleys of St. John's and Grasmere. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Thirlmere](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section

- [Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell](#) (F); and
- [Upland Valley](#) (H).

Distinctive Characteristics

- A large-scale steep-sided glaciated upland valley, lacking habitation and predominantly occupied by a large reservoir, framed by craggy Borrowdale fells, which are draped with a layer of coniferous woodland and imposing steep fells, crags and screes of the Helvellyn massif;
- Dramatic views over the lake from Armboth Fell and Raven Crag in the west, and the impressive Helvellyn Ridge in the east;
- Strong contrast between the open, craggy character of the High Fells, and its heather and blanket bog, and the vast expanses of coniferous woodland (which is being converted to native woodland around the lakeshores) covering the lower slopes;
- Large reservoir within a relatively narrow valley, which contrasts with other natural post-glacial lakes;
- Early agricultural landscape largely covered by the reservoir, but remnants of the field pattern can be seen around the water's edge and at the top of the valley;
- Features of cultural heritage range from Castle Crag Hill Fort to the castellated, red sandstone straining well, a distinctive roadside feature alongside the A591 (grade II listed), built by Manchester Corporation in the 1890s;
- The presence of the main road corridor of the A591 bordering the eastern shore of the reservoir provides a constant source of movement and noise locally, whilst the western valley side with its minor and less busy road, exhibits a more tranquil character;
- Predominantly a very tranquil landscape especially away from the valley floor around the A591 where areas are locally disturbed by traffic noise. General lack of

AREA 23: THIRLMERE

development, particularly on the western side gives a strong sense of tranquillity and remoteness.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The vast expanse of water, framed by the predominantly wooded valley slopes, combined with the less dramatic topography of the western slopes, form a large-scale landscape that is much more gentle – but no less imposing – than many of the other Upland Valleys, evoking a sense of calm. Other than the pumping station on the east bank, the area lacks signs of habitation, adding to the sense of calm. Farmhouses and clusters of buildings are restricted to the ends of the valley. Tree felling has opened up views across the lake from the A591.

There is extensive coniferous woodland (which is home to red squirrels and deer) on the fell sides framing the eastern and western sides of the lake. Here a strong feeling of enclosure is apparent; providing a strong contrast with adjacent exposed open common land on the fell where there are wide views over the valley and the fell beyond. There are remnant stands of juniper on the higher western slopes and extensive areas of blanket bog, sedge mires and heathland. These provide a contrast in texture and colour.

Thirlmere Reservoir, like Haweswater, was artificially created (the dam to the northern end of the Reservoir was built in 1893), and flooded farmsteads in the valley. As with many large reservoirs the water level drops in summer, revealing a wide band of bare exposed rock and creating an unnatural banded effect.

Remnants of former field patterns can be seen at the edges of the reservoir, including larger intakes surrounded by inbye land at Legburnthwaite, running along the lower slopes of Helvellyn and around Wythburn. Other areas of intake have been covered by conifer plantation. West Head Farm, at Wythburn, is one of the most important herdwick farms in the Lake District and one of the major producers of top quality tups in the country. There are a number of important historic farm houses dating from the 17th century that contribute to the vernacular of the area and a possible early medieval hillfort at Shoulthwaite.

The slightly curved shape of the lake means that the whole reservoir cannot be seen when standing at either end, adding an element of surprise when travelling through the landscape. From the quieter western lakeshore, spectacular views across the water to the Helvellyn Range to the east can be gained. Recent thinning of non-native trees around the reservoir margins has opened up major new views of the water. Literary connections include works by Southey, Wordsworth and John Richardson. Wordsworth and Coleridge had customary meetings at the 'rock of name'.

Thirlmere was a key location of importance for the development of the early conservation movement in the Lake District. The protest against the construction of the dam and reservoir was a seminal event in the history of landscape conservation.

The area has a strong sense of tranquillity on the western side, on the fell and in the forest and away from the valley floor around the A591. The sense of tranquillity is due to the perceived naturalness of the landscape and relative absence of dwellings and settlements. The sense of tranquillity is disturbed around the A591 by traffic noise especially in the peak tourist season.

'Thither the rainbow comes – the cloud –
And mists that spread the flying shroud;
And sunbeams; and the sounding blast,
That, if it could, would hurry past;
But that enormous barrier holds it fast.

'Fidelity, Wordsworth – capturing the changing moods of Helvellyn and of Red Tarn which lies below the summit.

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Water within Thirlmere reservoir, which is sensitive to diffuse pollution;
- Open views to and strong intervisibility with surrounding Borrowdale Fells and Armboth Fell, Raven Crag and Helvellyn ridge, which are sensitive to interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments;⁷⁴
- Changes in woodland composition and cover impacting on the open field sides and the sense of enclosure;
- Historic tower and other buildings associated with the reservoir and dam falling into disrepair; and
- Relatively strong sense of tranquillity, particularly along the western side.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Increasing use of car parks and intensification of recreational activities;
- Development and increasing use of Quiet Road along the western shore; and
- Increasing demands for water and potential drier summers changing water level and exposing the reservoir margins more frequently.

⁷⁴This ADC is not covered by the Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure study.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Protect** water within Thirlmere reservoir from pollution.

Ecological Character

- **Restore** and **manage** areas of blanket bog and heath; and
- **Encourage** diversification of tree species and reversion to deciduous woodland on the margins of the coniferous woodland.

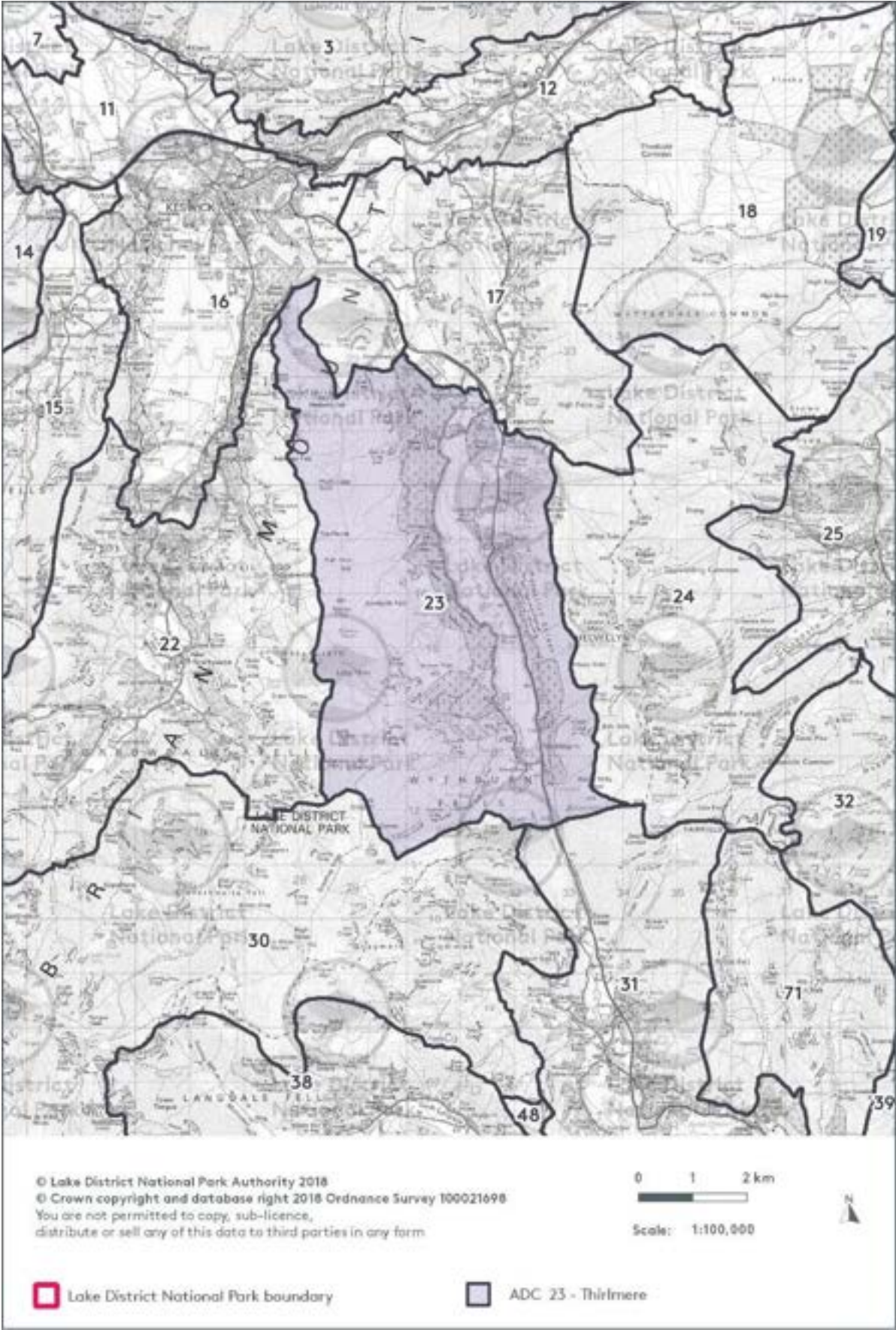
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** expanses of woodland, which provide a sense of enclosure, **encourage** and
- **Conserve** the historic tower and other buildings associated with the reservoir and dam and traditional farmhouses.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Retain** open views to and strong intervisibility with surrounding Borrowdale Fells and Armboth Fell, Raven Crag and Helvellyn ridge; and
- **Maintain** the relatively strong sense of tranquillity along the western shore.

AREA 23: THIRLMERE



AREA 24: HELVELLYN RANGE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

The Helvellyn Range forms a ridge running north south between Thirlmere and Ullswater, to the east of the Central Lake District. It is in World Heritage Site Valleys: [Ullswater](#) and [Thirlmere](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4)

- [Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell](#) (F).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Magnificent open, panoramic views of an extensive mountain massif - including the glacial aretes Striding Edge, Swirral Edge and Red Tarn and across to the North Pennines when visibility permits;
- A forbidding atmosphere, in some atmospheric conditions;
- Contrast between the irregular and jagged eastern side of the ridge, with its valleys and crags, and the relatively smooth, sheer western side. The profile of the landform also becomes smoother towards the northern end of the area;
- Helvellyn range visually dominates the Thirlmere valley and St John's in the Vale to the west, as well as Glenridding/Ullswater to the east;
- Many walkers on the summit and paths, resulting in perhaps the busiest summit in the Lake District;
- Former mine workings in Glenridding, including huge spoil tips of Greenside mine; and
- Predominantly a very tranquil landscape due to the openness and its perceived naturalness. There is also a relative absence of dwellings, minimal sources of artificial noise and few obvious signs of human influences.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The Helvellyn range contains a wide range of dramatic landforms. The deep dark waters of Red Tarn, with the bare rock aretes of Striding Edge and Swirral Edge high above are classic examples of glaciated scenery. Helvellyn also possesses something more ephemeral, a sense of the forbidding dominance of the mountain, and a feeling of edginess and discomfort in its presence, particularly on overcast or misty days.

The range contains acid grassland and heathland which provide seasonal

AREA 24: HELVELLYN RANGE

variations in colour and contrast with remnant arctic flora e.g. moss campion, formerly far more extensive, which contribute patches of colour to the bare ridges in season.

The eastern side of the Helvellyn ridge is very dramatic in its appearance, and in the roughness of its texture. A series of valleys run eastwards towards Ullswater, and above them are jagged rocks including St Sunday Crag, Nethermost Pike and Catstye Cam. Striding Edge and Swirral Edge arc around above Red Tarn, with sheer drops into the dark water below.

The western side of the Helvellyn ridge is extremely steep, but is sheer and relatively smooth. This side of Helvellyn dominates views from Thirlmere valley and St John's in the Vale. The eastern side of the mountain dominates Glenridding, and the valleys towards Ullswater.

The Helvellyn massif is popular with hillwalkers. From the top of the ridge - including the summits of Stybarrow Dodd, Raise, Helvellyn, Nethermost Pike and Dollywaggon Pike - there are panoramic views in all directions, including much of the Lake District, the North Pennines and towards the Solway and Scotland.

The rugged, wild fell tops are dominated by common land and contrast with the lower valley and lakeside landscape.

The Greenside Mine workings above Glenridding have a dominating presence locally, with the large scale of its old waste tips. The impressive remains of adits, wheelpits, processing floors and spoil tips at Greenside provide testimony to a long period of sustained and innovative lead extraction.

The area has a very strong sense of tranquillity due to the openness and perceived naturalness. There is also a relative absence of dwellings, minimal sources of artificial noise and few obvious signs of human influences especially high up on the fells.

'I like to think of mountains thus:
A wallowing hippopotamus,
Helvellyn rolls its massey length
In an uncouth and knotted strength;
And the stray sleet showers on its side
Pick out the crinkles in the hide.'
From 'A Masque of Poetry' by Edmund Casson

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Strong sense of isolation, remoteness and tranquillity throughout;
- Unique plant communities, which are sensitive to potential climate change and trampling or disturbance by visitors and walkers; and

AREA 24: HELVELLYN RANGE

- Strong intervisibility with Thirlmere Valley, St. Johns in the Vale and Ullswater Valley; and
- Intermediate sensitivity to the cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure⁷⁵.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Retreat from marginal land leading to a change in vegetation structure.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Ecological Character

- **Conserve** unique plant communities, which are sensitive to potential climate change and trampling or disturbance by visitors and walkers; and
- **Improve** water quality of becks and streams, especially close to Greenside Mine.

Cultural and Historic Character

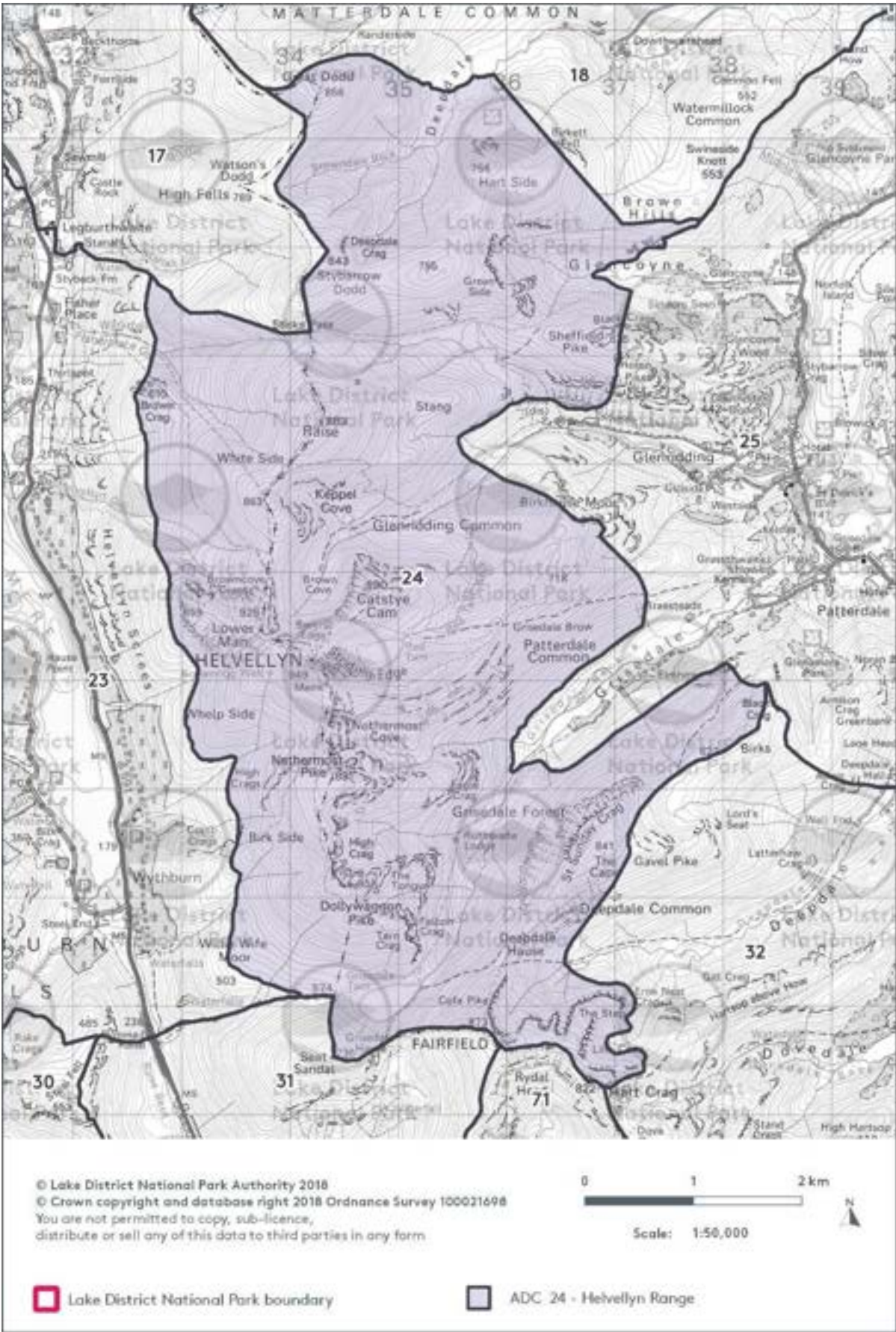
- **Conserve** historical features associated with Greenside mine.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Maintain** strong sense of isolation, remoteness and tranquillity throughout; and
- **Retain** strong intervisibility with Thirlmere Valley, St. Johns in the Vale and Ullswater Valley.

⁷⁵ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

AREA 24: HELVELLYN RANGE



AREA 25: ULLSWATER

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated in the north east of the Lake District National Park. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Ullswater](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4)

- [Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell](#) (F);
- [Upland Valley](#) (H); and
- [High Fell Fringe](#) (J).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Unique curving ribbon shape of Ullswater, with 3 distinct glacial basins, gives rise to many stimulating views and an element of surprise throughout the area, including localised areas of wild daffodils in early spring;
- Strong sense of the landscape evolving from south to north with the enclosed, steep-sided upland feel and the Helvellyn massif along with a small secures of valleys splaying out to the lake in its upper end, giving way to an open, flatter more lowland feel in the lower lake reaches, with the fells set further back with gently sloping rich pasture dropping to the edge of the lake;
- Strong sense of containment from the substantial valley sides which frame the lake, often appearing to plunge directly into the lake from the ridges;
- Intricate patchwork of different habitats including moorland, heathland, woodland and fen/wetland gives a strong sense of place;
- Important areas of wood pasture on the north west side of the lake and significant areas of deciduous woodland clinging to the steep slope on the opposite side of the lake;
- Large areas of juniper on the south-west and east sides of the lake have a prominent impact on the landscape;
- Great Mell Fell and Little Mell Fell are prominent landmarks at the north end of the lake, whereas the Helvellyn Massif dominates views from high ground at the southern end of the lake.
- Dunmallard Hill at the Northern tip of the lake is a locally distinctive landmark. This steep-sided, wooded hill with an Iron Age hillfort on the top visually separates Ullswater from the Eamont river valley;

AREA 25: ULLSWATER

- Aira Force is an important historic designed landscape and tourist hotspot and a very popular base to explore the neighbouring low fells and Gowbarrow Deer Park;
- Most settlements are on the north side of the Lake. The large village of Glenridding, nestling at the foot of the Helvellyn Fells, has a very strong identity as a former mining community, once dependent on the prosperous Greenside Lead Mine (largest in England), the village bears the evidence with the old stone terraces and the 20th century workers houses;
- Towards the northern end of the lake the gentler landscape is punctuated by large Victorian houses (now mostly hotels), with surrounding parkland and gardens containing striking non native trees;
- At Glenridding, the tourist-related facilities of hotels, guest houses and shops along the A592 contrast with the working character of buildings stretching up the valley;
- The steamers, their jetties and the boat houses on the lake shore are distinctive features;
- Little built development along the lake outside of the main settlements, and especially on the southern shore where the steep slopes prevent easy vehicular access; and
- Predominantly a tranquil landscape, especially away from the A592, due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the valley and in the fells to the south of the lake. There is also a relative absence of dwellings to the east and south of Ullswater away from the lake.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The unique curving ribbon shape of Ullswater contributes heavily to the distinctive character of this area, facilitating a range of different, stimulating views (dependent on location) and adding to the element of surprise as the landscape unfolds, when moving through it. There is a strong sense that this landscape evolves as you move through it from south to north, with the enclosed, steep sided upland feel of the south of the lake giving way to a flatter, more lowland feel in the north.

Striking, far reaching views on the craggy valley sides at the southern half of the lake, give the area a rugged feel and provide a strong contrast to the open but less dramatic views on more gentle rolling farmland to the north (where the summits of Great Mell Fell and Little Mell Fell form prominent landmarks). One of the best known classic Lakeland views is from Glencoyne. Dunmallard Hill is a locally distinctive landmark.

Ullswater Valley is a rich and diverse landscape. A colourful mosaic of different habitats, including the vast expanses of coniferous plantations and deciduous ancient woodland, interspersed with clumps of Victorian exotic imports on the fell side and the smooth. These contrast with the reflective surface of the lake, with its pebbly lakeshore, and contribute to a strong landscape pattern. In addition to this, small patches of wildflower pasture on the valley floor, areas of wood pasture on the north-west side of the lake, moorland, heathland, bracken and native juniper high up the open fell to the south and the large green pastoral fields – lined by a network of hawthorn hedgerows and dry

AREA 25: ULLSWATER

stone walls and set back from the lake, add further diversity. Large areas of juniper on the south-west and east (Birk Fell) sides of the lake have a prominent impact on the landscape.

The ancient deciduous woodland is often found on former medieval parkland on the northern shore.

The many hidden farms together with the contrasting villages of Pooley Bridge, Glenridding and Patterdale, which are built from rubble or quarry waste limestone and sandstone, some rendered, and with green slate roofs, further contribute to strongly recognisable sense of place within the area and attract many visitors. Glencoyne Farm is one of the finest vernacular farmhouses in the Lake District. Glenridding was expanded in the 19th century to house workers from the nearby lead mine and the terraces of typical miners cottages add to the character of the area. These contrast with the grander houses and the hotels, guest houses and shops associated with Victorian and present day tourism. Glenridding House is a good example of a Regency villa on the lakeshore and was visited by Charles Darwin in the 19th century. Mains Farm, near Pooley Bridge, is a particularly impressive group of farm buildings, especially the rounded horse engine house.

The pattern of agriculture changes with the topography and soils and field systems and enclosures reflect this across the valley. The northern side is more fertile and has supported arable and pastoral farming, the south side is steeper and generally only offers the opportunity for rough grazing. Evidence for the enclosure of former medieval common fields can be seen in the existing pattern of walls around the villages of Hartsop, Patterdale, Pooley Bridge and around Sandwick on the eastern shore. Medieval intakes are limited, found in small side valleys such as Grisedale and Boredale. Later enclosures have developed around single ancient farms on both sides of the lake and within former medieval parkland such as Glenamara, Glencoyne and at the head of Martindale. There are large regular fields resulting from parliamentary enclosure around the lower lake. Most fields are bounded by walls; in some places these have been replaced by fences.

This steep-sided, wooded hill with an Iron Age hillfort on the top visually separates Ullswater from the Eamont river valley.

The mosaic of habitats and geology in this area – along with the perceived scale of which depends largely on location and views – has supported different experiences since the birth of tourism in the area. Aira Force in the northwest is a popular tourist attraction and is often used as a base from which to explore the surrounding fells, attractions of which include Gowbarrow Deer Park and High Force. The steamers on the lake, which contribute to a sense of timelessness, take passengers from Glenridding to Howtown and from there to Pooley Bridge.

The vast expanse of water, the continuity of which is occasionally broken by yachts, steamers or house boats, and is framed by the often wooded, rugged craggy fells of the surrounding Borrowdale Rocks on either side, gives the area a sense of enclosure and wildness. Changes in weather can evoke a contrasting atmosphere, on a dark windy day the large dark expanse of the lake can feel almost menacing, but on a sunny day the brightly coloured yacht sails and steamers the atmosphere is more genteel.

There is generally little built development along the lake, outside the main settlements. On top of the fells, the experience is different yet again. The whole of Ullswater can be seen from the higher points, which, combined with the general

AREA 25: ULLSWATER

openness and sparse vegetation of the open fells, gives a very exposed and exhilarating feel.

The area has strong associations with Wordsworth (not least owing to the local wild daffodils, now restricted to a few places on the shore), and has inspired many artists throughout the years. It is thought to exemplify the fusion of an ancient farmed landscape with Picturesque landscape improvement, with tree planting, villas and parkland on the shoreline. Lylph's Tower, Aira Force and Glencoyne Park are good examples of this.

The slow-moving yachts and steamers, and soaring birds of prey are often the only signs of movement on the lake, contributing to the strong sense of tranquillity, which is generally apparent throughout the area (at distance from the A592). The area has a sense of tranquillity especially on the fells east of the lake on the approaches to High Street and in the southern parts of the area around Glenridding. In these areas the sense of tranquillity is due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the heathland hillsides. The traffic noise and movement on the A592 disturbs the sense of tranquillity within the western side of the valley adjacent to the road and lake.

'I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.'
William Wordsworth, 'I wandered lonely as a cloud..' (1807)

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to the Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Water within Ullswater, which is sensitive to diffuse pollution, point source pollution and non-native species;
- Important areas of wood pasture and atlantic oak woodlands on the north-west side of the lake;
- Generally strong sense of tranquillity on the southern shore and away from the A592 road corridor;
- Open views along the lake and to and from surrounding fells and strong intervisibility with Great and Little Mell Fells, which are sensitive to interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments (with an intermediate sensitivity to cumulative impacts of vertical development)⁷⁶;

⁷⁶ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

AREA 25: ULLSWATER

- Iron-Age hillfort on Dunmallard Hill, which is sensitive to damaging footpath erosion and disturbance from tree planting; and
- Wear and tear of historic landscape from high numbers of visitors, especially around Aira Force.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Increased storm events have led to flooding and the need to rebuild and manage water courses for flood management;

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Manage** becks and streams and the wider landscape for flood management in a way that is sensitive to the landscape character.

Ecological Character

- **Protect** water within Ullswater from diffuse pollution, point source pollution, and non-native species; and
- **Conserve** and **enhance** important areas of wood pasture on the north-west side of the lake; and
- **Conserve** and **enhance** areas of deciduous woodland, including atlantic oak woods.

Cultural and Historic Character

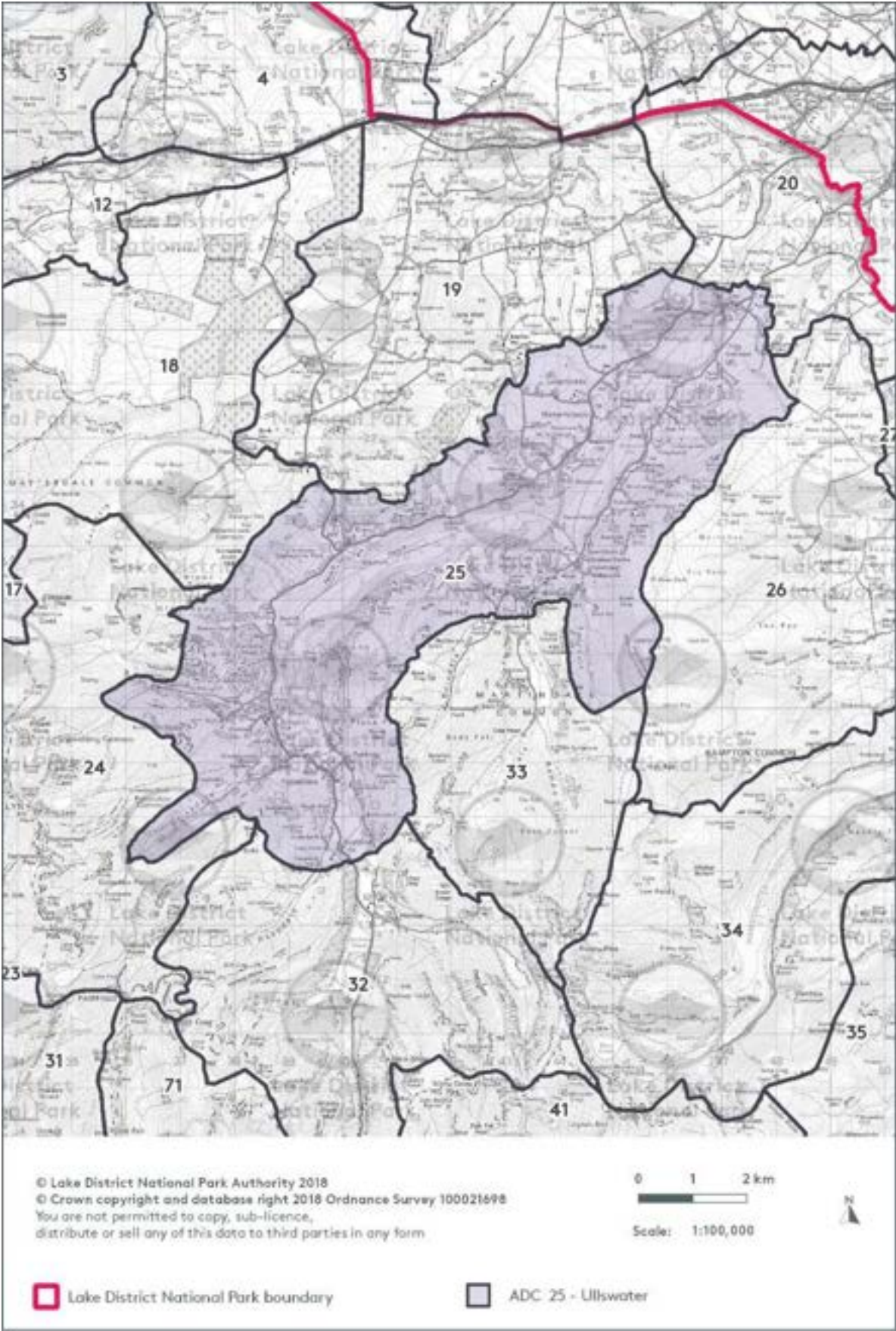
- **Conserve** the Iron Age hillfort on Dunmallard Hill by protecting from damaging footpath erosion and manage tree planting and removal appropriately;
- **Encourage** and **support** the conservation or restoration of existing historic building fabric and landscape features (e.g. traditional paving, boundary treatments), where appropriate; and
- **Encourage** and **support** the conservation and restoration of historic parkland.

AREA 25: ULLSWATER

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Retain** open, uncluttered views along the lake and strong intervisibility with Great and Little Mell Fells and protect from tall vertical or large-scale developments; and
- **Maintain** relatively strong sense of tranquillity.

AREA 25: ULLSWATER



AREA 26: BAMPTON COMMON

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character is located at the eastern side of the Lake District National Park, between Ullswater and the Lowther valley. It forms the eastern slope of the northern part of the High Street ridge. The ADC extends beyond the Park boundary and forms part of the its setting. It is in World Heritage Site Valleys: [Ullswater](#) and [Haweswater](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section

- [Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell](#) (F);
- [Upland Valley](#) (H)
- [Upland Limestone Farmland](#) (I); and
- [High Fell Fringe](#) (J).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Open expanses of acid grassland, rough heather moorland and blanket bog form a plateau with a feeling of emptiness and isolation;
- The smooth ridge of High Street on the western horizon sets the mood of the landscape, depending on weather and qualities of light;
- Views east across the settled and broad Lowther Valley give a strong contrast to the desolate moorland;
- Upland farms, surrounded by semi-improved and improved pasture, appear as pockets of bright green in the moorland landscape;
- On lower ground, a complex patchwork of walled fields containing moorland, marshy ground, grazed fields and gorse give a mosaic of colours and textures in the landscape;
- Clusters of trees associated with farm buildings and large numbers of infield and boundary trees;
- The number of scattered farms, combined with the lack of visitors or tourist facilities gives this area a sense of a working landscape rather than a recreational one; and
- Predominantly a very tranquil landscape due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the heather moorland and valley. There is also a relative absence of settlements, minimal sources of artificial noise and few obvious signs of human influences.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

There are two main parts to Bampton Common. The western part comprises a plateau covered in heather moorland, acid grassland and blanket bog, which slopes gradually up towards High Street on the western edge of the area. This plateau can feel quite desolate and exposed, particularly in poor visibility. It is visually dominated by the northern end of the High Street ridge, which has a strong influence on the feel of the landscape. On cloudy days, High Street appears to brood as a dark mass on the horizon, but on clearer days it forms a gentle backdrop.

The empty feel of the plateau is enhanced by the contrast with the settled areas viewed from within it. To the east, there are long views across the villages, woodlands and fields of the Lowther valley. Within the moorland area, the semi-improved and improved fields around the upland farms stand out as bright green pockets of land.

On lower ground, towards the east of the area, the landscape appears as a patchwork of colours and textures, depending on the land cover and whether or not the land has been improved. In this area, there are small walled fields of grass, marsh, bog, heather moorland and gorse, giving a mosaic of greens, browns, purples and yellow.

There is extensive common land and little enclosure. Farming and rough grazing is the dominant land use. Inbye and intake fields are bounded by stone walls and introduce a distinctive pattern. There are a number of 16th to 17th century farm buildings dotted along the valley bottom.

There are no large settlements, with the small hamlet of Bampton found on the eastern edge of the area at an historic crossing point. There is a mixture of vernacular houses and farms, with surviving structures including the smithy, corn mill/saw mill, post office and a limekiln. These date predominantly from the 17th and 18th centuries, although the very rare listed dovecote at Bampton Hall, later used as a smokehouse, dates from the 16th century. Nearby Stanegarth Farm dates from 17th century.

There are very few (if any) tourist facilities around Bampton Common and the area is not frequently visited. It has the feel of a working landscape, not a recreational one. In some parts of the area, active management of land and the repair of buildings, walls and gates appear to have reduced in recent years, suggesting that farming is marginal within some parts of the area.

The area has a strong sense of tranquillity especially on the commons and heather moorland in the west due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the landscape. Throughout the area even in the valley there is a relative absence of settlements, minimal sources of artificial noise and few obvious signs of human influence enhancing the sense of tranquillity.

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

AREA 26: BAMPTON COMMON

- Open expanses of acid grassland, heather moorland and blanket bog, which are vulnerable to overgrazing and inappropriate burning;
- Overall strong sense of remoteness, isolation and tranquillity;
- Open views across the Lowther Valley, which are vulnerable to interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments with a significant sensitivity to the cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure⁷⁷;
- Complex patchwork of stone (volcanic rock) walls, which contribute to recognisable landscape pattern, and are vulnerable to changes in land management;
- Small-scale settlement pattern and vernacular built character, which is sensitive to the introduction of large-scale buildings, or those which do not respect local vernacular building materials, scale and character; and
- Predominantly rural character throughout, including along the minor road corridors.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Changes in land management as United Utilities tenancies change, including an increase in conservation farming.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Ecological Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** rough heather moorland and blanket bog.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** open expanses of unenclosed moorland;
- **Conserve** complex patchwork of stone (volcanic) walls;
- **Retain** small-scale settlement pattern and vernacular built character;

⁷⁷ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

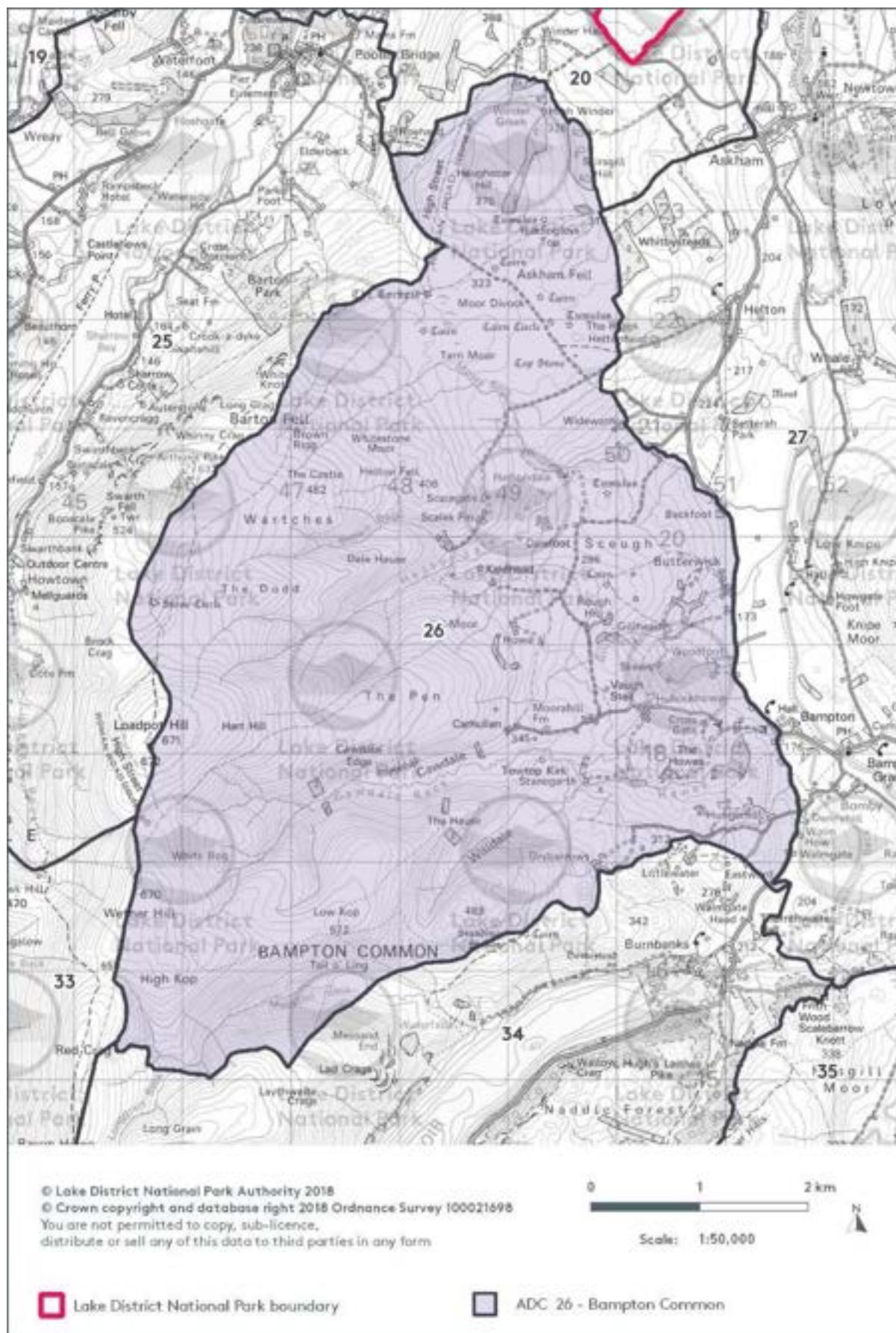
AREA 26: BAMPTON COMMON

- **Manage** the spread of bracken and scrub on important archaeological sites; and
- **Encourage** and **support** the conservation or restoration of existing historic building fabric (e.g. fenestration) and landscape features (e.g. traditional paving, boundary treatments), where appropriate.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Maintain** overall strong sense of remoteness, isolation and tranquillity;
- **Retain** open views across the Lowther Valley; and
- **Maintain** rural character throughout, including along the minor road corridors.

AREA 26: BAMPTON COMMON



AREA 27: LOWTHER VALLEY

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character encompasses a distinctive limestone valley situated within the east of the Lake District National Park. The ADC extends beyond the Park boundary and forms part of the its setting. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Haweswater](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section

- [Rugged/Craggy Volcanic High Fell](#) (F).
- [Upland Valley](#) (H); and
- [Upland Limestone Farmland](#) (I).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Broad gentle, limestone valley with the River Lowther meandering through the landscape;
- Rugged and rough limestone outcrops of Knipe Scar and Burtree Scar, which contrast with adjacent green grassland;
- Variety of habitats, including designed parkland (associated with Lowther Estate and the ruins of Lowther Castle), pastoral farmland, moorland and meadows;
- Strong pattern of sinuous mixed woodlands following the River Lowther and contrast with intrusive regular, geometric coniferous woodlands;
- An exceptional group of distinct historic settlements spread along the Lowther valley from Rosgill, Bampton Grange, Bampton, Helton and Askham;
- Askham is the finest example in the Lake District of a planned 13th century village, grouped around village greens with mature trees, and with former open field strips (now enclosed) surrounding. A superb very picturesque linear almost continuous building frontage of the 17th, 18th and 19th century, using sandstone, limestone, rubble, render and limewash, giving unity in variety;
- Helton, just to the south of Askham, is another fine example of attractive traditional buildings, set within a medieval field strip system;
- The limestone walls enclosing the strip fields surrounding Helton, contrast with the darker grey volcanic stone within the rest of the character area;

AREA 27: LOWTHER VALLEY

- The formally planned Lowther Village is a very important example of an estate workers village. Designed by Robert Adam and built in 1770 using local limestone walling, with dressed sandstone detailing;
- Strong sense of distant containment provided by high fells to the west;
- Strongly rural and somewhat isolated character, despite proximity to M6 corridor to the east;
- Ruins of Shap Abbey in the south of the area; and
- Predominantly a tranquil landscape, especially away from the traffic noise associated with the A6 and M6 in the east, due to the relative absence of roads and dwellings and the perceived openness and naturalness of the landscape.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

Lowther Valley is a broad, gentle, upland limestone valley characterised by the course of the River Lowther, which runs through extensive areas of parkland and pastoral farmland, interspersed with moorland and large patches of woodland. More gentle than dramatic, this area has a strongly rural and somewhat isolated character.

Views to the east all along the valley to the south of Askham are dominated by the rugged and rough limestone outcrops of Knipe and Burtree scars rising sharply, and contrasting with, the softer valley giving the lie to the underlying geology of the whole area. Woodland plantations frame views throughout the rolling landscape, though geometric blocks of coniferous plantation are a discordant element. Pastoral fields become smaller in the south, and moorland plays a more dominant role, facilitating more open views of the surrounding landscape.

Large coniferous and deciduous plantations punctuate the mature parkland landscape, which is associated with the Lowther Estate, and the ruins of Lowther Castle (which is a striking landscape feature). Gently rolling pastoral farmland dominates this landscape, consisting of a striking pattern and patchwork of generally geometric fields (bounded by hedgerows in the lower valley, and limestone walls higher up the valley). An intricate pattern of ancient, limestone-walled strip fields surrounding the village of Helton, contrasts with the darker grey volcanic stone within the rest of the character area. Numerous limekilns are also evident.

There is a sense of timelessness within this landscape, as a result of the traditional historic character of the farming villages of Askham, Rosgill, Bampton, Bampton Grange and Helton (with their distinctive arrangements of vernacular built rustic white cottages, with colourful contrasting window frames). Many of these villages have medieval origins. Limestone, sandstone, slate stone and limestone rubble and render are used extensively in buildings and boundaries. Askham is a planned medieval village with a distinctive linear settlement pattern and continuous frontages of farmhouses, barns and cottages facing each other across a series of wide grassy greens. It is a Conservation Area and many of its buildings are listed. Helton has evidence of strip field farming which forms part of the hamlets landscape setting. Farm buildings and boundary walls of exposed limestone, with many examples of structural 'throughstones', can be found along with surviving stretches of traditional cobbled street surfaces. The central village green, wide grass verges and fields enhance the relationship between Helton and the surrounding landscape.

AREA 27: LOWTHER VALLEY

The remains of Lowther Castle, the mature parkland landscapes associated with the Lowther Estate (including many veteran and mature trees), Shap Abbey and an array of archaeological features, also hint at the historic significance of this landscape. Lowther Estate and Askham Hall and their designed parkland, and Shap Abbey are notable historic features in the landscape.

A strong sense of tranquillity is apparent throughout the area, aided by the general absence of main roads, sparse settlement pattern and minimal sources of artificial noise. The sense of tranquillity is due to the perceived openness and naturalness of the landscape away from the busy road corridors. Tranquillity is strongest away from the A6 and M6. To the east of the area the sense of tranquillity is locally disturbed by traffic noise from the busy A6 and M6.

'The Muse prophetic sees the hand of taste
Conduct new beauties through the wild-wood waste; ...
Sees the rude dome above your forest grow,
The sparkling grotto hide its wealth below;
Sees Phoenix-like, the mansion rise again,
And look majestic o'er her native plain. '
Tis done – already, glittering from afar,
Lowther's white towers salute the morning star.'
'Lowther', Thomas Wilkinson, 1824

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Water within the meandering River Lowther, which is vulnerable to pollution from run off associated with adjacent pastoral fields and flooding from increased storm events and rainfall;
- Mature parkland landscape, incorporating pastoral farmland, moorland and meadows and many mature single trees, all of which are vulnerable to potential encroachment from surrounding agriculture, changes in land management and lack of succession planning;
- The historic villages of Askham, Rosgill, Bampton, Bampton Grange and Helton, with their vernacular character of white-washed buildings and contrasting colour window frames, which are sensitive to the introduction of large-scale buildings within the centre or at the edges of the village, or those which do not respect local built character, scale and form;
- Limestone outcrops of Knipe Scar and Burtree Scar, which are landscape and ecological features and are vulnerable to damage from agricultural machinery or disturbance from walkers or visitors;

AREA 27: LOWTHER VALLEY

- Predominantly rural character throughout;
- Open views towards high fells in the west, scars and the distant Pennines in the east which are sensitive to the interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments with a significant sensitivity to the cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure⁷⁸; and
- Strong sense of tranquillity at distance from the A6 and M6 road corridors.

Forces for Change

The Forces for Change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Protect** the River Lowther catchment from pollution; and
- **Ensure** any flood management features are sympathetic to rural pastoral landscape character.

Ecological Character

- **Protect** limestone outcrops of Knipe Scar and Burtree Scar, which are landscape and ecological features.
- **Conserve** and **enhance** floodplain habitats and meadows

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **restore** mature parkland landscape, including currently pastoral farmland, woodland, moorland and meadows and mature single trees;
- **Conserve** character of historic villages with the various characteristic vernacular styles described in the Distinctive Characteristics section; and

⁷⁸ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

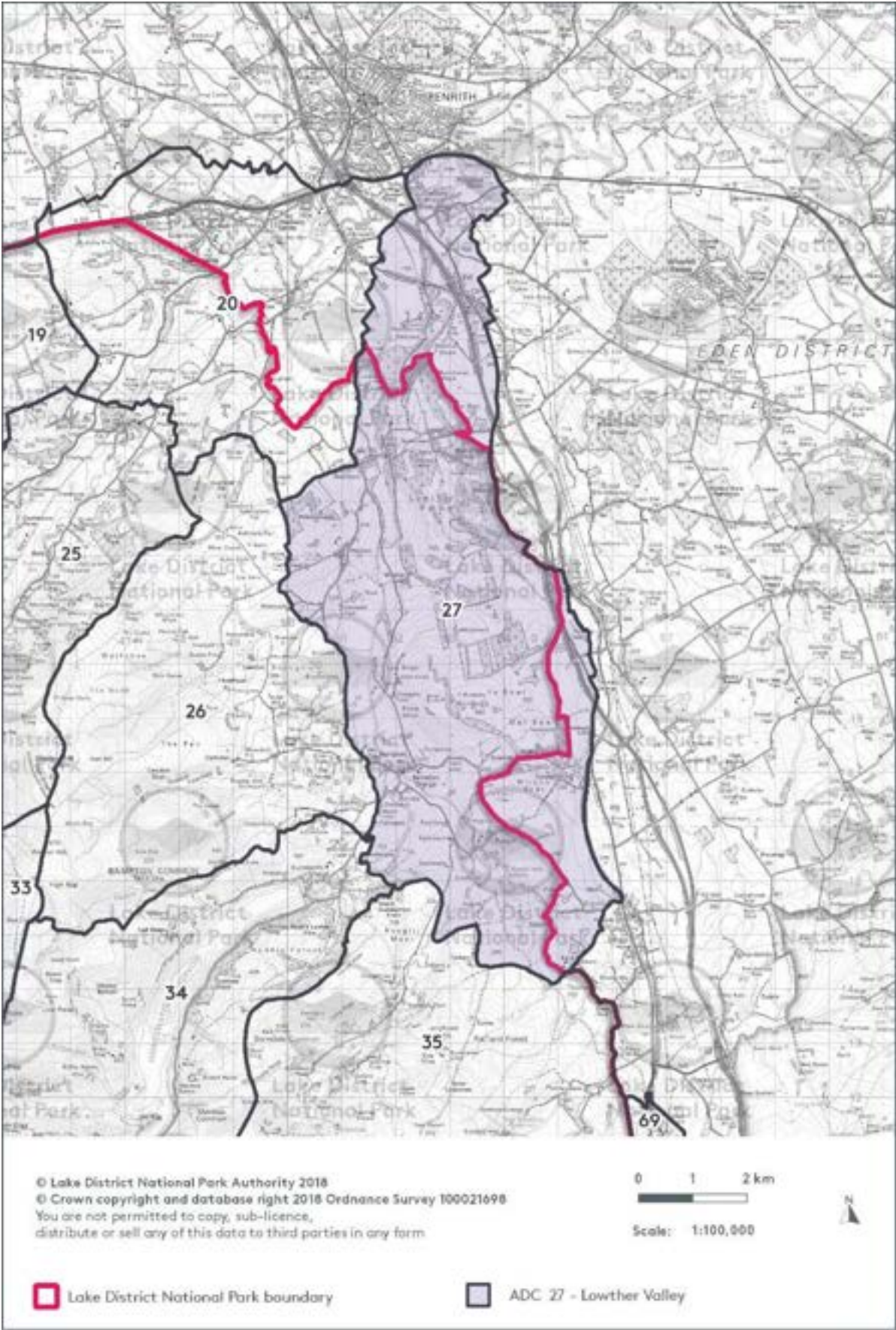
AREA 27: LOWTHER VALLEY

- **Conserve** and **enhance** field boundaries associated with medieval strip fields and deer parks.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Maintain** rural character throughout;
- **Protect** open views to and from the area from tall vertical or large-scale developments; and
- **Maintain** strong sense of tranquillity at distance from A6 and M6 road corridors.

AREA 27: LOWTHER VALLEY



AREA 28: KINNISIDE COMMON

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character is located in the west of the Lake District National Park, and extends across the National Park boundary. It covers a large upland area between Ennerdale and Wasdale. . The ADC extends beyond the Park boundary and forms part of the its setting. It is in World Heritage Site Valleys: [Ennerdale](#) and [Wasdale](#).

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4)

- [Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell](#) (F);
- [Rugged, Angular Slate High Fell](#) (G); and
- [High Fell Fringe](#) (J).

Distinctive Characteristics

- A gradual transition in the form of the landscape from high crags in the east to a smoother profile in the west;
- An expansive, wild upland landscape, with very few trees outside of the conifer plantations in the west. Views are unbroken by built features;
- The fells are covered in moorland with patches of blanket bog and bracken on the lower slopes and valley bottoms, which in places are heavily grazed.;
- There are virtually no boundaries or enclosures as the whole area is grazed as a common;
- Worm Gill, with its wide boulder-strewn valley bottom is a highly mobile and dynamic river system and an extremely important geo-morphological feature of the area;
- Archaeological evidence of previous settlement contrasts with the lack of development in the area today;
- Blocks of forestry in the western part of the area fit awkwardly with the surrounding landscape; and
- Predominantly a very tranquil landscape, due to the openness of the hills, relative absence of dwellings, minimal sources of artificial noise and few signs of human influences.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The gradual transition in the form of this landscape is important to its character and to the responses it evokes. The eastern end is high and rocky, containing the cliffs and crags of Red Pike, Haycock and Steeple. Further west, the changing geology creates a 'big and broad' landscape, with fewer crags and a more rounded form to the hills.

The upland areas have visual connections with the surrounding valleys and are also connected with them through issues of management. The high fells dominate views to the east while to the west they are dominated by the coastal plain.

Today the landscape is open, expansive and has a sense of emptiness. Its connection to the farmed valleys below is through the tradition of rough grazing on the commons.

Settlement is restricted to farms at its far western end. However, there is archaeological evidence of a long history of settlement in the area, including field systems, abandoned settlements, the prehistoric hut circles and Romano British settlement at Town Bank, and a small stone circle, which are still visible in the landscape. More recent historic features add character to the area, such as the and the packhorse Monk's Bridge over the River Calder.

There are relatively few rights of way, particularly in the western part of the area, and there is a strong sense of wildness. Yet even on the highest ground there are a few stone walls, and the line of posts marking the County boundary is both a useful landmark and a slightly incongruous feature in the wild landscape.

In the west of the area, beyond the National Park boundary, coniferous plantations dominate the landscape. Their dark colour is particularly striking against the light greens and browns of the grassy hillsides, and their straight edges fit awkwardly with the gently curving forms of the hills. The openness and perceived naturalness of the landscape creates a strong sense of tranquillity. The relative absence of dwellings, minimal sources of artificial noise and few signs of human influences particularly away from the western boundary to the area also enhance the sense of tranquillity.

'Caw Fell, like many of us who lack a good shape and attractive features, objects to having his picture taken and is not at all co-operative as a subject of illustration. From no point of view does the fell look like anything other than a broadly-buttressed sprawling uncorseted graceless lump with a vast flattened summit similarly devoid of a single distinguishing landmark.'

For those who Love the Hills – Quotations from Wainwright's Pictorial Guides to the Lakeland Fells

Dyer 1994.33 (VII Caw Fell 1)

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Strong sense of wildness;

AREA 28: KINNISIDE COMMON

- Strong sense of openness throughout, currently interrupted in places by blocks of forestry;
- The River Calder, which is vulnerable to pollution from run-off from adjacent fields and flooding from increased storm events and rainfall;
- Strong sense of tranquillity throughout;
- Intermediate sensitivity to the cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure;⁷⁹ and
- General sites of archaeological interest.

Forces for Change

The Forces for change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Maintain** open moorland.

Ecological Character

- **Encourage** a grazing regime on the Common which encourages a more diverse mosaic of upland habitats to develop.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Protect** sites of archaeological interest.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

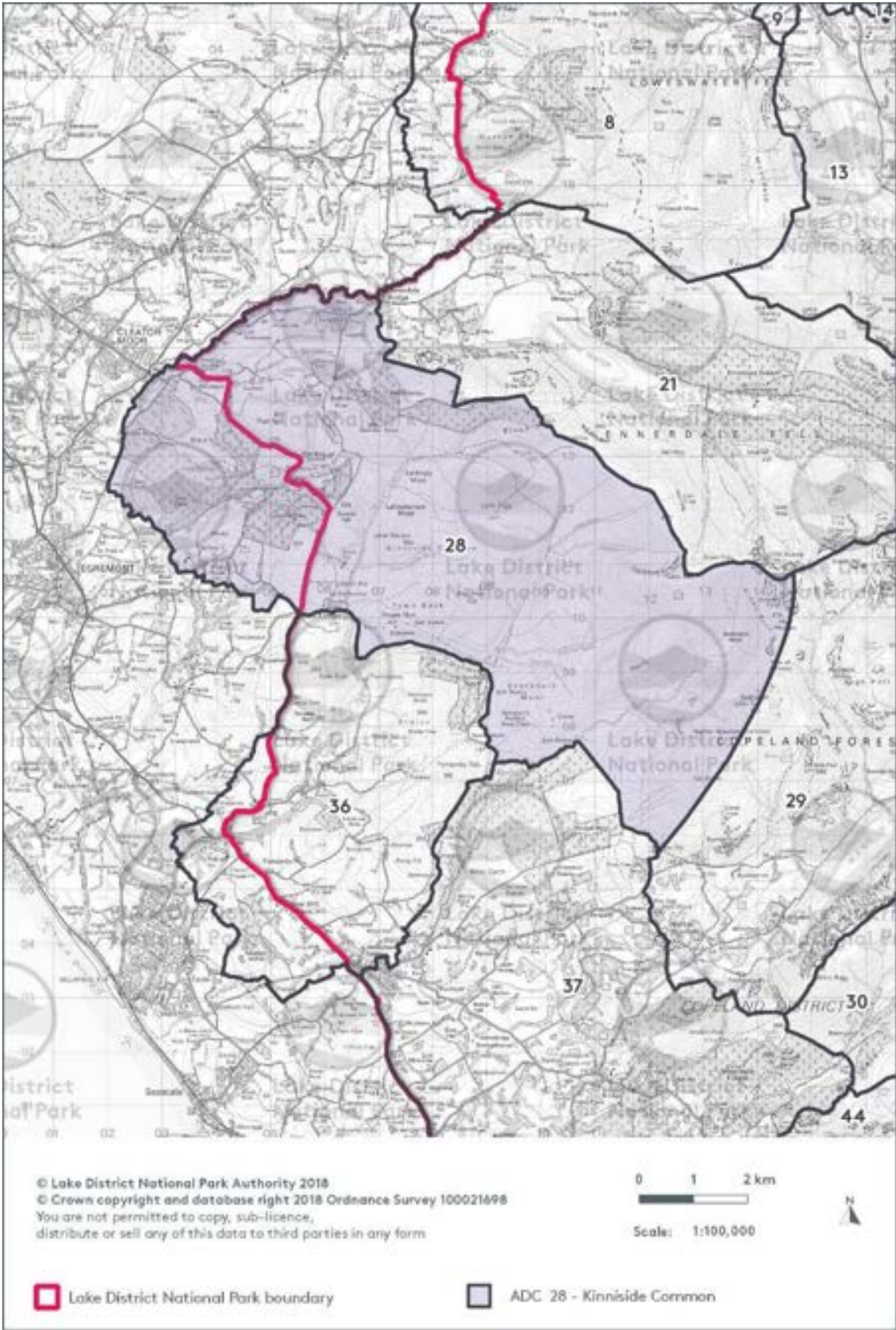
- **Retain** the strong sense of wildness;
- **Retain** and **protect** open views to and from the area and the strong sense of openness throughout, particularly from tall vertical or large-scale developments; and

⁷⁹ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

AREA 28: KINNISIDE COMMON

- **Maintain** strong sense of tranquillity throughout.

AREA 28: KINNISIDE COMMON



AREA 29: WASTWATER & WASDALE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated in the west of the Lake District National Park. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Wasdale](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section

- [Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell](#) (F)
- [Upland Valley](#) (H).

Distinctive Characteristics

- A landscape of contrasts, where England's deepest lake is surrounded by some of the highest summits;
- Ancient unusual and complex thick ring garth and stone wall system near Wasdale Head is one of the most important and distinctive in Europe;
- Sheer grey, weathered scree slopes which dominate the southern shores of the lake and hint at the very steep V-shaped profile of this Dale; (which continue under the water, to the deepest depths of the Lake);
- An overwhelming sense of majesty, drama and enclosure from the steep slopes;
- The unique and visually stimulating pattern of stone walls, comprising large rounded stones, which divide fields at Wasdale Head and spread high up onto the fell sides;
- Strong sense of isolation at the north eastern head of the Lake and strong sense of tranquillity;
- Strong links with mountaineering and the sense that many visitor journeys begin here;
- Dramatic backdrop and shadows of surrounding mountains, including England's highest, Scafell Pike, often shrouded in mists and throwing dramatic shadows on the buildings and landscape at their feet;
- Unique pockets of parkland and grassy knolls within the Nether Wasdale Estate;
- Contrast between the striking grey colour of the scree slopes and fell sides and lush green and brown vegetation cover at lower altitudes, often reflecting in the grey, blue lake;

AREA 29: WASTWATER & WASDALE

- Moorland and fragmented heath at high levels contrast with Scots Pine parkland on the road from Santon Bridge, near to The Flass, medieval deer park and woodlands close to the lake;
- Low Wood at the south western end of the lake;
- Vendace within the lake; and
- Predominantly a very tranquil landscape due to openness and perceived naturalness of the valley..

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

Wastwater and Wasdale is amongst the most wild and dramatic scenery in the Lake District, containing the deepest lake in England, which is flanked by the highest mountain of England, Scafell Pike, along with Red Pike, Kirk Fell, and Great Gable. Sheer, steep scree slopes cascade down from the summit of Whin Rigg and Ilgill Head and dominate the south shores of the lake. Altogether the mountains and screes reflect in the clear surface of the lake. This is a unique landscape of extreme contrasts which over the years has attracted many poets, artists and visitors.

The imposing bulk and dramatic jagged landform of Great Gable, Scafell, Kirk Fell and Yewbarrow and The Screes enclose the head of the valley which then runs south west and abruptly changes to a more gentle, wooded, pastoral landscape around Nether Wasdale.

The combination of the absence of built features (other than the Wasdale Head Inn, farmsteads and church, clustered at Wasdale Head) and other isolated farmsteads along the valley sides, along with the surrounding topography, creates a strong sense of enclosure, and sense of tranquillity and isolation, which is almost unrivalled. In addition to this, the steep, smooth, grey and black screes often invoke a sense of foreboding. Occasional red bands within the rocky surfaces of the surrounding High Fells hint at the presence of iron and interrupt the continuity of the vast muted, grey-blackness of the valley sides.

Areas of broadleaved woodland such as Low Wood at the foot of the lake, and parkland with open grown mature trees around the south-west end of the lake and the Nether Wasdale Estate, provide a lush green contrast with the moorland and heathland on the fells and provide historic and ecological interest.

The Wasdale landscape shows a strong continuity of farming from the medieval period to today in its field patterns, farmsteads and buildings. In the north east to the valley head there is relatively simple and typical fell farming landscape of inbye, intake and open fell, and at the south west end there is a more intricate patchwork of old fields, with farms on the edges of inbye fields, more recent enclosures, plantation and woodland around Nether Wasdale. Notable farms include Woodhow Farmhouse, Hollins and Wasdale Head Hall.

Located at the head of Wastwater, the historic, remote and isolated hamlet of Wasdale Head (whose church St. Olaf's, is the smallest in England) is set amidst a unique historic patchwork of ancient, wide, dry stone walls made of large rounded beck-bottom stones to create small pastoral fields, contributing strongly to the sense of place, and the distinctive character of the area. The tightly constrained pattern of stone walled

AREA 29: WASTWATER & WASDALE

fields at Wasdale Head is one of the most spectacular and iconic sights in the Lake District, especially when seen from a vantage point on the surrounding fells, such as Yewbarrow. Buildings use local stone and slate for construction.

Nether Wasdale at the opposite end of the lake contrast with Wasdale Head. There is a scattering of white stonewashed cottages and farms. By the village green is St Michael and All Angels church, with 16th century origins. In front of the church is a large maypole, now a listed structure, erected to celebrate the golden jubilee of Queen Victoria. The buildings are characterised by a greater use of imported materials such as sandstone, as banding around windows and doors.

Wasdale Hall was built in the early 19th century and is the only villa built to capitalize on the views of Wastwater, and is set in a designed landscape with exotic trees.

The valley is popular with climbers and fell walkers, keen to challenge the dramatic surrounding peaks of Scafell, Scafell Pike and Great Gable.

The single road along the lakeshore is squeezed on the narrow undulating margin between the lakeshore and steeply rising fellsides.

The area has a very strong sense of tranquillity due to openness and perceived naturalness of the landscape. There is a relative absence of dwellings, minimal sources of artificial noise and few obvious signs of human influences away from Nether Wasdale and the minor roads along the northern banks of Wastwater.

“This is a very striking feature: for these steeps, or screes (as places of this kind are names). Are not more distinguished by their height and extent, than by the beautiful colours, with which the pulverized rock, forever crumbling down their sides, overspreads them. The surface has the apparent softness of the dove’s neck, and...resembles a dove’s neck strongly in its hues, and the manner in which they are intermingled”.

William Wordsworth, ‘Guide to the Lakes’ (1810)

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Wastwater and adjacent lakeshore habitats, which are sensitive to disturbance from walkers and visitors and also from pollution associated with adjacent agricultural activities;
- Scree slopes along the southern shore of the lake, which are important landscape, geological and ecological features, vulnerable to disturbance by walkers and climbers;
- Very strong sense of isolation and tranquillity throughout the area;

AREA 29: WASTWATER & WASDALE

- Potential for erosion from increased storm events and high rainfall;
- Dramatic open views to Scafell Pike and the surrounding High Fells which are vulnerable to interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments;
- Unusual network of thick ring garth stone walls near Wasdale Head which denote a striking landscape pattern and are vulnerable to changes in land management;
- Small, historic St Olaf's church which is a striking historic feature;
- General absence of built elements, other than the cluster at Wasdale Head and within Nether Wasdale estate;
- Intricate pattern of pasture fields within the valley bottom;
- Areas of parkland sensitive to changes in agricultural management and lack of succession planning;
- Major erosion, litter and disturbance impacts from Three Peaks Challenge events;
- Intermediate sensitivity to the cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure.⁸⁰

Forces for Change

The Forces for Change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above:

- Sustained pressure from the Three Peaks Challenge causing erosion scars and disturbance at the head of the valley.
- Increase in camping and overnight parking on the shores of Wast Water

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Conserve** scree slopes along the southern shore of the lake; and
- **Conserve** and **enhance** areas of broadleaved woodland.

⁸⁰ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

AREA 29: WASTWATER & WASDALE

Ecological Character

- **Protect** Wastwater from pollution and **conserve** adjacent lakeshore habitats.

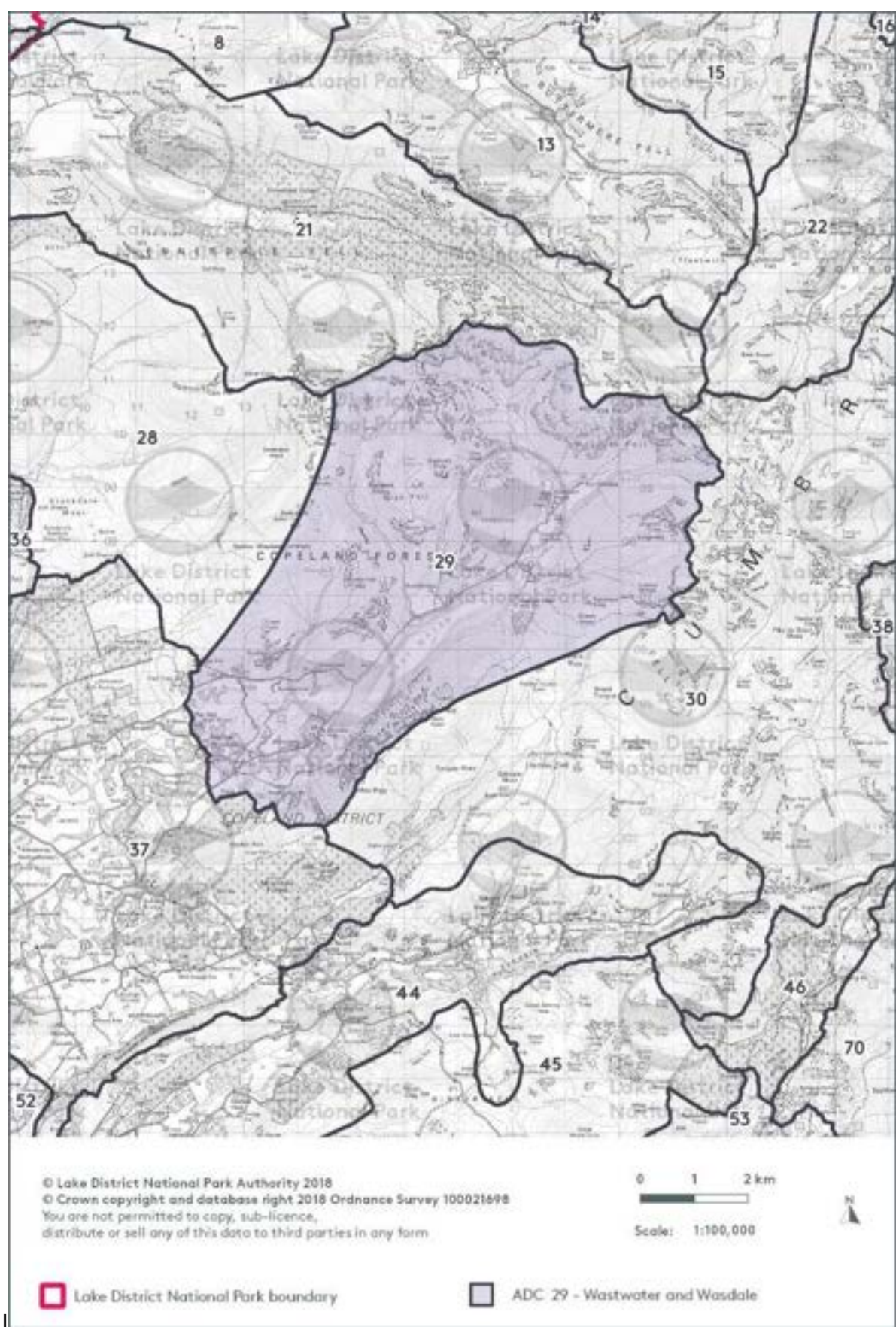
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **maintain** unusual thick ring garth, and other stone walls near Wasdale Head.
- **Conserve** historic St Olaf's church;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** areas of parkland, encouraging succession planning for clumps of trees and individual open grown trees;
- **Maintain** the general absence of built elements, other than the cluster at Wasdale Head and within Nether Wasdale estate;
- **Conserve** the intricate pattern of ancient pasture fields within the valley bottom; and
- **Encourage** and **support** the conservation or restoration of existing historic building fabric and landscape features (e.g. traditional paving, boundary treatments) where appropriate.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Protect** very strong sense of isolation and tranquillity throughout the area;
- **Encourage** restoration of erosion scars associated with most popular routes;
- **Manage** large-scale challenge events to minimise disturbance to wildlife, litter and damage; and
- **Protect** dramatic open views to Scafell Pike and the surrounding High Fells from interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments, or inappropriate reforestation.

AREA 29: WASTWATER & WASDALE



AREA 30: SCAFELL MASSIF

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character is large and irregularly shaped, and occupies the plateau of high ground in the central part of the Lake District. . The ADC extends beyond the Park boundary and forms part of the its setting. It lies at the head of several World Heritage Site Valleys: [Borrowdale & Bassenthwaite](#), [Duddon](#), [Eskdale](#), [Grasmere & Rydal](#), [Langdale](#), [Thirlmere](#) and [Wasdale](#).

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4)

- [Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fells](#) (F); and
- [Upland Valley](#) (H).

Distinctive Characteristics

- The central and highest part of the Lake District contains magnificent, wild, craggy, remote and rugged mountain scenery, including England's highest mountain, Scafell Pike;
- Distinctive rock formations, steep rock faces, screes and the effects of glaciation contribute to its distinctive sense of place, and landmarks within the area include high peaks, tarns and passes. Views from this area are panoramic in all directions, but are not dominated by a single lake;
- Rocks contribute a craggy, jagged texture to the landscape. The colours, sounds and patterns of the landscape are constantly changing, affected by variation in light, weather and season changing the appearance and atmosphere. The landscape may be observed at a variety of scales, from panoramic views to the detail of a stone;
- The hard and resistant volcanic rocks composing the high fells of the central Scafell range form the head of several valleys that radiate out from it;
- Scafell Pike's summit boulder field is home to important arctic species;
- Neolithic stone axe production remains on Scafell Pike;
- The remoteness, tranquillity and isolation of the area, combined with the physical challenges it offers, makes it popular with walkers and climbers;
- The area provides the hub of Wordsworth's imaginary figure of a wheel; and
- Powerful scenery, with relatively few human influences and only rough grazing, creates a sense of timelessness.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The Scafell Massif forms the heart of the Lake District and includes some of the highest and most magnificent mountain scenery in England, including England's highest mountain, Scafell Pike.

Its highly dramatic sense of place comes from its elevation, remoteness, rugged, rocky terrain and distinctive landmarks. Such landmarks include the distinctive mountain profiles (Crinkle Crags and Bow Fell, for example), occasional tarns such as Easedale tarn and Styhead tarn, and, in the southern part of the area, the Hardknott and Wrynose mountain passes.

There are memorable panoramic views over the Lake District and beyond in all directions from the highest points, but these views are not dominated by a single lake or valley. The area offers some of the most challenging mountain climbing in England and has historic links to early mountaineering,

The exposed volcanic rocks create a craggy and jagged texture to the landscape, with much exposed rock, steep rock faces, and scree and little vegetation in many places. There are many classic examples of glacial features including u-shaped and hanging valleys, as well as tarns, moraines and rock striations. Where there is vegetation, it is low growing, predominantly acid grassland, blanket bog, heath, wet flushes and a few areas with remnant alpine and boreal species. Occasional small stunted trees (mostly rowan or birch) occur in sheltered gills and on rock faces out of reach of the sheep on the lower slopes. Sheep graze the open common land, providing a connection with the farmed valleys below.

The colours, sounds and patterns of the landscape are constantly changing, affected by variations in light, weather and season. The light can change in a split second, suddenly illuminating a patch of hill like a spotlight, or creating moving patterns on the ground influencing the appearance and atmosphere. Becks are also constantly changing in their pattern and sounds. The weather can change many times during the course of a day and can completely alter the experience of the fells. In particular, dense mist obscures landmarks, and can create a strong sense of disorientation and isolation. The slowest changes are seasonal ones- the presence of snow in winter, for example, and also the changing colours and patterns of the vegetation. The change in the colour of the bracken from green to bright orangey-brown in autumn sunshine is particularly striking, but springs and wet flushes and heather contribute other more subtle effects to the pattern and texture of the landscape.

Visually, the landscape works at a variety of scales. On clear days, the eye is drawn to the magnificent views across the surrounding area to distant lakes and valleys. The elevation of the landform means that the horizon is often low in these views, giving a high proportion of sky, and a feeling of being on top of the world. On days of lesser visibility, the eye is drawn towards nearer details, such as stone walls, patterns in the rocks and vegetation, or the movement of water in a stream.

The Neolithic stone axe production remains on Scafell Pike show very early signs of man. However, there are very few built elements in the landscape, all constructed of stone and include cairns, sheepfolds, occasional stone walls and engineered footpaths. At the summit of Wrynose Pass the route of a Roman road passes the Three Shires

AREA 30: SCAFELL MASSIF

Stone, a boundary stone which marks the location at which the historic counties of Lancashire, Cumberland and Westmorland met. The limestone monolith was cut in the Lancashire village of Cartmel in 1819 for the Furness roadmaster William Field, but was not erected until 1860.

This area is physically challenging to reach and its openness and perceived naturalness give it a very strong sense of remoteness, tranquillity and isolation. It is also one of the most popular walking areas in England, and for much of the time people are very much part of the landscape. Their bright clothes often contrast with the surrounding colours of the hillsides, and one is aware of their movement and voices, particularly on summits and popular footpaths. Other human influences include vehicles crossing Hardknott and Wrynose passes, and the occasional roar of a low flying jet. Despite these influences, the sense of tranquillity is very strong, the scenery remains powerful, evocative and uplifting, and there is a sense of peace and timelessness up here, removed from towns, roads and the distractions of the modern world.

'Oh my God! What enormous mountains these are, by me and yet below the hill I stand on

... But Oh! What a look down just under my feet! The frightfullest cove that might ever be seen: huge perpendicular precipices and one sheep upon its only ledge ... Just by it and joining together, rise two high pillars of bare, lead-coloured stone: I am no measurer but their height and depth is terrible.'

Coleridge, 1802

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Strong sense of isolation, remoteness and tranquillity throughout;
- Strong intervisibility with adjacent Areas of Distinctive Character from the edges of this area;
- Water within tarns, which is vulnerable to pollution from walkers and climbers;
- Strongly rural and undeveloped character;
- Landmark features such as cairns;
- Unique range of ecological habitats including alpine and boreal species;
- Strong sense of openness;
- Dramatic panoramic views across adjacent landscapes; and
- Intermediate sensitivity to the cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure.⁸¹

⁸¹ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

Forces for Change

The Forces for change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Maintain** the open nature and classic glacial characteristics of the massif

Ecological Character

- **Protect** water within tarns from pollution; and
- **Conserve** and **enhance** the unique range of ecological habitats, taking particular care managing appropriate grazing regimes.

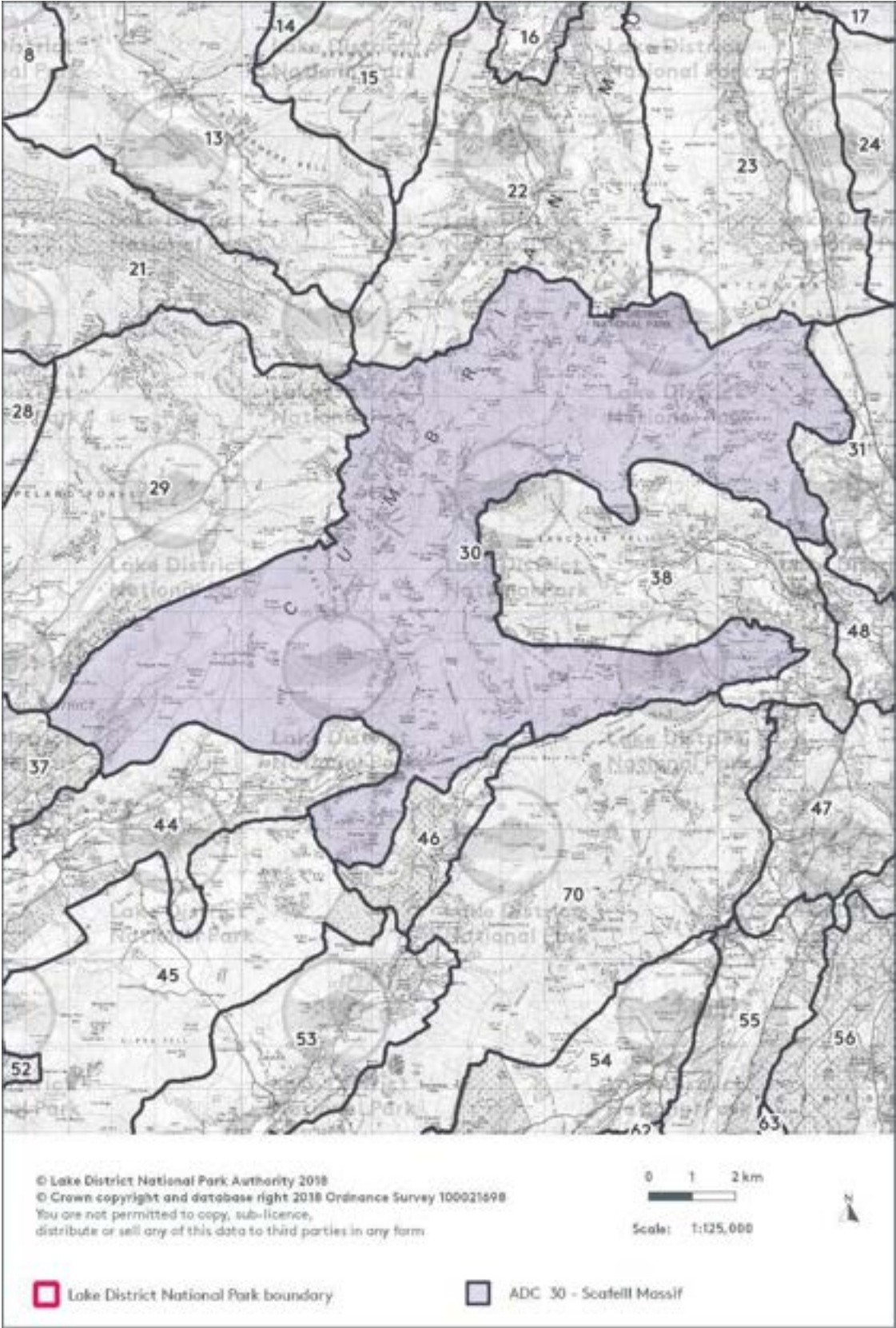
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** landmark features, such as cairns and sheepfolds; and
- **Conserve** character of roads across mountain passes and **prevent** inappropriate road improvements.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Maintain** strong sense of isolation, remoteness and tranquillity throughout;
- **Retain** strong intervisibility with adjacent Areas of Distinctive Character from the edges of this area;
- **Protect** views into and from the area from tall vertical or large-scale developments;
- **Retain** rural and undeveloped character;
- **Retain** strong sense of openness; and
- **Conserve** dramatic panoramic views across adjacent landscapes.

AREA 30: SCAFELL MASSIF



AREA 31: GRASMERE & RYDAL

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

Grasmere and Rydal are located at the heart of the Lake District National Park. It is in World Heritage Site Valleys: [Grasmere & Rydal](#) and [Langdale](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section

- [Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fells](#) (F); and
- [Upland Valley](#) (H).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Two, relatively small lakes, Grasmere and Rydal Water, surrounded by patches of soft deciduous woodland, nestled within a dramatic Low Fell backdrop, with occasional dramatic glimpses of the High Fells;
- The valley bottom has a strong feel of a designed landscape with a complex and varied pattern and a strong impact of seasonal change and colour;
- Several villas fronting onto the lakes, with ornamental planting and retained open space between the villas and the lakes;
- Very fine vernacular rendered farmhouses and stone barns, contrast with ornate Victorian villas with mature designed grounds and woodland;
- Woodland cover in the valley bottom creeps up the fells side to the edge of open fell creating a diffuse and intricate boundary between the two;
- Sentinel conifers provide striking features in the landscape in contrast to occasional blocks of conifer plantation, especially on the slopes below Heron Pike, that create incongruous features;
- Scattered mature yew and juniper on the fell sides add texture to the bracken dominated slopes;
- The character of the area changes towards the north, having a stronger upland and agricultural feel. Woodland diminishes and the surrounding high fells become more dominant in the landscape.
- The valley bottom is characterised by significant areas of improved pasture surrounded by stone walls;
- The mature parkland associated with Rydal Hall, with its rich pasture and many veteran and mature open-grown trees and broadleaved woodland gives a serene, lush character to this part of the area;

AREA 31 GRASMERE & RYDAL

- A welcoming landscape for visitors, who can experience an intimate sense of tranquillity and calm. The area is bisected by the busy A591 which disturbs this;
- Grasmere and Rydal are contrasting villages in terms of history, character and identity, although both are heavily wooded. Grasmere has a scatter of older buildings near the dominant Parish church, and it expanded significantly in the post –railway period with hotels, villas, terraces and shops. A distinctive feature of this later period is the use of deep red haematite marking on the faces of the green slate walling, from the nearby quarries;
- Rydal village has a wooded character of parkland and mature native and ornamental coniferous trees. Stretching from the River Rothay up the hill towards the dominant Rydal Hall, the village consists of an attractive loose group of 17th to 19th century stone and rendered buildings; and
- Celebrated historic and cultural associations with Wordsworth, who came to settle in the valley.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The relatively small lakes of Grasmere and Rydal Water are surrounded by woodland and pasture that form part of a designed landscape that has the feel of wooded parkland or garden for the villas that create focal points in the valley. The valley floor is contained within a dramatic low fell backdrop with the tops of the craggy high fells adding drama.

The open areas of pasture created as viewing areas between the villas and the lakeshore provide small but rare areas of uniformity. The complex and intricate pattern of largely deciduous woodland, mature open grown trees and veteran pollards is punctuated by sentinel specimen conifers, alongside which sit small, incongruous patches of regular shaped conifer plantations. The woodland cover blurs the boundary between the valley floor and the lower slopes and lends a softness and intimacy to the landscape. Seasonal bursts of colour in autumn or from the flowering patches of rhododendrons and azaleas can create a striking impression.

The valley has a sense of enclosure from the surrounding fells which highlights the sense of intimacy experienced within this area of landscape. Many of the fell slopes are dominated by bracken, adding to the seasonal variation of colour while a scattering of mature trees (principally yew and juniper) are significant features. These contrasts with the bright green of the inbye fields and the more muted browns, greens and greys of the rougher textured intakes on the lower fell sides and open commons on the fells above. Pollarded ash trees alongside field walls are historic elements of the farmed landscape. There is a very clear distinction in the fell grazing above the valley. The open fell grazing land in the western half of the valley is largely common land, comprising the two commons of Grasmere and Loughrigg. The fell land in the eastern half was originally demesne land which has been divided into large, stone walled enclosures.

Within this contained landscape, there is also a relatively strong sense of quietness; however, tranquillity can be disturbed, particularly at weekends and during the summer months, by the influx of visitors and traffic noise from the A591 is a nearly constant feature of the valley. At the northern end of the area the valley, woodland becomes a less significant feature and the surrounding high fells dominate the feel of the

AREA 31 GRASMERE & RYDAL

landscape.

Do the Westmorland valleys turn grey headed? O reader! This is a painful memento of some of us! Thirty years ago, a gang of Vandals (nameless, I thank heaven, to me), for the sake of building a mail-coach road that never would be wanted, carried, at accost of £3000 to the defrauded parish, a horrid causeway of sheer granite masonry, for three-quarters-of-a-mile, right through the loveliest succession of secret forest dells and shy recesses of the lake margined by unrivalled ferns ... The Grasmere before and after this outrage were two different vales.'

Thomas De Quincey (lived in Dove Cottage, Grasmere), footnote to 'Confessions of an English Opium Eater', 1856

Rydal Water (which was once known as Rothaymere, due to its proximity to the River Rothay) and Grasmere, both have gentle lakeshores surrounded by lush pasture, which are in large part inaccessible to visitors. Small islands on the lake (thought to be formed from glacial drumlins) break up the expanse of water within the lake. The mature parkland associated with Rydal Hall, with its rich pasture and many veteran and mature open-grown trees and broadleaved woodland, gives a serene, established soft and lush character to the landscape in the south of the area.

There are traces of a number of past industries in the Grasmere and Rydal including mining and slate or stone quarrying, charcoal production and manufacture of woolen and linen cloth.

Nestled at the northern end of Grasmere Lake, the distinctive historic village of Grasmere, which overlooks the River Rothay exhibits a range of blueish-green, grey and reddish stone buildings made largely of dressed slate. Small cottages create an intricate feel in parts of the village and High Victorian design is prominent, where hotels of a significant size dominate and overall the village lacks the sense of having a centre or focal point. The village is overlooked and enclosed by the surrounding fells and the rocky hill, Helm Crag, which is popular with walkers and known locally as the *Lion and the Lamb*, due to the shape of rock formations on its summit.

Rydal is a small hamlet constructed on the west side of the Rydal deer park. These include farmhouses, cottages and barns, collectively a good example of vernacular Lakeland architecture. The key building is Rydal Mount. This started out as a typical Statesman farmhouse but was subsequently remodeled. William Wordsworth lived here from 1813 until his death in 1850; and the house is now open to the public. Cote How is another notable farmhouse with buttressed and rendered slate walls, a slate roof with oval chimney stacks, a spinning gallery and a rare survival in the Lake District of exposed timber framing. Dove Cottage is also of interest due to its associations with William Wordsworth. The 17th century building is now part of the Wordsworth Museum.

The contrast between the mountain setting and the intricate detail and softness of the valley landscape, well wooded, much influenced by design and with a strong sense of history on many levels, leads to a richness, variety and scenic beauty which has appealed to the nation for centuries. It has long been celebrated by writers, artists and poets. This area has celebrated cultural associations with William Wordsworth, who lived for many years at Dove Cottage in Grasmere. Rydal Water is believed to have been one of Wordsworth's favourite locations within the Lake District, and the Grasmere-Rydal corridor features within many of his poems and writings.

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- The high diversity and complexity of the landscape is sensitive to change;
- Water within Grasmere Lake and Rydal Water, which is vulnerable to pollution from diffuse and point source pollution;
- Open views to surrounding fells, which are sensitive to interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments;⁸²
- Large villas and Rydal Hall with their associated parkland and designed landscapes, are vulnerable to changes and extensions which do not respect vernacular built character or introduction of inappropriate garden design features;
- Small woodlands, which provide a sense of enclosure and an important ecological habitat and mature individual trees and pollards (especially sentinel conifers) which are key landscape features;
- Relatively strong sense of tranquillity at distance from major roads and popular tourist attractions; and
- Mature parkland associated with Rydal Hall, which contributes to recognisable sense of place.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are

- Increasing traffic associated with A591 leading to inappropriate road improvements;
- Sustained pressure from recreational activities impacting on tranquillity and footpath and vegetation damage and erosion; and
- Lack of appropriate management of designed landscapes leading to progressive loss of features.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above.

⁸² This ADC is not covered by the Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure study

AREA 31 GRASMERE & RYDAL

Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Encourage** reversion of small blocks of conifers to more naturalistic broadleaved areas; and
- **Target** eroded paths and vegetation for management to improve condition.

Ecological Character

- **Improve** water quality and lakeshore habitats around Grasmere Lake and Rydal Water;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** small woodlands, which provide a sense of enclosure and an important ecological habitat; and
- **Protect** mature individual trees and pollards (especially sentinel conifers) which are landscape features and **encourage** sensitive succession planning.

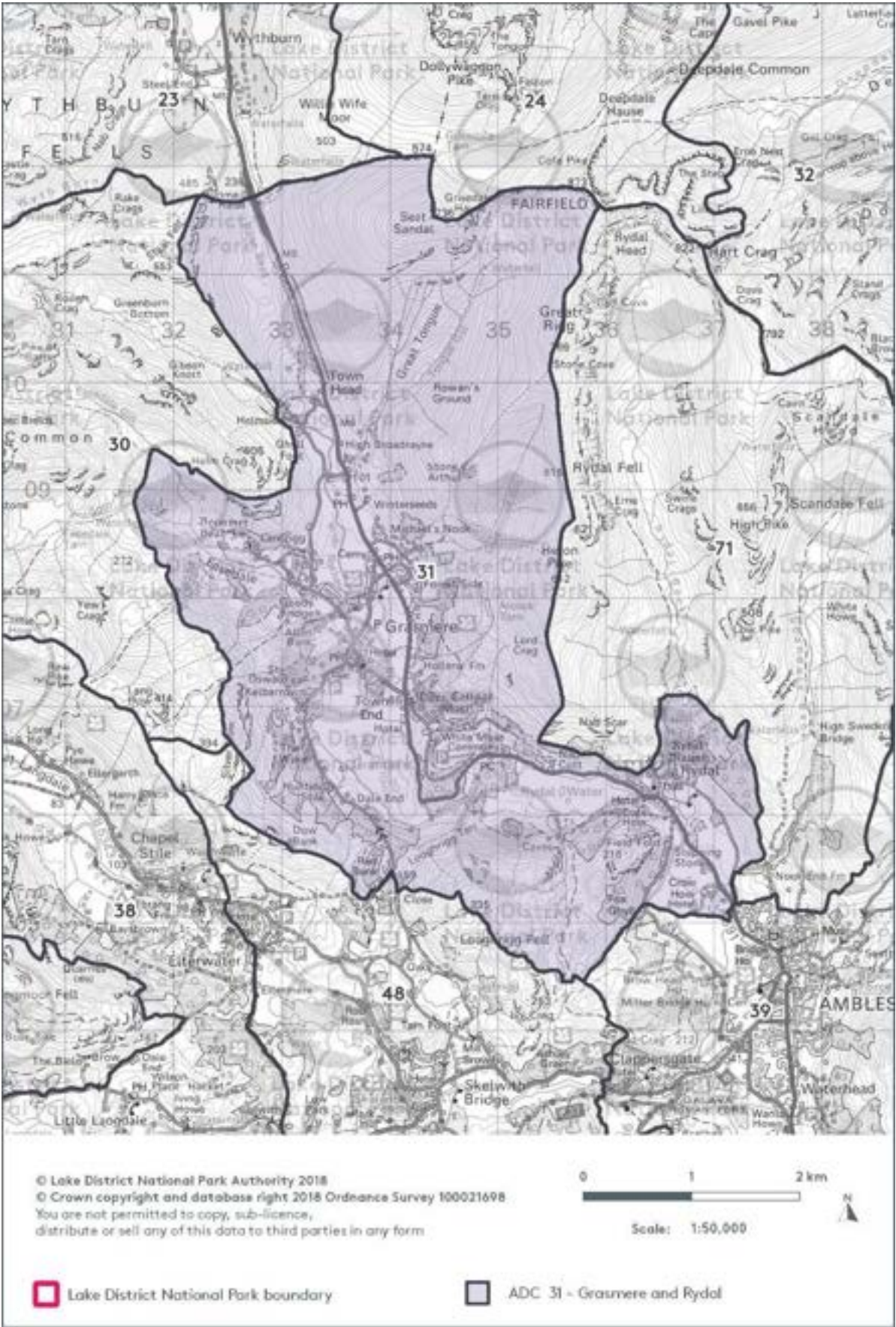
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** large villas, Rydal Hall and their associated parkland and designed landscapes and encourage succession planning;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** mature parkland associated with Rydal Hall which contributes to recognisable sense of place, and **encourage** succession planning;
- **Encourage** and **support** the conservation or restoration of existing historic building fabric and landscape features (e.g. traditional paving, boundary treatments), where appropriate; and
- **Encourage** sensitive succession planting for the designed planting on the fellsides, outside the formal park areas.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Retain** open views to the surrounding fells within Grasmere village;
- **Encourage** road improvements which respect the intimate character and scale of the valley; and
- **Manage** visitor pressure to ensure opportunities for people to find tranquillity.

AREA 31 GRASMERE & RYDAL



AREA 32: BROTHER'S WATER & HARTSOP

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character is located in the central Lake District, between Ambleside and Ullswater. It contains the northern part of Kirkstone Pass. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Ullswater](#).

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4)

- [Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fells](#) (F); and
- [Upland Valley](#) (H).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Memorable views of the area, including looking down towards Brothers Water from the summit of Kirkstone Pass;
- From high ground there is a great contrast between the ruggedness of the moorland foreground and the lushness of the valley below.
- The side valleys of Dovedale and Hartsop, with very different characters;
- The historic hamlet of Hartsop has one of the best groups of vernacular, rugged 17th and 18th century buildings in the Lake District, giving it a very strong sense of place and forming an integral part of the surrounding landscape;
- Distinctive landscape features of the Hartsop area are the small, rubble stone field barns or 'hogg houses' and the pattern of field walls;
- Predominantly a very tranquil landscape due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the pastoral fields in the valley, wetland margins around the lake, wooded valley sides (including juniper) and craggy fells above; and
- Two very different waterbodies – the isolated reservoir of Hayeswater and the atmospheric, reed- fringed Angle Tarn.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The most well-known view of this area is looking north from the summit of Kirkstone Pass. From here, the ruggedness of the foreground and moorland contrasts with the lush valley far below, with its mature deciduous woodland, and flat walled meadows around the square-shaped lake of Brothers Water. Place Fell closes the view and forms the backdrop.

AREA 32: BROTHER'S WATER & HARTSOP

There are significant areas of rush, grazing marsh and wetland around Brothers Water lakeshore and the fell sides have important areas of ancient semi-natural woodland and juniper.

The side valley of Dovedale shows great diversity, with a pleasing composition, and all the variety of colour, pattern and texture associated with walled fields, stone buildings, wooded valley sides and craggy fells above. Dovedale has well preserved sections of ring garth running from Brother's Water into Dovedale enclosing land on either side of Dovedale Beck

The hamlet of Hartsop has a strong sense of place, and of time-depth in its early vernacular slate architecture and its landscape. Above the village is a series of tiny and ancient walled inbye fields and intakes on the adjacent fells, creating an intricate pattern on the hillside, but with many of the walls now in a very poor state of repair. Most of the buildings date from the 'Statesmen' period of the 17th and 18th centuries and are classic examples of Lake District vernacular buildings. These are typically constructed from massive stone and slate rubble walls, often white-washed, and roofed in slate with squat chimneys. Howe Green Farm, and Hartsop Hall are notable historic farms that add to the sense of place. The latter retains a significant herdwick flock.

There are also examples of ash pollards, with their distinctive shape and history. Once a common feature in the Lake District landscape, the ash poles were used for timber and the brash left on the ground for stock to graze in winter. The pollards at Hartsop are still cropped in the traditional manner, giving a sense of continuity with the past. On the opposite hillside are the scars of past lead mining.

Hartsop is a classic example illustrating the 'Great Rebuilding in Stone' of the late 17th century, which produced the characteristic limewashed farms, rubblestone barns and rugged field walls. This settlement displays typical Lakeland vernacular detailing, such as square squat or cylindrical chimneys, crow – stepped gables, open fronted galleries and thick oak plank doors. Within the building group, at Howe Green is a very rare survival of a mid-17th century dwelling, abandoned in the late 19th century, but now sensitively repaired by the National Trust for future educational visits. Hartsop is an old settlement, and distinctive open galleries are visible on some buildings. Just within the village is 'The Howe', a traditional un-modernised Lake District farmhouse with its associated buildings, one of which is a slate corn drying kiln, a rare reminder of past arable practices. It has been conserved for its rarity and sense of timelessness.

At the foot of Dovedale face and continuing along the west side of the valley bottom above Brother's Water is Low Wood, a significant area of native woodland and wood pasture, in which are the remains of Hartsop Hall Mine. This lead mine operated at least as far back as the 17th century and closed in 1942. Four levels were driven northwards into the Fell side, but the production of ore was never outstanding.

The isolated reservoir of Hayeswater, which occupies the valley to the north- west of the High Street summit, and Angle Tarn, a remote tarn in a shallow upland bowl to the north-east of Hartsop, are striking landscape features. Angle Tarn, with its irregular outline, islands, panoramic views, upland feel and reed-fringed edges, has a strong visual identity of its own.

The area has a strong sense of tranquillity especially on the western valley sides surrounding Deepdale and Dovedale up to the Kirkstone Pass due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the craggy fells as well as the relative absence of dwellings,

AREA 32: BROTHER'S WATER & HARTSOP

minimal sources of artificial noise and few obvious signs of human influence. In the valley surrounding the A592 there are areas where the sense of tranquillity is disturbed primarily by traffic noise.

'Their mother had set them to thresh some corn, and they (probably thinking it hard to be so tasked when all others were keeping holiday) stole out to slide upon the ice, and were both drowned. A neighbour who had seen them fall through the ice, though not near enough to be certain, guessed who they were and went to the mother to inquire after her sons. She replied that 'there were threshing in the barn'. 'Nay', said to the man, 'they are not there, nor is it likely to-day'. The woman then went to the barn and the boys were gone. He was then convinced of the truth, and told her that they were drowned. It is said that they were found locked in each other's arms.'

Dorothy Wordsworth's account on the naming of Brothers Water, 1785

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Historic hamlet of Hartsop, which has a strong sense of place and an outstanding vernacular character and is sensitive to the introduction of large-scale buildings within the centre or at the edges of the villages or those which do not respect local built character, materials, scale and form;
- Overall strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity, slightly diminished by the occasional traffic noise;
- Significant areas of mature deciduous woodland, including wood pasture on steep slopes, which provide a sense of enclosure and are important ecological habitats;
- Distinctive pattern with Dovedale valley of walled fields and stone walls, which are sensitive to changes in land management;
- Open views towards Brothers Water, which are sensitive to interruption by tall vertical elements or large-scale developments with an intermediate sensitivity to cumulative impacts of vertical development (around Hayeswater)⁸³; and
- Water quality within Angle Tarn and Hayeswater reservoir and changes to watercourses from increased storm events and rainfall.

Forces for Change

The Forces for Change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within

⁸³ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

AREA 32: BROTHER'S WATER & HARTSOP

the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Protect** the water quality of all water bodies from point source and diffuse pollution; and
- **Ensure** any flood management measures are sensitive to the character of the landscape.

Ecological Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** and where appropriate extend wetland habitats around the lakeshore; and
- **Conserve** and **enhance** patches of mature deciduous and juniper woodland and wood pasture, which provide a sense of enclosure and are important ecological habitats.

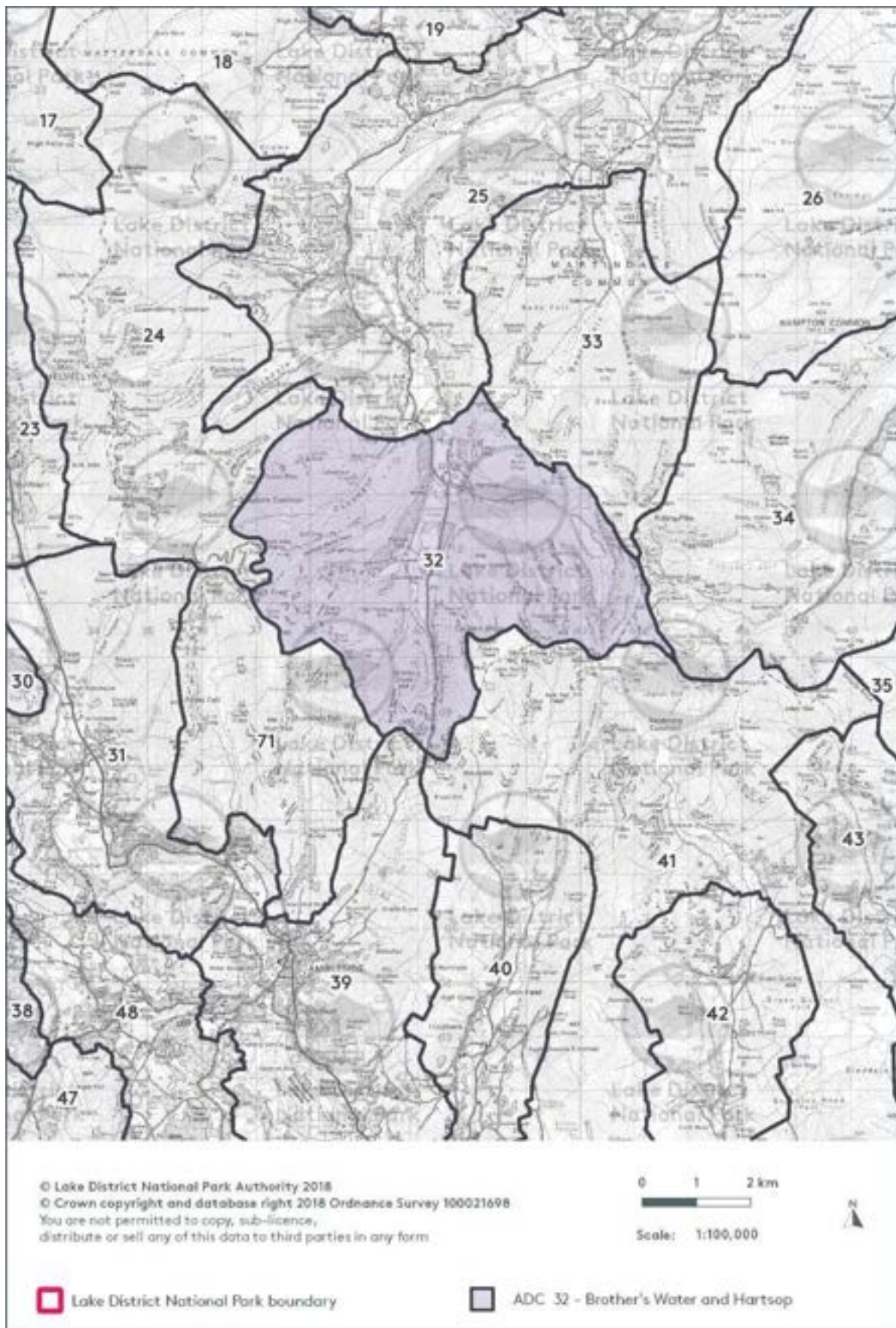
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** the historic hamlet of Hartsop, which has a strong sense of place and vernacular character;
- **Encourage** and **support** the conservation or restoration of existing historic building fabric and landscape features (e.g. traditional paving, boundary treatments) where appropriate; and
- **Conserve** and **enhance** distinctive pattern within Dovedale valley of walled fields and stone walls.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Maintain** overall sense of openness, remoteness and tranquillity;
- **Retain** open views towards Brothers Water; and
- **Conserve** and **enhance** the combination of ash pollards, mature open grown trees and impressive stone walls.

AREA 32: BROTHER'S WATER & HARTSOP



AREA 33: MARTINDALE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character is located towards the eastern side of the Lake District, and encompasses a series of north-south ridges. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Ullswater](#).

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4)

- [Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fells](#) (F).

Distinctive Characteristics

- The series of settled upland valleys, running north-south, to the west of the High Street ridge which have a very different, almost secretive character and are separated by a series of high, rugged ridges;
- There is an element of surprise when arriving in this area from Ullswater to the north;
- The strong contrast between the ridges and the valleys in terms of their texture, openness, wildness, pattern and enclosure.
- The variety of large animal species, including red deer and ponies
- Small-scale and intimate landscape, with no through roads;
- A settlement pattern of small scattered farmsteads and dwellings;
- Scattered isolated stone barns throughout valley are very distinctive;
- Strong contrast between the improved pasture in the valley bottom, the bracken dominated lower slopes and moorland of the higher fell;
- The very strong sense of history in the ancient church and hamlet of Martindale with a strong agro pastoral character of inbye and intake fields;
- Important ribbon of scattered native woodland on the lower fell slopes nearer the valley head (Martindale Forest);
- Distant views from Boredale dominated by conifer plantation; and
- Predominantly a very tranquil landscape due to the openness and perceived naturalness of Martindale Common and the broad ridge of High Street. The relative absence of dwellings, minimal sources of artificial noise and few obvious signs of human influence enhance the tranquillity.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The underlying rocks in this area have been eroded by glacial and fluvial erosion into a series of north- south ridges separating the deep, sheltered valleys of Boredale, Howe Grain/ Bannerdale and Fusedale, which are dominated by their flanking rugged high fells, and contain streams flowing northwards into Ullswater. The sense of place, and of orientation, within the area is very strongly influenced by whether or not one can see the High Street ridge. The ridge dominates this character area when visible. There is a very strong contrast between the ridges and the valleys in terms of their texture, openness, wildness, pattern and enclosure

The valleys each differ in their sense of wildness and enclosure, they also have great seasonal variation in their vegetation, colour, and texture owing to the mosaics of moorland, bog, heathland, marsh and grassland vegetation present. Some areas of species rich grassland, including some old hay meadows survive in the valley

Boredale and Howe Grain/Bannerdale contain improved pastureland in the valley bottoms, with inbye and intake fields marked by a network of dry stone walls. Important ribbons of scattered patches of semi-natural woodland remain on the eastern lower fell slopes nearer the valley head, associated with the medieval Martindale Forest. The settlement pattern is mainly small scattered farmsteads, such as 17th century Cote Farm, and dwellings with a few incongruous large modern farm buildings. Farms are situated on the lower valley sides and distinctive, scattered, isolated stone barns occur throughout the valley. Narrow, winding no-through roads follow the course of the valleys.

The central valley, the Howe Grain, contains the hamlet of Martindale (which is located just outside this Area of Distinctive Character, in Ullswater) and the ancient church of St Martin. The sense of time depth within this area is strong - a Roman pillar from High Street is now used as a font in St Martin's Old Church in Martindale. This church was built in the 17th century to replace an earlier church on the same site. Martindale Forest was managed under Forest law during the mediaeval period, providing red deer and other meat for the royal household, the descendants of these deer still roam the remoter parts of this area, with a wall running the length of the High Street ridge (to the south of this area) and marking the County boundary. Until the early 19th century, Racecourse Hill was used as the venue of the annual Mardale Shepherds gathering, a festival including traditional sports and livestock trading.

The area has a very strong sense of tranquillity, particularly on the open ridges of Martindale Common. The tranquillity on these fells is due to the openness and perceived naturalness with a relative absence of dwellings, minimal sources of artificial noise and few obvious signs of human influence. In the settled valleys the sense of tranquillity is still high despite the presence of dwellings and settlements.

‘On that tall pike

(It is the loneliest place of all these hills) There were two springs which
bubbled side by side,

As it they had been made that they might be Companions for each other: the
huge crag

Was rent with lightning – one hath disappeared; The other, left behind, is
flowing still.’

‘The Brothers’ [Kidsty Pike] Wordsworth

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Type, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Dramatic views to surrounding landscape from ridges, which are vulnerable to interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments with an intermediate sensitivity to cumulative impacts of vertical development⁸⁴;
- Varied wildlife throughout the area;
- Remnant hay meadows vulnerable to changes in management;
- Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity;
- General absence of traffic; and
- Areas of ancient semi-natural woodland vulnerable to grazing pressure.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are

Increased storm events and rainfall could impact on the character of the small valleys, causing erosion.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

⁸⁴ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

AREA 33: MARTINDALE

Physical Character

- **Manage** the land to reduce erosion from storm and high rainfall events.

Ecological Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** the biodiversity of the area;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** hay meadows; and
- **Encourage** regeneration and extension of ancient woodland sites.

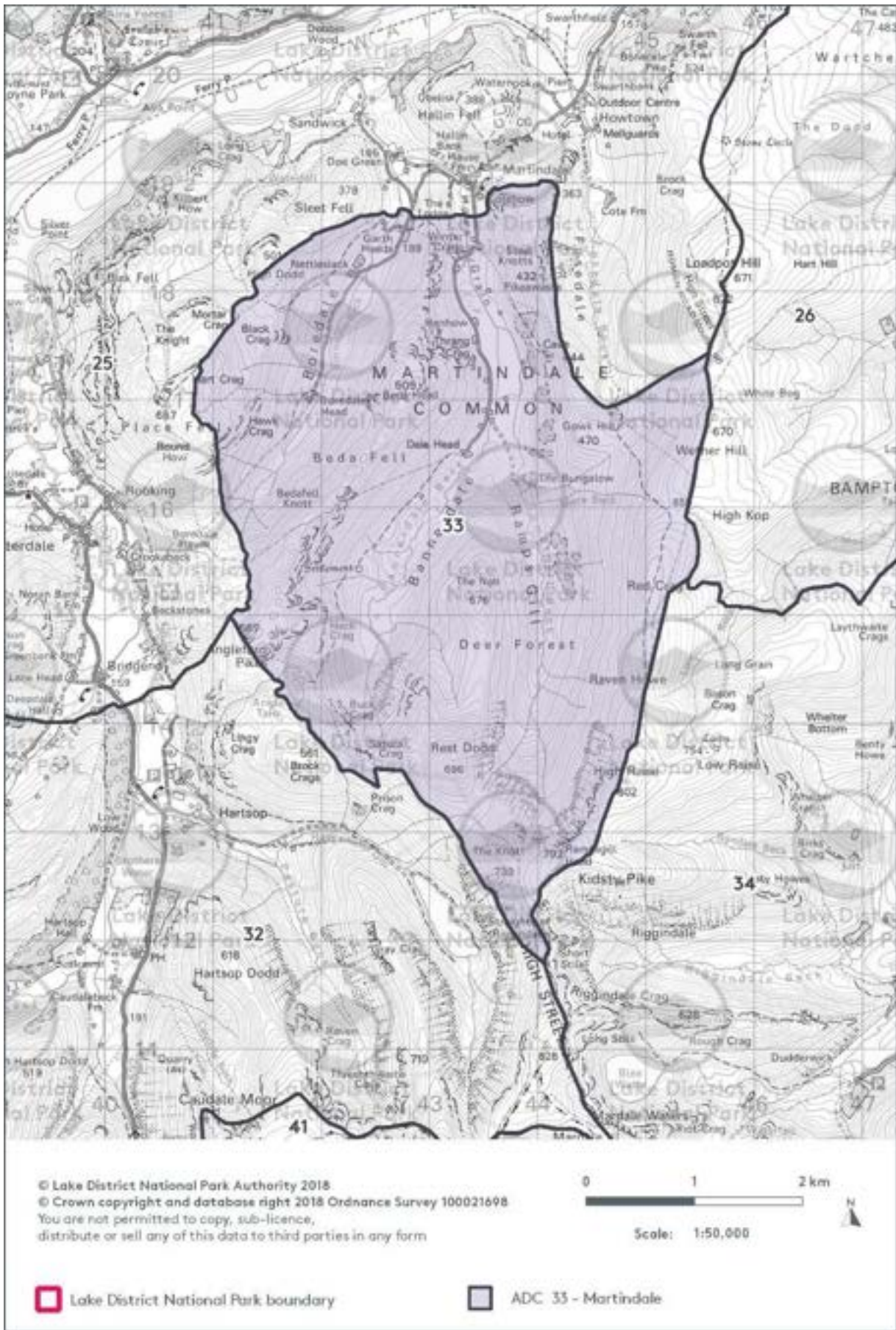
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Restore** scattered small barns; and
- **Encourage** and **support** the conservation or restoration of existing historic building fabric and landscape features (e.g. traditional paving, boundary treatments), where appropriate.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Protect** dramatic views to surrounding landscape from High Street ridge, which are vulnerable to interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments; and
- **Maintain** the strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity.

AREA 33: MARTINDALE



AREA 34: HAWESWATER

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated in the east of the Lake District National Park Haweswater Reservoir is the most easterly of the lakes. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Haweswater](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section

- [Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell](#) (F);
- [Upland Valley](#) (H); and
- [High Fell Fringe](#) (J).

Distinctive Characteristics

- A long, curving reservoir that contains the flooded villages of Measand and Mardale Green;
- The reservoir is the second largest after Thirlmere and is constant in width over most of its length, narrowing at its southern tongue. It occupies the whole of the valley bottom, with dramatic craggy fells in the southern section plunging down the dale sides almost directly into the water;
- The head of the valley is dramatically enclosed by Branstree, Harter Fell, Mardale Ill Bell, High Street and Kidsty Pike, with glacial corries containing the tarns of Blea Water and Small Water;
- At times of low water the unvegetated, exposed rocky shore catches the eye;
- Strong sense of mystery and eeriness apparent throughout the valley, partly due to the lost villages;
- Strong sense of isolation and wildness due to the restricted access, lack of settlement, deep black water, and general foreboding nature of the valley;
- Distinct lack of farms or pastoral fields within the contained valley corridor;
- Important area of oak woodlands at Naddle Forest, along the approach to the lake and first section of lakeshore, and funnelling up Naddle Beck, contrasting strongly with the open moorland character of the rest of the valley and giving seasonal colour;
- Surviving elements of Burnbanks model village, which was constructed by Manchester Corporation for the workers building Haweswater Dam and reservoir; and

AREA 34: HAWESWATER

- Predominantly a very tranquil landscape due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the valley. The sense of tranquillity is enhanced by a relative absence of dwellings, minimal sources of artificial noise and low levels of traffic.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The valley head is dramatic with a strong sense of enclosure where steep, craggy fells and screes of Branstree, Harter Fell, Mardale Ill Bell, High Street and Kidsty Pike dramatically fall into the lake. Vegetation cover is a mosaic of moorland, acid grassland with patches of heathland, blanket bog, rushes, bracken, and areas of gorse and hawthorn. There are intrusive small blocks of coniferous planting all along the valley and softer patches of deciduous woodland.

These steep and rocky north-east facing crags receive little sun and can present a forbidding aspect. The expanse of deep, dark water, high, enclosing fells, steep alley sides and a noticeable lack of pasture or settlement to add a humanising influence in the valley, combined with the knowledge of the two lost villages of Measand and Mardale Green (lost when in 1929 the decision was made to turn the valley of Mardale into a reservoir) present an eerie sense of mystery. This is strengthened when ruined buildings are occasionally revealed in a particularly dry summer with low water levels..

An important area of oak woodlands (designated as SSSI) at Naddle Forest, along the approach to the lake and the first section of lakeshore, and funnelling up Naddle Beck, contrasts strongly with the open character of the rest of the valley and giving seasonal colour and a range of wildlife opportunities.

At times, when the water in the reservoir is low, the remains of some of the buildings, and the village bridge, of Mardale Green can be made out through the water surface. The unvegetated, rocky shore is exposed at times of low water and provides a stark contrast as a strong, bright, pale-coloured, horizontal line in an otherwise unstructured landscape of more muted colours.

The imposing dam at the northern end of the Reservoir is a striking landscape feature, but is surprisingly well screened from many views by woodlands. Associated with the dam, at the north east end of the reservoir, are a range of concrete water company features including roads, bridges and the surviving elements of Burnbanks model village, which was constructed by Manchester Corporation for the workers building Haweswater Dam and reservoir.

The lack of dry stone walls and any other obvious human elements and features associated with a valley floor, coupled with the craggy, rugged fell sides, rising up from the surface of the water, give an almost hostile appearance. The dramatic topography and general lack of built development contribute to a strong sense of tranquility, isolation and wildness.

'In truth, it is all very primitive and rough ... The church is picturesque enough, with its flint weathercock now so seldom seen, but it is by no means a rustic cathedral; the royal hotel – and the only one – is a wretched wayside public-house, where you can get eggs and bacon and nothing else – except the company of a tipsy parson lying in bed with his gin-bottle by his side.'

Eliza Lynn Linton describes Haweswater Village as it was before damming

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Water within Haweswater, which is sensitive to pollution from run off associated with adjacent agricultural activities;
- Strong sense of remoteness, isolation and tranquillity throughout;
- Absence of pastoral fields or settlement pattern;
- Imposing dam, which is a striking landscape feature;
- Management of visually intrusive blocks of coniferous planting;
- Intermediate sensitivity to the cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure;⁸⁵ and
- Remains of the model village at Burnbanks.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Reduction in non-native conifer woodland and planting native woodland on gill sides transforming the existing character through reinforcement of positive attributes;
- Increased storm events and rainfall causing erosion to valley sides; and
- Potential for degradation of water supply infrastructure (e.g. Dam, roads, bridges and pumping station);

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Protect** water within Haweswater from point source and diffuse pollution;
- **Conserve, enhance** and where appropriate **create**, new areas of broadleaved woodland; and

⁸⁵ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

AREA 34: HAWESWATER

- **Encourage** removal or reversion to broadleaved trees of intrusive blocks of conifers; and
- **Encourage** sensitive flood management approaches.

Ecological Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** mosaic of upland habitats.

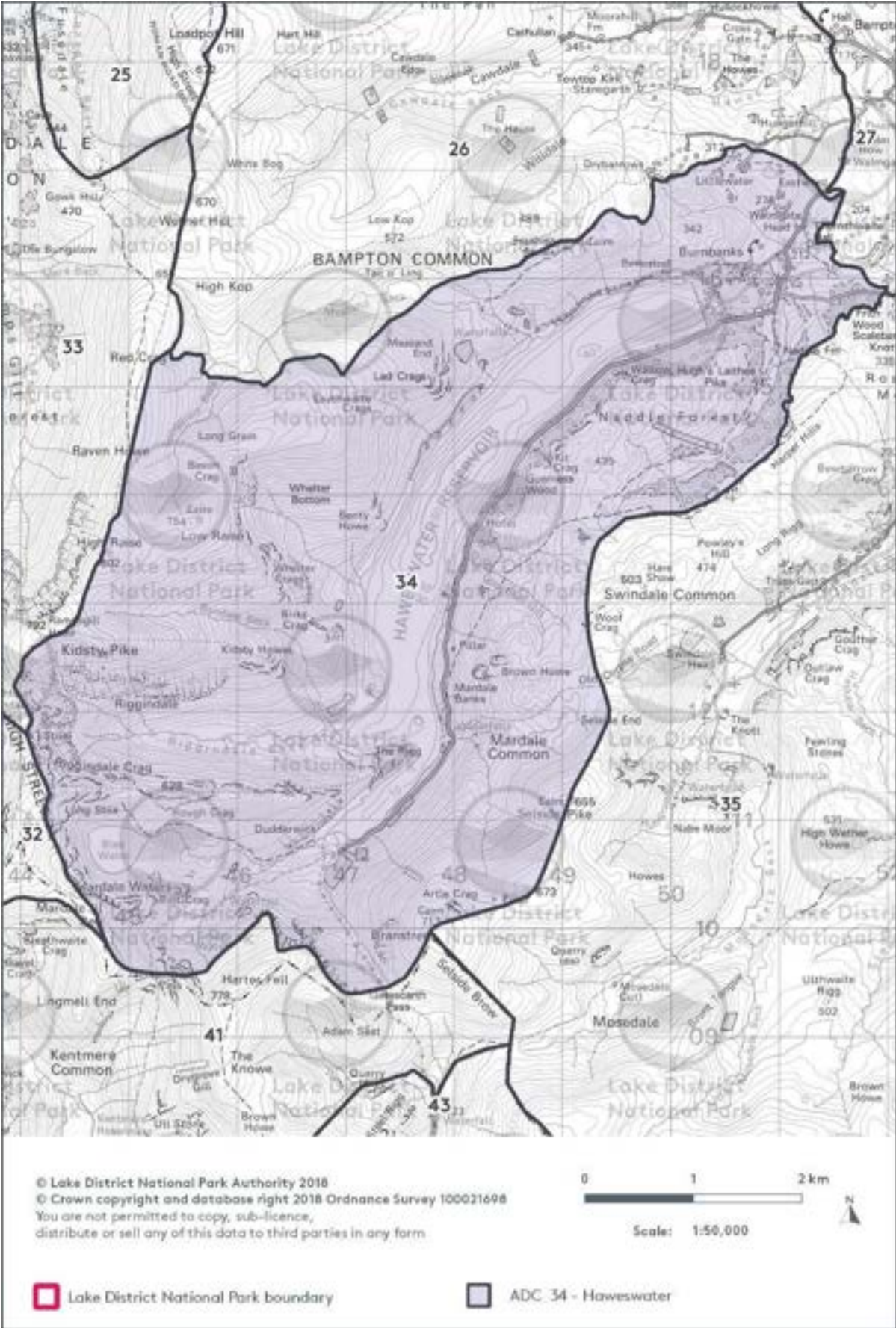
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Retain** absence of pastoral fields or settlement pattern;
- **Maintain** the historic integrity of Burnbank model settlement;
- **Conserve** archaeological sites; and
- **Encourage** and **support** the conservation or restoration of existing historic building fabric and landscape features (e.g. traditional paving, boundary treatments), where appropriate.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Maintain** strong sense of remoteness, isolation and tranquillity throughout.

AREA 34: HAWESWATER



AREA 35: SHAP & BIRKBECK FELLS

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This extensive Area of Distinctive Character is situated on the eastern edge of the Lake District. It is in World Heritage Site Valleys: [Haweswater](#) and [Windermere](#).

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4)

- [Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell](#) (F); and
- [Upland Valley](#) (H).

Distinctive Characteristics

- An extensive, bleak, open and remote moorland area, which feels very isolated;
- The landscape, predominantly grey and brown has a relatively rough, craggy texture, with colours, patterns and moods affected by weather conditions;
- Views out of the character area from higher land, with High Street dominating views to the west;
- Individual valleys with scattered farms and houses in the north, south and east (including Wet Sleddale reservoir) contrast with the surrounding open moorland;
- Predominantly a very tranquil landscape especially to the west. To the east the road traffic along the A6 corridor disturbs the sense of tranquillity; and
- Large areas of plantation woodland along the eastern fringe of the Shap fells, extending outside the National Park.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The key characteristic of Shap and Birkbeck fells is the extent of its bleak, open, empty, remote and inaccessible moorland with extensive areas of blanket bog. There is a very strong sense of isolation and tranquility accentuated by the lack of people and visitor activity. For much of the area, the undulating topography blocks views out, and so there is a feeling of enclosure, with little sense of the world beyond the moor. On the fell tops views are more expansive to uplands in all directions.

This large area of moorland is fairly rough in its texture with craggy outcrops in places on the steeper valley sides. Colours are predominantly grey and brown, but with, patterns and moods constantly changing with the light, weather and seasons. From higher land, High Street forms the western horizon, and to the east there are glimpses of movement of trains and traffic on main roads, a large quarry processing plant and large areas of coniferous plantation woodland along the fringe of the fells, and extending

AREA 35: SHAP & BIRKBECK FELLS

outside the National Park.

Around the edges of the area are remote, narrow settled valleys - Swindale in the north, Bannisdale in the south and Wet Sleddale in the east. The valleys are sparsely settled and contain little improved grassland resulting in more muted colours of browns, greens and greys and a lack of the stark contrast between the bright green valley bottom and the valley sides more commonly found in the Lake District. Around the farmsteads the regular pattern of stone walls bounding inbye and intake fields, and small patches of broadleaved trees and woodland contrast with the surrounding moorland. Small patches of broadleaved woodland offer seasonal colour and ecological interest. Blocks of coniferous trees are incongruous features particularly noticeable on the approach to Wet Sleddale reservoir.

Swindale and Wet Sleddale valleys contain built infrastructure associated with the construction of dams in the 1930s with characteristic concrete structures including roads, bridges and dams.

Overall, the area has a strong sense of tranquillity. The sense of tranquillity is greatest on the moorland east of Gatescarth Pass on the hills surrounding Mosedale, including Shap Fells. This is due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the landscape. There is also a relative absence of dwellings or settlements, minimal sources of artificial noise and few obvious signs of human influence. The sense of tranquillity becomes more disturbed close to the A6 corridor. The disturbance is mainly due to traffic noise and pylons along the road corridor.

'The wall walks the fell
Grey millipede on slow stone hooves Its slack back hollowed
At gulleys and grooves Or shouldering over Old boulders
Too big to be rolled away'
Norman Nicholson, 1981

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Strong sense of openness and isolation throughout the area, coupled with a strong sense of tranquillity (at a distance from the A6 road corridor);
- Dramatic views in all directions, especially towards High Street to the west, which are sensitive to interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments with greatly significant sensitivity to cumulative impacts of vertical development⁸⁶; and
- Predominantly undeveloped character throughout.

⁸⁶ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Increased storm events and rainfall causing erosion to valley sides.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Conserve, enhance** and, where appropriate, **extend** patches of broadleaved woodland in the valleys.

Ecological Character

- **Restore** and **enhance** areas of blanket bog.

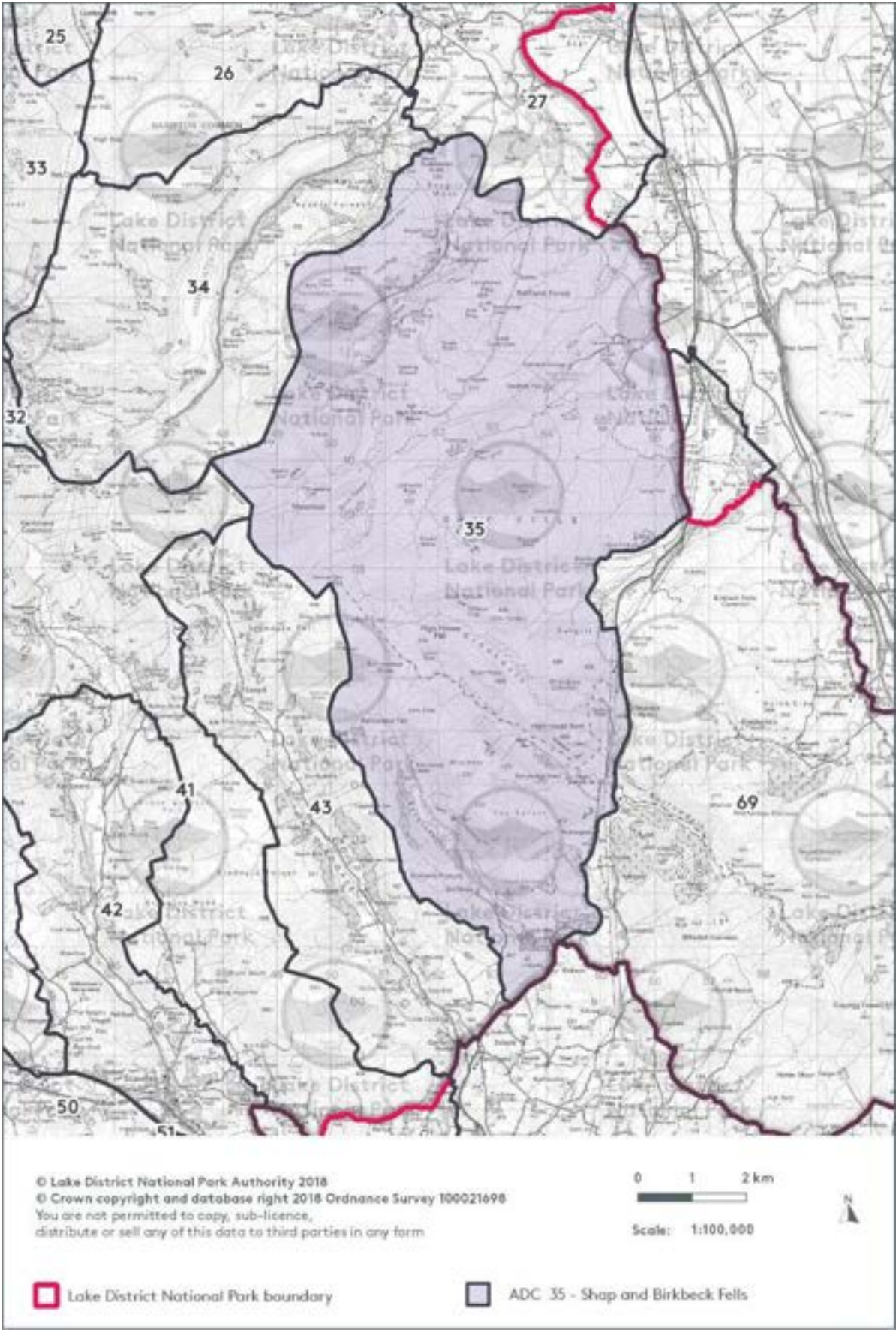
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** the regular field pattern of stone walls.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Retain** strong sense of openness, isolation and tranquillity throughout most of the area;
- **Protect** dramatic views in all directions, especially towards High Street to the west, which are sensitive to interruption by all vertical or large-scale developments; and
- **Retain** the predominantly undeveloped character throughout.

AREA 35: SHAP & BIRKBECK FELLS



AREA 36: CALDER VALLEY

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

The Calder Valley is situated at the western edge of the Lake District National Park, to the north east of Seascale and Sellafield. The ADC extends beyond the Park boundary and forms part of the its setting. It is in World Heritage Site Valleys: [Ennerdale](#) and [Wasdale](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section

- [Lowland](#) (D);
- [Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell](#) (F); and
- [High Fell Fringe](#) (J).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Gently meandering narrow course of the River Calder which is fringed by patches of mixed woodland with a few dominant exotic conifers lower down the valley;
- Predominantly flat valley floor, comprising predominantly pastoral fields, divided by a combination of mature hedgerows and occasional walls;
- Relatively steep valley sides, which provide views across and along the valley; an irregular patchwork of field boundaries;
- Many old stone-faced kests (hedge banks) and redundant hedge lines; significant areas of rough upland grazing with the pattern of old intake boundaries;
- Ruins of Calder Abbey (built in 1134 for William de Meschines and the order of Savigny) are a landscape feature;
- Intricate and fairly small-scale field pattern, with fields following the line of the river course;
- General absence of settlements or farmsteads within the valley, other than Calder Bridge, a small, nucleated village;
- Very distinctive vernacular style in some buildings using the local red sandstone which is also a feature of wall boundaries;
- Dominating presence of Sellafield nuclear plant at the western end of the valley (the river runs through the centre of the plant) can be seen from higher up the valley; and

AREA 36: CALDER VALLEY

- Predominantly a tranquil landscape especially to the north east away from Sellafield nuclear site. The sense of tranquillity is due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the pastoral landscape.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This relatively intricate and small-scale landscape consists of patchwork pastoral fields, which are delineated by a striking combination of mature hedgerows, stone-faced kests (hedge banks) and occasional stone walls. The gently meandering course of the river is fringed with small patches of woodland, which provide some sense of enclosure. Contrast is provided from patches of heathland and blanket bog and coniferous woodland in the north of the area.

Within the valley, the red sandstone ruins of Calder Abbey, set amongst mature single trees, provide a striking landscape feature. Its lightly landscaped ground are now in agricultural use, but incorporate monastic features and a ha-ha. Views towards the remains of the abbey and also views to Sellafield power station in the west, contribute to recognisable sense of place within the valley.

The valley has a strongly rural character towards its eastern end, with a general absence of settlements, other than the occasional farmstead or village. The village of Calder Bridge exhibits a pattern of traditional whitewashed stone buildings with many exhibiting use of the local red sandstone.

At the western end of the valley (outside the ADC), the landscape and National Park setting is dominated by the imposing presence of Sellafield nuclear power station, which blocks open views towards the sea.

Overall the area has a sense of tranquillity. In the north and east of the area the sense of tranquillity is strong due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the pastoral landscape. In addition there is a relative absence of dwellings, minimal sources of artificial noise. In the south and west the sense of tranquillity is disturbed by the visual dominance of Sellafield nuclear site and traffic noise along the A595.

'Step into the inn garden at the bridge, and see how beautifully the brown waters swirl away under the red bridge and its ivied bands, while the waving ferns incessantly checker the sunshine. It is a mile to the Abbey, thought the churchyard, and along the bank of the Calder, where again the most beautiful tricks of light are seen, with brown water and its white foam, red precipitous banks, and the greenest vegetation, with a wood crowing all... the ruins are presently seen, spring sheer from the greenest turf ...'

Harriet Martineau, August 1802

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Small patches of broadleaved woodland along the course of the River Calder, which are distinctive landscape features;

AREA 36: CALDER VALLEY

- Mature hedgerow network which is sensitive to changes in land management or changing agricultural practices;
- Ruins of Calder Abbey, which are a landmark feature within the landscape;
- Distinctive vernacular building style and use of red sandstone in built structures;
- General absence of settlements and predominantly rural character;
- Small-scale field pattern; and
- Significant sensitivity to the cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure.⁸⁷

Forces for Change

In addition to the Forces for Change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Transformation of the conifer forest of Scalderskew into an open native broad-leaved woodland;
- Neglect of hedges and stone-faced kests (hedge banks) around enclosure land reducing the potential landscape and wildlife benefits of hedgerows and in many places leading to substitution by wire fences.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** small patches of broadleaved woodland along the course of the River Calder, which are distinctive landscape features:
- **Continue** to transform coniferous plantation to broad leaved woodland.

Ecological Character

- **Manage** and **restore** areas of blanket bog.

⁸⁷ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

AREA 36: CALDER VALLEY

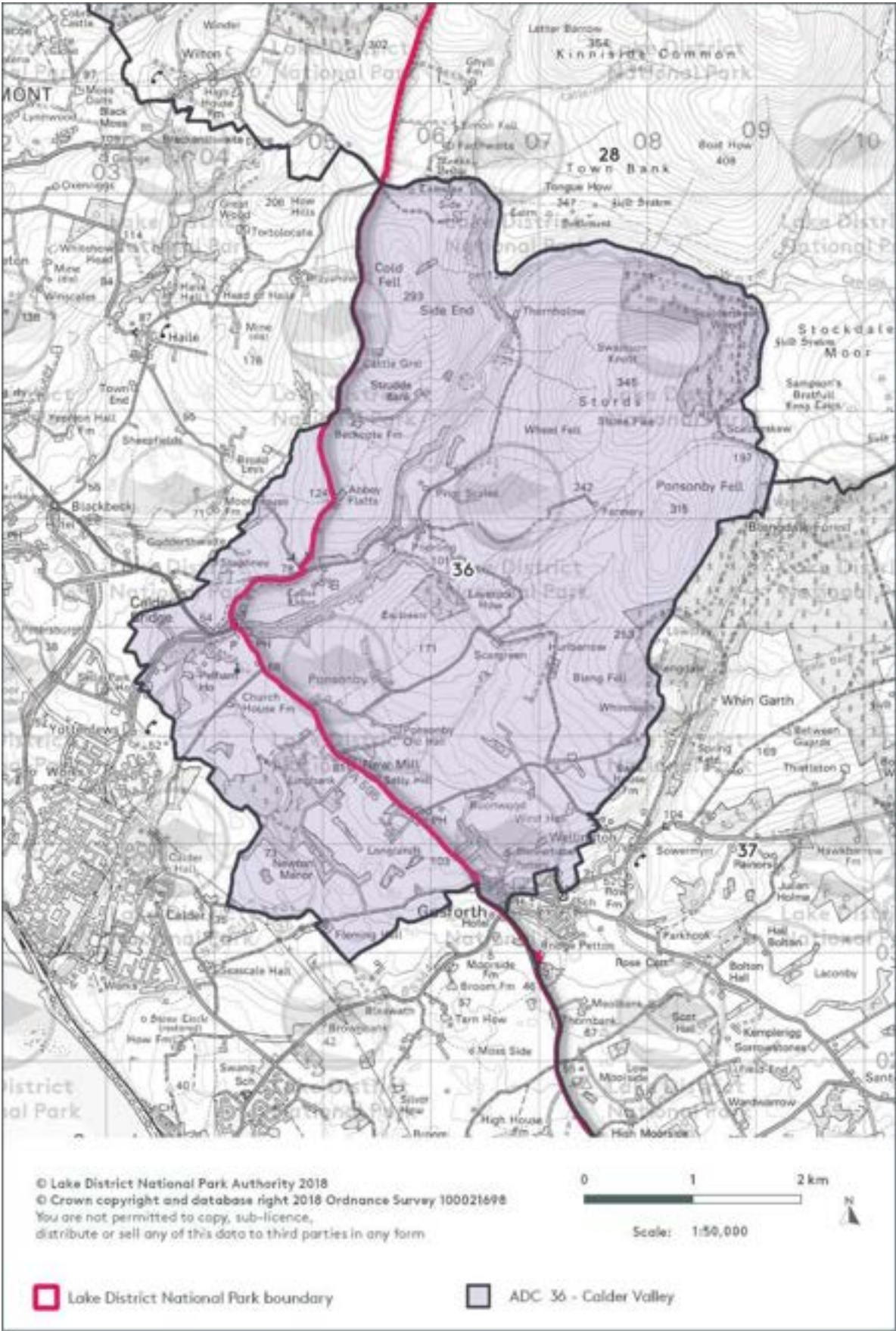
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Mitigate** the effects of any major developments and associated infrastructure on the west coast around Sellafield;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** mature hedgerow and wall network, especially distinctive stone-faced kests (hedge banks);
- **Conserve** ruins of Calder Abbey, which are a landmark feature within the landscape;
- **Retain** general absence of settlements and predominantly rural character.
- **Encourage** new developments which respect or strengthen local vernacular building style; and
- **Retain** small-scale field pattern.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Maintain** open views to Calder Abbey that contribute to the sense of place.

AREA 36: CALDER VALLEY



AREA 37: BLENG & IRT VALLEYS

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

The Bleng and Irt Valleys Area of Distinctive Character is located in the west of the National Park, to the west of Wastwater. This ADC falls within WHS Valleys: [Wasdale](#) and [Eskdale](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section

- [Lowland](#) (D);
- [Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell](#) (F);
- [Upland Valley](#) (H); and
- [High Fell Fringe](#) (J).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Two valleys which link the lowland plain to the upland fells and are set against the distinctive backdrop of the Volcanic High Fell and High Fell Fringe;
- Gently undulating, peaceful landscape dominated by pastoral farmland in the west and the large forests of Blengdale and Miterdale to the east where the landscape becomes wilder and more rugged nearer to the High Fells to the east;
- Generally open with views throughout the area framed by irregular clumps of woodland in the west, and views towards the edges of the High Fells to the east;
- Fine, large houses of the late 18th and 19th century, built by wealthy shipping owners of West Cumbrian ports, form a distinctive element of the local landscape. Good examples include Irton Hall, Steelfield Hall and Greenlands, all with mature gardens and landscaping;
- Areas of parkland associated with country houses;
- Predominantly a tranquil landscape, especially towards the east away from the busy coast route and towns of Santon Bridge and Gosforth;
- The large dark conifer block in Miterdale contrast sharply with the lighter coloured fell sides and natural contours. The conifer fringe on the eastern edge of Whin Rigg is intrusive from many vantage points
- Distinctive Irton 'Pike' at the western end of Whin Rigg, whose top cleared of conifers provides views along the coastal plain, including the intimate Ravenglass Estuary;
- Blengdale forest includes some of the largest and tallest conifers in Cumbria; and

AREA 37: BLENG & IRT VALLEYS

- Historic native woodland, late medieval settlement and veteran trees in Miterdale.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The Bleng & Irt Valleys is characterised by the two lowland valleys of the Rivers Bleng and Irt. A peaceful and gentle rural landscape, the undulating topography allows open views, which are framed by small, mainly irregular, clumps of woodland (both deciduous and coniferous), across adjacent predominantly pastoral, farmland landscape. These are often associated with areas of parkland like planting with many mature trees, associated with scattered large country houses.

This part of the Wasdale Valley is characterised by an intricate patchwork of old fields, extensive areas of inbye, more recent enclosures, plantation and woodland. The small and mainly irregular fields are generally divided by a combination of hedges and dry stone walls. In the east this area is dominated by large predominantly coniferous forests. There are some harsh boundaries between these forests and the more rugged fell to the east whilst the forests generally link well to the clumpy woodland to the west. Looking eastwards, the more rugged character of the wooded edge of the High Fells form a contrast with the gentleness and smooth texture of the rest of the area. Some areas of historic medieval settlement at the head of Miterdale and east of Whin Garth add to the sense of place.

A strong sense of tranquillity is apparent in this area as a result of the fairly sparse settlement pattern and undulating topography. The coastal vernacular character of the hamlets and villages of Eskdale Green (overlooked by Muncaster Fell and just outside this ADC), Santon Bridge and Gosforth, further contribute to recognisable sense of place and character within this area.

Gosforth is the largest village in the area, with its roots in the 8th century. The oldest parts of the existing fabric are 12th century. There are examples of early medieval and Norse archaeology including the early 10th century cross in St Mary's churchyard, a unique monument standing alone amongst English Viking Age crosses. The churchyard also contains two rare hogback tombs of 11th century date at the latest. Gosforth Hall is an imposing 3 storey house of 1658 and Steelfield Hall is a prominent early 19th century classical mansion, built for the Senhouse family, who were famous for shipping and trade in west Cumbria.

William Ritson, friend of de Quincey and Wordsworth, gained a reputation for telling tall tales of country life to his gullible guests. His legacy is 'The Biggest Liar in the World' competition, held every November, at the Bridge Inn at nearby Santon Bridge.

The area has a sense of tranquillity. The most tranquil areas are located in the east especially in and around Miterdale Forest and the fells around Whin Garth and upper River Bleng where there is a relative absence of dwellings and minimal sources of artificial noise. The tranquillity in the west of the area is disturbed by the greater density of settlements and dwellings and therefore the higher traffic noise on the A595 and network of minor roads.

'The lees Aa tell isn't malicious, they're nobbut gert big exaggerations'.

Santon is the location of the annual 'World's Greatest Liar' Contest, commemorating Will Ritson, born 1808

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Generally strong sense of tranquillity;
- Openness across the landscape which is vulnerable to interruption by large scale or tall vertical elements with an intermediate sensitivity to cumulative impacts of vertical development⁸⁸;
- Clumps of woodland, which provide a sense of enclosure in the east;
- Native woodlands (surrounded by conifer) and valley bottom farmland in the upper valley of the River Mite;
- Vernacular dry stone walls and mature hedgerows, which are vulnerable to changes in land management or agricultural practices;
- Sparse and small-scale settlement pattern, comprising predominantly vernacular buildings within Eskdale Green, Gosforth and Santon Bridge, which is vulnerable to the introduction of buildings within, or at the edges of settlements that are out of scale and do not respect existing character; and
- Water within the rivers and becks, which is vulnerable to diffuse and point pollution.

Forces for Change

The Forces for Change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

⁸⁸ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

AREA 37: BLENG & IRT VALLEYS

Physical Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** clumps of woodland and encourage reversion of conifers to broadleaved species;
- **Reduce** stark contrast between fell and conifer forest through native broadleaf planting, open space and feathering of conifer forest in the upper Bleng;
- **Ensure** continued connectivity between significantly forested eastern half and more clumpy woodland in the east; and
- **Develop** more mixed and structurally diverse forest with big conifers in Blengdale valley.

Ecological Character

- **Protect** water within the rivers and becks from point source and diffuse pollution.

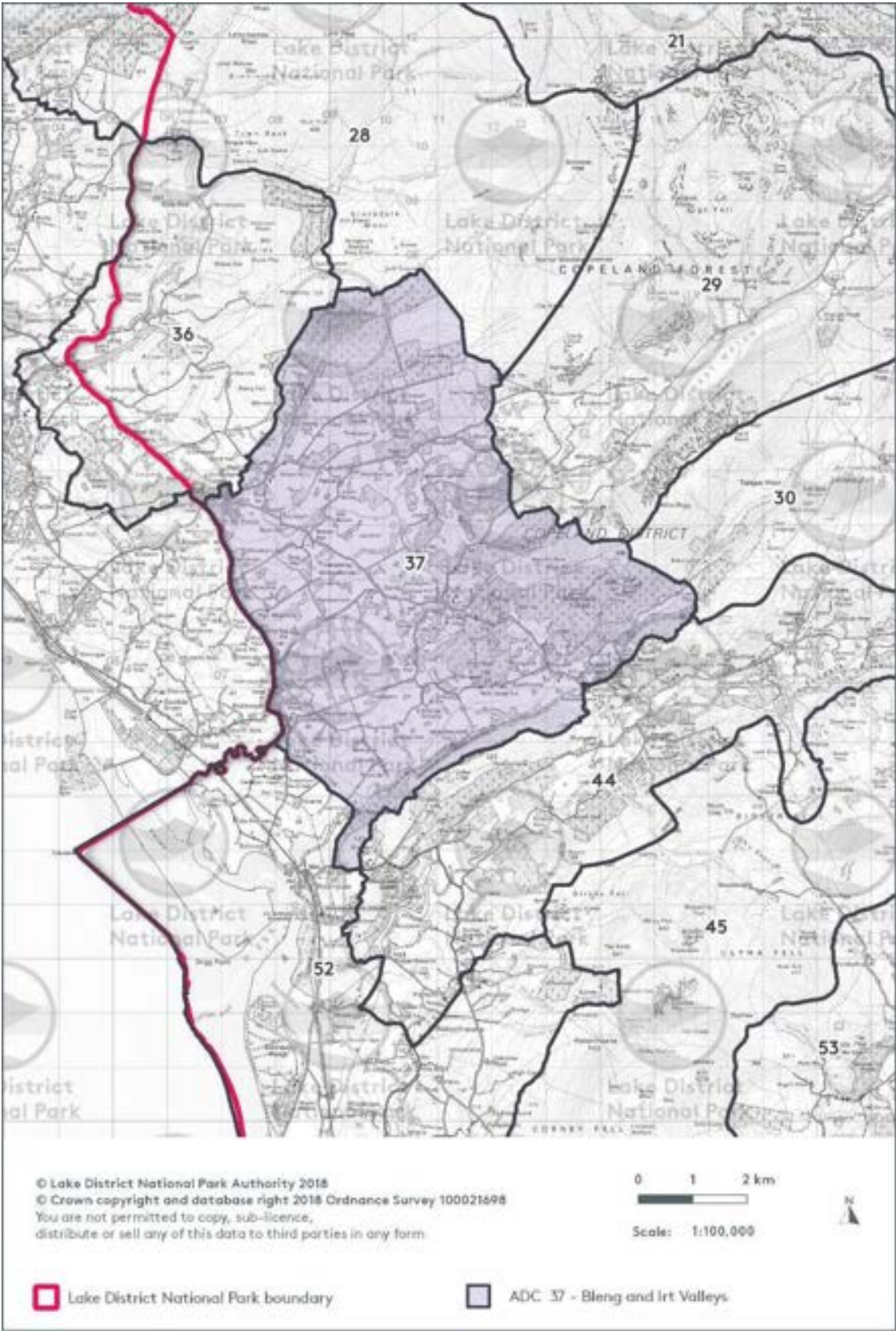
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** vernacular dry stone walls and mature hedgerows;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** areas of parkland planting, **encourage** succession planning for mature trees; and
- **Retain** sparse and small-scale settlement pattern, comprising predominantly vernacular buildings within Eskdale Green and Santon Bridge.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Retain** general strong sense of openness and tranquillity throughout the area.

AREA 37: BLENG & IRT VALLEYS



AREA 38: GREAT AND LITTLE LANGDALE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

Great and Little Langdale Valleys are situated at the heart of the Lake District National Park, to the west of Ambleside and southwest of Grasmere. It is in World Heritage Site Valleys: [Langdale](#) and [Coniston](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see section

- [Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell](#) (F); and
- [Upland Valley](#) (H).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Classic, U-shaped glacial, long, narrow valley of Great Langdale, with typical features of headwalls, corries, glacial tarns, hanging valley and truncated spurs. Bowfell and Crinkle Crag and the distinctive skyline of the Langdale Pikes dominate the head of the Langdale valley and provide a powerful sense of enclosure;
- Shorter and less enclosed hanging valley of Little Langdale, more wooded and less pastoral in nature than Great Langdale;
- Several small tarns, including corrie tarn of Stickle tarn reflecting sky locally;
- The rough texture of the crags, screes and rock outcrops together with the rough grazing common land, heather, remnant juniper and extensive bracken beds contrast markedly with the flat, smooth-textured, lush green and strongly patterned valley floor;
- The managed appearance of the valley is created by the typical features associated with traditional hill farming practice such as the patchwork of irregularly shaped pasture fields enclosed by stone walls, meadows, grazing marsh, woods, veteran trees and pollards;
- Riverside trees snaking their way along the meandering Great Langdale Beck, now contained within banks of excavated gravel, further contribute to this effect.
- The three settlements of the area, Elterwater, Chapel Stile and Little Langdale are products of a working industrial landscape. Elterwater with its gunpowder workers housing, Chapel Stile with its green slate quarrying community terraces and church and Little Langdale, a loose group of buildings with strong building evidence of nearby extensive slate quarries;
- In Great Langdale, a string of regularly placed traditional rugged farmsteads along the south facing slopes, forms a strong visual character of the area;

AREA 38: GREAT & LITTLE LANGDALE

- The area is rich in vernacular farmhouses. These are weatherproofed with render and limewash, and the many rubble stone barns and outbuildings contribute significantly to the character and human scale of the lower valley sides. Notable farmhouses include Fell Foot in Little Langdale and Blea Tarn farmhouse, set in grand isolation with a rugged mountain backdrop;
- The Langdales are a key area for Herdwick sheep farming and many of the historic farms in Great and Little Langdale have substantial Herdwick flocks;
- Strong historic and cultural associations with mountaineering, with popular Bowfell, Crinkle Crag and Scafell Pikes nearby and the Old Dungeon Gill hotel providing strongly recognisable landscape features;
- Pollarded Ash trees and remnant stands of juniper on the fell sides,
- Langdale Pikes are a dominant feature, with a caldera lake, that provide a true sense of scale in the landscape and are visible for many miles from the south;
- The most famous and important Neolithic activity recorded in Cumbria is the Langdale Axe Factory. The stone for the axes was quarried for around 1,000 years until 2000 BC, which created many thousands of, axe heads from the green volcanic tuff stone found on the Pike O'Stickle;
- Scattering of sometimes-untidy farmsteads are dominant features in the open valley bottom landscape;
- Slate quarrying and mining has left a strong mark on the landscape, with some of the largest quarries in the Lake District operating in Great Langdale.
- Chapel Stile's distinctive green slate quarrying community terraced housing and church and Little Langdale's housing loosely grouped around extensive slate quarries convey a strong sense of history; and
- Despite being one of the busier valleys Langdale has a strong sense of isolation, remoteness, contrast and tranquillity, as a result of the dramatic landform and the perceived naturalness of the high, open, fells.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The glaciated, U-shaped meandering form of Great Langdale Valley is enclosed by dramatic High Fells, which loom above the pastoral valley floor and provide a strong sense of containment and isolation, particularly at the valley head. The valley runs from Ambleside in the east, to the steep, dominating and highly distinctive form of the Langdale Pikes in the west, encompassing a network of small, irregular, walled meadows along the valley bottoms and scattered barns, intakes with remnants of wood and veteran trees, and a ring garth wall, which contrast strongly with the bare rock and bracken of the dramatic higher Fells. Unusually for a large glaciated valley, it does not contain a lake, though the classic corrie tarn of Stickle Tarn tucked below the bulk of Pavey Ark is a striking glaciation feature.

Little Langdale, a shorter, less enclosed hanging valley to the south of Great Langdale contains two small tarns and has a more wooded and rather less agricultural feel than Great Langdale. There are significant stands of juniper especially around Blea Tarn, which visually is dominated by conifer plantations. It is separated from Great

AREA 38: GREAT & LITTLE LANGDALE

Langdale by the Lingmoor Fells and reached from the east by a minor road which passes the Little Langdale Tarn and from the west by the steep, dramatic Wrynose Pass. This was once a Roman route. The valley has a smaller-scale and more intimate feel however there is a very strong sense of tranquillity and isolation within both, especially at the valley heads.

The distinctive rounded, rugged, rocky shapes of the Langdale Pikes are a dominant feature, provide a true sense of scale in the landscape and are visible for many miles in views from the south. These loom above the caldera lake of Stickle Tarn;

In both valleys, discharge of water when it rains, has a huge impact on the visual and sensory perception of the landscape, with torrents of water gushing down the High Fell sides, particularly down waterfalls such as Old Dungeon Gill (Great Langdale). The underlying geology (greeny-grey and silvery colour) is overlain by a patchwork of fellside habitats (with occasional tree cover)

The narrowness of the valley, the result of glacial movement, has resulted in a particularly distinctive pattern of inbye fields in the valley bottom, subdivided from an original open, medieval field, and surrounded by a ring garth wall dating back to 1216. Small walled intakes on the steep valley sides developed organically over several centuries. The valley contains a number of early farms, many of whose buildings date from the 17th century. It is an important valley for Herdwick flocks and over half of the area of the valley is high fell grazing which is also Common Land.

Field barns, bank barns, other stone outbuildings and pollarded ash trees are typical of hill farming practices and are an important feature both visually and culturally within this ADC. In the upper part of the valley there are scattered farms nestling at the foot of the fells. There is a scattering of sometimes-untidy farmsteads in the open valley bottom. A few, small but locally dominant conifer plantations sit incongruously in the landscape. A ribbon of mature deciduous trees gives contrast along the river in the valley bottom. The river has been highly modified in the past and is now enclosed within high banks of excavated river gravel

Little Langdale and Chapel Stile are small-scale, intimate vernacular settlements with very different characters, Chapel Stile being heavily influenced by the style of its quarry cottages, dominated by scatterings of traditional stone houses within the wider-scale valley landscapes, which have developed alongside the local industries of slate quarrying, iron and copper workings, charcoal burning and gunpowder manufacture;

The area has strong historic and cultural associations with mountaineering, with popular routes on Bowfell, Crinkle Crags and Scafell Pikes nearby and the Old Dungeon Gill hotel (adjacent to the Old Dungeon Gill – a deep ravine and high waterfall) providing strongly recognisable landscape features;

The landscape of the valley provided aesthetic inspiration for writers and artists including William Wordsworth who used the setting of Blea Tarn, between Great and Little Langdale, as the setting for part of 'The Excursion';

The area contains the most famous and important Neolithic activity recorded in Cumbria, the Langdale Axe Factory (from around 6000 BC) which created many thousands of axe heads from the green volcanic tuff stone found on the Pike O'Stickle. There is also Rock art at Copt Howe, located on a pair of large boulders standing on the natural route way into the valley, signifying man's activity in the valley for several thousand years

AREA 38: GREAT & LITTLE LANGDALE

The area has a strong sense of tranquillity especially in the west of the area due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the fells and deep river valleys. The sense of tranquillity is more disturbed in the east near Skelwith Bridge and Ambleside due to the greater density of dwellings and settlements. In addition locally there is disturbance from traffic noise on the A593 particularly in the south.

'In Langdale Pike and Witch's Lair, And Dungeon-Gill so foully rent, With ropes of rock and bells of air Three sinful section's ghosts are pent, Who all five back, one after t'other, The death-not of their living brother.'

'Christable', Coleridge, c.1800

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Remnants of woodland and veteran trees, which are striking landscape features;
- Open views towards imposing Langdale Pikes, which are vulnerable to interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments;
- Strong sense of remoteness, isolation and tranquillity throughout the area (away from the A593 road corridor);
- Small-scale and intimate settlement pattern, throughout the area which is vulnerable to the introduction of buildings either within village centres or settlement edges, which do not respect existing settlement scale and character;
- Old Dungeon Gill Waterfall, which is vulnerable to pollution and vegetation damage from gill scramblers;
- Veteran pollarded ash trees which are sensitive to lack of management and remnant strands of juniper on the fell sides, which are sensitive to overgrazing;
- Strongly rural character throughout the area; and
- Historic features such as ring garth wall and Neolithic axe factory which are sensitive to damage.⁸⁹

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Sustained pressure from recreational activities causing lasting scars; and

⁸⁹ This ADC is not covered by the Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure study.

AREA 38: GREAT & LITTLE LANGDALE

- Sustainability of management of the river channel in Great Langdale will potentially have a major impact on valley bottom land.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Conserve, enhance** and where appropriate **extend** remnants of broadleaved woodland, and veteran trees, which are striking landscape features;

Ecological Character

- **Protect** water within the Great & Little Langdale Rivers, and Old Dungeon Gill Waterfall from point source and diffuse pollution; and
- **Conserve** and **maintain** pollard ash trees and remnant strands of juniper on the fell sides, which are sensitive to overgrazing.

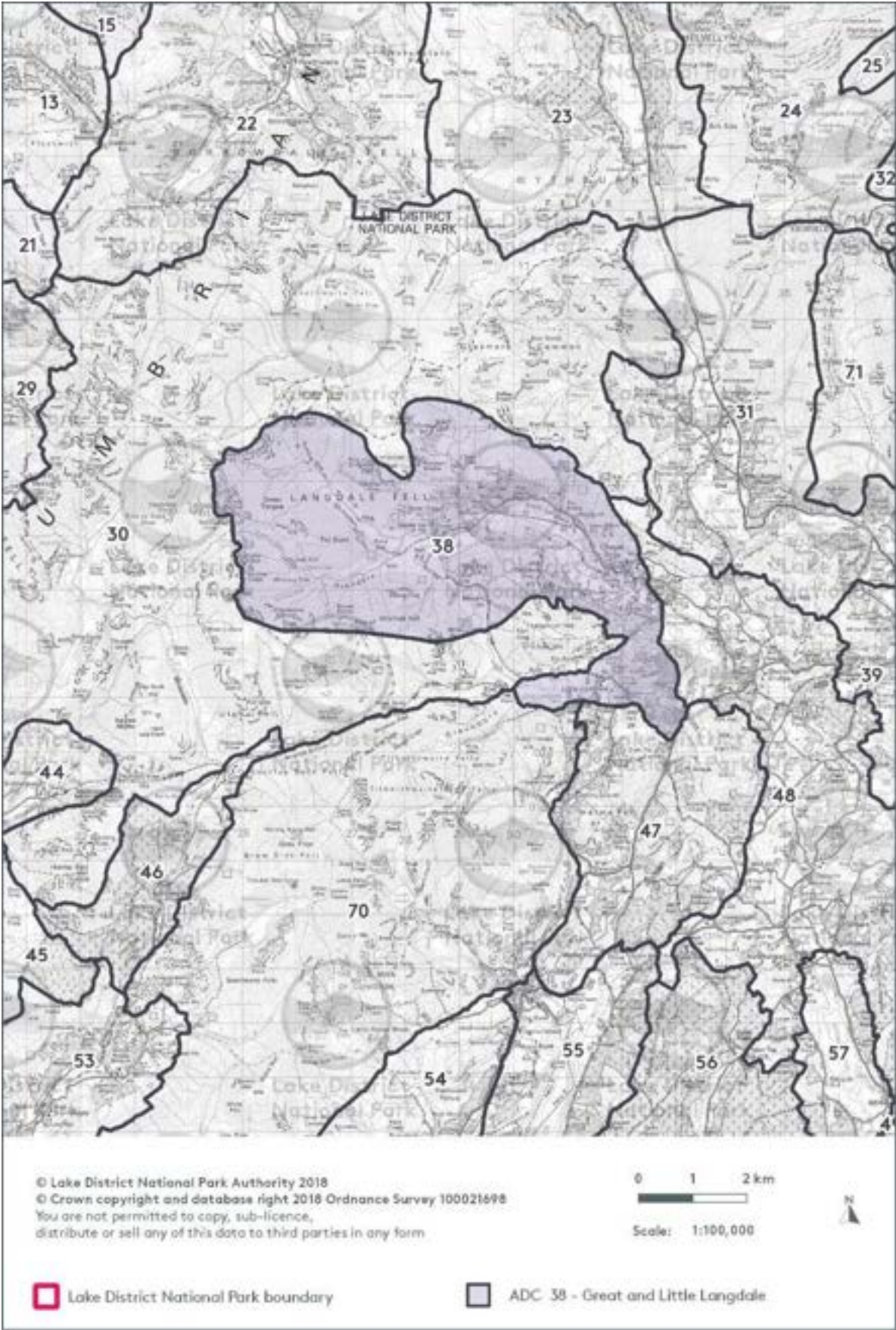
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** small-scale and intimate settlement pattern and character; and
- **Protect** and **conserve** historic and archaeologically important elements.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Maintain** open views towards imposing Langdale Pikes;
- **Retain** strong sense of tranquillity throughout most of the area;
- **Maintain** strong sense of remoteness and isolation;
- **Retain** strongly rural character throughout the area;
- **Encourage** restoration of erosion scars associated with most popular routes and **manage** access to sensitive sites; and
- **Protect** open views to and from the area from tall vertical or large-scale developments.

AREA 38: GREAT & LITTLE LANGDALE



AREA 39: UPPER WINDERMERE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character encompasses the northern half of Lake Windermere, to the south of Ambleside, and is at the heart of the Lake District National Park. It is in World Heritage Site Valleys: [Windermere](#), [Grasmere & Rydal](#) and [Coniston](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see section 4)

- [Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell](#) (F);
- [Upland Valley](#) (H)
- [Low Fell](#) (K); and
- [Lowland Valley](#) (M).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Broad Windermere Lake (the colour of which changes with seasonal weather and light, with frequent mist inversions) surrounded by a soft and accessible foreshore, and well wooded along the western shore;
- Popular holiday destination town of Ambleside, with its fascinating history, evolution and building character. From Medieval hillside settlement, to a cluster of water-powered mills on Stock Gill, to post-railway Victorian tourist resort. All phases are clearly visible in the buildings and identity today;
- Late 17th century Bridge House, so small yet so well known, is the most distinctive Lake District curiosity alongside the busy A591;
- Superb series of grand villas and houses for wealthy Lancashire industrialists form a key component of the eastern shore of Windermere Lake, such as Dove Nest, Brockhole, Cragwood and Langdale Chase, all set within garden designs of high quality;
- Strong sense of openness at the lakeshore, with dramatic views to the High Fell setting of Fairfield Horseshoe to the north and Langdale Pikes to the north west;
- Sense of business within the landscape, as a result of the popularity of this area as a visitor attraction;
- Mix of deciduous woodland, parkland and pasture fields follows the lakeshore, interspersed with mature ornamental exotic trees;
- Upright slate and flag walls - formed from Brathay flags;
- Cultural connections with early tourism industry, including Picturesque viewing stations such as Queens Adelaide's Hill and Claife Station;

AREA 39: UPPER WINDERMERE

- Old steamer passenger boats – Teal and Tern;
- Waterhead honey pot site attracting visitors feeding the mass of water birds, boat hire and the promenade; and
- Predominantly a tranquil landscape, particularly on the western shores. It is locally disturbed by the presence of Ambleside, Waterhead, and the A591 on the eastern shore and the associated traffic noise and high density of dwellings and settlements.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

At the heart of Upper Windermere, the wide expanse of Lake Windermere, dominates the landscape with a dramatic picturesque backdrop to the north provided by the distinctive chain of fells forming the Fairfield Horseshoe and further away, the Langdale Pikes, with Wansfell to the east.

The area differs in character to Lower Windermere owing to a change in the underlying geology from the hard and erosion resistant volcanic rocks and associated high fells in the north to softer shales with lower rolling fells in the south. There is also a distinct change in landscape character between the more settled east shore and the densely wooded, less accessible west.

A strong sense of openness is apparent at the lakeshore, with dramatic views across the ever-changing pattern and colour of the water within the lake, which varies with the weather and seasons. The openness continues on the fellside of Wansfell and Kirkstone.

The area has been a popular destination for holidays and summer homes since the early 19th century, with rapid expansion following the opening of the railway branch line in 1847. The result is an attractive mix of agricultural land with parkland and designed landscape associated with Victorian villas constructed by the new industrialists along the lakeshore, each with associated formal gardens, mature planting (much of which is ornamental) and parkland.

Waterhead, a cluster of grey stone and slate buildings, including Ambleside Youth Hostel at the northern end of the Lake, overlooks wooden jetties, which protrude from the lakeshore and often house tethered rowing boats and passenger cruisers.

Set back further to the north of the lake, the town of Ambleside sits comfortably within the surrounding enclosure of high fells. Its setting is predominantly wooded with a combination of soft deciduous woodland cloaking the lower fell sides (with the more regular form of coniferous trees poking out of the top of the canopy) and single mature trees dotted within the surrounding landscape, giving a parkland feel. The buildings show striking differences, reflecting the evolution of the town. On Chapel Hill, at the foot of Kirkstone pass, an intimate, organic cluster of historic buildings displays a ruggedness of rubble, boulders, thick roofing slates, and render and limewashed walls. Interestingly, there is much evidence of reused Roman masonry in this part of Ambleside. The Bridge House on Rydal Road is one of the most iconic and famous buildings in the Lake District and a popular tourist curiosity. Built in the 17th century as a garden house. More formal 18th and 19th century buildings face onto the Market Place, but the most dominant and imposing buildings are of the post railway Victorian age, with confident use of grey and green slate walling, intricate barge boards, fancy roof details for hotels, guest houses,

AREA 39: UPPER WINDERMERE

terraces shops and public buildings. Upright slate and flag walls, formed from Brathay flags are a local distinctive feature. Buildings lining the High Street provide a relatively strong sense of enclosure, with few views to the surrounding landscape or lakeshore.

The traditional grey stone and slate buildings, with white detailing and adjacent more modern housing developments are visible against the predominantly green fell backdrop, within views northwards from the lake. Despite the popularity of this area with visitors, especially during the summer months, some areas still provide opportunities for quiet enjoyment, and for many people, is one of their first experiences of the Lake District landscape.

Along the western shore of Lake Windermere, a stronger sense of tranquillity is apparent (than along the eastern shore). Wray Castle, set amongst a picturesque setting of mature parkland landscape (encompassing an arboretum of mature specimen trees, such as beech, redwood, ginkgo and weeping lime) is a prominent and striking feature within the landscape.

Looking northwards from the battlemented castle building, breathtaking views of Lake Windermere, set within its predominantly treed backdrop, against the dramatic High Fells of the Fairfield horseshoe, provide immediately recognisable sense of place. The ever-changing influence that the weather has on the northern landscape backdrop is apparent here, as the sun casts shadows over the High Fells and flickers and darts across water within the Lake. The wind also changes the experiential character of the Lake, often causing ripples and waves.

A Roman fort was constructed at the head of Windermere that was surrounded by a civilian settlement and the remains of a Roman road linking this with the fort at Hardknott can be traced through Little Langdale and over Wrynose and Hardknott Passes.

The abundant power available from the becks in the valley was harnessed from the medieval period until the 19th century for a number of industrial processes including corn grinding and manufacturing linen and woollen cloth. Surviving examples of mills in Ambleside include the wool and linen mill at Low Stock and the fulling and later corn mill just below High Stock Bridge. A large slate quarry punctuates the landscape beneath Raven Crag.

Away from the roads especially the A591 and Ambleside the area has a sense of tranquillity. The sense of tranquillity is particularly strong on the fells to the east of Ambleside due to the openness and perceived sense of naturalness. There is also a strong sense of tranquillity on Loughrigg Fell away from the busy valley below. The sense of tranquillity is weakest and most disturbed in and around the busy town of Ambleside especially at peak times when there is a high density of tourists and more traffic noise. Outside Ambleside the sense of tranquillity is also disturbed along the road corridors especially the A591 to Windermere due to road noise and the presence of dwellings along the eastern shore of Lake Windermere.

'A glimpse through trees surprises and entices as high fells and expansive vistas of lofty crags unfold ahead. Across serene scenes of grazing sheep, a rocky tree covered knoll is the quintessential Lake District. Shimmering palettes of Azalea and Rhododendron painted on rock, dancing with light through a canopy of oak, ash and lime towering and cloaking steep fell sides. Beyond the embrace of man, impossibly tall firs split the canopy pointing skyward, immense and magnificent. Waters lapping at the feet of Rome. Footprints of legions etched forever on meadows and grassy mounds, a shadow of Ambleside's beginnings. And at its heart an icon. Emblematic and a fascination for visitors from far and wide. Small but perfectly formed. An understated 'apple store' at the core of the Lakes.'

Ambleside Properties Management Plan, National Trust, 2004

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Water quality within Lake Windermere, which is vulnerable from diffuse and point source pollution associated with adjacent agricultural fields, motorised craft and water-related recreation activities;
- Patches of soft, mature woodland, parkland and mature individual trees along lakeshore and slate flag stone walls, which are recognisable landscape features and contribute to recognisable sense of place;
- Distinctive, predominantly Victorian slate buildings with 17th and 18th century buildings of note within Ambleside, that are vulnerable to extensions which do not reflect existing built character and scale;
- Relatively contained settlement pattern of Ambleside and Waterhead, which is sensitive to development which does not respect the existing landscape setting;
- Strong sense of openness and tranquillity at the lakeshore and on the lake;
- Intermediate sensitivity to the cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure to the east of Ambleside;⁹⁰
- Wray Castle and its associated historic buildings and designed parkland landscape;
- Strong sense of tranquillity along the western shore.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

⁹⁰ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

AREA 39: UPPER WINDERMERE

- Increase in invasive species (Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed) affecting key landscape characteristics;
- Increased recreational changes and types of use on Windermere;
- Woodland management moving towards continuous cover bringing landscape and soil conservation and water quality benefits;
- Lack of management and non-replacement of parkland and individual trees;
- Scale and size of vernacular styles of buildings and use of inappropriate building materials on the eastern shore of Windermere resulting in the loss of local landscape characteristics;
- Increasing traffic associated with tourism and recreation pressurising the A591 affecting tranquillity and safety of pedestrians and cyclists; and
- Master plan for Ambleside.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Protect** water within Lake Windermere from pollution.

Ecological Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** patches of soft, mature woodland, parkland and mature individual trees along lakeshore, which are recognisable landscape features and contribute to recognisable sense of place; and
- **Encourage** succession planning to ensure long term future of such features.

Cultural and Historic Character

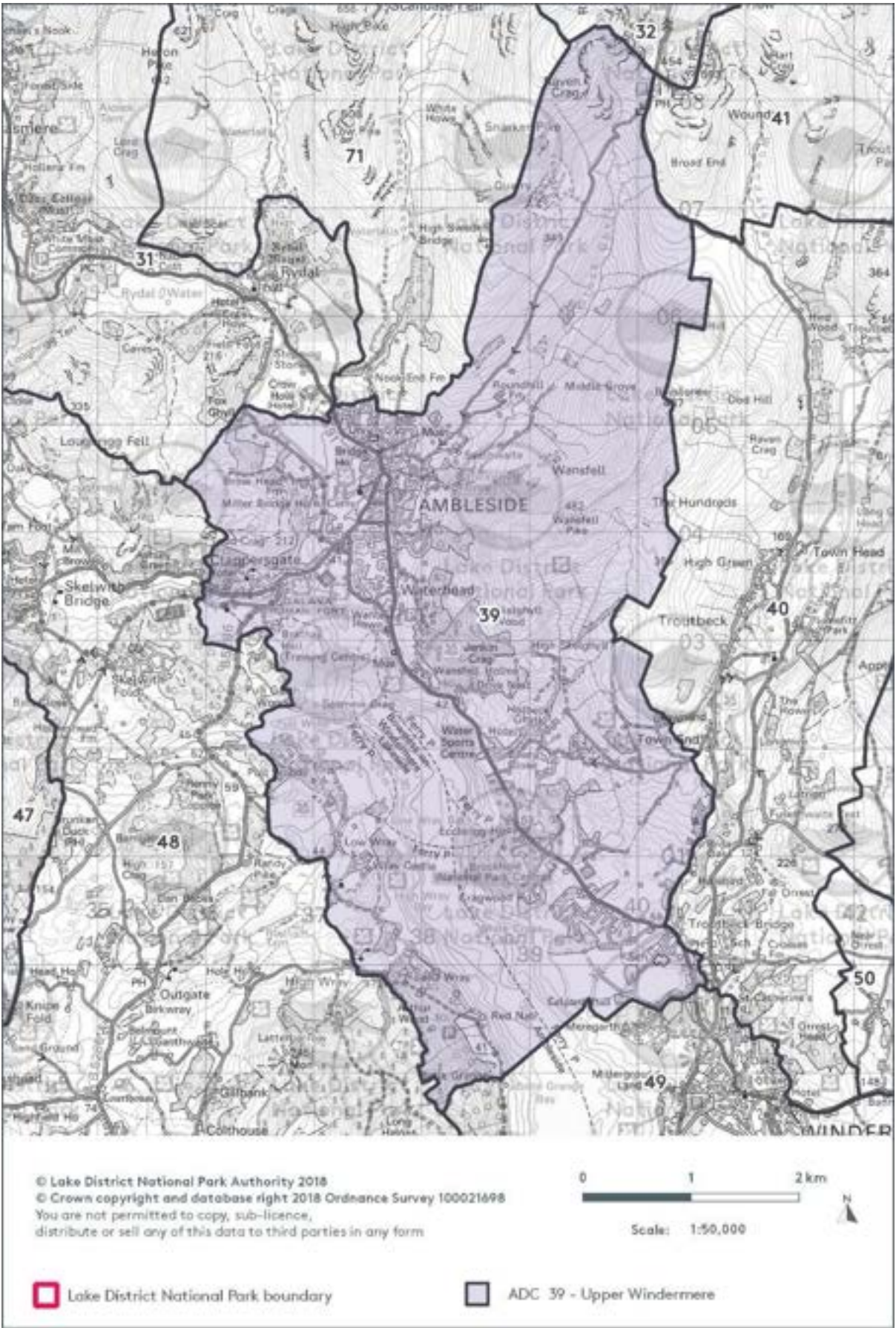
- **Conserve** and **enhance** distinctive slate flag walls and vernacular slate buildings within Ambleside;
- **Protect** the relatively contained settlement pattern of Ambleside and Waterhead, from development which does not respect the existing landscape setting;
- **Conserve** Wray Castle and its associated historic buildings and designed parkland landscape; and
- **Conserve** and **restore** the historic buildings and landscape features.

AREA 39: UPPER WINDERMERE

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Retain** strong sense of openness along the lakeshore; and
- **Retain** strong sense of tranquillity along the western shore.

AREA 39: UPPER WINDERMERE



AREA 40: TROUTBECK VALLEY

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

Troutbeck Valley is situated to the northeast of Lake Windermere (flowing into the lake) towards the centre of the Lake District National Park. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Windermere](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section

- [Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell](#) (F);
- [Upland Valley](#) H); and
- [High Fell Fringe](#) (J).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Very strong sense of tranquillity within this long, intimate and relatively narrow valley;
- A gradual transition from complex lowland valley character to open mountain landscape in the upper valley (with fewer buildings);
- Classic farmed landscape with a series of dispersed and relatively isolated farmsteads spread along the valley sides, and surrounded by intricate patchworks of pasture fields, grazing marsh (divided by a series of stone walls and mature hedgerows) and copses of deciduous and mixed woodland on the valley sides;
- Historic, ancient walls survive in many places, including within hamlets
- Well wooded in the lower part of the valley, with a mix of copses, parkland trees and trees in field boundaries;
- Strong and instantly recognisable enclosure pattern of in-bye and intake land, with undulating, glacial topography and larger fields in the upper valley and patches flush, rush, fen and wood pasture;
- Meandering course of the Trout Beck is lined with a mixture of improved meadows and pasture;
- Spectacular views along the valley towards Windermere Lake from the north eastern (higher) end of the valley, and the conifer skyline of the Claife beyond;
- Troutbeck is an exceptionally distinctive linear village, being a series of vernacular building groups strung along a sunny-facing hillside for over 2km;
- The village stretches from Town End to Town Head, an harmonious arrangement of rubble stone barns, peppered with rendered and limewashed 17th century Yeoman farmsteads. Town End House is a particularly distinctive historic building

AREA 40: TROUTBECK VALLEY

and together with the large barn opposite, creates the finest small group in the Lake District;

- The village is the classic place to study and appreciate 17th century vernacular architecture, with cylindrical chimneys, oak mullion windows, thick slate roofs and typical bank barns;
- Route of the Roman road –‘High Street’ passes through the valley;
- Troutbeck Park Farm is spectacularly sited on the lower slopes of Kirkstone Pass (one of the farms owned by Beatrix Potter);
- At 1489 feet (454 metres), it is the highest road pass in the Lake District. It provides stunning views over the Lakeland fells; and
- Predominantly a tranquil landscape away from Troutbeck and Town End. The sense of tranquillity is due to a perceived sense of naturalness and relative absence of dwellings away from the settlements.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The lower end of the Troutbeck Valley, to the east of Lake Windermere, encompasses a patchwork of rich pastoral farmland, interspersed with patches of woodland on the valley sides. The strongly recognisable pattern of inbye and intake land, divided by continuous links of impressive grey stone walls and hedgerows, contributes to localised sense of place. The lower end of the valley is well wooded with a mix of copses, parkland trees and trees in field boundaries.

There is a gradual transition from complex lowland valley character to open mountain landscape in the upper valley (with fewer buildings). A series of dispersed and relatively isolated farmsteads spreads along the valley sides,

Historic, ancient walls survive in many places, including within hamlets.

At the heart of the valley, the meandering course of the Trout Beck, which is lined with a colourful and diverse patchwork of rich meadows, pasture fields, contributes to the balanced visual composition of the valley. Trickling and gushing water within the Beck is sometimes one of the only sounds, which punctuates the overall strong sense of tranquillity within this area, despite the presence of the A592 running up the valley towards Kirkstone Pass.

In the higher reaches of the valley, the character becomes much wilder, with a strong and instantly recognisable enclosure pattern of inbye and intake land, with undulating, glacial topography, areas of flush, rush and fen, larger fields, and patches of wood pasture and semi-natural woodland on the slopes, with large expanses of open fell above. There are spectacular views along the valley towards Windermere Lake from the north eastern (higher) end of the valley. The distinctive ridge of the Tongue closes the view at the Northern end of this area, with the remaining upper reaches of the Troutbeck hidden from view

There is a general sense of isolation and tranquillity throughout the valley, which is further heightened by the scattered settlement pattern of dispersed farmsteads, apart from the very distinctive appearance and shape of Troutbeck village. The linear village follows a spring line and incorporates a number of farms, including many buildings dating from the Yeoman farmers who carried extensive rebuilding in 17th century. The field

AREA 40: TROUTBECK VALLEY

system around the village has fossilised the pattern of former open town fields, where the farms of Town Head and Town End delineate the extent. The outlines of Deer park are still discernible in the present day field boundaries. Cluster after cluster of rendered limewashed houses and cottages, large vernacular farm buildings, interspersed with trees, open spaces and field walls, further contributes to the strong recognisable sense of place. The buildings display a wealth of external vernacular details including graded slate roofs, cylindrical chimney stacks, crow steps, wrestler slate ridges and spinning galleries. There are also notable examples of different types of 'bank barns', a peculiarly regional style of barn construction of the upland Lake District in which a two-level building is built on sloping land and has direct access from the ground to both levels. Town End, a Yeoman farmstead dating back to the early 17th century and of national significance, after one family ownership (the Browne family) for 12 generations, is now owned by the National Trust and open to the public.

There are charcoal burning pitsteads in the woodlands on the western side of Troutbeck. The slate quarries in Troutbeck are mainly to the north and east of Troutbeck village where there are quarries, tips, tracks and buildings. The local architecture reflects the use of local stone extensively.

There are strong links with Beatrix Potter, who as well as being a writer, was a farmer. She is best known in farming circles for the Herdwick sheep which she began to breed after buying Troutbeck Park Farm in 1923. This farm remains an important Herdwick farm.

The most popular ascent of the area is that of The Tongue. It is one of the 214 hills listed in Wainwright's Pictorial Guide to the Lakeland Fells, which makes it a popular attraction for walkers. The area has generally a strong sense of tranquillity especially in the north and eastern parts of the valley. In these areas there is a perceived sense of naturalness and relative absence of dwellings. Trout Beck also enhances the sense of tranquillity.

'had great pleasure watching a pair of buzzards sailing round and round over the top of Wansfell. There was an old shepherd half way up the side of Troutbeck, much bent and gesticulating with a stick... Four or five sheep louped over a wall at least three feet high on our right and escaped the dog's observation, whereupon the ancient shepherd, a mere speck in the slanting sunlight down the great hillside, this aged Wordsworthian worthy, awoke the echoes with a flood of the most singularly bad language.'

Beatrix Potter, c.1895

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Very strong sense of tranquillity away from the A592;
- Dispersed and relatively isolated settlement pattern, which is vulnerable to the introduction of buildings or developments, which do not respect the existing scale and local vernacular building materials;

AREA 40: TROUTBECK VALLEY

- Strong sense of isolation and predominantly rural character throughout;
- Open views towards Lake Windermere and the high fells, including the Kentmere ridge;
- Significant intensification of caravan and chalet site on the valley sides, including evening lighting;
- Intermediate sensitivity to the cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure⁹¹; and
- Areas of woodland, parkland and wood pasture which are sensitive to lack of management.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Increased pressure from tourism related developments affecting the quality of the landscape; and
- Increasing traffic associated with tourism and recreation pressurising the A592 and leading to inappropriate highway improvements and increased signage clutter.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** broadleaved woodland, parkland and wood pasture.

Ecological Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** patchwork of rich meadows and pasture.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Retain** dispersed and relatively isolated settlement pattern;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** hedgerows and walls;

⁹¹ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

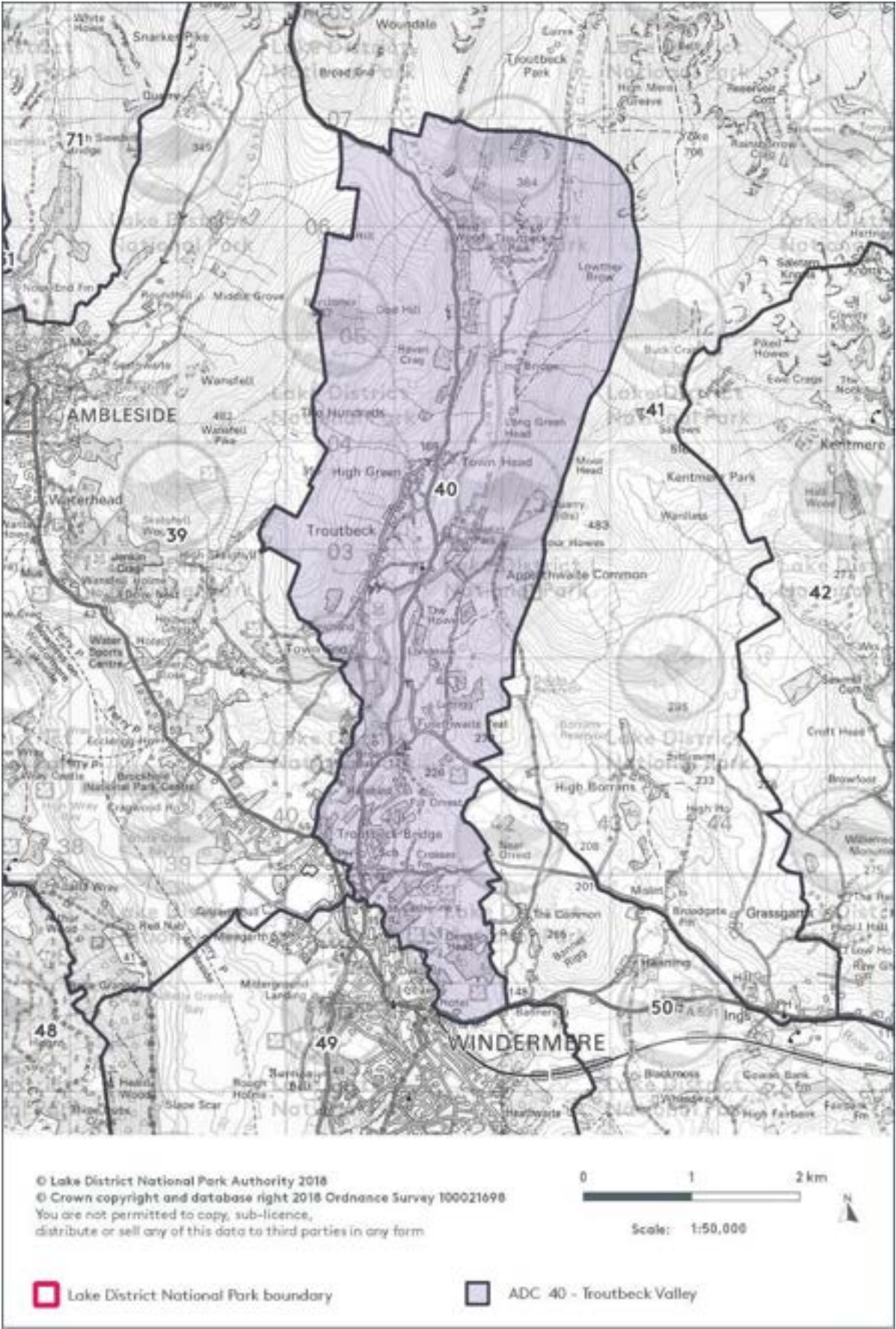
AREA 40: TROUTBECK VALLEY

- **Resist** intensification of caravan and chalet sites on the valley sides; and
- **Conserve** and **restore** historic buildings and landscape features.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Maintain** very strong sense of tranquillity throughout the area;
- **Maintain** strong sense of isolation and predominantly rural character throughout;
- **Ensure** highway improvements respect and reflect local character and materials retain high landscape quality; and
- **Maintain** open views towards Lake Windermere and uncluttered skylines to the north.

AREA 40: TROUTBECK VALLEY



AREA 41: KENTMERE FELLS

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the east of the Lake District National Park, separating the Valleys of Kentmere and Longsleddale. The ADC extends beyond the Park boundary and forms part of the its setting. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Windermere](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section

- [Rugged/ Craggy Volcanic High Fell](#) (F);
- [Upland Valley](#) (H); and
- [High Fell Fringe](#) (J).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Overall, a very simple and open rugged mountain landscape, dominated by outcrops of rock and scree, wet flushes, moorland, acid grass and bracken with occasional small patches of woodland and juniper;
- Predominantly un-enclosed common land, though enclosure becomes more apparent on lower slopes and towards the southern edge of the area, where it slopes down towards Kentmere and Longsleddale;
- Very strong sense of tranquillity within the area as a result of difficulty of limited vehicular access, topography and altitude and an almost complete lack of settlement;
- Kentmere reservoir, constructed in 1848 to store water for the many industrial mills along the valley of the River Kent;
- Wild and remote with long distance views;
- Large crags and screes and classic glacial scenery at head of valley; and
- Predominantly a very tranquil landscape due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the Kentmere Fells as well as the relative absence of dwellings and settlements.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

Kentmere Fells is a dramatic, large-scale, upland landscape of high mountain ridges and plateau cut by the wild higher reaches of the Troutbeck and Kentmere Valleys with glacial dale head features. The continuity of the open moorland habitat, which covers the fells, is interrupted in places by small clumps of broadleaved trees and woods,

AREA 41: KENTMERE FELLS

and the occasional juniper or hawthorn. In the north west there are extensive areas of flush, rush and fen. Rocky outcrops, large crags and screes, hinting at the underlying geology and occasional patches of vibrant yellow gorse, add texture and visual interest, to an otherwise muted, green-brown landscape.

Hill sheep farming is the predominant land use with rough grazing on common land. Large numbers of scattered disused sheepfolds and intakes and allotments can be found around the periphery of the high ground. The remains of the mediaeval Troutbeck Park and numerous slate quarries, hushes and spoil tips are of historic interest.

The remote upland tarn of Skeggles Water, and the larger reservoir of Kentmere, constructed in 1848 to store water for the many industrial mills along the valley of the River Kent, provide additional features, reflecting the weather.

The character of the area changes to the south, in close proximity to the byway, which runs from Staveley into Longsleddale, and where the landscape slopes down towards the valleys of Longsleddale and Kentmere. Here, pastoral farmland, clumps of mainly deciduous woodland and mature single trees, replace moorland, resulting in a gentler appearance. Numerous small becks flow through the area with areas of bog in places. The area is almost completely devoid of settlement and built-up elements, with occasional farmsteads providing the only evidence of human interaction.

The upland area between the two valleys is traversed in several places by bridleways, with footpaths to the south. The Kentmere Horseshoe, one of the classic Lake District Fell walks, follows the Great Ridge and upper valley of the River Kent. On a clear day, magnificent views of many of the big fells and lakes including Windermere, Conistone and the Langdales can be gained.

The Kentmere Fells have a very strong sense of tranquillity due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the moorland as well as the relative absence of dwellings and settlements. The sense of tranquillity is disturbed to the south by road noise and views of the traffic on the busy A591 and the settlements that line the road.

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Patches of mature woodland and juniper;
- Remains of Troutbeck Park, other historic boundaries and historic quarries;
- Strong sense of openness and remoteness throughout;
- Strong sense of tranquillity at distance from the A591 road corridor;
- Moorland habitat mosaics; and
- Intermediate sensitivity to the cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure.⁹²

⁹² Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

Forces for Change

The Forces for Change for this Area of Distinctive character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** clumps of trees, mature woodland and juniper and other scrub as well as mature single trees, which are characteristic landscape features.

Ecological Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** moorland and scrub, which is sensitive to over-grazing.

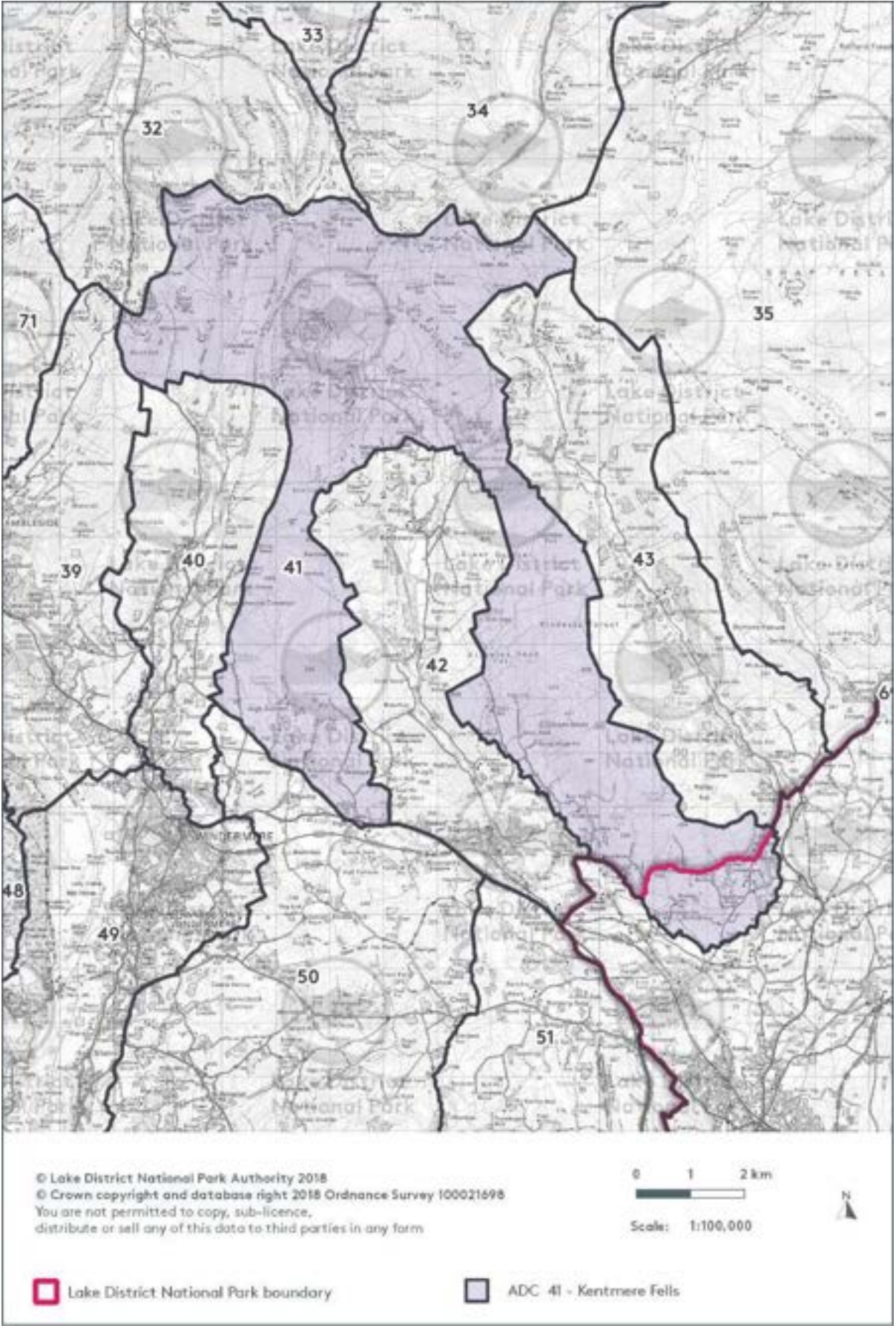
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** vernacular farmsteads.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Retain** strong sense of openness and lack of development throughout; and
- **Maintain** strong sense of tranquillity (at a distance from the A591) which is vulnerable to disruption from increased visitors or pressure on roads and tracks.

AREA 41: KENTMERE FELS



AREA 42: KENTMERE VALLEY

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated within the east of the Lake District National Park. Kentmere Valley, to the north east of Windermere. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Windermere](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section

- [Rugged/Craggy Volcanic High Fell](#) (F);
- [Upland Valley](#) (H); and
- [High Fell Fringe](#) (J).

Distinctive Characteristics

- A very long and relatively narrow valley, broadening in the central section with the river Kent meandering along the valley floor;
- Narrow single track road with grassy wild flower rich verges;
- Strong feeling of enclosure and isolation due to the surrounding fells;
- Lower slopes enclosed with stone walls, giving way to hedges along the valley floor;
- Large numbers of in field and boundary trees;
- Pasture and meadow framed by patches of predominantly broadleaved woodland with some patches of conifers giving a well wooded appearance;
- With the exception of the busy village of Staveley at the entrance to the valley, there is an overall strong sense of isolation and tranquillity. The loose-grouped village of Kentmere, plus occasional scattered farmsteads dotted along the valley sides represent a sparse settlement pattern;
- Kentmere Village, with its very prominent church, fine fortified Kentmere Hall and former common field pattern, rugged vernacular rubble and render buildings, together with ancient organic enclosure walls, forms a distinctive landscape component in views along the valley;
- The 19th century water powered processes including bobbin manufacture became important in the village of Staveley. A large former woolen mill can still be seen at Barley Bridge; and
- Predominantly a tranquil landscape especially in the north due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the steep sides to the surrounding fells and river valleys.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

Within the Kentmere Valley, there is a strong sense of isolation and a sense of containment from the surrounding fells; a feeling that is made stronger by the narrow single-track road with passing places, which provides the only means of access to the valley. The road ends at Kentmere village, before the head of the valley, which contributes to the strong sense of tranquillity that is apparent throughout. With no public vehicular access beyond the village the sense of isolation and tranquility increases in the upper section of the valley.

The narrow road (with grassy wildflower rich verges) runs parallel to the river Kent, with the eastern valley sides rising up steeply beside it, and is lined primarily by stone walls, which are replaced by hedges along the valley floor. The southern end of the valley is narrow and enclosed, with views of pastoral farmland framed by hedgerows and mature trees, including Ash, Birch, Oak and Hawthorn. The narrow, sinuous river meanders across the valley floor with patches of marshland on either side. The valley sides are well wooded with patches of deciduous (with some conifer woodland), which frame views and add seasonal colour. The more northerly sections of the valley are a more open landscape allowing far-reaching views of wooded low fells. The area has many mature (mostly deciduous) trees scattered over the rolling hills, and valley sides and floor. On the fell tops acid grass and bracken with some heather, replaces trees and the semi-improved grassland within intakes.

The village of Kentmere is a central feature within the valley, and with few trees to screen it from the surrounding landscape, it dominates views along the valley. The village is a very loose group of vernacular buildings, stretching from Kentmere Hall, with its late 14th century fortified pele tower in the west, to the hillside group at Green Quarter in the east. Kentmere Hall is an important Herdwick farm. The village can be reached by crossing a small bridge over the River Kent. The much-reduced Kentmere Tarn sits just south of the village, surrounded by flat, drained land with some dairy farming evident here, in contrast with the sheep farming which is evident throughout the rest of the valley. Glacial erratics are a feature around Kentmere, often built into the walls.

Past Kentmere the character of the valley changes again. The texture becomes more rugged with fewer trees, with the exception of occasional juniper bushes, and more moorland covering the fells to the north and west. From Hartrigg, dramatic, open views towards surrounding fells and across the valley can be enjoyed.

At the mouth of the valley, Staveley is a busy working village and its prosperity since medieval times is a result of water- powered industries, in particular bobbins and textiles. The centre consists of mainly 19th century cottages, shops and pubs that line the Main Street, behind which lie some very substantial 19th century mill buildings, built for wool processing, wood turning and corn milling, but now successfully adapted to other purposes. Fields, farms and fells and long views to surrounding crags and scars provide an attractive rural backdrop. There is a fine historic farm group at Staveley Park and Far Park, and a superb Victorian terrace of Danes Row with its attractive front gardens and trees. Brow Lane and the meadow below it form a substantial and important area of green space within the village.

'If familiar with the old description of the district [the traveller] will look for Kentmere Tarn, and wonder to see no trace of it. It is drained away; and fertile fields now occupy the place of the swamp, reeds and shallow water which he might have seen but a few years ago. While the tarn existed, the mills at Kendal were but very irregularly supplied with water. Now, that the streams are collected in a reservoir, which the travellers sees in coming down the pass of Nanbield, and the intercepting tarn is done away with, the flow of water no longer fails.'

Harriet Martineau, 1854

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Strong sense of enclosure and isolation, coupled with an overall strong sense of tranquillity;
- Grassy wildflower rich verges;
- Network of vernacular stone (volcanic and scree material) walls and mature hedgerows in the central section of the valley and on the valley floor;
- Extensive areas of woodland that provide ecological habitats and a sense of enclosure;
- Mature, single deciduous infield and boundary trees which are important landscape features;
- The upland vegetation mosaic which is sensitive to over-grazing; and
- Dramatic, open views from many places in the valley, which are sensitive to interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments with a significant sensitivity to cumulative impacts of vertical development⁹³.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are

- Increased storm events and rainfall leading to flooding and changes in river characteristics.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for

⁹³ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

AREA 42: KENTMERE VALLEY

managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Protect** water within the river catchment which is vulnerable to pollution
- Ensure flood management measures are sympathetic to the pastoral character of the area; and
- **Retain** and **encourage** sympathetic management of deciduous woodland and restoration of coniferous blocks to broadleaved woodland.

Ecological Character

- **Conserve** grassy wildflower rich verges;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** heather moorland; and
- **Encourage** sympathetic management of marshy areas along the valley bottom.

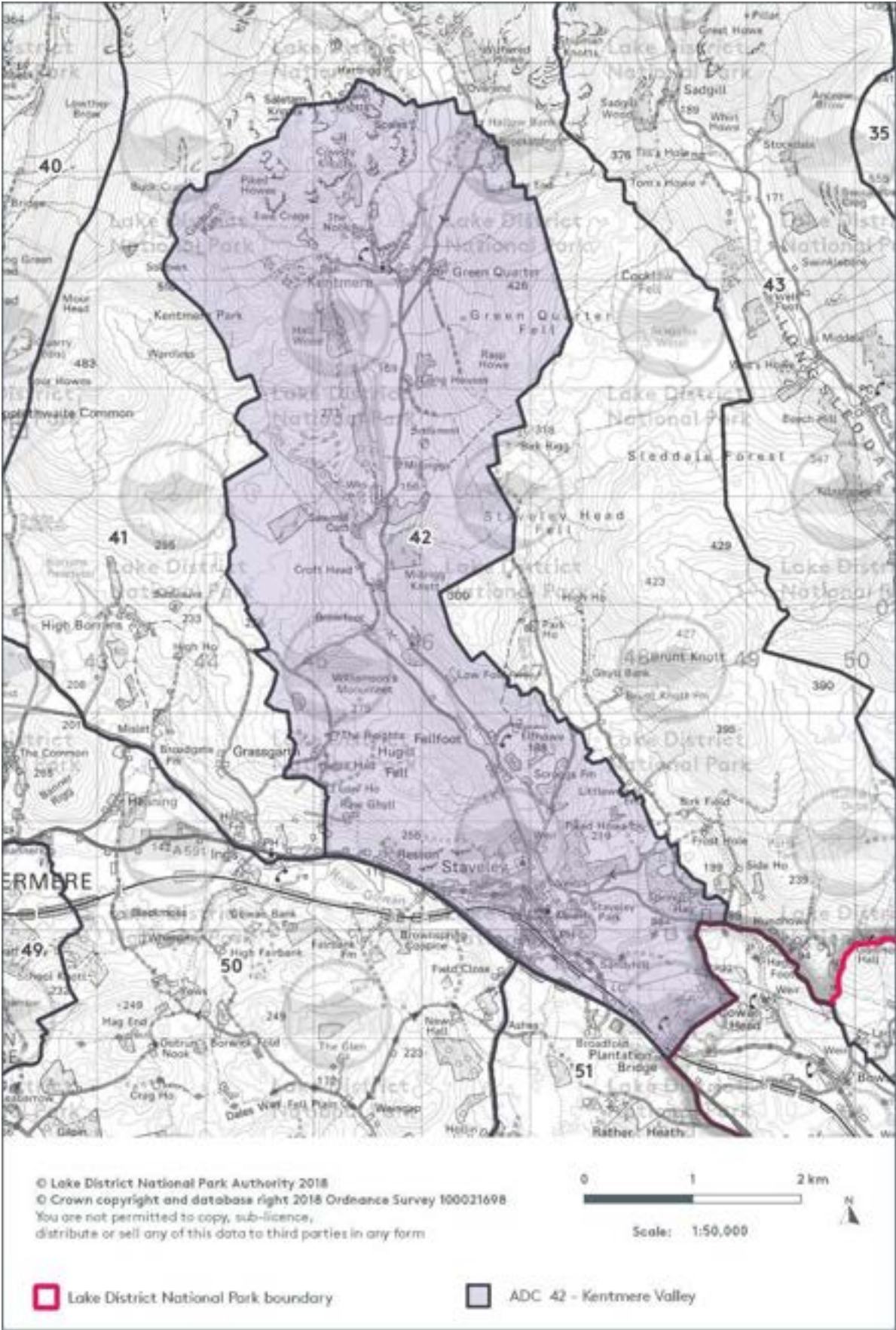
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Retain** the strong sense of enclosure and isolation, coupled with an overall strong sense of tranquillity;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** the network of slate and volcanic stone walls and mature hedgerows; and
- **Conserve** and **enhance** mature, single deciduous infield and boundary trees which are striking landscape features.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Protect** open views to and from the area from tall vertical or large-scale developments.

AREA 42: KENTMERE VALLEY



AREA 43: LONGSLEDDALE VALLEY

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the east of the National Park. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Windermere](#).

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4)

- [Rugged Craggy Volcanic High Fells](#) (F); and
- [Upland Valley](#) (H).

Distinctive Characteristics

- A long, narrow, enclosed, isolated and predominantly rural valley, flanked with woodlands, lining the course of the River Sprint meandering its way from deep within the High Fells to the north, towards the village of Garnett Bridge;
- A single-track road with grassy flower rich verges provides the only form of access to the valley, resulting in a strong sense of tranquillity, which is further augmented by the sparse settlement pattern;
- The small hamlet of Longsleddale towards the centre of the valley;
- Network of stone walls and mature hedgerows lining field boundaries with evidence of open field systems;
- Predominantly a very tranquil landscape especially north of Bridge End due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the narrow valley; and
- Large patches of broadleaved woodland and wood pasture along valley sides.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

Longsleddale encompasses a long and enclosed, narrow valley, the nature of the topography of which evokes a strong sense of isolation. The head of the valley is flanked by Kentmere and Harrop Pike forming a sense of enclosure. The narrow single-track road (with grassy wildflower rich verges), which provides the only means of access to the valley, enhances this feeling of isolation.

To enter the valley, the visitor passes through the small and peaceful hamlet of Garnett Bridge first; after which, the surrounding High Fells (underlain by Borrowdale Rocks) close in, guiding you deeper into the valley. The mature trees and hedgerows lining the road (which snugly nestles against the eastern valley side) allow filtered views towards the narrow valley floor westwards, to adjacent pastoral farmland (mainly sheep and some cattle near Longsleddale, with hedges and fences demarcating the small

AREA 43: LONGSLEDDALE VALLEY

fields) set back from the narrow River Sprint, which is lined with trees. The valley sides are well wooded (mainly deciduous, including areas of wood pasture with some small patches of coniferous), focusing views and adding seasonal colour.

The valley changes in character as you move from the lower enclosed wooded valley with improved pasture on the flat valley floor to rugged fell landscape of crags and scree. Above the fell wall the vegetation is largely acid grass with some rushes, bracken and occasional patches of heath, broom and juniper.

There has been little change in the area for over 500 years. Hill sheep farming is the predominant land use. The characteristic Lake District field pattern of inbye fields surrounded by intakes on the lower fells is particularly evident. Overall settlement pattern is very sparse. In addition to Garnett Bridge, only six farms, including late 16th century Low Sadgill and Yewbarrow Hall with its medieval pele tower, and a handful of houses, dotted along the road and along the valley sides, and the small and peaceful hamlet of Longsleddale (which has a church) are present within the valley. This results in a generally strong sense of tranquillity.

Many mature in-field and boundary trees are scattered on the valley bottom and sides giving a parkland-like character in places. Further along the valley to the north, dry stone walls replace the hedges along the road and also gradually replace hedges as field boundaries. The shieling at Sadgill, seem to be relics of a deserted village of Longsleddale. Above Sadgill the character of the valley changes, with the High Fell backdrop becoming more dramatic and rugged with craggy edges and outcrops apparent, several waterfalls and frequent scattered remains of sheepfolds.

There were 2 main slate quarries in Longsleddale which were worked until the 19th century.

The area has a very strong sense of tranquillity especially to the north of Bridge End due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the narrow valley and the sense of enclosure from the high fells. There is a relative absence of dwellings and settlements, minimal sources of artificial noise and few obvious signs of human influences. The sense of tranquillity in the mouth of the valley is only slightly disturbed by the traffic noise on the busy A6.

'The narrow road, which was the only link between the farmhouses sheltered by the crags at the head of the valley and [the] far-away regions of town and civilisation ... was lined with masses of the white hackberry or bird-cherry, and ran, an arrowy line of white, through the greenness of the sloping pastures. The sides of some of the little becks running down into the main river and many of the plantations round the farms were gay with the same tree, so that the farmhouses, gray-roofed and gray-walled, standing in the hollows of the fells, seemed here and there to have been robbed of some of their natural austerity'.

Longsleddale inspired the 'Long Whindale' of Mrs Humphry Wards Victorian novel *Robert Elsmere* (1888)

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Strong sense of enclosure and isolation within the valley;
- Contained and small-scale settlement pattern comprising isolated farmsteads and Garnett Bridge and Longsleddale hamlets, which is sensitive to the introduction of buildings or developments, which do not respect the existing scale and character and local vernacular building materials;
- Grassy wildflower-rich verges;
- Mature hedgerows with hedgerow trees and walls line the road corridors, which provide a strong sense of enclosure and frame views;
- Broadleaved woods and trees sensitive to lack of management or replacement;
- Pattern of stone walls (volcanic);
- Overgrazing impacting on the vegetation mosaic;
- Overall strong sense of tranquillity; and
- Intermediate sensitivity to the cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure⁹⁴.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

Increased storm events and rainfall leading to flooding and changes in river characteristics.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Encourage** appropriate management and expansion of broadleaved woodland and wood pasture to give a more natural woodland line; and
- **Encourage** reversion of coniferous woods to broadleaved woodland.

⁹⁴ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

AREA 43: LONGSLEDDALE VALLEY

Ecological Character

- **Conserve** grassy wildflower-rich verges that provide an important ecological habitat; and
- **Conserve and enhance** upland mosaics of vegetation, including blanket bog.

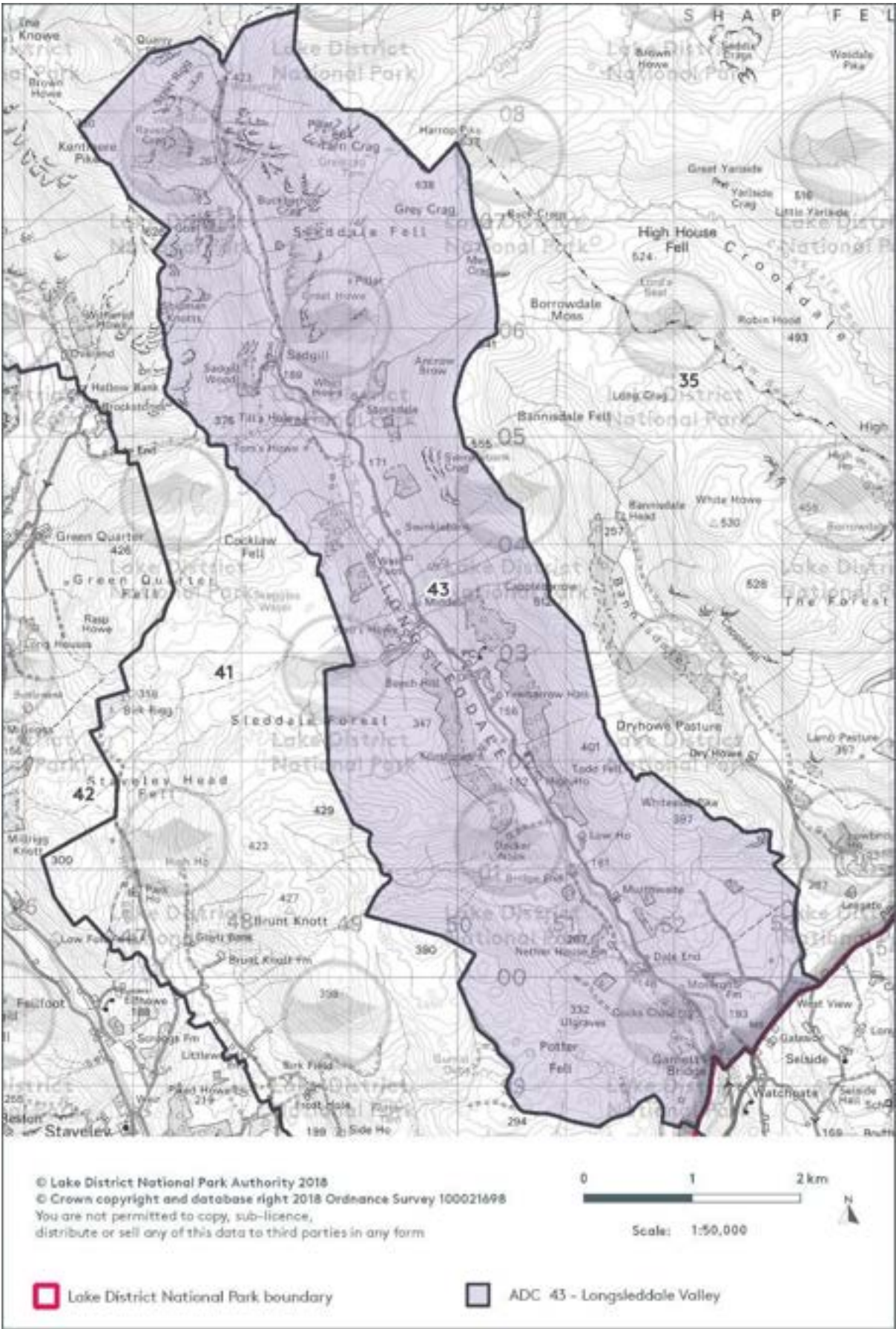
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** the contained and small-scale settlement pattern comprising isolated farmsteads and Garnett Bridge and Long Sleddale hamlets;
- **Conserve and enhance** mature hedges, walls and in field and boundary trees, and **discourage** proliferation of post and wire fences;
- **Encourage** re-planting of hedgerows which have been lost and new open grown trees;
- **Conserve** vernacular character resulting from use of local building materials, forms and detailing; and
- **Conserve** striking field pattern of stone walls and hedges.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Maintain** the sense of enclosure and isolation within the valley; and
- **Retain** overall strong sense of tranquillity.

AREA 43: LONGSLEDDALE VALLEY



AREA 44: ESKDALE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

Eskdale is situated at the south western corner of the Lake District National Park, in close proximity to the western coast. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Eskdale](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (See Section 4)

- [Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fells](#) (F);
- [Upland Valley](#) (H); and
- [High Fell Fringe](#) (J).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Long U-shaped glacial valley of contrasts, moving west to east from the broad coastal plain at the western edge, to the soft, verdant, green landscape surrounding the river, with cascading becks in the middle section, to the rugged, craggy and bleaker mountain character at the eastern end of the valley;
- The Scafell Massif provides strong enclosure at the head of the valley, with a pattern of pink granite stone walls criss-crossing the dale sides, which are clad in heather moorland and rough grass at higher altitudes;
- Use of local pink granite, as boulders, river cobbles or quarried stone has created the most distinctive and recognisable building character in the Lake District. The use of St. Bees red sandstone in the 19th century for stone dressings, adds to the identity and sense of place;
- Large patches of woodland, broadleaved, mixed and coniferous give a well wooded feel apart from at the eastern end of the valley;
- Steep and dramatic twisting route of Hardknott Pass leads visitors into and out of the valley at the eastern end;
- Muncaster Castle, with its extensive gardens and woodland is a striking landscape feature perched on a high shelf above the floor of the valley at its western end;
- Meandering River Esk, which often cascades and tumbles down the valley and is lined with patches of linear woodland, provides the central focus of the area;
- Hardknott Roman Fort clings to the side of Hardknott Pass, a former roman route connecting Ravenglass to Ambleside;
- Accessible and popular landscape;

AREA 44: ESKDALE

- Series of tarns perched above the valley sides (including Blea Tarn and Stony Tarn); and

Predominantly a tranquil valley especially at the foot of the High Fells in the east.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

Eskdale is a valley of contrasts as it follows the narrow River Esk, flowing from dramatic and imposing Scafell Massif in the east, towards the broader, flatter coastal plain in the west. The U-shaped glaciated valley then broadens and softens into a verdant, green landscape with large patches of broadleaved, mixed and coniferous woodland giving it a well-wooded feel.

The upper valley is comparatively wide and exhibits a striking network of relatively large-scale, lush, green pasture fields, punctuated by soft clumps of mature woodland. The striking pattern of massive pink granite stone walls, dividing in-by and in-take, gives a strong landscape pattern, contrasting with the rough grazing on the open fell, which is particularly notable when viewed from the surrounding High Fells above.

Hardknott Roman Fort clings to the side of the fell guarding the steep and twisting Hardknott Pass, an old roman route linking the port of Ravenglass to the garrison at Ambleside.

At its upper end, the wild and rugged surrounding High Fells with their rocky crags and screes and open moorland and heathland, (including the dramatic form of Scafell Pike), display a spectrum of muted greens and browns, and provide imposing sides to the dale, contributing to a strong sense of enclosure on the valley floor. A number of high mountain tarns are perched above the valley sides, including Blea Tarn and Stony Tarn add interest. There is a strong sense of wildness and isolation and timelessness in the eastern, upland section of the valley where there are few obvious traces of human settlement and the changing effects of light, weather and season have such an effect on the appearance and atmosphere of the landscape.

Cascading and rushing water within the River Esk (and the several 'Dubbs' or pools in the riverbed), and the rugged gills that cascade down the fell-sides to meet it, is a feature of the whole valley, but particularly notable towards the eastern end. Although in visual terms, the river does not dominate the valley, it provides a key-unifying feature within the landscape, in combination with the several stone packhorse bridges that cross it, including 17th century single span Doctor Bridge, east of Boot.

As you move down the valley the more intimate farmed landscape and vernacular white washed rubble stone walled, slate roofed buildings emerge. Brotherilkeld is a notable example of a vernacular farmhouse. A fascinating pattern of walls surrounds the small hamlet of Boot, which sits adjacent to a steep wooded gorge at a bridging point over Whillan Beck. Boot is an attractive, compact group of traditional buildings, in particular the very fine 16th century water powered corn mill, which epitomises the vernacular use of rough granite.

To the west of Forge Bridge and Eskdale Green, the valley widens, encompassing a coherent patchwork of, irregular fields, lined with soft patches of woodland (broadleaved, mixed and coniferous) trees and grazing marsh adjacent to the course of the river. Rocky knolls are visible on the edges of Muncaster Fell ridge, which provides a strong sense of enclosure to the north and separates Eskdale from the relatively narrow

AREA 44: ESKDALE

corridor of the River Mite (Miterdale). Vernacular rough granite buildings rub shoulders with larger, grander houses built in dressed stone. Muncaster Castle with its 14th century fortified tower though extensively re-modelled in the 19th Century, overlooks the valley from a high ledge, and with its extensive gardens and woodland, and neighbouring extensive conifer plantations is a striking landscape feature. The path of the popular Ravenglass to Eskdale narrow-gauge railway known as 'La'al Ratty' is also a feature, which was built to enable haematite extraction at Nab Gill Mine.

Moving further westwards, the gently rolling topography falls away to a more open landscape with extensive views west across the Irish Sea and east up the valley. There is a much more a pastoral character, with deeper soils being suited to more intensive farming, including dairy. Walls give way to mature hedgerows and hedgerow trees delineating field boundaries as the course of the river widens.

In Eskdale more than any other valley, the fellsides are scattered with the remains of small dry stone huts, known as 'peat scales', in which peat was dried and stored. The largest concentration is the cluster of nine huts on Boot Bank. The huts are simple rectangular dry stone structures made of local granite rubble having once been roofed, originally with bracken thatch and later with slate. Bronze Age stone circles and settlements are also found here. The valley overall has a strong sense of tranquillity especially at the foot of the Scafell Massif in the east. The strong sense of tranquillity is due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the valley enhanced by the ruggedness of the surrounding fells and the cascading and rushing River Esk, which adds a sense of wildness. The sense of tranquillity is slightly disturbed by the minor road that runs the length of the valley and across Hardknott Pass, especially in the peak of the tourist season when the road becomes busy.

'As if to take some relief – the narrow, winding tortuous valley road, hauls itself out of the flat valley floor, up the eastern face of the valley head wall, with a final gasp – reminding itself at the top of the memorable, visual legacy of the valley it left behind.'

National Trust Management Plan, August 2002

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Water within the river, tarns and becks, which is vulnerable to point source and diffuse pollution
- Changes to the character of watercourses arising from increased storm events and rainfall;
- Strong enclosure pattern of vernacular pink granite stone walls on the dale sides and hedges in lower parts of the valley that contribute to recognisable sense of place and is sensitive to changes in land management or agricultural practices;
- Soft clumps of mature woodland, that provide a sense of enclosure;

AREA 44: ESKDALE

- Stone packhorse bridges, which provide recognisable landscape features;
- Steep, wooded gorge which has a strong sense of enclosure and provides several key ecological habitats;
- Strong sense of isolation, tranquillity and sense of place throughout;
- Predominantly isolated and small-scale settlement pattern; and
- Intermediate sensitivity to the cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure.⁹⁵

Forces for Change

The Forces for Change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Protect** water within the river, tarns and becks from point source and diffuse pollution;
- **Ensure** any flood management features are sympathetic to the natural character of the area; and
- **Conserve** and **enhance** broadleaved woodland and **encourage** reversion of conifer plantations to deciduous woodland;

Ecological Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** mosaic of woodland habitats on higher ground; and
- **Conserve** and **enhance** steep, wooded gorge which has a strong sense of enclosure and provides several key ecological habitats.

⁹⁵ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

AREA 44: ESKDALE

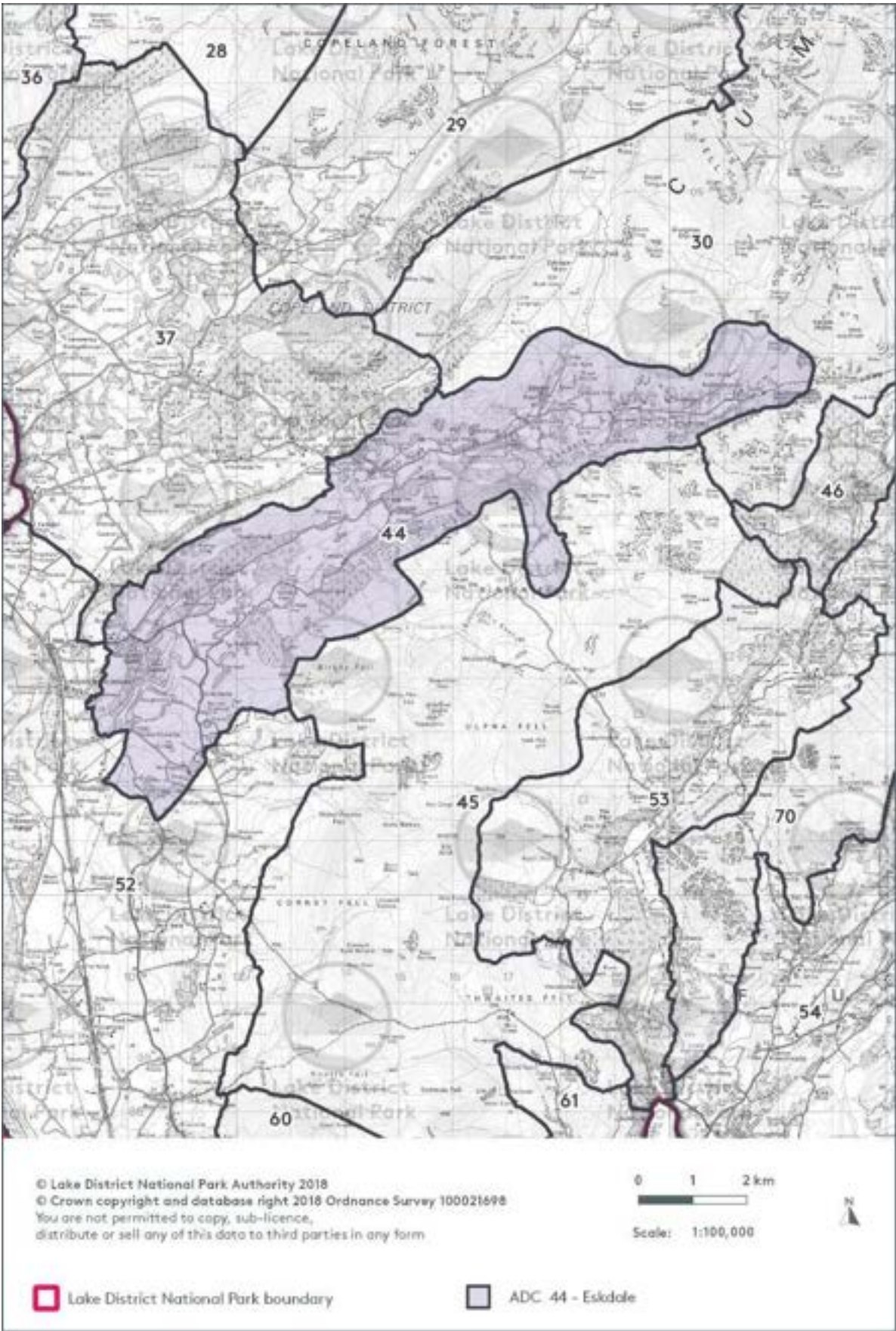
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** strong enclosure pattern of granite stone walls on the dale sides and hedgerows on lower parts of the valley that contributes to recognisable sense of place;
- **Conserve** stone packhorse bridges, which provide recognisable landscape features; and
- **Conserve** vernacular character resulting from use of local building materials (especially the local pink granite), forms and detailing.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Maintain** strong sense of isolation, tranquillity and sense of place throughout; and
- **Retain** the predominantly isolated and small-scale settlement pattern.

AREA 44: ESKDALE



AREA 45: ULPHA & CORNEY FELL

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This upland Area of Distinctive Character is located in the south west of the National Park, inland from Ravenglass and between Eskdale and Dunnerdale. It is in World Heritage Site Valleys: [Eskdale](#) and [Duddon](#).

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4)

- [Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fells](#) (F); and
- [Rugged/Angular Slate High Fell](#) (G); and
- [Upland Valley](#) (H).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Often elevated, open and expansive with dramatic views of the coast and estuary to the west and the Scafell range to the east from many areas including from narrow fell roads;
- A rich archaeology of settlement and working of the land, which contrasts with the present apparently empty and natural landscape;
- The lack of tall vegetation and development mean that the changing effects of light, weather and season are particularly important to the appearance and atmosphere of the landscape;
- Extensive tracts of degraded peatland, moorland and heathland habitat;
- Distinctive features in the area include Devoke water, discreet areas of improved pasture carved out of the fell associated with sheilings and consolidated as farms;
- Single-track, unenclosed fell roads across an elevated landscape; and
- Predominantly a tranquil area especially on the fells where there is a strong sense of openness and perception of naturalness.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

Today this area has a sense of emptiness and apparent naturalness, but this may not always have been the case in the past. There is evidence of prehistoric cairns, field systems and enclosures, medieval settlement and later industrial archaeology associated with mining on the fells.

To the north and east, a strong sense of enclosure is provided by the landscape of adjacent high fells, including the Scafell range whilst to the west, there is a stronger

AREA 45: ULPHA & CORNEY FELL

sense of openness, as a result of panoramic views towards the coastline. Sellafield power station is a dominant industrial feature within several views north-westwards from this area.

The landscape has extensive areas of common land and rough grazing, is almost entirely devoid of trees or structures such as buildings or stone walls. Conifer plantations are the notable exception, punctuating the landscape with large, incongruous, rectilinear plantations). The ground cover is a mixture of acid grassland, bracken and mires, with many rock outcrops and areas of scree. Changes in light according to weather conditions are notably apparent in this landscape.

The most distinctive landmarks in the area are the large tarn of Devoke Water, and small areas of enclosed and improved land (Woodend and Birkerthwaite) to the east, bounded by a network of dry stone walls. These landmarks, along with the two narrow roads and occasional bridleways, which cross the area, provide orientation in an otherwise featureless landscape, particularly when the cloud level is low.

Sense of tranquillity is relatively strong throughout this area, other than at shift change times at nearby Sellafield power station, when for a short time, the roads become a rat-run for fast-moving cars. The area has a strong sense of tranquillity due to the strong sense of openness and perception of naturalness. The sense of tranquillity is enhanced by the relative absence of dwellings, settlements and busy roads. There is a sense of wildness and isolation on the hills devoid from general signs of overt human impact and noise.

'The Kirk of Ulpha to the pilgrim's eye
Is welcome as a start, that doth
present

Its shining forehead through the peaceful rent
Of a black cloud diffused
o'er half the sky.'

St John's Church, Ulpha, is described by Wordsworth in Duddon Sonnet
XXXI

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Rich archaeological record, which is sensitive to damage and disturbance;
- Strong sense of openness, which is vulnerable to development;
- Strong sense of tranquillity throughout;
- Strong intervisibility with the coastline and seascape to the west;
- General absence of settlement, built structures or enclosure;
- Mire habitat, which is sensitive to trampling pressure and overgrazing; and

AREA 45: ULPHA & CORNEY FELL

- Intermediate sensitivity to the cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure.⁹⁶

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Pressure for roadside fencing on moorland roads to reduce roadkill.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Encourage** conversion of conifer plantations to deciduous species.

Ecological Character

- **Restore** upland plant communities, including degraded peatland communities.

Cultural and Historic Character

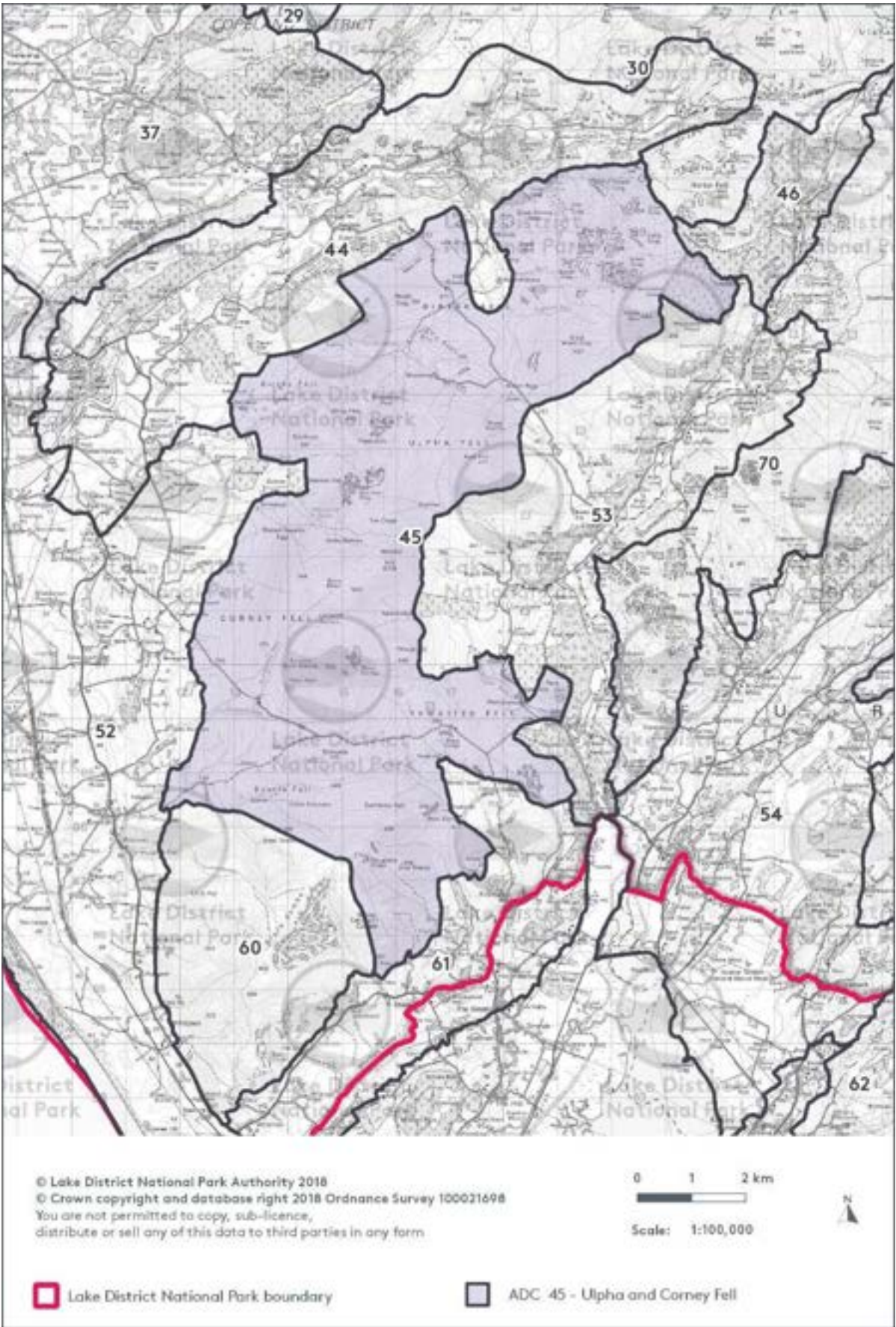
- **Conserve** the rich archaeological record, which is sensitive to damage and disturbance; and
- **Retain** general absence of settlement, built structures or stonewalls.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Retain** strong sense of openness, which is vulnerable to interruption from tall vertical or large scale developments;
- **Protect** open and panoramic views westwards towards the coastline and seascape; and
- **Maintain** strong sense of tranquillity throughout.

⁹⁶ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

AREA 45: ULPHA & CORNEY FELL



AREA 46: UPPER DUNNERDALE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the south of the Lake District National Park, to the south-east of Eskdale. It follows the upper reaches of the River Duddon from Wrynose Bottom to the southern extent of Dunnerdale Forest. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Duddon](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section

- [Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell](#) (F); and
- [Lowland Valley](#) (M).

Distinctive Characteristics

- An intimate and enclosed, relatively narrow valley, following the upper reaches of the River Duddon;
- Grey Friar, Harter and Ulpha fells provide a sense of containment;
- Intimate scale intensified by the rough, rocky texture of surrounding pikes, crags and gills;
- Views dominated by a dramatic backdrop of sweeping High Fells (including the Old Man of Coniston and Scafell Pike) and moorland to the north and the imposing, regular form of Dunnerdale Forest to the west;
- Very strong sense of remoteness, isolation, wildness and tranquillity, as a result of the enclosing topography and sparse road network and settlement pattern;
- Strong sense of time depth, as a result of the pattern of isolated traditional stone farmsteads (such as Cockley Beck and High Wallabarrow) and associated stone walls which snake along the valley bottom, large intake fields- walls dominant;
- Eastern edge of the valley is accessed via the dramatic, steep and winding fell road over Wrynose Pass, which runs over Wrynose Fell from Little Langdale valley to the east, and along Wrynose bottom (at the foot of a classic U-shaped glaciated valley); and
- Historic and cultural associations with Wordsworth.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

Encompassing the upper reaches of the River Duddon and surrounded by dramatic, craggy High Fells, this Upper Dunnerdale has a very strong sense of

AREA 46: UPPER DUNNERDALE

remoteness, isolation, wildness and tranquillity. The winding valley floor, which exhibits a patchwork of pasture fields, (delineated by an intricate pattern of traditional stone walls), provides stark contrast to the surrounding rough texture of the surrounding fells, much of which are swathed in moorland.

A minor road follows the meandering tree-lined course of the River Duddon, as it snakes through the narrow, enclosed landscape. Further south, the dense, regular, predominantly dark green form of Dunnerdale Forest further contributes to the strong sense of enclosure. These coniferous plantations cloak the western valley side, dominating this area. This characteristic will be softened through the introduction of deciduous planting..

Settlement pattern is extremely sparse, consisting of isolated Lakeland vernacular farmsteads dotted amongst associated pasture fields.

There is a strong sense of inhospitability within this landscape, particularly during winter months, when the valley can be strongly affected by changing weather patterns. Weather and associated light has a strong influence on the character of Upper Dunnerdale. Often, the sun casts shadows into the valley from surrounding High Fells, whilst rain causes the river and fell side gills to come alive with rushing, tumbling water.

The area has a very strong sense of tranquillity due to the perceived sense of naturalness associated with the presence of the River Duddon, the High Fell backdrop, absence of dwellings and settlements, minimal sources of artificial noise and night time light pollution.

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Open views to surrounding High Fells, which are vulnerable to interruption by tall vertical or large- scale developments with an intermediate sensitivity to the cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure.⁹⁷
- Very strong sense of isolation, remoteness, wildness and tranquillity; throughout most of the area;
- Sparse road network and settlement pattern;
- Intricate pattern of stonewalls (delineating field boundaries), which are sensitive to changes in land management or agricultural practices;
- Water within the River Duddon, which is vulnerable to point source and diffuse pollution;
- Changes to the character of watercourses arising from increased storm events and rainfall;
- Mature broadleaved trees lining the river corridor;

⁹⁷ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

AREA 46: UPPER DUNNERDALE

- Traditional vernacular farmsteads, which are sensitive to extensions or changes, which do not respect existing or historic character; and

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Dunnerdale Forest conversion of intrusive, non-native conifers to native woodland linking with the ancient semi-natural woodland in lower Duddon; and
- Increased storm events and rainfall effecting the river corridor and valley sides.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Conserve** mature broadleaved trees as landscape features along the river corridor;
- **Ensure** any flood management features are sympathetic to the natural character of the area;
- **Protect** water within the River Duddon from point source and diffuse pollution; and
- **Encourage** conversion of conifer plantations to deciduous species.

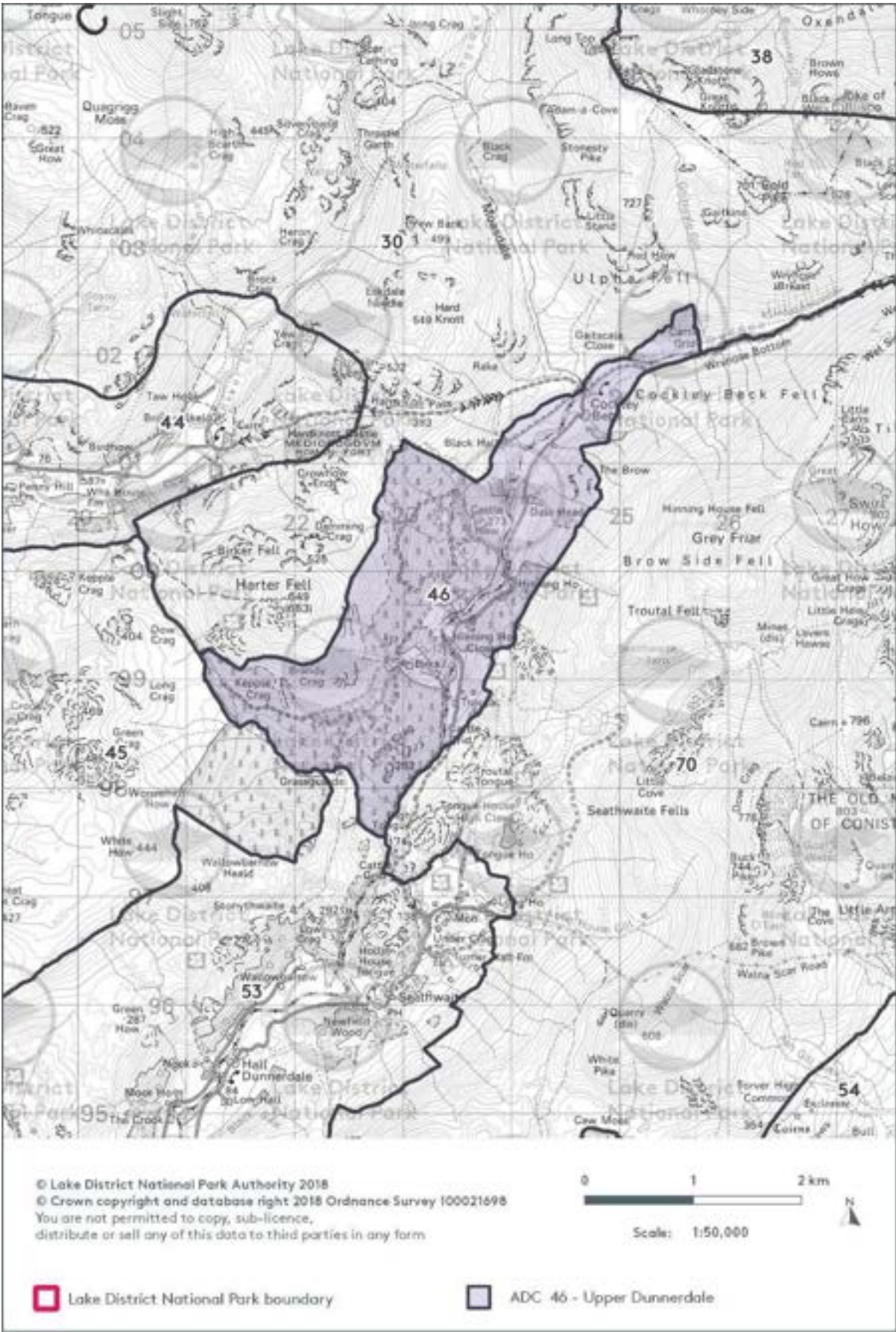
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** intricate pattern of stonewalls (delineating field boundaries); and
- **Conserve** and enhance traditional vernacular farmsteads.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Protect** open views to surrounding High Fells from tall vertical or large-scale developments;
- **Maintain** very strong sense of isolation, remoteness, wildness and tranquillity; throughout most of the area; and
- **Retain** sparse road network and settlement pattern.

AREA 46: UPPER DUNNERDALE



AREA 47: LOW FURNESS FELLS

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated at the centre of the Lake District National Park, to the south of Great and Little Langdale Valleys. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Coniston](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section

- [Rugged/Craggy Volcanic High Fell \(E\)](#);
- [Low Fell](#) (K); and .
- [Lowland Valley](#) (M)

Distinctive Characteristics

- A patchwork low fell landscape with a rich mosaic of different habitats, including woodland plantations (both coniferous and deciduous), pastoral farmland, parkland, small tarns, mires and heather moorland;
- The intimate-scale, accessible designed, naturalistic landscape of Tarn Hows, with its water reflecting the weather and surrounded by an intimate patchwork of green grassland, mires, bracken, spruce and larch-clad fells;
- Some of the oldest Alder in England near Boon Crag;
- Dramatic and long-distance views to the wrinkled dark grey ragged rock of the surrounding Coniston Fells, with long-distance framed views to the Little Langdale valley and the Langdale Pikes to the north and along the Yewdale valley to the east;
- Constantly changing perceptions of scale, enclosure and texture;
- A landscape of peaks and troughs, which vary from rough to smooth, the colour of which also varies significantly with the seasons; and
- Predominantly a tranquil area locally disturbed by traffic noise on the A593.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The texture of this landscape is highly varied, with a combination of craggy rock outcrops, protruding from smooth upland heath, which cloaks the fell sides and a rich mosaic of habitats of many kinds from mires and tarns to bracken and heather moorland. In places, parkland, coniferous, deciduous and mixed woodland plantations provide

AREA 47: LOW FURNESS FELLS

striking landscape features and seasonal colour changes within views across the area.

Tarn Hows is a distinctive feature, the designed landscape was developed to increase Picturesque beauty. Considered a spectacularly beautiful lake, created by damming three smaller natural tarns, and surrounded by ornamental tree planting. It is one of the Lake District's most popular visitor destinations.

. The combination of natural habitats (including lush green grassland, mires and bracken) in juxtaposition with designed elements such as the lake, single mature ornamental exotic trees, green spruce, larch and deciduous woodlands and subtle human elements (such as footpaths, which follow the flow of the landscape) creates a sense of unity and balance within the area. The small-scale contrast between the dark coloured tarn and ever-changing green to brown spectrum of trees, bracken and grassland (within the immediate landscape of the Tarn) is set within a wider, seasonally changing large- scale backdrop of Higher Fells.

Gripping views eastwards into the Yewdale Valley (which exhibits an intimate pattern of pasture, small farmsteads, stone wall field boundaries and clumps of softer deciduous woodland) provide a dramatic contrast with framed long distance views to the more open, exposed, hummocky, scree and bracken covered surrounding Conistone Fells, Little Langdale valley and the rugged craggy, grey Langdale Pikes to the north.

The combination of elements leads to an experience of relaxation and tranquillity. Coupled with visual excitement in terms of dramatic views, colourful contrasts, shimmering water and dramatic shadows, this intimate landscape has a strongly recognisable sense of place and is a classic honeypot attraction, attracting large numbers of visitors.

Sense of intimacy and scale varies, moving through the many folds, peaks and troughs in the landscape. To the north west, the imposing form of the Langdale Pikes, with their distinctive form and profile, contribute to a strong sense of enclosure and sense of place and also provide orientation.

Although this landscape sits at a lower altitude than adjacent higher fells to the north, it retains a greater sense of remoteness and wildness than within the patchwork of the lower lake and farmland landscapes to the south. The area has a strong sense of tranquillity due to the perceived openness and naturalness of the moorland. The sense of tranquillity is enhanced by the relative absence of settlements, dwellings and roads. The tranquillity is locally disturbed around the A593 through the presence of traffic noise. Around Tarn Hows, especially the southern end, tranquillity is affected by the numbers of cars on the narrow roads and large numbers of visitors to the lake, though the extensive woodland around the northern part of the lake hides many of the visitors walking around the lake from view much of the time.

'I added seven stones to the fabric [of the summit cairn] but declined looking down, for a wicket not my present tranquillity to be disturbed by giddiness.'

Thomas Wilkinson, early 19th century

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Upland heath which is sensitive to over-grazing;
- Mature, ancient Alder deciduous tree species, which are striking landscape features;
- Dramatic, open views from the Fells, which are sensitive to interruption from tall vertical or large-scale developments;⁹⁸
- Dramatic views to the Coniston Fells, Little Langdale, the Langdale Pikes, which are vulnerable to interruption by tall, vertical or large-scale development;
- Important designed landscape of Tarn Hows, sensitive to changes in design of planting and insensitive access improvements.
- Generally strong sense of isolation and tranquillity throughout; and
- Water within Tarn Hows and associated tarn-edge habitats, which are sensitive to pollution.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Spread of bracken where grazing activity is reduced;
- Increased traffic on small roads and car park development changing the character of minor roads and tracks;
- Pressure on sensitive habitats from increasing accessibility;
- Loss of important landscape features such as stone walls and hedge banks and pollards due to changes in agri-environment schemes;
- Fluctuations in forestry practices due to the changing nature and economics of forestry;
- Climate change impacting on long-term integrity of designed and other historical landscapes (a key feature within this landscape type); and
- Increasing visitor numbers to Tarn Hows potentially leading to inappropriate road and footpath improvements in surrounding lanes.

⁹⁸ This ADC is not covered by the Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure study.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Protect** water within Tarn Hows and associated tarn-edge habitats from point source and diffuse pollution;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** mature, ancient Alder trees and other mature deciduous specimen tree species, which are striking landscape features; and
- **Mitigate** landscape impact of any access improvements.

Ecological Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** areas of upland heath;
- **Control** spread of bracken; and
- **Conserve** and **enhance** wetland habitats around lake.

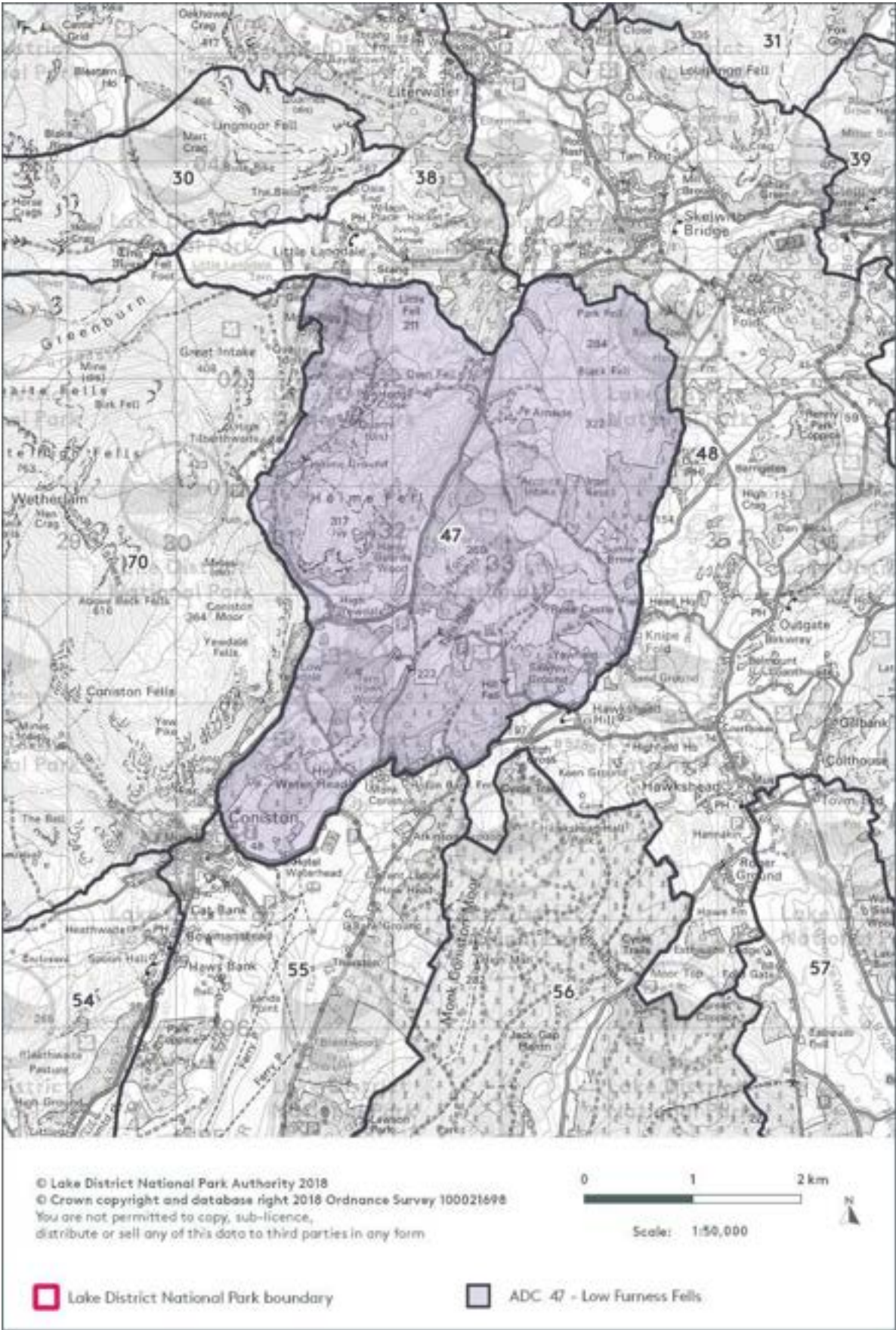
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve and enhance** designed landscape around Tarn Hows, **encourage** succession planning, especially for woodland and exotic specimen trees;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** walls, hedge banks and pollards.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Protect** dramatic views to Yewdale Valley, Coniston Fells Little Langdale and the Langdale Pikes;
- **Protect** open views to and from the area from tall vertical or large-scale developments;
- **Ensure** highway improvements respect and reflect local character and materials to retain high landscape quality; and
- **Maintain** generally strong sense of isolation and tranquillity throughout.

AREA 47: LOW FURNESS FELLS



AREA 48: CLAIFE HEIGHTS & LATTERBARROW

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the south east of the Lake District National Park, to the southwest of Ambleside. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Coniston](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4)

- [Rugged/Craggy Volcanic High Fell](#) (F);
- [Upland Valley](#) (H);
- [Low Fell](#) (K); and
- [Lowland Valley](#) (M).

Distinctive Characteristics

- A hummocky patchwork of woodland, wet pasture, mires and tarns;
- Dramatic views across Lake Windermere to the east and Esthwaite Water to the west; and panoramic views from Latterbarrow;
- Sinuous form of Elterwater, situated at the eastern confluence of the Great and Little Langdale valleys and surrounded by patches of soft woodland;
- Strong sense of enclosure provided by woodland and hedgerow-lined lanes;
- Latterbarrow forms a dramatic backdrop within views westwards across Windermere outside the area;
- Coniferous dominated woodland on the south Claife ridge;
- A network of quiet, narrow winding lanes enclosed by hedgerows;
- Flag (or shard) walls are a localised feature;
- Hawkshead is a unique, late medieval market town, with the greatest concentration of listed buildings in the Lake District;
- Hawkshead has strong historic and cultural associations with Beatrix Potter and Wordsworth;
- Canon Rawsley connections with Low Wray;
- The picturesque Grade II Listed viewing station at Claife Station; and

AREA 48: CLAIFE HEIGHTS & LATTERBARROW

- Strong sense of tranquillity in the landscape extending from the western shore of Windermere.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This landscape encompasses an unusual patchwork of hummocky grassland and tarns, nestled within a strongly wooded backdrop. Higher points such as Latterbarrow and Colthouse Heights provide dramatic panoramic viewpoints across the surrounding landscape, towards Lake Windermere to the east and the Coniston Fells to the west. Claife Heights viewing station is a recognisable landmark feature within the landscape. Views from the edge of this area contribute to a strong sense of place and orientation.

Towards the centre of the area, a strong sense of enclosure is provided by dense coniferous and deciduous woodland. Clearings in the woodland reveal a series of tarns, mires and wetlands, nestled amongst surrounding lush green grassland. Boundaries are a mix of hedges and walls, with some locally distinctive flag boundaries, made from large vertically-placed flagstones made from slate. Field barns and other features associated with hill farming are also an important historical and visual aspect of this landscape. Historically the division of the former monastic parkland as intakes associated with isolated farms and hamlets is most marked at Claife Heights, with enclosure for woodland planting dating from the late 16th century.

From here, views are limited to the immediate landscape, with the patchwork of tarns and woodland creating a small-scale and more intricate sense of place, with seasonal colour and interesting textures where the woodland is deciduous.

To the west of the higher land that forms Claife Heights and Latterbarrow, the nucleated small town of Hawkshead nestles amongst surrounding pastoral fields. Hawkshead's major industry from the 16th century was the woollen industry and this would have provided the motivation to convert surrounding arable land to pasture and additional grazing of the fells.. Its historic core is largely untouched by 20th century development leading to a very distinctive pattern of narrow streets, squares, yards and ginnels, some cobbled, that thread between a closely packed jumble of houses, inns, shops, outhouses and civic buildings. Buildings are often rendered and limewashed stone. There are rare examples of upper floor timber – framed buildings. Some Victorian slate stone imposing buildings, with the 16th/17th century large, elevated parish church forming a focal point for the wider area. These all contribute to strong recognisable sense of place within the village;

Hawkshead has strong historic and cultural links with Beatrix Potter. One of the white cottages (dating to the 17th Century) at the heart of the village was once the office of Beatrix's husband – local solicitor, William Heelis. Thomas West identified Claife viewing station in 1778, and a gothic style building was constructed here at the turn of the 18th century. This is the only viewing station on which a major structure was erected.

The area has a strong sense of tranquillity associated with the perceived naturalness of the woodland and pastoral fields that dominate the landscape. The relative absence of dwellings and settlements and minimal sources of artificial noise also enhance the sense of tranquillity. There is a slight disturbance to the tranquillity in the north at Skelwith Bridge and adjacent to the A593 which passes through the area, due to traffic noise.

'Beloved Hawkshead ... thy paths, thy shores And brooks, were like a dream of novelty

To my half-infant mind ...

... My morning walks

Were early: oft before the hours of school I travelled round our little lake, five miles Of pleasant wandering – happy time ...'

Wordsworth, c. 1779

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Patches of broadleaved woodland, which are sensitive to lack of management or conversion to conifers;
- Water within Elterwater and other waterbodies, which is vulnerable to diffuse and point source pollution;
- Changes to the character of watercourses arising from increased storm events and rainfall;
- Felling and species change in coniferous woodland;
- Dramatic, panoramic open views across Lake Windermere and surrounding fells, which are vulnerable to interruption from tall vertical or large-scale developments with a significant sensitivity to cumulative impacts of vertical development around Claife Heights⁹⁹;
- Flag boundary walls/fences, which are relatively unique features, rare within the rest of the Lake District landscape;
- Hedgerows, stone walls and field barns, which are sensitive to changes in agriculture;
- Compact settlement pattern and vernacular slate roofed and lime-washed walled buildings within Hawkshead; and
- Hawkshead village, which is vulnerable to the introduction of buildings at the centre or edges of the village that do not respect existing scale, building materials and character.

⁹⁹ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Lack of management of important landscape features such as stone walls, hedges, field barns and pollarded trees due to financial pressures in agriculture;
- Increased pressure for new residential developments on the edge of Hawkshead and potential loss of vernacular character and use of local building materials;
- Communication developments leading to increased visual clutter from mobile phone and radio masts; and
- Increased traffic on small roads and car park development changing the character of minor roads and tracks.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** patches of broadleaved woodland, which provide a sense of enclosure;
- **Encourage** conversion of coniferous woods to broadleaved species;
- **Ensure** any flood management features are sympathetic to the natural character of the area; and

Ecological Character

- **Protect** water within the tarns from diffuse and point source pollution.

Cultural and Historic Character

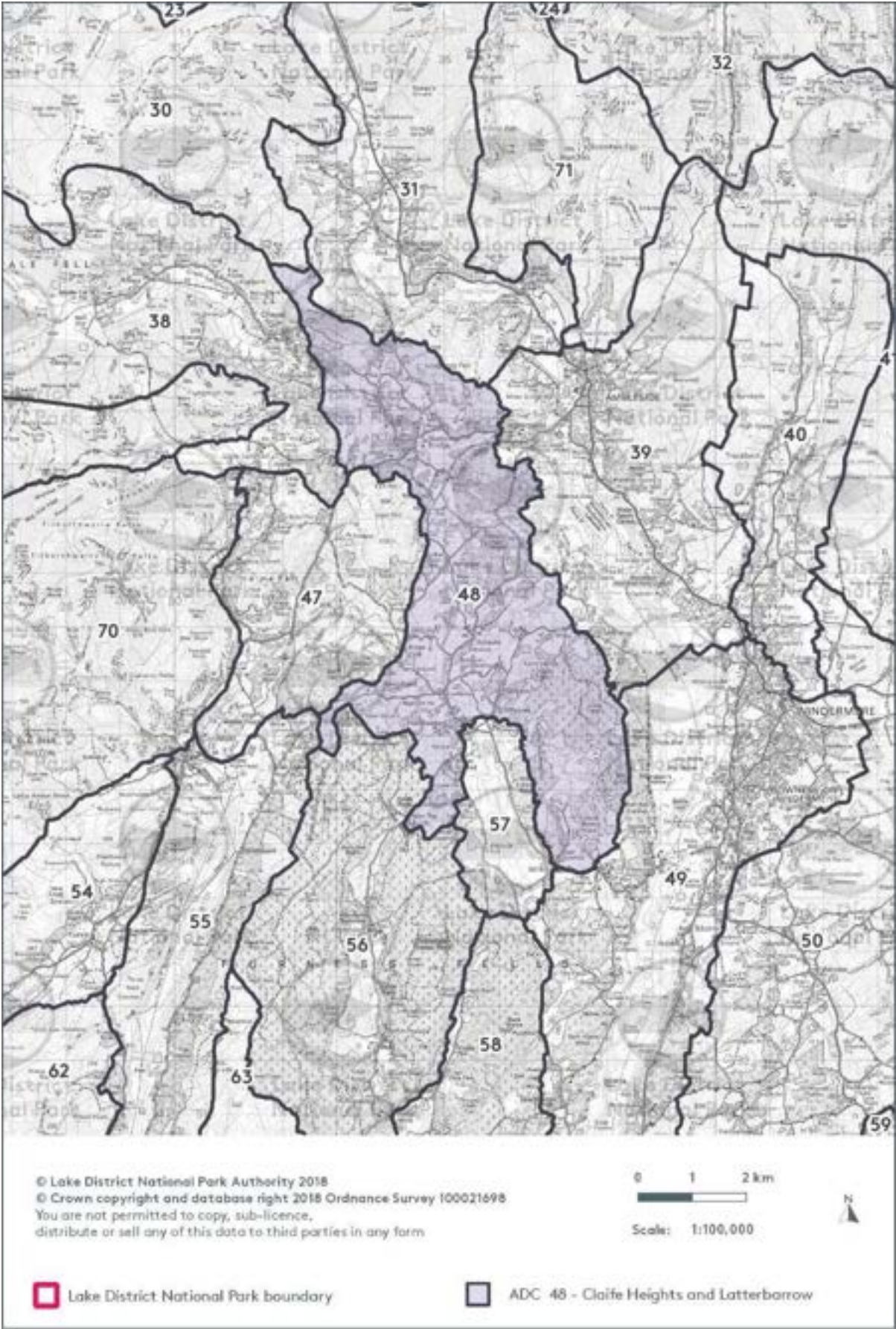
- **Conserve** and **enhance** walls and hedges, especially flag boundary walls, which are relatively rare features within the rest of the Lake District landscape;
- **Conserve** and **restore** field barns; and
- **Retain** compact settlement pattern and conserve and enhance slate-roofed and lime-washed walled vernacular buildings within Hawkshead village, which is vulnerable to the introduction of buildings at the centre or edges of the village that do not respect existing scale, building materials and character.

AREA 48: CLAIFE HEIGHTS & LATTERBARROW

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Protect** dramatic panoramic open views across Lake Windermere and surrounding fells and also northwards from Latterbarrow from tall vertical or large-scale developments; and
- **Mitigate** landscape impact of any new communications infrastructure.

AREA 48: CLAIFE HEIGHTS & LATTERBARROW



AREA 49: LOWER WINDERMERE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

Lower Windermere Area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the south of the Lake District National Park and encompasses the settlements of Windermere and Bowness-on-Windermere. It is in World Heritage Site Valleys: [Windermere](#) and [Coniston](#).

Relevant Landscape Character Types

- [Upland Valley](#) (H);
- [Low Fell](#) (K); and
- [Lowland Valley](#) (M).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Southern half of Windermere Lake, studded with islands, with its extensive ancient semi-natural woodland right down to the lake shores, punctuated by scattered large residences, provides a strong sense of enclosure;
- Set back from the immediate lakeshore to the east and west on rising ground are wooded and open rocky outcrops and knolls;
- Eastern shore dominated by large private houses, villas and hotels, with nationally important Arts and Crafts buildings, in particular Broadleys (Voysey) and Blackwell (Baillie Scott). Many houses have their own boathouses and jetties, as well as gardens/grounds laid out by eminent designers, some with exotic planting and parkland.
- Distinctive Belle Isle, with its iconic late 18th century round house, epitomising the picturesque ideals sits in a woodland setting to the west of Bowness on Windermere and punctuates open views across the lake;
- The Belsfield, largest and finest Italianate building in the Lake District, built in 1840 with its smooth rendered walls and crisp detailing, is the dominant feature overlooking Bowness Bay;
- Mixture of Victorian and more modern buildings within Bowness on Windermere, overlooking the lake, with a cluster of buildings at the lakeshore, associated with Windermere lake steamers. Colourful steamers and yachts punctuate views across the lake;
- Windermere town, to the north of Bowness, a unique Victorian creation following the arrival of the railway in 1847. Imposing and ornate hotels, in particular the Windermere Hotel, guest houses, terraces, shops, built in grey slate stone, often with buff sandstone or limestone dressings and fretted barge boards, produces a distinctive urban character;

AREA 49: LOWER WINDERMERE

- Bustling town of Bowness, a unique Victorian creation following the arrival of the railway in 1847. Imposing and ornate hotels, in particular the Windermere Hotel, guest houses, terraces, shops, built in grey slate stone, often with buff sandstone or limestone dressings and fretted barge boards, produces a distinctive urban character;
- Once separate settlements, Windermere and Bowness coalesced in the mid to late 20th century, with the building of large estates and residential infill of large grounds. However, the town still appears heavily wooded, when viewed from elevated positions;
- Cultural connections with growing tourism industry, including Picturesque viewing stations such as Queens Adelaide's Hill and Claife Stations; and
- Predominantly a tranquil valley away from Bowness/ Windermere, Ferry Nab and Lakeside Piers and A590 and A592.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The lake dominates this area. Windermere is the longest and largest natural lake in England and was formed in a glacial trough. The lake and its landscape setting have two distinct basins, north and south, which differ in character owing to a change in the underlying geology from the hard and erosion resistant volcanic rocks and associated high fells in the north to softer shales with lower rolling fells in the south. There is also a distinct change in landscape character between the more settled east shore and the densely wooded, less accessible west.

The shorelines of Lake Windermere have a soft and predominantly wooded and parkland character, and the lake narrows, moving southwards through the landscape. Many of the woodlands were established along the shoreline through the 18th and early 19th centuries along with designed landscapes and gardens. Designed landscapes can also be found on Belle Isle. To the west, an almost continuous swathe of predominantly broadleaved woodland cloaks the shore, with patches of open farmland, parkland or grassland overlooked by farmsteads or large houses. The woodland has a dense, green understorey, which often comes alive in spring with swathes of bluebells and contributes subtle textures and seasonal colour changes. This results in a relatively strong sense of enclosure and denotes an intimate-scale landscape, with occasional glimpse views across Lake Windermere to the east.

Thomas West identified 5 viewing stations around the lake, many of which can still be visit, such as that located on the west shore of Windermere in Scar Wood, opposite Bowness.

Windermere is, and has been for 200 years, a popular tourist destination and a popular place for summer retreats to appreciate the diversity and beauty of the landscape. The opening of the railway line at Windermere in 1847, and the influx of Victorian industrialists, led to rapid expansion of settlement in the villages and along the lakeshore. Bowness Bay is the busiest location in the Lake District.

The eastern shore and some islands, are speckled with large, predominantly private, mansions and villas (including the first cylindrical building on Belle Isle, a number of significant Arts and Crafts houses, including Broad Leys, Moor Crag and Blackwell)

AREA 49: LOWER WINDERMERE

with extensive gardens and parkland planting, boathouse and jetties facing the lake, and lining the relatively busy main road. These designed landscapes mix with pastoral land.

Towards the north of the area, Bowness on Windermere exhibits a combination of Victorian terraced houses (with uniformity in architectural style, detailing and materials) and shops along the High Street, with both Victorian and more modern buildings overlooking the lake. Windermere is set back from the lakeshore, to the north of Bowness. Houses and shops here also date predominantly to the Victorian period, with more recent additions. It includes good examples of typical provincial commercial and residential architecture in the town centre, suburban developments off Lake Road, well-preserved out-of-town post-railway 19th century villas, public open spaces and gardens, and period street furniture.

The lake provides a dramatic and ever-changing backdrop to Bowness to the west, with boating activity at the lakeshore, including the large lake steamers, yachts, cruisers and rowing boats, adding its own character to the lake. To the east, settlement edges abut pastoral fields and patches of woodland. Towards the south of the lake, the surrounding low fells provide a strong sense of enclosure and contribute to the small-scale and relatively intimate landscape pattern.

The area has a very strong association with the Picturesque movement and several literary associations, including 20th century writer, Arthur Ransome.

The area has a predominantly strong sense of tranquillity on the western shores of the lake. The tranquillity is due to the perceived naturalness of the landscape and the relative absence of dwellings and settlements and slow moving boats. Tranquility is more disturbed on the eastern shores of Lake Windermere, around Bowness/ Windermere town, Ferry Nab and the Lakeside Piers and the A590 and A592, as they introduce traffic noise and sources of artificial noise and light at night, which is heightened in the peak tourist season.

'The wind blew away the clouds and the stars shone out high over Swallows ... The deep blue of the sky began to pale over the eastern hills. The islands clustered ... became dark masses on a background no longer as dark as themselves. The colour of the water changes. It had been as black as the hills and the sky, and as these paled so did the lake. The dark islands were dull green and grey, and the rippled water was the colour of a pewter teapot.'

Swallows and Amazons Ch.21, Arthur Ransome

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Exotic planting and parkland and distinctive Victorian villas and mansions along the lakeshore, which contributes to recognisable sense of place;
- Extensive areas of semi-natural woodland sensitive to changes in management;

AREA 49: LOWER WINDERMERE

- Open views across Lake Windermere, which are vulnerable to interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments with an intermediate sensitivity to cumulative impacts of vertical development ¹⁰⁰;
- Strong sense of enclosure provided by woodland;
- Strong sense of tranquillity on the western shore and at distance from the A590 and A592;
- Small-scale and intimate landscape pattern, which is vulnerable to the introduction of large-scale elements or loss of existing landscape features;
- Water quality, mires and lake edges; and
- Existing character of the main settlements sensitive to new or large scale development which does not reflect local vernacular and Victorian character.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Climate change changing the temperature of the lakes, increasing eutrophication, and increasing water levels due to increased storm events and rainfall;
- Redevelopment and enlargement of villas and mansions, boathouses and jetties on the lakeshores;
- Expansion of leisure development at Lakeside, Newby Bridge and Fell Foot in quieter areas of the Lake;
- Continued pressure for access to water for recreational pursuits creating pollution and loss of tranquillity;
- Communication developments leading to increased visual clutter from mobile phone and radio mast; and
- Changes in fashion for garden design leading to introduction of new elements such as decking along eastern shores of the lake

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

¹⁰⁰ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

AREA 49: LOWER WINDERMERE

Physical Character

- **Encourage** sustainable management of broadleaved woodland, maintaining continuous cover.

Ecological Character

- **Restore** water quality, mires and lake edge habitats.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** exotic and parkland planting and villas and mansions along the lakeshore, which contributes to recognisable sense of place;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** distinctive Victorian features of settlements such as decorative white barge boarding and high quality slate detailing; and
- **Ensure** lakeside developments such as boathouses, jetties etc reflect Victorian and local vernacular styles and scale.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Maintain** open views across Lake Windermere;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** strong sense of enclosure provided by broadleaved semi-natural woodland;
- **Maintain** relatively strong sense of tranquillity at distance from the A590 and A592 road corridors;
- **Mitigate** landscape impact of any new communications infrastructure;
- **Encourage** restoration of designed grounds and parkland associated with lakeside houses, including succession planting of trees; and
- **Retain** small-scale and intimate landscape pattern.

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0 1 2 km
 Scale: 1:100,000

□ Lake District National Park boundary
 ■ ADC 49 - Lower Windermere

AREA 50: CROOK

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated to the east of Windermere and sits mostly within the Low Fell (K) Landscape Character Type. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Windermere](#).

Relevant Landscape Character Types:

- [Upland Valley](#) (H);
- [High Fell Fringe](#) (J)
- [Low Fell](#) (K); and
- [Lowland Valley](#) (M).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Small-scale, intimate hummocky rural landscape, consisting of a small-scale patchwork of pastoral fields, punctuated by pockets of woodland and plantations, crossed by myriad narrow lanes, connecting small villages, hamlets and scattered farms;
- Distinctive rocky outcrops and clumps of trees within fields are a defining landscape feature;
- A very peaceful landscape, with a strong sense of tranquillity at distance from the A5074 and A591;
- Hedges and walls lining roads often limit views across the landscape from the roads, but good viewpoints over the area can be reached by climbing up the small rocky outcrops;
- Recognisable sense of place is provided by views to higher areas from places such as Lord's Lot; and
- Predominantly a highly tranquil area.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This area is characterised by an interesting, hummocky small-scale patchwork of pastoral farmland. Frequent rocky outcrops hint at the underlying geology throughout the area. The hummocky nature of the area disappears, replaced by more gently sloping pastoral land as the broad valley near Windermere is approached in the north-east of the area.

with

The farmland is predominantly pasture in inbye and recently enclosed field,

AREA 50: CROOK

bounded by a mix of hedgerows – mainly hawthorn with mature trees – and dry stone walls, curving over the low fells. is interspersed with small woods, clumps of trees, and a scattering of traditional stone farmsteads. Patches of heather moorland and raised mires punctuate the pastoral farmland, bringing variety to the landscape, with gorse providing vibrant splashes of colour amidst the low fell vegetation.

The nature of the topography combined with the land cover creates a highly intimate landscape where the views can be limited by roadside hedges, or can be open and framed by clumps of woodland. From higher areas, for example Lord's Lot, panoramic views across the surrounding landscape can be gained.

This gently rolling landscape is served by myriad narrow lanes lined by hedgerows and walls, connecting the scattering of small villages, hamlets and farms.

Crosthwaite, Crook and Winster are the main villages. Crosthwaite has a spread of farms and cottages sited in undulating pasture along an old turnpike road between Kendal and Furness. Winster has many whitewashed houses along the road, with some historically important buildings, such as the 17th century Old Post Office, and nearby Birket House and Winster House.

There is a strong overall sense of tranquillity, particularly in the centre of the area, which is due to the relative absence of dwellings and settlements and minimal sources of artificial noise. The sense of tranquillity is disturbed locally adjacent to the town of Windermere and the traffic on the busy road corridors of the A5074 and the A591.

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Overall strong sense of tranquillity and peaceful character throughout the area (at distance from the A5074 and A591 road corridors);
- Hedgerows and dry stone walls lining lanes, which are vulnerable to changes in landscape management or agricultural practices;
- Patches of woodland and clumps of trees are sensitive to lack of management;
- Small-scale settlement pattern and intimate landscape pattern; and
- Panoramic views across the surrounding landscape from Lord's Lot and rocky knolls, which are vulnerable to interruption from tall vertical or large-scale developments with an intermediate sensitivity to cumulative impacts of vertical development.¹⁰¹

Forces for Change

The Forces for Change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within

¹⁰¹ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** small broadleaved woodlands, clumps of trees, gorse and scrub,
- **Encourage** control of grazing to ensure regeneration.

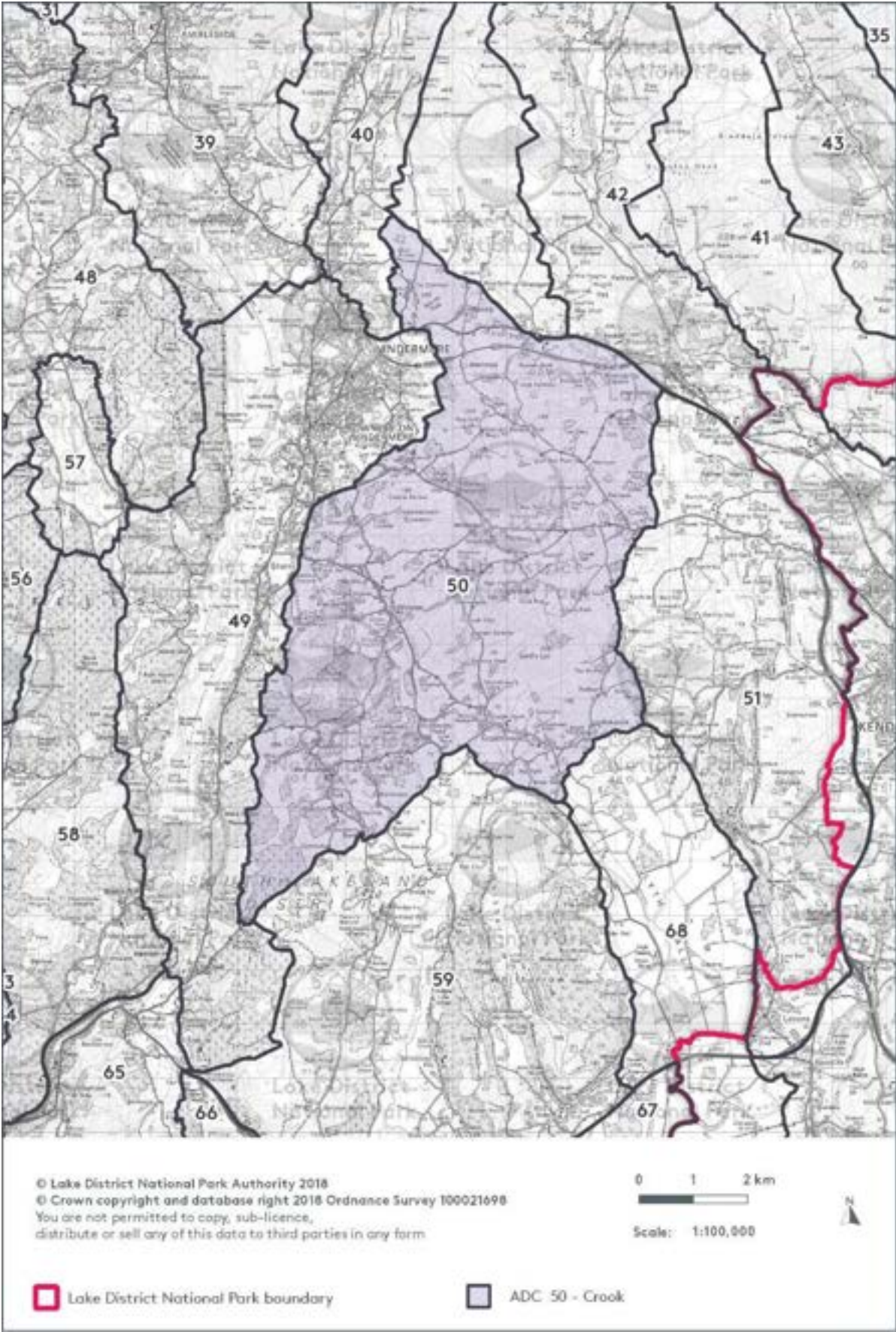
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** hedgerows and walls lining lanes; and
- **Retain** small-scale settlement pattern and landscape pattern

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Maintain** overall strong sense of tranquillity and peaceful character throughout the area (at distance from the A5074 and A591 road corridors); and
- **Protect** uncluttered panoramic views across the surrounding landscape from Lord's Lot and smaller rocky outcrops from tall vertical or large-scale developments.

AREA 50: CROOK



AREA 51: CUNSWICK & SCOUT SCAR

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character is located in the east of the National Park. The ADC extends beyond the Park boundary and forms part of its setting. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Windermere](#).

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4):

- [Coastal Limestone](#) (C); and
- [Low Fell](#) (K).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Flower-rich limestone grassland with scattered juniper, gorse and hawthorn;
- Open fell tops with 360 degree views;
- Small-scale open, gently rolling low fell and farmland landscape, with a patchwork of pastoral farmland alternating with woodland clumps;
- Patchwork of limestone dry stone walls and hedgerows delineating field patterns;
- Distinct west-facing line of steep, wooded limestone scarps;
- Gentle hilly topography of drumlins allows far-reaching views of the surrounding low fells from several locations;
- Heavily used recreational open access land for quiet pursuits;
- 'Mushroom' shelter/viewpoint 360 degree panoramic views at Scout Scar – Lake District, Yorkshire Dales (including Inglebrough), Kent Estuary and Morecambe Bay;
- Radio and mobile phone mast dominance above Cunswick Scar quarry car park; and
- Predominantly a tranquil and peaceful area away from the A5074 and A591.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

There is a long tradition of farming in this area. Pastoral farmland dominates land cover in the area, with medium-scale inbye and recently enclosed fields generally delineated by hedges and occasional limestone dry stone walls. The fields are interspersed with small clumps of predominantly broadleaved woodland and small pockets of coniferous plantation that frame views throughout and add texture to the

AREA 51: CUNSWICK & SCOUT SCAR

landscape. The rolling nature of the topography creates a sense of openness in places, with open views from the tops of limestone ridges across the area to wooded low fell beyond and across the coast to the south, and an intimate feeling in hollows and woodlands.

The area is unified by the prominent north to south limestone ridge running parallel to Whitbarrow, and ending in Sizergh Fell. Scout, Cunswick and Burnbarrow scars together provide a very distinctive west-facing, mostly wooded (ancient semi-natural woodland) classic limestone scarp face. There are probable Bronze Age burial cairns on Cunswick and Scout Scars.

These rocky outcrops, strong reminders of the underlying geology of the area, provide light-grey patches of strong contrast amidst the rolling green of the pastoral farmland. In the south the character of the landscape changes, becoming more rugged and textured, with woodland and heathland dominating character. Extensive panoramic views in all directions can be obtained from the limestone ridge.

Settlement pattern is sparse, and consists of occasional limestone vernacular farm buildings, including Cunswick Hall which retains some early 16th century rubble walling, and the small villages of Underbarrow, and Brigsteer which nestle below the limestone ridge. Sizergh Castle and Estate are a notable designed landscape to the south.

Tranquillity throughout the area is strong. To the west the area has a strong sense of tranquillity due to the relative absence of large settlements, main roads or sources of artificial noise. In contrast the sense of tranquillity in the east is disturbed primarily by the traffic noise on the A591 and the visual presence of the urban edge of Kendal.

'I knew mountains long before I knew pictures: and these mountains of yours, before any other mountains. From this town of Kendal, I went out, a child, to the first joyful excursions among the Cumberland lakes, which formed my love of landscape and of painting.'

Ruskin, 1877

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Extensive stands of ancient semi-natural woodland along limestone scarp faces;
- Small clumps of woodland which frame views and provide a sense of enclosure;
- Patterns of limestone walls and hedges which are vulnerable to changes in agricultural practice
- Open views across the area in all directions, including the coast to the south, which are vulnerable to interruption by tall vertical or large-scale built

AREA 51: CUNSWICK & SCOUT SCAR

developments with a significant sensitivity to cumulative impacts of vertical development ¹⁰²; and

- Sparse settlement pattern, which is sensitive to the introduction of buildings that do not respect existing settlement scale character and local vernacular building materials.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Pressure for further masts and wind farms cluttering the current openness and harming wider views to the fells, estuaries/coast and interrupting skylines

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** extensive ancient semi-natural woodland along scarp face of limestone ridge.

Ecological Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** rich limestone grassland with juniper, gorse and hawthorn scrub.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Retain** sparse settlement pattern;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** limestone walls and hedges; and
- **Conserve** and **enhance** distinctive limestone vernacular styles and **encourage** the use of local vernacular building materials.

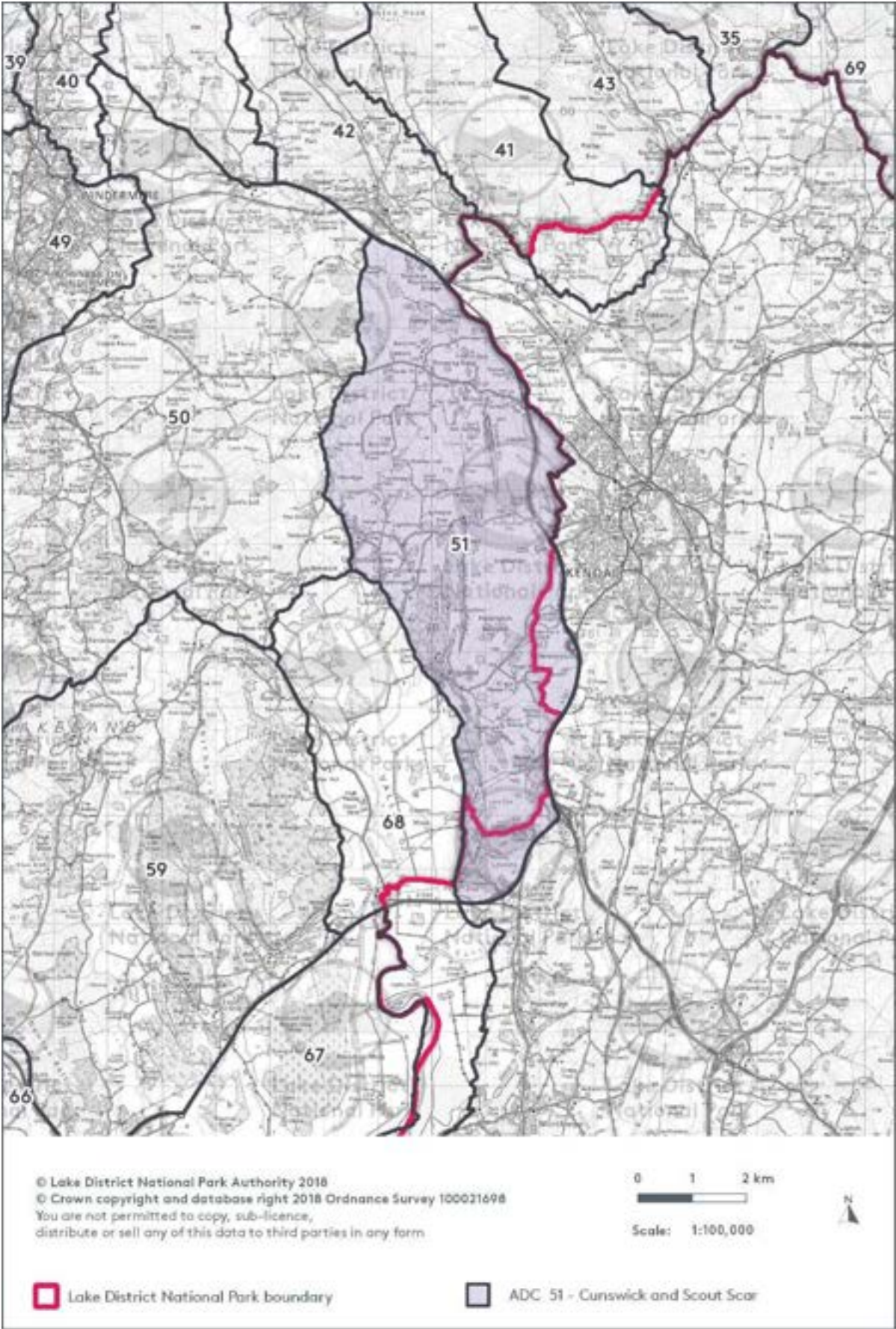
¹⁰² Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

AREA 51: CUNSWICK & SCOUT SCAR

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Retain** small clumps of woodland on lower ground which frame views and provide a sense of enclosure; and
- **Protect** open views across the area towards wooded low fell beyond and the coast to the south from tall vertical or large-scale developments.

AREA 51: CUNSWICK & SCOUT SCAR



AREA 52: RAVENGLASS & BOOTLE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

The Ravenglass and Bootle Area of Distinctive Character forms part of the coastal strip in the south west of the National Park. It is in World Heritage Site Valleys: [Eskdale](#) and [Duddon](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character types (see Section

- [Estuary and Marsh](#) (A);
- [Coastal Margins](#) (B);
- [Lowland](#) (D);
- [Coastal Sandstone](#) (E); and
- [High Fell Fringe](#) (J).

Distinctive Characteristics

- An open coastline with sand and shingle, sandy beaches and dunes, with the underlying geology occasionally showing in the form of low sandstone cliffs;
- Rising High Fells of Black Combe and Muncaster Fell) provide a dramatic backdrop and contribute to a strong sense of place and enclosure;
- Narrow coastal plain contrasts sharply with the imposing bulk of the west face of Black Combe.
- The Ravenglass estuary with intertidal mudflats and saltmarsh framed by extensive sand dunes;
- Flat to gently undulating and sloping coastal landscape, which falls from east to west towards the sea;
- Predominantly pastoral farmland where the generally regular fields are divided by a mixture of hedgerows, dry stone walls, kests and wire fences;
- Kests (stone and turf walls) built using rounded river cobbles embedded in alternating layers of turf;
- Ravenglass, the only coastal settlement in the Lake District, has a very special character, at the estuary of the Rivers Esk, Mite and Irt;
- The village was formerly a busy port and market centre dating to the Roman times. Its continuous frontage of mainly rendered buildings of the 18th and 19th centuries, facing a broad main street, fossilises the medieval street layout. Viewed

AREA 52: RAVENGLASS & BOOTLE

from the shore, the village grows out of the granite and red sandstone robust sea wall

- Vast, expansive seascape to the west;
- Predominantly open landscape, with open views northwards along the coastline and out to sea. Landmark features within the view include Sellafield power station (to the north) and the windfarm (south of Silecroft) and Eskmeals firing range;
- Several narrow, single-track lanes connect the area with beaches to the west;
- Sense of tranquillity within the area varies, dependent on proximity to the hustle and bustle of Ravenglass and the Sellafield power station; and
- Predominantly a tranquil area away from the A595 due to the openness and perception of naturalness of the coast along with the relative absence of dwellings and settlements and sources of artificial noise.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The flat to gently undulating topography of this area of coastal plain, with its regular network of pastoral (predominantly dairy) fields, which are divided by a mixture of hedgerows, dry stone walls, kests (walls built using rounded river cobbles embedded in alternating layers of turf) and wire fences, provides stark contrast with the vast expansive open seascape to the west and the dramatic rising High Fells to the east. Strip fields can be seen outside Ravenglass. Most of the plain is inbye.

The coastline is largely flat and open, with mudflats, salt marsh, sand and shingle, sandy beaches and dunes, with the underlying geology occasionally showing in the form of low sandstone cliffs. The Ravenglass estuary is framed by extensive sand dunes.

Looking westwards, extensive long-distance sea views to an uncluttered, never-ending horizon creates a strong sense of openness and continuity. In contrast, looking eastwards, the dramatic backdrop of the vast form of Black Combe to the south and adjacent high fells to the north, provides a strong sense of containment.

Throughout the landscape, there is an overall sense of uniformity and harmony, with coherence provided by the constancy of open views across the farmland, and the sea to the west. The nature of the topography allows long distance views in all directions, with Sellafield Power Station a distinctive landmark in views to the north. In views to the south, the wind farm to the south of Silecroft and Kirksanton draws the eye.

There are a few manmade features that form discordant linear features in the area, including the railway line and pylon line. Settlement pattern is generally sparse and isolated, consisting of a handful of villages (including Bootle and Ravenglass, and a scattering of farmsteads and houses. As with the stone walls and kests, the more vernacular buildings use rounded cobbles, whilst the late Victorian farms, houses and railway buildings have a solid formality with the more precise stonework and widespread use of dressed St. Bees red sandstone.

Ravenglass, the only coastal settlement in the Lake District, is today primarily a cul-de-sac main street, although once the main coastal route to the south.. It has a unique atmosphere, a strong sense of history and a powerful relationship with the estuary and the sea. The narrow gauge railway starts here, built in 1875 to serve iron ore

AREA 52: RAVENGLASS & BOOTLE

activities in the Eskdale Valley. The medieval street pattern survives today. Houses and terraces of the 18th to 19th century, are generally rendered for weather protection in this very exposed position. A few late 19th century neat estate houses with sandstone dressings and blue woodwork illustrate the close links between Muncaster Castle and the village. Just outside the village is the remains of the Roman fort, Glannaventa, and its civilian settlement. It contains Walls Bath House, the best preserved Roman building in North West England.

Parts of Muncaster Castle, which evolved from a Pele tower, are thought to be approximately 800 years old. The site is thought to have Roman origins, with an important defensive location on a shelf high above the valley below.

At its western edge, this landscape is dynamic and constantly changing with the ebb and flow of the tides. The nature and character of the foreshore varies depending on tide levels. Large areas of lichen-rich dune grassland and dune heath frame estuarine habitats including intertidal mud and saltmarsh with sand and pebble beaches on the open coast with areas of honeycombe worm reef. The area is also a stronghold for the natterjack toad with their evocative calls, especially the Drigg Coast SSSI.

The area has a strong sense of tranquillity due to the openness and perception of naturalness of the coast along with the relative absence of dwellings and settlements and sources of artificial noise. The sense of tranquillity is locally disturbed around the A595 due to traffic noise on this busy coastal road. In addition, the west coast railway runs through the area, with occasional trains causing short term disturbance to the tranquillity locally. The pylon line creates visual intrusion throughout the area, which is added to by Sellafeld and wind turbines at the northern and southern edges.

'The journey up Eskdale, from Ravenglass to Boot, is by a miniature railway, with the oddest little engine and a carriage or two of primitive simplicity. At each station on the upward winding track – stations represented only by a little wooden shed like a tool-house – the guard jumps down and acts as booking-clerk, if passengers there be desirous of booking. In a few miles the scenery changes from beauty to grandeur, and at the terminus no further steaming would be possible, for the great flank of Scawfell bars the way.'

The Odd Women, George Gissing, 1893

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Open views towards the rising High Fells of Black Combe;
- Open views across a vast, expansive seascape to the west;
- Strong sense of openness throughout;
- Strong sense of unity and harmony;
- Strong sense of tranquillity away from the A595;

AREA 52: RAVENGLASS & BOOTLE

- Patchwork of walls, hedges and kests sensitive to changes in agricultural practice; and
- Wide range of coastal habitats sensitive to disturbance and inappropriate development; and
- Open views are vulnerable to interruption by tall vertical or large-scale built developments with a greatly significant sensitivity to cumulative impacts of vertical development.¹⁰³

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Rise in sea levels altering the shoreline, tidal flows and potentially inundating significant habitats;
- Increase in storm events changing the pattern and spread of habitats and altering the character of the landscape (e.g. through erosion of saltmarsh);
- Pressure to develop land leading to increasing amounts of engineered features such flood defence, drainage works and raising of levels, all of which detract from the flat, open and wild characteristics; and
- Increase in development around Sellafield, including power lines leading north and south from it, and other similar industrial complexes, resulting in visually intrusive buildings in open landscape.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Ensure** shoreline management measures respect the natural, undeveloped character of the coastline:
- **Seek** to remove unnecessary vertical elements, such as pylons if opportunities allow this.
- **Support** appropriate natural flood management options that retain the sense of place

¹⁰³ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

Ecological Character

- **Conserve and enhance** wide range of coastal habitats,
- **Prevent** coastal squeeze where appropriate, by encouraging managed retreat in areas potentially affected by sea level rise.

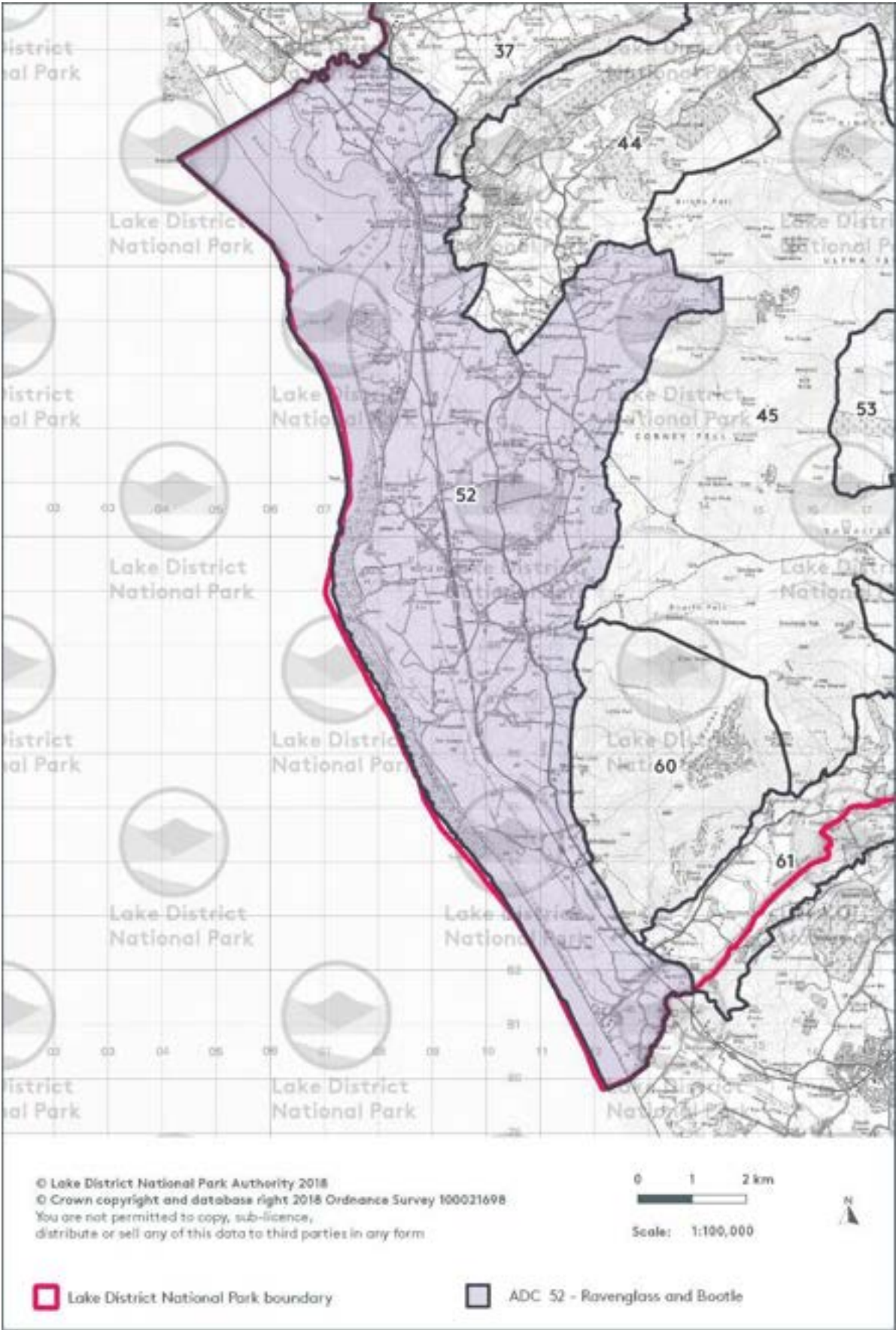
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve and enhance** hedgerows, stone walls and kests at field boundaries; and
- **Conserve and enhance** locally distinctive vernacular building features, including distinctive villages, scattered farms and granite estate cottages associated with Muncaster Castle Estate.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Retain** open uncluttered views throughout the area, and in particular towards rising High Fells (Black Combe) which provide a dramatic backdrop, and across a vast, expansive seascape to the west;
- **Retain** strong sense of openness throughout; and
- **Maintain** overall sense of unity, harmony and sense of tranquillity.

AREA 52: RAVENGLASS & BOOTLE



AREA 53: LOWER DUNNERDALE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the south of the Lake District National Park and encompasses the lower reaches of the River Duddon. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Duddon](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section

- [Rugged Craggy Volcanic High Fell](#) (F); and
- [Upland Valley](#) (H).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Varied character, encompassing an intricate patchwork of habitats with extensive woodland, pasture, meadows and farmland following the course of the River Duddon;
- Scattered settlement pattern including small historic settlement of Seathwaite and numerous isolated farmsteads, many at high altitude, some being abandoned;
- Extensive areas of woodland (mainly deciduous ancient semi-natural woodland, with some conifer content and some small conifer blocks) clothe the western valley sides, following the course of the gently meandering River Duddon with local concentrations of wild daffodil in spring;
- Strong sense of enclosure provided by surrounding fells;
- Vast expanses of woodland within Ulpha Park and Rainsbarrow provide a strong sense of enclosure and are recognisable landscape features;
- Deeply incised, intimate-scale, enclosed wooded gorge to the north of High Wallowbarrow;
- Distinctive, sinuous field patterns, delineated by stone walls, often at high altitudes on the fell sides;
- Pattern of prehistoric cairn fields, ring boundaries, hut circles and field systems on Thwaites Fell;
- Strong connectivity of habitats, particularly woodland;
- Strong sense of isolation, wildness and tranquillity throughout the valley;
- Large intake fields on plateau above woodland ridge;

AREA 53: LOWER DUNNERDALE

- Heather on High Wallowbarrow Crag, which is a popular climbing location; and
- Predominantly a very tranquil area due to the perception of openness and naturalness of the valley as result of the relative absence of settlement or dwellings.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This area has an intricate patchwork of habitats with extensive woodlands (the broadleaved, ancient semi-natural woods locally carpeted with wild daffodils in spring) particularly on the western valley sides, herb-rich meadows, wetlands and pastoral farmland that all (contributes to a complex distinctive landscape pattern, with good connectivity between habitats.

The fell sides are dominated by patches of scattered scrub and developing birch woodland, particularly on ex-industrial areas, which contributes distinctive winter purple stem colour and autumn yellow tones to the complex colour patterns.

There is a recognisable sense of place provided by the imposing High Fells forming the valley sides and providing a strong sense of enclosure. .

There is a distinctive historic field pattern of inbye along the valley bottom with a strong pattern of intake high up the fell sides, delineated by traditional stone walls of differing patterns.

There is a scattered settlement pattern, including the small historic settlement of Seathwaite and numerous isolated farmsteads, many at high altitude, some being abandoned. Historic settlement patterns in the area are suggested by the pattern of prehistoric cairn fields, ring boundaries, hut circles and field systems on Thwaites Fell.

Contained within a narrow corridor for much of its length, Dunnerdale opens up at its southern end, to meet the course of the River Lickle to the east, and form the Duddon Estuary. The southern half of the valley encompasses a landscape of contrasts, as pastoral (sheep) farming gives way to an intimate network of tidal habitats lining the Duddon Estuary. At this point, wider, more open views southwards to expanses of sea and sky can be gained.

A strong sense of relative isolation, wildness and tranquillity is apparent throughout this character area as a result of the generally sparse settlement pattern and absence of major roads.

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Intricate patchwork of woodland, pasture, and meadows which contribute to recognisable landscape pattern;

AREA 53: LOWER DUNNERDALE

- Patches of mainly deciduous ancient semi-natural woodland, which provide a sense of enclosure;
- Strong sense of isolation and tranquillity throughout;
- Distinctive field patterns, resulting from a network of various styles of stone walls and hedgerows, which is vulnerable to changes in landscape management;
- Open views towards the sea and High Fells, which are vulnerable to interruption;
- Intermediate sensitivity to the cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure;¹⁰⁴ and
- General lack of development and a strong sense of community.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Pressure for infrastructure development such as water treatment and road improvements: and
- Increased storm events and rainfall could impact on the character of the river corridor and valley sides.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Protect** water within the River Duddon and catchment from point source and diffuse pollution; and

Ensure any flood management features are sympathetic to the natural character of the area.

Ecological Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** intricate patchwork of woodland, scrub, pasture and meadows which contribute to recognisable landscape pattern and **encourage** habitat linkage;

¹⁰⁴ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

AREA 53: LOWER DUNNERDALE

- **Conserve** and **enhance** extensive broadleaved semi-natural woodlands and manage appropriately for important species occurring locally including the dormouse and wild daffodil; and
- **Conserve** and **enhance** coastal habitats, **prevent** coastal squeeze where appropriate, by encouraging managed retreat in areas potentially affected by sea level rise.

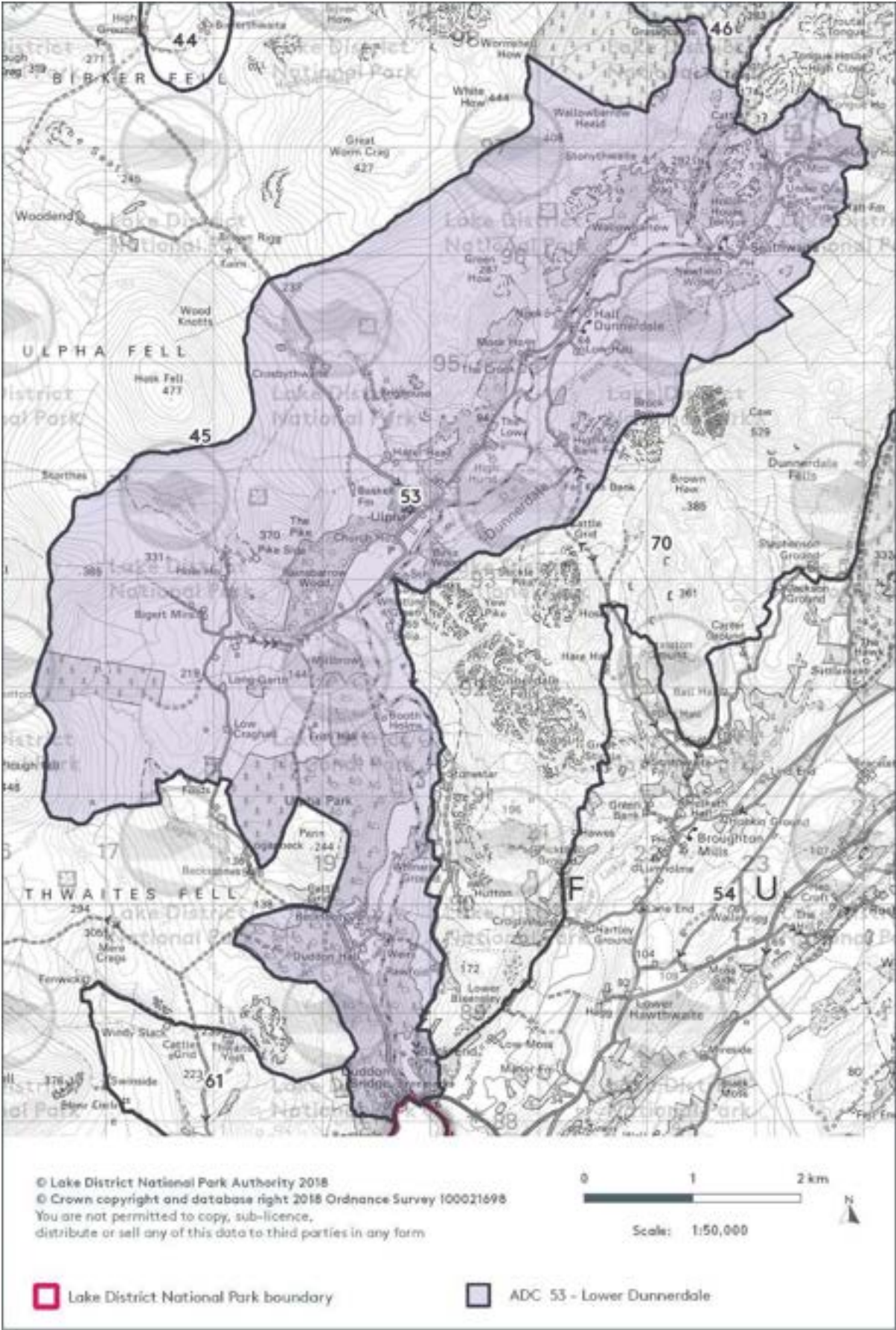
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** distinctive field patterns, resulting from a network of stone walls and hedgerows;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** locally distinctive vernacular building features, including distinctive villages, scattered farms; and
- **Protect** archaeological sites.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Maintain** strong sense of isolation, wildness and tranquillity throughout; and
- **Protect** open views to and from the area from tall vertical or large-scale developments.

AREA 53: LOWER DUNNERDALE



AREA 54: BROUGHTON & TORVER

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the south west of the Lake District National Park, to the west of Coniston Water and east of Dunnerdale. The ADC extends beyond the Park boundary and forms part of its setting. It is in World Heritage Site Valleys: [Coniston](#) and [Duddon](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section

- [Coastal Margins](#) (B);
- [Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell](#) (F); and
- [Low Fell](#) (K).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Ridge and hummocky topography which encompasses a network of pastoral fields with rocky knolls delineated by hedgerows and slate stone walls;
- Frequent small patches of deciduous woodland with generally soft edges, frame surrounding fields;
- Strong sense of enclosure on lower-lying ground, contrasting with wide views from rocky knolls towards Torver Low Common;
- Views generally limited to short distances as a result of the surrounding higher landscapes and patches of woodland;
- Single, mature infield and boundary trees, mainly oak and ash, are a feature;
- Area of lowland raised mire at Heathwaite Moss and fossilized rocks at Ashgill Quarry;
- At the centre of Broughton in Furness is a unique mid 18th century formally laid out Market Square, with its Town Hall, tall merchant's houses and central obelisk. Most of the town is rendered and has a very strong visual coherence;
- Broughton Tower, immediately north of the Market Square;
- Good examples of rugged limewashed farmhouses, with large bank barns and outbuildings in grey slates and mudstones, are scattered over the area;
- Tranquillity is locally disturbed along the road corridors of the A593 and A5084;

AREA 54: BROUGHTON & TORVER

- Predominantly a tranquil area due to openness and perception of naturalness of the landscape well the relative absence of settlements and sources of artificial noise; and
- Large area of coniferous plantation at Broughton Moor.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This Area of Distinctive Character is sandwiched between the hummocky, roughly textured landscape of Torver Low Common and Woodland Fell (Low Furness Fells) to the south east and the higher, Dunnerdale Fells to the north-west. This contributes to recognisable sense of place, but also to a strong sense of enclosure throughout the area. The ridged and hummocky topography results in an intimate mix of enclosed areas punctuated by rocky knolls allowing distant views of the surrounding fells.

Belts of linear broadleaved woodland, with predominantly soft edges, punctuate the network of rolling semi-improved inbye pasture fields. Field boundaries are delineated by a combination of mature hedgerows and traditional stone walls. Single mature infield trees are also a feature with areas of mature parkland associated with Broughton Towers and other larger houses in the area. On the higher ground large, fields are larger in scale or lacking and areas of bracken with some small trees provide a contrast with the semi-improved grassland.

In addition to the corridor of the A593 main road, a number of steep, minor roads snake across the landscape, with many scenic viewpoints. Sinuous beck and narrow stream corridors are also a feature.

Settlement pattern consists of a number of isolated traditional vernacular stone farmsteads and small, nucleated hamlets, such as Broughton Mills. Broughton Mills is a small hamlet set within quiet, hidden countryside at the bridging point over the River Lickle. In the past Broughton Mills was important for water-powered industries and including corn mills, a saw mill, a limekiln and potash kilns.

The southern boundary of the area is dominated by the small planned Georgian town of Broughton in Furness, with its formal Market Square laid out by the Lord of the Manor in 1760, surrounded by tall, simple Georgian terrace houses with frontages of painted render. The arrival of the railway in 1850 has left its mark, with the Victorian architecture of grey slate and sandstone detailing. Broughton House is a notable building. Broughton Tower up above the town to the north east was originally a 14th century pele tower which the Gilpin Sawreys rebuilt in 1744. It was further altered in the Gothic style in the late 18th century and is set within fine landscaped grounds with ha-ha, and designed historic parkland. Broughton in Furness is the location for the most important Herdwick market in the Lake District.

To the north, Torver contains some traditional farmsteads, but the main character of the village dates from the arrival of the railway in 1859, which led to the development of local slate quarries and various woodland crafts and industries.

On Broughton Moor, a slate quarry still works, and there is a large area of forestry plantation to the northwest of the area, which is locally dominant. Heathwaite Moss is an area of lowland raised mire colonised by woodland around the fringes and provides contrasts in colour and texture with the surrounding pasture. Geological interest is strong at Ashgill Quarry with its important sequence of fossils.

AREA 54: BROUGHTON & TORVER

There is a strong sense that this area forms part of a transitional landscape from higher fells to the north- west to lower fells and Coniston Water to the south-east. The area has a predominantly strong sense of tranquillity due to openness and perception of naturalness of the landscape. In addition, there is a relative absence of settlements and sources of artificial noise. An exception to this is the A593 to the south near Broughton in Furness where the sense of tranquillity is disturbed by the traffic noise and the increased presence of settlements.

'observe[d] from Torva thro' Coniston the force of imitation in the Gardens & sweet Porches, & every where clipped yews, in obelisks, & fine arches ...'

Coleridge, 1802

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Frequent small patches of deciduous woodland which contribute to a sense of enclosure;
- Views towards Dunnerdale Fells, which contribute to recognisable sense of place;
- Mature hedgerows and stone walls which are vulnerable to changes in landscape management or agricultural practices;
- Water within the sinuous becks and stream corridors, that is sensitive to pollution;
- Mature open-grown trees vulnerable to changes in agricultural management;
- Parkland features in the south of the area vulnerable to changes in agricultural practice;
- Strong agricultural vernacular of small farmsteads vulnerable to inappropriate development;
- Areas of lowland valley mire vulnerable to drainage and natural succession;
- Distinctive Georgian architecture of Broughton in Furness sensitive to change, which does not respect its distinctive features; and
- Intermediate sensitivity to the cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure.¹⁰⁵

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

¹⁰⁵ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

AREA 54: BROUGHTON & TORVER

- Increased storm events and rainfall could impact on the character of the river corridor and valley sides.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic *guidelines for managing landscape change* set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Protect** water within the sinuous becks and stream corridors from point source and diffuse pollution; and
- Ensure any flood management features are sympathetic to the natural character of the area.

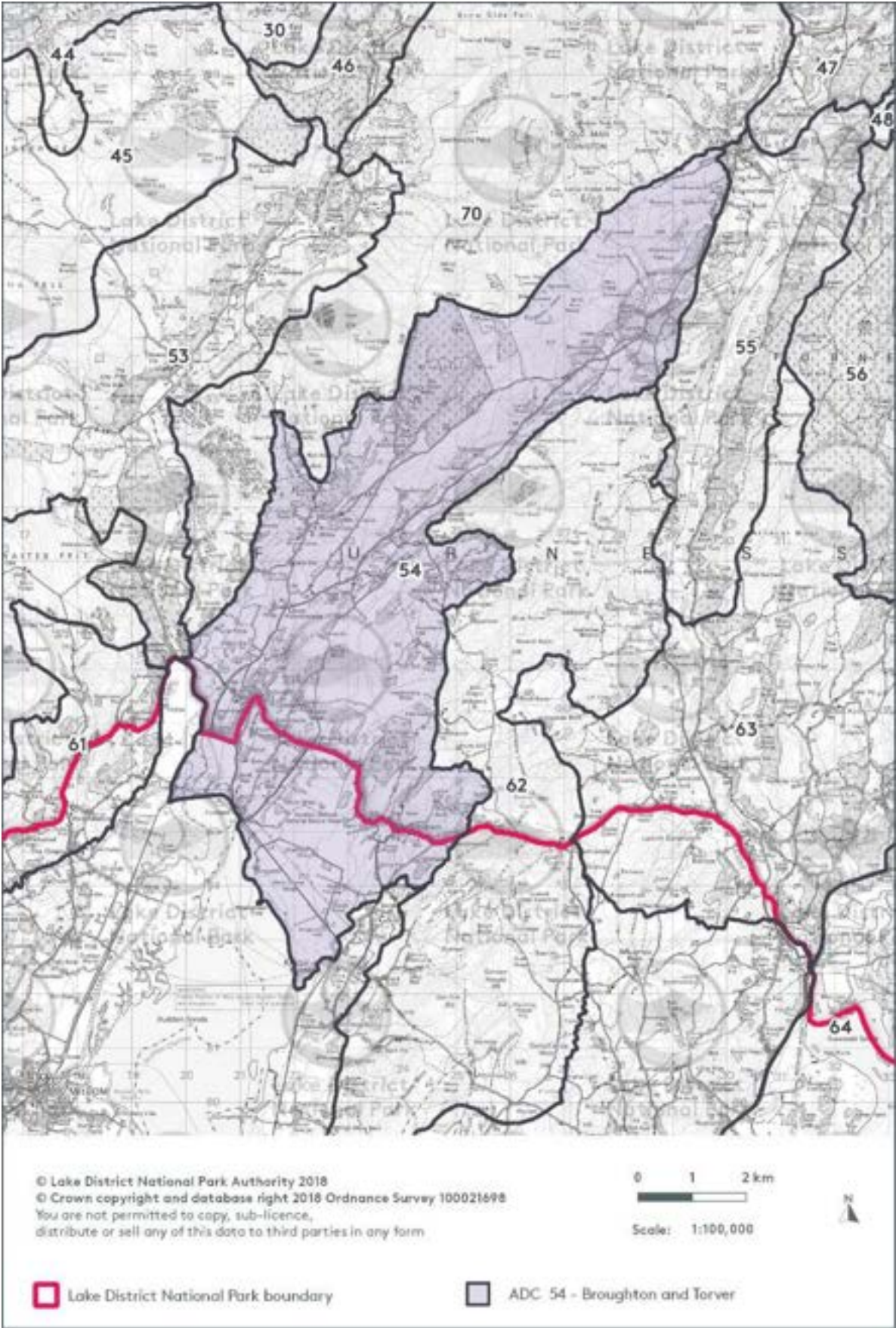
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** mature hedgerows and vernacular stone walls;
- **Conserve** and **replace** infield and boundary trees;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** areas of parkland, **encourage** succession planning for key features; and
- **Encourage** development as appropriate which respects or strengthens local character with good quality design and sensitivity to its environs.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** frequent small patches of deciduous woodland which contribute to a sense of enclosure; and
- **Maintain** views towards Dunnerdale Fells, which contribute to recognisable sense of place.

AREA 54: BROUGHTON & TORVER



AREA 55: CONISTON WATER

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated to the west of Lake Windermere, Hawkeshead and Grizedale Forest. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Coniston](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4)

- [Low Fell](#) (K); and
- [Lowland Valley](#) (M)

Distinctive Characteristics

- Strong sense of enclosure provided by surrounding Low Fell (which are densely wooded along the eastern shore) and the Old Man of Coniston to the west;
- Sense of tranquillity, enclosure and intimacy on the lake, with spectacular views to dramatic surrounding fells. Boats play an important part in the composition of the landscape;
- Generally muted landscape with a coherent colour composition of greens, greys and blues with extensive broadleaved woodlands contributing seasonal colour;
- Coniston village and lake are inextricably linked, visually, historically, economically and through present tourist activities. The village sits comfortably within the landscape and viewed from the Brantwood area, the superb combination of lake, village and fells is probably unsurpassed in the Lake District;
- Coniston, a large village with its industrial history of slate quarrying, copper mining, railway and tourism strongly reflected in its grey and green slate houses, terraces, hotels and public buildings, giving a unified appearance;
- Coniston Old Hall standing proudly on the lake shore;
- Designed estate landscape associated with the 18th and 19th century Monk Coniston Estate at the northern end of the lake including the wider landscape and Tarn Hows and Brantwood Estate to the east;
- Historic and cultural links with Ruskin (whose house and garden at Brantwood, overlooks the Lake), Arthur Ransome and Donald Campbell and his attempts on the world water-speed record; and
- Predominantly a tranquil area away from the A5084 due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the valley and the associated Coniston Water.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The character of the valley is dominated by high, rugged fells including Coniston Old Man and Wetherlam in the west, the linear, glacial lake which is Coniston Water running north to south for the greater part of the length of the valley, and the extensive woodlands and forestry plantations on the low fells east of the lake.

Despite the size of Coniston Water, the low fells beyond the eastern and western shores give it a sense of intimacy and enclosure. The extensive ancient semi-natural deciduous woodlands on the fellsides enhance the softness of the landform. The northern part of the lake has spectacular views of the higher fells of Wetherlam and Coniston Old Man, which seems to 'watch over' his lake and village below.

There is limited inbye pasture in the area, mainly in the north east and north west close to the lakeshore. Ancient farms with small irregular fields can still be seen at the head of the lake and there are areas of intake on the slopes approaching the open rough grazing on Torver Common. These contrast with significant woodland along the eastern shore, and the designed landscapes to the north of the lake.

The most distinctive vessel on the lake is the steam yacht 'Gondola', an elegant reminder of Victorian tourism of the Furness railway era. However, the speed limit means that the majority of craft on the lake are sailing boats. Their slowly gliding sails contribute to the lake's strong sense of tranquillity, and also add splashes of white and bright colour into the landscape. The distinctive quality of light in the area often gives a muted appearance to Coniston's landscape colours of greys, greens and blues.

Coniston village nestles between the lake and the fells on the western side of the lake, and fits very comfortably into its landscape setting, especially when viewed from the eastern shore. It grew simultaneously to serve the farming, copper mining and slate quarrying communities. It expanded in the Victorian period with the opening of the railway line. Building displays both vernacular and 'High Victorian' styles. The older buildings in the village are rendered and limewashed, with the more dominant Victorian buildings constructed of locally quarried green and grey slate, making the whole composition blend so well into the landscape.

Important traditional vernacular farms are scattered through the valley, some with distinctive features such as tall round stone chimneys, as at Coniston Old Hall, or open sided galleries (so called 'spinning galleries' found mainly on 17th and 18th century barns) such as can be seen at Yew Tree farm. A particularly striking and rare feature of the area to the north of the village are stretches of stone walls made of large vertically placed stone flags (shard fences), also found in other parts of the lake District.

The northern shore of the lake was part of the Monk Coniston estate, designed in stages first by the Knott family from the late 18th and early 19th centuries and then by the Marshall family from 1836 onwards. Its designed parkland, with mature individual and grouped deciduous trees is still a distinctive feature in the Coniston landscape. The effect of the parkland on the composition of the landscape is particularly striking in views where the soft, designed landscape of the parkland contrasts with the wildness of the fells beyond.

Coniston has a rich cultural history and has inspired a wide range of people and activities. Thomas West identified viewing stations around the lake. John Ruskin, artist, thinker and art critic lived at Brantwood, on the eastern shore of the lake, from 1871 until 1900, and his house and restored garden is now open to the public. Coniston Water, its

AREA 55: CONISTON WATER

surrounding fells, and –perhaps most importantly- Peel Island with its secret harbour, inspired Arthur Ransome to write his 'Swallows and Amazons' stories, and many of the locations in the books can be found around Coniston. Arthur Ransome lived at the southern end of Coniston Water for many years, and sailed on the lake. In 1967 Donald Campbell broke the world water-speed record on Coniston Water in *Bluebird K7*, but crashed and died in the attempt. The wreck of *Bluebird* has recently been lifted from the lake.

The area has a strong sense of tranquillity due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the valley and the associated Coniston Water. The sense of tranquillity is locally disturbed along the A5084 due to the presence of greater numbers of settlements and dwellings and the traffic noise on the busy road.

'Nowt Caps Coniston. 'Coniston is an unusually rich village in its association with famous persons and important industries, not to mention its own crop of colourful characters who have enlivened the village scene over many generations.'

John Dawson, local historian

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Sense of enclosure, intimacy and tranquillity in proximity to the lakeshore;
- Designed estate landscape associated with Monk Coniston Estate and Brantwood;
- Ancient semi-natural woodlands on the fellsides, which contribute to a sense of enclosure;
- Vernacular buildings of slate or white washed stone;
- Water within the Lake, which is vulnerable to diffuse and point source pollution;
- Extensive views to surrounding high fells; and
- Intermediate sensitivity to the cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure.¹⁰⁶

Forces for Change

Forces for Change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

¹⁰⁶ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** mature deciduous ancient semi-natural woodlands on the fellsides; and
- **Protect** water within the Lake from point source and diffuse pollution.

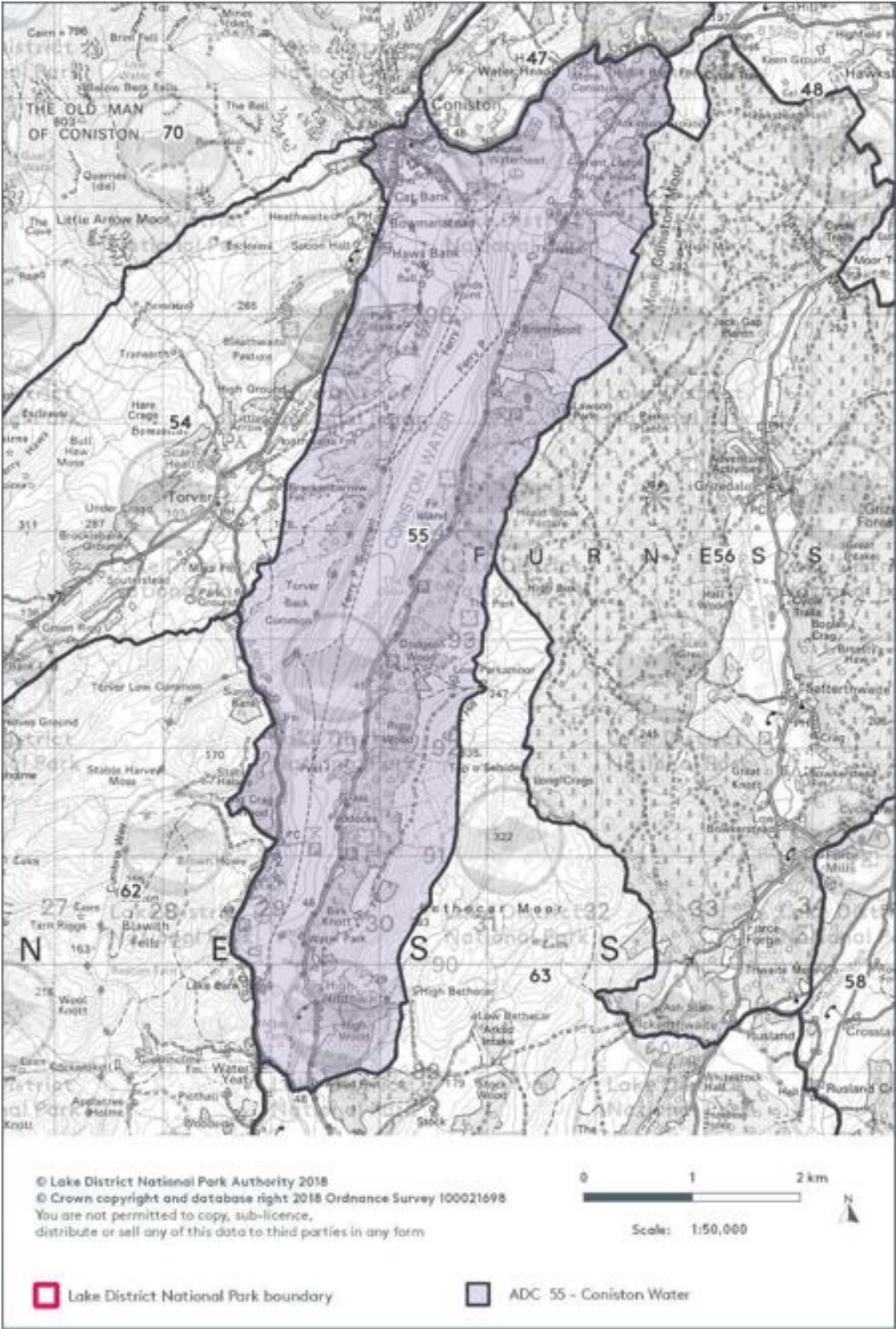
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **restore** the designed estate landscape associated with Monk Coniston Estate and Brantwood;
- **Conserve** and **restore** historic features including boundary features, especially slate flag walls (shard fences);
- **Conserve** and **enhance** vernacular buildings of slate or white washed stone including their locally distinctive features such as open galleries and high round chimneys and Victorian characteristics; and
- **Encourage** new development where deemed appropriate which is appropriately designed and sited and respects or strengthens local character and visual containment of the village of Coniston+.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Retain** sense of enclosure, intimacy and tranquillity in proximity to the lakeshore; and
- **Protect** views from tall vertical or large-scale developments.

AREA 55: CONISTON WATER



AREA 56: GRIZEDALE & SATTERTHWAITE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

Grizedale and Satterthwaite ADC is situated towards the southern edge of the Lake District National Park, between Lake Windermere to the east and Coniston Water to the west. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Coniston](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section

- [Low Fell](#) (K); and
- [Lowland Valley](#) (M).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Vast, dense expanse of mostly coniferous woodland underlain by a generally hummocky and craggy topography with broadleaved woodland remaining in places;
- Strong sense of enclosure and remoteness within the Forest, despite the accessibility of the landscape, which is criss-crossed by a network of pedestrian and cycle trails;
- Narrow course of Grizedale Beck runs through a clearing at the centre of the woodland. Its patchwork of lush pasture fields, divided by stone walls and hedges, provides contrast to the surrounding woodland;
- Different shades of green dominate the visual composition of this landscape;
- Unusual environmental art and sculptures within the forest;
- Forest is dominant landscape feature as the backdrop within views from adjacent Coniston Water and Windermere Lake;
- Clear highest view point in forest Carron Crag poking up through trees;
- Popular area for recreation; and
- Predominantly very tranquil landscape associated with the dense woodland and relative absence of settlements, dwellings and major roads.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

One of the most distinctive features of the Grizedale and Satterthwaite area is the scale of the plantation forestry of the Grizedale Forest, which can only really be appreciated from elevated viewpoints outside and within the forest, such as Carron Crag.

AREA 56: GRIZEDALE & SATTERTHWAITE

From these viewpoints, the dense coniferous forest appears as a swathe of dark green, laid over the low fells. The topography below the forest is uneven, and contains many rocky outcrops.

The valley of the Grizedale beck runs north-south through the centre of the forest. The open valley bottom, with its small pastoral fields, divided by stonewalls and hedges, contrasts strongly with the surrounding forest in terms of colour, texture and openness, and consequently has a very different feel.

Recreation contributes to the character of the forest, which is a hub for cycling, outdoor activities and the arts. Grizedale Forest has a popular visitor centre, galleries and contains a dense network of footpaths, bridleways, and forest tracks which are used for mountain bike trails. Yet, despite the numbers of visitors, the area still feels remote and detached. This is largely due to the dense tree cover, which blocks views out, and creates a strong sense of enclosure.

Within the forest are many examples of sculptures and environmental art. Some are in natural materials, others more artificial. Some large works form focal points in the forest, whilst smaller ones can easily be missed. There are also musical sculptures, and the sounds echo through the valley. The sculptures are beautiful as features in themselves, and also add an element of surprise to the forest landscape, making it a distinctive place.

Grizedale Forest is on elevated land between lakes Windermere and Coniston, and consequently forms the backdrop in views from these lakes. The dark colour of the coniferous forest means that it is a dominant feature within these views.

The area has a predominantly very strong sense of tranquillity due to the presence of the large dense woodland that covers the majority of the area. There is also a relative absence of settlements, dwellings and major roads and therefore minimal sources of artificial noise.

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Strong sense of enclosure and remoteness within the Forest;
- Sense of openness within Grizedale Beck Valley corridor;
- Patchwork of lush pasture fields along Grizedale Beck, which are vulnerable to changes in forest management or agricultural practices;
- Sculptures and environmental art within the forest, that are distinctive landscape features; and
- Intermediate sensitivity to the cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure.¹⁰⁷

¹⁰⁷ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Pressure on sensitive habitats from increasing accessibility;
- Fluctuations in forestry practices due to the changing nature and economics of forestry;
- Increased tourism and associated facilities;;
- Communication developments leading to increased visual clutter from mobile phone masts and inappropriately designed transport schemes; and
- Increased traffic on small roads and car park development changing the character of minor roads and tracks;

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Restore** watercourses, pulling back conifer stands from banks.

Ecological Character

- **Encourage** natural regeneration of deciduous woodland within the forest.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** patchwork of lush pasture fields, divided by stonewalls and hedges;
- **Maintain** the distinctive landscape features of sculptures and environmental art within the forest; and
- **Restore** ancient woodland sites where recent conifer plantations have affected them.

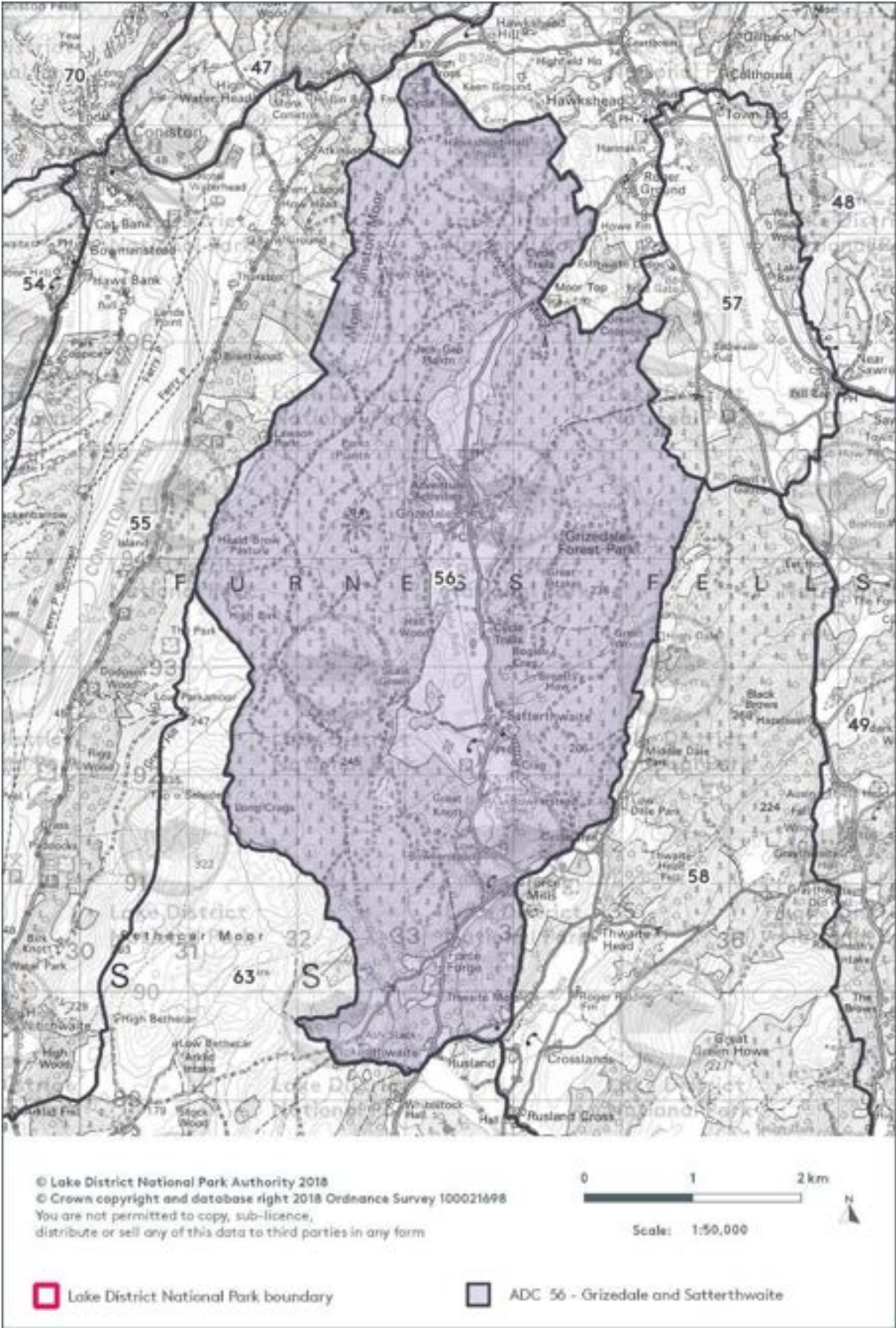
Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Retain** strong sense of enclosure and remoteness within the Forest; and

AREA 56: GRIZEDALE & SATTERTHWAITE

- **Retain** sense of openness within Grizedale Beck Valley corridor.

AREA 56: GRIZEDALE & SATTERTHWAITE



AREA 57: ESTHWAITE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

Esthwaite is situated to the south west of Claife Heights, west of Lake Windermere and east of Coniston Water – towards the south of the Lake District National Park. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Coniston](#).

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4):

- [Low Fell](#) (K); and
- [Lowland Valley](#) (M).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Esthwaite Water – a relatively narrow and shallow lake, which is set amongst green fields and bounded by woods and reeds;
- Hilly wooded setting of lake and catchment providing a backdrop;
- Strong sense of remoteness, tranquillity and calm within the intricate landscape;
- Classic views over the lake to the dramatic outline of distant Langdale Pikes to the north west;
- Historic and cultural associations with Beatrix Potter due to proximity to Near Sawrey village to the east;
- A focal point for late 18th and 19th century Villas such as Belmont and Esthwaite Lodge; and
- Predominantly a tranquil area.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

Esthwaite water is a relatively narrow, small and shallow mesotrophic lake, which provides a visual focus for this area. This is a soft and gentle pastoral landscape, well vegetated with deciduous trees and woodland, and with fen and reed-fringed shores. It is situated in a glacial alley between Windermere and Coniston Water.

The lake feels exceptionally tranquil and serene. This is largely due to the lack of access to the lakeshore, which is restricted to a path from Hawkshead at the northern end, and two short stretches of road on the east and southern shores. The vegetation and small inbye fields with distinctive boundaries around the lake create an intricate landscape. Within this area a number of fossilised boundaries can be seen marking the edges of the long narrow strips running from east to west, marked either by hedgerows

AREA 57: ESTHWAITE

or shards fences. The villa of Esthwaite Lodge and its designed landscape contrast with the pastoral qualities.

Esthwaite Water is a popular lake for fishing, and the jetties, pens and fishing boats are distinctive features near the road. Although they are not natural features, their presence often adds to the sense of calmness associated with the lake.

The Langdale Pikes form distinctive features on the skyline in views to the north-west, whilst the dark green swathe of Grizedale Forest forms the backdrop to the south and west.

There are elevated views across Esthwaite Water from the road between Windermere Ferry and Hawkshead. The village of Near Sawrey, is the location of Beatrix Potter's house, Hill Top. The area inspired several of Beatrix Potter's stories and characters, and Hill Top is hugely popular with visitors. As a result, there are often crowds of tourists, coaches and cars in Near Sawrey village.

The area has a strong sense of tranquillity due to the perceived naturalness of the lake and its surroundings. The tranquillity is enhanced by the relative absence of dwellings and settlements outside Hawkshead and Near Sawrey and minimal sources of artificial noise. In the peak tourist season the increased number of visitors and the associated increased traffic noise disturbs the sense of tranquillity.

'through a lovely scene in its summer garniture of woods, [Esthwaite Lake] has no features of permanent grandeur to rely upon. A wet or gloomy day, even in summer, reduces it to little more than a wildish pond, surrounded by miniature hills.'

De Quincey, 1839

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout;
- Open views towards the Langdale Pikes, which are vulnerable to the introduction of tall vertical or large-scale developments with an intermediate sensitivity to cumulative impacts of vertical development;¹⁰⁸
- Trees and woodland provide a sense of enclosure; and
- General lack of access to the lakeshore.

¹⁰⁸ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Fluctuations in forestry practices due to the changing nature and economics of forestry;
- Continued pressure for access to water for recreational pursuits creating pollution and loss of tranquillity;
- Increased pressure for new residential developments on the edges of Hawkshead, leading to a loss of vernacular buildings through insensitive conversion, and a change in character due to the pressure for new buildings;
- Increased tourism and a growth in holiday developments and second homes, leading to land originally under pasture or part of large estates being sold for development;
- Communication developments leading to increased visual clutter from mobile phone masts and inappropriately designed transport schemes;
- Increased traffic on small roads and car park development changing the character of minor roads and tracks; and
- Deteriorating water quality due to fish stocking and feeding causing development of algal blooms in summer.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Ecological Character

- **Restore** water quality.

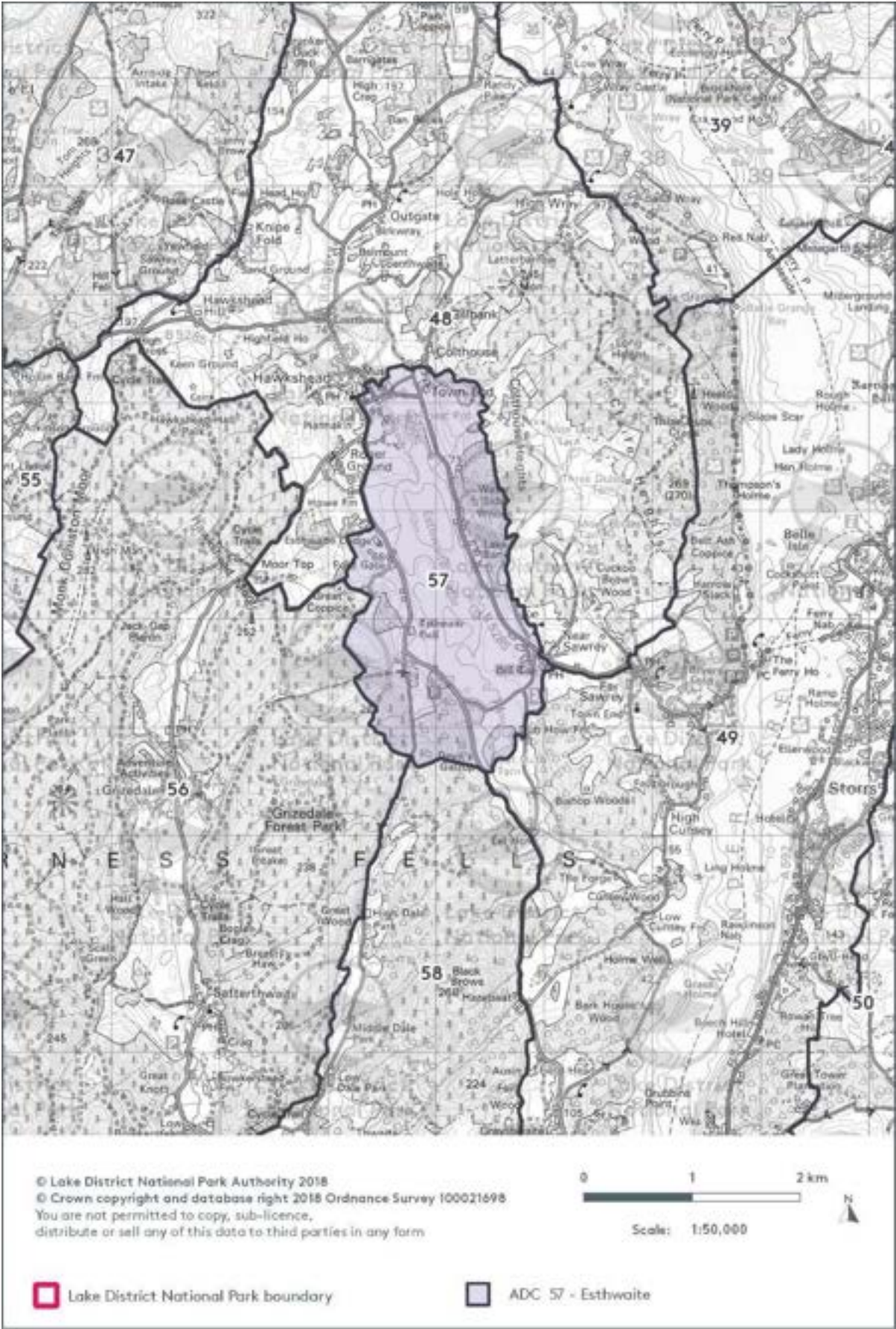
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** in field and boundary trees and woodland, which provide a sense of enclosure;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** patchwork of pasture and network of boundary features around lake;
- **Protect** lakeshore from increased access;
- **Conserve** and **restore** historic building stock and landscape features; and
- **Ensure** new building proposals are sensitively sited with appropriate scale, design and materials.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Maintain** strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout; and
- **Retain** open views towards the Langdale Pikes.

AREA 57: ESTHWAITE



AREA 58: DALE PARK

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

Dale Park Area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the south of the Lake District National Park, to the east of Grizedale Forest, south of Esthwaite Water and west of Lake Windermere. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Coniston](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section

- [Low Fell](#) (K); and
- [Lowland Valley](#) (M).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Hummocky, rough texture of underlying geology of the fells, visible at the surface, and open heath in higher parts of the south of the area;
- Extensive broadleaved woodlands; including ex-coppice woodlands, and dense, coniferous plantations and rolling topography which give a strong sense of enclosure;
- Isolated pockets of pasture within woodland setting;
- Woodland is interspersed with numerous streams and springs;
- Intimate-scale, yet open corridor of Dale Park Beck, which separates Dale Park woodlands from Grizedale Forest to the west;
- Mature, designed parkland landscape associated with Graythwaite Hall ;
- Stott Park bobbin mill
- Glimpses of views towards Lake Windermere to the east and Esthwaite Water to the north and Coniston Fells to the west; and
- Predominantly a tranquil area..

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

A strong sense of enclosure is apparent throughout this landscape as a result of the dense cover of both broadleaved and coniferous woodland. This woodland cloaks an underlying rolling and hummocky topography with many rocky outcrops. Deciduous, ex-coppiced woodland provides softer contrast to the regularity of conifer plantations such as High Dale Park. A significant component of yew and holly in the deciduous woodland provides evergreen contrast.

AREA 58: DALE PARK

Towards the eastern corner of the area, Graythwaite Hall, with its associated mature, designed parklands and 'estate' character, imparts a further sense of human influence over this landscape. In addition to buildings associated with the Hall, settlement pattern is very sparse, with only the small hamlets of Finsthwaite and Crossland and occasional farmstead buildings visible.

The southern part of the area has a mixed character on Rusland Heights and Yew Barrow, with open heath with heather, bilberries and bracken, interspersed with small tarns.

Nestled at the western edge of the area, the intimate corridor of Dale Park Beck, with associated lush pasture fields, provides a sense of openness and contrasts with surrounding woodland areas. To the north and east, recognisable sense of place is apparent as a result of views northwards across Esthwaite Water and eastwards across Lake Windermere.

The network of minor roads twist through woodland and are often contained by high sided walls. There is little recent housing development, with most being farmhouses or cottages or larger Victorian country houses in local stone, or white painted roughcast.

The distinctive church at Finsthwaite dates from 1873. It has an unusual squat central steeple, and a timber framed porch, whilst exhibiting a mixture of pseudo Norman and Early English styles. Stott Park Bobbin Mill is a purpose-built mill which operated from 1835 until 1971. It is the best surviving example in the UK and has been preserved by English Heritage. It has a collection of stone industrial buildings with a tall brick chimney, nestling in ex-coppice woodland near Finsthwaite.

Overall sense of tranquillity throughout the area is relatively strong as a result of the relative inaccessibility of the area, and lack of settlement other than via a few minor roads and public footpaths.

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Extensive broadleaved woodland sensitive to changes in woodland management;
- Dense, coniferous woodland plantations, which denote a strong sense of enclosure;
- Overall sense of tranquillity throughout;
- Strong sense of place provided by views across Esthwaite Water and Lake Windermere, which are sensitive to interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments and loss of views as conifer plantations mature;
- Parkland sensitive to change in agricultural management; and

- Intermediate sensitivity to the cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure.¹⁰⁹

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Increased traffic on small roads and car park development changing the character of minor roads and tracks; and
- Lack of management of important landscape features such as parkland, stone walls, hedges and pollarded trees, due to changes in agri-environment schemes.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** broadleaved woodlands, which create a strong sense of enclosure and
- **Encourage** conversion of conifer plantations to deciduous.

Ecological Character

- **Manage** and **restore** heathland.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** open-grown trees and parkland features and **encourage** succession planning;
- **Encourage** opportunities for traditional woodland management including coppicing in ex-coppice areas; and
- **Conserve** and **enhance** the pattern of hedges and walls.

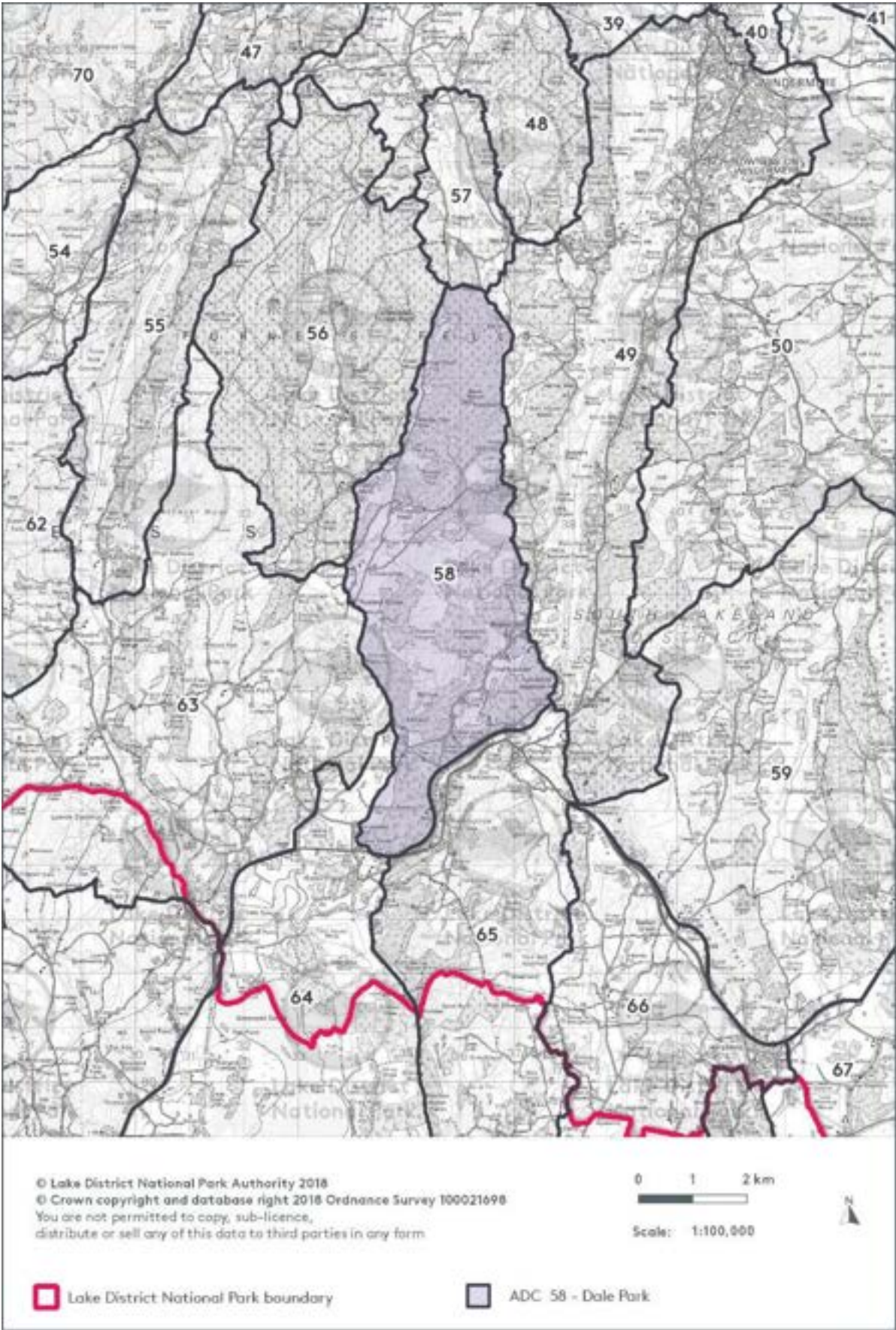
¹⁰⁹ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

AREA 58: DALE PARK

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Maintain** an overall sense of tranquillity throughout; and
- **Retain** strong sense of place by maintaining views across Esthwaite Water and Lake Windermere.

AREA 58: DALE PARK



AREA 59: WHITBARROW & THE WINSTER VALLEY

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Landscape Character Area is situated towards the south of the Lake District National Park, to the east of Lake Windermere. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Windermere](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4)

- [Coastal Limestone](#) (C);
- [Low Fell](#) (K);
- [Low Fell Fringe](#) (L); and
- [Lowland Valley](#) (M).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Small-scale, intimate, low fell mosaic landscape with a great variety of different habitats, including large areas of deciduous and coniferous woodland, limestone grassland, orchards, pastoral fields and the valley of the River Winster;
- Frequent outcrops of underlying limestone, for example Whitbarrow Scar, a dominant, high landmark feature;
- From higher locations, stunning views over the colourful mosaic landscape and Lake Windermere to the west;
- A scattering of vernacular rubble and render farmhouses and stone barns nestling into the valley sides, adds a significant element to the landscape scale and character; and
- Predominantly a tranquil area.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The Whitbarrow & Winster Valley area takes its distinctiveness from a mosaic of different habitats, which overlay the landform.

The valley of the River Winster, with its intimate pattern of pastoral fields, parkland, mature trees, hedgerows and walls, separates the low fells to the west from the distinctive high limestone ridge of Whitbarrow Scar in the east. The scar is cloaked with semi-natural broadleaved woodland, with a rocky summit, steep cliffs, upland heath and

AREA 59: WHITBARROW & THE WINSTER VALLEY

blue moor grass resulting in an interesting, colourful, small-scale mosaic landscape., Damson orchards are a distinctive local feature in the Winster valley.

To the west, the low fells are covered in pasture and meadow, interspersed with large blocks of predominantly broadleaved woodland, which frames views in every direction, with patches of gorse adding a touch of vibrant colour, or, in the case of Newton Fell, further south, covered by scrubby birch, hawthorn, relict heather, bracken and tough grasses.

With the exception of the A5074 and the A590, which border the area, roads are secondary and relatively narrow, in most places lined by thick (hawthorn and mixed) hedgerows, obscuring views. The hedges, and in some parts walls, combined with large patches of woodland within the area, give a sense of enclosure and isolation.

In stark contrast, far-reaching views from higher locations such as Whitbarrow and Gummers How (which are only accessible by foot) give a sense of exhilaration. From the road running through the Winster Valley, gaps in the hedgerows offer glimpses of Whitbarrow Scar, an imposing and significant landmark within the surrounding landscape. This contributes to a strong sense of place and dominates views from the A590 in this area.

The area has a sparse settlement pattern, which consists of a handful of farms dotted along linear road corridors, occasional hamlets and the pretty vernacular village of Witherslack. Witherslack Hall is a dominant building and sits alongside other estates that often have limestone vernacular character apparent within buildings.

There is a history of charcoal burning, coppicing and medieval iron smelting sites in Witherslack Woods. There is also a good example of a water powered corn mill in Witherslack.

Away from the A590, the sense of tranquillity is strong throughout most of the area, particularly within the Winster Valley. This is due to the relative absence of dwellings, settlements, minimal sources of artificial noise and night time light pollution. The sense of tranquillity is enhanced by the presence of woodland and the limestone outcrops, which create a sense of naturalness.

'this Rood is stoped ites onder Repare
and is thearfore onpaseable.'

Notes on the Natural History ... of Crosthwaite and Lyth, and the Valley of the Winster, 1839, William Pearson, text of a notice barring the main road up the valley.

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Mosaic of different habitats which contribute to landscape pattern;

AREA 59: WHITBARROW & THE WINSTER VALLEY

- Network of hedges, walls, parkland and patches of woodland, which are vulnerable to changes in landscape management and agricultural practices;
- Overall sense of tranquillity throughout;
- Several vernacular (limestone) buildings; and
- Significant sensitivity to the cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure.¹¹⁰

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Fluctuations in forestry and agricultural practices due to the changing nature and economics of both;
- Resurgence of damson production leading to restoration of existing and planting of new orchards; and
- Deterioration of historic features such as limekilns and potash kilns reducing historic character.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Manage** deciduous woodland.

Ecological Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** mosaic of different habitats which contribute to landscape pattern and biodiversity, especially limestone grassland, scrub and broadleaved woodland; and
- **Restore, conserve** and **encourage** re-establishment of damson orchards.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** network of hedges, walls, and parkland planting;

¹¹⁰ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

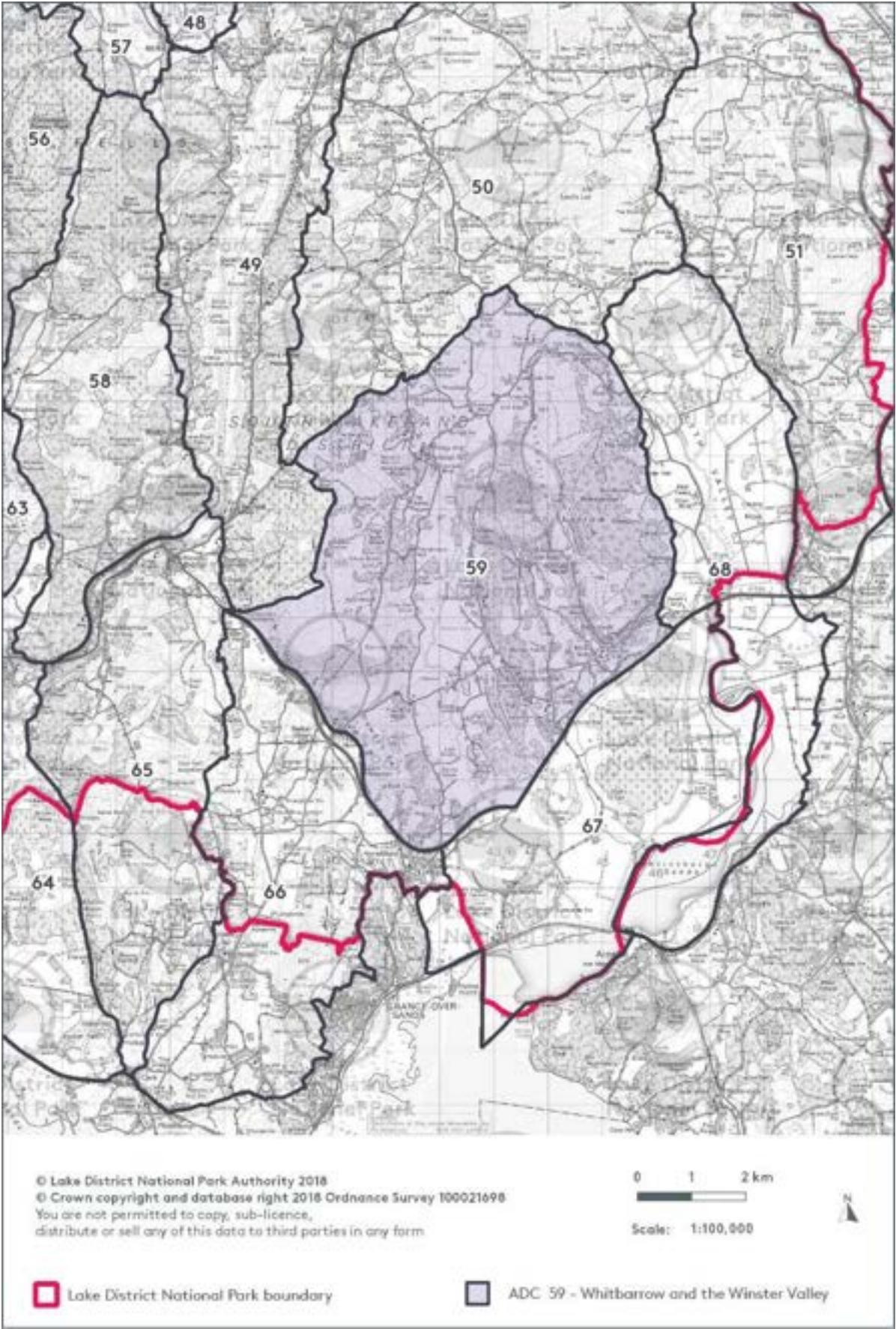
AREA 59: WHITBARROW & THE WINSTER VALLEY

- **Conserve** archaeological features in the landscape; and
- **Conserve** vernacular (predominantly limestone) buildings and **promote** use of local vernacular materials.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Protect** far-reaching views across adjacent landscapes from interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments; and
- **Maintain** overall strong sense of tranquillity throughout.

AREA 59: WHITBARROW & THE WINSTER VALLEY



AREA 60: BLACK COMBE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the western edge of the Lake District National Park, to the north of Silecroft and east of Bootle. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Duddon](#).

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see section 4)

- [High Fell](#) (G).

Distinctive Characteristics

- A distinctive high fell landscape which is relatively open and dominated by large expanses of grassy moorland and bracken with some heather, which exhibits a muted combination of greens and browns with highlights of seasonal colour;
- Generally strong sense of openness and smooth texture, due to low-growing vegetation;
- Occasional rocky outcrops of underlying geology punctuate the smooth moorland and are visible at the surface;
- Long distance, panoramic views from the highest points across expansive horizons of sea and sky to the west, across adjacent pastoral farmland to the southeast and towards the high fells to the north;
- Strong sense of remoteness, isolation, wildness and tranquillity as a result of the complete absence of roads (the only access being via the footpath network) and lack of settlement; and
- Predominantly a strong sense of tranquillity due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the fell landscape.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

Black Combe dominates this landscape, a rounded grassy hulk that rises from the coast and Whicham valley, with some steeper faces and crags on its south east flank.

This landscape has a predominantly smooth texture due to the large expanses of low-growing grassy moorland, bracken and heather, on the open commons. In places, the underlying angular geology punctuates the moorland surface. There is a strong sense of remoteness, isolation, wildness and tranquillity, as a result of the absence of settlement and man-made elements, including roads. The colour changes with the

AREA 60: BLACK COMBE

seasons, and is particularly striking in early winter with orange bracken contrasting with a cap of snow.

The proximity of this landscape to the west coast, coupled with the high topography, gives rise to dramatic panoramic views, these are particularly striking across the wide horizons of sea and sky to the west, but also impressive across adjacent pastoral farmland in the Whicham valley to the southeast and high fells to the north. Barrow-in-Furness and Walney Island also feature in views southwards. The generally rounded, high mass of Black Combe, provides a dramatic backdrop to views from the western coast, framing adjacent coastal farmland.

Throughout the area sheep, and relatively rare fell-walkers, are often the only source of movement, with footpaths providing the main means of accessing the area. This strongly contributes to the sense of tranquillity that is present throughout the area. Other elements that add to the tranquillity are the openness and perceived naturalness of the fell landscape. The sense of tranquillity is locally disturbed to the west close to the A595 with its associated traffic noise.

'Close by the Sea, lone sentinel, Black-Comb his forward station keeps; He breaks the sea's tumultuous swell,- And ponders o'er the level deeps ...

Charles Farish's The Minstrels of Windermere

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Generally strong sense of openness throughout;
- Long distance, panoramic views across the sea, which are vulnerable to interruption from tall vertical or large-scale developments with a significant sensitivity to cumulative impacts of vertical development;¹¹¹ and
- General absence of settlements and human elements.

Forces for Change

The Forces for Change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

¹¹¹ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

AREA 60: BLACK COMBE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Maintain** the open character of the commons.

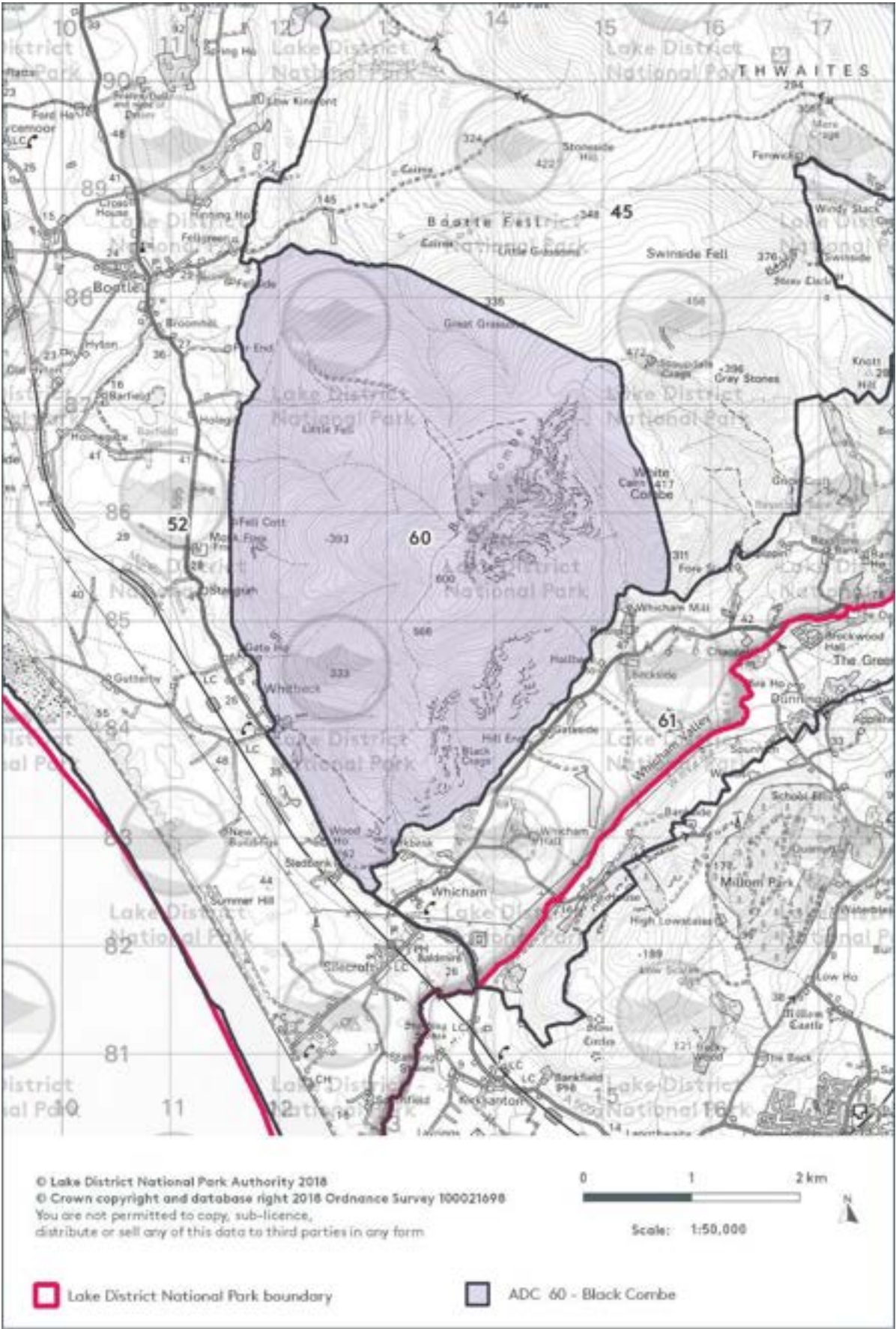
Ecological Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** heather moorland, which is sensitive to over-grazing.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Maintain** a generally strong sense of openness and tranquillity throughout;
- **Protect** views to and from the area from surrounding low fells both within and outside the National Park, and distant panoramic views across the sea from interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments; and
- **Retain** general absence of settlements and human elements.

AREA 60: BLACK COMBE



AREA 61: WHICHAM VALLEY

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated at the south western edge of the Lake District National Park, to the north of Silecroft and south of Black Combe. The ADC extends beyond the Park boundary and forms part of its setting. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Duddon](#).

Relevant Landscape Character Types (See Section 4):

- [Rugged/Craggy Volcanic High Fell](#) (F); and
- [High Fell Fringe](#) (J).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Flat to very gently rolling, low-lying topography rising through a transition to more upland character at the north eastern extremity of the area;
- Dramatic and strong sense of containment provided by the suddenly rising mass of Black Combe to the north, with its distinctive steep conical outliers of Whirl Pippin and Knott Hill beside the A595;
- Landscape dominated by a relatively regular network of rich pasture fields, used for dairying, and delineated by a series of low, trimmed hedges for the most part, changing to stone walls on the higher ground to the northeast
- Small scattered patches of woodland, including some conifer blocks and inuuous belts of mainly deciduous trees meander through the landscape;
- Open views from the western end of the valley, dominated by sea and sky;
- Landscape dotted with isolated farmsteads and buildings, including Whicham Hall;
- Predominantly rural landscape, with a relatively strong sense of tranquillity overall, particularly to the south of the area, at distance from the A595 main road corridor;
- Locally disturbed sense of tranquillity

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

Strong recognisable sense of place within the valley is apparent, resulting from the strong sense of containment provided by the rising mass of Black Combe to the north, Lowscapes bank to the southeast and views to the sea from the southern edge of the area. A particular feature along the valley side are the distinctive steep, cone-shaped fells of Whirl Pippin and Knott Hill, outliers from the Black Combe massif, looking like mini

AREA 61: WHICHAM VALLEY

volcanoes.

The area is characterised by a large, irregular patchwork of muted and harmonious pasture fields grazed by dairy cows. The inbye fields are divided by a series of stone walls and low, often-trimmed hedgerows. The areas of inbye are bounded directly by open fell grazing. These fields, follow the course of the straightened Whicham Beck, which is very narrow, in comparison the breadth of the surrounding valley. Small patches of woodland, including some conifer blocks, are scattered through the area.

Despite the presence of the A595 main road corridor which runs along the northern edge of the area at the base of Black Combe, introducing a source of movement and noise, there is a sense that this is a predominantly rural and relatively isolated landscape.

At distance from the road corridor, a relatively strong sense of tranquillity is apparent where there is sense of openness and a perception of naturalness especially in the fells north of the A595. The area has a disturbed sense of tranquillity along the A595 corridor due to traffic noise on the busy road and trains using the west coast railway line, with visual disturbance from the line of pylons that run along the southern edge of the valley.

'Winter is the best time to appreciate wildness and superb views from the top of the fells'

Local Resident, 2007 Public Consultation Questionnaire

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Overall strong sense of tranquillity away from the A595; and
- Open views from the western end of the valley, the slopes of Black Combe and the valley bottom, that are vulnerable to interruption from tall vertical or large scale developments with a significant sensitivity to cumulative impacts of vertical development¹¹².

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Increase in development around Sellafield could result in large power lines leading south introducing significant visual intrusion from pylons and associated

¹¹² Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

infrastructure along the valley edge.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** small patches of woodland, **encourage** reversion to broadleaved.

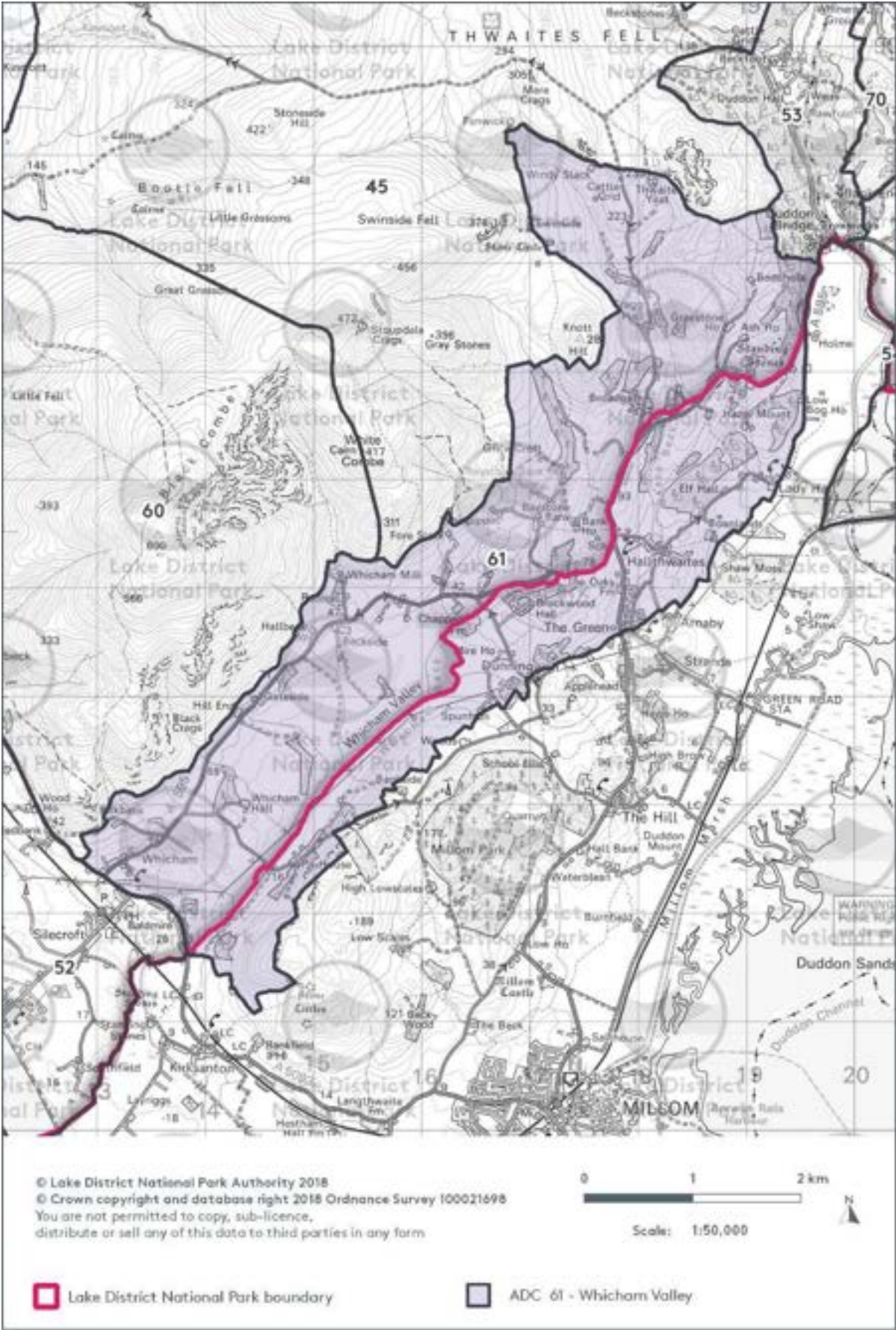
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Maintain** the predominantly rural landscape small-scale settlement pattern; and
- **Conserve** and **enhance** the traditional stone wall and hedgerow field boundaries.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Maintain** the overall strong sense of tranquillity away from the A595; and
- **Protect** open views to and from and within the area from tall vertical or large-scale developments.

AREA 61: WHICHAM VALLEY



AREA 62: BLAWITH FELLS

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This ADC is situated at the southern edge of the Lake District National Park to the south west of Coniston Water. The ADC extends beyond the Park boundary to the south and forms part of its setting. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Coniston](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see section 4)

- [Low Fell](#) (K).

Distinctive Characteristics

- A rough textured irregular low fell, moorland and hummocky grassland landscape with extensive patches of bracken and gorse, basin and valley mires punctuated by grey, rocky outcrops and shallow valleys;
- A series of small tarns including Beacon Tarn and Burney Tarn;
- A harmonious landscape in terms of colours which vary in spectrum from greens and yellows in the Spring and Summer to browns and greens in the Autumn and Winter);
- Dramatic views eastwards towards Coniston Water, within its predominantly wooded setting, contribute to recognisable sense of place;
- At distance, low fells provide a backdrop and form the horizon;
- From Kirkby Moor in the south, dramatic views south westwards across the Duddon Estuary;
- Occasional single deciduous trees punctuate an otherwise predominantly open landscape with patches of ancient semi-natural deciduous woodland around the periphery of the higher ground;
- The landscape is criss-crossed by a network of narrow roads, often lined with fences or hedges; and
- A strong sense of tranquillity, especially away from main A roads.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

There is a predominant sense of openness within this landscape, with recognisable sense of place apparent as a result of dramatic views eastwards towards Coniston Water (within its predominantly wooded setting) and southwards (from Kirkby Moor) across the Duddon Estuary.

AREA 62: BLAWITH FELLS

Rough, grey, rocky outcrops punctuate the hummocky rough grassland, moorland, bracken, basin and valley mires. The area is largely common land with rough sheep grazing. Inbye fields and farms nestle in small valley along the edges of the Fell. Farms and hamlets are dispersed at lower levels.

Occasional single deciduous trees punctuate the otherwise predominantly open landscape, with some large patches of ancient semi-natural deciduous woodland along the roads around the periphery of the higher ground providing contrast in form and colour. Beacon Tarn and the many tarns dissect the Fells adding movement and colour.

The spectrum of colours changes, in harmony, from greens to browns in autumn and winter to yellows and greens in spring and summer. Gorse in flower is a striking feature in accordance with the changing seasons. The grey-blue colour of water within tarns and streams that weave through the landscape also provides visible colour contrast. Prehistoric burial cairns and small stone circles are scattered across Blawith Fells, The Bronze Age clearance cairns and field systems are some of the earliest remains associated with farming in the Coniston Valley area.

A network of minor roads (often lined with fences or hedgerows) and public footpaths criss-cross this landscape, providing access. Despite the presence of these, the overall sense of tranquillity is strong, due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the fell landscape. The sense of tranquillity is enhanced by the relative absence of dwellings, settlement and minimal sources of artificial noise. However, the sense of tranquillity is locally disturbed close to the A593, A5064 and A5092 due to traffic noise.

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Dramatic views eastwards towards Coniston Water, which contribute to recognisable sense of place, and are vulnerable to interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments with a significant sensitivity to cumulative impacts of vertical development;¹¹³
- Single deciduous trees, which are recognisable landscape features and patches of deciduous woodland around the periphery of the higher ground are sensitive to changes in agricultural and woodland management;
- Uncluttered skylines sensitive to inappropriate development;
- Relatively strong sense of tranquillity throughout; and
- Strong sense of openness and isolation in several locations.

¹¹³ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

Forces for Change

The Forces for Change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** single deciduous trees which are recognisable landscape features.

Ecological Character

- **Encourage** habitat linkage;
- **Enhance** and **restore** basin mires;
- **Conserve, enhance** and where appropriate **expand** the patches of broadleaved woodland around the periphery of the higher ground; and
- **Establish** sympathetic grazing to maintain mosaic of habitats and control bracken.

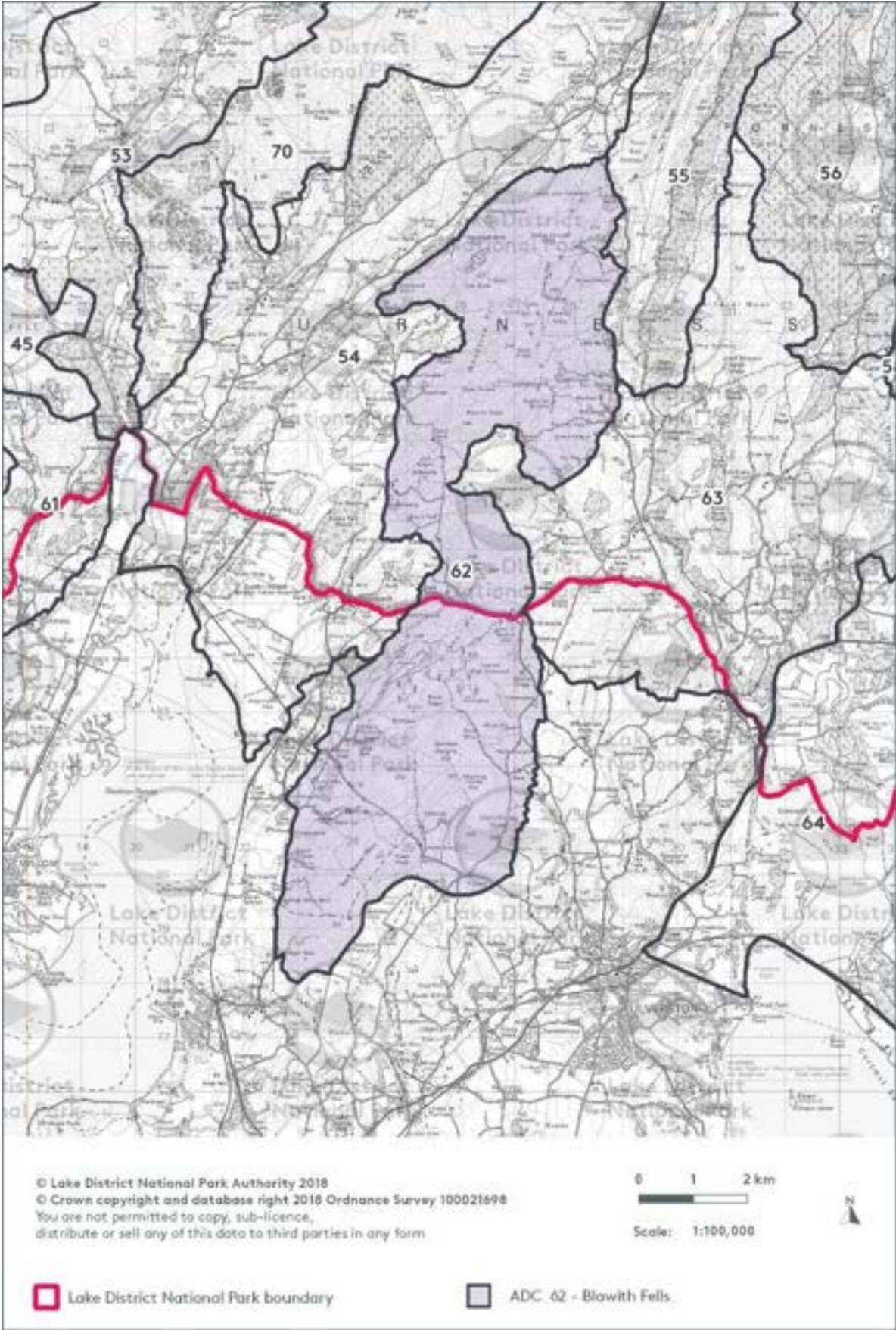
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** archaeological features in the landscape and **manage** bracken in a way that does not damage them.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Protect** dramatic views eastwards towards Coniston Water;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** hedgerows and encourage replacement of fencing by hedges where appropriate;
- **Maintain** relatively strong sense of tranquillity throughout;
- **Maintain** strong sense of openness and isolation in key locations; and
- **Protect** the uncluttered skyline from inappropriate vertical development.

AREA 62: BLAWITH FELS



AREA 63: RUSLAND & CRAKE VALLEYS

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the south of Grizedale and Coniston Water and comprises the Rusland Valley, the Crake Valley and the hills in between. The ADC extends beyond the Park boundary to the south and forms part of its setting. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Coniston](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (See Section

- [Low Fell](#) (K);
- [Low Fell Fringe](#) (L); and
- [Lowland Valley](#) (M).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Large patches of deciduous woodlands and some conifer plantations, which provide a strong sense of enclosure and intimacy as well as texture and seasonal colour;
- The gently meandering corridors of the Rivers Crake and Rusland Pool;
- Rolling topography of small hills and hidden valleys channels the viewing experience;
- Network of narrow, gently winding roads which criss-cross the landscape;
- Patchwork of pasture fields with rock outcrops which are predominantly delineated by a network of mature hedgerows and stone walls;
- Area of lowland raised mire at Rusland Moss;
- Several nucleated hamlets, such as a Oxen Park and Bouth, which nestle within the surrounding landscape;
- Mature landscape structure, with areas of parkland, pollards and mature deciduous trees in fields, within hedgerows and lining road corridors;
- High concentration of historic woodland industries including charcoal burning and potash peeling in the Rusland Valley;
- Dramatic open views across the Leven Estuary from the south of the area;
- Sense of place provided by dramatic rising backdrop of wooded fells to the north; and

AREA 63: RUSLAND & CRAKE VALLEYS

- Predominantly a tranquil area due to the openness of the fells and the perceived naturalness of the landscape. There is a relative absence of settlements and minimal sources of artificial noise.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This landscape has a predominantly rural character of rolling small hills and hidden valleys, criss- crossed by a series of narrow roads, which link nucleated settlements, nestled amongst patches of mostly deciduous woodlands. Pastoral fields are a dominant feature and include an area of ancient intake around Rusland Cross. Fields are bounded by hedges and stone walls. Mature single deciduous trees and pollards at field boundaries and within fields, coupled with patches of woodland and parkland planting, contribute to an overall mature, complex and intimate landscape structure.

The predominant colours of this patchwork of woodland, pasture fields, wetland and moorland, are a tapestry of lush greens and browns. Rusland Moss is an area of lowland raised mire colonised by woodland in patches and provides contrast in colour and texture with surrounding pasture.

At the southern edge of the character area, dramatic views across the Leven estuary contributes to recognisable sense of place, whilst to the north, views to the wooded backdrop of the low fells provides a strong sense of enclosure.

There is little recent housing development, with scattered farmhouses or cottages, Victorian country houses in local stone, or white painted roughcast. Associated with the farms are relatively large stone barns or shippens. There are two buildings of significant size in the Rusland Valley. Rusland Hall a Georgian mansion set in designed parkland, and Rusland Church, built in 1745. The church is situated on slightly higher ground and looks south across the valley. It has a square castellated tower. Most of the network of minor roads in the area do not have centre lines and the signage, whilst mostly modern, is unobtrusive. Literary connections include Arthur Ransome's grave in Rusland churchyard.

To the east, the corridor of the River Rusland and to the west, the River Crake, with their associated riverside habitats and drainage ditches, provide visible corridor features within the landscape. In both cases, patches of broadleaved woodland on the valley sides, provide a sense of enclosure and containment. The small nucleated hamlets of Oxen Park and Bouth contain a mixture of slate and rendered houses as do the small farmsteads throughout the area.

The area has a high concentration of historic industrial remains. Woodland industries grew in the 18 and 19th centuries with a switch in some cases from raising sheep to coppicing woodlands. The coppiced woodlands supported charcoal making, iron works and potash peeling. Black Beck works, near Bouth, was a gunpowder works. Rivers and streams were harnessed in the mid 19th century for bobbin manufacturing.

The area has a strong sense of tranquillity due to the rolling topography and the perceived naturalness of the landscape. The sense of tranquillity is enhanced by the relative absence of large settlements and major roads and minimal sources of artificial noise. However, the traffic noise along the A5084 and A590 create localised areas of disturbance to the tranquillity.

‘ I am always glad to see Staveley; it’s a place I dearly love to think of – the first mountain village that I came to with Wm when we first began our pilgrimage together [that is their walking holiday in 1794].’

Dorothy Wordsworth

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Large patches of broadleaved woodland provide a strong sense of enclosure and are susceptible to changes in woodland management;
- Water within the rivers Crake and Rusland, which are vulnerable to pollution from run off associated with adjacent agricultural fields;
- Increased storm events and rainfall affecting the character of river corridors;
- Network of mature hedgerows and stone walls, that are vulnerable to changes in landscape management and agricultural practices;
- Coppiced woodlands, pollards and single trees and areas of parkland are vulnerable to inappropriate management; and
- Views to wooded backdrop, which are sensitive to interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments with an intermediate sensitivity to cumulative impacts of vertical development¹¹⁴.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Increased traffic on small roads and car park developments changing the character of minor roads and tracks;
- Development at Grizedale Visitor Centre will increase traffic on the minor roads in this area; and
- Lack of management of important landscape features such as parkland, stone walls and pollarded trees due to changes in agri-environment schemes.

¹¹⁴ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Conserve, enhance and encourage** appropriate management of large patches of deciduous woodland and promote conversion of conifer plantation to broadleaved woodland;
- **Conserve and encourage** appropriate management of coppiced woodland, pollards and single trees; and
- **Protect** water within the rivers Crake and Rusland from point source and diffuse pollution;

Ecological Character

- **Conserve and enhance** lowland raised mire habitats and buffering areas around them.

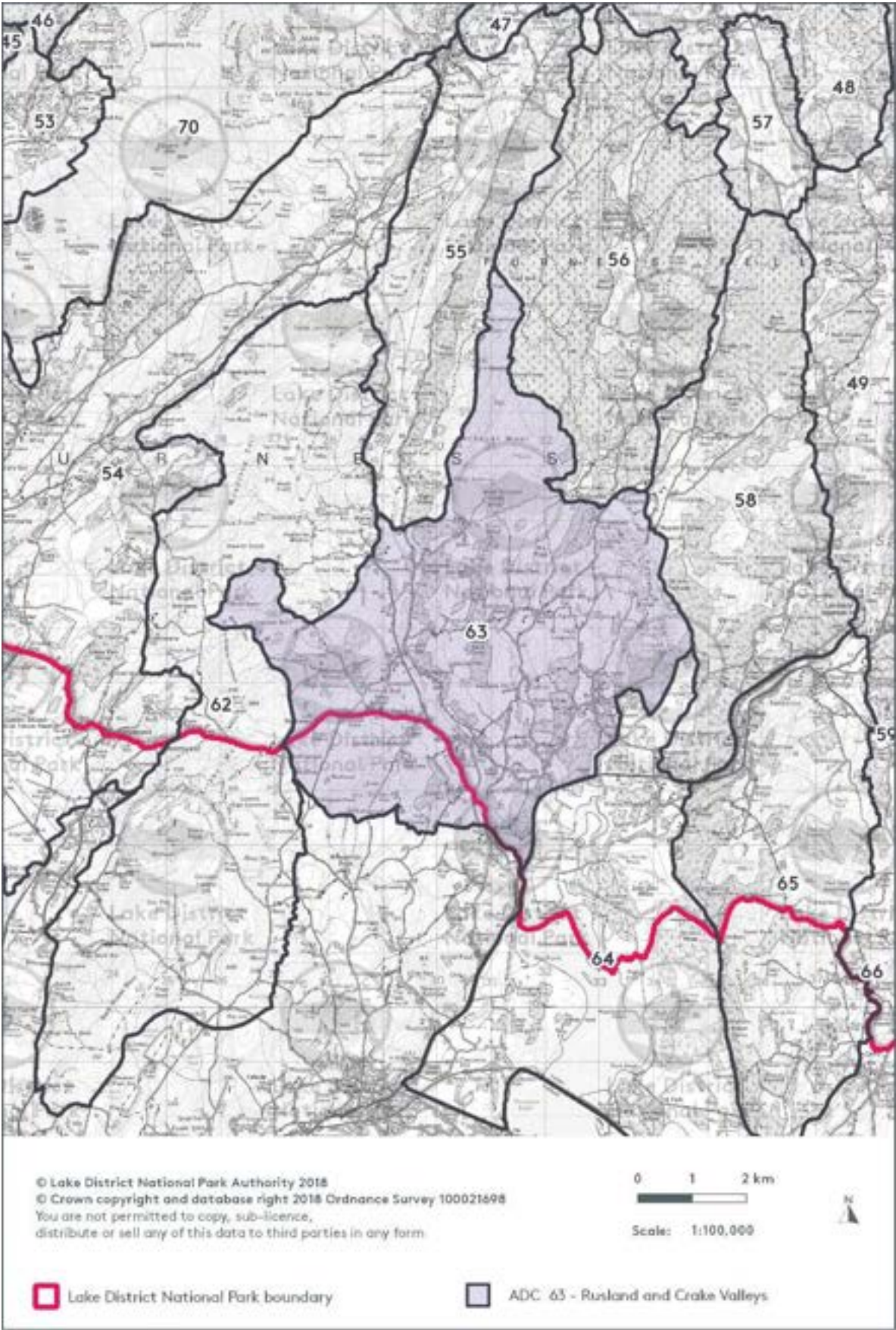
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve and enhance** network of mature hedgerows and stone walls; and
- **Conserve and enhance** areas of parkland planting and **encourage** succession planning.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Protect** views towards wooded backdrop to valleys from interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments.

AREA 63: RUSLAND & CRAKE VALLEYS



AREA 64: HAVERTHWAITE & LEVEN ESTUARY

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the south of the Lake District National Park, to the south-west of Lake Windermere and continues outside the park boundary to the south. The ADC extends beyond the Park boundary to the south and forms part of its setting. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Coniston](#).

Relevant Landscape Character Types (See Section 4)

- [Estuary and Marsh](#) (A)
- [Coastal Margins](#) (B);
- [Low Fell](#) (K);
- [Low Fell Fringe](#) (L); and
- [Lowland Valley](#) (M).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Winding channel of the River Leven, which is fringed with sand and mudflats at low tide;
- Dramatic open views southwards along the river channel;
- Coastal raised mire and woodlands at Roudsea;
- Sense of containment provided by backdrop of low, predominantly wooded fells to the north;
- Series of predominantly green, wooded and open mosses and grazing marsh adjacent to the River channel;
- Regular network of drainage ditches at field boundaries;
- Landscape pattern of pasture fields, interspersed with patches of woodland;
- Nucleated traditional village of Haverthwaite, with its cluster of render and limewashed house and large stone barns;
- Important parkland landscape at Holker Hall;
- Predominantly a disturbed sense of tranquillity due to road noise and the visual intrusion of the A590 and the edge of Haverthwaite; and

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The meandering corridor of the River Leven, fringed with sand and mud at low tide, dominates the character of this area resulting in a strong recognisable sense of place. Dramatic views southwards along the river corridor and also northwards towards the rising, predominantly wooded, low fells provide a sense of containment.

The river channel is bounded by a pattern of predominantly green pasture fields, and mosses interspersed with mixed woodland. The lack of strong visual field boundaries such as walls and hedges and the generally flat topography contribute to a sense of openness. The levees running parallel to the river and the regular network of drainage ditches at field boundaries are feature within the landscape.

The deciduous woodland and raised mire at Roudsea Wood National Nature Reserve is a significant feature of importance for biodiversity and remains of woodland industries, including charcoal burning to support nearby gunpowder works such as Low Wood and Black Becks.

The nucleated, traditional vernacular village of Haverthwaite, with its cluster of 18th century white-washed houses was originally a farming community. This contrasts with the grander Holker Hall estate in the south, with its important parkland landscapes and many impressive specimen trees.

In areas, such as Roudsea Woods there is a strong sense of tranquillity. However, in many areas the A590 main road corridor introduces a source of movement and noise.

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Dramatic open views southwards along the river channel, which are vulnerable to interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments with a significant sensitivity to cumulative impacts of vertical development;¹¹⁵
- Strong sense of containment provided by low wooded fells to the north and Roudsea Woods;
- Areas of mossland sensitive to encroachment of birch woodland, changes in water levels and agricultural practice;
- Relatively strong sense of tranquillity away from the A590 road corridor;
- Peat carbon sink of lowland raised mires could be affected by changes in water levels;
- Area of parkland sensitive to changes in agricultural management; and
- Areas of broadleaved woodland vulnerable to changes in management.

¹¹⁵ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Further dualing of A590;
- Lowland raised mire restoration contributing to biodiversity and carbon sequestration;
- Deterioration of archaeological features within Roudsea Wood;
- The spread of rhododendrons from Victorian garden planting at the expense of native species and araucaria (monkey puzzle, possibly unique to this area, brought from Chile by a local Victorian merchant seaman); and
- Overhead wires and pylons, particularly to the south of the area.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** areas of broadleaved woodland, where appropriate, **encourage** reversion of conifers to broadleaved woodland; and

Ecological Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** coastal mossland habitats and raised mires and buffering areas around them.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** parkland, **encourage** succession planning for key features;
- **Retain** small-scale settlement pattern, comprising Haverthwaite Village; and
- **Protect** and **conserve** remains of woodland industries.

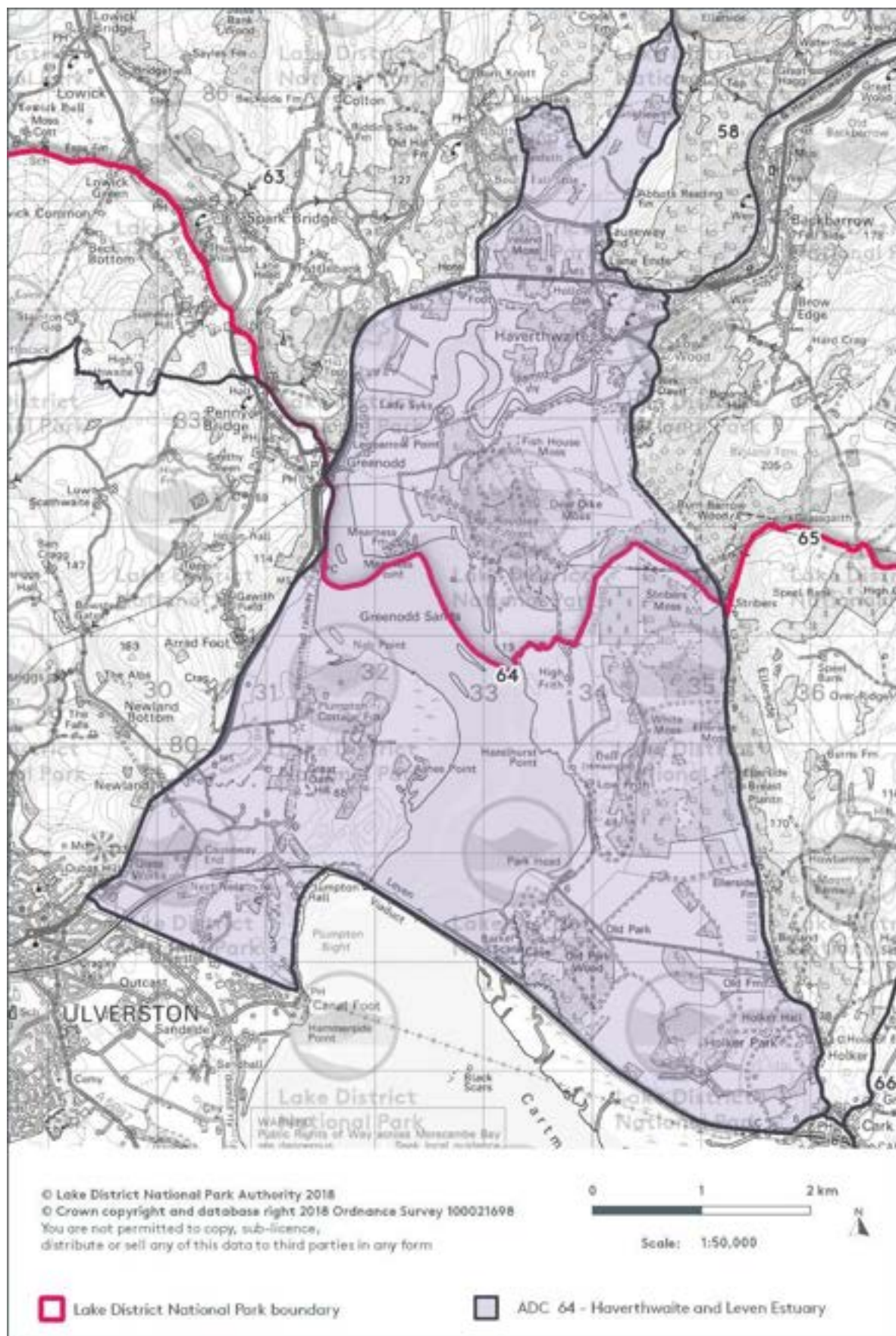
Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Protect** dramatic views southwards along the river channel from tall vertical or large-scale developments;

AREA 64: HAVERTHWAITE & LEVEN ESTUARY

- **Retain** strong sense of containment provided by low broadleaved wooded fells to the north; and
- **Maintain** key places with relatively strong sense of tranquillity.

AREA 64: HAVERTHWAITE & LEVEN ESTUARY



AREA 65: BACKBARROW & BIGLAND

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated immediately to the south of Windermere and to the north west of Cartmel. The ADC extends beyond the Park boundary to the south and forms part of its setting. It is in World Heritage Site Valleys: [Windermere](#) and [Coniston](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character types (See Section

- [Low Fell Fringe](#) (L); and
- [Lowland Valley](#) (M).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Combination of industrial valley and extensive allotment landscape of large fields of improved grassland or woodland;
- Intimate small-scale rolling landscape characterised by a patchwork of different habitats, offering variety and diversity, including woodland, scrub, pasture, wetlands, tarns and streams;
- Wide, open views from the higher points, including Brow Edge, over the area, towards the low fells beyond;
- Grand panoramic views of the southern and central fells from the minor road just to the south of Bigland Hall;
- Remains of the historic iron works at Backbarrow, now being developed and restored;
- Whitewater Hotel, a large distinctive building by the River Leven, with an industrial heritage;;
- River Leven at Backbarrow;
- Former iron smelting furnace, then gunpowder works, at Low Wood,;
- Leven Valley and its industrial heritage;
- The lakeside to Haverthwaite preserved steam railway forms an important link along the valley, originally for past industries, but today as a tourist attraction; and
- Predominantly a tranquil area away from the A590 and Newby Bridge.

AREA 65: BACKBARROW & BIGLAND

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This diverse landscape incorporates a rich variety of habitats, including semi-natural broadleaved woodland, plantations (both deciduous and coniferous, with lots of areas of ex-coppice), the hummocky rough grassland of the 'allotments' and large pastoral fields demarcated by dry stone walls. Colour and variety is apparent with bracken, hawthorn and gorse on top of the fell.

The area is accessible via a handful of narrow secondary roads, connecting the few hamlets, the village of Backbarrow, and the scattered farms, coupled with a relatively dense network of footpaths.

The Leven Valley and its river have been a focus for industries making use of water power since the early 18th century. The River Leven had a number of significant water-powered industries along its course, including Backbarrow Furnace and Low Wood gunpowder works. The 'Dolly Blue' mill, manufacturing the blue pigment ultramarine, used in the textile industry was also powered by the River Leven at Backbarrow. This was based on the site of a former cotton mill. It has been converted to tourist accommodation. The former iron smelting, then gunpowder works, at Low Wood, is marked by a distinctive grey stone clock tower and adjacent terraces of 18th century workers housing and converted iron works buildings.

The topography of the area has resulted in the development of a transport corridor (road and rail) further concentrating development in the river valley. In 1869, the Lakeside and Haverthwaite railway was designed to carry coal to the Windermere steamers, iron ore to Backbarrow and sulphur and saltpetre for the Black Beck and Low Wood gunpowder works. Today it is a popular tourist train journey.

From the higher points, in particular the area on top of the fells to the east of the hamlet of Brow Edge, striking long distance views can be gained across landscape within this area, towards rising low fells beyond.

The area has a strong sense of tranquillity aided by the nature of the vegetation, which contributes to a sense of enclosure and the perceived naturalness of the landscape, relative absence of settlements, dwellings and minimal sources of noise. However the sense of tranquillity is disturbed locally around Newby Bridge and the A590 due to traffic noise and visibility of the urban edge.

'If you gain from your visit to Holker Gardens a small fraction of the pleasure that we ourselves get from them, then the work of generations of gardeners will not have been in vain.'

Lord & Lady Cavendish 2007

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

AREA 65: BACKBARROW & BIGLAND

- Small-scale patchwork of differing habitats;
- Extensive archaeological remains of past industries;
- Increasing development of woodland and scrub diluting the pattern of the allotment landscape;
- Overall strong sense of tranquillity away from A590;
- Strong intervisibility with adjacent Landscape Character Types; and
- Significant sensitivity to cumulative impacts of vertical development¹¹⁶.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Pressure of development on industrial archaeology;
- Increased storm events and rainfall changing the character of river corridors and causing flooding to property;
- Development of woodland and scrub diluting the pattern of the allotment landscape;
- Developments at Bigland and Holker Halls and increasing visitor numbers to these attractions will inevitably increase traffic; and
- The A590 skirts the northern boundary of the area, creating noise and visual intrusion, especially from adjacent higher ground, particularly to the south.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- Ensure any flood management measures maintain the natural characteristics of the river corridor.

¹¹⁶ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

AREA 65: BACKBARROW & BIGLAND

Ecological Character

- **Retain** small scale patchwork of differing habitats, which contribute to recognisable sense of place.

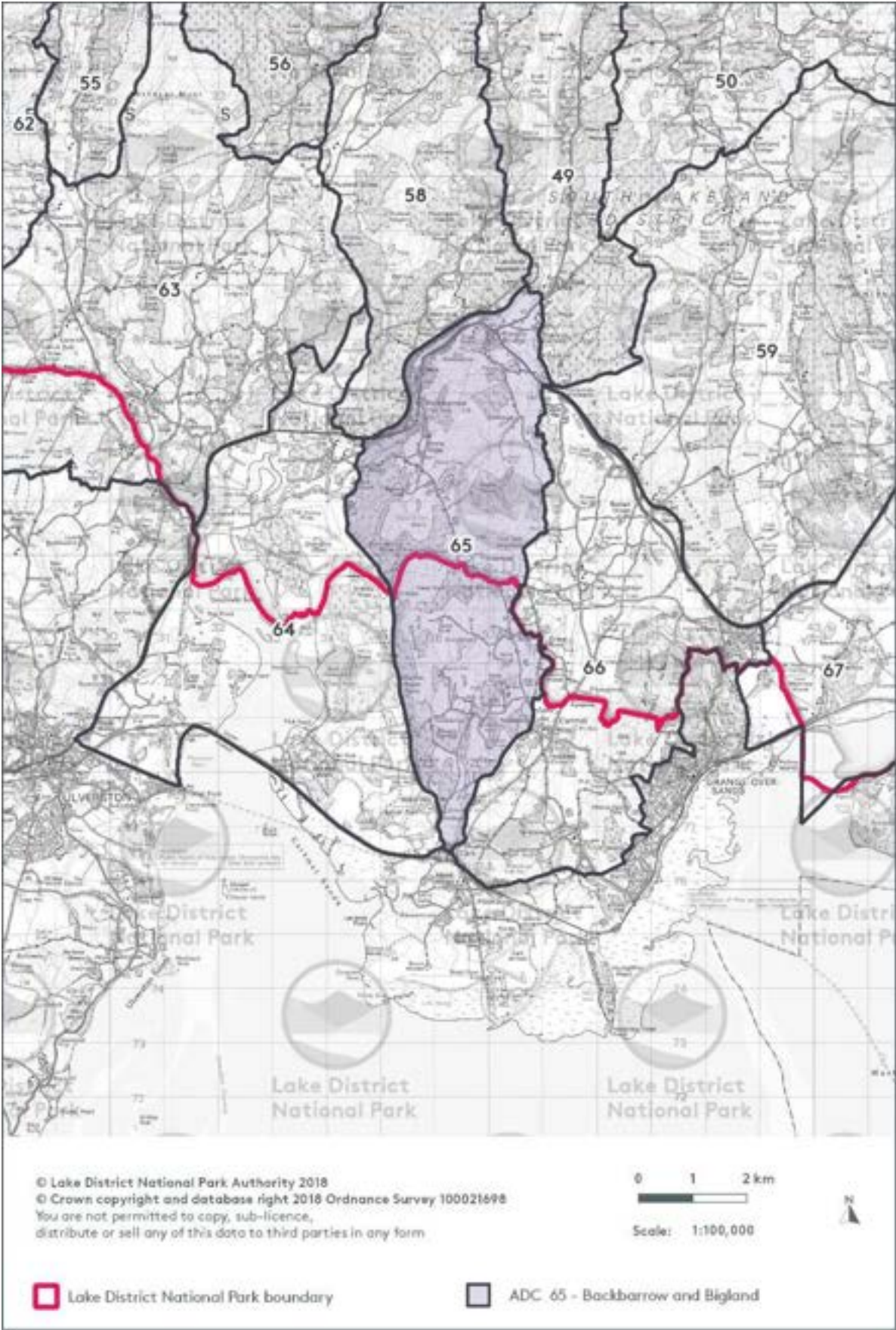
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Protect** and **conserve** industrial archaeology; and
- **Manage** woodland to conserve best of allotment landscape, **encourage** reversion of coniferous to broadleaved woodland and **encourage** re-instatement of coppice management in ex-coppice areas.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Protect** wide, open views across adjacent landscape from tall vertical or large-scale developments;
- **Maintain** overall strong sense of tranquillity, where applicable; and
- **Retain** strong intervisibility with adjacent Landscape Character Types.

AREA 65: BACKBARROW & BIGLAND



AREA 66: FIELD BROUGHTON

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated in the south eastern corner of the National Park, stretching from High Cark in the west to Lindale in the east. The ADC extends beyond the Park boundary to the south and forms part of its setting. It also forms part of the setting to the Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Windermere](#).

Relevant Landscape Character Types (See Section 4):

- [Coastal limestone](#) (C);
- [Low Fell](#) (K);
- [Low Fell Fringe](#) (L); and
- [Lowland Valley](#) (M).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Low level rolling farmland covered by a dense network of lanes, linking small hamlets and scattered farms with a strong field pattern of walls and hedges;
- Rising ground towards the east with distinctive outlier of Hampsfield Fell in the south east;
- Thick limestone clearance walls, including huge walls around High Cark;
- Views of surrounding low fells, including Newton Fell in the north;
- From Hampsfield Fell and Hospice, striking views over the character area and to the mountains far beyond;
- Elegant large Georgian houses add a distinctive element to the gentle valley landscape;
- Areas of parkland planting contribute to the pastoral character;
- Small patches of woodland, especially on lower slopes of Hampsfield Fell;
- Significant areas of limestone pavement and grassland on Hampsfield Fell;
- Field Broughton Church spire with its extensive visual envelope; and
- Predominantly a disturbed sense of tranquillity due to the traffic noise along the A590 and the visibility of Lindale and Grange-Over-Sands.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

Field Broughton encompasses a predominantly low-lying farmland area, which has a predominantly smooth texture, surrounded by adjacent low fells, which provide a sense of enclosure and containment. The ground rises towards the east, with the distinctive outlier of Hampsfield Fell in the south-east providing contrast in texture and form.

Uniform in colour, the rolling green pastoral farmland, with a mixture of small to medium size inbye fields with a generally irregular pattern and bound by a combination of pale grey limestone dry stone walls and hedgerows, becomes a bit more rugged in appearance, and gains a more open character, just to southwest of Lindale. Dry stone walls demarcating the fields in the area tend to be very high (in particular, around High Cark, where the walls are huge), giving evidence of the rich cultural heritage of the landscape and its underlying geology.

Around Hampsfield Fell, the topography and land cover is more characteristic of the adjacent Low Fell landscape, with woodland plantations (both deciduous and coniferous), alternating with heather moorland, taking the place of pastoral farmland. Areas of mature parkland and designed landscapes with many mature field trees contribute to the pastoral character around Wood Broughton, Broughton Lodge and Hampsfield House. The houses inject a sense of grandeur brought in by the wealthy industrialists.

Intimate in scale, the area is very accessible with narrow secondary roads criss-crossing the landscape, connecting the scattering of hamlets and farms, which, with their limestone vernacular character contribute to recognisable sense of place within the area.

Lindale is the main settlement with a mixture of old and new, with some 18th and 19th century houses, and barns, but with much 20th century infill and new small estates. In the wider landscape.

From Hampsfield Fell and Hospice, south west of Lindale, striking views can be gained across the area and towards the distant fells far beyond, creating a strong sense of openness and remoteness, in stark contrast with the rest of the landscape within this area.

In the east, the area has a disturbed sense of tranquillity due to the traffic noise and movement along the dualled A590 and the visibility and close proximity of Lindale and Grange-Over-Sands. To the west of the area there is a strong sense of tranquillity away from the trunk road and large settlements. In this area there is a relative absence of settlements or busy roads and a perception of naturalness especially around fells surrounding Field Broughton.

'I gaze, and ... chanced to find

That morning, ranging through the churchyard graves Of Cartmel's rural town,
the place in which

An honoured teacher of my youth was laid ...'

The Prelude Book X, Wordsworth, Summer 1794

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Intimate-scale landscape, with strong limestone vernacular character;
- Accumulation of visual clutter such as poles, wires, pylons and suchlike;
- Open views from Hampsfell which are vulnerable to interruption from tall vertical or large-scale developments with a significant sensitivity to cumulative impacts of vertical development;¹¹⁷
- Strong sense of remoteness, openness and tranquillity;
- Pattern of high limestone dry stone walls, which contribute to recognisable landscape feature and are sensitive to changes in landscape management or agricultural practices; and
- Areas of parkland planting which are sensitive to changes in agricultural management.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Recognition of importance of undergrounding overhead lines for visual amenity; and
- Lack of economic support for maintenance of field boundary walls impacting on landscape character and condition.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Ecological Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** limestone and scrub habitats on Hampsfell.

¹¹⁷ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

AREA 66: FIELD BROUGHTON

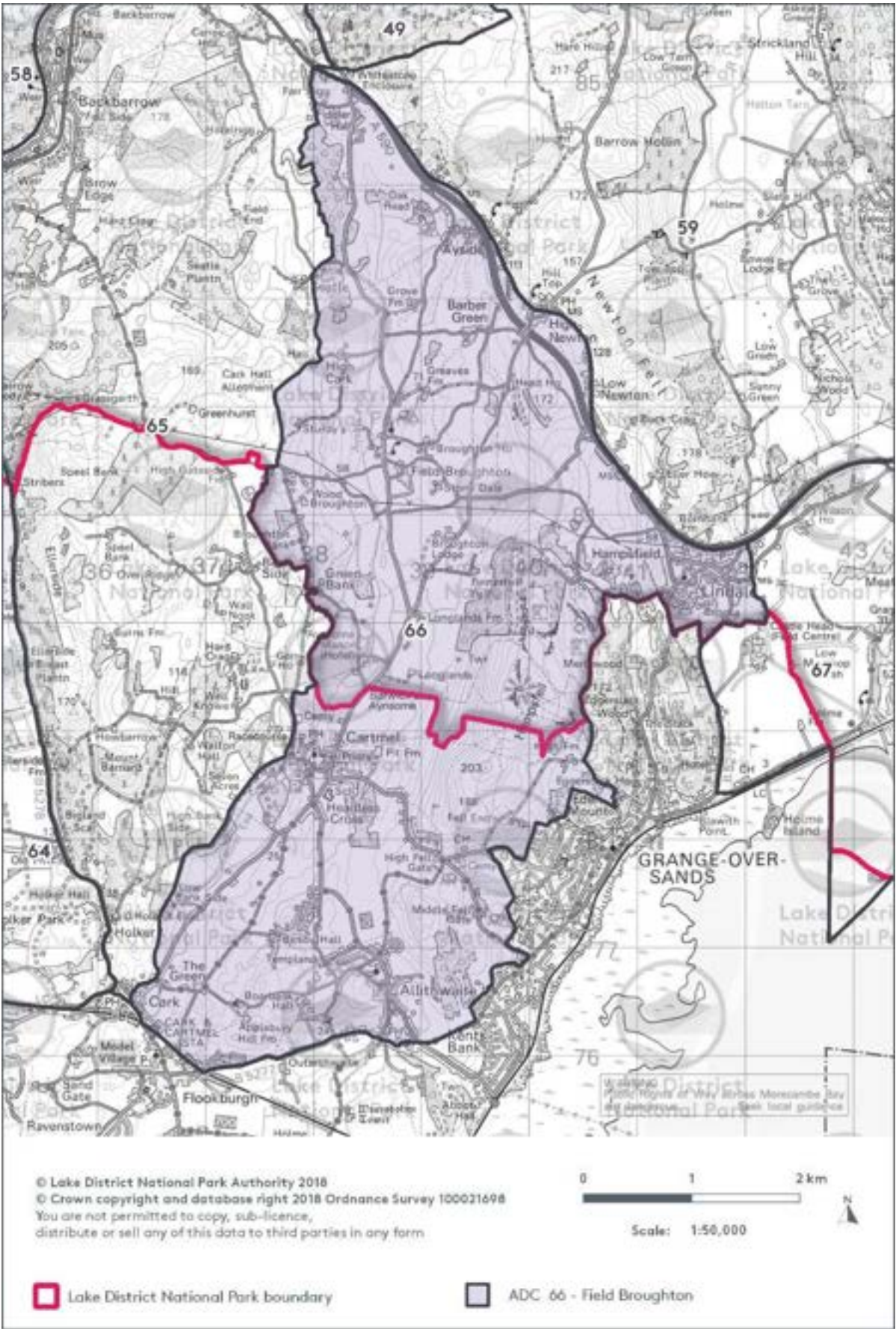
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Retain** intimate-scale landscape, with strong vernacular character;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** pattern of limestone dry stone walls, particularly where walls are very high and have a distinctive, size or pattern; and
- **Conserve** and **enhance** areas of parkland planting, **encourage** succession planning of key features.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Protect** open views to and from the area, especially around Hampsfield Fell, from tall vertical or large-scale developments;
- **Maintain** sense of quiet and openness; and
- **Reduce** visual clutter, **encourage** undergrounding of power cables.

AREA 66: FIELD BROUGHTON



AREA 67: FOULSHAW & MEATHOP

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character towards the southern edge of the Lake District National Park. The ADC extends beyond the Park boundary to the south and forms part of its setting. It also forms part of the setting to the Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Windermere](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section

- [Estuary and Marsh](#) (A).
- [Coastal Margins](#) (B); and
- [Lowland Valley](#) (M).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Estuarine salt marsh and mudflats;
- A low-lying landscape characterised by a regular network of pastoral fields interspersed with large areas of lowland raised mire and woodlands;
- Flat, open nature of the landscape, where fields meet the Kent Estuary.
- Expansive views south and east along the Kent Estuary and expanse of Milnthorpe Sands across to Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Beauty and Arnside Knott;
- Significant blocks of broadleaved and coniferous plantation woodland; and
- Predominantly a strong sense of tranquillity due to the perceived naturalness of the edge of the estuary and relative absence of settlements or dwellings.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This area encompasses Foulshaw (a lowland raised mire) and Meathop (a series of raised mires) Mosses. The mosses and woodland are surrounded by an intricate pattern of regular fields of predominantly improved pasture, which are delineated by low hedgerows and drainage ditches.

This is a flat, low-lying landscape, which is only punctuated occasionally with pockets of higher land, such as the small, partly wooded mound of Ulpha Fell and Longriddings Wood (rising to a height of 35m and 55m above the surrounding landscape) providing a visual focal point. Outcrops including limestone pavement add texture and rugged variety locally, to this otherwise smooth landscape.

AREA 67: FOULSHAW & MEATHOP

Recognisable sense of place is strong, on account of open views (from the southern and eastern edges of the mosses) towards the Kent Estuary and Arnside Knott to the south, and adjacent rising Newton Fell and Whitbarrow Scar (from the northern edges). The mosses have been restored in recent years and are bounded by woodland. This screens the wide open mosses which are nature reserves and provide a sense of discovery as you move through the woodlands and into the mosses.

Settlement pattern is sparse, consisting of very occasional farmsteads and the small hamlets of Grange and Meathop, with 17th century Meathop Hall. These emphasise the peaceful and rural character of this area. There are strong historic links with John Wilkinson at Wilson House Farm and his large Georgian house at Castlehead. His father, Isaac, was the Iron Master at Backbarrow Ironworks and there is an important cast iron monument to John Wilkinson on Grange Road.

This results in a generally strong sense of tranquillity (away from the influence of the A590) enhanced by the perceived naturalness of the edge of the estuary and relative absence of settlements or dwellings.

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Pockets of woodland, which provide some sense of enclosure and variety;
- Areas of raised moss sensitive to changes in agricultural management in surrounding areas; and
- Greatly significant sensitivity to cumulative impacts of vertical development.¹¹⁸

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Encroaching pasture weakening the visual appeal of the Mosses, as well as reducing species diversity;
- Neglect of hedges around enclosure land reducing potential landscape and wildlife benefits of hedgerows and in many places leading to substitution by wire fences;
- Increased salination of coastal Mosses and increased storm events changing the pattern and spread of habitats and altering the character of the landscape (e.g. through increasing erosion of saltmarsh);
- De-intensification of management of land around the mosses, leading to improved biodiversity and hydrology on raised mires;

¹¹⁸ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

AREA 67: FOULSHAW & MEATHOP

- Decrease in water quality as a result of agricultural run-off or other pollution sources damaging water based habitats within the mudflats and saltmarshes;
- Rise in sea levels altering the shoreline, tidal flows and potentially inundating significant habitats;
- Pressure to develop land leading to increasing amounts of engineered features such flood defence, drainage works and raising of levels, all of which would detract from the flat, open and undeveloped characteristics; and
- Offshore/ inshore renewable energy developments introducing industrial features into a character type where remoteness and tranquillity are key attributes.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** pockets of broadleaved woodland, which provide some sense of enclosure; and
- **Improve** water quality by more sympathetic land management;

Ecological Character

- **Restore** and **enhance** raised mires to protect carbon sink and biodiversity including buffers around sites; and
- **Promote** a managed retreat of the coastline to prevent coastal squeeze.

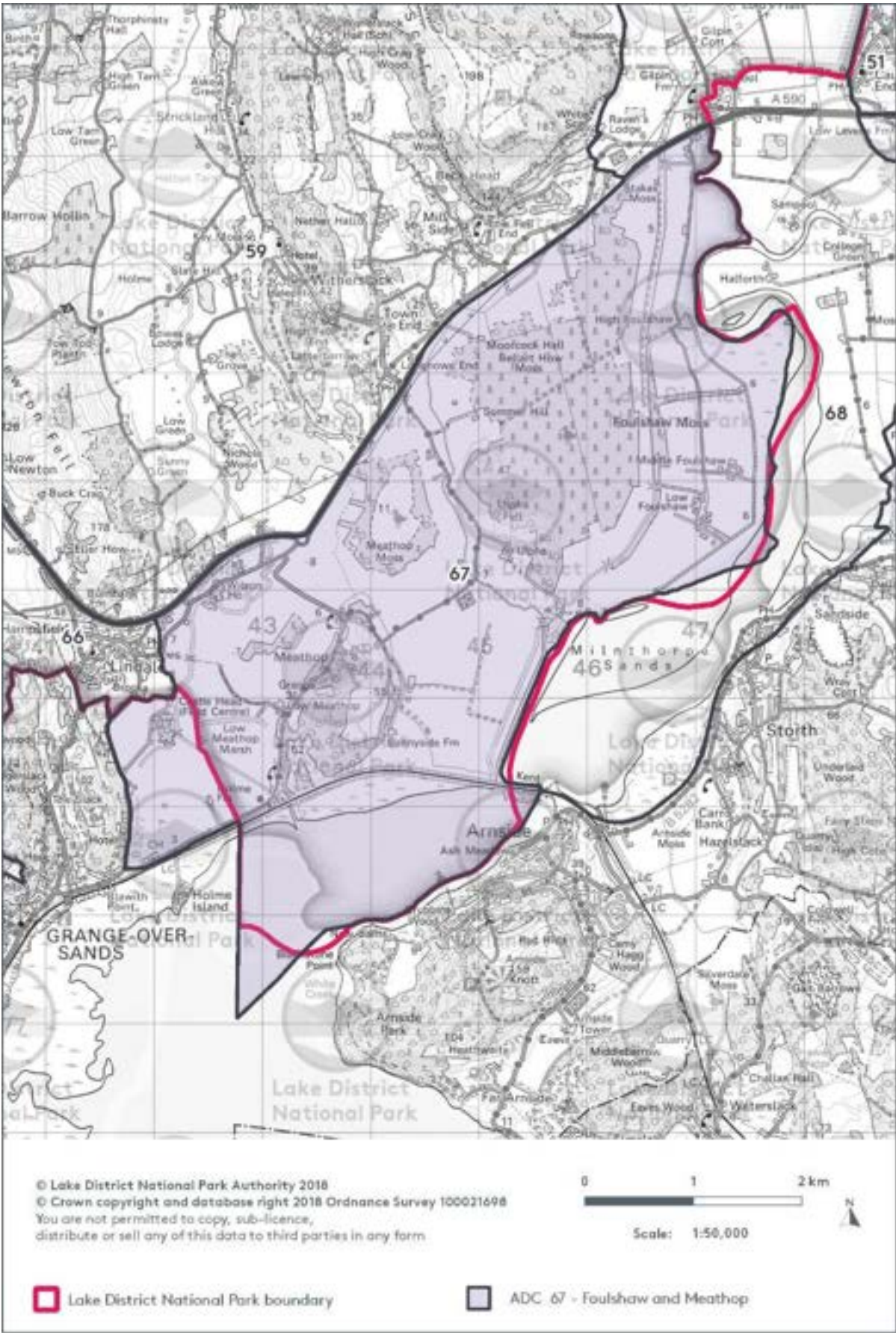
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Retain** sparse settlement pattern; and
- **Conserve** and **enhance** hedges and encourage replacement of fencelines with new hedges;

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Maintain** open landscape with expansive views.

AREA 67: FOULSHAW & MEATHOP



AREA 68: LYTH VALLEY

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated in the south eastern corner of the Lake District National Park and continues to curve southwards outside the boundaries of the National Park. The ADC extends beyond the Park boundary to the south and forms part of its setting. It also forms part of the setting to Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Windermere](#).

Relevant Landscape Character Types (See section 4)

- [Low Fell Fringe](#) (L); and
- [Lowland Valley](#) (M).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Flat, broad lowland valley, atypical of Lake District valleys;
- Broad lowland valley, which has been extensively drained, and has a strong landscape pattern of regular geometric fields;
- Dykes and hedges demarcate the large, regular pastoral fields, pockets of wet grassland and peat mosses;
- The valley is famous for its damson orchards, which add great seasonal variety to the landscape;
- Gently meandering narrow corridor of the River Gilpin, set within a much broader valley floodplain;
- High water table flooding produces dramatic silvery reflections viewed down from Scout Scar and Helsington; and

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The broad, completely flat Lyth Valley is underlain by limestone and encompasses a series of large regular, predominantly pastoral fields, which are delineated by a network of planned, regular field boundaries, including hedgerows and drainage dykes, with some limestone dry stone walls towards the periphery of the valley. Damson orchards, a locally distinctive feature, dotted among the large green fields away from the flat valley bottom.

The valley is set against a dramatic backdrop formed by the surrounding low fells, including Whitbarrow Scar to the west and Underbarrow Scar to the east. There is great seasonal diversity, which determines ever-changing colour composition within the

AREA 68: LYTH VALLEY

landscape, which is dominated by white in spring from the blossoms of the damsons and blackthorn. Seasonal flooding can turn the valley into a lake feature for days or weeks. This adds to the sense of drama in winter months.

Strong sense of place is apparent from its flatness, straight roads and hedgerow boundaries. Within views southwards, there is a strong sense of openness, with generally wide visual panoramas across to Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. There is a strong sense of human intervention over the landscape of this area, which has been reclaimed from wetlands and drained (via pumps) for many years.

Settlement pattern is sparse, with scattered halls, houses and farms around the fringes of the valley. To the east, Brigsteer nestles at the foot of Scout Scar woodlands. The limestone vernacular character of these buildings contributes to a sense of coherency and balance within this valley. The concentration of the damson orchards of the Lyth valley are unique, surrounding each small farmstead and growing along every hedgerow in the valley. During April, the orchards and hedgerows become snow-white with blossom. The fruit ripens in September and is sold from roadside stalls and local shops.

The Lyth is a very peaceful valley, evoking a strong sense of calm and relatively strong sense of tranquillity away from main roads, due to the relative absence of dwellings and openness of the landscape. Closer to the A5074 and A590 the tranquillity is disturbed by the noise and movement of the traffic.

'The course of the bright twisting stream was dimmed here and there by mists of fruit blossom.. For the damson trees were all out, patterning the valleys; marking the bounds of orchard and field, of stream and road. Each with its larch clump, the grey and white farms lay scattered on the pale green of the pastures; on either side of the valley the limestone pushed upwards, through the grassy slopes of the fells, and made long edges and 'scars' against the sky; while down by the river hummed the old mill.'

Helbeck of Bannisdale, Mrs Humphry Ward, 1897

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Damson orchards which are striking and recognisable landscape features;
- Water within the Rivers Lyth and Gilpin, which are vulnerable to pollution from point source and diffuse pollution;
- General absence of stone walls at field boundaries apart from around fringes of valley, where they reflect the limestone geology;
- Relatively strong sense of tranquillity throughout;

AREA 68: LYTH VALLEY

- Strong limestone vernacular character and sparse settlement pattern which is vulnerable to the introduction of new buildings that do not respect the existing scale and built character; and
- Significant sensitivity to the cumulative impacts of vertical infrastructure.¹¹⁹

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Increased storm events and rainfall could increase the length and impact of seasonal flooding.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Protect** water within the Rivers Lyth and Gilpin from point source and diffuse pollution.

Ecological Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** wet grassland and mire habitats; and
- **Conserve** and **enhance** hedges and encourage replacement of fencelines with new hedges.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** limestone walls where extant around the fringes of the area;
- **Conserve** strong limestone vernacular character and retain sparse settlement pattern;
- **Conserve, enhance** and **restore** damson orchards which are striking and recognisable landscape features in this area; and
- **Ensure** new building proposals are sensitively sited and designed.

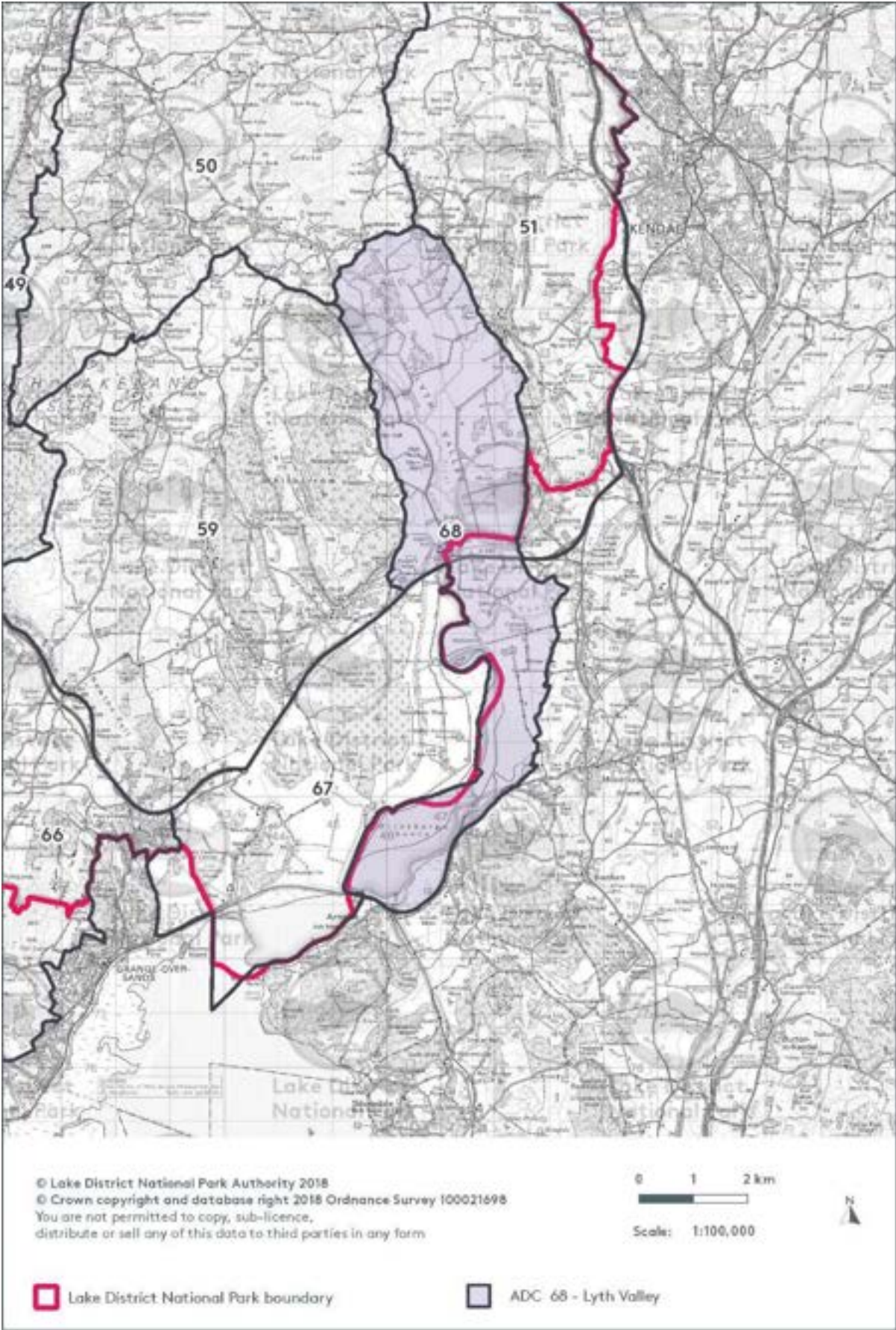
¹¹⁹ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

AREA 68: LYTH VALLEY

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Maintain** relatively strong sense of tranquillity throughout.

AREA 68: LYTH VALLEY



AREA 69: BIRKBECK FELLS COMMON, BRETHERDALE & BORROWDALE FELLS

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated at the eastern edge of the Lake District National Park. The ADC extends beyond the Park boundary to the east and forms part of its setting. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Windermere](#).

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see section 4)

- [Rugged /Craggy Volcanic High Fell](#) (F); and
- [Upland Limestone Farmland](#) (I).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Extensive moorland plateau with two deep, glacial, flat bottomed valleys with incised gills and some crags and scree on steep valley sides;
- Extensive tracts of moorland with a mosaic of mat grass, rushes and emergent heather;
- Small incised gills cut through the edges of the moorland
- Sheltered valleys with fast-flowing streams, pastures and remnant hay meadows;
- Traditional vernacular slate buildings and stone walls (in-bye);
- Areas of semi-natural broadleaved woodland on valley sides in places and some forestry plantations;
- A few scattered isolated farms and hamlets in valleys;
- Narrow meandering lanes lined with stone walls are found at the edges of the area;
- Hill farming and common land extensive; and
- Predominantly a strong sense of tranquillity due to the openness and perception of naturalness of the fells and enhanced by the relative absence of settlements or dwellings.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This Area of Distinctive Character encompasses sweeping expanses of open moorland and fells, which are characterised by rough grassland, dwarf shrub heaths (including newly emergent heather), blanket bog, bracken and areas of rock outcrop and

AREA 69: BIRKBECK FELLS COMMON, BRETHERDALE & BORROWDALE FELLS

scree. The ridges run south-eastwards for some distance without losing height, then drop steeply into the Lune Gorge, considered one of the most scenic and dramatic landscapes visible from a motorway.

In contrast to the open moorland and fells, two deep, sheltered, glaciated valleys run east-west, and contain semi-improved grassland and remnant hay meadows, enclosed by dry stone walls and hedgerows. Small gills cut across the edges of the moorland as it drops into small river valleys.

The few scattered farms have traditional stone farm buildings in slate vernacular style with slate roofs typical at these lower altitudes and are usually sheltered by clumps of sycamore trees. Field barns are a feature in the valleys, but many are now derelict. The patterns of stone walls which subdivide lowland pasture and high fell sides reflect the management of land as inbye, intake and fell grazing and create a strong landscape pattern.

In some areas, poorly drained land supports unimproved wetland habitats, which add to the variety and texture of the landscape. The many small streams and side valleys are often lined with broadleaved trees and small semi-natural woodlands. Large areas of semi-natural broadleaved woodland remain on some lower valley slopes in places such as in Bretherdale and the lower end of Borrowdale. The steeper slopes of the fells, as at Ashstead Fell, carry mixed and coniferous plantations in places creating a sense of local enclosure.

Despite proximity to the M6 motorway corridor, a strong sense of isolation and wildness is apparent. The area has a strong sense of tranquillity due to the openness and perception of naturalness of the fells. The sense of tranquillity is enhanced by the relative absence of settlements or dwellings and night time light pollution. Proximity to the A6, a row of pylons and two radio masts also impact on the sense of tranquillity in places.

'Unbounded freedom ruled the wandering scene
Nor fence of ownership crept in between
To hide the prospect of the following eye
Its only bondage was the circling sky.'

'John Clare, herd boy & farmer, 1792 – 1864'

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Open moorland and fell, which are sensitive to changes in grazing management;

AREA 69: BIRKBECK FELLS COMMON, BRETHERDALE & BORROWDALE FELLS

- Traditional slate vernacular stone and slate buildings sheltered by clumps of sycamore trees;
- Unimproved wetlands, which are vulnerable to diffuse and point source pollution;
- River corridors often have steep sides that can be susceptible to erosion;
- Strong sense of tranquillity, isolation and wildness due to relative absence of dwellings and night time light pollution; and
- Broad-leaved trees, shrubs, scrub and woodlands, which provide a sense of enclosure and are striking landscape features.
- Greatly significant sensitivity to the cumulative landscape and visual impacts of vertical development.¹²⁰

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Increase in the spread of invasive species such as bracken and gorse in areas where stocking numbers are reduced on existing pasture, leading to reduced biodiversity and changed characteristics;
- Increased storm events and rainfall could affect the character of rivers and cause slips and significant erosion along their banks;
- Reduction in non-native conifer woodland and planting native woodland on gill sides transforming the existing character through reinforcement of positive attributes; and
- Lack of management of vernacular buildings leading to dereliction in places.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

¹²⁰ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014 cites this area as significant. It has subsequently been designated National Park. This is likely to increase the sensitivity to great significance.

AREA 69: BIRKBECK FELLS COMMON, BRETHERDALE & BORROWDALE FELLS

Physical Character

- **Conserve, enhance** and, where appropriate, **expand** broadleaved woodlands, trees, scrub and small clumps, which provide a sense of enclosure and are striking landscape features; and
- **Seek** natural land management approaches to reinforcing river banks and corridors and **ensure** any engineering works reflect the open moorland character of the area.

Ecological Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** mosaic of habitats on open moorland and fell; and
- **Conserve** and **enhance** unimproved wetlands and hay meadows, which are vulnerable to point source and diffuse pollution;

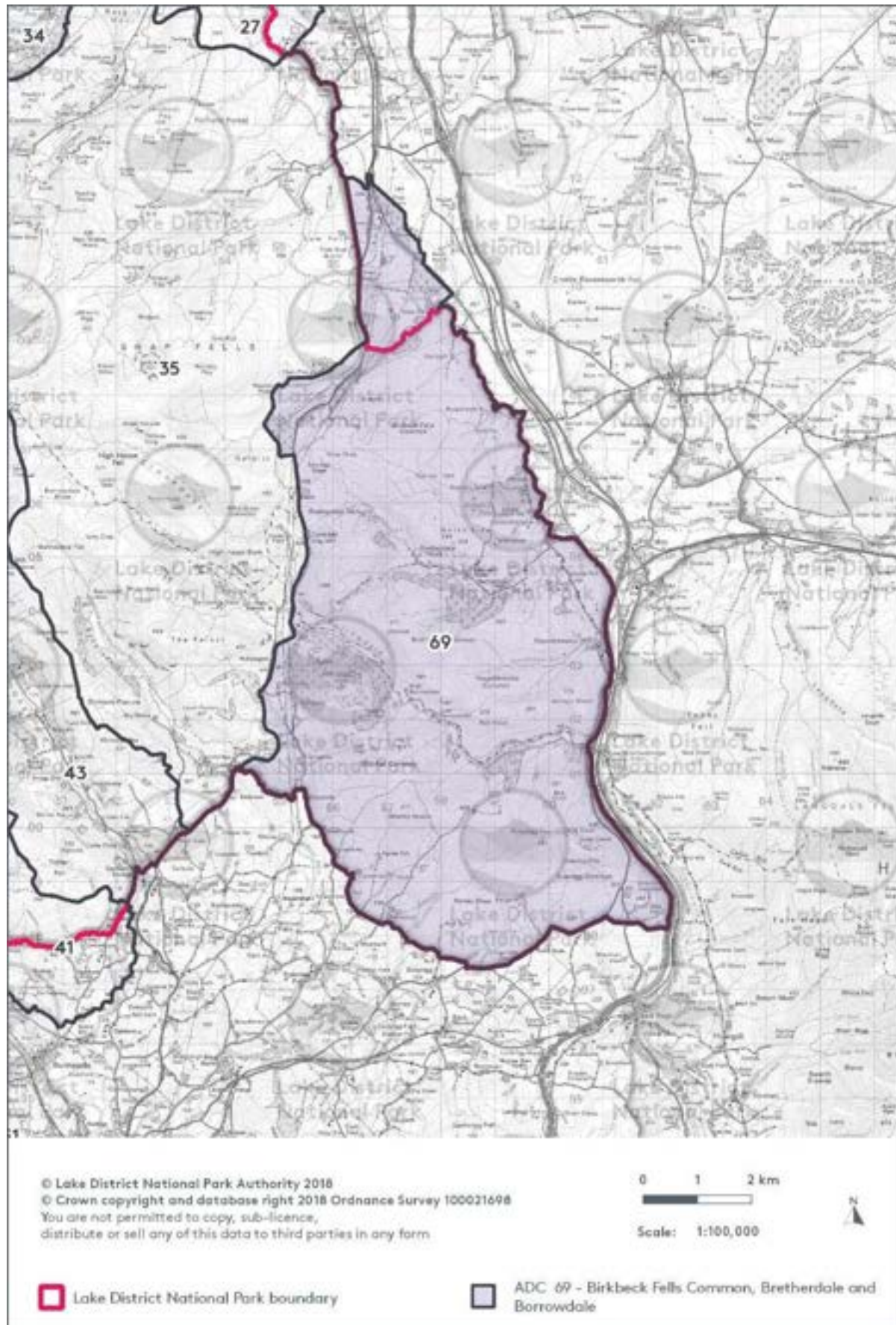
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** traditional vernacular slate buildings.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Protect** strong sense of tranquillity, wildness and isolation; and
- **Protect** wide open views from tall vertical or large-scale developments.

AREA 69: BIRKBECK FELLS COMMON, BRETHERDALE & BORROWDALE FELLS



AREA 70: CONISTON FELLS

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This dome-shaped Area of Distinctive Character is located to the south of the Central Lake District and the west of Coniston Water. It is in World Heritage Site Valleys: [Duddon](#) and [Coniston](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section

- [Rugged/Craggy Volcanic High Fell](#) (F); and
- [Lowland Valley](#) (M).

Distinctive Characteristics

- The disparity between the dominating 'natural' fell and crag features of the mountains themselves, and the extensive and impressive areas of quarrying;
- The strongly textured and rough appearance of the landscape pitted with old mineral working. Its grey colour, lack of or low growing vegetation, and dramatic glaciated scenery;
- A long history of slate and mineral extraction, which is clearly visible in today's landscape, giving it a slightly other-worldly and abandoned feel;
- Association with Arthur Ransome's 'Swallows and Amazons' novels;
- Coniston Old Man is one of the most easily accessible peaks in the Lake District, therefore popular with walkers and families;
- Predominantly a very tranquil landscape due to the openness and perception of naturalness of the open fells;
- Corrie tarns including Goat and Low Waters, Levers water (a reservoir) and Seathwaite Tarn, which nestles to the west of Seathwaite Fell;
- The lower, more knobbly and hummocky fells such as Csaew and the Dunnerdale Fells running towards the south-west contain many small tarns and streams and more diverse heath vegetation.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The central part of the Coniston Fells contains impressive high rugged fells including Coniston Old Man and Wetherlam. It is classic glacial topography, including steep-sided hanging valleys, corries, arêtes and the pyramidal peak of Wetherlam. The Old Man of Coniston and Wetherlam, which are linked by a horseshoe-shaped ridge

AREA 70: CONISTON FELLS

incorporating Swirl How. There are several dramatically sited corrie lakes, including Goat's Water, Low Water and Lever's Water (a reservoir) as well as Seathwaite Tarn, which nestles to the west of Seathwaite Fell. From these central highest points, the area gradually slopes down to Greenburn to the, Seathwaite Fells in the west, Torver High Common to the south and the intakes associated with Coniston Village to the east.

The scale of the landscape varies greatly within the area. Within the steep valleys, the landscape feels fairly intimate, but in views from the summits, particularly from Wetherlam, the fells are open and expansive. Vegetation is predominantly low growing on the open commons and heavily grazed, with mat grass with many rushing becks and streams, and wet flushes. The lower more knobbly and hummocky fells such as Caw and the Dunnerdale Fells running towards the south west have an intimate nature and contain many small tarns in hollows, and more diverse heath vegetation. Most the land is commons, with an area of ancient intake and inbye around Seathwaite. Seathwaite is small historic settlement that nestles at the foot of Coniston Fells.

The forms of the landscape remain impressive and dramatic, despite centuries of mining and quarrying for their slate and mineral deposits. Mineral veins are visible in the rocks, and the presence of copper gives the tarn of Low Water a distinctive bright blue colour. The industrial archaeology is still very visible in today's landscape; as the hillsides are littered with spoil tips, adits, shafts and occasional pieces of mining machinery, which can give the landscape an 'abandoned' feel. The area known as Coniston Coppermines (above Miner's Bridge out of Coniston village) also has numerous ruins of former mining buildings, particularly around Levers Water Beck. There was also a slate quarry at Penny Rigg. A row of former miners cottages remain inhabited, and the Coniston Coppermines Youth Hostel was formerly part of the mine complex.

Coniston Fells is very popular with walkers and families, because of its association with the Arthur Ransome novels, its views, the desolate beauty of the rocky landscape, but also for its convenience; Coniston is relatively easily accessible by main road, and there is a car park part-way up the Old Man of Coniston. Consequently, the footpath up the Old Man of Coniston, and the paths around Coniston Coppermines are usually busy. Away from the most popular routes, particularly during poorer weather conditions, the atmosphere is very different- the abandoned mines take on a far more isolated and desolate quality, the hills seem less approachable, and the whole atmosphere seems much less comfortable.

Arthur Ransome described the Coniston Fells extensively in his 'Swallows and Amazons' series of books. The 'Katchenjunga' climbed in 'Swallowdale' is the Old Man of Coniston, and 'Pidgeon Post' was set on the Coniston Fells, with 'Slater Bob's mine' being the Penny Rigg quarry, on the lower slopes of Wetherlam.

The Old Man of Coniston forms an impressive and well-known backdrop to views west from Coniston water and across the lake from the eastern shore. There is a sense of the Old Man of Coniston watching over his village and lake. Wetherlam to the north is visible from Ambleside and the northern end of Windermere. From the latter viewpoint it visually balances the Langdale Pikes in views to the west. The sea is visible to the south and west, and the Isle of Man is visible on clear days. Views change suddenly, around bends in valleys.

Tranquility is strong throughout due to the open and wild nature of the landscape providing a sense of naturalness and sparse settlement. Tranquility is slightly disturbed close to the Coniston Coppermines and around key routes up the Old Man of Coniston which is popular with walkers and mountain bikers (on Walna Scar Road),

‘Lovely rock scenery, chased with silver waterfalls.’

John Ruskin

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Ruins of former mining buildings which are historic, landscape features;
- Strong sense of openness in places;
- Open views towards the sea which are sensitive to interruption with an intermediate sensitivity to cumulative impacts of vertical development;¹²¹
- Strong intervisibility with adjacent Landscape Character Types; and
- Heavily grazed vegetation mosaics vulnerable to continued grazing pressure.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Retreat from marginal land leading to the dereliction of enclosure fields and a change in vegetation structure;
- Increase in invasive species better suited to new climatic conditions affecting key landscape characteristics;
- Large scale energy developments, increase in mining or quarrying activity and sustained pressure from recreational activities;
- Increased mining or quarrying activity rapidly transforming significant landscape features; and
- Sustained pressure from recreational activities causing lasting scars and introducing modern elements into the high fell.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types

¹²¹ Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure, Cumbria County Council, October 2014

AREA 70: CONISTON FELLS

listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Protect** water within the corrie lakes and becks from point source and diffuse pollution.

Ecological Character

- **Encourage** lower levels of grazing on high ground; and
- **Conserve** and **enhance** mosaics of heathland vegetation on lower fells.

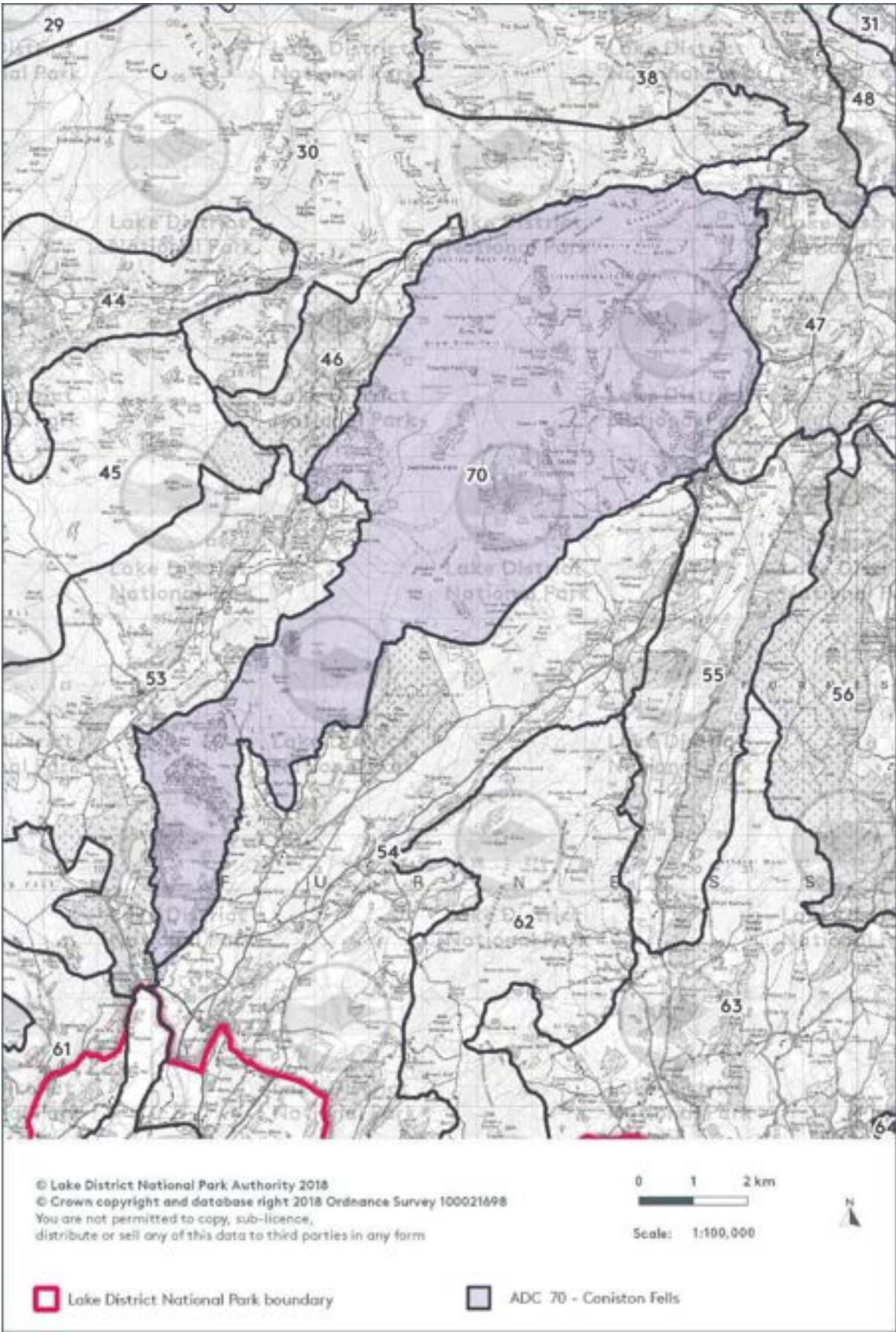
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** ruins of former mining buildings which are historic landscape features; and
- **Manage** visitor pressure to reduce impact on vegetation and development of scars and erosion gullies along main paths.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Maintain** strong sense of openness and tranquillity throughout;
- **Protect** open views towards the sea and the Isle of Man from tall vertical or large-scale developments; and
- **Retain** strong intervisibility with adjacent Landscape Character Types.

AREA 70: CONISTON FELLS



AREA 71: FAIRFIELD HORSESHOE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character is located at the centre of the Lake District, immediately to the north of Ambleside and Rydal. It is in World Heritage Site Valley: [Grasmere & Rydal](#).

4) Relevant Landscape Character Types (see section 4)

- [Rugged/Craggy Volcanic High Fell](#) (F).

Distinctive Characteristics

- The distinctive shape of the horseshoe of fells forming the backdrop to the valleys below;
- The contrasting sense of place between the enclosed centre of the horseshoe and the exposed, high ridges with their long-distance views in all directions;
- Screes, cliffs and rocky outcrops dominate the slopes with little enclosure or sign of man;
- Moorland vegetation is limited on the summits but the slopes support mat grass and remnant heath and wet flushes in more gentle areas;
- Sound of rushing water along the Becks in the two valleys, and waterfalls;
- Scattered trees add interest to the lower parts of the Rydal valley; and
- Views over many Lake District landscape character areas.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The most distinctive aspect of Fairfield Horseshoe, is the horseshoe-shape of the high fells with Fairfield in the centre at the highest point that gives it the area its name.

The top of Fairfield is flat, and scree covered with little vegetation; the slopes, with many crags, cliffs and screes, and moorland that supports mat grass and patches of remnant heath and wet flushes. It is slightly disorientating, particularly in poor visibility when reference points in the views are not visible. This is a harsh environment, with snow pockets often remaining well into the spring, and it can appear very bleak. The steeply wooded valley sides around the lower part of Scandale Beck offer more intimacy.

There is a great contrast in the sense of place between the centre of the horseshoe and the ridge. From within the horseshoe, in the Rydal and Scandale Beck valleys the horizon is very high, and there is a very strong sense of enclosure from the

AREA 71: FAIRFIELD HORSESHOE

surrounding steep rocky cliffs and fells. Here there is the rushing sound of water in the becks, with waterfalls such as at Buckstones Jump, low growing vegetation, with areas of scattered broadleaved trees in the lower parts of the Rydal valley towards the more wooded Rydal Park.

From the ridge of the horseshoe, the lack of vegetation, the low horizon and the panoramic views give a sense of exhilaration, and of being 'on top of the world'. Much of the sense of place comes from the views out. Windermere lake is visible to the south, the central fells to the west, Helvellyn to the north, and a series of horizontal ridges rising towards High Street to the east. Much of the Lake District can be seen from here, and there is contrast between the relatively soft, low and vegetated landscape to the south, and the higher, rougher fells to the north.

These views make the Fairfield Horseshoe a popular walk, and the colours, movements and voices of walkers are part of the character of the area. On descending the horseshoe and arriving back into Rydal or Ambleside, there is a sense of 'returning to civilisation'. As a result of the popularity of the area, vegetation and footpath erosion are an issue in some areas with development of gullies and other damage visible in places.

The area has a very strong sense of tranquillity due to the openness and perception of naturalness of the open fells above Ambleside. The relative absence of settlements and dwellings, minimal sources of artificial noise and few obvious signs of human influences enhance the sense of tranquillity. However, to the south, in close proximity to Ambleside and Rydal, the sense of tranquillity is disturbed where the number of dwellings increase and more signs of overt human impact appear.

'we began to stroll about and enjoy the extensive prospect. We had several prospect glasses, and the air was very clear. I was much pleased, though awed by the tremendous rocks and precipices in various directions.'

Ellen Weeton's Journal, July 1810, An excursion to Fairfield summit

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Strong intervisibility with adjacent lower Landscape Character types;
- Panoramic views from the ridge to surrounding Landscapes which are vulnerable to interruption from tall vertical or large-scale developments¹²²;
- Overall strong sense of tranquillity;
- Mosaic of heathland vegetation sensitive to grazing pressure; and

¹²² This ADC is not covered by the Cumbria Cumulative Impacts of Vertical Infrastructure study.

AREA 71: FAIRFIELD HORSESHOE

- Scattered trees in lower valley susceptible to grazing and lack of regeneration.

Forces for Change

The Forces for Change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Selected additional guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** areas of scattered trees in lower Rydal valley and around Scandale Beck.

Ecological Character

- **Restore** mosaics of heathland vegetation on slopes and in valleys.

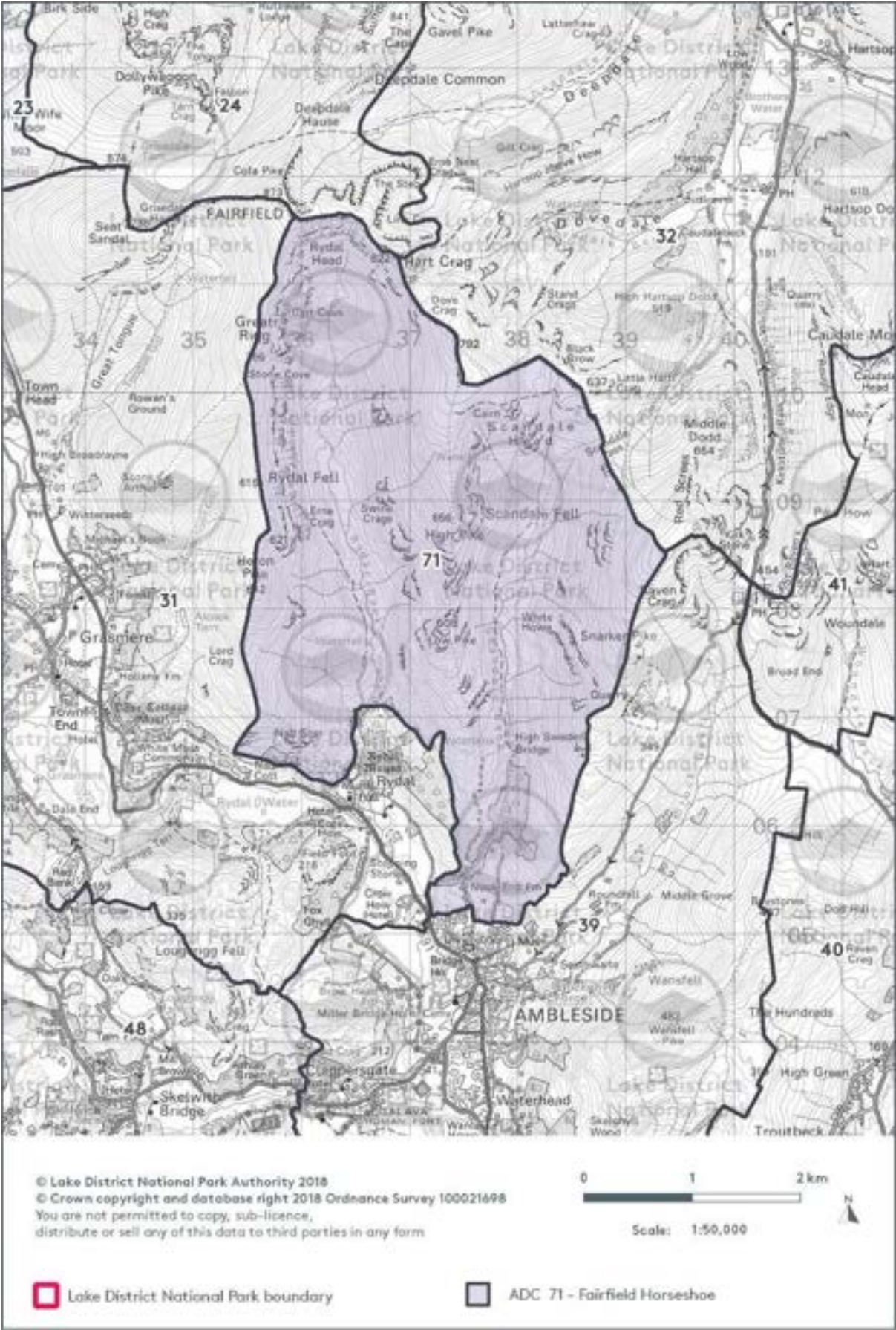
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Manage** rights of way to minimise erosion of vegetation and footpaths and prevent gully development.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Retain** strong intervisibility with adjacent lower Areas of Distinctive Character;
- **Protect** panoramic views from the ridge to surrounding landscapes from interruption from tall or large-scale developments; and
- **Maintain** overall strong sense of tranquillity.

AREA 71: FAIRFIELD HORSESHOE



6 MONITORING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

6.1 Introduction

The Landscape Character Assessment provides a useful baseline for measuring landscape change. The Lake District National Park Partnership is developing indicators for monitoring changes, both positive and negative, in the character of the National Park's landscape. The landscape monitoring programme will form part of the wider monitoring approach in the Lake District National Park Partnership's State of the Park Report and will also be used to inform the UNESCO monitoring of World Heritage Site status.

6.2 Monitoring Change in the National Park

The State of the Park Report is produced every 5 years. The next State of the Park Report will be published in 2018. The Lake District National Park Landscape Character Steering Group is reviewing existing indicators and identifying new ones as part of this. The indicators will recognise that landscape changes in response to a range of influences and at different timescales. It will draw on advice from Natural England and its latest position on developing a strategy for observing and monitoring landscape

The current State of the Park Report monitors a range of datasets that cover six of the National Park's special qualities. These all relate to landscape character:

- Complex geology and geomorphology
- Diverse landscape from mountain to coast
- Nationally important mosaic of lakes, tarns, rivers and coast
- Wealth of habitats and wildlife
- Extensive semi-natural woodlands
- Open nature of the fells

7 Appendices

A: LCA Tender Brief 2008

THE LAKE DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT AND LANDSCAPE GUIDELINES

TENDER BRIEF

Introduction

A partnership of organisations (The Lake District National Park Authority, Friends of the Lake- District, The National Trust and Natural England) wishes to commission consultants to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment with Landscape Guidelines for the Lake District National Park. The project will be carried out according to 'Landscape Character Assessment: Guidance for England and Scotland' (2002), by The Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage.

The Character Assessment and Guidelines will be separate sections of a single document. The Character Assessment will capture baseline information in an objective, transparent and value free way and the Guidelines will involve making judgements leading to guidelines for landscape related planning, management and design policies and prescriptions.

The document will provide an invaluable tool to inform the project partners planning, design and land management services and will be readily available to other partners, stakeholders and customers. It will act as an information resource for all, from national agencies to students and casual visitors; it will promote better understanding of the challenges facing the Lake District and more effective planning and management of the Lake District National Park landscape.

Aims

Character Assessment

- To improve the knowledge and understanding of the Lake District landscape to help conserve and enhance the overall characteristics, qualities and diversity of landscape character, its sense of place and local distinctiveness.
- To identify and understand factors influencing landscape change.
- To provide baseline data to facilitate future monitoring
- To develop indicators to monitor change within individual landscape types/areas.

Guidelines

- To support a holistic approach to managing change and encourage the sustainable planning and management of the Lake District landscape including the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment and the enrichment of biological diversity.

Objectives

Character Assessment

- To highlight and describe the character of the physical, cultural,

- historical, ecological, visual and sensory landscape.
- To identify past, present and future forces for change and describe their impacts.
- To assess the sensitivity to and capacity for change, for the various landscape character areas and landscape types.

Guidelines

- To provide local planning, management and design guidelines, integrated with the Local Development Framework and the National Park Management Plan, for each landscape character area and landscape type.
- To recommend how these guidelines can be implemented.
- To suggest indicators for monitoring landscape change.

Scope

The Lake District National Park boundary will define the project but the setting, including but not exclusive to, the zone of visual impact, the relationship with adjacent areas and the fact that landscape character types and areas do not coincide with administrative boundaries must be considered and recorded. The relationship between coastal areas and seascapes is also important in this context.

Consultants must set out in their tender response how they would manage this information.

We believe that individual policies, plans, proposals and advice involving landscape change must:

- be based on a sound understanding of the characteristics and features which make a place and its setting different from elsewhere;
- take account of the importance of local features of interest, view points and changes in scenery encountered when moving through an area; and
- be responsive to, and avoid adverse impacts on, less tangible qualities associated with a sense of wildness, remoteness and freedom.

The LCA/Guidelines will help us achieve this and must work to a scale and level of detail which makes it possible. In some areas this may encompass broad tracts of land of similar character as a single unit whilst in others it may require working at a much smaller scale reflecting the distinctiveness of land units and where particularly significant, influential, or unique characteristics or features are present.

Whilst the document essentially deals with the countryside the effects of settlement pattern and vernacular building style must be considered, particularly with reference to the 20 designated conservation areas within the National Park.

Tranquillity mapping will be incorporated into the Classification/Guidelines using the CPRE/CA guidelines piloted in Northumberland National Park and subsequent CPRE mapping.

Uses

The document must be comprehensive in its content and clear in its presentation so as to facilitate the following uses:

- Provide valuable information to influence the full extent of the land use planning system from strategic planning, the Local Development Framework to the development control decision-making process.
- Add to the transparency of the planning process by setting out a method of assessment in line with national guidelines.

- Provide essential information and guidance to land owners and managers.
- Act as an information resource to our partners and customers from national agencies to students and visitors.
- Help guide the working of agri-environment and woodland grant schemes.
- Provide guidance for anyone implementing work on the ground projects.
- Provide a baseline for State of the Park reporting and identify critical indicators of change.
- Be an information source for the National Park Management Plan review.
- Strengthen the potential World Heritage Site Inscription bid.
- Add to the outputs of the Lake District Historic Landscape Classification.
- Inform the development of Strategic Area Management Plans
- Assist in developing property management plans
- Provide supporting information for Supplementary Planning Documents.

Context

The document must sit in context with, relate to and compliment the following:

- Countryside Character Volume 2: North West
- European Landscape Convention
- Govt Sustainable Development Strategy, A Better Quality of Life
- Cumbria Landscape Classification
- Cumbria Landscape Strategy
- MAFF Environmentally Sensitive Area LCA
- Cumbria Historic Landscape Classification
- Cumbria Biodiversity Action Plan
- Existing Village/Parish/Community Plans (20 complete, 8 in progress)
- LDNPA State of the Park Report
- World Heritage Site Inscription bid
- The National Trust Strategy for the Lake District
- Current proposed National Park boundary changes
- The LDNPA Vision
- The Local Development Framework
- The Countryside Quality Counts Project
- Tranquillity mapping (CPRE/CA methodology)
- PPS7

Methodology

The methodology to be followed will be as set down in *Landscape Character Assessment: Guidance for England and Scotland* produced by the Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage in 2002.

Additionally the research should include development of appropriate indicators of change for each landscape type/area which can be used to demonstrate whether change is happening that is inconsistent with existing landscape character. These should take into account the main forces for change identified within the characterisation process and must be suitable to build on existing datasets for use in measuring the state of the National Park. We would like the contractor to be creative in developing these indicators.

The methodology will involve a mixture of desktop study, fieldwork, stakeholder consultation and liaison with the partner organisations to maximise best use of their existing relevant data and knowledge base.

Desktop study will include developing the use of, and links with, existing Mapinfo based GIS data held by the partner organisations. Local knowledge from within

partner organisations should contribute to the information gathering exercise and interviews with appropriate staff should be part of the process. Temporary office accommodation will be made available to the consultant for accessing and compiling data if required.

Fieldwork should also draw on local knowledge. Locally based staff (for example National Park Rangers and National Trust Property Managers) will be available for interview and temporary office space will be available to the consultant in various locations throughout the National Park for this stage of the project.

Stakeholder Consultation will involve contacting key stakeholders (partner organisations and major landowners/land managers) individually. A list of key stakeholders will be compiled in conjunction with the project manager and will not exceed 20 names. It will also include preparing a questionnaire, to be advertised in the local press and available through the Lake District National Park Authority website, Tourist Information Centres and by post on request. Any additional innovative methods of engaging the public in the project would be welcomed. Results of consultation will be considered during preparation of the LCA/Guidelines and reported in a separate report to be presented to the Advisory Group.

Format and Outputs

The Assessment and Guidelines need to be accessible to all.

The Assessment (characterisation) part of the document will contain descriptions of the process and methodology, descriptions of landscape character areas and types, features and locations, maps, tables, photographs, drawings and any other medium felt necessary to communicate information at the various levels at which it is expected to work. It will also indicate how it relates to other landscape character assessments at larger and smaller scales and within adjacent administrative boundaries.

The Guidelines part of the document will fully describe the approach and reasoning behind making judgements and recommendations, the link between characterisation work and judgements made and the role played by stakeholders.

The document must be accessible via:

1. Electronic access via the Lake District National Park Authority website
2. CD format
3. Hard copy

On completion the consultant must produce twelve hard copies, twelve CDs and a series of PDFs (Portable Document Formats) of the document, under one megabyte each, suitable for Lake District National Park Authority staff to add to the website.

All text should be produced in Microsoft WORD and maps must be in a format suitable for importing into MAPINFO.

Timetable

Project milestones:

17 Nov 2006	Advertise for 'expressions of interest' from consultants in Landscape Institute publication ' <i>Vista</i> '
24 Nov 2006	Invitation to Tender
11 Dec 2006	End tender period/Open tenders/Invitations to present
13 Dec 2006	Presentations/Interviews

14 Dec 2006	Appoint consultants
w/b 18 Dec	Start-up meeting (date to be agreed)
12 Feb 2007	Present 1 st draft (Landscape Assessment) and progress report by consultant
03 May 2007	Present final draft (Landscape Assessment) and 2 nd progress report
16 July 2007	Present 1 st draft (Landscape Guidelines) and progress report
17 Aug 2007	Present final draft of complete project and progress report
31 Aug 2007	Approve submission or seek changes
30 Oct 2007	Controlled close
07 Dec 2007	Launch and sponsors acknowledgements/Publication on LDNPA website

Reporting procedures

The project will be guided by an Advisory Group representing key stakeholders in the Lake District and the consultant must include for a minimum of four meetings/presentations in Kendal to report progress to this group.

The Project Manager for this project is:

Chris Greenwood
 Landscape Architect
 Lake District National Park Authority
 Murley Moss
 Oxenholme Road
 Kendal
 Cumbria LA9 7RL
 Tel: 01539 792618
 Fax: 01539 740822
 E: chris.greenwood@lake-district.gov.uk

All contact with the partner organisations will initially be through this channel.

B: LCA Review Brief 2018

Project Brief

Project Title: Review and revision of the Lake District National Park Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines



Timescale: 18 January – 31 May 2018

1. Background:

Within the Lake District National Park Partnership Plan 2015-2020 Partners identified a set of Breakthrough Actions and associated work. This work relates to and is working towards delivery of Breakthrough Action 1:

- *'Identify and develop evidence and tools required for effective and co-ordinated cultural landscape management and monitoring. We will do this by:*
 - *c) Agreeing a model and approach to monitor landscape and environment change* based on the Lake District Character Assessments & National Character Areas (*should include climate change mitigation and adaption into landscape management).'*

Friends of the Lake District were identified as the lead Partner for this work supported by a steering group of Natural England (NE), Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) and the National Trust (NT). The delivery team are:

- Friends of the Lake District lead: Kate Willshaw
- Steering Group: NE – Andy Warton and Chris Bolton; LDNPA – Andrew Herbert; NT – Jamie Lund; LDNPP – Liz Cheslett-Davey; FC – Colin Binnie.
- Supporting: LDNPA – Claire Redhouse and Rob Carey.

Given the Supplementary Planning Guidance Status of the Lake District National Park Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines (LCA) this contract is being let through LDNPA on behalf of the LDNPP rather than Friends of the Lake District.

Before the landscape monitoring approach work can be fully developed Friends of the Steering Group have identified that the current Lake District National Park Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines need review and revision work as outlined in this specification to be completed.

The LDNPP lead for this project is Liz Cheslett-Davey, who will with the full engagement and involvement of the Steering Group and Friends of the Lake District's Kate Willshaw manage the detail of the contractors work.

2. Review and revision:

2.1 Key objectives of LCA review and revision

1.	To ensure that the revised LCA complies with Natural England's 2014 'Approach to Landscape Character Guidelines' ¹²³ with regard to methodology and the 10 considerations outlined in Section 1.6 of the document.
2.	To ensure that the revisions meet requirements to be adopted as an LDNPA Supplementary Planning Document.
3.	Convert the existing LCA document to an indexed Microsoft Word format, compatible with Office 2013 or later, and provide this to LDNPA as a digital copy of the 2008 LCA (the final revised version of the LCA should also be presented in this indexed Word format).
4.	Ensure the document has a clear and consistent structure to ensure ease of use i.e. consistent chapter structures, headings and sub headings.
5.	Ensure document structure is compatible with conversion to database for online use; including ensuring sub-headings for ADC and LCTs are hyperlink compatible for use with the proposed GIS interface.
6.	Review section three of the LCA in consultation with the relevant authorities to ensure it includes and explanation of the importance of setting of the LDNP in law and policy and reflects the current political context including World Heritage Site Inscription.
7.	Update ADC/LCT descriptions to include: a) Information highlighting where a landscape unit crosses the boundary of the LDNP. b) Some limited updates to information about each landscape unit e.g. ensure that there are Guidelines for Management entry for each landscape unit, descriptions include key / relevant information from the Cumbria CIVI¹²⁴ and WHS Valley Descriptions, and identify Priority Habitats using the Cumbria Biodiversity Evidence Base datasets (access to be provided through the steering group). c) Cross referencing e.g. ensure all LCTs within each ADC are clearly identified and hyperlinked within the document to enable users to cross reference between the units. d) Identify where ADCs and LCTs have no Guidelines for Management, using existing information and up-to-date professional knowledge create appropriate content to fill these gaps. e) Use information from Cumbria County Council's LCA, in combination with the Lake District LCA, and work relating to justification of extensions to the Lake District National Park (2017) to provide any additional content required for description of LCAs in LDNPA extension areas - to include gaps around the south west boundary as well as the eastern boundary from Low Park in the south to Tebay in the north. With recommendations for any additional requirements such as survey work if these LCA descriptions do not provide parity of quality descriptions.
8.	Provide a 'tracked changes' document containing and highlighting changes from the adopted 2008 LCA, to enable quick and easy identification of changes.

4. Requirements of contractor:

¹²³

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/396192/landscape-character-assessment.pdf

¹²⁴ <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/planning-environment/countryside/countryside-landscape/civi/civi.asp>

- 1) Complete the tasks identified in table 2.1 above, having first provided an outline delivery schedule against which progress can be monitored. Tasks are roughly listed in an expected order of delivery unless stated otherwise.
- 2) Maintaining good communication with the LDNPA's contract manager Liz Cheslett-Davey and other partners as appropriate and attend project update and oversight meetings with LDNPA's contract manager and FLD's Kate Willshaw on a fortnightly basis (meetings can be conducted over the phone).
- 3) Ensure that any issues delaying or preventing completion of the required tasks are discussed at the earliest possible convenience with LDNPA Contract Manager, with an acceptable way forward to be agreed in consultation with the LCA Steering Group.
- 4) Meet with / present to at least one LCA Steering Group meeting.

5. Related longer term potential development opportunities to have in mind:

The LCA Steering Group have longer term aspirations that the document / information be accessible to all via an interactive web interface. The Group have previously explored the tool developed by the Cairngorms National Park Authority and are looking to see what of a similar nature might in future be possible in the Lake District <http://cairngorms.co.uk/park-authority/planning/landscape-sensitivity/> any work carried out under this contract should not preclude such a possibility.

C: Acknowledgements

Cover image © Cumbria Tourism

The 2018 Review was undertaken by Jenny Wain, Senior Consultant, Bowfell Consulting Ltd 29 May 2018

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Jamie Lund, National Trust

Chris Bolton, Natural England

Nigel Pilling, Natural England

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Andrew Herbert - Lake District National Park Authority

Jack Ellerby - Friends of the Lake District

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D: Methodology for LCA 2008

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT AND GUIDELINES 2008 - METHODOLOGY

Overview

The overall approach for undertaking the Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) is based on the latest published national guidance¹²⁵, taking into account current best practice.

Landscape Character Assessment addresses both the analytical process of character assessment (or 'characterisation'), which involves identifying, mapping, classifying and describing landscape character; and the process of evaluating forces for change and sensitivities and capacity for change in the landscape, and developing guidelines for managing landscape change. informing planning and land management decisions.

In summary, the key steps involved in the process involved:

Character Assessment

- Stage 1 – Information Scoping
- Stage 2 – Desk Based Research
- Stage 3 – Field Survey
- Stage 4 – Characterisation

Evaluation

- Stage 5 – Evaluation and Guidelines preparation
- Stage 6 – Preparation of Overall Report

Character Assessment Methodology

Stage 1 - Information Scoping

This preliminary stage involved the following main tasks to scope the information available for the Study:

- Identifying and reviewing existing landscape character assessment information in and around the National Park;
- Obtaining relevant landscape character assessment information for incorporation into the landscape character assessment;
- Identifying shortfalls in coverage and detail of existing landscape character assessment information, and determining further assessment work required where necessary to provide an appropriate level of information for incorporation into the LCA.

Stage 2 – Desk Based Research

This stage involved desk-based research to identify the physical and historical factors that have influenced the shape and use of the landscape. This work drew on a variety of documents, maps and digital data that describe the physical geography and cultural history of the Lake District (see Appendix D and footnotes throughout the document for details of the main sources of information used to inform the Study). The desk research also identified the forces for change affecting the character of the Lake District's landscape.

¹²⁵ Landscape Character Assessment – Guidance for England and Scotland (Countryside Agency/Scottish Natural Heritage, 2002).

In summary, the desk-based research involved:

- Review of relevant published landscape character assessments within and around the National Park - including the relevant Joint Character Areas from the Character of England Map, the Cumbria County Landscape Classification and other existing assessments
- Review and analysis of the available datasets related to the physical and natural environment
- Review and analysis of the available datasets related to the historical and cultural environment – including in particular the Cumbria Historic Landscape Characterisation data for the Lake District National Park
- Discussions with staff from the client commissioning partners organisations to obtain local knowledge to contribute to the information gathering exercise
- Review and analysis of CPRE tranquillity mapping dataset
- Review and analysis of OS maps and air photos
- Production and analysis of map overlays of physical and cultural components of the landscape
- A description of the evolution of the National Park's landscape and forces for change affecting it (as described in Section 2.0)
- Identification and mapping of draft Landscape Character Types for testing by field survey work

Stage 3 – Field Survey

Fieldwork involved assessing how the following different features and elements combined to create distinctive patterns in the landscape;

- physical influences:
 - * geology
 - * elevation
 - * landform
 - * soils
 - * drainage pattern
- human influences:
 - * land use
 - * land/vegetation cover
 - * field patterns and boundaries
 - * communications/routes
 - * settlement form/pattern
 - * building styles
 - * recreation
- visual character (e.g. landmarks/skylines/key views) aesthetic and perceptual characteristics (including tranquillity)

The fieldwork was undertaken from key viewpoints within each draft Landscape Character Type by a team of field assessors. The fieldwork also considered the following aspects to inform the evaluation and guidelines preparation stage:

- landscape condition/intactness
- landscape and visual sensitivities
- visible forces for change
- landscape management issues

The field survey drew on discussions with staff from the client commissioning partners organisations to incorporate their local knowledge into the assessment. A record of the field survey notes from this process are provided as **Appendix E**. This survey information

(including photographs) was used to inform the descriptions of landscape character and to test and refine the preliminary landscape character unit boundaries.

Stage 4 - Characterisation

The characterisation stage involved the combination of the findings from the desk study research and field survey analysis to inform a classification (at a scale of 1:25,000) of the landscapes within the Study Area into.

- *Landscape Character Types* – generic units of landscape with a distinct and recognisable pattern of elements that occur consistently throughout the type; and
- *Areas of Distinctive Character* – discrete geographical areas with a distinct and recognisable pattern of elements that occur consistently throughout the area.

This dual approach to defining Landscape Character Types and Areas of Distinctive Character was adopted in order to achieve the level of detail required by the Project Brief. The Landscape Character Types provide a spatial framework within which generic forces for change, land management issues and guidelines for managing landscape change can be developed – such as ‘Low Fell’ for example. The Areas of Distinctive Character allow guidelines to be developed that address place-specific management issues and opportunities – such as ‘Kentmere Fells’ for example.

Landscape Character Types

Thirteen Landscape Character Types were defined by desktop analysis of distinctive patterns of physical and cultural attributes derived from available datasets and maps related to:

- Physical character (geology, landform, hydrological patterns)
- Ecological character and land cover
- Cultural and historical character land uses/settlement patterns

The Landscape Character Types occur in different areas of the National Park. Examples include:

- Estuary and Marsh (Type A)
- Low Fell (Type K)
- Lowland Valley (Type M)

The mapped extents of the Landscape Character Types reflect variations in the complexity and pattern of underlying characteristics across the Study Area identified through the characterisation process. For completeness, the full extents of LCTs straddling the National Park boundary were mapped. Where necessary, Sub-Types are identified and mapped to reflect local variations of a main Landscape Character Type resulting from specific physical or cultural land use attributes. Examples include:

- Upland Tarns (Sub-Type F1)
- Post - Industrial Landscapes (Sub-Type G3)
- Parkland (Sub-Type K2)

Areas of Distinctive Character

Within the broad pattern provided by the 13 Landscape Character Types, 71 Areas of Distinctive Character were defined in the field on the basis of judgements about their:

- distinctiveness as unique landscapes/places
- distinctive aesthetic and perceptual (experiential) characteristics
- local distinctiveness and sense of place

For completeness, the full extents of Areas of Distinctive Character straddling the National

Park boundary were mapped. In these cases, although the relevant descriptions only relate to land within the National Park, visual relationships with those parts of the Area of Distinctive Character outside of the Park are addressed where appropriate.

In many cases, the Areas of Distinctive Character reflect more than one underlying Landscape Character Type. In particular, Areas of Distinctive Character that are dales or valleys are typically defined on the basis of the visual containment provided by the adjoining fell landscapes; for example, Area of Distinctive Character 29 (Wastwater and Wasdale), comprises part of Landscape Character Type H (Broad Upland Valley) and Landscape Character Type F (Rugged/Craggy Volcanic High Fell). As a result of these subtle variations, the Areas of Distinctive Character do not consistently nest within the Landscape Character Types classification.

As acknowledged by the latest published national guidance¹²⁶, landscape is a continuum and character does not in general change abruptly on the ground. More commonly, the character of the landscape will change gradually rather than suddenly, and therefore the boundaries between landscape character units should be considered to reflect zones of transition in many cases.

Description of the Landscape Character Types

For each defined Landscape Character Type, its boundaries were mapped and its character described (and illustrated where appropriate) under the following headings:

- *Landscape Character Type Ref/Name*
- *Location* – a short paragraph detailing location of the Landscape Character Type in relation to the National Park and adjacent Landscape Character Types
- *Definitive Attributes* – a bullet point list of the main landscape attributes that contribute to character
- *Physical Character* – a summary description of geology/soils, landform, hydrology and land cover elements that contribute to character
- *Ecological Character* – a summary description of ecological habitats and their relative nature conservation importance that contribute to character, by reference to designated sites citations and the distribution of designated sites
- *Cultural and Historical Character* – a summary description of the main cultural associations and historical features that contribute to character, by reference to the historic landscape characterisation data and distribution of designated assets
- *Settlement and Building Character* – a summary description of the settlement forms/origins and patterns, building styles and vernacular materials that contribute to character, by reference to fieldwork, research and existing assessments
- *Landscape Character Sub-Types* – where identified, a bullet point list of the main landscape attributes that contribute to the character of the Sub-Type that reflects a local variation in the character of the overall Landscape Character Type.

The descriptions were based on research, fieldwork observations and the local knowledge of staff from the client commissioning partners organisations.

Description of the Areas of Distinctive Character

For each Area of Distinctive Character, its boundaries were mapped and its character described (and illustrated where appropriate) under the following headings:

¹²⁶ Landscape Character Assessment – Guidance for England and Scotland (Countryside Agency/Scottish Natural Heritage, 2002).

- *Location* – a short paragraph detailing location of the Area of Distinctive Character in relation to the National Park and key landscape features
- *Relevant Landscape Character Types* – a bullet point list of the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) that underlie the Area of Distinctive Character
- *Distinctive Characteristics* – a bullet point list of the main distinctive visible and non-visible experiential characteristics of the landscape that contribute to the area's distinctive character
- *Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place* - a summary description of the main locally distinctive characteristics and features that give the area its unique sense of place

The above descriptions focus on identifying both the aesthetic aspects (such as scale, enclosure, diversity, unity, texture, form, line, colour, balance/proportion, movement, pattern), and perceptual aspects that contribute to the character of the landscape (such as sense of wildness/remoteness, the quality of light and perceptions of beauty or scenic attractiveness). This included an analysis of the positive and negative factors affecting tranquillity for each Area of Distinctive Character – such as noise levels, perceived naturalness, visible overt human impact, density of settlement/diffusion of people and artificial lighting. This was informed by field survey observations and by reference to the latest CPRE tranquillity mapping dataset.

The draft descriptions were prepared and validated through the local knowledge of staff from the client commissioning partners organisations, and other stakeholders.

Evaluation Methodology

Stage 5 – Evaluation and Guidelines preparation

The process involved evaluating forces for change and sensitivities and capacity for change in the landscape. These judgements were used to develop guidelines that highlight needs and opportunities for managing landscape change to inform land use planning and land management decisions

The evaluation and guidelines are presented at the end of the description or 'profile' for each individual Landscape Character Type and Area of Distinctive Character.

The evaluation process was based on research, fieldwork observations and the local knowledge of staff from the client commissioning partners organisations.

Evaluation of the Landscape Character Types

Each Landscape Character Type is evaluated as follows:

- *Forces for Change* – a bullet point list of recent past changes in the Landscape Character Type; a concise description of how the intactness of the different components create a perception of the overall current condition of the landscape and a separate bullet point list of the positive and negative future changes and opportunities that are considered likely to affect the landscape over the short term (5 years) and long term (20 years +).
- *Sensitivities and Capacity for Change* – a short paragraph summarising the key positive attributes that are judged to be inherently sensitive and providing a judgement on the capacity of the overall Landscape Character Type to accommodate change.

This was based on the general approach to judging sensitivity set out in the accompanying

paper to *Landscape Character Assessment – Guidance for England and Scotland*¹²⁷. It should be noted that the sensitivity and capacity evaluation was based on the relatively broad-brush analysis undertaken at 1:25,000 scale for the Study. Also, the degree of sensitivity is not absolute and would vary according to the nature of change under consideration; it is therefore only indicative.

Guidelines for Managing Landscape Change in Landscape Character Types

The guidelines comprise a concise statement setting out the overall management strategy for the Landscape Character Type, supported by a bullet point list of specific guidelines for managing landscape change for the overall Type. Where relevant, specific guidelines that apply to Sub-types are also identified.

Evaluation of the Areas of Distinctive Character

Each Area of Distinctive Character is evaluated as follows.

- *Landscape Sensitivities* – a bullet point list of the key positive attributes that are judged to be inherently sensitive; the inherent character of the Area of Distinctive Character would be changed if these attributes were lost or altered. This assessment was based on the general approach to judging sensitivity set out in the accompanying paper to *Landscape Character Assessment – Guidance for England and Scotland*¹²⁵,
- *Forces for Change* – where relevant, a bullet point list of forces for change that are specific to each Area of Distinctive Character.

Guidelines for Managing Landscape Change in Areas of Distinctive Character

The guidelines comprise a bullet point list of guidelines for managing landscape that are specific to the Area of Distinctive Character.

Draft evaluation and guidelines were prepared and validated through the local knowledge of staff from the client commissioning partners' organisations, and other stakeholders.

Stage 6 – Preparation of Overall Report

This final stage involved preparation of the overall report. This included the development of a framework and indicators for monitoring change in the landscape character of the National Park, taking into account the national approach to monitoring Joint Character Areas developed by the Countryside Quality Counts study.

Stakeholder and Public Consultation Methodology

Major landowners and managers, statutory agencies and other key stakeholder organisations and the general public have been involved in the process of developing the Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines. The feedback from consultation has helped to strengthen the evidence base by incorporating the views of both communities of interest and place. Engaging stakeholders in the project has also helped promote awareness of the value of the Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines as a tool for informing planning and land management decisions.

The process involved consulting organisations within the Lake District National Park Partnership and other key stakeholder groups through workshops, interviews and discussions. The Study has also engaged the general public through a questionnaire-based survey of residents, businesses and visitors. The survey aimed to find out what people

¹²⁷ Landscape Character Assessment – Guidance for England and Scotland: Topic Paper 8 – Techniques and Criteria for Judging Capacity and Sensitivity (Swanwick, 2004).

value about the character of the Lake District's landscapes, and the way in which changes to the landscape should be managed in the future.

E: Cross reference of all ADCs by LCTs

Area of Distinctive Character	Landscape Character Type												
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
AREA 1: BLINDCRAKE									X	X			
AREA 2: BASSENTHWAITE AND ULDALE							X	X	X	X			
AREA 3: SKIDDAW AND BLENCATHRA							X						
AREA 4: MUNGRISDALE AND CALDBECK									X	X			
AREA 5: DERWENT VALLEY								X		X			
AREA 6: SETMURTHY COMMON AND EMBLETON								X		X			
AREA 7: BASSENTHWAITE LAKE							X	X					
AREA 8: LOWESWATER							X	X		X			
AREA 9: LORTON VALE								X		X			
AREA 10: BROOM, LING AND KIRK FELLS							X			X			
AREA 11: BASSENTHWAITE AND DERWENT ALLUVIAL PLAIN								X					
AREA 12: GLENDERAMACKIN VALLEY								X		X			
AREA 13: BUTTERMERE AND CRUMMOCK WATER						X	X	X					
AREA 14: GRIZEDALE PIKE AND WHINLATTER							X	X					
AREA 15: NEWLANDS						X		X					
AREA 16: KESWICK AND DERWENT WATER						X	X	X					
AREA 17: ST. JOHN'S IN THE VALE AND NADDLE						X		X					
AREA 18: THRELKELD & MATTERDALE COMMONS						X		X		X			
AREA 19: GREAT MELL & LITTLE MELL VALLEYS						X			X	X			
AREA 20: EAMONT VALLEY								X	X	X			
AREA 21: ENNERDALE						X	X	X		X			
AREA 22: BORROWDALE						X	X	X					
AREA 23: THIRLMERE						X		X					
AREA 24: HELVELLYN RANGE						X							
AREA 25: ULLSWATER						X		X		X			
AREA 26: BAMPTON COMMON						X		X	X	X			
AREA 27: LOWTHER VALLEY						X		X	X				
AREA 28: KINNISIDE COMMON						X	X			X			

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
AREA 29: WASTWATER & WASDALE						X		X					
AREA 30: SCAPELL MASSIF						X		X					
AREA 31: GRASMERE AND RYDAL						X		X					
AREA 32: BROTHER'S WATER AND HARTSOP						X		X					
AREA 33: MARTINDALE						X							
AREA 34: HAWESWATER						X		X		X			
AREA 35: SHAP AND BIRKBECK FELS						X		X					
AREA 36: CALDER VALLEY				X		X				X			
AREA 37: BLENG AND IRT VALLEYS				X		X		X		X			
AREA 38: GREAT AND LITTLE LANGDALE						X		X					
AREA 39: UPPER WINDERMERE						X		X			X		X
AREA 40: TROUTBECK VALLEY						X		X		X			
AREA 41: KENTMERE FELS						X		X		X			
AREA 42: KENTMERE VALLEY						X		X		X			
AREA 43: LONGSLEDDALE VALLEY						X		X					
AREA 44: ESKDALE						X		X		X			
AREA 45: ULPHA AND CORNEY FELL						X	X	X					
AREA 46: UPPER DUNNERDALE						X							X
AREA 47: LOW FURNESS FELS						X					X		X
AREA 48: CLAIFE HEIGHTS AND LATTERBARROW						X		X			X		X
AREA 49: LOWER WINDERMERE								X			X		X
AREA 50: CROOK								X		X	X		X
AREA 51: CUNSWICK AND SCOUT SCAR			X								X		
AREA 52: RAVENGLASS AND BOOTLE	X	X		X	X					X			
AREA 53: LOWER DUNNERDALE						X		X					
AREA 54: BROUGHTON AND TORVER		X				X					X		
AREA 55: CONISTON WATER											X		X
AREA 56: GRIZEDALE AND SATTERTHWAIT											X		X
AREA 57: ESTHWAITE											X		X
AREA 58: DALE PARK											X		X
AREA 59: WHITBARROW AND THE WINSTER VALLEY			X								X	X	X
AREA 60: BLACK COMBE							X						
AREA 61: WHICHAM VALLEY						X				X			
AREA 62: BLAWITH FELS											X		
AREA 63: RUSLAND AND CRAKE VALLEYS											X	X	X

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
AREA 64: HAVERTHWAITE AND LEVEN ESTUARY	X	X									X	X	X
AREA 65: BACKBARROW AND BIGLAND												X	X
AREA 66: FIELD BROUGHTON			X								X	X	X
AREA 67: FOULSHAW AND MEATHOP	X	X											X
AREA 68: LYTH VALLEY												X	X
AREA 69: BIRKBECK FELLS COMMON, BRETHERDALE AND BORROWDALE FELLS						X			X				
AREA 70: CONISTON FELLS						X							X
AREA 71: FAIRFIELD HORSESHOE						X							

F: Glossary

Agri-environmental Schemes

Agri-environmental Schemes encourage traditional farming practices to protect the environment by providing grants to land owners to manage their land in ways that conserve and enhance landscape features, wildlife and historic assets, and promote access.

Area of Distinctive Character

A discrete geographical area with a distinct and recognisable pattern of elements that occur consistently throughout the area.

Beck

A stream; from the Old Norse *bekkr*

Bield

A shelter, protection; from the Old English *beldo*, courage

Biodiversity

The number and variety of organisms found within a specified area – an important measure of the health and vitality of an area's ecology

Blanket Bog

An area of peat which is not confined to a basin but covers ground of moderate slope.

Conservation Area

An area designated by a local authority under the Town and Country Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 in recognition of its special architectural or historic interest.

County Wildlife Site

County Wildlife Sites (CWS) are sites that have been identified for their local wildlife value.

Countryside Stewardship Scheme

The Countryside Stewardship Scheme was introduced as a pilot scheme in England in 1991 by the then Countryside Commission and operates outside the Environmentally Sensitive Areas. Farmers and land managers entered 10-year agreements to manage land in an environmentally beneficial way in return for annual payments. With the introduction of the new agri-environment scheme, Environmental Stewardship, the Countryside Stewardship Scheme is now closed to new applicants. However, existing agreements will continue until their expiry date.

Crag

A rough steep rock; origin unknown

Dale

A valley; from the Old Norse *dalr*

Development Plan Documents

These are planning documents forming part of the local development framework and which have the status of being part of the development plan.

Ecosystem

A functional ecological unit in which biological, physical and chemical components of the environment interact.

Entry Level Stewardship (ELS)

Entry Level Stewardship, an element of Environmental Stewardship, is open to all farmers and landowners and provides a straightforward approach to supporting the good stewardship of the countryside.

Environmental Stewardship

Environmental Stewardship is a new agri-environment scheme which provides funding to farmers and other land managers in England who deliver effective environmental management on their land. Its primary objectives are: to conserve wildlife (biodiversity); maintain and enhance landscape quality and character; protect the historic environment and natural resources; promote public access and understanding of the countryside; and natural resource protection. Environmental Stewardship has three elements: Entry Level Stewardship (ELS); Organic Entry Level Stewardship (OELS); and Higher Level Stewardship (HLS).

Environmentally Sensitive Area

The Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) scheme was introduced in 1987 to offer incentives to encourage farmers to adopt agricultural practices, which would safeguard and enhance parts of the country of particularly high landscape, wildlife or historic value.

Fell

A mountain, or hill, or upland tract; from the Old Norse *ffall*, a rock

Friends of the Lake District

The Friends of the Lake District is a charity established in 1934 that works to protect and enhance the landscape of the Lake District and Cumbria and to promote its understanding and quiet enjoyment.

Geodiversity

the full range of geological features; rocks, minerals, fossils, structures, and geomorphological features (landforms and processes), soil and water that compose and shape the natural physical landscape.

Gill

a small ravine; from the Old Norse *gil*, a steep sided valley

Habitat

The locality, site and particular type of environment inhabited by animals and plants.

Heaf

Part of a fell to which a particular flock of sheep will always return to graze. Such a flock is 'heafed' to the pasture.

Herdwick sheep

A breed of sheep peculiar to the central Lake District.

Hogg house

Small building for storing fodder and for sheltering sheep in winter.

How

A low hill; from the Old Norse *haugr*

Higher Level Stewardship (HLS)

Higher Level Stewardship, an element of Environmental Stewardship, provides for targeted environmental management and makes payments for capital work plans. HLS is designed to build on ELS and OELS to form a comprehensive agreement that achieves a wide-range of environmental benefits across the whole farm. HLS concentrates on the more complex types of management where land managers need advice and support and where agreements will be tailored to local circumstances.

Hydrology

The study of surface waters (rivers, lakes and streams)

Intake

Parcel of land between the valley bottom fields and the open fell, enclosed from the lower slopes of the fell and used for cattle grazing.

Knott

A craggy hill; from the Old Norse *knútr*

Lake District National Park

The Lake District National Park was created by the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 and came into being in August 1951. Covering 885 square miles, it is the largest of England's National Parks.

Lake District National Park Authority

The Lake District National Park Authority is an independent local authority established to conserve and enhance the Lake District's natural beauty, wildlife, and cultural heritage; and promote the public's understanding and enjoyment of the National Park's special qualities. Among other things, it is the Local Planning Authority for the National Park.

Landform

Combinations of slope and elevation that produce the shape and form of the land.

Landscape Character Assessment

Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) is a tool for identifying what makes a place unique.

Landscape Character Type

A generic unit of landscape with a distinct and recognisable pattern of elements that occur consistently throughout the type.

Listed Buildings

Buildings of special architectural or historic interest included on a list compiled by the Secretary of State for the guidance of local planning authorities in the exercise of their planning functions under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Local Nature Reserves

Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are accessible sites with wildlife or geological features that are of special interest locally. LNRs offer people special opportunities to study or learn about nature or simply to enjoy it.

Organic Entry Level Stewardship (OELS)

Organic Entry Level Stewardship, an element of Environmental Stewardship, is geared to organic and organic/conventional mixed farming systems and is open to all farmers not receiving Organic Farming Scheme (OFS) aid.

Moss or Peat Moss

A northern name for peaty land, the peat formed mainly by bog-moss.

National Nature Reserve

National Nature Reserves (NNRs) are established to protect the most important areas of wildlife habitat and geological formations in Britain, and as places for scientific research.

National Trust

The National Trust is a charity completely independent of Government funding that works to preserve and protect the coastline, countryside and buildings of England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Natural England

Natural England is a governmental agency that works for people, places and nature to conserve and enhance biodiversity, landscapes and wildlife in rural, urban, coastal and marine areas. The agency seeks to conserve and enhance the natural environment for its intrinsic value, the wellbeing and enjoyment of people, and the economic prosperity it brings.

Pike

A sharp-pointed hill; from the Old English *pic*, a spike

Rake

A path up a hill or in a gully; from the Old Norse *rak*, a stripe

Registered Parks and Gardens

Registered Parks and Gardens are sites placed on the national 'Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest' compiled and maintained by English Heritage, to identify and increase awareness of the existence of such sites, and to help ensure that the features and qualities that make these parks and landscapes of national importance are protected and conserved.

Ring-garth

Stone wall or fence dividing cultivated valley bottom fields from open, grazed fell land.

Scar

A bare , craggy rock formation; from the Old Norse *sker*

Scarth

A pass or gap in a ridge; from the Old Norse *skarth*

Scheduled Ancient Monument

A Scheduled Ancient Monument is an archaeological site or historic building of national importance protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and the National Heritage Act 1983.

Scree

Rock detritus below a rock outcrop.

Shieling

Fell pasture and small dwelling used during the summer months.

Site of Special Scientific Interest

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are designated under the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981 and as amended) to protect sites that are of national nature conservation importance because of the wildlife they support, or because of the geological features that are found there.

Special Area of Conservation

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) are protected sites designated under the EC Habitats Directive.

Special Protection Area

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are protected sites designated under the EC Habitats Directive on the conservation of wild birds.

Statesmen

Yeoman farmer holding his land by customary tenure from the lord.

Stickle

A sharp peak; from the Old Norse *stikill*

Tarn

A small mountain lake; from the Old Norse *tjorn*

Thwaite

A piece of land reclaimed from forest or wetlands; from the Old Norse *thveit*, a paddock

Transhumance

The vertical seasonal movement of livestock to higher pastures in summer and to lower valleys in winter.

Tup

An uncastrated ram; origin unknown.

Wether

A castrated ram; from the Old English *wether*.