

State of the Lake District National Park Report

March 2012



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Indicators of Success

We have key indicators of success to help inform us that we are working towards the Vision for the National Park and in the shorter term that our delivery aims are being achieved.

We have set targets for 21 key indicators with targets for 2015 as follows:

Table 1: Indicators of success

No	Indicator	Baseline figure – March 2010	Latest figure	Likelihood to meet target in 2015
1	The percentage of new businesses surviving for three years is higher in Cumbria than the national average	Not available	70.5% 2010	✓
2	The percentage of people of working age who are unemployed remains lower in the National Park than in Cumbria, the north west region and nationally	1.3% March 2010	1.3% March 2011	✓
3	Increase the median earnings of employees in Cumbria above the rate of inflation - using the Retail Price Index	Not available	£485 weekly pay 2010	Insufficient data
4	Over 90 per cent of planning applications in the National Park are approved for business, housing and other applications	91% March 2010	91% March 2011	✓
5	A net increase of 14,000 square metres of additional employment floor space developed in the National Park	Baseline figure is zero - target started from April 2010	Not available – to be updated in 2012	Insufficient data
6	Over 95 per cent of visitors rate the overall experience of their visit as good or very good	95% 2009	Next survey likely in 2012	✓
7	At least 85 per cent of visitors have previously visited Cumbria	85% 2009	Next survey likely in 2012	✓
8	Visitors, who stay in the National Park, stay on average for at least five nights	5.31 nights 2009	Next survey likely in 2012	✓
9	Reduce the percentage of visitors whose main mode of transport during their visit is a private motor vehicle to below 70 per cent	77% 2009	Next survey likely in 2012	?
10	At least 75 per cent of accommodation providers in the National Park have a quality rating	73% 2010	63% 2011	?
11	At least 50 per cent of parishes in the National Park are covered by Community Action Plans, which have been updated or created within the last five years	Not available	40% May 2011	?

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No	Indicator	Baseline figure – March 2010	Latest figure	Likelihood to meet target in 2015
12	Maintain the number of settlements in the National Park with four, five or six services from: convenience store, meeting place, primary school, public house, post office, doctors surgery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Service Centres • Villages with five services • Villages with four services • Villages with three services 	13 settlements 7 settlements 11 settlements 3 settlements	Not available – to be updated in 2012	Insufficient data
13	Develop 300 additional affordable and local needs homes in the National Park	Baseline figure is zero - target started from April 2010	30 homes March 2011	?
14	At least 75 per cent of working age people in the area have access to employment by public transport, cycling or walking	76% 2008	76% 2009	✓
15	Reduce per capita carbon dioxide emissions in Cumbria by 25 per cent by 2015, compared with the 2005 baseline figure of 10.2 tonnes per capita	Baseline figures superseded annually	15.6% reduction compared to latest baseline for 2005 of 9.6 tonnes (20.6% compared to 10.2 tonnes baseline)	?
16	50 per cent of county wildlife sites and regionally important geological sites in the National Park are, or have been in the last five years, in positive conservation management	27% March 2010	Not available for National Park - 42% for Cumbria	?
17	95 per cent, by area, of sites of special scientific interest in the National Park are in favourable or recovering condition, increasing on 26 per cent in favourable condition	91% March 2010	92% March 2011	✓
18	Maintain the area of land in relevant agri-environment schemes in the National Park at 75 per cent	Not available	74% April 2011	✓
19	80 per cent of total length of public rights of way in the National Park are easy to use by members of the public	86% March 2010	74% Dec 2011	?

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No	Indicator	Baseline figure – March 2010	Latest figure	Likelihood to meet target in 2015
20	51 per cent of rivers and 29 per cent of lakes in the National Park are in at least good ecological status by 2015	38% - rivers 29% - lakes 2009	42% - rivers 29% - lakes 2010	✓
21	Reduce the number of cultural heritage assets at risk in the National Park so that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no Conservation Areas are at risk • we reduce the number of listed buildings at risk from 88 to 80 - as at September 2011 • less than 100 Scheduled Monuments are at risk, out of 275 	1 2010 Baseline was unknown until Sept 2010 - 87 Baseline was unknown until Jan 2011 - 149	0 Dec 2011 87 Dec 2011 131 Dec 2011	✓ ✓ ✓

1 Introduction

1.1 Lake District National Park

Figure 1: Location of the Lake District National Park



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Table 2: Profile of the Lake District National Park

Item	Unit
Area	
Total Park area	229,227 ha ¹
Parishes totally or partly in the Park	80
Population	
Resident population	41,831
School and pre-school age (0-15)	6,326 and 15%
Working age (16-64)	26,429 and 63%
Pensionable age (65+)	9,076 and 22%
Settlements with 3,000+ population	3
Housing	
Housing stock	23,664
Resident households	18,539
Owner occupied	12,775 and 69%
Private rented	2,236 and 12%
Social housing	3,528 and 19%
Nature Conservation	
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	41,947 ha
Special Protection Areas	633 ha
Special Areas of Conservation	36,419 ha
RAMSAR Sites	772 ha
National Nature Reserves	1,763 ha
Land Use	
Moorland, heathland and unenclosed grassland	104,250 ha and 45.5%
Farmland	76,800 ha and 33.5%
Woodland	28,858 ha and 12.6%
Heritage	
Scheduled Monuments	275
Conservation Areas	23
Listed buildings	1,760
Grade I	31
Grade II*	120
Grade II	1,605
Recreation	
Public footpaths	2,161 km
Public bridleways	880 km
Other public rights of way	40 km
Open access land	121,066 ha and 52.8%

¹ ha = hectares

1.2 The Vision for the Lake District National Park

The Vision for the Lake District National Park in 2030 is that it will be:

An inspirational example of sustainable development in action.

It will be a place where a prosperous economy, world class visitor experiences and vibrant communities all come together to sustain the spectacular landscape, its wildlife and cultural heritage.

Local people, visitors and the many organisations working in the National Park or have a contribution to make to it, must be united in achieving this.

We will see the following outcomes:

A prosperous economy

Businesses will locate in the National Park because they value the quality of opportunity, environment and lifestyle it offers – many will draw on a strong connection to the landscape. Entrepreneurial spirit will be nurtured across all sectors and traditional industries maintained to ensure a diverse economy.

World class visitor experiences

High quality and unique experiences for visitors within a stunning and globally significant landscape. These will be experiences that compete with the best in the international market.

Vibrant communities

People successfully living, working and relaxing within upland, valley and lakeside places where distinctive local character is maintained and celebrated.

A spectacular landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage

A landscape which provides an irreplaceable source of inspiration, whose benefits to people and wildlife are valued and improved. A landscape whose natural and cultural resources are assets to be managed and used wisely for future generations.

1.3 About the State of the Lake District National Park Report and the Partnership's Plan

This is the Lake District National Park Partnership's first State of the National Park Report, which we intend to update annually. The purpose of this report is to establish an evidence base to:

- give an accurate picture of the condition of the National Park including the special qualities; and
- measure whether the work we are doing is having a positive effect and is working towards our Vision for the National Park.

The content of the State of the National Park Report will inform the annual review of the Partnership's Plan. The Lake District National Park Partnership developed the Partnership's Plan, which is the Management Plan for the National Park and details can be viewed at www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/partnership.

The Partnership's Plan contains:

- the special qualities of the National Park, that distinguish it from other parts of the country so we can protect them;
- the Vision for the National Park in 2030 and key delivery aims to help direct our actions;
- the context and actions the Partnership will deliver; and
- how we will monitor progress, including 21 indicators of success.

The State of the National Park Report summarises the condition of the National Park across a variety of indicators. It includes:

- the 21 indicators of success in the Partnership's Plan; and
- additional supporting indicators to monitor the special qualities of the National Park and the outcomes and delivery aims of the Vision.

We have structured this report by the four outcomes of the Vision and the topics identified in the Partnership's Plan. We recognise that some indicators are relevant to more than one topic. However, to avoid duplication we have presented data for indicators only under one topic using a 'best fit' approach.

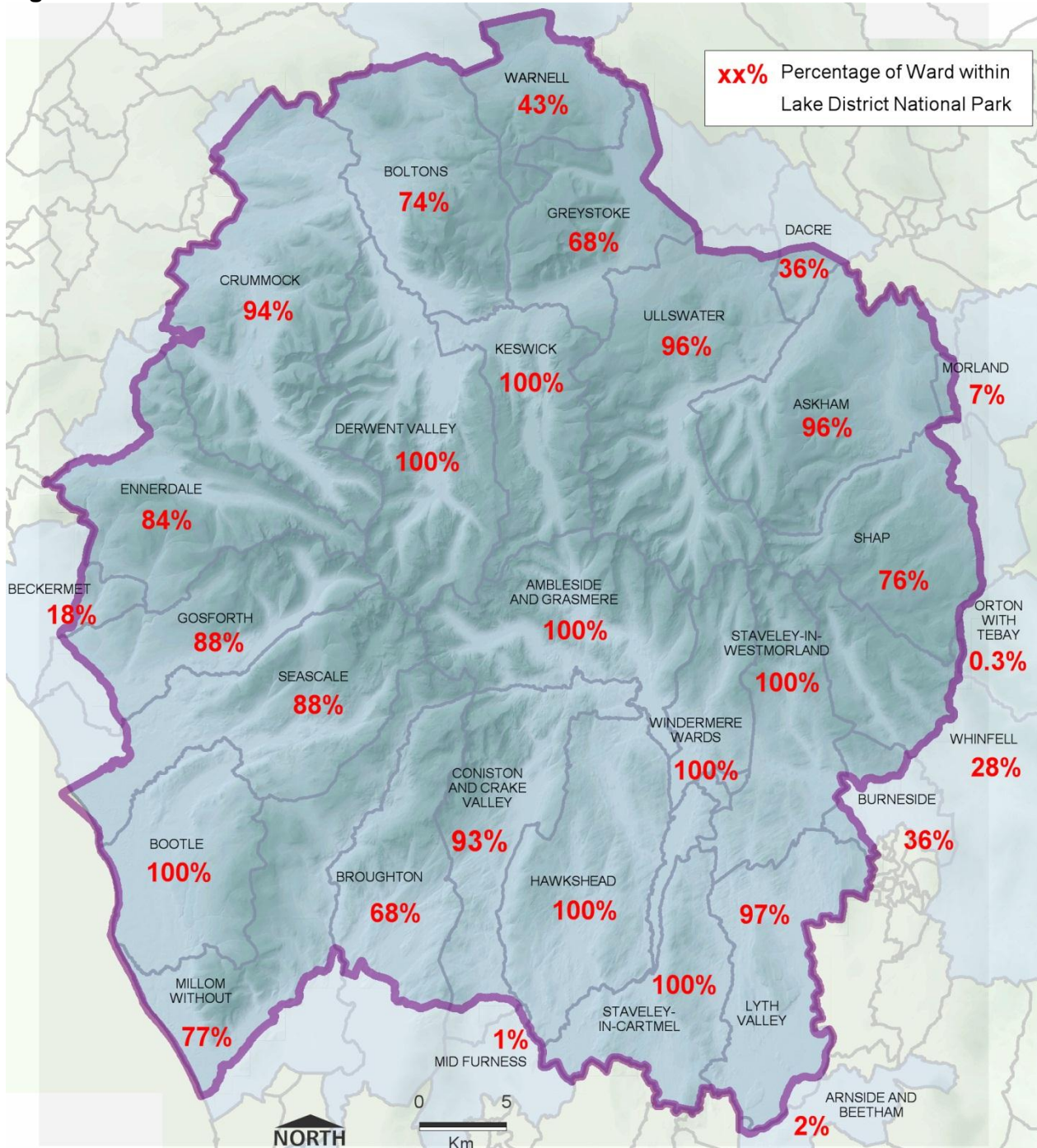
For each topic we have written a short textual summary and this is followed by data for relevant indicators presented in maps, graphs and tables. This report is based on data gathered during 2011.

1.4 Data for individual indicators

Wherever possible we report data specifically for the National Park. However, in some cases data is not available at this level. In these cases we state what level the data is reported at, which includes data for the:

- county of Cumbria;
- four districts that cover the National Park (Allerdale, Copeland, Eden and South Lakeland); and
- wards in the National Park on a 'best fit' basis, including wards with greater than 50 per cent area within the National Park as shown on the map on the next page (figure 2).

Figure 2: Wards in the National Park



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 Source: Lake District National Park Authority

1.5 Improving how we monitor the State of the National Park

Some of the information presented in this report presents a 'snapshot' rather than trends. We have also identified some gaps in the range of information that we have available. We will work to address these in future years. A quick summary of gaps we have identified for each of the four outcomes is given below:

A prosperous economy

We do not have information about small businesses in the National Park. There is also no information about traditional industries and the connection between businesses and the special qualities of the National Park. We also do not have information about how common land is managed.

World class visitor experiences

We have a good picture of our visitors. However, we need more information on visitors' contribution to local communities and how they protect what is special about the National Park. Although we have tranquillity data we do not monitor change.

Vibrant communities

We do not have information on learning opportunities and the amount of volunteering activity undertaken. And we have no specific indicators to monitor the special quality 'celebrated social and cultural heritage'.

A spectacular landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage

The Landscape Character Assessment sets a baseline for the landscape of the National Park, but it does not measure change. Data on wildlife is limited to protected sites. We do not have information about what benefits the National Park brings to people.

1.6 External impacts on the National Park

There are several external influences that will have affected the State of the National Park in recent years:

- During the last few years we, like the rest of the UK and other parts of the world, have been affected by the economic recession. This will have had an impact on the State of the National Park, for example the numbers of houses built, the amount of money visitors spend and income to local businesses.
- We recognise that the climate is changing. In Cumbria we experienced flooding in November 2009 that affected our local communities, businesses, rights of way and the landscape.

2 A Prosperous Economy

The outcome

Businesses will locate in the National Park because they value the quality of opportunity, environment and lifestyle it offers – many will draw on a strong connection to the landscape. Entrepreneurial spirit will be nurtured across all sectors and growth and traditional industries maintained to ensure a diverse economy

Delivery aims

- PE1 Adopt a proactive, consistent and inclusive approach to planning.
- PE2 Connect the special qualities of the National Park, including landscape features and cultural heritage, to the economy through imaginative approaches, including use of traditional skills.
- PE3 Maximise the opportunities for the National Park to support the regeneration of Cumbria and wider regional or national initiatives.
- PE4 Actively support land managers in the task of sustainably managing the landscape: delivering environmental and economic benefits for themselves and the wider community.
- PE5 Promote growth of an integrated economy which nurtures vibrant, diverse and high value businesses and enables them to meet market demands, such as use of low-carbon and digital technologies.
- PE6 Encourage small businesses and entrepreneurial aspirations to develop by providing appropriate support.

2.1 Farming and forestry

Unique farmed landscape and concentration of common land is one of the special qualities of the Lake District National Park.

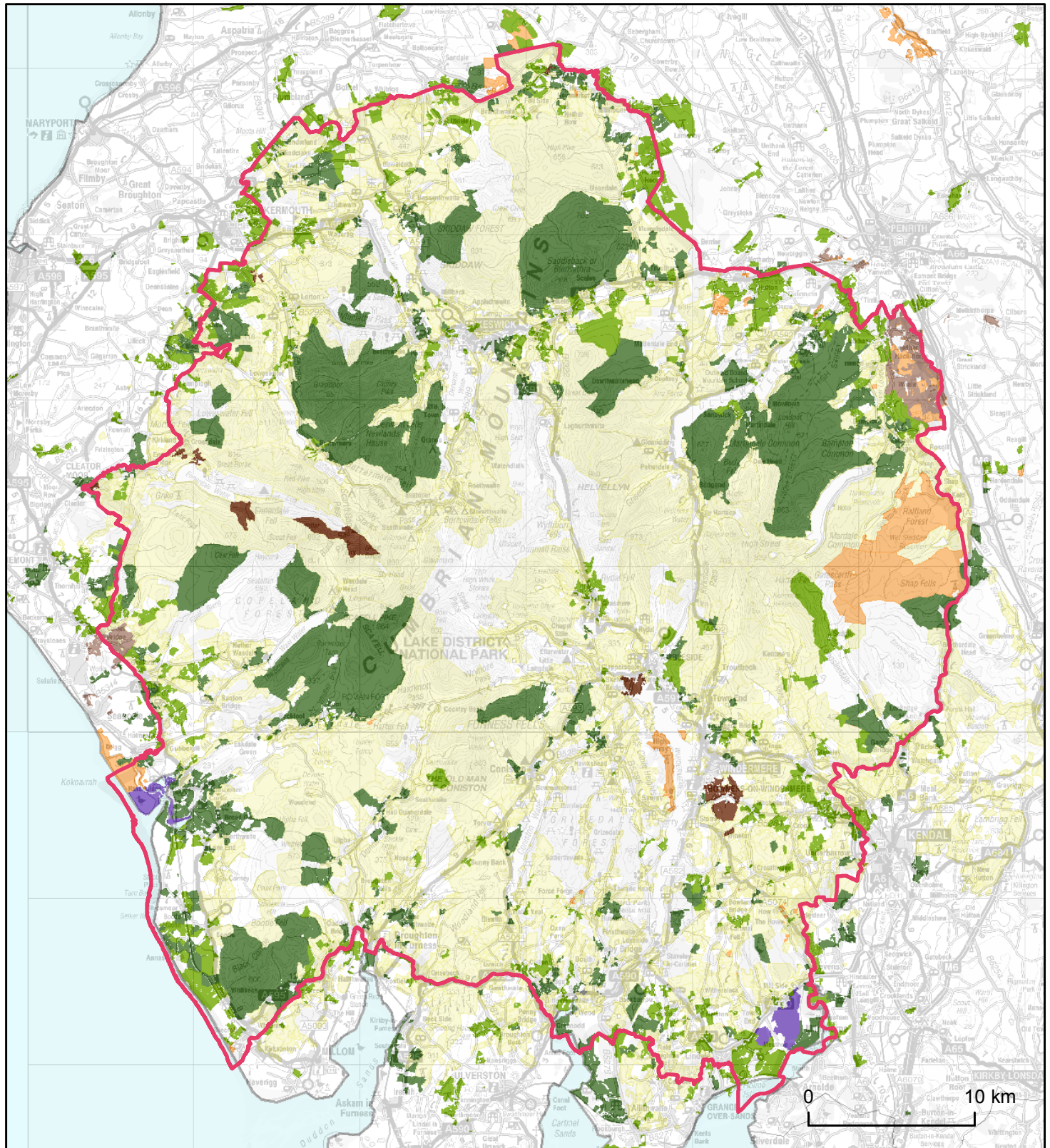
Over 2,500 people are employed in farming in the National Park. But farm incomes are low, with a net farm income of £7,704 in 2009 to 2010, down on the previous year's figure of £9,155. This drop reflected the regional and national picture of a reduction in farm income. The most common farm size is those smaller than five hectares.

The majority of land in the National Park is in agri-environment schemes:

- 74 per cent of the National Park is in land management schemes managed by Natural England; and
- over 17,000 hectares of land have been in Woodland Grant Schemes since 2007.

Over their lifetime the existing agri-environment schemes will have an economic input of £99 million. Many of the 10-year Environmentally Sensitive Area schemes are due to finish within the next couple of years and we anticipate that most of the land in expiring schemes will convert to Higher or Entry Level Stewardship schemes.

Agri-environment Schemes in the Lake District National Park*



- Lake District National Park
- Environmentally Sensitive Area Agreements
- Countryside Stewardship Scheme Agreements
- Entry Level Stewardship
- Entry Level plus Higher Level Stewardship
- Higher Level Stewardship
- Organic Entry Level Stewardship
- Organic Entry Level plus Higher Level Stewardship

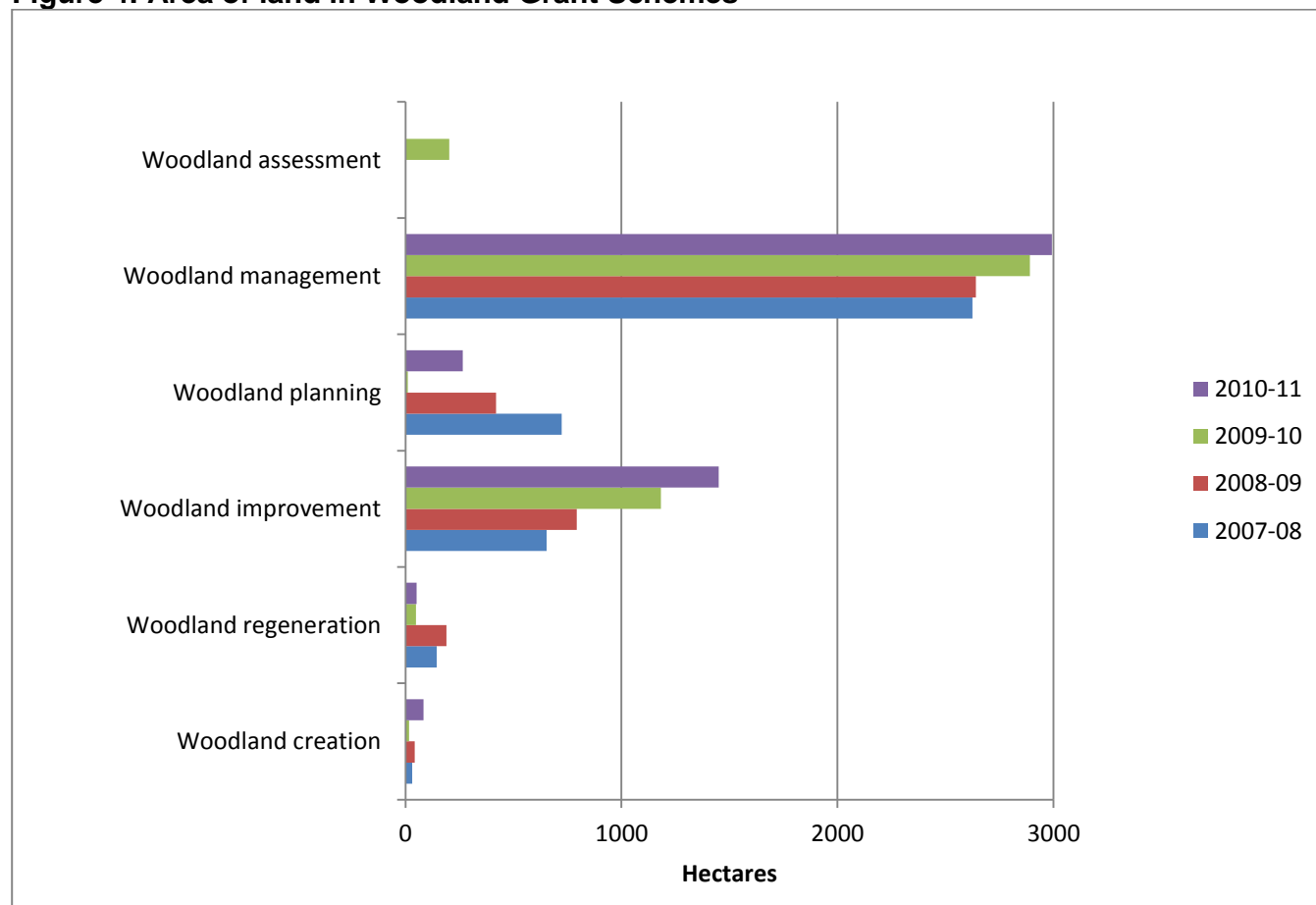
*Agri-environment scheme data from live agreement information April 2011

Table 3: Area of land in agri-environment schemes (indicator of success 18)

Agri-environment schemes	Area under agreement: Holding clipped to National Park boundary(ha)
Entry Level Stewardship	13,407
Entry Level plus Higher Level Stewardship	37,622
Higher Level Stewardship	760
Organic Entry Level Stewardship	1,288
Organic Entry Level plus Higher Level Stewardship	1,745
CSS	5,099
Lake District Environmentally Sensitive Area	109,520
Total Note that there are some small overlaps in area between different schemes but these are a small percentage of the overall figure	169,441 74% of the total area of the National Park

Source: Natural England, April 2011

Figure 4: Area of land in Woodland Grant Schemes



Source: Forestry Commission

Figure 5: Number of people employed in farming



Source: Defra Agricultural Survey, Crown Copyright

Table 4: Number and size of farms

Farm size	2007	2008	2009
<5 ha	753	774	813
5<20 ha	288	291	284
20<50 ha	240	238	245
50<100 ha	280	277	279
>=100 ha	344	354	354
Total	1,905	1,934	1,975

Source: Defra Agricultural Survey, Crown Copyright

Table 5: Net farm income

	2008-2009	2009-2010
Net farm income approximated for the National Park, based on Cumbria High Fells and South Cumbria Low Fells joint character areas	£9,155	£7,704

Source: Defra Farm Business Survey, Crown Copyright

2.2 Employment and business

The number of residents claiming jobseekers allowance in the National Park is lower than regional and national averages, with a rate of 1.3 per cent, equating to just over 400 people. However, average incomes are lower than the national average. In 2010 to 2011 national median weekly earnings were £499 for full-time employees and the Cumbria-wide figure was a little lower at £485. Weekly earnings at district level are markedly higher in Copeland and lower in Eden compared to the Cumbria-wide figure; but note that due to small sample sizes data is less reliable at district level.

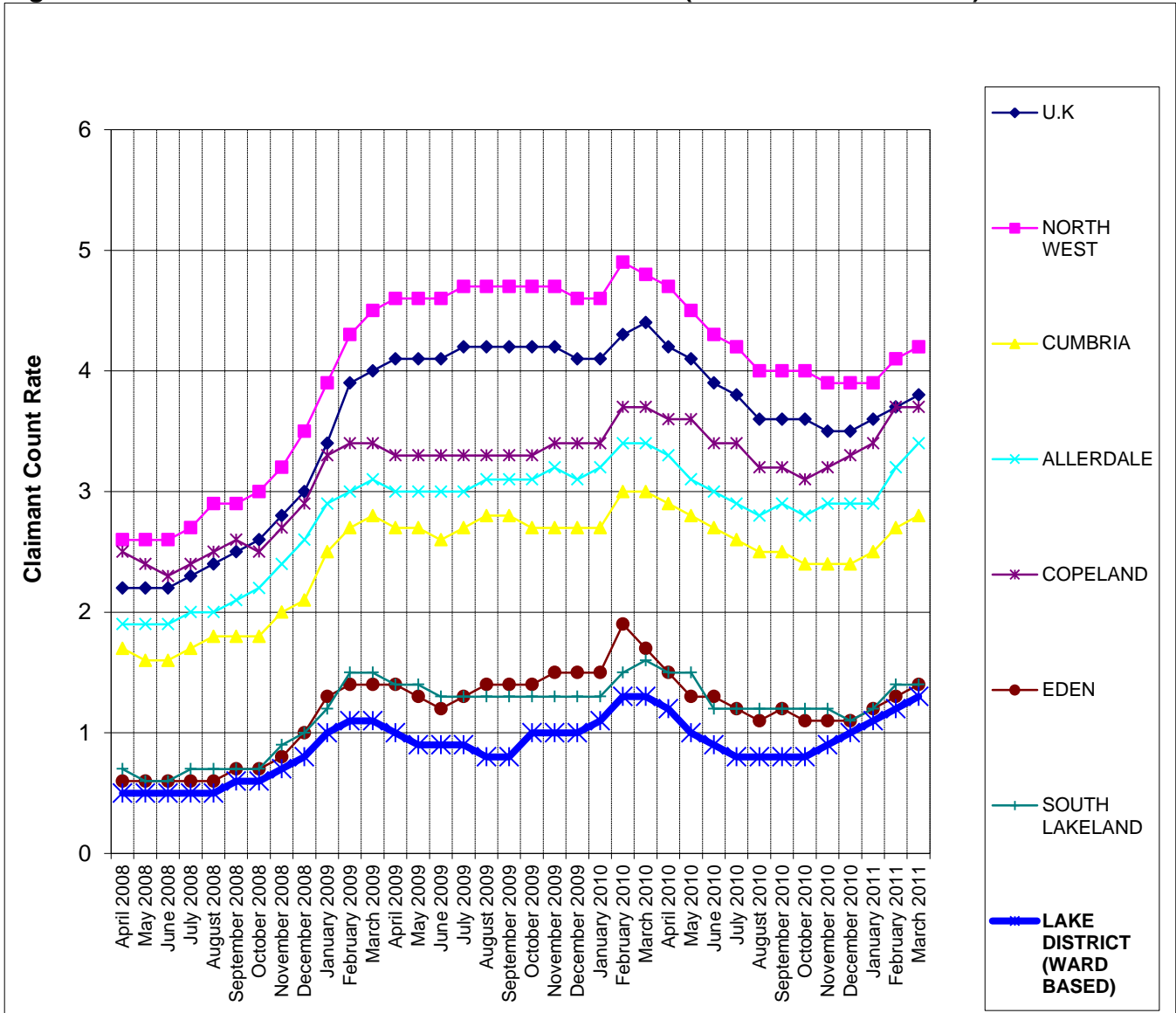
Tourism is the dominant employment sector, contributing more than £900 million to the economy and employing more than 15,000 people.

From businesses starting up in 2006, three-year survival rates were higher in Cumbria than the national average. Around 15 per cent of businesses in Cumbria operate within the National Park. The Cumbria Business Survey in 2010 was based on telephone interviews with businesses, including 258 in the National Park. One of the findings of this survey was the increasing need for higher speed broadband.

The Core Strategy of the Local Development Framework was adopted in October 2010, containing strategic policies for the National Park until 2025, including a policy relating to employment which states that there will be a minimum supply of 3.1 hectares of land for employment. The Allocations of Land Development Plan Document is being prepared, which will identify land for employment, affordable housing and open space. Figures for the amount of floorspace developed each year have not been collected since 2010, but this will be updated in 2012. During 2010 to 2011 a net figure of 1,633 square metres of employment space was granted planning permission (indicator of success 5).

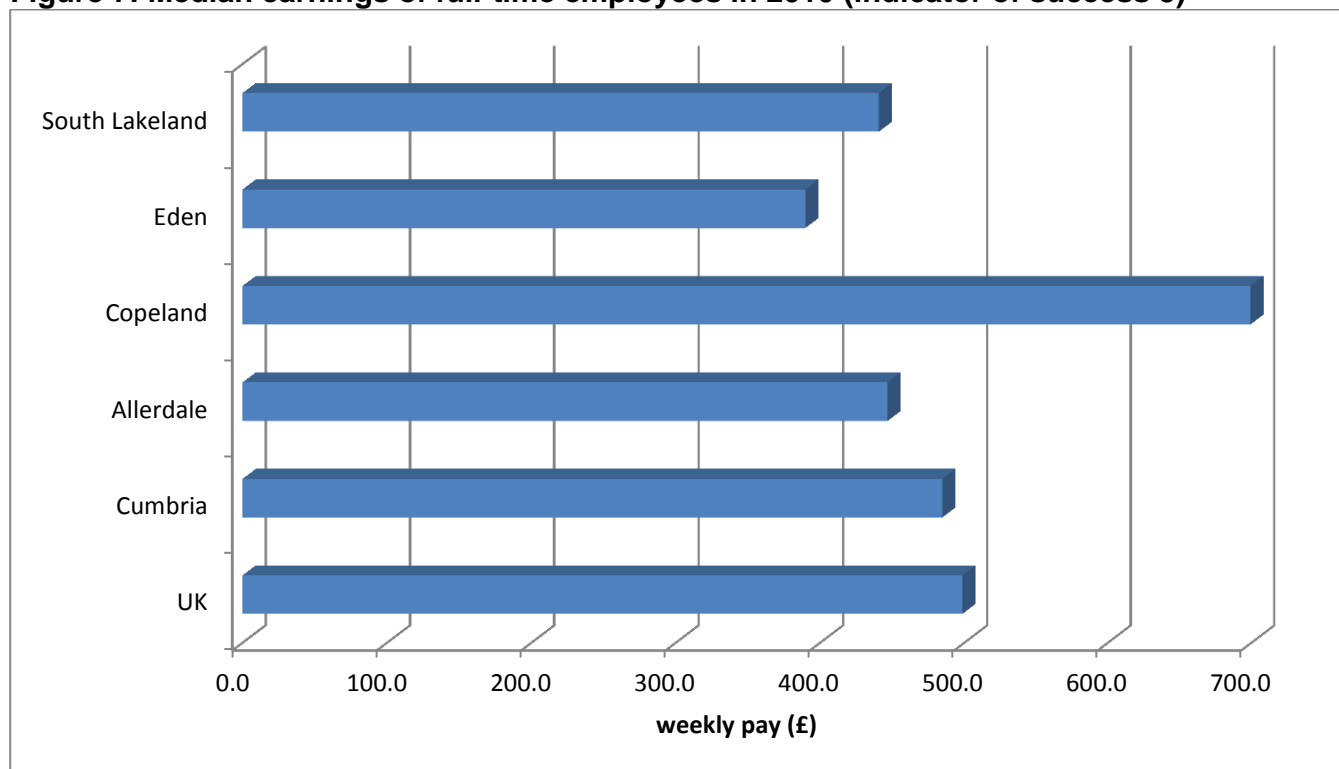
The Lake District National Park Authority approves over 90 per cent of planning applications and satisfaction with the planning service remains over 70 per cent. Each year around 30 appeals are received, which is low compared with the 1,000 applications determined each year.

Figure 6: Jobseekers allowance claimant count rates (indicator of success 2)



Source: Cumbria Intelligence Observatory, taken from the Office for National Statistics Crown Copyright

Figure 7: Median earnings of full-time employees in 2010 (indicator of success 3)



Source: Cumbria Intelligence Observatory, taken from the Office for National Statistics Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings Crown Copyright

Table 6: Economic value of tourism

	2008	2009	2010
Economic value of tourism	£949.7 million	£952.7 million	£934.9 million
Number of tourism related jobs	15,488	15,244	14,865

Source: STEAM (Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Monitor), Cumbria Tourism

Table 7: Business survival rates for businesses started in 2006 (indicator of success 1)

Survival of businesses	Number of new businesses 'born' in 2006	Percentage surviving a year	Percentage surviving two years	Percentage surviving three years
UK	255,530	96.5%	80.7%	66.2%
Cumbria	2,105	97.4%	84.6%	70.5%
Allerdale	375	97.3%	84.0%	69.3%
Barrow	220	100.0%	86.4%	70.5%
Carlisle	450	96.7%	82.2%	71.1%
Copeland	190	97.4%	86.8%	68.4%
Eden	245	98.0%	83.7%	69.4%
South Lakeland	625	96.8%	85.6%	72.0%

Source: Cumbria Intelligence Observatory, taken from Office for National Statistics Business Demography Crown Copyright

Table 8: Top three barriers to business efficiency for businesses in the National Park

	Percentage
The way the local planning and development control system operates	42%
The local road network and road access	35%
The availability of parking for customers, staff or deliveries	30%

Source: Cumbria Business Survey 2010, Cumbria Intelligence Observatory

Table 9: Contributions to Nurture Lakeland, to look after the landscape and environment of Cumbria and the Lake District

	2006-07	2007-08	2010-11
Number of businesses in Cumbria who are members of Nurture Lakeland	229	245	307
Value of contributions from businesses in Cumbria through Nurture Lakeland	£106,366	£143,868	£198,000

Source: Nurture Lakeland

Table 10: Planning application approvals (indicator of success 4) and planning appeals allowed

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Percentage of planning applications approved	89%	91%	91%	91%
Percentage of appeals allowed	50% 15 out of 30	34% 11 out of 32	25% 4 out of 16	45% 14 out of 31

Source: Lake District National Park Authority

Table 11: Satisfaction with planning application process

	2006-07	2009-10
Percentage of planning applicants satisfied with the service received	73%	71%

Source: Lake District National Park Authority

3 World Class Visitor Experiences

The outcome

High quality and unique experiences for visitors within a stunning and globally significant landscape. Experiences that compete with the best in the international market.

Delivery aims

- VE1 Promote a welcoming National Park for all, which encourages people to visit again.
- VE2 Enhance the quality and diversity of the visitor's experience through improvements to accommodation, attractions, public realm and visitor facilities.
- VE3 Encourage opportunities for sustainable tourism, such as visitors staying longer, spending more on local goods and services, contributing to local communities and using public transport.
- VE4 Celebrate and protect what is special about the Lake District by promoting and restoring its rich cultural heritage and wildlife, local traditions and products.
- VE5 Making the most of the landscape and nature as the backdrop for outdoor leisure experiences for all, particularly the next generation of returning visitors – from relaxing and tranquil to adventurous and exhilarating.
- VE6 Engender pride and responsibility and opportunities for scientific research, securing the long term sustainability of the special qualities of the National Park.

3.1 Sustainable tourism and visitor facilities

Tourism is the dominant employment sector in the National Park. The Lake District National Park attracts more than 15 million visitors a year, totalling around 22 million visitor days. This contributes over £900 million a year to the local economy through accommodation, food and drink, recreation, shopping, transport and indirectly supporting local businesses. Figures from STEAM provide an indicator for monitoring trends, rather than an accurate measurement of tourism. In 2010 the number of visitor days fell by a million and there was a corresponding decrease in visitor expenditure (see section 2.2).

Cumbria Visitor Surveys are undertaken around every three years, based on face-to-face interviews with visitors between June and September. Visitors are identified as those people who have travelled more than 20 miles for a visit of more than three hours. The 2006 and 2009 survey results were from 444 and 591 interviews in the National Park respectively.

Around 80 per cent of visitors interviewed were staying overnight and the remainder were day visitors. About five per cent of visitors are international visitors. Sixty per cent of visitors were aged over 45, less than 20 per cent were aged below 35 and only three per cent of visitors were aged below 25. Figures for overall visitor satisfaction are high and 85 per cent of visitors have previously visited the area. Visitors who stay overnight, stay on average five nights, with the most common response for length of stay as seven nights, followed by two nights.

Over 60 per cent of accommodation providers in the National Park are in an accredited scheme. The figure has dropped since 2010. This drop is partly explained by a change in 2011 to the way that the data is reported for caravan and camping sites. The figures may also have been affected by businesses opting out of inspection schemes in a bid to save costs during the economic recession.

The majority of visitors arrive in the area by private motor vehicle - 87 per cent from 2009 Cumbria Visitor Survey. Most visitors then use their vehicles as their main mode of transport during their visit, although there a reduction from 85 to 77 per cent in the 2006 and 2009 Cumbria Visitor

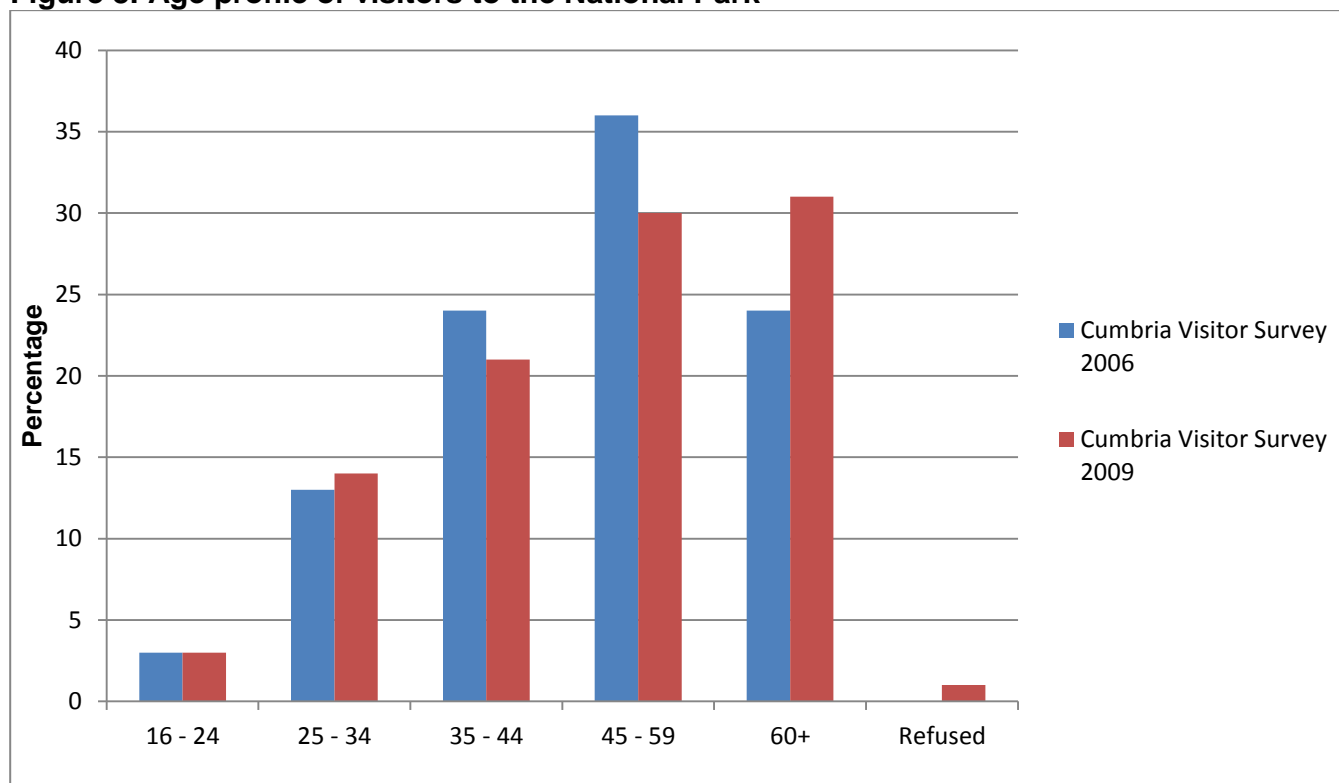
Surveys. The percentage of visitors whose main mode of transport was walking, using buses and on a coach tour increased from 2006 to 2009.

Table 12: Number of visitors to the National Park

	2008	2009	2010
Visitor numbers	15.6 million	15.8 million	15.8 million
Visitor days	23.0 million	23.1 million	22.0 million

Source: STEAM (Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Monitor), Cumbria Tourism

Figure 8: Age profile of visitors to the National Park



Source: Cumbria Visitor Surveys, Cumbria Tourism

Table 13: Summary of feedback from visitors to the National Park (indicators of success 6, 7 and 8)

	2006	2009
Percentage of visitors rating the overall experience of their visit as good or very good, broken down as:	97%	95%
• very good	81%	56%
• good	16%	39%
Percentage of visitors who have previously visited Cumbria	85%	85%
Average number of nights visitors stay - looking at staying visitors only	5.9 nights	5.3 nights
Average spend per visitor per day, excluding accommodation - day and staying visitors	£18.81 Cumbria-wide £17.87	£20.19 Cumbria-wide £20.40

Source: Cumbria Visitor Surveys, Cumbria Tourism

Table 14: Top three reasons visitors give for visiting Cumbria

	Percentage
Because of the physical scenery and landscape of the area	59%
Because it is somewhere I know and trust	49%
Because of the emotional characteristics / reasons of the area	30%

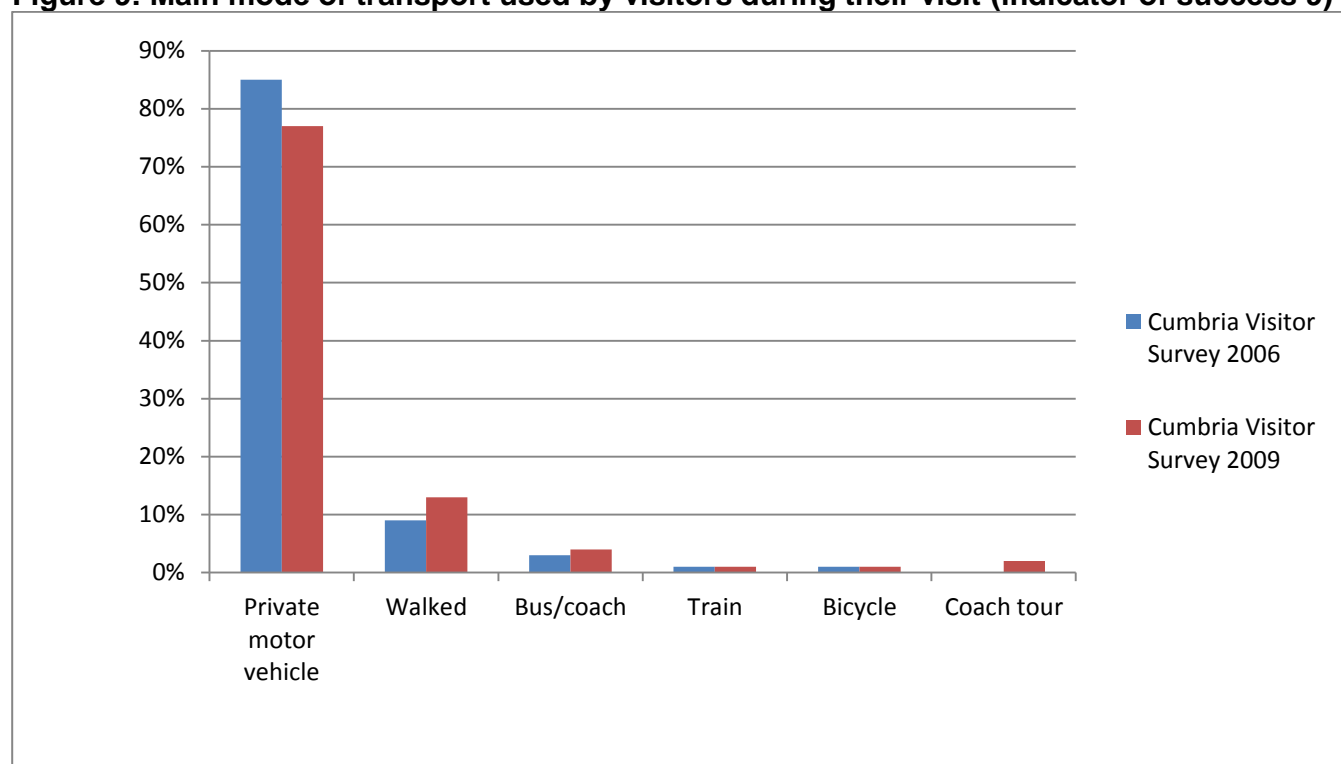
Source: 2009 Cumbria Visitor Survey, Cumbria Tourism

Table 15: Percentage of accommodation providers with a quality rating (indicator of success 10)

	2006	2007	2010	2011
Percentage of accommodation providers in the National Park who have a quality rating	63%	65%	73%	63%

Source: Cumbria Tourism

Figure 9: Main mode of transport used by visitors during their visit (indicator of success 9)



Source: Cumbria Visitor Surveys, Cumbria Tourism

3.2 Education, events, access and outdoor recreation

History of tourism and outdoor activities is one of the special qualities of the Lake District National Park. There are over 3,000 km of rights of way in the National Park and over 50 per cent of the National Park is open access land. An annual survey of five per cent of the network of rights of way helps us monitor how easy rights of way are to use. Although figures appear to have dropped in the last two years, over 70 per cent of rights of way are easy to use. The top issues identified over the last three years that paths were not easy to use were that the path furniture (such as gates and stiles) needed replacing, repairing or was obstructed or the path surface was not easy to use.

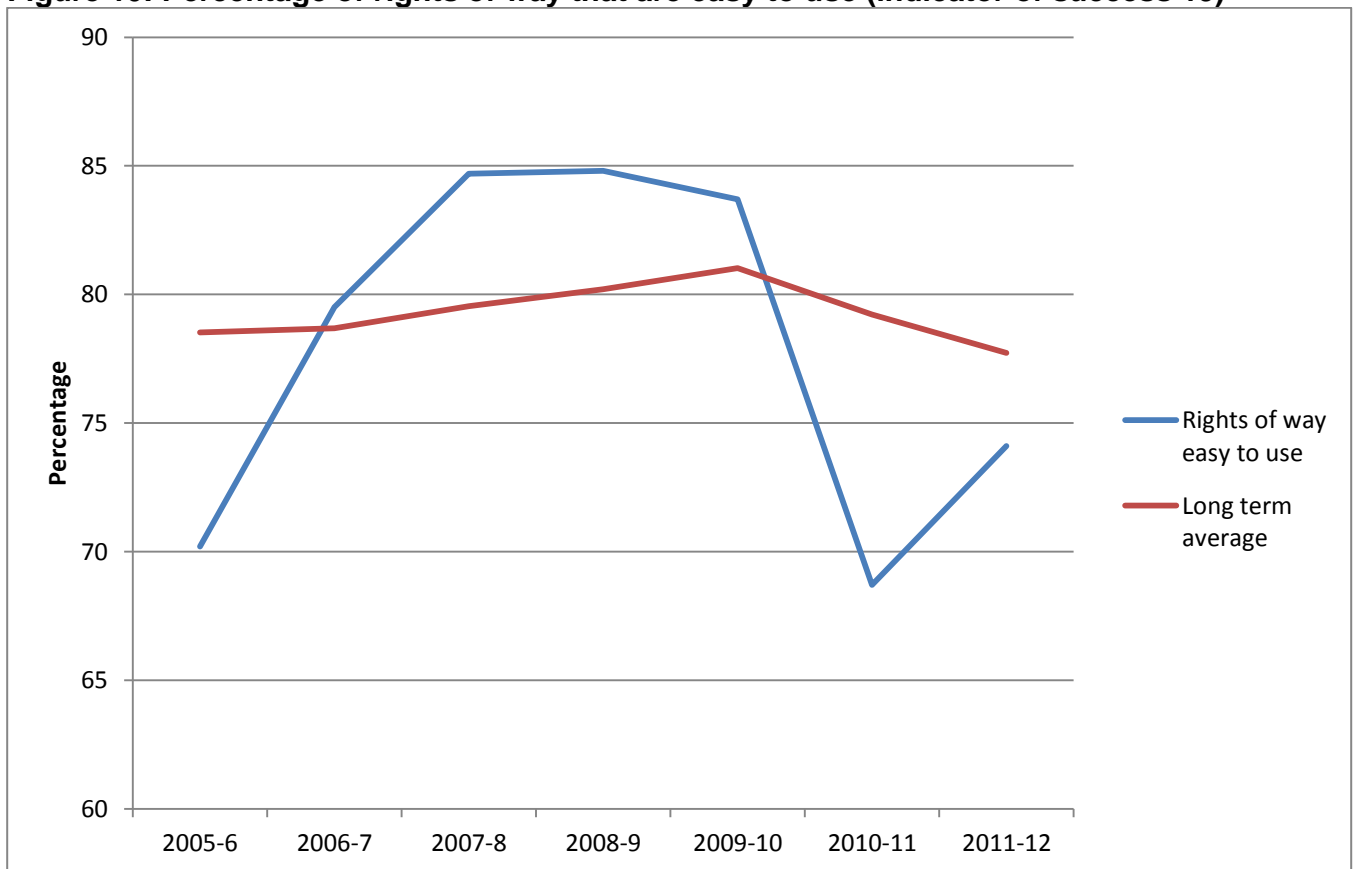
Visitors undertake a wide variety of outdoor activities. The number of activities undertaken by visitors as measured through the Cumbria Visitor Surveys were markedly lower in 2009 than 2006. But the figures show that the top outdoor activities are visiting the countryside, walking and lake cruises.

One of the special qualities of the National Park is opportunities for quiet enjoyment. The Campaign to Protect Rural England undertook a nationwide survey to test what tranquility meant to people and measure levels of relative tranquillity in different parts of the country. In the National Park the likelihood someone would experience tranquility is greater in the remoter upland areas and in areas served only by narrow minor roads where development is unobtrusive. Tranquillity is affected by noise and light pollution associated with the busier roads in the National Park.

About 750,000 people use visitor services provided by the National Park Authority each year, attending events, using the learning service or visiting information centres. In addition, over 1.2 million people visit the Lake District National Park website (data from 2010 to 2011). Three-quarters of people surveyed increased their understanding of what was special about National Parks after using these services.

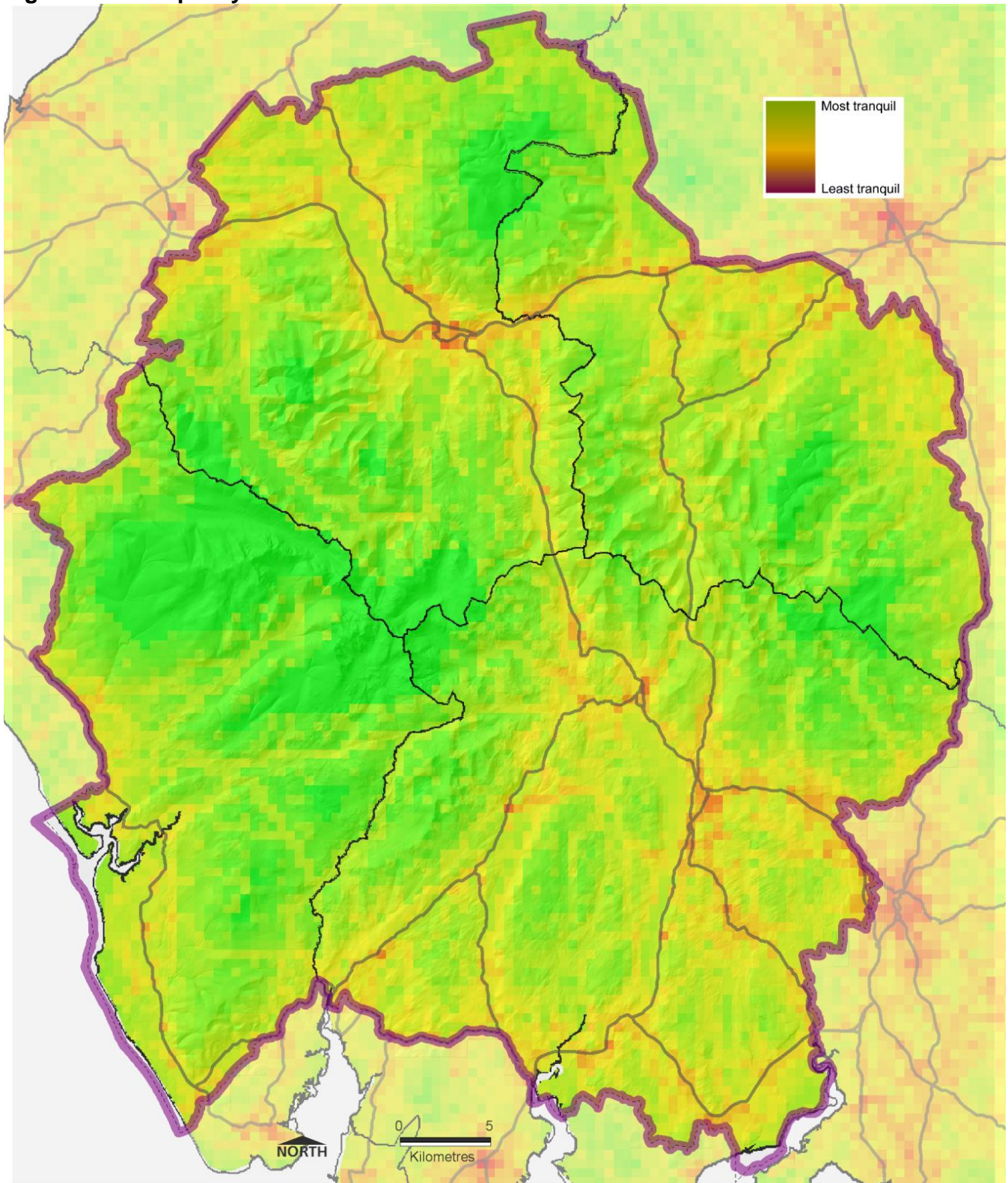
The Flora of the Fells project is about engaging people with the Cumbrian uplands, raising awareness of their value for biodiversity, natural resources, cultural heritage and landscape, health and the economy. During 2009 and 2010 6,000 people attended 323 events. Eighty per cent of those attending stated that they would change their behaviour as a result of attending an event.

Figure 10: Percentage of rights of way that are easy to use (indicator of success 19)



Source: Lake District National Park Authority

Figure 11: Tranquillity data



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Table 16: Outdoor activities undertaken by visitors to the National Park

	2006	2009
Visiting the countryside	83%	51%
Bird watching / field study / nature study / wildlife watching	25%	7%
Short walks	68%	39%
Long walks	55%	37%
Cycling	9%	5%
Mountain biking	6%	4%
Horse riding / pony trekking	2%	1%
Lake cruises / motor boat cruising	36%	27%
Water sports	3%	1%
Sailing / yachting / canoeing / speed boating / rowing	11%	5%
Fishing	4%	2%

Source: Cumbria Visitor Surveys, Cumbria Tourism

Table 17: Percentage of people who increased their understanding about the National Park through using visitor services provided by the Lake District National Park Authority

	March 2010	March 2011
Percentage of people increasing their understanding of what is special about National Parks through our visitor services:	77%	76%
• events	77%	79%
• learning service	88%	86%
• website	67%	69%
• information centres and Brockhole, the Lake District Visitor Centre	75%	71%

Source: Lake District National Park Authority

Table 18: Outcomes from Flora of the Fells events

	Combined 2009 and 2010 figure
Percentage of attendees who 'learnt lots' from events	80%
Percentage of attendees who said they would change their behaviour because of what they learnt from an event, with top three changes as follows:	80%
• reading more on the subject	
• buying more local produce to support farmers and reduce food miles	
• getting out into the countryside more	

Source: Friends of the Lake District, Flora of the Fells achievements 2009 and 2010

4 Vibrant Communities

The outcome

People successfully living, working and relaxing within upland, valley and lakeside places where distinctive local character is maintained and celebrated.

Delivery aims

- VC1 Develop and deliver balanced employment and housing opportunities that enable people to live and work in the community.
- VC2 Ensure effective access to a broad range of life long learning opportunities.
- VC3 Enable communities to influence and work with others to support the retention of local services and ensure access to essential services, such as health, information technology, childcare and support for the elderly.
- VC4 Provide an integrated transport network which offers attractive alternatives to the car.
- VC5 Help people within the National Park have a sense of belonging and pride – understanding the distinctiveness of the natural, environmental and cultural heritage of their area and contributing to its future well-being.
- VC6 Involve communities, particularly children and young people, to help develop communities which are sustainable for future generations.

4.1 Supporting communities

More than 40,000 people live in the National Park. Settlements are generally small, with only three having a population of more than 3,000: Keswick, Ambleside and Windermere / Bowness. Data from the 2001 Census showed around two-thirds of the population are of working age, around a fifth are over 65 and less than a seventh are under 16. The National Park encompasses 80 parishes and parts of Allerdale and Copeland Boroughs, and Eden and South Lakeland Districts.

There are five distinctive areas in the National Park, reflecting how communities operate in and beyond the National Park. A settlement hierarchy reflects the size and role of settlements:

- Rural service centres: providing a range of services, employment, housing and transport links
- Villages: providing some services, links with rural service centres and some housing and employment development
- Cluster communities: our smaller settlements.

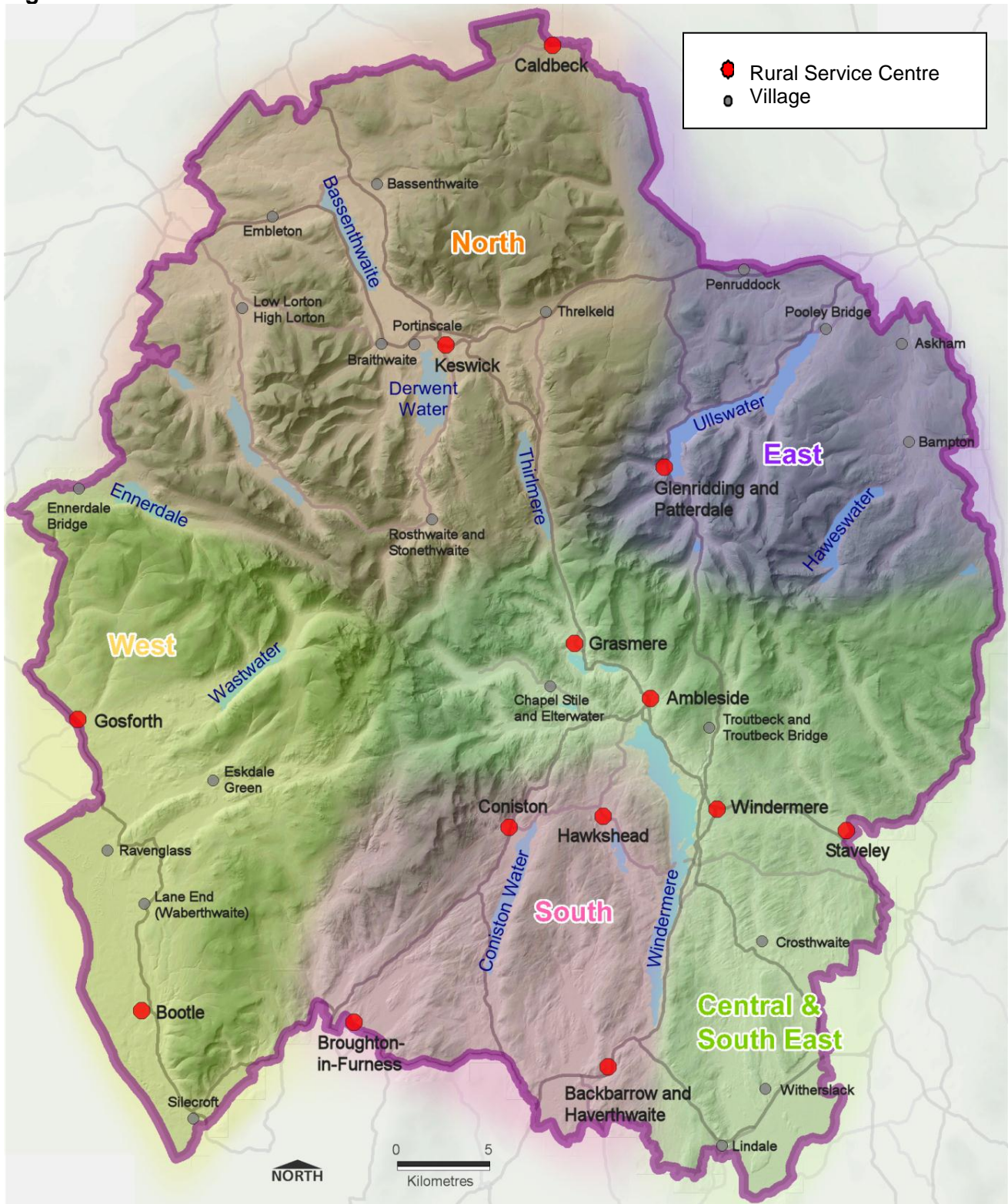
There are 13 Rural Service Centres in the National Park. With the exception of Gosforth, Rural Service Centres have access to public transport and the following services: convenience store, meeting place, primary school, public house, post office and doctor. Gosforth does not have a doctor and recently lost its post office during the nationwide cutback in post offices. In addition, there have been several losses of individual services in villages since the assessment in 2008. This may be partly due to the period of economic recession.

Forty per cent of parishes in the National Park have a relatively up-to-date Community Action Plan. A three-year project which ran from 2007 to 2010, Investing in Communities, stimulated a burst in community planning activity. Six plans, covering 17 parishes, were updated or published during 2010-11.

In 2008 the nationwide Place Survey took place and 685 residents in the National Park completed a postal survey, gathering their views on the local area which was defined as within 20 minutes walk of their home. The results showed that residents were satisfied with the local area, and were at least the same or better than the results at county, regional and national level. The survey was

done as recession loomed and the results could have been influenced by a myriad of external factors.

Figure 12: Distinctive areas and settlements in the National Park



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Source: Lake District National Park Authority

Table 19: Community Action Plans (indicator of success 11)

	June 2011
Number of Community Action Plans covering parishes within the National Park	18
Percentage of parishes covered by Community Action Plans, updated or created within the last five years	40%

Source: Action with Communities in Cumbria (ACT)

Table 20: Services in settlements (indicator of success 12)

	2008	2010
Rural Service Centres - have access to public transport and the following services: convenience store, meeting place, primary school, public house, post office and doctor	13 settlements	13 settlements
Villages with five services	9 settlements	7 settlements
Villages with four services	12 settlements	11 settlements
Villages with three services	0	3 settlements

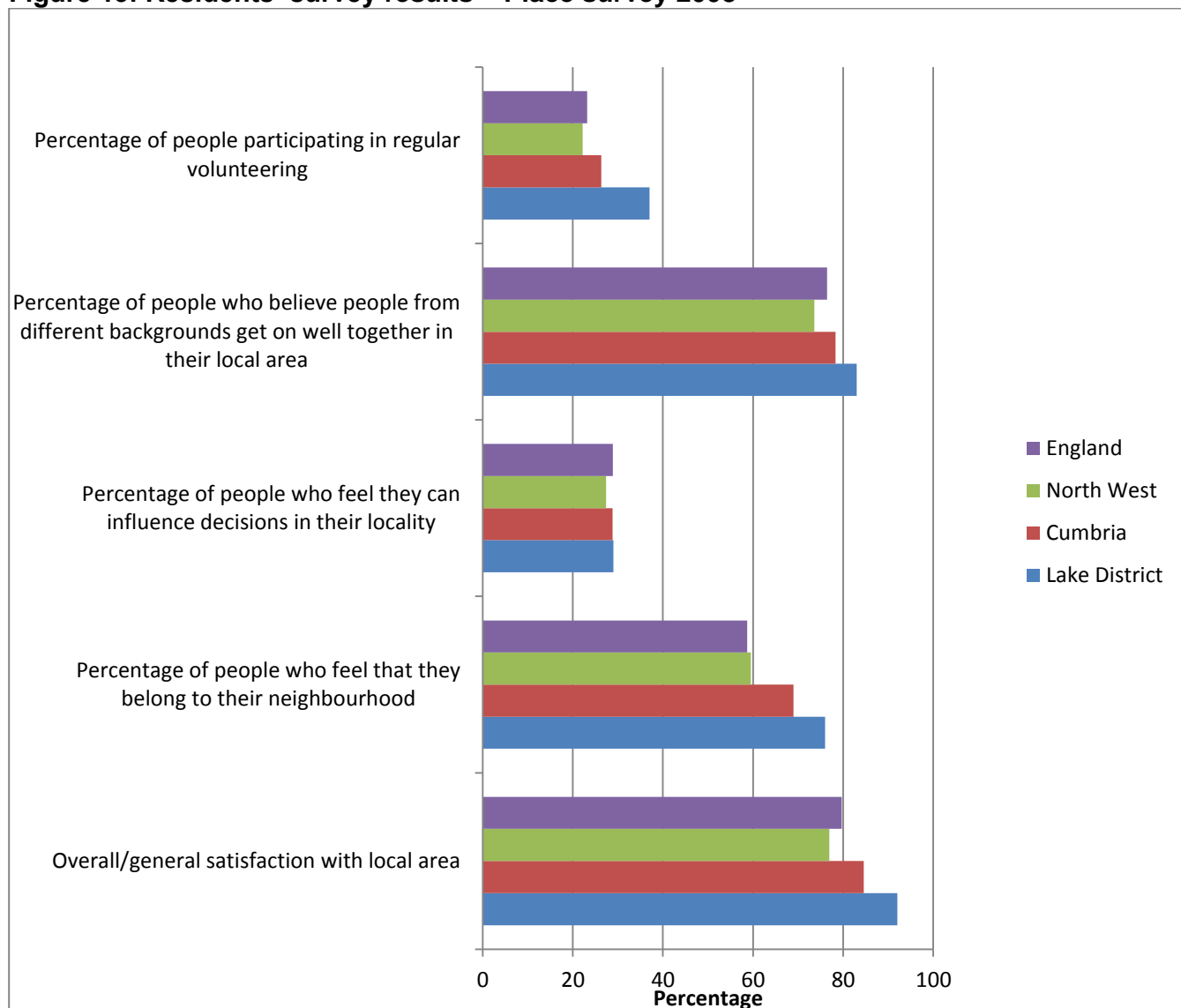
Source: Lake District National Park Authority

Table 21: Issues raised in residents' survey – Place Survey 2008

	Percentage
Top five issues identified as important in making somewhere good to live	
Health services	57%
Level of crime	52%
Affordable decent housing	48%
Access to nature	37%
Education provision	32%
Top five issues in need of improvement in their local area	
Affordable decent housing	64%
Road and pavement repairs	43%
Activities for teenagers	42%
Public transport	40%
Wage levels and local cost of living	38%

Source: Place Survey 2008, Lake District National Park Authority

Figure 13: Residents' survey results – Place survey 2008



Source: Place Survey 2008, Lake District National Park Authority

Table 22: Volunteer days completed for the Lake District National Park Authority

	March 2008	March 2009	March 2010	March 2011
Number of volunteer days organised or supported by the National Park Authority	4,665	4,991	4,961	4,961

Source: Lake District National Park Authority

4.2 Housing

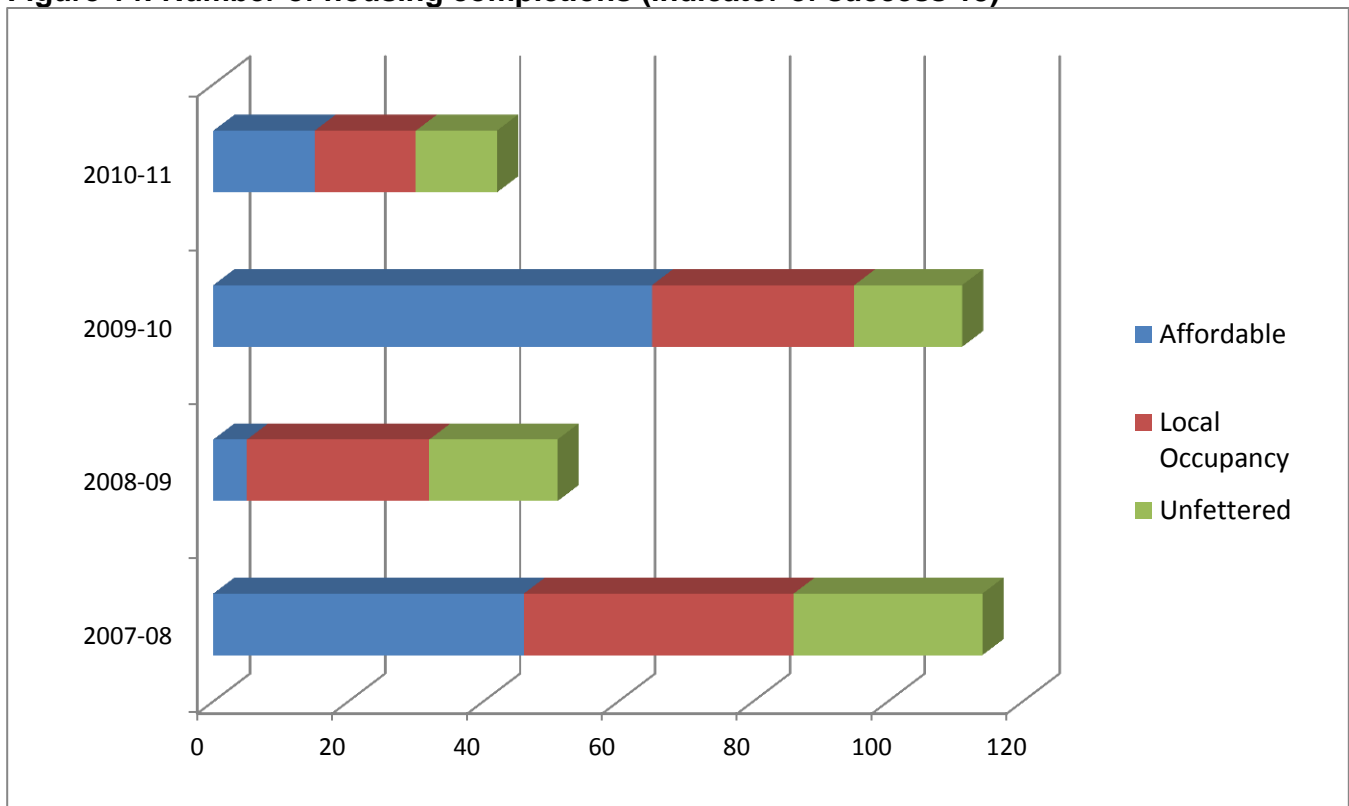
Respondents to the Place Survey stated that affordable decent housing was the top issue in need of improvement in the National Park (see section 4.1). The ratio of house price to income is markedly higher in the National Park than within Cumbria, with the average figure of eight to one. The housing market is influenced by demographic and economic changes, employment and incomes, second homes, accessibility, school catchments and inward migration. Figures from the

2001 Census indicated that 17 per cent of houses in the National Park were second homes, but this figure is higher in some communities within the National Park.

There is a lot of variation from one year to the next in housing completions and planning permissions granted for housing. The recession will have had an impact on housing. When planning approval is granted, a standard time condition of three years from the date of the Decision Notice is applied. Not all homes granted planning permission are built, for a variety of reasons.

The Core Strategy of the Local Development Framework, adopted in October 2010, contains a policy on housing provision and this is supported by a Supplementary Planning Document on Housing Provision which explains the requirements of housing development in the National Park. Housing development must meet the local need or local affordable need of each locality, to redress imbalances in the housing market. Unfettered houses do not have any occupancy restrictions, which are from historic planning applications. Based on housing need the target is for 900 houses to be built in the National Park between 2010 and 2025 – an average of 60 per year. The Allocations of Land Development Plan Document is being prepared, which will identify land for affordable housing, employment and open space.

Figure 14: Number of housing completions (indicator of success 13)



Source: Lake District National Park Authority

Table 23: Number of units granted planning permission for housing

	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
Affordable	67	25	32
Local need	14	10	43
Unfettered	0	2	1
Total for affordable and local need	81	35	75

Source: Lake District National Park Authority

Table 24: House prices and income 2011

	Mean household income	Mean Housing Affordability Ratio - ratio of house price to income
Lake District National Park best-fit at ward level, - including wards with greater than 50 per cent area within the National Park	£34,525	8.0:1
Cumbria	£31,984	5.2:1

Source: Cumbria Intelligence Observatory, taken from CACI StreetValue and PayCheck datasets

4.3 Transport and movement

Emissions from transport are a major contributor to the 'carbon footprint' of the National Park (see section 5.1). Cumbria is a rural county with a dispersed population, many of whom rely on their cars. The majority of visitors arrive in the area by private motor vehicle (87 per cent from 2009 Cumbria Visitor Survey) and most then use their vehicles during their visit (77 per cent from 2009 Cumbria Visitor Survey) – see section 3.1.

Of the residents responding to the Place Survey 40 per cent thought public transport was in need of improvement and 43 per cent stated that road and pavement repairs were needed (see section 4.1).

In 2008 a Lake District traffic cordon was created to monitor traffic growth from six automatic traffic counters located on roads in the National Park. Between 2008 and 2010 there appears to have been a slight reduction in traffic, with five out of the six traffic counters showing a reduction. This was also reflected for Cumbria which showed a 0.7 per cent reduction from 2009 to 2010. However, it is worth noting that data from one of the automatic traffic counters may have been inaccurate as it was sited in a wooded area that may have affected the efficiency of the solar panel.

Three-quarters of working age people in Cumbria have access to employment by public transport or walking. This indicator measures the percentage of working age people living within the catchment area of a location with more than 500 jobs.

Table 25: Access to employment by public transport / walking in Cumbria (indicator of success 14)

	2007	2008	2009
Percentage of working age people in Cumbria with access to employment by public transport and other specified modes	77%	76%	76%

Source: Department for Transport, Crown Copyright

Table 26: Lake District traffic cordon

	Percentage growth	
	2008-10	2009-10
Total flow from original three traffic counters on A591, A592 and A5074	-4.52%	-3.55%
Total flow overall	-3.80%	-3.11%

Source: Cumbria County Council

5 Spectacular Landscape, Wildlife and Cultural Heritage

The outcome

A landscape which provides an irreplaceable source of inspiration, whose benefits to people and wildlife are valued and improved. A landscape whose natural and cultural resources are assets to be managed and used wisely for future generations.

Delivery aims

- SL1 Ensure change strengthens the character of the Lake District's landscapes, whilst sustaining cultural heritage and resources to deliver ecosystem services.
- SL2 Protect and restore natural water features through whole catchment management.
- SL3 Create a joined up approach to manage and enhance cultural and natural features, habitats and wildlife.
- SL4 Mitigate against climate change in line with national carbon budgets and develop strategies and actions to adapt to climate change.
- SL5 Improve the quality of the built environment, promoting innovative, high quality and sustainable design which takes inspiration from its surroundings.
- SL6 Ensure that residents and visitors appreciate the importance of environmental protection by improving access, understanding, enjoyment, education and health.

5.1 Climate change

Data on per capita carbon emissions for Cumbria shows a 15.6 per cent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions between 2005 and 2009. Carbon emissions in 2005 in Cumbria were 9.6 tonnes per capita; in 2009 they were 8.1 tonnes per capita². All districts covering the National Park have had a downward trend in carbon emissions. It is likely that a proportion of this reduction is due to the economic recession, as much of the reduction has come from industry and commerce.

The Lake District National Park Partnership established a consumption-based carbon budget in 2011 – the first area in the UK to implement a comprehensive carbon budget. This estimated that the Lake District had a carbon 'footprint' of 2.3 million tonnes consisting of:

- forty-one per cent from visitors getting to and from the Lake District, with the majority of emissions from flights;
- twenty-eight per cent from visitors, excluding travel to and from the National Park; and
- thirty-one per cent from residents.

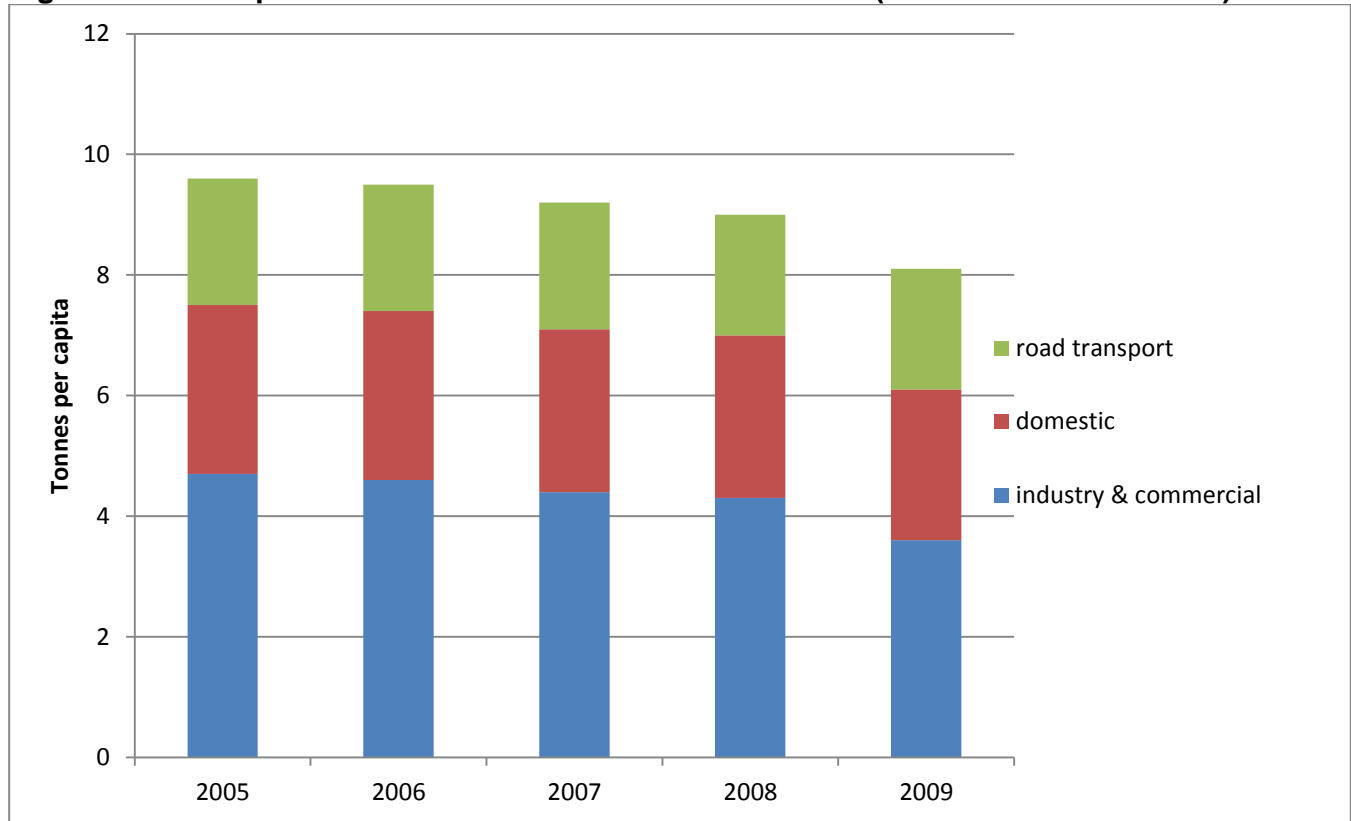
The Lake District National Park Partnership agreed to reduce emissions by one per cent a year, in line with national statutory carbon budgets in the Climate Change Act. By December 2011 the Partnership had identified, encouraged or established projects to save 14,000 tonnes of carbon emissions per year, equivalent to 0.6 per cent of the carbon budget.

Some domestic renewable energy installations do not require planning permission, so we do not have data for all renewable energy installations. Since 20 October 2010 the Lake District National Park Authority have monitored records of the numbers of planning applications for different types

² Data has a lag of two years before it is available. Figures published previously for 2005-08 have been revised so that they are directly comparable to the 2009 figures. These figures exclude emission sources over which local authorities have no influence, such as motorways and EU ETS (Emission Trading Scheme) installations.

of renewable energy installations. The Cumbria Renewable Energy Capacity and Deployment Study, estimates a figure of 27,000 kilowatts of renewable energy for the National Park by 2030.

Figure 15: Per capita carbon dioxide emissions in Cumbria (indicator of success 15)



Source: Local and Regional CO2 emissions estimates for 2005-2009
Department for Energy and Climate Change, Crown Copyright

Table 27: A carbon budget for the Lake District National Park 2011

Items contributing more than 10 per cent of total carbon budget	Percentage of carbon budget
Flights	28%
Personal vehicles – fuel	19%
Accommodation, food and drink	15%
Personal vehicles – wear and tear	11%

Source: Small World Consulting on behalf of the Lake District National Park Partnership

Table 28: Applications for renewable energy granted planning permission, 20 October 2010 to 31 March 2011

Renewable Energy Type	Number of applications granted	Total capacity (kilowatts)
Wind – onshore	0	0
Hydropower	1	120
Solar photovoltaic	8	37 ³
Solar thermal	6	47 panels
Biomass boiler	2	unknown
Air source heat pump	1	5
Ground source heat pump	3	unknown

Source: Lake District National Park Authority

5.2 Landscape, biodiversity and ecosystem services

Six of the special qualities of the Lake District National Park relate to this topic:

- 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

Over 36,000 hectares of the National Park are in European designated sites, 41,000 hectares are Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), 14,000 hectares in County Wildlife Sites and 8,000 hectares in Regionally Important Geological Sites. There are over 10,000 hectares of ancient semi-natural woodland. Many nationally important habitats and species are found here including 173 species and 35 habitats in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, ranging from iconic red squirrels and natterjack toads to freshwater habitats, mires and arctic-alpine communities.

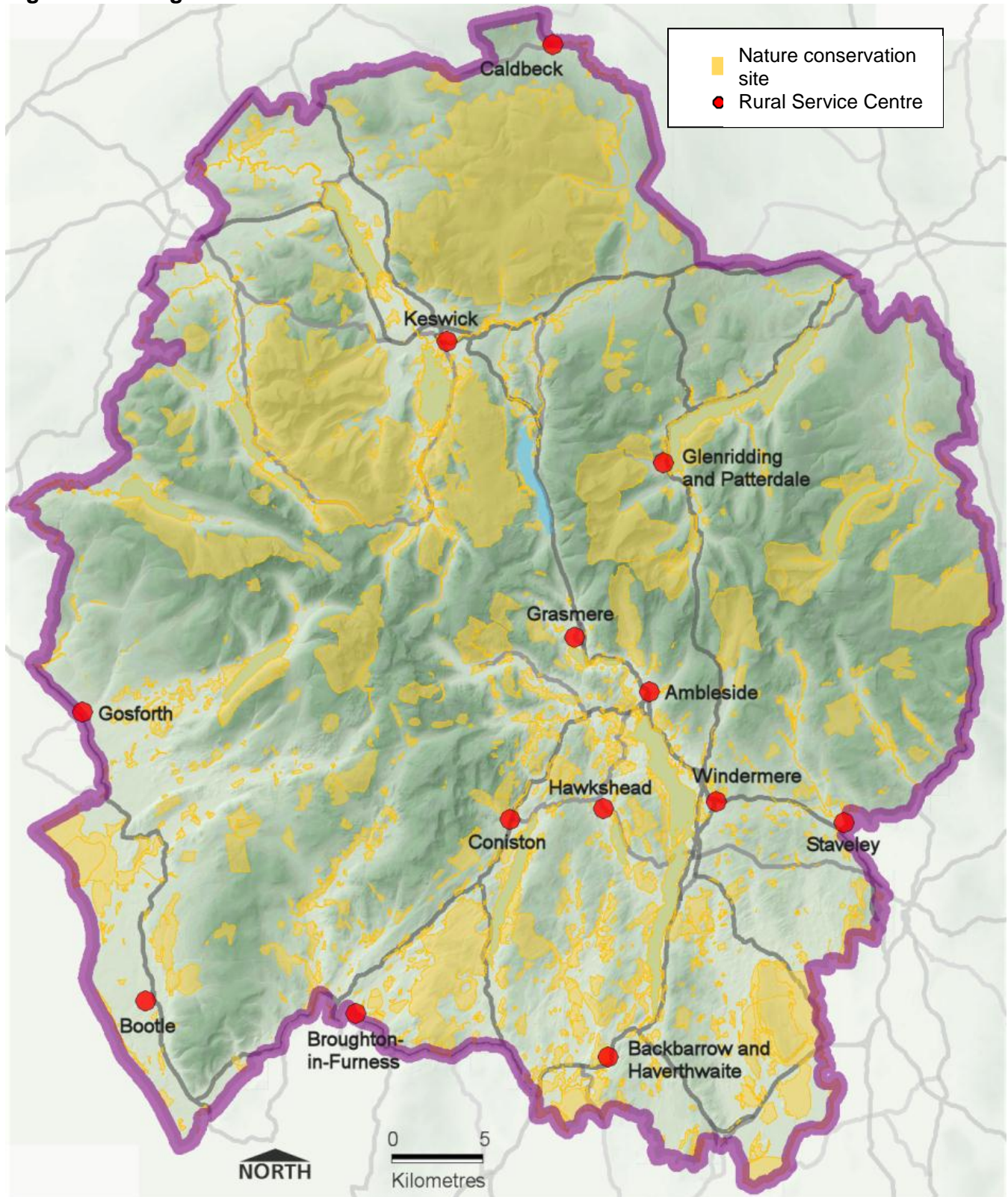
Ninety-two per cent of SSSIs are in favourable or recovering condition. The main outstanding issues on the remaining eight per cent of SSSIs are invasive non-native species, which are unlikely to be resolved, and grazing. Twenty-six per cent of SSSIs are in favourable condition.

There are 139 designated waterbodies in the Lake District, including 95 rivers and 38 lakes (the remainder are groundwater or surface water transfer). Using the Water Framework Directive classification system 40 rivers were in good ecological status in 2010. Eleven lakes were in good ecological status in 2009.

A Landscape Character Assessment for the Lake District National Park was developed in 2008 and adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document by the Lake District National Park Authority in 2011. The document identifies 13 different types of landscape and 71 areas of distinctive character and contains guidelines to manage change and encourage sustainable development. It informs development and land management decisions by taking account of landscape character.

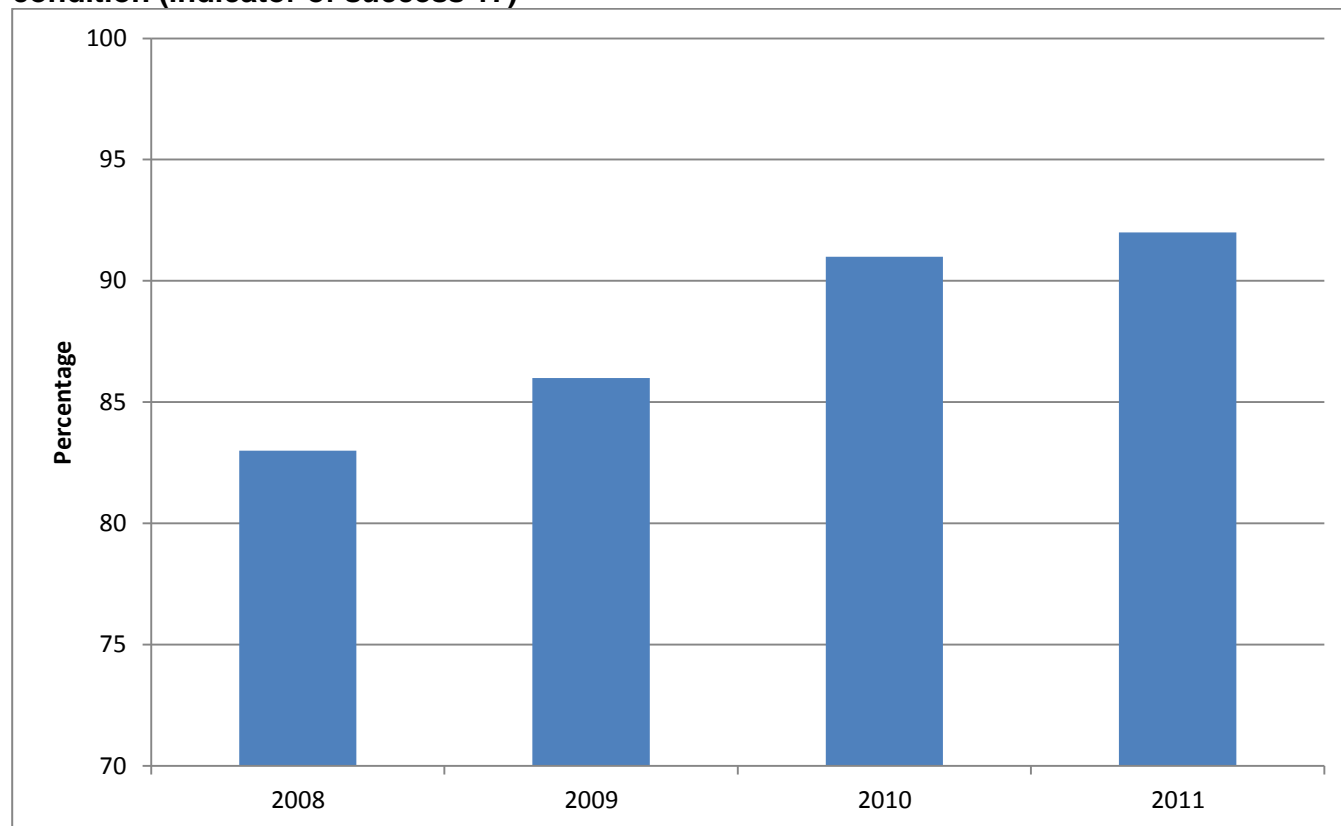
³ Estimate calculated by multiplying the number of solar photovoltaics by the average generation capacity for the North West, assuming a south facing roof and no shading from other structures.

Figure 16: Designated Nature Conservation Sites



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Figure 17: Percentage of Sites of Special Scientific Interest in favourable or recovering condition (indicator of success 17)



Source: Natural England

Table 29: Percentage of local sites in positive conservation management (indicator of success 16)

	March 2009	March 2010	March 2011
Percentage of county wildlife and regionally important geological sites where positive conservation management has been (in the last five years) or is being implemented:			
• National Park	14%	27%	Not available
• Cumbria	31%	40%	42%

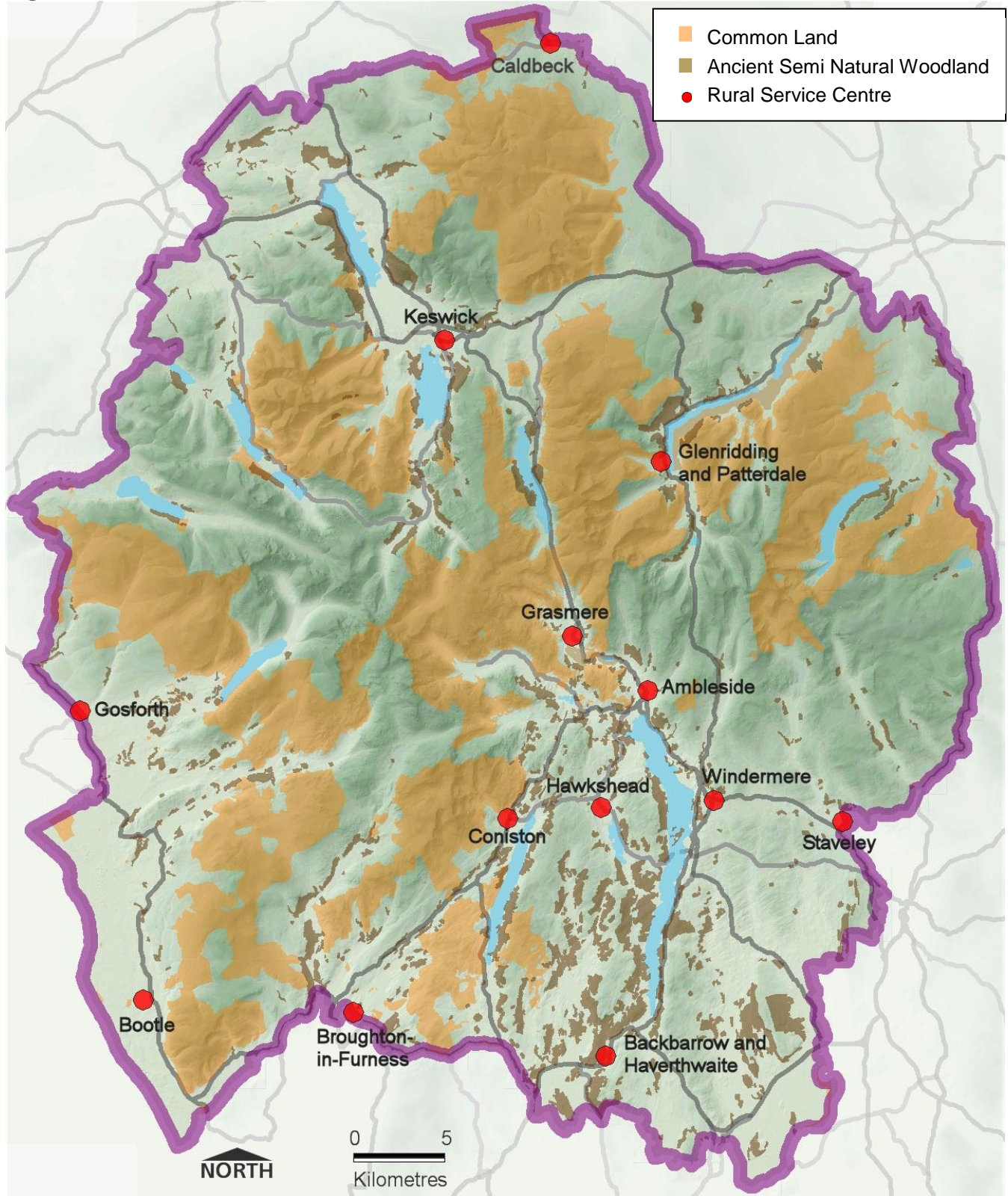
Source: Cumbria County Council

Table 30: Waterbodies in the National Park in 'good' or 'high' ecological status (indicator of success 20)

Type of waterbody	Number of waterbodies	Number and percentage in at least 'good' ecological status	
		2009	2010
Lakes	38	11 (29%)	11 (29%)
Rivers	95	36 (38%)	40 (42%)

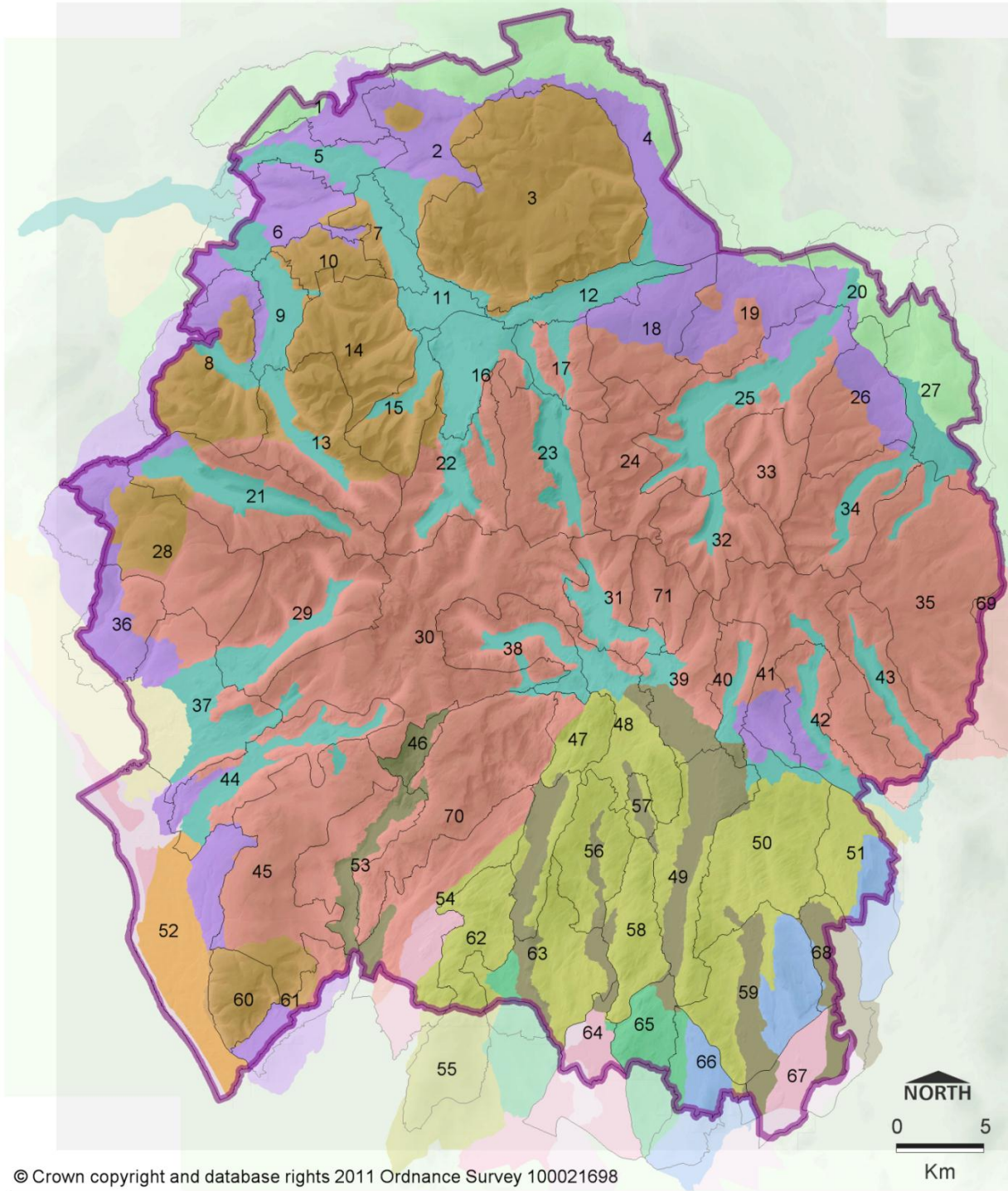
Source: Environment Agency

Figure 18: Ancient semi-natural woodland and common land



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Figure 19 Landscape Character Types and Areas of Distinctive Character



Landscape Typology

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
|  Type A - Estuary and Marsh |  Type F - Rugged/Craggy Volcanic High Fell |  Type K - Low Fell |
|  Type B - Coastal Margins |  Type G - Rugged/ Angular Slate High Fell |  Type L - Low Felly Fringe |
|  Type C - Coastal Limestone |  Type H - Upland Valley |  Type M - Lowland Valley |
|  Type D - Lowland |  Type I - Upland Limestone Farmland |  Areas of Distinctive Character |
|  Type E - Coastal Sandstone |  Type J - High Fell Fringe |  National Park Boundary |

Source: Lake District National Park Authority

5.3 Cultural heritage and built environment

Two of the special qualities of the Lake District National Park are rich archaeology, and distinctive areas and settlement character. There are more than 14,000 archaeological sites and monuments, 275 Scheduled Monuments, 23 Conservation Areas and more than 1,700 listed buildings.

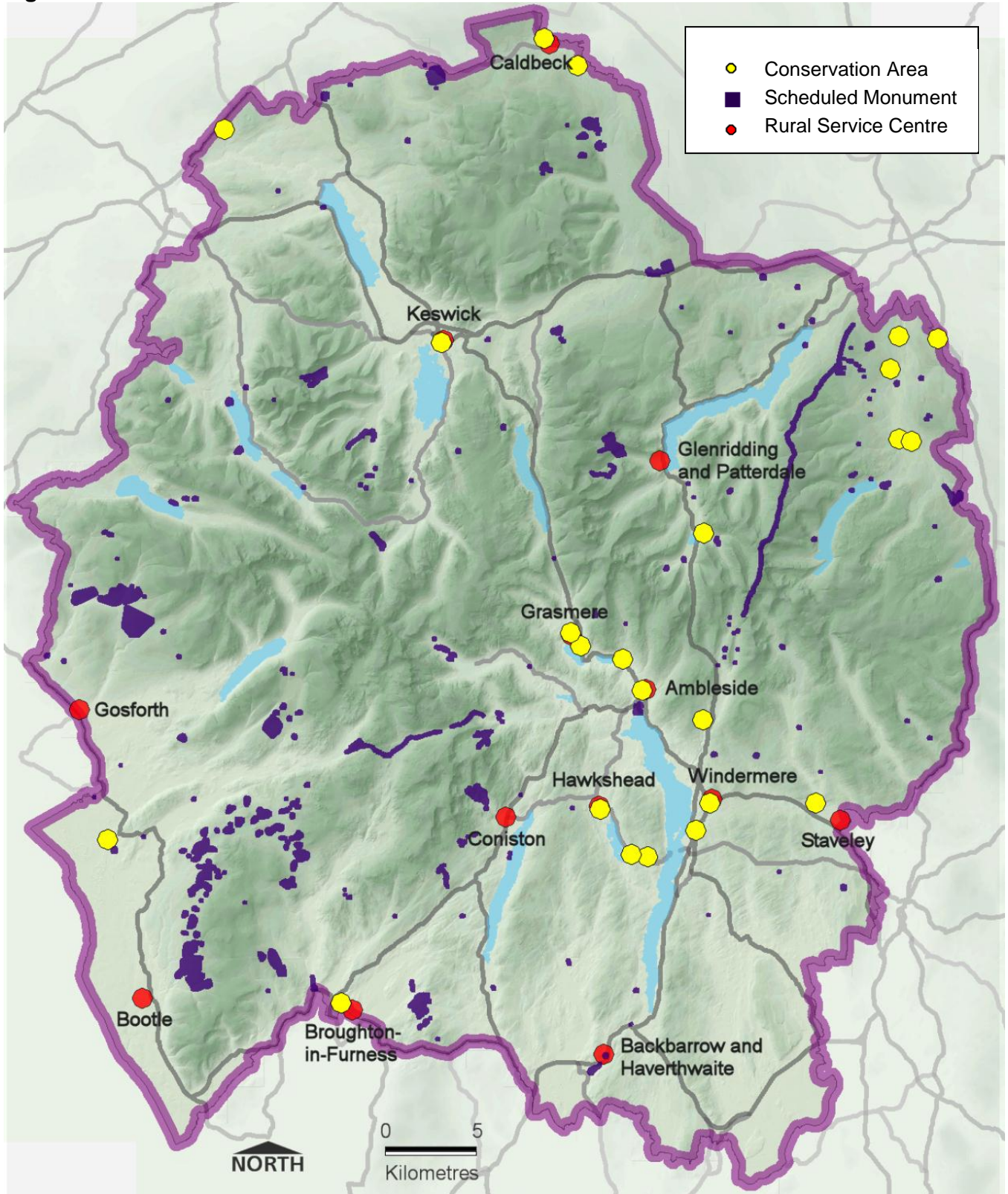
None of the Conservation Areas in the National Park is currently assessed as 'at risk'. Blindcrake was assessed as 'at risk' in 2010, but actions have been undertaken to reduce this threat. A programme of work to establish appraisals and management plans for all the Conservation Areas in the National Park is well underway – within the last four years appraisals and management plans have been put in place for 17 out of 23 Conservation Areas. Seven of the Conservation Areas in the National Park are currently assessed as being in 'poor' condition. All except one of these has an appraisal and management plan in place. The remaining one has been prioritised for completion during 2012. We anticipate that with management plans in place, and actions within them implemented, the condition of these Conservation Areas will improve. However, we recognise that there may be a time lag in seeing improvements to the condition of a Conservation Area after implementing actions in a management plan.

A 'listed building at risk' survey was carried out in 2010 and this revealed a figure of 87 listed buildings at risk. This equates to about five per cent of the listed buildings in the National Park.

Between 2006 and 2010 the Lake District National Park Authority surveyed all the Scheduled Monuments in the National Park and 149 were identified as at risk, with 89 of these at high risk. Since then we have reduced the number of Scheduled Monuments at risk to 131, working with volunteers and through the Environmental Land Management Service⁴.

⁴ The Environmental Land Management Service was established in 2009 with Natural England, joined by the National Trust and RSPB, to work with land managers to maximise conservation outcomes from environmental stewardship schemes.

Figure 20: Conservation Areas and Scheduled Monuments in the National Park



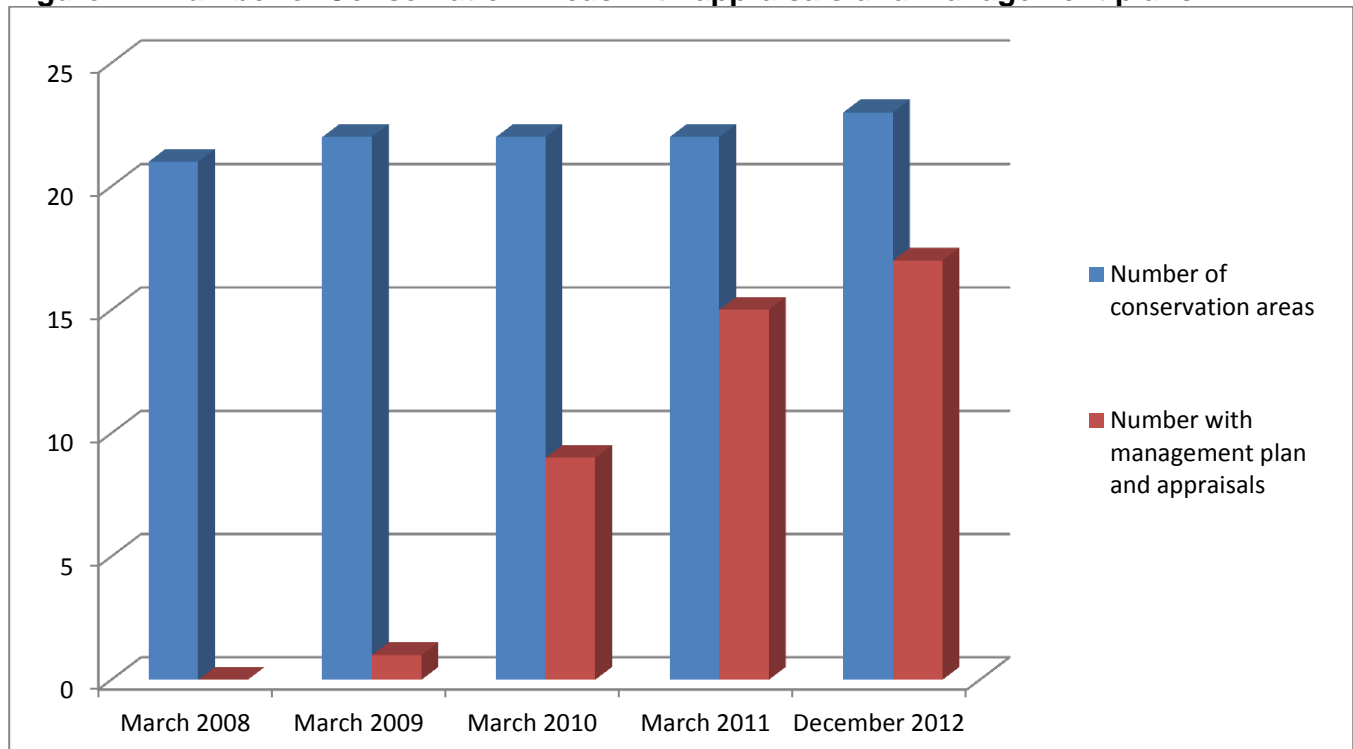
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Table 31: Cultural heritage indicators (indicator of success 21)

	March 2011	December 2011
Number of Conservation Areas at risk	1	0
Number of listed buildings at risk	87	87
Number of Scheduled Monuments at risk, consisting of:	149	131
• high risk	89	79
• medium risk	60	52

Source: Lake District National Park Authority

Figure 21: Number of Conservation Areas with appraisals and management plans



Source: Lake District National Park Authority

