

# A GUIDE TO USING THE CUMBRIA HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION DATABASE FOR CUMBRIA'S PLANNING AUTHORITIES



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Cumbria County Council

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## Glossary of key terms

**Historic environment** is the sum of all the historical aspects of the environment, including archaeological remains, palaeo-environmental remains, historic buildings, the wider historic landscape and places associated with historic events, traditions and significant persons. It overlaps with but is not identical to other terms such as cultural landscape or built environment.

**Historic Environment Records** are the databases that collate information on the historic environment. They are generally held and maintained by county or unitary authorities and national parks.

**Landscape types** are a mechanism for classifying a landscape through its particular landscape component parts such as roads, woodland or unenclosed land. They generally do not form large cohesive areas but will repeatedly reoccur within an area the size of a county or district. The nature of the characterisation approach will define the types of components chosen in the classification; human-made or substantially influenced components are chosen for historic characterisation.

**Character areas** are areas of landscape defined by a specific combination of landscape types that provide it with a definable and distinct character.

**Geographical Information System (GIS)** is a computer system capable of the capture, management, manipulation, analysis and display of all forms of geographically referenced information. It allows attribute data to be attached to maps and by this means enables spatial analyses of the data to be undertaken.

**Green infrastructure** is a strategic network of accessible, multifunctional green spaces, or assets, positively managed to deliver a wide range of benefits to existing and future populations. It integrates landscape, biodiversity, the water environment and the historic environment with both natural and managed green space and access corridors.

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report is a users' guide to the Cumbria County Council historic landscape database, derived as part of the Cumbria and Lake District National Park Historic Landscape Characterisation Project. Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) is an aspect of more general landscape characterisation, providing an additional element of 'time depth'. It allows the historical evolution of the landscape to be perceived and understood.
- 1.2 The guide is intended for the use primarily of local authority development control officers, spatial planners and those involved with various aspects of countryside management, outside the two national parks. The Lake District National Park has HLC guidance contained within another report, '*The Cumbria Historic Landscape Characterisation Project. The Lake District National Park*', and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has undertaken its own separate HLC programme. It is hoped that it will remain a useful aid for some time. Consequently, for web-based use it includes a number of internal Cumbria County Council web links, in green and external links in blue, for the rapid and efficient access to more detailed or comparable information. The web links are accessed via a Wikipedia style of endnotes. Two mouse clicks on the endnote number takes you to the endnote web link. One click on the endnote web link whilst pressing control on the keyboard takes you to the relevant page within a website. Two clicks on the endnote web link returns you to your place in this document's text. The initial use of key terms is highlighted

by bold green and these are explained in the glossary above.

- 1.3 The Cumbria and Lake District National Park Historic Landscape Characterisation Project was undertaken by the Historic Environment teams of Cumbria County Council and the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) with assistance from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and consultants from Archaeoenvironment Ltd and the Egerton Lea Consultancy Ltd. The project was funded by English Heritage. The HLC forms part of the Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Record and the Lake District National Park Historic Environment Record.
- 1.4 This guide provides both hints on how to apply the Cumbria and Lake District National Park HLC in a planning context and a brief summary of the HLC project. Topics covered in this guide include:
  - a summary of the project and the purpose and uses of HLC
  - the significance of HLC for Cumbria
  - a description of the baseline data
  - a description of the landscape types
  - guidance of the use of historic landscape character areas in planning
  - guidance on querying the database with FAQs
  - advice on historic landscape management policies for management plans and Local Development Frameworks
  - a county based map of historic landscape character areas
  - appended information on the breakdown of the database structure
  - illustrative maps of some character areas showing the distribution of historic landscape types providing a mapped mosaic of the nature of the historic landscape
  - appended descriptions of each individual historic landscape character area.
  - appended information on historic environment legislation, planning policy and guidance, and designated sites.

## **2. The purpose and nature of Historic Landscape Characterisation**

### **2.1 *Why is it needed?***

- 2.1.1 The need to understand archaeological sites, not in isolation but in terms of wider landscape character, has long been appreciated in England and culminated in English Heritage developing an approach to historic landscape characterisation in the early 1990s.<sup>1</sup> All subsequent English county-based HLCs have been based on this approach which involves systematic recording of historic landscape types, without the attribution of qualitative values.<sup>2</sup> From this has developed the study of historic landscape character, as part of an holistic analysis of the wider **historic environment**.<sup>3</sup> The historic environment is now recognised generally as forming an important component of wider landscape character and the value's that are applied to it by owners, users and land managers. Protecting, managing and enhancing the historic environment have also been recognised as important aspects of local authorities' roles in protecting and enhancing the quality and sustainability of the wider environment.

2.1.2 Like the landscape in general, the historic environment is not static it is ever changing. It is constantly being eroded and added to. Even if it was possible or desirable, which it is not, the purpose of HLC would not be to preserve the landscape as it is today. Its purpose is to assist in the management of change, to ensure that when land use decisions are taken the legacy of the historic environment is fully taken into account. This may lead to the conservation of historic elements within areas of changing land use or historic influences being incorporated into new schemes for development. Making appropriate planning decisions that impact upon the historic environment and the conservation and management of the historic elements of the current landscape, relies on good information and understanding. This is the ultimate aim of the HLC process.

## 2.2 ***What is it?***

2.2.1 Protecting, managing and enhancing the historic environment must be founded on a sound evidence base. As with other aspects of the environment, such as biodiversity, the historic environment needs to be placed into a geographical context. Unlike these other environmental aspects, however, the historic environment also requires an historical context. HLC provides both of these by allowing the whole of an area to be mapped without gaps and by providing an explanation of the historic origins of landscape features and an analysis of change through time. County-based HLCs in England generally do not characterise urban areas as anything other than urban. Analysis of historic development and character within the urban areas is contained in the complementary County-based historic town or extensive urban surveys, or urban archaeological databases for archaeologically more significant towns and cities like Carlisle. Along with HLC these other datasets all form part of the **Historic Environment Records** for Cumbria. These are the databases used to advise planners on the impacts of policies and planning applications on the historic environment and are maintained by the County Council and the two national parks.<sup>4</sup>

2.2.2 HLC, historic town surveys and urban archaeological databases, together provide a wider landscape view of the historic environment resource.<sup>5</sup> They allow site based data to be placed in a geographical and historical framework and provide comparability with other landscape-scale environmental datasets such as those relating to biodiversity. Combining such datasets allows an analysis of environmental sensitivity in relation to processes for change and the calculation of a locality's environmental capacity to accommodate change. Both of these are essential if the historic environment is to be given due accord within the spatial planning process and included in sub-regional frameworks, policies and Strategic Environmental Assessments. The comprehensive nature of HLC also enables the development of other uses in relation to countryside management, community-based projects and education.

2.2.3 HLC is not a product it is an approach to categorising the landscape. It was developed primarily to provide better data to underpin planning and land use management decision making. County-based HLCs are part of the HLC toolkit that provides this support. As with any tool it is only useful when applied appropriately. Characterisation can be undertaken at many scales. The English Heritage HLC projects are carried out largely at a county level. The usefulness of the County-based HLCs for informing decision making is primarily at the sub-regional scale of county or district in relation to spatial planning and major strategic developments. A County-based HLC is unlikely to have much relevance at the

level of a parish or settlement, but as an approach HLC can be applied at those scales too.<sup>6</sup> Applying HLC at a smaller scale allows a greater focus on fewer landscape types enabling the provision of the finer detail required. When combined with other datasets and the details simplified the County-based HLCs are useful at a regional level.

- 2.2.4 In England, the HLC approach is in line with the landscape assessment philosophies inherent in general landscape characterisation, as described and briefly set out in guidelines produced by the Landscape Institute<sup>7</sup> and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment.<sup>8</sup> HLC sits alongside other landscape characterisation programmes, such as the Countryside Character Programme developed by the Countryside Commission (later the Countryside Agency and now part of Natural England) which developed Character Areas for all of England.<sup>9</sup> As with the HLC approach, general landscape characterisation does not ascribe value but provides a consistent suite of baseline data.<sup>10</sup> In Cumbria, for areas outside the national parks, a landscape character classification was carried out in 1995 which forms the basis of the Cumbria Landscape Strategy.<sup>11</sup> The Lake District National Park published its Landscape Character Assessment in 2008.<sup>12</sup>
- 2.2.5 HLC identifies landscape components such as particular shapes of field or age and broad botanical composition of woodland that can be grouped into **landscape types** such as ancient fields or plantation. The predominance of particular landscape types and their combination with other types in a given locality allows the definition of **character areas**.
- 2.2.6 Most HLC datasets, like Cumbria's, are contained within a **Geographical Information System** (GIS). This allows a variety of maps to be produced depicting different aspects of the historic environment. Overlaying different aspects allows patterns to be recognised. Maps of different landscape types and character areas can be produced at different scales. It is important to remember, however, that the value and usefulness of any HLC project is dependent on scale.

### 2.3 ***What is its policy context?***

- 2.3.1 Since the national HLC programme began, all the principles of the approach have been endorsed by the European Landscape Convention, also known as the Florence Convention, of 2000. This has been adopted by the UK and became binding on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2007.<sup>13</sup> Under the convention landscape protection is defined as actions taken "*to conserve and maintain the significant or characteristic features of a landscape, justified by its heritage value derived from its natural configuration and/or from human activity*".<sup>14</sup> A Framework for implementing the European Landscape Convention was published by Natural England in collaboration with English Heritage and Defra in October 2007.<sup>15</sup> It is intended to strengthen landscape, planning and management throughout the UK. Within this due weight is given to the historic character and time depth of the landscape and its implications for future planning and landscape management. The North West's Regional Spatial Strategy under Policy EM1 advocates that "*plans, strategies, proposals and schemes should identify, protect, maintain and enhance natural, historic and other distinctive features that contribute to the character of landscapes*". Such plans and strategies should be informed by landscape character assessments produced by local authorities.



- 2.3.2 Landscape issues are embedded into the planning process through guidance given in PPG15 and the sustainability agenda enshrined in PPS1 and PPS7.<sup>16</sup> The need to use a landscape character approach at a regional level is also required to inform strategic planning for renewable energy options in PPS22.

### **3. Cumbria's landscape and Historic Landscape Characterisation**

- 3.1 The Cumbria and Lake District National Park Historic Landscape Characterisation Project began in 2000. The mapping of the Lake District National Park was completed in 2005, and the mapping for the rest of Cumbria in 2008. A report on the work in the Lake District National Park was published in 2007 and this contains much more detailed accounts of the philosophy behind HLC and the project's methodology and is available from the Lake District National Park Authority in digital disk format.
- 3.2 The relative importance of HLC to Cumbria is a reflection of the value of Cumbria's landscape to the county's prosperity and to its inhabitants. Policy makers have consistently referred to Cumbria's landscape as being 'world class'. This attribution has a basis in both the international renown of parts of Cumbria's landscape and the international recognition that Cumbria's landscape has received. Cumbria is the location of one World Heritage Site, part of the Hadrian's Wall portion of the 'Frontiers of the Roman Empire' World Heritage Site<sup>17</sup> and there have been a number of attempts to gain World Heritage Site status for the Lake District. The Lake District National Park currently is being advocated as a World Heritage Site on the basis of the cultural association of its landscape with historically important literary figures who were also key figures in the international conservation movement, such as John Ruskin, William Wordsworth and Beatrix Potter.<sup>18</sup> In addition the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is a European and Global Geopark for the importance of its geological resources and features including historic mining remains.<sup>19</sup>
- 3.3 Cumbria has a highly varied landscape as the wide range of character areas testify. Much of it is of an upland character which is why Cumbria has nearly a third of England's surviving common land. At the heart of Cumbria is the Lake District National Park, which is one of a number of landscapes whose perceived value for the conservation of natural beauty, and encouragement of outdoor recreation has led to its designation. The others are the Yorkshire Dales National Park, the Solway Coast AONB, the Arnside/Silverdale AONB and the North Pennines AONB. In addition, both within and without these designated landscapes are numerous sites and areas that are protected because of their archaeological value as Scheduled Monuments. Cumbria has 855 Scheduled Monuments which is nearly two thirds of all the Scheduled Monuments in the North West region. The County also has 117 Conservation Areas and 19 Registered Parks and Gardens (outside the Yorkshire Dales National Park). The historic components of Cumbria's landscape add greatly to its perceived value but much of it is not designated.<sup>20</sup>
- 3.4 Cumbria's environment is recognised as one of the most biodiverse in England. The County's varied geology, topography, soils and climate ensure that its biodiversity resource is extensive. The importance of biodiversity to Cumbria's environment is partially recognised through the significant portion of the landscape that is internationally designated as a Special Area of Conservation or a Special Protection Area. The County also contains numerous nationally designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest. As with the historic environment, however, many of

the ecological assets and much of the biodiversity resource lie outside the designated areas and these include much of the network of landscape features that are essential for the well being of species and habitats.<sup>21</sup>

- 3.5 A significant portion of Cumbria's landscape has been designated in order to protect various aspects of its environmental value or has had its status recognised through badges like World Heritage Site or European Geopark. There are many reasons why Cumbria's landscape is so highly valued but the purpose of HLC is to understand, define and map character not to add additional values or to highlight and ring fence the most valued areas.

#### 4. The baseline data

- 4.1 For many users the baseline data that underlies the HLC will not need to be consulted. Indeed the full interpretation of the baseline data may require the assistance of an historic environment specialist. Even so, it is essential that this baseline data is robust, sound and consistent in order for the interpretations based upon it, such as the character area definitions, to be considered reliable and authoritative. The need for consistency and robustness underlay the methodological approach to data gathering, especially in relation to the choice of source materials. Consequently the baseline data was gathered by using:

- modern OS 1:25000 maps
- 19<sup>th</sup> century 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS 6" to 1 mile maps
- late 18<sup>th</sup> century county maps
- modern OS-adjusted and scaled digital aerial photographs
- Google Earth's satellite imaging

The HLC project systematically mapped present-day and past land use. This succession of land uses can be seen in the present-day landscape, through still-functioning and relict landscape features. This information has been recorded as a series of layers that can be overlain on a modern map base, using a GIS. Within the dataset distinctions are made between data that are directly derived from dated map and photographic evidence and interpretations that are derived or inferred from such evidence. The latter are in part subjective. The data have been grouped into separate layers within the GIS, called 'landscape types', and these are described below, briefly. The detailed structure of the database tables are in Appendix 1.

- 4.2 The baseline data is available in MapInfo or ArcGIS formats. It can be interrogated to calculate, amongst other things, the percentage land-cover of various landscape types and the degree of landscape change in any given area over the past 150 years.

#### 5. Landscape types

- 5.1 The concept of landscape types has long been used in analysing the nature of Cumbria's landscape and was used in the 1995 *Cumbria Landscape Classification*.<sup>22</sup> There are 15 landscape types defined for the Cumbria and Lake District HLC. Each is represented by a separate layer within the GIS. Although these were defined using a similar approach to that employed in the *Cumbria Landscape Classification*, its 13 broad landscape types differ considerably from the Cumbria and Lake District HLC's historic landscape types. The differences reflect

the specific historical nature of the HLC methodology. The landscape types defined within the Cumbria landscape classification are largely topographical and geological,<sup>23</sup> but the historic landscape character types are more related to past human activity.

- 5.2 **Roads.** All roads in current use have been recorded, with the date by which they were known to have been in use. Significant trackways and paths which once formed major local routes have also been recorded in this layer.
- 5.3 **Railways.** Both railways which are in use and disused lines have been recorded, along with the dates when they were first known to have been in use. Not all disused lines have been fully recorded as their routes, and thus their contribution to character, are often partially obscured by later land uses.
- 5.4 **Canals.** At present, there are no canals in use within the county, but disused canals and their dates have been recorded where the route is still discernable within the landscape.
- 5.5 **Built environment.** The built environment layer records areas of non-domestic development, such as industry, airfields, military sites, docks and harbours, power plants and wind farms. In some instances, the original use may have changed, but will still be categorised as built environment, for example a large ironworks site may now be a modern business park and would be recorded as 'manuf/retail' (manufacturing or retail) for both. Where known, the agricultural use is recorded, where subsequent development has not obscured the field pattern, thus this layer may overlie other, often agricultural landscape types.
- 5.6 **Settlement.** Settlement is used to record individual dwellings, hamlets, towns and cities. The layer records only the difference between dispersed (individual) and nucleated settlements, though a basic differentiation is made between phases of growth in larger towns. Each settlement is also dated according to the map sources available.
- 5.7 **Extraction.** Extraction records mining and quarrying industries of various types, and their dates. Extractive industries are only recorded where their surface features are extensive enough to leave a physical impression on the landscape.
- 5.8 **Recreation.** Recreation is a wide field that includes public amenities, as well as holiday sites, golf courses and sports grounds. Where possible, the agricultural use is recorded, where subsequent development has not obscured the field pattern, thus this layer may overlie another, often agricultural landscape type.
- 5.9 **Woodland.** The woodland layer is perhaps the most complex, as some areas of woodland have changed significantly since the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This table records existing areas of woodland as well as areas where woodland has been removed. To provide as comprehensive a view of woodland development as possible, it has been recorded at each stage of available dating: 1770, mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, late 19<sup>th</sup> century and 20<sup>th</sup> century. The woodland layer may overlie other, often agricultural enclosure types.
- 5.10 **Water.** Natural features such as rivers, streams, lakes and tarns have been recorded as they form an important feature of the historic landscape, often providing the focus for settlement or boundaries between landholdings. In addition, other significant water features, such as reservoirs and water-treatment works have

been recorded, with their dates.

- 5.11 **Designed landscapes.** Designed landscapes comprise landscape parks and gardens, urban parks, and cemeteries. In some cases, this landscape type will overlie other, often agricultural landscape types.
- 5.12 **Unenclosed land and unenclosed coast.** Unenclosed land forms a significant portion of the landscape of Cumbria, both inland and along the coast. In particular, Morecambe Bay was an important communications route to the south, and both the coast and the moorland and fells were important resources for grazing and food. These two layers record land cover and, where applicable, any previous land use.
- 5.13 **Planned enclosure.** This layer records fields that were enclosed mainly from the end of the 18th century. These fields were enclosed systematically and tended to be laid out by surveyors, and they form an easily recognisable landscape type. In Cumbria, most enclosure of this type was carried out on areas of common pasture, though it also includes some areas of common arable.
- 5.14 **Former common arable.** Former cultivated common fields are found right across Cumbria, though the fields varied greatly in size. They are relatively easy to recognise by their slightly curving boundaries, regular, or semi-regular shapes, and are sometimes found in groups of long, parallel fields. Many of these fields were enclosed in the late medieval or earlier post medieval periods, and the curving field boundaries fossilise the pattern of ploughing created by horse or oxen-drawn ploughs.
- 5.15 **Ancient enclosures.** Ancient enclosures are fields that were created before the period of planned enclosures, and many are medieval in origin. There are a number of different types (as listed in Appendix 1), but they often represent land holdings belonging to individual farms.
- 5.16 **Deer parks, monastic sites and vaccaries.** These three landscape types record special types of largely medieval landuse, which have mostly been superseded by later agricultural or other landscape types. Thus, this layer sits over other landscape types. All three have medieval origins, so the date field has not been used. Where possible the name of the monastic site or deer park has been recorded, with the type of monastic site.

## 6. Character areas

- 6.1 Unlike many other county-based HLCs the baseline data for the Cumbria HLC was used to define character areas. Character areas should be the main tool used by planners when consulting the Cumbria HLC. Each character area has a character description which both summarises those core landscape components that make a locality distinctive and explains the historical processes behind them (see Appendix 3). This simplified breakdown of the Cumbrian landscape provides the key output of the Cumbria HLC against which to evaluate local distinctiveness and to consider processes for change. Character areas have been proven in general landscape characterisation to be a useful tool for targeting conservation responses whether through land use decision making, resource allocation or schemes.<sup>24</sup>
- 6.2 The European Landscape Convention states that landscape as a term "*means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and*

*interaction of natural and/or human factors".*<sup>25</sup> Individual areas can be characterised by distinctive combinations of landscape types within a given locality. Under general landscape characterisation the Joint Character Areas defined by the Countryside Commission in the 1990s are based on a complex analysis of many different variables, including geology, topography, ecology, land cover, field patterns and settlement patterns amongst others. These were combined and analysed on a national scale to produce character areas for the whole of England. Their size and nature reflects both these variables and the national scale of the mapping. Equally, Cumbria's historic landscape character areas reflect the more specific and restricted nature of its variables and their size reflect the smaller scale of the County-based mapping. Thus there is not necessarily any correlation between Cumbria's historic landscape character areas and the Joint Character Areas. Equally, there is only limited correlation with the Lake District National Parks 'areas of distinctive character'.<sup>26</sup> The greater number of variables being considered in the general landscape characterisation of the Lake District ensures that there are more general character areas, 71 instead of 19. The similar scale of the mapping, however, means that in some incidences the areas do correlate as in the Bootle/Ravenglass and Skiddaw/Blencathra areas.

- 6.3 For Cumbria, excluding the Yorkshire Dales National Park, 53 historic character areas were defined. These are of varying size with the largest being the Central Fells, equating to 628 km<sup>2</sup> and the smallest being Walney Island, equating to 10 km<sup>2</sup>. Irrespective of size each character area can be seen as forming a distinctive local landscape. Character areas were defined for the Lake District in the joint LDNPA and Cumbria County Council report of 2007, *The Cumbria Historic Landscape Characterisation Project. The Lake District National Park*. Those with a boundary co-incident with the national park boundary have been altered when examined from a County perspective as a more complete view of the nature and extent of character areas is obtainable. Put simply character areas only occasionally begin or end exactly at the national park boundary.
- 6.4 The process of defining character areas begins with the mapping of landscape types (see section 5 above and Appendix 1). Following the definition of landscape types, a map was created in which the relationship of the different types was analysed. The combination of enclosure types, woodland and water, settlement, communications and industry etc, onto one map, revealed patterns which suggested discrete character areas based on inherited characteristics formed by historically identifiable past processes, such as medieval colonisation or 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century upland enclosure.
- 6.5 These character areas should not be seen as having either fixed or impermeable boundaries. Their edges should be regarded as fuzzy and changeable. Indeed over time they will undoubtedly change as the nature of the local landscape evolves in response to changing social requirements and values.

## **7. Spatial Planning and Historic Landscape Characterisation in Cumbria**

- 7.1 A County-scale HLC is of most use at a sub-regional level and therefore its greatest relevance is to spatial planning. For historic landscape character to be fully taken into account in Area Action Plans etc and in the calculation of county and district-scale site allocations, it is essential that landscape-wide data is available in the same way that it is for the natural environment.<sup>27</sup> Such an approach ensures that the provision of historic landscape character data accords with guidance on good

practice in planning.<sup>28</sup> At a regional scale this data may be integrated with that from other county-based HLCs and other datasets to form part of a regional landscape characterisation, perhaps as part of the Natural England led regional landscape framework<sup>29</sup> Such a regional landscape characterisation should become part of the evidence base for the Single Regional Strategy. The Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers and English Heritage are also considering the development of a regional stand alone HLC.

- 7.2 The HLC will form part of the evidence base to support both regional and sub-regional landscape and historic environment policies. It should be used to inform decisions on land allocations and the development of policies in Area Action Plans and in the emerging Local Development Frameworks. Guidance for possible policy themes based on the HLC are given in section 11.
- 7.3 Using the descriptions for each character area and the identifications of their greatest character sensitivities, it is possible to crudely derive a spatial pattern of the sensitivity of local historic landscapes to particular forces for change. Character areas also facilitate the identification of the most vulnerable aspects of local landscape character, allowing the possibility of the assessment of an area's capacity to absorb a particular type of change. A more robust and refined indication of an area's sensitivity and capacity would require the manipulation, enhancement and interpretation of the existing data by a landscape assessment specialist (see section 8.3). An identification of sensitivity can be combined with a consideration of the implications of the various types of landscape designation that exist across the county or district. A further refinement of the use of the HLC data is to combine it with other environmental datasets, such as biodiversity to assess the capacity of the whole environment to absorb change and by that means to plot total environmental sensitivity within the county or district.
- 7.4 The Cumbria county-based HLC has clear implications for the possible extension of designated landscapes. With regard to the Lake District National Park there is a broad, though seldom precise, coincidence of character area boundaries and the boundaries of the national park (see Appendix 3). In the west and north of the Lake District there are some minor discrepancies and the main distinctions between the areas inside and immediately outside the park are now as much as anything else an historical artefact of their initial inclusion or exclusion in the 1950s. In the south the park boundary appears most arbitrary with regard to historic landscape character with character areas extending well outside the park. The Dunnerdale and Broughton Low Fells character area is the most obvious, though distinctions can be drawn within the character area at a finer resolution. In the east there is an obvious discrepancy with the exclusion from the park of a tongue of the Eastern Lake District Fells character area that extends south-eastwards out of the park. Similarly from an historic landscape viewpoint the exclusion of the Barbon and Middleton Fells character area from within the Yorkshire Dales National Park seems odd, though the Cumbria HLC will need to be compared with the Yorkshire Dales HLC to confirm this. Equally, the inclusion of only half the Howgills within the Yorkshire Dales National Park does not reflect the nature of the landscape. It is also obvious that any consideration of the inclusion within the Yorkshire Dales National Park of the Orton and Ravenstonedale and Orton, Crosby Ravensworth and Great Asby Fells character areas would need to address the issue of their considerable differences in historic landscape character with the existing adjacent areas of the national park.

- 7.5 With regard to the county's AONBs, the Arnside and Beetham character area is a discrete area that mostly fits tidily into the Arnside/Silverdale AONB and is clearly associated in historic landscape terms with the neighbouring parts of Lancashire that are also in the AONB<sup>30</sup>. The North Pennines AONB's western boundary coincides closely with the boundary of the Pennines historic character area, but this should not surprise as both are primarily derived from topography. The North Pennines AONB also encompasses most but not all of the Stainmore historic character area and the current exclusion of a central tongue of this area, along the corridor of the A66 trunk road, is difficult to justify on historic landscape grounds. The Solway Coast AONB does not encompass entire character areas, rather as a coastal defined designation it is contained within character areas but it is neatly confined within the Solway Plain and Ellen and Marron valleys historic character areas. Nevertheless, in historic environment terms these two character areas, aside from the coastal location, do share the landscape characteristics which are seen as contributing significantly to the underlying merits of the AONB<sup>31</sup>.
- 7.6 In Cumbria, outside the national parks, rather than renewing the general landscape strategy of 1998, it is intended to produce landscape guidance. This guidance on historic landscapes will form a subset of the general guidance and the HLC will be part of the evidence base. At a sub-regional level, HLC should be used to ensure that the general guidance on the development of landscape policies within Local Development Frameworks, masterplans, land management plans and design guides, reflect the need to respect both local distinctiveness, and the historic patterns and attributes of the landscape. Recommendations for actions and policy development at a district and county level are given below. These recommendations address issues that were identified through the HLC process.
- 7.7 Each landscape type can have management guidelines (see the report on *The Cumbria Historic Landscape Characterisation Programme. The Lake District 2007*) and these can be combined as relevant for character areas. Generic recommendations for actions and policy themes that are not area or type specific are detailed below in section 11.

## **8. Applications for development control and land use management**

- 8.1 The historic landscape character area enables an appraisal of the likely impact of proposals involving landscape change. It is important, however, to consider the issue of scale. Many development proposals will not be of sufficient size to have any significant impact at the level of a county-scale character area. For example, small housing developments, when part of an existing settlement nucleation, may have no impact on the overall identity of a character area. The accretive nature of a number of developments through time on an individual settlement, however, may have cumulative effects which alter that settlement's identity and the assessment of this change may require a specific HLC study at the scale of an individual settlement. Such likelihood, however, should be an issue for spatial planners when reviewing the housing and business development land allocations within the Local Development Framework. Details for carrying out higher resolution HLCs as part of master planning and community projects can be found via the English Heritage<sup>32</sup> and Natural England<sup>33</sup> websites, in addition a good example of the use of community based landscape characterisation taking account of HLC can be found on Shropshire County Council's website.<sup>34</sup> For development control planners, developments that are too small to have a direct impact on the character areas can

be considered to have a neutral impact at an appraisal stage and no further examination will be necessary. Most developments will be of this type.

- 8.2 Some land use proposals such as the removal of a hedgerow may be individually small but form part of a process of erosion of essential landscape character within a given character area. Proposals to remove field boundaries should be assessed against the impact on overall field pattern legibility and against the likely historic nature of the boundary. There is sufficient information on field boundaries within the County-scale HLC for it to be useful in assessing applications under the Hedgerow Regulations. Land-use changes that may result in the larger scale planning of the fieldscape may require a bespoke HLC study appropriate to the scale of the relevant field system.
- 8.3 Where it is considered that a development or a change in land use management will have an impact on an historic character area, it may be necessary to assess the severity and nature of that impact in order to consider the need for a mitigation strategy to reduce or offset some or all of the effects of the development on historic character. This assessment would need to be carried out by a consultant with specialist knowledge of historic landscape. Such an historic landscape assessment can form part of an archaeological assessment, a wider landscape assessment or an Environmental Impact Assessment. It would be expected that in assessing the impact of proposals on an historic landscape character area, there may be a need to query the HLC's baseline data (see section 9). In order to assess impact it is necessary to know both the scope of the change, and the capacity of the local historic environment to accommodate change. There is relatively little available advice on undertaking this process but some of the most useful is contained in the Department of Transport's guidance on assessing the effect of road schemes on historic landscape character.<sup>35</sup>
- 8.4 Unlike the Department of Transport's approach, however, the approach of this guidance does not seek to attribute greater or lesser value to one area of landscape over another, as a variety of values can and will be attributed to an area of landscape by its community of users and interests. These will include areas of landscape that have been designated for their beauty, natural merit, agricultural use or heritage worth. They will also include areas that are valued for their resources whether for minerals, as employment zones, or as places for outdoor recreation. Some of these values will require and may have protection for specific sites, areas or uses. Landscapes will also be valued by local communities for providing a sense of place and identity. The purpose of using character areas as a basis for assessing the impact of major development proposals on a landscape is in part to avoid attributing greater merit to one landscape type or combination of landscape types over another. The landscape is everywhere and all of it has a history, areas may be valued to a greater or lesser extent according to a variety of viewpoints. An area's historic landscape character is what it is and it is not helpful to attempt to attribute greater or lesser merit to differing character areas, though different areas may contain features of greater or lesser heritage value as expressed through existing site-based designations. The character area approach enables an assessment of a local landscape's capacity to absorb change without being altered significantly in its character. HLC provides a basis from which to develop capacity and sensitivity analyses but it does not provide such analyses.
- 8.5 In general it is assumed that where historic landscape character has considerable time depth, is rare or particularly evident, developments should be designed to



integrate with it. Where the character is commonplace and modern or indistinct and illegible, developments should seek to enhance it. Integration with and enhancement of the historic landscape should be the aims of any mitigation strategies so that developments do not lead to an overall erosion of pre-existing character.

8.6 The purpose of environmental mitigation is to avoid, reduce, remedy or offset significant adverse effects on the environment arising from a development proposal. As historic landscape characterisation seeks to avoid attributing levels of merit to a landscape it is difficult to express impacts in terms of adverse effects, rather what is being assessed is the severity of the impact upon existing character, irrespective of the esteem attributed to that character. In general two assumptions can be made, firstly there will be change and secondly change should as far as possible either enhance existing character or be integrated within it to have as limited an impact as possible. In line with the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment's guidelines for general landscape assessment, mitigation is considered as both primary and secondary measures forming part of a planning consent.

- primary measures are those that intrinsically comprise part of the development design resulting from an iterative process of project planning
- secondary measures are those that are designed specifically to address any residual unwanted effects that result from the final development proposals.

Primary measures should be integral to the agreed development design and with regard to the historic landscape can be considered to form part of the **green infrastructure** elements of a development design.<sup>36</sup> Historic landscape features are clearly multi-functional assets and should be conserved and enhanced as part of a green infrastructure approach to planning.<sup>37</sup> Secondary measures are likely to be contained within conditions applied to a planning consent.

8.7 The approach of this guidance document to assessing and mitigating the impacts of development proposals on the historic landscape, focuses on the appropriate management of change rather than on protecting some areas of perceived higher value at the expense of other lesser valued areas (this does not mean that restrictions imposed within existing protected areas can be ignored). It allows change to be managed in a way that is generally beneficial to the landscape as an overall resource and seeks to improve Cumbria's environment whilst not stifling necessary development. Its aim with regard to both development control and spatial planning at a strategic level is to enable the identification of vulnerability and to sustain diversity and distinctiveness.

## 9. Querying the database

9.1 The GIS data are difficult to query and the nature of the data are often not appreciated as containing significant elements of subjectivity. To use the raw data requires an understanding of the reasoning behind the definition of landscape types before meaningful queries can be made. Details of the landscape types are given in Section 5. Some general guidance on database querying and its potential uses are given in the following frequently asked questions.

- 9.2 ***Can the database be used to calculate the dominant landscape type in any given character area?*** Yes, but the method is not straightforward, and requires familiarity with GIS applications. Each landscape type is made up of many separate objects (polygons), and it is the area of these combined which will provide the total area covered by that landscape type in a character area. To calculate the total area, all the polygons for a landscape type in a character area will need to be selected, using the appropriate selection tools. The selected polygons should then be copied onto the clipboard, and pasted into the working layer to be combined into one polygon. To calculate the dominant landscape type in a character area, this will have to be done for each landscape type. Warning: some landscape types contain many thousands of polygons and the combining process may take some time.
- 9.3 ***Can change through time be estimated and over what duration?*** Yes, though this is limited to differences recorded between modern maps and the Ordnance Survey 1st edition maps of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. For enclosures, boundary change between the two periods has been recorded in a database field called 'Boundary' (see Appendix One). Settlement change can be discerned for villages and towns by the 'Date' field of the database. To see changes through time, a landscape layer will need to be mapped thematically against the date field, and will require some familiarity with GIS applications.
- 9.4 ***Are those settlements that have experienced most recent growth distinguishable from those that have changed little?*** Yes, either through the creation of a themed layer, as described above, or by comparing the settlement landscape type to earlier Ordnance Survey maps, if available in digital format.
- 9.5 ***Is the database able to reveal those areas that have the greatest time depth in their farming landscapes?*** Yes, but in a manner limited by the historic and modern maps used to date landscape features. For many features, they can only be dated as early as the 1st edition Ordnance survey map. For some, the earliest date will be the late 18th century county maps. Any earlier attribution of date is based on interpretation.
- 9.6 ***Does the database enable the identification of areas of greatest legibility for appreciating the historic landscape and the processes that formed it?*** Yes, because it identifies landscape types that are clearly derived from specific historical processes. So, for example, in areas that are primarily characterised by enclosed former arable commonfield strips and regular enclosures formed by late 18th and 19th century upland enclosure, the historical processes are quite clear. Such a legible landscape can be seen throughout much of the Solway Plain character area. In other areas, the varying characteristics appear more complex but can still be read as a combination of landscape features developed from a variety of historical processes (a palimpsest). Elsewhere, as for example, in much of the Kendal and Kirkby Lonsdale character area, the legibility of the landscape is more difficult to appreciate using the county-based HLC.
- 9.7 ***How can historic landscape character data be combined with other environmental datasets such as biodiversity?*** Yes provided that an appropriate variety of datasets are available, historic landscape character data can be overlain with data relating to biodiversity, such as Key Species and Priority Habitat data. This enables links to be made between the characteristics of a landscape and the opportunities they may offer for biodiversity. A variety of applications can be applied to this type of comparison, including the identification of areas for combined

historic landscape character and habitat enhancement, and the calculation of environmental sensitivity.

- 9.8 ***Can the database be used for predictive modelling, for example in predicting the landscape impact of the creation of new woodland?*** Yes, but with limitations imposed by the nature of the data. The impact of the creation of new woodland could be assessed by the calculation of the percentage increase in woodland within a given area. The percentage of new woodland to ancient woodland within the character area could be calculated. Both of these would allow some assessment of impact but other important aspects, such as visual impact assessment, would require considerable enhancement to the existing database.

## 10. Recommended uses

- Use the county-scale HLC in all county and district wide evaluations of baseline evidence prior to defining any land use strategies or frameworks.
- Where necessary in order to define landscape capacity and vulnerability at a local level undertake more detailed, higher resolution HLCs at the parish, estate or settlement scale.
- Use the county-scale HLC to encourage the active management of historic landscapes in rural areas through Natural England's agri-environment schemes and the Forestry Commission's Woodland Grant schemes.

## 11. Guidance for historic landscape priorities

### ***General***

- Highlight the historic environment and historic landscape character as issues of material consideration in all strategic planning documents.
- Promote the historic landscape and its components as a cultural and educational resource and foster an increased understanding, awareness and enjoyment of the whole historic environment, through educational, visitor-related and community-based environmental initiatives.
- Require the identification of key components that contribute to the core landscape attributes of a character area, such as in some areas, dispersed field barns or limekilns for example, and encourage their retention and conservation within those areas.
- Adopt a green infrastructure approach to planning and through that approach, retain, conserve and enhance historic landscape character.

### ***Farmland and field boundaries***

- Encourage the conservation of upland field enclosures especially ring garths and intakes predating the Enclosure Movement.
- Encourage the maintenance of hedgerows as boundaries of still functioning fields through gapping up and the use of appropriate local hedge laying techniques.
- Promote the planting of trees in hedgerows in order to replace overly mature specimens.
- Encourage the retention and maintenance of kest banks.
- Require that new field boundaries laid out as part of land restoration schemes

should reflect the historic arrangement of field division and integrate with the surrounding field pattern.

- Encourage the maintenance of dry stone walls as boundaries of still functioning fields and the use of appropriate stone sources and coursing techniques during their repair.
- Encourage the retention, and if necessary replacement, of in-field trees which may provide evidence of former field boundaries or land use practices.
- Encourage the pollarding of former pollarded trees, and where appropriate unpollarded trees in hedgerow and in-field locations.
- Advocate the retention and enhancement of old orchards and the restoration and creation of orchards around farmsteads in areas where they were once more common.
- Promote the retention of field furniture such as ditches, gateposts, hog holes, sheep folds, stone stiles, ponds and manmade but naturally fed stock drinking areas.
- Promote the protection from ploughing of ridge and furrow and lynchet earthworks where they are an indication of former arable common field farming.
- Advocate the maintenance of commons so they remain open but actively farmed areas.
- Seek to sustain traditional upland farming practices and the viability of upland farming in general.

### ***Moorland***

- Promote the conservation of fields in open moorland areas.
- Adapt to climate change by advocating the gripping of dykes in moorland to maintain water levels in sphagnum bog areas and to discourage the drying out of peat.
- Encourage the monitoring of peat erosion.
- Develop strategies in consultation with the fire service to limit the impact of moorland fires.

### ***Former mining and quarrying***

- Encourage the conservation of features associated with mineral working.
- Advocate the enhancement of former quarry sites for nature and heritage conservation and complementary recreational purposes.

### ***Woodland***

- Advocate the consideration of historic landscape character and its conservation in any proposals for the extension of woodland areas or afforestation.
- Require the use of HLC approaches in the identification of areas suitable for the creation of new native woodlands.
- Encourage the use of locally derived tree species and traditional planting schemes in the design of new plantations that complement and enhance existing historic landscape features.
- Require woodland management plans to identify historic woodland features and to make provision for their conservation.

- Encourage the extension of existing gill or clough woodlands and the planting of new clough woodlands in appropriate places.
- Ensure that the importance of the past use of exotic trees species in ornamental landscapes is appreciated and taken into account in woodland management plans, especially in parkland contexts
- Encourage coppicing and coppice management as a provider of fuel for commercial and community wood fuel heating schemes.

### **Built environment**

- Promote good quality building design for all new developments, which respect and enhance the existing structure and layout of the settlement to which they are attached or integrated within. They should reflect and enhance the historic building styles and materials of the locality.
- Encourage the retention, reuse and adaptation, wherever possible, of former agricultural, industrial and commercial buildings as both a benefit to historic landscape character and to the reduction of carbon costs through unnecessary new build.
- Discourage, except where there is no alternative, housing renewal through the demolition and replacement of housing which contributes to the historic character of an area and instead encourage the refurbishment and appropriate modernisation of existing housing.
- Ensure that the impact of new developments on surrounding existing buildings and structures is fully considered and that their existing historic character is enhanced rather than degraded.
- Ensure that building work to historic structures, including repairs, does not detract from the existing design.

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/upload/pdf/boudless\\_horizons.pdf](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/upload/pdf/boudless_horizons.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> For a review of this approach see <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/upload/pdf/LancashireHLC.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.1292>

<sup>4</sup> Cumbria County Council HER <http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/planning-environment/countryside/historic-environment/HER.asp>, Lake District National Park Authority HER <http://www.lake-district.gov.uk/index/understanding/archaeology/archaeologydiscoveryzone/archaeologydher.htm>,

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority HER <http://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/historic-environment>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.1293>

<sup>6</sup> Case studies on using the County-based HLC as a basis for more local HLC studies are contained in the LDNPA and Cumbria County Council report on *The Cumbria Historic Landscape Characterisation Project. The Lake District National Park*, available from the LDNPA in digital CD format.

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.landscapeinstitute.org/>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.iema.net/>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/landscape/englands/character/areas/default.aspx> see also <http://www.landscapecharacter.org.uk/>

<sup>10</sup> See Natural England 2008, *State of the Natural Environment 2008*, <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/sones/default.aspx>

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- <sup>11</sup> <http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/planning-environment/countryside/countryside-landscape/land/CA.asp>
- <sup>12</sup> Chris Blandford Associates 2008, *Lake District National Park. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines*, available from the LDNPA in digital CD format.
- <sup>13</sup> <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/landscape/protection/europeanconvention/default.aspx>
- <sup>14</sup> <http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/en/Treaties/Html/176.htm>
- <sup>15</sup> [http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/tcm232117\\_tcm6-8169.pdf](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/tcm232117_tcm6-8169.pdf)
- <sup>16</sup> <http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planning/planningpolicyguidance/planningpoli>  
[cystatements/](http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planning/planningpolicyguidance/planningpoli)
- <sup>17</sup> <http://www.hadrians-wall.org/page.aspx/About-the-World-Heritage-Site>
- <sup>18</sup> [http://www.lakeswhs.co.uk/international\\_recognition.html](http://www.lakeswhs.co.uk/international_recognition.html)
- <sup>19</sup> <http://www.northpennines.org.uk>
- <sup>20</sup> Data accurate as of 2007.
- <sup>21</sup> <http://www.lakelandwildlife.co.uk/biodiversity/pdfs/Cumbria%20Biodiversity%20Evidence%20Base%20Report.pdf>
- <sup>22</sup> <http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/planning-environment/countryside/countryside-landscape/land/CA.asp>
- <sup>23</sup> <http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/elibrary/Content/Internet/538/755/1599/2318/2323/38520131637.pdf>
- <sup>24</sup> <http://naturalengland.communisis.com/naturalenglandshop/docs/NE85C2.pdf>
- <sup>25</sup> <http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/en/Treaties/Html/176.htm>
- <sup>26</sup> Chris Blandford Associates 2008, *Lake District National Park. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines*, available from the LDNPA in digital CD format.
- <sup>27</sup> <http://www.lakelandwildlife.co.uk/biodiversity/pdfs/Cumbria%20Biodiversity%20Evidence%20Base%20Report.pdf>
- <sup>28</sup> <http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planning/planningpolicyguidance/planningpoli>  
[cystatements/](http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planning/planningpolicyguidance/planningpoli)
- <sup>29</sup> [http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/regions/north\\_west/ourwork/landscapepartnership.aspx](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/regions/north_west/ourwork/landscapepartnership.aspx)
- <sup>30</sup> <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/web/view.asp?siteid=4398&pageid=20338&e=e>
- <sup>31</sup> See Solway Coast AONB 2004, *Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2004-2009* (currently under review see <http://www.solwaycoastaonb.org.uk/draftmanplan.php> )
- <sup>32</sup> <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.11376>
- <sup>33</sup> [http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/EMRLSS-Final-Report\\_tcm6-10149.pdf](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/EMRLSS-Final-Report_tcm6-10149.pdf)
- <sup>34</sup> <http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/sustainability.nsf/open/3828E27D6BB22100802572A700320A18>
- <sup>35</sup> <http://www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/Road-Schemes.pdf>
- <sup>36</sup> For the relationship of green infrastructure to landscape character enhancement see Natural England 2009, *Green Infrastructure Guide*, 21 (pdf not currently available)
- <sup>37</sup> For details on green infrastructure in the North West see <http://www.greeninfrastructurenw.co.uk/html> and see policy EM 3 of the Government Office for the North West 2008, *North West of England Plan: Regional Spatial Strategy to 2021* [http://www.nwrpb.org.uk/whatwedo/issues/environment/?page\\_id=457](http://www.nwrpb.org.uk/whatwedo/issues/environment/?page_id=457)



## APPENDIX 1: CUMBRIA HLC TABLE STRUCTURES

### Introduction

Each landscape type has a table of attributes, which provides information about every object (fields, settlements, industries, roads, etc.) in the table. Each row in the table contains information about an object, and each column (or Field) has a different type of information. Section One of this appendix provides details of the attributes that appear in all or many of the tables, with a list of the descriptions appropriate to each one. Section Two details the table structure for each landscape type. Each column (or Field) heading is an attribute of the landscape type, and below it is given a list of the descriptions appropriate to that field. For example, Roads have a field called 'Type'. The attributes used in that field are: 'Road', 'Track' or 'Path'. The numbers in brackets given after each column heading are the number of characters in each field.

### Section 1: Fields Common to Several Landscape Types

#### ***Land\_cover & OS1st\_cover (15 characters):***

This field is used for agricultural landscape types. It is not included in settlement, built environment, recreation or extraction tables, etc, nor in tables of specialised landscape types, such as deer parks and monastic land, as they usually overlie other landscape types. Woodland has its own land cover attributes.

Crag/cliff  
 Developed  
 Fell  
 Improved  
 Improved fell  
 Lake/tarn  
 Limestone (for limestone pavement)  
 Moorland  
 Moss & mire  
 Mudflats  
 Reclaimed land  
 Saltmarsh  
 Sand dunes  
 Sand/shingle  
 Scattered trees  
 Scrub  
 Water  
 Woodland

#### ***Relict\_use (20 characters):***

This field is used where a previous, but not current, land use can be determined, particularly where development has not obscured pre-existing field patterns such as recreation sites and areas of built environment. It is also used for agricultural land where an older land use can be determined, such as deer parks, monastic sites, etc. In most cases, the relict use will refer to the name of another landscape type, such as 'ancient enclosure' or 'planned enclosure', which will contain more details of that landscape type. Within the 'ancient enclosure' landscape type, however, a relict use will often be another ancient enclosure type, or have remained the same. For example, a discrete farm may have originated as part of a deer park, which will be the relict use. Likewise, under 'former common arable', an area recorded as just 'former common arable' may be 'fossilised strips' under relict use, showing significant boundary loss from the earliest available map evidence (in this case the OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition). 'Unknown' is used where subsequent development has obscured previous use, and so it cannot be



determined. So, in addition to relict landscape types relevant to a particular table, the following may also be recorded:

Ancient enclosure  
 Built environment  
 Canal  
 Deer park  
 Designed land  
 Extraction  
 Former common arable  
 Monastic  
 Planned  
 Railway  
 Recreation  
 Road  
 Unenclosed land  
 Unknown  
 Water  
 Woodland

***Morphology (2 characters):***

Used only for agricultural enclosure types. Enclosure shapes were divided into the following categories:

<b>Code</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
A1	Rectangular or sub-rectangular enclosures with wavy-edged boundaries
A2	Not used
A3	Rectangular or sub-rectangular enclosures with parallel, curving boundaries
A4	Rectangular or sub rectangular enclosures with regular enclosure boundaries
A5	Not used
A6	Rectangular or sub-rectangular enclosures with ruler straight enclosure boundaries
A7	Rectangular or sub-rectangular enclosures with ruler straight enclosure boundaries in a grid layout
B1	Elongated enclosures with wavy-edged enclosure boundaries
B2	Elongated enclosures with parallel, curving enclosure boundaries
B3	Elongated enclosures with regular enclosure boundaries
B4	Elongated enclosures with ruler straight enclosure boundaries
C1	Irregular enclosures with wavy-edged enclosure boundaries
C2	Not used
C3	Irregular enclosures with regular enclosure boundaries
C4	Irregular enclosures with ruler straight enclosure boundaries
D1	Unenclosed

**Date and Change\_use (6 characters):**

The dates in this field record the date by which a feature is first shown on the available map evidence. The change\_use field is used in tables where a features is still recorded as in use or disused. Where a feature is disused, the change\_use field will record the first available map evidence where this is recorded. For example, a quarry shown as working on the OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition map, but not before, will have a date of 'OS 1<sup>st</sup>'. It is shown as disused in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, and so will have a change\_use date of OS 2<sup>nd</sup>.

<b>Code</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
1770	In existence by c 1770 when large-scale county maps were published
OS 1st	In existence by publication of OS 1 <sup>st</sup> edition map in mid-19 <sup>th</sup> century
OS 2nd	In existence by publication of OS 1 <sup>st</sup> edition map in late 19 <sup>th</sup> century
Modern	20 <sup>th</sup> century features post-dating OS 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map

**Use (7 characters):**

This field is used for non-agricultural or woodland features. It records whether a particular features is still in use or disused/disappeared (see Date and Change\_use, above).

**Boundary (1 character):**

Used only in the tables for enclosed agricultural land: Planned Enclosures, Former Common Arable and Ancient Enclosures. Enclosures were assessed for the degree of boundary change from the OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition maps:

<b>Code</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
1	No apparent or minor boundary loss/change (default)
2	Significant boundary loss/change
3	Rebuilt - new enclosure pattern established
4	Rebuilt - incorporating remnant boundaries
5	Not applicable

**Date\_entered (date field):**

A numerical date field, showing the original date information was entered.

**Entered\_by (3 characters):**

The initials of the recorder of the original data entries.

## Section 2: Tables

### Roads:

Type (7)	Date (6)	Use (7)	Change_use (6)	Date_entered	Entered_by
Road	See section 1	See section 1	See section 1	See section 1	See section 1
Track					
Path					

### Railways:

Date (6)	Use (7)	Change_use (6)	Date_entered	Entered_by
See section 1	See section 1	See section 1	See section 1	See section 1

### Canals:

Date (6)	Use (7)	Change_use (6)	Date_entered	Entered_by
See section 1	See section 1	See section 1	See section 1	See section 1

### Built Environment

Built environment includes substantial areas of non-domestic development, and includes non-extractive industries, commercial and military sites. 'Power plant' has been used only for large-scale establishments. Manuf/retail is used for manufacturing, business and commercial features. A recorded continuous manufacturing or retail use does not indicate that the type of use is unchanged. For example, a 19<sup>th</sup> century ironworks site may now be used for other, modern manufacturing or retail uses.

Type (14)	Date (6)	Use (7)	Change_use (6)	Relict_use (20)	Date_entered	Entered_by
Airfield	See section 1	See section 1	See section 1	See section 1	See section 1	See section 1
Dock/harbour						
Manuf/retail						
Military						
Power plant						
Wind farm						

### Settlement

Settlement was recorded originally as either dispersed or nucleated. This has been expanded to three categories, to include small nucleations. Discrete settlements are individual farms (including associated farm buildings), churches or other buildings. Small nucleations are settlements of between two and five properties.

Where a settlement has expanded significantly in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, phases of expansion have been plotted approximately from the map evidence. The scale at which the mapping was carried out means that phased expansion of a settlement should be used as a guide only.

Where settlements have been abandoned and there is no evidence for them on modern maps, they have not been plotted.

Type (15)	Date (6)	Date_entered	Entered_by
Discrete	See list	See section 1	See section 1
Small nucleated			
Nucleated			

### Extraction

This table covers industrial extraction sites. It includes brick-making which, although this is a manufacturing industry, is almost always adjacent to the quarries providing the source material. The 'Material' field relates to the main product of the industry, where known.

Type (15)	Date (6)	Use (7)	Change_use (6)	Relict_use (20)	Material (15)	Date_entered	Entered_by
Mine	See section 1	See section 1	See section 1	See section 1	Brick clay	See section 1	See section 1
Opencast					Coal		
Peat cutting					Copper		
Quarry					Granite		
					Gypsum		
					Iron		
					Lead		
					Limestone		
					Peat		
					Sand/gravel		
					Sandstone		
					Silver		
					Slate		
					Unknown		
					Zinc		

### Recreation

This table does not include public parks, which are covered by 'designed landscapes'.

Type (14)	Date (6)	Use (7)	Change_use (6)	Relict_use (20)	Date_entered	Entered_by
Allotment	See section 1	See section 1	See section 1	See section 1	See section 1	See section 1
Attraction						
Caravan site						
Golf course						
Nature reserve						
Playing field						
Race course						
Sports ground						
Zoo						

### Woodland

Ancient woodland applies to woodland noted on the county map of 1770, or on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map where the map indicates that it is not plantation.

The 'Land cover' and 'Type' fields record the current state. Where woodland has been lost (i.e. recorded as 'former wood') but was present on earlier maps, the type of woodland and woodland cover will be recorded in the appropriate fields according to the map dates when it still existed. The land cover will be given as 'non wood' and relict use (as listed in section 1) will be entered in the fields for earlier maps where woodland has been planted at a later date.

Morphology	Date (6)	Type (15)	Land_cover (20)	OS1st_type (20)	OS1st_cover (20)	OS2nd_type (20)	OS2nd_cover (20)	Date_entered	Entered_by
See list	See section 1	Ancient	Deciduous	As 'Type' but also as relict use, section 1	As 'Land_cover'	As 'Type' but as also relict use, section 1	As 'Land_cover'	See section 1	See section 1
		Former wood	Deciduous steep						
		Plantation	Coniferous						
		Regenerated	Coniferous steep						
		Scattered trees	Mixed						
			Mixed steep						
			Scrub						
			Non wood						

Example: A deciduous woodland plantation is marked on the OS 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps, but is open land on modern maps. This would be recorded as:

<b>Morphology</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Land_cover</b>	<b>OS1st_cover</b>	<b>OS1st_type</b>	<b>OS2nd_type</b>	<b>OS2nd_cover</b>
A4	Modern	Former wood	Non wood	Deciduous	Plantation	Plantation	Deciduous

### Water

The date field applies only to 'Reservoir' and 'Waterwork', as 'River'; and 'Lake, tarn' applies to natural features. Mill leats are recorded as rivers at present.

<b>Type (10)</b>	<b>Date (6)</b>	<b>Date_entered</b>	<b>Entered_by</b>
River	See section 1	See section 1	See section 1
Lake, tarn			
Reservoir			
Waterworks			

### Designed Landscapes

<b>Type (15)</b>	<b>Date (6)</b>	<b>Use (7)</b>	<b>Change_use (6)</b>	<b>Relict_use (20)</b>	<b>Date_entered</b>	<b>Entered_by</b>
Cemetery	See section 1	See section 1	See section 1	See section 1	See section 1	See section 1
Ornamental park						
Urban park						

### Unenclosed Land and Unenclosed Coast

Occasionally, enclosed land becomes unenclosed land. Where this is the case, these two tables have fields for relict use, and change use to record previous landscape types and the date by which this occurred.

#### Unenclosed Land

<b>Type: (20)</b>	<b>Relict_use (20)</b>	<b>Change_use (6)</b>	<b>Date_entered</b>	<b>Entered_by</b>
Green [village greens]	See section 1	See section 1	See section 1	See section 1
Fell				
Improved				
Improved fell				
Limestone pavement				
Moorland				
Moss & mire				
Reclaimed land				
Scrub				
Woodland				

**Unenclosed Coast**

<b>Type: (20)</b>	<b>Relict_use (20)</b>	<b>Change_use (6)</b>	<b>Date_entered</b>	<b>Entered_by</b>
Cliff/crag	See section 1	See section 1	See section 1	See section 1
Improved				
Moss & mire				
Mudflats				
Saltmarsh				
Sand dunes				
Sand/shingle				

**Agricultural Land**

Agricultural land is divided across a number of attribute tables, according to the broad interpretation categories, 'Planned enclosure', 'Former commonfield' and 'Ancient enclosure'. Following these major divisions are sub-categories of ancient enclosures which had a specialist use, eg monastic, and deer parks. Developed land is only recorded under agricultural land where the field pattern and former use is still discernible, for example caravan sites, or small scale extractive sites which developed within existing field systems. In these cases, land cover is recorded as 'developed', and the 'type' field refers to the agricultural type only.

**Planned Enclosure**

<b>Morphology</b>	<b>Land_cover (15)</b>	<b>Date (6)</b>	<b>Type (15)</b>	<b>Relict_use (20)</b>	<b>Boundary</b>	<b>OS1st_morph</b>	<b>OS1st_cover (15)</b>	<b>Date_entered</b>	<b>Entered_by</b>
See list	See section 1	See section 1	Parliamentary	See section 1	See list	As Morphology	As Land_cover	See section 1	See section 1
			Private						
			Unknown						

**Former Common Arable**

<b>Morphology</b>	<b>Land_cover (15)</b>	<b>Date (6)</b>	<b>Type (20)</b>	<b>Relict_type (20)</b>	<b>Boundary</b>	<b>OS1st_morph</b>	<b>OS1st_cover (15)</b>	<b>Date_entered</b>	<b>Entered_by</b>
See list	See section 1	See section 1	Former common arable	See 'Type'	See list	As Morphology	As Land_cover	See section 1	See section 1
			Fossilised strips						

**Ancient Enclosures**

<b>Morphology</b>	<b>Land_cover (15)</b>	<b>Date (6)</b>	<b>Type (20)</b>	<b>Relict_use (20)</b>	<b>Boundary</b>	<b>OS1st_morph</b>	<b>OS1st_cover (15)</b>	<b>Date_entered</b>	<b>Entered_by</b>
See list	See section 1	See section 1	Ancient closes	See Type	See list	As Morphology	See list	See section 1	See section 1
			Cow pasture						
			Deer park						
			Demesne						
			Discrete farm						
			Intake						
			Meadow						
			Medieval croft						
			Monastic						
			Outfield						
			Reclaimed land						
			Unenclosed land						
			Woodland						

**Deer Parks:**

<b>Name (20)</b>	<b>Current_use (20)</b>	<b>Date_entered</b>	<b>Entered_by</b>
	Section 1, as Relict_use	See section 1	See section 1

**Monastic sites:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Type (20)</b>	<b>Current_use (20)</b>	<b>Date_entered</b>	<b>Entered_by</b>
See list	Abbey	See Section 1, as Relict_use	See section 1	See section 1
	Grange			
	Nunnery			
	Priory			

**Vaccaries:**

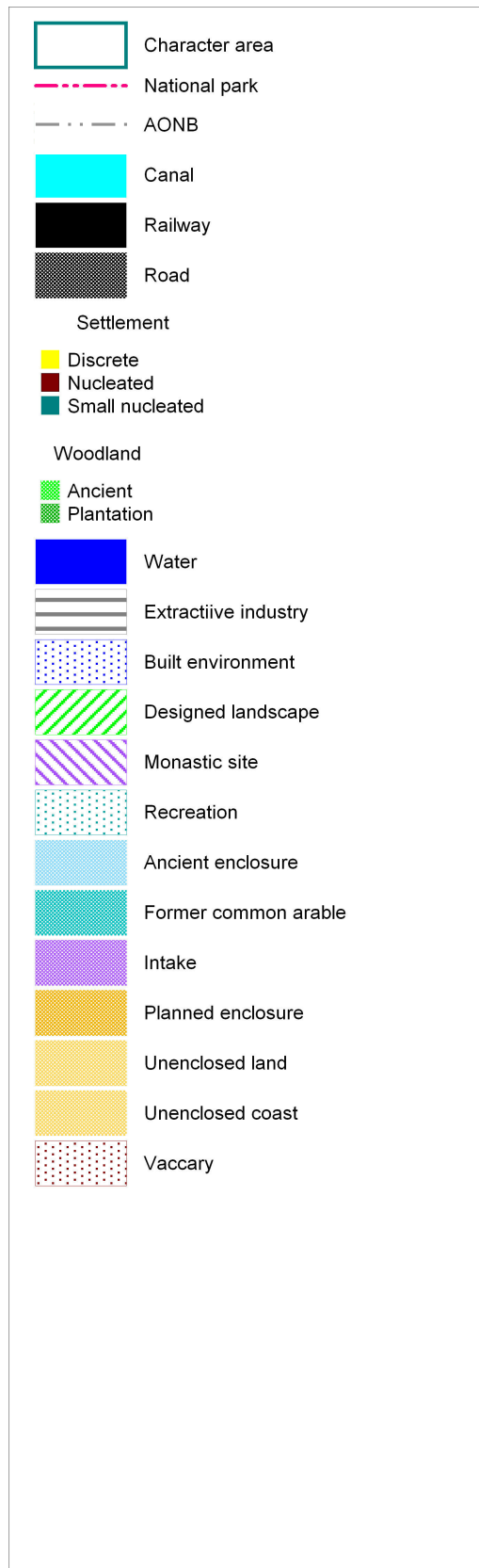
<b>Current_use (20)</b>	<b>Date_entered</b>	<b>Entered_by</b>
Section 1, as Relict_use	See section 1	See section 1

These three tables are a subset of the other layers.





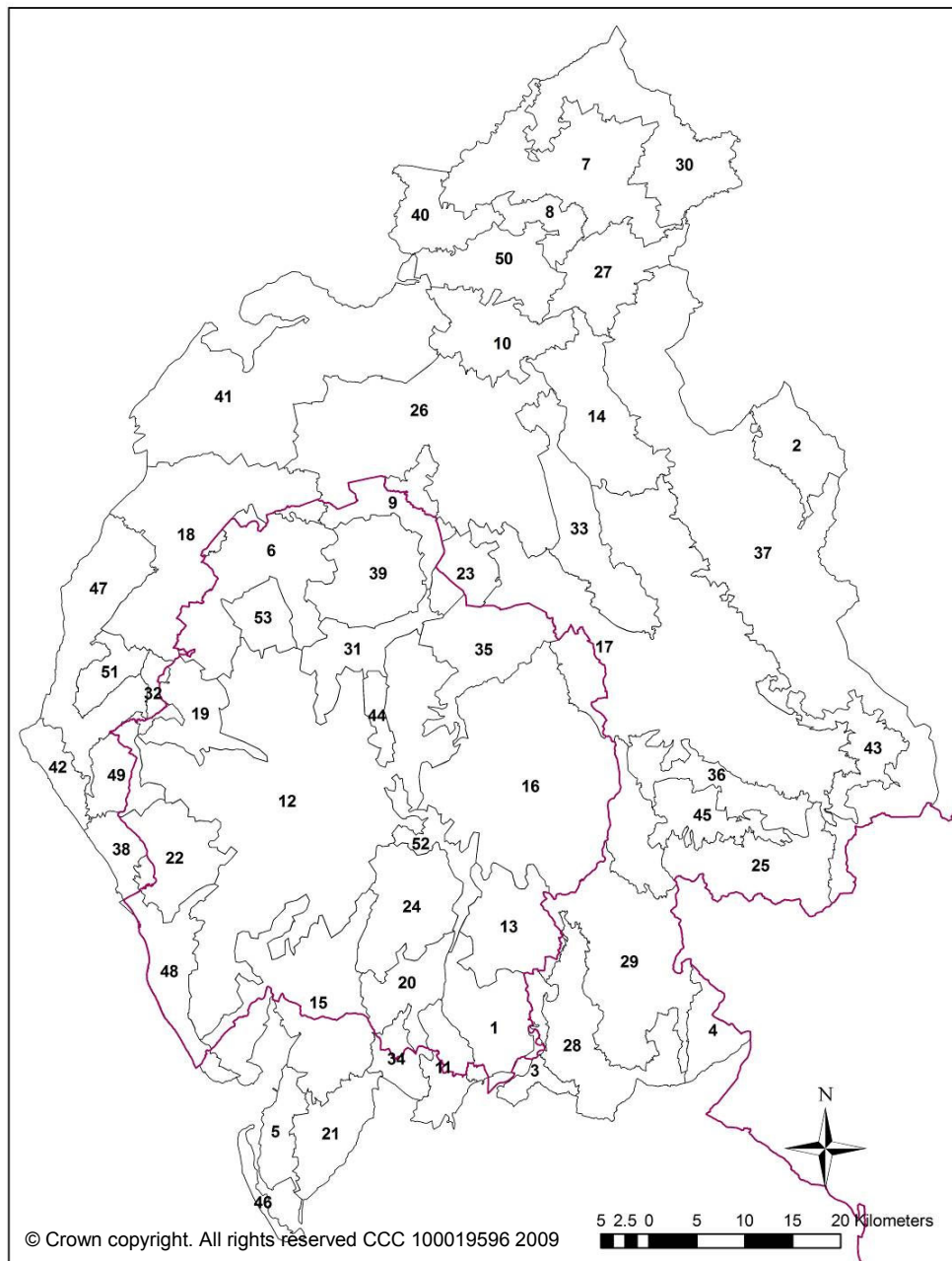
## APPENDIX 2: LEGEND FOR CHARACTER AREAS MAPS





### APPENDIX 3: CHARACTER AREA DESCRIPTIONS

The aim in defining these character areas was to use the HLC landscape types alone, and to ignore other factors such as topography and personal knowledge. The process, however, is subjective and although the general extent of each character area was based on the relationship between the landscape types, subjective elements are implicit in the fine adjustments made to their boundaries. Following definition, additional information for the character descriptions was sourced from digital air photographs and satellite coverage as well as from the Cumbria and Lake District Historic Environment Records. In total, 53 character areas were defined, and these are described below. The character areas do not correspond to administrative and political boundaries and for ease of reference these are provided in figure 1 and can be compared to the distribution of character areas in figure 2. Only those character areas or parts of character areas which lie outside the Lake District National Park are illustrated and the key to the colour coding on the maps is in appendix 2. The figures are for illustrative purposes only and any attempted analysis should be based on the supplied digital data.



**Figure 1** Numbered character areas (pink lines are the national park boundaries).

## Key to Character Areas

No	Name	Sq Km
1	Allithwaite and Witherslack Low Fells	98.34
2	Alston Moor	55.63
3	Arnside and Beetham	17.03
4	Barbon and Middleton Fells	38.19
5	Barrow and Kirkby in Furness	39.6
6	Bassenthwaite and Lorton Valley	146.9
7	Bewcastle and Netherby	190.4
8	Bolton Fell	37.43
9	Caldbeck and Caldew Valleys	64.71
10	Carlisle	78.39
11	Cartmel Peninsula	49.46
12	Central Fells	628.4
13	Crosthwaite and Underbarrow Low Fells	93.01
14	Cumwhitton and Kirkoswald	123
15	Dunnerdale and Broughton Low Fells	209.4
16	Eastern Lake District Fells	394.4
17	Eden Valley	531.6
18	Ellen and Marron Valleys	213.6
19	Ennerdale	59.62
20	Furness Fells	57.01
21	Furness Peninsula	66.19
22	Gosforth and Muncaster Lowlands	81.65
23	Greystoke	43.2
24	Grizedale Forest	102.4
25	Howgills	108.6
26	Inglewood	343.2
27	Irthing Valley	86.57
28	Kendal and Kirkby Lonsdale	118.5
29	Kendal Low Fells	190
30	Kershope and Spadeadam Forests	60.4
31	Keswick and Derwent Water	62
32	Lamplugh and Ehe Valley n	19.1
33	Lazonby Ridge	110.8
34	Leven Estuary	26.56
35	Matterdale and Ullswater	97.91
36	Orton Fells	70.26
37	Pennines	568.4
38	Sellafield	30.62
39	Skiddaw Range	105.1
40	Solway Moss	60.02
41	Solway Plain	349
42	St Bees	34.45
43	Stainmore	57.3
44	Thirlmere	19.46
45	Upper Lune Valley	55.13
46	Walney Island	9.926
47	West Cumberland Plain	143.6
48	West Cumbrian Coastal Plain	76.71
49	Western Lake District Fell Edge	50.06
50	Westlinton	87.93
51	Whillimoor and Dean Commons	32.23
52	Windermere and Rothay and Brathay Valleys	40.97
53	Wythop and Thornthwaite Forest	37

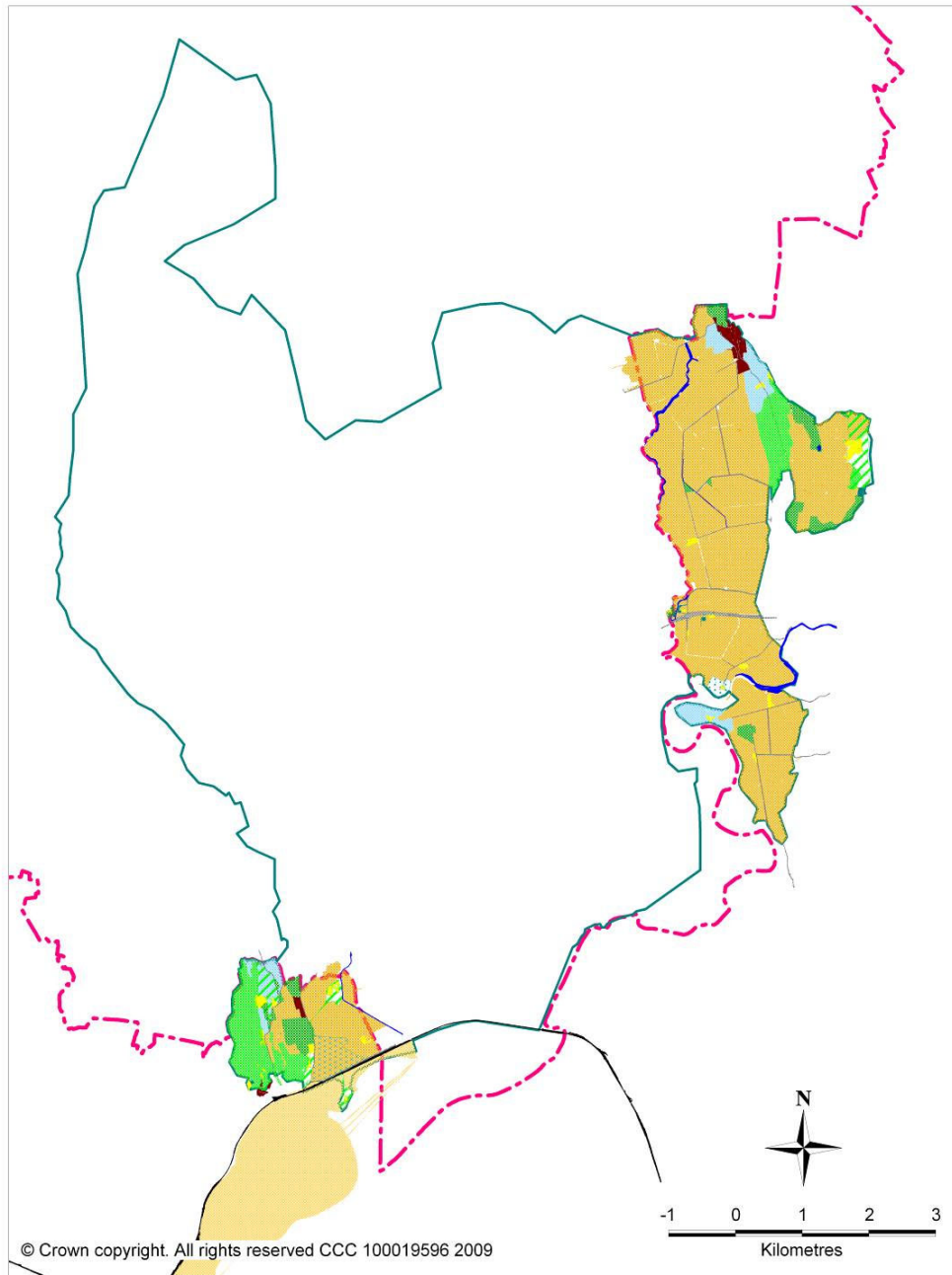
## 1. Allithwaite and Witherslack Low Fells

The area of low fells around Allithwaite and Witherslack lie to the south of the Crosthwaite and Underbarrow Low Fells. Most of this character area is within the Lake District National Park but its eastern boundary extends outside the park to include, Brigsteer, Sizergh and the lower Lyth valley and its south-western corner which includes Eggerslack Wood and Holme Island also lies outside the park. The settlement pattern is predominantly dispersed but there are a number of nucleations of varying size, though lacking the regularity of many nucleations elsewhere in Cumbria. Settlement is mostly in the areas of ancient enclosure, but there are a few later farms in the areas of the drained mosslands. Overall the settlement pattern appears quite traditional with 37% of all settlements being in existence by 1770. The landscape is dominated by large areas of planned enclosure, much of which is covered by large blocks of plantation woodland. This planned enclosure includes both former common waste in the low fells, and the reclaimed wetlands around the Kent Estuary. Smaller areas of anciently enclosed land follow the long narrow valleys, running north-south, and there is an extensive area of former common arable fields in the south, in the lowland below Newton Fell. Field boundaries are mixed; stone walls and hedges, but there is probably a predominance of hedgerows in the anciently enclosed land around the planned enclosures of the reclaimed mosslands. Stone walls tend to be restricted to the planned enclosures of the low fells, and the anciently enclosed land lying next to it.

*Legacy:* A mixed pattern of modern and older settlements and field enclosure with moderate legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin.

*Landscape designation and status:* Majority of area within the Lake District National Park, registered park at Sizergh Castle.

*Planning authorities:* LDNPA and South Lakeland District Council



**Figure 2** Allithwaite and Witherslack Low Fells character area



## 2. Alston Moor

The character of this area is dominated by the valleys of the rivers South Tyne and Nent which flow to either side of Flinty Fell. They in particular distinguish the area from the surrounding Pennines character area. Not only is settlement more intensive, though almost wholly concentrated in the valleys, but the valleys exert an influence on the surrounding uplands, all of which are enclosed with large planned enclosures of 19<sup>th</sup> century date. The settled valleys probably also account for the far greater degree of plantation woodlands in the character area in comparison to the Pennines. Whilst distinct within Cumbria from the neighbouring Pennines character area, many similarities are shared with neighbouring parts of County Durham such as West and East Allendale and Weardale.

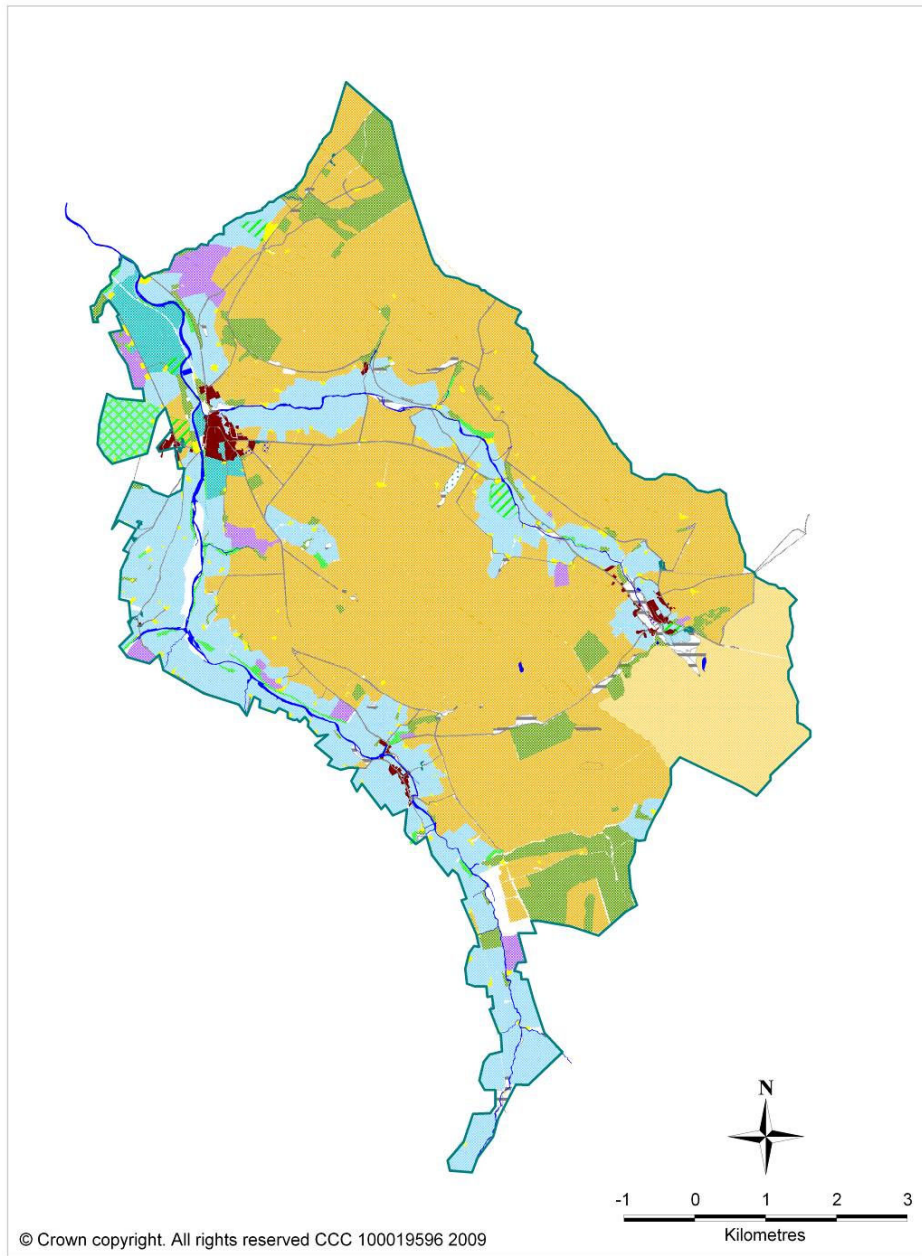
Alston is a small town and a nucleated settlement of medieval date, as reflected by the only evidence of former commonfields in the area being associated with it. The remainder of the settlement pattern, however, is mixed with 56% of the settlements post-dating 1770. Most of these are either discrete settlements. Alston and Garrigill were the only nucleations in existence before 1770 but there are now 12 nucleations or small nucleations. Some previously existing discrete settlements such as Blagill or the dispersed farms and cottages at Nenthead grew and coalesced into nucleations during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The growth in both discrete and nucleated settlement reflect an intensification of the settlement pattern within the valleys and not a settlement of newly enclosed land. Settlement intensification related to the increased industrialisation of the exploitation of local mineral resources, primarily lead, which have locally had a marked impact on the landscape. Together these characteristics form the 'miner/farmer' landscapes that are a noted feature of this part of the northern Pennines.

Planned enclosures dominate the uplands whilst, aside from around Alston, the valleys are dominated by ancient enclosures. Nearly all woodland is plantation (largely coniferous) of relatively recent origin and largely occurring within the planned enclosures. There are only tiny fragments of ancient gill woodland within the valleys.

*Legacy:* Largely modern settlement and enclosure pattern, moderate legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin, strong survival of industrial features.

*Landscape designation and status:* Wholly within the North Pennines AONB and the North Pennines European and Global Geopark.

*Planning authority:* Eden District Council



**Figure 3** Alston Moor character area

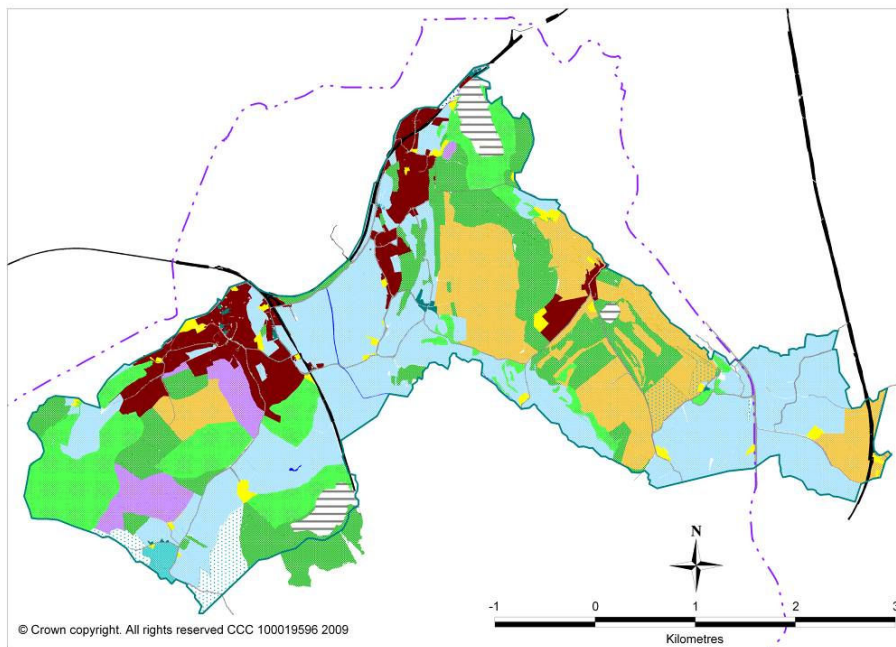
### 3. Arnside and Beetham

This small character area lies almost wholly within the Cumbrian part of the Arnside/Silverdale AONB and unsurprisingly shares a similar character with the neighbouring Lancashire portion of the AONB. It is dominated by large areas of woodland and sprawling nucleated settlements of largely 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century date, with 97.5% of the nucleated settlement area being modern. Aside from the modern nucleated settlement areas of Arnside, Storth, Sandside and Slackhead, the majority of the settlement pattern is dispersed though only 8% of these settlements were in existence by 1770. The field pattern is dominated by ancient enclosures, some of which include enclosures on former mossland. There is some planned enclosure of low limestone fells but these are largely overlain by more recent woodland. Field boundaries are mixed consisting of both dry-stoned walls and hedgerows especially on the former mosslands. The woodland is a mixture of ancient woodland and more recent plantations with the majority of both being deciduous. Limestone quarries are a notable feature as are limekilns.

*Legacy:* Largely 19<sup>th</sup> century landscape, weak legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin, strong survival of limestone-based industrial features.

*Landscape designation and status:* Largely within the Arnside/Silverdale AONB.

*Planning authority:* South Lakeland District Council.



**Figure 4** Arnside and Beetham character area

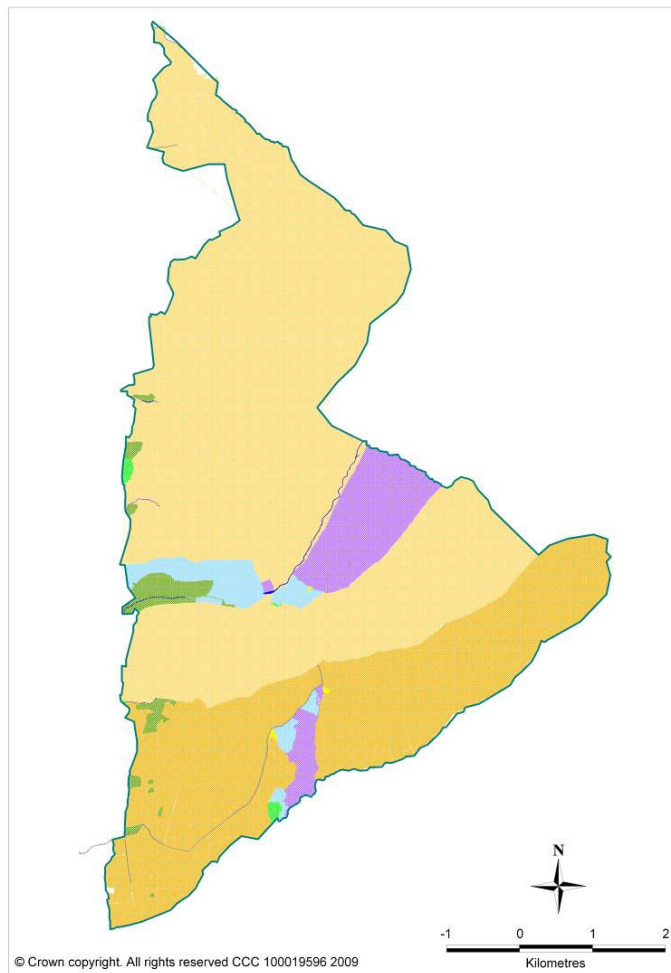
#### 4. Barbon and Middleton Fells

An area of Pennine upland to the immediate east of the River Lune as it flows south from Sedbergh towards Kirkby Lonsdale. In character it is clearly part of the Yorkshire Dales, though it is currently excluded from the national park. The majority of the character area is dominated by unenclosed upland but in the south the fells are enclosed with planned enclosures and share this characteristic with the neighbouring Leck Fell area of Lancashire. Prehistoric archaeological remains commonly survive as earthworks within the area of planned enclosures. The settlement pattern consists of four discrete settlements at the foot of the uplands along a spring line. All of these settlements pre-date 1770. Overall there is very little woodland, though ancient gill woodlands are quite common in the valleys flowing out of the Pennines towards the Lune.

*Legacy:* Strong legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin, strong survival of medieval and earlier archaeological features.

*Landscape designation and status:* None.

*Planning authority:* South Lakeland District Council



**Figure 5** Barbon and Middleton fells character area

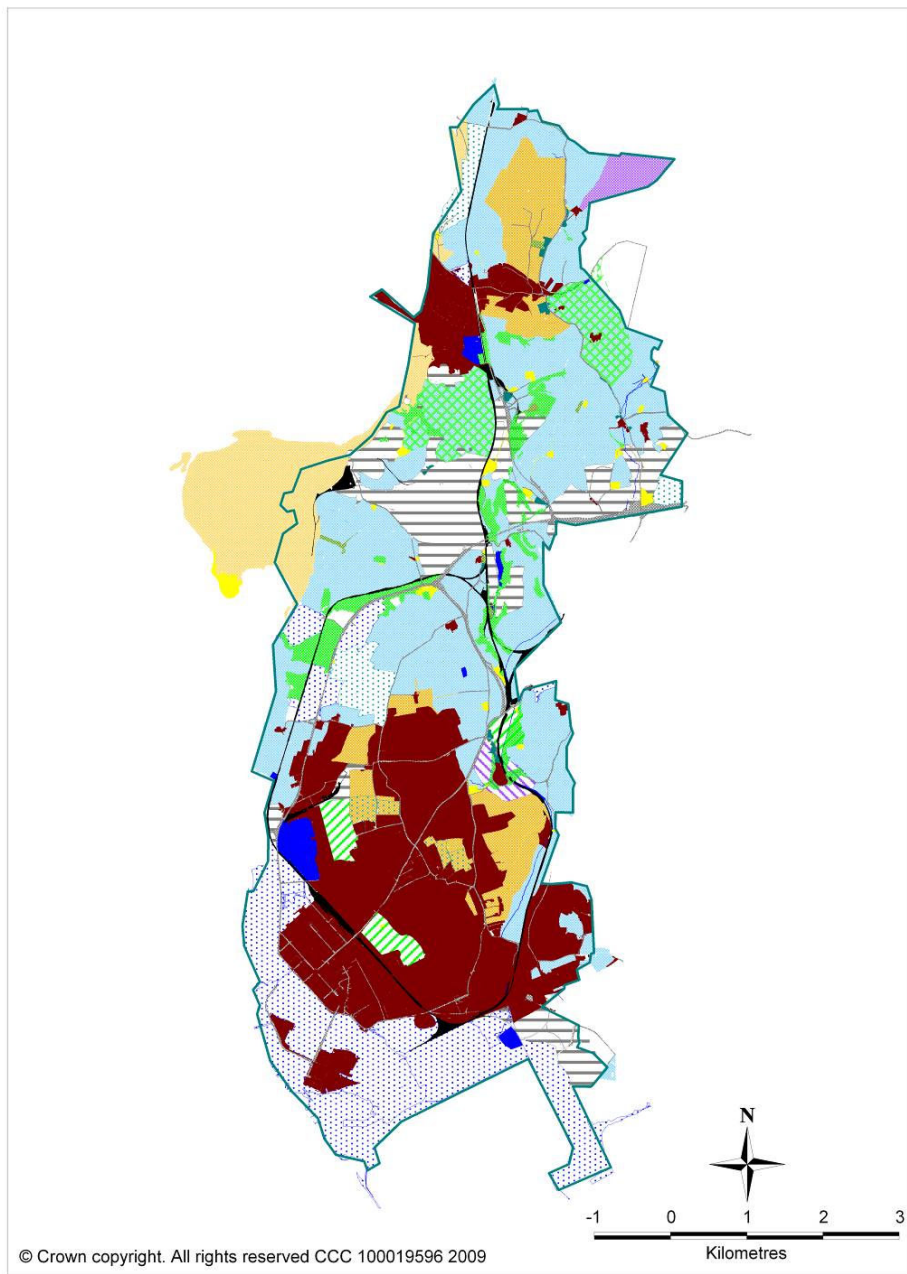
## 5. Barrow and Kirkby in Furness

This character area is one of the most severely influenced by current and past industry and urbanisation within Cumbria. It extends from Barrow Docks in the south to Bank House Moor in the north and encompasses much of the western portion of the modern Barrow district administrative area. The settlement pattern is dominated by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century industrial town of Barrow and the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century industrial inspired settlement expansion of Askham and Ireleth. Before the later 19<sup>th</sup> century the settlement pattern was dominated by nucleated settlements of largely medieval origin. Of these 76% were in existence by 1770. Much of the area surrounding Barrow consists of industrial infrastructure such as the docks, which transformed the relationship between the mainland and Barrow Island, and modern industrial parks. Windfarms often have a dominating presence in both views inland and out to sea. The legacy of past industry is particularly prevalent with a swathe of landscape south of Askham having been formed by iron mining, including water filled collapsed mines. What little survives of the pre-19<sup>th</sup> century farming landscape is largely characterised by ancient enclosures, though there is an extensive area of former common arable field associated with Ireleth. Woodland is very sparse largely consisting of small pockets of ancient woodland.

*Legacy:* Largely 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century landscape, weak legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin, moderate survival of 19<sup>th</sup> century industrial features.

*Landscape designation and status:* None.

*Planning authority:* Barrow Borough Council



**Figure 6** Barrow and Kirkby-in-Furness character area

## 6. Bassenthwaite and Lorton Valley

The Bassenthwaite and Lorton Valley character area occupies the valleys of Bassenthwaite Lake, the River Derwent and River Cocker, and some of the surrounding low fells. It is largely contained within the Lake District National Park, except around Bothel Craggs. The land is mostly low-lying, but with low fells at the northern and southern ends. The settlement pattern is mostly dispersed, with some small hamlets, and the area is distinguished by several country houses and ornamental parks, such as Armathwaite Hall, Higham Hall and Isel Hall, to the east of Cockermouth. Nucleated settlements in the north of the area, such as Blindcrake and Sunderland, historically belong with similar settlements in the Ellen and Marron Valleys, but the creation of the park in the 1950s has led to them avoiding the late 20<sup>th</sup> century development experienced by settlements such as Gilcrux or Tallentire.

The field systems are based around a number of former common fields, which tend to be larger than those found elsewhere in the Lake District, and these are surrounded by areas of ancient enclosure. Apart from a small number of intakes, the remainder is largely made up of planned enclosures. The planned enclosures are in the areas of former common waste, for example Setmurthy Common and the low fells such as Binsey and Mosser Fell, but they also include the privately planned enclosure of extensive parks, such as that belonging to Isel Hall. Hedgerows dominate the field boundaries, with some stone walls around planned enclosures on the higher ground. There are also some stone walls around the former enclosed open field south of Low Lorton in the Lorton Valley. They occur in one block within the former open field, suggesting that they were enclosed in a systematic manner at the same time. The area is not well wooded, though more so than many other character areas in west Cumbria. There are only a few fragmentary areas of ancient woodland. Plantation woodland is largely confined to areas of planned enclosure, particularly Setmurthy Common, and around Isel Hall, where they reflect the ornamental nature of the landscape in this area.

*Legacy:* A mixed pattern of modern and older enclosures but with a more traditional settlement pattern, strong legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin.

*Landscape designation and status:* Mainly within the Lake District National Park.

*Planning authority:* LDNPA and Allerdale Borough Council.



## 7. Bewcastle and Netherby

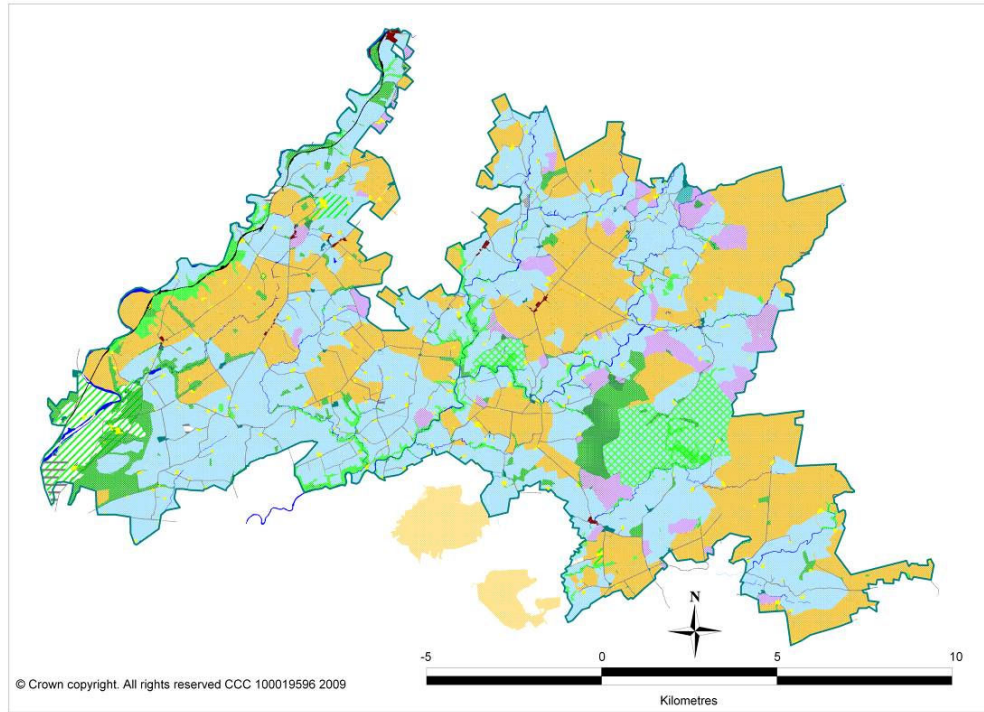
A large character area which stretches eastward from the Scottish border. Historically, much of the eastern half was in the area known as the Bewcastle Wastes, whilst that part adjacent to the Scottish border once formed part of the area known as the Debateable Lands. Its settlement pattern is highly dispersed, consisting almost exclusively of small nucleations and discrete settlements. There is only one genuinely nucleated settlement with pre-1770 origins, and that is Kirkcambbeck. There is little point historically in distinguishing between small nucleations and discrete settlements in this area, as during the past 250 years one type has evolved into the other, with individual farms becoming small nucleations and small nucleations shrinking to become individual farms. Forty-six per cent of small nucleations and discrete settlements pre-date 1770. Of the remainder, the vast majority date to the 19<sup>th</sup> century with only 8% being modern.

Many, though by no means all, of the 19<sup>th</sup> century settlements are situated within the post-1770 areas of planned enclosure. This equates to 36% of the total of the character area, whereas 61% can be considered to be formed from ancient enclosures. The ancient enclosures include large areas of medieval and early medieval intakes, but the majority relates to discrete farms of medieval or early post medieval origin. There are no former common arable fields. There are a number of ornamental parks within the area, of which the most significant is Netherby Park. This began as a medieval deer park, and along with Askerton medieval deer park has had a considerable influence on the local landscape. The Netherby Park estate contains much of the plantation woodland within the character area. The only other significant area of plantation is along the Show Burn. Ancient woodland is concentrated as gill woodland along the Black and White Lyne rivers, and as hanger woodland along the valley of the River Esk. The character area has clearly had a complex history, characterised by border conflict, but retains considerable time depth and many elements that can be dated to the Middle Ages.

*Legacy:* Largely a traditional landscape but with a significant element of late 18<sup>th</sup> century and 19<sup>th</sup> century re-planning relating to agricultural improvement and the creation of ornamental landscapes, moderate legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin.

*Landscape designation and status:* Includes part of the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site and its setting.

*Planning authority:* Carlisle City Council.



**Figure 7** Bewcastle and Netherby character area

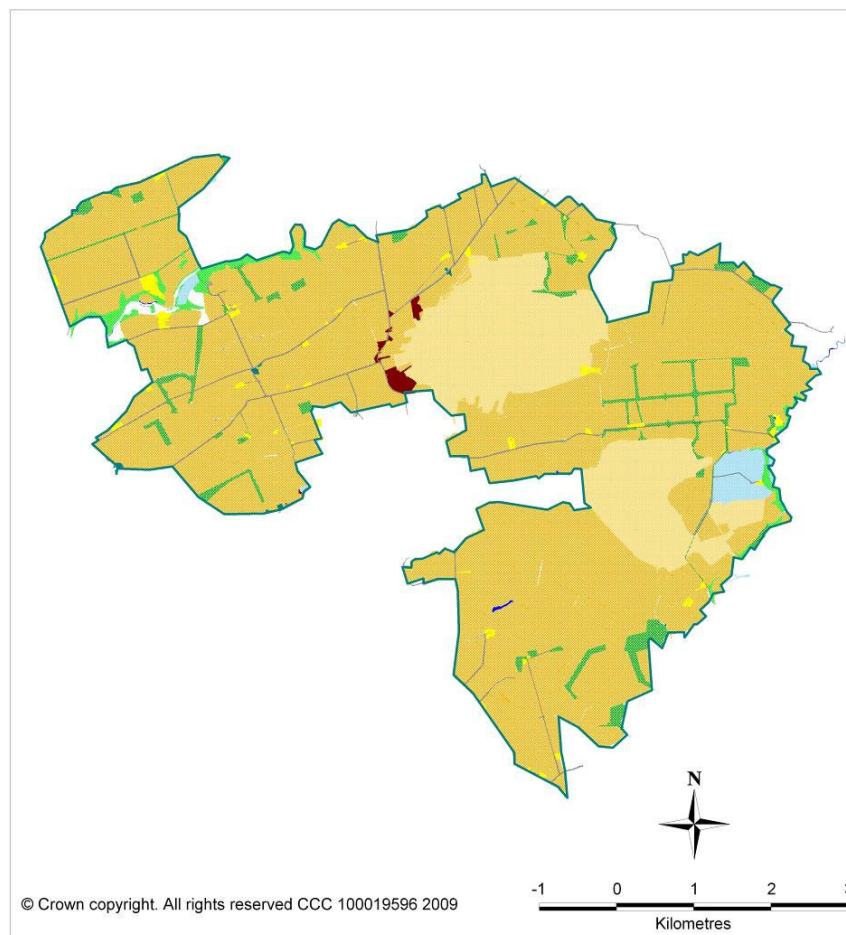
## 8. Bolton Fell

A small character area to the north of the Westlinton character area, and the immediate east of the Solway Moss character area. It is in a gently rolling landscape, rising towards the low hill of Bolton Fell. A substantial part of the character area is former mossland and there are surviving areas of unenclosed low fell and moss. It is sparsely populated and there are few settlements. The only sizeable nucleation is Boltonfellend, which is of 19<sup>th</sup> century origin. Of the remaining small nucleations and discrete settlements, only 20% are of pre-1770 origin, and most date to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This late derivation of the settlement pattern relates to the overwhelmingly planned nature of the field system, reflecting a post-1770 reorganisation and planning of the landscape. The pre-1770 settlements are mainly in the west of the character area, where they are also associated with small, planned, regular fields. Woodland mainly consists of shelter belts of relatively recent origin, although there is some ancient gill woodland along the River Lyne and its tributary streams.

*Legacy:* A largely 19<sup>th</sup> century landscape, moderate legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin.

*Landscape designation and status:* None.

*Planning authority:* Carlisle City Council.



**Figure 8** Bolton Fell character area

## 9. Caldbeck and Caldew Valleys

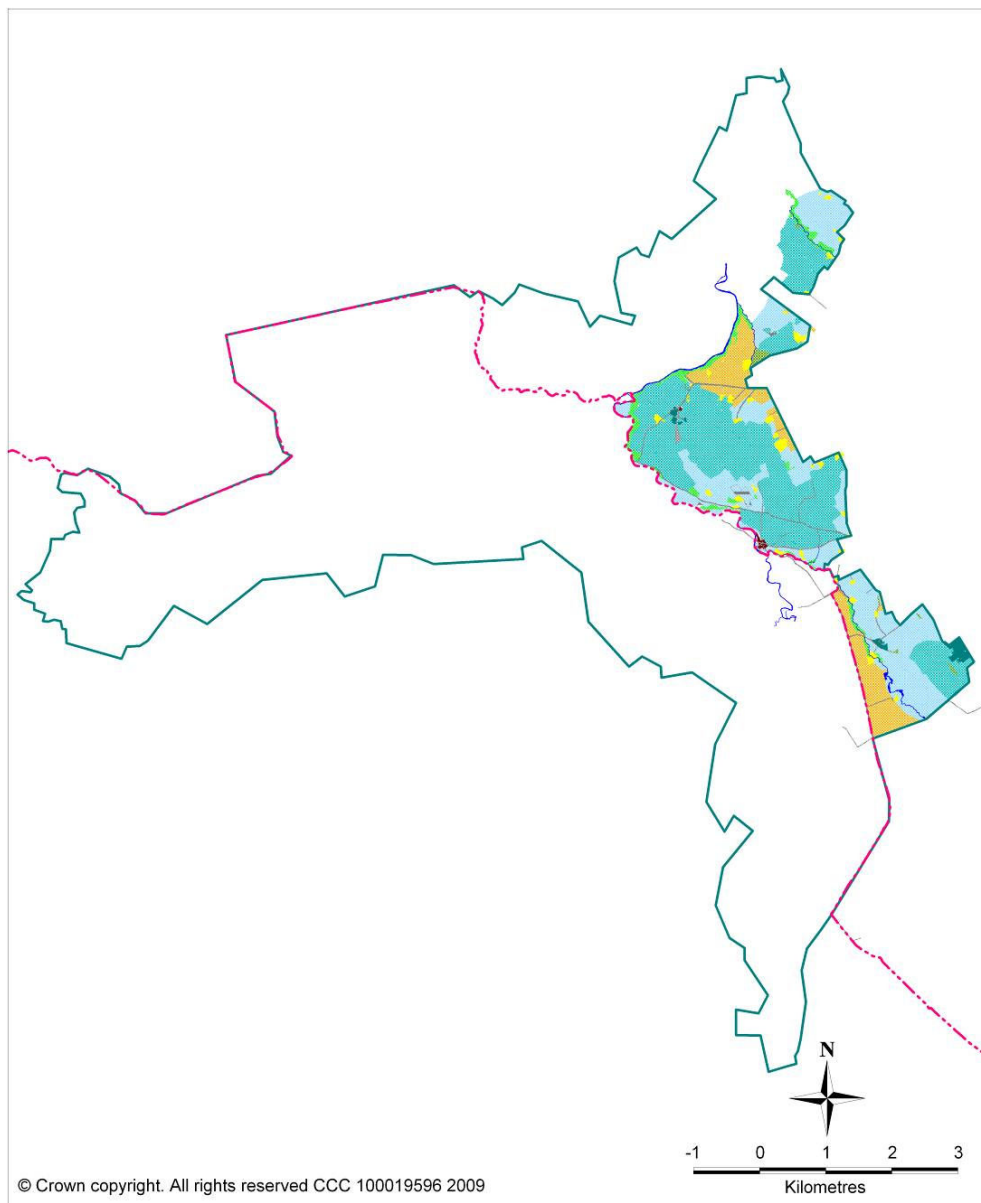
Lying at the northernmost point of the National Park, the Caldbeck and Caldew Valleys is a long, narrow strip north of the Skiddaw Range. Its landscape is dominated by a central block of former common arable field systems belonging to Caldbeck, Heskett Newmarket and Southernby. These are surrounded by areas of ancient enclosures. Caldbeck and Heskett Newmarket are the only significant nucleated settlements, with the remaining settlements consisting largely of either very small nucleations or discrete farms. Southernby appears to be a shrunken former nucleated settlement. The dispersed settlements have names characteristic of woodland edge and woodland assarts of medieval date. The medieval origins of these discrete settlements are also suggested by their known date. In Allerdale, outside the National Park, every one pre-dates 1770, though in Eden, outside the National Park, only 61% pre-date 1770. Nevertheless, the overall impression is of a surviving medieval settlement pattern and fieldscape.

Around the discrete settlements are areas of ancient enclosures. In some areas adjacent to the ancient enclosures are intakes, some of which had a farm established within them. Next to the National Park boundary are areas of unenclosed common at Aughtertree Fell, Ellerbeck Common and Faulds Brow. It would appear that the boundary between the open common and the planned enclosures to the north defined the National Park boundary, and now defines the northern edge of this character area. There are only a few small areas of planned enclosures, on the edges of the former open fields around Caldbeck and Heskett Newmarket. This area has almost no woodland, despite its origins as a heavily wooded area on the borders of the Forest of Inglewood. There is a small area of plantation on the south eastern boundary, and some ancient gill woodland along Stock Ghyll and the River Caldew. The field boundaries are almost all hedgerows, however, and contain large numbers of standard trees.

*Legacy:* A pre-modern landscape in which most settlements and enclosures originated before the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, strong legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin.

*Landscape designation and status:* Largely within the Lake District National Park.

*Planning authority:* LDNPA and Eden District Council



**Figure 9** Caldbeck and Caldew Valleys character area (outside the Lake District National Park)

## 10. Carlisle

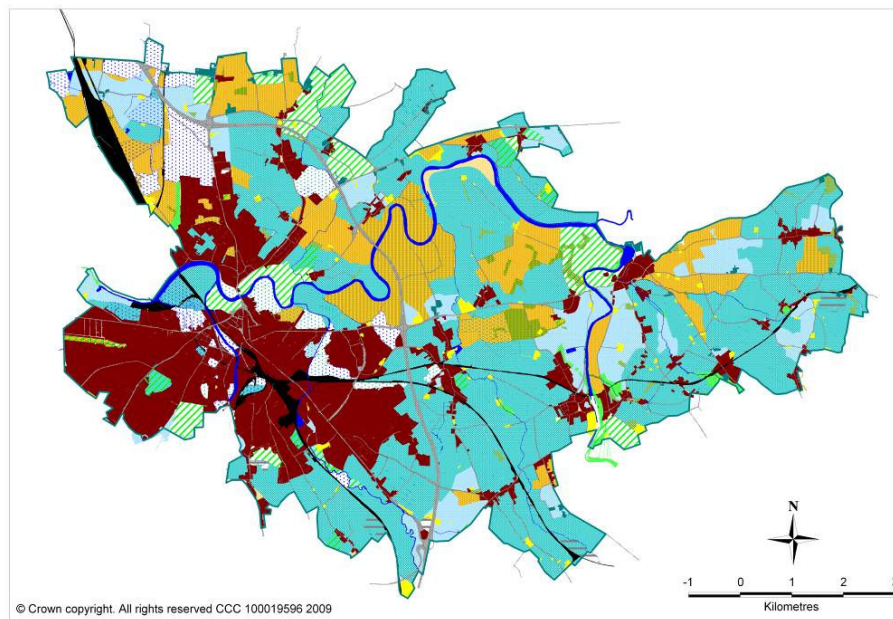
The area is dominated by the city of Carlisle with urban development including municipal parks and cemeteries, and industrial estates. Nevertheless, the whole is a cohesive character area because the urban extent of Carlisle overlies an historic landscape that is the same in the urbanised west as in the less urbanised areas to the east. Moreover, the less urbanised parts of the character area are still influenced by Carlisle and have many suburban features. The settlement pattern is highly nucleated, and whilst many of these settlements originated in the medieval period, 75% of the nucleated settlement area is modern. Seventy four per cent of the discrete settlements and small nucleations originated after 1770. A key influence on 19<sup>th</sup> century and modern settlement and industrial development and location were the railways. This is especially so to the north of Carlisle, where early 20<sup>th</sup> century military sites have been converted into modern industrial estates. The influence of the railway has been re-emphasised by the development of the M6 motorway.

The urbanised and suburbanised character of the area is reflected in the large number of ornamental parks (both private and municipal). Overall, the character of the area dates mainly to the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, although the surviving field pattern still reflects its medieval origins, particularly former common arable fields, which are large. There is very little woodland, with some plantation blocks in areas of planned enclosure and within landscape parks. Ancient woodland is restricted to small areas of river valleys, such as along the River Eden at Corby.

*Legacy:* A largely 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century landscape., moderate legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin, moderate survival of 19<sup>th</sup> century industrial features.

*Landscape designation and status:* Includes part of the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site and its setting, registered park at Dalston Road Cemetery.

*Planning authority:* Carlisle City Council



**Figure 10** Carlisle character area

## 11. Cartmel Peninsula

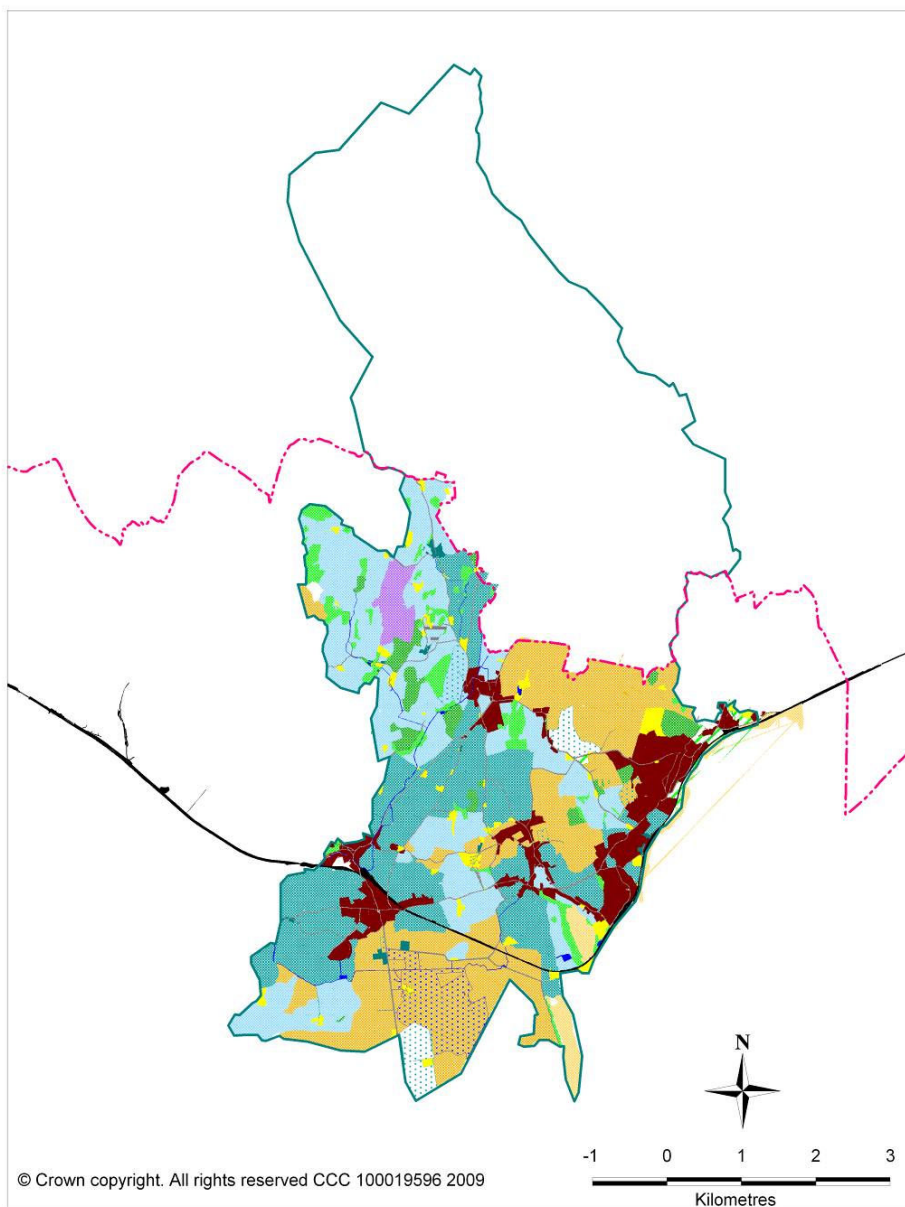
This character area is bisected by the Lake District National Park boundary, though from the viewpoint of historic landscape character there is little difference between the areas within and without the park beyond a greater degree of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century development in the area outside the park. The settlement pattern is dominated by small and large nucleations, with small clusters of farms being especially common. The degree and size of nucleation has increased since the 19<sup>th</sup> century with the growth of Cartmel, Flookborough, Cark and Allithwaite and the development of new nucleations at Grange, Kents Bank and Ravenstown. Of the larger nucleations, 80% of the developed area dates to after 1770, though the rate of nucleated settlement expansion outside the national park is twice that within it. The area within the national park retains to a greater extent the pre-19<sup>th</sup> century settlement character of the whole area. Discrete settlements occur both within areas of ancient enclosure and areas of former common arable. There is little evidence that planned enclosure of fell or coastal moor led to an increase in discrete settlements. Even so, only 20% percent of small nucleations and discrete settlements were in existence by 1770.

The field pattern is dominated by former common arable field associated with the nucleated settlement pattern. These fields are generally bounded with hedges Throughout the character area but especially in the west are areas of ancient enclosure, generally surrounded by a mixture of hedges and dry-stoned walls. The area is quite well wooded with a mixture of small ancient woodlands and plantations.

*Legacy:* A mixed pattern of modern and older settlements and field enclosure with moderate legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin.

*Landscape designation and status:* Partially within Lake District National Park.

*Planning authorities:* LDNPA and South Lakeland District Council.



**Figure 11** Cartmel Peninsula character area (outside the Lake District National Park)



## 12. Central Fells

The largest character area in Cumbria is the Central Fells, covering the open, unenclosed moorland and fells of the central Lake District massif. It is contained wholly within the Lake District National Park. This area is dominated by unenclosed land, and along with the large water bodies, is seen as one of the key features of the Lake District. As with the Eastern Fells, the area is punctuated by a number of narrow valleys, such as Eskdale, the Langdales, Buttermere and Wasdale. The valleys are dominated by dispersed settlements spread along the valley sides of which the majority were in existence by 1770. The settlements are associated with ancient closes along the valley bottom and areas of ancient woodland at the base of the fell slopes. From the late medieval period, the enclosed areas were extended up the lower fell sides through intaking, and in the post medieval period the intakes became extensive where topography allowed, providing cow pastures. Common arable fields were usually small in these valleys, and were enclosed at an early date, apart from a small portion in Great Langdale where part of the field survived as commonable until the nineteenth century. Other than the scattered remains of industry, which generally do not have an impact at a landscape-scale, the landscape of the Central fells strongly reflects land use developments of medieval and early post-medieval date.

*Legacy:* A largely uninhabited upland landscape of mainly pre-modern origins in which most settlements and enclosures originated before the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, strong legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin, strong survival of archaeological features of all periods.

*Landscape designation and status:* Wholly within the Lake District National Park.

*Planning authority:* LDNPA

## 13. Crosthwaite and Underbarrow Low Fells

This area lies in the south-east quadrant of the Lake District National Park, between Kendal and Lake Windermere. Its eastern edge extends a little beyond the park boundary and includes Helsington Barrows. The western boundary is defined by the urban areas of Bowness and Windermere. This area is characterised by a patchwork of enclosure types with a largely dispersed settlement pattern. The only nucleated settlement of any significant size is Staveley, which grew in the nineteenth century as a result of industrial expansion. The field systems comprise blocks of ancient enclosures, amongst extensive areas of former common waste, which was enclosed systematically in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Field boundaries are mixed in this area, with stone walls dominating areas of planned enclosure of the common waste, and hedgerows on the more anciently enclosed land. Small patches of plantation woodland are scattered across areas of both ancient and planned enclosures, whilst there are a number of small tarns in the areas of former common waste. There is only one significant area of ancient woodland, on the lower slopes leading up to Scout Scar, north of Brigsteer, and the relative lack of woodland in comparison to the Allithwaite and Witherslack Low fells is the main distinguishing feature between the two otherwise similar character areas.

*Legacy:* A mixed pattern of modern and older settlements and field enclosure with moderate legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin

*Landscape designation and status:* Majority of area within the Lake District National Park.

*Planning authority:* LDNPA and South Lakeland District Council

#### 14. Cumwhitton and Kirkoswald

The character area stretches from Hayton in the north to Kirkoswald in the south, and is sandwiched between the Pennine escarpment and the Eden valley. It is a generally hilly area, bisected by two tributaries of the River Eden, the Raven Beck, Cairn Beck and the Croglin Water. The geomorphology of this character area strongly influences the settlement and field pattern. Traditional settlements occur in two bands either side of a central area of low hills, dominated by Gateshaw and Lawsons Hills. Many of the settlements are nucleated, all of which pre-date 1770 and are medieval in origin. Over 50% of the discrete settlements also pre-date 1770, as well. Nevertheless, the dispersion within the settlement pattern increased during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with new farms established in previously unenclosed areas.

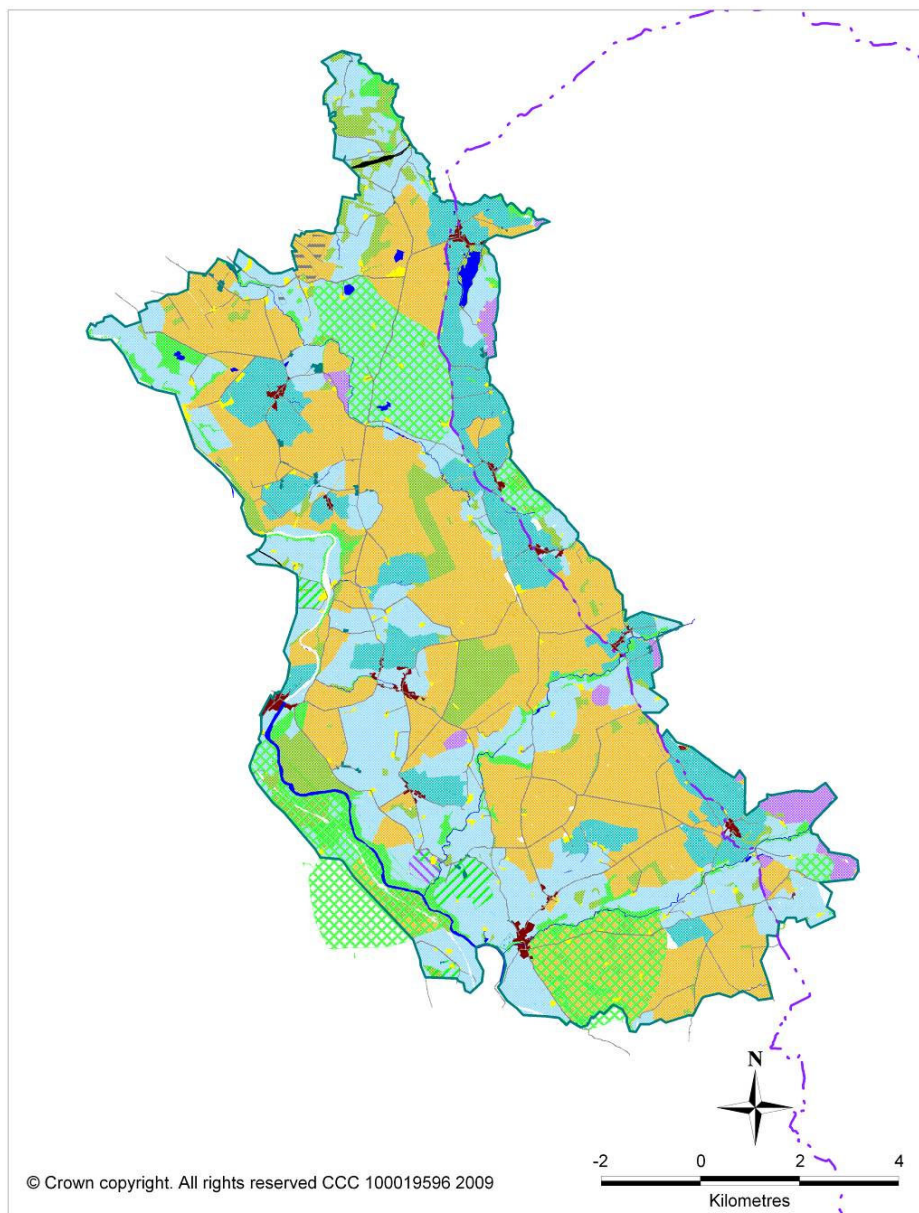
Planned enclosures dominate in areas of former unenclosed low fells. Elsewhere, ancient enclosures cluster around discrete settlements, especially in the valley of the Croglin Water and the Raven Beck. Close to the Eden Valley, the field pattern is a mix of ancient enclosures and small former common arable fields, reflecting the mixed settlement pattern of discrete ancient farms and medieval nucleated settlements. Some of these settlements, both discrete and nucleated, appear to have originated as medieval assarts, such as Armathwaite and Moorthwaite. Along the Pennine edge, the fieldscape is dominated by small former common arable fields, surrounding small, planned nucleated settlements of medieval origin, such as Cumrew, Newbiggin and Croglin. The medieval legacy within the landscape is further emphasised by the legible influence of five former medieval deer parks. The area is quite well-wooded, with around a third of all woodland being ancient. This is clustered especially in the valleys of the Eden, Raven Beck and Croglin Water.

This character area has a strong underlying medieval influence to its structure and nature. As well as influencing the settlement and field patterns, it is evident through the numerous medieval archaeological remains, including a number of castles.

*Legacy:* A pre-modern landscape in which most settlements and enclosures originated before the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, strong legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin, strong survival of medieval and earlier archaeological features.

*Landscape designation and status:* Eastern edge within the North Pennines AONB and European Geopark, registered park and garden at Corby Castle.

*Planning authorities:* Carlisle City Council and Eden District Council



**Figure 12** Cumwhitton and Kirkoswald character area

## 15. Dunnerdale and Broughton Low Fells

Bounded by Coniston Water to the east, and the Central Fells to the north and west, this character area is bisected by the Lake District National Park boundary. It is dominated by the valley running from the Duddon estuary up to Coniston Water, with Coniston village at the north end and the market village of Broughton-in-Furness at the centre and the industrial town of Millom at the south. The topographical context of the character area is the same either side of the park boundary and all the area shares a similar history of woodland industries and minerals extraction and processing. The valleys were important communications routes for the slate and metal ore extractive industries around Coniston, Torver and the Langdale Valleys. Past industries including medieval iron smelting, post-medieval copper mining, 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century textiles manufacture and 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century iron works have all left their mark and are a major characteristic of the area. The western part of the character area, outside the park, experienced more development from the later 19<sup>th</sup> century, however, especially at Millom. The exclusion of the southern part of the character area from the park has exacerbated difference in recent years with a concentration of quarrying and the development of wind farms as on Kirkby Moor.

Like the Allithwaite and Underbarrow Low Fells, this area is characterised by low hills that were previously common waste and which were subject to planned enclosure in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Like the Furness Fells, this was an area of woodland industry, and the ancient woodland produced coppiced wood for craft industries such as the making of swill baskets and tool handles. Whilst there are areas of ancient woodland running along the valley sides of the Duddon and significant blocks of coniferous plantation woodland, often in areas of planned enclosure, the area is nothing like as well wooded as the neighbouring Furness Fells character area. The eastern half of the area is dominated by open low fell, farmed in common and now largely infested with bracken.

Settlement is largely restricted to the valleys, and aside from the large nucleations at Broughton, Coniston and Millom, is mainly dispersed in nature consisting of discrete settlements and small nucleations. Some small nucleations developed as industrial hamlets in the post-medieval period as at Hallthwaites and the Hill. Settlements are surrounded by ancient enclosures and there is little evidence of former arable common fields. The former medieval deer park to Millom Castle remains a recognisable feature.

*Legacy:* A mixed pattern of modern and older settlements and field enclosure with strong legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin, strong survival of pre-19<sup>th</sup> century industrial features.

*Landscape designation and status:* Northern portion of area within the Lake District National Park.

*Planning authorities:* LDNPA, Barrow Borough Council, Copeland Borough Council and South Lakeland District Council.

## 16. Eastern Lake District Fells

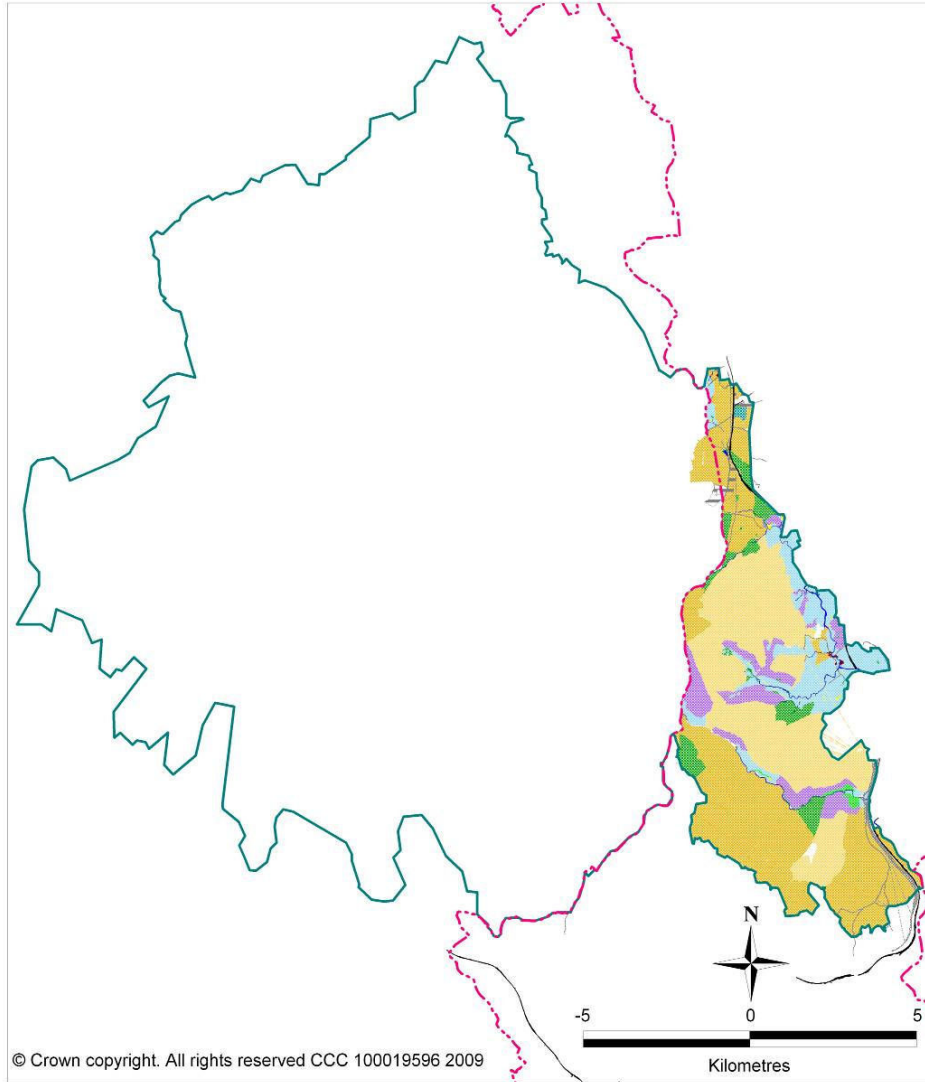
The Eastern Fells lie largely within the Lake District National Park, to the north of the Crosthwaite and Underbarrow Low Fells and the Windermere, and the Rothay and Brathay Valleys. The park boundary forms the south-eastern edge of the character area, though a tongue extends south-eastwards out of the park encompassing Birkbeck, Bretherdale and Whinfell commons. The character is defined by expanses of post medieval enclosures, both intakes and 19<sup>th</sup> century planned enclosures which extend onto the high moorland. The enclosures are large, and irregular in shape, defined mainly by topography, and in many places enclosure boundaries have not

been maintained and the character is reverting back to open moor. On the moorland, most enclosure boundaries comprise dry stone walls. Penetrating into the moorland are a number of narrow valleys. The main valleys are Troutbeck, Kentmere Longsleddale Borrowdale and Wetsleddale. A characteristic of this area is the use of some of the valleys for reservoirs and the associated use of the fells as water gathering grounds, which has influenced their other land uses since the earlier 20<sup>th</sup> century. The valleys contain almost all of the woodland within this character area, with concentrations of ancient woodland in Patterdale and Longsleddale. The western valleys of Patterdale, Troutbeck and Kentmere, have a more nucleated settlement pattern, and more extensive former common arable fields, though both the settlements and the fields lack the regularity of nucleated settlements in the Eden Valley or Solway Coast. In Kentmere, parts of the common arable fields were not enclosed until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Longsleddale, and the other smaller valleys, are dominated by dispersed settlement and ancient closes, with only limited areas of former common arable fields.

*Legacy:* The valleys are generally pre-modern landscapes in which most settlements and enclosures originated before the late 18<sup>th</sup> century but the fells are characterised by 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure, strong legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin, strong survival of archaeological features of all periods.

*Landscape designation and status:* Largely within the Lake District National Park.

*Planning authorities:* LDNPA, Eden District Council and South Lakeland District Council.



**Figure 13** Eastern Lake District Fells character area (outside Lake District National Park)

## 17. Eden Valley

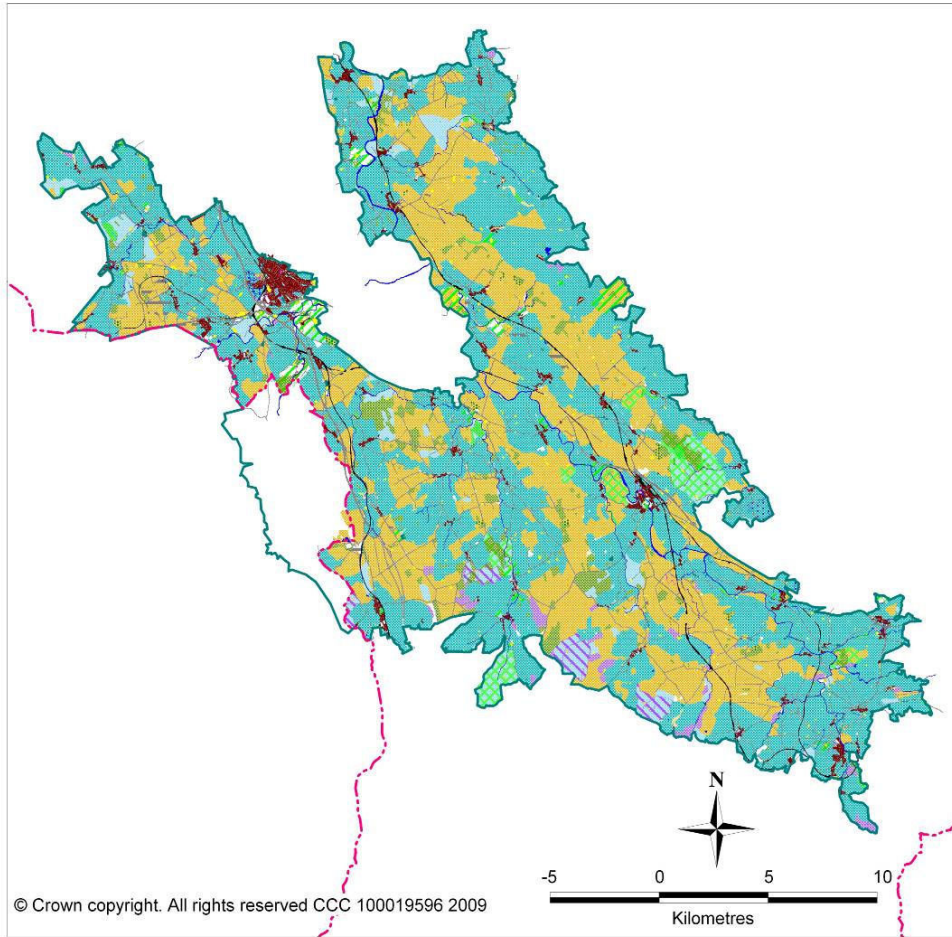
One of the largest character areas, the Eden Valley stretches from Penrith in the north to Kirkby Stephen in the south. It includes the whole of the upper valley of the River Eden and its tributaries to the west. The eastern edge lies within the North Pennines AONB, and part of the western edge, south of Penrith between Askham and Rosgill, is within the Lake District National Park. The area also crosses the old county boundary between Cumberland and Westmorland. The landscape is one of rolling hills and enclosed low fells around the river valleys. The pre-1770 settlement pattern was largely nucleated, with most of the villages and towns originating in the medieval period. Only 29% of the discrete settlements pre-date 1770 and this indicates that the settlement pattern has become more dispersed in the past 200 years, in part following the enclosure of open wastes. Agriculturally, this was, and is, Cumbria's best arable farming area. Undoubtedly this encouraged nucleated settlement development and was a factor in the development of small market towns. The largest towns are Penrith, in the former county of Cumberland, and Appleby-in-Westmorland, the former county town of Westmorland. The small towns of Kirkby Stephen and Brough lie at the southern end of the character area. Many of the large and small nucleations show elements of medieval planning, either as row settlements or as settlements around a village green. In general, the settlement pattern shares similarities with the nucleated settlements on the Pennine dip slope of County Durham.

The nucleated settlements are surrounded by extensive areas of former common arable fields. The low ridges, upon which much of the dispersed settlement is found, consist generally of planned enclosures post-dating 1770. There is relatively little ancient enclosure but where it occurs, there is generally a medieval interpretation for it. The largest area is to the east of Appleby, where it seems to be associated with a former deer park. Along the south-western edge of the character area, the patches of ancient enclosure are associated with monastic granges, as at Reagill Grange and Asby Grange. The area is sparsely wooded, though there are areas of modern plantation around Maulds Meaburn Moor. Ancient woodland consists of gill woodland, apart from Flakebridge Wood, which lies within a possible former medieval deer park, but has mainly been replanted. Within the Lake District National Park portion of the character area, the surviving medieval deer park of Lowther Park is a significant landscape feature, and includes within it ancient woodlands and more recent plantations.

*Legacy:* A mixed pattern of modern and older settlements and field enclosure with strong legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin including extensive earthwork remains.

*Landscape designation and status:* Western portion of area within the Lake District National Park, registered park and gardens at Appleby Castle, Askham Hall, Lowther Castle and at Reagill.

*Planning authorities:* LDNPA and Eden District Council.



**Figure 14** Eden Valley character area



## 18. Ellen and Marron Valleys

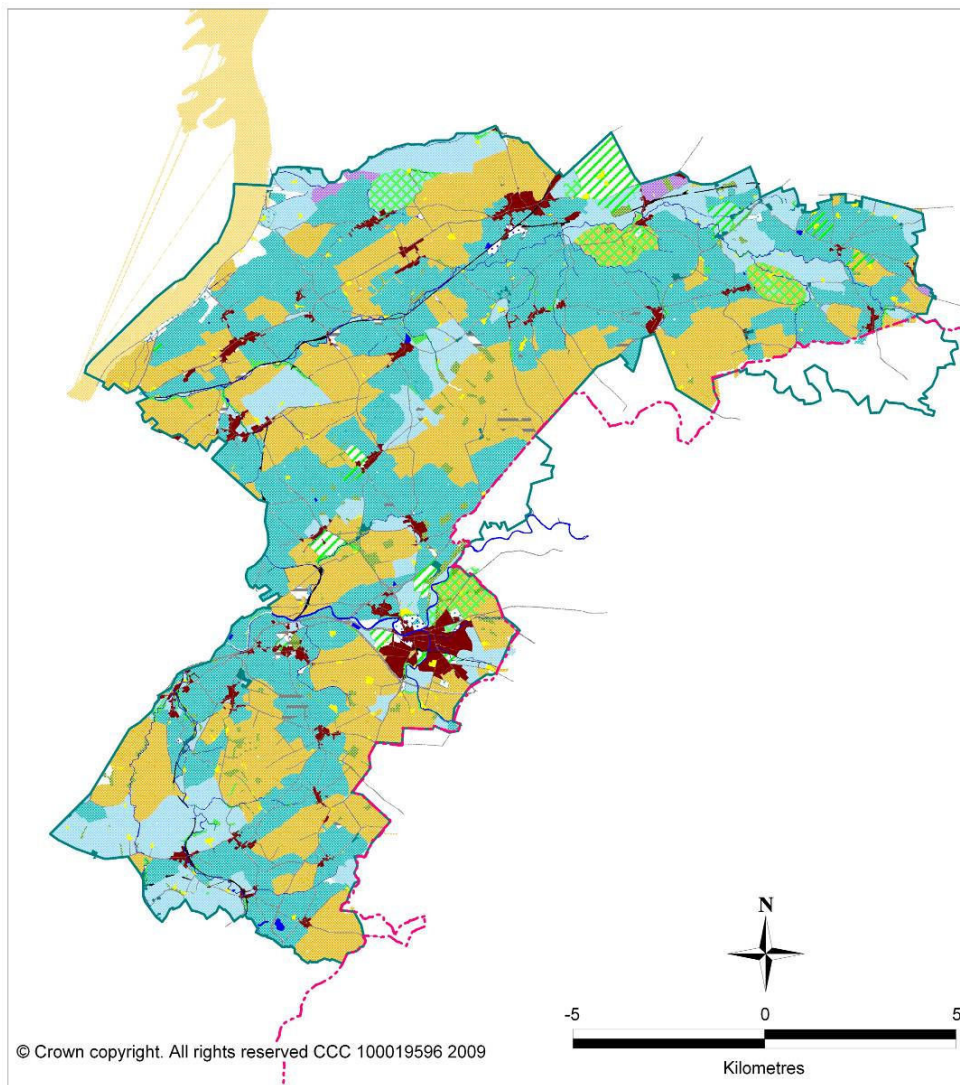
The character area extends along the north-western boundary of the Lake District fells and its eastern boundary broadly coincides with the boundary of the national park. It includes two very small areas of the national park, at Blindcrake and Uldale. It is bounded by the West Cumberland Plain character area to the south west, the Solway Plain character area to the north and the Bassenthwaite and Lorton Valley character area to the south. A section of the western side is bounded by the coast and the southern section of the Solway Coast AONB. Topographically the area is defined by the valleys of the Rivers Ellen and Marron. The Ellen Valley is dominated by the town of Cockermouth, however, this is the only large urban settlement within the character area. In general, the character area is dominated by a mix of large and small nucleations. Most of these nucleations are of medieval origin and retain elements of medieval plan forms. The nucleated pattern has to an extent been exaggerated by some 19<sup>th</sup> century development, resulting from industrialisation but this is relatively minor in comparison to the West Cumberland Plain. Settlement expanded in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, especially in relation to industrial development in Aspatria, Cockermouth and in nearby Workington. In addition, 20<sup>th</sup> century development has considerably increased the size of some nucleated settlements, and there is a noticeable difference in the impact of late 20<sup>th</sup> century development to those nucleations outside the Lake District National Park to those immediately inside it. More than half of the total area of nucleated settlement is 20<sup>th</sup> century within the character area, whereas within the adjacent Bassenthwaite and Lorton Valley character area, which is inside the National Park, the corresponding figure is less than a fifth. In this character area the creation of the Lake District National Park boundary has influenced the recent settlement development of the area. Nucleation does not completely dominate the settlement pattern, and there are many discrete farmsteads and other homesteads. Only 26% of these, however, pre-date the late-18<sup>th</sup> century. The majority of these new, dispersed settlements date to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and relate to the planned enclosure of former common wastes.

Given the dominance of traditional nucleations within the settlement pattern, it is not surprising that the fieldscape is dominated by former arable commonfields. Small areas of dispersed farmsteads and their ancient enclosures are scattered in between. Areas of planned enclosure represent former common grazing land. At the north end of the character area, a series of former small deer parks of medieval origin are still discernible within the landscape. They are associated with a slightly greater degree of settlement dispersal and a greater density of ancient enclosures and a number of ornamental landscape parks in the valley of the River Marron. The largest area of planned enclosure lies between the valleys of the Rivers Ellen and Marron and is centred on Moota Hill. As with the neighbouring Bassenthwaite and Lorton Valley character area, hedgerows dominate the field boundaries, especially where the fields are derived from former common arable fields. In the small area around Blindcrake and Redmain, which lies within the National Park, the hedgerows contain many more mature trees. There is relatively little woodland within the character area, much of it is of recent origin in the form of shelter belts. What ancient woodland there is, is predominantly within the river valleys.

*Legacy:* A mixed pattern of modern and older settlements and field enclosure with strong legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin.

*Landscape designation and status:* Fragments in the north-east of the area are within the Lake District National Park, along the coast it includes part of the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site and its setting.

*Planning authorities:* Allerdale Borough Council and the LDNPA..



**Figure 15** Ellen and Marron Valleys character area (outside the Lake District National Park)

## 19. Ennerdale

North of the Western Lake District Fell Edge, and south of the Bassenthwaite and Lorton Valley character area is Ennerdale. Its eastern boundary is shared with the Central Fells, and its character is defined by upland topography. The southern part comprises Ennerdale Water and its valley, whilst to the north are the Loweswater Fells. This area is sparsely populated and characterised by planned enclosure and plantation woodland. Most of the area was enclosed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with very large irregular stone-walled enclosures, typical of the higher fells. In many areas, these enclosures have not been maintained, and much of the area around Ennerdale is reverting back to open moorland. The large areas of coniferous woodland were planted by the Forestry Commission in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Ennerdale is the subject of a rewilding scheme, and large areas of former plantation will be managed to allow the regeneration of native plant species.

*Legacy:* Largely 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century landscape, moderate legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin, strong survival of medieval and earlier archaeological remains.

*Landscape designation and status:* Wholly within the Lake District National Park.

*Planning authority:* LDNPA.

## 20. Furness Fells

The Furness Fells character area lies almost wholly within but on the southern boundary of the Lake District National Park, south of Grizedale Forest. Its western boundary has been drawn along the River Crake, the eastern bank of which is heavily wooded. Part of the eastern boundary includes the southern section of Lake Windermere. The character of this area is distinguished by large areas of ancient woodland, much of which was coppiced to serve various woodland industries, such as iron processing, gunpowder manufacture and bobbin making. Ancient woodland occurs across the area, but the greatest concentration is in the eastern half, between the Rusland Valley and Lake Windermere. The settlement pattern is a mix of discrete settlements and small nucleations with a dominance of small nucleations along the Leven Valley, around Haverthwaite and Backbarrow, where iron and gunpowder industries developed. The Rusland Valley is an area of planned enclosure of reclaimed wetland, and the less well-wooded areas in the eastern half is anciently enclosed land, with some intakes. The field boundaries are a mix of stone walls, generally in the more upland and anciently enclosed areas, and hedgerows, in the low-lying areas of planned and ancient enclosure.

*Legacy:* A mixed pattern of modern and older settlements and field enclosure with moderate legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin, strong survival of industrial features.

*Landscape designation and status:* Almost wholly within the Lake District National Park.

*Planning authority:* LDNPA and South Lakeland District Council.

## 21. Furness Peninsula

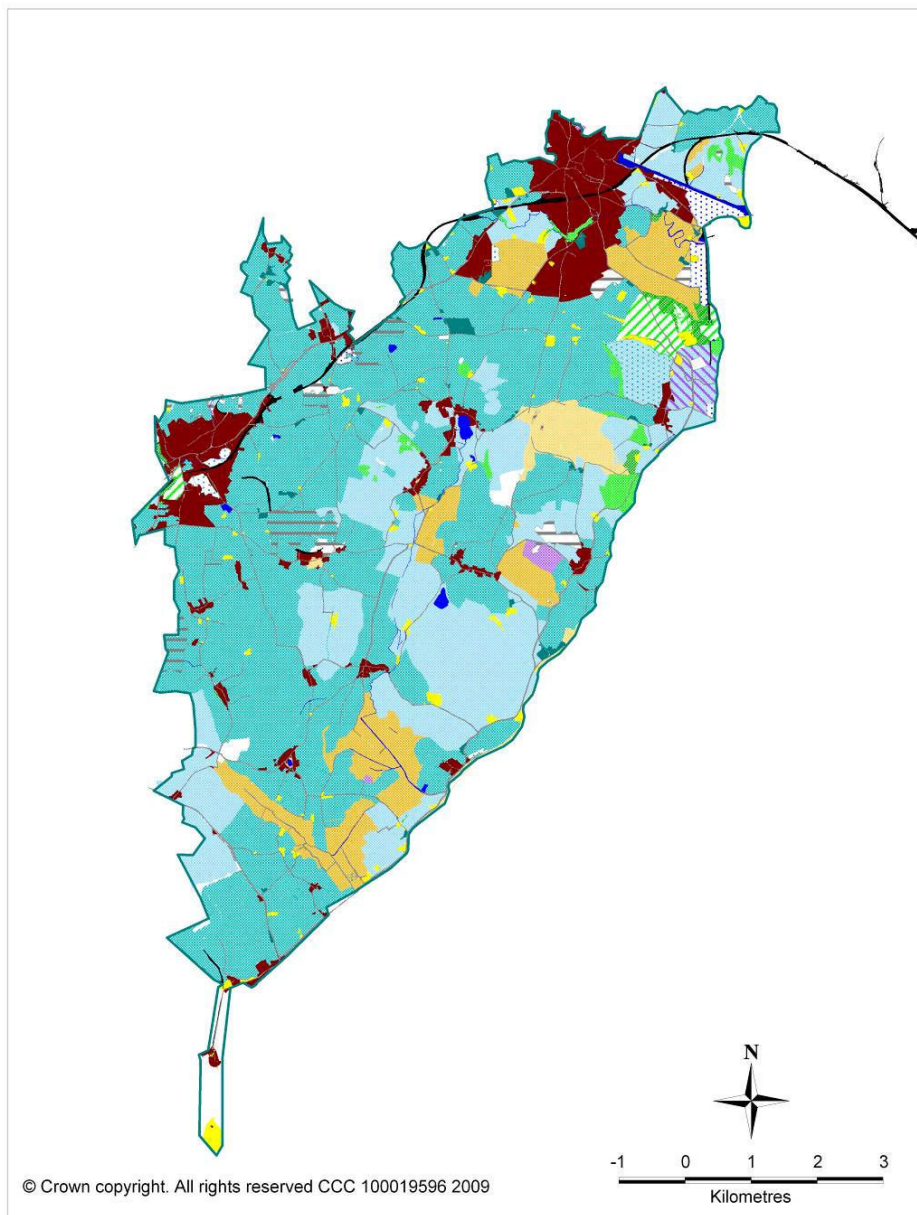
An area of low coastal limestone fells situated between Morecambe Bay to the east and the industrialised Barrow and Kirkby in Furness character area to the west. The northern part of the area is dominated by the two urban areas of Dalton and Ulverston which are linked by a railway. Although both towns expanded greatly during the later 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries they are both towns of medieval origin and their wider landscape impact has not obscured the pre-19<sup>th</sup> century character of much of the rural landscape. The developed area of nucleated settlements in the area grew by 84% in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Growth is focused on Dalton and Ulverston, though a number of non-urban settlements grew substantially in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Even so, with the exception of Swarthmoor all nucleated settlements were in existence before 1770 but only 21% of the discrete settlements were in existence by 1770. The settlement pattern is largely nucleated and the nucleations, though generally not as regular as those in the Eden Valley and Solway Plain, do retain clear elements of medieval planning. The higher degree of historic nucleation and its impact on the wider farming landscape is one of the main differences in character between this area and the topographically similar Cartmel Peninsula, the other being far less woodland in the Furness Peninsula.

The fieldscape is dominated by former common arable fields, which generally surround the nucleated settlements. During the 20<sup>th</sup> century field boundary change has degraded the pattern of strip fields that was very clear at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. There are quite extensive areas of ancient enclosure, but in some cases the field patterns indicate an origin in the early (pre 18<sup>th</sup> century) enclosure of common fields or the place names suggest the early (possibly late medieval) enclosure of marginal land. With the exception of Swarth Moor, small areas of planned enclosure generally relate to mosslands. Most of the field boundaries consist of hedges, though on the more rugged low limestone fells they are dry stone walls. Discrete areas of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century quarrying and iron mining occur within former arable common field areas, though only where quarrying has continued into the 20<sup>th</sup> century as to the north of Stainton with Adgarley has this had a landscape-scale impact. Some of the areas outside the former common arable fields were medieval deer parks such as Bardsea Park. Woodland is very sparse with no plantations of any significance and only small patches of ancient woodland. The general lack of tree cover contributes greatly to the character of the area giving it an open rugged aspect and making it distinct from other areas of low coastal limestone fells as in the Cartmel Peninsula or the Arnside and Beetham area.

*Legacy:* Largely modern settlement pattern, moderate legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin, strong survival of industrial features.

*Landscape designation and status:* None.

*Planning authorities:* Barrow Borough Council and South Lakeland District Council.



**Figure 16** Furness Peninsula character area

## 22. Gosforth and Muncaster Lowlands

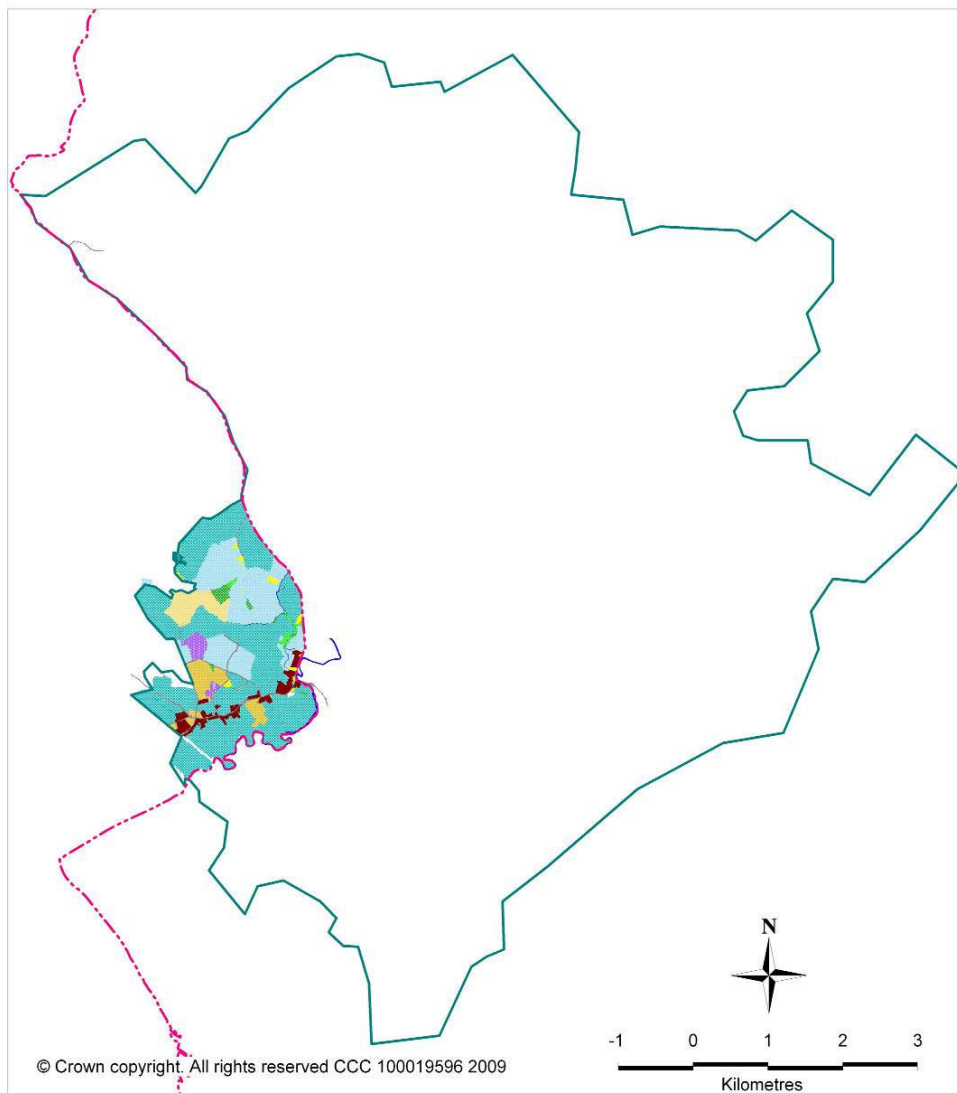
An area of mixed landscape types on the western edge of the Lake District National Park, bounded to the west by the Sellafield character area and to the east by the Central Fells. The southern boundary is marked by the valley of the River Esk, on the north side of which is the well-wooded ridge covered by the grounds of Muncaster Castle. The northern edge partly follows the edge of Calder Abbey park. Almost the entire area lies within the Lake District National Park apart from a small area around Greengarth and Holmrook halls. As with the West Cumbrian Coast, the settlement pattern is a mixture of dispersed and nucleated settlement. The two main nucleated settlements are the villages of Ravenglass and Gosforth, both of which have clearly defined associated former common arable fields, although that belonging to Ravenglass lies on the far side of the River Mite. Between the two, are the former common arable fields belonging to Irton and Santon, both of which are irregular loosely nucleated settlements. The nucleated settlement of Eskdale Green, at the northern end of Muncaster Castle grounds, is a largely post medieval settlement, the growth of which can be attributed to mining and tourism.

The field pattern of the area comprises a mix of former common arable fields, ancient enclosures, small areas of intakes and blocks of planned enclosures. There are also large areas 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 rising to the Central Fells. There is noticeably more woodland within the national park than in neighbouring areas to the west lying outside the park. The character area also includes ancient enclosure interspersed with blocks of planned enclosure, some intakes, and small areas of ancient woodland. Hedgerows are the dominant type of field boundary, with stone walls restricted largely to the planned enclosures of the fell edges. Muncaster Castle, on the southern edge of the area, is a mixture of ornamental parkland, plantations and open fell.

*Legacy:* A mixed pattern of modern and older settlements and field enclosure with strong legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin.

*Landscape designation and status:* Majority of area within the Lake District National Park, registered park at Muncaster Castle.

*Planning authorities:* LDNPA and Copeland Borough Council.



**Figure 17** Gosforth and Muncaster Lowlands character area (outside the Lake District National Park)

### **23. Greystoke**

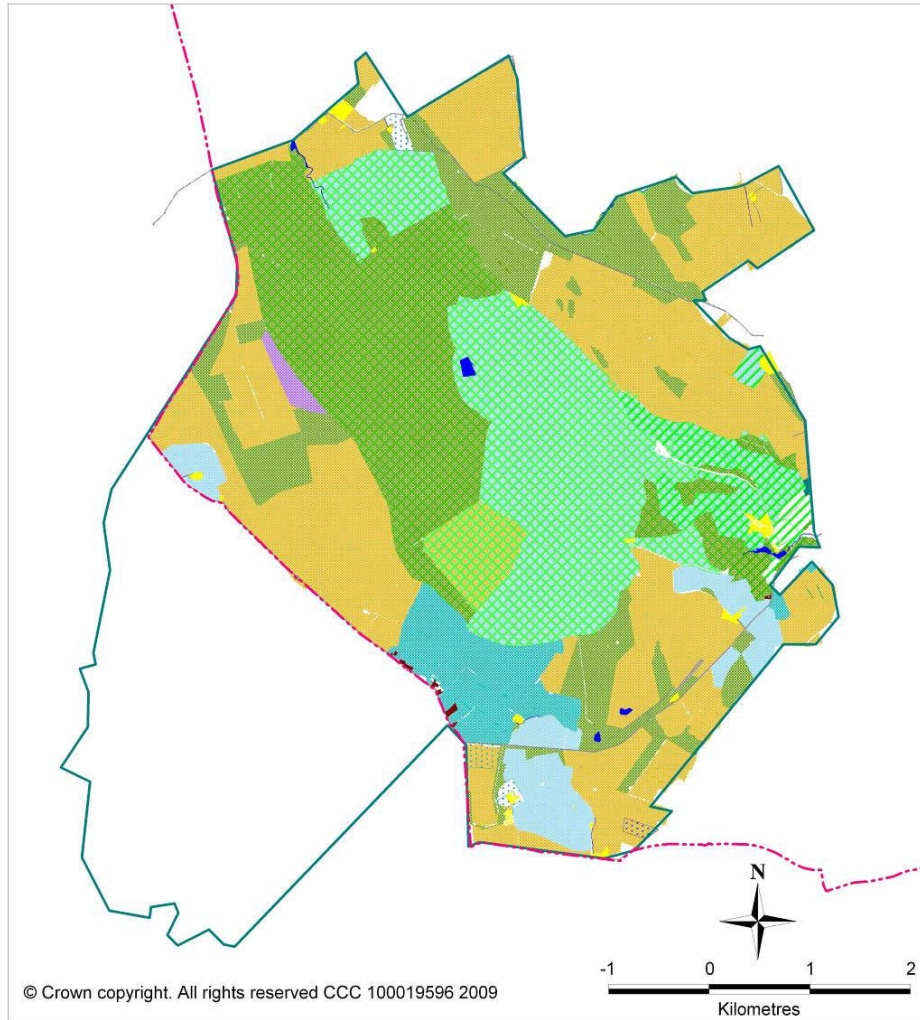
The Greystoke character area lies across the north-eastern boundary of the Lake District National Park. It is an area of gently rolling low fell. Settlement is sparse and concentrated in the south-eastern quarter of the character area. It is largely dispersed, with one loose nucleation of medieval origin, at Berrier. In total, 73% of the settlements were in existence by 1770, a very high proportion given that much of the character area is dominated by planned 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosures on former medieval waste. Naddles Crag is a small area of open low fell. There are small areas of former common arable field and ancient enclosures near Berrier and Greystoke, and patches of ancient enclosure around Murrah and Howe, the former area appears to have originated before the development of Greystoke Park, a medieval deer park that evolved into a post medieval landscape park. It is heavily wooded with modern plantations. There are modern plantations scattered throughout the character area, but no ancient woodland.

*Legacy:* Largely pre-modern settlement pattern, strong legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin.

*Landscape designation and status:* Partially within Lake District National Park.

*Planning authorities:* Eden District Council and the LDNPA.





**Figure 18** Greystoke character area (outside the Lake District National Park)

## 24. Grizedale Forest

Grizedale Forest lies between Coniston Water and Lake Windermere. To the south it is bounded by the Furness Fells, and to the north by the Central Fells. The whole of Coniston Water and the northern half of Lake Windermere are included within the character area, which also includes Esthwaite Water. It is dominated by large areas of woodland plantation, much of which is contained within Grizedale Forest Park. The woodland was planted from the late eighteenth century onwards in areas of intaking and planned enclosure, and much of it is still coniferous. There is a small area of open fell, Bethacar Moor, on the southern edge, overlooking Coniston Water. The valleys and lower lying ground, mostly in the northern half, are less wooded, and comprise areas of former open field in the valleys, around which are ancient enclosures, with intakes on the higher ground. The woodland in this area is more fragmentary, and is probably a mix of ornamental and commercial planting in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, for example at Wray Castle. The northern limits of the area are defined by the valley of the River Brathay, where the landscape comprises more of a patchwork of ancient enclosures and irregular plantation woodland. Field boundaries are a mix of hedgerows and stone walls, with hedgerows dominating the areas of ancient enclosure. The settlement pattern, too, is mixed, with dispersed farms and small nucleations, often associated with industry.

*Legacy:* A largely 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century landscape dominated by woodland, moderate legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin, moderate survival of industrial features.

*Landscape designation and status:* Wholly within the Lake District National Park.

*Planning authority:* LDNPA.

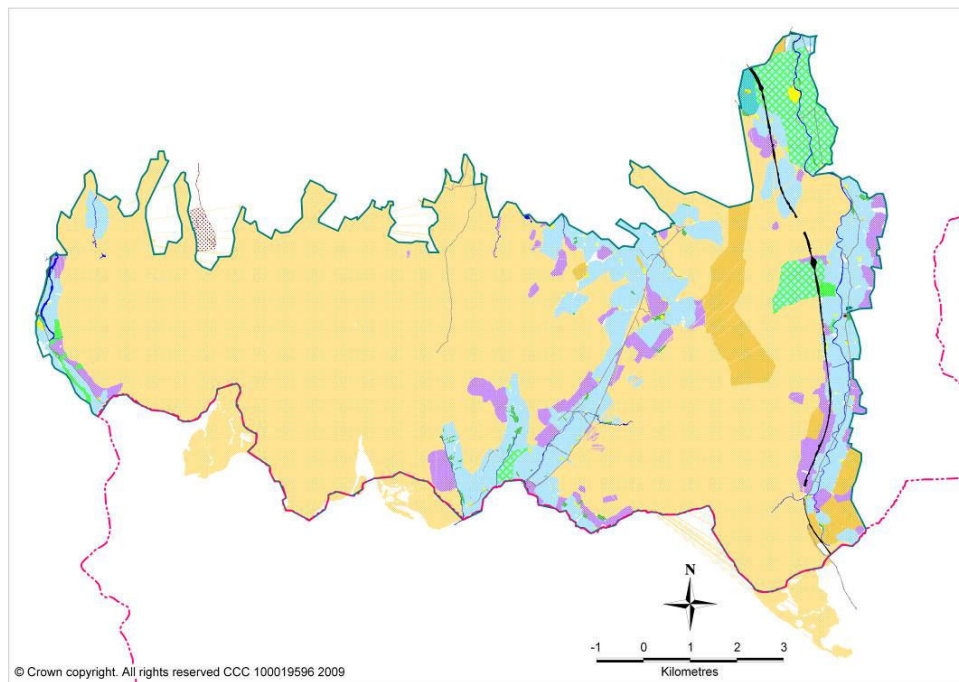
## 25. Howgills

This character area consists largely of unenclosed upland, forming the northern part of the Howgill Hills. The character area clearly extends to the south into the Yorkshire Dales National Park, which was the subject of a separate HLC programme. Settlement is almost wholly discrete and is concentrated in four valleys. On the western edge is the Lune Gorge, and on the eastern edge is the Mallerstang, formed by the upper reaches of the River Eden. Towards the centre of the area are two valleys which form a pass through the Howgills. The valley of the Scandal Beck flows north into the Lune catchment, and to the south the Sally Beck flows into the River Rawthey. Of the discrete settlements within these valleys, 53% pre-date 1770, some originating as medieval assarts, and the remainder date to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The vast majority of the area is unenclosed fell and moorland. The enclosures within the valleys are largely ancient fields including intakes, and there are only small patches of 19<sup>th</sup> century planned enclosure. Parts of the anciently enclosed landscapes of Mallerstang were altered when they were turned into deer parks at Pendragon and Wharton, the latter dating to the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century. There is very little woodland, and most is ancient gill woodland, with the most significant area lying to the south of Adamthwaite.

*Legacy:* A mixed pattern of modern and older settlements and field enclosure, strong legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin with extensive earthwork remains.

*Landscape designation and status:* None but area is identical to adjacent area that is included within the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

*Planning authority:* Eden District Council.



**Figure 19** Howgills character area

## 26. Inglewood

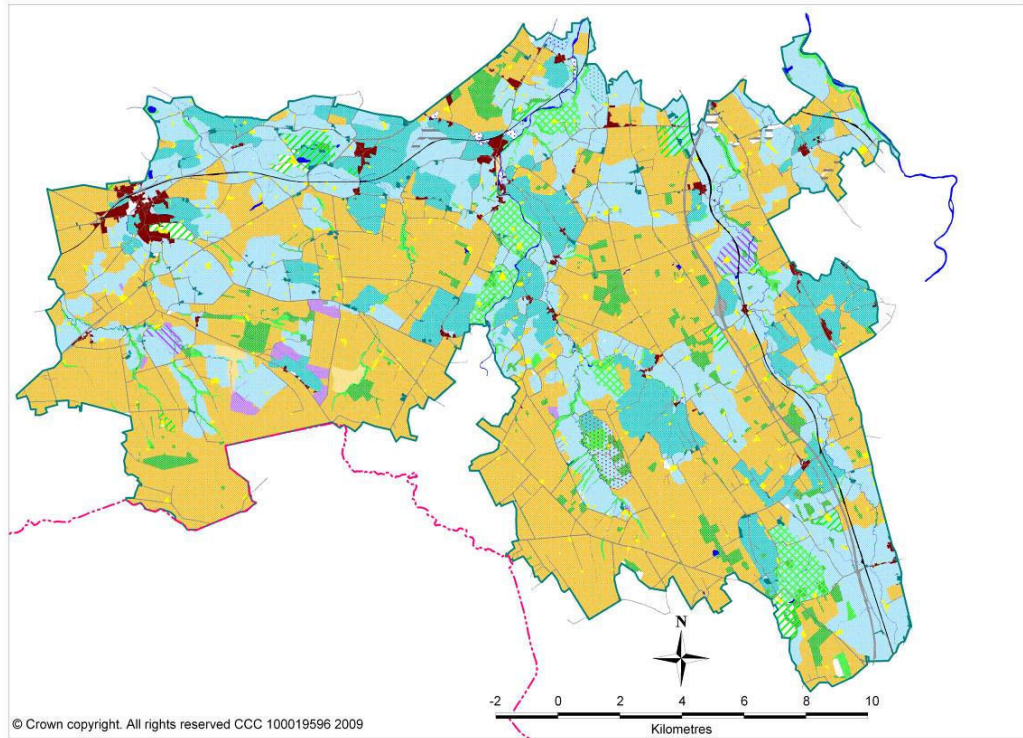
The Inglewood character area lies within the former Forest of Inglewood and stretches from Wigton in the north-west almost to Penrith in the south-east. It covers parts of three district authorities: Allerdale, Carlisle and Eden. It is situated to the north of the Lake District National Park and has a gently rolling topography. It is characterised by a patchwork of mainly small nucleations and discrete settlement. Around 30% of the discrete settlements pre-date 1770, and many of these can be associated with documented medieval assarts. The remainder of the discrete settlements relate largely to the enclosure and improvement of the unenclosed wastes during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Half of the nucleated settlements are medieval in origin, with some discernible elements of planning. The settlement pattern is most nucleated within Carlisle District, and most dispersed within Eden District. In general, however, the degree of dispersion has increased over the past 250 years throughout the character area. Wigton is the only town in the character area, and has been the major growth point, which is why 70% of the nucleated settlement area in the Allerdale part of Inglewood, is 20<sup>th</sup> century in origin. Indeed, throughout the character area, the nucleated settlements have expanded six-fold since 1770. Close to Carlisle, some of this expansion came in the 19<sup>th</sup> century within the industrial expansion of Dalston and Cummersdale. These settlements have continued to attract population growth and 60% of the nucleated settlement area in the Carlisle District of Inglewood, is 20<sup>th</sup> century in origin. In Eden, the 20<sup>th</sup> century growth is much lower, at only 44%.

The field pattern is mixed, with older enclosures dominated by anciently enclosed farm holdings. Former common arable fields are more prevalent in Carlisle District, where they also cover larger areas. Elsewhere former common arable fields are scattered throughout the character area, but are usually small. In general, they are associated with nucleated villages. The dominant field type is late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century planned enclosures, reflecting the formerly extensive areas of moorland common grazing. The road system is fairly regular with many straight roads, including some Roman roads. Other roads were straightened at the time of planned enclosure. Despite the early medieval wooded nature of much of the character area, woodland is no longer extensive, with widespread but small blocks of plantation and a few areas of ancient gill woodland. The medieval nature of the character area is also exhibited in the large number of former deer parks, particularly to the south of Carlisle. Although many of the individual character elements within Inglewood are of modern derivation, the overall character owes much to its former medieval status as a forest.

*Legacy:* A mixed pattern of modern and older settlements and field enclosure, strong legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin.

*Landscape designation and status:* Registered park and garden at Hutton-in-the-Forest.

*Planning authorities:* Allerdale Borough Council, Carlisle City Council and Eden District Council.



**Figure 20** Inglewood character area

## 27. Irthing Valley

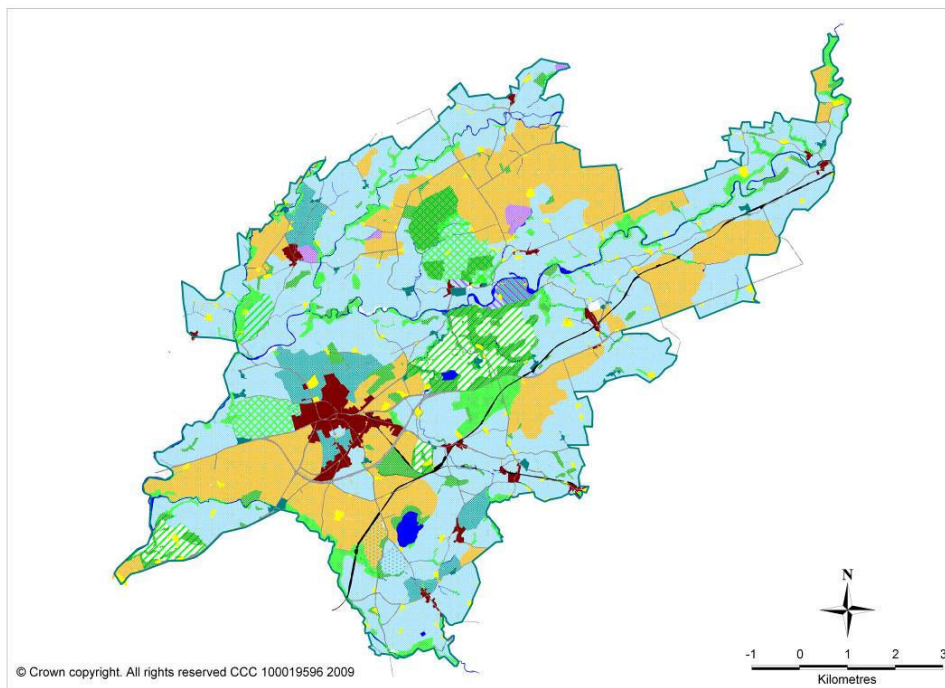
The River Irthing and its tributaries are the main topographical features of this character area. Much of the character area is within the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage site visual impact zone. The line of the Wall runs to the north of the River Irthing, and for part of its length forms a discernible feature within the local fieldscape. Aside from Brampton, a medieval market town, there are relatively few nucleations and most are small. Around half of all nucleated settlements have origins which pre-date 1770, but there is little evidence of medieval planning other than at Talkin. The settlement pattern is predominantly dispersed, with 39% of the discrete settlements pre-dating 1770, and 47% are of 19<sup>th</sup> century origin. Many of the discrete settlements are around the edge of former common waste, and some of the discrete and nucleated 19<sup>th</sup> century settlements relate to small-scale rural industry, including coal mining.

Although much of the settlement pattern appears to be of relatively recent origin, the field systems have much older roots. The character area is dominated by ancient enclosures with former common arable areas associated with the principal older nucleations, such as Walton, Brampton, Farlam and Talkin. Planned enclosures are largely confined to low moorlands. The area is reasonably well wooded, with Miltonrigg Wood, to the east of Brampton, forming quite an extensive area of ancient woodland. The remainder of the ancient woodland is confined to the valleys of the River Irthing, Cam Beck, King Water and River Gelt. Plantation woodlands within the character area are of two principal types: mixed, usually small woodlands within both ancient and planned enclosure areas, and plantations within landscape parks. The most significant of the latter are the mixed woodlands in Naworth Park, the ornamental grounds surrounding Naworth Castle.

*Legacy:* A mixed pattern of modern and older settlements and field enclosure, moderate legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin.

*Landscape designation and status:* Includes part of the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site and its setting.

*Planning authority:* Carlisle City Council.



**Figure 21** Irthing Valley character area

## 28. Kendal and Kirkby Lonsdale

Extending south from Burneside the character area follows the valley of the River Kent and the valley of the Lune to the north of Kirkby Lonsdale. Geomorphologically, the area is dominated by low limestone fells and glacial drumlins. The settlement pattern appears quite highly nucleated but much of this pattern is a result of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century settlement growth. Before the appearance of settlements such as Endmoor and Levens and the growth of others such as Heversham, the settlement pattern outside the towns of Kendal, Kirkby Lonsdale and Burton-in-Kendal was largely dominated by small nucleations and discrete settlements. Even so, the settlement pattern was distinct from the neighbouring Kendal Fells character area, always having had a greater degree of nucleation as indicated by the much higher concentration of former common arable field. In this it shares similarities with the neighbouring area of Lancashire for which the settlement pattern was also dominated by smaller nucleations. About 87% of the development area of the non-urban nucleated settlements date to the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries with 65% occurring since 1900. Discrete settlements are concentrated within areas of ancient enclosure, though only 35% of discrete settlements were in existence by 1770.

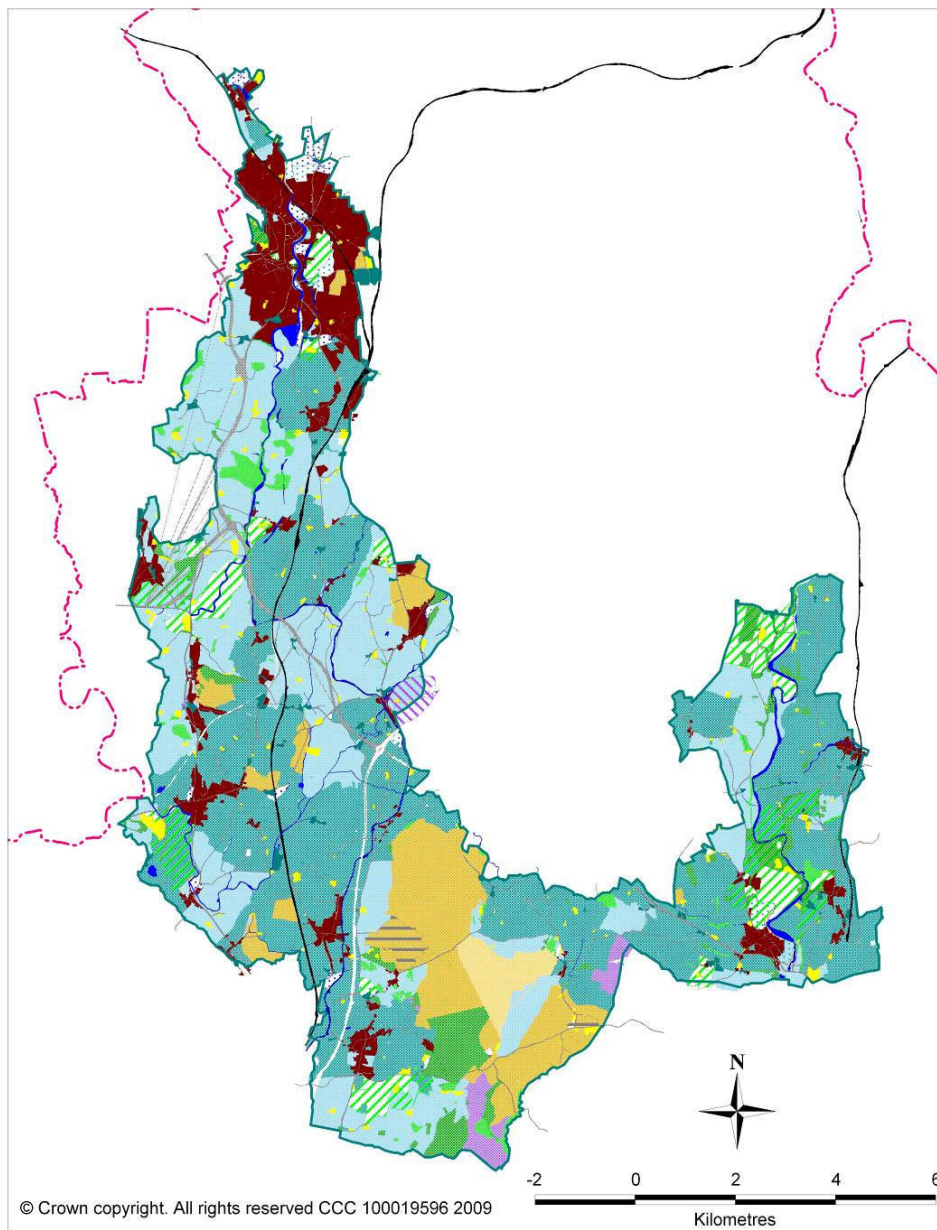
The field pattern is dominated by large areas of former common arable intermixed with quite extensive areas of ancient enclosures. The ancient enclosures are sometimes within areas of former medieval deer park and in many cases originated in the 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. There is very little planned enclosure which is indicative of a relative lack of common waste in the area from the medieval period into the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The main area of planned enclosure relates to the low limestone fells of Farleton Fell and Hutton Roof. This is the main area of woodland too, consisting largely of plantation. There is little ancient woodland and much of it is associated with areas of existing or former ornamental parkland. The numerous parks are a distinctive feature of the character area and are indicative of the local concentration of wealth that was focused in the area from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, partly because of the influence of nearby Lancaster and Kendal.

*Legacy:* Largely modern settlement pattern but with an older pattern of enclosure, moderate legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin.

*Landscape designation and status:* Registered parks at Levens Hall and Dallam Tower.

*Planning authority:* South Lakeland District Council.





**Figure 22** Kendal and Kirkby Lonsdale character area

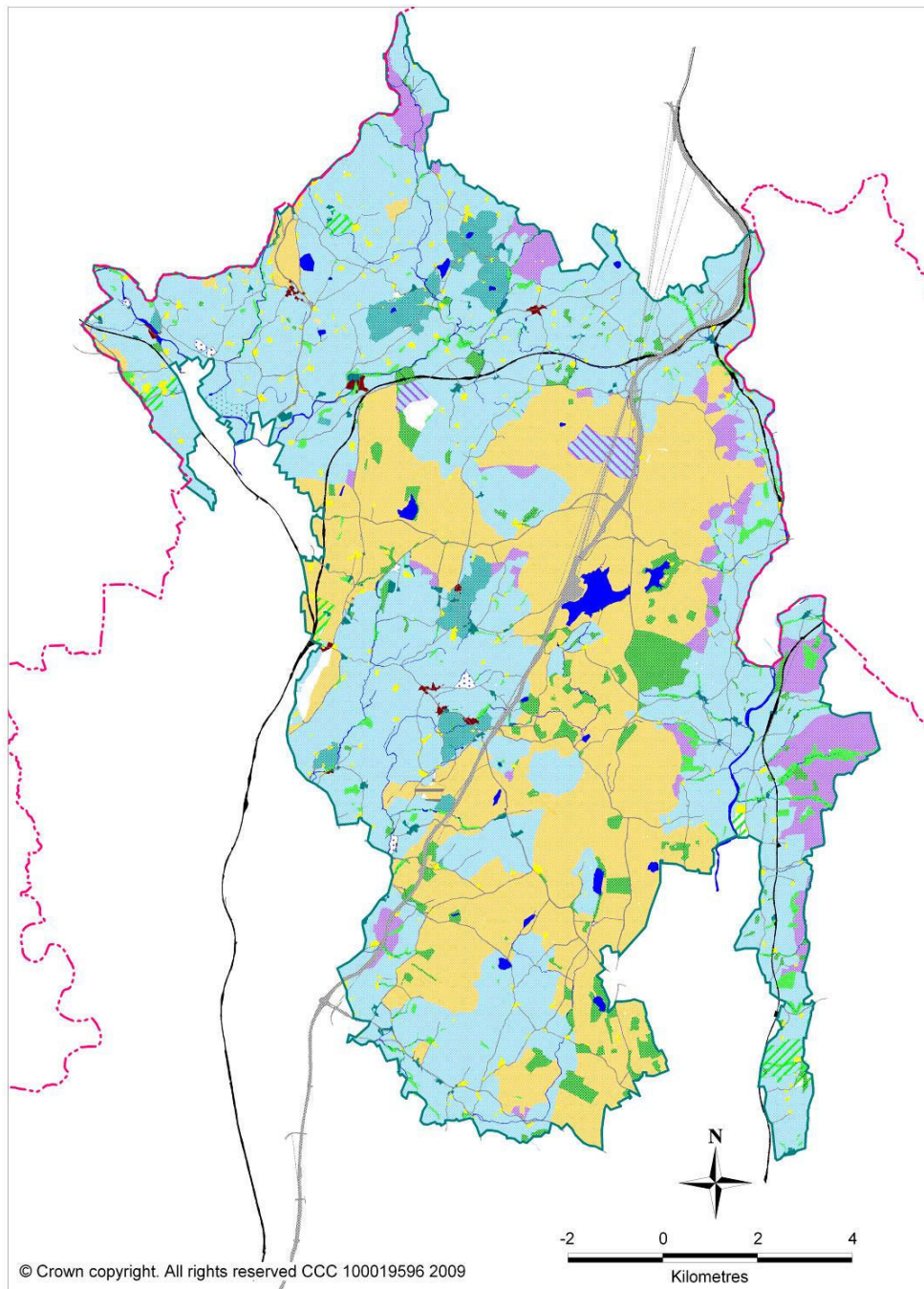
## 29. Kendal Low Fells

This character area lies to the north of the Kendal and Kirkby Lonsdale character area and south of the Eastern Lake District Fells. Along its north western edge it abutts the Lake District National Park boundary and forms a clearly distinct landscape from the neighbouring part of the national park. It is hilly country rising to 338m. Its settlement pattern is dominated by small nucleations and discrete settlements, most of which are associated with areas of ancient enclosure. Fifty-seven percent of small nucleations and discrete settlements were in existence by 1770. The only larger nucleation is at Mealbank which is a 19<sup>th</sup> century industrial hamlet. There is very little former common arable field and the fieldscape is dominated by ancient enclosure surrounding higher areas of former open moorland that is now characterised by planned enclosures. The former are primarily bounded by hedges and the latter by dry-stoned walls. There is relatively little woodland with the most significant being a plantation at Old Park, near Killington. Most other woodland consists of small plantations and shelter belts with some very small remnants of ancient woodland in the Lune valley and fragments of gill woodland elsewhere.

*Legacy:* A mixed pattern of modern and older settlements and field enclosure, but with a slight predominance of pre-modern forms and a strong legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin.

*Landscape designation and status:* None.

*Planning authority:* South Lakeland District Council.



**Figure 23** Kendal Low Fells character area

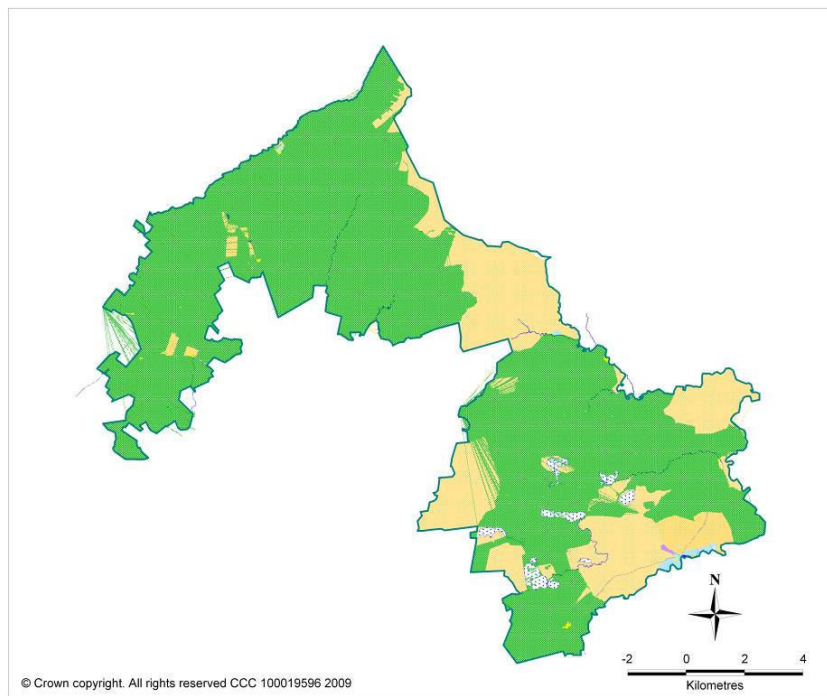
### 30. Kershope and Spadeadam Forests

The northernmost character area, bounded to the north and east by the borders with Scotland and Northumberland. It is a very sparsely populated area, comprising almost wholly discrete settlements dating to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century or earlier. The main characteristic of this area is the large expanse of modern forestry plantation in Kershope and Spadeadam Forests. Between the forested areas is unenclosed moorland. In the south east of the character area, on the county border with Northumberland, is a small area of planned moorland enclosures and ancient enclosures associated with the farm of Horseholme, which pre-dates 1770. Much of Spadeadam Forest is also a military site.

*Legacy:* Whilst the settlement pattern is largely pre-modern the landscape character is overwhelmingly recent as it is dominated by modern forestry and the Spadeadam military testing site, weak legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin.

*Landscape designation and status:* None.

*Planning authority:* Carlisle City Council.



**Figure 24** Kershope and Spadeadam Forests character area

### 31. Keswick and Derwent Water

South of the Skiddaw Range, and north of the Central Fells, is the area around Derwent Water and the town of Keswick. Like the Windermere area, this is one of the key destinations for visitors to the Lake District National Park, and its character partly reflects this, taking in Keswick and the lake, and the approaches to it from the east. The area around Derwent Water is largely wooded, with plantations but also significant areas of ancient woodland. West of Keswick is an area of ancient enclosures, and south of Derwent Water is the head of Borrowdale with its former open field. Immediately north of Keswick is a large area of intakes, at Latrigg and Ormathwaite, with areas of plantation and ancient woodland, which formed an important part in the itinerary of the eighteenth and nineteenth century traveller interested in the Picturesque. The landscape of the valley to the east of Keswick is based around the village of Threlkeld, and its small former open field, and comprises mostly ancient enclosures with some intakes. This approach to Keswick from the east is now dominated by the A66 trunk road and the bypass to the north of Keswick. Although the eastern part of this area is not well wooded, the Greta Valley has ancient woodland, and the field boundaries comprise hedgerows with numerous standard trees. In addition, there have been substantial programmes of ornamental planting, designed to enhance the Picturesque view, around Derwent Water and the lower fells north of Keswick.

*Legacy:* A mixed pattern of modern and older settlements and field enclosure, strong legibility of landscape elements associated with 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century aesthetics, moderate legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin.

*Landscape designation and status:* Wholly within the Lake District National Park.

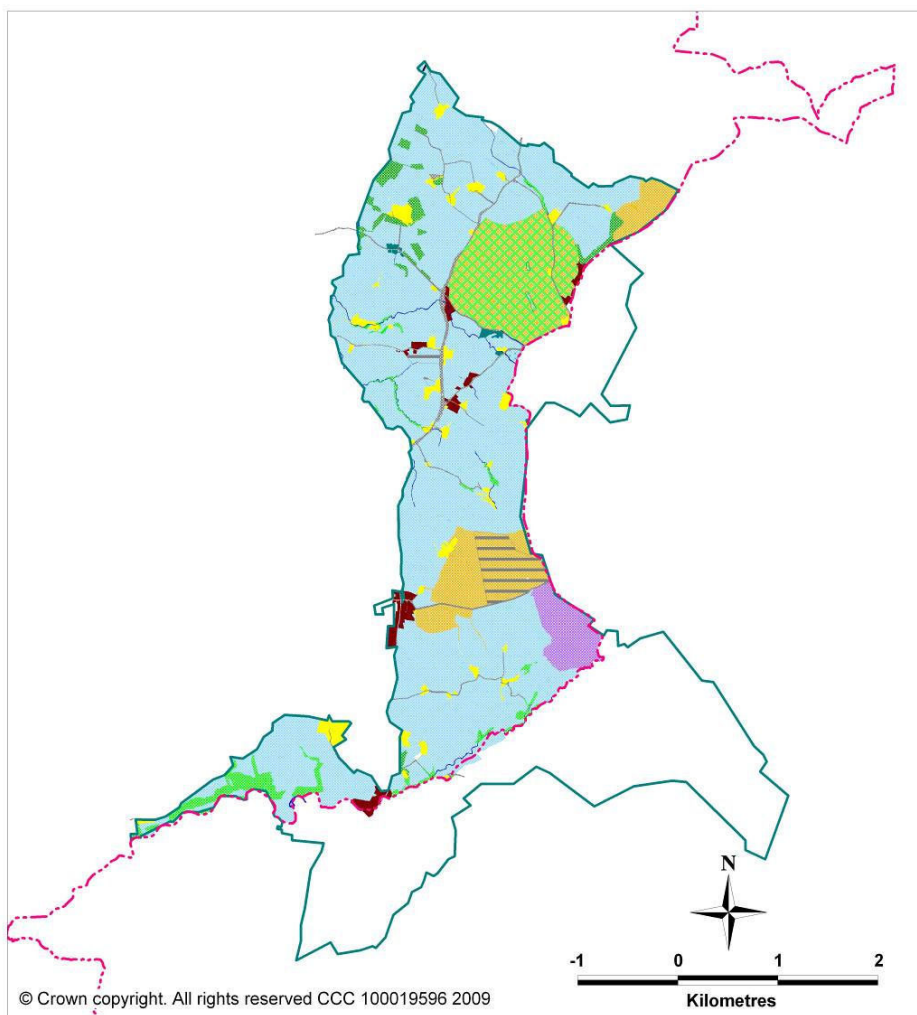
### 32. Lamplugh and Ehen Valley

An area of rolling landscape rising towards the Lake District fells this character area straddles the Lake District National Park boundary to the east of Frizington. There is no obvious distinction in terms of historic landscape character between the areas within and without the park. It is characterised primarily by the extensive area of ancient enclosure. Unlike the Whillimore and Dean Common character area to the west, the settlement pattern within the ancient enclosures does not only consist of discrete settlements but also includes small nucleations, such as Asby, Kirkland, Croasdale and Ennerdale Bridge. Exactly two thirds of all the settlements pre-date 1770. Other than a few small areas of planned enclosure, the field pattern entirely consists of ancient enclosures with no former common arable fields. Woodland is sparse but there are small patches of ancient gill woodland and small blocks of plantation in the north of the area. Overall the landscape appears to retain many pre-19<sup>th</sup> century characteristics.

*Legacy:* A clearly older and traditional landscape both with regard to settlement pattern and the nature of the fieldscape, strong legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin.

*Landscape designation and status:* Small parts of the eastern half of the character area are within the Lake District National Park.

*Planning authority:* Copeland Borough Council and LDNPA.



**Figure 25** Lamplugh and Ehen Valley character area (outside the Lake District National Park)

### 33. Lazonby Ridge

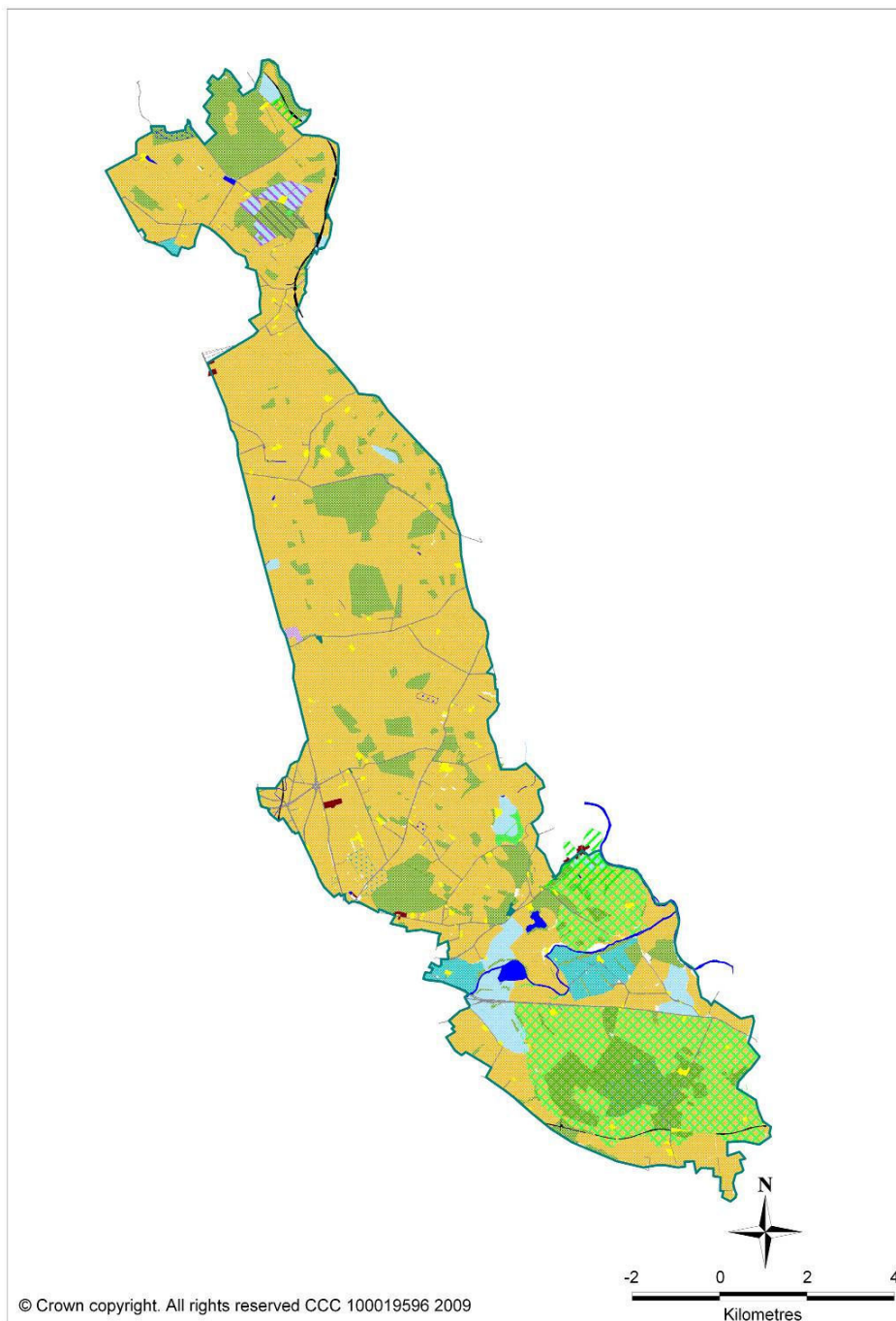
This is an area of low fell stretching from Cumwhitton in the north, in Carlisle District, to Cliburn in the south, in Eden District. Formerly the area to the north of Penrith was in Inglewood Forest, whilst the smaller area to the south was part of Whinfell Forest, the two separated by the valley of the River Eamont. Outside the Eamont valley, the majority of the area remained open and unenclosed until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Consequently, only 8% of the settlements pre-date 1770. Settlement is generally sparse and largely dispersed. Throughout the area, 88% of the settlements are discrete holdings.

The area is dominated strongly by planned enclosures of post-1770 date. Within the Eamont valley, however, there are small areas of ancient enclosure, associated with discrete holdings and small nucleations. There are very few areas of surviving ancient woodland, although some areas of woodland surviving into the 19<sup>th</sup> century, have been replanted with modern plantation, such as on Whinfell. The area is quite well-wooded, though this predominantly comprises modern forestry plantation. Whilst the settlement pattern and field pattern are of relatively modern origin, their development, and the generally sparsely populated nature of the area, is a consequence of the area's use as medieval hunting preserves, either forests or, as at Edenhall, deer parks.

*Legacy:* Largely modern settlement pattern and the landscape character is overwhelmingly recent as it is dominated by modern forestry, weak legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin.

*Landscape designation and status:* None.

*Planning authority:* Eden District Council.



**Figure 26** Lazonby Ridge character area



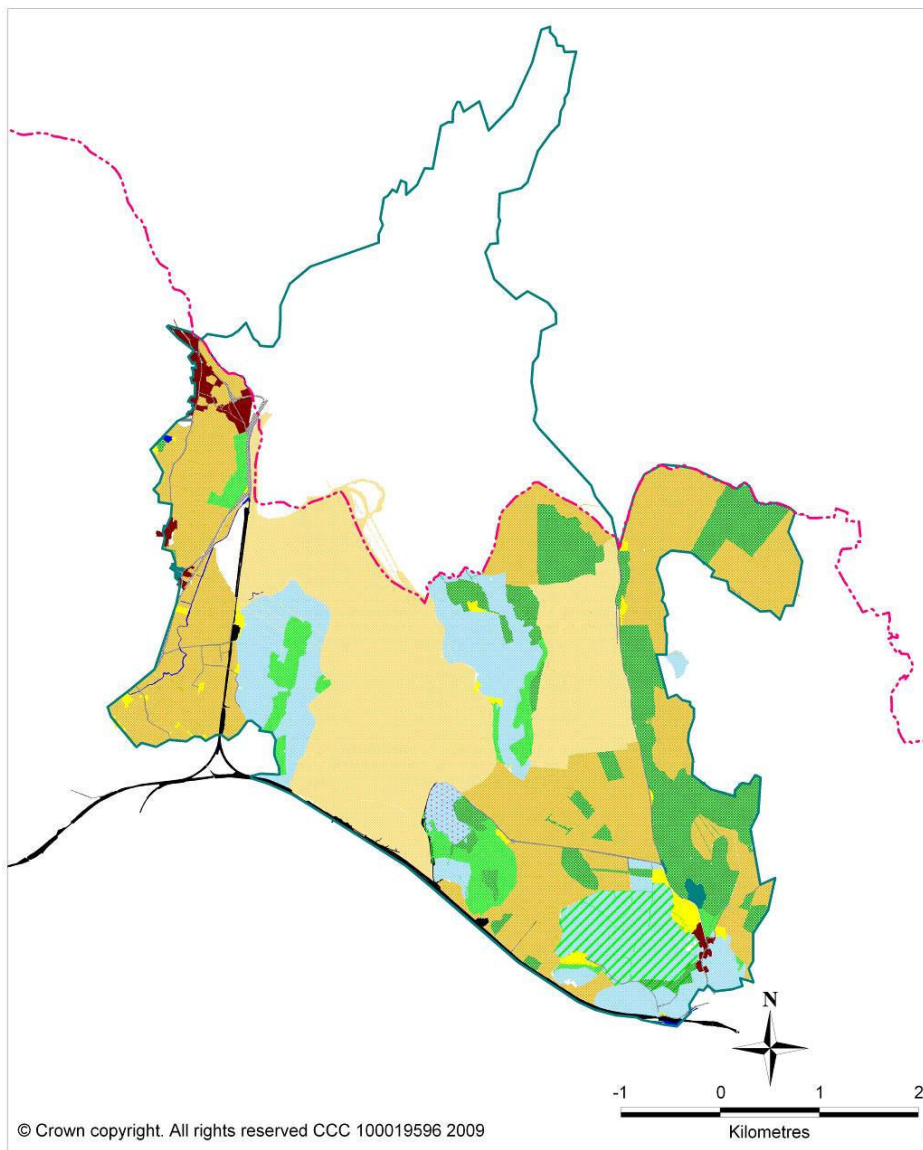
### 34. Leven Estuary

The Leven Estuary character area is small but has a highly distinctive estuarine wetland dominated landscape. On its western boundary it is defined by the limestone ridge of Ellerside and to the south by the railway line which divides the terrestrial wetlands from the tidal influenced salt marsh. The northern part of the character area including Ireland Moss is within the Lake District National Park, though there is little difference in the character of the areas within and without the park. Settlement is very sparse and much of it such as Penny Bridge of relatively recent origin. The only historic nucleation is Holker. There is no former common arable field and only small areas of ancient enclosures. The fieldscape is dominated by planned enclosure of former wetland with White Moss surviving as unenclosed and unreclaimed. The area is well wooded with ancient woodlands at Roudsea and Old Park woods. Most of the rest of the woodland, including the wooded slopes of Ellerside are modern plantations. The south eastern corner of the area is dominated by Holker park. Much of the area is designated for its biodiversity and whilst the landscape owes much to developments in the past two centuries it nevertheless has significant wilderness qualities.

*Legacy:* A wild but nevertheless largely post-18<sup>th</sup> century landscape, weak legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin.

*Landscape designation and status:* Small northern section within the Lake District National Park, registered park and garden at Holker Hall.

*Planning authority:* South Lakeland District Council and LDNPA.



**Figure 27** Leven Estuary character area

### 35. Matterdale and Ullswater

In the north eastern quadrant of the Lake District National Park, is an area of lowlands extending from Ullswater to the National Park boundary. The character of the area is similar to that of the Bassenthwaite and Lorton valley character area, and is a patchwork of enclosure types, with comparatively large areas of former common arable fields, ancient enclosures and planned enclosure. There are few intakes, mostly around the fell edges. The settlement pattern is generally dispersed but with some significant nucleations such as Pooley Bridge, Dacre and Penruddock. The number of discrete settlements has increased since the late 18<sup>th</sup> century with 44% originating after 1770. It has country houses and ornamental parks, such as Glencoyne and Dalemain. Around the shores of Ullswater are a number of 19<sup>th</sup> century villas. Ornamental tree planting features both in the parks and around the northern shores of Ullswater. Elsewhere coniferous plantation has been carried out in areas of planned enclosure on former common waste, around Great Mell Fell. As with many of the other low lying areas, hedgerows predominate as field boundaries, with stone walls on the higher areas of planned enclosure, but also with some fencing on low lying lands.

*Legacy:* A mixed pattern of modern and older settlements and field enclosure, but with a slight predominance of pre-modern forms, strong legibility of landscape elements associated with 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century aesthetics, moderate legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin.

*Landscape designation and status:* Wholly within the Lake District National Park, registered park and garden at Dalemain.

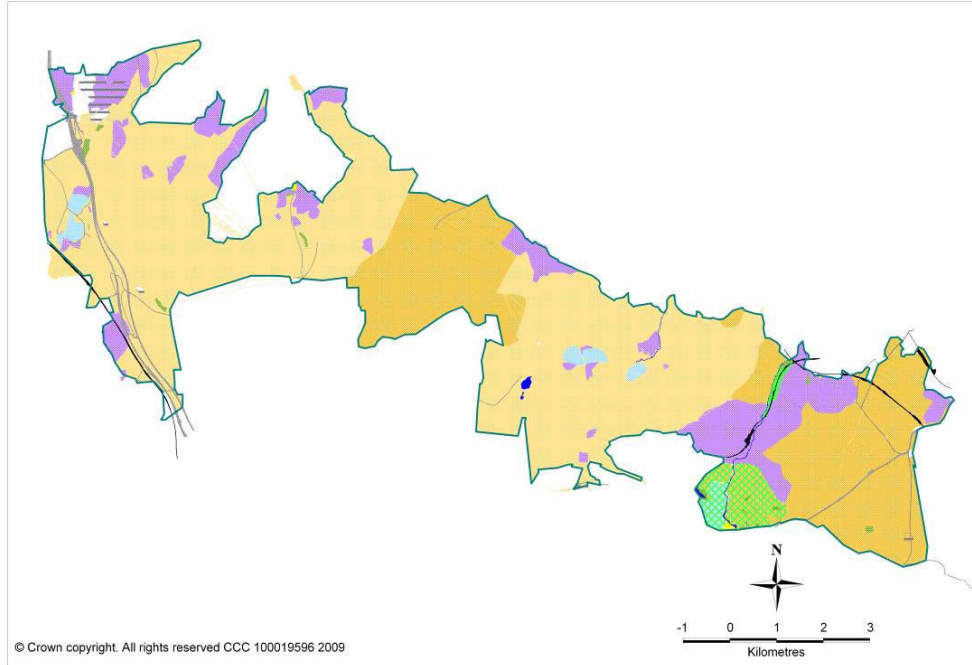
### 36. Orton Fells

The Orton Fells is an upland character area situated between the Eden Valley and the upper Lune Valley, that links the Lake District and Pennine uplands. Its principal character is defined by its limestone karst scenery, with extensive limestone pavements. Its land use was dominated by settlements in the Eden and Lune valleys, whilst it is very sparsely settled. It has no nucleated settlements, and only two discrete settlements which pre-date 1770. Both of these, Mazon Wath and Beck Head, appear to have originated as medieval assarts. The remaining eight discrete settlements date to the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and are situated either within planned enclosures or on the edge of assarts. The field systems are a mix largely of unenclosed fell, planned enclosures and intakes. The earliest enclosures are associated with the assarts and the former Ravenstonedale medieval deer park. The former deer park is one of the main places for plantation woodland within the character area. Woodlands in general are few and small, and there is very little ancient woodland, the main area being Smardale Gill.

*Legacy:* A largely uninhabited upland landscape of mainly pre-modern origins, strong legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin with well preserved archaeological remains of all periods.

*Landscape designation and status:* None.

*Planning authority:* Eden District Council.



**Figure 28** Orton Fells character area

### 37. Pennines

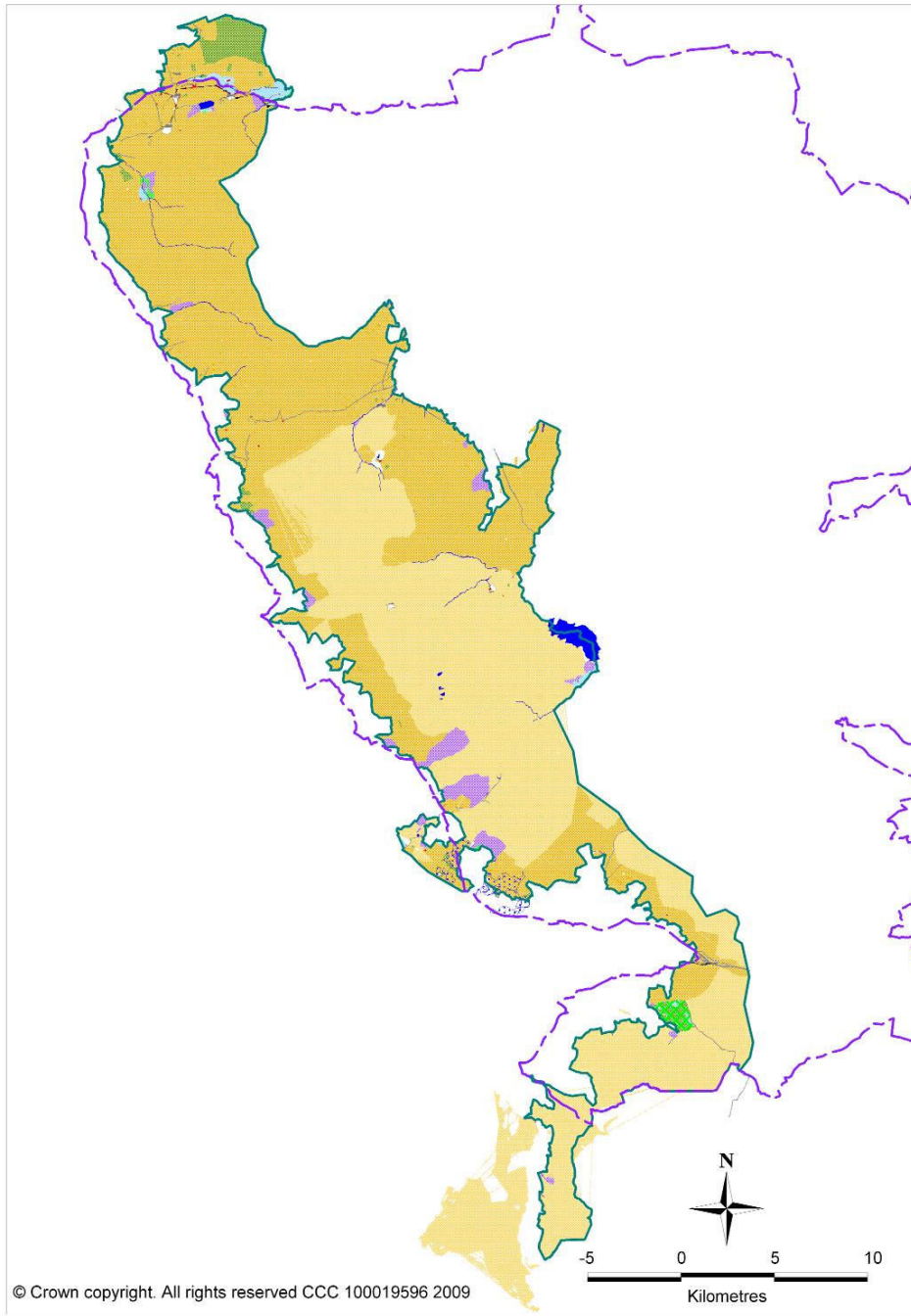
One of the largest character areas, the Pennines stretches from Denton Fell, on the south side of the River Irthing valley, in the north, to Winton Fell in the south. It comprises a wide band of upland which forms the eastern border of the county and includes much of the North Pennines AONB within Cumbria. Settlement is extremely scarce, 80% dates to the 19<sup>th</sup> century and is associated with planned enclosure of the moorland and subsequent stone and mineral extraction. Settlement is dominated by individual dwellings, and the only significant nucleated settlement is Tindale, which was established as an industrial community associated with a major spelter works. Tindale is at the northern end of the character area, where much of the quarrying was concentrated.

Planned enclosure and unenclosed land are the dominant landscape types. Planned enclosures are concentrated in the northern half and along the western edge of the character area, where the moorland was enclosed for settlements in the neighbouring, lower-lying land. Some intakes around the edge of the area show that the process of enclosing and improving the moorland began on a small scale before the large-scale planned enclosures of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Ancient enclosures are very limited and small in scale. The total amount of woodland is small and mostly is in the form of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century plantations, for example on Denton Fell. Consequently, the large new woodland planted on the northern edge of the area around Bruthwaite Forest, will have a considerable impact on the nature of local landscape character in the future. The only significant area of ancient woodland is in the former medieval deer park of Ewebank Park.

*Legacy:* Sparsely inhabited area with a largely modern settlement and enclosure pattern, moderate legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin, strong survival of industrial features.

*Landscape designation and status:* Wholly within the North Pennines AONB and the North Pennines European and Global Geopark.

*Planning authorities:* Eden District Council and Carlisle City Council.



**Figure 29** Pennines character area

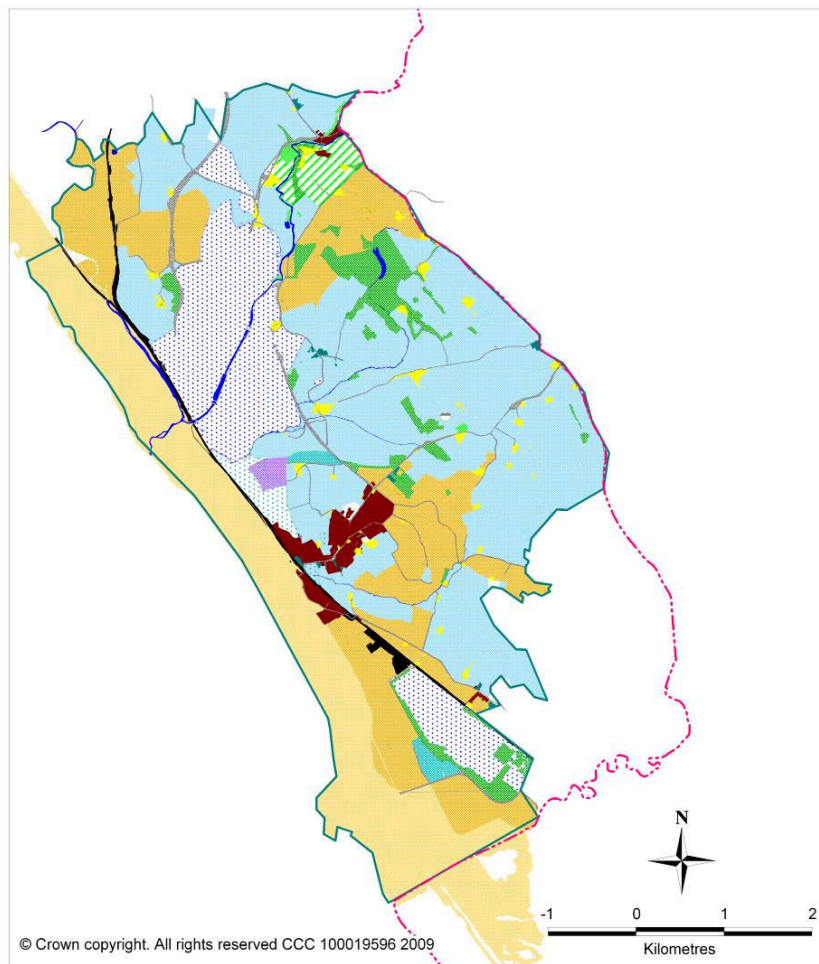
### 38. Sellafield

A small character area dominated totally by the modern industrial infrastructure associated with the former nuclear power stations and existing nuclear industries of Sellafield. The nucleated settlement of Seascale consists largely of modern housing estates established to accommodate Sellafield's workforce. The only historic nucleation is Calder Bridge. The remainder of the settlement pattern consists of discrete settlements largely set within ancient enclosures though only 44% of these settlements were in existence by 1770. There are areas of planned enclosure within former common wastes as at Green Moor, Burnt Moor and Hallsenna Moor. The only significant area of woodland is the plantation at Lingbank, most other woodland takes the form of planted shelter belts. There are no areas of ancient woodland.

*Legacy:* A mixed pattern of modern and older settlements with a largely pre-modern enclosure pattern but in part overlain and dominated by developments of very recent origin, weak legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin.

*Landscape designation and status:* None.

*Planning authority:* Copeland District Council.



**Figure 30** Sellafield character area

### 39. Skiddaw Range

An area of high, open fell surrounded by lowland, with Keswick and the Greta Valley to the south, wholly within the Lake District National Park. The area is made up of unenclosed land almost in its entirety, apart from a small area of intakes around Lonsdale Fell in the south and the narrow Mosedale Valley to the east. The range includes two of the Lake District's highest fells; Skiddaw and Blencathra, and the area was known for its copper and tungsten mines. In particular, the Carrock Fell Tungsten Mine is considered to be of national importance and is a scheduled ancient monument. The mines, which were distributed around the southern and western flanks of the range, are of limited extent in themselves, but their remains can be seen along a number of routes into the fells, and thus have a dramatic impact on the landscape.

*Legacy:* A largely uninhabited upland landscape of mainly pre-modern origins in which most settlements and enclosures originated before the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, strong legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin, strong survival of industrial remains.

*Landscape designation and status:* Wholly within the Lake District National Park.

*Planning authority:* LDNPA.

### 40. Solway Moss

A low-lying area dominated by former mossland around the lower reaches of the River Esk, and bounded to the west by the Scottish border. The principal settlement is Longtown, a late-18<sup>th</sup> century planned town. There are no other significant nucleated settlements. The area is sparsely settled, primarily with discrete settlements. One third of these pre-date 1770, however, the landscape has clearly been re-planned since then, as shown in the field systems which consist almost entirely of planned enclosures post-dating 1770. Part of the reason for this was the Solway Moss bog burst of 1771, which destroyed a number of pre-existing settlements to the north-west of Longtown. Late-18<sup>th</sup> century general estate reorganisation by some of the local estate owners also played a part. Most woodland is consequently modern plantation.

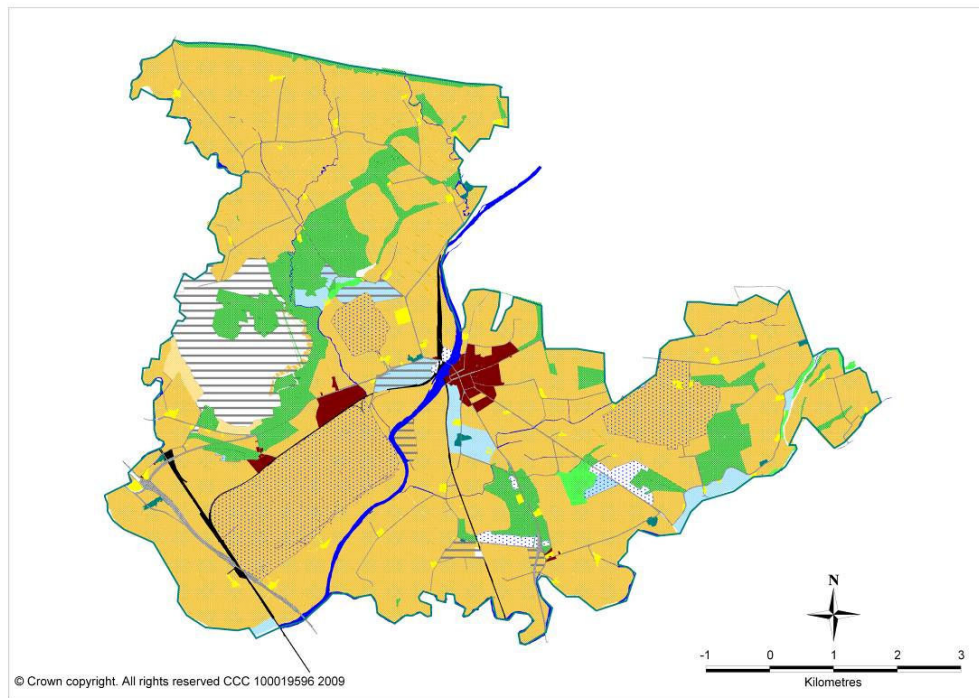
The present-day landscape is dominated by extensive, early 20<sup>th</sup> century armaments factories and depots, forming part of ROF Gretna. Consequently, this character area extends into Scotland. ROF Gretna and the modern, industrial-scale peat extraction on Solway Moss are the factors that distinguish this area from the adjacent Bolton Fell character area to the east.

*Legacy:* A largely 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century landscape, weak legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin.

*Landscape designation and status:* Contains a registered battlefield.

*Planning authority:* Carlisle City Council.





**Figure 31** Solway Moss character area

## 41. Solway Plain

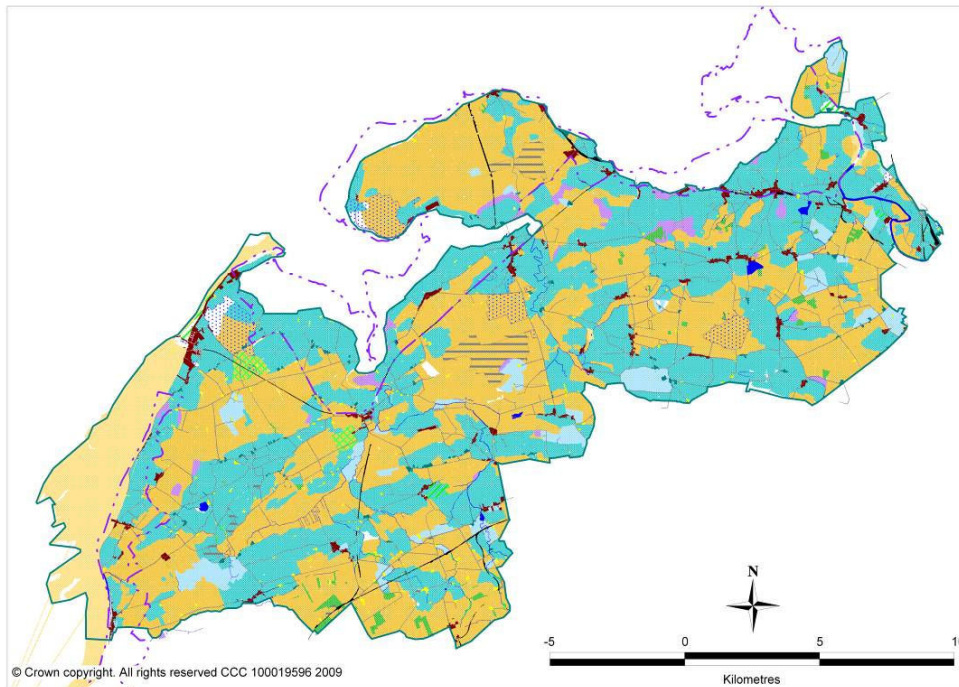
A low lying area bounded by the coast to the north and west with extensive areas of sand, shingle, saltmarsh and mudflats. Much of the coastal zone lies within the Solway Coast AONB, apart from a small area around the town of Silloth. In terms of historic landscape character, the Solway Coast AONB is not distinct from the remainder of the Solway Plain character area. The area of the AONB broadly coincides with the visual impact zone for the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site. Hadrian's Wall has some impact on the character of the area, as most of the Roman forts were later sites for medieval settlement. The settlement pattern is varied, with large and small nucleated settlements intermixed with many discrete farms scattered across the landscape. Two thirds of the discrete farms, however, post-date 1770, and many are related to the improvement and enclosure of the wastes. In contrast, most of the nucleated settlements are of medieval origin. One exception is Silloth, a 19<sup>th</sup> century planned settlement, which is the area's only town. The older settlements are distributed within and around the edge of former common arable fields. Three quarters of the developed areas of nucleated settlements were in existence before 1770, and only 19% of the developed areas post-date 1900. Consequently, the settlement pattern is relatively traditional in comparison to some other character areas, it has a good degree of time depth and has been little altered by post-19<sup>th</sup> century development. In general, the character area retains a considerable discernible legacy from the Middle Ages in both its settlement pattern and field systems.

The area is dominated by former common arable fields, with extensive areas of 19<sup>th</sup> century planned enclosures in between. The planned enclosure is mainly in areas of drained mosslands, which is one of the key features of the area. Small patches of unimproved mossland survive, especially around Wedholme Flow. In recent times, peat cutting was a significant industry around Kirkbride, on Wedholme Flow and Bowness Common, and evidence of moss rooms survive. There are small areas of anciently enclosed land, mostly belonging to individual farms. This mix of older and 19<sup>th</sup> century planned enclosures is reflected in the road system, with numerous meandering lanes amongst the former common arable fields, and fewer, straighter roads across areas of planned fields. A key characteristic of more recent development is a number of former military airfields, at Cardunnoch, Kirkbride, Silloth and Wiggonby. There is very little woodland, although field boundaries usually comprise hedgerows, both for more ancient and 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosures.

*Legacy:* A very traditional settlement pattern that largely pre-dates the 19<sup>th</sup> century with mixed enclosures of modern and earlier date, strong legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin.

*Landscape designation and status:* Northern coastal portion is mainly within the Solway Coast AONB, much of the same area includes part of the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site and its setting.

*Planning authorities:* Allerdale Borough Council and Carlisle City Council.



**Figure 32** Solway Plain character area

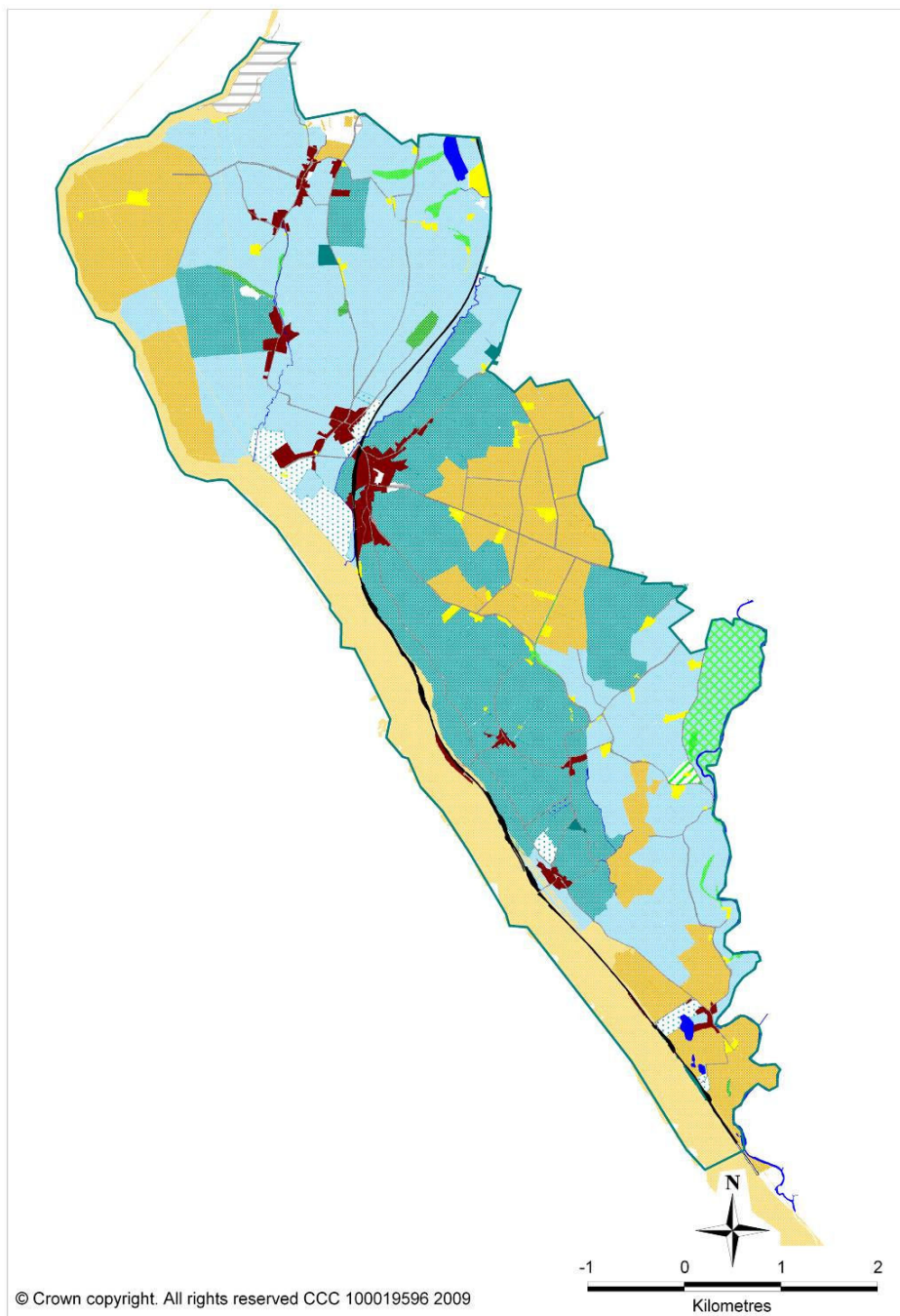
## 42. St Bees

This character area is distinguished from neighbouring character areas by a comparative lack of modern and industrial influenced development. It is topographically distinct from neighbouring character areas by being an area of rolling low coastal hills. The settlement pattern is a mix of nucleated and discrete settlements. All the nucleated settlements pre-date 1770 whilst the discrete settlements are often situated within areas of planned enclosure and exactly half date to after 1770. This indicates that in the St Bees area, enclosure of the open wastes from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards led to the development of new settlements. Some of the nucleated settlements exhibit clear evidence of medieval planning, especially at St Bees. The field pattern is a mix of former common arable field, ancient enclosures and planned enclosure. In each case the boundary is usually formed by a hedgerow. There is very little woodland, and the few woods are either small blocks of plantation or tiny patches of ancient woodland.

*Legacy:* A mixed pattern of modern and older settlements with a clear association between discrete settlement forms and 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure, strong legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin.

*Landscape designation and status:* St Bees Head is a Heritage Coast.

*Planning authority:* Copeland Borough Council.



**Figure 33** St Bees character area

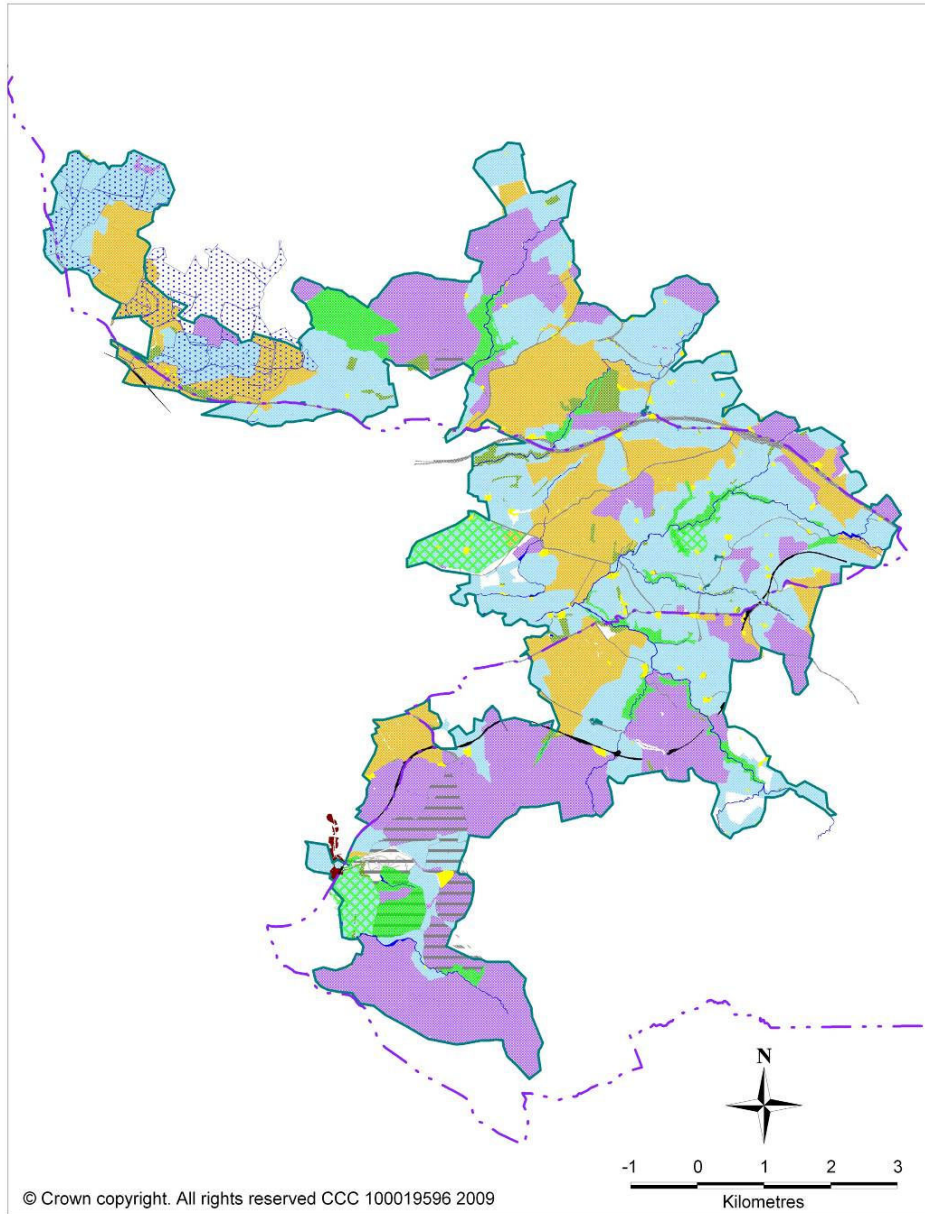
### 43. Stainmore

This is a small character area that gradually rises from the Eden Valley to the Pennine edge. It is dominated by the catchments of the River Belah and the Swindale Beck. Its settlement pattern is in marked contrast to the neighbouring Eden Valley, as it is almost exclusively dispersed with just a few small nucleations. Of the dispersed settlements, only 24% pre-date 1770, with the vast majority dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Some of this is associated with enclosure of the common wastes, but much seems to relate to a general intensification of settlement in a quite sparsely settled area. The lack of nucleations goes hand in hand with a total lack of former common arable fields. The field systems are a mix of anciently enclosed land, including many intakes, and smaller patches of planned enclosures. In the Warcop area some of the settlements and field systems have been abandoned as they have been incorporated into a military training area. Most woodland is either ancient woodland, or replanted ancient woodland. There are some patches of fellside ancient woodland, such as Hellbeck Wood, but the majority is gill woodland which forms a significant component within the local landscape. Another characteristic local feature is extensive quarrying remains, much of which is now redundant, though the large Hartley quarry is still active.

*Legacy:* Largely modern settlement pattern but a mixed enclosure pattern, strong legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin with well preserved earthwork remains.

*Landscape designation and status:* Partly within the North Pennines AONB and the North Pennines European and Global Geopark.

*Planning authority:* Eden District Council.



**Figure 34** Stainmore character area

#### 44. Thirlmere

The area of Thirlmere forms a small but distinct character area, defined by the reservoir and its surrounding woodland. There are few settlements and all are discrete. One of these Legburthwaite, at the northern end of the reservoir, is a likely medieval assart in origin and is surrounded by a small area of ancient enclosures, which includes limited areas of ancient woodland. At the southern end of the reservoir a further area of ancient enclosures clusters around Wythburn, where the fields can clearly be seen to have been partially lost to the waters of the reservoir. Before the construction of the reservoir in the 1890s, Thirlmere comprised two small tarns, linked by a narrow neck of water. Around its shores was a narrow band of enclosures, with scattered farmsteads. Following the enlargement of the lake, large expanses of coniferous woodland were planted on the slopes surrounding it, to act as a filter for water running onto the lake. Most of the settlements were removed for the reservoir and the subsequent forestry. The Manchester Corporation, who were behind the construction of the reservoir in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, attracted a great deal of criticism for the large expanses of coniferous plantation, which was considered gloomy and dark. The areas of original planting still survive, and indeed, have been extended, though are now subject to a programme of thinning and replacement with deciduous native species.

*Legacy:* A largely 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century landscape dominated by forestry plantation and the reservoir, moderate legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin.

*Landscape designation and status:* Wholly within the Lake District National Park.

*Planning authority:* Lake District National Park.

#### 45. Upper Lune Valley

The Upper Lune Valley character area is dominated topographically by the River Lune and its numerous tributaries. It is sandwiched between the Orton Fells to the north and the Howgill Hills to the south. The settlement pattern is a mixture of nucleated and discrete settlements. The larger nucleated settlements are generally in the main valleys, along with many of the older smaller nucleations and discrete settlements. Some discrete settlements pre-dating 1770 are located within former common arable fields, as at Bousfield, Orton. About 31% of all discrete settlements pre-date 1770. The later discrete settlements, of which the majority are 19<sup>th</sup> century in origin, are found within areas of 19<sup>th</sup> century planned enclosures, in former common arable fields and in the tributary valleys extending northwards from the Howgills. The settlement pattern has become more dispersed since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, though some new nucleations have developed, primarily at Tebay as a railway settlement. Railways, the A66 trunk road and the M6 motorway have had a considerable impact on the character of the area, especially within the Lune Valley, and the valley itself has been a key communications corridor since at least the Roman period.

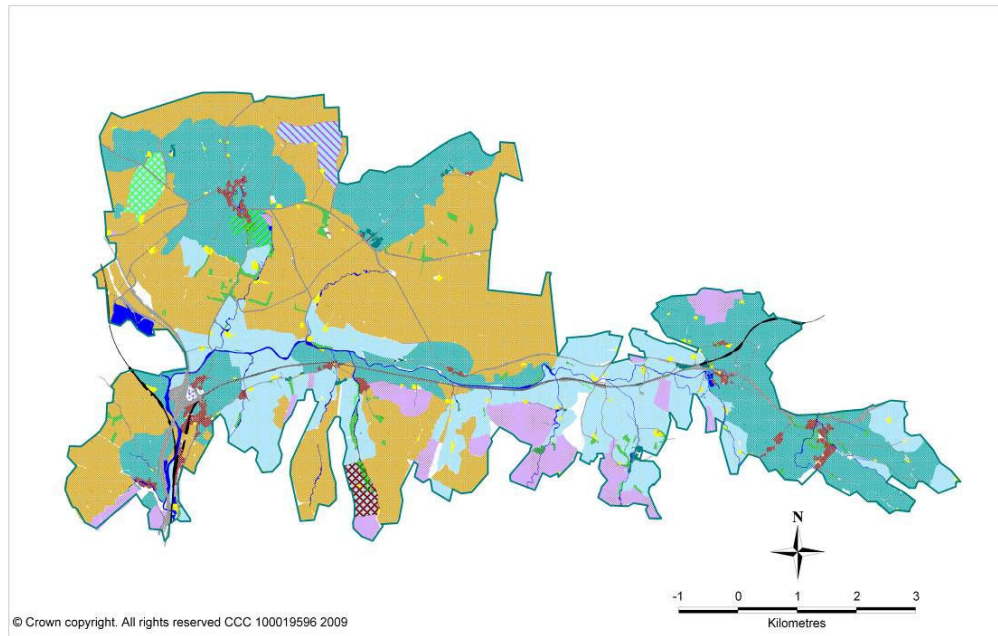
The older enclosed land is generally in the valley bottoms, which consists of a mix of former common arable fields and ancient enclosures, including some intakes. Planned enclosures dominate, especially in the western half of the character area. For the most part, other than around Orton, the commonfield systems were probably smaller and less regular than those in the Eden Valley, reflecting both the smaller size and less regular nature of the settlements. There is very little woodland in the area, most is ancient gill woodland, in the tributary valleys flowing north from the Howgills.



**Legacy:** A mixed pattern of modern and older settlements and field enclosure, but with a slight predominance of modern forms, strong legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin.

**Landscape designation and status:** None.

**Planning authority:** Eden District Council



**Figure 35** Upper Lune Valley character area

#### **46. Walney Island**

As an island, Walney forms its own character area and the smallest character area in Cumbria. It is connected via a bridge to Barrow and its development has been strongly influenced by the growth of Barrow. Its landscape is dominated by the urban sprawl of Vickerstown and North Walney which grew in the 20<sup>th</sup> century mainly; in part as a resort but primarily as accommodation for the workforce of Vickers on Barrow Island. This settlement and the construction to its north of Walney Airport and a golf course ensure that the landscape character of the northern part of the island is essentially modern. The southern half of the island is less influenced by modern developments and contains one nucleated settlement of medieval origin, Biggar. This was one of three nucleated settlements on Walney with the other two having been engulfed by urban development. The enclosed farmland is all enclosed former common arable. There is no woodland on Walney and indeed very few trees.

*Legacy:* A predominately modern settlement pattern with older elements of field enclosure, moderate legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin.

*Landscape designation and status:* None.

*Planning authority:* Barrow Borough Council.



**Figure 36** Walney Island character area

## 47. West Cumberland Plain

The West Cumberland Plain is a coastal area, stretching from the Solway Coast AONB in the north, to Egremont in the south. It forms part of both Allerdale and Copeland Districts. It is generally low-lying and coastal in nature, with generally low, eroding cliffs forming the seaward edge. Its dominant character is urban and industrial. It includes a number of large, urban nucleations, such as Maryport, Workington, Whitehaven, Cleator Moor and Egremont. Though industrial towns, there are significant elements within them relating to their origins and early growth. Both Workington and Egremont are medieval settlements, with Egremont being a still-definable planned borough. In contrast, Whitehaven and Maryport are post-medieval planned towns, with Whitehaven being the earliest classically planned new town in England. Although it has a long industrial and maritime history, 71% of the settlement post-dates 1900. These developments have largely obscured the planned, medieval, nucleated settlement character that predominated until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The industrial nature of the area is not confined to the urban settlements; the coastal strip between Workington and Maryport is dominated particularly by current and past industries. In land, former coal mining characterises much of the area, including through restored landscapes resulting from open cast mining, for example Broughton Moor. Large modern industrial estates, such as Lillyhall, contribute to the industrialised character of the area, as do the many windfarms.

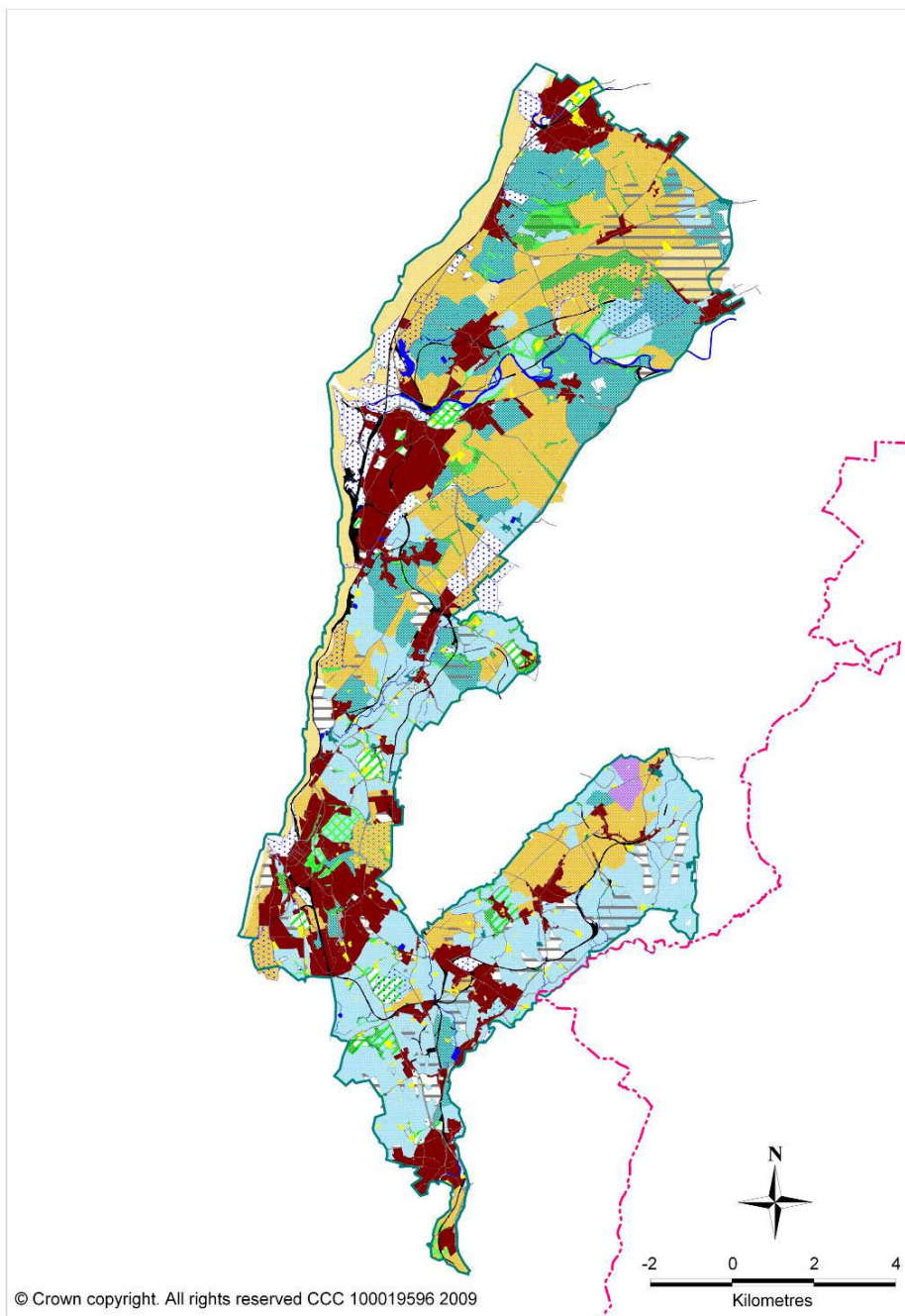
The field pattern has been much disrupted by modern developments. These include land restorations, for which the modern field pattern bears very little relationship to the historic pattern. Where the historic field pattern can be discerned, within Allerdale District it is a mix of former common arable fields and 19<sup>th</sup> century planned enclosures. In Copeland District, however, there are relatively few former common arable fields, and the fieldscape is dominated by ancient enclosures. These distinctions, however, are subsumed under the general urban and industrial character of the area.

Designed landscapes are a feature of the area, both within the towns and as part of former country estates. One of the most noticeable is Curwen Park, Workington, which originated as a deer park. Overall, the area has relatively little woodland. The most significant area is near Flimby, where a core of ancient woodland along Fother Gill is surrounded by modern coniferous plantation. Close by to Flimby, between Broughton Moor and Camerton, is the former Royal Naval Armaments Depot, which is currently the largest brownfield site in the North West region and also features coniferous plantation. To the south, in Copeland, there is hardly any woodland, apart from small areas of ancient woodland in gill locations.

*Legacy:* A largely modern landscape with many 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century industrial forms including windfarms, moderate survival of 19<sup>th</sup> century industrial features, weak legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin.

*Landscape designation and status:* Registered park at Workington Hall (Curwen Park), contains a fragment of the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site and its setting in the north of the area at Marport and individual sites at Burrow Walls and Moresby.

*Planning authority:* Allerdale Borough Council and Copeland Borough Council.



**Figure 37** West Cumberland Plain character area

#### **48. West Cumbrian Coastal Plain**

The coastal plain is markedly different to most of the other character areas that lie wholly or largely within the Lake District National Park. It comprises a strip of low-lying land to the west of the Central Fells. At the northern end are the extensive stretches of mud and sand dunes of the Esk estuary, which are part of an internationally important natural habitat. The area contains very little woodland, and is characterised by large areas of former common arable field, surrounded by ancient enclosures and blocks of planned enclosure. It is likely that both the Sellafield and West Cumberland Plain character areas would have been very similar to this area if it had not been for subsequent industrial development obscuring the underlying planned medieval character of much of their landscape. The small part of this character area that lies outside the national park, which includes Kirksanton and the prison at Haverigg, is distinguished from the park by the moderate impact of greater 20<sup>th</sup> century development including the prison and a windfarm. It nevertheless, forms part of the same character area. The field boundaries are mainly hedgerows, with fencing in areas where hedges have not been maintained. The settlement pattern is mixed, with dispersed farms spread across the whole character area, and the small nucleated settlements of Silecroft, Bootle and Hycemoor sited next to their associated former common arable fields. Two further common arable fields appear to relate to Annaside and Corney, which can be considered agglomerated settlements, that is a loose nucleated settlements, where dwellings may be spread apart.

*Legacy:* A mixed pattern of modern and older settlements and enclosures, strong legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin, well preserved archaeological remains of all periods.

*Landscape designation and status:* Mainly within the Lake District National Park, contains an individual site at Ravenglass that forms part of the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site.

*Planning authority:* LDNPA and Copeland Borough Council.



**Figure 38** West Cumbria Coastal Plain character area (outside the Lake District National Park)

#### **49. Western Lake District Fell Edge**

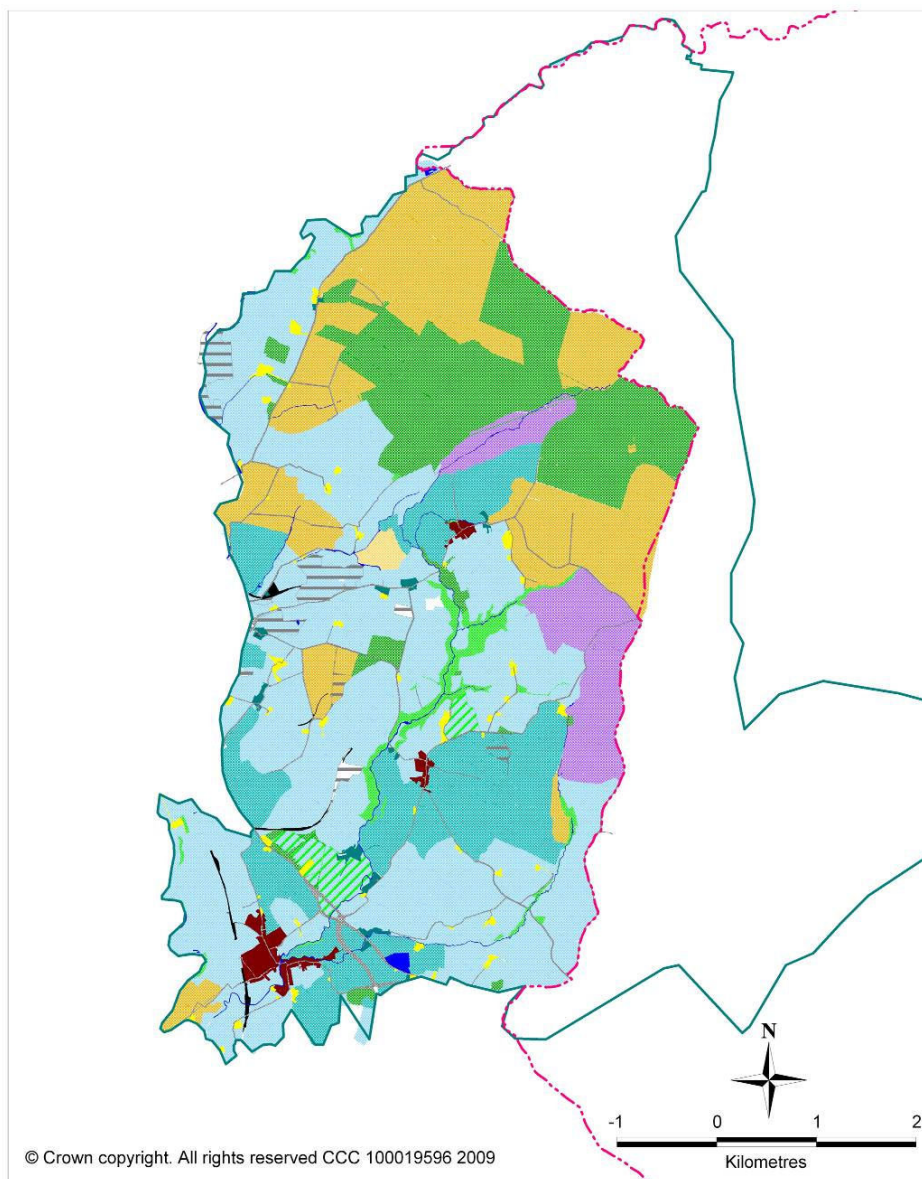
The Western Fell Edge is a small area on the lower slopes below the Central Fells, to the east of Egremont and Cleator Moor. It comprises mostly low rolling hills and is bisected by the Lake District National Park boundary. The settlement pattern is generally dispersed though in the east there are some small loose nucleations like Wilton and even larger regular planned nucleations of medieval origin such as Haile. Both Wilton and Haile are associated with former common arable fields. To the east discrete settlements set within ancient enclosures abound, many of which probably represent late medieval assarts. The settlement pattern contains a number of 'thwaite' names, such as Farthwaite and Sillathwaite, indicating that they were established from clearings in the common waste or woodland. The discrete farms at the northern end may have older origins, as they are spread along the south side of the River Ehen, and appear to have shared a small common arable field around Meadley Reservoir. Around half of the discrete settlements were in existence by 1770. Field boundaries are mainly hedgerows, with stone walls restricted to the intakes, and around the edges of 'thwaite' farms. Woodland primarily consists of coniferous plantations within areas of 19<sup>th</sup> century planned enclosures as on the slopes of Dent and Winder fells. There is a significant area of ancient gill woodland, however, in the valley of the Kirk Beck.

*Legacy:* A mixed pattern of modern and older settlements and field enclosure, but with a slight predominance of pre-modern forms and a strong legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin.

*Landscape designation and status:* Partially within the Lake District National Park.

*Planning authority:* LDNPA and Copeland Borough Council.





**Figure 39** Western Lake District Fell Edge character area (outside the Lake District National Park)

## 50. Westlinton

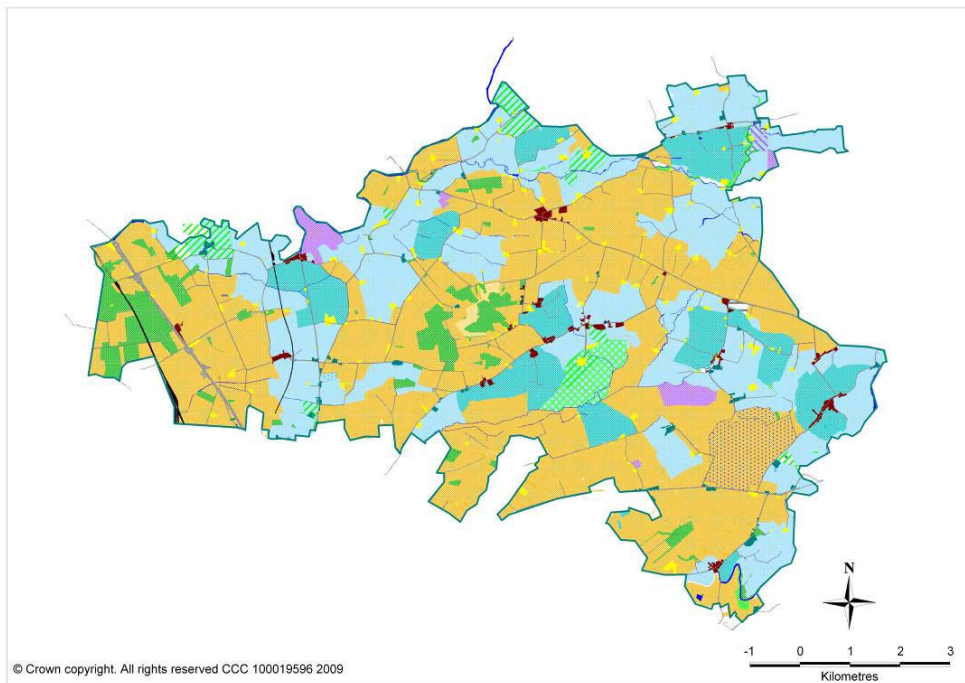
To the north of Carlisle, this area of gently rolling, low-lying topography is quite sparsely populated, and is superficially similar to the Inglewood character area. It includes the course of the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site, but this has no discernible impact on the character of the landscape. It has a patchwork mix of field systems and settlement types. The dominant settlement form is discrete, and most nucleations are small. Around 34% of the discrete settlements pre-date 1770. The remainder of the discrete settlements (45% of the total) relate largely to the enclosure and improvement of the unenclosed wastes in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Around a third of all the nucleated and small nucleated settlements pre-date 1770 in origin, but only Irthington exhibits any evidence of medieval planning. The remainder of the settlements originated in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Despite the relatively recent origin of much of the nucleated settlement pattern, only 29% of the total area of all nucleation post dates 1900.

The field pattern is dominated by a combination of planned enclosures and ancient enclosures. Former common arable fields are scattered throughout, but are generally small. The planned enclosures are concentrated in areas of former low moorland and moss, but around the Brampton to Longtown road there are planned enclosures associated with pre-1770 discrete settlements. Woodland is largely modern plantation, and focused in the areas of planned enclosure on former mossland, for example at Scaleby Moss and Todhills. The only ancient woodland within the character area is along the Hether Burn in the north-eastern corner of the character area. Despite the area's proximity to Carlisle, and the inclusion within it of Carlisle Airport, the area is overwhelmingly rural in character.

*Legacy:* A mixed pattern of modern and older settlements and field enclosure, but with a slight predominance of 19<sup>th</sup> century forms, moderate legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin.

*Landscape designation and status:* Contains part of the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site and its setting.

*Planning authority:* Carlisle City Council.



**Figure 40** Westlinton character area

## 51. Whillimoor and Dean Commons

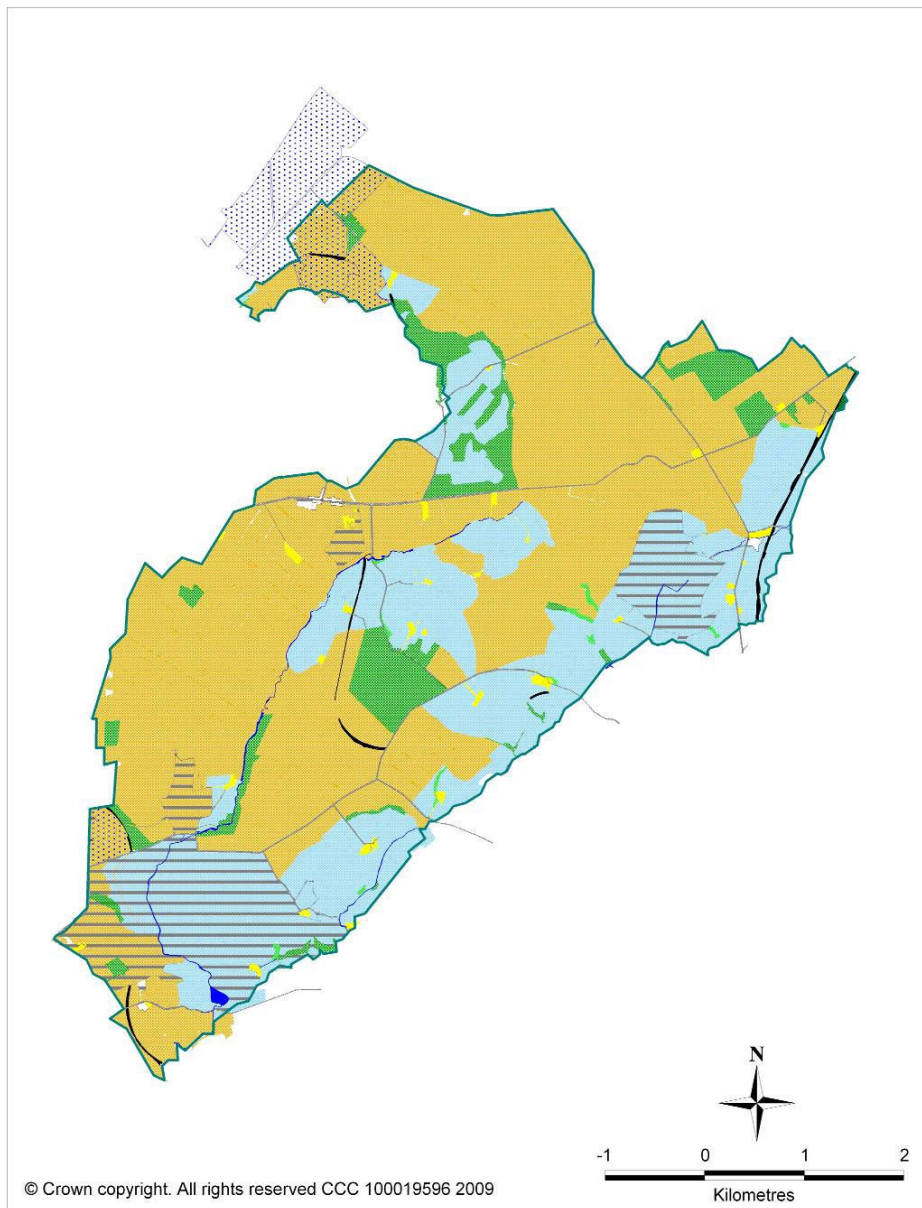
To the east of Distington this character area occupies a ridge that rises to 247m. Settlement is sparse and almost entirely dispersed. Historically the area consisted of unenclosed upland in the west and ancient enclosures in the east. The unenclosed upland was enclosed with planned enclosures in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. More recently widespread open cast coal mining has led to a blurring of these patterns as areas have had their land form remade. 'Restored' landscapes add to the distinctiveness of the character area, especially to the north of Weddicar Hall. Within the area of ancient enclosures there are 26 discrete settlements of which 17 are earlier in origin than 1770. Within the area of planned enclosure there are 13 discrete settlements and none pre-date 1770. In this character area the enclosure of common waste led to an increase in settlements but preserved the dispersed nature of the settlement pattern.

The lack of nucleated settlements of medieval origin within the area ensures an absence of former common arable fields. The area is reasonably well wooded but all woodland is plantation blocks or shelter belts of recent origin and much of it is coniferous. Amongst the plantations is an area of community woodland planted on restored open cast.

*Legacy:* A mixed pattern of modern and older settlements and enclosures within a landscape greatly affected by recent coal extraction, a clear association between discrete settlement forms and 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure, weak legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin.

*Landscape designation and status:* None.

*Planning authority:* Allerdale Borough Council.



**Figure 41** Whillimore and Dean Commons character area

## 52. Windermere, and the Rothay and Brathay Valleys

This long, narrow character area follows the valleys of the Rivers Rothay and Brathay, and extends down the eastern shore of Lake Windermere. It contains the largest area of urban development, including Bowness, Windermere, Ambleside and Grasmere. The built-up character is a reflection of this area's status as one of the key destinations for visitors to the Lake District, and it contains a number of hotels, holiday cottages and other places to stay. Both within the urban areas, and along the A590 Kendal to Keswick road which runs through the area, are a large number of villas and country houses, many with extensive landscaped gardens. It is well wooded, and many of the trees are exotic species, introduced for the landscape value. The northern part of the area is less developed, and north of Ambleside the landscape is more rural in character. Even here, however, there are popular visitor attractions, such as the village of Grasmere, and Wordsworth's homes at Dove Cottage and Rydal Mount, as well as the smaller water bodies of Rydal Water and Grasmere.

*Legacy:* A predominantly modern settlement structure with a mixed pattern of enclosure and woodland, weak legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin, strong influence of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century landscape aesthetics.

*Landscape designation and status:* Wholly within the Lake District National Park, registered park and gardens at Belle Isle, Blackwell, Brockhole, Rydal Hall and Rydal Mount.

*Planning authority:* LDNPA.

## 53. Wythop and Thornthwaite Forest

South of the North Western Lowlands, and north of the Central Fells is a small area of upland which would have formed the common waste to the low lands of Bassenthwaite and Lorton Vale. This area was enclosed systematically in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century, although it also contains small areas of intakes. There is also a small area of lower lying land around Wythop Mill, which is anciently enclosed. One of its main characteristics, however, is the large area of coniferous woodland plantation, which was begun in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but greatly extended by the Forestry Commission in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Like Grizedale, this is now a forest park with large areas accessible to the public. . The areas of unwooded fell are divided by stone walls into very large, irregular enclosures.

*Legacy:* A largely 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century landscape dominated by forestry plantation, weak legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin.

*Landscape designation and status:* Wholly within the Lake District National Park.

*Planning authority:* LDNPA.



## **APPENDIX 4: A GUIDE TO PLANNING POLICY AND GUIDANCE RELEVANT TO THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE**

A useful summary of relevant guidance linked to all the relevant documents is available at <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/landscape/englands/character/regulations.aspx> . Only those aspects of guidance and policy are noted that relate directly to the historic landscape or have had or are likely to have a profound influence upon its future evolution.

### **PPG 15 Planning and the Historic Environment 1994**

Explains the role of the planning system in the protection of historic buildings, conservation areas and other aspects of the historic environment. A number of important concepts are articulated in this guidance:

- that the historic environment does not consist of a collection of individual sites and monuments but is all-pervasive and hence cannot remain unchanging
- that it contributes strongly to local character and thus a sense of place
- that as part of sustainable development the value of the historic environment to present and future generations needs to be given due weight in the planning process
- that the special and valued aspects of the local character of the historic environment need to be identified and the historic environment's capacity for change needs to be assessed through the spatial planning system.

The role of development plans in maintaining the overall historic character of the landscape is emphasised, it is stressed that specific policies for World Heritage Sites should be incorporated into development plans and the idea of Registered Parks and Gardens and Registered Battlefields is highlighted.

### **PPG 16 Archaeology and Planning 1990**

Explains how archaeological remains, including monuments within the landscape, should be preserved or recorded both in an urban setting and in the countryside. It provides advice on the handling of archaeological remains through the planning process, including on the weight to be given to them in planning decisions and on the use of planning conditions. Although largely site- rather than landscape-based, there is an understanding that archaeological remains contribute to the character of the landscape. The desirability of preserving ancient monuments within their settings is highlighted as a material consideration in determining planning applications, irrespective of whether the monument is scheduled or unscheduled.

### **PPS 1 Delivering Sustainable Development 2005**

Sets out the Government's overarching planning policies on the delivery of sustainable development through the planning system. Regional planning bodies and local planning authorities should ensure that development plans promote outcomes in which environmental, economic and social objectives are achieved together over time. This includes a commitment to protect and enhance the quality of the historic environment. It advises that development plan policies should take account of the protection of the wider countryside and the impact of development on landscape quality and the preservation and enhancement of the built and archaeological heritage. Consequently, it promotes the view that within the planning process where design fails to take the opportunities available for improving the character and quality of an area such design should not be accepted.

### **PPS: Planning and Climate Change - Supplement to PPS 1 2007**

Recognises the planning system as having a key role in helping to tackle the impacts of climate change, including through:

- shaping sustainable communities so that they are resilient to climate change
- conserving and enhancing biodiversity by recognising the impact of climate change on habitat distribution.



## **PPS 7 Sustainable Development in Rural Areas 2004**

Sets out the Government's planning policies for rural areas, including country towns and villages and the wider, largely undeveloped countryside up to the fringes of larger urban areas.

Objectives include raising the quality of the rural environment through the promotion of;

- the sustainability of local environments and neighbourhoods
- good quality, sustainable development that respects and, where possible, enhances local distinctiveness and the intrinsic qualities of the countryside
- continued protection of the open countryside for the benefit of all, with the highest level of protection for our most valued landscapes.

It seeks to achieve these objectives by focusing most development in, or next to, existing towns and villages; by preventing urban sprawl and discouraging the development of 'greenfield' land. It also seeks to promote sustainable, diverse and adaptable agriculture sectors where valued landscapes and biodiversity are managed through farming.

## **PPS 9 Biological and Geological Conservation 2005**

Sets out planning policies on geological conservation and for the protection of biodiversity through the planning system. The importance of ancient woodland is noted, whether or not the woodland has statutory protection, and encouragement is given to use the planning system to avoid loss or deterioration. Of particular note is the recommendation that Local Development Frameworks should include appropriate policies to encourage the restoration or creation of new priority habitats and should identify areas or sites for restoration or creation.

## **PPS 22 Renewable Energy 2004**

Presents national policies for those aspects of land use planning in England that relate to the development of on-shore renewable energy. The key principles include:

- a commitment that renewable energy developments should be accommodated throughout England in locations where the technology is viable and environmental, economic, and social impacts can be addressed satisfactorily.
- a requirement that development proposals should demonstrate how any environmental impacts have been minimised through careful consideration of location, scale, design and other measures.

The landscape and visual effects of particular renewable energy developments are recognised as a cause for concern and it is noted that they will vary on a case by case basis according to the type of development, its location and the landscape setting of the proposed development. It is recommended that impacts are minimised through appropriate siting, design and landscaping schemes, depending on the size and type of development proposed. It is noted that of all renewable technologies, wind turbines are likely to have the greatest visual and landscape effects. Even so, local authorities are urged to recognise that the impact of turbines on the landscape varies according to the size and number of turbines and the type of landscape involved, and that such impacts are temporary if conditions are attached to planning permissions which require the future decommissioning of turbines. Planning authorities are also required to take account of the cumulative impact of wind generation projects in particular areas.

Areas of landscape protected by international and national designations are not exempt from potential renewable energy developments. Planning permission for renewable energy developments affecting a site of international importance for nature and/or heritage conservation should only be granted where the integrity of the site would not be adversely affected, unless a case can be made that there is no alternative solution and there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest. In sites with nationally recognised designations planning permission for renewable energy projects should only be granted where it can be demonstrated that the objectives of designation of the area will not be compromised by the development. Where there are significant adverse effects on the qualities for which the area has been designated permission can only be granted where these are clearly outweighed by the environmental, social and economic benefits. It is recommended that small-scale developments

should be permitted within areas such as National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Heritage Coasts provided that there is no significant environmental detriment to the area concerned.

### **Good Practice Guide on Planning for Tourism 2007**

Highlights tourism, in all its forms, as being of crucial importance to economic, social and environmental well-being. The environment is noted as being a key asset to encourage tourism. At the same time the economic benefits of tourism in particular are recognised as being able to help sustain and improve both the natural and built physical environment. It recognises that visitors to historic buildings, archaeological sites and landscapes can provide income or voluntary efforts which help maintain and conserve such assets. It further notes that in devising good policies for tourism, planners need to understand and often reconcile a number of important factors including environmental impacts upon historic settings and landscape quality.

### **North West Regional Spatial Strategy 2007**

Policy EM1 advocates that where development proposals affect the landscape, natural or historic environment or woodland assets, developers and planning authorities should first seek to avoid loss or damage to such assets.

Policy EM1 (A) states that plans, strategies, proposals and schemes should identify, protect, maintain, and enhance natural, historic and other distinctive features that contribute to the character of landscapes.

Policy EM1 (C) states that plans, strategies, proposals and schemes should protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and seek to exploit the regeneration potential of Cumbria's rural villages and market towns and of the Lake District's cultural landscape.

Policy EM1 (D) advocates that plans, strategies, proposals and schemes should identify and protect ancient semi-natural woodland.



## **APPENDIX 5: A GUIDE TO LEGISLATION AND SITE DESIGNATIONS RELEVANT TO THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE**

### **The European Landscape Convention**

The European Landscape Convention - also known as the Florence Convention, after the city where the convention was adopted in 2000 - promotes the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and organises European co-operation on landscape issues. It is the first international treaty to be exclusively concerned with all dimensions of European landscape and views the landscape as a shared living natural and cultural heritage. The European Landscape Convention introduced the concept of "landscape quality objectives" into the protection, management and planning of geographical areas.

### **Ramsar Convention**

The Ramsar Convention adopted in Ramsar (Iran) in 1971 is more fully known as the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance. It is a worldwide intergovernmental treaty which provides the framework for local and national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development.

### **National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949**

Provided the framework for the creation of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in England and Wales, and also addressed public rights of way and access to open land. It further conferred new powers on local authorities for preserving and enhancing natural beauty. Subsequently substantially amended through the *CROW Act 2000*.

### **Commons Registration Act 1965**

Established the registration of all common land, town and village greens, the ownerships of common land and rights of commons as a statutory duty for appropriate public bodies. It defined common land as not only land subject to rights of common but also being the waste land of a manor not subject to rights of common. As yet has not been superseded by the 2006 Act in all its provisions.

### **Countryside Act 1968**

Conferred further powers on local authorities to preserve and enhance natural beauty over and above those defined under the 1949 act. Its emphases, however was less on conservation and more on recreation and access and provided an impetus to the opening up of land in public ownership. Public bodies were enjoined to have regard to the desirability of conserving the countryside's natural beauty and amenity value, along with having due regard for resource production, economic and social issues within rural areas. Subsequently substantially amended through the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981*, *CROW Act 2000* and *NERC Act 2006*.

### **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended 2002)**

Replaced previous legislation relating to the definition and protection of scheduled ancient monuments. Damage to a scheduled ancient monument is a criminal offence and any works taking place within one requires Scheduled Monument Consent from the Secretary of State. The Act introduced the concept of Areas of Archaeological Interest. Only five such areas were ever subsequently designated and the designation was not regarded as successful or useful and is no longer considered a valid means of heritage protection.

### **Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981**

Addressed the issue of conserving biodiversity and geodiversity throughout the countryside. Provided national protection for SSSIs and introduced the use of Limestone Pavement Orders

to protect areas of limestone pavement. Subsequently amended through the *CROW Act 2000* and the *NERC Act 2006*.

### **Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (as amended 2008)**

Largely consolidated pre-existing legislation relating to buildings or areas of special architectural interest and strengthened local authority powers to safeguard conservation areas. Under the act a local planning authority is required to determine from time to time which parts of their district are locations of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance, and to designate those locations as conservation areas.

### **Town and Country Planning Act 1990**

Largely consolidated pre-existing legislation relating to town and country planning. Section 106 of the Act, in conjunction with DoE Circular 5/05, allows for local planning authorities and persons interested in land to agree, arrangements, restrictions or contributions as 'planning agreements' or 'obligations', that must be met should a planning application progress. They are usually undertaken to meet local planning requirements or priorities.

### **Hedgerow Regulations 1997**

Enabled the protection of hedgerows for both their historical and ecological value. Any landowner who wishes to remove a hedgerow, if it is not exempt must serve a Hedgerow Removal Notice in writing on their local planning authority. Within an agreed period the authority must determine whether or not the hedge is considered 'important' under the regulations, and if so, whether or not to issue a Hedgerow Retention Notice or impose mitigatory conditions. An important hedgerow in terms of the historic landscape is one which marks the boundary of a historic parish or township existing before 1850, marks the boundary of or lies within a pre-1600 manorial demesne or estate, contains or is part of an archaeological feature noted on the Historic Environment Record or is a part of or associated with a field system predating the Inclosure Acts.

### **Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000**

Provided a new right of access on foot to areas of open land comprising mountain (land over 600 metres), moorland, heath, downland and Registered common land. Local authorities were given a duty to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of AONBs and those local authorities in whose areas AONBs are located were required to prepare and publish a management plan for the area.

### **Commons Act 2006**

Part 1 of the Commons Act 2006 provides for the review, updating and future maintenance of the commons registers. As part of this process, applications to register land as common that failed under the 1965 Commons Registration Act may in certain cases be reconsidered. The overall purpose of the 2006 Act, however, is to protect all commons for the benefit of future generations, ensuring that they are managed sustainably to produce benefits for farming, public access and biodiversity. .Still in the process of gradual implementation.

### **Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006**

Places a duty on all local authorities to conserve wider biodiversity beyond those certain sites and species afforded statutory protection. Conserving biodiversity is considered to include habitat restoration or enhancement.

### **Circular on the Protection of World Heritage Sites 2009**

The circular advises that local planning authorities must consider how to reflect international and national policies for protecting World Heritage Sites in their strategies and have special

regard for them when devising site-specific proposals that impact upon a World Heritage Site and its setting including any buffer zone. Local planning authorities are expected to protect a World Heritage Site and its setting from inappropriate development and even from minor changes if they are likely to have a cumulative effect.

### **Town and Country Planning (Consultation) (England) Direction 2009**

This circular and direction introduced a new requirement on local planning authorities to refer applications where they are minded to grant planning permission in circumstances where English Heritage have objected because the proposed development could have an adverse impact on the outstanding universal value, integrity, authenticity and significance of a World Heritage Site. The requirement covers the setting of a World Heritage Site, including any buffer zone or its equivalent.

### **Registered Common Land**

Registered common land relates to all the land which was registered under the *Commons Act* 1965, and which is shown as such in the registers held by the commons registration authorities. Some common land, however, was exempted from registration under the Act, and so is not registered as such, even though it is widely recognised as common land today. In general terms, though not defined as such in the 1965 Act or any other legislation, 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. There are 655 registered commons in Cumbria, covering 112,856 hectares of land.

### **Registered Town or Village Green**

Town and Village Greens developed under customary law as areas of land where local people indulged in lawful sports and pastimes. They were registered originally under the provisions of the *Commons Act* 1965 and new town and village greens continue to be registered under the *Commons Act* 2006. Section 15 of the *Commons Act* 2006 changed the legal definition of a town or village green and sets out the qualifying circumstances in which land may be newly registered. Essentially anyone can apply to have land registered as a green if it has been used by local people for recreation 'as of right' (i.e. without permission, force or secrecy) for at least 20 years. There are 207 town or village greens in Cumbria.

### **National Park**

National Parks are large areas of the countryside that are protected to ensure the conservation and enhancement of their special qualities. They are designated under the *National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act* 1949 by Natural England in recognition of their natural beauty and opportunities for open-air recreation. There are two national parks that are wholly or partly within Cumbria.

### **Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**

These are fine landscapes, of great variety in character and extent, protected to ensure the conservation and enhancement of their natural beauty. Although the criterion for designation is outstanding natural beauty much of what is considered to be natural beauty, as with national parks, is a product of historic cultural processes. Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) were brought into being by the *National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act* 1949. The *Countryside and Rights of Way Act* 2000 strengthened the conservation and management of AONBs in partnership with local authorities. There are three AONBs that are wholly or partly within Cumbria.

### **Conservation Area**

Conservation areas are places which are desirable to preserve as a result of special architectural or historic interest, usually settlements or parts thereof. They are a national

designation, defined in statute in the *Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990* but they are identified and managed locally through local planning authorities. The designation of a conservation area indicates a local authority's commitment to areas of special architectural or historic interest and its intention to preserve their character and enhance the quality of their environment. These areas often contain listed buildings. Conservation area consent is required for the demolition in whole or part of most buildings and structures, including walls and outhouses, within a conservation area. Local authorities have the power to require a very high standard of design within a conservation area that is sympathetic to the existing character. New development must make a positive contribution to the environment of the area. There are 117 conservation areas in Cumbria outside of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

### **Ramsar site**

These are wetland areas designated under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance 1971 (Ramsar Convention). Although primarily a natural environment designation, they are landscape-scale designations and Cumbria's wetlands are of archaeological value in their own right and are significant contributors to landscape character. Government policy is that Ramsar sites should be treated the same as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or a Special Protection Area (SPA) and all land-based sites are Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). There are five Ramsar sites in Cumbria, including the Upper Solway mudflats and marshes, the Duddon Estuary and Morecambe Bay.

### **Scheduled Ancient Monument**

A Scheduled Ancient Monument is defined in the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979* and the *National Heritage Act 1983* as a protected archaeological site or historic building of national importance. The scheduling of a monument means that permission is required for works affecting that monument and this is known as scheduled monument consent and is received from the Department of Culture Media and Sport. Though a site-based designation it can apply to a group of monuments across an extensive area, consequently some areas of landscape, especially in the uplands, are protected by this designation. There are more than 800 scheduled monuments in Cumbria, though most are not of landscape scale.

### **UNESCO World Heritage Site**

World Heritage Sites are areas of natural or cultural heritage significance that are considered to have 'outstanding universal values'. They are recognised under an international treaty called the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, which was adopted by UNESCO in 1972. They are consequently amongst the most important heritage assets on the planet and are considered to belong to all the peoples of the world, irrespective of the territory on which they are located. World Heritage Sites often but not always have buffer zones. In the UK World Heritage Sites have recently become non-statutory designations under DCLG Circular 07/2009 *Circular on the Protection of World Heritage Sites*. Call-in procedures are defined in DCLG Circular and Direction 02/2009 *Town and Country Planning (Consultation) (England) Direction 2009*. These stipulate referral for any planning application opposed by English Heritage because of an adverse impact on a World Heritage Site or its setting, including any buffer zone. Moreover within *PPS 22 Renewable Energy 2004*, World Heritage Sites are regarded as having equal status to Ramsar sites, Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation. Any UK World Heritage Site will additionally have a national level of statutory conservation designation. In Cumbria there is one monument with this status, Hadrian's Wall, which is part of the 'Frontiers of the Roman World' World Heritage Site, in addition the Lake District National Park is being prepared for a World Heritage Site application. The Hadrian's Wall part of the 'Frontiers of the Roman World' World Heritage Site is statutorily protected as a scheduled monument. It has a buffer defined as a Visual Impact Zone.

### **UNESCO Biosphere**

Biosphere reserves are sites recognized under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme,

which innovate and demonstrate approaches to conservation and sustainable development. Like a Geopark they are a badge of status rather than a designation. Currently, there are no UNESCO Biospheres in Cumbria.

### **UNESCO European and Global Geopark**

UNESCO Geopark status is given to an area that comprises a certain number of geological sites of particular importance in terms of their scientific quality, rarity, aesthetic appeal or educational value. In addition to geological heritage, a geopark's interest may also be archaeological, ecological, historical or cultural. There is one European and Global Geopark in Cumbria, the North Pennines AONB.

### **Registered Historic Battlefield**

The English Heritage Register of Historic Battlefields identifies forty-three nationally important English battlefields. Its purpose is to promote a better understanding of their significance and to protect associated archaeological remains and those aspects of their character that aids the interpretation of events. Such sites are not statutorily designated however, but they are a significant material consideration for planning and are regarded as national designations within *PPS 22 Renewable Energy 2004*. There is one registered historic battlefield in Cumbria, the site of the Battle of Solway Moss near Arthuret.

### **Registered Park and Garden**

The English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens identifies those historic designed landscapes that are of national importance. Although inclusion of an historic park or garden on the Register in itself brings no additional statutory controls, registration is a material consideration in planning. Moreover, they are regarded as national designations within *PPS 22 Renewable Energy 2004*. Unlike registered battlefields, registered parks and gardens are distinguished as either grade I or II in terms of relative significance. There are 16 registered parks and gardens in Cumbria, all outside the Yorkshire dales National Park.

### **Ancient Woodland**

In England and Wales ancient woodland is defined as being land which has been continuously wooded since AD1600, though this was not the criterion applied for characterisation as ancient woodland within the Cumbria HLC. Ancient woodlands are habitats which can have enormous biodiversity. They can be divided into ancient semi-natural woodland and ancient replanted woodland. Ancient woodland is not a statutory designation but national, regional and local planning policies protect ancient woodland in planning policy. Its protection through planning policies is recommended in *PPS 9 Biological and Geological Conservation 2005*. There are numerous areas of ancient woodland of varying size throughout Cumbria.

### **Heritage Coast**

Heritage Coasts are stretches of our most beautiful, undeveloped coastline, which are managed to conserve their natural beauty, biodiversity and heritage features. They are a non-statutory designation but are recognised as a designation of national significance within *PPS 22 Renewable Energy 2004*. Definition is formalised by agreement between the relevant maritime local authorities and Natural England. There is one strip of Heritage Coast in Cumbria at St Bees Head.