

Appendix 7.A

Landscape Baseline (from published sources)

National Character Areas (NCAs)

The key characteristics of the two NCAs which lie within the defined study area for the Moorside Site are set out in **Table 7A.1**. The Accommodation Sites, the Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site and the St Bees Railway Site and their associated core study areas also cover one or more of these NCAs.

Table 7A.1 National Character Areas within the defined study area

National Character Area	Key Characteristics (as defined in the published NCA Profiles)
<p>NCA 7 West Cumbria Coastal Plain (NE, 2014b)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>The NCA consists of an undulating coastal landscape of varying width with open views to the Cumbria High Fells NCA and across the Irish Sea to Galloway and the Isle of Man.</i> ▪ <i>The area has a diverse, open coastline ranging from depositional sand, shingle and pebble beaches and sand dunes, through low soft cliffs of glacial or industrial origin, to high sandstone cliffs with a rich and varied flora and fauna, including dune grasslands, seabird colonies and the natterjack toad.</i> ▪ <i>There are lowland river valleys with limited ancient semi-natural woodland, and expansive estuarine landscapes with lowland raised mires, salt marshes, mudflats and intertidal habitats with large numbers of wintering waders and wildfowl.</i> ▪ <i>Important areas of brownfield biodiversity, often in urban-fringe locations, are characterised by rare plants, reptiles and invertebrates including the small blue butterfly.</i> ▪ <i>The area includes open pastoral farmland with occasional woodlands, basin and valley fens, remnant semi-natural grasslands/meadows associated with streamsides, low-lying land, and localised pockets of arable land supporting species such as curlew and wintering hen harrier.</i> ▪ <i>There are areas of ancient enclosure with medium to large rectilinear fields and few hedgerow trees. They are bounded by hedges (often gappy and augmented by wire fences), stone walls on higher ground, and stone-faced earthbanks locally known as ‘kests’ along the coast.</i> ▪ <i>There is limited tree cover, with most woodland to be found on steeper slopes and along river corridors. There are some plantation woodlands and shelterbelts associated with the upland margins of the area and former open cast mining sites.</i> ▪ <i>There is a dispersed rural settlement pattern of hamlets and isolated farmsteads with some villages.</i> ▪ <i>Distinctive building materials are a combination of locally quarried red sandstone, red brick and render augmented by coastal pebbles along the southern coast.</i> ▪ <i>Larger urban settlements and coastal towns are closely linked with the growth and location of the area’s strong industrial history of coal and iron ore mining, processing ore, smelting and ship-building.</i> ▪ <i>Extensive urban-fringe influence is linked to highly visible industrial past and present, including quarrying, open cast mining, restoration and reclamation initiatives, manufacturing and processing plants and the nuclear energy industry.</i> ▪ <i>A rich history is evident in the pattern of land use and heritage features dating from the Neolithic period onwards, including</i>

National Character Area	Key Characteristics (as defined in the published NCA Profiles)
	<p><i>earthworks, forts and castles and all the Roman coastal forts that form part of the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site.</i></p>
<p>NCA 8 Cumbria High Fells (NE, 2012b)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Spectacular, formerly glaciated, mountain scenery of open fells and craggy peaks separated by U shaped valleys with a radiating pattern of rivers and lakes.</i> ▪ <i>Varied landform arising from the smooth sided fells of Ordovician Skiddaw Group rocks (metamorphosed mudstones) in the north, the more rugged, sharp peaks of the Borrowdale Volcanic Group, accompanied by granite intrusions in the central area. Complex geology includes Eycott Volcanic Group low-lying scarps in the north, Silurian slates and fissile mudstones to the south east and a fringe of Carboniferous limestone foothills. Extensive mineralisation has supported a mining heritage dating from the medieval period.</i> ▪ <i>The most biologically diverse suite of upland habitats in England with internationally important fell habitats, rivers, lakes unimproved grasslands, and native woodland. The extensive mosaic of fell habitats includes montane and upland heath, blanket bog, scree and ledge communities, springs, flushes, tarns, valley mires, juniper scrub, remnant woodland and Arctic Alpine plant communities.</i> ▪ <i>Valleys with rivers, lakes and surrounding wetlands, with a scattering of hay meadows, purple moor-grass and other species rich grasslands, in a matrix of improved pastures.</i> ▪ <i>Native woodland, often extensive, on valley sides and bottoms, with some large conifer plantations, and scattered trees and scrub on the fells, with a few isolated woods, including in gills. Extensive woodlands in Borrowdale, Ullswater and other valleys, supporting the best oceanic western oak woods in England.</i> ▪ <i>Field pattern of pastoral hill-farming with small valley in-by fields, rougher intakes/allotments on valley sides and common grazing on the open fells; separated by a network of dry stone walls, with some hedges and trees, including pollards.</i> ▪ <i>Rich historic environment including Neolithic stone circles, Bronze Age clearance cairns, Roman forts, Norse place names and crosses and key elements of the farmed and industrial landscape dating from the medieval period.</i> ▪ <i>Cultural heritage linked to the picturesque and the Romantic Movement and significant in the foundation of the conservation movement, with houses, burial places and specific features that inspired ideas, art and poetry.</i> ▪ <i>Local stone-built farmsteads, hamlets and villages along the valleys, with the small markets towns of Keswick and Ambleside, which expanded from Victorian times with the growth of tourism.</i> ▪ <i>Tourism and recreation with large numbers of visitors attracted by the natural beauty of the area, its wildlife, cultural heritage and access opportunities for walking, climbing, water-based and other activities.</i> ▪ <i>Large areas of relative tranquillity.</i>

Regional Landscape Character Areas

The description of the regional landscape character areas (RLCAs) which lie within the defined study area for the Moorside Site are set out in **Table 7A.2**. The Accommodation Sites, Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site and the St Bees Railway Site and their associated core study areas also cover one or more of these RLCAs.

Table 7A.2 Regional Landscape Character Areas within the defined study area

Regional Landscape Character Areas	Description
West Cumbria Coastal Plain	<i>“This area is located on the western coast of Cumbria and forms a narrow coastal strip which has been strongly influenced by industry and ‘energy’ development. The coastline is varied and includes the sandstone outcrop at St Bee’s Head. Inland, open, lowland farmland dominates, with some areas of raised mire. There are extensive views to the nearby fells which add to local distinctiveness.”</i>
Lakeland Limestone Fringe	<i>“This area forms a fringe of undulating pastoral landscape to the north of the Cumbria High Fells. In places the underlying limestone geology gives rise to dry stone walls and local vernacular buildings. Elsewhere hedges define large fields and conifer plantations provide structure. Notable views to the Lakeland Fells contribute to sense of place.”</i>
Lakeland High Fells	<i>“This area forms the core of the Lake District National Park. It comprises spectacular, rugged mountain scenery, open fells, craggy peaks, steep scarps and deep glaciated valleys which radiate out from the centre and which contain lakes, woodlands and villages. The majestic scale of the landscape and juxtaposition of wild fell and settled valley is a key component which makes this area distinctive.”</i>

Note: There is no description for the Irish Sea within the North West Landscape Character Framework documents. However, it is defined as part of the Seascape Characterisation Study prepared by Amec Foster Wheeler and will therefore be considered as part of the Seascape Character Assessment.

County Level Landscape Character

The key or distinctive characteristics of the landscape character sub-types or areas of distinctive character which lie within the detailed study area for the Moorside Site are set out in **Table 7A.3**. The Accommodation Sites, the Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site and the St Bees Railway Site and their associated core study areas also cover one or more of these landscape character sub-types or areas of distinctive character.

Table 7A.3 County Level Landscape Character Sub-types/Areas of Distinctive Character

Landscape Character Sub-type/Area of Distinctive Character	Key/distinctive characteristics
Cumbria Landscape Character Sub-types	
Sub type 1a Intertidal flats (Bays and Estuaries)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dynamic landscape changing rapidly with daily tides and through cycles of erosion and deposition. ▪ Mudflats, sands, shingle and pebble beaches contrast with open water. ▪ Predominantly flat and open topography. ▪ Vast uncluttered skies and horizons. ▪ Significant ecological interest - large intertidal habitat for invertebrates forms internationally important roosting and feeding grounds for wading birds and wildfowl. ▪ Cultural artefacts and historical routes or ‘waths’ across the sands enrich this landscape and strengthen a sense of the past. ▪ Cockle fishing, Haaf netting and other fishing activities provide a human presence.
Sub type 2a Dunes and Beaches (Coastal Margins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hummocky dunes and flat raised beaches. ▪ Beaches of mud, sand, shingle and pebbles. ▪ Semi-natural grassland dominates. ▪ Isolated farms and linear stone villages. ▪ Bounded by small roads leading to minor tracks and paths. ▪ Strong sense of tranquillity in some parts.
Sub type 4 Coastal Sandstone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coastal sandstone cliffs. ▪ Sandstone rolling hills and plateaus. ▪ Large open fields. ▪ Prominent hedge banks bound pastoral fields. ▪ Small woodland blocks along valley sides. ▪ Exposed coastal edge moving to intimate and enclosed farmland inland.
Sub type 5a Ridge and Valley (Lowland)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A series of ridges and valleys that rises gently toward the limestone fringes of the Lakeland Fells. ▪ Well managed regular shaped medium to large pasture fields. ▪ Hedge bound pasture fields dominate, interspersed with native woodland, tree clumps and plantations. ▪ Scattered farms and linear villages found along ridges. ▪ Large scale structures generally scarce.
Sub type 5b Low Farmland (Lowland)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Undulating and rolling topography. ▪ Intensely farmed agricultural pasture dominates. ▪ Patchy areas of woodland provide contrast to the pasture. ▪ Woodland is uncommon west towards the coast. ▪ Fields are large and rectangular. ▪ Hedges, hedgerow trees and fences bound fields and criss cross up and over the rolling landscape.
Sub type 5d Urban Fringe (Lowland)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Long term urban influences on agricultural land. ▪ Recreation, large scale buildings and industrial estates are common. ▪ Mining and opencast coal workings are found around Keekle and Moor Row.

Landscape Character Sub-type/Area of Distinctive Character	Key/distinctive characteristics
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wooded valleys, restored woodland and some semi-urbanised woodland provide interest.
Sub type 11a Foothills (Upland Fringes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rolling, hilly or plateau farmland and moorland. ▪ Occasional rocky outcrops. ▪ Hills are dissected by numerous streams and minor river valleys ▪ Areas of improved grassland, unimproved heathland and extensive conifer plantations. ▪ Semi natural woodland in the small valleys. ▪ Large areas of farmland are bounded by stone walls and hedges.
Lake District Areas of Distinctive Character	
Area 21 Ennerdale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Craggy ridges of Borrowdale Rock form a dramatic backdrop and evoke a sense of enclosure; ▪ Outside of the nuclear settlement of Ennerdale Bridge, at the western most edge of the area, there are only a few scattered and isolated dwellings and farmsteads; ▪ The only major Lakeland valley with no public road along it and virtually no habitation beyond the western most edge; Due to its location and relative inaccessibility, Ennerdale receives few visitors but is an important recreational resource for the urban communities of west Cumbria; ▪ The eastern part of the valley, which is narrower and becomes more enclosed by the high rocky fells and narrower and is dominated by the conifer forests planted in the early part of the last century by the Forestry Commission. The steep rocky slopes of Kirk Fell, Great Gable, Steeple Pillar and Brandreth enclose the valley head. Pillar rock forms an imposing feature in the valley and is regarded as one of the birthplaces of mountaineering; ▪ This contrasts with the open pastoral farmland to west end of valley with its rich network of hedgerows and mature trees giving the west end a much gentler feel; ▪ The openness and proximity to the coastal plain gives this end of the valley a much lighter and more open feel; ▪ To the east of the lake, a small compact valley bottom with fields and wall boundaries; ▪ The woodlands in the valley are increasingly diverse with areas of semi-natural ancient oak woodland, mature non-native conifers, areas of clear fell, recent conifer planting and areas open to natural regeneration; ▪ There is a very strong sense of enclosure within parts of the forest where the only built features are a small number of bridges (some incongruous in the landscape), the forest roads and the hostels at Gillerthwaite and Black Sail; ▪ At the east end of the valley there is a harsh boundary between the grazed fell and the remains of the conifer forest most of which has now been felled. This contrasts with the area to the south of the lake where the Side provides one of the best examples of altitudinal succession in the Lake District; ▪ The River Liza is a mobile, high energy river and has seen almost no human intervention along its length. As such it is one of the most geomorphologically important rivers in England;

Landscape Character Sub-type/Area of Distinctive Character	Key/distinctive characteristics
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The lake which provides water for the west coast has a stone and concrete revetment around its north-western most part; despite these built features there is a strong sense of tranquility; and ▪ Predominantly very tranquil due to the lack of roads and other built structures and the relatively small number of visitors.
<p>Area 28 Kinniside Common</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A gradual transition in the form of the landscape from high crags in the east to a smoother profile in the west; ▪ An expansive, wild upland landscape, with very few trees outside of the conifer plantations in the west. Views are unbroken by built features; ▪ The fells are ecologically poor and in places heavily grazed. Nardus dominated grassland with bracken in the valley bottoms; ▪ There are virtually no boundaries or enclosures as the whole area is grazed as a common; ▪ Worm Gill, with its wide boulder-strewn valley bottom is a highly mobile and dynamic river system and an extremely important geo-morphological feature of the area; ▪ Archaeological evidence of previous settlement contrasts with the lack of development in the area today; ▪ Blocks of forestry in the western part of the area fit awkwardly with the surrounding landscape; and ▪ Predominantly a very tranquil landscape, due to the openness of the hills, relative absence of dwellings, minimal sources of artificial noise and few signs of human influences.
<p>Area 29 Wastwater and Wasdale</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A landscape of contrasts, where England's deepest lake is surrounded by some of the highest summits; ▪ Ancient unusual and complex thick ring garth and stone wall system near Wasdale Head is one of the most important and distinctive in Europe; ▪ Sheer grey, weathered scree slopes which dominate the southern shores of the lake and hint at the very steep V-shaped profile of this Dale; (it is easy to imagine that they continue under the water, to the deepest depths of the Lake); ▪ An over-whelming sense of majesty, drama and foreboding enclosure that the steep slopes provide; ▪ The unique and visually stimulating pattern of stone walls, comprising large rounded stones, which divide fields at Wasdale Head and spread high up onto the fell sides; ▪ Strong sense of isolation at the western head of the Lake and strong sense of tranquillity; ▪ Strong links with mountaineering and the sense that many visitor journeys begin here; ▪ Major erosion, litter and disturbance impacts from Three Peaks Challenge events; ▪ Dramatic backdrop and shadow of Scafell Pike, which is often shrouded in mysterious mists and throws dramatic shadows on the buildings and landscape at its foot; ▪ Unique pockets of parkland and grassy knolls within the Nether Wasdale Estate; ▪ Contrast between the striking grey colour of the scree slopes and fell sides and lush green and brown vegetation cover at lower altitudes, often reflecting in the grey, blue lake;

Landscape Character Sub-type/Area of Distinctive Character	Key/distinctive characteristics
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scots Pine parkland entering valley from Gosforth junction (old golf course); ▪ Medieval deer park; ▪ Low Wood at eastern end of the lake; ▪ Vendace within the lake; and ▪ Predominantly a very tranquil landscape due to openness and perceived naturalness of the valley. There is a relative absence of dwellings, minimal sources of artificial noise and few obvious signs of human influences away from Nether Wasdale.
<p>Area 30 Scafell Massif</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The central and highest part of the Lake District contains magnificent, wild, remote and rugged mountain scenery, including England's highest mountain, Scafell Pike; ▪ Distinctive rock formations, steep rock faces, screes and the effects of glaciation contribute to its distinctive sense of place, and landmarks within the area include high peaks, tarns and passes. ▪ Views from this area are panoramic in all directions, but are not dominated by a single lake; ▪ Rocks contribute a craggy, jagged texture to the landscape. The colours, sounds and patterns of the landscape are constantly changing, affected by variation in light, weather and season. The landscape may be observed at a variety of scales, from panoramic views to the detail of a stone; ▪ The remoteness, tranquillity and isolation of the area, combined with the physical challenges it offers, makes it popular with walkers and climbers; and ▪ Powerful scenery, with relatively few human influences, creates a sense of timelessness.
<p>Area 36 Calder Valley</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gently meandering narrow course of the River Calder which is fringed by patches of mixed woodland with a few dominant exotic conifers lower down the valley; ▪ Predominantly flat valley floor, comprising predominantly pastoral fields, divided by a combination of mature hedgerows and occasional walls; ▪ Relatively steep valley sides, which provide views across and along the valley; an irregular patchwork of field boundaries; ▪ Many old stone-faced kests (hedgebanks) and redundant hedgelines; significant areas of rough upland grazing with the pattern of old intake boundaries; ▪ Ruins of Calder Abbey (built in 1134 for William de Meschines and the order of Savigny) are a landscape feature; ▪ Intricate and fairly small-scale field pattern, with fields following the line of the river course; ▪ General absence of settlements or farmsteads within the valley, other than Calder Bridge, a small, nucleated village; ▪ Very distinctive vernacular style in some buildings using the local red sandstone which is also a feature of wall boundaries; ▪ Dominating presence of Sellafield nuclear plant at the western end of the valley (the river runs through the centre of the plant) can be seen from higher up the valley; and ▪ Predominantly a tranquil landscape especially to the north east away from Sellafield nuclear site. The sense of tranquillity is due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the pastoral landscape.

Landscape Character Sub-type/Area of Distinctive Character	Key/distinctive characteristics
<p>Area 37 Bleng and Irt Valleys</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Two valleys which link the lowland plain to the upland fells and are set against the distinctive backdrop of the High Fell Fringe; ▪ Gently undulating, peaceful landscape dominated by pastoral farmland in the west and the large forests of Blengdale and Miterdale to the east where the landscape becomes wilder and more rugged nearer to the High Fells to the east; ▪ Generally open with views throughout the area framed by irregular clumps of woodland in the west, and views towards the edges of the High Fells to the east; ▪ Fine, large houses of the late 18th and 19th century, built by wealthy shipping owners of West Cumbrian ports, form a distinctive element of the local landscape. Good examples include Irton Hall, Steelfield Hall and Greenlands, all with mature gardens and landscaping; ▪ Areas of parkland associated with country houses; ▪ Predominantly a tranquil landscape, especially towards the east away from the busy coast route and towns of Santon Bridge and Gosforth; ▪ The large dark conifer block in Miterdale contrast sharply with the lighter coloured fell sides and natural contours. The conifer fringe on the eastern edge of Whin Rigg is intrusive from many vantage points ▪ Distinctive Irton ‘Pike’ at the western end of Whin Rigg, whose top cleared of conifers provides views along the coastal plain, including the intimate Ravenglass Estuary; ▪ Blengdale forest includes some of the largest and tallest conifers in Cumbria; and ▪ Historic Native Woodland, late medieval settlement and veteran trees in Miterdale.
<p>Area 44 Eskdale</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Long valley of contrasts, moving west to east from the broad coastal plain at the western edge, to the soft, verdant, green landscape surrounding the river, with cascading becks in the middle section, to the rugged, craggy and bleaker mountain character at the eastern end of the valley; ▪ Strong enclosure pattern of pink granite stone walls criss-crossing the dale sides, which are clad in heather moorland and rough grass at higher altitudes; ▪ Use of local pink granite, as boulders, river cobbles or quarried stone has created the most distinctive and recognisable building character in the Lake District. Also the use of St. Bees red sandstone in the 19th century for stone dressings, adds to the identity and sense of place; ▪ Large patches of woodland, broadleaved, mixed and coniferous give a well wooded feel apart from at the eastern end of the valley; ▪ Steep and dramatic twisting path of Hardknott Pass leads visitors into and out of the valley at the eastern end; ▪ Muncaster Castle, with its extensive gardens and woodland is striking landscape feature perched on a high shelf above the floor of the valley at its western end; ▪ Meandering River Esk, which often cascades and tumbles down the valley and is lined with patches of linear woodland, provides the central focus of the area; ▪ Accessible and popular landscape; ▪ Series of tarns perched above the valley sides (including Blea Tarn and Stony Tarn); and ▪ Predominantly a tranquil valley especially at the foot of the High Fells in the east. The strong sense of tranquillity is due to the openness and

Landscape Character Sub-type/Area of Distinctive Character	Key/distinctive characteristics
	<p>perceived naturalness of the valley in addition to the relative absence of settlements and night time light pollution.</p>
<p>Area 45 Ulpha and Corney Fell</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Often elevated, open and expansive with dramatic views of the coast and estuary to the west and the Scafell range to the east from many areas including from narrow fell roads; ▪ A rich archaeology of settlement and working of the land, which contrasts with the present apparently empty and natural landscape; ▪ The lack of tall vegetation and development mean that the changing effects of light, weather and season are particularly important to the appearance and atmosphere of the landscape; ▪ Extensive tracts of degraded peatland habitat; ▪ Distinctive features in the area include Devoke water, discreet areas of improved pasture carved out of the fell associated with sheilings and consolidated as farms; ▪ Single-track, unenclosed fell roads across an elevated landscape; and ▪ Predominantly a tranquil area especially on the fells where there is a strong sense of openness and perception of naturalness.
<p>Area 52 Ravenglass and Bootle</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ravenglass, the only coastal settlement in the Lake District, has a very special character, at the estuary of the Rivers Esk, Mite and Irt; ▪ The village was formerly a busy port and market centre. Its continuous frontage of mainly rendered buildings of the 18th and 19th centuries, facing a broad main street, fossilises the medieval street layout. Viewed from the shore, the village grows out of the granite and red sandstone robust sea wall; ▪ An open coastline with sand and shingle, sandy beaches and dunes, with the underlying geology occasionally showing in the form of low sandstone cliffs; ▪ The Ravenglass estuary with intertidal mudflats and saltmarsh framed by extensive sand dunes; ▪ Flat to gently undulating and sloping coastal landscape, which falls from east to west towards the sea; ▪ Predominantly pastoral farmland where the generally regular fields are divided by a mixture of hedgerows, dry stone walls, kests and wire fences; ▪ Kests (stone and turf walls) built using rounded river cobbles embedded in alternating layers of turf; ▪ Rising High Fells (including Black Combe and the wooded side of Muncaster Fell) to the east, provide a dramatic backdrop and contribute to a strong sense of place and enclosure; ▪ Predominantly open landscape, with open views northwards along the coastline, landmark features include Sellafield power station (to the north) and the windfarm (south of Silecroft) and Eskmeals firing range; ▪ Several narrow, single-track lanes connect the area with beaches to the west; ▪ Vast, expansive seascape to the west; ▪ Sense of tranquillity within the area varies, dependent on proximity to the hustle and bustle of Ravenglass and the Sellafield power station; and ▪ Predominantly a tranquil area away from the A595 due to the openness and perception of naturalness of the coast along with the relative absence of dwellings and settlements and sources of artificial noise.

Special Qualities of the Lake District National Park

The Partnership's Plan (Reference Error! Reference source not found.. LDNPA) lists 13 special qualities of the LDNP which are set out in Table 7A.4.

Table 7A.4 Special Qualities of the Lake District National Park

Special Quality	Description
<p>1: A world class cultural landscape</p>	<p>The English Lake District is a self-contained mountain area whose narrow, radiating glaciated valleys, steep fells and slender lakes exhibit an extraordinary beauty and harmony. This landscape reflects an outstanding fusion between a distinctive communal farming system that has persisted for at least a millennium with improvements of villas, picturesque planting and gardens during the 18th and 19th centuries. This combination has attracted and inspired writers and artists of global stature. The landscape also manifests the success of the conservation movement that it stimulated, a movement based on the idea of landscape as a human response to our environment. This cultural force has had world-wide ramifications. The diversity of the landscape is key to its beauty and significance and includes coast, lakes, distinctive farmland, fell, woodland, industrial activity and settlement. Each of the thirteen valleys of the Lake District has an individual distinctiveness based on landform, biodiversity and cultural heritage. The character of the Lake District cultural landscape has evolved slowly over many centuries and will continue to evolve in the future under the influence of the knowledge and skills of the local community.</p>
<p>2: Complex geology and geomorphology</p>	<p>The geology of the national park is complex and varied. Its rocks provide a dramatic record of nearly 500 million years of the Earth's history with evidence of colliding continents, violent volcanic activity, deep oceans, tropical seas and the scouring effects of thick ice-sheets which produced the familiar characteristics of the Lake District's glacial topography. The highest mountains and deepest lakes in England are found here. Creation of stone stripes on mountain plateaus due to freeze/thaw action, sediment transport in rivers, and mobile sand dunes demonstrate some of the active geomorphological processes that continue to shape the landscape. The geology of the National Park has been investigated and studied since the 18th century. Work in the Lake District helped the first geologists (such as Adam Sedgwick) to establish some of the foundations on which modern geology and geomorphology is based. Some Lake District geological sites provide international "reference types" and many exposures continue to provide important sites for study and research. The diversity of rock and minerals has given rise to a rich mining and quarrying history. Stone axe production dates back to the Neolithic period, while industrial scale mining for ores of iron, copper, lead and for graphite began during the medieval period. Contemporary slate quarrying continues this long established activity. These local natural resources have strongly influenced the built environment and the wider landscape, with local slate, limestone and granite featuring in buildings, bridges, and walls.</p>
<p>3: Rich archaeology and historic landscape</p>	<p>There have been people in the Lake District since the end of the last ice age, 10,000 years ago, and the landscape reflects a long history of settlement, agriculture and industry. The opportunities for farming have varied over time and there are extensive traces of prehistoric settlements and field systems in the valleys and on the lower fells as a result of warmer climatic conditions several thousand years ago. Important prehistoric sites include Neolithic stone circles, rock art, and stone axe quarries; Bronze Age settlements, field</p>

Special Quality	Description
	systems and burial monuments; and numerous enclosed settlements of the Iron Age.
4: Unique farming heritage and concentration of common land	The pastoral system that has evolved in the Lake District for over a thousand years and its continuation by today’s farmers maintains a unique farming legacy. A clear pattern of land use and enclosure has developed which is dictated by the topography and characterised by in-bye (including pastures and hay meadows), in-take, out-gang and open fell. The Lake District has the largest concentration of common land in Britain, and possibly Western Europe, with a continuing tradition of hefted grazing and collective management. This is characterised by landlords’ flocks, hefted livestock, communal gathers, and the use of traditional breeds, including Herdwick sheep and fell ponies. Many farming families can trace their ties to the landscape over hundreds of years and the social and cultural elements of the pastoral system are still evident today in the pattern of farm tenure with collective communal grazing, shepherds’ meets, local dialect and language and traditions such as agricultural shows and distinctive local sports.
5: The High Fells	The Lake District includes the highest land in England. These mountains, known as “fells” are rich in wildlife, full of archaeological sites and are predominantly open, common land and an integral part of the hill farming system. For centuries people have come to walk and climb on them and still do to “get away from it all” and experience a feeling of wildness. Alfred Wainwright popularised walking on them in his iconic guides in the 1960s. The fells have inspired numerous writers and painters including Wordsworth, Coleridge, Turner and Constable and continue provide a focus for contemporary artists including painters, photographers and creative writers. The fells peaks, crags and passes define the valleys, shed the waters and shape the communities in the valleys below. The fells’ characters vary across the Lake District based mainly on geology from the smooth, rounded Silurian slates to the craggy Borrowdale Volcanics.
6: Wealth of habitats and wildlife	The Lake District supports a unique assemblage of wildlife and habitats. The habitats which we see today have been developing since the retreat of the glaciers 10,000 years ago and are a response to a complex underlying geology, geomorphological processes, altitude, climate and the history of human land management. The earliest human influences to vegetation began in Neolithic times. Small areas of clearance are reflected in the pollen record. As cultivation and grazing increased, woodland gave way to more grassland communities. Much later, woodland industry modified the species composition of many of our woodlands. Many of the habitats and species found in the Lake District are recognised in their own right for their biodiversity importance at an international level with almost 20% of the National Park area being designated for its biodiversity value. In addition, some of the species that occur here are of European importance. There is an abundance of freshwater habitats, including lakes, tarns and rivers each of which reflect their distinct valley catchments. Vegetation transitions from mountain top to valley bottom boast moss and lichen heath on the highest plateaus, replaced by dwarf shrub heath, juniper scrub, tall herb ledge and scree vegetation lower down. Blanket bog and wet heath can also be found where conditions allow. Upland oak wood survives in some places to the natural tree line and is extensive in some valleys. On the valley bottoms, upland hay meadows and pastures reflect pastoral management. On the fringes of the park, limestone pavements, grasslands and woodland add to the diversity and in low lying

Special Quality	Description
	and coastal areas lowland raised mires, sand dunes, dune heaths, saltmarsh, mudflats and honey comb reefs occur.
7: Mosaic of lakes, tarns, rivers and coast	The National Park has a rich variety of becks, rivers, lakes, tarns and coast. They are internationally important because of their water quality, range of habitats, and species, such as vendace, arctic charr, and schelly. The plants and animals they support depend on the differences in water chemistry which in turn are influenced by the variations of the underlying geology. Becks and rivers connect upland catchments and open water to the sea, allowing migrating Atlantic salmon to thrive alongside otters, freshwater mussel and white clawed crayfish. The transition from open water to dryer ground adds diversity with reed beds, tall herb fens and wet woodland. Through analysis of their sediments, the lakes and tarns provide a unique record of the climatic and environmental changes which have occurred over time. Although each river and lake has its own distinct identity, together with their catchment of mountains, woodland and farmland, they collectively contribute to the high quality scenery and natural resource which is so distinctively ‘The Lake District’ and unique in England. The becks and rivers of the Lake District have been harnessed to provide power for a variety of industries and, from the 19 th century, the need for fresh water for expanding cities in North West England has resulted in modification of a number of the major lakes.
8: Extensive semi-natural woodlands	The semi-natural woodlands add texture, colour and variety to the landscape and some are internationally important habitats. They provide a home for native animals and plants, and define the character of many valleys in the Lake District. The high rainfall in the core of the National Park favours woodlands rich in Atlantic mosses and liverworts, ferns and lichens. The limestone on the fringes of the National Park also supports distinctive woodland types and wood pasture, pollards and old coppice woodland contain one of the greatest concentrations of ancient trees in Europe and form a living record of past land use, part of the rich cultural landscape. The Lake District woods have been used for centuries as a source of raw materials for local industries. Coppiced wood was used for producing charcoal which fuelled iron production from the medieval period until the 20th century. It also provided the raw material for making bobbins for the Lancashire cotton industry. Oak bark was used in tanneries in the Lake District into the late 19 th century and oak swill baskets are a traditional product of the area. Some of these traditional industries still survive and the Lake District’s woodland is increasingly valued for carbon sequestration and storage and as a source of renewable woodfuel and wood products. Recent woodland regeneration schemes on the fellsides are adding a new generation of woodlands into the landscape.
9: Distinctive buildings and settlement character	The local architecture varies from the traditional vernacular buildings with related characteristics to more formal, “polite” architectural styles associated with Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian period, including those from the Classical, Gothic and Arts and Crafts movements. Materials and details are a common link between contrasting building types and styles. Local materials include a wide range of building stones such as slate stone, volcanic boulders and cobbles, limestone and sandstone depending on the varied local geology. The extensive use and distinctive character of Cumbrian slate for roofing is a unifying feature, with finishes such as lime wash and details in dressed sandstone, granite and limestone adding variety and interest.

Special Quality	Description
	<p>Vernacular buildings have a simple functional character and often rugged appearance using local materials, with some displaying varying degrees of modification to more “polite” styles of more formal appearance. Vernacular buildings come in a variety of distinctive forms, such as traditional yeoman farmhouses, long houses, bank barns, hogg houses, and peat houses. There is also a distinctive range of buildings associated with trade, mining and industry, such as bobbin mills, lime kilns and packhorse bridges. Local vernacular features include “spinning” galleries, massive round chimneys, deep eaves, crow-stepped gables and walling styles and are frequently a response to the harsh character of the local climate and topography. The Lake District contains some fine examples of villa architecture, following industrialisation in northern England and also by the arrival of the railway in the mid-19th century. Villa development, in styles fashionable at the time, was frequently designed to respond to and even modify the landscape, epitomising an era of power and wealth, yet with increasing concern with art, aesthetics and quality of life.</p> <p>Many towns, villages and hamlets have a range of building types and styles and a distinctive spatial and townscape character depending on their history and development. The network of dry stone walls, hedgerows, lanes, footpaths and the surviving field patterns form a visual and historic link between settlement and countryside. The survival of a dispersed network of vernacular farm building groups, often relatively unaltered by more recent development, is an important component of this special quality. A diverse range of historic settlements types have emerged within a relatively small geographical area. This diversity is strongly related to the historic opportunities and constraints of the varied landscape, topography and geology. Consequently, the National Park has examples of market towns, with burgrave plots arranged around a market place; agricultural villages with historic field patterns, some with village greens; industrial and mining settlements with terraces of workers housing; politely planned Georgian towns and villages guided by a wealthy patron; and Victorian new towns, suburbs, and tourist resorts, especially following the arrival of the railway.</p>
<p>10: A source of artistic inspiration</p>	<p>The unique beauty of the Lake District’s distinctive pastoral landscape has inspired generations of artists and writers. The influence of Picturesque aesthetics led to the physical embellishment of the landscape through construction of villas and gardens, designed landscapes and planting schemes. The Romantic movement transformed this into a new and influential view of the relationship between humans and landscape. This included the possibility of a sustainable relationship between humans and nature, the value of landscape for restoring the human spirit and the intrinsic value of scenic and cultural landscape. This was fundamental to the formation and sharing of globally important ideas of the need to protect such landscapes. Key writers and artists of the 18th and 19th centuries associated with the Lake District include William and Dorothy Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, John Constable, J M W Turner and John Ruskin. This tradition continued into the 20th century with such figures as Kurt Schwitters, Alfred and William Heaton Cooper and Norman Nicholson. It is nurtured today and for the future through the agency of various organisations including the Wordsworth Trust, the Brantwood Trust, Grizedale Arts, the Lake Artists Society and through a number of established festivals including Words by the Water and the Kendal Mountain Festival.</p>
<p>11: A model for protecting cultural landscapes</p>	<p>In parallel with the aesthetic appreciation of the “natural beauty” of the Lake District from the 18th century onwards, there also developed an understanding of its vulnerability to forces of change as a result of emerging</p>

Special Quality	Description
	<p>industrialisation, tree-felling, and landscape enclosure. This combination of ideas gave rise to the idea that valued landscapes could be nurtured and protected, encapsulated in William Wordsworth’s famous statement of 1835 that the Lake District should be deemed “a sort of national property, in which every man has a right and interest who has an eye to perceive and a heart to enjoy”. The early conservation battles to protect the Lake District, although sometimes unsuccessful, as in the case of the Thirlmere reservoir, began a chain of events which established the Lake District as the birth-place of an innovative conservation movement committed to the defence of its landscape and communities. One strand of this movement led directly to the creation of the National Trust and protection of the Lake District landscape through the acquisition of key farms, fell land and historic houses. Figures such as Beatrix Potter, G M Trevelyan and Canon Hardwicke Rawnsley played an important role in this regard. This has influenced similar models of heritage conservation, secured through protective ownership, elsewhere in Britain and abroad. Another strand of conservation action to emerge from experience in the Lake District was the formation of campaigning groups such as Friends of the Lake District, which won a significant battle in 1936 to prevent commercial afforestation in the central fells. This strand led to the formal designation of protected landscapes at both national and international levels; the Lake District was at the origin of UK national parks based on the “natural beauty” of these cultural landscapes, and influenced the idea of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Protected Areas Category V, Protected Landscapes/Seascapes. It was also instrumental in bringing about a third strand: the creation by UNESCO of the World Heritage Cultural Landscape category in 1992.</p>
<p>12: A long tradition of tourism and outdoor activities</p>	<p>The diverse Lake District landscape provides opportunities for a wide range of sporting and recreational activities on land and water. Some of these, such as fell running, are part of traditional local culture. The National Park has the highest concentration of outdoor activity centres in the UK. The birth of recreational rock climbing in England is attributed to the Lake District with the ascent of Napes Needle in the 1880s amongst one of the earliest recorded routes. There is a tradition of unrestricted access to the fells together with an historical network of roads, tracks and footpaths. As a result the Lake District has become a focal point for recreational walking, beginning with the involvement of the Romantic movement with the landscape and the perambulations of Wordsworth and Coleridge. The history of tourism can be traced back to the Picturesque fascination with the Lake District landscape and its potential for aesthetic experiences. This led to the production of early guide books which included the positions of “viewing stations” around the major lakes which were followed by Wordsworth’s celebrated Guide through the District of the Lakes of 1835 and in the 20th century by the guides of more recent writers including Wainwright. The coming of the railway to the Lake District in the mid-19th century extended the opportunity to visit the area to a much wider part of society and was the catalyst for a tradition of tourism which continues today. Traditional tourist attractions include lake cruises on launches and steamers on the larger lakes, a unique resource in inland England and Wales, and current water-based recreational activities include sailing, motor boating, canoeing, and open water swimming which is growing increasingly popular. Three of the larger lakes have been used since the early 20th century for water speed record attempts. In recent years mountain biking has become another major sporting activity utilising the Public Rights of Way network and Grizedale and Whinlatter forests.</p>

Special Quality	Description
13: Opportunities for quiet enjoyment	<p>The tranquillity of the fells, valleys and lakes gives a sense of space and freedom. The open character of the uplands, and the absence of modern development, is especially important. To walk freely across the fells, or climb their crags, is liberating and gives a sense of discovery and achievement. There is a feeling of wildness, offering personal challenges for some and impressive open views for everyone. To many people the Lake District is a safe place to explore: it is possible to feel remote, yet know that the nearest settlement is never far away. These characteristics provide important opportunities for spiritual refreshment: a release from the pressures of modern day life and a contrast to the noise and bustle experienced elsewhere. These are all vital components of the concept of quiet enjoyment and can be found in many places across the whole of the National Park. The value of the Lake District landscape for spiritual nourishment, originating in the Romantic recognition of the capacity of landscape to nurture and stimulate imagination, creativity and spirit, was recognised by the gift of the highest mountain land in England to the National Trust as a memorial to those who perished fighting in World War 1.</p>