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# Appendix 7.G

## Landscape Character Areas: Sensitivity Assessment



## CS.1: Coastal Sandstone Ehen Floodplain

Viewpoint Locations within the Moorside LCA as used in Local Landscape Characterisation: D

Direct landscape effects: **Moorside Site**      Indirect landscape effects: **Moorside Site**

**Key Characteristics** (as defined in the Local Landscape Characterisation Study [Amec Foster Wheeler, 2016])

- ) **Flat topography;**
- ) River Ehen is not visually prominent;
- ) **Rough, seasonally damp grazing interspersed with occasional low hedgerows;**
- ) **Large scale with strong sense of exposure and openness;**
- ) **Poor accessibility and moderate sense of isolation; and**
- ) **Sellafield stacks constant visual presence.**

\*Those characteristics highlighted in **Bold** may be susceptible to change as a result of development within the Moorside Site

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Landscape Designations	There are no national landscape designations present within this LCA. The LCA forms the southern-most extent of the Coastal Cliffs and Hills Landscape of County Importance (LofCI)	High
Condition/Quality	This is a generally an under-maintained landscape, although its presence and survival is dependent upon the maintenance of man-made drainage and bunding.	Low
Scenic Quality	The LCA is an open and large scale landscape that contains few features within it but allows views out to surrounding LCAs. The constant visual presence of stacks at Sellafield is a key characteristic and prominent detracting feature. The rough grazing and occasional low hedgerows that form the landcover have an unkempt appearance. Periodic movement is provided by trains travelling along the low bund along the LCA's south-western perimeter.	Low
Rarity	This type of managed, largely inaccessible but readily visible riverine coastal plain is rare in western Cumbria.	High
Conservation Interests	The Starling Castle area west of the River Ehen is designated as a County Wildlife Site. No heritage designations are identified within this LCA.	Medium
Recreation Value	One signposted public right of way crosses the northern part of the LCA. Two long distance paths/regional trails pass along sections of the LCA's eastern and western boundaries: NCR72/Hadrian's Coastal Route and the Cumbria Coastal Way respectively, although the latter is no longer being promoted by Cumbria County Council. The southern-most part of the LCA is open access land, but poor accessibility is a key characteristic.	Medium
Perceptual Aspects	This is an area with limited accessibility and a moderate sense of isolation, combined with a sense of unkemptness and unnaturalness. Despite the constant presence of taller components within the Sellafield Site and to a lesser degree the coastal railway the LCA is characterised by a moderate sense of tranquillity.	Medium

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value				
Associations	Apart from the former nineteenth century house that is now completely demolished at Starling Castle, there are no known historic or cultural associations, beyond a local level.	Low				
Overall Value	The overall value is assessed as medium as whilst rarity and its status as a LofCI result in high values for these criteria, this is balanced by low values for condition and scenic quality.	Medium				
<b>Susceptibility Commentary (to development within the Moorside Site)</b>		<b>Susceptibility</b>				
<b>Physical Characteristics:</b> The open, seasonally wet, rough grazing and the limited number of low hedgerows are sensitive to changes in land management including regulation of the drainage system, land-use and the density and timing of grazing regime. The ecological value associated with grazing marsh, wetlands and floodplains are also cited in <i>Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit</i> as being sensitive to changes in land management.		High				
<b>Visual Characteristics:</b> The flat topography, absence of screening elements within the LCA and the manner in which its low elevation allows views across it from surrounding areas is indicative of high visual susceptibility. This is partly reduced because of the coastal bund which severely restrict visibility from seascape character areas. Views of the stacks at the Sellafield Site are already a key landscape characteristic and other surrounding built development is also readily visible. The openness and sense of enclosure from the surrounding soft cliffs would be substantially retained were development to be sited in the periphery of the LCA in the same field of view as that at the Sellafield Site.		Medium				
<b>Perceptual Characteristics:</b> Reference to CPRE's Tranquillity Mapping indicates that levels of tranquillity in this LCA are high-moderate despite the nearby presence of the Sellafield Site. This is partly supported by field survey observations which noted the presence of stacks at the Sellafield Site as a prominent or dominant component of the landscape and periodic disturbance from train movements, but also noted the presence of sounds (but not views of) the Irish Sea. The light pollution map indicates moderate to high levels of light intrusion across the LCA again due to the proximity of Sellafield.		Low				
<b>Overall Susceptibility</b>	The proximity and consequent visual and perceptual role of the Sellafield Site result in medium overall susceptibility.	Medium				
<b>Overall Sensitivity</b>		<b>Susceptibility</b>				
	<b>Very High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Very Low</b>	
<b>Value</b>	<b>Very High</b>	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	<b>High</b>	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	<b>Medium</b>	High	High	<b>Medium</b>	Low	Low
	<b>Low</b>	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
	<b>Very Low</b>	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

## CS.2: Coastal Sandstone Undulating Plateau

Viewpoint Locations within the Moorside LCA as used in Local Landscape Characterisation: R and Q

Direct landscape effects: **Moorside Site**

Indirect landscape effects: **Moorside Site, Egremont Site**

**Key Characteristics** (as defined in the Local Landscape Characterisation Study [Amec Foster Wheeler, 2016])

- ) Undulating topography;
- ) Improved grassland principal agricultural land use;
- ) Small angular fields bounded by low hawthorn hedgerows and post and wire fencing;
- ) Tree cover restricted to settlement of Braystones and banks of River Ehen;
- ) **Built development locally prominent (caravan park, sewage works and isolated farmsteads);**
- ) **Limited sense of enclosure and moderate sense of exposure increasing at coastal edge; and**
- ) **Sellafield frequent, large scale, visual presence in southern views.**

\*Those characteristics highlighted in **Bold** may be susceptible to change as a result of development within the Moorside Site and Egremont Site.

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Landscape Designations	There are no national landscape designations present within this MLLCS. The LCA is located in the southern part of the Coastal Cliffs and Hills Landscape of County Importance (LofCI) which is the local landscape designation applied by Copeland Borough Council. LCA	High
Condition/Quality	This is a generally a relatively well maintained landscape but the <i>Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit</i> notes that some field boundaries are neglected and in poor condition. Also some built development and caravan parks can be visually intrusive and/or of low quality.	Medium
Scenic Quality	The LCA is a relatively open and large scale landscape that often allows views out to surrounding LCAs or seascape character areas. The regular visual presence of stacks at the Sellafield Site is a key characteristic in southern views. The periodic presence of built development including some properties at Braystones, the sewage treatment works and the Tarnside Caravan Park serve to reduce scenic quality.	Low
Rarity	This Coastal Sandstone landscape character type is found extensively between Sellafield and Whitehaven but is not found elsewhere in Cumbria	Medium
Conservation Interests	The Silver Tarn, Hollas and Harnsay Mosses SSSI is sited within this LCA.	Medium
Recreation Value	There are only a couple of isolated public right of way in peripheral parts of the LCA. Two long distance paths/regional trails pass through the western part of the LCA: NCR72/Hadrian's Coastal Route and the Cumbria Coastal Way respectively, although the latter is no longer being promoted by Cumbria County Council.	Low
Perceptual Aspects	Moderate sense of exposure due to coastal location and comparative absence of trees and other shelter. Little sense of isolation due to presence of Braystones and Tarnside Caravan Park in western part and double line of 132kV pylons in eastern part. The stacks and larger buildings at Sellafield are a regular presence where southern outward views are available. Overall it is assessed that this LCA is characterised by a medium sense of tranquillity	Medium

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Associations	No known historic or cultural associations, beyond a local level.	Low
<b>Overall Value</b>	Only the inclusion of this LCA within the LofCI has been assessed as a high value criterion. All other value criteria are medium or low.	<b>Medium</b>
<b>Susceptibility Commentary</b>		<b>Susceptibility</b>
<b>Physical Characteristics:</b> The improved grassland and small angular fields bounded by low hawthorn hedgerows are moderately sensitive to changes in land management practices. Continued loss of hedgerows is highlighted in the <i>Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit</i> . The Moorside Site extends into the southern part of this LCA. There would be no physical effects in relation to the Egremont Site.		<b>Medium</b>
<b>Visual Characteristics:</b> The undulating topography, low level of tree cover, and the manner in the availability of outward views varies is indicative of high visual susceptibility. Views of the stacks at the Sellafield Site are already a key landscape characteristic and other built development within the LCA is also often readily visible. The proximity of the north-western edge of the Moorside Site where large-scale earthworks are likely to be located, mean that any such earthworks would have the potential to become prominent components in some outward views (Medium). There is an extremely limited visual relationship between the LCA and the proposed development within the Egremont Site (Very Low).		<b>Medium to Very Low</b>
<b>Perceptual Characteristics:</b> Reference to CPRE's Tranquillity Mapping indicates that levels of tranquillity in this LCA are moderate despite the nearby presence of the Sellafield Site. This is mostly supported by field survey observations which whilst noting the presence of the development at the Sellafield Site, Thornhill and the 132kV pylons as prominent components of the landscape, also highlights the presence of eastern views to the western fells and the sense of time depth provided in parts of the LCA by St Bridget's church and churchyard and the remnant field pattern. The LCA is considered to be of Medium susceptibility in relation to both the Moorside and Egremont Site. The light pollution map indicates moderate levels of light intrusion across the LCA again mainly due to the proximity of the Sellafield Site and Thornhill.		<b>Medium</b>
<b>Overall Susceptibility</b>	All three characteristics indicate a Medium in relation to the Moorside Site. No physical changes and a very limited visual relationship reduces the overall susceptibility to Low in relation to the Egremont Site.	<b>Medium to Low</b>

**Overall Sensitivity to the proposed development at the Moorside Site**  
The value of this LCA is Medium. The overall susceptibility is judged to be Medium indicating Medium sensitivity.

Overall Sensitivity	Susceptibility				
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
Medium	High	High	<b>Medium</b>	Low	Low
Low	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

**Overall Sensitivity to the proposed development at the Egremont Site**  
 The value of this LCA is Medium. The overall susceptibility is judged to be Low indicating Low sensitivity.

Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	Medium	<b>Low</b>	Low
	Low	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

### CS.3: River Ehen Valley Thornhill to Braystones

Viewpoint Locations within the LCA as used in Local Landscape Characterisation: O and P

Direct landscape effects: **None**

Indirect landscape effects: **Moorside Site, Egremont Site**

#### Key Characteristics (as defined in the Local Landscape Characterisation Study [Amec Foster Wheeler, 2016])

- ) Flat valley bottom bounded by rising valley sides including steeply rising river bluffs;
- ) River Ehen not always visible as bed is sometimes sunken and riverbanks frequently marked by trees that screen or filter views;
- ) Medium-sized fields of semi-improved and improved pasture extend across floodplain with some arable on the valley sides away from the steeper sections;
- ) Moderate level of tree and shrub cover consisting of riverside trees and trees and scrub on the steeply rising river bluffs.
- ) **On sections of valley side used for arable the hedgerows have been allowed to grow out to form lines of tall shrubs augmented by post and wire fencing. In some locations post and wire fencing provides the only field boundary;**
- ) **Settlement restricted to a couple of farmsteads located above the floodplain. Minimal views of Thornhill or Braystones.**
- ) **Built features are rarely visible but the double 132kV pylon line that crosses the valley is visually highly prominent;**
- ) Strong sense of enclosure, especially in the floodplain due to topography and tree cover;
- ) **High sense of tranquillity and isolation that is generated by the enclosure is partly reduced by the presence of the double 132kV pylon line.**

\*Those characteristics highlighted in **Bold** may be susceptible to change as a result of development within the Moorside Site and Egremont Site.

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Landscape Designations	There are no national landscape designations present within this LCA. The entire LCA is located in southern part of the Coastal Cliffs and Hills Landscape of County Importance (LofCI) which is the local landscape designation applied by Copeland Borough Council.	High
Condition/Quality	The condition and quality of the landscape elements is generally good although some of the hedgerows have been allowed to grow out and have been supplemented by post and wire fencing. Some of the areas of woodland and scrub on the steeper slopes are not being allowed to regenerate due to sheep grazing.	High
Scenic Quality	One of the key characteristics of this LCA is its sense of enclosure and within the resultant internal views along and across the valley the scenic quality is good, although the presence of the double line of 132kV pylons is a detractive element.	High
Rarity	The presence of the sheltered river valley that contains a meandering river and a floodplain is comparatively rare with River Calder providing only other partial comparison.	High
Conservation Interests	There are no nature conservation or heritage designations located within this LCA.	Low
Recreation Value	There is only a single PRow that is routed along the northern part of this LCA which links Thornhill and Beckermest although no public access to the southern part. Some angling clubs have private access to the river. Recreational value is assessed as being medium.	Medium

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Perceptual Aspects	The valley topography, relatively high level of tree and vegetation cover, low level of access and low level of built development combine to provide the LCA with a strong sense of isolation and of the LCA being 'hidden'. The absence of vehicular movement and noise (aside from tractors working in fields) helps to generate a strong sense of tranquillity although this is partly undermined by the presence of the double line of 132kV overhead lines. The contrast with the surrounding much more open LCAs is strong. The regional light pollution map indicates moderate levels of light pollution.	High
Associations	No known historic or cultural associations, beyond at a local level.	Low
<b>Overall Value</b>	The assessment of five high value criteria and one medium results in an overall assessment of high especially given the LCA's inclusion in a LofCI.	<b>High</b>
<b>Susceptibility Commentary</b>		<b>Susceptibility</b>
<b>Physical Characteristics:</b> As the Moorside site includes the southern and eastern parts of this LCA there would be potential for direct effects to the landscape elements in this parts. These could include loss of lengths of hedgerow and areas of tree and shrub cover (High). There would be no physical effects in relation to the Egremont Site.		High
<b>Visual Characteristics:</b> The strong sense of enclosure from topography and vegetation cover and the resultant low availability of outward views reduce this LCA's visual susceptibility to changes located outside the LCA. However it is visually susceptible to changes within the LCA, both on the floodplain and on the valley sides (Medium). There is no intervisibility between the LCA and the Egremont Site.		Medium
<b>Perceptual Characteristics:</b> Reference to CPRE's Tranquillity Mapping indicates that levels of tranquillity in this LCA are moderate to high whilst light pollution is medium. Site visits show that the LCA possesses comparatively high levels of tranquillity. These would be susceptible to potential changes associated with increased access levels, increased movement and increased noise. Changes to these attributes in relation to both sites would reduce the sense of isolation and being hidden that are key characteristics of the LCA.		High
<b>Overall Susceptibility</b>	Over half of the LCA is within the Moorside Site and some of its defining attributes could be vulnerable to extensive development therefore overall susceptibility is assessed as High. There are no physical or visual effects in regards to the Egremont Site therefore the susceptibility of the LCA is assessed as Low.	High to Low

**Overall Sensitivity to the proposed development at the Moorside Site**  
The value of this LCA is High. The overall susceptibility is judged to be High indicating High sensitivity.

Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	Medium	Low	Low
	Low	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

**Overall Sensitivity to the proposed development at the Egremont Site**

The value of this LCA is High. The overall susceptibility is judged to be Low indicating Medium sensitivity.

Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	<b>Medium</b>	Low
	Medium	High	High	Medium	Low	Low
	Low	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

### CS.4: Pow Beck Valley Corridor

Viewpoint Locations within the LCA as used in Local Landscape Characterisation: A

Direct landscape effects: None

Indirect landscape effects: **Mirehouse Site and Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site**

#### Key Characteristics (as defined in the Local Landscape Characterisation Study [Amec Foster Wheeler, 2016])

- ) Broad valley corridor consisting of the flat to gently undulating valley bottom defined by steep rising valley sides to the west and east.
- ) Numerous small water courses within the valley bottom.
- ) Medium to large scale pasture fields (improved grassland, irregular field pattern).
- ) Areas of rough grazing along watercourse consisting of a mosaic of rough grassland, rush pasture, reed bed and marsh/marshy grassland.
- ) Field boundaries dominated by post and wire fencing with remnant overgrown hedgerow shrubs and occasional mature hedgerow trees.
- ) Occasional hedge banks typically well stocked.
- ) Limited tree cover with occasional small blocks of woodland on valley sides.
- ) Settlement restricted to small number of isolated farmsteads and residential properties.
- ) **Whitehaven is visually prominent from west-facing valley sides. Elevated residential areas and the large scale hospital buildings and tall energy centre chimney are noticeable built features.**
- ) Pylons to the south of Whitehaven are discernible.
- ) **Large scale with strong sense of openness across and along the valley. Views of the Lakes District National park Fells from east facing slopes.**
- ) **Moderate levels of tranquillity. The presence of Whitehaven, pylons and periodic movement of trains/vehicles on local road reduce the sense of remoteness, isolation and tranquillity.**

\*Those characteristics which are highlighted in **Bold** may be susceptible to change as a result of development within the Mirehouse Site and Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site.

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Landscape Designations	This LCA is located within the northern part of the Coastal Cliffs and Hills Landscape of County Importance (Local Landscape Designation) which is a local landscape designation applied by Copeland Borough Council.	High
Condition/Quality	This landscape is well maintained in parts although there has been a general decline in field hedgerow management; field boundaries often consisting of post and wire fencing with remnant overgrown hedgerow shrubs and occasional mature hedgerow trees.	Medium
Scenic Quality	The LCA has a high aesthetic appeal with long distance views along and across the Pow Beck Valley corridor and towards the fells and summits of the Lake District. It features in Wainwright's Coast to Coast Walk literature. Although the presence of Whitehaven, notably large scale hospital buildings and energy centre chimney and pylons in northerly views reduce scenic qualities and may be considered to be detractive visual influences. Periodic movement is provided by trains and traffic on local road network.	Medium
Rarity	Aside from the prominence of Whitehaven, this LCA displays many of the underlying characteristics identified within the <i>Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit</i> as being found in the 4 Coastal Sandstone Plateau Landscape Character Type which is an extensive LCT found between Sellafield and Whitehaven but not elsewhere in Cumbria.	Medium

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Conservation Interests	There are no nature conservation or heritage designations located within this LCA.	Low
Recreation Value	Public access is limited to sections of long distance recreational routes i.e. St Begas Way which runs along the Pow Beck valley corridor, a short section of Wainwright's Coast to Coast Walk and the Head to Head that cross the northern section of the valley corridor; the Cumbrian Coast Railway Line and short section of local road to St Bees.	Medium
Perceptual Aspects	Strong sense of openness across and along the Pow Beck valley (and across towards the Lake District from the western part of the area) due to limited tree cover and valley topography. Sense of isolation is reduced by the presence of Whitehaven, pylons, railway line and local road network. Overall it is assessed that this LCA is characterised by a moderate sense of tranquillity.	Medium
Associations	The area forms a short section of Wainwright's Coast to Coast Walk. No other known cultural and historic associations.	Medium
Overall Value	The majority of value criteria have been assessed as Medium with landscape designations assessed as High and conservation interests assessed as Low.	Medium
<b>Susceptibility Commentary</b>		<b>Susceptibility</b>
<b>Physical Characteristics:</b> There would be no physical changes to this LCA as a result of development within the Mirehouse Site or Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site.		N/A
<b>Visual Characteristics:</b> Field observations identify that this is primarily a large scale landscape possessing a strong sense of openness along and across the Pow Beck Valley; with views towards the fells and summits of the Lake District available from the western parts of the area. Within the majority of views north (towards the Mirehouse Site and from elevated parts of the LCA), the town of Whitehaven is clearly visible; cloaking the Pow Beck valley bottom, valley sides and rising plateau landscape however the openness of views increases the susceptibility to visual change across the LCA particularly in relation to the Mirehouse Site (Medium). Built development proposed for the Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site (car parks, shelters and roads) would be visible across localised parts of the LCA which is less susceptible to the proposed change (Low). Field studies indicate low levels of light pollution although that lighting associated with Whitehaven is visible from this area.		Medium to Low
<b>Perceptual Characteristics:</b> Reference to CPRE's Tranquillity Mapping indicates that levels of tranquillity in this LCA as moderate to low. Although field observations note the presence of Whitehaven, pylons and the periodic movement of trains/vehicles on local road reduce the sense of remoteness, isolation and tranquillity within this LCA in relation to the Mirehouse Site (Medium). This LCA is considered to be of low susceptibility to small scale increases in train movement and noise levels in relation to the Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site (Low).		Medium to Low
<b>Overall Susceptibility</b>	The visual and perceptual characteristics indicate a range of susceptibility from Medium overall (Mirehouse Site) reducing to Low in relation the Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site.	Medium to Low

**Overall Sensitivity to proposed development at the Mirehouse Site**  
 The value of this LCA is Medium. The overall susceptibility is judged to be Medium indicating Medium sensitivity.

Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	<b>Medium</b>	Low	Low
	Low	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

**Overall Sensitivity to proposed development at the Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site**  
 The value of this LCA is Medium. The overall susceptibility is judged to be Low indicating Low sensitivity.

Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	Medium	<b>Low</b>	Low
	Low	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

## CS.5: Rural Plateau Farmland

Viewpoint Locations within the LCA as used in Local landscape Characterisation: C

Direct landscape effects: **None**

Indirect landscape effects: **Mirehouse Site and Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site**

**Key Characteristics** (as defined in the Local Landscape Characterisation Study [Amec Foster Wheeler, 2016])

- ) Gently undulating and elevated topography associated with sandstone hills and plateaus.
- ) Large scale pasture fields (improved grassland); occasional arable, regular field pattern.
- ) Low cut hedgerows occasionally fragmented and replaced with post and wire fencing.
- ) Occasional hedge banks typically well stocked.
- ) Limited tree cover i.e. scattered individual trees on field boundaries, tracks and isolated properties.
- ) Settlement restricted to occasional isolated farmsteads and residential properties.
- ) **Whitehaven is visually prominent; large scale hospital buildings and tall energy centre chimney are noticeable built features.**
- ) **Telegraph poles and lines, pylons to the south of Whitehaven and buildings on the peripheries of West Lakes Science Park and Moor Row are noticeable.**
- ) Vast scale with strong sense of openness towards the distant Fells, Irish Sea and Coast.
- ) **Moderate levels of tranquillity. The presence of Whitehaven, pylons and movement of vehicles on the busy St Bees Road reduce the sense of remoteness, isolation and tranquillity.**

\*Those characteristics which are highlighted in **Bold** may be susceptible to change as a result of development within the Mirehouse Site and Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site.

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Landscape Designations	This LCA is located within the northern part of the Coastal Cliffs and Hills Landscape of County Importance (Local Landscape Designation) which is a local landscape designation applied by Copeland Borough Council.	High
Condition/Quality	This landscape is well maintained in parts. Although there has been a general decline in field hedgerow management; field boundaries thinning, gapping and often lost and consisting of post and wire fencing, strips of tall ruderals/grass and remnant overgrown hedgerow shrubs and trees.	Medium
Scenic Quality	The LCA has attractive qualities relating to long distance views across the open coastal plateau landscape towards the Irish Sea and the fells and summits of the Lake District. It features in Wainwright's Coast to Coast Walk literature. Although the presence of telegraph poles and lines, Whitehaven (with its large scale hospital buildings and energy centre chimney), and pylons in north-easterly views reduce scenic qualities and may be considered to be detractive visual influences.	Medium
Rarity	Aside from the prominence of Whitehaven and telegraph poles and lines, this LCA displays many of the underlying characteristics identified within the <i>Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit</i> as being found in the 4 Coastal Sandstone Plateau Landscape Character Type which is an extensive LCT found between Sellafeld and Whitehaven but not elsewhere in Cumbria.	Medium
Conservation Interests	There are no nature conservation or heritage designations located within this LCA.	Low

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Recreation Value	Public access is primarily associated with a section of Wainwright's Coast to Coast Walk and the Head to Head (long distance recreational routes) and a short section of the B5345.	Medium
Perceptual Aspects	Strong sense of openness across the coastal plateau towards the Lake District and Irish Sea due to plateau topography and limited tree cover. The prominence of Whitehaven, telegraph poles and lines, and the busy B5345 reduce the sense of isolation. Overall it is assessed that this LCA is characterised by a moderate sense of tranquillity.	Medium
Associations	No known historic or cultural associations, beyond at a local level.	Medium
<b>Overall Value</b>	The majority of value criteria have been assessed as Medium with landscape designations assessed as High and conservation interests assessed as Low.	<b>Medium</b>
<b>Susceptibility Commentary</b>		<b>Susceptibility</b>
<b>Physical Characteristics:</b> There would be no physical changes to this LCA as a result of development within the Mirehouse Site and Corkickle to Mirehouse Site.		N/A
<b>Visual Characteristics:</b> Field observations identify that this is primarily a large - vast scale landscape possessing a strong sense of openness across the coastal plateau; with views towards the fells and summits of the Lake District and Irish Sea. However in the majority views to the north/north-east (towards the sites), the town of Whitehaven is clearly visible; cloaking the Pow Beck valley sides and rising plateau landscape. In addition, pylons and the upper parts of a small number of large scale buildings located on the peripheries of West Lakes Science Park are also clearly visible. The openness of views across the valley and adjoining LCAs increases the susceptibility to visual change across the LCA particularly in relation to the Mirehouse Site (Medium). Although views towards the Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site are localised, the existing track is in cutting within the Site and heavily screened by woodland, and views are dominated by the existing abrupt built edge of the town. The LCA is less susceptible to the scale of proposed change (Low). Field studies indicate low levels of light pollution although lighting associated with Whitehaven and West Lakes is visible from this area.		Medium to Low
<b>Perceptual Characteristics:</b> Reference to CPRE's Tranquillity Mapping indicates that levels of tranquillity in this LCA as moderate to low. Field observations note the presence of Whitehaven, telegraph poles and lines, and the periodic movement of trains/vehicles on the B5345 reduce the sense of remoteness, isolation and tranquillity within this LCA in regards to both developments (Low).		Low
<b>Overall Susceptibility</b>	The visual and perceptual characteristics indicate a range of susceptibility from Medium overall (Mirehouse Site) reducing to Low in relation the Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site.	<b>Medium to Low</b>

**Overall Sensitivity to proposed development at the Mirehouse Site**

The value of this LCA is Medium. The overall susceptibility is judged to be Medium indicating Medium sensitivity.

Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	<b>Medium</b>	Low	Low
	Low	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

**Overall Sensitivity to proposed development at the Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site**

The value of this LCA is Medium. The overall susceptibility is judged to be Low indicating Low sensitivity.

Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	Medium	<b>Low</b>	Low
	Low	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

## CS.6: Lowland Farmland

Viewpoint Locations within the LCA as used in Local landscape Characterisation: D and E

Direct landscape effects: <b>Mirehouse Site</b>	Indirect landscape effects: <b>Mirehouse Site and Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site</b>
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**Key Characteristics** (as defined in the Local Landscape Characterisation Study [Amec Foster Wheeler, 2016])

- ) Undulating and broad valley bottom associated with Pow Beck with a number of marsh areas and ponds.
- ) There are localised elevations in topography.
- ) **Mix of medium to large scale pasture fields (improved grassland) and areas of rough grazing land consisting of a mosaic of rough grassland, rush pasture, reed bed, marsh/marshy grassland and occasional gorse. Irregular field pattern.**
- ) **Predominance of post and wire fencing; with occasional overgrown shrubs, small trees and gorse demarcating former field boundaries. Moderate to poor condition.**
- ) **Limited tree cover associated with Woodend Gardens, the disused drift mine and occasional hedgerow trees.**
- ) **Settlement restricted to a cluster of residential properties/farmsteads associated Woodend Gardens.**
- ) **Whitehaven is visible in some parts of the area with large scale hospital buildings and tall energy centre chimney forming noticeable built features.**
- ) **Other built development is visible including the edge of West Lakes Science Park, telegraph poles and lines, pylons and wind turbines (to the south).**
- ) Medium to large scale with sense of openness along and across the Pow Beck valley of rising valley sides, inland and coastal plateaus, and local woodland.
- ) **Moderate levels of tranquillity. Some pockets with a high level of tranquillity. Overall the sense of remoteness, isolation and tranquillity is slightly eroded by the presence of Whitehaven, pylons and occasional trains.**

\*Those characteristics which are highlighted in **Bold** may be susceptible to change as a result of development within the Mirehouse Site and Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site.

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Landscape Designations	This LCA is located within the northern part of the Coastal Cliffs and Hills Landscape of County Importance (Local Landscape Designation) which is a local landscape designation applied by Copeland Borough Council.	High
Condition/Quality	There has been a general decline in hedgerow management with a predominance of post and wire fencing with occasional overgrown hedgerow shrubs, trees and gorse demarcating former field boundaries. Whilst some areas of woodland/tree cover appear in good condition; areas of tree cover around the disused drift mine are showing signs of neglect.	Low
Scenic Quality	Despite some attractive views across and down the Pow Beck valley. Field observations note the aesthetic appeal of this LCA is reduced by the condition/quality of the landscape and the presence of built development associated with Whitehaven (notably its hard built edges) and views of large scale buildings (associated with the hospital and West Lakes Science Park), the energy centre chimney, pylons, telegraph poles and lines which reduce scenic qualities and may be considered to be detractive visual influences.	Low

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Rarity	Aside from a higher presence of woodland/tree cover and prominence of built development this LCA displays many of the underlying characteristics identified within the <i>Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit</i> as being found in the 4 Coastal Sandstone Plateau Landscape Character Type which is an extensive LCT found between Sellafield and Whitehaven but elsewhere in Cumbria.	Medium
Conservation Interests	There are no nature conservation or heritage designations located within this LCA.	Low
Recreation Value	Public access is limited to sections of two local public rights of way (both of which appear to reach dead ends; field observations note physical evidence of use or even a defined route at times) and the Cumbrian Coast Railway Line.	Low
Perceptual Aspects	Strong sense of openness down the Pow Beck Valley (views otherwise curtailed by rising landform) and sense of isolation and remoteness in parts. Although the sense of isolation is slightly eroded in localised areas by views of Whitehaven and West Lakes Science Park, pylons and occasional trains. Overall it is assessed that this LCA is characterised by a moderate sense of tranquillity.	Medium
Associations	No known historic or cultural associations.	Low
Overall Value	The value criteria have been assessed as ranging from High to Low value. On balance a Medium value is carried through to the assessment.	Medium
<b>Susceptibility Commentary</b>		<b>Susceptibility</b>
<p><b>Physical Characteristics:</b>  The northern parts of this LCA lie within the Mirehouse Site. This is a locally valued and relatively scenic landscape although the town of Whitehaven (notably large scale buildings) exerts an urban influence across parts of the LCA.  The area contains a number of locally sensitive landscape elements including improved grassland, ponds, native hedgerows, ponds and semi-natural woodlands that are sensitive to change. The <i>Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit</i> identifies potential issues related to the continued loss of hedgerows and the continued pressure of urban and industrial development around Whitehaven which could erode the undeveloped and rural character if not carried out sensitively. This is largely confirmed by field survey, although hedgerows are noted to be in poor condition and fragmented with a predominance of post and wire fencing with occasional overgrown hedgerow shrubs, trees and gorse demarcating former field boundaries (Medium). There would be no physical changes as a result of the Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site.</p>		Medium

Susceptibility Commentary		Susceptibility
<p><b>Visual Characteristics:</b>  Field observations identify that this is primarily a medium to large scale landscape possessing a sense of openness across and down the Pow Beck valley. There is an increase in the sense of enclosure within the lower lying parts of the valley due to rising valley sides, the increased presence of woodland/tree cover and rises in landform. This is localised and overall the landscape of this LCA remains highly visible in views from adjoining LCAs. Within the majority of views north the town of Whitehaven is highly visible as are larger scale buildings associated with the hospital and peripheries of West Lakes Science Park, the energy centre chimney and pylons (Medium). Views of the Corkickle to Mirehouse Site are restricted to a very small number of locations within the northern and central parts of the LCA. In the majority of these views the existing railway line is barely visible; either screened by woodland within the site or forming a discrete feature only noticeable with the occasional movement of trains resulting in a low susceptibility to the scale of proposed change (Low). Field studies indicate low-moderate levels of light pollution associated with the urban edge of Whitehaven.</p>		Medium to Low
<p><b>Perceptual Characteristics:</b>  Reference to CPRE's Tranquillity Mapping indicates that levels of tranquillity in this LCA as moderate. Field observations support this. Whilst there is a sense of isolation and remoteness in parts, this is eroded by views of Whitehaven and West Lakes Science Park, pylons and occasional trains. Overall it is assessed that this LCA is characterised by a moderate sense of tranquillity (Medium). This LCA is considered to be of very low susceptibility to small scale increases in train movement and noise levels in relation to the Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site (Very Low).</p>		Medium to Very Low
<b>Overall Susceptibility</b>	The physical, visual and perceptual characteristics indicate a range of susceptibility from Medium overall (Mirehouse) reducing to Low in relation the Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site.	Medium to Low

**Overall Sensitivity to proposed development at the Mirehouse Site**  
The value of this LCA is Medium. The overall susceptibility is judged to be Medium indicating Medium sensitivity.

Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	Medium	Low	Low
	Low	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

**Overall Sensitivity to proposed development at the Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site**  
The value of this LCA is Medium. The overall susceptibility is judged to be Low indicating Low sensitivity.

Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	Medium	Low	Low
	Low	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

## CS.7: Eastern Valley Sides Farmland

Viewpoint Locations within the LCA as used in Local landscape Characterisation: D, E, G and H

Direct landscape effects: **Mirehouse Site**

Indirect landscape effects: **Mirehouse Site and  
Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site**

**Key Characteristics** (as defined in the Local Landscape Characterisation Study [Amec Foster Wheeler, 2016])

- ) Undulating and sloping topography associated with the eastern sides of the Pow Beck valley.
- ) **Number of small watercourses descend valley sides.**
- ) **Mix of medium to large scale pasture fields with occasional small fields adjoining watercourses and settlement; small areas of rough grazing land and occasional arable fields. Irregular field pattern. Moderate to poor condition.**
- ) **Mix of low cut and thinning hedgerows and post and wire fencing with occasional remnant hedgerow shrubs and trees.**
- ) **Moderate levels of tree cover associated with the wooded watercourses, Sustrans National Cycle Route 72 (disused railway), settlement of Linethwaite, the A595 and High House Road.**
- ) **Small settlement of Linethwaite and occasional isolated farmsteads and residential properties along the A595.**
- ) **Whitehaven is visually prominent within elevated areas with large scale hospital buildings and tall energy centre chimney forming noticeable built features.**
- ) **Pylons are a dominant feature cutting across the valley slopes.**
- ) **Other visible built form includes the settlements of Lanehead and Sandwith, and built development on the edge of West Lakes Science Park.**
- ) Large to vast scale with strong sense of openness along and across the Pow Beck valley towards both Whitehaven to the north and St Bees to the south.
- ) **Moderate levels of tranquillity. The presence of Whitehaven, pylons and frequent audible movement of vehicles on the busy A595 undermine the sense of remoteness, isolation and tranquillity.**

\*Those characteristics which are highlighted in **Bold** may be susceptible to change as a result of development within the Mirehouse Site and Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site.

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Landscape Designations	This LCA is located within the northern part of the Coastal Cliffs and Hills Landscape of County Importance (Local Landscape Designation) which is a local landscape designation applied by Copeland Borough Council.	High
Condition/Quality	Whilst some areas of woodland/tree cover appear in moderate to good condition. There has been a general decline in hedgerow management. Many hedgerows are thinning, gapping and replaced by post and wire fencing with occasional overgrown hedgerow shrubs and trees.	Low
Scenic Quality	Despite some attractive views across and down the Pow Beck valley and towards St Bees. The aesthetic appeal of this LCA is reduced by the condition/quality of the landscape and the presence of built development associated with Whitehaven and views of large scale buildings (associated with the hospital and West Lakes Science Park), the energy centre chimney and pylons which reduce scenic qualities and may be considered to be detractive visual influences.	Low

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Rarity	Aside from the prominence of built development this LCA displays many of the underlying characteristics identified within the <i>Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit</i> as being found in the 4 Coastal Sandstone Plateau Landscape Character Type which is an extensive LCT found between Sellafield and Whitehaven but elsewhere in Cumbria.	Medium
Conservation Interests	There are no nature conservation or heritage designations located within this LCA.	Low
Recreation Value	A long section of the Sustrans National Cycle Route 72 runs through this character area (with connecting cycle path to the A595 and West Lakes Science Park). Public access is otherwise limited to a local public right of way and combined sections of Wainwright's Coast to Coast, Head to Head and St Begas Way long distance recreational routes; and local road to St Bees.	Medium
Perceptual Aspects	Strong sense of openness across and down the Pow Beck valley towards St Bees (views otherwise curtailed by rising landform). Although the sense of isolation is eroded by views of Whitehaven and West Lakes Science Park, traffic associated with the A595 and local road to St Bees. Overall it is assessed that this LCA is characterised by a moderate sense of tranquillity.	Medium
Associations	The area forms a short section of Wainwright's Coast to Coast Walk. No other known historic or cultural associations.	Medium
Overall Value	The value criteria have been assessed as ranging from High to Low value. On balance a Medium value is carried through to the assessment.	Medium
<b>Susceptibility Commentary</b>		<b>Susceptibility</b>
<p><b>Physical Characteristics:</b>  The northern parts of this LCA lie within the Mirehouse Site. This is a locally valued and relatively scenic landscape although built development associated with Whitehaven and West Lakes Science Park exert an urban influence across this LCA.  The area contains a number of locally valued semi-natural woodlands, pond and water courses that are sensitive to change. The <i>Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit</i> identifies potential issues relating to the continued loss of hedgerows and the continued pressure of urban and industrial development around Whitehaven which could erode the undeveloped and rural character if not carried out sensitively. This is largely confirmed by field survey, although the hedgerow network has become fragmented with a predominance of post and wire fencing with occasional overgrown hedgerow shrubs (Medium). There would be no physical changes as a result of the Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site.</p>		Medium

Susceptibility Commentary		Susceptibility
<p><b>Visual Characteristics:</b>  Field observations identify that this is primarily a large - vast scale landscape possessing a sense of openness across and down the Pow Beck valley towards St Bees. Although built development on the edges of Whitehaven and West Lakes Science Park are already a visible in many parts of this LCA. This includes views of larger scale buildings associated with the hospital and peripheries of West Lakes Science Park, the energy centre chimney and pylons. Views of the Corkickle to Mirehouse Site are restricted to a very small number of elevated locations within the northern and central parts of the LCA. In the majority of these views the existing railway line is barely visible; either screened by woodland within the site or forming a discrete feature only noticeable with the occasional movement of trains resulting in a low susceptibility to the scale of proposed change (Low). The light pollution map indicates low levels of light pollution although lighting associated with Whitehaven and the edges of West Lakes Science Park (and the A595 junction) is likely to be visible from this area.</p>		Medium to Low
<p><b>Perceptual Characteristics:</b>  Reference to CPRE's Tranquillity Mapping indicates that levels of tranquillity in this LCA as moderate. Field observations support this with presence of Whitehaven and West Lakes Science Park, pylons and occasional trains reducing the sense of isolation. Overall it is assessed that this LCA is characterised by a moderate sense of tranquillity (Medium). This LCA is considered to be of very low susceptibility to small scale increases in train movement and noise levels in relation to the Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site (Very Low).</p>		Medium to Very Low
<b>Overall Susceptibility</b>	The visual and perceptual characteristics indicate a range of susceptibility from Medium overall (Mirehouse) reducing to Low in relation the Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site.	<b>Medium to Low</b>

**Overall Sensitivity to proposed development at the Mirehouse Site**  
The value of this LCA is Medium. The overall susceptibility is judged to be Medium indicating Medium sensitivity.

Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	<b>Medium</b>	Low	Low
	Low	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

**Overall Sensitivity to proposed development at the Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site**  
The value of this LCA is Medium. The overall susceptibility is judged to be Low indicating Low sensitivity.

Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	Medium	<b>Low</b>	Low
	Low	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

## CS.8: Western Valley Sides Farmland

Viewpoint Locations within the LCA as used in Local landscape Characterisation: C

Direct landscape effects: None

Indirect landscape effects: **Mirehouse Site and Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site**

**Key Characteristics** (as defined in the Local Landscape Characterisation Study [Amec Foster Wheeler, 2016])

- ) Undulating and sloping topography associated western sides of the Pow Beck valley.
- ) Two small watercourses descend the valley sides.
- ) Predominance of medium to large scale pasture fields (improved grassland), irregular field pattern.
- ) Field boundaries are a mix of low cut and often thinning hedgerows with occasional sections of post and wire fencing and hedgerow trees.
- ) Limited tree cover associated with the wooded watercourses and occasional trees along hedgerows and within isolated farmstead/residential property boundaries.
- ) Settlement restricted to a single isolated farmstead/residential property.
- ) **Whitehaven is visually prominent; large scale hospital buildings and tall energy centre chimney are noticeable built features.**
- ) **Pylons to south of Whitehaven and buildings on the peripheries of West Lakes Science Park and Moor Row are visible.**
- ) Vast scale with strong sense of openness across the valley towards the distant Fells.
- ) **Low to moderate levels of tranquillity. The prominence of Whitehaven and presence of pylons, occasional trains and vehicles on the busy St Bees Road and Wilson Pit Road reduce the sense of remoteness, isolation and tranquillity.**

\*Those characteristics which are highlighted in Bold may be susceptible to change as a result of development within the Mirehouse Site and Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site.

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Landscape Designations	This LCA is located within the northern part of the Coastal Cliffs and Hills Landscape of County Importance (Local Landscape Designation) which is a local landscape designation applied by Copeland Borough Council.	High
Condition/Quality	Woodland appears to be in good condition although some hedgerows appear to be neglected; thinning with occasional sections of post and wire fencing.	Medium
Scenic Quality	The LCA has a high aesthetic appeal with long distance views along and across the Pow Beck Valley corridor towards the fells and summits of the Lake District. It features in Wainwright's Coast to Coast Walk literature. Although the presence of Whitehaven, notably large scale hospital buildings and energy centre chimney, telegraph poles and lines, and pylons in easterly views reduce scenic qualities and may be considered to be detractive visual influences.	Medium
Rarity	Aside from the prominence of Whitehaven and pylons, this LCA displays many of the underlying characteristics identified within the <i>Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit</i> as being found in the 4 Coastal Sandstone Plateau Landscape Character Type which is an extensive LCT found between Sellafield and Whitehaven but not elsewhere in Cumbria.	Medium
Conservation Interests	There are no nature conservation or heritage designations located within this LCA.	Low

<b>Value Criteria</b>	<b>Commentary</b>	<b>Value</b>
Recreation Value	Public access is primarily associated with a short section of the B5345.	Low
Perceptual Aspects	Strong sense of openness across towards the Lake District from the majority of the area due to limited tree cover and valley side topography. Sense of isolation is reduced by the presence of Whitehaven, telegraph poles and lines and the B5345. Overall it is assessed that this LCA is characterised by a moderate sense of tranquillity.	Medium
Associations	No known historic or cultural associations, beyond at a local level.	Low
<b>Overall Value</b>	The value criteria have been assessed as ranging from High to Low value. On balance a Medium value is carried forward to assessment.	<b>Medium</b>
<b>Susceptibility Commentary</b>		<b>Susceptibility</b>
<b>Physical Characteristics:</b> There would be no physical changes to this LCA as a result of development within the Mirehouse Site and Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site.		N/A
<b>Visual Characteristics:</b> Field observations identify that this is primarily a large - vast scale landscape possessing a strong sense of openness across the coastal plateau; with views towards the fells and summits of the Lake District and Irish Sea. However in the majority of views to the north/north-east (towards the sites) the town of Whitehaven is already clearly visible; cloaking the Pow Beck valley sides and rising plateau landscape. In addition, pylons and the upper parts of a small number of large scale buildings located on the peripheries of West Lakes Science Park are also clearly visible. The openness of views across the valley and adjoining LCAs increases the susceptibility to visual change across the LCA particularly in relation to the Mirehouse Site (Medium). Within these long distance views the existing railway line is barely visible (either screened by woodland or forming a discrete feature only noticeable with the occasional movement of trains), available from localised parts of the LCA and viewed in context of the existing abrupt built edge of the town. The LCA is less susceptible to the scale of the proposed change within the Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site (Low). Field studies identify low-moderate levels of light pollution that reflects its proximity to the urban edge of Whitehaven.		Medium to Low
<b>Perceptual Characteristics:</b> Reference to CPRE's Tranquillity Mapping indicates that levels of tranquillity in this LCA as moderate to low. Field observations note the presence of Whitehaven, pylons and periodic movement of trains, and the busy B5345 reduce the sense of remoteness, isolation and tranquillity within this LCA in regards to both developments (Low).		Low
<b>Overall Susceptibility</b>	The visual and perceptual characteristics indicate a range of susceptibility from Medium overall (Mirehouse Site) reducing to Low in relation the Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site.	<b>Medium to Low</b>

**Overall Sensitivity to proposed development at the Mirehouse Site**

The value of this LCA is Medium. The overall susceptibility is judged to be Medium indicating Medium sensitivity.

Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	Medium	Low	Low
	Low	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

**Overall Sensitivity to proposed development at the Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site**

The value of this LCA is Medium. The overall susceptibility is judged to be Low indicating Low sensitivity.

Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	Medium	Low	Low
	Low	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

## CS.9: Mirehouse Urban Fringe

Viewpoint Locations within the LCA as used in Local landscape Characterisation: F

Direct landscape effects: **Mirehouse Site and Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site**

Indirect landscape effects: **Mirehouse Site and Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site**

**Key Characteristics** (as defined in the Local Landscape Characterisation Study [Amec Foster Wheeler, 2016])

- ) Undulating valley bottom slopes away from the urban edge of Whitehaven and is defined by rising valley sides to the west and east.
- ) **There are localised elevations in landform resembling small hillocks.**
- ) Mirehouse Ponds consists of two coarse fishing ponds and a small car park with wooded/treed peripheries.
- ) **Small to medium scale pasture (improved grassland) and occasional arable fields, irregular field pattern.**
- ) **Variety of boundary treatments including thinning and gapping hedgerows, post and wire fencing, vertical bar railings, security palisade fencing around Mirehouse Ponds and the Gas Governor. Moderate to poor condition.**
- ) **Moderate levels of tree cover associated with Mirehouse Ponds, the railway line, the Sustrans National Cycle Route 72 (disused railway corridor) and isolated farmsteads and residential properties.**
- ) **Settlement restricted to occasional isolated farmsteads and residential properties.**
- ) **Whitehaven is visually dominant with a residential area forming a hard urban edge with limited vegetation to filter views of the built edge or integrate it into the adjoining landscape.**
- ) **Elevated built areas and large scale hospital buildings and tall energy centre chimney are noticeable built features.**
- ) **Pylons to south of Whitehaven and buildings on the peripheries of West Lakes Science Park are visible from the western parts of the area.**
- ) Large scale with strong sense of openness along the Pow Beck valley corridor and towards the Fells (from the western part of the area).
- ) **Low levels of tranquillity. The prominence of Whitehaven and vehicles on the busy St Bees Road, Mirehouse Road and the A595, occasional trains and the presence of pylons and telegraph poles and wires all combine to substantially undermine the sense of remoteness, isolation and tranquillity.**

\*Those characteristics which are highlighted in **Bold** may be susceptible to change as a result of development within the Mirehouse Site and Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site.

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Landscape Designations	This LCA is located within the northern part of the Coastal Cliffs and Hills Landscape of County Importance (Local Landscape Designation) which is a local landscape designation applied by Copeland Borough Council.	High
Condition/Quality	There has been a general decline in boundary quality/hedgerow management. Whilst areas of woodland and some hedgerows appear in good condition, many hedgerow appear to be neglected (thinning and gapping or lost and replaced by post and wire fencing. There is also a high presence of vertical bar railings and security palisade fencing. All typically representative of decaying/urban fringe landscapes.	Low

<b>Value Criteria</b>	<b>Commentary</b>	<b>Value</b>
Scenic Quality	Despite long distance views towards the fells and summits of the Lake District from the western parts of this area and views down the Pow Beck valley. The aesthetic appeal of this LCA is reduced by the condition/quality of the landscape and the dominance of Whitehaven (notably its hard built edges) and views of large scale buildings (associated with the hospital and West Lakes Science Park), the energy centre chimney and pylons, which reduce scenic qualities and may be considered to be detractive visual influences. There is frequent movement of traffic associated with the A595, B5345 and Mirehouse Road and periodic movement of trains.	Low
Rarity	Aside from a higher presence of woodland/tree cover and prominence of Whitehaven this LCA displays many of the underlying characteristics identified within the <i>Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit</i> as being found in the 4 Coastal Sandstone Plateau Landscape Character Type which is an extensive LCT found between Sellafield and Whitehaven but not elsewhere in Cumbria. This landscape also contains urban fringe elements, qualities and characteristics that are typically associated with landscapes that surround large towns and cities.	Low
Conservation Interests	There are no nature conservation or heritage designations located within this LCA.	Low
Recreation Value	Public access is limited to a section of the Sustrans National Cycle Route 72 and Cumbrian Coast Railway Line, Mirehouse Ponds and the busy road network.	Medium
Perceptual Aspects	Strong sense of openness down the Pow Beck Valley and views towards the fells and summits of the Lake District (from the western parts). Sense of isolation is reduced by the dominance of Whitehaven; the busy Mirehouse Road, B5345 and A595; occasional trains, presence of pylons, telegraph poles and lines. Overall it is assessed that this LCA is characterised by a low sense of tranquillity.	Low
Associations	No known historic or cultural associations.	Low
<b>Overall Value</b>	The value criteria have been assessed as ranging from High to Low value. On balance overall value is assessed as Medium.	<b>Medium</b>

Susceptibility Commentary		Susceptibility
<p><b>Physical Characteristics:</b>  The majority of the Mirehouse Site and a small southern part of the Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site lies within this LCA. Whilst this area is a locally valued landscape and relatively scenic in places, the town of Whitehaven immediately to the north, with its hard built edge (with little vegetation to filter views or integrate the built town into the LCA) is considered to be weak in character, and allows the town to exert a strong urban influence across the LCA.</p> <p>The area contains a number of locally sensitive landscape elements as described in the <i>Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit</i> including improved grassland, ponds, native hedgerows and semi-natural woodlands and the potential issues related to the continued loss of hedgerows and pressure of urban and industrial development around Whitehaven which could erode the undeveloped and rural character if not carried out sensitively. This is largely confirmed by field survey, although some of the hedgerows are noted to be in a poor condition (lost or replaced with post and wire fencing, steel security fencing and vertical bar railings more typical of urban fringe landscapes).</p> <p>Overall the relatively abrupt urban edge and equally the presence of adjacent urban development provides a context to further built development particularly in regards to the Mirehouse Site (Medium). Whilst there rail infrastructure and train movement is present within the LCA, there are a number of sensitive landscape elements are located within the Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site that may be affected. Therefore it is considered to be medium susceptibility to the proposed physical changes (Medium).</p>		Medium
<p><b>Visual Characteristics:</b>  Field observations identify that this is primarily a large scale landscape possessing a strong sense of openness down the Pow Beck valley; with views towards the fells and summits of the Lake District (from the western parts). Whilst there is an increase in the sense of enclosure within the lower lying parts of the valley due to rising valley sides, the increased presence of woodland/tree cover and rises in landform. This is localised and overall the landscape of the Mirehouse Site and Pow Beck valley bottom remains highly visible in views from elevated parts of the LCA to the west and south. Within the majority of views the town of Whitehaven is highly visible and is a key visual component in the visual setting of this LCA as are large scale buildings associated with the hospital and peripheries of West Lakes Science Park, the energy centre chimney and pylons reducing the susceptibility of the LCA (Medium). A variety of open views towards the Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site are available from a localised area. Within the majority of these views the existing abrupt edge of Whitehaven is highly visible as are other built/‘urbanising’ elements located adjoining the site and within the LCA (including roads infrastructure, car parks (Mirehouse Ponds), steel security fencing and vertical bar railings). These result in a medium susceptibility to the proposed change (Medium). Field studies indicate moderate levels of light pollution associated with the urban edge of Whitehaven.</p>		Medium
<p><b>Perceptual Characteristics:</b>  Reference to CPRE’s Tranquillity Mapping indicates that levels of tranquillity in this LCA as low. Field observations support this noting the presence of Whitehaven and vehicles on roads reducing any sense of remoteness, isolation and tranquillity within this LCA in regards to both developments (Low).</p>		Low
<b>Overall Susceptibility</b>	The physical and visual characteristics are assessed as being of Medium susceptibility to both developments and perceptual as Low. On balance the overall susceptibility is assessed as Medium.	Medium
<p><b>Overall Sensitivity to proposed development at Mirehouse</b>  The value of this LCA is Medium. The overall susceptibility is judged to be Medium indicating Medium sensitivity.</p>		

Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	<b>Medium</b>	Low	Low
	Low	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

**Overall Sensitivity to proposed development at the Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site**  
 The value of this LCA is Medium. The overall susceptibility is judged to be Medium indicating Medium sensitivity.

Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	<b>Medium</b>	Low	Low
	Low	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

## LF.1: Lowland Undulating Farmland

Viewpoint Locations within the LCA as used in Local Landscape Characterisation: A, H, L, N and P

Direct landscape effects: **Moorside Site**

Indirect landscape effects: **Moorside Site, Egremont Site**

**Key Characteristics** (as defined in the Local Landscape Characterisation Study [Amec Foster Wheeler, 2016])

- ) **Traditional working farmed landscape with only limited public access;**
- ) **Land-use dominated by improved agricultural pasture in varying sized, semi-regular fields;**
- ) Limited scrub and woodland, mostly in copses and shelterbelts;
- ) **Settlement restricted to small number of isolated farmsteads outside of Beckermest;**
- ) 132kV double OHL locally visually prominent;
- ) **Limited sense of enclosure and corresponding high level of openness;**
- ) **Sellafield stacks visually prominent;** and
- ) **Lows levels of tranquillity.**

\*Those characteristics highlighted in **Bold** may be susceptible to change as a result of development within the Moorside Site and Egremont Site

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Landscape Designations	There are no national landscape designations present within this LCA. The western edge of this LCA between the dismantled railway and the eastern edge of the River Ehen Valley is within the Coastal Cliffs and Hills Landscape of County Importance (LofCI) but this is only a small proportion of the LCA.	High
Condition/Quality	The hedgerows and vegetation in moderate - good condition, most fields are being actively farmed. A small number of the hedgerows are becoming gappy, whilst others have been lost as a result of field amalgamation.	Medium
Scenic Quality	Ordinary 'working' landscape that contains few elements that add to scenic quality but similarly few detractive elements. Openness and relative absence of vertical elements (other than a section of the double 132kV overhead line) within LCA increase the role of the rising fells to the east and the larger blocks of woodland in LCA H: Calder Valley Woodland and Parkland in determining scenic quality particularly in eastern and southern parts of the LCA.	Medium
Rarity	This LCA displays many of the underlying characteristics identified in the <i>Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit</i> as being found in the parts of the extensive 5b-Low Farmland Cumbria Landscape Character Type.	Low
Conservation Interests	There are no nature conservation located within this LCA. With regard to heritage designations St. Bridget's Church is located within this LCA whose churchyard contains two high cross shafts.	Medium

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Recreation Value	A short section of NCR72/Hadrian's Coast Route passes through this LCA around Beckermet. Minor roads access the half dozen isolated farmsteads and a section of Nursery Road passes through the LCA. PRowWs are highly limited apart from in the eastern-most fragment of the LCA. The site visit indicated that these PRowWs do not link into wider PRow network or facilitate circular walks and that they are likely to have a low level of use. A small area of woodland and scrub known the Rakes on the north-western edge of Beckermet is Common Land.	Low
Perceptual Aspects	Moderate levels of tranquillity due to regular presence of traffic noise and movement from nearby A595 and section of Sellafield northern access road that passes through the LCA. Sellafield's stacks are a frequent and sometimes dominant element in outwards views. The 132kV OHL reduces tranquillity in western parts. Any sense of place arises more from the presence of the detractive elements.	Medium
Associations	Historic or cultural associations at St. Bridget's Church and are local associations are likely in Beckermet.	Medium
<b>Overall Value</b>	Apart from the 'high' value due to its location in the LofCI, all value criteria are medium or low.	<b>Medium</b>
<b>Susceptibility Commentary</b>		<b>Susceptibility</b>
<b>Physical Characteristics:</b> Parts of this LCA have experienced moderate levels of physical change comparatively recently and reduce its inherent physical susceptibility to some types and scales of physical change. However the key physical landscape elements are susceptible to large-scale and/or extensive physical change such as those that would be generated by the Moorside Project (High). There would be no physical effects in relation to the Egremont Site.		<b>High</b>
<b>Visual Characteristics:</b> Gently undulating topography and relatively high level of openness increase visual susceptibility to change across much of this LCA. The exceptions are those parts close to woodland cover within the LCA (principally Nursery Wood and woodland planting alongside the Sellafield northern access road) or close to woodland cover close to the LCA (mainly in Calder Valley). Vertical components such as the 132kV pylons are visually locally prominent. The LCA has a Medium visual susceptibility to the proposed change at the Moorside Site. There is no intervisibility between the LCA and the proposed development within the Egremont Site.		<b>Medium</b>
<b>Perceptual Characteristics:</b> Reference to CPRE's Tranquillity Mapping indicates that levels of tranquillity in this LCA are moderate to low whilst light pollution is relatively high on a regional scale. This is likely to be due to the adjacent presence of A595 and the settlements of Beckermet and Thornhill although they do not readily take into account the nearby presence of Sellafield. These factors are indicative of low perceptual susceptibility to change in relation to both developments (Low).		<b>Low</b>
<b>Overall Susceptibility</b>	The high physical susceptibility to change is counter-balanced by the low perceptual susceptibility equating to an overall Medium susceptibility in relation to the Moorside Site. No physical or visual effects and low perceptual susceptibility result in an overall Low susceptibility in relation to the Egremont Site.	<b>Medium to Low</b>
<b>Overall Sensitivity to the proposed development at the Moorside Site</b> The value of this LCA is Medium. The overall susceptibility is judged to be Medium indicating Medium sensitivity.		

Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	<b>Medium</b>	Low	Low
	Low	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

**Overall Sensitivity to the proposed development at the Egremont Site**  
 The value of this LCA is Medium. The overall susceptibility is judged to be Low indicating Low sensitivity.

Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	Medium	<b>Low</b>	Low
	Low	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

## LF.2: Lowland Sellafield Periphery Remnant Farmland

Viewpoint Locations within the LCA as used in Local Landscape Characterisation: F, G and E

Direct landscape effects: **Moorside Site**

Indirect landscape effects: **Moorside Site**

**Key Characteristics** (as defined in the Local Landscape Characterisation Study [Amec Foster Wheeler, 2016])

- ) **Undulating topography;**
- ) **Angular fields bounded by mixture of scraggy low hawthorn hedgerows and remnant ‘kests’, including stone gate posts, often supplemented by post and wire fencing;**
- ) **Reduction in intensity of agricultural activity with some fallow fields and increased presence of ruderal plants in other fields;**
- ) **Derelict and sometimes boarded up farm buildings;**
- ) **Low levels of access and corresponding sense of isolation;**
- ) **Dominant visual presence of Sellafield, frequently including security perimeter plus background noise; and**
- ) **Unsettling sense of abandonment.**

\*Those characteristics highlighted in **Bold** may be susceptible to change as a result of development within the Moorside Site

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Landscape Designations	There are no national or local landscape designations present within this LCA and in contains some abandoned or partly derelict features.	Low
Condition/Quality	Some of the LCA’s key characteristics such as the presence of fallow fields, the presence of derelict farm buildings and the Sellafield security fencing all contribute to the declining condition and generally poor quality prevailing in this LCA.	Low
Scenic Quality	The indications of dereliction and the dominant presence of built development at or associated with the Sellafield Site combine to reduce the scenic quality of this LCA.	Low
Rarity	Aside from the changes that have been caused by the adjacent presence of development in the Sellafield Site and the associated abandonment of many of the farm buildings, this LCA displays many of the underlying characteristics identified in the <i>Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit</i> as being found in the 5b-Low Farmland Cumbria Landscape Character Type which is an extensive LCT.	Low
Conservation Interests	There are no nature conservation or heritage designations located within this LCA.	Low
Recreation Value	There is limited public access within this LCA, restricted to a couple of minor roads, a short, isolated section of a single PRoW and a section of the NCR72/Hadrian’s Coast Route	Low
Perceptual Aspects	Sense of isolation and abandonment allied with the visual dominance of the Sellafield Site and the associated background noise including that from vehicles using the main access road combine to mean that the LCA is characterised by a low sense of tranquillity.	Low
Associations	No known historic or cultural associations, beyond at a local level.	Low
<b>Overall Value</b>	All value criteria are assessed as low.	<b>Low</b>

Susceptibility Commentary (to development within the Moorside Site)		Susceptibility
<b>Physical Characteristics:</b> Although the dominant land-use of improved arable and pastoral agricultural is not highly susceptible to physical change, the remnant 'kests' could be susceptible to extensive change. As this LCA is located within the Moorside Site it must be assessed as possessing very high physical susceptibility to the changes likely to arise.		<b>Very High</b>
<b>Visual Characteristics:</b> Screening provided by the adjacent Sellafield Site and belts of woodland alongside the access road serve to reduce the visual role of this LCA and in the case of the former have already provided examples of large-scale visual change. Hence the LCA is assessed as possessing medium visual susceptibility to change.		<b>Low</b>
<b>Perceptual Characteristics:</b> Reference to CPRE's Tranquillity Mapping indicates that levels of tranquillity in this LCA are moderate despite the nearby presence of the Sellafield Site. However the observations made during the site visit were that tranquillity was reduced by the noise and movement associated with the Sellafield Site and the access road has the consequence that levels of tranquillity are low and levels of light pollution correspondingly high.		<b>Low</b>
<b>Overall Susceptibility</b>	A single very high susceptibility to change combined with two low susceptibilities generates a medium overall susceptibility.	<b>Medium</b>

Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	Medium	Low	Low
	Low	High	Medium	<b>Low</b>	Low	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

### LF.3: Lowland Carr

Viewpoint Locations within the LCA as used in Local Landscape Characterisation: None

Direct landscape effects: **Moorside Site**

Indirect landscape effects: **Moorside Site**

**Key Characteristics** (as defined in the Local Landscape Characterisation Study [Amec Foster Wheeler, 2016])

- ) **Broadleaved carr woodland, predominantly willow and associated wetland fringes;**
- ) **Inaccessible and isolated;**
- ) **Limited visual role due to location in topographic hollows; and**
- ) **Provide contrast in land use, colour and texture plus sense of time depth.**

\*Those characteristics highlighted in **Bold** may be susceptible to change as a result of development within the Moorside Site

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Landscape Designations	There are no national or local landscape designations present within this LCA.	Medium
Condition/Quality	The carr at Low Church Moss appears to be in good condition but the smaller area of carr located close to High Sellafield appears to be in only moderate condition.	Medium
Scenic Quality	The two carrs are only locally prominent in the wider landscape as their defining topographical quality: a low lying area, inevitably reduces their scenic role. The density of the wetland scrub vegetation that characterises these carrs also serves to reduce views from close proximity. The High Sellafield part of this LCA is visually dominated by the adjacent Sellafield Site.	Medium
Rarity	Small areas of carr are periodically found in the undulating lowlands of western Cumbria although it is likely that they were formerly more numerous.	Medium
Conservation Interests	The Low Church Moss carr is a SSSI but the carr at Sellafield Tarn is designated as a County Wildlife Site. No heritage designations apply.	High
Recreation Value	Low Church Moss is sited to the immediate east of a section of the NCR72/Hadrian's Coast Route. High Sellafield Moss is an open access area.	Medium
Perceptual Aspects	Sense of inaccessibility proves a sense of mystery and as naturalistic, superficially un-managed landscape elements the carrs provide a sense of time depth in the wider landscape. However High Sellafield's location adjacent to the Sellafield Site and the Main Access Road reduce tranquillity.	Medium
Associations	No known historic or cultural associations although as noted the carrs' presence provides a sense of time depth greater than that which is generated by the surrounding more overtly managed agricultural landscape character types. May be associations at a local level	Low
<b>Overall Value</b>	Six of the eight value criteria are assessed as medium	<b>Medium</b>

<b>Susceptibility Commentary (to development within the Moorside Site)</b>		<b>Susceptibility</b>				
<b>Physical Characteristics:</b> The ecology of the lowland carrs makes them vulnerable to various types of physical change particularly regarding their hydrological regime. Hence although the Moorside Site would not extend into the Low Church Moss part of this LCA development in its immediate proximity would give it a high physical susceptibility to change. Both carrs would have very high susceptibility to any direct physical change from development.		<b>Very High</b>				
<b>Visual Characteristics:</b> The dense vegetation cover within the two carrs reduces visual susceptibility to change. The Sellafield site is already a key visual component in the visual setting of the lowland carr at High Sellafield. Their close proximity or inclusion within the Moorside Site means that at least some components of the proposed development have strong potential to become prominent or dominant components in outward views. Any development within the LCA would be likely to change the LCA's visual character.		<b>Very High</b>				
<b>Perceptual Characteristics:</b> Reference to CPRE's Tranquillity Mapping indicates that levels of tranquillity in this LCA are moderate despite the nearby presence of the Sellafield Site. With regard to the Low Church Moss part of this LCA this assessment is supported by field survey observations. The light pollution map indicates moderate levels of light intrusion at this part of the LCA again mainly due to the proximity of the Sellafield Site. The adjacent presence of the Sellafield Site at the High Sellafield Carr component of this LCA has the consequence that levels of tranquillity are low and levels of light pollution correspondingly high.		<b>High</b>				
<b>Overall Susceptibility</b>	The small areas of this LCA mean that it has very high susceptibility to development located within it or in close proximity.	<b>Very High</b>				
<b>Overall Sensitivity</b>		<b>Susceptibility</b>				
		<b>Very High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Very Low</b>
<b>Value</b>	<b>Very High</b>	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	<b>High</b>	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	<b>Medium</b>	<b>High</b>	High	Medium	Low	Low
	<b>Low</b>	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
	<b>Very Low</b>	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

## LF.4: Sellafield Complex

Viewpoint Locations within the LCA as used in Local Landscape Characterisation: None

Direct landscape effects: **None**

Indirect landscape effects: **Moorside Site**

**Key Characteristics** (as defined in the Local Landscape Characterisation Study [Amec Foster Wheeler, 2016])

- ) Highly industrialised area dominated by a complex of buildings and stacks interspersed by rail links and internal roads;
- ) Limited visual coherence or logical grain with build form appearing ‘ad-hoc’;
- ) Built forms of varying forms, heights, materials and age; and
- ) Public access is restricted with high perimeter security fences.

\*Those characteristics highlighted in **Bold** may be susceptible to change as a result of development within the Moorside Site

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Landscape Designations	There are no national or local landscape designations present within this LCA.	Very Low
Condition/Quality	There are few landscape elements, especially soft landscape elements, located within this LCA.	Low
Scenic Quality	The dominance of built development, much of which is large scale, and stacks allied with their limited visual coherence results in very low scenic quality.	Very Low
Rarity	The Sellafield Site is unique in a local and regional context.	High
Conservation Interests	There are no nature conservation or heritage designations located within this LCA.	Low
Recreation Value	As there is no public access recreational value must be considered to be very low.	Very Low
Perceptual Aspects	The combination of background noise, vehicular movement, security lighting, security fencing and the knowledge of the range of activities that are associated with the Sellafield Site combine to provide a strong sense of place but low levels of tranquillity and high levels of light pollution (as shown in the regional light pollution map).	Very Low
Associations	There are historic or cultural associations with the development of nuclear power in the UK.	High
<b>Overall Value</b>	Despite two high value criteria, the landscape attributes of the Sellafield Site are such that this LCA’s overall value must be assessed as being low.	<b>Low</b>
<b>Susceptibility Commentary (to development within the Moorside Site)</b>		<b>Susceptibility</b>
<b>Physical Characteristics:</b> There would be no direct physical effects but large scale change is a key characteristic of this LCA.		<b>Very Low</b>
<b>Visual Characteristics:</b> The visual characteristics of the Sellafield Complex provide it with a very low susceptibility to change as change is a key characteristic. There is scope for at least some parts of this LCA to benefit from screening generated by the built development and revised landform within the Moorside Site)		<b>Very Low</b>

<b>Susceptibility Commentary (to development within the Moorside Site)</b>					<b>Susceptibility</b>	
<b>Perceptual Characteristics:</b> Reference to CPRE’s Tranquillity Mapping indicates that levels of tranquillity in this LCA are moderate to high whilst light pollution is high. The former assessment is partly due to the methodology utilised in development of the Tranquillity Mapping such as importance attached to an area’s separation from settlements and main roads. Site visits show strongly that the LCA possesses very low levels of tranquillity.					<b>Very Low</b>	
<b>Overall Susceptibility</b>		All three types of susceptibility are assessed as being very low.			<b>Very Low</b>	
<b>Overall Sensitivity</b>		<b>Susceptibility</b>				
		<b>Very High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Very Low</b>
<b>Value</b>	<b>Very High</b>	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	<b>High</b>	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	<b>Medium</b>	High	High	Medium	Low	Low
	<b>Low</b>	High	Medium	Low	Low	<b>Very Low</b>
	<b>Very Low</b>	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

## LF.5: Calder Valley Woodland and Parkland

Viewpoint Locations within the LCA as used in Local Landscape Characterisation: M

Direct landscape effects: **Moorside Site**

Indirect landscape effects: **Moorside Site**

**Key Characteristics** (as defined in the Local Landscape Characterisation Study [Amec Foster Wheeler, 2016])

- ) Gentle valley topography;
- ) **High level of tree cover particularly close to River Calder;**
- ) **Limited built development outside settlement of Calder Bridge which is largely hidden due to tree cover and topography;**
- ) **Limited public access and relatively high level of tranquillity away from A595 and southern Sellafield access road;**
- ) Good sense of time depth from parkland and woodland trees, emphasised locally by presence of Calder Abbey, Ponsonby Church and some buildings associated with the Ponsonby Estate; and
- ) **Visual prominence of the Sellafield Site varies greatly: from prominent in south-west to not discernible in north-east.**

\*Those characteristics highlighted in **Bold** may be susceptible to change as a result of development within the Moorside Site

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Landscape Designations	The eastern part of the main part of this LCA is located within the Lake District National Park (LDNP).	Very High
Condition/Quality	The tree cover, parkland and hedgerows are generally in good condition.	High
Scenic Quality	Aside from regular but not extensive views of the stacks and tallest components within the Sellafield Site the combination of a gentle river valley with high levels of tree cover results in high levels of scenic quality across most of this compact LCA. Good balance between open fields and parkland and the enclosure provided by mature tree belts and copses. Small number of locally detractive elements in Calder Bridge but Sellafield southern access road mostly screened.	High
Rarity	Although this local landscape character type is not unique at a regional scale (e.g. the Muncaster area provides another instance), within the context of the Moorside Site this LCA is rare.	High
Conservation Interests	There are no nature conservation designations located within this LCA. Calder Abbey is a Scheduled monument and a Listed Building.	High
Recreation Value	There are no national or long distance trails in this LCA. Public access is provided by the A595 and several minor roads emanating from Calder Bridge where parking is available. A number of separate PROWs extend from Calder Bridge including one to Calder Abbey but there are no PROWs that allow access to the section of Black Beck that is located within this LCA. Ponsonby Church could also be considered to be of recreational value.	Medium
Perceptual Aspects	Levels of tranquillity vary markedly across this LCA: the site visit indicates that they are relatively low close to the A595 and southern Sellafield access road; but relatively high around Ponsonby Church and in the north-eastern part. This observation accords with the CPRE Tranquillity Map.	Medium

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value			
Associations	As well as Calder Abbey there are associations with the Ponsonby family and estate with regard to the parkland and surviving estate buildings.	Medium			
<b>Overall Value</b>	Preponderance of high assessments for value criteria with the single very high assessment being balanced by three medium assessments.	<b>High</b>			
<b>Susceptibility Commentary (to development within the Moorside Site)</b>		<b>Susceptibility</b>			
<b>Physical Characteristics:</b> Potential direct physical changes would be restricted to a small proportion of the LCA on its north-western fringe where tree cover alongside a section of the southern Sellafeld access road would be physically susceptible.		<b>Medium</b>			
<b>Visual Characteristics:</b> The high level of tree cover potentially provide screening for potential built development and landform changes across much of the LCA. Outward views are not a key characteristic of this LCA. Existing development, in particular the southern Sellafeld access road has been visually absorbed within the LCA without becoming a key characteristic. There are no landmarks other than the stacks and d larger built elements in the Sellafeld site in views from the parkland south-west of Ponsonby Church.		<b>Medium</b>			
<b>Perceptual Characteristics:</b> Reference to CPRE's Tranquillity Mapping indicates that levels of tranquillity in this LCA are moderate whilst light pollution is also moderate-high on a regional scale. However there is a good sense of time depth and maturity across the majority of the LCA. Hence the LCA's perceptual susceptibility is considered to be medium.		<b>Medium</b>			
<b>Overall Susceptibility</b>	All three susceptibility criteria have been assessed as possessing medium susceptibility.	<b>Medium</b>			
<b>Overall Sensitivity</b>		<b>Susceptibility</b>			
	<b>Very High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Very Low</b>
<b>Very High</b>	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
<b>High</b>	Very High	High	<b>High</b>	Medium	Low
<b>Medium</b>	High	High	Medium	Low	Low
<b>Low</b>	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
<b>Very Low</b>	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

## LF.6: Lowland A595 Corridor

Viewpoint Locations within the LCA as used in Local Landscape Characterisation: I and K

Direct landscape effects: **Moorside Site**

Indirect landscape effects: **Moorside Site, Egremont Site**

**Key Characteristics** (as defined in the Local Landscape Characterisation Study [Amec Foster Wheeler, 2016])

- ) **Undulating and sometimes rolling topography with periodic examples of overt human modification e.g. raised reservoir close to Low Godderthwaite;**
- ) Ribbon built development alongside route interspersed with medium-sized fields of improved or semi-improved pasture;
- ) Increased levels of garden and linear tree cover alongside many route sections and associated screening, filtering and framing of views;
- ) **High levels of movement and background noise consequently no sense of tranquillity, remoteness and isolation; and**
- ) **Sellafield's stacks are only periodic, medium-scale presence in southern views competing with smaller scale but closer visual clutter (road signage, lighting columns, telegraph poles).**

\*Those characteristics highlighted in **Bold** may be susceptible to change as a result of development within the Moorside Site and Egremont Site

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Landscape Designations	There are no national or local landscape designations present within this LCA and the LCA can be described as an 'ordinary landscape'.	Medium
Condition/Quality	The hedgerows and vegetation in general is in good condition. Gardens and properties well maintained. Pasture fields appear to be in use and no visual evidence of abandonment. Alongside some fields hedgerows replaced by post and wire fencing.	High
Scenic Quality	The prominence of the A595 with the ribbon development alongside it and the associated visual clutter combine with the anodyne pastoral farmland. The stacks at the Sellafield Site to the south are sometimes visible where open views are available but in some parts such views are curtailed by tree cover. Localised reductions in scenic quality from the raised reservoir and the large traffic island where the northern end of the Sellafield access road joins the A595.	Medium
Rarity	This LCA displays many of the underlying characteristics identified in the <i>Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit</i> as being found in the parts of the extensive 5b-Low Farmland Cumbria Landscape Character Type that are located close to main roads.	Low
Conservation Interests	There are no nature conservation or heritage designations located within this LCA.	Low
Recreation Value	Aside from the A595 and the northern part of the Sellafield access road and the minor roads that extend off it, there is limited public access within this LCA in the form of PRowS. The site visit indicated that these are likely to have low levels of use.	Low
Perceptual Aspects	High levels of background noise, traffic movement, street lighting in the central part of LCA and congestion allied to low level of isolation result in low levels of tranquillity and a weak sense of place.	Low
Associations	No known historic or cultural associations, beyond at a local level.	Low
<b>Overall Value</b>	Preponderance of low assessments for value criteria	<b>Low</b>

Susceptibility Commentary		Susceptibility
<b>Physical Characteristics:</b> The formation and/or upgrading of the local road network, especially the A595 and northern section of the Sellafeld access road and the periodic presence of post and wire fencing and development such as the raised reservoir near Low Godderthwaite reduce the LCA's inherent physical susceptibility to change. There would be no physical effects in relation to the Egremont Site.		Medium
<b>Visual Characteristics:</b> Moderately high levels of tree cover in some gardens and alongside the A595 and Sellafeld access road combine to reduce the LCA's visual susceptibility to change but this is not universally applicable and the LCA would be susceptible to large-scale topographical changes within or close to its south-western edge. These would also be likely to change the composition of many outward views in relation to the Moorside Site (Medium). Within the northern section of this LCA views are typically wide and open, across the Egremont Site and toward the opposing Ehen valley sides. This indicates a high visual susceptibility. However this is reduced by the visual influence of Egremont and Thornhill which are already highly visible urban components within views (Medium)		Medium
<b>Perceptual Characteristics:</b> Reference to CPRE's Tranquillity Mapping indicates that levels of tranquillity in this LCA are moderate to low whilst light pollution is relatively high on a regional scale. This is likely to be due to the presence of A595 and the relative proximity of settlements at Thornhill and Calder Bridge all of which increase levels of noise, movement and often light pollution. These factors are indicative of low perceptual susceptibility to change in relation to both the Moorside and Egremont Site (Medium).		Low
<b>Overall Susceptibility</b>	Two of the three susceptibility criteria have been assessed as Medium in relation to the Moorside Site. Although there would be no physical effects, the visual relationship indicates the overall susceptibility as Medium in relation to the Egremont Site.	Medium

**Overall Sensitivity to the proposed development at the Moorside Site**  
The value of this LCA is Low. The overall susceptibility is judged to be Medium indicating Low sensitivity.

Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	Medium	Low	Low
	Low	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

**Overall Sensitivity to the proposed development at the Egremont Site**  
The value of this LCA is Low. The overall susceptibility is judged to be Medium indicating Low sensitivity.

Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	Medium	Low	Low
	Low	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

## LF.7: Copeland Foothills Fringe

Viewpoint Locations within the LCA as used in Local Landscape Characterisation: J

Direct landscape effects: **Moorside Site**

Indirect landscape effects: **Moorside Site**

**Key Characteristics** (as defined in the Local Landscape Characterisation Study [Amec Foster Wheeler, 2016])

- ) Rolling topography with increasing elevation to the north-east;
- ) Medium-sized, irregular-shaped fields dominated by improved pasture;
- ) Field boundaries mostly trimmed hawthorn hedgerows with few hedgerow trees especially away from lanes;
- ) Settlement restricted to small number of scattered farmsteads;
- ) **Sellafield stacks frequently visible but sense of separation;**
- ) Main visual links are with the rising ground and lower fells to the east; and
- ) **Moderate senses of tranquillity and isolation - transitional area.**

\*Those characteristics highlighted in **Bold** may be susceptible to change as a result of development within the Moorside Site

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Landscape Designations	There are no national designations present within this LCA. The LCA but it is located in close proximity to the Lake District National Park which is a nationally designated landscape. With regard to local landscape designations, the southern edge of the Lakelands Fringe Landscape of County Importance (LoCI) extends into the north-eastern part of this LCA in the vicinity of the minor road between Haile and Calder Bridge.	High
Condition/Quality	The hedgerows and vegetation in moderate - good condition with former trimmed and intact. Most fields are used as improved or semi-improved pasture.	High
Scenic Quality	'Working' landscape that contains few elements that add to scenic quality but similarly few detractive elements. Openness frequently allows extensive outward views to the lower fells to the east and coastal plan/Irish Sea to the west. Minimal number of detractive elements within or in immediate vicinity of this LCA.	Medium
Rarity	This LCA displays a combination of the underlying characteristics identified in the <i>Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit</i> as being found in the parts of the extensive 5b-Low Farmland Cumbria Landscape Character Type and the adjacent 11a- Foothills (Upland Fringes) Landscape Character Type, however this transitional landscape types is found quite extensively in the western fringes of the Fells.	Medium
Conservation Interests	There are no nature conservation or heritage designations located within this LCA.	Low
Recreation Value	There are no national or long distance trails in this LCA and only a small number of separate PRowS. The LCA is crossed by two minor roads. No recreation resources have been identified.	Low

<b>Value Criteria</b>	<b>Commentary</b>	<b>Value</b>			
Perceptual Aspects	Moderate levels of tranquillity have been identified especially away from the south-western edge which is close to the A595. These increase to high in the small sheltered valleys formed by Black Beck and Kirk Beck. Outside of these valleys views often include stacks and taller components at the Sellafield Site but a sense of spatial separation is maintained.	High			
Associations	No known historic or cultural associations, beyond at a local level.	Low			
<b>Overall Value</b>	There are three high, three low and two medium assessments of value criteria hence the mean value is medium.	<b>Medium</b>			
<b>Susceptibility Commentary (to development within the Moorside Site)</b>		<b>Susceptibility</b>			
<b>Physical Characteristics:</b> Separation distance from the Moorside Site and the intervening presence of the A595 corridor would minimise the potential for any physical changes to the attributes of this LCA. Although a small proportion the south-western fringe of this LCA is within the Moorside Site.		<b>Low</b>			
<b>Visual Characteristics:</b> Gently undulating but gradually rising topography and high level of openness increase visual susceptibility to change across much of this LCA. The exceptions are those parts located with the Valleys of Kirk and Black Becks (due to topography and higher levels of tree cover). The availability and extent of outward views is a key characteristic and whilst views to the lower fells to the east are of primary importance, those to the coastal plain and Irish Sea are also prominent. Stacks and taller components within the Sellafield Site and the 132kV line are elements present in the latter views.		<b>High</b>			
<b>Perceptual Characteristics:</b> Reference to CPRE's Tranquillity Mapping indicates that levels of tranquillity in this LCA are moderate whilst light pollution is also moderate on a regional scale. This is likely to be due to the adjacent presence of A595 and the settlements on the nearby coastal plain. These factors are indicative of moderate perceptual susceptibility to change.		<b>Medium</b>			
<b>Overall Susceptibility</b>	The High physical susceptibility to change is counter-balanced by the Low perceptual susceptibility equating to an overall Medium susceptibility.	<b>Medium</b>			
<b>Overall Sensitivity</b>	<b>Susceptibility</b>				
	<b>Very High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Very Low</b>
<b>Very High</b>	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
<b>High</b>	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
<b>Medium</b>	High	High	Medium	Low	Low
<b>Low</b>	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
<b>Very Low</b>	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

## LF.8: Hillside Farmland

Viewpoint Locations within the LCA as used in local landscape characterisation: B and E

Direct landscape effects: **None**

Indirect landscape effects: **Egremont Site and Moorside Site**

**Key Characteristics** (as defined in the Local Landscape Characterisation Study [Amec Foster Wheeler, 2016])

- ) Gently undulating topography, rising eastwards associated with a series of hilltops.
- ) Medium to large scale, mix of arable and pastoral fields (improved grassland) with regular field pattern.
- ) Boundary treatment predominantly low cut native hedgerows in good condition. Occasional sections of post and wire fencing.
- ) Tree cover limited to small scattered groups predominantly around isolated properties within Carleton and Scurgill.
- ) Settlement restricted to small hamlets, isolated farmsteads and residential properties.
- ) **Egremont and Thornhill are visually prominent; urban developments within the extensive, slightly elevated, western outward views that are widely available from this LCA.**
- ) **Large scale with strong sense of openness in western views across the adjacent west Cumbria coastal plain.**
- ) **Moderate level of tranquillity. The prominence of Egremont and Thornhill and vehicle movement on the busy A595 reduce the sense of remoteness, isolation and tranquillity.**

\*Those characteristics which are highlighted in **Bold** may be susceptible to change as a result of development within the Egremont and Moorside Sites.

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Landscape Designations	There are no national or local landscape designations present within this LCA and the LCA can be described as an 'ordinary landscape'.	Medium
Condition/Quality	Field observations note a generally well-maintained landscape with intact low cut native hedgerows in good condition. Some occasional sections of post and wire fencing.	High
Scenic Quality	This LCA is an open, large scale landscape that allows long distance views across a predominantly farmed landscape, west toward the coast across the west Cumbria coastal plain and east toward the western fringe of the Lake District National Park. The settlements of Egremont and Thornhill within western views are noticeable, particularly industrial units on the southern edge of Egremont, reducing the aesthetic appeal and diluting the scenic quality of the LCA.	High
Rarity	Aside from the prominence of Egremont, this LCA displays many of the underlying characteristics identified within the <i>Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit</i> as being found in the 5b Low Farmland (Lowland) Landscape Character Type which is an extensive LCT.	Low
Conservation Interests	There are no designated areas of nature conservation or designated heritage assets within this LCA.	Low
Recreation Value	There are no long distance recreational routes within this LCA however a section of a single, moderately well-used PRoW (from Scurgill Terraces toward Haile) does cross through the LCA. Minor roads provide vehicular access across the LCA.	Medium

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Perceptual Aspects	Strong sense of openness due to elevated nature and absence of tree cover. Low sense of isolation and remoteness due to the prominence of built form within Egremont and Thornhill plus vehicular movement associated with the A595. Overall it is assessed that this LCA is characterised by a moderate sense of tranquillity.	Medium
Associations	No known historic or cultural associations within this LCA, beyond the likelihood of some local associations.	Low
<b>Overall Value</b>	The overall value is assessed as medium as whilst condition and scenic quality result in High values for these criteria, this is balanced by Low values for rarity, conservation interest and associations.	<b>Medium</b>
<b>Susceptibility Commentary</b>		<b>Susceptibility</b>
<b>Physical Characteristics:</b> There would be no physical changes to this LCA as a result of development within the Egremont and Moorside Sites.		N/A
<b>Visual Characteristics:</b> The <i>Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit</i> states that “ <i>The open and uninterrupted views to the Solway Firth and Lakeland Fells are sensitive to tall infrastructure development</i> ” and “ <i>new nuclear power generation adjacent to Sellafield could come forward towards the end of the decade with associated infrastructure which could change the character of the landscape.</i> ” Field observations identify that this is a large scale landscape with a strong sense of openness allowing views across the LCA and beyond over the River Ehen valley, with long distance views towards the Irish Sea to the west and south and eastwards towards the fells on the western fringe of the Lake District National Park. Within views west Egremont and Thornhill form prominent built elements, however the stacks and other development at the Sellafield Site are only infrequently visible. Large scale industrial units on the southern edge of Egremont form noticeable features due to their height and scale. At closer distance, the larger scale industrial units become more dominant and detractive visual influences within the closest part of the LCA. Light pollution is present within Egremont, Thornhill and along the A595. It is judged that visual susceptibility to development at the Egremont Site is medium but visual susceptibility to development at the Moorside Site is low.		Medium to Low
<b>Perceptual Characteristics:</b> Reference to CPRE’s Tranquillity Mapping indicates that levels of tranquillity in this LCA as moderate. Field observations support this noting the presence of Egremont and the A595 reducing the sense of remoteness, isolation and tranquillity.		Medium
<b>Overall Susceptibility</b>	The visual and perceptual characteristics are assessed as being of Medium susceptibility to the type of development proposed at the Egremont Site and therefore overall susceptibility is assessed as Medium. Overall susceptibility to development at the Moorside Site is assessed as being Low.	<b>Medium to Low</b>
<b>Overall Sensitivity to proposed development at Egremont</b> The value of this LCA is Medium. The overall susceptibility is judged to be Medium indicating Medium sensitivity.		

Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	<b>Medium</b>	Low	Low
	Low	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

**Overall Sensitivity to the proposed development at the Moorside Site**

The overall susceptibility of this LCA to development at the Moorside Site is judged to be Low indicating Low sensitivity.

Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	Medium	<b>Low</b>	Low
	Low	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

## LF.9: Urban Fringe

Viewpoint Locations within the LCA as used in Local Landscape Characterisation: C

Direct landscape effects: **Egremont Site**

Indirect landscape effects: **Egremont Site**

**Key Characteristics** (as defined in the Local Landscape Characterisation Study [Amec Foster Wheeler, 2016])

- ) Flat to gently undulating topography rising from the River Ehen which is visually noticeable.
- ) Small scale field size with an irregular field pattern.
- ) Predominantly pasture, semi-improved grassland with dense scrub adjacent to the river and rough pasture (improved grassland) towards the A595. Areas of bare ground due to localised earthworks.
- ) Field boundaries are a mix of post and wire fencing, remnant hedgerow boundaries demarcated by rough grassland margins or overgrown hawthorn hedgerows.
- ) Limited tree cover concentrated as a linear belt along the dismantled railway.
- ) Degradation in landcover quality and boundary treatment due to lack of management and increasing urban influences (earthworks, access roads and industrial estate).
- ) Large scale buildings associated with Bridge End Industrial Estate are visually prominent.
- ) Urban elements highly visible within the landscape (i.e. electricity pylons and steel security fencing).
- ) Small to medium scale with moderate sense of enclosure adjacent to the river due to small scale fields and tree cover. Strong sense of openness toward more elevated valley slopes.
- ) Low to medium levels of tranquillity. The presence of the A595 corridor and close proximity to Bridge End Industrial Estate and Egremont reduce the sense of remoteness, isolation and tranquillity.

\*Those characteristics which are highlighted in **Bold** may be susceptible to change as a result of development within the Egremont Site.

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Landscape Designations	There are no national or local landscape designations present within this LCA and the LCA can be described as an 'ordinary landscape'.	Medium
Condition/Quality	Field observations note that field boundaries are a mix of overgrown hawthorn hedgerows (occasionally intact but species poor), post and wire fencing or remnant hedgerow boundaries demarcated by rough grassland margins. Landcover quality appears degraded through lack of management and increasing urban influences (earthworks, access roads and industrial estate) from the southern edge of Egremont. All typically representative of decaying/urban fringe landscapes. Tree cover along the dismantled railway appears in good condition.	Low
Scenic Quality	The LCA has a sense of enclosure within lower lying land along the valley bottom (western part of the LCA) due to rising topography and tree cover. Views west across the river toward the lower valley sides do have an aesthetic appeal. The lower valley sides (eastern part of the LCA) have open, expansive views toward the east and west with distant views of the Lake District National Park. Built form associated with the southern edge of Egremont (Bridge End Industrial Estate) and vehicular movement along the A595 are a constant visual presence and may be considered as detracting features, lowering the aesthetic appeal and diluting the scenic quality of the LCA.	Low

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Rarity	Aside from the prominence of Egremont, this LCA displays many of the underlying characteristics identified within the <i>Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit</i> as being found in the 5b Low Farmland (Lowland) Landscape Character Type which is an extensive LCT. This landscape also contains urban fringe elements, qualities and characteristics that are typically associated with landscapes that surround large towns and cities.	Low
Conservation Interests	There are no designated areas of nature conservation or designated heritage assets within this LCA.	Low
Recreation Value	A small section of the Sustrans Route 72 crosses the northern part of this LCA. There are no other long distance routes however a section of a well-used, local Public Right of Way runs along the western part of the LCA.	Medium
Perceptual Aspects	The LCA is small to medium scale with a moderate sense of enclosure adjacent to the river (within the valley bottom) and a stronger sense of openness toward more elevated parts of the eastern lower valley sides. The presence of the A595 corridor and close proximity to the Bridge End Industrial Estate (southern edge of Egremont) reduce levels of remoteness, isolation and tranquillity. Overall it is assessed that this MHLCS is characterised by a low sense of tranquillity.	Low
Associations	No known historic or cultural associations within this LCA.	Low
Overall Value	The majority of value criteria have been assessed as Low value with recreation value judged to be Medium. As a result a value of Low is carried through to the assessment.	Low
<b>Susceptibility Commentary</b>		<b>Susceptibility</b>
<b>Physical Characteristics:</b> The majority of this LCA lies within the site. Field studies have identified that whilst there are landscape elements considered sensitive to change such as semi-natural woodland, other elements such as hedgerows are generally overgrown, removed/demarcated by rough grassland margins or have been replaced by post and wire fencing. There is also a presence of steel security fencing, telegraph poles and earthworks more typical of urban fringe landscapes. There is a clear precedent for built development within the adjoining area with the southern edge of Egremont located immediately north of the LCA. Large scale built development within Bridge End Industrial Estate is clearly visible above and through existing tree cover and the busy A595 runs adjacent to the eastern edge, exerting a strong urban influence across the LCA.		Low
<b>Visual Characteristics:</b> Field observations note that within lower lying land along the valley bottom, rising topography and tree cover creates a moderate sense of enclosure. Whilst there is an increased sense of enclosure along the valley bottom, the lower valley sides within the LCA, are predominantly large scale with a strong sense of openness, with views toward the Lake District National Park and across the opposing valley sides. These more elevated slopes with limited tree cover are highly visible from elevated parts of the LCT east and west. Egremont is a key visual component in the visual setting of this LCA. Large scale industrial units associated with the southern edge of Egremont appear as readily noticeable features, visible above and through tree cover across the wider area. Light pollution is present within Egremont and along the A595.		Medium

<b>Susceptibility Commentary</b>					<b>Susceptibility</b>	
<b>Perceptual Characteristics:</b> Reference to CPRE's Tranquillity Mapping indicates that levels of tranquillity in this LCA as low to moderate. Field observations support this noting the presence of Egremont and the close proximity to the A595 reduce any sense of remoteness, isolation and tranquillity.					Low	
<b>Overall Susceptibility</b>		Physical and perceptual characteristics are assessed as being of Low susceptibility to the development proposed and visual characteristics are assessed as Medium. The overall susceptibility is assessed as Low.				Low
<b>Overall Sensitivity</b>		<b>Susceptibility</b>				
		<b>Very High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Very Low</b>
<b>Value</b>	<b>Very High</b>	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	<b>High</b>	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	<b>Medium</b>	High	High	Medium	Low	Low
	<b>Low</b>	High	Medium	Low	<b>Low</b>	Very Low
	<b>Very Low</b>	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

## LF.10: River Ehen Valley Egremont to Thornhill

Viewpoint Locations within the LCA as used in local landscape characterisation: C and F.

Direct landscape effects: **Egremont Site**

Indirect landscape effects: **Egremont Site and Moorside Site**

**Key Characteristics** (as defined in the Local Landscape Characterisation Study [Amec Foster Wheeler, 2016])

- ) Flat valley bottom defined by steep rising river bluffs.
- ) River Ehen forms a distinctive natural feature meandering through the valley bottom.
- ) Small to medium scale rough pasture consisting of a mosaic of rough grassland, reed pasture, sedges associated with the Ehen floodplain.
- ) Hedgerow boundaries appear in mixed condition fragmented and gappy. Occasional sections of post and wire fencing.
- ) Tree cover limited to small groups and belts along river bluffs and the river bank.
- ) Settlement restricted to isolated farmsteads and residential properties.
- ) **Egremont and Thornhill form noticeable built features on the elevated rising valley slopes.**
- ) **Small to medium scale with moderate sense of enclosure adjacent to River Ehen.**
- ) **Moderate levels of tranquillity. The presence of Egremont and vehicle movement associated with the A595 combine to reduce the sense of remoteness, isolation and tranquillity.**

\*Those characteristics which are highlighted in **Bold** may be susceptible to change as a result of development within the Egremont Site and Moorside Site.

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Landscape Designations	There are no national landscape designations present within this LCA. A small part of the LCA is located within the eastern part of the Coastal Cliffs and Hills Landscape of County Importance (LofCI).	High
Condition/Quality	Field observations note that field boundary hedgerows display a variety of conditions: they are rarely intact sometimes thinning, and gapped up with occasional post and wire fencing. Tree cover appears in good condition.	Medium
Scenic Quality	Field observations note the LCA has attractive qualities due to a section of the picturesque River Ehen running through it. Longer distance views are restricted due to the rising topography. The aesthetic appeal is somewhat reduced by the presence of built form within Egremont, visible above and through tree cover, whilst Thornhill is visually prominent rising up the valley sides. Large scale built form associated with Bridge End Industrial Estate may be considered to be detractive visual influences.	Medium
Rarity	Aside from the prominence of Egremont and Thornhill, and the LCA's low lying landform due to the River Ehen, this LCA displays many of the underlying characteristics identified within the <i>Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit</i> as being found in the 5b Low Farmland (Lowland) Landscape Character Type which is an extensive LCT.	Medium
Conservation Interests	There are no nature conservation or heritage designations located within this LCA.	Low
Recreation Value	There are no long distance routes within the LCA. Public access is restricted to a short section of a single, well-used PRoW running adjacent to the river and the local road network.	Medium

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Perceptual Aspects	The LCA is small to medium scale with a moderate sense of enclosure due to tree cover and rising topography. Levels of remoteness, isolation and tranquillity are reduced by the visual presence of Egremont and Thornhill. Overall it is assessed that this MHLCS is characterised by a moderate sense of tranquillity.	Medium
Associations	There are no known historic or cultural associations beyond those that may be present at a local level.	Low
Overall Value	Only the inclusion of this LCA within the LofCI has been assessed as a High value criterion. The majority of value criteria has been assessed as Medium value.	Medium
<b>Susceptibility Commentary</b>		<b>Susceptibility</b>
<b>Physical Characteristics:</b> A small section of the eastern edge of this LCA lies within the Egremont Site however the LCA would not be effected physically by built development or associated infrastructure. There would be no direct effects from the Moorside Site.		N/A
<b>Visual Characteristics:</b> Field observations note that due to lower lying land along the valley bottom, rising topography and tree cover along the river and dismantled railway, there is a moderate sense of enclosure. Small to medium scale fields to the west of the LCA, with noticeable river bluffs have a moderate sense of openness, although rising topography restricts longer distance views toward the wider landscape including towards the Moorside Site to the south.  Egremont and Thornhill are key visual components in the visual setting of this LCA. Large scale industrial units appear as noticeable features as does housing within Thornhill, visible above and through tree cover across the wider area. These may be considered detractive visual influences within the wider landscape. Light pollution is present within Egremont, the A595 and Thornhill. It is assessed that the LCA has a medium visual susceptibility to development at the Egremont Site but low visual susceptibility to development at the Moorside Site.		Medium to Low
<b>Perceptual Characteristics:</b> Reference to CPRE's Tranquillity Mapping indicates that levels of tranquillity through the LCA are moderate. Field observations support this. The sense of isolation and remoteness is eroded by views of Egremont and Thornhill. It is assessed that the LCA has a medium perceptual susceptibility to development at the Egremont Site but low perceptual susceptibility to development at the Moorside Site.		Medium to Low
<b>Overall Susceptibility</b>	The visual and perceptual characteristics are assessed as being of Medium susceptibility to the type of development proposed at the Egremont Site therefore overall susceptibility is assessed as Medium. The visual and perceptual characteristics are assessed as being of Low susceptibility to the type of development proposed at the Moorside Site therefore overall susceptibility is assessed as Low.	Medium to Low

**Overall Sensitivity to proposed development at Egremont**

The value of this LCA is Medium. The overall susceptibility is judged to be Medium indicating Medium sensitivity.

Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	<b>Medium</b>	Low	Low
	Low	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

**Overall Sensitivity to the proposed development at the Moorside Site**

The overall susceptibility is judged to be Low indicating Low sensitivity.

Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	Medium	<b>Low</b>	Low
	Low	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

## LF.11: Rising Upper Farmland

Viewpoint Locations within the LCA as used in local landscape characterisation: A

Direct landscape effects: **None**

Indirect landscape effects: **Egremont Site and Moorside Site**

**Key Characteristics** (as defined in the Local Landscape Characterisation Study [Amec Foster Wheeler, 2016])

- J Gently rising topography west towards the coast (sandstone hills and coastal plateau).
- J Medium to large scale, mix of arable and pastoral fields (improved grassland) with regular field pattern.
- J Boundary treatment predominantly low cut native hedgerows in good condition. Occasional sections of post and wire fencing.
- J Tree cover sparse toward the coast.
- J Settlement restricted to small hamlets, isolated farmsteads and residential properties.
- J **Egremont and Thornhill are visually prominent; urban developments in views across and along the River Ehen valley as well as in views across the valley toward elevated areas further to the east.**
- J **Large scale with strong sense of openness toward opposing valley sides and Lake District National Park.**
- J **Moderate level of tranquillity. The prominence of Egremont and Thornhill and vehicle movement on the local road network (Uldale View and Queens Drive) reduce the sense of remoteness, isolation and tranquillity.**

\*Those characteristics which are highlighted in **Bold** may be susceptible to change as a result of development within the Egremont Site and Moorside Site.

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Landscape Designations	There are no national landscape designations present within this LCA. The LCA is located within the eastern part of the Coastal Cliffs and Hills Landscape of County Importance (LofCI) which is the local landscape designation applied by Copeland Borough Council.	High
Condition/Quality	Field observations note a generally well-maintained landscape with intact low cut native hedgerows in good condition. Some occasional sections of post and wire fencing.	High
Scenic Quality	This LCA contains a generally vast scale and open landscape. Views from rising plateau farmland and the upper slopes of the River Ehen valley can be wide and extend to the Lake District National Park with high aesthetic appeal. From eastern parts of the LCA the settlements of Egremont and Thornhill are highly noticeable, notably large industrial units on the southern edge of Egremont which may be considered as detractive visual influences. The stacks within the Sellafeld Site are only periodically visible.	Medium
Rarity	Aside from the prominence of Egremont and the town's urban influences, this LCA displays many of the underlying characteristics identified within the <i>Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit</i> as being found in the 5b Low Farmland (Lowland) Landscape Character Type which is an extensive LCT.	Low
Conservation Interests	There are no designated areas of nature conservation or designated heritage assets within this LCA.	Low

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Recreation Value	There are no long distance routes within the LCA. Public access is restricted to a short section of PRoW within the south western part of the LCA and the local road network.	Low
Perceptual Aspects	Strong sense of openness due to elevated nature and absence of tree cover. Moderate sense of isolation and remoteness due to the prominence of built form within Egremont and Thornhill. Overall it is assessed that this LCA is characterised by a moderate sense of tranquillity	Medium
Associations	No known historic or cultural associations.	Low
<b>Overall Value</b>	The overall value is assessed as Medium as whilst condition and landscape designations result in High values for these criteria, this is balanced by Low values for rarity, conservation interest, recreation value and associations.	<b>Medium</b>
<b>Susceptibility Commentary</b>		<b>Susceptibilit</b>
<b>Physical Characteristics:</b> There would be no physical changes to this LCA as a result of development within the Egremont Site or the Moorside Site.		N/A
<b>Visual Characteristics:</b> <i>The Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit states that “The open and uninterrupted views to the Solway Firth and Lakeland Fells are sensitive to tall infrastructure development” and “new nuclear power generation adjacent to Sellafield could come forward towards the end of the decade with associated infrastructure which could change the character of the landscape.”</i>  Field observations identify that this is primarily a large scale landscape with a strong sense of openness in views across predominantly elevated farmland and the River Ehen valley, with long distance views towards the fells within the Lake District National Park. In elevated open views from the west, views of Egremont and Thornhill are clearly visible. The western settlement edge forms a hard urban edge with little vegetation to filter views and integrate with the adjoining landscape. Light pollution is present within Egremont and Thornhill. It is assessed that this LCA has medium susceptibility to development at the Egremont Site given its potential role in eastern views but low susceptibility to development at the Moorside Site due to the limited availability of the requisite elevated southern views within the LCA.		Medium to Low
<b>Perceptual Characteristics:</b> Reference to CPRE’s Tranquillity Mapping indicates that levels of tranquillity through the LCA are generally moderate with lower levels experienced around the peripheries of Egremont. This is supported by field survey observations which note the visual presence of urban development within Egremont and the local road network result in lower levels of tranquillity and remoteness within the western part of the LCA.		Medium to Low
<b>Overall Susceptibility</b>	The visual and perceptual characteristics are assessed as being of Medium susceptibility to the type of development proposed at the Egremont Site and therefore overall susceptibility is assessed as Medium. The visual and perceptual characteristics are assessed as being of Low susceptibility to the type of development proposed at the Moorside Site and therefore overall susceptibility is assessed as Low.	<b>Medium to Low</b>

**Overall Sensitivity to proposed development at Egremont**

The value of this LCA is Medium. The overall susceptibility is judged to be Medium indicating Medium sensitivity.

Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	<b>Medium</b>	Low	Low
	Low	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

**Overall Sensitivity to the proposed development at the Moorside Site**

The overall susceptibility is judged to be Low indicating Low sensitivity.

Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	Medium	<b>Low</b>	Low
	Low	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

## LF.12: Rolling Farmland

Viewpoint Locations within the LCA as used in local landscape characterisation: D

Direct landscape effects: **None**

Indirect landscape effects: **Egremont Site**

**Key Characteristics** (as defined in the Local Landscape Characterisation Study [Amec Foster Wheeler, 2016])

- ) Rolling topography with a series of hillocks and localised valleys formed by historic mining processes.
- ) Small to medium scale pastoral fields (improved grassland) with an irregular field pattern.
- ) Boundary treatment predominantly native hedgerows with some post and wire fencing.
- ) Moderate tree cover consisting of woodland copses located on hillsides and tree groups scattered along road network or hedgerow boundaries.
- ) Settlement restricted to a re-used mine (Florence Mine Arts Centre), isolated farmsteads and residential properties.
- ) **Egremont and Thornhill form noticeable, dominant urban developments from elevated areas and areas adjacent to the A595.**
- ) **Medium scale with a moderate sense of enclosure toward localised valleys. Strong sense of openness on more elevated hillocks with views toward western valley sides.**
- ) **Low to moderate levels of tranquillity. The presence of Egremont and vehicle movement associated with the A595 combine to reduce the sense of remoteness, isolation and tranquillity.**

\*Those characteristics which are highlighted in **Bold** may be susceptible to change as a result of development within the Egremont Site.

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Landscape Designations	There are no national or local landscape designations present within this LCA and the LCA can be described as an 'ordinary landscape'.	Medium
Condition/Quality	Field observations note that woodland located on hillsides and along the local road network are in good condition. Hedgerows are generally intact with some sections thinning and occasional sections of post and wire fencing.	Medium
Scenic Quality	Field observations note the LCA has a high aesthetic appeal with long distance views towards the Lake District National Park. Although the presence of Egremont, notably large scale industrial units in westerly views reduce scenic qualities and may be considered to be detractive visual influences	Medium
Rarity	Aside from the prominence of Egremont, this LCA displays many of the underlying characteristics identified within the <i>Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit</i> as being found in the 5a Ridge and Valley Landscape Character Type which is an extensive LCT.	Low
Conservation Interests	Nature Conservation interests are limited to Florence Mine SSSI (national designation). There are no cultural heritage designations within this LCA.	Medium
Recreation Value	There are no long distance routes within the LCA. Public access is restricted to a single PRoW (crossing from the eastern edge of Egremont to Little Mill) and the local road network.	Low

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value			
Perceptual Aspects	Strong sense of openness from elevated parts of the LCA with long distance views across towards the rising valley sides of the River Ehen. Sense of isolation is reduced by the presence of Egremont and the A595. Overall it is assessed that this LCA is characterised by a moderate sense of tranquillity. Overall it is assessed that this LCA is characterised by a moderate sense of tranquillity.	Medium			
Associations	There are no known historic or cultural associations.	Low			
<b>Overall Value</b>	The majority of value criteria have been assessed as Medium with rarity, recreation value and associations assessed as Low value. As a result a value of Medium is carried through to the assessment.	<b>Medium</b>			
<b>Susceptibility Commentary</b>		<b>Susceptibility</b>			
<b>Physical Characteristics:</b> There would be no physical changes to this LCA as a result of development within the Egremont Site.		N/A			
<b>Visual Characteristics:</b> Field observations identify that this is primarily a medium to large scale landscape possessing a strong sense of openness from more elevated parts of the LCA, with views west towards the rising valley sides of the River Ehen. There is an increase in the sense of enclosure within the lower parts of localised valleys due to rolling hillsides and presence of woodland/tree cover (on hillsides and the local road network). From elevated parts of the LCA, built development on the edge of Egremont is visible with large scale buildings associated with the southern edge of Egremont forming noticeable features above and through existing tree cover. Light pollution is present within Egremont, the A595 and Thornhill.		Medium			
<b>Perceptual Characteristics:</b> Reference to CPRE's Tranquillity Mapping indicates that levels of tranquillity through the LCA are generally moderate with lower levels experienced around the peripheries of Egremont and Thornhill. This is supported by field survey observations which note the visual presence of urban development within Egremont and audible influences from the local road network result in lower levels of tranquillity and remoteness within the western part of the LCA.		Medium			
<b>Overall Susceptibility</b>	Both visual characteristics and perceptual characteristics are assessed as being of Medium susceptibility to the type of development proposed therefore overall susceptibility is assessed as Medium.	<b>Medium</b>			
<b>Overall Sensitivity</b>	<b>Susceptibility</b>				
	<b>Very High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Very Low</b>
<b>Value</b>	<b>Very High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Very Low</b>
<b>Very High</b>	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
<b>High</b>	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
<b>Medium</b>	High	High	<b>Medium</b>	Low	Low
<b>Low</b>	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
<b>Very Low</b>	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

## UF.1: Woodhouse Urban Fringe

Viewpoint Locations within the LCA as used in Local landscape Characterisation: F

Direct landscape effects: **None**

Indirect landscape effects: **Mirehouse Site and  
Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site**

**Key Characteristics** (as defined in the Local Landscape Characterisation Study [Amec Foster Wheeler, 2016])

- ) Undulating and sloping topography rising onto the elevated sandstone hills and plateaus.
- ) Small watercourse descending steeply sloping topography.
- ) Small to medium scale pasture (improved grassland) and occasional arable field, irregular field pattern.
- ) Mix of low cut, thinning and gapping hedgerows; remnant hedgerow boundaries demarcated by tall ruderals and occasional shrubs and gorse; and ad hoc boundary treatments such as concrete post and wire, chain link and metal railings. Moderate to poor condition.
- ) Limited tree cover associated with the wooded watercourse, isolated farmsteads and residential properties and St Bees Road.
- ) Settlement restricted to occasional isolated farmsteads and residential properties.
- ) Completion of residential area currently under construction to the north of Wilson Pit Road will increase presence of urban form.
- ) **Whitehaven is visually dominant; elevated residential areas forming hard urban edges with little or no vegetation to filter views of the built edge or integrate it into the adjoining landscape.**
- ) **Large scale hospital buildings and tall energy centre chimney form noticeable built features.**
- ) **Pylons to south of Whitehaven and buildings on the peripheries of West Lakes Science Park are visible.**
- ) Vast scale with strong sense of openness across the sloping edges of the hill and plateau landform towards the Fells.
- ) **Low levels of tranquillity. The prominence of Whitehaven and vehicles on the busy St Bees Road and Wilson Pit Road substantially undermine the sense of remoteness, isolation and tranquillity.**

\*Those characteristics which are highlighted in **Bold** may be susceptible to change as a result of development within the Mirehouse Site and Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site.

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Landscape Designations	There are no landscape designations within this LCA.	Medium
Condition/Quality	There has been a general decline in maintenance, boundary quality and hedgerow management. Whilst areas of woodland and some hedgerows appear in good condition, many hedgerow sections appear to be neglected (thinning, gapping or lost and demarcated by post and wire fencing/tall ruderals and occasional shrubs and gorse). There is also a presence of concrete post and wire, chain link and metal railings. All typically representative of decaying/urban fringe landscapes.	Low
Scenic Quality	Despite long distance views towards the fells and summits of the Lake District field observations note the subtype has limited aesthetic appeal due to the condition/quality of the landscape and the dominance of Whitehaven (notably its hard built edges, large scale hospital buildings and energy centre chimney) which reduce scenic qualities and may be considered to be detractive visual influences.	Low

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Rarity	Many of the underlying characteristics identified within the <i>Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit</i> are found in the 5d Urban Fringe (Lowland) Landscape Character Sub-Type which is an extensive LCT. This landscape contains many additional urban fringe elements, characteristics and qualities that are typically associated with landscapes that surround large towns and cities.	Low
Conservation Interests	There are no nature conservation or heritage designations located within this LCA.	Low
Recreation Value	Public access is limited to an isolated local public right of way, Wilson Pit Road and short section of the B5345.	Low
Perceptual Aspects	Strong sense of openness across towards the Lake District from the majority of the area due to limited tree cover and rising plateau topography. Sense of isolation is reduced by the presence of Whitehaven, construction of new residential area, pylons, Wilson Pit Road and the B5345. Overall it is assessed that this LCA is characterised by a low sense of tranquillity.	Low
Associations	No known historic or cultural associations.	Low
<b>Overall Value</b>	The majority of value criteria are assessed as low with landscape designations assessed as medium.	<b>Low</b>
<b>Susceptibility Commentary</b>		<b>Susceptibility</b>
<b>Physical Characteristics:</b> There would be no physical changes to this LCA as a result of development within the Mirehouse Site and Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site.		N/A
<b>Visual Characteristics:</b> Field observations identify that this is primarily a large - vast scale landscape possessing a strong sense of openness across the plateau and Pow Beck valley; with views towards the fells and summits of the Lake District. The <i>Toolkit</i> LCT guidelines identifies the need for careful siting on any new development in non-prominent locations. However in characteristically middle - long distance to the east (towards the site), the town of Whitehaven (and its hard built edges i.e. fencing and built form with extremely limited vegetation cover) is highly visible occupying the foreground/mid-ground in many views. In addition the upper parts of a small number of large scale buildings located on the peripheries of West Lakes Science Park are clearly visible, therefore the LCA is less susceptible to the proposed Mirehouse Site (Low). In addition, views towards the Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site are restricted to a very small number of elevated locations and the existing railway line is barely visible (either screened by woodland or forming a discrete feature only noticeable with the occasional movement of trains) resulting in a low susceptibility to the scale of proposed change (Low). Field studies identify moderate levels of light pollution that reflects its proximity to the urban edge of Whitehaven.		Low
<b>Perceptual Characteristics:</b> Reference to CPRE's Tranquillity Mapping indicates that levels of tranquillity in this LCA as low. Field observations support this noting the presence of Whitehaven, pylons and vehicles on busy roads reducing any sense of remoteness, isolation and tranquillity within this LCA in regards to both developments (Low).		Low
<b>Overall Susceptibility</b>	Visual and perceptual characteristics are assessed as being of Low susceptibility to the development proposed.	<b>Low</b>

**Overall Sensitivity to proposed development at the Mirehouse Site**  
 The value of this LCA is Low. The overall susceptibility is judged to be Low indicating Low sensitivity.

Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	Medium	Low	Low
	Low	High	Medium	Low	<b>Low</b>	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

**Overall Sensitivity to proposed development at the Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site**  
 The value of this LCA is Low. The overall susceptibility is judged to be Low indicating Low sensitivity.

Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	Medium	Low	Low
	Low	High	Medium	Low	<b>Low</b>	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

## UF.2: Homewood Urban Fringe

Viewpoint Locations within the LCA as used in Local landscape Characterisation: I

Direct landscape effects: None

Indirect landscape effects: **Mirehouse Site and Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site**

**Key Characteristics** (as defined in the Local Landscape Characterisation Study [Amec Foster Wheeler, 2016])

- ) Undulating and sloping topography rising onto the elevated ridgeline/hill that extends from the urban edge.
- ) Small to medium scale pasture fields (improved grassland) and area of rough grassland with hard standing that adjoins and is accessed from the hospital grounds. Regular field pattern.
- ) Mix of low cut, thinning and gapping and outgrown hedgerows. Large sections of post and wire fencing along hedgerow boundaries and around the area of rough grassland and hard standing. Occasional vertical bar railings and walls. Moderate to poor condition.
- ) Limited tree cover associated with the A595, residential properties and occasional hedgerow trees.
- ) Settlement restricted to a cluster of residential properties associated with The Cross and isolated residential property adjoining the A595.
- ) **Whitehaven is visually dominating; the residential area and the hospital form a hard urban edge with limited vegetation to filter views of the built edge or integrate it into the adjoining landscape.**
- ) **Large scale hospital buildings and tall energy centre chimney are dominant built features.**
- ) **Pylons and built form associated with peripheries of West Lake Science Park, Bigrigg, St Bees and isolated farmsteads and residential properties are visible.**
- ) Vast scale with strong sense of openness across the elevated landscape towards the Fells and Irish Sea.
- ) **Low levels of tranquillity. The prominence of Whitehaven, vehicles on the busy A595, pylons and telegraph poles and wires all combine to substantially undermine the sense of remoteness, isolation and tranquillity.**

\*Those characteristics which are highlighted in **Bold** may be susceptible to change as a result of development within the Mirehouse Site and Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site.

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Landscape Designations	There are no national or local landscape designations present within the LCA.	Low
Condition/Quality	Whilst tree cover (semi-natural woodland on the A595 and tree groups) and some hedgerows appear in good condition, many hedgerows appear to be neglected (thinning, gapping or outgrown). There has been a general decline in boundary quality/hedgerow management. There are large sections of post and wire fencing supporting hedgerow boundaries and enclosing an area of rough grassland/hardstanding that adjoins, and is accessed, by the hospital. There is also a presence of vertical bar railings along the A595. The condition and quality are typically representative of decaying/urban fringe landscapes.	Low
Scenic Quality	The aesthetic appeal of this LCA (with long distance views towards the Lake District and Irish Sea) is reduced by the condition/quality of the landscape and the dominance of the hard built edge of Whitehaven and views of large scale buildings (i.e. associated with the hospital and West Lakes) and the energy centre chimney which may be considered to be detractive visual influences.	Low

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Rarity	This LCA displays many of the underlying characteristics identified within the <i>Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit</i> as being found in the 5d Urban Fringe (Lowland) Landscape Character Sub-Type which is an extensive LCT. This landscape contains many urban fringe elements, qualities and characteristics that are typically associated with landscapes that surround large towns and cities.	Low
Conservation Interests	The Cross Grade II Listed Building is located centrally within this LCA. There are no nature conservation or other heritage designations located within this LCA.	Low
Recreation Value	Public access is limited to a local public right of way (footpath) along the urban edge of Whitehaven and a rough track (extension of Sneakeat Lane) that connects town to countryside.	Low
Perceptual Aspects	Strong sense of openness across rising and elevated landform towards the Irish Sea (along the Pow Beck valley) to the south-west and views towards the fells and summits of the Lake District (from the western fringes of the LCA). Sense of isolation is reduced by the dominance of Whitehaven and pylons, views of large scale buildings within West Lakes Science Park, telegraph poles and wires, and the busy A595. Overall it is assessed that this LCA is characterised by a low sense of tranquillity.	Low
Associations	Single Listed Building. No other known historic or cultural associations.	Low
<b>Overall Value</b>	Value criteria are all assessed as Low.	<b>Low</b>
<b>Susceptibility Commentary</b>		<b>Susceptibility</b>
<b>Physical Characteristics:</b> The western fringes of this LCA lie within the Mirehouse Site however there would be no physical changes to this LCA as a result of both development the Mirehouse Site and Corkickle to Mirehouse Site.		N/A
<b>Visual Characteristics:</b> Field observations identify this LCA as a large - vast scale landscape possessing a strong sense of openness towards the Lake District and Irish Sea from its eastern parts. The <i>Toolkit</i> LCT guidelines identifies the need for careful siting on any new development in non-prominent locations. Within the majority of views, the town of Whitehaven located immediately to the north is highly visible and is a key visual component in the visual setting of this LCA. Its hard urban edge (with limited vegetation i.e. occasional hedgerows, to filter views) and large scale buildings associated with the hospital and peripheries of West Lakes Science Park, the energy centre chimney and pylons are all highly visible in the foreground/mid-ground. Field studies identify high levels of light pollution that reflects proximity to the urban edge of Whitehaven. There would be visual changes to LCA as a result of development within the Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site.		Low
<b>Perceptual Characteristics:</b> Reference to CPRE's Tranquillity Mapping indicates that levels of tranquillity in this LCA as low to moderate. Field observations support this noting the presence of Whitehaven and vehicles on roads reducing any sense of remoteness, isolation and tranquillity within this LCA. This LCA is considered to be of very low susceptibility to small scale increases in train movement and noise levels.		Low to Very Low
<b>Overall Susceptibility</b>	The visual and perceptual characteristics indicate a range of susceptibility from Low overall (Mirehouse) reducing to Very Low in relation the Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site.	<b>Low to Very Low</b>

**Overall Sensitivity to proposed development at the Mirehouse Site**  
The value of this LCA is Low. The overall susceptibility is judged to be Low indicating Low sensitivity.

Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	Medium	Low	Low
	Low	High	Medium	Low	<b>Low</b>	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

**Overall Sensitivity to proposed development at the Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site**  
The value of this LCA is Low. The overall susceptibility is judged to be Very Low indicating Very Low sensitivity.

Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	Medium	Low	Low
	Low	High	Medium	Low	Low	<b>Very Low</b>
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

### UF.3: West Lakes and Galemire Urban Fringe

Viewpoint Locations within the LCA as used in Local landscape Characterisation: G, J and L

Direct landscape effects: <b>Mirehouse Site</b>	Indirect landscape effects: <b>Mirehouse Site and Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site</b>
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**Key Characteristics** (as defined in the Local Landscape Characterisation Study [Amec Foster Wheeler, 2016])

- ) Undulating and sloping topography rising onto the elevated ridgeline/hill.
- ) **Two small watercourses.**
- ) **Mix of small to large scale pasture fields (improved grassland). Irregular field pattern.**
- ) **Mix of trimmed, thinning, gapping and outgrown hedgerows. Large sections of post and wire fencing along hedgerow boundaries. Occasional stone walls.**
- ) **Moderate to high presence of tree and woodland cover associated with Galemire (and former Summer Grove hall/estate), West Lakes Science Park (former Ingwell Hall), watercourses and Sustrans National Cycle Route 72 (disused railway).**
- ) Settlement pattern dominated by the West Lakes Science Park and Galemire village located predominantly within mature wooded estates and western edges of Moor Row.
- ) **Occasional groups or isolated farmsteads and residential properties.**
- ) **Whitehaven is visually prominent from the western elevated parts of the area with residential areas, hospital buildings and the tall energy centre chimney forming prominent built features.**
- ) **Pylons are a dominant feature within the western part of the area.**
- ) **Large scale built form located on the peripheries of West Lakes Science Park are noticeable and often dominant features particular where they have extended beyond the envelope of the existing matured wooded landscape.**
- ) **Other visible built form includes Galemire and occasional groups/isolated farmsteads and residential properties.**
- ) Large to vast scale with strong sense of openness across the elevated landscape towards distant uplands, Fells, the coastal plateau and the Irish Sea.
- ) The high presence of woodland provides localised sense of enclosure.
- ) **Low to moderate levels of tranquillity. The prominence of Whitehaven, West Lakes Science Park, pylons and the busy A595 and local road network (serving Moor Row, Cleator Moor and Keeke) all combine to reduce the sense of remoteness, isolation and tranquillity.**

\*Those characteristics which are highlighted in **Bold** may be susceptible to change as a result of development within the Mirehouse Site and Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site.

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Landscape Designations	There are no national or local landscape designations present within the LCA.	Low
Condition/Quality	Tree cover (semi-natural woodland associated with West Lakes, Galemire, watercourses, the A595, Sustrans National Cycle Route 72 and tree groups) and some hedgerows appear in good condition. However there has been a general decline in boundary quality/hedgerow management; with evidence of thinning, gapping and outgrown hedgerows and long sections of post and wire fencing.	Low
Scenic Quality	The aesthetic appeal of this LCA (with long distance views towards the Lake District, coastal plateau and Irish Sea) has been reduced by the condition/quality of the landscape and the prominence of built development associated with Whitehaven and Galemire, views of large scale buildings associated with the peripheries of West Lakes and pylons which may be considered to be detractive visual influences. Frequent movement of traffic on a dense road network.	Low

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Rarity	This LCA displays many of the underlying characteristics identified within the <i>Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit</i> as being found in the 5d Urban Fringe (Lowland) Landscape Character Sub-Type which is an extensive LCT. This landscape contains many urban fringe elements, qualities and characteristics that are typically associated with landscapes that surround large towns and cities.	Low
Conservation Interests	Nether End Farmhouse Grade II* Listed Building is located within the northern part of this LCA; and Scalegill Hall and Adjoining Barns and the Garden Wall to the South and West of Scalegill Hall (all Grade II Listed Buildings) are located within the south-western parts of this LCA. There are no nature conservation or other heritage designations located within this LCA.	Low
Recreation Value	Public access is limited across the wide area to a combined section of Waitwright's Coast to Coast, Head to Head and St Begas Way; a section of the Sustrans National Cycle Route 72 and a dense and busy road network.	Low
Perceptual Aspects	Strong sense of openness across rising and elevated landform towards the Lake District, coastal plateau and Irish Sea. Sense of isolation is reduced by high presence of the built development associated with Whitehaven and Galemire, views of large scale buildings associated with the peripheries of West Lakes and pylons and a busy and dense road network. Overall it is assessed that this LCA is characterised by a low to moderate sense of tranquillity.	Medium
Associations	No known historic or cultural associations.	Low
Overall Value	The majority of value criteria are assessed as Low and perceptual aspects as Medium.	Low
<b>Susceptibility Commentary</b>		<b>Susceptibility</b>
<p><b>Physical Characteristics:</b> The north-western fringes of this LCA lie within the Mirehouse Site. There is a dense pattern of development associated with West Lakes Science Park, Galemire and numerous isolated farmsteads and residential properties although parts of the LCA are relatively scenic. This landscape has been subjected to urban influences associated with Whitehaven and large buildings located on the peripheries of West Lakes Science Park. These provide a context to further built development. The area does contain a number of locally valued landscape elements including improved grassland, native hedgerows and semi-natural woodland that are sensitive to change. The <i>Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit</i> notes green spaces and fields close to settlement edges are sensitive to unsympathetic development; and tendencies for urban development to encroach further on the countryside. This is largely confirmed by field survey, although parts of the hedgerow network has become fragmented with evidence of thinning, gapping and outgrown hedgerows and long sections of post and wire fencing (Medium). There would be no physical changes to this LCA as a result of development within the Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site.</p>		Medium

Susceptibility Commentary		Susceptibility
<p><b>Visual Characteristics:</b> Field observations identify this LCA as a large - vast scale landscape possessing a strong sense of openness towards the Lake District and Irish Sea. Although in the majority of views towards the Mirehouse Site (limited to the north-western fringes of the LCA), built form associated with Whitehaven and West Lakes Science Park are highly visible across this LCA. This includes views of larger scale buildings associated with the hospital, the energy centre and West Lakes Science Park (Medium). In addition, views towards the Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site would be similarly restricted to a very small number of elevated locations and the existing railway line is barely visible (either screened by woodland or forming a discrete feature only noticeable with the occasional movement of trains) resulting in a low susceptibility to the scale of proposed change (Low). Field studies moderate to high levels of light pollution that reflects proximity to the urban edge of Whitehaven and West Lakes Science Park</p>		Medium to Low
<p><b>Perceptual Characteristics:</b> Reference to CPRE's Tranquillity Mapping indicates that levels of tranquillity in this LCA as moderate. Field observations support this noting the presence of Whitehaven, West Lakes Science Park, Galemire and vehicles on the dense and busy road network as reducing any sense of remoteness, isolation and tranquillity within this LCA (Low). This LCA is considered to be of very low susceptibility to small scale increases in train movement and noise levels in relation to the Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site (Very Low).</p>		Low to Very Low
<b>Overall Susceptibility</b>	The visual and perceptual characteristics indicate a range of susceptibility from Medium overall (Mirehouse Site) reducing to Low in relation the Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site.	<b>Medium to Low</b>

**Overall Sensitivity to proposed development at the Mirehouse Site**  
The value of this LCA is Low. The overall susceptibility is judged to be Medium indicating Low sensitivity.

Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	Medium	Low	Low
	Low	High	Medium	<b>Low</b>	Low	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

**Overall Sensitivity to proposed development at the Corkickle to Mirehouse Railway Site**  
The value of this LCA is Low. The overall susceptibility is judged to be Low indicating Low sensitivity.

Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	Medium	Low	Low
	Low	High	Medium	Low	<b>Low</b>	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low