



**hda**

HANKINSON DUCKETT ASSOCIATES

**Copeland Local Plan Area Landscape Character Assessment of Landscapes Beyond the Main Areas of Settlement**

**October 2021**



*Proud of our past. Energised for our future.*

## CONTENTS

1	Introduction	page 3
2	Cumbria Landscape Character Assessment	page 7
3	Copeland Landscape Character Areas	page 10
	<b>Bay and Estuary:</b>	
	1a i St Bees to Drigg Intertidal Flats	page 15
	1a ii Duddon Channel Intertidal Flats	page 17
	1b i Shaw Marsh to Salthouse Pool Coastal Marsh	page 19
	<b>Coastal Margins:</b>	
	2a i Seascale to Drigg Dunes & Beaches	page 21
	2a ii Haverigg Point Dunes & Beaches	page 23
	2b i Duddon Bridge to Green Road Coastal Mosses	page 25
	2c i Green Road to Millom Coastal Plain	page 27
	2d iv Hodbarrow Coastal Urban Fringe	page 31
	<b>Lowland:</b>	
	5a vii Asby to Frizington Lowland Ridge & Valley	page 34
	5b iii Thornhill East Low Farmland	page 36
	5b iv Beckermest to Drigg Low Farmland	page 39
	5b v Kirksanton Low Farmland	page 43
	5d ix Distington Western Lowland Urban Fringe	page 46
	5d x Distington Beck Lowland Urban Fringe	page 49
	<b>Intermediate Moorland and Plateau:</b>	
	9a i Gilgarran to Moresby Parks Open Moorland	page 52
	9d i Weddicar Rigg to High Peak Moorland Ridges	page 54
	<b>Upland Fringe:</b>	
	11a i Holedale to Red Beck Upland Foothills	page 56
	11a ii Dent & Haile Moor Upland Foothills	page 58
	11a iii Rashdale Hill to Kirksanton Bank Upland Foothills	page 60
	<b>Higher Limestone:</b>	
	12b i Todhole Rolling Higher Limestone	page 62
4	Conclusion	page 66

### Appendix

A	Copeland Landscape Character Areas overlaid onto 2011 Cumbria Landscape Character Types
---	--

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### **Background**

- 1.1 Copeland Borough Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan for the period 2021-2038, in order to set out strategic policies, site allocations and development management policies relating to the parts of Copeland outside the Lake District National Park. The National Planning Policy Framework, revised in July 2021, highlights the importance of conserving and enhancing the natural environment, including within the setting of National Parks.
- 1.2 As part of the evidence base for the new Local Plan, Copeland Borough Council commissioned Hankinson Duckett Associates (HDA) in 2021 to undertake a review of the 2011 Cumbria Landscape Character Assessment (LCA), updating it where necessary to provide an assessment of the landscape beyond the main areas of settlement, suitable for the Copeland Local Plan area.
- 1.3 Preceding this work is a Settlement Landscape Character Assessment, commissioned by the Borough in 2019 and completed in 2021, which assesses the landscapes within and adjacent to the Borough's larger settlements within the Local Plan area. The Settlement Landscape Character Assessment includes a review of the 2011 Cumbria LCA and defines 21 local character areas surrounding the main areas of settlement, based on subdivisions of the Landscape Types and sub-Types set out in the Cumbria LCA. The work set out below considers the remaining landscape of the Local Plan area, beyond the local character areas defined and assessed in the Settlement Landscape Character Assessment.
- 1.4 The work contained in this document sets out a total of 20 landscape Character Areas, derived or refined from the Cumbria LCA. Although considered at a more local scale than the County LCA, some of the 20 Character Areas exhibit recognisable unifying commonalities such as topography, landcover and human influences, across relatively large areas, but the degree to which certain landscape elements are present or the way in which they are manifest, can vary across the extent of each Character Area. Therefore, whilst the descriptions and assessment contained below provide an overview of the 20 Character Areas, further detailed assessment is required for site specific proposals.

### **Methodology**

- 1.5 The Cumbria LCA has been reviewed and updated for the Copeland Local Plan area beyond the main areas of settlement in line with the principles set out by Natural England's 'An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment' published in 2014, involving the following stages of work:

#### *Baseline data*

- 1.6 Data required for the studies, including up to date mapping, aerial photography, designations, policy, development allocations and existing studies was obtained, and overlays of all relevant information was mapped using ArcGIS software, and presented to the recommended scale of 1:25,000 to provide an overview of the Borough's current landscape structure and aid both the desk study and field work.

### *Desk study*

- 1.7 The extent and descriptions of the existing Cumbria Landscape Types within the study area were reviewed in light of baseline data. The desk study considered the physical and human influences that have shaped the landscape of the study area. Physical influences (natural factors) include geology, soils, landform, drainage, and land cover, including areas of ancient woodland, rare moss etc, which, in turn, have a strong influence on patterns of human occupation and activity. Significant development that has changed the landscape character, since the publication of the 2011 including wind turbines, were identified. The study also reviewed current cultural/social factors such as patterns of settlement and land use and enclosure, and considered the current changes in the landscape and the pressures for change acting on the landscapes of the study area.
- 1.8 Relevant policies and designations such as Undeveloped Coast, Heritage Coast, Flood Zones, the Lake District National Park World Heritage Site and Landscapes of County Importance were taken into account where they have a bearing on the study area. Ecological and heritage designations present within or near the study area were also considered from a landscape perspective, including Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Local Nature Reserves, Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings. Existing studies considered during the desk study included:
- Ethos Environmental Planning and David Wilson Partnership (2021) '*Copeland Landscape Settlement Study*'.
  - Lake District National Park Partnership (May 2021) '*Lake District National Park Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines*'.
  - Friends of the Lake District (June 2019) '*Lake District Peninsulas and Estuaries: A Proposal to Extend the Boundary of the Lake District National Park*'.
  - Cumbria County Council (March 2011) '*Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit*'.
  - Cumbria County Council (July 2009) '*Cumbria Historic Landscape Characterisation Database*'
- 1.9 The desk study helped identify at a local level where changes to the Cumbria Landscape Types within the study area were required, either due to changes in the landscape or due to a more detailed consideration of the commonalities which inform the local landscape character. New sub-areas were defined where differences in character within the extent of each of the relevant Cumbria Landscape Types required identification to enable local variations in the landscape to be taken into account. Draft boundary changes and sub-areas were mapped prior to field study.

### *Field Study*

- 1.10 Field survey was undertaken during August 2021 to test and refine the extent of landscapes with common features, and to confirm any notable changes to the landscape since the Cumbria assessment that cannot be recorded via the desk study alone. The characteristics and descriptions contained in the Cumbria LCA were reviewed for their relevance to the study area, and the draft boundary changes and sub-areas identified as part of the desk study were confirmed and/or refined.

- 1.11 General landscape character, key characteristics and specific attributes were recorded as well as elements related to criteria involved in determining landscape sensitivity. Field survey reviewed the Character Area in terms of the extent and combination of their key characteristics and features as well as the perceptual characteristics of the area. Landscape elements and characteristics, such as scale, landform, landcover, man made influences, scenic quality, perceptual and experiential qualities, and views were reviewed.

#### *Copeland Character Areas Mapping*

- 1.12 Changes to Cumbria Character Type boundaries and additional sub-areas relevant to Copeland, confirmed by the field study were mapped at 1:25,000 scale, with boundaries following identifiable features on the ground wherever possible. An overall map incorporating changes to Character Types and/or additional sub-areas, plus Landscape Types unchanged from the Cumbria assessment, was prepared to create a complete map of the character of the study area.

#### *Copeland Character Area Descriptions*

- 1.13 Revised and additional areas have had new descriptions prepared, with bullet pointed key characteristics/features, in line with the classification and description concepts set out in the Cumbria Landscape Character Toolkit, and there is an explanation of their relationship to the original Character Types of the Cumbria assessment. Each description is accompanied by a map, and a photograph representative of the Character Area. For Character Areas that remain consistent with the relevant characteristics set out in the Cumbria LCA, the descriptions and guidelines set out in existing Cumbria LCA should be referred to.

#### *Landscape Sensitivity Assessment*

- 1.14 To appreciate the degree to which areas can accept change to different types of development it is important to understand the sensitivity of the landscape. Areas identified as most sensitive have the least capacity to accommodate development without unacceptable harm to the character of the landscape. Less sensitive landscapes may have scope to accept an amount or type of development provided certain factors are taken into account. In June 2019 Natural England published 'An Approach to Landscape Sensitivity Assessment – to Inform Spatial Planning and Land Management', which takes into account evolution of best practice and changes to Landscape Institute guidance and replaces the previous 'Topic Paper 6: Techniques and Criteria for Judging Capacity and Sensitivity' guidance. The latest guidance describes how sensitivity is informed by the susceptibility of landscape character and the visual resource, to prescribed changes, combined with value, and sets out assessment criteria for landscape and visual susceptibility, and value.
- 1.15 Copeland Character Areas set out in this report which vary from the characteristics of the Types identified in the Cumbria LCA and cannot rely on the related descriptions with the Cumbria LCA, have been assessed against the criteria set out in this latest Natural England sensitivity assessment guidance in order to gauge the degree to which these areas can accommodate change. The table below sets out each criterion, along with example indicators of higher and lower susceptibility for each element of the assessment:

CRITERIA	INDICATORS OF HIGHER SUSCEPTIBILITY	INDICATORS OF LOWER SUSCEPTIBILITY
<b>LANDSCAPE</b>		
Scale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Large and small scales.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Medium scale.</li> </ul>
Landform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Strongly undulating landform.</li> <li>■ Irregular or complex landform.</li> <li>■ Narrow valleys or ridges.</li> <li>■ Distinctive landform features.</li> <li>■ Within floodzone.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Flatter, more uniform landform</li> <li>■ Simple, featureless landform.</li> <li>■ Not within floodzone.</li> </ul>
Landcover and biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Diverse land cover.</li> <li>■ Strong landscape structure.</li> <li>■ Small scale, complex and intricate landscape patterns arising from combinations of settlement, field pattern or vegetation.</li> <li>■ Presence of ancient woodland.</li> <li>■ Significant trees/woodland.</li> <li>■ Intact hedgerow network.</li> <li>■ Upland moorland or grazing.</li> <li>■ Wetland/riparian/meadow.</li> <li>■ Water/intertidal/dunes/coastal land.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Developed land, derelict or waste ground.</li> <li>■ Commercial forestry.</li> <li>■ Poor landscape structure.</li> <li>■ Intensively managed agriculture.</li> <li>■ Monoculture land cover.</li> <li>■ Medium scale, simple, uniformed landscape pattern.</li> <li>■ No boundary hedgerows.</li> <li>■ No significant woodland.</li> </ul>
Man-made influences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Infrequent/no residential built form.</li> <li>■ Dispersed settlement/sparsely settled or unpopulated areas.</li> <li>■ Presence of historic vernacular buildings/structures or settlement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Major infrastructure (transport/communications/utility infrastructure/wind turbines).</li> <li>■ Modern day industrial development.</li> <li>■ Large/concentrated urban/modern settlements, no vernacular influence.</li> <li>■ Commercial forestry.</li> </ul>
<b>AESTHETIC, PERCEPTUAL AND EXPERIENTIAL</b>		
Scenic quality and character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ High scenic quality, in particular AONB, National Park and Heritage Coast.</li> <li>■ Strong sense of place.</li> <li>■ Areas with a strong positive character in good condition, with features worthy of conservation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Low scenic quality, in particular industrial areas.</li> <li>■ Weak sense of place or indistinct character.</li> </ul>
Remoteness and tranquillity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Few obvious man-made features.</li> <li>■ Remote; tranquil; wild; spiritual; attractive; peaceful.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Threatening; unattractive; noisy; development or settlements.</li> <li>■ Extensive visual and auditory intrusions.</li> <li>■ Notable presence of modern / large scale development and infrastructure (industrial areas, large modern urban settlements etc).</li> </ul>

CRITERIA	INDICATORS OF HIGHER SUSCEPTIBILITY	INDICATORS OF LOWER SUSCEPTIBILITY
<b>VISUAL</b>		
Skylines and settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Open, undeveloped skylines with dark night skies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Multiple developments on slopes and skylines.</li> </ul>
Movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Landscape with little development or transport infrastructure.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Roads, busy settlements with strong influence on landscape.</li> </ul>
Visibility  Includes key views, vistas to important landscape and cultural heritage features and typical receptors (within and outside the area).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Very open, exposed landscapes.</li> <li>■ Landscapes with extensive intervisibility and little screening or filtering of views.</li> <li>■ Landscapes which are visible from designated viewpoints in protected landscapes.</li> <li>■ Prominent visual landmarks and/or topographic features such as distinct elevated ridge lines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Landscape with a strong sense of enclosure.</li> <li>■ Landscapes which are contained and strongly visually filtered.</li> <li>■ Very little or no intervisibility from designated viewpoints in protected landscapes.</li> <li>■ No prominent landmarks or topographic features.</li> </ul>
<b>VALUE</b>		
Landscape value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ National Park, AONB, Heritage Coast.</li> <li>■ Landscape of County Importance.</li> <li>■ Related published documentation (tourist information), art and literature.</li> <li>■ Historic Environment.</li> <li>■ Biodiversity and geodiversity designations.</li> <li>■ Local community values.</li> </ul>	
Visual value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Iconic views.</li> <li>■ Views related to designated landscape related features.</li> <li>■ Regionally/locally valued views.</li> <li>■ Views valued by the local community.</li> </ul>	

## 2 CUMBRIA LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

### Cumbria

- 2.1 The Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit was published in 2011. It consists of two parts - part one is entitled 'Landscape Character Guidance', which includes a Landscape Character Assessment of the County (referred to here as the 'Cumbria LCA'), and part two is entitled 'Landscape Character Toolkit', which is intended to help understand the role of landscape character assessment and how and when to use it.
- 2.2 The Cumbria LCA identifies 13 broad landscape Types across the County and a number of sub-Types. The LCA excludes the Lake District National Park, but the Cumbria Types and sub-Types are generally consistent with the adjoining areas identified in the Lake District National Park LCA.

### **Copeland Local Plan area**

- 2.3 There are 7 Cumbria LCA Types within the Copeland Local Plan area, and up to 4 sub-Types within each Type. These range from the foothills which fringe the Lakeland fells, to the central lowland which occupies a significant portion of the Borough outside the National Park, and the coastal margins, which edge the Borough along the Irish Sea to the west and Duddon Channel to the south. The northern portion of the Local Plan area also exhibits distinctive elevated areas of moorland ridges.
- 2.4 The Cumbria LCA Types and sub-Types which cover the Copeland Local Plan area and adjacent landscapes to the north and south, outside the National Park, are mapped on Figures 1 and 2 below.



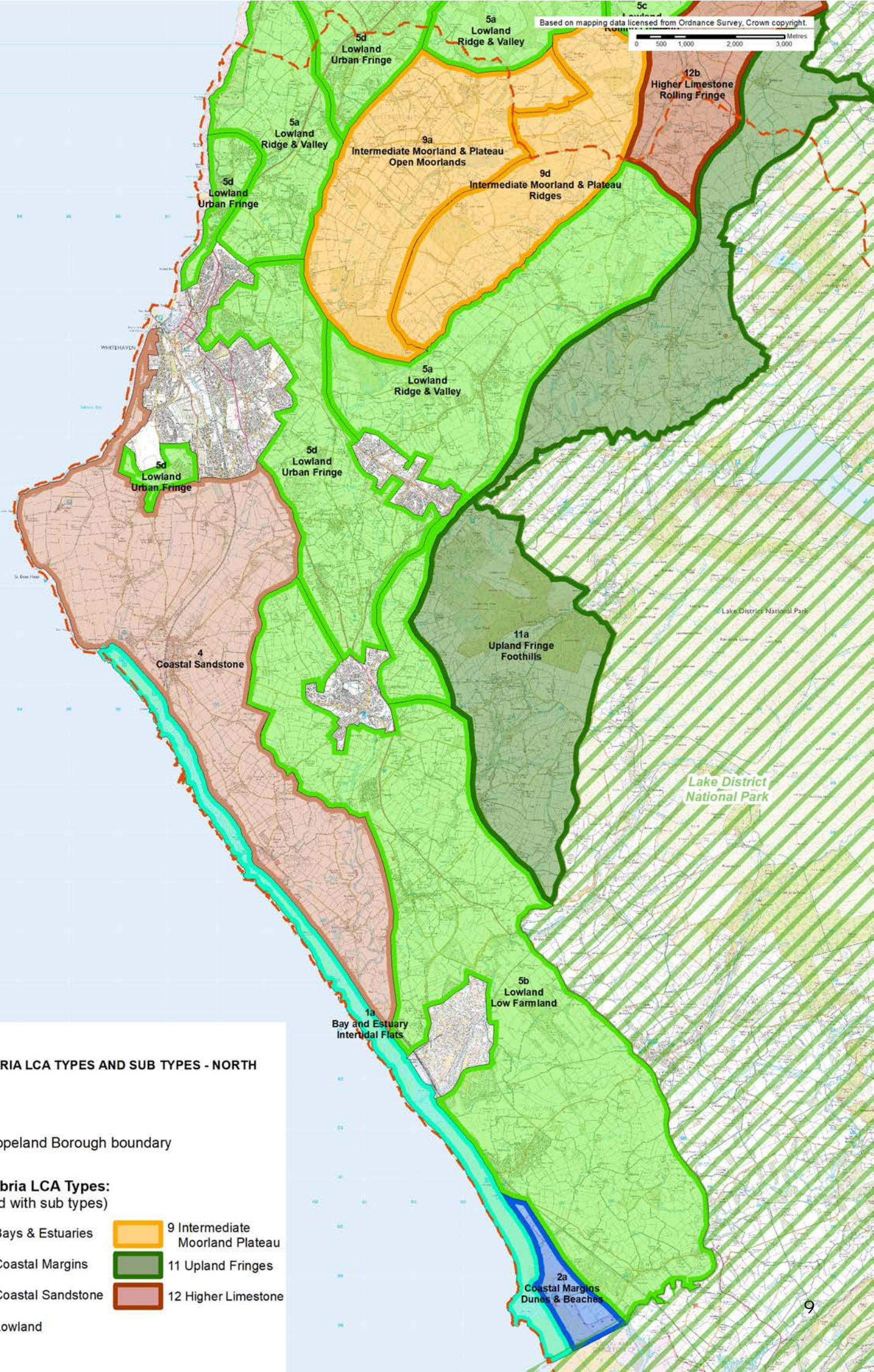



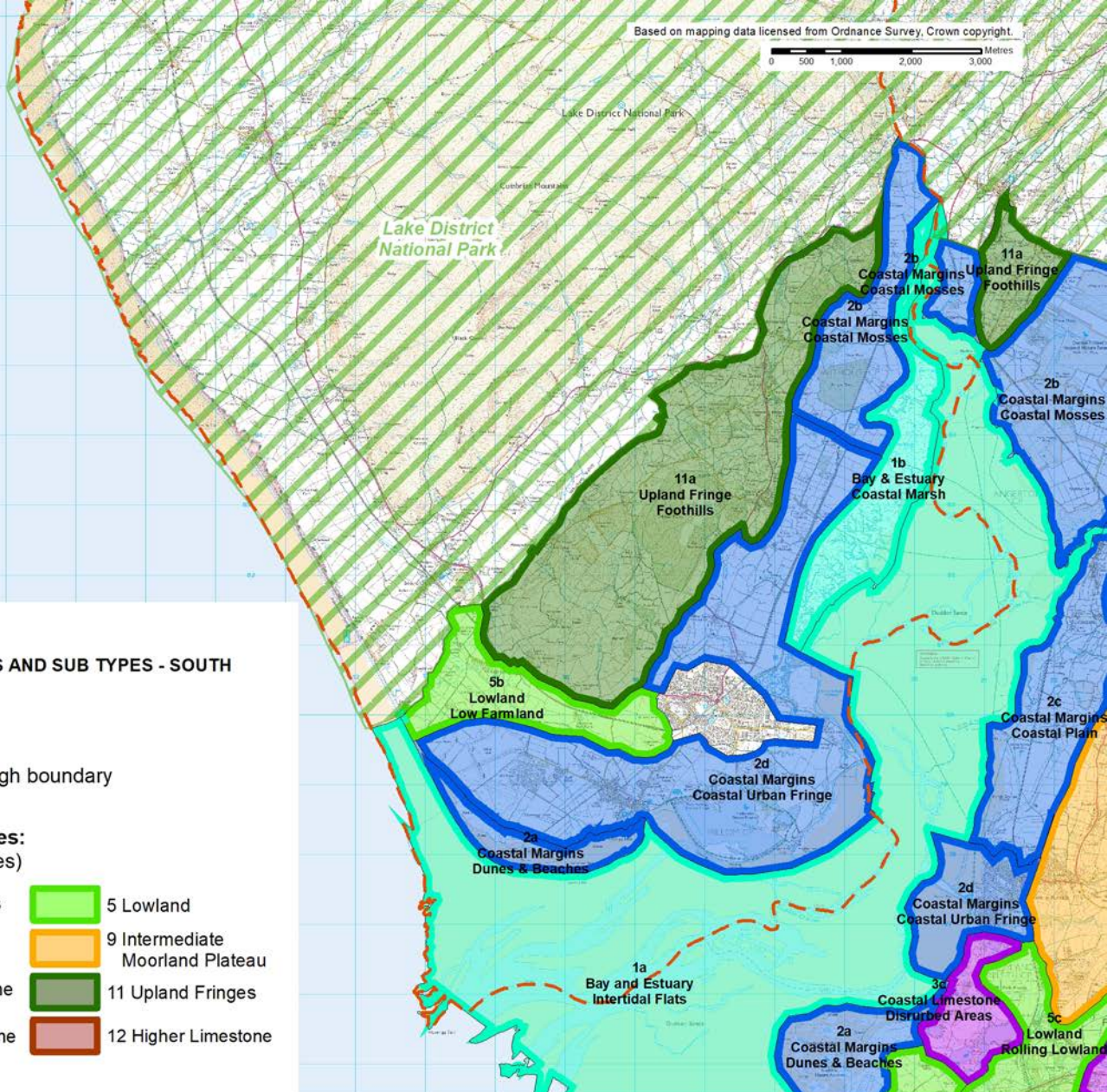
Figure 1  
 2011 CUMBRIA LCA TYPES AND SUB TYPES - NORTH

**KEY**

 Copeland Borough boundary

**2011 Cumbria LCA Types:**  
 (as labelled with sub types)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  1 Bays & Estuaries  |  9 Intermediate Moorland Plateau |
|  2 Coastal Margins   |  11 Upland Fringes               |
|  4 Coastal Sandstone |  12 Higher Limestone             |
|  5 Lowland           |   |



### 3 COPELAND LOCAL PLAN AREA LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS

#### Introduction

- 3.1 Based on refinements to the 2011 Cumbria LCA, a total of 20 Character Areas have been identified for the landscape across the Copeland Local Plan area, outside of the main areas of settlement. Changes in the landscape character of the study area since the 2011 Cumbria LCA have been limited, but some additions to the landscape including power generation in the form of wind turbines, have had an identifiable effect. The majority of revisions to Character Area boundaries compared to the Cumbria LCA areas are due to a more localised consideration of the extent of commonalities in elements such as topography, landcover and human influences which help define the Character Areas, and variations in the key characteristics of the Character Areas compared to the key characteristics set out in the broad scale Types and sub-Types defined in the Cumbria LCA. The edges of a number of these 20 Character Areas beyond the main areas of settlement are defined by the extent of the adjoining Character Areas identified in the preceding Settlement Landscape Character Assessment.

3.2 The landscape character areas defined in the Settlement Landscape Character Assessment are numbered as further subdivisions of the Cumbria LCA Types and sub-Types. For consistency across the Copeland Local Plan area, numbering of the 20 Character Areas outside the main areas of settlement takes the same approach to the Settlement Landscape Character Assessment, with the numbering of areas within each Cumbria LCA sub-Type following on from those set out in the preceding assessment. The full list of Character Areas from both studies and their relationship to the Cumbria LCA is set out in the table below.

3.3 To provide a complete picture of the landscape character across the Local Plan area of Copeland, the Character Areas defined in both the Settlement LCA and this LCA of landscapes beyond the main areas of settlement, have been mapped on Figures 3 and 4 below. The relationship of these Character Areas to the Cumbria LCA Types, are shown on Figures 5 and 6 (Appendix A).

CUMBRIA LCA LANDSCAPE TYPES	CUMBRIA LCA LANDSCAPE SUB TYPES	SETTLEMENT LCA CHARACTER AREAS	LCA OF LANDSCAPES BEYOND THE MAIN AREAS OF SETTLEMENT CHARACTER AREAS	
1 Bay & Estuary	1a Intertidal Flats		1a i St Bees to Drigg Intertidal Flats	
			1a ii Duddon Channel Intertidal Flats	
	1b Coastal Marsh		1b i Shaw Marsh to Salthouse Pool Coastal Marsh	
2 Coastal Margins	2a Dunes & Beaches		2a i Seascale to Drigg Dunes & Beaches	
			2a ii Haverigg Point Dunes & Beaches	
	2b Coastal Mosses		2b i Duddon Bridge to Green Road Coastal Mosses	
	2c Coastal Plain		2c i Green Road to Millom Coastal Plain*	
	2d Coast Urban Fringe		2d i Coastal Pasture Urban Fringe	2d iv Hodbarrow Coastal Urban Fringe*
			2d ii Coastal Derelict ex Industrial Urban Fringe	
			2diii / 5c i Millom Rural Fringe	
4 Coastal Sandstone	n/a	4i Coastal Urban Fringe Cliffs		
		4 ii Sandstone Coastal Downs		
		4 iii Pow Beck Valley		
		4 iv Sandstone Rolling Coastal Hills		

CUMBRIA LCA LANDSCAPE TYPES	CUMBRIA LCA LANDSCAPE SUB TYPES	SETTLEMENT LCA CHARACTER AREAS	LCA OF LANDSCAPES BEYOND THE MAIN AREAS OF SETTLEMENT CHARACTER AREAS	
5 Lowland	5a Ridge & Valley	5a i Lowca Ridge & Coast	5a vii Asby to Frizington Lowland Ridge & Valley	
		5a ii Lowca Valley		
		5a iii Whitehaven & Moresby Hillsides		
		5a v Cleator Moor Slopes		
		5a vi Mid Ehen Valley		
	5b Low Farmland	5b i Egremont Low Farmland	5b iii Thornhill East Low Farmland*	
		5b ii / 4 v Lower Ehen Valley	5b iv Beckermest to Drigg Low Farmland*	
			5b v Kirksanton Low Farmland*	
	5d Urban Fringe	5d ii Distington Valley Sides	5d ix Distington Western Lowland Urban Fringe*	
		5d iii Coastal Urban Fringe Cliffs	5d x Distington Beck Lowland Urban Fringe*	
		5d iv Whitehaven Hillsides		
		5d v Plantation/recreation		
		5d vi Keekle Hillsides		
		5d vii Keekle Valley		
		5d viii Wilson Pit Urban Fringe		
	9 Intermediate Moorland & Plateau	9a Open Moorland & Plateau		9a i Gilgarran to Moresby Parks Open Moorland
		9d Ridges		9d i Weddicar Rigg to High Peak Moorland Ridges
11 Upland Fringe	11a Foothills		11a i Holedale to Red Beck Upland Foothills	
			11a ii Dent & Haile Moor Upland Foothills	
			11a iii Rashdale Hill to Kirksanton Bank Upland Foothills	
12 Higher Limestone	12b Rolling Fringe		12b i Todhole Rolling Higher Limestone*	

\* The key characteristics of these 8 Character Areas vary from those of the related Cumbria LCA Sub-types. Refined key characteristics for these Character Areas are therefore set out in this document below and include an outline landscape sensitivity assessment in keeping with the latest Natural England guidance. The remaining 12 Character Areas identified in this document should refer to the relevant descriptions and guidelines contained within the Cumbria LCA.

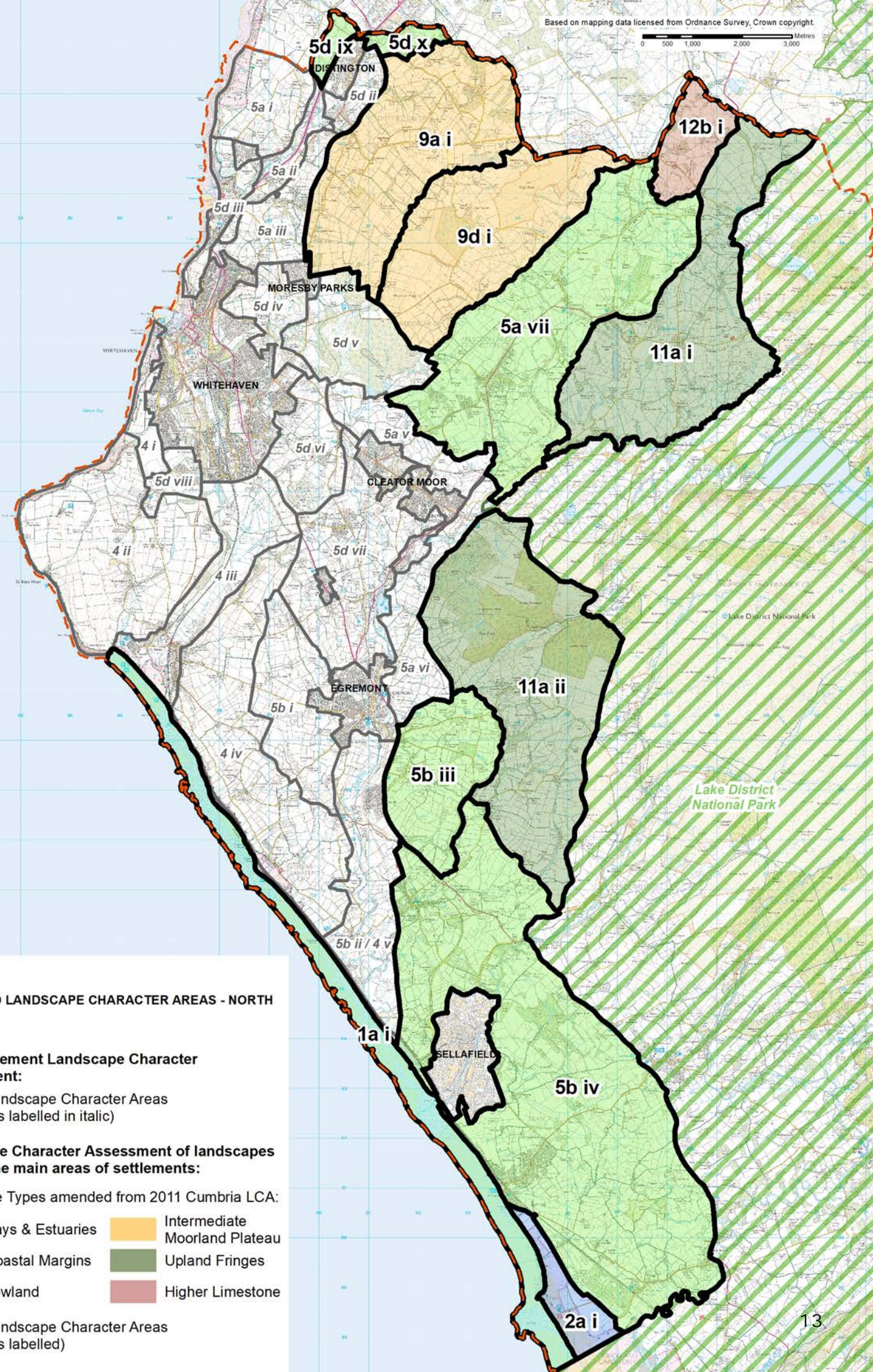


Figure 3  
COPELAND LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS - NORTH

**KEY**

2021 Settlement Landscape Character Assessment:

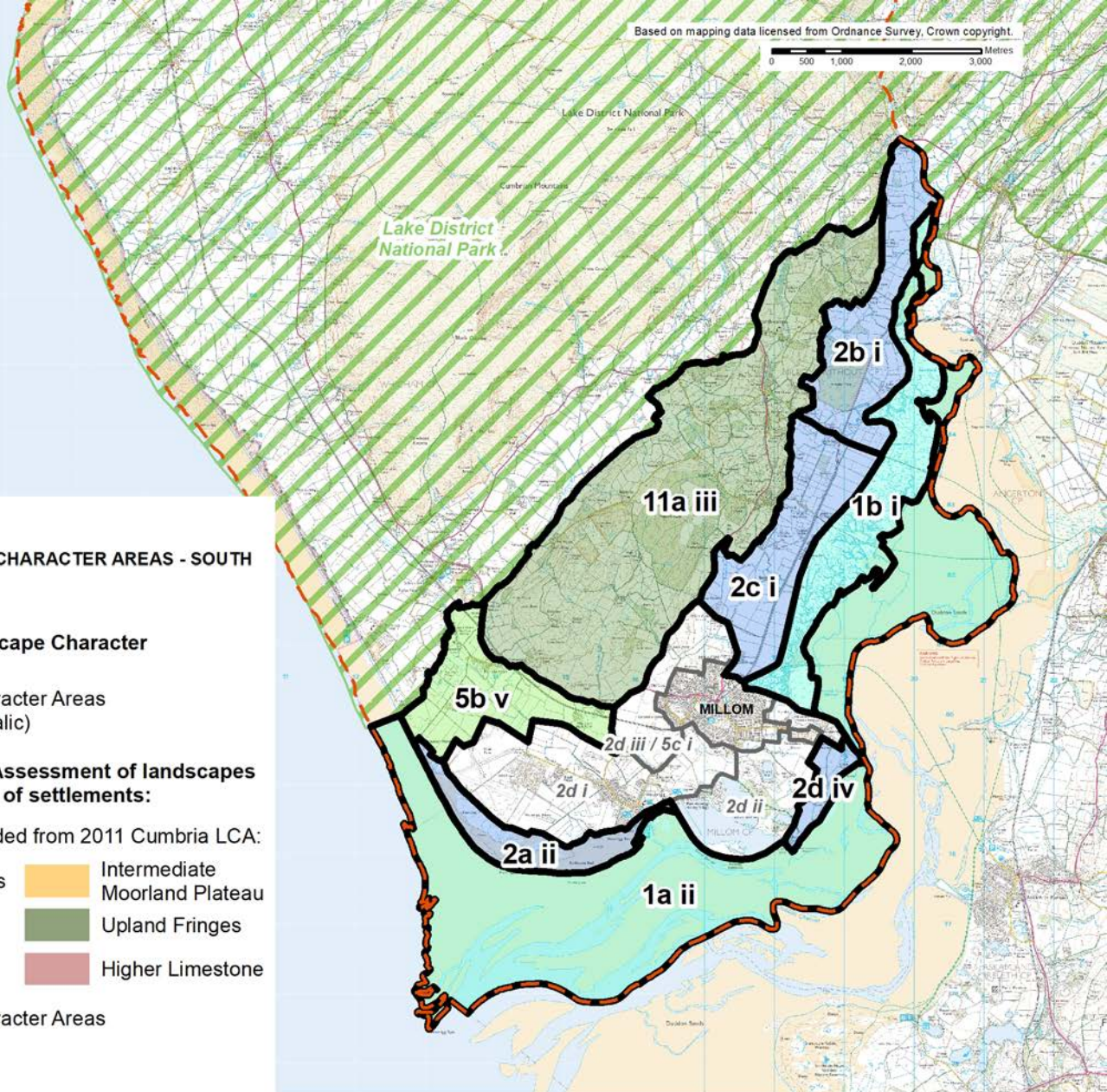
Landscape Character Areas (as labelled in italic)

Landscape Character Assessment of landscapes beyond the main areas of settlements:

Landscape Types amended from 2011 Cumbria LCA:

- |  |                  |  |                               |
|--|------------------|--|-------------------------------|
|  | Bays & Estuaries |  | Intermediate Moorland Plateau |
|  | Coastal Margins  |  | Upland Fringes                |
|  | Lowland          |  | Higher Limestone              |

Landscape Character Areas (as labelled)

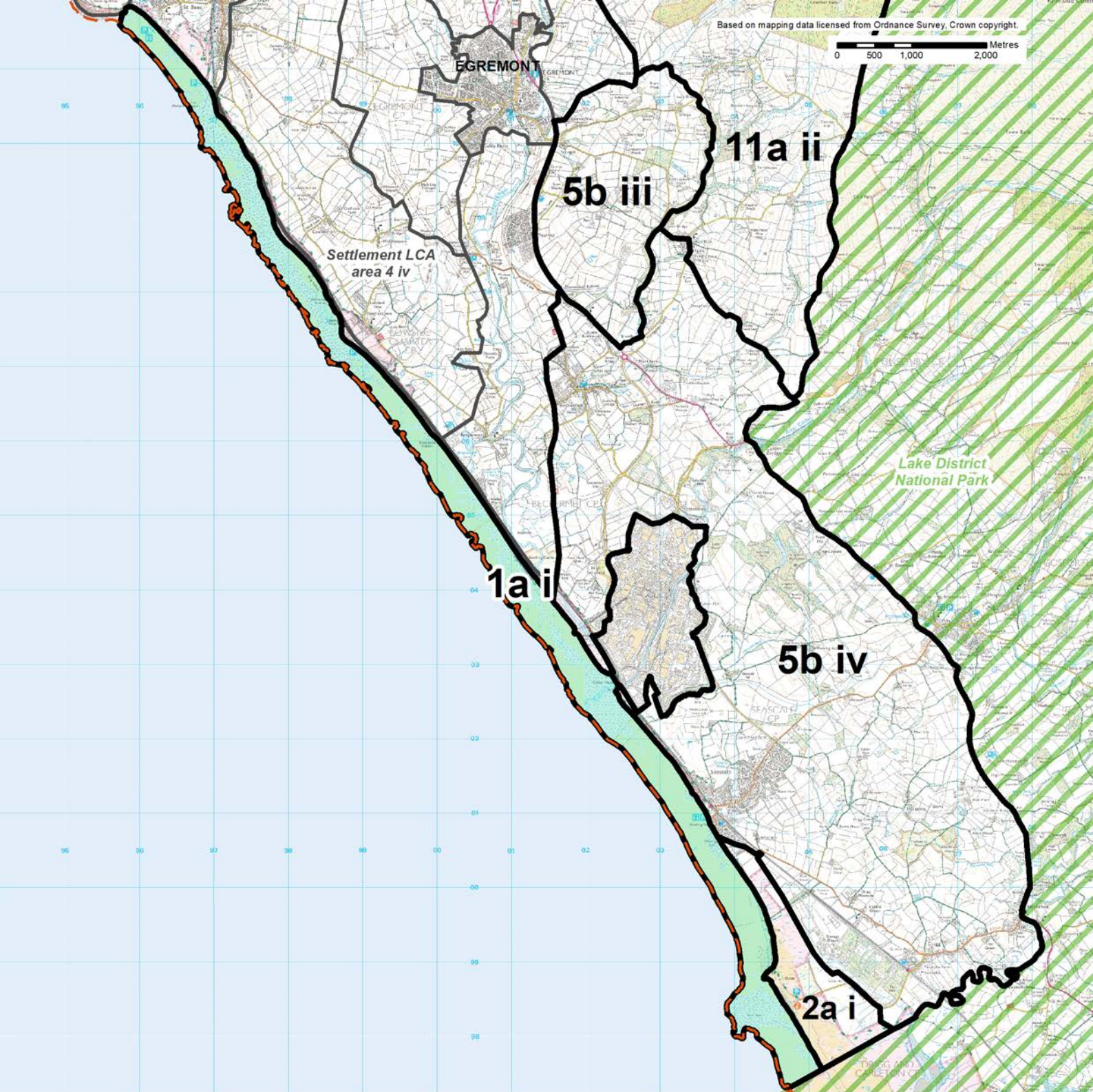


### Variations to Cumbria LCA Landscape Types and Sub-Types

- 3.5 Appendix A includes Figures 5 and 6 which overlay the Character Areas of Copeland defined in both the Settlement LCA and this LCA of Landscapes Beyond the Main Areas of Settlement (Figures 3 and 4), onto the 2011 Cumbria LCA Types and sub-Types (Figures 1 and 2). The figures in Appendix A indicate where sub-divisions and revisions to boundaries have been made to refine the Countywide landscape Types and sub-Types to take account of local variations within the Copeland Local Plan area.

### Character Area Descriptions

- 3.6 Each of the 20 Character Areas within the Copeland Local Plan area, outside the main areas of settlement, are described on the following pages. Character Areas with key characteristics which vary from those of the related Cumbria LCA sub-Types have revised key characteristics set out, and an outline assessment of their landscape sensitivity, in accordance with the latest Natural England guidance. For Character Areas which remain consistent with the majority of the key characteristics of their related Cumbria LCA sub-Types, the relevant sensitivities, guidelines and other descriptions set out within the Cumbria LCA should be referred to, as advised for each Character Area below.



## 1a i ST BEES TO DRIGG INTERTIDAL FLATS

### Overview

The St Bees to Drigg Intertidal Flats Character Area is formed from part of the Cumbria LCA Intertidal Flats sub-Type (1a) of the Bay and Estuary Type. The western edge of the Character Area has been amended to accord exactly with the Copeland Borough boundary, however the descriptions and guidelines for the sub-Type contained within the Cumbria LCA remain relevant and should be referred to for the St Bees to Drigg Intertidal Flats Character Area (1a i).

The Cumbria LCA identifies the sensitivities of this landscape sub-Type and notes that the open

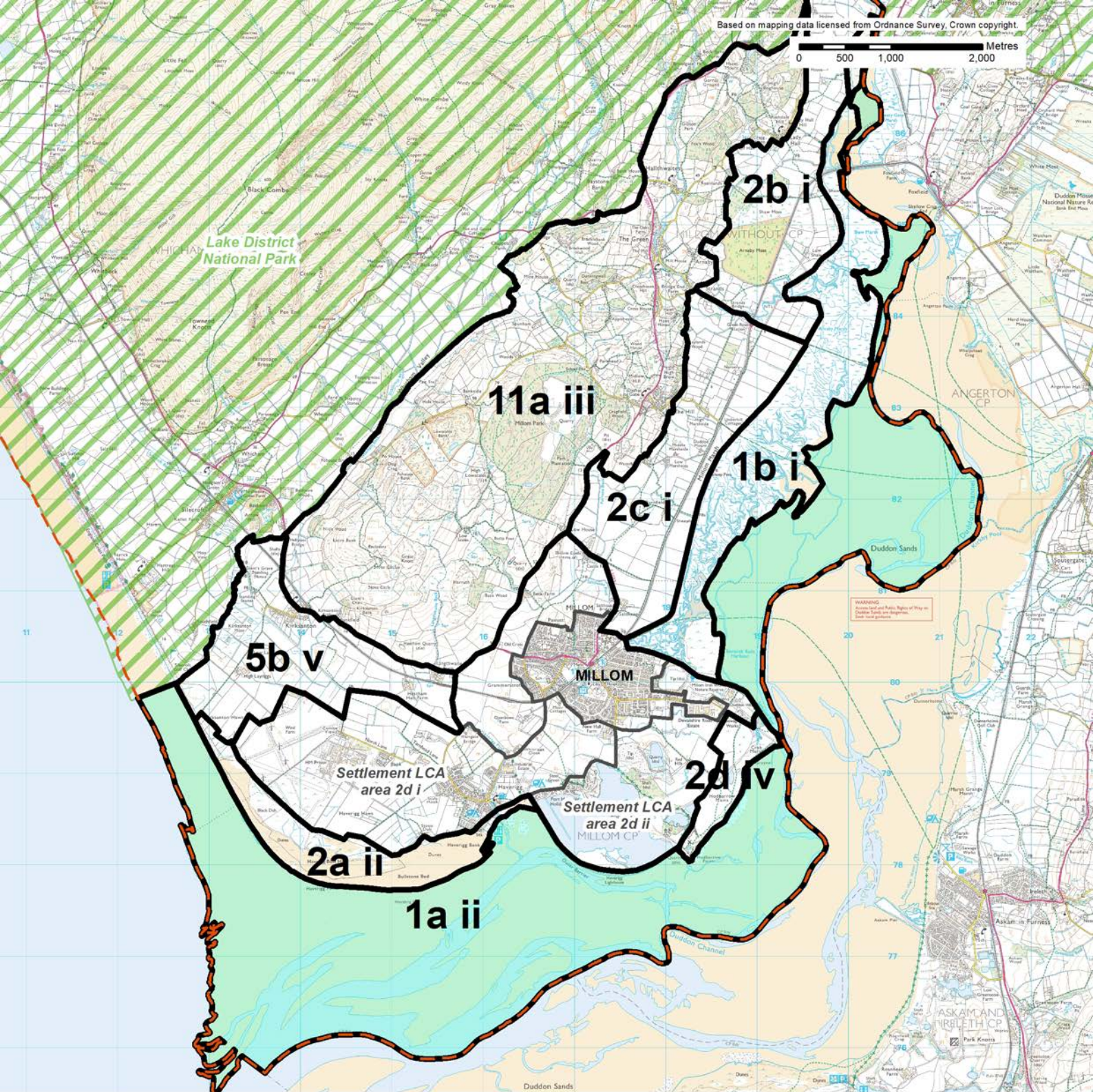
unspoilt qualities of the estuaries, bays and beaches should be conserved, and development such as wind energy could have a significant effect on the character of the seascape character. The key characteristics of the Intertidal Flats sub-Type (1a) from the Cumbria LCA are reproduced below for reference.

### **Key Characteristics (from Cumbria LCA)**

- Dynamic landscape changing rapidly with daily tides and through cycles of erosion and deposition.
- Mudflats, sands, shingle and pebble beaches contrast with open water.
- Predominantly flat and open topography.
- Vast uncluttered skies and horizons.
- Significant ecological interest – large intertidal habitat for invertebrates forms internationally important roosting and feeding grounds for wading birds and wildfowl.
- Cultural artifacts and historical routes or ‘waths’ across the sands enrich this landscape and strengthen a sense of the past.
- Cockle fishing, Haaf netting and other fishing activities provide a human presence.







## 1a ii DUDDON CHANNEL WEST INTERTIDAL FLATS

### Overview

The Duddon Channel West Intertidal Flats Character Area is formed from part of the Cumbria LCA Intertidal Flats sub-Type (1a) of the Bay and Estuary Type. The edges of the Character Area have been amended to accord with the high tide line and the Copeland Borough boundary, however the descriptions and guidelines for the sub-Type contained within the Cumbria LCA remain relevant and should be referred to for the Duddon Channel West Intertidal Flats Character Area (1a ii).

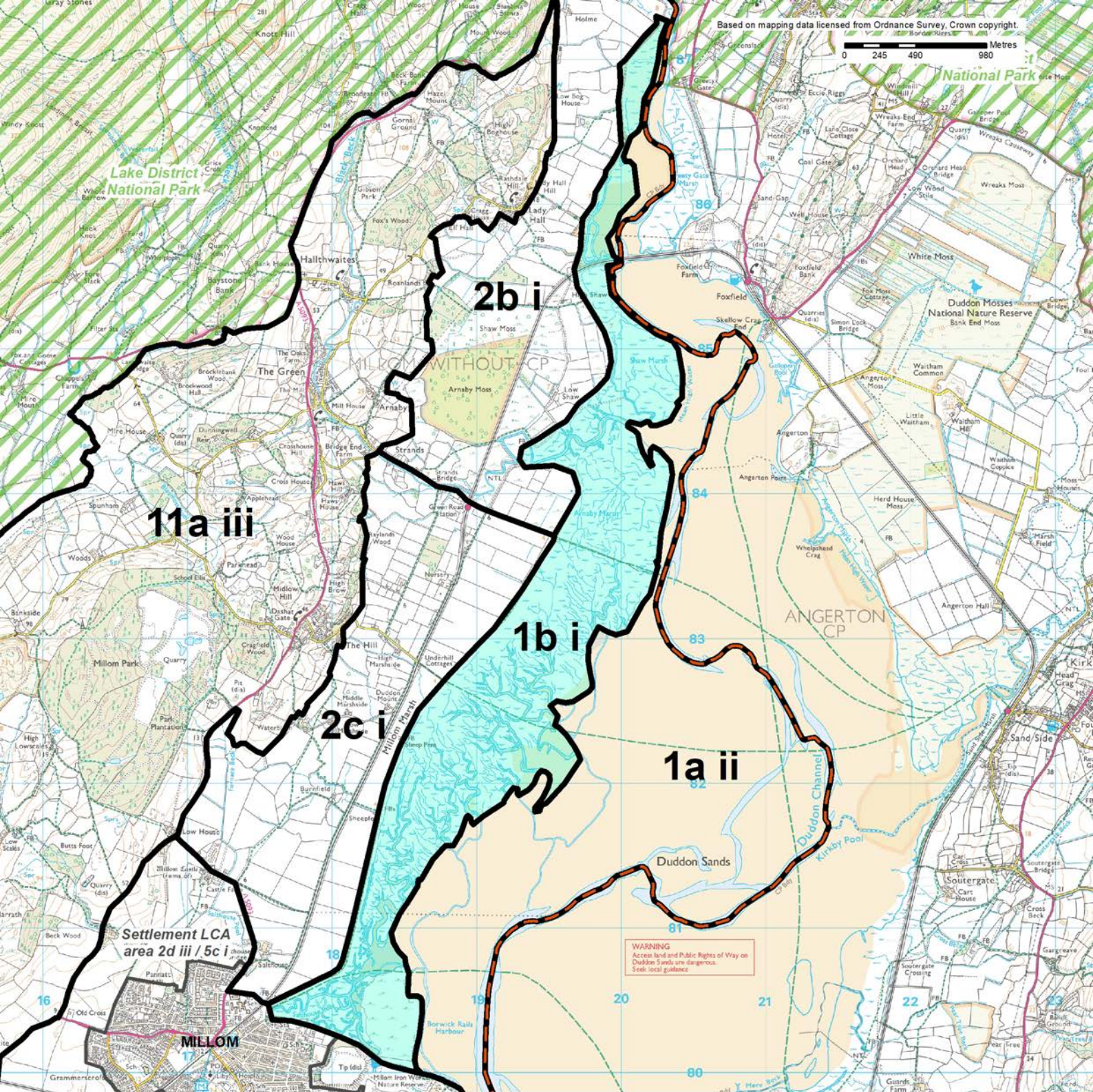
The Cumbria LCA identifies the sensitivities of this landscape sub-Type and notes that the open unspoilt qualities of the estuaries, bays and beaches should be conserved, and development such as wind energy could have a significant effect on the character of the seascape character. The key characteristics of the Intertidal Flats sub-Type (1a) from the Cumbria LCA are reproduced below for reference.

### **Key Characteristics (Cumbria LCA)**

- Dynamic landscape changing rapidly with daily tides and through cycles of erosion and deposition.
- Mudflats, sands, shingle and pebble beaches contrast with open water.
- Predominantly flat and open topography.
- Vast uncluttered skies and horizons.
- Significant ecological interest – large intertidal habitat for invertebrates forms internationally important roosting and feeding grounds for wading birds and wildfowl.
- Cultural artifacts and historical routes or ‘waths’ across the sands enrich this landscape and strengthen a sense of the past.
- Cockle fishing, Haaf netting and other fishing activities provide a human presence.

The upper reaches of the channel are considered by the 2019 Lake District Peninsulas and Estuaries study as suitable for inclusion within the Lake District National Park due to strong natural beauty attributes and excellent recreation opportunities.





## 1b i SHAW MARSH TO SALTHOUSE POOL COASTAL MARSH

### Overview

The Shaw Marsh to Salthouse Pool Coastal Marsh Character Area is formed from part of the Cumbria LCA Coastal Marsh sub-Type (1b) of the Bay and Estuary Type. The edges of the Character Area have been amended to accord with the high tide line and the Copeland Borough boundary to the east. The area has been extended south to include the creeks and channels associated with Salthouse Pool and incorporates a levelled area between Salthouse Pool and the high tide line at the south-east corner of the Character Area, which was previously occupied by railway sidings connected to a former iron mining works further south.

The descriptions and guidelines for the Coastal Marsh sub-Type (1b) contained within the Cumbria LCA remain relevant and should be referred to for the Shaw Marsh to Salthouse Pool Coastal Marsh Character Area (1b i).

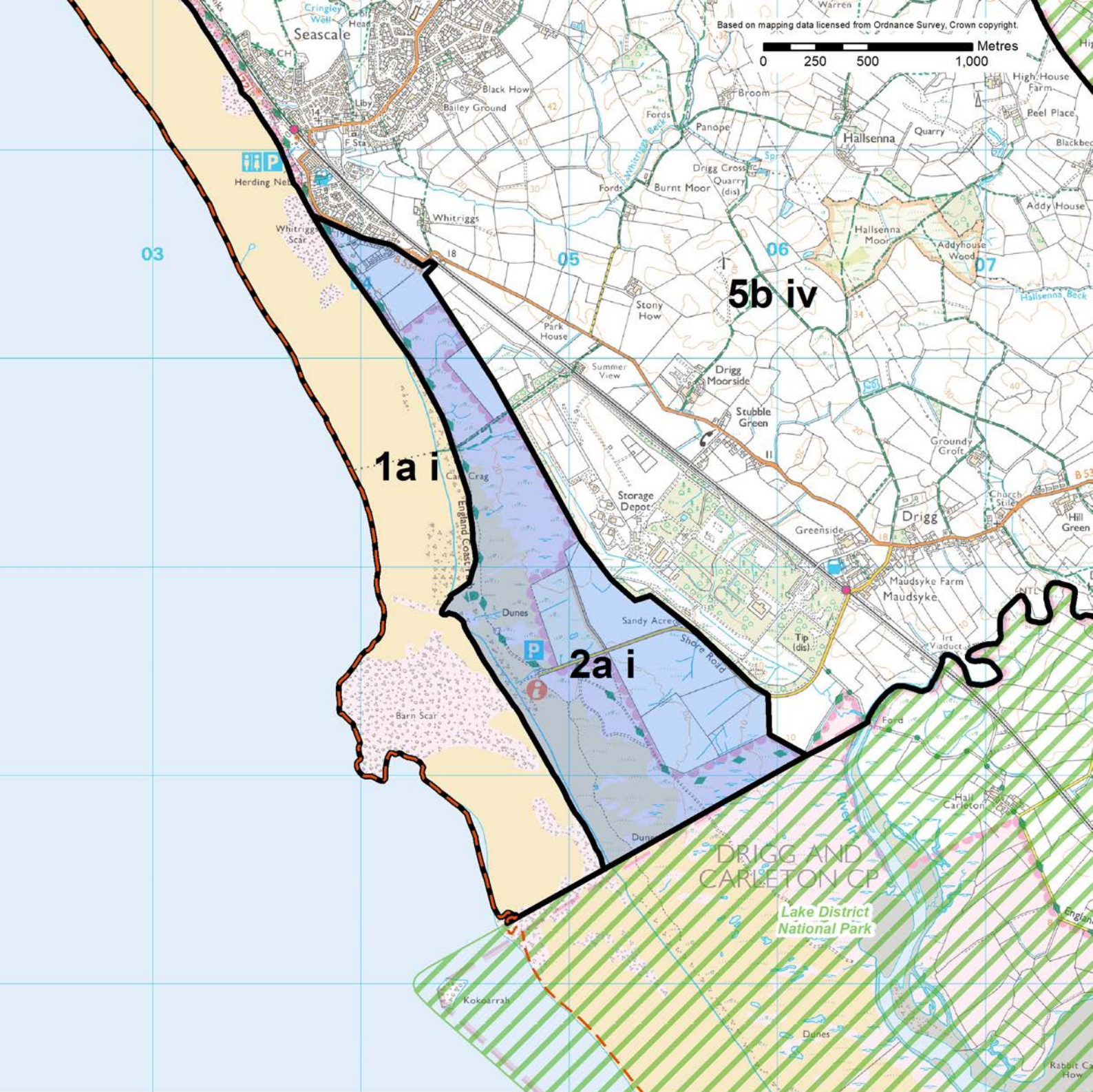
The Cumbria LCA identifies the sensitivities of this landscape sub-Type and notes that this landscape of high landscape and ecological value should be conserved, and the periphery of the salt marshes should be protected from intrusion of medium to large scale development within neighbouring areas. The key characteristics of the sub-Type from the Cumbria LCA are reproduced below for reference.

#### **Key Characteristics (Cumbria LCA)**

- Salt marshes in sheltered parts of estuaries and bays.
- Hedge topped sea dykes.
- Closely grazed fine sward.
- Creeks and channels form a dendritic pattern.
- Higher marshes dissected by streams.
- Sporadic scrub and remnant field hedges.

The majority of the area is considered by the 2019 Lake District Peninsulas and Estuaries study as suitable for inclusion within the Lake District National Park due to strong natural beauty attributes and excellent recreation opportunities.





## 2a i SEASCALE TO DRIGG DUNES AND BEACHES

### Overview

The Seascale to Drigg Dunes and Beaches Character Area is formed from part of the Cumbria LCA Dunes and Beaches sub-Type (2a) of the Coastal Margins Type. The eastern edges of the Character Area have been amended to follow identifiable features on the ground. The limited number of buildings within the Character Area are not typical of those described in the Cumbria LCA for the wider Dunes and Beaches sub-Type, however the majority of descriptions and guidelines for the Dunes and Beaches sub-Type (2a) contained within the Cumbria LCA remain relevant and should be referred to for the Seascale to Drigg Dunes and Beaches

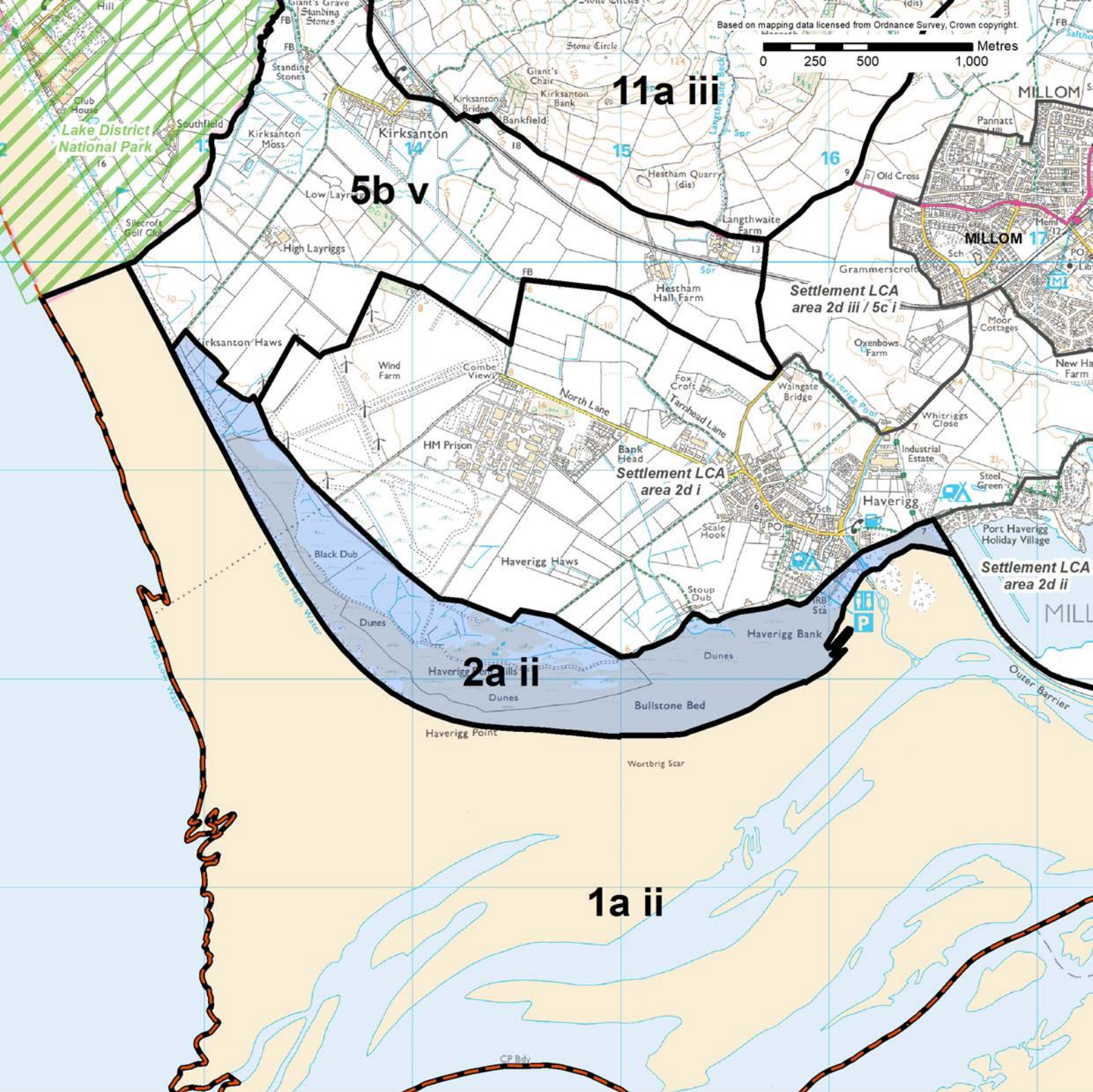
Character Area (2a i).

The Cumbria LCA identifies the sensitivities of this landscape sub-Type and notes that the wild qualities and ecological value of the dunes and grassland should be conserved and enhanced whilst retaining the public's freedom to roam, and that infrastructure development such as wind turbines could have a significant effect on the open seascape character. The relevant key characteristics of the sub-Type from the Cumbria LCA are reproduced below for reference.

**Key Characteristics (Cumbria LCA)**

- Hummocky dunes and flat raised beaches.
- Beaches of mud, sand, shingle and pebbles.
- Semi-natural grassland dominates.
- Bounded by small roads leading to minor tracks and paths.
- Strong sense of tranquillity in some parts.





## 2a ii HAVERIGG POINT DUNES AND BEACHES

### Overview

The Haverigg Point Dunes and Beaches Character Area is formed from part of the Cumbria LCA Dunes and Beaches sub-Type (2a) of the Coastal Margins Type. The north-western edge of the Character Area has been amended to follow identifiable features on the ground, and the eastern end of the Character Area has been extended to include the beach above the high tide line on the eastern side of Haverigg Pool. There are no buildings within the Character Area typical of those described in the Cumbria LCA for the wider Dunes and Beaches sub-Type, however the majority of descriptions and guidelines for the Dunes and Beaches sub-Type (2a)

contained within the Cumbria LCA remain relevant and should be referred to for the Haverigg Point Dunes and Beaches Character Area (2a ii).

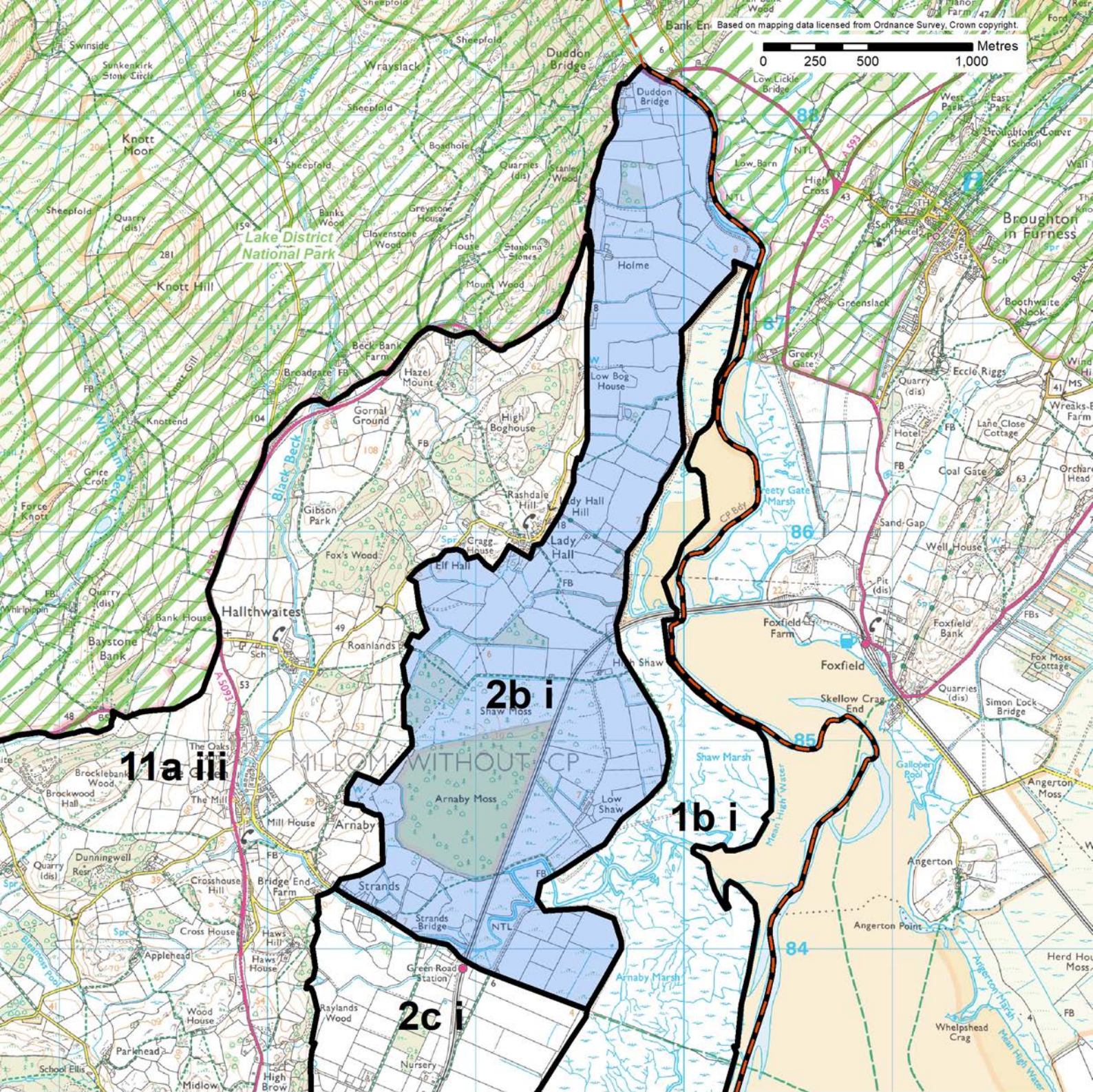
The Cumbria LCA identifies the sensitivities of this landscape sub-Type and notes that the wild qualities and ecological value of the dunes and grassland should be conserved and enhanced whilst retaining the public's freedom to roam, and that infrastructure development such as wind turbines could have a significant effect on the open seascape character. The relevant key characteristics of the sub-Type from the Cumbria LCA are reproduced below for reference.

### **Key Characteristics (Cumbria LCA)**

- Hummocky dunes and flat raised beaches.
- Beaches of mud, sand, shingle and pebbles.
- Semi-natural grassland dominates.
- Bounded by small roads leading to minor tracks and paths.
- Strong sense of tranquillity in some parts.







## 2b i DUDDON BRIDGE TO GREEN ROAD COASTAL MOSSES

### Overview

The Duddon Bridge to Green Road Coastal Mosses Character Area is formed from part of the Cumbria LCA Coastal Mosses sub-Type (2b) of the Coastal Margins Type. The western edge of the Character Area has been amended marginally to transfer small areas of elevated landform into the adjacent Foothills Character Area, and to follow identifiable features on the ground. However, the descriptions and guidelines for the Coastal Mosses sub-Type (2b) contained within the Cumbria LCA remain relevant and should be referred to for the Duddon Bridge to Green Road Coastal Mosses Character Area (2b i).

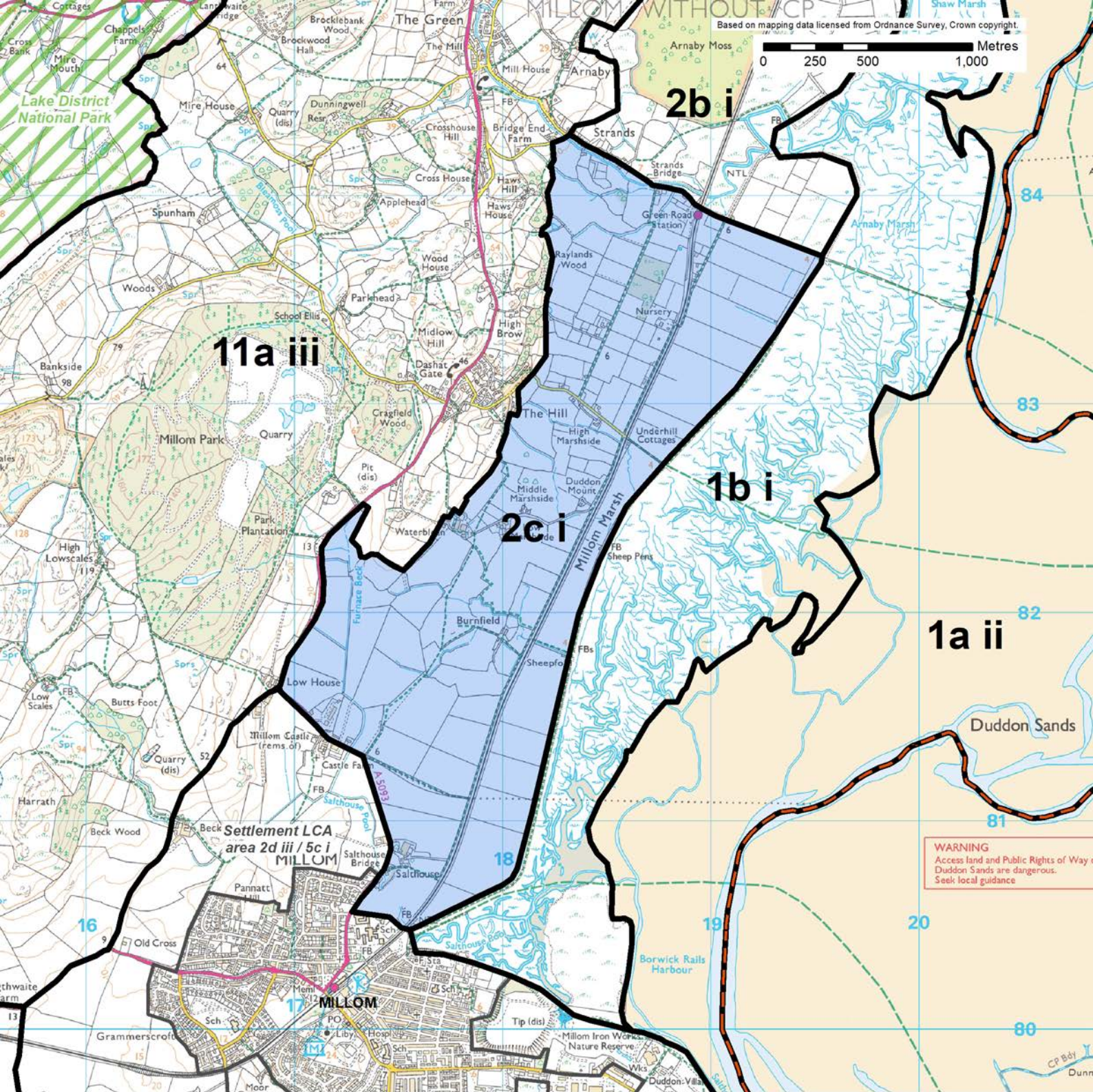
The Cumbria LCA identifies the sensitivities of this landscape sub-Type and notes that the mosses are a rare landscape which should be conserved and restored, and that the remoteness and naturalness of the sub-Type make it sensitive to large scale development. The key characteristics of the sub-Type from the Cumbria LCA are reproduced below for reference.

### **Key Characteristics (Cumbria LCA)**

- Lowland raised mosses.
- A mosaic of heath, Willow Carr, Birch scrub woodland and pasture.
- High ecological value.
- Field shapes vary, bounded by hedges and fences.
- Some woodland around the Duddon Estuary.
- Picturesque backdrop of the Lakeland Fells/open flat panoramic views.
- Distinct raised edges.
- Sense of remoteness and tranquillity.

The area is considered by the 2019 Lake District Peninsulas and Estuaries study as suitable for inclusion within the Lake District National Park due to strong natural beauty attributes and excellent recreation opportunities.





## 2c i GREEN ROAD TO MILLOM COASTAL PLAIN

### Overview

The Green Road to Millom Coastal Plain Character Area is part of an area identified in the Cumbria LCA as the Coastal Urban Fringe sub-Type (2d) of the Coastal Margins Type. However, the southern portion of the Cumbria LCA sub-Type is included in the Settlement Landscape Character Assessment and has been sub-divided into further local areas of landscape character.

The key characteristics of the remaining northern portion of the sub-Type, outside the Settlement

LCA, vary from those set out for the Coastal Urban Fringe sub-Type (2d), in particular with regards to the amount of urban influence and the field pattern.

The Character Area is characteristic of the Cumbria LCA Coastal Plain sub-Type (2c) of the Coastal Margins Type. This Character Area is therefore identified as a sub-division of the Coastal Plain sub-Type rather than the Coastal Urban Fringe.

The western edge of the Character Area has been amended to transfer small areas of elevated landform into the adjacent Foothills Character Area, and to follow identifiable features on the ground. Key characteristics of the Green Road to Millom Coastal Plain Character Area are set out below.

### **Key Characteristics**

- Flat and slightly undulating coastal plain.
- Large fields in flatter areas adjacent to the Coastal Marsh to the east, and a mixture of smaller geometric and irregular shaped fields on slightly higher ground, mainly to the west of the Cumbrian Coast Line railway which passes through the length of the Character Area.
- Intersected by shallow rivers and watercourses.
- Hedges form main field boundaries and provide layers of low level vegetation in views.
- Limited tree cover.
- Predominantly pasture with some arable in drier areas.
- Buildings are limited to small groups of dwellings and farm structures along minor roads and tracks, and there are currently no pylons or wind turbines within the Character area.
- Distant views across the low-lying landscape, including to the Lake District fells and foothills to the west, across the marsh and Duddon Estuary to the west, and to the spire of St George's Church and the edge of Millom to the south.

The area is considered by the 2019 Lake District Peninsulas and Estuaries study as suitable for inclusion within the Lake District National Park due to strong natural beauty attributes and excellent recreation opportunities.

### **Landscape Sensitivity**

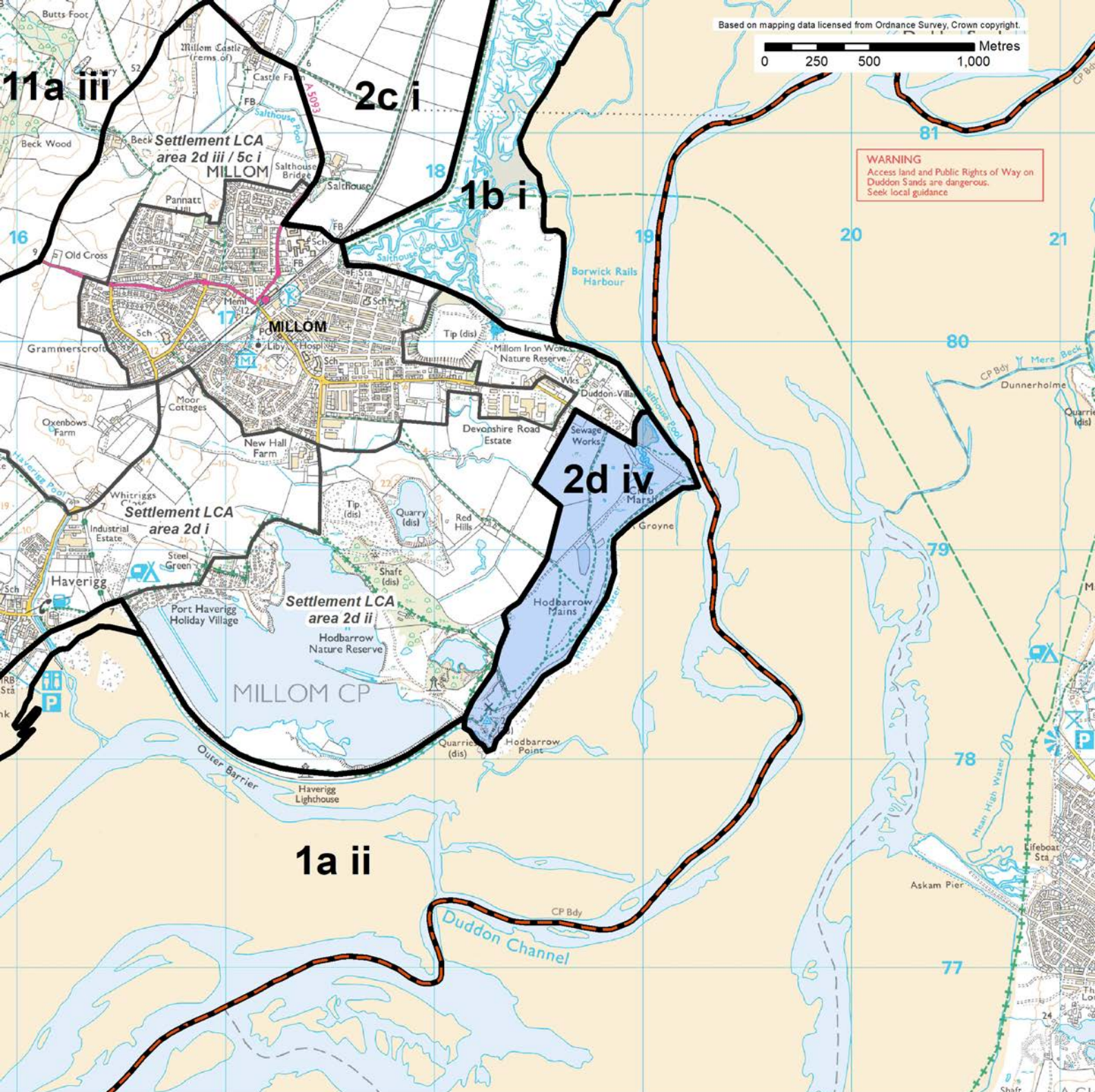
To judge general acceptable levels of change within this Character Area (which has differing characteristics to the sub-Type identified in the Cumbria LCA), an outline assessment of the landscape sensitivity of the Character Area has been carried out below in accordance with the latest Natural England guidance.

CRITERIA	SENSITIVITY					NOTES
	H	H-M	M	M-L	L	
<b>LANDSCAPE</b>						
Scale						Large scale fields to the east.
Landform						Uniform, flat. Foil to wooded foothill slopes to the west.
Landcover and biodiversity						A network of hedges and watercourses with connectivity to marsh to the east.
Man-made influences						Relatively low key man made influences.
<b>AESTHETIC, PERCEPTUAL AND EXPERIENTIAL</b>						
Scenic quality and character						Identifiable sense of place, borrowed high scenic quality to east and west.
Remoteness and tranquillity						Tempered by settlement and roads to west and south.
<b>VISUAL</b>						
Skylines and settings						Low, but open skylines with limited development.
Movement						Relatively peaceful but some influence from occasional roads and settlement.
Visibility*						Intervisibility with the National Park and undeveloped coast across the low lying landscape.
<b>VALUE</b>						
Landscape value						Part of the undeveloped coastline, abuts current Landscape of County Importance
Visual value						Recognisable views between the National Park and coast.
<b>SUMMARY</b>						
Overall landscape sensitivity						

\*Includes key views, vistas to important landscape and cultural heritage features and typical receptors (within and outside the area).

The Green Road to Millom Coastal Plain Character Area (2c i) is considered to have a general High-Medium landscape sensitivity to residential and small-scale employment development. The Character Area has characteristics, including views, which are very susceptible to change and is unlikely to accommodate development without significant character change or adverse effects. Any development should be on a very small scale, in appropriate locations, where it can be demonstrated that proposals would not have an adverse effect on the landscape. The low lying, relatively open nature of the area, intervisibility with the National Park and the undeveloped coast, and lack of existing prominent structures makes this area particularly sensitive to any potential wind turbine or solar array development.





## 2d iv HODBARROW COASTAL URBAN FRINGE

### Overview

The Hodbarrow Coastal Urban Fringe Character Area is formed from part of the Cumbria LCA Coastal Urban Fringe sub-Type (2d) of the Coastal Margins Type. The Character Area encompasses only a small portion of the Cumbria LCA sub-Type area. The adjacent areas to the west are included in the Settlement Landscape Character Assessment and have been sub-divided into further local areas of landscape character, necessitating a separate Character Area for the Hodbarrow area. Regard should be given to the descriptions and guidelines for the Coastal Urban Fringe sub-Type (2d) contained within the Cumbria LCA, which are largely

relevant to the Hodbarrow Coastal Urban Fringe Character Area (2d iv). However, given the localised extent of this Character Area, relevant key characteristics are set out below.

### Key Characteristics

- Primarily low lying flat land.
- Urban influences including derelict structures and nearby sewage works and industrial buildings.
- Strong man-made landforms including depressions and embankments related to mining and railway lines associated with the former iron works of the area.
- Mixed land cover of rough grass, pasture, scrub and semi natural grassland.
- Areas of marsh and sand dunes along the eastern interface with the Intertidal Flats to the east.
- Limited tree cover and weak field patterns.
- Open views across the Duddon Channel.

### Landscape Sensitivity

To judge general acceptable levels of change within this Character Area (which has differing characteristics to the sub-Type identified in the Cumbria LCA), an outline assessment of the landscape sensitivity of the Character Area has been carried out below in accordance with the latest Natural England guidance.

CRITERIA	SENSITIVITY					NOTES
	H	H-M	M	M-L	L	
<b>LANDSCAPE</b>						
Scale						Medium to large scale, but poorly defined land parcels/fields.
Landform						Primarily flat, but with man-made landforms. Partially within flood zones.
Landcover and biodiversity						Mixed land cover, including some sensitive habitats, and water bodies.
Man-made influences						Notable man made influences, internally and adjacent.
<b>AESTHETIC, PERCEPTUAL AND EXPERIENTIAL</b>						
Scenic quality and character						Sense of dereliction but borrowed high scenic quality to the east.
Remoteness and tranquillity						Limited by heavy human influence.
<b>VISUAL</b>						
Skylines and settings						Low, but open skylines, particularly to the east.
Movement						Frequent walkers and nearby settlement.
Visibility*						Intervisibility with the coast across the low lying landscape.

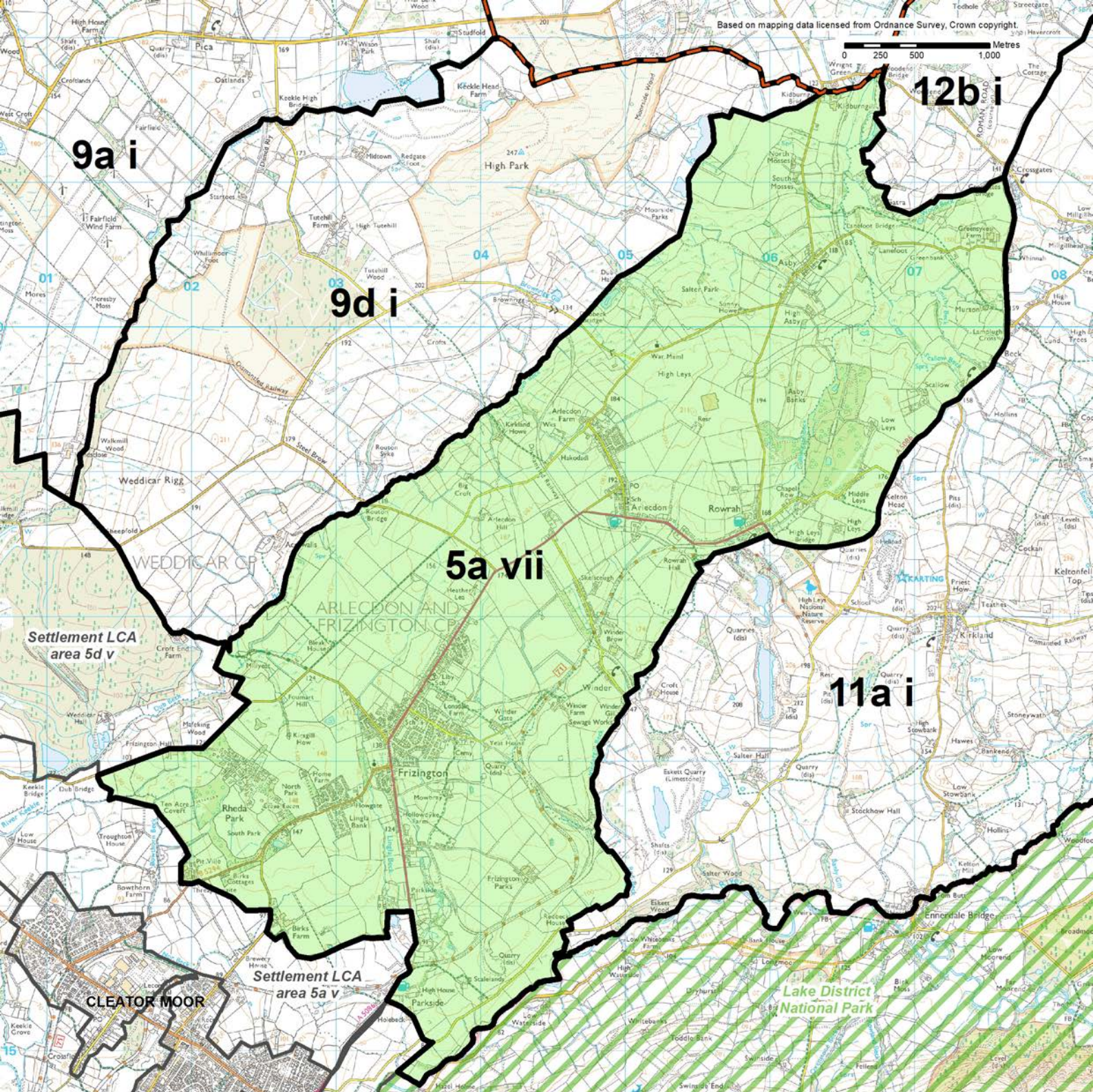


CRITERIA	SENSITIVITY					NOTES
	H	H-M	M	M-L	L	
VALUE						
Landscape value						Degraded landscape but with varied land cover and potential for enhancement.
Visual value						Prominent location at bend in the channel but reduced by degraded appearance.
SUMMARY						
Overall landscape sensitivity						

\*Includes key views, vistas to important landscape and cultural heritage features and typical receptors (within and outside the area).

The Hodbarrow Coastal Urban Fringe Character Area (2d iv) is considered to have a general Medium landscape sensitivity to residential and small-scale employment development. The Character Area has characteristics which are susceptible to change but may be able to accommodate limited development in association with existing development to the north-east, provided effects on the landscape are minimised or represent an improvement over the current situation, in particular with regards to views, landcover and biodiversity. The Character Area is low lying and relatively open, but has slightly reduced susceptibility to limited solar array and wind turbine development given the existing influence of nearby structures.





## 5a vii ASBY TO FRIZINGTON LOWLAND RIDGE AND VALLEY

### Overview

The Asby to Frizington Lowland Ridge and Valley Character Area is formed from part of the Cumbria LCA Ridge and Valley sub-Type (5a) of the Lowland Type. Edges of the Character Area have been refined in places to follow identifiable features on the ground, including Red Beck, Windergill Beck and the A5086 to the east, and Wood Beck to the north. The southernmost portion of the Cumbria LCA sub-Type has been included in the Settlement Landscape Character Assessment, with local areas of landscape character related to Cleator Moor and Whitehaven. This reduces the extent of the Landscape Character Area compared to the

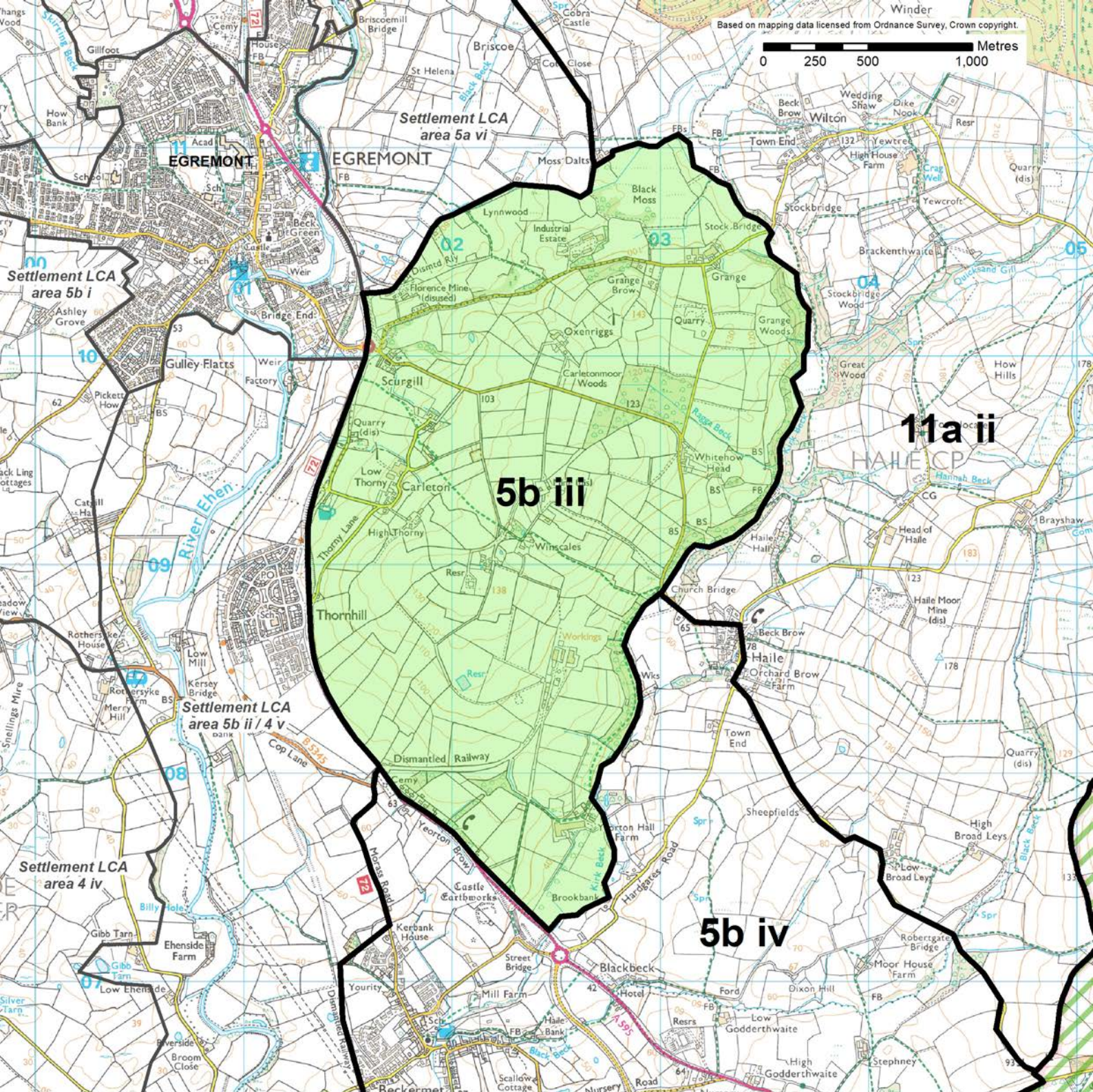
Cumbria LCA sub-Type, however, the descriptions and guidelines for the Ridge and Valley sub-Type (5a) contained within the Cumbria LCA remain relevant and should be referred to for the Asby to Frizington Lowland Ridge and Valley Character Area (5a vii).

The Cumbria LCA identifies the sensitivities of this landscape sub-Type and notes that away from busier areas, this is a peaceful pastoral landscape sensitive to large scale development. The key characteristics of the sub-Type from the Cumbria LCA are reproduced below for reference.

### **Key Characteristics (Cumbria LCA)**

- A series of ridges and valleys that rises gently toward the limestone fringes of the Lakeland Fells.
- Well managed regular shaped medium to large pasture fields.
- Hedge bound pasture fields dominate, interspersed with native woodland, tree clumps and plantations.
- Scattered farms and linear villages found along ridges.
- Large scale structures generally scarce.





## 5b iii THORNHILL EAST LOW FARMLAND

### Overview

The Thornhill East Low Farmland Character Area is a sub-division of the Cumbria LCA Low Farmland sub-Type (5b) of the Lowland Type, which forms an extensive tract through the Borough. The Character Area is defined by rising topography which forms a hill to the east of Thornhill, above the wider Low Farmland to the south, and extends north-east to Kirk Beck in order to encompass the local topographical feature and follow an identifiable feature on the ground. The adjacent areas to the west and north-west are included in the Settlement Landscape Character Assessment, with its local areas of landscape character defining the

western and north-western edges of the Character Area. Regard should be given to the descriptions and guidelines for the Low Farmland (5b) sub-Type contained within the Cumbria LCA, which are relevant to the Thornhill East Low Farmland Character Area (5b iii). However, given some localised variation compared to the Cumbria LCA, key characteristics are set out below.

**Key Characteristics**

- Undulating and rolling topography, rising overall to approximately 143m AOD to form a noticeable hill feature to the south-east of Egremont.
- Intensely farmed agricultural pasture and arable fields dominate.
- Fields are large scale, and patchy areas of woodland which provide contrast to the pasture.
- Hedges, hedgerow trees and fences bound fields and criss cross the rolling landscape.
- Majority of fields are identified by the Cumbria Historic Landscape Characterisation database as ancient enclosures, created before the period of planned enclosures.
- Settlement within the Character Area is limited to small groups of dwellings, including hamlets at Carleton and Scurgill. There are occasional large structures associated with farmstead complexes, such as large agricultural sheds, and industrial buildings on the site of former iron ore mines.
- Evidence of historic industry in the form of disused mineral railway embankments and alignments which climbed up and around the hill via a switch back arrangement to access a number of mining pits.
- Sporadic wind turbines are a notable influence, with three large and three smaller turbines constructed in the last 10 years.
- Hedges restrict views in places, but there is intervisibility with the National Park to the east and the coast to the east, from more open elevated positions within the Character Area.

**Landscape Sensitivity**

To judge general acceptable levels of change within this Character Area (which has differing characteristics to the sub-Type identified in the Cumbria LCA), an outline assessment of the landscape sensitivity of the Character Area has been carried out below in accordance with the latest Natural England guidance.

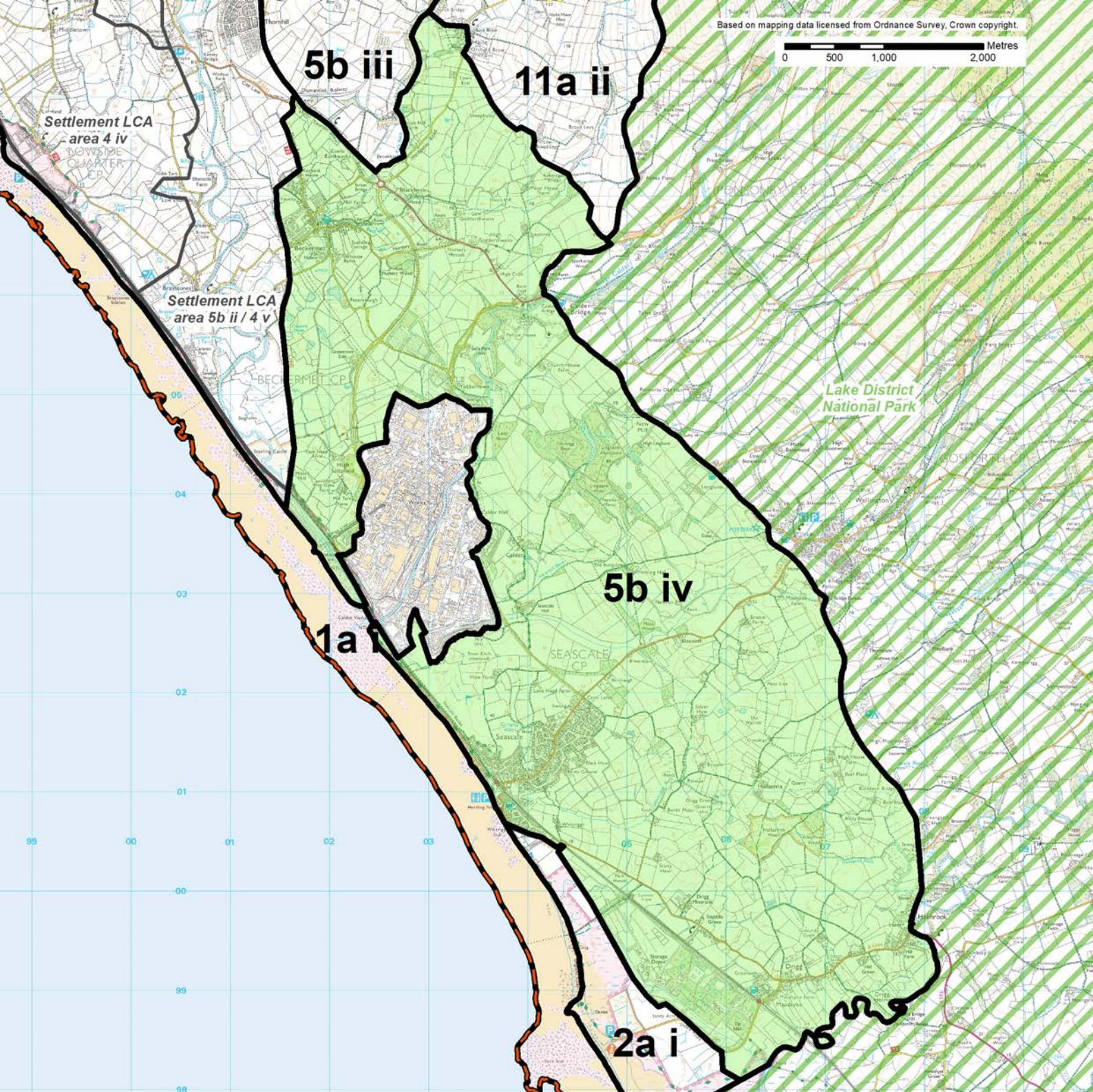
CRITERIA	SENSITIVITY					NOTES
	H	H-M	M	M-L	L	
<b>LANDSCAPE</b>						
Scale						Large scale.
Landform						Undulating landform rising to notable hill.
Landcover and biodiversity						Primarily agriculture, but a network of hedgerows and occasional woodland, plus SSSIs to north.
Man-made influences						Notable man made influences, including large agricultural and industrial buildings and turbines.
<b>AESTHETIC, PERCEPTUAL AND EXPERIENTIAL</b>						
Scenic quality and character						Pleasant undulating landscape cloaked with hedgerows, tempered by human influence.

CRITERIA	SENSITIVITY					NOTES
	H	H-M	M	M-L	L	
Remoteness and tranquillity						Tranquil in part but reduced by human influence.
<b>VISUAL</b>						
Skylines and settings						Elevated landform forming a backdrop to Egremont and Thornhill and surrounding landscape.
Movement						Reduced by turbines, farming activity and views to nearby traffic.
Visibility*						Intervisibility with both the National Park and coast. Visible from surrounding landscape/settlement.
<b>VALUE</b>						
Landscape value						Local historical and cultural value. Abuts current Landscape of County Importance.
Visual value						Notable rising landform in local views.
<b>SUMMARY</b>						
Overall landscape sensitivity						

\*Includes key views, vistas to important landscape and cultural heritage features and typical receptors (within and outside the area).

The Thornhill East Low Farmland Character Area (5b iii) is considered to have a general High-Medium landscape sensitivity to residential and small-scale employment development. The Character Area is unlikely to accommodate development without significant character change or adverse effects. The Character Area is prominent on the horizon in views from the surrounding landscape and is susceptible to change despite occasional existing detracting features such as large agricultural and industrial buildings and pylons. Any development should be on a very small scale, in appropriate locations, where it can be demonstrated that proposals would not have an adverse effect on the landscape. The elevated landform and intervisibility with the National Park and the coast, make this area sensitive to further wind turbine or solar array development.





## 5b iv BECKERMET TO DRIGG LOW FARMLAND

### Overview

The Beckermets to Drigg Low Farmland Character Area is formed from part of the Cumbria LCA Low Farmland sub-Type (5b) of the Lowland Type, which forms an extensive tract through the Borough. Character Area 5b iii partially defines the northern edge of the area, as a sub-division of the wider Low Farmland. The adjacent area to the north-west is included in the Settlement Landscape Character Assessment, and its local area of landscape character defines the north-western edge of the Character Area. Elsewhere, the boundary has been refined to take into account the current extent of the Sellfield site and to follow identifiable features on the ground

adjacent to Character Area 2a i. Regard should be given to the descriptions and guidelines for the Low Farmland (5b) sub-Type contained within the Cumbria LCA, which are relevant to the Beckermets to Drigg Low Farmland Character Area. However, given the variation in the extent of the Character Area compared to the Cumbria LCA sub-Type, the key characteristics of this Character Area are set out below.

### **Key Characteristics**

- Relatively low lying, but undulating topography, rising gradually to the east to meet the foothills.
- Watercourses including the River Calder and numerous named becks, such as Kirk Beck, Black Beck, Newmill Beck, Whitriggs Beck and Hallsenna Beck meander broadly east to west across the landscape as they travel from the fell fringes of the National Park in the east, towards the coast to the west.
- Intensely farmed agricultural pasture dominates, with large and rectangular fields.
- Large areas, particularly towards the central and eastern parts of the Character Area are identified by the Cumbria Historic Landscape Characterisation database as ancient enclosures, created before the period of planned enclosures and often medieval in origin.
- The Character Area surrounds the Sellafield site and includes intrusive human influences across the area including energy related development in particular, such as Drigg Low Level Waste Repository, quarries, lines of pylons, as well as telecom masts. Wind turbine development has been relatively modest in recent years, with two additional turbines constructed to the south-east of Seascale in the last 10 years, but several turbines are a notable addition to the cumulative effect of infrastructure on the low farmland landscape.
- Occasional areas of woodland provide contrast to the pasture and to help filter views of infrastructure to varying degrees. Tree cover includes significant woodland surrounding Ponsonby Tarn, smaller scattered blocks of woodland through the central part of the Character Area, ancient woodland at Nursery Wood, Calder Bank and Addyhouse, riparian woodland along watercourses, and bands of tree planting and screening associated with Sellafield and Drigg, including along access roads and car parking.
- Hedges, hedgerow trees and fences bound fields and criss-cross up and over the undulating landscape.
- The Character Area encompasses the villages of Beckermets, Seascale and Drigg, but elsewhere settlement is predominately limited to scattered farmsteads accessed by tracks.
- The A595 road runs along the majority of the eastern edge of the Character Area, along the boundary with the National Park, and the B5344 forms a loop off the A595 and connects with Seascale and Drigg, but public road access is limited across the majority of the Character Area. The Cumbrian Coast Line railway partially runs along the western edge of the Character Area including where it meets the coast between Watch Hill and Seascale and there are railway stations at Sellafield, Seascale and Drigg. There is a network of public rights of way across the area, although some parts have limited public access, such as to the north of Sellafield and south-east of Seascale.
- The Character Area forms the immediate setting to the Lake District National Park to the east. There are long views across the low lying landscape, including intervisibility with both the National Park and the undeveloped coastline, particularly from more elevated viewpoints. Views frequently contain infrastructure such as Sellafield, pylons and turbines. In some areas, tree cover and the undulating topography combine to restrict views and provide a more intimate experience.



## Landscape Sensitivity

To judge general acceptable levels of change within this Character Area (which has differing characteristics to the sub-Type identified in the Cumbria LCA), an outline assessment of the landscape sensitivity of the Character Area has been carried out below in accordance with the latest Natural England guidance.

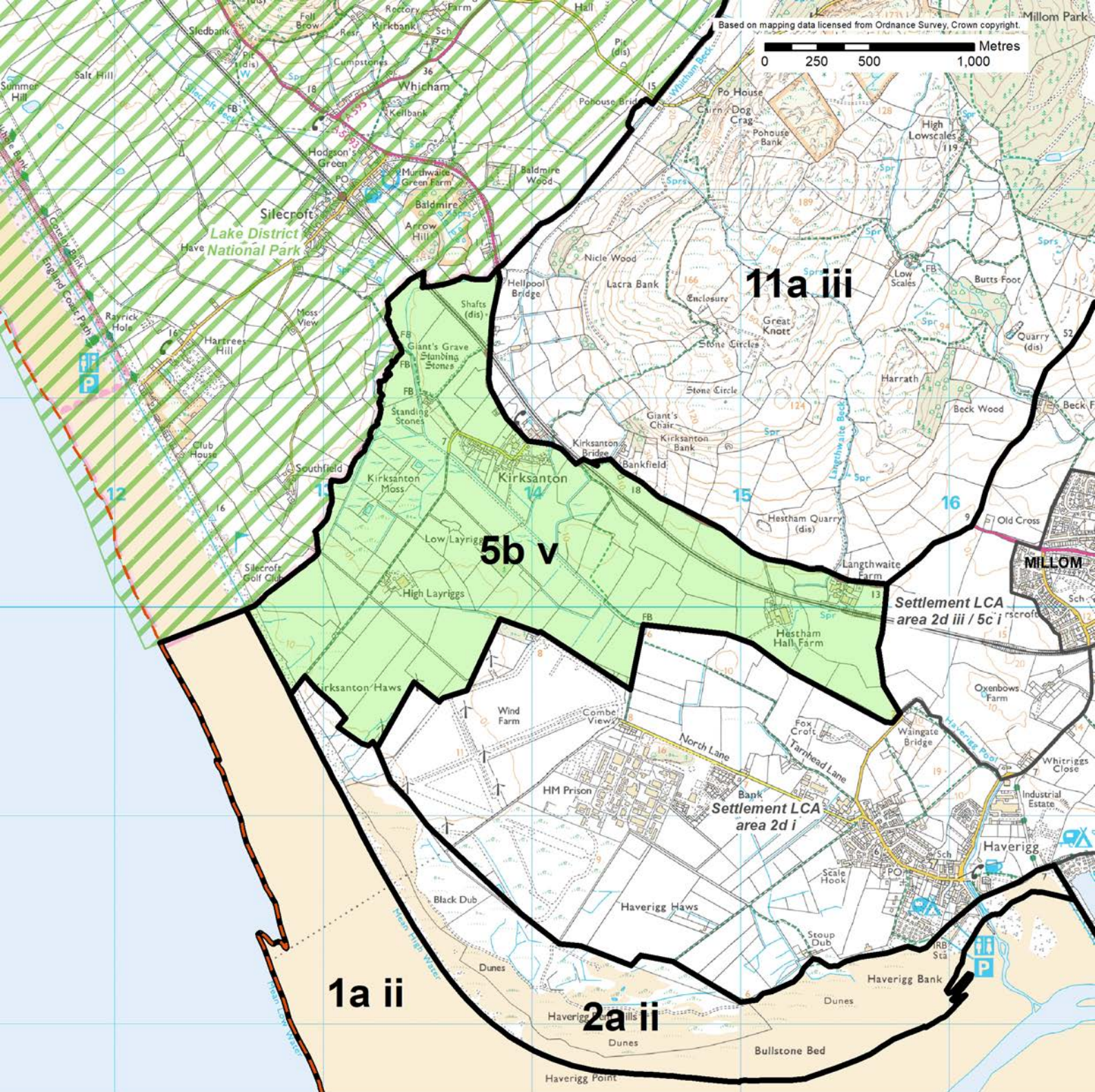
CRITERIA	SENSITIVITY					NOTES
	H	H-M	M	M-L	L	
<b>LANDSCAPE</b>						
Scale						Predominately large scale landscape.
Landform						Low lying but undulating, with minor valleys along watercourses.
Landcover and biodiversity						Agricultural landscape but hedgerow network linked to areas of woodland and SSSIs.
Man-made influences						Intrusive influences frequently present across the Character Area.
<b>AESTHETIC, PERCEPTUAL AND EXPERIENTIAL</b>						
Scenic quality and character						A pleasant landscape with borrowed scenic beauty but reduced by energy development.
Remoteness and tranquillity						Limited by frequent notable human influence.
<b>VISUAL</b>						
Skylines and settings						Low, but open skylines, particularly to the east including undeveloped coastline. Setting to NP.
Movement						Areas of limited movement within farmland away from roads, but countered by infrastructure activity etc
Visibility*						Distant views across low lying landscape. Intervisibility with both the adjacent National Park and the coast.
<b>VALUE</b>						
Landscape value						Farmland between coast and NP. Abuts NP to east, Landscape of County Importance to the north-west.
Visual value						Intervisibility with both the National Park and coast, but value reduced by frequent intrusive influences.
<b>SUMMARY</b>						
Overall landscape sensitivity						

\*Includes key views, vistas to important landscape and cultural heritage features and typical receptors (within and outside the area).

The Beckermat to Drigg Low Farmland Character Area (5b iv) is considered to have a general Medium landscape sensitivity to residential and small-scale employment development. The Character Area has characteristics which are susceptible to change but may be able to accommodate limited development in association with existing settlement, provided effects on the landscape, biodiversity and views from the National Park are minimised.

Regardless of existing energy development, including wind turbines and pylons, the low lying, relatively open nature of the Character Area and visual connection to the National Park means the area is sensitive to potential further wind turbine or solar array development. Sporadic development of turbines should be avoided. Where necessary, turbines should be located in visual association with existing large scale infrastructure rather than in less disturbed areas, should avoid prominent locations, incorporate appropriate mitigation wherever possible, and take into account views from the National Park. The central portion of the Character Area with increased containment from tree cover, may be less sensitive to solar arrays, than the more open landscapes towards the coast and the immediate setting to the National Park to the east, subject to detailed landscape assessment.





## 5b v KIRKSANTON LOW FARMLAND

### Overview

The Kirksanton Low Farmland Character Area is formed from part of the Cumbria LCA Low Farmland sub-Type (5b) of the Lowland Type. The adjacent areas to the south and east are included in the Settlement Landscape Character Assessment, and its local areas of landscape character define the southern and eastern edges of the Character Area. The north-western edge of the Character Area is defined by the National Park boundary. Regard should be given to the relevant guidelines for the Low Farmland (5b) sub-Type contained within the Cumbria LCA. However, the key characteristics of this Character Area, which is localised in its extent,

vary from those of the overall Low Farmland sub-Type set out in the Cumbria LCA, including in respect of topography and land cover. The key characteristics of the Kirksanton Low Farmland Character Area (5b v) are set out below.

**Key Characteristics**

- Predominately flat, open landscape, but with a subtle rise towards the coast.
- Mostly linear pattern of fields with watercourses including straight drainage ditches and Kirksanton Pool which crosses through the area. Agricultural pasture, including cattle grazing, along with areas of moss and scrub, and damp grassland.
- Tree cover, including woodland is limited, but provides some limited contrast to the pasture.
- The hedgerow network varies in intactness, but where present are generally maintained to a low height.
- The area incorporates the small village of Kirksanton at the foot of the upland foothills to the north, A5093 road along the northern edge of the Character Area and the Cumbrian Coast railway line within the northern perimeter. Elsewhere, across the majority of the area, settlement is limited to scattered farmsteads accessed by rural tracks.
- There is currently a relatively small wind turbine (15m high) at Langthwaite Farm at the eastern end of the Character Area, but there are no large wind turbines or pylons within the Character Area. There are however a number of turbines situated on the adjacent former RAF Millom airfield to the south-east, which exert an intrusive human influence upon the low lying landscape.
- There are extensive views across the Character Area to the south facing slopes of the Upland Foothills to the north and to the lakeland fells beyond to the north-east. A slight rise in topography approaching the coast obscures views of the coastline views from the majority of the Character Area.

**Landscape Sensitivity**

To judge general acceptable levels of change within this Character Area (which has differing characteristics to the sub-Type identified in the Cumbria LCA), an outline assessment of the landscape sensitivity of the Character Area has been carried out below in accordance with the latest Natural England guidance.

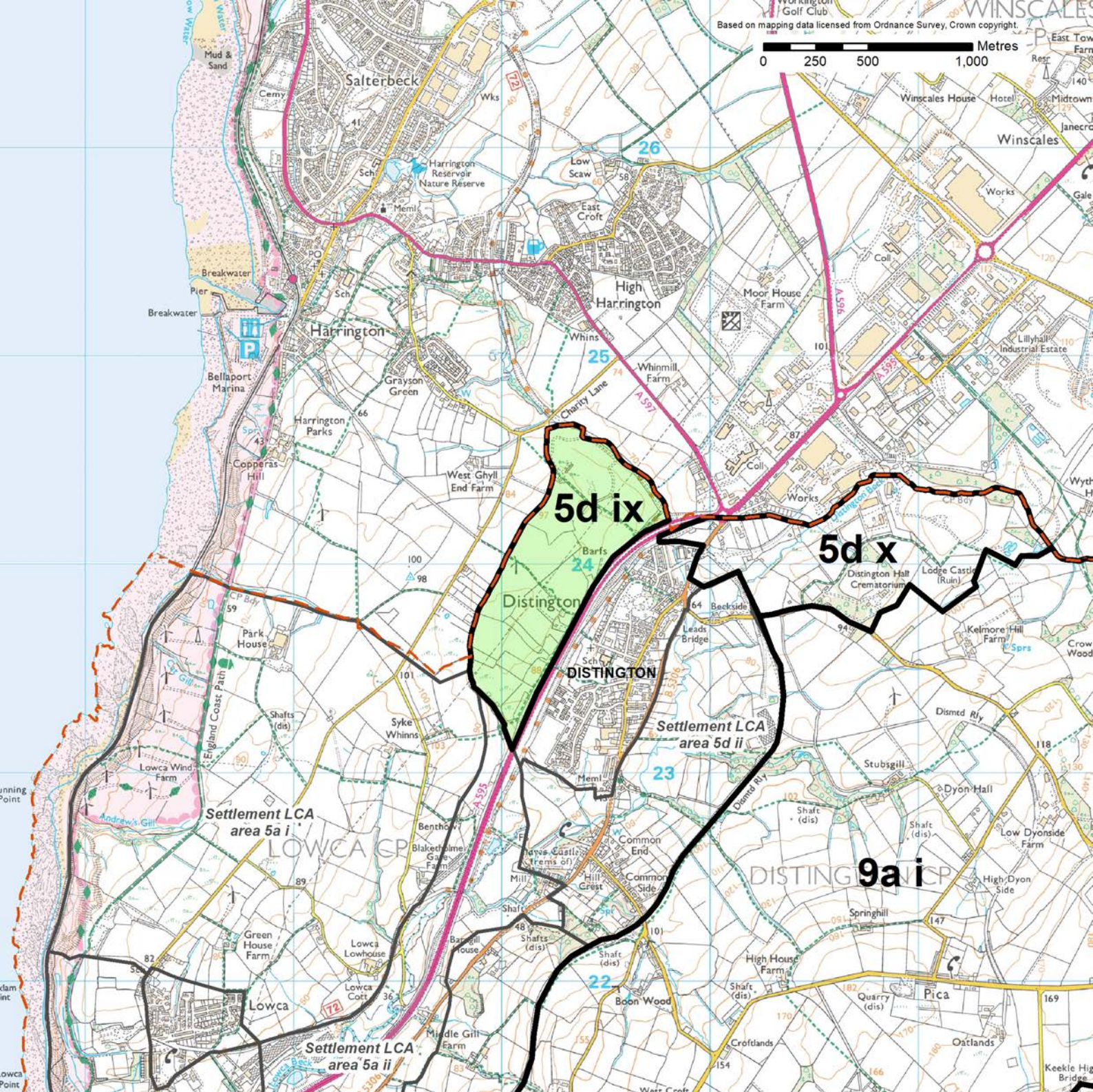
CRITERIA	SENSITIVITY					NOTES
	H	H-M	M	M-L	L	
<b>LANDSCAPE</b>						
Scale						Medium to large scale field pattern, limited visual containment from low hedges accentuate scale.
Landform						Low lying foil to foothills to NE, considerable Flood Zone along Kirksanton Pool and areas of moss.
Landcover and biodiversity						Includes considerable moss, scrub, wetland areas, some hedgerows, abuts SSSI to south.
Man-made influences						Limited in places, but settlement to north, groups of agricultural sheds internally, turbines nearby.
<b>AESTHETIC, PERCEPTUAL AND EXPERIENTIAL</b>						
Scenic quality and character						Borrowed scenic beauty, and identifiable sense of place but few elements of strong positive character.

CRITERIA	SENSITIVITY					NOTES
	H	H-M	M	M-L	L	
Remoteness and tranquillity						Exposed areas have sense of remoteness but tempered by views to turbines & agricultural sheds.
<b>VISUAL</b>						
Skylines and settings						Low, but open skylines, immediate setting to the National Park and undeveloped coast.
Movement						Areas of limited movement within farmland away from roads, but countered by views to nearby turbines etc
Visibility*						Distant views across low lying landscape. Intervisibility with both the adjacent National Park and foothills.
<b>VALUE</b>						
Landscape value						Link between National Park to north & Landscapes of County Importance to north-east & south-west.
Visual value						Pivotal position, contributing to setting between NP to W, foothills N, Coast S & more developed areas to E.
<b>SUMMARY</b>						
Overall landscape sensitivity						

\*Includes key views, vistas to important landscape and cultural heritage features and typical receptors (within and outside the area).

The Kirksanton Low Farmland Character Area (5b v) is considered to have a general High-Medium landscape sensitivity to residential and small-scale employment development. The Character Area is unlikely to accommodate development without significant character change or adverse effects. Despite the presence of turbines nearby at the former airfield, the open low farmland has high sensitivity to development of large wind turbines given the sensitive position of this Character Area set between the National Park adjacent to the west and north-west, prominent foothills adjacent to the north-east, the undeveloped coast to the south-west and more developed areas to the south-east.





## 5d ix DISTINGTON WEST LOWLAND URBAN FRINGE

### Overview

The Distington West Lowland Urban Fringe Character Area is formed from part of the Cumbria LCA Urban Fringe sub-Type (5d) of the Lowland Type. The Character Area encompasses only a small portion of the Cumbria LCA sub-Type area, and is defined by the Borough boundary to the north and west, and the settlement of Distington to the east. The adjacent area to the south is included in the Settlement Landscape Character Assessment and has been sub-divided into further local areas of landscape character, necessitating a separate Character Area for the area west of Distington. The key characteristics of the Distington West Lowland Urban Fringe

Character Area vary from those of the wider Urban Fringe sub-Type set out in the Cumbria LCA. The key characteristics of the Character Area are set out below.

### Key Characteristics

- Small area of open undulating landform rising to a low hill to the west of Distington.
- Tree cover at the edges of the Character Area, including along the route of the former Cleator and Workington Junction Railway to the north, a small length of riparian woodland along Adjam Beck to the south-east and trees along the A595 road to the east.
- Internally there are a few boundary hedgerows and tree cover is limited.
- Land cover is predominately pastoral, along with areas of scrub and rough grass, quarry workings, pylons and a wind turbine.
- Includes a limited number of agricultural buildings but no settlement or dwellings.
- The southern portion of the Character Area is identified by the Cumbria Historic Landscape Characterisation database as former common arable, mostly enclosed in the late medieval or earlier post medieval periods.
- Two public rights of way cross the Character Area but there are no public roads.
- Intervisibility with the moorland ridge to the east and distant views to the National Park further east.

### Landscape Sensitivity

To judge general acceptable levels of change within this Character Area (which has differing characteristics to the sub-Type identified in the Cumbria LCA), an outline assessment of the landscape sensitivity of the Character Area has been carried out below in accordance with the latest Natural England guidance.

CRITERIA	SENSITIVITY					NOTES
	H	H-M	M	M-L	L	
<b>LANDSCAPE</b>						
Scale						Predominately large scale open landscape.
Landform						Rising to low hill.
Landcover and biodiversity						Areas of scrub but limited trees, hedges and habitat connectivity.
Man-made influences						Pylons, a wind turbine, quarry workings, and views to development to the north and east.
<b>AESTHETIC, PERCEPTUAL AND EXPERIENTIAL</b>						
Scenic quality and character						Limited positive features worthy of conservation.
Remoteness and tranquillity						Degree of exposure, but tranquillity reduced by road noise and views to development.
<b>VISUAL</b>						
Skylines and settings						Partially forms a low backdrop to Distington.

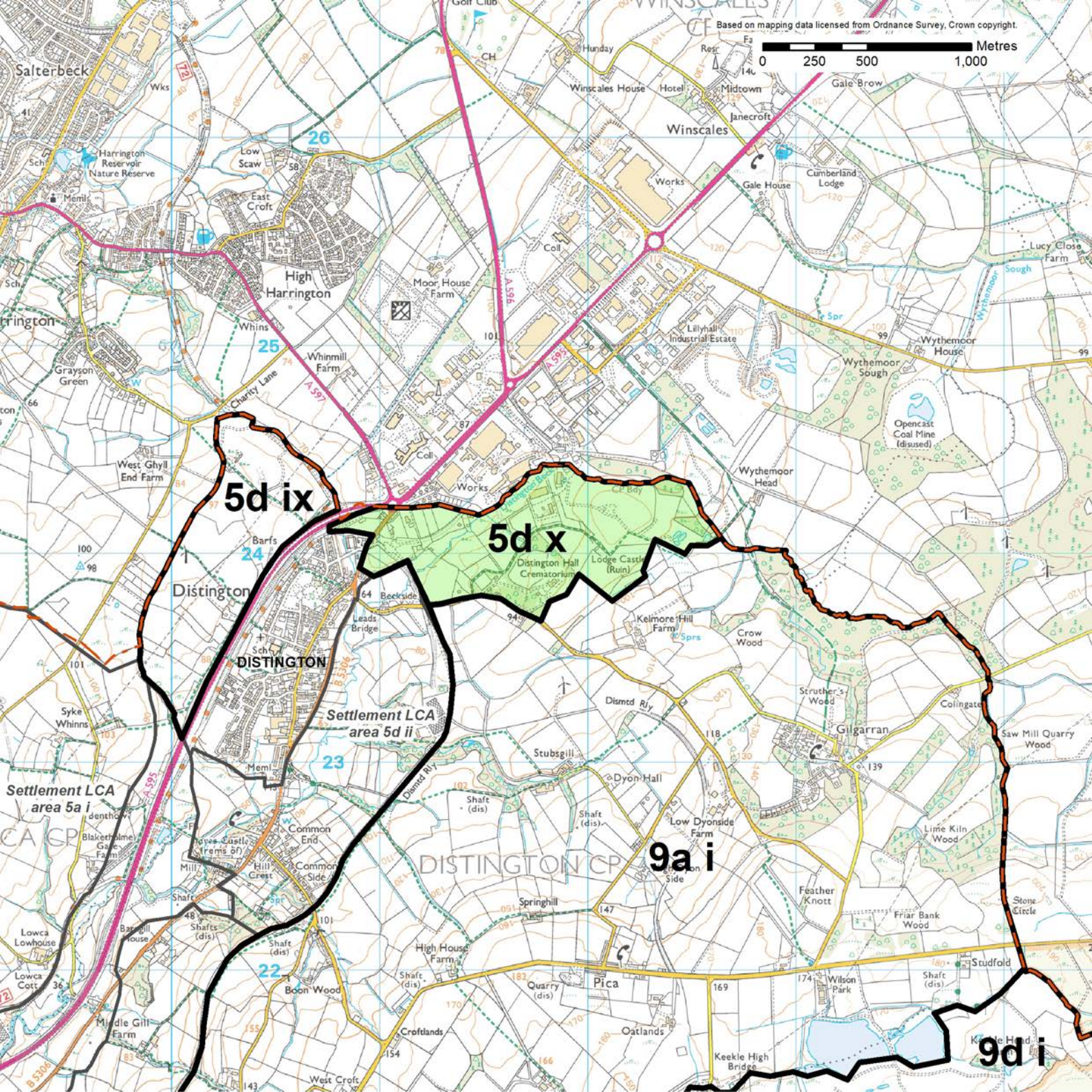
CRITERIA	SENSITIVITY					NOTES
	H	H-M	M	M-L	L	
Movement						Quiet to the west by small scale quarry north and A595 adjacent to the east.
Visibility*						Low hill visible from the surrounding landscape, distant intervisibility with the National Park.
<b>VALUE</b>						
Landscape value						Partially degraded landscape with limited structure.
Visual value						Likely to have local value as the western setting to Distington, albeit separated by the A595.
<b>SUMMARY</b>						
Overall landscape sensitivity						

\*Includes key views, vistas to important landscape and cultural heritage features and typical receptors (within and outside the area).

The Distington West Lowland Urban Fringe Character Area (5d ix) is considered to have a general Medium landscape sensitivity to residential and small-scale employment development. The Character Area has characteristics such as scale, landform and visibility which are susceptible to change, but may be able to accommodate limited development in less exposed areas subject to detailed landscape assessment. The rising landform and open nature of the area, means this Character Area is generally sensitive to any potential wind turbine or solar array development.







## 5d x DISTINGTON BECK LOWLAND URBAN FRINGE

### Overview

The Distington Beck Lowland Urban Fringe Character Area is formed from part of the Cumbria LCA Urban Fringe sub-Type (5d) of the Lowland Type. The Character Area encompasses only a small portion of the Cumbria LCA sub-Type area, and is defined by the Borough boundary and Distington Beck to the north, and the settlement of Distington to the west. The southern boundary is defined by field boundaries and the southern edge of Distington Hall Crematorium, which mark a change to the Open Moorlands to the south. The key characteristics of the Distington Beck Lowland Urban Fringe Character Area vary from those of the wider Urban

Fringe sub-Type set out in the Cumbria LCA. The key characteristics of the Character Area are set out below.

### Key Characteristics

- Small area, undulating but falling generally towards Distington Beck.
- Rough grass and pasture interspersed with a network of scrub and trees. Riparian vegetation along Distington Beck. Areas of disturbed ground and ponds to the east.
- Incorporates Distington Hall Crematorium and large waste management buildings, Recreation, and the area abuts settlement and an industrial area outside the Borough Boundary to the north, but there is limited settlement within the Character Area itself.
- Trees mark the alignment of the dismantled Gilgarran Branch railway, part of a complex network of railways which primarily served the extensive former iron works in the area.
- Vegetation restricts views and creates a sense of intimacy in places, including along the public right of way which passes through the area, while rising ground and gaps in vegetation also allow more distant views towards the moorland ridge to the east.

### Landscape Sensitivity

To judge general acceptable levels of change within this Character Area (which has differing characteristics to the sub-Type identified in the Cumbria LCA), an outline assessment of the landscape sensitivity of the Character Area has been carried out below in accordance with the latest Natural England guidance.

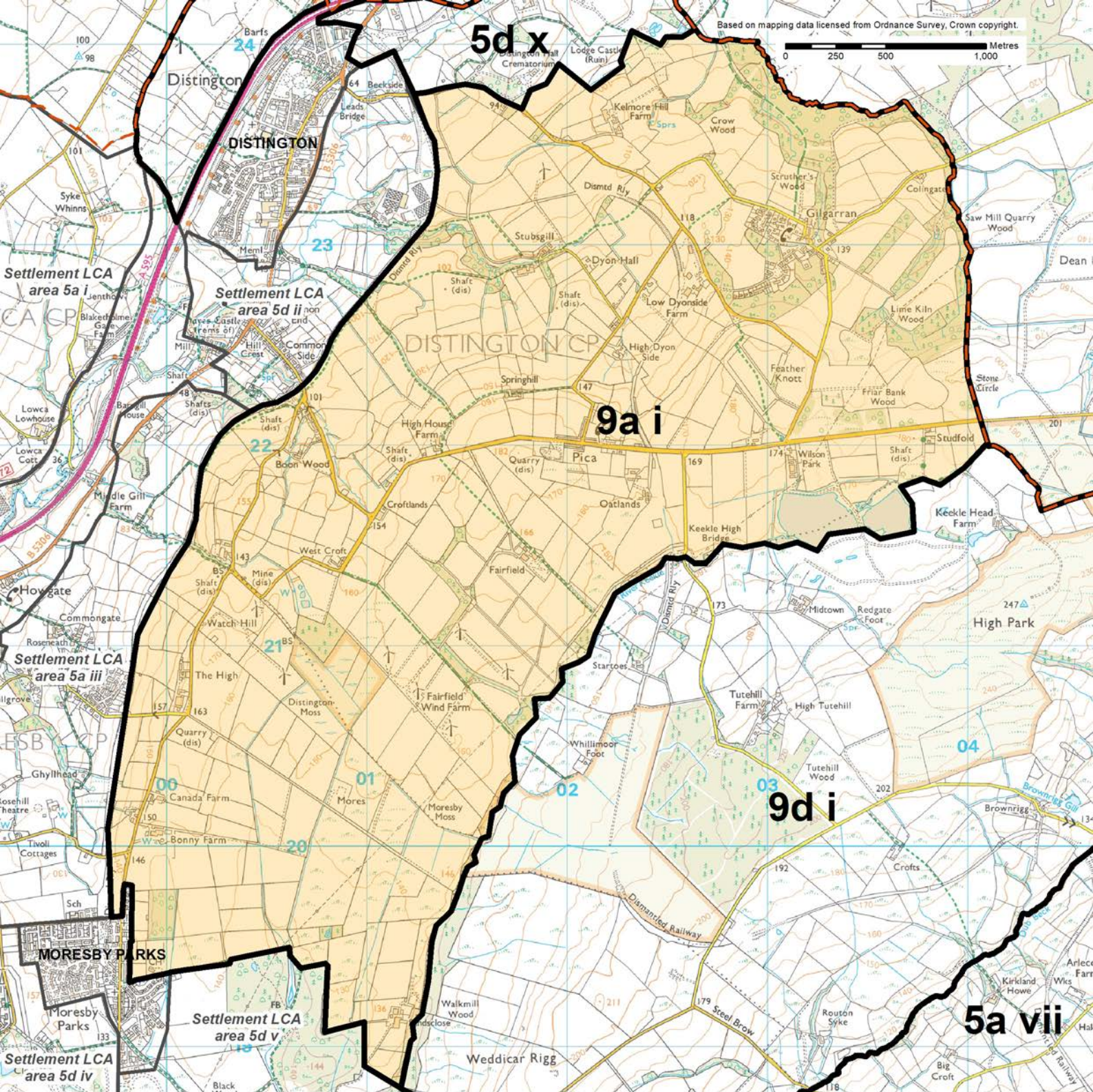
CRITERIA	SENSITIVITY					NOTES
	H	H-M	M	M-L	L	
<b>LANDSCAPE</b>						
Scale						Medium to small scale parcels of land
Landform						Undulating, rising from Distington Beck. Small areas of Flood Zone
Landcover and biodiversity						Areas of woodland, scrub and riparian habitats.
Man-made influences						Includes large waste management buildings.
<b>AESTHETIC, PERCEPTUAL AND EXPERIENTIAL</b>						
Scenic quality and character						Some pleasant areas alongside the brook and within tree cover, but man-made influences.
Remoteness and tranquillity						Limited by human influences.
<b>VISUAL</b>						
Skylines and settings						Provides some tree cover on local low horizon and tree setting to industrial area to north.
Movement						Industrial activity.
Visibility*						Tree cover filters local views but visible from distant high ground to the east as small part of wider view.

CRITERIA	SENSITIVITY					NOTES
	H	H-M	M	M-L	L	
VALUE						
Landscape value						Degraded physical condition in places.
Visual value						Tree cover in local views softening human influences.
SUMMARY						
Overall landscape sensitivity						

\*Includes key views, vistas to important landscape and cultural heritage features and typical receptors (within and outside the area).

The Distington Beck Lowland Urban Fringe Character Area (5d x) is considered to have a general Medium-Low to Medium landscape sensitivity to residential and small-scale employment development, and may have some potential to accommodate development without significant character change provided it is in association with existing development to the north-west, maintains existing landscape structure, conserves the riparian corridor along Distington Beck and is supported by detailed landscape assessment. The Character Area is likely to be less sensitive to wind turbine and solar array development than more rural Character Areas to the south and east, provided they are carefully sited in association with existing development to the north-west and subject to detailed landscape assessment.





## 9a i GILGARRAN TO MORESBY PARKS OPEN MOORLANDS

### Overview

The Gilgarran to Moresby Parks Open Moorlands Character Area is formed from part of the Cumbria LCA Open Moorlands sub-Type (9a) of the Intermediate Moorland and Plateau Type. The eastern edge of the Character Area has been refined to follow identifiable features on the ground, including the River Keekle at the foot of the ridge feature which defines the Character Area to the east. The northern edge of the Character Area has been amended to coincide with the Borough boundary and meet the adjacent Character Area to the north-west. The adjacent area to the west is included in the Settlement Landscape Character Assessment and has been

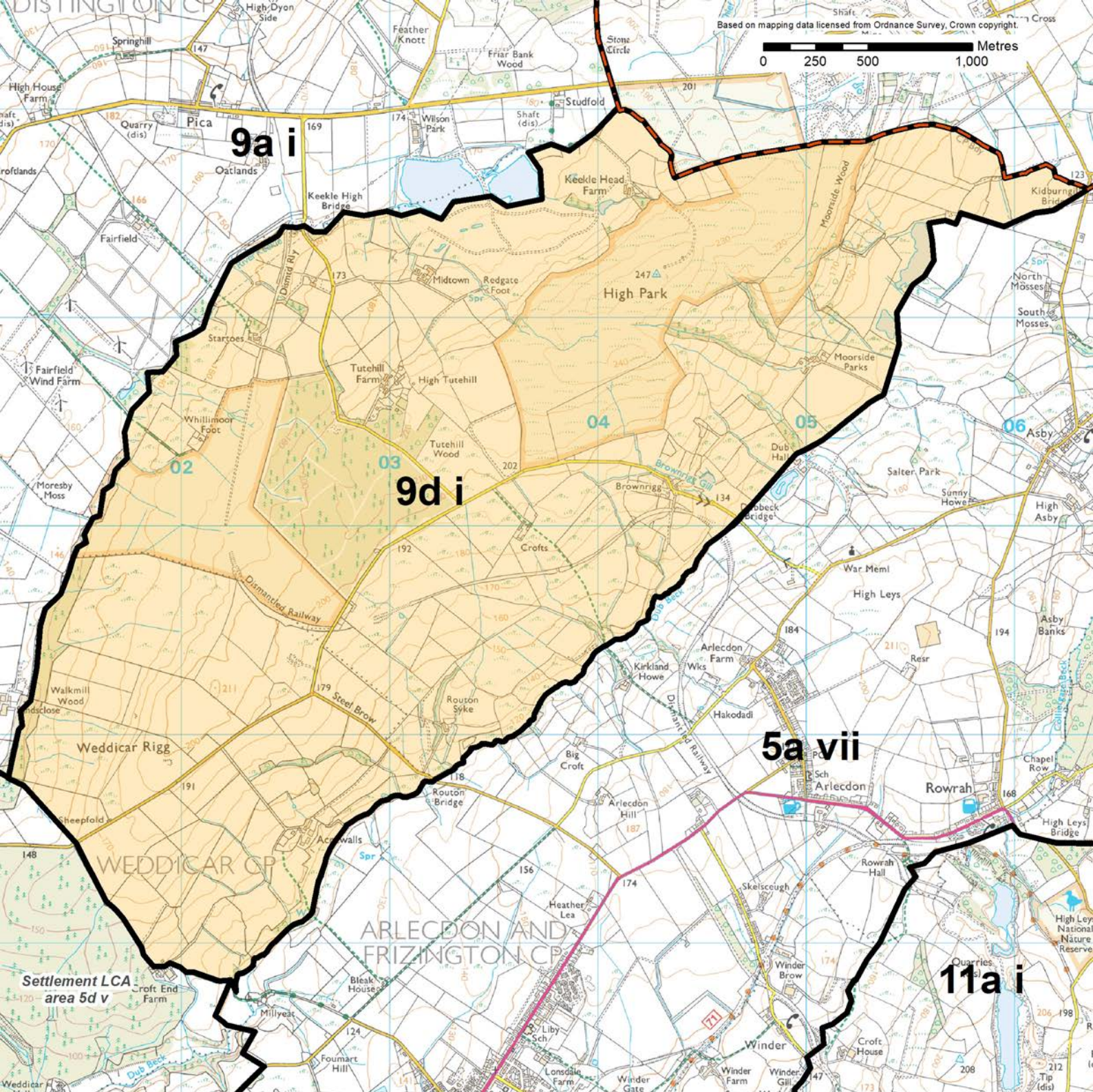
sub-divided into further local areas of landscape character, and therefore the western edge of the Character Area has been refined in places to adjoin logically with the areas defined in the Settlement Landscape Character Assessment. The southern-most portion of the Cumbria LCA sub-Type has been included in the Settlement Landscape Character Assessment, with a local area of landscape character related to Whitehaven. This reduces the southern extent of the Landscape Character Area compared to the Cumbria LCA sub-Type, however the descriptions and guidelines for the Open Moorland sub-Type (9a i) contained within the Cumbria LCA remain relevant and should be referred to for the Gilgarran to Moresby Parks Open Moorlands Character Area (9a i). The key characteristics of the sub-Type from the Cumbria LCA are reproduced below for reference.

### **Key Characteristics (Cumbria LCA)**

- High mostly open landscapes.
- Undulating semi-improved and unimproved pasture.
- Open rough moorland.
- Areas of deciduous woodland.
- Areas of peat and raised mire.

The Cumbria LCA identifies the sensitivities of this landscape sub-Type and notes that large scale infrastructure such as pylons and wind turbines could erode the open and remote character of the landscape within the sub-Type. This Character Area has a line of pylons crossing through it and a number of wind turbines. Since publication of the Cumbria LCA three further turbines have been constructed within the Gilgarran to Moresby Parks Open Moorlands Character Area. Two are near the existing Fairfield wind farm of five turbines south of Pica and Fairfield, which although increasing the detracting influence of such structures on the landscape, limits the extent of their cumulative impact on the wider area. A single turbine has been constructed at the north-west corner of the Character Area, which although isolated within the Character Area is close to industrial and residential areas to the north-west. to the east of Distington. Any further turbine development should be limited in number and carefully sited in association with existing infrastructure, so as not to impact on less disturbed areas or become a dominant feature in the landscape.





## 9d i WEDDICAR RIGG TO HIGH PARK MOORLAND RIDGES

### Overview

The Weddicar Rigg to High Park Moorland Ridges Character Area is formed from part of the Cumbria LCA Ridges sub-Type (9d) of the Intermediate Moorland and Plateau Type. The western edge of the Character Area has been extended to follow the River Keekle as an identifiable feature on the ground, and to encompass the full extent of the ridge feature which defines the Character Area. The northern edge of the Character Area has been amended to coincide with the Borough boundary, which reduces the northern extent of the Landscape Character Area compared to the Cumbria LCA sub-Type. However, the descriptions and

guidelines for the Ridges sub-Type (9d) contained within the Cumbria LCA remain relevant and should be referred to for the Weddicar Rigg to High Park Moorland Ridge Character Area (9d i).

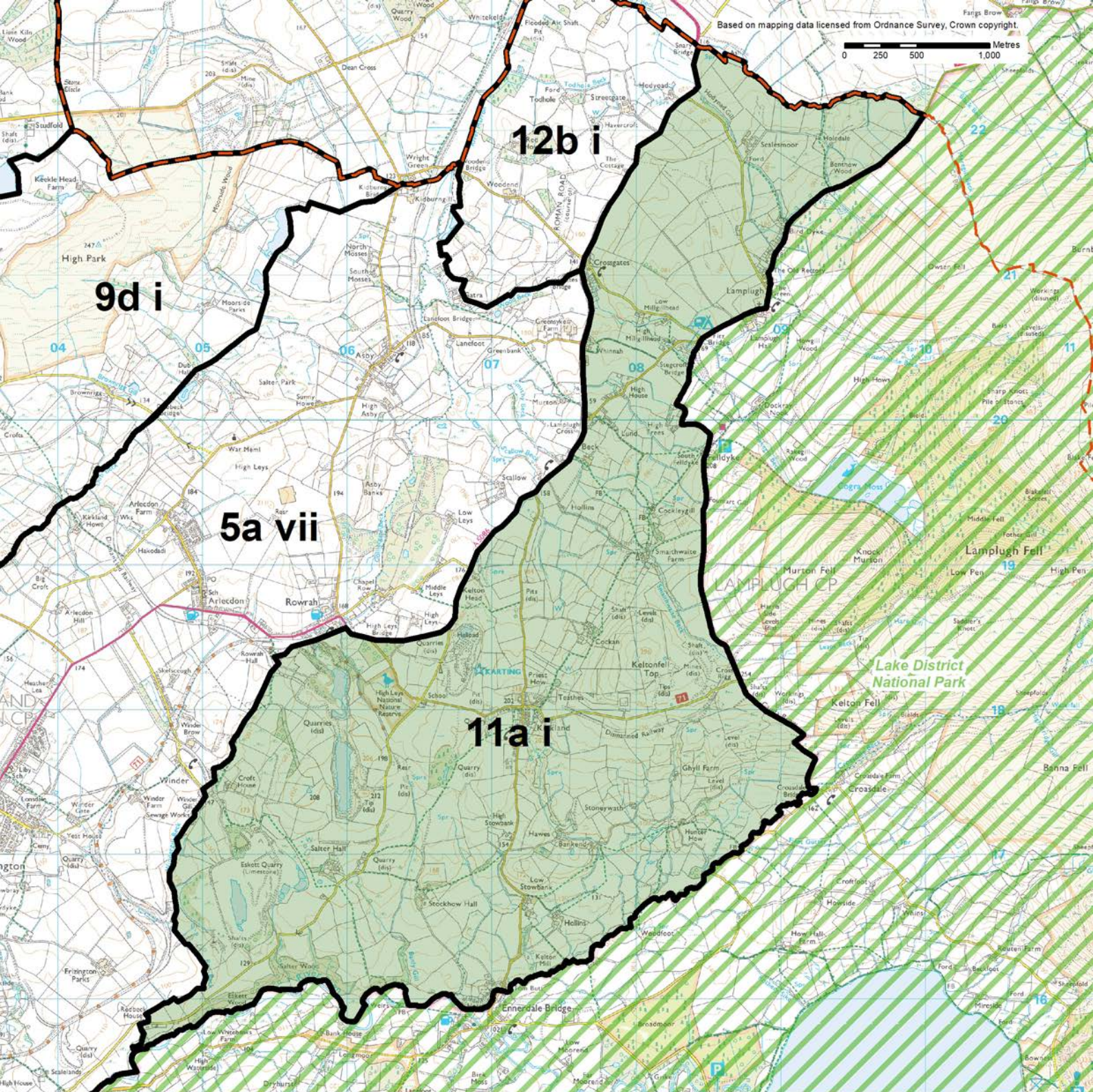
The Cumbria LCA identifies the sensitivities of this landscape sub-Type and notes how this is an open landscape, with expansive uninterrupted views to the sea and Lakeland Fells which provides a sense of wildness and should be conserved or enhanced. Infrastructure development such as wind turbines would have a significant adverse effect on the character of the area and should be avoided.

The key characteristics of the sub-Type from the Cumbria LCA are reproduced below for reference.

### **Key Characteristics (Cumbria LCA)**

- Distinct ridges.
- Extensive areas of true heathland moorland.
- Improved pasture with distinctive stone walls.
- Woodland and small belts of trees form prominent features.





## 11a i HOLEDALE TO RED BECK UPLAND FOOTHILLS

### Overview

The Holedale to Red Beck Upland Foothills Character Area is formed from part of the Cumbria LCA Foothills sub-Type (11a) of the Upland Fringe Type. The eastern edge of the Character Area has been refined to follow identifiable features on the ground including Red Beck, Windergill Beck and the A5086 road. The northern edge of the Character Area has been amended to coincide with the Borough boundary, which reduces the northern extent of the Landscape Character Area compared to the Cumbria LCA sub-Type. However, the descriptions and guidelines for the Foothills sub-Type (11a) contained within the Cumbria LCA remain relevant



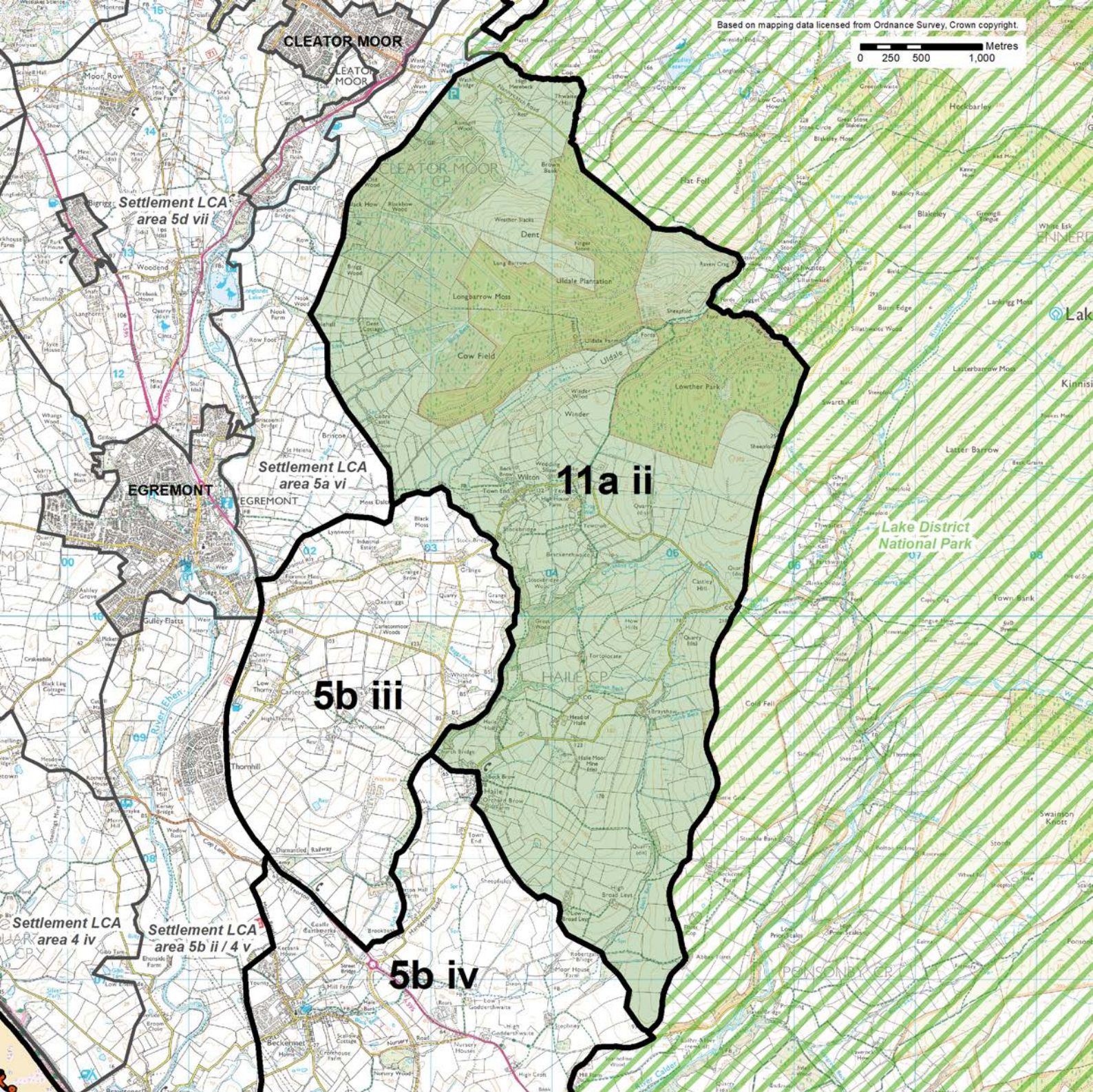
and should be referred to for the Holedale to Red Beck Upland Foothills Character Area (11a i).

The Cumbria LCA identifies the sensitivities of this landscape sub-Type, particularly given its proximity to the National Park, and notes that this landscape should be conserved and enhanced. Any large scale development, including wind turbines, would erode the open and generally undeveloped character of the area, and therefore should be avoided. The key characteristics of the sub-Type from the Cumbria LCA are reproduced below for reference.

### **Key Characteristics (Cumbria LCA)**

- Rolling, hilly or plateau farmland and moorland.
- Occasional rocky outcrops.
- Hills are dissected by numerous streams and minor river valleys.
- Areas of improved grassland, unimproved heathland and extensive conifer plantations.
- Semi natural woodland in the small valleys.
- Large areas of farmland are bounded by stone walls and hedges.





## 11a ii DENT AND HAILE MOOR UPLAND FOOTHILLS

### Overview

The Dent and Haile Moor Upland Foothills Character Area is formed from part of the Cumbria LCA Foothills sub-Type (11a) of the Upland Fringe Type. The western edge of the Character Area has been refined to follow identifiable features on the ground including Kirk Beck, and to accord with the extent of topography which partially defines the adjacent Character Area to the west. The adjacent area to the north-west is included in the Settlement Landscape Character Assessment, and its local area of landscape character defines the north-western edge of the Character Area. To the south, the boundary has been refined to follow roads as

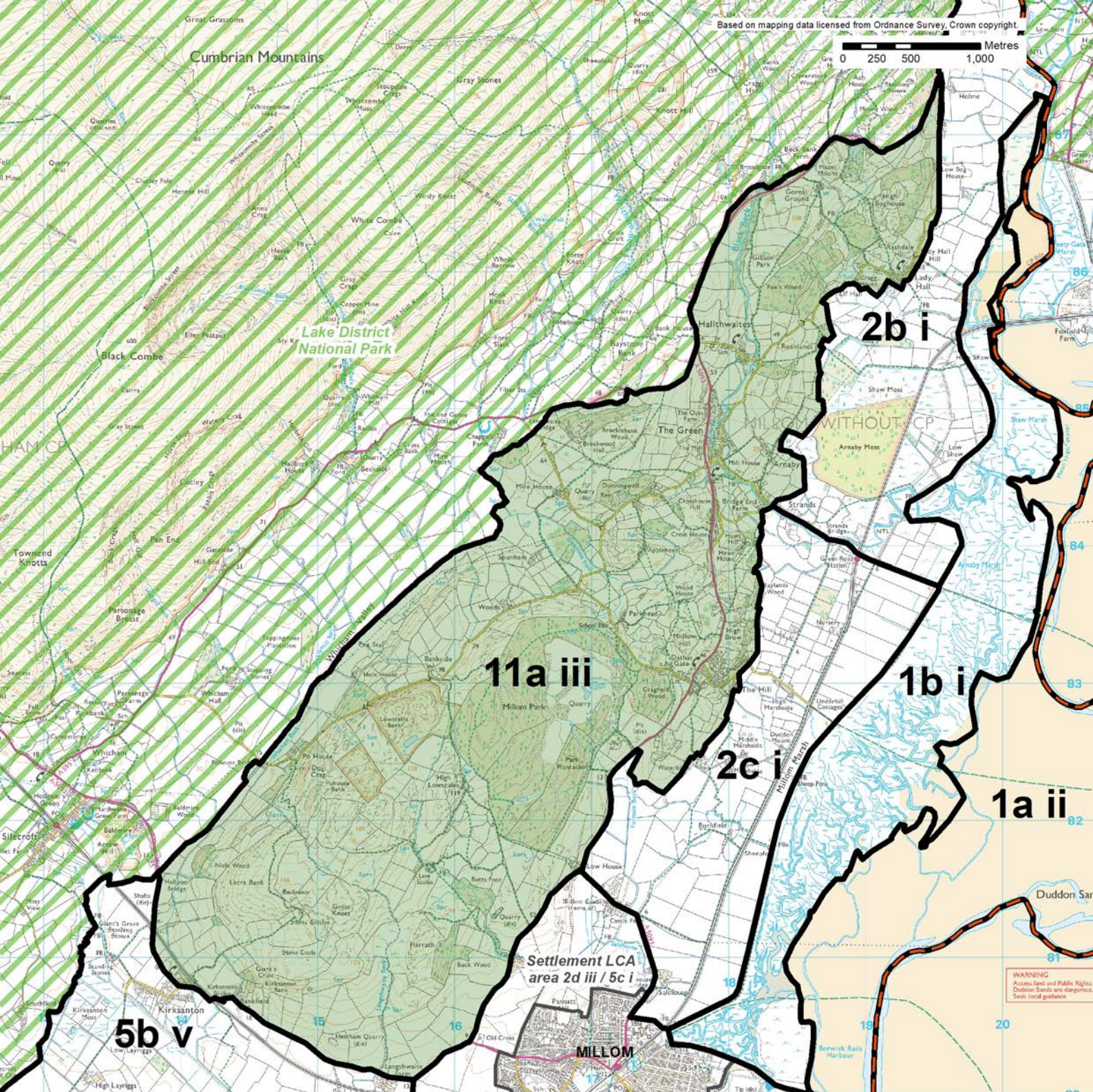
identifiable features on the ground. The descriptions and guidelines for the Foothills sub-Type (11a) contained within the Cumbria LCA remain relevant and should be referred to for the Dent and Haile Moor Upland Foothills Character Area (11a ii).

The Cumbria LCA identifies the sensitivities of this landscape sub-Type, particularly given its proximity to the National Park, and notes that this landscape should be conserved and enhanced. Any large scale development, including wind turbines, would erode the open and generally undeveloped character of the area, and therefore should be avoided. The key characteristics of the sub-Type from the Cumbria LCA are reproduced below for reference.

### **Key Characteristics (Cumbria LCA)**

- Rolling, hilly or plateau farmland and moorland.
- Occasional rocky outcrops.
- Hills are dissected by numerous streams and minor river valleys.
- Areas of improved grassland, unimproved heathland and extensive conifer plantations.
- Semi natural woodland in the small valleys.
- Large areas of farmland are bounded by stone walls and hedges.





## 11a iii RASHDALE HILL TO KIRKSANTON UPLAND FOOTHILLS

### Overview

The Rashdale Hill to Kirksanton Upland Foothills Character Area is formed from part of the Cumbria LCA Foothills sub-Type (11a) of the Upland Fringe Type. The eastern edge of the Character Area has been amended to include small areas of elevated landform, and to follow identifiable features on the ground. The descriptions and guidelines for the Foothills sub-Type (11a) contained within the Cumbria LCA remain relevant and should be referred to for the Rashdale Hill to Kirksanton Upland Foothills Character Area (11a iii).

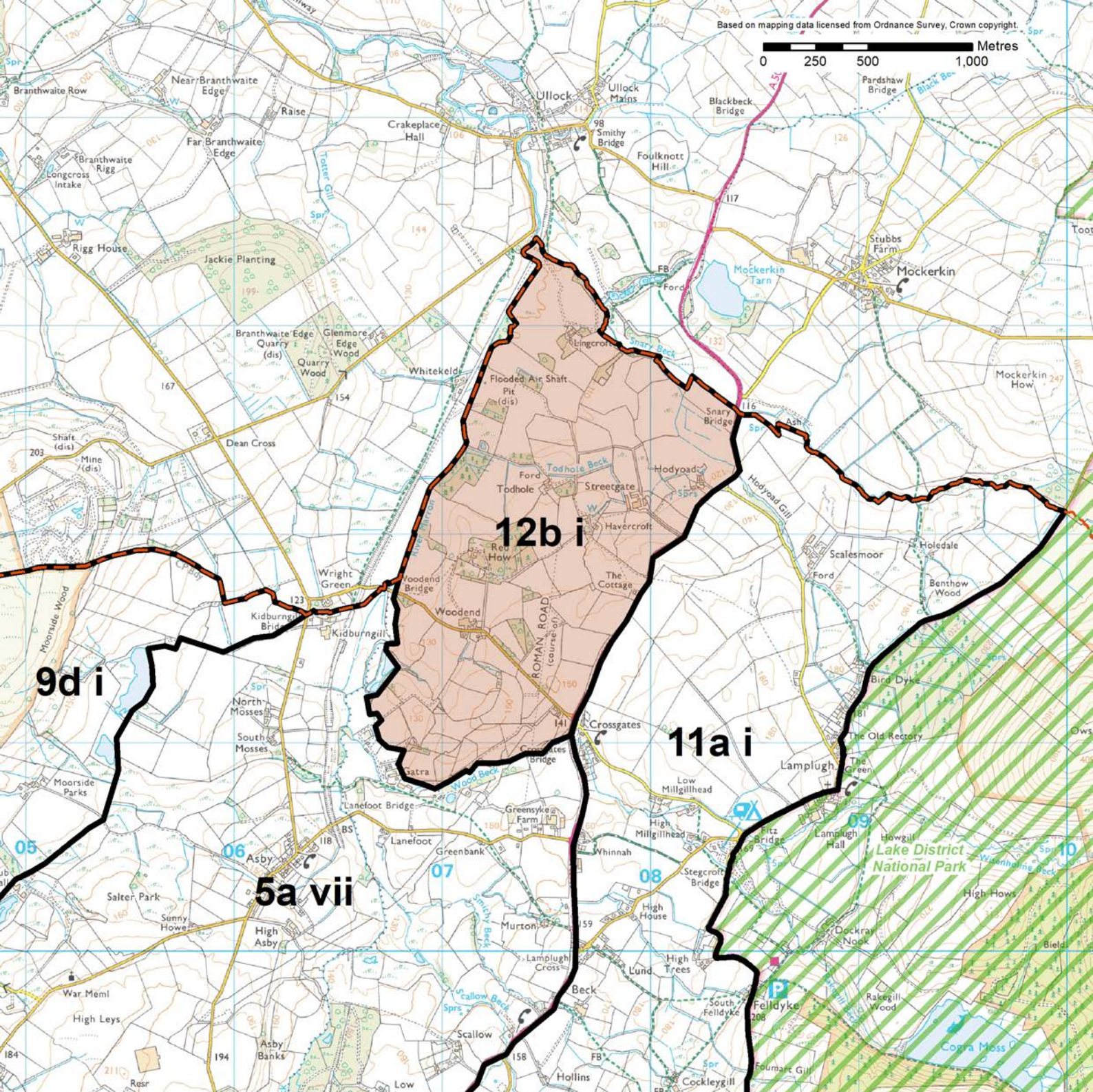
The Cumbria LCA identifies the sensitivities of this landscape sub-Type, particularly given its proximity to the National Park, and notes that this landscape should be conserved and enhanced. Any large scale development, including wind turbines, would erode the open and generally undeveloped character of the area, and therefore should be avoided. The key characteristics of the sub-Type from the Cumbria LCA are reproduced below for reference.

### **Key Characteristics (Cumbria LCA)**

- Rolling, hilly or plateau farmland and moorland.
- Occasional rocky outcrops.
- Hills are dissected by numerous streams and minor river valleys.
- Areas of improved grassland, unimproved heathland and extensive conifer plantations.
- Semi natural woodland in the small valleys.
- Large areas of farmland are bounded by stone walls and hedges.

This area of upland foothills is considered by the 2019 Lake District Peninsulas and Estuaries study as suitable for inclusion within the Lake District National Park, meeting designation criteria for both natural beauty and recreation.





## 12b i TODHOLE ROLLING HIGHER LIMESTONE

### Overview

The Todhole Rolling Higher Limestone Character Area is formed from part of the Cumbria LCA Rolling Fringe sub-Type (12b) of the Higher Limestone Type. The Character Area encompasses only a small portion of the Cumbria LCA sub-Type area. The Borough boundary forms the northern and western edges of the Character Area. The southern edge of the Character Area has been refined to follow identifiable features on the ground, including Wood Beck, and to encompass the extent of landform which partially defines the area. The north-eastern boundary has been amended to follow the A5086 as an identifiable feature on the ground. The key

characteristics of this relatively small Character Area (12b i) vary at a local level from those described in the Cumbria LCA for the wider Rolling Fringe sub-Type (12b), in particular the amount of tree cover.

The key characteristics of the Todhole Rolling Higher Limestone Character Area (12b i) are set out below.

### **Key Characteristics**

- Undulating landform rising from watercourses, including Wood Beck to the south, the River Marron to the west, and Todhole Beck and Snary Beck to the north.
- The area predominately consists of medium scale pasture, including dairy farming, interspersed with a number of woodland blocks, particularly to the west and south, sinuous tree belts, other small tree groups, riparian woodland and individual mature field trees.
- Hedgerows with hedgerow trees are present along field boundaries, particularly to the south. Hedges are less common along field boundaries towards the north-east of the area, however large mature trees frequently remain and mark the edges of fields and the field pattern in general.
- The Cumbria Historic Landscape Characterisation database identifies most of the Character Area as ancient enclosures, created before the period of planned enclosures and often medieval in origin.
- The area is remote from any significant settlement, with human occupation consisting of scattered farmsteads, including agricultural sheds, and occasional isolated dwellings.
- The A5086 abuts the eastern edge of the Character Area, and a single lane crosses through the southern portion, but public access to the landscape generally is very limited, with no public rights of way within the Character Area.
- Away from roads and buildings, human influence is relatively low key. There are currently no wind turbines or pylons.
- There is intervisibility with the Lake District fells within the National Park to the east and the moorland ridge to the west, particularly from more open parts of the Character Area to the north. Views along watercourses and in areas with greater tree cover are more contained or framed.

### **Landscape Sensitivity**

To judge general acceptable levels of change within this Character Area (which has differing characteristics to the sub-Type identified in the Cumbria LCA), an outline assessment of the landscape sensitivity of the Character Area has been carried out below in accordance with the latest Natural England guidance.

CRITERIA	SENSITIVITY					NOTES
	H	H-M	M	M-L	L	
<b>LANDSCAPE</b>						
Scale						Medium scale landscape.
Landform						Undulating, rising from surrounding watercourses. Flood Zone along watercourses.
Landcover and biodiversity						Areas of woodland, riparian habitats, hedgerow connectivity. SSSI along River Marron.
Man-made influences						Agricultural buildings, but low key human influences generally.
<b>AESTHETIC, PERCEPTUAL AND EXPERIENTIAL</b>						
Scenic quality and character						Picturesque farmland, rolling landform with trees & watercourses, borrowed scenic view middle distant views.
Remoteness and tranquillity						Low key human influences and areas of tree cover assist with sense of tranquillity.
<b>VISUAL</b>						
Skylines and settings						Provides tree cover on horizon in local views from the south. Wider setting to NP.
Movement						Limited activity away from roads.
Visibility*						Tree cover filters local views to south. Limited public access/receptors but intervisibility with National Park.
<b>VALUE</b>						
Landscape value						Historic value in the ancient enclosures, and within current Landscape of County Importance.
Visual value						Recognisable landscape in local views.
<b>SUMMARY</b>						
Overall landscape sensitivity						

\*Includes key views, vistas to important landscape and cultural heritage features and typical receptors (within and outside the area).

The Todhole Rolling Higher Limestone (12b i) is considered to have a general High-Medium landscape sensitivity to residential and small-scale employment development. The Character Area is unlikely to accommodate development without significant character change or adverse effects.

The Character Area is identifiable as rising ground in views from the south, has indivisibility with the National Park in the middle distance and forms part of its wider setting.

Any development should be on a very small scale, in appropriate locations, where it can be



demonstrated that proposals would not have an adverse effect on the landscape and setting to the National Park.

Apart from agricultural buildings, the Character Area has relatively low key human influence across the majority of the area, with no wind turbines or pylons, and has high susceptibility to introduction of such structures.



## 4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 This assessment has modified the Cumbria LCA sub-Types boundaries in a number of instances (see Appendix A) in the process of identifying Landscape Character Areas for the study area. However, the majority of these revisions are due to a more localised consideration of the extent of commonalities in elements such as topography, landcover and human influences which help define the Character Areas, rather than due to substantial changes in landscape character since the 2011 county-wide LCA. For 12 of the 20 Character Areas identified in this document, the key characteristics set out in the Cumbria LCA for the corresponding sub-Types remain accurate and their accompanying descriptions, identified sensitivities and guidelines remain relevant.
- 4.2 For the remaining 8 Character Areas identified in this assessment, changes in landscape character, since the 2011 Cumbria LCA, have also been limited. However, these areas have key characteristics which vary from those set out for the corresponding sub-Types in the Cumbria LCA, due to local variations in the landscape, and in a number of cases a reduction in scale of the character areas due to the presence of the Borough Boundary or adjoining Settlement Landscape Character Areas. As a result, local characteristics have been more determinate within the study area rather than the characteristics of the broader Cumbria LCA sub-Types. This has necessitated the identification of key characteristics specific to each of the 8 refined Character Area as set out in this document above, which in turn have formed the basis for sensitivity assessment in line with the latest best practice guidance. The majority of the 8 Character Areas were judged to have 'Medium' to 'High-Medium' landscape sensitivity, demonstrating the limited scope for residential or employment development without substantial adverse effects on the landscape character within the majority of these 8 Character Areas.
- 4.3 Despite differences between the key characteristics set out for the 8 Character Areas and their corresponding Cumbria LCA sub-Types, the majority of the issues raised and the guidelines within the relevant Cumbria LCA sub-Types should be taken into account where appropriate.
- 4.4 The 2011 Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit remains a useful baseline of information and tool for providing an understanding of the landscape character of areas beyond the main areas of settlement within Copeland Local Plan area, when read in combination with the information set out in this report above.

COPELAND LOCAL PLAN AREA  
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT  
OF  
LANDSCAPES BEYOND THE MAIN AREAS OF SETTLEMENT

**Appendix A**

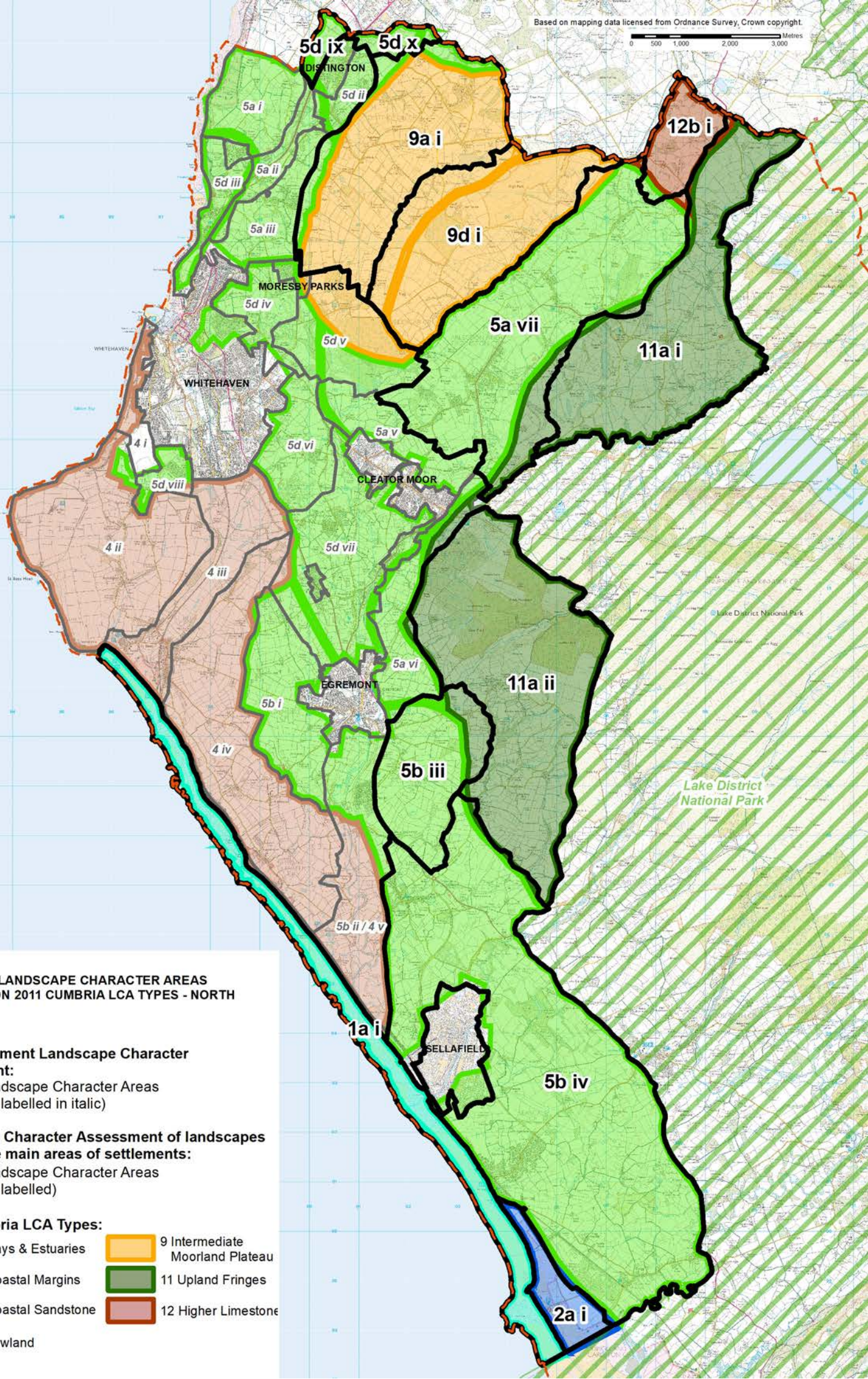


Figure 5  
 COPELAND LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS  
 OVERLAID ON 2011 CUMBRIA LCA TYPES - NORTH

**KEY**

**2021 Settlement Landscape Character Assessment:**

□ Landscape Character Areas (as labelled in italic)

**Landscape Character Assessment of landscapes beyond the main areas of settlements:**

□ Landscape Character Areas (as labelled)


**2011 Cumbria LCA Types:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #e0ffff; border: 1px solid black;"></span> 1 Bays & Estuaries  | <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #ffcc00; border: 1px solid black;"></span> 9 Intermediate Moorland Plateau |
| <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #add8e6; border: 1px solid black;"></span> 2 Coastal Margins   | <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #6aa84f; border: 1px solid black;"></span> 11 Upland Fringes               |
| <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #c08060; border: 1px solid black;"></span> 4 Coastal Sandstone | <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #a52a2a; border: 1px solid black;"></span> 12 Higher Limestone             |
| <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #90ee90; border: 1px solid black;"></span> 5 Lowland           |  |


Figure 6  
**COPELAND LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS  
 OVERLAID ON 2011 CUMBRIA LCA TYPES - SOUTH**

**KEY**

**2021 Settlement Landscape Character Assessment:**

 Landscape Character Areas (as labelled in *italic*)

**Landscape Character Assessment of landscapes beyond the main areas of settlements:**

 Landscape Character Areas (as labelled)

**2011 Cumbria LCA Types:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  1 Bays & Estuaries  |  9 Intermediate Moorland Plateau |
|  2 Coastal Margins   |  11 Upland Fringes               |
|  4 Coastal Sandstone |  12 Higher Limestone             |
|  5 Lowland           |   |

