

Copeland Landscape Settlement Study

Part 1: Introduction and Methodology

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Hallthwaites,
The Green,
The Hill

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St Bees
Sandwith

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Arlecdon and Rowrah
Frizington
Lowca
Low Moresby and Howgate
Moresby Parks

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Seascale
Drigg and Holmrook
Calder Bridge
Beckermet
Egremont
Thornhill
Distinguon

Character Type 5D: Coastal Urban Fringe:

Parton
Keekle
Bigrigg
Moor Row
Cleator
Cleator Moor

Whitehaven:

West of Whitehaven
South of Whitehaven
North and East of Whitehaven

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Ennerdale Bridge
Kirkland

Introduction

Background

The quality and variety of the landscape of Copeland is an invaluable resource and one of the district's greatest assets. Protecting and enhancing the special character of the landscape that contributes towards local identity and distinctiveness is an important part of the planning process and essential to quality of life. Landscape character assessment is a useful tool in identifying the special qualities that give a landscape its sense of place. Recognised by Government and promoted by Natural England, it can aid the planning, design and management of a landscape.

The Borough of Copeland covers an area of 730 sq.km in western Cumbria. It includes part of the Lake District National Park (notably West Water, Ennerdale Water and a section of coast between Ravenglass and Silecroft). In the north, the foothills of the Lakeland fells give way to the coastal plain and sandstone cliffs that typify the coastal strip.

The main areas of settlement are the coastal towns of Whitehaven in the north and Millom in the south. The market town of Egremont inland serves the surrounding rural communities. Cleator Moor is the main town in an area of mining and former industrial settlements in the centre of the district. The area has a rich tradition of mining that has shaped the landscape and defined the settlement pattern of small, industrial villages connected with mines or industrial sites. Linear, ridgeline settlements, coastal quarries and mining sites and a green infrastructure network based on disused railway lines are the visible signs of the past use of the landscape. In recent decades, the large scale industrial development of Sellafield has grown to become a significant feature in the landscape.

Landscape Character Assessment

Landscape Character Assessment is a tool for identifying the features which give a locality its sense of place, to help understand what the landscape is like today, how it came to be like that, and how it may change in the future as an aid to decision making.

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Landscape sensitivity, within the context of spatial planning, is assessed by combining judgements on landscape/visual value together with those of landscape susceptibility *to a particular development scenario*. The development scenarios considered as part of this assessment are housing development, industrial/employment land uses and green infrastructure development.

Purpose of The Settlement Study

This draft Landscape Settlement Study has been undertaken by Copeland Borough Council to assist decision makers when considering development applications and allocations. It has concentrated on the main areas of search for development and on specific development scenarios (residential, light industrial, green infrastructure). The main objectives of the study are:

- To provide a tool for decision making in the development management process;
- To inform planning policy formation;
- To guide landscape management decisions;
- To assist in defining settlement development boundaries;
- To form part of the evidence base for The Local Plan Review and subsequent policy documents.

The study draws on the existing evidence base (The Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit 2011) and the Natural England guidance on landscape sensitivity and landscape character assessment (An Approach To Landscape Sensitivity Assessment – To Inform Spatial Planning And Land Management 2019).

Landscape Characterisation

Landscape character can be defined as the distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape. These patterns give each locality its 'sense of place', making one landscape different from another. In defining the combinations of components which make each landscape unique, landscape characterisation is a way of thinking about landscape more holistically and objectively, rather than focusing on scenic beauty and subjective responses.

The Copeland landscape has evolved over time as a result of natural and cultural processes. Natural processes give rise to the physical structure of the landscape – geology, land form and soils. Cultural processes are a reflection of the way that human interventions have shaped the landscape. They include elements such as field and settlement pattern, land use and woodland cover. Layered on top of this is the perceptual element – our own personal appreciation of landscape and how we relate to or make use of it, as individuals and communities.

The Copeland Settlement Study sits within a framework of national and regional character assessments:

National Character Areas

Natural England publishes National Character Areas (NCAs) which divide England into 159 distinct natural areas. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making/national-character-area-profiles> Each is defined by a unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity, history, and cultural and economic activity. Their boundaries follow natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries. NCA7: West Cumbria Coastal Plain <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6207059431260160?category=587130> covers most of the district outside the National Park and all of the study area apart from the area east of the Ehen valley. The rest of the District is within NCA8: Cumbria High Fells.

Cumbria Landscape Character Types

The Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit maps and describes the character of different landscape types across the county and provides guidance to help maintain their distinctiveness. <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/planning-environment/countryside/countryside-landscape/land/landcharacter.asp> The Guidance divides the county into 13 broad landscape character types, each then subdivided into 37 distinct types. Some types of landscape occur throughout the County, for example, 5D: Urban Fringe, while others may occur only once or twice, for example, 4: Coastal Sandstone.

The written profiles for Landscape Character Types highlight key characteristics of the generic landscape type, whereas those of the Areas of Landscape Character described in this study highlight the distinct and unique characteristics of the area. Areas of Landscape Character give emphasis to local identity e.g. landmarks, and to visual and perceptual influences e.g. scenic and special qualities. As well as the descriptive elements, both of these data 'layers' set out strategies and guidelines aimed at protecting and managing what makes the landscape distinctive and special, as well as planning positively for landscape change as part of sustainable development.

Some of the Borough Copeland is within the Lake District National Park, for which a separate Landscape Character Assessment has been published www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/caringfor/policies/lca .

Landscape Character Assessment

Methodology: Key Stages

The approach to this assessment has followed best practice as promoted by Natural England in An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment (2014) and An Approach to Landscape Sensitivity Assessment (2019). The assessment has followed the guidance as set out in the Cumbria Landscape Character Assessment Toolkit (2011) and seeks to be compliant with the requirements of the European Landscape Convention.

Stage 1: Desktop review

This stage reviewed the assessments made in the Cumbria Landscape Character Assessments (CLCA). The CLCA information was augmented with various information presented in a Geographic Information System (GIS) format to start to identify more detailed landscape character subdivisions. At this stage, a start was made to understand the sensitivity of landscape characteristics to development types and to identify the areas where development pressures were likely to be greatest. This information included the existing CLCA layers, potential Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) and other land allocations, environmental designations, land cover, habitats, landform, water catchments and aerial photographs.

As a result of this assessment, a draft study area was established, including areas most likely to be susceptible to development pressure (fig 1). The area included:

- Whitehaven and its surroundings, including Parton, Lowca and Distington to the north and Moresby Parks to the east. This area is included in Cumbria Landscape Type (CLT) 5, specifically CLT5A (Ridge and Valley) and CLT5D (Urban Fringe);
- An area bounded by the industrial and mining settlements of Cleator Moor, Egremont, Bigrigg and Moor View, contained within CLT5D (Urban Fringe);
- CLT2D (Coastal Urban Fringe) in the area of Millom and Haverigg.
- St Bees and the Pow Beck valley, contained in CLT4 (Coastal Sandstone).
- Seascale, Beckermeth and Thornhill (CLT5B – Low Farmland)
- Ennerdale Bridge and Kirkland (CLT11A – Upland Fringes: Foothills)
- Frizington, Rowrah and Arlecdon (CLT5A – Lowland: Ridge and Furrow)

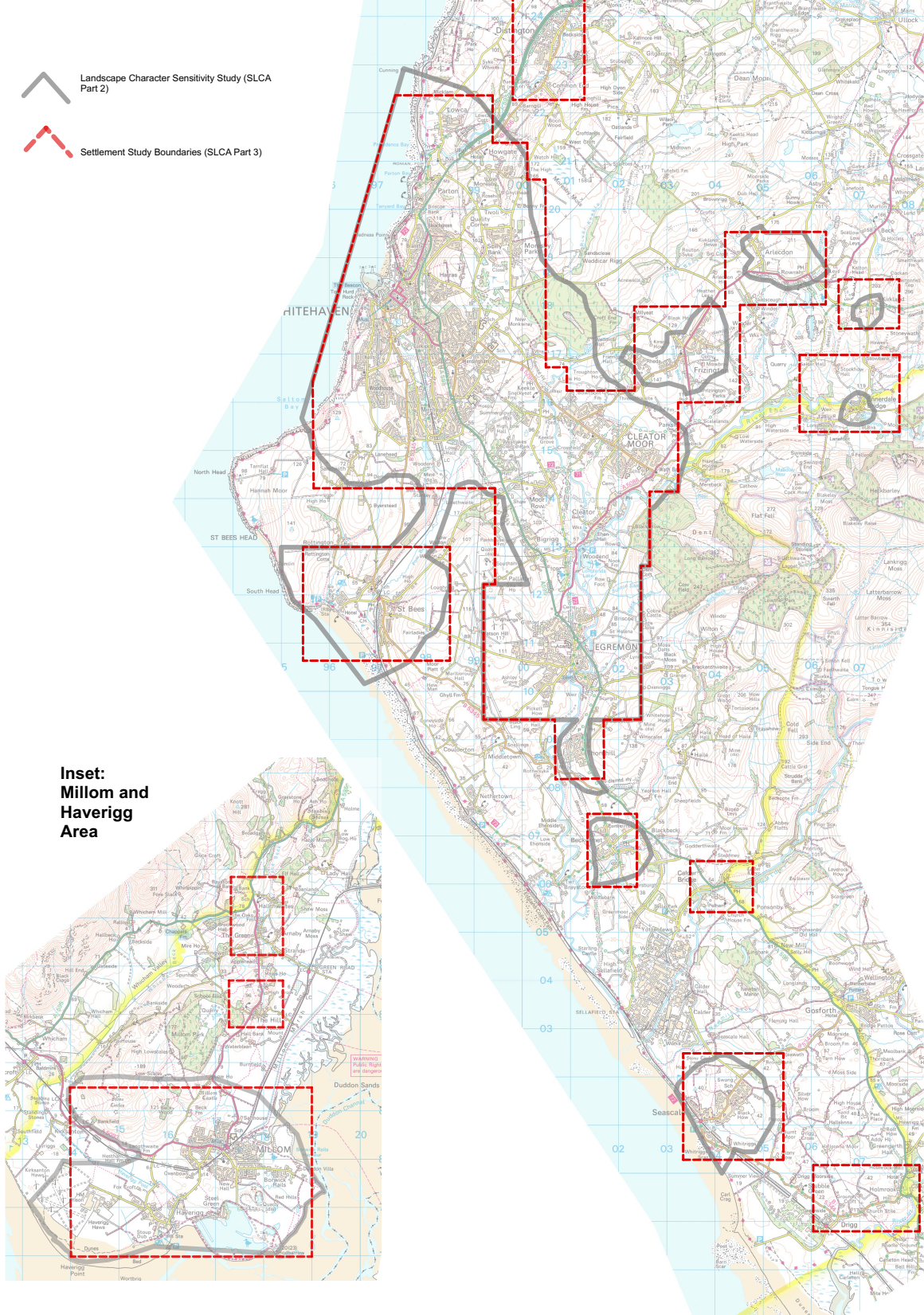
At this stage, the following landscape character types were scoped out of further assessment

- CLT1: Bay and Estuary Sub type 1a: Intertidal Flats, Sub type 1b: Coastal Marsh
- CLT2: Coastal Margins Sub type 2a: Dunes and Beaches Sub type 2b: Coastal Mosses Sub type 2c: Coastal Plain
- CLT9: Intermediate Moorland and Plateau: Sub type 9b: Rolling Farmland and Heath
- CLT11: Upland Fringes Sub type 11b: Low Fells



Landscape Character Sensitivity Study (SLCA Part 2)

Settlement Study Boundaries (SLCA Part 3)



**Inset:
Millom and
Haverigg
Area**

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**Copeland Settlement Study
Fig 1 Study Areas**



Stage 2: Fieldwork

Fieldwork was conducted in the summer of 2019. It was a systematic, rigorous exercise that involved undertaking written observations, map annotations, and taking photographs. The standard survey checklists used for each classification ensured that the landscape features and characteristics were recorded in a consistent and objective way. Example survey checklist is included at Appendix 3

Fieldwork established:

- The accuracy and detail of existing character assessments to inform judgements on landscape sensitivity.
- A review of key viewpoints from surrounding landscapes.
- A review of the role of sites in the study area in the setting of designated landscapes.
- Significant landscape features and areas of commonality were identified.

Hedgerows, woodland, hillsides and green infrastructure that are helpful in defining landscape character and quality have been mapped in the drawings and GIS polygons accompanying this assessment.

A number of subsets of the existing Cumbria Landscape Character Types have been defined, based on this finer grained study of the local landscape within the study area (Initially identified as Areas of Local Character – AoLC). The landscape characteristics and qualities of these areas are described in part 2 of this document and are identified in the accompanying drawings and GIS polygons.

Sensitivity Study

Methodology

Sensitivity judgements are arrived at as a result of combining judgements of the susceptibility of the landscape / visual resource to a specific development type or scenario together with judgements on the value of the landscape / visual resource. Natural England, in their guidance to sensitivity assessment, describe sensitivity as:

“a measure of the resilience, or robustness, of a landscape to withstand specified change arising from development types or land management practices, without undue negative effects on the landscape and visual baseline and their value.”

For the purposes of this study, the development scenarios considered are residential or light industrial development. Attributes of landscape character include elements such as landscape scale, landform and landcover, landscape pattern and vegetation, man-made influences such as settlements and building types. Aesthetic, perceptual and experiential qualities such as relative tranquility, remoteness and scenic quality are considered along with visual qualities (skylines, views, landmarks). Landscape and visual value are assessed according to factors such as environmental designations and the presence of iconic views.

Part 2 of this document summarises landscape sensitivities for each Area of Landscape Character, using the indicators as set out in table 1, resulting in an overall assessment of sensitivity. In the text following the tables, attention is drawn to particular sensitivities for areas, characteristics or qualities.

Table 1: Indicators of Sensitivity

	Higher sensitivity	Lower sensitivity
Landscape		
Scale		
Landform	Rugged hills Irregular or complex landform Narrow valleys and ridges Distinctive landform features	Simple featureless landform Flatter and more uniform landform
Landcover, pattern and vegetation	Small / intimate scale field pattern / mosaic Complex / irregular / diverse landscapes Strong pattern / texture Intact landscape Ancient woodland Upland moorland Upland grazing Barren / rocky upland Cliff-top Water / intertidal / dunes / dune slack / coastal land	Medium scale field pattern of rural landcover Developed land, derelict or waste ground Commercial forestry Lowland farmland
Man-Made Influences – Settlements and buildings	Infrequent / no residential built form Dispersed settlement / sparsely settled / unpopulated areas Presence of historic vernacular buildings / structures or settlement	Major infrastructure (transport / communications / utility infrastructure / wind turbines) Modern day industrial development Large / concentrated urban / modern settlements, no vernacular influence Commercial forestry

	Higher sensitivity	Lower sensitivity
Aesthetic, perceptual and experiential qualities		
Scenic Quality and Character	High scenic quality (for example National Park / AONB / Heritage Coast) Strong sense of place	Low scenic quality (for example industrial areas) Weak sense of place
Remoteness, tranquillity	Remote; tranquil; wild; spiritual; attractive; peaceful Few obvious man-made features	Threatening; unattractive; noisy; development or settlements. Extensive visual and auditory intrusions Notable presence of modern / large scale development and infrastructure (industrial areas, large modern urban settlements etc.)
Visual		
Skylines and Settings	Open, undeveloped skylines with dark night skies.	Multiple developments on slopes and skylines
Movement	Landscape with little development or transport infrastructure	Roads, busy settlements with strong influence on landscape
Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and typical receptors	Very open, exposed landscapes Landscapes with extensive intervisibility and little screening or filtering of views Landscapes which are visible from designated viewpoints in protected landscapes Prominent visual landmarks and / or topographic features such as distinct elevated ridge lines	Landscape with a strong sense of enclosure Landscapes which are contained and strongly visually filtered Very little or no intervisibility from designated viewpoints in protected landscapes No prominent landmarks or topographic features
Value		
Landscape Value	National Park, AONB, Heritage Coast, Regional and local designations (eg Development Plan designations) Related published documentation (tourist information), art and literature Historic Environment Biodiversity and geodiversity designations Local community values	
Visual Value	Iconic views, views related to designated landscape related features, regionally / locally valued views, and views valued by the local community.	

Capacity to Accommodate Change and Mitigation Potential

The capacity of each AoLC to accommodate development change is summarised in part 2 of this document. In some cases sensitively sited development can help to define settlement edges or reinforce positive landscape characteristics. Recommendations for mitigating potentially adverse landscape effects are proposed. Mitigation relates to siting, design and proposals for green infrastructure.

Management Strategy

The Cumbria Landscape Character Assessment recommends management strategies for character types. Where there are opportunities for well designed development to contribute to an overall landscape strategy this is identified.

Landscape Strategies

Landscape scale attributes and features most sensitive to unsympathetic development are prominent hillsides, strategic green infrastructure and the green open spaces between settlements. These attributes have been identified in the maps that accompany this report. Development proposals that take account of the function that these features and attributes play in defining landscape character would contribute towards meeting the environmental objectives of sustainable development¹.

Prominent Hillsides and High Ground Setting

Open, undeveloped hillsides and open skylines contribute to the landscape character of towns and villages. In many cases the surrounding hillsides are an important part of the setting of settlements and are an attribute in the individual identity of villages. Prominent hillsides which make an important contribution to landscape character have been identified as:

- PH1: Prominent, undeveloped hill sides north of Whitehaven; Hillsides below Bransty and to the north of the town act as a landscape gateway to Whitehaven, marking the perceptual edge of the town, its separation from the Lowca valley and reinforcing the separate identities of Parton, heritage assets around Moresby Hall and Lowca.
- PH2: Prominent, undeveloped hillsides within Whitehaven and to east of the town; Fingers of open space, pasture and woodland run almost from the town centre up to the skyline above Whitehaven. They form a green infrastructure network connecting the town to open countryside beyond. The open skyline is an important element of the rural setting of the town, connecting this green infrastructure and maintaining the focus of development on the harbour and coast.
- PH3: The slopes that separate Whitehaven from the Keekle Valley; High ground to the north west of the Keekle valley provides a setting for the former industrial settlements. The slopes help to preserve the separate identity of these settlements from being subsumed into the larger settlement of Whitehaven. Development at Whitehaven appears on the skyline, but tends not to descend south eastwards – thus maintaining Whitehaven’s focus on the harbor and the coast.
- PH4: The foothills above Millom: The upland setting of Millom defines the edge of a strip of lowland coastal pasture between the Duddon Estuary and the fells. The hillside setting is ubiquitous in views from the town and is an important contributor to Millom’s character.

Development in these areas should seek to maintain the undeveloped character and open skylines of the hillsides. Development should preserve the hillsides role as setting for settlements.

¹ National Planning Policy Framework para 8

Strategic Green Infrastructure

The district benefits from a strong network of green infrastructure (GI) sites that provide a recreational and wildlife resource as well as being important in providing structure to the landscape setting of the area's towns and villages. The Settlement Study identifies areas of existing and potential GI that contribute to the landscape character of the district (recreational and biodiversity GI are outside the scope of the study). The protection and enhancement of these areas is important in connecting towns and villages to the wider countryside and in helping to integrate development into its landscape setting. The main areas of landscape scale GI are:

- G11: Parton Slopes: Recreation land and open slopes define the setting of the coastal settlement of Parton. The steep slopes (along with the elevated railway embankment) contribute to a strong sense of enclosure, in stark contrast to the beach to the west.
- G12: Whitehaven Coastal Strip: West of Whitehaven, the open, clifftop slopes define the edge of the town and provide a recreational resource, connecting the town to the Heritage Coast.
- G13: Undeveloped valley sides within Whitehaven. Prominent open slopes, mostly woodland or pasture, help to define the open character of the town and its connection to the surrounding countryside.
- G14: The network of cycle/footpaths and open spaces connecting the south of Whitehaven with the Lakeland foothills, running through and connecting Keekle valley villages. Disused tramways now contribute to a network of publicly accessible linear woodland that connects settlements to each other and to the surrounding countryside. Disused tramways now host foot/cycle routes that bring fingers of natural open space into the area's towns and villages. The network contributes to an understanding of the rich, landscape scale industrial heritage of the area south of Whitehaven. They are a defining characteristic of the Keekle Valley area of landscape character.
- G15: Leconfield Street, Cleator Moor. A broad swathe of woodland, allotment and recreation land connects open countryside and foot/cycle routes to the north and south of the town. The green infrastructure is a defining characteristic of the linear settlement.
- G16: The Ehen Valley, north of Egremont. The valley connects Egremont and Cleator Moor via the relatively tranquil and undeveloped valley. The valley defines the edge of the developed Keekle valley area from the Lakeland foothills to the west and marks a distinct change in landscape character. Connections between the valley and open spaces / footpaths between Cleator and Cleator Moor. The landscape contains informal recreation and nature conservation sites.
- G17: The coastal fringe and disused mining / industrial sites around Millom and Haverigg. A ring of coastal landscape that connects Millom and Haverigg with the estuary edge. Contributes to the

coastal setting of the two settlements. Includes sites of nature conservation interest, beaches and dune landscape.

Development in these areas should aim to conserve or enhance the role of green infrastructure in defining landscape setting and in integrating development with its setting.

Green Wedges

Much of Copeland is characterised by small, nucleated or linear settlements separated from each other by open countryside. These “green wedges” perform a number of important landscape functions. They help to define and strengthen a sense of place in individual settlements, providing a clear distinction between town and country. They form a connection between areas of different landscape character, in particular connecting inland hills to the sea. The key green wedges identified are:

- GW1: South of Distington. Open countryside prevents coalescence of Distington with the smaller, distinct settlement of Common End.
- GW2: Between Whitehaven, Parton and Lowca. Retention of prominent, open slopes maintains the separate identity of the smaller settlements, preserving the setting of heritage assets and providing a landscape scale connection between the coastal plain and the sea;
- GW3: Around Keekle. Open countryside to the north, east and west of the village maintains its separate identity and prevents coalescence between Whitehaven and the Keekle Valley villages. The separate identity of the villages is protected from urban influence of Whitehaven;
- GW4: The slopes above Cleator. The prominent open hillside provides a landscape setting for the village, maintaining its identity from the main settlement of Cleator Moor and providing a landscape link between the Ehen Valley and the Keekle Valley;
- GW5: Open space along the Pow Beck at St Bees. Open recreation and farmland strengthens the landscape link between the valley and the coast and contributes to the perceived connection between sandstone downs/valley and the coast
- GW6: South of Millom. The gap maintains the distinct identities of Millom and Haverigg;
- GW7: East of Millom. The gap allows the lowland farmed setting of Millom to wrap round the town, preserving it’s place in the landscape and maintaining a distance between the town and the foothills landscape type;
- GW8: Between Drigg and Holmrook, to maintain the distinct identities of the settlements

Development in these areas should seek to maintain the separation between settlements. Development should seek to conserve and enhance the characteristics and qualities of the landscape.

Settlement Studies

The implications for development of the sensitivity study and landscape strategies is considered at a broad scale for the main towns: Whitehaven, Egremont, Millom/Haverigg and Cleator Moor. Town strategies are included for the settlements in part 3 of the study.

Outside of the main settlements, development can have a disproportionately larger impact on the character of villages and on the character and qualities of the surrounding landscapes. An additional level of detail is included for these settlements, identifying important GI links, key building groups and landscape features and opportunities or risks from development. Studies are included for:

Character Type 2D: Coastal Urban Fringe:

Millom and Haverigg
Hallthwaites,
The Green,
The Hill

Character Type 4: Coastal Sandstone:

St Bees
Sandwith

Character Type 5A: Ridge and Valley:

Arlecdon and Rowrah
Frizington
Lowca
Low Moresby and Howgate
Moresby Parks

Character Type 5B: Low Farmland

Seascale
Drigg and Holmrook
Calder Bridge
Beckermet
Egremont
Thornhill
Distinguon

Character Type 5D: Coastal Urban Fringe

Parton
Keekle
Bigrigg
Moor Row
Cleator
Cleator Moor

Whitehaven

West of Whitehaven
South of Whitehaven
North and East of Whitehaven

Character Type 11A: Upland Fringe – Foothills

Ennerdale Bridge
Kirkland

Summary of Results

Table 2 summarises the sensitivity to development for the Areas of Landscape Character identified:

Table 2: Summary of Sensitivity Study

	H	H-M	M	M-L	L	Note
2Di Coastal Pasture Urban Fringe						The views to open sea and expansive skies are sensitive to development that would enclose or interrupt these views.
2Dii Coastal Derelict ex Industrial Urban Fringe						The views to open sea and expansive skies are sensitive to development that would enclose or interrupt these views. The high ecological value of former industrial sites is sensitive to changes in land management and development.
2Diii / 5Ci Millom Rural Fringe						Rolling, open and undeveloped higher ground is sensitive to large scale development The views across adjacent landscapes to open sea and expansive skies are sensitive to development that would enclose or interrupt these views. Traditional rural character towards foothills sensitive to development. Upper slopes sensitive to development encroaching on wild landscape of Lakeland foothills
4i Coastal Urban Fringe Cliffs						The high ecological value of former industrial sites is sensitive to changes in land management and development. The views across the landscape to open sea and expansive skies are sensitive to development that would enclose or interrupt these views. Recreational use of the area is sensitive to development that encroaches on the coastal margin
4ii Sandstone Coastal Downs						The dramatic cliffs of St Bees Heritage Coast, their colonies of breeding sea birds and sense of remoteness and tranquillity are all sensitive to development. Isolated settlements, the distinctive sandstone of traditional buildings and historic field pattern based on medieval strip fields are sensitive to village expansion
4iii Pow Beck Valley						Peaceful quality of the valley is sensitive to development within it or on the upper slopes. The role of the valley in connecting inland areas to the sea is sensitive to expansion of St Bees into the green gap between the two parts of the settlement. Important green infrastructure links are sensitive to unsympathetic encroaching development
5A Ridge and Valley						Peaceful pastoral atmosphere sensitive to large scale development Discrete and dispersed farmsteads are sensitive to unsympathetic expansion. Ridge top locations of settlements are sensitive to village expansion. Undeveloped areas of ridge tops and valley rims are sensitive to large scale ridge line development
5Ai Lowca Ridge and Coast						Open, coastal ridge sensitive to development
5Aii Lowca Valley						Discrete and dispersed farmsteads are sensitive to unsympathetic expansion. Ridge top locations of settlements are sensitive to village expansion
5Aiii Whitehaven and Moresby Hillsides						Peaceful pastoral atmosphere away from settlements is sensitive to large scale development. Maintain separation between existing, distinct settlements and resist further linear development outwards from Howgate to prevent urban sprawl. Undeveloped areas of valley rim are sensitive to large scale ridge line development

	H	H-M	M	M-L	L	Note
5Av Cleator Moor Slopes						Peaceful pastoral atmosphere sensitive to large scale development Discrete and dispersed farmsteads are sensitive to unsympathetic expansion. Ridge top locations of settlements are sensitive to village expansion. Undeveloped areas of ridge tops and valley rims are sensitive to large scale ridge line development
5Avi Mid Ehen Valley						Peaceful pastoral atmosphere sensitive to large scale development Discrete and dispersed farmsteads are sensitive to unsympathetic expansion
5B Low Farmland						The traditional feel of villages and farms can provide a sense of stepping back in time in places and is sensitive to unsympathetic village expansion
5Bi Egremont Low Farmland						Openness sensitive to skyline development. Traditional, sparsely settled farming character sensitive to unsympathetic settlement expansion
5Bii / 4v Lower Ehern Valley						Intimate valley bottom sensitive to development. More open coastal area sensitive to development.
5Dii Distington Valley Sides						Wooded valley and the intact field patterns of farmland reinforced by hedges and hedgerow trees are sensitive to settlement expansion. Fields close to settlement edge are sensitive to unsympathetic development
5Diii Coastal Urban Fringe Cliffs						The coastal landscape and it's sense of openness are sensitive to development
5Div Whitehaven Hillside						Openness and skyline sensitive to development. Separate identity of Moresby Parks and individual urban fringe farmsteads sensitive to encroachment by development. Open green spaces and fields close to settlement edge are sensitive to unsympathetic development
5Dv Plantation/ Recreation						Remote, natural qualities sensitive to unsympathetic development and expansion of Whitehaven
5Dvi Keekle Hillside						Discrete identity of settlements sensitive to expansion, particularly from Whitehaven skyline. Intact field patterns of farmland reinforced by hedges and hedgerow trees are sensitive to settlement expansion. Open green spaces and fields close to settlement edges are sensitive to unsympathetic development
5Dvii Keekle Valley						Identity of discrete settlements sensitive to large scale development on their edges. Green infrastructure links between urban areas and open countryside sensitive to over development Open green spaces and fields close to settlement edges are sensitive to unsympathetic development
11a: Foothills						Dispersed, discrete settlement pattern sensitive to unsympathetic expansion and redevelopment

Appendix 1: How to Use The Study

How do I use the maps?

The interactive map (weblink) allows you to explore the Copeland landscape and to access profiles of Areas of Landscape Character. You can zoom and pan around the map and click on the map to display further information. Clicking on an Area of Landscape Character will display the name and summary information and provide a web link to access the relevant profile. Clicking on a Landscape Strategy Area (Prominent Hillside, Strategic Green Infrastructure and Green Wedges) will display a summary of the strategy.

Who uses the Landscape Settlement Study and why?

The Settlement Study has been designed to inform the Local Plan Review. However, it could also be used in preparing development or neighbourhood plans, designing and assessing the impacts of new development, managing landscapes and the wider countryside and targeting and monitoring landscape change.

The Settlement Study is a useful tool for informing and engaging stakeholders in sustainable development. It can serve as a framework for decision-making that respects landscape character and local distinctiveness.

How can the Settlement Study be used for spatial planning?

Spatial planning needs to take account of the particular characteristics of places and how these relate to each other. The Study provides a ready-made framework for spatial planning by identifying areas of distinctive landscape at a district scale.

How can the Settlement Study be used for development management?

Development management decisions need to be informed by the landscape context of the proposed development. The potential impact of development will vary in different landscapes. The Study helps development management decisions to take account of the distinctive characteristics of different landscapes and the potential impact of development. It provides guidance on the capacity of the landscape to accept development and on appropriate mitigation measures to reduce the adverse impacts of landscape change.

How can the Settlement Study be used for planning new development?

New development needs to take full account of its relationship with the landscape. Understanding the landscape context of development is an essential first step of the design process. The Study helps developers to understand the characteristics of different areas of landscape and of the impacts of potential development. This helps in the identification of sites that are suitable for different types of development. When a development site has been identified, the key characteristics of the landscape can inform the design and layout of new development.

How can the Settlement Study be used by local communities?

The European Landscape Convention requires the involvement of all members of society in the protection, management and planning of landscapes. This involvement will safeguard the heritage value of landscapes, enable positive change and help communities to look ahead to adapt and create the landscapes of the future. The Study helps local communities to understand the context of their landscape for community planning.

Appendix 2: References

National Character Area Profile: NCA7 West Cumbria Coastal Plain

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6207059431260160?category=587130>

National Character Area Profile: NCA8 Cumbria High Fells

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https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/691184/landscape-character-assessment.pdf

An Approach to Landscape Sensitivity Assessment to inform spatial planning and land management. (Natural England) 2019

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/817928/landscape-sensitivity-assessment-2019.pdf

Tranquillity – An Overview (Landscape Institute Technical Note 1/17) 2017

<https://landscapewpstorage01.blob.core.windows.net/www-landscapeinstitute-org/2017/02/Tranquillity-An-Overview-1-DH.pdf>

Interim Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (Copeland Borough Council) 2019

https://www.copeland.gov.uk/sites/default/files/attachments/interm_shlaa_november19.pdf

Appendix 3: Standard Survey Format



16J un 2019 / Peter Leaver

CopelandField Assessment -Characteristics

Complete

Inspection score	Failed items	Created actions
32.56%	0	0
<p>Conducted on 📅 16th Jun, 2019 ⌚ 8:55AM BST</p>		
<p>Prepared by Peter Leaver</p>		
<p>Location A595 Whitehaven CA28 England (54.57424121913926, -3.5693673323873143)</p>		

Photographs




photo 1
—Photos  Photo 1
photo 2
—Photos  Photo 2
photo 3
—Photos  Photo 3
photo 4 Unanswered
photo 5 Unanswered
photo 6 Unanswered
photo 7 Unanswered

photo 8
Unanswered

photo 9
Unanswered

photo 10
Unanswered

Land Use

<input type="checkbox"/> Urban
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Edge
<input type="checkbox"/> Village
<input type="checkbox"/> Hamlet
<input type="checkbox"/> Isolated/Farmstead
<input type="checkbox"/> Unsettled
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial
<input type="checkbox"/> Mining / quarry
<input type="checkbox"/> derelict industrial

Land Cover

<input type="checkbox"/> Arable
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pastoral
<input type="checkbox"/> Other grassland
<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed Farming
<input type="checkbox"/> Heath / Moor
<input type="checkbox"/> Open Water
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Woodland
<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal cliff
<input type="checkbox"/> beach

estuary

Woodland Cover

Extensive

Interlocking

Linear

Fragmented

Coniferous

Bradleaf

Successional

Field Boundaries

Hedgerow

Tree Row

Stone wall

fencing

Ditch/dyke

Straight

Sinuous

Boundary Features?
Unanswered

Built features

Farm Buildings

Communications / services structures

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> pylons/masts/poles
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> wind turbines
<input type="checkbox"/> military.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Church
<input type="checkbox"/> derelict
Other Glasshouses

Building Form

<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial
<input type="checkbox"/> vernacular
<input type="checkbox"/> vernacular industrial
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> non vernacular
describe 19th & 20thC housing prominent on skyline cliff top 19C church

Views

<input type="checkbox"/> distant
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> framed
<input type="checkbox"/> intermittent
<input type="checkbox"/> panoramic
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> corridor

Scale

<input type="checkbox"/> intimate
<input type="checkbox"/> small
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> medium
<input type="checkbox"/> large

Enclosure

<input type="checkbox"/> confined
<input type="checkbox"/> enclosed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> semi-enclosed
<input type="checkbox"/> open
<input type="checkbox"/> exposed

Variety

<input type="checkbox"/> uniform
<input type="checkbox"/> simple

diverse

complex

Texture

smooth

textured

rough

very rough

Colour

monochrome

muted

colourful

garish

Movement

dead

calm

gently active

active

Unity

unified

interrupted

fragmented

chaotic

Naturalness

undisturbed

restrained

tamed

disturbed

Sound

tranquil


distant

discordant

sound source, level and constancy

Constant background traffic noise

Access

Recreational land use? Footpaths cycle routes	
Footpath condition	good
—Photos  <p>Photo 4</p>	
bridleway condition	unknown

Evidence of degradation

Visual impact of modern land uses Pylons and turbines prominent features. Lowca dominates valleys landscape. Glasshouses	
evidence of degradation	Unanswered
Condition summary Fair	

Development Capacity

key characteristics Hilltop settlement pylons/turbines valley pastoral
scale/enclosure Open hillside, secluded valley. NB separate sea cliff characters
landform/topography Undulating
land cover Woodland pasture. Glasshouses settlement
skyline Developed
visible built development Prominent
views and connections with adjacent landscapes Views to open sea, views inland enclosed by hills.views from valley sides and road
vistas and landmarks Church,Lowca ind farm, sea views
movement Active
remoteness / tranquillity Not remote, not tranquil



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4