

Copeland Landscape Settlement Study

November 2021

Part 2: Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessments

V8



Copeland Landscape Settlement Study

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Area Assessment Reports

Area Assessment Reports

2D – Coastal Urban Fringe

4 – Coastal Sandstone

5A – Ridge and Valley

5B – Low Farmland

5D – Urban Fringe, 9A Moorland and 5A Ridge and Valley

11A – Foothills

Maps (in Appendix A):

Fig 1 Study Area Boundary

Fig 2 North, Mid and South Features and Character – Woodland and Slopes

Fig 3 North, Mid and South Features and Character – Greenspace

Fig 4 North and South Character Area subdivisions (Areas of Landscape Character)

Fig 5 North and South Landscape Strategies

Area of Local Character maps can also be found in context on the GIS layers that accompany this report

Settlement study maps: indicative only, see key below.

Photographs:

Photographs are representative of characteristics and qualities present in settlements and areas of landscape character. Photograph locations are not intended to infer that they are taken of or from particularly valuable viewpoints.

Part 2 Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment

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Character Type: 2D Coastal Urban Fringe

Area of Local Character 2Di Coastal Pasture Urban Fringe.

Areas of low lying, mostly flat farmland and recreation space around the edges of Haverigg and Millom, including the old airfield, now used as a prison and windfarm.

Description

Key Characteristics

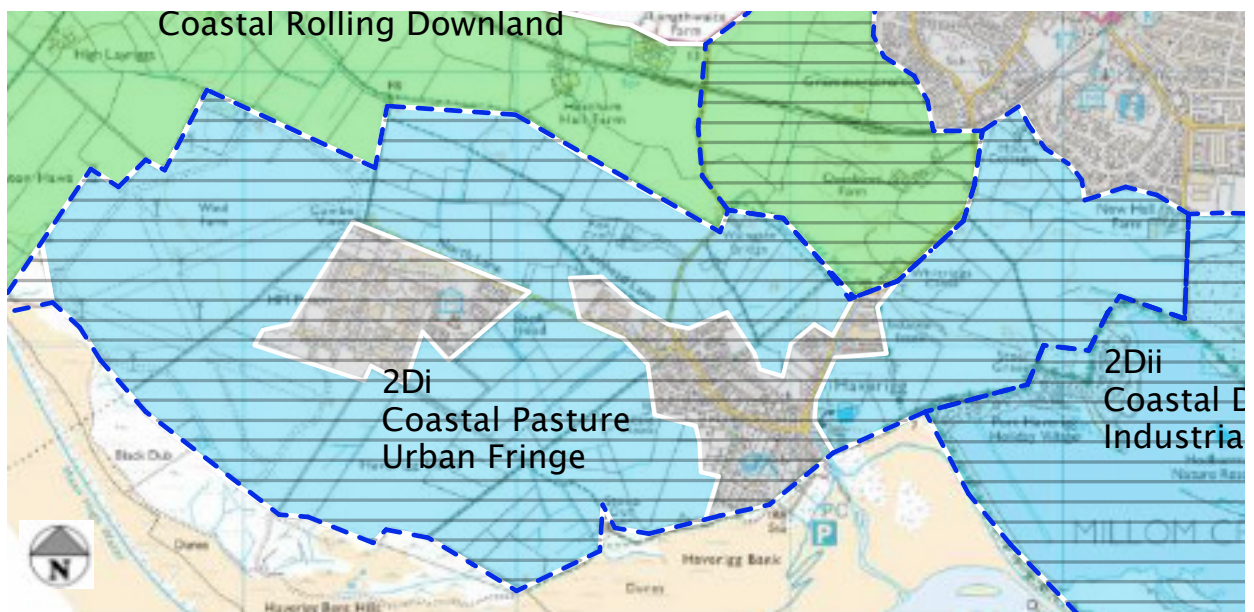
- Landform: Flat, low lying coastal land.
- Land Use: Urban edge uses – pasture dominates, with recreation on the edge of Haverigg, Industry, particularly on site of old tannery, caravan storage and holiday park, windfarm and prison estate.
- Landcover: semi improved pasture and amenity grassland. Disused airfield to west of prison.
- Field Pattern: small and medium, rectangular fields. Ditch and fence boundaries, some hedgerows further inland.
- Vegetation: Sparse tree cover – some small farm shelter belts and hedgerows.
- Settlement Pattern: Haverigg has grown out from 19th century core along main roads. Separated from Haverigg Prison and prison housing by open countryside.
- Built features: Tannery works and Prison estate, with functional, low rise buildings, dominate the built form of the landscape. Wind farm gives vertical emphasis to otherwise flat landscape.
- Scale: Open, flat large-scale landscape.
- Perceptual Character: Long open views over sea and to fells. Busy landscape, with evidence of human activity very present. Exposed to the elements. An air of neglect where buildings and land have become run down. Strong association with adjacent urban character and undeveloped landscape. Presence of roads, dereliction, buildings, railways.

Qualities

- Strong human influences on landscape. Exposure and openness at coast.

Designations

- Duddon Estuary Ramsar site and SSSI, Morecambe Bay SAC.



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A) Industrial History



b) Sparse Tree Cover



C) Recreation Land Uses



D) Seaward Views



E) Expansive skies and views to the fells. Church spire



Landscape Sensitivity and Susceptibility

The views to open sea and expansive skies are sensitive to development that would enclose or interrupt these views.

Criteria	Sensitivity					Notes
	H	H-M	M	M-L	L	
Landscape						
Scale						Large scale, open to seaward.
Landform						Flat, featureless.
Landcover and Biodiversity						Little woodland cover.
Man-Made Influences						
Aesthetic, perceptual and experiential						
Scenic Quality and Character						
Remoteness, tranquillity						
Visual						
Skylines and Settings						
Movement						Active landscape.
Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and typical receptors						Open views over sea.
Views to important landscape and cultural heritage features						Views seawards and to fells
Value						
Landscape Value						
Visual Value						
Overall landscape sensitivity						

Capacity to Accommodate Change and Mitigation Potential

Protect coastal edge areas from sporadic and peripheral development. Support the retention and enhancement of green gaps, green infrastructure and ecosystem services, in particular to define green gaps between Haverigg, Millom and Haverigg Prison.

Encourage new development on brownfield and vacant sites to protect and enhance habitats. Minimise the impact of new development by careful siting, design and high standards of landscape treatment particularly where public views are affected.

Establish new woodland belts or thick hedgerows along the edges of developments to soften their impact, provide a backcloth, define limits of urban expansion and integrate isolated development.

Management Strategy

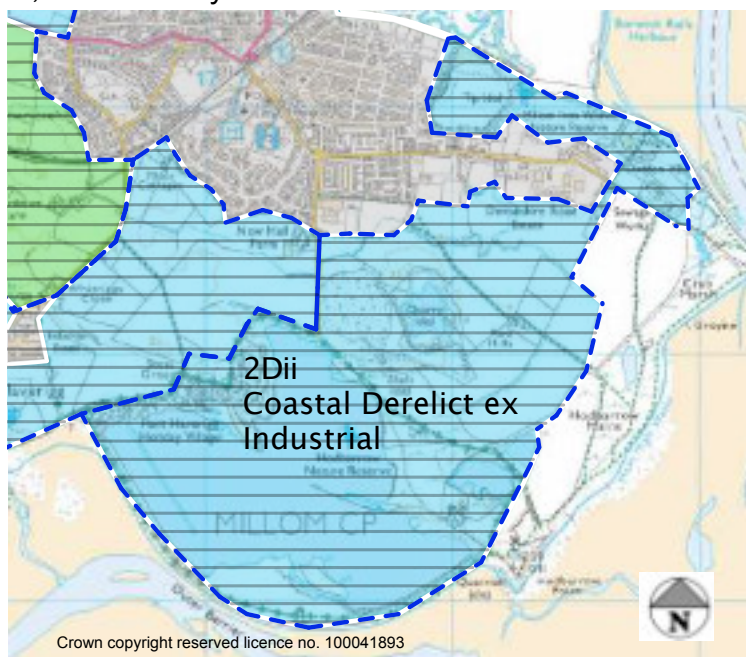
The qualities of this landscape and seascape will be enhanced, restored and improved as important settings for recreation.

The rural and natural qualities of these areas will be reinforced and there will be the development of a bold landscape structure to unify disparate uses.

Character Type: 2D Coastal Urban Fringe

Area of Local Character 2Dii Coastal Derelict ex Industrial Urban Fringe.

Landscape to the south and west of Millom, influenced by the remains of now discontinued mining and heavy industry.



Description

Key Characteristics

- Landform: Flat, low lying coastal land, punctuated by spoil tips from hematite mining at Hodbarrow pit and the disused ironworks. Large sheltered lagoon.
- Land Use: Urban edge uses – pasture, formal and informal recreation, nature reserve on the disused iron works and industry.
- Landcover: semi Improved pasture, amenity
- Sparsely vegetated derelict grassland. Successional woodland and scrub between Hodbarrow Pit and the coast.
- Field Pattern: medium size, regular fields. Hedgerow and fence boundaries.
- Vegetation: Sparse tree cover – Hedgerow trees, scrub and trees groups associated with farmsteads and church.
- Settlement Pattern: Millom at the centre of the area. Mining town, mostly 19th century with some 20th C housing on outskirts. Edge of town ill-defined to south, where it encroaches on open countryside.
- Built features: 19thC and 20thC industrial and residential structures dominate.
- Scale: Open, medium scale landscape.
- Perceptual Character: Long open views over Duddon Estuary and inland towards the edge of the Lakeland fells. Busy landscape, with time depth of industrial and mining activity very evident. Sense of tranquillity possible in long, still open views over tidal estuary.
- The air of neglect where land has become run down belies the wildlife value of disused industrial and mining sites. Presence of roads, dereliction, buildings and railways.

Qualities

- Remains of past mining and industry dominate landscape. Exposure and openness at coast.

Designations

- Local Nature Reserve (Millom Ironworks), Duddon Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Ramsar site, Morecambe Bay Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

A) Separate, isolated farmsteads



B) Landscape influenced by industrial history



C) Flat landscape punctuated by spoil heap



Character Area 2Dii Coastal Derelict ex Industrial Urban Fringe.

Landscape Sensitivity and Susceptibility

The landscape is characterised by view to open sea and expansive skies, both of which 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.

Criteria	Sensitivity					Notes
	H	H-M	M	M-L	L	
Landscape						
Scale			■			Medium scale, open to seaward.
Landform				■		Flat, featureless
Landcover and Biodiversity			■			Nature reserve and successional woodland more sensitive
Man-Made Influences					■	
Aesthetic, perceptual and experiential						
Scenic Quality and Character				■		
Remoteness, tranquillity				■		
Visual						
Skylines and Settings				■		
Movement				■		Active landscape
Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and typical receptors				■		Open views over sea.
Views to important landscape and cultural heritage features				■		Views seawards and to fells
Value						
Landscape Value			■			
Visual Value				■		
Overall landscape sensitivity				■		

Capacity to Accommodate Change and Mitigation Potential

Protect green areas from sporadic and peripheral development. Support the retention and enhancement of green gaps, green infrastructure and ecosystem services.

Encourage new development on brownfield and vacant sites to protect and enhance habitats. Minimise the impact of new development by careful siting, design and high standards of landscape treatment.

New development can help to define the limits of urban expansion and integrate isolated development.

Establish new woodland belts or thick hedgerows along the edges of developments to soften their impact and provide a backcloth.

Management Strategy

The qualities of this landscape and seascape will be enhanced, restored and improved as important settings for recreation.

The rural and natural qualities of these areas will be reinforced and there will be the development of a bold landscape structure to unify disparate uses.

Character Type: 2D Coastal Urban Fringe 5C Coastal Rolling Downland

Area of Local Character 2Diii / 5Ci Millom Rural Fringe.

Gently undulating and flat pasture to the north and east of Millom, providing much of the rural setting for the town and acting as a rural gap between the town and foothills landscape character type.

Description

Key Characteristics

- Landform: Open undulating and rolling topography, running down to coastal flat pasture.
- Land Use: Pasture and urban fringe.
- Landcover: semi improved and unimproved pasture.
- Field Pattern: medium size, irregular fields responding to undulating landform.
- Vegetation: hedgerows and hedgerow trees. Small tree groups associated with farmsteads.
- Settlement Pattern: Urban edge of Millom dominates the landscape. Late 20th Century expansion has diluted the nucleated form of the settlement and results in an ill-defined settlement edge particularly to west, where settlement encroaches on open countryside. Northern boundary better integrated. Traditional farmsteads with some modern buildings separated from town.
- Built features: Scheduled monument at Millom Castle. Millom church spire is a landmark feature.
- Scale: medium scale.
- Perceptual Character: Long open views over Millom towards the sea give an air of openness to the landscape. Backdrop of Lakeland foothills, with rocky outcrops, loom over the landscape.
- Railway and road present in landscape, detracting from sense of tranquillity. Strong association with adjacent urban character and undeveloped landscape.

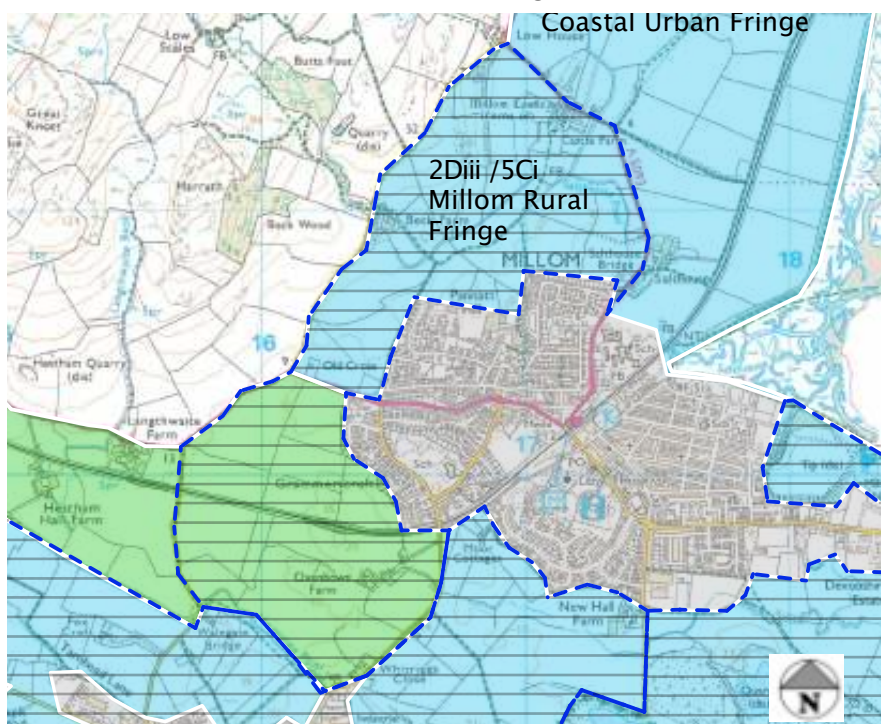
Qualities

Transitional landscape, sharing qualities of flat, coastal pasture and Lakeland foothills.

- Prominent spire and open views to the coast
- Pastoral land use on slopes

Designations

Scheduled monument and listed buildings at Millom Castle.



A) Prominent spire and open views to the coast



B) Pastoral land use on slopes



Character Area 2Diii Millom Rural Fringe.

Landscape Sensitivity and Susceptibility

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.

Criteria	Sensitivity					Notes
	H	H-M	M	M-L	L	
Landscape						
Scale						
Landform						
Landcover and Biodiversity						
Man-Made Influences						
Aesthetic, perceptual and experiential						
Scenic Quality and Character						
Remoteness, tranquillity						
Visual						
Skylines and Settings						
Movement						
Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and typical receptors						
Views to important landscape and cultural heritage features						
Value						
Landscape Value						
Visual Value						
Overall landscape sensitivity						

Capacity to Accommodate Change and Mitigation Potential

Opportunities to enhance and strengthen green infrastructure to provide a link between urban areas and the wider countryside. Particularly to the north of Millom.

Minimise the impact of new development by careful siting, design and high standards of landscape treatment particularly where public views are affected.

Minimise the impact of major developments by careful siting in less sensitive areas, maximising screening from public view and following high standards of design and landscape treatment.

Open and exposed sites and those that affect key views should be avoided, especially where development would become the dominant feature.

New development, with woodland belts or thick hedgerows along the edges of developments would soften their impact, provide a backcloth and define limits of urban expansion, particularly to the west of Millom.

Protect isolated farmsteads from being subsumed into urban expansion.

Management Strategy

The qualities of this landscape and seascape will be enhanced, restored and improved as important settings for recreation.

The rural and natural qualities of these areas will be reinforced and there will be the development of a bold landscape structure to unify disparate uses achieved through the conservation of rural green areas and a reduction in the impact of development in prominent locations.

Unsympathetic development edges will be softened, and peripheral development will be integrated within a stronger woodland landscape framework.



C) Haverigg coastal dunes



D) Disused mining sites create local landforms



E) Views over Duddon Sands

Character Type: 4 Coastal Sandstone

Area of Local Character 4i Coastal Urban Fringe Cliffs.

Dramatic clifftop landscape west of Whitehaven, heavily influenced by historic, now disused mining, quarrying and industry. Now acts as informal and formal recreation space for the town.

Description

Undeveloped clifftop west of Whitehaven, rich industrial history.

Key Characteristics

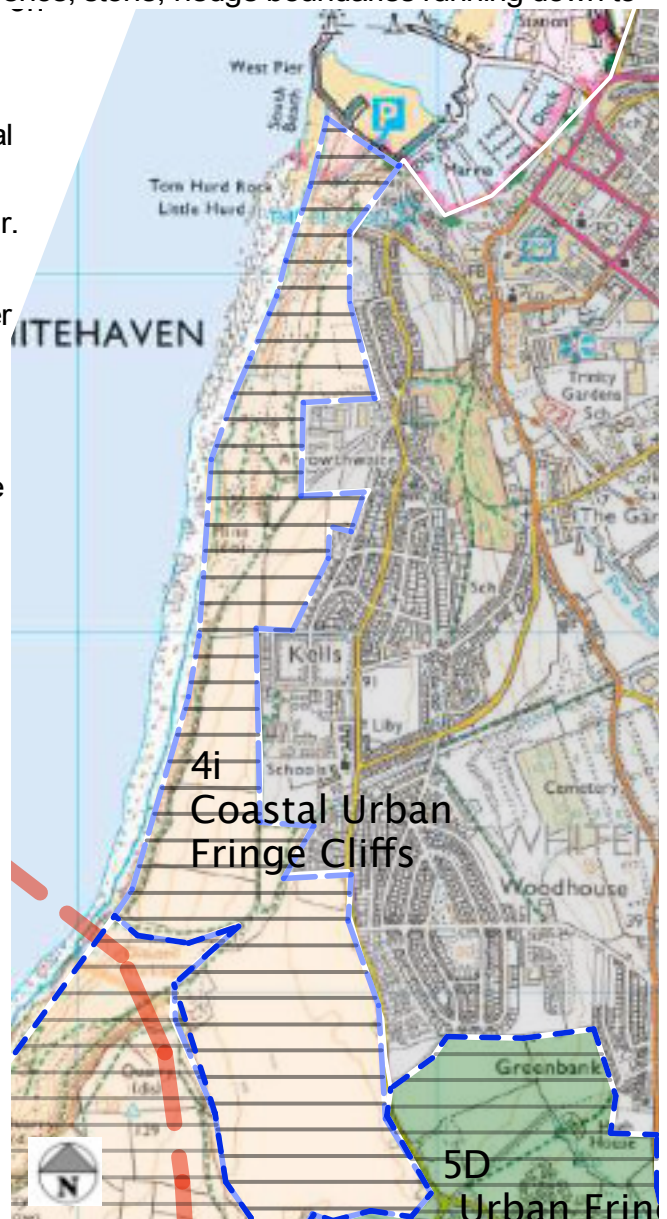
- Landform: Coastal sandstone cliffs with strong man-made landforms. Exposed coastal edge.
- Land Use: farmland, informal and formal recreation. Strong urban influences.
- Landcover: pasture, scrub and semi natural grassland. Few trees and no woodland.
- Field Pattern: Narrow band of small fields. Fence, stone, hedge boundaries running down to cliffs.
- Settlement Pattern: Strong urban edge influence to the east.
- Built features: Derelict and restored industrial structures, including scheduled monuments at Haig Colliery and Saltom Pit. Prominent monument overlooking Whitehaven Harbour.
- Scale: Large scale, open and exposed
- Perceptual Character: Wide open views over Solway Firth. Open, exposed character on cliff tops. Air of decay and neglect from remaining, unreclaimed derelict land.

Qualities

- Open, panoramic, seaward views. Evidence of rich industrial and mining past. Recreational resource close to urban area.

Designations

- Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) at Saltom Colliery and Haig Pit. Proposed extension to the defined Heritage Coast.



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A) Poor definition of urban edge



B) Post industrial influence on landscape



C) Seaward Views



D) Coastal facing residential areas



Character Area 4i Coastal Urban Fringe Cliffs.

Landscape Sensitivity and Susceptibility

The high ecological value of former industrial sites is sensitive to changes in land management and development.

The views across the landscape towards open sea and views of 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.

Criteria	Sensitivity					Notes
	H	H-M	M	M-L	L	
Landscape						
Scale						Large scale
Landform						Open, clifftop, rugged
Landcover and Biodiversity						
Man-Made Influences						
Aesthetic, perceptual and experiential						
Scenic Quality and Character						Industrial archaeology, rugged cliffs and panoramic views make for high scenic quality. Heritage Coast – possible extension to defined area.
Remoteness, tranquillity						Proximity to sea increases remote feel, even though close to urban area
Visual						
Skylines and Settings						
Movement						
Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and typical receptors						Local viewpoints at Jonathan Swift House and memorial, Haig Colliery and along coast
Views to important landscape and cultural heritage features						Views over Irish Sea
Value						
Landscape Value						
Visual Value						
Overall landscape sensitivity						

Capacity to Accommodate Change and Mitigation Potential

Small scale development possible to help define urban edge, but otherwise little capacity for development without causing change to landscape qualities of openness.

Management Strategy

The objective is to manage, enhance and restore the landscape. Formalise and improve countryside access.

Character Type: 4 Coastal Sandstone

Area of Local Character 4ii Sandstone Coastal Downs.

Coastal plateau and high cliffs west of St Bees Head, much of the area is Heritage Coast and is heavily influenced by the presence of the sea.

Description

Key Characteristics

- Landform: Sandstone plateau and cliffs, 80m - 130m elevation.
- Land Use: Mainly unsettled farmland, coastal heath at clifftops. Access Land and coastal path registered common land at Rottington. Existing and historic quarries on coast.
- Landcover: Arable and pasture. Coastal heath. Fragmented woodland in sheltered valley.
- Field Pattern: Large fields on plateau, smaller fields, based on strip fields, closer to Sandwith. Straight boundaries, hedges and fences.
- Vegetation: Small woodland blocks at lower level on Pow Beck valley rim. Shelter planting around farm buildings, otherwise open and with little tree cover.
- Settlement Pattern: Isolated farmsteads, Sandwith village in valley. St Bees Head Lighthouse is a prominent landmark.
- Built features: Vernacular of stone / render with slate roofs. Communications mast and lighthouse.



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- Scale: Large scale landscape with exposed coastal edge
- Perceptual Character: Open, exposed character. Panoramic views seawards and towards distant Lakeland fells.
- A simple, calm landscape with little movement or noise. Quality of remoteness and wildness along the coastal edge.
- Cliff top landscape is vast in scale and has an exposed, invigorating, remote and beautiful feel

Qualities

- Remote, wild and exposed coastal edge. St Bees Head SSSI.
- Panoramic seaward views and distant views to Lakeland Fells.

Designations

- SSSI on coastal edge of St Bees Head, Heritage Coast covers area. Scheduled Monument at Barrowmouth Mine.

A) Heritage Coast, view northwards towards St Bees Head



B) St Bees, Settlement in valley.



C) Large fields and a sense of openness - S. Of St Bees Head



Landscape Sensitivity and Susceptibility

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 are sensitive to village expansion.

Criteria	Sensitivity					Notes
	H	H-M	M	M-L	L	
Landscape						
Scale	■					Large scale, open landscape
Landform		■				Exposed plateau
Landcover and Biodiversity		■				Regular, large fields. SSSI on coast
Man-Made Influences		■				Isolated farmsteads and structures
Aesthetic, perceptual and experiential						
Scenic Quality and Character	■					High scenic quality and strong sense of place. Defined Heritage Coast
Remoteness, tranquillity		■				Peaceful with few man made influences
Visual						
Skylines and Settings	■					Open, mostly undeveloped skylines. Setting for St Bees and Whitehaven in views along coast.
Movement		■				
Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and typical receptors		■				Locally valued views from cliff tops. Receptors include walkers on national trail.
Views to important landscape and cultural heritage features		■				Views seawards and towards Lakeland fells.
Value						
Landscape Value		■				Heritage Coast
Visual Value		■				
Overall landscape sensitivity		■				

Capacity to Accommodate Change and Mitigation Potential

Preserve the qualities of remoteness and tranquillity in the open countryside.

Small scale development associated with existing villages should reduce the impact of any new buildings by careful siting and design.

Support small scale quarrying at the existing site to provide local stone for new developments and repairs to buildings.

Management Strategy

The objective is to manage, enhance and restore the landscape.

Character Type: 4 Coastal Sandstone

Area of Local Character 4iii Pow Beck Valley.

Broad, mostly unsettled river valley linking Whitehaven to St Bees.

Description

Key Characteristics

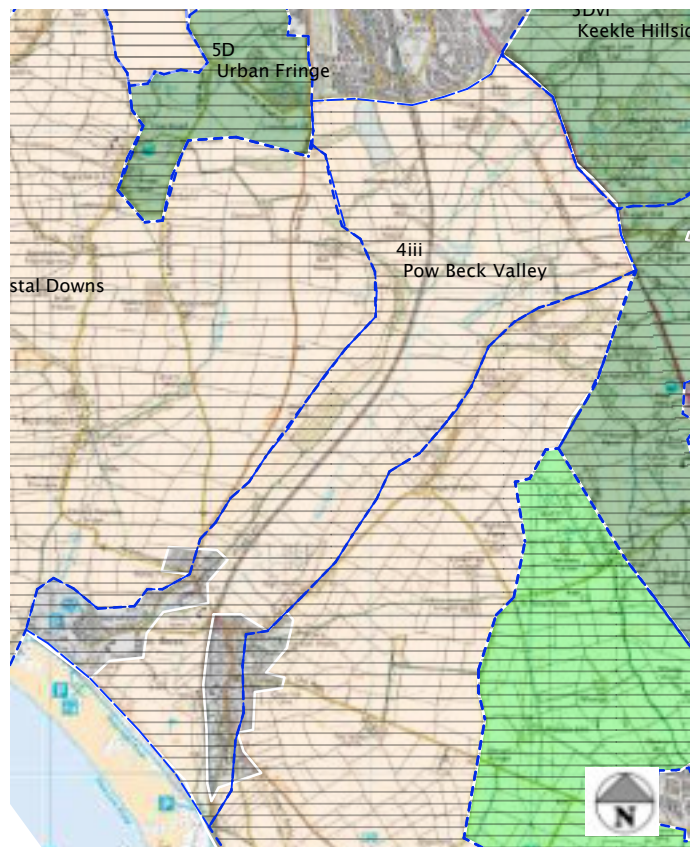
- Landform: Broad based valley, rising from sea level at St Bees to around 80m elevation on eastern valley sides.
- Land Use: Pasture, small area of forestry. Railway in bottom of valley, footpath and cycle path in northern portion on disused railway line. Recreational – golf links at St Bees and fishing ponds near Whitehaven.
- Landcover: Unimproved and semi improved pasture, broadleaf woodland, and open water.
- Field Pattern: Medium sized, straight sided but shapes reflect contours of the land. Hedge and fence field boundaries.
- Vegetation: Broadleaf woodland blocks on valley sides, successional tree growth on streamside in valley bottom. Hedgerow trees.
- Settlement Pattern: St Bees rises up the valley sides at the southern end of the valley, with a broad area of greenspace running through the centre of the village connecting the beach to countryside inland.
- The urban edge of Whitehaven is defined by Mirehouse Rd to the north of the area. Little settlement within the valley, a few isolated farmsteads on the valley sides and mining cottages at Woodend.
- Built features: Vernacular of stone/render with slate roofs. Modern holiday and caravan developments at St Bees. Some masts and farm buildings appear on the skyline.
- Scale: medium scale landscape, openness constrained by valley sides giving intimate quality within valley.
- Perceptual Character: Long, channeled views along valley from the edge of Whitehaven to the sea at St Bees. The valley provides a visual and functional connection between the sea and inland areas of countryside.
- Peaceful quality, with little traffic noise or signs of modern human intervention. The railway line in the bottom of the valley is not a dominant visual feature.

Qualities

- Peaceful valley, connecting Whitehaven to the sea at St Bees. Green infrastructure connection to Whitehaven.

Designations

- Listed buildings in St Bees. St Bees Head SSSI



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A) High scenic quality



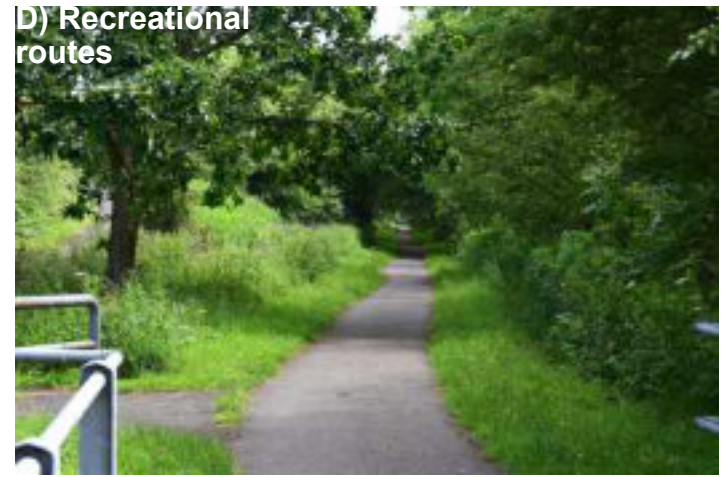
B) Edge of Whitehaven



C) St Bees at coast



D) Recreational routes



E) connection between Whitehaven and the coast



Landscape Sensitivity and Susceptibility

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.

Criteria	Sensitivity					Notes
	H	H-M	M	M-L	L	
Landscape						
Scale			■			Medium scale landscape, open to seaward.
Landform		■				Broad defined valley
Landcover and Biodiversity			■			Recreation routes. Irregular field pattern
Man-Made Influences		■				Quiet, unsettled
Aesthetic, perceptual and experiential						
Scenic Quality and Character		■				Strong sense of place. Locally high scenic quality
Remoteness, tranquillity		■				Quiet, unsettled valley
Visual						
Skylines and Settings		■				Few skyline features
Movement		■				Railway, otherwise little movement in valley
Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and typical receptors		■				People travelling through valley sensitive to change. Views towards sea and over unsettled landscape.
Views to important landscape and cultural heritage features			■			
Value						
Landscape Value			■			St Bees Head SSSI, recreation use
Visual Value		■				Framed views towards the sea
Overall landscape sensitivity		■				

Capacity to Accommodate Change and Mitigation Potential

Preserve open skylines, to maintain the remote and peaceful character of the valley. Preserve long views towards the sea: In particular, maintain a visual and functional green gap along the Pow Beck between the two parts of St Bees.

Any new development south of Whitehaven to maintain peaceful character of valley through strong landscape definition of the urban edge. Opportunities for improved permeability between urban area and the surrounding countryside.

Management Strategy

The objective is to manage, enhance and restore the landscape.

Conserve and enhance the traditional farm buildings and features within their own setting.

Reduce the impact of any new buildings by careful siting and design.

Improve green infrastructure links between urban area and surrounding countryside.

Enhancement of the coastal strip below St Bees, including restoration of locally distinctive features such as hedge banks and the restoration of maritime heath along the cliff top.

G) St Bees: Holiday parks on northern side of village



H) St Bees: enclosed by landscape setting of surrounding undeveloped hillsides



Character Type: 5A Ridge and Valley

Frizington, Arlecdon, Rowrah

Description

Within the study area, the landscape setting for settlements of Frizington, Arlecdon and Rowrah.



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Key Characteristics

- Landform: A series of ridges and valleys that rises gently toward the limestone fringes of the Lakeland Fells.
- Land Use: Predominantly agricultural, pasture. Forestry plantation and recreational.
- Landcover: Unimproved and semi improved pasture, interspersed with native woodland, tree clumps and plantations.
- Field Pattern: Well managed, hedge bound, regular shaped medium to large pasture fields.
- Vegetation: Hedgerow trees, broadleaf and coniferous woodland.
- Settlement Pattern: Scattered farms and linear villages found along ridges.
- Built Features: Traditional farm buildings in stone and slate. Large scale structures generally scarce.
- Scale: Medium scale landscape.
- Perceptual Character: Strong associations both with the nearby limestone fringe and coast due to the long views from the ridge tops.

Qualities

- Enclosed in valleys and woodland, Open feel on ridge tops.
- Many parts remain intact and retain the sense of a pleasant, peaceful working farmed landscape.
- Peaceful pastoral atmosphere away from busier parts.

Designations

- Within the study area: Scheduled ancient monument at Lacon Cross, SSSI at Yeathouse Quarry and High Leys (also a national nature reserve). Various listed buildings on the edges of settlements.

Landscape Sensitivity and Susceptibility

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.

Criteria	Sensitivity					Notes
	H	H-M	M	M-L	L	
Landscape						
Scale						
Landform						
Landcover and Biodiversity						
Man-Made Influences						
Aesthetic, perceptual and experiential						
Scenic Quality and Character						
Remoteness, tranquillity						
Visual						
Skylines and Settings						
Movement						
Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and typical receptors						
Views to important landscape heritage and cultural features						
Value						
Landscape Value						
Visual Value						
Overall landscape sensitivity						

Capacity to Accommodate Change and Mitigation Potential

Maintain separation between existing, distinct settlements and prevent urban sprawl.

Restrict ridge top development to strengthen the rural environment and minimise the effects of urban influences.

Management Strategy

This pleasant working farmed landscape will be enhanced and restored.

Harsh development edges will be softened, and existing and new, peripheral development will be integrated within a stronger landscape framework.

Discourage the further nucleation of the settlement pattern.

Improve visual awareness of the individual settlement, land uses and cultural landmarks along each road and provide locations for stopping, viewing and picnicking.

Introduce appropriate roadside planting to frame long distance views of fells and estuary and relieve bland farmland views and reduce the detrimental impact of straight major roads on ridge tops through the open countryside.

Undertake environmental improvements within the settlements including traffic calming, crossing points, roadside tree planting and strong definition of the gateway entrance and exit from the individual settlement.

Ensure new development makes a contribution to the character of the area by respecting the form of villages e.g. linear along ridge lines, creates new focal spaces and takes advantage of attractive long views.

A) Arlecdon and Rowrah: exposed, hilltop linear village



B) Arlecdon and Rowrah: wooded valley and evidence of past industrial land use



C) Frizington: exposed, hilltop linear village, viewed from west



D) Frizington: Parkland at Rheda Park



Character Type: 5A Ridge and Valley

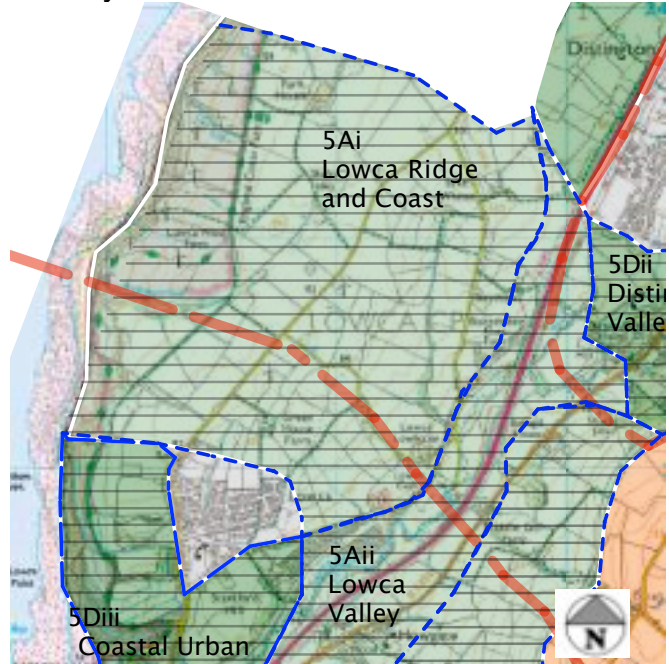
Area of Local Character: 5Ai Lowca Ridge and Coast

High coastal clifftop landscape north of Lowca. Heavily influenced by windfarm and long seaward views.

Description

Key Characteristics

- Landform: Coastal ridge, falling to Lowca Valley in east and to cliffs in west. 50m -100m elevation
- Land Use: Mainly unsettled pasture, with isolated farmsteads and wind farm. Coastal Margin access land and coastal path.
- Landcover: Coastal cliff heathland, unimproved and semi improved pasture. Reclaimed industrial land in south of area and adjacent to coast.
- Vegetation: Hedges and scrub. Generally little tree cover and open, windswept landscape.
- Field Pattern: Medium sized, straight sided regular shaped fields. Hedge and fence field boundaries.
- Settlement Pattern: Edge of Lowca in south, Hartington in north of area. Isolated, nucleated farmsteads.
- Built features: Wind turbines dominant built feature in landscape - Lowca wind farm and individual turbines. Render and slate vernacular, with few large buildings.
- Scale: large scale, simple landscape.
- Views: Open, panoramic views across intervening landscape towards Lakeland fells in the east. Westwards, open views over Solway Firth. Surrounding development in valleys noticeable in views.



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Qualities

- Sense of height, openness and exposure with panoramic, long views to Lakeland fells and over Solway Firth.
- Evidence of historic industrial/mining land use juxtaposed with peaceful farmed landscape. Windfarm and surrounding settlement reduces otherwise high levels of tranquillity. Coastal Path and coastal access.

Designations

- None identified.

A) Unimproved pasture and hedgerows



B) Open coastal ridge, wind farm



Landscape Sensitivity and Susceptibility

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.

Criteria	Sensitivity					Notes
	H	H-M	M	M-L	L	
Landscape						
Scale						Large scale, exposed
Landform						Open ridge tops
Landcover and Biodiversity						Post industrial dereliction on clifftops and edge of settlement
Man-Made Influences						Post industrial landscape, Windfarm
Aesthetic, perceptual and experiential						
Scenic Quality and Character						Strong sense of place
Remoteness, tranquillity						Wild and open, influence of sea. Wind farm
Visual						
Skylines and Settings						Open skylines with no built form apart from wind farm
Movement						Windfarm
Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and typical receptors						High sensitivity receptors on coast path. Panoramic, long views
Views to important landscape and cultural heritage features						Views seawards and to Lakeland fells
Value						
Landscape Value						Undeveloped Coast
Visual Value						
Overall landscape sensitivity						

Capacity to Accommodate Change and Mitigation Potential

Open, coastal ridge sensitive to development.

Small scale development possible where closely related to existing settlement and where development does not encroach on open ridge or cliffs.

Management Strategy

This pleasant working farmed landscape will be enhanced and restored.

Harsh development edges will be softened, and existing and new, peripheral development will be integrated within a stronger landscape framework.

Ridge top clutter will be restricted to strengthen the rural environment and minimise the effects of urban influences.

Improve visual awareness of the individual settlement, land uses, and cultural landmarks along each road and provide locations for stopping, viewing and picnicking.

Ensure new development makes a contribution to the character of the area by respecting the form of villages and defining settlement edge.

Character Type: 5A Ridge and Valley

Area of Local Character: 5Aii Lowca Valley

Broad river valley between Distington and Whitehaven, heavily influenced by transport infrastructure.

Description

Key Characteristics

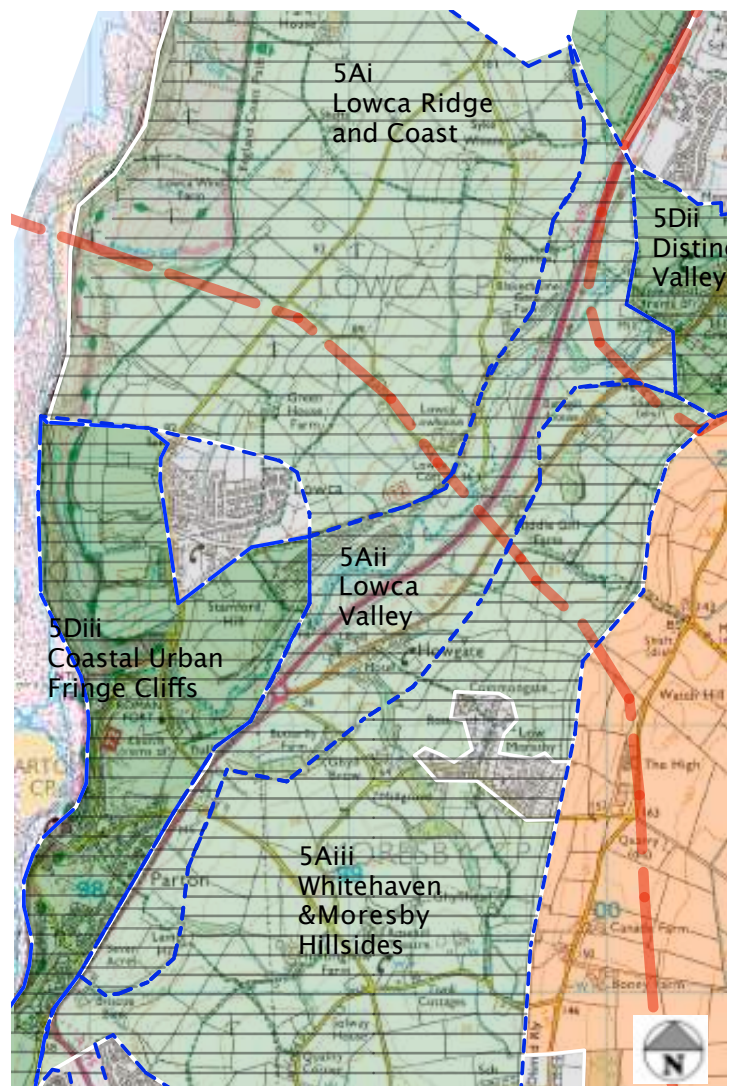
- Landform: Distinctive, broad valley.
- Land Use: Major transport route, industry/commercial, urban edge and pasture. Recreational cycling / walking route, part of National Cycle Network.
- Landcover: Pasture, with transport route, industry. Discrete, secluded character in wooded riverside areas.
- Vegetation: Broad leaf wooded river valley and grown out hedgerows with mature trees.
- Field Pattern: Small to medium irregular fields. Straight field boundaries, hedgerows/mature tree boundaries.
- Settlement Pattern: Isolated farmsteads and urban edge.
- Built features: A595 transport corridor dominant feature in character area. Glasshouses at Lowca, St Bridget's church other noticeable features. Turbines, communications masts and pylons also evident. Built form predominantly industrial, non-vernacular.
- Scale: Medium scale landscape. Broad valley enclosed by surrounding hills.
- Views: Framed views along valley and up to surrounding ridgetops.

Qualities

- Active, noisy landscape dominated by transport corridor. Surrounding industrial / settlement areas have profound influence on area.
- Secluded quality in wooded valley away from the main road. Recreational route through valley.

Designations

- Scheduled monument of medieval earth work at Hayes Tower, to south of Distington.



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A) Views towards Moresby Hall and St Bridget's Church



B) A595 transport corridor



C) Wooded river valley and hilltop village of Lowca



Landscape Sensitivity and Susceptibility

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 ridgeline development.

Criteria	Sensitivity					Notes
	H	H-M	M	M-L	L	
Landscape						
Scale				■		Enclosed, small scale
Landform		■				Broad valley
Landcover and Biodiversity				■		Much of area developed
Man-Made Influences				■		Infrastructure is dominant influence
Aesthetic, perceptual and experiential	■	■				
Scenic Quality and Character				■		Strong sense of place, low scenic quality
Remoteness, tranquillity				■		
Visual						
Skylines and Settings				■		Developed skylines to east and west
Movement				■		
Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and typical receptors			■			Receptors are users of cycle path as well as drivers and residents
Views to important landscape and cultural heritage features				■		Framed views seawards and of St Bridget's church on skyline
Value						
Landscape Value				■		
Visual Value				■		
Overall landscape sensitivity				■		

Capacity to Accommodate Change and Mitigation Potential

Maintain recreational route through river valley and preserve localised secluded quality of river valley. Maintain separation between existing, distinct settlements and prevent urban sprawl. Preserve views towards the sea and open views around St Bridget's Church on skyline.

Management Strategy

Introduce appropriate roadside planting to frame long distance views of fells and estuary and relieve bland farmland views and reduce the detrimental impact of straight major roads through the open countryside.

Define edges of settlements, for example by planting, gateway features.

Character Type: 5A Ridge and Valley

Area of Local Character: 5Aiii Whitehaven and Moresby Hillside

Valley sides to the north and east of Whitehaven, provide a setting for the town and a rural backdrop for major infrastructure routes and small settlements.

Description

Key Characteristics

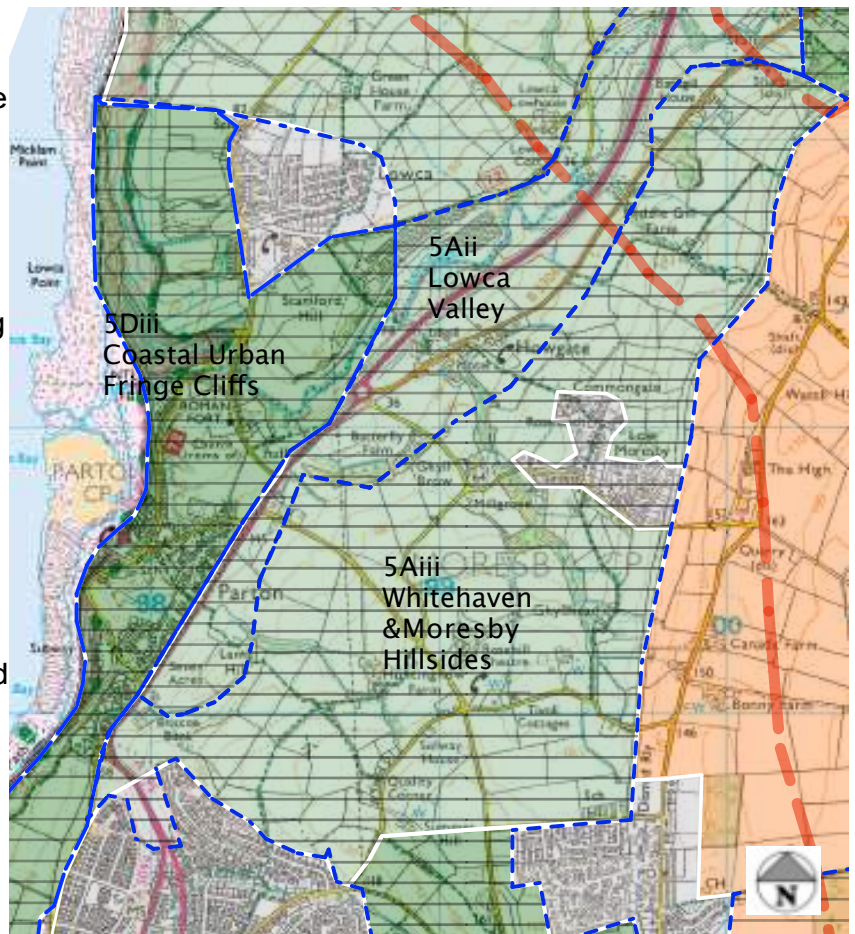
- Landform: Generally, east facing valley sides, 50m – 200m elevation rising from Lowca Valley. Intercut with wooded subsidiary valleys.
- Land Use: Unsettled farmland, isolated farmsteads. Urban influences nearer to Whitehaven and Distington.
- Landcover: Pasture, with small woodlands on stream valley sides.
- Vegetation: Small broadleaf woodlands, with isolated tree clumps and hedgerows.
- Field Pattern: Regular shaped, medium sized fields. Occasional stone wall field boundaries, hedges and fences elsewhere.
- Settlement Pattern: Village of Low Moresby in centre of area. Linear settlement at Howgate. Isolated farmsteads and Rosehill Hall. Influence of urban edge of Whitehaven in south.
- Built features: Vernacular farm buildings of render, stone and slate, but with modern larger barns. New housing development on roadsides and at Low Moresby. No large scale buildings. Small scale turbines and radio masts on hill tops.
- Perceptual Character: Distant and panoramic views over Whitehaven and towards the sea and distant fells from high ground.

Qualities

- Sense of peaceful, working farmed landscape present over most of the area.
- Prominent hillsides and open skylines contribute to setting of Whitehaven, reinforcing its connection to the sea and providing a buffer between it and surrounding countryside.
- Openness and panoramic views from high ground contrasts with more enclosed, wooded valleys. Tranquillity and naturalness diminished by traffic noise and proximity to Whitehaven.

Designations

- Listed buildings at Rosehill Hall and theatre.



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A) Hillside setting



B) Open, panoramic views



C) Urban edge of Whitehaven, breaching skyline



D) Farmed landscape



E) Dry stone wall field boundaries



Character Area 5Aiii Whitehaven and Moresby Hillside

Landscape Sensitivity and Susceptibility

Peaceful pastoral atmosphere sensitive to large scale development

Discrete and dispersed farmsteads are sensitive to unsympathetic expansion.

Undeveloped areas of ridge tops and valley rims are sensitive to large scale ridge line development.

Criteria	Sensitivity					Notes
	H	H-M	M	M-L	L	
Landscape						
Scale						
Landform						Rolling hillsides
Landcover and Biodiversity						Regular field pattern.
Man-Made Influences						Dispersed settlement, isolated farmsteads.
Aesthetic, perceptual and experiential						
Scenic Quality and Character						Prominent hillsides are setting for Whitehaven. Positive rural character.
Remoteness, tranquillity						
Visual						
Skylines and Settings						Undeveloped skylines, setting for Whitehaven.
Movement						Little movement.
Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and typical receptors						Long views towards sea and Lakeland fells. Views over Whitehaven. No identified viewpoints.
Views to important landscape and cultural heritage features						Views to St Bridget's Church, St Bees Head and over Solway Firth from high ground.
Value						
Landscape Value						No designations.
Visual Value						
Overall landscape sensitivity						

Capacity to Accommodate Change and Mitigation Potential

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.

Management Strategy

This pleasant working farmed landscape will be enhanced and restored.

Harsh development edges will be softened, and existing and new, peripheral development will be integrated within a stronger landscape framework.

Ridge top development resisted to maintain landscape setting of Whitehaven.

Discourage the further nucleation of the settlement pattern. Use landform to define the edges of settlement expansion and avoid development on skyline or isolated hillsides.

Reinforce existing settlement boundaries (Howgate, Low Moresby, Whitehaven) to maintain pastoral character and to reinforce a sense of place.

Undertake environmental improvements within settlements including traffic calming, crossing points, roadside tree planting and strong definition of gateways.

Ensure new development makes a contribution to the character of the area by respecting the form of settlements -creating new focal spaces, taking advantage of attractive long views and respecting landform and settlement pattern.

Character Type: 5A Ridge and Valley

Area of Local Character: 5Av Cleator Moor Slopes

Rising land to north of Cleator Moor, a rural setting for the town.

Description

Key Characteristics

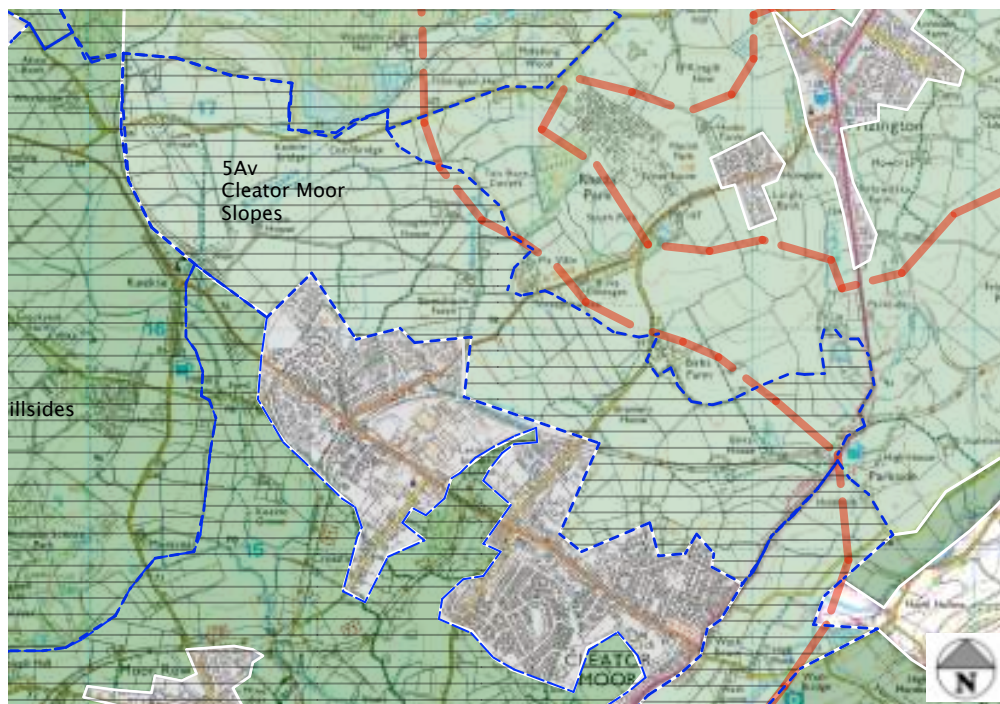
- Landform: Gently rising, south facing hillside above Cleator Moor. 80m – 100m altitude. Stream in bottom of valley.
- Land Use: Pasture and urban edge. Recreational cycle /walking route.
- Landcover: Semi improved and wet pasture. Disused railway line used as recreational route. Recreational green space.
- Vegetation: Broadleaf woodland along cycle path and stream in bottom of valley. Wet pasture with individual and small tree groups in valley bottom, semi improved and improved pasture on slopes. Roadside trees to the east of the area.
- Field Pattern: Straight sided, regular small to medium sized fields. Mature hedgerow field boundaries.
- Settlement Pattern: Edge of Cleator Moor defined in east by stream, less well defined in west, where sporadic buildings spread into countryside. Large, isolated farmsteads higher up slopes.
- Built features: Traditional farm buildings render and stone, slate roofs. Larger scale modern farm buildings. Isolated vernacular industrial buildings and housing terraces on edge of Cleator Moor.
- Scale: Medium scale landscape.
- Views: Open views over farmland to Lakeland fells from higher ground. Secluded, closed views in valley bottom.

Qualities

- Sense of a pleasant, working farmed landscape. Peaceful pastoral atmosphere reinforced by wooded river valley close to Cleator Moor.
- Long views towards Lakeland fells. Secluded atmosphere in valley bottom.

Designations

- None identified.



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A) Farmed landscape



B) Band of trees and stream define the northern edge of Cleator Moor



C) Farmed, working landscape and views to the fells



Landscape Sensitivity and Susceptibility

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.

Criteria	Sensitivity					Notes
	H	H-M	M	M-L	L	
Landscape						
Scale						
Landform						Uniform, rising land
Landcover and Biodiversity						Small – medium field pattern, valuable green infrastructure and influence of urban settlement
Man-Made Influences						Post industrial and urban influences
Aesthetic, perceptual and experiential						
Scenic Quality and Character						Pleasant scenic quality
Remoteness, tranquillity						Traditionally rural character
Visual						
Skylines and Settings						Rural setting to Cleator Moor, separation from Frizington
Movement						
Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and typical receptors						Visibility from the edge of Whitehaven as setting for Keekle Valley.
Views to important landscape and cultural heritage features						Views of Lakeland fells
Value						
Landscape Value						
Visual Value						
Overall landscape sensitivity						

Capacity to Accommodate Change and Mitigation Potential

Maintain separation between existing, distinct settlements and prevent urban sprawl. Define Cleator Moor settlement edge by planting, landscape management, gateways. Preserve the well vegetated stream valley as a landscape feature.

Enhance settlement links to green infrastructure network and surrounding countryside.

Management Strategy

This pleasant working farmed landscape will be enhanced and restored.

Harsh development edges will be softened, and existing and new, peripheral development will be integrated within a stronger landscape framework.

Ridge top clutter will be restricted to strengthen the rural environment and minimise the effects of urban influences.

Discourage the further nucleation of the settlement pattern. Ensure new development makes a contribution to the character of the area by respecting the form of villages e.g. linear along ridge lines, creates new focal spaces and takes advantage of attractive long views.

Character Type: 5A Ridge and Valley

Area of Local Character: 5A Mid Ehen Valley

Rural river valley, east of Cleator and Egremont. Acts as a landscape buffer between the settlements and Lakeland fells and foothills.

Description

Key Characteristics

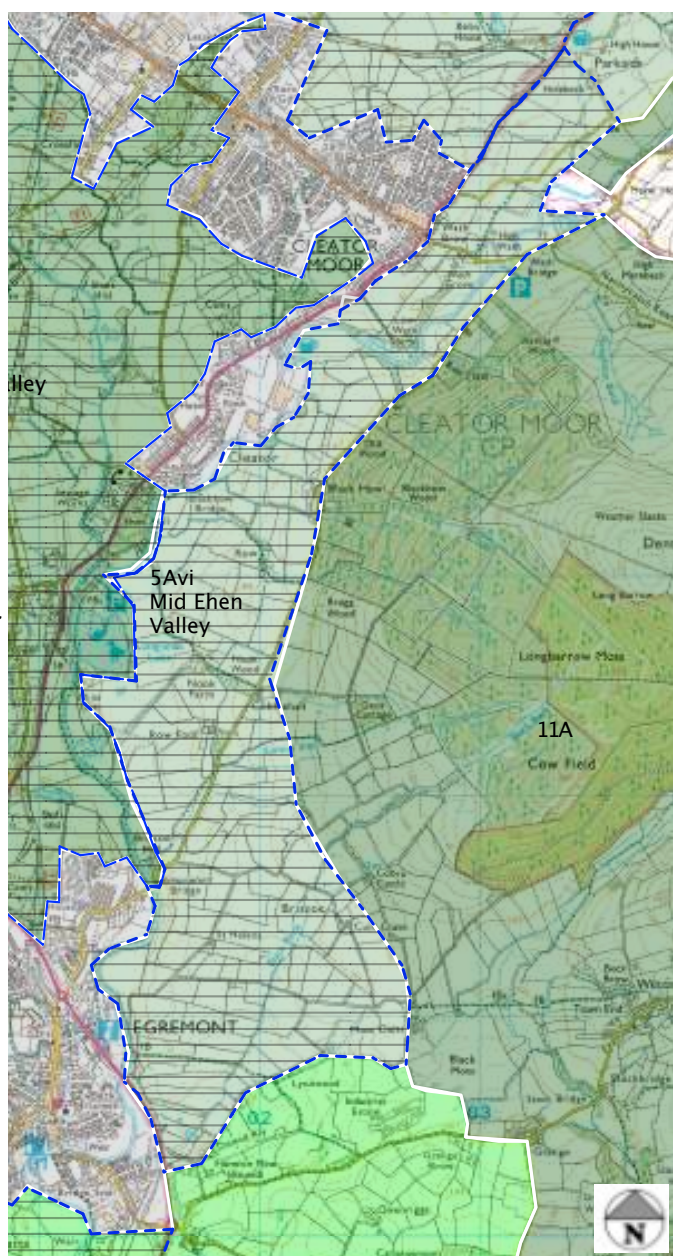
- Landform: Gently sloping, broad bottom river valley. Occasional rocky outcrops.
- Land Use: Urban edge farmland. Pasture. Low key, informal countryside recreation uses at Wath Bridge, east of Cleator Moor.
- Landcover: Improved and semi improved pasture, with wet meadow. Small tree groups in valley and along riverside. Large wooded pond at Longlands Lake. Coniferous plantation and evidence of past industrial activity near to Egremont. River Ehen SSSI.
- Vegetation: Broadleaf woodland, hedges and hedgerow trees in valley and along stream. Coniferous plantation on upper slopes and to east of Egremont. Areas of Scrub close to Egremont.
- Field Pattern: Small to medium size fields, irregular in pattern close to river and settlements. Larger in south of area. Mostly straight sided, hedgerow boundaries with boundary trees.
- Settlement Pattern: Isolated farmsteads and some individual field structures on valley sides. Disused and derelict industrial workings in valley bottom. Influence of nearby urban areas evident on character of valley.
- Built features: Modern farm buildings and field structures with traditional farm buildings of stone / render and slate roofs. Industrial buildings brick.
- Scale: Medium scale landscape, more intimate in valley bottom.
- Views: Pleasant, intimate views over stream at Wath Bridge. Longer views over Cleator and Keekle Valley towards upper slopes of edge of Whitehaven. Views eastwards restricted by wooded plantations and steeply rising ground.

Qualities

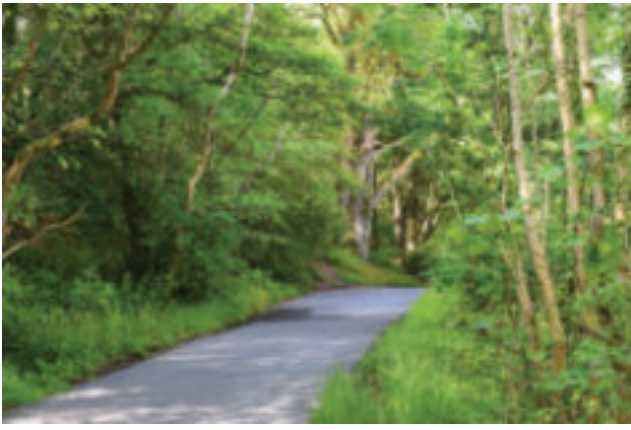
- Peaceful, settled landscape with qualities of traditional rurality away from settlements.
- Enclosed, tranquil landscape of River Ehen SSSI
- Quality influenced by surrounding landscapes: urban settlement to the west, forested foothills to the east.

Designations

- River Ehen SSSI



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A, B) Woodland and stream enhance quality of tranquillity



C) Urban edge farmland



D) Green infrastructure

E) Small fields leading to river valley



Landscape Sensitivity and Susceptibility

Peaceful, pastoral atmosphere sensitive to large scale development.

Discrete and dispersed farmsteads are sensitive to unsympathetic expansion.

Criteria	Sensitivity					Notes
	H	H-M	M	M-L	L	
Landscape						
Scale						
Landform						Steeply sloping valley sides
Landcover and Biodiversity						Intact, unified landscape with small-medium scale field pattern and SSSI
Man-Made Influences						Infrequent buildings and urban influences
Aesthetic, perceptual and experiential						
Scenic Quality and Character						Strong sense of place but no designations
Remoteness, tranquillity						Traditional rural atmosphere, adjacent urban influences
Visual						
Skylines and Settings						Forested skyline. Setting for moorland foothills and Keekle Valley
Movement						Influence of urban areas, otherwise little movement
Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and typical receptors						Walkers on C2C route are sensitive receptors, backdrop views from Cleator. Recreational land users all sensitive.
Views to important landscape and cultural heritage features						
Value						
Landscape Value						
Visual Value						
Overall landscape sensitivity						

Capacity to Accommodate Change and Mitigation Potential

Important recreational uses.

Buffer between urban settlements, industrial land uses and sensitive foothills landscape.

Preserve tranquillity of river valley as setting for surrounding settlements.

Improve opportunities for recreational access at Longlands Lake and Wath Bridge.

Management Strategy

This pleasant working farmed landscape will be enhanced and restored.

Harsh development edges will be softened, and existing and new, peripheral development will be integrated within a stronger landscape framework.

Ridge top clutter will be restricted to strengthen the rural environment and minimise the effects of urban influences.

Discourage the further nucleation of the settlement pattern.

Ensure new development makes a contribution to the character of the area by respecting the form of villages e.g. linear along ridge lines, creates new focal spaces and takes advantage of attractive long views.

Character Type: 5B Low Farmland Description

The study area includes the landscape setting of Seascale, Thornhill, Beckermeth, Drigg, Holmrook and Calder Bridge within Character Type 5B.

Key Characteristics

- Landform: Undulating and rolling topography.
- Land Use: Intensely farmed agricultural pasture.
- Landcover: Patchy areas of woodland provide contrast to the pasture
- Vegetation: Hedgerows, with patchy areas of woodland.
- Field Pattern: Large, rectangular fields.
- Settlement Pattern: Hedges, hedgerow trees and fences bound fields and criss cross up and over the rolling landscape.
- Scale: Large scale and open landscape.
- Views: Long distance, expansive, wide views to the Fells and sea.

Qualities

- Traditional farmed working landscape interspersed with large scale industrial developments. Feeling of exposure and connections with the windswept coastline.
- Woodlands, and traditional scale farms and associated tree clumps provide distinctive punctuation and interest in the landscape

Designations

- St John the Baptist Church, Beckermeth – GII listed building.

A) Expansive view to fells from Seascale Golf Course



Landscape Sensitivity and Susceptibility

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.

Criteria	Sensitivity					Notes
	H	H-M	M	M-L	L	
Landscape						
Scale		■				
Landform				■		
Landcover and Biodiversity			■			
Man-Made Influences				■		
Aesthetic, perceptual and experiential						
Scenic Quality and Character			■			
Remoteness, tranquillity			■			
Visual						
Skylines and Settings		■				
Movement		■				
Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and typical receptors			■			
Views to important landscape and cultural heritage features				■		
Value						
Landscape Value			■			
Visual Value			■			
Overall sensitivity			■			

Capacity to Accommodate Change and Mitigation Potential

Consider opportunities to enhance and strengthen green infrastructure to provide a link between urban areas and the wider countryside. Reinforcing woodland belts, enhancing water and soil quality and the provision of green corridors from and between settlements could all help reinforce landscape and biodiversity features.

Ensure new development respects the historic form and scale of villages creating new focal spaces and using materials that are sympathetic to local vernacular styles. Further ribbon development or fragmented development should be supported where it is compatible with the wider landscape character.

Improve visual awareness of the individual settlement, land uses and cultural landmarks along each road and provide locations for stopping, viewing and picnicking.

Encourage environmental improvements along roadside settlements to include traffic calming, planting and stronger definition of gateway entrances and exits. Introduce roadside planting of deciduous and mixed species to enrich views from the road.

Management Strategy

The key features of this well-maintained working landscape will be conserved and enhanced.

Further agricultural change and development will be absorbed and combined with measures to conserve and enhance landscape, wildlife features and minimise urban intrusions.

Trees and woodland will be managed, restored and enhanced and will be used to integrate urban intrusions into the landscape.

A) Seascale: Railway separates part of settlement from the coast



B) Seascale: Coastal upland setting. Industrial works prominent



Character Type: 5B Low Farmland

Area of Local Character 5Bi Egremont Low Farmland.

High ground above Egremont – rural, working landscape with large fields and straight roads.

Description

Key Characteristics

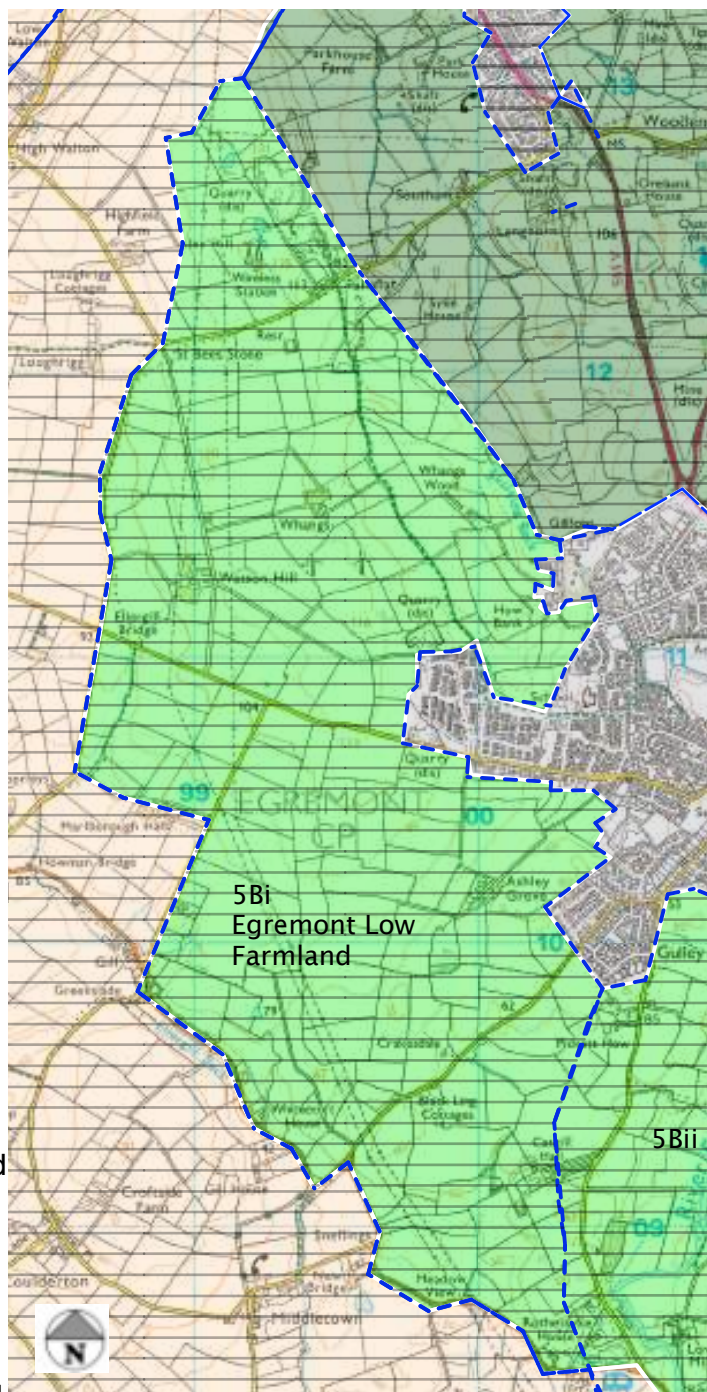
- Landform: Rolling landform, high plateau above Egremont.
- Land Use: Agriculture, predominantly pasture.
- Landcover: improved and semi improved pasture.
- Field Pattern: Large, regular, straight sided fields. Long, straight roads follow field boundaries. Hedgerow boundaries with some hedgerow trees.
- Vegetation: Hedgerow trees and sparse woodland. Shelter belts at farmsteads
- Settlement Pattern: Traditional and large, isolated farmsteads and individual houses sparsely scattered through landscape. Occasional individual modern barns in fields. Traditional market town of Egremont serves sparsely settled agricultural hinterland. Development on outskirts of Egremont evident creeping up to skyline.
- Built features: Modern farm buildings are dominant built form, often large scale. Pylons and wind turbines noticeable on skyline.
- Scale: Large scale and open landscape.
- Perceptual Character: Long distance, expansive, wide views to the Fells and sea. Feelings of exposure and connection to the coastline contribute to sense of tranquillity. Presence of Egremont outskirts, turbines and pylons reduce tranquillity.

Qualities

- Large scale, open, traditionally farmed landscape. Long distance, expansive, wide views.
- Feelings of exposure and connection to the coastline.

Designations

- None.



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A) Outskirts of Egremont infringe on plateau



B) Long, open views over agricultural landscape



Character Area 5Bi Egremont Low Farmland.

Landscape Sensitivity and Susceptibility

Openness sensitive to skyline development.

Traditional, sparsely settled farming character sensitive to unsympathetic settlement expansion.

Criteria	Sensitivity					Notes
	H	H-M	M	M-L	L	
Landscape						
Scale		■				Large scale, open landscape.
Landform				■		Plateau
Landcover and Biodiversity				■		
Man-Made Influences		■				Sparsely settled landscape
Aesthetic, perceptual and experiential						
Scenic Quality and Character			■			
Remoteness, tranquillity		■				
Visual						
Skylines and Settings		■				Skyline development prominent in open simple landform
Movement		■				
Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and typical receptors		■				
Views to important landscape and cultural heritage features			■			
Value						
Landscape Value				■		
Visual Value				■		
Overall landscape sensitivity		■				

Capacity to Accommodate Change and Mitigation Potential

Consider opportunities to enhance and strengthen green infrastructure to provide a link between urban areas and the wider countryside. Reinforcing woodland belts, enhancing water and soil quality and the provision of green corridors from and between settlements could all help reinforce landscape and biodiversity features.

Ensure new development respects the historic form and scale of settlements and farmsteads. Avoid skyline development on outskirts of Egremont that is not well related to the existing built form of the town.

Fragmented housing or industrial development is not compatible with the landscape character.

Management Strategy

The key features of this well-maintained working landscape will be conserved and enhanced.

Further agricultural change and development will be absorbed and combined with measures to conserve and enhance landscape, wildlife features and minimise urban intrusions.

Trees and woodland will be managed, restored and enhanced and will be used to integrate urban intrusions into the landscape.

Character Type: 5B Low Farmland

Area of Local Character 5Bii / 4v Lower Ehen Valley.

Secluded river valley, opening out onto coastal plain, south of Egremont.

Description

Key Characteristics

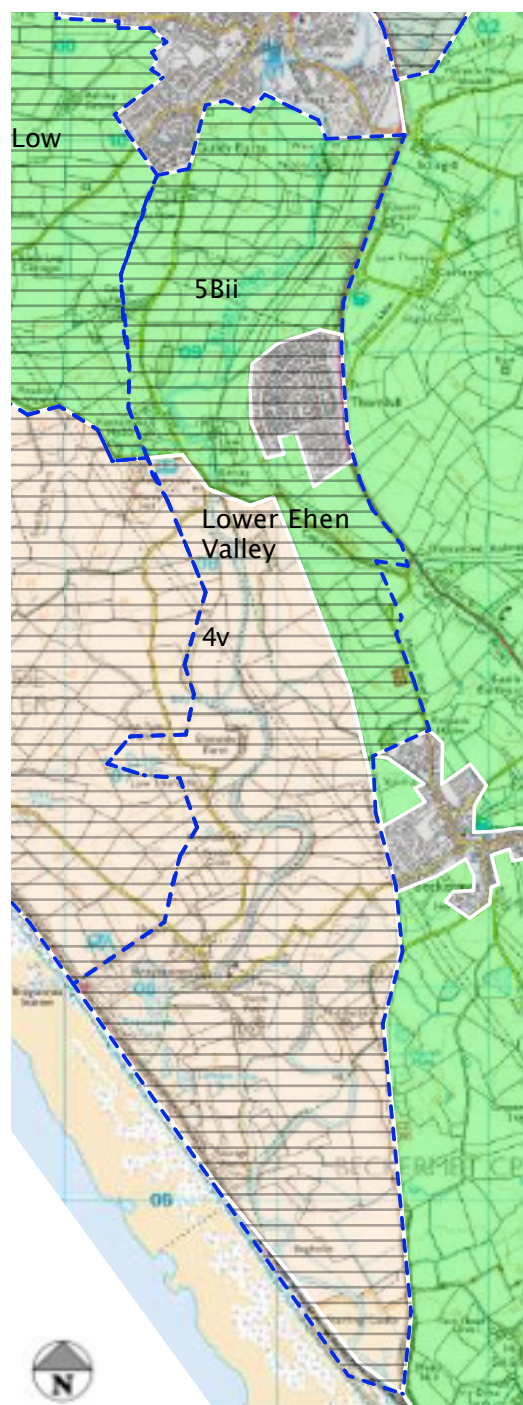
- Landform: Well defined river valley, moderately steeply sloping valley sides.
- Land Use: Traditional farmland, nature reserve and holiday parks in lower reaches.
- Landcover: Unimproved and semi improved pasture are predominant land use. Rare small successional and farm woodlands. Low Church and Hamsey Moss SSSI in lower reaches.
- Field Pattern: Medium to large irregular shaped fields. Hedgerows.
- Vegetation: Tree lined river valley. Mature hedgerows with some standard trees, occasional broadleaf woodland on valley sides.
- Settlement Pattern: Small, modern settlements and traditional villages with modern development above valley sides. Scattered, traditional farmsteads closer to river.
- Built features: Stone, render and slate traditional farm buildings. 20th century housing development.
- Scale: Medium scale landscape. Intimate scale in valley bottom.
- Perceptual Character: Quality of intimacy in valley bottom away from roads and settlement. More open in lower reaches.

Qualities

- Intimate character of valley bottom.
- Modern housing development dominates settlements.
- Wildlife sites on valley sides.

Designations

- SSSI moss landscapes on edge of the area.



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A) Open views from upper slopes



B) Mature hedgerows



C) medium to large fields



D) Small, modern settlements in landscape



Landscape Sensitivity and Susceptibility

Intimate valley bottom sensitive to development. More open coastal area sensitive to development.

Criteria	Sensitivity					Notes
	H	H-M	M	M-L	L	
Landscape						
Scale			■			Medium scale landscape, open to seaward.
Landform		■				Well enclosed valley
Landcover and Biodiversity		■				
Man-Made Influences			■			
Aesthetic, perceptual and experiential						
Scenic Quality and Character		■				Strong sense of place
Remoteness, tranquillity		■				High away from settlements
Visual						
Skylines and Settings				■		
Movement			■			
Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and typical receptors Views				■		
to important landscape and cultural heritage features				■		Views more open in lower reaches
Value						
Landscape Value		■				SSSI in lower reaches
Visual Value			■			
Mitigation Potential						
Overall landscape sensitivity			■			

Capacity to Accommodate Change and Mitigation Potential

Ensure new development is sympathetic to existing settlement scale and form, helping to define settlement boundaries and avoiding fragmented, ribbon development.

Avoid development that encroaches on intimate valley bottom or wildlife sites.

Consider opportunities to enhance and strengthen green infrastructure to provide a link between urban areas and the wider countryside. Reinforcing woodland belts, enhancing water and soil quality and the provision of green corridors from and between settlements could all help reinforce landscape and biodiversity features.

Improve visual awareness of the individual settlement, land uses and cultural landmarks along each road and provide locations for stopping, viewing and picnicking.

Management Strategy

The key features of this well-maintained working landscape will be conserved and enhanced.

Further agricultural change and development will be absorbed and combined with measures to conserve and enhance landscape, wildlife features and minimise urban intrusions.

Trees and woodland will be managed, restored and enhanced and will be used to integrate urban intrusions into the landscape.

A) Thornhill: edge of village poorly defined to south



B) Thornhill: edge of village poorly defined to south



A) Beckernet: Wooded valley at centre of village



B) Beckernet: Isolated settlement surrounded by farmland.



Character Type:5D Urban Fringe

Area of Local Character: 5Dii Distington Valley Sides.

Rough pasture, woodland and small fields form a secluded river valley to the east of Distington.

Description

Key Characteristics

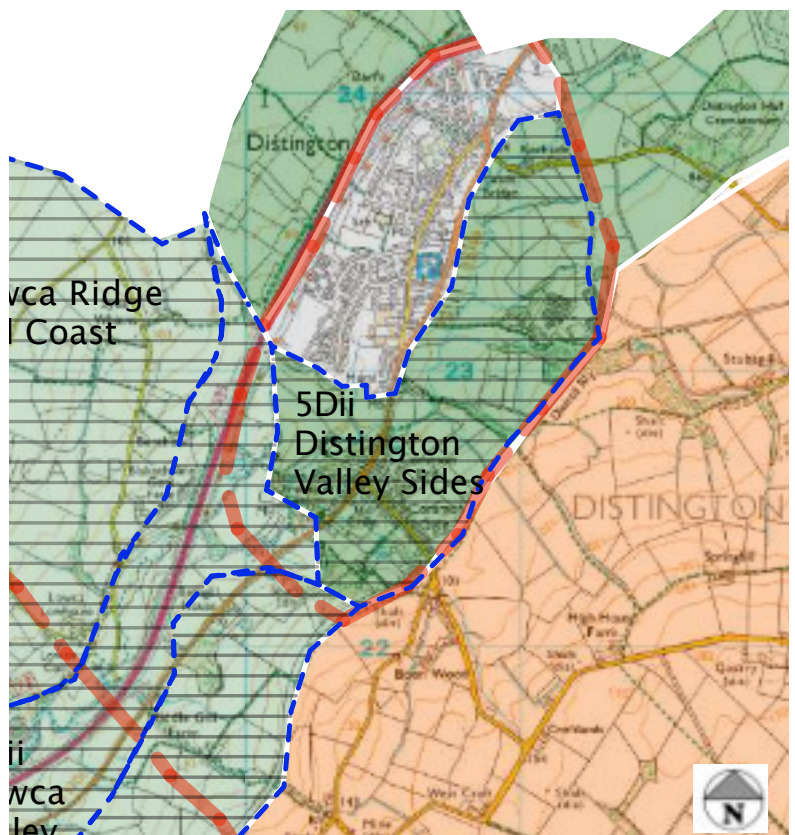
- Landform: Narrow stream valley, 60m – 80m elevation.
- Land Use: Farmland and isolated farmsteads. Glasshouses.
- Landcover: Pasture with unimproved / wet pasture. Wooded stream valley, glasshouses.
- Field Pattern: Small – medium fields, area of small, possibly pre-industrial fields close to Common End and east of B3506. Field boundaries are hedges with outgrown trees and gappy hedgerows in poor condition.
- Vegetation: Broadleaf woodland in valleys and shelter screen for glasshouses and farms. Scrub encroachment in fields.
- Settlement Pattern: Influence of Distington in West. Small, scattered industrial settlements such as The Green and Common End. Glasshouses and Cemetery on western slopes of valley side.
- Built features: Vernacular of render /stone and slate roofs. Modern glasshouses.
- Scale: Small scale, enclosed landscape
- Perceptual Character: Framed views along the river valley, views towards open moorland character area to west. Calm character and moderate levels of tranquillity – impaired by urban influences and general air of neglect with gappy hedgerows and scrub encroached pasture.

Qualities

- Small scale enclosed landscape. Pre-industrial field pattern. Air of neglect and poor land management
- Built development dominates the pastoral character of the valley.

Designations

- None identified.



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A) Small fields and mature hedgerows



B) B5306 defines the edge of the area of landscape character and development edge of Distington



C) Tree lined stream



Landscape Sensitivity and Susceptibility

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.

Criteria	Sensitivity					Notes
	H	H-M	M	M-L	L	
Landscape						
Scale						Small scale, enclosed
Landform						Valley sides
Landcover and Biodiversity						Small, pre-industrial fields, stream and woods.
Man-Made Influences						Industrial and urban influences
Aesthetic, perceptual and experiential						
Scenic Quality and Character						
Remoteness, tranquillity						
Visual						
Skylines and Settings						Open skylines to east
Movement						Still in valley bottom, more movement on valley
Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and typical receptors						Road users and resident receptors. No identified views
Views to important landscape and cultural heritage features						
Value						
Landscape Value						
Visual Value						
Mitigation Potential						
Overall landscape sensitivity						

Capacity to Accommodate Change and Mitigation Potential

Protect small industrial settlement boundaries and surrounding historic field pattern.

Preserve well defined settlement edges. Enhance and strengthen green infrastructure to provide a link between urban areas and the wider countryside.

Strengthen undeveloped areas of land with mixed woodland and hedgerow planting and restoration of natural landscape features.

Conserve and maintain traditional farmsteads and small industrial settlements within their own setting.

Management Strategy

The landscape will be enhanced through restoration.

Management practices will create a stronger definition between town and country areas integrating adjacent discordant land uses into the landscape.

Preserve tranquil character of bottom of stream valley.

Restore hedgerows and manage pasture.

Character Type:5D Urban Fringe

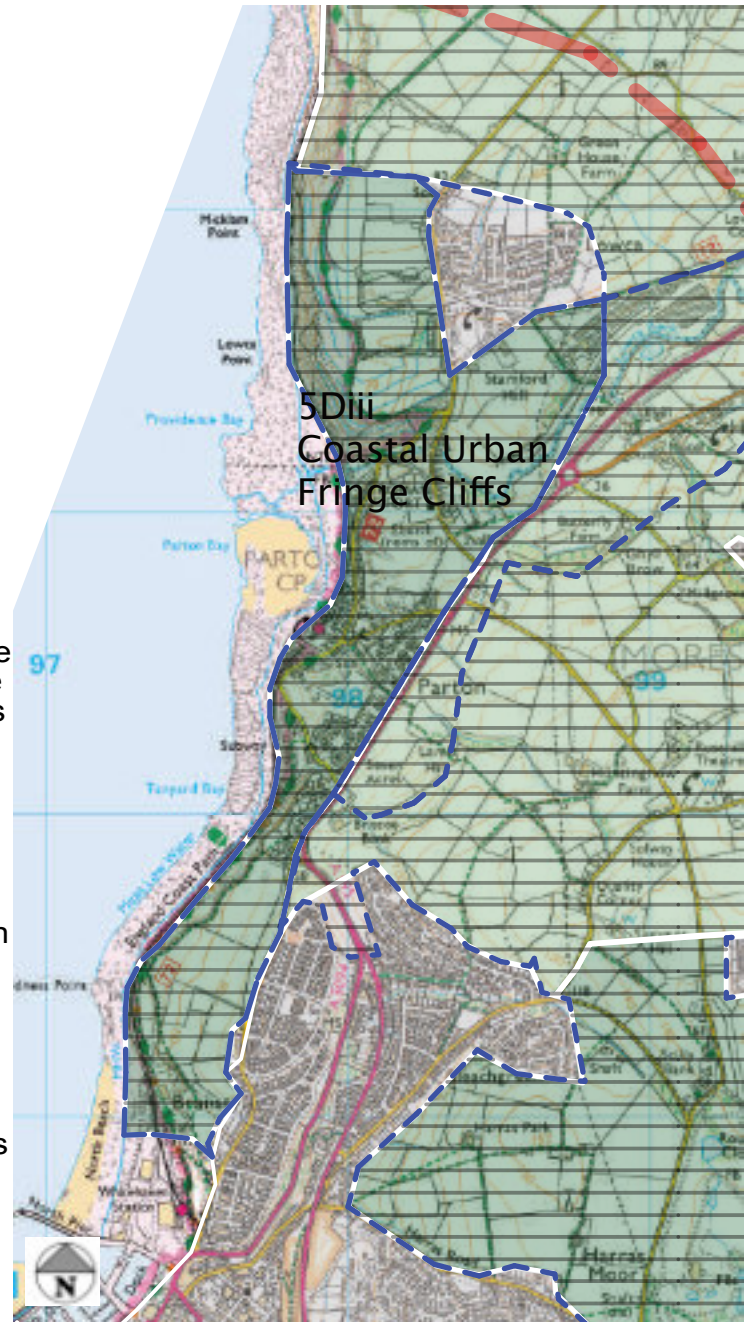
Area of Local Character 5Diii Coastal Urban Fringe Cliffs.

Coast associated with Lowca, Parton and Bransty north of Whitehaven.

Description

Key Characteristics

- Land Use: Agriculture, recreation, large scale buildings, transport infrastructure, industrial, derelict industrial and industrial villages.
- Recreation: Bridleway and footpath network. Beach at Parton.
- Landcover: Pasture, recreation grassland, beach, coastal cliff.
- Vegetation: Fragmented, broadleaf and successional woodland.
- Field Pattern: Straight field boundaries, hedgerows and tree rows.
- Settlement Pattern: Urban edge of Whitehaven encroaches on the countryside and coast. Well defined coastal settlement at Parton and hilltop village at Lowca.
- Built features: Stone / render houses with slate roofs in the centre of Parton and Lowca, more modern housing development on the outskirts of the villages. Industrial non vernacular glasshouses at Lowca and historic Moresby Hall, with the clifftop church of St Bridget's a local landmark. Pylons, masts and wind turbines evident on the skyline.
- Medium to large scale landscape, with an open, simple character on high ground and on the coast. More diverse close to settlements.
- Distant and panoramic views inland and seawards from the coast and high ground on the edge of Whitehaven and Lowca.
- Long term urban influences on agricultural land. Contrasts strongly with wide, open views across Irish Sea.
- Visible evidence of mining and industry. Strong man-made landforms on the coastal edges, particularly north of Parton.
- Mixed land cover of mown grass, pasture, scrub and semi natural grassland. Presence of roads, dereliction and railways



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Qualities

- Gently active with many uses and a variety of land cover.
- An air of neglect where buildings and land have become run down.
- Strong association with adjacent urban character and undeveloped landscape. Panoramic sea views and expansive skies.

Designations

- Parton Roman Fort SAM part of Frontiers of Roman Empire World Heritage Site (WHS). Cluster of listed buildings centred on St Bridget's Church and Moresby Hall.

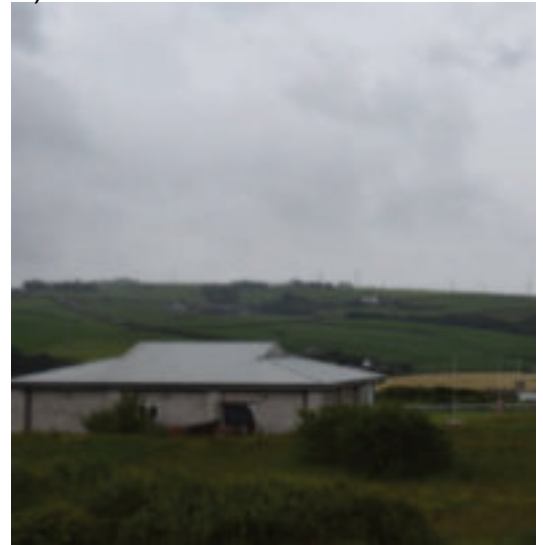
A) Seaward views. Industrial influence on coast



B) Urban influences on coast



C) Recreation use



D) Village of Lowca set on hillside



Character Area 5Diii Coastal Urban Fringe Cliffs.

Landscape Sensitivity and Susceptibility

High scenic quality sensitive to development on coast.

Setting of St Bridget's Church and Roman fort sensitive to unsympathetic development.

Separate identity of Parton sensitive to encroachment.

Criteria	Sensitivity					Notes
	H	H-M	M	M-L	L	
Landscape						
Scale			■			Medium scale landscape, open to seaward.
Landform		■				Irregular, complex landform. Cliffs
Landcover and Biodiversity				■		Majority of area reclaimed and developed land
Man-Made Influences					■	Wind turbines, infrastructure and settlements dominate
Aesthetic, perceptual and experiential						
Scenic Quality and Character		■				Strong associations with the sea and scenic views towards sea
Remoteness, tranquillity				■		Influence of the sea combined with urban/infrastructure
Visual						
Skylines and Settings			■			Developed skylines at Lowca and Parton. Landmark church.
Movement				■		Urban influences and roads
Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and typical receptors		■				Views seawards and over surrounding landscapes towards fells.
Views to important landscape and cultural heritage features			■			Views over roman fort and St Bridget's church.
Value						
Landscape Value				■		WHS and SAM increase value
Visual Value			■			
Overall landscape sensitivity			■			

Capacity to Accommodate Change and Mitigation Potential

Rural and natural qualities reinforced by bold landscape structure to unify disparate uses achieved through the conservation of rural green areas and a reduction in the impact of development in prominent locations.

Maintain separation between settlements, in particular gap between Lowca and Parton, Parton and Bransty.

Protect isolated character of the roman fort SAM and Moresby Hall complex by maintaining undeveloped green space around them.

Encourage new development on brownfield and vacant sites to protect and enhance habitats.

Minimise the impact of new development by careful siting, design and high standards of landscape treatment particularly where public views are affected.

Minimise the impact of major developments by careful siting in less sensitive areas, maximising screening from public view and following high standards of design and landscape treatment. Open and exposed sites and those that affect key views should be avoided, especially where development would become the dominant feature.

Management Strategy

Establish new woodland belts or thick hedgerows along the edges of developments to soften their impact, provide a backcloth, define limits of urban expansion and integrate isolated development.

Manage and restock existing woodland and hedgerow screens.

Character Type:5D Urban Fringe

Area of Local Character 5Div Whitehaven Hillside.

Open hillside and skyline setting to the east of Whitehaven. Heavily influenced by nearby settlement, but sense of exposure and long views seawards and towards open moorland.

Description

Key Characteristics

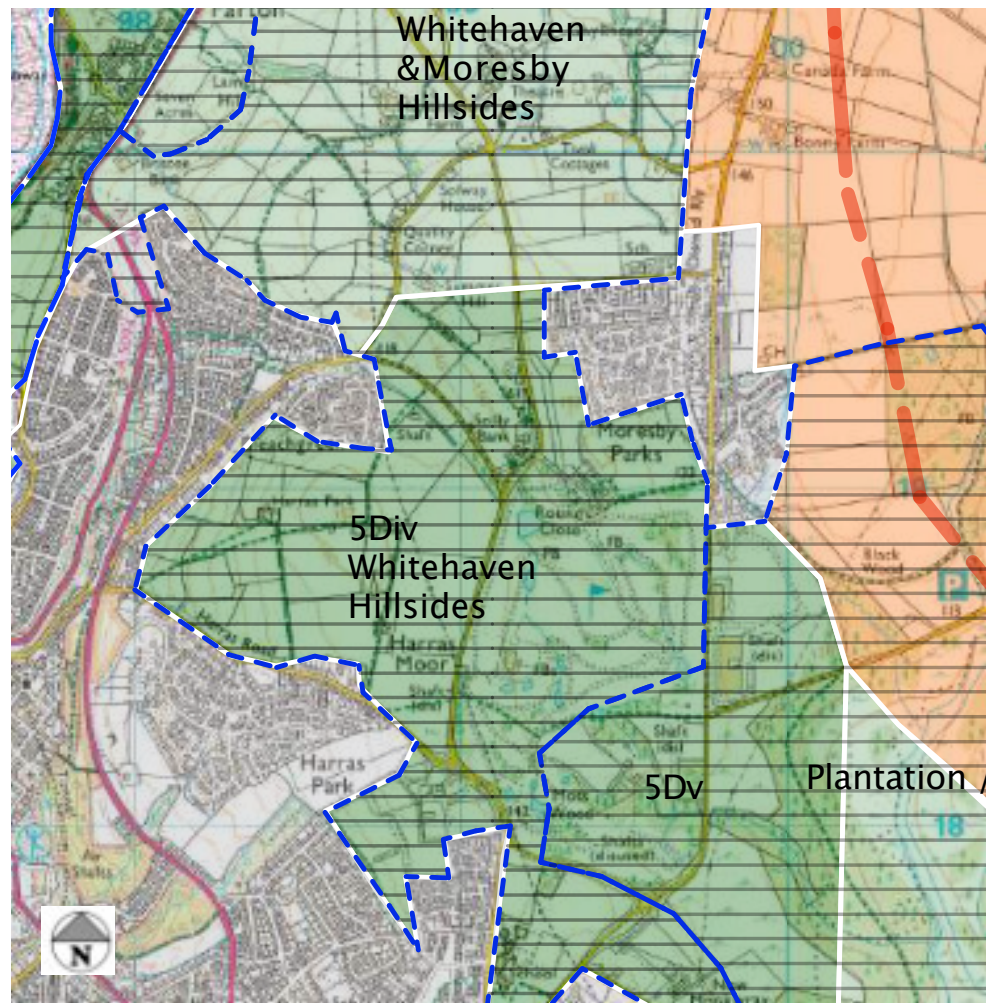
- Landform: Steep, rounded hill. Rising from 60m – 160m elevation and dropping down to Moresby Parks.
- Land Use: Urban edge, pasture. Public footpaths.
- Landcover: unimproved and semi improved pasture, built development.
- Field Pattern: Regular, medium sized fields, Straight sided with hedgerow and fencing boundaries. Well preserved stone walls define road and farm access tracks.
- Vegetation: Gappy hedgerows and scrub, small, roadside and field corner broadleaf plantations.
- Settlement Pattern: Urban edge and isolated, urban fringe farmsteads. Small scale, isolated housing developments at Scilly Banks and Round Close.
- Built features: Traditional farm buildings interspersed with modern buildings on urban edge. Small farmsteads of render and slate. Pylons and communications masts.
- Scale: Large scale, open, exposed plateau.
- Perceptual Character: Urban edge and busy roads dominate the pastoral character of the landscape. Air of neglect in upper fields.
- Sense of space and panoramic views over Whitehaven to Solway Firth. Inland views towards Lakeland fells.

Qualities

- Boundary walls to Harray Moor farmland
- Panoramic views and sense of space close to urban edge.
- Setting for Whitehaven, reinforcing the coastal character of the town.

Designations

- None identified



A, B) Green fingers of countryside and woodland stretch through Whitehaven and onto surrounding hillsides



C,D) Views from high ground (Harras Moor) towards the sea



E) Unimproved grassland - Harras Moor



Landscape Sensitivity and Susceptibility

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.

Criteria	Sensitivity					Notes
	H	H-M	M	M-L	L	
Landscape						
Scale		■				Large scale landscape, open and exposed
Landform		■				Hillside
Landcover and Biodiversity				■		
Man-Made Influences				■		Urban influences dominate
Aesthetic, perceptual and experiential						
Scenic Quality and Character			■			Strong sense of place
Remoteness, tranquillity				■		Openness and exposure relieves urban influence
Visual						
Skylines and Settings		■				Individual farmsteads and vertical infrastructure punctures skyline. Setting and backdrop to Whitehaven
Movement				■		Busy roads run through area
Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and typical receptors		■				Walkers from urban area – popular walking area. Views towards sea over Whitehaven
Views to important landscape and cultural heritage features			■			Views to Lakeland fells
Value						
Landscape Value				■		
Visual Value			■			
Overall landscape sensitivity			■			

Capacity to Accommodate Change and Mitigation Potential

Maintain settlement gap between Moresby Parks and Round Close/Scilly Banks to preserve the separate identity of the village.

Preserve open countryside buffer between the urban edge of Whitehaven and the sensitive open moorlands to the east.

Preserve the open hillside setting to Whitehaven – reinforcing its connection to the sea and protecting surrounding countryside from urban influence.

Define the urban edge of Moresby Parks and Whitehaven.

Consider opportunities to enhance and strengthen green infrastructure to provide a link between urban areas and the wider countryside. Reinforcing woodland belts, enhancing water and soil quality and the provision of green corridors from and between settlements could all help reinforce landscape and biodiversity features.

Conserve and maintain traditional farm buildings within their own setting.

Management Strategy

The landscape will be enhanced through restoration.

Management practices will create a stronger definition between town and country areas integrating adjacent discordant land uses into the landscape.

Woodland areas and traditional field boundaries will be managed and enhanced. New woodland planting will be used strategically to create a bold landscape structure, unifying disparate uses in developing areas.

The reinforcement of rural 'green' qualities will help maintain rural character and provide visual relief.

Access through the public rights of way network from towns and villages into the countryside will be enhanced.

Character Type: 5D Urban Fringe / 9A Moorland / 5A Ridge and Valley

Area of Local Character 5Dv / 5Aiv Plantation/Recreation.

Forestry plantation and countryside recreational land that runs down from open moorland to the edge of Whitehaven

Description

Key Characteristics

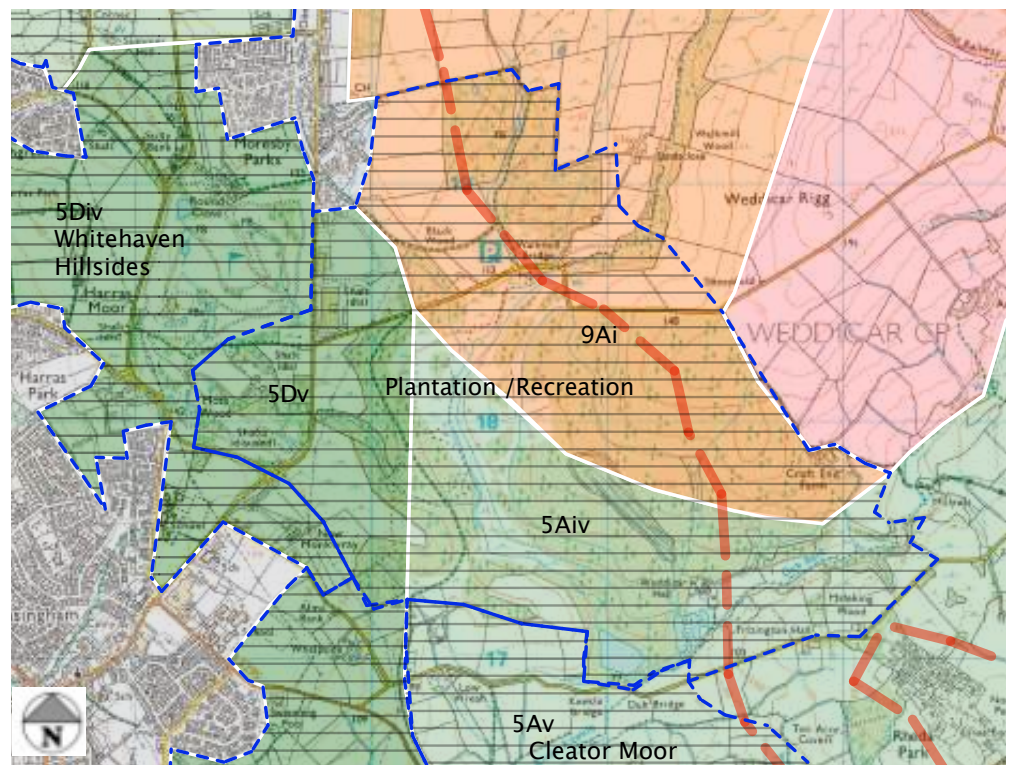
- Landform: Undulating moorland edge
- Land Use: Forestry, recreation, industry, pasture.
- Landcover: Coniferous plantation, scrub, unimproved and semi improved pasture. Industrial estate at Moresby Parks. Golf course.
- Field Pattern: Large, open. Hedgerow and fence boundaries. Stone walls towards moorland.
- Vegetation: Coniferous and broadleaf plantation and successional woodland dominate the area.
- Settlement Pattern: Isolated farmsteads on edge of the area, otherwise unsettled.
- Built features: traditional, small farmsteads and some industrial at edge of Moresby Parks. Modern housing and institutional development on east of Whitehaven.
- Scale: Large scale landscape away from plantation, more confined scale within valleys and plantations.
- Perceptual Character: Wild, remote quality, despite proximity to urban areas, due to woodland and valleys. Glimpsed long views towards Lakeland fells, providing a dramatic backdrop to the landscape.

Qualities

- Recreational resource on eastern edge of Whitehaven. Perceptions of wildness and remoteness, in spite of proximity to urban areas.
- Urban growth of Whitehaven in west of area has influence on qualities of naturalness.

Designations

- None identified.



A) Pasture, Moresby Parks



B) Unsettled countryside, setting for surrounding moorland



C) Stone wall field boundaries



Landscape Sensitivity and Susceptibility

Remote, natural qualities sensitive to unsympathetic development and expansion of Whitehaven.

Criteria	Sensitivity					Notes
	H	H-M	M	M-L	L	
Landscape						
Scale						Open on moorlands, confined in valley.
Landform						Undulating moorland slopes
Landcover and Biodiversity						Coniferous plantation and golf course
Man-Made Influences						Urban influences on edges, quickly lost in valley and woodland
Aesthetic, perceptual and experiential						
Scenic Quality and Character						Strong sense of place, but not designated
Remoteness, tranquillity						Urban influences on edge of area
Visual						
Skylines and Settings						Setting to moorland and ridges to east. Buffer between Whitehaven and more sensitive landscapes.
Movement						
Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and typical receptors						Long, glimpsed and framed views towards sea and Lakeland fells for walkers and golf course users.
Views to important landscape and cultural heritage features						Views towards Lakeland Fells
Value						
Landscape Value						
Visual Value						
Overall landscape sensitivity						

Capacity to Accommodate Change and Mitigation Potential

New development, using green infrastructure planning, could help to define the urban edge and preserve a buffer between Whitehaven and the sensitive moorland to the east.

Consider opportunities to enhance and strengthen green infrastructure to provide a link between urban areas and the wider countryside. Reinforcing woodland belts, enhancing water and soil quality and the provision of green corridors from and between settlements could all help reinforce landscape and biodiversity features.

Management Strategy

The landscape will be protected and enhanced through restoration.

Management practices will create a stronger definition between town and country areas integrating adjacent discordant land uses into the landscape.

Woodland areas and traditional field boundaries will be managed and enhanced. New woodland planting will be used strategically to create a bold landscape structure unifying disparate uses in developing areas.

The reinforcement of rural green qualities will help maintain rural character and provide visual relief.

Access from settlements into the countryside will be enhanced.

Character Type:5D Urban Fringe

Area of Local Character 5Dvi Keekle Hillsides.

Upper slopes of the Keekle and Pow Beck valleys, settled and busy landscape providing a setting for the Keekle Valley and a green gap between Whitehaven and smaller settlements to the south.

Description

Key Characteristics

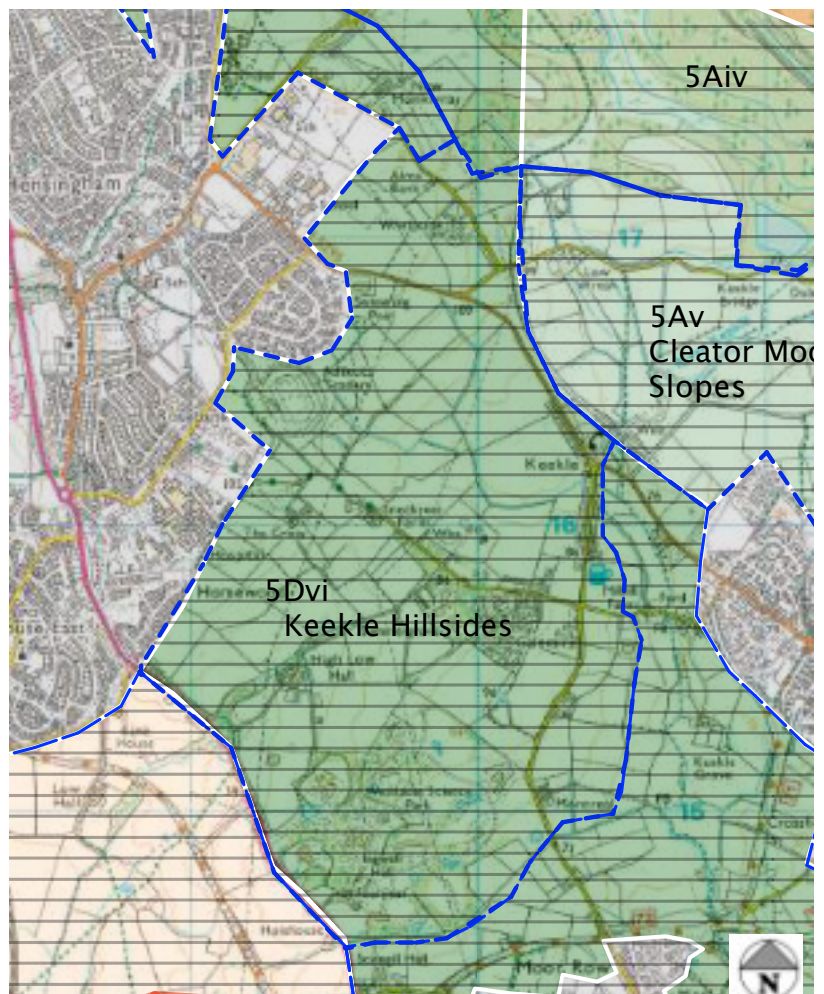
- Landform: Gently sloping hillsides, running to river Keekle valley
- Land Use: farmland, urban edge and evidence of historic industrial use and reclaimed land. Recreation and commercial business park.
- Landcover: semi improved pasture, rough grazing and some scrub. Use of some fields for horse grazing. Woodland along stream. Large, wooded commercial parkland.
- Field Pattern: Medium sized, irregular shaped fields. Straight hedgerow and fence boundaries.
- Vegetation: Hedgerow trees and larger woodland blocks – broadleaf plantations at Goose Butts and Westlakes. Successional woodland along river valley and in grown out hedgerows.
- Settlement Pattern: Linear settlement at Keekle, grown out from industrial core.
- Discrete, agricultural and small-scale industrial farmsteads and hamlets on slopes. Edge of Whitehaven has a dominant influence on the area. It creeps onto the skyline to the north and west but does not stray onto south facing slopes in most of the area. Wooded commercial park at Westlakes.
- Built features: vernacular of stone / render with slate roofs, domestic and large scale commercial modern, non-vernacular buildings in abundance.
- Scale: medium scale landscape.
- Perceptual Character: Urban influences and modern development have encroached on the edge of the valley and dominate an otherwise pastoral character.
- Long views over Keekle Valley towards the Lakeland Fells give a sense of place to the hillsides. Influence of Whitehaven noticeable with housing and large buildings on skyline. Active, disturbed landscape but with pockets of relative calm in valley bottom woodland.

Qualities

- Urban influences pervasive throughout area.
- Industrial time depth, evident in reclaimed land, distinctive settlement pattern. Panoramic views towards Lakeland Fells.

Designations

- None identified.



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A) Urban edge of Whitehaven, Ullswater Avenue



B) Views towards Fells - Cleator Moor Rd



C,D) Green gap separates Whitehaven from the Keekle Valley. Whitehaven on skyline



E) Views across the Keekle Valley towards the fells from Keekle.



Landscape Sensitivity and Susceptibility

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.

Criteria	Sensitivity					Notes
	H	H-M	M	M-L	L	
Landscape						
Scale						Long, open views.
Landform						Regular, undulating valley side. Exposed
Landcover and Biodiversity						
Man-Made Influences						Dominant urban and infrastructure influences
Aesthetic, perceptual and experiential						
Scenic Quality and Character						
Remoteness, tranquillity						
Visual						
Skylines and Settings						Setting to Keekle valley settlements. Developed skyline
Movement						Busy, noisy landscape
Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and typical receptors						Long views from high ground
Views to important landscape and cultural heritage features						Views to Lakeland Fells and seawards
Value						
Landscape Value						
Visual Value						
Overall landscape sensitivity						

Capacity to Accommodate Change and Mitigation Potential

Enhance and strengthen green infrastructure to provide a link between urban areas and the wider countryside. Reinforcing woodland belts, enhancing water and soil quality and the provision of green corridors from and between settlements could all help reinforce landscape and biodiversity features.

Maintain the separation of individual, discrete settlements such as Keekle through the retention and enhancement of 'green gaps', green infrastructure and ecosystem services.

New development can help to define the edge of the town and provide links to countryside. Care should be taken to ensure that the edge of Whitehaven and south facing hillsides is protected from sporadic and peripheral development that erodes the character of individual settlements or impinges on green infrastructure and landscape character.

Strengthen undeveloped areas of land with mixed woodland and hedgerow planting and restoration of natural landscape features.

Preserve open views towards the Lakeland fells.

Conserve and maintain traditional farm buildings within their own setting.

Management Strategy

The landscape will be enhanced through restoration.

Management practices will create a stronger definition between town and country areas integrating adjacent discordant land uses into the landscape.

Woodland areas and traditional field boundaries will be managed and enhanced. New woodland planting will be used strategically to create a bold landscape structure unifying disparate uses in developing areas.

The reinforcement of rural 'green' qualities will help maintain rural character and provide visual relief.

Access through the public rights of way network from surrounding settlements into the countryside will be enhanced.

F) From Cleator Moor Rd, view south west over valley slopes towards Cleator Moor, Moor Row and Westlakes Science Park.



Character Type:5D Urban Fringe

Area of Local Character 5Dvii Keekle Valley.

Farmed and wooded landscape surrounded by mining and industrial villages around the Keekle Valley. Evidence of previous mining and industrial activity prominent.

Description

Key Characteristics

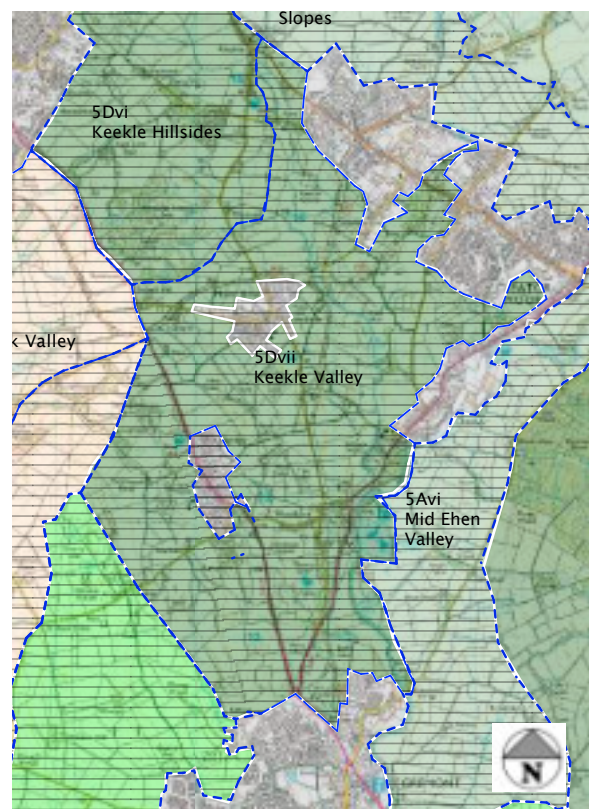
- Landform: Broad and even river valley, surrounded by rising ground.
- Land Use: Mixed uses – farmland, recreation, historic industrial / mining use, green infrastructure. Valley surrounded by settlements. National Cycle Network on disused railway runs through area and connects surrounding villages. Nature reserve and SSSI at Clints Quarry.
- Landcover: Semi improved, and improved pasture, rough grazing, scrub and recreational land are main components of land cover. Scattered woodland.
- Field Pattern: Irregular field pattern and size, influenced by extent of surrounding settlements and location of historic industrial features. Gappy hedgerow and fence field boundaries.
- Vegetation: Small farm copses, successional tree growth along former railway lines, hedgerows and tree planting in recreational spaces.
- Settlement Pattern: Individual settlements, with newer development growing outwards from historic industrial/mining settlement core, in and around the valley. Small, discrete farmsteads and settlements.
- Built features: Heavily developed urban fringe area, mix of vernacular, industrial and post modern buildings. Vernacular of render / stone and slate roofs, but brick and modern render, tile roofed buildings also common.
- Scale: Small to medium scale landscape.
- Perceptual Character: Pleasant, pastoral character interrupted by settlement and historic industrial features. An air of neglect in some areas.
- Some views towards Lakeland fells, closer views of high ground that defines the setting of the valley and surrounding settlements.

Qualities

- Woodland and recreational routes are important green lungs, providing connection between urban areas and countryside.
- Strong evidence of historic industrial and mining use a pervading quality of the landscape.
- Settlements with strong sense of place and individual character, within setting of surrounding hills.

Designations

- SSSI at Clints Quarry. Scattered listed buildings.



A) View of fragmented landcover pattern from cycle path.



B) Harsh boundary between housing and countryside, Egremont.



C) Fragmented landcover pattern



D) Industrial villages in countryside (Moor Row)



E) A settled landscape



F) Fly tipping and other urban fringe pressures.



Landscape Sensitivity and Susceptibility

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.

Criteria	Sensitivity					Notes
	H	H-M	M	M-L	L	
Landscape						
Scale						Small to medium scale landscape
Landform						Uniform, flat
Landcover and Biodiversity						Diverse, fragmented landcover pattern
Man-Made Influences						Strong historic and modern urban / industrial influences
Aesthetic, perceptual and experiential						
Scenic Quality and Character						
Remoteness, tranquillity						Extensive visual/auditory intrusions from settlements, roads
Visual						
Skylines and Settings						Skylines developed in near views. Setting for surrounding, nucleated settlements.
Movement						
Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and typical receptors						Heavy recreational use and sensitive receptors. Few key views.
Views to important landscape and cultural heritage features						
Value						
Landscape Value						
Visual Value						
Overall landscape sensitivity						

Capacity to Accommodate Change and Mitigation Potential

Opportunities to enhance and strengthen green infrastructure to provide a link between urban areas and the wider countryside. Reinforcing woodland belts, enhancing water and soil quality and the provision of green corridors from and between settlements could all help reinforce landscape and biodiversity features.

Protect 'green' areas from sporadic and peripheral development. Retain rural gaps between settlements to maintain their individual identity.

Protect countryside areas from sporadic and peripheral development.

Strengthen undeveloped areas of land with mixed woodland and hedgerow planting and restoration of natural landscape features.

Conserve and maintain traditional farm buildings within their own setting.

Management Strategy

The landscape will be enhanced through restoration.

Management practices will create a stronger definition between town and country areas integrating adjacent discordant land uses into the landscape.

Woodland areas and traditional field boundaries will be managed and enhanced. New woodland planting will be used strategically to create a bold landscape structure unifying disparate uses in developing areas.

The reinforcement of rural 'green' qualities will help maintain rural character and provide visual relief.

Access through the public rights of way network from towns and cities into the countryside will be enhanced.

A) Rolling farmland



B) Industrial history evident in landscape - Moor Row



C) Green infrastructure links connect countryside to settlements and allow access to heart of rural landscape



Character Type:5D Urban Fringe

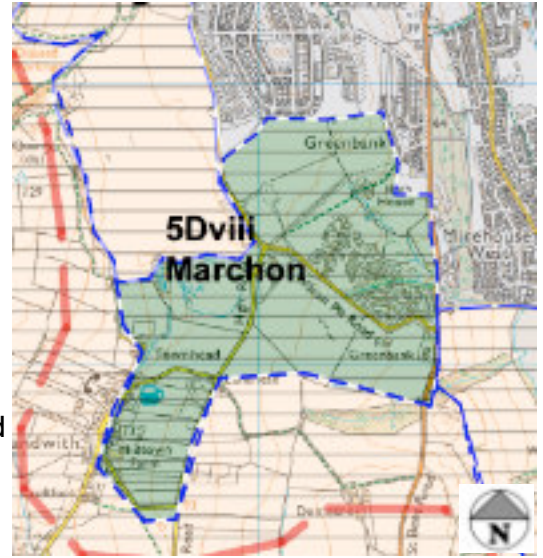
Area of Local Character 5Dviii Marchon

Description

Urban fringe south of Whitehaven, landscape influenced by past industrial and mining activity.

Key Characteristics

- Landform: Gently rolling sandstone plateau, overlain by mining landforms.
- Land Use: Predominantly derelict/reclaimed. New residential development. Some agricultural pasture around Sandwith.
- Landcover: semi improved pasture, derelict land.
- Field Pattern: Small fields, based on strip fields, close to Sandwith. Straight boundaries, hedges and fences elsewhere, but overlain by industrial and mining development.
- Vegetation: Scrub and regenerated woodland. Hedgerow trees, semi improved and reclaimed grassland.
- Settlement Pattern: Linear village, isolated industrial units.
- Built Features: Village houses predominantly 18th/19th Century. Stone and slate.
- Scale: Medium to large scale landscape.
- Perceptual Character: Air of decay and neglect from remaining, unreclaimed derelict land. Open, panoramic views seawards.



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Qualities

- Open, panoramic, seaward views. Evidence of industrial and mining past.

Designations

- None identified.

A) Marchon chemical works site



Landscape Sensitivity and Susceptibility

The separate identity of Sandwith is sensitive to encroaching development.

Recreational use of the area and scenic quality of surrounding areas is sensitive to development that encroaches on the coastal margin.

Criteria	Sensitivity					Notes
	H	H-M	M	M-L	L	
Landscape						
Scale			■			Medium to large scale.
Landform				■		Irregular, overlain by industrial/mining landform.
Landcover and Biodiversity					■	Derelict and reclaimed land.
Man-Made Influences				■		Developed area.
Aesthetic, perceptual and experiential						
Scenic Quality and Character				■		Coastal character closer to coastal strip.
Remoteness, tranquillity				■		Strong urban, industrial influences.
Visual						
Skylines and Settings			■			Undeveloped skyline, Sandwith has rural setting.
Movement				■		
Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and typical receptors			■			Views to coast and towards Lakeland fells from high ground north of Sandwith.
Views to important landscape and cultural heritage features				■		
Value						
Landscape Value				■		
Visual Value				■		
Overall landscape sensitivity				■		

Capacity to Accommodate Change and Mitigation Potential

Capacity for development that helps to define the urban edge of Whitehaven and provide green infrastructure links between town, coast and countryside.

Maintain separation between development and coastal fringe.

Management Strategy

The landscape will be enhanced through restoration.

Management practices will create a stronger definition between town and country areas integrating adjacent discordant land uses into the landscape.

New woodland planting will be used strategically to create a bold landscape structure unifying disparate uses in developing areas.

Access through the public rights of way network from Whitehaven into the countryside will be enhanced.

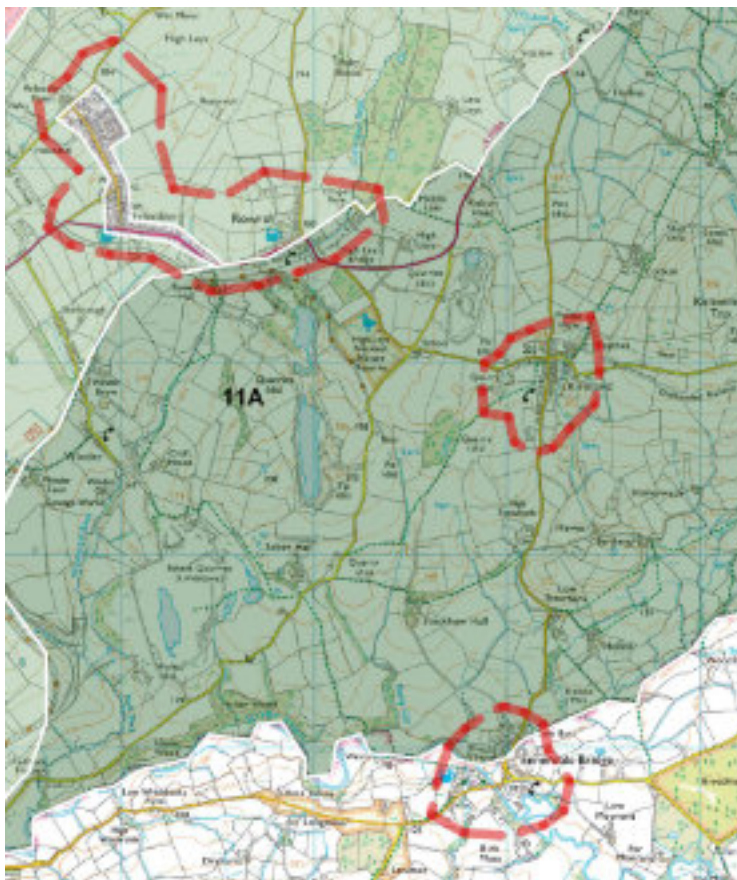
Character Type 11a: Upland Fringe - Foothills

Description

Peaceful and lightly settled landscape, characterised by hilly plateau farmland and intimate valleys.

Key Characteristics

- Landform: Rolling, hilly or plateau, occasional rocky outcrops. Hills are dissected by numerous streams and minor river valleys.
- Land Use: Farmland and moorland.
- Landcover: Areas of improved grassland, unimproved heathland and extensive conifer plantations.
- Field Pattern: Large areas of farmland are bounded by stone walls and hedges.
- Vegetation: Semi natural woodland in the small valleys, extensive conifer plantations.
- Settlement Pattern: Farmsteads and villages are discrete and dispersed and follow the grain of the rolling topography. Rural roads connect farmsteads and settlements following the flow of the topography.
- Built features: Traditional limestone farm buildings, with medium size agricultural buildings. Local vernacular of stone / render cottages, slate roofs.
- Scale: Small to medium scale landscape, more open on high ground.
- Perceptual Character: Intimate quality in valley bottoms and woodland. On higher land there are open views to the surrounding fells and sea. The rich green of improved fields contrasts strongly with the mottled and subdued hues of surrounding fells.

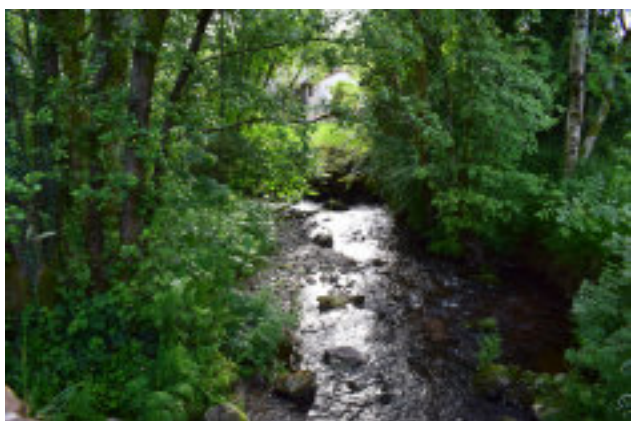


Qualities

- Small to medium scale enclosed landscapes with open moorland in higher parts.
- Transitional, seen against a backdrop of the larger fells and pikes of the Lake District.
- Attractive and peaceful countryside, highly valued locally.

Designations

- Lake District National Park on borders of Character Type. River Ehen SSSI and SAC.



A) Intimate stream valley: Ennerdale Bridge

Landscape Sensitivity and Susceptibility

The strong matrix of stone walls and hedges wooded ghylls, woodland and hedgerow trees sensitive to changes in land management.

Dispersed, discrete settlement pattern sensitive to unsympathetic expansion and redevelopment.

The character of rural roads sensitive to highway safety improvements or access to new developments.

The remote, peaceful and rural farmland is sensitive to additional large-scale coniferous plantations.

The contrast in scale with Lakeland Fells and more intimate farms and woodland are sensitive to large scale infrastructure development.

Criteria	Sensitivity					Notes
	H	H-M	M	M-L	L	
Landscape						
Scale						Small scale elements of landscape sensitive to development.
Landform						Intimate valleys and rugged hills sensitive
Landcover and Biodiversity						Upland, unimproved heathland.
Man-Made Influences						Sparsely settled character sensitive.
Aesthetic, perceptual and experiential						
Scenic Quality and Character						Areas acting as setting of the National Park sensitive to development.
Remoteness, tranquillity						Peaceful character.
Visual						
Skylines and Settings						Open undeveloped skylines on higher ground.
Movement						Network of small rural roads, no major transport infrastructure.
Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and typical receptors						High ground at, for example, Kirkland and Ennerdale Bridge visible from Bowness Knot designated viewpoint.
Views to important landscape and cultural heritage feature						Views from open farmland west of Kirkland and east of Ennerdale Bridge towards the Lakeland fells.
Value						
Landscape Value						
Visual Value						
Overall landscape sensitivity						

Capacity to Accommodate Change and Mitigation Potential

Protect village fringes from unsympathetic development.

Resist development of important open spaces such as small pastures or woods within villages.

Protect uncluttered skylines and key views to and from the area from large-scale infrastructure developments that may erode the character of the area.

Conserve the rural character of the existing small road network.

Management Strategy

Farm-scale woodlands will be supported in relation to agricultural change and to reinforce existing woodland patterns.

Unimproved heathland will be managed and conserved.

New large-scale forestry will be resisted, and the boundaries of existing plantations will be softened, and a diversity of tree species will be supported.

Existing settlements and built features will be conserved and new development will respect the grain and scale of the landscape.

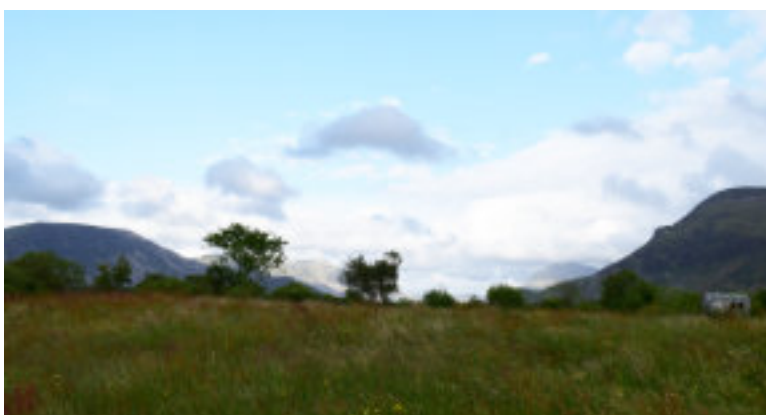
Informal and small-scale recreational activities will be managed to support nature conservation interests and local distinctiveness.



B) Linear settlement on skyline (Kirkland)



C) Settlement in river valley (Ennerdale Bridge)



D) Lakeland fells dominate setting (Ennerdale Bridge)