

material considerations weighed in reaching a decision. In setting out the planning policy context in which the proposed wind cluster should be considered, this Chapter follows the above advice. Although PPG1 refers to the weight to be afforded to emerging development plans in arriving at decisions on planning applications, the relevant development plans in this case are adopted, and carry full weight for purposes of development control.

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12. PPG7 ("The Countryside - Environmental Quality and Economic and Social Development" - 1997) advances guidance on how the Government's objectives for rural areas should be reflected in land use planning. In areas statutorily designated for their landscape, wildlife or historic qualities the policies give greater priority to restraint. The countryside should be safeguarded for its own sake and non-renewable and natural resources should be afforded protection.

13. With regard to the special considerations in *designated areas* the PPG indicates that *in those parts of the countryside where special statutory designations apply, planning policies and development control decisions should take full account of the specific features or qualities which justify designation of the area, and sustain or further the purposes of that designation.* The areas where special considerations apply are identified as National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Green Belts, Nature Conservation Sites, Historic and Archaeological Sites, and certain Environmental Land Management Schemes. The PPG advises that 'Local Countryside Designations' *carry less weight than national designations, and development plans should not apply the same policies to them.*

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14. Within the principles of sustainable development, it is noted that the best and most versatile agricultural land should be protected as a national resource. This is defined as land in grades 1, 2 and 3(a).

15. PPG22 ("Renewable Energy" - 1993) describes the various renewable forms of energy, including wind energy; explains renewable energy's potential role in tackling greenhouse gas emissions; sets out the relevant instruments of policy, including the Non-Fossil Fuel Obligation; outlines relevant environmental protection legislation; gives a statement of general planning aims; explains how local planning authorities should include their renewable energy policies in their plans, and advises them to consider what contribution their area might make; notes the special considerations which should apply when it is intended to locate renewable energy installations in designated areas; explains when environmental assessment is required; sets out the environmental implications of renewable energy; and refers to planning conditions, temporary permissions and other consents/permissions. Related areas of planning policy guidance refer to countryside matters, conservation and cultural heritage issues (nature conservation, conservation of the built environment, archaeology), and noise.

16. The PPG recognises that renewable energy sources offer the hope of increasing diversity and security of supply, and of reducing harmful emissions to the environment, and notes that it is the Government's policy *to stimulate the exploitation and development of renewable energy sources wherever they have prospects of being economically attractive and environmentally acceptable.*

17. PPG22 indicates that *planning decisions have to reconcile the interests of development with the importance of conserving the environment*. In planning for the use of land by energy generating installations, the Government's general aims are (a) to ensure that society's needs for energy are satisfied, consistent with protecting the local and global environment; (b) to ensure that any environmental damage or loss of amenity caused by any supply and ancillary activities is minimised; and (c) to prevent unnecessary sterilisation of energy resources.

18. Paragraph 21 acknowledges that *sites proposed for the development of renewable energy sources will often be in rural areas or on the coast, and any such development will almost always have some local environmental effects*. It is concluded that the Government's policies for developing renewable energy sources must be weighed carefully with its continuing commitment to policies for protecting the environment. It will always be important that a particular proposal should cause the minimum harm to the countryside or the coast.

19. Paragraph 22 reflects the advice set out at PPG1 that planning applications for renewable energy projects should be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Development plan policies should, however, take account of local, regional and national requirements. In this context, paragraph 28 advises that particular care should be taken in assessing proposals for renewable energy projects in *designated areas such as National Parks, AONBs, the Broads and SSSIs*.

20. The Annex on Wind Energy to the PPG sets out at Part (A) details of wind energy technology. Part (B) addresses the assessment of planning applications for wind farm proposals. Paragraph 15 notes that when a wind farm reaches the end of its design life the turbines can easily be removed and if required, the land can be reinstated. Paragraph 22 notes that *there will always be pressure to achieve planning permission for sites which enjoy high mean wind speeds, because the power generated by a turbine is entirely dependant upon wind capture*.

21. Paragraph 24 recognises that *the successful exploitation of wind energy always entails detailed consideration of a number of factors, such as average wind speed, the practical availability of a connection to the electricity distribution network, an adequate means of vehicular access, the price currently available for the purchase of electricity, and the need for planning permission*. Accordingly, local planning authorities should give only the broadest locational guidance in development plans, although pressure to exploit the wind will always be directed at areas which enjoy high mean wind speeds.

22. Paragraphs 59-69 deal with 'Siting and the Landscape'. The following advice is relevant:

59. *It is inevitable that most development of wind turbine generators will be proposed in the uplands, on the coast and other particularly exposed regions where the highest mean wind speeds are found, particularly in the case of commercial wind farms intended to supply electricity to the distribution network... Local Planning Authorities must always weigh the desirability of exploiting a clean, renewable energy resource against the visual impact on the landscape of wind turbines. There is a clear role for wind farms to produce electricity both for the local electricity distribution networks and for other purposes.*

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64. In terms of visual impact, wind turbine generators must be assessed with their particular and unusual characteristics clearly in mind. The acceptability of wind turbine generators will be determined to a considerable extent by the form and pattern of the landscape within and adjoining a particular site.

69. Wind turbines should be sited in sympathy with existing landscape features such as hedges and roads, and with contours. Where more than two wind turbines are proposed the desirable pattern of development will clearly be affected by the number of turbines as well as by land form and landscape features. The most desirable layout in any given case will be a compromise between the quality of the wind resource, the characteristics of the land form and existing features of the landscape.

23. PPG20 ("Coastal Planning" - 1992) pre-dates PPG22. The advice regarding energy generation notes that the coast is a major attraction for this. It is indicated that such newer forms of energy generation can have a significant impact on the coastal environment, but the development and conservation objectives are capable of reconciliation in most cases.

24. PPG9 ("Nature Conservation" - 1994) indicates that nature conservation can be a significant material consideration in determining many planning applications; especially in or near SSSIs, where there are statutory requirements to consult English Nature. It is noted, however, that local planning authorities should not refuse permission **if development can be subject to conditions that will prevent damaging impact on wildlife habitats or important physical features** or if other material factors are sufficient to override nature conservation considerations.

25. PPG15 ("Planning and the Historic Environment" - 1994) Local Planning Authorities are required to have special regard to a number of matters, including the desirability of preserving the setting of listed buildings. The guidance indicates that no additional statutory controls follow from the inclusion of a site in the World Heritage List. Inclusion as a World Heritage site does, however, highlight the outstanding international importance of the site as a key material consideration to be taken into account in determining planning applications.

26. PPG16 ("Archaeology and Planning" - 1990) notes that the desirability of preserving an ancient monument **and its setting** is a material consideration in determining planning applications whether that monument is scheduled or unscheduled. It is indicated that developers and Local Authorities should take into account archaeological considerations and deal with them from the beginning of the development control process. A staged approach is advanced comprising earlier consultations between developers and planning authorities, field evaluations, consultations by planning authorities and arrangements for preservation by record including funding.

27. Where nationally important archaeological remains, whether scheduled or not, and their settings are affected by proposed development there should be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation in situ ie. a presumption against proposals which would involve significant alteration or cause damage or which would have significant impact on the setting of visible remains. It is concluded that the case for preservation of archaeological remains must, however, be assessed on the individual merits of each case, taking into account the archaeological policies in detailed development plans, together with all other

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relevant policies and material considerations, including the intrinsic importance of these remains, and *weighing these against the need for the proposed development.*

28. In respect of the use of planning conditions, the PPG notes that planning authorities should seek to ensure that potential conflicts are resolved and agreements with developers concluded before planning permission is granted. In cases where planning authorities have decided that planning permission may be granted, but wish to secure the provision of archaeological excavation and subsequent recording of the remains, *it is open to them to do so by the use of a negative condition - a 'model' is suggested.*

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29. **PPG24** ("Planning and Noise" - 1994) notes that the impact of noise can be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications, and gives guidance to local authorities on the use of their planning powers to minimise the adverse impact of noise. The planning system should ensure that, wherever practicable, noise-sensitive developments are separated from major sources of noise, and that new development involving noisy activities should, if possible, be sited away from noise-sensitive land uses.

30. The Wind Energy Annex to PPG22 provides more specific advice in relation to wind energy development, and notes *that well designed wind turbines are generally quiet in operation.* It is indicated that *there is unlikely to be a significant noise problem for any residential property situated further than 350-400 metres from the nearest turbine. Lesser separation distances may be acceptable depending on the turbines used and the specific conditions at a site.*

31. More detailed and specific advice on this matter is set out at **Section 11** of this Environmental Statement.

32. **RPG13** ("Regional Planning Guidance for the North West" - 1996) notes that the region has an extensive energy industry and a wide range of energy resources. It is indicated that wind power is being utilised, *but there is scope for further development. The supply of energy, its conservation, and its efficient use are all central to the Region's economy and quality of life.* Accordingly, development plans should contain policies *which facilitate development of energy resources including the range and extent of renewable resources, wherever they have the prospect of being economically viable and can be shown to be environmentally acceptable.*

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The Role of Government Agencies and Other Agencies

Government Agencies

33. Although they have no executive role in the planning system, the Countryside Commission, English Nature and English Heritage are the main Government agencies with responsibility for the countryside, which seek to influence decision makers at all levels of planning. To this end, each has prepared guidance in the form of technical reports, advisory booklets, and policy and position statements on a wide range of planning issues. The **Countryside Commission** provides guidance, at both the parliamentary and national level, concerning many rural planning issues. Of particular relevance to the current application is the Technical Report CCP357 "Wind Energy Development and the Landscape" published in 1991. In addition, **English Nature** has published the

document "Nature Conservation Guidelines for Renewable Energy Projects" (November 1994). In 1987 Hadrian's Wall was designated a World Heritage site. The Management Plan for the site was published by **English Heritage** in July 1998. The Plan states the significance of Hadrian's Wall, defines the boundary of the World Heritage site, and sets out the objectives of the Plan. The main emphasis of the Plan is regarded as a positive one, and it does not seek to impose arbitrary controls.

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Non-Government Agencies

34. Guidance for the planning of renewable energy developments is also available from several non-Government organisations; notably **the Friends of the Earth**, which published "Planning for Windpower: Guidelines for Project Developers and Local Planners" (May 1994), and the **British Wind Energy Association**, which published their "Best Practice Guidelines for Wind Energy Development" (November 1994).

Local Planning Policies

The Statutory Development Plan

Strategic Planning Policy: Cumbria County Council - Cumbria and Lake District Joint Structure Plan 1991 - 2006 (November 1995)

35. The Cumbria and Lake District Joint Structure Plan 1991 - 2006 was approved by the Secretary of State for the Environment in September 1995. The purpose of the Structure Plan is to set out the broad planning strategy and policies to guide the development and other use of land in Cumbria to the year 2006. The principal policies of relevance are:

- Policy 13** - The Rest of the Countryside;
- Policy S4** - Major Projects
- Policy 56** - Renewable Energy Proposals

36. Other strategic policies requiring consideration include **Policy 1** - Development and the Environment, **Policy 2** - Conserving the Natural and Built Environment, **Policy 3** - Maintaining Rural Communities, **Policies 17 and 18** - Nature Conservation Interests, **Policy 19** - Agriculture Land and **Policy 26** - Sites and Buildings of Architectural, Historic or Archaeological Importance.

Policy 13 - Landscape Policy for the Rest of the Countryside

37. **Policy 13** provides:

"In the areas not covered by Policies 11 and 12, development will normally be permitted which in its use, siting, scale and design is well related to existing developed areas of the countryside and does not harm distinctive features of local landscape significance. In the undeveloped open countryside development will not normally be permitted except when it is required to meet local infrastructure needs which cannot be located

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elsewhere, and provided it is sited to minimise environmental impacts and meets high standards of design"

Renewable Energy Policy

38. Policy 56 includes four 'clauses' and indicates:

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"Renewable energy developments which will have no significant adverse impact on the environment, landscape or local communities will normally be permitted.

Renewable energy developments which will have significant adverse impacts will only be permitted if this impact is outweighed by the energy contribution and other benefits including reducing pollution.

Large scale proposals for renewable energy developments within or affecting the national parks and other areas and features of international or national conservation importance will be considered under Policy 54".

(The final 'clause' of Policy 56 relates to tidal barrage proposals).

Major Projects

39 Policy 54 refers to major projects which, in the context of wind energy would include a wind farm of more than 10 wind generators or having a total installed capacity of more than 5 megawatts. It states:

"Major developments which are more national than local in character and have significant environmental effects will only be permitted where:

- i. the sum of national, regional and local benefits is shown to clearly outweigh any harm or risks to the local or wider environment, and**
- ii. the proposed scheme will be carried out in such a manner as to cause the least practicable harm, and**
- iii. direct and indirect adverse impacts during construction and during operation (including those from the winning and working of construction materials, the disposal of waste and their transportation) are minimised, and**
- iv. they do not harm areas or features of international or national conservation importance except where it can be demonstrated that the value of the benefits that would arise clearly outweigh the international or national conservation value of the interest affected and in addition:**
in National Parks a case can be made in the national interest and all reasonable alternative locations and methods of satisfying the need have been explored and shown to be unacceptable;
in AONBs a case can be made in the national interest and all reasonable alternative locations have been explored and shown to be unacceptable;

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Other Strategic Policy

40. Policy 1 is a 'sustainability' policy which provides:

"New development will be provided, mainly in the towns, to meet the social and economic needs of the county's population, but in a manner which,

through appropriate location, scale, design or use, does not diminish the quality of the environment within the county or beyond, or for further generations."

41. Policy 2 is cross-referenced to Policy 56. The footnote to Policy 2 lists the "areas and features of international or national conservation importance" which are defined for the purposes of (inter alia) Policy 56. It provides:

"The County's scenic beauty, natural resources and the quality of its built environment will be protected from inappropriate development, especially those areas and features of international or national conservation importance where harmful development will not be permitted."

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42. Policy 3 provides:

"The diversification of the rural economy and the maintenance of the vitality of rural life will be assisted through a favourable response to developments which provide local benefits and are sensitive to the local environment"

43. Policies 17 and 18 both refer to nature conservation interests. Policy 18 relates to nature conservation interests of international importance, and is not relevant in the context of the proposed Lowca windcluster. Policy 17 notes:

"Development and other land use changes which are detrimental to important nature conservation interests will not be permitted unless the harm caused to the value of those interests is clearly outweighed by the need for the development. Where development is permitted the loss of conservation interests should, where practicable, be minimised"

44. Policy 19 addresses agricultural land, and notes that:

"The best and most versatile agricultural land will normally be protected from development"

45. Policy 26 refers to matters of archaeology and conservation of the built environment. It provides:

"Development and other land use changes which fail to preserve or enhance the character or appearance of Conservation Areas or which damage, obscure or remove important archaeological sites or other historic features, or are detrimental to the character or setting of a Listed Building or Ancient Monument will not normally be permitted"

Local Planning Policy: Copeland Borough Council - Copeland Local Plan (July 1997)

46. The Copeland Local Plan was adopted by Copeland Borough Council in July 1997. It covers the period 1991 - 2001 and applies to all of the Borough outside the Lake District National Park. The purpose of the Local Plan is to set out detailed policies and proposals for development including the allocation for land for specific purposes. The Local Plan is the principal guide to most day-to-day planning decisions in the Borough.

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APPENDIX 2

Wind Energy Policy

47. The principal policy of relevance is **Policy EGY1** which addresses wind energy. The policy is divided into two 'clauses'. The first addresses large scale wind energy development of more than 10 turbines:

"Proposals for large scale wind energy development (more than 10 no. turbines) will not normally be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that national benefits associated with the scheme outweigh environmental impacts and that the following criteria are satisfied..."

48. The policy thus operates a presumption against large-scale developments subject to the 'balance test' between environmental impacts and national benefits.

49. The second 'clause' of **Policy EGY1** refers to proposals for small scale wind energy development (ie. 10 turbines or less). It provides:

"Proposals for small scale wind energy developments will be favourably considered so long as:

1. **The development including any service roads and transmission lines/equipment has no significant adverse impact on local landscape character.**
2. **They do not involve unreasonable disturbance to local residents in terms of noise, visual intrusion, electromagnetic interference, shadow flicker or reflected light.**
3. **They would not have an adverse effect on historic, conservation or wildlife interests.**
4. **They would not be prejudicial to highway safety.**
5. **The development and any other existing or approved turbine groups in a locality would not by their cumulative effects have adverse impact as regards the matters detailed in criteria 1-4 above.**
6. **There would be no undue electro-magnetic disturbance to existing transmitting or receiving systems.**
7. **There is a scheme for the removal of the turbines and the turbines and the restoration of the site for agriculture when the turbines become redundant.**

Other Relevant Policy

50. **Policy ENV15** refers to Development in the Coastal Zone. It notes that development will not be permitted in the coastal zone which would be likely to result in identified effects. Those of potential relevance to the Lowca windcluster are:

5. **an adverse effect on natural landscape character or be prejudicial to people's enjoyment and understanding thereof..**
6. **an adverse effect on areas of historic, conservation or wildlife importance."**

51. The Local Plan also contains policies for the conservation of the built and natural environment and archaeology. These raise no matters of relevance which are not covered by Structure Plan policy.



APPENDIX 2

52. The Local Plan Proposals Map shows that the site of the proposed wind cluster is not subject to any statutory national, or local designations.

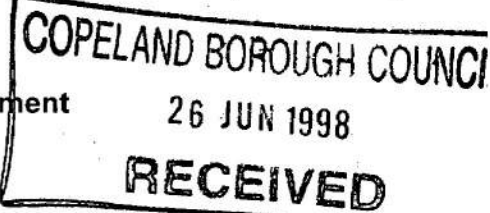
Non-Statutory Policy

53. There are three non-statutory policy documents which do not comprise part of the statutory development plan, but which are also relevant to the proposed Lowca windcluster:

"Planning and Renewable Energy in Cumbria" (1994);

"Wind Energy Development in Cumbria" (July 1997);

"Wind Energy Development in Cumbria - Landscape Assessment Specification" (January 1998)



Planning and Renewable Energy in Cumbria

54. 'Planning and Renewable Energy in Cumbria' is the final report of a working group of Officers from Cumbria County Council Planning Department, South Lakeland District Council Planning Department and the Lake District National Park Authority. It was prepared with the assistance of ETSU, on behalf of the DTI. The aim of the study was to examine the technical, planning and environmental factors, and the resource availability, which may affect the development of renewable energy schemes in Cumbria. The Study was published prior to the approval of the Structure Plan in 1995. It is not a statement of the official views of the local planning authorities, ETSU or the DTI.

55. In the Section titled 'Planning for Renewable Energy - Principles and Problems' section 4.2 addresses 'New Values and Planning', and notes that the deployment of renewable energy technologies coincides with, and is a prominent expression of, an important shift in the basis of planning policy, which has now been called upon to recognise sustainable development criteria explicitly. The Study goes on to indicate that it is probably no exaggeration to say that the Environment White Paper and the Rio Summit *represent a fundamental shift towards the belief that development must be constrained by the recognition of a finite and vulnerable ecological balance of the planet.*

56. The Study acknowledges the balance which must be struck within the environmental agenda between reducing the emission of pollutant gases and matters of, for example, landscape impacts. It is suggested that it would be unreasonable for decisions always to give the benefit of the doubt to the environment, and reference is made to the view, now embodied in PPG22, that renewables, by virtue of their potential benefits, bring another set of positive values into the process of weighing up proposals, but that this does not automatically override other considerations. The Study acknowledges in examining other 'Resources in Cumbria' that wind power is unlikely to be developed to a significant degree in designated areas of major landscape or nature conservation importance, and may also be unlikely in environmentally sensitive areas.



"Wind Energy Development in Cumbria"

57. 'Wind Energy Development in Cumbria' has been developed by a working party comprising Cumbria County Council and the Local Planning Authorities in Cumbria. Following a consultation exercise, the Guidance was approved in July 1997 as supplementary planning guidance. It is the Government's policy that supplementary planning guidance can provide helpful guidance for those preparing planning applications, but that it is only the policies in the development plan which can have special status.

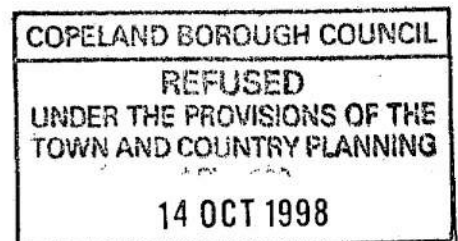
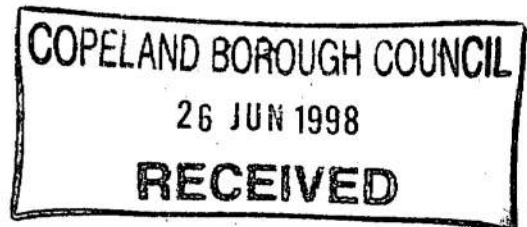
"Wind Energy Development in Cumbria - Landscape Assessment Specification"

58. In January 1998 the Landscape Assessment Specification associated with 'Wind Energy Development in Cumbria' was published by Cumbria County Council. It has not been the subject of consultation, and does not formally comprise supplementary planning guidance.

59. The guidance and advice it contains is referred to at Section 8 of this Environmental Statement.

60. Relevant extracts from the the latter two of the above three documents are reproduced as **Appendices 4 and 5** to this Environmental Statement.

June 1998



J. A. Pomphrey

West Cumbrian Coastal Plain

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Appendix 3

The West Cumbrian Coastal Plain is a long narrow area stretching from Maryport south to the Barrow-in-Furness peninsula. The higher land of the Cumbria High Fells forms the eastern boundary while the Solway Basin lies to the north east, and to the west the Irish Sea.

The area is mostly underlain by relatively soft shales and sandstones of the Lower and Middle Coal Measures found to the north of Whitehaven. Triassic sandstones are found to the south. Much of the area has been overlain with glacial deposits, including marine alluvium and boulder clay, giving rise to the fertile soils.

The West Cumbrian Coastal Plain is an area of contrasts with its open agricultural landscape, varied coastal scenery and extensive views to higher fells in the east. Harsh, salt laden Irish Sea winds have a significant effect on the vegetation resulting in the characteristic stunted and wind sculpted hedges and trees. The coastline supports an outstanding range of habitats such as the estuaries of Duddon and Ravenglass, salt marshes, sand dunes with dune grassland and shingle beaches that are all of nature conservation importance. Important areas of lowland raised mires are found at the head of the Duddon estuary, as well as a variety of wet acidic and neutral grasslands that support locally important populations of breeding waders.

The area has a strong industrial history, formerly connected with the coal and iron ore mining industry and, more recently, with the chemical, power generation and nuclear re-processing industries. Many of the structures associated with these industries have a strong visual affect on the landscape. Settlement is centred mainly on several towns that developed in response to the rising industrial prosperity of the area. Essentially industrial in character, these have a planned central civic area and Whitehaven is unusual with its formal grid layout. Small linear villages, which developed on the edges of the mining areas, often consist of high density terraced houses with brightly painted stone lintels and window reveals.

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COUNTRYSIDE
COMMISSION

Countryside Commission
John Dover House
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GL50 3RA


ENGLISH
NATURE

English Nature
Northminster House
Peterborough
PE1 1UA

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Characteristic features of nature conservation & landscape interest

The varied coastline

Lowland raised mires

Gentle undulating and flat medium sized fields of improved pasture

Larger fields of acidic grassland and heather

Woodland mainly occurs in the north of the area

Past and present mining and quarrying

The varied coastline is of outstanding nature conservation and landscape value. The Duddon and Ravenglass estuaries and part of Morecambe Bay within the area are open landscapes largely dominated by the sea, foreshore, sand dunes and high fells. The Duddon estuary and Morecambe Bay are of national and international importance for their wintering and passage waders and wildfowl. Together with the Ravenglass estuary, the sand dunes with their dune slacks, wet grasslands, dune heath, acid grasslands, saltmarshes and shingle beaches are internationally important habitats in their own right. They also support populations of the nationally rare natterjack toad and uncommon breeding birds such as the little tern. Walney Island, a barrier island of reworked glacial sediment close to Barrow, is important for its geology and for its large colonies of breeding lesser black-backed and herring gulls, together with the most southerly population of eider duck on the west coast of Britain. The coastline to the south of Whitehaven is dominated by the upstanding cliffs of St Bees Head with extensive views over the Irish Sea. These are the only coastal cliffs of any size in Cumbria and support populations of nesting puffins, guillemots and kittiwakes. The rest of the coastline is of low and rolling hills, some of which are of geological interest.

Lowland raised mires of national and international importance are found in the head of the Duddon estuary and these support a range of plant and animal communities including a number of rare invertebrates. Other smaller mires are found in the lower Esk valley and have developed in small basins along the coastal plain.

Gentle undulating and flat medium sized fields of improved pasture dominate the Plain. These fields tend to be enclosed by a mixture of hedgerows, wind sheared trees and wire fences. Stone walls and hedges established on stonebanks, locally known as kests, are common along minor roads and along ancient field boundaries in more remote areas. Occasional wet and herb rich meadows further increase the diversity of the land cover. Wet neutral grasslands with some swamp communities occur locally, especially along the flood plains of some of the rivers. These support breeding waders such as redshank and snipe.

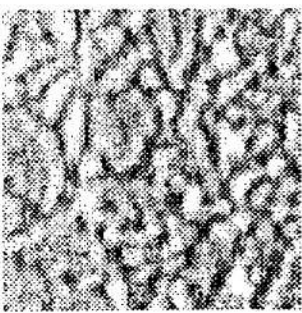
Larger fields of acidic grassland and heather occur east of Maryport, Whitehaven and Workington. Many have been lost to opencast coal mining and conifer plantations, but where they remain they are locally species rich and are important for their plant communities and birds such as snipe, lapwing and curlew.

Woodland mainly occurs in the north of the area as small blocks of mixed or coniferous plantations, often acting as shelterbelts. Isolated sycamore and hawthorn are characteristic of the landscape, being particularly successful in withstanding the harsh maritime salt laden winds. Ancient semi-natural woodland of ash, alder and oak, together with sycamore, tends to be concentrated along the more sheltered valleys and is particularly important for lichens and bryophytes.

Past and present mining and quarrying have greatly influenced the landscape. Although open cast mines have now been restored to agricultural land, relics such as mineral railways and tips are common. Much of the restored land is characterised by large, rectangular, sheep-grazed fields bounded by immature hawthorn hedges. Abandoned limestone quarries now support areas of species-rich calcareous grassland.

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Cumbria Landscape Classification



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Lowland



Sub-type 5a - Ridge and Valley

General Description

An open landscape between 50-130m OD with regular, medium to large pasture and occasionally arable fields characterised by topography which rises gently to high wide ridges with long views or falls to small, narrow valleys. Field patterns tend to be oblong with straight boundaries enclosed by hedges or fences. Land cover is dominated by pasture with both native broadleaved and planted woodlands and some unimproved land. Features include high hedges, woodland and tree clumps. Roads are generally straight, but wind through valleys where they are flanked by high hedges or banks. There are scattered farm buildings and villages which are often linear in form along ridge tops. Most parts are well-managed and bland with some areas converted to forestry or with valley woodland. Other areas have been affected by urban elements such as pylons. There are attractive views over the Solway Firth.

Location and Extent

Allerdale, Copeland and Carlisle. This sub-type occupies 314 square kilometres (6.8% of the study area).

Subjective Impression

These are medium scale landscapes generally enclosed or more open depending on the proximity of woodland or limiting topography. Generally well managed, balanced, bland and unspectacular with few unusual features. Some parts are interesting or pleasant but there are a number of detractors.

Associations

Ecology

The ecological interest of this type relates to the diversity of its vegetation cover and the incidence of remnant semi-natural woodland.

Ancient semi-natural woodlands

Gill woodland near Lowca.
Schoose near Workington.
Woods at Stainburn and Seaton on the banks of the River Derwent.
Camerton Woods.
Flimby Woods.
Woods at Dovenby.
Woods above River Ellen near Maryport.

History

A tentative division of the County into discrete areas with common historic and cultural associations is described in the appendix on page 66. The associations of this type are those of the Solway Lowlands and West Cumbria (B1, B2) and Inglewood Forest (C2).

Vulnerability to Change

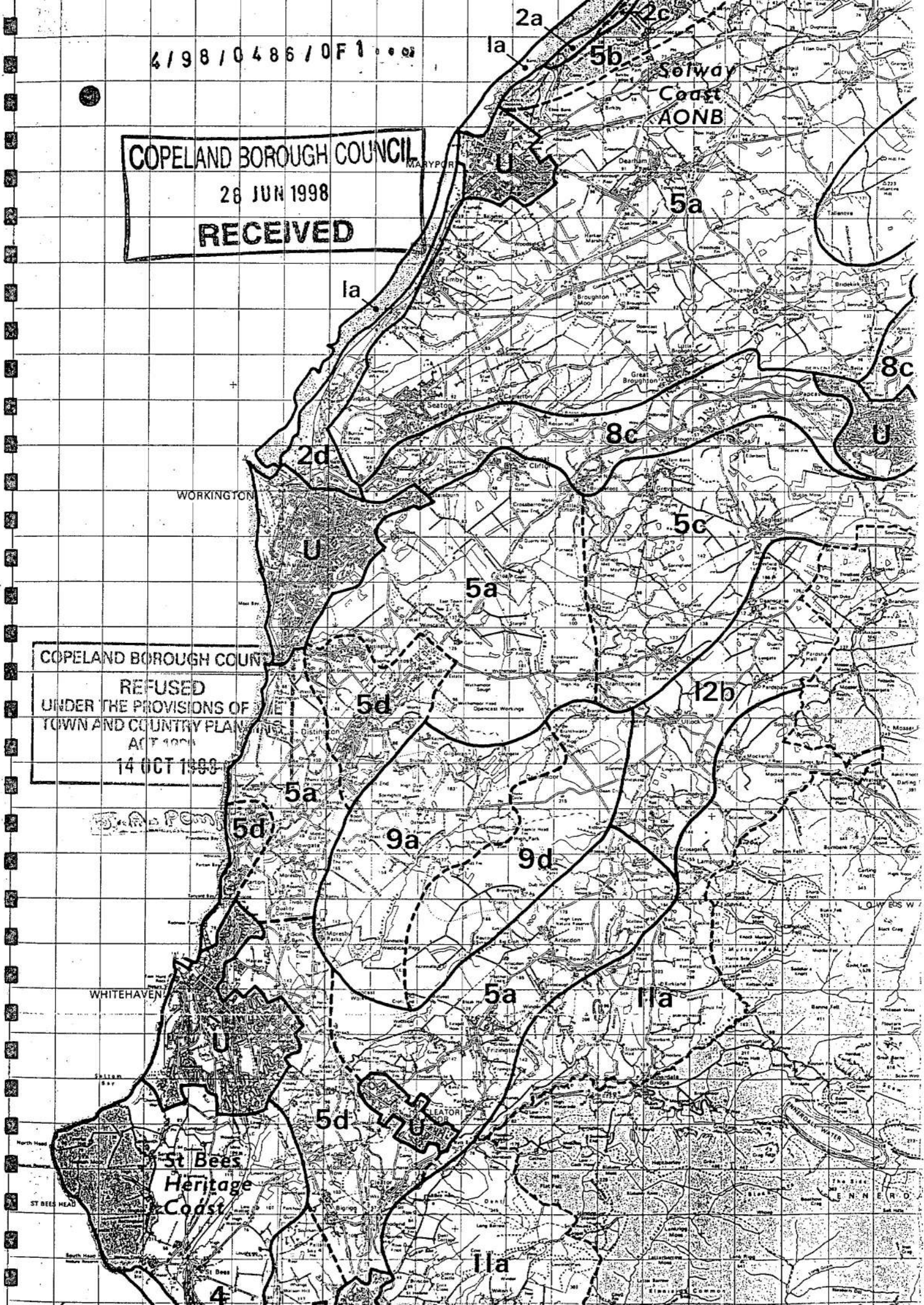
The main changes to this sub-type stem from both agricultural change and development. Symptoms of agricultural change including neglected farmland, new uses, unmanaged woodland, neglect of hedges and walls, field enlargement and replacement of hedges by fences are having a minor effect on the character of the landscape. Developments like roads, wind turbines, masts and pylons are having a more obvious impact. Some areas are currently affected by opencast coal mining and there are further reserves of coal capable of exploitation. Restoration of opencast sites provides an opportunity to develop new landscape features such as woodlands or wetland areas.

These landscapes could be sensitive to open ridge line development or major changes in agriculture.

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St Bees Ferry

St Bees
Heritage
Coast

4

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wind energy development

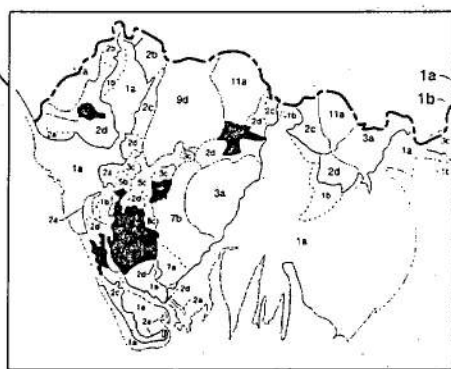
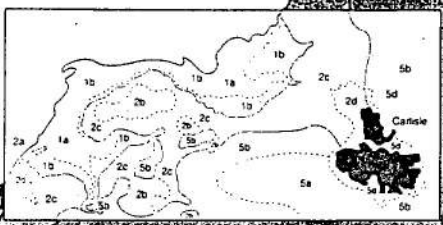
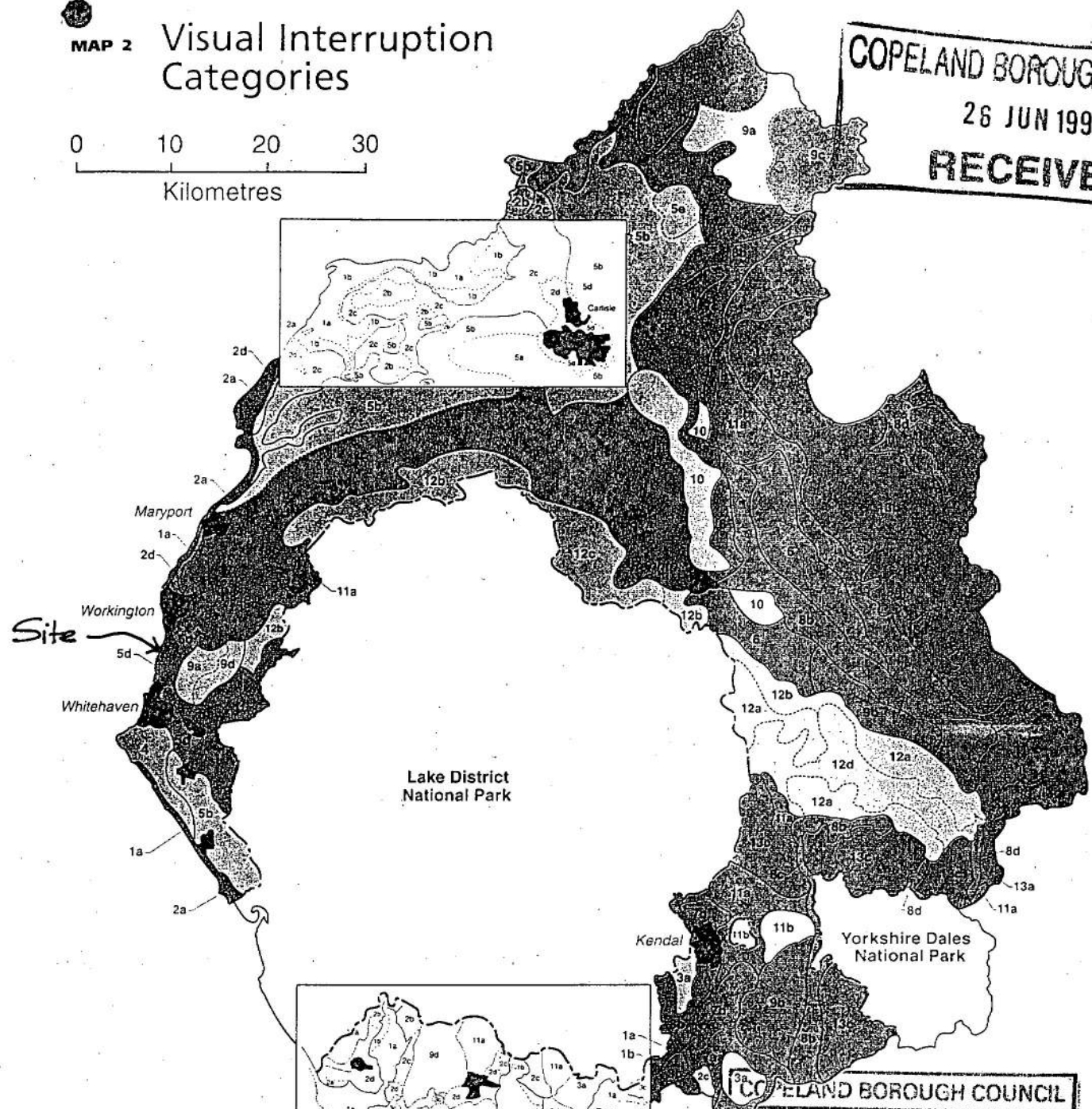
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statement
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planning guidance

MAP 2 Visual Interruption Categories



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THE CLASSIFICATION
Landscape Type
Sub Type

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <p>1 Estuary and Marsh
1a Intertidal Flats
1b Coastal Marsh</p> <p>2 Coastal Margins
2a Dunes and Beaches
2b Coastal Mosses
2c Coastal Plain
2d Coastal Urban Fringe</p> <p>3 Coastal Limestone
3a Open Farmland and Pavements
3b Wooded Hills and Pavements
3c Disturbed Areas</p> | <p>4 Coastal Sandstone</p> <p>5 Lowland
5a Ridge and Valley *
5b Low Farmland
5c Rolling Lowland
5d Urban Fringe
5e Drained Mosses</p> <p>6 Intermediate Land
7 Drumlins
7a Low Drumlins
7b Drumlin Field
7c Sandy Knolls and Ridges</p> | <p>8 Main valleys
8a Gorges
8b Broad Valleys
8c Valley Corridors
8d Dales</p> <p>9 Intermediate Moorland and Plateau
9a Open Moorlands
9b Rolling Farmland and Heath
9c Forests
9d Ridges</p> | <p>10 Sandstone Ridge
11 Upland Fringes
11a Foothills
11b Low Fells</p> <p>12 Higher Limestone
12a Limestone Farmland
12b Rolling Fringe
12c Limestone Foothills
12d Moorland and Common</p> <p>13 Fells and Scarps
13a Scarps
13b Moorland High Plateau
13c Fells</p> |
|--|--|---|--|

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FIGURE 6 - WIND ENERGY GUIDANCE AREAS - BY LANDSCAPE CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	GUIDANCE AREA	LANDSCAPE CLASS	MAIN DISTRIBUTIONS
National Parks	G1 National Parks		Lake District & Yorkshire Dales
Exposed	G2 Fells and Scarps	13a, 13b, 13c	Pennines & SE Cumbria Fells
	G3 Estuaries and Beaches	1a, 1b, 2a	Solway, Duddon, Morecambe Bay, Allonby, Drigg, Walney
	Open	G4 Moorland, Ridges and Low Fells	9a, 9d, 10, 11b
12a, 12b, 12c, 12d			Eden Limestones & N.Lakes Fringes
G5 Coastal Pavements and Sandstones		3a 4	South Cumbria Limestones St Bees Sandstones
Rolling	G6 Lowland Coast and Plain	2b, 2c, 5b, 5e	Coastal Plain, Eden & Solway Plain
	G7 Upland Foothills	11a	Pennine Foothills, Southern & Western Lake District Fringes
	G8 Wooded Hills and Pavements	3b	Arnside/Silverdale AONB
	G9 Drumlins, low-ridges	7a, 7b, 7c, 9b	South Westmorland, South Furness, Talkin Tarn, Hoff Beck
	G10 Lowland	5a, 5b, 5c, 6	Central Allerdale, West Cumbria; Heads Nook, Kirkambeck, Inglewood, Vale of Eden
Forested	G11 Main Valleys	8a, 8b, 8c, 8d	Border Esk, Irthing, Eden, South Tyne, Lune, Kent, Derwent
	G12 Moorland	9c	Kershope, Spadeadam
	Urbanised	G14 Urban Fringe	2d, 3c, 5d
G15 Urban			Main towns

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[Note: Landscape Classifications are taken from Ref. 1]

FIGURE 5 - CATEGORIES OF LANDSCAPE RELEVANT TO WIND ENERGY GUIDANCE

EXPOSED LANDSCAPES

Landscapes having very few if any non-topographical vertical features, and generally offering extensive flat or gently undulating and distant horizons.

OPEN LANDSCAPES

Landscapes having a generally low incidence of visual interruption, but containing some features such as buildings. They contain strong horizons vulnerable to intrusion (eg ridges, coast).

ROLLING LANDSCAPES

This grouping comprises largely rolling farmland significantly interrupted by hedges and blocks of woodland, walls and buildings, or sheltered valleys with woodlands and limited views. Vertical features such as trees, silo towers, pylons, spires, masts, buildings and local relief occur at varying densities. The areas are characterised by multiple horizons and the presence of intermediate ridges.

FORESTED LANDSCAPES

These are an extreme form of enclosed landscape, in which the scene is dominated by Verticals, and in which vistas are limited in extent and usually short. This is probably the most Visually interrupted landscape grouping.

URBANISED LANDSCAPES

Urban fringe and urban areas provide another special kind of enclosed landscape, again with vertical and linear features predominant.

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FIG 7 - RANGE OF POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT TYPE BY GUIDANCE AREA

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GUIDANCE STATEMENTS	COMPRESSED GUIDANCE (CONCLUSIONS)	SIZE - RANGE
G12	Up to windfarm	domestic - windfarm
G10	Exceptionally up to large cluster	domestic - large cluster
G14	Urban Fringe, perhaps up to large cluster	domestic - large cluster
G6	In extensive areas; up to large cluster	domestic - large cluster
	More contained areas; up to small cluster	domestic - small cluster
	Rest perhaps domestic	domestic
G7	Up to small cluster where containing topography	domestic - small cluster
G9		
G15	Urban, perhaps up to small cluster	domestic - small cluster
G4	Up to small cluster in parts	domestic - small cluster
	Rest, perhaps domestic	domestic
G1	Perhaps domestic	domestic
G2		
G5		
G8		
G11		
G3	Any development likely to be significantly adverse	

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4.15 Because of the height of conventional wind turbines, it will rarely be the case that any given proposal will only affect a single landscape type. Assessments should identify the likely impact on all landscape types significantly affected, and the Guidance applicable to neighbouring areas should be considered by developers, and will be taken into account by the Local Planning Authorities in assessing proposals.

4.16 In particular, for statutory protected areas (ie those 'areas and features of international or national conservation importance' defined in the footnote to Structure Plan Policy 2 (Fig 8) the consequences of any wind energy development which affects such an area or feature should be explicitly considered in applications and Environmental Statements.