

# **CUMBRIA LANDSCAPE STRATEGY**

A Vision for Cumbria's Future Landscapes  
With Guidelines for Managing Change

*A partnership document  
Prepared by Cumbria County Council  
Economy and Environment Department*



The Landscape Team of Construction Services, Kendal, has assisted preparation of the Guidance.

## FOREWORD

I find most people agree that we have in Cumbria some of the finest landscapes in the country. I find much less agreement, however, about how these landscapes should be managed for the future. I frequently hear people expressing great concern at changes to a particularly valued landscape, and others who express frustration at what they see as undue restrictions on projects, many of which are designed to satisfy our everyday needs such as for housing, food or employment.

I believe we have to go forward on the basis that the landscape will change. It has changed over the centuries and I see no reason why the future should be different. The challenge for all of us is to agree a vision on where that change should take us and how the change will be managed. I hope the publication of this Strategy will take this important debate forward in Cumbria. I welcome the vision it presents of a living, working landscape, not one frozen in time. The action programme and the guidelines attempt to present a balanced way forward accepting the pressures for change arising from our economic and social aims, but equally recognising that the ecological, visual, historic and cultural elements which make up the landscape are in themselves valued.

In particular, I welcome the attention the Strategy gives to all the landscapes in the County, not just the nationally designated ones. It is the 'everyday' landscapes that are important to most people. I would like to think that in future years we would see much more attention to what the Strategy terms the 'urban fringe' and 'vulnerable landscapes'.

This Strategy has been prepared in consultation with a number of bodies, but in line with the County Council's approach to Local Agenda 21, an even wider range of organisations and individuals have made comments and will hopefully, become involved in the implementation. I hope to see this Strategy taken forward in a partnership that involves as many interests in the County as possible.

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 *The Cumbrian Landscape*

Cumbria has landscapes of great contrast and diversity. They range from the unique 'scenic' landscapes of the lakes as splendid as any in Britain, to gentle lowlands or coastal marshes that would not seem out of place in East Anglia. In between these extremes there are a great variety of landscapes, many of which have distinct character. The underlying geology has had a profound influence on the character of Cumbria's scenery in general and the Lake District fells in particular. A diverse geological framework has been modified, first by glaciation, then over the last 6000 years or so by man, to produce the scenery and landscape we enjoy today. This is more fully described in the Background Paper.<sup>1</sup> The Countryside Commission's Countryside Character Initiative has viewed the County's landscapes from a regional perspective. The 'Joint Character Map' published in 1996 with English Nature divides the County into 12 broad 'character areas' (Figure 1) and also shows 'natural areas' which are used by English Nature to form a background for nature conservation policies. The exercise has contributed to a greater understanding of the characteristics that make a landscape distinctive, including the processes of landscape change and ways of managing it. The Joint Character Map therefore provides a useful context into which landscape designations and work on assessing landscape character at a more local level can fit. The principal designated landscapes in Cumbria are the two National Parks, the Lake District and a small part of the Yorkshire Dales. In addition to the National Parks, a number of other landscapes have been acknowledged nationally to be landscapes of the highest quality. Three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) have been defined: the Solway Coast, Arnside/Silverdale (partly in Lancashire) and the North Pennines (partly in Northumberland and Durham). A short length of Heritage Coast has been designated at St Bees Head. Other areas of landscape considered to be of countywide importance (termed County Landscapes) have been defined in the Joint Structure Plan.

## 1.2 *The Cumbria Landscape Classification*

The Cumbria Landscape Classification<sup>2</sup> prepared by Cumbria County Council in 1995 recognises thirteen main landscape types in the County (outside the National Parks) with a discrete and consistent character. Ten of these types have been further subdivided resulting in a classification of thirty-seven types of landscape altogether. The main types are described in brief below and shown on the map in Figure 2, which also shows designated landscapes. The methodology of the assessment was based on guidelines published by the Countryside Commission. The Cumbria Landscape Classification is thus the essential document underpinning the Strategy. More detailed information on the relation between the Joint Character map and the Cumbria Landscape Strategy are also discussed in the Background Paper<sup>1</sup>.

## 1.3 *Scope of the Strategy*

This Strategy is not about preserving countryside 'in aspic' or turning the clock back, rather, it is about managing changes to satisfy economic and other aspirations in a manner, which leaves distinctive and high quality landscapes for the benefit of future generations. In the first two sections, the Strategy presents a broad vision and general aims for the future of Cumbria's landscape followed by a number of priority actions for both local authorities and other partners to address at the strategic level. Then, based on a 10-50 year vision, landscape guidance is given for each of the landscape types and sub-types defined in the Cumbria Landscape Classification intended to assist planners and land managers in responding positively to change.

The Strategy covers the County of Cumbria outside the National Parks. The small portion of the Yorkshire Dales National Park within Cumbria is however included in the guidelines.

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<sup>1</sup> [Cumbria Landscape Strategy Background Paper: Cumbria County Council, Updated, July 1998.](#)

[1: Cumbria's Landscape - Evolution](#)

[2: Research into Landscape Change](#)

[3: Cumbria's Landscape: Planning Context and Initiatives](#)

[4: Approaches to Landscape Classification and Assessment](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Cumbria Landscape Classification : Cumbria County Council, November 1995.](#)

## The Cumbria Landscape Classification

### **Coastal Landscapes**

The coastal scenery of Cumbria tends to be soft and low lying not as spectacular as, say Northumbria with its high cliffs and grand beaches.

#### *Estuary and Marsh (Type 1)*

Dynamic maritime landscapes lying at the interface of land and sea. Including inter-tidal muds and sand flats of estuaries such as the Solway and coastal marshes subject to tidal inundation.

#### *Coastal Margins (Type 2)*

Drier coastal land above the tidal levels including the dunes and raised beaches as at Haverigg and south of Silloth and coastal moorlands and plains dominated by improved farmland. There are also stretches of partly urbanised coastline such as in the Barrow area.

#### *Coastal Limestone (Type 3)*

Limestone areas occurring close to the coast including open, rolling hills in the Furness and Grange areas and the mosaic of low, rolling wooded hills and moorlands in the Arnsdale/Silverdale AONB. A small area of former mine workings overlaying limestone near to Barrow is also included.

#### *Coastal Sandstone (Type 4)*

The sandstone cliffs and coastal scenery at St Bees Head and the lower rural coastline extending southwards to Sellafeld.

### **Lowland and Intermediate Landscapes**

The lowland and intermediate landscape types form the general working countryside of Cumbria which is intensively farmed. This is mostly pleasant but ordinary in character and widespread across the County.

#### *Lowland (Type 5)*

These are generally low, intensively farmed landscapes with varying topography and amounts of woodland cover. They are mostly found to the north and west of the County and include the urban fringes of Carlisle and parts of West Cumbria.

#### *Intermediate Land (Type 6)*

Intermediate between the above type and the more rolling upland types. Topography undulating and sometimes intersected by deep wooded valleys.

#### *Drumlins (Type 7)*

Lowland landscapes characterised by patterns of low or rolling drumlins, knolls, ridges and other glacial features.

#### *Main Valleys (Type 8)*

Valley features associated with Cumbria's main rivers including the Eden, Lune, Derwent and Kent. Varying from deep gorges to broad wooded valleys or distinctive limestone dales. Valley corridors are lowland valleys followed by major transport routes or which pass through urban fringe countryside.

### **Upland Fringe and Uplands**

The upland fringe landscapes comprise a transitional zone between the farmed lowlands and the uplands/ high fells which are important settings for the National Parks and in defining the character of the North Pennines AONB.

#### *Intermediate Moorland and Plateau (Type 9)*

High, mostly open, unenclosed landscapes varying from rolling country to high ridges. Land cover varying from improved or semi-improved farmland to extensive afforestation (Kershope-Spadeadam).

#### *Sandstone Ridge (Type 10)*

A distinctive, mainly afforested ridge running northwards from Penrith to Carlisle and forming an important skyline view from the M6 and main railway line.

#### *Upland Fringes (Type 11)*

Transitional areas adjacent to the Lake District National Park and North Pennines AONB boundaries. Consists of rolling, hilly or plateau farmland and moorland and the distinctive low fells to the east of Kendal.

#### *Higher Limestone (Type 12)*

Higher land where limestone is a strong influence on character typically around Shap, Orton and Asby. Includes farmland with distinctive patterns of drystone walls; scattered buildings and stone built villages in the valleys; remnant heath and limestone pavement on the higher moorlands and commons.

#### *Fells and Scarps (Type 13)*

The upland parts of East Cumbria including the North Pennines and Howgills. Includes the main western scarp and the extensive moorlands, high fells and summits of the Pennines; the more rounded, softer fells of the Howgills and the distinctive Whinfell ridge.

(Note that the high Lakeland Fells are excluded from the classification).



## 1.4 *The National Parks in Cumbria*

National Park designation confers the highest status of protection as far as landscape and scenic beauty are concerned. The recently revised<sup>3</sup> purposes of National Parks are:

- i) To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Parks; and
- ii) To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of their special qualities by the public.

Thus in relation to landscape quality National Park Authorities are expected to conserve the individual character of the areas for which they are responsible. In promoting the understanding and enjoyment of these special qualities, emphasis is to be placed on identifying qualities associated with their wide open spaces and the wildness and tranquillity which is found within them. National Park Authorities are required to produce a National Park Management Plan. These plans include detailed coverage of the matters that are subject of this Strategy. In the case of the Lake District, the National Park Management Plan will also incorporate a summary of the Section 3 Conservation Map. This is a requirement of the Wildlife and Countryside (Amendment) Act 1985. It identifies areas of mountain, moor, heath, woodlands and coastal features, the natural beauty of which, in the opinion of the Authority, is particularly important to conserve. The management plan also explains how the National Park Authority will be working with its partners to make effective use of the detailed information it has available on landscape change. Information about the landscape, wildlife, cultural heritage is being integrated and analysed in a flexible way using Geographic Information Systems. As strategic planning authorities, the Lake District National Park and the County Council co-operate to produce the Cumbria Joint Structure Plan. The three parishes within the Yorkshire Dales National Park are however to be included within North Yorkshire's Joint Structure Plan. The National Park Authorities are also responsible for preparing local plans for their areas.

## 1.5 *The Changing Landscape*

The ability of man to exploit natural resources for his own needs has increased enormously in the second half of the 20th century, and this has led to great changes in the character and appearance of Britain's countryside. Many of the changes are the direct and indirect result of government policies, particularly agricultural policy which has until recently been directed at maximising food production, sometimes to the detriment of the wider environment. In addition, the expansion of urban development and the road network, although clearly necessary for economic progress, also has the effect of changing the countryside. Although Cumbria's relative remoteness may have insulated it to some extent, its landscape reflects many of the changes that have taken place or are still taking place within the countryside nationally. The types of changes vary widely, as do the rate at which they currently operate. Many, apparently minor, individual changes can become cumulative and thus perhaps more far reaching.

Two broad types of forces appear to be most influential in leading to landscape change. These are developmental changes, arising from construction projects of all kinds, and changes in land management of which by far the most significant are related to agriculture. These are more fully developed in the Working Paper<sup>4</sup> which also summarises good management practice.

## 1.6 *Development and Landscape*

Although Cumbria is still predominantly rural, development pressures occur typically near to the main towns and communication routes. Since 1981, about 24,000 houses have been built and over 300 hectares of land has been developed for commercial uses. The vast majority of development has taken in the countryside near to existing settlements, on land perhaps highly valued by local residents. Land for a further 27,500 housing units outside the National Parks has been allocated in the Structure Plan to 2006, while no provision is made for housing within the Parks where it is seen as providing only for local needs within the major settlements. Current Government national targets require that in the future an average of 60% of development shall be on 'brownfield' or previously developed land as opposed to 'greenfield' sites. It is expected however that Cumbria's target will need to be lower reflecting the relative scarcity of 'brownfield' land that can be developed. It thus seems unlikely that the new target will significantly change the amount of rural land in Cumbria lost to development. While such figures represent a relatively small percentage of rural land, it is

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<sup>3</sup> Environment Act 1995, Part III, Circular 12/96, DoE, 11 September 1996.

<sup>4</sup> Cumbria Landscape Strategy Working Paper: The Main Forces of Change in the Cumbrian Countryside, Cumbria County Council, Economy and Environment, Planning Division, 1997.

important that development does not take place in a way which erodes the quality of Cumbria's countryside which people enjoy and which is, of itself, an important asset in marketing Cumbria as a high quality location for business. Development itself is not harmful if it is carefully designed, preserves amenity and is well integrated into the landscape.

The increased need to support investment in new businesses and wealth creation in the County presents not only new challenges but also opportunities for creating innovative landscape solutions. Taking advantage of such opportunities will be an important task in implementing the Strategy. The need to diversify the economy, create and retain jobs in rural areas is an important aim of Cumbria's economic and rural policies. A wide range of small scale commercial, service and manufacturing activities may be accommodated to meet the needs of those who live and work in the countryside and satisfy the demands for recreation. This presents opportunities for innovative design solutions to ensure that such development is sympathetic and appropriate in scale to the environment. For example, the sensitive adaptation of existing farm and other rural buildings for employment generating purposes can not only help in regenerating the rural economy but at the same time can often improve the appearance of rundown areas. As well as development sites, an adequate infrastructure is vital to communities and businesses. This includes strategic road networks linking Cumbria's towns, powerlines and telecommunications. Road improvements and associated works have impacts on rural landscapes, so too can pylons, masts and wind turbines. While Government policies have greatly reduced the number of new road schemes in recent years, it is expected that the pressure for major or minor changes to the system to improve traffic flow and reduce impact of traffic on communities will continue. The challenge is to ensure that the infrastructure is both provided where it is needed and done in a manner which minimises the effects on the quality of the landscape.

The minerals and waste industries contribute considerably to the economic well being of the County. Although there are a few recent sites for minerals extraction (e.g. opencast coal), the County has a large legacy of old sites, often located in sensitive landscapes, which were established many years ago when environmental standards were less rigorous than they are today. Such sites can be unsightly and visible from a wide area. The operation, restoration and aftercare of mineral sites granted planning permission between 1948 and 1982 is now subject to a review process under the Environment Act 1995.

Derelict land generally has a negative impact on its surroundings reducing overall landscape quality especially in the countryside around towns. In some parts of the County, the presence of dereliction has seriously affected the image of the area and its ability to attract new business. In spite of a vigorous reclamation programme over the years, due mainly to recent closures of military establishments, the amount of derelict land is actually rising. It is thus a continuing problem.

## **1.7 Farming and Landscape**

The largely pastoral character of the Cumbrian landscape reflects the fact that livestock farming largely dominates its agriculture. Marked differences between farming in the upland and lowland sectors also have a strong impact on the type of farming practised and therefore its effect on landscape. Farming in Cumbria is a vital industry but unlike the business world as a whole, much of it operates on very narrow margins of profitability hence the reliance on subsidy and price support through the Government and the EU. Most of the upland areas are classified as Less Favoured Areas (LFA) and are eligible for special subsidies to overcome the disadvantages of climate, soils and remoteness. Future reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) may affect this picture. Many changes in the countryside can be attributed to the introduction of more intensive systems of farming i.e. changes in practice brought about directly or indirectly by technology, market factors or the need to comply with new, usually more stringent, regulations.

### Farm Buildings

Traditional farm buildings are often important features in the landscape and their loss through reuse or change of character is an issue in landscape terms. While re-use can present economic opportunities in terms of farm diversification and employment generation, conversions need to be sympathetically designed so that the character of such buildings and their setting is not lost. In some cases it may be preferable to allow a building to become derelict rather than accepting a damaging conversion. In contrast, most modern farm buildings with large single roof spans and other structures such as silos and silage clamps, while clearly essential to farming, can have an adverse impact. Some farms have in recent years taken on an industrial appearance. The greater control which local authorities now have over the siting, design and external appearance of agricultural buildings should enable many of these problems to be managed. It is important that agriculture adjusts to modern conditions by introducing new structures, which, while meeting technical requirements, are

appropriate in scale design or location and respect landscape character.

### Field Boundaries

The enclosure of fields by a variety of boundary types is a traditional feature of the English landscape. Hedgerows and drystone walls are the most important types and their overall decline is often quoted as an example of the impact of agricultural changes on the countryside. In general most drystone walls are associated with upland landscapes or those where stone has been readily available; while hedges are mostly found in the lowlands. By the 1970s, Cumbria had lost approximately a quarter of the hedgerows existing in the 1940s. Those that remain are generally important for retaining stock and are thus managed; however this is often inadequate to ensure long term retention. Traditional methods of laying are rarely practised. Management is frequently confined to regular topping and trimming so that eventually the hedges become “gappy” or begin to die out altogether. Gaps in hedges are sometimes replanted, but more often post and wire fencing is used. Permanent removal of hedges e.g. to amalgamate fields also occurs. This cycle of decline has important implications for the countryside. Hedges form important habitats for wildlife, providing a refuge for woodland plants and animals which otherwise would not survive. Linked systems of hedges form “wildlife corridors” as well as providing visual interest and variety in the landscape.

Drystone walls are important traditional features of upland and dales landscapes and limestone areas in the south of the county and in as far as they support a variety of wildlife from reptiles to mosses, ferns and lichens, they are also important for nature conservation. They are in decline from neglect and deliberate removal, for example to amalgamate fields. Locally important as a field boundary type is the “kest” or hedgebank. These sturdy hedgerows built on to a stone/turf bank, probably date from medieval times. While they are common along the West Cumbrian coast and in the north, many are in a poor state of repair and overall the feature is in serious decline.

### Trees and Woodland

The presence of woodland and trees in the landscape has a profound effect on the way the landscape is perceived and appreciated. While only about 7.5% of the County is wooded, the woodlands are extremely diverse and rich in wildlife reflecting differences in soils, geology and climate, with a mixture of fragmentary ancient woodland, former coppice and a scattered patchwork of plantations, mostly of conifer species. In the north of the County there are more extensive areas of planted coniferous forest. Small copses and hedgerow trees are characteristic of many lowland landscapes (e.g. around Carlisle) as well as some of the upland fringes. Woodlands on limestone in the south and east often coincide with limestone pavements. Similarly many valleys, such as the Derwent and the Irthing, derive their character from impressive “hanging” woodland, while wet woodlands can occur on the upland fringes and associated with areas of mire and wetland.

Changes in Cumbria’s woodlands have been dramatic. Extensive natural forests once clothed most of the lower parts of the County but from prehistoric times these primeval forests were cleared for farming. While this was extensive, some pockets survived, typically as coppiced woodlands on the poorer agricultural land and in the valleys. From the late 19<sup>th</sup> century many large and smaller scale plantations were established typically in the Lake District, along the Borders, and in the Eden valley. While the remnant ancient woods are highly valued in landscape and wildlife terms, many are neglected, heavily grazed by stock or under managed and while efforts are being made to encourage woods back into management, this is still a problem. Apart from this, the general picture of woodland is one of stability with very few losses. With the current Government target to double, or significantly increase woodland cover in the next 50 years, woodlands in Cumbria may at last see a steady increase. This is being addressed by the preparation of a Cumbria Woodland Strategy.

In parallel with changes in field boundaries, there has been a steady decline in other tree cover in particular in the arable and more intensively managed livestock areas. Many hedgerow trees are rapidly becoming over-mature and will eventually require felling. It is important that when this takes place, there are younger trees growing up and able to replace aged specimens. Individual trees in parkland or open fields are also of great importance typically in the Eden Valley, Kent Valley and along the Borders. As maintaining trees and woodland is a costly and often uneconomic exercise, assistance is normally required in the form of grant aid.

### Meadows, Heath, Limestone Pavement and Wetland

The profusion of wildflowers in a traditional hay meadow was once a common feature of our countryside. This is no longer the case. The need to increase the productivity as well as technological changes has led to

the dominance of systems based on permanent pasture or grass leys with only a few species of grass. These are normally grazed or managed intensively for silage rather than hay. The result is a greener but more sterile countryside of more limited visual or ecological interest. Hay meadows, which are traditionally managed, and that support flower-rich grasslands are extremely rare in the County but can still be found, especially in the Dales and around the Orton Fells. Unimproved limestone pastures have also suffered from agricultural improvement but good example can still be found on the limestones around Morecambe bay and on the Orton Fells. Important areas of limestone pavement can also be found in these areas. This habitat has suffered great losses in the past, principally through quarrying and its sale for garden rockery stone. The County supports a range of other grasslands including areas of wet grassland and flush. Heather dominated moorland is another feature once common in the upland areas of the County in particular the high Pennines and the Lake District where the upper limits of the habitat give way to montane heath found nowhere else in England. Decline has largely been due to high grazing pressure from stock. The wettest areas of the uplands, particularly on the Pennines, support vast area of blanket bog which are of value for both plants and breeding birds. Over stocking with sheep and poor moorland management is a threat to this habitat. Lowland heath such as is found in the Eden Valley is also vulnerable to agricultural reclamation. Lowland raised mires found around the Solway and Morecambe Bay are threatened by agricultural improvement and peat extraction, while basin mires suffer from enrichment from highly fertilised agricultural land nearby. Agricultural run-off can also affect rivers and areas of open water, of which Cumbria has some of the finest in Britain. Some of these concerns will be addressed by the current work on preparing biodiversity action plans.

### Coastal Landscapes

The Cumbrian coast is a major feature of landscape and nature conservation importance with Morecambe Bay, the Duddon Estuary, and the Solway Firth supporting habitats and species of national and international importance. Coastal habitats are highly vulnerable to 'coastal squeeze' i.e. by development, agricultural reclamation and hard coastal defences on the landward side and sea level rise threatening on the other.

### Vulnerable Landscape

The different landscapes in the County vary in their ability to change and adapt while maintaining their beauty or essential qualities. The loss of a given number of features in one landscape may have a greater or lesser effect on another and some landscapes can withstand more developmental change than others. This is termed its sensitivity to change. Landscapes are considered vulnerable if further change in their features or components is likely to lead to loss or serious damage to their intrinsic character. The results of studies by the County Council are included in the Background Paper<sup>1</sup>.

## **1.8 Policy Context and Initiatives**

The policies and initiatives of a wide range of organisations at regional, national and European levels influence the Cumbrian landscape and therefore the Strategy. Some of the most important policies and initiatives of recent years are:

- The Common Agricultural Policy
- EU Structural Funds and Agri-Environment Schemes
- The Rural White Paper and update<sup>5</sup>
- Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPG) 7<sup>6</sup> and 9<sup>7</sup>
- UK Strategy on Sustainable Development<sup>8</sup>
- Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas (Natura 2000)<sup>9</sup>
- Joint Character map (See above)

At the European level the most significant measure affecting landscape is the Common Agricultural Policy

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<sup>5</sup> [Rural England- A Nation Committed to a Living Countryside, \("Rural White Paper"\) DOE and MAFF, 1995. Updated in Rural England 1996.](#)

<sup>6</sup> [The Countryside-Environmental Quality and Economic and Social Development, Planning Policy Guidance \(PPG\) Note 7, DOE, February 1997.](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Nature Conservation, Planning Policy Guidance \(PPG\) Note 9, DOE, October 1994.](#)

<sup>8</sup> [Sustainable Development The UK Strategy , Cm 2426, HMSO January 1994.](#)

<sup>9</sup> [Natura 2000: European Wildlife Sites in England, English Nature, 1994.](#)

(CAP). The CAP is recognised as the principal mechanism of public policy towards agriculture and while it may have provided many benefits, its success has created overproduction that has led to surpluses as well as prompting vast changes in the landscape. Thus Government considers that the safeguarding and enhancing of the rural environment should be at the heart of CAP reforms with policy measures geared towards environmental objectives.

While agricultural support policies of MAFF have historically had a major impact on the landscape, the position is now radically different. A number of agri-environment schemes supported by EU structural funds of which the main one is the *Environmentally Sensitive Areas* scheme (ESA), have been introduced, including in Cumbria the Lake District and Pennines Dales. The Environmental Guidelines for the ESA Schemes are designed to integrate landscape, wildlife, cultural and farming issues within the scheme. As such they are broadly compatible with the Strategy and its Guidelines. MAFF through its Executive Agency, FRCA, now also runs the Countryside Stewardship scheme piloted since 1991 by the Countryside Commission. This scheme offers payments to farmers or other land managers for changes in management practice that will conserve landscape, wildlife, improve access to the countryside and increase people's enjoyment of it.

UK Government policy and advice on development in the countryside is contained in the Rural White Paper and PPG 7. The Rural White Paper produced by the previous Government shows strong support for a better quality of development in the countryside. It endorses the principle that new development should contribute to a sense of local identity and regional diversity. It stresses that rural tourism needs to develop in a way which draws on the character of the countryside and does not destroy the very asset on which its popularity depends. In planning terms this means striking a balance between visitor needs, the local environment and the quality of life of the local community. PPG 7 similarly reflects the principles for the future of the countryside contained in the Rural White Paper. These include the pursuit of sustainable development, shared responsibility for the countryside as a national asset and maintaining rural character and distinctiveness. Sustainable development integrates the Government's objectives of meeting the economic and social needs of people who live and work in rural areas while maintaining and enhancing the character of the countryside and conserving the quality of its landscapes and other natural resources. Thus planning policies should reflect these broad principles and the countryside should be safeguarded for its own sake and non-renewable and natural resources should be afforded protection. The priority is finding new ways of enriching the quality of the whole countryside whilst accommodating appropriate development. This strong design ethos is now also reflected in other revised PPG's.

The UK Strategy on Sustainable Development stresses the importance of combining economic growth with care for the environment in order to achieve sustainable development. This is particularly applicable to minerals development. Thus while the economic importance of mineral working is recognised, working can have adverse environmental impacts and can be particularly intrusive in the most beautiful and unspoilt landscapes. Thus a more sustainable approach is advocated. The Government has also published a White paper setting out a strategy for sustainable waste management in England and Wales.

The recognition of wildlife areas as of European significance for nature conservation under the European Birds and Habitats Directives has also proved highly influential. A number of Special Protection Areas under the Birds Directive have been designated in Cumbria while there is a lengthening list of 'candidate' Special Areas of Conservation under the Habitats Directive ranging from intertidal habitats such as Morecambe Bay and the Solway to upland oakwoods, limestone pavements and moorlands. Advice on how these should be protected in the planning system is contained in PPG9.

At the County level, there is a range of Statutory and non-statutory Plans developed by the County and District Councils to respond to the needs of Cumbria. These include Structure and Local Plans; National Park Plans; AONB Management Plans; Coastal Zone Management Plans; Rural Development and Economic Strategies that respond to various rural development, conservation and management issues. The Landscape Strategy is intended to sit alongside these as a non-statutory plan to be implemented by the County Council with its partners. It is intended that it will feed into the District Local Plans and will assist in individual planning decisions at the local and strategic levels.

The local authorities in Cumbria have formed a number of other partnerships to implement countryside management at the local level. These include Arnside/Silverdale Countryside Management Service, East Cumbria Countryside Project and Solway Rural Initiative. Groundwork West Cumbria is another partnership improving the environment of West Cumbria whose funding base includes central and local government, the national Groundwork Trust and business. The County Council is also involved in initiatives to prepare a local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and a Cumbria Woodland Strategy. The final ingredient is the wide range of private and voluntary interests that either have a direct interest in managing land or who seek a voice in policy

making. These include the Country Landowners Association, National Farmers Union, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Friends of the Lake District (representing CPRE) and others.

This summary can only set a brief context for the Strategy. It shows that the extent of interest and coverage of policies that impact on landscape is very wide. Further information on individual policies and initiatives is contained in the Background Paper. Although there is national policy and advice on these issues, there is at present no local co-ordinating mechanism for bringing initiatives and plans together in one overall strategy, no vision on which all can be based. This document aims to provide that Vision for Cumbria.

## 1. 2. THE STRATEGY

### 2.1 *A Shared Vision*

The challenge facing the Strategy is to promote a more sustainable approach to the future development and management of Cumbria's landscapes. This needs to be done in ways that will reconcile the need to maintain the viability of the County's economy and communities while protecting and enhancing the quality of the whole countryside. Quality matters whether near to or distant from towns and involves much more than conserving just the outstanding parts. It means the whole stock of assets i.e. aesthetic beauty, wildlife and historic value as well as the individual components and features which give a landscape its particular character. Thus if landscape is to be recognised as a fundamental resource against which sustainability can be measured; it is necessary to have a clear idea of the kind of future landscape that would be preferred.

**Our Vision is of a landscape that is:**

- **Working, living and well-managed;**
- **Rich and diverse in character but accommodating necessary change;**
- **Distinctive, has a sense of place and respects but not necessarily follows tradition;**
- **An inheritance to be enjoyed today by the majority of Cumbrians and passed to the next generation.**

Possible approaches to managing change could range from a strong conservation stance i.e. resisting all changes in the landscape to a more liberal and market approach which would allow considerable change. The Strategy seeks to achieve a balance between these and be selective and proactive. In general it aims to conserve the components and features of vulnerable landscapes while trying to gain enhancement of the wider landscape. It is underpinned by a more positive emphasis on good design to achieve development that complements and enhances landscape character.

To achieve this a common approach from public and private organisations concerned with land management is essential. For this reason the Strategy has been prepared and is being implemented on a partnership basis (with the County Council taking the lead in initial drafting of the Strategy). Partners have endorsed the Strategy. The Strategy is thus a component part of the Local Agenda 21 process.

The Strategy partners include:-

- **land owning and management interests**
- **organisations representing local communities**
- **local planning authorities**
- **voluntary conservation and outdoor groups**
- **government agencies and initiatives**
- **rural enterprise agencies and business interests.**

### 2.2 *Achievable Aims*

Following from the vision, the **Main Aims** of the Strategy are:

- **To give priority to 'everyday' landscapes particularly those near to towns and enjoyed by the majority of residents, visitors and businesses**
- **To focus concern on landscapes and features which are vulnerable in the wider countryside**
- **To reach a consensus on acceptable and sustainable limits of change**
- **To provide clear mechanisms for achieving these aims at the strategic and local level.**

The Strategy contains two main mechanisms for achieving these. These are:

- **Actions that the Partners can achieve at a strategic level (Paragraph 2.4 below)**
- **Guidance for land managers at the local level (Section 3 - Guidance).**

The Strategy does not lay down prescriptions on how landscapes are managed. It is not a blueprint for the landscape. It is rather a skeleton that can be built upon which focuses on broad strategies and guidelines

which it is anticipated will be widely accepted and which relates to both reactive management/control and proactive management action to resolve issues, developed against a vision and guidelines for each landscape type. The Strategy is working to a 10 to 50 year time frame, recognising the long periods necessary to see significant effects from structural changes such as new woodland or hedgerow planting or changes in farming regimes.

The Strategy takes account of existing structure and local plan policies on landscape and countryside as well as any existing policies of other statutory agencies, land owners/occupiers and any other bodies who can influence landscape change. However, the Plan has not been too much constrained by current policy since it is seeking to move the debate forward and develop a medium to long term view.

## 2.3 *Key Themes*

There are a number of major themes that recur throughout the Strategy and form the basis of the Agenda for Action and the Guidelines. These are:

- **The Countryside on the edge of towns**
- **Vulnerable landscapes**
- **The loss of valued features**
- **The future of woodlands**
- **Designated landscapes**
- **The quality of new development**

A number of secondary but important themes are also covered:

- **Alternative landscapes**
- **Public authorities role**
- **Increasing public awareness and perception.**

## 2.4 *An Agenda for Action*

The Actions set out below will be initiated by the Partnership and taken forward by individual partners. Local authorities will play a part but will not necessarily take a lead role in all actions. They will normally do this for example where the planning system is best placed to initiate action or where Councils are responsible for managing particular land. The following measures are suggested to address problems and the issues so far identified. Where appropriate, reference is made to the guidance in Section 3.

### 2.4.1 Priority Landscapes

Urban Fringe landscapes are heavily influenced by urban development, often including reclaimed mining land and industrial sites, but particularly around Carlisle, still predominantly rural in character. Being close to urban areas, they are enjoyed by the majority of Cumbrians but are subject to a variety of pressures from urban and infrastructure developments, many of which are concentrated around the major access corridors. The improvement of these areas is seen as an important part of boosting the image and thus regenerating the economy of West Cumbria, Barrow and Carlisle. Particular emphasis will be given to new woodland planting (see 2.4.3 below). Implementation of these programmes will provide suitable projects for the Environmental Task Force being set up under the Government's "Welfare to Work" initiative. An important part of achieving action in the urban fringe is to ensure that the derelict land reclamation programme focuses on these areas and gives them adequate priority. A more urban focused but nevertheless important aspect of improving the County's overall environment is to foster a pride and more caring attitude towards public spaces. This will need to tackle problems of litter and vandalism as well as developing a sense of ownership by involving particularly the young in positive schemes. Partners will:

- *Extend present programmes of landscape enhancement to cover important access corridors and industrial areas in West Cumbria.*
- *Develop new programmes of landscape enhancement in important access corridors as well as existing industrial and certain residential and countryside areas within and adjoining other major settlements (Carlisle, Barrow, Kendal and Penrith). The programmes to embody:*
  - *additional woodland planting (see 2.4.3)*
  - *conservation and interpretation of natural habitats*
  - *development of linked greenways, footpath and cycleway networks*



- *creation of appropriate new habitat features*
- *block planting to provide definition to the urban boundary*
- *Implement the land reclamation programme in a manner, which gives priority to urban fringe areas.*
- *Development of joint programmes of community based environmental improvement to encourage care for public spaces in urban and urban fringe areas - associated with programmes of litter removal, vandalism restoration and improved management of existing and new access and planting provision.*

The concept of Vulnerable Landscapes is an important means of targeting scarce resources to those landscapes most in need of intervention (e.g. via Countryside Stewardship and ESA). Work that has been done in defining Vulnerable Landscapes in Cumbria is described in the Background Paper<sup>1</sup>. Following the consultation, we have concluded that more research is required before a definitive list could be drawn up. It is intended that management schemes to address particular problems can then be developed.

- *Once fully defined, management schemes for Vulnerable Landscapes will be drawn up.*

#### 2.4.2 Landscape Features

The Introduction has outlined the importance of particular features in the Cumbrian landscape and the changes that are occurring. The Background Paper provides data from the National Countryside Monitoring Scheme and the Cumbria Landscape Assessment on the amount of change taking place. The main features which are declining or threatened include: heathland, broadleaf woodland and woodland features, lowland meadows, mosslands, hedgerows and hedge banks, tree lines, and traditional stone walls.

The loss of these features has a severe effect on the countryside as a whole and the Guidance set out in Section 3 seeks to conserve, restore or enhance such elements in particular landscape types. Rather than by the imposition of regulation or control, it is considered that much can be achieved by persuasion and the existence of relevant advice that is broadly accepted. It is important that the Partnership is active in promoting the Guidance and encouraging its widespread use.

Existing schemes such as Countryside Stewardship and the two ESA's provide grant aid for the conservation or restoration of traditional features under a 10-year Agreement. Although there is generally a good take up, a large number of landowners and farmers remain outside the schemes. Land not entered into the schemes is generally ineligible for grant. It is suggested therefore that a simplified grant scheme to enable conservation work to be carried out on landscape features not at present covered and where land is not otherwise receiving grant could be introduced. This might provide small grants in a similar way to a former scheme run by the Countryside Commission but it must be seen to complement not undermine existing schemes. Regulations introduced by the previous Government to control the removal of significant hedges have been criticised as providing inadequate protection for the majority of hedges, and it is expected that amended regulations will be produced in due course. Other features such as stone walls are still largely unprotected. The Partners will:

- *Jointly work to ensure that the Guidance in Section 3 of the Strategy is followed;*
- *Press for increased direction of Government resources into the ESA, Countryside Stewardship and other environmental management schemes ;*
- *Discuss the merits of reintroducing a simple grant scheme aimed at particular components and features at risk;*
- *Review the operation of regulations for protecting important countryside features to see how effective they are and to determine if there is a need to press for further controls.*

#### 2.4.3 Forests and Woodlands

The future of forests and woodlands in the County is considered to be a major issue. This has been put more sharply into focus with the Government's target of doubling or significantly increasing England's woodland cover within 50 years. Current policies are designed to ensure that new woodlands are created in a way, which will conserve or enhance the character of the landscape and the Guidance will give general advice on the species suitable in particular areas. Woodland creation can be either through planting or by natural regeneration. Management of existing woodlands is also a priority. The increased use of native trees such as oak and ash or where appropriate important established species such as beech or sycamore is advocated while proposals for the large scale planting of non-native or exotic species should be examined critically. It is perhaps a matter for discussion whether the wider use of 'native woodland agreements' is necessary to encourage the appropriate planting of native species of trees and shrubs such as that operating in the Lake District National Park.

The Groundwork West Cumbria 'Woodlands for West Cumbria' campaign and the County Council's West Cumbria Woodlands Policy aimed to stimulate and encourage the management of existing woodland and increase woodland cover within this area.

Particular opportunities to increase woodland cover exist in the County where local people, wildlife and the landscape would benefit. It is not the intention here to spell out where new planting should take place. This is the job of the Cumbria Woodland Strategy being prepared by the Cumbria Woodland Forum. A new Partnership co-ordinated by Groundwork West Cumbria is taking forward this Strategy within the Solway Basin and West Cumbria Coastal Plain Character Areas. Some of the most obvious areas for new woodlands are:

- Derelict, degraded or urban fringe landscapes in West Cumbria, Barrow and Carlisle including former opencast coal working sites;
- Areas where there are established plantations particularly in the Districts of Eden and Carlisle;
- Upland edges between farmed land and moorland tops;
- Along the main valleys e.g. the Eden particularly on the steeper slopes;
- On some coastal and exposed areas for shelter;
- Other areas where woodlands would integrate well with agriculture and provide a range of benefits for landowners and the general public.

The partners together with the Cumbria Woodland Forum will:

- ***Support increased woodland planting and management at appropriate locations around the major urban centres in West Cumbria.***
- ***Prepare and implement the Cumbria Woodland Strategy.***

#### 2.4.4 Designated Landscapes

These actions are designed to ensure that the special character of designated landscapes is protected from damage by development or land use changes and that distinctive features are conserved and enhanced. This issue is addressed by Joint Structure Plan Policies 11 (nationally designated landscapes) and 12 (County landscapes). Local plans take these policies forward and interpret them for local areas. Thus policies should include a description of the special character and distinctive qualities of the landscapes being protected. The forthcoming review of the Structure Plan will consider whether the current policies are effective and in particular the future role of County Landscapes and more local designations.

The Morecambe Bay Strategy recommended that parts of this coastline should be designated as Heritage Coast in order to help conserve and enhance the coastal environment and give it national recognition. The Countryside Commission has indicated, however, that they are unlikely to support further Heritage Coast designations.

The relevant Partners will ensure that:

- ***Clear, concise and effective policies to protect/conserv e distinctive features of the landscapes of AONBs, County Landscapes and the Heritage Coast are incorporated in Structure and Local Plans;***
- ***The preparation, implementation and monitoring of Management Plans for nationally designated landscapes is given priority and supported;***
- ***The future role of all local landscape designations will be considered within the next review of the Joint Structure Plan;***
- ***Measures to highlight the national importance of Morecambe Bay's coastal landscape are developed and progressed.***

#### 2.4.5 New Development in the Countryside

There will continue to be a need for new development in the countryside to meet economic and social needs. However, it is important that the form, pattern and detailing of new development and buildings should respect the local vernacular and contribute to a sense of local identity and regional diversity. As limited work has been done on this aspect in Cumbria, it will require some background research and analysis to develop suitable approaches. Advice<sup>8</sup> on the preparation of Countryside Design Summaries and Village Design Statements is available from the Countryside Commission and it is suggested that this is followed. A key to developing Village Design Statements will be to generate local enthusiasm and to encourage and foster local action.

The Partners will:

- ***Support the preparation of District-wide 'Countryside Design Summaries' as non-statutory design guidance.***
- ***Encourage the preparation of 'Village Design Statements' to guide new development in villages.***

#### 2.4.6 Alternative Landscapes

Although the beauty of Cumbria's landscapes derives in a large part from their management over many centuries and that no part of the County could be described as a 'wilderness', some would like to see land reverting to a much more natural state. This could clearly occur naturally merely by the removal of grazing or other management or could be encouraged by planting. Indeed in some small areas grazing has been withdrawn over many years and has resulted in a natural succession to scrub and woodland. It is important to do this however where there will be both significant landscape and wildlife benefits and where the possible short term appearance of untidiness or neglect will not be damaging. The concept of totally withdrawing management from the land may not be welcomed in all quarters, however with changes in farm support it may become increasingly necessary to contemplate. The potential benefits are therefore seen as:

- A way of responding to economic pressures on marginal farmland;
- A means of increasing habitat diversity and thus helping to implement Biodiversity Action Plans;
- Creating new and attractive landscapes.

To determine what landscape and wildlife benefits there may be, it is suggested that experimental schemes are set up within the context of the landscape guidance in Section 3.

The relevant Partners will thus jointly:

- ***Consider suitable areas for experimental pilot schemes to test the concept of alternative landscapes.***

#### 2.4.7 Public Land and Schemes

Local authorities and other public bodies are responsible for a wide variety of public schemes in the countryside and on the edge of towns including the development and management of the highway network, reclamation sites, amenity land, countryside facilities and the construction and maintenance of buildings. In a number of cases individual land or buildings are subject to local or contracted out management. There has been criticism of the standards of design and maintenance of many public schemes and their impact on the landscape. Public authorities have been accused of creating unnecessary 'clutter'. It is thus necessary to ensure that high standards of design and management of all facilities are achieved even for relatively minor works. There are a large number of trees and small woods on land owned by local authorities, statutory agencies and other public bodies. Looking after these trees properly today is an investment for the future, and often can forestall expensive work later on. The local authority partners will thus:

- ***Examine current procedures and adopt best practice and improving standards of landscape design and management in relation to all public facilities in the countryside and in towns.***
- ***Prepare strategies for the improved care of trees and woodlands on public land.***

#### 2.4.8 Public Appreciation and Awareness

The Strategy cannot succeed unless supported in large measure by the public, elected representatives as well as planners and land managers. Although the public show concern over high-profile issues this interest may not extend to the slow and inexorable changes taking place in the landscape day after day. If information was readily available from landscape assessments or other studies, it may help an understanding of the broader

issues. Educational programmes to develop awareness of landscape character and change could be beneficial. A pilot study in public perception of landscape is currently under discussion with a number of partners (July 1998). The main object would be to listen to the views of the public on landscape matters and thus help foster a greater appreciation of the countryside as a whole and an awareness and understanding of issues of landscape change. The study would also look at the role of woodland in the landscape. The partners will:

- *Develop educational programmes including publications based on landscape assessment and other related studies.*
- *Encourage training providers to develop training for land managers in landscape appreciation and management techniques.*
- *Carry out a pilot survey of public perceptions of landscape including woodlands.*

## **2.5 Implementing the Strategy**

The development of the Strategy has, to date, comprised three main stages. The first stage involved a series of discussions with potential partners to agree on the aims and objectives of the Strategy and the means of achieving them. This took place in April 1996. The second stage involved the preparation and circulation of a draft for consultation in November 1997, leading in the third stage, to full publication and launch of the Strategy.

The *Agenda for Action* provides for specific commitments and actions by Partners. It will necessarily work by consensus. No Partners will be asked to lead on or undertake actions that they do not fully support. The Proposed Implementation Programme schedule provides details of the Proposals, Next Steps to be taken and Timescale for each of the proposed actions. Lead Agencies initiating action with assistance of the other partners are indicated.

The following bodies have been involved in the preparation of the Strategy and/or are regarded as essential Partners in implementing the Agenda and securing implementation of the Guidance:

### **Strategy Partners**

#### ***Statutory Bodies:***

*Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food*  
*Farming and Rural Conservation Agency (Formerly ADAS Statutory)*  
*Forestry Authority*  
*Countryside Commission*  
*English Heritage*  
*English Nature*  
*Environment Agency*

#### ***Rural Development Interests:***

*Cumbria Tourist Board*  
*Rural Development Commission*  
*English Partnerships*  
*National Farmers Union*  
*Country Landowners' Association*  
*Cumbria Association of Local Councils*  
*Voluntary Action Cumbria*  
*Business Link Cumbria*

#### ***Countryside and Coastal Management Projects:***

*East Cumbria Countryside Project*  
*Solway Rural Initiative (also have rural development interests)*  
*Arnsdale/Silverdale Countryside Management Service*  
*West Cumbria Groundwork Trust*  
*Cumbria Broadleaves*  
*Morecambe Bay Partnership*

*Duddon Estuary Partnership  
Solway Firth Partnership*

***Voluntary Bodies:***

*Cumbria Wildlife Trust  
National Trust  
Friends of the Lake District/CPRE  
British Trust for Conservation Volunteers  
Ramblers Association  
Open Spaces Society  
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds  
Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group*

***Local Authorities and National Parks:***

*[Including Planning, Estate Management, Highways, Economic Development]  
Cumbria County Council  
Allerdale Borough Council  
Barrow Borough Council  
Carlisle City Council  
Copeland Borough Council  
Eden District Council  
South Lakeland District Council  
Lake District National Park  
Yorkshire Dales National Park*

## **2.6 Organisation**

It is proposed that implementation of the Strategy will be through a simple structure as follows:

- An Annual Seminar/Conference to build and maintain broad consensus partnership.
- Working Groups to bring actions forward, reporting to the above.
- County Council to provide a secretariat, the process managed through a small group of key partners.

It is suggested that a dedicated officer be identified among the Partners to help to drive forward implementation of the Strategy. He/she would be responsible for:

- a) Initiating and co-ordinating implementation of the programme among partners;
- b) Monitoring and reported on progress to the management bodies;
- c) Setting up ad-hoc working groups to consider particular issues.

## 2. PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME

Paragraph	Proposed Action	Next Steps	Lead Agency(s)	Priority/Timescale
2.4.1	<b><i>Priority Landscapes</i></b>			
	<b><i>Extend present landscape enhancement programmes in West Cumbria</i></b>	Discussion with relevant District Councils on putting together a package of schemes	County Council/Groundwork West Cumbria	High/Dec 1998
	<b><i>Development of new enhancement programmes</i></b>	Discussion with relevant District Councils on putting together a package of schemes	County Council/District Councils	High/June 1999
	<b><i>Implement themed land reclamation programmes</i></b>	On going County Council lead	County Council/English Partnerships	High/Ongoing
	<b><i>Development of joint programmes of community based environmental improvement</i></b>	Liaison/discussion with interested parties with a view to developing new initiatives	County Council/WCGT	Medium/late 1998
	<b><i>Management Schemes for Vulnerable Landscapes</i></b>	Form Working Group with Partners to discuss methods/criteria and produce an agreed list of Vulnerable Landscapes	County Council	Medium/Late 1999
2.4.2	<b><i>Landscape Features</i></b>			
	<b><i>Joint Work to see that Management Guidance is followed</i></b>	Pilot a whole farm scheme through partners and land managers.	County Council/Cumbria FWAG	High/Late 1998
	<b><i>Redirection of resources and improvements to environmental management schemes</i></b>	Set up Working Group to consider the current position regarding the application of agri-environment schemes in Cumbria	County and District Councils/ Cumbria FWAG/Friends of the Lake District (FLD)	High/Late 1998
	<b><i>Grant schemes aimed at features at risk</i></b>	As above	As above	Med/Spring 1999
	<b><i>Review protecting regulations</i></b>	As above	As above	Medium/Dec 1999

Paragraph	Proposed Action	Next Steps	Lead Agency(s)	Priority/Timescale
2.4.3	<b><i>Forests and Woodland</i></b>			
	<i>Increase woodland planting in West Cumbria</i>	Continue work of the West Cumbria Woodland Partnership	County Council/Groundwork (WC)	High/Ongoing
	<i>Prepare and implement a Cumbria Woodland Strategy</i>	Continue work of Cumbria Woodland Forum.	Forestry Authority/ Cumbria Woodland Forum	High/Late 1998
2.4.4	<b><i>Protection of Designated Landscapes</i></b>			
	<i>Policies to protect/conserv e distinctive features of designated landscapes in Structure and Local Plans Management Plans for nationally designated landscapes</i>	Monitor development control decisions by District Councils The preparation of a management plan for the St Bees Head Heritage Coast Next Structure Plan Review	CPRE/FLD  Copeland BC	High/Ongoing  High/To be determined
	<i>Review the future role of local landscape designations</i>		County Council	Medium/At Review
	<i>Measures to protect the Morecambe Bay coastal landscape.</i>	Discuss within the Morecambe Bay Partnership working groups.	County Council/MBP	Med/1998
2.4.5	<b><i>New Development in the Countryside</i></b>			
	<i>Support preparation of District-wide ‘Countryside Design Summaries’</i>	Further Pilot CDSs will be prepared	District Councils	Medium/To be determined
	<i>Encourage preparation of ‘Village Design Statements’</i>	Put together suitable funding packages with local communities	CALC/VAC	Medium/To be determined
2.4.6	<b><i>Alternative Landscapes</i></b>			
	<i>Experimental pilot schemes to test the concept</i>	Involve primarily nature conservation and land management interests in preparation of proposals. Link with BAP process	CWT/EN	Low/1998/99

Paragraph	Proposed Action	Next Steps	Lead Agency(s)	Priority/Timescale
2.4.7	<b><i>Public Land and Schemes</i></b>			
	<i>Improving standards of landscape design and management</i>	Preparation of case studies to identify good and bad practice. Preparation of guidance.	Highways Authority and District Councils	High/End 1998
	<i>Strategies for the care of trees and woodland on public land</i>	Surveys of local authority trees and woodland.	County Council/District Councils	Medium/Mid 1999
2.4.8	<b><i>Public Appreciation and Awareness</i></b>			
	<i>Develop educational programmes including publications</i>	Discussion with Cumbria Education Authority and other educational interests	County Council	Medium/Spring 1999
	<i>Provision of training for land managers</i>	Discussion with appropriate training agencies	County Council	Low/End 1999
	<i>Carry out survey of public perception of landscape including the impact of woodland</i>	Agree Study Brief with partners for a pilot study in West Cumbria	County Council/Lancaster University (CSEC)	High/Mid 1998



### 3.

## 4. 3. LANDSCAPE GUIDANCE

### *Introduction*

The following *Guidelines* cover the Landscape Types and Sub-Types in the Cumbria Landscape Classification (see list below). For maximum clarity a standard format is used which sets out:

- **Key Characteristics** of the landscape types/sub-type. These are based on the descriptions in the Landscape Classification. Features of wildlife importance are also included if they are also significant in terms of the whole type/sub-type;
- **Changes in the Landscape** concentrates on those changes which have affected or may potentially affect the key characteristics;
- **Vision** sets out the main themes of the management strategy using terminology recommended by the Countryside Commission. It then provides a statement of the broad objectives for each of the key characteristics;
- The more detailed *Guidelines* then flesh these out for particular features. For this a standard list of headings is used to facilitate comparison between them, however only those of relevance to that sub-type are included. References to particular types of development should be taken to mean either existing facilities, extensions or proposed new facilities. Recommendations which are properly within the remit of statutory policy or development control are avoided where possible.

It is hoped that land managers, professional planners, local authority members and the public at large will share the Visions and Guidance. They are advisory only and do not form part of any statutory policies. They are intended to influence land management decisions as and when opportunities arise - not to prompt actions on particular sites but rather within the context of a whole farm or other land holding. For example, where it is recommended that drained mossland should revert to wetland, this should be as part of a management scheme for a whole wetland involving all the land owners and other interests.

The Guidelines will be *implemented* in two principal ways:

- a) As non-statutory advice to landowners, farmers and others responsible for land management decisions;
- b) By providing supplementary guidance to underpin future Structure and Local Plan review (on the handling of development proposals).

For convenience, *Mechanisms* for implementing (non-development) guidelines are set out at the end of the section. By reference to main headings such as woodlands/trees, farm buildings or field boundaries with which the guidance is concerned, agencies that may be able to assist are listed. Finally a list of agency contacts able to provide advice is added. Where guidelines refer to development issues, they would need to be discussed and agreed with local planning authorities as part of the normal planning process.

Since overall changes in the landscape take place over very long periods of time, it will be difficult to confirm the success or otherwise of the guidelines until sometime perhaps in the distant future. The guidance thus envisages a 10-50 year timescale. There will therefore need to be clear arrangements in place to *monitor* the results. This could possibly include sample surveys carried out on a periodic basis, which could then be tied in to National data such as the DOE Countryside Survey, to be repeated in 2000. In addition as part of the Local Agenda 21 process and in relation to Structure Plan review, it is intended to develop (in the light of anticipated government guidance) a series of sustainability/quality of life indicators for Cumbria, with targets, some of which will provide measures of landscape quality against which the progress of the Strategy can be assessed.

***List of Landscape Types Covered by the Guidance***

1. *Estuary and Marsh*
2. *Coastal Margins*
3. *Coastal Limestone*
4. *Coastal Sandstone*
5. *Lowlands*
6. *Intermediate Land*
7. *Drumlins*
8. *Main Valleys*
9. *Intermediate Moorland and Plateau*
10. *Sandstone Ridge*
11. *Upland Fringes*
12. *Higher Limestone*
13. *Fells and Scarps*

The Guidelines

# TYPE 1: ESTUARY AND MARSH

## SUB-TYPE 1a - INTERTIDAL FLATS

### Key Characteristics

An extensive landscape comprising the wide beaches and the more sheltered expansive mudflats of the Solway Coast, Duddon Estuary and Morecambe Bay with a narrow strip of more exposed coast south of St Bees. Parts stretch well inland and strongly interact with other landscapes. In the Solway, beaches of mud and sand with rocky scaurs (patches) and shingle on the upper foreshore are often backed by low boulder clay cliffs.

The landscape is dynamic, changing rapidly with daily tides and through cycles of erosion and deposition of the sand and mudflats. Essentially unspoilt and natural, these areas provide a vast intertidal habitat for invertebrates and form internationally important roosting and feeding grounds for wading birds and wildfowl. Cultural artefacts such as old viaducts, piers, ports and salt pans, and historical routes or 'waths' across the sands enrich this landscape and strengthen a sense of the past.

### Changes in the Landscape

- Natural dynamic processes of erosion and deposition are sensitive to the introduction of man-made coastal flood defences, which can increase erosion effects on adjacent soft unprotected coast. The threat of increased storminess and possibly sea level rise as a consequence of global warming may increase pressure for these.
- Extraction of sand and shingle along the foreshore and waste tipping has also affected natural processes.
- Pollution occurs in the form of marine rubbish and sewage spoils beaches. Cockle or mussel fishing can directly affect birdlife on the mudflats through disturbance and indirectly by reducing the quality of their feeding areas.
- Development pressures include major infrastructure and energy related proposals, which can be highly intrusive particularly as the waters-edge naturally attracts attention.
- Access and recreation resulting in disturbance to birdlife on feeding grounds and roosting sites.

### **Vision**

**Essentially this is to conserve the open and unspoilt qualities of these estuaries and beaches and the rich variety of wildlife associated with them.** This will require a response to the threat of flooding and coastal erosion, which is sensitive to landscape impacts as well as recognised ecological values. The challenge will be to balance the protection of rural economies and settlements with environmental interests. The considerable wildlife importance of parts of these intertidal areas is already recognised through statutory designations, and within estuaries for example, developments will need to meet the strict tests laid down in the planning system. Major infrastructure and energy developments need to be carefully controlled and designed with particular consideration to cumulative effects and impact on adjacent landscapes that frame the estuaries. The environmental impacts of coastal and flood defence schemes will need to be balanced against economic and social benefits to coastal communities.

### Guidelines

#### **Coastal Defences:**

- Avoid the use of 'hard' defences against erosion along the outer soft coast favouring 'soft' accretion solutions. Within the estuaries flood defences such as sea dikes need to be carefully planned to minimise environmental damage and selectively protect the most valuable areas.
- Undertake further research into erosion and deposition processes along the outer coast and the preparation of co-ordinated policies for coastal protection avoiding piecemeal actions.
- Consider the scope for managed retreat of flood and coastal defences allowing reversion of farmland to marsh, mudflat or beach.

**Coastal Features:**

- Actively manage the intertidal zone including the careful removal of marine rubbish along beaches avoiding damage to strandline vegetation. ,
- Provision of information and interpretation of wildlife and related interest.
- Ensure adequate regulation of commercial fishing for cockles and mussels to minimise disturbance to birdlife and damage to their feeding areas.
- Conserve and enhance historic sites through avoiding disturbance and removal of structures, levelling, excavation and tipping.

**Development:**

- Avoid developments that damage features of interest or require long term protection through new coastal defences.
- Protect the more small-scale character of inner estuaries from inappropriate development (on sites in adjacent zones).
- Careful control of the impact of infrastructure or energy developments on sensitive horizons.
- Ensure that the design and siting of all development is of a high standard which enhances its surroundings and habitats are carefully restored after construction.

# TYPE 1: ESTUARY AND MARSH

## SUB-TYPE 1b - COASTAL MARSH

### Key Characteristics

The sheltered waters of the County's estuaries are fringed by saltmarshes. These are only covered by the highest tides and rise almost imperceptibly to around 5 m OD where they are usually enclosed by sea dikes, sometimes topped by thick hedges or colonised by gorse. Their intrinsic beauty lies in their unspoilt simplicity, wildness and remoteness. They comprise open plains of turf etched with patterns of creeks, pools and channels. They form internationally important habitats as saltmarshes in their own right and as roosting and feeding grounds for wading birds and wildfowl. Common grazing rights give rise to the presence of grazing stock complementing the peaceful scene. Man-made structures are noticeably absent and limited public viewpoints afford unobstructed panoramic views across the estuaries.

### Changes in the Landscape

- The saltmarshes are in a constant cycle of erosion and deposition. They are added to by sediment following high tides and the same forces are continuously eroding them. The dramatic change in the extent and position of the saltmarshes over time is well illustrated in historical maps.
- Predictions of increased storminess and possibly sea level rise could have serious implications for the extent of low-lying saltmarshes, especially if hard sea defences mean they can't retreat inland.
- The balance of saltmarsh grazings, by which sheep modify the vegetation to a close cropped turf, could be upset by changes in the grazing regimes. Turf cutting is a traditional management practice but if excessive can scar and erode the marshes.
- The intrusion of large-scale developments such as pylons, communication masts, power stations and wind turbines can compromise the remote qualities of these areas.
- Access and recreation pressures lead to localised visual intrusion of parked cars, disturbance to birdlife and livestock, erosion of the turf by vehicles particularly on the narrower more accessible saltmarshes.
- Raising of sea dikes would destroy hedges and marsh habitat.

### **Vision**

**Generally conservation should be the main priority** in this distinctive area of high landscape and ecological value while **restoration** of drained agricultural land to saltmarsh could enhance some coastal margins perhaps as part of managed set back of flood defences. This will depend on control of inappropriate development within and on the periphery. The experience of visitors could be enhanced and their impact on the environment reduced by local improvements.

### Guidelines

#### **Coastal Features:**

- Conserving and enhancing the marsh may be achieved by ensuring continuation of traditional grazing to maintain the open peaceful landscape qualities and maximise botanical and birdlife interest.
- Develop management programmes including continuation of traditional grazing patterns as appropriate stocking levels to provide optimum conditions for birds and to improve the variety of salt tolerant grasses and herbs.
- Resist commercial scale turf cutting or access by vehicles to prevent damage to the saltmarsh
- Encourage the re-creation of saltmarsh on land, which in the past has been reclaimed to agriculture.

**Coastal Defences:**

- Any improvement of sea dikes needs to be carefully planned to minimise environmental damage whilst selectively protecting the most valuable farmland and residential areas.
- Carefully weigh economic and social benefits against the likely environmental impacts of flood defence schemes including loss of dike hedgerows and marshy habitats.
- Consider the scope for managed retreat of flood defences allowing reversion of farmland to saltmarsh.

**Development:**

- Protect the periphery of saltmarshes from the intrusion of large-scale development within neighbouring landscape types.
- Resist the clutter and obstruction of views by minor development such as signs and fencing.
- Ensure that the design and siting of all development is of a high standard which enhances its surroundings and any saltmarsh habitat disturbed by construction is carefully restored.

**Recreation Facilities:**

- Improve information for visitors to encourage the protection of sensitive saltmarsh habitats and minimise and wildlife disturbance.
- Ensure car parks and lay-bys are sensitively sited and well designed being appropriate in size and form.
- Where appropriate provide well-designed vehicle barriers around car parking areas to prevent erosion of the saltmarsh.
- Manage public access including improving public footpaths through waymarking, stiles, bridges etc and wardening..

# TYPE 2: COASTAL MARGINS

## SUB-TYPE 2a - DUNES AND BEACHES

### Key Characteristics

Narrow tracts of dunes and raised beaches fringe the mouths of the Solway, Duddon and Morecambe Bay sandwiched between the sea and farmland. Relief varies from flat raised beaches to hummocky sand dunes giving contrasts of shelter and exposure. The majority of the sand dune systems are of national importance for their vegetation. Semi-natural grassland is the main vegetation on the raised beaches, which form habitats/ nesting sites for amphibians, gulls and waders. The sea is the dominant influence and exposed sites offer wide attractive views. Minor roads serve a string of coastal villages while cobble stone walls and banks form boundaries to farms and roads. Most of the areas are peaceful and remote though some are affected by recreation pressures or hard sea defences.

### Changes in the landscape

- Damage due to recreational pressures including wear and erosion by vehicular access, spoiling by litter, fly tipping, unauthorised camping, fires and disturbance to wildlife.
- Some poorly designed recreation facilities such as informal car parks visually detract.
- Coastal erosion to the dune systems has increased in recent times. Evidence suggests that this may be related to the loss of sediment supply due to extraction of sand and gravel or the introduction of hard coastal defences in adjacent stretches of coast.
- The threat of sea level rise and increased storminess as a consequence of global warming is likely to increase pressure for more coastal defences.
- Management practices such as tipping, heavy grazing and intensive mowing have tended to tame the wild qualities of the dune grasslands and their ecological interest.
- Minor detractions include engineered urban detailing to features such as streams, fences and walls along with neglect of traditional features such as cobblestone banks.

### **Vision**

**Conservation and enhancement of the wild qualities and ecological value of the dunes and grassland should be a priority while at the same time retaining the public's freedom to roam.** This may be achieved by better regulating the intensity of recreation use and minimising its impact through sensitive design of facilities and co-ordinated management including repair of damage and interpretation to foster greater respect of the dune system. There is a need to control erosion and opportunities to increase the extent of or enhance the dune system should be grasped.

### Guidelines

#### **Sub Coastal Features:**

- Manage dune grassland for low key recreation by maintaining a suitable grazing regime that maximises species diversity and prevents scrub encroachment.
- Encourage the reclamation of improved pasture to dune grassland with restriction of fertiliser and herbicide applications.
- Encourage improvement of species diversity on golf courses and extent of 'rough' grassland by controlled grazing, relaxing mowing regimes, reducing the use of fertilisers and herbicides.
- Conserve and manage traditional features such as cobblestone banks to strengthen a sense of place. Minimise the intrusion of incongruous features such as fences, tracks, hard coastal defences, engineered drains and channels that compromise the remote and wild qualities of the dunes.

#### **Recreation/Development:**



- Generally keep the shoreline free of development including caravan sites, vehicle parking and buildings. Ensure that any essential facilities are carefully sited to minimise their impact.
- Develop co-ordinated programmes of recreation management including repair and maintenance of facilities, regulating public access, repairing grassland damaged by vehicles and pedestrians, removal of rubbish, interpretation of wildlife interest.
- Consider relocation of existing car parks away from dune grassland, particularly where these are exacerbating erosion problems and are poorly screened.
- Improve the appearance of facilities such as car parks, picnic areas, toilet blocks, signs, footpath links and boundary treatments. Unify designs in an appropriate coastal vernacular avoiding urban municipal characteristics and using high quality durable materials.
- Provide and replace vehicle restraints to a robust and consistent design sympathetic to the dune character.

**Coastal Defences:**

- Support the reinforcement of the dune system as a coastal defence and -favour 'soft' accretion solutions for coastal protection while resisting visually discordant 'hard' coastal defences.
- Ensure coastal defence schemes are carefully planned and based on knowledge of local erosion and deposition processes along the seacoast. They should also:
  - minimise visual intrusion,
  - avoid indirect damage to adjacent coast
  - selectively protect the most valuable wildlife and historic sites.
- Prohibit extraction of sand and gravel from the foreshore.

# TYPE 2: COASTAL MARGINS

## SUB-TYPE 2b - COASTAL MOSSES

### Key Characteristics

Flat to undulating mosses (raised mire or peat bog) formed by peat accumulation in glacial depressions are now only found at the head of the Duddon Estuary and around the Solway. Formally the areas formed raised domes of peat within surrounding wetland but the gradual process of drainage and reclamation has resulted in a mosaic of moss, heath, pasture in an open landscape in which carr woodland forms visual accents. The mosses represent an important and nationally scarce habitat with a wealth of acid loving plants, birds, insects and reptiles, some being of international importance. Encroaching pasture fields have fragmented the moss and introduced an air of neglect where hedges are allowed to become gappy or are replaced by fences.

### Changes in the Landscape

Agricultural reclamation is the main pressure on this rare landscape with a tendency towards a blander character dominated by pasture. Even where the moss is not directly removed adjacent drainage works can cause the edges to dry out encouraging scrub development with a consequent risk of fire. Large-scale peat cutting and coniferous planting also weaken the character of this landscape by obscuring or destroying mosses.

### **Vision**

**Conservation and restoration of mossland should be a priority to increase variety in the agricultural landscape surrounding them and enrich landscape and ecological diversity.** This may be achieved by detailed management and restoration projects to extend the mosses and maximise their visual and wildlife interest. Further proposals for the extraction of peat or extensive commercial woodland planting need to be strongly resisted while retaining the small-scale pattern of carr woodland. The hydrology of the peat body needs to be protected.

### Guidelines

#### **Natural Features:**

- Adopt environmentally sensitive management of the mosses including maintenance of a high water table, phased cutting and burning of heather, preventing damage to moss growth by overgrazing and poaching, control of scrub encroachment, restricting liming, fertiliser herbicide and pesticide treatments.
- Allow drained and managed mossland to revert back to semi-natural wetland. This may include 'blocking' of adjacent drainage systems, restricting grazing, appropriate wetland planting or seeding, removal of hedgerows and scrub.
- Protect the mosses from further commercial peat cutting and agree schemes to ensure worked areas are restored to wetland.
- Resist improvement or introduction of drainage systems that might threaten the dampness of the mosses.
- Resist burning as a management measure.

#### **Woodland/Trees:**

- Manage existing birch and alder carr woodland by a mixture of natural regeneration and coppicing, excluding stock, and thinning to prevent shading of water areas.
- Restrict new planting, particularly conifer woodlands to maintain an open semi-natural character.
- Remove tree and shrub growth where appropriate for the restoration of the mosses.

#### **Development:**

- Protect the small-scale open character of the mosses from inappropriate development.
- Avoid fragmentation of the natural patterns of the mosses and wildlife links by infrastructure development.

**Cultural Features/Field Boundaries:**

- Manage hedgerows in a traditional way involving a cycle of hand laying and trimming.
- Restore fenced boundaries to hedgerows involving replanting and renovation of gappy overgrown hedges. Discourage introduction of fences to replace or 'gap up' hedgerows.

# TYPE 2: COASTAL MARGINS

## SUB-TYPE 2c - COASTAL PLAIN

### Key Characteristics

The coastal plains form tracts of low-lying farmland around the County's estuaries. They range from open flat areas with large square fields to more intimate undulating areas on glacially moulded till with small fields. The majority of the farmland is dominated by improved pasture with occasional arable fields producing a patchwork of colours and textures with rougher pasture confined to the margins of mosses and saltmarshes. Proximity of the sea is a major influence. Birch woodlands and plantations around remnant mosses provide shelter and enclosure inland together with farm and village copses and scattered hedgerow trees. Nearer the coast tree cover becomes increasingly sparse and windswept and thick hedges give way to gappy gorse hedges or fences. Drainage ditches are interesting linear features and isolated farms and villages can form prominent point elements on the skyline. Isolation and low levels of development often in closely knit groups result in a peaceful backwater character. Buildings, often of a vernacular character form interesting features.

### Changes in the Landscape

Farming is the main agent for change and the effects of modern agricultural practices are pronounced. Changes include:

- The intrusion of new industrial scale farm buildings
- The switch from hay to more intensive silage production
- Drainage and improvement of wet land
- Loss of woodland
- Removal and neglect of traditional maintenance of hedges
- Loss of farmland wildlife.

While pressures for development have been low, important exceptions include major infrastructure and energy related developments. These can threaten to compromise the open unspoilt qualities of the coastal plains.

### **Vision**

**The vision is to enhance a working landscape that is currently economically viable and well maintained while supporting a diversity of wildlife habitats.** The impacts of agricultural intensification should be minimised and traditional farming practices supported to restore key features such as hedgerows, hay meadows and native woodland. Some diversification of farmland to new crops and recreational uses may be accommodated and encouraged. Opportunities to restore semi-natural wetland should be exploited to enrich wildlife and visual diversity. With careful siting and design it may be possible to absorb some infrastructure and energy related developments. The contrasts of open fields enclosed by bold masses of woodlands could be strengthened while conserving and reinforcing the scattered pattern of isolated mature trees and clumps.

### Guidelines

#### **Natural & Sub Coastal Features:**

- Allow suitable marginal land, which in the past has been reclaimed to agriculture to revert to mossland, saltmarsh or wet grassland.
- Reduce further drainage works that would result in the loss of wetland, hedges or trees.
- Maximise opportunities to improve floral diversity along verges, dikes or ditches through reprofiling banks, extending clearance cycles, working short stretches to allow recolonisation and restricting herbicide use.

#### **Field Boundaries:**

- Restore fenced boundaries to traditional hedgerows involving replanting and renovation of gappy overgrown hedges.
- Discourage the introduction of fences to replace or gap-up hedgerows.
- Manage hedgerows in a traditional way involving a cycle of hand laying and trimming.
- Restore and maintain locally distinctive boundary treatments such as cobblestone and turf hedge banks.

#### **Woodland/Trees:**

- Reinforce existing woods by appropriate management, natural regeneration, exclusion of stock and restocking of plantations.
- Plant new woodland belts to ameliorate existing conifer plantations, enhance significant views and reduce the visual dominance of transmission lines.
- Consider the planting of willow coppice or other energy crops on farmland.
- Plant new hedgerow trees to replace maturing stock using indigenous species, or tagging selected saplings avoiding obstruction of attractive open vistas.
- Undertake small scale native woodland planting concentrated around villages and farmhouses to form visual islands on the coastal plain and soften the forms of new farm buildings.

**Development:**

- Reduce the impact of new farm buildings by careful siting, breaking down mass, choice of sympathetic colours and non-reflective finishes and screen planting.
- Minimise the impact of major developments such as wind energy, roads, pylons and masts by careful siting to maximise screening from public view and high standards of design and landscape treatment.

# TYPE 2: COASTAL MARGINS

## SUB-TYPE 2d - COASTAL URBAN FRINGE

### Key Characteristics

These coastal landscapes of low relief are partially urbanised and fragmented by urban and leisure related development. Although large-scale detractors such as infrastructure, industrial and housing development are present in some parts, on most of the coast, these are replaced by sporadic holiday development and car parks. Hard man-made coastal edges predominate with remnant patches of natural grassland and scrub, some of which are of importance for wildlife. The farmed hinterland is generally small scale and sometimes degraded with gappy hedges and fencing. Derelict sites such as disused airfields, old mining and industrial sites can occasionally detract.

### Changes in the Landscape

Fragmented and sporadic development has influenced the character of this landscape. Recreation pressure on the coastal edge has led to an extension of mown grass areas or hard urban edges. The farmed hinterland can sometimes suffer by neglect of agricultural management that may be a reaction to fragmentation of holdings or public access pressures. Sea level rises and increased storminess may lead to pressure for further hard sea defence works.

### **Vision**

**This is to enhance and restore the landscape quality of the areas and improve them as important settings for recreation.** Improvements should be made with community involvement to foster strong local ownership and distinctiveness. Reinforcement of rural and natural qualities and development of a bold landscape structure to unify disparate uses should be a priority. This may be achieved by conserving rural green areas and reducing the impact of development at prominent locations. There is also scope to restore derelict sites by positive schemes of development and management and landscape works to soften coastal edges, protect significant views and improve recreation facilities. There are also opportunities to restore hedgerows in the farmed hinterland and conserve and extend natural grassland and scrub fringes, and in the more sheltered locations, for woodland creation.

### Guidelines

#### **Development:**

- Protect 'green' areas from sporadic and peripheral development and consider local plan designation of 'green' protection areas such as green wedges.
- 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.
- Manage and restock existing woodland and hedgerow screens.
- Restore and reclaim derelict airfields, industrial sites and mining areas to remove eyesores and enhance semi-natural habitats and make a positive contribution to the landscape.

#### **Recreation Facilities:**

- Establish new planting to provide shelter, enclosure, interest and direct views.
- Unify detailing such as street furniture, lighting and signing respecting any local distinctiveness and historic identity.
- Unify boundary treatments favouring locally distinctive elements such as cobblestone walls or stone and turf banked hedges.
- - Provide robust and durable surfacing with high quality finish to enrich colour and texture.
- Seek to improve the network and enjoyment of rights of way and other paths particularly circular and linking routes while protecting neighbouring land and sensitive habitats.

- Upgrade existing rights of way and other paths by appropriate surfacing, waymarking, stiles, bridges, planting, removal of eyesores and enhancement of views.

**Coastal Defences:**

- Encourage the research and preparation of co-ordinated policies for coastal protection avoiding piecemeal actions.
- Favour 'soft' accretion and defence solutions.

**Field Boundaries:**

- Retain and manage hedgerows in a traditional way encouraging restoration and maintenance of locally distinctive and historic boundary treatments such as cobblestone and turf hedge banks.
- Discourage introduction of fences to replace or 'gap-up' hedges.
- Restore fenced boundaries to traditional hedgerows.
- Where a dilapidated pattern of fields may no longer function as part of a productive farm unit and their value in serving present day needs is questionable, a more radical approach may be appropriate. This could include:
  - Removing some field boundaries to create open 'commons'.
  - Creating a new landscape structure of woodland reflecting topographic variation to define public and private spaces.
  - Rationalising and consolidate uses such as paddocks for horse grazing.

**Unimproved Grassland:**

- Conservation and management of coastal grassland by for example relaxing mowing regimes, managing public access, implementing restoration programmes and controlling scrub encroachment.

# TYPE 3: COASTAL LIMESTONE

## SUB-TYPE 3a - OPEN FARMLAND AND PAVEMENTS

### Key Characteristics

This comprises open, craggy limestone hills separated into two contrasting areas: Farleton Knott and Hutton Roof south of Kendal and along the Furness Coast and Grange overlooking Morecambe Bay. Typically they exhibit dramatic scarp and dip slope profiles creating significant local landmarks. Karst landforms including craggy or rock features with intervening scrub, open common and unimproved grassland on the higher parts contrast with rich green pasture neatly enclosed by stone walls lower down. Limestone pavements occur widely, often coinciding with extensive areas of planted and semi-natural woodland. The pavements and grasslands are of national and sometimes international nature conservation importance. Wide views over the Bay and scenic variety of these low hills close to the National Park, attract many local visitors. They also have a strong sense of history derived from pre-historic earthworks, medieval features and patterns of enclosure and attractive stone built villages. The hills are generally unspoilt but significant discordant features include major limestone quarries and village expansion. Most of the land is grazed with a distinctive and historic pattern of fields bounded by stone walls- otherwise land cover is varied.

### Changes in the Landscape

Generally this is a stable landscape in reasonable health. However its scenic beauty and open character is sensitive to a mixture of localised pressures. Agricultural improvements including fertiliser application and reduction in grazing have reduced species diversity in limestone grasslands and lead to the invasion of scrub. Pressure to extend quarries threatens further disfigurement and removal of limestone pavement has badly damaged an irreplaceable landscape feature and wildlife habitat. The latter now enjoys protection through Limestone Pavement Orders. The higher and more exposed parts may attract wind energy development or communication masts. Their attractiveness and proximity to major towns has resulted in pressures to expand the historic villages.

### **Vision**

**Essentially the aim should be to conserve and enhance the high scenic quality of these limestone hills.** Development proposals should respect the open unspoilt tops and should avoid disruption of the lower small-scale pattern of farmland, woods and villages. Support for maintenance of key components such as the historic pattern of small fields and stone walls should be a priority. Limestone pavement, calcareous grassland and ancient semi-natural woodland require positive measures to conserve and enhance these important components. Improved management practices related to grazing levels and recreation management would also be beneficial.

### Guidelines

#### **Natural Features:**

- Manage limestone pavement and species rich grassland to improve their biological diversity including controlled light grazing, appropriate control of scrub and bracken and discouragement of fertiliser use. Established stands of dwarf shrubs such as juniper should be protected and natural regeneration encouraged.
- Manage public access to prevent disturbance to wildlife and sensitive habitats by improving public footpaths through waymarking, stiles etc. and providing interpretation.

#### **Field Boundaries:**

- Discourage field enlargement and introduction of fences to replace or gap-up walls and hedgerows.
- Restore and manage limestone walls and hedgerows using traditional methods.
- Protect selected features including remnant medieval 'strip fields' around villages.

#### **Woodland/Trees:**

- Reinforce existing woods by appropriate management including traditional coppice working, natural regeneration, restocking and exclusion of stock.
- Conserve and manage scrub where it relates to characteristic vegetation patterns and provides valuable wildlife habitats. This may include rotational cutting to encourage a diverse structure or development to restore relic ancient semi-natural woodland.



**Development:**

- Preserve the distinct historic forms of settlements and intimate relationship to the scale and form of the landscape.
- Strongly resist the siting of alien structures such as masts, pylons and wind turbines.
- Resist expansion of quarries where these will produce prominent scars or destroy irreplaceable features and habitats and require high standards of restoration to appropriate semi-natural habitats.
- Ensure new developments respect the scale, traditional form and materials of villages and do not infill important open spaces such as orchards and gardens integral to their character.
- Enhance settlements through sensitive environmental improvements to village greens, ponds, lakes and other features.

# TYPE 3: COASTAL LIMESTONE

## SUB-TYPE 3b - WOODED HILLS AND PAVEMENTS

### Key Characteristics

This landscape type is confined to the Arnside/Silverdale area on the East Side of Morecambe Bay that is designated as an AONB (part in Lancashire). Here pronounced limestone hills are largely cloaked by broadleaved woodland and separated by improved pastures in low lying sheltered valleys. This mosaic of contrasting countryside also features wetlands, mosses, heath, scrub and a unique assemblage of 'karst' landforms including limestone cliffs, screes and pavements. The landscape is overlain by a network of winding lanes, which link small agricultural settlements and larger coastal villages. Limestone walls and hedges enclose a pattern of small fields, and areas of historic parkland, together with fortified farmhouses and industrial structures such as limekilns are important features of cultural heritage. Coastal cliffs and knotts afford wide attractive views over Morecambe Bay with the Lakeland Fells in the background. The geology and vegetation added to a notably mild climate creates an important diverse natural habitat. Localised intrusions relate to village and tourism development, semi-industrial uses, traditional quarrying of limestone, and areas of commercial afforestation. The Countryside Commission has produced a detailed assessment of the Arnside/Silverdale landscape.<sup>10</sup>

### Changes in the Landscape

The following forces or pressures have led or are leading to changes in the character of the landscape:

- Increasing recreational use of the area, with associated large caravan sites, traffic congestion and heavy use of some footpaths.
- Development of residential and holiday homes, minor road improvements and recreational facilities have led to some 'suburbanisation' of rural character.
- Intensification of agriculture and larger farm holdings could affect distinctive features such as species rich grassland, traditional field boundaries and woodland.
- Decline in the distinctive character of historic parklands, and in the fabric of historic features such as lime kilns and fortified farmhouses
- Extension of limestone quarrying and small-scale local industry.
- Afforestation using non-native species, now ceased

The former destruction of limestone pavement for garden rockery has been stemmed as a result of protection afforded by Limestone Pavement Orders.

### **Vision**

**This is for the conservation and enhancement of this unique and diverse landscape, already a primary objective under AONB designation.** This will require strict control of development and the intensity of vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Continued co-ordination of recreation and countryside management including improvement of facilities for quiet enjoyment, management of distinctive features, interpretation and public liaison is essential. Farmers and landowners need encouragement to adopt detailed management and restoration projects, particularly in relation to traditional farming patterns, semi-natural woodlands, limestone grasslands, mosslands, and features of historic or cultural significance including parkland. The County and District Councils have produced a management strategy for the AONB.<sup>11</sup>

### Guidelines

#### **Woodland/Trees:**

- Conserve and restore the broad scale pattern of ancient semi-natural woodland cover through appropriate management for amenity and nature conservation benefits.
- Encourage appropriate species and structural diversity of woodlands to maximise ecological interest and attractive combinations of colour and texture.
- Retain the character and structure of woodland dominated by yew.
- Retain and appropriately manage areas of historic 18th and 19th Century amenity plantings and parkland

<sup>10</sup> [The Arnside/Silverdale Landscape, A landscape assessment prepared for the Countryside Commission by Woolerton Dodwell Associates, Countryside Commission, CCP 528, 1997.](#)

<sup>11</sup> [Arnside/Silverdale: A Planning and Management Strategy, Lancaster City Council on behalf of the AONB Forum for the Local Authorities, Countryside Commission and English Nature, 1997.](#)

- Enhance the appearance and value of existing commercial and coniferous plantations including the removal of planted woodland from pavement areas.

#### **Unimproved Grassland:**

- Conserve and enhance through appropriate management, the biological diversity of the characteristic open mosaic of bare rock outcrops, species rich calcareous grassland, heath and scrub vegetation.

#### **Field Boundaries**

- Conserve and restore through appropriate management the drystone walls and hedges which enclose the historic pattern of small-scale fields and lanes.
- Discourage field enlargement and introduction of fencing to subdivide fields, or to replace or gap-up walls and hedgerows.

#### **Natural & Cultural Features:**

- Encourage natural diversity through the reversion of drained and intensively managed mossland and pasture back to semi-natural wetland and meadows.
- Conserve and enhance disused quarries and historic structures such as fortified farmhouses, wells, lime kilns and associated quarries.

#### **Development:**

- Resist the further expansion of villages beyond their natural and historic settings avoiding sprawl and encroachment into surrounding countryside.
- Protect village fringes from unsympathetic peripheral development. Ensure any new developments are visually contained and respect the scale, traditional form and character of the settlement.
- Resist infill development of important open spaces within villages.
- Enhance villages through sensitive environmental improvements to entrances, village greens, estuary frontages etc.

#### **Recreation Facilities:**

- Resist the expansion or further development of tourism or recreation facilities, which would prejudice the quiet scenic qualities of this area.
- Develop traffic management schemes to address the problems of congestion and parking whilst avoiding measures to increase capacity for cars.
- Minimise the visual intrusion and ecological damage created by existing facilities such as car parks, lay-bys, waymarking, signage and footpaths through sensitive siting and design, and use of high quality durable materials.
- Protect sensitive natural habitats through careful routing of paths and provision of vehicle restraints.

#### **Sub Coastal Features:**

- Reverse the effects of agricultural improvements and scrub/woodland encroachment on remaining wetland mosses through the adoption of environmentally sensitive management measures.
- Encourage the reversion of drained and managed mossland back to semi-natural wetland.

# TYPE 3: COASTAL LIMESTONE

## SUB-TYPE 3c - DISTURBED AREAS

### Key Characteristics

This comprises three small pockets of 'hummocky' land north of Dalton-in-Furness. It is of unique character and has been created by mine workings on undulating glacial till overlying limestone. The landform is irregular; strewn with spoil heaps and steep-sided depressions containing ponds. The area is becoming naturalised with species such as scrub willow and alder and taking on a 'bosky' appearance. Small patches of marsh and reed beds occur with herb-rich grassland along some margins. A fragmented pattern of improved grazing land fills in around these more natural habitats. Features include informal tracks, abandoned quarries and mine buildings. Views are limited by terrain with only the hilltops offering long views along the coast.

### Changes in the Landscape

The area is susceptible to pressures to damage by recreation, tipping and agricultural reclamation. However, given their proximity to urban centres they provide a valuable setting for recreation. Some areas are subject to development pressures while there is some loss of hedges and replacement with intrusive fences.

### **Vision**

**Conservation and enhancement of the areas of industrial legacy and wildlife interest.** This may only be achieved by carefully managing recreation demands such as fishing and balancing these community uses against these interests. For the remainder of the areas the vision is to enhance this working landscape and to restore harmony through improved management of key features and integration of development. This will include strengthening field patterns and woodland cover, and resisting field enlargement and reducing the intrusion of modern farm buildings. Capacity to accept further development is limited and there is a need to soften the impact of harsh development edges and integrate peripheral development within a stronger landscape framework.

### Guidelines

#### **Naturalised Areas:**

- Conserve and enhance the diversity of natural habitats including scrub woodland, open water, marsh and herb-rich grassland. This may include exclusion of livestock, avoidance of agricultural improvements such as liming, herbicide and fertiliser applications, maintenance of a high water table and controlling access and recreation use.
- Resist land filling or tipping within pits and quarries of historical, ecological or geological importance.
- Improve the network of footpaths. This may involve negotiation of permissive access routes, sensitively upgrading paths through appropriate surfacing, waymarking, stiles, interpretation and enhancement of viewpoints.
- Improve and manage facilities for recreation such as existing car parks in appropriate rural vernacular and using high quality durable materials.

#### **Field Boundaries:**

- Encourage retention, restoration and traditional maintenance of hedgerows.
- Increase planting of native broadleaf trees as features within hedgerows.
- Ensure where possible that 'linked networks' of vegetation are created using native trees and shrubs to enhance their nature conservation value and their use as 'ecological corridors'.
- Encourage retention and restoration of stone walls, traditional gate posts and features on a whole farm basis.

**Farm Buildings/Development:**

- Encourage retention of existing traditional stone buildings, gate posts, planting on garths, around buildings, along farm access roads and main entrances.
- Reduce the impact of any large scale new farm buildings by sensitive siting, breaking down mass, choice of sympathetic colours and non-reflective finishes and landscaping using traditional hedgerows and woodland screen planting.
- Resist proposals to reclaim former mining areas for development.

# TYPE 4: COASTAL SANDSTONE

## Key Characteristics

This landscape comprises the distinctive sandstone cliffs of St Bees Head 140m in height with an adjacent plateau of large scale fields descending to Pow Beck. The Coastal Footpath follows a route along the cliff tops. St Bees Head and its immediate hinterland has been defined as a Heritage Coast. The area is valuable for wildlife and features include the seabird colony, maritime heathland, grassland and geological exposures.. The Marchon Chemical Works and the edge of Whitehaven define the northern boundary of the Type. South of St Bees, at a lower level, there is a largely unspoilt rural coastline with rolling pastoral fields with prominent hedgebanks. The BNF Sellafield works dominates views down the coast, while some poorly screened caravan sites form intrusive elements.

## Changes in the Landscape

This high quality landscape rare within Cumbria is affected by agricultural change including neglect or loss of field boundary hedges and the loss of landscape features. Urban and industrial development affects the northern part. The intrusion of existing recreational facilities and the potential for increased recreational activity associated with the coastal path are additional issues.

## **Vision**

**The objective is to conserve, enhance and restore the landscape.** This includes the conservation and enhancement of the distinctive sandstone cliff scenery of the Heritage Coast and enhancement of the coastal strip below St Bees. This should include the restoration of locally distinctive features such as hedge banks and the restoration of maritime heath along the cliff top. A Management Plan should be prepared for the Heritage Coast. There is also a need to manage recreation pressures and ensure that any development is sensitively sited and designed. There is an opportunity to create more woodland on the good soils behind the immediate coast.

## Guidelines

### **Field Boundaries:**

- Restore and maintain existing hedgerows and hedge banks in a traditional manner.
- Undertake supplementary planting of scanty hedgerows and hedge banks.
- Where climatic conditions allow, increase planting of deciduous trees within hedgerows to strengthen the pattern in the landscape and increase their value as a wildlife habitat.
- Discourage the sole use of fences as field boundaries and encourage planting and traditional management of hedgerows.

### **Woodland/Trees:**

- In areas less effected by sea winds encourage a programme of mixed planting over a phased period; to include establishment of wind breaks, followed by further planting of tree groups, woodlands and feature trees.
- Establish native tree planting along the main water courses at Pow Beck and River Ehen to further emphasise their legibility in the landscape and increase their potential for nature conservation.

### **Recreation Facilities:**

- Manage public access to avoid sensitive wildlife locations along the coastal footpath.
- Introduce planting associated with wind-break barriers to improve the appearance and shelter along promenades.
- Undertake sea frontage improvements linked to the existing and potential recreational capacity.
- Improve the design and maintenance of public facilities.

### **Natural Features:**

- Maintain, enhance and restore important features including maritime cliff grassland, maritime heath, the seabird colony and geological features through appropriate management.

**Development:**

- Strengthen definition between town and country by using extensive buffer planting to screen the built up areas and reduce the impact of industry.
- Improve visual containment of caravan parks close to the coast with landscape works and discourage further developments in prominent coastal locations.

**Farm Buildings:**

- 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.

# TYPE 5: LOWLAND

## SUB TYPE 5a: RIDGE & VALLEY

### Key Characteristics

This is a large scale rolling and well managed farmland landscape that runs as a broad belt across the back of the Solway Basin and south into West Cumbria. High wide ridges with long views contrast with 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, tree clumps, small rivers and becks. Roads are generally straight but wind through valleys. There are scattered farm buildings and linear villages that often follow the ridges. Some of the rivers passing through the type are of importance for wildlife.

### Changes in the Landscape

The main forces or pressures leading to changes in the landscape are:

- A trend towards the development of urban fringe characteristics.
- Agricultural change leading to the neglect and loss of landscape features and traditional boundaries together with field enlargement.
- A more obvious detrimental impact from industrial development, roads, wind turbines, masts, pylons and areas affected by opencast coal mining.
- Water abstraction, pollution and enrichment and changes in management affecting river and streamside features.

Much of the area would be sensitive to ridgeline development.

### **Vision**

**The vision is for enhancement through restoration of this working landscape as ‘green and pleasant’.** This would help it to accommodate further agricultural intensification and field enlargement provided this is balanced with improved management of retained hedgerows and woodlands. Bold new woodland planting would be beneficial in providing visual contrast. Softening of harsh development edges, integration of peripheral development within a stronger landscape framework and restriction of ridge top clutter could strengthen the rural environment and minimise the effect of urban influences.

### Guidelines

#### **Woodland/Trees:**

- Use appropriate large scale new planting to integrate settlements and associated industrial development with the surrounding countryside and provide landscape frameworks for development expansion.
- Manage and restock maturing hedgerow trees and woodlands.
- Undertake environmental improvement within villages and built up areas to complement planting proposals within the surrounding farmland areas: to include roadside tree planting and within public open spaces to create a more established appearance and a stronger identity to individual settlements.
- Introduce planting along disused mineral railway lines to create attractive recreational links including footpaths, bridleways and cycleways.

#### **Field Boundaries:**

- Enrich depleted hedgerows linked to woodland planting where possible.
- Enhance/restore hedgerows and encourage traditional management and maintenance.
- Discourage the permanent introduction of fences to replace or ‘gap up’ hedgerows.

#### **Natural Features:**



- Maintain and enhance the aquatic interest of rivers and floodplain environments.

**Development:**

- 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.

**Villages:**

- 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.
- Carry out village enhancement schemes including townscape environmental improvements, tree planting and establishment of attractive green spaces.

**Farm Buildings:**

- Reduce the impact of large scale new buildings by careful location away from ridge tops and subservient to traditional farm and landscape proposals, and using a choice of sympathetic colours and non-reflective finishes.
- Conserve and enhance the traditional farm buildings and features within their own setting.

# TYPE 5: LOWLAND

## SUB TYPE 5b: LOW FARMLAND

### Key Characteristics

Much of the type is an intensively farmed open landscape generally below 100m OD. The topography is undulating but locally more rolling with meandering river valleys. Some valleys contain important hanging woodlands. Views are sometimes wide or long distance, attractive but usually unspectacular. Lines of pylons spoil some views. The predominant land cover is pasture with patchy woodland and arable land. Fields tend to be large, sometimes squarish and bounded by hedges or fences. Tree clumps, riverside and hedgerow trees are notable features as well as hedgebanks in the west. Roads wind through the hillier parts but otherwise tend to be straight. The type also includes flat, wettish hollows, some of which are SSSIs.

### Changes in the Landscape

The following forces or pressures have led or are leading to changes in the character of the landscape:

- Creeping urbanisation around Carlisle intruding upon tranquil areas
- Recreation facilities such as golf courses
- Large scale farm development
- Depletion of field boundary patterns
- Loss and neglect of features such as hedgerow trees, copses and wetland, gradually contributing to a blander appearance.
- Damage to mosses and wetland by agricultural pollution and drying out.

**Vision** This is a working landscape which is currently economically viable and generally well maintained. The Strategy is to **conserve and enhance** its key features. Further agricultural change and development may be absorbed if combined with measures to conserve and enhance landscape and wildlife features and minimise urban intrusions. Whilst field enlargement may be accepted improved management of retained hedges should be a priority along with management and replenishment of trees and woodland.

### Guidelines

#### **Field Boundaries:**

- Restore and maintain remaining hedgerows to strengthen field patterns and convey an impression of good health.
- Renovate gappy overgrown hedges through management and replanting.
- Discourage introduction of fences to replace or gap up hedgerows
- Manage hedgerows in a traditional way.
- Restore and maintain traditional kests (hedge banks) and small scale field patterns.
- In all areas strengthen and develop field patterns to provide an improved setting for towns and villages.

#### **Woodland/Trees:**

- Manage and restock hedgerow trees, parkland trees and copses round farms and villages.
- Increase planting of mixed woodland and tree groups of varying sizes to create more panoramic diversity and colour
- Create 'linked networks' of vegetation using native trees and shrubs to form 'ecological corridors' as well as emphasise valleys.
- Use woodland to contain and soften those areas that have been degraded by development or require an improved setting in the landscape.
- Use woodland planting particularly along the M6 corridor, east of Carlisle, where strong landscape features are needed to compete with this divisive element.

**Farm Buildings:**

- Plant deciduous tree groups and lines on garths, around farm buildings, along farm access roads and main entrances.
- Reduce the impact of large-scale new farm buildings by locating them on a non-prominent position subservient to traditional farm buildings, broken down in mass, softened by landscape proposals using a choice of sympathetic colours and non-reflective finishes.
- Encourage retention of traditional stone gateposts and features.

**Villages:**

- 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.
- Avoid further ribbon development or fragmented development unless it can be demonstrated that it makes a contribution to landscape character.

**Development:**

- Improve visual awareness of the individual settlement, land uses and cultural landmarks along each road and provide locations for stopping, viewing and picnicking.
- Introduce roadside planting of deciduous and mixed species to enrich views from the road.
- Encourage environmental improvements within the roadside settlements to include traffic calming, planting and stronger definition of gateway entrances and exits.
- Integrate new recreation development such as golf courses into the countryside by careful siting, appropriate ground modelling and planting and exploit opportunities these developments provide to improve visual and wildlife diversity.

**Wetland:**

- Manage mosses to improve wildlife diversity and provide contrasts in texture and colour to improved farmland.
- Restore wetland or unimproved grassland in particular around existing areas of moss. This may include 'blocking' of drainage systems, restricting grazing, appropriate wetland planting or seeding, removal of hedgerows, scrub and woodland.

# TYPE 5: LOWLAND

## SUB TYPE 5c: ROLLING LOWLAND

### Key Characteristics

This landscape occurs as isolated tracts in Carlisle, Allerdale and Barrow. It has an interesting topography being generally undulating or rolling. The underlying geology is variable including sand deposits in Carlisle, mudstone or limestone in Allerdale and sandstone or limestone in Barrow. It is mostly open in character with some steep sided valleys and low summits. Land cover is dominated by pasture with some woodland, scrub and other marginal land. Hedgerows and hedgerow trees are dominant on the lower ground while field patterns also relate to topography. The sub-type includes attractive parkland, plantations of scattered woodland and stone built villages. Detracting elements include sand pits, new housing and quarrying.

### Changes in the Landscape

These areas have been subjected to agricultural change leading to neglect of boundary features and are subject to pressures for urban development particularly around Carlisle. New roads, recreational facilities and quarrying have also led to loss of landscape features. This is a medium scale mainly open landscape sensitive to agricultural change and any large-scale development.

### **Vision**

**The vision is to enhance this interesting working landscape and to restore harmony through improved management of key features and integration of development.** A prosperous farming economy will be essential in supporting programmes to strengthen field patterns and woodland cover, however, field enlargement and the intrusion of modern farm buildings need to be sited unobtrusively. There is a need to soften the impact of unsympathetic development edges and integrate peripheral development within a stronger landscape framework. The identity of existing buildings and villages needs to be enhanced.

### Guidelines

#### **Field Boundaries:**

- Encourage retention, restoration and traditional maintenance of hedgerows.
- Increase planting of deciduous trees as feature trees, within hedgerows.
- Ensure where possible that 'linked networks' of vegetation are created using native trees and shrubs to enhance their nature conservation value and their use as 'ecological corridors'.
- Encourage retention and restoration of stone walls, traditional gate posts and features on a whole farm basis.

#### **Woodland/Trees:**

- Planting of mixed shelterbelts in the more exposed areas with tree groups, woodlands and feature trees throughout the landscape and particularly along watercourses.
- Plant small mixed woodlands to enrich landscape pattern and to visually contain village expansion, existing quarries and recreational facilities.
- Improve the management, maintenance of existing mature woodlands and carry out supplementary planting of woodlands, tree groups and copses within this area.
- Encourage maintenance and enhancement of parklands to include programmes of amenity management and replacement planting in sympathy with the historic significance.

#### **Farm Buildings:**

- Encourage retention of existing traditional stone buildings, gate posts, planting on garths, around buildings, along farm access roads and main entrances.

- Reduce the impact of any large scale new farm buildings by sensitive siting, breaking down mass, choice of sympathetic colours and non-reflective finishes and landscaping using traditional hedgerows and woodland screen planting.

**Development:**

- Encourage environmental improvements within settlements including traffic calming measures. Use planting to strengthen the definition of 'gateways' and enhance the identity.
- Soften the impact of unsympathetic development edges and integrate peripheral development within a stronger landscape framework.
- Integrate new recreation development such as golf courses into the countryside by careful siting, appropriate ground modelling and planting and exploit opportunities these developments provide to improve visual and wildlife diversity.
- Ensure mineral extraction is carried out in a manner that does minimal damage to distinctive landscape features.

# TYPE 5: LOWLAND

## SUB TYPE 5d: URBAN FRINGE

### Key Characteristics

This landscape sub-type is similar to 5a and 5b but occurs where agricultural landscapes have been subject to urban influences. The areas have however remained mainly rural in character. In West Cumbria, for example small settlements formerly associated with deep mining have spread over the ridge and valley landscape. While deep mining has gone, the working of coal by opencast methods is still occurring. In Carlisle the sub-type forms a ring of semi-urbanised low farmland around the city. The banks of the River Eden are attractive recreation areas that are also of importance for wildlife.

### Changes in the Landscape

The following forces or pressures have led to changes in this landscape:

- The tendencies for urban development to further encroach on the countryside and for agriculture to suffer from vandalism and pressures for access.
- Housing development on sensitive ridges and often lacking the softening effect of vegetation.
- Lack of village identity and poor definition between town and country.
- Areas of despoiled land creating a raw appearance.
- Declining patterns of field boundaries.

### **Vision**

**The vision is for the enhancement through restoration of this changing landscape.** Management should aim for a stronger definition between town and country areas, integration of adjacent discordant land uses into the landscape, combined with management and restoration of landscape features. Development of a bold landscape structure using woodland planting to unify disparate uses should be a priority in developing areas. Reinforcement of rural 'green' qualities would help maintain rural character and provide visual relief.

### Guidelines

#### **Development:**

- Protect countryside areas from sporadic and peripheral development through the local plans.
- Careful siting of any new development in non-prominent locations.
- Strengthen landscape wedges with mixed woodland and hedgerow planting and restoration of natural landscape features.
- Along major roads, develop schemes to improve visual awareness of the individual settlements, land uses and cultural landmarks.

#### **Field boundaries:**

- Restore and develop the pattern of hedgerows with additional planting and supplementary planting of scanty hedgerows.
- Increase planting of deciduous trees as feature trees, within hedgerows, along watercourses and in tree groups to enrich the general landscape.
- Ensure, where possible, that linked networks of vegetation are created using native trees and shrubs to enhance their nature conservation value and their use as 'ecological corridors'.
- Discourage the replacement or sole use of fences and encourage planting and traditional management of hedgerows.
- Develop whole farm environmental schemes.

**Woodland/Trees:**

- Establish new woodlands or tree groups on prominent skylines in order to soften their windswept appearance and provide screening where climatic conditions allow.
- Manage and restore existing semi-natural woodlands.
- Carry out schemes of structural planting to contain settlements, punctuate and reinforce the identity of each settlement and contain urban edges.
- Use planting and general environmental improvements to frame views and define open spaces and recreational links along river valleys.

**Natural Features**

- Schemes for the management of riverbanks should be carried out sympathetically.
- Unimproved grassland or wetlands should be restored where possible.

**Farm Buildings:**

- Conserve and maintain traditional farm buildings within their own setting.
- Reduce the impact of large scale new farm buildings by careful location so as not to dominate the traditional farm buildings on a plot adequate to accommodate circulation, storage and landscape proposals using a choice of sympathetic colours and non-reflective finishes.

# TYPE 5: LOWLAND

## SUB-TYPE 5e: DRAINED MOSSES

### Key Characteristics

This is a small pocket confined to one area near Carlisle that is a mainly flat, open landscape consisting of drained mossy fields, sparse hedges and relict woodland. Straight roads, drainage ditches and a lack of tree cover creates a balanced and calm appearance. Extensive peat extraction has occurred over part of the site and the remainder has been designated as a SSSI to safeguard its nature conservation interest. Pylons occasionally mar the area and small-scale dereliction coupled with some poorly maintained farm buildings.

### Changes in the Landscape

The main pressures and changes in this landscape arise from:

- Continued peat extraction threatens nature conservation and landscape interest.
- Agricultural improvement has led to neglect of maintenance of existing features.
- The clutter of pylons and small-scale dereliction.
- Possible windfarm development.

### **Vision**

**The vision here is for the conservation of remaining undrained moss together with restoration of drained or worked mossland.** The potential to recreate a more natural landscape and increase wildlife interest should be exploited in particular once restoration of the worked mosses is possible. An active programme of planting and the improved management of hedges, woodland and tree belts and the tidying up or screening of eyesores on the periphery is also required in order to create more texture and definition in a bland landscape.

### Guidelines

#### **Field Boundaries:**

- Undertake additional planting of hedgerows along ditches, road sides and accesses to farms, to create new features in the landscape on a whole farm basis.
- Undertake supplementary planting and management of neglected hedgerows and traditional maintenance of all hedgerows.
- Maintain tree lines as key features.
- Plant a variety of indigenous species and sizes of trees within the hedgerows to create an enriched environment of natural appearance.

#### **Woodland/Trees:**

- Plant woodland clumps in association with groups of farm buildings.
- Plant additional small scale mixed woodlands to create all year interest.
- Undertake improved management and supplementary planting of tree clumps and belts.



**Natural Features:**

- Encourage schemes for the sensitive management of the mosses and surrounding agricultural land including maintenance of a high water table, phased cutting of heather, preventing damage to moss growth by overgrazing and poaching, control of scrub encroachment, restricting liming, fertiliser herbicide and pesticide treatments.
- Restore drained mossland back to wetland. This may include ‘blocking’ of drainage systems, restricting grazing, and removal of invasive scrub and woodland.
- Consider the potential for interpretation, controlled access and additional facilities in consultation with English Nature.

**Development:**

- Protect the mosses from further commercial peat cutting and agree schemes to ensure worked areas revert to a natural condition.
- Ensure that any proposals within existing peat working areas are carefully sited and designed to retain the unspoilt open character of this landscape.
- Resist any infrastructure development that will threaten the quiet and open character or mar views.

# TYPE 6: INTERMEDIATE LAND

## Key Characteristics

This is an extensive area intermediate between lowland and the more rolling uplands occurring in a tract south of Carlisle and on the fringes of the Eden Valley. It varies in form from large scale rolling landscapes to small scale undulating and enclosed landscapes. Well-wooded valleys of the Black and White Lyne rivers dissect the Carlisle area. Along the Eden Valley there are broad valleys and narrow gills with some more enclosed landscapes often associated with traditional stone villages in more protected locations. Features of wildlife importance that tend to be isolated/restricted include mires, species rich grassland, rivers and semi-natural woodland. In the Inglewood Forest area the radio masts at Skelton Pasture and the M6 motorway and main line railway corridor mar a well-regulated estate field pattern of hedgerows and shelterbelts. Most of the type is fairly bland in character with few strong features.

## Changes in the Landscape

The main changes in the landscape or pressures arise from:

- Agricultural improvements leading to loss of hedgerows, wetland habitats and neglect of field boundaries.
- Increasing numbers of large-scale farm buildings sometimes sited in prominent locations.
- The M6 corridor as a divisive element in the landscape with the potential to attract commercial development.
- Large scale developments such as the radio masts at Skelton.

## **Vision**

**The main vision is to exploit opportunities to enhance this landscape.** This would include management and restoration of field boundaries, woodland and other features of landscape and wildlife interest. Restoration of neglected farmland and a reduction in the detrimental impact of prominent developments is required. Traditional farmsteads and villages should be conserved in their setting.

## Guidelines

### **Field Boundaries:**

- Maintain and enhance the pattern of hedgerows with additional / supplementary planting of scanty hedgerows and traditional management.
- Establish ecological corridors using native trees and shrubs.
- Encourage retention and traditional management of drystone walls.

### **Woodland/Trees:**

- Strengthen and expand farm woodlands and shelterbelts to frame open views and soften the impact of urban development.
- Manage existing broadleaved woodland by natural regeneration and restocking with native deciduous species, maintenance of clearings and coppiced areas.
- Plant small to medium scale broadleaved woodlands on valley sides and within the motorway corridor and where the impact of cycles of clear felling of commercial woodlands can be softened.
- Conserve important riverside trees.
- Plant new hedgerow trees to replace maturing stock using indigenous species or tagging selected saplings.

**Natural Features:**

- Maintain and enhance the landscape and ecological value of rivers and riparian floodplain habitats.
- Enhance and expand other natural features through appropriate management.

**Unimproved Grassland:**

- Promote the conservation of existing semi-improved pastures and meadows and extend species rich grassland to provide visual contrast, botanical interest and consequent habitat for wildlife.
- Manage and enhance diverse swards in marginal farmland and roadside verges.

**Farm Buildings:**

- Conserve and enhance the stone built farm buildings and features within their landscape settings.
- Reduce the impact of large scale new buildings by careful siting and design.

**Development:**

- 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.
- Undertake environmental improvements within settlements including traffic calming, crossing points, roadside tree planting and strong definition of the gateway entrance and exit from the individual settlement.
- Retain the rural character of the M6 corridor by resisting commercial development, wind farms, masts.

**Villages:**

- Protect and enhance historic stone built villages with distinctive nuclear or linear forms.
- Ensure new development respects the variable scale, and character of the landscape, creates focal spaces and is also well related to distinctive built forms.
- Enhance all villages through sensitive environmental improvements.

# TYPE 7: DRUMLINS

## SUB-TYPES 7a and 7b - LOW DRUMLINS AND DRUMLIN FIELD

### Key Characteristics

This is a comfortable working landscape small to medium in scale distinguished by its hilly terrain and strong field pattern occurring in isolated tracts around Kendal and east of Barrow. Boulder clay and sands have been moulded by glacial processes into patterns of oval ‘whaleback’ hills, often steep-sided and with broad rounded tops. These vary from pronounced closely packed drumlins up to 100 m (Sub-type 7b) to more subdued isolated drumlins up to 40 m on the fringes (sub-type 7a). Lush improved pastures and meadows are contained within a strong framework of hedges and stone walls. Tree cover declines as the drumlins become more open or are exposed to coastal influences. Inland hedgerow trees and small woods are frequent. An intricate network of lanes and tracks connect numerous farmsteads and villages. These retain a strong historic structure responding to the shape of the landform. Features include wild flower verges, streams, wet hollows and occasional tarns, remnant medieval field systems, disused railways and a canal. Views tend to be intermittent and frustrated by hedges and hills. Farms and villages nestle within valleys often with a historic core.

### Changes in the Landscape

This landscape is subject to the following changes or pressures:

- Housing and recreation development occurring in proximity of major towns.
- Village expansion, barn conversions and sporadic development threaten to weaken the local identity.
- Agricultural change towards intensively managed grassland and silage production.
- Localised examples of neglect of hedges and walls.
- Infrastructure developments including pylons, roads, motorway and railway cutting across the grain of landscape.
- Some depot and industrial developments threaten rural qualities.
- Other potential changes include wind energy development and farm diversification to recreational use such as golf courses.

### **Vision**

**Generally this is well-composed landscape where conservation and enhancement should be a priority.** Its unique topography is a natural asset that should be respected and accentuated. Agricultural changes might be tempered by programmes to strengthen and maintain the distinctive field pattern, conserve and restore natural features and minimise the intrusion of new farm buildings. It would also be desirable to conserve and extend the pattern of small woods and hedgerow trees that complement the scale, relief and field patterning of the drumlins.

The visual containment of this landscape offers scope for small-scale development but careful siting and alignment is required to complement the grain and form of the drumlins. There is an opportunity to strengthen recreation routes and address problems of wear and trespass.

### Guidelines

#### **Field Boundaries:**

- Conserve and maintain hedgerows in a traditional way where possible with hand laying and trimming.
- Discourage boundary removal and field enlargement.
- Maintain drystone walls in the traditional manner.
- Restore neglected hedgerows involving replanting of gaps and coppicing of overgrown plants.

#### **Woodland/Trees:**

- Plant small pockets of indigenous woodland within hollows or on prominent hilltops and woodland belts between the lower more open drumlin swarms.
- Manage existing woods by selective felling, natural regeneration, restocking and exclusion of stock.
- Establish new hedgerow trees using indigenous species or tagging selected saplings to replace maturing stock.

- Resist large scale planting that would obscure or swamp the pattern of drumlins.

**Natural Features:**

- Protect and enhance tarns and wetlands through carefully controlling drainage schemes to safeguard water quality and levels and regenerating water margin vegetation by preventing overgrazing and poaching by stock and controlling scrub encroachment.
- Create new ponds, tarns and wetlands in hollows and by streams.
- Maximise floral diversity along road verges by adopting sensitive cutting cycles and restricting use of herbicides.

**Cultural Features:**

- Conserve and enhance features such as remnant medieval ‘town fields’ and disused iron ore mines in Furness by positive management and discouraging damaging agricultural and other reclamation schemes.
- Conserve and enhance historic routes such as the Lancaster Canal and encourage public use by management of trees and scrub, carrying out structural repairs to bridges, walls etc. (with archaeological advice) and protection from stock.
- Promote and upgrade recreation routes such as the Cistercian Way and Lancaster Canal by waymarking, appropriate surfacing, provision and maintenance of stiles, interpretation etc.

**Development, Farm Buildings and Villages:**

- Ensure that all developments are well related to the distinctive grain and scale of this landscape. Avoid prominent hill tops or cutting across slopes and take advantage of natural containment by landform and trees.
- Reduce the impact of new farm buildings by careful siting, breaking down mass, choice of sympathetic colours and non-reflective finishes and screen planting. Ensure any diversification from farming use does not disrupt the strong held pattern.
- Conserve and protect historic villages by ensuring new housing development respects their scale, traditional form and vernacular styles and does not overcrowd narrow lanes or infill open spaces such as orchards and gardens integral to the character. Encourage sensitive environmental improvements to village greens, ponds, tree plantings etc.

# TYPE 7: DRUMLINS

## SUB TYPE 7c: SANDY KNOLLS AND RIDGES

### Key Characteristics

This is a single area east of Carlisle near Brampton predominantly pasture but with significant woodland cover, including coniferous plantations, semi-natural woods, parkland and hanging woods. The combination of prominent knolls and ridges with hill top clumps of trees, mature woodland and rich pasture creates an attractive park-like appearance. This small to medium scale largely stable landscape is rich in historic features, particularly relating to the Roman and medieval periods. Pleasant views framed by woodland or topography and longer vistas from the ridges are also important. The majority of the area appears relatively stable and well managed.

### Changes in the Landscape

The following changes and pressures are important in this sub-type:

- Residential development and barn conversions within existing villages.
- The new Brampton by-pass runs through the area.
- Some of the woodland areas managed for conservation with public access but otherwise few facilities for recreation.
- Symptoms of agricultural change include neglect or removal of some hedges.

### **Vision**

**Generally this is a varied well-composed landscape to be conserved and enhanced.** This may be achieved by resisting any large-scale changes in agricultural management or major increases in woodland cover. Residential development, mineral extraction or recreation development should be carefully controlled. Farmers and landowners should be encouraged to manage and restore hedges and other boundary features, woods and individual trees. The visual containment of this landscape offers scope for small-scale development but careful siting and landscape treatment is required.

### Guidelines

#### **Field Boundaries:**

- Encourage traditional management of hedgerows and maintenance of the existing pattern of field boundaries.
- Encourage the restoration of gappy hedgerows and the replacement of fences with hedges.

#### **Woodlands/Trees:**

- Manage existing woods by appropriate cutting, natural regeneration, restocking and exclusion of stock.
- Institute programmes of replacement planting of hedgerow trees using indigenous species or tagging selected saplings.
- Encourage the creation of small to medium size new native woodlands.

#### **Natural & Cultural Features:**

- Conserve historic features in their landscape setting and encourage interpretation/visitor management.
- Consider the potential for interpretation, controlled access and additional facilities in consultation with English Heritage.

**Development:**

- Conserve and protect historic villages and hamlets and ensure all new development reflects the scale and character of the existing settlement.
- Encourage additional planting to soften and screen existing large scale or eyesore developments.
- Ensure mineral extraction is carried out in a manner that does minimal damage to distinctive landscape features.

**Recreation:**

- Manage the pressure for both formal and informal recreation by encouraging access to areas able to sustain the impact without detriment.
- Encourage the development of footpath, bridleway and cycleway networks where appropriate combined with additional hedgerow and tree planting to provide interest.
- Encourage the provision of additional facilities such as access by public transport and necessary signage.

# TYPE 8: MAIN VALLEYS

## SUB TYPE 8a: GORGES

### Key Characteristics

This linear landscape feature follows the River Eden from Wetheral to near Lazonby. It has a strongly distinctive character and consists of steep gorges, cliffs and woodland creating a natural landscape of great interest. The River Eden and woodlands are also of high wildlife importance. Nunnery Walks, at the point where Croglin Water meets the River Eden in a dramatic series of waterfalls has been famous for its picturesque attractions since Victorian times. The Carlisle-Settle line gives the traveller panoramic views along the length of the gorge. There are attractive red sandstone villages related to the gorge at Nunnery, Armathwaite, Holmwrangle and Wetheral.

### Changes in the Landscape

The main changes and pressures in this sub-type are due to:

- The high quality of this landscape and its vulnerability to management and development change.
- Potential pressures for change from village expansion and increased recreational use
- Effect of change on the nature conservation value of the River Eden SSSI.
- The replanting of some of the ancient valley woods and large scale coniferous planting is no longer seen as a threat, however, sensitive management of maturing plantations is an issue.

### **Vision**

**Conservation and enhancement of the picturesque qualities and ecological richness of the gorge should be a priority.** This will require protection and strengthening of natural land cover patterns and contrasts within the gorge. For instance there is an opportunity to restore the character of the former ancient and semi-natural woodland cover through the cycles of management. Strict control of any development and management of recreation is needed.

### Guidelines

#### **Woodlands:**

- Improve management of the established broadleaf woodlands primarily for landscape and nature conservation.
- Where appropriate, extend broadleaf woodland cover along the River Eden and tributaries linking into the adjacent pattern of hedgerows to further emphasise their legibility in landscape and increase potential for nature conservation.
- Ameliorate existing coniferous plantations through sensitive management including softening of geometric outlines, phased felling appropriate to small scale linear landscape patterns, introduction of open spaces and restocking with appropriate broadleaf species.
- Retain and maintain existing stone walls, gate posts and other built features.

#### **Natural Features**

- Maintain the wildlife and landscape interest of the river and adjacent habitats through sensitive management or non-intervention.

#### **Recreation Facilities:**

- Ensure that any access proposals are guided to less sensitive areas most able to accommodate them without detriment the nature conservation value.



**Villages/Development:**

- Protect fringes from unsympathetic development that will affect the setting of the village particularly in its relationship with the River Eden.
- Ensure new development respects the scale and traditional form of the villages. Integrate new buildings by use of appropriate materials.

# TYPE 8: MAIN VALLEYS

## SUB TYPE 8b: BROAD VALLEYS

### Key Characteristics

These are broad river valleys predominantly rural in character and include the valleys of the River Esk/Liddel Water, Eden, Irthing, Kent, Lyth and Lune. While generally broad in scale, topography can vary sometimes forming meandering river loops or narrow river valleys. Land cover is mixed but predominantly pastoral with plantations, scrub and other woodland often present. Fences and hedges form most boundaries, often appearing neglected. Notable features include hanging woodland, (parts of the R Eden, Irthing), gorges (Irthing), rocky sections (Eden, Kent) and limestone escarpment (Lyth). Other interesting features include terraces and waterfalls, parkland and historic routeways. Three of the rivers (Eden, Kent and Irthing) are of particular importance for wildlife and the River Eden and tributaries (including the Irthing) are designated as SSSI and candidate Special Area of Conservation.

### Changes in the Landscape

The changes and pressures on these landscapes affect all areas to a degree but are most evident as follows:

- Changing agricultural practices leading to the neglect of landscape features (R Eden).
- Pressures for expansion in the villages along the River Eden.
- Impact of coniferous forests (R Eden).
- Intensive farming, loss or replacement of hedgerows by fences and symptoms of neglect (R Irthing - consequences are significant because the valley forms the setting to Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site).
- Developmental pressures relating to road improvements and wind energy (R Irthing).
- Pressure for new housing, caravan parks and large scale farm buildings and recreation (R Kent).
- Neglect of landscape features, estate woodlands, trees and hedges (R Lune)
- Pressure for housing and recreational facilities such as golf courses (R Lune).
- Water abstraction, pollution and enrichment and changes in management affecting riverside features.

### **Vision**

**The vision is for the conservation and enhancement of these landscapes.** This includes enhancement and stronger definition of the valleys which relieve the surrounding blander working countryside; conserving and enhancing the settlement pattern and habitats associated with the rivers; conserving and strengthening tree cover, avoiding over development, improving wildlife habitats and restoring and strengthening hedgerow patterns. Conserve and enhance historic features and strengthen the sense of historic continuity.

### Guidelines

#### **Woodland/Trees:**

- Reinforce established broad-leaved and mixed woodlands through improved management and supplementary planting.
- Extend tree cover into adjacent areas by additional planting of tree groups, lines, hedgerow trees and roadside planting, encouraging use of indigenous species.
- Plant trees to enhance vistas whilst emphasising contrasts between wooded valley sides and open flood plain.
- Encourage the use of deciduous species along the river valley sides to give definition to the watercourse and encourage the development of riverside habitats.
- Introduce open areas within woodland and manage water and wetlands to increase landscape and nature conservation value.

#### **Field Boundaries:**

- Improve the management of existing hedgerows to create stronger patterns in the landscape.
- Encourage the replanting and renovation of gappy overgrown hedges.
- Create ecological corridors to enhance nature conservation value.

**Development:**

- Minimise the visual impact of recreational developments such as caravan sites. Careful siting, restrictions on scale and a high standard of design and landscaping may achieve this.
- Minimise the impact of infrastructure and housing development by careful siting, avoiding open valley floors, obstruction of corridor views and relating them to existing development. Set high standards of landscape treatment.
- Maximise opportunities to create/enhance semi-natural elements such as woodland and wetland in association with recreation developments such as golf courses.

**Farm Buildings:**

- Conserve and enhance traditional farm buildings and features particularly within a historic setting.
- Encourage retention and restoration of stone gate posts, historical artefacts and features forming part of the cultural heritage.
- Reduce the impact of large scale new buildings by careful location, siting and design.

**Villages:**

- Conserve and protect the character of historic stone built villages in their landscape settings.
- Discourage fringe development in non-traditional materials that will affect the setting of the village particularly in its relationship with the River Eden

**Natural Features:**

- Maintain the natural conditions of rivers and floodplains while conserving and enhancing marginal wetland features to provide wildlife and landscape diversity.
- Protect, enhance or restore marshes, wet meadows and pasture, off-stream ponds, reed beds, willow and alder carr and bankside trees. This may involve for example, sensitively timed light grazing, maintenance of water levels, protection from livestock or control of invasive vegetation.
- Ameliorate incongruous river engineering and canalisation works by softening geometric forms and creating a variety of habitats and natural features within and alongside rivers.
- Maintain and enhance other semi-natural habitats such as ancient woodlands and unimproved grasslands.

**Cultural Features:**

- Renovate parkland respecting historic designed layouts and planting schemes.
- Conserve historic buildings and structures, which may include removal of trees and scrub to keep them open and viewable.
- Conserve historic earthworks through avoidance of damaging agricultural activities such as infilling or levelling, tree planting, poaching by cattle, ploughing or tipping.

# TYPE 8: MAIN VALLEYS

## SUB-TYPE 8c - VALLEY CORRIDORS

### Key Characteristics

These are a small number of main valleys of variable scale and shape followed by main transport routes. In common with other valleys they share a rich concentration of features including meandering rivers, flood plain pastures, marsh, hanging broad-leaved woodland, individual trees, historic settlements and buildings. Flood risk and steep slopes often inhibits development. They have thus become heavily influenced by the noise and visual intrusion of traffic, urban fringe and infrastructure developments and this undermines their harmony. The Lune Gorge is unique in that it is an upland valley enclosed by high fells but heavily influenced by the major transport routes running through it. Scars of former mining activities affect some valleys.

### Changes in the Landscape

Changes and pressures on the landscape arise from a number of sources. The main ones are:

- Urban encroachment, road and infrastructure developments.
- Intrusion of sporadic development and degradation of farmland through access pressures affect the valleys east of Barrow and the lower Derwent.
- Pressures on the Lune Gorge include a major pipeline and industrial development related to the M6 motorway.
- Intrusion by modern farm buildings is common to all these valleys and river-engineering schemes raise environmental concerns.

### **Vision**

**There is an opportunity to enhance these valley landscapes and reduce the intrusion of existing developments.** To this end strengthening of natural features, landscape structure and contrasts between wooded valley sides and open flood plains should be a priority. The valleys should remain as predominantly rural corridors through urbanised areas but free of intrusive development. Amelioration of the intrusion of existing development is required to restore harmony. Enhance opportunities for public enjoyment through the creation of footpath links in the Goldmire and Derwent Valleys combined with restoring farmland structures. Conserve and enhance any cultural and historic features.

### Guidelines

#### **Development:**

- Soften the impact of development by appropriate structural landscaping. Avoid obstruction of open flood plains and corridor views.
- Minimise the impact of infrastructure development by careful siting avoiding open valley floors, obstruction of corridor views and relating them to existing structures. Seek high standards of landscape treatment including restoration of semi-natural components.
- Reduce the impact of new farm buildings by careful siting, breaking down mass, choice of sympathetic colours and non reflective finishes, and appropriate planting.

#### **Woodland/Trees:**

- Reinforce and extend existing broad-leaved and mixed woods on valley sides by appropriate management and new planting.
- Plant new hedgerow trees to replace maturing stock using indigenous species, or tagging selected saplings.
- Conserve important riverside trees.

**Field Boundaries:**

- Restore hedgerows involving replanting and renovation of gappy overgrown hedges.
- Manage hedgerows in a traditional way involving a cycle of hand laying and trimming.

**Wetland:**

- Protect and enhance marshes, wet meadows and pasture, off-stream ponds, reed beds, willow and alder carr and bankside trees. This may involve for example, sensitively timed light grazing, maintenance of water levels, protection from livestock or control of invasive vegetation.
- Ensure that the need for river engineering works is carefully weighed against environmental impacts and wherever possible seek to maximise opportunities for a diversity of wetland and riverside features. Consider the desirability of reversing previous unsympathetic drainage schemes.

**Recreation Facilities:**

- Improve the network of rights of way particularly circular and linking routes along the Derwent Valley..
- Upgrade existing routes through waymarking, stiles, bridges, planting and enhancement of views.
- Protect neighbouring farmland and sensitive habitats by careful routing and maintenance of boundaries.

**Cultural Features:**

- Conserve historic earthworks through avoidance of damaging agricultural activities such as disturbance and removal of stones, levelling and excavation, tree planting, poaching by cattle, ploughing and tipping.
- Repair and maintain historic buildings which may include removal of trees and scrub to keep views of them open from the riverside.
- Renovate parkland respecting historic designed layouts and planting schemes.

# TYPE 8: MAIN VALLEYS

## SUB-TYPE 8d - DALES

### Key Characteristics

The dales comprise long high valleys and generally display limestone characteristics. They are located in the North Pennines AONB and in the south-east of the County within or bounding the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The valley sides often have a distinctive stepped angular or 'v' profile. A strong unifying element is the pattern of stone walls enclosing small fields with small barns dotted around. Scattered farmsteads punctuate this pattern. Small woods and streamside trees create a sheltered character. Early lead mining scars the North Pennines dales and many interesting features are still evident. Dentdale, Garsdale and related dales are more wooded with hedges, and streamside trees and woods, coniferous plantations and dominate some valley sides. These are generally pleasant interesting landscapes with upper river course features. Some degree of discord arising from mining relics, neglected features and intrusive farm or tourism developments.

### Changes in the Landscape

These landscapes are subject to pressures and changes of which the most significant are:

- Agricultural intensification including grassland improvement, loss of traditional hay meadows and new farm sheds.
- Symptoms of neglect including derelict walls and field barns, replacement of walls and hedges by fences, old woodlands and trees.
- Diversification to tourism and forestry.
- Recent government environmentally sensitive farming initiatives (Pennine Dales ESA) are beginning to have an effect in these areas.
- Small scale potential for further mineral working in the Pennine dales.

### **Vision**

**Generally conservation and restoration should be a priority in these dales which are designated AONB, County Landscape or National Park.** The aim should be to foster a viable well managed traditional landscape pattern retaining features such as stone walls and barns; as well as trees, woods and hay meadows in good health. This may be achieved by targeting environmentally sensitive farming initiatives to these aims and accepting some diversification. Small-scale farm based tourism developments which supplement farm incomes should be encouraged. New farm buildings will need to be strictly controlled and carefully sited and designed to avoid intrusion. Small-scale broad-leaved or mixed plantations could make a positive contribution. In the North Pennines a strategy is required for the conservation of landscapes modified by early mining remains.

### Guidelines

#### **Field Boundaries:**

- Conserve and maintain the historic field pattern which is a key element in the dales.
- Encourage the restoration of gappy hedgerows using traditional methods.

#### **Cultural Features:**

- Manage, conserve or recreate species rich hay meadows. This may involve sensitively timed light grazing and late cutting to allow seeding, prevention of ploughing, cultivation, herbicide and fertiliser applications and re-seeding with an appropriate diverse mixture.
- Conserve and maintain historic structures such as field barns, farmhouses, mining structures and lime kilns. This may include protection from stock, removal of trees or scrub and carrying out structural repairs with archaeological advice.
- Encourage the removal of eyesores and derelict sites of no historic interest. Conserve important spoil heaps and other earthworks.

**Woodland/Trees:**

- Conserve the pattern of small woods and scattered trees by appropriate management, natural regeneration, restocking and exclusion of stock.
- Plant new field boundary trees to replace maturing stock using indigenous species.
- Protect gill sides from livestock to encourage development of diverse ground flora and beck-side trees by natural regeneration or restocking.

**Development:**

- Ameliorate existing daleside coniferous plantations including softening geometric outlines, introduction of open spaces and greater diversity of species.
- Ensure that new farm buildings and all other developments are carefully integrated into the landscape.
- Resist the proliferation of minor intrusions such as fences, tracks and enlarged access points. Where these are absolutely necessary encourage locally distinctive constructions and use of materials that harmonise.
- Minimise surface scarring, clutter and dereliction of existing mineral workings.

**Wetland:**

- Protect and enhance marshes, wet meadows and pasture, off-stream ponds, reedbeds, willow and alder carr and bankside trees. This may involve for example, sensitively timed light grazing, maintenance of water levels, protection from livestock or control of invasive vegetation.

# TYPE 9: INTERMEDIATE MOORLAND, PLATEAU

## SUB TYPE 9a - OPEN MOORLANDS

### Key Characteristics

These are mostly open moorland landscapes in North and West Cumbria ranging from undulating improved or semi-improved pastures divided into large rectangular fields to unimproved unfenced moorland. Former and recent coal working influences some areas. In the north the areas contrast with extensive conifer plantations and contain important blanket mires. In the more sheltered valleys, areas of woodland create smaller scale spaces but overall there is a feeling of openness and scale lacking strong foci or drama. Areas around some settlements have a more managed character.

### Changes in the Landscape

This landscape is sensitive to changes and pressures, which could be significant over long distances. The main ones are as follows:

- Agricultural intensification and inappropriate management such overgrazing, burning and drainage resulting in loss of moorland.
- In West Cumbria there are developing signs of neglect on the urban edges.
- Afforestation on former opencast mining sites and potentially on moorland in the north.
- Mineral extraction and wind energy developments

### **Vision**

**This is for the enhancement of the landscape through restoration and enrichment in order to create a harmonious balance between conserved moorland, agriculture, woodland and mining.** This may involve conserving and enhancing semi-natural grassland, repairing fragmented patterns of rough moorland, restoring areas of blanket bog or allowing semi-derelict pasture fields to revert to moorland. Reversing the sense of degradation and neglect is also a priority. This could involve the creation of new landscape features including forests and woodland; wetlands and strengthening hedgerow patterns.

### Guidelines

#### **Unimproved Grassland:**

- Investigate presence of remnant heather and regenerate through management programmes.
- Manage semi-natural grassland to enhance biological diversity including controlled light grazing, control of bracken and rushes.
- Restrict further agricultural improvement including ploughing, reseeded application of fertiliser, liming or herbicide treatment.

#### **Field Boundaries:**

- Maintain and enhance the pattern of hedgerows with additional planting and supplementary planting of scanty hedgerows.
- Consider the removal of derelict hedgerows on the more exposed parts to allow reversion to open moorland.
- Planting of deciduous trees as feature trees, within hedgerows, along water courses and in tree groups to create more interest in the landscape and to act as a foil to the coniferous woodland in the background.
- Create ecological corridors to enhance landscape and nature conservation value.
- Encourage planting and traditional management of hedgerows and replace fences where possible with hedgerows.
- Encourage the planting of marginal land and watercourses with deciduous species to enrich the landscape and create focal features.



**Natural Features:**

- Enhance and/or recreate wetland including flushes, small tarns and marshy hollows. This may include preventing drainage improvements and blocking existing drains to maintain a high water level, preventing overgrazing and poaching by stock and controlling scrub encroachment.
- Protect gills and becks from stock to encourage development of diverse ground flora.
- Manage areas of blanket bog appropriately and sensitively including the reduction of stocking levels, blocking ditches, removal of conifers and avoidance of burning.

**Woodland/Trees:**

- Create a mosaic of irregular shaped areas of mixed woodland sensitive to land form particularly on former areas of coal working and on marginal land and valleys.
- Create woodland belts as sheltered areas suitable as wildlife habitats and for establishment of native woodland.

**Development:**

- Avoid siting development on prominent edges of the plateau taking advantage of the natural containment offered by intermediate ridges and horizons.
- Minimise the impact of development by careful siting and design and seek environmental gains such as heather moorland restoration.
- Resist the expansion of major developments such as quarrying, mining (including opencast coal), communication masts and transmission lines.

# TYPE 9: INTERMEDIATE MOORLAND, PLATEAU

## SUB TYPE 9b - ROLLING FARMLAND AND HEATH

### Key Characteristics

These are belts of high farmland, heathland and rolling moorland plateau occupying the intermediate ground between upland and valleys of Eden and South Westmorland. They have a transitional partially tamed character with a varied pattern of improved pasture, rough grassland, remnant heathland and coniferous plantations on estates. Features such as wooded valleys, marshy hollows (including valley and basin mires), tarns, stone walls and boundary trees enrich the mosaic of colours and textures. Views are generally unspectacular and some of the area is visually contained. Apart from localised intrusion of masts, pylons and the M6 motorway in South Westmorland these lightly settled areas tend to convey an unspoilt backwater impression.

### Changes in the Landscape

Land management practices have the primary influence on the character of this landscape. These include:

- Agricultural improvements on marginal land, and pressure to convert semi-natural areas to improved pasture.
- Localised symptoms of neglect including dilapidated walls, replacement of hedge and walls by fences, and grazed farm woodlands.
- Pressure for commercial forestry now abated but potentially a major alternative to agriculture.

Development pressures are generally absent in the Eden area but South Lakeland has seen growing pressure from communication masts and wind energy development.

### **Vision**

**The vision is to enhance this landscape, retaining a core of untamed rough heath and grassland.** This involves maintaining existing rough grassland and features such as marshy hollows, conserving and enhancing remnant heath, and in some areas allowing improved land to revert to heath where fragmentation has occurred. As an alternative to agriculture expansion of woodland cover may make a positive contribution in structuring the landscape. Priority should be given to conserving and re-creating natural features and introducing new features in the blander farmland to enrich diversity. The visual containment offered by rolling topography offers scope to accept some development but alien structures need to be avoided and the uncluttered natural character of the rolling farmland and heath needs to be conserved. In general the visual contrast of open farmland and heath should be strengthened.

### Guidelines

#### **Heathland and Unimproved Grassland:**

- Regenerate suppressed heather through management programmes including reduction of stocking levels, control of bracken, phased cutting and burning.
- Manage semi-natural acidic grassland to enhance biological diversity including controlled light grazing.
- Cease further agricultural improvement including ploughing, reseeding, application of fertiliser, liming or herbicide treatment.
- Recreate heath or rough grassland on land which has been 'improved' to pasture to strengthen the continuity of semi-natural land cover. This may involve cultivation to expose peat soils, spreading heather cuttings with ripe seed from nearby moorland and initially excluding stock.

#### **Natural Features:**

- Re-create and enhance wetland including flushes, small tarns and marshy hollows. This may include preventing drainage improvements and blocking existing drains to maintain high water levels, preventing overgrazing and poaching by stock, controlling scrub encroachment.
- Protect gills and becks from stock to encourage development of diverse ground flora, scattered trees and woodland.
- Protect rocky outcrops by preventing removal or disturbance and controlling scrub encroachment.

**Woodland/Trees:**

- Conserve and reinforce ancient woodland in valleys and field boundary trees at lower levels.
- Restore and reinforce existing grazed broadleaf and mixed woodlands by exclusion of livestock, natural regeneration, restocking of plantations.
- Ameliorate existing coniferous plantations including softening geometric outlines, introduction of open spaces and species diversification.
- Establish new medium scale mixed and broad-leaved plantations aligned to respect and enhance the topographic pattern of interlocking ridges and reduce the visual dominance of transmission lines and masts. Avoid planting on heath, species rich grassland and wetland.
- Plant new field boundary trees to replace maturing stock using indigenous species.

**Field Boundaries:**

- Restore and maintain drystone walls enclosing improved farmland where they are a key feature.
- Strongly discourage the removal of stone walls and introduction of fences.

**Development:**

- Avoid siting development on prominent edges of the plateau taking advantage of the natural containment offered by intermediate ridges and horizons.
- Resist cluttering of further communication masts particularly on valley rims.

# TYPE 9: INTERMEDIATE MOORLAND, PLATEAU

## SUB TYPE 9c - FORESTS

### Key Characteristics

This comprises two areas of high rolling or undulating moorland in the north-east corner of Cumbria extensively planted with the coniferous forests of Kershope and Spadeadam. The mainly large single-species blocks produce an impression of monotony and blandness. Open, unplanted areas have wide horizons and a feeling of remoteness and space. The main detractor is the presence of military uses at Spadeadam and the associated buildings, roads and fences. Upland mires and remnant moorland areas on the periphery of the existing forests are sensitive, of importance for wildlife and represent the original natural land use. The valley of Bailey Water containing farmland and the rural settlement of Bailey at a more domestic scale and in marked contrast to the surrounding forest, breaks the Kershope Forest in the centre.

### Changes in the Landscape

Changes in this sub-type are mainly to do with management of the forests and adjacent moorland. These include:

- New Forest Design Plans are reducing the impact of cycles of clear felling, but currently the private woods are not covered.
- Possible threats to upland mires through forestry or agricultural improvement.
- The exposure and remoteness of the area suggests it has some potential for wind power development.
- Future use of military areas at Spadeadam is problematical.

### **Vision**

**The continued enhancement of the forest landscape and adjacent moorland and farming areas is the priority here.** Thus opportunities should be taken to increase the recreation and nature conservation interest of upland mire habitat both outside and inside the forests. The detrimental visual impact of the military areas should be reduced. The visual containment of the forests offers limited opportunity for some wind energy development which could be combined with moorland reinstatement and complementary forest management. Emphasising natural features, field boundary patterns and traditional farm buildings should enhance the farming landscape.

### Guidelines

#### **Forestry Areas:**

- Adopt sensitive felling cycles to reduce the impact of clear felling and re-shape forests to enhance topographic variations of scarps, plateaux and lower foothills and vistas of crags and tors.
- Protect and enhance natural areas and mires peripheral to the forested areas and natural crags or tors from masking by forests.
- Remove conifers from areas of high nature conservation interest such as blanket mire.
- Extend the forestry management policies to encourage recreation.
- Relieve the overwhelming green of the predominantly sitka spruce stands with more open areas, change in species, colour contrast, inclusion of deciduous species in appropriate locations and introduction of focal points and features of interest including suitable trees for long term retention.
- Use of broadleaf species along the river valley sides to give definition to the water course rather than disguise it and encourage the development of riverside habitats.
- Establish points of orientation for recreation purposes and enhance the networks of footpath, permissive paths, bridleway and cycleway links.

#### **Development:**

- Create landscape buffer zones between the military areas and the surrounding forest landscape.

- Encourage partnership arrangements between Forest Enterprise, MOD, Local Authorities and conservation bodies to develop and monitor long term landscape and nature conservation plans.

**Field Boundaries and Natural Features:**

- Enhance the pattern of hedgerows with additional planting and supplementary planting of poor hedgerows.
- Increase planting of deciduous trees as feature trees, within hedgerows, along water courses and in tree groups to act as a foil to the dominant coniferous woodland in the background.
- Create linked networks of vegetation to enhance nature conservation value and their use as ecological corridors and links with the adjacent forest area.

# TYPE 9: INTERMEDIATE MOORLAND, PLATEAU

## SUB TYPE 9d - RIDGES

### Key Characteristics

The ridges occur as outliers to the Lakeland Fells in Furness and West Cumbria. They take the form of large rounded moors with attractive viewpoints. In West Cumbria the character varies from true heather moorland to managed farmland while in Furness, degraded heather on moor tops of high importance for wildlife gives way to large regular fields of semi-improved pasture strongly enclosed by stone walls. Striking focal points within this open land cover pattern include remnant woodland on moor tops and within gills on moor sides. Communications masts, reservoirs and wind turbines detract from the landscape in Furness. Despite considerable pressures on this landscape it still retains a quality recognised by County Landscape status by virtue of its sublime relief, simplicity and openness with attractive views.

### Changes in the Landscape

Changes and pressures on this landscape include:

- Wind energy developments particularly in Furness cumulatively can devalue landscape and nature conservation interest.
- Communication masts, prominent as vertical alien structures, threaten in the same way.
- Surface scarring by quarrying and potentially open cast coal mining in West Cumbria.
- Remnant patches of heather continue to decline under agricultural pressures of overgrazing and conversion to pasture.
- Replacement of hedges by fences on the more improved areas.

### **Vision**

**Conservation and enhancement of this landscape should be a priority.** This will require careful control of developments to avoid clutter and over dominance. Repairing the fragmented pattern of rough moorland could significantly enrich wildlife and visual interest. This could involve improving the condition and increasing the area of remnant heather and rough pasture. Enhancement of existing and creation of occasional new features such as tarns, wetland and small woods could create dramatic focal features in a predominantly open landscape. Conserve and maintain the pattern of stone walls and hedges below the open moorland tops.

### Guidelines

#### **Moorland:**

- Regenerate suppressed heather on moorland tops through management programmes including reduction in stocking levels, control of bracken, phased cutting and burning.
- Regenerate rough pasture on land which has been 'improved' through controlled light grazing and control of bracken and rushes.
- Restrict further agricultural improvement including ploughing, re-seeding, application of fertiliser, liming or herbicide treatment.
- Recreate heather moorland on land which has been 'improved' to pasture to provide continuity of heather cover. This may involve cultivation to expose peat soils, spreading heather cuttings with ripe seed from a local source and excluding stock until heather establishes.

#### **Development:**

- Minimise the impact of development by careful siting and design and seek environmental gains such as heather moorland restoration.
- Resist the expansion of major developments such as quarrying, mining, communication masts and transmission lines.

#### **Natural Features and Woodlands:**

- Enhance and/or recreate wetland including flushes, small tarns and bog pools. This may include preventing drainage improvements and blocking existing drains to maintain high water levels preventing overgrazing and poaching by stock.
- Protect gills and becks from stock to encourage development of diverse ground flora, scattered trees and woodland.
- Enhance existing reservoirs to soften hard engineering details and integrate with adjacent moorland.
- Restore and reinforce semi-natural moorland top and gill woodlands by exclusion of livestock, natural regeneration, restocking and appropriate management.
- Undertake small scale planting concentrated around farmhouses.

**Field Boundaries:**

- Manage stonewalls and hedges in a traditional way.
- Strongly discourage the introduction of fences as replacement boundaries or to sub-divide large fields. Remove fences to restore large-scale allotment rough pastures.

# TYPE 10 - SANDSTONE RIDGE

## Key Characteristics

This distinctive ridge runs between the parallel valleys of the Rivers Peterill and Eden with separate small hill outliers at either end. It is visually prominent along its length most particularly from the M6 between Carlisle and Penrith and from A66 at Whinell Forest. The dominant land cover is coniferous plantation and improved farmland in large fields. Some isolated areas of unimproved dry heathland, recognised in SSSI designation, represent the original land cover of this area. There is a noticeable lack of a 'historic' field pattern. Farming carried out in 'open range' with consequent neglect of field boundaries and replacement of stone walls with fencing is a detractor. A major holiday complex has been developed within the Whinell Forest. There are attractive long distance views across the Lake District to the west and the Pennines to the east.

## Changes in the Landscape

Changes and pressures on this landscape are mainly due to afforestation and agricultural improvement. They include:

- The loss of considerable areas of dry heathland to afforestation.
- Farm intensification leading to removal and neglect of field boundaries.
- The Oasis holiday complex at Whinell, though generally inconspicuous, could possibly create localised recreational pressures.
- Telecommunications masts have been erected on some prominent ridge tops.

## **Vision**

**The area needs enhancement and restoration of important features of the former landscape.** Management of forests in this visually prominent landscape setting should aim to create a more natural character. The remaining open areas of the ridge should be conserved and further cluttering with vertical elements resisted. Stone walls and hedgerows within farmland, remnant heath and semi-natural acidic grassland should be conserved and restored. Conserve and re-create wetland and other natural features to enrich visual and wildlife diversity.

## Guidelines

### **Woodland/Trees:**

- Ameliorate single species coniferous plantations by softening geometric outlines, introducing open spaces and diversifying species and identifying suitable species for long term retention.
- Use native planting including scots pine to relieve and introduce colour contrast within forested areas and to create focal points, provide interest and a means of orientation.
- Measures to improve the availability of public access to woodlands and forests.

### **Field Boundaries:**

- Discourage introduction of fences to replace or 'gap up' hedges.
- Restore fenced boundaries to traditional hedgerows.
- Encourage retention and traditional management of hedgerows.
- Encourage retention and restoration of traditional stone walls.



**Heathland and Unimproved Grassland:**

- Encourage regeneration of suppressed heather through management programmes including reduction of stocking levels, control of bracken, phased cutting and burning.
- Encourage management of semi-natural acidic grassland to enhance biological diversity including controlled light grazing, control of bracken and rushes.
- Strongly discourage further agricultural improvement including ploughing, reseeding, application of fertiliser, liming or herbicide treatment.
- Encourage the re-creation of heath or rough grassland on land which has been 'improved' to pasture to pasture to strengthen the continuity of semi-natural land cover. This may involve cultivation to expose peat soils, spreading heather cuttings with ripe seed from nearby moorland and initially excluding stock.

**Natural Features:**

- Recreate and enhance wetland including flushes, small tarns and marshy hollows. This may include preventing drainage improvements and blocking existing drains to maintain high water levels, preventing overgrazing and poaching by stock, controlling scrub encroachment.

**Developments:**

- Avoid developments in exposed skyline locations.
- Ensure that all developments are located within a suitably landscaped setting.

# TYPE 11: UPLAND FRINGES

## SUB TYPE 11a - FOOTHILLS

### Key Characteristics

This is a very large sub-type occurring in three regions around the county in Eden/Carlisle, South Lakeland and West Cumbria. In Eden/Carlisle it forms a rolling, hilly plateau farmland and moorland landscape stretching from Brampton to Kirkby Stephen, forming the foothills to the North Pennines AONB. In South Lakeland the sub-type consists predominately of rolling hills with a strong pattern of stone walls contrasting with the subdued hues of adjacent fells. There are numerous rivers and streams, some rocky outcrops and attractive clumps of trees around traditional farm buildings. Views tend to be shortened. In West Cumbria it forms a transitional landscape located between the general countryside and the Lake District National Park. These contain a variety of qualities ranging from small-scale pastoral landscapes to rolling hills with land degraded by quarries or poorly designed forestry. Most of the areas are designated as County Landscape. The sub-type also contains some poorly sited farm buildings and other development.

### Changes in the Landscape

Changes and pressures on this landscape arise from:

- Agricultural intensification and erection of new buildings.
- Neglect and removal of field boundaries including walls and hedges.
- Afforestation pressures now lessened.
- Minor urban pressures in West Cumbria.

### **Vision**

**The vision is for the conservation and enhancement of this landscape.** This could involve reversing the trend towards blandness and neglect. Agricultural change may provide opportunities for developing new farm woodlands but large scale forestry and agricultural change would not be welcome in this sensitive landscape. Opportunities should be taken to conserve field boundaries, woodland and other natural features and management programmes developed to ameliorate previous damage. Conservation of existing settlements and other built features is important.

### Guidelines

#### **Field Boundaries:**

- Ensure that 'linked patterns' of vegetation are created to enhance landscape and nature conservation value.
- Retain and restore drystone walls, traditional gateposts and features on a whole farm basis where appropriate; particularly in South Lakeland.
- Retain and restore hedgerows to enrich the more prominent farmland particularly in Carlisle/Eden.
- Increase planting of deciduous trees as feature trees, within hedgerows, along watercourses and in groups.
- Restrict the replacement of walls and hedges by post and wire fences and encourage planting and traditional management of hedgerows.

#### **Woodland/Trees:**

- Reduce the artificial appearance of straight edged plantations by feathering in new planting or leaving open areas to help them assimilate into the landscape.
- Plant broadleaf woodland to soften the edges of coniferous forests.
- Plant a mosaic of new, well-designed woodland incorporating open areas and recreational provision.

- Encourage the development of linked ecological features such as woodlands and hedgerows to increase nature conservation value.

**Development and Farm Buildings:**

- Protect village fringes from unsympathetic development.
- Resist development of important open spaces such as small pastures or woods within villages.
- Ensure that new farm buildings are integrated into the landscape by careful siting and design.

# TYPE 11: UPLAND FRINGES

## SUB TYPE 11b - LOW FELLS

### Key Characteristics

These comprise a small group of rolling low fells formed from soft sedimentary rocks to the east of Kendal. Their land cover pattern is large scale and transitional in character. Sometimes, lush green improved pasture strongly contained by stone walls contrasts with the muted colours of adjacent open moorland. Elsewhere semi-improved pasture often marred by dilapidated stone walls and ugly fences intervene. The landscape is relatively featureless relieved occasionally by features such as rocky outcrops, patches of heather, streamside trees, tarns, farmsteads, small woods, willow scrub and rushy hollows (mires and flushes). The only significant intrusion in this peaceful backwater is the M6 motorway and junction with A684. Fell tops afford distant valley views.

### Changes in the Landscape

The changes and pressures on this landscape mainly derive from land management. These include:

- Increased grazing, scrub and heather clearance on moorland.
- Loss of remaining moorland through drainage, reseeding, fertilisation and enclosure by fences.
- Symptoms of neglect, including grazed woods, over mature farm copses, unmanaged heather and dilapidated walls and barns.
- Limited development pressures include waste disposal and communications masts.
- Wind energy development is also a possibility.
- Recreation is low key, walkers tending to bypass these low fells for higher more exciting peaks.

### **Vision**

**The vision is for the conservation and enhancement of this landscape.** This will help reverse the trend towards increasing blandness. This may be achieved by managing agricultural change to conserve or re-create key components such as unimproved grassland, heather moorland and other natural features and to restore and introduce new features. In this marginal farming area diversification is a real prospect. Development of low key recreational use or extensive woodland planting if carefully sited could make a positive contribution to enriching the character and supporting management of existing features and moorland.

### Guidelines

#### **Natural Features:**

- Enhance and/or recreate fell wetland habitats including flushes, small tarns and bog pools. This may include preventing drainage improvements and blocking existing drains to maintain high water levels, preventing overgrazing and poaching by stock, excluding supplementary feeding areas and controlling scrub encroachment.
- Protect gills from encroachment by stock to encourage the development of more diverse ground flora, scattered trees and woodland.
- Protect rocky outcrops as features by preventing removal or disturbance and controlling scrub encroachment.

#### **Moorland:**

- Consider recreating heather moorland on suitable land.
- Regenerate suppressed heather through management programmes including reduction of stocking levels, control of bracken, phased cutting and burning.
- Regenerate rough pasture through controlled light grazing, control of bracken and rushes.
- Restrict further agricultural improvement including ploughing, re-seeding, application of fertiliser, liming or herbicide treatment.

**Field Boundaries:**

- Restore fenced boundaries to traditional stone walls.
- Restrict removal of stone walls and replacement by fences.
- Manage and repair derelict stone walls.
- Avoid the use of 'barrier' fencing.

**Woodland/Trees:**

- Conserve and reinforce the scattered pattern of isolated mature trees and clumps concentrated around farms and tarns.
- Bring remnant and grazed woodland back into appropriate management by exclusion of livestock, natural regeneration and restocking.
- Ameliorate existing coniferous plantations including softening geometric outlines, introduction of open spaces and identifying suitable species for diversification and long term retention.
- Plant lower sheltered slopes with a mosaic of mixed and broad-leaved woodland avoiding moorland, wetland and rocky outcrops.

**Development:**

- Ensure that developments take advantage of the natural containment offered by intermediate ridges and horizons, avoiding sites on prominent edges of the plateau.
- Ensure that all developments are carefully designed so as not threaten the open, unspoilt character.

# TYPE 12: HIGHER LIMESTONE

## SUB-TYPE 12a - LIMESTONE FARMLAND

### Key Characteristics

This sub-type occurs as belts of rolling pastoral landscape with distinctive limestone characteristics that sweep across the southern part of Eden. They are strongly patterned by limestone walls, with a wealth of cultural features and historical artefacts indicating evidence of human occupation since prehistoric times. Attractive villages, hamlets and farmsteads built of local stone punctuate the area and strengthen the sense of cohesion and historic continuity. Open larger scale fields and allotments contrast in some areas with more intimate tree covered valleys and long, narrow village fields. The land cover is dominated by improved or semi-improved pasture. Remnant areas of species rich grassland and flush are of wildlife importance. Tree clumps and small planted woods form attractive features. There are pleasant views in most areas, but a few are marred by the presence of mineral working, pylons and the Motorway. The landscape exhibits a strong sensory response and is designated as a County Landscape in the Structure Plan.

### Changes in the Landscape

Farming practices have the primary influence on the character of this distinctive landscape. Over the past few decades the tendency towards intensively managed grassland and silage production has produced 'clean' well-managed fields. In places, however, this has led to loss and neglect of stone walls, decline in botanical interest, neglect of woods and field boundary trees, and erection of large scale farm buildings which can be particularly intrusive in the higher open parts of this landscape.

### **Vision**

**Generally conservation and enhancement should be the priorities in this distinctive landscape.** The aim should be to foster a well-managed landscape whilst conserving and maintaining the historic field and settlement pattern. Within this there is a need to promote wildlife interest and visual diversity in colour and texture. This may be achieved by encouraging the conservation, restoration and extension of features such as field boundary trees, small woods and flower-rich grassland to increase habitat diversity and enrich the more bland areas. Developments such as farm buildings, roads and quarry extensions need to be carefully designed to avoid intrusion in this sensitive landscape.

### Guidelines

#### **Field Boundaries:**

- Discourage field enlargement and 'ranching'.
- Manage walls and hedgerows in a traditional way
- Restrict introduction of fences to replace or 'gap-up' walls and hedgerows.
- Restore fenced boundaries to traditional walls and hedgerows

#### **Unimproved Grassland:**

- Restrict further agricultural improvement of existing semi-improved pastures and meadows, including ploughing, fertilising, herbicide spraying, reseeding and liming. Restore areas lost to improvements where possible.
- Maintain and enhance existing species rich grassland, meadow and flush.

#### **Woodland/Trees:**

- Plant new field boundary trees or tagging selected saplings to replace maturing stock using indigenous or locally established species .
- Reinforce existing woods by appropriate management, natural regeneration, restocking and exclusion of stock.
- Establish new small to medium scale native broad-leaved, mixed plantations woods on improved farmland and along beck sides.
- Avoid new planting on species rich grassland, wetland and higher open landscapes or where it might obscure distinctive field patterns.

**Cultural Features:**

- Conserve historic artefacts including burial mounds, cairns, settlement earthworks, standing stones, through avoidance of damaging agricultural activities such as disturbance and removal of stones, levelling and excavation, planting trees, poaching, ploughing and tipping.
- Conserve and enhance historic structures such as limekilns and stone barns. This may include protection from stock, removal of trees or scrub or carrying out structural repairs with archaeological advice.
- Protect features such as long fields behind villages and funnel shaped intakes.

**Farm Buildings:**

- Conserve and maintain traditional farm buildings.
- New farm buildings, structures, tracks and access ways should be sympathetic to their surroundings. This can be achieved by careful siting; integration with existing buildings, breaking down mass, choice of sympathetic colours and non-reflective finishes and appropriate planting.

**Villages:**

- Protect fringes from unsympathetic development.
- Ensure new development respects scale, form and distinctive character of villages.
- Enhance through sensitive environmental improvements to entrances, village greens and planting etc.

# TYPE 12: HIGHER LIMESTONE

## SUB-TYPE 12b - ROLLING FRINGE

### Key Characteristics

This large-scale rolling and undulating limestone landscape fringes the Lakeland Fells in Eden and North Allerdale. It is blander in character, with fewer typical limestone features than Sub-type 12a, however views towards the Lake District are impressive. Tree cover is generally sparse or lacking. Isolated conifer plantations, TV masts and mineral workings are local intrusions. Rare features of note include wooded knolls, small valleys and limestone outcrops.

### Changes in the Landscape

Although the landscapes appear largely stable there are pressures which are mainly to do with changes in land management. These include:

- Loss of tree cover and features
- Neglect of hedgerows leading to an increasingly bland appearance.
- Gradual decline in the maintenance of stone walls
- Some sensitivity to development especially within view of the Lake District National Park.

### **Vision**

**This is for the enhancement of the landscape through restoration and creation of new features.** This will help to reverse the slow trend towards blandness. Development particularly within view of the Lake District National Park will need to be strictly controlled. Management programmes for conifer plantations offer the opportunity to enhance limestone character and topography. New planting and strengthening field boundaries could make a positive contribution to enriching landscape character.

### Guidelines

#### **Field Boundaries:**

- Encourage the restoration of fenced boundaries to traditional walls or hedgerows.
- Encourage the planting of new hedgerows in more sheltered locations and traditional management.
- Encourage the management and restoration of stone walls and other field boundary features.

#### **Woodland/Trees:**

- Ameliorative measures to help integrate conifer plantations into the landscape.
- Planting of mixed woods on improved agricultural land, avoiding areas of mossland and moor.
- Introduce more small woodlands, tree groups and feature trees using typical limestone species e.g. Ash and Sycamore while maintaining essential openness.
- Reinforce existing woods by appropriate management and additional planting.
- Create focal points within woodland and encourage informal recreation.

#### **Development:**

- Careful siting and design of agricultural or commercial buildings and their landscape setting to ensure development is in character with the area.



# TYPE 12: HIGHER LIMESTONE

## SUB TYPE 12c - LIMESTONE FOOTHILLS

### Key Characteristics

This area of distinctive limestone scenery is centred on Greystoke Forest on the Lake District National Park boundary. The majority of the sub-type is large scale and dominated by estate managed coniferous forestry plantations, unimproved grazing land, parkland and some ancient woodland. Topography is rolling, occasionally steep. The landscape becomes smaller in scale and less wooded towards the south. There are varied and interesting landscape components including limestone pavements, crags and other rock features and traditional farm buildings. The pavements, which are of considerable wildlife as well as landscape interest are protected by Limestone Pavement Orders. On the southern side, old and active quarries have some impact on the local landscape and the area is cut by a trunk road, otherwise there are few detractors. The Sub-type has been designated as a County Landscape in the Structure Plan.

### Changes in the Landscape

Generally the area is very stable being under estate management but there are minor changes and pressures affecting some parts:

- Large scale extensions to the forested area seem unlikely
- Mineral or other industrial development are possible on the southern fringes
- Residential development may affect some villages
- Recreation pressures may increase due to the proximity of the Lake District National Park.

### **Vision**

**Conservation and enhancement of the high quality elements of this landscape is the main objective.** The strong pattern of limestone walls and hedgerows should be conserved and enhanced. Rare components such as species rich meadows especially where associated with limestone pavement should be conserved and extended. The appearance of extensive areas of coniferous forest should be improved so that it relates more closely to the rolling landform while patterns of woodland copses associated with hill tops and farm buildings should be developed to enrich the landscape and provide diversity of habitats. Opportunities to mitigate intrusive development should be taken while inappropriate development and residential extensions to villages should be strictly controlled.

### Guidelines

#### **Field Boundaries:**

- Restrict field enlargement or major change to the existing pattern of field boundaries.
- Conserve and restore existing walls and hedgerows.
- Restrict introduction of fences to replace or 'gap-up' walls and hedgerows.
- Reinstate roadside walls to strengthen the traditional interdependent pattern of roads and field boundaries.

#### **Unimproved Grassland:**

- Manage and enhance species rich grassland in marginal farmland and roadside verges through appropriate management including restricting the use of fertilisers.
- Areas of limestone pavement should be subject to sympathetic grazing management and the surrounding grassland should be targeted for restoration or enhancement.
- **Forestry:**
- Ameliorate existing coniferous stands taking account of the impact of forestry practices from surrounding viewpoints.
- Adopt rotational cropping of forested areas in coupe sizes and shapes that generate a pattern of cleared areas, open spaces and newly planted areas and identify suitable species for long term retention, thereby creating a more natural appearance harmonious with the landform.
- Use of broadleaf native species to enhance ecological and landscape value.

**Woodland /Trees:**

- Plant new field boundary and feature trees to replace maturing stock using indigenous stock typically Ash and Sycamore.
- Establish woodland copses in association with hill tops or new farm and residential developments to soften their impact and remain in character with traditional buildings.

**Recreation Facilities:**

- Ensure any recreational developments are contained within a robust landscape structure to ensure the character of the existing landscape is not harmed.
- Use traditional materials to define site boundaries, roads and access points.

**Development:**

- Ensure new residential development harmonises with the character of the existing settlement.
- Minimise the impact of minerals or other development by careful siting, design and high standard of landscape treatment, particularly where public views are affected.

# TYPE 12: HIGHER LIMESTONE

## SUB-TYPE 12d - MOORLAND AND COMMONS

### Key Characteristics

This exposed moorland landscape features extensive areas of exposed limestone in the form of pavements and scars. Land cover is dominated by grassland with variable amounts of heather and some coniferous woodland. The Commons are largely open and bounded by historic stone walls. The underlying limestone together with pavements, grasslands and flushes provides national and international interest for wildlife recognised by SSSI and NNR designations. Pavements are separately protected by Limestone Pavement Orders. The wealth of prehistoric and Roman remains convey a strong sense of history while the tranquil remote beauty of the central area contrasts with fringes of a more bland character. Quarrying and the M6 motorway are major intrusions on the western side. Surrounding fells create a dramatic backcloth to this designated County Landscape.

### Changes in the Landscape

This high quality landscape is subject to changes in land management practices and urbanising pressures on the fringes. The main changes are:

- Increasing blandness in some areas due to losses of heather moorland and species rich grassland.
- Blocks of conifer planting have interrupted the openness and rough uniformity of the commons.
- Increases in improved and semi-improved pasture has changed the character of some fringe areas.
- Development pressures occur particularly on the western fringes around Shap.
- Minerals, industrial and infrastructure developments also occur on the western fringes.

### **Vision**

**Essentially the aim is to conserve and enhance the open rough, unspoilt moorland character and its ecological and historic interest.** Conserve and enhance the heather and species rich grassland of the commons, limestone outcrops and other natural features to preserve their appearance and improve ecological interest. Conserve the Commons boundary walls while retaining the character as open and unfenced. Encourage the protection and management of historical features and control any new infrastructure or other development.

### Guidelines

#### **Moorland:**

- Regenerate heather through management programmes including reduction of stocking levels, control of bracken, phased cutting and burning.
- Manage limestone grassland to improve the variety of flowering plants by reduction of stocking levels, appropriate control of scrub, bracken and rushes.
- Restrict localised agricultural improvement particularly of isolated fields within the moorland including application of organic manure or fertiliser, liming or herbicide treatment.
- Avoid planting of coniferous blocks on the open moorland and consider restoration of moorland on clearance and felling of existing blocks.

#### **Field Boundaries:**

- Discourage introduction of permanent fences on the Commons; temporary fencing may be acceptable in order to assist heather regeneration.
- Manage common and allotment boundary walls in a traditional way.

**Natural Features:**

- Protect and enhance tarns and wetlands through carefully controlling drainage schemes to safeguard water quality and levels and regenerating water margin vegetation by preventing overgrazing or poaching by stock and controlling scrub encroachment.
- Protect and enhance limestone pavements and scars and associated features such as glacial erratics (e.g. around Shap) by preventing removal or disturbance and setting suitable grazing levels. This may involve the local exclusion of sheep outside areas of commons.
- Reinforce existing tree clumps on the fringes of the commons in field corners and next to farmsteads and tarns by appropriate management, natural regeneration, restocking with indigenous species and exclusion of stock.

**Cultural Features:**

- Conserve historic sites such as burial mounds, cairns and settlement earthworks avoiding damaging agricultural or other activities.
- Conserve the geological, historic or ecological importance of disused quarries.

**Development:**

- Resist the siting of structures such as masts, pylons and wind turbines in prominent locations.
- Resist the construction of new access tracks and roads that compromise the wild natural character.
- Resist expansion of major developments such as quarrying, industry and infrastructure. Where this is unavoidable minimise the impact by careful siting, design and high standards of landscape treatment and restoration to natural grassland or heather moorland.

# TYPE 13: FELLS AND SCARPS

## SUB-TYPES 13a/b - SCARPS, MOORLAND AND HIGH PLATEAU

### Key Characteristics

These scarp landscapes (*Type 13A*) form a broad band along the western edge of the North Pennines overlooking the Eden valley. This edge forms a distinct skyline feature when viewed from the M6 motorway with horizontal outcrops of limestone and volcanic rock displaying attractive forms and colours under differing light conditions. Two distinct areas are defined: to the north the slopes at Cumrew and Newbiggin, while south of Hartside, the mainly continuous southern scarp runs as far as Brough includes impressive cliffs and scars with distinctive conical shaped outliers at Dufton and Knock. On the slope, craggy features are mostly separated by open grazed grassland or divided occasionally into small fields. At the southern extreme are remnants of ancient woodland with gully and gill features (the latter often containing woodland) occurring frequently. Views westwards over the Eden Vale are spectacular.

Behind the scarp and closely related to it is the Moorland and High Plateau (*Type 13B*). This is a very extensive area of high moorlands generally over 500m incorporating numerous major and secondary peaks. Cross Fell (893m) and other nearby summits form a secondary skyline above the main scarp. Much of the moorland is fairly uniform and plateau-like but is frequently cut with deep valley and gills. Many of the habitats are of national or international importance for wildlife. These include extensive areas of blanket bog, limestone springs and flushes, acidic grassland/heath, limestone grassland and plant communities associated with rock features. Grey boulders are scattered over the moorland forming craggy bands on scarp slopes. The whole area has a strong feeling of remoteness and freedom from human influence. Both sub-types fall within the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.<sup>12</sup>

### Changes in the Landscape

Pressures or changes in the landscape mainly derive from land management including agriculture, recreation, defence, and communication masts:

- A fragile farming system subject to changing markets
- Over intensive grazing and agricultural improvement leading to loss of moorland vegetation to the detriment of wildlife. Possible further interest in afforestation if farming becomes more marginal
- The erection of communication masts and other pylons or structures (including wind farms)
- The further intensification of training at the Warcop Training Area could introduce incongruous features and threaten the remote, unspoilt character
- Small scale mining or quarrying has continued in a few places. Any further development could have major implications on landscape character particular if scarp slopes are affected
- Steady but modest increases in visitor pressure leading to localised damage for example on heavily used footpaths.

### **Vision**

**The conservation and enhancement of the diversity and remote quality of these upland landscapes is the main vision.** Thus natural as well as man-made features should be conserved and the traditional management of moorland areas re-established. This includes:

- Conserving and enhancing the heath and acidic grassland and other natural features and habitats to improve landscape interest and ecological diversity.
- Conserving the remaining areas of semi-natural woodland and discouraging further coniferous planting on open moorlands or scarp slopes.
- Conserving traditional landscape features such as stone walls, meadows and former 'miner-farmer' landscapes.
- Provision of improved facilities for low key recreation or tourism in selected locations, which offer good accessibility, protection of sensitive habitats and minimal intrusion on the landscape.
- Any intrusive development should be resisted to conserve the open uncluttered character and wild unspoilt qualities of this area

### Guidance

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<sup>12</sup> [North Pennines Landscape Conservation Policy, Cumbria County Council, 1989.](#)

[The North Pennines Landscape, Countryside Commission, CCP 318, 1991.](#)

[The North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. \(A Management Plan to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the North Pennines and for its public enjoyment\). North Pennines AONB Steering Group, January 1995.](#)

### **Unimproved Grassland and Moorland:**

- Encourage regeneration of suppressed heather through the active management of grouse moors including a reduction in stocking levels, control of bracken, phased cutting and burning.
- Encourage joint measures for the sustainable management of common land
- Maintain and enhance areas of semi-natural acidic grassland and heath to enhance biological diversity including reduction in stocking levels.
- Restore allotment grasslands by ditch blocking, reducing grazing levels etc.
- Strongly discourage further agricultural improvement including ploughing, reseeded, application of fertiliser, liming or herbicide treatment.

### **Natural Features**

- Maintain and enhance blanket bog through appropriate management including lowering stocking levels, ditch blocking and reviewing any burning practices.
- Maintain other fell wetland including flushes, small tarns and bog pools. This may embrace discouraging drainage schemes, preventing overgrazing or poaching by stock and controlling invasion by scrub.
- Protect gills or other deep valleys from stock to encourage the retention of tree cover and a diverse ground flora. Prevent infilling of minor gullies or sinkholes.
- Protect rocky outcrops, limestone pavement, scree and other rocky areas as open features by discouraging damage or removal and encouraging management of invading scrub.

### **Cultural Features**

- Manage and create species rich hay meadows. This may involve sensitively timed light grazing and late cutting to allow seeding, prevention of ploughing, cultivation, herbicide and fertiliser applications and re-seeding with an appropriate diverse mixture.
- Conserve and maintain historic structures such as field barns, farmhouses, mining structures and lime kilns. This may include protection from stock, removal of trees or scrub and carrying out structural repairs with archaeological advice.
- Encourage the removal of eyesores and derelict sites of no historic interest. Conserve important spoil heaps and other earthworks.

### **Woodland and Trees**

- Restore and reinforce remnant semi-natural woodland on scarp slopes and in the deeper valleys and gills.
- Seek measures to improve the appearance of existing coniferous plantations including softening of geometric outlines, introduction of open space and increasing species diversity.
- Resist new or significant extensions to coniferous plantations especially in the moorland zone and on valley sides and scarps.
- Intrusive conifer blocks should be removed from open fell land.

### **Field Boundaries**

- Encourage the conservation and repair of boundary walls to fields or large allotments where significant in historic or landscape terms (This applies mainly in 13A).
- The erection of fencing on open moorland is normally to be avoided.

## **Development**

- Resist the siting of alien structures such as masts, pylons and wind turbines. Exceptionally domestic scale wind turbines may be accommodated if visually and functionally related to and in proportion with existing used buildings.
- Resist major developments such as minerals or those involving permanent built structures including roads, embankments or dams.

## **Recreation Facilities**

- Improvements to the Pennine Way and other footpath or bridleway networks including the laying of flags where necessary, waymarking, stiles etc. All such work should use natural materials that harmonise with the landscape.
- Provision of sensitively designed small scale parking facilities for cars and buses in appropriate locations.
- Interpret the landscape, history and wildlife of the area and thus promote its care and conservation. Provide safety advice to those wishing to walk in remote areas, explore caves or old mines.

# TYPE 13: FELLS AND SCARPS

## SUB TYPE 13c - FELLS

### Key Characteristics

These fells form extensions to the Lakeland and Pennine systems in the southeast of the County rising to around 700m OD. The former have smooth rounded profiles with deeply incised valleys whilst the latter are more angular and stepped in outline. Generally off the beaten track these fells have a quiet unpretentious quality, although the Howgills cluster has a strong majestic identity. Heavily grazed open grass moorland is predominant with remnant patches of heather, rock outcrops and screes with little or no tree cover combine to create a wild and expansive character. Lower down these gives way to semi-improved pasture in large fields enclosed by stone walls with more extensive tree cover. Features include traditional farmsteads strung out along the base of fells with associated tree clumps, areas of scrub, tarns, gill and fellside woodlands. Discordant elements include some darker blocks of conifers, transmission lines, masts and the M6 motorway (running along the edge of the area). Ecological and geological interest occurs mainly in limestone habitats and on some higher moorlands. Elsewhere grazing pressure reduces the value. This sub-type is designated as a County Landscape or National Park (Yorkshire Dales).

### Changes in the Landscape

Changes in land management and other potential pressures can have an important influence on the character of the fells:

- Grazing pressures continue to degrade heather cover and wildlife diversity
- The loss of farm labour probably contributes to localised neglect of traditional features including occasional derelict walls and buildings, under grazed woodlands and over mature farm copses
- Coniferous afforestation pressures have abated in recent years
- Potential for wind energy development and further development of masts and pylons threaten to clutter open fells.
- Localised recreation pressures of walking and potholing lead to visual intrusion and erosion scars.

### **Vision**

**Generally conservation and enhancement should be a priority in these upland landscapes of impressive relief, natural beauty, unspoilt openness and attractive views.** There is a need to conserve and restore semi-natural grassland and heath, and natural features to provide focal points of interest through environmentally sensitive farming practices and woodland management initiatives. There is scope to increase woodland cover generally particularly on the lower slope, valley sides and gills. Strict controls on development and recreation management at key sites will be required to protect the quiet uncluttered qualities of the fells. Fell-walls and field boundary walls in the valleys need to be conserved or restored as key cultural features. Any tourism development should be sustainable and avoid impacting on sensitive habitats while minimising visual intrusion.

### Guidelines

#### **Unimproved Grassland:**

- Regenerate suppressed heather through detailed management programmes including reduction of stocking levels, control of bracken, phased cutting and burning.
- Manage semi-natural acidic grassland to enhance biological diversity including reduction in stocking levels, control of bracken and rushes.
- Restrict further agricultural improvement including ploughing, re-seeding, application of fertiliser, liming or herbicide treatment.

#### **Natural Features:**

- Protect and enhance fell wetland including flushes, small tarns, and bog pools. This may include preventing drainage improvements and blocking existing drains to maintain high water levels, preventing overgrazing and poaching by stock, excluding supplementary feeding areas and controlling scrub encroachment.
- Protect gills and becks from stock to encourage development of diverse ground flora, scattered trees and woodland.
- Protect rocky outcrops, screes, potholes and caves by preventing removal, infilling or disturbance and controlling scrub encroachment.



**Woodland/Trees:**

- Reinforce existing tree clumps that accentuate farmsteads as visual islands at the base of fells.
- Restore and reinforce remnant grazed broad-leaved woodland by exclusion of livestock, natural regeneration restocking and appropriate management.
- Develop small to medium scale planting on suitable sites on the lower slopes, valleys and gills.
- Ameliorate existing coniferous plantations including softening geometric outlines, introduction of open spaces and species diversification.

**Cultural Features:**

- Manage the existing pattern of stone walls and repair derelict walls in a traditional way.
- Maintain and repair traditional farm buildings where they are significant landscape features.

**Development:**

- Resist the siting of alien structures such as masts, pylons and wind turbines.

**Recreation Facilities:**

- Any parking facilities should be sensitively sited and well designed to minimise the impact on the landscape.
- Manage public access so as to avoid landscape damage and disturbance to sensitive habitats including sensitively designed waymarking, stiles, bridges, boundary maintenance, erosion control and interpretation.

## ***Principal Mechanisms for Implementing the Guidelines (Non Development)***

<b>Feature</b>	<b>Guidelines</b>	<b>Principal Mechanism/ Agencies</b>
<b><i>Coastal Features</i></b>	Active management, litter clearance etc. Provision of information Control commercial fishing Management programmes Recreation of saltmarsh Coastal Defence	Local Authority, Coastal Management Partnerships As above Regulations/Sea Fisheries Committees Countryside Stewardship Scheme/English Nature Shoreline Management Plans
<b><i>Sub-Coastal Features</i></b>	Managing dune grassland  Conserving, restoring or recreating mosses Protection from peat cutting, restrict drainage	Countryside Stewardship Scheme " " County Council (Planning) English Nature
<b><i>Cultural Features</i></b>	Conserve and enhance historic sites, structures Conserve and manage traditional features (hedges, hedgebanks etc.) Conserve historic routeways  Protection of historic landscapes	County Council (Archaeology), English Heritage  Countryside Stewardship County Council (Archaeologist), English Heritage County Council (Archaeologist), English Heritage
<b><i>Derelict Sites</i></b>	Restore and reclaim derelict airfield, industrial sites etc.	Derelict land programme County and District Councils, English Partnerships
<b><i>Disturbed Land (Furness)</i></b>	Conserve and enhance heritage and wildlife value	Local Authorities, English Nature (Recognition of site's interest)
<b><i>Farm Buildings</i></b>	Conserve and enhance traditional buildings Control impact of new buildings Tree planting around farms	Local Authorities and ESA Schemes " (Planning) Management partnerships (for advice)
<b><i>Field Boundaries</i></b>	Restore, replant and maintain hedgerows Restore hedgebanks Discourage new fencing Discourage field enlargement Restore/manage drystone walls Planting/management of hedgerow trees Protection of hedgerows	Countryside Stewardship (Field boundary restoration) " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " District Councils
<b><i>Forestry Areas (see also woodlands/trees)</i></b>	Improved felling cycles Introduce open areas Introduce broadleaf species Encourage recreation Protect natural areas	Forestry Authority (Forest Design Plans) " " " " " " " " " " " "

<b>Feature</b>	<b>Guidelines</b>	<b>Principal Mechanism/ Agencies</b>
	Plant new mixed forests	Cumbria Woodland Forum/FA
<b><i>Moorland/Heathland</i></b>	Regenerate suppressed heather	MAFF (Countryside Stewardship/ESA/Moorland Schemes)
	Regenerate rough pasture	" "
	Restrict agricultural improvements	" "
	Recreate heather moorland	" "
<b><i>Natural Features/Wetlands</i></b>	Recreate mosses and saltmarsh	MAFF (Countryside Stewardship)
	Restrict drainage	" "
	Management of dikes & ditches	" "
	Interpretation of sites, features	English Nature/Cumbria Wildlife Trust
	Protect and enhance wetlands, marshes, wet meadows etc.	Countryside Stewardship
	Manage wildlife sites	English Nature, MAFF (Countryside Stewardship and ESA Schemes)
	Create new ponds	English Nature
	Manage roadside verges	County Council (Highway Authority)
	Conserve glacial features	RIGS Group
	Ameliorate canalisation of rivers	Environment Agency (Local EA Plans)
	Reverse unsympathetic drainage schemes	" "
	Protect gills from stock	Countryside Management Organisations
	Protecting crags and other rocky outcrops	" " "
	Enhance existing reservoirs	NWW Ltd
Protecting and enhancing limestone pavement and scars, glacial erratics	Countryside Management Organisations	
<b><i>Recreation</i></b>	Design/siting of car parks etc.	Local Authorities
	Provision of vehicle barriers controlling public access	" "
	Improving footpaths etc.	Countryside Management Organisations
	Upgrading other facilities and detailing	Local Authorities
	Unify boundary treatments	" "
	Traffic management schemes	" "
	Coastal wind breaks	" "
	Sea frontage improvements	" "
	Planting in association with golf courses etc.	Forestry Authority (Woodland Grant Scheme)
	Encourage new footpaths, bridleways and cycleways	Local Authorities/ Sustrans
	Public transport access	County Council (Public Transport Section)
	Define sensitive/non sensitive locations for footpaths	Local Authorities
	Provision of information, interpretation	Countryside Management, Tourism partnerships
	<b><i>Unimproved Grassland (See also moorland, heathland)</i></b>	Manage and enhance diverse grass swards
Manage limestone pavement and grassland		MAFF (Countryside Stewardship/ESA Scheme)

<b>Feature</b>	<b>Guidelines</b>	<b>Principal Mechanism/ Agencies</b>
	Discourage/restrict agricultural improvements	MAFF (Countryside Stewardship/ESA Scheme)
	Manage semi-natural grassland	MAFF (Countryside Stewardship/ESA Scheme)
	Sustainable management of common land	Common Land Associations, MAFF (Countryside Stewardship, ESA and Moorland Schemes)
<b>Woodland/Trees</b>	Managing carr woodland	Forestry Commission (Woodland Grant Scheme)
<b>(See also forestry areas)</b>	Restrict planting of conifers	" " "
	Managing Woodland	" " "
	Planting new woodlands	" " "
	Introduce willow coppice	" " "
	Planting around villages, farmhouses etc.	Countryside Management Organisations. MAFF (Countryside Stewardship Scheme - Indigenous trees only)
	Conserve/manage scrub	Countryside Management, BTCV
	Roadside tree planting	County Council
	Planting in public open spaces	Local Authority
	Planting within villages and towns	Parish & Town Councils
	New woodlands on farmland	Forestry Commission (Woodland Grant Scheme and Farm Woodland Premium Scheme)
	Individual tree planting (whole farm schemes)	MAFF (Countryside Stewardship and ESA Schemes)
	Management of avenues, tree belts, clumps and parkland trees.	MAFF (Countryside Stewardship)
	Fencing gill woods	Forestry Commission (Woodland Grant Schemes)
	Countryside Management (for advice)	
Livestock exclusion from woodland	Forestry Commission (Woodland Grant Scheme)	

## ***Management Guidelines: Principal Contacts***

### Coastal Management Partnerships

Duddon Estuary:  
Dave Hughes  
3 Paradise  
Ireleth  
Askam in Furness  
Cumbria LA16 7HA

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Morecambe Bay:  
Susannah Bleakley  
Victoria Hall  
Grange-over-Sands  
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Solway Firth:  
Melissa Morton  
Scottish Natural Heritage  
Carmont House  
The Crichton  
Dumfries DG1 4ZF

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### Countryside Management Projects/Advisors

Cumbria County Manager  
British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV)  
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Brockhole  
Windermere  
Cumbria LA23 1LJ

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BTCV West Cumbria Project Office,  
4 William Street  
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BTCV South Cumbria Project Office

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Newton Rigg  
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Solway Rural Resource Centre  
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West Cumbria Groundwork Trust  
Crowgarth House  
48 High Street  
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Cumbria CA28 5AA

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County Archaeologist

County Archaeological Officer  
Cumbria County Council  
County Offices  
Kendal

Cumbria LA9 4RQ

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Countryside Stewardship Scheme

Mr D Shaw  
Countryside Stewardship Scheme Officer  
FRCA Newcastle  
Kenton Bar  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE1 2YA

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Cumbria RIGS Group

Mr E Skipsey  
Chairman  
16 Monnington Way  
Penrith  
Cumbria  
CA11 8QY

Telephone: 01768 862833

Derelict Land Programme

English Partnerships  
Lakeland Business Park  
Lamplugh Road  
Cockermouth  
Cumbria CA13 0QT

Telephone: 01900 827161  
Fax. 01900 827160

(See also County and District Councils)

Environment Agency

Dr JD Marshall  
Area Manager (North)  
Environment Agency North West Region  
Ghyll Mount  
Gillan Way  
Penrith 40 Business Park  
Penrith  
Cumbria CA11 9BP

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Environmentally Sensitive Areas Schemes

Lake District and Pennine Dales

FRCA  
Northern Regional Service Centre  
Eden Bridge House  
Lowther Street  
Carlisle  
CA3 8DX

Telephone: 01228 23400  
Fax: 01228 27644

#### Nature Conservation Bodies

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Brockhole  
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#### Sea Fisheries Committees

Cumbria Sea Fisheries Committee  
The Courts  
Carlisle  
Cumbria CA3 8LZ

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Fax 01228 606372

Chief Fishery Officer  
Mr D Dobson  
6 Duncan Square  
Whitehaven  
Cumbria CA28 7LN

Telephone: 01946 693047  
Fax: 01946 590430

North Western & North Wales Sea Fisheries Committee  
Lancaster University  
Lancaster  
LA1 4YY

Telephone: 01524 68745  
Fax No. 01524 844980

#### Shoreline Management Plans

Morecambe Bay (Rossall Point-Earnse Bay):

Lancaster City Council  
The City Engineer  
Town Hall  
Morecambe  
Lancashire LA4 5AF

Telephone: 01524 582616 or 582337



Fax 01524 582602

Earnse Bay (Walney Island)-St Bees Head:

Copeland Borough Council  
Head of Client Services  
PO Box 19  
Council Offices  
Whitehaven  
Cumbria CA28 7NY

Telephone: 01946 693111 Ext. 247  
Fax 01946 693373

St Bees Head - River Sark:

Allerdale Borough Council  
Allerdale House  
Workington  
Cumbria CA14 3YJ

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Voluntary Bodies

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(Representing CPRE in Cumbria)  
No. 3 Yard 77  
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Cumbria LA9 4ED

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Woodland Advice and Grants (See also Countryside Management Projects/Advisors)

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Forestry Commission  
North West England Conservancy  
Peil Wyke  
Bassenthwaite Lake  
Cockermouth  
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Lincolnshire NG31 6LL

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Cumbria Woodland Forum

See Forestry Authority