

2. WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED FROM STAKEHOLDER VIEWS

- 2.1 The study began with discussion of the project with organisations and individuals representing a range of interest groups and constituencies in the Lake District. These are listed in **Appendix I** and include local authorities, amenity groups, cultural and business organisations, farming interests, tourism bodies, national and regional agencies, environmental and nature conservation bodies, and community organisations. The discussions were designed:
- to understand the issues that organisations expect the nomination proposal to raise
 - to obtain a representative sample of views on what is outstandingly important about the Lake District
 - to seek information about any recent research or studies or initiatives that should be taken into account;
 - to look at the opportunities for the nomination process to benefit from what is happening in Cumbria and the Lake District at the moment.
- 2.2 The discussion guide used for interviews can be referred to in **Appendix IV**. It was originally planned to undertake 30 interviews with selected organisations and individuals with special expertise. In practice, over 50 were actually completed in order to cover the range of interests indicated by initial scoping. In a few cases, such as the National Trust, the National Park and the Environment Agency, several discussion interviews took place with different respondents.
- 2.3 Due to the selective nature of the consultation at this stage, the discussions mainly reflect strategic or general views of issues rather than detailed local experience and opinion. Respondents expressed their views as officers or experts and not as the corporate views of their organisations. Several respondents made the point that they would need to take the proposals formally to their Committee or Board for their views as officers to be endorsed. At this stage therefore these views are indicative only.
- 2.4 A visit of ICOMOS-UK's Landscape Committee took place on 8th and 9th July 2002 to consider the individual and overall significances of the Lake District's cultural landscape in terms of its universal value. A summary of the Committee's conclusions can be found in **Appendix VII**.

ATTITUDES

- 2.5 Apart from members of the organisations in the Steering Group, few of the officers of the organisations consulted have any experience of working in or with a World Heritage Site. Opinions about the possible benefits and disbenefits of inscription are largely inferred from experience of the National Park designation. Generally World Heritage status is viewed as another layer of protective designation which will reinforce the National Park regime for better or worse.
- 2.6 Many expressed an intuitive view that inscription should be a positive development for the Lake District and for Cumbria but were cautious about wholehearted endorsement without understanding better what it could mean in practice. While the majority of respondents are on balance favourable in their

attitude, many wish to see the pros and cons of inscription examined in detail with practical illustrations of the ways in which places on the World Heritage List have benefited from the added value that inscription can bring. Reassurance is also sought that inscription will not inhibit necessary social and economic change and growth for the Lake District as a living community.

- 2.7 Nearly all organisations indicated that they wish to remain informed about the progress of the proposals and the vast majority wish to participate at an appropriate point in further consultation and discussion. A small number of organisations indicate that they would wish to have a role as an active partner in taking forward the nomination. These responses are summarised in **Appendix I**.
- 2.8 The principal themes that emerged from views expressed by respondents are grouped together in the sections below. These indicate the overall range of opinion, from those that were in favour of the proposal to those that were unfavourable or uncertain about the merits of inscription. Statistical analysis of the responses to the consultation has not been attempted, since it is not based on a drawn sample. Quotations from interviews are given in italics and are not attributed. Where quotations have been taken from documents that are in the public domain the source is noted in parenthesis.

2.9 FAVOURABLE ATTITUDES:

What could emerge is acknowledgement of the Lake District's outstanding world class landscape within a vision shared by key players.

2.9.1 Business and tourism

If WH status brings a new flow of business and tourism (with strategies to spread visitors interest) and improves transport and access it would be a welcome initiative.

It could be a useful marketing tool, attract business and investment.

If it could bring an overarching vision for a sustainable socio-economic future it would be valuable... develop tourism as a year-round market that embraces cultural visiting as well as casual and single focus visiting.

An opportunity for emphasising the distinctive products of the Lake District.

One of the keys to tackling a future vision may be an understanding that the so-called rural economy is not an economy dominated by farming but a series of significant urban economies that co-exist in a rural environment.

2.9.2 Sustainable development

It should increase the profile of the Lake District, draw in new sources for funding, stimulate the rural economy and new investment, and bring a much greater focus on sustainable development for the Lake District economy.

This is the opportunity to bring about a genuinely sustainable environmental- social-cultural partnership. The key driver is to return to sustainable practices... It could bring focus to the needs of an exceptionally high quality landscape that has been slowly eroded over decades of unmanaged, unsustainable change.

The whole fabric is at risk - there has been a failure to address the overall balance in the Lake District. Inscription might provide the locus to change this situation if it is linked up with other forces for change.

2.9.3 Shared vision

There is an opportunity for this process to benefit from what's happening in Cumbria as a whole at present with heightened environmental and socio-economic awareness.

A chance to build consensual management, needs-driven, outcome-led activities by reconfiguring the resources that we have rather than by drawing down large amounts of new funding... deliver the public benefit and a shared vision.

There is also a chance to work with the National Park to review and establish a long-term vision to mesh economic and social regeneration with conservation.

A more visionary approach would be welcomed - the cultural element of the landscape is often not taken into account ... the chance to make a real difference... to raise awareness and sensitivity to issues often overlooked.

The tension is between economic development and designation in the short term - the perception that the National Park and World Heritage status are obstacles to economic development. With a long-term vision it should be possible to overcome this.

2.9.4 Rural development and agriculture

To define what is special and unique for the Lake District can only help with fine tuning development programmes for rural areas, with opportunities for product differentiation and subsidy to support management of the most sensitive aspects of the local environment.

Positives might include a strengthening of the voice in Whitehall and the regional agencies, and possible support for some distinctive cultural activities and traditions.

The WH site nomination process could provide a forum for the strategic thinking that [post] FMD has already begun ...draw down new streams of funding. Government might recognise the special pressures on and vulnerabilities of the Lake District and its role as an ambassador and innovator in sustainable practices

An opportunity for reaching consensus on agricultural issues and integrated policies for land management that take bio-diversity issues into account. We need to promote an holistic view that supports a viable socio-economic regime, that supports traditional land management practices and

low-intensity agriculture.

The WH site could work with the change in attitude post FMD towards much more realistic levels of stocking and sensitivity to change.

2.9.5 Better protection for landscape

It will draw attention to the special values of the place and enhance protection and care for the landscape...It will signal the need for special resources to sustain a world-class place and an opportunity to consider areas outside the National Park that are also of outstanding value.

The WH site could offer additional protection through its buffer zone to landscape currently excluded from the National Park.

It offers another layer of management for a specially sensitive part of the historic environment and an opportunity to inform a whole range of management activities and the National Park's own policies.

A context for encouraging a flexible and fluid approach to sustain landscapes in which wildlife can flourish.

This is a working landscape and so a changing landscape and one that has to offer benefits across the board. To support this we need policies to encourage the right kind of development and at a cost.

2.9.6 International recognition

An opportunity to promote the international significance of environmental research in the Lake District.

A positive move for initiatives promoting sustainable tourism and recognition of Cumbria as an international leader.

Inscription would be confirmation of the specialness of the place... [and there could be] benefit from wide exchange of views internationally.

It should support the long-term future of the region and an international infrastructure of quality at the heart of an internationally important landscape and place. A key contribution to the renaissance of the County, post FMD.

2.10 UNCERTAIN OR UNFAVOURABLE ATTITUDES:

If World Heritage status is not part of the solution in Cumbria then it's part of the problem.

2.10.1 Quality of life and communities

There need to be locally relevant benefits - show the community benefits and which communities are served and how.

Social and economic well-being, local housing, local lifestyle, local

traditions... the World Heritage process would have to show that it can work with these flows.

There is an impression that some groups are excluded from the process of deciding about nomination.

There needs to be much more work on awareness and local involvement in cultural heritage... the World Heritage site needs to be wrapped up with people and local involvement.

It could increase a perception of exclusivity of the area with even worse house prices and property shortages

The price might be indiscriminate growth in tourism and investment at the cost of quality of life and environment. Prospect of a restrictive or prescriptive regime that would alienate people and bog down the process of necessary change.

There is the danger of creating an artificial environment and community with restrictive designations that frustrate the aspirations of communities (affordable housing, small business development, good transport networks)

2.10.2 What are the benefits?

It needs to be integrated with other initiatives and to show clear added value.

Need a proper assessment of the benefits and disbenefits with clear presentation of the economic drivers / factors.

Who decided that the Lake District should be nominated?

If the World Heritage site is smaller than the National Park then it raises questions about the status of the rest as 'less special' and therefore more vulnerable to change.

2.10.3 Rural issues

The Hadrian's Wall WHS experience shows that some antagonism and reluctance can be expected at the outset.

Experience with the ESA shows that the farming community is unlikely to welcome initially further changes in regime or economic framework

There are several key policy changes happening ... CAP mid-term review and reform, ESA 10 year-review, rural businesses moving away from food production - land managers need a flexible context in which to succeed. What are the implications of increased planning controls and bureaucracy?

2.10.4 Regeneration and growth

Any adverse impact on economic regeneration would be negative for the authority.

If the WH site inhibited the A590 improvement it would have a very negative effect on the peninsula.

Not in favour if the WH site blocks the possibility of improving the access routes to the Furness peninsula and west Cumbria - these are the key to long term regeneration.

It may have a negative impact on development, already tightly constrained., limits on new affordable housing and economic activity... major communication improvements might be compromised if designation created more obstacles.

There is a perception that the WH site would affect development, curtail growth with 'tougher' prescriptions than the National Park at present.

Planning is perceived as having a stranglehold on economic regeneration and inscription is inevitably linked to this.

2.10.5 Tourism

Some local people would not see increased tourism as a benefit.

The likely negative perceptions will be increased pressure from visitors and inhibiting of rural development.

Increased tourism and traffic management would be considerations.

The selection of boundaries would be critical - if a core of the high fells or one or two valleys were selected it could bring damaging pressures to bear on a particularly vulnerable area.

2.10.6 Bureaucracy and restrictions

The WH site would not be seen as positive thing if it restricted development further and was perceived as 'putting things in the way'.

It could bring restrictions on new infrastructure, car parking, telecommunications, inhibit new ideas and change.

The National Park as a leader in the process is perceived by some as remote from the real issues, and not locally accountable.

Another layer of bureaucracy and controls would not be welcome.

There is concern about the adverse impacts on the use of the area for sport and recreation.

2.11 SIGNIFICANCE, VULNERABILITY AND OTHER ISSUES

- 2.11.1 Respondents and specialists in the organisations consulted were asked to comment on the aspects of the Lake District's cultural landscape that are most significant from the perspective of the organisation or their own area of expertise. They were also asked to identify any aspects that are judged to be vulnerable or at risk. Views on the issues around these also arose naturally in many of the discussions and have provided valuable insights.
- 2.11.2 These wide-ranging observations have been used in the study to build a 'map' of significant attributes of the Lake District as a place, in terms of its economic, environmental, social, and cultural value. (see Methodology above p.3). The tables that follow present an analysis of the attributes identified in each grouping. Alongside these are placed vulnerabilities and risks and other issues - opportunities, constraints, knowledge-requirements - identified by respondents in discussion.

Quotations in italics are used, as before, without attribution except where from a published source.

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Economic attributes	Vulnerabilities and issues
<p>Tourism A destination offering exceptional scenic quality, varied cultural interest and range of accommodation for domestic and international visitors. A significant sector of employment (c25%), contributing £1 billion annually to the Cumbrian economy.</p>	<p>Increases in tourism and visiting are a concern. Need to understand more about capacities for different types of place and to develop advanced strategies for managing the current pressures. Important 'quiet areas', like Ennerdale and Wastwater should be respected. The quality of the public realm - parking, signing, street furniture - perceived as gradually falling with potential impacts on the quality of visitor experience, and ultimately the kind of visiting that the place attracts. More interpretation and facilities would improve the quality of visiting experience</p>
<p>Leisure and recreation Diversity of outdoor leisure and recreational activities - lakes and rivers, mountains and fells, coast and valleys, forests and woodland, parks and gardens - that appeal to a very wide range of participants across social groups, age and gender. A major contributor to tourism businesses and to specialist manufacture and retail.</p>	<p>Possibly vulnerable to swings in seasonal visiting and to the limiting of activities, such as boat traffic, and access to land in locations that are environmentally sensitive. Real potential to expand the visitor 'pay back' principle, already established, by increasing awareness of people using the Lake District for outdoor pursuits and inviting positive investment or participation in conservation projects. Growth potential in related manufacturing & service sectors.</p>
<p>Agriculture Distinctive and traditional farming enterprise and products</p>	<p>The products of local agriculture reflect the climate and topography. A more mixed farming economy is desirable moving towards products with added value and growth in other rural business areas. Scope for increasing reliability of supply to extend the market for locally and organically produced foods and other distinctive local products.</p>
<p>Forestry Woodlands and forests as renewable economic resources in diversification of agriculture and for their amenity and social value.</p>	<p>Felling and planting programmes may have adverse impact on the landscape. Piecemeal, gradual opening up of woodlands is desirable to reveal the topography of the landscape, retain the interest of woodland and allow phased renewal with appropriate mixed new planting. Generally woodlands are an under exploited resource for public benefit and visiting. Grizedale and Winnlater show the potential.</p>
<p>Water The lakes and watercourses of the Lake District as a source of pure water for drinking and for industry, as well as for their amenity and social value</p>	<p>Vulnerable to pollution: raised phosphate levels, agricultural chemicals and sewage, sedimentation and run-off from roads / old industrial workings.</p>
<p>Quality of Life The high quality of life in the Lake District provides an environment in which businesses, particularly small businesses, and their employees can thrive. The Lake District image is an important aspect of marketing businesses that want to be associated with the Lake District's reputation and to be close to it as a place.</p>	<p>The service sector is relatively underdeveloped and dominated by public services. There is a shortage of some kinds of domestic services (painting & decorating, maintenance, cleaning, child care) and in recruiting for certain kinds of jobs. Strategies are needed to persuade more people to work in the Lake District - low cost housing, better transport - and to provide more attractive and diverse employment.</p>
<p>Business advantage Some indigenous businesses belong and thrive in the Lake District because they have a close connection with its landscape and people. Some businesses benefit from having moved to the Lake District away from urban environments. Some can only exist here and offer a unique business opportunity. They are particularly suited to development but the nature of rural businesses is also changing rapidly.</p>	<p>Perception of underdeveloped communication infrastructure limiting access and new development (ICT connections and road improvements). The farming and tourism sectors together employ fewer people than manufacture in Cumbria overall but the existence of the National Park has tended to displace much of the latter activity to its fringes. Perceived as economically fragile; policies for regeneration need to be properly integrated.</p>
<p>Environmental dividend The environmental sensitivity and importance of the Lake District landscape has the potential to attract special funding streams and subsidy. Its special qualities advantage sustainable approaches and environmentally sensitive businesses and increase the business case for certain types of economic activity.</p>	<p>Subsidy and grant-aid programmes providing economic support need to be assessed critically for their impacts on socio-environmental conditions. Low impact, IT-based small businesses and research facilities rely on ICT links, for which networks are underdeveloped. The quality of power supply in some areas is unreliable; needs to be more investment in developing reliable use of renewable power sources. There must be room for innovation and sound research-based experimentation with alternative designs and approaches. The proposed Institute for Sustainable Uplands is one such current initiative.</p>

Environmental attributes	Vulnerabilities and issues
<p>Geology and topography <i>The most important place in the UK for geology.</i> A geologically complex dome with a wide range of rock types, notably the volcanic series and mineral-bearing rocks and upland exposures of deformed and fossil-rich sedimentary rocks. Outstanding for the earliest fossil evidence of land-based life at Seathwaite and for the exceptional occurrence in Borrowdale of graphite ('wad'). A compact radial pattern of glaciated valleys, deep sided & flat-bottomed (many lake-filled) contrasting with the varied profiles of the peaks, ridges and crags above. An outstanding example of glaciated landscape in the UK; the largest lakes and highest peaks in England. A rich resource for educational use and scientific research.</p>	<p>Some geological sites, especially the mineral exposures, are vulnerable to the activities of collectors (although a permit system operates) and to the obscuring of important rock exposures by vegetation growth. Erosion is not considered a risk to geology but scarring and run-off of sediment are major landscape issues. These are exacerbated by over grazing reducing the 'buffering' of natural vegetation cover, by visitor pressure, bikes and 4-wheel drives off-road, and by lack of management of woodland alongside watercourses.</p>
<p>Compact scale and contrast <i>A sense of entering a special landscape of visual dominance, both enclosure and a succession of vistas of contrast. A finite and discrete area.</i> The central uplands have an island like quality with sea and estuaries on three sides, its limits clearly visible from the peaks. Within this relatively small area the passage between contrasting types of landscape and topography can be accomplished in a short time.</p>	<p>The fine grain scale of the landscape and the local detail that supplies the distinctive contrasts between different valleys and lakes is vulnerable to a variety of changes. These include farming practice; development pressure; erosion; failure to maintain intensive management and renew naturally depleted resources; 'globalisation' and homogenisation (loss of local sources of material, growth in transport networks; influence of a central planning authority, dominant land-owning interests).</p>
<p>Climate A mild Atlantic climate with exceptionally high rainfall and equable temperatures give a relatively long growing season although the area is exposed to strong winds. The large water bodies mediate extremes of temperature in the valleys. Woodlands in parts of the lower valleys are rich in ferns, lichens, mosses and liverworts as a result of the mild and damp climate. The rain-saturated landscape is characterised by streams, cascades, falls, rivers and a variety of water bodies held by the glaciated landform. Good potential for research into, and exploitation of, renewable energy resources.</p>	<p>Climatic change: increases in temperature and rainfall may impact on habitats and biodiversity. Warmer summers may threaten fragile communities such as Atlantic woodland ecosystems, montane heath and the diverse range of bogs and mires. The Lake District offers a 'laboratory' for observation and measurement of environmental change, established for over 70 years in the work of FBA and CEH. Potential for utilising abundant rainfall for local water power as a renewable energy source has not been seriously explored.</p>
<p>Biodiversity Exceptional biodiversity and numbers of rare species relating to the diversity of habitats – valley and lakes, fell and forest, coast and estuary. Of particular importance are the relict post-glacial fish and plant species; butterflies and moths; birds and red squirrel; and amphibians. There is an outstandingly wide range of habitats, notable for the range of montane and sub-montane upland communities (including heathlands, mires and flushes, rock ledge and scree communities), Atlantic and limestone woodland communities, species-rich hay meadows, limestone pavements and grassland, lowland raised mires, rivers, lakes and tarns. This rich diversity of natural resources has developed as part of a managed agricultural landscape although agricultural practices over the last 50 years have had a net negative effect on biodiversity. Lakes and woodlands are an integral part of biodiversity but are considered individually below because of the important contribution that they make to the Lake District's cultural landscape.</p>	<p><i>Overgrazing of uplands is overwhelmingly the determining factor in the threat to semi-natural habitats - heather moorland, montane heath, sub-alpine herb rich flora. Overgrazing also affects woodlands, juniper and other shrub communities and leads to accelerated soil erosion.</i> Homogenised land management regimes based on high intensity management for production (supported through CAP) are inimical to biodiversity. The ESA has successfully stemmed the tide of intensification but real issues remain around the future of farming practice: lower grazing levels, higher intensity management, more mixed farming and low-impact agricultural practices (minimal use of fertilisers and pest/herbicides). Other factors affecting habitats include aerial pollution (acid rain and nitrogen deposition), climate change and recreational pressure. There is a need for more understanding about the impact of changes in farming regimes: experimentation with lower grazing densities in different situations; the effects of culling and restocking post FMD; the role of traditional breeds.</p>

Environmental attributes	Vulnerabilities and issues
<p>Lakes and their catchments <i>'The Lake: their rivers and streams are the jewel in the Lake District's crown... This is where conservation meets access.'</i> The lakes provide a unique record of climate and environmental change in their waters and sediments - Windermere is one of the most intensively researched lakes in the world. The lake types represent an unusual range of nutrient levels, ecologies and aspect with nationally rare species. Although many lakes and tarns are now nutrient enriched and modified for water supply, some situations are largely unexploited for abstraction and there are good examples of both nutrient poor water bodies and productive lakes. As a laboratory for freshwater biology, the lakes offer exceptional educational and research potential.</p>	<p>Water quality and lake ecologies are highly sensitive to change in the environment. The quality of the lakes and rivers has deteriorated as a result of increased sedimentation from the erosion of river banks and the wider catchment largely as a result of overgrazing of vegetation. Changes in water quality are due to sewage disposal and agricultural pollution affecting nutrient levels in water, and related oxygen depletion affecting some species. Other hazards include contamination from former industrial sites and microbiological contamination. Drought orders during periods of water shortage result in some lakes being reduced to very low levels. Species introduced to these waters threaten vulnerable indigenous species and the balance of lake ecologies. The Still Waters Partnership since 1999 is leading an integrated approach to sustainable management of lakes and their catchments.</p>
<p>Woodland A key and distinctive element in the Lake District landscape, supporting biodiversity and a flow of benefits for the environment and for public enjoyment and education. Important and vulnerable are 'Atlantic' woodland communities, wood pasture, coppice, pollards, lichens and bryophytes, limestone woodlands and butterflies.</p>	<p>Some areas of woodland are at risk from sheep, and in certain circumstances deer grazing, leading to poor regeneration and the loss of a characteristic ground flora and shrub layer. Many woodlands are also suffering from a lack of other positive management practises such as coppicing.</p> <p>Woodlands generally are under-utilised and not valued for all the benefits that they can provide. Requires positive management policies and programmes to resist unwanted incremental change and ensure new schemes are sensitive and maximise public benefit.</p>

Social attributes	Issues and vulnerabilities
<p>Local community Strongly established rural communities, and a ring of thriving market towns in and around the National Park, that take strength from their traditions and particular local character.</p>	<p><i>Visiting is the big economic driver and will probably remain so... but it will need collective action to strengthen the social vulnerability of the Lake District if it is to remain a real community.</i> Depopulation of indigenous communities is resulting from decline of small farms and traditional occupations, with younger people moving away to find employment. Affordable accommodation for local people and diversity of employment are two problematic areas. There have been some large demographic changes - also evident in national trends but exacerbated here - over the last 50 years and coincidentally over the life of the National Park. <i>The social balance is fragile and vulnerable; landscape is relatively stable and slow to change.</i></p>
<p>Leisure and recreation Abundant opportunity for outdoor recreation, wildlife study, enjoyment of countryside and healthy active pursuits in a variety of environments, for local people and for visitors, for personal exploration and in groups. A distinctive Cumbrian sports heritage.</p>	<p>Vulnerability to the demographic changes in the area and to the seasonal pattern of use by visitors. Local sports traditions are also at risk from changes in attitude to e.g. hunting with dogs. In general terms, research shows that sport for communities is an important social binder. Participation in outdoor leisure activities provides important social and health benefits.</p> <p>Recreational activities can have a negative impact on habitats unless carefully managed – for instance disturbance to breeding birds (e.g. rock climbing and cliff nesting birds such as peregrine and raven), and trampling damage to sensitive habitats such as lake shore edges, mires and montane habitats.</p>
<p>Learning A rich resource for learning about the environment and conservation, cultural history, rural life and traditions. Education plays a growing part in visiting by groups and individuals.</p>	<p>Enormous opportunities to develop interpretation and facilities this area for local people and for visitors so that enjoyment of this outstanding environment is also a positive participative activity in which lifelong learning plays a key part</p>
<p>Quality of life As a place to live the Lake District offers an exceptional quality of life in its environment, communities, cultural and economic opportunities. <i>Evokes a human scale of awareness. A human landscape in which people discover personal meanings; that is valued for associations with family and treasured memories.</i></p>	<p>Vulnerable to demographic change (see local community above). Increased perception of exclusivity may exacerbate housing problems, inflate property values further and continue to weaken the service economy. There is a rising population of retired and older people and a dwindling infrastructure of services to support it, shortage of skilled work and opportunities for the young, with a limited business base. All the features of 'post rural' communities, weak in socio-economic terms.</p>

Cultural attributes	Issues and vulnerabilities
<p>Scenic beauty A landscape perceived to be of great scenic beauty and variety whose contrast in scale and character has invited a variety of cultural responses. It has been consciously valued for these qualities and altered to accentuate them since the mid- 18th century. The Derwentwater - Grasmere - Windermere valleys in particular are studded with 18th and 19th villas and their ornamental landscapes.</p>	<p>Cultural landscape attributes are vulnerable because undervalued. The extent and quality of designed and ornamental landscape is not appreciated. Major programmes of woodland and other renewal will be required to revitalise 18th and 19th century landscapes that are ageing, eroded or overgrown. The cultural landscape has also been adversely affected by changes in farming practice (see below).</p>
<p>Time depth <i>A landscape that attests interaction between people and environment over millennia.</i> The Lake District landscape provides an exceptional illustration of time depth in human interaction with the natural environment over 12000 years from the early prehistoric period onwards. The earliest evidence for human presence, from the Lindale caves, dates to the end of the last glaciation and mesolithic populations were exploiting the coastal plains of West Cumbria from c. 8000BC. The neolithic axe production sites, prehistoric upland landscapes and their monuments are of outstanding importance. A network of Roman roads and forts underlies a later landscape largely shaped by medieval husbandry and the exploitation of woodland and minerals.</p>	<p>Erosion, land management regimes, drainage and neglect of drainage, forestry and woodland management, recreational pressures and development all represent forces for change that require positive strategies to protect archaeological sites, historic buildings and landscapes.</p>
<p>Traditional hill farming <i>Traditional farming as a response to a unique environment.</i> The management of land for farming over the last 1000 years has formed the detailed pattern that overlays the strong natural landscape - inbye, intake, outgang and fell, drainage and exploitation of woodland - based on an ancient system of tenure and communal practices with roots in the Viking and early medieval period. Some aspects of traditional farming practice are perpetuated despite the enormous changes in agriculture since 1945. The indigenous sheep breeds that thrive in the Lake District (Herdwick, Rough Fell, Swaledale) and fell ponies are a significant element, and the Herdwick especially for its adaptation to the local environment and over wintering on the fells..</p>	<p>Farming has been the main driver of change in the Lake District landscape but is vulnerable because it is fundamentally uneconomic. The loss of small farms, and with them traditional practices and breeds, is critical. Some perceive that much depends on the National Trust's management of this sensitive and vulnerable situation. Outsiders are buying into the management of land without local knowledge or understanding. <i>There is a real erosion of historic features and landscape quality due to lack of appreciation of the longevity of historic land management and the way this maintained the environmental balance.</i> There is a need to be aware of the homogenising effect of management, through a small number of large estate owners (NT, UU) and half a century of a single planning authority. Some advocate a return to valley-based farm planning and more solutions bespoke to local circumstances.</p>
<p>History of mining, quarrying and industry The continuing tradition of a rural economy exploiting natural resources (rocks, mineral, water and woodlands) is exemplified in a multi-period landscape of nationally and internationally important sites. Mineral extraction (iron, copper, barytes, graphite, lead, zinc and wolfram) and quarrying have been key processes in the shaping of the landscape and local economy. The management of woodland for fuel supply for the iron industry played a large part in the survival of the heavily wooded character of the valleys of the south lakes. The longevity of charcoal-fired smelting from the 12th century to the early 20th century is an exceptional feature of the iron industry in the Lake District. The graphite ('wad') mines, providing material for the Cumbrian pencil manufacture industry, are based on a uniquely rich occurrence of the mineral mined from the 16th century in Borrowdale.</p> <p>A tradition of craftsmanship working with local materials had a renaissance in the arts and crafts revival. This is enjoying further revival with new visitor interest in locally produced goods and craft processes and specialist markets for 'Lake District' products.</p>	<p>Significant, redundant industrial sites have been removed in enhancement schemes and development in the past. Some sites remain vulnerable to 'improvements' that clear away the historical context and landscape interest to make buildings available for adaptation and conversion. Such sites are also vulnerable to woodland management and planting schemes. Positive action is needed to counter neglect of some sites and might include appropriate new industrial and related manufacture/craft activities.</p> <p>Industrial exploitation has historically been a constant feature of the Lake District landscape. There is a case for strengthening local building and craft skills and sustainable supplies of building and other materials.</p>

Cultural attributes	Issues and vulnerabilities
<p>Inspiration for the Romantic movement and a tradition of creativity <i>Celebrating a major cultural moment in history in which Britain played a profound role (Wordsworth Trust).</i> Associations with the early appreciation of landscape and ideas about visual aesthetics and the picturesque. The Lake District's discovery by painters, tourists, poets and writers began at a time when the continent and Alps were closed to British travellers. The area continues to have a thriving culture of writers and artists and centres that nourish this tradition.</p>	<p>Perceived by some as a cultural 'given' and not needing any special management as an asset but in fact requiring major investment to sustain a living culture of creative writing and art. <i>The Lake District could be the most contemporary of places for ideas and for nurturing creative responses to modern life.</i></p>
<p>Association with ideas about nature & culture Empowering inspiration to people to explore and benefit from nature; historically the birthplace of landscape appreciation and tourism. Ideas founded in the Lake District had international influence.</p>	<p>Vulnerable in that undervalued. Enormous potential to work with this tradition in new cultural projects to revitalise communities and visiting.</p>
<p>History of the conservation movement <i>'An active and continuing tradition of conservation'.</i> Association with evolving, influential ideas about conservation and environmentalism from the mid-18th through to the present A place where influential thinkers and popular writers have focused their ideas and their efforts - Wordsworth, Ruskin, Rawnsley, Beatrix Potter, and H H Symonds. A laboratory for environmental science and new thinking about sustainable practices.</p>	<p>Perceived risk of fossilising a 1950s landscape 'as found' at the formation of the National Park and creating an artificial 'park' environment dominated by the Park and National Trust. Opportunities are identified for innovative working building on current initiatives and maintaining a reputation as a leader in conservation thinking with international influence. Needs a better knowledge base for the state of the cultural landscape and the processes of change affecting it.</p>
<p>Open and accessible landscape <i>'The story of a shared landscape'.</i> An important tradition of upland managed as open land, accessible to all and as a shared resource. Most parts of the Lake District are accessible for exploration with few restrictions; there is a high proportion of common land. In the perception of visitors this is an important part of a sense of the Lake District as a welcoming place</p>	<p>Fencing of commons post FMD to re-establish heafs and as an alternative to more intensive shepherding is perceived as a threat by some; access may also need to be restricted to aid conservation and habitat restoration programmes. Vulnerable to economic pressure on agriculture, dependence on subsidy and finite agri-environment schemes. Opportunity to engage non-agricultural users in understanding how this open aspect is maintained and to respect its management. Need better understanding of impacts of lower grazing levels</p>
<p>Management of commons The commons grazing regime and its history. Historically the commons are intimately linked to methods of husbandry, based on customary, tenurial rights of farmers originally regulated through local manorial courts. This co-operative method of locally regulating grazing levels and other resources for agriculture has, until the recent decades, enhanced biodiversity and brought other environmental benefits. Characterised by seasonal movement of animals, heafs, raking, shepherds meets, Herdwicks and fell ponies.</p>	<p>Cumbria has around 30% of the commons in England and this distinctive communal land management system with all its complexities is vulnerable. There are c150 commoners associations in Lake District and agreement between and among them are complex and unpredictable. Culling has already led to loss of equilibrium and, together with decline in the number of farms and the trend towards one-person farm units, the situation is moving to lapse or breakdown in traditional management of uplands such as shepherding. Fencing on the open fells is a controversial issue (see above).</p>
<p>Vernacular building and local character <i>A strong sense of traditional local character and lifestyle.</i> The character of the local scene is notable for its use of local building materials and distinctive vernacular style, particularly its visual harmony with the landscape. Specific building types such as hogg houses, peat houses, bank barns and the layout of farm houses, and small details such chimneys, windows, walling and gating all reflect distinct local practices and give the region an</p>	<p>Traditional farm buildings are vulnerable to neglect and need creative solutions for new uses in the rural economy that will retain this distinctive element in the landscape. This requires positive management to resist incremental change and to ensure that new schemes are both sensitive and progressive, balancing preservation out of use with sympathetic adaptation for new use and new buildings that will support the rural economy's need for diversification. The planning system plays a key role through the development control process to achieve this balance. There is an awareness of a need to resist the 'Lake District look', an homogenised pastiche of local character, and to work with the vernacular qualities derived from the natural environment and local materials. Supplies of building materials from traditional local sources are vulnerable to quarry closures</p>

Cultural attributes	Issues and vulnerabilities
<p>Spiritual qualities <i>A sense of space and freedom to think.</i> Linked to the valued solitude and tranquillity of the open fells and lakesides is a quality of spiritual refreshment, enhanced by the changeful character of the weather, light and varied aspects of the hills and valleys. This is highly valued by visitors and also by local communities. The isolated, simply built valley churches with their burial grounds are places of special spiritual quality.</p>	<p>Vulnerable to incremental changes resulting from pressure of visiting and traffic that diminish these qualities. Management opportunities include investment in public transport systems, disincentives for visitors in private vehicles and influencing patterns of visiting but ultimately imposed limits may have to be considered.</p>
<p>Popular culture <i>A character inseparable from the personalities, lifestyles and traditions of the Lake District people</i> (Lake District National Park Management Plan).</p> <p>A rich popular culture that includes sports - hound trailing, fell packs, fell running, Cumbrian wrestling - valley shows and annual celebrations, as well as dialect, oral history and locally distinctive crafts, foods and dishes. This has been communicated in the popular works of Lake District authors from Beatrix Potter, Hugh Walpole and Arthur Ransome to Melvyn Bragg, Hunter Davies, and Alfred Wainwright, in their writing, and in radio, film and television.</p>	<p>Community traditions and 'old' communities based on farming families and rural workers have been weakened by the influx of second home owners, incomers and households based on commuting and distance-working. Dialect, local traditions, and community events may be vulnerable. Popular sports and crafts may risk perpetuation as visitor attractions rather than as genuine local activities.</p> <p>Opportunities include revitalising the flow of local products, speciality foods and craft skills for which there are ready local and wider markets and much visitor interest. Popular shows and events can mark out Lake District culture and communities in the most positive way and celebrate their differences. More research and active study of dialect and oral history is needed to sustain this aspect.</p>