

## 7. NEXT STEPS

- 7.1 The study of cultural landscape significance for the Lake District confirms that its special landscape qualities do substantially conform with UNESCO's definition of World Heritage cultural landscapes. There is clear supporting evidence that it could meet two of the criteria for cultural sites. The evidence for meeting IUCN criteria for the natural values of a cultural landscape is less strong. The Steering Group may wish to consider the implications of this further and to discuss the issues with IUCN representatives.
- 7.2 A limited survey of cultural landscapes in other parts of Europe was possible as part of this study. Blaenavon industrial landscape is on a small scale compared with the Lake District and is not a helpful comparative site in management terms, lacking the natural and scenic qualities and an equivalent cultural complexity. The Loire Valley and Upper Middle Rhine Valley are closer in scale (still only a third of the area of the Lake District National Park ) but have a comparable complexity of organic landscape evolution, distinctive traditions of land use and strong creative associations with writers, artists and composers. Encouragingly, the political and administrative complexity of both these landscapes far exceeds that of the Lake District. In the case of the Rhine this has been overcome in the process of reaching agreement on its management plan. In the case of the Loire, that process is still being negotiated and the near-impasse that resulted there reinforces the wisdom of reaching consensus on the strategy for implementing the management plan as part of the process of taking forward the nomination. Further contact with these and other inscribed cultural landscapes, such as the Costiera Amalfitana, Italy, and the Lednice-Valtice, Czech Republic, could usefully be pursued in a later stage of the project.
- 7.3 Further development of cultural landscape indicators in a pilot area could be taken forward in conjunction with the National Park Historic Landscape Characterisation project, building on the findings of the European Cultural Pathways programme and other new approaches, as outlined above (Section 6). The partners who would be likely to support and to advance this work are already represented on the Steering Group.
- 7.4 Following on from the analysis stage now completed, the next phases of the study, as envisaged in the project brief, are
- Consensus building between stakeholders on what needs to be managed
  - Defining the rationale for a management plan.
- 7.5 It is clear from initial discussion of the project with organisations in the Lake District that the value of pursuing inscription, for its own sake or for the added value that it may bring to the region, is not clear-cut for some important participating groups. An intermediate stage of building consensus on the value of proceeding with the project will be important for its overall success. Advocacy of the benefits that could follow on from inscription and the experience of other World Heritage Sites in the UK and Europe will be valuable tools in bringing more of the important players on board. Respondents are keen to understand how the process of taking forward the proposals would work with new Cumbria-wide initiatives such

as the Rural Action Zone and the Cumbria Strategic Partnership. There is an understandable reluctance to bring additional complexity and procedures into play without understanding how and why World Heritage status will now benefit the Lake District.

- 7.6 The Steering Group may wish to review the emphasis of the next stage of the study and consider any additional action to strengthen the case for proceeding.

*Napes Needle, Great Gable, photographed by the Abraham brothers of Kendal*

