



Little Langdale Common & Baysbrown Common Countryside Stewardship

Landscape and Visual Appraisal and Heritage Impact Assessment for EIA



A report by
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For Little Langdale & Baysbrown Commoners
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1. Summary

This document comprises a Landscape and Visual Appraisal and Heritage Impact Assessment of a proposal for 2.6km of new temporary fencing on open access land on Little Langdale Common and Baysbrown Common (Westmorland), Cumbria. This length of fencing is composed of four separate fences 1,225m, 562m, 505m and 350m long. The purpose of this fencing is to allow the creation of 33ha of scrub woodland on the fells above Little Langdale. In addition to these areas of scrub woodland 134ha of wood pasture will be created on the eastern part of Little Langdale Common, however no new fencing is required for this. The fencing will be removed at the end of the 10 year Countryside Stewardship scheme.

The appraisal provides an assessment of the landscape of Little Langdale and Baysbrown commons and they sits in the landscape of the English Lake District World Heritage Site and Lake District National Park and how the proposed fencing will impact upon the Landscape Character of the area, the World Heritage Site's Outstanding Universal Values, the Special Qualities of the Lake District and the National Park Management Plan Objectives together with its impacts on the visual amenity of residents and visitors to the valley and surrounding fells.

The appraisal concludes that:

- Due to the temporary nature of the fencing, the long term impact of the proposal on the World Heritage Site Outstanding Universal Value and landscape character and visual amenity will be neutral.
- Whilst the fences are in place there will be minor adverse impacts on visual amenity from two fences; a minor to moderate adverse impact from one fence; and a moderate adverse impact on visual amenity from the fourth fence as it is crossed by a well used public footpath.
- For the time the fences are in place there will be minor localised adverse impacts on the extraordinary beauty and harmony of the Langdale Valley component of the English Lake District World Heritage Site.
- The scheme as a whole will have a moderate beneficial impact on the agro-pastoral system within the World Heritage Site as it will provide the financial support required to maintain traditional common land grazing with a hefted Herdwick flock in this part of the Langdale Valley.
- Overall the impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site will be neutral to minor positive as it promotes the continuation of the common land agro-pastoral system and this will outweigh the temporary adverse impacts resulting from the temporary fencing.

2. Introduction

2.1. Proposed works

The proposal is to create wood pasture on the steep bracken covered slopes of Busk Pike, Mart Crag and Bield Crag and native scrubby woodland in four exclosures on Kettle Crag, on Rakerigg, along Tarnclose Gill and along Widdy Gill. In addition small groups of trees and shrubs will be planted in stands of bracken on the unenclosed fell on the flanks of Blake Rigg, up Redacre Gill and Wrynose Gill.

On Busk Pike, Mart Crag and Bield Crag unprotected native trees and shrubs will be planted in groups, mostly in areas of bracken. This area will be grazed at low intensity by cattle of hardy native breeds. No fencing is required for this area.

The Kettle Crag exclosure will require a fence running along the top of Kettle Crag down to the fell wall east of the crag at the corner of the plantation in Redacre Gill. The western end of the fence starts at the top of a steep gully which is impassable to sheep. The total length of this fence is 562m, the western 276m of which is a renewal of a longstanding existing fence. The fence will have a gate at its eastern end close to the fell wall and three stiles along its length to allow rock climbers to enter and exit the exclosure. Tree cover on the ledges of the crag itself is high and planting will be restricted to the bracken covered eastern slope down towards Redacre Gill.

The Rakerigg exclosure will need a fence 350m long along the east side of the low ridge running from Rakerigg towards the cattle grid below Side Pike above Great Langdale. There will be a gate at either end and a stile halfway along to allow access. Scrubby woodland will be planted on the steep eastern side of the ridge, mainly in the bracken, but will not extend on to the top of the ridge.

The Tarnclose Gill fence will be 505m long and will run south from the fell wall to the south of Blea Tarn to the wall of the intake on the north side of Blea Moss. The fence will run approximately 50m west of the footpath from Blea Tarn to the Wrynose road, but will cross this path where the fence meets the north side of the wall around the intake north of Blea Moss. There will be a gate here and at the northern end plus two stiles roughly equidistant between the gates. Shrubs and trees will be planted in areas of bracken, leaving areas of flush unwooded.

The Widdy Gill fence will run westwards from the intake wall up the Widdy Gill valley running approximately 30m below the road to Wrynose Bridge. From the bridge it will turn south to meet a new fence which is being planned on Coniston Fell, Dunnerdale Fell, Seathwaite Fell and Torver High Common on the southern side of Widdy Gill. The Widdy Gill fence is 1,225m long. There will be gates at the eastern and western ends of this fence and four stiles roughly equidistant between the gates. The existing fence along the lower part of Widdy Gill will be removed. Woodland planting will be in groups, mainly in areas of bracken and leaving some open areas. Planting density will be reduced on the upper slopes to give a feathered edge to the planting.

The fences will have untreated posts and be 1.2m high with sheep netting topped by two strands of barbed wire. The fences are temporary and will be removed at the end of the ten year scheme.

The tree and shrub planting on the unenclosed fell will be in 1.9m diameter weldmesh cages.

2.2. Location

Little Langdale and Baysbrown Commons cover the southern side of the Lingmoor Fell ridge which separates Little Langdale from Great Langdale and the open fell from the Side Gates Road west to the summit of Pike of Blisco and the top of Wrynose Pass, south to Widdy Gill and north to Kettle Crag and Redacre Gill (Map 1).

2.3. Background

The proposal forms part of a proposed Countryside Stewardship Scheme for Birk Howe Farm, Little Langdale, Cumbria. The principal feature of the scheme is to tree and shrub cover on the Little Langdale fells in the form of wood pasture. Areas of wood pasture will be grazed at low intensity by native hardy cattle breeds, whilst the main fell west of the Side Gates road will continue to be grazed by hefted flocks of sheep, but at a significantly lower grazing intensity than present.

The creation of wood pasture will allow the regeneration and expansion of the heathland on the upper slopes of the Lingmoor Fell ridge and promote diversity in the flushes and valley mires as well as providing a better grazing environment for the establishment of trees and shrubs. Reducing the grazing levels on the main fell will result in improved condition of upland heathland vegetation and potentially an expansion of this habitat and improvements in condition of valley mires and flushes, particularly of Blea Moss.

3. The Landscape, World Heritage Site and Lake District Management Plan

Most of Little Langdale Common lies in the Scafell Massif Distinctive Character Area (Area 30), with a small area is in the Great and Little Langdale Area of Distinctive Character (Area 38). Baysbrown Common is entirely within the Great and Little Langdale Distinctive Area. The high ground in Little Langdale Common and all of Baysbrown Common is within the Rugged/Craggy Volcanic High Fell Landscape Character Type (Type F), with the lower ground of Little Langdale Common along Bleamoss Beck falling in to the Upland Valley Landscape Character Type (Type H) as defined by the Lake District National Park Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines (2021). The underlying geology of the Borrowdale Volcanic Group and the geological processes which have shaped these rocks largely determine the landscape form, with a dome shaped topography with ridges radiating out from high points. At Little Langdale the high points are Pike of Blisco (705m) and Brown How/Lingmoor Fell (469m). These two fells are separated by the U-shaped valley of Bleamoss Beck. Pike of Blisco is very characteristic of the rugged and craggy high fell landscape of the central Lake District, buttressed as it is by Kettle Crag and Blake Rigg. Lingmoor Fell is considerably lower and to a certain extent is more similar to the low fells of the southern Lake District with its steep bracken covered slopes and more rolling, though still rugged, upper slopes.

The high fells of Little Langdale Common are characterised by short grassland with occasional small valley mires and flushes. This gives way to extensive areas of bracken on lower slopes with stands of juniper on crags. The Bleamoss Beck valley floor has an extensive area of valley mire (Blea Moss) fed by a network of flushes interspersed by stands of juniper. In contrast the higher parts of Baysbrown

Common have extensive areas of heather and bilberry heath with mid-slopes occupied by grassland and the lower slopes covered in bracken. This vegetation is heavily influenced by the traditional agro-pastoral practice of common land management by sheep grazing.

The Lingmoor Fell section of Little Langdale Common is peppered by small slate quarries, particularly along the ridge top, but also along the side of the Side Gates road. More significantly, the line of the Roman road over Wrynose Pass can be seen along the northern side of the modern Wrynose Pass road. The route of the Roman road is a scheduled Monument, as is the rifle range target and markers hut on the west side of Blea Moss. The Castle Howe hillfort lies within an intake on the southern edge of Little Langdale Common and is an extremely prominent feature in the landscape of the western end of the Little Langdale valley.

The definitive Attributes of the Rugged/Craggy Volcanic High Fell landscape have been defined as:

- The underlying geology is the Borrowdale Volcanic Group of igneous rocks, with areas of granite to the west;
- At the largest scale, this type has a dome-shaped topography, with the highest point being Scafell Pike;
- From the highest point, ridges radiate out, with the landform gradually lowering towards the edges of the Lake District;
- Uplifting panoramic external views from the fell summits, including the Cumbria Coastal Plain, Irish Sea, Isle of Man and Morecambe Bay from western and southern fells, the North Pennines, Howgills and Yorkshire Dales from the Helvellyn Range and eastern fells;
- Superimposed on this are complex topographical patterns caused by glacial and fluvial erosion;
- Land cover is generally either bare rock, scree or low-growing vegetation, with low-density sheep grazing occurring over much of the area;
- There are scattered tarns and a complex network of becks;
- Woodland cover is most extensive along the valley margins, with important areas of juniper and native oak woodland (particularly extensive in Borrowdale), and small areas of commercial conifers (particularly in the west);
- The fell wall marks the edge of the open land, with remains of archaeologically earlier enclosures and field systems within upland areas;
- Settlement above the moorland line is limited to isolated farms, with hill farming the main form of activity, with very few occupied buildings; and
- Archaeological remains of settlement and industrial sites scattered within the Upland Fell landscape.

The definitive Attributes of the Upland Valley landscape have been defined as:

- U-shaped valleys, formed by glaciers cutting through underlying rock, during the last Ice Age;

- Underlying geology varies, largely depending upon the geology of surrounding Landscape Character Types;
- Topography differs greatly, ranging from dramatic and steep valley sides with screes, sloping down towards a deep lake (in the case of Wasdale) to valleys with gently rolling sides with a slow-moving river on the broad valley floor;
- Valley floors are either dominated by a lake or river; and pastoral farmland, with distinctive patterns of dry stone walls and barns;
- Valley sides are generally covered by a mixture of predominantly pastoral farmland (in-byelands) and woodland (deciduous, coniferous and mixed), with some of the steeper valley sides characterised by screes;
- Settlement pattern consists of isolated farms on the valley sides, small nucleated and linear settlements and large towns on the valley floor, at the edge of a lake or adjacent to a river;
- Many archaeological features can be found in the Upland Valley landscape; the cairnfields in the Ennerdale valley, the prehistoric rock art near Buttermere are all evidence of the rich cultural history of the landscape;
- Designed landscapes, parkland and former deer parks occur throughout the area, associated particularly with lakeshores and large country houses; and
- Communications (from winding single-track paths to busy dual carriage ways) generally run along the valley sides or follow the edge of the valley floor.

The Scafell Massif Area of Distinctive Character has the following distinctive characteristics:

- The central and highest part of the Lake District contains magnificent, wild, craggy, remote and rugged mountain scenery, including England's highest mountain, Scafell Pike;
- Distinctive rock formations, steep rock faces, screes and the effects of glaciation contribute to its distinctive sense of place, and landmarks within the area include high peaks, tarns and passes. Views from this area are panoramic in all directions, but are not dominated by a single lake;
- Rocks contribute a craggy, jagged texture to the landscape. The colours, sounds and patterns of the landscape are constantly changing, affected by variation in light, weather and season changing the appearance and atmosphere. The landscape may be observed at a variety of scales, from panoramic views to the detail of a stone;
- The hard and resistant volcanic rocks composing the high fells of the central Scafell range form the head of several valleys that radiate out from it;
- Scafell Pike's summit boulder field is home to important arctic species;
- Neolithic stone axe production remains on Scafell Pike;
- The remoteness, tranquillity and isolation of the area, combined with the physical challenges it offers, makes it popular with walkers and climbers;
- The area provides the hub of Wordsworth's imaginary figure of a wheel; and

- Powerful scenery, with relatively few human influences and only rough grazing, creates a sense of timelessness.

The Great and Little Langdale Area of Distinctive Character has the following distinctive characteristics:

- Classic, U-shaped glacial, long, narrow valley of Great Langdale, with typical features of headwalls, corries, glacial tarns, hanging valley and truncated spurs. Bowfell and Crinkle Crag and the distinctive skyline of the Langdale Pikes dominate the head of the Langdale valley and provide a powerful sense of enclosure;
- Shorter and less enclosed hanging valley of Little Langdale, more wooded and less pastoral in nature than Great Langdale;
- Several small tarns, including corrie tarn of Stickle tarn reflecting sky locally;
- The rough texture of the crags, screes and rock outcrops together with the rough grazing common land, heather, remnant juniper and extensive bracken beds contrast markedly with the flat, smooth-textured, lush green and strongly patterned valley floor;
- The managed appearance of the valley is created by the typical features associated with traditional hill farming practice such as the patchwork of irregularly shaped pasture fields enclosed by stone walls, meadows, grazing marsh, woods, veteran trees and pollards;
- Riverside trees snaking their way along the meandering Great Langdale Beck, now contained within banks of excavated gravel, further contribute to this effect.
- The three settlements of the area, Elterwater, Chapel Stile and Little Langdale are products of a working industrial landscape. Elterwater with its gunpowder workers housing, Chapel Stile with its green slate quarrying community terraces and church and Little Langdale, a loose group of buildings with strong building evidence of nearby extensive slate quarries;
- In Great Langdale, a string of regularly placed traditional rugged farmsteads along the south facing slopes, forms a strong visual character of the area;
- The area is rich in vernacular farmhouses. These are weatherproofed with render and limewash, and the many rubble stone barns and outbuildings contribute significantly to the character and human scale of the lower valley sides. Notable farmhouses include Fell Foot in Little Langdale and Blea Tarn farmhouse, set in grand isolation with a rugged mountain backdrop;
- The Langdales are a key area for Herdwick sheep farming and many of the historic farms in Great and Little Langdale have substantial Herdwick flocks;
- Strong historic and cultural associations with mountaineering, with popular Bowfell, Crinkle Crag and Scafell Pikes nearby and the Old Dungeon Gill hotel providing strongly recognisable landscape features;
- Pollarded Ash trees and remnant stands of juniper on the fell sides,
- Langdale Pikes are a dominant feature, with a caldera lake, that provide a true sense of scale in the landscape and are visible for many miles from the south;

- The most famous and important Neolithic activity recorded in Cumbria is the Langdale Axe Factory. The stone for the axes was quarried for around 1,000 years until 2000 BC, which created many thousands of, axe heads from the green volcanic tuff stone found on the Pike O'Stickle;
- Scattering of sometimes-untidy farmsteads are dominant features in the open valley bottom landscape;
- Slate quarrying and mining has left a strong mark on the landscape, with some of the largest quarries in the Lake District operating in Great Langdale.
- Chapel Stile's distinctive green slate quarrying community terraced housing and church and Little Langdale's housing loosely grouped around extensive slate quarries convey a strong sense of history; and
- Despite being one of the busier valleys Langdale has a strong sense of isolation, remoteness, contrast and tranquillity, as a result of the dramatic landform and the perceived naturalness of the high, open, fells.

Little Langdale Common and Baysbrown Common sit within the English Lake District World Heritage Site and form a significant part of the Langdale Valley component of the World Heritage Site. The Countryside Stewardship (CS) scheme for Little Langdale and Baysbrown Commons will contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value of the English Lake District cultural landscape by supporting traditional agro-pastoral farming, in particular the management of common land grazing using hefted flocks of sheep. The financial support provided by CS is essential to maintain the viability of the commoners' farm businesses, allowing the farmers crucial to the continuity of the common grazing agro-pastoral tradition to continue farming in a traditional manner, or in fact, farming the land at all. The management specified in CS agreements play a direct role in maintaining the scenic and harmonious beauty of the cultural landscape. Many landscape features in the Lake District are (as recognised throughout the Lake District's Landscape Character Assessment) in generally poor condition and this partly due to the loss of traditional management and intensification of farming practices. Countryside Stewardship agreements work to make a significant positive contribution to the continuing evolution of cultural landscape by positively rewarding farmers for more traditional and sustainable land management.

The statement of Outstanding Universal Value recognises that landscape conservation management is part of the cultural landscape of the Lake District. Countryside stewardship schemes follow in the conservation land management traditions of the Lake District and farmers and land managers joining the Countryside Stewardship scheme are manifesting an expression of the landscape conservation management which has developed from early conservation initiatives that saw their origin in the Lake District. Landscape conservation management has developed to include enhancement and resilience of the natural environment, contributing to the maintenance of the harmonious beauty of the WHS. The work that agreement holders carry out represents the continued evolution of the conservation movement, it provides a platform for the continued development of conservation thinking, and ultimately generates ideas and approaches to the enhancement and resilience of the natural environment and cultural landscape.

This project will make a particular contribution to several of the strategies of the 2020 – 2025 Lake District National Park Partnership Management Plan to:

- “Support the maintenance of traditional upland farming systems in the Lake District based on the open fell hefted grazing of local breeds of livestock including the Herdwick sheep, and commons management.”
- “Support the establishment of new tree cover at a locally agreed scale throughout the Lake District. There will be a particular focus to achieve the optimum balance between timber production, flood prevention, carbon storage, water quality, soil stability, biodiversity, historic environment, conservation of the cultural landscape, recreation, loss of grazing land, landscape change, hefting, and communal management of common land, where relevant.”
- “Support interventions that help to achieve bigger, better and more joined up resilient habitats and species in line with the 25 Year Environment Plan, national and international targets to enhance biodiversity, using an ‘ecosystem approach’.” and
- “Support projects that provide the optimum solution to flood resilience for the catchment as a whole, balancing the need to reduce flood risk in towns and villages against potential impacts up and down stream, including on agricultural land, and sustaining the Special Qualities and attributes of Outstanding Universal Value.”

Both commons are open access land and several public rights of way run through the area, most significantly the footpath up Redacre Gill to the summit of Pike of Blisco, the footpath from Blea Tarn to the Wrynose Pass road and the footpath from the Wrynose Pass road to the summit of Pike of Blisco. There is also a footpath from the Wrynose Pass road to the Side Gates road (Map 2).

4. Appraisal Methods

This appraisal, whilst noting that the Section 38 Commons Act permission included consideration of landscape and visual issues, provides a separate appraisal specifically to inform the screening decision; the appraisal is in line with Natural England guidance and methods draw, proportionately, on the Guidance for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA, LI and IEMA, 2013, third edition). Potential impacts on World Heritage Outstanding Universal Value are assessed using Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context (UNESCO 2022) and English Lake District World Heritage Site Best Practice Guidance on Assessments of Impact on Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) (Lake District National Park Partnership, undated).

This appraisal focusses on the potential landscape and visual impacts of the proposed post and wire fencing and stiles - although the implications of the associated tree planting is also taken into account as it has potential effects in its own right that may have a bearing on the effects of the temporary fencing.

The methods applied to each area in the proposed agreement include the following process:

4.1. Landscape Character

1. For each 'receiving landscape' provide a summary of the baseline conditions key sensitivities for *landscape character* and *key characteristics*, using evidence from:
 - a. The 2021 Lake District National Park Landscape Character Assessment (Landscape Character Types F Rugged/Craggy Volcanic High Fells and H Upland Valley);
 - b. 2020 – 2025 Lake District National Park Partnership Management Plan strategies; and
 - c. World Heritage Site Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, nomination documents and Langdale Valley Description.
2. Taking above into account, Identify the magnitude of the impacts of proposed fencing/gates (in terms of low, med, high) for example:

Table 1 Landscape Character Impact Appraisal Criteria

Criteria	Analysis of impacts/mitigating factors
Materials, design and site planning	fit with the landscape character/special qualities context
Duration/reversibility	period the structures are likely to be in situ
Enclosure, extent	Impacts on open character of the landscape, scale and shape of compartment, sub-compartments
Alignment and patterns	fit with landform and natural features, existing vegetation and proposed plantings

3. Summarised assessment of sensitivities for landscape character/special qualities, scope for mitigation.

4.2. Visual Amenity

1. For each area, identify the key 'visual receptors' where the proposed fencing and gates are likely to be visible; i.e. of medium to high sensitivity (public view points from landmark or cultural features, public rights of way, and private residencies).
2. Identify the magnitude of the proposed fencing and gates (in terms of low, med high) for example:

Table 2 Visual Amenity Impact Appraisal Criteria

Criteria	Analysis of impacts/mitigating factors
Extent and proximity	Visual extent of views of fencing and, taking into account distance, prominence of fences and gates
Backdrop	skylines/silhouette effect of structures against the skyline
Cumulative	multiple/sequential views of fencing – in panoramas, vistas. Piecemeal areas of fencing can also have cumulative impacts
Access and enjoyment	Fencing or gates hamper visual access or the public enjoyment of the view, the view point and its landscape/cultural setting.
Residential	Private views or access impacted by the proposals

3. Summary assessment of sensitivities, scope for visual amenity mitigation.

4. A summary of the overall likely significance of landscape and visual effects, summarising key points by drawing attention to concerns about the sites, potential mitigation measures to consider, or wider issues.

For the purposes of this appraisal, and to aid transparency of professional judgements made about likely significance of detrimental effects, the following terms of assessment are used:

Low – criteria have negligible or no impacts

Medium – criteria impacts judged acceptable, or can be mitigated as described

High – criteria impacts contribute to significant detrimental effects, difficult to mitigate.

4.3. World Heritage Site Outstanding Universal Value

Assessment of potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of the English Lake District World Heritage Site (WHS) is conducted using the 2022 UNESCO *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context* and the Lake District National Park Partnership's *English Lake District World Heritage Site Best Practice Guidance on Assessments of Impacts on Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)*. The assessment is based on site visits carried out during June, September and October 2022 and discussions with Lake District National Park, National Trust, Natural England and Local Access Forum staff during a site visit in September 2022.

The assessment looks at impacts in the context of the Langdale Valley component of the English Lake District WHS.

5. Landscape and Visual Appraisal

5.1. Landscape Character Type and Area of Distinctive Character

The craggy fells of upper Little Langdale valley are quintessential of the Rugged/Craggy Volcanic High Fells Landscape Character Type (Type F), encompassing both the open high fell of Pike of Blisco and the lower Lingmoor Fell. The Lake District Landscape Character classification separates out the lower ground along Bleamoss Beck and in Widdygill Foot as part of the Upland Valley Landscape Character Type (Type H), though unlike much of the land within this character type, the areas of Little Langdale Common within it are unenclosed moorland, mostly composed of valley mires and flushes with stands of juniper scrub and bracken which blend seamlessly into the surrounding steeper ground of the rugged high fells.

The Lake District National Park Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines for Rugged/Craggy Volcanic High Fells includes the following guidance relevant to this scheme for managing landscape change:

- **Encourage** the creation of native woodland on valley sides and lower fells at sites where it would enhance the local landscape character;
- **Promote** land management designed to achieve favourable condition of its important vegetation types and to improve resilience to the effects of climate change, including expansion of sensitively placed broadleaved gill and other woodland and improve other habitat linkages;

- **Encourage** broadleaved woodland regeneration or planting in appropriate locations which are at high risk of erosion and run off, to benefit water quality, and flood mitigation downstream. New native woodland can enhance the landscape, biodiversity and nature conservation interest of the area;
- **Encourage** grazing management that improves ecological linkage and promotes more favourable condition of upland semi-natural vegetation whilst supporting the farming heritage;
- **Encourage** sensitive management and restoration of wood pasture habitat;
- **Prevent** woodland establishment on historically important enclosed valley sides and archaeological sites, particularly in cases where new woodland planting would impact upon the authenticity or legibility of the cultural landscape;
- **Promote** whole fell grazing management where possible erecting new fences on open fell only where alternatives are not practicable;
- **Conserve** footpaths, bridleways or byways along with their associated features such as pinch stiles and gates, which represent historic routeways;
- **Ensure** careful design of new fencelines to minimise visual and perceptual impacts, for example avoiding crossing and close proximity to fell paths, siting below ridgelines etc;
- **Remove** redundant fencing from fell; and

- **Maintain** the sense of openness and control the level and impact of fencing on unenclosed fell land.

For the Upland Valleys it includes the following guidance:

- **Conserve**, enhance and sensitively expand broadleaved woodland;
- **Identify** and **plan** for impacts of climate change, including natural floodplain and river management and other forms of natural flood management; and
- **Manage** water quality in rivers and lakes to minimise pollution on aquatic habitats.

The two commons lie within the Scafell Massif and Great and Little Langdale Areas of Distinctive Character (Areas 30 and 38). The former covers the craggy fells of Pike of Blisco and Lingmoor Fell and lower ground of Bleamoss Beck and widdy Gill, whilst the northern side of Pike of Blisco is within the Great and Little Langdale Area.

Guidelines for managing landscape change for the Scafell Massif include:

- **Maintain** the open nature and classic glacial characteristics of the massif;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** the unique range of ecological habitats, taking particular care managing appropriate grazing regimes;
- **Maintain** strong sense of isolation, remoteness and tranquillity throughout;
- **Retain** strong intervisibility with adjacent Areas of Distinctive Character from the edges of this area;
- **Retain** rural and undeveloped character;
- **Retain** strong sense of openness; and

- **Conserve** dramatic panoramic views across adjacent landscapes.

The guidelines for managing landscape change in Great and Little Langdale include:

- **Conserve, enhance** and where appropriate **extend** remnants of broadleaved woodland, and veteran trees, which are striking landscape features;
- **Protect** water within the Great & Little Langdale Rivers, and Old Dungeon Gill Waterfall from point source and diffuse pollution;
- **Conserve** and **maintain** pollard ash trees and remnant strands of juniper on the fell sides, which are sensitive to overgrazing;
- **Maintain** open views towards imposing Langdale Pikes;
- **Retain** strong sense of tranquillity throughout most of the area;
- **Maintain** strong sense of remoteness and isolation; and
- **Retain** strongly rural character throughout the area.

In terms of the Langdale Valley component of the World Heritage Site, Little Langdale Common and Baysbrown Common make significant contributions to the *extraordinary beauty and harmony* of the valley, the *common land* agro-pastoral system and has one of the valley's hefted *Herdwick flocks*.

The enclosures all lie on the periphery of the commons and abut areas of enclosed land, though it should be said that the Widdy Gill enclosure mainly adjoins unenclosed fell. The land covered by the Kettle Crag, Rakerigg and Widdy Gill enclosures are all significant components of the rugged/craggy volcanic landscape of the central Lake District fells. Whilst the Tarnclose Gill enclosure is entirely on the valley floor and is bounded intakes, it too has more of the character of the rugged/craggy high fells than that of the more enclosed and intensively farmed upland valley landscape.

Table 3 Landscape Character Impact Appraisal

Criteria	Analysis of impacts/mitigating factors	Impact																								
Materials, design and site planning	<p>The fences will be of wooden posts and wire rather than the traditional dry stone walls which characterise the boundaries of allotments and intakes on the fells of the Volcanic High Fells. Gates and stiles will be placed at regular intervals along the fences to maintain public access to these areas of Open Access land.</p> <p>The Kettle Crag fence for the most-part follows the line of an existing fence and extends this down the fell so that it forms a more stockproof entity than the existing fence which ends on a crag. The majority of the fence runs along a shallow gully in the back of the crag which largely hides it except towards the bottom where it threads between small craggy knolls to the fell wall.</p> <p>The Rakerigg fence has been routed along a line below the ridge crest to reduce its visual impact and to ensure that it only encloses the steep eastern edge of the ridge, retaining the grassy ridge crest within the open fell.</p> <p>The Tarnclose Gill fence has been routed so that for the majority of its length it is 50m away from the public footpath and is partially hidden by the undulations of the fell, only coming close to the path where it unavoidably has to cross it. The crossing point has been selected to be where the path runs alongside the intake wall where the open character of the fell is reduced due to the presence of the wall.</p> <p>The Widdy Gill fence has been designed to follow the natural curve of the fellside in its upper part and to meet the gill itself at a point below the skyline as viewed from the Wrynose Pass road. The line of the fence as it runs parallel to the Wrynose Pass road is kept well below the road so that it is hidden from the road by the steep slope below the road. The fence almost entirely runs through stands of bracken which will partly obscure it during the summer and autumn.</p>	Medium/ Low																								
Duration/reversibility	All the fences are temporary and will be removed at the end of the ten years scheme.	Low																								
Enclosure, extent	<p>Whilst the proposed fences will result in the temporary enclosure of areas of open fell, the peripheral nature of the enclosures within the open fell landscape limits the impact these fences will have on the character of these fells.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Fence</th> <th>Length</th> <th>Area Enclosed</th> <th>Proportion of Commons</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Kettle Crag</td> <td>562m</td> <td>5.53ha</td> <td>1.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rakerigg</td> <td>350m</td> <td>1.19ha</td> <td>0.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tarnclose</td> <td>505m</td> <td>5.84ha</td> <td>1.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Widdy Gill</td> <td>1,225m</td> <td>20.61ha</td> <td>4.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>2,642m</td> <td>33.17ha</td> <td>6.69%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Fence	Length	Area Enclosed	Proportion of Commons	Kettle Crag	562m	5.53ha	1.1%	Rakerigg	350m	1.19ha	0.2%	Tarnclose	505m	5.84ha	1.2%	Widdy Gill	1,225m	20.61ha	4.2%	Total	2,642m	33.17ha	6.69%	Low
Fence	Length	Area Enclosed	Proportion of Commons																							
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Total	2,642m	33.17ha	6.69%																							
Alignment and patterns	Generally the fences follow the pattern of the land, with the Kettle Crag fence following a shallow gully; the Rakerigg fence following the line of the top of the crags, below the ridge crest; the Tarnclose Gill fence following the curve of the valley and the Widdy Gill fence at least partly following	Low																								

Table 3 Landscape Character Impact Appraisal

Criteria	Analysis of impacts/mitigating factors	Impact
	<p>the curve of the bowl in which it sits.</p> <p>Kettle Crag already has substantial tree cover and new scrub and tree planting will be confined to the bracken covered eastern slope.</p> <p>On Rakerigg scrub and tree planting will be confined to the lower parts of the low crag which is covered in bracken. There are already a small number of bushes on this crag.</p> <p>In Tarnclose Gill tree and scrub planting will be confined to stands of bracken so that areas of mire remain open and the planting resembles the patchy cover of scrub found elsewhere along Bleamoss Beck.</p> <p>Along Widdy Gill planting will be confined to stands of bracken leaving areas of mire open. Planting will be relatively dense in the bracken on the valley floor and on the lower slopes but will be reduced progressively up the fell so that the edge is feathered out towards the top of the enclosure</p>	

The proposals are in line with a number of the guidelines for managing landscape change in both Landscape Character Type F and the Scafell Massif and Great and Little Langdale Areas of Distinctive Character, particularly those encouraging grazing management which promotes favourable condition of upland habitats, lower grazing levels on higher ground and conservation of mosaics of heathland vegetation on lower fells; and creation of native woodland and restoration of wood pasture. The proposals do not impinge on the open nature of the Scafell Massif as the proposed enclosures are all on the periphery of the open fell. The Kettle Crag enclosure is in line with the aim of enhancing and extending remnants of broadleaved woodland within the Great and Little Langdale valleys as it extend the existing woodland on the crag onto the fell to the east of the crag. Similarly the Tarnclose Gill enclosure will extend scrub and woodland cover out from the narrow wooded gill on to the surrounding fell. The Widdy Gill enclosure will improve the condition of the mires within the lower part of the enclosure, which currently are heavily impacted by grazing by sheep from the adjacent common. Removing grazing from this gill and adding tree and scrub cover will improve water quality in the River Brathay (into which Widdy Gill flows) and in Little Langdale Tarn Site of Special Scientific Interest, which is currently in unfavourable condition due to siltation. Increased tree and scrub cover will also have benefits in terms of natural flood risk management, through increased infiltration, increased lag times and reduced peak flows.

5.2. Visual Amenity

The Kettle Crag, Rakerigg and Widdy Gill enclosures are all prominent locations in the landscape of the Little and Great Langdale valleys. Their situation in the landscape and relationship to the visual amenity of visitors and residents is described below and assessed in Table 6.

Kettle Crag Fence

Kettle Crag forms a buttress to Pike of Blisco and is a significant feature of views from the Langdale Pikes, the Old Dungeon Ghyll inn and Side Pike as well as being a prominent feature for walkers

using the Redacre Gill path up to Pike of Blisco and people driving or cycling from Great to Little Langdale. The fence is 562m long and in distant views is seen entirely with a backdrop of the fell except for the highest point on the fenceline which can just be seen against the skyline as one or two fence posts from the Side Pike cattle grid. The lower section of the fence will be clearly visible from the Redacre Gill footpath up to Pike of Blisco, whilst the upper section has to be crossed by rock climbers exiting routes on Kettle Crag, which all start in the gully where the fence ends.

Rakerigg Fence

The Rakerigg enclosure lies on the side of a low spur extending north-east from Blake Rigg towards Side Pike and although it is a minor feature in the landscape it is very prominent in views from Side Pike and, more significantly, from the Side Gates road and the popular parking locations around the cattle grid at the top of the pass between the Great and Little Langdale valleys. People driving up from Little Langdale are likely to occasionally glimpse the fence against the skyline, as will people at the Side Pike cattle grid, but from most viewpoints it will be seen against the fellside. The fence will be hidden from the view of walkers on the footpath to Blea Tarn by the slope of the fell.

Tarnclose Gill Fence

The Tarnclose Gill enclosure is largely hidden from views from the Side Gates road by the terrain and the juniper scrub along the valley. Whilst the area can be seen from the summit of Lingmoor Fell it is hard to distinguish and at least partially hidden by Tarnclose Crag. Whilst the enclosure is visible from Miller Stands on the western side of the valley, this is a very rarely visited fell. It is not visible from Blake Rigg due to the way the ground slopes away from the summit. Although not a feature in views from a distance the enclosure does have a well used public footpath running through it which runs parallel to the proposed fenceline and would have to cross the fence at the southern end where the path and proposed fence meet the wall of the intake on the north side of Blea Moss.

Widdy Gill Fence

The Widdy Gill enclosure lies on the southern side of the road over Wrynose Pass and the steep bracken covered bowl of the upper part of the enclosure is one of the main features of the views seen by visitors driving up the pass. The lower part of the enclosure is also clearly visible to drivers coming down the pass, but is probably a less prominent feature as their eyes are more likely to be drawn by the more distant features in the landscape such as Little Langdale Tarn, the craggy fells to either side of the valley and the distant skyline of the fells on the far side of Windermere.

Table 4 Visual Amenity Impact Appraisal

Criteria	Analysis of impacts/mitigating factors			Impact
Extent and proximity	Kettle Crag:	562m	Visible from footpath	Low
	Rakerigg:	350m	Visible from road and footpaths	Medium
	Tarnclose Gill:	505m	Runs parallel to and crosses footpath	Medium
	Widdy Gill:	1,225m	Visible from road	Low

Table 4 Visual Amenity Impact Appraisal

Criteria	Analysis of impacts/mitigating factors	Impact
Backdrop	Kettle Crag: Very top of fence just visible on skyline from Side Pike cattle grid but only if one looks for it, mostly seen against fellside	Low
	Rakerigg: Maybe some views against skyline for people driving up Side Gates road from Little Langdale but this will be in the context of fencing along the road and the fell wall. A short section will also be visible against the skyline from the Side Pike cattle grid	Low
	Tarnclose Gill: All views are with backdrop of the fell	Low
	Widdy Gill: All views will be against the fellside	Low
Cumulative	These proposed fences will have a cumulative impact on the visual amenity of the fells in combination with the only other fence on the fell, which is a long standing fence running below the Side Gates road on the west side of Blea Moss. This existing fence however has a very low visual impact as its visual line is broken by the stands of juniper scrub along Bleamoss Beck either side of the fence, making it barely perceptible, despite the fact that there are significant differences in the vegetation structure either side. The Kettle Crag fence will extend an existing fence, but this fence is almost invisible in the landscape despite being in clear view from the Side Pike cattle grid	Neutral
Access and enjoyment	The only fence to directly cross a footpath or desire line is the Tarnclose Gill fence . There will be a minor loss of visual amenity and experience of an open landscape using the gate, but the gate will be next to an intake wall which reduced the open character of the fell at this point. The western end of the Kettle Crag fence ends in the gully in which the Kettle Crag rock climbing routes are located. Climbers access the top of this gully from the Redacre Gill footpath and will skirt under the existing dilapidated fence to access the foot of the climbing routes. These routes finish above the fence and currently climbers will have to climb over what remains of the fence to either get back to the base of the climb or return to Redacre Gill. The provision of stiles to cross the renewed fence will improve access for climbers on Kettle Crag	Medium
Residential	The only house with views of any of the fences is Bleatarn House, which has distant views of the Rakerigg fence , but at a distance of over 600m from the fence is unlikely residents will be able to see the fence. The Kettle Crag fence is not visible from either Wall End or Stool End farms in Great Langdale. The wall corner where the Kettle Crag fence ends is visible from Middle Fell Farm but the distance is too great for the actual fence to be seen from here	Neutral

5.3. Contribution to Special Qualities through the Lake District National Park Management Plan Strategies

The scheme contributes to the Lake District Special Qualities by providing an income stream to the traditional farms which maintain the hefted sheep flocks on Little Langdale and Baysbrown Commons, contributing directly to the Special Qualities: *A World Class Cultural Landscape and Unique Farming Heritage and Concentration of Common Land*. This is also in line with the Management Plan Strategy to *Support the maintenance of traditional upland farming systems in the Lake District based on the open fell hefted grazing of local breeds of livestock including the Herdwick sheep, and commons management*.

The creation of large areas of wood pasture and scrub contributes to the Special Quality: *Extensive Semi-natural Woodlands* by increasing the extent of wood pasture in the Great and Little Langdale valleys. It is also in line with the Management Plan Strategy for *Well considered tree and woodland establishment and improvement*. It will also help to achieve the Management Plan Strategy to *Improved water quality and resources in lakes, tarns, rivers, ground waters, and sea*.

6. World Heritage Site Outstanding Universal Value

6.1. World Heritage Site HIA Tools

The following three tables work through the potential impacts on the Universal Outstanding Value of the World Heritage Site using the tools provided in the most recent guidance on assessing impacts on World Heritage Sites¹.

Tool 1 is used to identify the attributes that convey the Outstanding Universal Value of a World Heritage property using the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value and related documentation.

Tool 2 provides a method of identifying impacts and the interaction between proposed actions and the attributes of a World Heritage Site.

Tool 3 provides a structure for predicting and evaluating impacts.

Appendix 1 lists the themes, attributes and components of Outstanding Universal Value for the English Lake District WHS agreed by the Lake District Partnership which are referred to in the following assessment.

¹ From Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context. UNESCO, ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN. 2022

TOOL 1			
Heritage Values and Attributes			
Level of Recognition	Heritage/Conservation Values	Attributes	Sources of Information
Outstanding Universal Value	The English Lake District is a self-contained mountainous area in North West England. Its narrow, glaciated valleys radiating from the central massif with their steep hillsides and slender lakes exhibit an extraordinary beauty and harmony. This is the result of the Lake District's continuing distinctive agro-pastoral traditions based on local breeds of sheep including the Herdwick, on common fell-grazing and relatively independent farmers. These traditions have evolved under the influence of the physical constraints of its mountain setting. The stone-walled fields and rugged farm buildings in their spectacular natural backdrop, form an harmonious beauty that has attracted visitors from the 18th century onwards	Extraordinary beauty and harmony	Statement of Outstanding Universal Value https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/422
	The pastoral system that has evolved in the Lake District for over a thousand years and its continuation by today's farmers maintains a unique farming legacy. A clear pattern of land use and enclosure has developed which is dictated by the topography and characterised by in-bye (including pastures and hay meadows), in-take, out-gang and open fell. The Lake District has the largest concentration of common land in Britain, and possibly Western Europe, with a continuing tradition of hefted grazing and collective management. This is characterised by landlords' flocks, hefted livestock, communal gathers, and the use of traditional breeds, including Herdwick sheep and fell ponies	Agro-pastoral system	Lake District Partnership Management Plan 2020-2025
	Significant mining of metal ores in the Lake District took place from at least as early as 1000 AD and was developed on a truly industrial scale from the Elizabethan period and continued through the 18 th , 19 th and early 20 th centuries. Slate quarrying also took place on a small scale from the medieval period and developed as a major local industry from the 18th century. Coppiced wood was used for producing charcoal which fuelled iron production from the medieval period until the 20th century. It also provided the raw material for making bobbins for the Lancashire cotton industry	Local industries	Lake District Partnership Management Plan 2020-2025

TOOL 1			
Heritage Values and Attributes			
Level of Recognition	Heritage/Conservation Values	Attributes	Sources of Information
	Many towns, villages and hamlets have a range of building types and styles and a distinctive spatial and townscape character depending on their history and development. The network of dry stone walls, hedgerows, lanes, footpaths and the surviving field patterns form a visual and historic link between settlement and countryside. A diverse range of historic settlements types have emerged within a relatively small geographical area. Consequently, the National Park has examples of market towns, with burgage plots arranged around a market place; agricultural villages with historic field patterns, some with village greens; industrial and mining settlements with terraces of workers housing; politely planned Georgian towns and villages guided by a wealthy patron; and Victorian new towns, suburbs, and tourist resorts, especially following the arrival of the railway	Towns and Settlements	Lake District Partnership Management Plan 2020-2025
	The stone-walled fields and rugged farm buildings in their spectacular natural backdrop, form an harmonious beauty that has attracted visitors from the 18th century onwards	Early tourism	Statement of Outstanding Universal Value https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/422
	The Picturesque Movement's ideas were applied to the English Lake District in the form of villas and designed features intended to further augment its beauty	Villas, gardens and formal landscapes	Statement of Outstanding Universal Value https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/422
	A number of organisations curate aspects of the Picturesque and Romanticism movements including the Wordsworth Trust, the Brantwood Trust, Grizedale Arts, the Lake Artists Society and through a number of established festivals including Words by the Water and the Kendal Mountain Festival	Sites and collections associated with the Picturesque and Romanticism	Lake District Partnership Management Plan 2020-2025
	The development in the English Lake District of the idea of the universal value of scenic landscape, both in itself and in its capacity to nurture and uplift imagination, creativity and spirit, along with threats to the area, led directly to the development of a conservation movement and the establishment of the National Trust movement, which spread to many countries, and contributed to the formation of the modern concept of legally-protected landscapes	Landscape conservation	Statement of Outstanding Universal Value https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/422

TOOL 1 Heritage Values and Attributes			
Level of Recognition	Heritage/Conservation Values	Attributes	Sources of Information
	<p>The tranquillity of the fells, valleys and lakes gives a sense of space and freedom. They provide opportunities for spiritual refreshment – a release from the pressures of modern day life.</p> <p>There is a feeling of wilderness, offering personal challenges for some and impressive open views for everyone</p>	<p>The ability of people to experience the spirit and feeling of the Lake District</p>	<p>Lake District Partnership Plan 2015-2020</p>

TOOL 2 IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL IMPACTS								
	Element of a Proposed Action that has the Potential to Cause an Impact							
Attributes	Kettle Crag fence	Rakerigg fence	Tarnclose Gill fence	Widdy Gill fence	Scrub woodland creation in enclosures	Tree planting on open fell	Reduction of sheep numbers on open fell	Wood pasture creation on Lingmoor Fell
Extraordinary beauty and harmony	Temporary enclosure of part of open fell. The proposed fence replaces an existing fence and extends it down the hillside	Temporary enclosure of part of open fell	Temporary enclosure of part of open fell	Temporary enclosure of part of open fell	None. Scrub and scattered trees are a significant part of the landscape character of the upper part of the Little Langdale valley	None. Scrub and scattered trees are a significant part of the landscape character of the upper part of the Little Langdale valley	None	None. Scrub and scattered trees are a significant part of the landscape character of the upper part of the Little Langdale valley
Agro-pastoral system	Temporary change of grazing regime: exclusion of hefted sheep	Temporary change of grazing regime: exclusion of hefted sheep	Temporary change of grazing regime: exclusion of hefted sheep	Temporary change of grazing regime: exclusion of hefted sheep	Positive impact as Countryside Stewardship payments will maintain financial viability of the traditional grazing regime on the main part of the commons	None. Trees to be planted in 517 1.9m diameter cages within stands of bracken. This will a negligible impact on the grazing available	None. Whilst there will be a small reduction in sheep numbers and off-wintering the commons will continue to be managed in a traditional manner and the hefted Herdwick flock is retained	Positive impact: reintroduction of grazing (with cattle) to an area which has been ungrazed for 10 years. Countryside Stewardship payments will maintain financial viability of the traditional common land grazing regime on the commons as a whole
Local industries	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None

TOOL 2 IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL IMPACTS								
	Element of a Proposed Action that has the Potential to Cause an Impact							
Attributes	Kettle Crag fence	Rakerigg fence	Tarnclose Gill fence	Widdy Gill fence	Scrub woodland creation in enclosures	Tree planting on open fell	Reduction of sheep numbers on open fell	Wood pasture creation on Lingmoor Fell
Towns and Settlements	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Early tourism	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Villas, gardens and formal landscapes	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Sites and collections associated with the Picturesque and Romanticism	Open access to the enclosure will be maintained, but visitors will need to access it via gates and stiles. Main users are rock climbers, whose access will be improved by provision of stile to cross the fence. They currently have to climb over a dilapidated fence	Open access to the enclosure will be maintained, but visitors will need to access it via gates and stiles	Open access to the enclosure will be maintained and there is no restriction of use of the public right of way, though there will be a new gate at the southern end. There is an existing gate for the footpath at the northern end. Access to the fell beyond the enclosure is maintained by gates and stiles along the fence	Open access to the enclosure will be maintained, but visitors will need to access it via gates or stiles	None	None	None	None. No change to the open access to the is part of Little Langdale Common. There is unrestricted access from the Side Gates road and via paths which enter the common at the north-western and eastern end of Lingmoor Fell
Landscape conservation	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None



TOOL 2 IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL IMPACTS								
Element of a Proposed Action that has the Potential to Cause an Impact								
Attributes	Kettle Crag fence	Rakerigg fence	Tarnclose Gill fence	Widdy Gill fence	Scrub woodland creation in enclosures	Tree planting on open fell	Reduction of sheep numbers on open fell	Wood pasture creation on Lingmoor Fell
The ability of people to experience the spirit and feeling of the Lake District	Minor intrusion into the open landscape but fence will be largely obscured by bracken from a distance. Will be visible from Redacre Gill footpath. No restriction of access of rock climbers to Kettle Crag	Minor intrusion into the open landscape for views from Side Pike and from the cattle grid at the top of the pass between the Little and Great Langdale valleys	Minor intrusion into the open landscape for walkers using the footpath, but views of the fence from elsewhere are restricted by the terrain and scrub along the Side Gates road	Minor intrusion into the open landscape as the fence will be clearly visible to anyone going up Wrynose Pass from Little Langdale, however the most prominent section of fence will be largely obscured by bracken	None	None	None	None

TOOL 3 EVALUATING POTENTIAL IMPACTS										
Element of Proposed Action	Attribute	Description of Potential Impact	Frequency of Action	Duration of Action	Reversibility of Action	Reversibility of Change to the Attribute	Longevity of the Change to the Attribute	Degree of Change to the Attribute	Quality of Change to the Attribute	Evaluation of Impact
			Once/ intermittent/ continuous	Short-term/ long-term/ permanent ²	Reversible/ irreversible	Reversible/ irreversible	Temporary / permanent change	None/ negligible/ some/ large change	Positive/ negative change	Neutral/ minor/ moderate/ major impact (negative and positive)
Kettle Crag fence	Extraordinary beauty and harmony	Enclosure of a 5.53ha of open fell	Continuous	Long-term	Reversible	Reversible	Temporary	None	N/A	Neutral
	Agro-pastoral system	The enclosure will be fenced for ten years. This will remove this area from the main hefted grazing area of the common, however much of the area is already fenced off	Once	Long-term	Reversible	Reversible	Temporary	Negligible	Negative	Minor negative impact
	Sites and collections associated with the Picturesque and Romanticism	An area of Open Access Land will be fenced off, however access to the enclosure will be maintained by the provision of gates and stiles where desire lines cross the fenceline, with particular emphasis on the needs of rock climbers using the crag	Continuous	Long-term	Reversible	Reversible	Temporary	None	N/A	Neutral

² Short-term: days/weeks; long-term: years/decades

TOOL 3 EVALUATING POTENTIAL IMPACTS										
Element of Proposed Action	Attribute	Description of Potential Impact	Frequency of Action	Duration of Action	Reversibility of Action	Reversibility of Change to the Attribute	Longevity of the Change to the Attribute	Degree of Change to the Attribute	Quality of Change to the Attribute	Evaluation of Impact
			Once/ intermittent/ continuous	Short-term/ long-term/ permanent ²	Reversible/ irreversible	Reversible/ irreversible	Temporary / permanent change	None/ negligible/ some/ large change	Positive/ negative change	Neutral/ minor/ moderate/ major impact (negative and positive)
	The ability of people to experience the spirit and feeling of the Lake District	The fence will be a minor intrusion into the visual landscape for walkers on the Redacre Gill path for the duration of the scheme. Visual impacts on climbers will be neutral as there is an existing fence near the foot of the climbing routes. This old fence will be removed as part of the scheme and the replacement fence will be removed at the end of the scheme	Continuous	Long-term	Reversible	Reversible	Temporary	Some	Positive	Minor positive impact
Rakerigg fence	Extraordinary beauty and harmony	Enclosure of a 1.2ha of open fell	Continuous	Long-term	Reversible	Reversible	Temporary	None	N/A	Neutral
	Agro-pastoral system	The enclosure will be fenced for ten years. This will remove this area from the main hefted grazing area of the common	Once	Long-term	Reversible	Reversible	Temporary	Negligible	Negative	Minor negative impact

TOOL 3 EVALUATING POTENTIAL IMPACTS										
Element of Proposed Action	Attribute	Description of Potential Impact	Frequency of Action	Duration of Action	Reversibility of Action	Reversibility of Change to the Attribute	Longevity of the Change to the Attribute	Degree of Change to the Attribute	Quality of Change to the Attribute	Evaluation of Impact
			Once/ intermittent/ continuous	Short-term/ long-term/ permanent ²	Reversible/ irreversible	Reversible/ irreversible	Temporary / permanent change	None/ negligible/ some/ large change	Positive/ negative change	Neutral/ minor/ moderate/ major impact (negative and positive)
	Sites and collections associated with the Picturesque and Romanticism	An area of Open Access Land will be fenced off, however access to the enclosure will be maintained by the provision of gates and stiles	Continuous	Long-term	Reversible	Reversible	Temporary	None	N/A	Neutral
	The ability of people to experience the spirit and feeling of the Lake District	The fence will be a minor intrusion into the visual landscape for visitors on the Side Gates road and walkers accessing the open fell from the cattle grid area for the duration of the scheme	Continuous	Long-term	Reversible	Reversible	Temporary	None	N/A	Neutral
Tarnclose Gill fence	Extraordinary beauty and harmony	Enclosure of a 5.84ha of open fell	Continuous	Long-term	Reversible	Reversible	Temporary	None	N/A	Neutral
	Agro-pastoral system	The enclosure will be fenced for ten years. This will remove this area from the main hefted grazing area of the common	Once	Long-term	Reversible	Reversible	Temporary	Negligible	Negative	Minor negative impact

TOOL 3 EVALUATING POTENTIAL IMPACTS										
Element of Proposed Action	Attribute	Description of Potential Impact	Frequency of Action	Duration of Action	Reversibility of Action	Reversibility of Change to the Attribute	Longevity of the Change to the Attribute	Degree of Change to the Attribute	Quality of Change to the Attribute	Evaluation of Impact
			Once/ intermittent/ continuous	Short-term/ long-term/ permanent ²	Reversible/ irreversible	Reversible/ irreversible	Temporary / permanent change	None/ negligible/ some/ large change	Positive/ negative change	Neutral/ minor/ moderate/ major impact (negative and positive)
	Sites and collections associated with the Picturesque and Romanticism	Fencing of Open Access land. Here a well used public footpath runs through the enclosure. Access to the open fell beyond the path is maintained by provision of gates and stiles	Continuous	Long-term	Reversible	Reversible	Temporary	None	N/A	Neutral
	The ability of people to experience the spirit and feeling of the Lake District	The fence will be an intrusion into the visual landscape for walkers on the footpath through the enclosure and will add a degree of enclosure to their experience for the duration of the scheme	Continuous	Long-term	Reversible	Reversible	Temporary	None	N/A	Neutral
Widdy Gill fence	Extraordinary beauty and harmony	Enclosure of a 20.61ha of open fell	Continuous	Long-term	Reversible	Reversible	Temporary	None	N/A	Neutral
	Agro-pastoral system	The enclosure will be fenced for ten years. This will remove this area from the main hefted grazing area of the common	Once	Long-term	Reversible	Reversible	Temporary	Negligible	Negative	Minor negative impact

TOOL 3 EVALUATING POTENTIAL IMPACTS										
Element of Proposed Action	Attribute	Description of Potential Impact	Frequency of Action	Duration of Action	Reversibility of Action	Reversibility of Change to the Attribute	Longevity of the Change to the Attribute	Degree of Change to the Attribute	Quality of Change to the Attribute	Evaluation of Impact
			Once/ intermittent/ continuous	Short-term/ long-term/ permanent ²	Reversible/ irreversible	Reversible/ irreversible	Temporary / permanent change	None/ negligible/ some/large change	Positive/ negative change	Neutral/ minor/ moderate/ major impact (negative and positive)
	Sites and collections associated with the Picturesque and Romanticism	An area of Open Access land will be fenced off for the duration of the scheme, though access will be maintained by the provision of gates and stiles on desire lines	Continuous	Long-term	Reversible	Reversible	Temporary	None	N/A	Neutral
	The ability of people to experience the spirit and feeling of the Lake District	The fence will be a visual intrusion into the landscape for people travelling along the Wrynose Pass road for the duration of the scheme	Continuous	Long-term	Reversible	Reversible	Temporary	None	N/A	Neutral
Scrub woodland creation in exclosures	Agro-pastoral system	Minor theoretical reduction of available grazing land, however all planting will be in stands of bracken which are largely ungrazable. Scheme payments help subsidise maintenance of traditional grazing regime on rest of commons	Continuous	Permanent	Reversible	Reversible	Permanent	None	N/A	Neutral

TOOL 3 EVALUATING POTENTIAL IMPACTS										
Element of Proposed Action	Attribute	Description of Potential Impact	Frequency of Action	Duration of Action	Reversibility of Action	Reversibility of Change to the Attribute	Longevity of the Change to the Attribute	Degree of Change to the Attribute	Quality of Change to the Attribute	Evaluation of Impact
			Once/ intermittent/ continuous	Short-term/ long-term/ permanent ²	Reversible/ irreversible	Reversible/ irreversible	Temporary / permanent change	None/ negligible/ some/ large change	Positive/ negative change	Neutral/ minor/ moderate/ major impact (negative and positive)
Wood pasture creation on Lingmoor Fell	Agro-pastoral system	Grazing will be reintroduced on to Lingmoor Fell having been absent for ten years	Continuous	Long-term	Reversible	Reversible	Temporary ³	Some	Positive	Moderate positive impact

³ Not possible to say whether this will be temporary or permanent as continuance of grazing largely dependent on government agricultural subsidy schemes and it is not possible to predict what these will be in ten years time

6.2. Extraordinary Beauty and Harmony

The scheme will see the temporary enclosure of four peripheral areas of the commons with fences to allow tree and shrub establishment, with the fences removed at the end of the ten year scheme. This will have minor negative impacts on the beauty and harmony of the open fells in these locations due to the introduction of post and wire fencing into the landscape and the enclosure of these areas. Both these impacts are entirely reversible and once the fencing is removed these temporary adverse impacts will be entirely reversed.

It is arguable that the creation of new areas of scrub woodland and the extension of existing areas will have a positive impact on the extraordinary beauty and harmony of the Langdale Valley as it will increase the textural variety of the landscape. Whilst the Great Langdale valley largely lacks woodland cover there is a considerable amount of scrub and scattered trees on the lower fells in the Little Langdale valley and the proposed planting scheme can be seen to be complementing and enhancing this aspect of the landscape.

The need for weldmesh cages to protect tree and scrub planting on the commons may be seen as less in keeping with the open nature of the fell, however these cages will be less intrusive than the alternative option of creating large planted enclosures. The use of these small cages also have the advantage that tree tubes are not needed and the fell can continue to be grazed by the traditional Herdwick fell flock whilst allowing the extension of a scrub element of the fell landscape.

The presence of fences on the commons will have a minor adverse impact on the extraordinary beauty and harmony of the Langdale Valley for the duration of their presence, but this impact will reduce to neutral once the fences are removed.

6.3. Agro-pastoral System

The scheme will provide the financial support for the continuation of the traditional common land grazing system on both Little Langdale Common and Baysbrown Common. Grazing by hefted flocks will continue on both commons and grazing will be reintroduced on to the Lingmoor Fell component of Little Langdale Common where it has been absent for ten years.

Grazing will be excluded from the four enclosures for the ten year duration of the scheme, but the fencing will be removed at the end of this period and they will be re-entered into the common land grazing regime. There will be a minor loss of available grazing due to the weldmesh cages, but all the tree planting is in stands of bracken which are largely ungrazable, so the actual loss of grazing is negligible.

Unrelated to the fencing, the scheme will see the reintroduction of grazing on Lingmoor Fell after an absence of ten years which will have a moderate positive impact on the agro-pastoral system.

Overall the impact on the agro-pastoral system will be moderate positive due to the financial support the scheme provides.

6.4. Sites and collections associated with the Picturesque and Romanticism

The four fences will enclose areas of Open Access land. Continued access is maintained by the provision of gates and stiles at regular distances along the fences and where there are desire lines. Access will return to being completely unrestricted once the fences are removed at the end of the scheme. There will be minor adverse impacts on this attribute for the duration of the scheme, which will reduce to neutral once the fences are removed.

6.5. The ability of people to experience the spirit and feeling of the Lake District

The four fences will enclose 33ha of open fell for the ten year duration of the scheme. This may have minor adverse impacts on some people's experience of the open nature of the Langdale fells, though all four enclosures are on the periphery of the unenclosed fell. For three of the enclosures these impacts will be due to the incursion of lengths of fence into people's views of the fells. With the Tarnclose Gill enclosure however people walking along the path through the enclosure will have a more direct experience of enclosure as the path they are walking along will be enclosed by the fence for about 430 metres. It is questionable however as to how great an impact this additional enclosure will have on walkers. If walking south then the walker will have had to go through at least two gates within a few hundred metres to get to the enclosure. If walking north they will have been walking alongside a stone wall for more than a hundred metres and will exit the enclosure into enclosed land at its northern end. At most any adverse impact will be minor. The Kettle Crag fence will have a negligible impact on the ability of rock climber's experience of the Lake District as the new fence will simply replace an existing one in the vicinity of the climbing routes. Once the new fence is removed at the end of the scheme there will be a minor positive impact on climber's experience of Kettle Crag as a longstanding fence will have been removed.

As all the proposed fencing will be removed at the end of the scheme the long-term impact of the proposals will be minor positive due to the removal of the old Kettle Crag fence. Other impacts will reduce to neutral once the fences are removed.

7. Evaluation

7.1. Landscape character and visual amenity

The impacts of the four fences on landscape character and visual amenity are all temporary and at the end of the scheme, when the fences are removed, the impact will be neutral for all four fences. For the ten year duration of the scheme however there will be minor adverse impacts on visual amenity from the Widdy Gill and Kettle Crag fences. The Rakerigg fence will have a minor to moderate adverse impact due to its proximity to the Side Gates cattle grid, whilst the Tarnclose Gill fence will have a moderate adverse impact on visual amenity as it is crossed by a well used public footpath. The planting of scrub woodland will have a neutral impact on the landscape character of the two commons and the Great and Little Langdale valleys as scrub is already a prominent feature of lower parts of the two commons.

7.2. World Heritage Site Universal Outstanding Value

The scheme as a whole will help to maintain the financial viability of the common land agro-pastoral system on Baysbrown and Little Langdale Commons and will enable traditional common land grazing with a hefted Herdwick flock to continue in this part of the Langdale Valley. The temporary fencing will have some minor localised and temporary impacts on the *extraordinary beauty and harmony* of the valley, but the areas involved are small when contrasted with the expanse of open fell in which they sit. The planting of areas of scrub woodland will have no adverse impact on the landscape character of the Langdale Valley as there are already extensive areas of scrub along Bleamoss Beck, below the crags of Blake Rigg, on the lower slopes of Lingmoor Fell and on Kettle Crag. Overall the impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site will be neutral to minor positive as it promotes the continuation of the common land agro-pastoral system and this will outweigh the temporary adverse impacts resulting from the temporary fencing.

8. Photographs



Photo 1 Kettle Crag viewed from Side Pike with Pike of Bisco and Crinkle Crag in background



Photo 2 The northern end of the Kettle Crag fence showing the rock climbing crag and derelict fence



Photo 3 Top of the existing Kettle Crag fence looking towards Side Pike and the New Dungeon Ghyll inn



Photo 4 The Rakerigg ridge (to the left) from Side Pike



Photo 5 Lower part of Rakerigg ridge from Redacre Gill with Side Pike in background



Photo 6 The Rakerigg ridge from Side Pike with Blea Tarn and Blake Rigg in background



Photo 7 Tarnclose Gill enclosure viewed from Side Gates road



Photo 8 Tarnclose Gill exclosure viewed from Side Gates road



Photo 9 The Tarnclose Gill exclosure with Lingmoor Fell in background viewed from slope below Blake Rigg crags



Photo 10 Widdy Gill exclosure viewed from Little Langdale road near High Birk Howe





Photo 11 The Pedder Stone and the Widdy Gill exclosure from Wrynose Pass road looking west

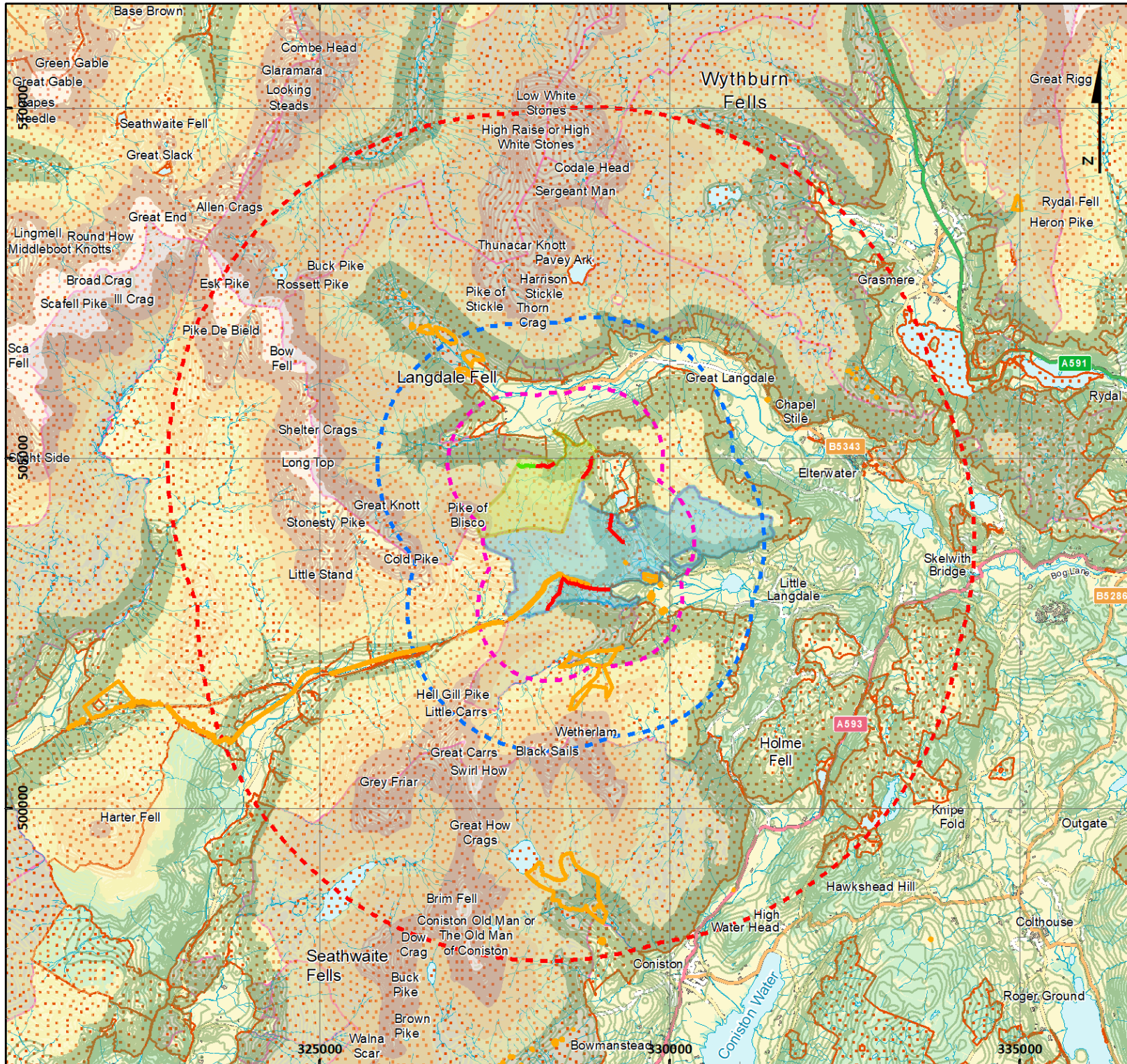


Photo 12 Looking down Widdy Gill from Wrynose Bridge

Little Langdale Common and Baysbrown Common

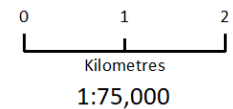
Map 1 Landscape and Heritage Designations

-  Little Langdale Common
-  Baysbrown Common (Westmorland)
-  1km buffer
-  2km buffer
-  5km buffer
-  New fencing
-  Renew fence
-  Lake District World Heritage Site
-  CROW Access Land
-  Registered Common Land
-  Scheduled Monuments



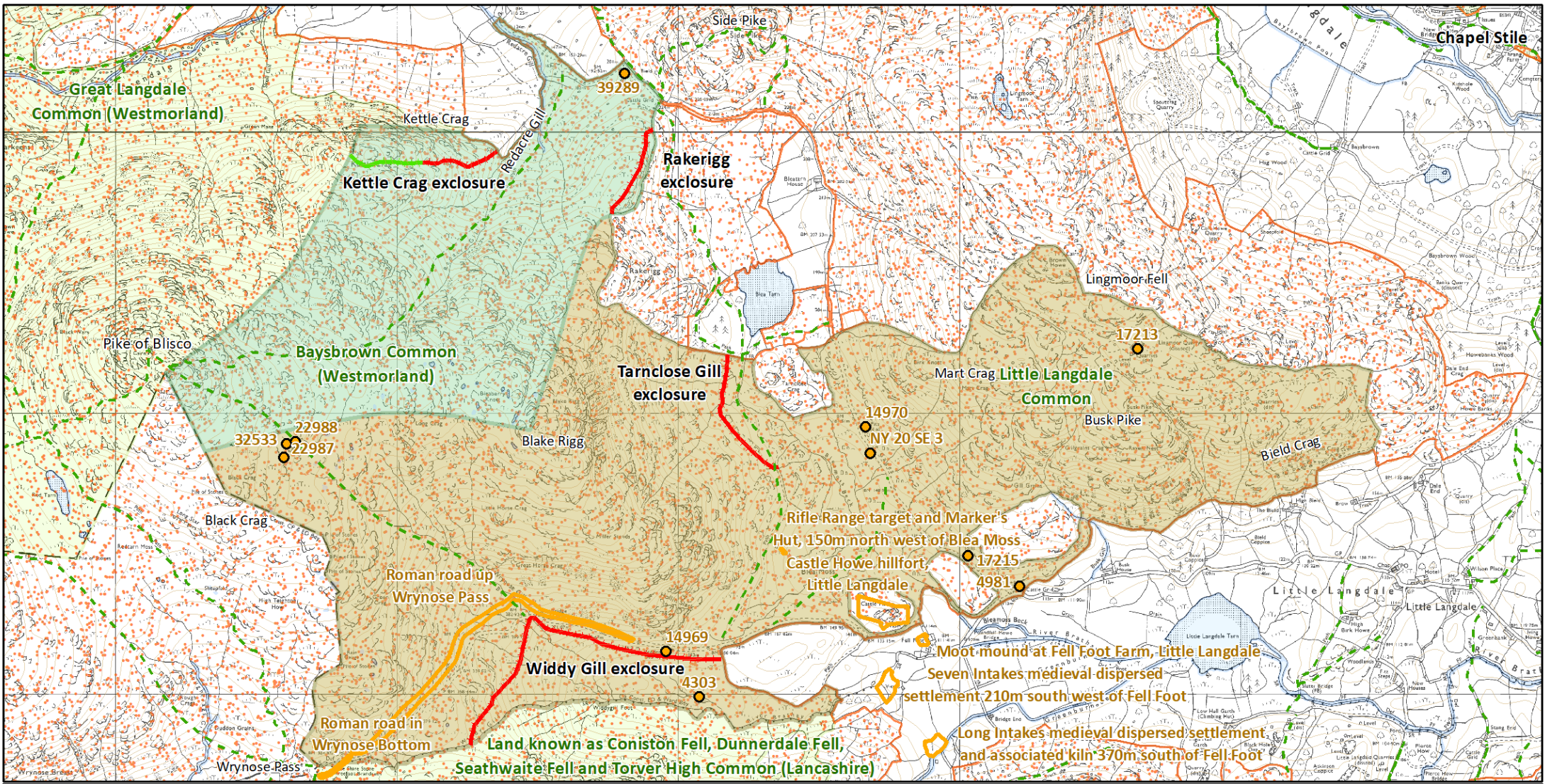
Drawn by R Jerram

19 October 2022



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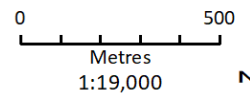
Little Langdale Common and Baysbrown Common

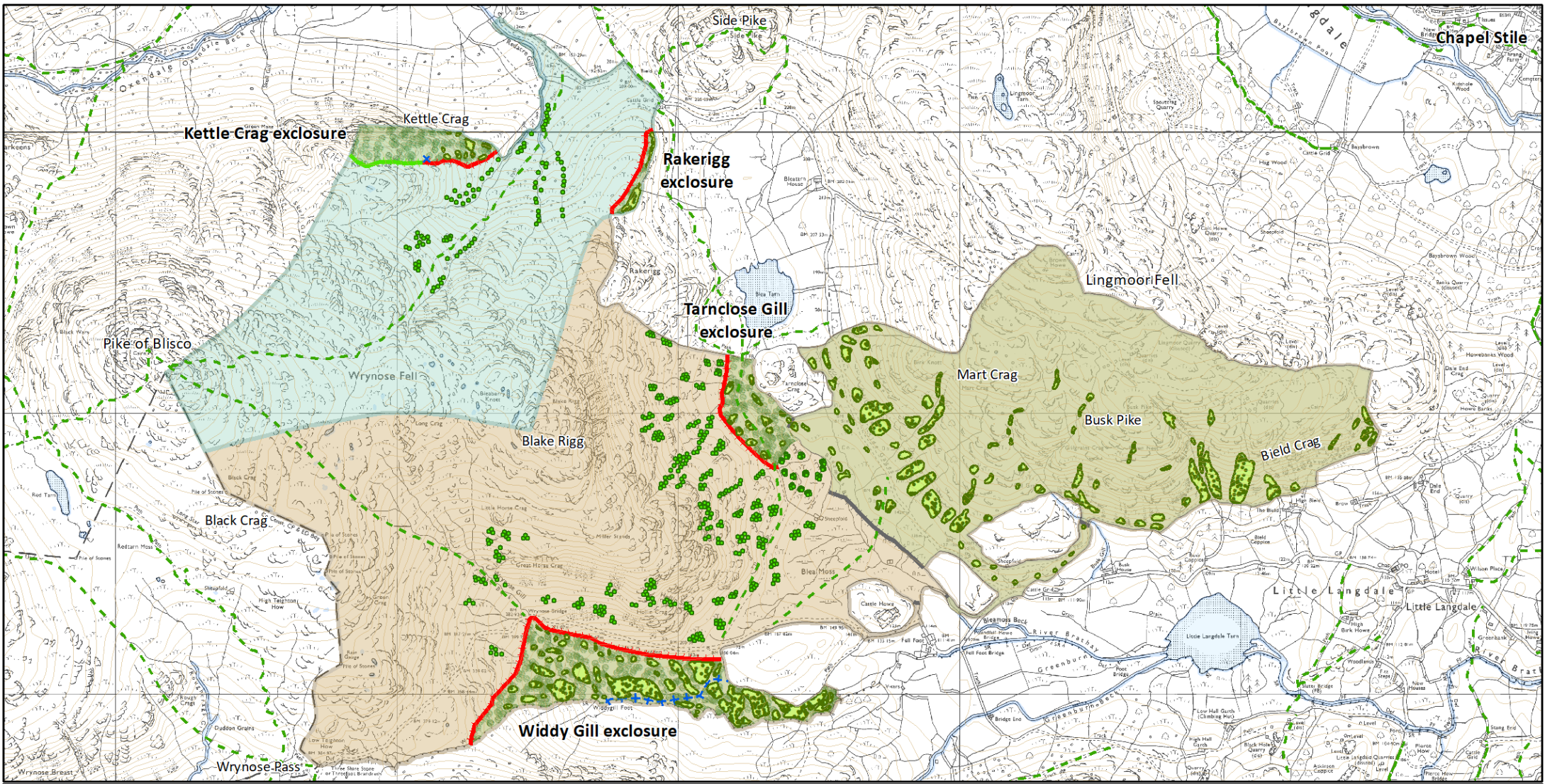
Map 2 Designations

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Little Langdale Common | Public Rights of Way | Proposed fencing |
| Baysbrown Common (Westmorland) | Byway Open to All Traffic | New fencing |
| Common Land | Bridleway | Renew fence |
| CROW Access Land | Footpath | |
| Scheduled Monuments | | |
| Historic Environment Records | | |

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27 October 2022

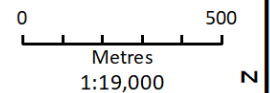


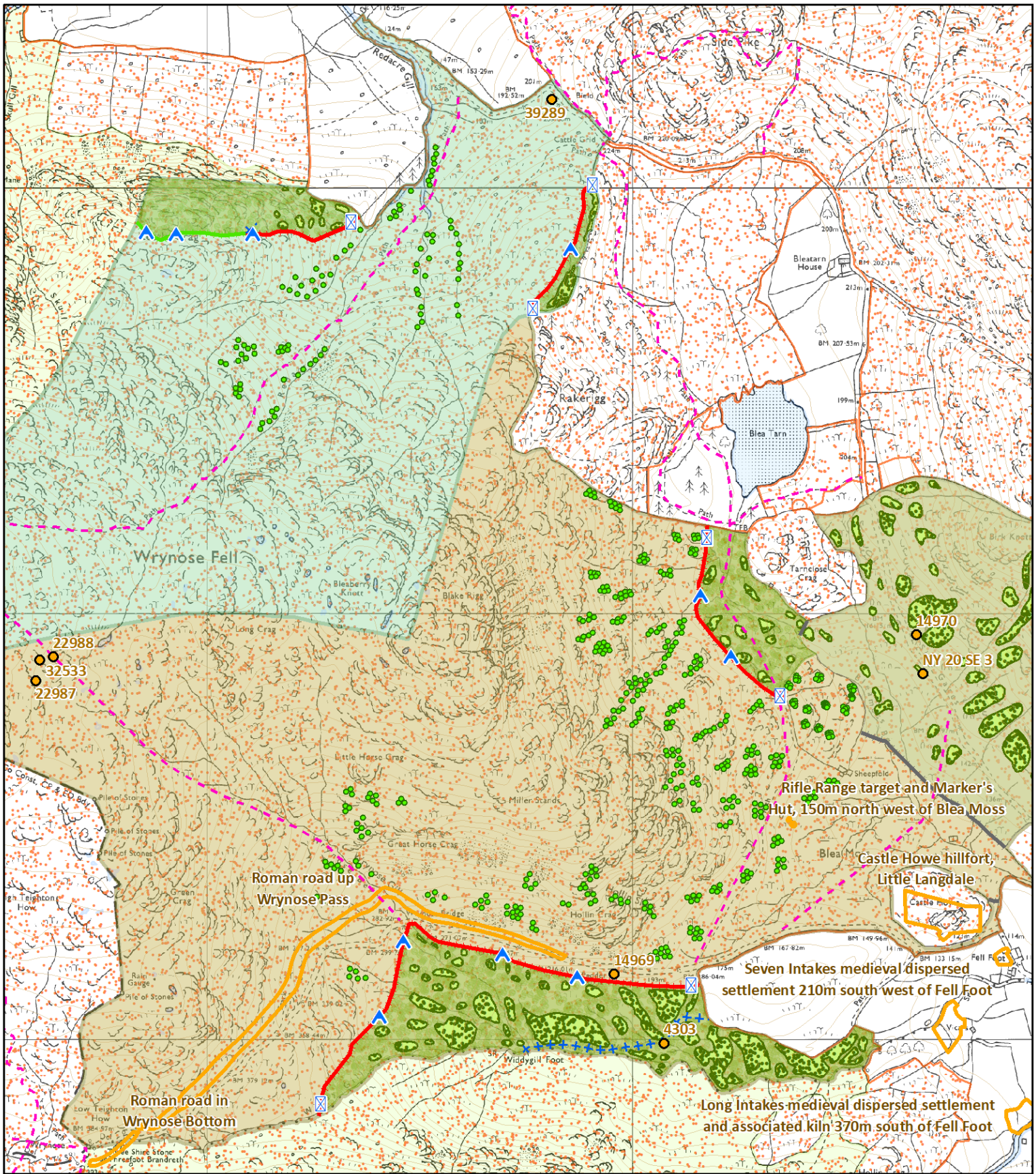


Little Langdale Common and Baysbrown Common
Map 3 Wood Pasture and Scrub Woodland Creation Proposals

Drawn by R Jerram
 27 October 2022

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| Little Langdale Common | Public Rights of Way | Proposed fencing |
| Baysbrown Common (Westmorland) | Byway Open to All Traffic | Renew fence |
| Wood pasture | Bridleway | Remove fence |
| Scrub woodland | Footpath | Existing fences |
| Tree Clusters | | |
| Weldmesh Cages | | |

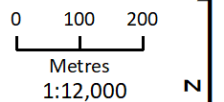




Little Langdale Common and Baysbrown Common
Map 4 Detail of Fencing Proposals

Drawn by R Jerram
 27 October 2022

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Little Langdale Common | Proposed fencing | Wood pasture | Public Rights of Way |
| Baysbrown Common (Westmorland) | New fencing | Scrub woodland | Footpath |
| Common Land | Renew fence | Tree Clusters | |
| CROW Access Land | Remove fence | Weldmesh Cages | |
| Scheduled Monuments | Existing fences | | |
| Historic Environment Records | Gates | | |
| | Stiles | | |



10. Appendix 1

English Lake District World Heritage Site themes, attributes and components of Outstanding Universal Value

Theme	Attribute	Components of Attributes	
Theme 1: A landscape of exceptional beauty, shaped by persistent and distinctive agro pastoralism and local industry which gives it special character.	Extraordinary beauty and harmony	The physical natural landscape of mountains, rivers, lakes, and valleys.	
		The physical cultural landscape in the main the product of agro-pastoralism, settlements and local industry, including woodlands.	
		The variety and combination of differing landscape characters and physical attributes of each of the 13 valleys.	
	Agro-pastoral system	Evidence, intactness, and legibility of settlements and the agro pastoral character and function of the field systems and their waterways.	Farmsteads and Farmhouses.
			Shepherds meets/shows and traditional sports.
			The unique practices of the agro-pastoral farming system.
			The surviving physical and social elements of hill farming e.g. shepherding and common gathering.
			Local techniques of landscape maintenance (stonewalling, hedging, pollarding).
			Local management and governance of Lake District farming systems, e.g. activities of breeders associations and commons committees.
			Common land and the long standing and continuing traditions of Common land management.
			Semi-natural habitats created and sustained as a result of continuing agro-pastoral systems, for example hay meadows, pollards, wood pasture, and coppiced woodland. The mosaic of semi natural habitats above the fell wall within an actively grazed landscape.
			Local industries
	The physical remains of past woodland industries, buildings, structures (i.e. Bark Barns, Charcoal Sheds).		
	The physical remains of historic mines and quarries which have shaped the landscape.		

English Lake District World Heritage Site themes, attributes and components of Outstanding Universal Value

Theme	Attribute	Components of Attributes
	Towns and Settlements	The English Lake District's settlement pattern of individual farms, small hamlets, large villages and market towns, historically derived and functionally. Medieval buildings. Vernacular buildings.
Theme 2: A landscape which has inspired artistic and literary movements and generated ideas about landscapes that have had global influence and left their physical mark	Early tourism	Places and collections associated with early tourism.
		Early tourist infrastructure.
		The location of viewing stations, including structures in very limited cases.
		Other key views that form the image of the Lake District.
		The values, aesthetic ideals and perceptions which led to the creation of early tourism.
	Villas, gardens and formal landscapes	Villa Landscapes – their buildings, gardens and surrounding designed landscapes.
		The values, aesthetic ideals and perceptions which led to their creation.
		Physical designed landscapes.
	Sites and collections associated with the Picturesque and Romanticism	Residences and places associated with significant writers and poets.
		Key literary and artistic associations with Landscape. Surviving landscape which inspired literature and art.
		The value and significance of ideas and writings of writers and poets and artists.
		Perception and enjoyment of sites and collections associated with Picturesque and Romanticism.
		Key associations with the origins of the outdoor movement.
		Buildings linked to early outdoor holiday movement.
		Surviving landscape which inspired early climbing, outdoors recreation and the early outdoor holiday movement.
The Romantic emphasis on outdoor activity and experience – principally walking.		
The open access to the Lake District fells and lakes for recreation.		

English Lake District World Heritage Site themes, attributes and components of Outstanding Universal Value

Theme	Attribute	Components of Attributes
Theme 3: A landscape which has been the catalyst for key developments in the national and international protection of landscapes	Landscape conservation	Areas of the WH property where historic landscape conservation battles were both won and lost.
		The idea of landscape conservation inspired by the English Lake District landscape and the universal value of scenic and cultural landscape transcending traditional property rights.
		The landscape is protected for its scenic and cultural value and is protected for the Nation.
		The perception that the landscape is protected for its scenic and cultural value and is protected for the Nation by public and state support.
		Properties owned or managed by the National Trust.
		The knowledge and perception that the creation of the National Trust was inspired by the English Lake District.
		Landscapes owned and sympathetically managed to sustain our OUV by the Partnership and other landscape conservation bodies.
		Farms and land purchased by individuals and public subscription to protect the landscape and our OUV.
		Organisations and public participating in landscape conservation.
	The ability of people to experience the spirit and feeling of the Lake District	The perception and enjoyment of an open landscape.
		The ability to feel the values, ideas and perceptions of harmonious beauty and other significance derived from the Picturesque and Romantic traditions specific to the English Lake District.
		The value of landscape for restoring the human spirit and wellbeing.
		Opportunities for quiet enjoyment and spiritual refreshment.