

PART 2: CASE STUDIES AND DISCUSSION

CHAPTER 13. GREAT LANGDALE CASE STUDY

by C Hardie

“a vale which on no account should be missed by him who has a true enjoyment of grand separate Forms composing a sublime Unity, austere but reconciled and rendered attractive to the affections by the deep serenity that is spread over everything”¹

Purpose of report

This case study explores ways in which the broad brush approach of HLC can be enhanced using more detailed landscape studies, in this instance a report produced for the National Trust who are the main landowners in Great Langdale. It also looks at ways which HLC can be used to assist in defining management objectives for smaller areas and raises a number of issues regarding the future uses of HLC.

Study Area

The Great Langdale Valley is located in the rugged heart of the Lake District, some seven miles west of Ambleside and close to the village of Chapel Stile. The location of the survey area is the same as that used by the National Trust and is shown in figure 55. The area consists of some 449.4 ha and within this area are six tenanted farms; Harry Place, Robinson Place, Millbeck, Middle Fell, Stool End and Wall End. A large area of open common is also included.

Regional Context

Great Langdale falls within the Central Fells JCA as defined by the Countryside Agency.² The key characteristics of the Central Fells are:

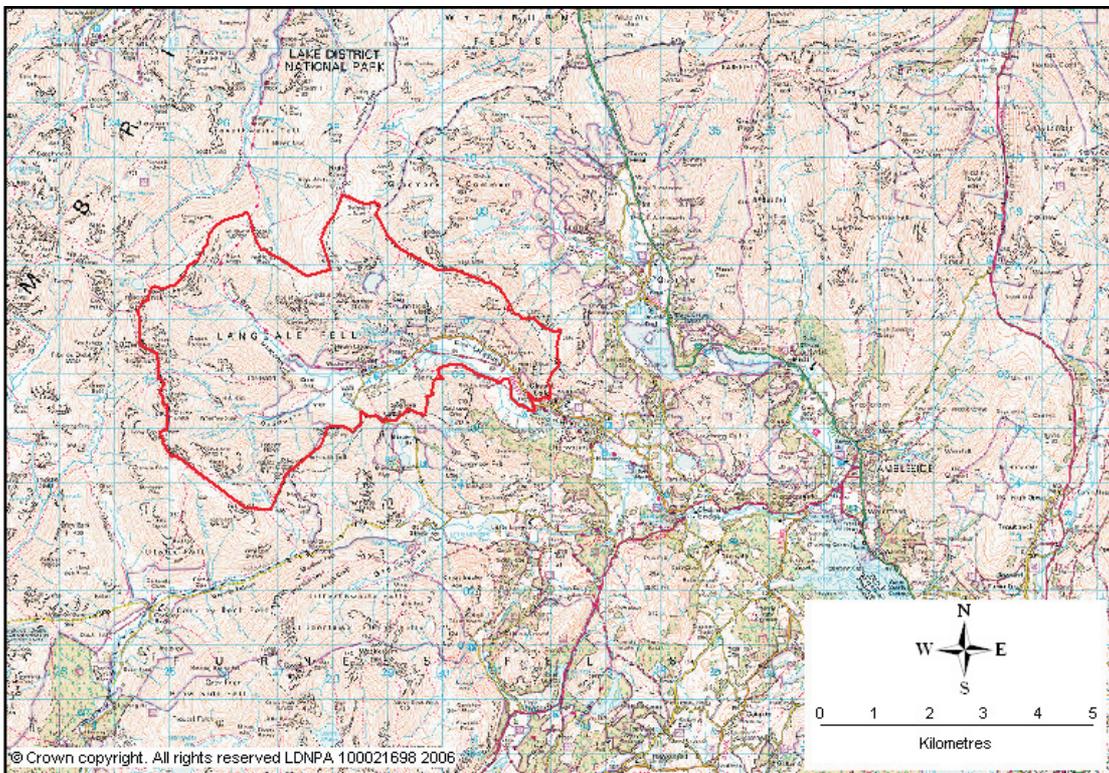


Figure 55: The survey area for both The National Trust report and the HLC case study

¹ Wordsworth cited in Lindop 2005, 287

² Countryside Commission 1998, 31-2

- Spectacular and rugged mountain scenery of open fells with an expansive character, and a mosaic of craggy peaks and screes, heaths, mires, peatland, heather moorland, acid grassland, bracken and remote valleys with fast flowing streams and tarns.
- A radiating pattern of deep glaciated valleys with extensive lakes, reed beds, carr-woodlands, meadows and other lakeshore vegetation, rivers and semi-improved and improved grazing land.
- Farmland and sheltered valley landscapes at lower altitudes with woodland, dry stone walls, hedgerows, copses, pollarded trees and scrub vegetation.
- Traditional stone farm buildings in vernacular styles with slated roofs, circular chimneys and occasionally spinning galleries.
- Ancient patterns of stone walls which subdivide lowland pasture and high fellsides with various densities, reflecting the management of land as in-bye, intake and fell grazing.

Historical Background

Langdale is perhaps best known among archaeologists for its association with Neolithic axe production areas which were quarried for around one thousand years until c 2,000 BC.³ The presence of Bronze Age settlement and burial sites adds to this profound time depth typical of much of the Lake District. The present-day field system maps the evolution of this agricultural landscape from medieval times to the twentieth century. The fields in Great Langdale conform to a fairly typical valley arrangement with farmland enclosed by a ring garth which marked off the open fell land from the enclosed and cultivated land on the valley bottom. Within the ring garth the farm houses and farm buildings can be found as

well as the open fields which were cultivated communally for hay, oats and barley using an unfenced, strip-field system. The resources on either side of the ring garth were managed quite separately, although when demand for land increased, land was taken in and improved from the wastes in a gradual encroachment extending up the hill sides and identified as intakes by HLC. With improved tenurial conditions and greater demands on land the former common land at the foot of the valley was enclosed, but the process of enclosure was not completed until 1853 when the last pieces of common land were enclosed by Act of Parliament. The survey work by The National Trust⁴ has allowed many of these phases of land use to be dated using historic documentary research and fieldwork. This also provides a date range for other valleys with a similar field pattern, until such time that similar research is commissioned there.

The story of field enclosure in Great Langdale goes back to 1216 when William de Lancaster created a new manor of Baysbrown. In his grant to Conishead Priory, the line of the new manor was said to meet “*the enclosed land of Great Langden*”, thus indicating that the cultivated land at the head of the valley was already separated from the fell land by the ring garth.⁵ The initial phase of intaking up the lower valley slopes in Langdale dates to the sixteenth century. During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the pattern was further developed. Common fields were enclosed and divided and land outside the ring garth was enclosed as rectangular intakes providing individual farms with their own grazing land for cattle. ‘Outgangs’ were left between some intakes to provide access on to the communally grazed fell. The number of farms reduced dramatically between the early eighteenth century when

³ Blamires 2005

⁴ Lund and Southwell 2002

⁵ National Trust 2005

there were eleven small farms at the valley head, to only four a hundred years later.

HLC and land use in Langdale

The HLC methodology describes attributes for a number of different land uses. From this it seeks to define character areas and a means to monitor and manage change. The land use is defined using historic and modern mapping which creates a snapshot in time of land use from the 1860s when the first Ordnance Survey maps were produced. By studying historic mapping it is often possible to identify a relative chronology of land use beginning with ancient farms and meadows, followed by intaking and then planned enclosure of the eighteenth-nineteenth centuries. A comparison of boundaries depicted on the historic mapping with the present-day mapping provides an indication of how boundaries have changed since the nineteenth century, but does not allow a longer perspective back in time. In Langdale the landscape has been surveyed by the National Trust and given a series of dates based on this research. This case study looks at a sample of time-slice maps created by the National Trust for Langdale and compares them to the approach taken by HLC.

Ancient Farms, Meadows and Open Fields

“At his death Ingram de Gynes held...the hamlet of Langdale...There are eleven tenants at will who render 66s.01/2d. yearly; a watermill there worth 10s yearly, but the profit only comes between Michaelmas and Candlemas and all the rest of the year it stands empty for want of corn...Two tenements in the said hamlet of Langdale which used to render 3s. 51/2d yearly were in the lord’s hand on the day of his death through the lack of tenants and now lie waste...The herbage of the forest of Langdale used to be worth

40s yearly but now nothing, because of the lack of stock”⁶

Historical sources provide much information on landholdings in Great Langdale and many of these accounts can be firmly tied into field evidence. In the thirteenth century land was granted to Conishead Priory which subsequently became the manor of Baysbrown, separating it from the manor of Great Langdale. The boundary between the two has been reconstructed by Lund and Southwell and is partly incorporated in nineteenth-century field walls.⁷ Also recorded in the land grant is a hay meadow somewhere between Wall End Farm and Great Langdale Beck, hedges, and the stocking of cattle on the Baysbrown farmland. In 1283 fifteen tenants held just over 136 acres of land in the valley - possibly inbye, while six tenants held 28.5 acres of waste – intakes. Apart from where it adjoined Baysbrown, the boundary of

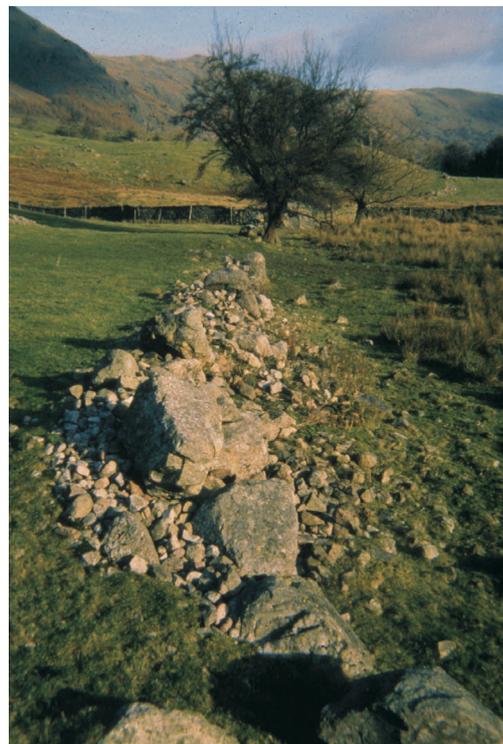


Plate 76: The ring garth, Great Langdale (© National Trust)

⁶ A description of Langdale in 1324 (PRO, C134/81/18,m.5) quoted in Winchester 1987, 37

⁷ Lund and Southwell 2002, 13

the Manor of Langdale was not walled and ran along the watersheds of the surrounding fells.

A ring garth separated the tenanted farmland on the valley floor from the manorial waste or fellside. It almost certainly existed before the manor of Bayswater was created in 1216 as it was referred to in the land grant. Surprisingly it was still referred to in the eighteenth century, although its exact course was not known. Much of the line of the ring garth has been obscured by the later enclosure pattern. However parts of what was once a continuous boundary have now been traced by Lund and Southwell and additional fieldwork may complete its course.⁸

Apart from Baysbrown and Rossett, both of which seem to have had Norse origins, there is place-name and field-system evidence for the existence of four additional farmsteads in the valley during the Middle Ages. Middlefell Place is inferred in the personal name 'Charles de Mithelfell' recorded in 1332.⁹ Reliance on a personal name for the existence of a place is fraught with difficulties, however it was during the Middle Ages that farms ending with the word 'Place' are believed to have been settled as encroachments in to the former forests.¹⁰ In the Barony of Kendal these encroachments were legalised by Royal Charter in 1190. Middlefell Place, Robinson Place, Harry Place and Johnson Place (an unknown farm associated with Raw Head and Pye How in the eighteenth century) may have therefore been established during the twelfth or thirteenth centuries.

Field patterns characteristic of late medieval enclosure, visible as small and irregularly shaped fields close to farmsteads can also be identified at three farms. These areas are located

immediately south of Stool End, adjacent to Sidehouse and within patterns of intakes at Robinson Place. Intake fields within the valley were documented in 1283 and 1374, but none of these references can be definitely associated with the surviving medieval-type intakes. How extensive intaking of land was in the Middle Ages is unknown but it is likely that it was only minimal until the end of the fifteenth century when a rising population increased the demands on the land.¹¹

The HLC approach

The HLC type *discrete ancient farms* should correlate with medieval farms outlined in the National Trust Report.¹² figure 56, below, shows medieval enclosed fields defined by the National Trust at three locations, land south of Stool End, Robinson Place and Sidehouse. HLC confirms these sites as *discrete ancient farms*, but also identifies land at Middle Fell Farm, Millbeck, Ellers, Wall End, Pye Howe and land near New Bridge as *discrete ancient farms*. Further, HLC identifies slightly larger areas of land around the farm sites than the National Trust survey does and so includes a later period of intaking or encroachment dating to Tudor times. The interpretation layer for HLC for *discrete ancient farms* covers a wide range of early farmsteads. It is too broad brush in its approach to tease out the different periods of farm creation within the medieval and post medieval periods. As a result, where the field survey and research conducted by the National Trust is able to distinguish between medieval and Tudor farming, HLC must include them all as *discrete ancient farms*. For the purposes of strategic management this is not important, but it may be up to the HER to contain more detailed information for research purposes.

⁸ Lund and Southwell 2002, 13

⁹ Lund and Southwell 2002, 14 citing PRO E179

¹⁰ Winchester 1987, 62

¹¹ Lund and Southwell 2002, 15

¹² Lund and Southwell 2002, 15

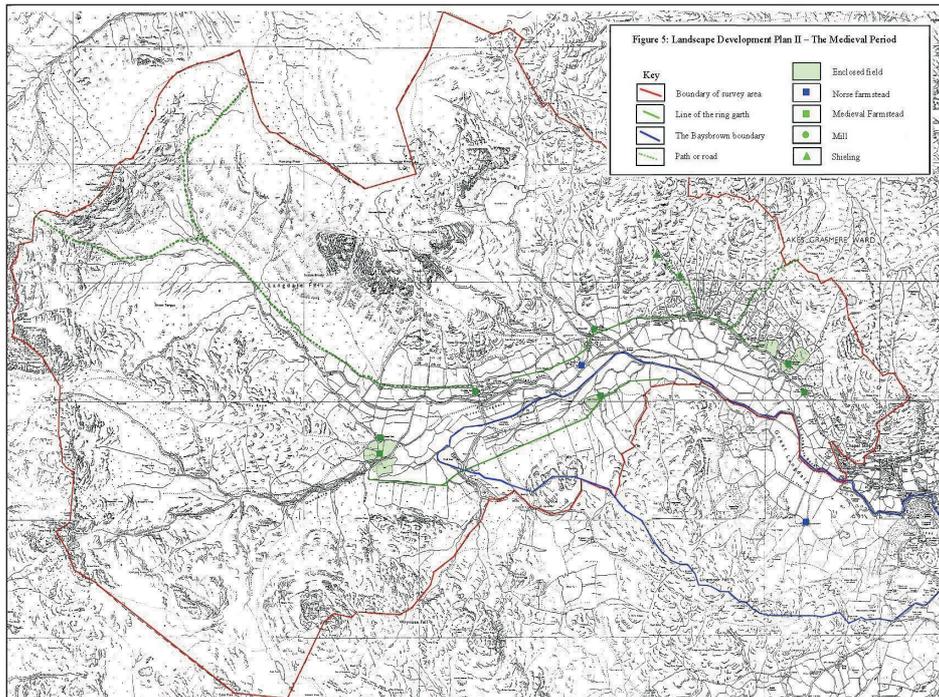


Figure 56: The medieval period (taken from Lund and Southwell 2004, 17 figure 5)

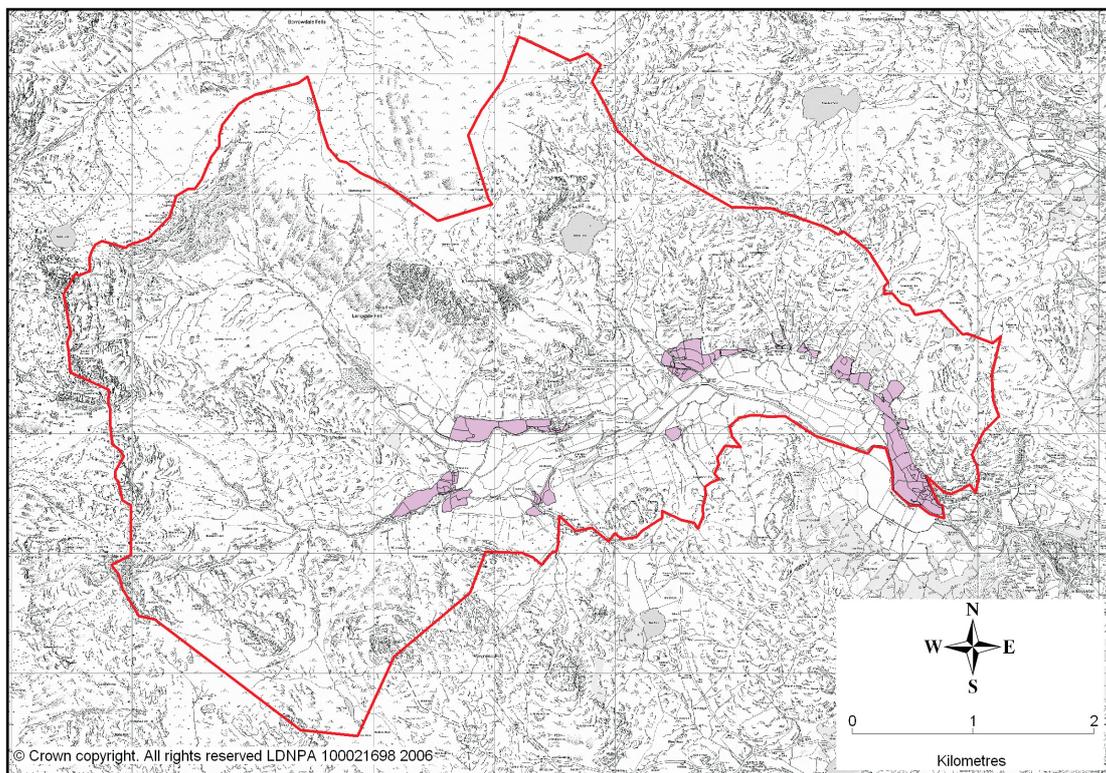


Figure 57: Single ancient farms as identified by HLC

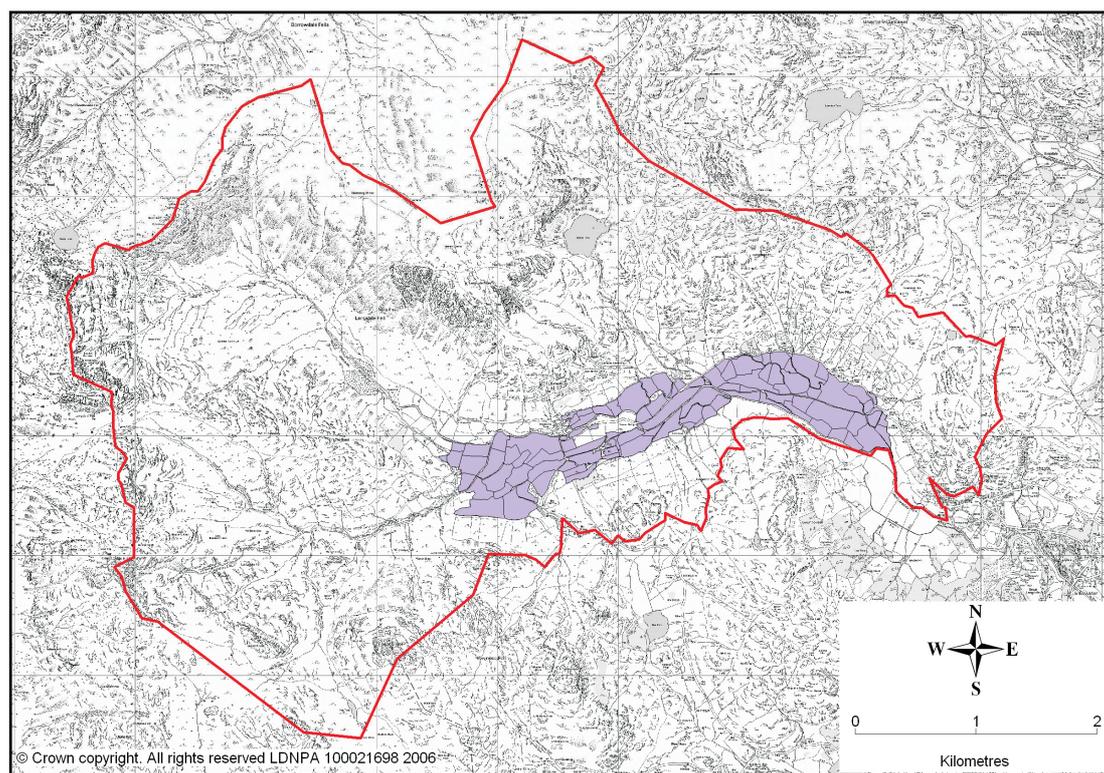


Figure 58: Former commonfield land as identified by HLC

The National Trust report cites documentary evidence to support medieval farms at Middle Fell Place, Robinson Place, Harry Place and Johnson Place (an unknown farm associated with Raw Head and Pye How). The identification of a 'discrete ancient farm' by HLC at Pye Howe, not located by the National Trust, could perhaps be the missing farm of Johnson Place. If correct, then HLC has the potential to identify farms where there is documentary evidence, but no surviving name or buildings.

The HLC type of 'former commonfield land' (see figure 58) should also correlate with medieval land use and this has been identified as part of the HLC process along the valley bottom. However the ring garth which separated the commonfield from the wastes and commons cannot be identified directly using the HLC methodology. The route of the ring garth has been suggested by Lund and Southwell,¹³ although its western

extent is not known. However the farm name Wall End, may be a substantial hint. The boundary of the former commonfield with the former wastes and commons (before intaking) should correlate with the ring garth. A comparison of the HLC commonfield boundary with Lund and Southwell's suggested route of the ring garth has an exact correlation between the former commonfield boundary and the ring garth route at Stool End, Wall End and Sidehouse. But on the south side of the valley the ring garth is to be found, on occasion, running through intake land, as defined by HLC, and on the north side it is found running through former commonfield as defined by HLC. Therefore on the north side, either the former commonfield system was expanded beyond the ring garth or HLC has identified too many fields as former commonfield, where they should have been early intakes. The latter option is possible as the work by Lund and Southwell defines these fields as being Tudor intakes and not commonfield. On the south side, where there is a

¹³ Lund and Southwell 2002, 13

lack of correlation between the former commonfield and the ring garth, it may be due to the ring garth boundary being obliterated by the later intaking.

Intakes

During the reigns of the Tudor monarchs the demand for land rose and the process of intaking which had begun in the late fifteenth century, continued apace. The intaking of former waste in the opening years of the sixteenth century were recorded in historical sources¹⁴ and continued throughout the sixteenth century with the tenants of Great Langdale paying 37s 6d in 1573/74 for their own intakes.¹⁵

Some of these 'Tudor intakes' remain and have been identified by the National Trust. At Wall End, Bull Field (OS 273) and Hard Field (OS 269) are well-preserved examples. Both are small, irregularly shaped fields which have been tacked on to the outside of the ring garth. Immediately up hill from Hard Field are a group of clearance cairns and remnant intakes within OS 272 which may have resulted from further improvement of land soon after the enclosure of Hard Field. Other possible examples include Oxendale Low Close Intakes at Stool End, OS 66-67 and 71 at Millbeck and a field at Sidehouse recorded as OS 310.¹⁶

The intakes of the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries enclosed existing common pasture on the lower slopes of the fells and formalised the arrangement of grazing cattle on specific areas of common. While there is no documentary evidence for the enclosure of cow pastures in Great Langdale a number of intakes on the lower fellside are typical of this pattern. For example, Oxendale Intakes at Stool End, the four intakes west of Middlefell Place, intakes between Middlefell Place and Millbeck, and

some of the intakes at Robinson Place. The Robinson Place intakes can all be dated to before 1691 from a document of that year which lists one of the intakes, Wormall Crag (OS 21).¹⁷ This is at the top of the group of intakes, therefore the others must pre-date its construction. Successive periods of enclosure up the fellside can be seen, beginning with the earliest, probably medieval, at the bottom of the fell and ending with Wormall Crag, likely to be either Tudor or Statesmen, at the top.¹⁸

The HLC Approach

The National Trust Report produced evidence for a significant number of *intakes* dating to Tudor times, the seventeenth-eighteenth centuries and finally the eighteenth-nineteenth centuries. As we have seen already, a number of apparently Tudor intakes have been identified as open field by HLC and others as single ancient farms. The discrepancy of open fields is based on the quite understandable definitions based purely on field morphology. The National Trust report has the benefit of documentary research and fieldwork to clarify dates and processes.

Middle Fell Place is defined by the National Trust as a Tudor farmstead with Tudor intaking, although there are references earlier in the report to the farm possibly having origins in the twelfth century when it was carved out of former forest land. Stool End is defined as a medieval farm with two enclosures added during Tudor times, referred to as intaking by the National Trust. HLC defines both as discrete ancient farms, not intaking. Both are technically correct and the difference in terminology is just that. However it does raise one possible area of confusion. Both farms are discrete ancient farms, as in HLC terms this need only pre-date 1770. But both

¹⁴ Lund and Southwell 2002, 18

¹⁵ Lund and Southwell 2002, 19

¹⁶ Lund and Southwell 2002, 18

¹⁷ Lund and Southwell 2002, 23 citing CRO WD/AG 59/3

¹⁸ Lund and Southwell 2002, 22-3

were carved out of waste land and are therefore also intakes. At Stool End the Tudor fields represent the expansion of the farm and as such is technically an intake and is referred to as such by the National Trust. But

because HLC has little absolute dating, the entire farm, and adjacent fields are defined as a discrete ancient farm, not an intake. The definitions created by HLC need to be understood before using HLC data.

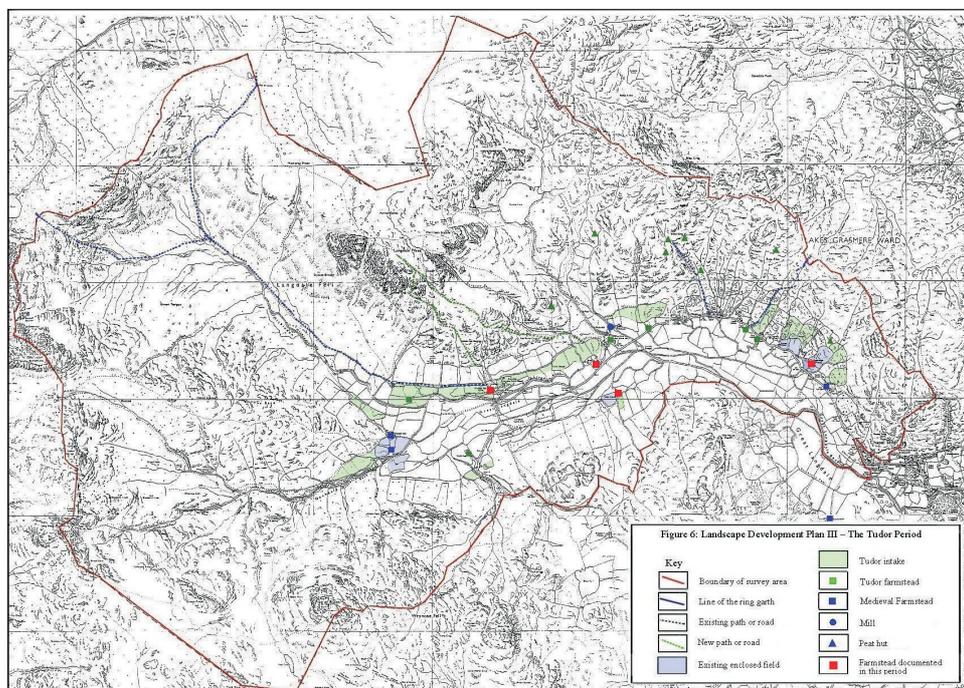


Figure 59: The Tudor landscape (taken from the National Trust report by Lund and Southwell 2004, 21 figure 6) with Tudor intakes shown as green fields

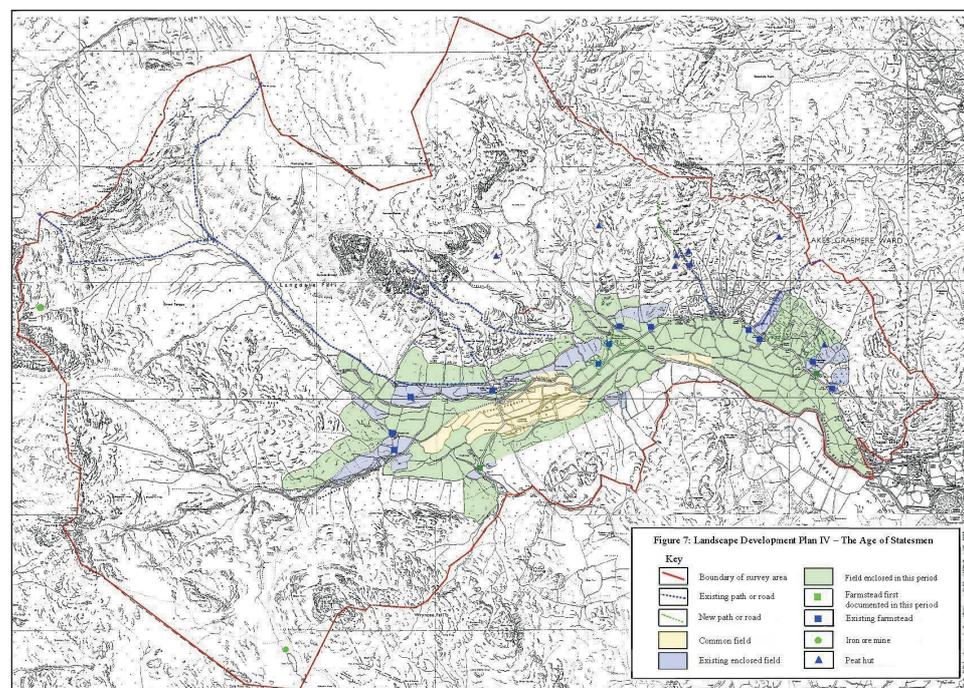


Figure 60: Intakes from the seventeenth-eighteenth centuries shown in green (taken from the National Trust report by Lund and Southwell 2004, figure 7)

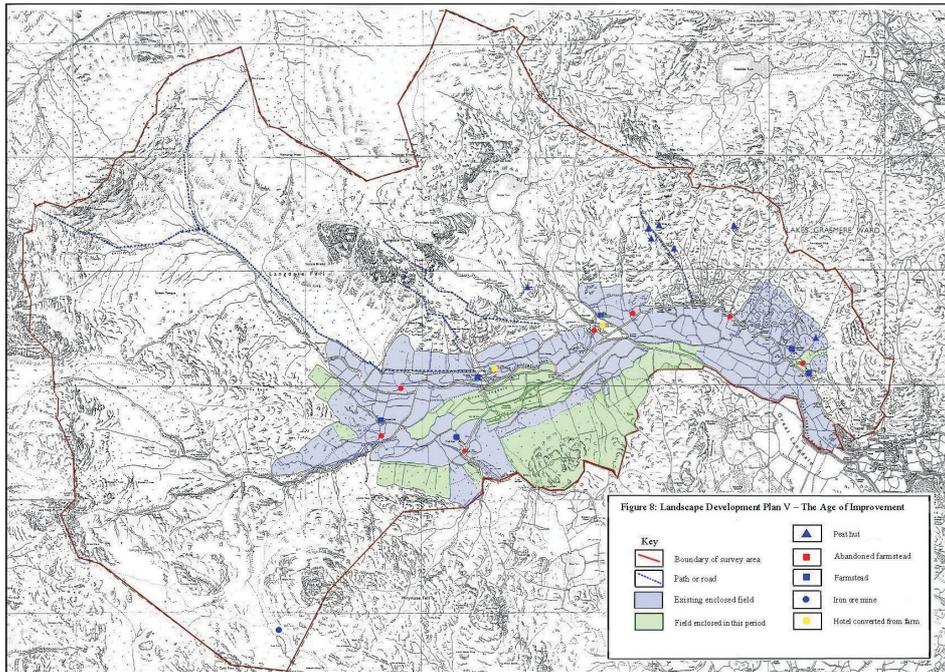


Figure 61: Intakes (and enclosures) in green enclosed in the eighteenth-nineteenth centuries as identified by The National Trust (Lund and Southwell 2004, figure 8)

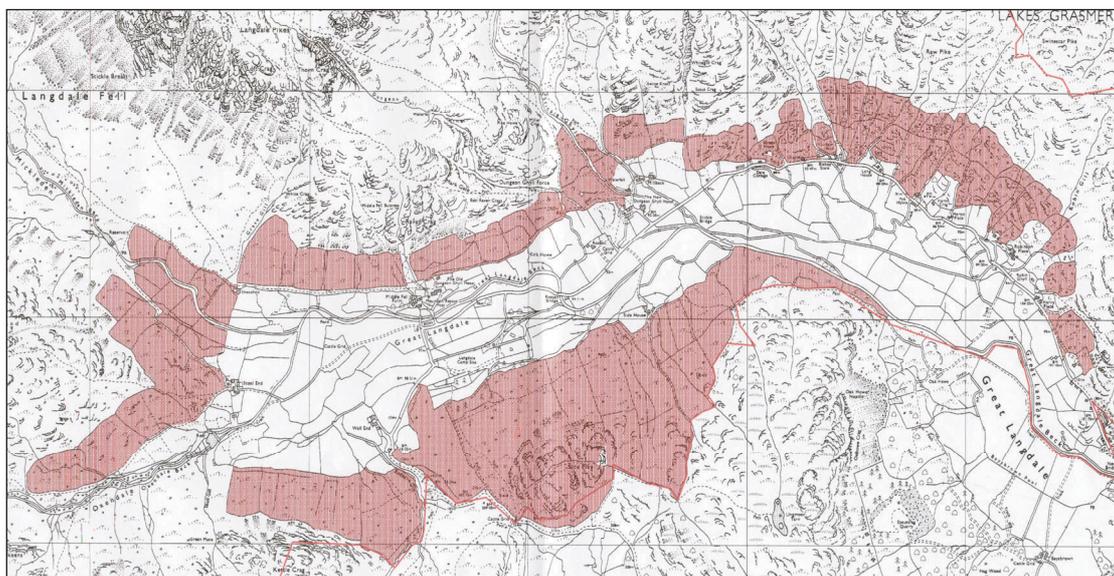


Figure 62: Intaking as defined by HLC. The unrefined approach of HLC has resulted in all periods of intake being identified together, while the more detailed research conducted by The National Trust has separated different phases of intaking over 300 years

Planned enclosure

Financial difficulties for the local farmers in Langdale resulted in the amalgamation of farms and the purchase of land by the gentry. These new landowners had the resources to make agricultural improvements including the laying of drains, the introduction of new crops and the further enclosure of land on the fellsides and along the valley bottom. Land could be enclosed by mutual agreement or by an Act of Parliament. By the late seventeenth-eighteenth centuries the former commonfield land

The HLC Approach

HLC was not able to distinguish the difference between the fields enclosed by agreement and those enclosed by Act of Parliament without the more detailed research conducted by the National Trust. The differences are expressed in terms of the process by which they were enclosed rather than any identifiable characteristics visible on mapping evidence alone. Enclosure by agreement at Galloway Intakes, Stool End and Broad Intake, Wall End are characterised by ruler straight walls and 90 degree corners

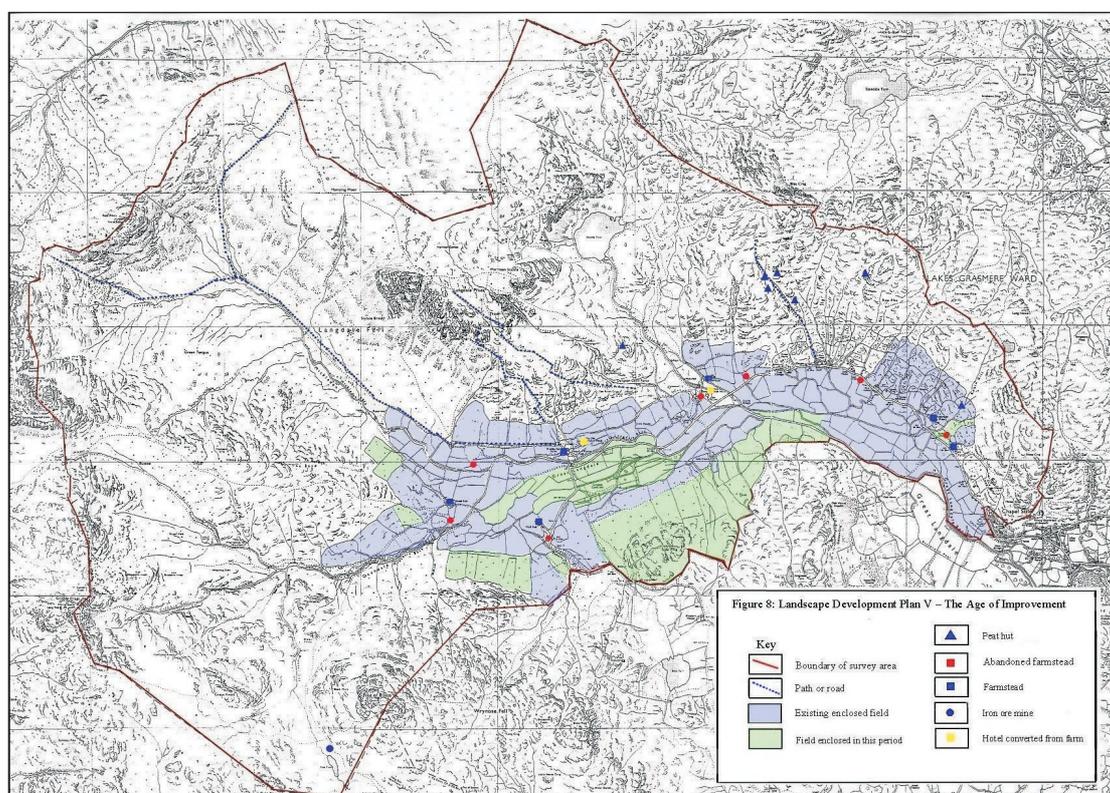


Figure 63: Enclosure associated with the Age of Improvement in green (as identified in the National Trust report 2004, figure 8)

along the valley bottom was enclosed and subdivided by agreement. Only a small area of common land was left, south of Middle Fell Farm and this was finally enclosed by Act of Parliament in the mid-nineteenth century with the new boundaries defined by hedgerows.¹⁹

which are also the characteristics of parliamentary enclosure. This raises the wider difficulty of distinguishing between different forms of enclosure. Generally, parliamentary enclosure is identified by its distinctive ruler straight boundaries which cut across the landscape regardless of topography. Other forms of enclosure by agreement can often only be identified through documentary research and even then, it may be referred to as

¹⁹ Lund and Southwell 2002, 47

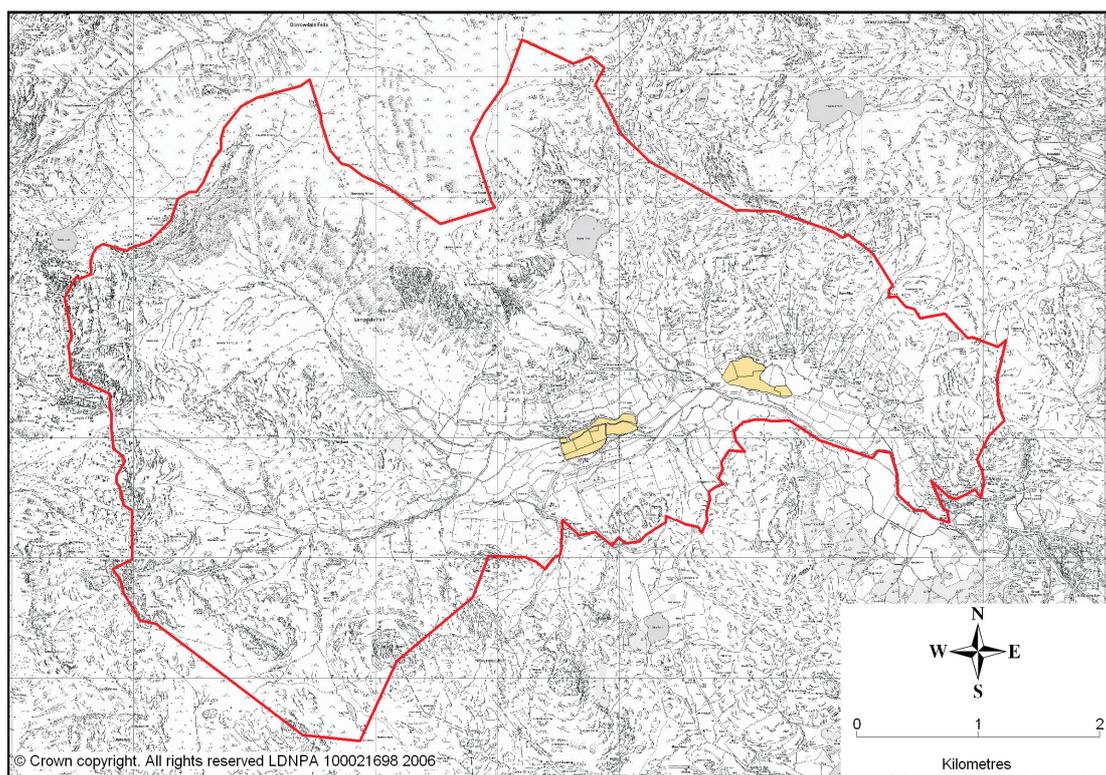


Figure 64: Planned private enclosure is shown in green and parliamentary enclosure as blue on the HLC map. It is unlikely that HLC would have identified the difference on morphological grounds alone

intaking, resulting in a confusion of landscape terminology.

Management Issues and HLC

HLC has the potential to be an important management tool. It creates the capacity to look at large landscapes and identify trends in our changing countryside. These changes can include variations in woodland cover or field boundaries; however it is currently restricted to identifying changes only since the 1860s when the 1st edition Ordnance Survey maps were produced. The processes of change for each landscape type have already been discussed in the main HLC volume, but to what extent can HLC be used to identify change and consequent management issues at a smaller scale? This section of the case study compares the trends as identified by HLC and those identified by the more detailed research conducted by the National Trust.

Woodland

Pollen analysis has shown that a major phase of woodland clearance took place during the Neolithic period at high altitudes, but very little evidence exists for much later periods of activity. The National Trust report²⁰ has identified a decline in woodland cover in the valley in the last 200 years. Wordsworth referred to the large number of “ash trees planted in rows along the quick fences and walls”. These ash trees were pollarded every twelve years or so to provide leaf fodder for cattle and sheep.²¹

During the fifteenth–seventeenth centuries tenants in Langdale had a right to cut wood, and illustrations dating to the early nineteenth century depict a landscape with clusters of woodland and hedgerow boundaries in the valley bottom (see figure 65 below). During the 1820’s seven small

²⁰ Lund and Southwell 2002, 32-33

²¹ Denyer 1994, 11

areas of wood existed in the intakes between Millbeck and Harry Place and may have supplied wood for adjacent charcoal pitsteads. By 1859 these woods appear to have been felled, leaving only scattered trees or bushes.

Of particular cultural and historic significance is the importance of pollarding in the valley. Trees, often located in field boundaries and beck sides, were regularly cut back to provide winter fodder and fuel. In



Plate 77: Etching of Stool End Farm by W Green, 1810 (taken from Lund and Southwell 2002, fig 9). The woodland here was called High and Low Wood which may imply that they were plantation woods

The National Trust report also identified the sale of “woods...coppice...timber...in eleven enclosures at Harry Place” to have taken place in 1864.²² These woods included larch, spruce, lime, oak and cherry. The sale referred to pollards which were not to be cut down but could be topped and timber which could be cut in Great Field, now with Robinson Place. Larch, spruce, cherry, lime and other wood could be cut in the enclosure about the house at Harry Place. An “old fir plantation” was also mentioned but no locational information provided, but three intakes were shown as plantations in 1893.²³

some instances where the field boundaries have been abandoned, pollarded trees may be the only evidence for the former field pattern.

A fir plantation also existed in the top intake to the west side of Stickle Ghyll during the late nineteenth century and was shown on the OS 2nd edition map, but had been felled by the time of the publication of the 3rd edition OS map in 1913.

HLC is able to identify changes in woodland coverage from the mid nineteenth century, but is not able to identify hedgerows or pollarded trees – two significant elements of the historic landscape, particularly in Langdale. HLC could be enhanced to include information on field boundary composition and condition so that information on hedgerows and their future management can be obtained.

²² Lund and Southwell 2002, 32 citing CRO WD/AG 59/10

²³ Lund and Southwell 2002, 32 citing CRO WD/NT 17

Pollarding is often found within hedgerow field boundaries and along beck sides. In such instances, hedgerows will not currently be recorded, but beck or gill side woodland may be recorded as ancient woodland, or in areas where it has degenerated significantly, as degraded bush and scrub. Further fieldwork could enhance the HLC record to refer to the presence of pollards. Such information on the character of individual woodland is required before management decisions can be made and at this early stage HLC data is not sufficiently detailed to be able to inform such management decisions.

HLC is however able to record where woodland existed over the last 150 years and identify significant loss or gain. What the HLC mapping shows is that none of the present-day woodland qualifies as ancient woodland. So all

earlier woodland referred to in the National Trust report is now gone while some woodland was planted in the nineteenth century but has since been felled. The HLC map (see figure 66) indicates that woodland has never been a strong characteristic of the Great Langdale landscape, but the research conducted by the National Trust would convey a slightly different picture. The lack of data on pollarding also hides the importance of this activity both as a contribution to the landscape and as an economic factor in the running of farms in the dale.

The plantation woodlands identified by HLC are predominantly within intakes and planned enclosures and no gill planting has been identified by HLC, although some scrubby planting does survive along some of the gills today, in particular along stretches of Dungeon Ghyll.



Plate 78: Enclosures along the valley bottom are defined by hedgerows, many of which have become gappy. Intakes (enclosed during 1750-1870 according to the National Trust research) on the fellsides are defined by drystone walls. Trees still exist along the gills (in the foreground here at Dungeon Ghyll) and isolated trees also contribute towards landscape character (© Archaeo-Environment Ltd)

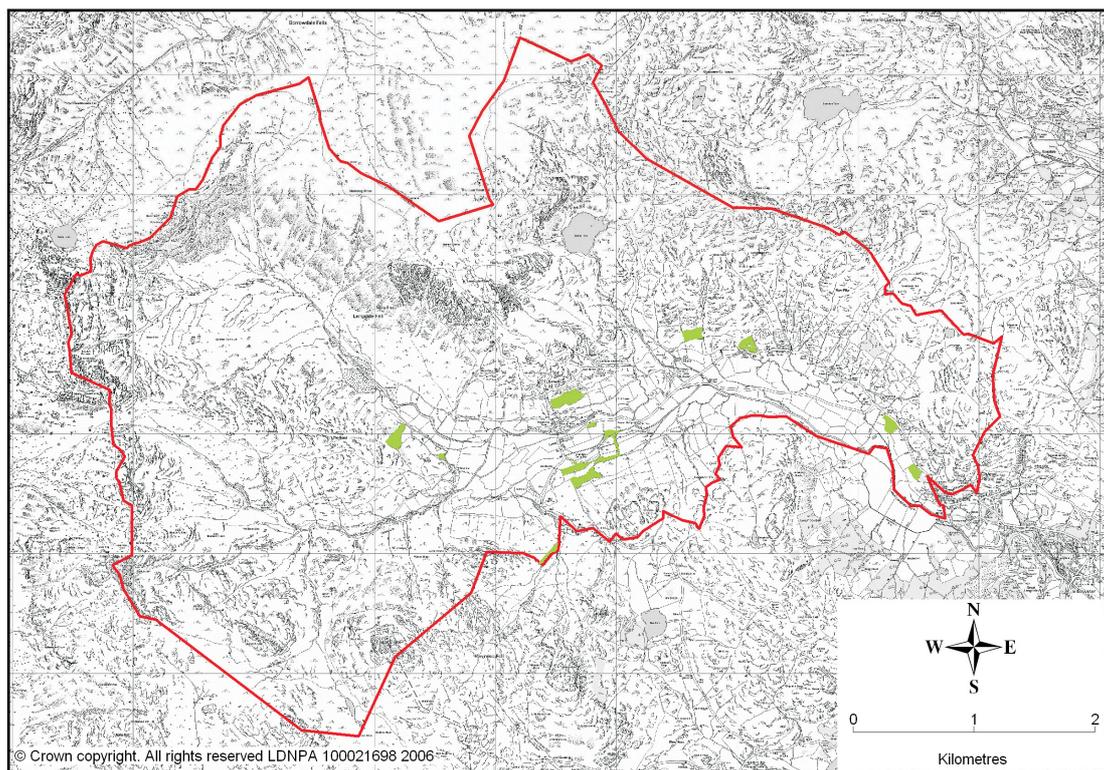


Figure 65: HLC showing all the woodland recorded on historic mapping in Langdale since the mid nineteenth century. Large areas of woodland within the south-facing intakes have not been identified but are visible on the 1st edition OS map

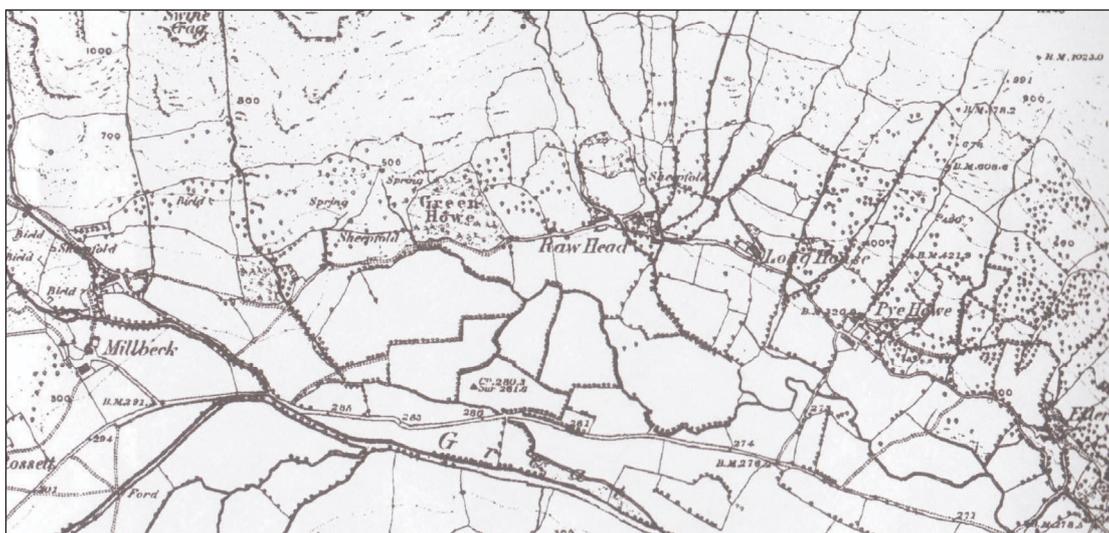


Figure 66: The Ordnance Survey 1st edition map showing woodland at Green Howe and scatterings of trees around Pye Howe, Long House and Raw Head. The 1st edition OS map also depicts hedgerows in the valley bottom which would enable the HLC data to be enhanced to include boundary composition. This would suggest that woodland made a significant contribution to the historic character of Langdale in the 1860s, with many of the intakes having been turned over to plantation

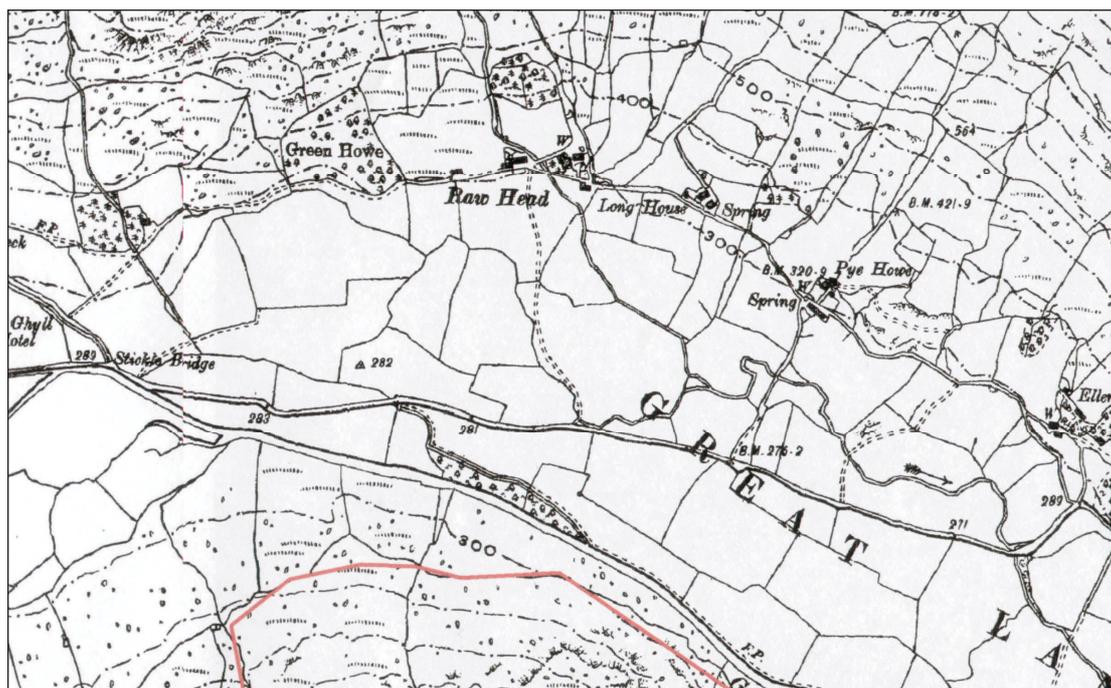


Figure 67: The Ordnance survey 2nd edition map shows a reduction in woodland on the intakes around Pye Howe and Long House, but Green Howe and the wooded intake above Stickle Bridge is still there. The field boundary composition is no longer detailed on the map. There are generally less trees scattered along the south facing slopes

HLC has not been particularly successful in identifying the contribution of woodland to the historic character of the valley. In order to capture data on pollarding and field boundaries further enhancement needs to take place using research such as that carried out by The National Trust or additional fieldwork. However the task of enhancing the data with field boundary composition need not be too onerous as the 1st edition map clearly shows which fields were defined by hedgerows (see figure 67). Data also needs to be more effectively captured on gill or beck side planting which appears to be excluded and which contributes both towards landscape character and biodiversity. Their exclusion is not surprising as early maps fail to depict them in sufficient detail. Such gills provide an opportunity for new planting and some pollarding. Isolated trees can also contribute towards landscape character, but data capture for isolated find spots is too detailed for the broad brush approach of HLC.

Boundary Change

HLC records changes in field pattern between the nineteenth century and the present day. It does not record boundary composition or condition. The HLC data tells us that 40% of enclosed land has seen significant boundary change and 59% little or no boundary change. This only measures change from the publication of the 1st edition OS map and does not reflect the longer process of change which took place prior to the nineteenth century. It is therefore a snap shot in time rather than an indicator of gradual change. Therefore it cannot adequately reflect the earlier changes such as the shift from common open field in the valley bottom to enclosure by agreement, but it can identify the later changes in field pattern including some of those arising out of the 1853 Award.

This measure of boundary change does not necessarily tell us anything about changing historic character. If the character of the valley bottom is small- to medium-sized enclosures,

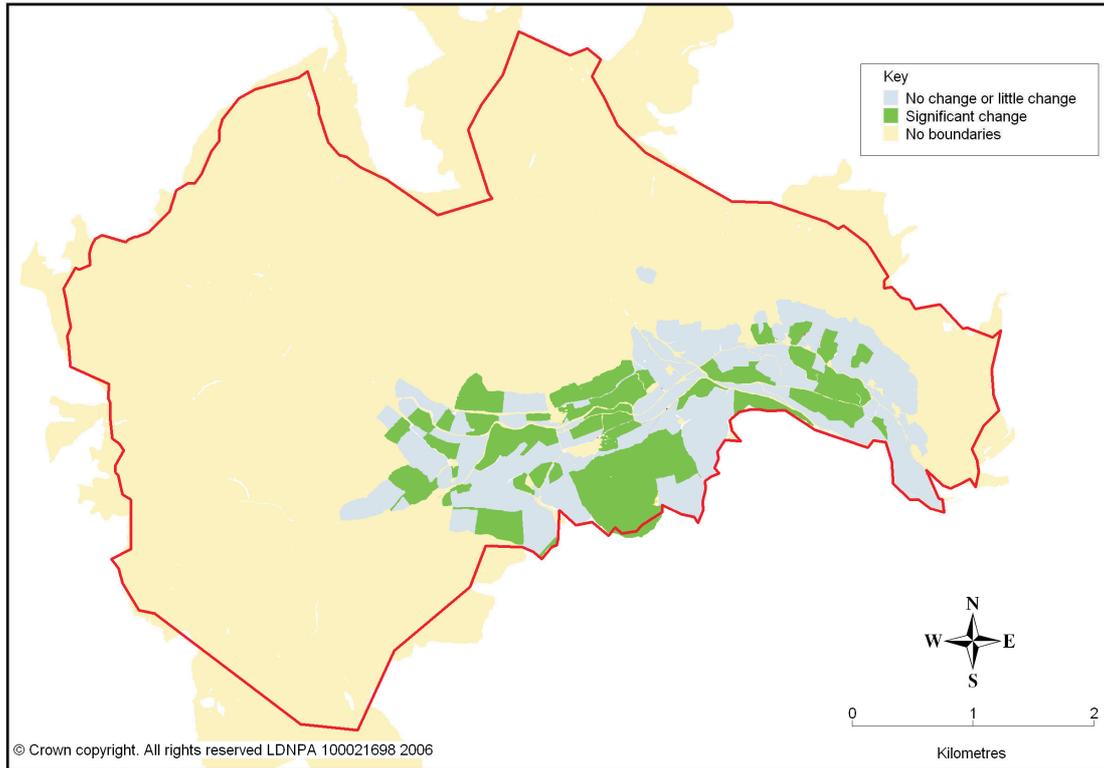


Figure 68: HLC boundary change since the 1st edition OS map.

then providing that the general scale of enclosures remains the same, the character need not change. This means that small changes in the line of boundaries will be measurable but may not relate to character. Boundary composition contributes as much to historic character as field shape and scale, but is not recorded or measured by HLC. In terms of future HLC enhancement, this would be a more useful data collation exercise.

A measure of longer term boundary change would have little meaning in landscape management terms. The landscape is constantly changing and so a measure of this change over centuries would only confirm this. The concentration on more recent changes allows us to measure those changes which may have been brought about by the intensification of agriculture since the 1950s and perhaps the impact of the poor economic farming conditions over recent decades. It is therefore not necessary to enhance this element of HLC data. However of more concern is the impact of loss of field boundaries either through lack of

appropriate maintenance (usually hedgerows in the valley bottom) or redundancy brought about by amalgamating fields. HLC should therefore have data added on boundary condition so that these changes can be monitored and the resulting potential for loss of character managed.

Conclusion

This case study has shown that HLC is not a substitute for detailed research and field visits, however where such data do not exist it can create useful additional information to help understand the processes of change. By looking at field morphology alone it may be possible to identify farms mentioned in historic sources, but where locational information does not exist. It can also identify, broadly, a relative chronology for enclosure.

HLC is also able to contribute to the wider understanding of change by mapping boundary change and modern developments. However it requires enhancement of data on boundary composition and condition in

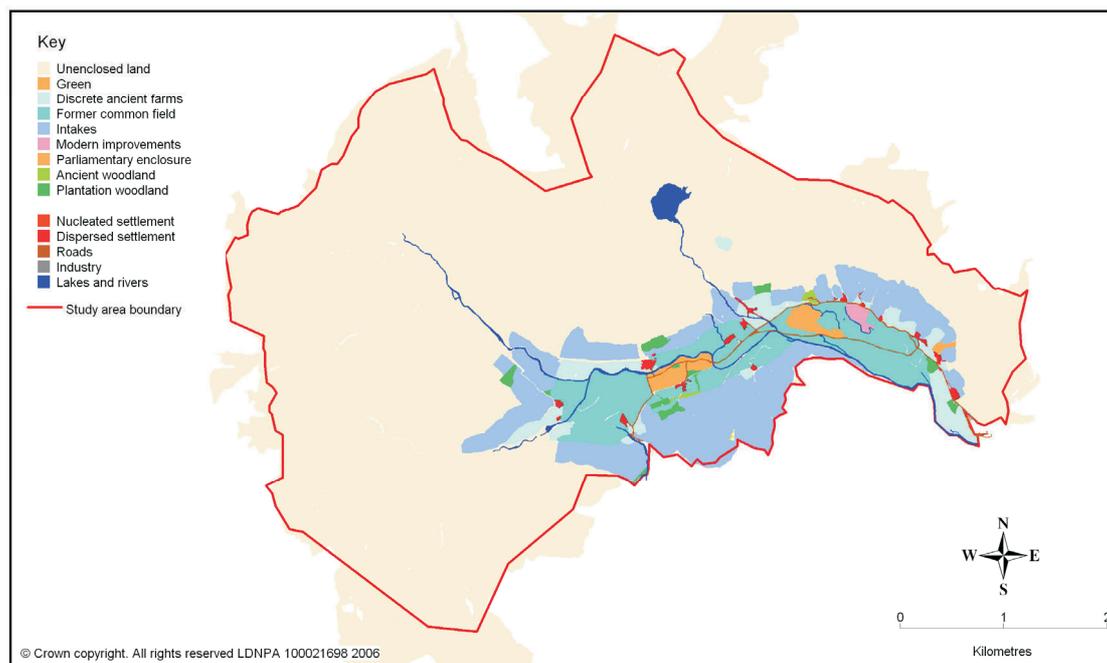


Figure 69: All the HLC landscape types, based on the four levels of interpretation

order to be a more useful management tool. This should also include data on whether field boundaries include pollarding where the information exists. It also requires more detailed information on woodland and should include gill planting. The difference between ancient woodland and plantation is an artificial one and often makes little historical sense. Many of the woodlands in Langdale are a result of deliberate planting within intakes and are therefore plantations, but their presence on the 1st edition OS map qualifies them as ancient woodland. HLC is not refined enough to determine whether the trees within the woodland are part of the original stock or are new plantings on an old site.

There are also potential difficulties with the terminology that HLC uses. The National Trust report identifies a number of enclosures as intakes which date to the Tudor period. Because of their age, HLC records them as ancient enclosures. The difference between an intake and an ancient enclosure can be confusing. In HLC terms an intake is land taken out of waste and brought into more active production. However many enclosures

created to expand a farmstead are also therefore intakes. Searches conducted on the basis of such terms may therefore give a misleading response. For example the Tudor intakes would not be selected by HLC in a search of intakes, but would be found under ancient enclosures.

It is also apparent from this study that there are difficulties in distinguishing the difference between parliamentary enclosure and enclosure by agreement. Not all parliamentary enclosure conforms to the stereotype of ruler-straight boundaries and 90 degree angles, but some enclosures by agreement do conform to this shape. The only true test of the process behind enclosure is through documentary research. The two areas of parliamentary enclosure in Great Langdale could not have been identified without the more detailed research conducted by the National Trust.

HLC is designed in the Lake District to have four interpretation layers describing the landscape type through different periods of time. These are used to record the present day landscape and the various field types or land uses which it may have had in

the past. Therefore in the valley bottom of Langdale the present-day use is enclosure and earlier uses would be commonfield. In some instances there may also be an interpretation layer for woodland. These layers have not been assigned a date range and therefore each interpretation layer does not relate to a specific chronological time. This makes searches laborious as all interpretation layers must be searched in order to obtain information on field types or landscape uses. The research conducted by the National Trust has shown that it is possible to create interpretation layers for at least 8 periods; early medieval, post Conquest, Tudor, the Age of Statesmen and the Age of Improvement in addition to the more refined data available from the 1st and

2nd edition OS maps and finally the present day. In rare cases it may also be possible to add data relating to prehistoric and Roman periods, although in the short term this might be best left in the Historic Environment Record. This would require a total of 10 interpretation layers and each would have to equate with a specific, but broad chronological period. This would create a more useful management tool and would also provide the opportunity to produce period maps of landscapes for research and outreach work. In order to enhance the existing HLC record, the existing interpretation layers could be reorganised to equate to specific periods and four to six additional new layers added and broad time bands added.