



Plate 111: "Here rock riots over rock, and mountain intersecting mountain, forms one grand semi-circular sweep. Extensive woods deck their steep sides; trees grow from pointed rocks and rocks appear like trees"¹ (West 1789, 96). The changes from West's view is the introduction of fellside boundaries, the loss of hedgerows and the predominance of pasture over arable. HLC has identified Johnny's Wood in the distance is an ancient woodland (© Archaeo-Environment Ltd)

Station V 1789*West's Description*

This view from Swinside preferably before sunset “*when the last beams of the sun rest on the purple summit of Skiddaw, and the deep shade of Wythop's wooded brows is stretched over the lake, ... is amazingly great*”.⁶¹ Insufficient detail is given to identify the exact location of this station, but in order to be able to see both lakes as West suggests, it must have been located on the crag situated on the summit of Swinside above Ullock (NY 244 228). West's description of the landscape seen from here is relatively short referring only to the woodland at Wythop and the purple colour of Skiddaw in the evening.

The Station Today

It is no surprise that Skiddaw still turns purple in the evening and this has remained one of its most beloved characteristics. Canon Rawnsley one of the main founders of the conservation movement, wrote:

*“And Skiddaw bright for ivory inlay
Shone purple clad with royalist
array...”*

Wythop on the shores of Bassenthwaite still retains woodland cover with additional plantations at Whinlatter Forest Park. There is also evidence of recent enclosure on Wythop Moss. However it is not possible to determine what was visible from the station as Swinside is now private land. With the landowners consent, access could perhaps be negotiated as a permissive path to the summit so that the views of Derwentwater and Bassenthwaite can be restored. The easiest route would appear to be from Ullock or the roadside between Swinside and the Cumbria Way, but the latter route is no longer particularly suitable for walkers due to traffic.

*Station V Summary
Recommendation*

Approach the landowner to ask if access to the summit of Swinside might be restored.



Plate 112: “...the last beams of the sun rest on the purple summit of Skiddaw,...” (West 1789, 104) (© Archaeo-Environment Ltd)

⁶¹ West 1789, 104

Station VI Foe (Fawe) Park

West's Views

Foe-park (NY 25130 22590) was recommended as part of an evenings walk by West, while Gray visited in the morning (a mistake according to West). Gray's visit took him from Keswick across meadows and corn fields to the Derwent, and crossing it, went up How-hill viewing the course of the river, part of the lake and a full view of Skiddaw.

When he arrived at Foe-park it was "*covered entirely with wood; it is all a mass of crumbling slate; passed around its foot, between the trees and the edge of the water, and came to a peninsula, that juts out into the lake...*"⁶² West was conscious of the changing landscape uses which might render his descriptions out of date. The annual fall of timber and coppice wood, and the frequent removal of picturesque trees from the borders of the lakes were seen as an impediment to artistic and touristic appreciation and by the publication of

the fourth edition in 1789, the woods at Foe-park were gone. Between Gray's visit in 1767 and West's in 1778 the thick woods belonging to Lord Egremont had also been felled denuding a considerable part of the western border of the lake and the "*waving woods of Barrow-side, and Barrow-gill, are no more*".⁶³ In the harsh winter of 1784 quantities of timber were drawn across the lake by horses after it had been frozen over for several days⁶⁴ allowing felling to proceed despite the weather. West was appalled at the tree felling which had taken place at Foe Crag but Dr Dalton bravely tried to see the positive side. He urged the traveller not to be shocked at the "*late violation of those sacred woods and groves, by the commissioners of Greenwich Hospital ordering woods to be cut down, which had for ages shaded the shores and promontories of that lovely lake; but seek consolation in the new and different beauties to be found there now*".⁶⁵



Plate 113: *Skiddaw* by William Westall 1820. Keswick sits in the foreground with Crosthwaite Church in the distance

⁶² West 1789, 104-5

⁶³ West 1789, 90 and 203

⁶⁴ West 1789, 116

⁶⁵ Nicholson and Burn 1777, 84

Despite this loss of woodland, the Colpoys Commission of 1805⁶⁶ reported that the woods about Keswick in the manor of Thornthwaite were in excellent order and managed with great care and attention. The timber had been valued in 1804 at £19,052. In the adjoining manors of Castlerigg and Derwentwater, where Fawe Park was located, the new plantations contained a considerable amount of oak, though there was also some larch. This account suggests that programmes of replanting were already taking place although the Fawe Park area still appeared relatively treeless on the 1st edition OS map published in the 1860s.

The eighteenth century had not been the first round of felling around Derwentwater. Indeed pollen diagrams show that the felling of the trees started in prehistoric times and continued by Norse settlers whose sheep and pigs fed on acorns and beech mast ensuring that their clearings (thwaites) remained treeless. The Norman period saw the intensification of sheep farming by the farmer-monks of Furness and Fountains Abbeys and by Elizabethan times felling of trees around Derwentwater for fuel used enough of the readily available tree cover to make it necessary to import wood from Ireland.⁶⁷ So while the eighteenth century felling was on a scale never seen before, it was also part of a longer process of change extending back through the centuries.

Woodland and Ornamental Parkland Today

HLC has identified this area as having changed significantly, in terms of boundary changes, since the 1860s, but was not able to identify the longer process of change remarked on by West and Gray. The area has been correctly identified as woodland but HLC, like West, has only succeeded in capturing the landscape status for a brief moment in time and is not able to attribute to it



Figure 94: Fawe park on the OS 1st edition map

the historic time depth of the various land uses in only the last 250 years.

The site of the station today is probably under a house at Fawe Park (NY 254 227) and sits on high ground above a promontory. However the boat landing stage at Nichol End only a few metres away provides an accessible alternative with two pontoons creating an artificial promontory into Derwentwater. The boat landing stage also has a café and is therefore already frequented by visitors. Such wooden promontories were already in existence around the lake when West was writing as he referred to them as being visible along the lake from Station VII at Latrigg. The site of the landing stage at Nichol End is of some antiquity having been used by the German miners who lived on Derwent Isle in Elizabethan times⁶⁸ and also by pilgrims visiting St Herbert's Island (also Beatrix Potter's squirrels,

⁶⁶ Hughes 1965, 234

⁶⁷ Bott 1994, 18

⁶⁸ Winter 1991, chapter 1



Figure 95: Parkland as identified by HLC. This under represents the amount of Parkland on the west bank of the lake

see plate 113). The area around the station is still well wooded but now has the character of a designed landscape. HLC failed to identify this parkland area as being a designed landscape but did define the parkland running from Lingholm to Swinside Lodge. Foe Park house did not exist when West was writing, not having been built as a shooting box until 1857, although the area was referred to as a 'park'. It is therefore clear that a significant change in character has taken place here since West's visit. Lord William Gordon purchased 2½ miles of the western shore of the lake in 1793, after West's

visit and built the house at Derwent Bay and planted Fawe Park and Brandelhow Woods with thousands of trees,⁶⁹ and made 20 miles of footpaths and drives.⁷⁰ The landscape character of the western shore was therefore established after West's death by Gordon and his heir Woodford. Brandelhowe Park and its 108 acres of pasture and woodland was the first acquisition to be saved by the National Trust, largely due to the efforts of Canon Rawnsley and Miss Octavia

⁶⁹ Bott 1994, 62

⁷⁰ Winter 1991 chapter 6



Plate 114: Surely the squirrels are departing from Station VI? From *The Tale of Squirrel* by Beatrix Potter © Frederick Warne & Co, Ltd, 1903, 2002. Reproduced by permission of Frederick Warne & Co, Ltd

Hill, founders of the conservation movement. Not far away, at Manesty stands Brackenburn where Sir High Walpole lived and wrote a series of historical novels using the local setting.⁷¹ However the construction of these villas and their surrounding parkland post dated West's tour.

Between 1885, when she was 19, and 1907, Beatrix Potter spent nine summer holidays at Lingholm and one at Fawe Park, the two stately homes whose estates now occupy most of the north western side of Derwentwater. The two houses, their gardens and the surrounding landscape provided material for several of her books.⁷² Fawe Park was where Peter Rabbit was to indulge in illicit lettuce nibbling and was also the inspiration for *The Tale of Benjamin Bunny*⁷³ and his attempts to help Peter Rabbit retrieve his clothes from Mr

McGregor the gardener. A little further to the south, and also situated within ornamental parkland was Lingholm built in the 1870s, where the Potter family stayed for three months each summer for about nine years. Derwentwater and Cat Bells were the inspiration for many of her other stories including *The Tale of Squirrel Nutkin*⁷⁴ (see plate 113). The gardens at Lingholm were not laid out until the early 1900s and the water garden, now vanished, was not created until 1927. The famous collection of rhododendrons and azaleas were not planted until the late 1920s and 1930s and so the present day landscape character post dates West's work considerably.

Lakeland Views Today

Views from the pontoons towards the north are not significantly different from West's, still providing a glimpse of Portinscale and across the lake to Keswick. Views across the Lake include a prominent area of planned enclosure above Appleshwaite which may post date West's tours. These have also been identified by the HLC programme and a glimpse at the HLC map shows that significant boundary change has taken place over much of this area. However the local topography ensures that many of these boundary changes are not visible from the viewing station.



Plate 115: Ornamental parkland around Derwentwater at 'The Park' (© Archaeo-Environment Ltd)

⁷¹ Winter 1997, 164

⁷² National Trust 2002

⁷³ 1903

⁷⁴ Parkin 2002

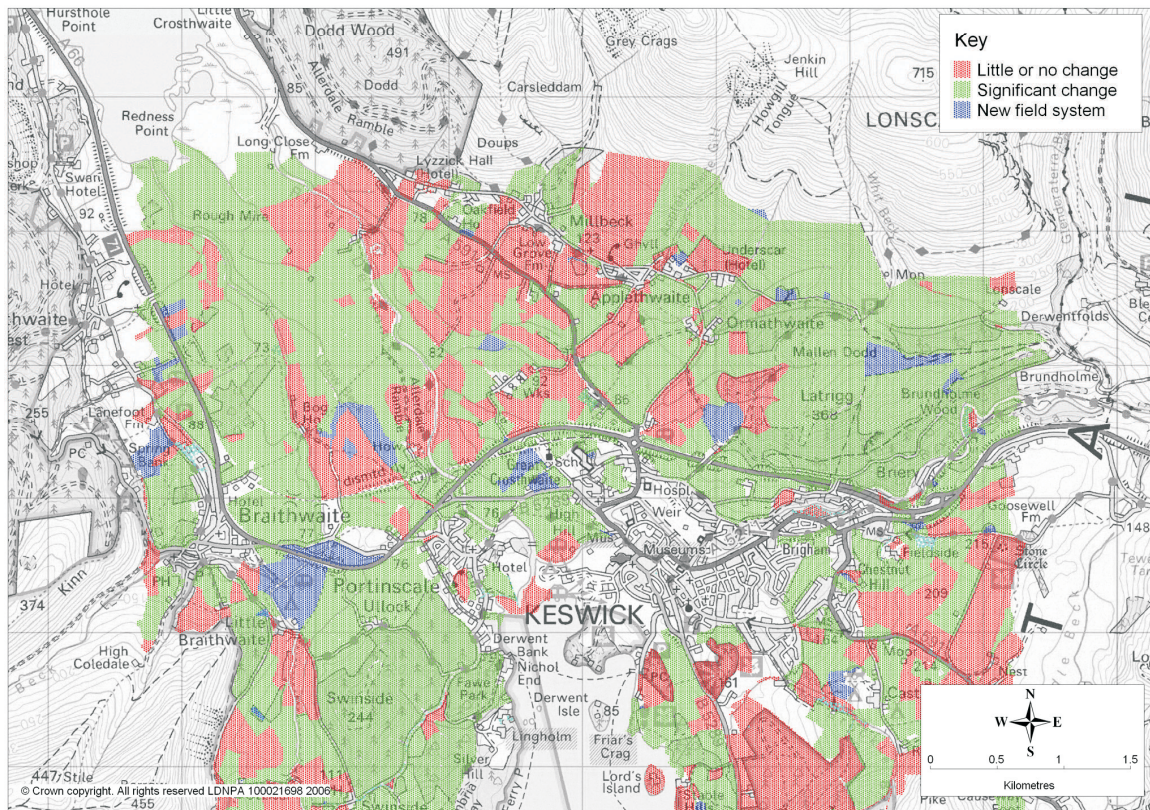


Figure 96: The HLC map shows a predominance of boundary change around the north side of Derwentwater

An insight into land use around Portinscale can be obtained from Thomas Denton's perambulations between 1687-1680. At this time there were 150 tenements within Derwentfells manor, "60 tofts, 4 milns, 100 gardens, 300 acres of land, 150 of meadow, 1,000 of pasture and 100 acres of wood".⁷⁵

Station VI Summary Recommendation

Use the Nichol End boat landing stage as the new station.



Plate 116: The enclosures above Applethwaite, seen from Station VI, are likely to post date West's visit (© Archaeo-Environment Ltd)

⁷⁵ Winchester 2003b, 128

Station VII

West's Views

This viewing station was from the heights of Latrigg (NY 278 248) and recommended for a morning view. Latrigg was described as a soft green hill. The route from Monks Hall following the mountain road took the visitor through a gate and into a stone walled enclosure. The brow of the hill exhibited a fine terrace of verdant turf, as smooth as velvet. Below, the Greta could be viewed as it was about to join the Derwent and on to Bassenthwaite. For West, much of the appeal in this view was the lack of any straight line; the roads wound their way round mountains and "hedges waved with inclosures". Further round the hill views of Castle-rigg revealed the Druid's Temple. The view is the reverse of Station IV allowing views into "the rocky jaws of Borrowdale...",

*"On the opposite shore, you will find rocks and cliffs of stupendous height, hanging broken over the lake in horrible grandeur, some of them a thousand feet high, the woods climbing up their steep slope and shaggy sides, where mortal foot never yet approached".*⁷⁶

The contrast between the fertile fields around Keswick and the rest of the landscape had previously been noted by Thomas Denton between 1687-8 when he referred to the "rich meadows and grassings about this town doe store the market here with butter and cheese...But there is not much corn sold, by reason that the town is so environ'd with mountains and hills that little or no corne growes within many miles of this place; insomuch that the tythe wool and lamb is doubly more valuable to the minister of the parish than the tythes of both corn and hay".⁷⁷

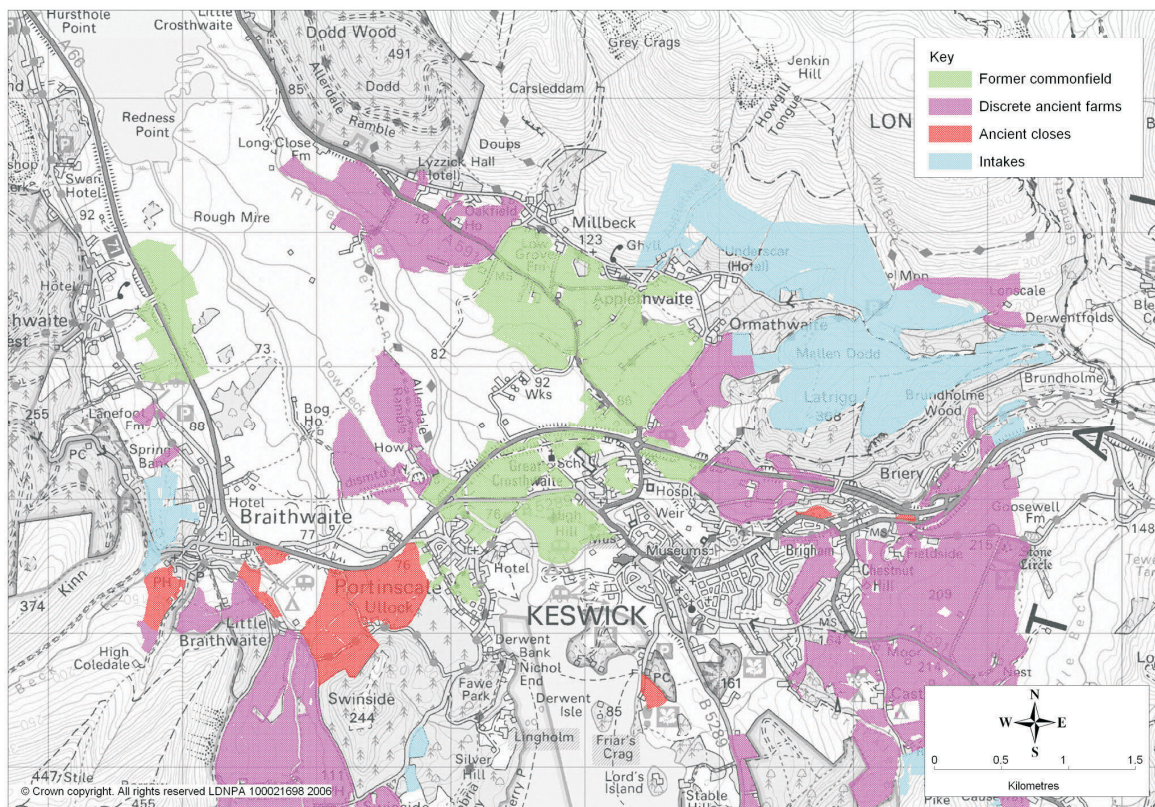


Figure 97: Ancient farms, closes and meadows around the northern half of Derwentwater which reflect seventeenth century accounts of the area

⁷⁶ Nicholson and Burn 1777, 83

⁷⁷ Winchester 2003b, 137

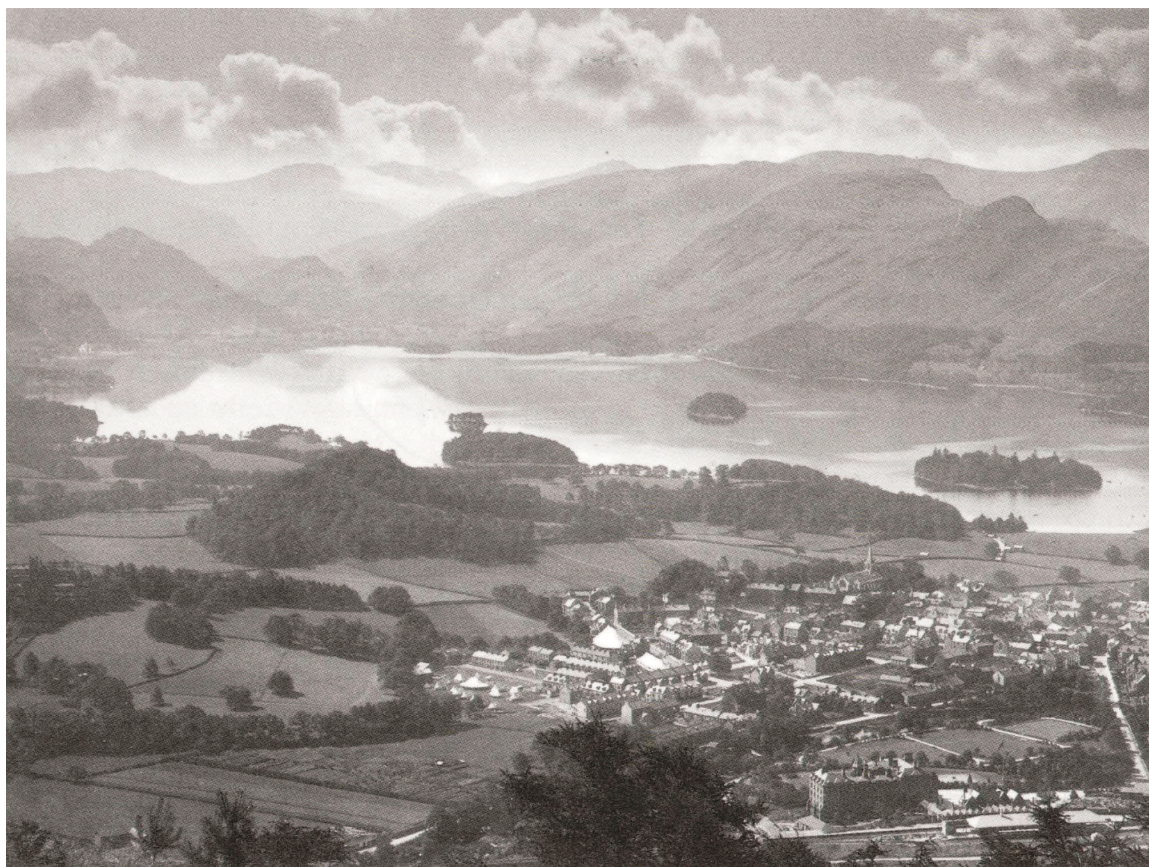


Plate 117: View from Latrigg 1906 (taken from Bott 1994, 106)



Plate 118: View south from Latrigg in 2005 (© Archaeo-Environment Ltd)

This is relatively quickly summarised by the HLC map which shows the distribution of early farms mainly around Keswick.

Station VII Today

Latrigg hill remains much as West described it. The surface is still a soft green velvety turf, although the

approach no longer passes through field gates – redundant field gates litter the route up to the hill. Despite attempts between the 1860s-1880s to refuse public access to Latrigg, tree planting across public footpaths and the erection of fences designed to block access,⁷⁸ the hill remains a popular viewing station for the modern visitor, with interpretation panels on lower lying ground, a well maintained path and seating on the brow of the hill. One of the original routes known as the terrace path and probably used by early picturesque and romantic visitors was closed after the dispute in 1888.⁷⁹ The visitor numbers are beyond West's imagining and this combined with the noise from the A66 excludes any appreciation of silence.

HLC has identified significant boundary change on Latrigg Hill itself and the creation of an intake to form the "*fine terrace of verdant turf, as smooth as velvet*", probably long before West visited it. However the description by West of the hill suggests little change in overall character. So once again we see a difference between boundary change and character. It is possible for the character to remain the same while the boundary change may be significant.



Plate 119: A plan of Keswick in 1787 (Bott 1994, 13)

Views from the Station today

It is clear from the 1st edition OS map dating to nearly 100 years later, that the major change in view from Latrigg is in relation to the size of Keswick, rather than in historic landscape character. In 1787 it was just a small market town (see figure 99) but by 1793, just a few years after the publication of the fourth edition of West's guide, Keswick had a population of 1,093. By 1851 it had increased to 2,618.⁸⁰ Leonard's Field was developed in the late 1880s to be followed by council estates constructed at the Heads, Windebrowe Avenue, Latrigg Close and Milfield Gardens and smaller private developments at Briar Rigg, Brundholme Gardens and Brow Ridding. On the outskirts, Borrowdale Road, Chestnut Hill, Springs Road and Eleventrees provided sites for more modest developments.⁸¹ This increase was not due to the woollen trade which was in decline by the nineteenth century, but due to tourism and to the pencil trade which included the manufacture of pencils for the artists flocking to the Lakes. The town also became an attractive place to retire to and this required additional development. Many of the wavy hedged enclosures must have disappeared under the growing town, but in essence the view remains the same. Even today, few straight lines exist; even the A66 and the redundant railway line wind their way passed the town. However a number of nineteenth century planned enclosures close to the town introduce a formality that would have jarred with the concept of the picturesque. These enclosures also have less mature hedgerows with fewer trees interspersed amongst the hedging. The enclosure of commons in Castlerigg and Derwentwater took place by Act of Parliament in 1842 including a field at Brigham immediately below Latrigg which was enclosed for the recreation of Keswick inhabitants.⁸² This has not been detected by HLC, although a number of

⁷⁸ Bott 1994, 106

⁷⁹ Bott 1994, 106

⁸⁰ Whellan 1860, 339

⁸¹ Bott 1994, 154

⁸² Whellan 1860, 339



Plate 120: Ruler straight enclosures typical of the nineteenth century, north east of Keswick. These were not identified as being planned enclosures as part of the HLC programme, presumably because urban areas were excluded from the project (© Archaeo-Environment Ltd)

planned enclosures at Brigham have been identified as having undergone significant change.

HLC does not seek to identify changes to field boundary composition and is instead concerned with the shape of fields. It cannot therefore help to determine to what extent the boundaries themselves have changed, for example from hedgerows to interspersed trees, or from stone walls to wooden posts and rails. The boundary composition is however an important element in the characterisation of the landscape but is excluded from the HLC process. Large areas of former open land have been enclosed since West's visit, but the single ancient farms can still be picked out by their less formal field pattern. The majority of the foreground remains as informal evolved enclosure with hedgerow and tree boundaries. Land around Ormathwaite Hall has been identified by HLC as ornamental parkland, but West does not say what character it had in the eighteenth century, although his host Dr William Brownrigg had a passion for agricultural improvements.⁸³ HLC has identified it as having changed significantly, but without

the knowledge that the fellside was ploughed up as long ago as the thirteenth century.⁸⁴

Views to the lake have altered little, although tree cover has presumably increased since 1789. All the islands are heavily wooded now and there is no sign of cultivation on any of them at this distance.

Station VII Summary Recommendation

None



Plate 121: The A66 and the redundant railway line respect the lack of straight lines in the landscape (© Archaeo-Environment Ltd)

⁸³ Bott 1994, 173

⁸⁴ Winter 1991, chapter 6

Station VIII 1769-89

The vicarage garden (NY 26060 24250) was the last station around Derwentwater and best seen in the evening. Gray viewed the scene using his Claude Glass from the mounting block. The scene included a rich cultivated foreground, the town of Keswick divided by grass inclosures, its summits crowned with wood.

The eastern side of the lake was steep and wooded to the water's edge and above these "*rise daring rocks in every horrid shape*". At the southern extremity of the lake the land consisted of a "*strange mixture of wood and rock...to the southern extremity of the lake, where the grand pyramidal Castle-crag commands the whole*".⁸⁵

The western shore was indented with wooden promontories, down to Foe-park and the mountains all around rose immediately from its edge.

It was Gray who first selected this station, but West thought that he could improve upon it. Instead he felt that the best view could be obtained from a field on the western side of the house at Ormathwaite so that the vicarage itself could be included in the foreground.

The original vicarage had a long history being mentioned in church endowment deeds in 1250 and again in a Survey by the Commissioners of Henry VIII in the 1540s. The vicarage which Gray visited was built by Thomas Christian, vicar from 1728 to 1770 and extended in 1821 and 1903. It was to become the childhood home of the 19th century novelist and journalist Eliza Lynn Linton.⁸⁶ The vicarage is now (and was) on private land and is no longer a suitable viewing station. The garden of the vicarage and the site of the mounting block have vanished beneath a smaller, new vicarage built in 1989. Outside the vicarage walls today there are no views of Derwentwater, nor are there views from Crosthwaite Church. This viewing

station is the only one remaining which cannot be revived.

Station VIII Summary Recommendation

This station can no longer be used.

Conclusion

Using a combination of original eighteenth century texts, site visits and HLC data it has been possible to draw four main conclusions.

1. HLC data generally reflects the current status of the landscape today, but it misses finer detail, such as ornamental landscaping around Keswick and the islands. It is therefore worth emphasising that while it remains a valid strategic tool, it must be supported by additional information when looking at small units of land. However the data used only allows a comparative analysis to take place between landscape as depicted on the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps and the present day landscape. What is clear from the Derwentwater area is that the landscape is dynamic and though its historic character may have remained relatively constant since 1867, this does not imply there were not radical changes in the previous century. Therefore when looking at how landscapes should be managed, we first have to decide which aspect of historic character we wish to conserve and enhance. The landscape of the Derwentwater area contributed much to the growth of the Picturesque movement in Britain and ultimately to the conservation movement across the world.⁸⁷ Much of that character survives; indeed despite many changes, the landscape is still largely an eighteenth century Picturesque landscape. With some very minor modifications to management regimes, mostly, but not exclusively within National Trust land, these viewing stations could be revived for present day visitors. Indeed the National Trust may wish to

⁸⁵ West 1789, 110

⁸⁶ Cumberland News 25.02.2005

⁸⁷ Chitty 2002; Blandford 2006

- consider publishing a guidebook based on West's Stations as an alternative modern way of viewing the Lake District.
2. HLC has been less successful at distinguishing between boundary change and character change. In a number of areas we have landscapes which, according to HLC have seen significant boundary change, and yet, the character remains the same. We must therefore be careful when using this data not to equate significant change with a landscape which can tolerate further change. It may not be able to. However it is also clear that every day minor changes to boundaries are part of the agricultural cycle and providing they are managed with care, they do not need to result in unacceptable change to landscape character.
 3. HLC is concerned with field pattern and not boundary composition. This means that while it might be used to identify field shape today, and since 1867 when the first edition OS map was published, it cannot be used as a management tool to help target the need for stone wall repairs or hedgerow gap filling. Neglect of former hedgerows is leading to a loss of character particularly around Rosthwaite where hedgerows are degrading into isolated trees and being replaced by wooden posts and rails. This has not been identified by HLC due to its limitations in dealing with boundary composition, however unless remedial action is taken shortly, a significant loss of character will have taken place within the next few decades. To include data on boundary composition, HLC would need to shift from a desk based exercise to work requiring site visits and extensive use of oblique aerial photographs. However the need to retain field boundaries both for their landscape value and for their wildlife value is already recognised by most managing agencies and therefore this would be an obvious next step in building on the work of HLC.
 4. The National Park and the National Trust are managing to maintain a balance between the needs of today and protecting the very qualities which made the Lakes so attractive to the eighteenth century tourists. The strong association between the picturesque movement and conservation movement can be seen in the current ownership of the Stations defined by West.
 - Station 1 at Cockshut Wood was given to the National Trust in 1925.
 - Station 2 at Crow Park consisting of 40.5 acres of open land was given to the National Trust in 1925.
 - Station 3 at Stable Hills was given to the National Trust in 1929.
 - Station 4 at Castle Crag was given to the National Trust by Sir William and Lady Hunter in 1920⁸⁸ and Friars Crag in 1922.
 - Derwent Isle was given to the National Trust in 1951 and the west half of Derwentwater in 1958. Lord's Isle, St Herbert's Isle and Rampsholme were given to the National Trust in 1922, 1929 and 1951.⁸⁹
 - Latrigg (Station VII) and Swinside (Station V) remain in private ownership and Latrigg is accessible to the public and clearly managed with conservation in mind.
 - Station VIII, the viewing station at the Vicarage in Crosthwaite is now under a modern vicarage and not accessible.
- This would suggest that the stations continue to be valued because of their views of the lake and surrounding countryside and management passed to the National Trust in order to ensure that what was valued about the landscape should be conserved for future generations. Rawnsley's formation of the Lake District Defence Society, which

⁸⁸ Winter 1991, chapter 6

⁸⁹ Winter 1991, chapter 6

included Tennyson, Browning, Ruskin and the Duke of Westminster amongst its members, always sought to protect the Lakes for the nation. Analysis of its membership in the 1880s shows that of the 600 members fewer than 60 were based in Cumbria,⁹⁰ therefore the desire to protect the Lakes came from outside. Wordsworth was rightly concerned about the impact of tourism on the Lakes and he had particular concerns for Derwentwater and Windermere,

*“The lakes had now become celebrated; visitors flocked hither from all parts of England; the fancies of some were smitten so deeply, that they became settlers; and the islands of Derwentwater and Winandermere, as they offered the strongest temptation, were the first places seized upon, and were instantly defaced by the intrusion”.*⁹¹

The comparison with the landscape today using HLC would suggest that this defacing was limited in its impact on landscape character and that although Keswick has expanded enormously, bringing with it a substantial road network and a now redundant railway and some altered field patterns, Wordsworth would still recognise the qualities which attracted him and millions of others to the Lakes over the last 200 years.

⁹⁰ Davies 1988, 21

⁹¹ Wordsworth in Bicknell 1984, 113-5