

ART. VIII.—*The netting sites of Windermere.* By  
CHARLOTTE KIPLING, The Ferry House, Far  
Sawrey, Ambleside.

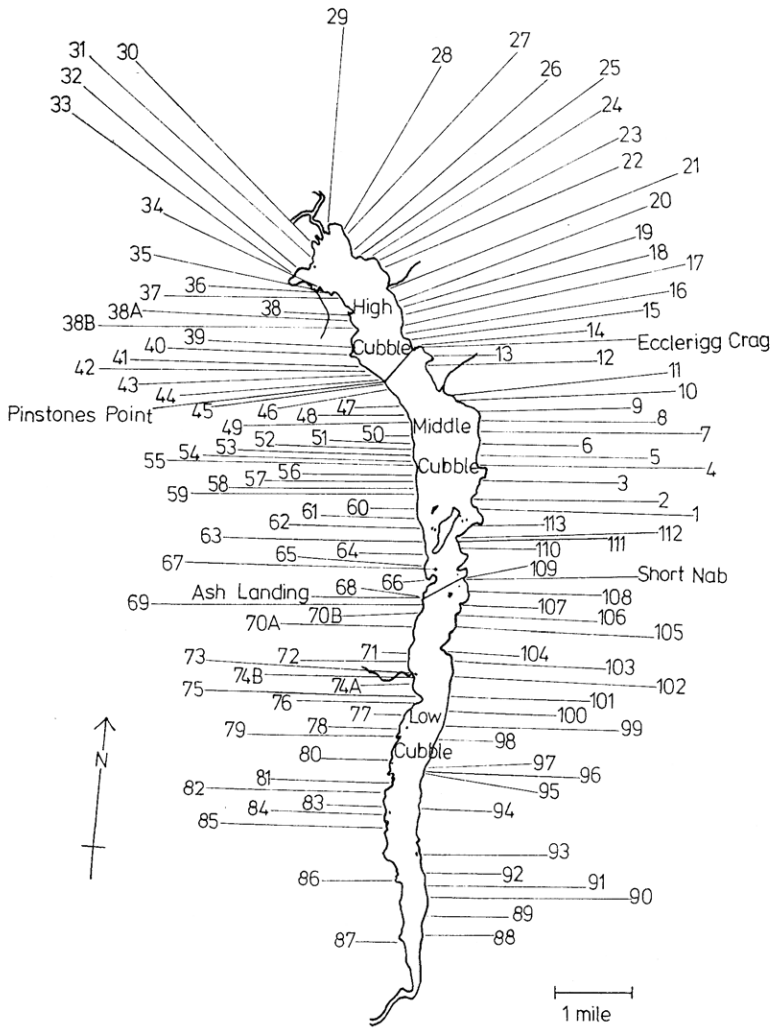
*Read at Kendal, July 13th, 1973.*

A MANUSCRIPT notebook in the possession of Mr G. H. Pattinson contains much valuable information on the netting sites of Windermere which would otherwise have been lost. The notebook was compiled in 1915, by which year the fishery authority, The Kent, Bela, Winster, Leven and Duddon Fishery Board, had finally gained control of all the commercial net fisheries of Windermere, which the Board had gradually been acquiring since 1880 (Kipling 1972).<sup>1</sup>

In April 1915 the Windermere and District Angling Association (which had started as the Lake District Angling Association in 1891) was disbanded: for many years the Association had been responsible for carrying out nettings in the fisheries which were sub-let to them by the Fishery Board. The Fishery Board themselves rented the fisheries from the proprietors.

In September 1915 the Board formally asserted their rights by visiting all the traditional netting sites on the lake, at most of which places nets were drawn (i.e. set and pulled on to the shore), but at a few sites this was not possible. The notebook lists the sites according to cubble (section of the lake) and date visited, 15th, 16th, 17th and 20th, 21st, 22nd September. For each site the name is given, (Table 1) then for most of them there is an explanatory comment on the position of the site. The sites were numbered at a later date; the numbers are written in another hand. The numbers ran (Fig. 1) from the north side of

<sup>1</sup> Kipling, C. *The commercial fisheries of Windermere.* CW2 lxxii 156-204.



Netting sites on Windermere

FIG. 1.—Map of Windermere showing the netting sites referred to in the notebook.

Bowness Bay (number 1), anti-clockwise round the head of the lake, down the west shore and up the east shore back to the south side of Bowness Bay (number 113). In all 113 sites were numbered, with 4 subdivided, and an additional 7 sites were not numbered, which gives a total of 124 netting sites. The 7 unnumbered sites, none of which was drawn in 1915, are indicated in the list by small letters, and the sub-divisions of the divided sites by capital letters. Most of the sites have been located precisely either from their names, many of which occur in the maps of the Ordnance Survey, or from the explanatory comments. The exact positions of a few of them remain uncertain.

**Table 1.**

1. Low Frear Head	Fallbarrow Front south of Frear Head and about 40 yards North of iron rail fence
2. Freare Head	Fallbarrow Front south of Fallbarrow Private Landing and Old Dock
3. Millbeck Stock Setting	
4. Jeffrey Nab	North of Rayrigg Bay outside the Reeds
5. Bell Stones	} All lying betwixt Jeffrey Nab and Windermere Bathing Ground
6. Under Neddys	
7. Hollin Rood	
8. Seedy Wyke	Millerground Bay about 150 yards north of M grd landing
9. Park Wall	Millerground Bay just south of Priory Boathouse
10. Stoney Nab	North of Miss Lorrimers landing and house and 40 yards North of iron rail Fence
11. Fell End	North of Sun Inn Landing and Mr — summer House and landing
(a) High and	
(b) Low Woodend Staithe	
(c) Nab End	

- |     |                      |  |
|-----|----------------------|--|
| 12. | Birk Point           | South of Craams Bay  |
| 13. | Blake Beck           | Craams Bay   |
| 14. | Borwick Loup         | North side Craams Bay on Warburton property  |
| 15. | Bosenriggend         | opposite Warburtons  |
| 16. | The Hole             | Gaddams property   |
| 17. | Crooked Ash          | opposite Gaddams   |
| 18. | Yew Cragg            | in Dunns field N of Ecclerigg  |
| 19. | Twin Oaks            | in Dunns field N of Ecclerigg  |
| 20. | Boons Wood           | a little way south of Black Nab  |
| (d) | Black Nab            | Mrs Howarths Pier etc now stands upon the Drawing up place south of Holebeck River |
| 21. | Holbeck Point        | South of Stone Breaking depôt  |
| 22. | Barker Syke          | South of Stone Breaking depôt  |
| 23. | Theffold Quarry      | North of Dove Nest Boathouse   |
| 24. | Lower Greets         | } between Holme Cragg and Wrigleys Wansfell Boathouse                              |
| 25. | Higher Greets        |  |
| 26. | Holme Cragg          | North of Holme Cragg   |
| 27. | Townend Gate         | South of Esplanade   |
| 28. | Peggy Parrock        | The Esplanade  |
| 29. | Waterhead Green      | Waterhead Bathing Place  |
| 30. | Gale Wyke            | Big Brathay Bay  |
| 31. | Gravy Setting        | Pull Wyke Bay  |
| 32. | Sandy Wyke           | Pullwyke Bay   |
| 33. | Honey Pot            | Pullwyke Bay   |
| 34. | Beeholme Island      |  |
| 35. | Beeholme Bank        |  |
| 36. | Fisher de Howe Point |  |
| 37. | Fisher de Howe       |  |
| 38. | } Low Wray Bay       |  |
| 38A |                      |  |
| 38B |                      |  |
| 39. | Mossy Stone          |  |
| 40. | High Wray Wyke       |  |
| 41. | Quaker Nab           |  |
| 42. | Williefield Foot     |  |
| 43. | Balla Wray           |  |
| 44. | Pinstone Woodend     |  |
| 45. | High Pinstone        |  |
| 46. | Old Pinston          | South of Pinstone Point and North of Red Nab                                       |
| 47. | Appletree Syke       | South of Red Nab   |
| 48. | Sand Beds            |  |
| 49. | Sandy Nears Point    | South of Sand Beds where Road passes a few yards of Lake Edge                      |

- |      |   |  |
|------|---|--|
| 50.  | High Oak  | South of Barkhouse and immediately North of Stone Borran                   |
| 51.  | Hollock Beck                                      | between the Stone Borran and Royals Wood                                   |
| 52.  | } High Low and<br>} Middle Royals<br>} Slape Scar | All covered with fallen timber   |
| 53.  |   |  |
| 54.  |   |  |
| 55.  |   |  |
| 56.  | Slape Scar  |  |
| 57.  | Driving Drough                                    | North of Waterloo Gardens opposite the narrow field                        |
| 58.  | The Rash  | immediately north of Waterloo Farm Building in the Wood                    |
| 59.  | Bass Howe   | South of Waterloo grounds opposite Batesons Steamer Slip                   |
|      | 3 settings on Thompson Holme                      |  |
| 60A) | High Furness Bank                                 | } did not draw these   |
| 60B) | Garth Foot  |  |
| 60C) | Green Ees   |  |
| 61.  | Low Furness Bank                                  | West Coast, slightly North of Lilly of the Valley Island                   |
| 62.  | Lilly of the Valley Island                        | south side of Island facing Ferry Hotel Curwen cut the net at this setting |
|      | Small Island                                      |  |
| 63.  | Harrowslack Point                                 | South of Bed of Reeds and north of Island pier and landing                 |
| 64.  | Honey Pot   | immediately South of Harrowslack Stone landing                             |
| 65.  | Swing Gate  | drawn into Boat 20 yards North of Swing Gate dividing Wood from Field      |
| 66.  | Station Landing                                   | in Mitchell Wyke Bay drawn into Boat North of Big rock                     |
| 67.  | Crow Holme  | North end of Island facing up lake   |
| 68.  | Ash Landing                                       |  |
| 69.  | Jemmy Wier  | North Jemmy Crag   |
| 70A  | Matson Landing                                    | South Capperary Cottage  |
| 70B  | Cobbler Brow                                      | about Half way between Capperary and Fellborough                           |
| 71.  | Whelfing Point                                    | south of Whelfing Beck   |
| 72.  | Lime Midden                                       | south of Whelfing Point  |
| 73.  | The Whelts  | North of Cunsey Mill Landing   |
| 74B  | Lingholme   | South side of Lingholme  |
| 74A  | Belfield  | South side of Lingholme  |

75.	German Sand Beds	North side Rawlinson Nab
76.	Nova	South side Rawlinson Nab
77.	Railends and Jossy setting	
78.	Paddock Hole	South of Grassholme
79.	Grassholm Point	North side entrance to Lazy Bay
80.	Cats Cragg	
81.	Sandys Lime Kiln	below Grubbing
82.	Deep Sluice	Graythwaite Bay below Boathouse
83.	Ullett Hall	opposite Silver Holme Island
84.	Silver Holme	South of Silver Holme Island
85.	Latterbarrow	South Longtongue Point
86.	Black Nab	Lewthwaite Bay second Bay below Canstral Rocks
87.	Cinder Nab	just north of Buckyeat Boathouse
88.	Kindler Intake	Townleys Land Town Head opposite Cinder Nab and Howsons House
89.	Dirty Puddle	Gummersholm. South of division Wall dividing Huntingdons property from Wakefields
90.	Skirtfell	South of Skirtfell Rocks nearly opposite Stott Park
91.	Rie Loaf	South of Cornelius Shop and opposite Black Nab or Lewthwaite Bay
92.	Cornelius Shop	North of Wilkinsons Boathouse
93.	Orchard Foot	South of Blakeholme Nab
94.	Addison Stake	South of Blakeholme Island
		Nearly opposite Silver Holme South of Tower Wood Boathouse
95.	} Dog Nab, 3 settings	Three settings at Dog Nab just north of Tower Wood Sewer
96.		
97.		
98.	Blake Rigg	opposite Beech Hill field
99.	Stewardson Nab	South of Buckleys Boathouse at end of Beech Hill field
100.	Gernal Landing	Old Wards Boathouse North side
101.	Loper Weir	halfway betwixt Old Wards Boathouse and Briggs Broadleys Boathouse
102.	Dick Intake	just north of Broadleys wire fence that divides Broadleys from G.H.P. Wood
103.	Kitty Landing	opposite Beeches little field — south of G.H.P. Nursery Garden

104.	Hollow Dale	opposite Storrs Hotel Front facing down the Lake
105.	Greenbank	just North of Holts Boathouse
106.	Hoghouse Nab	betwixt Gillebrand Boathouse and Scotts property in G.H.P. field
107.	Holme Tree	40 yards about South of Mr Stephensons Boathouse
108.	Broad Setting	opposite Storrs Holme Boathouse and drawn into Boat
109.	Short Nab	Boundary of Middle and Lower Cubble which may be drawn by either the middle or lower Cubble owners South of Sourpool Wyke and opposite Chicken rocks
(e) }	Three Settings	opposite Ferry Nab Boathouses cannot be drawn for Moorings and Slips
(f) }		
(g) }		
110.	Net Stake	about Middle of Field about 60 yards North of Parsonage Boathouse
111.	Ladies Slip	in the Field South of Ladies Slip and Fence dividing Wood from Field
112.	Cockshott Point	North side facing down the Lake
113.	Myly Burke	

A report on Windermere by Richmond and Bazley,<sup>2</sup> dated 17 September 1918, comments on the nettings of 1915. They stated that the trout settings had deteriorated as they were not used, and had been found to be foul with weed and other deposits and were deserted by the trout. It is clear from this report and from explanatory remarks in the notebook that some of the netting sites had not been used for many years, some certainly not since 1902 when the Board terminated the use of the nets on the trout settings.

The notebook does not give any information on which species of fish were taken at the different sites, nor at which times of year the particular sites were used.

<sup>2</sup> Richmond and Bazley. Report on Windermere and Coniston. Type-script 1918.

At site 62, Lily of the Valley Island, it was noted that "Curwen cut the net at this setting". This may have been the reason why the three settings on Thompson Holme (60 A, B, & C) were not drawn, and why the net was drawn into the boat at Swing Gate (65) and Station Landing (66). At site 108, Broad Setting, the net was also drawn into the boat, possibly because the boathouse may have prevented it being drawn up on the shore.

The position of Honey Pot (33) is uncertain, it lies between Sandy Wyke (32) and Beeholme Island (34) in Pull Wyke Bay and may have been either on the west or south shore of the bay. The positions of the three unnumbered sites (a), (b) and (c) are also not known, except that they were between Troutbeck mouth and the south end of White Cross Bay.

The spelling in the notebook in some cases differs from that in the Ordnance Survey maps, for example in the notebook Bleak Beck is written as Blake Beck (13), Fisherty Howe as Fisher de Howe (36 & 37), and Wilfin as Whelfing (71). Some of the names, however, are not shown on any maps and have disappeared from current use. The following are of particular interest:

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Frear or Freare Head            | The word Frear is probably derived from Friar, referring to the nearby chantry on Lady Holme. Land at Fallbarrow was owned by the chantry, in 1354 it was known as Frerefeld, and extended for 9 acres. (Brydson 1911). <sup>3</sup> |
| 9. Park Wall                       | This wall was the boundary of Calgarth Park.   |
| 12, 13, 14 all mention Craams Bay, | this was evidently the old name for White Cross Bay. In 1853 Ralph Thickness was drowned in the bay, and a white cross was erected in his memory.  |

<sup>3</sup> Brydson, A. P. *Sidelights on Mediaeval Windermere*. Kendal, 1911.



31. Gravy Setting            Machell, writing in 1692, records for Windermere "Wild duck . . . in great plenty—also shelducks—the hen is the gravy— . . ." (Ewbank 1963).<sup>4</sup>
58. The Rash                In several 18th-century conveyances this site is referred to as Breare Rash (Curwen papers).
66. Station Landing        "The Station", a summer house with an extensive view, was built by the Rev. William Braithwaite in the 1790's. (Thompson 1970).<sup>5</sup>
94. Addison Stake         In 1686 William Addyson of Towerwood made a will and his property included a fishery (Browne papers).
99. Stewardson Nab        The Stewardson family owned a fishery in the low cubble in the 18th century.
- III. Ladies Slip            The Lady of the Lake, a steamer built in 1846, was hauled out of the water at this Slip.

<sup>4</sup> Ewbank, J. M. *Antiquary on Horseback*. Kendal, 1963.

<sup>5</sup> Thompson, T. W. *Wordsworth's Hawkshead*. London, 1970.

### Acknowledgements.

I am most grateful to Mr G. H. Pattinson for permission to publish the information in his notebook. I also wish to thank Mr B. L. Thompson for his interest and help and Miss J. Hardman for preparing the map.

### References.

- Brydson, A. P. *Sidelights on Mediaeval Windermere*. Kendal, 1911.
- Ewbank, J. M. *Antiquary on Horseback*. Kendal, 1963.
- Kipling, C. *The commercial fisheries of Windermere*. CW2 lxxii 156-204.
- Richmond and Bazley. Report on Windermere and Coniston. Typescript 1918.
- Thompson, T. W. *Wordsworth's Hawkshead*. London, 1970.

Browne papers        deposited in the Record Office, Kendal.

Curwen papers        deposited in the Record Office, Carlisle.