



Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Development Plan Document

Sustainability Appraisal

SA Scoping Report

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Lancaster City Council & South Lakeland District Council

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Sustainability Appraisal

SA Scoping Report

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1 INTRODUCTION TO AND PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

1.1 Purpose of the SA Scoping Report

This Scoping Report has been prepared by Hyder Consulting (UK) Ltd. on behalf of both Lancaster City Council and South Lakeland District Council as part of the combined Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) (hereinafter referred to as SA) of the first emerging Arnside and Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Development Plan Document (DPD). The DPD will be the first for the Arnside and Silverdale AONB and will guide development in the AONB over the next 15 years (2016-2031).

The Scoping Report represents the initial stage in the SA process for the emerging DPD and sets the scope for the remainder of the process. Its purpose is to:

- Set the scope and level of detail of the SA;
- Identify relevant plans, policies, programmes and initiatives that will inform the SA process and the DPD;
- Identify relevant baseline information;
- Identify key sustainability issues and problems; and
- Present an SA Framework, consisting of sustainability objectives and indicators, against which the DPD can be assessed.

The SEA Directive¹ which is transposed directly into UK law through the SEA Regulations² requires the authority preparing the plan to consult the Consultation Bodies on the scope and level of detail of the Environmental Report (in this case a Sustainability Report which will ultimately document the findings of the SA). The preparation of a Scoping Report provides the most effective means of undertaking this consultation by providing the consultees with a document upon which they can make comments.

¹ Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, June 2001

² Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, June 2001

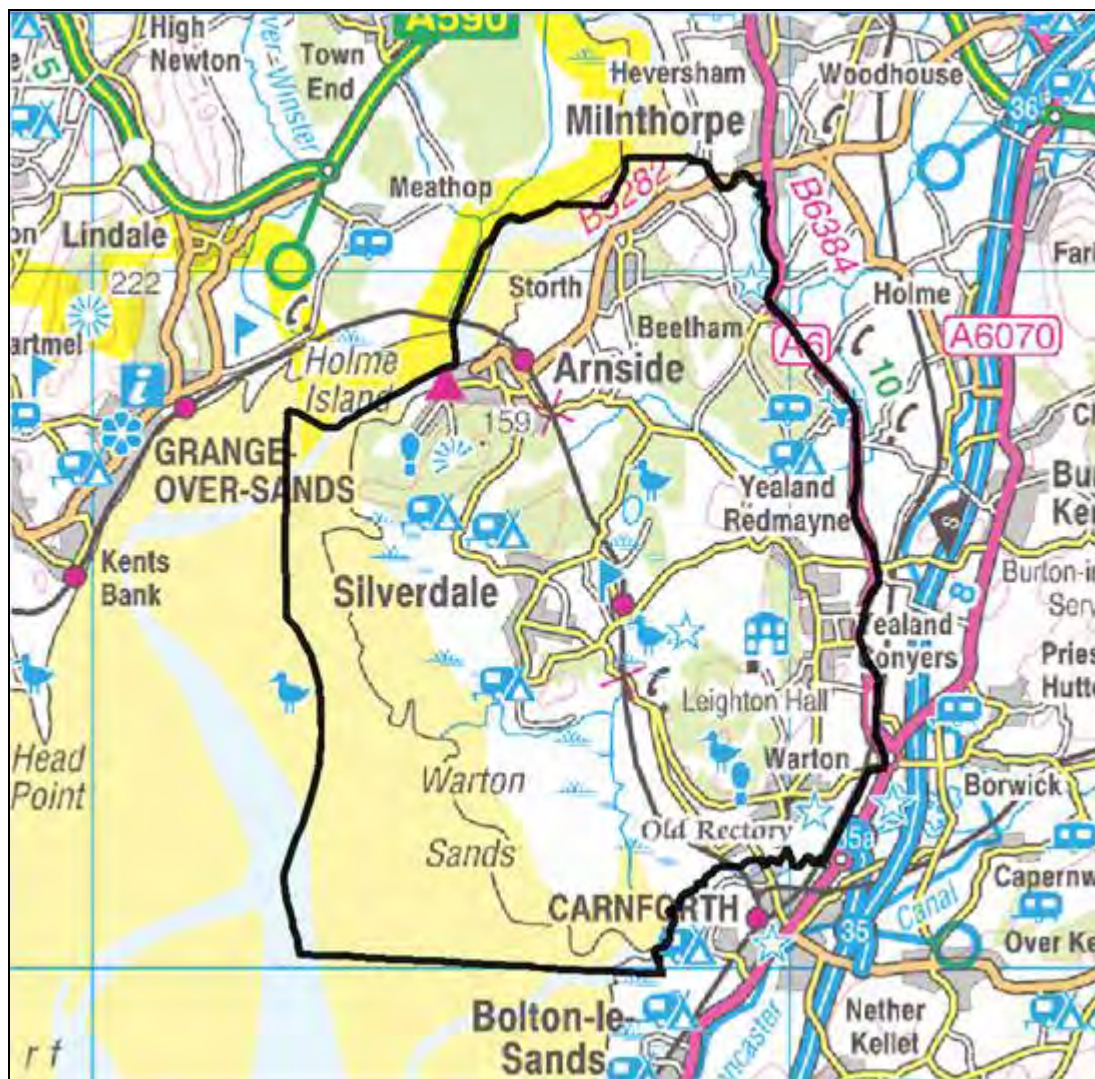
1.2 Introduction to the AONB

The Arnside and Silverdale area was designated as an AONB in 1972 under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act of 1949, in recognition of the outstanding qualities of its unique landscape.

The AONB extends to approximately 75km², including 30km² of intertidal sands & mudflats. This landscape is of national importance due to its special characteristics, which are an intimate mosaic of low limestone hills, woodland, wetland, pastures, limestone pavements, intertidal flats, coastal scenery and distinctive settlements.

The Arnside and Silverdale AONB is located in the North West of England within the south Cumbria and north Lancashire administrative boundaries. The AONB straddles the boundary between two districts (Lancaster City and South Lakeland District). The main settlements within the AONB area are Arnside, Warton, Silverdale and Storth & Sandside. The management of the AONB is co-ordinated by the Arnside and Silverdale AONB Partnership which is made up of the four responsible local authorities; Cumbria County Council, Lancashire County Council, Lancaster City Council, South Lakeland District Council, as well as statutory agencies, voluntary bodies, parish councils, businesses, user groups, landowners and farming representatives.

Figure 1-1 Arnside and Silverdale AONB Boundary



1.2.1 AONB Designation

The primary purpose of the AONB designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area. This should be done whilst also taking account of the needs of agriculture, forestry, and other rural industries and of the economic and social needs of local communities. Sustainable development should be promoted within the AONB which will conserve and enhance the environment.

AONBs are also designated by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as category V which is 'Protected Landscapes/Seascapes'. This is a worldwide category of protected areas where the 'the interaction of people and nature over time has produced an area of distinct character with significant ecological, biological, cultural and scenic value'.

The fundamental principle underlying planning and development management in AONBs is that any new development within the AONB that has a materially adverse impact can only proceed where it is demonstrated that it satisfies an overriding national need. All development is expected to conform to a very high standard of design, to be in keeping with local distinctiveness and should seek to conserve and enhance the AONB's natural beauty. Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) places a duty on all local authorities, public bodies and statutory undertakers to pay 'due regard' to the purpose of AONB designation in carrying out their functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in AONBs. Planning policies for AONBs are contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans. The NPPF provides specific guidance for development planning and decision-making in relation to AONBs. It confirms that 'great weight should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty' and that AONBs 'have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty'. The 'great weight test' is significant and is one of the most stringent legal tests that can be applied under planning law. In specific relation to major development, the NPPF states that planning permission should be refused for major developments in AONBs except in exceptional circumstances and where it can be demonstrated that they are in the public interest. The NPPF confirms that local planning authorities should set out the strategic priorities for their areas within Local Plans and accordingly deliver the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment, including landscape. The NPPF also confirms that:

- allocations of land for development should prefer land of lesser environmental value (counting AONBs as the highest value)
- local authorities should set evidence and criteria based planning policies against which proposals for any development on or affecting landscape areas will be judged (development affecting AONBs includes impact on their setting) and
- planning should contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment.

The physical landscape surrounding the AONB provides an impressive setting. Morecambe Bay sits to the west with coastal saltmarsh and intertidal flats partly within the AONB providing an area of 310km² of mud and sand rich in estuarine diversity. Further to the North West lies the Lake District offering its stunning scenery, abundant wildlife and cultural heritage. To the east and south lies the Forest of Bowland, offering a landscape important for heather moorland, blanket bog and rare birds, and the Yorkshire Dales which is a key focal point for tourism.

1.2.2 Natural Beauty and Special Qualities

The natural beauty of an AONB landscape is partly due to nature and is partly the product of many centuries of human modification. It encompasses natural and human factors that together make an area distinctive and 'special'. These 'special' qualities are summarised below;

Landscape

The outstanding landscape is a highly diverse mosaic of low limestone hills, woodlands, wetlands and mosses, pastures, limestone pavements, coastal cliffs and intertidal flats. The small-scale yet complex nature of the landforms gives an intimate feeling within valleys and woodlands which contrasts with the open nature and expansive views from higher ground and along the coast combining to give some spectacular views of this special and beautiful landscape.

Seascape

The AONB has a stunning seascape which includes Morecambe Bay, one of the largest intertidal areas in the UK where five estuaries meet in a horseshoe-shaped bay of spectacular scale and grandeur. Coastal saltmarsh and intertidal flats partly lie within the AONB but also extend westwards over a huge area (310km²) of mud and sand – a kaleidoscope of water and light; sea and sky; sound, texture and colour.

Geology and Soil

The AONB has a unique, distinctive geology of carboniferous limestone bedrock showing evidence of glacial processes. This geology gives the AONB notable features such as distinctive areas of limestone pavement often covered by woodland. Along the coastline between Arnsdale and Silverdale are low level cliffs and cave systems have developed through weathering of the limestone. Soil sustains much of the area's special landscape and biodiversity and stores water and carbon.

Climate

The moderating influence of coastal waters and the North Atlantic Drift have an important influence on the climate of the Arnsdale and Silverdale area, particularly in the southern and western parts. The combination of shelter provided by the landforms and woodland cover with an equable climate affects plant and animal life within the AONB. As a result the area is able to support a number of species of importance and give the AONB its unique ecosystem.

Habitats, Animals and Plants

The AONB is home to incredible biodiversity and a large number and range of priority habitats. The landscape offers particularly significant habitats in its diverse mosaic. Such areas include; native woodlands, of which over a third of the AONB's extensive woodlands are considered to be ancient woodland. Lowland calcareous grassland, lowland heathland, lowland fen and reed beds. This enables the AONB to be home to a large diversity of species. Over 100 species included on the list of England's priority species are known to occur regularly within the AONB. Butterfly diversity is particularly noteworthy with nationally scarce and rare species present along with many important species of breeding birds.

Archaeology

The heritage of the AONB is integral to its character and quality, creating 'time-depth' within the landscape. Field patterns reflect human occupation over several thousand years with significant areas classed as Ancient Enclosure dating back to the Middle Ages. The stone ramparts of an Iron Age hill fort are still visible today on Warton Crag.

Buildings

Largely a rural landscape, the AONB is rich in heritage and contains a wealth of historic buildings and sites which maintains the local settlement character and provide insight into the

areas local history. Stone buildings and settlements with stone walling feature throughout and have been in place up for up to 800 years.

Settlements

The AONB contains historic designed landscapes such as Leighton Hall, Hazelwood Hall and Hynning Park as well as a registered parkland at Dallam Park which is nationally important. Some of the earliest settlements in the AONB at Warton, Beetham have distinctive historic characters still evident, retaining a linear form with characteristics of medieval settlements.

Historic Features

The industrial heritage of the AONB is also a key element of the landscape. Landscape features which contribute to this include 36 known limekiln sites, numerous small abandoned quarries and mineral railways as a result of historic industry.

Communities

Vibrant communities exist within each of the villages and there is also a shared identity with parishes coming together as part of the AONB, strongly connected to the landscape. The AONB aims within its core principles to encourage and further support the local people to be engaged in the AONB management through community involvement initiatives and volunteering.

People and the perceptions of those who visit it

The AONB offers great opportunities for local people and people who visit from other locations, to get involved in recreational and leisure activities. The special qualities of the countryside setting make walking, cycling and horse riding great ways to get around to explore. The AONB gives good opportunity for wildlife watching and many opportunities to see and observe the geology and history throughout the network of narrow lanes and public rights of way.

1.2.3 Pressures

These special qualities that make the AONB worthy of its designation are vulnerable to a wide range of pressures. These pressures can come from development, recreation, changes in woodland management and agricultural practices. Again positive management is therefore required to conserve and enhance the natural environment and the AONBs distinctive character.

Around 14% of businesses are involved in tourism and this accounts for nearly a fifth of total employment within the AONB. Opportunities exist to develop nature tourism within the AONB, however, this must not compromise the area's special qualities.

1.3 Pre-existing Plans & Strategies

In order to give the SA of the emerging AONB DPD context and ensure an informed view of current issues and management strategies, various plans and strategies which currently exist and may affect the AONB have been reviewed. The documents are listed below and a number of them have been subject to SA or SEA. The SA of the AONB DPD will draw extensively from this existing suite of SA/SEA work and will seek consistency with it where possible.

The Arnside & Silverdale AONB Management Plan

This is a statutory document and is prepared by the AONB Partnership.

The current AONB Management Plan was adopted in 2014 and covers the period 2014 to 2019. The Management Plan sets out strategies and actions which it aims to deliver within the AONB. These are:

- to conserve and enhance the natural beauty and special qualities of the AONB.
- promote and support sustainable agriculture, forestry and other rural industries.
- promote the social and economic wellbeing of people living within the AONB.
- increase public understanding and enjoyment of the AONB.
- meet the recreational needs of local residents and visitors alike – where these are compatible with the purpose of AONB designation.

The Lancaster District Local Plan

The Lancaster District Local Plan is currently in preparation. Two key points are relevant to the management of the AONB.

Firstly, the Lancaster District Core Strategy (2008) which sets out the overall development strategy and vision, identifies the AONB as a key element of the District's environmental capital, identifies the need for a spatial strategy for the AONB and identifies Silverdale as one of a number of sustainable villages in the district where new development would be supported in principle.

Secondly is the Lancaster District Local Plan Development Management DPD (adopted December 2014). This includes a general policy on landscape considerations including development in AONBs. Specifically that there is no creation of new or development of existing caravan sites is to take place within the AONB. No sites are allocated for development within the AONB in this DPD. The settlement hierarchy for the district was expanded as part of the Development Management document and now also includes Warton as one of the district's sustainable rural settlements. There are also a number of policies saved from the Adopted 1997 Local Plan (not subject to SA/SEA) including Policy E3 which does not permit development that would directly or indirectly have a significant adverse effect upon the character or harm the landscape quality, nature conservation interests or features of geological importance within the AONB.

The South Lakeland Local Plan

The relevant parts of the South Lakeland Local Plan are:

Firstly, the Core Strategy (adopted October 2010) which recognises and safeguards the special characteristics of the AONB and identifies Arnside and Storth/Sandside as Local Service Centres.

The Local Plan Land Allocations (adopted December 2013) refers to the issues the AONB Plan will address including an indicative requirement of 123 dwellings on the South Lakeland side, review of settlement boundaries, landscape and building design and policies on new visitor facilities. The Land Allocations plan does not allocate sites in the AONB.

Finally there are saved policies of the adopted 1997 South Lakeland Local Plan (saved Local Plan 2006), note this has not been subject to SA or SEA. This includes Development Management Policies identifying green spaces and an unimplemented allocation of land for local employment use at Quarry Lane, Storth.

1.4 Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

SA is a process for assessing the social, economic and environmental impacts of a plan and aims to ensure that sustainable development is at the heart of the plan-making process.

It is a legal requirement that Local Plans are subject to SA, under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. This Act stipulates that the SA must comply with the requirements of the SEA Directive which was transposed directly into UK law through the SEA Regulations.

SEA is a systemic process for evaluating the environmental consequences of plans and programmes to ensure that environmental issues are integrated and assessed at the earliest opportunity in the decision-making process. Article 1 of the SEA Directive states that the aim is to:

'provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development'.

It is possible to combine the processes of SEA and SA, as they share a number of similarities. Guidance³ published by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) promotes a combined process (i.e. a process which assesses social, economic and environmental effects) and this is the approach that has been adopted here. Whilst there are formalised approaches for both SA and SEA, only SEA has a legal obligation to perform certain activities. These legal obligations have been and will continue to be adhered to throughout the combined SA and SEA for the new DPD. The combined SEA and SA is referred to as SA throughout the remaining sections of this Scoping Report. This Scoping Report includes a series of boxes which clearly identify the specific requirements of the SEA Directive that need to be fulfilled.

1.5 Consultation

In accordance with regulation 12(5) of the SEA Regulations, this updated Scoping Report will be consulted upon for a five week period with the statutory SEA bodies, which include:

- the Environment Agency
- Natural England
- Historic England

This Scoping Report will be made available on the South Lakeland District Council, the Lancaster City Council and the Arnsdale & Silverdale AONB websites for the general public during the consultation period. Comments received will be taken forward to inform the SA process.

1.6 Habitats Regulations Assessment

European Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna (the 'Habitats Directive') requires that any plan or programme likely to have a significant impact upon a Natura 2000 site (Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special

³ <http://www.pas.gov.uk>

Protection Area (SPA)), which is not directly concerned with the management of the site for nature conservation, must be subject to an Appropriate Assessment. The overarching process is referred to as Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). In addition it is a matter of law that candidate SACs (cSACs), Sites of Community Importance (SCI), Ramsar sites and potential SPAs (pSPAs) are also considered in this process.

A HRA screening exercise will be undertaken to determine if the AONB Plan (either in isolation and/or in combination with other plans or projects) would generate an adverse impact upon the integrity of a Natura 2000 site, in terms of its conservation objectives and qualifying interests. This process will be documented in a Screening Report that will be submitted to Natural England for approval.

2 THE AONB DPD

Lancaster City and South Lakeland District Councils are currently embarking on the preparation of the Arnsdale and Silverdale AONB DPD which will focus on delivering sustainable development in the AONB for a 15 year period 2016 to 2031 and will include:

- policies to guide decisions on planning applications;
- proposals for the development of housing, employment and other land uses; and
- policies that seek the conservation and enhancement of the natural and built environment including landscape quality and character.

The framework of policies and proposals contained within the DPD will seek to regulate and control the development and use of land and to provide the basis for consistent and transparent decision making on individual planning applications.

The purpose of the AONB designation will be at the heart of the DPD which will reflect the national importance of the AONB. The DPD will take into account the key management objectives contained within the AONB Management Plan which aim to realise the vision and provide direction for positive action. These are grouped under the following three themes:

- an outstanding landscape, rich in wildlife and cultural heritage;
- a thriving sustainable economy and vibrant communities; and
- a strong connection between people and the landscape.

The DPD will be prepared in accordance with the procedures set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations.

3 THE SA PROCESS

3.1 Stages in the SA Process

The Practical Guide to the SEA Directive⁴ subdivides the SA process into a series of prescribed stages, through which the elements of the DPD have been appraised using Sustainability Objectives. While each stage consists of specific tasks, the intention should be that the process is iterative. Table 3-1 presents the key stages in the SA process, together with the SEA Directive requirements for each stage. Reference is given to where the requirements and specific tasks have been addressed within this SA Report. The table also demonstrates how each of the SA stages is linked to the preparation and development of the DPD.

Table 3-1 Stages in the SA Process

SA Stage	Section of the Report (where applicable)	Application to the Arnside and Silverdale AONB DPD
Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope		
A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes and sustainability objectives	Section 4 and Appendix A	<p>Stage A corresponds to the scoping stage of the SA and the findings of this stage are presented in this Scoping Report.</p> <p>During this stage the scope of the DPD will also be defined.</p>
A2: Collecting baseline information	Section 5 and Appendix B	
A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems	Section 5	
A4: Developing the SA Framework	Section 6	
A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA	Purpose of this Scoping Report is to seek feedback on the scope of the SA.	
Stage B: Developing and Refining Options and Assessing Effects		
B1: Testing the DPD objectives against the SA Framework	All of these stages will be documented in the SA Report.	<p>Stage B of the SA process is linked to the overall production of the DPD which includes the development of options and the selection of the preferred options.</p> <p>There should be a considerable degree of interaction between the plan-making and SA teams during this stage in the process to enable potential adverse effects of the DPD to be avoided / minimised and potential sustainability benefits maximised.</p>
B2: Developing the DPD Options		
B3: Predicting the effects of the DPD		
B4: Evaluating the effects of the DPD		

⁴ ODPM et al. (2005) A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive

SA Stage	Section of the Report (where applicable)	Application to the Arnside and Silverdale AONB DPD
B5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects		
B6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the DPD		
Stage C: Preparing the SA Report		
C1: Preparing the SA Report	This will result in a SA Report documenting the effects of the DPD and will also include an assessment of the options considered during the DPD's development.	The draft DPD will be prepared ready for consultation.
Stage D: Consultation on the Proposed Submission DPD and the SA Report		
D1: Public participation on the proposed submission Plan	-	The SA Report and the proposed submission Plan will be consulted upon in accordance with Regulation 27 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008.
D2: Appraising significant changes resulting from representations	-	Following the receipt of representations, the SA Report may need to be updated to reflect comments received. It will be essential for the SA Report and the DPD to remain consistent.
D3: Making decisions and providing information	-	
Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the DPD		
E1: Finalising aims and methods for monitoring	Monitoring will commence once the DPD has been adopted.	The significant environmental effects of the implementation of the DPD will be monitored.
E2: Responding to adverse effects		

Further details on the assessment approach are provided in Section 6.

4 REVIEW OF RELEVANT PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES

4.1 Introduction

The box below stipulates the SEA Directive requirements for this stage of the process.

Box 1: SEA Directive Requirements for the Review of Plans Programmes and Environmental Protection Objectives

‘an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes’ (Annex 1 (a)).

‘the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation’ (Annex 1 (e).)

A review of other plans and programmes that may affect the preparation of the DPD was undertaken in order to contribute to the development of both the SA and the DPD. This included:

- Identification of any external social, environmental or economic objectives, indicators or targets that should be reflected in the SA process.
- Identification of any baseline data relevant to the SA.
- Identification of any external factors that might influence the preparation of the DPD, for example sustainability issues.
- Identification of any external objectives or aims that would contribute positively to the development of the DPD.
- Determining whether there are clear potential conflicts or challenges between other identified plans, programmes or sustainability objectives and the DPD.

The review included documents prepared at international, national, regional and local scale. The documents reviewed and the main findings are summarised in Table 4-1 and further details presented in Appendix A.

Table 4-1 Review of Plans and Programmes

Level	Summary
International Plans and Programmes	A review was undertaken of key International Conventions and European Directives that could potentially influence the development of the DPD and the SA. European Directives are transposed into national legislation in each individual Member State and, therefore, there should be a trickle-down effect of the key principles and an application to the relevant national, regional and local circumstances in other planning documents.
National and Regional Plans and Programmes	A review was also undertaken of relevant plans and strategies. These included the UK Sustainable Development Strategy which outlines the over-arching Government objective to raise the quality of life in our communities. The Climate Change Act which commits the UK to action in mitigating the impacts of climate change and the National Planning

Level	Summary
	Policy Framework which sets out the Government's economic, environmental and social planning policies for England.
Local Plans	Plans are produced at the local level to specifically address issues that are important locally through a number of policy documents relating to the economy; health; safety; tourism; sustainable communities; housing; employment; and physical activity. Local Plans considered here are; the Arnside and Silverdale AONB Management Plan; the South Lakeland Local Plan and the Lancaster City Council Local Plan (including their component parts). The Arnside and Silverdale AONB Management Plan sets out a framework that gives guidance and direction towards achieving the long term 'Vision' for the Arnside and Silverdale AONB. The DPD and the SA should draw from these documents and transpose their aims in their policies and proposals. These local plans have been instrumental in the development of the SA Framework (refer to Section 6). These plans, should in theory have included the main influences of international, national, regional and county level plans through the 'trickle-down effect'. They should also provide more of a local focus for the AONB. It is, through identifying these themes and incorporating them into the DPD that synergies can be achieved with other relevant documents. County level documents are also considered where relevant including, for example, county level landscape strategies and minerals plans.

4.2 Key Results from the Review

There were many common themes identified in the review of plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives. Whilst specific results relating to each document are presented in Appendix A, the list below provides a summary of the main themes and issues identified:

Social

- The need to ensure that new housing development meets local needs (for all sections of society).
- Recognising the importance of open spaces, sport and recreation and the contribution that they make to enhancing quality of life.
- Raising levels of health and well-being and promoting greater levels of physical activity.
- The need to improve educational attainment and levels of numeracy and literacy.
- The need to promote more sustainable transport choices and to improve accessibility.
- The enhanced coastal access as a result of the Marine and Coastal act 2009 gives a change in recreational use of Morecambe Bay and needs to be well managed.

Economic

- The need for long-term sustainable patterns of development that provide for the economic and social needs of all populations.
- Promoting sustainable rural economic development that supports social and environmental objectives.
- A key component of the AONB economy is tourism with 14% of businesses involved in this.

- To promote and enhance a sustainable tourism economy within the AONB without compromising the special qualities of the AONBs landscape.
- The need to broaden the economic base of rural areas and promote economic inclusion.

Environmental

- Conserve and enhance the special landscape of the AONB, more specifically its distinctive character and natural beauty.
- The need to protect and enhance the unique historic environment of the AONB and cultural heritage assets.
- To protect and conserve landscape features contributing to the industrial heritage of the AONB including limekilns, quarries and mineral railways.
- To protect and conserve landscape features which contribute to local special character within the AONB such as drystone walls, hedgerows and in field trees.
- The need to ensure the siting, design, scale and materials of a development are of a character that enhances the quality of the landscape whilst being sympathetic to the AONBs special qualities.
- The need to enable developments that positively enhance the special qualities of the AONB.
- The need to conserve and enhance biodiversity (including flora and fauna), the priority species within the AONB and the geodiversity as an integral part of economic, social and environmental development.
- The need to protect and enhance biodiversity resources particularly sites of international importance e.g. Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Ramsar sites and Morecambe Bay which is a Nature Improvement Area.
- The importance of preserving the large and internationally renowned areas of wetland habitat.
- The need to create and enhance green infrastructure, habitat connectivity, multi-functionality of green infrastructure and priority habitats.
- To ensure soil resources are protected and geodiversity is conserved and enhanced including, in particular the areas of limestone pavement.
- The need to promote and protect the water environment including issues such as water quality and resource use.
- The prudent use and need to reduce the use of natural resources. Recycling and reuse opportunities should be sought.
- To need to promote sensitive waste management.
- The need to reduce flood risk within the AONB from surface run off and coastal processes.
- Promoting sustainable design and improving energy efficiency.
- The need to address and prevent further erosion of the coastal zone through natural processes affecting access.
- The need to mitigate and adapt to climate change incorporating the use of measures such as sustainable drainage features.
- The need for the protection and enhancement of the quality, distinctiveness of the settlement character.

The European Spatial Development Perspective adopted in 1999, identified a potential conflict that is likely to prevail in all countries, irrespective of their location and this concerns balancing the social and economic claims for spatial development with an area's ecological and cultural functions to ensure that the most sustainable patterns of development are achieved. Through the SA process and the inclusion of suitable sustainability objectives, indicators and targets it should be possible to identify where potential issues and conflicts may arise and to develop suitable policy modifications and mitigation measures.

Consultation Question (a)

Are there any other additional, programmes or policies that should be considered for review?

5 THE SUSTAINABILITY BASELINE AND KEY SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

5.1 Introduction

Box 2 defines the SEA Directive requirements for this element of the process.

Box 2: SEA Directive Requirements for Baseline Data Collation

'the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected' (Annex 1 (c))

'any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme, including, in particular, those relating to any areas of particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EC'(Annex 1 (d)).

5.2 Methodology

Characterising the environmental and sustainability baseline, issues and context is an essential part of developing the SA Framework. It comprises the following key elements:

- Characterising the current state of the environment of the AONB including social and economic aspects; and
- Using this information to identify existing problems and opportunities that could be considered in the DPD.

The environmental, social and economic baseline was characterised through the following methods:

- Review of relevant local, regional, national and international plans, strategies and programmes; and
- Data research based around a series of baseline indicators developed from the SEA Directive topics (biodiversity, population, human health, flora, fauna, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage and landscape), the ODPM's guidance and the data available for the AONB. Data was also collated for additional socio-economic topic areas including deprivation, housing and employment to ensure that a broad range of environmental, social and economic issues were considered.

The collation of baseline data also enabled the identification of key sustainability issues and opportunities affecting the AONB.

Appendix B summarises the key baseline trends across the AONB. Each section is subdivided to present the following:

- The baseline indicators that have been used (some are also contextual indicators and may not actually form part of the SA Framework).
- Descriptive text, graphs and statistics about the AONB.
- Key data gaps.

Sustainability issues and opportunities identified from the baseline review are detailed in Section 5.3.

The SEA Directive requires 'material assets' to be considered within the SA. Material assets refer to the stock of valuable assets within a study area and can include many things from valuable landscapes, natural and cultural heritage through to housing stock, schools, hospitals and quality agricultural land. It is considered that the material assets of the AONB are appropriately covered in the following baseline sections, and consequently will not be repeated as a separate section:

- Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna.
- Soils and Geology.
- Cultural Heritage.
- Landscape.
- Housing.
- Transportation.

The AONB straddles two Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) and as such data collection for the baseline has been based largely on data for Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOA). This has been because difficulties have arisen in separating statistical data for each respective LPA for specifically only the AONB area.

5.3 Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

Table 5-1 presents the key sustainability issues and opportunities for Arnside and Silverdale AONB. Appendix C contains Figure 1 Ecological Designated Sites and Figure 2 Heritage Assets and Landscape Features.

Table 5-1 Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

Topic	Summary
Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The area has a large and increasing older population. (There appears to have been a shift towards an older population since the census in 2001). ▪ The AONB has fewer children and younger people and a greater percentage of people over 65 than Cumbria, Lancashire or nationally. ▪ This is likely to have impacts on areas, such as: availability of health care provision, access to services, strain on public transport systems, labour force deficiencies. ▪ There is a very low proportion of people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds within the area's population
Education and Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Educational attainment in the area is good compared to regional and national levels and should be maintained. ▪ Low level of people with no qualifications and a good level of people with higher qualification attainment for the area when compared with national data. ▪ Access to education should be maintained with growth in population within the AONB in order to ensure education provision continues to meet the needs of the local population.
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overall health in the area is very good. ▪ The percentage of people reported to be in very good, good or fair health is slightly above that in Cumbria and nationally and significantly above that in Lancashire. ▪ A growing older population is likely to increase pressure on local health

Topic	Summary
	<p>provision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Access to doctor's surgeries and dentists within the rural areas is more limited and could be improved. ▪ The rural nature of the AONB could mean healthcare issues may become a difficult to tackle logistically. ▪ There are opportunities to further promote access to outdoor recreational pursuits in open areas within the AONB to benefit the health of the local population. ▪ There are also opportunities to further promote walking and cycling across the AONB.
Crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Crime levels in the AONB are lower than national and regional levels for the AONB. ▪ Anti-social behaviour makes up the largest proportion of offences within the AONB. ▪ Although incidences of crime and disorder are not high in the AONB, its rural nature means that there is a need to ensure that access routes, footpaths etc are well marked and not unduly isolated to reduce opportunities for crime. ▪ Communities should be safe working and living environments.
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Poor water quality is an issue in the AONB, particularly in Hawes Water and Leighton Moss catchments, Leighton Beck, the River Bela, River Keer and the Kent Estuary. ▪ Bathing water quality at the two monitoring locations continues to meet the required standard. ▪ Coastal and river flooding pose a risk to the area. ▪ Appropriate upland 'soft' management techniques should be undertaken together with any necessary 'hard' management to ensure the area is adequately safeguarded from the risk of flooding – particularly with increased flood risk associated with climate change. ▪ Opportunities should be sought to tackle the main contributory factors to poor water quality. These include agricultural run-off and septic tank overflow. ▪ New developments and households within the area should be encouraged to minimise water use and to re-use rainwater where possible i.e. grey water recycling systems. ▪ Areas at risk from flooding should be protected from development that would increase that risk. New developments should be encouraged to use SuDS to manage runoff and further reduce flood risk. ▪ There has been no change in licensing strategies indicating that there is no particular or increasing pressure on water resources in AONB area.
Soils and Land Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The area contains a number of important land designations, particularly its limestone pavements. ▪ Two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) designations are of geological interest within the AONB together with Geological Heritage Sites (GHS). These designated sites are all in positive or favourable condition. ▪ The Agricultural Land Classification within the AONB states no Grade 1 or Grade 2 soils are present. ▪ Permanent pasture provides effective erosion control often on vulnerable sites. ▪ High synthetic fertiliser/pesticide/herbicide etc. application rates cause

Topic	Summary
	<p>detrimental impacts on soils and surrounding watercourses and their use is a prevalent problem in the area. To protect the soils, and the surrounding landscape, application of these substances should be regulated and minimised wherever possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The use of Agri-environment payments to help minimise adverse impacts/risk from application of substances on farmland should be maximised. ▪ Climate change is causing more severe droughts and more extreme rainfall events. To protect the AONB's soils from suffering from either or both of these impacts active management should be undertaken to protect the landscape. ▪ Opportunities should be sought to protect and enhance important sites designations and resources for the area. ▪ Where previously developed sites exist, the aim should be to continue to remediate and re-use them.
Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are no Air Quality Monitoring Areas (AQMAs) within the AONB. ▪ Air quality is not considered to be an issue within the AONB and has been scoped out of this SA. ▪ Air quality across the AONB and the surrounding region is high good and is not likely to change given the size of any future development.
Energy and Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Predicted climate changes have the potential to impact on many aspects of the AONB including biodiversity, agriculture, forestry, human health and the historic environment. ▪ Climate change could lead to potential changes in species ranges and abundance as well as timing of biological events due to an increase in temperature. ▪ Loss of intertidal habitat as a result of sea level rises could present a constraining issue for species. ▪ Temperature changes could affect farming and forestry in the longer term. ▪ Damage may be more likely to the historic environment due to waterlogging and new pest species which affect the integrity of recognised sites. ▪ Reducing the carbon footprint through energy conservation and efficiency and the promotion of appropriate renewable energy sources should be a priority for the area. ▪ To increase the production of energy from low carbon and appropriate renewable sources. ▪ New developments should be encouraged to include sustainable design principles. ▪ Reducing motorised road transport on the AONB's roads and encouraging more sustainable modes of transport would contribute to reducing the effects of climate change. ▪ Due care must be given to the conservation of biodiversity, landscape and heritage resources when identifying sites for renewable energy projects. ▪ Green infrastructure is important and delivers a number of multifunctional benefits – Note this is a cross-cutting issue.
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The area's natural environment is central to its character and designation. Safeguarding and enhancing it is paramount to the AONB's future. ▪ There is a large percentage of nationally and locally protected areas, species and habitats present within the AONB.

Topic	Summary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are four Natura 2000 sites: two SACs - Morecambe Bay and Morecambe Bay Pavements and two SPAs - Morecambe Bay and Leighton Moss. The latter two are also Ramsar sites. ▪ There are 19 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) (two of which are designated for geological reasons) which cover 54% of the whole AONB and 4026 ha; one NNR; and 64 Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs) which cover 20% of the terrestrial AONB and 888 ha. ▪ Woodlands cover around a third of the terrestrial AONB. Active woodland management has increased over recent years but 46% of the total woodland area is currently unmanaged. The area also contains a large number of other priority habitats. ▪ To continue the increase of the area's woodland which are in a favourable or improving condition. ▪ To continue the increase of the area's limestone grassland which are in a favourable or improving condition. ▪ There are large areas with high quality natural and biodiverse environments in the AONB, which should be conserved and enhanced. ▪ The high quality of the environment provides opportunity to develop recreation and tourism in the AONB, although care should be taken to ensure that development is appropriate and does not adversely affect biodiversity resources. ▪ The condition of a number of SSSIs should be improved and opportunities should be sought to deliver biodiversity enhancements where possible. ▪ Opportunities should be sought to promote land management schemes where possible. ▪ Efforts should be made to maintain the increase in the number of SSSIs in favourable or recovering position.
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Distinctive features of the cultural, archaeological and built heritage of the AONB make the area distinctive, reflecting the strong agricultural and industrial heritage. ▪ Three conservation areas exist in the AONB, these are Warton, Beetham and the Yealands. ▪ Scheduled monuments, listed buildings and a registered park and garden are all present within the AONB. ▪ Cultural heritage features should be conserved and enhanced where appropriate. ▪ Conservation or restoration efforts should continue to return the cultural assets within the AONB currently on the 'at risk register' back to better conditions so that they can continue to add to the areas cultural diversity and value. ▪ Heritage risks can be reduced by good land management, or by informed planning policies and decisions that take full account of the local and national importance of historic sites. ▪ In addition to protecting statutory sites it is important to ensure that the wider historic landscape is protected and also non-designated heritage and archaeological resources.

Topic	Summary
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The landscape character of the AONB has been influenced by man in many ways such as: through settlement, quarrying, land management and farming. ▪ The AONB landscape has a distinctive character that combines a highly diverse mosaic of contrasting landscape types such as: improved agricultural pastures, intensively managed farmland with large semi-natural areas, low limestone hills, woodlands, wetlands and mosses, pastures, limestone pavements, coastal cliffs and intertidal flats. ▪ Scenic qualities that contribute to the character of the AONB include the distinctive Carboniferous Limestone. ▪ The tranquillity of the AONB is a key feature. The Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) suggests that the west of the AONB along the coast is the most tranquil with the east near the A6 the least. Increased activity, noise and light pollution associated with some developments has the potential to adversely affect the tranquillity. ▪ The estuarine setting of the AONB affords dramatic views over Morecambe Bay. ▪ Woodlands cover approximately a third of the area of the AONB. Diseases such as Chalara dieback (Ash Dieback) are not present within the AONB but as ash woodlands are the dominant woodland type within the AONB this is a key issue which should be observed. ▪ Features important to the landscape and which give the AONB its local distinctiveness should be conserved, restored and enhanced. ▪ Pressures from development can lead to a decline in the landscape character of the AONB. ▪ An increase in visitor numbers that would bring more cars and recreational activities to the AONB may also lead to a decline in the tranquillity of the AONB. ▪ It is important for landscape character and quality to be maintained and where possible restored and enhanced. ▪ The distinctive settlement character is an identified special quality of the AONB for example the linear structure of Warton and the Yealands, the open dispersed nature of Silverdale. ▪ The AONB's high quality landscape is an important resource for attracting visitors and enhancing the quality of life for residents. ▪ Views into and out of the AONB are also important to its setting. ▪ The seascape of the AONB is also very important.
Minerals and Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sandside Quarry is the only remaining active limestone quarry within the AONB and is due for closure in 2020. ▪ No new mineral developments are planned within the AONB. ▪ It will be important to ensure that appropriate restoration plans are in place following cessation of working at Sandside Quarry. ▪ There are no active landfill sites within the AONB and no new waste developments are planned. ▪ The nearest household waste recycling centre to the AONB is at Carnforth and there are various local recycling sites within the AONB
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The dominant travel to work method across the AONB is by car. Better facilities to encourage more sustainable transport use would be beneficial to the area. This could include enhanced car parking at stations to encourage train use. Locations will have to be appropriate to ensure no adverse effect on landscape character.

Topic	Summary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is a good percentage of open access land in the AONB which can be used by visitors and residents to access/explore the countryside. ▪ With much of the area being rural, access to public transport can be difficult for some and is reflected in the lower proportion of people utilising these methods to travel to work. ▪ The Morecambe Bay cycleway and the potential link across the viaduct are key opportunities. ▪ Improving the integration of transport – rail, bus bike etc. are also significant opportunities. ▪ The importance of retaining the Silverdale shuttle to help residents access the train, improving linkages with bus services between Arnside and Silverdale are both examples. ▪ Maintaining good rail links is also a key issue. The direct link from the AONB to Manchester airport and with centres such as Preston and Manchester and the west coast mainline to London. Rail is an important mode for visitors and residents. ▪ Enhancing sustainable coastal access is an opportunity together with the maintenance of PRow and other paths.
Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The AONB area has low JSA claimant numbers and this suggests a strong local economy, however, much local employment is in the tourism industry and many people travel out of the AONB to work. ▪ Many people commute to places of work outside of the AONB which enables them to bring money back into the AONB economy but doesn't support the growth of local jobs. ▪ Tourism is an important business sector in the area and further opportunities should be sought to utilise the areas environmental and cultural assets to build on this. However this needs to be in a sustainable way which is sympathetic to the landscape character and the communities within the AONB. ▪ The railway and the stations at Arnside and Silverdale are important economic drivers. ▪ The railway offers opportunities for people to visit the AONB and then connect to walking or cycling experiences. ▪ Supporting the farming community within the AONB, although it may be relatively small, is an important aspect because this supports the rest of the economy such as the visitor economy and attracting people to live there. ▪ Forestry also supports the local economy and there is a developing local woodfuel economy within the AONB. ▪ There is a need to support local small business development by making land allocations for employment purposes in a way that does not significantly adversely affect the landscape character. ▪ Tourism development has the capacity to have a very damaging effect on the landscape which needs to be considered.
Deprivation and Living Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The overall deprivation across the AONB is relatively very low and suggests that the area is one which is broadly affluent. ▪ Engaging with local residents and making sure that the respective the Councils keep them well informed will be essential in creating vibrant communities. ▪ There may be scope in the future to more actively involve the local community in decision-making, enabling the Councils to understand the needs and desires of

Topic	Summary
	<p>the residents, which, in the long-term could help contribute to the establishment of more sustainable communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Opportunities should be sought to drive up wages where possible.
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ House prices within the AONB are above average and this reflects the desirable nature of the area as a place to live. However it also means that house prices are often beyond the financial reach of local people. ▪ Housing allocations should be made to meet affordable housing needs of the local population in a way that does not significantly adversely affect the landscape character. Sheltered housing needs for the elderly should be met, this is a particular issue due to the ageing population.] ▪ Given its attractive rural character, a number of properties are owned as second homes. This affects local affordability and availability of homes for local people.

Consultation Question (b)

Do you agree with the sustainability issues and opportunities that we have identified? Are there additional issues that both the SA and the AONB DPD should consider?

Consultation Question (c)

Is there any additional baseline information that you feel it would be important to include?

Consultation Question (d)

Are there any particular topics or geographical areas of specific concern to your organisation?

5.4 Transboundary Issues

The AONB itself is transboundary in that the AONB extent straddles the boundary between two local authorities, Lancaster City Council and South Lakeland District Council.

For many authorities, the geographical scale of particular baseline issues means that they relate closely to neighbouring authorities. For example, housing provision and prices, employment migration and commuting, service provision and education can all result in flows of people across Local Authority boundaries. In order to help to characterise the baseline further, some of these key 'transboundary' issues have been identified below.

- Waste disposal is a significant strategic issue for the AONB due to there being no waste disposal/landfill sites being located within the boundary. The nearest landfill site to the AONB within Lancaster district is located in Preston. The vast majority of South Lakeland's waste goes to a mechanical and biological treatment plant (MBT plant) in Barrow in Furness and a small percentage goes to landfill at Bennett Bank, also in Barrow.
- The economy of the AONB which largely includes tourism relies on attracting visitors from across various regions into the AONB.
- Transboundary effects occur on the AONB's road network due to any out-commuting to Lancaster District or South Lakeland either for employment, education or retail purposes.
- The AONB borders the Morecambe Bay Natura 2000 site which also borders a number of other coastal local authorities in the North West. Ensuring against pollution of the Bay and the adjoining wetland system is a key issue for the AONB. Authorities need to work together to ensure against adverse in-combination effects upon the site.

6 THE SA SCOPE AND ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

6.1 Scope of the SA

6.1.1 Geographical Scope of the SA

The geographical scope of the SA will be driven by the geographical scope of the Plan i.e. the whole of the AONB. Regarding the allocations element of the DPD the SA will consider the spatial extent of their likely impacts. In some cases this may be only local to the site in question whereas in other cases the impacts of the allocation may be felt over a wider area including potentially outside the AONB. Similarly, the cumulative effects of a number of allocations may result in impacts occurring over a wider area. These will also be considered in the SA.

6.1.2 Temporal Scope of the SA

The DPD is intended to apply until 2031. This timescale will be reflected in the SA. If there are likely to be any sustainability effects of the DPD that would last longer than this, these would also be considered.

6.1.3 Aspects of the AONB DPD to be assessed

As options emerge, each of the DPD's components will be assessed to determine sustainability performance and to provide recommendations for sustainability improvements. At this stage in the DPD's development it is anticipated that the following elements will need to be assessed:

- The DPD's vision;
- The DPD's strategic objectives;
- The DPD's spatial and area wide policies; and
- The DPD's site allocations.

The intention will be to ensure that the process is iterative with regular feedback occurring between the plan-makers and the SA team as options are developed. An SA Panel will be developed comprising AONB staff and statutory environmental bodies. The Panel approach has been used to good effect elsewhere in Lancaster and would be used to assist the appraisal of options.

Assessment of Alternatives

It is a requirement of the SEA Directive that alternatives are assessed and, therefore alternative options will be assessed using the SA Framework. The purpose of the assessment will be to determine the sustainability strengths and weaknesses of each option with this information then used by the plan-makers to inform their decision to select the preferred options. It is proposed that for the strategic elements a matrix will be used for this assessment that enables the options to be easily compared. For the allocations a long list of feasible sites will be developed, of which not all will be taken forward. It is envisaged that a pro-forma based approach would be undertaken to assess the allocations in collaboration with the Plan-makers.

The types of alternative options to be reviewed are currently anticipated to include:

- Strategic Spatial Strategy Options;

- Possible strategic policy directions; and
- Proposed site allocations.

6.2 The Appraisal Approach and SA Framework

6.2.1 Background to the SA Framework

The SA Framework underpins the assessment methodology and comprises a series of Sustainability Objectives (covering social, economic and environmental issues) that are used to test the performance of the plan being assessed. Whilst the SEA Directive does not require the use of SA Objectives, they are a recognised tool for undertaking the assessment and are aspirations/goals that an authority/organisation should work towards achieving.

The SA Objectives are separate from the objectives of the DPD, although there may be some overlaps between them. To help measure the performance of the DPD's components against the SA Objectives, it is beneficial if they are supported by a series of indicators and targets. Baseline data should be collated to support each of the indicators, as this provides a means of determining current performance across the AONB and gauging how much intervention or the extent of work needed to achieve the targets that have been identified. The following section provides further details about the development of the SA Framework.

6.2.2 Development of the SA Objectives

The SA Objectives have been developed using the review of other relevant plans, programmes and environmental objectives, the baseline data, key issue and opportunities. The objectives have been assessed for their internal compatibility and no significant issues have been identified. Appendix D contains an internal compatibility table of the SA Objectives.

Table 6-1 presents the proposed SA objectives and sub-objectives (or guide questions) that will be used in the assessment of the DPD and its options.

As the SA develops, indicators and targets will also be added. Where possible, the indicators selected should link to those used to describe the baseline conditions across the AONB, as an understanding of the existing conditions is needed to inform the assessment.

Table 6-1 SA Objectives and sub-objectives

SA Objective and Sub-Objectives
1. To ensure there is housing to meet local needs in a manner sensitive to the AONB.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To ensure there is enough housing available to meet needs in all areas. ▪ To increase the availability of affordable housing. ▪ To ensure housing is decent.
2. To improve wellbeing, physical and mental health for all and reduce health inequalities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To reduce health inequalities amongst different groups in the community. ▪ To improve access to health and social care services for all through proximity to GP surgeries etc. ▪ To promote healthy active lifestyles and access to recreational space. ▪ To ensure there is access to greenspace, countryside, public spaces, rights of way, play areas and open coast for people to enjoy. ▪ To ensure there are cultural /social/ community facilities and activities for people to enjoy / participate in including access to village halls and civic buildings. ▪ To encourage the development of strong and cohesive communities through proximity to existing settlements. ▪ To create a healthy and safe working and living environment with low rates of crime and disorder.
3. To improve the level of skills, education and training.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To maintain and increase levels of participation and attainment in education for all members of society through access to primary schools, secondary schools and further educational establishments. ▪ To improve the provision of education and training facilities. ▪ To improve access to and involvement in Lifelong Learning opportunities. ▪ To improve access to environmental education.
4. To improve sustainable access to services, facilities, the countryside and open spaces
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To ensure public transport services (bus and train) meet the needs of all and development is located in proximity to bus services. ▪ To ensure highways infrastructure serves people's transportation needs (including for private vehicular travel, walking and cycling). ▪ To ensure public buildings and public spaces are readily accessible to all in including access to village halls and civic buildings. ▪ To promote the use of more sustainable modes of transport and reduce dependence on the private car. ▪ To improve access to cultural and leisure facilities.

SA Objective and Sub-Objectives

- To maintain and improve access to essential services and facilities for all including proximity to shops.
- To promote and facilitate access to, and opportunities to enjoy, the countryside, historic environment and green open space including a range of open space typologies.

5. To diversify and strengthen the local economy in a manner that is sensitive to the AONB.

- To help create the right economic conditions and infrastructure provision to encourage inward investment.
- To stimulate the use of local companies, products, services, heritage and culture and provide other forms of community benefit.
- To encourage indigenous growth of local businesses.
- To encourage diversification, innovation and entrepreneurship.
- To help improve the competitiveness and productivity of the local economy.
- To increase the environmental performance of local companies and their products/services.
- To provide sustainable tourism.

6. To retain and create jobs and ensure the workforce meets local needs.

- To ensure people are educated, trained and skilled to meet local economic needs.
- To increase the number, variety and quality of employment opportunities, including those offered by tourism, social enterprise and inward investment.

7. To encourage economic inclusion and access to jobs.

- To increase access for all to a range of jobs, through improved training, sustainable transport and communication links.
- To lead to the location of new employment opportunities in areas of greatest need.

8. To limit and adapt to climate change and increase energy efficiency.

- To reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- To ensure existing buildings have optimal energy efficiencies.
- To promote the use of more sustainable modes of transport and reduce dependence on the private car.
- To ensure new developments are able to withstand extreme weather events.

To encourage the use of clean, low carbon and energy efficient technologies sensitive to the AONB.

9. To protect and enhance water quality, resources and reduce the risk of flooding

- To maintain, and where possible improve the quality and quantity of water resources.
- To minimise the risk of water pollution from all sources.

SA Objective and Sub-Objectives

- To promote the wide use of sustainable drainage systems and other flood reduction or defence measures.
- To promote measures to reduce demand and improve demand management for water.
- To help reduce pressure on watercourses/water bodies from diffuse pollution such as agricultural waste, fertilizer and run-off from drains and concrete surfaces and point sources such as septic tank discharge.
- To encourage prudent water usage to reduce pressure on water resources.
- To align with current or planned sewerage infrastructure provision.
- To reduce or manage flooding through avoidance of areas of significant risk.
- To encourage the inclusion of flood mitigation measures such as SuDS.

10. To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity.

- To protect and conserve habitats, species, geological and geomorphological sites, especially where these may be rare, declining, threatened or indigenous.
- To help ensure biodiversity sustainability by enhancing conditions wherever necessary to retain viability of the resource.
- To minimise adverse impacts on species and habitats through new development and human activity.
- To ensure and enhance continuity and connectivity of ecological networks such as river corridors, coastal habitats, uplands, woodlands and scrub to enable free passage of specific habitat dependent species.

11. To protect and enhance landscape, seascape and settlement character and quality.

- To ensure night skies are dark.
- To promote sensitive design in development.
- To reduce exposure to noise disturbance.
- To protect local landscape quality, distinctiveness and character from unsympathetic development and changes in land management.
- To maintain the remoteness and tranquillity of rural landscapes.
- To encourage low-input and organic farming, with environmental stewardship styles of land management.
- To sustain and extend tree cover, hedgerows, woodlands, and sustainable forestry.
- To conserve and enhance seascape character.
- To conserve and enhance landscape features such as drystone walls, in-field trees, limekilns, ponds etc.
- To conserve views across, into and out of the AONB.
- To maintain open spaces.
- To maintain the mosaic of contrasting landscape character types.

SA Objective and Sub-Objectives

- To encourage the appropriate re-use and improvement of brownfield sites.

12. To protect land and soil and ensure the sustainable use of natural resources.

- To minimise the loss of greenfield sites, areas of open spaces and amenity, and productive agricultural land.
- To encourage development of brownfield land where appropriate.
- To ensure that the creation of contaminated land will be avoided.
- To ensure the quantity and quality of soil resources and function is safeguarded for the future.

13. To manage mineral resources sustainably, minimise waste and encourage recycling.

- To minimise the extraction, transport and use of primary minerals and encourage the use of recycled material.
- To promote the use of recycled and secondary materials in construction.
- Make use of existing buildings where appropriate
- Ensure new developments are designed to integrate recycling opportunities and facilities i.e. by having appropriate storage areas for recycling receptacles and proximity to recycling sites etc

14. To create vibrant, active, inclusive and open-minded communities with a strong sense of local history.

- To promote a sense of community identity, a sense of place and sense of local history.
- To encourage social inclusiveness and cohesion, and help continue valued local traditions.

15. To protect and enhance the historic environment and heritage assets.

- To protect and enhance historic features (e.g. limekilns), buildings and sites including archaeology.
- To protect and enhance historic landscape character
- To protect the character and appearance of designated archaeological sites, historic parks and gardens, designed landscapes and their settings.
- To sensitively protect areas of high archaeological and historic landscape importance including historic designated landscapes.

16. To increase the level of participation in democratic processes.

- To encourage local people and community groups to become involved in decision making about important aspects of the AONB.
- To identify members of society, including hard-to-reach groups that may require help to participate fully in the decision-making process.
- To help communities to understand the decision-making process, their opportunity to influence decisions and how decisions may impact on them.
- To respect the needs of all communities and future generations.

6.2.3 Application of the SA Framework

Section 6.1.3 identifies the different elements of the AONB DPD that will be appraised.

Each policy and each site allocation will be appraised in turn to determine how well the proposal performs against the SA Framework Objectives. The assessors will consider each of the sub-objectives whilst drawing a conclusion on the performance against the headline objective.

The appraisal will be presented in an appraisal matrix for each group of policies and sites. The matrix is an established method for clearly analysing the performance of the policies or sites and helps meet the requirements of the SEA Regulations by ensuring that the following elements are considered. This will enable significant effects to be identified:

- Impact – whether the impact will be positive, negative or neutral when assessed against the Sustainability Objectives.
- Temporal scale – whether the impact will be short-term (within 5 years), occur in the medium term (5 – 10 years) or occur in the long-term (10 years +).
- Spatial scale – where the impacts will occur within the area. Any transboundary effects outside of the study area would also be considered.
- Permanency – whether effects will be permanent or temporary.
- Level of certainty – the level of certainty in the prediction will be classified as low, medium or high.
- Cumulative and synergistic effects

Where negative impacts are identified, measures will be proposed to offset, avoid or otherwise mitigate for the impact. In addition, measures which may further enhance benefits will also be identified as appropriate.

An example section of a policy appraisal matrix is shown below. Note that the appraisal of sites will contain one site per matrix only. :

SA Objective (Hypothetical Example)	Performance of Policy	Temporal Scale Nature of Impact (Direct/Indirect) Reversibility Certainty	Geographical Extent	Commentary/Mitigation
S1 To reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime and reduce exposure to hazards	EC1.1+	Medium to Long-term Indirect Reversible Medium	Town centres	EC1.1 and EC1.2 both seek to promote vibrant, well populated, mixed-use town centres which can help to reduce instances of crime and anti-social behaviour. EC1.2 also seeks to avoid low-value retail uses such as hot-food take-aways which can be sources of litter and anti-social behaviour at night. <i>The SA recommended that Policy EC1.3 included references to the need to</i>
	EC1.2+			
	EC1.3+			
	EC1.4 O			
	EC1.5 +			
	EC1.6 O			

SA Objective (Hypothetical Example)	Performance of Policy	Temporal Scale Nature of Impact (Direct/Indirect) Reversibility Certainty	Geographical Extent	Commentary/Mitigation
				<i>design out crime/consider safety issues in public realm improvements and this has been addressed in the policy.</i>
S2 To ensure there is housing to meet all needs	EC1.1 +	Medium to Long-term Indirect Reversible High	Town centres	EC1.1 identifies the role of the Town Centre to provide some residential development. The other policies in this section are not concerned with residential provision.
	EC1.2 0			
	EC1.3 0			
	EC1.4 -			
	EC1.5 0			
	EC1.6 - -			
S3 To improve physical and mental health for all and reduce health inequalities	EC1.1 +	Etc.	Etc.	Etc.
	EC1.2 0			
	EC1.3 +			
	Etc.			
	Etc.			
	Etc.			

The scoring used for the appraisal of the policy/allocation is defined below:

Table 6-2 Notations used in the SA Assessment

Impact	Description	Symbol
Major Positive Impact	The policy/site contributes to the achievement of the SA Objective and is likely to deliver enhancements.	++
Positive Impact	The policy/site contributes partially to the achievement of the SA Objective but not completely.	+
No Impact/ Neutral	There is no clear relationship between the policy/site and/or the achievement of the SA Objective or the relationship is negligible.	0
Negative Impact	The policy/site partially detracts from the achievement of some elements of the SA Objective.	-
Major Negative Impact	The policy/site detracts from the achievement of all elements of the SA Objective.	--
Uncertain impact – more information required	It is not possible to determine the nature of the impact as there may be too many external factors that would influence the appraisal or the impact may depend heavily upon implementation at the local level.	?

Impact	Description	Symbol
Positive and Negative Impacts	The policy/site has a combination of both positive and negative contributions to the achievement of the SA Objective.	+/-

The assessment of the allocations will also make use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to identify the relationship between the proposed allocations and existing environmental and sustainability features, for example designated sites. The figures in Appendix C summarise many of these features, and it will be possible to zoom into the areas where allocations are proposed to provide more detail at the assessment stage. Socio-economic factors cannot so easily be mapped using GIS although as a minimum, spatial data can be obtained pertaining to the different facets of deprivation and access to services. It will be important to consider the immediate local impacts of the allocations as well as the wider district and regional implications. Where appropriate, the assessment will consider existing evidence and research when making linkages between new development and the types of impact this could have on different strands of the community, for example, community cohesion, equality, health etc.

In all cases, the assessment of sites and policies will make good use of the baseline data collated which will be supplemented with further detail as appropriate at the assessment stage. When assessing each element, the questions will be asked:

- To what extent does the allocation/policy meet the SA Framework Objectives and sub-objectives?
- To what extent will the allocation/policy seek to address key sustainability issues?
- To what extent will the allocations/policy affect the current baseline conditions?

It should also be remembered that this is a strategic assessment, and, whilst allocations will be assessed individually, it is not the intention to enter into the level of detail reserved for project-level Environmental Impact Assessment. All assessment will be desk-based other than a site visit to review sites from a landscape perspective.

In addition to assessing sites individually, the cumulative effects of multiple sites will also be assessed. This will consider how the allocations throughout the entire area and, where appropriate, more localised groups of allocations might affect specific receptors and receptor types. This would also consider the cumulative effects of sites within individual settlements where appropriate and in particular any cumulative impacts on local character. These might include, the receptor topic of biodiversity, for example at the district level, or specific ecological features or designations at the sub-district level. Cumulative effects of policy proposals together with sites and other potential plans and projects will also be considered.

Consultation Question (e)

Do you have any comments regarding our proposed approach to identifying alternatives?

Consultation Question (f)

Do you have any further suggestions regarding the scope of the SA and its proposed appraisal of the DPD?

Consultation Question (g)

Are there any changes you consider should be made to the SA Framework, SA Objectives and sub-objectives.

7 NEXT STEPS

This Scoping Report has outlined how we intend to undertake the SA of the DPD. Throughout this report we have included a series of questions we would like you to answer when providing your consultation responses. A list of the questions is provided below:

- a** Are there any other additional, programmes or policies that should be considered for review?
- b** Do you agree with the sustainability issues and opportunities that we have identified? Are there additional issues that both the SA and the AONB DPD should consider?
- c** Is there any additional baseline information that you feel it would be important to include?
- d** Are there any particular topics or geographical areas of specific concern to your organisation?
- e** Do you have any comments regarding our proposed approach to identifying alternatives?
- f** Do you have any further suggestions regarding the scope of the SA and its proposed appraisal of the DPD?
- g** Are there any changes you consider should be made to the SA Framework, SA Objectives and sub-objectives? Can you propose any appropriate indicators or targets?

Responses to this consultation should be sent via email to:

developmentplans@southlakeland.gov.uk

or by post to:

Development Plans team,
South Lakeland District Council,
South Lakeland House,
Lowther Street,
Kendal,
Cumbria LA9 4DQ.

The statutory consultation period is five weeks and will run from 3rd June 2015 to 8th July 2015.

Hard copies of this report can also be found in the South Lakeland District Council and Lancaster City Council offices and in local libraries.

Following the receipt of the consultation comments, they will be reviewed and modifications made to the scope of the SA as necessary. Stage B of the SA process comprising the appraisal of the DPD will commence following refinement of the scope. It is expected that the next consultation on the SA Report will be undertaken alongside the consultation on issues and options.

Appendix A

Review of Plans, Programmes and Environmental
Protection Objectives

Appendix A

Review of Plans, Programmes and Environmental Protection Objectives

Table 1-1 List of Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes

International and European Level
Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Statement of Principles for the Sustainable Management of Forests and Agenda 21 (1992)
Aarhus Convention (1998)
Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979)
World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg (2002)
European Sustainable Development Strategy (2006)
UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972)
Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1979)
Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)
EU Seventh Environment Programme to 2020 (2014)
European Spatial Development Perspective (1999)
European Employment Strategy (2002)
Second European Climate Change Programme (2005)
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (1971)
Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Adopted December 1997)
Copenhagen Accord United Nations Climate Change Conference (2009)
European Landscape Convention (2000)
Directive on the Assessment and Management of Flood Risks (2007/60/EC)
The Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) (1979)
The Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) (1992)
Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020, European Commission (2011)
The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) (2000)
The Waste Framework Directive, (2008/98/EC) (2008)
Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC) (2008)
Renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy (2006)
The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC)

EC Directive 2003/4/EC on public access to environmental information (2003)
EC Council Directive 79/409/EEC, on the Conservation of Wild Birds (1979)
EC Council Directive 92/43/EEC, on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (1992)
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1994)
EU Flood Directive (2007)
EU Soil Framework Directive (2006)
EU Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC) (1992)
EU Biodiversity Strategy to2020 (2012)
EC Council Directive 2001/42EC – ‘on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment’ (2001)
National Level
Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) (1981)
Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England’s wildlife and ecosystem services (2011)
A Strategy for England’s Trees, Woodlands and Forests (2007)
Conserving Biodiversity – The UK Approach (2007)
The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010) (as amended)
Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW) (2000)
The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006)
Sustainable Energy Act (2003)
The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations (1994)
Secure and Sustainable Buildings Act (2004)
Stern Review of the Economics of Climate Change
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Area) Act (1990)
Climate Change Act (2008)
Climate Change – The UK Programme 2006: Tomorrow’s Climate Today’s Challenge
World Class Places: The Government’s Strategy for Improving Quality of Place (2009)
Localism Act (2011)

Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009)
'The Natural Choice', the Natural Environment White Paper, Defra (2012)
Water for Life, the Water White Paper, Defra (2011)
Local Transport White Paper (2011)
National Planning Policy Framework (2012)
Business Plan 2012-2015, Defra (2012)
Business Plan 2012-15, Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) (2012)
Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services, Defra (2011)
Natural England Designations Strategy (2012)
UK Marine Strategy Part 1 (2012)
Energy White Paper: Our Energy Future: Creating a Low Carbon Economy, Department of Trade and Industry (2003)
UK Low Carbon Transition Plan – National Strategy for Climate Change and Energy (2009)
Marine Policy Statement (2011)
The Invasive Non-Native Species Framework Strategy for Great Britain, Defra (2008)
The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (1994)
State of the Natural Environment in the North West, Natural England (2009)
UK Geodiversity Action Plan (2009)
Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England (2010)
Research and Archaeology in North West England: An Archaeological Research Framework for North West England Volume 2 Strategy (2007)
Draft Heritage Protection Bill (2008)
Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales (2009)
Making Space for Water: Taking Forward a New Government Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (2005)
Future Water: The Government's Water Strategy for England (2008)
Waste Strategy for England (2007)
Flood and Water Management Act (2010)
Code for Sustainable Homes, CLG (2009)
Heritage at Risk Strategy, 2011-2015, English Heritage (2012)

Conservation Principle, Policy and Guidance, English Heritage (2008)
The Carbon Plan, DECC (2011)
UK Renewable Energy Strategy (2009)
Securing the Future – UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy, Defra (2005)
Mainstreaming sustainable development – The Government’s vision and what this means in practice, Defra (2011)
Safeguarding our Soils – A Strategy for England,(Defra (2011)
The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (2007)
Government Forestry and Woodlands Policy Statement (2013)
Government Tourism Policy, DCMS (2011)
Sustainable Tourism in England: A Framework for Action, DCMS (2009)
Healthy lives, healthy people: Improving outcomes and supporting transparency, Department for Health (2012)
Health Effects of Climate Change in the UK 2008 – An update of the Department of Health Report 2001/2002
Choosing Health: Making Healthier Choices Easier (White Paper) Department of Health, (2004)
Water for People and the Environment: A Strategy for England and Wales (2009)
Working for a Healthier Tomorrow – Dame Carol Black’s Review of the health of Britain’s working age population (2008)
Game Plan: A Strategy for Delivering Government’ s Sport and Physical Activity Objectives Social Exclusion Unit, DCMS (2002)
State of the Countryside Report, Commission for Rural Communities (2010)
Rural Statement (2012)
Regional Level
North West River Basin Management Plan (2009) (Update due)
English Heritage in the North West 2006 – 2008, English Heritage (2006)
Heritage Counts 2009 – The State of the North West’s Historic Environment, English Heritage (2009)
Streets for All: North West Manual, English Heritage (2005)
Action for Sustainability – North West Regional Sustainable Development Framework (2005)
The North West Green Infrastructure Guide (2007)

Local Level
South Lakeland Local Plan (2006)
South Lakeland Waste Management Strategy 2003/4 – 2010/11
Cumbria Minerals and Waste Local Plan (2012)
Cumbria Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2007 – 2020
Lancaster District Local Plan 2003 – 2023/4
Lancaster City Council Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) (2014)
Lancashire Environment Strategy 2005 - 2010
Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Development Framework (2009)
Replacement Cumbria and Lake District Joint Structure Plan 2001 - 2016
Morecambe Bay Shoreline Management Plan 2 (2014)
Cumbria Housing Strategy 2006-2011
Lancaster Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 – 2011 (2008)
Lancaster Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2007)
A Landscape Strategy for Lancashire, Lancashire County Council Environment Directorate (2000)
Cumbria Historic Landscape Characterisation Programme (2009)
Lancashire Historic Landscape Characterisation Programme (2002)
Morecambe Bay Limestones NCA 20
Morecambe Coast and Lune Estuary NCA 31
Arnside & Silverdale Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment (2015) (in development)
The Lancashire Biodiversity Action Plan, Lancashire Biodiversity Partnership (2001)
The Cumbria Biodiversity Action Plan, Cumbria Biodiversity Partnership (2001)
Cumbria Freshwater Biosecurity Plan, 2011 – 2015 (2011)
Lancashire GAP 2010, GeoLancashire
Local Geodiversity Action Plan for Cumbria, Cumbria RIGS (2009)
Cumbria Renewable Energy Capacity and Deployment study (2011)
Planning guidance for renewable energy – Lancashire (2011)
Cumbria County Council Wind Energy Supplementary Planning Document (2007)

Cumbria Rights of Way Improvement Plan (2007)
Lancashire Rights of Way Improvement Plan (2006)
The Tourism Strategy for Cumbria 2008-2018
Cumbria Tourism Destination Management Plan 2009-10
Blackpool and Lancashire Visitor Economy Strategy 2006-2016
South Lakeland Community Strategy 2008 – 2028
South Lakeland SHLAA (2009)
South Lakeland Employment and Housing Land Search Study (2009)
South Lakeland Employment and Housing Land Search Study (2009)
Economic Development Strategy for South Lakeland (2004)
Lancaster District Local Strategic Partnership, Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2011
Lancaster Cultural Heritage Strategy (2011)
Cumbria Economic Strategy 2009-2019
Cumbria Sustainability Strategy (updated 2006)
Lancashire Economic Strategy (2010)
Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit (2011)
South Lakeland Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2007)
South Cumbria Abstraction Licensing Strategy (2013)
Lune and Wyre Abstraction Licensing Strategy (2013)
Local Transport Plan 2011- 2021, A Strategy for Lancashire (2011)
Draft Local Transport Plan 3 (2011-2026) (Cumbria County Council Consultation Draft, June 2010)
Moving Cumbria Forward, Cumbria Transport Plan Strategy 2011-2026
Kent Leven Catchment Flood Management Plan, Summary Report (2009)
Lune Catchment Flood Management Plan, Summary Report (2009)
Cumbria Climate Change Strategy 2008-2012
The Lancashire Climate Change Strategy 2009-2020
Morecambe Bay EMS Management Scheme and Action Plan and Regulation 35 conservation advice for MB EMSMS
Lancashire Green Infrastructure Strategy (2009)

Green Infrastructure to Combat Climate Change. A Framework for Action in Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside (2011)

Table 1-2 Sustainability Themes linked to SA Objectives

Themes relevant to SA of Arnsdale and Silverdale AONB DPD	Source					Main SA Topics	Relevant SA Objective
	International	National / Regional	Local	Implications For the AONB DPD	Implications for the SA		
Environmental							
Protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity,	Convention on Biological Diversity; The EU Biodiversity Strategy; Convention on Biological Diversity; EU Habitats Directive; Agenda 21 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development; Bern Convention; EU Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC; Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; The Water Framework Directive; Marine Strategy Framework Directive; Conserving Biodiversity- The UK Approach; A Strategy for England's Trees, Woodlands and Forests	Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended); The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations; The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act; 'The Natural Choice', the Natural Environment White Paper; Water for Life, the Water White Paper; Biodiversity 2020; Natural England Designations Strategy; UK Marine Strategy; Marine Policy Statement; UK Biodiversity Action Plan; State of the Natural Environment in the North West; UK Geodiversity Action Plan; Government Forestry and Woodlands Policy Statement	The Lancashire Biodiversity Action Plan; The Cumbria Biodiversity Action Plan; Cumbria Freshwater Biosecurity Plan; Local Geodiversity Action Plan for Cumbria; The AONB Management Plan	The AONB DPD should include policies that support the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and geodiversity. This should provide conservation of Habitats and species Invasive non-native species and plant diseases Water quality Shellfishing Geodiversity	The SA Framework should include objectives, indicators and targets that seek to conserve or enhance biodiversity and geodiversity.	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	10
Protect and enhance fauna and flora	Convention on Biological Diversity; The EU Biodiversity Strategy; Convention on Biological Diversity; EU Habitats Directive; Agenda 21 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development; Bern Convention; EU Directive	Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended); The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations; The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act; 'The Natural Choice', the Natural Environment White Paper; Water for Life, the Water White	The Lancashire Biodiversity Action Plan; The Cumbria Biodiversity Action Plan; Cumbria Freshwater Biosecurity Plan; Local Geodiversity Action	The AONB DPD should include policies that support the protection of flora and fauna. Some of which is outstandingly rich, with many rare or	The SA Framework should include objectives, indicators and targets that seek to conserve or enhance flora and fauna.	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	10

	on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC; Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; The Water Framework Directive; Marine Strategy Framework Directive; Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; The Birds Directive; EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds; Bonn Convention;	Paper; Biodiversity 2020; Natural England Designations Strategy; UK Marine Strategy; Marine Policy Statement; UK Biodiversity Action Plan; State of the Natural Environment in the North West; UK Geodiversity Action Plan; The Invasive Non-Native Species Framework Strategy for Great Britain; National Planning Policy Framework; The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations; A Strategy for England's Trees, Woodlands and Forests	Plan for Cumbria; The AONB Management Plan	uncommon species including those known only within the local area.			
Protect the water environment and protect people and properties from flood risk	The EU Water Framework Directive; EU Flood Directive; Drinking Water Directive	Water for Life, the Water White Paper; Mainstreaming sustainable development – The Government's vision and what this means in practice; North West River Basin Management Plan; National Planning Policy Framework; Future Water: The Government's Water Strategy for England; Flood and Water Management Act; Making Space for Water; Water for People and the Environment	Kent Leven Catchment Flood Management Plan; Lune Catchment Flood Management Plan; Morecambe Bay Shoreline Management Plan; South Lakeland Strategic Flood Risk Assessment; South Cumbria Abstraction Licensing Strategy; Lune and Wyre Abstraction Licensing Strategy	The AONB DPD should include policies that address water quality, flood risk and coastal erosion. The AONB DPD should also seek to incorporate climate change adaptation measures such as the use of sustainable drainage features.	The SA Framework needs to include objectives, targets and indicators that address water quality and flood risk.	Water Human Health	2, 8, 9
Encourage the use of more sustainable		Local Transport White Paper; National Planning Policy Framework; The	South Lakeland Local Plan; Lancaster District Local Plan;	The AONB DPD should include policies that	The SA Framework should include	Population Human Health	2, 4, 8

forms of transport and reduce the need and desire to travel by car		Carbon Plan; Sustainable Energy Act; Energy White Paper	Cumbria Rights of Way Improvement Plan; Lancashire Rights of Way Improvement Plan; Lancashire Local Transport Plan 2011-2021; Cumbria Draft Local Transport Plan 3; Cumbria Transport Plan Strategy; The Community Strategy for South Lakeland AONB Management Plan	encourage sustainable and efficient patterns of movement whilst being sympathetic to the and conserving to the special qualities of the AONB	objectives, indicators and targets that encourage sustainable transport.	Climate Change	
Address the causes of climate change, protect air quality and increase resilience and maximise the positive benefits for communities, landscape and the natural environment	Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change; Agenda 21 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development; Copenhagen Accord United Nations Climate Change Conference; Renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy; UN Framework Convention on Climate Change; World Summit on Sustainable Development; EU Seventh Environment Action Programme; Second European Climate Change Programme; The UK Climate Change Programme; UK Low Carbon Transmission Plan; Health Effects of Climate Change	Climate Change Act, Sustainable Energy Act; National Planning Policy Framework; Energy White Paper; Code for Sustainable Homes; Mainstreaming sustainable development – The Government's vision and what this means in practice; Securing the Future – UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy; The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland	South Lakeland Local Plan; Lancaster District Local Plan; Cumbria Renewable Energy Capacity and Deployment study; Lancashire planning guidance for renewable energy; Cumbria Sustainability Strategy; Cumbria Climate Change Strategy; The Lancashire Climate Change Strategy; Green Infrastructure to Combat Climate Change	The AONB DPD should include policies that address air quality and climate change.	The SA Framework should include objectives, indicators and targets that address climate change issues. Air quality has been scoped out for the AONB.	Climate Change	8
Protect and reduce the consumption of natural	EU Waste Framework Directive; Renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy	Secure and Sustainable Buildings Act; The Natural Environment and Rural Communities; The Natural	South Lakeland Local Plan; Lancaster District Local Plan; Joint Lancashire	The AONB DPD should include polices that seek to reduce the	The SA Framework should include objectives,	Population and Climate Change	8, 13

resources including fossil fuels, minerals, land take and water and achieve more sustainable waste management		Choice', The Natural Environment White Paper; Waste Strategy for England; Action for Sustainability	Minerals and Waste Development Framework; Cumbria Minerals and Waste Local Plan; Cumbria County Council Wind Energy SPD	consumption of natural resources. Opportunities for recycling and reuse should also be encouraged.	indicators and targets that seek to minimise the use of natural resources and encourage sustainable waste management.		
Conserve soil resources and maintain their quality	Renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy ; EU Soil Framework Directive	National Planning Policy Framework; Safeguarding our Soils – A Strategy for England; State of the Natural Environment in the North West	South Lakeland Local Plan; Lancaster District Local Plan	The AONB DPD should seek to ensure soil resources are protected.	The SA Framework should include objectives with a focus on the protection of soil resources.	Soils and Geology Landscape Water	9, 12
Protect and enhance the local character and distinctiveness and maintain cultural heritage and historic landscape character	Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage; European Spatial Development Perspective	Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act; Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Area); National Planning Policy Framework; Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England; An Archaeological Research Framework for North West England; Heritage at Risk Strategy; Conservation Principle, Policy and Guidance; The State of the North West's Historic Environment; Streets for All: North West Manual	South Lakeland Local Plan; Lancaster District Local Plan; Lancaster Cultural Heritage Strategy; Draft Heritage Bill; AONB Management Plan	The AONB DPD should include policies that seek to conserve and enhance local landscape character distinctiveness, valued historic environment and cultural heritage.	The SA Framework should include objectives that seek to protect local distinctiveness and maintain cultural heritage.	Cultural Heritage Landscape	11, 12, 14, 15
Protect and enhance landscape and seascape	European Landscape Convention	National Planning Policy Framework; The Natural Choice', the Natural Environment White Paper;	South Lakeland Local Plan; Lancaster District Local Plan; Cumbria Landscape	The AONB DPD should include policies that seek to protect and	The SA Framework should include objectives that	Landscape	11, 12

character and features		Natural England Designations Strategy; State of the Natural Environment in the North West	Character Guidance and Toolkit; A Landscape Strategy for Lancashire; Arnside & Silverdale Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment; Morecambe Bay Limestones National Character Area; Morecambe Coast and Lune Estuary NCA 31; South Lakeland Community Strategy; Lancaster District Local Strategic Partnership, Sustainable Community Strategy; Lancashire Green Infrastructure Strategy	enhance landscape and seascape.	seek to protect and enhance landscape and seascape.		
Social							
Provide access to good quality and affordable housing to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home		National Planning Policy Framework; Code for Sustainable Homes	South Lakeland Local Plan; Lancaster District Local Plan; Lancaster City Council SHLAA; Cumbria Housing Strategy; South Lakeland SHLAA; South Lakeland Employment and Housing Land Search Study; AONB Management Plan	The AONB DPD should include policies that seek to provide housing that meets local community needs prioritising affordable housing and use of brownfield sites	The SA Framework should include objectives, indicators and targets that seek relate to local housing needs.	Population	1
Promote the social and economic well-being of all communities		The Natural Environment and Rural Communities; Countryside and Rights of Way Act; National Planning Policy	South Lakeland Local Plan; Lancaster District Local Plan	The AONB DPD should include policies that seek to promote social and economic	The SA Framework should include objectives that seek to	Population and Human Health	2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 14, 16

		Framework; State of the Countryside report 2010; Rural Statement		well-being for all communities	promote social and economic well-being for all communities		
Promote healthy lifestyles and vibrant, safe and cohesive communities	European Spatial Development Perspective	National Planning Policy Framework; Healthy lives, healthy people: Improving outcomes and supporting transparency; Game Plan: A Strategy for Delivering Government's Sport and Physical Activity Objectives; The Natural Environment and Rural Communities	South Lakeland Local Plan; Lancaster District Local Plan; Cumbria Rights of Way Improvement Plan; Lancashire Rights of Way Improvement Plan; South Lakeland Community Strategy; Lancaster District Local Strategic Partnership, Sustainable Community Strategy	The AONB DPD should seek to promote healthy and active lifestyles. It should also seek to support the creation of vibrant, safe and cohesive communities.	The SA framework should include social objectives, indicators and targets that seek to benefit healthy lifestyles and the local community.	Population, Human Health	2, 4, 6, 14, 16
Economic							
Promote a strong tourist economy, sensitively capitalising on environmental, heritage, and leisure assets and ensuring the benefits are experienced locally.		DCMS Business Plan; Government Tourism Policy; Sustainable Tourism in England: A Framework for Action	South Lakeland Local Plan; Lancaster District Local Plan; The Tourism Strategy for Cumbria; Cumbria Tourism Destination Management Plan; Blackpool and Lancashire Visitor Economy Strategy; AONB Management Plan	There are significant opportunities to develop the area as a nature tourism destination because of its variety and abundance of wildlife The AONB DPD should seek to promote sustainable tourism which conserves or enhances the	The SA Framework should include reference to capitalising on the tourist economy within the AONB.	Population, Cultural Heritage, Landscape, Biodiversity	2, 4, 5, 14, 15

				special qualities of the AONB..			
Promote the development of an economy that supports social and environmental objectives	European Spatial Development Perspective	DCMS Business Plan;	Cumbria Economic Strategy; Cumbria Economic Strategy; Cumbria Sustainability Strategy	The AONB DPD should support economic development that supports social and environmental objectives.	The SA Framework should include objectives, indicators and targets relating to economic growth and development.	Population	4, 5, 6, 7
Provide training and employment opportunities	The European Employment Strategy; Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development;	National Planning Policy Framework	South Lakeland Local Plan; Lancaster District Local Plan; South Lakeland Employment and Housing Land Search Study	The AONB DPD should seek to provide opportunities for training and employment.	The SA Framework should include SA Objectives, indicators and targets that relate to training and employment.	Population	3, 5, 6, 7

Appendix B

Baseline Data

Appendix B

Baseline Data

The Sustainability Baseline and Key Sustainability Issues

1.1 Population

The following baseline indicators have been used to identify key population trends and characteristics:

- Total population (2011 Census and AONB Management Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) 2014).
- Age structure of the population (2011 Census and AONB Management Plan SEA, 2014).
- Area of the AONB, key settlements and their populations (Lancaster City Council, South Lakeland District Council).
- Population density (ONS – Neighbourhood Statistics).
- Ethnic groups represented in the population (ONS – Neighbourhood Statistics).

The population of the Arnside and Silverdale Area of National Beauty (AONB) is approximately 7,550 (assuming 96% of the Arnside and Beetham Ward and 82% of the Silverdale and Warton ward populations reside within the AONB). This represents a slight decrease in the population from 2009 of ca. 800 (2011 census, AONB Management Plan SEA, 2014). However this trend is somewhat uncertain as the basis for these figures has altered between the two monitoring periods.

There appears to have been a shift towards an older population since the census in 2001, with a greater percentage of over 45s and a smaller percentage of 25-44 and 0-14 year olds Table 1.1.1 shows the age range of the population within the AONB.

Table 1.1.1 Age Range of the Population

Age Range	% of AONB Population
0-4	3.3
5-14	8.8
15-24	7.6
25-44	15.7
45-64	32.2
65-74	16.7
75+	15.7

Source: AONB Management Plan SEA 2014

The table shows that the largest percentage age group is 45-64. The shift towards an older population is not unique to the area and is representative of the growing older population across the North West and nationwide. Nonetheless the demographic for the area is particularly skewed toward the elderly; the AONB has fewer children and younger people and a greater percentage of people over 65 than Cumbria, Lancashire or nationally.

The issue of a rising proportion of older people and corresponding reduction in those of ‘working age’ is particularly prevalent in South Lakeland where >30% of the population are over 60 (South Lakeland SA Scoping Report).

Key villages within the AONB include Beetham to the north; Arnside to the west; Silverdale to the south west Yealand Redmayne to the east; Yealand Conyers to the south east and Warton to the south. These villages lie within the following wards: Arnside and Beetham, Silverdale and Warton. Table 1.1.2 shows the populations of these wards.

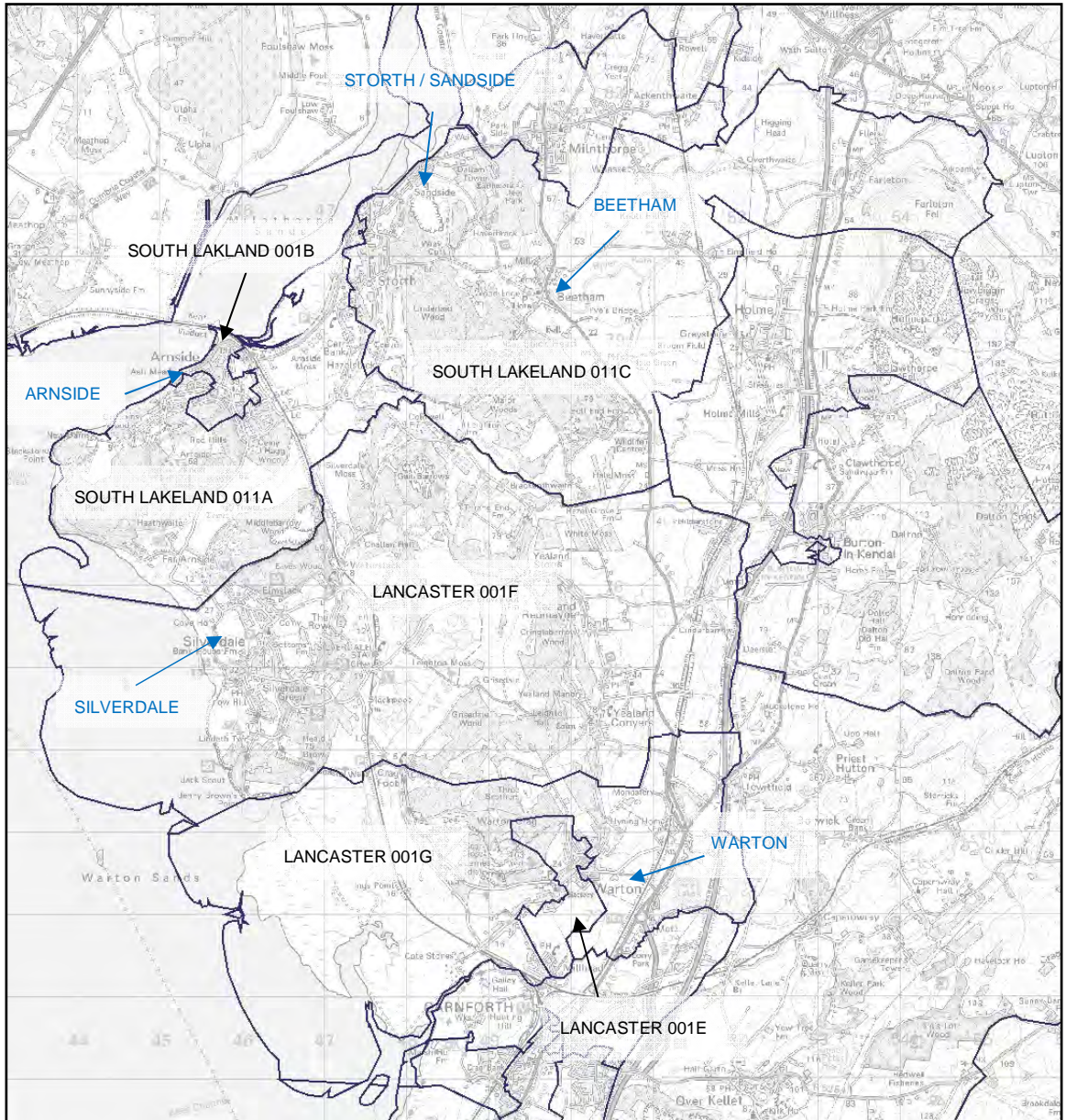
Table 1.1.2 Population of Wards within the AONB, mid 2013 Estimate

Ward	Population
Arnside and Beetham	4,095
Silverdale	2,061
Warton	2,342

Source: ONS

The population density per hectare within Arnside and Beetham is 1.36, 0.75 in Silverdale and 1.35 in Warton.

Figure 1.1.1 Locations of LSOAs within the AONB



Source ONS – Neighbourhood Statistics

The AONB is a largely rural area. The population density figures for the 6 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) which cover the AONB's area are provided in Table 1.1.3 below.

Table 1.1.3 Population Density (per ha) of 6 LSOAs Covering the AONB (2011)

	Lancaster 001E Super Output Area Lower Layer	Lancaster 001F Super Output Area Lower Layer	Lancaster 001G Super Output Area Lower Layer	South Lakeland 011A Super Output Area Lower Layer	South Lakeland 011B Super Output Area Lower Layer	South Lakeland 011C Super Output Area Lower Layer
Density (Number of Persons per Hectare) ¹ Persons Rate Mar11	0.7	9.9	0.8	1.6	18.5	0.8

Source ONS – Neighbourhood Statistics

It can be seen from Table 1.1.3 that the population density across the AONB varies greatly. This represents the contrast between very sparsely populated rural regions and concentrated urban centres within the region. Although the majority of the LSOAs population density is well

below the North West and national average, 5.0 and 4.1 respectively, the overall average, principally raised by Lancaster 001F and South Lakeland 011B, of 5.4 is higher than both areas.

Table 1.1.4 shows provides an idea of the ethnic make-up within the AONB.

Table 1.1.4 Ethnicity of 6 LSOAs Covering the AONB (2011)

	Lancaster 001E <i>Super Output Area Lower Layer</i>	Lancaster 001F <i>Super Output Area Lower Layer</i>	Lancaster 001G <i>Super Output Area Lower Layer</i>	South Lakeland 011A <i>Super Output Area Lower Layer</i>	South Lakeland 011B <i>Super Output Area Lower Layer</i>	South Lakeland 011C <i>Super Output Area Lower Layer</i>
White; English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British ¹ Persons Percentage Mar11	97.9	98.0	97.8	96.9	96.5	97.2

Source ONS – Neighbourhood Statistics

It can be seen from Table 1.1.4 that the area is predominantly made up of those who identify as White British. Compared to the North West and national averages of 87.1% and 79.8%, respectively, those who identify as White British across the 6 AONB LSOAs, averaged at 97.4%, is very high and indicates a low ethnic diversity within the region.

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

There are no significant data gaps or uncertainties identified for this topic.

Key Issues and Opportunities

- The AONB has fewer children and younger people and a greater percentage of people over 65 than Cumbria, Lancashire or nationally.
- This is likely to have impacts on areas, such as: availability of health care provision, access to services, strain on public transport systems, labour force deficiencies.
- The area has a large and increasing older population. This is likely to have impacts on areas, such as: availability of health care provision, access to services, strain on public transport systems, labour force deficiencies.

1.2 Education and Qualifications

The following baseline indicators have been used to characterise levels of education and attainment in the AONB:

- Pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs at Grades A* - C including Mathematics and English (ONS – Neighbourhood Statistics).
- Percentage of people aged 16-74 who have attained either a Level Four or Level Five qualification¹ (ONS – Neighbourhood Statistics).
- Percentage of the population aged 16-74 with no qualifications (ONS – Neighbourhood Statistics).
- Location and number of educational establishments

Table 1.2.1 shows the percentage of students within LSOAs which make up the AONB that achieved 5 A*-C by the end of KS4.

Table 1.2.1 Pupils attaining 5*-C in LSOAs Covering the AONB (2012-13)

	Lancaster 001E Super Output Area Lower Layer	Lancaster 001F Super Output Area Lower Layer	Lancaster 001G Super Output Area Lower Layer	South Lakeland 011A Super Output Area Lower Layer	South Lakeland 011B Super Output Area Lower Layer	South Lakeland 011C Super Output Area Lower Layer
All Pupils at the End of KS4 Achieving 5+ A* - C Including English and Mathematics ¹ Persons Percentage Sep12-Aug13	80.8	x	68.4	x	62.5	x

Source: ONS – Neighbourhood Statistics

From the LSOAs where data is available it can be seen that on average 70.6% of pupils had attained 5 A*-C by the end of KS4 in the AONB area. Compared to the regional and national averages of 59.9 and 60.6, respectively, this is a high level of academic attainment.

Table 1.2.2 Level 4 and Above Qualification Attainment in 6 LSOAs Covering the AONB (2011)

	Lancaster 001E Super Output Area Lower Layer	Lancaster 001F Super Output Area Lower Layer	Lancaster 001G Super Output Area Lower Layer	South Lakeland 011A Super Output Area Lower Layer	South Lakeland 011B Super Output Area Lower Layer	South Lakeland 011C Super Output Area Lower Layer
Highest Level of Qualification; Level 4 Qualifications and Above ¹ Persons Percentage Mar11	48.7	30.3	32.0	46.1	40.1	38.8

Source: ONS – Neighbourhood Statistics

Table 1.2.2 shows that across the AONB area the average number of people gaining a level 4 and above qualification is 39.3%. Compared to the regional and national averages of 24.4 and 27.4, respectively, this is a good level of higher qualification attainment for the area.

¹ First degree, higher degree, National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) levels 4 and 5, Higher National Certificate (HNC), Higher National Diploma (HND), Qualified Teacher Status, Qualified Medical Doctor, Qualified Dentist, Qualified Nurse, Midwife or Health Visitor

Table 1.2.3 shows the percentage of students within LSOAs which make up the AONB that have no qualifications.

Table 1.2.3 No Qualifications Attained in 6 LSOAs Covering the AONB (2011)

	Lancaster 001E Super Output Area Lower Layer	Lancaster 001F Super Output Area Lower Layer	Lancaster 001G Super Output Area Lower Layer	South Lakeland 011A Super Output Area Lower Layer	South Lakeland 011B Super Output Area Lower Layer	South Lakeland 011C Super Output Area Lower Layer
No Qualifications ¹ Persons Percentage Mar11	13.9	18.7	20.7	14.3	15.9	17.6

Source: ONS – Neighbourhood Statistics

Table 1.2.3 shows that across the AONB area the average number of people who have no qualification is 16.9%. Compared to the regional and national averages of 24.8 and 22.8, respectively, this is a low level of people with no qualifications for the area.

The educational establishments within the AONB include

- Storth CE Primary School
- Beetham C Of E Aided Primary School
- Arnside National School
- Yealand Church of England Primary School
- Ingleton Primary School
- Warton Archbishop Hutton's Primary School
- Bleasdale School
- Silverdale St John's Church of England Primary School

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

- Percentage of employees receiving job-related training in the last 4 weeks to NVQ level 4 or higher.
- Percentage 16-18 year olds not in education or employment training.
- Number and location of establishments offering life-long learning opportunities.
- Number of wards with Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in the bottom 10% most deprived for education, skills and training deprivation

Key Issues and Opportunities

- Educational attainment in the AONB is good compared to regional and national levels and should be maintained.
- Low level of people with no qualifications and a good level of people with higher qualification attainment for the area when compared with national data.
- Access to education should to be maintained with growth in population within the AONB to ensure education provision continues to meet the needs of the local population.

1.3 Health

The following baseline data has been used to identify key trends:

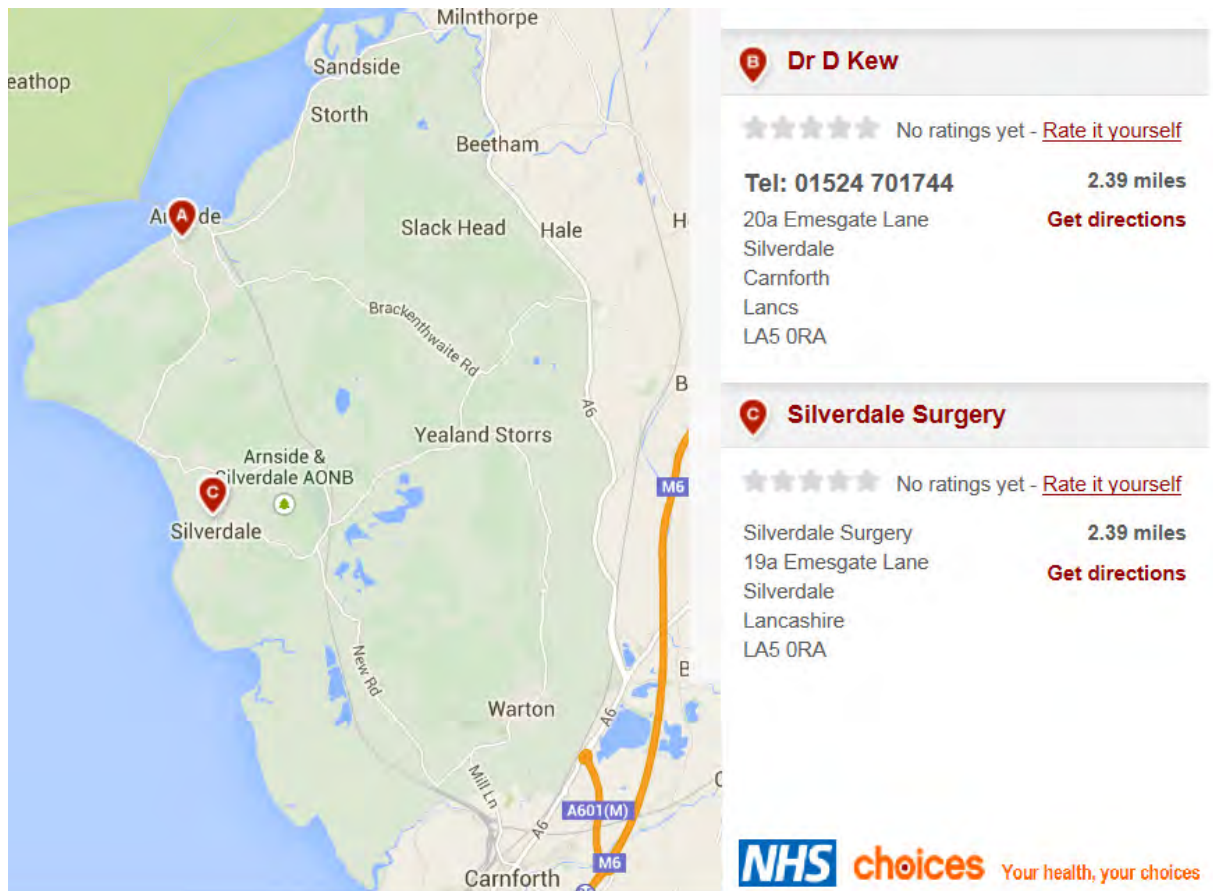
- Health status of resident population (2011 Census and AONB Management Plan SEA, 2014)
- Distribution of GPs.

- Distribution of sports facilities.

At the time of the 2011 census 95.6% of people in the AONB reported being in either 'very good, good or fair' health (Census 2011). This percentage is slightly above that in Cumbria and nationally (94% and 94.4% respectively) and significantly above that in Lancashire (75.2%). Comparisons cannot be made to the previous status report in 2009, where 66.6% of usually residents reported their health as being 'good', as the basis for the figures has changed. Nevertheless the health figures for the area are very good. 4.4% of the AONB were reported to be in bad or very bad health.

As discussed previously, the area has a growing older population and the associated health pressures which accompany this, coupled with the AONB's rural setting, put inevitable strain on local health services. In South Lakeland, for example, approximately a third of households have 1 or more persons with a limiting long-term illness (South Lakeland SA Scoping Report). A burgeoning older population is likely to cause similar pressures in the AONB area.

Figure 1.4.2 GP Locations within Arnside & Silverdale AONB boundary



Source: NHS Choices Figure 1.4.2 shows there are two GP surgeries within the AONB boundary. These are Silverdale Surgery and DR D Kew. There are further GP Practices in Carnforth and Milnthorpe which are located just outside the AONB boundary.

There is a Cricket Club at Silverdale as well as a golf course and golf club. Also in Silverdale is the Holgates Caravan Park which has a leisure centre on site. There is another leisure centre within the AONB is the Fell End Holiday Park located just south of Slack Head. There are no dedicated gyms within the AONB boundary.

Data Gaps and Uncertainties:

- Number of LSOAs in the bottom 10% most deprived for health deprivation and disability

- Life expectancy at birth for males and females for the period 2008 – 2010 (Lancashire Area Profiles, www.lancashire.gov.uk).
- The relationship between life expectancy and inequality.
- Percentage of population with a long-term limiting illness.

Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities:

- Overall health in the area is very good
- The percentage of people reported to be in very good, good or fair health is slightly above that in Cumbria and nationally and significantly above that in Lancashire.
- A growing older population is likely to increase pressure on local health provisions. Coupled with the rural nature of the AONB this could potentially become a difficult issue to tackle – it is a problem experienced more widely in South Lakeland, for example.
- Access to doctors' surgeries and dentists within the rural areas is more limited and could be improved. This is particularly important for the AONB's elderly population.
- There are opportunities to further promote access to outdoor recreational pursuits in open areas within the AONB to benefit the health of the local population.
- There are also opportunities to further promote walking and cycling across the AONB.

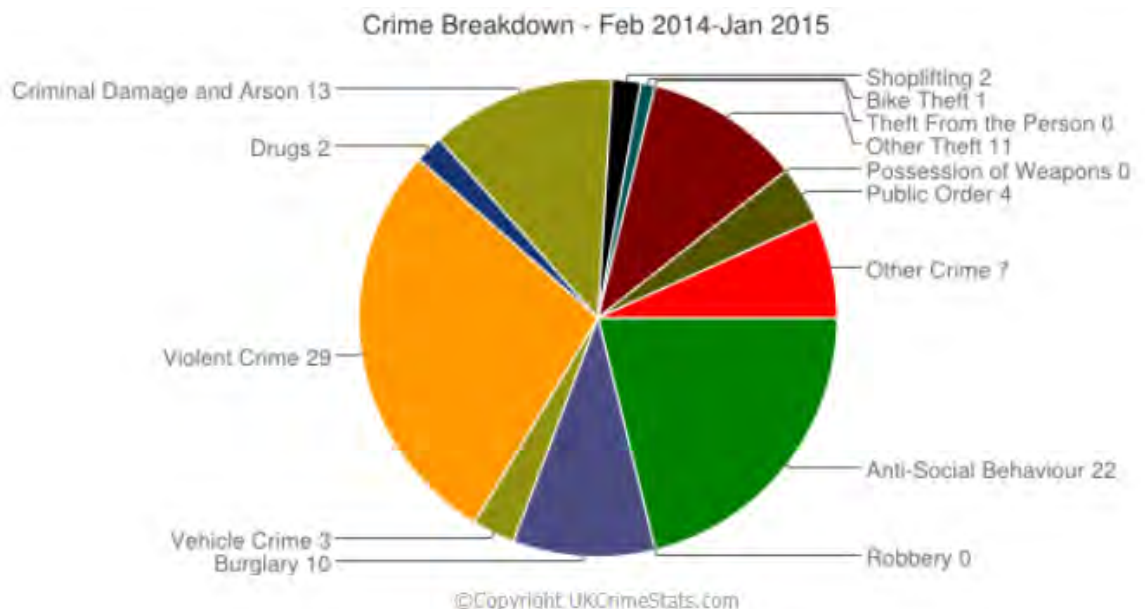
1.4 Crime

The following baseline data has been identified:

- Crime Breakdown detailing number of offences forward level within the AONB.

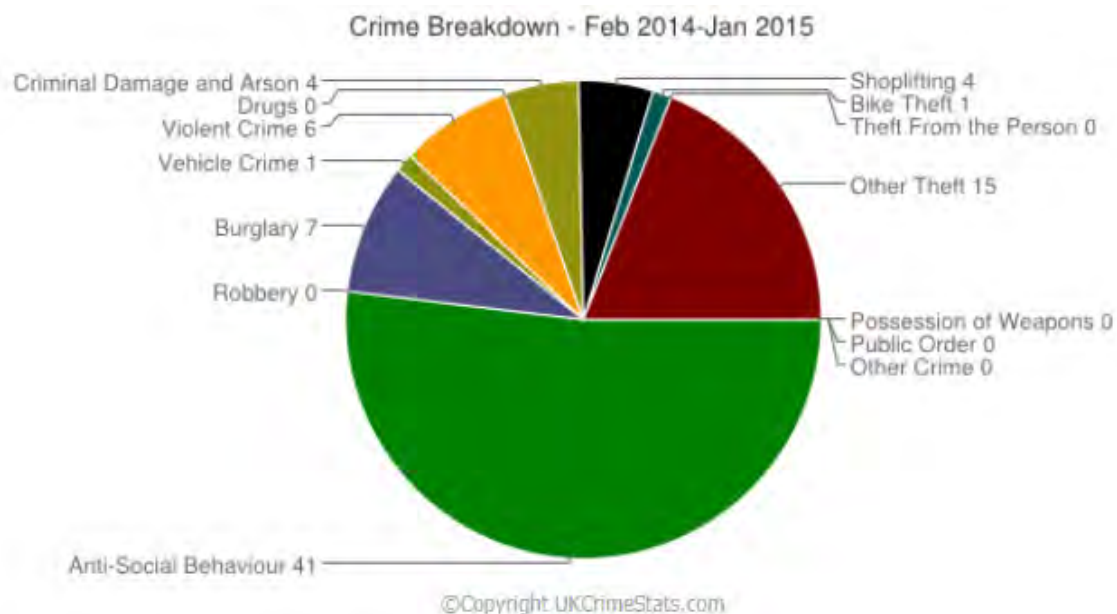
Figure 1.4.1, 1.4.2 and 1.4.3 show the crime breakdown for Arnside and Beetham, Silverdale and Warton from February 2014 to January 2015.

Figure 1.4.1 Crime Breakdown for Arnside and Beetham



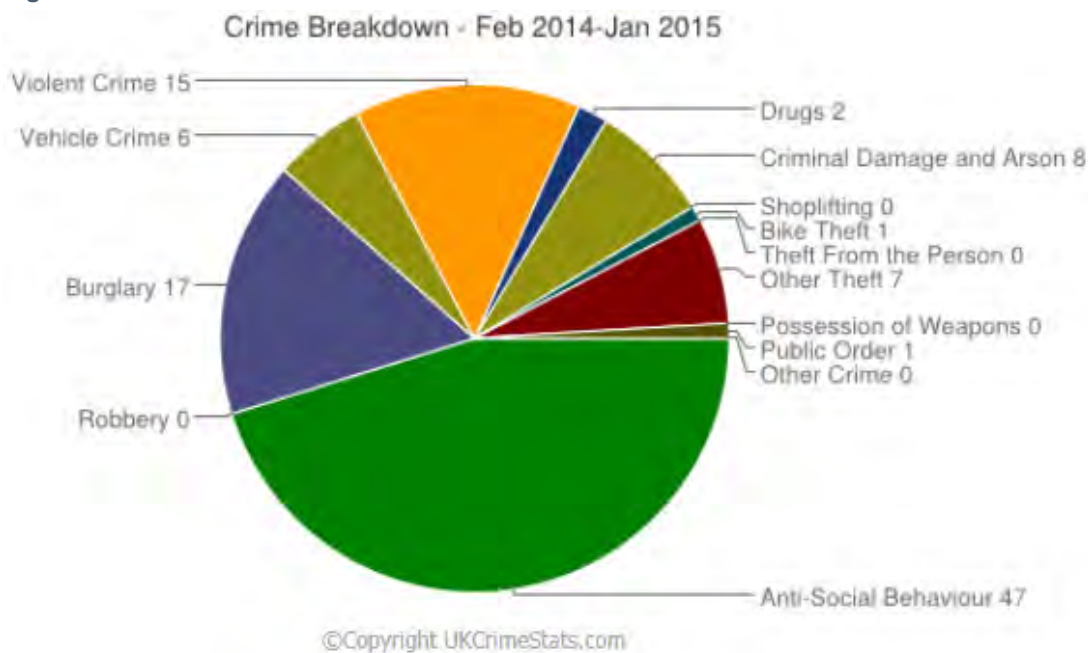
Source: UK Crime Stats

Figure 1.4.2 Crime Breakdown for Silverdale



Source: UK Crime Stats

Figure 1.4.3 Crime Breakdown for Warton



Source: UK Crime Stats

The figures show that the most prevalent form of crime in Silverdale and Warton in the last year was anti-social behaviour with 41 and 47 cases respectively. In Arnsdale and Beetham there were 22 cases of anti-social behaviour.

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

- Number and distribution of LSOAs in the bottom 10% for crime deprivation.
- Crime rates compared with regional levels of crime.

Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

- While incidents of crime are relatively low in the AONB, there are issues associated with anti-social behaviour and further work is needed to reduce such problems.
- Violence against a person represents the biggest proportion of offences within the Arnside and Beetham ward.
- Although incidences of crime and disorder are not high in the AONB, its rural nature means that there is a need to ensure that access routes, footpaths etc are well marked and not unduly isolated to reduce opportunities for crime.
- Communities should be safe working and living environments.

1.5 Water

The following baseline indicators have been used to characterise the water environment in the AONB:

- Water Quality (Environment Agency and AONB Management Plan)
- Distribution of areas at risk of fluvial flooding (Environment Agency Flood Map)
- River catchment areas.
- Bathing water quality (Environment Agency² and www.lancaster.gov.uk)

In the AONB, particularly within the Hawes Water and Leighton Moss catchments, agricultural diffuse pollution and septic tank outflows continue to contribute to poor water quality and eutrophication. The water quality in Leighton Beck has not yet been fully established as comprehensive monitoring has only recently commenced. It is likely however to be subject to the same types of pollution as Hawes Water and Leighton Moss. Only 6.1% of the length of river within the AONB (8.493km) has 'high' or 'good' status (Environment Agency). The single water body, Hawes Water, has 'moderate' status. There are no standing waters (lakes and SSSI ditches) with 'high' or 'good' status and there is one with moderate status. There is also one transitional water body with 'bad' status.

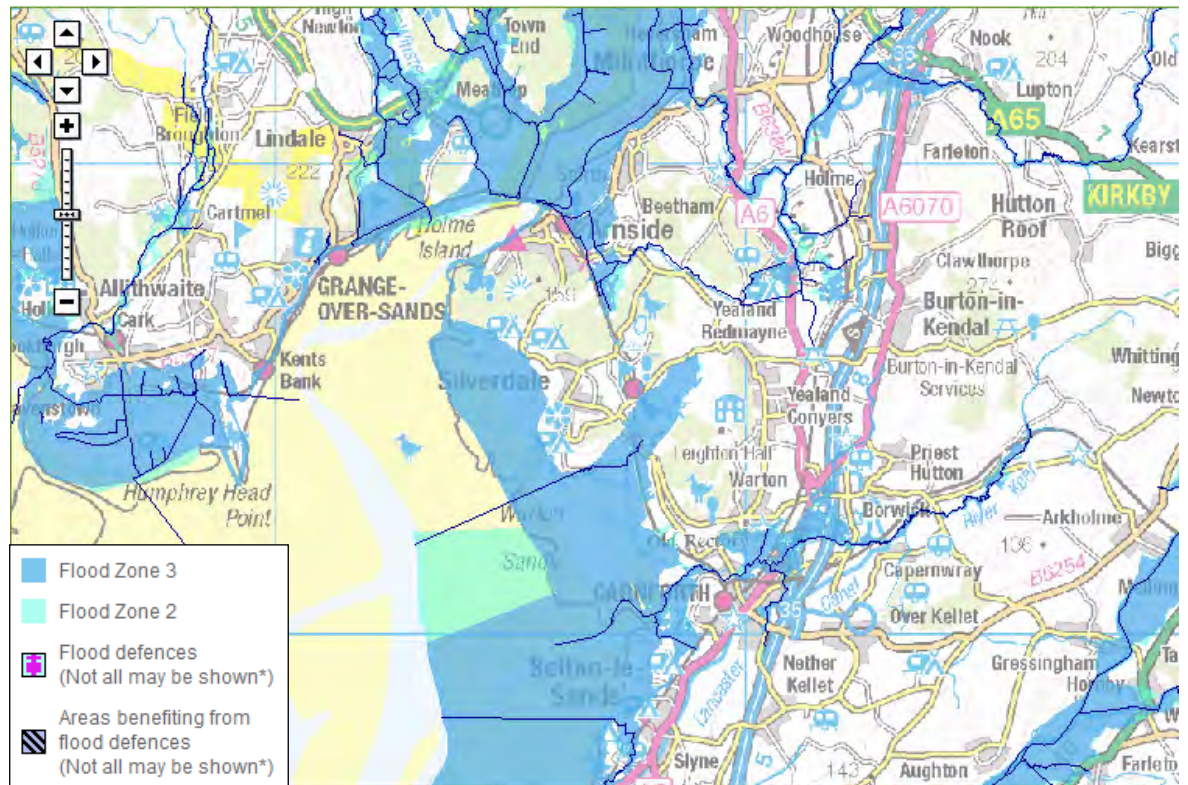
Abstraction from ground and surface water is not extensive within the AONB. Abstraction licensing strategies for South Cumbria and Lune and Wyre, Feb 2013, indicate that there is water available for licensing within the AONB area generally. However, there is no water available from Hawes Water and restricted water available from the River Bela. Licensing strategies remain unchanged since 2004, indicating no particular or increasing pressure on water resources in the AONB area. Both of the groundwater water bodies in the area are classified as being in 'good' condition. Overall, water resources are not considered to be an issue within the AONB (Environment Agency and AONB Management Plan 2014-2019).

Fluvial flood risk is low within the Arnside & Silverdale AONB. Coastal flooding is a potential risk in certain low lying areas of the AONB. The current and future risk from tidal flooding is also likely to become exacerbated by climate change. It can be seen on figure 1.5.1 that the area contains a number of areas at risk of flooding, from both rivers and sea. The issue of coastal

² <http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/wiybyController?x=347500.0&y=461500.0&topic=coastalwaters&ep=map&scale=3&location=Lancaster.%20Lancashire&lang=e&layerGroups=default&textonly=off#x=345463&y=464027&lg=1,&scale=4>

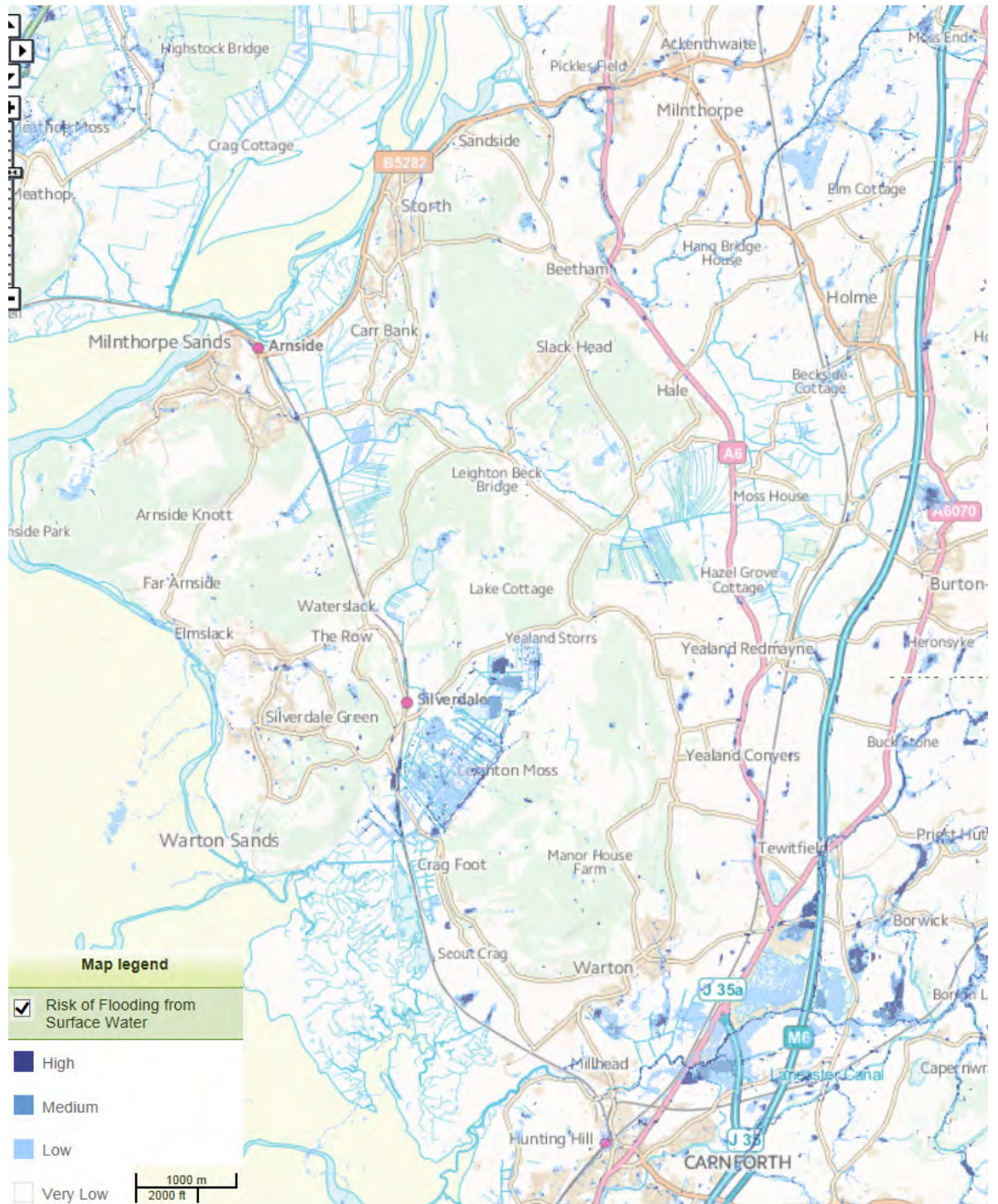
flooding and salt water inundation of the low lying mosses within the AONB is cross cutting with climatic factors.

Figure 1.5.1 Flood Map (Rivers and Sea) Arnside & Silverdale AONB



Source: Environment Agency

Figure 1.5.2 Risk of Flooding from Surface Water within Arnside & Silverdale AONB

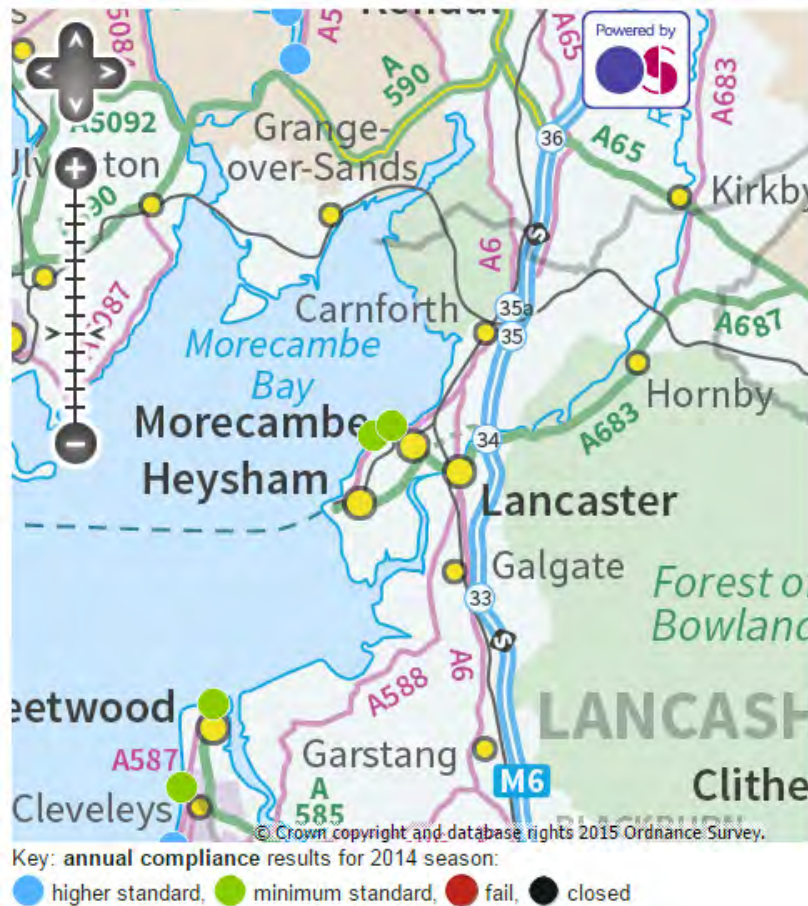


Source: Environment Agency

Figure 1.5.2 shows the surface water flooding risk within the AONB in relation to the main settlements. From this it can be seen that Silverdale has a large area to the south east which is at risk from surface water flooding as well as some areas to the south east of Warton which register high levels of risk.

Bathing water quality within the AONB is monitored in two locations: north Morecambe, south Morecambe between May and September. Monitoring has been undertaken at these locations since 1988. In 2014 the bathing water quality at these monitoring locations met the minimum standard requirement (Environment Agency) See Figure 1.5.3.

Figure 1.5.3 Bathing Water Quality at Morecambe Bay



Source: Environment Agency

Date Gaps and Uncertainties

- Occurrence of coastal Flooding events.
- Daily domestic water use.
- Number of planning applications granted permission contrary to Environment Agency advice.
- Number of new developments incorporating Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS).

Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

- Poor water quality, particularly in Hawes Water and Leighton Moss catchments, are an issue in the AONB. Opportunities should be sought to tackle the main contributory factors, agricultural run-off and septic tank overflow, to try and improve the areas water quality.
- Coastal and river flooding pose a risk to the area. Appropriate upland 'soft' management techniques should be undertaken together with any necessary 'hard' management to ensure the area is adequately safeguarded from the risk of flooding – particularly with increased flood risks associated with modern day climate change.

- New developments and households within the AONB should also be encouraged to minimise water use and to re-use rainwater where possible i.e. grey water recycling systems.
- Areas at risk from flooding should be protected from development that would increase that risk. New developments should be encouraged to use SuDS to manage runoff and further reduce flood risk.
- Bathing water quality at the two monitoring locations continues to meet the required standard. There is potential to improve this further to achieve the 'guideline' quality certification.
- There has been no change in licensing strategies indicating that there is no particular or increasing pressure on water resources in AONB area.

1.6 Soil and Land Quality

The following baseline indicators have been used to characterise the soil and land quality conditions across the AONB:

- Distribution of best and most versatile agricultural land (Lancashire Area Profiles, www.lancashire.gov.uk and www.magic.gov.uk).
- Soil types within the AONB (Arnsdale and Silverdale AONB Management Plan SEA 2014)
- Total number of farm holdings within the AONB (Arnsdale and Silverdale AONB Management Plan SEA 2014)
- Land use within the AONB (Arnsdale and Silverdale AONB Management Plan SEA 2014)
- Farm size and livestock numbers (Arnsdale and Silverdale AONB Management Plan SEA 2014)
- Number of geological SSSIs and Geological Heritage Sites (GHSs) (Natural England Protected Landscape Monitoring Framework)
- Number of Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites

Carboniferous Limestone bedrock underlies the Arnsdale & Silverdale AONB and unifies its character. There are 16 Limestone Pavement Orders within the AONB, covering nearly 16% of the area. Many of these sites are also SSSIs and five form part of the Morecambe Bay Pavements SAC.

Two SSSIs are of particular geological interest – Trowbarrow Quarry and Hale Moss Caves. The condition of both sites remains favourable. There are 11 geological features (Natural England Protected Landscape Monitoring Framework Protected Landscapes Monitoring Framework).

There are also seven LGSs which cover 9.8% of the terrestrial AONB and 429ha. In 2009 a new site was added at Sandside Cutting. All the LGSs are in good condition or are under positive management. There are 10 Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites. The largest is Warton Dolines to the north west of Warton.

Other features of geological interest which also contribute to the landscape character are the low limestone cliffs along the coast, solution hollows (or dolines) in the limestone, sea caves, erratic boulders and Carboniferous limestone fossil assemblages.

Soils within the AONB are generally thin and free draining. Permanent pasture, particularly on species rich limestone grassland, provides effective erosion control, often on vulnerable sites where the depth of soil is very shallow and, being present over limestone, are prone to drought. Peaty soils are present under the low lying mosses such as Arnsdale Moss, Silverdale Moss, Hale Moss and Leighton Moss. Some of these deep peat soils are more or less permanently waterlogged. Others are drained by open ditches, although flooding still occurs periodically.

Agricultural Land Classification within the AONB identifies 32% of the terrestrial AONB as Grade 3 (good/moderate), 40% as Grade 4 (poor), 23% as Grade 5 (very poor) and 5% as non-agricultural. There is no Grade 1 (excellent) or Grade 2 (very good) agricultural land within the AONB. A lack of high quality agricultural soils is reflective of the surrounding and constituent AONB areas. Both South Lakeland and Lancaster have low levels of high grade agricultural land. This deficiency can be seen in figure 1.6.1.

The total number of farm holdings within the AONB is 43 and there has been an apparent decline in numbers since 2000. There are 22 grazing livestock (LFA) farms and 13 grazing livestock (lowland) farms there has also been a decline in dairy farms since 2000. Land use within the AONB includes 1305 ha total farmed area; 2547 ha permanent grass; 100 ha temporary grass and 125 ha woodland. The total farmed area has increased by 38% since 2000 and grass remains the majority of land use.

Table 1.6.1 shows farm sizes within the AONB.

Table 1.6.1 Farm Sizes in Ha

<5	>=5 and <20	>=20 and <50	>=50 and <100	>=100
6	14	6	7	10

Table 1.6.1 shows that the majority of farms are within 5-20 ha and over 100 ha in size. There has been an increase in the number of large farms over 100 ha and a significant shift away from small holdings (<5 ha) (Defra Census 2010).

Table 1.6.2 shows livestock numbers within the AONB.

Table 1.6.2 Livestock Numbers

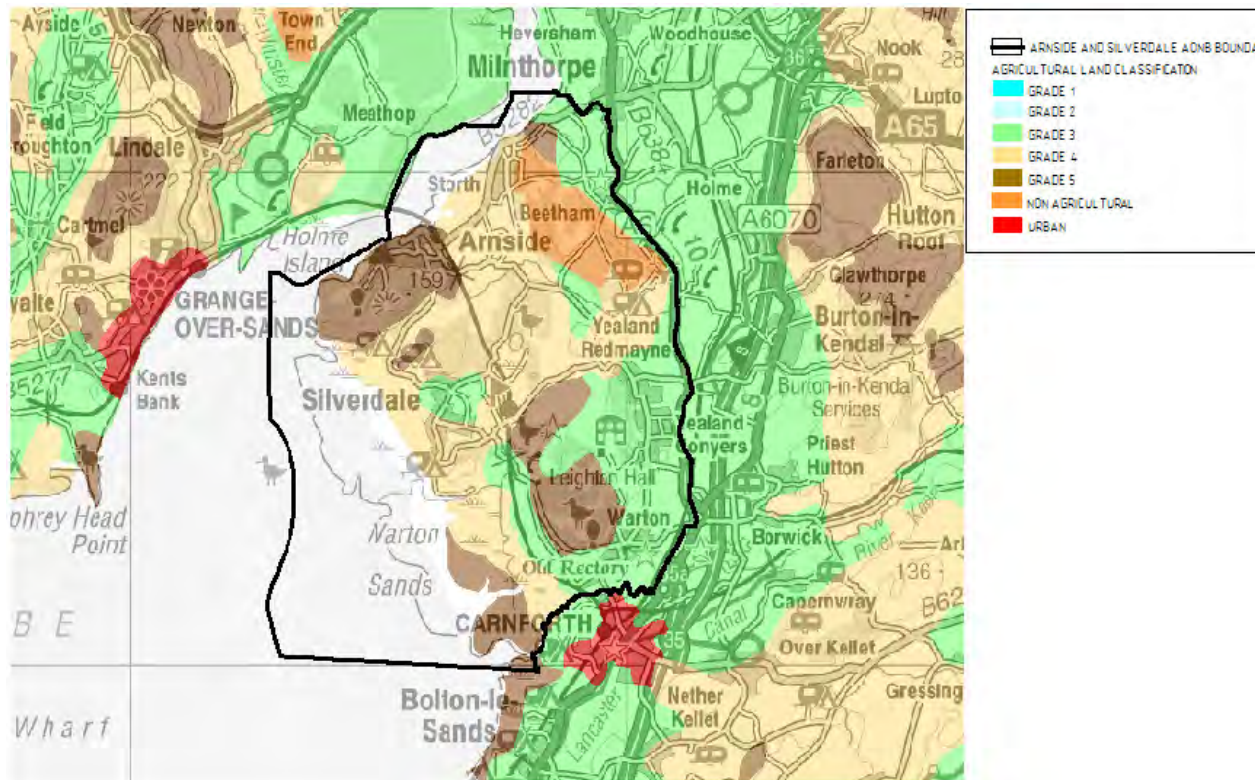
Total Cattle	Beef Herd	Dairy Herd	Total Sheep	Poultry	Horses
2935	177	568	12157	296	82

Table 1.6.2 shows that there is a large number of sheep within the AONB. There has been an increase in cattle numbers of 7% and an increase in sheep numbers of 42% since 2000 (Defra Agricultural Census 2010).

The length of permissive linear access provided under existing Environmental Stewardship Agreements (ESAs) is 4015m and the area of permissive open access provided under existing ESAs is 18 ha (Natural England Protected Landscape Monitoring Framework).

The total areal managed under agri-environment agreements is 2095 ha comprising 33 agreements. 40% of this is under Entry Level and Higher Level Stewardship (Natural England Protected Landscape Monitoring Framework).

Figure 1.6.1 Agricultural Land Classification



Source: Natural England

Projected increases in winter rainfall and drier summers may increase the susceptibility of soils. Increases in applications of pesticides and fertilisers have potential impacts on soils, water courses and biodiversity; the adverse impacts on watercourses are discussed in the previous section. Agri-environment payments help to minimise these risks.

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

- Key sources of Contaminated Land
- Distribution of areas known to have been subject to significant subsidence
- Area of previously developed vacant land, vacant buildings and derelict land and buildings.
- Area of land currently in use but with planning allocation/permission for redevelopment and with other known redevelopment potential.

Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

- The area contains a number of important land designations, particularly its limestone pavements. Opportunities should be sought to protect and enhance these important sites/resource for the area.
- High synthetic fertiliser/pesticide/herbicide etc. application rates cause detrimental impacts on soils and surrounding watercourses and is a prevalent problem in the area. To protect the soils, and the surrounding landscape, application of these substances should be regulated and minimised wherever possible. The use of Agri-environment payments to help minimise these adverse impacts/risk should be maximised.
- Two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) designations are of geological interest within the AONB together with Local Geological Sites (LGS). These designated sites are all in positive or favourable condition.

- The Agricultural Land Classification within the AONB states no Grade 1 or Grade 2 soils are present. Permeant pasture provides effective erosion control often on vulnerable sites.
- Climate change is causing more severe droughts and more extreme rainfall events. To protect the AONB's soils from adversely suffering from either or both of the impacts of these effects active management should be undertaken to protect the landscape.
- Where previously developed sites exist, the aim should be to continue to remediate and re-use them, although this decision should be made on a site-by-site basis as some brownfield sites may now have developed significant biodiversity interests.

1.7 Air Quality

The following baseline indicators have been used to identify environmental conditions and key trends:

- Number and distribution of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) (Air Quality Archive³)

The Air Quality (England) Regulations 2000 place a duty on local authorities to review and assess air quality for seven pollutants and ensure that standards and objectives laid down for each will be met. There are no AQMA within the AONB designation and therefore air quality monitoring is not carried out within the AONB by either South Lakeland District Council or Lancaster City Council. Air quality is not considered to be a problem within the AONB and so has been scoped out of the SA.

Across the surrounding areas the air quality overall is of high quality. The pockets of poorer air quality in, for example, Lancaster and South Lakeland are principally around areas of high traffic congestion. With the Arnsdale and Silverdale AONB being much more rural this is very unlikely to be an issue.

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

There are no significant data gaps or uncertainties identified for this topic.

Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

- Air quality across the AONB and the surrounding region is good and is not likely to change given the size of any future development.
- AQMA are not in place across the AONB due to air quality not being an issue.
- Air quality for the AONB has therefore been scoped out of the SA.

1.8 Energy and Climate Change

The following baseline indicators have been used:

- Predicted local impacts of Climate Change (AONB Management Plan SEA 2014)

Predicted changes to the climate have the potential to impact on many aspects of the AONB, including biodiversity, agriculture, forestry, human health and the historic environment. It is recognised that the full extent of the impacts will not be apparent in the short term. Predicted changes include a possible mean increase in summer temperatures of 2-4°C, milder winters, changes in rainfall distribution and seasonality, more extremes of weather and sea level rise.

³ http://www.airquality.co.uk/laqm/laqm.php?action=submit&map_name=nweng&la_id=142

The main impacts on the biodiversity of the AONB are expected to be changes in species ranges, and species abundance and timings of biological events as a result of increases in temperature, the impact of extreme weather events such as flooding, drought and storms and loss of inter-tidal habitat as a result of sea level rise. Flight times of butterflies are already thought to be altering in the AONB. Temperature changes and more extreme weather conditions could in the long term affect farming and forestry, changing the balance between arable and pastoral farming, influencing crops grown and stock kept. Tree species may alter over time as temperatures and rainfall patterns alter, affecting the forestry and woodland management practices of the area.

Impacts on the historic environment may include the increased likelihood of damage to foundations of both historic buildings and agricultural boundary walls through winter waterlogging and heavier rain events and new pest species which may affect the integrity of individual sites.

Although the impacts of climate change are anticipated to be varied and wide-ranging, exacerbation of current flood risk poses probably the greatest risk to the area. In South Lakeland, for example, 1.2% of the areas housing stock is at a greater than a 1in100 year risk of flood risk from river flooding – the highest categorisation bar being a functional flood plain (South Lakeland SA Scoping Report).

The Bittern Countryside Community Interest Company (BCCIC) is funding a Low Carbon Initiative, delivering a series of photo-voltaic projects for community buildings and Fact Sheets to raise awareness of the issues around energy resources, which will help lead to reductions in carbon emissions and positive benefits to air and climate (AONB Management Plan SEA 2014).

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

- Annual average domestic gas and electricity consumption per consumer.
- Annual gas and electricity consumption in the commercial/industrial sector.
- Applications for renewable energy developments.

Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

- Predicted climate changes has the potential to impact on many aspects of the AONB including biodiversity, agriculture, forestry human health and the historic environment.
- Climate change could lead to potential changes in species ranges and abundance as well as timing of biological events due to an increase in temperature.
- Loss of intertidal habitat as a result of sea level rises could present a constraining issue for species.
- Temperature changes could affect farming and forestry in the longer term.
- Damage may be more likely to the historic environment due to waterlogging and new pest species which affect the integrity of recognised sites.
- Reducing the carbon footprint through energy conservation and efficiency and the promotion of appropriate renewable energy sources should be a priority for the AONB.
- To increase the production of energy from appropriate renewable sources
- New developments should be encouraged to include sustainable design principles.
- Reducing transport on the AONB's roads and encouraging more sustainable modes of transport would contribute to reducing the effects of climate change.
- Due care must be given to the conservation of biodiversity, landscape and heritage resources when identifying sites for renewable energy projects.

1.9 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

The following baseline indicators have been used to characterise conditions within and surrounding the AONB:

- Number and distribution of designated sites including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Ramsar sites, Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), National Nature Reserves (NNRs) Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) (AONB Management Plan SEA 2014)
- Condition of SSSIs (AONB Management Plan SEA 2014).
- Areas of woodland, including ancient woodland (Natural England).
- Areas of disturbed by noise and visual intrusion (CPRE 2007)

The Arnside & Silverdale AONB is a nationally and regionally important core biodiversity resource which contains an unusually wide range of habitat types within a small area, creating a mosaic which is home to an outstanding variety of wildlife; over 100 species included on the list of England's priority species (S41 NERC Act) are known to occur regularly within the AONB.

Large areas of the AONB are of international importance. There are four Natura 2000 sites: two SACs - Morecambe Bay and Morecambe Bay Pavements and two SPAs - Morecambe Bay and Leighton Moss. The latter two are also Ramsar sites. There is also a Nature Improvement Area (NIA) within the AONB which is Morecambe Bay Limestones and Wetlands NIA. There are also many sites of national and regional importance. There are 19 SSSIs (two of which are designated for geological reasons) which cover 54% of the whole AONB and 4026 ha; one NNR; and 64 Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs) which cover 20% of the terrestrial AONB and 888 ha. Of these LWSs, six have been removed and two new sites added. The sites removed included sites that overlapped with SSSIs; sites that went into a SSSI and sites that did not meet the LWS criteria.

In 2013, 64.2% of SSSIs were in favourable condition with 35.2% in recovering condition which shows an improving trend since 2009 when a total of 73% were in favourable or recovering condition.

There is currently no information on the condition of 55% of LWSs in Lancashire. Of the remainder of the LWSs, 14% are currently recorded as being in positive management.

Priority habitats within the AONB are:

- Deciduous woodland
- Lowland wood pastures and parkland
- Traditional orchards
- Lowland heath
- Lowland meadows
- Lowland calcareous grassland
- Purple moor grass and rush pasture
- Lowland fen
- Reedbed
- Coastal and flood plain grazing marsh
- Coastal saltmarsh
- Maritime cliffs and slopes
- Mudflats

- Limestone pavement
- Hedgerows
- Oligotrophic lakes
- Ponds
- Rivers
- Inland rock outcrop and scree habitats
- Estuarine rocky habitats
- Wet woodland

A 2009 hedgerow survey identified that there is 105.4km of hedgerow within the AONB.

Woodlands cover around a third of the terrestrial AONB. Active woodland management has increased over recent years but 46% of the total woodland area is currently unmanaged. The total area of woodland is 1552 ha which 35.5% of the terrestrial AONB. This includes 1360 ha broadleaved; 67 ha conifer and 97 ha mixed. The area of Ancient Woodland and Ancient, Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) and Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) within the AONB is shown in table 1.9.1.

Table 1.9.1 Area of Ancient Woodland and Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland within AONB

	Area in ha	% Cover of Terrestrial
Ancient Woodland	660	15
ASNW	451	10
PAWS	209	4.8

The table shows that Ancient Woodland cover 660 ha of the AONB, 15% of which is terrestrial. Ancient Woodland cover 9% of the total AONB.

Of the woodland area within SSSIs, 44% is currently in favourable condition with 99% in favourable or recovering condition. Limestone grasslands make up nearly 20% of the terrestrial SSSI area within the AONB, with 58% in favourable condition and 99% in favourable or recovering condition.

Of the cancerous grassland within the AONB, 58% are in favourable condition and 99% are in favourable condition.

Of the freshwater wetlands within the AONB (fen, marsh and swamp) 5% are in favourable condition. A Diffuse Water Pollution Plan is in place which will address issues including diffuse agricultural pollution and lead to improvements in habitat condition.

There is anecdotal evidence that a number of invasive non-native species (INNS) are now present within the AONB such as Giant Hogweed and Himalayan Balsam. Monitoring and recording will be essential to ensure that the presence of INNS within the AONB remains limited and their spread is effectively controlled.

Surrounding the AONB are an abundance of important landscape designations home to a wide variety of important species and habitats. Lancaster District, for example, has approximately three quarters of its area covered by protected designations.

Data on the percentage of the protected landscape that is relatively tranquil for its area was not available at the time of writing for the AONB however data from CPRE in 2007 revealed that 21.97% of Cumbria and 57.73% of Lancashire were disturbed by noise and visual intrusion. All Accessible Natural Environment (ANE) land including LNRs and NNRs, Forestry Commission and Woodland Trust Land accounts for 20% of the total AONB which is 1553 ha.

This compares to 17% for all ANE land as a percentage of protected landscape area for all AONBs (Natural England Protected Landscape Monitoring Framework). Landscape designation type and distribution can be seen on the constraints plan.

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

- Information on condition of LWSs.
- Data on tranquillity for the AONB.
- Key Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species, habitats and characteristic/notable species present.
- Area and connectivity of wildlife corridors/ecological networks.

Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

- The area's natural environment is central to its character and designation. Safeguarding and enhancing it is paramount to the AONB's future.
- There is a large percentage of nationally and locally protected areas, species and habitats present within the AONB.
- There are four Natura 2000 sites: two SACs - Morecambe Bay and Morecambe Bay Pavements and two SPAs - Morecambe Bay and Leighton Moss. The latter two are also Ramsar sites
- There are 19 SSSIs (two of which are designated for geological reasons) which cover 54% of the whole AONB and 4026 ha; one NNR; and 64 Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs) which cover 20% of the terrestrial AONB and 888 ha.
- Woodlands cover around a third of the terrestrial AONB. Active woodland management has increased over recent years but 46% of the total woodland area is currently unmanaged.
- To continue the increase of the area's woodland that is in a favourable or improving condition.
- To continue the increase of the area's limestone grassland that is in a favourable or improving condition.
- There are large areas with high quality natural and biodiverse environments in the AONB that should be conserved and enhanced.
- The high quality of the environment provides opportunity to develop recreation and tourism in the AONB, although care should be taken to ensure that development is appropriate and does not adversely affect biodiversity resources.
- The condition of SSSIs in poorer condition should be improved and opportunities should be sought to deliver biodiversity enhancements where possible, for example by improving the connectivity between designated sites and areas of open space.
- Opportunities should be sought to promote land management schemes where possible as these can lead to a number of environmental benefits and enhancements.
- Efforts should be made to maintain the increase in the number of SSSI's in favourable or unfavourable recovering position, with an overall aim of this being at 100%.

1.10 Cultural Heritage

The following baseline indicators have been used to characterise the cultural heritage baseline:

- Number of Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments (SMs), Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens (AONB Management Plan SEA 2014).
- Number of listed buildings on English Heritage risk register (English Heritage Scheduled Monuments at Risk North West, 2014).

The cultural, archaeological and historic heritage of the AONB is one of the special qualities of the area and is integral to its character. The features that make the area distinctive reflect the strong agricultural and industrial heritage of the AONB and many are cross cutting with the special landscape of the AONB such as field boundaries (drystone walls and hedges), settlements (the layout of villages and hamlets and the building traditions of the area), designed landscapes, ancient woodlands, walls within woodland, traditionally coppiced woodland, orchards, limekilns and quarries.

Listed within the AONB are 655 Historic Environment Records including 10 Scheduled Monuments, 114 Listed Buildings, one Registered Park and Garden and many non-statutory archaeological sites. There are three Conservation Areas – Warton, Beetham and the Yealands. Up to date Conservation Area Appraisals (CAA) are available for Beetham and Warton. Table 1.10.1 shows the Grades of Listed Buildings within the AONB.

Table 1.10.1 Listed Building Grade

Grade	Number
I	6
II*	10
II	98

There are five sites on the English Heritage 2012 'at risk' register including three Grade II* Listed Buildings and one Scheduled Monument. Progress has been made at Slackwood Farm and Beetham Hall but Arnside Tower, Hazelslack Tower and the Iron Age fort on Warton Crag remain in poor condition (State of the AONB Report, 2013).

Pressures for development within the AONB are ongoing and there is continuing risk of damage to the rich archaeological resource and traditional character of settlements and individual buildings.

Cultural heritage assets make an important contribution to the diverse and distinctive character of the North West region. Between them Lancaster District and South Lakeland, for example, contain more than 15,000 listed buildings and over a 100 Scheduled monuments.

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

- Townscape characterisation.
- Historic Landscape Characterisation.

Key Issues and Opportunities

- Distinctive features of the cultural, archaeological and built heritage of the AONB make the area distinctive, reflecting the strong agricultural and industrial heritage.
- Three conservation areas exist in the AONB, these are Warton, Beetham and the Yealands.
- Scheduled monuments, listed buildings and a registered park and garden are all present within the AONB.

- Cultural heritage features should be appropriately conserved and enhanced where appropriate.
- Conservation or restoration efforts should continue to return the cultural assets within the AONB which are currently on the 'at risk register' back to better conditions so that they can continue to add to the areas cultural diversity and value.
- Heritage risks can be reduced by good land management, or by informed planning policies and decisions that take full account of the national importance of historic sites.
- In addition to protecting statutory sites it is important to ensure that the wider historic landscape is protected and also non-designated heritage and archaeological resources.

1.11 Landscape

The following baseline indicators have been used to characterise the existing conditions:

- Landscape characterisation (AONB Management Plan SEA 2014).
- Agri-environment scheme coverage (AONB Management Plan SEA 2014)

The Arnside and Silverdale AONB has a very distinctive character which combines improved agricultural pastures and intensively managed farmland with large semi-natural areas including inter-tidal sands and mudflats, salt marsh, coastal mosses, species-rich limestone grasslands, limestone pavements, cliffs and escarpments and extensively wooded limestone hills. Its scenic qualities include the rarity and distinctiveness of its Carboniferous Limestone, the mosaic of contrasting landscape types present, and the estuarine setting of the AONB, which affords dramatic views over Morecambe Bay.

Landscape character types found within the AONB are: Intertidal flats, saltmarshes and lagoons, lowland moss, coastal limestone pasture, inland pasture and parkland and wooded limestone hills and pavements. The seascape of the AONB is also very important.

Man has significantly influenced the AONB landscape in many ways, through settlement, quarrying and land management, in particular, farming (cross cutting themes with Material Assets and Cultural Heritage). The landscape comprises numerous individual features (sites, monuments and buildings) as well as broad patterns of field systems, settlements and woodlands. The form and layout of villages and hamlets in the area also contributes to the character and quality of the local landscape and there are strong vernacular traditions in the area including the design, construction and detailing of individual buildings.

Important features characteristic of the AONB landscape include: natural limestone features – limestone pavements, low coastal cliffs, solution hollows, erratic boulders, historic field patterns (particularly in the vicinity of Beetham, Hale, the Yealands and Warton), distinctive field boundaries, in particular dry stone walls and hedgerows, historic settlement patterns and the distinctive character of settlements such as the Yealands, Warton and Beetham, limestone kilns and ponds, walls within woodlands, mature infield, boundary and parkland trees, areas of traditionally coppiced woodland and areas of species-rich grassland such as hay meadows.

Agri-environment agreements support conservation and enhancement of the landscape and may include for conservation of specific landscape features such as in-field trees or hedgerows. Agri-environment agreements within the AONB cover 2095 ha, 40% of the terrestrial area of the AONB (under 33 agreements). 40% of the 2095 ha is in Entry Level plus Higher Level Stewardship (ELS, HLS), 28% is in HLS and 9% in organic ELS and HLS.

The tranquillity of the AONB is one of its key features. According to CPRE (2006), the west of the AONB, along the coast, can be regarded as 'most tranquil' becoming slightly less tranquil towards the east and the A6.

There are increasing pressures in the local area for renewable energy developments, particularly wind turbines and wind farms located on land adjoining the AONB which forms the setting of the designated landscape. These developments have the potential to negatively impact on views out from and the setting of the AONB. There is also ongoing pressure for other

forms of development such as housing and tourism developments which have the potential to adversely affect landscape quality if not sited and designed appropriately.

Increasing visitor numbers and cars and changing recreational activities have the potential to lead to a decline in the tranquillity of parts of the AONB (AONB Management Plan SEA, 2014).

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

- Further information regarding tranquillity from CPRE
- Information regarding dark skies from CPRE
- Information regarding views out of the AONB
- Settlement character studies

Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

- The landscape character of the AONB has been influenced by man in many ways such as through settlement, quarrying, land management and farming.
- The AONB landscape has a distinctive character which combines improved agricultural pastures and intensively managed farmland with large semi-natural areas. Ensuring it is protected and in good condition must continue to be a priority
- Scenic qualities which contribute to the character of the AONB include the distinctive Carboniferous Limestone.
- The tranquillity of the AONB is a key feature. The Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) suggests that the west of the AONB along the coast is the most tranquil with the east near the A6 the least.
- The estuarine setting of the AONB affords dramatic views over Morecambe Bay.
- Woodlands cover approximately a third of the area of the AONB. Diseases such as Chalara dieback (Ash Dieback) are not present within the AONB but as ash woodlands are the dominant woodland type within the AONB this is a key issue which should be observed. The use and creation of new Agri-environment schemes should be encouraged to aid the protection and enhancement of the areas landscape.
- Pressures from development can lead to a decline in the landscape character of the AONB.
- An increase in visitor numbers which would bring more cars and recreational activities to the AONB may also lead to a decline in the tranquillity of the AONB.
- It is important for landscape character and quality to be maintained and where possible restored and enhanced.
- The AONB's high quality landscape is an important resource for attracting visitors and enhancing the quality of life for residents.

1.12 Minerals and Waste

The following baseline indicators have been used to characterise the existing conditions:

- Active Quarries (Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy, 2009 and Cumbria Minerals and Waste Local Plan, 2012)
- Recycling centres (Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy, 2009 and Cumbria Minerals and Waste Local Plan, 2012).

There is currently one active quarry within the AONB at Sandside, which is due to close in 2020. No further mineral extraction is planned within the AONB (Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy, 2009 and Cumbria Minerals and Waste Local Plan, 2012).

There are no household waste recycling centres within the AONB (Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy, 2009 and Cumbria Minerals and Waste Local Plan, 2012).

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

- Levels of fly-tipping
- Amount of household waste collected per head
- Household waste recycling and composting achieved
- Volume of waste produced – total and sub-divided by sector.
- Data regarding the use of recycled and secondary materials in the construction industry.

Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

- There is currently one active quarry within the AONB, which is due to close in 2020.
- No further mineral extraction is planned within the AONB
- It will be important to ensure that appropriate restoration plans are in place following cessation of working at Sandside Quarry.
- There are no active landfill sites within the AONB and no new waste developments are planned.
- There are no household waste recycling centres but there are some local bring sites.

1.13 Transportation

The following baseline indicators have been used to characterise the existing conditions across the AONB:

- Public Rights of Way (PRoW), bridleways and footpaths (Lancaster City Council)
- Travel to work method statistics (ONS – Neighbourhood Statistics)
- Distribution of major transport systems – roads, airports, ports, rail etc (MAGIC maps)

There are 12.2km of bridleways, 90.5km of footpaths and 7.2km of byways and 17.7km of permissive paths within the AONB (Lancaster City Council).

There is 1,140 ha of open access land (with inaccessible land removed) which accounts for 15% of the total AONB. This compares to 14% of open access land as a percentage of the protected area for all AONBs (Natural England Protected Landscape Monitoring Framework).

The road network within the AONB consists of local single carriageway roads with no 'A' classified road present and no motorway 'M' classified roads present. The A6 however does run along the eastern boundary of the AONB providing an important link to the M6 to the south and the A590 to the north.

There are two rail links within the AONB. These are Arnsdale railway station and Silverdale railway station. These stations connect to a rail line running north to south through the middle of the AONB. This provides connections to Carlisle and the TransPennine Express Ulverston Stations in the north west. To the south there is a link to the TransPennine Express Carnforth railway station which provides links to the south to Morecambe and south east to Wennington.

There are no seaports or airports found within the AONB boundary. The nearest seaport is in Heysham, Morecambe which is 14km to the south west. The nearest airport is Walney Island Airport which is circa 26km to the west.

Table 1.13.1 shows the method of travel to work used by residents of the 6 LSOAs which cover the AONB area.

Table 1.13.1 Travel to Work Method in the 6 LSOAs covering the AONB

	Lancaster 001E Super Output Area Lower Layer	Lancaster 001F Super Output Area Lower Layer	Lancaster 001G Super Output Area Lower Layer	South Lakeland 011A Super Output Area Lower Layer	South Lakeland 011B Super Output Area Lower Layer	South Lakeland 011C Super Output Area Lower Layer
All Usual Residents Aged 16 to 74 ¹ Persons Count Mar11	1,460	813	920	1,110	680	1,082
Work Mainly at or From Home ¹ Persons Count Mar11	118	28	46	64	48	93
Train ¹ Persons Count Mar11	39	13	9	27	25	15
Bus, Minibus or Coach ¹ Persons Count Mar11	15	14	10	3	4	3
Motorcycle, Scooter or Moped ¹ Persons Count Mar11	7	4	7	4	5	1
Driving a Car or Van ¹ Persons Count Mar11	574	396	449	452	239	464
Passenger in a Car or Van ¹ Persons Count Mar11	32	36	18	20	14	19
Bicycle ¹ Persons Count Mar11	7	10	17	9	7	11
On Foot ¹ Persons Count Mar11	56	46	27	66	51	57

Source: ONS – Neighbourhood Statistics

It can be seen from Table 1.13.1 that the dominant method for travelling to work across the AONB is by car. Other popular modes of travel include journey by train, on foot and working from home.

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

- Distribution of local services including schools, banks, libraries, shops etc.
- Number of Information and communication technologies (ICT) schemes implemented in the AONB.
- Number of homes with broadband internet access.

Key Issues and Opportunities

- The dominant travel to work method across the AONB is by car. Better facilities to encourage more sustainable transport use would be beneficial to the area. This could include enhanced car parking at stations to encourage train use. Locations will have to be appropriate to ensure no adverse effect on landscape character.
- There is a good percentage of open access land in the AONB which can be used by visitors and residents to access/explore the countryside.
- With much of the area being rural, access to public transport can be difficult for some and is reflected in the lower use of people utilising these methods to travel to work.

- Opportunities should be sought to reduce the growing dependence on the private car and increase public transport use and other sustainable modes of transport such as walking and cycling. It will be important to ensure that any new employment sites can be easily accessed by public transport.
- The enhanced coastal access as a result of the Marine and Coastal act 2009 gives a change in recreational use of Morecambe Bay and needs to be well managed.

1.14 Economy

The following baseline indicators have been used to characterise economic conditions across the AONB:

- Total employment in farming (Defra)
- Total employment in tourism businesses in AONBs (Natural England Protected Landscape Monitoring Framework)
- Total JSA Claimant Count in the 6 LSOAs covering the AONB (ONS- Neighbourhood Statistics)

The total number of people employed in farming (farmers, managers, full time and part time workers) in 2010 was 87 and the number of full time farmers employed was 25. In 2006 the total number of people employed in farming was 115 and the number of full time farmers was 30. From 2000 to 2006 the number of fulltime farmers remained fairly stable at around 30 though fell a little for a few years following the 2001 foot and mouth disease outbreak. These figures shows that total labour employed in farming appears to have declined slightly overall between 2000 and 2010 although there was an increase in numbers between 2006 and 2008 (Defra Agricultural Census 2010).

Since 2007-2008, there have been no commercially viable stocks of cockles in Morecambe Bay (NWIFCA).

Tourism businesses account for 14% of all businesses within the AONB. This includes 7.2% in accommodation and transport, and 6.6% in food and beverage and culture and leisure businesses. This is percentage is above that for tourism businesses out of all businesses for all AONBs (12.4%) and lower than that for National Parks (27.3%) (Natural England Protected Landscape Monitoring Framework). There are currently three Green Tourism Business Scheme members within the AONB. The Green Tourism Business Scheme recognises places to stay and visit that are taking action to support the local area and the wider environment.

Within the AONB total employment in tourism business is 330 which accounts for 19.6%. This is higher than the percentage total employment in tourism businesses in AONBs - 17.3% and National Parks – 19.2% (Natural England Protected Landscape Monitoring Framework).

Table 1.14.1 shows the JSA claimant count for the 6 LSOAs which cover the AONB.

Table 1.14.1 JSA Claimant Count in the 6 LSOAs covering the AONB

	Lancaster 001E Super Output Area Lower Layer	Lancaster 001F Super Output Area Lower Layer	Lancaster 001G Super Output Area Lower Layer	South Lakeland 011A Super Output Area Lower Layer	South Lakeland 011B Super Output Area Lower Layer	South Lakeland 011C Super Output Area Lower Layer
Total Persons Count Aug12	10	5	10	5	0	10

Source: ONS – Neighbourhood Statistics

It can be seen from table 1.14.1 that there are very low numbers of the overall AONB population claiming JSA and indicates a healthy local economy.

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

When collating baseline data for this topic area, difficulties were identified in obtaining information about inward investment in the AONB and research and development opportunities. Specific data requirements are:

- Location of key industries and major employers.
- Economic activity rate for the period January 2007 to December 2007.
- Employment by sector.
- Employment by occupation.
- Number of wards with LSOAs in the bottom 10% most deprived for employment deprivation
- Visitor numbers and tourist revenue data
- GVA per capita for key sectors.
- Number and value of inward investment projects.
- Number of rural diversification schemes implemented.

Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

- The overall deprivation in across the AONB is relatively low.
- The AONB area has low JSA claimant numbers and this suggests a strong local economy but many people travel outside of the AONB for work. High employment levels can mask high dependence on lower paid tourism roles within the AONB.
- Tourism is an important business sector in the area and further opportunities should be sought to utilise the areas environmental and cultural assets to build on this. However this needs to be in a sustainable way which is sympathetic to the landscape character and the communities within the AONB.
- Many people commute to places of work outside of the AONB which enables them to bring money back into the AONB economy but doesn't support the growth of local jobs.
- There are opportunities to capitalise upon the AONB's environmental and cultural assets and to develop the tourist industry.
- Engaging with local residents and making sure that they feel the Councils keeps them well informed will be essential in creating vibrant communities.
- There may be scope in the future to more actively involve the local community in decision-making which will also enable the Councils to understand the needs and desires

of the residents which in the long-term could help contribute to the establishment of more sustainable communities.

- Opportunities should be sought to drive up wages where possible.

1.15 Deprivation and Living Environment

The following baseline data has been identified:

- Number and distribution of wards with LSOAs in the bottom 10% most deprived in the Index of Multiple Deprivation (Indices of Deprivation, 2010 and ONS).
- Percentage of working age population claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) (NOMIS, Cumbria Observatory)

Table 1.15.1 shows the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) ranks for the 6 LSOAs which cover the AONB area.

Table 1.15.1 IMD ranks of the 6 LSOAs Covering the AONB (2010)

	South Lakeland 011A Super Output Area Lower Layer	South Lakeland 011B Super Output Area Lower Layer	South Lakeland 011C Super Output Area Lower Layer	Lancaster 001G Super Output Area Lower Layer	Lancaster 001F Super Output Area Lower Layer	Lancaster 001E Super Output Area Lower Layer
Rank of Index of Multiple Deprivation Score ¹ Areas Rank Jan10	29,479	26,947	23,641	22,626	18,991	27,784

Source: ONS – Neighbourhood Statistics

There are 32,482 LSOAs in England. The IMD ranks shown in Table 1.13.1 show that the overall deprivation for the AONB area is low, with none of the 6 LSOAs in the bottom 10% for overall deprivation.

As of February 2015, the JSA claimant rate for Silverdale was 0.3% and 0.7% for Warton (NOMIS). The sample size for Arnside and Beetham was too small for a reliable estimate to be made however in July 2014 the rate for Arnside and Beetham was 0.4% (Cumbria Observatory).

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

- Number and distribution of wards with LSOAs in the bottom 10% most deprived for living environment.
- Number and distribution of wards with LSOAs in the bottom 10% of most deprived in terms of barriers to housing and services provision.
- Number and distribution of wards with LSOAs in the bottom 10% most deprived for income deprivation.
- Average gross weekly pay.
- Percentage of residents who are very or fairly satisfied with the area they live in.
- Percentage of residents who feel that the Councils keep them informed.
- Percentage of residents who believe that the AONB is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well
- Number of community action groups

Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

- The overall deprivation across the AONB is relatively very low and suggests the area is one which is broadly affluent.
- Engaging with local residents and making sure that they feel the Councils keep them well informed will be essential in creating vibrant communities.
- There may be scope in the future to more actively involve the local community in decision-making which will also enable the Councils to understand the needs and desires of the residents which in the long-term could help contribute to the establishment of more sustainable communities.
- Opportunities should be sought to drive up wages where possible.

1.16 Housing

The following baseline indicators have been used to characterise the status of housing across the District:

- Ratio of relative housing affordability to income (Arnside and Silverdale AONB Management Plan 2013)

Table 1.15.1 shows the mean and median house price relative to income for the 3 wards within the AONB and compares this against the two local authorities and national data.

Table 1.15.1 IMD ranks of the 6 LSOAs Covering the AONB (2010)

	Ward			Cumbria	Lancashire	National
	Arnside and Beetham	Silverdale	Warton			
Mean house price to household income	7.9	n/a	n/a	5.1	n/a	5.9
Median house price to household income	9.1	n/a	n/a	5.6	n/a	6.1

Table 1.15.1 above shows that for Arnside and Beetham the mean and medium household price when matched with relative household income is 7.9 and 9.1 times more respectively. This is 2 and 3 times more for the mean and median respectively when compared with National data. When compared with the two districts of Cumbria the mean and the median household price to household income is 2.8 and 3.5 times more.

The average house price for Silverdale ward in 2013 was £214,747 and £196,471 in Warton. The mean house price in Arnside and Beetham was in 2013 was £272,588 and the median house price was £243,590.

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

- Data for house price affordability for Silverdale and Warton is not complete.
- Number of affordable housing completions in rural areas.
- Number of people accepted as homeless who are successfully re-housed.
- Dwelling Stock by Tenure (Source: Department for Communities and Local Government: Dwelling Stock by Tenure and Condition, 2008 and Lancashire Profiles, www.lancashire.gov.uk).
- Percentage of new dwellings built on previously developed land.

Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

- House prices are above average within the AONB and this reflects the tranquil rural nature of the landscape.
- Housing allocations should be made to meet affordable housing needs of the local population in a way that does not significantly adversely affect the landscape character.

- Sheltered housing needs for the elderly should be met, this is a particular issue due to the ageing population.

1.17 Transboundary Issues

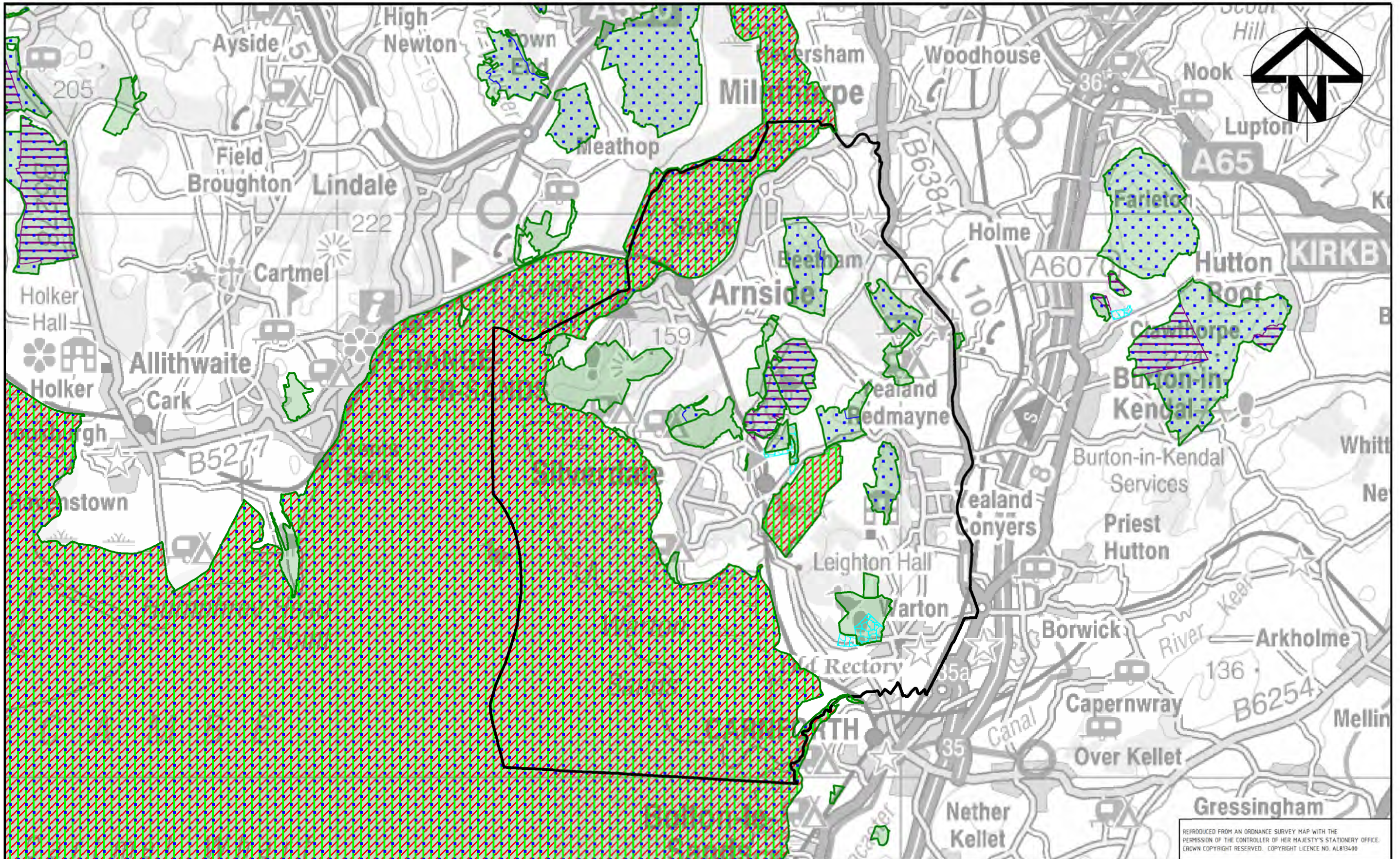
The AONB itself is transboundary in that the AONB extent straddles the boundary between two local authorities, Lancaster City Council and South Lakeland District Council.

For many authorities, the geographical scale of particular baseline issues means that they relate closely to neighbouring authorities. For example, housing provision and prices, employment migration and commuting, service provision and education can all result in flows of people across Local Authority boundaries. In order to help to characterise the baseline further, some of these key 'transboundary' issues have been identified below.

- Waste disposal is a significant strategic issue for the AONB due to there being no waste disposal/landfill sites being located within the boundary. The nearest landfill site to the AONB with Lancaster district is located in Preston. The vast majority of South Lakeland's waste goes to a mechanical and biological treatment plan (MBT plant) in Barrow in Furness and a small percentage goes to landfill at Bennett Bank, also in Barrow.
- The economy of the AONB which largely includes tourism relies on attracting visitors from across various regions into the AONB.
- Transboundary effects occur on the AONB's road network due to any out-commuting to Lancaster District or South Lakeland either for employment, education or retail purposes.
- The AONB borders the Morecambe Bay Natura 2000 site which also borders a number of other coastal local authorities in the North West. Ensuring against pollution of the Bay and the adjoining wetland system is a key issue for the AONB. Authorities need to work together to ensure against adverse in-combination effects upon the site.

Appendix C

Figures



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02	SECOND ISSUE	MAY 15
Issue	Description	Date

Key	
	ARNSIDE AND SILVERDALE AONB BOUNDARY
	RAMSAR SITE
	SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION
	SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA
	SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
	NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE
	LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

Client




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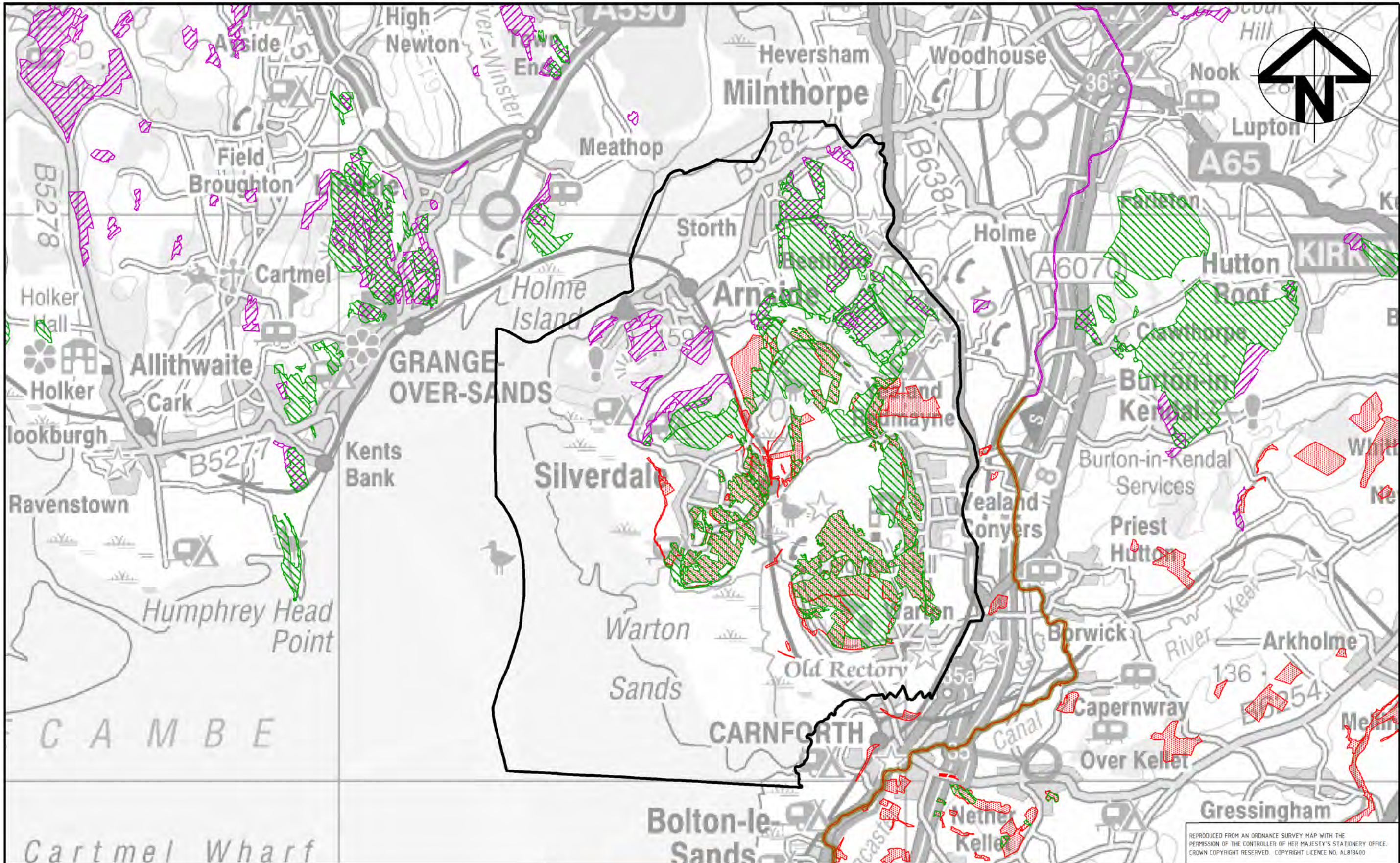
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Grid	OS	© Copyright reserved	
Filename	001-UA001453-UE31D-02-ECOLOGICAL-PLAN-D		

Project	SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL OF THE ARNSIDE AND SILVERDALE AONB PLAN
Title	FIGURE 1 ECOLOGICAL DESIGNATIONS



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02	SECOND ISSUE	MAY 15
Issue	Description	Date


Key	
	ARNSIDE AND SILVERDALE AONB BOUNDARY
	BIOLOGICAL HERITAGE SITE (LANCASTER)
	GREEN CORRIDOR (LANCASTER)
	LIMESTONE PAVEMENT ORDER
	COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE (SOUTH LAKELAND)

Client



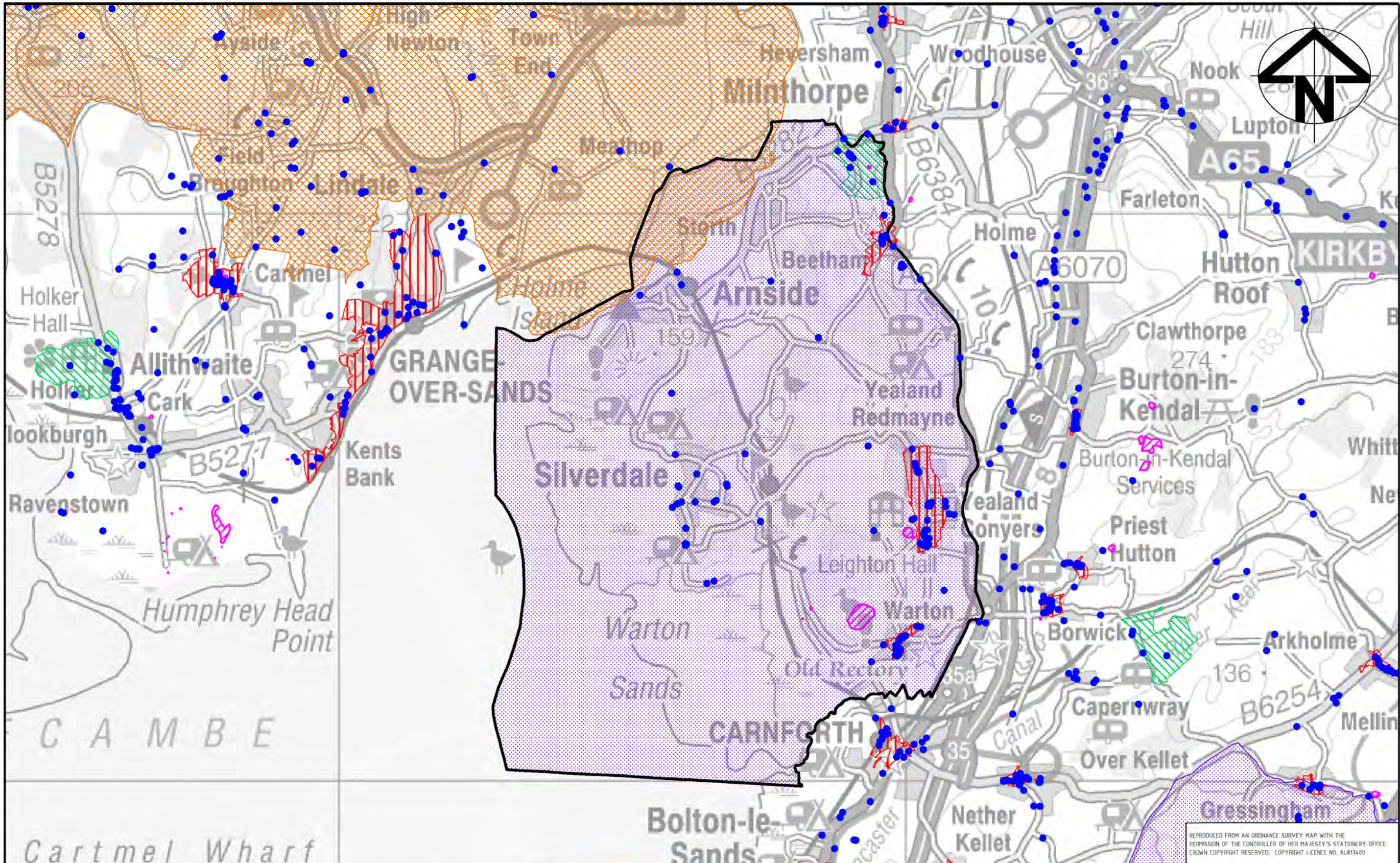

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Filename:	002-UA001453-UE31D-02-BIODIVERSITY-PLAN-D		

Project	SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL OF THE ARNSIDE AND SILVERDALE AONB PLAN
Title	FIGURE 2 BIODIVERSITY FEATURES



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02	SECOND ISSUE	APR 15
Issue	Description	Date


Key	
	ARNSIDE AND SILVERDALE AONB BOUNDARY
	LISTED BUILDING
	SCHEDULED MONUMENT
	REGISTERED PARK AND GARDEN
	AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY
	NATIONAL PARK
	CONSERVATION AREA

Client



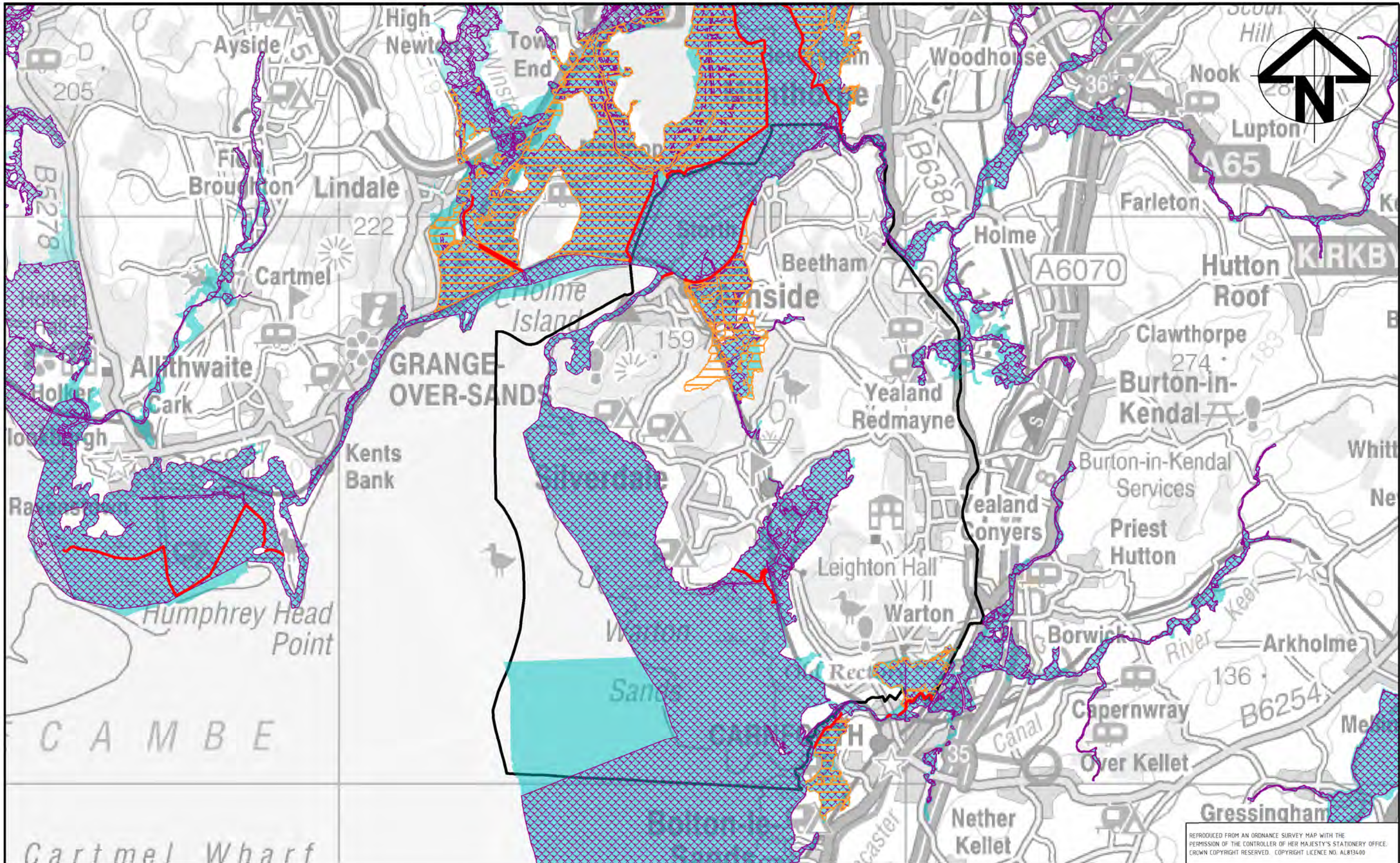

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Original Size	A3	Checker	DH
Datum		Approver	DH
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Filename	003-UA001453-UE310-02-HERITAGE-LANDSCAPE-PLAN-D		

Project	SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL OF THE ARNSIDE AND SILVERDALE AONB PLAN
Title	FIGURE 3 HERITAGE ASSETS AND LANDSCAPE DESIGNATIONS



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01	FIRST ISSUE	MAR 15
Issue	Description	Date

Key	
	ARNSIDE AND SILVERDALE AONB BOUNDARY
	FLOOD ZONE 2
	FLOOD ZONE 3
	FLOOD DEFENCES
	AREAS BENEFITING FROM FLOOD DEFENCES

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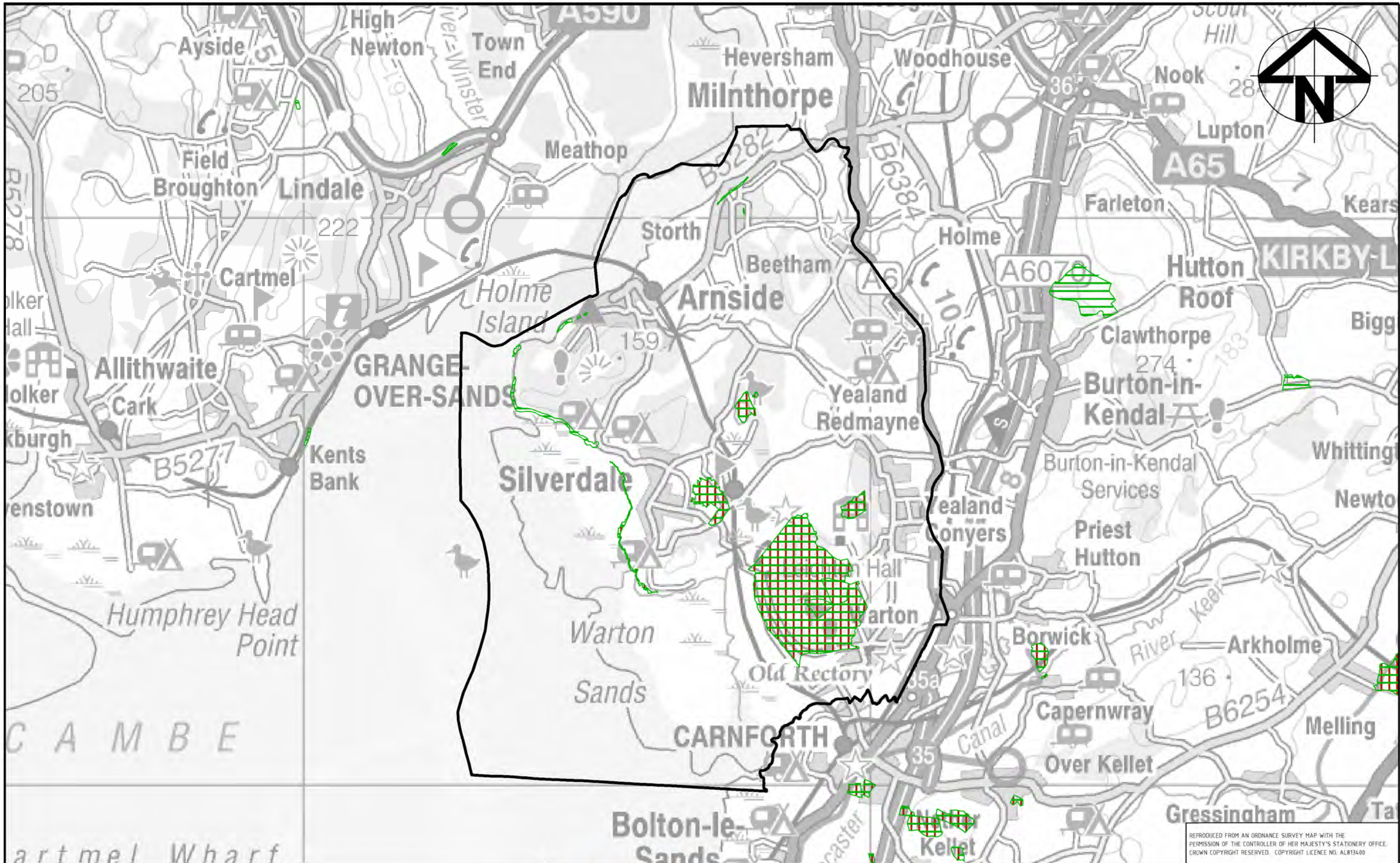
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Filename:	004-UA001453-UE31D-01-FLOOD-RISK-D		

Project	SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL OF THE ARNSIDE AND SILVERDALE AONB PLAN
Title	FIGURE 4 FLOOD RISK



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004	UA001453	01



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01	FIRST ISSUE	MAY 15
Issue	Description	Date

Key		
	ARNSIDE AND SILVERDALE AONB BOUNDARY	
	GEOLOGICAL HERITAGE SITE (LANCASTER)	
	REGIONALLY IMPORTANT GEOLOGICAL SITE	

Client




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Status	FINAL		
Scales	N.T.S	Current Issue Signatures	
		Author	MM
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Filename:	005-UA001453-UE31D-02-GEOLOGICAL-PLAN-D		

Project	SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL OF THE ARNSIDE AND SILVERDALE AONB PLAN
Title	FIGURE 5 GEOLOGICAL DESIGNATIONS



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Drawing No.	Project No.	Issue
005	UA001453	01

Appendix D

Internal Compatibility of the SA Objectives

Internal Compatibility of the SA Objectives

SA Objective	1																	
	2	✓																
	3		✓															
	4	✓	✓	✓														
	5		✓	✓	✓													
	6		✓	✓	✓	✓												
	7	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓											
	8	✓			✓	✓		✓										
	9	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓									
	10	✗	✓			✓			✓	✓								
	11	✗	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓							
	12	✓				✓			✓	✓	✓	✓						
	13	✓				✓			✓		✓	✓	✓					
	14	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓							
	15		✓			✓					✓					✓		
	16	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓			
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
	SA Objective																	

Objectives are compatible = ✓
 Objectives are incompatible = ✗
 No clear impact on each other = (left blank)