

## APPENDIX 6 COMMENTS ON THE SURVEY

Do not like the powerlines in the landscape (or Sellafield). We usually holiday in Eskdale ...away from the crowds. A beautiful part of the Lakes with everything you could want for taking scenic photographs. A mixture of gentle hills, rugged hills, woods, rivers, deep pools, packhorse bridges and La'al Ratty railway and good walks for any weather.. Flat landscapes only look good when there are big rolling clouds in the sky.

The variety of Lake District landscapes, demonstrated by your pictures, is one of its most charming features

I don't like scree, bare hills or pylons. I don't mind roads in photos. I love lakes, streams, green fields and sheep in photos. I like coniferous as well as deciduous trees and I like woods. I prefer spring or summer photos to winter ones as I am more inclined to wish I was there. You included few spring photos. You included no autumn photos; I think the Lake District is beautiful with autumn colour.

Survey slightly too long! Would be interested to see the final report.

We have been visiting the Lake District for 30 years in all weathers, it would be a shame to spoil such a beautiful place with such things as power lines and wind turbines. We hope our survey has helped to avoid this happening. Keep the Lakes how it has been for centuries and should remain, change is not always for the better.

Did my Mountain Leader training at Outward Bound Ullswater so am more attracted to mountain scenery!

It is important to evaluate landscape quality, but as in all things it is subjective. When shown a landscape things like power lines and quarries will influence a decision but also the content of the view. A mosaic of features such as walls, natural woodland, old farms, remote buildings, water (open or riverside) and meadow with a backdrop of fells (not necessarily high ones) are my evaluation of landscape quality. People, bikers and hang gliders are an influence to me and are intrusive, a feeling of being in a wilderness on your own is the ideal, but rarely a reality.

Ancient area with beautiful towering ranges and contrasting rivers and lakes. The hand of man in some instances has shaped the scenes we see today, but Mother Nature and the ice age have given us the basic shapes we still see now. Let's not pollute it with our waste and our monstrous pieces of metal and plastic!!

Was very clearly explained and easy to complete quickly, as mentioned in the description. Looks like a very pretty place with much differing landscapes. Might be desirable to visit, should I ever get some spare \$\$ to spend! Well done!

Something to consider: while I was completing your survey I realised I was probably rating the photography as much as the subject.

Interesting set of pictures. It is vitally important however that as well as enhancing the natural beauty of the Lake District, industry/business is permitted to flourish. It can't all be hidden from view and so we have to accept that there will need to be a limited amount of visual intrusion. These opinions are my personal ones. Alison Coupe.

Thank you for the tour, Andrew. I graded it on how badly I would want to go there, and take that photo! Regards Beryl

Too crowded during summer! But great "off season"

The appearance of power lines is a real distraction as was the slate mine. These are blots on the

landscape. The images with deciduous trees look much more appealing and those with walls as opposed to wire fences are equally more attractive. My scoring may have changed as I went through the experience, however, the scores were a genuine attempt to assess the scenes. David

Loose the pylons! These are not appealing in the slightest. Nor are out of focus, over exposed image or photos where the subject is cut off.

Um, yes I kind of wonder about the methodology of the survey and whether it measures what it intends to measure - whatever that is - I found myself getting somewhat irritated by the length of it and difficult to maintain sufficient concentration to know where I was rating things, since what one might try and start as an absolute scale becomes a relative one as I ended up rating images against the previous one. Also some images which gave the impression of being highly modified, were particularly irritating to me for looking false/artificial and I am not sure that I was responding so much to landscape features as lack of genuine landscape...

A really beautiful place to live but it's being spoilt with electric power lines and wind farms.

Fascinating idea, although the cropping of some of the pictures becomes rather obvious to a careful observer quite quickly. Would be very interested in seeing the overall statistical findings once the survey has been carried out. Whitewaterpops@gmail.com Many thanks

The Lake District is just too busy! It is spoilt by the amount of traffic on its roads.

The best scenes involved landscapes with distant hills, greenery in the form of trees and shrubs and grass and water in creeks and lakes. In contrast, the views of harsh rock face and plain barren landscapes did not appeal, and nor did scenes with power lines etc in them. There was beauty in some of the snow scenes.

No photos from on high looking down - that is often how I look at the Lake District.

Interesting to find I preferred the images with water, which I didn't think I would.

"Landscape Quality" rating is not absolute, but should vary depending on where and how the picture is to be used.

To me the "Lakes" mean dark mountains with a fair smattering of snow in Winter/Spring and benevolent, soft coloured fells in Autumn - hectic and crowded in Summer !

I believe my rating are based on a number of factors and weighted towards these: 1) Photographic composition - if the composition of the picture is poor I rate low 2) I favour mountains to lowlands & coastal - I'm a fell walker There are probably others but I do not always find the presence of human geography to be adverse to rural beauty.

Interesting survey.

the survey should have a completion bar so that it tells you where you are at.

The photos were broadly representative of the best aspects of the scenery but were limited in their representation of intrusions into the landscape - apart from roads, only power lines and a quarry were illustrated. Two major pressures in Nat Parks (I am a Member of an English Nat Park) are caravans and wind turbines and photos showing these would have helped to elicit a broader perspective. Boats and car parks (discretely located or not) also impact on the landscape quality. I would be interested in the outcomes of this research to measure and map the landscape of the Lakes. Thank you [affisher@btinternet.co.uk](mailto:affisher@btinternet.co.uk)

Glad that it is not too far away from where I live. I visit as often as possible, a wonderful place to walk.

I think that this is a great way to determine the effect of features in the landscape, but some of the

tree additions were too obvious, and this might have affected my immediate response, perhaps reduce the hues to match the background

It would be nice to know as you go through the survey how far into the survey you are as it gets wearying after a while and you wonder when it is going to end. So like we are all used to with downloads, some indication (even just numbering the photos 1/100 2/100 3/100 etc would help. Or have less photos in total!

I found it difficult to assess 'scenic quality' without being influenced by the photographic composition. None of the scenes really encapsulated what I get from my visits!  
I love the lakes. I would like fewer conifers and fewer cars. They spoil views and cars are noisy, polluting and dangerous to walkers. Minor roads should be residents cars only I would like better public transport so I could visit more and so there would be fewer cars I do not like scrappy fencing, quarries or power lines but I accept there has to be a working landscape - a balance is needed

Natural beauty - fells, lakes/rivers, woods/trees, interwoven with cultural heritage features built using local stone, with the interplay of light makes the Lake District stand out in the UK.

Sorry but did not think that the photos used showed our stunning landscape at its best!

Great place. Hope it stays the same where possible

Why show several pictures of the same scene? Trying to see if I was consistent?

They are all beautiful scenes, and would like anyone of them outside of my window .

Loved the photos

I think I became a bit confused. I wasn't sure if I was judging just what was in view in the photo because I started imagining the wider scene and scoring on that (I suppose that's one of the issues of knowing the area and imagining being in that location and how it feels). Hopefully my scores are of some value.

The Lakes provide one of the finest scenic areas in Britain (only beaten by the Cairngorms or Loch Lomond).

This area is a treasured part of the UK, totally different to Wales or Scotland. It epitomizes "English" I have climbed and walked there for more years than I care to remember and it never lets me down. Good Luck with the survey.

My Father's Grandfather emigrated from the Lake District (Cockermouth) to Australia in the 1800's. I have a sense of connection with the landscape for that reason.

Not so much about the Lake District, more about the foregoing exercise: 1. My score was influenced by the quality of the photograph - murky, hazy views were marked down 2. Some photos were hardly landscapes, just components of them. Otherwise, very interesting and I look forward to seeing the results in due course.

Please put the 'next' button nearer to the 1 - 10 buttons. Would be better with fewer cars and smaller roads and no motorcycles.

The survey is too long!

If repeated, would be useful to include different variations of transport infrastructure. For example: road with yellow lines, white centre lines, no lines, bus stop poles and flags, car parks, junctions with multiple highway signs, junctions with simplified highway signs.

I believe that the Lake District is far more important to our country than most people realise and,

therefore, every effort has to be made in order to preserve its integrity. Dry stone walling needs to be repaired and improved, pathways repaired to reduce erosion, natural species of trees need to be planted when removing the hideous conifers. Development must be in keeping and sympathy with the historic environment. My most recent visit to Buttermere was somewhat spoiled by seeing the new modern addition to the hotel there. Catastrophic is all I can say.

I love the Lakes from the barren uphill to the Roman remains to the manicured areas near to Windermere

The biggest issue with the photos were their poor quality of scene composition. Fully understand the notion of how the scene impacts on our perception with powerlines etc but this was compromised by the cropping out prominent features such as crags. Some of the pictures of beautiful flatlands were right in their colour exposure but cropped badly which affected their scenic quality. Similar goes for scenes with crags or fells in, the tops were cropped off and this meant a lower scenic quality score. Maybe it's just the photographer in me or that I am a keen fell-walker and avid user of the Lake District that makes me so critical

Interesting...

I enjoyed completing the survey, especially the reflections of the different seasons in the Lake District. Many thanks and best wishes with the analysis, which I am sure will be of great value to the LDNP Authority, Councils, businesses and landowners

Cross fell from Appleby is not really in the Lake District is it?

The fences & houses detract from some scenes, Natural country not farming is more attractive

I think small scale farming, dry stone walls and minor roads can enhance some types of landscape. Pylons, major roads and industrial type forestation detract or even ruin landscape value. Highest value landscape usually involves several aspects, such as mixed trees, mountains, water etc.

I consider the Lake District unequalled in the world for varied landscape in a relatively small area. There are intrusions however. Your survey contained too many images to maintain consistency

A very beautiful place. Probably because I'm from Australia I am a sucker for snow (water even!), green grass and stone walls. We don't see so much of them here at home.

I like the lush green fields with some yellow and some water. It is all good but fences, close up views of mountains and lack of grass detract. Some trees add. Snow is good when not drab. Mountains in the distance are good

Thanks for the opportunity to take part - very interesting and took me back to doing a survey on students at university about the responses to landscape in general. I will be interested to see the results. Kind Regards

Thanks Andrew. Nothing rated more than 7 with me I'm afraid. I was reserving 8 - 10 for the sorts of stunning views you get on and around the highest, most rugged peaks. Snow definitely required for a 10. But no such appeared. A mountaineer's bias I'm afraid. I was probably also influenced a bit by the quality of the photography, particularly the framing of the view - again, probably spurious as far as you are concerned. Sorry! The Lake District remains my favourite UK mountain area for the quality of the scenery. I've been visiting for 50 years and it still seems pretty well cared for to me.

Too many visitors

Too many photos

I think that the quality of the pictures and colours are not consistent which alters your perception of the views. The Lake District should stay a working landscape and not be gentrified.

Too long.

Many of the photos were of the type that many people take and show their friends. But they were just shots for the takers memory.- and would become boring to look at then and even later. . Distant vistas are not always the best way to illuminate the beauty of the Lakes. The Great Gable and Wastwater shots could have been better and possibly more dramatic and which for Wastwater and the surrounding mountains add drama and balanced beauty to the scene. Distant scenes of lakes and long valleys do not have the interest for many people except the snapper. The shot of Langdale Pikes, which of course has become historical, shows what is needed in a good photo. Interesting low foreground leading to a skyline of mountains of unusual shape, which then activates the brain to say, I want to go there and see those mountains. A delight to the eye. One's interest is immediately caught. River shots can also be very beautiful to attract the visitor. People love to be alongside water, especially if it is flowing. The waves, shadows of the trees etc give interest and magical views to the viewer. Plus sitting alongside a river is calming. I must not forget trees, glades, woods and flowers. I am just an amateur photographer who has been going to the Lakes since 1950 (as a lad). All photos of The Lakes have to be thought out carefully for site, colour, time of day and year, cloud conditions, local or person interest, historic background and the beauty that we intend to show to the viewer. In my view that is why I have given low numbers to distant and rather flat views of the scenery. Although a little "old hat" by now many of W. Poucher's photos catch the feeling of the Lake District. I came across a snippet by Wordsworth this morning in Harriet Tuckey's book on her father Dr. Griffith Pugh "Everest, the First Ascent". She relates to Lord Hunt (John Hunt of Everest fame) of how he saw the mountains in a Romantic Spirit that gave emotional responses.(page 157, 158). Wordsworth "advocated taking cleansing breaks from the harsh material urban living to expose oneself to nature and to the sublime vast and magnificent landscape of the lake District etc." I am not saying that we should take this Romantic view, although many people do live in harsh conditions with the fear of being out of work etc, but just perhaps the photos might be used not only to show the beauty of The lakes but to awaken them to come to The Lakes for their holiday. Good luck with your investigations Andrew. Allen B.Bordoley member of the North London Mountaineering Club.

Very interesting! I would suggest a progress bar so that you know if you've only got three minutes to spare, whether you should push on through to the end or whether to come back to it later.

If I didn't live here I would take holidays here. I spend 2 days on the mountains every week. There were very few pictures taken from a mountain. I am very choosy about the shots I take, so most would be better than those in the survey Try Derwentwater from King's How, Ennerdale from Brandreth or Ullswater from Arnison crag.

More scenes looking down from the tops would be welcome, showing more lakes.

Yes-But this should be for the UK.

Should get better photographs. Survey ones do not do justice to the Lake District

I only wish I could spend more time in the Lake District, I will make do with the Brecon Beacons.  
Regards David Seeney Excalibur Walking Club

As a Planning student at Sheffield in the early 70s, I did a landscape appraisal of the Lake District, using Fines' technique, as a computer project. I demonstrated that the lake surfaces were most attractive and the hilly bits were boring, which suggests that I inversely weighted my criteria. I got A- for my methodology! I remain IT hopeless.....

I have some professional experience (and some scepticism!) of this form of landscape preference survey. One of my routine reactions is that it's always difficult to detach photo quality from landscape quality, and to set aside recognition of the scene (and its wider context, good or bad) from the limited scope of the photo (e.g. Tarn Hows). I notice that I've tended to limit my scoring range partly because I was expecting/hoping for(?) more 'pure' mountain views which would always top my preferences. And I suspect there is a degree of 'lag' from high or low-scoring photos which

tends to up- or down-grade subsequent ones (but I guess randomisation reduces that effect). Good luck with your analysis !

It was difficult to initially give scores, without being able to see in advance the range of images, and what might justify a top score. Going forwards in an exploratory manner was not possible. It was of course possible to go backwards later on, but that would potentially cause endless doubt about individual scores when re-viewed! It might have been possible to give a view of the thumbnails in advance, to give people a chance to assess the overall quality of the images. This would have helped me, anyway.

Tried to not be influenced by the composition of the photograph and imagined I was there looking at the scene myself. Not always easy as the composition and point of view in the photo does affect the perception of the scene, as does the ambient light in the photo.

I am a statistician with 40 years of experience (and a climber/mountaineer for even longer). I would be interested to know something about your methods of analysing the survey. Perhaps when you send the results (or before) you could include a link to methodology.

Some very beautiful places! Although in some pictures even just the wire fencing around the stone walls looks out of place for such a lovely area. I personally find one of the charms of the Lake District is that some places look so "oldie worldie" that it's like stepping into the past. If you can look at a photo of an area and not be able to guess the era, the planners in that area should get a medal!

I'm a qualified summer mountain leader and I've walked a lot in the Lake District and extensively in Scotland. I do like the Lake District, there are some great walks and scrambles but I find it too busy and I seldom get the sense of remoteness that I love in places like Torrion.

What a very annoying survey!

Some photos seemed of poorer quality than others. Ignored the poor quality and assessed it on the scene only. Hope this was what was wanted.

Interesting but a bit long! Hope not too many people give up without finishing (an indication of "you're x% done" on each page might provide some encouragement).

Many of the pictures were over exposed and lacking in contrast - better reproduction of the scenes would have made decisions on their landscape quality easier.

Happy to do the survey. Wondered at times if I was assessing the quality of the photograph or the scenery, but I'm sure you have factored that in.

High rocky hills can get boring after a while. I prefer scenes with lakes and rivers and trees and vegetation.

Interesting. I thought several scenes were repeated, it would be fascinating to study what difference was made and how it affected the response.

Enjoyed doing the survey. Lots of nice scenes. Thanks.

In my opinion, the special thing about the Lakes is the unusual topography, in particular the relationship between the steepness and closeness of the fells. This amplifies the mountainous effect and produces a feeling of wildness and steepness that higher ranges (e.g. the Pyrenees) lack. The juxtaposition with water adds to their beauty but the monolithic pine plantations are a boring feature and detract from the landscape. Obviously, while we all appreciate the need for power and other infrastructure in the Lakes, it should be as sympathetically installed as possible.

Would be interested in results and conclusions. I noted that you used pictures from the same scene with different angles and features included.

What I love most about the Lake District, and what has been shown in most of the photos here, is the ability to find remote spots where no-one else seems to be even though many people visit the area at the same time as me. We have a joke when walking, "what is/are this person/people doing here? We booked this spot today!"

Lake District is of course very beautiful. I suppose I looked at these as a keen landscape photographer photographer-so balance, colours, sharpness etc influenced my judgement.

I like the landscape in spring and winter the best, but it is beautiful any time of year. I would have liked the opportunity to vote on the impact of windmills on our landscape, what a shame you did not include any.

This survey is too long.

I thought the pictures were rather monotonous and uninteresting. I rated those with contrast and perspective more highly. But found the absence of people and animals depressing! Interesting, good luck with the research. Power lines, people, flat land and conifers are my negatives in summary I suppose. Happy to help further if required. Nick Wakelam  
nickwakelam@btinternet.com

No towns? There are towns. No quarries or mine workings or car parks?

Prefer Winter when trees are naked and we can see the full majesty and depth associated with it!

Very interesting - where was Lorton Vale,.... best view in the Lake District!!

Fascinating. Can't wait for the results. Chris Greenwood

I have lived in or on the close borders of the LDNP for most of my 70 odd years. Dramatic landscapes along with 'post-card' shots all have their place and I admit to a weakness for winter scenes and dry stone walls, I also often like those on the sea shores or on an estuary but none in this sequence really took my eye. I have learned to almost blot out pylons but not as yet, wind turbines.

Risk of subject fatigue with this design! Some bias from subjects having strong associations with some views. Difficult to avoid judging the quality of the photography too.

I would love to go!

It was slightly irritating that the whole screen did not display at once - needing a shift down of the screen to get from the rating to the Next button. It would have been better if the whole screen was visible at once I found myself sometimes unsure whether i was responding to the question " how do you like this as a picture postcard view?" or to the question " what would be your thoughts if in amongst this piece of scenery?" and sometimes the answer would have been different

It would be good to have a progress indicator as you go through the survey, maybe telling you how many scenes are left to view. Otherwise it was a good survey.

Living near the Lake District I get to walk in it often and I find it very beautiful.

Would have appreciated an indicator of progress through the survey. (If there was one and I missed it sorry)

I love the Lake District, lived here all my life and cycle all round it too, on and off road. It is truly breathtaking still even when you wake up to it every morning.

Gets a bit boring at times - much of the sameness Like the water and mountain combinations.

Love the snow aspects being from a hot country with no snow. Would like to see more humble traditional cottages in some areas. Like babbling brooks and walks thru tree areas. Power line a complete turnoff. Would like to see more reflection areas being a Lake district. My memory of it was very scenic but a bit boring. It was also cold and we loved to stop at some of the traditional pubs for warm up. It has a lot of contrast from where I come from (South Australia)

The nature oriented scenes are more highly rated, especially when there is a segment of water/lake.

I rated the scenes higher if they were a more natural landscape i.e. no development, no roads, no fences etc. I would love to hear about the results of this survey. Please keep me informed at helen.malone@epa.sa.gov.au Thanks Helen

There is a large variety of landscapes, all containing different features. I rated according to what the picture contained, eg, a featureless plain as a 1; a picture with mountains, Flora, water, fauna, forest, streams, snow, buildings, rated 10. for every items missing rated 1 below. The survey itself was well done, in the variety of scenes shown, and due to the number of pictures, it was easy to rate a similar picture differently by up to 2 points.

The recent inclusion of a 100m pipe in Ennerdale Water has diminished the scenic quality of what was previously a beautiful and wild lake. I understand the reason for its construction but cannot agree.

Landscape quality is more complex than just aesthetics. Would have appreciated more info on how the results of this survey are to be used, since the Lakes has an up to date Landscape Character Assessment which covered far more than just aesthetics. Will be interesting to see how you analyse this, since people's perception of the impact of a particular feature depends on their background... some appreciate walls etc but others seek as near to a wilderness experience as possible in a crowded island, so appreciate apparently natural features with no obvious sign of man's influence such as coniferous afforestation, pylons, roads etc! My results were skewed by the relatively high score I gave the first slide, which then restricted my ability to differentiate further into the survey since all photos are of higher than average quality, when compared with England as a whole, which is what I based my first score on. Will there be feedback to participants on the results. Also I would have scored higher if there had been some archaeological heritage in some of the shots to give time depth!

Very interesting, I did it very quickly and think that is the best way to do it.

Many of the pictures were not good. A large proportion was of bland scenery and trees, poles and pylons. These were not what I would use to advertise the Lake District.

Also depends on when the photo was taken such as if it was cloudy or sunny. Some of them were great photos.

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder! Scenery is everywhere but people who live in flat or featureless areas are naturally drawn to different landscapes