

# Our Statement of Significance

“...what is most significant about a place goes beyond a listing of designated and protected sites to include the human and cultural factors which underpin its importance to local communities.”

## Our Statement of Significance

The Sheffield Lakeland area forms the 'back yard' for a large part of North West Sheffield, an area which juxtaposes some of the poorest and most affluent wards and districts in the city. The Sheffield Lakeland landscape is at the same time playground, back drop and protector of the city - fulfilling multiple cultural and natural capital roles.

Our statement of significance highlights the area's principal designations for landscape, natural heritage and built heritage. It also notes the significance of the landscape as a whole, which through its mixture of natural habitats and farmland and its location between the uplands of the Peak District and the Sheffield conurbation, acts as a significant buffer zone and potential wildlife corridor for the movement species at the edge of their range in response to climate change.

This statement of significance describes what is important about the heritage of the Sheffield Lakeland area, why it is important and to whom, recognising that what is most significant about a place goes beyond a listing of designated and protected sites to include the human and cultural factors which underpin its importance to local

communities. To this end, this chapter is accompanied by a video entitled 'What Sheffield Lakeland Means to Me', which provides a snap shot from early 2018 of community responses to the landscape in the form of quotes, paintings, photographs and poetry. A link to the video can be found here: <https://youtu.be/P6gqOhjb--s>.

Our statement of significance focuses on the opportunities and threats which can be influenced through the Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership, whilst also acknowledging significant landscape features which are already supported through other programmes and therefore not a major component of the our objectives.

## Our landscape significance

### The Peak District National Park

The Peak District National Park is an upland area at the southern end of the Pennines covering 1,437 km<sup>2</sup> of north Derbyshire, parts of Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Staffordshire, West Yorkshire as well as Sheffield and Barnsley in South Yorkshire. Its proximity to the cities of Sheffield, Manchester and Derby means that its exceptional landscapes attract over 10 million visitors each year. Wikipedia, 2018

Mass trespasses onto the moors by the industrial communities of Sheffield and Manchester from the late 1920s onwards, gradually led to concessions to access and in 1951 the Peak District was the first location in the UK to be given national park status under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949.

Two thirds of the Sheffield Lakeland area are within the Peak District National Park boundary, lying within the area of the Park

known as the Dark Peak, which is so named for the dominance of bleak, sparsely habited peat moorland. This extensive moorland is one of the largest semi-natural areas in England and has broad plateaus with rocky outcrops interspersed with river valleys and reservoirs.

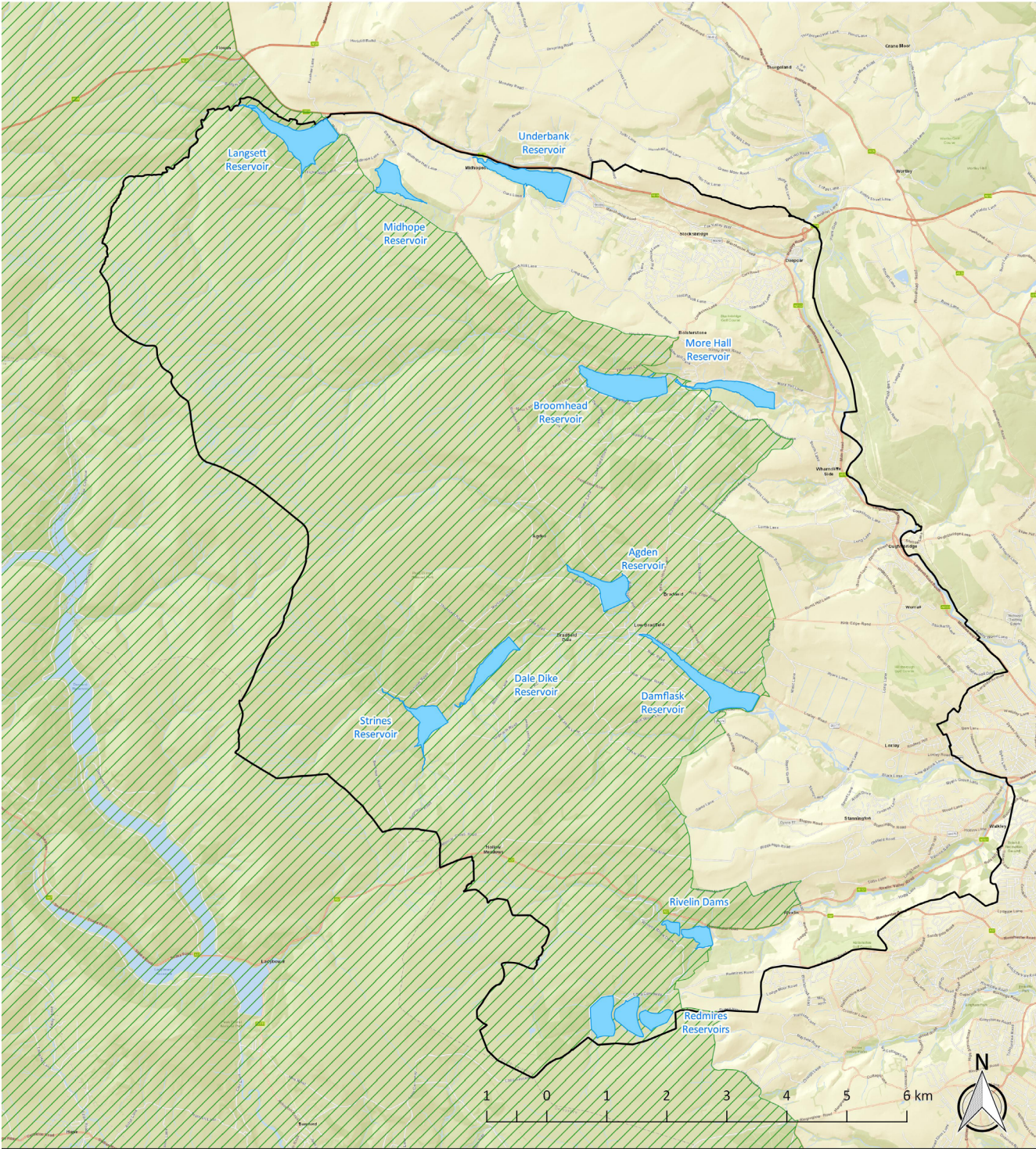
In recognition of the Peak District's long heritage of quarrying for millstones and grindstones, the national park uses a millstone as the 'key visual element in promoting the Peak District National Park', including as the Park logo and at key gateways into the landscape (Peak District National Park website, 2018). However, travelling west from Sheffield or Barnsley, there are currently no millstone welcome signs on the Mortimer (Strines) Road, contributing to a lack of identity for the Sheffield Lakeland area as part of a nationally important landscape.

Strines Reservoir with Hoyles Farm cruck barn. Photo C. Watts



# Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership

## Peak District National Park



Legend

- Reservoirs
- Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership Area (V04)

Peak District National Park

All locations are only indicators to demonstrate distribution, not precise locations Date : 24 04 2018 Version: V01 Produced in: QGIS2.18.17 Cartographer: Paul Liptrot

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## Conservation Areas

A Conservation Area is defined as 'an area of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance' (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas - Planning Act 1990).

In the part of the Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership area covered by the Peak District National Park Authority, the following settlements have been designated as Conservation Areas:

- **Bradfield**
- **Langsett**
- **Bolsterstone**
- **Upper Midhope**

Adopted appraisals for these Conservation Areas can be seen on the Peak District National Park website by searching 'Conservation area appraisals'.

Outside of the Peak Park, the Sheffield City Council has designated the following settlements as Conservation Areas:

- **Midhopestones**
- **Brightholmelee**
- **Wadsley**
- **Middlewood Park**

Adopted appraisals for these Conservation Areas can be seen on Sheffield City Council's website by searching 'Conservation area appraisals'.

Waggon and Horses pub in Langsett, Photo T Bagshaw



## Our significance for natural heritage

The Sheffield Landscape Partnership Area includes a diverse range of wildlife sites ranging from nationally significant upland heathland, (Sites of Special Scientific Interest), regionally important ancient woodland sites and Local Nature Reserves, to locally important Local Wildlife Sites and Yorkshire Water reservoirs.

A significant proportion of the Sheffield Lakeland area is designated for the importance of its habitats, biodiversity and geological interest. The principal international, national and regional designations are described below.

Below: Wet flush at Agden Rocher showing a rich diversity of bog vegetation. Photo N. Abbas

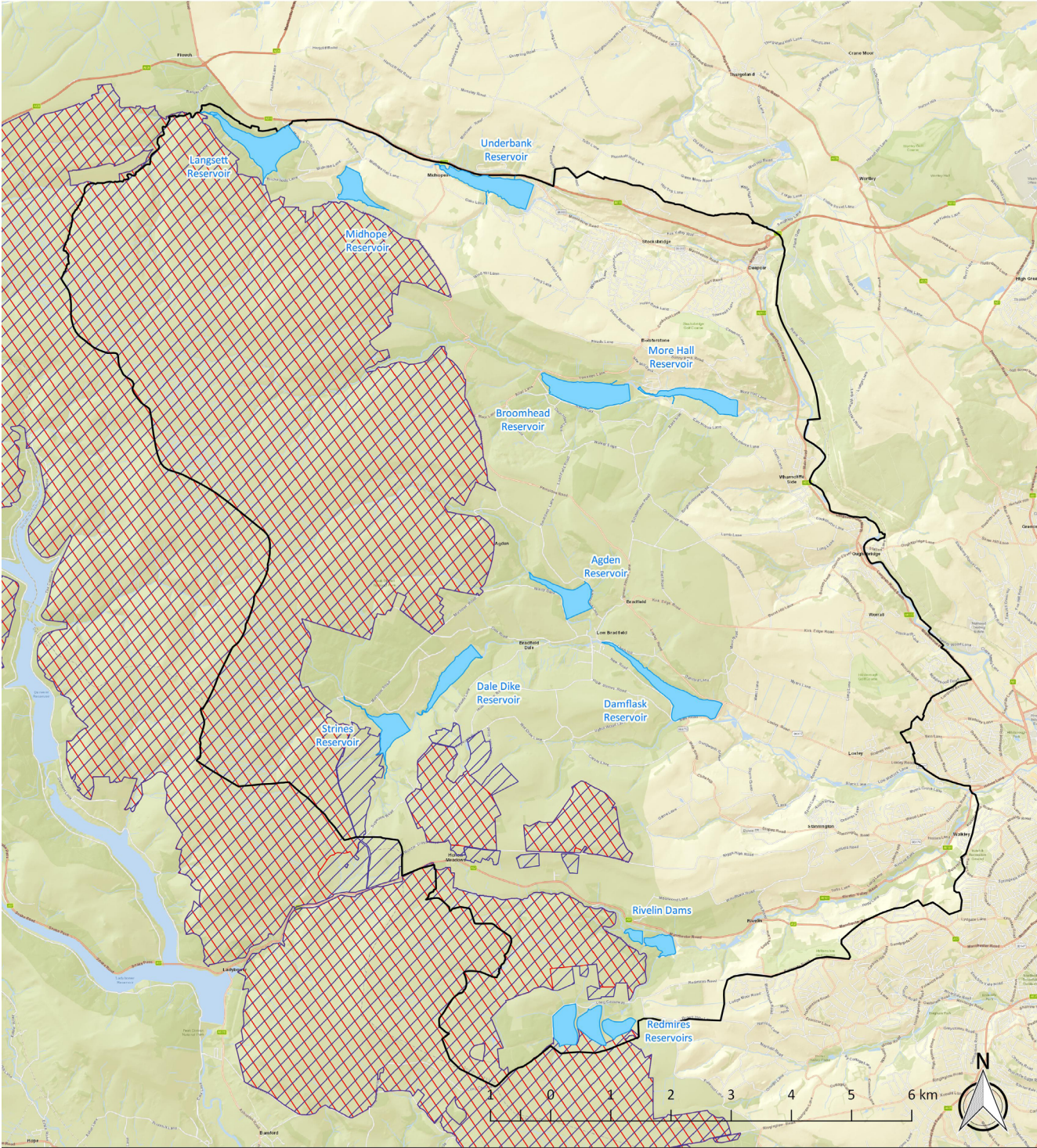
### South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

The South Pennine Moors SAC boundary covers two thirds of the programme area and is shown in the map below. It is land designated under the European Habitats Directive 1992 as important to the conservation of priority habitats and species, including dry heaths, blanket bogs and clough woodland. The South Pennine Moors SAC represent the most south easterly occurrence of blanket bog in Europe. Some uncommon species such as cranberry, *Vaccinium oxycoccos* and sundew, *Drosera rotundifolia* are locally abundant in the Sheffield Lakeland area.



# Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership

## South Pennine Protected Area



Legend

- Reservoirs
- Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership Area (V04)
- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
- Special Protection Areas (SPA)

All locations are only indicators to demonstrate distribution, not precise locations Date : 24 04 2018 Version: V01 Produced in: QGIS2.18.17 Cartographer: Paul Liptrot

Contains OS Data copyright and database right (2017). Basemap sources: Esri, DeLorme, HERE, USGS, Intermap, IPC, NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, Tomtom, OpenStreetMap contributors and the GIS User Community

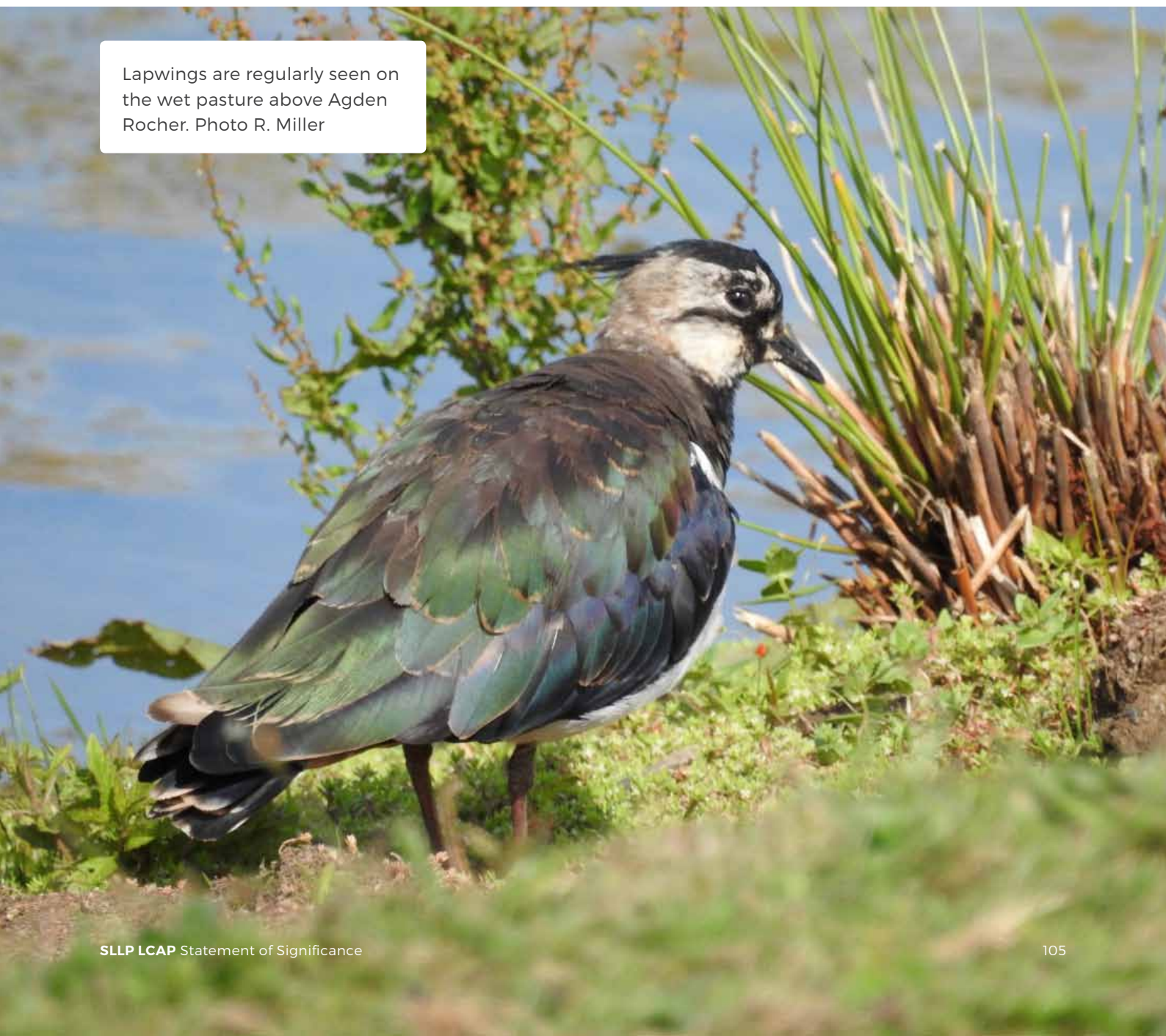
## Peak District Moors, (South Pennine Phase 1) Special Protection Area (SPA)

About one third of the Sheffield Lakeland area is covered by the Peak District Moors, (South Pennine Moors Phase 1), SPA, which includes the major moorland blocks from West Yorkshire to South West Derbyshire. SPA's are a European designation which protects the habitats of migratory and other threatened bird species. SPA's originate under the European Union Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds 1979 and in the UK is enacted by The Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations 1994.

The moorlands support a number of priority species typical of the South Pennines, including birds of prey and waders e.g. Merlin, *Falco columbarius* and Golden Plover, *Pluvialis apricaria*. In addition, designated species and other species of interest spend significant time feeding outside the SPA on adjacent areas of in-bye land within the Sheffield Lakeland landscape.

Source: (<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/protectedsites/sacselection/sac.asp?EUCODE=UK0030280>), 2018

Lapwings are regularly seen on the wet pasture above Agden Rocher. Photo R. Miller



## The Dark Peak Site of Special Scientific Interest

Within the Sheffield Lakeland area, both the SAC and the SPA are underpinned by the Dark Peak Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), which in addition to Sheffield also covers parts of Barnsley in South Yorkshire, and parts of Derbyshire, Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire. The Natural England citation describes the area as a 'wild, open and more or less continuous moorland, predominantly at an altitude of 400-600m'. Typical vegetation includes plateaux blanket mires; wet and dry heaths and acid grasslands, together with associated flushes and mires on moorland slopes. The area's significance is increased because several vegetation types, plants and animals are at either the southern or northern limits of their distribution in this country.

Most of the Sheffield Lakeland portion of the Dark Peak SSSI is below the deep peat of the plateaux, where the vegetation more typically consists of heathland dominated by heather, with areas of acidic grassland, and the typical acid loving dwarf shrubs and grasses found in the region such as

bilberry, *Vaccinium myrtillus*. In addition, the less common cowberry, *Vaccinium vitis-idaea* and cranberry, *Vaccinium oxycoccos*, can also be found.

Other locally uncommon plants present in the Dark Peak heathlands include common cow wheat, *Melampyrum pratense*, which grows on the Langsett Moors, and Dyer's greenweed *Genista tinctoria*, on the Broomhead Moors. The smaller mires and flushes, beneath springs and along seepage lines and streams are botanically very rich with some featuring round-leaved sundew *Drosera rotundifolia*, an uncommon species in the South Pennines found for example above Agden Reservoir near Bradfield. A complex of cotton grass flushes by Emlin Dike on the Bradfield Moors has the largest population of this species, of the order of tens of thousands of individual plants, in the Peak District. Much of the heather moors in the Sheffield Lakeland area are regularly burnt to provide a supply of young shoots for managed red grouse, *Lagopus lagopus*, populations.

Grouse moor dominated by heather above Langsett reservoir in the Dark Peak SSSI. C. Watts



The steep sided cloughs are refuges of sessile oak *Quercus petraea* and birch *Betula spp.* woodland, with associated woodland ground flora. The rivers and reservoirs of the area provide habitat for waterside birds such as dipper *Cinclus cinclus*, grey wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* and common sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*.

The Sheffield Lakeland area supports significant numbers of moorland birds including curlew, *Numenius arquata*, twite *Linaria flavirostris* and ring ouzel *Turdus torquatus*. However, considerable conservation efforts are being put into

improving the breeding success of these species under other schemes and as such they are not priority species for the Landscape Partnership. The woodlands of the Dark Peak support small numbers of woodland and woodland edge birds such as pied flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*. Goshawk, *Accipiter gentilis* has been regularly reported in the past, but records have become increasingly infrequent over the past 10 years despite favourable habitat conditions.

Below: Remnants of ancient woodland cling to the steep sides of the area's cloughs such as Thickwoods Clough at Langsett. Photo C. Watts



## The Eastern Peak District Moors Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

The Eastern Peak District Moors SSSI lies to the immediate south of the more extensive and higher Dark Peak moorlands and are separated from the White Peak by the valley of the river Derwent. Natural England, 2018.

The Eastern Moors form the eastern fringe of the Peak District National Park and the southern extremity of the Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership area including moors at Ughill and Moscar and Redmires to the south of the A57.

In contrast with the largely continuous moorlands of the Dark Peak, the Eastern Peak District Moors are criss-crossed by minor roads that break the area into a number of individually named and separately managed landholdings.

### **The Natural England citation describes the significance of the Eastern Moors in similar terms to the Dark Peak SSSI:**

Heather moor predominates throughout and is used for grouse shooting and hill sheep farming. This reflects the poor soils and harsh climate, though rainfall here is lower than on the the Eastern Peak District Moors are of special interest for their breeding birds, upland vegetation, lower plants, invertebrates and geological features. The combination of blanket bog, wet and dry heaths, acid grasslands and small flushes, together with gritstone edges, cliffs and boulder slopes, streams and moorland reservoirs, and fringing woodland represents the full range of upland vegetation characteristic of the South Pennines and supports several important species assemblages. Natural England, 2018

The meadows around Moscar are noted as being particularly diverse and include acidic species such as field woodrush *Luzula campestris*, autumn hawkbit, *Leontodon autumnalis*, and bitter vetch *Lathyrus montanus*, together with calcicoles such as fairy flax *Linum catharticum* and glaucous sedge *Carex flacca*.

When the reservoirs are drawn down in the autumn they attract migratory waders and during the winter they support a significant population of goosander, *Mergus merganser*.

Right: View over the Moscar moors over the Rivelin Valley towards Hollow Meadows. Photo Andrew Stringer

Below: Redmires reservoirs and surrounding farmland provide an important habitat for a range of species including wading birds and water voles. Photo C. Watts



## Geological Sites of Special Scientific Interest

**The geology of the Sheffield Lakeland area has played a significant role in the human history of the region, particularly during the industrial revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries, when coal, ironstone, fireclay, ganister, shale and sandstone were extracted from the sedimentary layers of the Pennine Basin in large quantities to support a rapidly-developing economy.**

(Source: [http://www.geologyatsheffield.co.uk/sagt/south\\_yorks\\_geology/](http://www.geologyatsheffield.co.uk/sagt/south_yorks_geology/), 2018)

**To the west of the Sheffield Lakeland area, the Peak District moorlands overlie grits, shales, sandstones and mudstones of the Millstone Grit, creating west facing gritstone edges which occur along abrupt faults of downfolds in the strata. This landscape feature is key to the development of recreational activities in the area such as rock climbing. Stanage Edge is described as ‘the Queen of Grit – the longest, finest outcrop of the best, most unique rock Britain has to offer... climbing nirvana.’**

Source: <https://www.ukclimbing.com/> 2018.

The millstone grit weathers to produce a coarse, gravelly soil which can become leached by the average 1500 mm annual rainfall of the region. Blanket peat in the Sheffield Lakeland area reaches its greatest depth on the plateau at the watershed.

Further east the geology changes to the Lower Coal Measures (Westphalian / Langsettian) as can be seen on this map.

There are four locations in the Sheffield Lakeland area which are designated as SSSI's for their geological significance:

### Canyards Hills SSSI

This 64.1 ha site is just outside the Dark Peak SSSI, between the Ewden Valley and Bradfield. It is described in its citation as ‘the most extreme form and best example of ‘tumbled ground’, with innumerable small Millstone Grit blocks taking up a large landslip’.

The site is also significant for its rich biodiversity, which results from the seasonal and permanent ponds supported by the topography, which are home to significant aquatic and bog vegetation and provide breeding areas for invertebrate and amphibian populations, including common hawker, *Aeshna juncea*, and the large red damselfly, *Pyrrhosoma nymphula*, common frog, *Rana temporaria*, and palmate newt, *Triturus helveticus*.

Natural England, 2018

### Stannington Ruffs SSSI

Stannington Ruffs is a cliff face on the southern side of the Loxley Valley, amongst deciduous woodland.

The citation describes this as the ‘best available exposure for showing the Crawshaw Sandstone Formation (Lower Westphalian A)... which under normal conditions, tends to have been reworked by wave and/or tidal activity, destroying the structure. This sandstone interval has proved to be of considerable economic importance as a gas reservoir and so a thorough understanding of its structure and genesis is of considerable importance’.

Natural England, 2018

### Wadsley Fossil Forest SSSI

Wadsley Fossil Forest sits within the grounds of Middlewood Hospital and contains fossil tree stumps in their original location. The citation describes them as 'best preserved example in the British Isles of trees which were part of the extensive coal forming swamp forests growing some 300 million years ago during the Westphalian, a sub-division of the Carboniferous Period'. The site has been subject of previous projects and study and so has not been prioritised in the SLLP programme, although its significant palaeobotanical interest is recognised.

Natural England, 2018

Photo: Canyards Hills geological SSSI is also rich in biodiversity. © Stocksbridge Walkers are Welcome

### Little Don Stream Section SSSI

This geological SSSI site can be found on the banks of the Little Don, between Midhonestones and Langsett in the north of the Sheffield Lakeland area, where Pot Clay Coal and the *Gastrioceras subcrenatum* Marine Band are exposed along the banks of the river. The principal industry in Midhonestones was once clay pot making, although all that remains of the industry is the name of the pub – the Mustard Pot.

The Little Don stream Section SSSI is internationally significant for geology as it provides the reference section for one of the major units (Westphalian A) of the Carboniferous System. This means that this site is the benchmark against which all rocks of comparable age, (350 million years), throughout the world are evaluated.

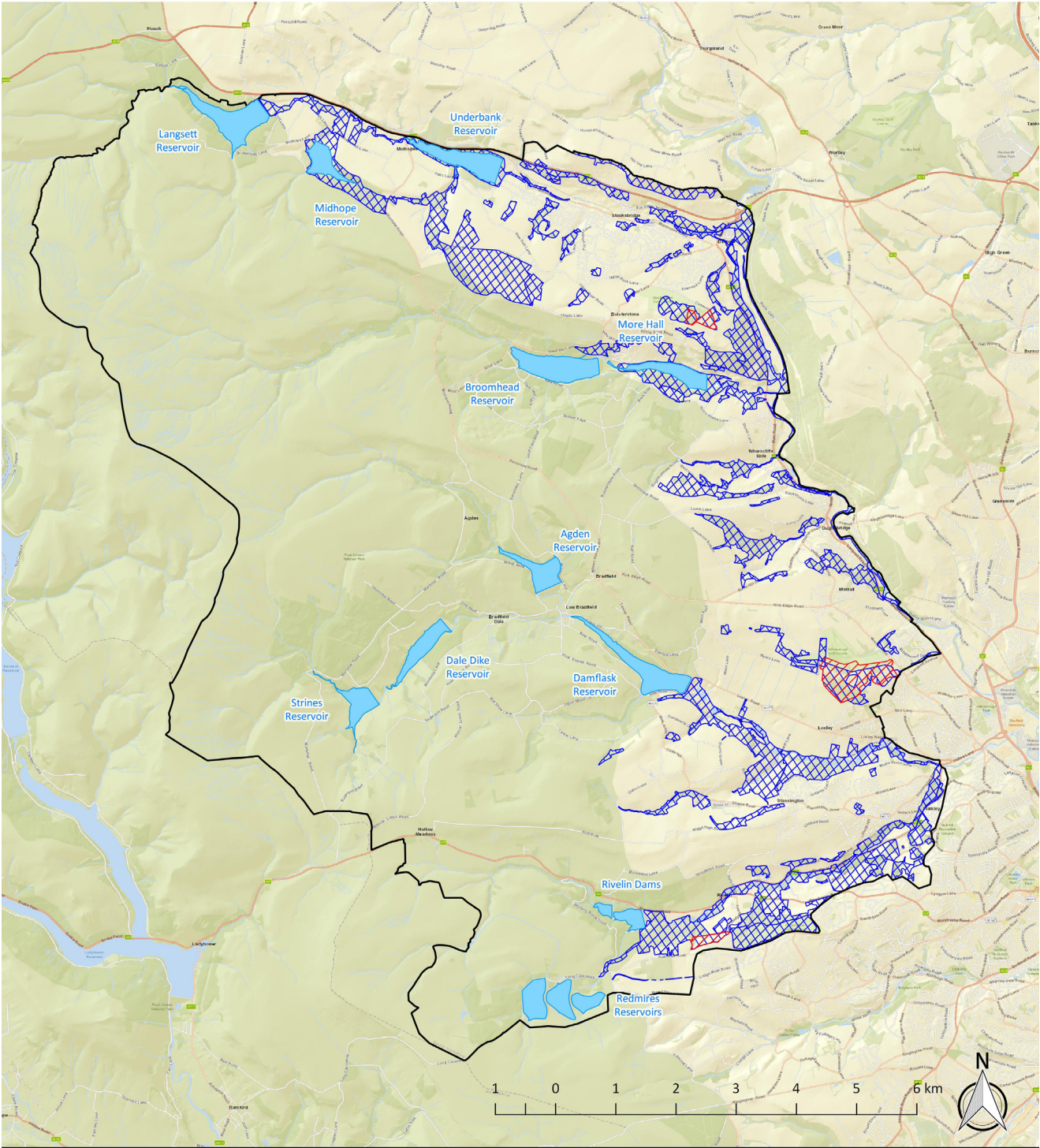
The location has given its name to a sub-division of the Carboniferous system known as Langsettian.

Natural England, 2018



# Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership

## Local Wildlife Sites and Protected Areas



**Sheffield & Rotherham**

### Legend

- Reservoirs
- Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership Area (V04)
- Local Nature Reserve (LNR)
- Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)

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## Sites of regional and local significance for wildlife

The importance of the habitats in the landscape which sits outside of the National Park and the area's internationally and nationally protected designations is recognised through the Local Wildlife Sites process, with 1,354 hectares, or 27% of the Sheffield Lakeland area outside the Peak District designated as Local Wildlife Sites (LWS's). In addition, there are Local Nature Reserves, (LNR's), at Fox Hagg, Wadsley and Loxley Common and Townend Common and Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust manages nature reserves at Hammonds Field, Fox Hagg and Wyming Brook, Carr House Meadows and Agden Bog.

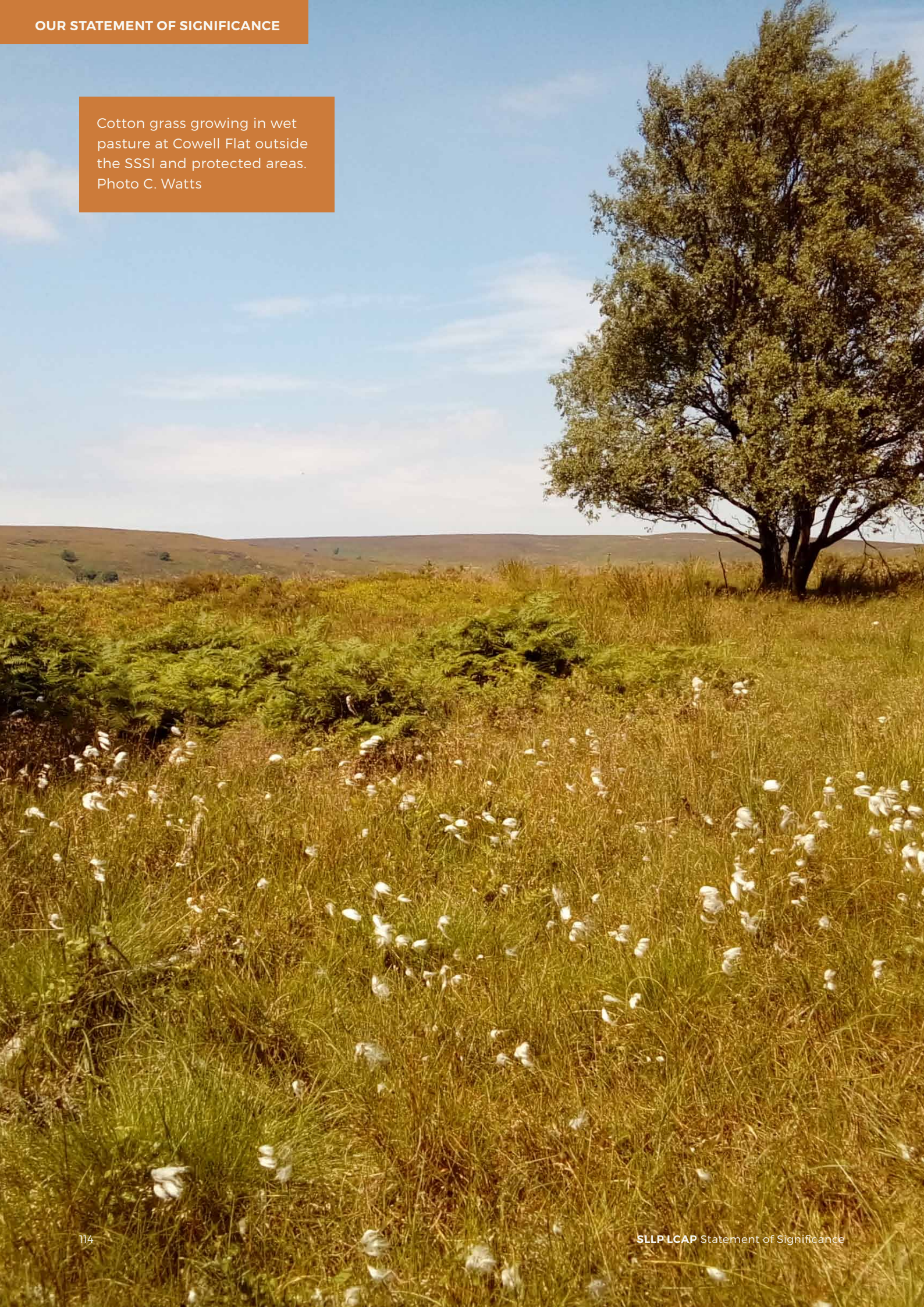
LWS's are non-statutory sites designated for their substantive nature conservation value and are identified and selected locally for their nature conservation value based on their importance in the local context, although they may be important in a district, regional or national context too.

There are 69 LWS's in the Sheffield Lakeland area. Habitats in the programme area include woodlands and scrub, hedgerows, heath, grassland communities, farmland including pasture, aquatic communities including streams and open water such as reservoirs, specialist fungi habitats such as waxcap grasslands and vegetation of open habitats. The interplay between forestry, reservoirs, clough and scrub woodland and the wider countryside has created a mosaic of habitats which help define the area and add significantly to the biodiversity of the region. The LWS's are of high local significance, forming the core of the most ecologically rich and visually distinctive elements of the eastern part of the Sheffield Lakeland area.

Below left: People surveying for wax caps at Carr House Meadows. Below right: The wax cap close up



Cotton grass growing in wet pasture at Cowell Flat outside the SSSI and protected areas.  
Photo C. Watts

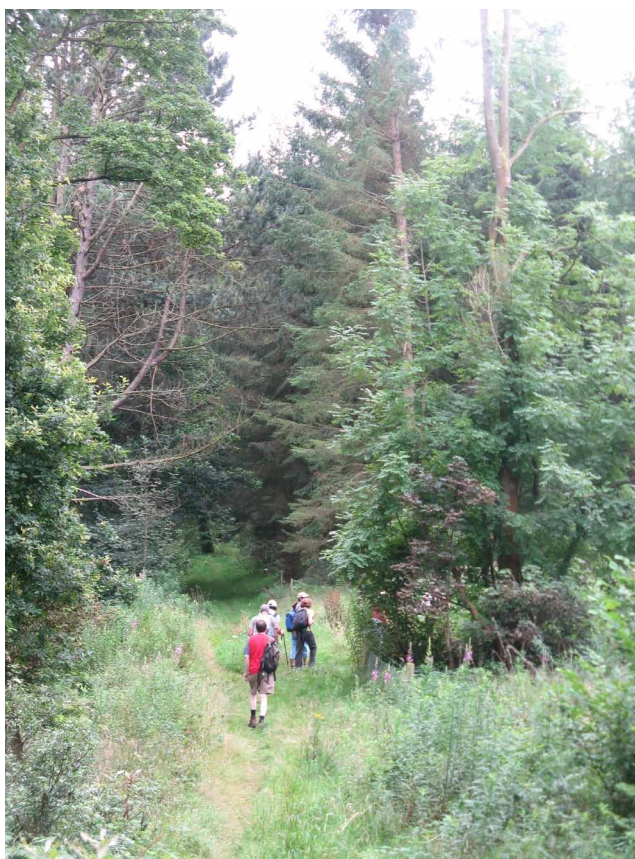


## Forestry plantations

Sheffield City Council, Yorkshire Water and private landowners such as the Fitzwilliam-Wentworth Estate and Broomhead Estate control the majority of forestry operations in the Sheffield Lakeland area. The history of land use is an important element in how the area is experienced and appreciated. The development of conifer plantations and their interplay with broadleaf woodlands in the valleys, associated with the reservoirs has created a strong aesthetic and community sympathy.

The rotation of commercial timber production over small areas in the valleys brings succession in age and diversity of species which compliments both native woodlands and heritage stands of conifer. The origin and management of stands of coniferous timber is part of the business and culture of the Sheffield Lakelands and the management process contributes an

important habitat for nightjar, *Caprimulgus europaeus* and goshawk, *Acipiter gentilis*. During the 1970's and 80's the area was well known as a place to see goshawk, (RSPB, Peak Malpractice DATE), and although, locally, the goshawk has declined in the last decade, the presence of these birds lends Sheffield Lakeland's woodlands and forestry regional significance.



Left: Sheffield Lakeland's forests and woodlands are important for wildlife and for recreation, Photo Stocksbridge Walkers are Welcome

Below: Timber harvesting - many of the conifer plantations in the Sheffield Lakeland area are reaching maturity, Photo Dave Aspinall



## Water bodies

While the 14 reservoirs compose a significant visual feature in the landscape the acid, low nutrient nature of the water itself, together with fluctuating water levels, result in them offering very limited opportunity for wildlife.

Having said this, the mix of habitats managed by Yorkshire Water, (which includes wetlands, rivers, and water bodies),

supports a wide range of bird species including crossbills, *Loxia curvirostra* and willow tit *Poecile montanus*. A fish pass is being built at Langsett to aid wild brown trout, *Salmo trutta*, by providing access over the weir for river spawning.

(Yorkshire Water, 2017)



The recently completed fish pass at Brook House Bridge, Langsett Reservoir. Photo K. Tomkins

## Priority species

The landscape has been identified by Wildscape, our Ecological Consultants, as offering potential significance for the following species:

### Goshawk, Nightjar and Osprey:

The area is of historic national significance for goshawk as it was one of the earliest reintroduction sites and up until the early 2000s, supported a thriving breeding population, (Peak District Raptor Monitoring Group). Whilst the species has not successfully bred in the area for some time, it is hoped that through the appropriate habitat management and action, the species can be encouraged to re-colonise once again. However, this management should be planned so as to avoid undue conflict with already successful programmes encouraging nightjar and woodland bird species such as willow tit, pied and spotted flycatcher that are present in the area.

The Sheffield Lakeland area, in combination with the water bodies in the wider Peak District area, also offers potential for the re-colonisation of the nationally significant species osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*.

### Barn Owl:

The combination of remnant traditional meadows and rough grassland particularly around the Low Bradfield area offers excellent suitability for barn owl, *Tito alba*, and there are historic records of the species thriving in the area. However, the loss of historic breeding sites and suitable foraging habitat as a result of changing farming practices and conversion of barns to residential is likely to be having a limiting effect on this species.

Below: The tussocks in this rough pasture land provide perfect habitat for voles, supporting the presence of Barn Owl in the Bradfield area.  
Photo C. Watts



**Bats (various species):**

The combination of topography, lowland woodland, water, natural and man-made underground structures within the Sheffield Lakeland area is unique within the local area and is suited to a variety of bat species. The diversity of bat species present within Sheffield Lakeland is higher than the local surrounds as a result. The area supports the only known roost within South Yorkshire of the nationally scarce Brandt's bat, *Myotis brandti*, as well as significant hibernation and maternity colonies of other species. Despite these records, much of the woodland and underground sites have never been surveyed or assessed and it is possible that other sites of regional or national importance may be present.



Long eared bat - the Sheffield Lakeland landscape supports a wide variety of bat species. Photo South Yorkshire Bat Group

**Water Vole:**

Water vole, *Arvicola amphibious*, would have at one time ranged throughout all of the watercourses within the Sheffield Lakeland area, however a combination of habitat degradation and the encroachment of the North American mink now leaves this nationally significant species restricted to a few isolated precarious upland sites with Redmires a particular stronghold.

Water vole are regularly seen by visitors walking alongside the Redmires Conduit. Photo Guy Badham

## Our significance for archaeology and built heritage

The archaeological and built heritage of the Sheffield Lakeland area tells the story of human occupation from pre-history to the late 20th century.

Due to the heritage values that can be assigned to the dams and reservoirs, it is considered water management is an underrepresented resource within the historic environment.

ECUS Heritage Consultants, 2017

There is a total of 13 Scheduled Monuments (SM) in the Sheffield Lakeland area, which are of national importance. These cover bronze age barrows and stone circles, Norman motte and bailey locations, pack horse bridges and guide stones, 18th and 19th century glass furnace, forges and mill wheel sites and World War 1 training trenches. Archaeological finds range from Neolithic and Mesolithic flint scrapers,

arrowheads and axeheads, Romano-British pottery and medieval millstones and pottery, Civil War cannon balls.

The Sheffield Lakeland area has just one Grade I listed building which is the Church of St Nicholas in High Bradfield and five Grade II\* buildings:

- **The Church of St James, Midhopestones**
- **Loxley United Reformed Church**
- **Fairhouse Farmhouse, Bradfield**
- **Onesacre Hall, Onesacre**
- **Rolling mill and water wheel, Little Matlock**

There are 155 Grade II buildings and structures which include barns, farmhouses, pack horse bridges, guide stoops, war memorial, stocks and a red telephone kiosk. The area is particularly significant for Cruck Barns, with a significant proportion of South Yorkshire's Cruck Barns being found in the Sheffield Lakeland area.

The churchyard at **St Nicholas Church** in High Bradfield is a wonderful built and natural heritage resource. Photo C. Watts



A full list of the Sheffield Lakeland area's scheduled sites is provided in [Appendix 2](#).

ECUS consultants summarised the archaeological significance of the Sheffield Lakeland is as follows:

The historic environment reflects the continuity and change across the survey area which has been influenced by the management of water, whether for settlement, industry or creation of reservoirs. The high significance of some of these heritage assets is reflected in their statutory designation of national importance (listed buildings and scheduled monuments).

There is significant potential for further research to reveal heritage of at least regional importance relating to historic settlement and local vernacular, historic routeways, land use, industrial remains, military and water management.

## Prehistoric heritage

The Sheffield Lakeland area contains a significant amount of evidence for prehistoric activity with historical and evidential values. Evidence for prehistoric occupation, land use and burial is recognised as being of national significance and there are several barrow and stone circle sites designated as scheduled monuments. That these sites are well-preserved allows past aspects of life to be connected to the present through the distribution and location of prehistoric remains within the landscape.

Further evidential value is provided as most of the recorded heritage assets comprise find-spots of one or more artefacts. Remains from the prehistoric period are potentially of regional, if not national, significance, due to what the historic environment could teach us about the nature and extent of early human activity in northern England.

## Water management

The construction of the dams in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries had a dramatic impact on the landscape of the area and the establishment of reservoirs within former river valleys are now a key characteristic of the historic landscape of the area.

The heritage significance of water management remains within the Sheffield Lakeland is multi-layered. They have the potential to provide historical value through the way the dams were planned, designed and created; evidential value through how the reservoirs were constructed and the resulting changes to the historic land use and settlement pattern; aesthetic and communal values of how the water bodies are now part of the experience of the landscape and focus for recreational access.

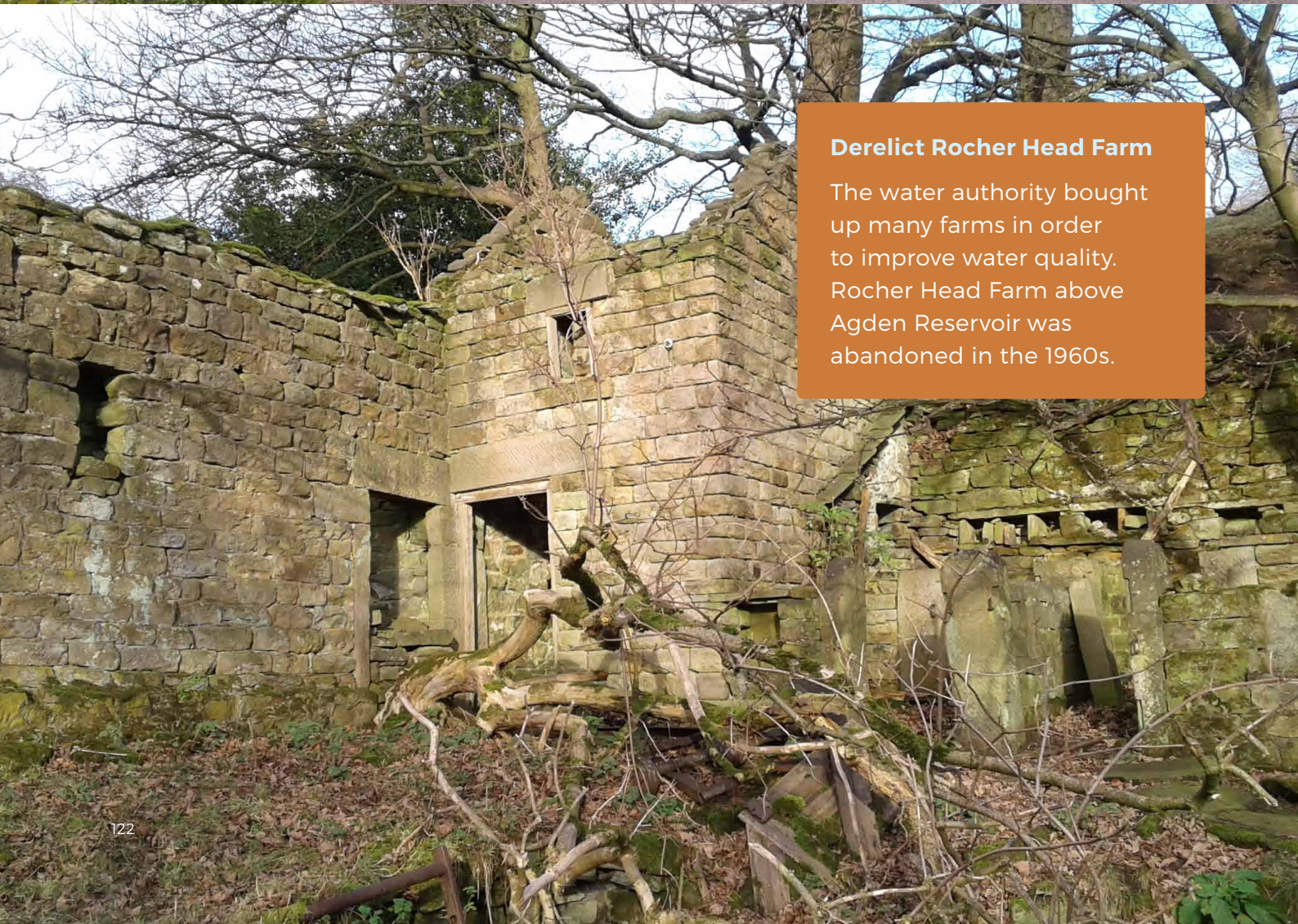
Currently there are very few heritage assets associated with the building of the reservoirs held in the South Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record, (SYSMR), for the study area, however local history collections such as Stocksbridge and District Historical Society and the Bradfield Archives hold a number of excellent photographs and other records of the construction of the reservoirs and the everyday activities associated with the people who came into the area to build them.

Due to the heritage values that can be assigned to the dams and reservoirs, it is considered water management is an underrepresented resource within the historic environment record but are of, at least, regional importance.



### **Broomhead Reservoir**

The extravagant gothic design of the dams and associated reservoir buildings speaks volumes about the engineering confidence of the late Victorian era and creates a unique form of designed landscape in the Sheffield Lakeland area.



### **Derelict Rocher Head Farm**

The water authority bought up many farms in order to improve water quality. Rocher Head Farm above Agden Reservoir was abandoned in the 1960s.

## Industrial activity

The Sheffield Lakeland is a landscape that is rich in the remains of industrial activity. The industrial heritage of Sheffield and its surrounding river network is well documented, (e.g. Ball et al 2006). However, the national significance of the early use of water power in the landscape, especially in the Rivelin and Loxley river valleys, should not be understated and is important in terms of historic and evidential values of Sheffield Lakeland. Industrial remains are not just limited to the post-medieval period but stretch back through the medieval period to the Romano-British era.

A few industrial assets have been recognised as nationally important through designation, and the potential of the wider industrial heritage resource is of regional, if not national, importance in relation to the role of industry in the development of Sheffield as an international producer of metal ware.

Associated with the development of the steel industry, the scale of refractory brick production can still be seen in the remains of ganister mines and remaining derelict buildings such as the Hepworth works in the Loxley Valley. Dysons ceramic works opened in 1810 and was for many years was the principal employer in Stannington. It was not uncommon for small scale farmers to also work part-time at the brickworks. Dysons closed in 2006 and in 2018 was demolished to make way for a new housing estate. Photographs which capture the works in their final state of decay, including human scale artefacts such as work boots and office chairs can be seen at <https://www.derelictplaces.co.uk/main/industrial-sites/34315-dysons-refractories-stannington-aug-2016-dec-2016-a.html>. Such websites now form an important unofficial archive of the industrial heritage of the valleys which is at risk of being erased from memory.

## Transport

The heritage assets recorded by the SYSMR and HER for Sheffield allow for the major historical routes through the survey area to be established. However, there is an opportunity for the SLLP to expand on this baseline, by identifying the minor routes which connected the places where people lived and worked to the major cross Pennine trade routes. It is considered that the resource has historic and evidential values that are of regional interest, due to the potential for informing on inter-regional movement which can be linked to settlement pattern and industry.



When is a pack horse bridge not a pack horse bridge? This bridge, currently crossing the Tinker Brook at Glen Howe, was re-located from the Ewden valley in 1926 to prevent it being lost under the newly developed More Hall Reservoir. Photo Stocksbridge Walkers are Welcome



This heavy old horse shoe was found at the side of the track at Thickwoods Clough, Langsett. Photo C. Watts

## Land use

The history of land use is of at least local, if not regional, importance. Land use patterns help define how the Sheffield Lakeland area is experienced and appreciated, and as a result the historic landscape character of the area has strong aesthetic and communal values. Continuity and change of land use across the area also provides historical and evidential values which inform our understanding of how past uses of the landscape give Sheffield Lakeland its sense of place within the wider region.

## Settlements

The local vernacular building style seen in farm buildings and village centres such as Bolsterstone and Bradfield and the distribution and density of settlement pattern provide evidence for settlement activity in the landscape; whilst archaeological remains can provide further insights into earlier settlement patterns.

Medieval settlement was largely rural and there are a significant number of cruck-framed buildings of medieval and post-medieval date within the survey area. The survey area contains numerous designated heritage assets of national importance and taken as a whole the wider resource is of regional interest.

## Military

The heritage assets linked with military activity within the survey area are associated with both training and defence. The World War One training trenches above Redmires Reservoir provide a tangible link to the near past, providing communal value in relation to international events as well as historic and evidential values. The national importance of this resource is recognised by its designation as a Scheduled Monument.

The last remnants of the World War Two Prisoner of War camp at Lodgemoor Plantation can also be seen near to Redmires Reservoir.

During World War Two, defensive structures were constructed in to protect the reservoirs from attack (Sheffield Waterworks 1948: 34). Remains of these and other World War Two defensive and training structures can be seen around Langsett Reservoir.

World War Two tank training location - the story of Langsett at war has already been well interpreted through a previous HLF project and has therefore not been prioritised by the Landscape Partnership. Photo Stocksbridge Walkers are Welcome



## Culture and communities

### A living landscape

Sheffield is a city built on seven hills, and it is that landscape - with its rivers, woodlands and mineral resources - which has produced the city we see today. A sense of place and of local distinctiveness remains very strong amongst Sheffield Lakeland residents. Research undertaken for the Access and Gateways Study included direct consultation with local people and community groups in the area, along with a questionnaire survey of around 1000 individuals.

The analysis of this data provided insight into what makes the area so special for local people. A combination of cultural and natural heritage underpins this local distinctiveness, and the research identified further scope to strengthen this through further interpretation of the stories of the landscape. This will add to people's understanding and enjoyment of the area and reinforce their engagement and sense of place.

Many people visiting and working in the area focus on the huge significance of water in this relatively 'wild' landscape - the reservoirs, local dams and rivers, sited in the open moorland and steep-sided valleys. These features are clearly one of the main draws of the area. However, local landscape

historian, Professor Melvyn Jones (personal communication, 2017), also suggests that another important factor is its 'continuity' of human habitation and use which is still recorded and celebrated in the Sheffield Lakeland area today, with active history societies in Bradfield and Stocksbridge, excellent local archives and committed memberships.

Projects undertaken by the Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership can build on existing cultural and natural heritage knowledge within these existing groups, not only to form a basis for increased interpretation and enjoyment, but also to enable a broader range of people to enjoy the area's sense of place. There are many individuals with important stories to tell and personal research which needs to be captured, to better appreciate the area - there remains a narrow window of opportunity to collect oral histories from the middle of the 20th century which should not be missed.

Photos: Workshop at Stannington and Stannington Collage. Local people were keen to share their views on the area and showed strong enthusiasm for the name Sheffield Lakeland. Photos Ignite Imaginations



The harnessing of the power of water - both its challenges and opportunities - is a very strong theme in this landscape. Developments and events from the Victorian era can sit alongside some of the challenges of flood management in modern times. Leisure use of the Sheffield Lakeland area is both a modern phenomenon, as well as a historical one, from the changing use of ancient highways to the Sheffield Lakeland's bus tours of the 1950s, to the recent Grand Depart for the 2014 Le Tour de France.

The trials of Second World War prisoners held at the Redmires POW Camp in the 1940s and eventually choosing to settle in a foreign land, resonate with the experiences of refugees today, and Sheffield's role as a 'City of Sanctuary'. These linkages and stories can help people to better understand the landscape, reinforce a sense of place, and reconnect people with their own family story.

Communities see the area as significant as open space for recreation, and a living landscape that also supporting many micro businesses.

Below: The Sheffield Clarion Ramblers was founded by G. H. B. Ward in Sheffield in 1900. The Clarion guidebooks have become collectors' items. The group finally disbanded in 2015. Photo C. Watts

Bottom: Bradfield is referred to as a 'chocolate box' village that is reminiscent of what Sheffield would have been like many years ago - a secret gem in the Peak District National Park. Photo courtesy of Russell Hague Photography



## Cultural traditions in Sheffield Lakeland

Long standing traditions form a strong identity for those living and visiting the area which have persisted more strongly than in the rest of Sheffield, partly due to the area's rural location and settled communities. Some of the traditions are family orientated with links going back generations – brass bands, male voice choirs and the tradition of local carols are prime examples. These factors contribute to the strong sense of community found throughout the area – including in the larger population centres such as Stocksbridge (population 13,000).



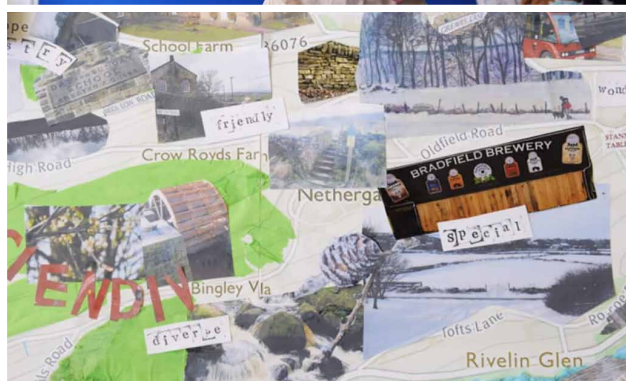
Dungworth based community group Soundpost run Sheffield carol workshops and events throughout December helping to pass this tradition to a new generation.

## Significance for recreation

The Peak District has national significance for outdoor recreation and Sheffield has the accolade of being the UK's greenest city. Sheffield is well known as a city for outdoor recreation enthusiasts.

The significance of the area as a place of recreation, peace and contemplation for people living in the city came through strongly in the ORRG surveys, although there was less awareness that much of the Sheffield Lakeland area is within the Peak District National Park. Respondents clearly felt a tension between widening access and knowledge of the area and the potential significance to the tourism economy and the oft-stated desire to keep a

forgotten part of the national park a 'locals' secret'. Problems common to many urban fringe areas were raised – loss of community facilities, concerns about planning decisions and the impact of new development on the character of the community, the limitations of rural transport services.



People were very willing to share their feelings about Sheffield Lakeland during our workshops – the passion that communities feel for their town or village comes through strongly. Photos Ignite Imaginations



In total, 80% of survey respondents described the local landscape as ‘extremely important’ to them. Agreeing that access to the reservoirs and river valleys for longer walks and various informal leisure activities was the main attraction. Many stakeholders emphasised the attractions of water - the reservoirs, the smaller dams and the river valleys - set in a ‘wilder’ landscape of moors, farmland and woodland.

However, there are significant barriers preventing people from using the area. Almost a third of respondents said they needed more information about where to go, with another large group stating they don’t know what they can do when they get there. Fewer users mentioned specific attributes such as local history, cultural heritage or wildlife and nature; suggesting these features are not currently explained adequately to contribute to people’s enjoyment of the area.

Sheffield city has a wide spectrum immigrant and student population, which enjoys its first interaction with their image of a wild English landscape, (Brontë-esk), via Sheffield Lakeland. There is a significant opportunity to support more BME and refugee families to explore the area.

Environmental education activities currently take place within the area. In addition to the work of the Outdoor learning team at SRWT, there is a forest school based at Glen Howe Park and Yorkshire Water has a water treatment education centre at Ewden water treatment works. However, schools in the vicinity are often travelling to locations away from the Sheffield for outdoor learning and there is a significant opportunity to increase educational use of the landscape.

Above: Multi-user trails allow people with different interests to explore the Sheffield Lakeland area.  
Photo Stocksbridge Walkers are Welcome

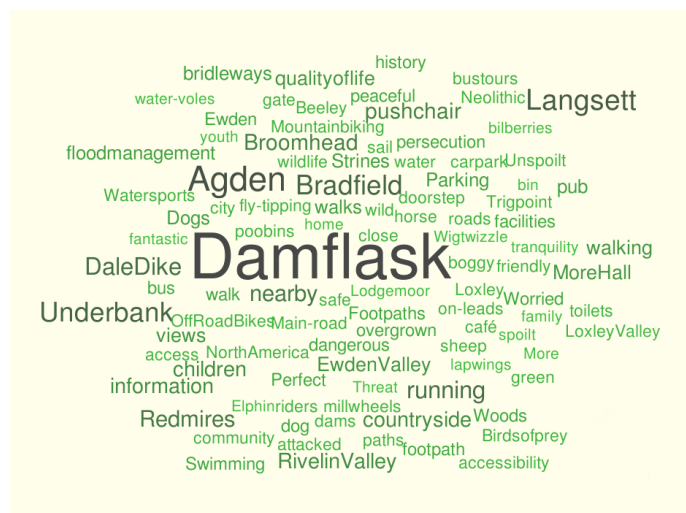
## Local voices - Sheffield Lakeland in our own words

During the development period, in addition to the ORRG survey, a range of face to face activities were undertaken to collect local views about what makes the Sheffield Lakeland area special to people who live in it and visit it.

The larger communities still carry on the tradition of a local gala, with gala queen, brass bands and activities such as tug of war (Oughtibridge) or find the cow pat (Broomhead Show). The SLLP Consultation and Engagement officer invited attendees at five galas to say what made Sheffield Lakeland special for them.

At the end of each event the feedback was converted into a 'word cloud'. The detailed feedback and word cloud for each community event can be seen in [Appendix 12](#). The word cloud below is a compilation

of findings from the five galas. The larger a word appears in the cloud, the more times it was mentioned during the community consultation events.



Above: Word cloud. Main image: Worrall Gala, summer 2017. Photo C. Watts



The community events also proved a rich source of anecdotes about life in the area. For example:

I used to walk to Canyards with my mum when I was a child to pick bilberries to sell, so that my mum could buy us winter shoes. We used to pick baskets and baskets full and have them all in the cellar.

Lady at Worrall Gala, approx. 80 years

Things that people like included different types of recreational access, the views, the community spirit and the sense that the area is undiscovered by tourism. When asked about aspects of the Sheffield Lakeland area that people regarded as a problem or that could be improved a range of themes

emerged including balancing wildlife conservation and recreational access, changing the behaviour of inconsiderate visitors or road users, better information and facilities, more interpretation of local stories and history.



Sheffield Lakeland winters can leave rural communities isolated - local farmers play a vital role in keeping the roads open, Photo T. Bagshaw

## Things people like about Sheffield Lakeland

- Perfect dog walking country
- Running
- Mountain biking
- Footpaths and access to the countryside
- A fantastic asset on our doorstep, running, family walks, dog walks
- Undiscovered
- So close to the city, could be anywhere
- Community spirit
- I wouldn't live anywhere else
- Lived all over the world, came back here
- Views from Edgemount across the 3 reservoirs 'the best view in England'
- The view as you come round the corner at the top of Jaw Bone Hill
- It's perfect as it is, don't change anything just keep looking after it.
- Like to catch the bus to Lodge Moor and walk back via Stanage, Strines, Dale Dike to Worrall
- Like to catch the bus to Stocksbridge and walk back to Worrall via Oughtibridge
- Damflask and Agden Combination – like that you know you will always see people around Damflask, so feel safe. Like being able to finish at the village green or the Post Office café.
- Dale Dike – super quiet. Like spotting crossbills.

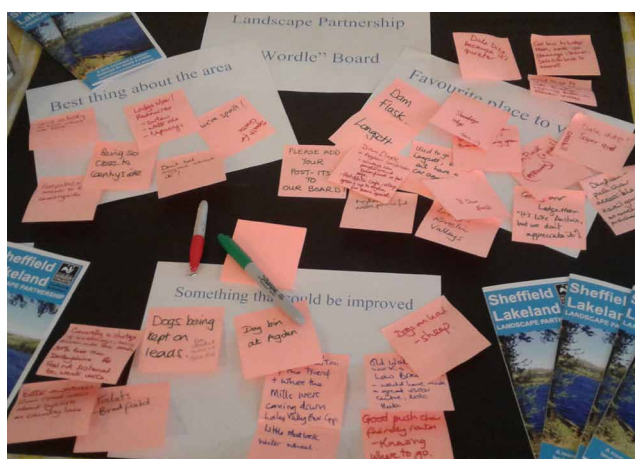
## What could be improved?

- More opportunities for open water swimming
- More geocaching
- Runners sometimes find traps or dead birds on the moors
- More biodiversity – and an end to persecution of birds of prey
- Keep some wilder bits for wildlife
- Dogs at Damflask off lead a problem and fouling
- Dogs on leads – my friend has lost a number of sheep.
- Fed up with people leaving poo bags in trees
- Barn conversions are reducing the available food supply for barn owls
- Some footpaths so boggy impassable in places
- Footpaths get overgrown in summer; more cutting back would be helpful – otherwise very good
- New housing developments threatened
- Would like to know more about the history of Wigtwizzle and pre-reservoir valleys and villages
- More local walk maps – with more detail than you can get off the OS map
- Better large-scale maps to show footpaths with details like stiles or gates
- Better interpretation for children to encourage them on longer walks
- Good push chair friendly routes and knowing where to go and that we won't get stuck part way.
- Better toilets at Bradfield
- More pre-industrial revolution history and archaeology – especially Neolithic
- Better / more interpretation of the flood – children learn it at school, but visitors coming in don't know about it.
- A trail running down the Loxley, showing where the mills and mill wheels were.
- Saving Little Matlock Water Wheel.
- Better awareness from road users about cyclists on country lanes
- Safe places to horse ride, we don't feel safe on the roads, but the bridleways don't connect without using them.
- Car park often too busy at Langsett – off-putting

In early 2018, community arts organisation Ignite Imaginations was commissioned to explore responses from local community groups under the heading 'What Sheffield Lakeland Means to Me?' A local artist used a number of creative approaches to explore the positives and improvements needed in Sheffield Lakeland and this resulted in very honest and detailed work which included collages, paintings, photographs, ceramics and questionnaires.

### The groups involved were:

- Underbank Art Group
- Greaves House Care Farm (adults with learning difficulties)
- Stocksbridge Writers Group
- Oughtibridge Primary School



Top: Over 300 people contributed their views about Sheffield Lakeland at the summer galas. Photo T. Bagshaw

Second from top, middle, bottom: An artist worked with a range of community groups to explore their feelings about the landscape – the results were amazing! Photos Ignite Imaginations.

**Participants at the arts workshops expressed many views in common with people who had attended the community galas. For example, when asked what they valued about the area:**

- Participants said that they like the beautiful landscape and rich wildlife in the area.
- They also commented on the community spirit and kindness of the residents.
- The area is well conserved, peaceful and tranquil.
- The area is familiar and close to home. It is part of everyday life for the participants

**When asked what worries they had for the future of the area most participants expressed their concerns about new housing and other developments in the area. For example:**

- Nature will be threatened by other human activities such as fly tipping and fracking.
- Farming in the area will diminish in the future.
- Some participants commented on the fierce cold wind and unusual cold snap (Beast from the East, February 2018).

**When asked about hopes for the future, comments included:**

- Wanting the area to be better conserved and cared for. A participant hoped that there will be a balance between farming, forestry and recreation.
- A hope for more accessible paths and facilities for disabled people, more benches and picnic areas so that it will be easier for some people to enjoy the area.
- Hope that new residents coming into the area will pick up the local community spirit.
- Better career opportunities and training schemes for local people.

The wide range of written and visual responses to the landscape generated through the workshops will be used as part of an exhibition about the aspirations for the Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership during spring and summer 2018. A video recording the workshops and participants talking about what Sheffield Lakeland landscape means to them can be viewed via this [link](#).

Rowers on Damflask Reservoir, Photo T. Bagshaw



Participants were asked to express their emotional response to the Sheffield Lakeland landscape. Words used include ‘feeling at home’, ‘safe’, ‘freedom’, ‘sense of belonging’ and ‘identity’.

Poems written by members of Stocksbridge Creative Writers’ Workshop:

#### **What Sheffield Lakeland Means to Me**

Vastness. Aloneness  
A sea of purple and gold  
A valley  
Meandering streams leading where?  
Hidden life  
Man bird a beast  
Sun now  
Bleak winter to come  
Find one’s inner peace  
When day is done.

Trickling water forms tiny streams  
Growing, endlessly pouring  
Foaming puddles, waterfalls  
Noisy, deafening roaring  
Picnics in summer near the water’s edge  
Paddling, jumping, making a splash  
Playing games on stepping stones  
Learning how to fish!

But water can hold peril  
It’s dark and cold and deep  
Neath its surface, danger lurking  
Can mean eternal sleep

We need water to sustain us  
For industry and for sport  
To ride on and to swim in  
To leave this Island’s ports.