

## Settlements

- 3.122 The settlements and buildings of Arnside and Silverdale make a large contribution to the character and quality of the AONB landscape (see **Figure 3.14**). This lies in both the strong vernacular traditions of the area as expressed in the design, construction and detailing of individual buildings, and in the form and layout of villages and hamlets, which often reflect their historical origins.
- 3.123 The earliest surviving settlements in the area are those that lie along the eastern fringe of the AONB. They have a distinctly medieval character and retain, despite periods of decline and 'shrinkage', their characteristic linear form, which is still clearly visible in Warton, Yealand Redmayne and Hale. This linear nature was described by Leland, writing in 1536, who noted that "*Warton is a pretty street for a village*".
- 3.124 Each village has a similar basic structure, with lines of buildings facing each other across a narrow street, behind which land was divided into burgage plots, often enclosed by a back lane. Warton is a little different from the other linear villages as it was granted a market charter in 1199 and by about 1400 was a thriving settlement of 42 and one-third burgages. It is also distinguished by a village core area in which long lines of abutting cottages were interrupted only by narrow passageways or 'ginnels' enabling access to the back plots. Consequently, it has a rather more 'urban' medieval character than neighbouring settlements – as befitting its market town status. In contrast, the core areas of Hale and Yealand incorporate a range of individual dwellings, farmhouses and barns. This difference was expressed by Barnes in 1903 who recorded that together the three Yealands "*form one of the most restful and attractive looking villages in the North Country*". By contrast, Warton was described as being "*as grey and bare as its neighbour is green and cosy*".
- 3.125 Elsewhere in the AONB a few early stone buildings, such as Hazelslack Tower, Arnside Tower and parts of Leighton Hall, survive on former lordship sites as examples of medieval defensive structures. The 13th century Rectory in Warton and the 14th century fortified manor of Beetham Hall complete the picture of the medieval landscape.
- 3.126 The local Carboniferous limestone is not an ideal building material, due to its tendency to erode through chemical solution. As a consequence, many of the traditional limestone cottages and farmsteads are rendered in the local style of 'slobbered masonry', which used kiln-roasted 'burnt lime' to weatherproof limestone rubble walling. The 17th and 18th century houses constructed during the 'great rebuilding' include a number of substantial farmsteads, such as Slackwood Farm. These represent some of the earliest surviving houses in the AONB. The dominant style includes a number of distinctive features such as: date stones; small 'fire windows'; and hood mouldings constructed over windows. These details, originating in local medieval buildings such as Arnside Tower and Beetham Hall, demonstrate a strong vernacular tradition which continued to be used by later generations.
- 3.127 The villages of Arnside, Silverdale and Storth are located in the area which was least suitable for medieval arable farming. They therefore did not develop as primarily agricultural villages, and their origins are different to those of the linear villages.
- 3.128 Following the late 18th century period of prosperity, they grew as collections of scattered villas which were frequently used as holiday residences or as the country homes of wealthy businessmen from the industrial centres of the northwest. Such differences in period and function are reflected not only in architecture but in the shape of the villages. The character of Silverdale was graphically described by Edwin Waugh (c. 1860):  
*"the homesteads of Silverdale are so scattered, so dropped about in nooks and on knolls, almost out of sight of one another...that one can hardly say, with propriety, that there is a village there. What I mean, by 'the village part' is that part nearest the sea, where the two hotels, and the little hatful of a post office, with three or four other dwellings, stand, within a few yards of one another"*.
- 3.129 Arnside was essentially the product of the railway. As a seaside destination it complemented the more informal, already established, bathing at Sandside. It was not a brash resort, as noted by Barnes in 1903:  
*"Arnside holds out no attractions but those of nature and human hospitality. There are no bands and pavilions, no...minstrels twanging harps and singing comic songs"*.
- 3.130 By the third quarter of the 19th century a number of 'prosperous business men' were commuting to Kendal from Arnside, initially by 'bus' (Barnes 1903), and later by train, following the building of the Sandside – Hincaster – Kendal line. In the post-war period, further housing development resulted in the considerable expansion of Arnside, Silverdale, Warton and Storth. Sandside, formerly a small port, remains a semi-industrial zone along the Kent Estuary, which is dominated by the Sandside Quarry.

Figure 3.8 Historic Environment

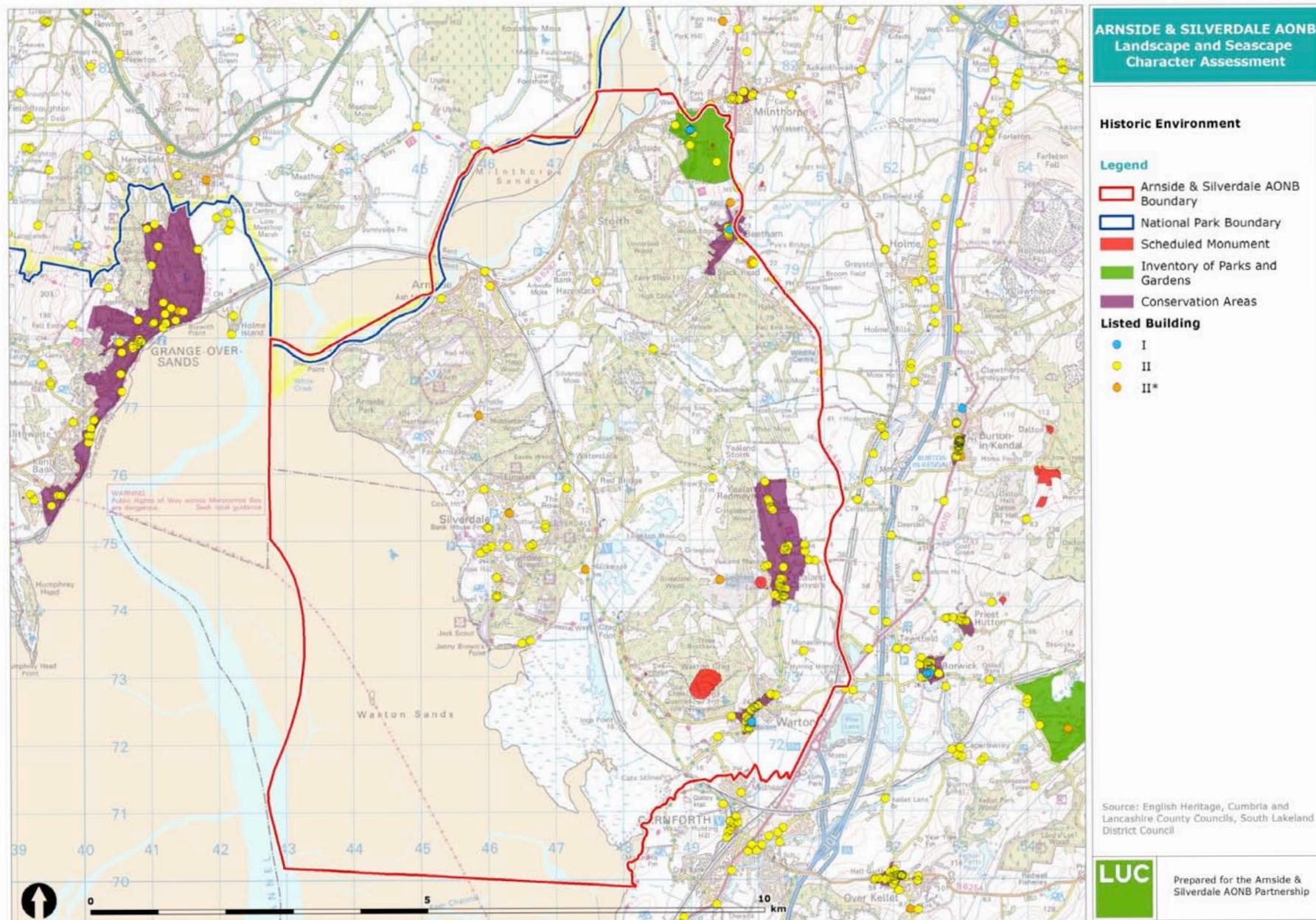


Figure 3.9 Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) - Woodland

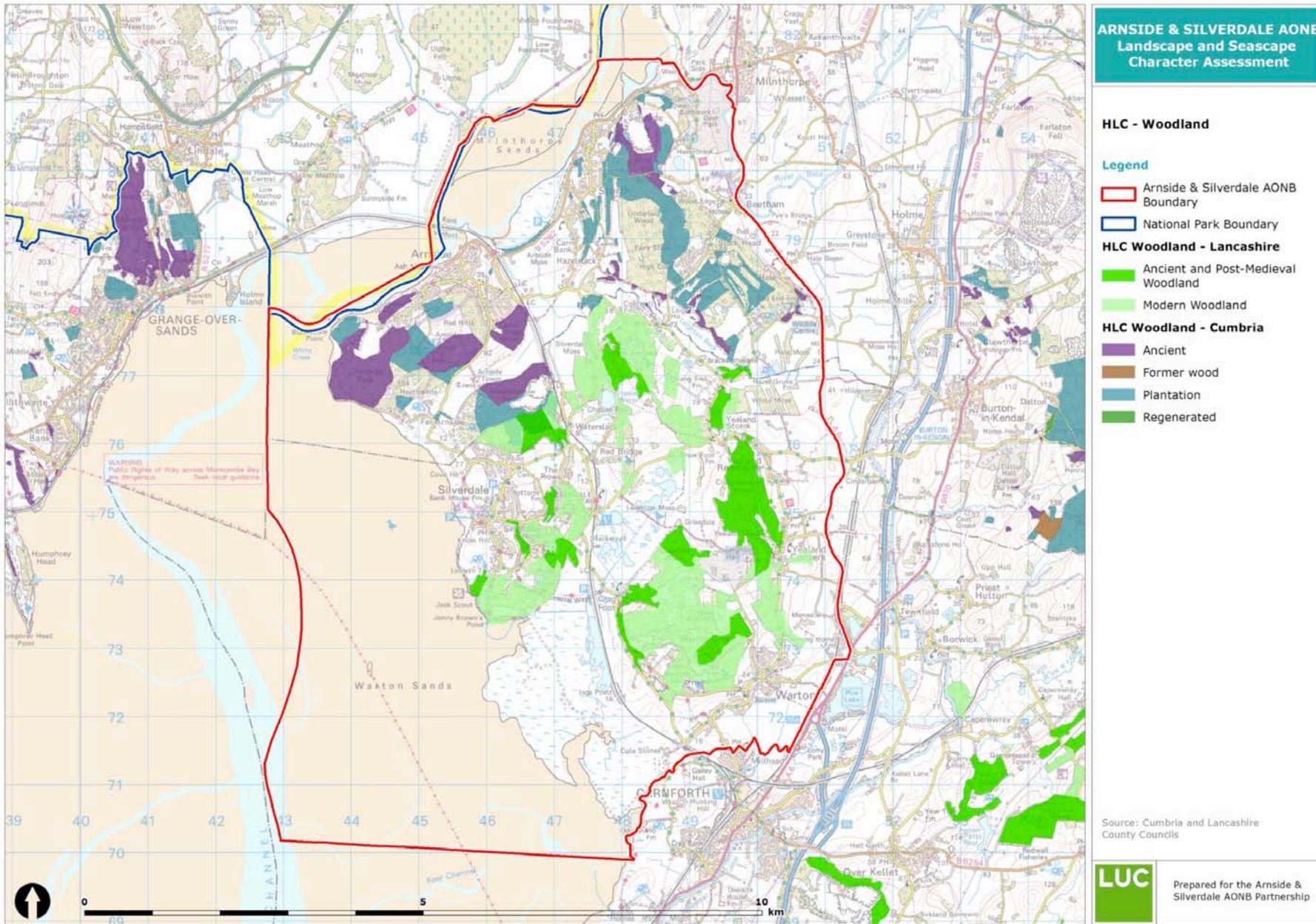


Figure 3.10 HLC - Ancient Enclosures

