

Cumbria

Lead ore - galena

Galena, the main ore of lead, was mined extensively in the Lake District and North Pennines from the very earliest times. Once smelted, silver could be recovered and refined from molten lead. A mint was established at Carlisle from 1100 and it has been postulated that William Rufus seized Carlisle from the Scots to secure the supply of silver. Over 1,000 lead workings have been identified in Cumbria.

Lent by Chester Foster, VCH Volunteer living in Carlisle.

Lead ore - haematite

Two large deposits of iron ore occur in Cumbria; around Egremont and close to Dalton in Durness and Millom. The iron ore mining industry employed many thousands and was the impetus for building many iron works, notable in Barrow, Millom and Workington. Europe's last deep metal mine still stands, intact, at Florence Mine, Egremont.

Lent by Chester Foster, VCH Volunteer living in Carlisle.

Letter from the Cumbrian artist Percy Kelly (1918-1993) to the poet Norman Nicolson (1914-1987), 18 October 1971 (photograph)

Peter Kelly often illustrated his letters. In this example he refers to a visit he and his wife, Chris, had made to Hodbarrow with photographer Clive Coote. This illustration would have been chosen deliberately for Nicholson given his strong identification with the Millom area and their shared interest in the industrial edgelands of Cumbria. This painting of ships at Borwick Rails is based upon a 1921 photograph in Alan Harris, *Cumberland Iron* (1970). The steel works at Hodbarrow had closed in 1968 and were being dismantled at the time of Kelly's visit.

Lent by Dr Rob David, president of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society.

Coniston manor court admittance

Copy of an entry in the Coniston manor court roll, admitting Adam Bell to a 'close of woody ground' in the manor, which he had bought from William Atkinson. The yearly rent was 2 1/2d and the entry fine or 'gressum', 4s 2d. Admittances such as this are a legacy of the distinctive customary tenantright tenure, which gave tenants security of tenure. With customary tenantright, it is doubtful whether the characteristic 'ancient countryside' of the Lake District would have survived.

Lent by Professor Angus Winchester, landscape historian.

'Herdy' sheep mouse mat

The Herdwick sheep, though to have been brought to Cumbria by the Vikings, is a regional icon. It has recently been used to create merchandise for the tourist industry, which, in turn contributes to the environmental and sustainability projects in the Lake District - symbolising the symbiosis between visitors and the visited.

Lent by Professor Angus Winchester, landscape historian.

Sample of Herdwick wool carpet

Goodacre Carpets have been manufacturing carpets in Kendal for over 50 years, using spool Axminster looms. Their 'Naturally Herdwick' range sources wool from local sheep farmers. The undyed wool comes in several colours including cream, light and dark grey, blue grey and brown.

Lent by Chester Foster, VCH Volunteer living in Carlisle.

A-Z Visitors' Map of the Lake District

Visitor maps and guides have been published since tourists first started coming to the Lake District in the late 18th century. Thomas West's *Guide to the Lakes* of 1778 recommended the best spots for visitors to stand and admire the landscape. Published 200 years later, this A-Z map marks out facilities and places of interest. It also highlights the original boundaries of the Lake District National Park, which was created in 1951 and enlarged in 2016.

Lent by Dr Sarah Rose, Assistant Editor for VCH Cumbria project.

A map of the liberty of Furness' by William Brasier, 1745, copied by T. Richardson, 1772

This 18th century map shows the manors made up of the Liberty of Furness, large parts of which once belonged to Furness Abbey. The map was intended to encourage tourism. In the left hand corner are details about a Roman vessel discovered in Urswick, which helps to illustrate the rich history of the area. Historically part of Lancashire, Furness was incorporated into the modern county of Cumbria in 1974

Lent by Dr Sarah Rose, Assistant Editor for VCH Cumbria project.

Postcard showing 'The Giant's Thumb, Penrith' by W.G. Collingwood (1920)

In St Andrew's churchyard in Penrith lies 'The Giant's Thumb' - one of several Anglo-Norse high crosses to survive in Cumbria. Thought to date to c.AD920, it is constructed of local red sandstone and measures 1.96m tall. Collingwood's drawing is helpful as the east and west faces are much weathered. In the same churchyard stands the Giant's Grave, consisting of two pillar-crosses and four hogback gravestones. Both monuments are linked to the legendary king Owain Caesarius, of Cumbrian folklore.

Lent by Dr Sarah Rose, Assistant Editor for VCH Cumbria project.

Squirrel Nutkin badge

Beatrix Potter is best known for her illustrated children's books of Peter Rabbit and friends. As a child, she spent many holidays in the Lake District, which influenced her work. Beatrix bought several farms and became an expert Herdwick sheep breeder. She was passionate about conservation and traditional farming methods. When she died in 1943, she left 4,000 acres to the National Trust. The World of Beatrix Potter in Bowness-in-Windermere is a very popular attraction.

Lent by Rachel Litchfield, aged 2.

Furness Multi Cultural Community Forum message bug

The south western corner of Cumbria is dominated by Barrow in Furness, with market towns including Ulverston and Dalston along the peninsula. The 100,000-strong population, many of them employed by large industrial firms, is one of the county's most diverse. In 2018, with support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Brathay Trust and Furness Multicultural Community Forum's Youth Club produced a film, 'Talking Histories'. By documenting and sharing Barrow's history and heritage, it celebrates the town's cultural diversity.

Lent by Dr Sarah Rose, Assistant Editor for VCH Cumbria project.