

CUMBRIA

Dave Willis

The Lake District, as a national park has only existed since 1951; Cumbria as a county, since 1974. But the old titles of Cumberland and Westmorland were collectively known as Cumbria for centuries and the mountainous Lakeland heart was an integral part of the region's fabric. The national park status of the Lake District has defined the region for many visitors but Cumbria has always been a richly diverse and historic county with great rewards for those who go looking. For those who live and work here there has always been more to Cumbria than the 'Lakes' but for many visitors the bigger picture is less well known.

Cumbria's landscapes are defined by its geography. It is literally surrounded by uniqueness – the vastness of Morecambe Bay to the South, the bleak Pennines to the East; Scotland's wild borders and Hadrian's Wall to the North and the forbidding Irish Sea, washing the West coast. This book is a journey through the lands of Cumbria; a county of breathtaking beauty, grandeur and surprise. It includes the Lake District as a part of Cumbria but reveals also the less frequented landscapes of the Eden Valley, the Borders, the Solway Firth, West Cumbria, Morecambe Bay and the Eastern dales of the Lune Valley and gives a fascinating insight into England's most beautiful county.

This not the Lake District. This is Cumbria, shown in all its glory through masterly photography in a deservedly large format.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dave Willis has always been a photographer. It's what he does. He's been other things as well but always there was a camera. Born and raised on the south coast, he quit school, left home and left the south to hitch to the lakes and become a climber and a photographer. He learnt the trade as an assistant photographer in Kendal, a press photographer on national papers and an expedition photographer in Patagonia. He returned from Chile in 1990, penniless, homeless and unemployed to set up Mountain Sport Photography – and is still going strong. Dave now works from his base in Shap, on Cumbria's eastern edge, photographing outdoor life, landscape and tourism projects for Cumbria Tourism and other tourist boards, the outdoor industry, press and stock libraries. He also teaches photography.

RELATED TITLES AVAILABLE

Portrait of the Borders

ISBN 978 1 84114 721 5 £14.99

Spirit of the Fell Pony

ISBN 978 1 84114 670 6 £4.99

Portrait of the Eden Valley

ISBN 978 1 84114 726 0 £14.99

Portrait of Morecambe Bay

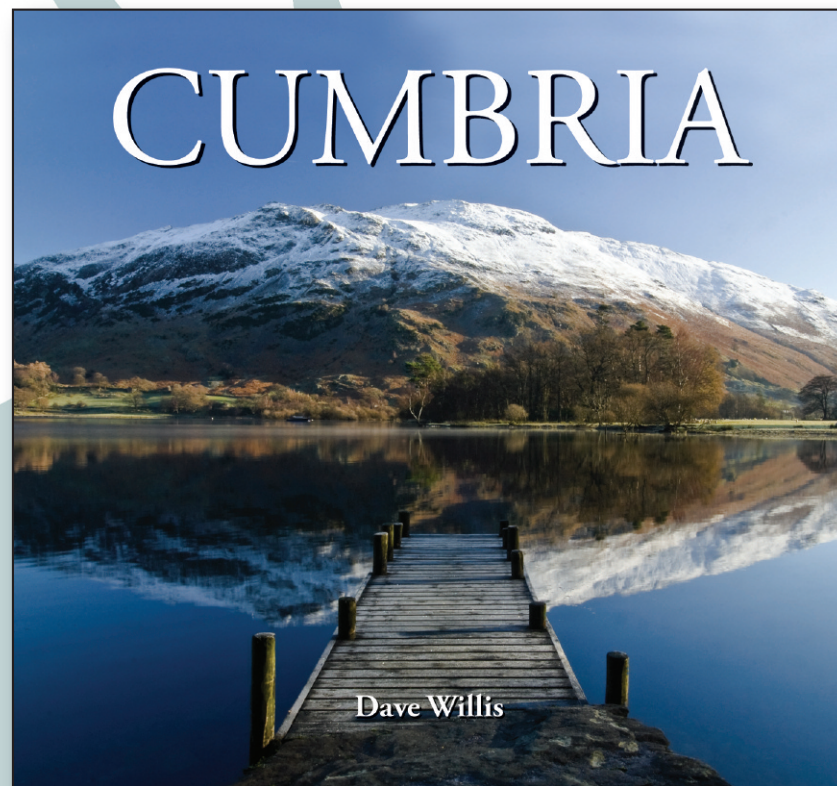
ISBN 978 1 84114 602 7 £14.99

Trade sales:

Helen Deakin – DDI 01823 653772
helend@halsgrove.com

Halsgrove Publishing
Halsgrove House,
Ryelands Industrial Estate,
Bagley Road, Wellington,
Somerset TA21 9PZ
Tel: 01823 653777
Fax: 01823 216796
www.halsgrove.com
e-mail: sales@halsgrove.com

HALSGROVE TITLE INFORMATION



Format: Hardback 144 pages, 238x258mm, profusely illustrated in colour throughout.
Price: £16.99
ISBN: 978 1 84114 958 5
Imprint: Halsgrove
Published: June 2009



**Great Books from
your Local Bookseller**

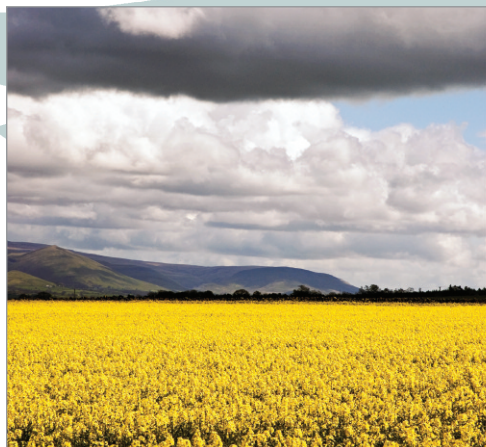


Windermere from Brant Fell.



Above: Shap Abbey, now in ruins and conserved by English Heritage, was built in 1199 and finally dissolved in 1540.

Left: Haining Burn, Midgeholme – the Cumbrian border.



Example of a double-page spread.

The Eden Valley

Any place that calls itself Eden clearly has to live up to it and this fertile river valley manages to do justice to its title. Bounded by the harsh and remote Pennines to the east and the Lake District fells to the west, the Eden Valley follows the course of the River Eden with a mixture of wetland, green farmland, traditional market towns and not dissimilar villages, some dating back to the Vikings. In fact this region was settled long before that and there's plenty of evidence of prehistoric activity in the form of stone circles, henges and earthenware. Micklethorpe and King Arthur's Round Table at Eborac Bridge outside Penrith are prehistoric; so is Long Meg and her Daughters, near Little Salford, said to be the third largest stone circle in Britain.

The River Eden itself rises in the Malenham Valley at the southern end of the Eden Valley. Flowing north 180 miles north to empty into the Solway Firth near Carlisle. It enjoys a reputation as one of the finest salmon and trout rivers in the North of England among those who know about these things but keeps its secret guarded and remains less frequented than other rivers. However, it is well known for its trout fishing, away from the more challenging state of the lake and mountains of the Lake District's fells, carved out of sandstone on the riverbank at Lumbly and the sandstone gorges and screes at Arncliffe are often visited and the Eden headwaters, not surprising sculptures, are in particularly well chosen settings from a sculpture trail and art as resting places from which to appreciate the river.

The Settle to Carlisle railway, the most scenic in England, runs through the Eden Valley with stations at Appleby and Kildale. Appleby which makes it a viable mode of transport from which to explore the river and market towns. Appleby in particular is worth the visit. Famous for its annual horse fair where grey riders from every corner gather to do business as they have done since 1685, trading horses and anything else you can think of. Appleby is also exceptionally pretty, historically interesting with its castle and medieval buildings and important locally as it was once the county town of Westmorland.

If the Eden Valley were transplanted in any other country, it would in itself be much admired and sought out. But it forms a boundary to the Lake District National Park and inevitably it has been overwhelmed. Perhaps that's a pity perhaps not – it remains relatively unspoiled, peaceful and free from the traffic and chaos that routinely blights the honey-pots of the Lake District and is perhaps blessed after all.

Opposite:
Bright yellow oil seed fields near Penrith provide a foreground for the Pennines beyond. In 995 metres (3,280 ft), Cross Fell is the highest point in the Pennine fells and also the highest point in England outside of the Lake District.



For most visitors to St Bees it will be the historic little village and friendly beach that will be the first they see of this coastline.



Derwent Water and Skiddaw.