

Welcome to Herdwick Cottage Ambleside!

We feel very privileged to share our beautiful traditional Lakeland cottage with new and seasoned visitors to this stunning part of the world and hope you enjoy it as much as we do.

If there is anything that you weren't delighted with, or if you have any suggestions about anything that would have made your stay more comfortable please do let us know at info@herdwickcottageambleside.co.uk or visit our website <https://www.herdwickcottageambleside.co.uk> – all comments are much appreciated.

Please do make yourself at home - may we also request that you take care of the cottage and furnishings as it is a period property and we want it to be kept in the best condition possible for you and future guests.

Please read the 'House Manual' below. There is also a summary of the history of the area at the back of this file that you may find interesting as well as a map of the town.

We really hope you enjoy your stay (whatever the weather!) and that you will return to us time and time again.

Sarah & Richard

House Manual

ACCIDENTS AND SPILLS

We do expect a certain amount of wear and tear and understand that breakages happen. If an accident occurs, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can replace the item for you.

Please do clean up spills etc as soon as they occur as it helps us keep the rental cost down and ensures that the property stays as nice as possible for your return and future guests.

If something is not working or is broken or missing when you arrive, please let us know straight away (info@herdwickcottageambleside) so that we can arrange a repair/replacement during your stay.

We do not charge for small breakages (we know accidents happen!), but excessive damage or mess may result in the retention of your good housekeeping deposit.

BABIES

There is a high chair in the cleaner's cupboard in the basement and a cot in the blue bag in the top, single bedroom (please bring own linen and mattress for cot which is 95 x 65cm). Please clean and put both away after use.

CLEANING

There are cleaning products and bin liners in the kitchen under the sink and a cordless crumb Hoover in the kitchen drawer as well as a cylinder vacuum cleaner in the cupboard in the basement.

DOCTOR AND MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

The number to phone in case of an **urgent medical emergency** that may require hospital treatment is Tel: **999**

For less urgent medical concerns, phone Tel: **111**. If necessary, they can get a doctor to call you back or call an ambulance for you.

The nearest doctor's surgery is the Ambleside Practice which is part of the Central Lakes Medical Group, Rydal Road, Ambleside, Cumbria LA22 9BP Tel: 015394 32693.

The nearest hospital is the Westmorland General Hospital, Burton Rd, Kendal LA9 7RG

FIRE AND POLICE

The number to phone in case of **fire** or if you need **police** help is Tel: **999**, clearly give the address as **8 Millans Park, Ambleside, Cumbria LA22 9AG** when asked.

There is a fire blanket in the kitchen and fire extinguishers throughout the cottage. Please do not try to tackle a large fire or put yourself at risk. We would rather that you were kept safe!

There are torches on the landings which will come on automatically if the electricity turns off, or can be used in an emergency to light your way.

In the event of a fire you can **exit the property by the front or back doors**.

If you are upstairs and cannot get out, use the key to unlock the two round safety restrictors on the sash windows and then lift up the lower pane to exit.

To reduce the risk of fire:

- Do not place anything on, or touch the log burner during use or for several hours after use
- Please close both of the doors at the bottom of the stairs at night
- Please do not leave the fire in the lounge lit at night
- Put cold ashes in the metal ash bucket and then place in a bag and put outside in the wheelie bin
- Please note that smoking is not permitted anywhere on the premises

FOOD AND SUPPLIES

There are 3 supermarkets within a few minutes walking distance:

- Spar - Compston Rd, Ambleside LA22 9DR
- Co-op - Compston Rd, Ambleside LA22 9DR
- Tesco Express - Market Pl, Ambleside LA22 9BU

For hardware supplies (including firewood and kindling – please use ‘fire logs’ or small logs only):

- J.F. Martin & Co - Compston Rd, Ambleside LA22 9DR

HEATING

Please see separate details on 'Heating' in the folder in the lounge, or in the boiler cupboard in the dining room.

The central heating is controlled by the thermostat dial at the bottom of the stairs which can be turned to adjust the temperature. Most people find a setting of between 17 – 20°C comfortable. It is timed to come on between 7am to 11pm.

Please make sure the heating is left on the timer setting, the thermostat (at the bottom of the stairs) is left at around 15°C and all radiators are left on at around 3 or 4 when you leave.

Please do not rotate the dial in the cupboard in the dining room or turn the radiators off as the system is balanced.

If you need the heating to come on at other times, please follow the instructions on the sheet in the boiler cupboard in the dining room.

For emergency use, there is a small fan heater in the cleaner's cupboard in the basement.

Please leave the radiators on 3 for the bedrooms and 3 or 4 for the downstairs areas and landing.

KEYS

Please leave the keys in the lock up box at the front of the house when you leave. If you find yourself locked out, phone your booking agent, or us on 07973 382176 if you have booked via Airbnb, and you will be rescued as soon as possible!

KITCHEN

To reduce the stress of using unfamiliar appliances, there are 'Quick Start' stickers to help you use the major gadgets and appliances in the kitchen stress-free. Instruction manuals relating to all of the appliances are in the back of the House Manual in the front room if you need more information. Further washing machine instructions are on the kitchen shelf.

CHECK IN AND CHECK OUT

Check in is from 4pm, please checkout by 10am to allow time for our cleaners.

On leaving, please can you:

- Check the dishwasher is empty
- Highchair and cot are packed away
- Please turn the lights off and the thermostat at bottom of stairs to around 15 (please do not adjust boiler in cupboard or radiators)
- If you have signed in on the SMART tv or the X-Box, please remember to 'sign out' and leave it on the tv setting so that other guests cannot access your account
- If you are able to, we'd be very grateful if you could strip the beds (apart from the duvet protectors and enclosed, bottom mattress protector) and leave the linen in the batch, as it helps our cleaning staff enormously.

LIBRARY

We have collected a small but interesting library of books and maps that relate to Cumbria and the local area which can be found in the bookshelf on the top landing.

Please enjoy reading them but don't take them home! If you accidentally do, please post the item back to us as soon as you can – the address is on the front cover.

LOG BURNER

There are separate instructions on how to use the log burner in the file in case you haven't used one before.

If using wood, please only burn **small to medium sized logs only** (no cardboard or coal) in the log burner. We recommend the instant 'firelogs' rather than wood - you can buy them from the Co-op and the hardware store, J.F. Martin, round the corner.

Make sure the logs are dry and always close the burner door. There are two knobs to adjust airflow above and below the door.

Please ensure that the fire is put out in the evening and that children are never left alone in the room with the log burner, even after it has finished burning as the glass and surrounding area get very hot.

PARKING

There is a red visitor's car permit that you can display in your car window which you will find on the table in the cottage. This allows one car to park in the street outside the cottage. Lost permits will be charged for with the 'Good Housekeeping' deposit as unfortunately the council do not issue replacements.

For additional cars there are several public car parks within 5 mins walking distance. The main one off the Rydal road (LA22 9AY) is the nearest. The public car park on Lake Road (LA22 0DB) is smaller, but also does a good rate for a week's parking.

PETS

We are sorry but this is a strictly 'Pet Free' property. This also applies to people that may visit you and is important to maintain as some of our guests have severe allergies. The presence of pets on the premises will result in the retention of your 'Good Housekeeping' deposit.

RUBBISH AND RECYCLING

As a business, we employ a private company to take away and sort our rubbish. Please put all rubbish in bags and place it in the wheelie bin on Tuesday night – there is no need to sort it for recycling, we are assured that they do this for us.

Please could you make sure that the wheelie bin is placed near the front gate on the patio, on Tuesday night, ready for collection on wednesday morning.

SAFETY

- Please walk carefully down the basement stairs and use the handrail – it is quite steep. Please assist young children up and down the stairs. Mind your head as you go!
- Supervise children at all times near the log burner and do not go to bed while it is still alight.
- All our blinds have a clear plastic breaker which will release under tension as a safety measure and which clicks back in place if separated, however, please supervise children and keep them away from blinds and open windows at all times.

SMOKING

Strictly no smoking anywhere on the premises please. Smoking on the premises may result in the retention of your 'Good Housekeeping' deposit.

THINGS TO DO IN THE RAIN!

- For information about activities, travel, history and some great learning activities visit the official Lake District website: <https://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/home> or visit our website <https://www.herdwickcottageambleside.co.uk>
- Low level walks through wooded areas are still lovely to do on a damp day and waterfalls look spectacular after (and during) a good downpour. Avoid in gales and storms though due to danger of falling branches.
- The Ambleside climbing wall is great on a rainy day - Ambleside Climbing Wall, 101 Lake Road, Ambleside, Cumbria LA22 0DB, Tel: 015394 33794 – sessions can be booked online at [Indoor Climbing & Bouldering Archives - Ambleside Adventure](#). You will need to book in for an assessment before climbing on your own or with children (unless experienced) – you can usually reserve a place on the same day, but phone to make sure.
- Check out Zeffirellis – “an Independent cinema with an authentic pizzeria attached and relaxed jazz cafe for live music”. It’s at 2 Compston Rd, Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 9AD Tel: 015394 33845, a two-minute walk away and they do a special offer including lunch and film. Restaurants can get very busy so book in advance to be assured of a table. [Zeffirellis - Ambleside's Award-Winning Food & Music Venue | Zeffirellis](#)
- Enjoy playing the games in the basement or watch a film.

TRAVEL

Ambleside has a very good bus service. The bus stop is on Kelsick Road opposite the library and is a great option if you wish to start a walk further away and prefer to leave the car at home.

The nearest train station is in Windermere (LA23 1QA) and is easily accessible by bus.

TV/DVD/MUSIC/Wii/X-Box

The SMART television in the sitting room has 'Freeview Play' so that you can watch programmes that have already been shown when you wish. If you have signed in on the SMART tv or the X-Box, please remember to 'sign out' and leave it on the tv setting so that other guests cannot access your account.

There is a Wii in the basement and an X-Box 360 and a DVD Blu-ray player (with its separate own remote control). Press the TV input button, choose Antenna for the TV, the X-Box is on HDMI 1, the DVD player is on HDMI 2 and the Wii is on AV 2. The instruction manual relating to the DVD player is in the back of the folder in the lounge if you need more information.

There are a wide variety of family (age 15 and under) films in the basement. Please enjoy watching them but don't take them home! If you accidentally do, please post the item back to us as soon as you can – the address is on the front cover. The TVs in the bedrooms also play DVDs.

There is a sound system in the dining room with CD player and digital radio. You can connect to the system via Bluetooth to play music from your own devices (change the setting on the machine to 'Pairing').

WEATHER

We would strongly advise wearing appropriate clothing and kit for fell walking and check the weather report before you go. Watch out for high winds which can make high level walks dangerous. We have recently experienced a lot of tree fall and damage during Storm Arwen in 2022, so would not recommend walking in heavily wooded areas during yellow or red weather warnings if winds are high.

You can check the weather forecast using the Met Office mountain weather report at:
<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/mountain-forecasts/lake-district>

We are very lucky that this cottage has not flooded as far as we know, even in the very heavy 2015 flood (Storm Desmond), however much of the Lakeland area can be at risk of flooding. Please drive carefully in heavy rain periods as roads can carry deep surface water.

If you are concerned about flooding, you can check the situation at:
<https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/warnings?location=cumbria>

WET CLOTHES AND MUDDY BOOTS!

There is a boot rack outside the front door for muddy boots and walking shoes.

There is a washing line for drying clothes in the rear courtyard which runs from the hook on the back wall of the kitchen to the metal knob which is embedded on the top of the rear wall of the courtyard.

If jackets are really soaked, you may wish to hang them up in the shower room and turn on the extractor fan to help them drip dry if it is raining outside.

There is also a clothes drying rack in the basement, please do not dry clothes in the basement as it can make the room damp.

WIFI

We have fast broadband which is boosted to cover the whole house. Search on your device (e.g. phone or laptop) for the **PLUSNET- 6KTR** wireless network/SSID and enter the following wireless password/key: **2c7b6dab96**

Internet coverage can vary here, but our speed is generally very good. If you only get a strong signal in the dining room, check that the wifi boosters (white plugs) in the front room and second floor landing are switched on at the walls.

WINDOWS

The Victorian sash windows have recently been refurbished. Please turn the brass hook in the middle of the window to release the catch and then raise the bottom sash gently using the finger holds. There are restricted openings for security and safety that limit how high they will lift up. If you need to open them fully, this can be done using the key provided – please put them back afterwards to the restricted opening and do not let children near the open windows.

USING A WOODBURNING STOVE

We recommend the instant 'firelogs' rather than wood, you can buy them from the hardware store J.F. Martin round the corner.

Please only use small logs in the woodburner

1. Fully open the air vents. There is a primary air vent at the bottom (air in), and secondary one at the top (exhaust).
2. Make a tight grid shape with the kindling with a firelighter on top and a couple of small to medium sized logs on top of that (no charcoal).
3. Light the firelighter and keep the door ajar until the fire has established.
4. Once the fire is going, close the door (the vents are still open) and then adjust by closing the bottom vent if the flames get too large. Be careful not to add too many logs, as they could smother the fire or overheat the stove.
5. When the fire has burnt out close both air vents.
6. When it is completely cool, empty the ash from the ash pan into the metal ash bucket.
7. Dispose of the ash into a bag and then into the external bin the next day or when completely cold.

[illegible]

Herdwick Cottage

Herdwick Cottage is at least 116 years old and was probably home to tradesmen and workers from the nearby mills. Before it was developed, the Millans Park area was close to or part of the Shaw Wife Orchard. It was later known as 'Mill Lands' as the grass areas in between the oak trees were used to stretch out wet woollen cloth from the nearby fulling mill to dry. This was known as a 'tenterfield', the cloth being pegged down by 'tenterhooks'.

The area was well known for manufacturing from the 17th to the 19th Centuries. In 1819 there were 4 mills in central Ambleside, a woollen mill, corn mill (which had replaced the fulling mill), bark mill and mill for turning wood and ivory. The 1856 OS map shows that the Millans Park area was close to the site of a saw mill and saw pits.

The Millans housing area was developed between 1880 and 1910, and the cottages of Millans Park are visible on the 1904 OS map. Originally the houses were not numbered but were named according to the owners or their occupations. The cottages are clad in and made of traditional blue Lakeland stone and internally plastered with lime mortar. Our cottage would originally have had two rooms downstairs, two upstairs and an outside toilet in the back yard (we have updated to give you two nice bathrooms inside the house though!).

There are a few original Victorian features left in the cottage. The sash windows are original although we have had a special double glazing fitted for environmental purposes. The fireplace in the first floor bedroom is also original. You might notice that many of the cottages including ours show signs of previously having iron railings at the front – these were removed as part of the war effort during the Second World War when iron was in demand for munitions.



OS Map 1865 (prior to the building of the Millans Park development)

A Summary of the History of Ambleside

Introduction

Ambleside is a small town in the Lake District National Park. The town originated with an early medieval settlement above Stock Ghyll, a fast-flowing tributary of the River Rothay. Development later moved southwards to nucleate around a 17th century market place, today's Market Square. Industrial activity, powered by water mills alongside Stock Ghyll, was the focus of the town's economy until the mid-18th century.

The coming of the railway to Windermere in 1847 opened the floodgates to what was already a growing tourist trade, and this in turn stimulated expansion to the south and east of the town, creating a virtually new Victorian town with church, assembly rooms, police station and detached and terraced houses.



Fig. 1. The Market Hall and Clock Tower, dated 1863. This was the Mechanics Institute in the 1900s with billiard & reading room & library.



Fig. 2 Stock Ghyll provided water power for the town's mills until the end of the 19th century.

The Ambleside Conservation Area was designated in 1980 by the Lake District National Park Authority.



Fig. 3 The Queens Hotel, Market Square displays fine stonework and typically Victorian gables and decorative bargeboards.



Fig. 4 Stock Cottage, North Road. A Georgian frontage to a colour washed stone rubble building with slate roof (grade II).



Fig. 5 Part of Ambleside's lively roofscape of stone chimney stacks, clay pots, gables and ridge tiles.



Fig. 6 The Market Hall's clock tower and bellcote add to the interesting roofscape.



Fig. 7 'The Struggle', the steep incline at the start of the ascent from Ambleside to Kirkstone Pass.

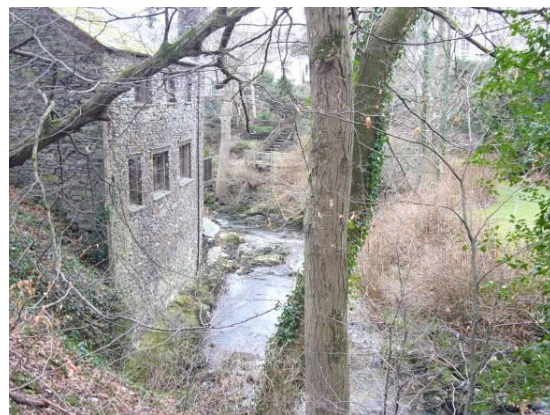


Fig. 8 Stock Ghyll still retains a wild and picturesque character, especially in the eastern part of the conservation area.

Topography and landscape setting

A publication of 1851 described Ambleside as located in a “romantic situation, amidst lofty mountains, on the declivity of a hill, commanding pleasing views of the beautiful vale of Rothay, in which it stands...”. Despite changes to the town over the past 150 years, this description of its setting still rings true.

Ambleside nestles closely under the hills with a sunny south-facing aspect surrounded by fells to north, east and west and a lake to the south. The town stands at the foot of Wansfell Pike, where the Stock Ghyll and the Kirkstone Pass enter the green valley of the River Rothay, a mile above the head of Lake Windermere.

Enclosed by Wansfell Pike (482 m) on the east, it is faced on the north by fells which hold the upland valleys of Rydal and Scandale and lead up to the summits of the Fairfield range (Red Screes 776m). In the west is Loughrigg Fell (289m), which blocks the head of the lake with the River Rothay on one side and River Brathay on the other.

The oldest part of the town, north of Stock Ghyll, stands on the brow of a small promontory between Stock Ghyll and Scandale Beck. From St Anne’s Court, the highest point in the conservation area, the land falls southward and westward to a bend in the westward-flowing Stock Ghyll. South of Stock Ghyll, the commercial core of the town lies on more level ground but a slight undulation in the land gives prominence to the Salutation Hotel from where the land falls gently north-westward down Market Cross and more steeply south-eastward down Market Square.

Geology

The central core of the Lake District is a hard knot of Ordovician and Silurian rocks. Ambleside lies within this geological area, which is known as the Borrowdale Volcanic Series. These rocks form the heart of the Lake District and contribute to the area’s spectacular scenery. Their character is shown in materials used for the construction of roofs and walls in the village. There are also pockets of numerous minerals and metal ores. Like the slates, these formed during a period when volcanic deposits were later subjected to heat and pressure.

Archaeology

In a settlement such as Ambleside, which has a history of small-scale industry and manufacturing, it is very probable that archaeological deposits underlie many of the dwellings and former mills of the conservation area; the area around the former mills may well contain interesting features of industrial archaeology. Many of the buildings within the conservation area are themselves of archaeological interest, and are likely to retain evidence of their age, use and construction that is only likely to be uncovered during building work.

The historical development of the hamlet

The Roman remains at Galava, a fort in the meadows at the head of Lake Windermere, close to Waterhead, are the first archaeological evidence of settlement in the immediate vicinity of today's Ambleside.

The first fort was constructed around AD 80 as one of a series of fortified structures to protect the trade routes through Cumbria. This initial fort was soon abandoned but was redeveloped early in the 2nd century AD when a second fort, built in stone, was constructed on an artificial platform making use of its strategic location protected on two sides by water.

The origin of Ambleside's name is unclear. It may come from the Old Norse *a-mel-saetr* meaning "the pasture by the river sand banks" or the Old Norse *Hamala saetr* meaning "Hamal's clearing". Since the oldest part of Ambleside lies well above the river, the latter definition is more likely to be correct. It is therefore suggested that Ambleside originated in the 10th century when a settler, Hamal, made a clearing for his stock on a rise in the land between Stock Ghyll and Scandale Beck.



Fig. 9 One of Ambleside's oldest buildings exemplifies Lakeland vernacular by its small square windows, pitched roof, cylindrical chimneystacks and use of local stone for walling and roof.

At that time the lower valley was wooded and unsafe, so development moved down the valley only gradually as forest was cleared. As the settlement grew, it began to derive wealth from the wool industry, dependent on local Herdwick sheep. The wool trade was greatly stimulated by the foundation in 1123 of Furness Abbey, a Cistercian abbey near modern Barrow-in-Furness. Ambleside served as the administrative centre for the northern part of the extensive estate owned by Furness. Following the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1532 and the ensuing breaking up of the monastic

wool monopoly, many Lake District towns like Ambleside begin to grow. From the 16th century wool processing became Ambleside's major industry.

There is evidence that a chapel existed on the site of St Anne's Church (now St Anne's Court) from about 1550. At that time the manorial and parish boundary, running along Stock Ghyll, divided inhabitants of the settlement between those 'above Stock' (in the Parish of Grasmere) and those 'below Stock'. A marker stone dividing the two can be seen on Stock Low Bridge.

From the 14th century onwards the region's fast-flowing streams were being harnessed to drive the hammers of fulling mills, used to beat and thicken cloth, replacing manual techniques such as treading the cloth or beating with wooden clubs.

The first recorded mill in Ambleside was in 1324. This corn-grinding mill and an early fulling mill (1453) were built high up the Stock, close to Stock Ghyll Falls. The fulling mill worked until the early 19th century. By the early 16th century, five mills were supported by the Stock and by the 19th century, nine mills had been powered by it.

Ambleside was well known for the production of a cloth called 'linsey-woolsey', made up from both linen and wool. In 1650 a Royal Charter established a wool market in the town, recognising the value of its wool trade. This led to further development on the more level ground south of Stock Ghyll. By the end of the 17th century the town is reported as having five ale-houses and a weekly market, an indication of a busy economy.

Water powered mills continued to provide industry for the town well into the 19th century. Although the wool industry began to decline in the 19th century, the local wool and cloth based economy was supplemented by mills crushing bark to produce tannin, the turning of wood and the making of bobbins.

In 1825 Ambleside's wool market closed and the remaining fulling mills began to be put to other uses. The boom in textile industries in the north of England created a huge demand for wooden bobbins. Bobbin making began in Ambleside when a mill known as 'Stock Force' was built in 1810 and bobbin making became a mainstay of the economy for the next 70 years.

Tourism not industry was to drive the town's economy and subsequent expansion through the 19th and 20th centuries. Encouraged by contemporary literature, particularly Wordsworth's eloquent descriptions of the Lake District's landscapes, the newly rich middle classes of the industrial north, aided by improved transport systems, came to the town as a holiday resort. A turnpike road reached Ambleside in 1761. The Salutation, The White Lion and The Royal Oak were popular coaching houses of the 18th century that took advantage of tourism and increased mobility.

The turnpiking of the road occurred just as the Lake District was becoming a popular destination for the 'Romantics' in search of picturesque and inspirational landscape. However, it was the opening of the Kendal to Windermere railway line in 1847 that opened the tourist floodgates making the area accessible and affordable to working people as well as the wealthy and educated.



Fig. 10 The White Lion is a former 18th century coaching inn. The space in front was once used for carriages and horses.



Fig. 11 An unusual 19th century two storey glass shopfront. The building on the right is The Stamp House, office of the poet William Wordsworth.

By 1851 a trade directory noted that “...the town is for a considerable time made the headquarters of tourists, for whom there are...hotels, inns and lodging houses. Many of the latter have been erected within the last few years.”

In 1723 an educational trust was set up by John Kelsick to start a school for boys. In 1892 the town acquired a College of Education for young ladies, founded by Charlotte Mason, now recognised as a notable educationalist. Harriet Martineau, a feminist journalist moved to the area in the 1850s. Despite the town’s expansion she found poor standards of nutrition, sanitation and housing amongst the local population.

Ambleside’s rapid expansion in the mid/late 19th century doubled the size of the town. Many buildings in Market Square were rebuilt in c.1860. The Millans area was constructed between 1880-1910. St Mary’s Church was designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott and consecrated in 1854. It was built to replace St Anne’s Church near How Head which, within 40 years of its construction in 1812, had become too small to accommodate the increased number of worshippers. A Wesleyan Chapel was opened in The Millans in 1899 and a Roman Catholic Church was opened on Wansfell Road in the 1930s.

During the 20th century as tourists have continued to visit Ambleside, the town has become one of the main tourist centres of the Lake District National Park. The town’s housing stock has been increased as both local authority and private housing estates have been built on the elevated eastern side of the town (not included in the conservation area). In the 1990s a shopping centre was built on the site of a 1930s bus station in the centre of the town.

Historic layout and street pattern

The town’s street pattern has evolved gradually, reflecting the town’s gradual evolution and changes in transportation. Initially the town served as a crossing of

trade routes for packhorses. These roads needed little width and routes were constrained by known bridges or fords and the steepness of inclines ('The Struggle' aptly describes the steep ascent out of Ambleside to the Kirkstone Pass). Where possible they followed the contours alongside the valley bottom. A pack horse route north to Keswick went via Nook End whilst the route westwards went via Stony Bridge to the ford at Miller Bridge. Nook Lane was also the start of the old 'Corpse Road', now signposted as the Coffin Route, along which the deceased were carried to St Oswald's Church in Grasmere for burial.

By 1763 roads connecting Kendal with Ambleside, Keswick, Cockermouth and Ulverston had all been turnpiked, emphasising the importance of Ambleside as a market town. Smithy Brow was the route of the old coaching road from Keswick before the turnpike road was constructed. North Road was the original coaching road through Ambleside and the site of the first ford over the beck. Older parts of the town contain short alleys or 'ginnels' that interlink between the main routes.

Victorian development is characterised by planned straight roads, for example Lake Road, in startling contrast to the tortuous routes in the Chapel Hill area. Rydal Road was built as a turnpike to bypass North Road in 1833. Church Street was formerly the main road through the town (a row of 18th century cottages remain, listed grade II) until the construction of Lake Road in the mid-19th century. Compston Road and The Millans were laid out and built at the end of the 19th Century.



Fig. 12 Grade II listed row of 18 century cottages.



Fig. 13 Roughcast or colour washed houses are characteristic of the area north of Stock Ghyll.

Charlotte Mason College and environs, now University of Cumbria

The key to this area is the 19th century building once known as Scale How and its former grounds, also known as Charlotte Mason College and now part of the University of Cumbria. Of equal importance is Nook Cottage, a late 17th century listed building beside Nook Lane, an old westward route from the town. Nook Lane and Sweden Bridge Lane are former trade routes which today form attractive walled

links to the older core area on Chapel Hill. Victorian villa development, exploiting views of Lake Windermere and surrounding fells, climbs the hillside now forming a quiet, leafy residential enclave in contrast to the hustle and bustle elsewhere in the town.



Fig. 14 Charlotte Mason College stands in an elevated location above Rydal road.



Fig. 15 A neo-Gothic Victorian villa in Nook Lane. The circular datestone reads 1860.

Former area of mills and industrial activity beside Stock Ghyll

This area includes the beck and former mill buildings on either side of Stock Ghyll. Stock Ghyll was successful for water mills because of the natural fall and force of the water which could support many different waterwheels.

The beck still has a picturesque wild quality and there are good views up and downstream from the two bridges. The sound of rushing water can be heard above the bustle of the town.

Stock High Bridge was the main crossing point of the deeply incised Stock Ghyll and caused the channelling together of the old trade routes as well as forming an industrial sector around the water mills. Stock Low Bridge dates from the early 19th century construction of a new road bypassing Smithy Brow and North Road.



Fig. 16 The view from Stock Low Bridge includes former mill buildings on either side of the beck.



Fig. 17 Former mill building beside Rydal Road.

The built form is characterised by old stone-built mill buildings directly abutting the waterside. Their siting has been dictated by a working relationship with the beck rather than with the road. None remain in their original use. These buildings have been built, altered, rebuilt and adapted during the past 700 years and have been used for grinding corn, washing, fulling and weaving wool, crushing bark and bobbin making.

Bridge House, Rydal Road, (Grade I Listed Building) is a tiny building and a popular tourist curiosity. It was built in 1854 as a garden house originally to span Stock Beck and to connect the gardens of the former Ambleside Hall to the orchard that lay on the other side of the beck.

Victorian expansion to west and south

This character area is distinctively different to the town's pre-1800 development. The 19th century incomers brought with them new ideas about town planning and building. Many of these buildings were sited to exploit views of the surrounding fells and across the town. Ambleside virtually doubled in size during the late 19th century, its Victorian built heritage is a vital part of the town's special historic and architectural interest.

The area is primarily residential but also includes some of the functions of what was almost a new town, e.g. St Mary's Church (1854), Assembly Rooms (1894) (now Zeffirelli's), Police Station (1888) and Conservative Club (1895). The area also includes a primary school, library and the Ambleside Parish Centre, opened in 2007.

The Victorian development of Ambleside began with the construction of large villas, for example Ambleside Lodge. Within the town centre are a number of public and civic buildings in an exuberant neo-Gothic style with fine stonework detailing.



Fig. 20 Gables, ridge tiles, finials, dormers and two storey canted bay windows are typical of the town's Victorian expansion.



Fig. 21 These semi-detached houses in The Millans turn their back to the road in order to take advantage of the views to Loughrigg Fell.

Away from the commercial and civic centre of the town, short rows or terraces are typical, for example Compston Road and Compston Street. The Millans, having been built as a planned development over a short period of time at the end of the 19th century, has a cohesive architectural character. Well-detailed semi-detached houses such as those in The Millans that overlook Rothay Park are exemplary Victorian building of their type.

The Victorian suburb is easily distinguishable from earlier development by its straight roads and streets and strongly held building line. Lake Road is a good example. The regular building width and consistent height of each row or terrace sets up a repetitive rhythm that is quite unlike the variety in plot size and building height found in the predominantly 17th and 18th century parts of the town.

Focal points, views and vistas

Ambleside's location surrounded on three sides by fells, gives rise to many expanding views of the local fells, particularly to the west where Loughrigg Fell can be seen rising above the level Rothay Valley.

Looking up along a street or between buildings to a sight of the fells gives the town its distinctive local identity. Attractive outward views to surrounding countryside are one of the principal defining features of the conservation area.

The topography of the town, sloping upwards to north and east, prevents long views in these directions but, conversely, enables long views south and westward from highpoints such as Belle Vue Lane and St Anne's Court.



Fig. 22 The spire of St Mary's Church, a local landmark, rises above the weekly market in King Street.



Fig. 23 This view up Stock Ghyll Lane from the edge of the conservation area shows the abrupt transition between the town and surrounding countryside.

The town's piecemeal and haphazard development until the mid-19th century does not include any planned vistas but picturesque views up and down Stock Ghyll have pleased visitors for over 200 years and still retain a rustic charm. Bridge House (Grade I Listed Building), a curious and quaint little stone building set upon a single span stone bridge has made it what tourist guides call "the most photographed building in the Lakes".

When completed in 1854, the spire of St Mary's Church (design by celebrate architect Sir Giles Gilbert Scott and a Grade II* Listed Building) formed a focal point for the town's expansion away from the Market Square and Chapel Hill. Although unpopular at the time of erection, it is now one of the landmarks in the town, especially as seen from a distance on the fells. By chance or design, the façade of the former non-conformist chapel in The Millans neatly closes the view westward from the Compston Corner.

Architectural styles, materials and detailing

Buildings within the Ambleside Conservation area are very varied. They date primarily from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. Good examples of many building types are present including: cottages and houses, places of worship, civic and administrative buildings, banks, coaching inns, hotels and boarding houses, mills and at least two examples of the typical Lakeland 'bank barn' (i.e. a farm building with upper floor for fodder storage and lower level for animal quarters).

The architectural historian, Nikolaus Pevsner in the 'Buildings of England - Cumberland and Westmoreland' says of Ambleside: "The little town of grey slate houses with grey slate roofs has no architecture of distinction." In the light of the conservation area's 38 listed buildings, this statement might be questioned. However, despite an apparent lack of architectural distinction, the special architectural interest of the place lies in the variety and grouping of historic buildings and its particular Lakeland sense of identity and place. Even the post-railway

Victorian development of the town has a distinctive atmosphere derived from the use of local materials and craftsmanship.

Architectural style can be summarised within three phases: the local vernacular style of those buildings constructed before c.1800, a debased Georgian style of 18th century buildings, and the robust, well detailed formality of the town's 19th century Victorian expansion.



Fig. 24 Cylindrical stone chimney stacks and stone flag roofs are particular features of vernacular Lakeland buildings.



Fig. 25 The ground floor of this Victorian bank building uses an 'imported' brown coloured stone to contrast with the locality's dark greys.

How Head typifies the local vernacular. It is said that the walls incorporate stone from the Roman Fort at Galava and river cobbles. Indeed, many pre-19th century buildings used 'surface-gathered' stone as opposed to quarried stone. Characteristic local vernacular details such as stone flag roofs, large cylindrical chimneys, deep doorways and small deeply recessed window openings are to be found on several of the 17th century cottages in the vicinity, notably Ash Tree Cottage which has a large external stepped chimney stack and a stone drip-mould. The building (listed grade II) known as Albert Moore's Barn, North Road has an open cruck timber frame, a 17th century or earlier form of roof construction.

Eighteenth century buildings have a higher degree of formality than the early vernacular buildings but still rely on local stone walling and slate roofs. Many 18th century buildings are rendered. Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Cheapside (grade II listed) typify many 18th century features: tall sash windows (a single bow window), near-symmetrical façade. Nos. 3 to 6 Fairview Road is a row of less prestigious cottages with small window openings and a stone flag roof. Many of the town's central 18th century buildings were swept aside to make way for the Victorian redevelopment of the market place.

The town's Victorian architecture might be said to be neo-Gothic in style typified by a riot of pointed gables, ornate bargeboards, steeply pitched dormers, turrets, ridge tiles and finials. Stone continues as the prevalent walling material, under roofs of slate, and there are examples of finely crafted coursed stonework in contrast to the

random appearance of 18th century and earlier stonework. Stone of differing colour, 'imported' from further afield, is used to complement the local grey/black stone at, for instance, the HSBC bank building at the south end of Market Square. The marked contrast in style between unornamented plain 18th dwellings and embellished 19th century premises is well illustrated in Church Street where a low-lying row of plain two storey rendered cottages (nos. 2 to 11 Church Street, grade II listed) stands in opposition to ornate three storey stone-built Victorian development.

The most prevalent building material is local stone - used for walling, roofs, boundary walls and paving. This stone was relatively cheap and accessible. For expensive buildings stone could be carefully shaped but most buildings of this stone are roughly textured. In some instances, the building stone is concealed behind a coat of roughly textured render.

Local slate is the most prevalent roofing material, particularly in the 19th century areas. The palette of building materials reflects the underlying geology of grey and black stone, with the occasional use of contrasting blue grey detailing for quoins, window and door surrounds, drip moulds and chimneys. The sombre stone colours are distinctive but can be seen as dour and unattractive.

Timber windows would have been the norm, although many have been replaced with UPVC. Seventeenth century window openings are small in relation to the building frontage but, as improvements to glass were made, openings became larger and from the 18th century onwards, the popularity of sliding sashes resulted in a predominantly vertical emphasis in windows. Dormer windows are common on Victorian dwellings.

Stone boundary walls are a feature of the Ambleside Conservation Area especially in the earlier residential areas north of Stock Ghyll, for example Nook Lane. Of note are the stone wall in front of The Royal Oak and the slab stones marking a boundary behind to the rear of nos. 1-5 The Millans. These are both relics of Ambleside's rural origins. The growth of ferns in old walls adds to the rural ambience of the area.