

Lime Burning and the Uses of Lime in the Historic County of Westmorland and Along the Pennine Edge of Cumberland.

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Lime kilns are a common feature in the Cumbrian landscape but not one that has received detailed examination. Lime was an indispensable commodity in Cumbria for many centuries until the 1960s, in agriculture, building work and local craft industries. This article presents the results of a detailed field survey across the entire historic county of Westmorland and along the Pennine fringe of Cumberland, and of comprehensive archival research into the production and uses of lime. It makes comparisons - and contrasts - with the results of a similar survey in the Central Pennines. The article begins by placing lime burning within a historical context, then briefly outlines the historic use of lime across the rest of what is now Cumbria, and considers the constraints which held back large-scale lime production in the county, before going on to discuss a range of variables that help to explain the distribution and details of lime kilns in the survey area.