

County: Cumbria

Site Name: Comb Beck

District: Allerdale

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, as amended.

Local Planning Authority: Lake District Special Planning Board

National Grid Reference: NY 182150 **Area:** 0.51 (ha) 1.3 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 90 **1:10,000:** NY 11 NE, SE

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1996 **Date of Last Revision:** –

Other Information:

A Geological Conservation Review (GCR) site.
This site lies within the Lake District National Park.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Comb Beck is a small site in west Cumbria, on the fellside south-west of Buttermere. It is an area of hillside and stream-bed with exposures of a mineral vein up to 2 metres wide.

The Lake District forms a geographically well-defined base-metal orefield. Sulphide mineralisation occurs as vein deposits and is notably diverse in terms of both the nature of the ores and their age.

A quartz vein, up to 2 metres wide, is exposed in the side of a tributary stream of Comb Beck. The vein contains patches of copper and lead mineralisation, mainly in the form of galena, chalcopyrite and minor chalcocite. Traces of pyromorphite are present locally but the most significant mineralogical feature is the presence of well-formed crystals of wulfenite.

This site is one of the very few sites in Britain where wulfenite can be seen *in situ*.