

# HERDWICK

## Naturally Coloured

Established in the UK: 12th century

### ORIGINS

Although believed to have originated in Scandinavia, the Herdwick has developed over centuries on the Lake District fells. 'Herdwyck' means sheep pasture and is recorded in 12th century documents.

### CHARACTERISTICS

Regarded as the most hardy of all British breeds and can survive on the highest ground. White head and legs; the rams are usually horned. The lambs are born with a black fleece and, as the brittle, white 'kemp' fibres increase with age, the mature fleece becomes grey.

### LOCATION

Mostly in the Lake District, but increasingly popular in small flocks across the UK.

### MAIN USES

The naturally coloured wool is used undyed mostly for distinctive carpets and rugs. It is added to blends for insulation material and is also sometimes used for rugged knitwear and cloth.



**Breed Society  
Established:**  
1916

**Handle:**  
Harsh

**Colour:**  
Black/Grey

**Fleece Weight:**  
1.5 - 2 kg

**Staple Length:**  
10 - 20 cm

**Micron Range:**  
35+



**PHOTOS**  
Above: male  
Middle left: male  
Opposite page: female

