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Summary

The desk-based assessment has not identified any heritage assets that could seriously impact upon the development. An undated earthen bank located around Fields 1, 2 and 3 probably relates to post-medieval or 19th century re-organisation of space, possibly associated with enclosure. This feature can in all probability be preserved *in situ*.

Previous archaeological reconnaissance has not raised any archaeological issues and the likelihood remains that the archaeological potential is probably very low.

However, the curatorial authority may advocate a programme of archaeological evaluation in order to test this assertion, perhaps allied to a complementary geo-physical survey that may highlight surviving anomalies with a past cultural origin.

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project origins

As part of a potential housing development (figure 1) at land at Parkside Road, Cleator Moor, Cumbria, (NY 02900 15000) an archaeological desk-based assessment was commissioned by Josie Scrimsgour on behalf of the client, Genesis Homes (North) Ltd. The report attempted to ascertain whether any sensitive past cultural features and archaeological deposits may be extant within the curtilage of the proposed housing development, an area measuring approximately 3.84 hectares (figure 2).



Figure 1. Location of the development. (OS Copyright, Licence no. 100044205)

The scheme will develop a sub-rectangular block of land that has never been used for permanent settlement with the development seeking to provide 104 dwellings at the time the desk-based assessment report was compiled.

The following study revealed no tangible archaeological heritage assets of any merit, the study area being quite possibly archaeologically sterile. The suggestion is therefore, that few extant archaeological remains will be encountered should future development proceed.

The Copeland Plan area contains nearly 600 listed buildings and heritage assets and part of the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site with a Roman fort at Moresby. There are eight conservation areas in the former Borough. The former Council desires that these features are conserved and enhanced where possible and that they contribute to heritage-led regeneration within the main settlements.

Adopted by Cumberland Council the new unitary body, Policy ENV4 sets out the former Council's approach to enhancing the quality of the Borough's built environment and heritage assets. It is linked to the strategic principle in Policy ST1C.

The Council's policy is to maximise the value of the Borough's heritage assets by:

- A Protecting listed buildings, conservation areas and other townscape and rural features considered to be of historic, archaeological or cultural value
- B Supporting proposals for heritage led regeneration, ensuring that any listed buildings or other heritage assets are put to an appropriate, viable and sustainable use
- C Strengthening the distinctive character of the Borough's settlements, through the application of high quality urban design and architecture that respects this character and enhances the settings of listed buildings (Copeland Borough Council 2013, 74)

Policy DM27 (Built Heritage and Archaeology) supports this aim, setting out the Council's approach to development which affects built heritage and archaeology. Its components are as follows:

- A Development proposals which protect, conserve and where possible enhance the historic, cultural and architectural character of the Borough's historic sites and their settings will be supported. This will be particularly relevant in the case of:
 - i) Scheduled Ancient Monuments
 - ii) Conservation Areas
 - iii) Listed Buildings and structures
 - iv) Non-listed buildings and structures or landscape features of local heritage and archaeological value
 - v) Surface and below ground archaeological deposits
- B Development proposals which have a significant adverse effect on a Scheduled Ancient Monument or its wider site or setting will not be permitted
- C Development within Conservation Areas will only be permitted where it preserves or enhances the character or appearance of the area and, where appropriate, views in and out of the area. The Council will pay particular attention to:
 - i) How new development respects the character of existing architecture and any historical associations, landscape features, open spaces, trees, walls and quality of townscape
 - ii) The impact of any proposed works to trees with regard to policy DM28
 - iii) The design of any proposals for new or altered shop fronts and / or signage, which should be an integral part of the design and avoid the use of internally illuminated signage
- D Development which affects Listed Buildings or their setting will only be permitted where it:

- i) Respects the architectural and historic character of the building
 - ii) Avoids any substantial or total demolition, or any demolition that is not related to proposed development affecting the building
 - iii) Does not have a significant adverse effect on the setting or important views of the building
 - iv) Involves a change of use to all or part of the listed building which contributes to the conservation and overall economic viability of the building, and where the use can be implemented without any adverse alterations to the building
- E Any development proposal which is considered to affect an existing or potential site of archaeological importance will be required to be accompanied by an archaeological assessment. Where archaeological deposits are evident, below ground or on the surface, evidence should be recorded and where possible preserved in-situ. Proposals for development where archaeological interest has been established will not be approved until evidence has been provided that the risk of archaeological disturbance has been adequately investigated and has been minimised. Planning permission will not be granted if the impact on potential archaeology is unacceptable.

This policy stresses the twin need to both protect assets of established heritage value and to draw upon that heritage to create places of quality and character. Not all listed structures are buildings. There are listed features such as doorways, piers, lighthouses etc. which, if well maintained, can contribute significantly to a sense of place.

There are also areas of archaeological significance that should be preserved for their potential to provide the enjoyment of discovery and the associated educational value of this, not just for ourselves but for future generations.

The main risk to our heritage assets, especially the many listed buildings is that they fall into disuse, become derelict and have to be demolished. The Council is keen to avoid situations like this and therefore will be supportive of any proposal that can bring a vacant listed building back into use, where that use is viable, sustainable and appropriate to its particular location.

In the context of managing development, the policy approach is to assess the implications of new development on features of historic value, including historic buildings, as part of the planning application process.

The policy covers not only designated heritage assets but those considered to be important by local communities but with no official designation i.e. landmark structures and landscape features. There is no official list of these assets but their existence will become apparent as development proposals are brought forward as part of the application process and local residents comment on these applications. Therefore, it is important that developers making applications are aware of any features in the vicinity of their sites which could be considered to be local landmarks and take account of the impact that their developments might have on these features and their settings. Pre-application advice should be sought on these matters where there is any uncertainty (Copeland Borough Council 2013, 169-170)

Finally, the Council concedes that all heritage assets cannot be preserved and that *preservation in situ* whilst desirable will not be a sustainable response to certain developments. The response to such a situation is that the developer must provide sufficient and adequate resources in order that a record can be assembled that fulfils the heritage protocols set by Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) and agreed before development proceeds by that curatorial body.

1.2 Project design

The subsequent report attempts to evaluate the archaeological potential in advance of proposed development and highlight areas of potential research (figure 2). The document will be presented as part of the outline proposal for planning approval under Section E described above.



Figure 2. Development area. Curtilage in red outline

The impact of development upon the archaeological record is poorly addressed in the Cleator Moor area, as there have been relatively few archaeological interventions suggesting the deposit model is little understood.

All archaeological projects are carried out in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (2023) and the guidelines and recommendations issued by the former Institute of Field Archaeologists (2014) and Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (Historic England 2015).

Research and a walk-over survey took place on November 20th 2023. Archaeological enquiry seeks to obey the heritage commitments of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2023).

1.3 Desk-based assessment sources

The desk-based assessment investigated primary and secondary historical sources, maps and other literature in order to place the survey results into their past cultural, historical and topographic context.

The physical study area was within a 500m radius

The desk-based assessment required a search of five archival repositories:

- Whitehaven Library provided sources for published works including newspaper articles, archaeological and antiquarian reports and trade journals.
- Cumbria Record Office, Carlisle and Whitehaven provided the earliest enclosure and tithe maps for the parish, details of landowners and occupiers and cartographic evidence.
- The Historic Environment Record, Kendal provided the Sites and Monuments Record describing previous archaeological observations of the study area and aerial photographs relevant to the study area.
- British Newspapers Online provided newspaper articles
- Archaeological grey literature on the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).

1.4 Archive

The archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design and the guidelines set out by Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991) and the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994, 2007 and 2014).

The archaeological desk-based assessment will become a public document as part of the planning application on behalf of the client's application.

The archive will be deposited with an appropriate repository and a copy of the report donated to the County Sites and Monuments Record.

A copy of the report will be deposited with the online *Oasis* archaeological database.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location, topography and geology

The study area NY 02900 15000 (figure 1) located at Cleator Moor, lies to the north of the core settlement and exists as open ground used for agricultural grazing. Cleator Moor, historically an industrial town dating from the mid 19th century for the exploitation of iron ore attracted a large migrant Irish population.

The underlying geology of the area around Cleator Moor consists of the Frizington Limestone Formation deposited between 337 and 343 million years ago.

The superficial drift geology consists of clay, silt, sand and gravel. Sedimentary superficial deposits were formed between 118,000 years ago and the present during the Quaternary period.

The local landscape has been categorised as follows:

47. West Cumberland Plain

The West Cumberland Plain is a coastal area, stretching from the Solway Coast AONB in the north, to Egremont in the south. It forms part of both Allerdale and Copeland Districts. It is generally low-lying and coastal in nature, with generally low, eroding cliffs forming the seaward edge. Its dominant character is urban and industrial. It includes a number of large, urban nucleations, such as Maryport, Workington, Whitehaven, Cleator Moor and Egremont. Though industrial towns, there are significant elements within them relating to their origins and early growth.

Both Workington and Egremont are medieval settlements, with Egremont being a still-definable planned borough. Although the area has a long industrial and maritime history, 71% of the settlement post-dates 1900. These developments have largely obscured the planned, medieval, nucleated settlement character that predominated until the 19th century. The industrial nature of the area is not confined to the urban settlements; the coastal strip between Workington and Maryport is dominated particularly by current and past industries.

The field pattern has been much disrupted by modern developments. These include land restorations, for which the modern field pattern bears very little relationship to the historic pattern. Where the historic field pattern can be discerned, within Allerdale District it is a mix of former common arable fields and 19th century planned enclosures.

Designed landscapes are a feature of the area, both within the towns and as part of former country estates. One of the most noticeable is Curwen Park, Workington, which originated as a deer park.

Overall, the area has relatively little woodland.

3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Historical background

Palaeolithic

No early Palaeolithic material has been recovered within Cumbria. The most recent geological period, the Pleistocene, witnessed the movement of massive north-south travelling ice sheets, which successively scoured the landscape during prolonged periods of glaciation.

Pollen samples from the Windermere Inter-stadial suggest that winter conditions were severe with excessive surface water and vegetation establishing itself only during the summer.

Around 13,000 years BP, Late Upper Palaeolithic people returned to Britain, although evidence for this activity extending to northwest England is extremely scarce. However, the discovery of Late Upper Palaeolithic blades near Grange-over-Sands and at Aldingham, on the Furness Peninsula, does not preclude the existence of a Cumbrian Palaeolithic culture.

Penetration into the hinterland did not occur.

Mesolithic

Our understanding of the Mesolithic period is heavily influenced by the exposure of diagnostic material in particular lithic assemblages although palaeo-environmental evidence indicates repeated woodland reduction episodes. Towards the later Mesolithic period there is considerable evidence for occupation on raised beaches. This activity tends to conform to the seasonal model of hunter-gatherers exploiting natural resources but with elements of a managed landscape emerging.

In western Cumbria, late Mesolithic flint scatters have been recovered from the raised beaches of the maximum marine transgression and along cliff tops north of St Bees. It has been suggested that there is little discernible technological difference between the later Mesolithic and early Neolithic assemblage perhaps indicating considerable longevity and a distinctive west Cumbrian tradition.

There is no known Mesolithic occupation in this area.

Neolithic

The early Neolithic period represents the transition from hunter-gatherer societies to sedentary agricultural communities. As societies became established, specific cultural traits emerged; the appearance of ceremonial and funerary landscape monuments and the development of distinctive ceramic styles and lithic forms

In the Late Neolithic, social hierarchies emerge through the intensification and increasing sophistication of settlement, land use and artefact production.

Evidence for settlement in Cumbria is primarily inferred by the distribution of polished stone axes from the Langdale axe factory.

Long distance trade and contact is suggested by the frequent appearance of these axes throughout the British Isles and by the third Millennium BC, the production of these axes was part of a trans-European trading network.

Within the immediate environs of the study area there is no direct evidence for Neolithic settlement or landscape monuments.

Bronze Age

The Bronze Age in the north-west is noted by an increase in land clearance and the beginning of cereal cultivation from approximately 2000 BC. Despite much continuity from the Late Neolithic, the Bronze Age introduces bronze metalwork, changes in pottery styles and burial practice. However, archaeological visibility within Cumbria is poor and very few Bronze Age sites have been discovered in Cumbria, although in coastal, south-west Cumbria the earlier lithic tradition appears to continue into at least the early Bronze Age.

Cist burials appear from the beginning of the second Millennium BC and it is believed that they represent former monuments within a Bronze Age agricultural landscape. Aerial photography on the North Cumbrian Plain, suggests a number of crop-marks may represent barrows within a network of linear ditches forming a *cursus*. However, there is no current evidence to suggest that this practice may have dispersed southwards into this study area.

In north and west Cumbria, clearance of woodland occurred from the third millennium BC but was accompanied by climate deterioration before a second major phase of clearance in the latter half of the first millennium BC (McCarthy 2003, 133).

Within the immediate environs of the study area there is no direct evidence for Bronze Age settlement.

Iron Age

The Iron Age was noted for the introduction of iron tools and weapons, increasing sophistication in pottery production, long-distance trade and the development of social hierarchies from kinships societies to tribal territories based on regional centres.

In Cumbria, the early and mid-Iron Age is poorly represented suggesting a low population threshold (Brennand 2006, 51). In the late Iron Age, there is considerable forest clearance suggesting population stress probably associated with proto-regional tensions between Iron Age tribes.

Iron Age agricultural practices have been discerned at Tarraby Lane, Carlisle in 1976 as a series of field boundaries and cultivation marks (Smith 1978, 21-23) known as cord-rig cultivation but unenclosed settlement appears to leave little trace.

Hillforts and enclosed settlement are largely missing from the archaeological record.

However, at Salterbeck an Iron Age enclosure was identified. The defended settlement 490m north east of Beckstone Bridge is preserved as a crop-mark and a partial earthwork and does contain archaeological deposits relating to its construction, use and abandonment and the environmental deposits relating to the use of the surrounding landscape.

The monument provides insight into the character of fortified settlements during the Iron Age. The monument includes the remains of a defended settlement of Iron Age date forming a protected promontory at the south west end of a ridge. The settlement, which is preserved as a crop-mark and partial earthworks, includes a sub-circular enclosure measuring 54m by 69m, surrounded by partial concentric double ditches and part of a rampart.

This form of settlement is not known in the immediate area.

Roman

The study area may have been part of the eastern fringes of a militarised zone defined as a continuation of the Cumbrian coastal defences (Mann 1989, 75) a further 45 km southwards beyond Maryport to link with the earlier fortlet measuring 0.47 hectares, the late Hadrianic fort at Ravenglass (Potter 1979, 18).

Western and northern Cumbria was a rich agricultural area during the Roman period growing wheat and barley for the nearby military centres and the coastal garrisons. This produced a landscape of rectilinear field systems bounded by ditches, tracks and hedges with intermittent farmsteads.

The typical farmstead was set inside a ditched and embanked enclosure, which varied in plan. Within the enclosure were rectangular and circular plan buildings (suggestive of both native and Roman influence), cobbled yards and some degree of drainage. These farmsteads do not appear to be materially ostentatious reflecting functional use rather than any suggestion of upward social mobility or development.

The Roman settlement at Carlisle is thought to have become the urban capital of the Carvetii, a sub-division of the Brigantian tribal group, and it has been postulated that the Solway Plain may have provided the economic platform necessary for the Carvetii to have been granted a degree of autonomy as the *civitas Carvetiorum* (Shotter 1993, 28).

There is no known Roman settlement in the vicinity of Cleator Moor.

Medieval

Following Roman withdrawal, it is believed that West Cumbria reverted to native autonomy before the Angles began to enter eastern Cumbria during the 7th Century AD followed by Anglo-Saxon, Scandinavian and Scottish incursions up to the 11th Century AD. Although little tangible evidence remains in the form of settlement, place-name evidence perpetuates these successive influences.

During the 12th century the area now known as Cumbria passed from the control of the Kingdom of Strathclyde to the Norman King Henry II. This region was sub-divided into baronies.

There is some evidence for a settlement of some form at Cleator from the 12th century. A manor of Cleator is referred to in 1315. At this time James Douglas did much damage at Egremont and despoiled the church of St Bega and burned the prior of St Bega's manors of Cleator and Stainburne' (Caine 1915, 25).

Post-Medieval and modern

The Cumbria iron ore field lies to the south of Workington, and produced extremely high grade phosphorus-free haematite. West Cumbria had a long tradition of iron smelting, but this became particularly important with the invention by Sir Henry Bessemer of the Bessemer process in 1856, the first process for mass production of mild steel, which previously had been an expensive

specialist product. For the first 25 years of the process, until Gilchrist and Thomas improved upon it, phosphorus-free haematite was required, found locally around Cleator Moor.

With Cumbria as the world's premier source and the local coalfield providing energy for steel production, the world's first large-scale steelworks was opened in the Moss Bay area of Workington in 1872, although there are now no structural remains.

Cleator Moor was sustained by the iron works industry and was served in this capacity by two railways. There were major 19th century iron ore (haematite) mines at Todholes, Crossfield, Crowgarth, Jacktrees and Montreal most of which closed early in the 20th century.

Several iron ore mines and excessive mining caused subsidence within Cleator Moor. Some parts of the town have been subsequently demolished due to undermining in the area, most notably the original Montreal Primary School and the whole of Montreal Street on which it stood.

The Whitehaven, Cleator and Egremont Railway (WC&ER) was the first railway opening for goods traffic in 1855, two years later it received passenger traffic. The WC&ER sold out to the London and North Western Railway in 1878 but when the Furness Railway objected to the sale it too became a partner, thus forming the Furness & London and North Western Joint Railway the following year.

The second railway to serve Cleator Moor was the Cleator & Workington Junction Railway. This new company had a station on the western edge of the town and its double track main line made a junction with the former company at Cleator Moor West Junction.

The Whitehaven, Cleator and Egremont Railway suffered from subsidence which forced it to build two deviation branch lines and stations. In Cleator Moor itself a new line was built curving further northwest than the original, with a new station being opened in 1866 approximately 600 metres further west along Leconfield Street than the original, which became a goods station. The new station was known simply as Cleator Moor, but was renamed Cleator Moor East in 1924.

Subsidence also necessitated a deviation at Eskett. As in Cleator Moor itself, a new line was built to the west of the original Eskett station which was retained as a goods station up to 1931. Yeathouse station was opened on the deviation line as a replacement.

The influx of Irish workers gave the town the nickname *Little Ireland*. World War I and World War II saw a fresh influx of immigrants from mainland Europe to join the settled Irish community.

In 1938, Jakob Spreiregen founded the company Kangol in Cleator, situated across the road from St Mary's Church. The original factory building still stands but empty, since the company ended its association with the town in 2009.

With the decline of traditional industries and the resulting high rate of unemployment, the town's economy is now dependent on the nearby Sellafield nuclear complex.

3.2 Previous archaeological research

Little archaeological reconnaissance has been undertaken in close proximity to the study area. There are no immediate excavated sites within close proximity. The National Monument Record Index

indicated only two entries. Four archaeological projects have been identified, germane to this study listed below.

A geophysical survey at Cleator Mill, Cleator undertaken by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology in 2013 produced no discernible archaeological signature.

The Mission, Wath Brow, Cleator Moor: an historic building survey was undertaken by Jan Walker in 2011 of a Mission Church at Wath Brow prior to conversion to residential use. The chapel was noted to have been constructed in 1881 to replace a Wesleyan Chapel 'situated elsewhere in Cleator Moor' (HER Report Ref: 4/11/2413).

South Egremont Pipeline, Cumbria: an archaeological desk-based assessment and walkover survey was undertaken by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology in 2012 in advance of a proposed new pipeline. In the vicinity of Cleator, the report highlighted the potential impact of the scheme on St Leonard's Church.

A desk-based assessment of Station Yard, Moor Row, Cleator Moor was conducted in 2008 and a desk-based assessment at Jacktrees Road in 2022 by the author.

3.3 Cartographic research

The road from Cleator Moor to Cockermouth does not appear on the 1774 Hodkinson & Donald map.

The First edition Ordnance Survey map of 1867 (figure 3) provides a detailed disposition of agricultural fields in the vicinity with a patchwork of rectangular fields. Settlement was centred along the principal road to Whitehaven but no settlement had accrued along Parkside Road. The study area comprises of four vacant fields partly bounded to the north by a footpath.

The Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1900 (figure 4) depicts the same organisation of space for agricultural use with the footpath adopted as the Urban District boundary. Development has extended eastwards along the Whitehaven road up to the crossroads at Wath which had become a settlement hub.

The Third edition Ordnance Survey map of 1926 (figure 5) depicts the same organisation of space for agricultural use as the first and second editions of the Ordnance Survey. The Urban District boundary was also acknowledged as a Parliamentary boundary. The crossroads at Wath had become an established settlement hub.

The 1946 revision repeats the same original organisation of space for agricultural use as the first, second and third editions of the Ordnance Survey (figure 6). By 1952 there had been widespread remediation of the iron ore pits such as Jacktrees Pit and its accompanying quarries had been infilled with raised areas denoted on mapping as hachures.

This process appears to have been widespread as Montreal and Crossfield pits had also disappeared. There appears to have been the onset of urban sprawl just off the main east-west road to Whitehaven and which continued into the 1960's. Development along the Parkside Road corridor emanates to the later 20th century.

Amalgamation of the two southern fields depicted on all the mapping occurred during the later 20th century

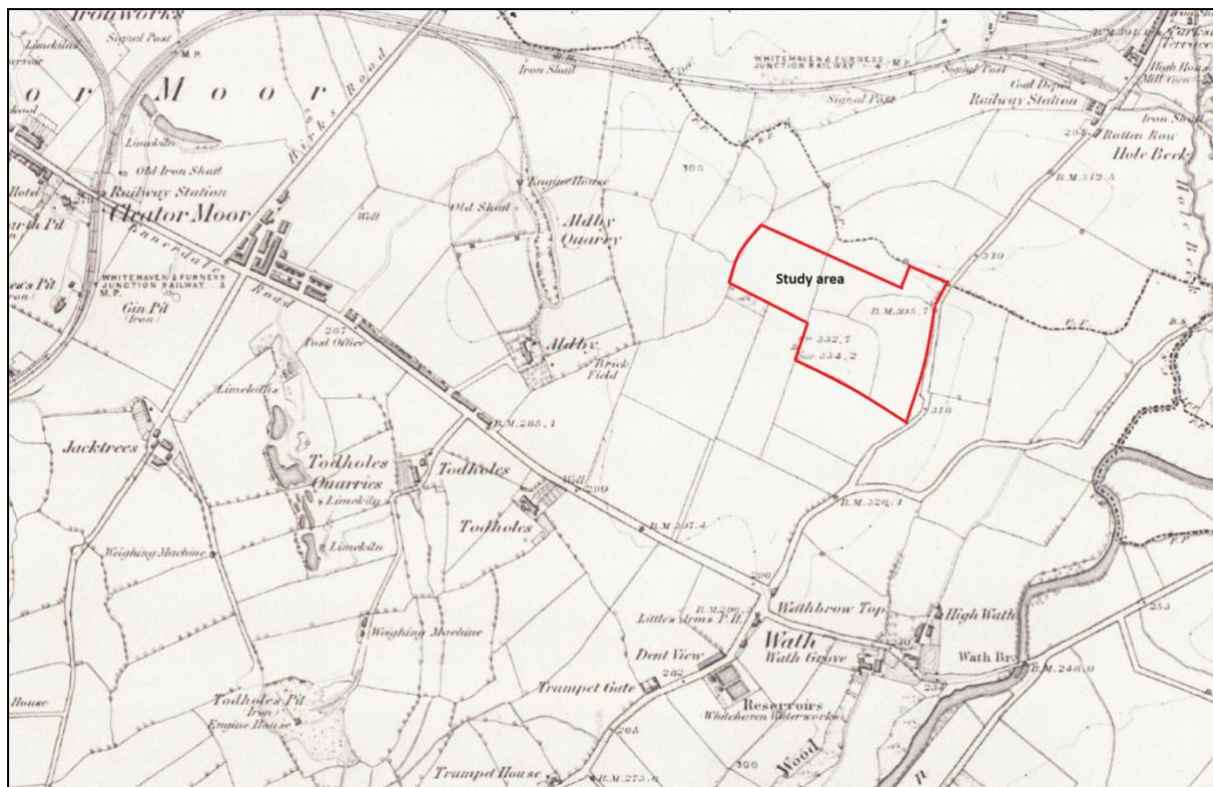


Figure 3. First Edition Ordnance Survey map 1867

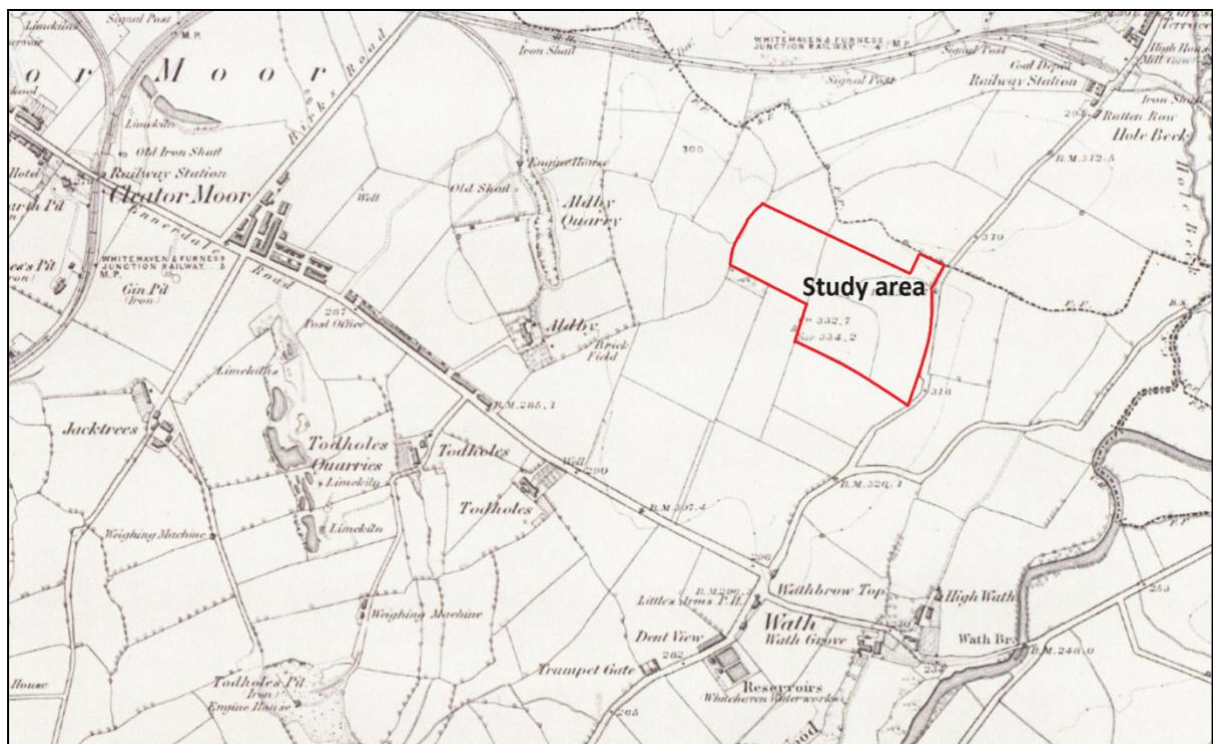


Figure 4. Second Edition Ordnance Survey map 1900

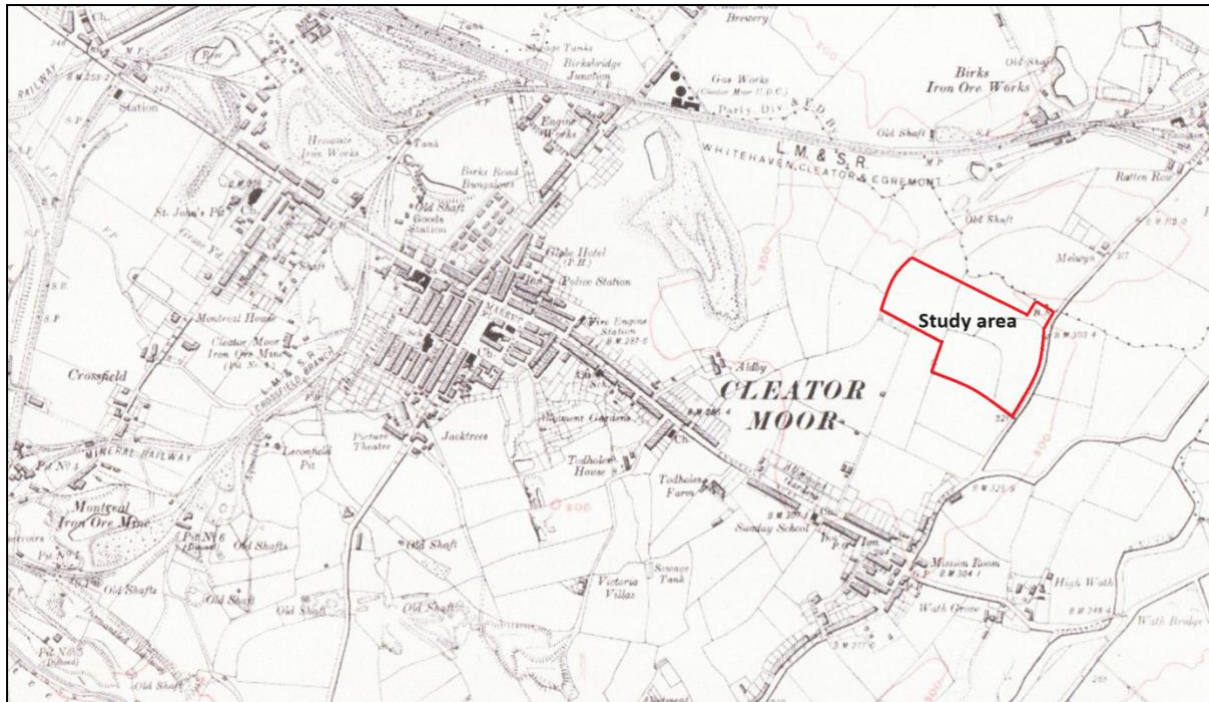


Figure 5. Third Edition Ordnance Survey map 1926

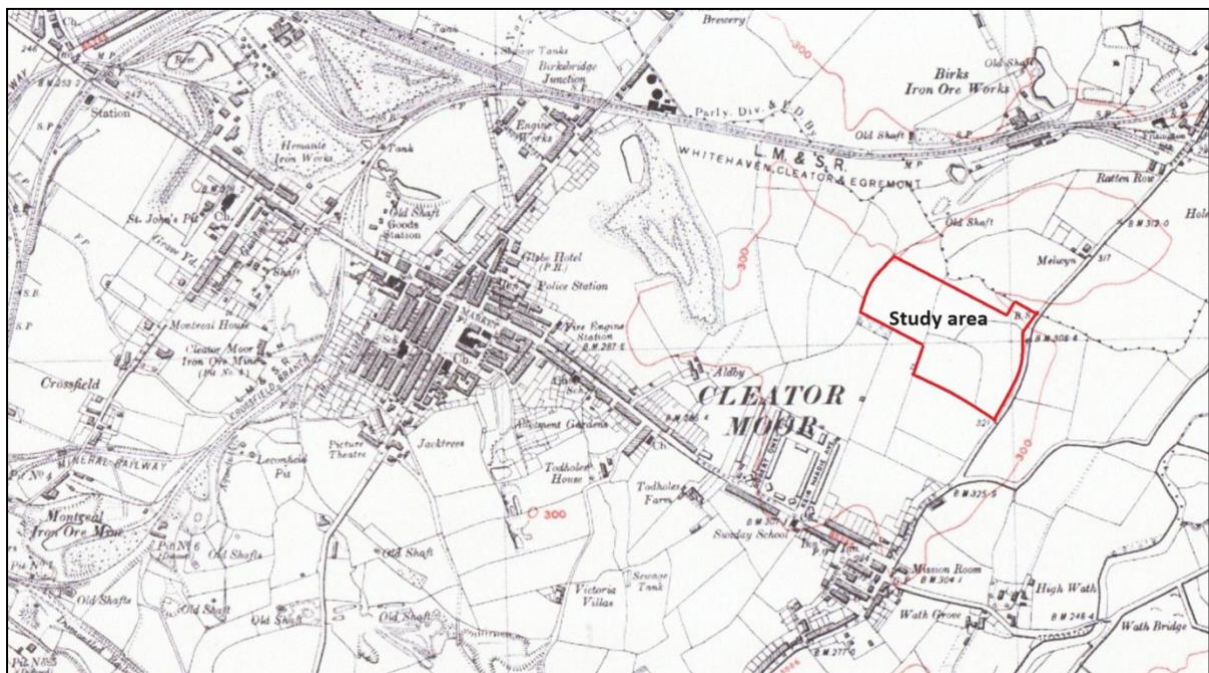


Figure 6. Ordnance Survey map 1946

3.4 Historic Environment Record

Fourteen out of fifteen of the Historic Environment Record entries found within a 500m radius of the study area relate to 19th and 20th century features and therefore of minimal heritage impact (figure 7), although mine workings may intrude into the study area and possess an engineering impact. The heritage assets are largely industrial heritage assets dating to the second half of the 19th century apart from a Methodist chapel (3).

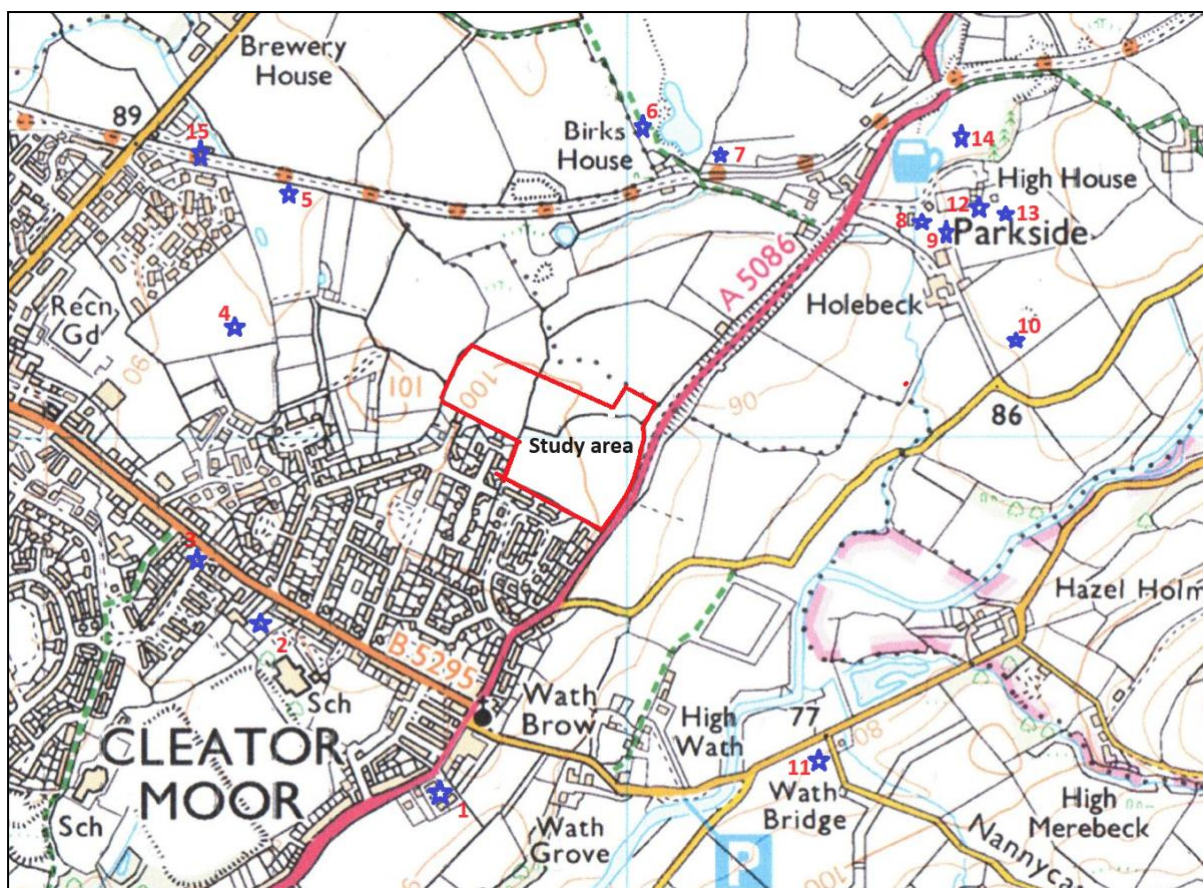


Figure 7. Location of entries in the Historic Environment Record. (OS Copyright, Licence no. 100044205)

The following table (Table A) lists all the entries on the Historic Environment Record found within a minimum 500m radius of the study area (figure 7).

No.	Her No.	Location	Description	Site type	Period	Status
1	12879	Wath Reservoir	Reservoir	Documentary	19 th C	LB II
2	43258	Todholes Farm	Farmstead	Documentary	Post-Medieval	None
3	43256	Ennerdale Road	Methodist chapel	Documentary	19 th C	LB II
4	12380	Aldby Quarry	Quarry	Site of	Unknown	LB II
5	12381	Aldby Iron Mine	Ironstone mine	Documentary	Post-Medieval	LB II
6	12873	Birks Pit/Pit No. 1	Ironstone mine, colliery	Documentary	Post-Medieval	LB II
7	12874	Birks Reservoir	Reservoir	Documentary	Post-Medieval	LB II
8	12378	High House Corn Mill	Mill	Documentary	Post-Medieval	LB II
9	12379	Holebeck Mine, Dalmellington Mine	Mine	Site of	Post-Medieval	None
10	14752	Holebeck No. 6 Pit	Ironstone mine	Documentary	19 th C	None
11	5748	Wath Bridge Mound	Mound	Earthwork	Unknown	
12	41957	High House, Mill House	Farmstead	Documentary	Post-Medieval	None
13	14770	Holebeck No. 3 Pit	Ironstone mine	Site of	19 th C	None
14	12377	High House Iron Mine	Ironstone mine	Documentary	Post-medieval	None
15	43478	Cleator Moor Gas Works	Managers house	Documentary	19 th C	None

Table A. Heritage assets held in the Historic Environment Record

Undated Entry 11 bears the only possible feature bearing antiquity with a possible pre-industrial signature.

No entries on the Cascat website provided relevant archive entries germane to this study, primarily concerned with 20th century domestic planning applications.

3.5 Lidar and aerial photography

Examination of the Lidar data suggested no landscape features were present. Aerial photographic evidence did not highlight any obvious cropmarks.

4 FIELD SURVEY

4.1 Walkover survey

A walkover survey was undertaken on Monday 20th November 2023 in overcast, wet conditions. Access was unimpeded. The site was grassed and the three study fields (figure 2) served as pasture, negating the visibility of any potential past cultural features or artefacts.

The study area was divided into three fields:

1. The largest field was located beside Parkside Road to the east and south field at NY 02921 14976. It was bounded to the east by a modern hawthorn hedge by Parkside Road and bordered Field 3 to the north. The land rose to the west and was marshy to the east.
2. A portion of a western field at NY 02843 15034 that was bounded to the eastern side by an earthen stone bank side with Field 3. The circuit of this bank encompassed the whole field. Land fell westwards and to the north.
3. A minor portion of a large field NY 02893 15085 that was bounded to the north by a steep fall to a former water course and neighbouring Fields 1 and 2 to the south and west.

Field 1

Field 1 was relatively flat, the ground heavy and well-grassed (figure 8).



Figure 8. Field 1 looking north



Figure 9. Bank between Fields 1 and 3

To the north of the field and veering towards Field 2 was an earthen bank approximately 3.00m in width and 1.00m in height containing a stone boulder fill, covered by grass and surmounted by hawthorn and modern stock fencing (figure 9).

A single stone gate stoop entered Field 3 from Field 1 bearing three recesses and 1.70m in height (figure 10).



Figure 10. Gate stoop in Field 1



Figure 11. Field 2 looking west

Field 2

Field 2 was relatively flat, the ground heavy and well-grassed (figure 11) with a fall to the north and west where immature trees provided the boundary. An unusual stone gate stoop provided egress from Field 3 into Field 2. Measuring 1.70m in height, it possessed three raking recesses for the gate (figure 12).



Figure 12. Gate stoop in Field 2



Figure 13. Bank between Fields 2 and 3

A denuded earthen bank covered in grass, approximately 3.00m in width and 1.00m in height separated Fields 2 and 3 (figure 13).

Field 3

Field 3 was undulating, the ground heavy and well-grassed with a steep fall at the edge of the proposed development (figure 14). Wispy hawthorn and stock fencing surmounted a denuded

earthen bank covered in grass with a stone boulder fill, approximately 3.00m in width and 1.00m in height separated Fields 1 and 3 (figure 15).



Figure 14. Field 3 looking east



Figure 15. Bank between Fields 1 and 3

4.2 Sites identified

No sites were identified during the walk-over.

The earthen banks straddling Fields 1, 2 and 3 are likely to be a remnant of post-medieval or early 19th century spatial organisation of agricultural land.

5 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT APPRAISAL

5.1 Buried archaeological potential

The proposed development based on this desk-based assessment and walk-over does not physically impact upon any known archaeological features. The study area was probably unfavourable to past settlement as the ground remains boggy.

The earthen bank on the extremity of Fields 1, 2 and 3 remain undated but could be compatible with post-medieval enclosure of common land.

Other than these landscape feature there appeared to be no obvious heritage assets within the study area bearing any antiquity.

5.2 Palaeo-environmental potential

The paucity of archaeological features suggests that the recovery of any palaeo-environmental evidence of any merit is slim. However, the clay drift geology allied to wet conditions would be favourable to preservation of organic remains in an anaerobic environment.

5.3 Visual impacts

No non-statutory buildings of local importance have settings that can be considered to be negatively impacted by the proposals.

There are no Registered Parks and Gardens within close proximity.

There were no listed buildings in close proximity to the study area.

6 SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

6.1 Discussion

The purpose of the desk-based assessment was to identify past cultural features and heritage assets that may require targeting during a phase of future archaeological fieldwork or a strategy of mitigation in order to preserve the integrity of any identified monument.

The desk-based reconnaissance exercise has not identified any obvious signatures for past cultural activity that could be considered significant.

This survey does not preclude the possibility that sub-surface deposits of a past cultural origin may exist but based on the disposition of the terrain and known environmental conditions the proposed site does appear to be unfavourable.

The effects of quarrying and mining for iron ore may have an engineering impact on the development as these activities were undertaken approximately 500 metres to the north at High House.

The possible presence of former mine workings may have a significant impact on the feasibility for the future course of the project.

It is likely a programme of archaeological evaluation will be requested in order to ascertain whether the study area can be deemed archaeologically sterile and therefore provide no heritage impediment for future development.

In terms of Magnitude of Impact, this study area based on current knowledge can be designated as minor to no change.

6.2 Future work

Recommendation for future archaeological work is solely within the gift of the planning authority, now Cumberland Council. However, it is probable that an archaeological evaluation would be requested to test for past cultural activity.

Industry standards recommend a 5% sample of investigative trenching in order to identify past cultural activity. Based on a study area encompassing 3.84 hectares this would amount to 1,920 sqm or 1200 metres of trenching based on a 1.60m wide toothless bucket. Using a 30m length of trenching, this totals 40 evaluation trenches.

To avoid unnecessary excavation, the amount of trenches could be reduced to sixteen (based on a 2% sample) if a prior geophysical survey was undertaken and those trenches targeted any geophysical anomalies arising.

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