



COUNTY COUNCIL

EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY



Archaeological Assessment Report

EGREMONT



ENGLISH HERITAGE

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 English Heritage has initiated a national series of Extensive Urban Surveys. Several counties have commenced such projects, funded by English Heritage, including Cumbria County Council that is undertaking the survey of the small towns of Cumbria. The survey is intended to provide a current view of the archaeological resource in each of the towns building on earlier surveys and consists of three phases: Data Collection, Data Assessment and Strategy. The first stage, Data Collection, draws together the accessible history of the town, the archaeological knowledge and historic buildings data. The second phase, Data Assessment, leads to the production of a report which presents a brief history of the town, (this document is not intended as a definitive history), an analysis of the plan of the town, an assessment of the archaeological and historic buildings data, and an assessment of the impact recent development on archaeological deposits. This information informs the third phase of the survey and allows for the identification of areas of archaeological importance to be discussed in the Strategy Report.
- 1.2 The results of the survey are available in hard copy and as a digital database held by Cumbria County Council.
- 1.3 The project study area is the historic urban core of each town as defined by the extent of the built settlement as shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (OS) Map (Map A).
- 1.4 The primary sources consulted in the preparation of this report include the Ordnance Survey (OS) first edition maps and early plans held at Cumbria Record Office, Carlisle. Other documentary evidence, mostly secondary sources, were consulted at the Cumbria Record Office, Kendal and at local libraries. The Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) held at County Offices, Kendal was also used. A number of secondary sources were consulted when writing the historical overview of the town. In particular, Angus Winchester's detailed survey of Egremont in Winchester, AJL, 1979, *Cumbrian Towns Survey*, Cumbria County Council (unpublished) was of great help and much of sections 3.4 and 3.5 are based on this work.
- 1.5 New information is being added to the Sites and Monuments Record all the time. This study should therefore only be taken as a point-in-time exercise, the SMR should always be consulted for the most recent data for any query.

2. LOCATION & GEOLOGY

2.1 Location

2.1.1. Egremont is situated 4 kilometres south east of Whitehaven in the west of Cumbria.

2.1.2. Egremont lies within Copeland District.

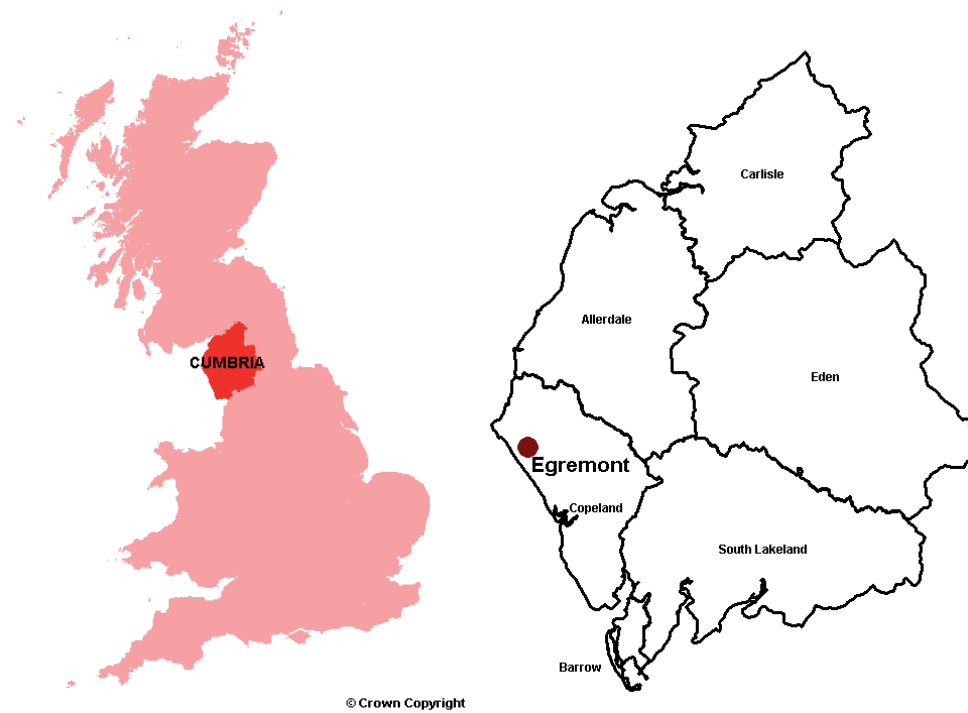


Figure 1. Location of Egremont

2.2 Geology

2.2.1. The underlying solid geology of the area consists of 300m thick Triassic St Bees sandstone, overlying shales and evaporites (Taylor et al, 1971).

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK UNDERTAKEN IN EGREMONT (Map B)

3.1 Event 9.01: 6-10 Main Street

- 3.1.1. A small scale excavation was undertaken on the site of 6-10 Main Street, Egremont in 1983 by Cumbria and Lancashire Archaeological Unit in advance of redevelopment (Newman, 1988). The excavation revealed that the buildings demolished on the site were probably those shown on the tithe map. They were 19th century houses and lay on a bank of natural gravel with only shallow foundation trenches cutting it. Some floors were composed of paved or cobbled areas that had survived within the houses. The evidence for pre-19th century occupation was sparse. Newman concluded that 19th century developments on Main Street would have destroyed most earlier occupation levels.

3.2 Event 9.02: Egremont Castle

- 3.2.1. Percival Turnbull and Deborah Walsh undertook archaeological work at Egremont Castle in 1991 (Turnbull et al, 1994). The excavation was undertaken in order to establish specific points about the history and the layout of the castle and to investigate the extent of the preservation of below surface features and deposits. It was established that the archaeological deposits within the bailey and on the surface of the motte had been extensively disturbed, apparently during the reorganisation of the castle as a public amenity at the end of the 19th century, although the masonry features had been left intact. Virtually none of the deposits excavated could be considered as an intact medieval feature.

3.3 Event 9.03: Gully Flatts

- 3.3.1. An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Gully Flatts by the Lancaster University Archaeological Unit prior to the development of the site (LUAU, 1993). A topographic survey, geophysical survey and trial excavations were carried out in March 1993. On the evidence provided by this work LUAU concluded that the site contained two platforms, perhaps for structures. The nature of settlement in an urban context would generally be expected to take the form of burgage plots, on the street frontage. In such a context these features could be interpreted as platforms for outbuildings, rather than for principal houses. A medieval date could not be assigned to any of the features on the site.

3.4 Event 9.04: Queens Drive

- 3.4.1. An archaeological evaluation was undertaken near Queens Drive in Egremont, prior to development of the site (LUAU, 1994). It was concluded from the trial excavations that there were no significant archaeological remains on that plot. The site had been cultivated in the past resulting in featureless pasture.

4. THE HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

4.1 Placename evidence

- 4.1.1. The place-name Egremont first appears during the Norman period, and is derived from the Latin *acri mons* or the French *aigre mont*, meaning ‘sharp –pointed hill’ or alternatively ‘hill beside the [river] Ehen’, since the Latin for Ehen in the *Register of St Bees* is *Egre* (Armstrong et al, 1977).

4.2 Prehistoric Period

Key Points

- ❖ Some evidence of prehistoric activity in the vicinity of Egremont

Core and Outlying Settlement

- 4.2.1. The Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) contains the site of a (now destroyed) prehistoric stone circle (SMR 1198). This may be the same as the site of a tumulus and a circle of ten large stones as described by Hutchinson in 1794 (Read, 1999). The circle was known as ‘Ringland Stones’ now ‘Ringing Stones’.

4.3 Roman Period

Key Points

- ❖ Little evidence of Roman activity in the vicinity of Egremont.

Core and Outlying Settlement

- 4.3.1. A Roman coin of Antoninus Pious was found in the vicinity of Egremont (SMR 4620).

4.4 Early Medieval Period

Key Points

- ❖ The Barony of Copeland, including Egremont, was a territorial unit before the Norman Conquest.
- ❖ Some evidence of pre-Norman settlements at Coulderton and Thirnby, near Egremont.

Core and Outlying Settlement

4.4.1. **Early Territorial Unit:** The Barony of Copeland, of which Egremont was the *caput* (administrative centre) from the 12th century, would seem to be an early territorial unit whose integrity as a single lordship may reach back many centuries before the Norman Conquest (Winchester, 1979). The evidence for suggesting the antiquity of Copeland as a unit may be summarised as follows:

- a. At the *Quo Warranto* pleadings in 1291 the royal prerogatives claimed by the lords of Copeland (rather than the Crown) are stated to have been held since the time of the Conquest, therefore Winchester suggests that the Norman lord took over the powers of his pre-Norman predecessor.
- b. The peace-keeping system described in 12th and 13th century sources concerning Copeland, in which itinerant “sergeants of the peace” patrolled the liberty, has close parallels in medieval Wales, hinting perhaps at Celtic, i.e. pre-Norman, origins.
- c. The tenurial structure of the area, in which all land was held by the lord of Copeland, bears close similarities to ancient Welsh landholding patterns.

4.4.2. Winchester has attempted to identify areas in which a pre-urban (or pre-Norman) settlement might be sought and has concluded:

- a. the ancient church of St Bees and the names of the adjacent territories of “Kirkby Begock” (church town of St Bees) and Preston (“the priest’s settlement”) point to the existence of an early ecclesiastical focus in this area. The “mother church” of St Bees was founded by a pre-Norman lord of Copeland who is likely to have placed it near his hall and court.
- b. a concentration of demesne land at Egremont and nearby Coulderton, and their communities of bond tenants, can be interpreted as the survival of an early feature of land tenure. It represents a core of land under the control of the pre-Norman lord of Copeland, probably lying in the vicinity of his hall and court. Finally, the position of this settlement focus along the lower reaches of the River Ehen, is probably significant, placing it on the boundary between the two patrols of the sergeants of the peace.

4.4.3. **Pre Norman seats:** The area of Coulderton is of particular interest as Winchester (ibid.) believes that it may be the site of an early manor house, subsequently superseded by the castle at Egremont. The evidence is, however, slight. Additionally, Thirnby is a name that apparently refers to a lost settlement on the land immediately north of the borough of Egremont and may have been a pre-urban community, which was subsumed on the foundation of the town.

4.5 Medieval Period

Key Points

- ❖ Norman feudal seat of power established at Egremont
- ❖ Egremont Castle founded c.1125
- ❖ Market Charter granted in 1267
- ❖ Grants of burgages made from c.1200, a period of town expansion
- ❖ Agricultural bias in burgage grants
- ❖ Decline in the 14th century, possibly connected with the Scottish raids and sheep murrain

Core and Outlying Settlement

4.5.1. The foundation of an urban community at Egremont is closely associated with the establishment of a feudal seat of power by the Normans. Although Egremont did not receive a royal market charter until 1267, grants of land and privileges to a community of burgesses by Richard de Lucy, Lord of the Barony of Copeland in c.1200, push the origins of the town back to the end of the 12th century. The grants by Richard de Lucy are contained in two charters both dating from c.1200. The first is a foundation charter, which is unusually strong in its emphasis on agricultural duties. One phrase of the charter, that “if a burgess shall not build his burgage within the time allotted to him, namely within a year, he shall forfeit 12d”, implies that the town was being expanded, if not completely laid out anew, at this date. The second charter of Richard de Lucy granted to the burgesses the blocks of land known as Bridco and Ulcoats, which form the northern section of the parish of St John Beckermest to the east of the town. The grant was to provide the new borough with reserves of agricultural land. To ensure its continuing use as farmland, a clause forbade the erection of dwellings other than sheilings (temporary summer dwellings) (Winchester, 1979). The Egremont burgesses were the only ones in England known to be liable for agricultural services, which are specified in considerable detail. They had to provide twelve armed men in time of war to defend the castle for forty days at their own expense. They were also liable to be summoned by the lord for certain duties (Hall, 1977). Both charters suggest that a new urban community was being founded in Egremont in the years around 1200. However, it seems that the establishment of the castle and chapel at Egremont predate the town’s foundation charters by several decades. Winchester believes, therefore, that there was a pre-urban settlement at Egremont (Winchester, 1979).

4.5.2. The urban development of Egremont c.1300-1600 is difficult to discern from the available documentary sources and matters complicated by the partition of the Barony between the three co-heiresses of John de Multon in 1338. However, an overall impression is given from the documents drawn up after the death of John de Multon in 1334 and, subsequently, at the partition of his estates in 1338 (ibid.). The inquisition taken at the death of John de Multon (1334) lists the following elements of the town:

- i. **The Castle:** with a plot called the ‘Applegarth’, a dovecote, the park below the castle, various fisheries, and 194 acres of demesne land and 47.5 acres of demesne meadow around Egremont.
- ii. **Burgages:** the burgages included 82 free tenants by charter holding 138 burgages. Winchester (1979) estimates that the whole town probably contained about 129 burgages at this time.

- iii. **Waste places:** the inquisition contains possible evidence of urban decay in 1334. It lists six waste places and a further eight “waste places called Burgages” also not built upon. The area seems to have suffered severely during the early 14th century. Scots raids contributed to this slump, but the widespread outbreak of sheep murrain in 1340 could also be a cause of poverty.
 - iv. **Markets and mills:** a weekly market and an annual fair were held in the town and there was a water mill, a fulling mill and two smithies. The town’s market served a wide area of the West Cumberland coast between Workington and Ravenglass. The town’s industries appear to have been based in the processing of local animal products.
- 4.5.3. By 1578, two thirds of the town had passed to the Earl of Northumberland and therefore the town is described in the survey of the Earl’s estates in Cumberland commissioned in that year. The description of the town in the 1578 survey appears to coincide closely with the patterns of streets and building lines shown on the first edition OS map of the town. However, the total number of burgages in 1578 (101) is considerably smaller than that given in the 1334 Inquisition. It is possible that Egremont suffered shrinkage in the 14th century.
- 4.5.4. **Identification of the Medieval Core:** Winchester found that with the exception of some small customary properties in the vicinity of the castle, all buildings in Main Street, Market Place and South Street are found to be burgages. Other plots were granted alongside the main road to St Bees. These were ‘Herered Lane’, now known as ‘Brewery Lane’, ‘Herrie Reed Land and Haggot End’, now respectively ‘Bookwell Road and Hagget End’. Detached burgage plots at ‘Town Head’, ‘Orgill’ and along ‘Old Walls’, now thought to be at ‘Bridge End’ were also granted. Rights and privileges attached to each burgage induced people to take up plots and build on them (Read, 1999). Winchester confirms this with evidence from the borough’s court leet verdicts of the later 17th century. Here he found references to two burgages at Orgill in 1687, at Steel Croft in 1696 and at Bowkwell House in 1717, suggesting that the medieval town may have formerly extended further west along St Bridget’s Lane and Grove Road Winchester, 1979). It could be argued, therefore, that the built up area of the 19th century town is considerably smaller than the plan of the medieval town at its greatest extent. Unfortunately, any evidence for a former extension of the town, especially in the Hagget End area, will probably have been destroyed by the construction of the Castle Croft housing estate.
- 4.5.5. **Egremont Castle:** The Castle (SMR 3051) appears to have fallen into disuse after the partition of the estate on the death of John de Multon in 1334. It was inhabited in 1318 when provisions for the castle household were brought from Ireland (Winchester, 1979). It is a motte and bailey with substantial masonry remains formed from the summit of steeply scarped hill. It comprises a circular motte at the higher north end of the hill with a rectangular shaped walled inner bailey to the south. The summit of the motte formerly carried a circular keep built c.1200. A considerable portion of the keep remained in 1816 and parts survived until c.1860, but except for a piece of fallen masonry on the motte’s northern side, it has since disappeared. The castle was probably founded in the 12th century by William le Meschin, brother of Ranulf, who was granted most of Cumberland in 1093. In 1138 the castle withstood a Scottish attack. When surveyed in 1578 it was described as ‘now almost ruined and decayed save that some part of the old stone work and walls thereof are yet standing and one chamber therein ... in like ruin and decay’(Jackson, 1990). In May 1922 ancient stonework was discovered at two sites. The first find occurred in the demolition of the old tannery near Bookwell, prior to the erection of a cinema. A wall was discovered which had been part of the tannery buildings. The old containing wall of the castle formerly enclosed a larger area than at present. Caine suggests that the walls found in the former tannery site may have been part of the original town gate from the castle (1923). He also found evidence of a tower or bastion some way from the walls of the gate (ibid.). A particular feature of Egremont Castle is the herringbone brick or stone work which is found in the foundations or lower courses of the wall. In the castle there is an exceptionally large amount of such stonework in the curtain wall and in the lower portion of the gatehouse, where there is no call for ornamentation, but just where it was thought necessary to widen out the bailey to the very edge of the steep escarpment (Curwen, 1928).

- 4.5.6. **St Mary and St Michael's Church:** The present structure dates back to 1881 but incorporates fragments from its predecessor. The earlier church was drawn and described prior to demolition and contained Norman and early English workmanship, confirming that this was the site of the town's medieval parish church (Winchester, 1979). The first chapel, constructed in 1122 by William de Meschines, is said to have been built to save the lord the journey to the abbey at St Bees. It was within the parish of St Bees, and therefore termed a 'chapelry' of St Bees priory. In 1292 it became a parish church paying a fee to St Bees. The chapel was functional and possibly only used by the castle, from where a pathway led from the eastern gate by way of Church Went. Church Went in later years became known as Hatters Lane leading from Skitterbeck to South Street and across into Church Street (Read, 1999).
- 4.5.7. **Chapel:** At the partition of 1338, the Lucy heiress received 10 acres of demesne land 'in Williamfield on the east, towards the chapel'. The site of this otherwise unrecorded chapel is probably preserved in the field name Chapel Close (now allotment gardens at Brisco Mount) which lies to the east of the block of fields named William field (Winchester, 1979).
- 4.5.8. **The Park:** The date of enclosure of the park is not known, the earliest reference to it being in 1294. It was divided into three at the partition of the estate in 1338 and the boundaries between the three shares survive today in the two dominant field boundaries that run west to east across the park (Winchester, 1979).
- 4.5.9. **Brisco:** Brisco (that part of the parish of St John Beckermeth north of the road from Egremont to Wilton) was granted to the burgesses of Egremont in c.1200. Clauses forbidding the erection of dwellings other than sheilings but allowing the burgesses to assart and cultivate land within the area were granted. The grant of c.1200 specified that the burgesses might place their shielings "near the bounds of Suntun between Milnebeck and the Ehen", from which it may be assumed that evidence of medieval shielings may be found in that area. It is unclear what earlier archaeological sites may come to light in Brisco. The clause allowing the burgesses to assart the land there and the name itself (the wood of the Britons) perhaps suggesting that it remained as a block of late surviving woodland until the 12th century (Winchester, 1979).
- 4.5.10. **Egremont and Lowside Quarter Parishes:** most of the land within the ancient enclosures to the north and west of Egremont falls under two headings, former demesne land and the land of scattered holdings around the periphery of Egremont parish (Winchester, 1979).

4.6 Post-medieval and Industrial Period

Key Points

- ❖ Milling an important part of the town's industrial development
- ❖ Iron ore mining increasingly important in the post-medieval period

Core and Outlying Settlements

4.6.1. **Mills.** The first edition OS plans (1861) mark a total of seven water mills on the banks of the Ehen in the immediate vicinity of Egremont. In 1334 there were two mills in the town, one for corn the other a fulling mill and it is very probable that both would have been established in the previous century. But, by the time of the 1578 survey the only mill referred to in the town was the 'New Mill'. It is extremely difficult to relate these scattered early references to the sites shown on the OS plan (Winchester, 1979).

- a. **Brisco Mill:** the absence of this mill from Hodkinson and Donald's Map of Cumberland of 1774, and from the plan of Brisco of 1750, confirms that it is a comparatively recent mill site almost certainly dating from after the enclosure of the waste of Brisco in 1783. However, there is evidence to suggest that there might have been a medieval mill in the vicinity of Brisco Mill.
- b. **High Mill:** this mill is not marked on a plan of Egremont and Low Brisco of c.1760 but is shown on Hodginson and Donald's map of 1774. Its erection no doubt occurred as a result of petition to build a fulling mill on the site in c.1760. The plan accompanying the petition marks a place 'where there is some remains of an old race', suggesting that an earlier mill might have stood in the vicinity of the later High Mill .
- c. **Flint Mill:** is not marked on Hodginson and Donald's map (1774). However, a small mill of some description might have existed in the mid-18th century as the plan of the town and Low Brisco in c.1760 shows two buildings beside the 'Lord's Mill Race' in the vicinity of the later Flint Mill.
- d. **Great Mill:** this was the town's corn mill, leased from the lords of the manor during the 17th and 18th centuries. The present structure dates from 1855 and was converted into residential use in 1979.
- e. **Fulling Mill:** this is marked as a tannery on the OS first edition, but as a fulling mill in a plan of the town and Low Brisco in c.1760.
- f. **Little Mill:** This is marked on plan of Brisco, 1750, as 'Stainton's Mill'.
- g. **Bleach Green and Paper Mill:** These mills are marked as two paper mills on Hodginson and Donald's 1774 map. The origin of Bleach Green mill has not been traced but the Paper Mill on the Ehen near New house was in existence by 1755 when it is described as 'lately erected' by the lessor.
- h. **Greenykes Mill:** The Borough Court on Oct 15, 1759 heard an application to grant 20 yards by 7 yards of waste land at the south-east end of John Benson's dyers fulling mill, in order to build a mill for the beating of hemp and flax and a 'Booking-house (Read, 1999).
- i. **Ennerdale Mill:** This mill came into existence after February 1760 when the Borough Court granted to Thomas Pool and John Ponsonby a rood of land known as 'Low

Common'. They had permission to erect a mill or mills and any other buildings and conveniences for the carrying on the business of making paper, with the right to make a weir on the River Ehen (Read, 1999).

- 4.6.2. **Other placename evidence.** Gibbet Holme is the possible site of the town gallows. Skeletons have been found in the vicinity (Jefferson, 1842 cited in Winchester, 1979). Viver Meadow is a name derived from the Latin 'vivarium' meaning fish pond and may record the site of the fishpond near the castle (Winchester, 1979). Stonehouse Garth is a burgage property which may have been the site of an early 'stone house', a term associated with bastle houses in North East Cumberland in the early 17th century (Read, 1999).
- 4.6.3. **Iron-ore mines in Egremont.** The earliest record of an iron-ore mine in Egremont dates back to the 11th century. A mine was given to the monks of Holme Cultram Abbey by William le Gros, Duke of Albemarle. Small amounts of surface iron-ore were used in local bloomeries and most likely obtained from sources near to Bigrigg at the very early part of the 11th century (Read, 1999). However, the commercial mining of iron-ore within the town boundaries did not really begin until the 1600s. During the years of the Civil War (1642-1649), iron-ore was in great demand for making weaponry. There was then a period of inactivity in the mines until the Jacobite rising in 1745 again saw the need for iron. In 1750 ore was shipped to Wales from the mine at Bigrigg. In the 18th and 19th centuries mines were being sunk on the Gillfoot estate, at North Road adjacent to Woodgate Terrace, and the cemetery, others alongside the river Ehen near High Mill and, nearer the town, behind the Cat Inn (ibid).
- 4.6.4. **Iron-ore mines in local area.** Egremont grew rapidly in consequence of local iron mining in the mid-19th century. Most of the mining in this period was at Bigrigg and Moor Row, the former locality having supplied haematite to the Carron Company in the 18th century. The industry persisted at the Florence and Ullcoats mines, which closed in 1968, although there are extensive pit head remains. The housing for miners at both Bigrigg and Moor Row exemplified mid-Victorian housing of this type, with their long rows retaining a touch of the vernacular style (Marshall, 1977).
- 4.6.5. **Florence Mine and Ullcoats Mine.** Florence mine is now a Mine Heritage site. The extracted ore was originally used in the production of pig iron that was then made into steel. As new technologies took over in the production of steel, the iron ore began to be used to extract carbon from castings, and in the manufacture of pigments for paint and cosmetics (www.btinternet.com/~lake.district/wc/florence.htm, 2000). At the beginning of the 20th century prospecting interest was spreading to the area south of Egremont with the Millom and Askam Hematite Iron Company sinking a shaft at Ullbank near Beckermet (Myers, 1993).
- 4.6.6. **Tanneries.** In 1710 Isaac Pearson was granted a plot of land by the Borough Council to build a tannery. This was on condition that he build it at the foot of Beekwll, a stone bridge over the recently diverted 'skitterbeck'. This was the town's first tannery. Thomas Nicholson built a tannery at Bookwell, on land that had formerly been part of the castle grounds. The tannery closed in 1911. A third yard was built in 1750 by William Benson on waste ground at Bridge End. The fourth tannery, named 'Woodgate', at the far end of North Road was built by the Towerson family (Read, 1999).
- 4.6.7. **Quarrying.** With the huge amounts of iron-ore mined in the latter part of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, there grew a great demand for limestone that was used in the process of smelting. The Clintz area to the north of the town was a prime location for quarrying and limestone was quarried and transported to various furnaces. The quarry closed in 1929 (Read, 1999).
- 4.6.8. **St Mary and St Michael's Church.** The present large church of 1880-1 designed by T Lewis Banks incorporates fragments of the medieval church in the transept arches and the shafted lancets of the chancel. The west doorway has been re-erected in the churchyard and near it are sculpture fragments. Excavations in 1881 revealed footings of the Norman church and showed

that the 13th century chancel had a contemporary north chapel (Slater, 1998).

4.6.9. **Methodist Church.** One of the first Methodist chapels was built on Main Street in 1821, and used until 1876. This chapel was first sold to the Primrose League (Conservative Club) and is now the Royal British Legion Club. Another small chapel was built in Church Street in 1839 and later became a blacksmiths'. In North Road the Primitive Methodists built a chapel in 1839 and continued to use this until the Methodists reunited in 1932. This building is now the Rugby League Club rooms. The United Methodists built a new Church at Bookwell in 1892. After moving from the small premises at Church Street, they continued to worship there until 1964. This building is now the Kenlis Lodge of Freemasons. The Methodist Chapel on Main Street was designed by Thomas Lewis Banks and opened in 1876. The Sunday School behind the church was built in 1877 (Read, 1999).

4.6.10. **Roman Catholic Church.** In 1868 when a small house in Rafferty Street was used both for worship and education. Rafferty Street was one of the small sandstone built terraces of cottages off Woodgate Terrace (North Road), built to house immigrant Irish labourers who worked in the iron-ore mines around Egremont. In 1872 the Roman Catholic community erected, in Brewery Lane, a new school, and the Presbytery was built nearby in 1878. The new church was built in 1960 (Read, 1999).

5. THE TOPOGRAPHY OF EGREMONT

5.1 Introduction

Each of the identified components has been given a unique reference number that relates to the associated map. For example the reference number 9.001 is comprised of a town code (9 for Egremont) and a unique number, (.001 for the Castle). See Appendix A for a list of all components.

5.2 Medieval Components (Map C)

5.2.1. Castle

Component 9.001

The castle was founded on its present site by c.1125, by William le Meschin. In 1138 the Castle withstood a Scottish attack. The castle appears to have fallen into disuse after the partition of the estate on the death of John de Multon in 1334. The castle comprised a circular motte at the higher north end of the hill with a rectangular shaped walled inner bailey to the south. The summit of the motte formerly carried a circular keep built c.1200.

Component 9.006

This area is thought to have comprised part of the castle park during the medieval period.

5.2.2. Church

Component 9.002

Although, the present structure dates from 1881, it incorporates fragments from its predecessor. The earlier church was drawn and described prior to demolition and contained Norman and early English workmanship, confirming that this was the site of the town's medieval parish church. The first chapel was built in 1122 and termed a 'chapelry'. In 1292, it became a parish church by paying a fee to St Bees of 22 shillings per year. Excavations in 1881 revealed footings of the Norman church and showed that the 13th century chancel had a contemporary north chapel.

5.2.3. Tenements

Components 9.003, 9.004, 9.005, 9.007, 9.008, 9.009, 9.010

Documentary evidence suggests that all these components were areas of burgage property that formed the new urban community founded c.1200. During demolition works in May 1922 ancient stonework was uncovered in Component 9.005, suggesting that the castle may have formerly enclosed a larger area than at present and extended into this area.

5.2.4. Market Place

Component 9.011

A market charter was granted in 1267. A weekly market and an annual fair were held in the town.

5.2.5. Road Network

Component 9.012

The road network may have remained almost unchanged from the medieval period.

5.3 Post-medieval Components (Map D)

5.3.1. Castle

Component 9.013

The castle appears to have fallen into disuse after the partition of the estate on the death of John de Multon in 1334. When surveyed in 1578, it was in a ruinous condition. A considerable portion of the keep was visible in 1816 and parts survived until c.1860 since when it has disappeared.

5.3.2. Church

Component 9.014

The present structure dates back to 1881 but incorporates fragments from its predecessor in the chancel side lancets and in the transept arches (Pevsner, 1967).

5.3.3. Tenements

Components 9.015, 9.016, 9.020

All the identified medieval tenement plot components remained in use in the post-medieval period. Although documentary evidence suggests that some of the tenement plots went out of use in the post-medieval period, the location of these plots is uncertain.

5.3.4. Tenements/Industrial

Components 9.017, 9.019, 9.021, 9.022, 9.026, 9.027, 9.028, 9.029

Component no (9.017, 9.026). The 1st edition OS map of 1861 reveals that Greendikes Flax Mill was on the site of the present 1-7 Green Dykes. The mill was constructed in the late 18th century, following a petition in 1759 for the construction of a hemp and flax mill on wasteland in this area. There was also a tannery on the site of Castle Cinema constructed in the 18th century on land that had been formerly part of the castle grounds. The tannery closed in 1911.

Bridge End (9.019, 9.027). Area of tenement plots. A tannery was constructed in this area in 1750. A plan of 1761 (D/Lec Egremont plan 2.65) shows this tannery and also a Fulling Mill

and a bleach yard. The plan also shows 'a piece of wast ground called Old Walls', Bridge End Park is on the site of this field.

Church Street/ South Street (9.021, 9.028). Area of tenement plots. 'Great Mill' was located by the bridge and was the town's corn mill, leased from the lords of the manor during the 17th and 18th centuries. It is likely to be the 'New Mill' mentioned in the 1578 Survey, but whether Great Mill was built on the site of the town's medieval mill is not known. The present structure dates from 1855 and was converted into residential use in 1979.

Townhead (9.022, 9.029). Area of tenement plots. A tannery, named 'Woodgate' was constructed at the far end of North Road by the Towerson family in the 18th century.

5.3.5. Industrial

Component 9.018

The second edition map of 1899 shows buildings in this area called 'Pitts'. It would seem likely that these buildings were industrial, although their exact nature is uncertain.

5.3.6. Market Place

Component 9.023

All the medieval market places continued in use during the post-medieval period.

5.3.7. Road Network

Component 9.024

The road network remained unchanged in the post-medieval period.

5.3.8. Railway Station

Component number: 9.025

The railway station is shown on the 1st edition OS map of 1862.

6. RECENT DEVELOPMENT (Map E)

Recent development is defined as development that has taken place since 1945.

There has been extensive development in the historic core of Egremont since 1945. This development was for residential, industrial, commercial and educational purposes and would have destroyed seriously compromised the survival of any archaeological deposits.

7. LISTED BUILDINGS (Map F and Appendix C)

The Listed Buildings in Egremont date mainly to the 18th and 19th century. The information used in compiling this data set is based on the listing descriptions provided by the Department of Culture Media and Sport and its predecessors.

8. THE POTENTIAL OF EGREMONT

The aim of the data collection and data assessment phases of the EUS project is to enable the identification of areas of archaeological importance within each town to inform the strategy phase of the project. The areas of archaeological importance are shown in the Strategy Report, part B, map C.

8.1 Research Framework

- ◆ Winchester (1979) suggests that there may have been a pre-urban settlement in Egremont. Further archaeological work may clarify this.
- ◆ The total number of burgages in 1578 (101) is considerably smaller than that given in the 1334 Inquisition (138). Winchester (1979) therefore suggests that Egremont shrank in the post-medieval period. Archaeological work in certain peripheral areas may identify if medieval deposits exist and therefore if shrinkage has occurred.
- ◆ In May 1922 ancient stonework was uncovered during the demolition of the tannery by the castle, suggesting that this land had formerly been part of the castle grounds. The medieval extent of the castle is unclear and further archaeological work in this area may clarify this.

8.2 Archaeological Preservation

There has been little archaeological work in Egremont. However this work has revealed that later development has destroyed much of the earlier archaeological deposits. Because of this extensive redevelopment it is judged that although archaeological deposits may have survived at Egremont they are likely to have been severely truncated.

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MAPS and PLANS

Whitehaven Records Office: D/Lec Egremont Plan 2/65 dated 1761. Plan of lands on Brisco and Cringlethwaite and plan of Egremont town showing church and castle. Owners and acreages marked.

APPENDIX A**LIST OF COMPONENTS**

Component number	Period	Type of Site	Page number
9.001	Medieval	Castle	12
9.002	Medieval	Church	12
9.003	Medieval	Tenements	12
9.004	Medieval	Tenements	12
9.005	Medieval	Tenements	12
9.006	Medieval	Industrial	12
9.007	Medieval	Tenements	12
9.008	Medieval	Tenements	12
9.009	Medieval	Tenements	12
9.010	Medieval	Tenements	12
9.011	Medieval	Market Place	13
9.012	Medieval	Road Network	13
9.013	Post-medieval	Castle	13
9.014	Post-medieval	Church	13
9.015	Post-medieval	Tenements	13
9.016	Post-medieval	Tenements	13
9.017	Post-medieval	Tenements	13
9.018	Post-medieval	Industrial	14
9.019	Post-medieval	Tenements	13
9.020	Post-medieval	Tenements	13
9.021	Post-medieval	Tenements	13
9.022	Post-medieval	Tenements	13
9.023	Post-medieval	Market Place	14
9.024	Post-medieval	Road Network	14
9.025	Post-medieval	Railway Station	14
9.026	Post-medieval	Industrial	13
9.027	Post-medieval	Industrial	13
9.028	Post-medieval	Industrial	13
9.029	Post-medieval	Industrial	13

APPENDIX B

LIST OF SELECTED SMR ENTRIES

SMR No.	SITE NAME	SITE TYPE	PERIOD
1198	Egremont Stone Circle	Stone Circle	Prehistoric
4620	Egremont	Coin Find	Roman
3051	Egremont Castle	Castle, Motte and Park	Medieval
4447	Egremont Market Cross	Market Cross	Medieval
6579	Egremont/St Bees Field System	Field System	Medieval
5785	Egremont Mine Working	Mine workings and ridge and furrow	Post-medieval
14808	Gillfoot Park No.4 Pit	Ironstone Mine	Post-medieval
14816	Gillfoot Park No.1 Pit	Ironstone Mine	Post-medieval
14869	Helder Pit	Ironstone Mine	Post-medieval
4611	Egremont Grindstone Find	Grindstone	Unknown
4614	Smithfield	Rotary Quern Find	Unknown
12328	Little Mill	Mill Race for Little Mill	Unknown
12334	Egremont Great Mill	Corn Mill	Unknown
12335	Shoddy Mill Flint Mill	Flint Mill	Unknown
12336	Beck Green Gas Works	Gas Works	Unknown
12337	High Mill Flax Mill	Flax Mill	Unknown
12340	Greendyke Flax Mill	Flax Mill	Unknown
12341	Tannery near Egremont Castle	Tannery	Unknown
12877	Ullcoats Mill Race	Mill Race	Unknown
12885	Little Mill	Water Mill	Unknown
12886	Bridge End Tannery	Tannery	Unknown
12896	East Egremont Tannery	Tannery	Unknown
14875	Smithfield Old Coal Shaft	Colliery	Unknown
16592	Hardheads Mine	Mine	Unknown

APPENDIX C

LISTED BUILDINGS

SMR No.	REFERENCE	BUILDING TYPE	DESCRIPTION	CENTURY	GRADE
21473	NY 01 SW 9/23	Milestone	Milestone on A595, to the south east of Bigrigg	19 th	II
21474	NY 01 SW 9/24	House	Croft End House	19 th	II
21475	NY 01 SW 9/25	Toll House	Bridge End, No 17	1851	II
21476	NY 01 SW 9/26	Drinking Fountain	Green Dykes opposite the Castle	1904	II
21477	NY 01 SW 9/27	Castle	Egremont Castle	12 th & later additions	I
21478	NY 01 SW 9/28	Sun Dial	Green Dykes	1762	II
21479	NY 01 SW 9/29	House	12 Main Street	Late 17 th	II
21480	NY 01 SW 9/30	House	45 Main Street	1662	II
21481	NY 01 SW 9/31	Houses	54-56 Main Street	19 th	II
21482	NY 01 SW 9/32	House	57 Main Street	18 th	II
21483	NY 01 SW 9/33	Bank	58 (Midland Bank)	19 th	II
21484	NY 01 SW 9/34	House and Cottages	59 & 60 Main Street	18 th	II
21485	NY 01 SW 9/35	Town Hall	Town Hall, Main Street	1889-90	II
21486	NY 01 SW 9/36	War Memorial	War Memorial, Market Place	20 th	II
21487	NY 01 SW 9/37	Property	Adjoining Town Hall, Market Street	1889-90	II
21488	NY 01 SW 9/38	Cemetery Lodge	Lodge, North Road	1864	II
21489	NY 01 SW 9/39	Eastern Chapel	Cemetery Chapel	1864	II
21490	NY 01 SW 9/40	Western Chapel	Cemetery Chapel	1864	II
21491	NY 01 SW 9/41	Monument	Monument to Joseph Roberts, Cemetery, North Road	1861	II
21492	NY 01 SW 9/42	Toll House	Toll bar House North Road	1856	II
21493	NY 01 SW 9/43	Church	Church of St Mary and St Michael, South Street	1881	II
21494	NY 01 SW 9/44	Church gates	Gates to St Mary and St Michael's, South Street	19 th	II
25617	SP 1039	Telephone Kiosk	K6 Kiosk on Bridge End, designed 1935	20 th	II