

LAND SOUTH OF LUMLEY ROAD, KENDAL, CUMBRIA

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment



Client: The Levens Estate

NGR: 350886 490979
(centre)

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Non-Technical Summary

Prior to the submission of a planning application for a residential development on land south of Lumley Road, Kendal, Cumbria, Greenlane Archaeology was commissioned to carry out a desk-based assessment. This is intended to identify whether there are any known archaeological remains within the site, and what the potential for as yet unknown archaeological remains to be present is. The assessment was carried out by Greenlane Archaeology in March 2014 and included a site visit.

The site is close to the Roman fort at Watercrock, which is on the opposite (east) side of the River Kent, and Helsington Laithes, the manor house for Helsington, a settlement that is recorded in the Domesday Book. Helsington is recorded in the medieval period but there is otherwise relatively little information relating to the area in this period. A large number of stray finds from the general area, of both Roman and medieval date, indicate that there is likely to have been some activity on the site in either or both of these periods, although the accuracy of the location of many of these finds is uncertain. In addition, an aerial photograph shows an apparent enclosure situated within the north-west corner of the proposed development area, although much of the original extent of this is now lost under the adjoining houses to the north. The field is recorded on the corn rent map of 1836 as Annisteads, which also indicates the presence of a former settlement of some kind.

The site visit identified few constraints to further archaeological work although there is some evidence for disturbance in the form of an overhead high voltage cable and probable water pipes along the north-east and south-east sides. The field has a relatively gentle slope, rising to a roughly level plateau at the top, and is improved pasture.

In view of the potential for archaeological remains to be present within the site area, it is recommended that further investigation be carried out. It is considered that the least intrusive method at this stage would be geophysical survey, especially of the north-west corner where the enclosure was situated. However, the excavation of evaluation trenches would also be a potentially useful method for further investigation, with the advantage of providing a more detailed understanding of the date and form of any features that were present.

Acknowledgements

Greenlane Archaeology would like to thank The Levens Estate for commissioning the project, and their agent James Sheppard of GVA for his information about the site and assistance. Additional thanks are due to the staff of Cumbria Archive Centre in Kendal for help with accessing their archives and Jeremy Parsons, Historic Environment Officer at Cumbria County Council, for his help with accessing the Historic Environment Record. Special thanks are also due to the Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photographs, and Alan Martin in particular, for their assistance in supplying a copy of the aerial photograph of the site at such short notice; it is reproduced with permission.

The project was managed and carried out by Dan Elsworth who also wrote the report with Tom Mace. The illustrations were produced by Tom Mace, and the report was edited by Jo Dawson.

1. Introduction

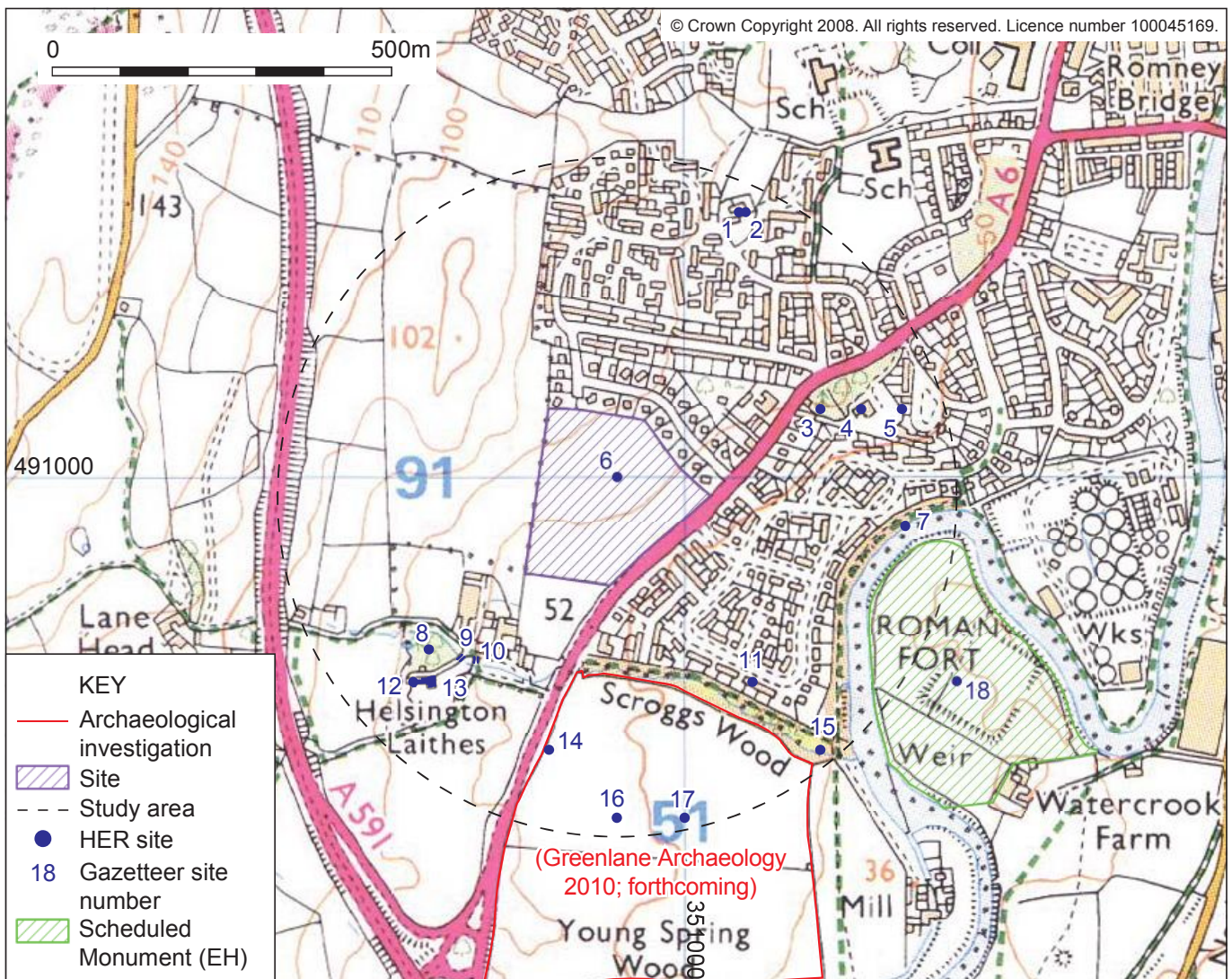
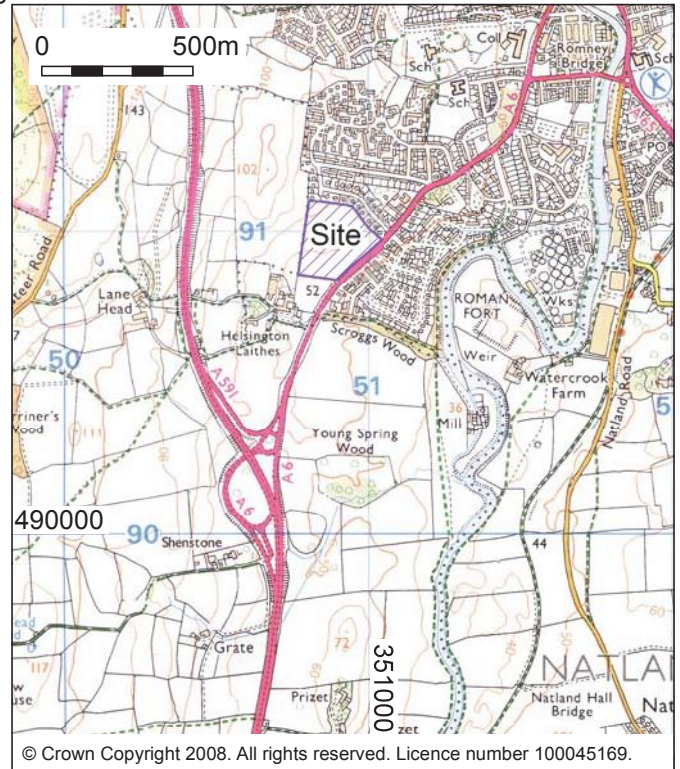
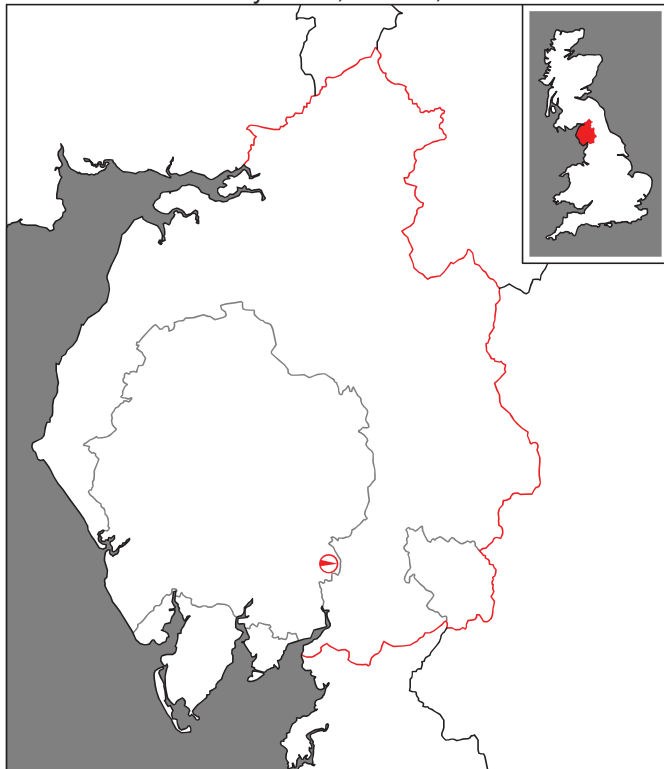
1.1 Circumstances of the Project

1.1.1 Prior to the submission of a planning application for a residential development on land south of Lumley Road, Kendal, Cumbria (centred on NGR 350886 490979). Greenlane Archaeology was commissioned by The Levens Estate (hereafter 'the client') to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment of the area. This was intended to establish at an early stage whether it was likely to have any known sites of archaeological interest within it or whether there was any potential for as yet unknown sites to be present. A project design was produced by Greenlane Archaeology and the work undertaken in March 2014.

1.2 Location, Geology, and Topography

1.2.1 The site occupies an irregularly-shaped area of approximately 4.6 hectares to the south-west of Kendal on sloping ground ranging from c70m above sea level at the north-west corner and c55m in the south-east (Ordnance Survey 2008) (Figure 1). The river Kent is located less than 300m to the south-east of the site and drains the higher ground to the north-west of Kendal into Morecambe Bay. The solid geology comprises Bannisdale slates but is situated on the edge of a large area of Carboniferous limestone (Moseley 1978, plate 1), with overlying drift deposits of glacial gravel (Countryside Commission 1998, 66).

1.2.2 The site is immediately to the south of Lumley Road, which forms the southern end of an area of 20th century development on the edge of Kendal proper, with Helsington Laithes to the south, open fields to the west rising up towards the A591, and the A6 forming the eastern boundary to the site. The surrounding landscape, outside of the urban area, is largely utilised for pasture for cattle and defined by small rectangular fields divided by hedges and dry stone walls (Countryside Commission 1998, 67).



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Figure 1: Site location and gazetteer plan

2. Methodology

2.1 Desk-Based Assessment

2.1.1 A desk-based assessment was carried out in accordance with the guidelines of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008). This principally comprised an examination of early maps of the site and published secondary sources. A number of sources of information were used during the desk-based assessment:

- **Cumbria Historic Environment Record (HER):** this is a list of all the known sites of archaeological interest within the county, which is maintained by Cumbria County Council and is the primary source of information for an investigation of this kind. All of the known sites of archaeological interest within approximately 500m of the proposed development area were examined; each identified site comes with a grid reference, description and source and any additional information which was referenced was also examined as necessary. In addition, unpublished reports of archaeological investigations in the vicinity of the site were examined;
- **Cumbria Archive Centre, Kendal (CAC(K)):** this was visited principally in order to examine early maps and plans of the site, but other documentary sources and published records were also consulted in order to gather information about the historical development of the site and its environs, and also information about the archaeology of its immediate environs;
- **Greenlane Archaeology library:** additional secondary sources, used to provide information for the site background, were examined.

2.2 Site Visit

2.2.1 A brief site visit was carried out, primarily with the intension of identifying any areas that might prove constraining to any subsequent archaeological work and whether the site had been affected by any modern activity that might have impacted upon archaeological remains. In addition, the presence of any features, finds, or deposits of possible archaeological interest was noted. Digital photographs of the area were also taken, primarily for use as illustrations in the report.

2.3 Archive

2.3.1 A comprehensive archive of the project has been produced in accordance with the project design, and current IfA and English Heritage guidelines (Brown 2007; English Heritage 1991). The paper and digital archive and a copy of this report will be deposited in the Cumbria Archive Centre in Kendal at a suitable time on completion of the project. A copy of this report will be provided for the client, a digital copy for the client's agent, and a copy will be retained by Greenlane Archaeology. In addition, at a suitable time a digital copy will be provided to the Historic Environment Record at Cumbria County Council, and a record of the project will be made on the OASIS scheme.

3. Results

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 A total of 18 sites of archaeological interest were identified within the study area during the desk-based assessment and walk-over survey (Figure 1; summarised in Table 1 below) ranging from Bronze Age to post-medieval in date. Of these, **Site 2** appears to be incorrectly recording the location of limekilns, which are probably much further to the north, and **Site 17** and **Site 18** record multiple objects or features at the same location. Findspots associated with **Site 17** are not accurately located, so their significance to the study area is uncertain. The position of **Site 4** is also unclear. In addition, **Site 6** is situated within the proposed development area and is discussed in more detail below (*Section 5*). Sites included in the gazetteer that relate to periods of the study area's history are individually mentioned in the site history (see *Section 4* below). The possible earthworks (**Site 11**) and enclosure (**Site 6**) are of unknown date and may not be of any specific archaeological interest. **Site 7** is entirely modern and should be disregarded.

Site No.	Type	Period	Site No.	Type	Period
1	Farmhouse	Post-medieval	10	Bridge	Post-medieval
2	Remains of limekilns	Post-medieval?	11	Possible earthworks/enclosures	Unknown
3	Burial	Bronze Age	12	Coin (x1)	Post-medieval
4	Stone cross	Medieval	13	Farmhouse	Medieval/post-medieval
5	Cinerary urn (x3) Vase	Roman	14	Coin (x1)	Roman
6	Enclosure	Bronze Age – medieval?	15	Possible tile kiln	Roman
7	Flower pot fragments	Modern	16	Copper alloy brooch	Roman
8	'Mounds and hollows'	Unknown	17	Coin (x4) Box seal Lock pin Coin (x1) Copper alloy cauldron (fragments) Seal	Roman Roman Roman Medieval Medieval Post-medieval
9	Bridge	Post-medieval	18	Fort Road Coin (x3)	Roman Roman Roman

Table 1: Summary of sites of archaeological interest within the study area

3.2 Desk-Based Assessment

3.2.1 The results of the desk-based assessment have been used to produce two separate elements. Firstly all sites of archaeological interest recorded within the study area were compiled into a gazetteer (*Appendix 1* and shown in Figure 1). This was in turn informed and enhanced by the site visit (see *Section 3.5*). The gazetteer is used to assess the general type of historic landscape that makes up the study area, contribute to the compilation of the general history of the site (see *Section 4*) and, more importantly, identify sites that are likely to be affected by the proposed development. The significance of each of these sites and the degree to which they are likely to be affected is considered in *Section 5* and from this recommendations for further work are produced.

3.2.2 The second purpose of the desk-based assessment is to produce a background history of the site. This is intended to cover all periods, in part to provide information that can be used to assess the potential of the site (particularly for the presence of remains that are otherwise not recorded in the study area), but more importantly to present the documented details of any sites that are known (see *Section 4*).

3.3 Map and Image Regression

3.3.1 **Introduction:** although there are early, typically county-wide, maps that include the area these are generally very small scale and so the first useful maps of the area do not appear until the early 19th century. As a result, only maps from that date onward are discussed below.

3.3.2 **Plan of Township of Helsington (CRO(K) WQ/R/C/6 1836):** this map was compiled as part of the collection of the corn rent and is the earliest detailed map of the area. The site occupies the remaining part of what was a single large field to the north of 'Helsington Laiths' (Plate 1). The field is numbered 268; the accompanying schedule lists the owner of 268 as Colonel Howard and the occupier as Thomas Wilson and the field is called 'Annisteads'. The name probably derives from the personal name Agnes and the Old English 'stede' or 'styde' meaning place or site (Smith 1967b, 289) and so effectively means 'Agnes' homestead' or 'Agnes' place' (this particular field is not listed in the *Place-Names of Westmorland* but the most similar comparator is Annisgarth, near Bowness on Windermere; see Smith 1967a, 186). Of additional note is the fact that the northern edge of this field forms the parish boundary between Helsington and Nether Graveship, although this area has subsequently been lost to modern development. The proposed development area is entirely undeveloped at this time but the layout of the field system is otherwise similar to the present arrangement.



Plate 1: Extract from the Plan of the Township of Helsington (CRO(K) WQ/R/C/6 1836)

3.3.3 **Ordnance Survey nd and 1863:** despite the differences in scale these two maps show essentially the same details; the undated 1:2,500 scale map is probably of the same date as the first edition 1:10,560 map. The alignment of the road to the east and division of the field system is unchanged from 1836 (see Plate 2 and Plate 3; cf. Plate 1). The significant dwellings of Helsington Laithes and Collinfield are shown to the south and north of the site respectively but the area is otherwise undeveloped, although a section has been marked out in the east corner of the original field, with an illegible note within, which may relate to the area of building shown on subsequent maps. The parish boundary is still clearly marked.



Plate 2 (left): Ordnance Survey 1863



Plate 3 (right): Ordnance Survey nd

3.3.4 Ordnance Survey 1898: by this date there has been considerable change in the area, with the east corner of the original field now built on with a large structure labelled 'Howard Orphan Home' and the corner of the field has also been cut off by a new field boundary (Plate 4). The area along the road has been separated into sections for the use with the 1910 rating valuation, although these do not appear to correspond to any existing field boundaries. The plots, number 112 and 113, are listed in the 1910 valuation as just 'land' (CAC(K) WT/DV/2/40 1910), and were presumably intended to be used for residential development, as had clearly begun to happen by the time the next map was produced. The surviving part of the original field, comprising the current proposed development site, had evidently seen no development by this time.

3.3.5 Ordnance Survey 1914: by this date the site has changed very little, although a single new dwelling, named 'Ash Bank', has been constructed to the south of the Howard Orphan Home (Plate 5). The remainder of the field is still undeveloped.



Plate 4 (left): Ordnance Survey 1898

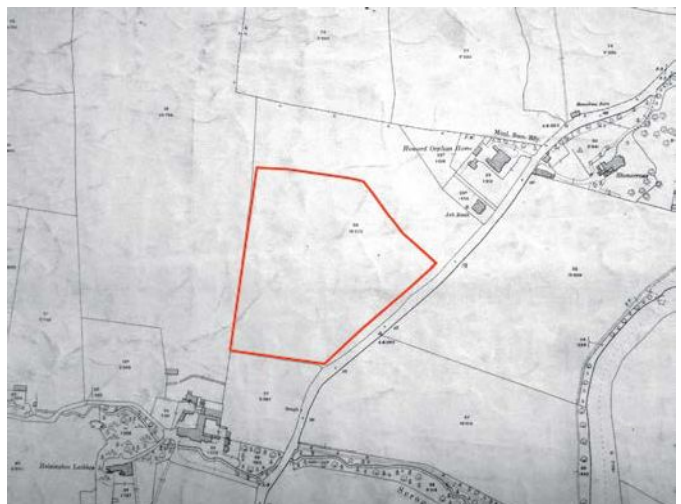


Plate 5 (right): Ordnance Survey 1914

3.3.6 A copy of an aerial photograph of the site held in the Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photographs was obtained. This was taken by JK St Joseph in 1955 and shows an arrangement of linear crop marks and other more amorphous features in what was at that time the north-west corner of the field (Plate 6; closer to NGR 350845 491150 rather than that given by Clack and Gosling (1975) and subsequently used the HER). It is apparent, however, that the housing now adjoining the northern side of

the current proposed development area was at this time under construction, with the north side of Lumley Road only just finished. The opposing side of Lumley Road and its subsequent continuation to the west clearly cuts across at least some of this crop mark, and so part of it is now outside of the current proposed development area and presumably destroyed. However, at least part of these crop marks are likely to have survived, in addition, a large amount of apparent ridge and furrow is also apparently present in the adjoining field to the west. Dating the crop mark features is extremely difficult, given their irregular form, but a late prehistoric to Romano-British date is probable. The presence of a seemingly relevant place-name for the field (see *Section 3.3.2* above), potentially suggests occupation in the medieval or even early medieval period, however.



Plate 6: Aerial photograph showing Site 6 taken by JK St Joseph in 1955 (CUCAP RL039)

3.4 Previous Archaeological Work

3.4.1 Little previous archaeological work has been undertaken in this part of Kendal. However, a desk-based assessment carried out on land to the south of Scroggs Wood, a short distance to the south-east of the site, revealed some potential for remains relating to the Roman fort at Watercrook or the medieval village of Helsington to be present (Greenlane Archaeology 2010a; Greenlane Archaeology forthcoming).

3.5 Site Visit

3.5.1 **Site Arrangement and Character.** the proposed development site currently comprises a single large field, rising up from the A6 on the south-east side to a relatively level plateau in the north-west corner (see Figure 1 and Figure 2; Plate 7 and Plate 8). It is currently used for grazing but has evidently been improved in the past, presumably through ploughing. The field boundaries comprise a mixture of stone walls and hedges, with the former making up all of the south-east and south side. The north/north-

east boundary is a mixture of walls, including some large blocks of reused(?) orangey sandstone and concrete where it is met by later walls dividing gardens for the houses beyond, and clipped beech hedges.



Plate 7 (left): General view of the west side of the site, viewed from the south



Plate 8 (right): Central part of the site viewed from the north-west

3.5.2 Only a single area of potential archaeological interest was identified during the site visit; a pair of shallow roughly circular scoops into the slope next to a post supporting an overhead high voltage cable. The cause of these is uncertain, however, and while they are likely to have resulted from animal erosion they might represent small areas of quarrying or even remains of structures of some form (Plate 9), although they have not been included in the gazetteer of sites of archaeological interest. A further feature of interest is a decorative wrought iron gate in the south-boundary (Plate 10).



Plate 9 (left): Shallow scoops on the west side of the site



Plate 10 (right): Decorative gate in the south field boundary

3.5.3 **Constraints:** there were no particularly obvious constraints to further archaeological investigation of the site, with the exception of the high level voltage cable running across the west side. However, against the north-east section of the field boundary there were two iron drain covers – one marked ‘J&S EYRES L^{TD} NON ROCKING MANCHESTER’ (Plate 11) with an associated patch of concrete, the other ‘PORTER BROTHERS CARLISLE’ (Plate 12). Against the south-east boundary is a small area enclosed by a post and wire fence (Plate 13), with a pile of stone rubble within. The purpose of this is uncertain, but apparently associated with it is a low linear bank running from its south-west side and through into

the next field; this is presumably the line of a buried pipe or similar and so the fenced area may be surrounding a collapsed manhole or similar (Plate 14).



Plate 11 (left): J&S Eyres drain cover



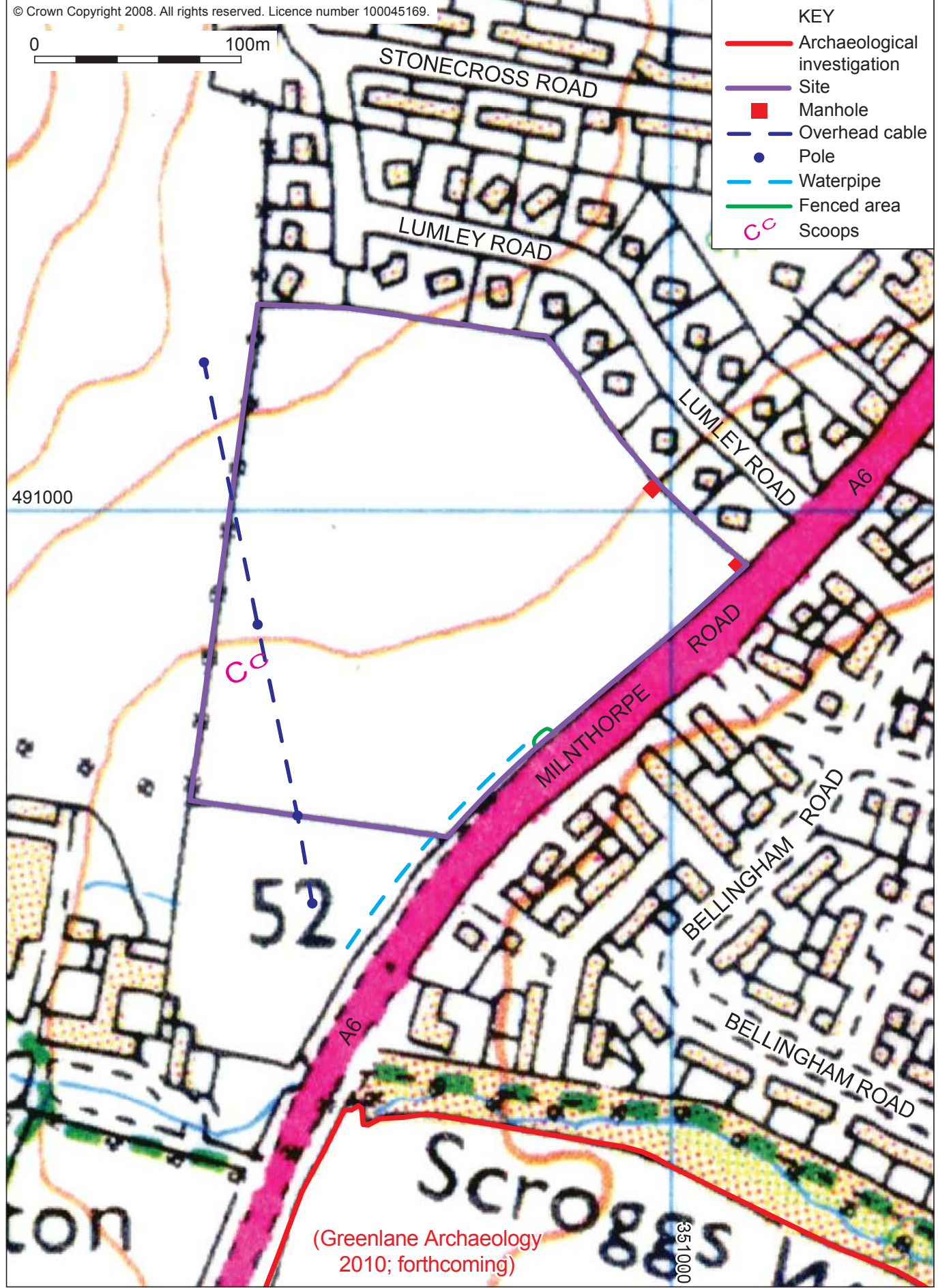
Plate 12 (right): Porter Brothers drain cover



Plate 13 (left): Fenced area against south-east boundary



Plate 14 (right): Linear bank running to south-west



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Figure 2: Site plan

3.6 Conclusion

3.6.1 The map regression shows that the area occupied by the site has been part of a single large field since at least 1836, the east corner of which was gradually developed in the late 19th and early 20th century, although it is apparent that a larger amount of development flanking what is now the A6 was originally intended. However, the field name recorded in 1836 suggests that there was some form of settlement within the field, which is further confirmed by the enclosure visible in the aerial photograph, although it is impossible to know whether the field name is referring to this. A plethora of individual findspots demonstrates considerable activity in the vicinity of the site in the Roman and medieval periods. The many Roman findspots are perhaps to be expected due to the proximity of the Roman fort and civil settlement to the south-east of the site. The various other finds of medieval and post-medieval date perhaps suggest that activity continued in this area for some time, and the proximity of Helsington Laites suggest it was of some importance to the local manor.

3.6.2 The single aerial photograph of the site shows very clearly cropmarks of an enclosure of some form, although at least part of it appears to now be beneath the adjoining housing to the north. The dating and exact form of this enclosure are uncertain, however, but it is clearly of some archaeological significance and is even more convincing combined with the place-name evidence from the corn rent map.

3.6.3 The site visit also indicates that there has been relatively little disturbance to the area, although it has probably been subject to ploughing and there have clearly been water pipes added around the perimeter on the north and east sides. However, archaeological features are likely to have survived outside these areas, especially in the north-west corner, although much of the enclosure that was originally present there is now beneath the adjoining development.

4. Site History

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The history of the local landscape is dominated by two significant elements: the Roman fort at Watercrock, and Helsington Laithes, the manor house of the settlement of Helsington, which has medieval origins and was semi-fortified (Perriam and Robinson 1998, 346). Evidence for activity from earlier and later periods is present in the wider area, including some locally very significant monuments. In order to place the proposed development site in its historical background and archaeological context a brief discussion of the earlier history of its environs is necessary. Information relating to specific sites recorded during the desk-based assessment and walk-over survey (see *Section 3* above) is included where relevant.

4.2 Prehistoric Period (c11,000 BC – 1st century AD)

4.2.1 While there is some limited evidence for activity in the county in the period immediately following the last Ice Age, this is typically found in the southernmost part, on the north side of Morecambe Bay. Excavations of a small number of cave sites have found the remains of animal species common at the time but now extinct in this country and artefacts of Late Upper Palaeolithic type (Young 2002). Closer to the site, similar remains may have been discovered at Hellsfell Cave, on the north side of Kendal, which was excavated in the late 19th century, although evidence for human activity is limited and the remains difficult to interpret on account of having been dispersed after discovery (Wilkinson *et al* 2006). Again, the county was also clearly inhabited during the following period, the Mesolithic (c8,000 – 4,000 BC), as large numbers of artefacts of this date have been discovered during field walking and eroding from sand dunes along the coast, but these are typically concentrated in the west coast area and on the uplands around the Eden Valley (Cherry and Cherry 2002). A small number of microliths belonging to this period were however, found during excavations at the nearby Roman fort (Turner 1979, 234-235; **Site 18**); its position alongside the River Kent is one where such artefacts are often found (Middleton *et al* 1995, 202; Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 151-152). In addition, one of the cave sites on Morecambe Bay has recently had human remains recovered from it dated to the beginning of this period, placing them as early as any known from the rest of the country (Smith *et al* 2013).

4.2.2 In the following period, the Neolithic (c4,000 – 2,500 BC), large scale monuments such as burial mounds and stone circles begin to appear in the region and one of the most recognisable tool types of this period, the polished stone axe, is found in large numbers across the county, having been manufactured at Langdale to the north-west of Kendal (Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 45). During the Bronze Age (c2,500 – 600 BC) monuments, particularly those thought to be ceremonial in nature, become more common still, and it is likely that settlement sites thought to belong to the Iron Age have their origins in this period. These are not well represented in the area around Kendal, although an enclosure on The Helme near Oxenholme perhaps has its origins in this period (Collingwood 1908), as might another one that formerly existed on what is now Kendal Fell golf course (Ferguson and Cowper 1893, 525; see also Elsworth forthcoming). Stray finds of Bronze Age date have been found in the Kendal area and a Bronze Age burial is recorded within the study area (**Site 3**). Sites that can be specifically dated to the Iron Age (c600 BC – 1st century AD) are very rare; the remains on The Helme may represent a hillfort, a typical site of this period, but they have never been dated. There is, however, likely to have been a considerable overlap between the end of the Iron Age and the beginning of the Romano-British period; it is evident that in this part of the country, initially at least, the Roman invasion had a minimal impact on the native population in rural areas (Philpott 2006, 73-74).

4.2.3 Apart from those site mentioned above the only other site of possible prehistoric date within the study area is the enclosure revealed in an aerial photograph, which may be of late prehistoric origin (**Site 6**).

4.3 Romano-British to Early Medieval Period (1st century AD – 11th century AD)

4.3.1 While the general area around Kendal has relatively little evidence for activity of this date, the environs of the site, being so close to the Roman fort at Watercrock (**Site 18**), are well represented by remains from the Roman period. The fort was earlier thought to have been known to the Romans as *Concangium* (see Plate 2 to Plate 5), but more recently it has been stated that it is difficult to be certain what its original name was (Shotter 1979, 319). The fort has been known to antiquarians since the 17th century, with a detailed account by Horsley in 1732 stating that the earthworks of the fort were clearly visible, and that remains thought to relate to the civilian settlement were frequently turned up on its west side (Potter 1979, 143). This latter observation is significant, since it is the only account that mentions activity to the west of the fort (although as the fort is orientated with its corners to the four cardinal points it is difficult to be certain which direction was considered west). The only other detailed description of the site, prior to the 20th century, apart from occasional discoveries of stray finds, was Nicholson's account of a possible pottery or tile kiln found on the west side of the river close to Mill Lane (now Scroggs Lane), which was apparently associated with the hasty burial of human remains (**Site 15**). Nicholson also records an urn, presumably related to a cremation burial in a field on the east side of the river, an area in which other urns had been recorded before and which was known as 'Pots Land' (Gibbon 1988, 78).

4.3.2 Considerations of the fort at Watercrock were published by both William and Robin Collingwood in the early 20th century (Collingwood 1908; 1930), including a plan based on parch marks visible in the warm summer of 1887 by the former, but it was not until after 1930 that more detailed investigation and excavation was carried out. These began with excavations by North carried out in the 1930s, which determined the outline of its walls (North 1932). Further excavations in the 1940s examined further elements of the defences, and found evidence that the fort was established in the first century by Agricola during the Flavian period (North and Hildyard 1945). Further excavation in the 1970s of the fort and areas around it along the river in advance of flood alleviation work dated its establishment, on the basis of more comprehensive evidence, to the very end of the 1st century AD, perhaps AD 90-100 and therefore post-Agricola (Potter 1979, 176-177). A later stone fort was subsequently constructed in the mid 2nd century, followed by a period of reduced usage in the early 3rd century (*op cit*, 178-179). There is evidence that it was reoccupied in the 4th century, although the extent of this is uncertain (*op cit*, 180). Subsequent investigation in the 1980s, in advance of the installation of a water pipe, identified further evidence for the civilian settlement to the south-east of the fort and evidence for further burials in the general area of those found previously (Gibbons 1988). A consideration of Watercrock's position in the local road network was presented in 1979 (Potter 1979, 139), although the details were not clear; an earthwork connecting directly to the fort was identified heading north-west towards Ambleside (*op cit*, 140), which presumably connects to that later identified by Thornton (1989).

4.3.3 Apart from those features already noted, there are a large number of stray finds of Roman date recorded within the study area, ranging from coins and small metal items (**Sites 14, 16, 17 and 18**), to pottery (**Site 5**). Many of these (**Sites 14, 16, and 17**) are poorly located having been found with a metal detector and reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) and so can only be taken as generally representative of the area immediately around the site, and most likely relating in some way to the fort and associated settlement. In addition, the enclosure revealed in an aerial photograph (**Site 6**) may also be Roman in date.

4.3.4 The early medieval period is not well represented in the area in terms of physical archaeological remains, which is a common situation throughout the county. A piece of Anglian cross-shaft found at the church in Kendal (Collingwood 1904) and its place-name indicates that the town existed in some form prior to the Norman Conquest (Smith 1967a, 115). The site, however, is located in Helsington parish possibly close to the original village although its location is uncertain. Helsington is a settlement of similar antiquity to Kendal, which is also recorded in the Domesday book (*op cit*, 108). The place-name is, however, earlier, although its meaning is uncertain; it may mean 'farmstead of those dwelling on the *hals*', perhaps referring to the ridge of land on which it is located, although a term relating to hazel copse is also possible (*ibid*). There is little information or archaeological evidence relating to Helsington before the 11th century, however, although the enclosure recorded within the study area (**Site 6**) could have been occupied into the early medieval period.

4.4 Medieval Period (11th century AD – 16th century AD)

4.4.1 As already mentioned, the settlement of Helsington is recorded in the Domesday Book (*ibid*). The township comprised a large area, the majority of the settlement and its chapel c1km to the south-west. It was initially largely owned by the Strickland family and later the de Thwengs (Perriam and Robinson 1998, 346), and in close proximity to the site was its manor house, Helsington Laithes (**Site 13**), which was partially fortified and has at least 15th century elements surviving (*ibid*). A mill at Helsington, owned by Marmaduke de Thweng, is also recorded from the late 13th century (Somervell 1930, 68). A park is also recorded at Helsington in 1323, at which time much of the manor is said to have been 'burnt by the Scots' (Curwen 1923, 142), presumably following the great raid of 1322.

4.4.2 Apart from the manor house at Helsington Laithes (**Site 13**) an ancient stone cross, known as 'Stone Cross', stood on Milnthorpe Road (**Site 4**) is also thought to be at least medieval and was still extant in the 16th century. Several stray finds are recorded in the study area that probably also belong to the period (**Site 17**).

4.5 Post-medieval Period (16th century AD – present)

4.5.1 The map evidence (see *Section 3.3*) demonstrates that the site had reached its present state of development by the beginning of the 19th century, with all the fields enclosed, and it is likely that relatively little changed in the area following the end of the medieval period. The presence of the turnpike road with its toll house (as evident on the early maps) gives some indication of the sort of changes that were taking place. Helsington Laithes (**Site 13**) continued to be used throughout this period. Other sites of post-medieval date include other buildings (**Sites 1, 2, 9, and 10**) and a small number of stray finds (**Sites 12 and 17**).

5. Discussion

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The discussion of the results of the desk-based assessment and site visit is intended to determine the archaeological significance and potential of any known remains (above or below ground) and the potential for any as yet unidentified remains being present. The system used to judge the significance of the remains identified within the development area, or those thought to have the potential to be present within the development area, is based on the criteria used to define Scheduled Monuments (DoE 1990, Annex 4; *Appendix 3*). Of the 18 sites identified within the study area, only one is situated within the proposed development area, an enclosure (**Site 6**), and therefore likely to be affected by any subsequent groundworks. This is discussed in more detail below.

5.2 Significance

5.2.1 The level of significance of the site within the proposed development area is categorised, according to each criterion, as high, medium, or low, and an average of this has been used to produce an overall level of significance for the site (see Table 2 below: H=high, M=medium, L=low).

Site	6
<i>Period</i>	-
<i>Rarity</i>	M
<i>Documentation</i>	M
<i>Group value</i>	H
<i>Survival/condition</i>	M
<i>Fragility/Vulnerability</i>	H
<i>Diversity</i>	M
<i>Potential</i>	M
Significance	M-H

Table 2: Significance by site

5.3 Potential for Unknown Archaeological Remains

5.3.1 Details of the archaeological remains present within the proposed development area are presented in the results of the desk-based assessment (*Section 3*; Figure 1; *Appendix 1*) and the importance of this site is discussed above (*Section 5.2*). The potential for as yet unidentified archaeological remains to be present, however, is based on the known occurrence of such remains elsewhere in the study area and local environs (see *Section 4*). Where there are no remains known within the study area the potential is based on the known occurrence within the wider local area. The degree of potential is examined by period and the results are presented in Table 3 below; in each case the level of potential is expressed as low, medium, or high:

Period	Present in study area?	Potential
Late Upper Palaeolithic	No	Low
Mesolithic	Yes	Medium
Neolithic	No	Low
Bronze Age	Yes	Low
Iron Age	Yes?	Low
Roman	Yes	Medium
Early Medieval	Yes?	Low
Medieval	Yes	Medium
Post-medieval	Yes	Medium

Table 3: Degree of potential for unknown archaeological remains by period

5.3.2 In consideration of Table 3 it is worth noting that the possibility of finding Mesolithic remains could perhaps be assessed as medium because they are often associated with sites adjacent to watercourses

(Middleton *et al* 1995, 202; Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 151-152), and flint artefacts of Mesolithic type were found during the excavations at Watercrock Roman fort. However, in general the quantities of such finds from the local area are very small, although they have also been found at sites in Kendal (Greenlane Archaeology 2009; 2010b). Sites of Bronze Age and Iron Age date are extremely rare from the general area and, although a Bronze Age burial is recorded within the study area (**Site 3**), there is limited potential for more remains of this date to be revealed. The difficulty of dating the enclosure within the proposed development area (**Site 6**), which could be late prehistoric (Bronze Age or Iron Age) in origin and continue in use through the Roman period (but could also be later in origin, see *Section 5.3.3* below) also influences the potential for finding remains of these periods. In addition, it is possible that this site continued in use beyond the Roman period, especially on the basis of the place-name evidence.

5.3.3 Sites of Roman, medieval, and post-medieval date, all have examples from within the study area. For the former this is undoubtedly because of the proximity of the Roman fort (**Site 18**), although the amount of stray finds (**Sites 14, 16, and 17**) and the presence of a pottery kiln (**Site 15**) on the same side of the River Kent as the site would seem to indicate that activity extended into this area. The proximity of two locally important sites with at least medieval origins, Helsington Laithes (**Site 13**) and Helsington mill, the presence of medieval stray finds (**Site 17**), and the likely presence of a park in the area, would seem to indicate that the site remained of some importance into the medieval period, and perhaps all through the early medieval period. No certain finds of early medieval date are present within the study area although it is possible that **Site 6** existed in the early medieval period, but the likelihood of this is still low.

5.4 Disturbance

5.4.1 The field appear to have seen relatively little disturbance apart from that associated with agriculture – ploughing, erosion from animals, and the construction of field boundaries. Some disturbance has also been caused by the installation of water pipes along the north edge, and also along the east, and disturbance is also likely along the west side of the two fields due to alterations to the A6.

5.5 Impact

5.5.1 Although no detailed plans were available regarding proposed developments the undulating nature of the ground cover and topography, which would presumably require considerable landscaping to make useable, would suggest that any building on site would substantially impact on any archaeological remains that might be present.

5.6 Recommendations

5.6.1 It is clear from the preceding sections that there is considerable potential for archaeological remains to be present within the site, if only the enclosure revealed through aerial photography (**Site 6**). However, the extent of this site and any others that might be present are difficult to assess and so further archaeological work would be required. The most affective method to enable this would be either a programme of geophysical survey or archaeological evaluation trenching, especially in the area of the enclosure. The former would have the advantage of being less intrusive while the latter would have the advantage of providing more reliable information as to the date and function of any features that were present.

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6.3 Aerial Photographs

St Joseph, JK, 1955 **CUCAP RL039**

Appendix 1: Site Gazetteer

Site Number: 1**NGR:** 351080 491390**HER No:** 5446**Sources:** HER; RCHME 1936, 124**Designation:** Listed Building Grade I**Description:** Collinfield farmhouse; possibly mid-to-late 16th century, certainly early 17th century farmhouse, with very well preserved interior and later additions and alterations. Dated inscription I and MG 1663; extensively remodelled in 1668.**Period:** post-medieval

Site Number: 2**NGR:** 351090 491390**HER No:** 2484**Sources:** HER; Anon nd, 49n**Designation:** none**Description:** remains of lime kilns discovered in 1857 'on removing an hillock' near Gilling Grove 'not far distant and in front of the "Tithe Barn" cottages'.**Period:** post-medieval?

Site Number: 3**NGR:** 351200 491100**HER No:** 4225**Sources:** HER**Designation:** none**Description:** Bronze Age burial recorded in the *Kendal Mercury*, February 29th 1868**Period:** Bronze Age

Site Number: 4**NGR:** 351260 491100**HER No:** 2474**Sources:** HER; Curwen 1900, 191; Nicholson 1861, 126**Designation:** none**Description:** an ancient stone cross, known as 'Stone Cross', stood on Milnthorpe Road. Extant in the 16th century, it was one of a group of crosses on the main roads at entrances to Kendal erected for travellers devotions prior to entering or leaving the town. The Ordnance Survey give 351210 491150 as the site.**Period:** medieval

Site Number: 5**NGR:** 351320 491100**HER No:** 19006**Sources:** HER**Designation:** none**Description:** fragments of two cinerary urns and a small vase, all of Roman date, were found in Stone Cross, just north of the Watercrook Roman Fort (SMR No. 2078; **Site 18**) on 30th December 1892. A third larger cinerary urn covered by a stone was found shortly after. The first urn's fragments contained a

mass of burnt bones and charcoal and two or three fragments of bronze, similar to some found at Hardknott. Among the bones were some small fragments of transparent blue material – glass? Close to this urn was a small vase, about 2.5” high, of a type common in Carlisle. The burials may be connected with, or part of the cemetery for, the Watercrock camp.

Period: Roman

Site Number: 6

NGR: 350900 491000

HER No: 3631

Sources: HER; St Joseph 1955; Clark and Gosling 1975

Designation: none

Description: An enclosure recorded in an aerial photograph by JK St Joseph.

Period: Late-prehistoric – medieval

Site Number: 7

NGR: 351325 490928

HER No: 42647

Sources: HER; PAS database: LANCUM 44C313

Designation: none

Description: modern vessel fragments, probably flower pot, found 2008.

Period: modern

Site Number: 8

NGR: 350600 490700

HER No: 2081

Sources: HER

Designation: none

Description: ‘Mounds and hollows’ shown in aerial photos. This was the ancient manor for the parish of Helsington. According to John Marsh there is a walled in spring, and the remains of a cloth mill and its water course.

Period: unknown

Site Number: 9

NGR: 350670 490735

HER No: -

Sources: HER

Designation: Grade II Listed Building No. 75343

Description: probably 18th century bridge constructed from coursed, squared rubble with a single elliptical arch spanning c5 ft. The roadway is c10 ft wide with parapets c3 ft high.

Date: post-medieval

Site Number: 10

NGR: 350693 490732

HER No: -

Sources: HER

Designation: Grade II Listed Building No. 437730

Description: probably 16th to 17th century bridge constructed from large, roughly-dressed, stone blocks, with a single semicircular arch spanning c5 ft. The roadway is c12 ft wide with splayed parapets c3 ft high.

Period: post-medieval

Site Number: 11

NGR: 351100 490700

HER No: 2478

Sources: HER

Designation: none

Description: aerial photographs revealed 'some curious earthworks' across the river from Watercrock, near the site of kilns found in 1814. The earthworks might have represented two faint subrectangular enclosures, one immediately north of the other, but there are no visible remains now since the area is largely covered by houses.

Date: unknown

Site Number: 12

NGR: 350600 490700

HER No: 42501

Sources: HER: PAS database LVPL2246

Designation: none

Description: a silver Charles I sixpence, dated 1631/1632, found in the vicinity of Helsington Laithes. Minted in London.

Period: post-medieval

Site Number: 13

NGR: 350620 490690

HER No: 4420

Sources: HER: RCHME 1936, 108; Perriam and Robinson 1998, 346

Designation: Grade II* Listed Building No. 75342

Description: Helsington Laithes Farmhouse - late 15th to early 16th century manor house, partly rebuilt c1690 for Colonel J. Graham. The house is mainly two storeys, with attics, built from wet dashed rubble on plinth, with graduated slate roofs with projecting eaves, and diagonally-set rendered chimneys. The house is asymmetrical in plan and the west block is the oldest surviving part. The central block and eastern cross-wing were added; a plaster wall panel (originally on the ceiling?) gives initials I and AB (for James & Agnes Bellingham?) and the date 1538 but details are identical to late 16th century plasterwork at Levens Hall, and the date should probably read 1583. The symmetrical four-bay east elevation has a part-glazed central door with mullioned and a transomed three-light window, under hoodmould, to either side, and four three-light windows above. The windows throughout are probably 19th century (with the majority of decorative leading replaced in the 20th century) except for 2 original stonemullioned windows to the south elevation of the western block; the ground floor window has two segment-headed lights, the first floor window has three ogee-headed lights under hoodmould. Otherwise the interior is mainly 19th century except for some earlier studded plank doors and a 17th century closed-string staircase with turned balusters, square newels, and moulded handrail.

Period: late medieval/post-medieval

Site Number: 14

NGR: 350800 490600

Client: The Levens Estate

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HER No: 42513

Sources: HER: PAS database LANCUM-E58F62

Designation: none

Description: coin. *Dupondius* or *As* of Helena (AD 337-41), minted at Treveri (Trier, Germany). Obverse description: veiled (?) bust facing right. Obverse inscription: 'FL IVL HELENAE AVG'. Reverse description: Pax standing. Reverse inscription: 'PAX PVBLICA'.

Period: Roman

Site Number: 15

NGR: 351200 490600

HER No: 2071

Sources: HER: Collingwood 1908,107

Designation: none

Description: possible site of a Roman pottery or tile kiln discovered in 1813 opposite the Roman camp by the edge of the brook. An urn without handles, and with a band of broached ornament was also found containing human ashes, iron and charcoal.

Date: Roman

Site Number: 16

NGR: 350900 490500

HER No: 42566

Sources: HER: PAS database LANCUM-EDD181

Designation: none

Description: 2nd century AD cast copper alloy Roman zoomorphic (bird) brooch. The underneath of the brooch shows a hinge and catchplate although the pin is missing. The front face depicts the head which is worn with no detail evident.

Date: Roman

Site Number: 17

NGR: 351000 490500

HER Nos: 42500, 42502, 42505, 42510, 42516, 42518, 42563, 42564, 42567, 42568, 42586, 42593

Sources: HER: PAS database various, see below

Designation: none

Description: Various finds discovered with a metal detector and reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS):

Date: Roman-post-medieval

HER No: 42500

PAS database LANCUM-88E1D6

Copper alloy coin. *As* or *Dupondius* of Antoninus Pius, dated AD 145-61. Obverse description: Laureate(?) bust facing left. Obverse inscription: illegible. Reverse description: reclining figure. Reverse inscription: illegible, poss. ending in [COS IIII].

Date: Roman

HER No: 42502

PAS database LANCUM-88F722

Coin. *Sestertius* of Lucius Verus ('Divus Verus'), dated AD 169. Obverse description: Laureate(?) bust facing left. Obverse inscription: '[DIVVS VERUS]'. Reverse description: Pyre. Reverse inscription: '[CONSECRATIO S C]'.

Date: Roman

HER No: 42505

PAS database LANCUM-88C3E4

Description: coin. As of Constantine I, dated AD 321/2. Minted in London (Londinium). Obverse description: Laureate bust facing left. Obverse inscription: 'CONSTANTINVS AVG'. Reverse description: Altar with VOT/IS/XX. Reverse inscription: 'BEATA TRANQUILLITAS'.

Date: Roman

HER No: 42510

PAS database LVPL2389

Description: fragment of rim of a cauldron, made from copper alloy. Dated to cAD 1200-1540.

Date: medieval

HER No: 42516

PAS database LVPL2388

Description: handle from a cauldron, circular in section, dated to cAD 1200-1540. Found in October 2002

Date: medieval

HER No: 42518

PAS database LVPL2387

Description: leaf shaped box seal, decorated with leaf or heart shaped design in red and blue enamel, dated AD 100-300. The hinge retained the iron pin and fragments of the fragile side walls were present. Found in October 2002.

Date: Roman

HER No: 42563

PAS database LANCUM-4B05D2

Description: copper-alloy pot leg from a medieval cauldron, ewer or skillet. However, it cannot be determined which exact type of vessel it is from. It is a straight leg with the foot ending in the design of a cat's or lion's paw. This design is fairly common.

Date: medieval

HER No: 42564

PAS database LANCUM-4B3C73

Description: two-part cloth seal which consists of two round discs of lead connected by a strip of lead. The back bears the number '6' or '9' while the front has the weaver's privy seal. Dated AD 1600-1700.

Date: post-medieval

HER No: 42567

PAS database LANCUM-88A742

Description: coin. Silver *denarius* of Septimius Severus, AD 195/6. Obverse description: Laureate bust facing left. Obverse inscription: 'L SEPT SEV PERT AVG [IMP VII]'. Reverse description: Fortuna. Reverse inscription: 'P M TR P III [COS II P P]'.

Date: Roman

HER No: 42568

PAS database LANCUM-4CC164

Description: silver penny of Edward I, dated to AD 1279-1302. Obverse description: Crowned bust in triangle, trefoil of pellets on breast, pellet before EDW.R. Obverse inscription: 'EDW.R ANGL'D NShYB'.

Reverse description: long cross with three pellets between each two arms; arms dividing legend.
Reverse inscription: 'CIVI TAS DUBL IN[?]'.
Date: medieval

HER No: 42586

PAS database LANCUM-36CD65

Description: copper-alloy head of a lock pin, AD c50-200. The iron shaft is missing; only a small stud of the iron pin remains just below the head. The copper-alloy head is a solid circular casting with flared and ridged edge with a raised boss/dome in the centre.

Date: Roman

HER No: 42593

PAS database LANCUM-370D52

Description: copper-alloy head of a lock pin, AD c50-200. The iron shaft is missing; only a small stud of the iron pin remains just below the head. The copper-alloy head is a solid fairly flat circular casting with a raised boss/dome in the centre. (Note: although it has different dimensions and Find ID to HER 42586 (above), it is possible that it is one of the other pins to the lock).

Date: Roman

Site Number: 18

NGR: 351400 490700

HER Nos: 2078, 2700, 4162, 19116

Designation: Scheduled Monument No. 273

Description: The Roman fort at Watercrock and associated finds.

Date: Roman

HER No: 2078

Sources: HER: Collingwood 1908; Collingwood 1930; North 1932; North and Hildyard 1945; Potter 1979

Designation: Scheduled Monument No. 273

Description: *Watercrock Roman Fort and Civil Settlement* - The site consists of earthworks and building foundations, which have been greatly reduced by robbing and ploughing, but are still prominent on the south-west side. The site was excavated in 1931 and 1944 and 1974-5. The plan of the fort (as seen on aerial photographs) is almost square, 136 x 117 m. The initial period of occupation was AD 90-100 with a possible break cAD 120 followed by the construction of a stone wall around the fort cAD 135-45. Finds from the 1974-5 excavations of the north-east gate dated to AD 150-70, as well as evidence of extra-mural buildings outside the fort as well as iron workings and timber buildings located on the east side of the fort.

Date: Roman

HER No: 2700

Sources: HER; Cumberland Pacquet, 8th April 1806; 22 April 1806

Designation: none

Description: a gold coin of Vespasian found at Watercrock. One side shows the head of the Emperor encircled with IMP CAESAR VESPASIANUS AVG. On the reverse is a female figure with a cornucopia in the left hand, and below, on the other side of the figure are 3 battering rams with COS ITER FORT RED on the edge. The coin was said to be in almost a mint condition. Presents whereabouts unknown.

Date: Roman

HER No: 4162

Sources: HER: Potter 1979; Thornton 1989

Designation: none

Description: a Roman road associated with Watercrook Roman Fort is indicated by the slight traces of an agger that follows a course north-west from the fort. It has been traced along the side of the valley west of Kendal after which it swings with the low ground towards Staveley. The road is assumed to then head towards Ambleside, but its exact course is unknown. New information supplied by Arthur Thornton suggests the road crossed five fields south-east of Allen Knott from NY 415007 to NY 422004 where a causeway is still visible (Thornton 1989).

Date: Roman

HER No: 19116

Sources: HER: Shotter 1990, 281

Designation: none

Description: two Roman coins were found in the area of Watercrook Roman Fort. The first, an AE Sestertius of Antoninus Pius, dates from AD 138-161 and is very worn. The second is an AR Denarius of Trajan (AD 100). Obverse inscription: IMP CAESNERVA TRAIAN AVG GERM. Reverse inscription: Hercules P M TR P COS III P P.

Date: Roman

Appendix 2: Significance Criteria

After DoE 1990, Annex 4: 'Secretary of State's Criteria for Scheduling Ancient Monuments'

- i) *Period*: all types of monuments that characterise a category or period should be considered for preservation;
- ii) *Rarity*: there are some monument categories which in certain periods are so scarce that all surviving examples which retain some archaeological potential should be preserved. In general, however, a selection must be made which portrays the typical and commonplace as well as the rare. This process should take account of all aspects of the distribution of a particular class of monument, both in a national and regional context;
- iii) *Documentation*: the significance of a monument may be enhanced by the existence of record of previous investigation or, in the case of more recent monuments, by the supporting evidence of contemporary written records;
- iv) *Group Value*: the value of a single monument (such as a field system) may be greatly enhanced by its association with related contemporary monuments (such as a settlement and cemetery) or with monuments of different periods. In some cases, it is preferable to protect the complete group of monuments, including associated and adjacent land, rather than to protect isolated monuments within the group;
- v) *Survival/Condition*: the survival of a monument's archaeological potential both above and below ground is a particularly important consideration and should be assessed in relation to its present condition and surviving features;
- vi) *Fragility/Vulnerability*: highly important archaeological evidence from some field monuments can be destroyed by a single ploughing or unsympathetic treatment; vulnerable monuments of this nature would particularly benefit from the statutory protection which scheduling confers. There are also existing standing structures of particular form or complexity whose value can again be severely reduced by neglect or careless treatment and which are similarly well suited by scheduled monument protection, even if these structures are already listed historic buildings;
- vii) *Diversity*: some monuments may be selected for scheduling because they possess a combination of high quality features, others because of a single important attribute;
- viii) *Potential*: on occasion, the nature of the evidence cannot be specified precisely but it may still be possible to document reasons anticipating its existence and importance and so to demonstrate the justification for scheduling. This is usually confined to sites rather than upstanding monuments.