Land at Scalehouses, Renwick, Cumbria



Historic Landscape Survey



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Historic Landscape Survey for Glassonby Estates

DATE ISSUED: December 2020

JOB NUMBER: EH068

REPORT NUMBER: 01 Version (1.0)

OASIS REF: edenheri1-409739

GRID REFERENCE: NY 5912 4530

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Heritage Impact Assessment
Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment
Historic Landscape Survey
Written Scheme of Investigation

Geophysical Survey
Trial Trench Evaluation
Archaeological Excavation
Archaeological Watching Briefs



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Acknowledgements

Eden Heritage Ltd thanks Ian Jack for his assistance throughout the project. The fieldwork and research was undertaken by Martin Railton, Eden Heritage Ltd, who also produced the report.



Summary

In 2020 Eden Heritage Ltd was commissioned by Ian Jack, on behalf of Glassonby Estates, to undertake an archaeological survey of land at Scalehouses, Renwick, Cumbria (centred on National Grid Reference NY 5912 4530). The survey work was undertaken in order to inform the design of a proposed new woodland.

The project comprised a Level 1 Survey and comprised a visual walkover survey of the area of the proposed new woodland, and the production of a core monument record, written account and photographic record. In total seven archaeological features were identified within the 12.4ha survey area, comprising a series of earthwork banks, a mound, a possible cairn and a bridge across the Dike Beck which bisected the site.

Potentially the earliest feature identified was a possible stone cairn on the summit of a glacial drumlin on the west side of the site, which may be prehistoric. A series of earthwork banks were identified in the low-lying parts of the site which appear to form a rectilinear enclosure of likely post-medieval date. This was replaced by the later drystone walls crossing the area and appears to be an early phase of enclosure. Two banks were also identified immediately adjacent to the Dike Beck, one of which is a field boundary depicted on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1868. A stone bridge across the Dike Beck was also recorded.

Possible small-scale industrial activity was also identified in the form of an earthwork mound on the east side of the survey area, although further evidence is needed to confirm the nature of this activity.

It is anticipated that none of the features identified during the survey will be impacted by the proposed new woodland as these parts of the site will be excluded from the planting scheme.



1 Introduction

1.1 Project Circumstances

- 1.1.1 Eden Heritage Ltd was commissioned by Ian Jack on behalf of Glassonby Estates (the Client) to undertake an historic landscape survey on land at Scalehouses, Renwick, Cumbria (centred on National Grid Reference NY 5912 4530). The survey work was undertaken in order to inform the design of a proposed new woodland on land to the northeast of Scalehouses (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 There were no recorded heritage assets within the proposed development area. However, a number of possible archaeological features had been identified on modern satellite imagery within the area of the proposed new woodland. As a result, Mark Brennand, Lead Officer Historic Environment and Commons Environment and Regulatory Services at Cumbria County Council, advised that an archaeological survey would be required to inform the proposed planting scheme.



2 Methodology

2.1 Scope of the Work

- 2.1.1 The purpose of the historic landscape survey was to determine the form and locations of possible earthworks and other historic features at the site in order to inform the design of the proposed new woodland. The project comprised a Level 1 Survey as described by Historic England in 'Understanding the Archaeology of Landscapes: A Guide to Good Recording Practice' (Historic England 2017) and was undertaken in accordance with the Forestry Commission's 'Brief for archaeological survey ahead of woodland survey in England' (Forestry Commission 2020).
- 2.1.2 A Level 1 survey is a mainly visual record, supplemented by the minimum of information needed to identify the archaeological site's location, possible date and type. The aim of this level of record is to provide essential core information including structured indexes of the location, period, condition and type of the monument which would result from rapid field investigation (Historic England 2017). The core record is included in Appendix 1. A brief summary of the known historical background of the site has also been included in this report to provide the historical context of the project.

2.2 Documentary Research

2.2.1 A rapid desk-based assessment was undertaken to provide the historical context of the project using readily available resources. This included the consultation of maps and documents held in the Eden Heritage Ltd Offices, as well as various online resources. In-depth original historical research on Scalehouses and its history was not undertaken as this was outside the scope of the project.

2.3 Archaeological Survey

- 2.3.1 The survey comprised a visual walkover survey of the 12.4ha area of the proposed new woodland, and the production of a core monument record, written account and photographic record. The survey was undertaken by walking transects of *c*.30m. The core record for each feature identified was created using *pro-forma* landscape survey recording sheets which were used to record location, period, condition and type, each identified feature being given a unique identification number.
- 2.3.2 Photographs were taken using digital photography. Photographs were taken of all extant earthworks and other historic features identified during the survey. Additional photographs were taken where appropriate to illustrate significant structural detail or relationships between features. General views were also photographed to show the survey area's wider context and landscape.



- 2.3.3 The locations and extent of earthworks and other archaeological features were recorded using a hand-held Magellan Mobile Mapper GPS with a location accuracy within +/-2m. The data was downloaded in the office and combined with Ordnance Survey data to create survey location plans using AutoCAD software (see Figure 5). The locations of features are depicted at a scale of 1:2,500.
- 2.3.4 The results of the archaeological survey were used to inform a written description of the area, and to support the account of the site's landscape development and past use on a period-by-period basis.

2.4 Project Archive

- 2.4.1 A professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011). The archive will be maintained at the Eden Heritage Ltd offices.
- 2.4.2 The project is also registered with the **O**nline **A**cces**S** to the **I**ndex of archaeological investigation**S** (OASIS Project). The OASIS reference for this project is: edenheri1-409739.
- 2.4.3 A copy of the report (in PDF/A format) will be deposited with the Cumbria Historic Environment Record (HER) where viewing will be available.



3 Background

3.1 Location and Geological Context

- 3.1.1 Renwick, formerly known as Ravenwick, is a small village and former civil parish, now in the parish of Kirkoswald, approximately 22km to the southeast of Carlisle in the Eden Valley, Cumbria. Scalehouses is a small hamlet located on the fellside *c*.1.8km to the northwest of Renwick (Figure 1). The area of the proposed new woodland is located *c*.300m to the northeast of Scalehouses. The land comprises four enclosed fields of rough pasture and moorland, bisected by Dike Beck (Figure 2).
- 3.1.2 The northeast side of the area occupies the lower slopes of the Pennine escarpment with an elevation of 297m aOD (above Ordnance Daltum) at the northeast corner of the site, and 272m aOD in the vicinity of Dike Beck which follows a meandering path through the centre of the site. The south side of the area comprises undulating pastureland with elevations between 270m and 272m aOD.
- 3.1.3 The solid geology of the site is sandstone, known as Bees Sandstone Member. This sedimentary bedwork was formed approximately 247 to 252 million years ago in the Triassic Period. This is overlain by alluvium (clay, silt, sand and gravel) formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (BGS 2020). The site has well drained sandy and course loamy soils (SSEW 1978).

3.2 Historic Background

- 3.2.1 The Manor of Renwick was granted to Adam de Stavely, lord of Sedbergh and Dent in the early 12th century, and passed through several land owners before being granted to Robert de Eaglesfield who used it to endow Queen's College Oxford in 1341 (Winchester 2017, 251).
- 3.2.2 Renwick was a nucleated settlement on the margin of the fells and had both low-lying fields and meadows, as well as fell grazing within its boundary (Winchester 2000, 61). There is evidence for a medieval open field system around Renwick which survived until 1815 (Winchester 1987, 72-73).
- 3.2.3 The area was predominantly pastoral in the post-medieval period, and sheep grazed on the fells were an important part of the economy from the later 17th century. Flocks were brought down from the fell in Autumn, in readiness for Winter when they were put into common fields. Coal mining was first recorded in the area in 1620 and continued into the mid-19th century (Winchester 2017, 251).
- 3.2.4 Common land on Renwick Fell was enclosed in 1864. The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1868 shows the survey area enclosed within a series of regular rectangular fields, with unenclosed land to the northeast. A track is depicted running west to Scalehouses and north along the eastern site boundary onto the unenclosed fellside. A spring is depicted to the east of the survey area, feeding



- Dike Beck, which ran across the site aligned southeast to northwest. The site is shown subdivided into four fields on this map defined by drystone walls and the beck (Figure 3a).
- 3.2.5 The 25" to one mile Ordnance Survey map of 1900 shows the same land divisions, with the addition of a small enclosed wooded area on the west side of the site (Figure 3b). The Dike Beck is shown to disappear beneath the ground in the easternmost field and to re-emerge in the field to the west. An old quarry is depicted outside of the survey area to the west (Historic England 2020, Mon. 1606744).
- 3.2.6 Modern satellite imagery was inspected for any evidence for possible archaeological features at the site. Google Earth imagery from 2003 shows an L-shaped linear feature on the east side of the survey area to the north of the beck, and a possible oval enclosure to the northwest. In the field to the west several linear features are visible, aligned approximately east to west (Figure 4).

3.3 Site Visit

- 3.3.1 A site visit was conducted on 28th October 2020 prior to the archaeological survey to inspect the area and assess the ground conditions. The topography and vegetation within the survey area was very varied. The northern slopes were largely bracken-covered, while short pasture was present on the south side of the site, bounded by drystone walls (Plates 1-3).
- 3.3.2 The centre of the site crossed by Dike Beck was low-lying and waterlogged with sedge and tall grasses covering this area (Plate 1). The small woodland noted on the Ordnance Survey map of 1900 was located on the west side of the site, with several mature Scot's Pine growing on a small hill (Plate 2).
- 3.3.3 The drystone wall separating the easternmost field from the land to the west was found to be partly missing within the centre of the site, with only the foundations present, and marked by a solitary Alder (Plate 2 and Plate 3). The beck was seen to disappear in the vicinity of the field boundary, indicating that it had been culverted in the past (as indicated by the Ordnance Survey map of 1900).
- 3.3.4 The southwest side of the site comprised a field of short pasture which contained a glacial drumlin (Plate 4). A drumlin if a distinctive whale-back ridge formed by glacial action, which is a common feature of the Eden Valley (Millwood and Robinson 1972, 107).





Plate 1: The northeast side of the survey area, looking northeast across Dike Beck



Plate 2: The southwest side of the survey area showing woodland, looking southwest





Plate 3: The east side of the survey area, looking southeast



Plate 4: Glacial drumlin on the southwest side of the survey area, looking north



4 Archaeological Survey

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The archaeological survey was undertaken on the 2nd December 2020. The bracken covering the northern slopes had died back by this date, although it was still present over much of the hill side. In total seven archaeological features were identified within the 12.4ha survey area, comprising a series of earthwork banks, a mound, a possible cairn and a bridge across the Dike Beck. The core record for each feature identified is included in Appendix 1. These are illustrated on Figure 5 [numbered 1-7].
- 4.1.2 The following is an account of the site's landscape development and past use on a period-by-period basis based on the results of the field survey. Chronological dates are based on Historic England's Period List. The date ranges have been provided to assist with the identification of archaeological and cultural periods, however these dates should not be taken as definitive or absolute, as time periods vary depending on geographical focus and archaeological science disciplines (FISH 2017).



Plate 5: Possible cairn [5] on the summit of the drumlin, looking south

4.2 Results

4.2.1 *Prehistoric (up to c. AD43):* only one feature was recorded which could potentially be prehistoric. A possible stone cairn [5] was located on the summit of the glacial drumlin on the southwest side of



the survey area (Plate 5). This measured 5.0m by 2.8m being approximately 0.5m high and comprised a deposit of rounded boulders and cobbles, which were exposed on the north side of the drumlin. The area to the east of the cairn appeared to have been excavated in antiquity, possibly during the creation of the cairn, although this was uncertain.

- 4.2.2 Romano-British Period (c.AD 43 to c. 410): no potential Romano-British sites were recorded.
- 4.2.3 Early Medieval (AD c. 410-1066): there was no evidence for early medieval activity at the site.
- 4.2.4 *Medieval (AD 1066-1485):* there was no evidence for activity dating to the medieval period, when the survey area was probably unenclosed moorland used for grazing.
- 4.2.5 **Post-medieval (AD 1485-1901):** several linear earthworks were identified during the survey, comprising mainly banks and ditches which are likely to be post-medieval field boundaries. Two earthwork banks [2 & 7] were identified which appear to enclose a rectangular area of land to the north of Dike Beck on the east side of the survey area. The eastern bank [2] was aligned northeast to southwest running up the hillside for 51m before turning 90 degrees to the northwest for a further 95m (Plate 6). The bank had a rounded profile and measured 2.2m across with an average height of 0.3m, with an associated ditch on the east and north sides. In places the bank reaches 1m in height. This feature also visible on modern satellite imagery of the site (see Figure 4).



Plate 6: Earthwork bank [2] on the east side of the survey area, looking north

4.2.6 The western bank [7] also ran up the slope for a distance of 37m, aligned north to south, before



turning eastwards for a further distance of at least 20m (Plate 7). The eastern extent of the earthwork was uncertain due to the presence of bracken, but it is believed to associated with the bank to the southeast [2]. It was notable that a water channel running down the hills side from the north bisected these two features, and the central portion of the bank may therefore have been subject to erosion.



Plate 7: Earthwork bank [7] forming part of an enclosure, looking northeast

- 4.2.7 These features appear to form part of a rectilinear enclosure covering 1.5ha of land in the valley bottom to the north of Dike Beck. It is possible that the enclosure was an early 'intake' of land on the lower fellside which could have been used as a sheep fold or cow pasture (Winchester 2000, 68).
- 4.2.8 Two further banks were identified associated with Dike Beck, which are believed to be post-medieval boundaries. One was located immediately to the south of Dike Beck on the west side of the survey area [4]. The bank measured 40m long, 1.7m wide and 0.3m high and is believed to be a former field boundary as it is depicted on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1868. Several mature alder trees were growing from the bank, which are also depicted on the Ordnance Survey map (Plate 8).
- 4.2.9 The second bank was immediately to the north of Dike Beck in the centre of the survey area [6]. The bank measured 37m long, 1.5m wide and 0.3m high and was within an area of marsh land with tall grasses meaning that the full extent of the feature was uncertain (Plate 9). It is possible that this bank is associated with the enclosure identified to the northeast [2 & 7] but this was uncertain.





Plate 8: Earthwork bank [4] on the west side of the survey area, looking west



Plate 9: Earthwork bank [6] to the north of Dike Beck, looking west



- 4.2.10 The survey area was certainly intake land in the later post-medieval period, as it was enclosed by a series of drystone walls during this period. It is evident that the enclosure represented by the earthwork banks was redundant at this time, since one of the drystone walls bisected the enclosure. Historic mapping from the 19th century shows that the survey area was on the periphery of the enclosed land associated with Scalehouses, beyond which was unenclosed moorland grazing.
- 4.2.11 Late 19th century improvements also included the establishment of a small woodland in the northeast of the site, and the partial culverting of the Dike Beck to the southeast. A bridge over the Dike Beck on the east side of the survey area may also relate to this period of activity [1]. The crossing is associated with an informal footpath over an area of marsh land and comprises a simple stone bridge made of five unshaped stone slabs laid lengthways across the beck, supported on the south side by several cobbles. The bridge is 2.4m wide with a 0.7m span (Plate 10).



Plate 10: Stone bridge over the Dike Beck [1], looking west

4.2.12 It is possible that small scale industrial activity was also taking place in the vicinity in the post-



medieval period. A mound was identified on the east side of the survey area [3], which may be associated with mineral extraction. The oval mound was located within bracken to the north of Dike Beck and measures 7.0m by 5.0m being is 0.6m high (Plate 11). The mound was covered by grass and moss with a slight hollow in the centre. There was no indication of stone within the mound. An inspection of several animal burrows revealed that the mound was comprised of sandy subsoil with frequent mineral fragments throughout, suggesting it was made of waste material. The minerals appeared to be either crushed limestone or possibly a gangue mineral (i.e. barytes, fluorite or witherite), which are known to have been mined in the area (English Heritage 2012, 58).



Plate 11: Mound on the east side of the survey area [3], looking south

4.2.13 *Modern (AD 1901-Present):* the landscape has remained largely unchanged through the modern period, apart from the addition of a covered reservoir at the southeast corner of the site (shown on the horizon in Plate 11).



5 Conclusions

5.1 Survey Conclusions

- 5.1.1 An archaeological survey has been conducted on 12.4ha of land to the northeast of Scalehouses in Cumbria, in order to inform the design of a proposed new woodland. The survey area comprised an area of post-medieval intake land on the lower slopes of the Pennine fells crossed by the Dike Beck.
- 5.1.2 In total seven archaeological features were identified during the survey of possible prehistoric and post-medieval date. A possible cairn was identified on the summit of a glacial drumlin on the west side of the survey area, which was not a result of field clearance and may be prehistoric in date.
- 5.1.3 A series of earthwork banks were identified which appear to form a rectilinear enclosure of likely post-medieval date on the east side of the site. This enclosure predated the drystone walls crossing the area and appears to be an early phase of enclosure of the lower fellside. Two further banks were identified immediately adjacent to the Dike Beck, one of which is a field boundary depicted on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1868. A simple stone bridge across the beck was also recorded.
- 5.1.4 Possible small-scale industrial activity was also identified in the form of an earthwork mound, although further evidence is needed to confirm the nature of this activity.
- 5.1.5 The identified enclosure corresponds to a feature identified previously on modern satellite imagery. Several other possible features were identified through differential vegetation growth in the same area prior to the survey. However, these were located in the low-lying waterlogged part of the site which was covered in marsh grasses at the time of the survey. It is believed that these features could either be related to the site topography or were possible associated with land drainage.

5.2 Impact Assessment

- 5.2.1 The proposed new woodland is expected to cover the majority of the survey area but excluding the lower-lying marshland in the centre of the site in the vicinity of the Dike Beck. Tree planting has the potential to disturb archaeological features and deposits, if present. Tree roots also have the potential to cause significant damage to sub-surface archaeological remains and historic structures.
- 5.2.2 The majority of the archaeological features identified were located within the low-lying portions of the site, in close association with the Dike Beck, and it is understood that these areas will be excluded from the planting scheme. The exception is the possible cairn on the summit of the glacial drumlin, which will also be excluded from the planting area, in which case there will be no impact.

Land at Scalehouses, Renwick, Cumbria Glassonby Estates Historic Landscape Survey





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APPENDIX 1: CORE RECORD

Feature No.	Туре	Summary	Condition	Period	Grid Coordinates	Elevation
1	Bridge/crossing	Crude stone bridge providing a crossing over the Dike Beck associated with a footpath over an area of marshland. The bridge comprises five unshaped stone slabs laid lengthways across the beck, supported on the south side by several cobbles. The bridge is 2.4m wide with a 0.7m span. One stone has been displaced on the west side.	Substantially intact	Post- medieval/ Modern	359180,545161	270m
2	Boundary bank	Earthwork bank enclosing a rectangular area of land to the north of Dike Beck. The bank is aligned northeast-southwest running up the hillside for 51m before turning 90 degrees to the northwest for a further 95m. The bank has a rounded profile and measures 2.2m across with an average height of 0.3m. In places the bank reaches 1m in height. The bank has a corresponding ditch on the east and north sides measuring 2m across and approximately 0.3m deep. Parts of the bank are hidden in bracken.	Substantially intact	Post- medieval	359233,545189	273m- 278m
3	Earthwork mound	An oval mound located within bracken to the north of Dike Beck. The mound measures 7.0m by 5.0m and is 0.6m high, comprising a grass/moss covered mound with a slight hollow in the centre. There is no indication of stone within the mound. Burrowing by animals reveals the core is a sandy subsoil with frequent mineral fragments throughout.	Substantially	Post- medieval	359199,545197	272m

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Feature No.	Туре	Summary	Condition	Period	Grid Coordinates	Elevation
4	Boundary bank	Earthwork bank immediately to the south of Dike Beck. The bank measures 40m long, 1.7m wide and 0.3m high and is believed to be a former field boundary as depicted on the 1 st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1868. Several mature alder trees are growing from the bank.		Post- medieval	358947,545431	268m
5	Stone cairn	A possible stone cairn located on the summit of a glacial drumlin to the south of Dike Beck. The cairn is partially exposed on the north side of the summit and measures 5.0m by 2.8m being approximately 0.5m high. The area to the east of the cairn appears to have been excavated in antiquity.	Damaged	Uncertain/ Prehistoric(?)	358918,545328	280m
6	Boundary bank	Earthwork bank immediately to the north of Dike Beck. The bank measures 37m long, 1.5m wide and 0.3m high and is within an area of marsh land meaning that the full extent of the feature was uncertain.		Post- medieval	359036,545315	272m
7	Boundary bank	Earthwork bank to the north of Dike Beck, aligned east to west for a distance of 20m, possibly associated with the bank to the southeast. The bank curves southwards at the west end for a further distance of 37m. The bank measures 2.5m wide and up to 0.4m high and is located within an area of marsh land and bracken, meaning the east end is uncertain.	Damaged	Post- medieval	3590732,545363	272m

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APPENDIX 2: FIGURES

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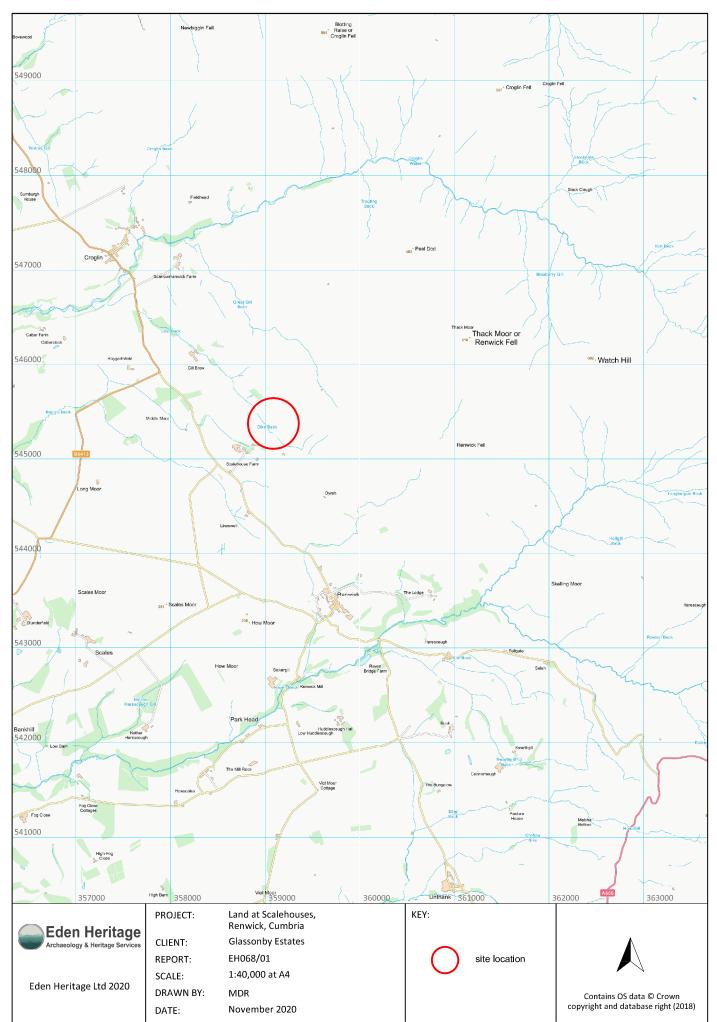


Figure 1: Site Location.

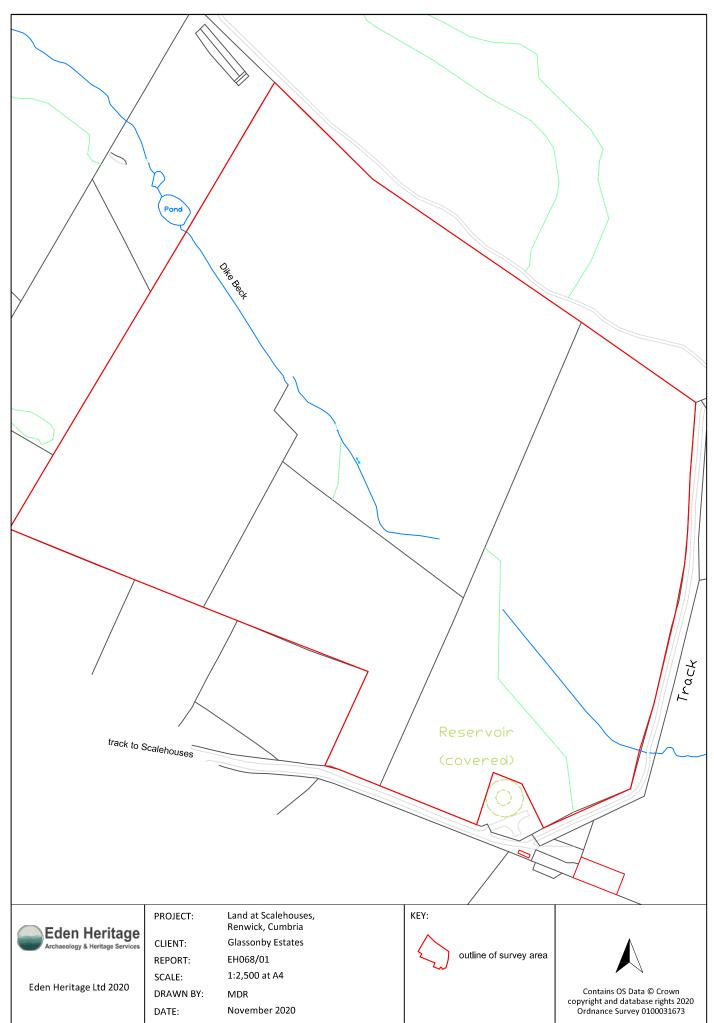


Figure 1: Site Location.

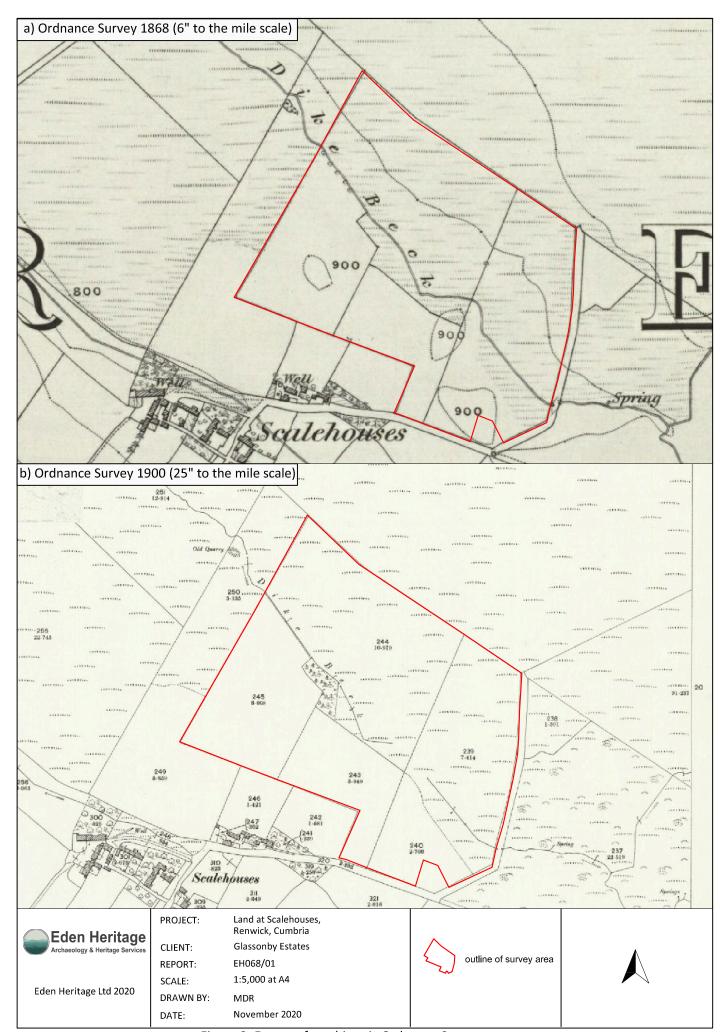


Figure 3: Extracts from historic Ordnance Survey maps.



Figure 4: Modern satellite imagery.

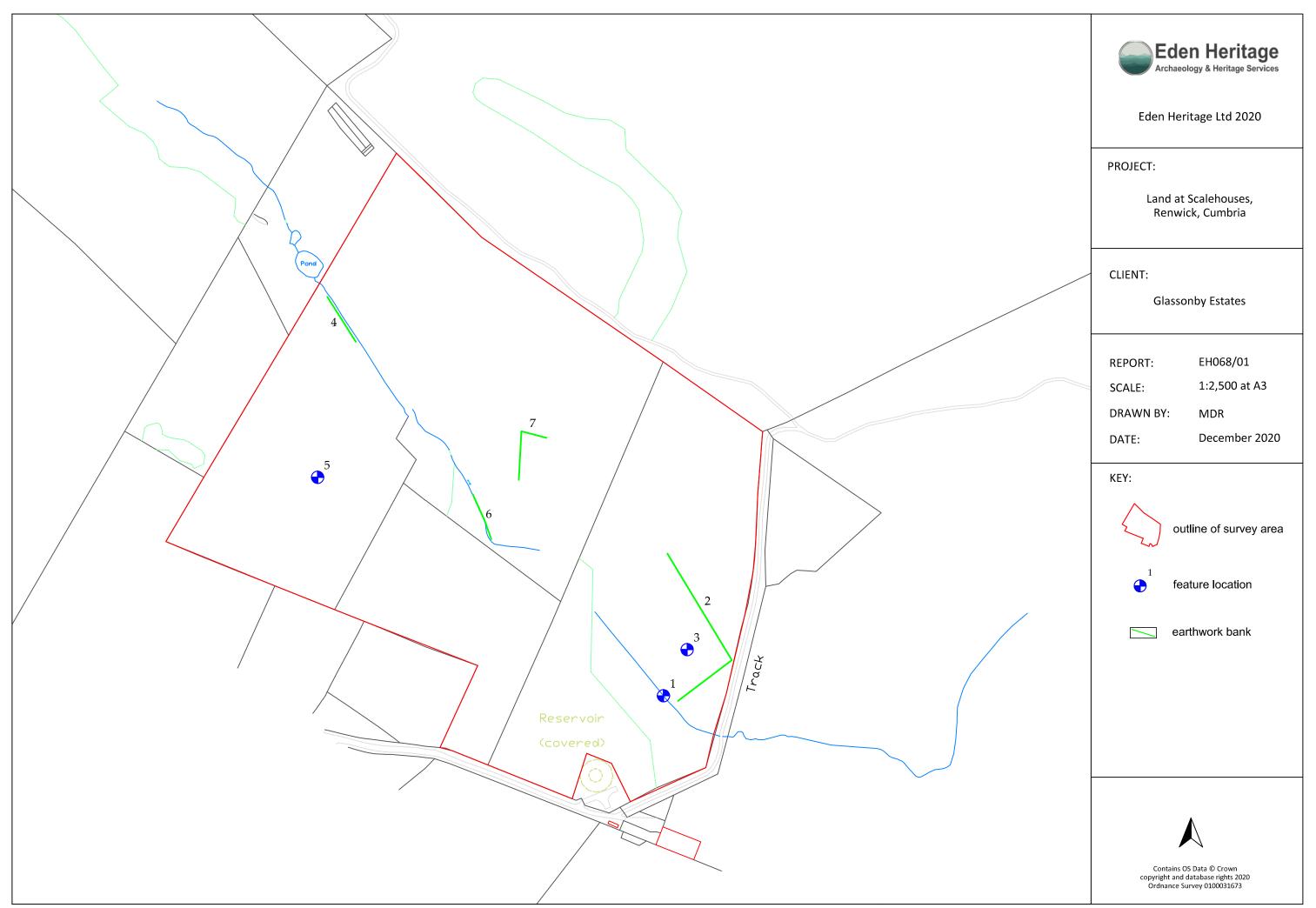


Figure 5: Survey area showing identified features (numbered 1-7).