

PROPOSED CAMPSITE, CARTMEL RACECOURSE, CARTMEL, CUMBRIA

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment



Client: Cartmel Steeplechase
Holbeck Ltd

NGR: 337450 478347
(centre)

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Non-Technical Summary

Prior to the submission of a planning application for a proposed campsite to serve the racecourse at Cartmel, Cumbria, Greenlane Archaeology was commissioned to carry out a desk-based assessment of the site. The project work was originally carried out in August and September 2016 for an earlier larger report, which was amended in April 2018 to produce the current report.

The area of the proposed development is to the south-west of the village of Cartmel. Information contained in the Historic Environment Record revealed four sites of potential archaeological interest within the study area, two of which are potentially within the proposed development area: a medieval deer park and a medieval to post-medieval bloomery/forge. A derelict post-medieval farmstead and an adjoining gravel pit lie within the study area but 110m outside of the proposed development area to the north-west.

The known history of the area is inevitably dominated by the development of Cartmel Priory in the late 12th century, which covered a large part of the present village. There is evidence for human activity in the wider area from the prehistoric period onwards, although the earlier evidence typically comprises stray finds, many of which are not well located, and reliable evidence for Roman and early medieval activity is severely lacking. While there has also been a considerable amount of archaeological work in Cartmel within the last 10 years much of this work has been undertaken within the village itself. No archaeological work has been undertaken within the study area.

In view of the archaeological evidence from the wider area, and taking into account the results of a site visit, there is some potential for remains of archaeological interest to be present within the proposed development area, in particular remains of medieval and post-medieval date. While remains relating to the deer park and bloomery/forge may be affected, their exact extent and location are uncertain so this is perhaps unlikely.

Acknowledgements

Greenlane Archaeology would like to thank Cartmel Steeplechase Holker Ltd for commissioning the project. Additional thanks are due to Jeremy Parsons, Historic Environment Officer at Cumbria County Council, for providing access to the Historic Environment Record.

The project was managed by Dan Elsworth, who also carried out the desk-based assessment. The report was written by Dan Elsworth and Tom Mace, the latter of whom also produced the illustrations, 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 proposed campsite close to the racecourse at Cartmel, Cumbria (NGR: 337450 478347 (centre)) Greenlane Archaeology was commissioned by Cartmel Steeplechase Holker Ltd (hereafter 'the client') to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment for the affected areas. This was intended to establish at an early stage whether the areas were likely to have any known sites of archaeological interest within them or whether there was any potential for as yet unknown sites to be present. The original work was carried out in August and September 2016, originally for the production of a report covering a larger area, which was amended to produce the current report in April 2018.

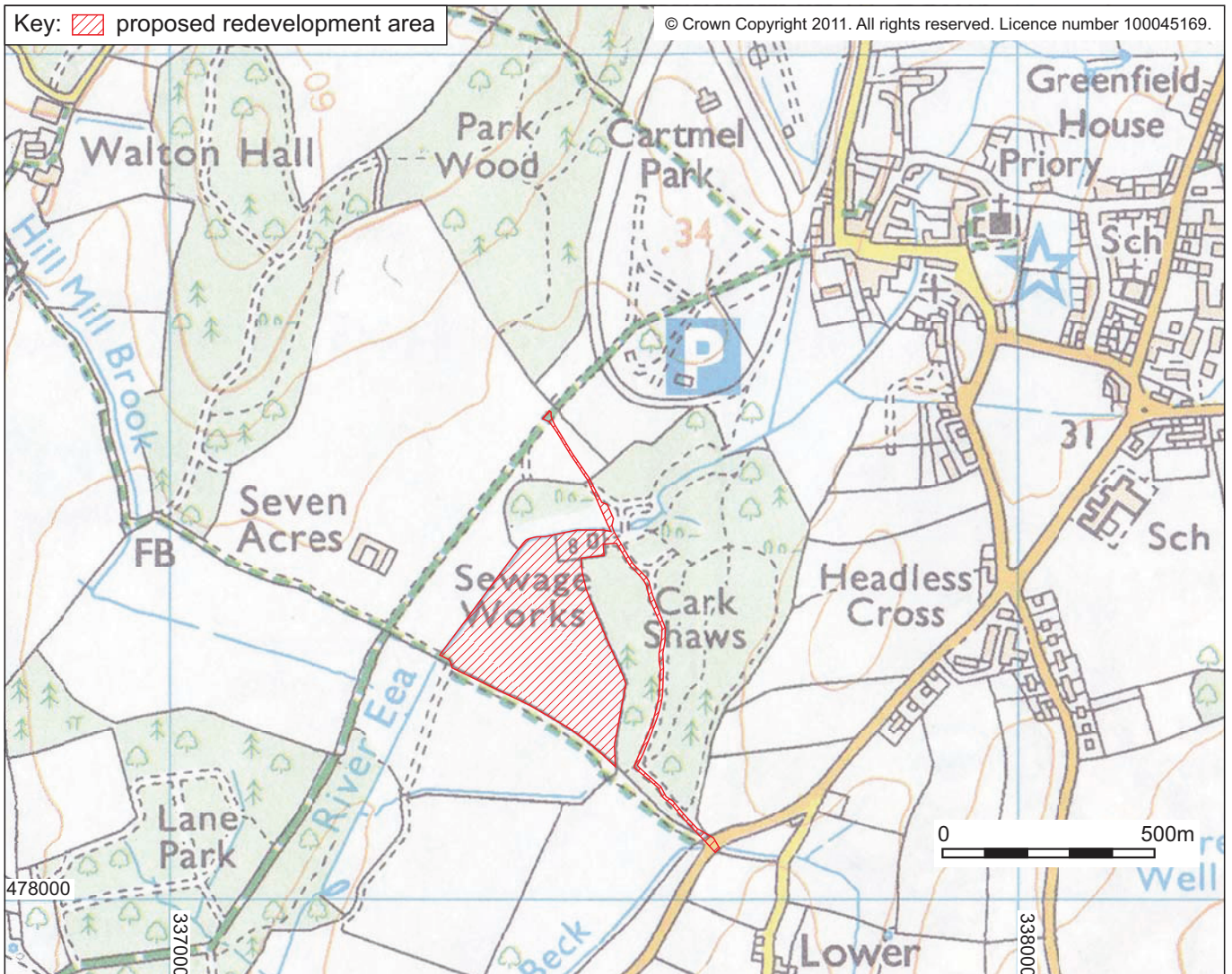
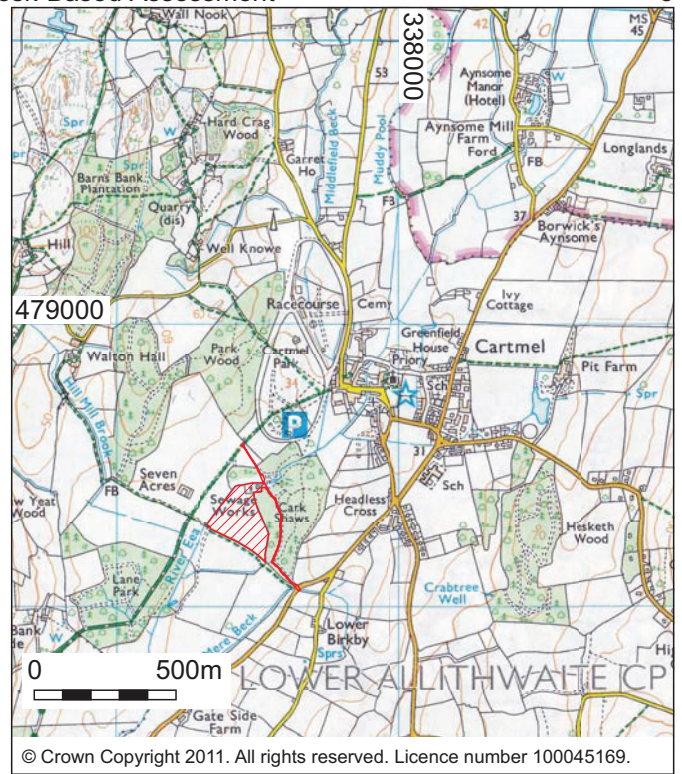
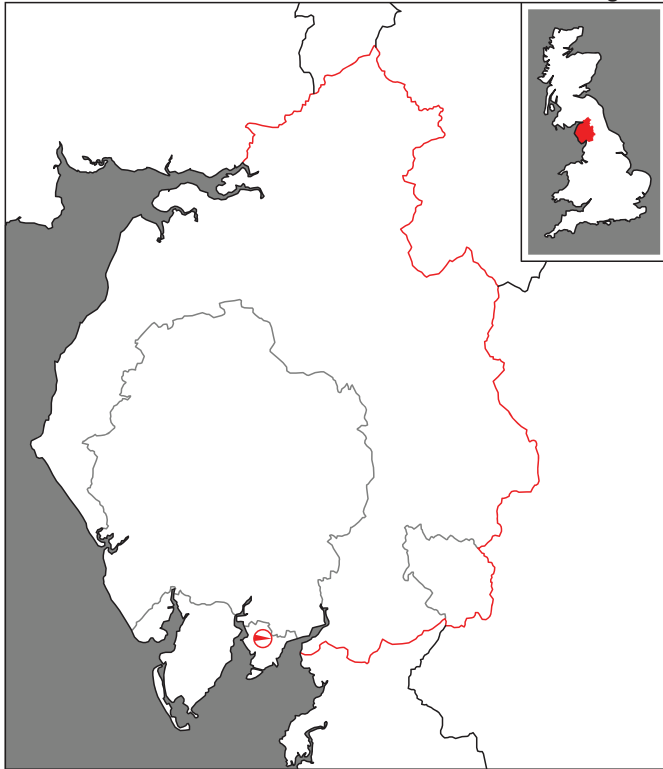
1.1.2 Cartmel has at least medieval origins and was the site of a substantial priory, which was constructed in the late 12th century. The village developed around this following the Dissolution, but there are other structures associated with iron mining and smelting around the periphery of the village. Evidence for earlier activity is uncertain, although there is persistent evidence for a Roman presence, largely in the form of stray finds, as well as earlier activity.

1.1.3 The proposed location of the campsite comprises a large open field to the south-west of a sewage works c200m to the south-east of the racecourse (see Figure 1).

1.2 Location, Geology, and Topography

1.2.1 The proposed redevelopment area comprises an area to the south-west of the centre of the village of Cartmel, at approximately 30m above sea level (Figure 1; Ordnance Survey 2011). The 'exceptional' and 'largely unspoilt' village of Cartmel, situated approximately 3.5km north-west of Grange-over-Sands to the south of the South Cumbria Low Fells on the northern side of Morecambe Bay (Countryside Commission 1998, 69; Ordnance Survey 2011), is now protected by Conservation Area status (Countryside Commission 1998, 73).

1.2.2 Cartmel lies on the junction of a complex series of solid geology comprising Bannisdale Slates of Silurian age and carboniferous limestone, covered by thick glacial debris, including deposits of cobbles, pebbles and sandy material (Mitchell 1990, 43; Moseley 1978, plate 1). The local topography is typically that of improved undulating pasture set between areas of limestone, and more locally to Cartmel, slate outcrops.



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Figure 1: Site location

2. Methodology

2.1 Desk-Based Assessment

2.1.1 A desk-based assessment was carried out in accordance with the guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014). The bulk of the information has been gleaned from earlier archaeological investigations carried out in Cartmel (Greenlane Archaeology 2011; 2012; 2014a; 2014b; 2016). This principally comprised examination of early maps of the site and published secondary sources. A number of sources of information were used during the compilation of the desk-based assessment:

- **Cumbria Archive Centre, Barrow-in-Furness (CAC(B))**: this was visited primarily in order to examine early maps of the site and other documentary sources, but published material such as local histories, were also consulted;
- **Cumbria Archive Centre, Kendal (CAC(K))**: this was also visited primarily in order to examine early maps of the site, but other sources, both primary and secondary, were also consulted;
- **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 200m of the edge 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;
- **Greenlane Archaeology library**: copies of the majority of the relevant maps and secondary sources are held by Greenlane Archaeology, and information on the historical and archaeological background to the site was taken from previous reports carried out in Cartmel by Greenlane Archaeology.

2.2 Site Visit

2.2.1 A rapid site visit was carried out on 9th September 2016. This was equivalent to a Level 1 survey as defined by English Heritage (English Heritage 2007). Although no new sites of archaeological interest were identified, the former farm buildings at Seven Acres were noted. Photographs showing the general arrangement of the area were taken and notes made based on these. Any areas where there were constraints to further archaeological work were noted.

2.3 Archive

2.3.1 A comprehensive archive of the project has been produced in accordance with the project design, and current CIfA 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 Record Office in Barrow-in-Furness following the completion of the project. A copy of this report will be provided for the client, 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 Officer 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 Two sites of archaeological interest (**Site 1** and **Site 4**) are recorded within the study area in the Historic Environment Record and one additional site was identified during the desk-based assessment (**Site 3**) and another during the site visit (**Site 2**) (Figure 2, *Appendix 1*; summarised in Table 1 below). These range from medieval to post-medieval in date. 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).

Site No.	Type	Period
1	Deer park	Medieval
2	Farmstead	Post-medieval
3	Gravel pit	Post-medieval
4	Bloomery/forge	Medieval – post-medieval

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*). 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*.

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*).

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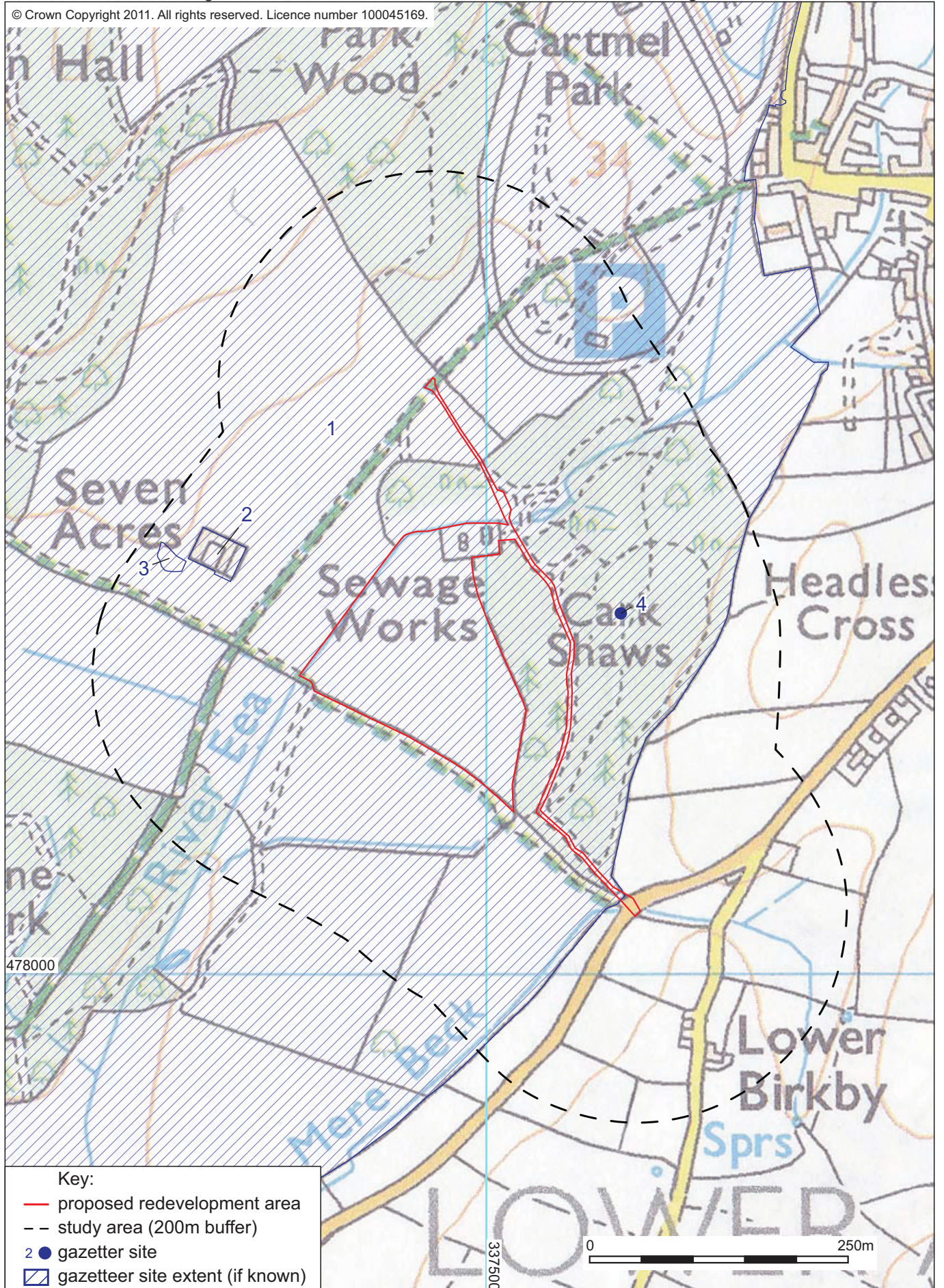


Figure 2: Gazetteer site plan

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3.3 Map Regression

3.3.1 **Introduction:** early maps of the area tend to be relatively lacking in detail, the earliest useful maps are therefore from the 19th century onwards. There is no tithe map as the area was not subject to tithe, having formerly belonged to Cartmel Priory, and the earliest detailed map is that which accompanied the enclosure award of 1807.

3.3.2 **Enclosure map, 1807 (CAC(K) WPR 89 Z3 1807):** the site is depicted on two different plans because it crosses the boundaries of the parishes of Lower Allithwaite and Upper Holker. These show that the proposed track at the north end of the proposed campsite cuts across the River Eea and terminates at a track in a field to the west side of the river on this map (Plate 1). A building is shown in the field to the west, which probably relates to Seven Acres farmstead (**Site 2**). The main area of the proposed campsite and the south end of the access track occupy fields to the east of the river (Plate 2).

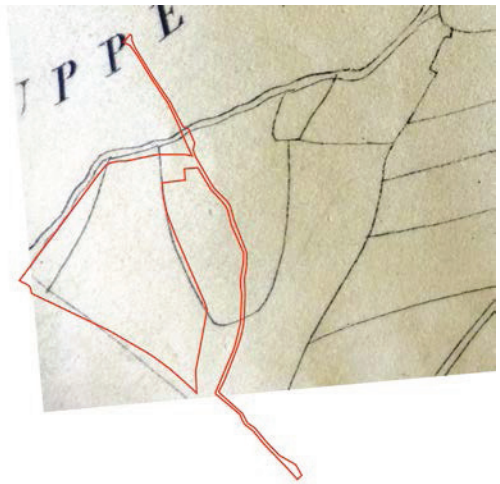


Plate 1 (left): Extract from the enclosure map of 1807 (CAC(K) WPR 89 Z3 1807), showing the location of the north track

Plate 2 (right): Extract from the enclosure map of 1807 (CAC(K) WPR 89 Z3 1807), showing the main part of the proposed campsite area

3.3.3 **Ordnance Survey, 1851:** the area of the proposed campsite comprised open fields and areas of woodland at this time (Plate 3). The track to the north crosses the River Eea and the old course of the river. The Seven Acres farmstead (**Site 2**), comprising several buildings around a central courtyard, has been built.

3.3.4 **Ordnance Survey, 1890:** the area is largely unchanged by the time the 1890 edition of the Ordnance Survey map was produced, which was surveyed in 1889 (Plate 4; cf. Plate 3). Some footpaths are marked in the wooded area, which were not shown on the 1851 edition. Some relatively minor alterations appear to have been made at Seven Acres (**Site 2**) and a gravel pit (**Site 3**) is marked a short distance to the south-west.



Plate 3 (left): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1851



Plate 4 (right): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1890

3.3.5 **Ordnance Survey, 1913:** the area is unchanged (Plate 5).

3.3.6 **Ordnance Survey, 1933:** a sewage works has been built at the north end of the area but the rest of the proposed redevelopment area and much of the adjoining area, including Seven Acres (**Site 2**), is largely unchanged (Plate 6).

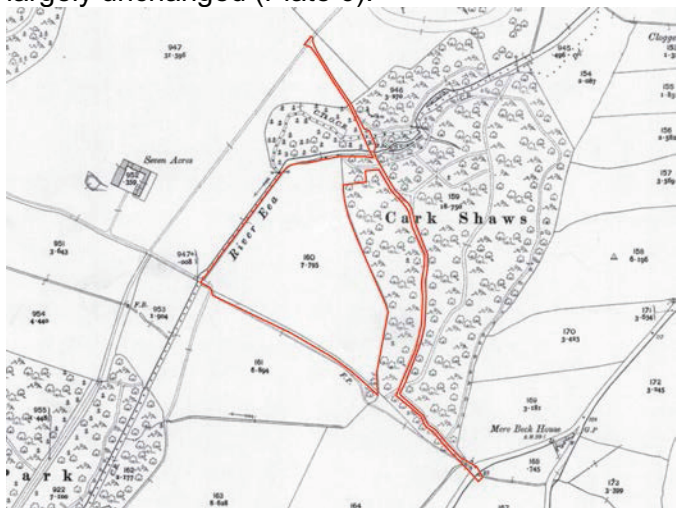


Plate 5 (left): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1913

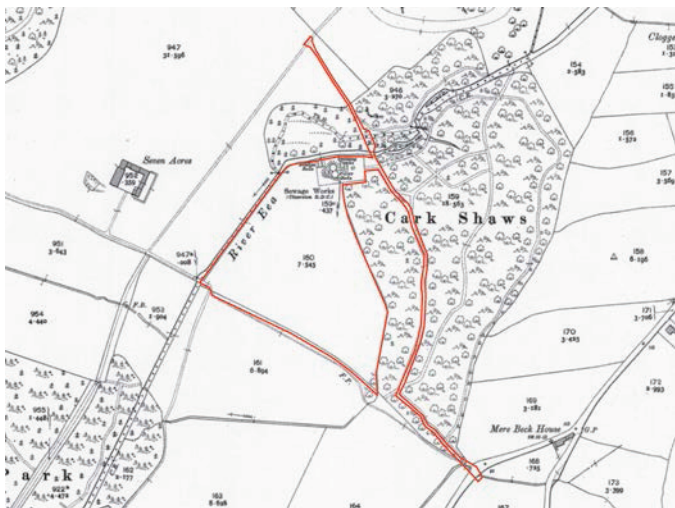


Plate 6 (right): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1933

3.3.7 **Modern mapping:** relatively little has changed to the area since the 1933 edition of the Ordnance Survey mapping (Figure 1; Plate 6).

4. Site History

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

4.1.1 While there is 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 artefacts of Late Upper Palaeolithic type and the remains of animal species common at the time but now extinct in this country (Young 2002). 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). Slightly closer to the site, however, a large number of finds of this date were discovered during excavations carried out in the 1970s in the park belonging to Levens Hall, and, although largely ignored at the time, they were subsequently published (Cherry and Cherry 2000). In addition, a small amount of Mesolithic material has been found at the north end of Windermere during excavations on the Roman fort site (see for example Finlayson 2004). These discoveries, particularly those at Levens, demonstrate that further remains of similar date are likely to exist in the local area and that river valleys, lakesides, and coastal areas are a common place for such remains to be discovered (Middleton *et al* 1995, 202; Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 151-152).

4.1.2 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 (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 the site, although an enclosure on Hoad Hill near Ulverston perhaps has its origins in this period (Elsworth 2005), as might another one at Skelmore Heads near Urswick, although this was also associated with evidence for activity in the Neolithic (Powell 1963). Stray finds of Bronze Age date are found throughout the county and a number have been found in the Cartmel area. These include a stone axe hammer, which was found in Cartmel before 1909 at an unknown location (HER 4144). This is perhaps the same as one said to be at Aynsome, although the find spot of this was also not known (Rigge 1885, 266). A bronze axe with a very pronounced stop ridge was also found in a peat moss near Cartmel, but the find spot and current whereabouts of this find are unknown (HER 4145; Clough 1969, 8). Sites that can be specifically dated to the Iron Age (c600 BC – 1st century AD) are very rare; the enclosures at Ulverston and Urswick may represent hillforts, a typical site of this period, but they have not been dated. Closer to the site, immediately to the east of Cartmel on Hampsfell, a group of over 50 structures identified as hut circles was reported in the late 19th century (Rigge 1885). No further details relating to these are known but it is possible that they represent the remains of a later prehistoric settlement or even a hillfort. At Levens, burials radiocarbon dated to the Iron Age have been discovered (OA North 2004), but these remain a rarity both regionally and nationally.

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

4.2.1 Late 18th and 19th century antiquarians considered a Roman military presence in the Furness area, which included the Cartmel peninsula, beyond question, but by the 20th century there was a complete reversal of opinion (summarised in Elsworth 2007, 31-37). 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), but ultimately the evidence suggests a strong Roman influence or “background” presence in the peninsula during the Roman period, which doubtless would have been attractive for its rich iron reserves (Shotter 1995, 74; Elsworth 2007, 37, 41-43). Traditionally, a Roman camp is thought to have been located in the meadow in front of the house at Fairfield (Stockdale 1872, 253; HER 2420), in an area known as ‘Castle Meadows’ (Stockdale 1872, 253), although at the present time there is scant evidence to support this theory (Castle Meadows is actually marked some distance to the north on the Ordnance Survey map of 1851b). That said, Stockdale recalls having the suspected

agger [cambered embankment of a Roman road] of this *castellum* [small fort] pointed out to him by an acquaintance (Stockdale 1872, 253). The site was held to stretch along the side of the River Eea, “*It was then not very traceable, but he said it had been levelled down and much of it taken away*” (*ibid.*). Elsewhere, in Stockdale’s unpublished manuscript notes, it is recalled that an ‘*oblong (parallelogram) mound in the meadows at Cartmel called Castle Meadows exactly in the shape of a Roman Camp – [was] destroyed partly by the encroachment of [the] River – the formation of the present road and chiefly [sic] by Mr Fell when he was building his house [at Fairfield] and improving his meadow*’ (CAC(B) DDHJ/4/2/1/8 1860s-1872). Unfortunately, the location of “Castle Meadows” is now slightly ambiguous; the extent of the Scheduled Monument area would suggest that the fort lay to the west of the River in front of Fairfield, which corresponds with Stockdale’s recollection, whereas Mitchell identifies the field north of the east end of the Priory wall to The Beck as Castle Meadows (Mitchell 1990, figure 1). The issue is clouded somewhat by Stockdale who implies that both fields may have been called “Castle Meadows” (Stockdale 1872, 253), potentially owing to the former location of the fort thereabouts, while the first edition of the Ordnance Survey labels a large general area to the north-east of Fairfield as ‘Castle Meadows’ (HER 2399). The will of Thomas Fell of Fairfield, written in 1838 but proved in 1840, states that his house had “*three fields adjoining*” but does not give their name (CAC(B) BDKF/1/22 1840), while a later account states that Castle Meadows was “a field on the right hand side of the road which goes up to Green Bank from Cartmel” (Women’s Institute Cartmel Branch 1928, 2).

4.2.2 A coin of Constantine I, Roman Emperor from AD 306-337, was found in Cartmel, but the exact location is unknown (HER 18949). The HER lists it as a silver coin but both references describe it as copper alloy, such as bronze (Shotter 1986, 257; 1989, 43). Various other Roman coins and hoards of Roman coins have been found in or around Cartmel (e.g. HER 2402, 19086, and 19097), dating from the first to the fourth centuries AD (Shotter 1988, 241; Shotter 1989). The exact find spots for these are unknown, but their presence perhaps points to the contemporary importance of the south Cumbrian coast and its integration into the economy of the Roman north-west and its links to other Roman centres such as Lancaster and Ravenglass (Shotter 1995). Further Roman sites may yet be discovered in the areas of Barrow and Cartmel, but firm evidence for a Roman military presence remains elusive (Shotter 1995, 77; 2004, 67). A recent evaluation at Fairfield (Greenlane Archaeology 2011) recovered three sherds of what may be Roman pottery from a road surface, but these were not dated with certainty and may be medieval.

4.2.3 The *Historia de Sancto Cuthberto* records that “the land which is called Cartmel” and all its British population, which also incidentally suggests a well-established community there, was given to Saint Cuthbert around c688 AD by Ecgrith, who was King of Northumbria from 670 to 685 (Crowe 1984, 63-65; Dickinson 1991, 9). A possible Viking ‘racecourse’ is suggested in the name Hesketh Wood (HER 5559), to the south-east of the area, the element Hesketh being derived from the Old Norse ‘*hestre*’, a horse, and ‘*skieo*’, which implies a track or course, especially a racecourse. The Domesday Book of 1086 calls Cartmel “*Cherchebi*”, deriving from the Old English for church, rather than the Norse form “*kirk*”, which implies that a Northumbrian church existed on the site ahead of the Conquest, at which time it belonged to one Duann (Crowe 1984, 61, 65).

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

4.3.1 The earliest forms of the place-name ‘Cartmel’, which are recorded from the 12th century, probably derive from the Old English “*ceart*” and “*mel*” from the Old Norse word “*melr*” (Crowe 1984, 61) and broadly mean “sand bank by rocky ground” (Dickinson 1991, 9) and may originally have applied to the Grange area (Dickinson 1980, 7). That a parish church existed there is attested in *The Furness Abbey Charters* by ‘Willelmus, clericus de Kertmel’ c1135 and by ‘Uccheman, persona de Chertmel’ c1155 (Curwen 1920, 107). By 1168 the parish of Cartmel was a royal estate and in 1186 it was granted to the Marshall family, the Earls of Pembroke, by Henry II (Crowe 1984, 65). Much of the present village of Cartmel lies within the precinct of the Priory (HER 2403), which was founded with the legal permission of the future King John (who was at the time Count of Mortain) between August 1190 and 1196 by William Marshall, a wealthy and important Norman baron and Earl of Pembroke from 1189 to 1219, although the monastery may not have been established until 1202 (Dickinson 1980, 98; 1991, 10-11).

The charter endowed the Priory “all my land of Cartmel” and a list of rights and privileges, which unusually included rights to iron mines (Dickinson 1980, 97; 1991, 10-11).

4.3.2 Unfortunately, it is not possible to get a detailed view of the possessions acquired by the Priory due to the loss of its archives, although it evidently received a number of further grants in the 13th and 14th century and eventually acquired a number of comparatively large farms (Dickinson 1991, 14-19). Its ecclesiastical wealth was valued at £46. 13s. 4d. in 1291 in the *Taxation of Pope Nicholas* (Dickinson 1980, 15). However, like much of the north of England, it was subject to raids by the Scots throughout the 14th century (Dickinson 1991, 29-30); the raids of 1316 and 1322 ‘wrought immense damage in the area’ and on the latter occasion the *Lanercost Chronicle* records that the Scottish raiders “*burnt the lands around the priory... and took away cattle and booty*” (Dickinson 1980, 13). The Priory was also affected by the Black Death, which may explain why, probably like many English monasteries, it is recorded as having fewer brethren than normal in 1381 (Dickinson 1980, 16). The defensive potential of the priory should not be overlooked (Hyde and Pevsner 2010, 268); the main priory gatehouse (HER 4710) leading into the precinct was built between 1330 and 1340 and land surrounding the Priory was also enclosed by a precinct wall during the 14th century (Curwen 1920, 111). The gatehouse is the only remaining building associated with Cartmel Priory, although vestiges of other buildings are incorporated in later structures elsewhere in Cartmel. Elements of the precinct wall evidently survived in reasonable condition into the early 19th century; Baines describes it as running west from the gatehouse, before running north past Fairfield where ‘*about one hundred yards of the wall exist of rough ragcoble [sic] stone*’ before it turned east then south-east (Baines 1836, 725). What is probably the earliest plan delineating the presumed and known elements of the priory and its precinct wall, produced by Ffoliott in 1854, is of interest as it seems to have been used as the basis for determining the position of these features in subsequent accounts (e.g. Dickinson 1981, 83), although the manner in which these structures were positively identified is uncertain.

4.3.4 In 1390 a papal mandate to the archbishop of York ordered an investigation of the prior of Cartmel, William, accused of simony in admitting canons to profession and of ‘too frequent visits to taverns’, to the extent that the monastery was falling into disrepair (Dickinson 1980, 13). This may have been the catalyst for a period of reputedly much needed reconstruction and restoration of the Priory, possibly begun in the final years of the 14th century (*ibid.*, 19); Hyde and Pevsner state, somewhat enigmatically, that ‘*something drastic [emphasis added] made it necessary for the canons to rebuild their monastic precinct on the [north] side*’ in approximately the mid-15th century (Hyde and Pevsner 2010, 267) and the surrounding lofty precinct wall is also suggested to have been largely rebuilt and partly re-sited in the 15th century (Dickinson 1980, 18). It has elsewhere been suggested that rebuilding was needed as a result of the devastation wrought by the Scottish raids, which perhaps burnt the Priory buildings to the ground (Curwen 1920, 111-112), or else the relocation of the cloistral buildings became necessary out of consideration for the underlying geological properties of the respective sides of the church (Mitchell 1990, 45-46).

4.3.5 The small field to the north side of Priest Lane (immediately to the north of the Priory Church) is called “farmery” field, which Dickinson interprets as a reference to the old word for infirmary, which in this case would have provided treatment for the sick and infirm brethren (Dickinson 1980, 21; 1991, 109). Another suggestion for the origins of its name is that it derived from being near the Monastic Dairy (Women’s Institute Cartmel Branch 1928, 2). In either case, its layout can allegedly be determined from aerial photographs, which show that its main structure, most likely a large hall, with twin aisles and an open area at one end, ran north/south and it had a subsidiary block on its eastern side (Dickinson 1991, 109). The walling of the monastic precinct continues to the east and the area to the north, towards the beck, is low-lying and prone to flooding (Dickinson 1991, 109-110). The land between Farmery field and the beck to the west may have been gardens and orchards with fields to the north (Dickinson 1980, 21). The field immediately to the south-east of Fairfield Lodge formed part of the priory's outer court, which would have housed the agricultural and industrial buildings essential to the priory's economy, which potentially included barns, granaries, brew house, bake house, guesthouse, wool house, swine house, stables, mills, dovecots, tannery, and blacksmiths etcetera, and nowadays forms part of the Scheduled Monument area associated with the Priory (Scheduled Monument Number: 34796).

4.3.6 The value of the site of the Priory appears greatly diminished by 1535 when it was valued at £8. 16s. 8d. in a survey of English ecclesiastical revenue, the so-called *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, although it still received rents and similar income estimated at £91. 6s. 3d. net (Dickinson 1980, 15-16). Besides, Frith Hall grange was erected in the 16th century on the Leven Estuary where the Priory held fishing rights (Dickinson 1991, 16-17) and the valuation was raised to £212. 12s. 10½d., following protests by the priory that it had been undervalued, perhaps to avoid falling foul of the Act for the Suppression of the smaller English monasteries of 1536 (Curwen 1920, 113-114; Dickinson 1980, 21-22). It was to no avail - the Act for the Suppression of the smaller English monasteries of 1536 began the Dissolution of the monasteries, which, despite violent protest, led to the Priory being dissolved between 1536-7 (Curwen 1920, 113-114; Dickinson 1980, 21-22; Wild and Howard-Davis 1999, 31); however, following the unusual decision ordered by Mr. Chancellor of the Duchy that it should 'stand still' as it served a *parochial* as well as monastic purpose, the Priory church was preserved as being the only place of worship available for its parishioners (Curwen 1920, 114; Dickinson 1980, 24). After the Dissolution the Priory's assets became Crown property and ultimately became part of the Holker Hall Estate (Dickinson 1991, 40), some of which now forms part of the Scheduled Monument area associated with the Priory.

4.3.7 The HER records additional medieval sites within the study area, including a deer park (**Site 1**) that used to occupy the area of the modern racecourse and Cartmel Park and Cartmel Wood to the west of the village. Additional medieval sites outside the current study area but located nearby include the Cross, obelisk, and fish stones located in the Square (HER 2404) and find spots for a 15th century silver signet ring (HER 42346) and part of a 12th century scabbard (HER 42344), found to the east and south sides of Cartmel respectively. The mining remains recorded in Hesketh Wood (HER 44070), to the south-east of Cartmel, are potentially medieval although they have not been investigated in detail and this has not been established, while the bloomery site at Cark Shaws (**Site 4**) probably had at least medieval origins, although it continued in use for some time.

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

4.4.1 By the early 17th century the Preston family, then at Holker, owned much of the land formerly owned by the Priory, and the church was further improved and refurbished under their benefaction (Curwen 1920, 115; Dickinson 1980, 25). Cromwellian soldiers stayed in the village on 1st October 1643, stabling their horses in the church after a minor battle in Furness (Dickinson 1985, 115). In 1660 came the re-establishment of Anglicanism and the church bells were re-cast in 1661 (Dickinson 1980, 25). Being on the edge of the core of the village the proposed development area is less obviously connected to the post-Dissolution of the priory. It is, however, in proximity to a number of areas connected to iron mining and smelting, some of which at least seem to have continued in use into the post-medieval period (**Site 4**). In general though, this is considered to have been a period of decline compared to the rapid development of the industry that took place at the beginning of the 18th century (Moseley 2010, 59-60).

4.4.2 The farmstead at Seven Acres (**Site 2**) is clearly post-medieval in date as it appears on the available mapping in the early 19th century, as does the adjoining gravel pit (**Site 3**), which is probably related. Additional post-medieval sites of interest in Cartmel include a former smithy (HER 16119), a cattle pound (HER 16120), Meeting House (HER 43251), limekiln (HER 16118), quarry (HER 16117), and the stone cross (HER 2406). Post-medieval find spots recorded include a large 'face jug' of the Bellarmine type (or *Bartmann* jug), which was dug up in the garden of May Cottage, Cartmel, in the early 1960s (Marsh 1980).

4.5 Previous Archaeological Work

4.5.1 A large number of previous pieces of archaeological work have been carried out within the core of Cartmel itself (summarised in Greenlane Archaeology 2018, figure 3), however, no archaeological investigations are known to have been carried out within the current study area.

4.6 Site Visit

4.6.1 A rapid site visit was carried out on the 9th September 2016. This revealed a number of pertinent details.

4.6.2 The proposed campsite area comprises a large open piece of gently undulating pasture, bounding the former sewage works on the north side, which is largely hidden amongst vegetation.



Plate 7 (left): General view of the proposed development area, viewed from the south-west



Plate 8 (right): General view of the proposed development area, viewed from the south-west

4.6.3 **Site 2:** this site comprises a group of disused early farm buildings arranged around an essentially square courtyard. These comprise a large bank barn on the north-west side with a lower outshut on the north-east end, probably originally a horse engine (Plate 9 to Plate 12). The north-east side is otherwise made up of smaller outbuildings or shippons (Plate 13), while the south-east side has a further low range but ends at a two storey building on the south corner, presumably a small house or office (Plate 14). The south-west side houses the entrance. All of the buildings are in a relatively poor condition, although the roofs are generally intact.



Plate 9 (left): The south-east elevation Site 2, viewed from the south



Plate 10 (right): The south-west elevation Site 2, viewed from the south-west



Plate 11 (left): The north-west elevation of Site 2, viewed from the north-west



Plate 12 (right): The possible horse engine on the north-east end of Site 2, viewed from the north



Plate 13 (left): The buildings along the north-east side of Site 2, viewed from the north-east



Plate 14 (right): The domestic/office block on the south corner of Site 2, viewed from the south-west

4.7 Conclusion

4.7.1 The proposed campsite occupied areas of woodland and fields either side of the River Eea on the earliest available maps of the area. The site remained undeveloped until the sewage works was built at the north end of the area between 1911 and 1932. Buildings that probably relate to the farmstead at Seven Acres (**Site 2**) are shown on the enclosure map of 1807 and all of the elements around central courtyard had been built by 1851. The farmstead has remained relatively unchanged since.

4.7.2 Archaeological remains in Cartmel record activity from at least the Roman period, but are dominated by finds relating to the medieval priory, the history of which has had a significant impact on the local area.

4.7.3 The site visit did not reveal any additional sites of archaeological interest, with the exception of the historic farm buildings (**Site 2**). Constraints to further archaeological work are generally limited, although the installation of drainage associated with the creation of the sewage works and associated built structures at the north end of the proposed campsite will have had an impact on any archaeological remains that might be present there.

5. Discussion

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The discussion of the results of the desk-based assessment 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 2*). Of the four sites identified within the study area, only the medieval deer park (**Site 1**), which occupied a large area to the west of Cartmel, is situated within the proposed development area, although the bloomery/forge (**Site 4**) is fairly vaguely located and so may be within the proposed development area. There two are therefore the only ones likely to be affected by subsequent groundworks associated with the proposed development.

5.2 Significance

5.2.1 Neither sites potentially within the proposed development area is statutorily protected.

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

Site	1	4
<i>Period</i>	M	M
<i>Rarity</i>	L	M
<i>Documentation</i>	M	L
<i>Group value</i>	L	L
<i>Survival/condition</i>	L	M
<i>Fragility/Vulnerability</i>	L	M
<i>Diversity</i>	L	M
<i>Potential</i>	L	H
Significance	L	M

Table 2: Significance by site

5.2.3 In the case of the deer park (**Site 1**) the archaeological potential is likely to be relatively low, while the bloomery/forge (**Site 4**) is considered medium, although its exact location and extent is uncertain.

5.3 Potential for Unknown Archaeological Remains

5.3.1 The likelihood of as yet unidentified archaeological remains being present is based on the known occurrence of such remains within the proposed development area and 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	No	Low
Neolithic	No	Low
Bronze Age	No	Low
Iron Age	No	Low
Roman	No	Low
Early Medieval	No	Low
Medieval	Yes	Med
Post-medieval	Yes	High

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

5.3.2 In consideration of Table 3 it is worth noting that while there are a number of stray finds, including coins of Roman date from the locality of Cartmel, as well as stray prehistoric and Bronze Age finds, none of these are accurately located and some could have come from within the study area. However, the likelihood of remains of this date being discovered within the proposed development area remains low. Medieval and post-medieval sites are known from within the study area, and these remain the most likely thing to be present within the proposed development site, although in the case of the only certain medieval site, the deer park (**Site 1**) there are unlikely to be any archaeological remains associated with this. The bloomery/forge (**Site 4**) is not located in detail and its extent is not well understood but it is more likely to contain surviving archaeological material.

5.4 Disturbance

5.4.1 The north end of the area of the proposed campsite has already been built over with a sewage works which will probably have had a damaging effect on any buried archaeological remains. The rest of the area has not been subject to any previous substantial disturbance, as far as the available documentary records or site visit indicate, other than more general agricultural improvement.

5.5 Impact

5.5.1 Plans supplied by the client for the proposed campsite development include an area of landscaping and a new 'welcome' building with a footprint of c200m² in the area of the existing sewage works, as well as using and presumably enhancing or extending an existing track to the north-east. It is likely that any building or groundworks in these areas would substantially impact on any archaeological remains that might be present, although this is likely to be primarily in the area that has already been disturbed due to the construction of the extant sewage works (see *Section 4.4.1* above). Any work in Cark Shaw wood relating to the track might also impact on archaeological remains **Site 4**, but given the vague description of the location of this it is difficult to assess the likely impact. An area of approximately 0.8 acres immediately to the west of the existing sewage works will also be subject to 'hard landscaping', however, no groundworks are indicated in the field to the south-west of that, which will form an additional camping area.

5.6 Conclusion

5.6.1 There is considerable evidence for remains of archaeological significance in and around Cartmel, however, only one known site of archaeological interest is recorded inside the proposed development area on the HER plus another that is potentially close by. The area has not been subject to any previous substantial disturbance, as far as the available documentary records suggest, apart from at the north end where the sewage works is situated, so any archaeological remains that are present are likely to be relatively well-preserved. Given that the likelihood of disturbance at the site is small, some further work might be considered necessary, however, the archaeological potential of the site based on current knowledge is relatively low..

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Appendix 1: Site Gazetteer

Site Number: 1

NGR: 337300 478500

HER No: 43700

Sources: Cumbria Historic Landscape Characterisation Project

Designation: none

Site Type: deer park

Description: site of a deer park, documented in 1770.

Period: medieval

Site Number: 2

NGR: 337237 478412

HER No: n/a

Sources: CAC(K) WPR 89 Z3 1807; Ordnance Survey 1851; 1890; 1913; 1933

Designation: none

Site Type: farmstead

Description: Seven Acres farmstead comprises a group of disused early farm buildings arranged around an essentially square courtyard, including a large bank barn on the north-west side with a lower outshut on the north-east end, probably originally a horse engine; smaller outbuildings or shippons on the north-east side; and a further low range on the south-east side that ends at a two storey building on the south corner, presumably a small house or office. The south-west side houses the entrance. It is possible that parts of the buildings, one of the north-east/south-west aligned ranges, is shown on the enclosure map of 1807 (CAC(K) WPR 89 Z3 1807); the footprint of the entire farmstead is clearly depicted on the Ordnance Survey map of 1851 and subsequent editions (Ordnance Survey 1851; 1890; 1913; 1933). All of the buildings were in a relatively poor condition at the time of the site visit (9th September 2016), although the roofs were generally intact.

Period: post-medieval

Site Number: 3

NGR: 337193 478409

HER No: n/a

Sources: Ordnance Survey 1890; 1913; 1933

Designation: none

Site Type: gravel pit

Description: a gravel pit is first shown on the 1890 Ordnance Survey map to the south-west of Seven Acres farmstead (**Site 4**). Although it is no longer labelled as such, it is still shown on the Ordnance Survey maps at least as late as 1933.

Period: post-medieval

Site Number: 4

NGR: 337630 478350

HER No: 2405

Sources: HER; Fell 1908, 199-200

Designation: none

Site Type: forge

Description: Cartmel Forge; there was a bloomery situated in Cark Shaws. When the commons was enclosed the forge dam was of considerable size and spread over the piece of land known as Well Croft. In 1929 there were said to be heaps of stones from the ruined buildings, a millrace, and heaps of scoriae

and cinders. In 1958 the millrace and a heap of scoriae were still evident, but no traces of the buildings. The forge was known as Cartmel Forge and in 1685 was in the possession of Thomas Preston of Holker. Work had ceased before 1711 and the following year the remaining ore was 'boated to Backbarrow'. The site is now said to be heavily overgrown (Fell 1908, 199-200).

Period: medieval - post-medieval

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.