

HIGH CARLINGILL, TEBAY, CUMBRIA

Archaeological Walkover Survey



Client: Lunesdale
Archaeological Society

NGR: NY 6141 0069 (centre)

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Non-Technical Summary

As part of a research project organised by the Lunesdale Archaeological Society to investigate a 'native settlement' on the east side of the Lune Valley south of the Roman fort at Low Borrowbridge near Tebay, Cumbria a programme of geophysical and aerial photogrammetry survey was carried out by Sumo Survey. To complement this Greenlane Archaeology was appointed to carry out an archaeological walkover survey in order to assess the features on the ground and aid the interpretation of the results of the geophysical and photogrammetric survey.

Historic map regression showed that the field boundaries within the survey area had been in place by the time of the tithe map in 1841, and had stayed essentially unchanged ever since, with the exception of the plantation of new woodland along the eastern side of the southernmost field in the mid-19th century.

The RCHME had surveyed the 'native settlement' site in 1993, including associated elements. The walkover survey re-examined the remains, and identified an additional four sites within the area – a culvert, a possible structure, a mound, and a quarry, all in the southern end of the survey area.

The proposed archaeological excavation of parts of the settlement site would provide a rare opportunity to examine a site of this type, made potentially more interesting by the possibility of it having multiple phases of development. This report recommends areas to target within the complex.

The walkover survey revealed that the original RCHME survey had not covered the north-west side of the site in sufficient detail, in part because it was considerably wetter, but it had also been disturbed by attempts at drainage at that time. Earthworks thought to perhaps represent the outer enclosure of the settlement in this area were observed during the walkover survey; further, more detailed, survey would definitely be beneficial in this area.

Acknowledgements

The walkover survey was carried out by members of the Lunesdale Archaeological Society supervised by Dan Elsworth. Dan Elsworth compiled this report and managed the project on behalf of Greenlane Archaeology. The report was edited by Jo Dawson.

1. Introduction

1.1 Circumstances of the Project

1.1.1 As part of a research project organised by the Lunesdale Archaeological Society (LAS) to investigate a 'native settlement' on the east side of the Lune Valley south of the Roman fort at Low Borrowbridge near Tebay, Cumbria (NGR NY 6141 0069 (centre)) a programme of geophysical and aerial photogrammetry survey was carried out by Sumo Survey. To complement this Greenlane Archaeology was appointed to carry out an archaeological walkover survey in order to assess the features on the ground and aid the interpretation of the results of the geophysical and photogrammetric survey. The onsite work was carried out on the 7th July 2018.

1.1.2 The 'native settlement' site had been surveyed by the Royal Commission in 1993 (see *Appendix 2*).

1.2 Location, Geology, and Topography

1.2.1 **Location and Topography:** the walkover survey area lies around 3.5km south of Tebay, which is a small village in Cumbria on the east side of the M6 motorway near junction 38 (Ordnance Survey 2015). It lies at the north-eastern corner of South Cumbria Low Fells (Countryside Commission 1998, 65), and covers *c*7 hectares of land around the 'native settlement' site. It comprises rough grazing land, is bounded by Fairmile Road to the west, by woodland to the north, by a field boundary running south from there along the east, and the remainder is bounded by the edge of broadleaf woodland to the south.

1.2.2 **Geology:** the underlying solid geology is Bannisdale Slates and Coniston Grits (Moseley 1978, plate 1). The solid geology is commonly overlain by glacially derived boulder clay (till) across the area (Countryside Commission 1998, 66).

2. Methodology

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The walkover survey comprised a Level-1 walk-over survey of the area around the settlement. The methodology used for the survey is detailed below. All of the work was carried out in accordance with the brief provided by the LAS (LAS 2018) and ClfA guidelines.

2.2 Desk-Based Assessment

2.2.1 No specific desk-based research was carried out prior to the walkover survey but information already compiled by the LAS was consulted as appropriate. In addition, the tithe map and available historic Ordnance Survey mapping were consulted.

2.3 Level 1 Survey

2.3.1 A walk-over survey was carried out to Historic England Level-1 type standards (Historic England 2017) and according to the guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA 2014a). This is a relatively low-level of investigation intended to provide basic descriptive details about each site of archaeological or historical interest within the Level 1 survey area and the site as a whole. It comprised three types of recording:

- **Drawn Record:** the grid coordinates of each site or find of archaeological or historical interest were recorded using a Garmin Etrex GPS, accurate to within c5m and subsequently marked on a digital plan of the site;
- **Written Record:** a basic descriptive record of each site was made on Greenlane Archaeology standard *pro forma* record sheets. These records describe each site's form, size, and (where possible) function and date. In addition, the landscape and historic setting of the site was described, in particular its relationship with other sites identified, field boundaries, and the local topography;
- **Photographic record:** photographs in 35mm colour print film and colour digital format (both 12 meg jpeg and RAW format) were taken of each site. A written record was kept of all of the photographs that were taken detailing the direction, size of scale, date, and identity of the photographer. The digital photographs have also been used for illustrative purposes within the report.

2.4 Archive

2.4.1 A comprehensive archive of the project has been produced in accordance with the project design and current ClfA guidelines (ClfA 2014b). The paper and digital archive and a copy of this report will be deposited in the Cumbria Archive Centre in Kendal (CAC(K)) on completion of the project. A digital and paper copy of the report for the project will be provided for the client, and one will also be deposited with the Historic Environment Record held by the Lake District National Park Authority, and a copy will be retained by Greenlane Archaeology. In addition, a record of the project will be made on the OASIS scheme.

3. Site Background

3.1 Map Regression

3.1.1 **Tithe map, 1841:** the land that comprises the survey area (field numbers 638 to 642) is part of the farmland belonging to High Carlingill farm, owned by Michael Branthwaite and occupied by Richard Jackson. The field names are as follows: 638 – Brackenthwaite; 639 – Far fell Mires; 640 – Near fell Mires; 641 – Near Brackenthwaite; 642 – Woodcock hill (NA IR 29/37/75 1841, 5). All five fields are apparently empty of notable features.

3.1.2 **Ordnance Survey map, 1862:** this map, surveyed in 1858, 17 years after the tithe map, shows no change in the four fields to the north, other than a single tree in the north-western field, and a watercourse along the western edge of the field to the south. The southernmost field now has woodland along its eastern edge, a single tree on the west, and a sheepfold is also marked.

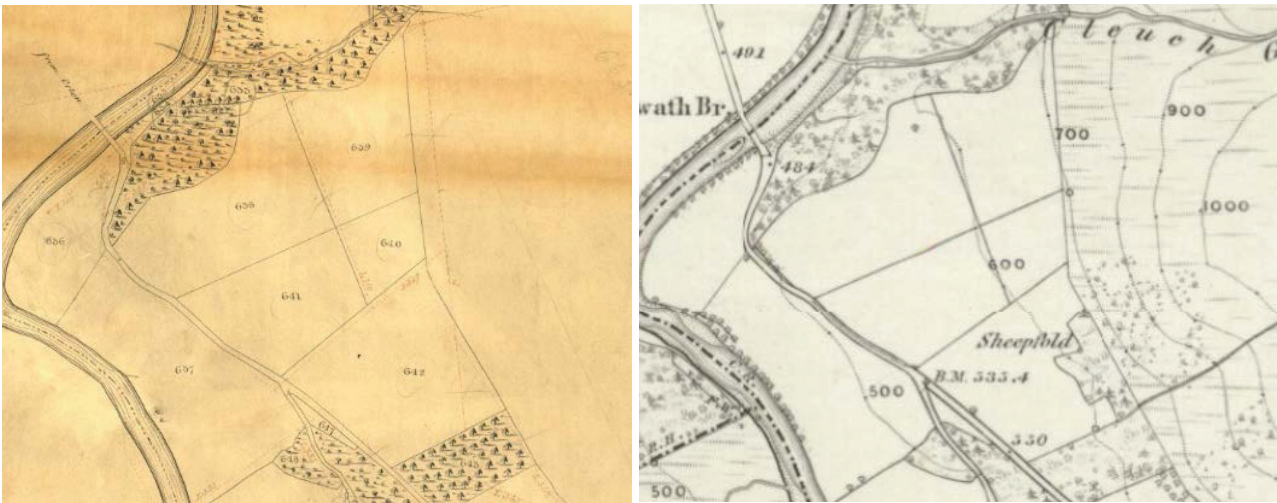


Plate 1 (left): Extract for the tithe map of 1841 (NA IR30/27/75 (2) 1841)

Plate 2 (right): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1862

3.1.3 **Ordnance Survey 1898:** there is now also a watercourse shown in the north-eastern field, which stops at the boundary between the two northern fields.

3.1.4 **Ordnance Survey 1914:** there is no change since the previous map.



Plate 3 (left): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1898

Plate 4 (right): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1914

4. Results

4.1 Summary

4.1.1 A total of 10 sites of archaeological interest were identified within the study area during walkover survey (see Figure 1 and *Appendix 1*; summarised in Table 1 below), covering several periods, particularly the prehistoric and post-medieval, although many are not readily dateable. These include the settlement site itself (**Site 09**) and associated terraces (**Site 10**), which was assessed as part of the walkover survey but already known, as were the probable hollow ways (**Sites 06** and **07**), the track (**Site 05**), and the palaeochannel (**Site 08**), all of which were revealed particularly well through the geophysical and photogrammetric survey. The remaining sites were previously unrecorded (**Sites 01-04**).

Site	Type	Period
01	Culvert	Post-medieval?
02	Structure	Post-medieval?
03	Mound	Uncertain
04	Quarry	Uncertain
05	Track	Post-medieval?
06	Hollow way	Uncertain
07	Hollow way	Uncertain
08	Palaeochannel	Uncertain
09	Settlement	Prehistoric – Romano-British
10	Terraces and road	Prehistoric – Romano-British

Table 1: Summary of sites of archaeological interest recorded during the walkover survey

4.2 Previous Archaeological Investigation

4.2.1 The settlement (**Site 09**) had already been subject to a detailed topographic survey (RCHME 1993; see *Appendix 2*). This also included a number of associated elements (**Sites 05-07** and **10**).

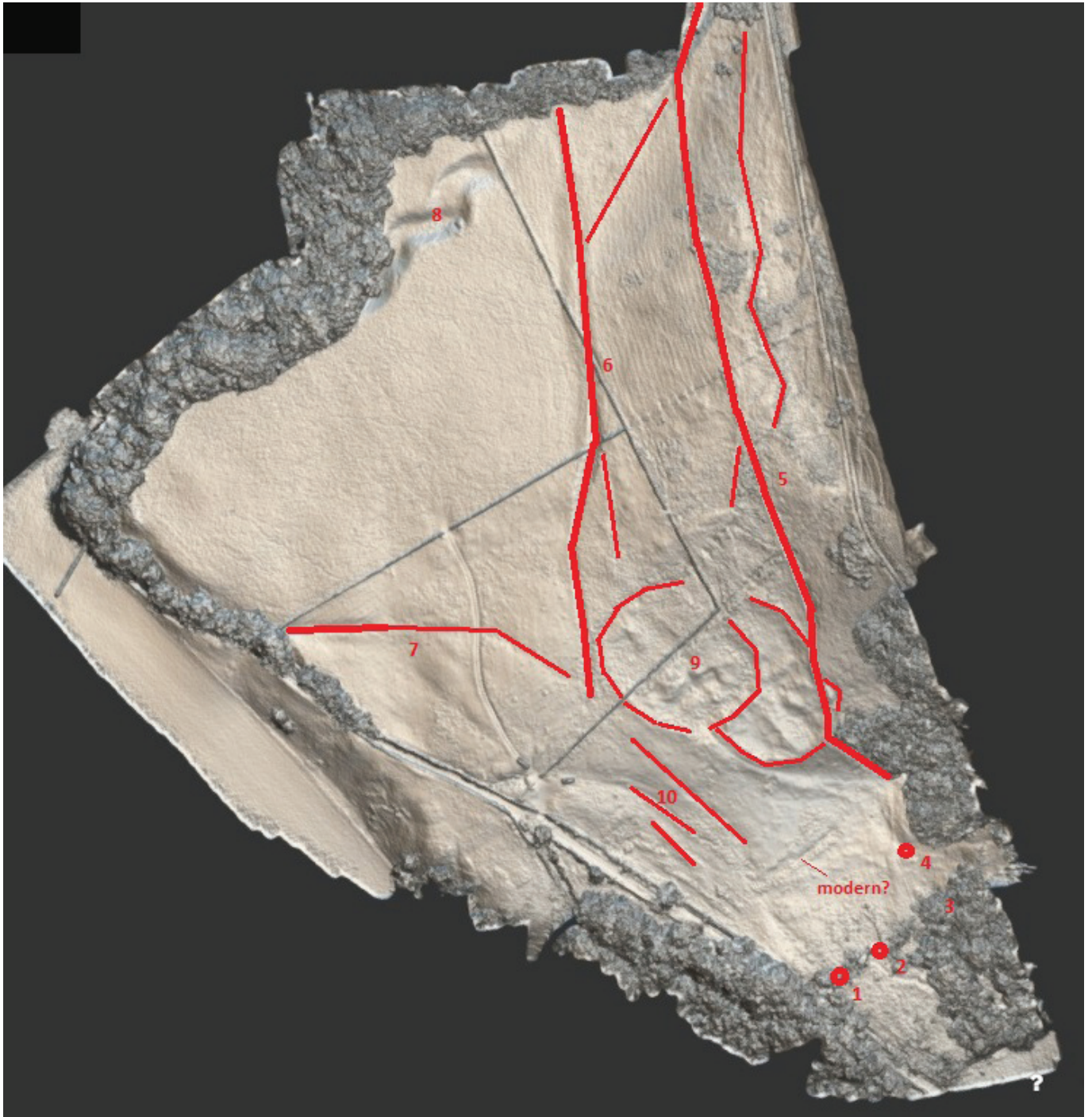


Figure 1: Sites recorded during the walkover survey overlaid on a view of the digital elevation model data

4. Discussion

4.1 The Walkover Survey

4.1.1 It is apparent from the results of the walkover survey, especially when considered alongside the results of the geophysical and photogrammetric survey, that the settlement (**Site 09**), which forms the focus of the whole research project, is part of a wider landscape of archaeological remains. Moreover, these remains evidently represent several periods and show how the site as a whole has changed through time, although many of the features identified cannot be dated without further work. Nevertheless, it is likely that the majority of the features relate directly to the period in which the settlement was occupied or otherwise in use. This includes the probable hollow ways (**Sites 06** and **07**) and the terraces and possible road (**Site 10**), all of which are most likely remnants of the agricultural regimes that supported a site of this type: the hollow ways for moving animals to and from the higher ground to the east, the terraces for cultivating crops. Examples of the latter are known in association with settlements of broadly the same type (see Oswald *et al* 2006, for example). With the exception of the possible palaeochannel, which is potentially very ancient indeed, the remaining sites probably relate to activity that post-dates the use of the settlement, with the trackway (**Site 05**) very obviously post-dating the settlement. What is not clear is how old it is; it seems very well-built and was clearly in use at the same time the boundary walls which it crosses were, which would suggest it is post-medieval. However, it is not shown on any available maps of the area (see *Section 3.1* above); this may simply be an omission, but it seems odd that such a well-constructed feature would not be depicted. It was suggested in the previous survey that it, and the underlying and less evident track, were constructed to serve the peat-cuttings higher up the fell (RCHME 1993). The possible structure (**Site 02**) is also not shown on any maps (see *Section 3.1*, above), although it is not clear how genuine this even is.

4.1.2 The settlement itself is of particular interest because of the potential evidence it shows for multiple phases of development. There is a clear discrepancy between the manner in which the outer enclosure has been laid out when comparing the south-east side to the north-west. While the original survey (RCHME 1993) suggested there were four main sections defined by the outer boundary, and as many as 11 hut circles, it is possible that the settlement represents two phases; an initial enclosure to the south-east, which was then partially overlain by the moving of the settlement to the north-west.

4.2 Recommendations

4.2.1 The proposed archaeological excavation of parts of the settlement site would provide a rare opportunity to examine a site of this type, made potentially more interesting by the possibility of it having multiple phases of development. There are numerous areas of interest to target during the excavation but it is suggested that cutting across hut circles I and II in Enclosure C (as numbered in the RCHME survey) and the trackway to the east (**Site 05**, labelled T2 in the RCHME survey) would be particularly useful in establishing the relationships between these different elements. In addition, targeting hut circles III and V in Enclosure A would allow the large enclosure bank to the east to also be investigated, which would aid in understanding the phasing of the whole complex. Excavation across the line of one or other of the possible hollow ways (**Sites 06** and **07**) and the terraces to the south-west of the settlement (**Sites 10**) might also provide dating evidence for these elements and therefore confirm whether they were contemporary, although this would be difficult as suitable dating material is unlikely to be found in such areas.

4.3 Conclusion

4.3.1 The walkover survey revealed that the original RCHME survey had not covered the north-west side of the site in sufficient detail, in part because it was considerably wetter, but it had also been disturbed by attempts at drainage at that time. Earthworks thought to perhaps represent the outer enclosure of the settlement in this area were observed during the walkover survey; further, more detailed, survey would definitely be beneficial in this area.

5. Bibliography

5.1 Primary and Cartographic Sources

NA IR 29/37/75, 1841 *Apportionment of the Rent-Charge in Lieu of Tithes in the Township of Tebay in the Parish of Orton in the County of Westmorland*

NA IR30/27/75 (2), 1841 *Plan of the Eastern Part of the Township of Tebay in the Parish of Orton in the County of Westmorland, by John Watson, Land Surveyor, Kendal, A.D. 1841. Map of Tebay in two parts, Part 2*

Ordnance Survey, 1862 *Westmorland Sheet XXXIV*, surveyed 1858, 1:10,560

Ordnance Survey, 1898 *Westmorland Sheet XXXIV.4*, revised 1897, 1:2,500

Ordnance Survey, 1914 *Westmorland Sheet XXXIV.4*, revised 1912, 1:2,500

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5.2 Secondary Sources

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RCHME, 1993 NY 615 006m *High Carlingill: Settlement*, unpubl survey

Appendix 1: Site Gazetteer

Site Number: 01

NGR: NY 61496 00586

Sources: walkover survey

Type: culvert

Description: a stone built culvert running beneath the boundary wall, which incorporates a lintel at this location. It is connected to a drain comprising a ditch to the south.

Period: post-medieval?



Plate 5 (left): The culvert (Site 01), viewed from the north-west

Plate 6 (right): The culvert (Site 01) and associated ditch viewed from the south-east

Site Number: 02

NGR: NY 61503 00607

Sources: walkover survey

Type: structure

Description: possible structure revealed as a line of boulders running out from the boundary wall before turning and returning to it, forming a small structure approximately 2m wide by 5m long orientated approximately east/west.

Period: post-medieval



Plate 7: Site of possible structure (Site 02), viewed from the north-west

Site Number: 03

NGR: NY 61512 00604

Sources: walkover survey

Type: mound

Description: a large mound of material running downslope approximately east/west and covering a large area. It is revetted by the boundary wall on the north side and may represent a natural accumulation of material, perhaps via a landslide.

Period: uncertain



Plate 8: Revetted wall forming edge of mound (Site 03), viewed from the north-west

Site Number: 04

NGR: NY 61476 00615

Sources: walkover survey

Type: quarry

Description: a shallow rounded scoop cut into the slope, little more than 1m deep and perhaps 3m in diameter, probably representing a small quarry.

Period: post-medieval?



Plate 9: Site of possible quarry (Site 04), viewed from the north-west

Site Number: 05

NGR: NY 61452 00655 – NY 61420 00927

Sources: RCHME 1993; geophysical and photogrammetric survey; walkover survey

Type: track

Description: a well-built track running approximately north/south, 2-3m wide and cutting through the east side of the settlement (**Site 09**), where it turns to the east before disappearing. In the centre it crosses two ruined sections of field boundary and there are the remains of stone gate posts, which demonstrate that line of the track was respected when the walls were constructed. At its north end it turns where it meets the ghyll into a narrow ravine before coming to a gate with a stone-built step at its base. This track overlies a presumably earlier track that runs north-east/south-west and then along the slope at a higher altitude; it was recorded during the earlier RCHME survey and is visible in the photogrammetric survey but was not particularly evident during the walkover survey, although an L-shaped bank in the approximate area may have been part of it. It is probably a precursor to the more obvious and better built track.

Period: post-medieval?



Plate 10 (left): View along the track (Site 05), from the north

Plate 11 (right): Remains of a gatepost at the point where the track (Site 05) meets the former field boundary, viewed from the west

Site Number: 06

NGR: NY 61354 00695 – NY 61375 00905

Sources: geophysical and photogrammetric survey; walkover survey

Type: hollow way

Description: a large ditch running approximately north/south typically up to 2m wide and 0.5m tall. It is joined by a number of shallower ditches, only really visible on the photogrammetric survey, all of which converge at the same point as the end of the track (**Site 05**). This probably represents a hollow way or group of hollow ways leading to the higher ground to the north-east. A drain has been cut through part of the settlement (**Site 09**) on the north-west side and led into the ditch, making it very wet in places, and boulders have been placed across part of it to form an *ad hoc* bridge.

Period: uncertain



Plate 12 (left): View along the hollow way (Site 06), from the south-west

Plate 13 (right): Stones bridging across the hollow way (Site 06), viewed from the west

Site Number: 07

NGR: NY 61240 00730 – NY 61276 00728

Sources: geophysical and photogrammetric survey; walkover survey

Type: hollow way

Description: a short section of ditch up to 3m wide and less than 1m deep orientated north-west/south-east running towards the road. It probably represents a hollow way and the photogrammetric survey suggests it continues further to the south-east.

Period: uncertain



Plate 14: Hollow way (Site 07), viewed from the south-east

Site Number: 08

NGR: NY 61313 00884 (centre)

Sources: geophysical and photogrammetric survey; walkover survey

Type: palaeochannel

Description: curvilinear ditch running approximately east/west down slope from the edge of the gyll to the north of the survey area. At least 3m wide and 1m deep.

Period: uncertain



Plate 15: Palaeochannel (Site 08), viewed from the south-east

Site Number: 09

NGR: NY 6141 0069 (centre)

Sources: RCHME 1993; geophysical and photogrammetric survey; walkover survey

Type: settlement

Description: Romano-British or 'native' settlement site comprising at least one phase, with an outer enclosure bank over 1m tall and 2m wide and numerous internal hut circles of relatively small size. The north side is less clear where the ground is more overgrown and seems to incorporate a number of shallow terraces on the north-east side where the enclosure is less obvious and cut by natural water courses running down the hill. It seems likely that there are two phases to the settlement, with the earliest perhaps represented by the south-easternmost part, which was then partially overlain by the north-west end. But this could only be demonstrated through excavation. The east side has certainly been partially cut through and overlain by the track (**Site 05**), which must therefore be later.

Period: prehistoric – Romano-British



Plate 16: General view of the settlement (Site 09), from the south



Plate 17: General view of the settlement (Site 09) from the south-east

Site Number: 10**NGR:** NY 61388 00640 (centre)**Sources:** RCHME 1993; geophysical and photogrammetric survey; walkover survey**Type:** terraces and road?**Description:** an area of shallow terraces situated to the south-west of the settlement (**Site 09**) each a few meters wide and less than 0.5m tall orientated north-west/south-east, with a possible road or trackway through the centre, perhaps connecting with the hollow way to the north-west (**Site 07**).**Period:** prehistoric – Romano-British

Plate 18: Area of terracing and possible road (Site 10), viewed from the north

Appendix 2: Text Accompanying the RCHME Survey of 1993

NY 615 006 High Carlingill: settlement

At NY 6141 0069, in rough pasture, there are the turf-covered remains of a late prehistoric enclosed settlement, comprising at least four contiguous enclosures (marked A-D on RCHME 1:1000 plan, 1993), in which a number of hut platforms can be identified. The site lies at 175m OD on sloping ground on the W flank of the Lune Valley just below the point where the valley steepens sharply and becomes scree-covered; the height difference between the highest and lowest points on the settlement is about 7.5 m.

A modern dry-stone wall cuts through enclosure (or enclosures) A from ENE to WSW. That part of the site N of the wall is ill-drained and has become silted, and though attempts have been made to drain this area, most recently in September 1993, it remains difficult to interpret. The major part of the settlement, which lies S of the field wall, is much better preserved, but it too is affected by the incursion of marsh, and also by robbing, surface quarrying, and the presence of an old terraced trackway (T2 on RCHME plan) which cuts across the E side of the site. The effect of these mutilations is to render identification of individual elements of the site, particularly the ephemeral hut platforms, extremely awkward; there are undoubtedly more huts than those listed below.

Enclosure A is probably the nucleus of the settlement but, more than any of the others, it is obscured by later mutilations, notably the modern wall (and parallel trampling by stock), to the extent that it is no longer clear whether this is just one or more than one feature. Assuming it to be a single feature, it appears to be sub-oval, measuring internally approximately 53 m NW-SE by about 45 m transversely. In common with the other enclosures it is scarped into the hill-slope, with a back scarp, up to 0.9 m high to the NE, and the remains of low, turf-covered banks around the other three sides; the front apron, where it has survived, is about 4.0 m wide and 0.7 m maximum height. There appears to have been an entrance at the S corner, now much disturbed, which is approached by a terraceway (T1) (see below).

The interior is a mass of scarps and depressions confused by quarrying, but the customary configuration of a courtyard in the lower part of the enclosure with up to six hut platforms (I- VI) ranged around the upper periphery, in this case the E and NE, is still discernible.

- Hut I is a slight depression, 4.5 m in diameter and 0.2 m deep, with an entrance in the SW arc, 1.0 m wide. Recently a site for the feeding of stock, it is filled with wet silage.
- Hut II remains as a platform, about 4.0 m in diameter, with a gap on the SW side; the front apron is 0.4 m high, but the rest is indistinct.
- Hut III, about 5.0 m across, is terraced into the slope, with a front apron and a back scarp each 0.3 m-0.4 m high, though the latter is spread.
- Hut IV is only a possibility; it survives as a vague depression on a raised terrace.
- Hut V is about 4.0 m in diameter with a spread back scarp, 0.2 m high, with little of the apron visible.
- VI is a possible hut, about 4.5 m in diameter, with a vague back scarp, 0.1 m high; it is masked by bog and the perimeter is very indistinct. AX (on RCHME plan), a somewhat angular scoop into the natural slope, 0.8 m deep and 6.8 m across, though superficially resembling a hut, is a later quarry with a hollowed approach from the SW.

No hut platforms nor any other internal details can be seen in enclosure A to the N of the modern wall. The recent (Sep 93) drain, still open during field survey, has cut through the perimeter of A, unearthing a concentration of heavy stones, but no structural details survive in situ. This must indicate a dry-stone construction for this part of the settlement, and almost certainly for the rest, though there is little evidence of this on the ground surface.

Enclosure B is D-shaped, measuring internally 21.5 m NW-SE by 12.0 m transversely. Like the rest it is scooped into the SW-facing hill-slope, with a back scarp 0.8 m high; the front apron is about 4.0 m wide and 0.7 m high externally, with a discontinuous counterscarp, up to 0.14 m high. It displays the classic pattern of a courtyard on the lower SW side with up to five hut platforms (I-V) around the upper N and NE periphery, each with a front apron 0.4 m maximum height but more generally 0.2 m high. A barely visible lowering of the bank on the S side may be an entrance, but there are a number of stones visible in the gap. All that can be seen of hut I in the SE corner of the enclosure is a flat area, 4.5 m across, but it has no discernible shape. A possibility only. Hut II is a platform, 3.5 m in diameter, scooped into the back scarp of the enclosure. Hut III is doubtful. There are slight traces of what may be an apron, but the ground is disturbed and the feature is now quite shapeless. IV, in the N corner of enclosure B, is only a possible hut; like I and III, it is vague and its validity as a hut is based more on its position than for any other reason. V is a good example set into the inner side of the enclosure bank, measuring 4.0 m in diameter.

Enclosure C, measuring 30.0 m NW-SE by 25.5 m transversely, adopts the usual pattern of two levels; in this example the upper terracing is 1.0-2.0 m above the lower yard. Two huts (I and II) can be identified with certainty on the upper level, though there are probably others. The much later grass track (T2) slices through the E side of the enclosure leaving the E corner stranded. No entrance is visible. Hut I, the best example in the whole settlement, measures 5.0 m in diameter, with a front apron 1.2 m high and a back scarp 0.5 m high. The NE side of hut II is destroyed by the later track and only the SW side of the platform, 4.0 m across, survives.

Enclosure D is D-shaped, measuring 27.7 m NW-SE by 13.2 m transversely; the back scarp in the NE is 1.7 m high and the apron on the opposite side is 0.9 m high. The enclosure is unusual compared to the others in that there are no huts to be seen around the upper side, and the interior is free of all evidence of structures save, possibly, in the extreme S corner where there is a curving scarp, 0.2 m high, forming a hook-shape, 3.8 m across with the S side open. This resembles minor quarrying rather than a hut platform. The terrace T1, on average 2.0 m wide approaches the entrance to enclosure A from the SE gradually ascending the natural slope diagonally by the easiest route available, skirting the SW side of enclosure B. This access seems to be contemporary with the settlement, but caution is necessary here as there is clear evidence of tractor tracks on the terraceway, and the interior of A has been used both as a quarry and, quite recently, as an animal feeding point. It meets with the grass track (T2) in an old stream valley where it is poorly-defined, but here, as far as it can be seen, it appears to be overlaid by T2. This latter grass track extends from a gap in the dry-stone field wall to the SE of the settlement, diagonally up the hill-slope to a gate in the extreme N corner of the same field containing the settlement, from which it then runs alongside the modern boundary wall defining the enclosed land in the valley. As such it is not later than the present field pattern, which is probably contemporary with the farmhouses in this area, assessed by DOE as 17th century, though clearly it post-dates the settlement itself.

There are further tracks within the survey area. One, T3, runs from a point just N of enclosure D, beneath T2, continues through a field gate, and climbs steeply up the hill to the vicinity of the peat cuttings on Blease Fell (see NY 60 SW 24). This is one of a number of peat roads extending from the farms in the Lune Valley up to the cuttings on the fell summits. Presumably the tracks shown on plan to the SW and S of the settlement served a similar function. No trace can be seen of cultivation associated with the settlement.

Surveyed at 1:1000 scale by RCHME.

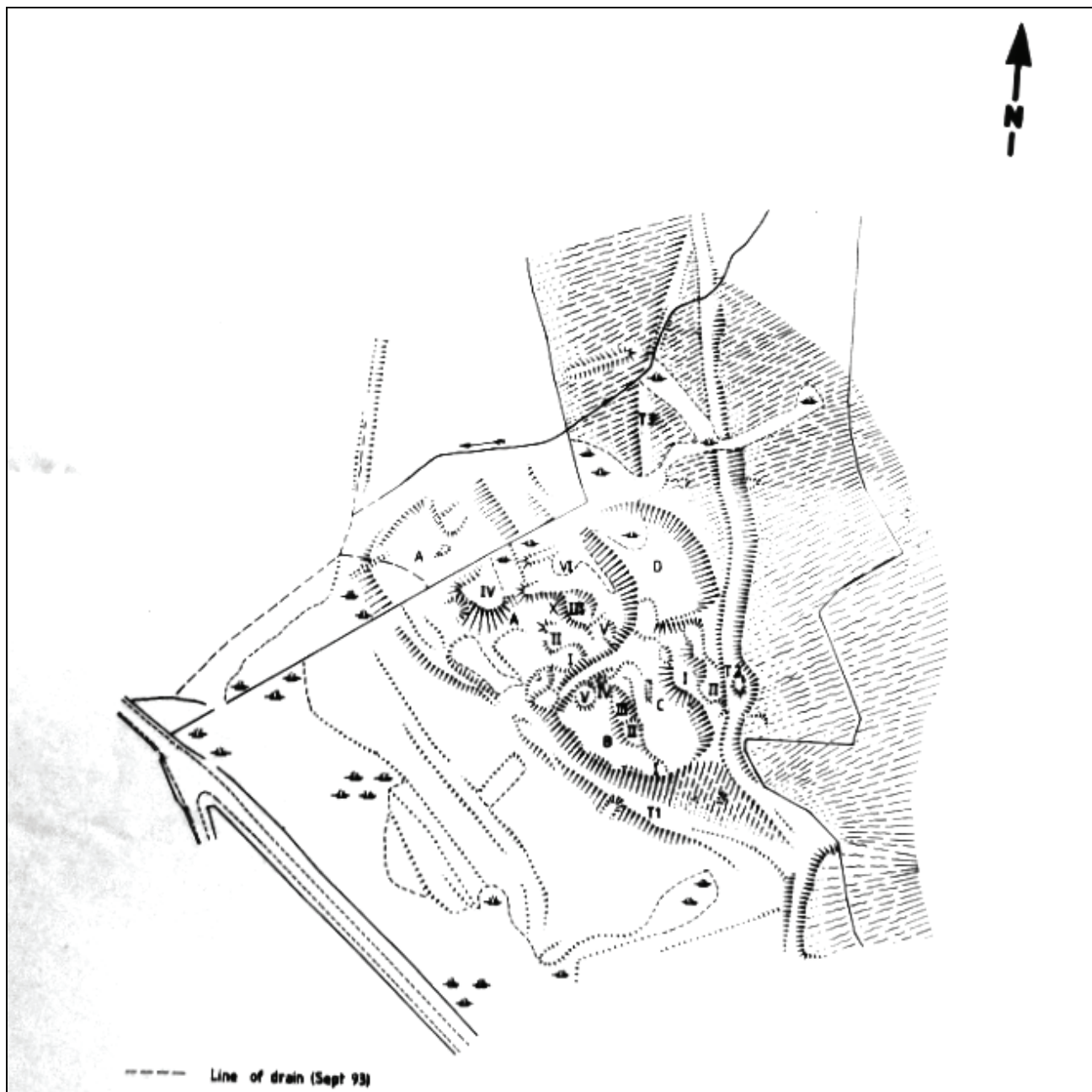


Plate 19: RCHME survey of 1993