

LAND OFF GREENGATE ROAD, LEVENS, CUMBRIA

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment



Client: The Levens Estate

NGR: 349077 486160
(centre)

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Non-Technical Summary

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

The site is located on the east side of the village of Levens close to a concentration of late prehistoric remains previously recorded on Sizergh Fell, but also a group of burials of unknown, but possibly early medieval, date near Hynning and another of Iron Age date found within the village itself. The area in general has several other known sites of archaeological interest ranging from prehistoric to post-medieval, with the estates of Levens Hall and Sizergh Castle forming the prominent medieval structures in the local area. Levens village was previously known as Beathwaite Green, a name of probable Norse origin, although Levens may be equated with the site of an early medieval battle.

The site visit identified few constraints to further archaeological work and little in the way of disturbance to the land, although it has evidently been improved and has a high level cable running over its north end. It essentially comprises a single large field on a relatively level area, overlooked by higher ground to the north.

In view of the potential for archaeological remains to be present within the site area, it is recommended that further investigation be carried out. It is considered that the most effective method, given the nature of the local archaeology and possibility of uncovering human burials, would be the excavation of archaeological evaluation trenches. An alternative and less intrusive, although perhaps less satisfactory, method would be carrying out a geophysical survey of the whole of the proposed development site.

Acknowledgements

Greenlane Archaeology would like to thank the Levens Estate for commissioning the project, and James Sheppard at GVA for his additional information. Additional thanks are due to the staff of Cumbria Archive Centre in Kendal for help with accessing their archives and Jeremy Parsons, Historic Environment Officer at Cumbria County Council, for help with accessing the HER. Special thanks are also due to Stephen Read of the Levens Local History Group for providing a number of useful references.

The project was managed by Dan Elsworth who also co-wrote the report. The illustrations were produced by Tom Mace, who also contributed to the text, and the report was edited by Jo Dawson.

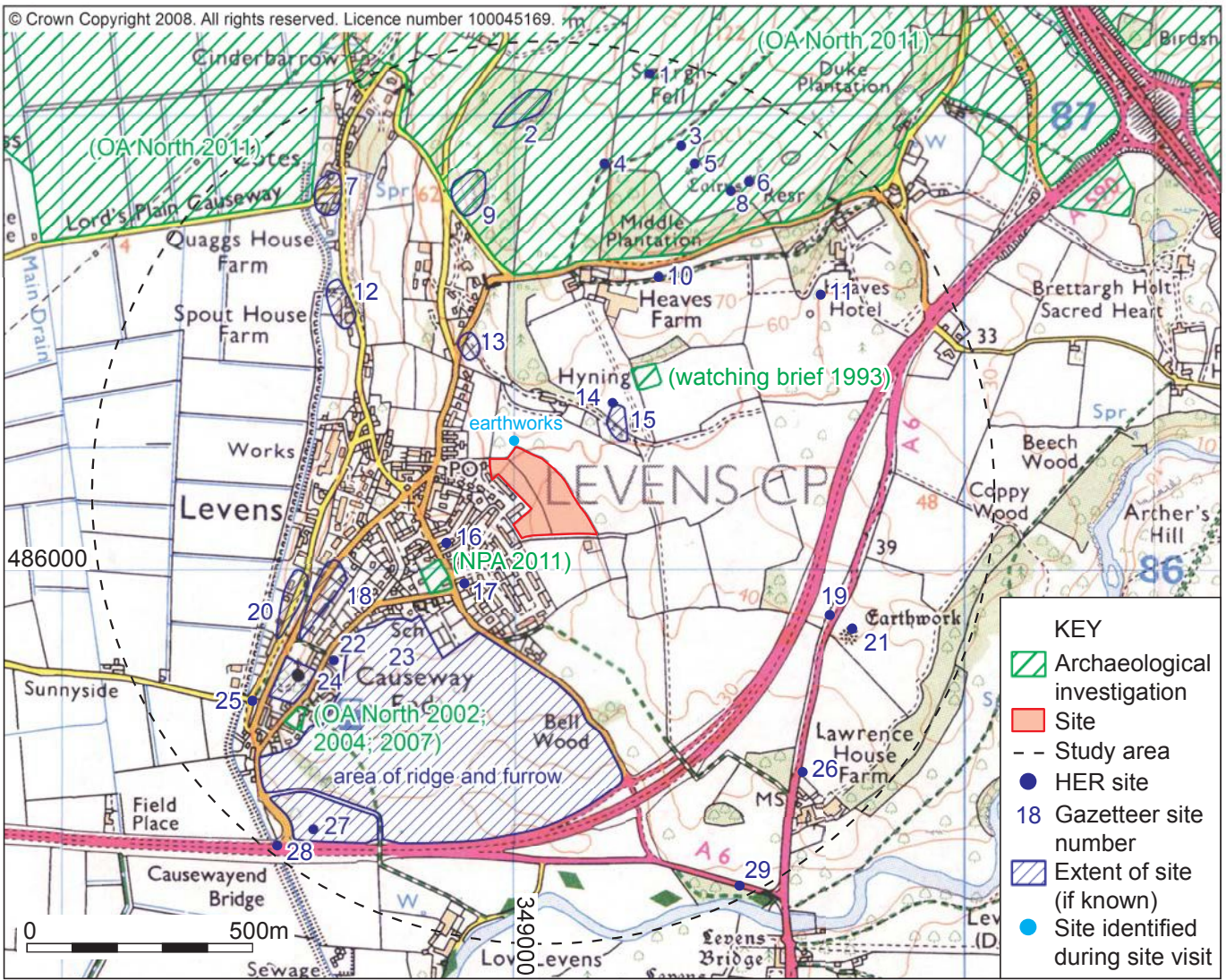
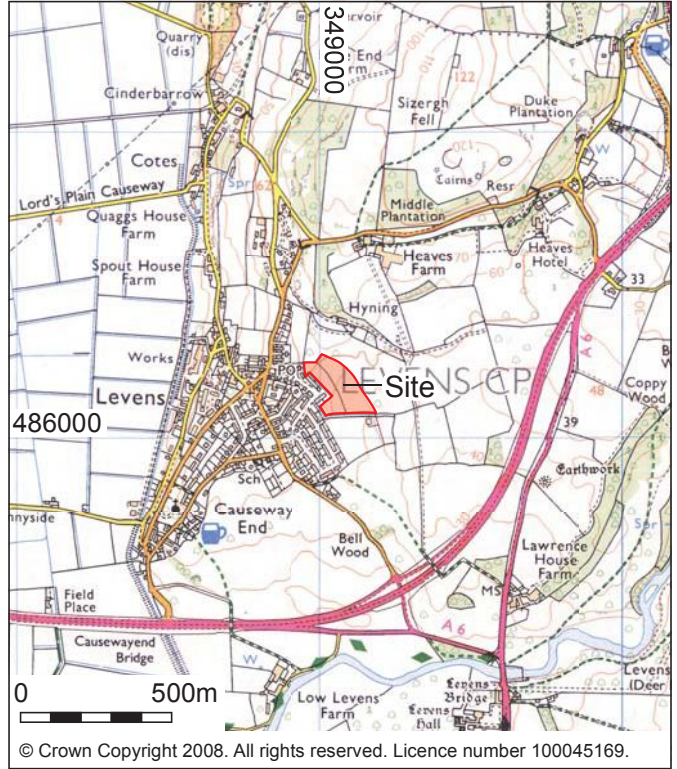
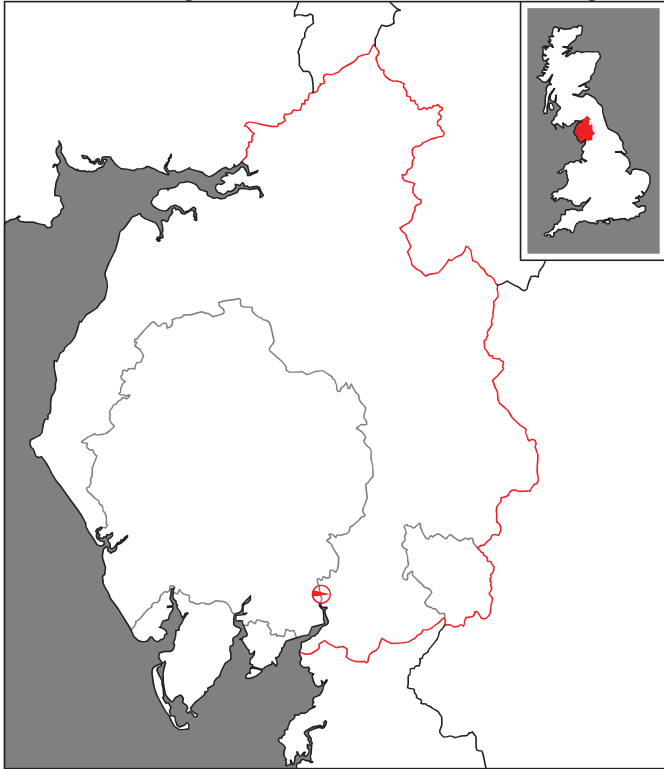
1. Introduction

1.1 Circumstances of the Project

1.1.1 Prior to the submission of a planning application for a residential development on land off Greengate, Levens, Cumbria (centred on NGR 349077 486160) by the Levens Estate (hereafter 'the client') Greenlane Archaeology was commissioned to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment of the area. This was intended to establish at an early stage whether it was likely to have any known sites of archaeological interest within it or whether there was any potential for as yet unknown sites to be present. The work was completed in March 2014.

1.2 Location, Geology, and Topography

1.2.1 The site occupies approximately 2.1 hectares on the east edge of the village of Levens on ground between c40-50m above sea level (Ordnance Survey 2008) (Figure 1). Levens is situated on a plateau of land between Sizergh Fell to the north and the A590 to the south, which links to the A6 to the east. The solid geology primarily comprises Carboniferous limestone but with areas of adjoining Bannisdale slate (Moseley 1978, plate 1), which is overlain by drift deposits of glacial till (Countryside Commission 1998, 72). The landscape is primarily dominated by pasture for grazing livestock, and made up of small to medium fields bounded by dry stone walls and hedges (*op cit*, 73).



Client: The Levens Estate

Figure 1: Site location and gazetteer plan

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2. Methodology

2.1 Desk-Based Assessment

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

- **Cumbria Historic Environment Record (HER):** this is a list of all the known sites of archaeological interest within the county, which is maintained by Cumbria County Council and is the primary source of information for an investigation of this kind. All of the known sites of archaeological interest within 1km of the centre of the proposed development area were examined; each identified site comes with a grid reference, description and source and any additional information which was referenced was also examined as necessary. In addition, unpublished reports of archaeological investigations in the vicinity of the site were examined;
- **Cumbria Archive Centre, Kendal (CAC(K)):** this was visited principally in order to examine early maps and plans of the site, but other documentary sources and published records were also consulted in order to gather information about the historical development of the site and its environs, and also information about the archaeology of its immediate environs;
- **Greenlane Archaeology library:** additional secondary sources, used to provide information for the site background, were examined.

2.2 Site Visit

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

2.3 Archive

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

3. Results

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 A total of 29 sites of archaeological interest were identified within the study area during the desk-based assessment and site visit (Figure 1; summarised in Table 1 below) ranging from Neolithic to post-medieval in date. The grid co-ordinates provided for **Site 10** (which have been used for Figure 1) place the site to the south of its position shown in the digital display from the HER; the HER shows the site positioned along the lane from Levens to Frosthwaite which corresponds with the written description. Some of the sites also record multiple features, such as more than one quarry or gravel pit, and **Site 21** records the location of a stone axe and flint 'scatter'. None of the sites are situated either totally or partially within the proposed development area. Sites included in the gazetteer that relate to periods of the study area's history are individually mentioned in the site history (see *Section 4* below). The mounded areas, **Sites 3, 4** and **6**, burials at **Site 14**, and areas of ridge and furrow and farmsteads at **Site 23** are of unknown date. The dubious earthwork at **Site 19** and the cave system at **Site 25** are not of archaeological interest.

Site No.	Type	Period	Site No.	Type	Period
1	settlement site	late prehistoric (Bronze Age to Iron Age) – Roman	16	parsonage	post-medieval
2	quarry	post-medieval	17	brick oven	post-medieval
3	mound	late prehistoric?	18	quarry	post-medieval
4	mounds	late prehistoric?	19	mound	unknown
5	barrow	Bronze Age	20	quarry	post-medieval
6	mound	late prehistoric?	21	stone axe and flint scatter findspot	Neolithic
7	gravel pit	post-medieval	22	quarry	post-medieval
8	cairn	Bronze Age	23	ridge and furrow and earthworks	medieval – post-medieval?
9	quarry	post-medieval	24	church	post-medieval
10	quarry	post-medieval	25	cave system	natural
11	subterranean structure	post-medieval	26	milepost	post-medieval
12	quarries	post-medieval	27	limekiln	post-medieval
13	quarry	post-medieval	28	bridge	medieval – post-medieval
14	burials	early medieval?	29	axehead findspot	Bronze Age
15	gravel pits	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* and shown in Figure 1). This was in turn informed and enhanced by the site visit (see *Section 3.5*). The gazetteer is used to assess the general type of historic landscape that makes up the study area, contribute to the compilation of the general history of the site (see *Section 4*) and, more importantly, identify sites that are likely to be affected by the proposed development. The significance of each of these sites and the degree to which they are likely to be affected is considered in *Section 5* and from this recommendations for further work are produced.

3.2.2 The second purpose of the desk-based assessment is to produce a background history of the site. This is intended to cover all periods, in part to provide information that can be used to assess the potential of the site (particularly for the presence of remains that are otherwise not recorded in the study

area), but more importantly to present the documented details of any sites that are known (see *Section 4*).

3.3 Map and Image Regression

3.3.1 Introduction: although there are early, typically county-wide, maps that include the area these are generally very small scale and so the first useful maps of the area do not appear until the early 19th century. However, the earliest of these – a map of 1813 included with the Heversham inclosure (*sic*) award (CAC(K) WQR/I 38 1815) and an estate in Beathwaite Green (CAC(K) WDB/35/136 1844) – do not include the proposed development area. As a result, only maps from the late 19th century onward are discussed below.

3.3.2 Ordnance Survey 1863: the first detailed map for the area is the first edition Ordnance Survey map at a scale of 1: 10,560, which for this area was only published in 1862 (Plate 1). The first 1: 2,500 map was probably produced at the same time, although it is undated (Plate 2). These provide essentially the same information, albeit at different levels of detail. The whole of the proposed development area at this time comprises part of two irregularly-shaped fields, both forming long strips orientated approximately north-west/south-east. The area at this time was relatively undeveloped and the village was still known by its original name of Beathwaite Green. Also of interest is the name ‘Black Castle’ marked a short distance to the north-west of the site, although it is not clear what this relates to.

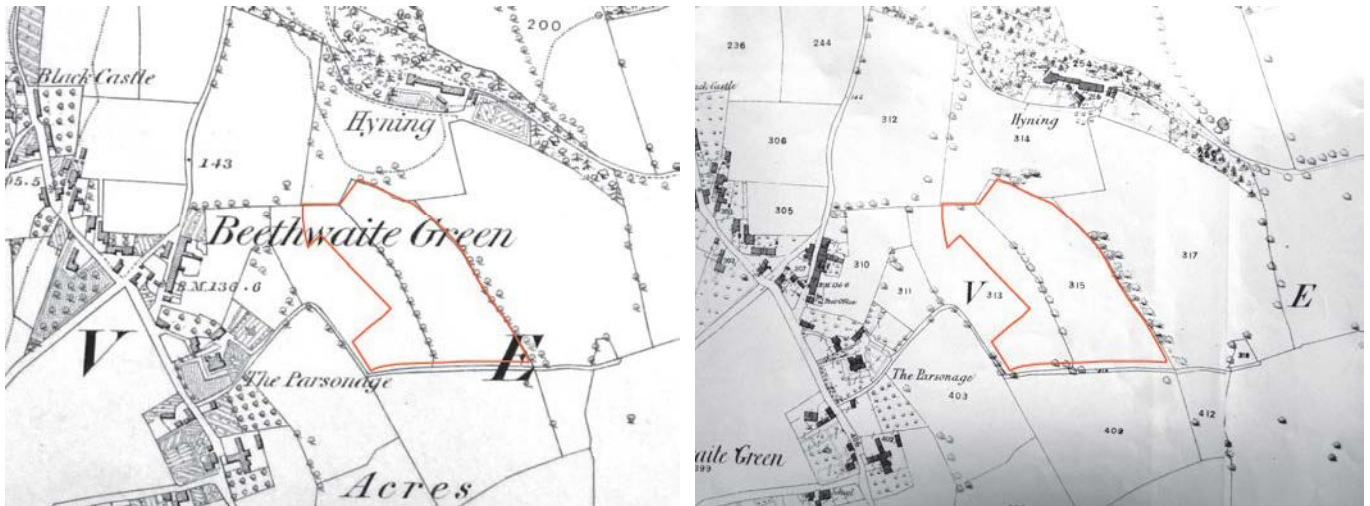


Plate 1 (left): Ordnance Survey, 1862

Plate 2 (right): Ordnance Survey, nd

3.3.3 Ordnance Survey 1898: the site is essentially unchanged by this date, and still comprises part of two strip fields (Plate 3).

3.3.4 Ordnance Survey 1914: again, the site is essentially unchanged, although the north-west end of the more easterly of the two strip fields has been removed (Plate 4).



Plate 3 (left): Ordnance Survey, 1898



Plate 4 (right): Ordnance Survey, 1914

3.3.5 **Heaves Estate Sales Particulars, 1946:** the plan accompanying these sales particulars (CAC(K) WDB/22/SP 103 1946) is of interest as it appears to show a new field boundary running almost exactly east/west and, slicing the top off the two fields comprising much of the proposed development area, and an adjoining field to the east and separating everything below the line into Lot 3 of the sale (Plate 5). However, this line does not appear to relate to an actual field boundary, or if it did this has since been removed, as the fields have subsequently essentially retained their pre-1946 form. Lot 3 is described in the sales particulars as Heaves Farm and associated land but no specific detail is given about the fields other than their size and that they comprise meadow and pasture.



Plate 5: Sales particulars plan, 1946

3.3.6 **Aerial photographs:** a number of aerial photographs of the study area held in the Cumbria HER were examined, which typically related to specific sites on Sizergh Fell (**Sites 1-6 and 8**). One (CCC nd) related to a large area of ridge and furrow and other earthworks on the south side of the village (**Site 23**), and demonstrates that these cover a very large area (Plate 6).



Plate 6: Aerial photograph (CCC nd)

3.4 Previous Archaeological Work

3.4.1 A number of previous pieces of archaeological work have been carried out within the study area, although the earlier ones tend to be relatively vaguely located. A number of more recent pieces have also been undertaken and are outlined below:

- **Heaves Farm Watching Brief, 1993:** a very limited watching brief was undertaken by staff from the Cumbria County Council Planning Office during excavations for a slurry lagoon south-east of Heaves Farm, near to the presumed location of human burials found in 1911 (Hughes 1912b). No remains of archaeological interest were encountered;
- **7 Nelson Square Evaluation and excavation, 2002:** an initial evaluation and subsequent excavation revealed four crouched inhumations in small hollows in the limestone bedrock, one of which was radiocarbon dated to the late Iron Age (OA North 2002; 2004);
- **Sizergh Fell Excavation, 2002-2003:** excavation of two cairns, previously subject to antiquarian excavation, and associated investigation of the surrounding landscape, revealed a broken Neolithic axe wedged in the underlying limestone pavement, and limited evidence for later activity including human burial (Edmonds *et al* 2002; Evans and Edmonds 2003; Edmonds and Evans 2007);
- **Church Road Evaluation, 2007:** a large area was stripped as part of an archaeological evaluation on land immediately adjacent to the burials found in 2002. This identified a number of features cut into the bedrock, but they were all evidently of post-medieval date (OA North 2007);
- **Greengate House Evaluation, 2011:** an evaluation was undertaken in a former garden at Greengate House. This revealed deposits of topsoil and subsoil above the underlying bedrock, with only a single undated feature encountered. Finds from the overlying deposits included unusually large amounts of early post-medieval pottery and a single flint of late Mesolithic or early Neolithic date (NPA 2011);

- **Sizergh Estate Historic Landscape Survey, 2011:** an extensive desk-based assessment was undertaken of the Sizergh Estate, which recorded all known features of archaeological and historical interest within the area and examined the manner in which the landscape had developed over time (OA North 2011).

3.5 Site Visit

3.5.1 **Site Arrangement and Character.** the site essentially comprises a single field (although even modern mapping shows a field boundary orientated north-west/south-east dividing it into two along its length; Figure 1), with the far north-west tip separated by a post and wire fence. The field is largely relatively level (Plate 7) and has evidently been improved and perhaps ploughed in the past, but rises at the north-west end (Plate 8). The field boundary along the south-west side comprises hedges and fences forming the edges of the adjoining gardens, the south-east comprises a stone wall, and the north-east a hedge with several mature trees set against the rising ground beyond. The north corner is enclosed by a continuation of the post and wire fence, and beyond it the ground rises sharply to a plateau in front of Hyning (Plate 8). There are evident earthworks against the base of this rise (marked in light blue in Figure 1), of uncertain date and function; a linear bank running approximately north-west/south-east forming part of these earthworks lines up with a nearby gate and is probably just a track (Plate 9), while there is also an approximately rectangular platform to the north-west of this, set against the slope (Plate 10). The north-west corner of the site area has a post supporting overhead high voltage cables (Plate 11), which run on an approximately east/west orientation across the northern edge of the main field, and there is a pile of apparently modern stone rubble to the south-west of the post (Plate 12).



Plate 7 (left): General view of the south-east end of the site from the south-west

Plate 8 (right): General view of the north end of the site from the south



Plate 9 (left): Rising ground to the north and associated earthworks



Plate 10 (right): Possible platform to the north-west of the probable track



Plate 11 (left): Post and wire fence and high level cables at the north-west end of the site



Plate 12 (right): Pile of rubble in the north-west end of the site

3.5.2 **Constraints:** there were no particular constraints to further archaeological investigation of the site and minimal evidence for disturbance, although it is likely to have been ploughed in the past. The only major exception is the presence of the overhead high level cable running across the northern end of the site.

3.6 Conclusion

3.6.1 The map regression shows that the area occupied by the site has been open fields since at least 1862. The area is relatively rich in archaeological remains, particularly of late prehistoric date, with a significant area of Iron Age burials relatively nearby. There is also evidence for activity into the Roman period and possibly beyond, in the form of another group of burials of unknown but potentially early medieval date. Later remains are less obvious, the major medieval structures in the local landscape being Levens Hall and Sizergh Castle, although there is evidence for landscape improvement in the post-medieval period.

3.6.2 The site visit indicated that that there has been relatively little disturbance to the proposed development site area, although it now comprises a single field, has evidently been improved, and has a high level cable running across its north end.

4. Site History

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The history of the local landscape is dominated by a collection of prehistoric remains on the north side of the study area on Sizergh Fell, and the two major estates of Sizergh Castle and Levens Hall, both of which are of at least medieval origin. Evidence for activity from both earlier and later periods is present in the wider area, including some locally very significant monuments, while there is potentially significant evidence for activity in the early medieval period, but this is very debateable. In order to place the proposed development site in its historical background and archaeological context a brief discussion of the earlier history of its environs is necessary. Information relating to specific sites recorded during the desk-based assessment and site visit (see *Section 3* above) is included where relevant.

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

4.2.1 While there is some limited evidence for activity in the county in the period immediately following the last Ice Age, this is typically found in the southernmost part, on the north side of Morecambe Bay. Excavations of a small number of cave sites have found the remains of animal species common at the time but now extinct in this country and artefacts of Late Upper Palaeolithic type (Young 2002). Again, the county was also clearly inhabited during the following period, the Mesolithic (c8,000 – 4,000 BC), as large numbers of artefacts of this date have been discovered during field walking and eroding from sand dunes along the coast, but these are typically concentrated in the west coast area and on the uplands around the Eden Valley (Cherry and Cherry 2002). A large number of microliths belonging to this period were however, found during excavations in Levens Park (Cherry and Cherry 2000); and the position of this site, alongside the River Leven, is one where such artefacts are often found (Middleton *et al* 1995, 202; Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 151-152). In addition, one of the cave sites on Morecambe Bay has recently had human remains recovered from it dated to the beginning of this period, placing them as early as any known from the rest of the country (Smith *et al* 2013).

4.2.2 In the following period, the Neolithic (c4,000 – 2,500 BC), large scale monuments such as burial mounds and stone circles begin to appear in the region and one of the most recognisable tool types of this period, the polished stone axe, is found in large numbers across the county, having been manufactured at Langdale to the north-west of Kendal (Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 45). A stone axehead and several flints have been found in the area (**Site 21**). 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 be Iron Age or Romano-British in date have their origins in this period. Sites of this date are represented in the area around Levens by a collection of sites on Sizergh Fell. These comprise three mounded sites (**Sites 3, 4 and 6**) and a possible late prehistoric settlement site is also located at Sizergh Fell (**Site 1**), while another possible mounded site (**Site 19**) located within the study area is also thought to date from the late prehistoric period. The tumulus at Sizergh Fell Barrow (**Site 5**), to the north end of the study area, and a cairn burial excavated nearby (**Site 8**) both certainly do date to the Bronze Age and a stray find of an early Bronze Age cast-flange axe head is recorded next to the River Kent to the south of the study area (**Site 29**). Sites that can be specifically dated to the Iron Age (c600 BC – 1st century AD) are very rare although it is likely that some or all of the settlement sites probably originating in the Bronze Age continued to be occupied (Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 34). One of the most well-known types of site for the period is the hillfort, and while there are several examples around Morecambe Bay and extending towards Kendal, few have seen any excavation or are properly dated (Elsworth forthcoming). Levens is unique in Cumbria in having excavated Iron Age burials, discovered in the village in 2002 (OA North 2002; 2004), although the cemetery appears to be very small. There is also likely to have been a considerable overlap between the end of the Iron Age and the beginning of the Romano-British period; it is evident that in this part of the country, initially at least, the Roman invasion had a minimal impact on the native population in rural areas (Philpott 2006, 73-74), something that is apparent at the settlement on Sizergh, which had at some finds thought to date to the 2nd or 3rd century AD (Hughes 1912a; a brooch of similar style from Langbank crannog in Scotland was dated to the 1st century AD; Alexander 2000, 157 and 159).

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

4.3.1 The area immediately around Levens has relatively minimal evidence for activity from the Roman period, the nearest known Roman forts being at Watercrook on the south side of Kendal to the north and Lancaster to the south, although Roman finds, particularly coins, are relatively well-known from the local area (Shotter 2004). Whether the Roman military had a greater influence over the north side of Morecambe Bay via crossing the sands and establishing a fort in Furness is still debated; there is some evidence that they did but further proof is still needed (Elsworth 2007). In the Levens area it is apparent that the 'native' style settlement on Sizergh Fell continued to be occupied into the Roman period (see Section 4.2.2 above), and it seems likely that the impact of Roman rule was less substantial in rural areas. The nearest fort, at Watercrook, was identified at an early date (Potter 1979, 143) but was not excavated until the middle of the 20th century and later, which revealed evidence for activity from the late 1st century and into the 4th century (*op cit*, 176-180).

4.3.2 The early medieval period is not well represented in the area in terms of physical archaeological remains, which is a common situation throughout the county, however, four skeletons found in 1911 while laying pipes for a water supply *may* belong to the early medieval period (**Site 14**) on account of their approximately east/west orientation (Hughes 1912b, 404). Contemporary newspaper accounts speculated that the field in which the burials were found had been the site of a battle and reported a coin amongst the finds (Anon 1911a). Both were dismissed in the published account, the coin was apparently a 'York token' found some distance away and the graves were considered too orderly to have resulted from 'the hurried burial of people plague-stricken or slain in battle' (Hughes 1912b, 404). Investigation of some of the remains by Professor Macalister at the Museum of Human Anatomy in Cambridge concluded that they were 'of the same type as the mixed Scandinavian race still found in that district' (*op cit*, 404-405). At least one other cist burial (again, possibly early medieval) was also reputedly discovered nearby, although its location is not recorded other than being between Hying and Levens (Hughes 1912b, 404; this may be the same site as a group of nine skeletons in cists found at an unknown location near Levens in 1867, although from the description these seem more likely to have been prehistoric; Anon 1867). A possible context for the burials at Levens can, however, perhaps be found in the Welsh heroic poetry of Taliesin, which may describe events of the 6th century AD (Clancy 1970). The poems record a battle at *Gwen Ystrat* or *Gwensteri*, thought to equate to the Winster valley, c5km to the west of Levens (Breeze 2012, 61). Another battle is also said to have been fought at *Argoed Llwyfyain*, which approximately translates as 'Leven Forest' (*op cit*, 58) with Levens in Cumbria being suggested as one of a number of possible locations (Morris 1973, 234, although he mistakenly states that Levens is in Furness). In both of these battles the native Britons were victorious and were Christians, in which case they would have had time to bury their dead in accordance with their own customs. A concentration of battles in a single strategic location, potentially controlling the landward route west into Cumbria (the Winster was also formerly the county boundary between Lancashire-north-of-the-Sands and Westmorland), is not inconceivable; the suggestion has been made that references to a single conflict during the same period at *Catraeth* (usually equated with Catterick in Yorkshire) might in fact relate to a series of battles at a single key site (Padel 2013, 139). Further evidence for activity in that period might also have been present at Castlehead, a probable hillfort near Grange-over-Sands, effectively at the southern end of the Winster valley, at which a range of finds were discovered during building work in the 18th century, many of which are remarkably similar in description to objects typically found at fortified 'royal' sites of the early medieval period in Scotland (Elsworth forthcoming).

4.3.3 Place-name evidence from the area around Levens indicates a strong Anglian and Norse influence. However, as already described, the name 'Levens' itself may have a British origin but it is also suggested that it derives from the Old English name 'Lēofa' and Norse 'ness' meaning headland or peninsula (Smith 1967, 90). Similarly, the original name of the village, Beathwaite Green, is suggested as from the Old English 'bere' meaning barley and Norse 'thwaite' meaning clearing (*op cit*, 91), although the suggestion has also been made that it relates to the Irish personal name Bega (Hughes 1912b, 405), which is also found at St Bees and possibly Baycliff. More minor place-names from around the site such as Heaves and Hying both relate to agricultural activity but show that the land was enclosed from an early date (Smith 1967, 93).

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

4.4.1 As already mentioned, much of the settlement in the local area was well established by the beginning of the medieval period, with as a minimum early medieval precursors but, perhaps with its origins in the late prehistoric period. Levens is recorded in the Domesday survey of the area in 1086 (Smith 1967, 90), perhaps a reference to a settlement focussed on the present site of Levens Hall, which, along with Sizergh Castle to the north, is the predominant structure of medieval date the area. The Levens Hall estate is recorded as having been granted to a Normannus de Hieland (Yealand, later de Redman) in c1170 by the Baron of Kendal (Greenwood 1903, 272-273), and the Redman family probably built the piel tower at Levens Hall in the early 14th century, which formed the core of the later structure (*op cit*, 286). They had a park, enclosed by licence in 1360 (Curwen 1898, 39) and the family held the site until 1489 when it was sold to Alan Bellingham (*op cit*, 4), who then extended it in the 16th century (Beckett 1985, 132). It is alterations and additions made by the Bellingham family that are most celebrated today (Hyde and Pevsner 2010, 492). Sizergh Castle has similar origins, with a tower of 14th or 15th century date forming the earliest element, perhaps constructed as part of the emparking of the site carried out in 1362 by the Strickland family (Perriam and Robinson 1998, 366). The Strickland family went on to become extremely powerful in Westmorland by the mid 14th century and they continued to prosper into the 15th and 16th centuries (OA North 2011, 19), further enlarging their seat at Sizergh as they did (Perriam and Robinson 1998, 366-367). Other structures of note in the locality of the study area include Frosthwaite Farm immediately to the east of Sizergh Fell, with a hall recorded on the site in 1344, which was rebuilt after 1581, evidence for which was revealed during building recording (Greenlane Archaeology 2007).

4.4.2 There are relatively few sites of medieval date within the study area. An area of ridge and furrow and farmsteads, which may have origins in the medieval period, is known from aerial photographs to the far south of the area (**Site 23**), and Causewayed Bridge (**Site 28**) has also probably existed for several hundred years in one form or another on the route between Sampool Bridge and Levens Park.

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

4.5.1 The map evidence (see *Section 3.3*) demonstrates that the general area had reached its present state of development by the 19th century, with all the fields enclosed, and it is likely that relatively little changed in the area immediately following the end of the medieval period. Levens village continued to be known as Beathwaite Green until the late 19th century and comprised only a handful of dwellings until the later 20th century. The largest change to the landscape in the post-medieval period was the drainage and improvement carried out to much of the local wetlands, especially in the Lyth Valley (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 53). Both Levens Hall and Sizergh Castle remained the predominate local estates throughout this period and their respective seats continued to be enlarged (Perriam and Robinson 1998), but other major developments of the period such as the development of the railway did not impact directly on the Levens area.

4.5.2 Several sites of post-medieval date are recorded within the study area, many of them relating to industrial activity such as stone quarrying (**Sites 2, 9, 10, 12, 13, 18, 20 and 22**) but also gravel pits (**Sites 7 and 15**), which probably date to the post-medieval period. Various other buildings and structures within the study area listed on the HER also date from this period, including a round bake oven of brick construction (**Site 17**), a limekiln (**Site 27**), St John's Church (**Site 24**), built between 1826-8, and the parsonage (**Site 16**), which is now lost, as well as a painted white cast iron milepost situated near Lawrence House Farm (**Site 26**). In addition, a subterranean structure possibly of this date has also been identified in the lawn of the Heaves Hotel (**Site 11**).

5. Discussion

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The discussion of the results of the desk-based assessment and site visit is intended to determine the archaeological significance and potential of any known remains (above or below ground) and the potential for any as yet unidentified remains being present. The system used to judge the significance of the remains identified within the development area, or those thought to have the potential to be present within the development area, is based on the criteria used to define Scheduled Monuments (DoE 1990, Annex 4; *Appendix 2*). Of the 29 known sites of archaeological interest identified within the study area, none are situated within the proposed development area and therefore likely to be affected by any subsequent groundworks.

5.2 Potential for Unknown Archaeological Remains

5.2.1 No known sites of archaeological interest are present within the proposed development area. The potential for as yet unidentified archaeological remains to be present, however, is based on the known occurrence of such remains elsewhere in the study area and local environs (see *Section 4*). Where there are no remains known within the study area the potential is based on the known occurrence within the wider local area. The degree of potential is examined by period and the results are presented in Table 2 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	Medium
Neolithic	Yes	Medium
Bronze Age	Yes	Medium
Iron Age	Yes	Medium
Roman	Yes	Medium
Early Medieval	Yes?	Medium
Medieval	Yes?	Medium
Post-medieval	Yes	High

Table 2: Degree of potential for unknown archaeological remains by period

5.2.2 In consideration of Table 2 it is worth noting that the possibility of finding Mesolithic remains could perhaps be assessed as medium because they are often associated with sites adjacent to watercourses or coastal areas (Middleton *et al* 1995, 202; Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 151-152) and Mesolithic finds have been found at Levens Park, just outside of the study area. Sites of Roman and Iron Age date have been found within the study area, although the former as a single find on a multi-period site and the latter as a potentially isolated burial site. Nevertheless, the area clearly has some potential for remains of these periods to be present as it is situated between these two sites.

5.2.3 Both the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods are represented within the study area, with a cluster of mounded sites (**Sites 3, 4 and 6**), a possible settlement site (**Site 1**), a tumulus (**Site 5**), and cairn sites (**Site 8**) focused around Sizergh Fell to the north and a stone axe head and flints (**Site 29**) found close to the River Kent to the south, and so there is clearly the potential for more remains of these dates to be present within the proposed development area. The early medieval period is potentially represented by the burials near Hying (**Site 14**), although these are not certainly dated, and it is possible that such a burial ground might extend over a larger area. Medieval remains within the study area are uncertain but the village probably has medieval origins and the area of ridge and furrow and associated earthworks (**Site 23**) may relate to this, and further remains of this period are likely. The post-medieval presence within the area is clear, including several quarry sites (**Sites 2, 9, 10, 12, 13, 18, 20 and 22**) and gravel pits (**Sites 7 and 15**) as well as the later development of Levens itself (see *Section 3.3*) and remains of this period are very likely to be present, even if not hugely significant ones.

5.3 Disturbance

5.3.1 The proposed development area appears to have seen relatively little disturbance apart from that associated with agriculture – ploughing, perhaps erosion from animals (although this was not observed during the site visit), and the construction of field boundaries. In addition, some disturbance associated with the erection of the posts for the high level cable across the north end of the site is also likely.

5.4 Impact

5.4.1 Although no detailed plans were available regarding proposed developments the likely shallow nature of the ground cover, as revealed in archaeological work elsewhere in the immediate area, and relatively undulating topography, at the north-west end of the site at least, would presumably require considerable landscaping. This would suggest that any building on site would substantially impact on any archaeological remains that might be present.

5.5 Recommendations

5.5.1 It is clear from the preceding sections that there is some potential for archaeological remains to be present within the proposed development area. However, the extent and likely date of any features is uncertain, particularly anything relating to the burials found near Hynning (**Site 14**). The most effective method of further work would probably be to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation trenching of a proportion of the whole site, perhaps 3-5%. This would have greater potential to provide important dating evidence for any remains encountered, especially if carried out in conjunction with the use of a metal detector to check the topsoil and any features. Were such work carried out, it would also be useful to record the earthworks visible immediately to the north of the site through topographic survey at the same time; their significance is unknown but if they were proved to relate to any archaeological remains encountered, or were under threat as a result of the development, such additional information would prove important to understanding the site.

5.5.2 An alternative, and less intrusive method, would be geophysical survey of the whole area, although this would have the disadvantage of giving limited information regarding the date of any features revealed and would be unlikely to reveal the location of burials, which are a distinct possibility within the area.

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6.3 Aerial Photographs

CCC, nd **SD/4885/A-B**

Appendix 1: Site Gazetteer

Site Number: 1**NGR:** 349300 487100**HER No:** 2490**Sources:** HER; RCHME 1936, 157; Hughes 1912a, 397; Edmonds *et al* 2002, 13-15; Edmonds and Evans 2007; OA North 2011**Designation:** none**Description:** Sizergh Fell settlement site. The settlement consists of a roughly oval enclosure (nearly ½ acre) surrounded by a slight rampart. To the south there is an outer enclosure also with a slight rampart. There are traces of an entrance in the larger enclosure on the north side. North-west of the entrance is a possible hut circle. Further sinkings may be due to excavation. There are cairns outside the settlement area. One of the ramparts is said to have abutted on two tumuli; one on the south-west extremity, the other on the north-east. The former yielded a contracted skeleton, a bronze fibula and ring and a large blue glass bead dated to the 2nd to 3rd century. No traces of the mounds now. The rampart actually passed over a portion of the south-west tumulus.**Period:** late prehistoric (Bronze Age to Iron Age) – Roman

Site Number: 2**NGR:** 349000 486980**HER No:** 12909**Sources:** HER; 2nd edition OS map Sheet XLII.3; OA North 2011**Designation:** none**Description:** Lane End Middle Quarry, situated in Lane End plantation and reached by a trackway from Lane End Farm.**Period:** post-medieval

Site Number: 3**NGR:** 349370 486940**HER No:** 2507**Sources:** HER; Edmonds *et al* 2002; Edmonds and Evans 2007; OA North 2011**Designation:** none**Description:** a mound 6m in diameter and 0.3m high, located on the west slope. Not located in 1972.**Period:** late prehistoric?

Site Number: 4**NGR:** 349200 486900**HER No:** 2508**Sources:** HER; RCHME 1936, 157; Edmonds *et al* 2002; Edmonds and Evans 2007; OA North 2011**Designation:** none**Description:** a number of slight irregularly shaped mounds thought by RCHME to be artificial.**Period:** late prehistoric?

Site Number: 5**NGR:** 349400 486900**HER No:** 2509**Sources:** HER; RCHME 1936, 157; Hughes 1904a, 71, 76-9; Fell 1953; Edmonds *et al* 2002; Edmonds and Evans 2007; OA North 2011

Designation: none

Description: Sizergh Fell Barrow. The tumulus can no longer be identified. A stone heap with larger stones around the base covered by several solution hollows (clints and grykes). A large stone 0.45 x 0.3 x 0.2m covered a hollow in which portions of a type B1 beaker were found. According to RCHME the tumulus was 7.2m in diameter. The beaker has been reconstructed and is kept at Sizergh Castle.

Period: Bronze Age

Site Number: 6

NGR: 349520 486860

HER No: 2506

Sources: HER; Edmonds et al 2002; Evans and Edmonds 2003

Designation: none

Description: Sizergh Fell Mound; a low mound on a ridge. It appears to have been disturbed on the west.

Period: late prehistoric

Site Number: 7

NGR: 348600 486850

HER No: 12901

Sources: HER; OS 1st edition 6" XLII; 25" XLII.3

Designation: none

Description: Scar Bark Gravel Pits are several small gravel pits scarcely differentiated on the 25" map lying beside the lane south of Cotes.

Period: post-medieval

Site Number: 8

NGR: 349480 486840

HER No: 2510

Sources: HER; Hughes 1904b 201-4, RCHME 1936; Edmonds *et al* 2002; Edmonds and Evans 2007; OA North 2011

Designation: none

Description: cairn excavated in 1903. The skeletons of four adults and a child, all placed closely double up in a sitting posture. The cairn was circular, ca 50 ft in diameter. 'The mode of burial suggests either multiple interments of the Neolithic Dorchester culture, or a series of single-grave burials of Beaker, or more probably, food vessel type'. The cairn appears now as an earthen perimeter bank with heaped rubble inside. Note: this site may be the same as SMR2506.

Period: Bronze Age

Site Number: 9

NGR: 348905 486798

HER No: 12911

Sources: HER; Ordnance Survey 1898

Designation: none

Description: Lane End Low Quarry is marked as 'old quarries' on the 2nd edition, although it does not appear on the 1st edition 6" it could possibly pre-date that.

Period: post-medieval

Site Number: 10

NGR: 349320 486650

HER No: 12919

Sources: HER; Ordnance Survey 1862; nd

Designation: none

Description: Middle Quarry lies along the lane from Levens to Frosthwaite

Period: post-medieval

Site Number: 11

NGR: 349680 486610

HER No: 42100

Sources: HER

Designation: none

Description: Heaves Hotel subterranean structure; a subterranean structure has been located in the lawn of the Heaves Hotel.

Period: post-medieval

Site Number: 12

NGR: 348600 486600

HER No: 12902

Sources: HER; Ordnance Survey nd

Designation: none

Description: Spout House Quarries are two tiny quarries very closely adjacent. The north one has a horse trough by the side of the road just to the north of it in a layby.

Period: post-medieval

Site Number: 13

NGR: 348900 486500

HER No: 12903

Sources: HER; Ordnance Survey nd

Designation: none

Description: Winthwaite Quarry lies south of Winthwaite on a lane from the Levens road to Hying and is connected to it by a hollow trackway.

Period: post-medieval

Site Number: 14

NGR: 349220 486370

HER No: 4068

Sources: HER; Hughes 1912b; Anon 1911a; Anon 1911b

Designation: none

Description: four skeletons were found in 1911 while laying pipes for a water supply. The bodies were oriented with the heads to the west. A piece of reddish pottery found in one of graves may not have been related to the interments. Exact dating unknown, but possibly early medieval/Scandinavian. Other bones were also found in the field. The 'coin' mentioned in the newspapers was found in the topsoil lower down the hill and seems to be a York token. The four burials were interred at regular distances apart and so lacked the appearance of the hurried burial of victims of plague or war.

Period: early medieval?

Site Number: 15

NGR: 349228 486350

HER No: 12905

Sources: HER; Ordnance Survey nd

Designation: none

Description: Hying Gravel Pit lies on a track to the east of Hying. A small pond abutted it on the west.

Period: post-medieval

Site Number: 16

NGR: 348850 486060

HER No: 12923

Sources: HER; Ordnance Survey 1862; nd

Designation: none

Description: Levens Parsonage is a site which appears to have been lost. It is overlain by the modern housing of Vicarage Road.

Period: post-medieval

Site Number: 17

NGR: 348890 485970

HER No: 6851

Sources: HER

Designation: none

Description: a damaged round bake oven of brick, found by owners when renovating Greengate Farmhouse. It appears to be 18th century and similar to others found in the South Lakes area. The owner hopes to restore the oven. Aside from the oven, the interior of the house had been much altered and it was not possible to give an accurate date for it. A cupboard with 18th century butterfly hinges was also noted. Both ceiling and floor levels had been altered.

Period: post-medieval

Site Number: 18

NGR: 348600 485950

HER No: 12924

Sources: HER; Ordnance Survey nd

Designation: none

Description: Levens Upper Quarry lay between Beathwaite and Causeway End. It is now built over with detached houses and gardens.

Period: post-medieval

Site Number: 19

NGR: 349700 485900

HER No: 3107

Sources: HER; Anon 1904, 338-339; Hughes 1912b, 404(?)

Designation: none

Description: Levens Barrow; a mound which appears to be a natural feature. When threatened by road improvement Tom Clare observed the site and came to the same conclusion. A 1m hole dug in to the mound by member of SEARCH also proved inconclusive. See also SMR 4315; **Site 21**.

Period: unknown

Site Number: 20

NGR: 348500 485900

HER No: 12925

Sources: HER; Ordnance Survey nd

Designation: none

Description: Levens Low Quarry lies beside the lane between Beathwaite and Causeway End west of Lowgate.

Period: post-medieval

Site Number: 21

NGR: 349750 485870

HER No: 4315

Sources: HER; Cherry and Cherry 1987; Fell 1987

Designation: none

Description: a stone axe and several flints were found by J Cherry ca 50m from a cairn (SMR3107; **Site 19**).

Period: Neolithic

Site Number: 22

NGR: 348600 485800

HER No: 12926

Sources: HER; Ordnance Survey 1862; nd

Designation: none

Description: Causeway End Quarry lies north-east of St John's Church. Part of the site is now built on.

Period: post-medieval

Site Number: 23

NGR: 348700 485800

HER No: 14906

Sources: HER; CCC nd

Designation: none

Description: Levens Village ridge and furrow and farmsteads are shown on aerial photographs.

Period: medieval – post-medieval?

Site Number: 24

NGR: 348520 485775

HER No: 43859

Sources: HER

Designation: Listed Building Grade II

Description: church of St John the evangelist; Anglican church 1826-8 to the designs of William Coulthart of Lancaster, with some internal detail possibly to the designs of Edward Blore of London. Built and endowed by Mary Howard at Levens Hall.

Period: post-medieval

Site Number: 25

NGR: 348420 485710

HER No: 19887

Sources: HER

Designation: none

Description: Causeway End Farm cave; a cave system reported by Lilian Hopkins.

Period: natural

Site Number: 26**NGR:** 349640 485552**HER No:** 42103**Sources:** HER; Ordnance Survey 1862**Designation:** none**Description:** Lawrence House Farm milepost; a painted white cast iron post situated near Lawrence House Farm on the A6 set back a few metres from the need edge.**Period:** post-medieval

Site Number: 27**NGR:** 348555 485425**HER No:** 2511**Sources:** HER; Listed Building**Designation:** Listed Building Grade II**Description:** limekiln, probably mid-19th century. Roughly squared limestone; splayed plinth; semi-circular head to hearth with radiating voussoirs. Top incomplete, but otherwise intact. Built into hillside with retaining walls to either side. This is a typical mid-19th century kiln in very good condition. It is a well known local landmark.**Period:** post-medieval

Site Number: 28**NGR:** 348475 485390**HER No:** 12929**Sources:** HER; Ordnance Survey 1862; nd; Smith 1967, 93**Designation:** none**Description:** Causewayed Bridge has probably existed for several hundred years at least. The route it lies on between Sampool Bridge and Levens Park was called the Sampull Cawsey in 1654. It is also possible that this road and possibly other causeways in the Lyth Valley overlay ancient cordway roads. Evidence for such roads in the area was found in the 19th century. See also SMR 12930.**Period:** medieval – post-medieval?

Site Number: 29**NGR:** 349500 485300**HER No:** 19332**Sources:** HER; PAS LVPL 288**Designation:** none**Description:** axe head findspot; an early Bronze Age cast-flange axehead with splayed edges and rounded butt was found by Mr Tom Leonard before 1998 at Levens. The axehead is typical of the Arretton Down metalworking tradition. It is in very fine condition, and retains a sharp cutting edge despite slight pitting on the surface. It is of light brown patina. Length: 113mm.**Period:** Bronze Age

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.