

LAND OFF SOUTH ROAD, KIRKBY STEPHEN, CUMBRIA

Heritage Assessment



Client: Mark Cairns

NGR: 377349 508103
(centre)

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Non-Technical Summary

Following a pre-application enquiry regarding a proposed residential development on land off South Road, Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria, Greenlane Archaeology was commissioned to carry out a heritage assessment of the site for inclusion with the eventual planning application and an archaeological geophysical survey, which was carried out concurrently and will be presented in a separate report. This was intended to establish at an early stage whether the area was likely to have any known sites of archaeological interest or whether there was any potential for as yet unknown sites to be present, as well as assess the potential impact of the development on any nearby heritage assets. The work, which included a site visit, was carried out in March 2017.

The 3.36 hectare site lies midway along South Road (the A685) in Kirkby Stephen. Information contained in the Historic Environment Record revealed 20 sites of archaeological interest within a study area of 500m around the site. These range in date from the Neolithic to post-medieval periods. Croglam Castle, 440m to the south-west of the site, which is believed to be an Iron Age defended enclosure and is associated with an extensive area of earthworks, is a Scheduled Monument but the other sites are undesignated. A putative Roman road passes across the proposed development site, although the evidence for this is uncertain; stray finds of Roman coins are also known from the Kirkby Stephen area but it is not clear if they and the road indicate any settlement of that date was present. The medieval settlement probably focused on the centre of the residential part of the town to the north, and areas of ridge and furrow, created by a system of ploughing used during the Middle Ages, typical of the open field system, are recorded nearby. Maps of the area show that the site itself has been open fields since at least the mid-19th century. The available Lidar data shows ridge and furrow across the site but no obvious evidence for the Roman road, although the eastern boundary of the site forms a very obvious ridge and there is a linear earthwork to the south-west in the neighbouring field.

A site visit revealed that the land has been subject to general agricultural improvement and animal burrowing and the remains of two stone-built stiles corresponding to an extant footpath are present. In addition earthworks comprising a possible lynchet and platform were evident in the most northerly field.

In view of the evidence from the wider area, and taking into account the results of the site visit, there is some potential for remains of archaeological interest to be present, particularly of late prehistoric and Roman date. The proposed development site overlies the route of the supposed Roman road, however, without further examination by means of archaeological excavation this remains conjecture, even if the results of the geophysical survey identify something suitable. While there is a possibility that outlying features relating to the medieval settlement or stray finds of medieval date could be present, the potential for finds (and possibly features) of post-medieval date to be present is probably greater, although these are unlikely to be significant. The impact on statutorily protected sites nearby is likely to be negligible, although the Conservation Area is very close to the north-west end of the site and so some further screening might be suitable.

Acknowledgements

Greenlane Archaeology would like to thank Mark Cairns for commissioning the project and his agent Tom Woof of Prospus Group for information about the project. Additional thanks are due to Jeremy Parsons, Historic Environment Officer at Cumbria County Council, for providing access to the Historic Environment Record, and the staff of the Cumbria Archive Centre in Kendal (CAC(K)) for providing access to the archive material. Special thanks are due to Derek Elsworth for logistical support.

The project was managed by Dan Elsworth, who also carried out the heritage 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

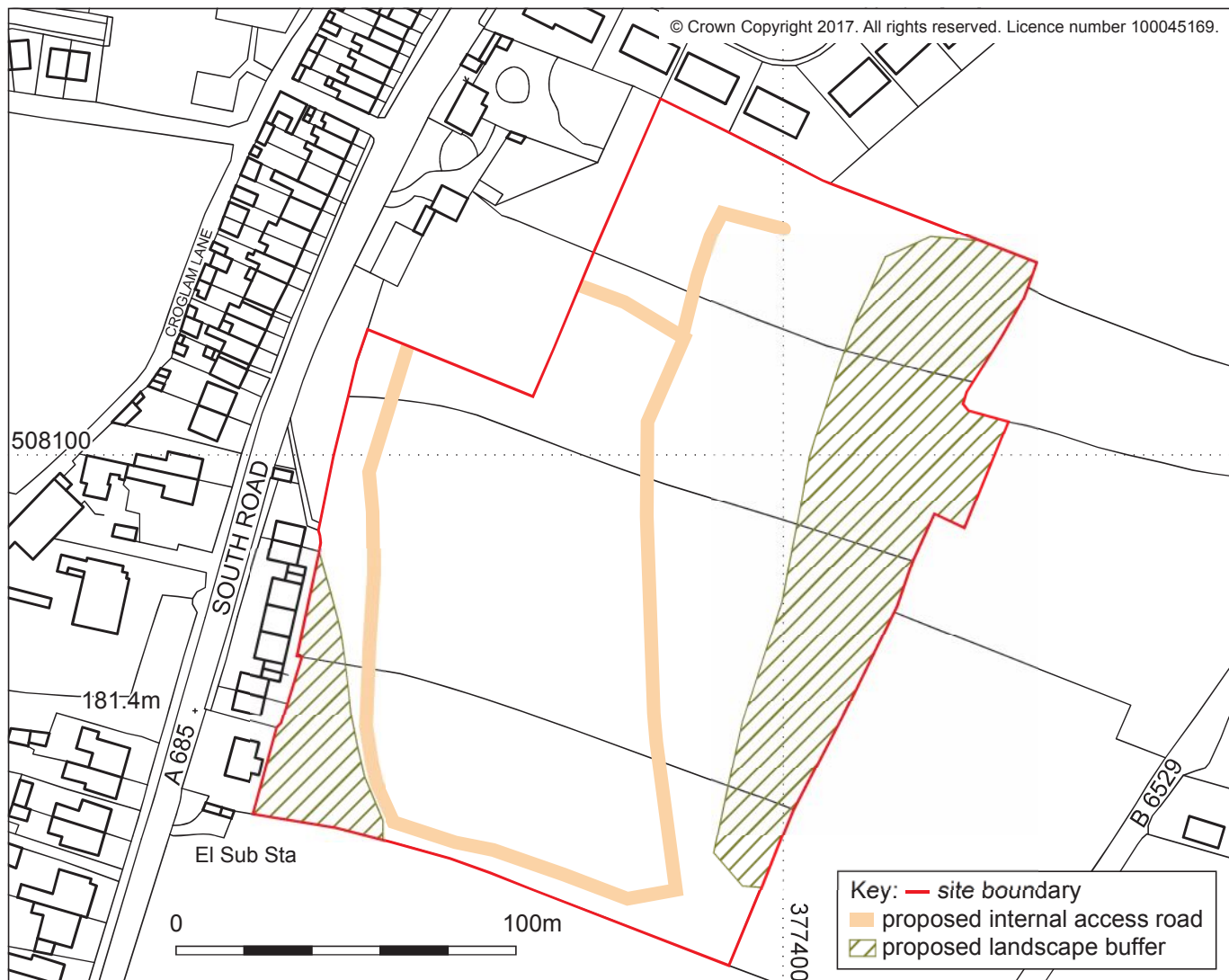
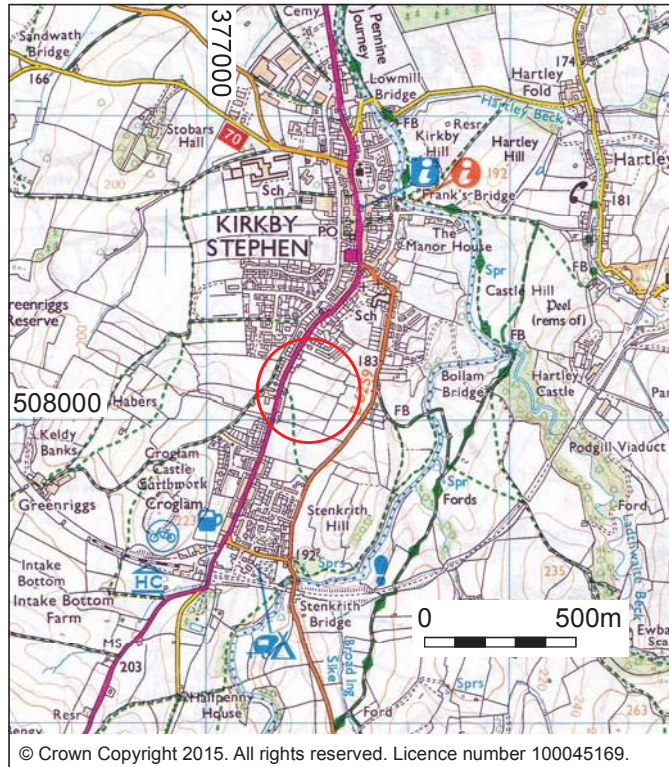
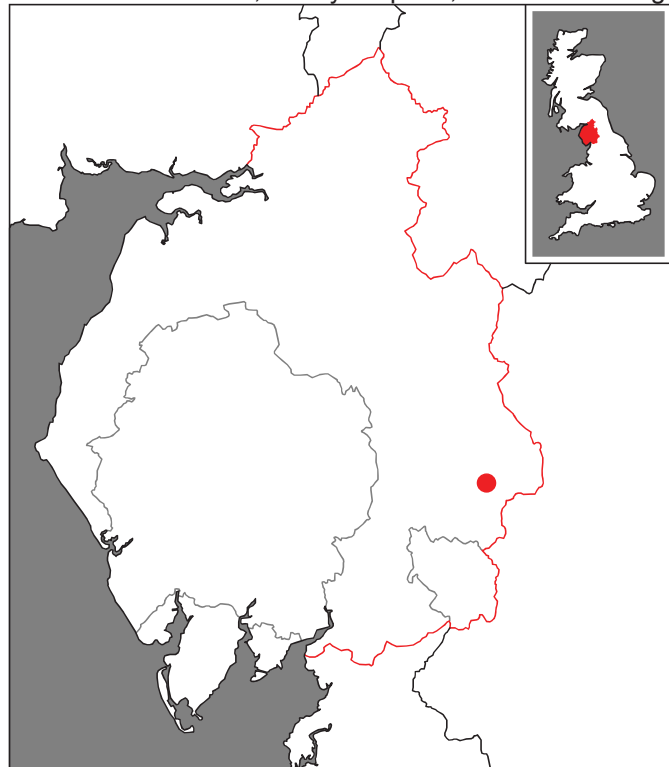
1.1.1 Following a pre-application enquiry regarding the creation of a residential development on land off South Road, Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria (377349 508103 (centre)), and following consultation with Eden District Council and the Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service, it was recommended that a heritage assessment and archaeological geophysical survey be compiled for inclusion with the eventual planning application. This was intended to establish at an early stage whether the area 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. Greenlane Archaeology was commissioned by Mark Cairns (hereafter 'the client'), via his agent Tom Woof of Prospus Group, to undertake the work, which was carried out in March 2017. The geophysical survey was carried out concurrently and will be provided as a separate report.

1.1.2 The site is midway along South Road, close to Kirkby Stephen Primary School and the residential area around the south end of Market Street in Kirkby Stephen. Kirkby Stephen is of at least medieval origin, the name indicates that there was settlement there in the early medieval period, and there are numerous remains of prehistoric and other date in the wider area. Earthworks relating to an Iron Age hill fort, known as Croglam Castle, lie 440m to the south-west.

1.2 Location, Geology, and Topography

1.2.1 The proposed development area occupies four large fields with an area of approximately 3.36 hectares to the east of the A685 in Kirkby Stephen at approximately 180m-200m above sea level (Figure 1; Ordnance Survey 2015). Kirkby Stephen is a civil parish and small market town in Cumbria, within the Orton Fells to the south end of the Eden Valley. The Orton Fells are sparsely settled and characterised by rolling upland farmland, bounded by high dry stone walls, and limited woodland (Countryside Commission 1998, 56-59).

1.2.2 The solid geology of the Orton Fells largely comprises carboniferous limestone, although beds of sandstone and Eden shales are also present, with expanses of limestone pavement and rocky outcrops prevalent where the underlying solid rocks are not covered by deposits of boulder clay and till (Countryside Commission 1998, 56-57). Kirkby Stephen lies at the junction of Mercia Mudstone and Sherwood sandstone of Triassic age with Upper Permian age St Bees Shales further to the south and east (Moseley 1978, plate 1).



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Figure 1: Site location

2. Methodology

2.1 Heritage Assessment

2.1.1 A desk-based assessment was carried out in accordance with the guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014). 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, Kendal (CAC(K))**: 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 Historic Environment Record (HER)**: this is a list of all the known sites of archaeological interest within the county, which is maintained by Cumbria County Council and is the primary source of information for an investigation of this kind. All of the known sites of archaeological interest within approximately 500m of the 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 by Greenlane Archaeology.

2.2 Site Visit

2.2.1 A rapid site visit was carried out, which comprised an examination of the affected area. This was in effect equivalent to a Level 1 survey as defined by English Heritage (English Heritage 2007). Across the site digital photographs showing the general arrangement of the landscape and any specific features of interest 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 Archive Centre in Kendal 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 A total of 20 sites of archaeological interest are recorded within the study area in the Historic Environment Record (Figure 2); no additional sites were identified during the desk-based assessment and site visit (*Appendix 1*; summarised in Table 1 below). The exact locations of the find spots (**Site 08**, **Site 09**, and **Site 10**) are not accurately located, so their significance to the study area is uncertain. The sites range from Neolithic to post-medieval in date, although some are undated (**Site 08** and **Site 16**). 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	Site No.	Type	Period
01	Power station (site of)	Post-medieval	11	Toll house (demolished)	Post-medieval
02	Settlement	Medieval	12	Earthworks (ridge and furrow)	Medieval
03	Tarn	Medieval	13	Earthworks (lynchets)	Medieval
04	Meeting House	Post-medieval	14	Earthworks (ridge and furrow)	Medieval
05	Possible road	Roman	15	Earthworks (enclosure)	Iron Age?
06	Earthworks (settlement; ridge and furrow)	Medieval	16	Earthworks (dykes)	Unknown
07	Toll house	Post-medieval	17	Quarry	Post-medieval
08	Find spot (quern stone)	Unknown	18	Watermill (demolished)	Post-medieval
09	Find spot (stone axe)	Neolithic	19	Bridge	Post-medieval
10	Find spot (coins)	Roman	20	Power station	Post-medieval

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

3.2 Heritage Assessment

3.2.1 The results of the heritage 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 then 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*).

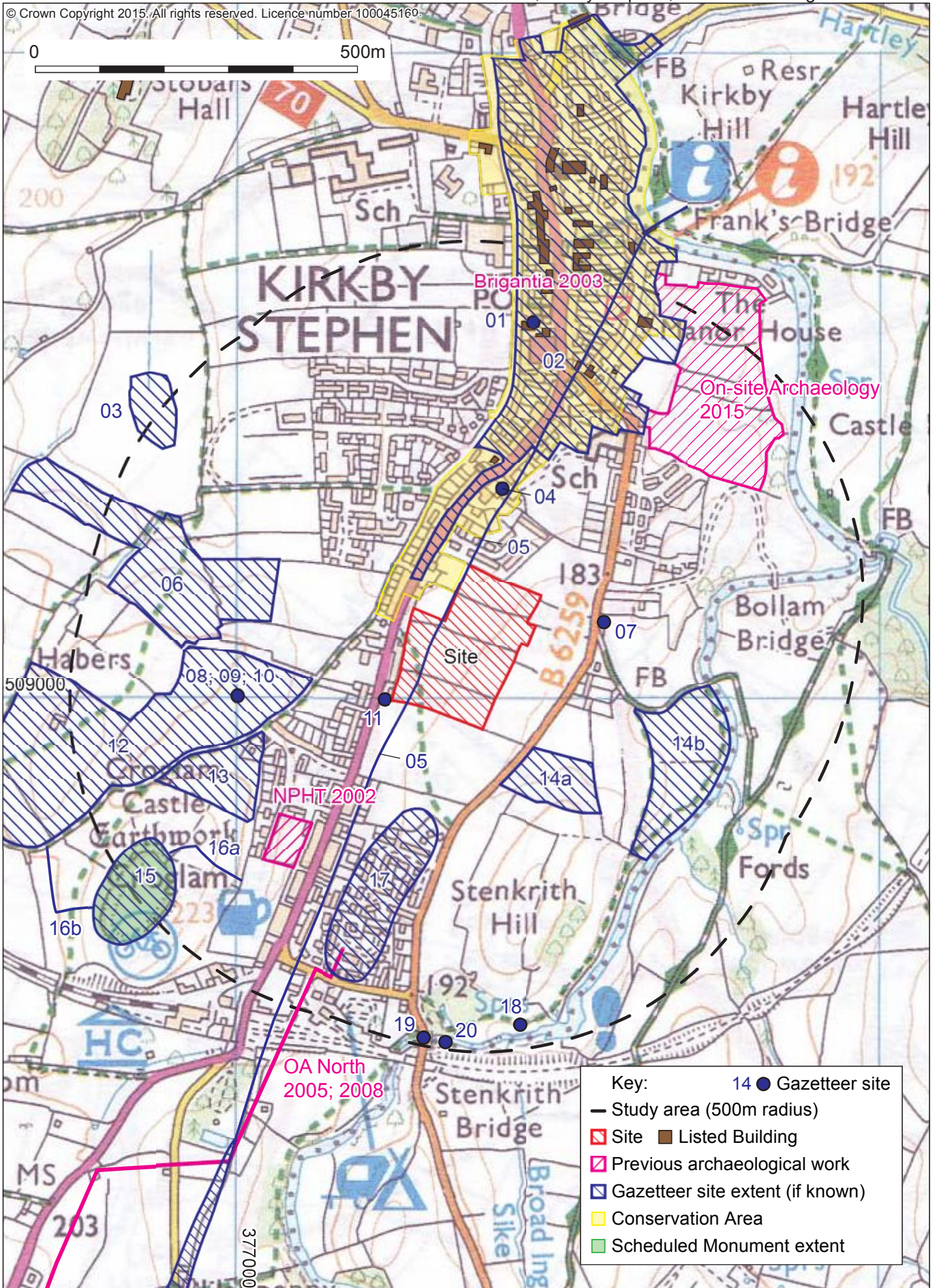


Figure 2: Gazetteer site plan and areas of previous archaeological work

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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 only from the 19th century.

3.3.2 **Tithe map, 1839:** the site occupied parts of four large fields to the east of the main north/south road through Kirkby Stephen at this point (Plate 1). These are numbered 294, 293, 292, and 304 from north to south. The details of the land owner, occupier, field name and type of cultivation recorded in the accompanying schedule are presented in Table 2. It is notable that of the four fields three contain the common element ‘vicarbre’, which is also shared by four further fields, primarily to the south (305 – East Vicarbre, 306 – West Vicarbre, 310 – South Vicarbre, and 317 – North Vicarbre). The meaning of ‘vicarbre’ is uncertain but given the local prevalence of names ending in –bar (eg Enterber, Stobars, Habers), which appears to derive from the Norse word *beorg* simply meaning in ‘hill’ (Smith 1967 10 and 233) then vicarbre presumably means ‘vicar’s hill’. This perhaps suggests it was land owned by the church at one time. The tithe map is also noteworthy in showing a footpath across the south-west corner of the two southernmost fields, which remains today.

Plot	Owner	Occupier	Name	Description
294	Mrs Stowell	Jarvis Close	Rump Close	Meadow
293	Mrs Stowell	Jarvis Close	North Vicarbre	Meadow
292	Mrs Stowell	Jarvis Close	Middle Vicarbre	Meadow
304	Mrs Stowell	Jarvis Close	Far Vicarbre	Meadow

Table 2: Details of the owners and occupiers of the site c1839

3.3.3 **Ordnance Survey, c1857:** the area is essentially unchanged (Plate 2), although there are trees depicted along most of the field boundaries within the proposed development site.



Plate 1 (left): Extract from the tithe map of 1839



Plate 2 (right): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1857

3.3.4 **Ordnance Survey, 1862:** the site remains essentially unchanged (Plate 3).

3.3.5 **Ordnance Survey, 1898:** there has been some development along the road to the west of the area, however, the site itself is unchanged (Plate 4). Of interest is the ‘manor house’ marked for the first time in Gothic script to the north, which is perhaps the same building as that later used as a Quaker Meeting House (see **Site 04**).



Plate 3 (left): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1862



Plate 4 (right): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1898

3.4 Lidar

3.4.1 Lidar imagery shows traces of ridge and furrow, following the alignment of the fields, within the proposed site boundary (Houseprices.io 2016; Plate 5). It is also noticeable that there is a distinct ridge along the east boundary of the site, which is also evident in the field to the south. It is possible that this represents the putative line of the Roman road thought to run in this direction (**Site 05**). However, in the field to the south there is also a prominent bank on the same orientation on the west side of the field, which is also a possible candidate.

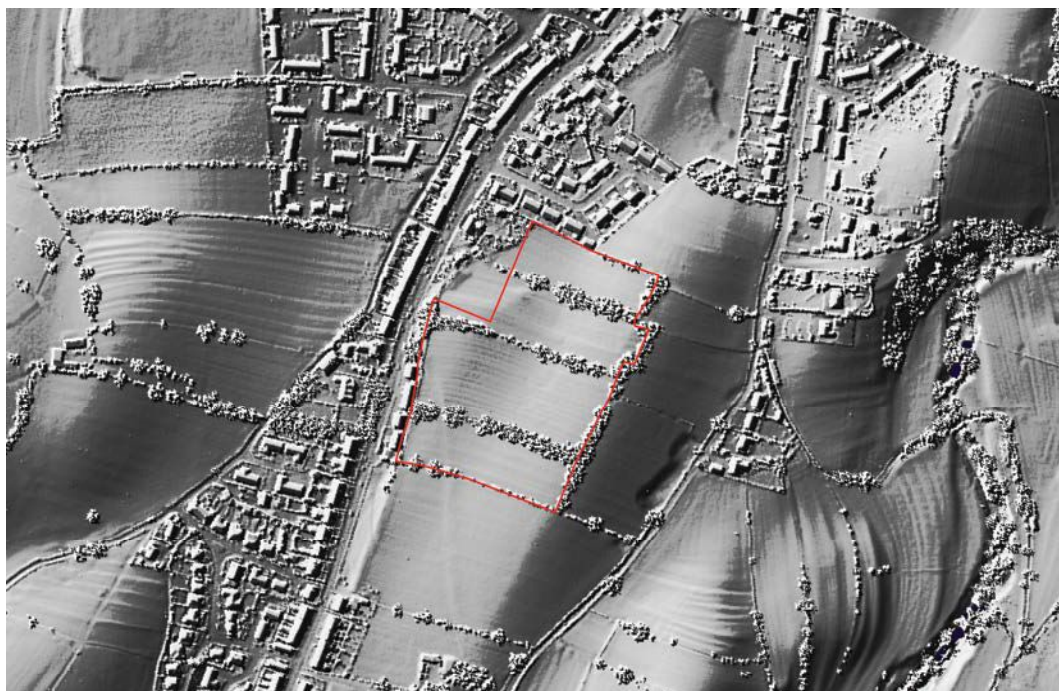


Plate 5: Lidar imagery of the site

3.5 Previous Archaeological Work

3.5.1 Five previous pieces of archaeological work have been carried out within the study area (Figure 2), which can be summarised as follows:

- A desk-based assessment and evaluation were carried out off Rowgate in advance of a proposed housing scheme, although the report does not apparently give any detail of the results of the evaluation (NPHT 2002);
- An evaluation was carried out at Melbecks, on the east side of Kirkby Stephen. This concluded that there was no evidence for pre-medieval activity and that the land use had been agricultural/horticultural since the foundation of the medieval settlement of Kirkby Stephen and that there was limited archaeological potential (Brigantia Archaeological Practice 2003);
- An archaeological desk-based assessment and walkover survey were carried out in advance of the installation of a water pipeline running through a number of fields (OA North 2005). This revealed a number of features of potential archaeological interest surviving as earthworks;
- An archaeological evaluation was carried out along the route of the same pipeline, which revealed some archaeological features and finds but nothing of particularly significance (OA North 2008);
- A desk-based assessment was carried out for two large areas to the east and west of Kirkby Stephen in advance of proposed solar farms (On-Site Archaeology 2015).

3.6 Site Visit

3.6.1 A brief site visit was carried out on the 28th March 2017. This revealed that although the site is effectively broken into four separate fields these are only divided from each other by the remnants of former hedgerows, represented primarily by occasional trees (some large) and shrubs rather than continuous boundaries although remnants of earthwork banks do remain in places. The site can be accessed via a footpath from South Road in the south-west corner, which runs up a steep bank from the road and through the south-west corners of the two southern fields, with the remains of stone built stiles still present in the remnants of the former field boundaries (Plate 6). All four fields rise to a ridge on the east side where there is a prominent row of trees forming the remnants of the eastern field boundary (Plate 7). Within each field there were no particular features of archaeological interest and no obvious constraints to any further archaeological work, although a shallow linear earthwork lynchet was evident on the east side of the northernmost field (Plate 9), on the same alignment as the field itself, as well as a possible earthwork platform or lynchet at the west end of the same field at 90 degrees (Plate 10). The western end of the two northern fields abutted a block of land separated by a new post and wire fence within which were a number of derelict farm buildings (Plate 11). No evidence for extensive disturbance that might have affected any below-ground archaeological remains was revealed, although it is apparent that the whole area has been ploughed and rabbit burrows were present along at least the eastern boundary so this would have had some impact.



Plate 6 (left): Stile preserved in the former field boundary on the line of the footpath, viewed from the north-west

Plate 7 (right): Typical sloping ground, viewed from the west



Plate 8 (left): Trees along the eastern boundary, viewed from the south

Plate 9 (right): Lynchet on the east side of the northernmost field, viewed from the north-east



Plate 10 (left): Earthwork at the west end of the northernmost field, viewed from the north-west

Plate 11 (right): Farm buildings to the west of the two northernmost fields, viewed from the east

3.7 Conclusion

3.7.1 It is apparent from the available mapping that the site has been open fields since at least the mid-19th century and has seen no obvious development since, although a footpath cutting across the south-western corner of the site is present from the early 19th century is still extant. There are, however, a number of archaeological sites already recorded in the wider area ranging from the prehistoric to the post-medieval period, with particularly extensive areas of earthworks relating to field systems and settlements of probable late prehistoric date.

3.7.2 The site visit did not reveal any additional sites of archaeological interest, with the possible exception of stone-built stiles relating to the footpath and some possible lynchets, although it is evident from the Lidar data that there is ridge and furrow present and rabbit burrowing was visible on site. There is, therefore, some likelihood that there has been some disturbance to any archaeological deposits that might be present below-ground.

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), with human remains found in one of these caves also dated to the end of this period (Smith *et al* 2013). A small group of bone harpoon points found near Crosby-on-Eden perhaps belong this period, in which case they would be the closest examples to the site (Hodgson 1895). 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). More recent work has identified an extensive area of Mesolithic activity on the River Eden near Carlisle (Clark 2010) and field walking elsewhere on the same river has provided further evidence (Clarke *et al* 2008), perhaps demonstrating the importance of the Eden and its tributaries. These discoveries demonstrate that further remains of similar date are likely to exist in the local area, and conforms to the notion 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 (e.g. **Site 09**), having been manufactured at Langdale (Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 45). Probable Neolithic remains closer to the site include the large stone circle at Gamelands at Orton, and the Shap Avenue (Barrowclough 2010, 109-110), as well as a number of burial mounds excavated by Canon Greenwell in the late 19th century such as at Raiset Pike and Orton (*op cit*, 95-98). 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. There are considerable numbers of such sites in the area around Kirkby Stephen, with many undated mounds recorded before the early 20th century, which may be Bronze Age burials (RCHME 1936), but also large areas of field systems, including a large area at Hartley to the north-east of Kirkby Stephen (OA North 2003) and possibly fortified sites with associated settlements at Castle Hill near Waitby and Croglam Castle (**Site 15**) (Higham and Jones 1975). The majority of these sites have not seen modern excavation and so their exact dating is uncertain, but, in some cases at least, they are likely to have originated in at least the Bronze Age and continued to be occupied until the Roman period and perhaps beyond.

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

4.2.1 The Roman military presence in the North West is apparent from the existence of forts, which in many cases led to the formation of nearby towns or *vici* and the supply network of roads and coastal trade, as well as the incidence of Roman artefacts such as coins (Philpott 2006, 71). The Lune and Eden valleys provided a route of access to Carlisle for the Roman advance (*ibid.*, 63) and the route northwards is still apparent along the modern A6 between Carlisle and Penrith (Shotter 2004, 31). A large proportion of the identified Romano-British settlement sites in Cumbria are located to the south and east of Penrith (Philpott 2006, 75) and, as mentioned, it is likely that many of the rural settlements in the area around Kirkby Stephen, which appear to have prehistoric origins, continued to be used into and throughout the Roman period. The status of such sites is debatable, although the discovery of a Roman parade helmet on a supposedly 'native' site at Crosby Garrett suggests potentially close contacts with quite high status members of the Roman military (Breeze and Bishop 2013). While there are no known Roman military sites in Kirkby Stephen itself the line of a supposed Roman road running approximately north/south is recorded on the east side of the town (**Sites 05**). The nearest Roman fort is that at Brough to the north, which is associated with a system of signal stations along Stainmore (Higham and Jones 1975, 23-24). Stray finds of Roman coins are known from the Kirkby Stephen area, including a hoard of more than 200

radiates, the details of which are unclear, although one is a relatively uncommon issue of Marius (AD 268) (Shotter 1991, 274; 1992, 277), and other stray coin finds ranging from the 1st to the 3rd centuries AD are known (Shotter 1989; 1991; 1992, 278) some of which are located within the study area although their exact findspot is uncertain (**Site 10**) and they do not necessarily suggest that there was a Roman settlement in the vicinity of the current town of Kirkby Stephen. The later first century coins perhaps indicate a commercial relationship between local farmers and Roman military units or the distribution of land to Roman army veterans and the spatial distribution of second century coins in the region perhaps reflects the importance of focal points along the north/south route through the Eden and Lune Valleys (Shotter 1989, 44).

4.2.2 Following the cessation of Roman administration in the early fifth century the region fragmented into smaller kingdoms and it is difficult to form a coherent picture of the nature of political control. Much of what is now Cumbria probably came under the control of Rheged, a kingdom that seems likely to have extended across the border between what became England and Scotland and whose central territory may have been focussed on the nearby Lynvennet valley (Clarkson 2010, 68-78; Breeze 2012). However, by the mid-seventh century the area seems to have been securely under Northumbrian rule (Kirkby 1962, 80-81). Firmly dated archaeological evidence for the immediate post-Roman period in the county is sparse due in part to poor site visibility, which often consists of traces of rural settlements which have been heavily truncated (see discussion in Philpott 2006, 59). Furthermore, there is inevitably a great deal of uncertainty with dating settlement sites on stylistic grounds alone given the persistence of traditional styles from the Roman to the early medieval period. However, a rectangular building with earth-fast timber posts excavated at Shap has tentatively been attributed to the seventh to eighth century on the basis of loom weight fragments found nearby (Heawood and Howard-Davis 2002, 157-8). In the wider context of possible Anglian settlement at Fremington and Brougham (although again the evidence for this classification is slight), a settled rural hinterland around the foci at Dacre and Penrith is suggested for the early medieval period (*ibid*, 168).

4.2.3 The arrival of Norse settlers between perhaps the late ninth and early 10th century had a considerable effect on the area, in particular on the local place-names (Edwards 1998, 7-8). Physical evidence for settlement is, however, rare, although an increasing number of burials of Norse type from both rural and urban contexts are known (see Paterson *et al* 2014; McCarthy and Paterson 2015; McCarthy *et al* 2015) with a furnished Viking burial known at Hesket-in-the-Forest, north of Penrith perhaps the closest to the site (Edwards 1998, 10-12). Several complete and fragmentary 'Viking Age' (late ninth and early 10th century) silver brooches have also been found in the Penrith area, most notably on Flusco Pike, three miles to the west of Penrith (Edwards 1998, 33-36; Richardson 1996). Kirkby Stephen's name indicates that there was an established settlement by the Norse period, presumably somewhere on the current site of the town (**Site 02**), which had a church (Smith 1967, 8-9), but what form that settlement took is not known. However, several fragments of carved stone cross of early medieval date have been found in Kirkby Stephen, further demonstrating that there was a church there from an early date (CCC and EH c2002, 4).

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

4.3.1 The medieval period in general in Cumbria was one of considerable initial growth, followed by serious decline in the 14th century resulting from the combined effects of the Scottish raids and disease in both people and animals (Winchester 1987, 46-47). The present town of Kirkby Stephen is essentially of medieval origin, with a plan form typical of the period, although it is thought that its original centre might have been around Union Square (CCC and EH c2002). Its economy was primarily based on agriculture; it had three water-powered corn mills and a market charter, granted in 1352 (*op cit*, 5). The area of the medieval town itself (**Site 02**), which includes the church, is suggested on the HER. The former tarn (**Site 03**) too is of medieval date, although this is of limited archaeological interest. Various areas of ridge and furrow (**Site 06**, **Site 12**, **Site 14**), lynchets (**Site 13**), and possible settlements (Site 06) of medieval date have also been identified in the area.

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

4.4.1 By the end of the medieval period there was a gradual economic improvement across the region (Winchester 1987, 48). How much this was apparent at Kirkby Stephen is uncertain, although its market charter was confirmed by James I in 1606 (CCC and EH c2002, 7). In general it was not until the beginning of the post-medieval period that rural areas such as this began to see any substantial new development as the population began to rise again and demand for land and the need for new housing saw a considerable amount of building (Pearsall and Pennington 1989, 256). It is likely that several of the earliest surviving farm buildings in the town relate to this period. The general industrialisation that took hold across the country during the 18th and 19th centuries is not particularly evident in Kirkby Stephen, which clearly remained largely reliant on agriculture.

4.4.2 There are various sites of post-medieval date recorded within the study area, including the Friends' Meeting House (**Site 04**), Stenkrith Bridge (**Site 19**), and Brockram quarry (**Site 17**), and some which have been demolished, such as the toll house (**Site 11**) and the watermill (**Site 18**).

5. Discussion

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The discussion of the results of the heritage 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 20 sites identified within the study area, only part of the putative line of a Roman road (**Site 05**) lies within the proposed development area and is therefore at all likely to be affected by subsequent groundworks, although the veracity of this site is uncertain. The exact locations of the find spots are also not accurately located, so these have not been considered in *Section 5.2* but are considered in *Section 5.3* below.

5.2 Significance

5.2.1 The settlement enclosure known as Croglam Castle (**Site 15**) is believed to be an Iron Age defended settlement. It is well-preserved as an earthwork and is a Scheduled Monument. As such it is considered a nationally important archaeological site and is statutorily protected. Details of the Scheduled Monument entry are included in *Appendix 3*.

5.2.2 Various buildings close to the centre of the town are Listed, but not specifically recorded in the HER (see Figure 2). All of these sites are considered to be of local significance and are statutorily protected but none are in close proximity to the proposed development area. The southern end of the Conservation Area lies immediately adjacent to the north-west end of the site, and is again of local significance and statutorily protected.

5.2.3 All of the remaining sites of archaeological interest recorded within the study area should be considered undesignated heritage assets. They too are therefore of local significance.

5.2.4 The level of significance of **Site 05** – the supposed route of a Roman road, which is the only site to fall 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 the site (see Table 3 below: H=high, M=medium, L=low). As can be seen in Table 3, the feature is considered to be of medium significance.

Site	05
<i>Period</i>	M
<i>Rarity</i>	M
<i>Documentation</i>	L
<i>Group value</i>	H
<i>Survival/condition</i>	L
<i>Fragility/Vulnerability</i>	M
<i>Diversity</i>	M
<i>Potential</i>	M
Significance	M

Table 3: Significance by site

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 4 below; in each case the level of potential is expressed as low, medium, or high.

Period	Present in study area?	Potential
Late Upper Palaeolithic	N	L
Mesolithic	N	L
Neolithic	Y	L
Bronze Age	N	L
Iron Age	Y	M
Roman	Y	M
Early Medieval	N	L
Medieval	Y	M
Post-medieval	Y	M

Table 4: Degree of potential for unknown archaeological remains by period

5.3.2 In consideration of Table 4 it is worth noting that the date of the quern stone (**Site 08**) and dykes near Croglam Castle (**Site 16**) is unknown, but both are likely to be late prehistoric or Romano-British. It is also worth noting that while Croglam Castle (**Site 15**) is believed to be Iron Age it has not been archaeologically investigated. A Roman road possibly passed through the south and east of Kirkby Stephen towards Sedbergh, possibly passing through the proposed development area (the suggested route of which is indicated by **Site 05**), although the route of the road remains conjectural. There is therefore a strong background of late prehistoric to Roman period activity in the wider area, as also represented by the stray coin find of that date (**Site 10**), and so remains of this period are potentially likely.

5.3.3 The heart of the modern town was probably also the original focus of the medieval settlement (the area occupied by **Site 02**), some distance to the north of the site, so stray finds from this date can also perhaps be expected. Post-medieval sites are well represented within the study area, and finds and possibly features of this date are also likely to be present within the proposed development site, although most probably resulting from agricultural activity.

5.4 Disturbance

5.4.1 The site visit did not identify any significant disturbance to the site, although general agricultural improvement, by means of ploughing, and the animal burrows are likely to have also caused some damage to any below-ground archaeological remains that might be present.

5.5 Impact

5.5.1 Although no detailed plans were available regarding proposed the development, although outline details are shown in Figure 1, it is likely that any construction work on site would substantially impact upon any archaeological remains that might be present. While there are some Listed Buildings within the study area (see Figure 2) none are in close proximity to the proposed development area or likely to see any substantial impact on them or their setting, primarily because of the modern buildings that are already present immediately to the north. Similarly the one Scheduled Monument within the study area (Croglam Castle; **Site 15**) is some distance to the west of the proposed development area and again somewhat hidden by more recent developments. By contrast the edge of the Conservation Area (see Figure 2) is immediately adjacent to the north-west corner of the proposed development area and while this is the very southern edge of the Conservation Area there is the potential for some impact upon this. The exact location of only known site of archaeological interest within the proposed development site, the Roman road (**Site 05**) and it is possible that it does not run through the site at all or that it is located along the ridge to the east or corresponds with the earthwork to the south-west as shown in the Lidar data (see *Section 3.4*). In this case the proposed screening in these areas would be likely to protect it (see Figure 1) but it will be necessary to take into account the results of the geophysical survey in order to better understand the possible impact on this particular site.

5.6 Conclusion

5.6.1 While the site is located in an area surrounded by archaeological remains of various periods there is nothing certainly present within the site, with the exception of the Roman road (**Site 05**),

although the actual course of this is not certain. The geophysical survey being carried out concurrently with this report will be a more efficient way of demonstrating whether this is actually present, although even then it would most likely require further archaeological investigation to confirm this. Nevertheless, there is some potential for other archaeological remains to be present and this would be impacted upon by any proposed development and further archaeological work to assess the presence or absence of such remains, might still be considered necessary. The impact on any statutorily protected sites or areas nearby is relatively minimal, but still needs to be taken into consideration and so further screening along the north-west side against the Conservation Area might also be considered beneficial.

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Appendix 1: Site Gazetteer

Site Number: 01**NGR:** 377460 508580**HER No:** 19034**Sources:** HER**Designation:** none**Site Type:** power station (site of)**Description:** Kirkby Stephen Electric Light and Power Company was gas engine powered, and according to T Hay, it was in Croft Street, Kirkby Stephen.**Period:** post-medieval

Site Number: 02**NGR:** 377500 508720**HER No:** 6754**Sources:** HER; CCC and EH c2002**Designation:** none**Site Type:** settlement**Description:** Kirkby Stephen medieval settlement; many traces of the earlier plan survive such as the back lane (Croglam Lane) and various small pathways leading off it. There are still traces of strip fields and remains of ridge and furrow lynchets. Those below Croglin Castle are in reasonable condition as are those at NY 7748 0785 (SMR 1989). The Church of St Stephen was built c1230.**Period:** medieval

Site Number: 03**NGR:** 376850 508450**HER No:** 15618**Sources:** HER**Designation:** none**Site Type:** tarn**Description:** Kirkby Stephen Tarn; tarn in Kirkby now a small pool which does not appear on recent maps; recorded in 1327 to 1576.**Period:** medieval

Site Number: 04**NGR:** 377412 508322**HER No:** 44202**Sources:** HER; Architectural History Practice 2015**Designation:** none**Site Type:** Friends' Meeting House**Description:** Early 19th century stable block associated with Town Head House, converted to a Friends' Meeting House in 1929.**Period:** post-medieval

Site Number: 05**NGR:** 377550 508500 (point)**HER No:** 15536**Sources:** HER; Anderson and Swailes 1985, 11

Designation: none

Site Type: road

Description: Streetside Road is the approximate alignment of a possible Roman road towards Sedbergh (continuation of HER 15667 to the north of the area; see also HER 155377 and 15664). An evaluation carried out at NY 77580860 by Brigantia Archaeological Practice (2003) did not find anything and an evaluation by OA North (2005) also found nothing.

Period: Roman?

Site Number: 06

NGR: 376900 508200

HER No: 3491

Sources: HER; Higham and Jones 1975

Designation: none

Site Type: earthworks (settlement; ridge and furrow)

Description: Habers field system and remains of a settlement. The remains consist of a very well-defined area of lynchets, strip fields, and ridge and furrow; there are also unidentifiable earthworks at NY 678 082. The Manchester University aerial photographs have never been identified.

Period: medieval

Site Number: 07

NGR: 377570 508115

HER No: 15652

Sources: HER; Ordnance Survey 1862; Hodgson 1828

Designation: none

Site Type: toll house

Description: Bollamgate Cottage Toll House is situated on Nateby Road, Kirkby Stephen, on Hodgson's map, however, the toll booth is marked on the other side of the road – now a private residence.

Period: post-medieval

Site Number: 08

NGR: 37700 508000

HER No: 6577

Sources: HER

Designation: none

Site Type: find spot (quern stone)

Description: the upper stone of a rotary quern of Shap granite. Exact provenance unknown.

Period: unknown

Site Number: 09

NGR: 377000 508000

HER No: 17751

Sources: HER; Richardson 1980, 157-58

Designation: none

Site Type: find spot (stone axe)

Description: a polished stone axe was found at Kirkby Stephen, but no details exist to give the circumstances of the find. Visual examinations suggests a fine-grained tuff of Borrowdale Volcanic Series. Apart from chip marks in the area of the cutting edge and butt, some of recent origin, the axe is in good condition. Where chipping has revealed the fresh rock, the core material is greenish-grey in colour, while the surface is smooth and carries a thick grey patina. One face displays a large flake scar; the butt end is fairly narrow and would appear to have been almost pointed originally, a recent break leaving it

squared-off. Oval in cross-section, the blade is laterally faceted, the cutting edge being slightly convex. Maximum length 115.5mm, maximum thickness 36mm, estimated cutting edge 68mm, width across butt 20mm, maximum facet width 12mm.

Period: Neolithic

Site Number: 10

NGR: 37700 508000

HER No: 19083

Sources: HER; Shotter 1989, 41-42

Designation: none

Site Type: find spot (coins)

Description: three coins are reported to have been found in the Kirkby Stephen area: a first century AD *denarius* of Vespasian (Shotter 1989, 41), a second century *sestertius* of Faustina II (Shotter 1989, 42), and a second century *denarius* of Commodus (although this is not recorded by Shotter (1989) and the source is unknown).

Period: Roman

Site Number: 11

NGR: 377230 507995

HER No: 15651

Sources: HER; Hodgson 1828; Ordnance Survey 1862; OA North 2005

Designation: none

Site Type: toll house (demolished)

Description: Kirkby Stephen Gate Toll House, situated on the main road south of Kirkby Stephen. There are no longer any traces of the toll house. A house opposite is known as 'Toll Bar View'. Shown on Hodgson's map of 1828 and Ordnance Survey map c1860.

Period: post-medieval

Site Number: 12

NGR: 376700 507900

HER No: 6756

Sources: HER

Designation: none

Site Type: earthworks (ridge and furrow)

Description: an area of broad ridge and furrow and possibly other earthworks in poor condition north-west of Croglam Castle. They appear to be connected with medieval settlement.

Period: medieval

Site Number: 13

NGR: 356950 507850

HER No: 1988

Sources: HER; RCHME 1936, 144; OA North 2008

Designation: none

Site Type: earthworks (lynchets)

Description: faint traces of lynchets which RCHME says are largely obliterated. They were still visible in 1978. Five of the lynchets are still quite evident running north-west/south-east in the northern (lower) half of the field. In fair/poor condition. Above this there are more, but there are barely discernible.

Period: medieval

Site Number: 14**NGR:** 377480 507850**HER No:** 1989**Sources:** HER; RCHME 1936, 144; OA North 2005; Manchester University 1974**Designation:** none**Site Type:** earthworks (ridge and furrow)

Description: Stenkrith Hill lynchets; according to RCHME, lynchets on the north slope of Stekrith Hill, half a mile south of the church, vary in length from 70 yards upwards. The average width is 12 ft. eight good lynchets running in a north-west/south-east direction survive in reasonably good condition, although some are showing traces of erosion.

Period: medieval**Site Number: 15****NGR:** 376850 507700**HER No:** 2000**Sources:** HER**Designation:** Scheduled Monument**Site Type:** earthworks (enclosure)

Description: an oval enclosure of 1.5 acres defined by a ditch with an external bank. An entrance gap occurs on the north-east. No hut foundations or other features visible in interior. Similar to Castle Hill, Dufton (SMR 2761). The banks stand c0.75m tall. The site is as described above with no traces of any features showing on the ground within the interior other than the ruined walls of a stone barn in the top north-west corner. However, an aerial photograph appears to show some indistinct internal features. Directly to the north-east are traces of drop lynchets (**Site 13**) and on the south-eastern side an area of extensive ridge and furrow running north-west/south-east. The site appears to be in reasonably good condition. See also **Site 16**.

In 2002 a desk-based assessment and field evaluation of land at Rowgate, to the north-east of Croglam Castle, found no archaeological deposits in any of the trenches. This was thought likely due to the presence of a watercourse through low-lying, marshy ground not conducive to settlement or intensive arable agriculture (NPHT 2002).

Period: Iron Age?**Site Number: 16****NGR:** 376955 507750**HER No:** 2007**Sources:** HER; OA North 2005**Designation:** none**Site Type:** earthworks (dykes)

Description: Croglam dykes; dyke running up to the hill fort site (**Site 15**). There are at least three dykes running up to the site at NY 7687 0764 – NY 7695 0767; NY 7670 0776 – NY 7679 0767; NY 76880774 – NY 7700 0772, two of which are mapped on the HER (labelled **16a** and **16b** on Figure 2).

Period: unknown**Site Number: 17****NGR:** 377300 507810**HER No:** 15649**Sources:** HER; Ordnance Survey 1862; OA North 2005**Designation:** none**Site Type:** quarry

Description: Brochram Quarries lay west of Stenkrith Hill and Nateby Road. The other lies nearby at 377299 507560 – 37740507560 (c0.3 ha).

Period: post-medieval

Site Number: 18

NGR: 377440 507490

HER No: 15650

Sources: HER; Hodgson 1828; Ordnance Survey 1862

Designation: none

Site Type: watermill (demolished)

Description: Stenkrith Mill lay adjacent to the River Eden, east of Stenkrith Bridge. No trace when visited in 1975.

Period: post-medieval

Site Number: 19

NGR: 377290 507470

HER No: 15615

Sources: HER; Jeffreys 1770; Hodgson 1828; Ordnance Survey 1862

Designation: none

Site Type: bridge

Description: Stenkrith Bridge carries Nateby Road over the River Eden. A massive single arched structure built on to the limestone by the River Eden. Another small arch has been blocked up. There is a further large rectangular opening where the now disused railway also crossed the river (the viaduct has been demolished). The bridge is in good condition and in use. It appears to be 19th century.

Period: post-medieval

Site Number: 20

NGR: 377324 507463

HER No: 17946

Sources: HER

Designation: none

Site Type: power station

Description: North East Railway Hydro Electric Power Station, Stenkrith Bridge, Kirkby Stephen

Period: 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.

Appendix 3: Croglam Castle Scheduled Monument Details

Name: Croglam Castle defended Iron Age settlement

List entry Number: 1004615

National Grid Reference: NY 76845 07692

County: Cumbria

District: Eden

Parish: Kirkby Stephen

Date first scheduled: 16-May-1951

Reasons for Designation: during the earlier Iron Age (seventh to fifth centuries BC) a variety of different types of defensive settlements began to be constructed and occupied in the northern uplands of England. The most obvious sites were hillforts built in prominent locations. In addition to these a range of smaller sites, sometimes with an enclosed area of less than 1ha and defined as defended settlements, were also constructed. Some of these were located on hilltops, others are found in less prominent positions. The enclosing defences were of earthen construction, some sites having a single bank and ditch (univallate), others having more than one (multivallate). At some sites these earthen ramparts represent a second phase of defence, the first having been a timber fence or palisade. Within the enclosure a number of stone or timber-built round houses were occupied by the inhabitants. Stock may also have been kept in these houses, especially during the cold winter months, or in enclosed yards outside them. The communities occupying these sites were probably single family groups, the defended settlements being used as farmsteads. Construction and use of this type of site extended over several centuries, possibly through to the early Romano-British period (mid to late first century AD). Defended settlements are a rare monument type. They were an important element of the later prehistoric settlement pattern of the northern uplands and are important for any study of the developing use of fortified settlements during this period. All well-preserved examples are believed to be of national importance. Croglam Castle defended Iron Age settlement is well-preserved as an earthwork. The monument will contain archaeological deposits relating to its construction, use and abandonment and environmental deposits relating to the use of the surrounding landscape. The monument is unusual in occupying a defendable topographic position yet having an internal ditch and outer bank. Therefore the monument provides insight into the diversity of settlement and occupation during the Iron Age.

Details: the monument includes the earthwork and buried remains of a defended settlement of Iron Age date, situated on the top of a slight hill with views in all directions. The settlement enclosure, also known as Croglam Castle, is preserved as an earthwork and is sub-oval in plan measuring approximately 130m north east to south west by 65m north west to south east. The enclosure is surrounded by a single ditch with a counterscarp bank both of which closely follow the contours of the hill. The ditch measures approximately 12m in width with the external height of the bank measuring about 1m and there is a single entrance on the north east side where the bank increases in size. The form of the earthwork indicates it to be an Iron Age enclosure. The encircling bank is topped by a modern boundary wall, which is excluded from the scheduling; however, the ground beneath the wall is included.