

NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
DESK-BASED
ASSESSMENT
FOR A
DEVELOPMENT AT
LOW TOWN FARM,
UPPER DENTON,
BRAMPTON,
CUMBRIA**

**FOR
JOHNSTON & WRIGHT
ARCHITECTS**

NGR: NY 6163 6555

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In March 2006, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Johnston & Wright Architects to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment in advance of a proposed scheme for extensions at Low Town Farm, Upper Denton, Brampton, Cumbria (NGR 6163 6555).

The study involved the examination of all pertinent documents and cartographic sources held in the County Records Office in Carlisle, and the consultation of the Historic Environment Record (HER) of Cumbria County Council based in Kendal. The HER includes the locations and settings of Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Parks and Gardens and other, non-designated archaeological remains. In addition, a number of published sources were consulted to provide background information, including the Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society.

The desk-based assessment located 44 sites from the HER and other sources. These include 35 Roman sites ranging from findspots of altars to the Stanegate and associated signal stations to the fort at Birdoswald and four medieval sites which included the bastle house, a moated earthwork and the church.

The walkover survey identified former field boundaries, a track way and evidence of arable cultivation in the vicinity from slight plough earthworks.

On the evidence presented, there is a high potential for the survival of archaeological deposits in the vicinity of the Scheduled Ancient Monuments, and the potential for survival within the proposed development site is high. The proposed extensions involve the rebuilding of structures already on the site, which means that any archaeological deposits beneath the site could be disturbed. A watching brief may therefore be required during building works.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would like to offer thanks to Nicola Foot of Johnston & Wright Architects for commissioning the project, and for her assistance throughout the fieldwork.

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would also like to extend their thanks to Jo Mackintosh, Historic Environment Records Officer and Jeremy Parsons, Assistant Archaeologist of Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service, Stephen White, Local Studies Librarian at Carlisle Library, Tim Padley Keeper of Archaeology at Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery, and all the staff at the Cumbria County Record Office in Carlisle for their help during this project.

The desk-based assessment and walkover survey were undertaken by Fiona Wooler. The report was written by Fiona Wooler, and the drawings were produced by Fiona Wooler and Nicola Gaskell. The project was managed by Frank Giecco, Technical Director for NPA Ltd. The report was edited by Matt Town.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) were consulted by Johnston & Wright Architects regarding a proposed scheme for extensions at Low Town Farm. The site is located at the northern end of the small hamlet of Upper Denton, Brampton, Cumbria (NGR 6163 6555 (Figure 1)), and is located within the vicinity of several Scheduled Monuments (SM) including Birdoswald Roman fort (SM 26073), Hadrian's Wall and Vallum (SM 26074), a Bastle at Upper Denton (SM 27671) and a moated site at Upper Denton (SM 27673). Consequently, CCCHES advised that an archaeological desk-based assessment would be necessary prior to the proposed development. North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (NPAL) was commissioned by Johnston & Wright Architects to undertake the required archaeological desk-based assessment of the general area around Low Town Farm, Upper Denton.
- 1.1.2 The desk-based assessment comprised a search of both published and unpublished records held by the Historic Environment Record (HER) in Kendal, the Cumbria County Record Offices in Carlisle (CRO(C)), and the archives and library held by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. The principal objective of this assessment was to undertake sufficient work in order to identify and characterise the archaeological constraints associated with the development area, and in order to assess the archaeological and historical potential of the development site.
- 1.1.3 A Walkover Survey was carried out on the site of the proposed development, in order to relate the landscape and surrounding area to the desk-based assessment.
- 1.1.4 This report sets out the results of the work in the form of a short document outlining the findings, followed by a statement of the archaeological potential of the area, an assessment of the impact of the proposed development, and recommendations for further work. This report also contains the results of the rapid identification survey carried out in conjunction with the desk-based assessment.



Figure 1 – Site Location (each square = one kilometre)

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2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 A project design was submitted by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd in response to a request by Johnston & Wright Architects for an archaeological desk-based assessment of the study area, in accordance with a brief prepared by CCCHES. Following acceptance of the project design, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by the client to undertake the work. The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

2.2.1 Several sources of information were consulted, in accordance with the project brief and project design. The study area consisted of a one kilometre radius centred on the proposed development area. The principal sources of information were the Historic Environment Record (HER), maps and secondary sources.

2.2.2 ***Historic Environment Record (HER):*** the HER in Kendal, a database of archaeological sites within the county, was accessed. This was in order to obtain information on the location of all designated sites and areas of historic interest and any other, non-designated sites within the study area, which included monuments, findspots, Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas. A brief record including grid reference and description was obtained for the various sites within the study area, and was examined in depth. There were no aerial photographs held at the HER that showed the area concerned.

2.2.3 ***County Record Office (Carlisle):*** the County Record Office in Carlisle (CRO) was visited to consult documents specific to the study area. Historic maps of the study area, including surveys, Tithe and Enclosure Maps, Acts of Parliament and early Ordnance Survey maps, were examined. A search was made for any relevant historical documentation, particularly regarding the use of the area, drawing on the knowledge of the archivists. Several secondary sources and relevant websites were also consulted.

2.2.4 ***North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (NPAL):*** various publications and unpublished reports on excavations and other work in the region are held within the North Pennines Archaeology library and any undeposited archives of the sites themselves were examined. An electronic enquiry was also made of English Heritage's National Monuments Record and the website of the Archaeology Data Service. This was in order to enhance and augment the data obtained from a search of the appropriate repositories.

2.3 WALKOVER SURVEY

- 2.3.1 The site was visited in order to complete a rapid identification survey of the area with the purpose of relating the existing landscape to research findings. The area was walked over and features were recorded using digital photography. The features were located using manual survey techniques, tying in the new features to those already shown on ordnance survey mapping.

2.4 ARCHIVE

- 2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design, and in accordance with current UKIC (1990) and English Heritage guidelines (1991). The paper and digital archive will be deposited in the Cumbria Record Office, Carlisle.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1.1 The hamlet of Upper Denton lies in the Irthing Valley, approximately nine kilometres east of the market town of Brampton. The development area is situated at the north-eastern end of Upper Denton.
- 3.1.2 Low Town Farm is situated at a height of *c.*138 metres above mean sea level in an area of mainly pastoral land. At the time of the walkover survey, sheep were grazing in the field containing the moated site (SM 27673) and bastle house (SM 27671). The ground level drops at the northern side of the site towards the River Irthing, whilst to the south the ground level rises steadily to a height of 187 metres above mean sea level at the top of Mains Rigg (Figure 1).
- 3.1.3 The solid geology consists of Carboniferous limestones, shales and sandstones. The drift geology (material which has been transported from elsewhere) consists of Glaciofluvial and river terrace. Glaciofluvial drift was carried from the uplands in Pleistocene times by vigorous meltwater streams, leaving a landscape of hillocks and terraces (SSEW 1984, 14).

3.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.2.1 **Introduction:** this historical background is compiled mostly from secondary sources, and is intended only as a brief summary of historical developments around the study area.
- 3.2.2 **Palaeolithic:** The British Isles was first colonised by stone tool using hominids over half a million years ago. During the most recent geological period, the Pleistocene, massive north-south travelling ice sheets repeatedly scoured the landscape during prolonged periods of extreme cold. None of the major Pleistocene glaciations, as these cold periods are known, extended into southeast England, and consequently the majority of the evidence for the earliest occupation of the British Isles has been discovered here. In Northern England, the situation is quite different. No early Palaeolithic material has ever been recovered from the county of Cumbria, probably because the latest glaciation, the Devensian, has removed so much of the evidence from previous periods.
- 3.2.3 Palaeolithic peoples do not seem to have occupied Britain during the coldest part of the Devensian glaciation. Towards the end of the Devensian, some time after 13,000 BP, Late Upper Palaeolithic societies returned to Britain. Evidence of occupation in the northwest at this date is extremely scarce, but the discovery of Late Upper Palaeolithic blades at Lindale Low cave, near Grange-over-Sands, and at Bart's Cave, Aldingham, on the Furness peninsula, mean that the existence of a Cumbrian Palaeolithic can no longer be entirely dismissed (Chamberlain & Williams, 2001).

- 3.2.4 No Palaeolithic material has been located within a one kilometre radius of Low Town Farm, Upper Denton.
- 3.2.5 **Mesolithic:** By around 8,000 BP, the last of the major ice sheets had retreated. Rising sea levels submerged the land-bridge between Britain and continental Europe, an event that traditionally marks the beginning of the Mesolithic, or middle stone age period. Mesolithic populations were active on the Cumbrian coast, for example at Eskmeals, and St Bees, and it is likely that the Kent valley was occupied at this time. The Archaeology Data Service (ADS) records the discovery of a pebble mace head of characteristically Mesolithic type at Thorny Hills.
- 3.2.6 No Mesolithic material has been located within a one kilometre radius of Low Town Farm, Upper Denton.
- 3.2.7 **Neolithic:** The succeeding Neolithic period is characterised by increased density of occupation, which may be a result of the gradual adoption of a settled agricultural lifestyle.
- 3.2.8 By the Later Neolithic and Bronze Ages, the distribution of artefacts such as stone axes, arrowheads and axe-hammers indicates widespread settlement throughout the North Cumbrian Plain. Studies into the distribution of Stone Axes suggest that both wetlands/coastal areas and the plain itself were occupied at this time (Hodgkinson et al 2000). Polished Stone axes from the Langdale mines in the Cumbrian mountains were traded extensively throughout the British Isles, and it is likely that by the 3rd millennium BC, Neolithic inhabitants of Cumbria were part of an extensive trans-European trading network.
- 3.2.9 The later Neolithic and earlier Bronze ages are characterised by increasing social sophistication best reflected by the construction of large monuments, like the stone circles of Long Meg and Her Daughters near Penrith, or Birkkrigg, near Ulverston. These monuments have no obvious practical explanation, and are probably best seen as public works central to complex religious or spiritual practices.
- 3.2.10 No Neolithic material has been located within a one kilometre radius of Low Town Farm, Upper Denton.
- 3.2.11 **Bronze Age:** In the Bronze Age, human society continued to change and develop. Early metalwork finds are rare in Northern England, and metal production and ownership may have been the sole province of a privileged few.
- 3.2.12 Settlement sites dating to the Bronze Age are seldom identified, although aerial photography of the coastal plain has identified a number of sites that are yet to be tested by excavation (Bewley 1986, 37). Environmental studies, however, have identified cereal pollen dating from c2000 BC, clearly demonstrating the presence of agriculture in the North Cumbrian Plain by the Bronze Age (Hodgkinson et al, 2000).
- 3.2.13 By the beginning of the second millennium BC social change is reflected most clearly by the adoption of new burial practices. Cist burial, the practice of burying the dead in stone chambers dug into the ground and covered by slabs,

- seems to have become common at around this time throughout upland Northern England. Though cist burials are often found in isolation, it is suspected that they represent the surviving remnants of long vanished, or hitherto undetected, Bronze Age agricultural landscapes.
- 3.2.14 Another burial practice attributable to the Bronze Age is cremation burial. Sometimes cremation burials are associated with barrow mounds. The ploughed out remains of twenty or so barrows have been identified by aerial photography, and these may date to the Bronze Age (Bewley 1994). It is often unclear whether the contrasting practices of cist burial and cremation burial represent events of contrasting chronology or contrasting social practice.
- 3.2.15 No Bronze Age material has been located within a 1 km radius of Low Town Farm, Upper Denton.
- 3.2.16 **Iron Age:** During the Iron Age the impression nationwide is of a major expansion in population as evidenced by an abundance of settlement sites. There is also clear evidence for a growing social complexity and hierarchy, as demonstrated by high status burials and contrasting settlement sites, for example hillforts compared to small farmsteads.
- 3.2.17 In Cumbria, however, settlement sites and burials attributable to the Iron Age are hard to identify. Once again, a number of unexcavated settlement sites identified by aerial photography may date to this period (Bewley 1994). Two hillforts are known at the southern end of the northern coastal plain at Carrock Fell and Swarthy Hill (Hodgkinson et al 2000). Possible Iron Age crouched burials have been excavated at Crosby Garrett (Hodgson and Brennand eds. 2004).
- 3.2.18 Although settlements are hard to locate, environmental studies for lowland Cumbria have shown a dramatic drop in tree pollen during the Iron Age, suggesting that large tracts of forest were cleared for agricultural activity.
- 3.2.19 No Iron Age material has been located within a 1 km radius of Low Town Farm, Upper Denton, however, within the Roman fort at Birdoswald, directly north on the other side of the River Irthing from Low Town Farm, a polygonal enclosure with a double ditch and stockade was discovered in the 1930's along with sherds of possible Iron Age pottery (HER 329).
- 3.2.20 **Romano-British:** The Roman advance on the northwest during the 70s and 80s AD may have been launched from bases in the northwest Midlands such as Wroxeter and Little Chester, proceeding north via the valleys of the Eden and Lune. By 72 AD the earliest timber fort was constructed at Carlisle (Philpott ed. 2004), and the campaigns of Agricola, governor of Britain AD 78-84 consolidated the Roman hold on the North. The Stanegate Roman Road (HER 5781) pre-dates Hadrian's Wall, having being a communications route between the Roman forts at Corbridge (Red House) and Carlisle, possibly dating to the 70s AD. It certainly appears to have been the northern limit of Roman military occupation in Britain by c.105 (Bidwell ed 1999, 11).
- 3.2.21 During the Roman period there was certainly a heavy military presence in Cumbria. Hadrian's Wall, perhaps begun in 122 AD, was built to define the northern limit of the Roman Empire and a network of military roads, forts and

- settlements soon sprung up around the focus of Hadrian's Wall (Breeze and Dobson 1976). Until recent decades, the Roman military sites of Cumbria are also those that have received the most attention from archaeologists and as a result the nature of rural settlement during the Roman period is poorly understood (Philpott ed. 2004).
- 3.2.22 Intensive occupation of the fort at Carlisle continued until the fourth century, with extensive evidence for a vicus and associated civilian settlement to the south. The best evidence for the continued use of forts into the fifth century comes from Birdoswald (HER 343 and SM 26073) (Wilmott 1997).
- 3.2.23 Low Town Farm, Upper Denton, is located within the corridor of Hadrian's Wall, consequently there are several Roman sites within a one kilometre radius. The closest Roman feature to Low Town Farm is a section of the Stanegate Roman Road (HER 5781), 0.25 km to the south-east (Figure 1).
- 3.2.24 A half a kilometre to the south-west of Low Town Farm is Mains Rigg Roman signal station (HER 334 and SAM 27672) (Figure 2). This monument is situated on the northern facing slope of Mains Rigg from where there are extensive views northwards across the Irthing Valley, as well as eastwards and westwards. This signal station overlooks the Stanegate and is located approximately halfway between the Roman forts at Throp and Nether Denton. The signal station consisted of a rectangular stone tower measuring approximately 6.5 metres square, with walls up to one metre thick and was surrounded by a ditch of up to 4.5 metres wide by one metre high. After excavations on the site in 1928, the signal station was suggested to have belonged to the early years of Hadrian's reign (Collingwood 1929, 141), although further excavations in the 1960s failed to date the monument precisely.
- 3.2.25 **Early Medieval:** Evidence for Early Medieval activity in North Cumbria is extremely limited, the end of the Roman economy depriving the archaeologist of diagnostic artefactual evidence on all but a small minority of sites (Higham 1986). Work in recent decades has shown that the 'Romans' did not leave behind them a cultural vacuum, and archaeology has begun to fill the gap between the 'Dark Ages' and the colour of, for example, such histories as the Northumbrian monk, The Venerable Bede's, *Historia Ecclesiastica* written in the early eighth century.
- 3.2.26 Once the Roman administration ended in 410AD, the native Britons gradually reverted to their own autonomy. Angles had begun to enter eastern Cumbria by the seventh century AD, but the west of the county appears politically more stable (Crowe 1984). The discovery of early medieval settlement sites in the region is rare, but a number of putative Romano-British rural sites excavated more than forty years ago may have had late phases that could have been observed with the use of radiocarbon dating. Recent excavations at Stainmore in Cumbria have produced evidence for rectangular post-built buildings and sunken-feature buildings perhaps dating to the Seventh or Eighth centuries AD (Newman ed. 2004).

- 3.2.27 Environmental studies focussing on pollen remains have indicated a continuing arable economy in Cumbria during the Early Medieval period (Hodgkinson et al 2000).
- 3.2.28 To interpret early medieval society, archaeologists have often been forced to look at other classes of evidence beyond the traditional domain of excavation and field survey data, including place-name evidence, stone sculpture and early stone buildings.
- 3.2.29 The place name ‘Denton’ comes from the Old English *denu* and *tun*, meaning ‘farm in a valley’. Old English was the language spoken by the Anglo- Saxons from the 6th to the 12th centuries and according to Lee, Anglian was the dialect spoken in the north of England (Lee 1998).
- 3.2.30 An Early Medieval brooch of possible 8th century date was found during works on the south face of Hadrian’s Wall between Birdoswald and Milecastle No.49 in 1956 (HER 331).
- 3.2.31 Birdoswald Roman fort continued to be occupied during the late fourth century and into the fifth; excavation has revealed evidence of a post-Roman timber hall constructed on the site of the granary (Wilmott 1999, 156).
- 3.2.32 A Saxon village is reputed to have existed as High Mains (modern Denton Mains), located to the west of Upper Denton (Figure 1) but outside the one kilometre search radius. According to Ferguson, this is the site of an English homestead, although exactly what period he was referring to is not mentioned, although he refers to invaders coming in from the east coast as ‘English’ (Ferguson 1882, 194).
- 3.2.33 It has also been suggested that the church at Upper Denton may have been founded in the eighth century, although the first church on the site may have been constructed of timber. Bishop Pudsey in 1170 is believed to have referred to ‘the Church of the Ancient Denton’. The author of ‘Proceedings’ in the Transactions of 1915 suggests that this early church may have fairly quickly been constructed in stone, considering the amount of dressed masonry within the vicinity from Roman structures (CWAAS 1915, 185).
- 3.2.34 Upper Denton is not listed in the gazetteer of churches listed in ‘Anglo-Saxon Architecture’ by Taylor & Taylor (1965), although both Pevsner (2002) and Ryder (2005) have suggested that there at least some elements of the building that may be Anglo-Saxon in date. Given that the church, whether timber or stone, may have originated in the Early Medieval period, it is therefore likely that there was some sort of settlement associated with this building.
- 3.2.35 **Later Medieval:** In the eleventh century the political situation in Cumbria was volatile, with the emergent kingdom of Strathclyde to the north and the growing power of England to the south competing for political control (Kirkby 1962). Much of the modern county of Cumbria remained outside Norman control (thus not being included in Domesday Book of 1086) until 1092 when William II marched north to Carlisle and drove out one Dolfin.

- 3.2.36 Upper Denton is referred to in several of the charters in the Lanercost Cartulary dating from the 12th and 13th centuries. In the early 12th century, Upper Denton was held by ‘*Robert son of Anketin, a Norman. He was brother-in-law and heir of Robert, son of Beuth, and he and his descendants, who took the surname Denton, gave land to Lanercost at Carnetley, Lanerton, Denton and elsewhere on the southern slopes of the Irthing valley*’ (Todd 1997, 9). At some point between 1164 and 1181, the church at Upper Denton was granted to Lanercost Priory by *Robert son of Anketin* (Summerson and Harrison 2000, 6).
- 3.2.37 According to Nicolson and Burn, ‘Over’ Denton was in the possession of Richard Stonland in the seventh year of Edward First’s reign (1279) who granted the manor to John Witherington ‘*in whose family it long continued*’ (Nicolson and Burn 1777, 508). The next possessors of the manor were the Tweedales, but by 1901, the Howard family were lords of the manor (Bulmer 1901, 196).
- 3.2.38 Approximately 60 metres to the west of Low Town Farm is St Cuthbert’s Church at Upper Denton (HER 4561, LB 20725 and SM 27736) (Plate 1) which is recorded in the Historic Environment Record as Norman in date, although as mentioned in 3.2.33, it may be earlier. The church is located at the northern end of the village (Figure 2) and is constructed of mainly squared and coursed sandstone taken from Birdoswald Roman fort. This is a small church measuring only c.12 metres in length by c.7 metres in width. It consists of a single-bay chancel and a two-bay nave; the internal chancel arch is made from Roman stonework, reputedly also from Birdoswald. The Listed Building record notes that the western wall of the church was rebuilt in the 18th century, and subsequent alterations were made in 1881. According to a Mr Luckley, who painted the church prior to its restoration in 1881 (Figure 3): ‘*The building is in a dilapidated condition, the roof has given way in one or two places and the ivy which grows on the walls and up the roof has forced its way through in some places and is growing inside the church*’. The alterations in this year included the insertion of new windows in the north and east walls and the addition of lead rainwater heads, dated 1881. Internal alterations were also made in this year, during which two Roman altars were found (Kelly 1897) and the discovery of ‘*a pile of human bones beneath the chancel. These seemed to belong to some promiscuous burial, and point to some disaster in the past, such as a massacre during a raid or an outbreak of the plague. Plague victims, however, were usually buried in places apart from human habitation*’ (McIntire 1934).
- 3.2.39 The churchyard at Upper Denton is interesting in that firstly, it is slightly curved at its southern corners; this may indicate an early medieval date; secondly, its position within a supposed ‘camp’ as shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1865 (Figure 10), is not unusual as shown by the church at Nether Denton and St Michael’s at Stanwix, Carlisle, both located within the sites of Roman forts. There is, however, no evidence on the ground that a large rectangular enclosure existed at Upper Denton, and it may be that the cartographers used the boundaries of the churchyard and the moated site to fit in this ‘camp’.
- 3.2.40 There is a medieval cross slab grave cover located within the church interior at Upper Denton (Figure 4). This slab is carved from sandstone and has a design

that consists of a cross with expanded disc-like terminals and a sword to the left-hand side (Ryder 2005, 66). Cross slabs are recumbent blocks of stones, usually the size and shape of a coffin lid; the principal motif being a full-length cross, the main symbol of the Christian faith. According to Ryder, the use of cross slabs began prior to the Norman Conquest and continued until the 12th and 13th centuries, when brasses and effigies became popular (Ryder 2000, 1). Of course, what is not known is if the cross slab's original location was Upper Denton.

3.2.41 Approximately forty metres to the north of the church is the medieval moated site (HER 319 and SM 27673) (figure 2). The First Edition Ordnance Survey Map of c.1865 shows some of the earthworks, but places the monument within the site of a supposed 'camp' (Figure 10). Ferguson refers to this in his article on 'Earthworks in Cumberland', however he believed that the moated site was an 'English homestead', attributing it to 'English' invaders coming in from the east coast (Ferguson 1882, 194). Curwen describes the earthworks as a small bailey with a much decayed motte (Curwen 1913, 28), suggesting a Norman date for construction. The monument is located on a north-facing slope and measures c.12 metres north-south by c.8 metres east-west (Plate 2). The site consists of a rectangular mound that has been artificially levelled to create a flat platform presumably on which a building once stood. This mound is surrounded by a dry moat that measures approximately two metres in width, and an outer bank constructed of earth and rubble masonry. The Scheduled Monument record (27673) notes that moated sites, such as this small example, were generally constructed between 1250 and 1350, although later examples do exist. It is possible that the moated site may have been a precursor to the bastle house situated approximately 40 metres to the south-east.

3.2.42 The bastle house or 'Vicar's Pele' at Upper Denton (HER 320, LB 20726 and SM 27671) (Plate 3), is located approximately 20 metres to the east of the church and approximately thirty metres to the west of Low Town Farm, just outside the boundary wall of the garden (Figure 13). This is a two-storey building measuring c.7.0 metres by c.8.3 metres externally and is constructed of squared and coursed masonry with red sandstone dressings. The walls at ground level measure approximately 1.2 metres thick, suggesting it was constructed with defence being a primary concern. Tradition would have it that this building was the residence of the local vicar, hence the name 'vicar's pele'. Writing in 1797, Hutchinson does not refer to this building as the 'old vicarage', which is the case in later nineteenth century articles in the Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society (e.g. First Series, Volume IX, 139). Hutchinson observations about the vicarage at Upper Denton are: *'Vicarage – The walls standing in the church-yard, the lower floor, a keep for cattle, the upper story for the inhabitant, the walls are five feet thick, such as sees on the borders of Northumberland'* (Hutchinson 1797, 147). Ferguson refers to the building as an old peel tower of small dimensions *'said to have been the vicarage. It is now used as a byre and barn. It can never have been a very choice place of residence, but probably only afforded an occasional shelter to some canon of Lanercost, who did the duty there'* (Ferguson 1878, 162). Bastle houses are numerous in the northern border counties, reflecting the turbulent times of the 16th and 17th centuries; most being used as defended farmsteads such as at

Temon, a farm located approximately one and a half kilometres to the south of Upper Denton (Figure 1). Few of these bastle houses were used as vicarages in Cumbria; however there is an example at Croglin. More are known from Northumberland, such as at Corbridge, Ford and Elsdon (RCHME 1970, 79). The building at Upper Denton is roofless and derelict.

- 3.2.43 An article by Rev A Wright on ‘Over’ Denton Parish Church is quoted in Ferguson’s article on the same topic (Ferguson 1878, 164). In the quote, mention is made of the bastle house and surroundings: *‘The curious old Border Peel yet remains to tell of the state of society in past ages. This venerable relic of the past is locally and traditionally known as the “The Vicarage”. Near it, and just outside the churchyard there are traces of the foundations of many buildings’*. It seems likely that the Rev Wright was referring to the earthworks of the moated site, although his reference to ‘many buildings’ may suggest that there were, in the latter part of the nineteenth century, other foundations visible.
- 3.2.44 ***Post-Medieval and Modern:*** The only site recorded on the HER, which is post-medieval in date, is The Hollows Farmstead, Upper Denton (HER 19318), located half a kilometre north-east of the hamlet (Figure 1). This site is described as a small farmstead with barn and the remains of other outbuildings, with traces of faint ridge and furrow of varying widths (between three and five metres), in the fields to the east and south-east.
- 3.2.45 The Listed Building Record includes an entry for Denton Farmhouse (LB 20724), located at the southern end of the hamlet close to the railway line (Figure 2). This building is described as probably early nineteenth century, possibly pre-dating the Newcastle to Carlisle Railway (opened 1838), which passes just a few metres in front of the house.
- 3.2.46 North of Upper Denton is a field which is surrounded on its north, east and west sides by the River Irthing (Figure 9). This appears to be the field referred to by T H B Graham in his article *‘The Townfields of Cumberland’* (1913), in which he notes that there existed [in 1912] evidence for *rigg* and *rëan* [*rigg* = ridge and *rëan* = strips of grass separating holdings of land]. He goes on to describe the owners of these strips of land: *‘The central portion belongs to Lady Carlisle, and is bounded east by a long rane, and south by a line indicated by 5 boundary stones. The south-east corner of the field, containing half an acre, belongs to Miss Dugdale, and is bounded by a line drawn from the said ran eastward to an eller tree upon the river bank. The north-east corner belongs to Mr Ferguson, whose share tapers to a point at the same eller tree. At the foot of Miss Dugdale’s share is one belonging to Mr Birkett. It is separated from that of Mr Ferguson by a rane and abuts upon that of Lady Carlisle, until it meets an imaginary line drawn, from her said boundary marked by stones, northward to a thorn bush on the river bank’* (Graham 1913, 15).
- 3.2.47 The enclosure of land for cultivation was certainly being undertaken around Upper Denton in 1800. The Enclosure map of that date at Carlisle Record Office (Ref. QRE/1/87) does include Upper Denton in the top right-hand corner, however, this part of the map was very worn and it was not possible to identify any areas of land that were being proposed for enclosure at this time.

- 3.2.48 The Irthing Valley between Brampton and Gilsland has obviously been regarded as a direct and economic transport route since at least the Roman period, as shown by the Stanegate. Between 1794 – 1797, proposals for a canal from Newcastle to Carlisle were being put forward, and its route would have headed westwards from Gilsland to Upper Denton, *‘Passing to the north of Denton Church, it crossed the Low Row to Gilsland road, and leaving Beckstonegate and Denton Hall on the north, skirted the rising ground on the north side of the Military Road until half a mile west of the present entrance to Naworth Castle’* (Figure 5) (Mawson 1975, 306).
- 3.2.49 In 1829, an Act for *‘making and maintaining a railway from the Town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne to the City of Carlisle’* was passed *‘to facilitate the conveyance of lead, coal, lime, slates and other products of the land from the remoter parts of the counties to the Port of Newcastle and City of Carlisle’*. The railway was built in sections, with the Carlisle to Blenkinsopp Colliery at Greenhead section being completed in 1836; and the whole line was opened in 1839 (Towill 1996, 113). Plans at Carlisle Record Office show the route of the line in 1839, along with proposed alterations to the roads and positions of properties in relation to the railway (including a list of owners, occupiers and descriptions). The section of the railway at Upper Denton is shown on these plans (Figure 6), along with some of the buildings in the hamlet, including Low Town Farm at the northern end of the village, although it does not show the church or the bastle house. The plans are accompanied by a ledger listing the owner, occupier and description of the properties, each of which were allotted a number; this information may have been required for calculating compensation. Interestingly, Low Town Farm was not given a number and is therefore not listed in the ledger (which is unfortunate as that information would have provided an owner and occupier of the property in 1839), suggesting that the railway did not intersect any land attached to the farm. The proposed road alignment shown pink on this map (through the village) has not been undertaken.
- 3.2.50 There were no documents at Carlisle Record Office that directly relate to Low Town Farm. It is very difficult to date traditional farm buildings without documentary evidence; the earliest map to show the farm appears to be the Newcastle to Carlisle Railway plan of 1839 (Figure 6); the buildings may be represented on Hodkinson and Donald’s map of 1774, although it is just as possible that this is actually the farm to the south of Low Town Farm, which is also aligned west-east (Figure 10), however, the accuracy of this map needs to be considered as these buildings may be representative only.
- 3.2.51 In 1967, following the Commons Registration Act of 1965, a piece of land known as ‘The Strand’ in Denton Village in the Parish of Upper Denton, was registered with the local Commons Registration Authority (now Cumbria County Council) as Common Land (CL37) (Figure 12). This small piece of land at the southern end of the village, but separated from the rest by the railway, has no registered rights over it, such as grazing, rights to take stone or bracken for bedding etc.

4. ASSESSMENT RESULTS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 The assessment results are based on primary documents, most notably maps, and on the secondary sources used in *Section 3.2*. The results are presented according to the archive from which they were consulted. There are 44 HER records for the study area around the site, and extra information was gathered from the immediate vicinity, defined as a one kilometre radius centred on the site. A full list of the sites identified by the assessment is given in the Gazetteer in *Appendix 1*. A list of five historic buildings is also provided in the Gazetteer.

4.2 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD (HER)

- 4.2.1 **HER:** there were 44 HER records within the study area, which is defined as a 1km radius around the site (Figure 2). These include one entry of Prehistoric date, 35 entries of Romano-British date, one Early Medieval, four Medieval, one Post-Medieval and two entries of unknown date. A full description can be found in the *Appendix 1*.
- 4.2.2 **Listed Buildings:** the listed building records show five buildings within a one km radius of the site. These include Denton Farmhouse, Upper Denton Church, Birdoswald Farmhouse (or Birdoswald Tenement), Birdoswald farm buildings and the ‘Old Vicarage’ pele tower. A full description can be found in the *Appendix 1*.

4.3 CARLISLE RECORD OFFICE (CRO(C))

- 4.3.1 The Cumbria County Record Office in Carlisle (CRO(C)) was consulted to collate maps for regression analysis of the study area. Information from primary and secondary sources, including archaeological or historical journals, has been incorporated into the historic background (*Section 3.2*). A summary of all sources consulted is given in *Appendix 2*.

4.4 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

- 4.4.1 A search of maps recording Upper Denton was carried out, including the Enclosure map of 1800 and several editions of the Ordnance Survey maps.
- 4.4.2 **John Speed’s Map 1610:** John Speed’s map shows a representation of the church at Upper, or in this case, ‘Over’ Denton (figure 7).
- 4.4.3 **Hodgkinson and Donald’s Map of 1774 (surveyed 1770):** This map shows the hamlet as ‘Upper Denton’, and provides a representation of the church. Hadrian’s Wall is marked as ‘Picts Wall’, although the fort at Birdoswald is not shown (Figure 8).
- 4.4.4 **Enclosure Map 1800 (CRO Ref QRE/1/87):** Enclosure maps were produced from c.1770 as land that had previously been waste or common land was taken

into cultivation. These maps show the land which was to be enclosed and the accompanying awards recorded how much land was being allotted and by whom. Unfortunately, although the hamlet at Upper Denton was included on this map, it was situated in the top right-hand corner which has become very worn through time; consequently it was not possible to note any buildings that may have been shown or indeed, any areas of land which were due to be enclosed at this time.

- 4.4.5 ***Newcastle and Carlisle Railway Plans 1839 (CRO Ref QRZ 1/3 & 4):*** These large plans show the route of the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway in 1839, along with proposed changes in road layout. The maps are accompanied by ledgers that list the descriptions of property, i.e. grass field, house or garden, the name of the owner and the name of the occupier. The section of railway at Upper Denton is shown along with several of the buildings in the hamlet, and the proposed change in direction of the road through the settlement (Figure 6). This map appears to show the property Low Town Farm and field boundaries close to the railway, although the church (the outline of the churchyard does appear) and bastle are not shown. The proposed change in road layout through the hamlet has obviously not been carried to fruition.
- 4.4.6 ***Ordnance Survey Map Cumberland 1868 – First edition 6” to 1 mile and Ordnance Survey Map Cumberland c.1865 – First edition 25” to 1 mile:*** The First Edition Ordnance Survey maps (6” and 25”) are interesting as they show the outline of a rectangular ‘camp’ orientated north-south, with the churchyard forming the southern end and the moated site forming the north-eastern end (Figures 9 and 10).
- 4.4.7 ***Ordnance Survey Map Cumberland 1926 – Third edition 25”to 1 mile:*** This edition shows a footpath running from the northern end of the road in the village eastwards along the southern boundary wall of Low Town Farm towards the railway and on to Gilsland. The moated site is shown as circular in form (Figure 11).
- 4.4.8 ***Ordnance Survey Map Cumberland 1956 – 6” to 1 mile:*** This edition was used by the local Commons Registration Authority (now Cumbria County Council) to show the location of areas of registered common land. A piece of land known as ‘The Strand’ (CL37) is shown at the southern end of the village, dissected from the rest of the settlement by the railway line (Figure 12).

4.5 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

- 4.5.1 Aerial photographs pertaining to the study area were studied at the HER. There were no aerial photographs in the collection that included Upper Denton.

4.6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

- 4.6.1 There have been no archaeological investigations within the vicinity of the development area.

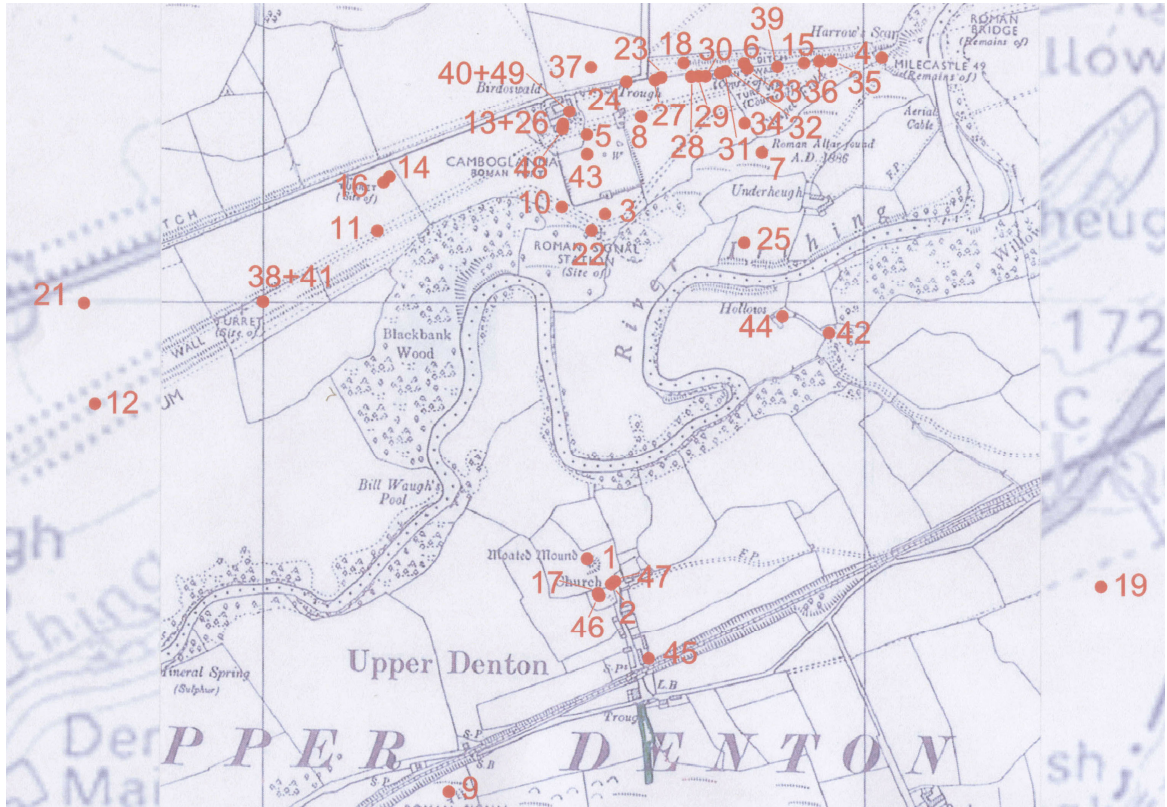


Figure 2 – Location map showing sites from HER

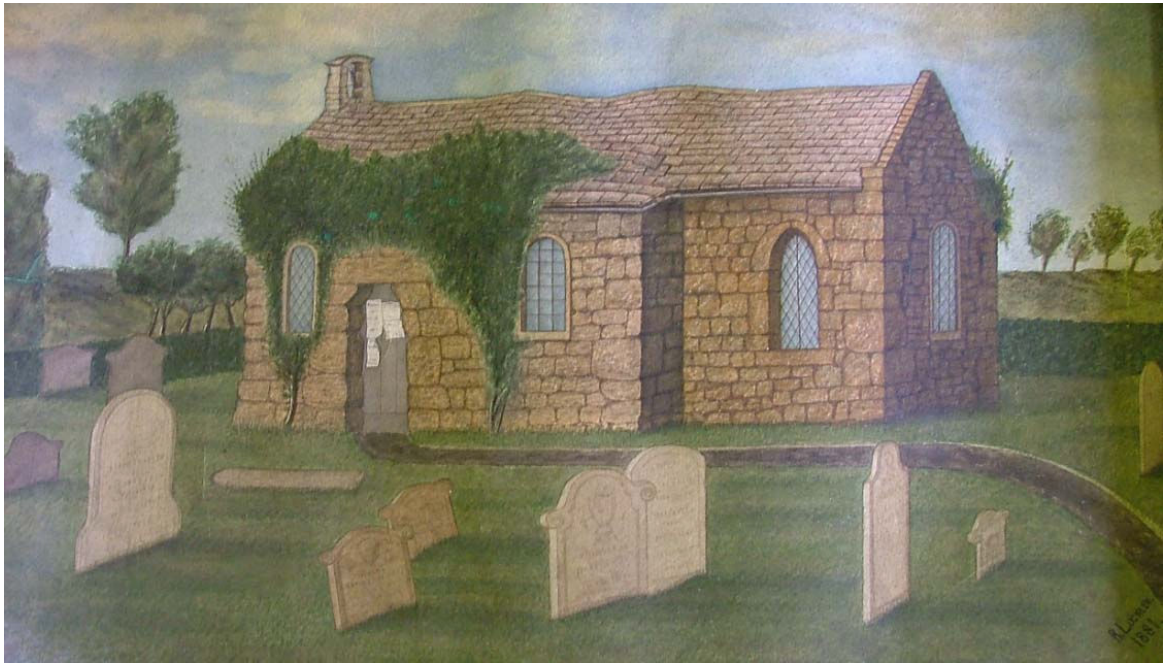


Figure 3 – Illustration by R Luckley, 1881 (CL)

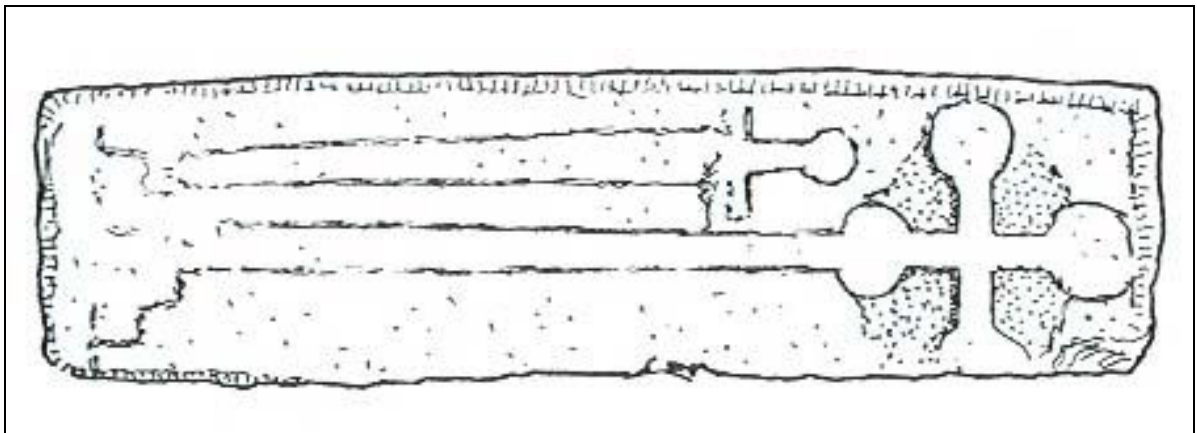


Figure 4 – Medieval Cross Slab at Upper Denton (Ryder 2005)



Plate 1 – St Cuthbert's Church, Upper Denton



Plate 2 – Moated Site looking south, with church and bastle house in background (Scale = one metre)



Plate 3 - 'Vicar's Pele', Upper Denton, as seen from the north-west

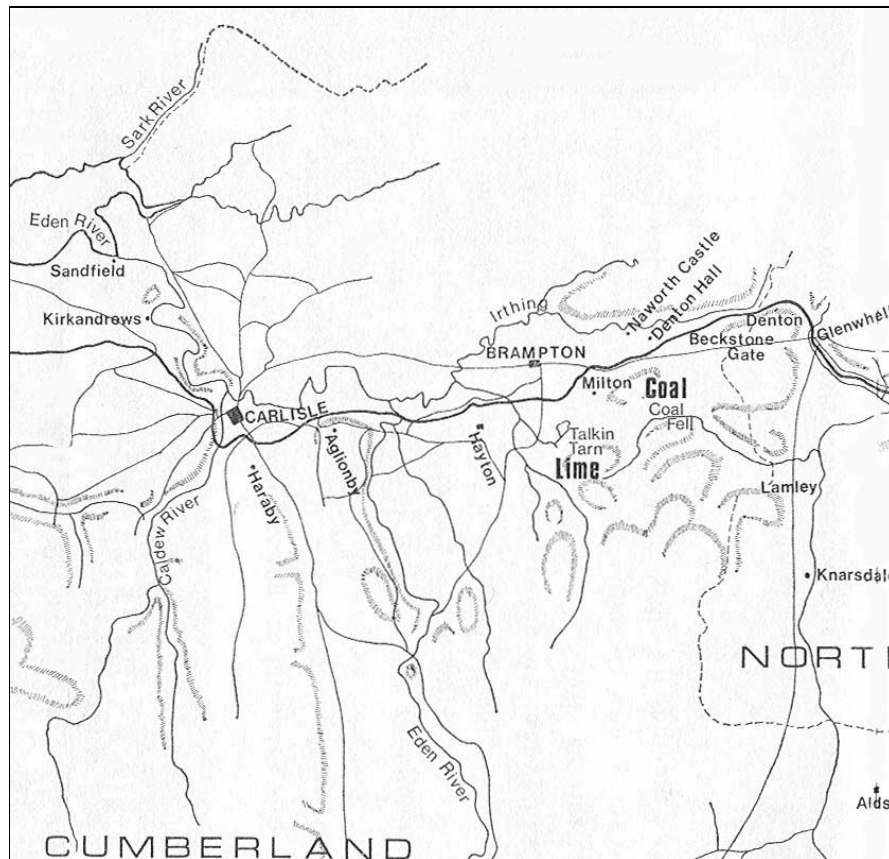


Figure 5 – Proposed route of the Newcastle to Carlisle Canal

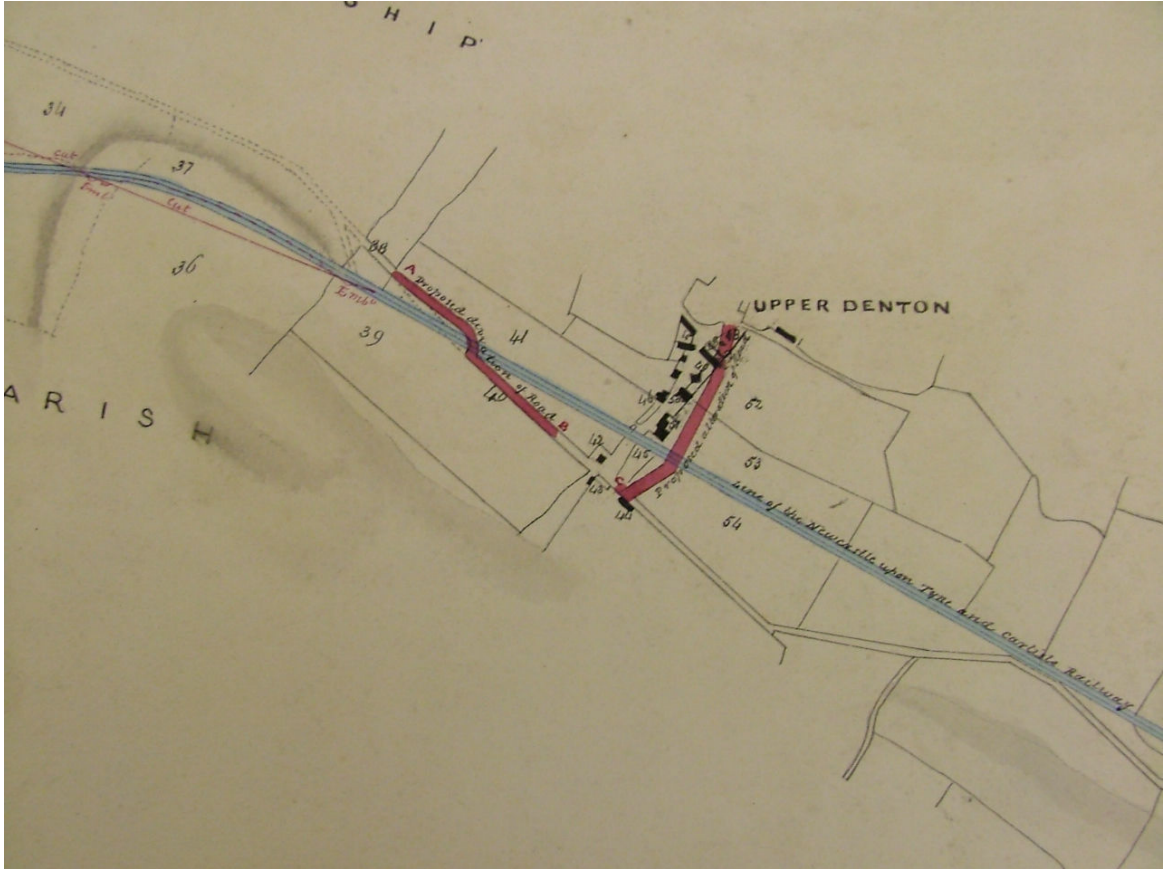


Figure 6 – Upper Denton section of the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway 1839 (CRO Ref QRZ 1/3 & 4)

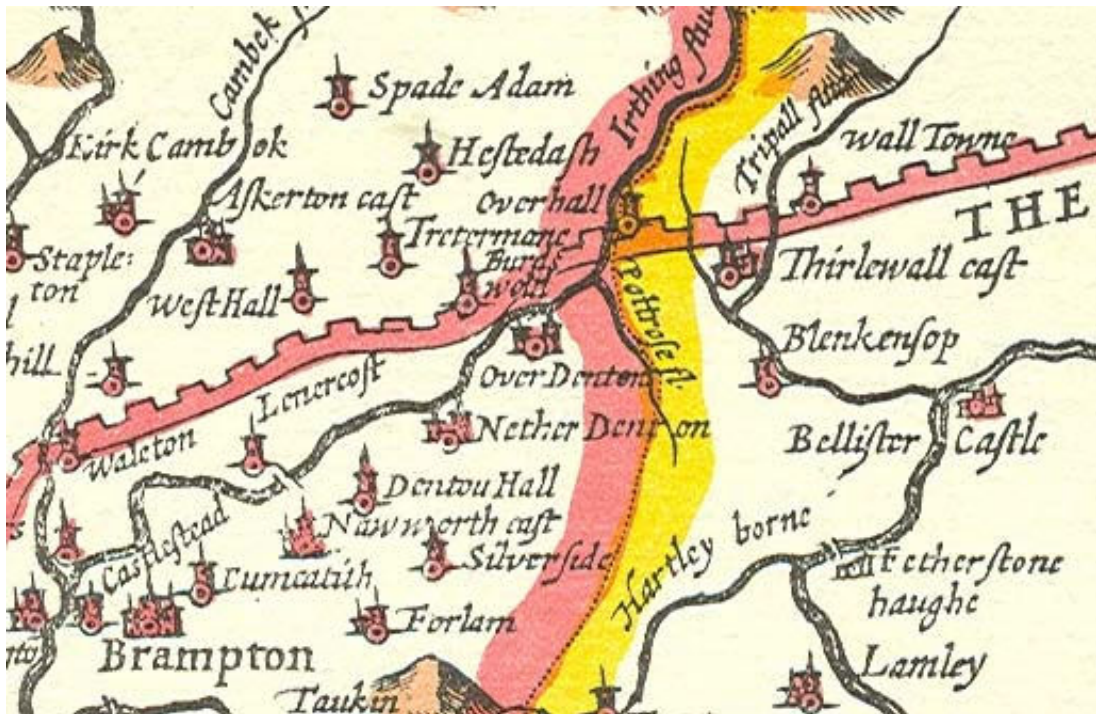


Figure 7 – John Speed's map of 1610

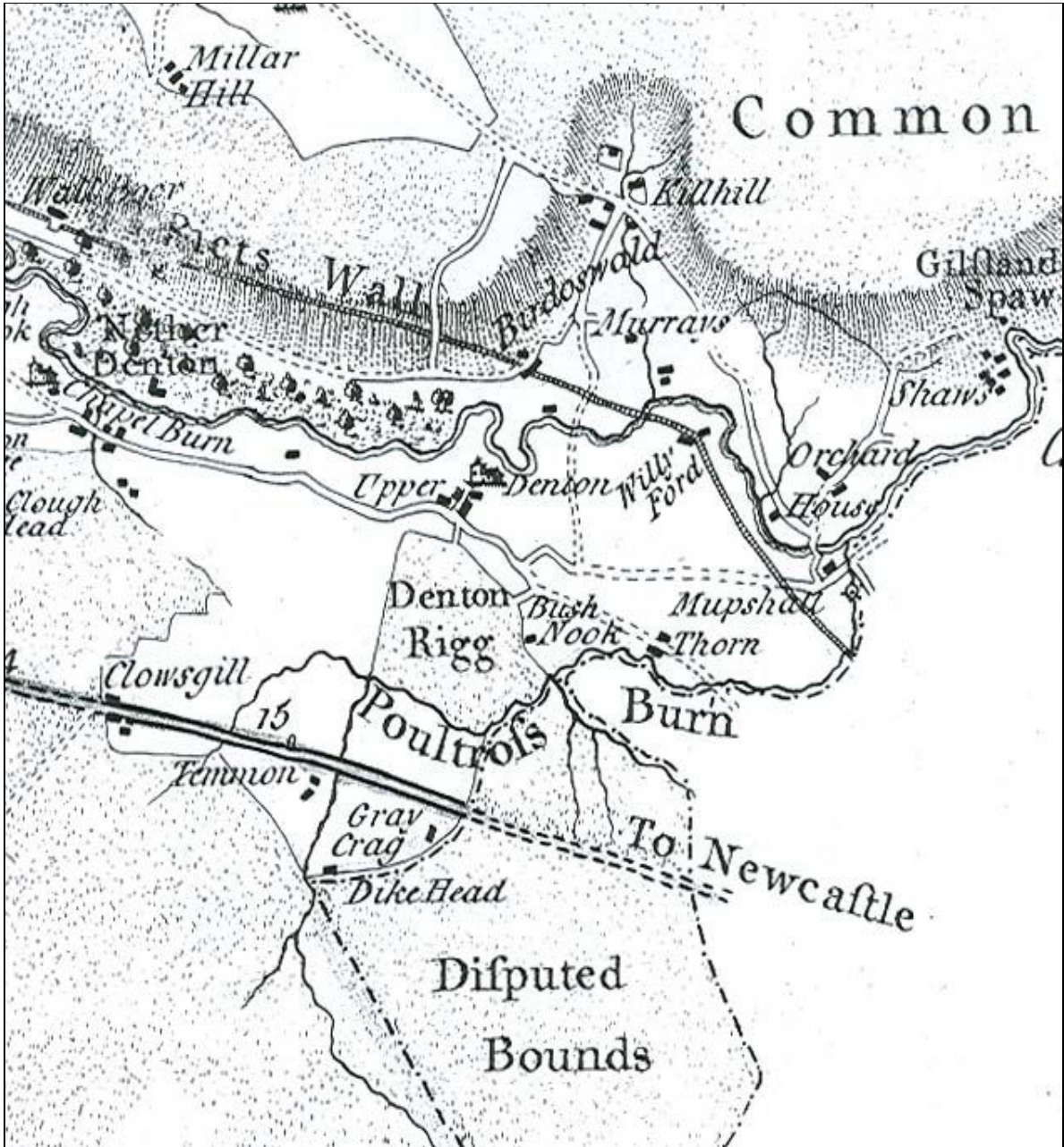


Figure 8 – Hodgkinson and Donald map 1774

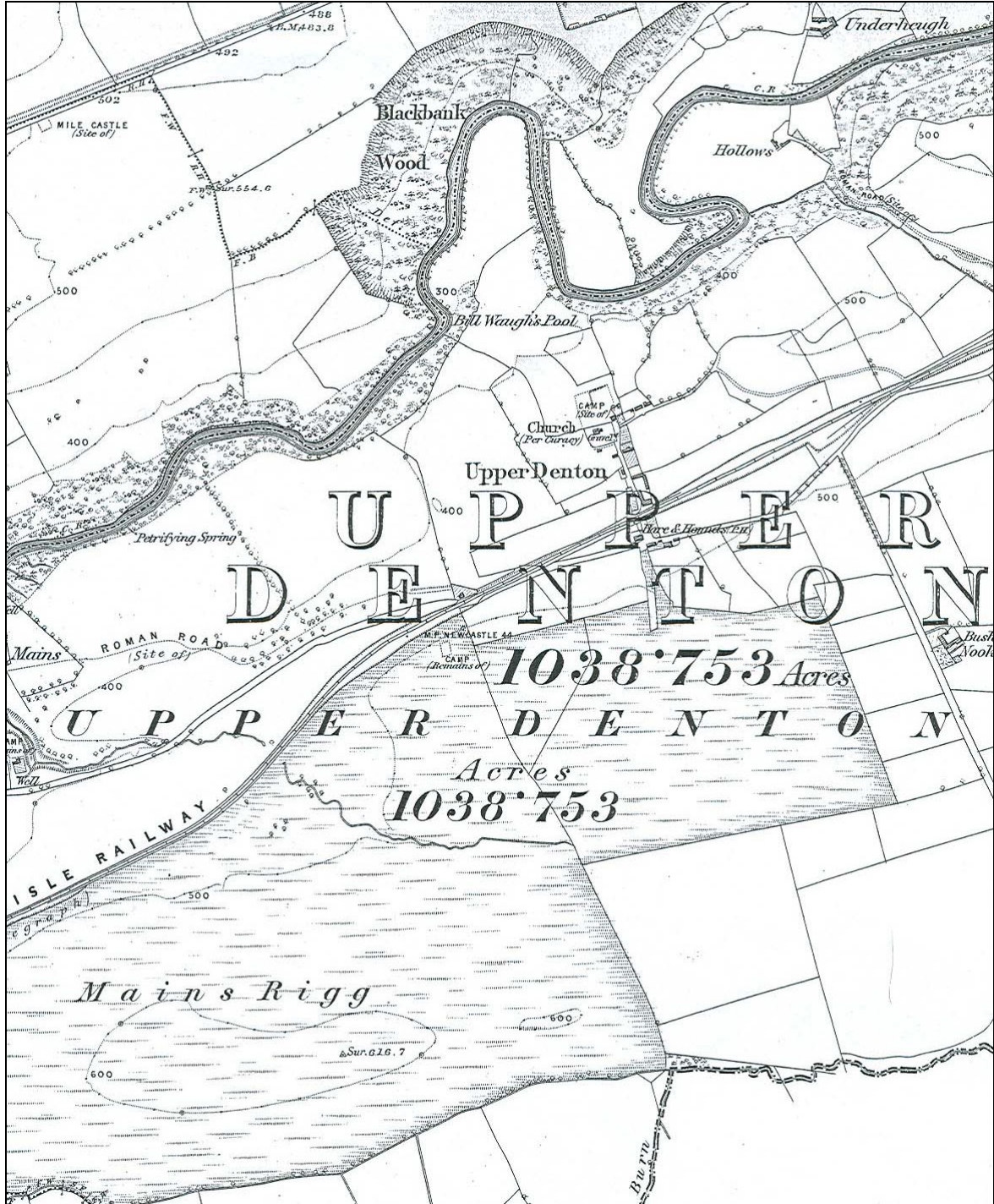


Figure 9 – First Edition Ordnance Survey map 1868 (6" to 1 mile)

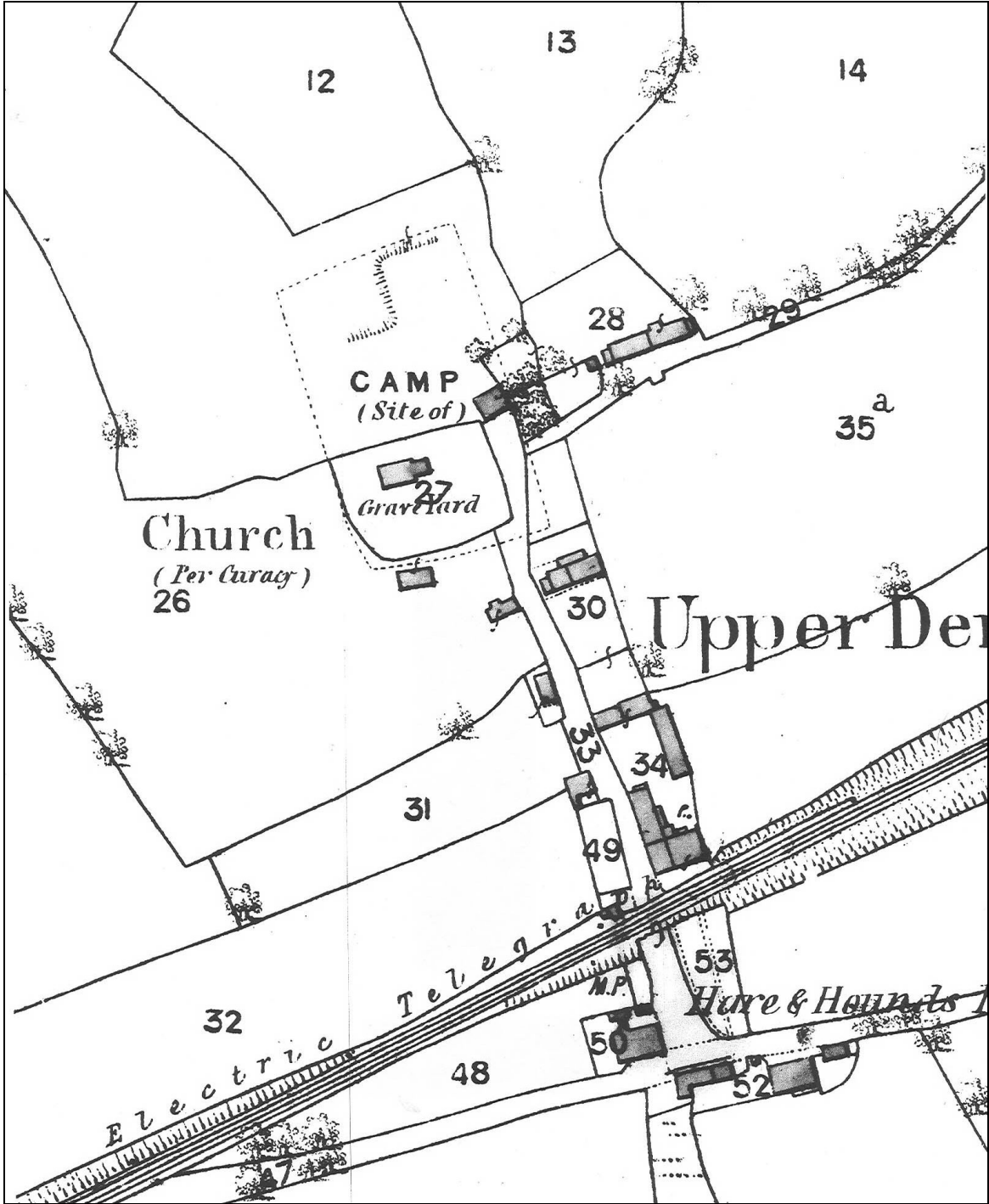


Figure 10 – First Edition Ordnance Survey map c.1865 (25" to 1 mile)

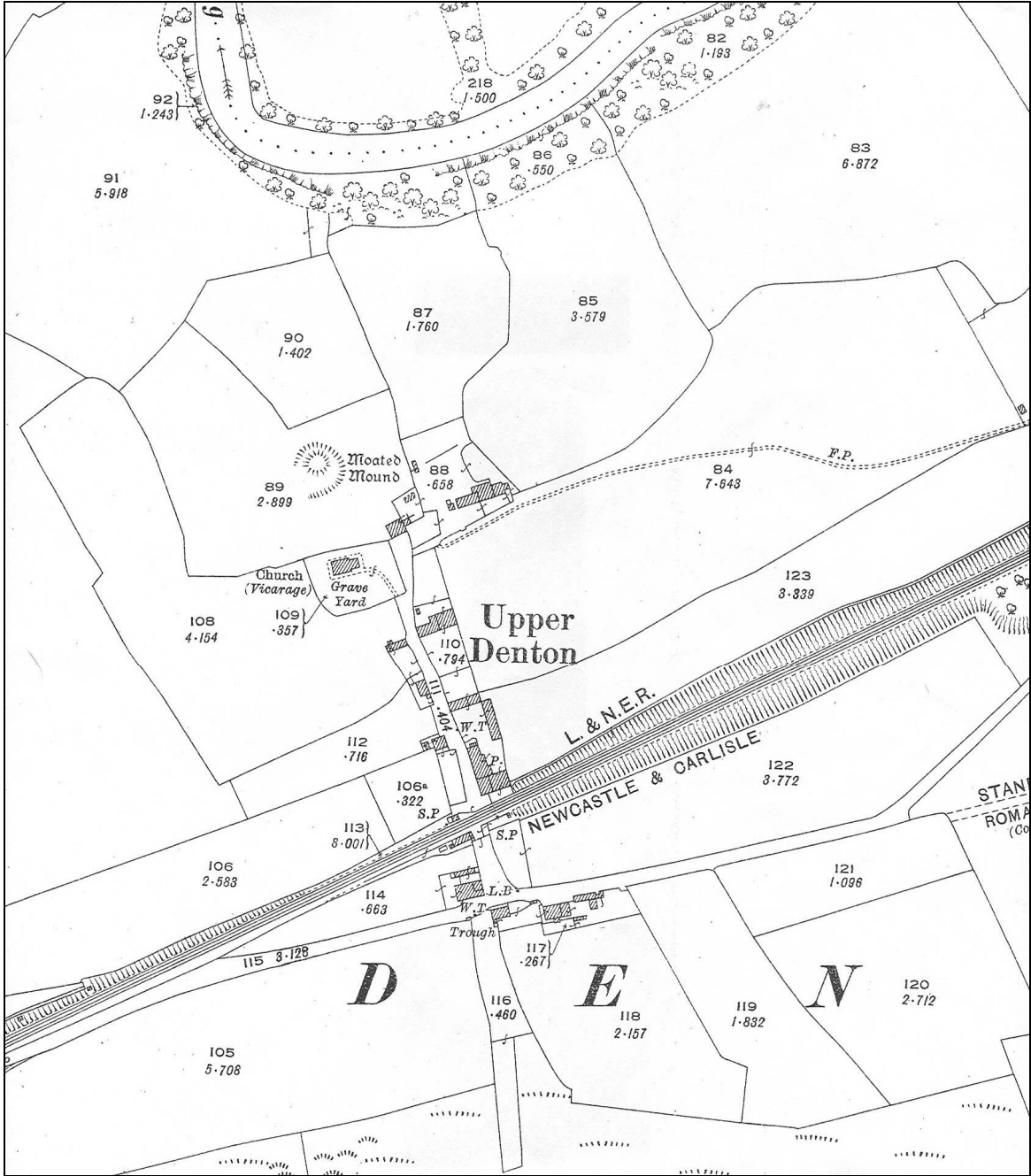


Figure 11 – Third Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1926 (25" to 1 mile)

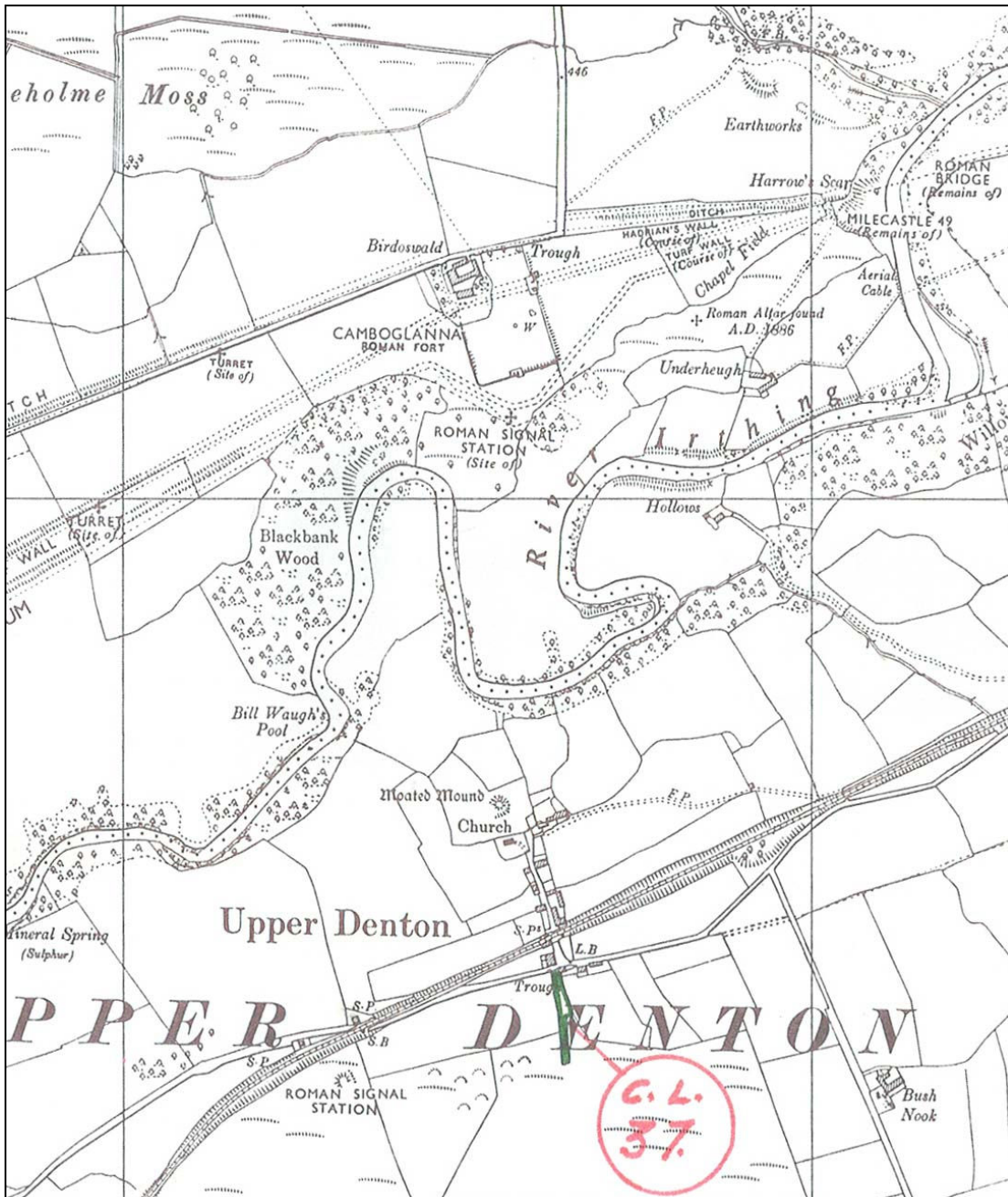


Figure 12 – Ordnance Survey map 1956 (6'' to 1 mile)

5. WALKOVER SURVEY RESULTS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

- 5.1.1 The site was visited in order to complete a walkover survey of the area with the purpose of relating the existing landscape to research findings. Low Town Farm is situated at the northern end of the hamlet of Upper Denton (Figure 13), with the bastle house, church and moated site all located to the west of the property. There were no Historic Environment Records (HER) for the area to the east of Low Town Farm.
- 5.1.2 At the time of the site visit, there were sheep grazing in the field containing the moated site.

5.2 RESULTS

- 5.2.1 The buildings that make up Low Town Farm are incorporated in a single range, orientated east-west, with the farmhouse central to a byre on the eastern end and a barn on the western, both of which have been converted to residential use (Plate 4). The ground level between the eastern end of the range (the byre) and the field to the east is approximately two metres; therefore it would appear that when the buildings were constructed, part of the ground to the east had been excavated to create a level surface (Plate 5).
- 5.2.2 The area of land to the north of the buildings is a garden, with a lawned area to the north-west and vegetable patches immediately to the north. To the west of the garden is the bastle house; the eastern elevation of which provides part of the boundary wall, with dry stone walls running south to the gate and east to the point where the garden boundary turns north (Plates 6 and 7). The remainder of the boundary for the garden consists of a wire and wooden post fence which is sitting, particularly on the western side, on a raised bank made from earth and rubble.
- 5.2.3 The bastle house was observed to be roofless and derelict at the time of the site visit, although it remains in good condition, and has obviously had some consolidation work undertaken recently. Steel girders have been inserted between the west and east gable walls, presumably to secure the structure. The interior was clear of any vegetation, although access was not possible as the door was locked. The north-eastern corner of the building has suffered some collapse, which may account for some rubble masonry piled against the garden boundary wall, although there appears to have been a small structure located in this vicinity as shown on the Third Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1926 (Figure 11), but which was no longer in existence at the time of the walkover.

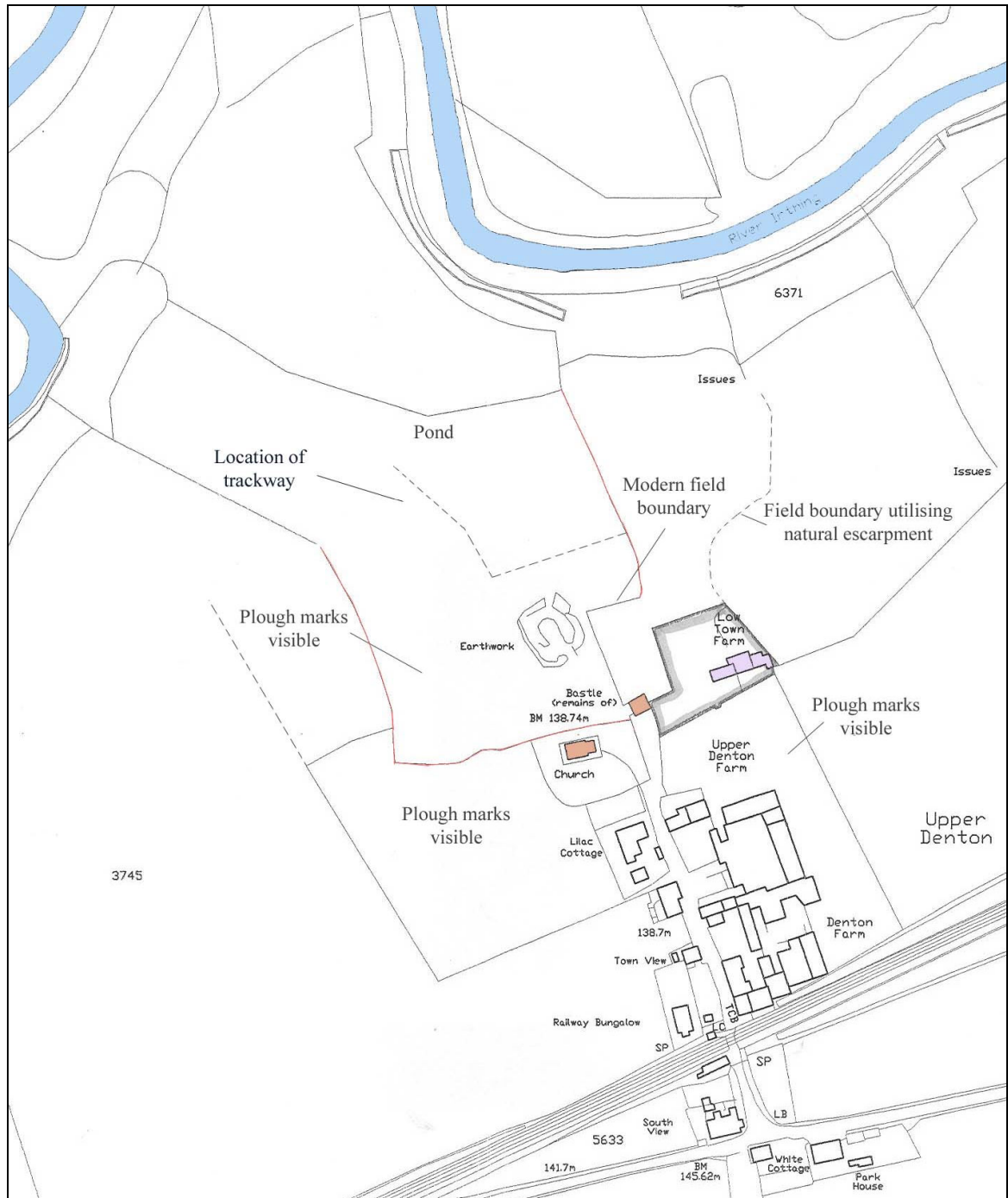


Figure 13 – Site Plan (based on a drawing by Johnston & Wright, Scale 1:2500)

The black dashed lines represent former field boundaries



Plate 4 – Northern elevation of Low Town Farm from west



Plate 5 – Northern elevation of Low Town Farm from east



Plate 6 – Eastern elevation of the bastle house as seen from the garden of Low Town Farm



Plate 7 – Northern elevation of bastle house showing dry stone wall to east which forms part of the garden boundary wall



Plate 8 – Collapsed north-east corner of the bastle house, with rubble masonry piled against the garden wall

- 5.2.4 The moated site was clearly visible in the field to the north-west of Low Town Farm (Figure 13). The outer bank (constructed of earth and rubble), dry moat and central rectangular platform were all easily observed (Plate 2). There was an entrance in the southern outer bank (Plate 9) with a possible causeway between the entrance and the inner, artificially levelled, platform. The northern outer bank was more degraded, but there is the possibility that there were breaks in the bank in the north-west and the north-east corners. The ground to the north of the moated site was waterlogged; therefore it would appear that the dry moat surrounding the central platform was effective in keeping water away. The moated site can be best observed from the other side of the River Irthing at Birdoswald, where the rectangular shape and earthworks can be easily seen (Plate 10).
- 5.2.5 To the north of the moated site were the remains of a former field boundary, running east-west, constructed from earth and rubble and with some of its trees still *in-situ* (Plate 11, and shown as a black dotted line on Figure 13). This field boundary turned a 90° degree angle and continued northwards downhill towards the pond (Figure 13). These field boundaries were similar in construction to those shown in red on Figure 13, and are presumably contemporary. It is possible that the stonework used to construct these hedge-banks may have come from the moated site (Plate 12).
- 5.2.6 A track way runs down the hill to the western side of the moated site (Plate 13). Although it is obvious that it is still being used to provide access to the fields further north, it may be contemporary with the enclosure of land. The eastern boundary of the track is defined by the former field boundary described above,

and the western side has a slight raised edge. The track way measures approximately two metres wide.



Plate 9 – Southern entrance in outer bank, moated site (Scale = one metre)



Plate 10 – Moated site as seen from the north at Birdoswald



Plate 11 – Former field boundary, north of the moated site (looking east)



Plate 12 – Part of the hedge-bank field boundary in the field to the north of Low Town Farm.
Constructed from earth and rubble masonry with hawthorn bushes planted on top



Plate 13 – Track way, looking uphill to the south

- 5.2.7 To the east of the moated site is a fairly level platform (Plate 14), although it is likely that this is a natural feature. A similar ‘platform’ and escarpment was observed in the field immediately to the north of the buildings of Low Town Farm; again this appears to be natural although its shape has been utilised when a field boundary was put in place here (Figure 13); this has now gone. This field boundary is similar in characteristics to those already mentioned above, and has a large tree of some age growing on top of the earth and rubble bank (Plate 15). Irregular fields are often attributed to piecemeal enclosure of land, which could have occurred at any point from the medieval period upwards. In this case, however, the irregular field created by this field boundary may just be the result of the boundary following a natural feature, and the form in which this boundary takes suggests it is contemporary with the other boundaries, which perhaps take a more regular form, a characteristic of planned enclosure of late eighteenth and early nineteenth date. This may tie in with the Enclosure map and award of 1800 (CRO Ref.QRE/1/87).
- 5.2.8 The former field boundaries which were observed during the walkover have only been removed within the last 50 years, as they are still visible on the Ordnance Survey map of that date (Figure 12).
- 5.2.9 The walkover did not include the fields beyond the pond marked on Figure 13, and therefore it was not possible to observe if any boundary stones remained from the former town field described by Graham in Section 3.2.46. If this field has, however, been ploughed for turnips or other arable crops it is unlikely that they will remain.



Plate 14 – Natural platform?, east of moated site



Plate 15 – Natural platform used for defining field boundary

- 5.2.10 Despite the absence of air photographs covering the survey area, it was possible to note that at least some of the fields surrounding the site have been under the plough; these fields are marked on Figure 13. The slight earthworks of ploughing activity is very difficult to observe from the ground, although in the field immediately to the south of Low Foot Farm, the straight and shallow earthworks appeared to run east-west and respect the field boundaries.
- 5.2.11 The boundary of the churchyard was observed to be slightly curved on the south-west and south-east corners (Plate 16). The form of construction of this boundary consisted of an earth and rubble bank topped trees and bushes, the northern section being much more substantial than the rest (Plate 17). This may relate to the proximity of the northern boundary hedge-bank being closest to the moated site, from which some of the rubble may have originated.
- 5.2.12 There was no evidence for the *'traces of the foundations of many buildings'* which was referred to Rev Wright (See Section 3.2.43). It is possible that any foundations may have been cleared to allow for ploughing, evidence of which was observed in the field immediately behind the church (northern side) (Figure 13). Air photographs taken in the right conditions may have identified such structures, but it has already been mentioned that no air photographs exist at the County HER for the vicinity of this site at Upper Denton.



Plate 16 – South-east corner of the churchyard, with bastle house in background



Plate 17 – Northern boundary hedge-bank of churchyard

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

- 6.1.1 From the information gained from the HER and other secondary sources, the potential for Roman, Early Medieval and Medieval archaeology in the vicinity of Low Town Farm is high. The potential for Anglo-Saxon or early medieval settlement is moderately high; however subsequent buildings within Upper Denton may have continued to occupy the same sites.
- 6.1.2 From cartographic sources, the known Scheduled Ancient Monuments are well documented; the only uncertain feature is the supposed 'camp' shown on the First Edition Ordnance Surveys maps (Figures 9 and 10), although this potential site is well outside the development area.
- 6.1.3 The walkover identified the known Scheduled Ancient Monuments, and observed that the two metre boundary around the archaeological features, which forms part of the scheduling, would not be affected by the development.
- 6.1.4 There were no features observed to the east of Low Town Farm, either during the walkover or from documentary sources. The construction of the farmhouse and farm buildings has involved the excavation of some of the ground to the east, a consequence of which would be the loss of any surface archaeology at that time. The proposed extensions to the byre, on the eastern side, and the lean-to on the northern side are well within the garden boundary and only extend a maximum of four and a half metres beyond the existing farmhouse.

6.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.2.1 On the evidence presented, there is a high potential for the survival of archaeological deposits in the vicinity of the Scheduled Monuments, and the potential for any deposits within the proposed development site is high. The proposed extensions involve the rebuilding of structures already on the site, which means that any archaeological deposits beneath the site could be disturbed. A watching brief may therefore be required during building works.

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APPENDIX 1: GAZETTEER OF SITES

Site No.	HER No.	Site Name	General Period	Grid Reference
1	319	Moated Site at Upper Denton	Medieval	E:361540 N:565570
2	320	Bastle at Upper Denton	Medieval	E:361580 N:565530
3	322	Promontory Fort, Birdoswald	Prehistoric/Roman	E:361570 N:566150
4	329	Milecastle 49, Hadrian's Wall, Waterhead	Roman	E:362030 N:566410
5	330	Turret 49A, Hadrian's Wall, Waterhead	Roman	E:361540 N:566280
6	331	Harrows Scar Brooch Find, Waterhead	Early Medieval	E:361800 N:566400
7	332	Underheugh Farm Altar Find, Waterhead	Roman	E:361830 N:566250
8	333	Birdoswald Roman Vicus, Waterhead	Roman	E:361630 N:566310
9	334	Mains Rigg Roman Signal Station, Upper Denton	Roman	E:361310 N:565180
10	335	Signal Station within Wall Mile 49, Hadrian's Wall	Roman	E:361550 N:566120
11	339	Turret 49B, Hadrians Wall, Waterhead	Roman	E:361190 N:566120
12	340	Milecastle 50, Hadrians Wall, Waterhead	Roman	E:360720 N:565830
13	343	Birdoswald Roman Fort	Roman	E:361500 N:566300
14	344	Cremation Cemetery nr Birdoswald Roman Fort	Roman	E:361200 N:566200
15	4551	Waterhead Architectural Feature Find	Roman	E:361900 N:566400
16	4552	Waterhead Architectural Feature Find	Roman	E:361210 N:566210
17	4561	St Cuthbert's Church, Upper Denton	Medieval	E:361560 N:565510
18	4563	Waterhead Centurial Stone Find	Roman	E:361700 N:566400
19	5781	The Stanegate Roman Road	Roman	E:362394 N:565522
20	5782	Group Number for Hadrians Wall	Roman	E:322100 N:562600
21	5783	Military Road, Hadrians Wall, Waterhead	Roman	E:360700 N:566000
22	5786	Vallum Crossing in Wall	Roman	E:361500

Site No.	HER No.	Site Name	General Period	Grid Reference
		Mile 49, Hadrian's Wall		N:566160
23	5794	Waterhead Centurial Stone Finds	Roman	E:361655 N:566375
24	5795	Waterhead Centurial Stone Finds	Roman	E:361605 N:566370
25	5796	Underheugh Field System, Waterhead	Unknown	E:361800 N:566100
26	5797	Birdoswald Roman Altar Finds	Roman	E:361500 N:566300
27	5800	Waterhead Centurial Stone Finds	Roman	E:361665 N:566377
28	5801	Waterhead Centurial Stone Find	Roman	E:361715 N:566380
29	5802	Waterhead Centurial Stone Find	Roman	E:361725 N:566380
30	5803	Waterhead Centurial Stone Find	Roman	E:361735 N:566380
31	5804	Waterhead Centurial Stone Find	Roman	E:361760 N:566385
32	5805	Waterhead Centurial Stone Find	Roman	E:361768 N:566388
33	5806	Waterhead Centurial Stone Find	Roman	E:361805 N:566393
34	5807	Waterhead Centurial Stone Find	Roman	E:361800 N:566300
35	5809	Waterhead Inscribed Building Stone Find	Roman	E:361945 N:566405
36	5810	Waterhead Inscribed Building Stone Find	Roman	E:361925 N:566405
37	5811	Waterhead Inscribed Building Stone Find	Roman	E:361545 N:566395
38	5812	Waterhead Inscribed Building Stone Find	Roman	E:361000 N:566000
39	5813	Waterhead Inscribed Building Stone Find	Roman	E:361855 N:566395
40	6304	Birdoswald Tenement/Farmhouse	Medieval/Post Medieval	E:361510 N:566320
41	6488	Birdoswald Romano-British Relief Find	Roman	E:361000 N:566000
42	10174	Hollows Course of Roman Road, Upper Denton	Roman	E:361940 N:565950
43	17947	Birdoswald Whetstone Find, Waterhead	Unknown	E:361540 N:566250
44	19318	The Hollows Farmstead, Upper Denton	Post Medieval	E:361863 N:565977

LISTED BUILDINGS

Site No.	LB No.	Address	Grid Reference	Description
45	20724	Denton Farmhouse, Upper Denton	E:361639 N:565402	Farmhouse. Probably early 19 th c. Hammer dressed calciferous sandstone walls with large flush quoins; graduated green slate roof with coped gables, stone end chimney stacks. 2 storeys, 3 bays. C20 door has quoined painted surround. Sash windows with glazing bars have plain painted stone surrounds. Listing includes single-storey, one-bay extension to left of similar details, with Welsh slate roof, but excludes other farm buildings. May be earlier than the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway (opened 1838) which passes within a few metres of the front of the house
46	20725	Upper Denton Church	E:361559 N:565513	Redundant Church. Probably early 12 th century, with alterations dated 1881 on lead rainwater heads. Calciferous sandstone squared coursed rubble from the nearly Roman wall, large flush quoins; stone slate roof with coped gables and kneelers. 2-bay nave and single-bay chancel. Nave has west bellcote, rebuilt with west wall in 18 th c. Entrance in south wall, has plank door and shouldered lintel; corresponding filled north door. One original lancet window in north wall, with 1 & 3 light windows and trefoil heads of 1881. Chancel east window of 1881 has trefoil head and earlier window in south wall. Interior fittings removed when declared redundant in the late 1970s. Chancel arch is Roman, reputedly to have come from the nearby Roman fort at Birdoswald
47	20726	Old Vicarage, east of Upper Denton Church	E:361585 N:565534	Derelict building, formerly vicarage. Probably late 16 th century. Thick calciferous sandstone walls from the nearby Roman Wall, with large flush quoins, coped gables and red sandstone dressings; roof missing. 2

Site No.	LB No.	Address	Grid Reference	Description
				storeys, single bay. North face has ground floor entrance with chamfered red sandstone surround; former doorway above has now partly collapsed. Small windows in side walls. Rear has had larger upper floor window, which has now also collapsed. Interior has remains of upper floor fireplace, floors gone. Derelict and unoccupied at time of re-survey
48	23601	Birdoswald Farmhouse (or Birdoswald Tenement)	E:361498 N:566291	Former farmhouse. House built by Henry Norman in 1858, but incorporating parts of an earlier building, possibly 15 or early 16 th century and perhaps erected by the de Vaux family. Coursed rubble masonry, rendered on all by the rear (N) elevation; Welsh slate roofs
49	23602	Farm Buildings at Birdoswald	E:361508 N:566321	Farm buildings built around small yard. Probably c.1858. Coursed rubble masonry with Welsh slate gable-end roofs. One and two storeys. This group forms part of a larger farmstead of which the roadside range and buildings converted to use as the exhibition centre and shop are not listed

APPENDIX 2: DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH

The Lanercost Cartulary – Edited by John M Todd, Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society Record Series XI/The Publications of the Surtees Society Volume 203, 1997

The date ranges for each charter are given in square brackets.

Glossary

Advowson = The right to appoint or recommend a member of the clergy for a vacant benefice

Cartulary = A record or register of a monastery or church

Croft = A small cloe or inclosed field

Multure = A quantity of grain aid to a miller as payment for grinding corn

Messuage = A dwelling house with the adjacent buildings and adjoining lands

Pannage = A duty paid for the privilege of feeding swine in woodlands

Terrier = A book of rents and services owed to a lord

Toft = A field hedged in, not far from a house

Vill = A small collection of houses, usually ten or so

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'Robert son of Anketin, a Norman, had Upper Denton. He was brother-in-law and heir of Robert, son of Beuth, and he and his descendants, who took the surname Denton, gave land to Lanercost at Carnetley, Lanerton, Denton and elsewhere on the southern slopes of the Irthing valley'.

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'4 – Robert de Vaux confirms the church of [Upper] Denton and the hermitage which Brother Laysing held, the tithe of the multure of Little Corby Mill which Alexander of Windsor gave, two shillings from Laversdale which Bernard of Laversdale gave, and all other gifts made reasonably or to be made by his men'. [1164 x 1181]

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'57 – David son of Terri and Robert son of Anketin grant the church of [Upper] Denton, and a hermitage which Leissing has in that vill, by the boundaries shown to the canons in the presence of Robert de Vaux and others'. [1164 x 1181]

[This is the grant of the church of Upper Denton to Lanercost]

Page 112

'60 – Robert [I] son of Anketin of Denton grants to the church of St Cuthbert of [Upper] Denton, the toft and croft which Werri the priest held in that vill'. [1182 x c.1210]

Page 112

'61 – Robert [II] the younger of Denton quitclaims to the church of St Cuthbert's, [Upper] Denton, the land in Denton called Werri's assart'. [c.1220 x 1256]

Page 114

'63 – Robert [II] son of Robert son of Anketin of Denton grants the land which William the prior's nephew held of him in Denton, namely the messuage once belonging to William de Barneville, with a croft, little assart, the long lands next the thorn-bush, and another land (bounds stated); the canons and their men on those lands to be free from pannage and multure and to grind after the first corn in the hopper'. [1194 x c.1230]

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'113 – Robert of Denton grants to William nephew of the prior, in frank-marriage with Roberts sister [in Denton] the messuage which belonged to William of Barnwell, with croft, a little assart, long lands next the thorn, one land (bounds stated), the assart that belonged to Samuel and meadow, for one und of cumin a year, and service for half a ploughgate, milling after the first corn in the hopper, and quit of pannage and multure'. [1182 x 1210]

Page 216

'188 – Hugh, bishop of Durham, grants the church of Old [i.e. Upper] Denton to be held at the presentation of Robert de Vaux and Robert son of Anketin; the canons are to present a perpetual vicar, which will pay Episcopal customs and a pension of half a mark to the canons but will have the living; the pension may be increased with the bishops consent, but not during the lifetime of Guerri the first [vicar]'. [1174 x 1181]

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'273 – R[obert] the younger of Denton acknowledges to A[lan], archdeacon of Northumberland, that he has no right to the advowson of the church of [Upper] Denton and asks that R[obert] of Driffield, presented by the prior and canons, may be received'. [1217 x 1249, possibly 1218 x 1239]

Page 372

'332 – Roger de Woderington acknowledges the right of the prior and convent of Lanercost to a rent of 13s 4d a year in Wodusfeld in Denton, of which they had been disseised by Gerard de Woderington, lately tenant; he pledges himself to pay it. Upper Denton'. [16 May] 1363

Appendix Page 403

'A5 – Matilda de Vaux lady of Gilsland confirms by Inspeximus to John [II] of Denton two acts of Robert [I] de Vaux relating to Denton:

- (a) He confirms to Bueth Barn the whole vill of Denton as granted to Bueth Barn by Wescop son of Gille Bueth, and grants as increment a share in the rights of pasture of the vill of Brampton and the right to pasture demesne pigs in the wood and forest of Gilsland free of pannage, for one mark a year;
- (b) He confirms to Robert son of Anketin the moiety of Denton which Bueth Barn granted to him in frank marriage with his daughter Sirith, for half a mark a year, and grants as increment common pasture in Brampton, Tindaleside, and Brenkibeth, the right to hunt wolves and hares throughout Gilsland, and the right to have demesne pigs in the forest of Gilsland free of pannage'.

John has quitclaimed his rights of pasture in Bruthwaite, Tindaleside and Black Burn but Matilda grants the right to make enclosures in Denton'.

Histories and Directories

A Perambulation of Cumberland 1687-1688 – Thomas Denton, Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society Record Series XVI/The Publications of the Surtees Society Volume CCVII, 2003

'The demesne of Denton lyes by the eastside of Noward Parke, adjoining to the same, and is but of small value, vizt 55li a year, but it is all covered with wood, where there are many large oaks. The corne milne there is lett for 12li a year. The Maines farme, which was the ancient demesne, lyes lower upon Irding water, being worth 20li year, and there are divers other little farms which have been tenements heretofore forfeited for theft, as the Stone House, 3li a year; the Hollyes 5li; the Thorpe is lett for 12li a year and the Willy ford for 25li. This Wylly ford or Willoford is the place where the Piets' Wall crossed Irthing with an arched bridge'.

'The tenants houses lye confused and scattered all round about the parish, it being rare to finde two houses together; onely there is a small village at Over Denton, but the houses look as poorly and naked as the tenants really are'.

The History and Antiquities of the Counties of Westmorland and Cumberland – Nicolson and Burn, Volume II, 1777

'Parish of Denton – Over-Denton in the 7th Edward I [i.e. 1279] was in the possession of Richard Stonland who in that year (together with Elena his wife) granted the same to John Witherington, in whose family it long continued. From them it came to the Tweedales, and so to the earls of Carlisle. The lands are customary, and pay an arbitrary fine on the change of tenant by death or alienation, and a twenty-penny fine on change of lord by death: Also an heriot at the death of the tenant; and if there be no live cattle, then 40s in lieu thereof. They likewise pay one shilling each yearly in lieu of services'.

'This Over Denton though in the county of Cumberland, is deemed to be in the diocese of Durham, and was given by Robert de Vallibus and Robert son of Anketil to the priory of Lanercost, and appropriated to that house by Hugh bishop of Durham'.

'This parish hath been so totally ruined, that there are now only about fifteen families; the curate is named by the earl of Carlisle, who is impropiator, and receives all kinds of tithes great and small, and allows the curate 20s yearly'.

The History of the County of Cumberland – W Hutchinson, Volume I, 1797

'The Parish of Denton – Lies in the utmost north-east limits of Gilsland and is now divided into Nether Denton and Over Denton. In strictness they are two parishes. Nether Denton is situated in the depth of the vale, and Over Denton on the rising grounds. Hubert de Vallibus, Lord of Gilsland, granted Denton to one Wescop, who alienated the same to Gilles Bueth, whose son Robert left issue two daughters, one married to Addock, Lord of Bewcastle, and the other Eustachius de Vallibus, Lord of Hayton. In partition, one took Over Denton, the other Nether Denton. In the reign of King Edward I, Over Denton was in the possession of one Stonland, who granted the same to one of the Witherington family, in whose descendants it continued several ages, after them it became the estate of one Tweedale and passed to the Earl of Carlisle'.

Upper Denton

'Soil and produce – Near Irthing a mixture of sand and clay, tolerably fertile, the rest cold, moorish and barren; corn backward, the farmers chief object is grassland – Average 15s an acre'.

'Common, Sheep – A vast tract, but few sheep; subject to the rot from the climate and wetness of soil'.

'Roads, Waterings, Game – The military road passes through it; well watered by the river Irthing and several brooks; game abundant'.

'Population – Decreased, only eleven tenements, some very small'.

'Fuel – Coal and turf'.

'Lime – Is burnt here in large quantities'.

'Vicarage – The walls standing in the churchyard; the lower floor, a keep for cattle, the upper storey for the inhabitant; the walls are five feet thick, such as are seen on the borders of Northumberland'.

'Situation and Air – high lands, and not healthy from its vicinity to morasses'.

A History, Gazetteer and Directory of Cumberland and Westmorland – Parson and White, 1829

'Upper Denton Parish – Is bounded on the north and west by the river Irthing, on the east by Northumberland and on the south by Nether Denton. It is a small triangular district, situated 6 miles ENE of Brampton, and containing only seventeen houses, occupied by 100 inhabitants. The parish is commonly called Over Denton, and is a manor belonging to the Earl of Carlisle, who is patron and impropiator of the curacy, of which Rev. George Gilbanks is now incumbent'.

Farmers listed at Upper Denton:

James Bell, Bush Nook	William Bell
John Elliot	Thomas Gardhouse, Temmon
Joseph Laidler, Willey Ford	John Mingins, Throp
William Smith	John Thompson, Hollows

Slater's Directory of Cumberland 1876

'Nether and Upper Denton are two small parishes adjoining to each other, in the same ward as Brampton. They have each a parish church. The principal landowner is the Earl of Carlisle. The population of Nether Denton in 1861 was 302; that of Upper Denton, 100; in 1871 the numbers were, Nether Denton, 291; Upper Denton, 106'.

Kelly's Directory of Cumberland and Westmorland 1897

'Upper or Over Denton is a village and parish bounded on the east by Northumberland, on the south by Nether Denton and on the north and west by the River Irthing; it was ecclesiastically connected to Gilsland in 1858, and is one and a half miles east from Gilsland Station on the North Eastern Railway. The church of Over Denton is a small edifice, built of materials evidently obtained from the Roman Wall and affords a good example of the early type of churches in this county, its original plan having been slightly altered. It consists of chancel, nave and a western belfry, containing one bell, cast in 1881 by Taylor and Sons of Loughborough; the ancient bell believed to be of medieval date, is kept at the vicarage. The chancel, 12 by 11 feet, retains its original Norman chancel arch; the north doorway of the nave is now built up, near it is a small Norman window. The church was restored in

1881, when new windows were inserted and the church re-seated with oak benches, at a cost of £420 under the direction of Mr C J Ferguson, architect of Carlisle and London. During the restoration in 1881, two Roman altars, one of which was inscribed, were found in the church and are now preserved at the vicarage, together with two centurial stones'.

'Outside the churchyard stands a small but ancient peel tower, now used as a barn but locally known as "The Vicarage", near it are traces of other buildings'.

'The Earl of Carlisle is lord of the manor and principal landowner. The soil is light; subsoil, sand. The chief crops are turnips and some pasture land'.

History, Topography and Directory of Cumberland – T Bulmer & Co 1901

'Upper Denton – Population in 1891 numbered 167. The Newcastle and Carlisle section of the NE Railway runs through the parish east to west'.

'The church, which is situated in this village, was restored about twenty years ago. The old fabric was a very humble structure in the Early Norman style, built of stones taken from the Roman Wall, and had undergone very little change during the course of many ages. Near the church is an old pele tower, supposed to have been originally the vicarage house. The old church bell, which was replaced by a new one in 1881, is preserved in the tower as a venerable relic of antiquity'.

Listed as farmer (amongst others) at Upper Denton:

Robert Ferguson (yeoman), Low Town

Kelly's Directory of Cumberland and Westmorland 1934

Farmers listed at Upper Denton: -

William Graham

Wm Rutherford

Jn Waugh, Lower Farm

Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society – First, Second and Third Series

First Series

Volume III – 1878

Over Denton Church by Charles J Ferguson

Volume V 1881

Old Church Plate by Rev H Whitehead

'Over Denton – The cup here is of pewter, seven and a half inches high, plain and unmarked'.

Volume VI – 1882-83

Earthworks in Cumberland by R S Ferguson

'At Over Denton Church near the Old Vicarage is a place marked 'Camp' on the Ordnance Map, a small square enclosure, but by it there is a much destroyed mound in a circular or oval ditch, about fourteen yards in diameter. There would be an English homestead, and the square enclosure is its base court. The reputed Saxon village at the High Mains, west of Over Denton Church, is probably another such place. Moated mounds also exist, or have done so, at Irthington and Bleatarn. All these places lie along the Roman Wall, and by its roads the English invaders came from the eastern coast'.

Church Bells in Brampton Deanery by Rev. H Whitehead

'That a bell may easily get a worse character than it deserves is shown by what befell the old Over Denton bell, this described in the terrier of 1875: -

“One bell cracked and unfit for use”.

In 1881, when the church was restored, a new bell was got, 14½ inches in diameter, weight 93lbs., on which is: -

JOHN TAYLOR & CO., LOUGHBOROUGH, 1881

The old bell was removed to make way for the new, was deposited in the ancient pele tower near the church, the vicar properly desiring to preserve it as a venerable relic of the past. It is only 7½ inches in diameter, and weighs but 16½ lbs. Unfortunately it is blank, so that there is nothing but its appearance to indicate its age; but if it be as old as it looks it is very ancient. Everything connected with Over Denton church, prior to its restoration in 1881, was ancient’.



The old church bell from Upper Denton, prior to its replacement in 1881

Volume IX 1887-88

Excursions and Proceedings – A Pilgrimage along the Roman Wall

Mentions Over Denton Church – Built of Roman stones. Note the tombs of Margaret Teasdale and her relatives. The old vicarage.

Volume XIV 1896-97

Cumberland Parish Registers – Rev H Whitehead, Vicar of Lanercost
Concerning Over Denton:

‘There are no registers anterior [earlier] to 1813. Baptisms, burials and marriages, 1736-1812, were entered at Lanercost and previous to that period (form the best information) at Nether Denton’.

‘Some years ago a correspondent of one of the Carlisle newspapers wrote: “I respectfully submit that there is no known place to the oldest inhabitant as Over Denton; there are certainly Upper and Nether Denton, and they are sometimes spoken of as High and Low Denton”. But whatever they may be called by inhabitants, old or young, documentary evidence inclines to Over and Nether’.

Second Series

Volume XIII 1913

The Townfields of Cumberland, Part II – T H B Graham
Over Denton Parish

‘High Denton village – Behind the church and hemmed in on three sides by the Irthing, is a fragment of the townfield now used as a meadow’.

Volume XV 1915

Proceedings

'There are indisputable evidences of the antiquity of Over Denton Church. The name of the village itself, Denton, is derived from the Anglo-Saxon denu, a deep-wooded valley, and tun, an enclosure, hence a village. Therefore, the Angle "town in the wooded valley" is a proof that the early inhabitants were Saxons, or to speak more correctly Angles. Not far from the church, on the west side, near to the road leading to the Mains Farm, there are the ruins of a reputed Saxon or Angle village. Bishop Pudsey in 1170 speaks of the church as "the Church of the Ancient Denton". As the see of Hexham was founded in AD678 and the last bishop of Hexham, Tidferth, disappears after AD821, it is more than probable that the pious labours of Christian teachers from Hexham caused a church to be erected at Over Denton for the benefit of the Saxon or Angle inhabitants. If so, the foundation of the church would probably date from about the eighth century, and if from that date the first church may have been a wooden one. But with such a valuable quarry of ready dressed stones of all shapes and sizes only a few yards distant from the site of the church, at the deserted camp of Amboglanna, we can well fancy the present stone building would very early take the place of the wooden one. The present church is built entirely of stones from the Roman camp'.

'The church retains its original plan unaltered; the east end and the north and south sides are the original walls, but the west end and belfry are modern, but built on the old foundation; the Roman camp of Amboglanna on the opposite side of the river Irthing being the quarry from which the stones of the church were taken'.

'When the church was renovated a few years ago, under the floor of the chancel were found a large quantity of human remains lying in all positions, as though a pit had been dug, and the bodies had been hastily flung in without regard to order'.

Volume XXI 1921

Lanercost Foundation Charter – T H B Graham

In this article Graham suggests that the pele tower at Over Denton, known as the 'Old Vicarage' may have been the manorial mansion.

Volume XXVI 1926

Brampton and Denton – T H B Graham

Volume XXIX 1929

Roman Signal Stations on the Cumberland Coast – R G Collinwood

Mentions the Roman signal tower at Over Denton (HER 334), Mains Rigg, as being of stone construction, Hadrianic in date and measuring 21 feet square with a ditch round it. Excavated in 1928.

Volume XLVII 1948

The Estates of the Lanercost Canons – Rev J R H Moorman

Volume LIX 1959

Notes

Denton in Cumberland and Denton in Northumberland by W P Hedley

Volume LXVI 1966

Cumberland and Westmorland Lay Subsidies by C M Fraser

'Manorial status was similarly enjoyed by Rockcliffe, Bowness, Bewcastle, Denton by Gilsland, Linstock, Langwathby, Great Salkeld and Castle Sowerby'.

Volume LXXIV 1974

Cumberland Church Bells by Bruce L Thompson

'The ancient church at Over Denton has a very small medieval bell minus its clapper, preserved on a window sill'.

Volume LXXV 1975

The Canal that never was – The story of the Proposed Newcastle/Maryport Canal 1794 -1797 by D Mawson
'After passing to the north of Denton Church, it crossed the Low Row – Gilsland road, and leaving Beckstonegate and Denton Hall on the north, skirted the rising ground on the north side of the military road until half a mile west of the present entrance to Naworth Castle'.

Volume LXXVIII 1978

Notes

The North Sea Gas Pipe Line through North Cumbria by G E S Richardson
'An exposure of the Stanegate was recorded near Over Denton, although circumstances did not permit of a full section drawing being obtained'.

Volume XCII 1992

Excavation on the Medieval Church of St Thomas, Farlam by Ian Caruana
For comparison to St Cuthbert's Church at Upper Denton

Third SeriesVolume V 2005

British (Cumbric) Place-Names in the Barony of Gilsland, Cumbria by John M Todd
Notes how there is a cluster of place-names with 'Cumbric' elements around Gilsland. For example, the field names 'Pendrauen' and 'Wlw(er)en' in the civil parish of Upper Denton, although 'Denton' itself is Anglian.

MiscellaneousCarlisle Library

Collection of newspaper articles by W T McIntire kept in several volumes entitled '*Lakeland and the Border Country*'

1934, Volume III – 'Odds and Ends – Over Denton Church'

Evening News and Star, Wednesday September 20th 1972

'Crossing to Cumbria's Past – The Churches of Cumbria – Over Denton Church'

Frank Carruthers

Copy kept in the Jackson Collection at Carlisle Library, Ref 2A726 5, 12184

PublicationsCastles and Towers of Cumberland and Westmorland – J Curwen, 1913

'Over Denton – Site: Just half-a-mile south of the Roman Wall, and on the southern bank of the Irthing, close to the church, is a small bailey to a much decayed motte'.

'Artificial Earthwork – The artificially raised mound is surrounded by a ditch measuring about 14 yards in diameter'.

Curwen cites CWAAS Transactions, First Series, Volume VI, as reference.

Anglo-Saxon Architecture – H M Taylor and Joan Taylor, Volumes I and II, 1965, Cambridge University Press

Upper Denton Church not included in this gazetteer.

Cumbrian churches that are included are: Long Marton, Morland, Crosby Garrett and Appleby (St Michael's, Bongate).

The Buildings of England – Cumberland and Westmorland, Nikolaus Pevsner, Yale University Press, London, 2002

Introduction – Page 24

'There has been no space in this survey to mention minor pele towers, but a few of them must find a place for the reason that they were built by men in vocations we would not connect with such structures. There are vicars' peles at Croglin, Great Asby (Westmorland) and probably Upper Denton; the college of priests established at Kirkoswald had their pele, and the priors of Lanercost and of Carlisle had theirs'.

Church – Upper Denton. Built with Roman stones. Norman north window, and Norman chancel arch of the most elementary kind (it is a reconstructed Roman arch, probably brought from Birdoswald). But the east quins are of the Anglo-Saxon type with some upright stones.

Opposite the east end [is] a ruinous barn, once probably a vicar's pele.

The Old Parish Churches of Cumbria – Mike Salter, Folly Publications, Malvern, 1998

'Upper Denton – St Cuthbert's – The small nave and chancel church now in private ownership at Upper Denton is Norman work of Roman stones from nearby Hadrian Wall. Original are the chancel arch, two nave windows and two plain doorways, that on the north being blocked. One window on each side are Victorian. The chancel has two 13th century lancets'.

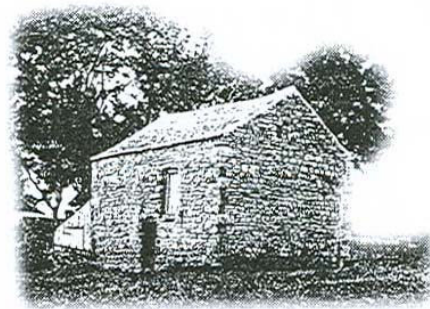
The Medieval Cross Slab Grave Covers in Cumbria – Peter Ryder, CWAAS Extra Series Volume XXXII, 2005, Titus Wilson & Son, Kendal

'Over Denton – The old church at Over Denton (NY 615 655) is now privately owned; it is a small building of either Anglo-Saxon or early Norman date, with a simple chancel arch that may be a re-used feature. A cross slab of fawn/pink sandstone is set upright in internal face of north wall of nave, near its east end. Its design is incised except for dished panels between arms of cross head, and consists of a cross with expanded disc-like terminals rising from a crude stepped base, with a sword on the left'.

The Medieval Fortified Buildings of Cumbria – D R Perriam and J Robinson, CWAAS Extra Series Volume XXIX, 1998

Upper Denton Motte – Supposed motte and ditch

Upper Denton Vicarage now in ruins (includes ground plan)



[Rose Castle Collection]



Maps

Speed's Map of 1610 shows a representation of the church at Over Denton

Hodkinson and Donald 1774 (surveyed 1770)

Enclosure Map of 1800 (CRO Ref No. QRE/1/87) – Upper Denton in top right-hand corner, has suffered from wear and tear, this portion of the map was illegible

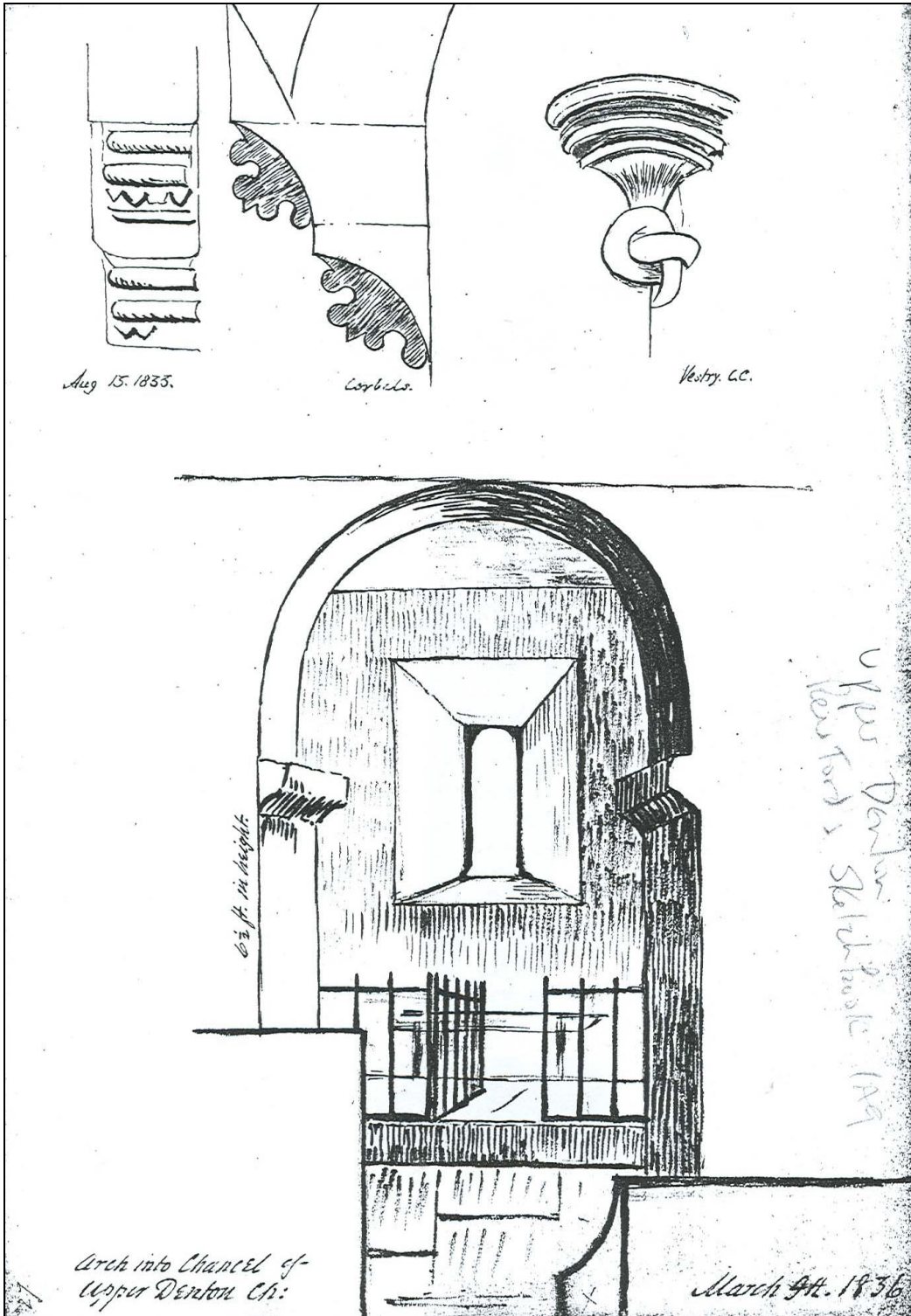
Not Tithed Map of mid-nineteenth century date for Upper Denton at CRO

First Edition Ordnance Survey Map of c.1865 (6 inch to 1 mile)

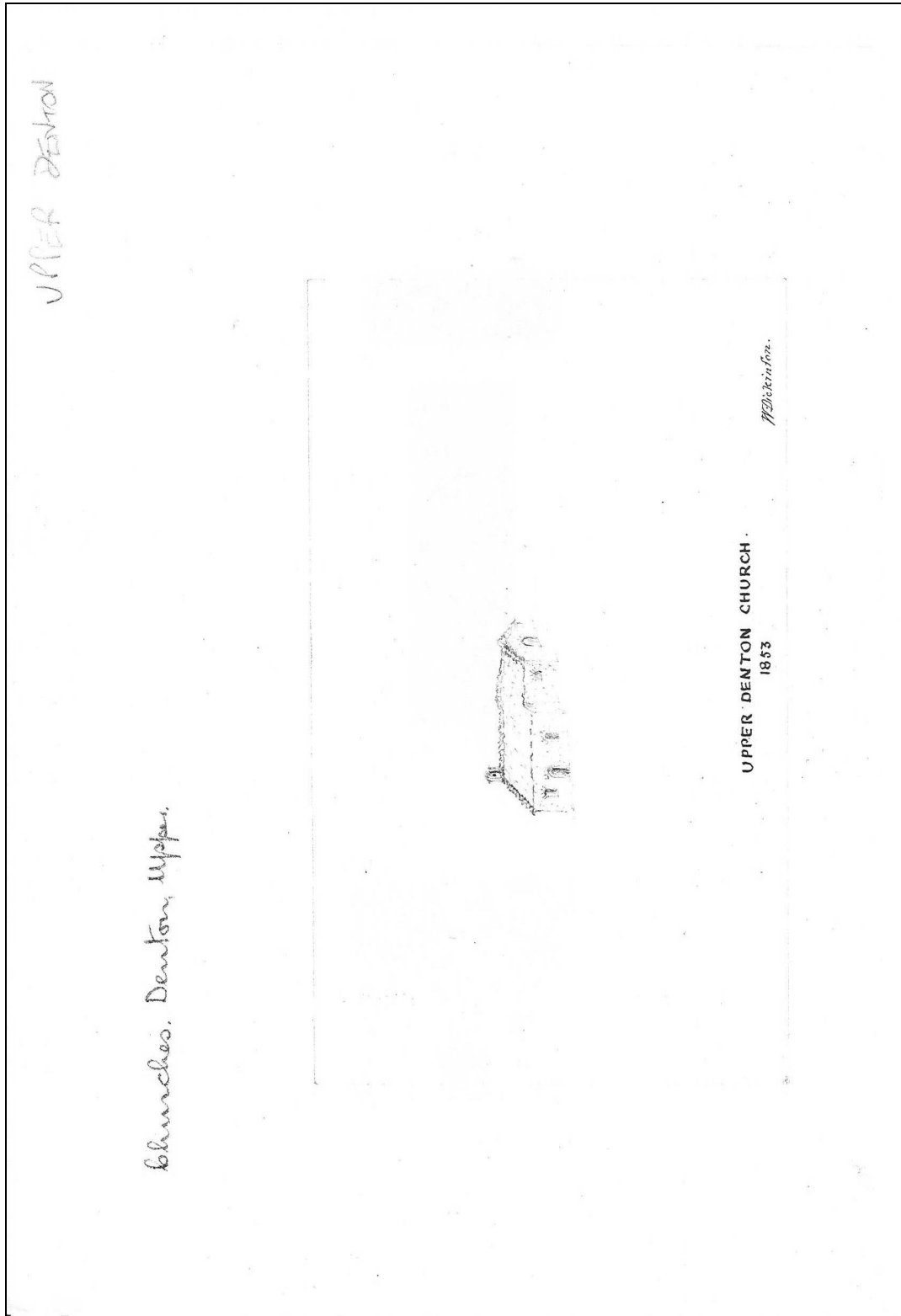
Illustrations and Photographs

Illustrations

Carlisle Library: -



Dated March 9th 1836, Rev. Ford's Sketchbook



Sketch of Upper Denton Church by W Dickinson, 1853

Carlisle Record Office:



CRO Ref No. DX 610/2, dated 1881, Painting by R Luckley

On the reverse of the painting are the following comments: -

'Parish Church, upper Denton, Cumberland before the restoration in 1881. It is said to be one of the oldest and smallest churches in England. There is seat accommodation for about 70 persons. The walls are five feet thick, the foundation stones of the west wall project beyond the others which would seem to indicate that the present work is of later date. There is a door and three windows in the south wall, one window in the east wall and one window and traces of another door in the north wall. These windows are small and have the appearance of being loop holes to shoot arrows from. The whole church has the appearance of having been a place to which the inhabitants might resort in times of danger. The pulpit stands in the corner formed by the chancel on the south side and is lighted by the middle window on that side. The building is in a dilapidated condition, the roof has given way in one or two places and the ivy which grows on the walls and up the roof has forced its way through in some places and is growing inside the church. The landlady of Mumps Hall lies buried in the church yard. This was the place at which the 'Meg Merrilies' of Sir Walter Scott in his novel of Guy Mannering used sometimes to reside. The inscription on her tombstone reads thus: "Mumps Hall. Here lies ye body of Margaret Carrick, ye wife of Thos. Carrick who departed this life ye 4 of Decem, 171 in the 100 year of her age".

Two addresses are given on the reverse of this painting: -

R Luckley	R E Luckley
8 Nesham? St	Howe Cottage
Newcastle upon Tyne	Harker
	Carlisle

Photographs

Carlisle Library has photographs of the church and 'Vicar's Pele' dating to May 1978 and July 2003.