

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

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*Advice on Archaeology & Planning*

*Environmental Impact Assessment*

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*Site & Landscape Survey*

*Interpretation, Design & Display*

## **Land to the East and South of Ravenglass Cumbria**

### **Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment**

**Report No. Y166/14**

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This document has been prepared in accordance with CFA Archaeology Ltd standard procedures.

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

A desk-based assessment was undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) on behalf of United Utilities plc on land around Ravenglass, Cumbria to evaluate effects on the cultural heritage resource by possible development works including the replacement of an existing sewer along the beach.

### **1.1 Proposed Development**

The aims of the proposed development are to improve the quality of water in Ravenglass, benefit the environment and meet relevant directives. This may require the replacement of the sewer line that runs along the coastal edge of Ravenglass.

The proposed development works are in the data-gathering phase. The desk-based assessment is intended to assist in the design which will fulfill the development project aims.

### **1.2 Site Description**

The survey areas comprise four fields to the east and two fields to the south of the town (Fig. 1, 1-6). The areas are all within pasture or parkland either side of the railway line and Walls Plantation. The study area extends 750m centred on the town of Ravenglass itself (Fig. 1, SD 08527 96433). The survey areas cover approximately 21ha in total, and lie between 10 and 25m above the Ordnance datum (AOD).

The existing sewage pipe runs to the west of and along the coastal edge of Ravenglass, within the flood zone of the estuary of the rivers Irt, Mite and Esk, an area with 'site of special scientific interest' (SSSI) status.

### **1.3 Soils and Geology**

The underlying bedrock consists of Calder Sandstone Formation; red brown, medium to coarse, generally poorly sorted well rounded sandstone of which aeolian sandstones are dominant, beneath superficial deposits of Devensian Till (BGS 2014).

### **1.4 Previous Archaeological work**

Ravenglass is currently the focus of two on-going research projects: 'The Hadrianic Frontier – River Esk to River Ehen, Cumbria'; a nine-year project to identify if the Hadrianic Frontier works (Jones and Biggins 2012). The project is due to finish in 2014, and will have comprised of desk-based research, excavations and geophysical surveys. The other is a community project called 'Romans in Ravenglass'; a joint venture between the Lake District National Park (LDNP), Muncaster Parish Council and Muncaster Estate (LDNP 2014). This is a seasonal project and included the geophysical survey of 35ha and small-scale excavations, which have revealed evidence for Roman settlement; this project is set to continue in 2014 (Romans in Ravenglass 2014).

## **2. OBJECTIVES**

### **2.1 General Objectives**

The general objective of the desk-based assessment is to produce a report to enable judgements to be made on the condition and significance of archaeological remains and any mitigation that may be necessary in relation to the proposed development.

### **2.2 Research Objectives**

The research objectives were to interpret any archaeological or historic remains according to their significance in contributing to the further understanding of the periods they may relate to. The regional research framework for Cumbria is the North-West Archaeological Research Framework (Brennand 2007).

## **3. METHODS AND STANDARDS**

CFA Archaeology is a registered organisation (RO) with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). All work was conducted in accordance with relevant IfA Standards and Guidance documents (IfA 1994), English Heritage guidance (EH 2006 and 2008), and CFA's standard methodology.

### **3.1 Desk-based Research**

The Lake District National Park Historic Environment Record (HER) was consulted on 11 June 2014, for sites, find spots or monuments within the survey areas or within the study area, historic mapping, along with relevant secondary sources. Whitehaven Archive and Local Library was visited on the 15 July 2014 for local histories, historic mapping and other secondary sources.

In addition to the above, internet sources were consulted for information relating to general background, listed buildings and other heritage resources within the study area, and CFA's office library was consulted where relevant.

### **3.2 Site Walkover**

The walkover of the survey areas took place on 15 July 2014. General photographs were taken and notes were made as to the general topography and any potential archaeological remains, or any indication of former land use. Locations were recorded using a handheld GPS.

The beach area was systematically traversed in the morning at low tide; conditions were dry and sunny and visibility was very good.

### 3.3 Archiving

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, finds, plans, reports, and photographs will be ordered to nationally recognised standards (Brown 2011).

The archive currently consists of:

|                                     |               |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Digital Photographs                 | 1 x CD        |
| Notes and Research materials        | 1 x A4 folder |
| Survey data and photographs         |               |
| All non-confidential correspondence |               |
| This Report                         | -             |

Should further work be undertaken on then the archive resulting from such work would be incorporated into the current archive to be deposited together.

## 4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BASELINE

### 4.1 Desk-Based Research

There was very little documentary evidence for activity within the survey areas; however, information from the wider area provides evidence which may relate to the survey areas or allow inferences as to past land use. All sources consulted appear in the bibliography.

There is a great amount of evidence for prehistoric activity in Cumbria as a whole, with Mesolithic and Neolithic finds in the form of flint tools and prehistoric pottery recorded in many areas. There are several findspots in the area surrounding Ravenglass.

Cumbria is very well known for its history and archaeology from the Romano-British period, with the fort at Carlisle (*Luguvalium*) and a network of Roman Roads leading to coastal ports and other regional Roman settlements. Ravenglass is home to the impressive, free-standing ruins of Wall's Castle, a Roman Bath House, and the Roman Fort of *Glannoventa*, which are part of the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site (LDNP 2014 and UNESCO 2014). These remains, along with an associated *vicus* are in the south of the study area. The Roman fort is built on the remains of a smaller, more ephemeral, fortlet. Unlike the *vicus*, the fort appears to have been in continuous use until the later part of the 4th century, after which it was burned and rebuilt using construction methods which imply it was used as a military base after the departure of the Roman Army (EH 2014; Hunter-Mann 2014a).

Geophysical surveys conducted for the 'Romans in Ravenglass' project in 2013 revealed a road believed to be the 18 mile Hardknott Roman Road, (Route X of the 2nd century *Antonine Itinerary*), from Ravenglass to Ambleside via Hardknott Fort (Hunter-Mann 2014a and 2014b). A road-side settlement existed along the route, towards Ravenglass and excavations revealed a ditch and the foundations for a building of Roman date (Hunter-Mann 2013). This road lies to the north of the *vicus*, within Survey Area 4.

There is very little documentary or archaeological evidence following the Roman period in the area, however, this may reflect a lack of research in the early medieval period in the North-West generally, not simply a lack of evidence (Johnson 2009). However, it is likely that Ravenglass retained some local importance throughout the medieval period. The Roman Bath House was converted into a domestic dwelling (EH 2014) and was home to the Penningtons from c.1610. It is one of the tallest, up-standing Roman structures in Northern Britain.

Excavations conducted on the Roman Fort uncovered the remains of a medieval stone-lined cist burial, aligned east-west (Eadie 2012). The cist did not contain any human remains (owing to the acidic nature of the soil) or artefacts and was dated principally on stratigraphic grounds (Eadie 2012). Excavation of tree boles during a watching brief for the vegetation clearance on the fort identified medieval artefacts (LUAU 2000), as did the upper stratigraphic layers in the ‘Romans in Ravenglass’ project (Hunter-Mann 2014a).

Medieval ridge and furrow has been identified at several locations such as on Walney Island, above the Duddon Estuary and around Ravenglass, with a small area of lynchets present on Muncaster Fell. No structures have been located in association with these field systems (Johnson 2009).

An 1180 charter from the Rydal Muniments records a ‘hospice’ in Ravenglass ‘for the accommodation of poor travellers’, the actual location of this ‘medieval hospital’, is unknown.

In 1845 an act was passed to establish a railway line from Whitehaven to Furness, including a station at Ravenglass (Lewis 1848) and the town benefitting from improved connections developed throughout the Victorian period.

## **4.2 Historic Maps**

The following presents a selection of Ordnance Survey (OS) and other maps from the 19th century to the recent past.

### *1843 Tithe Map*

The 1843 Tithe Map shows Ravenglass as a small linear settlement orientated north-south hugging the coastal banks of the confluence of the Rivers Irt, Mite and Esk. A single row of houses run along the beach on Main Street. East, from these houses are long, narrow strip fields up to the road running north to south from near the Grove to Walls Castle and beyond. The surrounding land is enclosed pasture. The cluster of buildings around the Grove includes the Independent Chapel (HER 12201) to the north side of the road and two buildings to the south side of the road. Another small cluster of buildings, recorded as ‘The Shaw’ exist to the south-southeast of the Grove. A minor road and a small structure are also shown within Survey Area 3.

### *1863 Ordnance Survey Pre-WWII 1:2500 Cumberland Map*

By 1863 the long narrow plots extending east are truncated in the middle by the Ravenglass and Eskdale railway. Houses have been erected to the west side of Main

Street, with two isolated buildings appearing in the far north-west. The small structure in Survey Area 3 is no longer recorded. Little change in the shape of the enclosures occurred between this map and the previous Tithe Map. The Grove Independent Chapel is no longer recorded.

#### *1899 Ordnance Survey Pre-WWII 1:2500 Cumberland Map*

By 1899 the north of Ravenglass has undergone slight expansion and development, with the inclusion of an additional railway branch heading north, following the River Mite. The narrow plots immediately east of the main town, have expanded into larger fields, and the north-west buildings have been labelled as a smithy and school. The long narrow plots to the east of the railway line have been replaced with the Walls Plantation, which continues east along the road to become Grove Plantation. The building which forms the west part of the Grove has been replaced with a new building, slightly closer to the road. The fields included in the north and south-west of the study area have taken on the dimensions and boundaries recognisable as the modern field system. The large cluster of trees present in the south of Survey Area 4 first appears on this map. On the beach, there is evidence of a landing stage and mooring posts, which do not appear on the 1st edition OS maps.

#### *1956 Ordnance Survey Post-WWII 1:10,560 Cumberland Map*

Very little changes exist in the interceding years, the most noticeable of which is the absence of the extreme north-west buildings (previously the smithy and the school) of Ravenglass, previously mapped. The fields to the east of the town, west of the railway have increased in size, and even more regularised.

#### *1974 Ordnance Survey Post-WWII 1:10,000 Cumberland Map*

The notable difference on this map to its predecessor is the regularity of the field boundaries to the south-west of the proposed study area, akin to the modern demarcation. The landing stage is no longer recorded on this map.

By the present day Walls Plantation is separated from Grove Plantation by the establishment of Walls Caravan Park to the west of the Grove, and woodland clearance has occurred on the site on the Roman Fort.

### **4.3 Historic Environment Record**

The list of records of monuments and archaeological events recorded within the survey areas and the study area site appear as Appendix 1 and are shown on Figure 1.

#### *Sites within Survey Areas*

The only finds recorded within the survey areas themselves were two prehistoric flint flakes and a bifacially worked point (17914) recorded in Survey Area 1.



### *Sites within the Beach Area*

The Ravensglass Landing Stage or Jetty is recorded (12187) along with three mooring posts. It appears to have been in existence at the turn of the twentieth century, as it appears on the 2nd-edition Ordnance Survey Map and on maps of the 1950s, although it disappears by the 1970s. The HER records all evidence of this monument as being destroyed.

### *Site within the Study Area*

The most significant sites within the study relate to the Roman Fort, *Vicus*, bath house (1378) and Roman well (12190). The fort and the bath house are scheduled monuments (1013013 and 1009352) and within the World Heritage site (1000098). There are also associated finds of coins (17700), a glass bangle (18967) and a pottery collection (60893). The south-east of the study area is within the park and gardens of Muncaster Castle which are grade II\*listed (1000669). Three fragments of two leaves of a military diploma (19507) were found on the beach to the west of Ravensglass Roman fort site in 1995. Another glass bangle (19687) and a collection of pottery (19745) of Roman date are also recorded.

The site of the 'medieval hospital' (4709) is likely to lie within the study area, though this is known only from a reference to a 'hospice' in an 1180 charter. Prehistoric urns (5347) are also recorded though the circumstances of their discovery are unknown.

There are three are grade II listed buildings within the study are 'The Bay Horse' a former Coaching Inn (1068807), a War Memorial (1086636) and 'Pennington House' (1336046).

A modern fish trap (60312) is located west of the Roman Fort, just south of the confluence of the Rivers Esk, Irt and Mite.

## **4.4 Walkover Survey**

A systematic walkover of the survey areas were undertaken on 15 July 2014, the weather conditions were bright and dry.

Each of the six areas was systematically traversed. The general topography was undulating with an overall downward slope towards the coast. Each field was covered in grass with clusters of reeds. Survey areas 1, 3, and 4 were devoid of any visible upstanding archaeological remains.

Survey Area 2 was bounded to the west and east by the main road into Ravensglass, which lies approximately 10m lower than the surface of the field. Its north and east boundaries were marked by a ditch and bank (Fig. 1, Site 1 and Plate 1). The ditch was along the northern edge of the bank, along the east-west boundary, and was 2.5m wide. The turf and stone bank was 1m high and 2.1m wide, extending the length of the north and east boundary. The bank was made up of sub-angular to sub-rounded stones between 0.1-0.3m in size, with occasional blocks of worked stone measuring 1.6-2×0.37×0.2m lying horizontally. It had been truncated at the western end by a modern access and there was trees growth along its length. There was a gap at the

eastern end with an upstanding stone gatepost, indicating an older field access (Plate 2). No ditch appeared along the eastern boundary, though this may have been infilled by the lynchet from the adjacent field to the east.

There were no upstanding remains recorded in Survey Area 4, although the evaluation trench from the 'Romans in Ravenglass' project in 2013 was identified (Plate 3). The ground does appear to rise up slightly along the projected route of the Hardknott Roman Road and may indicate the camber; however, the ground is very undulating across this in general.

Just beyond the south-east corner of Area 4 there was a standing structure (Fig. 1, Site 2 and Plate 4) of uncertain date. It measured 4.8m by 1m and was orientated north-west to south-east. Its south-west edge comprised two courses of brick-shaped stones, arranged stretcher overlying header. At each end there was a stone post with evidence of working and metal fittings, standing at 1.2m above the ground level. The north-west, north-east and south-east edges were made up of two rows of faced stone with concreted mortar bonding, surviving to a height of 0.5m, with the exception of the south-east wall. This survived to a height of 1.2m, had a curved outer face and large capping stones (Plate 5). The internal space was divided into three compartments, separated with the same material as the south-west edge. A culverted drain was located in the southern compartment, through the north-east wall and set within concrete extending north-west: water flowed from here, turned north-east in front of the structure into a modern culvert that appeared to run all the way across Area 4, identified in the 2013 geophysical survey.

There was a linear earthwork in the south-west corner of Survey Area 5 (Fig. 1, Site 3 and Plate 6). It was orientated north to south on the same alignment as the fence line in place at the time of the survey and was visible on Google Earth™ imagery. It does not relate to any recorded field boundaries.

Along the north edge of Survey Area 6 there was a burn running from east to west. It lay considerably below the ground surface of the field and had been culverted to the east and west (plates 7 and 8), with the eastern culvert being more substantial than the west (sites 4 and 5), allowing water to flow below underneath the footpath separating areas 5 and 6. The culverts were made up of three or more courses of worked stone, with each stone measuring approximately 0.6×0.23×0.25m, with stone-slab lintels.

#### *Walkover Survey of the Beach*

The line of the existing sewer was walked at low tide. Behind the houses backing onto the beach, stabilising grasses had established themselves and laid brick were noted (Plate 9) which may have formed part of a larger structure (Site 6). Pipe outlets were also visible along the revetment walls and wooden posts were present towards the south-east which appeared to have been used as moorings and washing lines. An old anchor was also recorded (Plate 10). The beach itself was littered with glazed modern ceramic material and 'Whitehaven' stamped brick. There was no evidence of the jetty recorded in the HER (12187).

## **5. CONCLUSION**

### **5.1 The Survey Areas**

The northernmost survey area (1) contained evidence for prehistoric activity in the form of a number of worked flints. Although the potential for preserved remains relating to this period may have been affected by past farming activity, map evidence suggests that this area has remained undeveloped, and the possibility of surviving remains below ground cannot be ruled out.

Site 1, the ditch and bank field boundary, are in all likelihood post-medieval or early modern and are likely to relate to that mapped on the 1899 and later Ordnance Survey maps. The linear earthwork in Area 5 may be of a similar date and there is a possibility that the remains of other post-medieval or early-modern field boundaries or other remains may also survive below ground.

The potential for archaeological remains are highest in survey areas 3 and 4. Geophysical surveys and small scale evaluations have shown that medieval and Roman remains associated with the Roman Fort and *Vicus* are present below the ground in Area 4. The heritage value of any remains relating to these features may be of regional or greater importance. This area is likely to require a programme of further archaeological evaluation in order to inform judgements for preservation in situ or the design a programme of archaeological investigation in mitigation of development.

### **5.2 The Beach**

The installation of the current sewer line along the beach has meant any potential for *in situ* archaeological remains surviving along its length are very unlikely. If a replacement pipe is installed along the same line, ground-breaking works are unlikely to affect any archaeological remains. Material debris does appear on the shoreline due to the mobile and fluvial nature of the tidal zone, therefore the majority of material on the beach will be the result of tertiary deposition. If the route of a new sewer deviates from the current line, it is possible that archaeological remains may be affected.

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## **Cartography**

1843 Tithe Map

1863-1895 Ordnance Survey Pre-WWI 1:2500 Cumberland Map

1867 Ordnance Survey Pre-WWI 1:10,560 Cumberland Map

1899 Ordnance Survey Pre-WWI 1:2500 Cumberland Map

1900 Ordnance Survey Pre-WWI 1:10,560 Cumberland Map

1956-1957 Ordnance Survey Post-WWI 1:10,560 Cumberland Map

1975-77 Ordnance Survey Post-WWI 1:10,000 Cumberland Map

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## **APPENDIX 1: Heritage Assets within the Study Area**

**Table 1: Sites and Findspots with the Study Area**

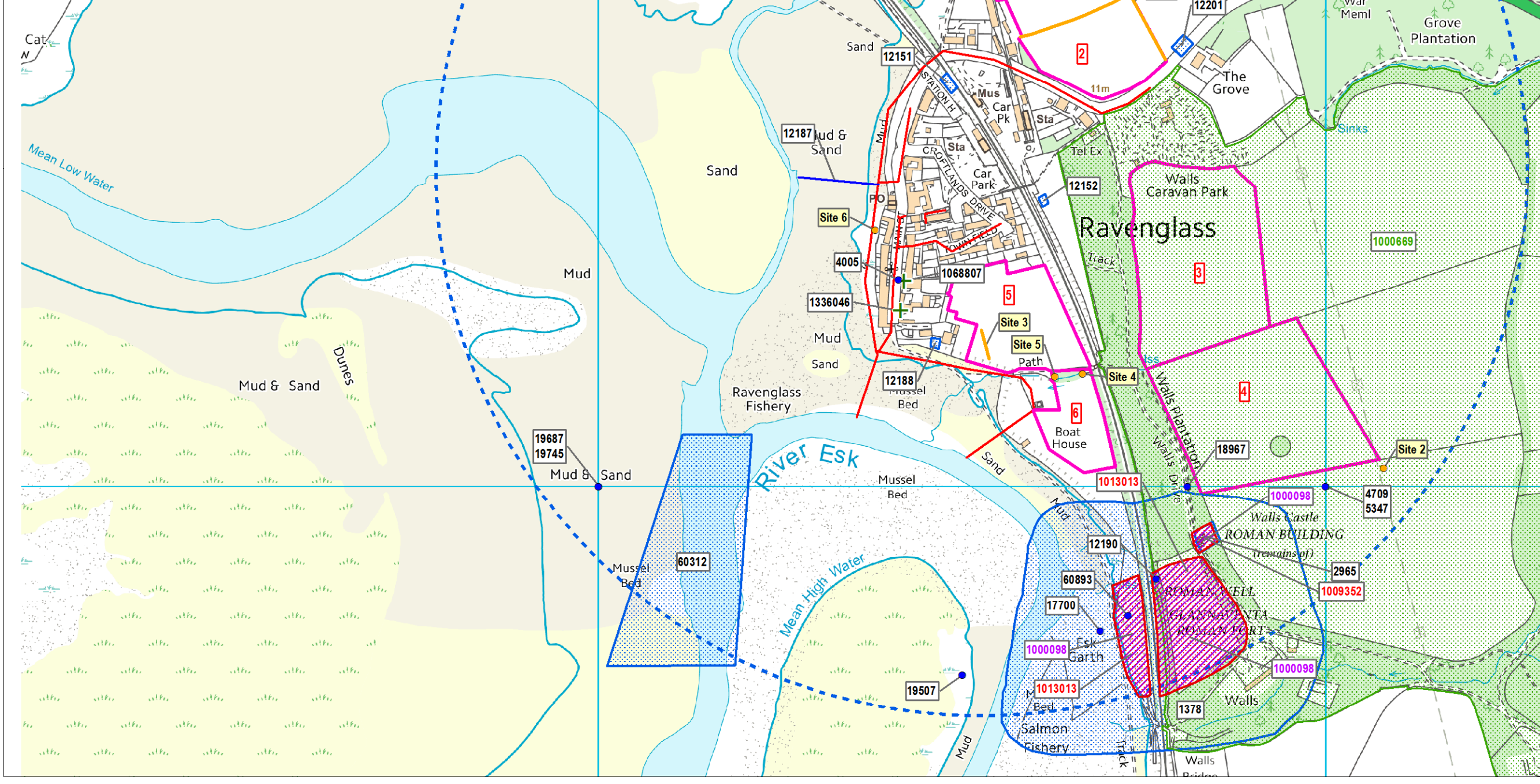
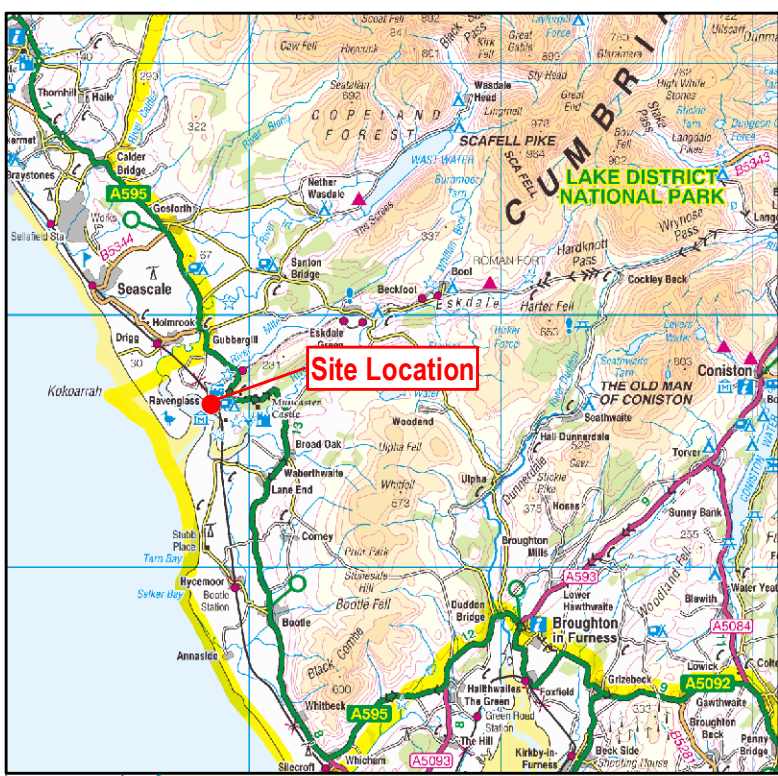
| HER No. | Name   | Type             | Period      | NGR        |
|---------|--|------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1378    | Ravenglass Roman Fort and Vicus, Muncaster                 | Fort             | Roman       | SD 088 958 |
|         |  | Fortlet          | Roman       | SD 088 958 |
|         |  | Frontier Defence | Roman       | SD 088 958 |
|         |  | Vicus            | Roman       | SD 088 958 |
|         |  | Findspot         | Roman       | SD 088 958 |
|         |  | Findspot         | Prehistoric | SD 088 958 |
| 2965    | Ravenglass Roman Fort Bath House (Walls Castle)            | Bath House       | Roman       | SD 088 959 |
| 4005    | Ravenglass Market Cross                                    | Market Cross     | Medieval    | SD 084 963 |
| 4709    | Hospital, Ravenglass                                       | Hospital         | Medieval    | SD 090 960 |
| 5347    | Ravenglass Urn Finds                                       | Findspot         | Prehistoric | SD 090 960 |
| 12151   | Ravenglass Coal Depot                                      | Coal Shed        | Uncertain   | SD 084 966 |
| 12152   | Ravenglass Signal Box                                      | Signal Box       | Uncertain   | SD 086 964 |
| 12187   | Ravenglass Landing Stage                                   | Jetty            | Uncertain   | SD 083 964 |
| 12188   | Ravenglass Baptist Chapel                                  | Chapel           | Uncertain   | SD 084 962 |
| 12190   | Ravenglass Roman Well                                      | Well             | Roman       | SD 087 958 |
| 12201   | Grove Independent Chapel                                   | Chapel           | Uncertain   | SD 088 966 |
| 17700   | Coin Find, Ravenglass, Muncaster                           | Findspot         | Roman       | SD 086 958 |
| 17914   | Flint Finds, Raven Villa, Ravenglass, Muncaster            | Findspot         | Prehistoric | SD 086 968 |
| 18967   | Glass Bangle, Walls Castle, Ravenglass Fort, Muncaster     | Findspot         | Roman       | SD 088 960 |
| 19507   | Military Diploma Find, Ravenglass                          | Findspot         | Roman       | SD 085 957 |
| 19687   | Glass Bangle Find, Ravenglass, Eskdale                     | Findspot         | Roman       | SD 080 960 |
| 19745   | Romano-British Pottery Collection, Ravenglass, Muncaster   | Findspot         | Roman       | SD 080 960 |
| 60893   | Roman Pottery Findspot at Ravenglass Roman Fort, Muncaster | Findspot         | Roman       | SD 087 958 |

**Table 2: Designated Heritage Assets within the Study Area**

| <b>NHLE No.</b> | <b>Name</b>  | <b>Listing</b>                | <b>Grade</b> | <b>Period</b>               | <b>NGR</b>                                 |
|-----------------|--|-------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 1000098         | Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Hadrian's Wall)               | World Heritage Site           | -            | Roman                       | SW 298058<br>495707 to NE<br>436625 575177 |
| 1000669         | Muncaster Castle   | Garden and Designed Landscape | II*          | 18th, 19th and 20th Century | SD 09999 96134                             |
| 1068807         | Bay Horse (Former Coaching Inn)                              | Listed Building               | II           | Georgian                    | SD 08416 96241                             |
| 1086636         | War Memorial and Area Wall                                   | Listed Building               | II           | Early 20th Century          | SD 09062 96684                             |
| 1009352         | Ravenglass Roman fort bath-house, also known as Walls Castle | Scheduled Monument            | -            | Roman and Medieval          | SD 08833 95929                             |
| 1013013         | Ravenglass Roman fort  | Scheduled Monument            | -            | Roman                       | SD 08732 95801<br>and SD 08826<br>95817    |
| 1336046         | Pennington House   | Listed Building               | II           | 17th, 18th and 19th Century | SD 08420 96282                             |



## Figure 1



- Key:
- Ravenglass Survey Areas
  - Sewer Line
  - 750m Buffer
  - Scheduled Monument
  - + Listed Building Grade II
  - World Heritage Site
  - Garden and Designed Landscape
  - HER Site (point)
  - HER Site (linear)
  - HER Site (area)
  - Cultural Heritage Site (point)
  - Cultural Heritage Site (linear)

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Fig. No: 1 Report No: Y166/14

Title:  
 HER data within 750m of  
 centre point SD 08527 96433

Project:  
 Land to the East of  
 Ravenglass, Ravenglass,  
 Cumbria

Client:  
 United Utilities

Scale at A3:  
 1:6,000

Drawn by: SW Checked by: RH Date: 30/06/14

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**Plates 1-10**





Plate 1: Ditch and bank field boundary to the north of Area 2 (Site 1)



Plate 2: Access between north and east boundary of Area 2 (Site 1)



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| Title:  | Fig. No: 1-2                    | Report: T358 | Drawn: GC | CKD: LW | Date: 17/07/14 |
|   | Client: <b>United Utilities</b> |              |           |         |                |
| Project:  | Scale:                          |              |           |         |                |
| <b>Land to the East and South of Ravenglass and its beach</b> |                                 |              |           |         |                |







Plate 3: Location of Evaluation Trench (highlighted by ranging rods) from 'Romans in Ravenglass ' project



Plate 4: Upstanding structure of Site 2



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Plate 5: Upstanding structure of Site 2



Plate 6: Linear earthwork (highlighted by ranging rods) of Area 5



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Plate 7: East culvert for burn in north of Area 6 (Site 5)



Plate 8: West culvert for burn in north of Area 6 ( Site 5)



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| Fig. No: 7-8                       | Report: T358 | Drawn: GC | CKD: LW | Date: 17/07/14 |
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Plate 9: Laid bricks on the beach (Site 6)



Plate 10: Anchor and wooden posts on Ravenglass beach



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| Fig. No:<br><b>9-10</b>            | Report:<br><b>T358</b> | Drawn:<br><b>GC</b> | CKD:<br><b>LW</b> | Date:<br><b>17/07/14</b> |
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Scale:  
