

HOLLY HOUSE, ASKHAM, CUMBRIA

Archaeological Desk- Based Assessment and Evaluation



Oxford Archaeology North

May 2005

The Lowther Estate

Issue No: 2005-6/377

OA North Job No: L9490

NGR: NY 51250 23712

Planning Application No:
7/2004/3119

Document Title: HOLLY HOUSE FARM, ASKHAM, CUMBRIA

Document Type: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and Evaluation

Client Name: The Lowther Estate

Issue Number: 2005-6/377

OA Job Number: L9490

National Grid Reference: NY 51250 23712

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SUMMARY

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was commissioned by the Lowther Estate to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment and evaluation on land to the north of Holly House Farm, Askham, Cumbria (NY 51250 23712) (Fig 1). The work took place following an application for the construction of three dwellings on the site, which covered an area of 700m² (Planning Application no 7/2004/3119). In response to this, the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) issued a brief requesting that a desk-based assessment and visual inspection, followed by an evaluation, be undertaken as the first phase of work. The requirement was due to the site being within an area of high archaeological potential, within the medieval village of Askham. An assessment of the impact of the proposed development on any archaeological remains was therefore required prior to any development on site. The programme of archaeological work was undertaken in February and March 2005.

A brief outline of the topographical, geological, historical and archaeological background for the proposed development is produced, covering all periods from prehistory to the early twentieth century in order to give a context in which to view the results of the assessment. The prehistoric period is not represented within the study area, though the village of Askham lies within an area of known prehistoric activity. To the west, Askham Fell contains numerous Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments, thought to extend south-eastwards as far as the stone avenues at Shap. Prehistoric activity has also been noted within Lowther Park to the east, where Iron Age defended settlements have been recorded and, more recently, a Bronze Age burnt mound was surveyed. The Roman period is primarily represented by the High Street Roman road to the west, and Romano-British settlements are known in the area, on Askham Fell, along the river Lowther at Yanwath and within Lowther Park. A Roman coin was also found at Askham. The medieval period is represented primarily by the village of Askham itself, which is known to date to at least the thirteenth century, but could be as early as the eleventh century in foundation; the village layout is typical of planned nucleated settlements in Cumbria dating to this period. Medieval field systems or tofts are visible in modern field boundaries to the north and south of the village. The evidence from the post-medieval period is dominated by agricultural activity, in the form of nineteenth century enclosure fields, an associated corn-mill (which has medieval origins) and quarries and lime-kilns, also within the study area. Most of the buildings within the village date to this period, although Askham Hall dates to the fourteenth century or earlier.

The desk-based assessment examined the relevant sources, both primary and secondary, including maps, plans and journals, as well as referring to the Cumbria Historic Environment Record (HER). In total, 69 sites of archaeological interest were identified, 61 of which were already recorded in the Historic Environment Record. Many of these are post-medieval in date, including the Grade II Listed Building of Holly House, although earlier periods are also represented, as well as several sites of unknown date.

Of the sites identified by the desk-based assessment, six will potentially be affected by the proposed development. These include the medieval remains of the existing village (Site **04**), the former site of a wayside cross (Site **12**), Brook Villa and stable (Site **22**), Holly House itself, along with an adjoining barn (Site **23**), The Queen's

Head Inn (Site **24**) and the location of a post-medieval water-pump (Site **64**). A site inspection found no clear evidence of earthworks within the development area, although a possible building platform may exist in the north-west corner of the development plot.

The results of the desk-based assessment suggest that the proposed redevelopment area has the potential to impact upon the medieval core of the village of Askham. Brook Villa, Holly House and the Queen's Head Inn Public House adjacent to the site are listed buildings and, therefore, the visual impact of the development should be considered.

The evaluation comprised the excavation of a single 20m x 1.7m trench in the easternmost part of the proposed development area. It revealed two undated animal burials truncating the subsoil although no significant archaeological remains were encountered. No evidence for medieval activity was recovered during the course of the evaluation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to thank John Turner, Resident Agent for The Lowther Estate, for commissioning the project, and Paul Commander, tenant of Holly House, for allowing us access to the development plot. Thanks are also due to both Jo Mackintosh at the Cumbria County Historic Environment Record, and Eleanor Kingston of the Lake District National Park Authority, for their help and information. The staff of the County Record Office in Kendal are also thanked for their assistance with this project. Frank Giocco of North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (NPA) is also thanked for providing information on ongoing work at Askham.

Matthew Town undertook the desk-based assessment, and Paul Clark supervised the evaluation, with the assistance of Martin Sowerby. Matthew Town and Paul Clark wrote the report, with drawings produced by Mark Tidmarsh. Tim Carew managed the project and edited the report, along with Stephen Rowland and Alan Lupton.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Following an application for planning permission (Planning Application no 7/2004/3119) for the construction of three dwellings on land to the north of Holly House Farm, Askham, Cumbria (NY 51250 23712) (Fig 1), the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) requested an archaeological assessment in order to inform further the planning process, due to the site being within an area of high archaeological potential within the medieval village of Askham. The assessment was to consist of a desk-based assessment and site inspection, followed by a field evaluation as the first phase of work. A brief was issued to this effect by the LDNPA (*Appendix 1*), in response to which Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) produced a project design for the required work (*Appendix 2*). Following the acceptance of this design, OA North was commissioned by The Lowther Estate to undertake the work. The desk-based assessment was carried out between the 21st of February and the 2nd of March 2005, and the evaluation on the 17th March 2005.
- 1.1.2 The desk-based assessment comprised a search of both published and unpublished records held by the Historic Environment Record (HER) at the Lake District National Park offices in Kendal, the Cumbria County Record Office in Kendal, and the archives and library held at OA North. In addition to this, a site inspection was carried out at the proposed development, in order to relate the landscape and surroundings to the results of the desk-based assessment. The evaluation comprised the excavation of a single 20m x 1.7m trench. This report sets out the results of the desk-based assessment and evaluation in the form of a short document, outlining the findings, a statement of the archaeological potential and significance, and an assessment of the impact of the proposed development. The significance criteria detailed in PPG 16 (DoE 1990) were employed during the assessment.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 The project design (*Appendix 2*), prepared in accordance with the LDNPA brief (*Appendix 1*), was adhered to in full. The work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

- 2.2.1 Several sources of information were consulted, in accordance with the project design. The principal sources of information were: the HER information held by the Lake District National Park Authority; HER information, aerial photographs and secondary sources held by the Cumbria County Archaeology Service (CCAS) HER; and general maps and secondary sources. The study area consisted of a 1km radius centred on the proposed development area (Fig 2). The results of the desk-based assessment are collated in a gazetteer (*Section 4*). A rapid desk-based compilation of geological (both solid and drift), pedological, topographical and palaeoenvironmental information was also undertaken, based on published geological mapping. The results were analysed using the set of criteria used to assess the national importance of an ancient monument (DoE 1990).
- 2.2.2 **Historic Environment Record (HER):** the CCAS HER held in Kendal was consulted to establish the sites of archaeological interest, including listed buildings, already known within the study area, and the extent and character of these. For each entry, information for a short note was obtained for the site gazetteer (*Section 4*) and its position was marked on a location plan (Fig 2). The HER is a database of all archaeological sites in Cumbria, and is maintained by Cumbria County Council; the HER for the Lake District National Park is now held at the LDNPA offices. Aerial photographs and secondary sources were also consulted for the study.
- 2.2.3 **Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA):** close contact was maintained with Eleanor Kingston, who provided a printed copy of the updated HER records for the area held by the LDNPA. Aerial photographs at 1:10,000 scale are available for the study area, but following discussions it was agreed that little further detail would be discernible from these, compared to those already obtained from the Cumbria County Council HER in Kendal (Kingston *pers comm*).
- 2.2.4 **County Record Office (CRO), Kendal:** the County Record Office in Kendal was visited to consult early maps and primary documentation relating to the study area, as well as place and field name evidence for the site and its environs. Tithe and enclosure maps and estate plans for the study area were consulted, as well as the relevant Ordnance Survey maps. Secondary sources

were also investigated, including published documentary sources and unpublished documents such as appropriate sections of County histories.

- 2.2.5 ***Oxford Archaeology North:*** OA North has an extensive archive of secondary sources relevant to the study area, as well as numerous unpublished client reports on work carried out both as OA North and formerly as Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU). These were consulted where necessary.

2.3 SITE INSPECTION

- 2.3.1 Following the desk-based assessment, an inspection of the site was undertaken to relate the existing landscape to the research findings. A close examination of the ground surface was undertaken, in order to establish the existence of surviving earthworks and other above-ground evidence within and immediately adjacent to the proposed development area. The survey also noted any features of potential archaeological interest, any areas of potentially significant disturbance, and hazards and constraints to undertaking further archaeological work on site (including the siting of live services and Tree Preservation Orders).

2.4 EVALUATION

- 2.4.1 The evaluation was required to evaluate 5% of the undeveloped study area. The overall area was 700m², requiring the excavation of 35m². Due to on site constraints, a single 20m trench was excavated. The trench was excavated by a combination of mechanised and manual techniques. The trench was excavated in a stratigraphical manner, both by machine and hand. The topsoil and subsoil were removed, under archaeological supervision, by mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.7m wide toothless bucket. The machine excavation did not intrude into any potential archaeological stratigraphy and the topsoil was kept separate from the subsoil. Following mechanical excavation, the base of the trench was cleaned using hand tools. A representative sample of all archaeological features and deposits that were identified were excavated by hand. No archaeological deposits were entirely removed. The trench was not excavated deeper than 1.2m to accommodate health and safety constraints. An assessment of the artefactual content of the topsoil was undertaken by examination of the machined soil from the trial trenching using hand tools.
- 2.4.2 All information identified in the course of the site works was recorded stratigraphically, with sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections and both black and white and colour photographs) to identify and illustrate individual features. Primary records were available for inspection at all times. Results of the field investigation were recorded using a paper system, adapted from that used by Centre for Archaeology of English Heritage. Archaeological features within the trench were recorded on pro-forma context sheets and planned by manual techniques. Levels were tied into the Ordnance Datum, using a known spot height. All artefacts and ecofacts will be recorded using the same system, and

will be handled and stored according to standard practice (following current Institute of Field Archaeologists guidelines) in order to minimise deterioration.

2.5 ARCHIVE

- 2.5.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design (*Appendix 1*), and in accordance with current IFA and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). The paper and digital archive will be deposited in Cumbria Country Record Office (Kendal) on completion of the project. Copies of the report will be deposited with the LDNPA HER in Kendal.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1.1 Askham is a substantial village in the Eamont valley, located between Askham Fell to the west and the river Lowther to the east, the latter forming the eastern parish boundary. The landscape is characterised by gentle sloping, undulating limestone terrain, bordered by a series of north/south orientated limestone scarps (Countryside Commission 1998); the village occupies broadly level ground adjacent to the steep-sided banks of the river Lowther, the western boundary being marked by the rising ground which leads onto Askham Fell. The village is arranged along both sides of a shallow valley, through which flows Askham Beck. The valley commences at the Bampton to Yanwath road, and slopes down towards the river; west of this road, the western half of the village slopes uphill at a gentle gradient. The village lies adjacent to, and west of, Lowther Park, and now forms part of the Lowther estate; the village also lies within the boundaries of the Lake District National Park. The village is located five miles south of Penrith, and is bounded by the parishes of Barton, Lowther, and Bampton. Historically, it consisted of the manors and townships of Askham and Helton. The development area lies in the western part of the village, on southerly sloping ground adjacent to the Bampton to Yanwath road; it lies at approximately 202.5m AOD.
- 3.1.2 The solid geology of the study area consists of rocks of Lower Carboniferous Age, predominantly Carboniferous Limestone, forming areas of limestone pavement on the fells (Countryside Commission 1998). The drift geology is largely a product of glacial activity common in the Northern Counties, being mostly boulder clays deposited in the post-glacial period over 10,000 years ago (Countryside Commission 1998). The overlying soils are mostly of the Clifton Association, which are typical stagnogley soils (Lawes Agricultural Trust 1983).

3.2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.2.1 ***Prehistoric Period:*** during the Mesolithic period, evidence suggests a concentration of activity on coastal sites in Cumbria (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 35-6); however, sporadic seasonal camps are also known further inland, including Late Mesolithic small-scale exploitation of the fells on the west of the Eden Valley (Cherry and Cherry 2002, 4). The main Neolithic remains in the immediate vicinity of the study area are the Moor Divock stone avenue on Askham Fell, 2km to the west, and the Shap Avenue 5km to the south; they may originally have been contiguous (Ferguson 1894). Moor Divock forms the intersection of several communication routes (including the north-east/south-west route corresponding to the line of the High Street Roman Road - *See* 3.2.4), and is the focus of several substantial prehistoric monuments (Quartermaine and Leech forthcoming), such as the Neolithic Cockpit stone circle and a series of Bronze Age features, including massive round and

kerbed cairns, a stone avenue, a ring cairn, standing stones, and several cairnfields (OA North 2002).

- 3.2.2 A massive Neolithic 274m long mound was recorded at Lowther, approximately 3km east of Askham village (Higham 1986, 67). Bronze Age activity within and around the park comprises a burnt mound (an enigmatic feature possibly associated with cooking, fulling or even a suana - O'Drisceoil 1988; Jeffery 1991; Barfield and Hodder 1987), a pair of round cairns to the south of the park at Round Hill and, also, a pair of standing stones and associated round cairns at Crooklands, to the north of the park (Fairclough 1979; OA North 2005).
- 3.2.3 In common with the rest of the North West, local Iron Age activity is neither well-defined nor well-represented archaeologically. The Romans, according to Ptolemy, referred to the inhabitants as the *Brigantes* who dominated much of the north of England (Higham 1986; Cunliffe 1991). Several hill-forts have been identified within a 10km area to the west of site, including forts at Castle Craggs, on the north side of Haweswater (LUAU 1997b), Castlesteads, at the northern end of Lowther Park (LUAU 1997a) and Dunmallard Hill, at the north end of Ullswater, north-west of Pooley Bridge, as well as two enclosed settlements in the northern part of the United Utilities Haweswater estate (LUAU 1997b).
- 3.2.4 **Roman:** subsequent to the overthrow of the *Brigantes* in AD 71, there is considerable evidence for Roman military activity around the study area (Shotter 1997). The main Roman route north/south from Tebay to Carlisle, which passed through Penrith and the fort at *Brocavum* (Brougham) approximately 6km to the north-east of the site (Margary 1973), intersected with the main east/west route from Brough (*ibid*). In addition, yet another road, known as High Street (*ibid*), runs north-east/south-west between the fort at Brougham and that at Ambleside (*Galava*). A number of enclosed Romano-British settlements occur in the area, scattered on well-drained soils away from the acid soils of the uplands, and all generally have distinct walls and field systems (RCHME 1936). The settlements frequently contain a series of stock pounds extending out from the principle enclosure banks, which fill the majority of the interior (OA North 2002). The Romano-British dates for this type of monument rely on a limited number of excavations, e.g. at Ewe Close and Crosby Ravensworth (Collingwood 1909), Waitby (Webster 1972), and Barnscar on the South-West Fells (Quartermaine and Leech forthcoming; Colin Richardson *pers comm*). Excavation of a rectangular enclosed settlement at Broadwood, near Ingleton, North Yorkshire, has produced radiocarbon dates indicating occupation from the late Iron Age into the first part of the Roman period (Johnson 2004, 60).
- 3.2.5 On Askham Fell, recent surveys have identified a pair of (unexcavated) Romano-British settlements on Riddingleys Top, approximately 1.5km west-south-west of the village (OA North 2002). Excavations undertaken on an enclosed settlement at Yanwath Wood, 2km north-east of the village and to the north of Castlesteads hillfort, revealed a series of possibly walled enclosures, with second century pottery in one of the field ditches (Higham 1983). A settlement site at Greatholme Plantation, in Lowther Park, was surveyed in

1997 and comprises a series of irregular plots and hut structures, butted onto the external bank of an erratic sub-rectangular external enclosure (LUAU 1997a). Work undertaken in the region has also suggested that there is evidence of centuriation in the area around Newbiggin, 6km to the north-west; remnants of regular-sized divisions seen in the landscape could indicate Roman organisation and possible settlement in the area (Richardson 1986). An As of Vespasian was found at Askham, though the exact recovery location is unknown (Site 13).

- 3.2.6 **Early Medieval:** following the withdrawal of Roman governance in the early fifth century, it seems that the region fragmented into a number of small kingdoms. Westmorland probably formed part of the kingdom of Rheged, thought to have extended north of the Solway and as far south as the river Uddon (Higham 1986). By the mid-seventh century, Cumbria had been incorporated into the kingdom of Northumbria (Kirkby 1962) and an Anglian influence can be seen on local place names (Rollinson 1996). Archaeological evidence for the early medieval period in Cumbria is sparse, although a hall-type structure of possible early medieval date was excavated at Shap, 5km to the south of Askham (Heawood and Howard Davis 2002). The arrival of Norse settlers, evicted from Ireland in AD 902, had a considerable effect on the area, not least toponymically (Higham 1986); the name of Askham village (Site 04) comes from *Askum*, derived from Norse *askr* in the dative plural form, meaning '(place at) the ash trees' (Mills 2003). On Fluskew or Flusco Pike, approximately 6km north-west of Askham village, six complete and several fragmentary tenth century silver brooches were found between 1785 and 1989 (Richardson 1996). Benny Howe Barrow, 7km to the south of Askham, was the site of a large tumulus excavated in the 1830s and now ploughed out. The name 'Benny' is derived from a personal name of Scandinavian origin, but it is not uncommon for prehistoric burial mounds to be reused in the early medieval period (O'Sullivan 1980).
- 3.2.7 There is evidence of early medieval activity associated with St Michael's church at Lowther, to the north of Lowther Castle (Site 17); three pre-conquest decorated hog-back tombstones are located within the churchyard, and there used to be two cross-shafts inside Lowther Castle, which are probably of eighth century date (Bailey and Cramp 1984). Several carved 'dark age stones' are also recorded as being found in Lowther Park (Site 54). A single Viking burial furnished with spurs, bridle fittings, spears, a shield, an axe, a ritually bent sword, and bone combs is also known from beneath a cairn at Hesketh-in-the-Forest, just to the north-east of Askham (Edwards 1992; Higham 1986).
- 3.2.8 **Late Medieval:** in the tenth and eleventh centuries 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). Malcolm III of Scotland invaded Cumbria in 1070 and was still in possession of much of the area at the time of the Domesday survey of 1086 (therefore not being included in the Domesday Book). Much of the modern county of Cumbria remained outside Norman control until 1092, when William II took Carlisle, where he built a castle and established a colony (Rowley 1983, 50). Place-name evidence indicates either adoption of Norman

names or the establishment of new settlements (Armstrong *et al* 1971), reflecting the settlement of the King's followers throughout Cumbria (Bingham 1995, 46). The area formed part of the medieval Barony of Kendal (Winchester 1987).

- 3.2.9 The late thirteenth to early fifteenth century was a period of economic depression in the area. Population decreased as a result of the threefold unpleasantnesses of plague, diseases of livestock, and the incursions of Scots from across the border (Winchester 1987, 44-45). Within a marginal environment, the effects were severe and long-lasting: economic recovery is not in evidence until the mid-fifteenth century (Roberts 1993).
- 3.2.10 The medieval settlement history of Askham village (Site **04**) is complicated by the subsequent activity associated with the encompassment of the village within the estate of the Earls of Lonsdale, based at Lowther Castle (Site **15**) to the east. It seems clear from historical records that prior to the enlargement of the estate, the village operated as a discrete entity, physically separated from the village of Lowther (Site **16**) by the Lowther river. The two villages developed in tandem, before ultimately becoming associated in the seventeenth century. The development of the settlements to the east of the river has been discussed in greater detail previously (e.g. LUAU 1997a) and is summarised below.
- 3.2.11 **Lowther Estate:** On the east side of the River Lowther there is a group of sites that appear to be contemporary and associated. St Michael's church (Site **17**) originated in the twelfth century and is still extant. Castlesteads ringwork (Site **14**) is about 350m to the south, and is the earliest medieval fortified structure at Lowther. It was referred to in a document dated to 1174 as the '*castellum de Lauudre*' (Perriam and Robinson 1998). Two areas of settlement earthworks are next to the church and fortified structure: Lowther Deserted Village (Site **16**) and Lowther Medieval Settlement (Sites **60-61**), respectively. These very probably originated at a similar date although the village is only first mentioned in the lay rolls of 1332 and 1334/6. The deer park is first referred to in either 1283 or 1337, when Hugh Lowther was granted licence to enclose land for such a purpose (Port 1981, 132; Owen 1990); this probably corresponds with the 'Old Park' shown on a map dated to 1683 (OA North 2005).
- 3.2.12 Lowther Castle (Site **15**) was constructed as a pele tower in *c* 1350, about 400m to the south-east of Castlesteads ringwork. This was extended in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries to form a castle with two towers and a central hall and, in 1630, the central portion was rebuilt in Jacobean style. In 1682, the village was pulled down by Sir John Lowther in order to enlarge his demesne (OA North 2005). By 1683, a new, much larger, park had been established, replacing the earlier deer park, which extended south of the castle, and encompassed an area of 283 hectares (OA North 2005). The depiction of the park boundary on 1683 map is very schematic but appears to be of a fairly typical size for a medieval park (Lasdun 1991). In 1718 the castle was destroyed by fire (LUAU 1997a), and the present Lowther Castle was built on the same site almost ninety years later, between 1807 and 1814. Fragments of the seventeenth century fabric are preserved in the rebuilt castle. The castle

was closed in 1935, and the grounds were used as a tank training range in WWII. In 1956-7, the roof was stripped and the castle gutted. A saw mill (Site **09**) on the east side of the River Lowther dates to 1785.

- 3.2.13 **Askham Medieval Village:** the first recorded mention of the (by then well-established) village (Site **04**) is in 1245, when the church of St Peter at Askham (Site **18**) is granted to the monastery of Wartre in East Yorkshire. During the reign of Henry III (1216-1272), the manor was acquired by Sir Thomas de Helbeck, Lord of the Manor of Helbeck, but over the ensuing centuries passed through the hands of a number of local families, including the Cliffords, the Swineburnes and, between 1373 and 1680, the Sandfords (Nicolson and Burn 1777, 422). An inquisition in 1326 refers to a dwelling on the site of Askham Hall (Site **01**) being partially burned by the Scots, and this appears to be the earliest mention of the hall. This may be the point after which the fourteenth century pele tower is built, mirroring the tower built at Lowther across the river. In 1408 and again in 1409, a mill (Site **10**) is documented as part of the manorial holdings, and in 1574 Askham Hall (Site **01**) was extended.
- 3.2.14 The layout of the village at Askham (Site **04**) is typical of medieval planned, nucleated settlements in Cumbria. The morphology of a number of villages and surviving earthworks within the Eden Valley catchment has been interpreted as representing evidence of their medieval origins (CCAS nd). These villages typically show a rectangular plan, sometimes around a green, as at Askham, but often apparently based around a narrow street (Roberts 1993, 131-3). The number of surviving 'medieval' villages is moderately large, suggesting that they may have been a product of the agricultural wealth of the Eden and Eamont catchment areas. Two possibilities have been advanced for their distinctive morphology; the first is that they developed along the outgang or narrow fan of land leading from an existing farmstead to the unenclosed common, the second that they were new and deliberate creations, and represent evidence for planning (*op cit*, 133). The foundation dates for these villages remain problematic, and to some extent rests on the assumption that they must have been settled before the disasters of the fourteenth century (Winchester 1987, 44-45). These villages have been tentatively dated to the post-Conquest period, particularly from the twelfth century onwards in Cumbria (Roberts 1993). It has also been suggested that the settlements may have been deliberate plantations by landlords as a result of the widespread destruction caused by the 'Harrying of the North' by William the Conqueror in 1069-71, and were intended to attract free tenants to the area (Taylor 1983, 134). However, the main focus of this devastation is thought to have occurred predominantly to the south and east, in Yorkshire, Lancashire and Co. Durham (Muir 1989), and it is debatable to what extent Cumbria was affected, particularly if much lay in Scottish hands.
- 3.2.15 The layout of Askham village appears to represent a combination of both a deliberate planned village of the twelfth century, and development along an outgang. The village is arranged around a rectangular green, projecting to the south-west from Askham Hall (Site **01**). The original western boundary of the village may be marked by the north/south aligned road which now runs

through the centre of the village, and immediately east of the development area; a (probably medieval) wayside cross once lay at the intersection between this road and the centre of the village axis (Site 12). The extension of the village to the west of this road appears to mark a subsequent phase of development, in all probability closely dated to the original establishment of the village. The eastern side of the village is arranged around a fan-shaped green, which is likely to be the original outgang which led onto the common land of Askham Fell, and the substantial open pasture enclosure which centred on Skirsgill Hill (CRO(K) WDRC/8/195). A further outgang has subsequently developed east of this village extension. The later phase of development also resulted in the expansion of housing onto the green itself (CCAS nd.).

- 3.2.16 The layout of the first phase of village development shows clear evidence of planning in the width of the crofts and tofts. The crofts are arranged along the north and south sides of the green, with their respective northern and southern boundaries marked by an unbroken land division. The crofts have been assessed as being an equal 22 yards in width (CCAS nd.), which clearly indicates deliberate planning. To the rear of these crofts, the tofts extend outwards to a further unbroken land division on both sides, with the strips also corresponding in width to those of the crofts at 22 yards; the strip fields are one furlong in length (CCAS nd.).
- 3.2.17 The tofts around the village of Askham are typical of many villages in the Eden Valley, which have the fossilised remains of a former 'open-field' system (Butlin 1993, 173) around them. The 'open-field' system consisted of large open arable fields in combinations of three or four, which were communally managed and rotated in terms of produce grown, grazing use, or lying fallow, and which were laid out at right angles to the main village axis. The characteristic features of this landscape are the long narrow, reversed S-shaped (aratra) strips within the large fields, which represent individual working plots within the field. The ridge and furrow undulations within the fields result from the use of animals, mostly oxen, to plough the land and the necessarily long turning circle for these animals. Where areas which were in use in this way have been subsequently used as grassland, the ridge and furrow and field layouts remain fossilised in the landscape. When the open fields were subsequently enclosed, the field boundaries often followed the lines of the internal cultivation strips, and so the fields fossilise the sinuous shape of the ridge and furrow (*ibid*). The lynchets identified to the south of the village (Sites 03 and 06), radiating from the north/south lane, may represent remnants of medieval cultivation, and ridge and furrow is clearly visible in aerial photographic evidence (*Section 3.4*).
- 3.2.18 The layout of the second phase of the village to the west conforms broadly to this planned layout, but varies slightly. The southern side of the extension has a similar layout of tofts, with corresponding boundaries to those to the east; however, due to the shape of the outgang, crofts are much larger at this point. The northern side of the extension also has larger crofts, with the northern croft boundary aligning with the northern boundary of the tofts on the eastern side of the village. The tofts extend straight back from this boundary, again for a distance of around one furlong; the northern boundary of the tofts is marked

by a lane. Typically in the layout of fields in the Eden valley, a subsidiary lane runs parallel to the village at the rear of these strip fields, termed a Back Lane, allowing access to the strips from this direction (Roberts 1993, 141). The lane at this point is likely to be just such a Back Lane, though it is interesting to note the absence of lanes to the rear of the other tofts, which may mark this as a new development at this time. Villages in the Eden valley are also noted as having several access lanes at right angles to the main village road, which connected to the Back Lane; these provided additional access, and are termed 'vennels' (Roberts 1993, 141). Such access lanes exist at Askham, but are few in number, perhaps as a result of the location of the main north/south road which runs down the centre of the village, which may have served this purpose.

- 3.2.19 Beyond the village, an undated but probably medieval house platform is shown on aerial photographs at Whitbysteads Farm (Site **05**), and there is also evidence that Askham Fell continued to be used in the later medieval period; there are extensive hollow ways associated with the line of the High Street Roman Road, demonstrating that it continued in use and was clearly a communication route of some considerable importance (Hindle 1998). An enclosed settlement on Riddingleys Top is also thought to date to the medieval period (OA North 2002).
- 3.2.20 *Post-medieval*: in 1680, the manor of Askham was sold by William Sandford, to Sir John Lowther, and it is at this stage that the village history becomes linked with that of the Lowther estate to the east. A physical link was created by the construction of Askham bridge (Site **07**) in 1679. In Askham, as for other parts of Cumbria, there was enough capital available during the period of economic growth in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries for the rebuilding of towns, villages and farmsteads in stone, and as a result there are few remaining examples of domestic architecture dating from before 1610, other than large houses built by wealthy families (Rollinson 1967, 115-7), Askham Hall (Site **01**) being typical of this. The main core of the historic buildings within the village (Sites **19-21, 27, 29, 31, 33-43, 45-50**) all appear to date to this phase of rebuilding, being of early eighteenth century date or later. Eight houses in the village may have seventeenth century origins (Sites **22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 51, 52**).
- 3.2.21 In 1777, the village was recorded as consisting of 'eighty-one families, all Church of England, except one or two' (Nicolson and Burn 1777, 420). The Window Tax records of 1777 noted 43 houses in the parish, but none are named (Lows 1995). In 1815, the Lowther family also purchased the advowson for Askham from the trustees of Edward Bolton (Mannex and Co 1851). In 1841, the population of Askham township numbered 442 (Mannex and Co 1851).
- 3.2.22 Holly House (Site **23**) forms the focus of the development area, and consists of a mid-eighteenth century farmhouse and barn; the house and barn are Grade II listed. A limited amount of information is available detailing the owners and tenants of the farm; the farmhouse appears to have been owned by the Lowther estate for several centuries. The tithe apportionment for Askham dated to 1838 records Holly House as being occupied by John Henderson and owned by the

Earl of Lonsdale. Henderson has tenancy of the crofts and tofts directly to the rear of the house, and four parcels of land off the lane to the south of the village (CRO(K) WDRC/8/195). The directory of 1829 (Parson and White 1829) records John Henderson as a butcher, while the later directories (Mannex and Co 1849, 1851) record John Henderson as a farmer, with a Joseph Henderson recorded as a butcher, perhaps indicating his son has taken on that side of the business. In a directory of 1858, no record exists of John or Joseph, but a Mrs Isabella Henderson is recorded as a private resident (Mannex and Co 1858). In 1910, the Commissioners of the Inland Revenue (CRO(K)) record the occupier of Holly House Farm as being Fenwick White, with the land still owned by the Earl of Lonsdale. The land of which he was tenant is described as ‘agricultural land, house and building’ and includes the tofts north-west of the house (no longer directly to the rear), and two fields in the vicinity (marked ‘18pt’ on the Second Edition OS map of 1898, Fig 5). The Kelly Directories of Cumberland and Westmorland (1894, 1897) record Fenwick White as being a butcher by profession.

- 3.2.23 The Agricultural Revolution of the eighteenth century made only limited inroads into Westmorland, as much of the land was too poor to produce a reasonable crop; in 1794 it was reported that no peas, beans, clover, or rye were grown in Westmorland (Rollinson 1996). Farm implements were primitive and made entirely of wood, and mechanisation was virtually unknown – even wheeled vehicles were a rarity, with preference given to pack-horses (*ibid*). By the nineteenth century all this had changed, with the introduction of lightweight ploughs, and mechanisation. The greatest impact was caused by the enclosure of much of the common land. Between 1763 and 1800 over 10,000 acres in Westmorland had been enclosed and improved, whilst after the General Enclosure Act of 1801, the process increased in scale (*ibid*). The smithy (Site **44**) in the village was probably built as a response to the need for horse-shoes and ploughs in the village in the nineteenth century, as a result of the increased demand due to enclosure activities. Askham Fell was subject to encroachment by agricultural enclosure out from Askham at this time (OA North 2002).
- 3.2.24 Lime kilns are found throughout the area, taking advantage of the local limestone beds. Their relative isolation and small scale suggest, however, that they were used primarily for the local production of lime as a fertiliser for the newly enclosed fields. Lime-burning had been practised from the Middle Ages for mortar and whitewash, but its increasing use in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries to improve acid soils led directly to the appearance of numerous small field kilns (Williams 1989). The kilns were usually located adjacent to paths by which limestone could be brought in and quicklime taken out. They were stone-built, mortared or of drystone construction, often on a partial bedrock foundation and were built into a slope or one face of the quarry supplying them (*ibid*). Lime kilns and quarries are recorded approximately 1km to the north of Askham (Site **02**), 1km to the south of the village (Site **08**), and a series of six quarries and three lime kilns are recorded up to 1km to the west of the village (Site **11**); extraction quarries and lime kilns have also been recorded on Askham Fell (OA North 2002).

3.2.25 In 1828, Askham Hall (Site **01**) was converted, by permission of the bishop, into the rectory house for the Lowther parish (Mannex and Co 1851). Following the abandonment of Lowther Castle in the twentieth century, the hall became the seat of Lord Lonsdale, and is now in use as a private residence. The church of St Peter (Site **18**) was rebuilt by the Earl of Lonsdale in 1832-3 (Mannex and Co 1851). Askham Bridge (Site **07**) appears to have been rebuilt around 1897, and was opened by the Countess of Lonsdale. A type-K6 phone box (Site **25**) was installed in village at the crossroads in the twentieth century.

3.3 MAP REGRESSION ANALYSIS

3.3.1 The Cumbria County Record Office at Kendal (CRO(K)) was consulted for maps for regression analysis for the site and the surrounding area. The maps consulted consisted of the early eighteenth and nineteenth century maps for the area, and a full sequence of OS maps, either 25" or 6" to 1 mile, which were examined from the first to the third editions. The early maps, and the 6" to 1 mile and 25" to 1 mile OS maps, are reproduced in Figures 3 and 4. The tithe map was also consulted but could not be reproduced.

3.3.2 *Jeffery 1768* (Fig 3): the proposed development site is shown as a block of buildings adjacent to the crossroads with the Bampton to Yanwath road, but insufficient detail is provided and the buildings are likely to be schematic rather than a true representation of the village layout (Site **04**). Nevertheless, it is interesting to note that the western half of the village appears more undeveloped than the eastern half of the village at this time, with most of the buildings lying along the northern side of the outgang. Of the sites identified in the desk-based assessment, only representations of Askham Hall (Site **01**), St Peter's Church (Site **18**), St Michael's Church (Site **17**), Askham Bridge (Site **07**) and Lowther Castle and Park (Site **15**) are shown.

3.3.3 *Tithe Apportionment Map for Askham, 1838 (WDRC/8/195)*: the tithe map shows the farm buildings of Holly House Farm (Site **23**) fronting onto the street, and the croft to the rear largely empty, though a small barn is shown adjacent to the western boundary of the croft. A sub-division of the croft is visible on the eastern side, running north from one of the smaller farm buildings; this probably represents a remnant of the medieval property boundary, later amalgamated. In the toft immediately to the rear of the croft, a small barn is shown adjacent to the south-west corner of the field, and another barn is shown on the eastern side adjacent to the road. The buildings shown are identical to those outlined later on the later First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1859. The layout of the village shows the tofts and crofts radiating north and south from the eastern and western sides of the village, but little further detail is given.

3.3.4 *Ordnance Survey (OS) First Edition 6" to 1 mile 1859-63 and 25" to 1 mile 1859-61* (Fig 4 and 5): the two maps are considered together, as both were drawn from the same survey, though the latter map is more detailed. On the 6" to 1 mile map, the layout of the buildings at Holly House Farm (Site **23**) is identical to the tithe map. The map also shows: Askham Hall (Site **01**), which

is marked 'Lowther Rectory'; Askham Lime Kiln and Quarry (Site **02**), which is marked 'limekiln' and was presumably still in use; Askham Bridge (Site **07**), named as such; Low Donald Wood Lime Kiln and Quarry (Site **08**), which is marked 'limekiln' and was presumably still in use; Lowther Saw Mill (Site **09**), labelled as 'Saw Mill' and with its mill-race labelled; Askham Corn Mill (Site **10**), labelled as 'corn mill'; Townhead Quarries and Lime Kiln (Site **11**), with the lime-kilns labelled 'old lime-kilns' suggesting they are no longer in use; Askham Cross (Site **12**), labelled as 'remnants of...'; Castlesteads Ringwork (Site **14**), labelled 'Castle Stead' and showing a rectangular earthwork with 'protrusion' at the south-east corner; Lowther Castle and Park (Site **15**); St Michael's Church (Site **17**), marked 'rectory', with the mausoleum also labelled; St Peter's Church (Site **18**); a well to the rear of Midtown Farmhouse (Site **62**); and the 'Lady Well' at Askham Hall (Site **63**). The 25" to 1 mile map shows the same sites. In addition, the map shows more detail of the croft to the rear of Holly House Farm (Site **23**); a footpath is shown running along the eastern side of the sub-division seen on the tithe map, and a further footpath running between the house and the barn in the south-west corner of the toft; the latter corresponds with a sub-division shown on the building itself. The footpaths and sub-division boundary separate the croft into three clear equal parcels of land, and this reinforces the likelihood that these are preserved medieval boundaries to the original land-holdings; Holly House Farm, therefore, was presumably a consolidation of three different medieval dwellings, probably combined around the seventeenth century when the farm was built. The layout of the village field-system still shows evidence for the earlier medieval layout, though several field boundaries have now been removed.

3.3.5 *Ordnance Survey (OS) Second Edition 25" to 1 mile 1897-8* (Fig 6): Holly House Farm (Site **23**) is shown as for the earlier edition, though the footpaths are no longer shown. The barns adjacent to the western boundary of the croft and the eastern boundary of the toft have been removed. A pump, marked 'P', is shown to the rear of, and adjacent to, the buildings; pumps are also shown to the rear of Keld Head Farmhouse, Low Side, Sawmill Cottage, and Midtown Cottage (Site **64-8**); the latter replaces the existing well (Site **62**). All the sites identified on the earlier edition are visible as previously; the Saw Mill (Site **09**) now includes a gasometer in its grounds, and the Askham Cross (Site **12**) is now marked as 'Site of', which it continues to be labelled as to the present day. The Queen's Head Hotel (Site **24**) is labelled as such for the first time, as is the Punch Bowl Hotel (Site **41**). A trough (Site **69**) is shown adjacent to the road on the village green. A smithy is also marked (Site **44**). Further boundaries have been removed from the village field-system.

3.3.6 *Ordnance Survey (OS) Third Edition 6" to 1 mile 1913-20* (Fig 7): Holly House Farm (Site **23**) is shown as for the earlier edition. All the sites identified on the earlier edition are visible as previously, though the pumps (Site **64-8**) are not shown, perhaps due to the scale of the map. The Askham Lime Kiln and Quarry (Site **02**) is now marked as 'old limekiln', indicating it has gone out of use; the Askham Corn Mill (Site **10**) is still visible but no longer named, perhaps indicating it no longer serves as a mill; the buildings are now a private residence. Askham Hall (Site **01**) is no longer marked as 'Lowther Rectory'. A

saw mill, labelled in the same position as Sawmill Cottage (Site **45**), is identified for the first time; the buildings which the mill occupies consist of a rectangular block to the rear of the croft at the back of the cottage. Further boundaries have been removed from the village field-system.

3.4 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

- 3.4.1 A series of aerial photographs were examined at the Cumbria County Archaeological Service HER, showing the village of Askham and the development area. The photographs are the result of two aerial sorties, by Manchester University and Cumbria County Council respectively, and are of fairly recent date. The photographs are reproduced in Plates 1-6, and are described in the following section.
- 3.4.2 *Manchester University MUCS 73/24* (Plate 1): this aerial photograph is a general view of Askham village, facing east towards Lowther Castle (Site **15**); the castle and park are visible in the upper third of the photograph. The photograph is of interest as it highlights the layout of the village, with the medieval strip fields still visible radiating north and south from the main village axis. The village occupies a broadly level area of ground; the western limit of the village is marked by the base of Askham Fell, visible in the lower foreground of the picture. The development area lies approximately in the centre of the picture, to the right of a modern U-shaped housing development. Ridge and furrow is visible to the left of this housing development, in the tofts radiating northwards from the western half of the village.
- 3.4.3 *Manchester University MUCS 73/27* (Plate 2): this aerial photograph is also a general view of the village, facing west, with the base of Askham Fell towards the top of the photograph. Askham Hall (Site **01**) and St Peter's Church (Site **18**) are visible in the foreground at the bottom of the photograph. Along the south side of the village, the tofts are visible radiating southwards; evidence of ridge and furrow and former field boundaries are visible in the tofts. The tofts on the northern side of the village have evidently had their boundaries removed, as these are visible as low earthworks; ridge and furrow is also visible in these fields. The development area lies to the left of the U-shape housing development, in the centre of the photograph; the tofts to the north all clearly show evidence of ridge and furrow.
- 3.4.4 *Manchester University MUCS 73/25* (Plate 3): this aerial photograph shows more detail of the eastern half of the village, and partial detail of the western half. Askham Hall (Site **01**) and St Peter's Church (Site **18**) are visible to the right, adjacent to the River Lowther which forms the right boundary of the photograph. In the foreground, the southern village tofts are visible radiating southwards from the main village axis. Former field boundaries and ridge and furrow earthworks are visible. The northern tofts also show evidence of former field boundaries and ridge and furrow. To the north of the development area (which lies south of the housing development, centre left) clear evidence of ridge and furrow is visible radiating northwards towards an east/west lane.

- 3.4.5 **Manchester University MUCS 87/1** (Plate 4): this aerial photograph shows further detail of the main village core, again emphasising the layout of the field systems to the north and south of the village. Askham Hall (Site **01**) and St Peter's Church (Site **18**) lie towards the upper right corner of the photograph. The development area lies in the lower centre-left.
- 3.4.6 **Cumbria County Council CCC 3011/33** (Plate 5): this aerial photograph shows the western half of the village, with only a small section of the eastern half visible. The field systems to the south of this half of the village appear largely amalgamated; relic field boundaries are, however, still visible. The development area lies in the top-right corner of the photograph; a limited view of the fields to the north is afforded, showing some evidence of field boundary removal.
- 3.4.7 **Cumbria County Council CCC 3011/38** (Plate 6): this aerial photograph faces southwards across the western half of the village, and shows the field systems to the north of the development area in greater detail. Ridge and furrow and former land divisions are clearly visible in the centre-left of the photograph, with the ground rising to the west (right) and marking the western boundary of the village. The development area lies to the north of the modern housing development in the centre-left of the photograph, and is partially obscured by it.

3.5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTIONS

- 3.5.1 No archaeological interventions have previously been carried out in the village. At the time of writing, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (NPA) were conducting a watching brief on the installation of a new power-line to the south of the village, but the results are not yet published (Eleanor Kingston *pers comm*); to date the watching brief has identified surviving evidence of fossilised ridge and furrow and headlands, in the form of earthworks, in the fields to the south of the village (Giecco *pers comm.*). The most extensive archaeological work carried out in the area consists of archaeological surveys carried out on Askham Fell to the west (OA North 2002; Quartermaine and Leech forthcoming), and in Lowther Park to the east (LUAU 1997a; OA North 2005).

3.6 SITE INSPECTION

- 3.6.1 A site inspection was conducted on the 1st March 2005. The development area is currently used as a garden by Holly House, and is maintained as rough grassland. The area is bounded by a drystone wall on the west, north and east sides, with the south side defined by the buildings. A small gate leads into the garden from a lane to the west, which runs up the western side of the development area. There is also a lane running along the northern field-wall, and a five-bar farm-gate provides access into the garden from this. The eastern end of this lane is occupied by an electricity sub-station, and the tenant states that an electricity main runs from the sub-station, turning south through the

gate and running down towards the barn-doors in the main building (Paul Commander *pers comm*).

- 3.6.2 The eastern third of the garden is sub-divided off from the main garden by a drystone wall, which has previously been identified on early maps (*Section 3.3*) and may be a sub-division of medieval origin. The land to the east of the wall is broadly flat, and the tenant states that the land was used as a vegetable plot for many years (Paul Commander *pers comm*). A short section of concrete path runs around the south-east corner of the plot. The main garden slopes down to the west from the drystone wall, though the area between the barn doors and the five-bar gate is flat and was probably a track originally. A small section of wall is present along the western edge of this track, extending 3m from the building. The area immediately west of this wall, and in front of the building, consists of a concrete patio area, which has been terraced into the slope to the east. In the north-west corner of the garden, a roughly square area has been sub-divided off by a line of trees around the southern and eastern sides of the area. The area is broadly flat, and it is possible that this represents a building platform, although the detailed topography is hard to determine and a large pile of rubble has been dumped to the east of the trees. Two of the proposed dwellings will occupy the land on the eastern side of the garden, while the third will occupy the north-west corner.

4 GAZETTEER OF SITES

Site number	01
Site name	Askham Hall and Gardens
NGR	NY 51626 23948
Site type	Fortified House and Gardens
Period	Medieval
SMR No	3834
Statutory Designation	Grade I Listed Building No. 23175, Grade II Listed Building No. 23176-8, Parks and Gardens Register No. 1651
Sources	HER; LDNPA; MUCS 73/25, 87/1, 27; Pevsner 1967; Jeffery 1768; Ordnance Survey (OS) First Edition 6" to 1 mile 1859-63 and 25" to 1 mile 1859-61; Ordnance Survey (OS) Second Edition 25" to 1 mile 1897-8; Ordnance Survey (OS) Third Edition 6" to 1 mile 1913-20
Description	The hall consist of a large house and outbuildings in courtyard plan, with a gatehouse; the seventeenth to eighteenth century gate piers are Grade II Listed (no. 23178). The house dates from the fourteenth century (the pele tower forming the south wing), with the buildings around the courtyard dating from the sixteenth century (built by Thomas Sandford, who is recorded on the datestone with his wife Anne, dated 1574); the eighteenth century barn to the west of the hall is Grade II Listed (no. 23177). The south front of the tower was remodelled between 1685 and 1690. The interior includes a seventeenth century staircase with twisted balusters. The garden is also listed in the National Gardens Register, and the terrace walls and steps are Grade II Listed (no. 23176).
Assessment	The site lies to the east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	02
Site name	Askham Lime Kiln and Quarry
NGR	NY 50880 24345
Site type	Lime Kiln and Quarry
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	3685 & 15478
Statutory Designation	Grade II Listed Building No. 23163
Sources	HER; LDNPA; Ordnance Survey (OS) First Edition 6" to 1 mile 1859-63 and 25" to 1 mile 1859-61; Ordnance Survey (OS) Second Edition 25" to 1 mile 1897-8; Ordnance Survey (OS) Third Edition 6" to 1 mile 1913-20
Description	Site of a mid nineteenth century lime kiln, consisting of a complete massive dressed stone structure, in a deteriorating state. The lime kiln is a typical field kiln in rectangular plan, built into the slope of the ground. The east-facing fire hole is segmental-arched, with a single oval pot, measuring 2.5m by 1.5m, and lined with large tapered fire-bricks. A large quarry lies adjacent.
Assessment	The site lies to the north of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	03
Site name	Lynchets SW of Askham Church
NGR	NY 51400 22800
Site type	Lynchets
Period	Unknown
SMR No	5435
Sources	HER; LDNPA; RCHM 1936
Description	A series of lynchets approximately 1 mile south-west of Askham church, first identified in 1936. The lynchets are cut into an east-facing slope, and extend for around 160 yards from east/west. The terraces are now denuded and in poor condition.
Assessment	The site lies to the south of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	04
Site name	Askham Village Hazard Area
NGR	NY 51000 23000
Site type	Village Hazard Area
Period	Medieval
SMR No	6746
Sources	HER
Description	The hazard area for the medieval village of Askham. Ridge and furrow, lynchets and field systems are visible in close proximity to the village on the aerial photographs.
Assessment	The development area lies within this site and the site will be affected.

Site number	05
Site name	Whitbysteads Earthworks, Askham
NGR	NY 50900 23000
Site type	House Platform and Bank
Period	Unknown
SMR No	13533
Sources	HER; LDNPA; aerial photographs CCC 3011, 29-30
Description	An earthwork bank and possible house platform seen on aerial photographs
Assessment	The site lies to the south-west of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	06
Site name	Askham Unclassified Earthworks
NGR	NY 51300 23300
Site type	Earthwork
Period	Unknown
SMR No	14533
Sources	HER; LDNPA; aerial photographs CCC 3011, 32
Description	General earthworks identified on an aerial photograph.
Assessment	The site lies to the south of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	07
Site name	Askham Bridge
NGR	NY 51845 23909
Site type	Bridge
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	15448
Statutory Designation	Grade II Listed Building No. 25152
Sources	HER; LDNPA; Ordnance Survey (OS) First Edition 6" to 1 mile 1859-63 and 25" to 1 mile 1859-61; Ordnance Survey (OS) Second Edition 25" to 1 mile 1897-8; Ordnance Survey (OS) Third Edition 6" to 1 mile 1913-20
Description	Post-medieval bridge across the river Lowther, first built in 1679. The current bridge is dated on the parapet stone to September 17 th 1897. The current bridge is of pink sandstone ashlar.
Assessment	The site lies to the east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	08
Site name	Low Donald Wood Lime Kiln and Quarry, Askham
NGR	NY 51070 22820
Site type	Lime Kiln and Quarry
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	15470 & 30836
Statutory Designation	Grade II Listed Building No. 23165

Sources	HER; LDNPA; Ordnance Survey (OS) First Edition 6" to 1 mile 1859-63 and 25" to 1 mile 1859-61; Ordnance Survey (OS) Second Edition 25" to 1 mile 1897-8; Ordnance Survey (OS) Third Edition 6" to 1 mile 1913-20
Description	Low Donald Wood Quarry lies in woodland to the south of Askham village. Its associated lime kiln is square planned and of nineteenth century date. It is built into the slope, and in good condition. The large kiln has two segmental-arched draw eyes, both having hinge pins and catches for cast-iron fire doors. The pot is single and oval, with no straight sides, and is not lined with fire-bricks. It measures 4m by 3m.
Assessment	The site lies to the south of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	09
Site name	Lowther Saw Mill, Askham
NGR	NY 51710 24200
Site type	Water Mill
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	15474
Sources	HER; LDNPA; Ordnance Survey (OS) First Edition 6" to 1 mile 1859-63 and 25" to 1 mile 1859-61; Ordnance Survey (OS) Second Edition 25" to 1 mile 1897-8; Ordnance Survey (OS) Third Edition 6" to 1 mile 1913-20
Description	Lowther Saw Mill lies to the east of Askham, on the eastern bank of the river Lowther. The mill takes its water from the same weir as Askham Corn Mill (Site 10), via a sluice. Another building is shown on the OS First Edition map, and the OS Second Edition map shows a gas meter adjacent. The mill is dated by Marshall Davies-Shiel to 1785.
Assessment	The site lies to the east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	10
Site name	Askham Corn Mill
NGR	NY 51730 24040
Site type	Water Mill
Period	Medieval
SMR No	15475
Sources	HER; LDNPA; Nicolson and Burn 1777; Ordnance Survey (OS) First Edition 6" to 1 mile 1859-63 and 25" to 1 mile 1859-61; Ordnance Survey (OS) Second Edition 25" to 1 mile 1897-8; Ordnance Survey (OS) Third Edition 6" to 1 mile 1913-20
Description	Askham Corn Mill is mentioned in Lowther Castle documents in 1340, 1496 and 1511; the mill also probably corresponds with that recorded in documents relating to the de Sandford family (Nicolson and Burn 1777). It is a bank mill which took its water directly from the adjacent V-shaped weir (which also supplied the saw mill – Site 09). The tail race lies in a specially built channel in the river. The sluice for the mill appears on the Second Edition OS map, and the weir appears on all three editions. The mill is dated by Marshall Davies-Shiel to 1720, and he states it was also used as a saw mill; this mill is likely to be a replacement of the earlier fourteenth century mill.
Assessment	The site lies to the east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	11
Site name	Townhead Quarries and Lime Kilns, Askham
NGR	NY 50675 23800
Site type	Lime Kilns and Quarries
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	15477 & 15478
Sources	HER LDNPA; Ordnance Survey (OS) First Edition 6" to 1 mile 1859-63 and 25" to 1 mile 1859-61 Ordnance Survey (OS) Second Edition 25" to 1 mile 1897-8; Ordnance Survey (OS) Third Edition 6" to 1 mile 1913-20

Description	A series of six limestone quarries between 0.3km and 1km from Askham village. The quarry north-west of Townhead Farm has an associated lime kiln, as do two other quarries in the vicinity. The lime-kilns were out of use by 1859.
Assessment	The site lies to the west of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	12
Site name	Askham Cross
NGR	NY 51275 23660
Site type	Site of Former Wayside Cross
Period	Unknown
SMR No	15476
Sources	HER; LDNPA; Ordnance Survey (OS) First Edition 6" to 1 mile 1859-63 and 25" to 1 mile 1859-61
Description	Askham Cross was situated at the crossroads in the middle of Askham village. On the OS First edition map the remnants of it were still <i>in situ</i> . Marked as 'site of ..' in later editions.
Assessment	The site lies to the south-east of the development area and may be affected.

Site number	13
Site name	Coin Find, Askham
NGR	NY 51000 23000
Site type	Findspot
Period	Roman
SMR No	19161
Sources	HER
Description	An As of Vespasian was found at Askham, though the exact location is unknown. The coin exhibits very little wear.
Assessment	The site is poorly located and may be affected by the development area.

Site number	14
Site name	Castlesteads Ringwork
NGR	NY 51900 24120
Site type	Earthwork
Period	Medieval
SMR No	3832
Sources	HER; LDNPA; LUAU 1997a; Ordnance Survey (OS) First Edition 6" to 1 mile 1859-63 and 25" to 1 mile 1859-61; Ordnance Survey (OS) Second Edition 25" to 1 mile 1897-8; Ordnance Survey (OS) Third Edition 6" to 1 mile 1913-20
Description	The ringwork is described in the HER as a 'rectangular earthwork', and it appears on all OS mapping, marked 'Castlesteads'. The earthworks relate to a twelfth century timber ringwork site. A survey undertaken showed it to be 30m by 25m, with substantial ramparts 4-5m thick, with two possible entrances. Collapsed debris was visible in the interior.
Assessment	The site lies to the east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	15
Site name	Lowther Castle and Park
NGR	NY 52179 23818
Site type	Ruined Castle and Landscape Park
Period	Medieval and Post-medieval
SMR No	4726
Statutory Designation	Grade II* Listed Building No. 25164-6, 25168; Parks and Gardens Register No. 1659
Sources	HER; LDNPA; MUCS 73/24; Jeffery 1768; Ordnance Survey (OS) First Edition 6" to 1 mile 1859-63 and 25" to 1 mile 1859-61; Ordnance Survey (OS) Second

	Edition 25" to 1 mile 1897-8; Ordnance Survey (OS) Third Edition 6" to 1 mile 1913-20
Description	Lowther Castle was originally constructed as a pele tower in 1350, then extended in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries to form a castle with two towers and a central hall. In 1630, the central portion was rebuilt in Jacobean style. The house was burnt down in 1720, and the present castle was built in 1808. Fragments of the seventeenth century fabric are preserved in the rebuilt castle. The castle was gutted in the twentieth century, but the façade is still intact. The castle, stable block, inner terrace wall, and lodge are all Listed Building Grade II*. Lowther Park is in the National Parks and Gardens Register; it was granted as a deer park after 1283, and enlarged successively up to the nineteenth century.
Assessment	The site lies to the east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	16
Site name	Lowther Deserted Village
NGR	NY 51800 24400
Site type	Deserted Village
Period	Medieval
SMR No	5437 & 5485
Sources	HER; LDNPA; LUAU 1997a; CCC and MU aerial photographs
Description	The village is mentioned in the lay rolls of 1332 and 1334/6, though it does not figure in the Domesday Survey, being outside of Norman control at this time. The village exists as a series of earthworks, which have also been suggested as being evidence of a Tenter ground. The LUAU survey identified a series of well-defined terrace lynchets standing 2-3m in height and 4-5m in width. Location of village 'between Lowther Castle and St Michael's Church' at NY 523 238, possibly incorrect.
Assessment	The site lies to the east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	17
Site name	Church of St Michael, Lowther
NGR	NY 51903 24457
Site type	Church
Period	Medieval
SMR No	9861
Statutory Designation	Grade II* Listed Building No. 25169-72, 25174
Sources	HER; CCC and MU aerial photographs; Jeffery 1768; Ordnance Survey (OS) First Edition 6" to 1 mile 1859-63 and 25" to 1 mile 1859-61; Ordnance Survey (OS) Second Edition 25" to 1 mile 1897-8; Ordnance Survey (OS) Third Edition 6" to 1 mile 1913-20
Description	The church of St Michael at Lowther, twelfth and thirteenth century in origin but rebuilt in the seventeenth century, and completely remodelled in the nineteenth century. It has been suggested as the site of a monastery, but this is unconfirmed. The listing includes a twelfth century cross and a seventeenth century mounting block in the church grounds, as well the nineteenth century mausoleum for the Lowther family. The late seventeenth century gate piers are also listed.
Assessment	The site lies to the east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	18
Site name	Church of St Peter (and associated tombs), Askham
NGR	NY 51818 23852
Site type	Church
Period	Medieval and Post-medieval
SMR No	23170-23174
Statutory Designation	Grade II* Listed Building No. 23170; Grade II Listed Buildings No. 23171-4
Sources	HER; MUCS 73/25,27, 87/1; Jeffery 1768; Ordnance Survey (OS) First Edition 6" to 1 mile 1859-63 and 25" to 1 mile 1859-61; Ordnance Survey (OS) Second

	Edition 25" to 1 mile 1897-8; Ordnance Survey (OS) Third Edition 6" to 1 mile 1913-20
Description	The parish church for Askham. The current church is dated to 1832 by a datestone over the entrance, and was designed and built by Sir Robert Smirke, who also designed Lowther Castle (Site 15). The church incorporates features from the original medieval church on the site. The transept was the burial chapel for the Sandford family of Askham Hall, and includes seventeenth and eighteenth century plaques to members of the family. Four eighteenth century chest tombs and monuments in the churchyard are also Grade II Listed.
Assessment	The site lies to the east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	19
Site name	Curlew Cottage, Askham
NGR	NY 51118 23678
Site type	Building
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	23179
Statutory Designation	Grade II Listed Building No. 23179
Sources	HER
Description	An eighteenth century house within Askham village; the datestone records 'I & MA/1724'. The house is of rough-cast stone, and may incorporate a converted outbuilding.
Assessment	The site lies to the west of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	20
Site name	Keldside and Keld Cottage, Askham
NGR	NY 51134 23675
Site type	Building
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	23180
Statutory Designation	Grade II Listed Building No. 23180
Sources	HER
Description	Two eighteenth century houses in Askham village, forming a row. A datestone over an entrance is inscribed '1777'. The houses are of whitewashed rubble with a graduated greenslate roof.
Assessment	The site lies to the west of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	21
Site name	Keld Head Farmhouse and attached barn, Askham
NGR	NY 51165 23686
Site type	Building
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	23181
Statutory Designation	Grade II Listed Building No. 23181
Sources	HER
Description	An eighteenth century farmhouse, the datestone on the lintel of the house records 'IT/1704'. The barn dates to 1814. The house is of roughcast stone, with the barn of dressed stone with ashlar dressings. Both the barn and house have slate roofs.
Assessment	The site lies to the west of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	22
Site name	Brook Villa and Stable, Askham
NGR	NY 51219 23683
Site type	Building
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	23182

Statutory Designation Grade II Listed Building No. 23182
Sources HER
Description A mid-eighteenth century farmhouse and later stable. The house consists of mixed calciferous sandstone rubble walls, with greenslate roof. An internal seventeenth century datestone was uncovered by the owner.
Assessment The site lies to the west of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number 23
Site name **Holly House Farm and adjoining barn, Askham**
NGR NY 51253 23691
Site type Building
Period Post-medieval
SMR No 23183
Statutory Designation Grade II Listed Building No. 23183
Sources HER; WDRC/8/195; Ordnance Survey (OS) First Edition 6" to 1 mile 1859-63 and 25" to 1 mile 1859-61; Ordnance Survey (OS) Second Edition 25" to 1 mile 1897-8; Ordnance Survey (OS) Third Edition 6" to 1 mile 1913-20
Description A mid-eighteenth century farmhouse and barn. The walls are cement rendered, but the barn shows walls of mixed sandstone rubble construction. The roofs are of graduated greenslate. A pump (site 64) shown to rear on second edition 25" map.
Assessment The site lies within the development area and will be affected.

Site number 24
Site name **The Queen's Head Inn, Askham**
NGR NY 51295 23692
Site type Building
Period Post-medieval
SMR No 23184
Statutory Designation Grade II Listed Building No. 23184
Sources HER; Ordnance Survey (OS) Second Edition 25" to 1 mile 1897-8; Ordnance Survey (OS) Third Edition 6" to 1 mile 1913-20
Description Two eighteenth century houses, now forming a public house. The datestone is inscribed 'T&AN 1682' but according to the HER the house is in fact dated 1762. The walls consist of roughcast limestone rubble walls, with graduated greenslate roofs. First named on second edition OS map.
Assessment The site lies to the east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number 25
Site name **K6 Telephone Kiosk opposite Post Office, Askham**
NGR NY 51295 23657
Site type Telephone Kiosk
Period Modern
SMR No 23186
Statutory Designation Grade II Listed Building No. 23186
Sources HER
Description A K6 type telephone kiosk, designed in 1935 by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott. The kiosk is cast-iron, and square in plan with a domed roof.
Assessment The site lies to the south-east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number 26
Site name **Askham Gate and barn adjoining, Askham**
NGR NY 51299 23635
Site type Building
Period Post-medieval
SMR No 23186
Statutory Designation Grade II Listed Building No. 23186

Sources	HER
Description	A late-eighteenth century farmhouse and barn, incorporating a doorway from an earlier house. The walls of the house are painted incised stucco, and the roof is of graduated greenslate. The barn is of mixed sandstone and limestone rubble, with a Welsh slate roof. A section of wall between the farmhouse and barn includes a doorway with a datestone inscribed 'I&EL 1683', which may point to an original, earlier date for construction.
Assessment	The site lies to the south-east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	27
Site name	Wellington House, Askham
NGR	NY 51229 23639
Site type	Building
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	23187
Statutory Designation	Grade II Listed Building No. 23187
Sources	HER
Description	A late eighteenth or early nineteenth century farmhouse, the adjacent barn being dated to 1811. The buildings are of sandstone rubble with greenslate roofs.
Assessment	The site lies to the south-west of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	28
Site name	Laburnum Cottage, Askham
NGR	NY 51174 23619
Site type	Building
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	23188
Statutory Designation	Grade II Listed Building No. 23188
Sources	HER
Description	A house of probably late seventeenth century date. The walls are of roughcast stone and the roof is of slate.
Assessment	The site lies to the south-west of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	29
Site name	Brookside, Askham
NGR	NY 51134 23617
Site type	Building
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	23189
Statutory Designation	Grade II Listed Building No. 23189
Sources	HER
Description	A late eighteenth century house. The walls are of roughcast stone, and the roof is of graduated greenslate.
Assessment	The site lies to the south-west of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	30
Site name	Nook Cottage, Askham
NGR	NY 51114 23600
Site type	Building
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	23190
Statutory Designation	Grade II Listed Building No. 23190
Sources	HER
Description	A late seventeenth or early eighteenth century house. The walls are of stone rubble.
Assessment	The site lies to the west of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number 31
Site name The Hollies, Askham
NGR NY 51078 23609
Site type Building
Period Post-medieval
SMR No 23191
Statutory Designation Grade II Listed Building No. 23191
Sources HER
Description A house of probably mid-eighteenth century date, with later alterations which are dated by a datestone inscribed 'A&HD 1800'. The walls are of whitewashed rubble, while the roof is of graduated greenslate.
Assessment The site lies to the west of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number 32
Site name Hill Farmhouse, Askham
NGR NY 51075 23633
Site type Building
Period Post-medieval
SMR No 23192
Statutory Designation Grade II Listed Building No. 23192
Sources HER
Description A mid-seventeenth century farmhouse; the datestone is inscribed 'M1650'. The walls are of roughcast stone, while the roof is of slate.
Assessment The site lies to the west of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number 33
Site name Lowther Outdoor Activity Centre and barn adjoining, Askham
NGR NY 51364 23711
Site type Building
Period Post-medieval
SMR No 23193
Statutory Designation Grade II Listed Building No. 23193
Sources HER
Description A mid-eighteenth century farmhouse with barn and former stable; part of the building was probably a reading room. The walls are of painted roughcast, and the roof is of graduated greenslate.
Assessment The site lies to the east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number 34
Site name School Bank Cottage and barn adjoining, Askham
NGR NY 51410 23744
Site type Building
Period Post-medieval
SMR No 23194
Statutory Designation Grade II Listed Building No. 23194
Sources HER
Description An early eighteenth century farmhouse and barn. The walls are of limestone rubble, and the roof is of graduated greenslate.
Assessment The site lies to the north-east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number 35
Site name Nos. 1, 2, and 3 School Hill and Rose Cottage, Askham
NGR NY 51428 23762
Site type Building
Period Post-medieval
SMR No 23195

Statutory Designation	Grade II Listed Building No. 23195
Sources	HER
Description	Three houses of nineteenth century date (dated from a datestone 'JH 1819') and a cottage of eighteenth century date (dated from a datestone 'A&AH 1763'). The houses have incised render walls, while the cottage has painted render walls; the roofs are of graduated greenslate.
Assessment	The site lies to the north-east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	36
Site name	Nos. 2 and 3 Park View, Askham
NGR	NY 51465 23799
Site type	Building
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	23196
Statutory Designation	Grade II Listed Building No. 23196
Sources	HER
Description	Two nineteenth century houses, dated by a datestone inscribed 'JEA 1832'. The walls are painted and rendered, while the roof is of graduated greenslate.
Assessment	The site lies to the north-east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	37
Site name	No. 4 Park View with outbuilding, Askham
NGR	NY 51491 23816
Site type	Building
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	23197
Statutory Designation	Grade II Listed Building No. 23197
Sources	HER
Description	An eighteenth century house, formerly two houses; datestones over the entrances are inscribed 'ME/1712' and '1732'. The walls are of roughcast stone, and the roof is of slate. The outbuilding is of dressed stone.
Assessment	The site lies to the north-east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	38
Site name	Pear Tree Cottage and barn adjoining, Askham
NGR	NY 51514 23827
Site type	Building
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	23198
Statutory Designation	Grade II Listed Building No. 23198
Sources	HER
Description	An early eighteenth century farmhouse and barn. The walls are of painted rubble, under a graduated greenslate roof.
Assessment	The site lies to the north-east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	39
Site name	West View (Nos. 1, 2, and 3 and former barn adjoining), Askham
NGR	NY 51555 23833
Site type	Building
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	23199
Statutory Designation	Grade II Listed Building No. 23199
Sources	HER
Description	Three early nineteenth century houses and a former barn, forming a row. The walls are rendered and partly painted, and the roof is of graduated greenslate.
Assessment	The site lies to the north-east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number 40
Site name Hall Cottage and front garden wall, Askham
NGR NY 51635 23809
Site type Building
Period Post-medieval
SMR No 23200
Statutory Designation Grade II Listed Building No. 23200
Sources HER
Description An eighteenth century house, originally two houses when built. The walls are of roughcast stone, while the roof is of slate. The garden wall is included in the listing.
Assessment The site lies to the north-east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number 41
Site name Punch Bowl Hotel Public House, Askham
NGR NY 51620 23796
Site type Building
Period Post-medieval
SMR No 23201
Statutory Designation Grade II Listed Building No. 23201
Sources HER; Ordnance Survey (OS) Second Edition 25" to 1 mile 1897-8; Ordnance Survey (OS) Third Edition 6" to 1 mile 1913-20
Description An eighteenth century public house. The walls are of roughcast stone while the roof is of slate. The public house is first named on the second edition map.
Assessment The site lies to the east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number 42
Site name Askham Hall Farmhouse and barns/stables adjoining, Askham
NGR NY 51565 23771
Site type Building
Period Post-medieval
SMR No 23202
Statutory Designation Grade II Listed Building No. 23202
Sources HER
Description A mid-eighteenth century farmhouse, barns and stables. The walls are painted and rendered, while the roof is of graduated greenslate. Part of the right barn is incorporated into Low Side (Site 43).
Assessment The site lies to the east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number 43
Site name Low Side, Askham
NGR NY 51544 23754
Site type Building
Period Post-medieval
SMR No 23203
Statutory Designation Grade II Listed Building No. 23203
Sources HER
Description An early eighteenth century house, incorporating part of the barn of the adjacent Askham Hall Farmhouse (Site 42). The walls are cement rendered, and the roof is of graduated greenslate.
Assessment The site lies to the east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number 44
Site name Former Smithy to east of Sawmill Cottage, Askham
NGR NY 51530 23746
Site type Building

Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	23204
Statutory Designation	Grade II Listed Building No. 23204
Sources	HER; Ordnance Survey (OS) Second Edition 25" to 1 mile 1897-8; Ordnance Survey (OS) Third Edition 6" to 1 mile 1913-20
Description	A former nineteenth century smithy, the original building probably of late eighteenth century date. The walls are of mixed limestone and cobble rubble, while the roof is of graduated greenslate. The smithy is marked as such on the Second Edition 25" OS map of 1897, and later maps.
Assessment	The site lies to the east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	45
Site name	Sawmill Cottage, Askham
NGR	NY 51511 23733
Site type	Building
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	23205
Statutory Designation	Grade II Listed Building No. 23205
Sources	HER; Ordnance Survey (OS) Third Edition 6" to 1 mile 1913-20
Description	A late eighteenth century house. The walls are of coursed limestone rubble, and occasional red sandstone blocks with flush quoins and pink sandstone dressings. The roof is of graduated greenslate. The Third Edition OS map identifies a saw mill in the croft to the rear of the cottage, in a rectangular building. The building is still extant.
Assessment	The site lies to the east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	46
Site name	Midtown Cottage and house adjoining with former stable, Askham
NGR	NY 51496 23723
Site type	Building
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	23206
Statutory Designation	Grade II Listed Building No. 23206
Sources	HER
Description	Two early eighteenth century houses and a stable. The walls are of painted sandstone rubble; the roof is of graduated greenslate.
Assessment	The site lies to the east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	47
Site name	Midtown Farmhouse, Askham
NGR	NY 51485 23710
Site type	Building
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	23207
Statutory Designation	Grade II Listed Building No. 23207
Sources	HER
Description	A nineteenth century farmhouse, dated by the panel above the door which is inscribed 'E. & B.I. 1813'. The walls are painted and rendered, while the roof is of graduated greenslate.
Assessment	The site lies to the east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	48
Site name	Croft House, Askham
NGR	NY 51456 23684
Site type	Building
Period	Post-medieval

SMR No 23208
Statutory Designation Grade II Listed Building No. 23208
Sources HER
Description An early nineteenth century house. The walls are painted incised stucco, and the roof is of graduated greenslate.
Assessment The site lies to the east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number 49
Site name Hill Top, Askham
NGR NY 51378 23636
Site type Building
Period Post-medieval
SMR No 23209
Statutory Designation Grade II Listed Building No. 23209
Sources HER
Description A late eighteenth or early nineteenth century house. The walls are of roughcast stone and the roof is of slate.
Assessment The site lies to the south-east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number 50
Site name Sycamore Cottage and attached barn, Askham
NGR NY 51371 23628
Site type Building
Period Post-medieval
SMR No 23210
Statutory Designation Grade II Listed Building No. 23210
Sources HER
Description An eighteenth century house and bank barn. The walls of the house are of part roughcast stone, with the barn walls of dressed stone. The roofs are slate.
Assessment The site lies to the south-east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number 51
Site name Hill Top Cottage, Askham
NGR NY 51356 23623
Site type Building
Period Post-medieval
SMR No 23211
Statutory Designation Grade II Listed Building No. 23211
Sources HER
Description A house of probable late seventeenth century date; a panel over the door is inscribed 'IW' but the rest is illegible. The walls are of painted rubble, and the roof is of graduated greenslate.
Assessment The site lies to the south-east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number 52
Site name Clark Hill, Clark Hill Cottage, and barn adjoining, Askham
NGR NY 51337 23672
Site type Building
Period Post-medieval
SMR No 23212
Statutory Designation Grade II Listed Building No. 23212
Sources HER
Description Two adjoining houses and a barn. Clark Hill Cottage is dated '1674' on a panel over the entrance, and Clark Hill is a late eighteenth century house. The walls of the houses are covered incised roughcast stonework, and the roofs are of graduated greenslate.

Assessment The site lies to the south-east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number 53
Site name Whitbysteads Lynchets, Askham
NGR NY 51850 25180
Site type Lynchet
Period Unknown
SMR No 2828
Sources HER
Description Lynchets recorded by the RCHM in 1936.
Assessment The site lies to the south of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number 54
Site name Lowther Carved Stone Find
NGR NY 51900 24600
Site type Carved Stone
Period Early Medieval
SMR No 3833
Sources LDNPA
Description 'Dark age stones' recorded in Lowther Park, with no details.
Assessment The site lies to the east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number 55
Site name Ridge and Furrow. Lowther Castle
NGR NY 52028 23924
Site type Ridge and Furrow
Period Medieval
SMR No 32446
Sources LDNPA; LUAU 1997a
Description A series of poorly visible ridge and furrow earthworks, averaging 3m in width and 0.2m in height.
Assessment The site lies to the east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number 56
Site name Bank, Lowther Castle
NGR NY 52032 23995
Site type Bank (Earthwork)
Period Medieval
SMR No 32447
Sources LDNPA; LUAU 1997a
Description A long low earth bank 3m wide, standing up to 0.25m high.
Assessment The site lies to the east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number 57
Site name Ditch, Lowther Castle
NGR NY 51986 24069
Site type Ditch
Period Medieval
SMR No 32448
Sources LDNPA; LUAU 1997a
Description A 45m long shallow ditch, 2m wide and 0.1-0.2m deep. Possibly a small hollow way or modern drain.
Assessment The site lies to the east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	58
Site name	Ditch, Lowther Castle
NGR	NY 51960 24079
Site type	Ditch
Period	Medieval
SMR No	32449
Sources	LDNPA; LUAU 1997a
Description	The remains of a sub-circular ditched feature 25m across and 0.5m deep. Early landscape feature.
Assessment	The site lies to the east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	59
Site name	Feature, Lowther Castle
NGR	NY 51948 24310
Site type	Ditch
Period	Medieval
SMR No	32450
Sources	LDNPA; LUAU 1997a
Description	The remains of a sub-circular ditched feature 22m across and 0.45m deep. Early landscape feature.
Assessment	The site lies to the east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	60
Site name	Crofts and Tofts, Lowther Medieval Settlement
NGR	NY 52070 24042
Site type	Croft and Toft
Period	Medieval
SMR No	32503
Sources	LDNPA; LUAU 1997a
Description	Three crofts and a toft structure. Running up the eastern side of the crofts is a trackway.
Assessment	The site lies to the east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	61
Site name	Road and Platforms Lowther Medieval Settlement
NGR	NY 51977 24134
Site type	Road and building platforms
Period	Medieval
SMR No	32501
Sources	LDNPA; LUAU 1997a
Description	A long linear bank, probably representing a road, leading to Castlesteads ringwork (Site 14). The road runs to the south of five house platforms, set out in a row.
Assessment	The site lies to the east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	62
Site name	Well to rear of Midtown Farmhouse, Askham
NGR	NY 51510 23685
Site type	Site of Former Well
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	-
Sources	Ordnance Survey (OS) First Edition 6" to 1 mile 1859-63 and 25" to 1 mile 1859-61
Description	A well shown to the rear of Midtown Farmhouse. Later replaced by a pump (Site 68). No longer extant.
Assessment	The site lies to the east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	63
Site name	Lady Well, Askham
NGR	NY 51630 24040
Site type	Well
Period	Unknown
SMR No	-
Sources	Ordnance Survey (OS) First Edition 6" to 1 mile 1859-63 and 25" to 1 mile 1859-61; Ordnance Survey (OS) Second Edition 25" to 1 mile 1897-8; Ordnance Survey (OS) Third Edition 6" to 1 mile 1913-20
Description	A well to the north of Askham Hall, called 'Lady Well'. The site is now marked as a spring.
Assessment	The site lies to the north-east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	64
Site name	Pump to rear of Holly House Farm, Askham
NGR	NY 51165 23686
Site type	Site of Former Pump
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	-
Sources	Ordnance Survey (OS) Second Edition 25" to 1 mile 1897-8
Description	A pump, marked 'P' on the map, shown to the rear of, and adjacent to, the buildings of Holly House Farm. The pump is no longer extant.
Assessment	The site within the development area and may be affected.

Site number	65
Site name	Pump to rear of Keld Head Farmhouse, Askham
NGR	NY 51253 23691
Site type	Site of Former Pump
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	-
Sources	Ordnance Survey (OS) Second Edition 25" to 1 mile 1897-8
Description	A pump, marked 'P' on the map, shown to the rear of, and adjacent to, the buildings of Keld Head Farmhouse. The pump is no longer extant.
Assessment	The site lies to the east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	66
Site name	Pump to rear of Low Side, Askham
NGR	NY 51544 23754
Site type	Site of Former Pump
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	-
Sources	Ordnance Survey (OS) Second Edition 25" to 1 mile 1897-8
Description	A pump, marked 'P' on the map, shown to the rear of, and adjacent to, the buildings of Low Side. The pump is no longer extant.
Assessment	The site lies to the east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	67
Site name	Pump to rear of Sawmill Cottage, Askham
NGR	NY 51511 23733
Site type	Site of Former Pump
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	-
Sources	Ordnance Survey (OS) Second Edition 25" to 1 mile 1897-8
Description	A pump, marked 'P' on the map, shown to the rear of, and adjacent to, the buildings of Sawmill Cottage. The pump is no longer extant.
Assessment	The site lies to the east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	68
Site name	Pump to rear of Midtown Cottage, Askham
NGR	NY 51496 23723
Site type	Site of Former Pump
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	-
Sources	Ordnance Survey (OS) Second Edition 25" to 1 mile 1897-8
Description	A pump, marked 'P' on the map, shown to the rear of, and adjacent to, the buildings of Midtown Cottage. The pump is no longer extant.
Assessment	The site lies to the east of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	69
Site name	Trough, Askham
NGR	NY 51510 23770
Site type	Site of Former Water-trough
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	-
Sources	Ordnance Survey (OS) Second Edition 25" to 1 mile 1897-8; Ordnance Survey (OS) Third Edition 6" to 1 mile 1913-20
Description	A water-trough adjacent to the main road through Askham green, on north side. No longer extant.
Assessment	The site lies to the east of the development area and will not be affected.

5. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE REMAINS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

- 5.1.1 The assessment located 69 archaeological sites within the study area, and these are listed in detail in the site gazetteer (*Section 4*). A total of 61 HER records pertained to the study area, mostly representing sites of post-medieval date; one site (Site **13**) is Roman in date, and sixteen sites are of medieval date, including the village (Site **04**) and Askham Hall (Site **01**). One site, a K6 telephone kiosk (Site **25**) is modern. Of these, the only sites directly relevant to the development area were the medieval village of Askham itself (Site **04**); the former site of a wayside cross (Site **12**); Brook Villa and stable (Site **22**); Holly House farm and its adjoining barn (Site **23**); The Queen's Head Inn (Site **24**); and the former site of a pump (Site **64**).
- 5.1.2 Within 1km of the development area, 43 Grade II Listed Buildings, ten Grade II* Listed Buildings, and one Grade I Listed Building were identified; these are listed in detail in the gazetteer, and include Brook Villa (Site **22**), Holly House (Site **23**) and the Queen's Head Inn Public House (Site **24**), all close to the development area. Two gardens listed in the National Parks and Gardens Register also lie within 1km of the development area, at Askham Hall (Site **01**) and Lowther Castle (Site **15**). No scheduled monuments were identified within the study area.

Period	No of sites	Sites
Neolithic	0	-
Bronze Age	0	-
Iron Age/ Romano-British	0	-
Roman	1	Askham Coin Find (Site 13)
Medieval	16	Askham Hall and Garden (Site 01); Askham Village Hazard Area (Site 04); Askham Corn Mill (Site 10); Castlesteads Ringwork (Site 14); Lowther Castle and Park (Site 15); Lowther DMV (Site 16); St Michael's Church (Site 17); St Peter's Church (Site 18); Lowther Carved Stone Find (Site 54); Lowther Castle Ridge and Furrow (Site 55); Lowther Castle Bank (Site 56); Lowther Castle Ditch (Site 57); Lowther Castle Ditch (Site 58); Lowther Castle Feature (Site 59); Crofts and Tofts, Lowther DMV (Site 60); Road and Platforms, Lowther DMV (Site 61)
Post-medieval	41	Askham Lime Kiln and Quarry (Site 02); Askham Bridge (Site 07); Low Donald Wood Lime Kiln and Quarry (Site 08); Lowther Saw Mill (Site 09); Townhead Quarries and Lime Kilns (Site 11); Curlew Cottage (Site 19); Keldside and Keld Cottage

		(Site 20); Keld Head Farmhouse (Site 21); Brook Villa (Site 22); Holly House (Site 23); Queen's Head Inn (Site 24); Askham Gate (Site 26); Wellington House (Site 27); Laburnum Cottage (Site 28); Brookside (Site 29); Nook Cottage (Site 30); the Hollies (Site 31); Hill Farmhouse (Site 32); Lowther Outdoor Activity Centre (Site 33); School Bank Cottage (Site 34); Nos. 1-3 School Hill and Rose Cottage (Site 35); Nos. 2-3 Park View (Site 36); No. 4 Park View (Site 37); Pear Tree Cottage (Site 38); West View (Site 39); Hall Cottage (Site 40); Punch Bowl Public House (Site 41); Askham Hall Farmhouse (Site 42); Low Side (Site 43); Former Smithy (Site 44); Sawmill Cottage (Site 45); Midtown Cottage (Site 46); Midtown Farmhouse (Site 47); Croft House (Site 48); Hill Top (Site 49); Sycamore Cottage (Site 50); Hill Top Cottage (Site 51); Clark Hill and Clark Hill Cottage (Site 52); Midtown Farm Well (Site 62); Askham Pumps (Site 64-8); Water trough (Site 69)
Modern	1	K6 Telephone Kiosk (Site 25)
Unknown	6	Lynchets south-west of Askham Church (Site 03); Whitbysteads Earthworks (Site 05); Askham Unclassified Earthworks (Site 06); Askham Cross (Site 12); Whitbysteads Lynchets (Site 53); Lady Well (Site 63)

Table 1: Number of sites by period

5.2 CRITERIA

- 5.2.1 There are a number of different methodologies used to assess the archaeological significance of sites; that to be used here is the 'Secretary of State's criteria for scheduling ancient monuments' which is included as Annex 4 of PPG 16 (DoE 1990). The sites previously listed (*Section 4, above*) were each considered using the criteria, with the results below.
- 5.2.2 **Period:** the prehistoric period is not represented, although evidence for this periods exists not far outside the study area. A Roman coin (Site 13) was found at Askham, though this is poorly located; nevertheless, Romano-British settlement sites are well-attested in the local area.
- 5.2.3 The medieval period is significantly represented by the settlement of Askham, which is known to date from at least the thirteenth century, and is therefore identified as an archaeological hazard area; the associated field systems are typologically of later medieval date. The site lies within the north-western section of the village, framed by the medieval road system on the east and south sides, and may have included crofts within the development area which have now been removed. Askham Hall (Site 01), a Grade I listed building within the village, is dated to the thirteenth century, and most of the other buildings in village are Grade II listed and of seventeenth century date or later. This suggests that most of the earlier buildings have been removed or

absorbed into later buildings. Nevertheless, the village represents a significant resource at regional level for understanding of the development of rural settlement in medieval Cumbria. The significance for this period is measured more by the likely surviving sub-surface remains than any extant buildings or earthworks, though ridge and furrow is noted on aerial photographs in fields adjacent to the village.

- 5.2.4 The remaining evidence of archaeological activity relates to the post-medieval period. The main significant sites are the Grade II listed buildings of Brook Villa (Site 22), Holly House (Site 23) and the Queen's Head Public House (Site 24), all of which date to the early part of the eighteenth century and are nationally significant due to their listed status.
- 5.2.5 **Rarity:** the medieval elements of the village of Askham are preserved due to the limited development in the village. Their presence suggests that medieval activity may have extended into the proposed development area, and that contemporary archaeological features could be encountered. The undeveloped nature of the proposed development site provides a relatively rare opportunity within such a settlement to trace early archaeological deposits, in particular those relating to the origins of the village.
- 5.2.6 **Documentation:** there is a large quantity of documentation available for all the medieval and post-medieval sites identified within the study area, including cartographic sources and primary source material. Discussions with the staff at the Kendal Record Office suggest that a wealth of primary sources for Askham is likely to exist, particularly in the Lowther family archives. The material was not directly relevant to this research, but would form a good source for any future research of the village.
- 5.2.7 The assessed documentary sources that were most specific to the proposed development area were the post-medieval maps. Only limited ownership documentation could be obtained, but a more in-depth study of the buildings on the site could yield further results.
- 5.2.8 **Group Value:** the Roman coin find (Site 13) has a moderate group value, as its presence may indicate Romano-British activity in the area, and ties it to known Romano-British settlements within the immediate area. Askham (Site 04) is a good typological example of a medieval village, and can be grouped with its associated field-systems, the tofts to the south and north of the village. The village has a regionally significant group value and illustrates the development of Cumbrian medieval settlements. Consequently, the site is significant within the context of group value as it has not been built upon or developed and could lend itself to tracing the early development of the village. In addition, as a possibly planned medieval settlement, the village has a regional group value with other such settlements in Cumbria, such as the nearby village at Helton.
- 5.2.9 The buildings within Askham, particularly the Grade II listed buildings of Brook Villa (Site 22), Holly House (Site 23) and the Queen's Head Inn Public House (Site 24), are important local examples of seventeenth and eighteenth century architecture; these can be grouped as such but otherwise, share no other relationships in terms of function or status. These are associated with the sites of wells and pumps (Sites 62, 64-8) identified on the Second Edition OS

map of 1897, which represent their local water source; each pairing of building and water source is locally significant on the basis of this group value.

- 5.2.10 **Survival/Condition:** the land within the proposed development area appears to have been open ground for many centuries, which potentially allows for good preservation of any surviving below-ground archaeological.
- 5.2.11 The majority of sites within the study area survive as standing remains. However, despite the fact that the medieval field systems have now largely been combined into much larger fields, sub-surface evidence of field boundaries may still exist. For the most part, the medieval village of Askham (Site **04**) survives in layout rather than structurally, but again, there is a possibility of sub-surface remains of pits, working areas and ancillary structures. On the other hand, as quite often occurs, medieval buildings may have been amalgamated into existing post-medieval buildings.
- 5.2.12 The Grade I and Grade II listed buildings within Askham village survive in good condition, aided by their preservation orders. Askham Corn Mill (Site **10**) also survives as a structure, though it is now a private residence and its internal machinery is likely to have been removed during its conversion. Its weirs, and head- and tail-races survive, but are no longer operational.
- 5.2.13 **Fragility/Vulnerability:** the development area does not contain any known archaeological features that are vulnerable or fragile to the proposed development. However, Holly House (Site **23**), a statutory designated site, is positioned adjacent. As a listed building, the farmhouse is therefore vulnerable to the development in terms of its visual effect.
- 5.2.14 The undated earthworks (Sites **03**, **05**, **06** and **53**), and the medieval field systems are all fragile and vulnerable to future agricultural regimes, particularly if the ground is to be ploughed or used for plantation.
- 5.2.15 **Diversity:** the individual sites identified show a moderate degree of diversity, ranging from Roman finds through to medieval and post-medieval buildings, although they largely concern the theme of the development of the twin settlements of Askham and Lowther from their origins in the centuries after the Norman conquest to the present day, in the former case and its destruction in the seventeenth century in the latter case.
- 5.2.16 **Potential:** the development area has been shown in the desk-based assessment to have potential for the preservation of archaeological features that can further an understanding of the development of Askham. Most of the sites identified have potential for furthering our understanding of the development of the more general area.

5.3 SIGNIFICANCE

- 5.3.1 The development area has apparently existed as a croft for centuries within a known medieval settlement. It is, therefore, significant in that it offers considerable potential for furthering the understanding of medieval and any earlier deposits on the site. The listed buildings, by their very status, are of national significance, but are also of local significance to the village in terms of their vernacular architecture.

- 5.3.2 In more general terms, the village, with its associated landscape features and local industries particular to the region, is significant in its contribution to the understanding of the development of relatively marginal Cumbrian upland settlement.

6. EVALUATION RESULTS

6.1 INTRODUCTION

6.1.1 A single 20m x 1.7m evaluation trench, aligned broadly north/south, was excavated in the easternmost part of the proposed development area (Fig 8). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m within a sondage, although for most of its length, the trench (Fig 9) was excavated to a depth of between 0.2m and 0.5m.

6.2 RESULTS

6.2.1 The earliest layer encountered, **3**, comprised a light orange boulder clay. An exploratory sondage was excavated through some of this at the northern end of the trench, to ensure it did not represent redeposited material; there was no evidence to suggest that it was anything other than the glacially-deposited natural. This layer was overlain by a subsoil, **2**, comprising mid orangeish-brown sandy-silt to a maximum depth of 0.2m. This layer was only observed at the southern end of the trench, where the natural geology sloped downwards, and perhaps represents a slight build up of hillwash material. Pottery was recovered from within this layer (see *Appendix 4*).

6.2.2 This layer was truncated by two discrete features, **5** and **8**. They both represent undated animal burials, although **8** at least, was fairly modern. These features were overlain by the topsoil, **1**, which comprised dark brown sandy-silt to a maximum depth of 0.15m. The topsoil contained a recent animal burial and both pottery and glass (*Appendix 4*).

7. IMPACT

7.1 IMPACT

- 7.1.1 The desk-based assessment highlighted that the proposed development will be built directly on the north side of the thirteenth century (or earlier) village of Askham (Site **04**), and will impact on the setting of the medieval village. The development may also impact on sub-surface remains related to the village, including potential building platforms. It has been argued that *'the quality and number of such remains is quite remarkable, and must be regarded as of national significance'* (CCAS nd., para 2.2). However, the evaluation trench failed to locate any significant archaeological features, and no finds dating to the medieval period were recovered during the course of the work. Although no clear evidence was recovered from the evaluation, it remains a possibility that the evaluation trench was located entirely within a north/south aligned toft, located to the rear of Holly House.
- 7.1.2 With regard to standing remains, Brook Villa (Site **22**), Holly House (Site **23**) and the Queen's Head Inn Public House (Site **24**) are all Grade II listed buildings in direct association with the development. Consequently, as statutory designated sites there may be a visual impact on the building from the proposed development, which needs to be considered. The proposed use of the lane between Brook Villa (Site **22**) and Holly House (Site **23**) for vehicular access may have further impact on the standing remains through increased traffic, though the lane is at present used as access to a car-park, so any increase in traffic may be negligible.

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9. ILLUSTRATIONS

9.1 FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location Map

Figure 2: Gazetteer Sites

Figure 3: Extract from Jeffery's Map, 1768

Figure 4: Ordnance Survey (OS) First Edition 6" to 1 mile 1859-63

Figure 5: Ordnance Survey (OS) First Edition 25" to 1 mile 1859-61

Figure 6: Ordnance Survey (OS) Second Edition 25" to 1 mile 1897-8

Figure 7: Ordnance Survey (OS) Third Edition 6" to 1 mile 1913-20

Figure 8: Trench Location Plan

Figure 9: Trench Plan

9.2 PLATES

Plate 1: aerial photograph of Askham village, facing east towards Lowther Castle (MUCS 73/24)

Plate 2: aerial photograph of Askham village, facing west (MUCS 73/27)

Plate 3: aerial photograph of Askham village, facing north (MUCS 73/25)

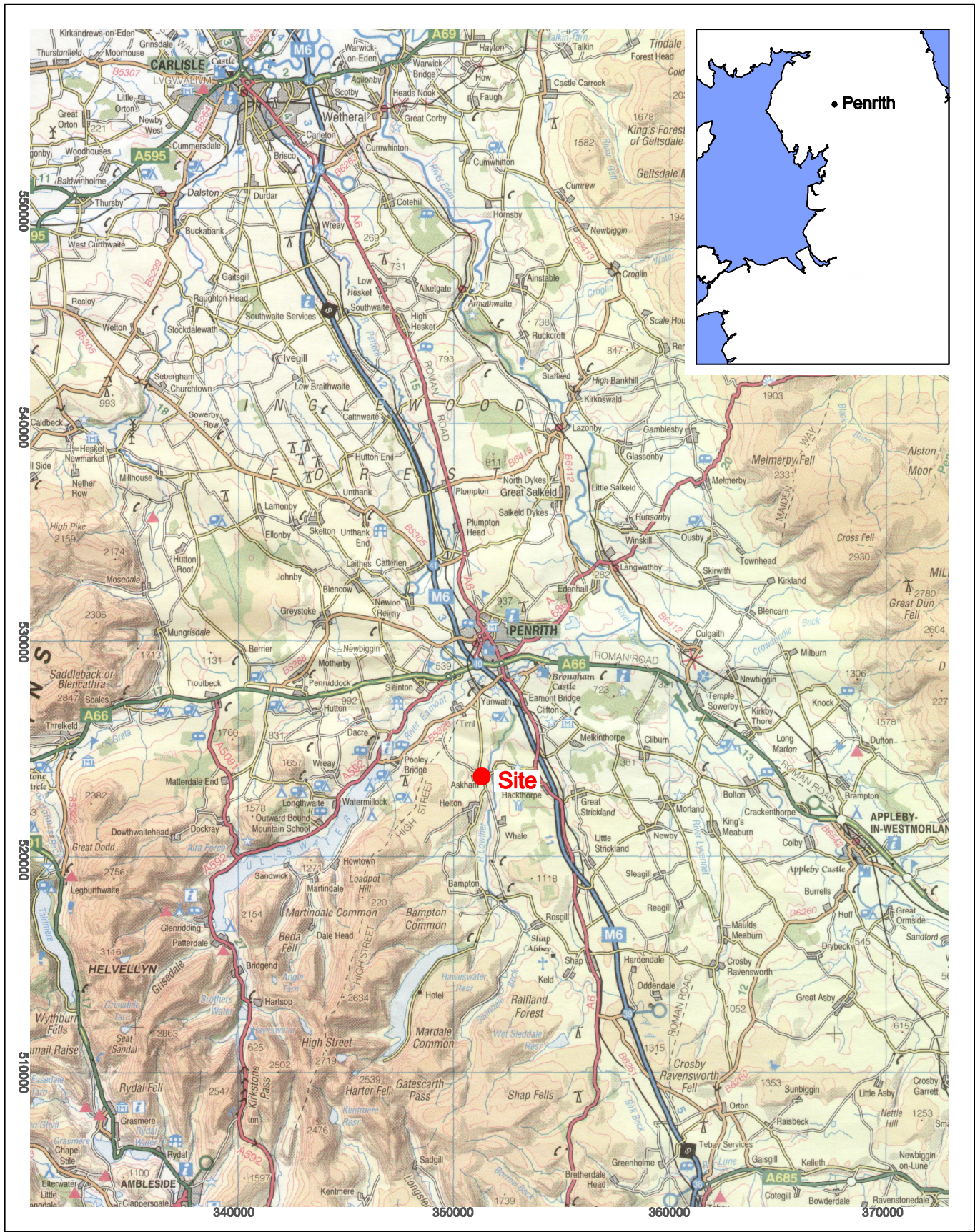
Plate 4: aerial photograph of Askham village, facing north-east (MUCS 87/1)

Plate 5: aerial photograph of Askham village, facing north-west (CCC 3011/33)

Plate 6: aerial photograph of Askham village, facing south (CCC 3011/38)

Plate 7: pre-excavation view of Trench 1, viewed from the north

Plate 8: east-facing within the sondage at the north end of Trench 1



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Figure 1: Location Map

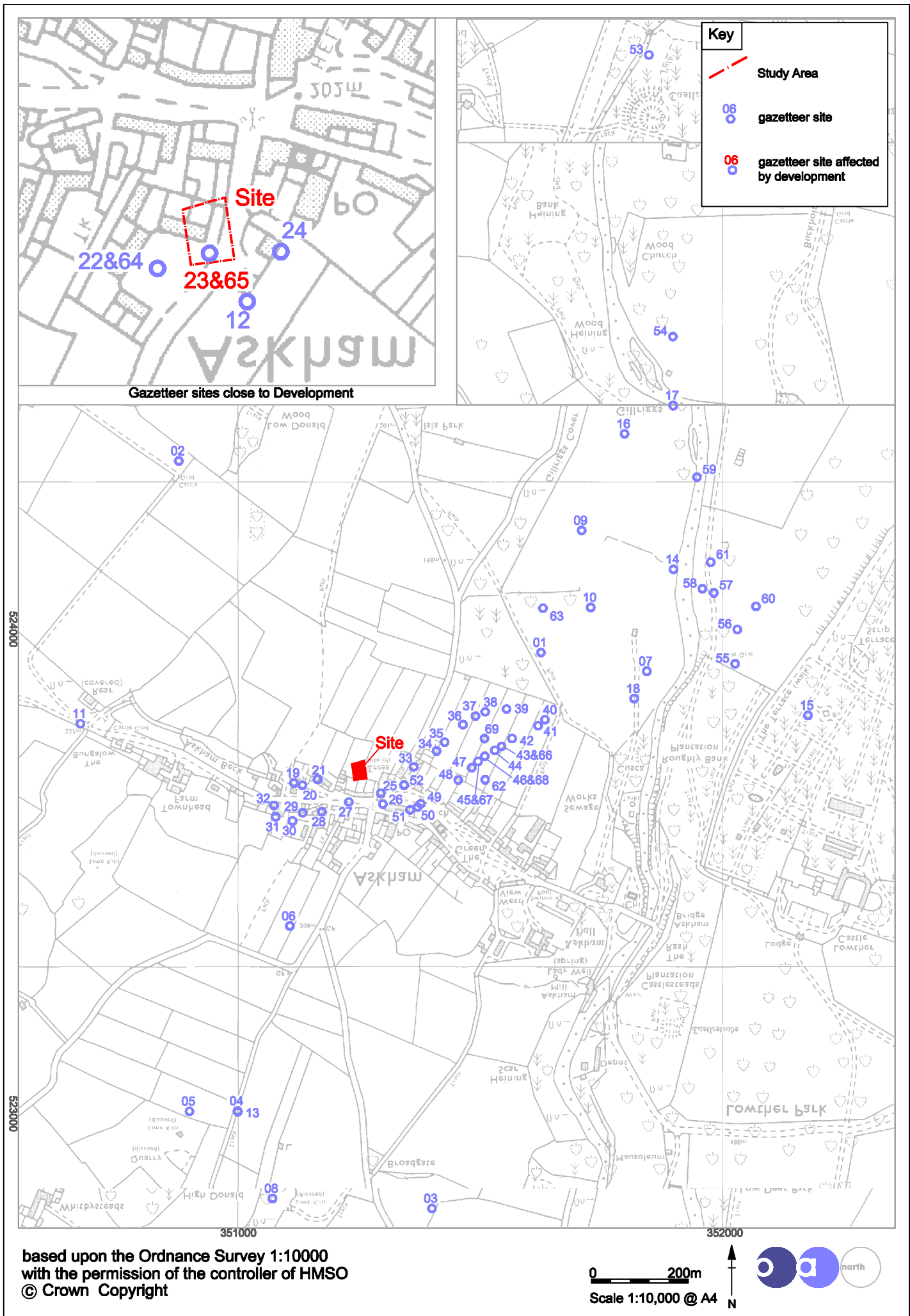


Figure 2: Gazetteer sites



Development Area

Not to Scale



Figure 3: Extract from Jeffery's Map 1768

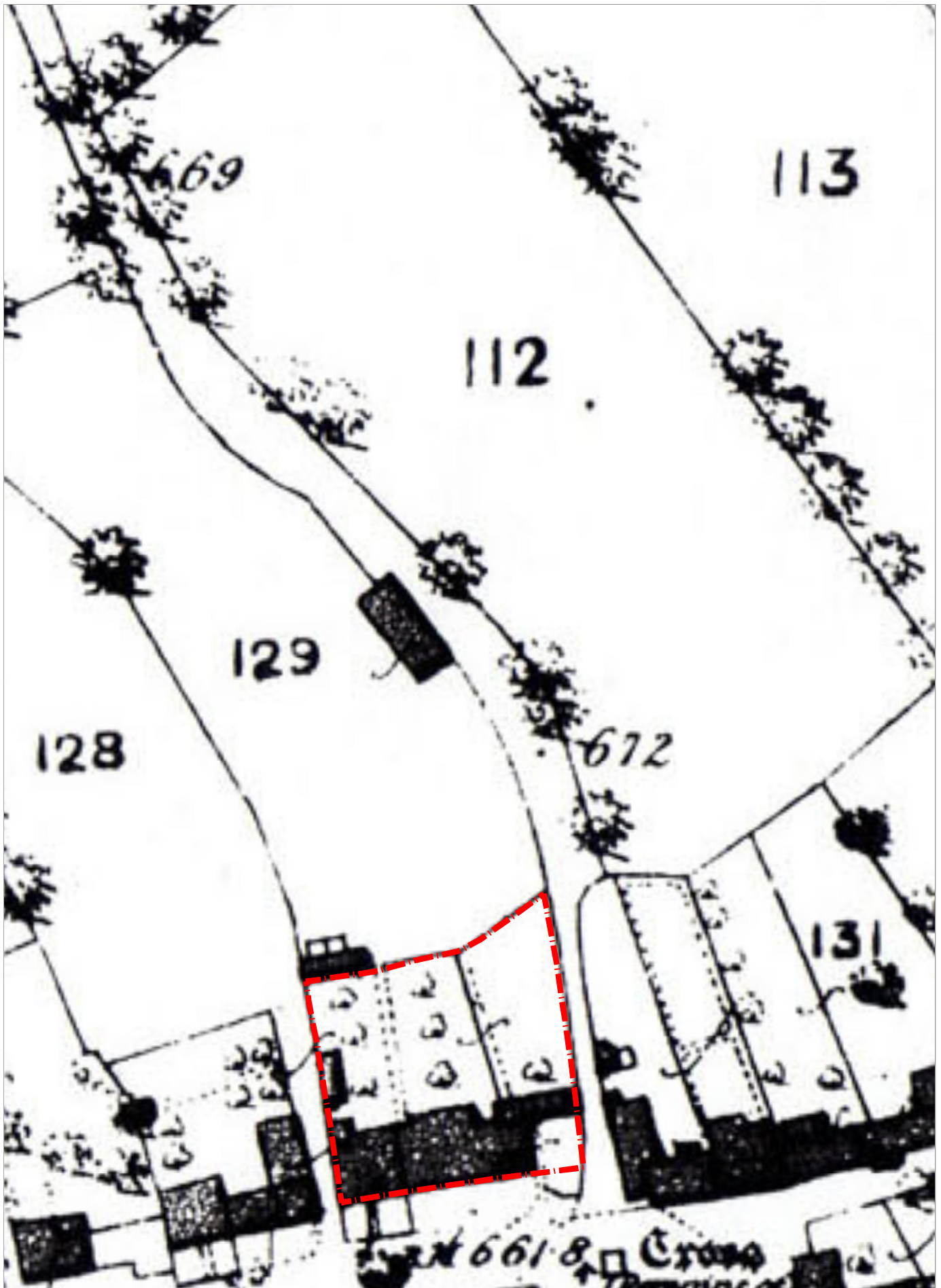


Development Area

Not to Scale



Figure 4: Ordnance Survey first edition 6": 1 mile, 1859-63

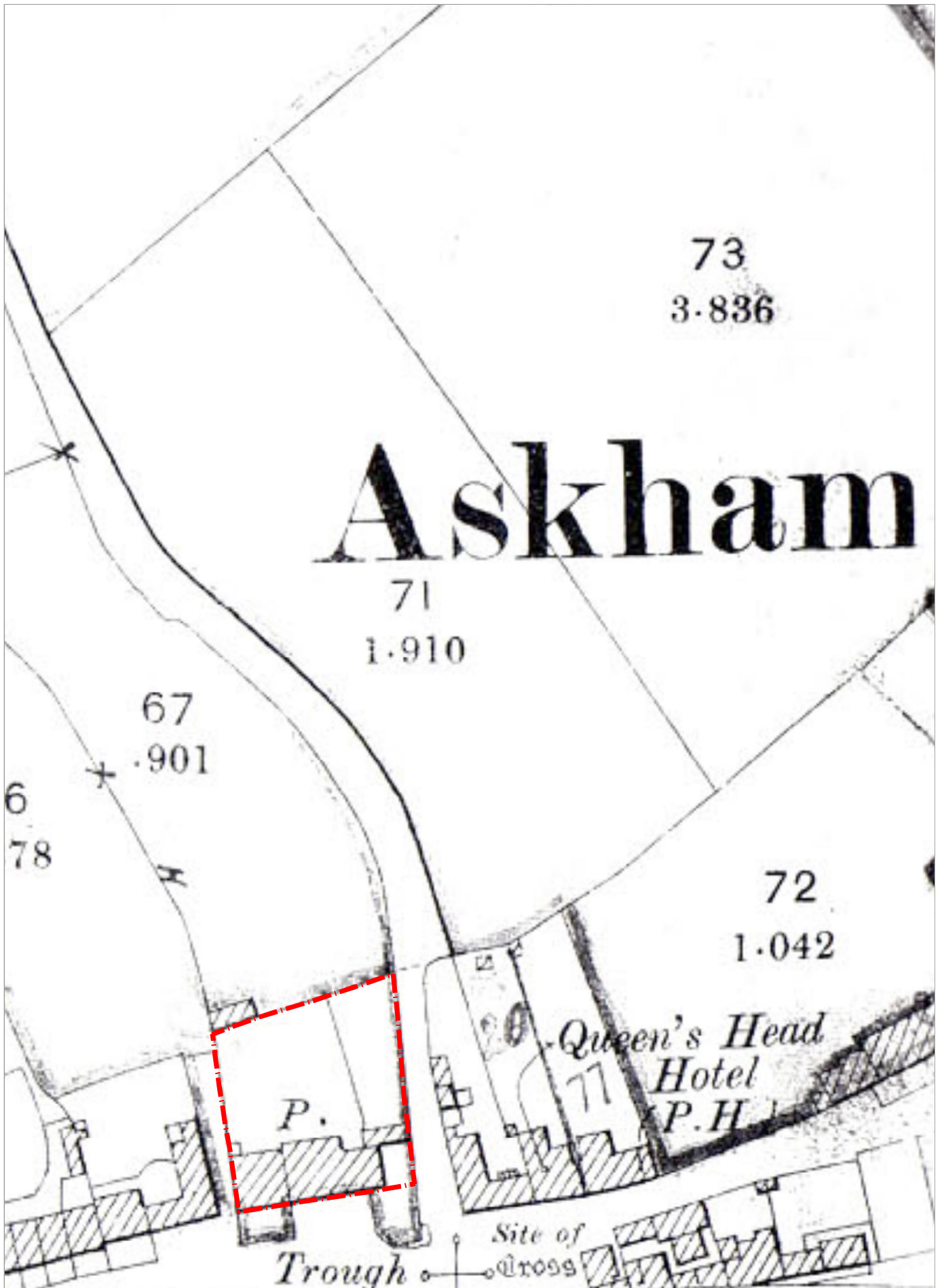


Development Area

Not to Scale



Figure 5: Ordnance Survey first edition 25": 1 mile, 1859-61



Development Area

Not to Scale



Figure 6: Ordnance Survey second edition 25": 1 mile, 1897-8



Development Area

Not to Scale



Figure 7: Ordnance Survey third edition 6": 1 mile, 1913-20

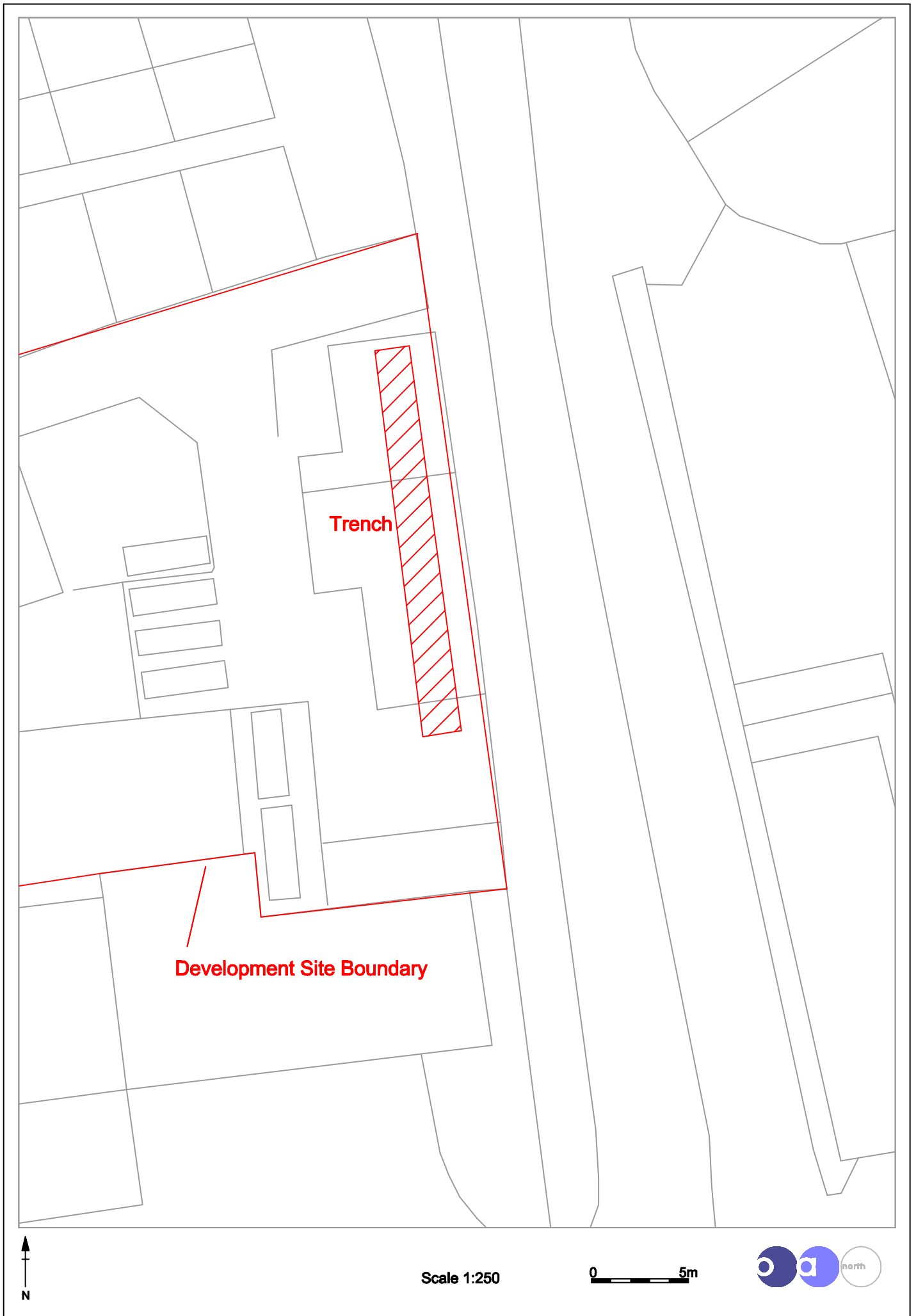


Figure 8: Trench Location Plan

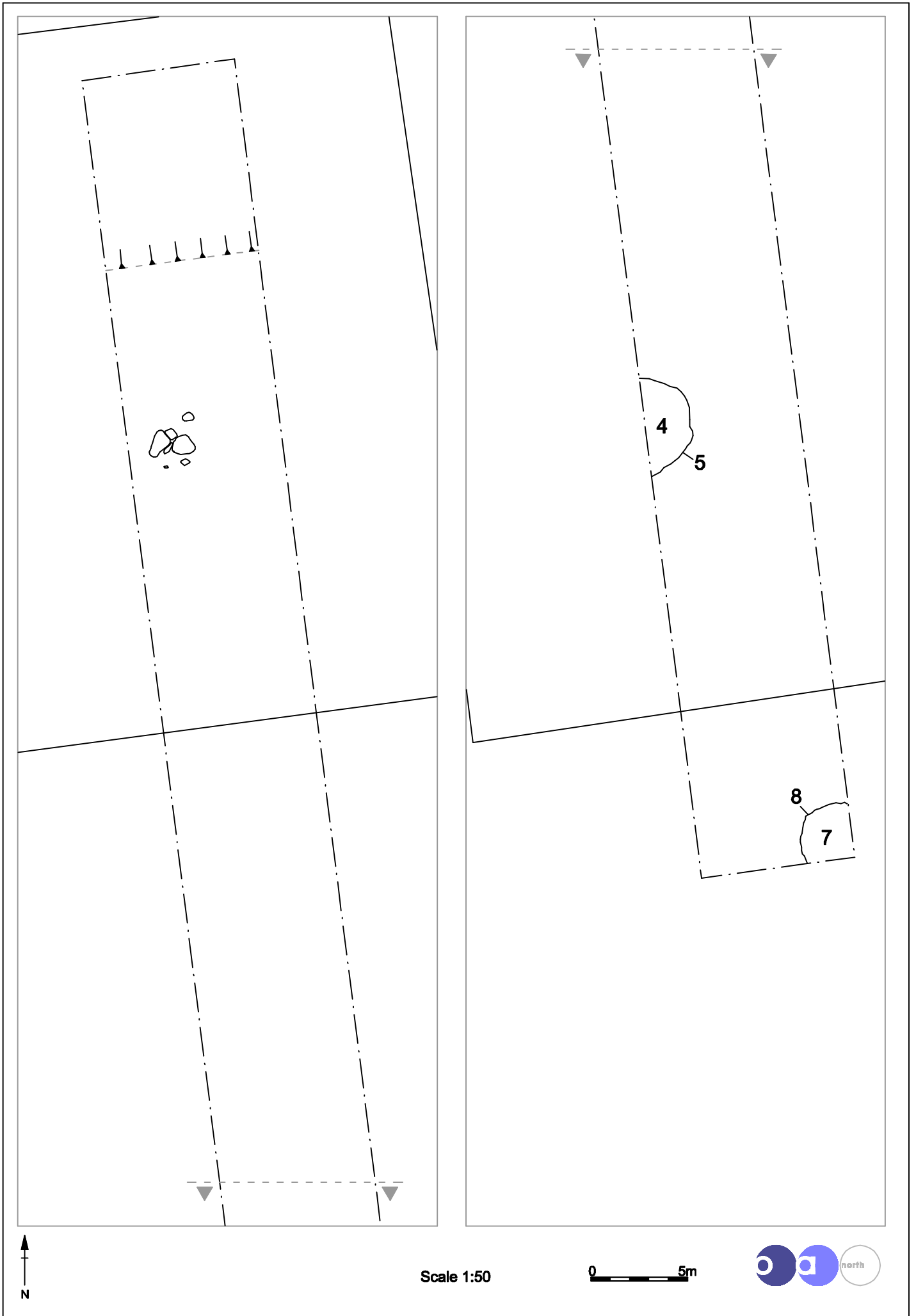


Figure 9: Trench Plan

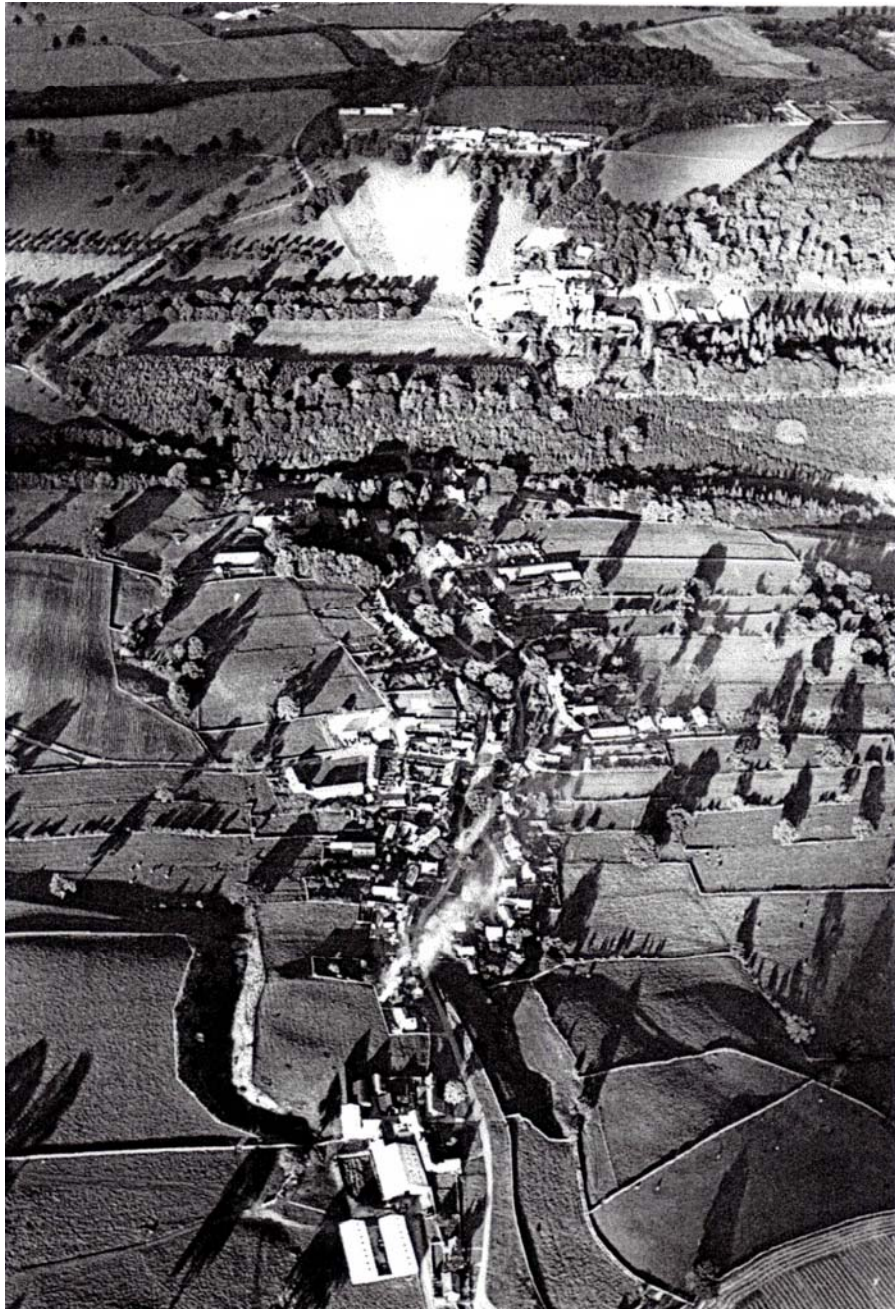


Plate 1: aerial photograph of Askham village, facing east towards Lowther Castle
(MUCS 73/24)

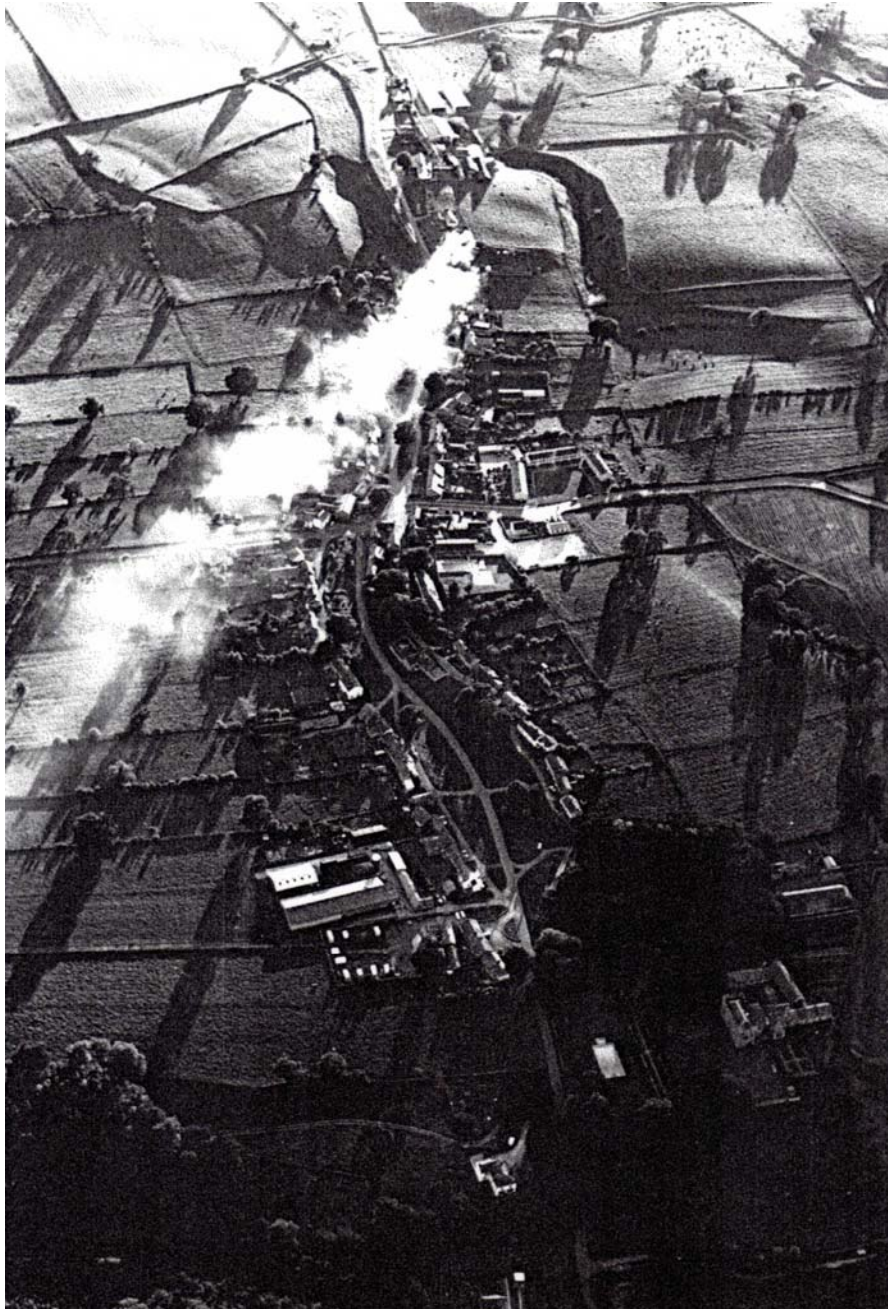


Plate 2: aerial photograph of Askham village, facing west (MUCS 73/27)

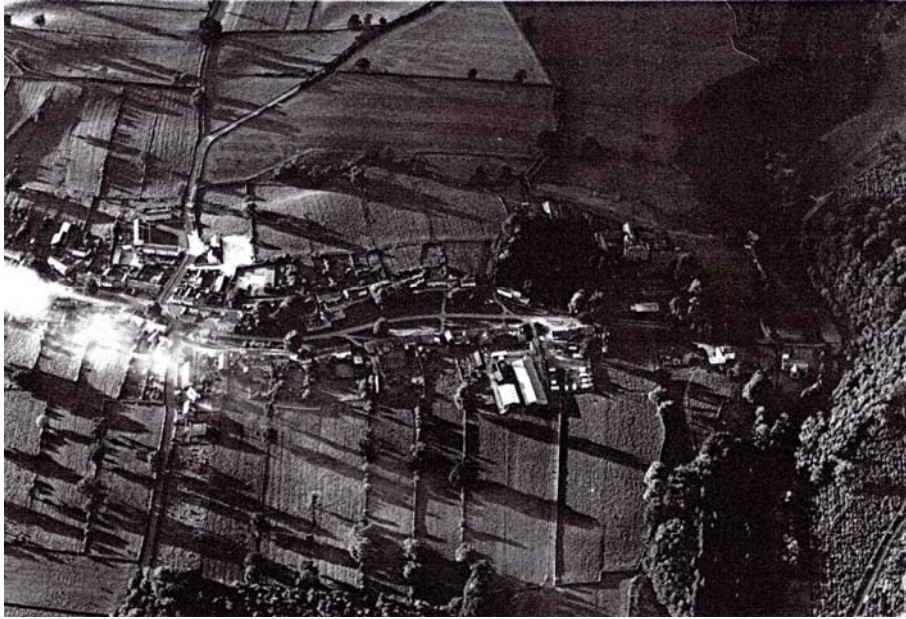


Plate 3: aerial photograph of Askham village, facing north (MUCS 73/25)



Plate 4: aerial photograph of Askham village, facing north-east (MUCS 87/1)



Plate 5: aerial photograph of Askham village, facing north-west (CCC 3011/33)

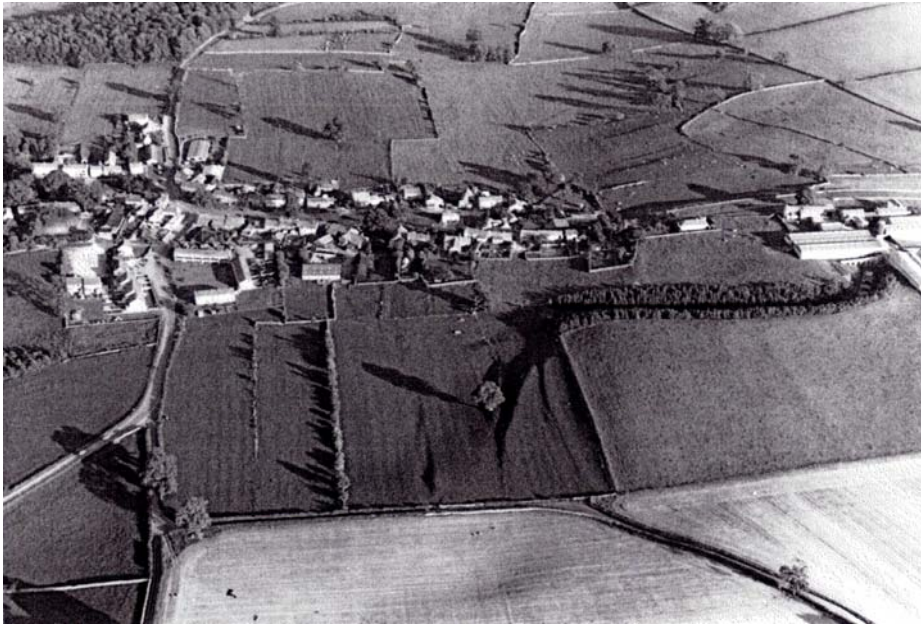


Plate 6: aerial photograph of Askham village, facing south (CCC 3011/38)



Plate 7: pre-excavation view of Trench 1, viewed from the north



Plate 8: east-facing within the sondage at the north end of Trench 1

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT BRIEF

APPENDIX 2: PROJECT DESIGN

February 2005

Oxford
Archaeology
North

**THREE DWELLINGS,
NORTH OF HOLLY HOUSE
ASKHAM
CUMBRIA**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

Proposals

The following design is offered in response to a request from the Lowther Estate for an archaeological assessment and evaluation in advance of a residential development at Holly House, Askham, Cumbria.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 The Lowther Estate has requested that Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) submit proposals for an assessment and evaluation at Holly House, Askham, Cumbria in advance of a proposed residential development at the site.

1.2 BACKGROUND

- 1.2.1 The proposed development (7/2004/3119) is centred around National Grid Reference (NGR) 351250 523712. The area of the site is 0.07 Ha, and currently used as a garden.
- 1.2.2 The site is within the village of Askham (Lake District Historic Environment Record 6746), which potentially originated in the twelfth or thirteenth centuries as a designed village. The medieval layout of the village survives essentially intact, with the positions of its crofts and tofts still represented by buildings and land divisions. Askham lies on the west side of the River Lowther, which runs north towards Penrith: this divides the land that rises towards the west, up to Askham Fell, from the undulating limestone terrain of Lowther Park and its environs on its east side. Little work has been done recently on the village itself, despite its potential importance.
- 1.2.3 Askham Fell lies on land that rises up to High Street Roman road, and is an area of considerable archaeological importance (Quartermaine and Leech Forthcoming). This is especially the case for the earlier prehistoric period, as there is a concentration of monuments indicating the presence of a ritual landscape during the Neolithic and Bronze Age. Next to Elder Beck is a large stone circle called the Cockpit, consisting of a circular stone bank with large standing and recumbent stones set within it, a rectangular alignment of stones which appear to form an enclosure within the circle (similar to that at Castlerigg), and several orthostats and small cairns outside the circle but very probably related to it.
- 1.2.4 A large number of cairns have been identified on Askham Fell, and while many of these are undated and are likely to have had a clearance function, others, especially the larger ones, are funerary monuments, dating to the Bronze Age. A line of these extends from the Cop Stone to a point close to the Cockpit, and, together with a stone avenue, 122m long, defined by two lines of stones, these are interpreted as marking a prehistoric routeway between the Lowther and Ullswater valleys. There are two Romano-British settlement sites at Skirsgill Hill. Stone built banks across Askham Fell mostly indicate field systems and are largely undated, although one system is parallel to and respects High Street, and so is Roman or post-Roman.
- 1.2.5 Lowther Park occupies the area to the east of Askham, and is also an important archaeological landscape, with very significant multi-periods remains (LUAU 1997b). Prehistoric activity is also represented on this side of the River Lowther, including one of the largest Long Cairns in Northern Britain just to the east of Lowther Park, a pair of round cairns just south of the Park, and a pair of standing stones at Crooklands just to its north. Within the Park, at its northern end there is the Castlesteads Iron Age hillfort. There are two more Romano-British settlements on the east side of the River Lowther, at Yanwath Wood to the north of Castlesteads hillfort and at Greatholme Plantation near the southern end of the Park. This means that there is a very high density of Romano-British settlement locally, with four identified sites within 3km.
- 1.2.6 Local early medieval activity is demonstrated by the three decorated hog-back tombstones, pre-conquest in date, in the churchyard to the north of St Michael's, and two cross shafts that used to be in Lowther Castle, of probable eighth century date.

- 1.2.7 Within Lowther Park, about 500m to the east of Askham, there is the Castlesteads ringwork structure and Deserted Medieval Village (DMV), the ringwork being an integral part of the layout of the village and almost certainly related to it. This is interpreted as a fortified structure, and is very probably the castle referred to in a documentary source of 1174 (*'castellum de Lauudre'*). The village is in a T shape, with house platforms, tofts, and crofts marked by earthworks. Both the ringwork and village are likely to be of twelfth century date, and the relative chronology of the origins of Askham and this village has not yet been established. In c1350 the castle was moved to its present site, with the building of a pele tower, which was subject to repeated demolition and rebuilding. The village itself was pulled down in 1682 by Sir John Lowther, to enlarge his demense. In the southern part of Lowther Park are the remains of the medieval and post-medieval boundaries around the deer park belonging to the manor.

1.3 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH

- 1.3.1 Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) has considerable experience of the archaeological survey and evaluation of sites and monuments of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large projects during the past 20 years. Projects have been undertaken to fulfil the different requirements of various clients and planning authorities, and to very rigorous timetables. OA North has considerable experience of the recording of historic buildings together with the evaluation and excavation of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large scale projects during the past 20 years. Fieldwork has taken place within the planning process and construction programmes, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables.
- 1.3.2 OA North has the professional expertise and resources to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency. OA North is an Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) registered organisation, registration number 17, and all its members of staff operate subject to the IFA Code of Conduct.
- 1.3.3 In particular OA North has undertaken detailed survey work at Lowther Park (LUAU 1997a, LUAU 1997b), survey of Askham Fell, and an evaluation of the Hayeswater pipeline for United Utilities, which extends along the western edge of the village.

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objective of the archaeological investigation is to establish the presence or absence, character, extent, state of preservation, and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of the proposed development. The following programme has been designed, in accordance with a brief by the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) to achieve these ends:

2.2 DESK-BASED STUDY

- 2.2.1 To provide a desk-based assessment and a visual inspection of the site in preparation for the archaeological fieldwork.

2.3 EVALUATION TRENCHING BRIEF

- 2.3.1 To implement a programme of greenfield trial trenching examining 5% of the study area.

2.4 REPORT

- 2.4.1 A written report will assess the significance of the data generated by this programme within a local and regional context. It will present the desk-based study and evaluation, make an assessment of the archaeological potential of the area, and would make recommendations for further work.

3. METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 DESK- BASED STUDY

- 3.1.1 The following will be undertaken as appropriate, depending on the availability of source material. The level of such work will be dictated by the timescale of the project.

3.1.2 **Documentary and cartographic material:** this work will rapidly address the full range of potential sources of information. The currently available archaeological information for the site and its locality will be reviewed, with particular reference to recent archaeological work in the vicinity. It will include an appraisal of the LDNP Historic Environment Record (HER), as well as appropriate sections of County histories, early maps, and such primary documentation (tithe and estate plans etc.) as may be reasonably available. Particular emphasis will be upon the early cartographic evidence which has the potential to inform post-medieval occupation and land-use of the area. Any photographic material lodged in either the LDNP HER or the County Record Offices will also be studied. Published documentary sources will also be examined and assessed. The study will examine place and field name evidence for the site and its environs. The field system around Askham will be examined and compared to other local villages (Roberts 1993). This work will involve visits to the County Record Office in Kendal.

3.1.3 **Aerial photography:** a brief survey of the extant air photographic cover will be undertaken. This would provide an indication of recent land-use, but is not likely to significantly inform the archaeological potential of the site. The Lake District National Park Sites and Monuments Record has a valuable aerial photographic collection.

3.1.4 **Physical environment:** a rapid desk-based compilation of geological (both solid and drift), pedological, topographical and palaeoenvironmental information will be undertaken. It will be based on published geological mapping and any local geological surveys in the possession of the county council or the client. This will not only set the archaeological features in context but also serves to provide predictive data, that will increase the efficiency of the field investigation.

3.2 SITE VISIT

3.2.1 A visual inspection of the site will be done, including examination of any exposures that are available. Any earthworks that are possibly of archaeological significance will be described, sketched and mapped using differential GPS equipment.

3.2.2 Any engineering or bore-hole data made available by the client will be examined.

3.3 EVALUATION TRENCHING

3.3.1 The programme of greenfield trenching will establish the presence or absence of any previously unsuspected archaeological deposits and, if established, will then test their date, nature, depth and quality of preservation.

- 3.3.2 **Methods:** the evaluation is required to evaluate 5% of the undeveloped study area. The overall area is 0.07Ha or 700m². This requires the excavation of 35m² and would entail the excavation of c20m of trench. Whether this will be a single trench (20m x 1.7m) or more than one (eg two 10m x 1.7m trenches), and the precise location of the trench or trenches, will be determined following the Desk-Based Study and Site Visit in consultation with the LDNPA. Provisionally the trench or trenches will be located to cover the part of the site most affected by the development.
- 3.3.3 The trenches will be excavated by a combination of mechanised and manual techniques. All trenches will be excavated in a stratigraphical manner, whether by machine or by hand. The topsoil and subsoil will be removed by mechanical excavator, fitted with a 1.7m wide toothless bucket, and the topsoil will be kept separate from the subsoil. The machine excavation will not intrude into any potential archaeological stratigraphy and all machine excavation will be undertaken under careful archaeological supervision. Following mechanical excavation, the floor of the trench will be cleaned using hand tools. A representative sample of any archaeological features and deposits that are identified will be excavated by hand. No archaeological deposits will be entirely removed unless this is unavoidable. It is not expected that the trench or trenches will be fully excavated to the natural strata, but the depth of archaeological deposits across the site must be assessed. Damage to archaeological features or deposits which are worthy of preservation *in situ* will be avoided.
- 3.3.4 The trenches will not be excavated deeper than c1.2m to accommodate health and safety constraints, or less if the deposits are soft or unstable. Any requirements to excavate below this depth will involve recosting.
- 3.3.5 There will also be an assessment of the artefactual content of the topsoil. This will be achieved by examination of the machined soil from the trial trenching using hand tools, during or after the machining of the trench or trenches.
- 3.3.6 **Environmental Sampling:** environmental samples (bulk samples of up to 30 litres volume, to be sub-sampled at a later stage) will be collected where appropriate from stratified undisturbed deposits and will particularly be targeted at negative features (gullies, pits and ditches). Subject to the results of the excavation an assessment of any environmental samples will be undertaken by the in-house palaeoecological specialist, who will examine the potential for further analysis. The assessment would examine the potential for macrofossil, arthropod, palynological and general biological analysis. The costs for the palaeoecological assessment are defined as a contingency and will only be called into effect if deposits are identified with good preservation, by waterlogging, carbonisation, or other means, and will be subject to the agreement with LDNPA and the client.
- 3.3.7 Samples will also be collected for pedological and chronological analysis as appropriate. If necessary, access to conservation advice and facilities can be made available. OA North maintains close relationships with Ancient Monuments Laboratory staff at the Universities of Durham and York and, in addition, employs artefact and palaeozoological specialists with considerable expertise in the investigation, excavation and finds management of sites of all periods and types, who are readily available for consultation.
- 3.3.8 **Recording:** all information identified in the course of the site works will be recorded stratigraphically, with sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections and both black and white and colour photographs) to identify and illustrate individual features. Primary records will be available for inspection at all times.
- 3.3.9 Results of the field investigation will be recorded using a paper system, adapted from that used by Centre for Archaeology of English Heritage. Archaeological features within the trenches will be recorded on pro-forma context sheets and planned by manual techniques. Trenches will be located by use of GPS equipment which is accurate to +/- 0.25m, altitude information will be established with respect to Ordnance Survey Datum. The archive will include both a photographic record and accurate large scale plans and sections at an appropriate scale (1:50, 1:20, and 1:10). Levels will be tied into the Ordnance Datum, using a known Bench Mark or spot height. All artefacts and ecofacts will be recorded using the same

system, and will be handled and stored according to standard practice (following current Institute of Field Archaeologists guidelines) in order to minimise deterioration.

3.4 REPORT

- 3.4.1 **Archive:** the results of the fieldwork will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition, 1991). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. It will include summary processing and analysis of all features, finds, or palaeoenvironmental data recovered during fieldwork, which will be catalogued by context. This archive can be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format and a synthesis will be included in the Cumbria Sites and Monuments Record. A copy of the archive can also be made available for deposition with the National Archaeological Record. OA North practice is to deposit the original record archive of projects (paper, magnetic and plastic media) with the appropriate County Record Office, and a full copy of the record archive (microform or microfiche) together with the material archive (artefacts, ecofacts, and samples) with an appropriate museum.
- 3.4.2 **Report:** one bound and one unbound copy of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the Client, and a further four copies will be submitted to the LDNP HER. The report will include a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design. It will present, summarise, and interpret the results of the programme detailed above and present an assessment of the sites history; the report will include photographs of any significant features. The report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived. The report will include: a description of the methodology and the results; a list of the finds, and a description of the collective assemblage; and details of any environmental work undertaken.
- 3.4.3 The report will include a frontispiece showing the planning number and the grid reference. It will have a summary and a methodological statement, and it will define any variations to the defined programme. It will include recommendations for further work as a separate annexe to the main report.
- 3.4.4 Illustrative material will include as a minimum a location map, site map, historic maps, a trench location map, trench plans, survey plans and also pertinent photographs. It can be tailored to the specific requests of the client (e.g. particular scales etc), subject to discussion.
- 3.4.5 **Publication:** a summary report of the results will be submitted to a regional journal, and information from the project will be fed into the OASIS project (On-line Access to Index of Archaeological Investigation).

3.5 OTHER MATTERS

- 3.5.1 **Health and Safety:** OA North conforms to all health and safety guidelines as contained in the Oxford Archaeology Manual of Health and Safety and the safety manual compiled by the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers. The work will be in accordance with Health and Safety at Work Act (1974), the Council for British Archaeology Handbook No. 6, Safety in Archaeological Fieldwork (1989).
- 3.5.2 Full regard will, of course, be given to all constraints (services etc) during the watching brief and fabric survey, as well as to all Health and Safety considerations. OA North provides a Health and Safety Statement for all projects and maintains a Unit Safety policy. A risk assessment will be completed in advance of the project's commencement. If there is a requirement to excavate trenches deeper than c1.2m the trenches will be stepped out to minimise section collapse. As a matter of course the Unit uses a CAT-Scan device prior to

any excavation to test for services. It is assumed that the client will provide any available information regarding services within the study area, if available.

- 3.5.3 **Insurance:** the insurance in respect of claims for personal injury to or the death of any person under a contract of service with the unit and arising out of an in the course of such person's employment shall comply with the employers' liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969 and any statutory orders made there under. For all other claims to cover the liability of OA North, in respect of personal injury or damage to property by negligence of OA North or any of its employees, there applies the insurance cover of £2m for any one occurrence or series of occurrences arising out of one event.
- 3.5.4 **Confidentiality:** the report is designed as a document for the specific use of the Client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project design, and should be treated as such; it is not suitable for publication as an academic report, or otherwise, without amendment or revision. Any requirement to revise or reorder the material for submission or presentation to third parties beyond the project brief and project design, or for any other explicit purpose can be fulfilled, but will require separate discussion and funding.
- 3.5.5 **Project Monitoring:** OA North will consult with the client regarding access to the site. Whilst the work is undertaken for the client, the County Archaeologist will be kept fully informed of the work and its results. Any proposed changes to the project design will be agreed with LDNPA in consultation with the Client.

4. WORK PROGRAMME

- 4.1 The following programme is proposed:

Desk-based Assessment

8 days will be required for this element

Evaluation Trenching

2 days will be required in the field for this element

Report

The report can be completed within 8 weeks of the completion of the fieldwork

- 4.2 OA North can normally execute projects at short notice once an agreement has been signed with the client.
- 4.3 The project will be managed by **Tim Carew** (Unit Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed. OA North adheres by the IFA's Code of Conduct and the Code of Approved Practice for the regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology.

REFERENCES

Association of County Archaeological Officers (ACAO) 1993 *Model briefs and specifications for Archaeological Assessments and Field Evaluations*, Bedford

Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), 1992 *Guidelines for data collection and compilation*

Lancaster University Archaeological Unit, 1997a *Lowther Park, Archaeological Survey*, Unpublished Report, Lancaster

Lancaster University Archaeological Unit, 1997b *Lowther Park, Cumbria: Archaeological Survey Report*, Unpublished Report, Lancaster

Oxford Archaeology North, 2005 Shap to Pooley Bridge, Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief, unpubl rep, Lancaster

Quartermaine, J, and Leech, R, Forthcoming *Archaeological Landscapes of the Cumbrian Uplands: Results of the Lake District National Park Survey*, Lancaster

Roberts, BK 1993. Five Westmorland Settlements: A Comparative Study. *Trans Cumberland Westmorland Antiq Archaeol Soc nser*, 93, 131-143.

APPENDIX 3: CONTEXT LIST

Context Number	Description
<i>1</i>	Topsoil
<i>2</i>	Subsoil
<i>3</i>	Natural
<i>4</i>	Fill of animal burial <i>5</i>
<i>5</i>	Animal burial
<i>6</i>	Void
<i>7</i>	Fill of animal burial <i>8</i>
<i>8</i>	Animal burial

APPENDIX 4: FINDS SUMMARY

Context	Quantity	Category	Description	Date range
1	1	Glass	Very light turquoise bottle fragment from cylindrical or Codd bottle	Nineteenth - early twentieth century
1	1	Pottery	Brown-glazed red-slip-coated buff-coloured laminated gritty fabric from crock(?) base	Late seventeenth - early eighteenth century?
1	1	Pottery	White earthenware saucer or place base with pearlware glaze	Late eighteenth - early nineteenth century
1	1	Pottery	White earthenware fragment from hollow-ware vessel	Late eighteenth - twentieth century
1	1	Pottery	Porcelain or bone china lid rim with blue painted decoration, from tea-pot-sized vessel?	Late eighteenth - twentieth century
1	1	Pottery	Porcelain or bone china tea plate base with painted and lined gilding	Late eighteenth - twentieth century
2	2	Pottery	White earthenware plate base and small fragment	Late eighteenth - twentieth century

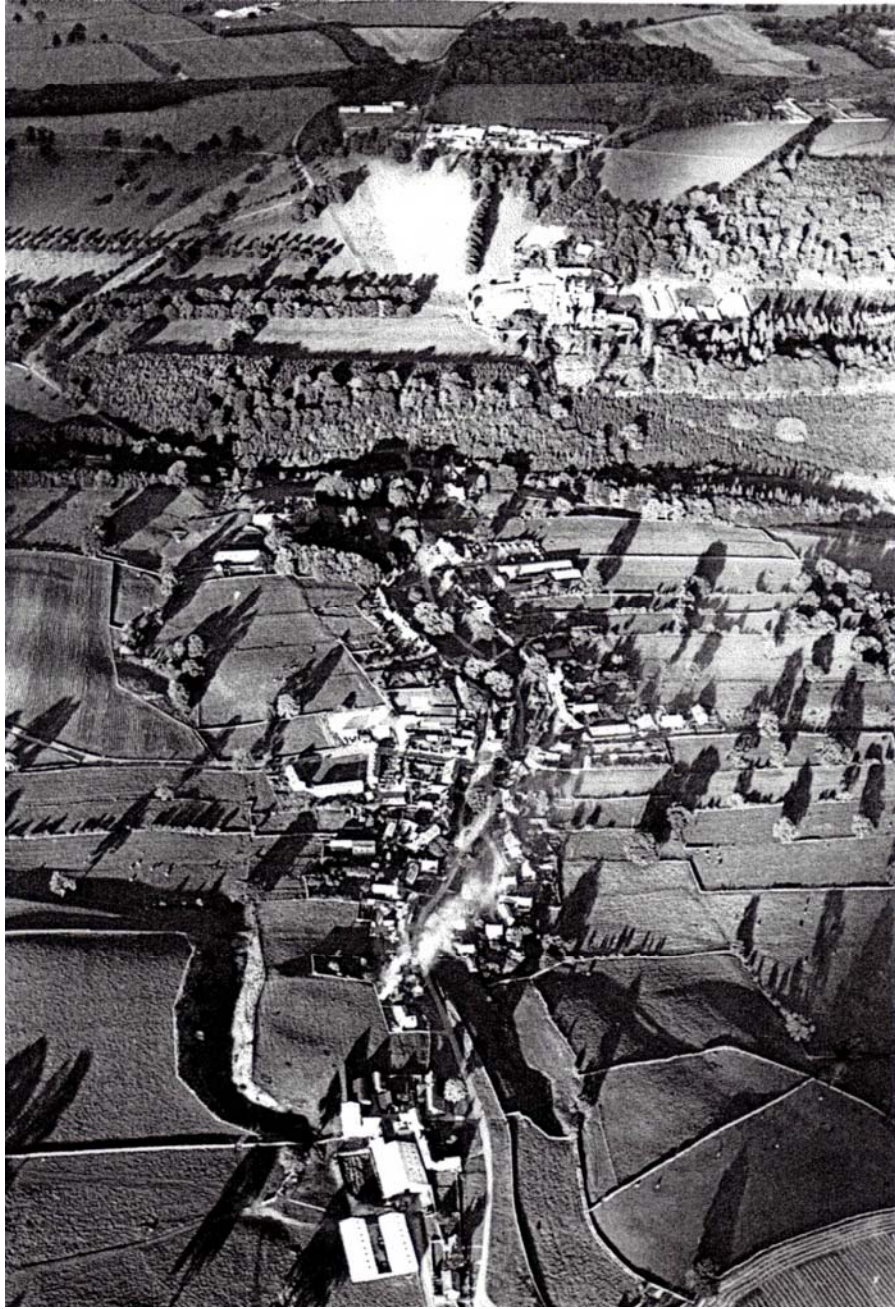


Plate 1: aerial photograph of Askham village, facing east towards Lowther Castle
(MUCS 73/24)

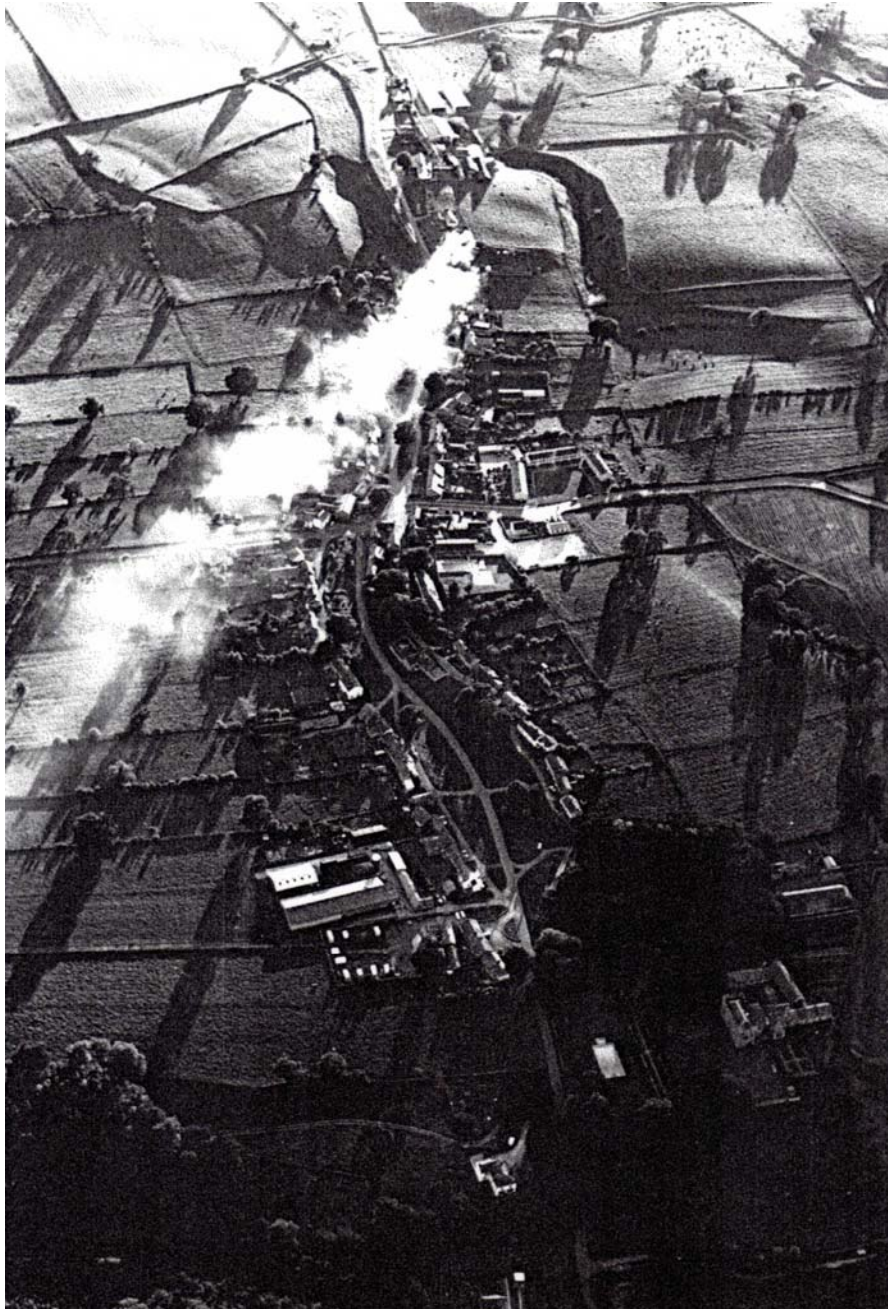


Plate 2: aerial photograph of Askham village, facing west (MUCS 73/27)

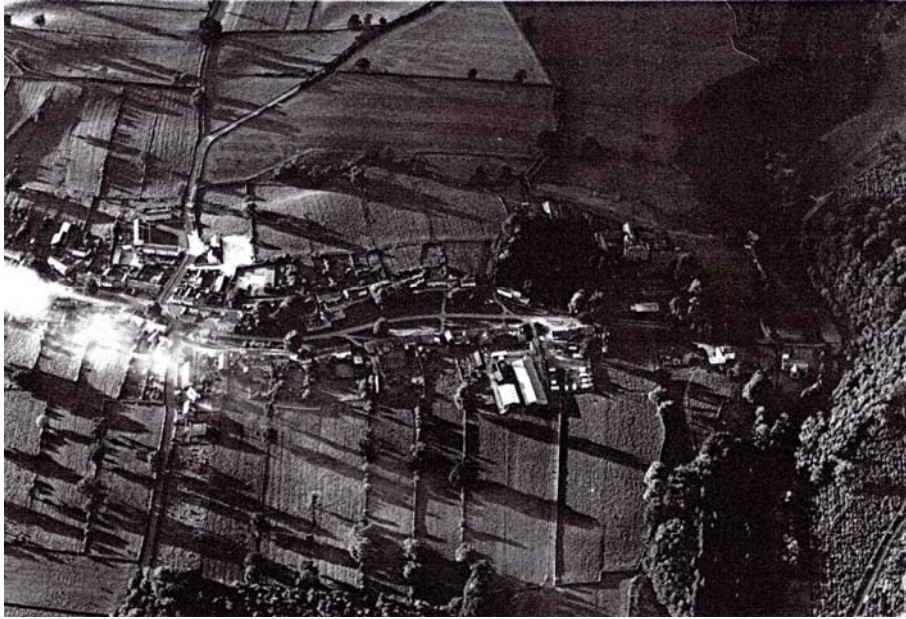


Plate 3: aerial photograph of Askham village, facing north (MUCS 73/25)



Plate 4: aerial photograph of Askham village, facing north-east (MUCS 87/1)



Plate 5: aerial photograph of Askham village, facing north-west (CCC 3011/33)

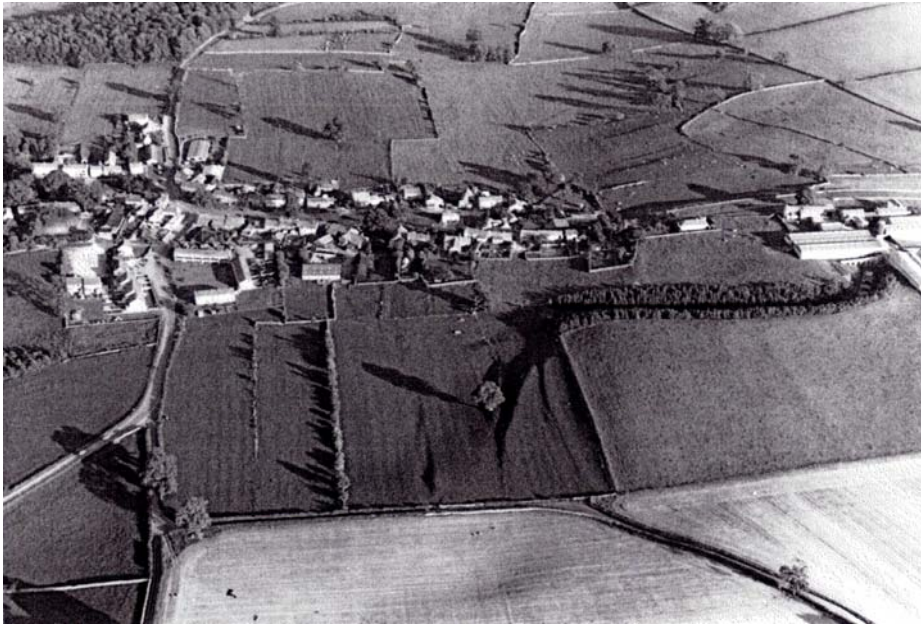


Plate 6: aerial photograph of Askham village, facing south (CCC 3011/38)



Plate 7: pre-excavation view of Trench 1, viewed from the north



Plate 8: east-facing within the sondage at the north end of Trench 1