



ULVERSTON (ROPE WALK) GREENWAY, CUMBRIA

**Desk-Based Study
And Walk-Over
Survey**



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SUMMARY

Furness Greenways, clients of Capita Symonds and Cumbria County Council, propose to re-surface and enhance a footpath between Dragley Beck and Rope Walk House, Ulverston, Cumbria (SD 29060 77638 to SD 30055 77732), thus creating a greenway; part of the route of the proposed greenway encompasses the line of a former rope walk. Following the submission to Cumbria County Council of a project design, OA North was commissioned to undertake a desk-based assessment and identification survey. The desk-based assessment was carried out in January 2005 and sought to identify all archaeological sites within a 250m radius of the route of the proposed development that might either be affected by the development, or might provide clues as to the nature of, as yet, undiscovered archaeology that could be impacted upon. A walk-over survey was also undertaken.

In total, 18 sites were identified in the wider study area representing a range of periods from the Neolithic onwards, and a variety of site types. Of these, five sites, all of post-medieval date, were deemed to lie within the route of the proposed development and may potentially be affected by it. These comprise cloughs (Site **05**), the rope walk (Site **06**) (Plate 3), a structure associated with the rope walk (Site **07**), a kissing gate (Site **10**) (Plate 1), and a set of gate posts (Site **11**) (Plate 2). Other remaining sites, although not directly affected by the route of the development, provide clues as to the nature of archaeology that may be encountered should groundworks take place. These comprised the findspot of a butt-end of a Neolithic polished stone axe from the back garden of Sir John Barrow Cottage (Site **01**), the findspot of a polished stone axe and flint tool, again of Neolithic date (Site **02**), and a bloomery (Site **17**). These sites were assessed for their archaeological significance by using the criteria outlined in Annex 4 of Planning Policy Guidance 16 (PPG 16, DoE 1990).

Perhaps the most significant feature to be identified was the rope walk itself, which, according to documentary sources, could have been in operation as early as 1749-1752 while under the ownership of William Noble. Documents indicate that the Noble family had been involved in the trade at least since the early eighteenth century; operations appear to have ceased in the mid-to late-nineteenth century, when the rope walk, by then disused, was reused as a tree-lined footpath. Rope making was an important industry in Ulverston, with clear links to the shipping trade; at its peak, around the early nineteenth century, there were at least six rope walks in the town.

On the basis of this assessment and in consideration of the proposed development, recommendations were made for each of the five sites lying within the proposed development area. This recommended programme of archaeological work includes evaluation, photographic recording, and a watching brief.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to thank Guy Weller of Cumbria County Council, for commissioning the project. Thanks are also due to Jo Mackintosh of the Cumbria HER, all the staff of the Cumbria County Record Office in Barrow-in-Furness, and the Air Photo Team at the National Monuments Record in Swindon, for their assistance with this project.

Daniel Elsworth, Jo Dawson, Matt Town, and Louise Ford undertook the desk-based assessment and wrote the report; Mark Tidmarsh produced the drawings. Jamie Quartermaine managed the project and also edited the report together with Stephen Rowland and Alan Lupton.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

- 1.1.1 A proposal was made by Furness Greenways to re-surface and enhance the footpath running between Dragley Beck and Rope Walk House, Ulverston, Cumbria (SD 29060 77638 to SD 30055 77732), so that it can be made into a greenway. Part of the route of the proposed greenway encompasses the line of the former rope walk (Fig 1). Guy Weller of Cumbria County Council, acting on behalf of Capita Symonds and Furness Greenways, made a request for an archaeological assessment of the area, including a desk-based study and identification survey. In response to this, OA North produced a project design outlining the work to be carried out as part of the assessment (*Appendix I*).
- 1.1.2 The desk-based study, undertaken in January 2005, comprised a search of both published and unpublished records at various locations. These included the Historic Environment Record (HER) in Kendal, the Cumbria County Record Office in Barrow-in-Furness, private collections and the archives and library held at OA North. In addition, an identification survey, involving a walk-over along the route of the proposed development, was undertaken in order to identify further sites of archaeological interest and to assess the landscape according to the results of the desk-based assessment.
- 1.1.3 This report sets out the results of the desk-based assessment through outlining the findings, followed by 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 A project design (*Appendix 1*) was submitted by OA North in response to a request by Guy Weller of Cumbria County Council for an archaeological assessment of the route of a proposed greenway between Dragley Beck and Rope Walk House, Outcast (Fig 1). The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

- 2.2.1 The principal sources of information consulted were historical and modern maps of Ulverston, along with published and unpublished secondary sources. The study area focused on the proposed development site, although sites within an area up to 0.25km around the route were also given some consideration if they were of particular archaeological importance or could help contextualise those sites identified within the immediate development area. On this basis all relevant archaeological sites within the study area have been included in the site gazetteer (*Appendix 2*). The results were analysed using the Secretary of State's criteria for the scheduling of ancient monuments, outlined in Annex 4 of *Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning* (DoE 1990) (*Section 5*).
- 2.2.2 ***Cumbria County, Historic Environment Record (HER)***: the Cumbria County Historic Environment Record (HER) held in Kendal was consulted to establish the sites of archaeological interest already known within the study area, and the extent and number of these. The HER is a Geographic Information System (GIS) linked to a database of all archaeological sites in Cumbria, and is maintained by Cumbria County Council. For each entry, a short note was obtained, which was added to the site gazetteer (*Appendix 2*) and marked on a location plan (Fig 2).
- 2.2.3 ***National Monuments Record (NMR)***: the NMR was consulted in order to obtain some aerial photographs of the study area.
- 2.2.4 ***Cumbria County Record Office, Barrow-in-Furness (CRO(B))***: the Cumbria County Record Office in Barrow-in-Furness was visited to examine maps relating to the study area. Both published and manuscript maps were consulted, along with primary documents, such as lease and property records, and census returns as well as published secondary sources.
- 2.2.5 ***Lancashire County Record Office, Preston (CRO(P))***: the Lancashire County Record Office in Preston was visited to examine maps and legal documents pertaining to the study area.
- 2.2.6 ***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 under its former guise of Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU); these were consulted where necessary.

- 2.2.7 ***Heritage First archives at Sir John Barrow Cottage, Ulverston:*** a brief visit was made to the archives of Heritage First (formerly known as the Ulverston Heritage Centre) in Sir John Barrow Cottage in Ulverston to examine any otherwise unknown maps and documents pertinent to the study area.

2.3 WALK-OVER SURVEY

- 2.3.1 A walk-over survey was conducted on 26th January 2005, encompassing all of the proposed development area, which was publicly accessible along its entire length. A photographic record in black and white print, colour slide, and colour digital was made of all sites of archaeological significance. A brief descriptive record of these sites was also made on *pro-forma* sheets.

2.4 ARCHIVE

- 2.4.1 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 County Record Office, Barrow-in-Furness on completion of the project.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1.1 The proposed development site lies to the south-east of the town of Ulverston, Cumbria, which is located on the Furness Peninsula (Fig 1; SD 29060 77638 to SD 30055 77732). Prior to the reorganisation of the counties in the 1970s, Ulverston lay in the area of Lancashire known as Lancashire-north-of-the-Sands. The site itself is situated on an area of flood plain next to Dragley Beck, less than 10m above mean sea level (Ordnance Survey 1997).
- 3.1.2 This part of the Furness Peninsula is dominated by Carboniferous limestone to the south and west (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 34) and Bannisdale Silurian slate to the north (Moseley 1978). The solid geology is overlain by deposits of glacial origin, while the pedology is characterised by brown earths, gleys and podzols (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 24).

3.2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.2.1 **Introduction:** the historical and archaeological background is principally compiled through secondary sources and is intended to put the results of the assessment into a wider context.
- 3.2.2 **Prehistoric Period:** prehistoric activity in Furness dates back to the Late Upper Palaeolithic period, with evidence found at Bart's Shelter, Scales, approximately 5km to the south of Dragley Beck (Young 2002, 21). Many Mesolithic flint scatters have also been recorded on Walney Island, on the west of the Furness Peninsula and approximately 12km south-west of Ulverston (*op cit*, 24). Polished stone axes are the most commonly found evidence of Neolithic activity in the area (Bradley and Edmonds 1999, 45). Part of one of these axes was recovered during excavations carried out in 2003 at Sir John Barrow Cottage, at the western end of the proposed development area (Site **01**). An axe and a flint flake were also found near Watery Lane, approximately 0.25km to the north of Dragley Beck (Site **02**).
- 3.2.3 Neolithic settlement sites are very rare in the region, and it is not until the Bronze Age period that settlement sites begin to appear in any significant numbers. Many of these are difficult to date, however, and have often not been examined in detail (Barnes 1968, 7). They include some fine examples such as Stone Walls near Urswick and Skelmore Heads, of which excavations at the latter failed to identify any reliable dating evidence (Powell 1963). A number of finds of burials and metalwork, particularly of Bronze Age date, are also known across Furness, although these too were often poorly recorded (Barnes 1968, 7).
- 3.2.4 **Roman Period:** it is not clear whether the Romans arrived in force in Furness. The earliest antiquarian records mention the discovery of a section of well-built road at Mountbarrow near Ulverston (West 1805, 8-11) and the relatively large

number of coins from Furness has led to the suggestion that some form of significant contact must have taken place (Shotter 1995).

- 3.2.5 **Early Medieval:** the Norse influence in the area during the ninth and tenth centuries must have been considerable since place-names of Scandinavian origin are found throughout Furness (Trescaheric 1993, 27-9). Physical evidence has also been discovered, such as the remains of a sword found at Rampside, to the south-west of Ulverston (Barnes 1968, 16).
- 3.2.6 **Medieval:** Ulverston's origins essentially lie in the late medieval period, although its name suggests a mixture of Old English and Norse (Lee 1998). The Domesday Book records Ulverston as held by Turnulph and, following the Norman Conquest, land in Furness was granted to Earl Siward from whom it passed to Ulfr, from whom the name may have come (Birkett 1949, 5-6); by 1086 it was in the hands of the King (Faull and Stinson 1986). Control of Ulverston during the eleventh century was a mixed affair, as it was held whole, or in part, at different times by the Barons of Kendal and Lancaster and by Furness Abbey (*op cit*, 15-7). The manor was also divided several times and, by the beginning of the seventeenth century, was held in part by the Neville estate and part by the crown (*op cit*, 18-20). Dragley Beck was, by contrast, under the influence of Conishead Priory. In the early fourteenth century, King Edward II confirmed the grant to the priory acknowledged by William of Lancaster, which included the land on both sides of the road which leads from Ulverston to Bardsea, some 4km to the south (Anon c1930, 5).
- 3.2.7 **Post-Medieval:** the location of rope works near Ulverston during the seventeenth to nineteenth century (*Section 4.1*) is likely to reflect the shipping anchorages they supported. It therefore appears likely that there was a focus of shipping industry in the Greenodd area during the seventeenth and early eighteenth century, when it was supported by rope works at Arrad and Newland. Shipping then moved to Carter Pool, to the south-east of Ulverston (Fig 3), in the mid eighteenth century, when it was supported by the rope works at Outcast, the subject of the present study. When the canal was built at the end of the eighteenth century, shipping transferred there, and the rope works in Ulverston became the most convenient. With the construction of the Furness Railway by 1854 and the Ulverston and Lancaster Railway in 1857, the shipping industry declined, and with the corresponding decrease in demand for ropes, the rope-making industry suffered a major decline.

4. THE ROPE WALK ASSESSMENT AREA

4.1 THE HISTORY OF OUTCAST ROPE WALK, ULVERSTON

- 4.1.1 **Introduction:** Britain's domination and expansion of overseas trade over the course of the eighteenth and nineteenth century relied upon vast numbers of sailing ships. The requirement for long lengths of rope for rigging precipitated a concomitant expansion in the rope making industry (White 1930, 84). For much of that time, ropes were handmade on a rope walk, which had to be straight and about 1320 feet long (Jones 1996, 314). The straight section of the Ulverston rope walk, up to the small building at its eastern end, is 391m (1282ft) and as such is only just short of the requisite 1320ft. At each end of a rope walk was a frame and at one of them was a rotating component called a jack, which was turned by a man using a handle driven through a series of gears (*ibid*). Long strands of yarn were laid on the rope walk, attached at one end to the revolving jack and at the other to the traveller, a weighted trolley with a single revolving hook, via the block (*ibid*). The latter was a piece of hardwood with three grooves, through which each of the strands of yarn passed (*ibid*). This was held by the rope maker, who walked along the rope walk, with the rope forming between the block and the slowly advancing trolley behind, which was pulled along as the twisting shortened the yarn (*ibid*). In this manner, standard lengths of 120 fathoms (720ft) were made (*ibid*). Rope making began to be mechanised from about the late eighteenth century but examples of the traditional technique persisted into the twentieth century (Jones 1996; Roper 2005). Ropes were often made from hemp, which in Ulverston is thought to have been grown in the area named 'Hemplands' (McKeever and Layfield 2004, 86).
- 4.1.2 **Outcast Rope walk:** John Robinson's Book of Precedents records in a document dated 29th September 1752 that William Noble had '*...purchased the inheritance of a small [?]parcel of land near Outcast of said which he has now converted into a rope walk or a ropery being the length of [blank] yds or thereabouts & has since built a proper & convenient ropewalk at the east end of the said rope walk and has carried on for some time the trade or business of making of divers kinds of cables, ropes & cordage there...*'. While the usage of terms such as 'lately' and 'for some time' in a manner which might be considered contradictory in modern dialogue precludes the determination of the exact date at which the business was set-up, it is clear from this that William Noble had set up the rope works himself. In order to try to gain more information when this might have occurred, William Noble's family tree was investigated. None of the entries for William Noble give his profession, but all give his place of residence. The only mention of his wife is in the entry for their marriage. However, it was possible to be certain that the right William Noble had been identified due to his residence at Outcast Bridge from 1749-51 to 1753-6 (*Section 4.1.4*). It was only through William's great misfortune of having three of his six children die young that it was possible to trace him from one address to another.

- 4.1.3 **The progenitors of William Noble:** the Nobles were involved in the rope-making business from at least the early eighteenth century. This is evident from the record of the christening of one Sarah Noble, daughter of Edward Noble of Newland, Roper, on 25th November 1711 (Bardsley and Ayre 1886, 297). There is no clear evidence, however, that the William Noble who was a roper at Outcast in the mid-eighteenth century, was the son of this Edward Noble (Bardsley and Ayre 1886). It is not possible to establish the relationship between these two individuals because documents record two Edward Nobles living relatively close to each other at the same time. Edward Noble of Newland was married to Margarett, and their son Mark was christened on 8th May 1714 (*op cit*, 301). Edward Noble of Woodend in Plumpton was married to Jennett, and their son William was christened on 31st May 1714 (*op cit*, 301) (Fig 3). One of the two Edwards had lived at Arrad in 1709 (*op cit*, 294). It would be naive to assume that the Parish Registers contain entries for every christening and death and, on the basis of the available evidence, it is not possible to disentangle the details of the two Edwards. The only fact that can be reliably established, therefore, is that William Noble, who was later to carry out rope-making at Outcast in the mid-eighteenth century, almost certainly knew, and was probably related to, Edward Noble the roper who lived at Newland, some 40 years before. The proximity of William Noble's residence in Arrad to Edward Noble's in Newland (approximately 1km) makes this highly likely.
- 4.1.4 **William Noble:** the lower branches of William Noble's family tree were far easier to follow, as there was no individual with whom he might have been confused. There is a document from 1735 which probably refers to him, as the individual concerned is called William Noble, and he is a roper (DDMC 12/57 1735). He lives at a place called Outrake which is adjacent to Toppinrays, and the two are separated by land called 'Bank' (*ibid*) (Fig 3). Outrake is probably near the lane that is still called 'The Rake'. It is quite likely that William, having a family background of some description in rope making, had set himself up as a roper at an early age. He and Eleanor Gawith, both of Arrad, were married on 14th July 1745 (*op cit*, 382) (Fig 3). Just over one year later, their first child, John, was christened on 19th July 1746 (*op cit*, 337). The following year, their second child, Margaret, was christened on 6th February 1747 (*op cit*, 340). Their third child, Mark, was christened on 15th July 1749 (*op cit*, 341). For all three christenings, William Noble is recorded as still residing at Arrad. He and his family must have moved to Outcast Bridge shortly after Mark's birth, however. Mark died in infancy and was buried on 19th July 1751, and his father, William Noble, was by then residing at Outcast Bridge (*op cit*, 273).
- 4.1.5 In the same year that Mark died, they had had a fourth child, Sarah, who had been christened on 28th June 1751 (*op cit*, 344). A fifth child, William, followed, and was christened on 6th August 1753 (*op cit*, 347), by which time the partners had already bought into the rope-making business (*Section 3.3.7*). Some time after William's birth, the family must have moved from Outcast Bridge into Ulverston. A sixth child, Luke, was born while they were in their new house in Ulverston, and he was christened on 11th July 1756 (*op cit*, 351). It is not clear if the family moved again to Ratten Row, also in Ulverston, after Luke's birth, or if the

Ulverston residence given for Luke's birth is in fact on Ratten Row. In any case, they were to suffer a double tragedy the following year, when first their one-year-old, Luke, died, and was buried on 31st August 1757 (*op cit*, 278), and then their six-year-old, Sarah, died and was buried on 8th November 1757 (*op cit*, 278). For both of these burials, William Noble is recorded as residing at Ratten Row (Fig 3).

- 4.1.6 A document from 1760 concerns a roper by the name of William Noble, of Ulverston (DDMC 12/43 1760), and it is very likely he is the same individual whose children died three years previously. The document is an agreement following a dispute over a well for the water supply of rope works and cottages at Hollinshall (Fig 3). It is not clear from the document who owned the rope works, but one interpretation might be that William Noble was by this time a roper in Ulverston, but had interests in the Newland area where his family background lay. He may also have wanted to disadvantage the competition by preventing them from using the water supply. However, that can only remain speculation.
- 4.1.7 ***The Outcast Rope Walk:*** the above account of the family of William Noble establishes that William's involvement in the rope works at Outcast must have commenced some time between 15th July 1749 and 28th June 1751. A document from 1742 concerning two closes of land - Roger Close and Seldom Dry - certainly makes no mention of the rope walk (BDB/42/104/2 1742). From later documents (*Section 3.3.11*) Seldom Dry adjoined the rope walk, and therefore the fact that the rope walk was not mentioned in 1742 suggests it had not yet been constructed. Also, from the account given of the partnership deed of 1752, it seems highly likely that William Noble had set up the rope making business himself:

Articles of partnership dated 29 September 1752 recite that William Noble had been operating a ropery making all kinds of "Cables, Ropes & Cordage" on a small parcel of land near Outcast, Ulverston, and that now James Machell, Esq, J. Backhouse, Gentleman, John Dodgson of Ulverston, Mariner, and James Fell, Mariner, were becoming joint adventurers and co-partners with Noble in the ropery and in "buying and selling timber, deals, tarr or any other goods and merchandizes". The new partners were to pay Noble each one-fifth of the "Charge of making the [ropery] & erecting the s^d Rope House & the poles posts & o^r Necessaries thereupon ...£81.9. & the Tools & Materials ab^t the s^d Ropery Together with the Benefit of the Service of an apprentice ... £34.11." William Noble was to act as the agent or manager of the works and trading for £25 per year." (Barnes and Hobbs 1960, 123)

- 4.1.8 Unfortunately, the existence of a copy of the partnership deed does not guarantee that the plan went ahead, but the full document (*Section 3.3.2*) makes it clear that the rope walk and Rope House had been built on the site in, or by, 1752. That William Noble moved from Outcast Bridge into Ulverston so soon afterwards, sometime between 6th August 1753 and 11th July 1756, does not necessarily suggest that the business was a great success. If it had been possible to trace the partners in the rope making business then this might have thrown some light on whether or not the business properly got off the ground. Unfortunately, however,

not only are John and James extremely common Christian names, Machell, Backhouse, Dodgson, and Fell are relatively common local surnames, and this makes tracing the partners almost impossible.

- 4.1.9 It is possible to trace the life of the rope walk through primary documents concerning land adjoining it, although it can not be assumed that the name 'Rope Walk' implies that the land was in use as such.
- 4.1.10 A document of 1759 grants The Wollhouse Company waste ground near brick kilns on Oxenholme Common in Ulverston (BDB 42/64 1759) (Fig 3). The land is described as being approximately 25 yards from the north-east side of the fence of William Dodgson's meadow and 25-30 yards south of the step stones over the White Well Road into Oxenholme Common (*ibid*). The land is granted "*with liberty to erect and make a forge or smithy with Dam for the use thereof and also to make a weir and sluices across and from the River below the Step Stones or Bridge going into the Rope Walk*" (*ibid*). This is an interesting document because of the information it contains on structures close to, and access to, the rope walk.
- 4.1.11 A lease and release of land named Seldom Dry (*Section 3.3.7*) from 1765 is useful because it states that Seldom Dry "*adjoins to a Rope Walk with the north side thereof*" (BDB/42/106/1-2 1765). Twenty-five years later, in 1790, the rope walk is mentioned again, when the boundary between it and Seldom Dry is the subject. The document states that Henry Atkinson "*hereby agrees to convey relinquish and give up to the said John Dodson ... All the Hedges or Fence separating or dividing the rope walk at Outcast near Ulverston ... from a certain Close of the said John Dodson called Seldom Dry, lying on the North side of and adjoining to the said Rope walk, together with the Ground on which the said Fence stands to be held and enjoyed by the said John Dodson ... and to be repaired and supported at his and their costs and charges*" (BDB/42/108 1790).
- 4.1.12 A diary entry of 1799 gives useful information on the activities being carried out at the rope walk, and makes it clear that the rope works was in use at this time. It states "*We proceeded by a Road past the Rope Walk where several men were engaged on the manufacture of rope and twine, also fishing nets*" (Remington 1935, 26). A few years later, the enclosure map of 1812 shows that John Webster owned the rope walk in 1812 (*Section 4.2.3*; Fig 5). It is recorded that in approximately the 1820s, "*After retiring from sea, Captain Richard Storey did other work and was notably in charge of the Ulverston Rope Walk at Sandside*" (White 1930, 65). The source for this information is not given. The same historian goes on to say that "*Captain Swainson, after retiring from sea, became a ship-rigger and assisted in fitting out many of the Ulverston-built vessels, working in the Rope Walk at Ulverston*" (*op cit*, 67). This appears to show a continuity from the partnership deed of 1752 (see above), when two of the four partners were mariners.
- 4.1.13 There was an obvious link between ships and rope-making, as is made clear above. Ulverston and the neighbouring villages were engaged in the manufacture of ropes, chains, sails, anchors, and hoops for ship's masts (grummets) during the period of great business in shipping and shipbuilding (White 1930, 84). In this

way, every requisite for this business was locally available (*ibid*). In the 1820s, there were rope and twine makers and sail makers in Ulverston (*op cit*, 25), and in 1836, sail canvas and ropes were among the principal manufactures of the town, together with linens, checks, ginghams, and hats (*op cit*, 82).

- 4.1.14 Although the construction of the Ulverston Canal, which had commenced in 1794 and been completed in 1796 (Marshall 1958, 89-90), was extremely important for the expansion of the shipping trade and, consequently, for the rope industry, there were considerable amounts of shipping in the area before that time. In 1774, for example, there were seventy ships belonging to Ulverston chiefly employed in the coasting trade (West 1805, 16). As a result of the construction of the canal, there were at one time two rope walks in what was then known as the Back Ellers (now Neville Street), one between what is now Devonshire Road and Lund Terrace, one in Back Lane, one in the town centre known as Rack Alley, between the back of Cavendish Street and the Halifax office, in addition to the one at Outcast (Ashburner 1993, 23).
- 4.1.15 These various rope manufacturing businesses can be traced using the trade directories of the time. In 1829 Charles Downward was recorded as a cordage manufacturer at Outcast (Parson and White 1829, 728), and four other rope and twine manufacturers are also listed; one of these is Philip Hartley and Co, in the Ellers (*ibid*). In 1849 the Outcast rope works no longer appears, but four other rope works within Ulverston are listed, including Philip Hartley and Co in the Ellers (Mannex 1849, 456). By 1882, the industry appears to be in decline, with only one works listed, that of Philip Hartley, rope and twine manufacturer, located in the Ellers (Mannex and Co 1882, 217, 24).
- 4.1.16 It is recorded that sometime before 1900, William Hartley “*kept the Rope Walk and Twine Walk in the Ellers, and the Low Mill*” (White 1930, 91). Unfortunately, no source is given. However, it is likely that William Hartley belonged to the same firm as Philip Hartley in the Ellers (mentioned above). Also, the rope walk at Low Mill almost certainly refers to the rope walk at Outcast, as Low Mill Tannery is very close to this, and it would therefore be a reasonable description of its location. This of course assumes that it was a rope walk that was referred to at Low Mill, since this is an interpretation of the sense of the text, and not directly stated (McKeever and Layfield 2004). However, if all this is correct, it would perhaps explain why the rope walk at Outcast was not listed in directories after 1829. The Ordnance Survey only changes the description from ‘Rope Walk’ in 1850 to ‘Old Rope Walk’ in 1890 (*Section 4.2.10*), perhaps implying it was in use until sometime before 1890.
- 4.1.17 The census data can also be used to provide one or two details that are supportive of, and add to, the trends observed through other documentation. The 1841 census (HO/107/531/11) records that Gabriel Hargreaves, rope manufacturer, was living at Outcast along with Betsy Hargreaves, and it is likely that it is the same Gabriel Hargreaves, rope maker, who is recorded in 1861, along with his wife Elizabeth (RG 10/4240). The census of 1851 records Gabriel Lee, also a rope maker, living at Outcast (Cumbria Family History Society 1997, 25). The information of the 1861 census may suggest that the Outcast rope walk was still in operation

(perhaps even under the name of “Low Mills,” a geographic description equally as apt as Outcast), but its absence from the trade directories might also imply either that Gabriel Hargreaves was retired, or, that he went further afield for employment, to one of the operational rope walks in Ulverston. The 1841 census mentions three women by the name of Hartley who were rope manufacturers living at Low Mills (HO/107/531/11), and it is highly likely that they would have supplied yarn to the Outcast rope walk. By 1871, the census records that none of the occupants of the Low Mill Manufactory or of the Rope Walk are associated with rope making (RG 10/4240) and the same is true of the 1881 census returns for Low Mill Cottages, Low Mill Farm, Outcast cottages or Outcast Farm (RG 11/4277).

4.2 MAP REGRESSION ANALYSIS

- 4.2.1 ***Yates’ Map of Lancashire 1786:*** this map annotates Watery Lane and Well Lane that are still in use today and also the course of Dragley Beck. No pathway is shown next to this stream as exists today and nor is there any reference to the rope walk. Instead, there is a pathway that appears to be ‘Over Sands Road’, although this is not annotated as such. At the eastern edge of this path is a structure, which may be associated with the rope walk, as documentary evidence suggests it was already in use at this time. Another structure is shown in the ‘Low Mill Tannery’ area, which may indicate the origins of activity in this area, possibly associated with smithing or tanning as the change in the name of this area over time indicates.
- 4.2.2 ***Plan of the Ulverston Commons, 1792 (Fig 4) Z2067 1792:*** the rope walk (Site 06) is shown and named on the plan, and there are buildings at its eastern end; Outcast Bridge and Oxenholm Common are also shown.
- 4.2.3 ***Enclosure map 1812 (Fig 5):*** this map only shows those properties that border on land with which the Enclosure Act is concerned. The then owner, Henry Atkinson, bought an allotment of land directly to the south of the western end of the rope walk (ULB 1891, 50) and, as a result, only the western end of the study area is depicted. The rope walk (located at the eastern end of the study area) was owned by John Webster at the time (*ibid*). Some buildings are shown, which adjoin Over Sands Road and are mentioned in the Act (*op cit*, 13-4). The building that is directly in line with the rope walk is presumably Rope Walk House (Site 09) (Plate 5).
- 4.2.4 ***Hennet’s Map of the County Palatine of Lancaster, 1829 (Fig 7):*** on this map there is no evidence for the rope walk, but there are several buildings located in this area, close to Outcast Bridge and, again may be associated with the rope walk. To the south-west of this lies an area described as ‘Smithy Green’ with two structures that may relate to the smithing industry. This area is now known as the ‘Low Mill Tannery,’ suggesting that there had been a change in the industry.
- 4.2.5 ***Wood’s Plan of Ulverston 1832 (Fig 8):*** this map depicts the rope walk (Site 06), which is now lined with trees. The pathway running alongside Dragley Beck is

also shown, again with trees lining it, but no buildings are depicted. The road leading to the sands is annotated as ‘Road to the Sands’, and is now known as ‘Over Sands Road’. To the south-west of this area, the ‘Smithy Green’ is no longer annotated, but there is a ‘Mill Dam’ suggesting the presence of a mill nearby and is probably the site of Low Mill Reservoir.

- 4.2.6 ***Tithe map c1850 (Fig 6)***: a number of sites are present, although this map does not show as much detail as the Ordnance Survey map. The main roads are shown, but not annotated, and includes ‘Over Sands Road’; smaller footpaths are not marked. The rope walk (Site **06**) is present, although it is not annotated. A small square building is shown in the middle of the rope walk at the east end, just north-west of Rope Walk House (Site **09**) (Plate 5), which projects into the walk. There is another building to the north-east, which is ‘T’-shaped and adjacent to a field named House Close. The tithe apportionment shows that Great Field, which adjoined the rope walk to the north-west, was owned by Rampside Chapel and was cultivated by one Isaac Tyson for arable (IR 29/18 316 I-E 1852). Low Mill is present and annotated, along with the reservoir.
- 4.2.7 ***Ordnance Survey 1850 (Fig 9)***: many of the sites identified during this assessment are depicted on this map, along with a number of other industrial sites within the assessment area. These include a Tan Yard (Site **12**); an Iron Foundry (Site **13**); High Lund Bridge (later renamed Fitz Bridge, Site **04**); the rope walk (Site **06**); Low Mill reservoir (Site **16**); Low Mill (Cotton); the two structures associated with the rope walk (Sites **07** and **08**); Rope Walk House (Site **09**) (Plate 5); and Outcast Bridge (Site **18**). ‘Water Lane’ is also annotated, which has since been renamed ‘Watery Lane’ and ‘Over Sands Road’ is present, although it is not annotated.
- 4.2.8 ***Seldom Dry and Never Dry conveyance plan, 1864 (BDB/42/115 1864)***: within the document accompanying this plan the rope walk and other property are described as belonging to Benson Harrison Esq. The plan shows Rope Walk, Seldom Dry and Never Dry. Seldom Dry is to the east, and Never Dry is to the west. The fence is marked “*This fence belongs field*” in Seldom Dry, and “*This fence belongs Walk*” in Never Dry, presumably a reference to the 1790 agreement (Section 4.1.1).
- 4.2.9 ***Low Mill plan, 1866 (BDB/42/78 1866)***: the rope walk (Site **06**) is only marked on this plan in pencil. At the west end, however, there are two small structures and short lengths of wall across a track labelled nearby “*right of cloughs*”. At Site **03**, now Fitz Bridge Cottages, the buildings are much larger than they are at present, with an extension on the east side. Another “*right of cloughs*” is marked to the east of this together with further small structures.
- 4.2.10 ***Ordnance Survey 1890 and 1895 (Fig 10)***: both the first edition 1:2500 maps (1890a and b) and the second edition 1:10560 (1895; Fig 10) were examined. Most of the sites identified during this assessment are represented, along with a number of other industrial sites within the assessment area. These include the Tan Yard (Site **12**); the Revolving Shutter Works (previously the Iron Foundry) (Site **13**); a lodge (Site **15**) (later known as Lund Lodge); Cottages, that are later named

Fitz Cottages (Site **03**); Fitz Bridge (Site **04**); the rope walk (Site **06**); Low Mill; the two structures associated with the rope walk (Sites **07** and **08**); Rope Walk House (Site **09**); and Outcast Bridge (Site **16**). The rope walk (Site **06**) is depicted, along with its avenue of trees, but it is now annotated as ‘Old Rope Walk’ suggesting that it was no longer in operation at that time. A photograph from approximately the same period gives an impression of what it looked like (Plate 4). The Land Valuation of 1910, which corresponds to the annotations on the 1890 maps (1890a and b), lists the ‘Rope Walk’ as being occupied by Margaret Athersmith, and owned by Rampside Church (BT/IR/19/2 1910). It also lists the buildings at the east end of the rope walk as ‘Cottages’, which are owned by Elizabeth Barton of Breast Mill Beck (*ibid*). The ‘Low Mill’ is now annotated as the ‘Low Mill Tannery’ indicating a change of function.

- 4.2.11 **Ordnance Survey 1913 and 1914 (Fig 11)**: both the second edition 1:2500 map (1913) and the third edition 1:10560 map (1914; Fig 11) were examined. Again, many of the sites are depicted on this map including Sir John Barrow’s Cottage (Site **01**); cottages that are titled ‘Fitz’ (Site **03**); Fitz Bridge (Site **04**); the rope walk (annotated ‘Old Rope Walk’, Site **06**); the two structures associated with the rope walk (Sites **07** and **08**); and Rope Walk House (Site **09**).
- 4.2.12 **Ordnance Survey 1933 (Fig 12)**: the third edition 1:2500 maps (1933a and b; Fig 12) were examined. Many of the same sites are depicted and annotated on this slightly later map. These include the cottages that are named ‘Fitz’ (Site **03**); Fitz Bridge (Site **04**); the rope walk (Site **06**); the two structures associated with the rope walk (Sites **07** and **08**); and Rope Walk House (Site **09**).
- 4.2.13 **Ordnance Survey 1968**: Site **03** is now named ‘Fitz Cottages’, and is shown as a single ‘L’-shaped building with a row of smaller buildings to the east. The rope walk (Site **06**) is shown as planted with trees.

4.3 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

- 4.3.1 Three aerial photographs were selected to investigate the proposed development area. They are all vertical photographs, two of which were taken in 1986 and one in 1994, and they all depict the entire study area (Fig 13). Some extant archaeology is still evident and includes the Sir John Barrow Cottage (Site **01**), Fitz Cottage (Site **03**), Fitz Bridge (Site **04**), rope walk (Site **06**) (Plate 3), and Rope Walk House (Site **09**).

4.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTIONS

- 4.4.1 Oxford Archaeology North has carried out a number of archaeological interventions within Ulverston (Fig 14), including desk-based assessments and evaluations at Bugle Horn, Soutergate (OA North 2004a) and at Miller’s Garage at The Gill (OA North 2004b), some 800m to the north-west of the current study area. A further desk-based assessment investigated the area around Dalton Gate to the north-west of the current study area, which yielded evidence of prehistoric, Roman and post-medieval activity (OA North 2004c). One of the most significant

excavations was carried out at Sir John Barrow Cottage at Dragley Beck, which is located within this study area (Site **01**). Historical and cartographic research was undertaken, revealing the sixteenth century origins of the cottage (Elsworth and Dawson 2003). Excavations in the grounds, however, suggest a more wide-ranging history dating back to prehistoric times with evidence of a Neolithic polished stone axe (*ibid*).

4.5 WALK-OVER SURVEY

- 4.5.1 A walk-over survey was undertaken of the entire study area in order to assess any extant above-ground archaeological features (Plates 1–3, and 5). A total of three sites were identified, which are presented in the gazetteer of sites in *Appendix 2* (Sites **10-11**, and **14**). These comprise a kissing gate (Site **10**) (Plate 1), a set of pedestrian gate posts (Site **11**) (Plate 2), and a bridge over Dragley Beck (Site **14**). Just before Fitz Cottages (Site **03**), is a kissing gate (Site **10**), which marks the end of the footpath. Over the junction where Watery Lane meets Morecambe Road is another footpath with hedges running along the northern side, whilst iron fencing delineates the southern side. At the end of this footpath is a set of pedestrian gateposts (Site **11**) and beyond this, the rope walk begins. The bridge over Dragley Bridge (Site **14**) is built of red sandstone and C. C. Dragley Beck Bridge carved into it.

5. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE REMAINS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

5.1.1 The assessment identified eighteen sites from the immediate environs of the proposed greenway (*Appendix 2*, Fig 2), of which 13 are considered to have particular significance, either because they are likely to be impacted upon by the development, or because they indicate the presence of archaeological material within the local area that could be encountered during groundworks (Table 1). These sites were identified from a number of sources, including two sites identified using the HER, six from cartographic sources, one from secondary sources, and two from the walk-over survey. One site, Sir John Barrow Cottage (Site **01**), is a designated Grade II Listed building (No: 26584), but, because of the nature of the proposed development, it is the find spot within the back garden that it is of more relevance than the listed building itself.

Period	No of sites	Sites
Prehistoric	2	Artefact find spots finds (Sites 01 and 02)
Medieval	1	Bloomery site (Site 17)
Post-medieval	17	Cottages (Site 03), Bridges (Sites 04 and 14), Cloughs (Site 05), Rope walk (Site 06), Rope Walk Structure (Site 07), Rope walk building (Site 08), Ropewalk House (Site 09), Kissing Gate (Site 10), Gate posts (Sites 11)

Table 1: Number of sites by type and 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:** all of the identified sites within the immediate development area date to the post-medieval period. The rope walk itself (Site **06**) (Plate 3), along with its associated buildings (Sites **07** and **08**) and the Rope Walk House (Site **09**) (Plate 5), are perhaps the most important of these sites, as they are contemporary and can be seen as representing Ulverston’s industrial and maritime heritage while also preserving a craft that had changed very little since the medieval period. These features can thus be seen as having local significance. The presence of Neolithic material within the study area is also of significance (Sites **01** and **02**). Although the material was not within a primary context, its presence clearly indicates that Neolithic activity was taking place within the area, and can thus be seen of regional significance. The presence of a reported medieval bloomery (Site **17**) is potentially significant as it is an indication of early iron production. Such

Bloomeries are typically located adjacent to a water source, and in this case the water source is Dragley Beck. There exists the possibility of further bloomeries or sites associated with iron production in the area and possibly on the opposite side of Dragley Beck.

- 5.2.3 **Rarity:** none of the identified sites can be considered uniquely rare. The sites associated with the post-medieval rope-making industry (Sites **06**, **07**, **08** and **09**), are of local significance, but not of regional importance, even in Ulverston, where there are at least five other documented (but not necessarily extant) examples. Likewise, finds of isolated Neolithic axes are quite common in the area (see *Section 3.2.2*), and their recovery from a secondary context can only be considered to be of more local interest. Were such material to be found within a primary context, or associated with settlement remains, this would be extremely rare, and highly significant. The bloomery (Site **17**) is a potentially important site; nationally such sites are relatively rare; however, bloomeries are considerably more common in southern Cumbria than elsewhere in the country reflecting that the Furness peninsula has considerable deposits of iron ore. Hence, and quite unusually, this bloomery is less significant within a regional context than it is within a national context.
- 5.2.4 **Documentation:** documentary research of the rope walk (Site **06**) has enhanced our understanding of this historic technology. The method of rope walking that was utilised between the thirteenth and nineteenth centuries (and even beyond) for the production of long ropes of up to 300 yards long is known (Roper 2005). The documentary records also indicates both the longevity and the importance of this particular industry in this area of Ulverston. At the industry's peak, there were at least six operating rope walks in Ulverston, and considering the demand from the shipping industry, they are likely to have been contemporary. Not only is the Ulverston industry well-documented in general, but there are also a number of important documents referring to the Outcast rope walk within the development area, allowing a closely dated chronology of activity to be formulated (*Section 3.3*). The use of a walk for rope-making at Outcast is likely to have commenced between 1742 and 1752, ending sometime after 1851 but before 1890, as the Second Edition Ordnance Survey 1890 describes it as the 'Old Rope Walk'.
- 5.2.5 **Group Value:** the rope walk (Site **06**), rope walk structure (Site **07**), and building (Site **08**), along with Rope Walk House (Site **09**) (Plate 5) comprise a clearly defined group representing an important phase in Ulverston's industrial heritage. Together, they allow a greater understanding of the organisation, scale and technology of the rope-making industry. Moreover, the siting of this industry alongside others such as tanning, smelting and cotton milling means that the rope walk sites have local group value within the context of the industrial development of that part of the town. Within this wider industrial context, it is possible that Site **08**, the clough, has some local group value as a place where draft horses involved with industrial haulage could be watered. The fact that this rope walk was a part of a much wider rope making industry across the Ulverston area enhances the group value of this example. Within the context of post-industrial Ulverston, it can be argued that the rope walk, kissing gate and gateposts (Sites **06**, **10**, and **11**

respectively) have some group value as together they represent the reuse of the rope walk and the path to the west as a communal leisure facility.

- 5.2.6 **Survival/Condition:** of the sites within the development area, several are in a state of good survival. These include Fitz Bridge (Site **04**), the kissing gate (Site **10**) (Plate 1), the gateposts (Site **11**) (Plate 2), Dragley Beck Bridge (Site **14**), while the rope walk (Site **06**) is still extant (Plate 3), although it was resurfaced as recently as 2001 (Anon 2004). Fitz Bridge Cottages (Site **03**) are also extant albeit now renamed, while Rope Walk House (Site **09**) has been extended since the original building was constructed sometime around 1752, and it is uncertain how much of the original fabric survives. Unless the barn observed during the walk-over survey is the site of the rope work workshops, these are no longer extant. These seven sites can be considered to be of local significance on the basis of their current state of survival. Sites **07** and **08**, the rope walk structure and rope walk building respectively, appear to no longer survive as standing remains, with modern housing being built in the area of Site **08**, while any remains of Site **07** are likely to lie beneath the tarmac surface of the current footpath.
- 5.2.7 **Fragility/Vulnerability:** the most vulnerable sites are perhaps the kissing gate and the gateposts at the west end of the rope walk (Sites **10** and **11**) as these, although sturdy structures in their own right, may be removed to allow access to machinery for tarmac stripping and resurfacing. The vulnerability of the rope walk is hard to assess. Removal of the current layers of tarmac could well expose and cut into the original surface of the rope walk, whatever that may have been. This process may also reveal and damage the remains of Site **07**, which may be preserved beneath the current layer of tarmac. Moreover, lateral expansion of the path is likely to compromise the character of the rope walk itself. Because of the nature of the development, Fitz Cottages (Site **03**) and Fitz Bridge (Site **04**) cannot be considered to be particularly vulnerable. The same is true of Rope Walk House (Site **09**), which, despite immediately adjoining the rope walk, is currently occupied and unlikely to be compromised in the new development. If stratified Neolithic remains do lie within the study area, then they are likely to be extremely fragile, and thus of high significance. However, because the development is likely to affect only a narrow, shallow area, they cannot be considered to be particularly vulnerable. Similarly, there is the potential for buried remains associated with medieval iron working or processing and these could be affected by the proposed development.
- 5.2.8 **Diversity:** within the wider study area there is a diverse range of archaeological and architectural features, in terms of date, ranging from the Neolithic to the present, but also in terms of land use, varying from domestic to industrial. Within the actual development area, however, only the post-medieval period is represented and site-type diversity is restricted to those associated with ropemaking (Sites **09**, **07**, **08** and **09**) and recreation (Sites **10** and **11** as well as the reuse of Site **06**), along with individual examples of bridges (Sites **04** and **14**), a clough (Site **05**) and a row of domestic structures (Site **03**).
- 5.2.9 **Potential:** there is potential for prehistoric, particularly Neolithic, activity as there is evidence in two places within the study area (Sites **01** and **02**) and also within

Ulverston itself. Medieval remains may also potentially be found as a medieval bloomery is in the immediate vicinity (Site **17**), as well as others in the Ulverston area. Perhaps most significantly, the post-medieval industries provide evidence for the evolution and operation of these technologies.

5.3 SIGNIFICANCE

5.3.1 To summarise, the results of this desk-based assessment indicate the presence within the immediate development area of a number of post-medieval sites that can be seen to have local significance along with the potential for the recovery of Neolithic material with regional significance (as indicated by the find spots of Sites **01** and **02**). This value, particularly in the case of post-medieval Sites **06**, **07**, **08** and **09**, which together can be seen as having a value through their documentation and grouping within the wider context of post-medieval industrial Ulverston, is more important than criteria such as date, rarity and diversity. Taking all the criteria it is evident that the ropeworks scores high in terms of group value, survival, documentation, and period, but is not rare locally; collectively the rope walk complex has an enhanced value and it can be considered that it is regionally significant, as it provides information on the post-medieval industrial landscape of Cumbria. Moreover, the ancillary features associated with the reuse of the rope walk as a leisure facility, Sites **10** and **11**, can be considered to contribute to the ‘character’ of the area, a criterion somewhat hard to define.

6. IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 IMPACT

6.1.1 In total, five sites are located either within or close to the development area and are likely to be affected (Sites **05**, **06**, **07**, **10**, and **11**). All these sites are dated to the post-medieval period and some are associated with industries, such as the rope walk (Site **06**) and an affiliated structure (Sites **07**). The remaining sites are functional structures (Site **05**, **10**, **11**). The presence of find spots of stone axes dated to the Neolithic period within the vicinity (Sites **01** and **02**) also highlights the potential for the recovery of further prehistoric material within the study area, and the nearby bloomery highlights the potential for further iron working remains. Depending upon the depth of groundworks, any such remains could be impacted upon. The Dragley Beck bridge (Site **14**) will not be directly affected but could be put under undue strain if heavy machinery is taken over it.

6.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.2.1 It is recommended that the following programme of archaeological recording be undertaken as appropriate before, or during, any groundworks for the development. No further action is recommended for Site **03** (Fitz Bridge Cottages), Site **04** (Fitz Bridge), Site **08** (rope walk building) and Site **09** (Rope Walk House) as these are either just outside the immediate area of development or currently occupied and therefore unlikely to be affected by the very limited nature of the development. It may be beneficial to conduct a very rapid photographic record of Sites **10** and **11** (the kissing gate and gateposts), because they may be removed or suffer damage as a result of the proposed works.

6.2.2 An evaluation is recommended for part of the area of the rope walk itself (Site **06**). This would help determine the presence of, and identify, any surface that could have related to that of the rope walk as well as the presence of any features that ran along the side of the rope walk, either structurally, or demarcationally. This should entail the excavation of at least two trenches across the line of the rope way to examine its make up and survival. In addition, an evaluation is recommended for Site **07**, the rope walk structure. It is possible that archaeological remains of this feature survive beneath the current tarmac surface or could be encountered during groundworks. If this was the case, it might be possible to further identify the nature of this structure. For the same reason, it is recommended that an evaluation should be carried out in the area of Site **05**, the cloughs, as it may be possible to identify further this rather enigmatic feature and associated structures.

6.2.3 It is also recommended that a watching brief be carried out in the light of find spot Sites **01** and **02** and the nearby bloomery Site **17**. The nature of this watching brief is hard to define, as such remains could be encountered at any point along the development route subject to the extent of the intervention. Should any topsoil

stripping or cutting of the subsoil take place, along the route, then it is recommended that an archaeologist be present during the course of this work.

Site No	Type	Period	Impact	Recommendations
01, 02 and 17	Find Spots / Bloomery	Neolithic	Will not be directly affected	In order that further find spots / iron working remains be identified along the development, a watching brief should be maintained during any topsoil stripping or ground works.
05	Cloughs	Post-medieval	Will be affected	Evaluation
06	Rope Walk	Post-medieval	Will be affected	Evaluation / Watching Brief
07	Rope Walk structure	Post-medieval	Will be affected	Evaluation
10	Kissing Gate	Post-medieval	Will be affected	Photographic Record
11	Gate Posts	Post-medieval	Will be affected	Photographic Record

Table 2: Recommendations for archaeological work

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APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (North) has been invited by Guy Weller, of Cumbria County Council, to submit a project design and costs for an archaeological assessment on the line of a footpath, in south Ulverston, which coincides with the line of a former rope walk. The archaeological work is in accordance with the requirements of the Cumbria County Council Archaeological Service. The study is required to assess the archaeological and historical importance of the site in order to inform proposals for the upgrading of the path.

1.1.2 **Rope walks:** ropes were once made by hand in rope walks in standard lengths of 120 fathoms (720ft); the rope walk had to be straight and about 1320 feet long. It is perhaps therefore not surprising that the straight section of the Ulverston rope walk, up to the small building at its eastern end, is 391m (1282ft) and as such is only just short of the requisite 1320ft. At each end was a frame and at one of them was a rotating component called a jack, which was turned by a man with a handle driven through a series of gears. Typically the rope would have been made up of three lengths of hemp yarn. Rope making started to be mechanised from about the late eighteenth century and so it is probable that the Ulverston example predates this (Jones 1996).

1.2 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY (NORTH)

1.2.1 Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) (formerly Lancaster University Archaeological Unit) has considerable experience of the evaluation and assessment of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large scale projects during the past 24 years. Evaluations and assessments have taken place within the planning process, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables. OA North has undertaken numerous archaeological assessments and studies within Cumbria and has considerable experience of researching the industrial heritage of the area. The proposed researcher (Dan Elsworth) for this project was brought up in Ulverston and has an unparalleled knowledge of the history and archaeology of the town and environs.

1.2.2 OA North has the professional expertise and resource to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency. OA North and all its members of staff operate subject to the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct, and OA North is a registered organisation with the IFA (No 17).

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1 The following programme has been designed to provide an accurate archaeological assessment of the designated area, within its broader context. The principal purpose of the assessment is to collate information about the archaeology of the site and its environs. This will enable an assessment of the significance of the identified archaeological resource and will establish the impact of the proposed development on the identified archaeological resource. The required stages to achieve these ends are as follows:

2.2 *Desk Top Survey*

To accrue an organised body of data to inform the planning brief. It requires an assessment of the archaeological and landscape resource, including an appraisal of the Cumbria Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and the Cumbria Record Office in Barrow, Lancaster Record Office (Preston), Ulverston Local Studies Library, and the Ulverston Heritage Centre.

2.3 **Identification Survey**

An identification survey to record the character of any extant earthworks within the study area and provide an assessment of the archaeological significance of the earthwork remains.

2.4 **Assessment Report**

A written assessment report will assess the significance of the data generated by this programme within a local and regional context. It will advise on the impact on the resource of the anticipated development within the site, and will identify both opportunities and constraints for/of the sites development.

3. **METHODS STATEMENT**

3.1 The following work programme is submitted in line with the stages and objectives of the archaeological work summarised above. The defined programme provides for both a documentary study and a field identification survey of the study area.

3.2 **DESK-BASED RESEARCH**

3.2.1 **Documentary and cartographic material:** the data generated during the desk-based study will provide the basis for an assessment of the nature and significance of the known surface and subsurface remains. It will also serve as a guide to the archaeological potential of the estate, and provide a basis from which historical narratives for the study area can be constructed. The method statement is based on the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* compiled by the IFA. This work will rapidly address the full range of potential sources of information. It will include an appraisal of the Cumbria Sites and Monuments Record, as well as appropriate sections of County histories, early maps, and such primary documentation (tithe and estate plans etc.) as may be reasonably available. Some emphasis will be upon the early cartographic evidence which has the potential to inform the post-medieval activity of the area. Any photographic material lodged in the County Sites and Monuments Record or County record Office will also be studied. Published documentary sources will also be examined and assessed, and this will include some research into rope manufacture. The study will examine place and field name evidence for the site and its environs. The Cumbria Historic Landscape Characterisation dataset will be consulted in the course of the visit to the SMR, and copies of the relevant mapping will be obtained. This work will involve visits to the following repositories: Cumbria Sites and Monuments Record, Cumbria County Record Office (Barrow), Lancashire Record Office (Preston), Ulverston Local Studies Library, Ulverston Heritage Centre, Lancaster University Library, the OA North library, and OA Staff personal libraries.

3.2.2 The study will involve a search on rentals, and post-medieval deeds, as well as photographs, topographic prints and eighteenth and nineteenth century antiquarian histories. Published secondary sources will also be examined, and in particular will examine the recently published work: McKeever, R, and Layfield, J, 2004 *The Industrial Archaeology of South Ulverston*.

3.2.3 **Geology and Topography:** a rapid compilation of geological (both solid and drift), pedological, topographical, and palaeoenvironmental information will be undertaken, using information available from the Ordnance Survey and ADAS. This will not only set any archaeological features in context but also serves to provide predictive data, that will increase the efficiency of the field investigation.

3.2.4 **Aerial Photography:** a survey of the extant air photographic cover will be undertaken. Aerial photographic collections to be consulted will include obliques and verticals held by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England based in Swindon, the Cambridge University Collection of Air Photographs and photographs held by the County SMR.

3.3 **IDENTIFICATION SURVEY**

3.3.1 **Access:** liaison for basic site access will be undertaken through Cumbria County Council.

3.3.2 It is proposed to undertake an OA North 'level 1' survey (*Appendix 1*) of the study area. This is a rapid survey undertaken alongside a desk top study as part of a site assessment. It is an initial site

inspection intended to identify the extant archaeological resource. It represents the minimum standard of record and is appropriate to exploratory survey aimed at the discovery of previously unrecorded sites. Its aim is to record the existence, location and extent of any such site. The emphasis for the recording is on the written description which will record type and period and would not normally exceed c50 words. The extent of a site is defined for sites or features greater than 50m in size and smaller sites are shown with a cross. The reconnaissance will be undertaken in a systematic fashion, walking on approximately 30m wide transects, within the extent of the defined study area.

- 3.3.3 It is proposed to use a Global Positioning System (GPS) techniques to locate and record the features and artefact sites. The use of GPS techniques has proved to be an essential and extremely cost effective means of locating monuments, and can achieve accuracies of better than $\pm 0.25\text{m}$. A photographic record will be undertaken simultaneously.
- 3.3.4 This fieldwork will result in the production of plans at a scale of 1: 2500 or any other appropriate scale required, recording the location of each of the sites listed in the gazetteer. All archaeological information collected in the course of field inspection will be recorded in standardised form, and will include accurate national grid references. This will form the basis of a gazetteer, to be submitted as part of the report.
- 3.3.5 **Health and Safety:** OA North provides a Health and Safety Statement for all projects and maintains a Unit Safety policy. All site procedures are in accordance with the guidance set out in the Health and Safety Manual compiled by the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (1997) and risk assessments are implemented for all projects.

3.4 ASSESSMENT REPORT

- 3.4.1 **Archive:** the results of Stage 3.2 and 3.3 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 any features and finds recovered during fieldwork. The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the IFA in that organisation's code of conduct.
- 3.4.2 This archive can be provided in the English Heritage Central for Archaeology format, both as a printed document and on computer disks as required, and a synthesis (in the form of the index to the archive and the report) will be deposited with the National Monuments Record (RCAHMW), as appropriate. OA North practice is to deposit the original record archive of projects (paper, magnetic, and plastic media) with the appropriate Record Office.
- 3.4.3 **Collation of data:** the data generated by Stages 3.2 and 3.3 (above) will be collated and analysed in order to provide an assessment of the nature and significance of the known surface and subsurface remains within the designated area. It will also serve as a guide to the archaeological potential of the area to be investigated, and the basis for the formulation of any detailed field programme and associated sampling strategy, should these be required in the future.
- 3.4.4 **Assessment Report:** one bound and one unbound copy of the report will be submitted to the Client, and further copies submitted to the Cumbria Sites and Monuments Record. The final report, following completion of the identification survey, will include a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design. The report will present the detail of the methodology. It will present, summarise, and interpret the results of the programme detailed above and will include a full index of archaeological features identified in the course of the project, together with appropriate illustrations, including maps and gazetteers of known or suspected sites identified within or immediately adjacent to the study area. It will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which the data has been derived, and a list of further sources identified during the programme of work, but not examined in detail. It will include a copy of the project design. It will provide an assessment of past and present land use.

- 3.4.5 The report will identify areas of defined archaeology, an assessment and statement of the actual and potential archaeological significance of any features within the broader context of regional and national archaeological priorities will be made. Illustrative material will include a location map for the identified resource.
- 3.4.6 **Proposals:** the report will make a clear statement of the impact of the development upon the identified archaeological resource. It will identify both the opportunities and the constraints for the development.
- 3.4.7 **Confidentiality:** the assessment report is designed as a document for the specific use of the client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project brief and this project design, and should be treated as such; they are 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.

4. WORK TIMETABLE

- 4.1 It is envisaged that the various stages of the project outlined above would follow on consecutively, where appropriate. The phases of work would comprise:
- i* **Desk-Based Assessment**
5 days (on site)
 - ii* **Identification Survey**
1 day (on site)
 - iii* **Assessment Report**
6 days (desk-based).
- 4.2 OA North can execute projects at very short notice once an agreement has been signed with the client. The desk-based study is scheduled for completion within three weeks from the completion of the field work.
- 4.3 The project will be under the project management of **Jamie Quartermaine, BA Surv Dip MIFA** (OA North Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed. All Unit staff are experienced, qualified archaeologists, each with several years professional expertise. It is proposed that either **Dan Elsworth** or **Jo Dawson** undertake the assessment, who both have considerable experience of archaeological assessments and are both resident in Ulverston.

APPENDIX 2: GAZETTEER OF SITES

Site number	01
Site name	Sir John Barrow Cottage, find spot
NGR	SD 29035 77566
Site type	House
Period	Neolithic - Post-medieval
HER No	2213
Statutory Designations:	Listed Grade II, No 26584
Sources	HER; Tweddle 1870; Gaythorpe 1909; Elsworth and Dawson 2003
Description	A House, now a museum run by Heritage First (formerly the Ulverston Heritage Centre). It is of seventeenth century date, but much altered. Excavations carried out in the back garden in 2003 discovered over 3000 artefacts from two main periods, the earlier dating from the eighteenth to mid-nineteenth century and the latter from the mid-nineteenth to the present day (Elsworth and Dawson 2003). A coin, possibly of Mary Tudor, was also discovered, as well as the butt end of a polished stone axe of Neolithic date.
Assessment	The site is outside of the proposed development area and will not be affected, but the stone axe findspot is an important indication of the distribution of Neolithic activity in the area.

Site number	02
Site name	Watery Lane, Find Spot
NGR	SD
Site type	Axe and flint find
Period	Prehistoric
HER No	-
Sources	Fell 1948
Description	A large 'polished celt of thin-butted type made of indurated shale' and a 'flint flake' were found 'some years ago... near Watery Lane' (Fell 1948, 238). There are no more details about the finds or a more precise location.
Assessment	It is outside the proposed development area and unlikely to be affected, although the exact find spot is not known. The findspot is an important indication of the distribution of Neolithic activity in the area.

Site number	03
Site name	Fitz Bridge Cottages
NGR	SD 29442 77762
Site type	Cottages
Period	Post-medieval
HER No	-
Sources	BDB/42/78 1866; Ordnance Survey 1894; 1913, 1933, 1968a, 1968b
Description	A row of cottages shown on the plan of 1866 and surviving until at least 1968 when they were renamed Fitz Cottages.
Assessment	It is adjacent to the proposed development area but is unlikely to be affected.

Site number	04
Site name	Fitz Bridge
NGR	SD 29476 77780
Site type	Bridge
Period	Post-medieval
HER No	-

Sources	Ordnance Survey 1850
Description	A bridge over Dragley Beck, called High Lund Beck Bridge on the Ordnance Survey plan of 1850 and now called Fitz Bridge.
Assessment	Adjacent to the proposed development area but unlikely to be affected.

Site number	05
Site name	'Cloughs'
NGR	SD 29613 77799
Site type	Watering places?
Period	Post-medieval
HER No	-
Sources	BDB/42/78 1866
Description	Two small structures and associated short lengths of wall are shown across the track marked 'right of cloughs'. It is not clear what these represent but they may indicate a ford or watering place. 'Clough' probably derives from an Old Norse word meaning cleft or ravine (Lee 1998, 21).
Assessment	The site is within the proposed development area and is likely to be affected.

Site number	06
Site name	Rope walk
NGR	SD 29700 77800
Site type	Rope walk
Period	Post-medieval
HER No	6128
Sources	HER; Ordnance Survey 1850; 1896; Barnes and Hobbs 1960; Mckeever and Layfield 2004
Description	Rope making was probably taking place in the area from at least the early part of the eighteenth century, although the present rope walk was probably constructed in 1752 (Barnes and Hobbs 1960, 122-3; Mckeever and Layfield 2004, 87). It is shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1850 but by 1896 it is labelled 'Old Rope walk'. It is still present but is now a footpath.
Assessment	It is within the proposed development area and will be affected.

Site number	07
Site name	Rope walk Structure
NGR	SD 29988 77725
Site type	Building
Period	Post-medieval
HER No	-
Sources	BD/HJ c1850
Description	A small square building is shown in the middle of the east end of the rope walk on the Tithe Map of c1850. It is not known what function this had.
Assessment	It is within the proposed development area and likely to be affected.

Site number	08
Site name	Rope walk Building
NGR	SD 29996 77735
Site type	House
Period	Post-medieval
HER No	-
Sources	BD/HJ c1850; Ordnance Survey 1850; IR 29/18 316 I-E 1852

Description A small T-shaped building is shown on the Tithe Map of c1850 to the north of the east end of the rope walk, the south end of which projects into the east end of the rope walk. It is not clear what this is but the field to the north is named House Close, so it may be a dwelling. It is not clearly shown on the Ordnance Survey plan of 1850. Modern housing is now situated on the site.

Assessment It is close to the proposed development area but is unlikely to be affected.

Site number 09
Site name Rope Walk House
NGR SD 30005 77713
Site type House
Period Post-medieval
HER No -
Sources Ordnance Survey 1850; Barnes and Hobbs 1960; Mckeever and Layfield 2004
Description Rope Walk House is situated on the south side of the east end of the rope walk. It is shown on the Ordnance Survey plan of 1850. The rear portion of the building is the Rope Walk House built by William Noble around 1752, at the same time as the rope walk by William Noble (Barnes and Hobbs 1960, 122-3). The building acted as an office and workers were paid through a small window, now blocked-up, while the workshop is reputed to have been in what is now the garden (Mckeever and Layfield 2004, 87). The garden is separated from the immediately adjacent rope walk by a substantial stone wall. The surviving building comprises a house with a barn, which may have formed the workshop, attached to the east end against the rope walk, forming a roughly L-shaped block. The barn may have already been standing when the house was built.
Assessment It is close to the proposed development area but is unlikely to be affected.

Site number 10
Site name Kissing Gate
NGR SD 29406 77746
Site type Kissing Gate near Fitz Cottages
Period Post-medieval
HER No -
Sources Walk-over Survey
Description An iron kissing gate in good repair.
Assessment The site lies within the proposed development area and will be affected.

Site number 11
Site name Gate posts at west end of rope walk
NGR SD 29625 77825
Site type Gate posts
Period Post-medieval
HER No -
Sources Walk-over Survey
Description A pair of stone gate posts set into a stone wall with iron fittings.
Assessment The site lies within the proposed development area and will be affected.

Site number 12
Site name Dragley Beck, Tan Yard
NGR SD 29010 77600
Site type Tan Yard
Period Post-medieval

HER No	18271
Sources	SMR; Ordnance Survey 1850
Description	Site of Dragley Beck tan yard, now built on.
Assessment	It is outside of the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	13
Site name	Dragley Beck, Iron Foundry
NGR	SD 29070 77590
Site type	Iron foundry
Period	Post-medieval
HER No	18270
Sources	SMR; Ordnance Survey 1850; 1894; Mckeever and Layfield 2004
Description	Site of an iron foundry shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1850, which later became a shutter works (Ordnance Survey 1894).
Assessment	It is outside the development area and is unlikely to be affected

Site number	14
Site name	C. C. Dragley Beck Bridge
NGR	SD 29067 77628
Site type	Bridge
Period	Post-medieval
HER No	-
Sources	Walk-over Survey
Description	A red sandstone bridge on the east-side of Priory Road with C. C. Dragley Beck Bridge carved into it.
Assessment	The site lies just outside the study area and will not be directly impacted upon.

Site number	15
Site name	Lund Lodge
NGR	SD 29455 77812
Site type	Lodge
Period	Post-medieval
HER No	-
Sources	BDB/42/78 1866
Description	A small lodge building at the access road to Lund Hall. It is first shown on a plan of 1866 (BDB/42/78) and survives to the present day.
Assessment	It is close to the development area but will not be affected.

Site number	16
Site name	Low Mill Reservoir
NGR	SD 29740 77740
Site type	Reservoir
Period	Post-medieval
HER No	18273
Sources	HER; Ordnance Survey 1850
Description	Site of a reservoir that served Low Mill. It is now filled.
Assessment	It is outside the development area and will not be affected by the development.

Site number	17
Site name	Low Mill, Bloomery Site

NGR	SD 29840 77710
Site type	Bloomery site
Period	Medieval
HER No	16042
Sources	HER
Description	The site of a bloomery identified by Mike Davies-Shiel. It is now covered by a dump.
Assessment	It is outside the development area and will not be directly affected, although other, as yet undiscovered iron working sites may be in its environs.

Site number	18
Site name	Outcast Bridge
NGR	SD 30070 77730
Site type	Bridge
Period	Post-medieval
HER No	16040
Sources	HER; Ordnance Survey 1896
Description	The site of a bridge owned by Outcast Farm.
Assessment	It is close to the development area but is unlikely to be affected.

ILLUSTRATIONS

FIGURES

Figure 1: Location Map

Figure 2: Gazetteer sites plan

Figure 3: Ulverston and its environs illustrating places mentioned in the text

Figure 4: Extract from the Ulverston Commons Enclosure Map (1792)

Figure 5: Extract of Enclosure Map (1812) showing the rope walk (Site **06**)

Figure 6: Extract of Tithe Map (c1850) showing the rope walk (Site **06**)

Figure 7: Extract from Hennet's Map (1829)

Figure 8: Extract from Wood's Map (1932)

Figure 9: Extract from Ordnance Survey first edition 1:10560 map (1850)

Figure 10: Extract from Ordnance Survey second edition 1:10560 map (1895)

Figure 11: Extract from Ordnance Survey third edition 1:10560 map (1914)

Figure 12: Extract from Ordnance Survey third edition 1:2500 map (1933)

Figure 13: Aerial Photograph of the Study area (1986)

Figure 14: Previous archaeological interventions in Ulverston

PLATES

Plate 1: Photograph of the Kissing Gate (Site **10**)

Plate 2: Gate at west end of rope walk (Site **11**), looking west towards the ford

Plate 3: Rope walk (Site **06**) looking west, showing some of the remaining trees

Plate 4: The tree lined rope walk (Site **06**) in late nineteenth or early twentieth century, (Garbutt and Marsh 1991, 129)

Plate 5: The barn forming part of Rope Walk House (Site **09**) at Outcast, facing south



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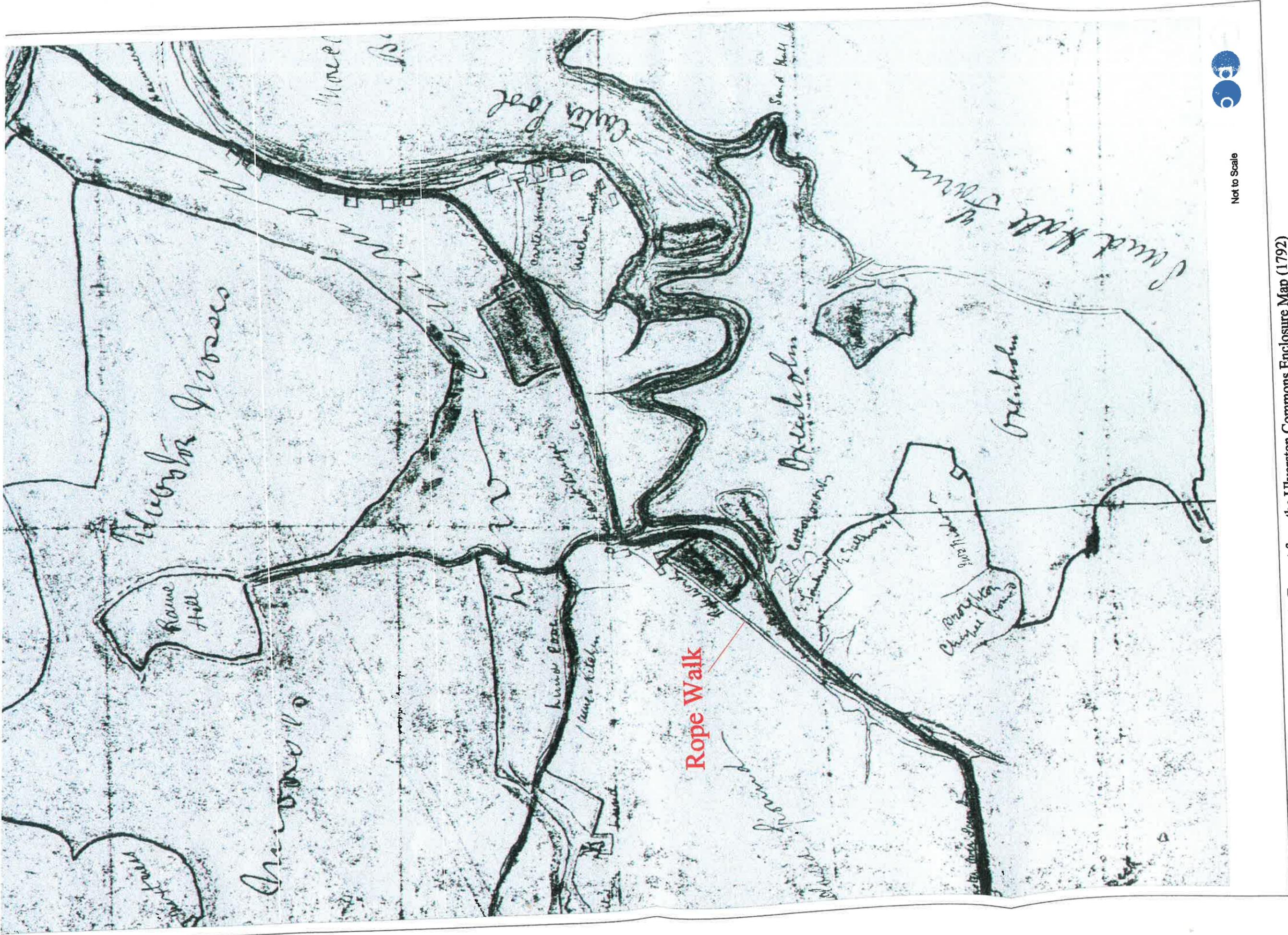


Figure 1: Location Map



based upon the Ordnance Survey 1:10,000
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Figure 3: Ulverston and environs illustrating places mentioned in the text



Not to Scale

Figure 4: Extract from the Ulverston Commons Enclosure Map (1792)

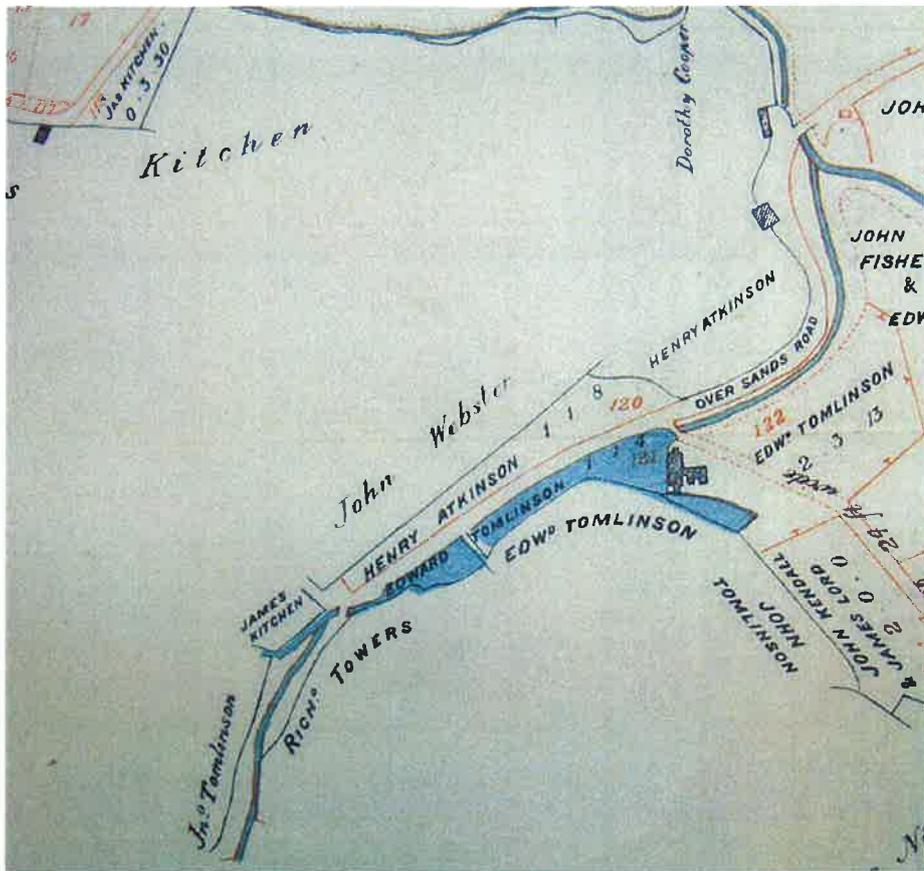
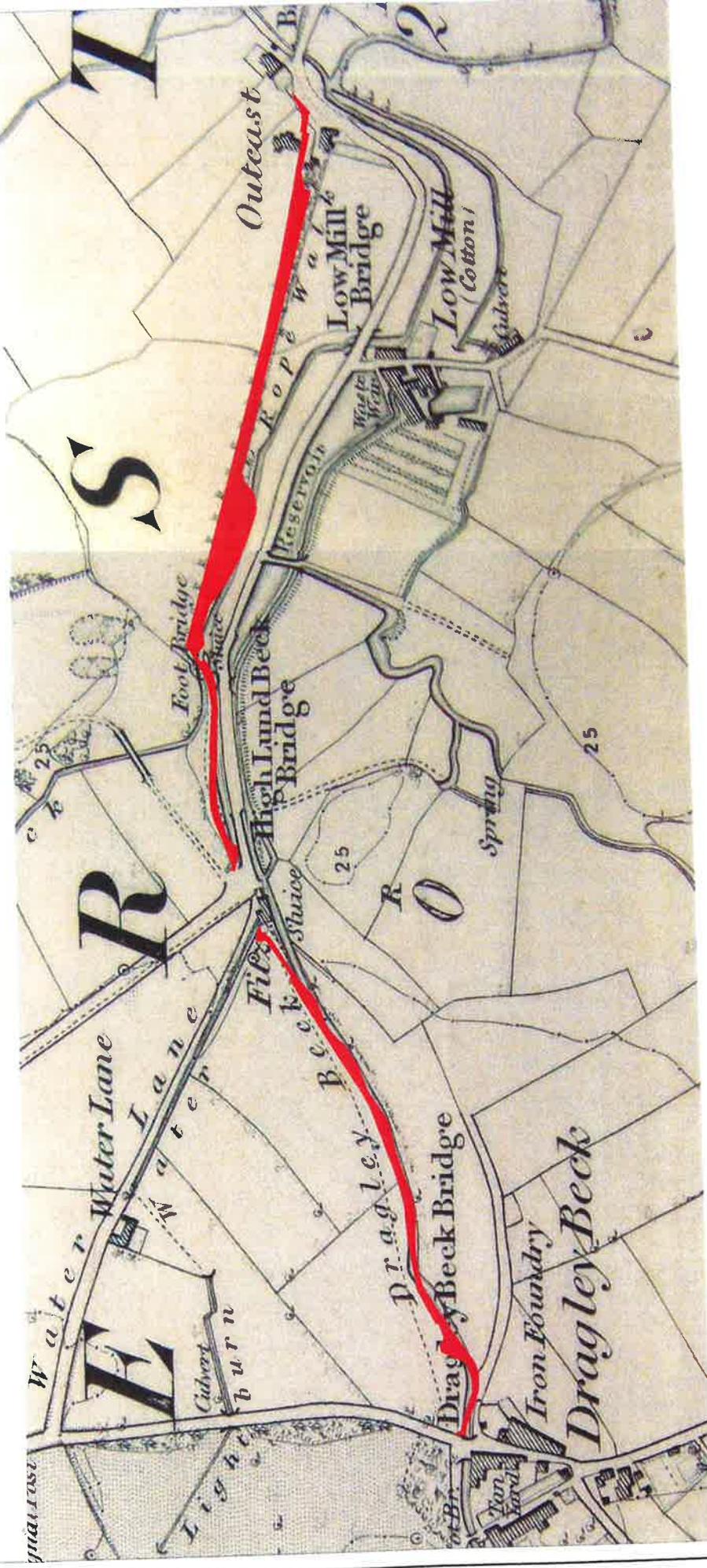


Figure 5: Extract of Enclosure Map (1812) showing the rope walk (Site 06)



Figure 6: Extract of Tithe Map (c1850) showing the rope walk (Site 06)



Not to Scale



Ropewalk

Figure 9: Extract from Ordnance Survey first edition map (1850)

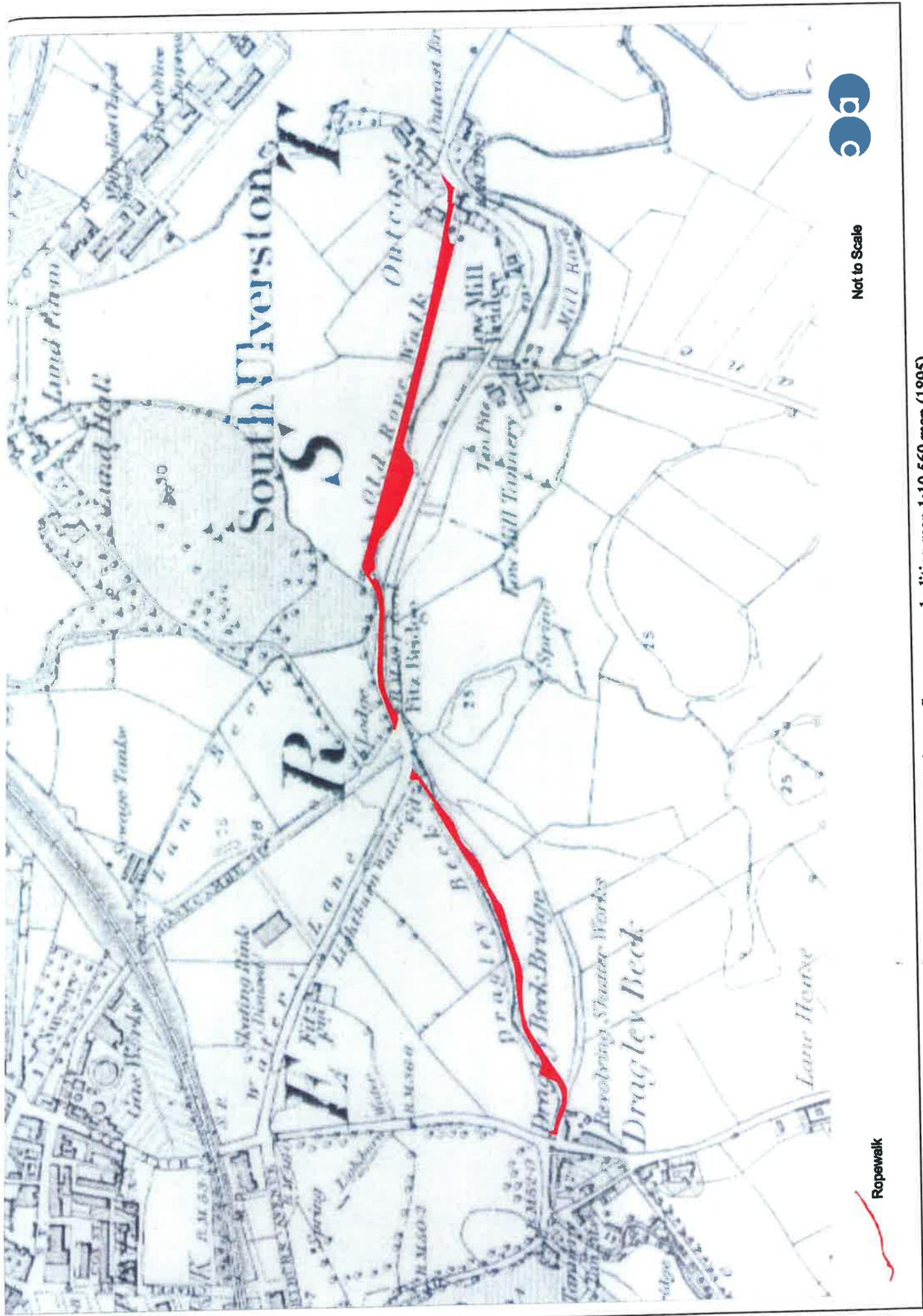
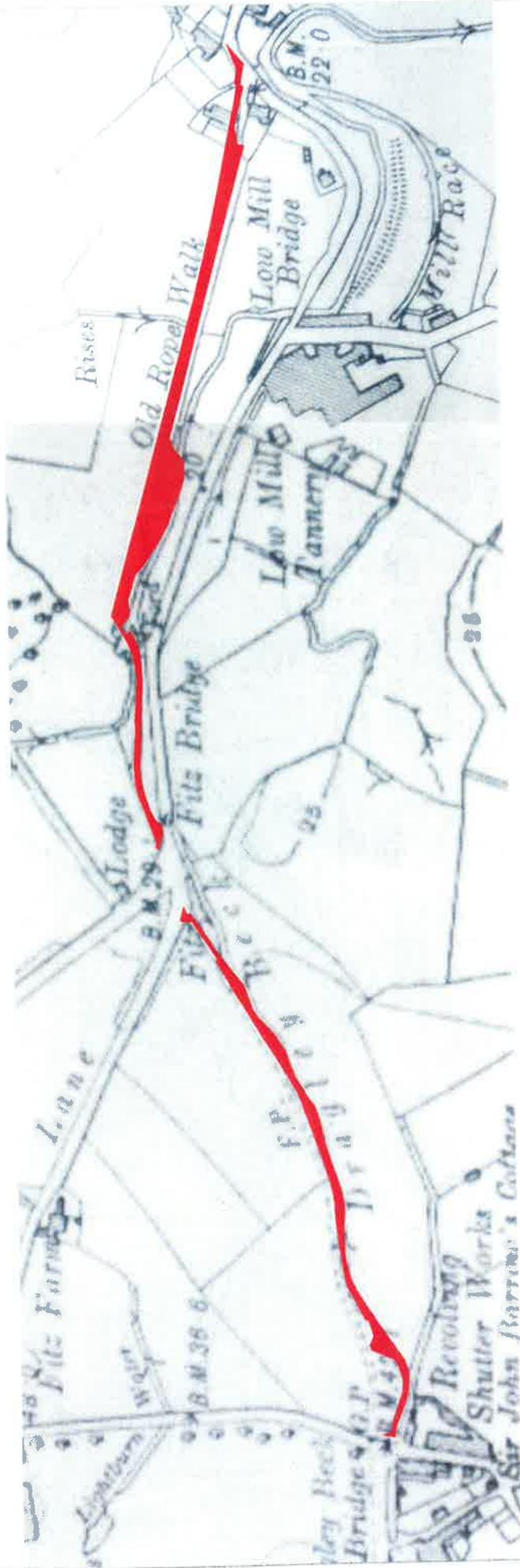


Figure 10: Extract from Ordnance Survey second edition map 1:10,560 map (1895)

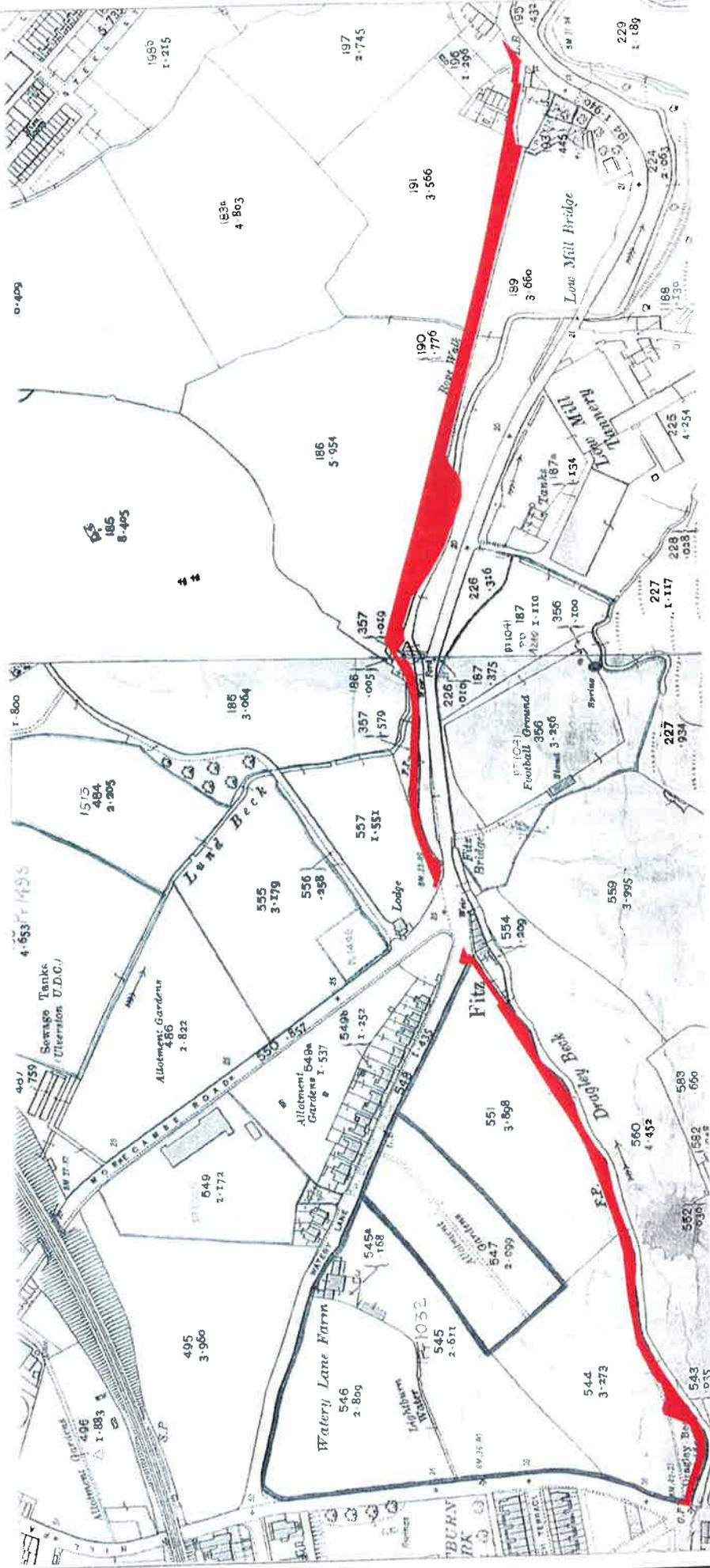


Not to Scale



Ropewalk

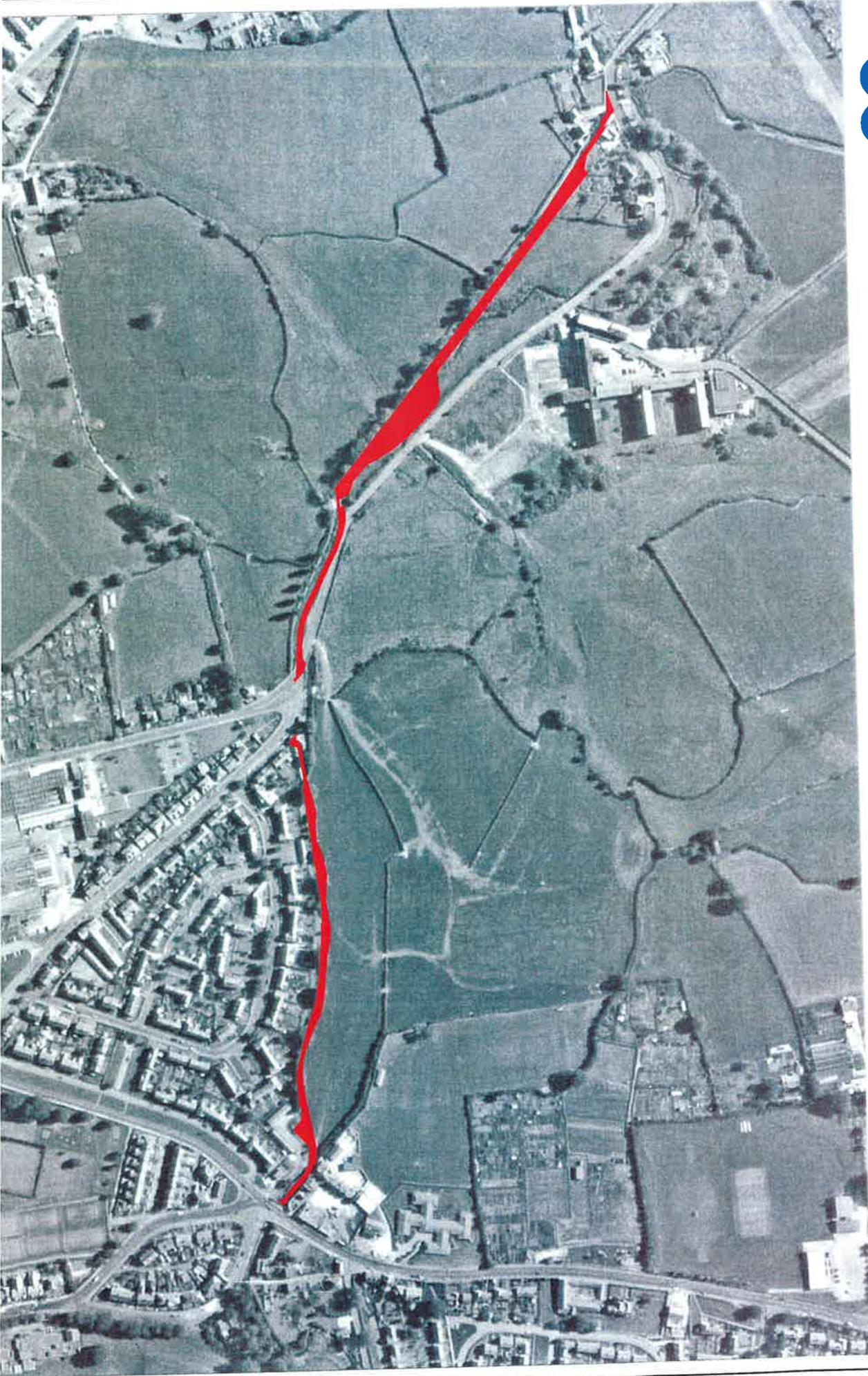
Figure 11: Extract from Ordnance Survey third edition map, 1:10560 (1914)



Not to Scale

Ropewalk

Figure 12: Extract from Ordnance Survey third edition, 1:2500 map, (1933)

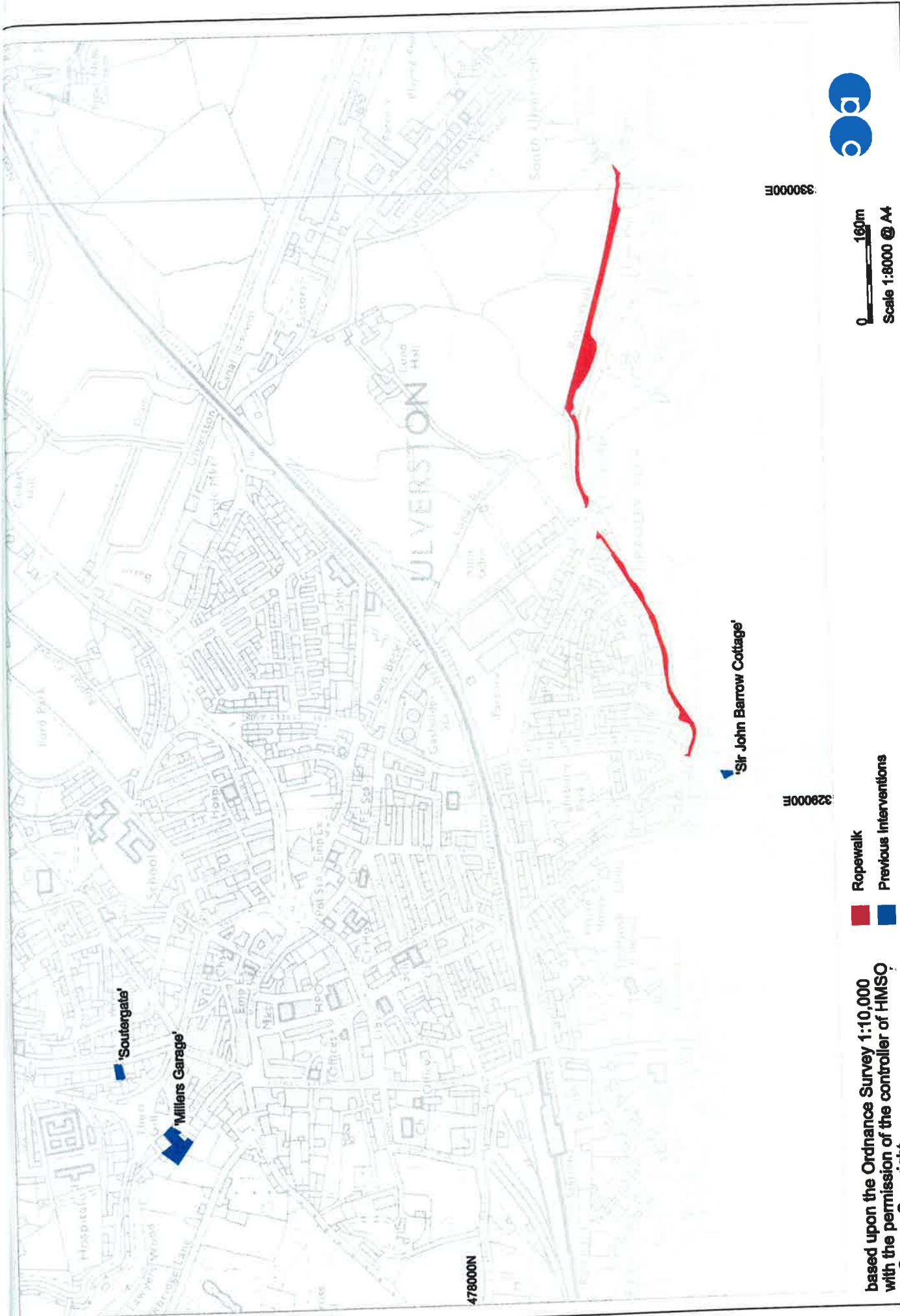


Not to Scale



Ropewalk

Figure 13: Aerial photograph of study area (1986)



- Ropewalk
- Previous Interventions

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Figure 14: Previous archaeological interventions in Ulverston



Plate 1: Photograph of the Kissing Gate (Site 10)



Plate 2: Gate at the west end of rope walk (Site 11), looking west towards the ford



Plate 3: Rope walk (Site **06**) looking west, showing some of the remaining trees



Plate 4: The tree lined rope walk (Site **06**), in late nineteenth or early twentieth century (Garbutt and Marsh 1991, 129)



Plate 5: The barn forming part of Rope Walk House (Site **09**) at Outcast, facing south