



# KING CHARLES II MONUMENT BLACK DUB

Cumbria

**Archaeological Fabric Survey**



**Oxford Archaeology North**

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## CONTENTS

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<b>SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1. INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1    CONTRACT BACKGROUND.....	4
1.2    HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....	4
<b>2. METHODOLOGY.....</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1    SURVEY METHODOLOGY.....	5
2.2    ARCHIVE .....	5
<b>3. RESULTS.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>4. CONCLUSION.....</b>	<b>8</b>
4.1    DISCUSSION.....	8
<b>5. BIBLIOGRAPHY .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>APPENDIX 1.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>LIST OF CONTEXTS .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>ILLUSTRATIONS .....</b>	<b>11</b>

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## SUMMARY

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Oxford Archaeology North undertook a photographic and descriptive survey of The King Charles II Monument, a Listed Grade II monument, also known as Black Dub, on the Crosby Ravensworth Fell, Cumbria (NY 6040 1080) in June 2002. The investigation was carried out at the request of Cumbria Council Archaeological Service in advance of the consolidation of the monument. The monument was subject to slumping and was recorded by fully-annotated description, a scale base plan and both rectified and conventional photography prior to consolidation. A watching brief was maintained during its dismantling, and proposals for consolidation and rebuilding were agreed in advance with Mr Philip Holdsworth, the County Archaeologist for Cumbria, and Mr Alan Andrews, stonemason and conservator.

The monument is a nineteenth century construction commemorating the use of Black Dub as a temporary marching camp by King Charles II en route to the battle of Worcester in 1651. It was originally of dry-stone construction, though some consolidation work has been attempted since it was erected. The monument is weathered and slumping in towards its centre. The dismantling of the monument revealed the cause of the subsidence and the internal structure was successfully rebuilt.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Thanks are due Philip Holdsworth, formerly of Cumbria County Council, for commissioning the survey and providing advice on site. Miles Johnson of Cumbria County Council is also thanked for supplying the details regarding the site. Thanks also go to Alan Andrews for the dismantling and rebuilding of the monument in a manner sympathetic with archaeological and planning requirements.

Neil Wearing undertook the investigation and watching brief and Kat Hopwood prepared the drawings. The report was compiled by Neil Wearing and edited by Jamie Quartermaine, Erika Guttmann and Rachel Newman. Jamie Quartermaine managed the project.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 Contract Background

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) (formerly Lancaster University Archaeological Unit) was invited by Cumbria County Council to carry out an investigation and rectified photographic survey of the King Charles II Monument at Black Dub, Cumbria (NY 36040 51080). A consolidation programme, intended to restore the partially collapsed structure, was to involve the complete dismantling and rebuilding of the monument by a professional stonemason. The archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with a verbal specification by Philip Holdsworth, Cumbria Council, and was undertaken during June 2002. The land in which the monument stands is at present rough upland pasture. The monument itself is listed as grade II.
- 1.1.2 The monument was weathered and had begun to collapse in on itself. It was thought that the foundation was sinking into the soft marshy ground around a springhead, and a programme of consolidation was therefore undertaken by Alan Andrews, Stonemason, at the request of Cumbria County Council. This was to involve the complete dismantling of the monument and the construction of a solid concrete foundation raft to prevent further sinking of the reassembled monument.

### 1.2 Historical Background

- 1.2.1 The King Charles II Monument, known as Black Dub, is situated on Crosby Ravensworth fell, south of Oddendale. It lies to the east of the modern bridleway, which follows the route of a Roman road, shown on the current Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 mapping (Fig 1). Dub means water hole and this springhead is the source of the Lyvennet Brook.
- 1.2.2 Charles II (1630-1685) was the son of Charles I and fought against the Parliamentary forces until his father ordered him to join his mother, Henrietta Maria, in Paris. In 1649 he learned of his father's execution and that England had become a Commonwealth, with Cromwell as Lord Protector (Fraser 1975).
- 1.2.3 Charles then moved from his Parisian exile to Holland, before returning to Scotland, having been proclaimed King of the Scots by Royalist supporters; the coronation ceremony took place at Scone on 1st January 1651. Later that year Charles led a 10,000 strong Scottish army into defeat against Cromwell's parliamentary forces at Worcester (Fraser 1975).
- 1.2.4 The monument commemorates the '*passing through the parish of Charles II and his army of Scots, who, after refreshing themselves at the 'Black Dub' on the Crosby Ravensworth fells, moved southward towards the fatal field of Worcester*' (Nicholson 1891, 251). It was erected in 1843 by Thomas Bland of Reagill (SMR 1760). The inscription reads: '*Here at Black Dub The source of the Livvenet King Charles II regaled his army and drank of the water on his march from Scotland August 8 1651*'.

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## 2. METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 Survey Methodology

2.1.1 *Survey*: a visual inspection of the site was carried out and a basic level of descriptive record was compiled in accordance with the Royal Commission on Historic Buildings in England (RCHME) Level 2 standard. This involved an examination of the extant fabric of the monument and the production of a scale plan which recorded all significant, extant structural elements (Fig 2). The survey was undertaken by manual techniques and drawn onto drawing film. The graphical results of this survey were digitised into a Computer Aided Draughting system (AutoCAD 14) to enhance the manipulation and presentation of the results.

2.1.2 ***Photographic Survey***: a general oblique photographic survey was undertaken of the monument in accordance with the RCHME Level 2 recording. The record was fully indexed. Rectified photography of all elevations was complemented by a general oblique photographic record, in monochrome, colour slide and digital format. All photographs were recorded on OA North *pro-forma* sheets.

2.1.3 The photographic record of the monument was conducted using black and white print, colour slide and digital photography (Plates 1-8). The record included:

- i) general coverage of the monument from a number of different angles showing its position within the landscape;
- ii) detailed shots of the decorated faces;
- iii) detailed shots of the exposed base section, showing the internal supporting pillar and stone rubble core;
- iv) detailed shots of the degree of movement,
- v) rectified photography of all four elevations of the monument (black and white and colour slide only).

2.1.4 The work undertaken complied with current legislation and accepted best practice, including the Code of Conduct and the relevant professional standards of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA). The programme of field observation recorded accurately the fabric and character of the monument. This work comprised observation during the groundwork, recording of the monument prior to dismantling, and the recording of any new structural information revealed during dismantling.

### 2.2 Archive

2.2.1 The record consists of a full description, annotated with dimensions, and a scale drawing of the monument in plan view (Fig 2). A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with current IFA and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). The archive will be deposited with the Cumbria Record Office, Kendal, and a copy of the report will be sent to the Cumbria Sites and Monuments Record.

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## 3. RESULTS

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### 3.1 FABRIC SURVEY

- 3.1.1 The monument (Plate 1) is constructed of ashlar blocks which have been finished to create a pecked appearance forming two plinths, a rectangular base stone, a decorated cube stone, and a needle capstone. The overall height is almost 2.90m, but the tip of the needle is weathered and eroded to less than its original height. The base of the monument is 2.2m x 2.2m square, with an average stone thickness of 0.40m.
- 3.1.2 The needle stone, **05**, is 1.2m tall and has a basal width of 0.47m, tapering to 0.3m before coming to an abrupt point (Fig 2). The decorated stone cube, **04**, is 0.56m x 0.56m; three faces have been decorated in bas-relief and the fourth, the north face, has the inscription to King Charles II (Plate 4). The east face has a crown carved onto it, and the south face has a recumbent lion with a possible Egyptian-style cartouche (Plate 3). The west face has a circular recess with a male profile bust, presumably of Charles II, in the style of a Roman emperor (Plate 2).
- 3.1.3 There is a base stone, **03**, for the cube, measuring 0.6m x 0.6m x 0.3m thick, sits on top of the upper plinth, **02**, which has three stones along each side. The four corner stones are 0.45m x 0.4m and 0.4m thick, and the four centre stones are 0.28m x 0.3m and 0.4m thick. The lower plinth, **01**, comprises four stones along each side, the dimensions of which are almost exactly the same as the upper, but with eight centre stones. The two plinths create a step of 0.25m depth. The plinth stones are poorly bonded with mortar.
- 3.1.4 The base was exposed by hand digging a trench, 0.25m–0.3m wide, around the monument. This revealed a rough undressed stone foundation, **06**, in a similar construction style (Fig 2). The thickness of the base was 0.40m.
- 3.1.5 The monument was slumping into the centre, which had caused the needle to topple towards the east. The worst of the movement had occurred on the southern side of the structure (Plate 8). It appears that the mortar present on the two plinths is a later attempt to prevent any further movement, as the mortar is very thick and appears to have been set into the large gaps created by collapse. The upper stones of the monument are not mortared and it is thought that the entire structure would have originally been of dry-stone construction.

### 3.2 DISMANTLING

- 3.2.1 The needle stone was lifted using a JCB and rope harnesses, as was the decorated stone cube, **05**. The single base stone, **03**, was lifted by hand. The stones of the plinths were numbered and located before removal so as to facilitate replacement in their original siting; they were then removed by hand.
- 3.2.2 The removal of the decorated cube revealed that the single base stone was not solid, but had a rectangular hole through it 0.33m long by 20m wide (Plate 5). This exposed the monument's core, **07**, which consisted of loose, irregular sized stones, the interstices of which were penetrated by much dark soil and modern



debris. It became apparent that the collapse of the monument was due to this loose rubble core giving way under the weight of the central needle.

- 3.2.3 The removal of the upper plinth showed yet another internal structural element, a rough stone-built central pillar, **08**. This was mortared into place with coarse lime mortar of a different type to that used externally. As this was exposed, and the loose rubble removed, it was also found that the base of the monument was formed by an external skirt of stone rather than a solid stone platform. Within this skirting was a solid mortared-in rubble base, **09**, with the rough stone support pillar protruding from the centre (Plate 6). This was found not to have sunk or moved and was still a solid and structurally sound foundation platform, demonstrating that the problem was not caused by the settling of underlying soft ground.
- 3.2.4 Having established that the cause of the slumping of the monument was the internal collapse of the loose rubble core and not the sinking of the foundations, the strategy for consolidation was altered. There was no need to remove the foundations or cause any further disturbance to the ground. As a result the foundations were repointed and consolidated *in-situ*. A new supporting core for the plinths was constructed and the original dry-stone work was placed back into the original position.
- 3.2.5 During the removal of the needle stone a 1947 shilling was found underneath it, in a position which could not have been achieved by attempting to slide the coin in through the side gaps. It is thought that it was deliberately placed there during an earlier attempt to consolidate the monument; if this is the case it is probable that the coin would have been selected so as to provide a similar date to those of the consolidation works. The implication of the find is that the monument had previously been dismantled, and that the present slumping and repointing, seen prior to the current works, must have occurred after that date.

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## 4. CONCLUSION

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### 4.1 DISCUSSION

- 4.1.1 The Black Dub monument was probably of dry-stone construction when it was originally built in 1843. The loose rubble core proved to be an inadequate foundation and its subsidence caused the monument to slump. The discovery of a 1947 shilling beneath the needle stone, and on top of the cube stone, suggests that steps may have been taken earlier in the last century to correct the problem, or at least to make a temporary repair. The plinths have at some stage developed cracks which were mortared in order to stabilised the monument; this may have occurred in 1947, or shortly after, when the shilling was placed beneath the needle stone. The dismantling and consolidation of the core of the monument in 2002 has been a more substantial undertaking than the earlier efforts and is considered to have rectified the problem.
- 4.1.2 The Black Dub monument is a far less ostentatious affair than the much earlier seventeenth century King Edward I monument, also in Cumbria at Burgh by Sands (OA North 2000). Both monuments mark the passing of kings through the area, but King Edward I's monument marks the spot where he died, whereas that of Black Dub commemorates the passing of King Charles II and his army on their way to defeat at the hands of Cromwell's army at Worcester. Although King Charles II ultimately became king after the death of Cromwell, this unfortunate episode is an unusual one to commemorate. The pillar of the King Edward I monument was inscribed largely with references to the benefactor who erected it, with only one paragraph dedicated to King Edward I. The Black Dub monument, by contrast, has a short inscription regarding Charles II but does not extol the virtues or genealogy of the benefactor. The other notable difference is that the King Edward I monument dates from 1685, and is considerably earlier than the Black Dub monument (1843), although the King Edward I monument was heavily restored in 1805.
- 4.1.3 It is also worth noting that the profile carved on the Black Dub monument bears no resemblance to contemporary paintings of King Charles II. The style of the portrait is an imitation of that which was used to depict Roman emperors in antiquity, and was probably carved in such a way in order to add some historical depth and legitimacy to the British King by linking him with rulers of the past.

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## 5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX 1  
LIST OF CONTEXTS

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<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Description</b>
01	Lower Plinth of the monument comprising four stones
02	Upper Plinth of the monument comprising three stones
03	Base stone for the decorated cube, <b>04</b>
04	Decorated cube
05	Top needle stone for the monument
06	Undressed stone foundation for the lower plinth, <b>01</b>
07	Core of the monument comprising loose, irregularly sized stones
08	Stone-built central pillar below the upper plinth, <b>02</b>
09	Solid mortared rubble foundation for the central pillar, <b>08</b>

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## ILLUSTRATIONS

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### **FIGURES:**

Figure 1: Location map

Figure 2: Black Dub Monument Plan

### **PLATES:**

Plate 1: General view of the monument looking east

Plate 2: Detail of south face of the monument

Plate 3: Detail of north face of the monument

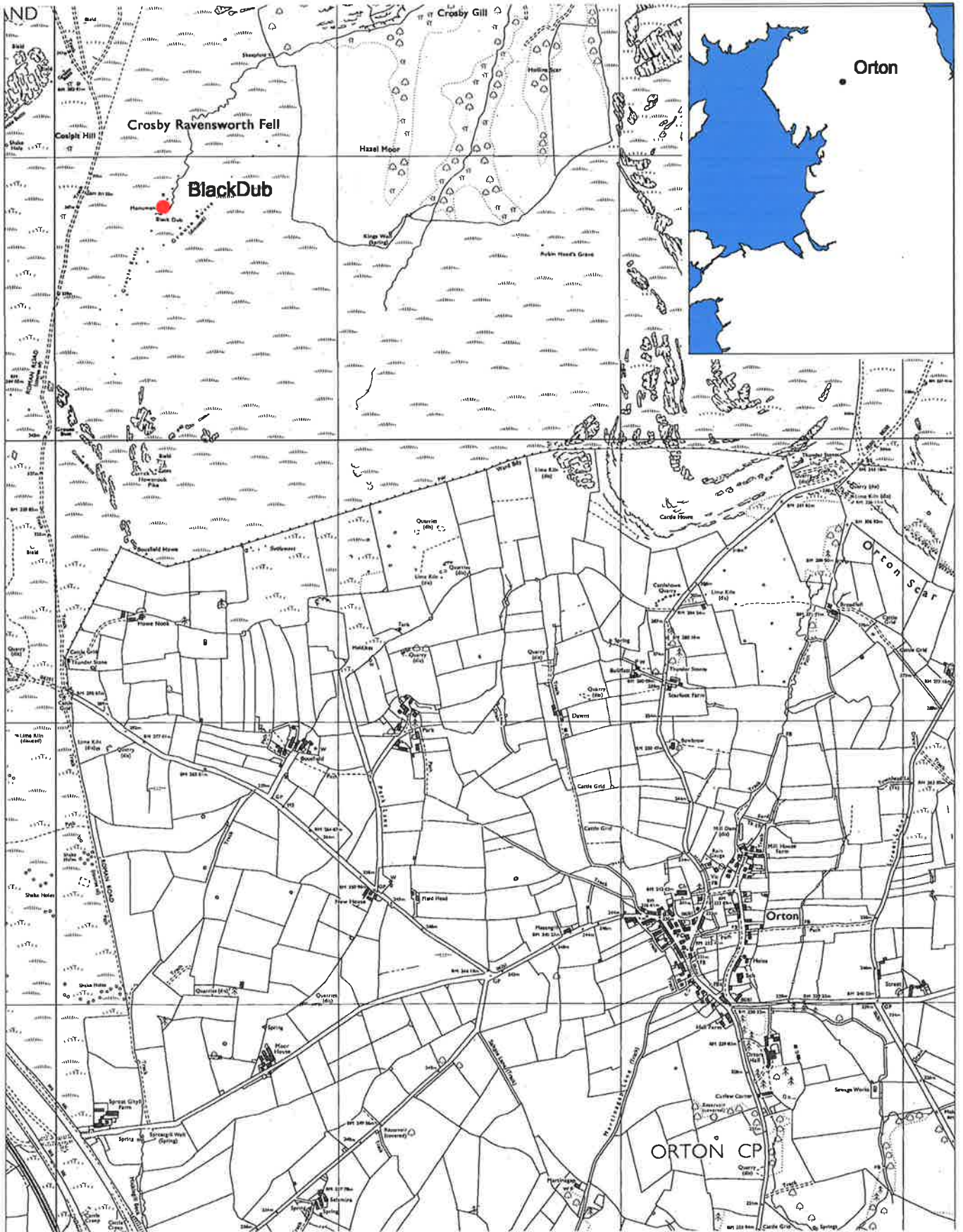
Plate 4: Removal of the decorated stone cube

Plate 5: Rubble core through the hollow pillar base

Plate 6: Rubble core exposed

Plate 7: The foundations and internal stone pillar of the monument

Plate 8: Detail of the west face of the monument



based upon the Ordnance Survey 1:10000  
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Figure 1: Location Map



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PROJECT:

**Black Dub**

DRAWING No: 02

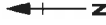


Scale 1:50

DRAWN BY: Kurt

DATE: June 2002

LOCATION:



KEY

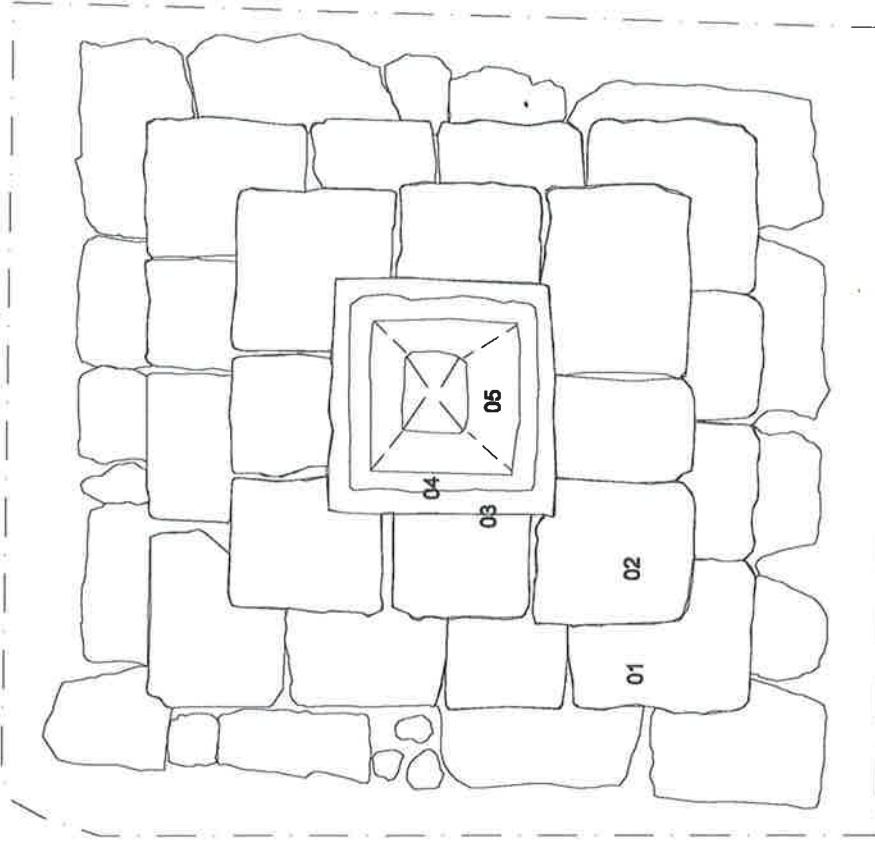
- 01 Lower Plinth
- 02 Upper Plinth
- 03 Base Stone
- 04 Decorated Stone Cube
- 05 Needle Stone

TITLE:

**Black Dub Monument Plan**

COMMISSIONED BY:

Cumbria County Council  
Archaeological Service



**Figure 2 : Black Dub Monument Plan**

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## PLATES

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Plate 1: General view of the monument looking east

Plate 2: Detail of south face of the monument

Plate 3: Detail of north face of the monument

Plate 4: Removal of the decorated stone cube

Plate 5: Rubble core through the hollow pillar base

Plate 6: Rubble core exposed

Plate 7: The foundations and internal stone pillar of the monument

Plate 8: Detail of the west face of the monument





Plate 1: General view of the monument looking east



Plate 2: Detail of south face of the monument





Plate 3: Detail of the north face of the monument



Plate 4: Removal of the decorated stone cube





Plate 5: Rubble core through the hollow pillar base



Plate 6: The rubble core exposed





Plate 7: The foundations and internal stone pillar of the monument



Plate 8: Detail of the west face of the monument



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