

December 2000

KING EDWARD I MONUMENT
Burgh by Sands
Cumbria

Watching Brief Report

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Burgh by Sands
Cumbria

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Report no 2000-2001/037/AUA8080

Checked by Project Manager. Date
Passed for submission to client. Date

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December 2000

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SUMMARY

Oxford Archaeology North undertook a photographic and descriptive survey of The King Charles II Monument, also known as Black Dub, on the Crosby Ravensworth Fell, Cumbria

The survey recorded a number of blocks of stone with latin inscriptions upon them, which appear to relate to the original monument set up in 1685 by the Duke of Norfolk. The stones recovered show clearly that the first monument was a pillar, and a very grand affair, giving a good indication of the psyche of the man who erected the monument. The actual dedication to King Edward I amounts to only one paragraph, stating he was much revered and highlighting the situation of his death. The rest of the inscriptions appear to relate solely to the dedicator, who appears to have been '*rehearsing his pedigree*' by highlighting his estates and positions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Lancaster University Archaeological Unit wish to thank Marion Barter, Historic Buildings Inspector for English Heritage, and Philip Holdsworth and John Bargh of Cumbria County Council, for commissioning the survey and providing further background information. Bette Hopkins of Cumbria County Council SMR is also thanked for supplying the details regarding the site. Thanks also go to Vix Hughes and Neil Wigfield for the hospitality, and to Vix Hughes for further research. Thanks also go to Richard Hall, Cumbria Record Office, for his considerable help in researching the genealogical background to the construction of the monument.

The survey was undertaken by Matthew Town and the drawings were undertaken by Jamie Quartermaine. The report was written by Matthew Town and edited by Jamie Quartermaine and Rachel Newman. The project was managed by Jamie Quartermaine.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CONTRACT BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) was invited by English Heritage to undertake an inspection and photographic survey of the King Edward I monument, on the southern shore of the Solway Firth to the north of Burgh-by-Sands, Cumbria (NGR NY 33250 560920). A recent consolidation programme, intended to correct a marked lean of the monument, has resulted in the removal of the stepped plinth and the exposure of the base of the monument. This has revealed a number of incised inscriptions on several reused blocks within the base. The archaeological recording was undertaken during a break within the works, once the monument had been stabilised and exposed. The land in which the monument stands is at present a pasture field under National Trust care, with the monument protected by a set of railings set within a stone plinth. The monument itself is listed as Grade II*, and is recorded in the Cumbria SMR as PRN 4588.

1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.2.1 The monument was set up as a memorial to Edward I, who is said to have died on the spot in 1307 whilst marshalling his forces to subjugate Scotland, across the Solway fords, during a particularly difficult campaign against Robert the Bruce. His body is said to have lain in state in Burgh church (Smith 1973). The king was encamped on Burgh marsh, and the site where he pitched his tent was said by the antiquary William Camden to have been first marked '*by some great stones rolled upon it*' (Perriam 2000).
- 1.2.2 This putative cairn was replaced by a pillar, erected in 1685 by the then land owner Henry Howard, Duke of Norfolk, very shortly before the Barony of Burgh was purchased by the Earl of Lonsdale (Parson and White 1829; McIntire 1943; Owen 1990). The pillar is described by William Hutchinson in his *History of Cumberland* (1794) as being '*a very fair square pillar nine yards and a half in height*' with latin inscriptions on three sides. By the end of the eighteenth century a cross had been added (Perriam 2000).
- 1.2.3 The *Cumberland Pacquet* of 10th March 1795 records the pillar falling down after having developed a progressive lean westwards over the previous months (Perriam 2000). Up to 1803 the monument lay derelict, until the present monument was built by the Earl of Lonsdale, who paid £109 for 'Messrs. Crosthwaite and Sewell' to restore the monument (Perriam 2000). The monument was supposedly a replica of the old one, built as a square pillar constructed of sandstone ashlar blocks, but with the addition of steps around the base and a new inscription: this dedication was subsequently replaced by two lead plaques (Parson and White 1829)s, which are still visible on the south side of the monument (Plate 1).
- 1.2.4 The first plaque, a dedication to the king and partially obscured at present by a support bar, reads:

“...clarissem qui in belli apparatus contra scotos occupatus. Hic in castris obiit 7 Julii 1307”

which translates as:

“...most renowned who was preparing a war for the occupation of the Scots. Here encamped he died on 7th July 1307”.

- 1.2.3 The second, outlining the benefactor who rebuilt the monument, reads:

“omni veneratione prosequens inclytam Edwardi Primi tamam optimi Angliae Regis columnam hanc humi fusam. Dirutamque hic reponendam curavit Guilelmus vice comes de Lowther Anno Salutis MD CCCIII”

which translates as:

“So much reverence accompanied the celebrated Edward I, by far the best king of England, that a column was raised on this spot. It has since become derelict and has been replaced with love by Earl William Lowther [of Lonsdale] *Anno Salutis* 1803”.

This reproduces the inscription in the stone below it, which has mostly now faded.

- 1.2.4 A further plaque on the north side, also in lead and partly obscured by a support bar, reads:

“...was restored and enclosed by Sir George Henry fourth Earl of Lonsdale on his accession to the title *Anno Domini* 1876”.

These restorations appear to have been completed in 1882 (Perriam 2000).

- 1.2.5 The monument progressively deteriorated during the twentieth century, though it was partially restored by the Ministry of Works in 1970 (M Barter pers comm). Further concern regarding the continued tilt of the monument has led to the present restoration being undertaken with grants by English Heritage and the Countryside Agency.

2. METHODOLOGY

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 created 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 generated a summary assessment of the period and significance of the structure. A plan of the exposed base of the monument was produced at an appropriate scale and this recorded all significant, extant structural elements (Fig 2). The graphical results of this survey were digitised into an industry-standard Computer Aided Draughting (AutoCAD 14) system 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 RCHM(E) Level 2 recording. The record was fully indexed and photographic views were shown with respect to the existing survey details.
- 2.1.3 The photographic record of the monument was conducted using black and white print, colour slide and colour print film, as well as selected digital photography on the detailed shots. The record included:
- i) general coverage of the monument from a number of different angles and distances showing its position within the landscape, from outside the perimeter fencing;
 - ii) general coverage of the monument from within the perimeter fencing from a number of different angles;
 - iii) detailed shots of the exposed base section, showing the panels with inscriptions in their context within the monument;
 - iv) detailed shots of each inscription on individual stones.

2.2 ARCHIVE

- 2.2.1 The results of the survey form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of archaeological projects*, 2nd edition, 1991). This archive will be deposited with the County SMR.

3. RESULTS

3.1 FABRIC SURVEY

- 3.1.1 The fabric survey demonstrated that approximately 1.2m of the base of the monument had become exposed with the removal of the stepped plinth that had been built around it. The plinth was not solid and when the stones were removed a loose stone/mortar/concrete infill behind each course of steps was revealed; a sheet of polythene was seen to have been placed against the column, and behind the plinth, suggesting the steps have been removed recently. The monument was also surrounded by a flagged area, with some of the stones in excess of 100mm in depth. Removal of the entablature in May revealed the core of the monument as being filled with loose stone and loose mortar fill (John Bargh *pers comm*).
- 3.1.2 The exposed area of the base consisted of three courses of yellow sandstone ashlar blocks, with each course measuring approximately 1.5m in width and 0.3m in depth. A narrow plinth projected c0.05-0.1m beyond the pillar base, and was also made of sandstone ashlar blocks; this plinth measured 1.73m in width and approximately 0.25m in depth. The plinth base, however, was obscured by a large puddle of water at the time of the survey, and could not be clearly assessed, but work undertaken previously recorded the inscriptions on the entire plinth (John Bargh *pers comm*). In contrast with the base, the rest of the monument appeared to have been built of red sandstone (John Bargh *pers comm*). The base had inscriptions on each side, in incised Romanised lettering, which were the scattered elements of complete inscriptions; many of the inscriptions were inverted and it was evident that the stones were reused. The inscriptions will be described for each face, but as the complete original inscriptions, now tentatively pieced together, incorporate stones from different faces, the descriptions for each face are appropriately cross referenced. The courses are numbered 1 to 3 in ascending order.
- 3.1.3 **The North Side:** there was only one inscribed stone on the north side, at the western end of course 1, directly above the plinth. It was upside down, and may have joined onto the fourth stone on the east side (Section 3.1.9); the text from the latter stone is included in parenthesis:

“...*Cales Clun Oswaldtree [(H or M)altr]...*

....*avers Furnival Graystc(h) [et...]*

...*Howard de Castlrising [praeno...]*”

The inscription appears to be a list of estates held by ‘Howard’ of ‘Castle Rising’ (near Kings Lynn, Norfolk), namely the Duke of Norfolk. The Duke of Norfolk was one of the most powerful landowners in this area in the seventeenth century. The ‘*praeno...*’ is probably ‘*praenomen*’, meaning ‘first name’, and the first name of the dedicator would have followed.

- 3.1.4 The Duke of Norfolk is known to have held considerable lands in the Welsh borders (GEC 1936) and this accords with some of the placenames of the inscription: ‘*Clun*’ probably relates to Clun in Shropshire, and ‘*Oswaldtree*’, to Oswestry, also in Shropshire. ‘*Graystch*’ refers to Greystoke, which was one of the Howards largest holdings and is still owned by a branch of the family.

- 3.1.5 **The West Side:** there are two inscribed stones on the west side of the base, one at the northern end of the plinth, and the second at the southern end of course 1. The first stone is the correct way up and reads:

“...*de Windsor Dom E...*
...Folc Surr. Berker....
...civ.Norwici ab Edv...”

The second line is partially underwater, but was recorded on a previous visit by John Bargh. ‘*de Windsor Dom*’ means ‘Lord of Windsor’, and may join with text on the first stone on the east side (Section 3.1.8). ‘*Berker*’ may be a place name as it is followed by ‘*civ[itas] Norwici*’, which is the city of Norwich. ‘*ab Edv*’ probably means ‘since the time of Edward’. This again seems to refer to the titles of the Duke of Norfolk, since he became Constable of Windsor Castle in 1682 (GEC 1936).

- 3.1.6 The second stone is upside down, but originally joined to the first stone on the east side as well, forming three lines of text (Section 3.1.8). It reads:

“...*ga...*
Berna(t)...
 = *nor. de...*”

The first word is a fragment of an inscription, cut short by a fracture in the stone and the end of the stone itself, but if joined to the east stone the letters could be part of ‘*gubernator*’ (governor) on the first stone of the east side. The ‘=’ on the third line indicates a word broken across two lines; the ‘*nor*’ followed by a full stop is a fragment of a word and joins to the ‘*ho*’ on the west side to form ‘*honor.*’. The inscription is discussed in full in Section 3.1.8.

- 3.1.7 **The South Side:** there is one inscribed stone on the south side of the base, in the centre of course 2. This is upside down, and reads the same as one of the lead plaques on the south side (missing words are in parenthesis):

“*[con]tra scotos occupatus Hic*
[in] castris obiit .7. Iulii. A.D. 1307”

The inscription reads: ‘...against the occupation of Scotland. Here encamped he died on the 7th July 1307’. This joins to the third stone on the east side, the full transcription of which is detailed below (Section 3.1.8).

- 3.1.8 **The East Side:** the east side has the largest number of inscriptions, comprising four inscribed stones. The first was located on the central stone of course 1, and is the correct way up; this joins with the left with the text from the second stone on the west side of the monument forming three clear lines of text (Section 3.1.4); the text from the latter is included in parenthesis. It reads:

“...*[ga]rter. mil. constab. et gu=*
[bernat]tor. regal. castriet ho...
[=nor. de] Windsor custos forest..”

The inscription appears to be a list of honours of the dedicator. The ‘...*[ga]rter*’ is a shortened element of the word garter and the rest of the sentence ‘*[Mil]es*’ means

soldier or knight; hence this indicates that the dedicator was a knight of the garter. The Duke of Norfolk was bestowed with the honour on 6th May 1685 (GEC 1936), which would indicate that the stone / inscription was erected after this date. 'Constab....' refers to 'constable' 'and governor' (*gubernatoris* shortened and split onto the next line) 'of the royal castle in the honour of Windsor, custodian of the forest...'. The Duke of Norfolk became Constable of Windsor Castle in 1682 and was also Ranger (custodian) of Windsor Forest (GEC 1936).

- 3.1.9 The second stone is the left stone on course 2, and is inverted. The text reads:

“...oriundus”

...p. 1685”

This section appears to be part of the dedicator of the pillar's title; 'oriundus' means 'descended from' and 'p.' could be short for 'posito' meaning 'done', in 1685.

- 3.1.10 The third stone is the central stone of course 3, and is inverted. The text reads:

“*Memoriae Aeterna(e)*...

...*Edvardi. I. Regis Angliae*...

clarissimi qui in belli..”

This is almost identical to the text on the lead plaque on the south side, and joins onto the stone on the south side of the monument (Section 3.1.6). The full text should read:

“*Memoriae aeternae Edvardi. I. Regis Angliae clarissimi qui in belli [apparate con]tra scotos occupatus. Hic [in] castris obiit 7 Iulii 1307.*

(missing words in parenthesis). This translates as:

‘To the eternal memory of Edward I, King of England, the most renowned, who was preparing a war against the occupation of Scotland. Here encamped he died on 7th July 1307’.

- 3.1.11 The fourth stone is the right hand stone of course 3, and is the correct way up. The text reads:

“(H or M)altr...

...(H) et...

...praeno...”

The text appears to correspond directly to that of the stone on the north face, joined by the letter ‘H’ on the second line and is discussed in that section (Section 3.1.3).

3.2 PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY

- 3.2.1 The photographic survey was conducted as detailed, and a semi-rectified photographic record was created for each of the elevations of the column. A selection of the photographs are presented in the back of this report (*Plates 1-13*).

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 DISCUSSION

- 4.1.1 The inscriptions recovered show clearly that the 1685 pillar, of which they were a part, was a very grand affair, and give a good indication of the sense of worth of the man who erected the monument, being a grand gesture by Henry Howard, Duke of Norfolk. The actual dedication to King Edward I amounts to only one paragraph:

“...most renowned who was preparing a war for the occupation of the Scots. Here encamped he died on the 7th July 1307”.

The rest of the inscriptions appear to relate solely to the dedicator, who appears to have been ‘rehearsing his pedigree’ (John Bargh *pers comm*). The ‘soldier/governor’ section lists the Duke of Norfolk's attributes and positions, while the section detailing the lands held by the Howards is enormous, and spans several counties.

- 4.1.2 Monuments such as this clearly served a number of purposes. Ostensibly to remember the works of a ‘good’ English king who brought much of Scotland, Wales and Ireland to heel, the monument also served to remind the public of the family who had built it, by linking them directly to their noble ancestor (*‘oriundus’* section making reference to the fact that they have descended directly from his line). It acted as a conspicuous statement of their wealth, which had allowed them not only to build a large and costly monument in a damp and lonely place where few people would see it, but also to list all their achievements on it should anyone happen by it. The fact that the monument was rebuilt in 1803 (and further embellished with the addition of railings in 1876) by a different family, the Earls of Lonsdale testifies to the continuing esteem with which the king was held throughout the ages - or more tellingly perhaps the desire to be immortalised on that memorial by the addition of their own name to the list. This was of course at the expense of the Howard name, whose removal from the monument, through the reuse of the stones within the base of the new column, subsequently expunged them from the history of the monument.

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ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig 1 King Edward I monument: location map

Fig 2 Plan of the King Edward I monument

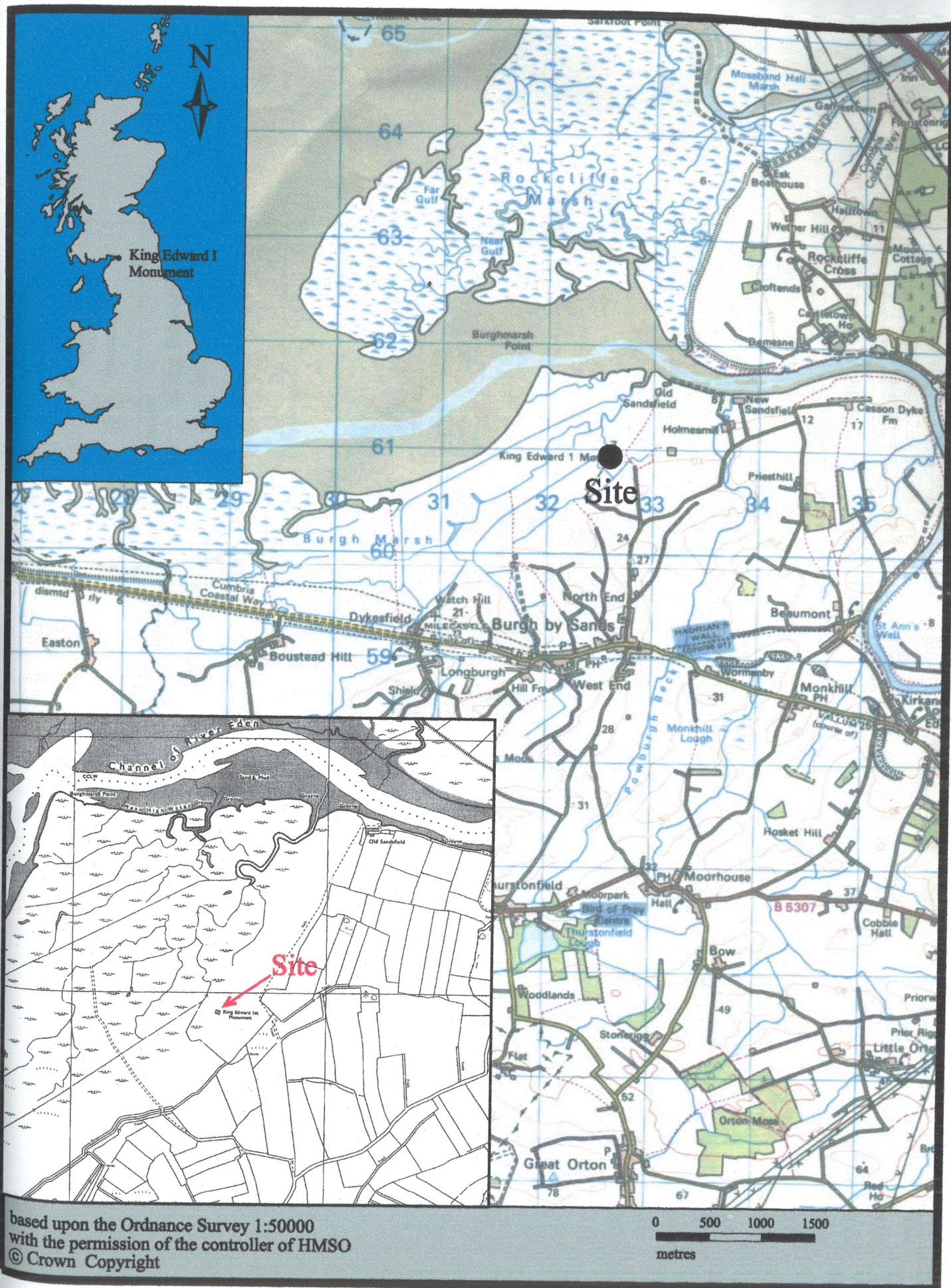


Fig 1 : King Edward I Monument Location Map

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PROJECT:

King Edward I Monument

Burgh by Sands, Cumbria

DRAWING No:

2

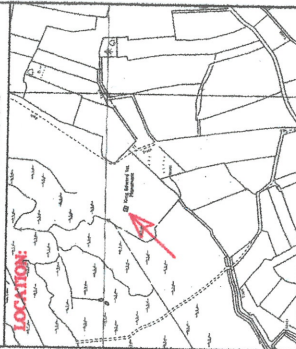


0 0.1 0.2 0.3m

DRAWN BY: JQ

DATE: 29/11/2000

LOCATION:



KEY

TITLE:

Plan of Pillar

COMMISSIONED BY:

English Heritage
and Cumbria County Council

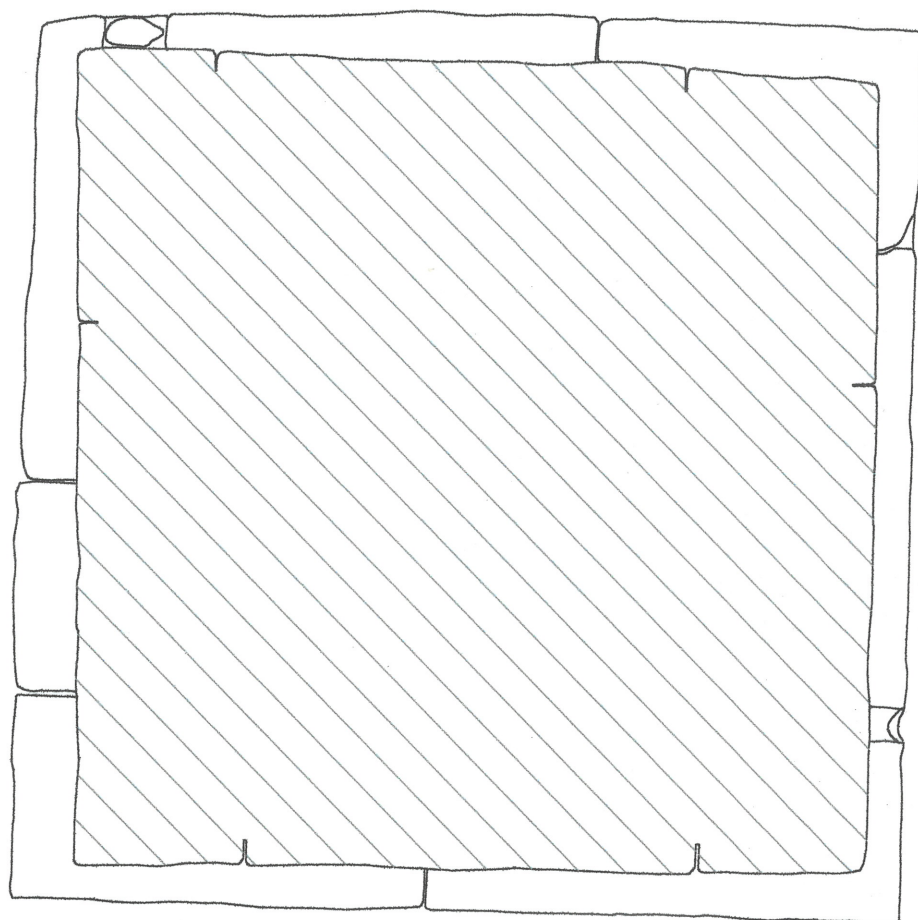


Fig 2 : Plan of King Edward I Monument

PLATES

Plate 1: The monument as shown in 1973 (reproduced from Smith 1973)

Plate 2: The base before removal of steps, from the south-west

Plate 3: The base on removal of steps, from the south-west

Plate 4: The north face of the monument

Plate 5: The north face, detail

Plate 6: The west face of the monument

Plate 7: The west face, detail (plinth inscription)

Plate 8: The west face, detail (course 1 inscription)

Plate 9: The south face of the monument

Plate 10: The south face inscription

Plate 11: The east face of the monument

Plate 12: The east face inscriptions (course 3)

Plate 13: The east face inscriptions (courses 1 and 2)



Plate 1: the monument as shown in 1973 (reproduced from Smith 1973).



Plate 2: base before removal of steps, from the south-west



Plate 3: base on removal of steps, from the south-west



Plate 4: north face of the monument

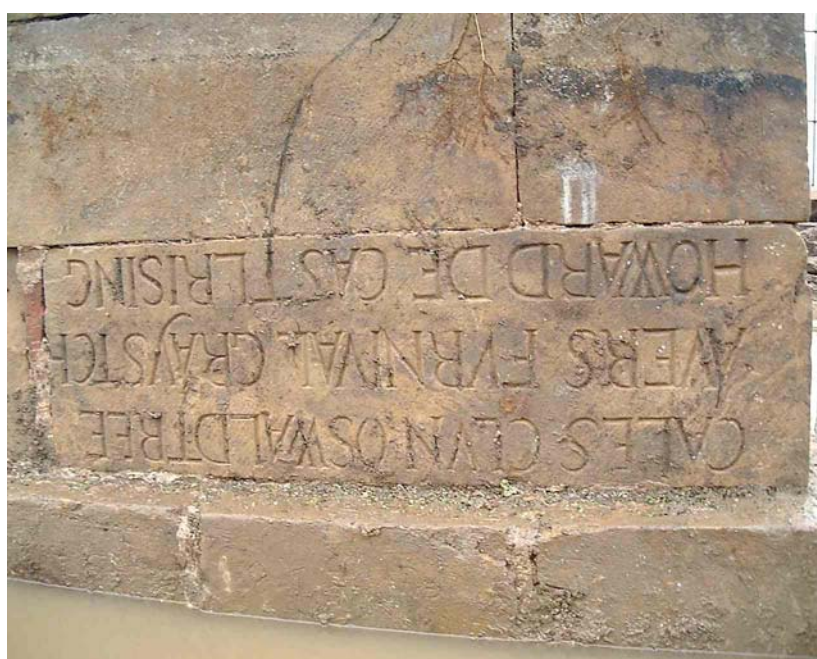


Plate 5: the north face, detail



Plate 6: the west face of the monument



Plate 7: west face, detail (plinth inscription)



Plate 8: the west face, detail (course 1 inscription)



Plate 9: the south face of the monument



Plate 10: the south face inscription



Plate 11: the east face of the monument