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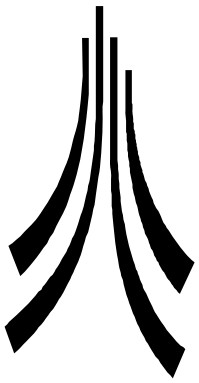

August 1995

FIELD SURVEY 1980-94

Cumbria

SURVEY OF SURVEYS

Commissioned by:

The Lake District National Park Authority

and Cumbria County Council

Field Survey, 1980-1994
Cumbria

Survey of Surveys

Checked by Project Manager. ..... Date
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August 1995

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report has been made possible by the excellent response to the request for information made to the many organisations, and professional and amateur archaeologists, who have undertaken survey work, of all levels, within the County of Cumbria since 1980. Thanks go to all those who were able to contribute.

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The initial desk based and digital work was undertaken by Susan Wieclawska, with assistance from Rieke Anna Smith, and the report writing was undertaken by Jamie Quartermaine and Susan Wieclawska. Rachel Newman edited the report and provided the overall management of the project.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) at the request of the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA), and the Cumbria County Archaeologist, produced an assessment of archaeological landscape surveys within the County of Cumbria undertaken between 1980 and 1994.

The assessment comprised a desk top search of existing records of archaeological surveys in the area, and an appraisal of relevant published, manuscript documentation. It also comprised an assessment of all information returned from various organisations and individuals. A summary gazetteer of archaeological surveys was compiled, the information translated into a visual/digital format within FastCAD, and brief assessments and recommendations for future strategies were then made.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Lancaster University Archaeological Unit has carried out an investigation of the survey work undertaken within the County of Cumbria for the period 1980-94, at the request of the Lake District National Park Authority and the Cumbria County Archaeologist.

The purpose of the investigation was to identify as far as possible the extent of recent survey work within the region, and to advise on the significance of archaeological surveys undertaken. This was to enable the identification of notable *lacunae* within the area, for the purposes of future management proposals, and SMR enhancement. This report may then be used to make recommendations for the archaeological management of the study area.

The study area comprises significant areas of outstanding natural beauty (AONB), National Parks (both the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales), and wetlands. It also includes the World Heritage Site, Hadrian's Wall, along with many other sites of national archaeological importance. The area has considerable amounts of marginal upland where upstanding monuments may be expected to survive.

The assessment aimed to examine both aerial and landscape surveys, but omitted building surveys unless they also incorporated a landscape element. The landscape surveys were divided into artefact collection, aerial photgraphic plotting (Level 10), fieldwalking (Level 11), and topographical survey, divided into three levels (see Appendix 4 for details of Levels 1-3).

As well as assessing the direct relevance of the survey work undertaken over the past fifteen years, the level of survey was also taken into account, as were notable omissions to either response for information, or *lacunae*.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Project Design

The work has been carried out in accordance with the Project Design (Appendix 2) submitted by LUAU to the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) in January 1995, which was based upon the brief (Appendix 1) supplied by the LDNPA and the Cumbria County Archaeologist, for the purposes of SMR enhancement and forward planning.

The Project Design provided for:

- a gathering and collation of evidence of the number, extent, and character of surveys of all kinds undertaken in the past fifteen years in Cumbria
- the provision of a complete copy of the archive of the Lake District National Park Survey to the Lake District National Park Authority
- the provision of information that may be utilised for display and interpretation purposes
- the compilation of a summary gazetteer identifying site number, contact, level of survey, method of survey employed, and a summary of results
- the compilation of the survey areas in a digital graphic format
- the assessment of the information collated, to identify *lacunae* in the record, which may provide the basis for future work programmes, designed by the Cumbria County Archaeologist and the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Park archaeologists, for SMR and management purposes.

2.2 Consultation

The initial request for information was accompanied by a questionnaire (Appendix 3), and details outlining survey levels (Appendix 4)). This was followed by another letter, one month later, to all organisations and individuals that had not as yet replied to the first request (Appendix 3).

Sources consulted included major bodies such as LUAU, RCHM(E), Cumbria County Council, the National Trust, and university departments, as well as local archaeological and historical societies, amateur groups and individuals.

2.3 Synthesis

The collation of material gathered from all sources resulted in the compilation of a summary gazetteer of archaeological sites which was compiled within an integrated ACCESS data base. The mapping information provided was then digitised into a CAD (FastCAD) system to facilitate the generation of overlay plots and digital output for transferral to a GIS system within the LDNPA.

2.4 Assessment

An assessment of the graphic results was undertaken to correlate the area and nature of each survey with the local topography. More significantly, the assessment evaluated to what extent the *lacunae* were in areas of archaeologically barren topography as opposed to areas of identified archaeological potential.

3. ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY WORK

3.1 Introduction

The survey of surveys, undertaken between 1980 and 1994, has demonstrated the wide variety and scale of aerial and surface recording within Cumbria. There was a better than expected return from the participants; of 68 possible sources, 40 replied (59%) and of these 12 (30%) stated that they had not undertaken any work within the area during 1980-1994. Two professional organisations did not provide any survey details but did express concern regarding the amount of work required for the return of the questionnaire, given current financial constraints. Of the 28 non-replies there was only one (Carlisle Archaeology Unit) that has a significant implication for the present survey identification record.

Some replies were locationally too general to incorporate within the CAD mapping and did not provide location plots. Significant examples of this are where the only locational reference is to *West Cumberland Brickworks* (133) or *Eskdale* (62), and these have inevitably resulted in unrepresentative *lacunae* in the mapping.

Most of the reported surveys were at Level 1 (Appendix 4), and reflect walkover, site identification and location, in conjunction with a summary gazetteer. This primary form of landscape recording has been utilised by many of the contributors, notably by the National Trust, who have undertaken a large number of property surveys around the central Lake District and the extensive Borrowdale, Langdale and Seathwaite surveys.

Although smaller in overall area a significant proportion of upland has been recorded by Level 2 survey, which incorporates systematic and detailed graphic recording of archaeological monuments (Appendix 4). Level 3 surveys involve objective detailed earthwork recording in conjunction with detailed topographic mapping (Appendix 4). These have been restricted to small localities throughout the survey area at sites such as Furness Abbey precinct (149), Backbarrow ironworks (254), Hardknott Fort (152), Thingmount (251), and Birdoswald (145). Level 2 and 3 surveys require greater resources than the Level 1 surveys and it is perhaps not surprising that most of these have been undertaken by the professional organisations in the region, particularly RCHM(E) and LUAU.

3.2 Survey Quality

Many of the Level 1, and artefact surveys, within the study area have been undertaken by the National Trust, LUAU, Jim Cherry, and Doug Stables, and are known to be of a high evaluatory quality. Unfortunately, the quality of the other Level 1 surveys is not known. Although aerial photographic surveys examine substantial areas of land they invariably are not a systematic record of the upland landscape and are more prone to interpretive inaccuracy. The vertical air photographic survey undertaken by LUAU (245) utilised photography taken from *c* 10,000' and was unable to identify the more indistinct surface features.

The majority of the Level 2 and 3 surveys were undertaken by RCHM(E), English Heritage and LUAU, and the survey quality is fairly assured. Level 2 surveys have also been undertaken by Cumbria County Council, members of Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society, the Lakeland Mining and Quarrying Museums, Cumbria Industrial History Society and Chris Salisbury, however, the quality of these surveys has not been established.

3.3 Survey Overlap

It is reassuring to discover that there is relatively little overlap between surveys of a similar type and level. There are, however, three exceptions:

- The Holme and District Local Historical Society Level 1 field walking and map survey of kilns in the Arnside / Beetham region (129) overlapped with an earlier Level 1 survey by RCHM(E)/LUAU within the Arnside / Silverdale AONB (258).

- LUAU undertook a detailed Level 2 survey of Town Bank (261) following on from one undertaken as part of a BA dissertation (94). Unfortunately the form and quality of the earlier survey did not allow for its incorporation into the LUAU survey.

- RCHM(E) undertook a Level 2 survey at Nenthead Lead Mines following on from an earlier one by Dr Higgins of the Field Archaeology Unit.

There is also a significant number of overlaps between Level 1 and Level 2 surveys, reflecting the upgrading of the archaeological record in specific areas.

Area	Level 1 / Artefact Survey	Level 2 Survey
Patterdale	24	151
Whin Garth	10	231
Thwaites Fell	31	239
Langdale/Scafell Pike	8	249/50
Gleaston	181-91	106
Holker Estate	98	142
Hesk Fell	15	240
Howgill Fells	58	155

4. *LACUNAE* AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Presented below are significant *lacunae* with suggested recommendations for further recording or upgrading of surveys.

4.1 *Lacunae*

The existence of substantial *lacunae* on the attached mapping (figs 1 and 2) can indicate a need for further archaeological investigation to redress the locational imbalances of recent recording programmes. However, the significance of the respective *lacunae* is affected by the pre-1980 history of archaeological recording, the topography, and also the historical land use of specific areas. Hence areas that have been extensively cultivated, forested or have extremely inhospitable topography inevitably have a lower potential for archaeological recovery by surface survey. It is therefore important within the present evaluation to correlate the identified *lacunae* with areas of archaeological potential. Unfortunately without the benefit of survey work the determination of archaeological potential can be very subjective. The Cumbria Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) does provide a valuable indication of archaeological activity, but it can only reflect known monuments and experience has shown that it may contain deficiencies in upland landscapes. By itself the SMR is not necessarily a reliable indicator of archaeological potential. The present subjective evaluation of potential is based on a combination of the present known archaeological record with areas of appropriate topography and land use. Such an evaluation is not a guaranteed indication of significant archaeological landscapes, but can highlight areas which would profit by evaluatory survey work.

4.1.1 Lake District National Park

Much of the survey work has been undertaken within the area of the Lake District National Park and the areas of *lacunae* are consequently relatively small by comparison with those outside. Of these *lacunae* there are some that coincide with clearly defined areas of low archaeological potential by virtue of the topography or land use. Hence the void between Coniston Water and Windermere is occupied by the extensive Grizedale Forest and that to the south-east of Thirlmere coincides with the extreme topography of the Helvellyn massif.

Certain topographic areas of the National Park have a clear archaeological potential on the evidence of previous survey work. The Lake District National Park Survey identified early settlement remains on almost all areas of gently sloping, well-drained marginal fell land adjacent to the coastal plain, even though many of these had not been highlighted by the previous archaeological record (Quartermaine 1989). It is reasonable to conjecture that other areas with this form of topography will also display a similar wealth of early settlement remains. An example of this characteristic unimproved marginal land is Kinniside Common between the dense settlement area of Town Bank and the Ennerdale valley.

Although the unimproved marginal fell in West Cumbria provides for a remarkable preservation of archaeological landscapes, these areas for the most part are not subject to improvement or development and the archaeological

landscapes are not particularly threatened. The urgency for survey work from a management perspective is consequently reduced. However, the Lake District National Park Survey has highlighted a very specific combination of land use and topography enabling the preservation of a valuable archaeological resource,which is now subject to dramatically greater levels of threat. This land form is marginal land that was enclosed as a result of nineteenth century enclosure acts, subsequently used as private fell land for upland pasture. By the nature of the land it has been subject to less pressures for improvement than the lower fields and therefore still contains a significant archaeological resource. However, it is not common land and is for the most part not owned by large estates; there has therefore been a potential for small upland farms to increase agricultural productivity by improving this. During the 1970's and 1980's, this was encouraged by the availability of EEC land improvement grants. One of the largest surviving medieval settlements identified by the LDNPS programme at Whin Garth (231) was partly destroyed by such land improvements, cairns were cleared into vast piles, and the land was drained. Since then the rest of the medieval field system has displayed evidence of severe damage as a result of vehicle activity and over-grazing. Within recent years this nineteenth century enclosed marginal land has also been much more subject to development, such as forestry planting, by comparison with the unenclosed land. Large areas of unimproved but enclosed land has also been destroyed by open cast coal extraction working in West Cumbria (eg Lostrigg and Keekle Open Cast Coal works).

Because of the coincidence of archaeological resource and threat within these landscapes, they should have a greater priority for future archaeological survey work. For the most part the LDNPS programme examined unimproved fell and there is therefore potential for further survey work on the adjacent nineteenth century enclosed fell.

Potential areas for further survey work which incorporate enclosed marginal land are as follows:

- Birkby (to the west of Barnscar)
- Enclosed land to the south-east of Ulpha Fell (only Crosbythwaite was surveyed from this area)
- Brackenthwaite: enclosed land to the east of Whitfell
- Muncaster Fell
- Bolton Wood to the south of Whin Garth
- Ponsonby Fell / Swainson Knott (to the west of Stockdale Moor)
- Cold Fell/ Thwaites (to the west of Town Bank)
- Loweswater Fell and Fell Barrow (north of Ennerdale), which is an area of undulating marginal land adjacent to the coastal plain.

This project has also identified significant *lacunae* which are more remote from the coastal plain but nevertheless potentially contain a significant archaeological resource. These incorporate both enclosed and unenclosed marginal land.

- Caldbeck Fell: An extensive area of exposed and undulating fell, of which the lower slopes have the potential for extensive survival of the archaeological landscape. Previous surface survey and aerial recording programmes suggest that the area has a significant archaeological potential, albeit lower than that adjacent to the coastal plain.

- Matterdale and Threlkeld (to the north of Ullswater and the Helvellyn Massif). The terrain is for the most part unimproved marginal land and the area includes landscapes such as the Threlkeld settlement. It is an area with considerable archaeological potential.

- Kentmere to Borrowdale. The archaeological potential of the Kentmere area has been demonstrated by the Search archaeological programme (267), and the terrain to the east incorporates extensive areas of marginal fell.

- Lowther Estate land between the River Lowther and the M6.

This survey of surveys has also highlighted areas of Level 1 or artefact survey within the National Park which warrant further investigation. Notably the Haweswater Level 1 survey (247) has highlighted the need for further Level 2 survey work to record in more detail the evidence of early agricultural activity. Similarly the Borrowdale / Wasdale survey (8) has highlighted significant settlement evidence which would warrant more detailed survey.

4.1.2 Lacunae Outside the Lake District National Park

Because most of the surveys have been undertaken within the Lake District National Park the most substantial *lacunae* are outside the National Park boundary. Some of the obvious voids are in areas which have been intensively cultivated and agriculturally improved, such as the Cumbrian coastal plain and the Inglewood Forest area. Surface monuments in these areas are likely to have been obscured or damaged by forest or agricultural plough action and to an extent the archaeological significance of these *lacunae* is diminished by the low archaeological potential of such intensively improved landscapes.

These areas do have a potential for examination by aerial photographic and artefact collection techniques. In this respect the *lacunae* within the Solway and coastal plains is to an extent unrepresentative because they have been examined by aerial photography (R Bewley), but unfortunately this work is not reflected within the present mapping. Artefact collection techniques are limited by the amount of present day arable fields within the region and many of these in the southern part of the coastal plain have already been examined by Jim Cherry, and Doug Stables in Furness. The tendency to permanent pasture does not easily allow formal programmes of survey. The work of Jim Cherry and Doug Stables has demonstrated the value of local workers able to take advantage of infrequent ploughing for reseeding of pasture. Although there is some potential for some

artefact survey work on the northern area of the coastal plain, there is also potential for landscape analysis to correlate extra survey results. This would cross reference the results of survey work in the adjacent uplands and lowlands of West Cumbria and the extensive palaeobotanic results, to evaluate the development of the West Cumbrian landscape.

The archaeological significance of the *lacunae* is to some extent mitigated by survey work undertaken prior to 1980, notably the RCHM(E) survey of Cumberland (RCHM(E) 1936). However, this survey was broadly a gazetteer and undertook detailed investigation only of important monuments, and the areas between the monuments were not adequately explored.

There are, however, some large and significant voids which highlight the need for further archaeological attention. The most significant of these is the Eden valley. There is substantial evidence of prehistoric activity both in and around the valley which would suggest that this was a major settlement centre in the later prehistoric period. Unfortunately the valley floor has largely been cultivated and improved, but there is limited earthwork survival and a potential for surface survey work. There is also a potential for artefact collection on any arable fields. The most significant areas for further survey work are on the marginal lands around the edges of the valley, which are at present inadequately recorded. The eastern side of the Pennines adjacent to the Eden Valley has in part been recorded by vertical air photographic coverage (245), which has mainly highlighted the later monuments. There is therefore a need for either Level 1 or Level 2 surface survey to redress the balance. The existing archaeological record suggests that the uplands to the west of the Eden Valley, around Crosby Ravensworth, have a higher archaeological potential than those to the east. The NorthWest Ethylene Pipeline (NWEP) survey identified a valuable archaeological resource within this region but was unable to explore beyond its remit study corridor. This area has been examined by the artefact survey undertaken by Jim Cherry, but there is still an urgent need for this to be enhanced by a Level 2 earthwork survey to define the extent of the archaeological landscapes fully.

Another smaller *lacunae* with archaeological potential is Lazonby Fell, which was also highlighted by the NWEP survey, and would warrant further archaeological investigation.

4.2 Conclusion

By virtue of the upland, marginal nature of the terrain, the region has an enormous potential for survival of relict landscapes. To a limited extent these landscapes have already been explored by the surveys undertaken between 1980 and 1994; however, there is a considerable area that has not been subject to any systematic investigation. Much of this area has a reduced archaeological potential by virtue of its history of land use, and will have been subject to intensive plough action. However, there is a significant area of marginal land that has yet to be explored but has great archaeological potential. Targeting Level 1 survey into such localities would provide for a rapid and effective means of evaluating large parts of these *lacunae* and would highlight those areas for which the present archaeological record is deficient. Subject to the results of a base level survey it is possible to target resources into areas of greatest archaeological significance to produce either Level 2 or 3 surveys. Ultimately a full landscape survey should be undertaken in conjunction with palaeobotanic work to integrate the vegetational history with the archaeological data. It can therefore be seen that the present survey of surveys is only the first stage of a programme of landscape investigation that would provide for both important landscape research as well as serving as an essential management tool.

5. CORRESPONDENCE GAZETTEER

6. SURVEY GAZETTEER

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A comprehensive bibliography is contained within the archive gazeteer.

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APPENDIX 1

PROJECT BRIEF

APPENDIX 2

PROJECT DESIGN

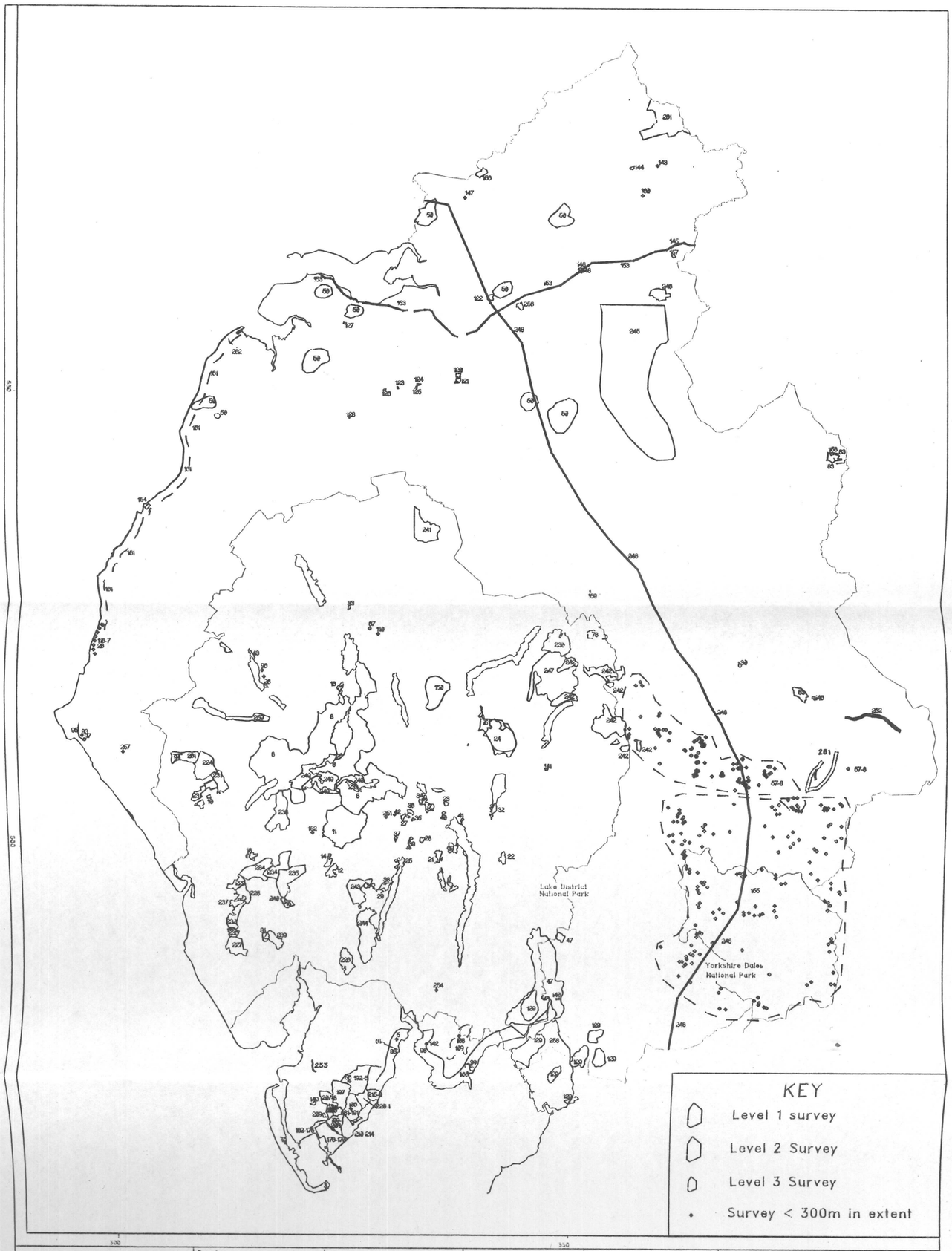
APPENDIX 3

LETTER AND QUESTIONNAIRE

APPENDIX 4

SURVEY LEVELS

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS



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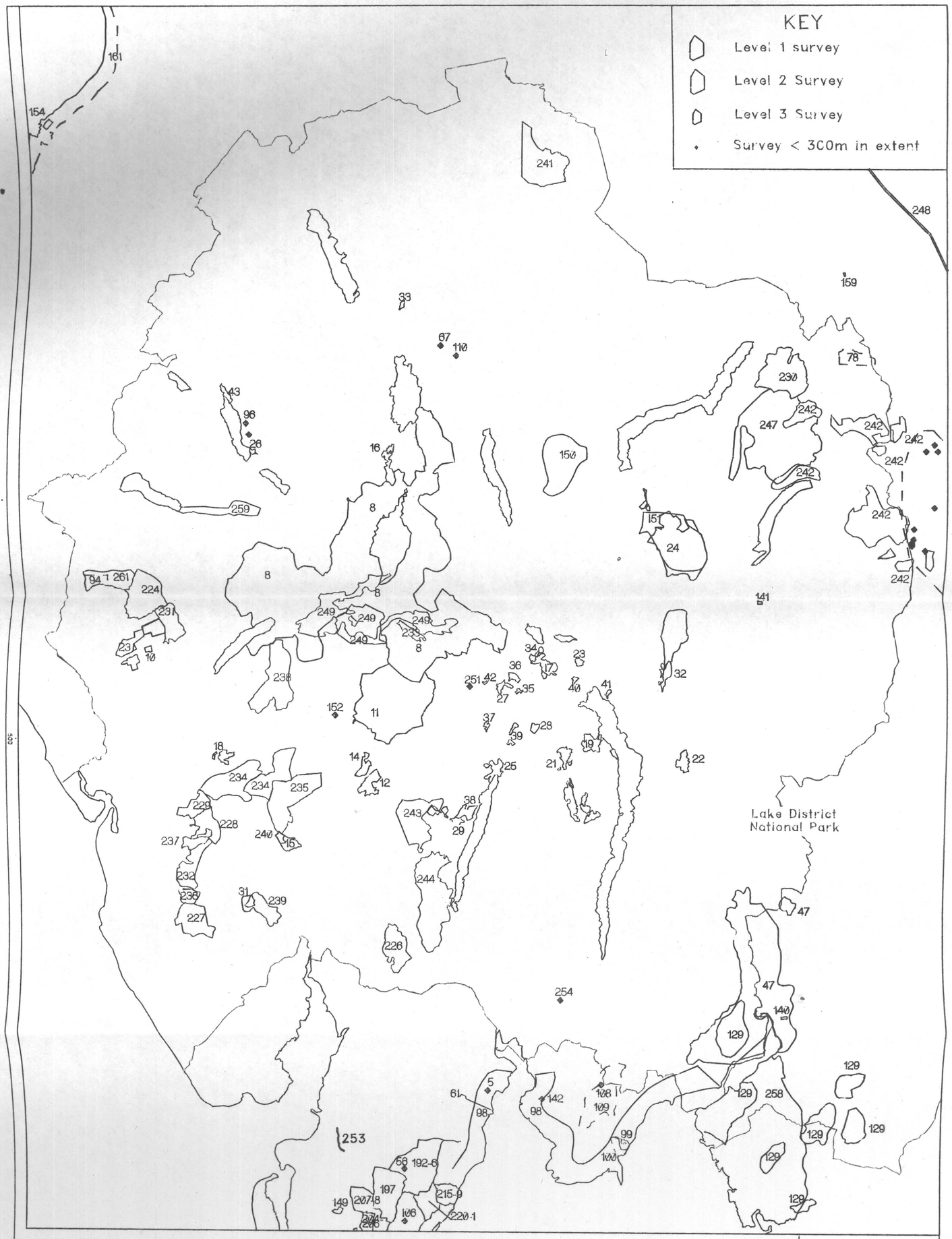
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Level 1 survey
Level 2 Survey
Level 3 Survey
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5km
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