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Summary

The desk-based assessment has identified no definitive heritage assets that may require archaeological mitigation in order to proceed with the proposed development.

The desk-based reconnaissance exercise has identified little signature for past cultural activity that could be considered significant.

Previous archaeological reconnaissance has not raised any archaeological issues and the likelihood remains that the archaeological potential is probably very low but not impossible regarding the survival of past cultural remains.

This survey does not preclude the possibility that sub-surface deposits of a past cultural origin may exist but based on the disposition of the terrain and known environmental conditions the site does appear to be largely marginal in terms of previous settlement.

If previous recommendations by the curatorial authority are followed, a geophysical survey may be requested where practicable. Geophysical anomalies will be investigated should that option take place, based on a 2% sample in order to ascertain whether the study area can be deemed archaeologically sterile or of low heritage potential.

The study area is comparatively small (1.22 hectares) and a recommendation of an evaluation of 5% of the study area is probably the likely option.

Should results prove to be favourable, a strip map and record/sample programme may be invoked that would investigate potential isolated features such as pits.

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project origins

As part of a commercial enterprise (figure 1) to develop land at Kirkland Road, Wigton, Cumbria CA7 9JB, (NY 26300 48600) an archaeological desk-based assessment was commissioned by Josie Scrimgour on behalf of the client, Genesis Homes Ltd. The report attempted to ascertain whether any sensitive past cultural features and archaeological deposits may be extant within the curtilage of the proposed commercial development, an area measuring approximately 1.22 hectares (figure 2).



Figure 1. Location of the development. (OS Copyright, Licence no. 100044205)

The study area (figure 2) represents gradual residential infill development along Kirkland Road, a C grade road that filters on to the B5302.

The development is not within allocated land within the Allerdale District Local Plan.

The Local Plan compiled in 2014 considers heritage issues under Section 27 Heritage Assets. Particularly apposite to this application is the following point 273 (Allerdale District Council 2014, 120).

Applications that will affect the significance of a heritage asset (positively or negatively) should include a Heritage Statement which explains the value of the heritage asset (including an explanation of its character, appearance, historic value, value to people and its setting), how the proposal will affect any of these qualities, and an explanation of the public benefits of the proposal. The complexity and depth of the Heritage Statement should be proportionate to the significance of the heritage asset(s) and the scale of impact upon the asset(s).

The following study did not reveal tangible archaeological heritage assets, the study area being quite possibly archaeologically sterile. The suggestion is therefore, that archaeological remains that may be encountered would be relatively few in number but cannot be entirely ruled out, should future development proceed.

1.2 Project design

The subsequent report attempted to evaluate the archaeological potential in advance of development and highlight areas of potential research.

All GMA Ltd archaeological projects are carried out in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (2023) and the guidelines and recommendations issued by the former Institute of Field Archaeologists (2014) and Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (Historic England 2015).

Research and a walk-over survey took place on October 13th 2024. Archaeological enquiry seeks to obey the heritage commitments of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2023).

1.3 Desk-based assessment sources

The desk-based assessment investigated primary and secondary historical sources, maps and other literature in order to place the survey results into their past cultural, historical and topographic context.

The physical study area was within a 500m radius

The desk-based assessment required a search of five archival repositories:

- Carlisle Library provided sources for published works including newspaper articles, archaeological and antiquarian reports and trade journals.
- Cumbria Record Office, Carlisle provided the earliest enclosure and tithe maps for the parish, details of landowners and occupiers and cartographic evidence.
- The Historic Environment Record, Kendal provided the Sites and Monuments Record describing previous archaeological observations of the study area and aerial photographs relevant to the study area.
- British Newspapers Online provided newspaper articles
- Archaeological grey literature was available on the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).

1.4 Archive

The archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design and the guidelines set out by Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991) and the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994, 2007 and 2012).

The archaeological desk-based assessment will become a public document as part of the planning application on behalf of the client's application.

The archive will be deposited with an appropriate repository and a copy of the report donated to the County Sites and Monuments Record.

A copy of the report will be deposited with the online *Oasis* archaeological database.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location, topography and geology

Wigton is located in a character area known as the 'Solway Basin'. This is a broad, lowland plain landscape which is fringed by the low, rugged, relatively remote coastline of the Solway Firth and the Irish Sea. It is framed by the Cumbria High Fells to the south, the hills of the Scottish borders to the north and the Border Moors and Forests to the north-east.

The Solway Basin is underlain mainly by mudstones and sandstones of Permo-Triassic age ('New Red Sandstone'). The most important sandstone formation, the St Bees Sandstone, has been heavily quarried for use as building material. The sombre brick-red colour of this stone imparts a distinctive character to much of the area's architecture. To the west of Carlisle, poorly exposed Liassic mudstones and limestone, of Jurassic age, overlie the Permo-Triassic rocks. Erosion of the comparatively weak Permo-Triassic and Jurassic rocks reduced much of the Solway Basin to an area of low relief prior to the onset of the last glaciations. During this period thick ice-sheets crossed the area from Scotland to the Lake District. These carried with them vast quantities of rock debris which was deposited as boulder clay (till), both beneath the ice and from within it as it melted. Because of the extensive mantle of glacial deposits, exposure of solid geology remains limited and the direct influence of these rocks upon landscape formation is diminished (Wooler 2012, 13).

Terrain lies at a height of approximately 40m AOD.

There are no designated assets, scheduled monuments, World Heritage Sites, Registered Parks and Gardens or Registered Battlefields within the study area.

The local landscape character has been categorised as follows:

26. Inglewood

The Inglewood character area lies within the former Forest of Inglewood and stretches from Wigton in the north-west almost to Penrith in the south-east. It covers parts of three district authorities: Allerdale, Carlisle and Eden. It is situated to the north of the Lake District National Park and has a gently rolling topography.

It is characterised by a patchwork of mainly small nucleations and discrete settlement. Around 30% of the discrete settlements pre-date 1770, and many of these can be associated with documented medieval assarts. The remainder of the discrete settlements relate largely to the enclosure and improvement of the unenclosed wastes during the 19th century. Half of the nucleated settlements are medieval in origin, with some discernible elements of planning. The settlement pattern is most nucleated within Carlisle District, and most dispersed within Eden District. In general, however, the degree of dispersion has increased over the past 250 years throughout the character area.

Wigton is the only town in the character area, and has been the major growth point, which is why 70% of the nucleated settlement area in the Allerdale part of Inglewood, is 20th century in origin. Indeed, throughout the character area, the nucleated settlements have expanded six-fold since 1770.

Close to Carlisle, some of this expansion came in the 19th century within the industrial expansion of Dalston and Cummersdale. These settlements have continued to attract population growth and 60% of the nucleated settlement area in the Carlisle District of Inglewood, is 20th century in origin. In Eden, the 20th century growth is much lower, at only 44%. The field pattern is mixed, with older enclosures dominated by anciently enclosed farm holdings. Former common arable fields are more prevalent in Carlisle District, where they also cover larger areas.

Elsewhere former common arable fields are scattered throughout the character area, but are usually small. In general, they are associated with nucleated villages. The dominant field type is late 18th and 19th century planned enclosures, reflecting the formerly extensive areas of moorland common grazing. The road system is fairly regular with many straight roads, including some Roman roads. Other roads were straightened at the time of planned enclosure. Despite the early medieval wooded nature of much of the character area, woodland is no longer extensive, with widespread but small blocks of plantation and a few areas of ancient gill woodland. The medieval nature of the character area is also exhibited in the large number of former deer parks, particularly to the south of Carlisle.

Although many of the individual character elements within Inglewood are of modern derivation, the overall character owes much to its former medieval status as a forest.

Legacy: A mixed pattern of modern and older settlements and field enclosure, strong legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin.

Landscape designation and status: Registered park and garden at Hutton-in-the-Forest.

2.2 Development proposals

The development proposes the construction of 29 dwellings focused on a cul-de-sac within a 1.22 hectare footprint (figure 2).

This development will involve in all likelihood provision for a greater number of vehicles and therefore surplus surface water run-off that needs to be managed. Landscaping and attenuation ponds may be necessary in order to satisfy environmental concerns. Current plans are in their infancy, the desk-based assessment being part of the scoping scheme.

3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Historical background

Palaeolithic

No early Palaeolithic material has been recovered within Cumbria. The most recent geological period, the Pleistocene, witnessed the movement of massive north-south travelling ice sheets, which successively scoured the landscape during prolonged periods of glaciation.

Pollen samples from the Windermere Inter-stadial suggest that winter conditions were severe with excessive surface water and vegetation establishing itself only during the summer.

Around 13,000 years BP, Late Upper Palaeolithic people returned to Britain, although evidence for this activity extending to northwest England is extremely scarce. However, the discovery of Late Upper Palaeolithic blades near Grange-over-Sands and at Aldingham, on the Furness Peninsula, does not preclude the existence of a Cumbrian Palaeolithic culture.

Penetration into the hinterland did not occur and would not have reached modern-day Wigton where the environment was inhospitable.

Mesolithic

Understanding of the Mesolithic period is heavily influenced by the exposure of diagnostic material in particular lithic assemblages although palaeo-environmental evidence indicates repeated woodland reduction episodes. Towards the later Mesolithic period there is considerable evidence for occupation on raised beaches near the coastline. This activity tends to conform to the seasonal model of hunter-gatherers exploiting natural resources but with elements of a managed landscape emerging.

In western Cumbria, late Mesolithic flint scatters have been recovered from the raised beaches of the maximum marine transgression and along cliff tops north of St Bees. It has been suggested that there is little discernible technological difference between the later Mesolithic and early Neolithic assemblage perhaps indicating considerable longevity and a distinctive west Cumbrian tradition.

There is no known Mesolithic occupation in this immediate area.

Neolithic

The early Neolithic period represents the transition from hunter-gatherer societies to sedentary agricultural communities. As societies became established, specific cultural traits emerged; the appearance of ceremonial and funerary landscape monuments and the development of distinctive ceramic styles and lithic forms

In the Late Neolithic, social hierarchies emerge through the intensification and increasing sophistication of settlement, land use and artefact production.

Evidence for settlement in Cumbria is primarily inferred by the distribution of polished stone axes from the Langdale axe factory.

Long distance trade and contact is suggested by the frequent appearance of these axes throughout the British Isles and by the third Millennium BC, the production of these axes was part of a trans-European trading network.

Within the immediate environs of the study area there is little direct evidence for Neolithic settlement.

Bronze Age

The Bronze Age in the north-west is noted by an increase in land clearance and the beginning of cereal cultivation from approximately 2000 BC. Despite much continuity from the Late Neolithic, the Bronze Age introduces bronze metalwork, changes in pottery styles and burial practice. However, archaeological visibility within Cumbria is poor and very few Bronze Age sites have been discovered in Cumbria, although in coastal, south-west Cumbria the earlier lithic tradition appears to continue into at least the early Bronze Age.

Cist burials appear from the beginning of the second Millennium BC and it is believed that they represent former monuments within a Bronze Age agricultural landscape. Aerial photography on the North Cumbrian Plain, suggests a number of crop-marks may represent barrows within a network of linear ditches forming a *cursus*. However, there is no current evidence to suggest that this practice may have dispersed eastwards into this study area.

In north and west Cumbria, clearance of woodland occurs from the third millennium BC but was accompanied by climate deterioration before a second major phase of clearance in the latter half of the first millennium BC (McCarthy 2003, 133).

Within the immediate environs of the study area there is little direct evidence for Bronze Age settlement

Iron Age

The Iron Age is noted for the introduction of iron tools and weapons, increasing sophistication in pottery production, long-distance trade and the development of social hierarchies from kinships societies to tribal territories based on regional centres.

In Cumbria, the early and mid-Iron Age is poorly represented suggesting a low population threshold (Brennand 2006, 51). In the late Iron Age, there is considerable forest clearance suggesting population stress probably associated with proto-regional tensions between Iron Age tribes.

Iron Age agricultural practices have been discerned at Tarraby Lane, Carlisle in 1976 as a series of field boundaries and cultivation marks (Smith 1978, 21-23) known as cord-rig cultivation but unenclosed settlement appears to leave little trace.

Hillforts and enclosed settlement are largely missing from the archaeological record.

One example is at Salterbeck, near Egremont where an Iron Age enclosure was identified. The defended settlement 490m north east of Beckstone Bridge is preserved as a crop-mark and a partial earthwork that contains archaeological deposits relating to its construction, use and abandonment and the environmental deposits relating to the use of the surrounding landscape.

The monument provides insight into the character of fortified settlements during the Iron Age. The monument includes the remains of a defended settlement of Iron Age date forming a protected promontory at the south west end of a ridge, preserved as a crop-mark and partial earthworks, including a sub-circular enclosure.

On the northern boundary of Wigton a cluster of prehistoric sites have been identified, including a field system and possible roundhouse (HER 40840) and enclosures (HER 40841, 40842, 41105). Cropmarks at Kirkland (HER 3327), to the east of the development site, and Old Carlisle (HER 3741), to the south may also represent prehistoric antecedents in the area. More significantly, further south of the proposed development site, at Tiffenthwaite Farm, a palisaded enclosure, probably of Late Iron Age date, has been identified (HER 19091; Giocco 2000).

In the immediate vicinity of the proposed development area, no direct Iron Age activity has been recovered.

Roman

Hadrian's Wall, which stretches for over 70 miles from coast to coast, marks one of the frontiers of the Roman Empire. The international importance of the surviving remains has been recognised through designation as a World Heritage Site. The military importance of the Tyne-Solway route across the Pennines was recognised by the Romans during their early campaigns through northern England and into Scotland in the second half of the first century AD. At this time, a military road, the Stanegate, was constructed along with a series of forts. Subsequently, the Romans largely withdrew from Scotland and there is evidence that the Tyne-Solway route was being recognised as a frontier by the start of the second century AD.

The position was consolidated in the early second century by the construction of a substantial frontier work, Hadrian's Wall, under the orders of Emperor Hadrian. This continuous barrier, which was built of stone in the east, and initially of turf in the west, was originally designed to the ten Roman feet wide and sections of this width are termed 'broad wall'. A change of plan shortly after construction began, led to a reduction in the width of the Wall to eight Roman feet, such sections are termed 'narrow wall'

For most of its length, a substantial ditch provided additional defence on its northern side. To the south of the wall was an additional element, the Vallum which added to the defensive system. This was a broad flat-bottomed ditch flanked by a pair of linear banks. It shadows the Wall for almost all its length, although in places it is located up to one kilometre away. It is believed that the main function of the Vallum was to act as a barrier to restrict access to the Wall from the south (Wooler 2012, 27).

The area to the north of Hadrian's Wall was administratively beyond the Roman Empire but there is considerable evidence that the area for a long length of time was benign, settled and consequently Romanised.

Roads led north from the military forts of Stanwix and Birdoswald linking the scouting forts (*Castra exploratum*) of Netherby and Bewcastle. In the case of Netherby, this settlement appears to have been a central place in its own right suggesting that the margin north of Hadrian's Wall was spatially organised with a formalised pattern (Martin, forthcoming).

Lowland North Cumbria was a rich agricultural area during the Roman period growing wheat and barley for the nearby military centres and the coastal garrisons. This produced a landscape of rectilinear field systems bounded by ditches, tracks and hedges with intermittent farmsteads.

The typical farmstead was set inside a ditched and embanked enclosure, which varied in plan. Within the enclosure were rectangular and circular plan buildings (suggestive of both native and Roman influence), cobbled yards and some degree of drainage. These farmsteads do not appear to be materially ostentatious reflecting functional use rather than any suggestion of upward social mobility or development.

Near Wigton was the site of the Roman fort of Maglona at Old Carlisle. It was excavated in 1956, when evidence of 2nd to 3rd century occupation was found. To the north, south and eastern sides of the fort was evidence of a vicus, including a probable *mansio* based on a courtyard building 75m southwards and an aqueduct which may have supplied a bath building based on an ancient rock-cut aqueduct leading along the valley on the east side of the stream and only just above it. There existed 29 Roman inscriptions from the site and an altar to Jupiter-Vulcan. The fort enclosed an area of 4.5 acres (1.82 hectares).

Many of the Roman finds from the Wigton area include an altar (HER 670), carved stones (HER 19685; HER 668), a lion plate brooch (HER 19662), coins (HER 13508; HER 19675), glass (HER 19736) and pottery fragments (HER 17954) appear to derive from the occupation of the fort.

A small Roman cremation cemetery was identified at Tiffenthwaite Farm (Grahame 1999, 4) to the south of the development site (HER 1909) but no extra-mural or defined settlement was encountered.

Medieval

Following Roman withdrawal, it is believed that Cumbria reverted to native autonomy before the Angles began to enter eastern Cumbria during the 7th Century AD followed by Anglo-Saxon, Scandinavian and Scottish incursions up to the 11th Century AD. Although little tangible evidence remains in the form of settlement, place-name evidence perpetuates these successive influences.

There is little tangible evidence at present for settlement or land use in the area around Wigton which dates to this period apart from place names which contain elements which derive from Danish and Old English, the language spoken by the Anglo-Saxons from the 6th to the 12th centuries AD (Wooler 2012, 30).

Wigton is first mentioned in documentary sources in 1163 but appears to have earlier medieval origins (Railton 2022, 12). The only definitive medieval sites in the proximity of the development area, however, are St Mary's church (possibly of the 12th century but entirely rebuilt in 1788; (HER 41802/21817) and a medieval park to the south-east of the town associated with probable parkland

belonging to Highmoor (HER 6833). A manorial hall is suggested in 1212 in the form of a reference from the Testa de Nevill which states 'Adam, son of Adard 26/4d of cornage for 2 vills and a hall in demesne' but there are no known surviving remains (Eadie 2013, 10-11). A market charter was granted in 1262 (Winchester 2017, 320). The proposed development site lies outside the limits of the medieval town

Post-Medieval and modern

Spatial organisation was little changed from the medieval period although all the fields were enclosed by the early 19th Century.

In the 1680s Thomas Denton described the town as having established a thriving market, specializing in the linen trade, with a large number of linen weavers established in the neighbouring villages (Winchester 2017, 321). The post-medieval market was located in Market Place, situated at the junction of major routes into the town. The linen industry at Wigton continued to grow in the 18th century but was in decline by 1900 when the principal industry in the town was tanning (Ibid).

Writing in the later 18th century, Hutchinson noted that one of the factors for the increase in population of the town was the establishment of a 'manufactory for printing calicoes at Spittle, by Messrs Bromwell and Irving, where about 60 workmen are employed' (Hutchinson 1794-97, 468). Parson and White noted this site was established in 1790, whilst a 'calico printers' is listed at Burnfoot, presumably the site of The Stampery (HER No. 10263), where a fustian (heavy woven cotton cloth) manufactory had been established in 1795 (Carrick 1949, 31).

The common arable fields around Wigton were in two main blocks. The first was along Kirkland Lane and the other block was along Longthwaite Road, where the Springfields Estate has since been built. The crofts and their access road on the east side of the High Street have long been obliterated but the paths which gave access to the common arable fields are still easy to trace along Little Lane, Stony Banks and Kirkland Lane (Historic England 2013, 4).

The arrival of the Carlisle and Maryport Railway in 1843 encouraged the development of coal yards, timber yards, saw mills and dye works, building upon an existing textile and rope making industry.

3.2 Roman Wigton

The dominant archaeological landscape feature that influences the local vicinity was the Roman fort at Old Carlisle, but due to the limited amount of excavations at this location, much of what is known about the Roman fort at Old Carlisle is understood through aerial photography and limited excavation by Richard Bellhouse. This major Roman settlement lies 2 km south of the study area (figure 1). Its importance is reflected by its scheduled and protected status in law.

Aerial photography of the site taken by JK St Joseph in the summer of 1949 showed distinctive outlines of rectangular plan buildings along both flanks of the main Roman road, between Carlisle and Papcastle, to the south of the fort, and along the approach road to the east gate (figure 4).

A further programme of aerial photography, undertaken some 25 years later adopted a system of block-flying, in preference to linear flying, in order to gain an understanding of the wider landscape around the Roman fort. This indicated that the extramural settlement covered around 5.8 hectares,

and extra-mural settlement that extended for at least 500 metres along the main Carlisle-Papcastle road to the south (Clark 2005, 7).



Figure 4. Old Carlisle from the air photographed in 1949

In 1956, Richard Bellhouse excavated a grass field in Old Carlisle that clearly outlined rectangular buildings to the south of the modern road. The field was in permanent pasture and had not been ploughed for over thirty years. Earthworks were clearly visible. Another field to the east was then ploughed that revealed little stonework but did however reveal Roman pottery and patches of burnt clay.

A field to the north that had never been ploughed revealed ruins of buildings. Finds included cobble surfaces on top of the clay surfaces and a high density of Roman pottery. Aerial photography clearly showed ribbon development on both sides of a Roman road and on the roads to the east gate of the fort. The finds indicate two types of contemporary buildings: larger stone structures with flagged floors with stone and slate roofs fronting onto the road, behind these were cruder wattle and daub houses with clay floors.

Bellhouse claimed there were two phases of destruction followed by a rebuilding period in exactly the same style as before. Pottery dated the occupation of this area to the 2nd and 3rd centuries. He thought that the widespread destruction by fire of the clay and wattle buildings, evident in the layers of fired clay, was the result of a historic disaster (Bellhouse 1959, 15-31).

In 1972, south of Wigton between Street Farm and Old Carlisle, a band of road metalling, measuring 9.10 metres wide and 0.80 metres deep, was found during the laying of a new gas main. This road was constructed of a heavy stone base with smaller stones and cobbles on top with a surface spread of gravel. A spread of metalling was also found in a trench to the west of the road from Old Carlisle to Wigton, the construction technique different to the other road in that this example had a base of medium sized, broken stone overlain by a gravel surface.

Following work conducted to the north of Old Carlisle fort in 1999 and 2000 that revealed boundary ditches thought to have been Roman in origin, the vicus at Old Carlisle, was believed to be positioned on a main road from Carlisle to Maryport. Despite the nebulous configuration of the vicus, it was thought to have been self-governing and had a "special status" that may have superseded the fort in importance and could have included a *mansio* (Strickland and Mounsey 2009, 13).

In June 2002, at Old Carlisle Farm, 116 metres east of the Roman fort, work conducted by Oxford Archaeology North undertaken in order to construct a level stone yard to the west of the farm, revealed an exposed area of a well-preserved east-west aligned gravel surface that crossed the site. This was part of the Roman road leading from the east gate of the fort. Large sub-rectangular stones were found *in situ* placed at regular intervals across the surface, thought to possibly serve as a junction for working parties during the construction of the road. Further sub-rectangular stones were laid along the length of the road thought to mark its centre. Structural remains were found at the eastern end of the exposed area. The largest of these formed a wall.

In 2005, a watching brief south of the study area and following a 220m length of trench, identified the probable Carlisle to Papcastle road along with associated ditches and a pit. The road surface was metalled and led to the fort (Clark 2005, 3).

In 2009, a watching brief north of the study area for a service trench revealed a stone wall close to the fort but no other archaeological features were recovered (Strickland and Mounsey 2009, 5).

The occupation of the fort is thought to have been spasmodic marked with periods of abandonment and destruction. Inscriptions of the ala Augusta date to the time of Commodus (emperor 177-192 AD) while other inscriptions date to 197 AD. The fort at Old Carlisle also appears in the *Notitia Dignitatum* that dates Roman garrisons in the North of England between 395 and 410 AD, suggesting the fort at Old Carlisle was occupied into the 5th Century.

The Roman fort of Maglona (figure 5) under the custodianship of Historic England has the following designation:

The monument includes the remains of a Roman fort, its surrounding civilian settlement (or vicus) and an associated road. The scheduled area lies on the east side of Wiza Beck and is divided in two by the A595 main road. The fort, which stands on high ground to the west of Old Carlisle Farm, covers an area of approximately two hectares and is rectangular in plan with rounded corners.

The fort is surrounded by a bank, measuring approximately 1m high and 3m wide, and a double ditch which is well-preserved at its east and west ends. The internal features of the fort are preserved as crop-marks with analysis of aerial photographs revealing the remains of the road system, gateways and ranges within the interior of the fort. The fort is surrounded by the extensive remains of its civilian settlement or vicus which are preserved as crop-marks and buried archaeological deposits. Partial excavation has indicated that paved surfaces, roads, wall foundations and other building remains all survive as buried archaeological deposits.



Figure 5. First edition Ordnance Survey map, of 1865 showing the fort at Old Carlisle

The evidence for roads includes excavation of the remains of a section of the Carlisle to Papcastle road which runs through the scheduled area. Located 75m to the south of the south gate of the fort are the remains of a large courtyard building understood to be a *mansio*, or lodging house, which have been identified from aerial photographs.

The partial excavation of the vicus has indicated that it was built in the second century AD, largely from timber buildings, and was destroyed and then rebuilt in the reign of Gordian III before being destroyed and rebuilt in its final form around 296 AD; there is no indication for occupation of the vicus after 367 AD.

Eighteen historic events are listed within the Historic Environment Record within Old Carlisle. These entries include five tombstones found at Cunningarth Farm, three of which were set into the wall of a barn and two found in pasture land; one coin dated to 192 AD found at Old Carlisle; and one brooch with details of a lion walking found at Old Carlisle Roman fort. Numerous amounts of pottery have been found in the vicinity of the site boundary including pottery found on the banks of the Wiza Beck, and in the area of the vicus (Strickland and Mounsey 2009, 14).

3.3 Previous archaeological research to the south of the study area

South of the study area, there have been five archaeological interventions along the course of Syke Road, Wigton in recent years (figure 6). This study corridor remains the main focus of archaeological enquiry in Wigton approximately 1 km to the south of the study area

In 1999 an archaeological evaluation was conducted at Tiffenthwaite Farm, to the west of the proposed development site that lay 0.75m from Old Carlisle. Of 22 trial trenches excavated, five

recorded archaeological features. This fieldwork located a cremation deposit within a Roman ceramic vessel of 4th century AD date which had been placed at the bottom of a sub-circular cut into a ditch fill as well as structural remains associated with buildings (HER 19091; Grahame 1999).

An associated watching brief in 2000 identified a Late Iron Age palisaded enclosure, five additional Roman pits used for cremations and a possible inhumation (HER 19091; Giecco 2000).

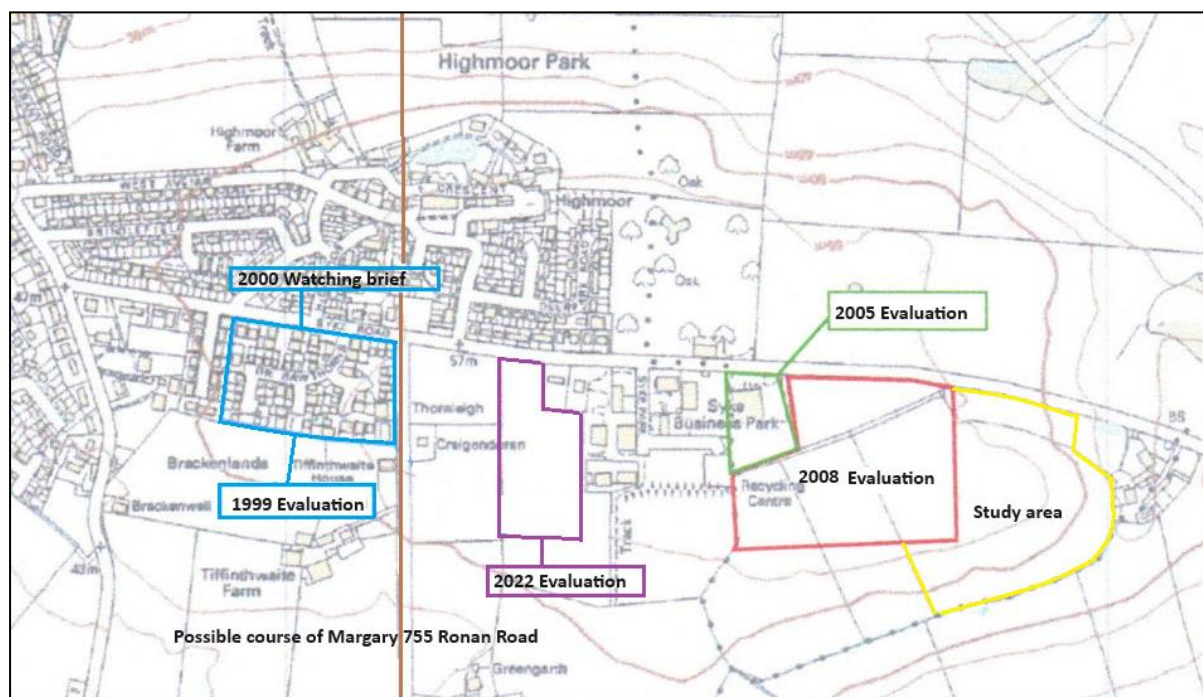


Figure 6. Archaeological interventions along Syke Road, Wigton

The earliest activity was represented by a probable palisade slot and traces of a second slot or gully, possibly of Iron Age date.

This consisted of a large U-shaped ditch, sealed by an upper fill of sand producing 41 sherds of Roman pottery that defined the perimeter of the enclosure. Most of the interior of the enclosure lay outside of the site investigation only one major internal structural feature was recorded, comprising a shallow, curving gully and a concentric configuration of 23 internal posts that probably defined the ground plan of a small, sub-oval timber building, with an entrance at the south-eastern end.

The interior was covered with a 0.15m thick layer of re-deposited silty clay with charcoal flecks. The fill of the gully surrounding the structure produced 35 sherds of Roman pottery with a single pot sherd recovered from a post-hole and a short length of gully. Although three trackways were revealed, none produced any dating evidence, but were thought to be Roman in date. At least five small cremation pits and one possible inhumation were excavated, possibly forming a Roman cemetery. No evidence of Post-Roman activity was noted.

Located at NY 26570 47370, In 2005 an archaeological evaluation was conducted in fields immediately to the west of the new Auction Mart. This identified only field drains and a posthole of

modern date (Jones 2005). No archaeological deposits were observed in any of the evaluation trenches.

In 2008 the site of the Auction Mart was evaluated ahead of development.

The evaluation provided no demonstrable evidence of prehistoric, Roman or medieval activity on those parts of the site that were investigated. This suggested that the archaeological potential of the site was low. The paucity of unstratified finds from the topsoil might also be indicative of an absence of significant archaeological remains within the eastern part of Syke Road.

The evaluation identified rubble, a robber trench and a possible yard surface associated with buildings that once stood in the north-eastern corner of the proposed development site and according to the finds record, active during the 19th century. No artefacts pre-dating the 19th century were encountered. The significance and archaeological potential of these remains were deemed low.

Most of the undated features observed had low archaeological significance. The undated ditches identified in trenches 3, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 15 were most likely drainage channels.

The significance of the substantial ditch located in trench 16 was more problematic (feature **1604**). It was not located in any of the other evaluation trenches and its course, extent and date were unknown.

The archaeological evaluation did not, therefore, located any demonstrably significant archaeological remains on the eastern end of Syke Road. All the archaeological features encountered were of low significance. This lack of significant archaeological remains accorded with the results of an earlier evaluation on adjacent property immediately to the west (Jones 2005). It would appear from these collective results and from the evidence for the distribution of known archaeological sites in the area (AOC Archaeology 2008a, 13-24, Figure 1), that the focus of prehistoric activity around Wigton was to the north-west of the proposed development area and that Roman activity was focused on Old Carlisle fort and to the south and west of the development area (Potten 2008, 11).

In 2022 Eden Heritage Ltd was commissioned to undertake an archaeological geophysical survey on land to the south of Syke Road, to the west of a property known as Nonsuch, at Wigton in Cumbria, (NGR: NY 2632 4724). The proposed development area was believed to have archaeological potential. Archaeological investigation has revealed Iron Age/Roman remains immediately to the west of the site, recorded as Tiffinthwaite Farm Enclosure and Cremation Cemetery (HER 19091).

Aerial photographs also recorded other potential Roman sites to the south, including Tiffinthwaite Settlement Cropmark Complex (HER 4715). The geophysical survey detected a number of weak linear and curvilinear features, which were interpreted as possible archaeological soil-filled features. These included a possible rectangular enclosure ditch, and two possible curvilinear ditches to the south. The geophysical anomalies were targeted during the subsequent trial trench evaluation of the site (Railton 2022a, 3).

The geophysical survey had detected evidence for a possible track, which may be modern in origin, as it appears to follow the west side of the field, joining an existing trackway to the south. Modern services have also been detected crossing the site, associated with the adjacent properties.

The geophysical survey has detected several possible soil-filled features which are concentrated on the higher ground on the north side of the field and the lower ground to the south.

1. A possible soil-filled ditch which could potentially define the south side of a rectilinear enclosure.
2. A possible soil-filled ditch
3. Two curvilinear features which appear to extend into the field boundary to the east, and the field boundary ditch to the south

Overall, the anomaly strengths were relatively weak, making interpretation of these features difficult (Railton 2022a, 11).

An evaluation was undertaken between the 25th and 29th April 2022, with twelve trenches excavated across the proposed development area. The trenches were located to target all the areas of the proposed development, and to sample the geophysical anomalies detected by a previous geophysical survey of the site.

The archaeological evaluation revealed the presence of further possible prehistoric/Romano-British activity on the east side of the proposed development area in the form of a possible enclosure ditch, stone surface and food waste deposit. A probable post-medieval field boundary ditch was also revealed on the east side of the site which was aligned with existing field boundaries and appears to have been deliberately backfilled.

Numerous stone land drains were also identified in the evaluation trenches which probably related to recent use (Railton 2022b, 19).

3.4 Cartographic research

Saxton's Map of Cumberland 1576 does not appear to feature Wigton. The Hodkinson and Donald map of 1774 depicts Kirkland as an extant farm but seemingly a satellite settlement of Wigton without any road connection (figure 7).

The 1823 Greenwood map shows a number of disparate dwellings in close proximity to the study area, south of a new road that links the town of Wigton with Kirkland (figure 8). A number of late 18th and early 19th century houses were still extant.

The farm buildings depicted on the 1823 appeared to be extant on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map respecting a series of rectangular plan strip fields located on Kirkland Lane owned by the church. Formal gardens and plantations have been established within the strip fields and a clay dubs clay pit (HER 10258) was active. A single east-west aligned building lies within the study area (figure 9).



Figure 7. Hodkinson and Donald map of 1774

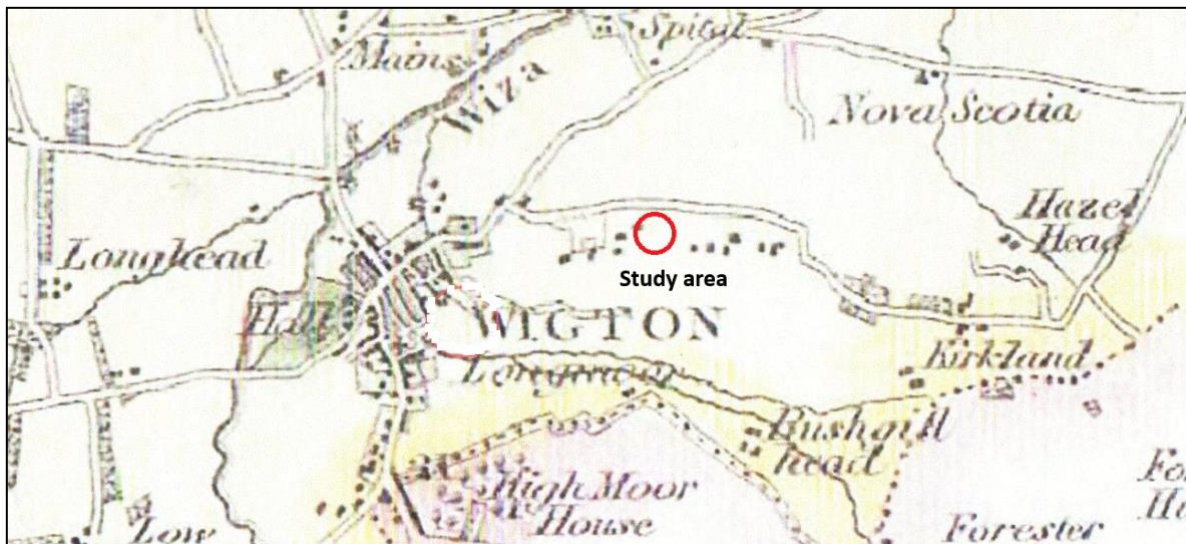


Figure 8. Greenwood map of 1823

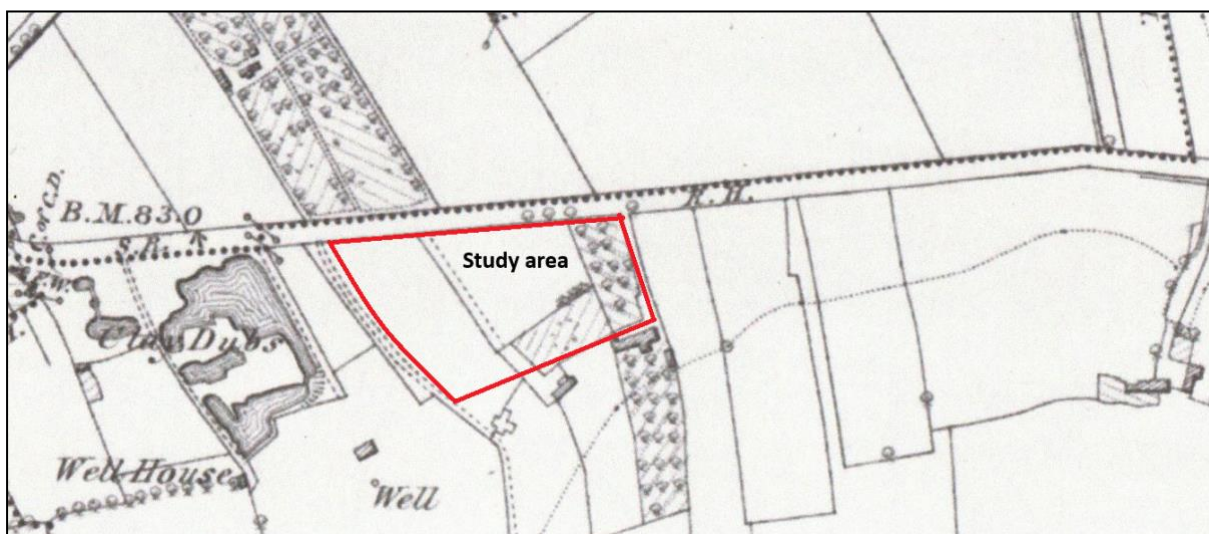


Figure 9. First Edition Ordnance Survey map published in 1868

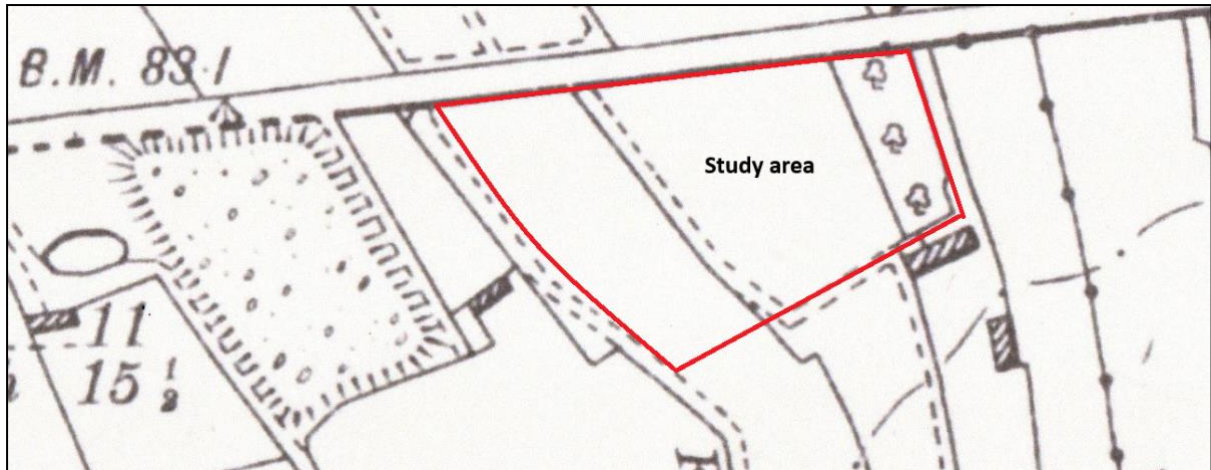


Figure 10. Second Edition Ordnance Survey map published in 1901

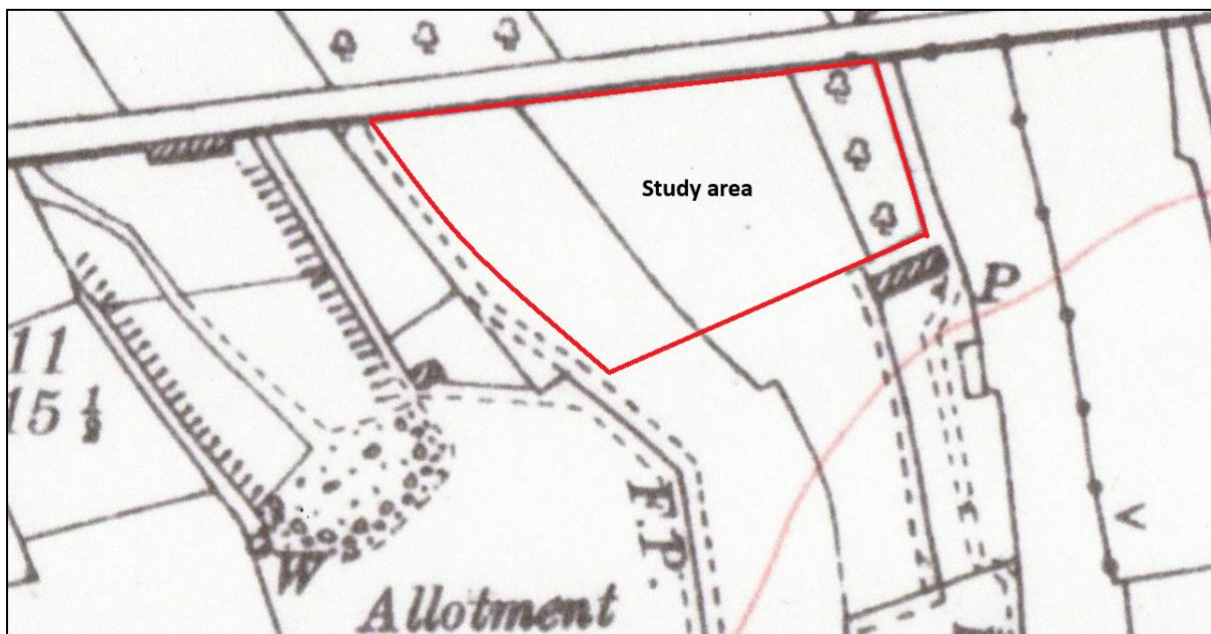


Figure 11. Third Edition Ordnance Survey map published in 1927

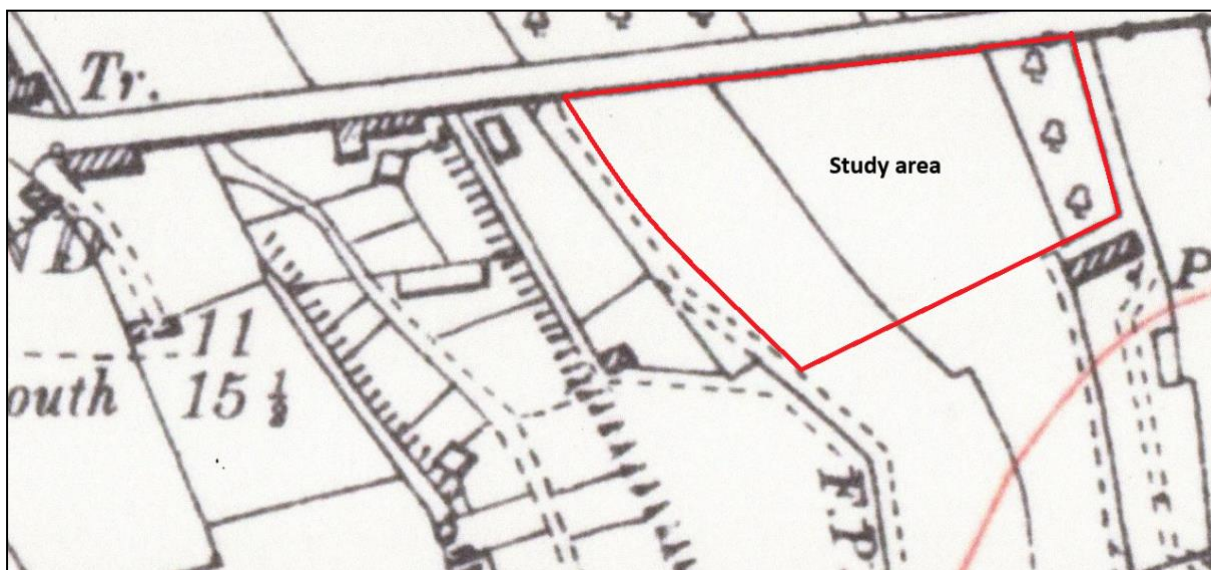


Figure 12. Ordnance Survey map published in 1952

By 1901, the clay dubs clay pit was inactive and a number of buildings including the one dwelling within the study area were defunct (figure 10).

The Third Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1927 also repeats the spatial disposition of the earlier 1901 map except a field track has been removed (figure 11). Allotments were established to the south and the clay pit appeared to be extended.

The 1952 revision to the Ordnance Survey map of 1927 also repeats the spatial disposition of the two earlier maps. The clay pit had been partially developed whilst the allotments were no longer depicted (figure 12).

3.5 Historic Environment Record

Two entries are recorded in the Historic Environment Record and are of a non-designated heritage status within a 500m radius of the study area.

At NY 26150 48600 was a 19th century clay dubs clay pit (HER 10258) illustrated on the first edition Ordnance Survey map (figure 9).

To the north was the 19th century Roman Catholic St Cuthbert's Church (HER 43633) that will be unaffected by the development.

One kilometre to the east was a series of largely undated crop-marks at Kirkland (HER 3328) that potentially could be germane to the study area.

At NY 27414 48264, a listed building of early 19th century date at Kirkland Gardens (LB 1144595) is cited by Historic England.

The non-designated heritage assets described above have little impact upon the development and can be considered largely irrelevant as to the heritage merits of the proposed development. Roman and prehistoric activity appeared to be focused south of the study area approximately 1km away.

3.6 Setting

The setting of designated heritage assets are not likely to be impacted by the development as none are in close proximity or visual view.

3.7 Lidar

Examination of the Lidar data did not suggest any sub-surface features except a relict landscape of rectangular strip fields (figure 13).

3.8 Newspapers

British Newspapers Archives Online records in the Carlisle Journal of 21st December 1811 the death of Mrs Mary Little at Frankland but there were no further references to that location.

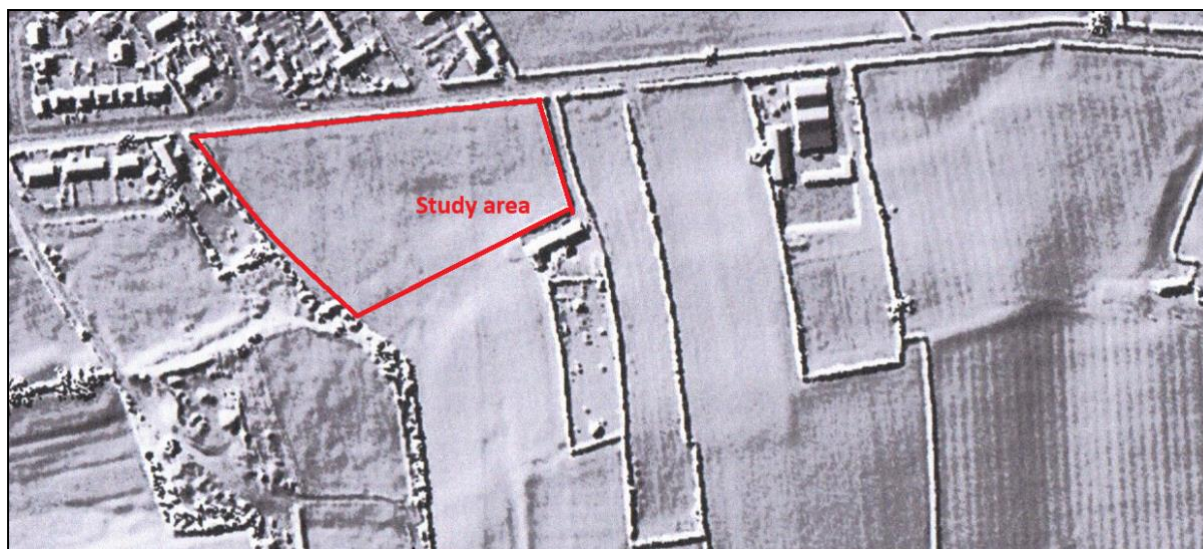


Figure 13. Lidar survey of the study area.

4 FIELD SURVEY

4.1 Walkover survey

A walkover survey was undertaken on Sunday 13th October 2024 in dry but overcast conditions. Access was available via a public footpath on the western margin of the study area with the site centred at NY 26150 48650

Wet underfoot, the site was represented by pasture formed (figure 14) from closely cropped grass with hawthorn hedge on three sides and overlooked by residential development to the north (figure 15). There was a slight upward gradient to the south but the study area was essentially flat.



Figure 14. Study area looking east



Figure 15. Study area looking north

4.2 Sites identified

No explicit archaeological features were encountered as the study area was covered by grass. The hedgerow perimeter probably post-dated enclosure of 1811 when smaller strip fields were probably amalgamated.

Previous archaeological reconnaissance, has suggested Roman and prehistoric activity to the south of the study area but the absence of any historical roads probably precludes Roman settlement. It is suggested that past cultural activity did not extend this far easterly from the town although prehistoric activity could still leave a significant signature.

No other sites were identified.

5 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT APPRAISAL

5.1 Buried archaeological potential

The proposed development based on this desk-based assessment and walk-over does not physically impact upon any known archaeological features. The study area was probably agricultural land throughout time, nucleated settlement unlikely.

There appeared to be no clear heritage assets within the study area bearing any antiquity although past cultural activity has been recognised approximately one kilometre to the south.

5.2 Palaeo-environmental potential

The paucity of archaeological features suggests that the recovery of any palaeo-environmental evidence of any merit is slim. However, the clay drift geology allied to isolated wet conditions could be favourable to preservation of organic remains in an anaerobic environment.

5.3 Visual impacts

No non-statutory buildings of local importance have settings that can be considered to be negatively impacted by the proposals.

There are no Registered Parks and Gardens within immediate proximity.

6 SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

6.1 Discussion

The purpose of the desk-based assessment was to identify past cultural features and heritage assets that may require targeting during a phase of future archaeological fieldwork or less likely, a strategy of mitigation in order to preserve the integrity of any identified monument.

The desk-based reconnaissance exercise has identified little signature for past cultural activity that could be considered significant. Within the locality of Wigton, there is clear evidence for occupation during the Roman period to the west of Tiffenthwaite and its environs. Here, the mitigation strategy has been assigned as preservation by record by the curatorial authority with previous housing developments subject to archaeological investigation around the turn of the Millennium.

The subsequent archaeological terrain model suggests that past settlement did not extend eastwards or northwards and was quite limited regarding its disposition. Previous archaeological investigation in 2005, 2008 and 2022 has yielded no conclusive archaeological deposits for an eastward settlement. The desk-based study concluded only relatively modern agricultural practice

and the examined terrain was accorded the status of archaeologically sterile. It is likely this model extended northwards to the current study area as an intermediate located evaluation at Low Moor Road proved to be archaeologically sterile (GMA Report 310, 2019).

The terrain appears to have been excellent agricultural land subject to good drainage.

This survey does not preclude the possibility that sub-surface deposits of a past cultural origin may exist but based on the disposition of the terrain and known environmental conditions the site does appear to be largely marginal in terms of previous settlement.

If previous recommendations by the curatorial authority are invoked, a geophysical survey may be requested where practicable. It is probable a programme of archaeological evaluation will then be required, whereby geophysical anomalies will be investigated in order to ascertain whether the study area can be deemed archaeologically sterile or of low heritage potential. Should that exercise prove to be favourable, a strip map and record/sample programme may be initiated that would investigate potential isolated features such as pits.

In terms of Magnitude of Impact, this study area based on current knowledge can be designated as low.

7 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am grateful to Josie Scrimgour from Genesis Homes Ltd for commissioning this report on behalf of their client.

I would like to thank the staff of Carlisle Library with my research into the local history of the area and the staff at Cumbria Record Office, Carlisle especially with the maps and other documentary material.

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