

DIGGING FOR MILLOM

FINAL REPORT



24th AUGUST 2024

DIGGING FOR MILLOM – A Community Archaeology Project

The area known as the ‘Heritage Triangle’ overflows with history: not only are there two grade I listed buildings, Millom Castle and Holy Trinity Church, but the Castle was under attack during the English Civil Wars. We also know, however, that this area has been occupied since Prehistoric times. **Yet there have never been any archaeological excavations.**

BACKGROUND

In 2023, Josh Carr discovered six Bronze Age socketed axe heads nearby, and prior to that, local metal detectorists had found an abundance of evidence including coins and other objects, from the Roman period to Victorian times.¹

The Old School, sometimes known as Millom Castle School, was the first church school in Millom. It was built in 1858 on glebe land donated by the Rev. Edward Edmund Allen to the vicar and church wardens of Millom Parish: **“...and used as and for a school for the education of children and adults or child only of the labouring manufacturing and other poorer classes in the parish of Millom and for no other purpose...”**²

The date when the school ceased to be a school is unknown although it continued to be used for adult education and as a library for some time. The building became the headquarters for the 1st Millom (Parish Church) Scouts in 1923; they ceased to operate from the school in 2018 when the building had become too dangerous to use. South Cumberland Cultural Heritage Community Interest Company hope to be able to buy the school, which is in a poor state of repair, from Carlisle Diocese, acquire funding to renovate it and create an Archaeology Centre.

The School Master’s house, built in 1866, has recently been sold by Carlisle Diocese to a private owner.

Holy Trinity Church is still an active church although, like most Church of England churches, its congregation has reduced significantly and its future is uncertain. Nevertheless, church wardens, Geoff and Margaret Edmondson, continue to keep the church stable despite its constant need of repair.

Millom Castle is part of a privately owned farm. It is on the Historic England ‘at risk’ list, due to sapling growth destabilising the stonework in the ruined parts of the castle and is not open to the public. However, Millom and District Local History Society – see Phase 2 – commissioned a drone survey which resulted in a 3D image of the ruined parts of the castle.

Millom and District Local History Society have conducted research about the area and hold regular events in the church. These have included, Millom in Prehistoric Times, research and publication by the Society of *Millom and District Prehistoric Past* in 2023; Medieval Millom; Medieval Hunting; Millom Castle and the English Civil Wars with further research for a forthcoming publication of *Millom Castle, the Huddlestons and the English Civil War*.

¹ For more details, including photographs, see the report from Phase One of Millom and District Local History Society: Millom Castle and Holy Trinity Archaeology Project on our website: www.millomhistory.org.uk.

² Millom Church School Conveyance, 1858

In 2024 the area around Millom Castle and Holy Trinity Church was designated a conservation area by Cumberland Council.

THE IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL INVESTIGATIVE SITES

Desktop Research

This included searching for, and acquiring, relevant articles, documents and books:

- Cumbria Archives Service;
- Archaeology Data Service;
- Cumbria Past - Transactions;
- Cumbrian Manorial Records;
- internet searches;
- examining Google Earth for signs of cropmarks;
- looking at LiDAR images;
- searching the Cumbria Historic Environment Record and Portable Antiquities Scheme;
- finding and examining old maps.

Most of these services are accessible via links provided at the bottom of the front page of www.millomhistory.org.uk.

There are two key articles which give the history of the castle: *Millom Castle*, Rev Canon Knowles, CWAAS Transactions, 1870, Volume 1, pp 275-277 and *Millom Castle and the Huddlestons*, H.S. Cowper, CWAAS, Transactions, 1924, Vol. 24, pp 181-234.

The main articles concerning the church are, *The Parish Church of Millom*, Rev. W.S. Sykes, CWAAS Transactions, 1924, Vol 24, pp 234-241; *The Church of the Holy Trinity*, Mary Fair, CWAAS Transactions, 1937, Vol 37, pp 87-97 and *Newly-discovered sculptured and inscribed stones at Millom*, Frank Warriner, CWAAS Transactions, 1931, Vol 31, pp 118-121.

There are no specific articles about Millom Castle and the English Civil Wars. Indeed, local historians have long grieved the lack of evidence. Volunteers visited archives to examine papers identified in on-line searches. Sue Dawson and Jonathan Brind visited Whitehaven and Carlisle Archives. This resulted in the discovery of one particular item, held at Carlisle Archives, belonging to the Lawson family of Brayton Hall, Aspatria. For the first time (as far as we know), a brief account of the siege of Millom Castle was uncovered.

Given the lack of information about the siege of Millom Castle, a further search was conducted concerning archaeology and English Civil War sieges. Two key papers were acquired: *Traces of the Civil War at Hornby*, Andrew White, 2020³ and *Siege Archaeology of the English Civil Wars: Establishing a methodology to unlock the archaeology of attack and defence at early modern siege sites*, Richard Jeffrey Leese, PhD thesis, 2020. Both articles include examples of musket ball impacts on buildings and, in response, the Chair of the History Society inspected the outside of Holy Trinity Church and sent several photographs to Dr. White, who thought about eight of the images were likely musket ball impacts. Further research is necessary, not least as the chancel was rebuilt in the 1930's.

³ [Traces of the Civil War at Hornby \(archaeologyuk.org\)](https://archaeologyuk.org/)

Local People

Several local people were helpful in discussing what they knew about the area and these included David and Andrew O'Brien (who grew up near the castle and used to play there as children and help out on the farm), Duane Farren, Geoff and Margaret Edmondson.

Holy Trinity Stones Project

This Project began in 2022 when twelve volunteers were supervised by Daniel Elsworth, Greenlane Archaeology, Ulverston, to conduct a survey of the external walls of Holy Trinity Church. Two small grants were obtained from CGP Books and Silecroft School Education Trust. A report and 3D image of Holy Trinity Church was produced as a result of the project.⁴

Phase One – Millom Castle and Holy Trinity Church Archaeological Project 2023

In 2023 the History Society worked with Greenlane Archaeology to commission a specialist company, Phase Site Investigations, to work with twelve volunteers conducting geophysical surveys of fields surrounding Millom Castle and Holy Trinity Church. This was successfully completed in June 2023 and resulted in several sites being identified to place investigative trenches.⁵

Phase Two – Drone Survey Millom Castle and Surrounding Fields

Following Josh Carr's discovery of six Bronze Age socketed axe heads in a nearby field. To identify further sites for archaeological investigations, Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society funded the Society in 2023 to commission a specialist drone survey. This confirmed some of the sites already identified in the previous geophysical survey and added several more potentially interesting anomalies, including a possible platform mound, a possible harbour, and possibly a Prehistoric burial monument. An exciting extra result from this survey is a 3D model of the castle which has been accessed by over 1,500 people.⁶

PHASE THREE: DIGGING FOR MILLOM

Twelve sites had now been identified to place investigative trenches, looking for a possible Iron Age hillfort, Prehistoric monuments, a Roman road, Medieval field boundaries and potential evidence from the English Civil Wars - in particular the siting of the vicarage that was pulled down during the Wars. The History Society applied for a significant grant to Cumberland Council, UK Government Levelling Up Scheme and were awarded just under £30,000 in 2024.

The original intention had been to excavate trenches to examine a range of features revealed in the geophysical and drone surveys, but as permission for this was withdrawn, locations had to be switched at short notice.

Plan B

Fortunately, there were two areas of land that could be accessed close to the medieval castle and two fields at Beck Farm, one of which is recorded as the location where one or two urns,

⁴ [Millom and District Local History Society | projects \(millomhistory.org.uk\)](https://millomhistory.org.uk/projects)

⁵ [Millom and District Local History Society | projects \(millomhistory.org.uk\)](https://millomhistory.org.uk/projects)

⁶ There is a link to this on the relevant project page of our website.

forming part of what was presumably a Bronze Age cremation cemetery, were found in the 19th century.

A further geophysical survey was carried out in this area, which revealed a range of potential targets. With this information and what had already been revealed through old maps and the previous surveys, we ultimately excavated a total of seven trenches of various sizes; three at the former Holy Trinity School and the School Master's house (Trenches 1, 2, and 7), one across a large bank east of Beck Farm (Trench 3), and three in the 'urn field,' south of Beck Farm (Trenches 4-6).



Trenches 1 and 2

Digging for Millom Funding Outputs

One of the key elements of the funding agreement for the Project was the involvement of the local community and a range of outputs to be met:

- To train and supervise 20 volunteers
- To methodically dig a series of trenches, under the supervision of qualified archaeologists, in areas identified by previous surveys, and make good the dig areas on completion of each investigation.
- To complete 20 days on site digging
- 4 Observation Days for the public and local schools to view the digs
- Research artefacts
- Keep members of the public up-to-date with digs and finds
- Write up the findings
- Produce final project report

- Present the findings and report at a public event.

The project had to be completed by the end of August 2024.

VOLUNTEERS

The project would not have taken place without the volunteers, some attending daily for the duration of the project and others committing to regular slots.

Forty individuals responded to the call for volunteers and 32 went on to attend the training events on 18th and 22nd May and 1st June. The training included an overview of the project and the investigative stages, evidence and rationale for the Dig.

Greenlane Archaeology then covered the technical and practical aspects, Health and Safety and the various aspects the volunteers would be involved in.

Volunteers were of different ages, ranging from 12 years old to 76.

At least eleven identified as having a disability and a range of roles throughout the dig enabled volunteers to take an active role, according to their abilities and capabilities.

The majority of volunteers were from Millom, Haverigg and surrounding areas with some attending from Broughton in Furness, Kirkby in Furness, Eskmeals, Barrow, Ulverston, Cleator Moor and West Yorkshire.

Many of the volunteers had not been involved with the Society prior to the dig and forged new friendships and connections, which they have maintained since the Project ended.

The History Society now has an experienced team of volunteers willing to undertake future archaeological digs and continue to be involved in the Society's activities.



Some of the Volunteers

IMPLEMENTATION

There were twenty-one days on site digging from 10am to 4pm between Monday 10th June and Friday 5th July including two Saturdays and one Sunday.

Every day, interested locals would visit the dig, discuss progress with volunteers and see the latest finds.

Trench 1



This was approximately 4m² and excavated in the garden south of the former School Master's house. The excavation revealed a thick layer of garden soil across the whole trench, which contained a broad range of finds, from plastic toys to medieval pottery. On the west side of the trench a thin layer of gravel laid on Terram was revealed immediately below the surface, evidently the remains of a fairly modern path. Below this layer and the topsoil an even thicker deposit of buried soil containing predominantly finds of medieval date, including over 90 sherds of pottery, pieces of iron working slag, animal bone, and small finds such as a stirrup-shaped fitting, a lead spindle whorl, and a coin of 1280-1283, were revealed.

The depth of the trench was over 1m in places and so a smaller section was excavated in the centre. This revealed that the medieval deposit was filling a large cut feature on the east side, which extended out of the trench, with a shallower and narrower ditch to the west of this. The larger feature appears to be the line of the castle moat, continuing the section that still remains to the south, and indicating that it originally ran all the way around the castle site. The smaller ditch is more mysterious; it perhaps represents a water course or leat used to power a mill or similar structure nearby.⁷

⁷ Taken from summary by Dan Elsworth.



Some of the Finds from Trench 1



A King Edward I silver penny, dated 1280-83, was found just about lying on the original ground surface, demonstrating activity on the site at that time. It could have been dropped at any time from that date.

Cowper (1924) refers to Sir Daniel Fleming's *Description of the County of Cumberland*, 1671, "**King Edward first gave license to Sir John Huddleston for to build Millum Castle, which stood until the late Civil Wars demolished it, and now in 1671 Ferdinando Huddleston, Esqre., the present owner, is rebuilding it.**"

But which Edward? The coin could imply it was Edward I and it may have been dropped when the castle (and moat) were first built. On the other hand, we also know that King Edward III, on 24th August 1335, gave, "**Licence for John de Hodleston to enclose with a dyke [moat] and crenellate his dwelling-place of Millum, co. Cumberland.**" This possibly refers to the outer dyke which may have been dug as a result of the Scottish raids occurring at this time.



We found an unfinished sandstone loom weight with the hole in the centre having not been completed. It is very similar to one found in North Yorkshire⁸ in both material, size and shape. Loom weights were used to keep the vertical threads (warp) tight on a loom during weaving so that the horizontal thread (weft) could be passed through the warp. Apparently, loom weights were more commonly bonfire fired, baked or unfired clay, which means the object may have had a different function such as a thatch/rick weight.



Wikimedia Commons describes the one from North Yorkshire as a loom weight for a warp weighted loom. Whilst the article says it is of uncertain date, at the bottom of the page it suggests it is dated between 400 and 1000 AD. This is based on the 'donut' shape of the weight which, we are told, are usually dated to the early-medieval period.

The presence of the spindle whorl, and the loom weight, demonstrates that spinning and weaving were taking place here in the medieval period.

The iron slag shows that iron was being smelted nearby and possibly even refined on site too. In his article *The Castle Household and Demesne Farm at Millom in 1513-14*, Angus J.L. Winchester⁹ refers to the Millom estate purchasing iron ore from the Lord of Bardsea and goes

⁸ [File:Uncertain Date , Loom Weight \(FindID 439213\).jpg - Wikimedia Commons](#)

⁹ Transactions of CWAAS , 002,1983, Vol 83.

on to say, apart from two references to the construction of a smithy in Millom, there is no evidence of smelting – well, now there is.

Castle accounts from 1513-1514 refer to a smithy, and this could have been water powered and so utilised the shallower ditch.

The evidence indicates that the moat was at least partly filled during the later medieval period, probably at a time when the defensive developments of the 14th century were no longer required.

Here is a sketch of the castle and moat by Cowper juxtaposed with an aerial shot from the drone survey. It is clear the moat must have continued for some way.

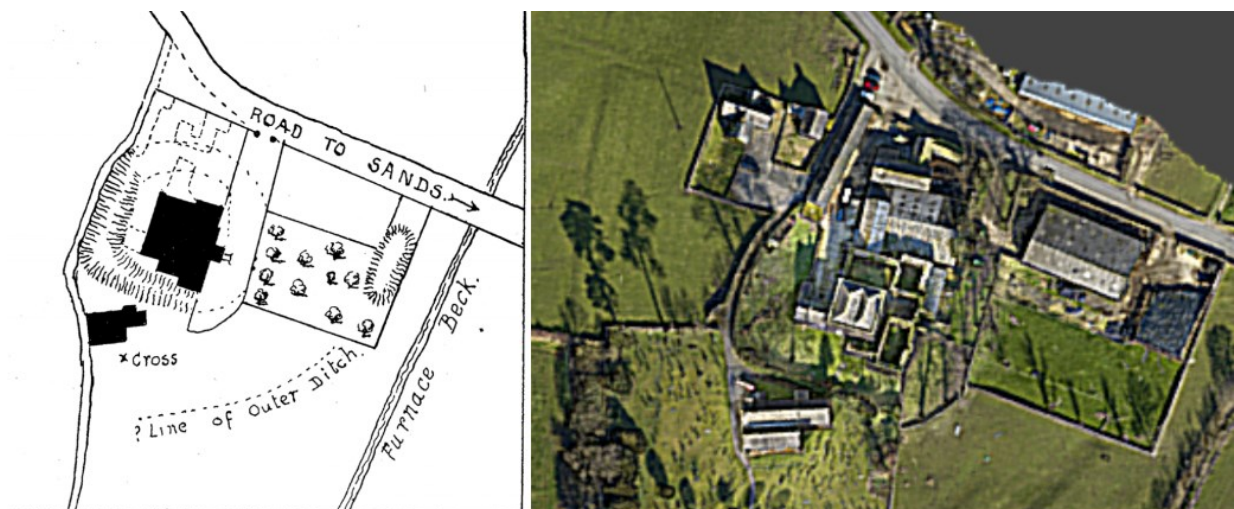


Fig. 6. MILLOM CASTLE.

A few examples of the Medieval pottery found:



At the same time, a significant amount of Post Medieval sherds was also found, including parts of one with what looks like the word 'recruits' and the front paws of a dog?



Two pieces of a brown tile (on the right, below), which research shows to be part of a set of five religious tiles made by Minton, Hollins and Co depicting Rebecca at the well, c.1880. A local resident recalled his family brought the tiles when they moved into the School Master's House.



Trench 2



This was also approximately 4m² and excavated in the playing field to the south of the former Holy Trinity School. It revealed a complex range of deposits, initially comprising a thin topsoil and scatter of demolition material, including items relating to the Scouts, two Victorian coins, and part of a mug marked 'MILLOM'. Beneath this was a thick deposit of dumped material, containing large amounts of stone and gravel, but also pieces of ceramic drainage tile and



dressed sandstone, demonstrating that at least some of it was derived from demolished buildings and similar material.

On the east side of the trench an intact ceramic water pipe was revealed, so part of the trench was unexcavated to leave this undisturbed.

On the south side of the trench a very deep pit was discovered, which extended over 2m and contained parts of a wooden post. This was ultimately found to be 20th century, perhaps in part relating to the location of a flag post, put up by the Scouts, but more likely to relate to the water tanks serving the nearby buildings.

On the west side of the trench two massive pits were found, backfilled with a range of pottery and other finds, including part of a clog iron, indicating that they were 19th century in date. These were dug into the natural sand, to a depth of over 1m in places, and were presumably sand pits, excavated into an area of naturally occurring sand, prior to the construction of the school, or even to provide sand while it was being built.¹⁰



Finds from Trench 2

Rev. W.S. Sykes suggested in the late 19th century, the old vicarage that was pulled down in the Civil War stood in the playing field next to the Old School (Trench 2). There was a significant amount of stone and building rubbish found in both Trenches 1 and 2. The rubble in Trench 2 was above the sand pits, which were dug and filled during the 19th century. Is it possible there

¹⁰ Taken from summary by Dan Elsworth.

were still ruins of the vicarage standing well into the 19th century and finally demolished at the point when the school was being built?

As well as the rubble and stones, some interesting objects came out of Trench 2 relating to the old school, a writing slate, slate pencils and a broken ink well.



Writing Slate, Slate Pencils

Many objects were found from the years the school was the Headquarters for Millom Boy Scouts: a metal woggle which, we were later informed, had been lost by a young lad in about 1965 – it had been given to him by his aunt in Bristol who was an arkala; he had the whole troop looking for it – now we have found it!



A toy gun that would have had a rubber bulb on the end for squirting water.



A child's toy belt buckle from a cowboy play set with embossed horse, Sheriff's star and the word "WESTERN."



Several pieces of pottery with the word 'Millom.' It was discovered, from a similar find, that it referred to 'Millom School,' no doubt related to the Old School, built in 1858.



This beautifully detailed face of a young boy was spotted peeking out of a mound of loose soil on the end of a shovel! On closer inspection, the attention to detail on the pipe's hair and ears are quite stunning, and evident of a skilled pipe clay maker.



Take a closer look to spot the earrings and tight curly hair. This would appear to be detailed and intricate carving work. The presence of such an object in Millom leads us to ask many questions:

- Who made it and when?
- Who used and smoked the tobacco pipe?
- Or is it a purely decorative object?
- What is the significance of the representation of ethnicity?

- What are the links to the slave and tobacco trade considering the Port of Whitehaven is located further up the coast?
- Was this the possession of a wealthy person or mass produced for the wider consumption of the working class?
- Why did it end up buried in front of Millom Castle?¹¹

There were lots of other bits of clay pipe stems and several bowls of different types found mainly in Trench 2. Clay pipe smoking was introduced at the end of the 16th century and continued until the early 20th century. Further information from specialists has been sought and the ones found in both Trenches 1 and 2 are estimated to be from the 19th century.

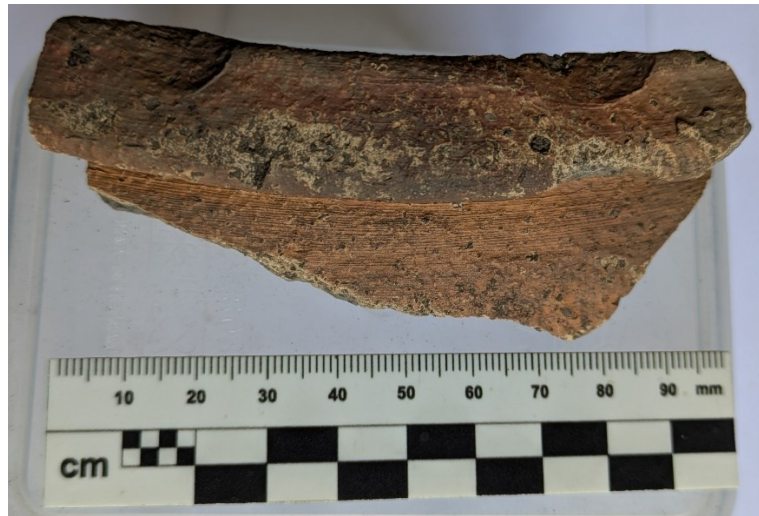


Nine grave-yard markers were found, c. 19th to 20th centuries, 8 of them in Trench 2.



¹¹ Written by Rosanna Cox who found the object.

A significant amount of medieval pottery was found in both trenches; one in particular, from Trench 2, had the thumb prints of the potter pressed into the rim.



Trench 7

This was a small trench, initially only 1m², excavated to the north-east of the former school, through a gravelly exterior surface. It was intended to identify any remains relating to a linear feature revealed in the earlier surveys, as running east/west into the adjoining field to the west, which is potentially the line of a Roman road but certainly marked as a field boundary on maps from the 18th century onward.



A layer of topsoil, below the gravel, contained numerous finds, including pieces of plate marked 'MILLOM' and a probable military badge with a boar's (or eagle's) head and the Latin motto 'VIX EA NOSTRO VOVO' (see page 20). Below this were the remains of the base of a drystone wall, running east/west, which was sat on the natural gravel below. A small number of medieval and later finds were recovered associated with the wall. An extension of the trench to the west confirmed that the wall continued in that direction, and it is presumably this feature that is visible in the geophysical and other surveys continuing to the west.¹²

Finds from Trench 7

Post Medieval pottery was found in Trench 7, including part of a cup (left in the picture) with a design taken from a medal celebrating the Great Exhibition in London in 1862 (shown on right).



Cup with pattern based on medal for London Great Exhibition, 1862

The most colourful find was the part of a cup with a young girl carrying a basket of red flowers or strawberries. But there were several sherds dated to the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries.



¹² Taken from summary by Dan Elsworth

More Medieval sherds were added to the large collection from trenches one and two; in fact, **it is the largest collection of Medieval pottery found in this part of Cumbria**. Could it be this is related to the weekly market granted by King Henry III in 1251?



Medieval Pottery Sherds

Perhaps the most intriguing discovery was a probable army cap badge with the head of an eagle or boar and a Latin motto.



The Latin phrase is the personal motto of both the Duke of Argyll and the Earl of Warwick. It originates from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, 13.140:

nam genus et proavos, et quae non fecimus ipsi, vix ea nostra voco.

Translation: For our birth, our ancestors, and things which we have not ourselves done – these things I can hardly call our own. Further research may identify its possible origins.

Trench 3

This was excavated through a large bank running east/west across the field along the crest of the hill, which was assumed to be part of a larger field system visible in the drone survey. A small, 4m long and approximately 1m wide trench was excavated, which revealed that the bank, which was 0.4m wide and c0.5m tall, was constructed from large boulders and stones, some of which had tumbled downslope on the north side. No dating evidence was obtained from the bank itself, but, based on its form, it is likely to be medieval or older.¹³



Trenches 4-6

A mechanical excavator was used for Trenches 4, 5 and 6, which meant volunteers could get to the 'natural' layer much quicker than if they had been digging with shovels and mattocks.

This work began on 24th June in the 'urn' field. Expectations were high as at least one or two Bronze Age urns with bones had been found here in 1842 (newspaper reports of the time said there were two). Early Ordnance Survey Maps marked the spot where the urn had been found. A geophysical survey was commissioned which suggested anomalies and identified where to site the trenches.

In the event, no evidence relating to the urns was found, and it was apparent that the lower-lying parts of the 'urn field', which were at only 9m above sea level, were clearly at one point under water as the deposits encountered comprised fine grey silts. It seems unlikely, therefore, that

¹³ Taken from summary by Dan Elsworth.

the urns were found in the location suggested, as it probably would have been prone to flooding in the Bronze Age. (Might it be possible the urns were found near the possible Prehistoric burial mound identified in the drone survey of Phase Two?)



Nevertheless, in Trenches 4 and 6 a linear feature, revealed in the geophysical survey, was identified as a shallow ditch 0.8m wide, containing lots of charcoal. A single piece of flint was also found in the ditch in Trench 6, which cannot be easily dated but might suggest the ditch is Prehistoric. However, the charcoal within the ditch also contained numerous charred cereal grains, possibly including oats, which were generally not cultivated in the UK until the Roman period. The ditch most likely also represents part of an early field system, perhaps the same as that revealed in Trench 3.¹⁴

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONCLUSION

Although the excavations were not able to target the areas originally intended, they have demonstrated how much of archaeological interest there is in the immediate area of the castle and church, and no doubt the whole of the area around Millom.

Investigation in the 'urn field' didn't find any evidence relating to Bronze Age cremations, and in fact it seems likely that the original finds were not in the location suggested, but it did reveal remains of what is probably part of an ancient field system extending across a wide area and identified in the earlier drone survey.

Trench 2 contained a large amount of activity, most of it resulting from the excavation of sand pits in the 19th century, perhaps during the building of the school, but also included a range of interesting finds relating to the way the area had been used by the school and the Scouts, including previously unknown marked Millom school crockery.

¹⁴ Taken from summary by Dan Elsworth

Although no specific evidence for the vicarage pulled down in the Civil War was found, some musket balls from that period were recovered, adding to the evidence relating to the conflict that occurred at the castle.

The discovery of a wall on Trench 7 fits to some extent with what the geophysical and other evidence are showing in the field to the west, and while no evidence for a road, Roman or otherwise, was found, it is possible it had simply been removed in this area during later activity or that it was outside the position of this trench.

Trench 1 was the most archaeologically exciting, as it demonstrated that the castle moat originally extended much further to the north than the surviving section indicates, and that it probably continued around the whole castle site, forming a much larger enclosure than previously thought.

The finds recovered from the deposit filling the moat include the largest collection of medieval pottery from this part of Cumbria, as well as important evidence for textile weaving and iron working.

Overall, the excavations have demonstrated the archaeological potential of the area, even when not necessarily targeting specific sites of interest, and have provided a considerable amount of information to add to the story of Millom.¹⁵

Observation Days

Four Observation Days for the public were held over the course of the dig period. Each day, the Society gave a presentation about the Project and visitors had the opportunity to visit the dig sites, talk to volunteers, inspect any finds and ask questions.

Attendance at the Observation Days increased as local interest in the digs developed and in total 40 people attended.

Prior to the dig, an introductory presentation delivered as part of Local History Week at Millom Library, attracted 38 people, some of whom went on to sign up as volunteers.

Schools

Millom High School and the three local Junior Schools were invited to the dig and the Society was approached by Captain Shaw's School in Bootle.

About 28 students and three teachers from Millom High School attended on Friday, 21st June; they were given a presentation on the background to the project then split into three groups for a tour of the inside of the church with information provided by the church warden, to the back of the church to see the castle, and around the church to see musket ball impacts and reworked stones, and to try their hand at trowelling in the trenches.

The same number from St James' school attended the open day on 1st July when an extra presentation was given (by our youngest volunteer, Edward France) to members of the Boy Scouts in the evening.

¹⁵ Taken from summary by Dan Elsworth

Twelve pupils and two teachers from Captain Shaw's school enjoyed the presentation and visit on Tuesday, 25th June. The children were especially engaged, asking many questions and some dressed up in costumes provided by the church warden.

Publicity

Throughout the dig, the Society kept the public and its members up-to-date posting daily dig diaries on their Facebook group, information on the Society website, and sending out regular media releases. We far exceeded the output of number of people reached/attendees.

Similarly, we significantly increased footfall/users; although records of the number of visitors to the church are not kept (the church is left open many days), not only did people visit the church as a result of the dig, who had never been before, but the majority of the 75 school children had not visited the church and most did not know there was a castle.

We received incredible coverage about the project both in local and regional media, Local History organisations, and many Facebook groups, as well as placing posters in Millom and having a banner made to publicise the open days. It is not known precisely how many people we reached but it would have been far in excess of 1100!

Local News media

- 12th April 2024: Funding Received for Archaeological Dig in Millom, Cumbria, The Mail.¹⁶
- 21st May 2024 People have inhabited Millom for 'at least 3,000 years' The Whitehaven News.¹⁷
- 15th June 2024: Millom diggers find pieces likely from old vicarage, The Mail.¹⁸
- 27th June 2024: The latest finds in Millom's massive archaeological dig, The Mail.¹⁹
- 5th July 2024: Final Week of over 20 Volunteers Digging for Millom, The Mail.²⁰
- 5th July 2024: BBC's Digging for Britain visits Cumbrian archaeological dig, The Mail.²¹
- An article about the dig was featured in Cumbria and Lakeland Walker, August 2024, p30-31.

Local History Organisations

- Publicity about the dig and the open days were included in the Cumbria Local History Federation News nine times: 19th April 2024; 26th April 2024; 10th May 2024; 17th May 2024; 31st May 2024; 7th June 2024; 14th June 2024; 21st June 2024; 28th June 2024.
- Cumbria Past: 21st July 2024 publicised the Final Events Day.
- An article about the dig was published in CWAAS News, Summer 2024, No 106, p 8.
- Another article was published in Cumbria Local History Federation Bulletin 95, Summer 2024, p26-28.

¹⁶ [Funding received for archaeological dig in Millom, Cumbria | The Mail \(nwemail.co.uk\)](#)

¹⁷ [People have inhabited Millom 'for at least 3,000 years' | Whitehaven News](#)

¹⁸ [Millom diggers find pieces likely from old vicarage | The Mail \(nwemail.co.uk\)](#)

¹⁹ [The latest finds in Millom's massive archaeological dig | The Mail \(nwemail.co.uk\)](#)

²⁰ [Funding received for archaeological dig in Millom, Cumbria | The Mail \(nwemail.co.uk\)](#)

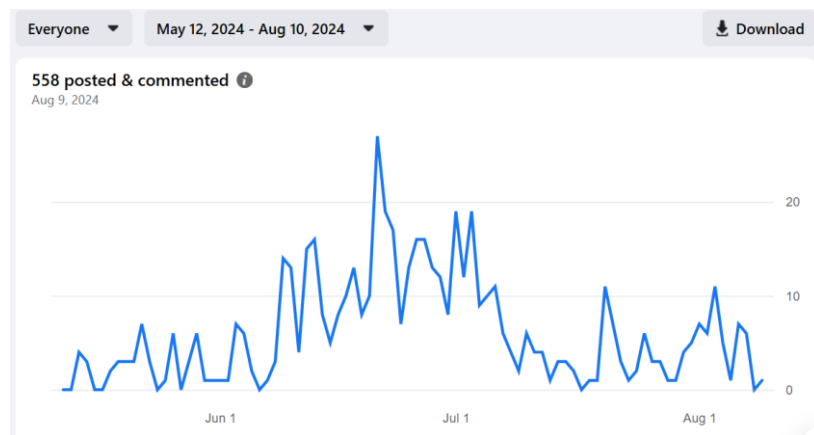
²¹ [BBC's Digging for Britain visits Cumbrian archaeology dig | The Mail \(nwemail.co.uk\)](#)

Facebook

There are 1,392 members of Millom History Society Facebook. Of these, 1,313 are from the UK and of these: 675 Millom; 75 Barrow in Furness; 39 Ulverston; 28 Broughton in Furness; 22 Dalton in Furness; 18 Carlisle; 15 Whitehaven; 15 Seascale; 11 Workington; and 10 London.

A daily dig diary with photographs of the digging and finds were posted on the Society's Facebook Group. Each time there was an article in the local news media a link to it was added to the group. As well as posting updates on the Society Facebook group, these were regularly shared with other Facebook groups including, for example, South West Cumbria Local Information; Millom and Without Community Page; Broughton in Furness Community; Bootle Cumbria Crack; Thwaites Village Hall and The Green Matters; What's On in South Cumbria; Millom News for Everyone; Old West Cumbria; Cumbria UK History; Cumbria Arts and Culture Network; The English Civil Wars; The Northern Antiquarian; and Archaeology in Britain.

On several occasions posts about the dig reached over 1,000 people and, on one occasion, over 5,000. As the following graph shows, activity on our Facebook group increased significantly during the project.



Banner

Two banners were made to publicise the Open Days and these were placed near the roundabout in the centre of Millom and near the Castle.



Website

Two News stories about the dig were added to the Society website and the page, Millom Castle and Holy Trinity Church Archaeology Project, up-dated: photographs, the brochure and the final report from Greenlane Archaeology will be posted when available. Both the photographs of the trenches and the finds have been made into videos which have been uploaded to YouTube with a link to the Facebook group and website.

CWAAS

Daniel Elsworth will be writing an article for Transactions, the journal of Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society.

Digging for Britain

The BBC programme Digging for Britain visited the dig on 3rd July; they stayed all day and spoke to volunteers, interviewing Josh Carr about the six socketed axe heads he found early last year, and Dan Elsworth, lead archaeologist. It is hoped the dig will appear in the next series.

Project Report

This comprehensive final report will be distributed to attendees at the Finds Event.

Finds Event

The final, Finds Day, event, is to be held on 24th August 2024, 1-3 p.m. at Holy Trinity Church. There will be an overview of the project by the Chair of the Society; Edward France, our youngest volunteer, will talk about his experiences being a member of the project; and the lead archaeologist, Dan Elsworth, will share the archaeological conclusions.

Display

A display of the project will be shown on 24th August, following which it will be on show at Millom Heritage and Arts Centre next to the railway station.

VOLUNTEER EVALUATIONS

Volunteers were asked to complete evaluation forms – all but three complied; these can be found in **Appendix A**. Here is a selection:

“I got involved because I was curious about the history of the area.”

“I got plenty of fresh air and exercise. Met lots of new people and got to know others better. Made friends. Learned much more about Millom history and how archaeology works as well as connections to the history of the region. It was very exciting discovering finds however small.”

“I loved being outside and being caught up in the whole atmosphere. The camaraderie, meeting new people and having a shared goal. We are all so different and yet united by the same interest. I loved working alongside trained archaeologists.”

“I enjoyed the community spirit that built up around the dig, everyone involved was always interested in whatever was found, it was a team effort, each find was a team find.”

“[Disappointed] Not being able to dig in areas identified by Lidar and Geo Phys because of retracted permission.”

“If we had been able to explore a few other sites close by... but maybe next time.”

“I think a lot of people think mainly about Millom’s industrial history but the dig and its wider context are starting to open up a much wider history for the area. We’re beginning to map a much longer timeline for the local community.”

“People have been very interested and many who didn’t know about the local history now have an interest. I do think it has reached people who otherwise would not have known about the rich history of the area.”

“Possibly shifted the understanding about Millom as it is becoming recognised as a place of significant historical interest. Social media postings have helped widen the audience for this project. If Digging for Britain air their filming in Millom in Spring 2025 then this should put a positive focus on this project and this area.”

WHAT HAS THE SOCIETY LEARNT?

As can be seen from this report, our knowledge about activity in and around Millom Castle, particularly in the Medieval period and just after, has expanded; as has our knowledge about Millom Castle and Holy Trinity Church during the English Civil Wars.

Civil Wars

Although we found no hard evidence that the old vicarage pulled down during the Civil Wars was sited where the Old School now stands, nevertheless, the building rubbish, not least the amount of stones found in both Trenches 1 and 2, could support Rev. Sykes assertion that it stood there. It is the most logical place for it to be, on the church’s glebe land, not too far away from the church and fairly close to the Castle – hence the need to pull it down. Contemplating the new knowledge about the moat made this even more feasible.

There have been literally hundreds of musket balls found near Millom Castle and the surrounding fields which is hardly surprising given the Castle was under siege in 1644 and again attacked in 1648. During the Community Dig, six lead shots were found of varying weight from 5.78 grams to 29.08 grams; one in Trench 1, two in Trench 2 and three in the ‘urn’ field (they have been found in other fields not too far from the Castle before, e.g. in the ‘cropmark’ field across the road from the Castle). A lead slug (type of ammunition) was also found in the ‘urn’ field.

It is impossible to precisely assign the shots to their weapons, partly because of the large variety of weapons used during the 17th century but also because the shot was often made by the soldiers themselves in the field using small moulds, so there was little uniformity. It is suggested that a wide variety of shot size and weight found in a particular site indicates a Civil War date. For this reason, it seems highly likely that all six shots, came from the Civil War. What is also suggested is that some level of fighting occurred not just in the immediate vicinity of the Castle but also in the surrounding fields.

Our desktop search found a previously unseen document which appears to show events Sir Wilfred Lawson took in support of parliament. One of these episodes was the besieging of Millom Castle:

...and the rest hee marched with to Millam, wher [above: when] hee had been but one night and a day, but hee marched the next night to within halfe pistoll shott of the walles, and ther secured his men with such advantage that the enemy could

noe way gett out of the Castle, wher upon [above: som] in the Castle being slaine, it was shortly yeilded to the said S[ic] Wilfrid Lawson with the Cannon armes ammunition, and all therin, onely the comanders and officers to have passes for their owne homes.

This clearly shows that some of the lead shots were from pistols. Four of the lead shots have been identified as pistol shot by Dot Boughton, Greenlane Archaeology; two were found in Trench 2 and two in the 'urn' field.

The discovery of musket ball impacts on the church walls needs further investigation. A close inspection of the outer walls of the Castle is likely to reveal further impacts.

Millom Castle

We now know that both weaving and iron working was carried out during the medieval period in or near to the Castle. And that the moat was larger than previously believed.

Written Permission

As this is the first archaeological dig the Society have conducted, lessons have clearly been learnt.

The most important lesson is that written permission needs to be obtained from landowners before any surveys are conducted; £10,500 of grant monies were spent on the first two phases, the purpose of which was to identify potential sites for investigative trenches.

We understood we had verbal agreement to dig in places identified by the geophysical and drone surveys. However, when the funders required written permission from the landowners we were denied permission by two. **This was devastating.**

The survey results suggested about twelve places to dig investigative trenches. We were hoping to find archaeological evidence to add to the significant portable evidence found by local metal detectorists - such as a Prehistoric hillfort, a Roman road or evidence from the English Wars. These discoveries would have the potential to make a huge difference to this part of Millom and add to its already rich heritage. For example, if we could prove the Romans had some sort of base in Millom instead of possibly just passing through, this could result in Millom being added as the furthest southern point beyond Ravenglass, an extension of Hadrian's Wall and the western extremity of the Imperial Frontier of the Roman Empire.

Methodology

If further digs were to be considered, a different way of collating information from volunteers and communicating with them would be a good idea. We set up a Facebook group specifically for the volunteers but not all of them were on Facebook – which made liaising with them difficult.

This was our first dig, in future we would ensure that sieving was an important part of the process from the start, assuming the soil lends itself to this method.

Feedback from volunteers suggests a more in-depth training programme to include dig protocols and trench supervisors would have been welcomed.

Volunteers

The volunteers valued being part of a community dig and being part of a worthwhile project to help discover more about the history of the area they lived in, making new friends, being active in the open air – the excitement of making finds then discovering more information about them through research.

Another lesson from the project is that many people around Millom are genuinely interested in the history of our area and that the dig has built on interest already generated by local metal detectorists, Society events and Millom Heritage and Arts Centre.

KEY OUTPUTS

Number of Volunteers: 32

Volunteer Hours: c.630

Three local schools, children involved: 75

Publicity: 1100+ reached, 5,000+ via Facebook

Local Media Articles: 6

Regional Media Articles: 1

Regional Local History/Archaeology Bulletins: 4

National Media: BBC Digging for Britain filmed

Open/Observation Days: 4 with 40 attendees plus daily visitors and two schools came on other days.

Introduction Presentation at Library: 38 attendees

Number of Finds: c.3,400

Largest number of Medieval pottery finds in the Millom peninsula: 90+ sherds

Huge amount of Victorian and earlier pottery sherds

Large variety of finds: animal bones, slate, pottery, metal objects, glass, plastic, children's toys, musket balls, loom weight, spindle whorl, building rubble, old drainage pipes, stones, iron working slag, Edward I coin, flint, scabbard chape, buckle, modern coins...

Archaeological features discovered: moat larger than believed; several ancient field boundaries found; probable site of old vicarage; sand pits; old map identifying place Bronze Age funerary urns found is probably incorrect.

We now have a team of experienced and trained local volunteers ready for any future digs.

THE FUTURE?

This has been a successful project and it would be wonderful if, as a result, permission was granted next year to dig investigative trenches in the places identified by our earlier surveys. That is, of course, if further funding were available. The team of volunteers are now trained and ready. Bring it on!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our thanks go to the funders: Cumberland Council (UK Government's Levelling Up Scheme) via Copeland Community Fund; the archaeologists: Dan Elsworth, Tom Mace, Dot Boughton, Ian McNichol of Greenlane Archaeology, Ulverston; Margaret and Geoff Edmondson, wardens Holy Trinity Church; Jason (digger) and the volunteers: George Allen, Dave Baker. Emma Bower, Jonathan Brind, Jenny Case, Andrew Cox, Rosanna Cox, Stephe Cove, Daniel, Sue Dawson, Nigel Ellam, Eve, Duane Farren, Debbie Faulkner, Edward France, Virginia France, David Hartley, Paul Hewson, Alison Holburn Nicholson, Alick Nicholson, Penny Jackson, Richard Johnson, Malaya, Kathryn Miller, Bryan Mitchinson, Dave O'Brien, Andrew Plumb, Irene Rogan, Clare Shaw, Steve Turner, Linda Turner, James Vance. Special thanks to Alison Holburn and Liz North for help with the report; Virginia France for photography; Stephen Leece for Aerial photographs and Jonathan Brind for use of laminator. And very special thanks to Paul Tyson and Carlisle Diocese for permission to dig.

Jan Bridget

24th August 2024

VOLUNTEER EVALUATIONS

Why get involved with project?

“Interesting, very well organised, and of local historic value.”

“Through family member.”

“I got involved because I was curious about the history of the area.”

“To find out the history of the castle and surrounding areas where I lived.”

“Love of history.”

“Got involved due to interest in what's gone before and what any finds may mean to our understanding of who we are.”

“Initially because my 12 year-old son was joining the project and needed an adult with him, but straight away I became invested in the project due to an interest in local history and archaeology.”

“I got involved because I love archaeology and want to be involved in digs. It was a fantastic opportunity to do one on my doorstep.”

“Community is important.”

“I've been interested in archaeology for some time, and since this project was in my area, it was an unmissable opportunity.”

“Metal detectorist, friends with Josh. Love of history and unhappy with the sheer amount of obvious archaeology and historical area importance not being properly investigated. Also surprised by the lack of interest from any academic institutions when it's here on a plate to be investigated for the first time.”

“I am interested in the history of the town I live in and always fascinated by Jan's projects.”

“Love local history and being part of history.”

“I dig with an Oxford University Professor in different locations.”

“I love archaeology and finding artifacts.”

“Saw time team, digging for Britain etc and saw a local opportunity to try and see what it's like to take part in a dig.”

“Got in touch with Jan via a mutual interest in Roman roads. I have always been interested in the project and this seemed like a great opportunity to get involved in local history and potentially find a lost Roman road.”

“Family member is a detectorist.”

"I have enjoyed the MADLHS talks and I am curious to learn more about the history of the local area. I have enjoyed participating in previous archaeological digs and this was a wonderful opportunity to take part in one locally."

"An interest in local history."

"Wanted to learn more about local history."

"Been involved in many local history and archaeological projects."

"Interested in local history and archaeology."

"A lifelong amateur interest in history and archaeology. The opportunity to take part in an archaeological dig was something I have always dreamed of!"

"I enjoy history and archaeology."

Main things you got from project?

"Satisfaction in participating, particularly with the possibility of uncovering historic artifacts, old building foundations, or evidence of changes over the centuries in this area. Good to share the interest with others I've never met before, as well as those I already know."

"Appreciation of archaeology and the hard work involved."

"I was fascinated by the different layers of history that unfolded."

"Watching the digging and meeting all the volunteers."

"I got plenty of fresh air and exercise. Met lots of new people and got to know others better. Made friends. Learned much more about Millom history and how archaeology works as well as connections to the history of the region. It was very exciting discovering finds however small."

"Being involved in a community project."

"Pleasure in meeting others, learning, physical activity, feeling part of something important and more connected to history."

"Loads! Made so many new friends, learnt masses about the history of the area, learnt about archaeological digs and the processes involved."

"I loved being outside and being caught up in the whole atmosphere. The camaraderie, meeting new people and having a shared goal. We are all so different and yet united by the same interest. I loved working alongside trained archaeologists."

"Fellowship."

"I gained insight into what constitutes an archaeological dig, increased excitement about the field, enjoyed a good sense of community, acquired valuable information about the past, and learned about the detailed process of documenting finds. The team was very friendly and informative. I would love to participate again."

"First and foremost, fitness! Flexing like a pro now. Also total geek cool overload! I made finds! I dug trenches! I was in a TEAM (Truly.Excellent.Archaeology.Mates) digging history! Loved being around people interested in the project for a genuine love of local history."

“Well if you need more, we made history ourselves with the largest collection of medieval pottery etc etc! That's something to be proud of as someone had to be first around here and it was the TEAM!”

“I met a lot of other people who were passionate about history and Millom. I encountered (and learnt from) professional archaeologists. Sunburn on one of the rare sunny days this summer.”

“Learning from professionals, shared enthusiasm.”

“Different approaches to archaeology.”

“Greater understanding of layers of soil...re different ages through time.”

“How hard it is but rewarding when you find something seeing the raw then clean finds.”

“Learnt more about archaeology and how to conduct a dig.”

“Learning new skills, renewed interest in history, chuffed I found the tobacco pipe.”

“Developed a better understanding of Millom’s history. Enjoyed being part of a community project. Opportunity to meet people with shared interests. Provided insights into the local knowledge of the area.”

“Wider knowledge of the area's history, archaeology and met new people.”

“Patience in finding anything whilst digging.”

“Meeting like-minded people, working with Dan, finding out about our past, Margaret's coffee and biscuits.”

“Better understanding of history of Millom castle.”

“It gave me insight into archaeology which is impossible to get from a book.”

“Friends.”

What was best thing about the project?

“Never knew if the next stroke of a trowel might uncover something interesting.”

“The unexpectedness of the finds – very exciting.”

“I enjoyed the community spirit that built up around the dig, everyone involved was always interested in whatever was found, it was a team effort, each find was a team find.”

“Looking at the finds from different eras.”

“It will be great to see all of the finds and hear what conclusions the experts have reached.”

“The things we found and meeting new people.”

“Difficult one.....the finds I would say and what they tell us.”

“The other people.”

“The feeling of working towards a shared goal as part of a team delighting in all aspects of the project and seeing new finds.”

“I enjoyed meeting up with new faces, all keen to find out what we could about the area.”

"All the above." "Um... I enjoyed winding Jan up a few times. A few others too, can never resist. Uhh what else..finds were good...oh nice to get the schools involved even if some would've preferred to do it via smartphone probably."

"Jan's enthusiasm and meeting other local people I had only passed in the street but never spoken to."

"Meeting new people."

"Friendships formed and awareness of what still remains to be found locally."

"I really enjoyed the talk by Jan, but also getting "down and muddy" in trenches not knowing what we might find."

"Meeting interesting people." "Trenches which had a find of some sort every few minutes, even if it turned out to be modern."

"Meeting new people."

"Working alongside experts, local historians, who share their knowledge and expertise on site. Seeing the variety of finds unearthed. Well organised and facilities handy for dig site."

"The craic!" "Permission to dig in a variety of trenches."

"Seeing what Jan has managed to achieve for Millom History."

"Working with other local people who are interested in local history."

"I enjoyed the warm, friendly, welcoming nature of this small project. I also enjoyed finding out more about this fascinating area."

"Exploring the area's history."

What was worst thing about the project?

"Disappointment about not getting final permission to dig the proposed sites."

"Didn't realise the physicality of doing a dig." "From a personal point of view there was no downside."

"Can't think of any worst aspects, it was all good."

"The rain."

"Not being able to be on site as much as I had anticipated, thru personal matters."

"That it all had to be filled in again."

"Some of the weather."

"It was a shame the permission to dig in certain areas wasn't clarified in terms of time of year for the farmers." [n.b. It was.]

"Not enough time."

"Utter lack of site masseuse. I should've charged rent on the sieves. Shame about the permissions."

“Not being able to dig deeper into the field where the funerary urn had been discovered.”

“No Viking burial.”

“Not being able to dig in areas identified by Lidar and Geo Phys because of retracted permission.”

“Unfortunately the weather.”

“Weather was either too wet or too hot!”

“Digging in hot weather.”

“The travel journey – we live an hour away, but it was worth it.”

“Dig coming to an end – always thinking that there could be much more to be found.”

“Permission refused for certain dig sites last minute.”

“As in all archaeological excavations – backfilling.”

“Not being able to dig in the henge field!”

“Worst - none - other than my attendance in the project was disrupted by a bereavement.”

“I think more training could have been given to volunteers, particularly regarding H+S. Also it would have been good for people to have been given instruction on how to excavate properly and trench etiquette.”

What could have been better?

“Having permission for proposed sites.”

“The weather.”

“Digging the original site! I understand that nothing could be done but you asked.”

“Nothing really.”

“I don't think anything could of been better. It was well organized and well ran.”

“I have no idea as this was my first experience and I found it pretty good all round.”

“If we had been able to explore a few other sites close by... but maybe next time.”

“Maybe making sure the land-owners get a clear idea of when and where the trenches would be, so they can either be compensated for loss of grazing or silage, or prepare different grazing for livestock for that time of year.”

“Could've thought to charge for the sieves. Weather could've been about 19 degrees and partially cloudy. Tom could've smiled more (no he's a happy chappy 😊)”

“Training.”

“Instructions to novice diggers on correct techniques on mattocking, trowelling and recording.”

“More time/days to further explore than a few weeks.”

“More advance notice as I might have been able to assist more days.”

“Permission in more fields for the possibly Roman sites.”

“I think everything was covered.”

“More people to help Jan with the open days.”

“Confirmed the dig sites which were cancelled.”

“Hard to say as I'm not local to Millom.”

“It was all pretty good but finding pre medieval objects would have been great.”

“Being able to dig in the henge field!”

“Nothing. I think that this was an extremely well planned, well supported project.” “

Would you like to be involved if we can do it again?

All said yes. One commented: “Yes if the body holds up, or I could supervise. Lol.” Another said, “I would do another one at the drop of a hat.”

Do you think it has helped to change conceptions about Millom? If yes, how?

“I do think so. I think it has opened many local eyes to the possibilities of our local area once being significant. This part of Cumbria’s place in history has been ignored for far too long. Because Millom and its surrounding villages and hamlets are part of a peninsula, many of the present day inhabitants, whose families have lived in the area for as far back as family memory goes, will be actual blood relations – descendants – of those who lived here centuries ago, many of whom made their mark at the time. History is about people, after all.”

“Yes. No idea there was a castle and the amount of history.”

“I hope that the children that visited were able to understand the way the history was being shown in the different layers as the trenches revealed different times.” “Finding out what and who had lived in the area in the past.”

“I think a lot of people think mainly about Millom’s industrial history but the dig and its wider context are starting to open up a much wider history for the area. We're beginning to map a much longer timeline for the local community.”

“I'm not sure about that but it will certainly raise its profile as being a place of interest to visit.”

“People have been very interested and many who didn't know about the local history now have an interest. I do think it has reached people who otherwise would not have known about the rich history of the area.”

“Perhaps... I’m not sure . I don’t think I am the best placed to know... I certainly think we got to know more about that area and what went on there. We may have a better idea on round up day on August 24.”

“Maybe eventually it will have an impact on the view of the area, still early days.”

“Yes. Archaeological digs often seem to be elsewhere and inaccessible unless you have transport. I used to associate them with a more middle-class activity, but this project shows that people of all ages and backgrounds are interested. That Millom has a fascinating history that deserves investigation.”

“As yet I think we've mostly just confirmed a few things concerning what's known about the area. There's no Wow moment for the less interested people to latch onto though. Not yet anyway. Personally I think we've done enough to go again, I think repeat 'performances' will get more people noticing how overlooked it is here.”

“Mainly because it revealed that Millom is a lot more than just a former iron town and contains a vibrant community who can come together on a project for the benefit of the town.”

“Yes, puts Millom on the Prehistory and history map.”

“Yes, the people we met who were representing Millom were all lovely and welcoming and the churchwardens could not have been nicer. There were always hot drinks and a constant supply of chocolate biscuits for which we were very grateful.”

“Absolutely ¹⁰⁰...it has given the locals a greater thirst and interest to find out more about the history of Millom.”

“Despite being from west Cumberland never really went to Millom so was good to see that it wasn't what we thought it was like.”

“Too early to say, but I think if Digging for Britain broadcast the footage then yes it will make people outside the area much more aware of Millom.”

“Most people I told did not know there was a castle there. It has raised awareness of the amount of history in this area.”

“Possibly shifted the understanding about Millom as it is becoming recognised as a place of significant historical interest. Social media postings have helped widen the audience for this project. If Digging for Britain air their filming in Millom in Spring 2025 then this should put a positive focus on this project and this area.”

“Yes, people have gained a wider understanding of Millom castle and its moat.”

“It remains to be seen when the report comes out as to how widely it is disseminated.”

“It gave me better understanding of history of Millom castle and I imagine it did the same for the other people involved and those local people who visited the site.”

“Yes, it has absolutely changed my understanding of Millom. And I understand that it is a fascinating historic area, with a strong community.”

“I think it highlights the rich history of the area.”

Anything else you would like to say?

“I enjoyed it much more than I expected. Really enjoyed meeting other people. Just a shame I couldn't have done more.”

“Had a good time, I found it interesting and educational, finding things that people had discarded and time had forgotten made it worthwhile.”

“I enjoyed going to the dig and speaking with everyone and being able to give the volunteers a bit of local history about the castle and surrounding areas and memories of my childhood.”

“Looking forward to more of the same.”

"I thought it was excellent linking in with the local school, and home-schooled pupils."

"I loved the whole experience. Thank you so much to all who were involved. I also love that Edward was given a chance to do something most children will never get to do. It has been so valuable for that reason alone!"

"Perhaps .. if we want to get new permissions we may have to factor that in to budgets to compensate the landowner in some way."

"Really enjoyed it, thank you."

"I hope for further investigations in the future. I hope funding can be found to continue exploring, given the area's historical significance with the 11C church and castle."

"I hope you've enjoyed my answers, I enjoyed writing them. I met some great people, learnt a lot about identifying things and the general mechanics of proper archaeology. This will make a difference when I go detecting! Loved every minute and absolutely want to do it again and blow the doors off the house of archaeology with the things we might find!"

"Just goes to prove a community project can work well with commitment and like-minded people." "It was a great, enjoyable experience I was privileged to have taken part in."

"I really enjoyed this experience, just wish I had been more prepared with knee protectors and foam to kneel on!"

"Thanks for the opportunity."

"Greenlane and the church were excellent."

"A brilliant and unexpected opportunity and experience. As a local, it has been humbling to learn more about the area as we really do think Whitehaven is the centre of the universe up here."

"JB has done a tremendous job in gaining grants for this project plus organising it on a daily basis. Without her determination and enthusiasm, this dig would not have been as successful as it has been."

"Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity."

"Thank you, Jan."

"It was a great event to be involved in!"

"I just like to express my gratitude for the opportunity this project offered me. It brought me a lot of knowledge and enjoyment and I'm very grateful."

"Thank you, Jan, and everybody who was involved. It was lovely meeting everyone and making new friends."

MILLOM AND DISTRICT



LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Published by Millom and District Local History Society

24th August 2024

