



Digging for Millom: Overview

Jan Bridget, Chair

Millom and District Local History Society



WHY HERE?

METAL DETECTORIST FINDS





HOLY TRINITY STONES PROJECT (2022)



SIX BRONZE AGE
AXE HEADS, 2023
JOSH CARR



PHASE 1 GEOPHYS (2023)

**Millom and District Local History
Society Publication
June 2023**



View of Old School, Millom Castle and Holy Trinity Church, from The Knott



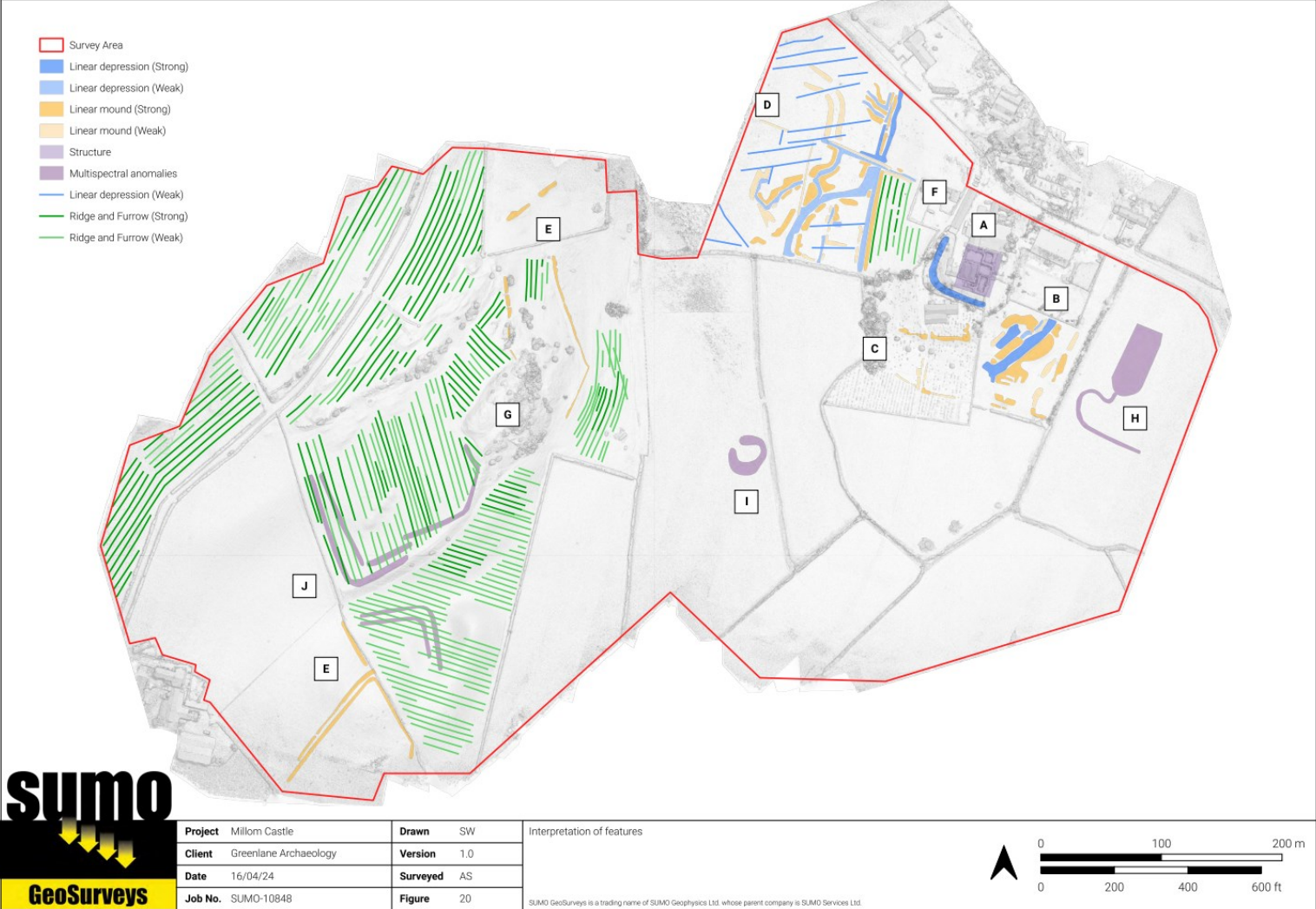
Area to be Surveyed © Google Earth

Millom Castle and Holy Trinity Church Archaeology Project



PHASE 2: DRONE SURVEY (2024)

DRONE RESULTS



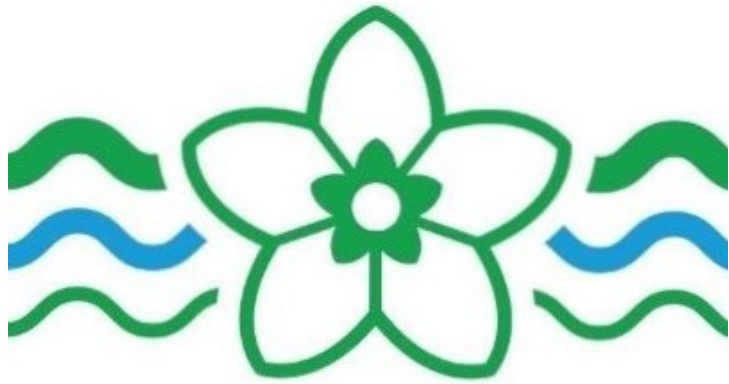
3D MODEL OF CASTLE





ORIGINAL PLAN

- ▶ Phases 1 and 2: identified 12 sites to place investigative trenches:
- ▶ Possible Iron Age Hillfort
- ▶ Prehistoric monuments
- ▶ Roman Road
- ▶ Ancient Field Boundaries
- ▶ Medieval Village
- ▶ Evidence of Civil War



**Cumberland
Council**

POWERED BY
**LEVELLING
— UP —**



Funded by
UK Government

FUNDING: Copeland Com. Fund

WITHDRAWAL OF PERMISSION: PLAN B

Under impression verbal agreement

Last minute change of plan as two of the farmers refused permission

Permission from Carlisle Diocese and Paul Tyson

TRENCHES



Trenches 1 & 2



Trench 3





Trench 4

Trench 7



VOLUNTEERS: 32



VIDEO: TRENCHES 1,2,3,4,5,6,7



Just a glimpse (10 minutes)



To see all videos: go to our website:
www.millomhistory.org.uk click on Projects, click on Millom
Castle and Holy Trinity Church Archaeology Project, scroll
down.

WHAT FOUND?

- ▶ **3 ANCIENT FIELD BOUNDARIES**
- ▶ **PART OF CASTLE MOAT**
- ▶ **EVIDENCE FROM ENGLISH CIVIL WARS**

First of my three favourite finds: Stirrup buckle



- ▶ Bottom photo: how it would have worked.
- ▶ Dated: 13th-14th century
- ▶ Up to 15th century only aristocrats used them.
- ▶ Used by Huddleston or visitor?
- ▶ Tiny belt.

Second favourite: Cap Badge?



- ▶ Latin motto: 'VIX EA NOSTRO VOCO' :
"these things I can hardly call our own."
- ▶ Personal motto of Earl of Warwick, also Duke of Argyll and other families, Styles.
- ▶ Extract from Ovid's Metamorphoses:
nam genus et proavos, et quae non fecimus ipsi, vix ea nostra voco: For our birth, our ancestors, and things which we have not ourselves done – these things I can hardly call our own.
- ▶ Head: Boar? Eagle? Hound?
- ▶ 19th/20th century?

Third: clay tobacco pipe, head of African boy. Finder, Rosanna Cox



- ▶ Who made it and when?
- ▶ Who used and smoked the pipe?
- ▶ Was it purely decorative object?
- ▶ Significance of representation of ethnicity?
- ▶ Links to slave and tobacco trade (Whitehaven)?
- ▶ Wealthy person or mass produced?
- ▶ Why end up here?
- ▶ 19th/20th century?



WHAT LEARNT?

- ▶ More about the Castle
- ▶ More about the Civil War
- ▶ Need to get written permission
- ▶ Include sieving (where appropriate) from beginning
- ▶ That a community dig is an excellent way of bringing together people with a common aim and can achieve great outputs.

VOLUNTEER QUOTE

- ▶ *“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.”*

VOLUNTEER QUOTE

- ▶ *“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.”*

FUNDING OUTPUTS/ACHIEVED

To train and supervise 20 volunteers: 32!

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: 7 trenches

To complete 20 days on site digging: 21 digging days

4 Observation Days for the public and local schools to view the digs: 4 open days, 3 local schools, 75 students plus Library 38

Research artefacts: see Archaeology Report and Final Report

Keep members of the public up-to-date with digs and finds: Facebook 5,000+; Daily Dig Diaries; 7 local media; website; 5 regional media; D4B

Write up the findings: Archaeologist's Report

Produce final project report: 200 copies x 40-page report
Present findings to public: Finds Event: 24/8/2024; display



FUTURE?

- ▶ Photograph display move to Millom Heritage and Arts Centre
- ▶ Hoping to acquire display cabinet and have finds on permanent display in Holy Trinity church
- ▶ Article for CWAAS
- ▶ Digging for Britain?
- ▶ Old School
- ▶ If permission and funding...

THANK YOU!

- ▶ Funders: Cumberland Council, Government Levelling Up Scheme
- ▶ Paul Tyson
- ▶ Carlisle Diocese
- ▶ Greenlane: Dan, Tom, Dot and Ian
- ▶ Jason (digger)
- ▶ Geoff and Margaret Edmondson
- ▶ The York Waits
- ▶ Volunteers