

# Lake District

Archaeology Volunteer Network



## BULLETIN NO. 1 - MAY 2013

### Launch of Lake District Archaeology Volunteer Network

The Lake District Archaeology Volunteer Network was officially launched on Saturday 23 February 2013 at the LDNP Visitor Centre at Brockhole. The event was introduced by Kerry Powell, our Director of Learning and Resources and also our Heritage Champion. Kasia Litwa explained the structure of the network and how to sign up and John Hodgson gave a short introduction to the archaeology of the Lake District. This was followed by tea and coffee and an opportunity to view the Historic Environment Record along with displays by Jamie Lund, the National Trust Archaeologist, and the Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society on its valuable work in surveying and conserving our mining heritage.

### Our first conservation project!

On Tuesday 9 April 2013 we carried out our first official Network conservation project. This comprised clearing a mass of overgrown coppice from the top of a Grade II Listed limekiln at Great Wood, Hampsfell and repairing a fallen stretch of adjacent dry stone wall. This work was supported by Andrew Wilkinson, the LDNPA Field Ranger for the area, who instructed the Network volunteers in dry stone walling and removed some of the larger coppice poles with a chain saw. The coppice stumps were treated later in the week so that they won't regrow and Andrew will be returning to fix a particularly tricky piece of collapsed walling at the front of the kiln. This was a fantastic piece of work, carried out in fine weather, and was a great start to our conservation programme for 2013.



### **Training with the apprentices**

On Tuesday 23 April John Hodgson provided a guided tour of the archaeological sites on Torver High Common for the LDNPA Fell Futures apprentices. The apprentices will be helping us with archaeological conservation projects and the tour was part of their training in archaeology – recognising sites and understanding how to protect and conserve them. We were joined by one of our new Network Volunteers, Geoff Cook, who also learned about the range of archaeological sites on the Common which include Bronze Age ring cairns and burial mounds, slate quarries, lime kilns and a ruined rifle target from the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century.



*Apprentices inspecting a limekiln on Torver High Common*

### **Continuing the limekiln theme...**

Our second conservation project of the year also involved a limekiln – this time at Mungrisdale, on Tuesday 30 April. This kiln was conserved by the LDNPA about 12 years ago and had also become overgrown with coppiced trees. A team of Network Volunteers led by Kasia and Holly Beavitt-Pike cleared away the vegetation from the kiln and then inspected a group of scheduled monuments just to the north of Mungrisdale where we will be clearing bracken in the summer.



*Conserving Mungrisdale limekiln*

### Visit to a Neolithic Causewayed Enclosure on Carrock Fell

On Tuesday 7 May John Hodgson led a guided walk to examine the prehistoric enclosure on the top of Carrock fell. Eleven Network Volunteers made the steep climb in fairly warm weather to see what is now thought to be one of the most significant prehistoric sites in the National Park. The Carrock Fell enclosure has traditionally been dated to the Iron Age, but recent work, including the identification of a source of stone axe material on Carrock Fell, has prompted a rethink about the date of this site. It is now thought likely that it is a 'causewayed enclosure' dating to the Neolithic period (c. 4,000 BC) and is similar to another recently discovered site at Green How on Aughtertree Fell where Neolithic flints have been found. Hoping to find similar archaeological evidence on Carrock Fell, we spent some time carefully examining the eroded path surface across the site to see if we could recover any similar flintwork. Unfortunately no flints were found on this occasion but we did identify a series of mining 'trials' on our way down the fell which have not been recorded in the Historic Environment Record.



*Talking about the Neolithic on the top of Carrock Fell*

### Forthcoming Network activities.....including Bracken Bashing!!

We are planning our major campaign of bracken cutting on scheduled monuments for this year and would be very grateful for a good turnout of Network Volunteers to help with this important work. Holly has drawn up the following timetable and we would be grateful if you could email your availability for the following dates:

Date	Area	Site
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	South	Heathwaite Fell
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	North East	Askham Fell sites
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	North East	Weasel Hills, Carrock Beck
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	South	The Hawk and Kiln Bank
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	North West	Smithy Beck, Clews Beck Medieval settlement and Vaccary east of Gillerthwaite,

		Ennerdale
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	North East	Askham Fell sites continued ...
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	South	Troutbeck Park sites
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	South	Lamb Pasture settlement, Bannisdale
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	South	Three round cairns 70m east of Rydal Beck

Please note that it is possible that the specific sites may change depending on the state of the bracken and how quickly we clear it, but we will not change the north/south designation for each day.

## **Stop Press.....Survey opportunity!**

One of our Network supervisors, Peter Style, is researching the prehistory of the central Lakeland valleys. He is planning to carry out some field survey in late May and this would be a great opportunity for Network volunteers to gain experience of this type of work. Peter has a good eye for prehistoric sites and will be able to provide instruction in how to spot them in the landscape and then to record them.

Peter writes:

*Here is a very brief summary of the fieldwork I will be carrying out between the 25-31 May 2013. I can take a maximum of three volunteer surveyors.*

*I will be carrying out a walkover survey of some upland areas around the Grasmere area. These will include the area to the west of the road going over Dunmail raise known as Cotra and the adjacent valley of Greenburn to the west. We will be carrying out a systematic walkover survey recording any visible features with a GPS and photographically. The aim being to establish if there are any prehistoric features present. Instruction will be given in survey techniques, identification and recording of archaeological features.*

*We will be starting at around 9.00 am (apart from Saturday) and finish the survey on site at around 4.00 pm you will need to bring food and drink. The terrain will be rough and some of the locations will be remote, consequently suitable mountain clothing and footwear is essential. On the first day Saturday we will be meeting at around 11.00 am at the lay-by on the southbound side of the carriageway on top of Dunmail Raise.*

*My contact details are:*

*Peter Style*

*Home 01200425448*

*Mobile 07952285056*

*Evening (whilst on site) 0190085318*

Please contact Peter if you wish to take part in this work.