

**BULLETIN NO. 2 - OCTOBER 2013**

**Reflections on History Phase 3**

This year saw the completion of the Reflections on History project which is part of the Windermere Reflections programme currently being run by a partnership headed by the Environment Agency (see <http://www.windermere-reflections.org.uk/>).

Windermere Reflections is a 3 year Heritage Lottery (HLF) funded community programme comprising 19 projects which address a range of issues from water quality to historic environment. Reflections on History has been jointly run by archaeological staff from the LDNPA and National Trust and has provided opportunities for local people to take part in archaeological survey and investigation of the industrial heritage of the Windermere area. This included examining the themes of woodland, water power and rocks and minerals. The first two phases were completed in 2011 and 2012 and phase three was completed this April with an examination of the archaeology of mines and quarries. Four sites were chosen for survey and investigation. These were Banks Quarry – a redundant slate quarry located in the Langdale Valley, Greenhead Gill Mine – the remains of a 16th century lead mine located near to Grasmere and the Fairfield and Providence Mines – both of which are iron mines said to have been worked c1700, also located in Grasmere.



*Surveying at Banks Quarry*

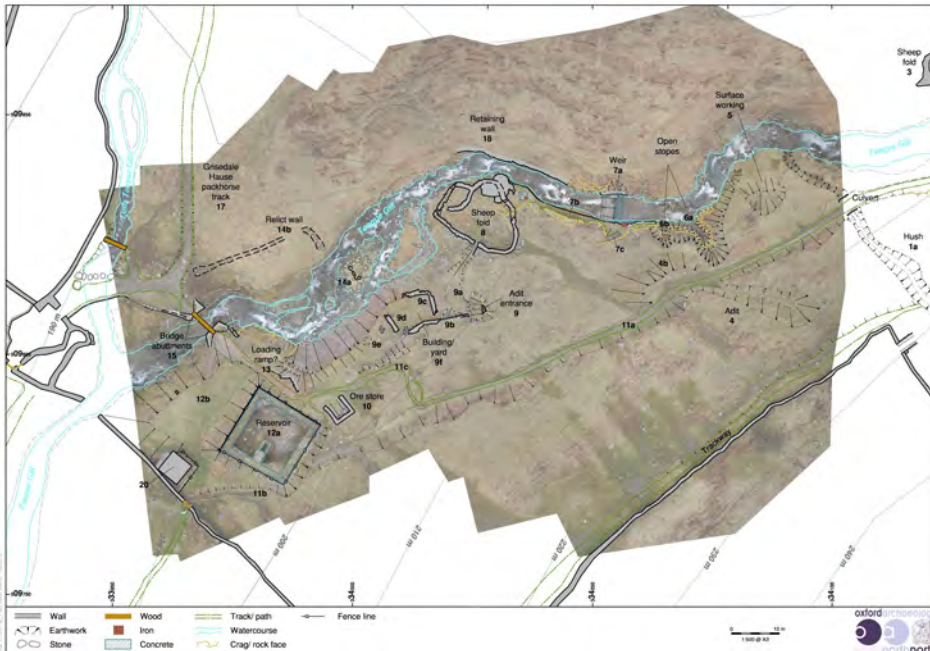


Figure 17: Fairfield Mine topographic survey overlaid on the aerial photography



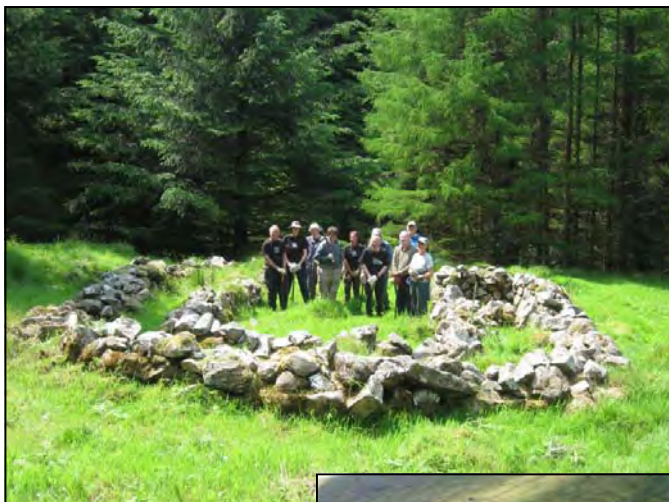
Surveying at Greenhead Gill Mine

Survey plan of part of Greenhead Gill Mine

## Summer Bracken Bashing

Our battle against bracken on archaeological sites went well this year with a two week campaign in June and one week in August. This was the third year of cutting on some sites and the effects are really beginning to show, with much lower growth where we have been active. We were also fortunate this year that there was a relaxation on the ban on using Asulox (the only chemical treatment that targets bracken exclusively). The National Park apprentices sprayed Asulox on the medieval settlement at Scale Beck, Crummock Water while the medieval settlement and prehistoric burial cairns at Great Grassoms was sprayed by the owner and we had a contractor at the Weasel Hills cairnfield at Calebreck.

Many thanks to all of you who helped with the bracken cutting and spraying this year and especially if you had agreed to help and were then asked to stand down due to wet weather. Getting the timing right for bracken control is not easy!



## Guided walk in the Rydal valley

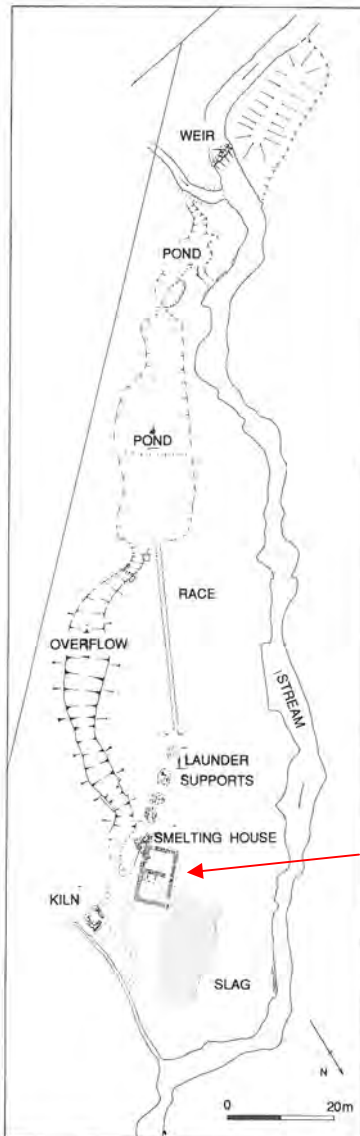
In May one of our Archaeology Volunteer Supervisors, Peter Style, led a guided walk in the Rydal Valley to see some of the prehistoric sites that he has identified. This was a useful occasion for volunteers to get their eye in for prehistoric remains that can sometimes be difficult to recognise. The sites in the Rydal valley include clearance and burial cairns, early field walls and ring cairns (pictured right).



*Peter Style discussing a ring cairn in the Rydal valley*

## Volunteers Day

On Saturday 8 June a group of about 15 volunteers joined John Hodgson and Kasia Litwa at Hartsop Hall farm for a guided walk which was a part of the Lake District National Park Authority Volunteers Day 2013.



*Plan of the Hoggett Gill smelt mill site*

Sites visited included a Roman-British settlement enclosed by a low bank, incorporating a number of massive glacial boulders and containing 6 or 7 hut circles. Adjacent to the settlement is a large buried mound probably dating from the Bronze Age and a medieval shieling – a longhouse with a small enclosure alongside once containing people and their animals. Lunch was eaten at Hoggett Gill, the site of a 17 Century lead smelter which comprises a stone building with the remains of a waterwheel pit, leat and chopwood kiln (for drying wood for smelting). The Hartsop Hall lead mines, viewed on the return journey, were worked from the 17 Century intermittently up to the Second World War.



*The Hoggett Gill smelting house*

## Archaeology and Photography workshop

On Tuesday 13 August Kasia delivered an Archaeology and Photography workshop to 17 archaeology volunteers. The aim of this one-day event was to raise awareness of the use of digital photography in the field of archaeology and to help the participants in developing their photographic skills and interests in the company of fellow volunteers in an informal and relaxed way. The workshop consisted of three sessions: an introductory talk about the history of archaeological photography and the basics of photography and the use of a camera, and two hands-on sessions. Volunteers spent over an hour at the Duddon Furnace trying out different methods and procedures. After lunch they spent about an hour photographing and illustrating artefacts. The workshop was an introduction to the wide field of archaeological photography and Kasia hopes that it sparked a new interest among the participating volunteers.



*Participants at the photography workshop*



The first season of the exciting Romans in Ravenglass project has now sadly come to end. Romans in Ravenglass is a partnership project between the Lake District National Park Authority, Muncaster Parish Council and the Muncaster Estate and is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Copeland Community Fund and the LDNPA.

During September volunteers were given an opportunity to understand more about the Roman Heritage of Ravenglass, concentrating on the vicus (civilian settlement) surrounding the fort.

Archaeological investigations in the form of geophysical survey, field walking and the excavation of three trenches was carried out in order to determine the extent and layout of the civilian settlement.



Given that the excavation finished only a couple of weeks ago, we haven't had time to conclude much about what has been discovered. This will follow from analysis of the artefacts and samples that were collected during the excavation. However we do have evidence of Roman occupation and the many wonderful finds include a lovely piece of Samian ware, (a classic type of Roman pottery) possibly showing the figure of the goddess Venus.

We were able to provide passing members of the public an opportunity to find out more about the Romans in Ravensglass Project through three open days. Here people could see finds from the 1970's excavation of the Roman Fort, lent by Tullie House Museum, which gave an idea of typical Roman finds likely to be discovered during the excavation as well as finds from the current season. The Portable Antiquities Scheme was also on hand to provide identification for any finds that visitors brought with them. Visitors also learned about the various archaeological techniques being used on site. The open days were very successful and were attended by approximately 600 people.





We also invited the local primary schools to participate in the project. Children in the local area were given an opportunity to find out more about the Romans in Cumbria and came to the dig to find out what it is like to be an archaeologist! Children were able to get their hands dirty during spoil heap challenges - looking through the spoil for the small pieces of pottery and other items that were initially missed and have a go at finds washing.

Last but not least, we have employed a film company to provide people who were unable to attend the dig to

find out more about what is involved during an archaeological project. Dave the film maker did a great job filming all the project participants and if you were there you may see yourself on film! The film will be shown at our annual archaeology conference and will be available on the Lake District National Park website shortly after this.

### Forthcoming Network activities

Date	Event
Tuesday 22 October	Level 1 survey (now fully booked)
Sunday 3 November	Annual Archaeology Conference at the Theatre by the Lake (see LDNPA website for details)
Tuesday 5 November	Level 1 survey (North - location to be confirmed)
Tuesday 19 November	Level 1 survey (North - location to be confirmed)
Tuesday 26 November	Annual end of season event - 2.00pm at the Ambleside Parish Centre. We hope that many of you will come along to meet the LDNPA archaeology team and other volunteers and review the work that we have carried out over the year. Tea and cake will be provided. <b>Please make a booking if you intend to come.</b>

### Stop Press

Mervyn Cooper, one of our Archaeology Supervisors, represents the Archaeology Volunteers on the LDNPA Volunteers Leadership Team. If you have any questions, issues or comments about volunteering for the LDNPA, please contact Mervyn: email [coopermervyn@hotmail.com](mailto:coopermervyn@hotmail.com) or telephone 01229 582379

### Kasia Litwa

Last but not least we must say a massive thank you to Kasia Litwa, our Community Archaeology Trainee, for all her hard work over the last year in helping to set up the Lake District Archaeology Volunteer Network (and for the great logo!). The two workshops that Kasia ran on archaeological photography and 'How we do it' were very well received and we hope to arrange similar events next year. We wish Kasia all the best in her new role at the University of Cumbria where she will be organising voluntary work for students. However Kasia has signed herself up as an Archaeology Volunteer so we hope to see her back soon!

