Welcome to the Archaeology Bulletin, a publication to celebrate the achievements of the Lake District Archaeology Volunteer Network (LDAVN), which has now been running for 5 years. The Network has been going from strength to strength with extremely high quality research and publication being produced. A big thank you to you all for committing your time and energy, it really is appreciated. I am looking forward to all the work that will be taking place over 2018 and hope to see you out and about over the coming months.

As many of you know, John Hodgson retired from the LDNPA at the end of July after 24 years. Fortunately for us, John has joined the ranks of the volunteer network and I am sure you will see him out and about on various days in the National Park. Following his retirement, John’s role was split into two positions, a World Heritage Site Coordinator and a Lead Strategy Adviser: Historic Environment. I have been appointed into the Lead Strategy role and will continue to work three days a week. A replacement for my previous role has just been advertised (a full time position) and we are hoping to have someone in post shortly. Mairi Lock, Area Planner, has just been appointed to the role of World Heritage Site Coordinator and she will be starting in post in June/July.

Thank you to all the contributors of this Bulletin and in particular to Philip Minchom who has edited it.

Eleanor Kingston

Coniston Copper Project

The Coniston Copper Project is coming to an end in June. The conservation work has been completed to a very high standard and we are extremely pleased with the results.

Upper Bonsor Mill, Coppermines Valley.
Over the last year we undertook two community archaeology surveys at Tilberthwaite Ghyll Mine and Lower Bonsor Mill, with many volunteers helping John Pickin and Northern Archaeological Associates to record the remains and a small excavation at Penny Rigg Mill. Reports on these will be available shortly on the website for you to download and read.

The interpretation is currently being installed and you should be able to see it the next time you are in the valley, please let us know what you think.

The Schools Project has been incredibly successful, with both the primary school, Coniston C of E School and John Ruskin Secondary School both being involved. Lisa Keys (Project Coordinator), Stephe Cove (volunteer and retired teacher), and Warren Allison (CATMHS), have put a huge amount of work into delivering sessions with the school both on site, underground and in the classroom. This material will be made available on the website so it can be used in the future and hopefully local schools can study the industrial revolution on their doorstep.
Goings On In The North

The Northern Archaeology Volunteer Network team has been very busy over the last 12 months with two main projects.

During the previous year (2016) the team spent most of its time surveying a Cumbria Wildlife Trust reserve at Berrier, near Greystoke.

We added 27 structures to the HER, most of these being probable animal enclosures. Twenty-five of these ‘finds’ appeared neither on the Enclosures map of 1796 nor on the first Ordnance Survey map of 1860. Interestingly, one or two sheepfolds are shown but they are outside the area we were surveying, however it does show that this sort of structure was being recorded. Were our finds even older and were already in ruins so not recorded or were they built more recently than the 1860 OS map? Impossible to know.

Towards the very end of this survey, we spotted an enclosure surrounding a crag, just outside the nature reserve.

On the Enclosures Act Map the crag is named as Tom Knot, and the enclosure completely surrounded it. Part of the crag seemed far too steep for animals to go up or down it but nevertheless, the stones encircled it.

The enclosure was recorded in the usual way and it looked interesting enough for us also to engage in a level 2 survey which took us from the beginning of January last year (2017) until the beginning of May. We plotted the site using a Total Station, Offsets and Triangulation.

There is a possibility of there having been a hut circle on top of the crag. We have managed to acquire a grant from CWAAS and have asked Oxford Archaeology North to undertake a geophysical survey on the site.

Meanwhile, on May 4th 2017, the team moved on to Faulds Brow in the very north of the National Park not far from Caldbeck, to see what we could find during a Level 1 survey of the common land there.

At one time, Faulds Brow belonged to the Leconfield estate and at the time of his death (in 1969) belonged to the late Lord Egremont. In lieu of Death Duties, the British government accepted both
Faulds Brow and Caldbeck commons as payment. Since then, both commons have been managed by the Lake District National Park Authority.

The area was intensely industrialised in the 1700, 1800 and 1900's and there is much evidence of mining both for coal and later for the extraction and processing of limestone.

Large swathes of the area are gorse infested but in the parts of the common that we could walk over, we registered and completed 23 HER forms relating to hitherto unrecorded Bell Pits.

A bell pit was a method used possibly as early as the 17th century. Probably low grade domestic coal was extracted by excavating a hole and as the hole deepened, the miners would descend and probably a winch would be used to raise the coal in a bucket, to the surface.

The photograph shows the external view of one of our finds. Several of the bell pits show the remains of platforms. These would have been where the coal was placed as it was drawn out of the pit.

Probably older still and possibly late pre-historic are the 4 enclosures we have discovered. Having recorded them for the HER we have again, as with the Tom Knot site, drawn a detailed plan of each of them. The diagram below clearly shows that within three of the enclosures there is a suggestion that there was habitation within.

The enclosures were surveyed using (as we did with Tom Knot,) a combination of three methods:

1. A Total Station (or EDM)
2. Offsets (or Offsetting), a system using tapes.
3. Triangulation, where you attach the tapes to the pegs and have the corresponding measures attached to the plan.

This work was completed just before Christmas and took us nicely to the end of 2017.
At the time of writing, we are drawing plans of some of the most interesting bell pits and with a few options open to us, have not yet decided where we shall go next.

We are waiting for the weather to improve before the geophysical survey can be carried out on Tom Knot.

Tricia Brown

The Central and South East Area

Cunswick Hall: 2017 began with an archaeological and historical survey of the Manor of Cunswick. Our interest in the Manor had been stimulated by the presence of a small group of pillow mounds, basically a man-made rabbit warren, and the initial intention was simply to survey the mounds. However, with the permission of the owners and the tenants, we were able to extend the survey to encompass the entire manor. The result was a portrait of a lakeland manor with a history which was more eventful than we had expected and an archaeology which was more varied than we had foreseen.

The Manor is located in the Lyth Valley to the west of Kendal and its history is fairly well documented. By 1378 the Manor had passed to the Leyburn family with whom it remained for almost 350 years. The Leyburn family were an important and influential local family but they had the misfortune to choose the losing side in many of the major events in English history. Indeed, the estate was eventually forfeited to the Crown in 1716 after John Leyburn joined the ill-fated rising in favour of the ‘Old Pretender’.

Some of the archaeology pre-dates the Manor, including a round barrow and two settlements or enclosures, one definitely and the other probably of Romano-British date. Volunteers undertook a Level 2 survey of the round barrow and of one of the settlements in 2016. However, some of the archaeology is contemporary with the Manor. This includes the warren, which we discovered was in operation in 1588, the manorial fish pond which survives as a marshy area next to one of the old manorial orchards and the footings of at least one, but possibly two, shellings or long-houses. Level 2 surveys were completed of the warren, of the fish pond and of one of the shellings.

Cunswick reflects the wider history of the manorial system in England which from the 13th to the 15th centuries was the mainstay of the rural economy but which from the 16th century onwards was one of slow decline and a general move towards a market economy. At Cunswick, the estate changed from prestige home to farming carried on for profit. However, it does seem that the catalyst for change at Cunswick was as much the political and religious choices of the family as any wider socio-economic movement. The change is reflected in the archaeology with Level 1 surveys recording ridge and furrow, several small quarries, a lime kiln, a bark peeler's hut, potash kilns and pits and several charcoal pitsteads.

The results of the Level 1 and Level 2 surveys have been recorded in the HER, the history and the archaeology have been drawn together in a report which is available online and an article
summarising our findings has been accepted for C&WAAS Transactions.

**Lime Kiln conservation:** Like bracken, vegetation on and around lime kilns keeps on growing and can cause extensive damage to the stone work unless kept under control. In February 2017, volunteers cleared the vegetation on and around the lime kiln at Moss Howe Farm near Witherslack. Because of the heavily overgrown state of the site, this proved to be a mammoth undertaking. It took half a day just to clear a way to the kiln, let alone clear on and around it. Once exposed, it became clear that the kiln had suffered a major collapse on one side. It is hoped that this can be repaired.

The kiln probably dates from the second half of the 18th century. It has an interesting bee-hive shape and the fire chamber has a corbelled roof. A further work party took place in November to burn what had been cleared.

Another work party was held in February 2018 to clear vegetation from the lime kiln at High Hampsfield Farm. This was cleared by volunteers no more than four years ago. It is surprising how quickly the vegetation grows back again.

**Bracken bashing:** And speaking of bracken, the usual round of bracken bashing on sites in the centre and south of the National Park took place in June and August of 2017. Some of the sites are at long last beginning to show the results of repeated clearing. The iron age/medieval settlement at Bannisdale and the iron age settlement at Lamb Pasture both showed only limited bracken growth. However, the site of fulling mill at Easedale and the cairn field at the Rigg have yet to show a return on our investment of effort.

**Witherslack Woodlands:** Between January and April, Network volunteers, with the kind permission of the owners and tenants, were involved in clearing two sites in Witherslack Woodlands prior to carrying out topographical surveys.

The first site is located in Howe Ridding Wood which is managed by Cumbria Wildlife Trust. The site (SD 4345 8832) comprises an abandoned settlement with a substantial trackway running through it. The settlement is made up of a large D-shaped enclosure – perhaps for livestock, the footings of a single and a two-bay structure - possibly long houses, the ruins of two other two-bay structures - possibly also long houses, the remains of what appears to have been a 3-sided structure and, surprisingly, a cockle midden. Next to the settlement is an old orchard. Having cleared the site, a topographical survey was undertaken with the aid of the Network’s new total station. At this stage we are unable to date the settlement but historical research is currently underway to try and provide an answer – best guess would be that it was occupied from the late medieval period through to the mid-1700s.
The second site is located in High Park Wood which is managed by Witherslack Woodlands on behalf of the Stanley family. The site (SD 4353 8754) lies about 400 metres to the south of the settlement and the presence of slag heaps indicate that it may once have been a bloomery. The site is quite large – about 60m x 40m and, unusually, it was enclosed on three sides by a substantial wall, now just a ruin. At one end of the site are the remains of a building which appears to be of a later date than the bloomery. Clearing the site proved to be quite a challenge but it enabled us to complete the topographical survey. Meanwhile, John Hodgson applied on behalf of the Network to C&WAAS for a grant to undertake a geophysical survey. We were fortunate to secure this and the survey was undertaken by Ian Brooks during April with help from the volunteers. The results are encouraging with two hot spots identified and support our thinking that this was the site of a bloomery. We will now review the survey to decide what, if any, further action might be worthwhile. In the meantime, historical research is underway to try and date the bloomery – best guess at this stage is Jacobean.

Butterfly Conservation Cumbria have an interest in both sites because they are the habitat of rare butterfly species and they kept a watching brief on the surveys and provided active support. We are pleased to say that the outcome of our efforts has apparently resulted in an enhancement of the habitat – which is what we intended all along!

Jeremy Rowan Robinson

Level 2 survey at Tilberthwaite Mine

Walk for about twenty minutes up the old miners’ path on the right-hand side of Tilberthwaite Gill and evidence of past mining comes into view in the form of two ruined buildings. Walk a little further along the path to Birk Fell Man and you can look down on them and the dramatic view of a number of opencast excavations. This is the Tilberthwaite Mine, known in earlier times as Gillhead or Muckle Gillhead after the stream running through the site that was used as a source of water power.

View of the North Lode excavations at the Tilberthwaite Mine. The ruins of two buildings are clearly visible as well as opencast excavations extending along the vein into the distance. This photo was taken from the path going up to Birk Fell Man from NY299010. (Photo Mike Green)
A Level 2 survey of the area was carried out by Archaeology Volunteers in May-June 2017, led by
John Pickin of Northern Archaeological Associates and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund as
part of the Coniston Copper Project, together with a new look at historical records.
Mining, principally for copper, began in the area at the end of the sixteenth century and continued,
at times intermittently, until well into the twentieth century. The site is very wet and suffered from
flooding from Muckle Beck. For most owners it failed to produce the hoped for return on
investment. There are two mined areas, known as Benson’s Vein and the North Lode, about 150m
apart, and we surveyed both.

Benson’s Vein is the smaller of the two and was
probably mined earlier. It consists of a line of small,
open excavations and spoil heaps some 130m
long. There are the ruins of a couple of small
buildings in which we found a number of ‘mortar
stones’, blocks some 20cm by 30cm in size, on
which the rock was crushed by hand with iron
hammers. Some of the pits show evidence of shot
holes from later reworking and alongside the beck
level was later cut into the vein.

The North Lode provided evidence of working over more than 300 years, although dumps of spoil
from later working have covered up much of the evidence of the earliest activity. However a mortar
stone and a buddle for washing crushed ore to separate waste were found close to the beck and
comprise one of the few complete examples of a ‘dressing floor’ in the north-west from the 16th –
17th century.
The excavations at the North Lode are large. Starting off as opencast mining, shafts were later
sunk and connect to underground workings. The very large spoil heaps on the site provide
evidence of the extent of these workings. The largest shaft is at the east end of the site (nearest
the camera on the first photo) and extends down some 160m to meet the tunnel known as the
Horse Crag Level. This level was conceived as a means of solving the flooding problem at the
North Lode and was driven more than 1km from Penny Rigg (close to the Tilberthwaite car park) to
meet the North Lode shaft. Begun in 1847 it took some ten years to complete. In parallel a new
dressing mill was built at the tunnel entrance, known as the Penny Rigg Mill, ending the transport
of ore over the fells by packhorse to the Bonsor Mills in Coniston for processing. Instead it was
lowered to the level and loaded in to wagons and horse-drawn on rails through the tunnel. A level 2
survey and small excavation have also been carried out at Penny Rigg as part of the Coniston
Copper project.
A number of volunteers had the opportunity of an exciting if wet walk through the Horse Crag Level
in May 2017 before starting the Tilberthwaite survey, guided by members of the Cumbria Amenity
Trust Mining History Society (CATMHS), who undertook the Herculean task of reopening the level
between 2009 and 2015. Several large items of mining equipment remain in the mine, including
rails, wagons and a precarious ladder system that was used by the miners to access levels at
North Lode.
The buildings at North Lode show evidence of changes of use over the years. The upper one
probably started as a store and was later converted to a smithy. The lower one was originally a
stamp mill driven by a water wheel, with evidence for the wheel pit at the side of the building. It was
later converted to another smithy and at the beginning of the twentieth century became a miners’
bothy with a fireplace.
This is a very wet area, with Wetherlam only a kilometre or so to the west. It could not have been a
pleasant place for the miners to work and the weather during our survey enabled us to understand
how they must have felt. North-west Television chose such a day to spend filming the volunteers’
work there, but soon found that inside the level at Benson’s Vein was the driest place to interview
John Pickin. I also discovered that it is best not to wear bright clothing if you don’t want to be
photographed while volunteering.
Mike and Frances Green pretending to be doing some important measuring and recording for the camera while inside the remains of a building at North Lode. (Photo Steph Fulke, LDNPA)

I am grateful to John Pickin for an advance copy of the booklet he has written with Jeremy Rowan-Robinson describing the history and archaeology of Tilberthwaite Mine, without which I could not have written this article.

Mike Green

The Duddon Dig

This June sees the third and final phase of the Duddon Dig looking at high living in the Duddon Valley. Last year's dig gave us our first pottery, more horseshoes and another puzzling set of radio-carbon dates. Instead of the early Norse date around 1000AD we got three very similar Bronze Age dates. That poses a problem for us as we need to continue our search for a date relating to the longhouse remains and also investigate what other evidence might lead to in establishing much earlier occupation of the same site. We know this was the case not far away when excavations took place at Stephenson Ground in the 1990s.

So, we will be having a training day (Date to be confirmed. Keep an eye on the website and with the registration form.) with a chance for new volunteers to pick up some skills and more experienced ones to consolidate and extend their knowledge. Digging will take place from Saturday 16th of June through to Sunday 1st July. Anyone who fancies coming along for the first time can contact me on duddondig@gmail.com

If you don’t want to dig, but want to see what is going on, there will be an open day for the public on Saturday 23rd of June where we will explain what we have been doing and then lead parties around the excavations.

More details about previous work and about what is going on this year, can be found on our website www.duddonhistory.org.uk and the blog at https://duddondig.wordpress.com/

Stephe Cove, Mervyn Cooper

Survey of Lambing Knott Later Prehistoric Settlement, Gatesgarth, Buttermere

In late winter 2018 on a blustery day between bouts of biting Siberian winds, the North-west group of Archaeology Volunteers completed the Level 2 survey of the Scheduled Ancient Monument at Lambing Knott, an enclosed Later Prehistoric/Romano-British settlement. This was in sharp contrast to the fine May day in 2017 when we were last there, with the sun and warm sweet scent of the gorse wafting down the hillside. The site is about a 50m walk from the road - a welcome
change to the 45 minute walk-in, with survey equipment, to one of our other sites at Scales Beck, Crummock Water, where we have been surveying for the last 3 years.

Survey under way, May 2017

A breezy survey day March 2018.

This site is at the head of the valley within the watershed of Buttermere, Crummock Water and Loweswater, up to six settlement sites that are likely to date from this period periods have been found. Lambing Knott was first reported by Thomas Hay in the 1936 Transactions of CWAAS and was Scheduled in 1985 but has seen no other archaeological evaluation since. The settlement enclosure is overlain by a post medieval wall running diagonally from north to south east and including a circular sheepfold, possibly founded on an earlier hut circle. This wall continues outside the settlement upslope, and downhill to a break at an ancient track parallel to and above the present-day road. This wall was probably constructed using stone robbed from the earlier enclosure walls.

Detail of the settlement from above, later wall and sheepfold easily visible crossing enclosure.

The setting of this site is impressive, south facing and nestled in a natural amphitheatre between two crags, the well-named Muddock Crags and Lambing Knott. Buttermere is about 100m away and there is a fine vista of Fleetwith Pike, Haystacks and the High Stile ridge, good enough for one of Thomas West's Viewing Stations. The enclosure is slightly oval 42 x 50m overall, the ground chosen for the settlement is a natural terrace that remains dry amongst moderately sloping ground, there is a spring about 20m to the east, now rather cattle trampled. The terrace has been enhanced by the construction of a massive stone and turf bank, which on its south-westerly aspect remains up to 2m high, the tumble of the original walling extending here for a maximum width of around 8m. Except for the entranceway to the south at its lowest point, the enclosure bank is contiguous around threequarters of the enclosure, the remaining north-east quadrant of the enclosure is cut into the hillside between large earth-fast boulders with little stone bank evident, a
common enough feature of sites of this period, the spoil perhaps used to level the site internally.

The survey plan of Lambing Knott enclosed settlement

A number of features have been previously recorded within the enclosing wall including the central platform in-cut into the slope, likely to have supported a timber roundhouse 6-7m in diameter. Just above this is a second platform with a slight hollow, perhaps the site of a secondary roundhouse 4-5m in diameter, the hollow suggesting it might have served as either a store or stock shelter. In addition to these features we were able to identify an internal enclosure on the south-west side, defined by a low bank to the left of the entrance and shallow terrace above. There was also third platform partly overlain by the later wall and a low secondary terrace in the easterly end of the enclosure. Externally there was a level area abutting the north side of the enclosure, possibly formed by an accumulation of eroded material from above. There was also at least one cairn 4 x 5 x 0.4 high, 35m to the west on a dry area of gently sloping ground, that had been cleared of large stones, a possible arable field for the settlement.

The settlement from Lambing Knott, cleared fields to the immediate right of enclosure

These types of settlement are plentiful in the Lake District and adjacent areas. They span a period from at least the Iron Age through to the period of the Roman occupation of Britain. Excavated examples of these settlements, such as that at Glencoyne Park, Matterdale, have demonstrated a continuity of occupation from the Later Bronze Age to the Roman period. Consequently, there could also have been settlement in the Buttermere valley from the later Bronze Age for up to a millennium prior to the Roman period. The earliest evidence for the presence of people in the valley is a Neolithic polished stone axe of Seathwaite Tuff found at Buttermere, now in Manchester Museum, and several prehistoric cup-marked sites locally. Recent analysis of sediments from Crummock Water have also demonstrated an increased accumulation
from around 2000BC, interpreted as deforestation as a consequence of agricultural grazing, suggesting an even longer period of fell grazing by prehistoric pastoralists in this valley. Once life had settled down after the Roman Invasion it was inevitable that there would have been an expansion of trade including farming, suppling the armies and subsequent forts and Hadrian’s Wall. Indeed, it could be considered as a boom time agriculturally and settlements were either extended or satellite farms were built into more marginal lands; Lambing Knott would fit with this interpretation. These farmsteads in the valley would have been used in much the same way as today, pastoral farms producing meat to feed the growing populations in Roman towns such as Derventio near Cockermouth.

A big thank-you to the Archaeology Volunteers involved; Alan, Bernie, Bob, Helen and Nick; also to Willie Richardson of Gatesgarth Farm for allowing us to survey on his land.

We will be continuing the Level 1 walkover Survey on Gale Fell on the 6th & 23rd June. If you are interested please contact me at peterstyle@hotmail.co.uk

Peter Style

Rusland Horizons Woodland surveys

In 2017 and continuing on into 2018 there has been a series of surveys in the woods of the Rusland Valley through the Rusland Horizons Lives in the Landscape project. Professional input from Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd ensured expertise and volunteers provided enthusiasm. A picture of woodland industries emerged and all volunteers can now certainly identify charcoal pitsteads. For this year further surveys are planned for Bethecar Moor and excavation at Satterthwaite Bloomery. Keep an eye on the Rusland Horizons website (http://www.ruslandhorizons.org/project/lives-in-the-landscape.aspx) for the opportunity to participate.

Lake District Rifle Ranges

In 2016 a survey of the volunteer rifle ranges throughout the Lake District by members of the Archaeology Network resulted in the publication of Great Grandad’s Army, Rifle Ranges of the Lake District.

This year application was made to add the two Silver How Ranges to the Schedule of Monuments. The application was approved by Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and, in March the two rifle ranges on Silver How, near Grasmere were awarded Scheduled Monument Status, List Entry Number: 1453320.

The award was agreed with the comments that: “The two mid-C19 rifle ranges at Silver How are important for their early date, range of surviving features, legibility and adaption over time given changes in requirements and armaments. While the numbers of this type of site surviving nationally are not known, Silver How is the best surviving of the known examples in the Lake District.”

Details of the decision can be seen at: http://services.historicengland.org.uk/webfiles/GetFiles.aspx?av=FEACA456-C069-47FF-98EF-361DF1F8765&cn=9734A933-8ACE-405D-9E2D-421E719EF4BC

A second edition of Great Grandad’s Army incorporating further information is available as a PDF from Jeremy Rowan Robinson.