
NORTH PENNINES HERITAGE TRUST

| |
|--|
| Project Designs and Client Reports No. CP/52/03 |
|--|

**REPORT ON
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT
AND EVALUATION OF
FIELDS 6525, 7116, 7117
PARKHOUSE ROAD
CARLISLE**

For Ken Hope Ltd

NGR NY 38667 60249

Planning Application No. 1/03/0266

C J Jones BA, MA, PIFA
North Pennines Heritage Trust
Nenthead Mines Heritage Centre,
Nenthead
Alston
Cumbria CA9 3PD
Tel: (01434) 382045
Fax: (01434) 382294
Email: np.ht@virgin.net

6th June 2003



CONTENTS

| | | |
|-----------|--|-----------|
| 1 | INTRODUCTION AND LOCATION | 4 |
| 2 | PREVIOUS WORK..... | 4 |
| 3 | AIMS AND METHODOLOGY | 6 |
| 3.2 | DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT | 6 |
| 3.3 | VISUAL SITE INSPECTION | 6 |
| 3.4 | FIELD EVALUATION..... | 6 |
| 4. | HISTORICAL BACKGROUND..... | 7 |
| 5 | RESULTS..... | 9 |
| 5.4 | TRENCH 1..... | 9 |
| 5.5 | TRENCH 2..... | 9 |
| 5.6 | TRENCH 3..... | 9 |
| 5.7 | TRENCH 4..... | 10 |
| 5.8 | TRENCH 5..... | 10 |
| 5.9 | TRENCH 6..... | 10 |
| 5.10 | TRENCH 7..... | 10 |
| 5.11 | TRENCH 8..... | 10 |
| 5.12 | TRENCH 9..... | 11 |
| 6 | THE FINDS | 11 |
| 7 | CONCLUSIONS | 11 |
| 8 | BIBLIOGRAPHY | 12 |
| | PRIMARY SOURCES | 12 |
| | AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS | 12 |
| | SECONDARY SOURCES | 12 |
| | APPENDIX | 13 |

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

| | | |
|----------|---|----------|
| Figure 1 | Site location | 5 |
| Figure 2 | Location of trenches | 8 |
| Figure 3 | Ordnance Survey 1 st Edition | Appendix |
| Figure 4 | Ordnance Survey 2 nd Edition | Appendix |
| Figure 5 | Ordnance Survey 3 rd Edition | Appendix |
| Figure 6 | Ordnance Survey 1979 Edition | Appendix |

LIST OF PLATES

| | | |
|---------|--|----------|
| Plate 1 | Aerial Photograph of the site showing a square enclosure | Appendix |
| Plate 2 | General Overview of the site looking south | Appendix |
| Plate 3 | RAF aerial photograph of 14 Maintenance Unit (14MU) | Appendix |

LIST OF TABLES

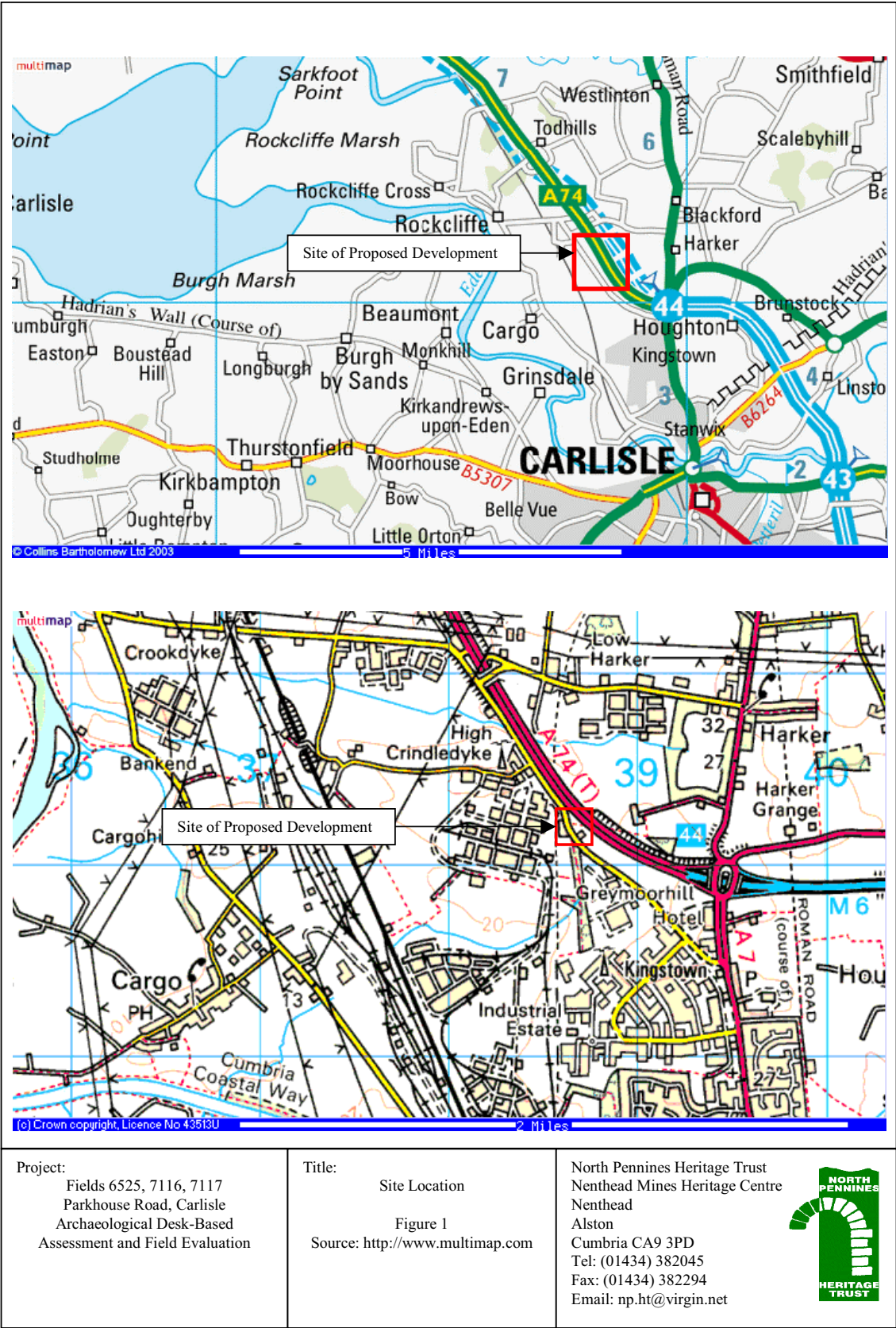
| | | |
|---------|--|----------|
| Table 1 | Inventory of Sites, Monuments and Finds held in the County SMR | Appendix |
|---------|--|----------|

1 INTRODUCTION AND LOCATION

- 1.1 In May 2003 North Pennines Heritage Trust was commissioned by Mrs Margaret Hardy of Taylor and Hardy Ltd, acting on behalf of Ken Hope Ltd, to undertake the pre-determination archaeological works at fields 6525, 7116 and 7117 at Parkhouse Road, Carlisle, Cumbria (Planning Application Reference No. 1/03/0266). This consisted of a desk based assessment and field evaluation. This report fulfils the brief prepared by Cumbria County Council Archaeology Service (May 2003).
- 1.2 Parkhouse Road is situated to the north of Carlisle, close to the A74 Carlisle-Glasgow road (NY 38667 60249). It is located within a region known to produce Iron Age, Romano British and Anglian material. The site is located adjacent to the eastern side of Parkhouse Road, opposite the Gallo Rosso restaurant and residential housing. The site is bordered to the north by the former Arthuret railway and to the east by the modern A74. The area is shown in Figure 1.
- 1.3 Field 6525 consists of an area of open grassland 0.761 hectares. Fields 7116 and 7117 contain a number of chicken sheds and abandoned farm equipment.
- 1.4 The purpose of the fieldwork was to evaluate the site in order to define the presence or absence of archaeological remains. The fieldwork was undertaken in a single phase of three days duration. Archaeological deposits were excavated in plan and, where appropriate, in section, and were recorded in order to achieve an understanding of their nature, extent, depth and state of preservation. Any artefactual material was collected to facilitate the interpretation and date of the archaeological features. No paleo-environmental material was encountered during the evaluation.
- 1.5 The area consists of a gently undulating landscape approximately 26.80 m AOD to the north, gently falling to a height of 26.15 m to the south. The geology of the region consists of mixed Devensian boulder clay and sand overlain by the brown loamy earths of the Clifton Series.

2 PREVIOUS WORK

- 2.1 No previous archaeological work has been undertaken on the site.
- 2.2 In 1817 a pure gold ring was found while levelling an old fence on Greymoor Hill, Kingmoor. Reported in the Carlisle Patriot the ring had inscribed Runic characters inside and out. This has been interpreted as Anglian in date and acted as a dedication and/or charm against fever and leprosy (SMR No. 465). No associated settlement is known from the area. Greymoor Hill is mentioned in Donald's 1774 map of the area as Grimmoor Hill, which could be a derivative of *Grima* and indicate a pre-Norman origin.
- 2.3 A Denarius of Trajan (AD 98-117) was found at the RAF Maintenance Unit, High Crindledike (SMR No. 18935, CWAAS 86:256). No further work has been undertaken and no associated settlement is known from the immediate area.



3 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 The work undertaken consisted of a desk-based assessment, visual site inspection and field evaluation.

3.2 Desk-Based Assessment

3.2.1 This involved the consultation of the County Sites and Monuments Record in Kendal and County Record Office, Carlisle in the first instance. This included the assessment of all readily available primary and secondary documentary and cartographic material and all available aerial photographs. To achieve as fully an understanding as possible regarding the nature of the geographical, topographical, archaeological and historical context of the site.

3.2.3 The desk-based assessment was undertaken in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments* (IFA 1994).

3.3 Visual Site Inspection

3.3.1 A visual site inspection was undertaken by the author on 27th May 2003. This was in order to note any surface features of potential archaeological interest and to identify any potential hazards to health or constraints upon archaeological work, such as the presence of live services, Tree Preservation Orders or problems of access to the site.

3.3.2 It was decided that owing to the nature of the terrain a metal detector survey was not applicable. This decision was based on the presence of long grass within field 6525 and debris contained within fields 7116 and 7117 greatly reducing the efficacy of metal detecting.

3.4 Field Evaluation

3.4.1 The field evaluation consisted of the excavation of a series of linear trial trenches in order to produce a predictive model of surviving archaeological remains detailing zones of relevant importance against known development proposals.

3.4.2 In summary, the main objectives of the excavation were:

- To establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these where they are observed.
- To establish the character of those features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces.
- To recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes.
- To recover paleoenvironmental material where it survives in order to understand site and landscape formation processes.

- 3.4.3 Each trench was mechanically excavated by a JCB 3CX excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket to the top of archaeological deposits, or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Each trench was then manually cleaned and all features investigated and recorded according to the North Pennines Heritage Trust standard procedure as set out in the Trusts Excavation Manual. Photography was undertaken using a Canon EOS 100 Single Lens Reflex (SLR) manual camera. A photographic record was made using 200 ISO colour print film.
- 3.4.4 All work will be undertaken in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (IFA 1994).

4. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In the mid 19th century the site formed part of an agricultural landscape of regularly spaced, enclosed fields. Given the rapid nature of the desk-based assessment, no evidence of pre-enclosure settlement and agricultural activity has been found. Thomas Donald's 1774 map of the area refers to Hen Moss, Burnt Hill, Greers Hill in addition to neighbouring High Crindledike and Harker, although these are likely to surround the site at Parkhouse. On the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition (1865) there is a small settlement centred around the Park House Hotel, referred to in parenthesis as Grey Wiganthorpe.
- 4.2 West of the Park House Hotel, travelling in a north-south direction lies the Arthuret railway line (now dismantled). The line of this railway is visible from aerial photographs (RXB 3406, 13 and 16) and can be seen on the ground, although much of the site is now overgrown with trees.
- 4.3 Since 1930 the site and several fields east and west were the property of the Ministry of Defence, who built a Royal Air Force (RAF) Maintenance Unit, which can still be seen surviving east and west of the modern A74 as Kingmoor Business Park. Not visible on Ordnance Survey maps, a World War II RAF field hospital was constructed, possibly within field 6525. Constructed from pre-fabricated material and built upon shallow trench foundations, it is only because they are within living memory that knowledge of the building exists. However, aerial photographic evidence (RAF 6483) suggests the continued agricultural use of fields 6525, 7116 and 7117 as late as 1964. In the 1970s the field boundary dividing 6525 and 7117 was removed during the construction of the A74 Carlisle-Glasgow dual carriageway. Plate 1 clearly shows the remains of this boundary overlain by a square enclosure which most likely represents a construction compound associated with the creation of the A74.
- 4.4 Since the 1950s field 6525 has been ploughed several times, although 7116 and 7117 have become overgrown with nettles and have been used for the storage of redundant agricultural machines and chicken sheds.



5 RESULTS

5.1 The evaluation was undertaken by a team of professional field archaeologists directed in the field by Chris Jones, BA, MA, PIFA, North Pennines Heritage Trust Assistant Archaeologist. He was assisted by Patricia Crompton, JRC Jones and Daniel Miller.

5.2 A total of nine linear trial trenches were excavated, each measuring 20 m x 1.5 m, providing a total area of 30 m².

5.3 All references to cardinal directions refer to site grid north.

5.4 Trench 1

5.4.1 Trench 1 was located at the north end of field 6525, close to the railway bridge that crosses the dismantled Arthuret railway and the modern A74, and was oriented north-south. The natural substrate (111) was encountered at a depth of 1.0 m, sealed beneath a thick layer of made ground consisting of a mixed deposit containing redeposited natural sand and clay (102). This was in turn sealed by a layer of loamy brown topsoil (100) approximately 30 cm thick.

5.4.2 A large, sub-oval pit was observed at the south end of the trench measuring approximately 1.5 m x 0.5 m. Excavation of this pit was suspended when this rapidly became flooded. The nature of the pit and its contents suggest a wholly late 20th century date.

5.5 Trench 2

5.5.1 Trench 2 was located to the south of trench 1, within field 6525 and was orientated broadly east-west. Natural substrate (111) was encountered at a depth of 0.45 m sealed beneath topsoil layer (100). No archaeological features were observed within this trench.

5.6 Trench 3

5.6.1 Trench 3 was located at the west end of field 6525 and was oriented broadly north-south. Natural substrate (111) was encountered at a depth of 0.45 m sealed beneath topsoil layer (100). In addition to 19th century horseshoe ceramic field drains, a number of features worthy of note were observed within this trench. A shallow linear ditch (107) was observed at the north end of the trench. Aligned north-east – south-west this feature has a slightly concave base with gradually sloping sides, the western side shallower than the eastern side. This has similarities with linear features (109) and (115), which are oriented north-west – south-east. It is possible that these form the right angle of a corner of a temporary structure.

5.6.2 A small, sub-oval pit was also observed within trench 3 (112). Measuring approximately 1.50 m x 0.75 m and 0.40 m deep, this pit had gradually sloping sides approximately 45° and a slightly concave base. Contained within this pit was a base shard from a green glass wine bottle of 20th century date.

5.7 Trench 4

- 5.7.1 Trench 4 was located centrally within field 6525 and oriented north-south. Natural substrate (111) was encountered at a depth of 0.55 m sealed by topsoil (100). No anthropogenic features were observed within this trench.

5.8 Trench 5

- 5.8.1 Trench 5 was located at the south end of field 6525 and oriented east-west. Natural substrate (111) was encountered at a depth of 0.38 m. No anthropogenic features were observed within this trench.

5.9 Trench 6

- 5.9.1 Trench 6 was located at the north end of field 7117 and was excavated as a 5 m x 5m square trench in order to surmount problems of access to this field and provide a feasible sample. Natural substrate (111) was encountered at a depth of approximately 0.45 m sealed beneath topsoil (100). In addition to a field drain and tree bole observed within this trench, a post-hole (143) was observed and excavated. This consisted of a small sub-circular hole approximately 35 cm in diameter and 30 cm deep. No anthropogenic material was derived from its fill (144). It is likely that this forms a gatepost in line with an existing gatepost to the east of the trench.

5.10 Trench 7

- 5.10.1 Trench 7 was located at the north-east end of field 7117 and was oriented approximately east-west. Natural substrate (111) was encountered at a depth of 0.45 m sealed beneath topsoil (100). A linear cut feature approximately 0.20 m wide was observed running across the length of the trench. This feature exhibited the characteristics of a modern cable trench and remained unexcavated for health and safety reasons. This trench cut an irregular feature centrally positioned within this trench which on partial excavation was interpreted as a tree bole. No other anthropogenic features were observed within this trench.

5.11 Trench 8

- 5.11.1 Trench 8 was located at the south-east end of field 7117 and was oriented east-west to north-east – south-west, forming a slight dog-leg. This trench was so shaped in order to fully evaluate a 30m² base area. Two linear features were observed within this trench. Feature (130) consisted of a broad, shallow linear ditch approximately 0.70 m x 1.50 m and 0.20 m deep and oriented north-south. No anthropogenic material was recovered from its principal deposit (131) which consisted of a rich black loamy silt. Feature (133) consisted of a narrow, deep linear ditch approximately 0.30 m x 1.50 m and 0.40 m deep which was oriented north-west – south-east. No anthropogenic material was recovered from its fill (134), which consisted of a light grey silty clay. The differences between the deposits contained within each linear feature suggest they may serve a similar function as drainage ditches at different stages in time. Oral evidence from the

landowner suggests numerous drainage ditches were excavated throughout fields 6525, 7116 and 7117 at various times.

5.12 Trench 9

- 5.12.1 Trench 9 was located at the east end of field 7116 and oriented north-south. In addition to the presence of field drains which were observed within this trench, two sub-circular pits or postholes were also observed. Feature (140) clearly cut the field drain which can be attributed to the late 19th/early 20th century, and feature (136) can be observed a short distance away. Each exhibited similar characteristics, being sub-circular in plan, slightly concave at the base with gradually sloping sides, each measure approximately 0.75 m in diameter. No anthropogenic material was recovered from within any of the deposits to facilitate interpretation, although they are almost certainly of 20th century date.

6 THE FINDS

- 6.1 The finds recovered from secure contexts were all of early-late 20th century in date. These include a base shard from a green glass wine bottle, several corroded metal fragments of unknown function, the remains of a large pneumatic tyre and a small fragment of unidentified ceramic building material. None of these finds were retained.

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 No significant surviving archaeological features were observed within any of the trenches excavated within fields 6525, 7116 and 7117. This was largely due to the agricultural history of the site which has led to the excavation of a number of field drains. Despite the lack of pre-enclosure evidence it is likely that the area remained under cultivation for a considerable period of time.
- 7.2 The presence of shallow linear foundations within trench 3 suggest the possible remains of a square enclosure visible from aerial photographs. There is insufficient evidence, however, to support the suggestion that this was the site of a RAF isolation hospital. Evidence from an aerial photograph dated 1964 shows no visible evidence of such an enclosure. Although all interpretations are tentative when faced with a lack of evidence, it is likely that the enclosure, which clearly overlies a field boundary visible on the Ordnance Survey 3rd Edition (1925) and still visible on the 1964 aerial photograph, was associated with the creation of the A74 Carlisle-Glasgow dual carriageway. It is highly unlikely that better preserved remains of such temporary structures survive elsewhere in the field, however.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Primary Sources

Thomas Donald (1774) Historic Map of Cumberland. Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society 2002:XV

Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1865. HMSO © Crown Copyright

Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 1901. HMSO © Crown Copyright

Ordnance Survey 3rd Edition 1925. HMSO © Crown Copyright

Ordnance Survey 5th Edition 1979. HMSO © Crown Copyright

Aerial Photographs

CCAS SMR RXB 3406, 13. Arthuret Railway

CCAS SMR RXB 3406,16. Arthuret Railway

RAF 6483 (1964) 14MU

Secondary Sources

English Heritage (1991) *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*. London: English Heritage.

Giecco, F.O. (2001) *North Pennines Heritage Trust Excavation Manual*. Unpublished: North Pennines Heritage Trust.

IFA (1994) *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments*. Reading: Institute of Field Archaeologists.

IFA (1994) *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*. Reading: Institute of Field Archaeologists.

Jones, C.J. (2003) *Project Design for an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and Field Evaluation of Fields 6525, 7116 and 7117, Parkhouse Road, Carlisle*. Unpublished Project Design. North Pennines Heritage Trust.

Nicolson, J. and Burn, R. (1777; Rev. Ed. 1976) *The History and Antiquities of the Counties of Cumberland and Westmorland. Volume I*. E.P. Publishing Limited.

Oldaker, R.W. (1996) *Support in the Sky: A History of No 14 Maintenance Unit, Royal Air Force Carlisle*. Royal Air Force.

APPENDIX



Plate 1: (Above) Aerial Photograph of the site, showing a square structure at the photo centre.
Source: <http://www.multimap.com>
Plate 2: (Below) General Overview of the site, viewed from the north. (Photo: C.Jones)

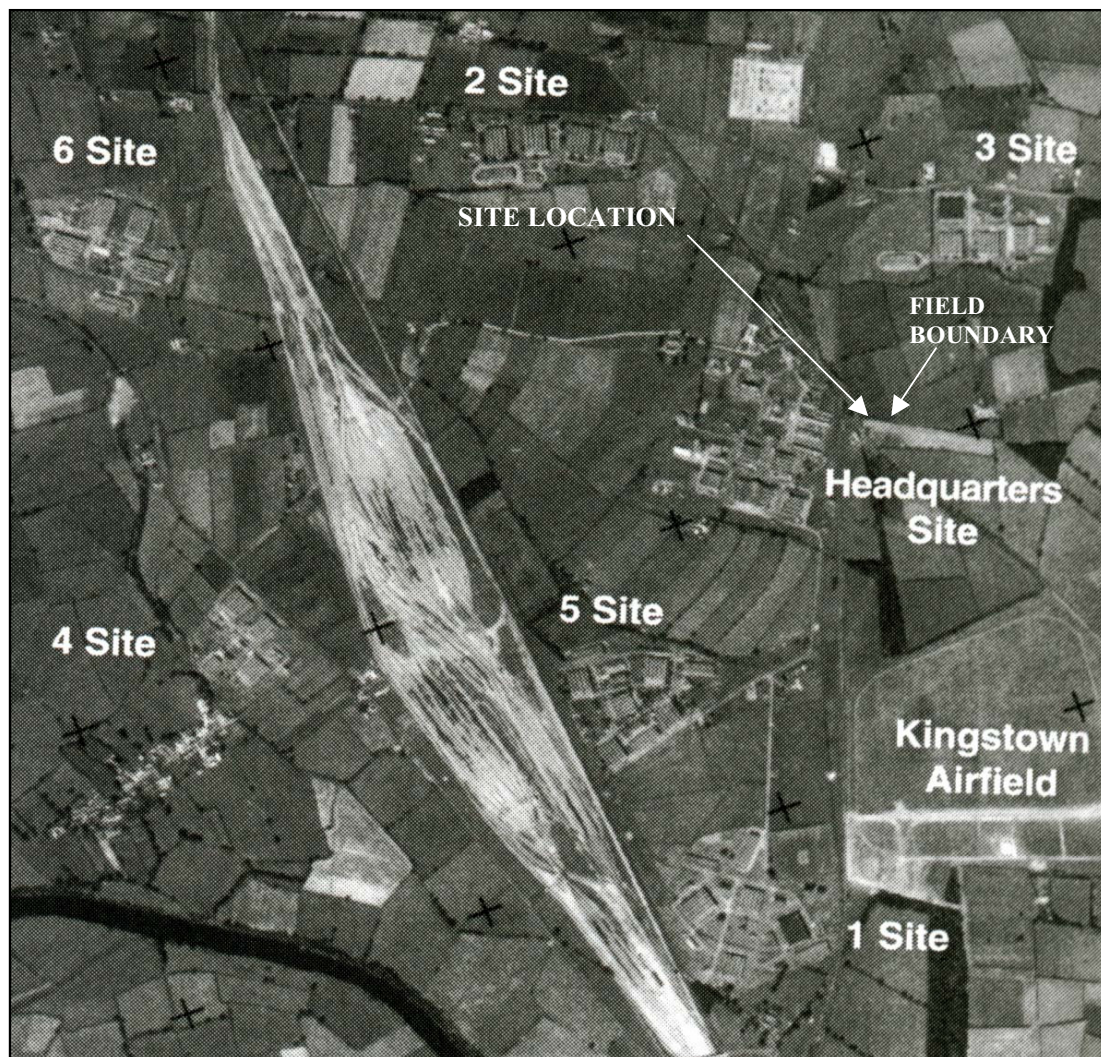


Plate 3: RAF Aerial Photograph of 14 Maintenance Unit (14MU) taken in 1964. RAF 6483. © Crown Copyright

Table 1: Catalogue of Sites, Monuments and Findspots held in the County SMR

| SMR NO. | Description | Scheduled |
|----------------|---|------------------|
| 465 | Greymoor Hill, Carlisle, Finger Ring Find | |
| 10101 | Harker Railway Station, Rockcliffe | |
| 10301 | Harker Pump | |
| 10302 | Harker Pump | |
| 18935 | Roman Coin, Carlisle RAF Maintenance Unit, High Crindledike | |
| 12430 | Arthuret Dismantled Railway | |