



Archaeology Monitoring Visit

October 2007

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On behalf of The Wild Ennerdale Partnership

Introduction

The Ennerdale Archaeology Management Plan identifies 14 Principal Sites which are monitored on a seven year cycle, effectively two sites per year.

The first monitoring visit was made by Gareth Browning (Forestry Commission Forester) and Jamie Lund (National Trust Archaeologist) on the 18th October 2007. The visit looked at EFIII and IV Smithy Beck Long House Group and EFVIII, EFIX, EF X and EFXI Gillerthwaite Settlements.

The visit was carried out in dry, sunny weather and took approximately five hours to complete. The monitoring survey was carried out on foot and the current state of each feature recorded and recommendations made as a series of notes as presented in table 1 . In addition 47 photos were taken which are made available as a separate presentation.

Table 1 Inspection Notes

Site Name	Site reference	Management record
Smithy Beck Long House Group	EF III (sites 43, 44, 45, 46, 47 and 48)	<p>18/10/07</p> <p><i>Current management prescriptions agreed as appropriate, although strimming is currently undertaken on monthly rather than annual basis in order to eradicate bracken.</i></p> <p>All sites appeared clear of bracken as a consequence of strimming, the archaeology was more clear than at any time in the recent past.</p> <p><i>Additional recommendations:</i></p> <p>Site 43 – push spruce back from western edge of sheepfold to avoid feature being encroached upon as trees mature.</p> <p>Site 44 – remove two large spruces from the western edge of the site, dropping them away from the archaeology and leaving stumps to rot away in-situ.</p> <p>Site 47 – remove semi-mature rowan.</p> <p>Sites 45, 46 and 48 – continue current management.</p>
Smithy Beck Long House Group	EF IV (sites 292, 293, 294, 295, 296 and 297)	<p>18/10/07</p> <p><i>Current management prescriptions suggest no active management as there has been only limited bracken and heather creep onto this site over the last 40 years.</i></p> <p>Sites 294 and 295 were clearly visible, with little bracken and heather over parts of the site.</p> <p>Sites 292 and 293 had more bracken, although it was agreed that it was not critical to maintain this washfold and bield as visible features.</p> <p>Site 296 was partially hidden by bracken, while site 297 was almost completely hidden and its dimensions unclear.</p> <p><i>Additional recommendations:</i></p> <p>Sites 292 and 293 – No active management.</p> <p>Site 294 and 295 – Remove regeneration from 294. The significance of both features is such that it would be highly desirable to maintain these features as visible. However, the extremely slow creep of bracken and heather onto these sites together with their remoteness means that regular strimming would not be appropriate. It was agreed that</p>

		<p>both sites could be given a single strimming in 2008 to see the effect and that opportunities to employ volunteers to assist with vegetation clearance in the future would be explored.</p> <p>Site 296 and 297 – Remove regeneration from 296. It was agreed that both sites could be given a single strimming in 2008 to see the effect and after wards decide on a course of management. It is again possible that opportunities might exist to employ volunteers to assist with vegetation clearance in the future.</p>
Gillertwaite Settlement	EF VIII (sites 304, 305, 306, 308, 309, 310 and 311)	<p>18/10/07</p> <p><i>Current management prescriptions agreed as appropriate.</i></p> <p>Site 304 – This site remains in close planted conifer. The under story is clear and thus the archaeology easy to see.</p> <p>Site 305 – This site remains in close planted conifer, although the site is difficult to see due to a thick covering of long grasses. The extent of the site can be determined with the aid of a survey plan.</p> <p>Site 306 – Site of feature difficult to find as it is hidden under dense regeneration of spruce.</p> <p>Site 308 – This site remains in close planted conifer, although the site is difficult to see due to a thick covering of long grasses.</p> <p>Site 309, 310 and 311 - These sites remains in close planted conifer, although the site is difficult to see due to a thick covering of long grasses.</p> <p><i>Additional recommendations:</i></p> <p>Site 304 – Mature trees should be removed from the walls and internal space of this feature during the next thinning programme. Monitoring should ensure that the nearby water course does not shift to flow through the site.</p> <p>Site 305 – Regeneration to be removed from within 2m of visible remains .</p> <p>Site 306 – Young spruce are currently too small to effectively remove from the site. These trees should be allowed to increase in height before being removed.</p> <p>Site 308 – Remove regeneration within 2m distance of visible remains.</p> <p>Site 309, 10 and 311 – Remove regeneration</p>

		within 2m distance of visible remains.
Gillerthwaite Settlement	EF IX	18/10/07 Current management prescriptions agreed as appropriate. This extensive site was inspected from a distance and appeared to be in an area of dense bracken growth. Additional recommendations: Continue monitoring.
Gillerthwaite Settlement	EF X	18/10/07 Current management prescriptions agreed as appropriate. Sites 344, 345 and 346 – All sites was entirely lost in thick bracken. Additional recommendations: Sites 344, 345 and 346 – All sites require some sort of management to try and control the dense bracken that covers the site. The issue of the spread of bracken onto the significant archaeological features in this area should be discussed with the National Trust warden to see if anything can be done in terms of either treatment or grazing. A longer term approach to managing this area should be discussed within the partnership in the future. Site 345 - Remove regeneration from the fabric of the feature and within 2m of visible remains.
Gillerthwaite Settlement	EF X1a (site 353)	18/10/07 Current management prescriptions agreed as appropriate. Site 353 – Largely free of bracken, although a bank of bracken is developing on the south-east side of the features. Additional recommendations: Site 353 – Bracken spread should be monitored annually, if bracken spreads will need to included in similar discussion as for EFX. Remove tree regeneration within 2m distance of visible remains.
Gillerthwaite Settlement	EF X1b	18/10/07 Current management prescriptions agreed as appropriate. Largely free of bracken. A combination of intermittent archaeological remains and extensive regeneration of young trees makes this site hard to find on the ground. Additional recommendations: Remove regeneration within 2m distance of

		enclosure bank and associated cairnfield.
Gillertwaite Settlement	EF XIc (sites 360 and 370)	<p>18/10/07</p> <p><i>Current management prescriptions agreed as appropriate.</i></p> <p>Site 360 – The site was clear of bracken and long grass as a consequence of strimming, the archaeology was more clear that at any time since the removal of close planted conifer trees. Site 370 is yet to be strimmed and continues to be difficult to see, partially due to the ephemeral nature of the archaeology.</p> <p><i>Additional recommendations:</i></p> <p>Site 360 - Continue current management.</p> <p>Site 370 – Site to be strimmed in 2008 to define the extent of the archaeology and afterwards managed with site 360. If after strimming the archaeology is still difficult to see then revert to no strimming policy, however photograph to record best visibility after strimming. Remove regeneration within 2m distance of visible features.</p>
Gillertwaite Settlement	EF XIId	<p>18/10/07</p> <p><i>Current management prescriptions agreed as appropriate.</i></p> <p>Sites appeared clear of bracken. Main features were clearly visible following one off operation to remove tree regeneration.</p> <p><i>Additional recommendations:</i></p> <p>None required.</p>