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No.61, August 2026

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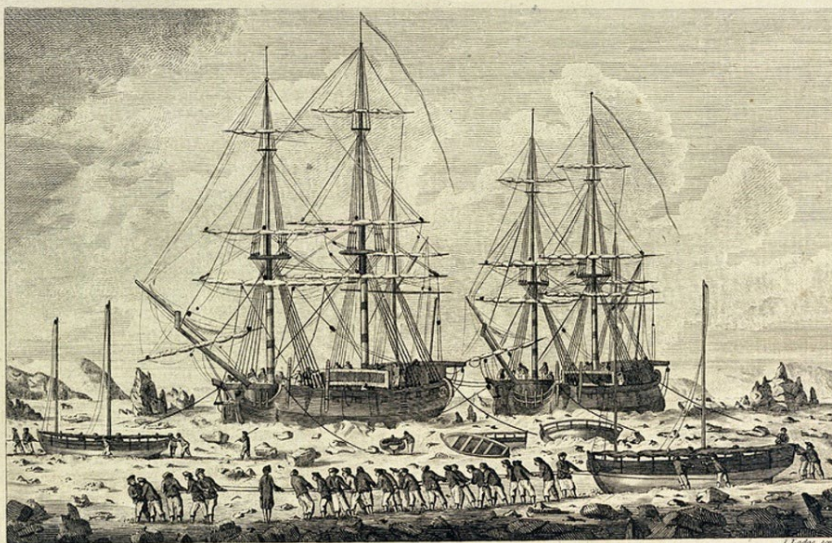
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Forthcoming Talk, 10 September

'In search of Arctic Wonders: Cumbria and the Arctic in the 18th and 19th Centuries'. Dr Rob David will range widely over Arctic exploration investigating the role of Skeffington Lutwidge of Holmrook Hall in the North Polar Expedition of 1773, the adventures of the Yellow Earl, the roles of Sir John Barrow in promoting Arctic exploration while at the Admiralty, and of Sir John Richardson and Sir John Franklin in their search for the North-West Passage, as well as other Cumbrians involved in amazing adventures in the Arctic.

Dr Rob David is the author of *The Arctic in the British Imagination*, Manchester University Press, 2000.



RACE-HORSE and CARCASS inclosed in the ICE, Aug. 7, 1773.

Our future programme 2026

10 Sep 2026	'In search of Arctic Wonders: Cumbria and the Arctic in the 18th and 19th Centuries'.	Dr Rob David
22-25 Sep 2026	Member's study week at Cockermouth Castle Archives	Contact Derek Denman
19 Nov 2026	'A History of Slate Quarrying in The Lake District'.	Mark Hatton

Talks are held at 7.30 pm in the Yew Tree Hall in Lorton, and are included in membership. Visitors welcome, £4 cash payable at the door, including refreshments. Talks are also streamed live to members using Zoom but are not recorded. Other activities may be added.

Officers and Committee 2026/7

President: Professor Angus Winchester Financial Examiner: Dr Ian Shaw

Dr Derek Denman <i>Chair Wanderer, archives</i>	01900 829097 <i>derekdenman@btinternet.com</i>	Charles Lambrick <i>Vice-chair,</i>	<i>charleslambrick@btinternet.com</i>
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Mary Baker <i>Treasurer, Membership</i>	<i>ldflhs.subs@gmail.com</i>	Sheena Denwood Sharon Arrowsmith	

Diary dates,

10 October 2026, Cumbria Local History Federation, Annual Convention and AGM 'Aspects of life in 18th Century Cumbria', 10:00 to 15:40. Various speakers. North Lakes Hotel, Clifford Road, Penrith. £35 to include lunch and refreshments. <https://www.clhf.org.uk/>

12 October 2026, Professor Angus Winchester will present 'Common Ground: the History of Common Land', at the Kirkgate Centre, Cockermouth, 6pm. To be confirmed. Information and Tickets : <https://kirkgateartsandheritage.org.uk/>

The **next issue** of the *Wanderer* will be published on 1 November 2026. Please send any items to the Editor, Derek Denman, by 1 October.

The *Wanderer* is published by the Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society, 19 Low Road Close, Cockermouth CA13 0GU.

<http://derwentfells.com> <https://facebook.com/Lortonlocalhistorysociety>
L&DFLHS Archive: <https://derwentfells.org.uk>

Supporting the Victoria County History volume for the Cockermouth district.

In previous issues we have reported that our President, Professor Angus Winchester, has proposed to write the Cockermouth Volume of the Victoria County History (VCH), and that members of the Society will have the opportunity to assist Angus in his research. Angus's proposal has now been accepted by the Cumbria County History Trust (CCHT), the body which manages and provides the resources for the work, and a start should be made in the Autumn. It will take several years to complete the research, which will eventually be published as one of the VCH's distinctive 'big red books'.

Society members are already working on the project, in that our programme to digitise a part of the Leconfield archive at Cockermouth Castle has been essential in making available a major source of historical records. During our week in April we extended the area of our digitisation project to include those places north of the Derwent which were not in the Society's core area, including Broughton, Papcastle, Bridekirk and Isel. The figure on page 4 shows the territory which will be covered by the Cockermouth volume. The Society will join with other interested groups, mainly in Cockermouth, to organise support for Angus in, gathering, ordering, and analysing historical information.

The Society and its members have been engaged with the Victoria County History project for many years, with the Society being a founder member of CCHT. Society members contributed some twenty of the short records of local VCH places called the *Jubilee Digests* for the Diamond Jubilee of the late Queen Elizabeth, which now form part of *Cumbria: An Historical Gazetteer*, edited by Angus Winchester.

Many members will not be familiar with the Victoria County History, and some explanation may be useful. Historians never write 'the' history of a place, but only 'a' history – recognising that there can be many histories of, say, Cockermouth. However, 'the' Victoria County History refers to the particular format and template which must be followed to select and order the content in the same, defined, way for every place. It is factual and derived from primary historical sources, providing written entries for each place in the style of an encyclopaedia. It is rather similar in form to the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, ODNB, for significant people. The VCH histories provide a unified topographical resource for historians, as well as being valuable factual histories.

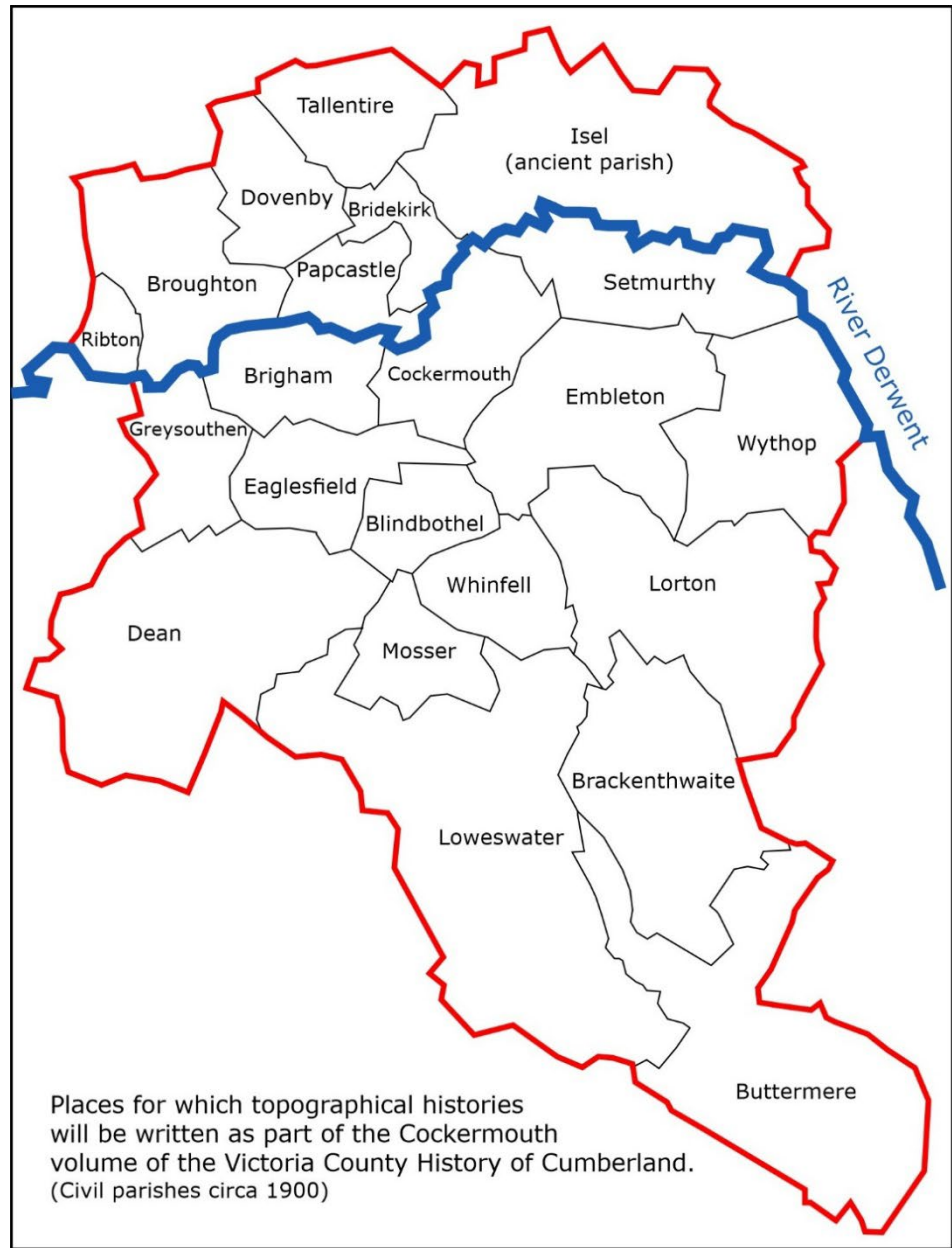
The Victoria County History project was started in 1898 and dedicated to Queen Victoria, though the histories do not stop there but are carried on to the time of writing. The histories are organised by historical counties, rather than following changes in local government, which means that the Cockermouth volume will be part of Cumberland, which lasted for some 850 years, and not part of a Cumbria volume, nor the modern Cumberland, from which Penrith has been removed.

Two county-wide volumes were written for Cumberland in 1901 and 1905, edited by Rev. James Wilson. I have a copy of each which members may borrow. However, work on the topographical volumes, such as Cockermouth, was not started until recently, following the creation of the Cumbria County History Trust. The topographical volumes will contain separate and self-contained articles for places in historical Cumberland, mostly based on civil parishes as they existed around 1900.

For general information about the Victoria County History please see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victoria_County_History

For the Cumbria project please see <https://www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk/>

Derek Denman



Message from the Chair

The new Committee of the Society met on 30 June, and naturally our first task was to decide how to organise ourselves without Andrew Chamberlain, who has now stood down as Chair after moving to Greystoke. But it is largely due to Andrew that we now have a committee of ten, and that the Society is in a much better position than when he joined us.

In addition to chairing the meetings, Andrew has been very active in all of our members' events, organising and enthusiastically participating in visits and, as the photograph shows, taking all necessary steps to digitise rather large old maps.

Fortunately, Andrew will continue as a member, and so his inspiration will not be lost from our activities. However, your new Chair first became Chair in 2000, and is now more a part of local history than a future leader of its study, certainly not for more than two years. So the main task will be to engage a new Andrew, or Andrea, or preferably both, to take the Society forward, in new ways.

While a local history society, such as ours, is mainly engaged in arranging membership events, such as educational and enjoyable talks and visits, it should also be measured by its output. Over the years we have built a fine record and a large archive of work. At this time we are engaged in running a particularly important and quite demanding project, to digitise and make available a major part of the Leconfield archive at Cockermouth Castle. Few local societies could manage and resource such a project, though we have now been joined and strengthened by South West Cumbria Historical and Archaeological Society. And from that digitisation has come the feasibility of writing the Cockermouth volume of the Victoria County History, which will be



authored by the Society's President, Professor Angus Winchester. We thank our volunteers for making this possible.

When I speak of output, then obviously I include the *Wanderer* and its predecessors, which go back to the first Newsletter, edited by the late Michael Grieve, and starting in January 1994. They are all available online, providing a large and varied body of work on the local history of our area, and beyond.

Wearing my other hat as editor of the *Wanderer*, it has been very pleasing over the past few years to receive reports and articles from many different and new people. So much so, that I find that the next issue in November is probably already full without my needing to write anything. Our thanks go to the past, present, and future contributors.

Derek

Meeting Reports

Fourth Study Week at Cockermouth Castle, 14-17 April

The fourth Study Week in the archives of the Leconfield Estate held at Cockermouth Castle took place in mid-April, by kind permission of Lord Egremont. Once again, the principal purpose was to photograph further documents held there in order to add them to the Society's existing Digital Archive of Leconfield Sources ('DALS').

On this occasion, during the four days made available, in total ten Society members participated in the photographic exercise, and they were joined by ten members of the South West Cumbria Historical and Archaeological Society. It was very pleasing for L&DFDLHS members to begin to get to know members of another local history society and to show them the ropes for producing digital images of archive documents. The objective for SWCHAS members was to begin photographing documents relating to the Barony of Egremont.

On one of the study days we were joined by Professor Angus Winchester, the Society's President. He is in the very early stages of undertaking research for writing the Cockermouth volume of the Victoria County History of Cumbria. The decision to write the VCH

Cockermouth volume was contingent upon the availability of the Society's digitisation of parts of the Leconfield archive, and in turn the extension of the VCH volume's coverage to the north of the Derwent (see page 4) has resulted in the extension of the digitisation, and of its programme. It

is good to see our work being used in such an important publication.

In all some 13,600 images were taken by both societies during the Study Week. These have since been processed and organised for the archive.

During the week, images of particularly significant documents which are awkward to photograph (e.g. court rolls) were taken on behalf of the Leconfield Estate by professional digitisation technician, George Platt. His images, when available, will be integrated into the fourth issue of the DALS archive, in the Autumn.

We have now heard that the archive will be available to us for a fifth study week, 22-25 September. We intend that society members will work primarily to complete the bulk copying covering Cockermouth and Allerdale material for VCH Cockermouth, while SWCHAS members will continue with the Egremont barony.

Charles Lambrick

**An illustration from Bernard Bradbury's
*Cockermouth in Pictures, 3, the Castle.***

(88) The flag tower (c.1400) was left intact in 1649 and used for manorial courts and audits. It is 31 feet square, of three storeys, with a stair from the E curtain (top L) to the walk round the pitched roof. Two floors house the estate records from the 15C onwards - (89) shows a small section.



'Carlisle Castle: A Border Fortress through Time', 14 May 2026

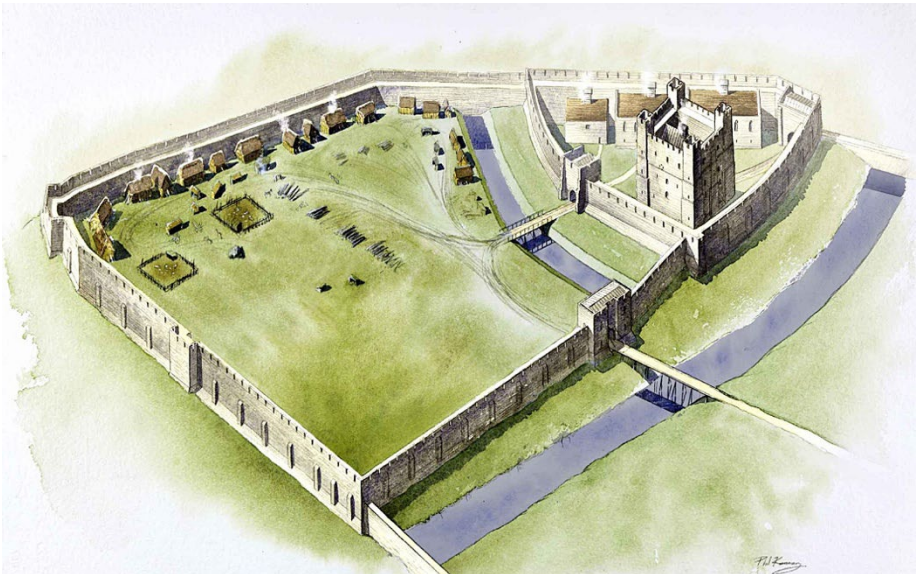
It was a pleasure to welcome back Dr Maksymilian Loth-Hill who has previously addressed us on the Dacre family and the Border Reivers. He is an Honorary Fellow of Durham University and in his day-job is a cultural historian of modern East-Central Europe, but in his leisure time he researches and lectures on Local History. He is well placed to talk about the castle as he worked there for ten years up to 2019.

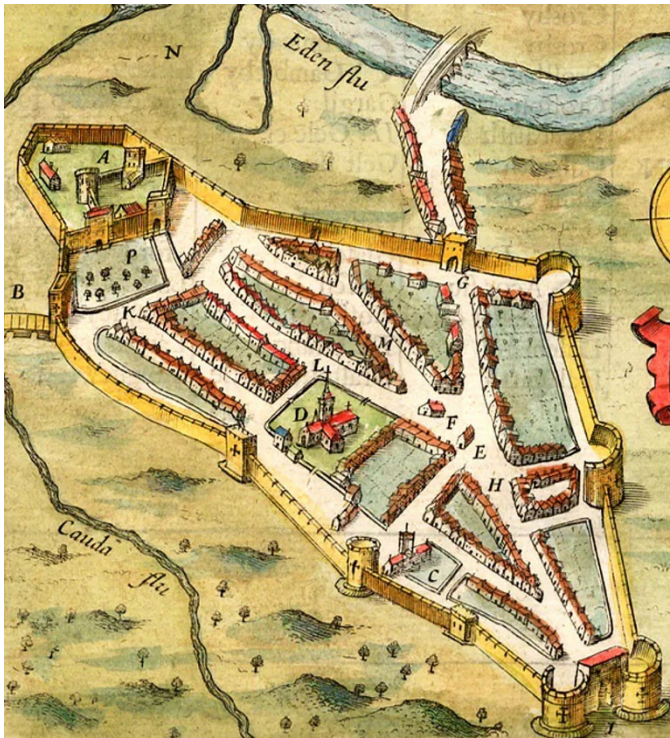
Carlisle Castle is familiar to most of us, highly visible when approaching Carlisle from the west, but its history is not so familiar. Dr Loth-Hill gave us an extensive account including its rich cast of characters and its many periods under siege.

Carlisle sits on the boundary of lands which have long been contested - between the area of Roman control and the 'barbarians' to the north, and later,

between England and Scotland. For that reason, the site has played a military role for over 2,000 years, though little is known about the period between the end of Roman rule and the start of Norman Rule. The Castle owes its position to the Roman Fort of Luguvalium and was probably constructed as a wooden, motte and bailey fort when William II (Rufus) reached these parts in 1092, following the Norman Conquest. The oldest surviving part of the castle as we know it is the keep, constructed over a period of 30 years, begun in the 1120s by Henry I. When Henry died in 1135, he left no male heir and the throne was contested between his daughter Matilda and a cousin who became king Stephen. This was a period of civil war known as the Anarchy and presented an opportunity for Scotland's king David I to step in and seize control of Carlisle and the northern counties. He completed the building of the

Sketch of the castle and its bailey showing the curtain wall and the keep at its original height. Probably early 14th century after construction of the great hall, but before the royal tower in the SE corner of the inner bailey.





A plan of Carlisle showing the castle, the city walls and the citadel in the south. It is undated but probably mid 16th century. Possibly not very accurately drawn.

gates to them. However, the castle held for the king. There followed a period of calm during the reign of Henry III (1216 – 1272), particularly after he signed the Treaty of York in 1237. This defined the frontier between Scotland and the northern counties of England and has largely remained unchanged since, with the exception of Berwick, which changed back and forth.

The reign of Edward I (1272 – 1307) led to further problems for Carlisle, with a surprise attack in 1296 by William Wallace followed by his success at Stirling Bridge the succeeding

year. Edward survived and Carlisle was now seen as essential to English defence and became the depot for Edward's retaliatory invasion of south-west Scotland. Carlisle became the seat of royal government, and a 'great hall' was built within the castle. Edward spent the last six months of his reign at Lanercost and died at Brough by Sands.

Edward II (1307 – 27) carried out extensive reinforcements to the Castle, but he lacked the strength of his father and ultimately left England vulnerable, defeated by Robert the Bruce at Bannockburn in 1314. This emboldened the Scots and a series of border raids ensued, including a siege the following year, that was only lifted by torrential rain, which put paid to every method used by the Scots to gain entry to the castle. The castle at that time was defended by Sir Andrew de Harcla who went on to be

keep, originally taller than it now appears, and died there in 1153. His heir was unable to hold Carlisle and in 1157 it returned to English control and Henry II erected further fortifications, including a second curtain wall.

Towards the end of the twelfth Century, Carlisle was besieged twice, in 1173 and again the following year, by William the Lion of Scotland. Defiantly defended by Robert de Vaux, the second attempt failed when William was captured at Alnwick. The Scots did not give up their desire to claim further territories. They nearly succeeded in 1216 when, fed up with the excessive taxation imposed by King John, the citizens of Carlisle opened the city

raised to the earldom of Carlisle for his continued acts of bravery in defence of his monarch.

However, he became embroiled in border politics and in 1322 was summonsed to defend himself against a charge of conspiracy with Robert, by agreeing a treaty without royal consent. Convicted, he was sentenced to be hanged, drawn and quartered, which punishment Maks described in great (and illustrated) detail. Later, Edward ratified the very treaty he had accused de Harcla of plotting with Bruce.

Edward II was deposed and murdered in 1327, succeeded by his son Edward III (1327 – 77), whose interests turned more towards France, leaving Carlisle's role to change, becoming more significant in regional government. The castle became the headquarters of the Warden of the March, also accommodating the sheriff of Cumberland. To provide suitable lodgings for these visiting dignitaries, its outer gatehouse was rebuilt. Meanwhile the keep was relegated to storage. Completed in 1383, the gatehouse had grown both longer and wider than originally intended but had no gunports, although cannon were by then in regular use. A purpose-built gun tower was added about the time of Richard III's seizure of the crown in 1483. Contemporary with that period, are the carvings known as 'the prisoner's carvings' in the keep, reputed to have been made by Richard's prisoners, though Maks suggested that they were more likely constructed by soldiers. They demonstrate religious allegiances and heraldic support for the Dacre family. Richard's boar badge appears three times.



One of the 'siege coins'.

By the mid-sixteenth century, Carlisle castle was outmoded. It provided neither the comfort expected in a time of relative peace, nor the defensive capability required under threat. Henry VIII found himself in difficulties on all sides (including an invasion by Scottish king James V) and the importance of having a strong defensive power in Carlisle was brought home to him when the Pilgrimage of Grace was turned back from there. He invested considerably in extra fortifications. A half-moon gun battery was built inside the gatehouse (later levelled up in the 19th century), the keep was lowered in height to accommodate heavy cannon and the citadel (later remodelled as the law courts) was built at the far end of the town, though the town walls were not rebuilt. By the time the fortifications had been completed, the Scots' threat was over, James's forces having been defeated, stuck in the Solway Mosses in 1542.

Mary Queen of Scots succeeded to the Scottish crown in 1542 but was forced to abdicate and flee south in 1567. She took refuge at Carlisle, hoping to return to Scotland, while watching her retinue play football with her 'hosts' on the green. But this turned out to be the start of a period of imprisonment in a number of English



A contemporary aerial view of the castle.

Castles, which lasted 19 years before she was executed by Elizabeth I in 1587.

Carlisle remained the base of the West March and was heavily involved in fighting the Border Reivers, but when Elizabeth died in 1603 without heir, she was succeeded by Mary's son James as the VI of that name of Scotland and the first of England. This unity of the crowns brought an end to much of the reiving and of the conflict between the two nations, but trouble began again during the reign of his successor Charles I whose actions alienated the Scots and ultimately led to Civil War across the United Kingdom. Fortifications were increased. The city remained loyal to Charles and was besieged by Parliamentary forces for nine months in 1644. Isaac Tullie kept a diary of events and reported the desperate state of the town. Residents were reduced to eating horses, cats and dogs and even rats. There was no official money to pay the garrison, but siege coins were specially minted from plate supplied by local citizens. The royalists marched out in 1645.

Charles I was executed in 1649, during the Commonwealth era, when England was

ruled as a republic. The monarchy was restored with the return of Charles II in 1660, succeeded in turn by his brother James II, an uncompromising Catholic in what had become a protestant country. The succession appeared to be securely protestant until his wife Mary of Modena gave birth to a son (later known as 'the old Pretender') in June 1688. The Catholic garrison of Carlisle celebrated wildly but this turn of events brought about 'the Glorious Revolution' when the throne was seized by James's daughter Mary and her Dutch husband William of Orange, while James was out of the country. More importantly for Carlisle, this gave life to a new cause of 'Jacobitism' (support for James and his heirs) and put Carlisle and the Borders in the path of Highland armies attacking southwards. The old Pretender's incursion in 1715 left Carlisle largely unaffected, but that led by his son Bonnie Prince Charlie in 1745 was different. Their aim was the taking of Carlisle, then held by an elderly garrison with weakened defences, who surrendered in November 1745. The Jacobites left a token garrison and headed south, reaching Derby before being turned north by 'Butcher', Cumberland. The Scots' garrison had done what they could to mount defences at the castle but were no match for

Cumberland who described it as 'an old hen coop'. The garrison surrendered but the castle became their prison, with several later hanged for their actions. The remaining Scots forces were defeated at Culloden in 1746, with those not killed, captured and taken to Carlisle where they endured appalling conditions, overcrowded and without food, water or sanitation, some transported, others hanged, drawn and quartered at Harraby Hill. That was the last time Carlisle Castle was used as a frontier fortress. There remained a military presence, but grass grew over the castle walls.

The government sent troops to Carlisle during periods of civil unrest, particularly the time of the French Revolution when it was feared that an English Revolution might follow. There was certainly unrest and a large armoury was built in 1804, later converted to barracks, with further blocks subsequently built and later named after military victories - Arroyo in 1827, Gallipoli (as a canteen) in 1829 and Ypres in 1836. In 1872, Carlisle became the training depot for the 34th Cumberland and 55th Westmorland Regiments which were amalgamated as the Border Regiment following an army reorganisation in 1881. Alma block now houses Cumbria's Museum of Military Life.

Maks brought the story right up to date with an image of the cascade of poppies from The Weeping Window displayed to mark the centenary of the end of WWI in 2018.

Not for nothing does Tullie House claim that Carlisle Castle has earned the title of the 'most besieged castle in Britain'. The castle is in the care of English Heritage, and it and the museum are both open to the public. Joint tickets are available.

Sandra Shaw

Images courtesy of Maksymilian Loth-Hill

A Literary Walking Tour of Ambleside, 2 June 2026

On a bright June afternoon Dr Penny Bradshaw, Associate Professor of English Literature at the University of Cumbria, led a group of society members on a walking tour taking in the homes of famous literary figures who lived in the Ambleside area. The tour was greatly enhanced by literary anecdotes and readings by Penny Bradshaw from her guide book *A Literary Walking Tour of Ambleside*.

Our starting point was on the University campus at Scale How, a Georgian villa owned by Dorothy Harrison, a cousin and one-time secretary of William Wordsworth where he was a frequent visitor. In 1894 the house became the headquarters of Charlotte Mason's House of Education which continued as an educational training college until 2007. The place features on the Wordsworth Way trail launched in 2025 that spans 21 miles and traces the different stages of the poet's life and the landscapes that inspired him.

Our next stop was within sight of The Knoll, the home of the influential writer and journalist Harriet Martineau who designed the house herself. Martineau settled in Ambleside in 1846 after recovering from a long debilitating illness and remained there for the rest of her life. She led a very active existence writing, campaigning for the Abolition of Slavery and on various social issues as well as walking the fells. Martineau had many friends locally and in the wider literary world. She made friends with the Wordsworth family and recorded a touching portrait of Wordsworth in his later years wearing a 'Scotch bonnet and green spectacles, with a dozen children at his heels and holding his cloak, while he cut ash sticks for them from the hedge, hearing all they had to say or talking to



The group with Dr Penny Bradshaw, centre. Photo - Andrew Chamberlain

them'. Charlotte Brontë, who visited Martineau and left a detailed and happy description of life at The Knoll, noted that Martineau was 'exhaustless in strength and spirits' and 'I believe she almost rules Ambleside'.

Martineau's *Complete Guide to the English Lakes* (1855) went into several editions. It was very different from Wordsworth's *Guide to the Lakes* first published in 1810. Unlike Wordsworth who lamented the passing of a rural way of life and the intrusions of modern life, Martineau welcomed the changes such as the coming of the railways, which he passionately opposed.

Our walk continued along Under Loughrigg, an ancient packhorse route with scattered houses and gardens which

runs parallel to the River Rothay and links Ambleside to Rydal. We stopped at the entrance to Fox How, built in 1833 for Dr Thomas Arnold, the headmaster of Rugby School. Arnold came to the Lakes with his family for a holiday and like many others fell in love with the area. He was encouraged by Wordsworth to buy land and build a holiday home near Ambleside. His letters recorded many happy holidays there. On his death the house and grounds were inherited by his son, the poet Matthew Arnold. Penny Bradshaw told us how many Victorians, faced with the intensive urbanisation and industrialisation of the country in the mid-nineteenth century, turned for solace to Wordsworth as the poet of nature.

Matthew Arnold's niece Mary lived at Fox How in her childhood and attended school at Ambleside. She later became a writer and published under her married name

Mrs Humphrey Ward. She recalled with delight the gardens at Fox How in *A Writer's Recollections* (1918) and featured it as 'Ravensnest' in a children's book *Milly and Olly or A Holiday Among the Mountains* (1881), the first children's book about a Lakeland holiday. Her later novels also had a Cumbrian setting. Charlotte Brontë visited Fox How in 1850 and was enchanted by it: 'It was twilight as I drove to the place. The House looked like a nest half buried in flowers and creepers: and dusk as it was, I could feel that the valley and the hills round were as beautiful as the imagination could dream.'

A short distance away stands Fox Ghyll, a seventeenth Century traditional farmhouse in extensive lush gardens, which have undergone many gentrifications over the centuries. In 1820-25 it was the home of Thomas De Quincey, the author of *Confessions of an English Opium Eater* (1821). His first home in the Lakes was at Dove Cottage where he settled in 1809 after the Wordsworths moved out. In those early years De Quincey was a close friend of the family but the relationship deteriorated later. It never recovered after De Quincey published a series of essays in Tait's Magazine in 1834-40 revealing intimate details of the Wordsworth, Coleridge and Southey families. It is a difficult to understand how De Quincey could afford to rent Fox Ghyll as he was perennially in debt and hiding from his creditors. Harriet Martineau described the house as follows:

...that ideal of a country house with the thick grass growing up to its trellised walls, and those walls completely covered with flowering creepers in the largest variety that the climate will admit, and the whole sheltered and almost overhung by the perpendicular wooded side of Loughrigg.

Loughrigg Holme is another example of seventeenth century traditional

farmhouse architecture although subsequently extended. It, too, has extensive gardens. It was the home of Wordsworth beloved daughter Dora and her husband, the poet and translator Edward Quilinan. They moved there in 1846, just one year before Dora's death from tuberculosis. Her husband lived in the house until his death in 1851. Loughrigg Holme was another meeting place for local and visiting writers such as Matthew Arnold, Harriet Martineau and Charlotte Brontë. The sparkling river Rothay comes into full view opposite the house.

Our walk continued along the Rothay, soon passing the Stepping Stones across the river and a house of the same name which has connections to Wordsworth's son and grandson. A more energetic walk in blazing sunshine along the A591 before turning north up the hill along St. Mary's Church led us to our next destination at the entrance to Rydal Mount, the Wordsworth's family home from 1813. The property has been recently acquired by the Wordsworth Trust and is not yet open to the public.

Rydal Mount was originally a sixteenth-century yeoman's cottage which was later remodelled. In the mid-eighteenth century, the house was extended and oriented to face south-west towards the views of Rydal Water and Windermere. The house, gardens and pleasure grounds were built on a sharply dropping terrain. Wordsworth designed the five-acre gardens himself, built the terraces and borders, trees and Lakeland plants. He rented the property from the Flemings of Rydal Hall. William Wordsworth lived at Rydal Mount until his death in 1850. Dorothy Wordsworth continued to keep a journal and write poems there although in later life she suffered from a form of dementia. She died in 1855 and William's widow Mary remained there until her own death in 1859.

Wordsworth published his poem *The Excursion* in 1814, shortly after moving to the Mount. In 1835 he published an expanded edition of his *Guide to the Lakes*. While living there he continued to revise 'The Prelude' (published posthumously in 1850) and published some of his late poems. A celebrated literary figure, he became the Poet Laureate in 1843 after the death of Robert Southey. A tourist industry grew up around Wordsworth and hundreds of visitors called at Rydal Mount every year to pay homage to him.

An earlier visitor, the poet John Keats, called at Rydal in 1818 but did not find Wordsworth at home. He was especially disappointed when he discovered that Wordsworth was away busy canvassing for the local Tory candidate. Wordsworth was by then closely associated with the conservative establishment of that time. In the preface to *Don Juan*, Byron observed about the Lake Poets that "they had all turned-out Tories at last".

By then it was time to enjoy a brief pit stop at the Rydal Falls Café. We sat in the shade with the sound of the waterfall in lively spate around us. After this interlude Penny took us to see another historic attraction: the Grot or Grotto built in 1669 by the owner of Rydall Hall Sir Daniel Fleming as a viewing house to enjoy the Rydal Falls cascade. Here was picturesque appreciation of landscape a century before Gilpin's 'invention' of the picturesque aesthetic.

The return walk to Ambleside took us through the flowering gardens at Rydal Hall (re-designed by Thomas Mawson in 1909) and Rydal Park, another feast for the eyes.

Lena Stanley-Clamp

Cumbria Illustrated: Artists and Prints: c.1780 to 1850s, 11 June 2026

Dr Michael Winstanley, an honorary member of the Society, came to Lorton on what was a drizzly and damp evening of low cloud to deliver a stimulating Talk following the Society's short 2026 AGM. His spoke on 'Artists and Prints: Cumbria Illustrated in 19th century Prints', and as befitted the subject it was very well illustrated.

Mike began by drawing to attention, in our digital dominated age with its proliferation of images, the fact that until the mid-18th century there were very few images of the British landscape available to anyone apart from the very well-off who could afford oil paintings. And not until the beginning of the 19th century were there more than a handful of books published about the landscape with illustrations accompanying the text.

After showing images of several artists' works, including ones by Joseph Farington and JMW Turner, Mike examined how the artists' work was published. Original drawings were often rendered into prints either for sale individually, or for illustrating books - e.g. on topography, historical and antiquarian topics, travel guides, novels - or for assembling as a bound volume of an artist's work with or without text, or (by the mid-19th century) for newspaper illustrations. They were even reproduced for decorating serving dishes and dinner plates. He amply illustrated these points while talking about them. He showed, as an example of the early evolution of the publishing of illustrations, the contrast between the first edition of West's *Guide to the Lakes* (1778) which had a map with the second edition (1780) which had the addition of a landscape illustration.



Sir William Bellers, 'A view of Derwentwater towards Borrodale', 1752.

Mike posed the following questions: how were prints made, how did techniques change over time, what subjects of illustration were covered, and do images reveal information about inhabitants and their way of life? He left open the extent to which the artists and engravers involved can be categorised as 'Lake Artists' - like their contemporary 'Lake Poets'.

The methods used for creating and reproducing prints were duly discussed, drawing to attention the evolution from wood cuts, to etching, engraving on copper, aquatints, engraving on steel, drawing on stone (lithographs), and by the mid-19th century use of electrotypes/electrography. Mike made the point that whatever method of reproduction was chosen an engraver had to reverse the artist's original image - illustrating this by an example of an

original painting and an engraved image of it where this hadn't been done.

In the earlier part of the period covered subjects chosen by artists and engravers for publication tended to be of mainly antiquarian interest. But as the picturesque movement gathered momentum subjects evolved into more general views of the Lake District. Joseph Farington's series of 'Views of the Lakes', the first series being published in 1789, was something of a catalyst in this respect. It was of particular interest, personally, to see a reproduction of the print 'The Village of Loweswater', published in 1815/16 as part of another series, since Mike next showed a sketch that Farington had done in the 1770s on which the engraving was based. This print and the others in the series are typical of the convention that became established of recording in small type immediately below the respective lower corners of the image the name of the artist and, separately, the name of the engraver. And the publisher's



Rev Joseph Wilkinson, 'Cottages in the Vale of Lorton', 1810

name and the date of publication was often recorded beneath the title of the print.

Mike next turned to works by the Reverend Joseph Wilkinson as examples of prints that depict not only awe-inspiring landscape but also cottages and other buildings plus scenes of everyday life in the Lake District. *These were published in 1810 in Select Views in Cumberland, Westmoreland, and Lancashire.* Among the images shown was a charming preparatory drawing entitled 'Cottages in the Vale of Lorton' and a coloured version of the print made subsequently. Wordsworth commented on Wilkinson's work rather acidly that "the drawings, or etchings or whatever they may be called are, I know, such as to you and Sir George must be intolerable. You will receive from them that sort of disgust which I do from bad poetry ... They will please many who in all the arts are most taken by what is worthless."

Mike drew attention to a book published in 1816 comprising sixty soft ground

etchings made by William Green from drawings that he himself had done. Several images of local places ranging from the Honister pass, the inn at Buttermere, and views of Loweswater were shown. Mike pointed out that these etchings are small and a contemporary had expressed the view that relatively small soft ground etching wasn't suitable for the depiction of landscape. On the other hand, Green also produced aquatints, several being used by Mike as illustrations – both black and white and coloured. Of these there were two particularly striking images: a Lakeland scene with cattle and a woman on a horse in the foreground, and a view of Loweswater looking towards Melbreak.

As an example of an illustrated guidebook Mike showed the title page to Fielding and Walton's *Picturesque Tour of the English Lakes* published in 1821 with 'forty eight coloured views' which accompanied the text comprising 'a description of the most romantic scenery' along with 'accounts of antient manners and customs, and elucidation of the history and antiquities' of the area covered.

It was also around 1820 that William Westall published in four parts aquatints of scenes principally of Keswick and Windermere which he had both drawn and engraved. A decade later drawings by Westall of topographical scenes in the Lake District and elsewhere in the country were engraved using, by way of innovation, steel plates rather than copper ones. This method of reproduction created crisper images, and due to the steel plates being more robust than copper ones it also enabled the increasing volume of popular demand for illustrated books and for prints to be met. Mike showed passages from contemporary journals referring to the increasing availability of affordable prints and illustrated works, citing references to 'the Augustan Age of Pictorial Art' and to prints creating 'a refined taste throughout the nation for faithful and vivid delineations of native scenery'. He gave examples of gradually reducing prices that collections of prints commanded.

The advent of engraving on steel meant that both smaller and more precisely delineated prints could be produced. Henry Fisher, a publisher in London, seized this opportunity and, engaging various artists, notably Thomas Allom (1804-1872), proceeded to publish *Westmoreland, Cumberland, Durham, and Northumberland Illustrated* in 1830. This work contained 216 prints, of which 189 were by Allom and they accompanied 'Historical and Topographical Descriptions' written by Thomas Rose.

Mike highlighted the fact that Thomas Allom pursued a career not only as an artist but also as an architect (e.g. of St Peter's Church, Notting Hill) and draughtsman (e.g. a design for the Palace of Westminster after the 1834 great fire) whose obituarist remarked that 'few men were more widely known in the art world'. Allom's drawings appeared as prints in other topographical books published by

Henry Fisher, covering not only counties and regions of Britain but also a wide variety of countries and places overseas visited by Allom.

Pleasingly, Mike showed many examples of Allom's prints depicting scenes in the northwestern part of the Lake District, plus one or two examples of his original drawings. In addition, he made a point of showing several scenes drawn by Allom (and others) which included commercial activities such as quarrying.

From a technical point of view, because the engravings were printed from steel plates, they could be re-used and Mike illustrated this with a scene overlooking Windermere originally published in 1833 and one of the same scene which had been published much later – but with the addition of a steam yacht on the lake.

To round off his survey of artists and prints depicting Cumbria Mike referred to the advent of electrotype (also known as electrography) invented in 1839, and to lithography. Electrotypes enabled journals such as the *Illustrated London News* to become possible, as well as allowing guidebooks for the Lake District to be designed with illustrations incorporated into the text rather than appearing on separate pages. Mike showed examples of one or two lithographs – prints created from engravings on stone – but the depiction of scenes seemed less satisfactory by comparison with those engraved on steel.

All in all, Mike's very interesting and informative Talk could hardly have been more fully illustrated – using as examples many local scenes not only to provide visual evidence of what he spoke about but also providing a most appealing gallery of images from the late 18th century to the mid-19th century.

Charles Lambrick

Articles

An Excursion from Cockermouth to London by Rail, 1914

by Gloria Edwards

With the expansion of railway services in Cockermouth to include a new passenger station opposite the Fair Field, opened on 2 January 1865, a new chapter opened for the use of the railway for leisure activities as well as for work. Special trains were laid on for Hiring Fair days, school outings by rail became a possibility, and special excursion fares could be offered to boost passenger numbers.

One such excursion took place on 8&9 June 1914, from Cockermouth to London. It is worth bearing in mind that this was just a few short weeks before the outbreak of World War I on 28 July. The excursion must have been a trip people were really looking forward to, making a poignant contrast between those feelings and the shift in mood that would soon be brought about by the horrors of war. Philip Larkin's words in his poem MCMXIV (1914) – *Never such innocence/Never before or since ...* capture that mood of a country on the brink of change.

The fare for the one-day excursion cost 27/-. A bound copy of the Guide book, with many adverts placed by local businesses, together with full itinerary and timetable, was printed as a memento of the day by John Fletcher & Co. of No. 6 Station Street. Mr Pape and Mr Tunstall were the main organisers of the trip, and they each took charge of a group of thirty-four travellers once in London. In total there were eight groups, each with their own colour-coded Guide book-cover and each leader with his own colour-coded button. Clearly, there were high levels of concern that participants might be lost along the way and in the melée that was London; instructions were spelt out in capital letters 'NOT TO ALIGHT AT CREWE STATION' where the engines were

changed and, once at Euston, travellers 'MUST NOT GET OUT TILL THE TRAIN IS AT A STAND'. Eight motor buses were on standby at Euston to take travellers, strictly in their colour-coded groups, around London. Every detail had been thought of to ensure a smooth operation. There were even suggestions as to dress code, with gentlemen reminded that caps were not usual dress in London, with a straw hat or soft hat being preferable. Ladies were reminded that showers might be expected even in London in June.

The London Tube had to be negotiated, with more possibilities of losing people. Section leaders were urged to take special care to keep their groups together:

The utmost expedition must be used to enter and leave the train, as time is very short and the traffic exceptionally heavy on the Tube at this time of day.

Anyone familiar with London and travelling by Tube will understand the concern on the part of the trip organisers, responsible for so many people:

Sadly, there was only time for visitors to visit two of London's iconic attractions: St Paul's Cathedral, and Westminster Abbey – just fifteen minutes in each:

If it be of severity to cut down to fifteen minutes the time for the visit to St Paul's Cathedral, it is surely of the nature of sacrilege so to treat Westminster Abbey.

This flying visit to London was not for the faint-hearted, departing from Cockermouth Station at 4.45 a.m. and returning in time for breakfast the following morning. Consumption of food seems to have been a major activity, beginning with breakfast which was served on the train after leaving Penrith at 6 a.m.:

*Tea and Coffee
Porridge and Cream
Eggs and Bacon
Sausage
Cold Ham – Preserves*



Cockermouth passenger station, mid 1890s

Advertisements from the guide

A CAMERA will help you
to retain pleasant memories
of your Trip to London.

HUDDART BROS.,
The Bridge, Cockermouth,
can supply you with one,
and all necessary requisites.

(1. Buy one and enter
the Competition arranged
by the Promoters.

Maskelyne and Devant's

Mysteries.

England's Home of Mystery.

St. George's Hall, Oxford Circus, W.

Daily at 3 and 8.

The Only Entertainment of
its kind in the World.

ORIGINAL ILLUSIONS.

Constant Change of Programme.

A Unique Entertainment.

SEATS, 1/- to 5/-.

Telephone—1545 Mayfair.

Maskelyne and Devant's Mysteries.

St. George's Hall, Oxford Circus, W.

Having arrived in the capital, Messrs Harrod's Georgian Restaurant at 2.30 p.m. prompt was the location for dinner:

Soup – Consommé Fermière
Fish – Boiled Cod, Sauce Crème
Joint – Roast Lamb, Mint Sauce
Vegetables – Peas and Potatoes
Sweet – Pouding Diplôme
Cheese

The intrepid travellers were later guided to Messrs. Lyons' Birkbeck Café in Holborn for their tea at 6 p.m.:

Tea and Coffee
White and Brown Bread and Butter
Assorted Cakes
French and Viennese Pastry
Jam – Marmalade

How many of them managed their supper, served on the train home at 11 p.m.?

Giblet Soup
Fried Plaice, Tartare Sauce
Roast Beef
Cauliflower and Potatoes
Stewed Prunes, Custard Pudding
Cheese, Butter, Biscuits, etc.

Reassuringly, we are told that Light Refreshments were available at any time on the train should anyone feel hungry, in addition to the meals served.

The journey from Cockermouth took nearly seven hours but involved no change of trains on the travellers' part. Much of the day involved travelling in a motorcade around the capital, and the Guide provided a written running commentary on each area as they passed through it. It includes Wordsworth's poem, 'The Reverie of Poor Susan', a country girl transplanted from her roots to the bustling city, and her yearning for home. The poem mentions Wood Street, one of the streets on the motor bus route:

Later in the evening a special treat was a visit to St George's Hall in the West End for a performance of a magic and variety show, courtesy of Maskelyne and Devant. The evening included

theatrical illusions (such as the levitation of a body in full view of the audience with a hoop passed around the body), and conjuring tricks. David Devant (known as the Man of Mystery) was the conjuror, whilst John Nevil Maskelyne specialised in illusions. In 1914 he had founded the Occult Committee, which operated out of the Magic Circle in London, their goal being to expose fraudulent mediums and to investigate claims of supernatural abilities. Having been suitably impressed and entertained, our travellers would have been ready to return to their train and be served supper.

It is easy to imagine the excited chatter of travellers, holding up their Guides and reading aloud the text in front of them to their companions as they travelled around. Maybe some of them took photographs to be entered into a competition when they got back to Cockermouth (5/- offered by the Cockermouth Free Press), or maybe others wrote an account of their day for the newspaper (another 5/- on offer for the winner). The trip to London must have been a very intense and tiring excursion but hopefully the travellers, arriving back in Cockermouth at a little after 7 a.m., were content, if exhausted.

My thanks to Paul Cusack for loan of the Guide
Gloria Edwards

There will be pounds and pounds
of Chocolate eaten on the way to
London, and mind
YOU DON'T FORGET
to get yours at
BANKS'S in Station St., Cockermouth.

☛ Chocolate is sweet, stimulating, and popular with everybody. Offer anybody a sweet in one of BANKS'S BAGS and they will know it's right: the name on the bag settles it.

Field Names at Armaside, Lorton, from the 1840s to the 1940s

by Charles Lambrick

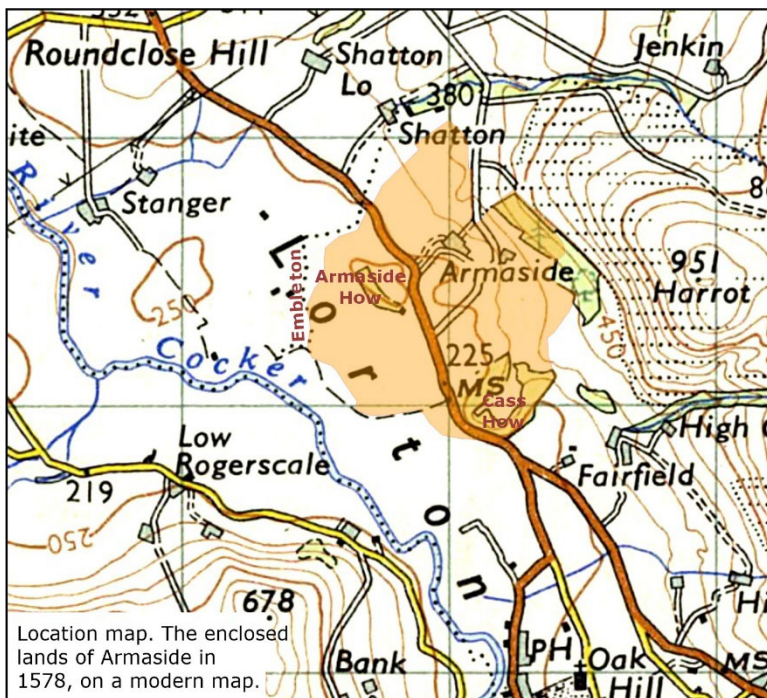
In his article 'Names in the landscape: the legacy of Armaside, Lorton, from 1578' published a year ago [Wanderer August 2025 pp22-32] Derek Denman traced the history of the names of fields and closes at Armaside between the Percy Great Survey of 1578 and the tithe commutation apportionment that took place in 1840. Ownership and agricultural uses of the fields and closes were also covered. Plans utilising information in the enclosure survey of 1826 and the 1840 Lorton Township plan were included in the article as a means of illustrating the pattern of field names, agricultural uses, and their ownership in, respectively, 1578 and 1840.

This article examines the extent to which the names and boundaries within the same area have remained the same or have changed during the 200 years after the survey done in 1826. Apart from the Lorton Township plan produced in 1840 relating to the tithe apportionment of that year based on the 1826 survey plus sheet LV.9 of the three successive editions of the

25" Ordnance Survey (published respectively in 1864, 1900 and 1925) showing field boundaries, two documents, in particular, have enabled me to piece together the extent to which field names have changed over the last 200 years.

Documentary Sources¹

First, a copy of sale particulars of 1868 which set out details of *'the valuable freehold estate, farm buildings, gardens and closes of land situate at Armaside to be sold by auction at the Globe Hotel Cockermouth on Monday 8th June at two o'clock in the afternoon by Mr R. Mitchell'*. There were three lots for sale. Lot 1 comprised the dwelling and associated farm buildings known as High Armaside together with fields to its south; an area of fields and woodland to the east and an area to the west of High Armaside comprised lot 2; and the adjacent area with the dwelling and farm buildings which in 1840 was known as Low Armaside but



Location map. The enclosed lands of Armaside in 1578, on a modern map.

¹ Documents in the possession of the author.

'Armaside' by 1868 (now known as Armaside Farm and Armaside House) was lot 3.

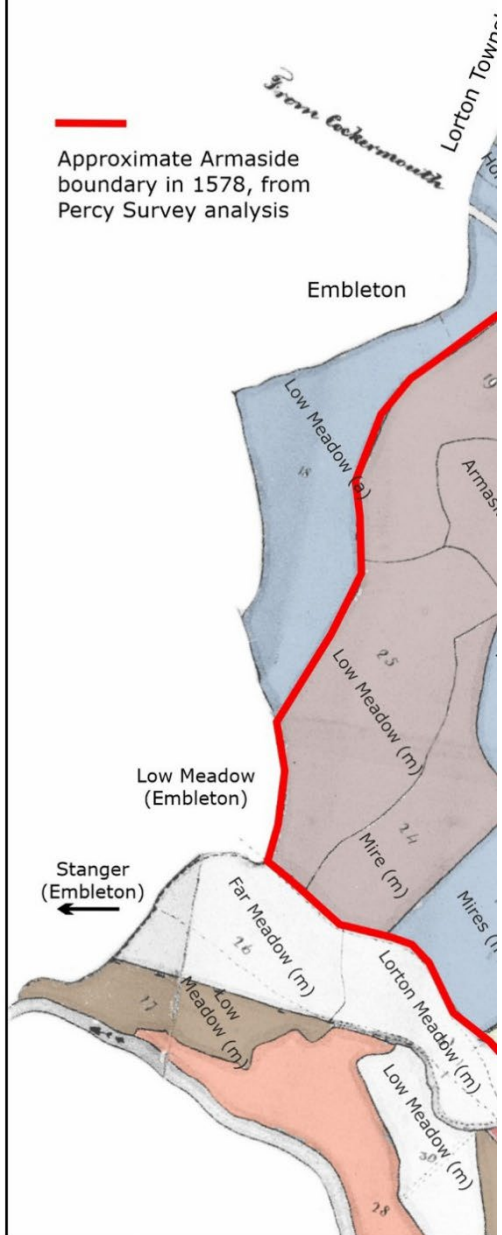
The second document is a copy of the *'Particulars, plans, and conditions of sale of the Armaside, Shatton Hall, and Darling How Estates for sale by auction on Friday 9th August 1946'*. It was to take place at the Agricultural Hall in Cockermouth and conducted by J.R. Mitchell & Sons. Ten lots were offered for sale 80 years ago this August by the Trustees of S.D. Stanley-Dodgson Esq., deceased. Lots 1 and 2 ('Mansion and Home Farm') plus Lots 3 and 4 (High Armaside and Fields adjoining') are the relevant ones for the purpose of this article.

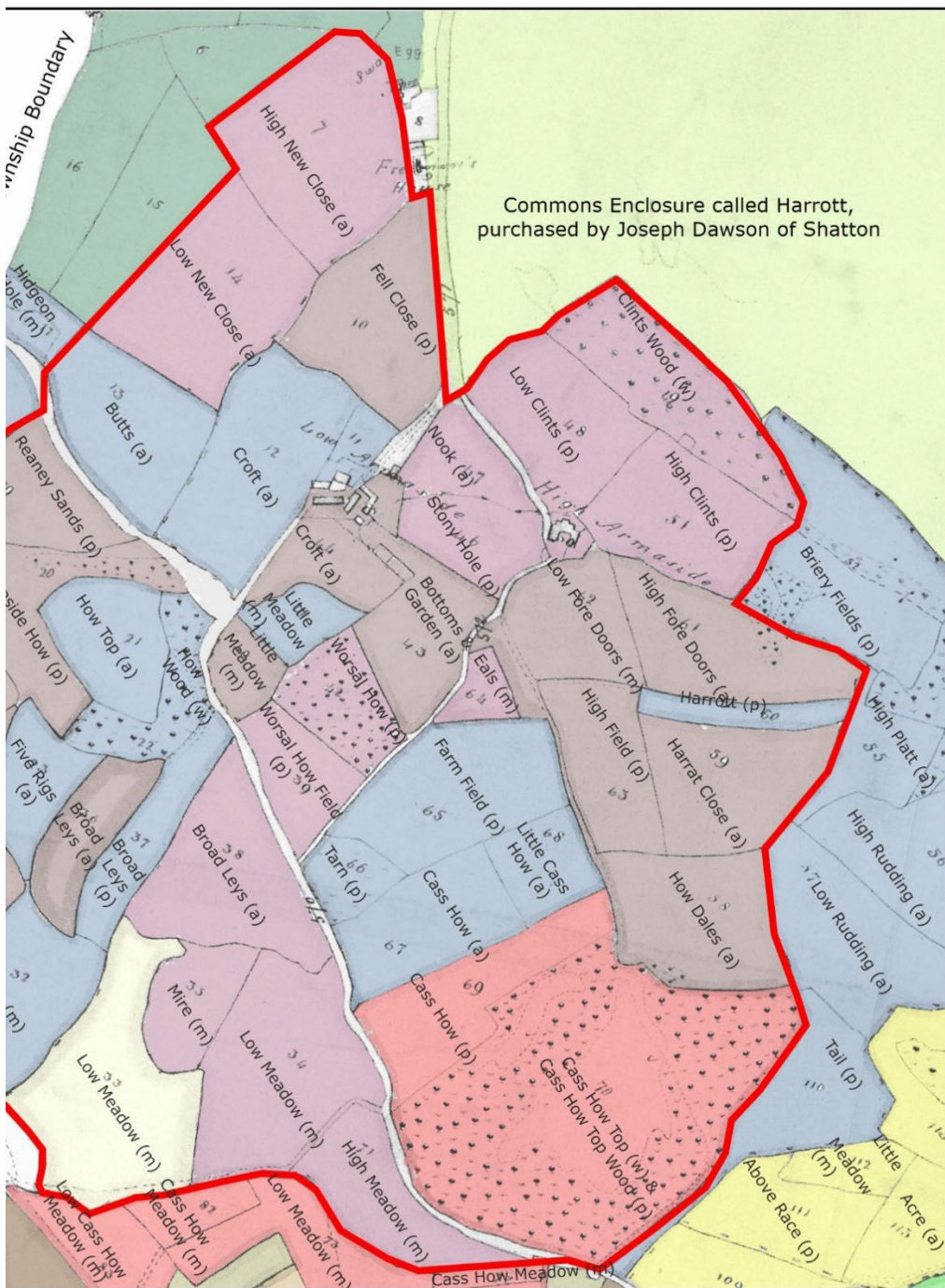
Significantly, both the 1868 and the 1946 sale particulars contained schedules and plans recording field names and indicating their whereabouts.

Introductory remarks

By 1840 the distinction between 'closes' and 'fields' was, for practical purposes, largely historic. Most areas of ground known as fields, which (as distinct from closes) had previously not been entirely fenced against livestock invasion, had been enclosed by fencing before the period under consideration. Consequently, the term 'field name' used in this article will apply to all areas of Armaside farmland whether they had been closes or fields in earlier times. 'Armaside' will be used as the name for what had until 1826 been designated 'Low Armaside'. And the area of Armaside farmland covered here will primarily be the area discussed in Derek Denman's article cited above. It will be referred to for convenience as the 'Armaside area', and will be considered, broadly speaking, going in a clockwise direction starting with fields near the two farmhouses and farm buildings of Armaside and High Armaside. See Figure 1 for the Armaside area, 1840.

Figure 1. Armaside from the Lorton tithe commutation records, 1840





Field names and their areas that have remained largely the same

Before examining field names and boundaries that have changed or disappeared, which is the case in most parts within the area under consideration, two separate parcels of land on the northern boundary of the Armaside area have fields the boundaries and names of which have hardly altered since the Percy Great Survey of 1578.

Turning first to an area lying to the north of Armaside, in 1578 this was designated 'New Close', comprising arable and pasture. By 1826 it had been split up to become 'High New Close' and 'Low New Close'. In 1946 the same area comprised the same fields – and those fields are still known by the same names in 2026. However, the area 'Butts' adjacent to the Lorton to Cockermouth highway seems to have been amalgamated into 'Low New Close' at some point between 1826 and 1868. In the schedule on the plan in the 1868 auction particulars the field's name was recorded as 'Low New Close and Buts', and the former boundary between the fields is not shown on the accompanying plan. During the subsequent 80 years the separate identity and name of 'Butts' disappeared altogether, not featuring on the plan in the 1946 auction particulars.

Secondly, the entire area to the northeast of High Armaside, used for arable and pasture in 1578, was at that date recorded as 'Clynts'. The name, albeit slightly changed since to 'Clints', and the ground it covers (that which is specifically within the Armaside area) has remained almost entirely unaltered over some 450 years. By 1826, it had been divided up into three separate parcels of land: 'Clints Wood', plus the fields named 'Low Clints' and 'High Clints'. The 1868 and the 1946 plans record the same names (somewhat whimsically, 'Clintz' in 1946) and their respective same areas of ground. Since 1946 the fields have become known, respectively, as 'Near Clints' and Far

Clints'. A plan of the Armaside area as it was in 1946 is at Figure 2.

Changes to field names and areas– east, south, & north of Armaside

By contrast with the continuity referred to in the preceding paragraphs, boundaries and names of fields to the south of High Armaside changed to a considerable degree between 1840 and 1946. The names 'Low Fore Doors' and 'High Fore Doors' in 1840 (in 1868 'Doors' had changed to 'Dales') had become 'Foredales' and 'High Foredales' in 1946, but their boundaries had altered. The name 'Harrat Close' continued in use from 1840 to at least 1868, but by 1946 had disappeared when field boundaries had been changed, the area being absorbed into 'Foredales'. Although existing in 1868 'How Dales', a field situated to the north of part of Cass How Top Wood, had by 1946 been amalgamated with an adjacent field named 'Low Rudding', which in 1840 was outside the Armaside area. The combined field was named 'Low Riddings' in the sale particulars of 1946.

On the 1840 plan two small fields lying between Armaside and High Armaside, and remaining so in 1868, were named respectively 'Nook' and 'Stony Hole'. The latter name reflected the nature of the ground in that area. By 1946 the names of these two fields, along with a field on the other side of the lonning to their south known as 'Bottoms' in 1840 ('Bottom' in 1578), had disappeared. All three had been amalgamated into one field which was given the name 'Croft'. This was the same name as the field immediately adjacent and the south of the lonning running from the Lorton-to-Cockermouth highway (referred to on the 1868 plan as 'Turnpike from Cockermouth') to the Armaside farmhouse and farm buildings. Part of this area of closes had been so named since 1578.

A field also named 'Croft', lying to the north of the access lonning from the highway to Armaside and referred to by that name on the 1840 plan, was so

designated also in the 1868 plan. A field to its northeast named 'Fell Head' in 1578 bordering the road running north from High Armaside remained so named in 1826 and in 1868. But by 1946 that field had been amalgamated with the field named 'Croft' referred to earlier in this paragraph and the whole had been re-named 'Joe Croft', albeit not referred to as such in the schedule for lot 2 in the auction particulars of that year.

The prefix 'Joe' may have been added in order to differentiate the field from the others named 'Croft' in the immediate vicinity of Armaside, and possibly also to memorialise someone named Joe associated with the farm. A further change took place in the 1970s and 1990s when 'Joe Croft' was split in two and much reduced in size. A substantial portion of the field's area was fenced off and taken into and amalgamated with the garden surrounding Armaside House. 'Joe Croft' field now comprises the ground once named 'Fell Close', while 'Low Joe Croft' is a small field that borders 'Low New Close' to its north and the Lorton to Cockermouth highway to its west.

The term 'croft' in the context of Cumberland's history derives from an old English word from the mediaeval period designating a small area of land used for agricultural purposes close to a dwelling. It is one of the oldest of English field names – particularly found in the north of England. So, it is perhaps hardly surprising that the fields named 'Croft' were, since the 1578 Percy Great Survey, near to the farmhouse and farm buildings at Armaside.

Wonsul How and Tarn Field

Unlike the instances of names and areas which were amalgamated into the two fields both with the name 'Croft' to the south of the lonning running up to Armaside farmhouse, the adjacent area covered by the names 'Worsal How' and 'Worsal How Field' in the plan of 1840 had remained essentially unaltered since 'Woorstale How' had been recorded in

1578. At the time of the auction sale nearly 300 years later in 1868 the two separate areas' names remained the same, albeit as 'Wonsul'. 'Wonsal How' is shown as a wooded area in 1840, but not so in the Ordnance Survey 25-inch 1st edition or in the 1868 plan. By the time of the survey for the O.S. 2nd edition (1898) the area is shown as wooded, as it was in the 1946 sale particulars in which it is recoded as 'Wonsul How Wood'. Virtually all the woodland was cut down after 1946 and the entire area to the southwest of the Armaside farm buildings became one field – known since as 'Wonsul How'.

On the south side of the lonning, now a narrow public road, which runs from the Lorton to Cockermouth highway up hill to High Armaside (with Wonsul How on the north side) the area named 'Farm Field' and 'Tarn' on the 1840 Lorton Township plan had been named 'Tarn Dayles and Tarn' in the 1758 Browne's Survey. It is possible that there was a typographical or transcriptional error at the time of the 1826 survey and the drawing of the 1840 plan. The designation of the area in the 1868 plan using the word 'Tarn' seems likely to be correct since it is a good example of a field named after a feature in the landscape: a small expanse of water continues to exist (save in times of drought) at the corner of the Lorton to Cockermouth Highway and the lonning referred to above. There have, however, been accretions to 'Farm Field' since the 1840 plan was produced, as detailed next.

The close to the north of 'Farm Field' [sic] named 'Healdes' in 1578, 'Eals' in 1840, and 'Eels' in 1868 had disappeared by 1946 as a consequence of the area so designated being amalgamated into 'Tarn Field'. In addition, the fields recorded in 1840 as 'Little Cass How' and 'Cass How' were subsequently amalgamated with 'Tarn Field'. The plan in the 1868 auction particulars records all the area as one with the name 'Tarn Field and Cass Field', no boundary line being shown between them.

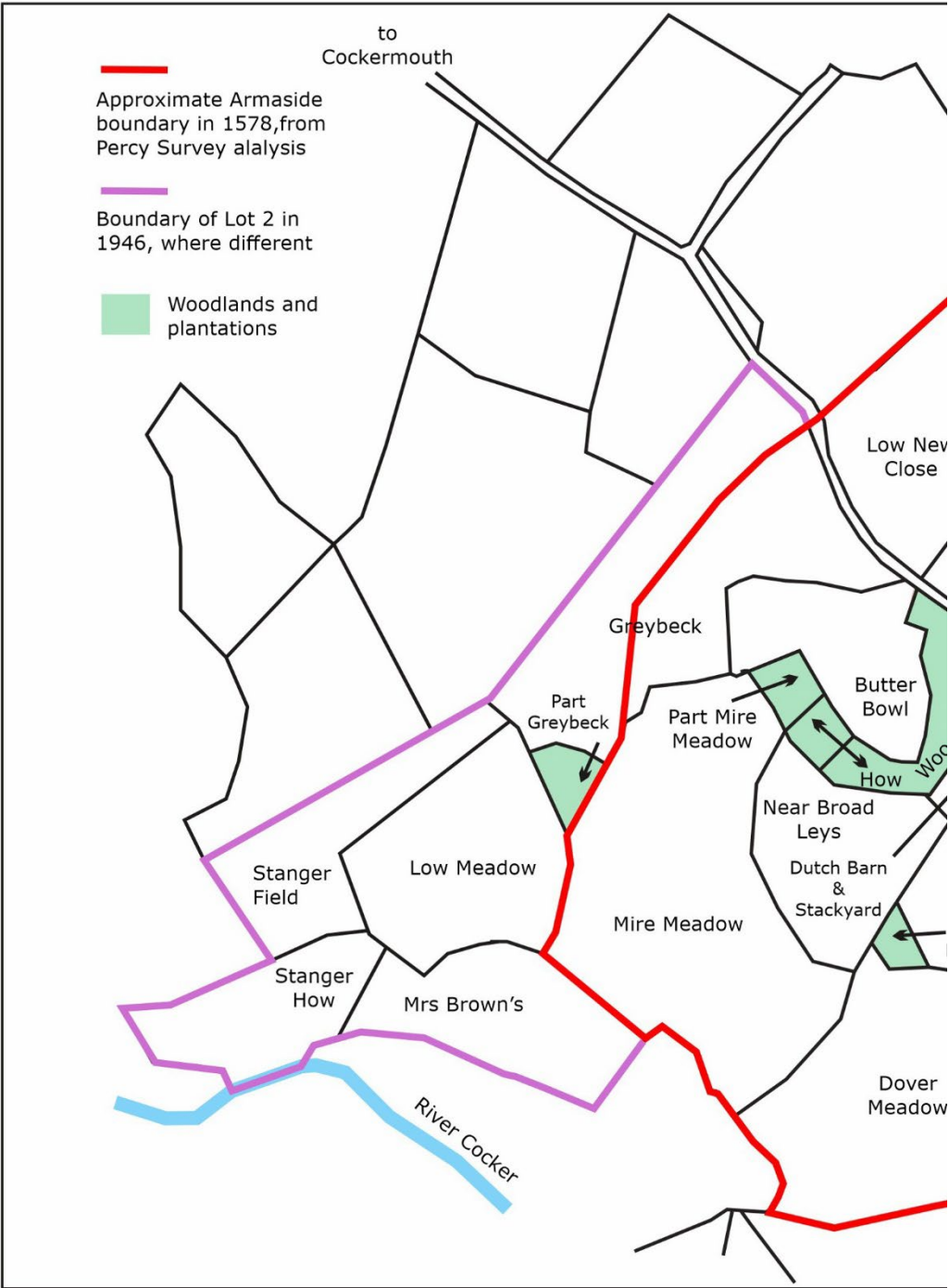




Figure 2. Armaside area from sale particulars in 1946

In 1872 an additional field area, another designated 'Cass How', with a gravel pit by the side of the Lorton to Cockermouth highway and lying immediately adjacent to 'Cass How Top Wood', was added to 'Tarn Field'. It was acquired by way of exchange for the field named 'Tail' to the south of Cass How Wood. In the 1946 plan a boundary line is shown bisecting the area but both parts of it are designated 'Tarn Field'. Since 1946 the 'internal' boundary has been removed and there is now one field all of which bears that name.

Fields west of the Lorton to Cockermouth highway

South of Armaside How. Turning to the farmland on the other side of the principal road running through the Armaside area, the Percy Great Survey of 1578 recorded as the name of much of the area to the west of the road, both closes and fields, 'Broad Leaz'. At that time a field named 'Broad Inge' lay between those similarly named closes or fields. By 1840 a large portion of the area, excluding 'Broad Inge', had been re-named 'High Meadow' and 'Low Meadow' leaving a triangle of land to the north still named 'Broad Leys'. These names and areas remained the same in 1868, but by 1946 'Low Meadow' and an adjacent field of the same name to the west had been re-named 'Dover Meadow'.

A possible explanation for the change is that the separate field known as 'Low Meadow' (but in 1578 as 'Broad Inge') which had been within the Armaside area, was in the ownership of the Bowe family from 1755 and remained so in 1868. Following the death of Arthur Bowe in 1844 the field was in the hands of his executors and trustees for some years one of whom was his son-in-law, Arthur Dover. In 1872 the executors sold 'Low Meadow' to William Dickinson, the owner of Armaside, thereby the field being returned to the Armaside area. It was renamed subsequently as 'Dover Meadow' - perhaps to differentiate it from the other, nearby, 'Low Meadow'. And possibly also

to commemorate the name of one of the previous owners which, if that was so, provides another example of a person's name being adopted for field name purposes, memorialising them long after their death.

North of the triangular area referred to above and opposite the lanning running up to Armaside farm, the hillock had two names according to the 1578 survey: 'How Wood' and 'The How'. While 'How Wood' had remained so named in 1946, by 1868 'The How' had been re-named as 'Armaside How'. On the Ordnance Survey 25" 2nd edition (1900) the name 'Butter Bowl' was added (in a smaller typeface) to 'Armaside How'. 'Butter Bowl' is printed on the 1946 plan itself as well as recorded in the sale particular's schedule of field names, 'Armaside How' not being referred to. The descriptive designation 'Butter Bowl' relates to a geological feature of Armaside How.

The ancient closes of arable land, each named 'Broad Leaz', situated below the elevated ground of 'The How' (subsequently 'Armaside How') to the south and adjacent to 'How Wood', had by 1840 become four separate fields. One was recorded as 'Five Riggs', and three bore the name 'Broad Leys'. By 1868 those three fields had been amalgamated under the name 'Broad Leys'. So, for a while there were two adjacent fields with the same name since the amalgamated one was adjacent to the triangular area named 'Broad Leys' referred to above.

By the time of the 1946 sale particulars a further change to the 'Broad Leys' name for these fields had occurred - presumably to mitigate the possibility of confusion - in so far as the western field's name had changed to 'Near Broad Leys'. In addition, a relatively small part of that field next to the highway had been partitioned off and a Dutch Barn erected with an adjacent small stackyard. That area subsequently gave its name to the whole of 'Near Broad Leys' since in the 1950s it became known

Field Names at Armaside: from the 1840s to the 1940s

1840	1840	1946	1946	CONTINUITY of NAME
Field Name	Acreage	Field Name	Acreage	1840-1946
High New Close	6.27	High New Close	6.24	YES (since 1578)
Low New Close	5.75	Low New Close	9.23	YES (since 1578)
Butts	4.25	Low New Close	)	No
Fell Close	4.73)	Plantation	0.85	No
Fell Close	)	Joe Croft (pt)	8.49 (pt)	No
Croft	5.52	Joe Croft (pt)	)	YES
Clints Wood	4.60	Clintz Wood (pt)	15.24 (pt)	YES (Clynts 1578)
Low Clints	4.66	Low Clints	7.01 (pt)	YES (Clynts 1578)
High Clints	4.22	High Clints	)	YES (Clynts 1578)
Low Fore Doors	3.66	Foredales (pt)	9.18)	No
(pt)High Field	(pt) 3.01	Foredales (pt)	)	No
(pt) Harrott	(pt) 1.07	Foredales (pt)	)	No
(pt) Harrott	(pt) 1.07	High Fore Dales(pt)	6.56 (pt)	No
(pt) Harrat Close	(pt) 4.15	Foredales (pt)	9.18 (pt)	No
(pt) Harrat Close	(pt) 4.15	High Fore Dales (pt)	6.56)	No
High Fore Doors	4.55	High Fore Dales (pt)	)	No
How Dales	4.55	Low Riddings (pt)	9.77(pt)	No
Nook	1.68	Croft [1] (pt)	6.80)	No
Stony Hole	2.03	Croft [1] (pt)	)	No
Bottoms & Garden	3.23	Croft [1] (pt)	)	No
Croft	1.55	Croft [2] (pt)	6.00)	YES (since 1578)
Little Meadow	1.17	Croft [2] (pt)	)	No
Wonsal How Field	2.08	Croft [2] (pt)	)	YES (Woonstale 1578)
Wonsal How	2.00	Wonsul How Wood	2.00	YES (Woonstale 1578)
Eals	0.75	Tarn Field (pt)	15.88)	No
'Farm Field'/Tarn Field	4.87	Tarn Field (pt)	)	[No]/ YES (since 1578)
Cass How [1]	3.51	Tarn Field (pt)	)	No
Cass How [2]	4.05	Tarn Field (pt)	)	No
Little Cass How	1.96	Tarn Field (pt)	)	No
Tarn	1.22	Tarn Wood	0.98	No
Low Meadow [1]	6.08	Dover Meadow (pt)	14.58)	No
Low Meadow [2]	6.80	Dover Meadow (pt)	)	No
Mire [1]	2.00	Dover Meadow (pt)	)	No
Broad Leys [1]	5.47	Broad Leys	4.43	YES (since 1578)
Broad Leys [2]	2.35	Near Broad Leys(pt)	5.87)	(YES)
Broad Leys [3]	2.12	Near Broad Leys(pt)	)	(YES)
Five Riggs	2.12	Mire Meadow (pt)	16.51)	No
Mire [2]	4.37	Mire Meadow (pt)	)	YES (Myres 1578)
Mire [3]	4.56	Mire Meadow (pt)	)	YES (Myres 1578)
Low Meadow [3]	7.58	Mire Meadow (pt)	)	No
How Wood	2.11	How Wood	3.89	YES (since 1578)
How Top	2.68	Butter Bowl (pt)	5.06)	No
Armaside How	3.89	Butter Bowl (pt)	)	No
Reaney Sands	5.40	Greybeck (pt)	14.08 (pt)	No

in the Armaside locality as 'Dutch Barn Field'. This continues as its name today - an example, albeit from the recent past and within living memory, of a field's name emerging from and reflecting an agricultural purpose.

North and west of Armaside How. The final area to be considered, lying on the west of the Lorton to Cockermouth highway, is north and west of 'Armaside How'. This area has undergone physical changes since 1868 principally as a result of the effects brought about by the Lorton Vale drainage scheme instigated by William Alexander and John Wilson in 1878. The scheme was devised to allow the rather flat low-lying farmland to the east of the River Cocker between Cass How and Stanger, a not insignificant portion of which was within the Armaside area, to be more effectively drained. It was completed in 1881.

The area under consideration is bordered by Armaside How, Grey Beck to the north, and the land around Stanger How to the west. The field names recorded in 1578 are descriptive - 'Sands' and 'Beneath the How' by Grey Beck to the northwest, along with two fields named 'Myres' to their south. Relatively dry ground and relatively wet ground. By 1840 the names had been altered somewhat. The area next to Grey Beck and to the highway had become 'Reaney Sands' ('Rymelands' by 1868) and the adjacent area to the south (formerly 'Beneath the How') had become 'Low Meadow', that field name continuing in use in 1868. 'Mire' remained the name for two adjacent fields and by 1946 they had been amalgamated to become 'Mire Meadow'.

The drainage scheme altered the field boundaries in the vicinity of Grey Beck. That was a consequence of the course of the beck being straightened and the lower part piped on a gradual gradient down to join the Lorton Main Drain near the River Cocker. The field 'Rymelands' was renamed 'Greybeck', the designation being recorded in the 1946 sale

particulars. Although within altered boundaries 'Low Meadow' remained a field name situated in the same vicinity as it had been in 1840 and in 1868.

Fields added or disposed of by 1946

At the time of the auction sale in 1946, the boundaries of Armaside farmland were a little different from what they had been in both 1840 and 1868. There had been some losses from the Armaside area discussed above, most notably 'Cass How Top' and Cass How Wood were no longer part of the farmland in 1868. And by 1946 both the field named 'Tail' to the southeast of the last mentioned and the field 'High Meadow' on the west side of the Lorton to Cockermouth highway opposite Cass How were also no longer part of the Armaside farmland. As noted above, in 1872 'Tail' field was disposed of by way of exchange for the 'Cass How' field nearest to Cass How Wood.

The fields that were added between 1840 and 1868 were on the east and southeast side of the Armaside area. They comprised 'Briery Fields' (in 1868 'High Briery' and 'Low Briery'), 'High Plat Wood', an area of plantation, plus a strip of waste on the border of Harrott Common. All these parcels were absorbed into Clints Wood by 1946. Fields named 'Horse Close', 'High Ruddings', and 'Low Ruddings' were also added during the same period, the former two fields becoming 'High Ruddings' by 1946.

Between the auction sale in 1868 and 1946 what had formerly been a corner of Harrot Common, including a quarry, was acquired and the field was named 'Clintz' in the 1946 auction sale particulars - now known as 'Quarry Field'. Also, the small parcel of land that had been the site of two dwellings by the side of the road to Embleton on the edge of the common land, Freeman's House and Swinerigg Mire (named 'Swan Egg Mire in the 1840 plan), had been purchased in 1888 and was designated 'Old Stackyard' in the 1946 sale particulars, the field now being known as 'Swinerigg Mire'.



**'Near Clints' field (mown) and 'Far Clints' field (un-mown) - July 2026, evening.
Photo the author, with permission of Miles Postlethwaite**

Other fields added between 1868 and 1946 are on the western boundary of the Armaside area. Part of the field known as 'Lorton Meadow' plus 'Far Meadow', (both within Lorton township in 1840) were amalgamated to become 'Mrs Brown's' field. The name is very likely to have been derived from the fact that Margaret Brown, widow of John Brown (d 1920), along with her daughter, (as Trustees of his Will) sold the field (plus 'Stanger How' field) in February 1933 to the then owner of the Armaside area, S.D. Stanley-Dodgson. Another, more recent, example of a field being named after a person.

In addition, three nearby fields in Embleton township in 1840, known as 'Low Meadow', 'Low Meadow Head', and another 'Low Meadow' were acquired.- The first two (already amalgamated) in October 1920 and subsequently named 'Stanger Field', while the latter was

purchased in 1939 and remained 'Low Meadow'.

Concluding remarks

As will be apparent from the accompanying Table (page 29), thirteen of the 1578 field names remained in being not only in 1840 but also in 1946. A further three remained the same in 1946 as they had been in 1840. Indeed, many of those names continue in use today, some 450 years later, and two centuries after the 1826 survey. It is the case, however, that the amalgamation of smaller areas into one field has led to field boundaries being altered, and names being lost.

In summary, although some names have disappeared altogether, there is nevertheless a reassuring thread of historical continuity in respect of those names that continue in use. They are as familiar today as they must have been to many previous generations of people at Armaside.

ABOVE-DERWENT PARISH COUNCIL.

PARISH HEARSE.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

For the Safe-keeping and Lending of the Hearse, passed at a meeting held for that purpose on the 18th March, 1869, and revised at a meeting of the Parish Council, held 3rd July, 1901.

- 1.—That the Hearse and all belonging to it be in the charge of the Above-Derwent Parish Council.
- 2.—The Hearse shall be available for the interment of any person dying in the parish of Above-Derwent, and to be buried in the parish, or in any burial ground of Crosthwaite, Borrowdale, Bassenthwaite, Embleton, Lorton, Buttermere, Threlkeld, Wythop, or Setmurthy, on payment of 2s.
- 3.—The Hearse may be lent outside the parish at the discretion of the Hearse Committee at a minimum charge of 6s. 6d.
- 4.—The Hearse, if required, will be lent to the following parishes at a fixed Scale of Charges as follow :—

To Crosthwaite, Borrowdale, St. John's, Keswick, and Underskiddaw, 6s. 6d.

Threlkeld, St. John's-in-the-Vale, Lorton, Buttermere, Embleton, Wythop, and Setmurthy, 8s.

Outside these parishes the Committee will make special charges.

All applications for the Hearse shall be made at least 24 hours before the time of funeral and all Fees must be paid directly to the Clerk to the Parish Council.

F P FARRER.