

Historic Landscape Survey of Clee Liberty Common



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Client	Shropshire Hills AONB
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Site area	230.58 ha.

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Introduction

This report has been produced by Janine Young and Matt Williams of Fearn Heritage and Archaeology on behalf of the 'Our Common Cause' project. The project is run by The Foundation for Common Land and is supported by various bodies including the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership.

The report focusses on the area known as Clee Liberty Common; it aims to assess archaeological features within the Common and comment on the value and significance of the historic landscape. Overall it is hoped that the results will contribute to improved management systems, help reconnect people with the Common and improve the public benefits of the Common.

Aims

The aims of this project are to:

1. assess and audit the existing HER sites and, where possible, enhance the existing records;
2. identify and record previously unidentified sites;
3. create a coherent narrative of the landscape and its development through time, based on current knowledge;
4. consider the historic significance of the landscape;
5. identify knowledge gaps and suggest future work;
6. present a series of costed ideas of projects;
7. produce a summary of the landscape for local use.

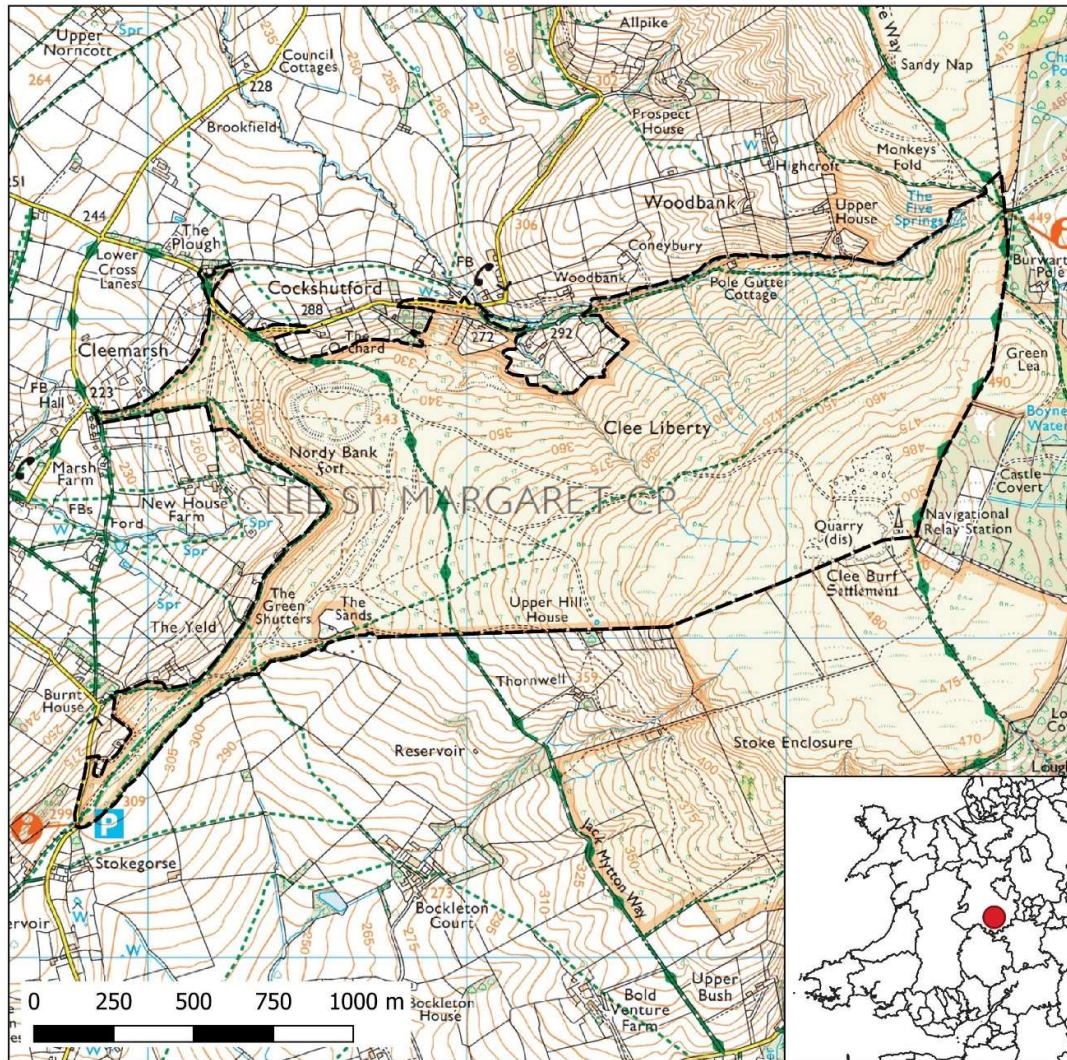
Method

Information was gathered from the following sources:

1. data held in the Shropshire Historic Environment Record within the site;
2. historic maps;
3. aerial photographs
4. published and unpublished documents, books and articles held at the Shropshire Archive;
5. the National Heritage List for England (<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/>) and other internet sources (e.g. <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>);
6. site walkovers carried out on 29/04/2019 and X/2019;
7. discussions with local residents.

An initial gazetteer of known assets was created from HER data and historic maps prior to the first walkover. New heritage assets were identified during the walkovers. Heritage assets were photographed using an iPhone 6 and locations were checked using a handheld Garmin GPSMAP 64s (accurate to 3m). A photo register and gazetteer of new heritage assets were created during the walkover.

New assets were recorded and interpreted to Level 1 as described in 'Understanding the Archaeology of Landscapes. A guide to good recording practice (second edition)' (Historic England 2017).



Key

 Site boundary

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Figure 1 - Site location

Assessment and reporting

The grades for assessing the significance of each asset and landscape are given in Appendix 1. A comment on the condition of each feature is given in the gazetteer and graded as good, fair or poor.

Research and reporting were carried out with reference to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 'Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment' where relevant (CIfA 2017).



Limitations.

The results of the report may be influenced by the following constraints and limitations:

1. data provided by the HER may be inaccurate;
2. documents, maps and publications may have been produced for various reasons and may be biased;
3. access may not possible to all assets;
4. the accuracy of the GPS depends on available satellites at the time of survey

Background

Geology

The geology of Brown Clee hill has had a huge influence on the way the hill has been used and managed over time. The current appearance of the hill is largely due to the abundance, and exploitation, of the natural resources such as sand, coal and limestone. Shropshire Council has designated Brown Clee as a regionally important geological site (RIGS) for the following reason (http://www.shropshiregeology.org.uk/RIGS/RIGS_view.html):

The hill top area of open pits and quarry designated as a RIGS since it comprises a unique combination of the highest coal workings in the UK with 'bell pits' sunk through a dolerite capping to coal seams below; plus features of an igneous intrusion displayed within the quarried area.

The geology of Brown Clee Hill (Figure 2) is summarised by Rowley (Rowley 1965):

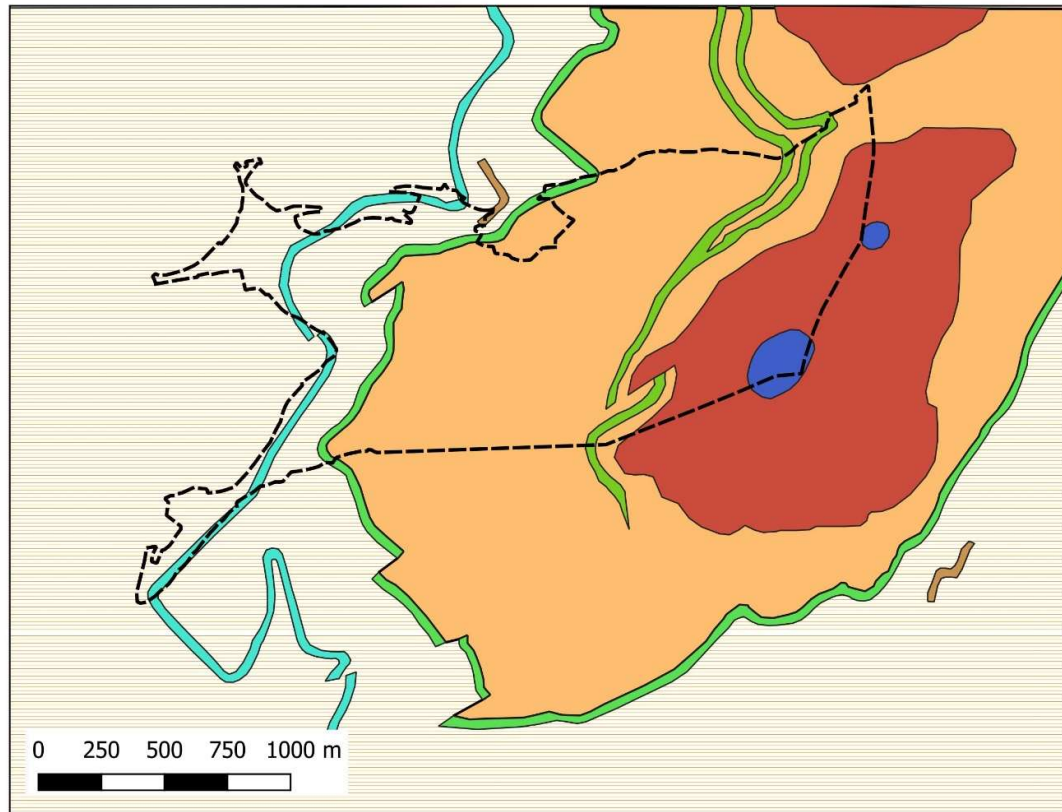
'Geologically the hill is composed of Breconian beds folded in a sincline with a thin series of coal measures, capped by olivine-dolerite sheets forming the two summits of the hill. The drift geology consists of Pleistocene head over Devonian marl and sandstone and carboniferous limestone with limestone shales. The marls and sandstone make up the upper slopes'

The geology is very apparent on the ground; limestone, sandstone and sand deposits are visible within the eroded tracks, quarries and pits across the sides of the hill. The basalt caps (remains of the olivine-dolerite sheets) have protected the lower deposits from erosion and now form the two peaks of Abdon Burf and Clee Burf. The quarry on Clee Burf has exposed and removed parts of the basalt deposits.

A shallow ditch with a bank on the downslope side runs west from Five Springs approximately half way up the northern slope of the common. It is clearly visible cutting across the hillside (see arrowed feature Plate 1). It resembles a track, although unlike other routes it is not marked on the 1st ed OS map. It appears to be an eroded soft layer within the interbedded rocks and sandstone that form the north side of the hill.



Plate 1 – Northern slope of common, looking west



 site_boundary

Geology map based on information from the BGS website.

bedrock

-  Clee Sandstone
-  Upper Abdon Limestone Member
-  Lower Abdon Limestone
-  Maughans Formation Limestone
-  Pennine Coal Measures Group
-  Igneous Intrusion
-  Clee Sandstone and Siltstone
-  Agrillaceous Rocks and Sandstone

Figure 2 - Geology

Topography

The site is part of Brown Clee Hill, which is the dominant topographical feature in the area. The hill has two summits, Abdon Burf and Clee Burf; these are 540m and 490m high respectively, with Abdon Burf located directly north of Clee Burf. These peaks are joined by a narrow ridge where several springs, known as Five Springs, emerge and join to form Cockshutford Stream. The land falls quite steeply around Abdon Burf and to the east and south of Clee Burf; whereas to the west of Clee Burf the land drops gently and widens, forming a plateau ridge with Nordy Bank hillfort at the north and a long spur known as The Thrift in the south, before dropping steeply at Clee St Margaret. Several springs emerge near the top of Clee Burf and modern map

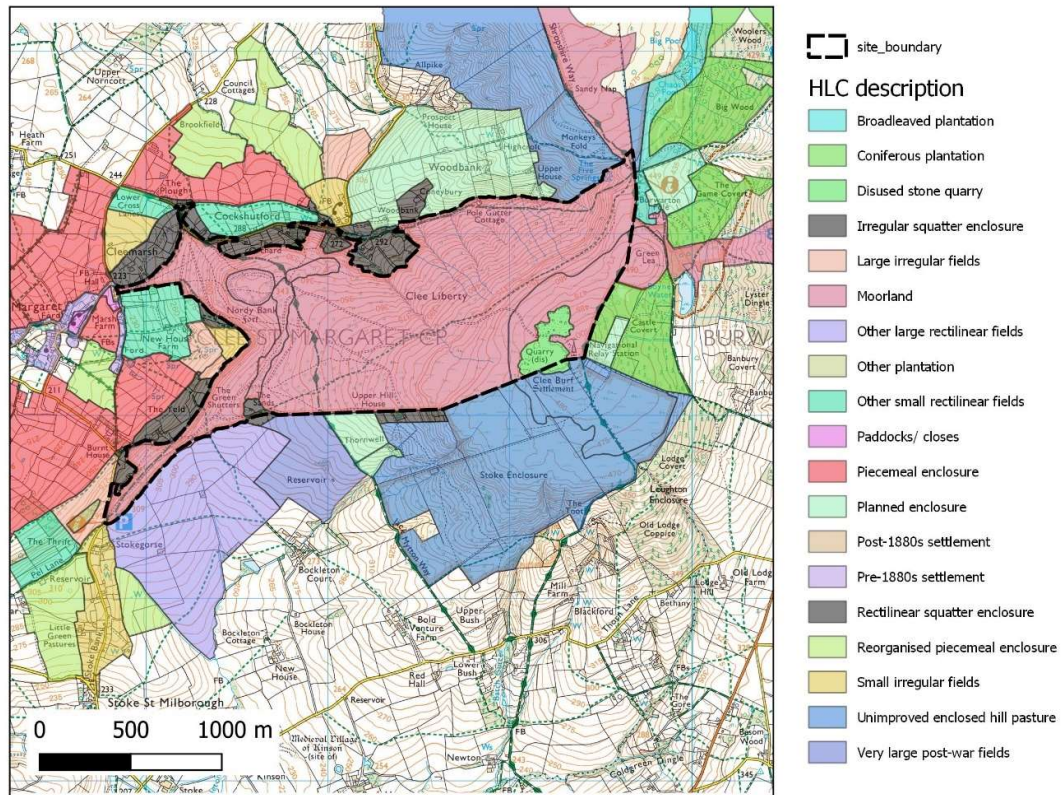


contours suggest others that have since disappeared. The springs within the site run down the north side of Clee Burf to join Cockshutford stream. These feed wet, marshy areas of varying size on the north and west sides of Clee Burf.

The site considered in this report is the land known as Clee Liberty which runs from Five Springs in the northeast, Clee Burf in the east, Nordy Bank in the west and The Thrift in the southwest, Cockshutford stream forms the northern boundary.

Land use

The SCC historic landscape characterisation refers to the main part of the land as ‘moorland’, much of the land that abuts the west and north of the moorland is recorded as ‘irregular squatter enclosures’. To the northeast, east and south are ‘planned enclosure’, ‘plantation’, and ‘unimproved hill pasture’. Several parts of the landscape are recorded as ‘disused stone quarry, disused colliery and other’ (Figure 3). Clee Liberty remains a working common and there are approximately 40 properties with Rights of Common attached to them. In total there are rights to graze several thousand sheep and a small number of horses and cattle.



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Map based on information from Shropshire HER

Figure 3 - Historic Landscape Characterisation



Overview of the Archaeological and Historical landscape

This section uses a variety of sources and evidence including historic mapping, Shropshire HER, documentary sources, aerial photographs and observations made during the walkovers. The detailed results of the walkover are tabulated in the gazetteer in Appendix 2.

Pre-Iron Age (before 800 BC)

There is very little evidence to suggest what the landscape of Brown Clee would have been like during this period, although stray finds have indicated that there was activity in the area. SHER 03758 records the discovery of a flint blade and part of leaf arrowhead at Nordy bank. These artefacts have been dated to the Neolithic period (4,000BC to 2,500BC) and may suggest settlement or defence of the hill prior to the construction of the Iron Age hillfort.

There are no known Bronze Age burial mounds (barrows) on Brown Clee Hill, although the HER records a reference to a possible cairn (stone mound) on Abdon Burf (HER 02586), which has since been demolished by quarrying. There is also evidence for activity from this period in the wider area; barrows are recorded on Titterstone Clee (7km south) and the Long Mynd (16.5km northwest), although generally barrows in the region are difficult to confirm and have often been misinterpreted (Garwood 2007, 137). Findspots recorded in the HER include a bronze or copper axe at Corvedale (2.4km west, HER 03206), a socketed axe at Silvington (5.7km southeast, between Brown Clee Hill and Titterstone Hill, HER 02597) and a socketed bronze gouge at Holdgate (5.1km north, HER 03210).

During the walkover a mound was observed in a marshy area just to the southwest of the Clee Burf summit (54). It is roughly circular with a diameter of 6m (Plate 2), however it may be a natural feature or remains of mining activity.

Given the evidence from the surrounding hills and within the region it is probable that the hill, with its two distinct summits, was used to some extent during the Bronze Age and may have contained evidence for ritual activity. However, subsequent activities such as the construction of the hill forts, mining and quarrying may have removed any remains. The worst affected area is at Clee Burf summit which has been seriously impacted by the mining and quarrying activity from the Medieval period onwards.



Plate 2 - Earth mound looking east. Clee Burf in background.

SIGNIFICANCE

There are no known pre-Iron Age remains of significance within the site.



Iron Age

Wider changes in society around 800BC are reflected within Shropshire by a particularly dense concentration of hillforts. The hillforts in the area vary greatly in size and were probably used for a variety of reasons including defence, farming, ritual and trade (Wigley 2002).

Brown Clee Hill contains the remains of three hillforts. The largest and best preserved of these, Nordy Bank (81), is the lowest and is located on a spur on the lower north western slopes of the hill. The hillforts at Abdon Burf and Clee Burf occupy the northern and southern summits of Brown Clee hill respectively. Abdon Burf and Clee Burf are about 1km apart, and Nordy Bank is 1.5km to the west (Figure 4).

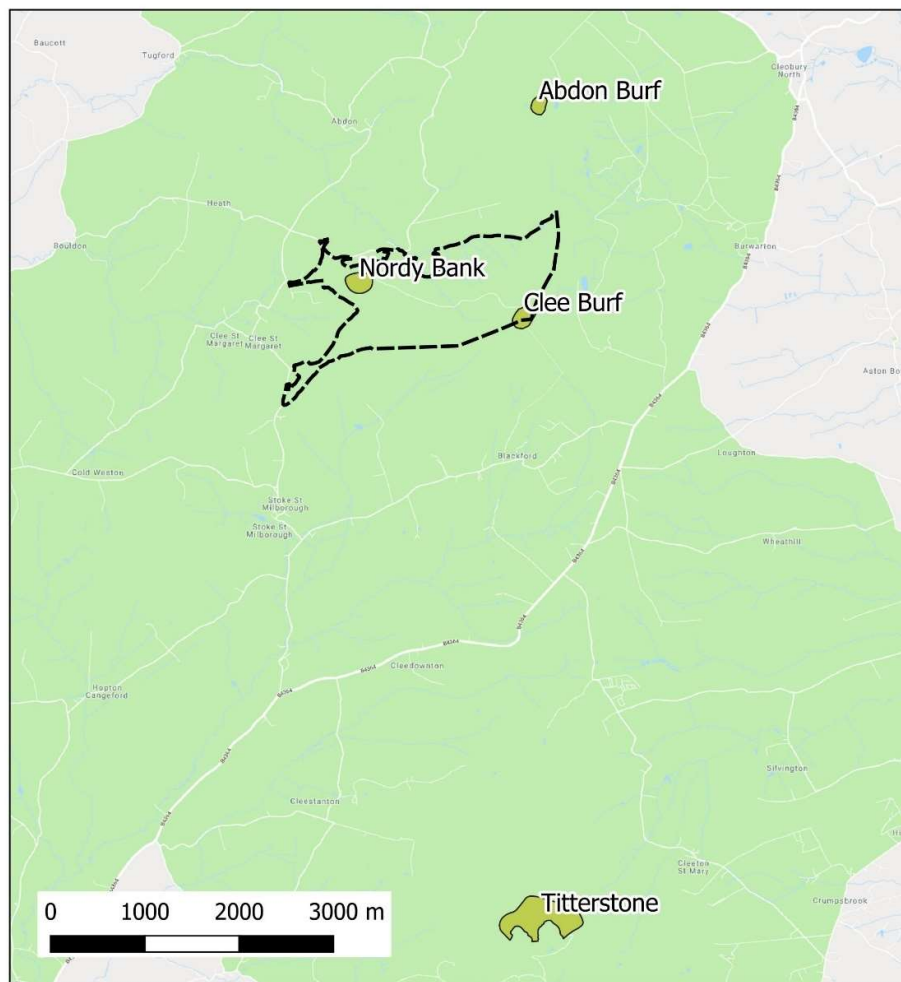


Figure 4 - Hillforts in the vicinity of the site

Nordy bank at 3.8 ha, is considered a medium sized settlement, whilst the 1st ed. OS survey suggests slightly smaller sizes for Clee Burf (3.4 ha) and Abdon Burf (3.5 ha). Larger hillforts are known at Tittersone Clee and further afield at Breidden and LLanymynech.



Nordy bank is a scheduled monument and in a good state of preservation. It is a slight univallate hillfort, described in the scheduling as:

'roughly oval in plan, the earthworks having maximum dimensions of some 260m east to west by 198m north to south and enclosing an area of approximately 3.2ha. The defences include a substantial and well defined rampart averaging 1.5m high around all but the east side, where it is up to 2.8m high.... The line of the ditch is disturbed around the south east quarter of the site where later surface quarrying has encroached onto the earthworks. There are five entrances to the interior of the enclosure, two of which appear to be original features.

The main entrance is believed to lie at the north east corner of the hillfort facing the natural approach along the ridge top. Here the northern section of ditch is interrupted by a causeway across the ditch 9m wide. The rampart is also interrupted at this point, although the entrance gap is only 3m wide and offset from the line of the causeway, slightly to the north. Such offsetting was designed to deflect any direct approach to the interior of the site, particularly by mounted attackers. Both sides of the rampart curve slightly inwards to create a simple inturned entrance. A broadening and lowering of the ramparts flanking this entrance suggest that guard house structures once controlled this gateway.

Various paths cross the fort and link the entrances. Apart from the new entrances and paths, the structure of the hillfort appears to be well preserved. Quarrying has not directly impacted the hillfort and many of the larger and more eroded tracks pass to the north.

Of particular interest are two interior features recorded in the SHER (HER 34343). The first is a square platform, measuring 23m by 20m, which appears to have had a surrounding ditch. The date and function is unknown. Encroaching slightly on the southwest corner of this platform is a smaller square feature. Local knowledge suggests this was a platform for a home guard hut during WWII. Elsewhere there is no discernible signs of occupation within the hillfort other than slight undulations in the surface.



Plate 3 - Nordy Bank looking northwest ©Shropshire HER

Clee Burf in contrast is poorly documented. It is described in the SHER (HER 00181) *'the south east quadrant in the form of a stone rampart that has been reduced to a scarp is all that survives of the univallate hillfort'*. The Victoria County History (VCH, 1908) states *'within and without the hillfort are numerous hollows which are supposed to have been made in the search for coal, the alternative explanation as hut circles would imply very close habitation'* although there is now little doubt that the hollows are bell pits for mining coal.

The 1st Edition OS map shows an earthwork ring complete on the east, west and southern sides but with little remaining on the northern side. It is possible that this section had already been removed by mining, although the rampart may have been larger on the southern side of the fort (to compensate for the drop of the hill) and therefore survived better.

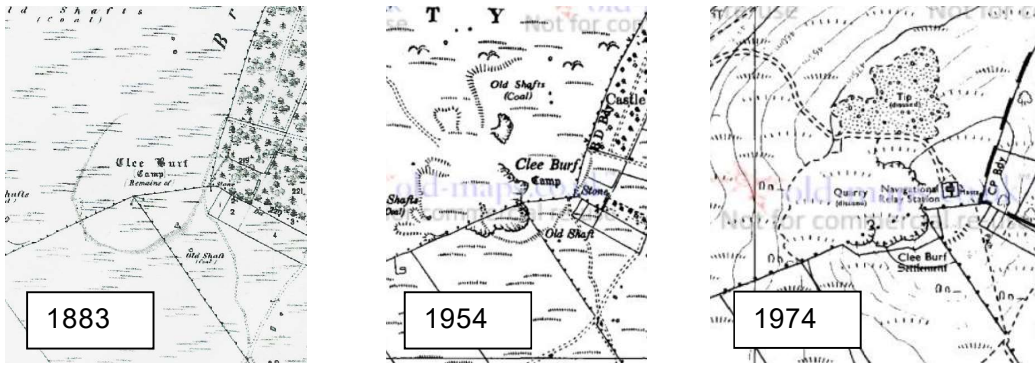


Figure 5 - Cleef Burf as shown on OS maps 1874, 1954, 1974

By 1954 the stone quarrying has substantially damaged or removed all of the rampart within the boundaries of Cleef Liberty, with only a small southeast section remaining in the adjacent parish of Burwarton. By 1974 the quarry has been extended and the Navigational relay station has been built in the eastern part of the hillfort. The northern part of the hill fort is completely obscured by a 'tip' (disused), presumably spoil waste from the quarrying process. Some remains of the hillfort, such as an outer ditch, may be preserved below the tip (Figure 5).

The surviving ramparts are still in evidence on the ground and appear as rough low banks of angular boulders and earth. The banks are spread and little of their original form can be determined (). The interior and exterior of the hillfort, where not impacted by modern quarrying, is pockmarked with numerous bell pits which would have damaged any surviving Iron Age remains. Plate 5 is taken from Cleef Liberty and shows the interior of Cleef Burf on the left, and the wooded boundary of Park, in the adjacent parish of Burwarton, on the right. Abdon Burf hillfort is clearly visible in the distance from Cleef Burf and it seems likely that a path connecting the two will have followed the top of the ridge across, although later damage makes this very difficult to verify.



Plate 5 - Park boundary looking north



Plate 4 - Cleef Burf rampart looking southwest

The relationship between the three forts on Brown Cleef is difficult to understand. The two forts on Cleef Liberty are of different construction – Nordy bank is wide and low with an earthen bank and ditch, it commands good views to the north, west and south but it is overlooked on the east by Abdon Burf and Cleef Burf. In contrast Cleef Burf is positioned on a summit with views in all directions except directly beyond Abdon Burf and the bank is constructed from rocks. The better views and rock construction suggest Cleef Burf may have had a more defensive function, whereas Nordy Bank may have enclosed a settlement and/or been used to collect animals or grain. Whether the hillforts were contemporary and how they functioned in the landscape is not well



understood; there are no obvious routeways that connect the two hillforts, indeed any such routes may have been obliterated by subsequent activity.

SIGNIFICANCE

The area of Clee Liberty contains nationally important remains from the Iron Age period. Within this small area are the remains of two hillforts: Nurdy Bank is a scheduled monument and a very well-preserved hillfort. Clee Burfe is less well preserved and its significance is compromised by the later mining activity. However, as one of the three hillforts on Brown Clee Hill, it is an important part of the Iron Age landscape. The significance of the hillforts and the Iron Age landscape is considered High.

Roman (50 AD – 410 AD)

There is no evidence relating to the Roman period in the immediate vicinity of Clee Liberty. The arrival of the Romans resulted in some reorganisation of the landscape in Shropshire and various Roman roads and settlements are known in the wider landscape, although all are some distance from Clee Liberty. The lack of Roman sites that indicate control of the local population, such as forts, towns or villas, suggests that in this area the land divisions may not have changed and farming and settlement simply continued much as before.

There is no evidence that either of the hillforts were used in the Roman period and there is little understanding of what the allegiance to Rome was in these areas. Hillforts in the northern part of Shropshire, such as the Wrekin, were attacked by the Romans and others, such as Nescliffe, locally show signs of re-use in this period. There is a possibility that the subrectangular enclosure within Nurdy Bank may be a Roman construct but this cannot be proved without further investigation.

SIGNIFICANCE

There are no significant remains dating to the Roman Period within the site.

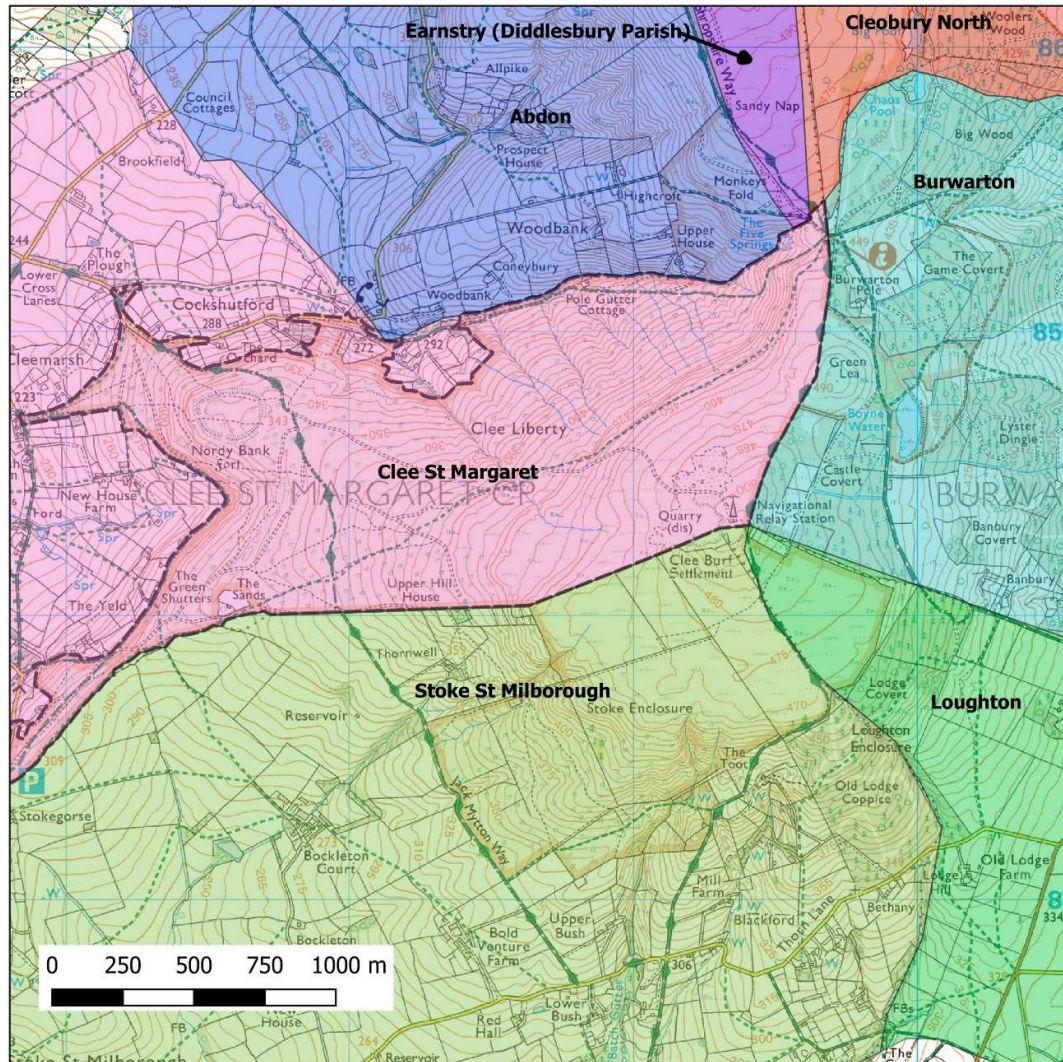
Early Medieval (410 AD – 1066 AD).

There has been extensive documentary research into the origins of Brown Clee Hill and specifically Clee Liberty Common during the Early Medieval period (Simmonds 1992; Rowley 1970). This section provides a summary but is not the aim of this report to reproduce this information in detail, and no primary sources have been consulted.

It is not known when Brown Clee hill was first established as common land although, like many commons, it probably emerged from the political landscape and common rights that grew during the Early Medieval period (Rowley 1970).

Parish boundaries within England were established during the Early Medieval period (Rackham 1986, 19) and the boundaries on Brown Clee were created during this period (Rowley 1970, 51). The hill is within seven different parishes. Clee Liberty forms the eastern part of the parish of Clee St Margaret and is abutted by six parishes; the boundaries radiate out from the summit of Clee Burf in the southeast where Clee St Margaret, Burwarton, Loughton and Stoke St Milborough join, and low point in the northeast where Clee St Margaret, Abdon, Earnstry, Cleobury North and Burwarton join (Figure 6).

The design of the boundaries ensures each parish has access to upland waste for common land. This is especially evident in the parishes of Earnstry (Diddlesbury) and Cleobury North, where long fingers of the parish extend south to join Clee Liberty. These parishes meet in the small valley between Clee Burf and Abdon Burf and numerous footpaths and tracks are still evident at this point. One of the larger tracks, now part of the Shropshire Way, follows the boundary of Earnstry (Diddlesbury) and Cleobury North to this point, then continues south along the boundary of Clee St Margaret and Burwarton to Clee Burf, and then on between Stoke St Milborough and Loughton.



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Figure 6 - Clee St Margaret and surrounding parishes

It is likely that this trackway was in use by the Early Medieval period and was used by commoners from various parishes. The only tracks are the current Shropshire Way (mentioned above) and the track to the quarry.

The boundaries clearly divide Clee Burf into quarters; it is noteworthy that the coal deposits appear to be equally divided and there is access to the smaller basalt deposits. The use of the stone within the hillfort demonstrates that the stone was already known and exploited, the boundaries infer that coal and stone may have been important resources to be shared equally between parishes even during this early period.

Two substantial banks were identified on the ground and from aerial photographs (arrowed in Plate 6). Both are c2m wide with a ditch on either side. From comparison with the maps, it is clear that these marks the parish boundaries. The date of construction cannot be determined, however they both cut the hillfort ramparts and the Stoke St Milborough/Loughton boundary appears to cut across a bell pit, suggesting a Medieval date at the earliest.

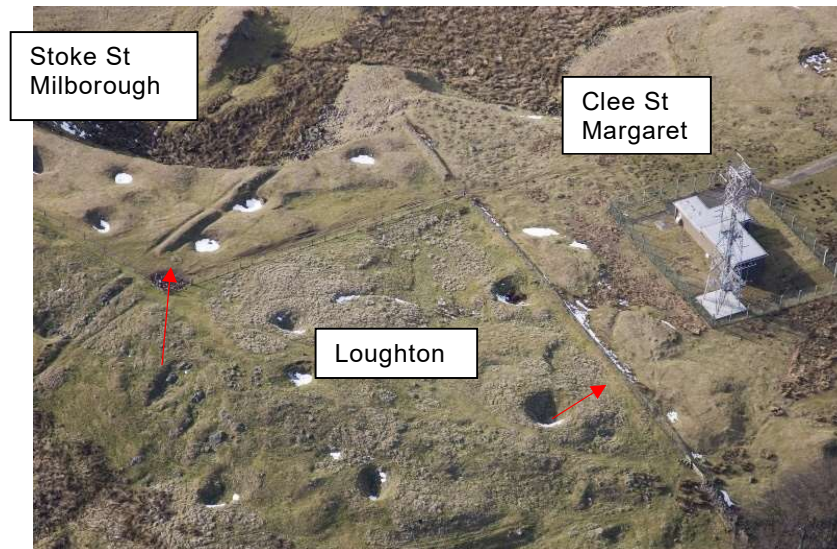


Plate 6 - Parish boundary banks on Cleef Burf looking northwest @Shropshire HER

A watching brief carried out during the excavation for a fuel tank for the Navigational relay station (HER ref 00181) identified a bank running across the hillfort and suggested that it may be contemporary with the hillfort, however it is likely that it was one of these banks observed here and it in fact represents the continuation of the parish boundary. Both of these banks are truncated abruptly by the quarry.

Clee Liberty was within a Royal Forest, which Rowley suggests was created prior to the Norman invasion (1970, 51). The exact boundaries are not known but a study of towns that enjoyed rights on Brown Clee Hill as a result of having been part of Clee Forest indicate that it extended far beyond the modern boundaries of Clee Liberty in all directions (Rowley 1970, 51). The creation of a Forest meant that the king or lords had certain hunting rights within the area (Rackham 1986, 131); it was unlikely that the Forest affected the rights on Clee Liberty common.

The environment of the common at this time is not clear, although if it was used for grazing it is likely to have been rough moorland on the high ground with trees on the lower slopes. The parish boundaries, which radiate out from a high point and low point, would also have ensured approximate equal share of high land and low land.



Plate 7 - Stoke St Milborough/Loughton parish boundary looking south from Cleef Burf



SIGNIFICANCE

The political landscape has its origins in this period. It is likely that the main tracks (such as the Shropshire Way) follow historic access routes and therefore are significant landscape features. The boundary divisions may date to this period and it is possible (but considered unlikely) that the parish boundary banks running south from Clee Burf were constructed during this period. There are no known archaeological features dating to this period, although the boundaries and continuation of historic land use make the landscape of regional significance.

Late Medieval (1066 AD – 1500 AD).

In 1155 Clee Forest ceased to be a true Royal Forest although certain Royal rights remained, then in 1170 Walter de Clifford acquired the lands of Brown Clee. Documents indicate he employed foresters and it continued to be managed in a similar way to a Forest. The earliest documentary evidence for common rights on Brown Clee dates to this period, when de Clifford imposed a levy on those living within the forest in return for their rights on Brown Clee (Rowley 1970, 53).

Until this period commoners from all parishes may have had free access to the entire Brown Clee Hill wastes. However, in 1267 a right to Free Warren (keep rabbits) was granted on the hill and eventually this led to each parish being confined to its own part of the common (Rowley 1970, 55).

Assize Rolls from the 12th century show that the 'waste soils' of Clee were being 'assarted' (taking ownership of a parcel of land) by lords of the manor, monasteries and some prosperous peasants (Rowley 1970, 52). It is difficult to recognise land that has been taken in this way but it undoubtedly led to the shrinking of the common. The common has concave sides which funnel out along roads, indicative of land which no-one had responsibility to fence (Rackham 1986, 141) and which has been slowly encroached upon over many years.

De Clifford also granted parcels of land to individuals. In 1260 a grant to assart also gave a license to 'dig coal to sell it or give it away'. The coal deposits are located on Clee Burf (see Figure 10 below) and this may indicate the erosion of the common at the east end where coal pits are visible both within Clee Liberty and beyond; they are especially dense in Loughton.

Coal working is evident in all the parishes on Clee Hill (HER 06996). Coal extraction during this period was confined to small scale 'bell pits' evidence for which can be seen all around Clee Burf (Plate 8).



Plate 8 - Bell pits around Clee Burf looking southwest ©Shropshire HER



A bell pit is a fairly rudimentary method of extracting coal. A shaft was dug through overburden to the coal which was worked out around the shaft, creating a bell shape. Excavation continued outwards until the roof became unsafe, and another pit was sunk further along the seam. The pit is collapsed and backfilled and the resulting earthwork is a circular, straight sided pit with a small rounded base, up to 8m across (Plate 9).



Plate 9 - Bell pit on Cleef Burf (2m scale)

During the Medieval period coal was usually used for industrial processes such as lime burning, brewing, and smelting rather than domestic fuel (Birmingham University and English Heritage 2007, 19). The density of the bell pits does not infer large scale extraction, and reflects the operations of individuals or small groups exercising their rights to extract coal.

It is difficult to date the bell pits as there is no clear local typology and none have been archaeologically excavated. The visible remains may be much later, or earlier, than the 13th century documentary references.

During the walkover survey the HER records of Bell pits was enhanced and a total of 79 bell pits were identified from aerial photographs and the walkover, 57 of which are within the site boundary (although not all were confirmed on the ground). All were generally circular with a diameter of up to 8m and a depth of about 1m. Unsurprisingly the pits are concentrated in the area of coal deposits around Cleef Burf, both inside and outside the hillfort. Some pits are grouped in short lines where a coal seam has been followed. The modern quarrying has undoubtedly destroyed many bell pits and further pits are probably sealed below the quarry waste.

SIGNIFICANCE

The earliest reference to coal extraction in Shropshire relates to Brown Cleef Hill; the bell pits may date to this period and are therefore considered of at least regional, potentially national significance (a comparable area of mining remains on Titterstone Cleef is a scheduled monument). Their significance on Brown Cleef Hill is enhanced by the association with the common.

Post Medieval (1500 AD – 1750 AD)

This section has been sub-divided to discuss the various archaeological and landscape features that date to this period rather than chronologically.

STRAKER ROUTES

Enclosure of commons from the Middle Ages onwards had a significant effect on the landscape, as common land was claimed by lords and landowners. The 'Domesday of Enclosure' (a survey of enclosed arable land) of 1517 showed that 120 acres of land in Stoke St Milbrough had been



enclosed. The townships mentioned in Stoke St Milborough are on the edge of cultivation and it is likely that the enclosure included at least a small part of the common (Rowley 1970, 58).

Documentary and landscape evidence suggest that the common was being eroded throughout the Medieval and Post Medieval period, and conversely there is nothing to suggest that the common has ever grown outwards: there is no abandoned settlement evidence within the common, nor is there evidence for cultivation. It seems that the existing limits are the furthest (highest) limits of the common on Brown Clee (Rowley 1970, 58).

The threat of a reduction of common land and reduced rights for commoners during this period may have influenced the production of the 'Description of Clee Soyles' in 1612. This document clearly states the different rights of the intercommoners (those who lived in villages adjoining the common) and strakers (those who lived within the Clee Forest but did not have direct access to the common). The intercommoners had standard rights of common on the lower, richer slopes, whilst the strakers were only permitted to graze cattle or sheep, and had to graze their stock on the poorer pasture on the upper slopes.

Rowley identifies several 'straker routes' that lead from villages within Clee Forest to the common (Figure 7). Those crossing Clee St Margaret include one which runs from the village of Tugford to Cockshutford on the northern common boundary, and then follows the parish boundary and footpath to Five Springs and the upper slopes for grazing. There is also a lower one which links Cold Weston to the slopes of the common. These tracks are known locally as outracks and were notoriously poor due to the constant tramping of cattle. The outracks were generally separate from other routes as the intercommoners did not want the strakers' stock damaging the common trackways, perhaps some explanation for the high number of tracks which cross the common.



Base image Google Earth

Figure 7 - Straker routes (shown in orange) after Rowley 1970

During the walkover, several wide, deep tracks were identified which may be outracks. The track at the base of the slope near to Woodbank (72) is deep and bounded on both sides by treelined banks (Plate 10); it follows the route which skirts the northern boundary of the common. Numerous tracks and other deep eroded features (some of which may be geological, or the result of quarrying) run along the Thrift and spread out to cover the west side of the common. One large ditch or track follows the southern boundary of The Thrift and continues over the high ground and on to Five Springs (where five parishes meet); this may be the outrack from Cold Weston (see Figure 7). There are also numerous tracks along the southern boundary of the common which may have been used as outracks.



Plate 10 - Track near Woodbank looking west



Plate 11 - Track along south boundary of The Thrift

SQUATTER ENCLOSURES

In addition to enclosure, the common diminished as small 'squatter' enclosures took land at the edge of the common, this practice became more common in the 17th century as the advent of larger scale quarrying and coal mining attracted many labourers to build small stone cottages on the edges of the common (Simmonds 1992 and Rowley 1970, 58). 'Squatting' did not imply illegal occupancy as it does today, and often it was encouraged by the Lord of the Manor as a source of income (as in Clee St Margaret in the 17th century (Simmond 1992, 66)). Squatter enclosures are clearly visible in modern ownership boundaries and some are recorded in the Shropshire HLC. They are concentrated around the northwest of the common where tracks and paths lead to areas of quarrying and upper heathland.

Numerous farms are identified as squatter enclosures; these are The Yeld (2), Burnt House cottage (3), New House (4), The Sands (6), Upper Hill House cottage (7), Pole Gutter cottage (15), Patch Farm (18),



Clee Marsh Farm (24), buildings or enclosures identified on the 1st. ed. OS map of 1883 (32, 33, 43) and Quarry Cottage (75). The reason for enclosing the land is often apparent from the building name, e.g. The Sands, which appears to be surrounded by sand pits; and Quarry Cottage, which is close to the quarries on the northeast of Nordy Bank.



Plate 12 - Squatter enclosures and buildings

Some squatter enclosures do not appear to have contained farms or dwellings, for example the narrow tree lined enclosure with a boundary stone on the south side of The Thrift (43) (Figure 8). Most of the encroachments are linear and take land from along the edge of the common, however The Sands, Patch Farm, Pole Gutter cottage and Batch Farm appear to have taken parcels from within the common. Although they are all close to the common boundary, tracks separate these enclosures from the edge of the common. The enclosure at the Sands is surrounded by a substantial tree lined bank (Plate 14).

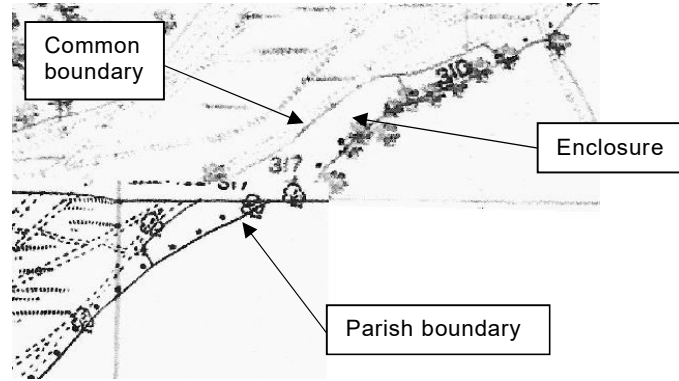


Figure 8 - Enclosure (43) as shown on 1883 OS map



Plate 13 - Enclosure (43) looking northeast

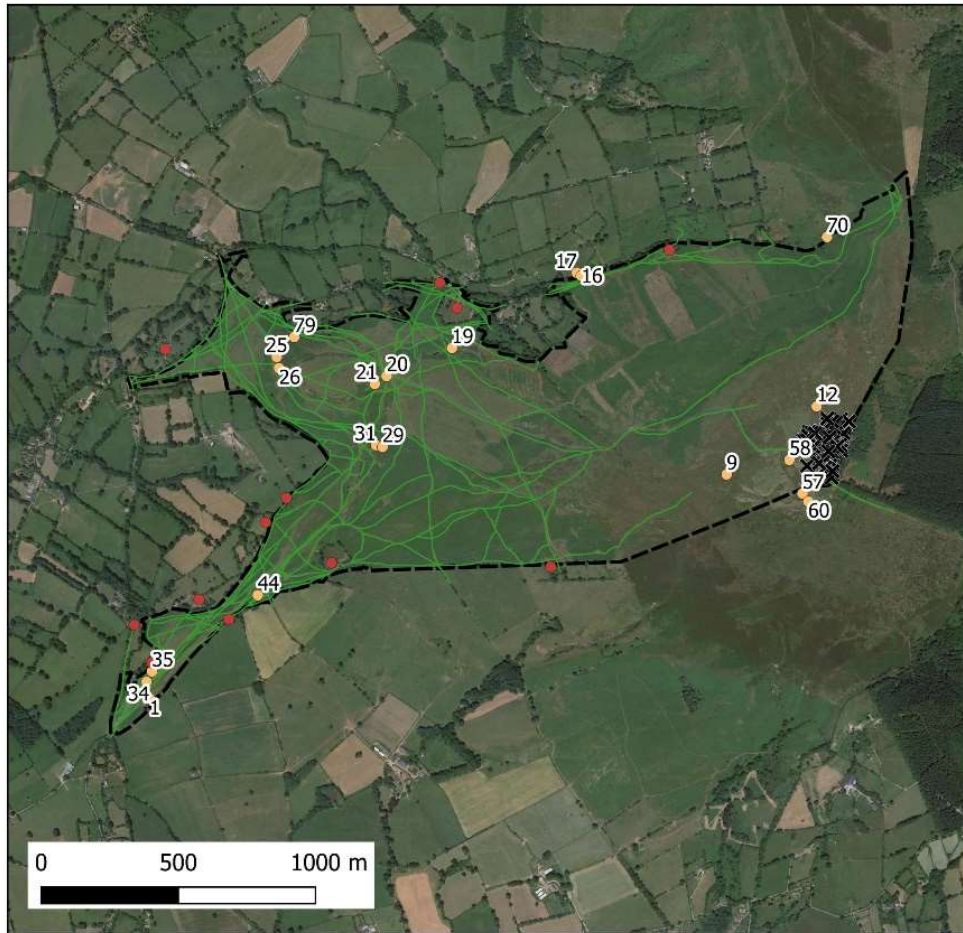


Plate 14 - The Sands looking north from the southern boundary of the common

There are numerous tracks and pathways around and across the common, many of which were mapped on the 1st ed. OS map. The paths are most dense in the west of the common where more squatter enclosures have been identified. They lead around the base of the common, up the slopes and often directly to known quarry or kiln sites. It is impossible to date these routes although those used for grazing access and as outracks may be older than those that lead to quarries and kilns, as these features



are likely to be more recent. Several tracks on The Thrift appear to be inclined plains (photo) constructed to remove quarried material from the common.



- Squatter buildings
- Quarries, kilns or sandpits (see gazetteer)
- ✕ Bell pits
- Paths and tracks

Figure 9 - Squatter buildings, paths and works within the common



Plate 15 - Inclined plane (41) on The Thrift looking northeast (2m scale).

In contrast to the cluster of squatter enclosures in the west, the northeast of the common is bounded by Burwarton Park. The park was first recorded in 1827 (SHER 07510) and had reached its full extent by 1883 as mapped in the 1st edition OS map. The park boundary follows the Burwarton parish boundary across the top of Brown Clee and then east along the boundary with Loughton parish. There is a marked contrast between the open landscape of the common and the carefully designed landscape park, which contains rides, pools, woodland plantations. The western part of the park is rugged rather than formal but nonetheless represents a carefully designed woodland. Squatter cottages that existed on this side of the common have been adapted into parks cottages in the 19th century. The boundary between the parkland and the common is marked by a drystone wall and mature trees (see Plate 5).

BOUNDARIES

Enclosure and squatting reduced the size of the common throughout the Medieval and Post Medieval period but the current boundaries correlate well with those suggested by Rowley based on the 'Description of Clee Soyles' of 1612. Many of the boundary features identified during the walkover probably date to this period at the latest but may be much earlier.

The common boundary construction differed across the site – in the south west it was a low hedged bank with an occasionally visible ditch on the common side which would prevent animals escaping (Plate 16). At some points the ditch is several metres wide and may represent heavily eroded outracks (see Plate 11). Further east, at Upper Hill House, there is occasional stone revetting of the bank and then dry-stone walling. Continuing east towards Clee Burf the boundary is a substantial stone wall (Plate 17). This may date to the later quarrying when stone would have easily available, and could therefore be the most recent boundary construction. A ditch is still evident on the common side.



Plate 16 - Southwest boundary along The Thrift looking northeast (2m scale)



Plate 17 - Southeast boundary near Clee Burf looking east (2m scale)

The commons' northern boundary follows Cockshutford Stream where there is occasional stone revetting. It then continued along the main road passed Cockshutford although squatting enclosures have now pushed it south. In the west, near Burnt House, the boundary is again marked by a substantial wide and shallow ditch and lined with hawthorn and holly. The area suffers erosion and some deeply incised banks are evident, along with what appears to be terracing.

QUARRYING

There are extensive archaeological remains relating to quarrying across Brown Clee; limestone was quarried on a small scale across the site and burnt in kilns to make lime; sand pits are recorded in the west of the common and there is a large quarry for the basalt at the summit of Clee Burf.

There is a 13th century reference to coal extraction, which was probably only used in industrial processes (such as lime burning) as wood was the preferred domestic fuel (see page 16). Later evidence for the use of coal comes from Leland who, in 1540, wrote 'There is no great plenty of woods in Clee Hills yet there is sufficient wood. Plenty of Cole Yearth stone nether exceeding and good for lyme whereof they make much and serve the contre about'. (Rowley 1970, 59). The Foresters' accounts of the 13th century do not refer to mining or quarrying (Rowley 1970, 59), this may be because the works were occasional and had no significant commercial value. However, Leland's description implies that by the 16th century Clee Hill is providing lime for the surrounding area.

Several lime kilns are shown on the 1st ed. OS and recorded in the SHER, these were visited during the walkovers and additional features noted(see Figure 9). One the northwest side of Nordy Bank is a group



of features which include: sand pit (27), a group of three kilns (25) a quarry (83) (Plate 19) and another kiln to the north (79) (Plate 18).



Plate 18 - Lime kiln (79) looking north (2m scale)



Plate 19 - Quarry (83) looking southwest (2m scale)

The group on the immediate east side of Nordy Bank consists of at least four kilns (21) and quarries (20). The area is overgrown and therefore it was difficult to give a confident count of features. Another quarry is located 150m to the east (19); this was worked until 1939, when it was brought down to loading bays, which remain on the west side of Patch Farm (Simmonds 1992, 72). This quarry is notably larger than the other limestone quarries and some remnants of concrete structures are scattered in the area.



Plate 20 - concrete structure in quarry (19)

In the mid 17th century demand for iron increased due to the Civil War. In 1655 Humphrey Briggs had liberty of 'getting and carrying away all mines of ironstone off Brown Clee' and in 1640 quantities of ironstone are recorded as having been taken from Clee Burf to supply the blast furnaces at Abdon, Charlecotte and Boulton (Simmonds 1992, 50). By 1700 demand dropped and very little stone is recorded from Clee Burf until the 19th century, when it was used for road building (Simmonds 1992, 51).

The extensive modern quarry at the top of Clee Burf probably dates to around 1930 when Edwin Millchap bought the Clee Burf Stone company. The stone was broken out by hand and brought down to Heathengate and crushed with a steam powered roller in the field opposite the Plough (Simmonds 1992, 72); there are still earthworks remaining in the field today (possibly remnant piles of rock).



Plate 21 - Field opposite The Plough where rocks were crushed (2m scale)

The remains of the quarry are the most prominent features of the site. They comprise three semi-circular excavations measuring 140m across on the northwest side of the summit, with a 450m long spoil tip around the north and west. The asphalt road running west from the quarry is first depicted in the 1974 OS map. Adjacent to the road are the remains of several concrete and stone structures which are not shown on any maps (66). They are roofless and some are have partially collapsed. Quarrying stopped here in the 1940s and the large, sheltered pits and spoil tips are now overgrown.

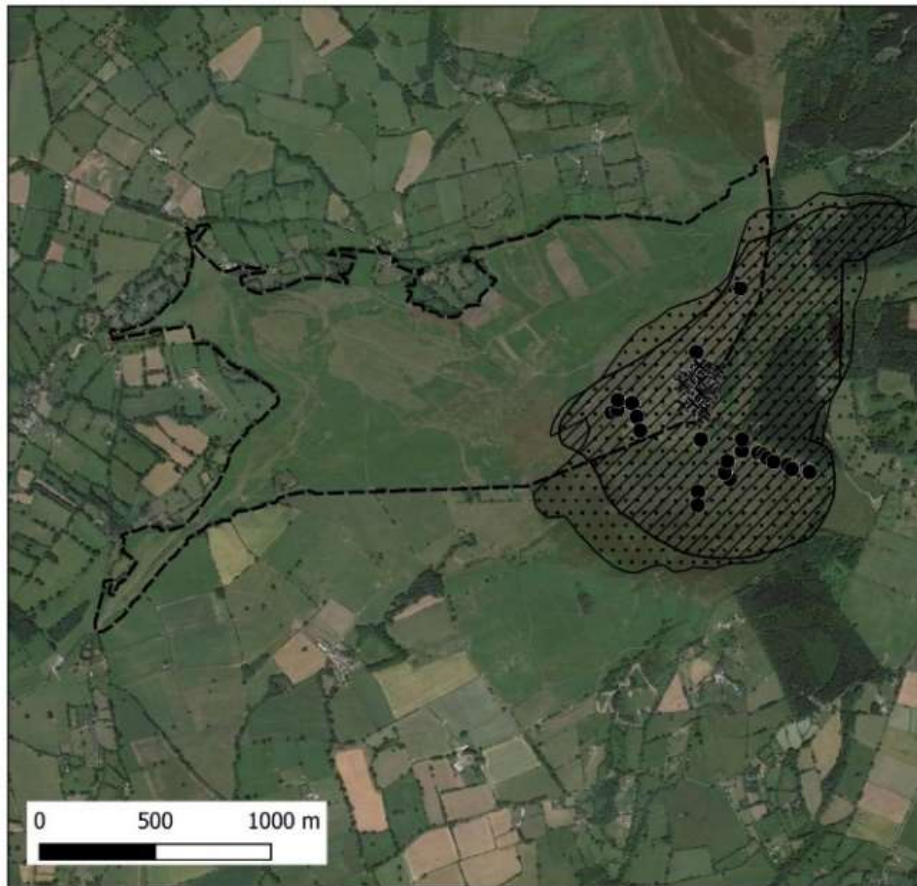


Plate 22 - Remains of structures (66) looking south

COAL MINING

Coal has been mined from Clee Burf for centuries. Documentary evidence implies that coal was dug during the Medieval period, probably by rudimentary 'bell pits' (see page 15). It is possible that some of the bell pits recorded within the site date to the Medieval period although the majority are probably Post Medieval in date. Fifty-seven bell pits were identified within the site using aerial photos; these are concentrated around the area of the coal resource as mapped by the Coal Authority.

In 1948 the mineral rights were taken over by the National Coal Board. The coal authority data records 'probable shallow coal mine workings' covering the top of Clee Burf as well as 26 individual mine entrance points. There are two types of mine entrance: shafts, which are vertical or near vertical; and adits, which are horizontal or sloped and walkable.



- ✕ Bell pits from APs
- Coal Authority recorded mine entrances
- ▨ Coal Authority probable Shallow Coal Mine Workings
- Coal Authority surface Coal Resource Area

Figure 10 - Bell pits and Coal Authority information

The 'probable shallow coal mine workings' is the estimated extent of shallow underground mines for which no recorded plan exists. The area was inspected during the walkovers but there were no visible remains (Plate 23). Much of the area has now been quarried away or is covered in spoil.



Plate 23 - View northwest from spoil tip over area of 'probable shallow coal mine workings'

SIGNIFICANCE

Archaeological remains and landscape evidence from this period is better preserved, and interpretation is often supported by documentary evidence. The use of the common during this period is demonstrated archaeologically by the bell pits, quarries, kilns, tracks and straker routes. Who used the common, and for what purpose, can be derived from documents describing the commoners' rights such as the 'Swainmote Court Rolls' and 'The Description of Clee Soyles' (Rowley 1970, 59).

The squatter enclosure and buildings are not rare features; however, the fact that many buildings are still attached to the common, and the inhabitant still hold commoners' rights, is an integral and historically important part of the Clee Liberty community. Straker routes are also not rare features but the documentary evidence from 'The Description of Clee Soyles' explaining their use, and the local terminology (straker) means they should be considered of regional significance.

The quarrying activity on Clee Liberty is specifically related to the unusual combination of natural resources available and the rights and needs of the commoners. The limestone quarries and small kilns are not as extensive as those on Titterstone Clee but are moderately well preserved; the majority of the visible remains probably date to the Post Medieval period but cannot currently be dated. The remains are of local significance at least, although information from further investigation (survey and excavation) would enhance knowledge. The SHER records bell pits on the area around Nordy Bank, although this is not the area of coal resource and the walkover suggests that the earthworks are kilns; this could also be confirmed by further investigation. Little is known about Clee quarry on the summit of Clee Burf, although it was certainly less important than that at Abdon. It is considered of local significance.

The extant evidence for coal mining is the circular bell pits visible around Clee Burf, although the Coal Authority records possible further underground works. The bell pits are well preserved outside the quarried area but cannot be easily dated. This type of 'domestic' or low intensity mining is not rare and the pits are considered of local significance although information from further investigation (survey and excavation) would enhance our knowledge and may date the features. Early pits that correlate to the 13th century documentary evidence would be considered nationally important.



Results

Gazetteer

A gazetteer and plan of the sites is included as Appendix 2.

Condition

The gazetteer includes a comment on the condition of each of the features investigated as part of the walkover in the gazetteer above. It is clear that important elements of the prehistoric and later landscape have been destroyed by the later industrial activity, however this activity has ceased and is now itself considered of significance. In general, the condition of the archaeological features is considered moderate and stable, with a few factors threatening preservation.



Plate 24 - Stock erosion at one of the entrances to Nordy Bank (2m scale)

The common is quite heavily grazed and some features, such as Nordy Bank, have suffered from over grazing (Plate 24). Nordy bank would benefit from some repairs to erosion scars and bracken control.

Bracken growth was noted during the walkover although it was early in the year to witness its full extent, Particularly the southern portion around Nordy Bank and the associated quarries and the whole area would benefit from bracken control.

The area also suffers from natural erosion and some of the features by their very nature are soft and sandy; tracks and boundary banks are often heavily eroded. Tracks would benefit from not being driven on in wet conditions and eroded or wet areas being filled.

Gaps in Knowledge

Despite the presence of the well-preserved hillfort Nordy Bank on Clee Liberty, there is little knowledge about how the hillforts functioned or how the wider landscape was being used during the Iron Age period. No excavation or geophysics has taken place at either Nordy Bank or Clee Burf and the extent and nature of the remaining portions of Clee Burf are not particularly well understood. Further fieldwork could significantly add to our knowledge of this period.

Various sources and Rowley (1970) in particular provide thorough documentary research for the site in the Medieval/early Post Medieval period, including the history of Clee Forest and a description of commoners' rights. Various features such as tracks, quarries, bell pits and boundaries thought to date to these periods have been identified on the ground, but are difficult to date. Archaeological fieldwork could help to increase our knowledge of these features and enhance the documentary record.



The later mining and limestone quarrying of Clee Liberty is not very well understood. An initial record of the buildings and earthworks has been made and new features identified, but further work, both fieldwork and documentary research, would help to clarify the significance of the remains.

Discussion

In summary the historic landscape of Clee Liberty Common is fairly well understood with existing documentary research on the common providing context to the visible archaeological evidence. The walkover survey has clarified existing features and identified numerous new features - these have been categorised according to period where possible. Further archaeological fieldwork and research could improve understanding particularly of some of the later features.

The geology and topography of the land at Clee Liberty has had a huge impact on the way that it has been used and shaped by humans since pre-history. All of the manmade features that survive in the landscape relate in some way to the natural landscape, either the use of the natural topography to construct hillforts with commanding views or the exploitation of the natural resources.

The first period to leave a substantial mark on the landscape of Clee Liberty is the Iron Age, with a focus on the enclosures or hillforts sitting atop the three summits. It is still unclear how they were used or how they relate to one another, but it is likely that the interior of at least Nordy Bank was occupied. The surrounding land at this time was presumably made up of small farming communities, perhaps supporting the hillforts.

The imposition of the parish boundaries in the Early Medieval period creates a second phase of patterns in the landscape, and many of these still survive and are in use today. The area of Brown Clee is divided up, crucially with the hillfort at Clee Burf being split into a variety of parishes, thus creating a quite different landscape structure. Equally the creation of Clee Forest has a substantial impact, and the origin of Clee Liberty during this time is clearly still evident in the landscape today.

In later periods, the exploitation of the resources of the hill define a new phase of activity; mining for coal and quarrying activity has scarred the landscape heavily with remains both of the industry itself and associated trackways and structures.

This report has drawn together evidence for each of these phases in the landscape and identified features which are specific to each period, and some which are used throughout a number of periods. Each of these phases is equally important in understanding the development of the landscape, and how communities have used the landscape through time.



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Appendix 1

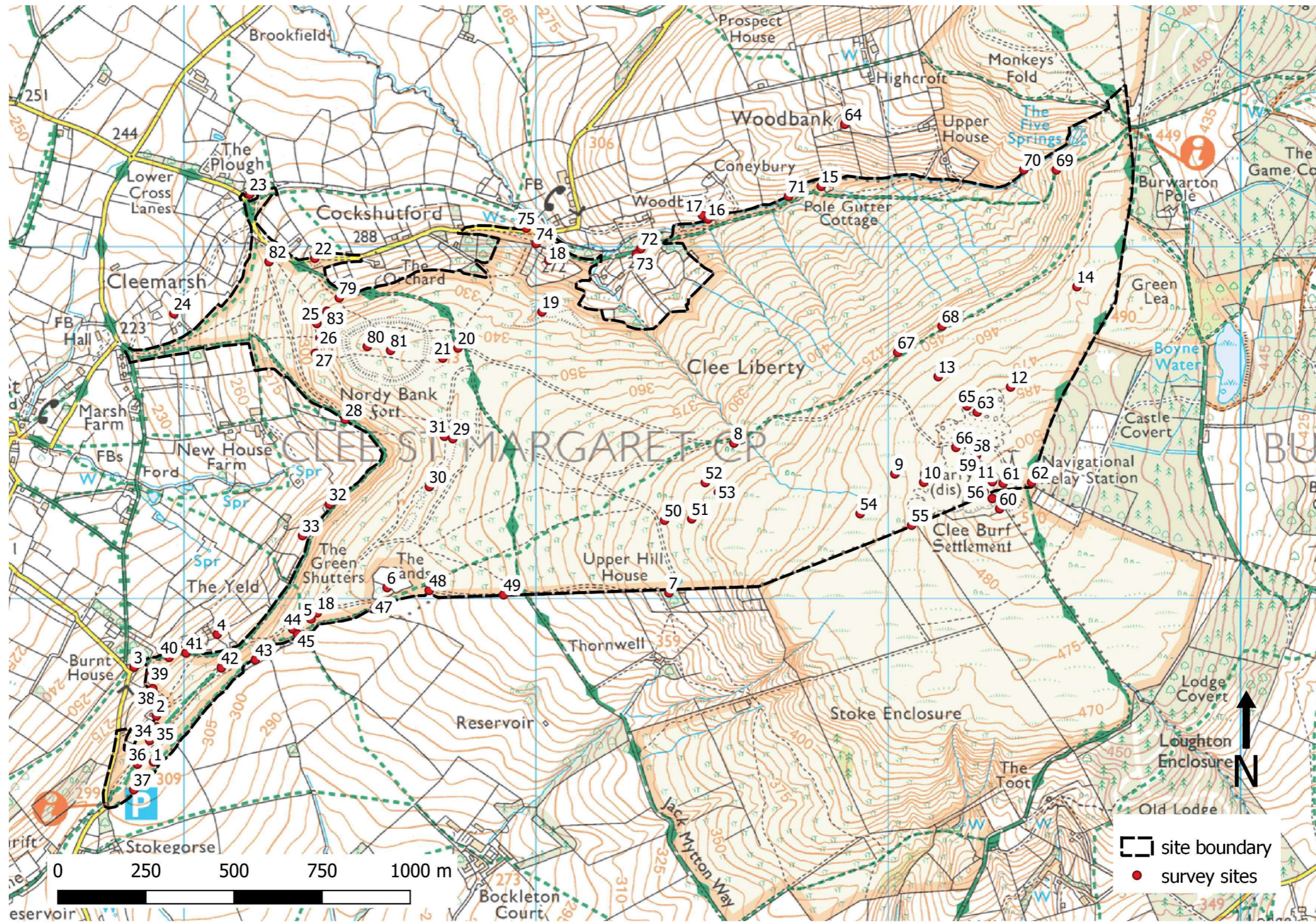
The significance of archaeological features and historic landscape

Very high	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• World Heritage Sites• Sites or features of international value that can contribute significantly to acknowledged international research objectives• Well preserved landscapes with exceptional coherence, time depth or other factors
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scheduled monuments and designated landscapes• Designated or undesignated sites or features of demonstrable national value that can contribute significantly to acknowledged national research objectives
Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Designated or undesignated sites or features of demonstrable regional value that can contribute significantly to regional research objectives
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heritage assets recorded in the Shropshire HER• Sites or features of local value that can contribute to local research objectives• Sites or features compromised by poor preservation and/or poor survival of contextual associations
Negligible	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sites or features with little or no surviving archaeological interest
Unknown	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The importance of the site/feature has not been ascertained



Appendix 2

Gazetteer



Fearn site no.	Name	DESCRIPTION	HER no. Pref ref	Condition notes	Overall condition	Significance	Period
1	Sand pit	Site of irregular shaped sand pit identified from 1st Edition OS, probably representing small area of sand extraction. Nothing identified on the ground during the walkover although the area is very sandy and has clearly been subject to erosion		N/A	NA	Low	Post Medieval
2	No. 2 The Yeld cottage	Described in the HER as a rare example of a mid-C17 squatter's cottage, one up, two-down, with a thatched roof and an out-built stack that may have incorporated a garderobe.	19930	Described as a ruin with collapsed gable wall, not visited close up	Poor	Medium	Post Medieval
3	Burnt House Cottage	Squatter cottage	23156	inhabited	Good	Medium	Post Medieval
4	New House	Squatter cottage	23157	inhabited	Good	Medium	Post Medieval
5	Quarry	Small circular quarry marked on OS maps and identified in HER as part of desktop survey, no further details added on the ground	29424	small quarry scoop, now overgrown	Fair	Low	Post Medieval
6	The Sands	The Sands irregular enclosure surrounded by small bank and fence containing stone cottage and outbuildings. The HLC and 1st ed OS shows that the enclosed area just outside the common boundary is also associated with the Sands, the name is derived from the geology and it is one of the clearest examples of encroachment on the common, the enclosed fields just outside of the common may be associated with it	23659	The enclosure is in good general condition and is clearly inhabited.	Good	Medium	Uncertain. Post Medieval
7	Upper hill house	Upper Hill House is present on the Tithe and OS maps and represents another example of a squatter cottage built directly on the edge of the common, perhaps dating to the mid 18th century. It is likely to have started life as a one up one down squatters cottage but has been extended. It is possible that the enclosed fields just outside of the common are associated with it.	23662	The cottage is inhabited and well maintained.	Good	Medium	Post Medieval

8	Convergence of paths	A point where many of the historic and modern paths converge was identified from the aerial photographs and visited in order to try to identify whether any significance could be attributed to this point. No obvious stream crossing or features of relevance were identified during the walkover		N/A	N/A	Negligible	Post Medieval
9	Coal Working	The HER identifies an area of coal working on Clee Burf summit, 'Coal working are depicted here on historic maps from the mid 18th to the late 19th century.' This has been subdivided below as 10 and 12.	06696	Good	Fair	Medium	Medieval/Post Medieval
10	Coal shafts	This reference is used to describe the old mine shafts marked on the coal authority maps and OS maps. Very little evidence for these could be identified on the ground but nine mine entries are identified on the coal authority plan.		No evidence observed during walkover	Poor	Low	Post Medieval
11	Clee Burf Hillfort	Rampart of Clee Burf - the rampart is very stony and spread, very little was found to remain in the site itself with the majority of it just outside in the adjacent parish. Almost all of the ramparts here have been quarried away, and the area is very difficult to interpret as a hillfort or enclosure	00181	Very difficult to identify remains of the ramparts within the study area	Poor	High	Iron Age
12	Bellpits	Numerous bell pits at the summit of Clee Burf. 57 bell pits in total were identified from the aerial photographs, not all were visited on the ground (this could be a later task) All are distinctive and generally circular with a diameter of up to 8m and a depth of about 1m. Some have been truncated by later quarrying and other activity, some survive well.		Bell pits are in general well preserved, grazed very short	Fair	Medium	Medieval and Post Medieval
13	Not used						
14	Not used						

15	Pole Gutter cottage	Small c20m x 23m enclosure with hawthorn coppiced hedges - containing small squareish 2 storey stone built cottage - two rooms on ground floor and a lean-to. Represents a squatters encroachment on the common, access only by track, which appears to go to Abdon rather than Clee Burf		Very vulnerable, trees growing out of building, no windows survive and the lean to is completely collapsed	Poor	Medium	Post Medieval
16	Ford near limekiln	identified as a shallow crossing of Cockshutford Stream, no visible remains on the ground, over than a shallow part of the stream where crossing is possible.		N/A	N/A	N/A	Post Medieval
17	Limekiln	Limekiln marked on OS map and identified on the ground as horseshoe shaped earthwork typical of remains of a single use flare kiln, with the gap representing where the arch would have been c. 3m by 4m		Trees growing in the semi circle, increasing vulnerability and damaging remains, evidence for burrowing also damaging remains	Poor	Medium	Post Medieval
18	Patch Farm	Identified as part of farmstead characterisation project, small enclosure out of the common containing farm buildings, perhaps agricultural use rather than standard squatters cottages built for quarrymen? No OS map suggests it's a single building, perhaps similar to others	23661	Good	Good	Low	Post Medieval
19	Limestone quarry	Sub circular area of quarrying marked on HER, described simply as Limestone quarry. A large linear area c200m e-w and c30m wide with indistinct sloping edges was visible on the ground, it has clearly been substantially worked over time, historic routes on the OS seem to lead and meet in the centre of it. The line of the quarrying follows the Upper Abdon Limestone Member as marked on the BGS plan. Its size and depth suggest continued, later 19th/20th century use as does the presence of a number of concrete and stone structures (see below). Very little exposed stone is visible.	0700	The quarry is overgrown with grass, bracken and trees in the base of it - some grazing	Moderate	Low	Post Medieval

20	Quarry	Identified in the HER as Limestone Quarrying and Coal working and noted on the 1st Edition OS. Cross referencing with the coal authority data and on the ground observations suggests this is simply limestone quarrying and coal mining was probably not undertaken in this area. The area contains a whole series of small c10m wide amorphous quarry scoops, some deep with steep size with wet bases, these connect up to each other and are associated with a series of lime kilns (see 23), it seems likely this area represents continuous small scale activity throughout a long period of time, with limestone being quarry and directly burnt in the lime	29423	The area is overgrown and bracken was just beginning to show, the vegetation already makes the site difficult to read but doesn't seem to be causing detrimental damage to the remains	Moderate	Low	Post Medieval
21	Limekilns	Within the area identified as limestone quarrying on the HER a series of at least six lime kilns were identified, other possibilities were also noted. These in general follow the horseshoe shaped earthwork of a single flare kiln, indicative of low level use. Some are clearly disturbed by later quarrying	29423	The bracken was just starting to show and is likely to obscure the features later in the year, but in general the limekilns are well if slightly overgrazed.	Moderate	Medium	Post Medieval
22	Structure	An irregular shaped structure is shown on the 1st ed OS map that looks like it is set within a quarry. By the 2nd Edition OS the structure is no longer depicted only the earthworks are shown. Possible remains of a stone crusher or other quarrying related structure. The field is overgrown and any remains were difficult to identify.		The site is very overgrown with nettles and trees, and is therefore very difficult to understand	poor	low	Post Medieval
23	Quarry Structure	Structure identified on the 1st edition OS, but gone by 1903 this is probably a structure referred to in documentary sources as the 'Cracker' which was a machine used to crush the stone when it comes off the hill. The field was visited and parts of a platform and raised earthworks were identified, and areas of stone noted.		Some earthworks visible in field but the vegetation was high and most of the remains obscured	Poor	Low	Post Medieval
24	Clee Marsh Farm	Farmstead sitting within irregular squatter enclosure, clear on 1st Edition OS map. Identified in Farmsteads Characterisation project	22120	inhabited.	Good	Medium	Post Medieval

25	Limestone Quarrying	Limestone quarrying and coal workings. As above it seems unlikely that this area was mined for coal as no coal resources are identified in this area. Three associated HER records identify limekilns and sand pits which area all interlinked in this area. The nature of the quarrys as small, circular deep scoops suggests local use of an extended period of time, extracting limestone for use in the associated limekilns. The quarry follwos directly the line of the Lower Abdon Limestone Member as marked on the BGS plan.	29423	Bracken starting to show, well and overgrazed in places	Moderate	low	Post Medieval
26	Limekilns and sandpit	A sandpit and lime kiln are identified in the HER and transcribed from the 1st edition OS. On the ground a series of limekilns, with associated quarrying (25) and (27) were identified, along with sandpits. A series of limekilns sit in direct association with the quarry scoops indicating the source of fuel.	29422	Bracken starting to show, well and overgrazed in places	Moderate	Medium	Post Medieval
27	quarry	Quarries marked on OS map and identified in HER. Part of the area identified as 29423 / 25 and 29422 and could potentially be amalgamated into the same record, again following the Lower Abdon Limestone Member.	29421	Bracken starting to show, well and overgrazed in places	Moderate	low	Post Medieval
28	Site of Cottage	Two structures are shown on the OS map, these area gone by the 1903 map. It appears to be a squatters cottage set within a small enclosure	21741	Not visible (private land)	N/A	Medium	Post Medieval
29	Quarry	Recorded in the HER as the site of 19th to 20th century lime works and lime kiln, these are split further here (see 31). The HER records a rectangular area but in reality the workings are amorphous scoops that follow the line Upper Abdon Limestone Member - over 300m E-W and c30m in width. A number of individual quarries can be identified	6999	no bare stone faces, but the area is grass covered and grazed although obscured somewhat by bracken	Moderate	low	Post Medieval
30	Not used						

31	Limekiln	A number of limekilns associated with quarrying activity (29) were identified during the walkover, these were typical horseshoe shaped earthworks presumably of a single use flare kiln type.	6999	Bracken starting to show, well and overgrazed in places	Moderate	Medium	Post Medieval
32	Squatter Cottage	Small stone building probably squatter cottage on edge of common, still a building today		Inhabited	Good	Medium	Post Medieval
33	Site of Cottage	Cottage identified on 1st Edition OS map - no longer standing	21475	Not visible (private land)	Poor	Low	Post Medieval
34	Sandpit	E-W oval feature with sand banks on North/ South side - wet base, full of wet sand, grazed.		Visible but overgrown and wet	Moderate	Low	Post Medieval
35	Sandpit	Another sandpit about 20m to the north of the first - about the same dimensions, grazed		Visible but overgrown and wet	Moderate	Low	Post Medieval
36	Earthworks	Substantial linear earthworks in a very sandy area 3 dips 1m wide and 1.3m high-could represent sand quarrying activity, or possibly abraded routeways		very sandy area so vulnerable to substantial erosion	Moderate	Low	Uncertain
37	Boundary bank	Common boundary on eastern side - hedges made from holly and hawthorn with a ditch on the outer side		Good condition although clearly eroding in places, due to sandy nature	Moderate	low	Uncertain
38	Boundary ditch	Common boundary on the western side. turns the corner and runs north along the the eastern side of burnt house - very deeply incised boundary		Good condition although clearly eroding in places	Moderate	low	Uncertain
39	Not used						
40	Well or spring	Spring within fenced enclosure - well built stone feature does not feature on any of the historic maps		Good condition and in use	Good	Low	Post Medieval

41	Earthwork	Linear inclined earthwork or deeply incised trackway, shown as having substantial earthworks on the 1st Edition OS - difficult to determine whether it is a purposefully constructed route or naturally worn down, recorded as distinct from other tracks		The track maintains its definition and is not under any threats	Good	low	Post Medieval
42	Track	Very flat terraced trackway runs roughly N-S and is c2m wide in contrast to some of the more eroded trackways. Could this represent a Strakers route?		The track maintains its definition and is not under any threats	Good	low	Post Medieval
43	Squatters enclosure	A small enclosure cuts into the common land by c6m it is banked on each side with ancient bank and hedge of holly and hawthorn, no structures were apparent.		The enclosure is clearly not used or maintained	Moderate	low	Post Medieval
44	Quarry	Earlier quarry perhaps wrongly identified above - area of linear extraction with banks and interconnecting trackways, no stone is apparent here and it may well represent an area of sand extraction		Eroding in places.	Moderate	low	Post Medieval
45	Marker Stone	Boundary marker stone at the end of the long thin enclosure (43)		Stable	Good	Low	Post Medieval
46							
47	Boundary Bank	Boundary bank to common and parish, probably post Medieval in date In some places there is revetted stone in boundary bank towards the sands - perhaps constructed to prevent the wall from collapse		Very eroded due to sandy nature, lots of rabbits in the bank	Poor	Low	Post Medieval
48	Boundary wall	This is also the common boundary associated with 49 but to the east of the Sands becomes a proper rubble stone wall		The wall is stable with no obvious threat, eg vegetation	Good	Medium	Post Medieval
49	Double bank and ditch	Along the eastern boundary there is a second bank parallel to the boundary bank creating a very distinctive ditch with double bank on either side, it is unclear what the function of this is it could be a narrow eroded trackway, or constructed for additional protection.		short grazed boundary banks with localised erosion on the banks and within the ditch in between	Moderate	Medium	Post Medieval

50	Linear features	Linear features identified during walkover, no obvious signs of construction and likely to be geological in origin but could have been used as tracks. Not marked on 1st ed. OS		well grazed with sedge growing within them	Moderate	Low	Uncertain
51		NOT USED					
52	Spring	Spring feature made of stone with a modern bricked up arch		Stone and brick built structure around the spring	Good	Low	Uncertain, probably Post Medieval
53	Shooting butts?	Squarish feature using natural topography and man made banks forming a sort of square enclosure. Could be a possible shooting butts? C7m (E-W) x 3.5m It has a good view overlooking the valley.		some sheep erosion and scars very well grazed a bit short in places -	Moderate	Low	Uncertain, probably Post Medieval
54	Mound	Possible mound or barrow - uncertain if this is not just a natural feature but a distinctiv rise in topography		Covered in quite long grass same as the surrounding area	Poor	Unknown	Unknown
55	Boundary wall	At the top of Clee Burf the boundary becomes a substantial stone wall up to the quarry at the top and beyond.		Well maintained wall and fence	Good	Medium	Post Medieval
56	Pond	Part of the quarry has flooded to form a small pond		Good	Good	Low	Modern
57	Quarry	Clee Burf Quarry - three semi-circular excavations measuring 140m across on the northwest side of the summit, with a 450m long spoil tip around the north and west, recorded on OS maps and clearly visible on the ground.	06997	Spoil heaps are grassed over and grazed short, exposed rock faces are in good condition	Moderate	Low/Medium	Modern
58							
59	Stone within bell pit	Possible tool marks on stone within bell pit		Stable	Good	Negligible	Post Medieval
60	NOT USED						

61	Parish boundary bank	Bank feature running E-W well constructed with ditch on either side c2m across identified in site walk over and picked up in aerial photographs, continues beyond the boundaries of the site. Likely to be the bank identified during 1994 SLR WB but not thought to be Iron Age as suggested. Truncated abruptly by quarrying.		Grazed, sharply truncated by quarry	Moderate, truncated end is eroding.	Medium	Probably Post Medieval
62	Parish Boundary Bank	2nd Bank feature identified in site walk over and on aerial photographs wide flat bank, follows parish boundary, truncated by quarrying	00181	Grazed	Good	Medium	Probably Post Medieval
63	Cairn on edge of bellpit	Possible cairn on the edge of a bell pit, or could simply be a pile of stones		Stable	Good	negligible	Probably modern
64	Woodbank	Farmstead on the edge of the common, identified in Farmstead survey	23903	Inhabited	Good	Low	Post Medieval
65	Cairn	Pile of stones with some text - possible modern pet memorial		Good	Good	Low	Modern
66	Quarry buildings	Building rubble and structural remains related to quarrying - no clear indication of date. Retaining wall, remains of a solid tank, stone and concrete built - seems to protrude from the basin of the quarry itself. Could be recorded in more detail as a future project.		These remains are not in a very good condition but are not immediately at risk or vulnerable	Moderate	Medium	Modern
67	Ditch and bank	Bank and ditch c2m across running n-s along the contour of the hill in places seems almost to have a bank on both sides - seems to run against the natural topography and the other fissures which run down hill. Thought to probably be a natural geological feature but considered to be worthy of note		The ditch feature is very clear in the landscape, no immediate threats	good	Unknown	Unknown
68	Platform	Flattened sub circular platform built into the hillside c4-5m across, noted during walkover		Heavily vegetated but still apparent	Moderate	Unknown	Unknown

69	Shooting Butts?	Sub-rectangular grass banked area looking over the valley. Three sides built of stone and earth - c7m long and 3m wide - probably a shooting butts		Some areas of erosion, but generally good	Moderate	Medium	Post Medieval
70	Limekiln	The remains of a limekiln were identified just outside of the common boundary		Not visited, directly	Unknown	Unknown	Probably Post Medieval
71	Stone boundary	Stone built boundary bank running alongside the western side of the stream		Well built stone wall	Moderate	Medium	Probably Post Medieval
72	Track, possible outtrack	Sunken track along the edge of the common, with banked edges, possibly representing an outtrack		Slightly eroded	Moderate	Low	Unknown
73	Methodist Chapel	Methodist chapel within enclosed area no longer within the parish boundary - Plaque reads Primitive Methodist Chapel 1869	28932	Converted to a house, occupied.	Good	Low	Post Medieval
74	Building remains	Building remains outside of the common adjacent to Patch Farm, it seems likely that these are remains of structures associated with quarrying		Collapsed and overgrown	Poor	Low	Modern
75	Quarry Cottage	Cottage on the edge of the common - squatter cottage		Not visited, directly	Unknown	medium	post medieval
76	Enclosure with stone remains	Small fenced off enclosure was noted during the walkover, c5mx5m not very well fenced, contained piles of stone and broken concrete, uncertain as to its nature and function but was clearly related to the nearby quarry 19		overgrown and ruinous	Poor	low	modern?
77	Quarry structures	Small built structure located within quarry 19. c1.5m x 3m built of brick and briexe blocks, on concrete pad, function was unclear but likely associated with quarry activity		Feature is a ruin and parts are loose but it is under no immediate threat	Moderate	low	modern

78	Trackways	Deeply incised trackways curving on the northern side of Nordy bank, these features are noted as they differ from the other multiple trackways, very deeply incised with sides up to c5m high c2m across. They could simply be well worn tracks as they are located just at the main access point to the common from Cleve St Margaret, but the possibility remains that they are associated with Nordy Bank. They are marked as earthwork features on the OS maps.		Base of tracks are clear and well used, slopes are vegetated with bracken cover, eroded in localised areas	Moderate	LOW	Post Medieval?
79	Limekiln	Limekiln on slopes of Nordy bank well grazed, typical horseshoe structure	29423	Grazed	Moderate	Medium	Post Medieval
80	Square Enclosure	Square enclosure within Nordy Bank	34343	Grazed	Good	High	Unknown
81	Nordy Bank	Hillfort Scheduled see scheduling reference	00180	Well grazed with some areas of overgrazing, localised damage caused by sheep scrapes, bare patches in places	Fair	High	Iron Age