



Millom Castle and Holy Trinity Church Conservation Area Appraisal

October 2023



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Glossary

Ashlar	Masonry consisting of smooth, regular, close-jointed blocks
Aumbry	A small recess or niche in an interior church wall
Bronze Age	A historic period between approx. 3300BC and 1200BC, characterised by used of bronze
Byre	A cow shed or barn
Curtilage	The area of land and other buildings around and associated with a building. For heritage purposes, listings are considered to extend to these structures unless specifically excluded
Geophysical survey	A category of survey methods sensing electric, magnetic and gravimetric fields to map structures hidden below ground
Glebe	A plot of land providing revenue to a parish church
Henge	A type of Neolithic (Late Stone Age) earthwork, typically consisting of a circular or oval-shaped bank and ditch enclosing a flat area
License to crenellate	A document from the Crown granting permission to build fortifications
Mullioned and transomed	Of a window, featuring at least one horizontal member (transom) and one vertical member (mullion), typically stone or timber, which divide the opening into smaller openings that are individually glazed
Orthogonal	At right angles
Peel tower	A typology of small fortified tower, built in the north of England and the south of Scotland in the period between about 1350 and 1600
Piscina	A shallow basin within a church in which the communion vessels are washed
Quoins	Masonry blocks at vertical edges where walls meet, used to give strength where inferior quality walling is employed, but often used for aesthetic effect
Terret or terret ring	A ring attached to a horse's harness, used as a guide for the reins
Undercroft	A space or room typically at ground level or slightly below that is covered by and supports, often using columns and/or vaulting, the building above
Vesica piscis	A shape made by the intersection of two circles, with the centre of each lying on the circumference of the other. So named for its similarity to the shape of a fish's floatation bladder

1. Introduction

1.1. Background

Within the former Copeland area, Cumberland Council (the Council) currently administers eight conservation areas (Whitehaven, Corkickle, Hensingham, Egremont, Cleator Moor, Beckermert, St Bees, and Millom). A further conservation area, Ravenglass, is located within this area but administered by the Lake District National Park Authority.

These range in size and character, with Whitehaven, the country's first post-medieval planned town and one of its most complete, being the largest in area (approximately 80 hectares) and the first designated (1969). Hensingham is the smallest at approximately two hectares.

This appraisal has been prepared to describe the character and appearance of Millom Castle and its environs that are worthy of preservation and enhancement.

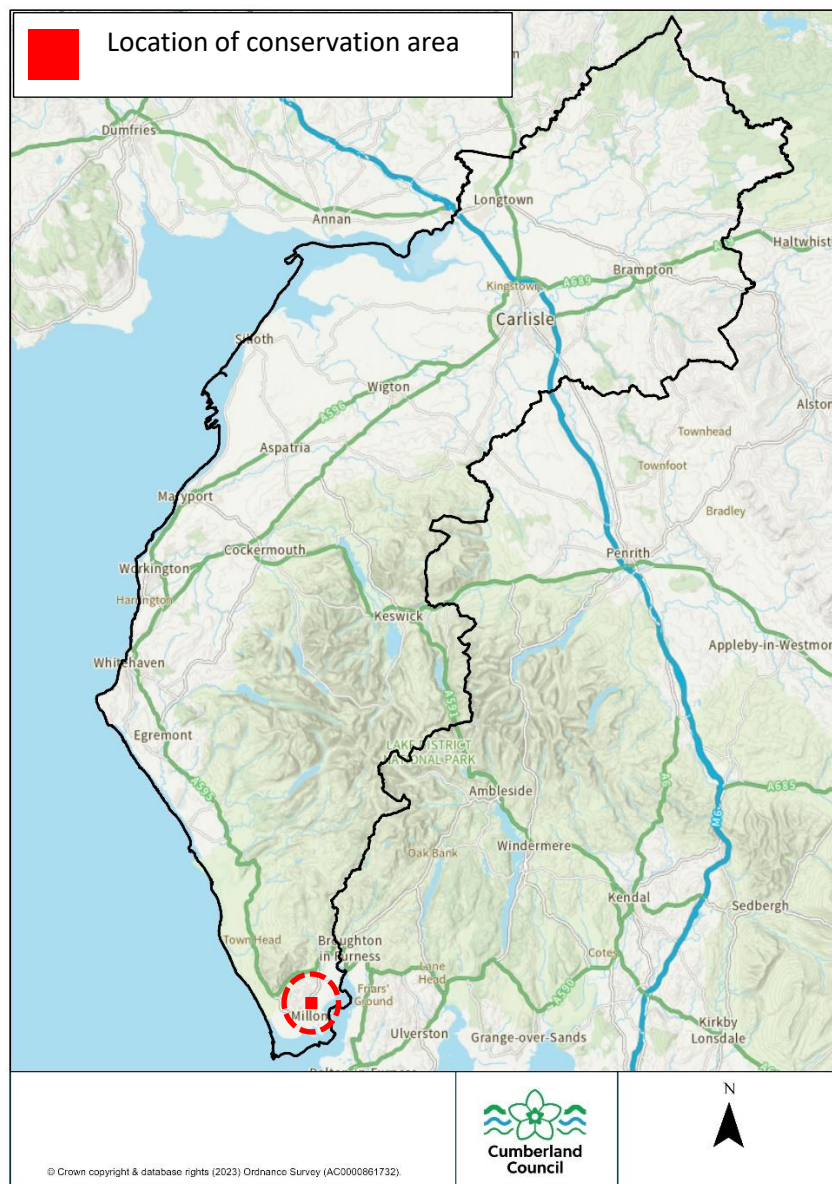


Figure 1 Location of Conservation Area within the boundary of Cumberland

1.2. What is a Conservation Area?

Local Planning Authorities have a responsibility under law to:

...from time to time determine which parts of their area are areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance... [Underlines added]

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, Section 69(1)

These areas are designated as conservation areas, and the authority also has a duty to from time to time review the areas designated (Section 69(2)). This means the Council has made a commitment to take account of the effect on character and appearance of any development proposed within the area, and this applies to its entirety, not merely its buildings.

The special interest of a conservation area is engendered by all its positive qualities, and a job of the planning process is to ensure that change in a conservation area avoids harm to its positive aspects while allowing its negative aspects to be addressed. In order to do this, its character in positive, neutral and negative terms must be understood, stated and agreed upon. This is the job of the character appraisal (a requirement of Section 71(1) of the Act).

The appraisal is created through a process of public engagement with local people, whereby attendees at a meeting have the opportunity to present their views (1990 Act Section 71(3-4)).

Once finalised, conservation area designation brings the following work under planning control:

- Demolition of buildings
- Works to or removal of trees
- Development that may be permitted elsewhere, e.g. some house extensions

Generally, home owners benefit from conservation area designation as the controls sustain and/or enhance property values, a finding that has been confirmed by research from the London School of Economics (Ahlfeldt, Holman and Wendland, 2012).

Planning applications made in conservation areas are typically made in full rather than in outline as this allows their implications to be fully understood. This process is not only governed by the 1990 Act mentioned above, but also from guidance such as the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and local policy.

Additionally, conservation area appraisals are useful in discharging Section 72(1) of the 1990 Act, in which “special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance” of the area. The appraisal does an important job in describing that character and appearance comprehensively.

1.3. What is the Purpose of this Document?

A conservation area appraisal is a tool that explores and defines what is special about the area's architectural and historic character and appearance, and therefore worth preserving or enhancing:

A good appraisal will consider what features make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of the conservation area, thereby identifying opportunities for beneficial change or the need for planning protection.

Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) Paragraph: 025 Reference ID: 18a-025-20190723

Appraisal takes a broad approach, looking at the development and evolution of an area, the relationships within and outside it, how it is used and has been used in the past, and if it has any associations with notable people, movements, innovations or practices.

A place's street pattern may be of importance, along with the style, appearance, construction and arrangement of its buildings. Key views, connections, boundaries, nodes where people meet, junctions, routes and zones are important: in other words, what makes the place what it is, what makes it valuable, and what makes it distinct from other places.

With this process there is the opportunity to reappraise what is already known about the area, and whether there should be any revisions to its boundary. Places are in constant flux, both in terms of their physical makeup and in what we understand of them.

The appraisal will be used during the development control process to gauge the impact of potential developments. It can also be used by those making planning applications as a resource to assist in self-assessment, and may be of interest to people living in or studying the area, either generally or in the course of commenting on a planning application.

The relationship between a conservation area and its occupants is particularly important because the maintenance of property within the area is one of the key ways by which its character can be preserved and enhanced, and harm avoided.

This appraisal has been prepared following detailed assessment of Millom Castle and environs using Historic England's 2016 advice document on conservation area character appraisals. It contains appendices mapping building quality and landscape analysis, which should be viewed in conjunction with the descriptive sections. While it attempts to reach a sufficiently high level of detail, it is not possible to describe all that is significant and interesting, so where aspects have been omitted or overlooked this should not be taken to mean that they lack architectural or historical importance.

2. Location, History and Development

2.1. Overview of the proposed Millom Castle and Holy Trinity Church Conservation Area

The modern settlement of Millom is a small former Victorian industrial town of approximately eight thousand people, located near the Duddon Estuary. It experienced a period of rapid growth following development of large-scale iron-ore mining and iron working activities in the area. It is situated approximately six miles (10km) north-north-west of Barrow-in-Furness and twenty-six miles (40km) south-south-east of Whitehaven as the crow flies. It is two miles (3.5km) south-east of the Lake District National Park border. Routes by road to Barrow-in-Furness are considerably longer, however at over twenty miles.



Figure 2 Conservation area boundary. Approx. area 2.3 ha.

Millom Castle greatly predates Millom new town, having likely origins in the late-12th or 13th centuries. A license to crenellate was granted in 1335. The great tower, a later medieval addition, is now used as a farmhouse, and the site is part of a cluster of significant buildings. Adjacent to it stands Holy Trinity Church, dating originally to the 12th century.

The cluster is located north of the town, there being approximately a quarter of a mile of open fields between the northern edge of Millom's settlement boundary and the southern edge of Trinity Church's churchyard.

2.2. Historic Development

2.2.1. Origins

Pre-Norman evidence of buildings on this site is unclear. The field between the schoolhouse and Low House, on the south side of the road, is named "Childrum", a name that the Rev.

W.S. Sykes has speculated derives from the Gaelic “cill-dhruim” meaning “ridge of the chapel”. If true, it suggests a chapel existed on or near the ridge where the church and castle now stand prior to the arrival of the Norman conquest in Cumberland in the 1090s.

Millom Castle was the seat of the Lords of Millom. Although there appears to have been a timber castle on the site from around 1134, built by Godard de Boyvill, the current masonry remains appear to originate around two centuries later, following the granting of a licence to crenellate.

Trinity Church, located a short distance to the south of the castle, has been in existence in some form since at least 1120, although is much altered. The nave and chancel are Norman, the south arch 13th century, though remodelled a century later, and the porch is one of the most recent additions, dating from 1910.

The lordship of Millom passed from the de Boyvill family to the de Hudleston family (spelt variously throughout history) c. 1250, when Joan de Millom (or de Boyvill) married knight Sir John Hudleston. The Hudlestons held it for more than five centuries before it was sold to Sir James Lowther in c. 1748 by the husband of Elizabeth Huddleston, Sir Hedworth Williamson. Ruined portions of the walls remain upstanding although at risk, and are scheduled ancient monuments. The central great peel tower, now farmhouse, is later than the walls. This is listed grade I by Historic England and the ruined portions of the castle remains are on the national Heritage at Risk Register. Peel (or pele) towers were defensive houses able to withstand small sieges, large enough for the local populace to shelter, and were built mainly around the Lake District and Borders to defend against Scottish incursions. This really began following Robert the Bruce’s raids in 1322 and lasted until about the end of the 16th century.

It would appear possible, therefore, that there was already some settlement at the time the castle and church were established, however the two are at some distance, and the castle itself would also have had ancillary buildings.

In 1644 the castle was captured by Parliamentarians, and in 1648 it was further damaged by cannon attack. Repairs were undertaken in 1670, but according to Denton, via Sykes, the Castle was in disrepair by 1685. It can be seen, in an engraving by Buck of 1739, shortly before sale to Sir James Lowther in c.1748, to have been in ruins when the Huddleston period came to an end. The more recent farm buildings have grown up around the ruins of the Castle over the following centuries.

Visiting the castle in 1815, author and playwright Richard Ayton wrote, “It is surrounded by an extensive park... once covered with a grove of huge oaks, and well stocked with deer, but now a naked waste. The whole domain was stripped of its woods by one of the Huddlestons, for the sake of opening some mines of iron-ore, and building a large vessel, both of which projects proved abortive...” John Denton, writing earlier in 1688, also assigns the loss of the oaks, which had occurred within twenty years of his account, to the need to fuel iron forges. Writing in 1777, Nicholson and Burn assign the loss of the woods to Ferdinand Huddleston about the year 1690 for the purposes of building a large ship and of making charcoal for an iron forge, so it appears their date is slightly wrong, being likely more like 1670. They

describe the value of the timber cut as having been four thousand pounds or more (slightly over a million in 2023, inflation adjusted), yet Huddleston as having been “little or nothing profited thereby”.

Courts with the authority to dispense capital punishment were convened at Millom Castle during the medieval period, and both documentary record and evidence on historic and modern Ordnance Survey maps reveals a stone pillar that marked the site of hangings. This “Gallows Stone” is 19th century and located to the north of the railway, in the corner of a field a kilometre from Millom station in the north-easterly direction, however is not in its original location.

One would expect that the years that passed between when the park appears to have been clear felled and when Ayton was writing would have been sufficient for native deciduous trees to have again reached maturity, so it is possible there was repeated deforestation, from which it never recovered. That this period almost perfectly correlates with the peak Royal Navy demand for shipbuilding timber makes it plausible that sustained felling outstripped the park’s ability to regenerate.

The deer appear to have been rounded up during a day of trapping in 1802, when it was deparked by the Earl of Lonsdale, and 207 deer were sold. However, at first the deer escaped the nets that had been laid for them, and it was some time before they were picked off by a team of five yeomen, ending a tradition that had begun in the days of Godard de Boyville in the 12th century.

At Holy Trinity Church, major restoration work was carried out in 1858, with further work in 1930 by Hicks and Charlewood of Newcastle, at which time the chancel was widened and the west gallery added. This revealed evidence of the site’s earlier history. Two pieces of carved sandstone in the chancel north wall came to light and were dated to the 10th century. These may have been from an earlier church. The larger piece is of a knot design and the smaller one the centre of a cross head. This would place the early phases about contemporary with St Bees Priory, 36km up the coast, which has origins c.1120 (though there was an earlier building), and has a 10th or 11th century cross a few yards away, and Egremont Castle, which also has origins c.1120, with surviving masonry from about the middle of the 12th century.

Inside Holy Trinity Church there is a sandstone slab with the inscription “ANTEF”, potentially of Roman or shortly post-Roman date also discovered in 1930; this is now placed above the aumbry niche. The niche and piscina are believed to be 12th century in date.

The south aisle of the church is named the Huddleston Aisle or Chapel. This was added early in the 13th century and enlarged the following century. The font is medieval, perhaps early 14th century; it is decorated with the Huddleston coat of arms and the arms of Furness Abbey.

The church contains two tombs of note: a red sandstone example for Sir John Huddleston, who died in 1494, and an alabaster tomb for his son, Sir Richard Huddleston, and Richard’s

wife, Lady Margaret Neville¹, half-sister of the wife of Richard III, Queen Anne, and daughter of the “Kingmaker”, the Earl of Warwick. Both tombs are damaged, probably during the civil war, with the edge of one bearing evidence that it has been used for sword sharpening. It also has indentations made for playing a board game.

The schoolroom was commissioned by the Vicar of Trinity church in 1858, at which time there was also a major restoration embarking at the church. In 1923, the first Millom Church Scouts began to use the schoolroom and the green outside for meetings once a week. Lately, the building has been out of use and its condition is deteriorating.

In 1860, the vicarage was described as “a cottage of very rough construction and inadequate size, which, with the glebe attached to it, was purchased about the year 1781...”, however the OS map of 1861 is not clear on the location of this cottage. It seems plausible that this vicarage, not to be confused with an earlier one pulled down by Parliamentarians, was located in the approximate location of the Schoolroom, which replaced it.

A small Headmaster’s House was added next door to the Schoolroom at some point between the 1860s-90s. This too is currently vacant.

After WWI, a new organ and memorial tablet were installed at the church.

Additionally, there are various archaeological remains in the wider area predating the castle and church, such a prehistoric circular cropmark, perhaps corresponding to a henge, situated to the east, however potentially also Romano-British, evidence for a deserted medieval village, Bronze Age axe heads, and Roman remains including a coin hoard.

The church has been sketched by JMW Turner, and was visited by William Wordsworth in January 1821.

¹ It had previously been held that the alabaster tomb was of the son of Sir Richard (grandson of Sir John), also named Sir Richard, and his wife Lady Elizabeth Dacre, however this is no longer believed to be the case.

2.2.2. Map Progression



Figure 3 OS 1st ed. 25" Map 1861

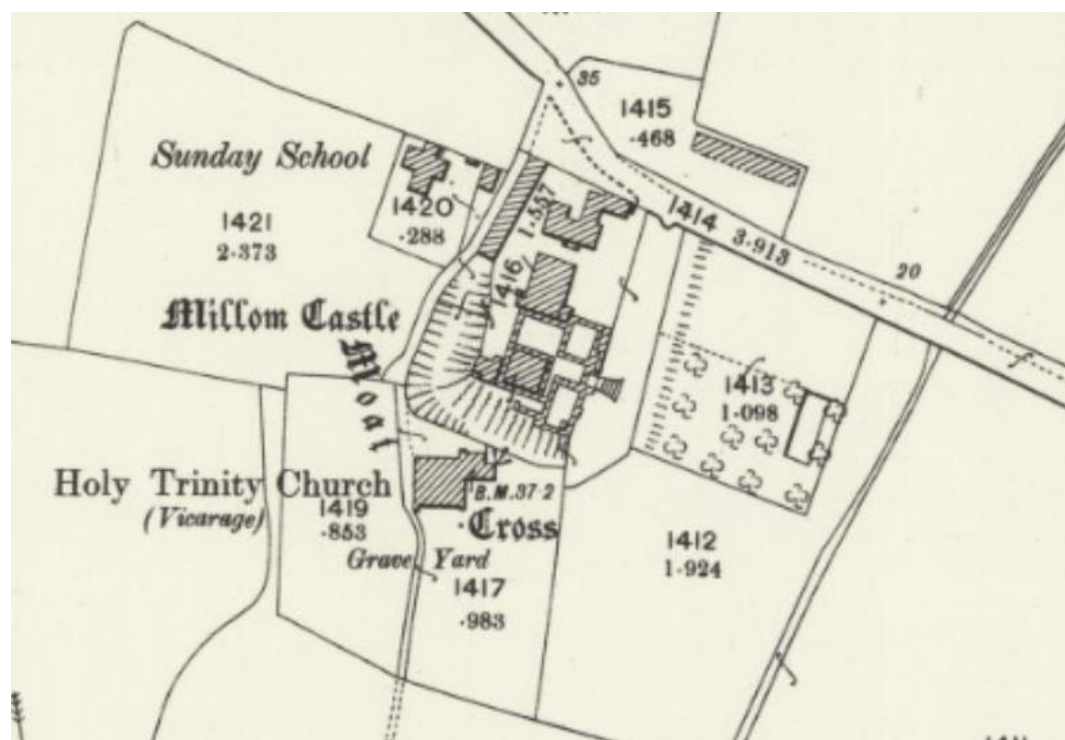


Figure 4 OS 2nd ed. 25" Map 1898

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Figure 5 OS 3rd ed. 25" Map 1924



Figure 6 The boundary line of the old glebe enclosure is still faintly visible in aerial photography



Figure 7 The area as it appears today, with listed buildings (purple)² and scheduled monument (blue) highlighted. A modern farm building has been inserted to the north-east of the castle, but very little has otherwise changed in the last century

² This map does not mark structures that are considered listed by virtue of being within the curtilage of a listed structure

3. Character

3.1. Built Environment

Because a historic farmstead occupies a substantial proportion of the area, and constitutes a large number of its structures, Chapter 3 has been informed by the first two steps in Historic England's Farmstead Assessment Framework. These consist of Site Summary and Assessment of Significance. The further two steps in this framework are to understand the site's Capacity for Change and Siting and Design Issues, however, as these are intended to allow understanding of impact from proposals they have not been used here.

Please also refer to Appendix 6.3.2 Castle Farm Site Assessment Map

3.1.1. Architectural Quality and Built Form

Millom Castle and Trinity Church Conservation Area is small, but features a remarkable and high quality collection of buildings and above-ground remains. It is nonetheless characterised by a rural feel, being principally a farm in private ownership and small church consisting of yards, historic barns, and the central peel tower farmhouse. The other buildings are smaller, and arranged around the tower, which, with its double pitched roof and monumental silhouette, exerts its character over much of the surroundings.

Castle:

- The grade I listed castle tower is the anchor point of the conservation area owing to its bulk, sheer sides, and uncompromising squareness. When viewed from the north, the direction one approaches Millom by road, it is typically backlit by the sky to the south, giving it a heightened sense of scale and drama.
- The secondary wings, structures and buildings around it form a cluster that retains something of its medieval character and hasn't been intruded upon by modern development. It gives the impression of having changed constantly but very slowly over its near thousand year life. There is very little among the farm cluster that would have looked out of place three or four hundred years ago.
- A courtyard, outside the front door of what is now the farmhouse, serves as a node around which are arranged the castle's undercroft, peel tower (the farmhouse itself) and kitchen. The undercroft, discernible by the row of joist holes that marked its ceiling, would have provided storage below the great chamber where the Lord lived and slept). The upstanding ruins of the castle are a scheduled monument.
- Adjacent to the kitchen is a piece of carved red sandstone that marks the former location of a portcullis, and within the kitchen block some features are visible such as a large fireplace. Brick piers have been inserted for stability during the Victorian period, but the structure overall is not in a good condition. From the kitchen, food would have been taken to the great hall, where large windows provided illumination for functions and other social gatherings.
- Writing in 1860, Wright, Cumming and Martineau describe a wall in the garden of the Castle farmhouse as bearing the arms of Huddleston, and another similar arms in the wall of an outhouse.

- The plot around the castle is also home to a number of traditional stone barns that are within the curtilage of the listed Castle, and therefore listed at the same level (grade I). They are significant both in and of themselves and as part of the farmstead, although evidently make a smaller contribution to the significance of the asset than the peel tower.
- Additionally, two sets of stone gate piers dating from the 17th or 18th centuries – conceivably contemporary with the last major round of repairs the castle received in 1670 – are to be found in the east and north boundaries of the area. Both are grade II listed. The Buck engraving of 1739 reveals that the wall in which these are set was originally of much more “polite” appearance, being of low-set masonry with piers at regular intervals containing either ironmongery or wooden fencing. It appears that the right-hand gate pier in the image below retains some fragments of its original wall masonry within the more recent wall. Both of these were originally surmounted by ball finials, one of which can be seen lying on the ground. This gateway lead into a garden. In the Buck engraving of 1739, a row of small ornamental trees is shown in about the same position as the line of mature trees now present. Cowper’s account of 1924 refers to the pair of gate piers adjoining the road as having ball finials, but now only one is in situ. The other one may be nearby.



Figure 8 One of the pairs of grade II listed gate piers, to the east of the castle ruins. One of the ball finials appears to be lying nearby.

Holy Trinity Church:

- A Grade I listed example that appears to have escaped the 19th century tendency for heavy-handed restoration, but has nonetheless changed quite considerably over its existence. Holy Trinity’s fabric dates principally from the 12th, 13th and 14th centuries, with major refurbishments in 1858 and 1930.
- Roof is slate, with a gabled bell-cote.
- The west end contains evidence of a large, blocked arch, although it is not obvious how this was employed spatially or functionally.
- There is a blocked round-headed entrance on the south side.

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- One of the church's most unusual feature is its *vesica piscis*, or "fish bladder" window, so named for the Latin term for a fish's floatation bladder because of its shape. It is ten feet tall and seven across. This was filled in at some point, but rediscovered during the restorations in 1859.
- It is a highly significant building, as attested by its grading, and has occupied an important position within its grounds for roughly nine hundred years.



Figure 9 Holy Trinity Church from the south. The graveyard contains stones from a number of centuries, as well as a chest tomb and sundial that are listed in their own right.

Schoolroom:

The schoolroom of 1858 is a handsome little stone building on a cross plan, with gothic revival elements such as the mullioned and transomed windows, fake stone window arches and monumental chimney stack. Although not listed, it is a non-designated heritage asset and of sufficient quality to sit comfortably alongside the other buildings.



Figure 10 The schoolroom

The schoolroom is an early type of school belonging to the church, evidence of innovative education practices. It has communal value through shared memories of its use by the local community, having had longstanding use for the Sunday school. At one point, it also contained a library.

Headmaster's House:

The headmaster's house was built slightly later than the schoolroom, sometime about 1865, when a tender advertisement for the job was placed in the *Whitehaven News*. It is a small, two-storey house with end and intermediate chimney stacks and quoined corners in the style typical of late-19th century West Cumbrian cottages. To its west side is a single storey wash house connected to the cottage via a porch that acts as a link. The windows have been replaced with unattractive plastic units.

The schoolroom and headmaster's house form a pair.



Figure 11 The headmaster's house

3.1.2. Materials

Random rubble constitutes the majority of the older fabric within the area. In the case of the more recent parts of the farmhouse and its barns, as well as the church, this is often accompanied by red sandstone ashlar quoins and dressings and sections of brick, although there is a looseness and informality to the work that speaks of the practical purposes to which these buildings were always put, with scale, mass and the spirit of antiquity providing the impressive impact more than highly polite detailing. There is evidence of repairs having been carried out of many ages.

3.1.3. Uses

The farmhouse is the heart of the conservation area in terms of activity as it is occupied and used daily. Around it are its farm buildings, which have an agricultural use. The church is also

in frequent use, but the schoolroom and headmaster's house have now both fallen out of use. As a consequence, they are perhaps the most immediately vulnerable.

3.2. Public Realm

3.2.1. Views, Vistas, Glimpses

When approaching the site from the road on the north side, little is given away by the barns of the farmstead, which present black gables and walls. However, their small scale, irregular though approximately orthogonal layout, and textural materials, create a low-key sort of liveliness. That the impressive mass and distinctive roofs of the castle can be seen over the top, behind a network of what read as little lanes and openings, creates a powerful intrigue.

Mature deciduous trees on the east side of the complex, to the south-west of the castle, and on the opposite side of the road, provide a stately backdrop during summer that complements the ancient masonry.

Trinity Church is not immediately apparent when approaching from the main road, but is the first part one encounters when approaching on foot from Millom to the south. The church is set against the backdrop of vegetation and walls that constitute the south side of the Castle, and when sun lit during the majority of the day, provides a striking impression.

The castle, church and surrounding buildings constitute one of the most prominent land marks in the area, and are visible across several hundred metres.

3.2.2. Roads and Paths

A lane leads from the roadside, between the byre and the Headmaster's House, down to the door of Holy Trinity Church. It is large enough to permit car access, but only just, and maintains the intimacy and intrigue of the area.

The farm itself is principally accessed by a lane on the east side of the byre, which ascends gently to the castle, demonstrating the slight elevation of its position, until it is above the lane leading to the church and divided from it by an attractive wall.



Figure 12 The lane that leads to the church between the headmaster's house (left) and the rear of the farmyard byre (right). The entrance to the Schoolroom car park is just past the headmaster's house on the right.

3.2.3. Boundaries

The site is bounded by a number of old masonry walls that greatly enhance its character and appearance, including on the roadside. In two places, these walls also contain gate piers that date from the 17th or 18th centuries and are grade II listed.



Figure 13 The old rubble wall at the roadside

The remains of a dry moat survive on the castle's south and west sides. Its appearance emphasises the impression of height given by the castle tower from these angles, which sits above the embankment on the other side.



Figure 14 The moat is still visible at the castle's south-west corner

3.3. Natural Environment

3.3.1. Open Spaces

Within the conservation area, open space is principally provided by the church yard, which is located to the south and west of the church. This is well filled with grave stones, in a looser arrangement at the north end nearer the church, and in a denser more regimented layout more like a cemetery in the southern portion. The land slopes slightly downhill to the south. On the west, the church yard is bounded by a pair of parallel walls that demarcate a former lane, which ran north-south to what was the glebe land.

The schoolroom has a small grass curtilage to its south, and a tarmacked car park that, while no aesthetic contributor, does greatly improve access by car to the conservation area.



Figure 15 The grass curtilage of the schoolroom, looking westward over the former church glebe, now subsumed into Childrum Field beyond



Figure 16 The car park at the schoolroom does not make a positive contribution to the character and appearance of the area, but it is well concealed and very useful given the site's relative inaccessibility

3.3.2. Water

There is no water of note within the conservation area, either manmade or natural. The moat is dry and there are no other water features except a ditch on the area's east boundary.

3.3.3. Trees

Mature deciduous trees play an important role in softening the appearance of the site, and introducing dense shadow and greater impression height, particularly during summer.

Care should be taken, however, that self-seeded saplings don't cause further damage to the masonry. A substantial young tree is already visible high in the south-east corner of the castle ruins, and will be causing further damage with every growth season.



Figure 17 The castle and church sit alongside mature deciduous trees. There are also pines and yews in the church yard



Figure 18 This old wall adjacent to the byre has small ferns growing in the top that enhance its character. Plants can, however, cause damage in masonry when left unchecked.

3.4. Archaeological Potential

There is an partial archaeological picture at Millom Castle based primarily on finds, geophysical survey results, and features visible in aerial photography. Finds made in the vicinity include six Bronze Age axe heads and a terret ring (part of a horse's harness).

As yet, the archaeological picture is fragmentary and not yet well triangulated, with small numbers of finds from a wide range of periods. This is an emerging picture, and depending on the resolution that can be achieved, the conservation area boundary may need revising in future.

4. Key Characteristics

- A small conservation area centred on a cluster of high quality heritage assets in rural surroundings.
- The larger picture is characterised by the silhouette of the castle set among but protruding above the mature trees, and surrounded by a collection of smaller, irregular stone buildings, yards and walls.
- From the south, the church is encountered first in the setting of its church yard on a gentle south-facing slope. This is the direction one approaches on foot from the town.
- The key assets are the church and castle, dating back approximately nine hundred years, and the farmhouse built within the peel tower, which dates back approximately four hundred years.
- The area is characterised by a sense of ancientness and intricacy, with a densely woven fabric of stone walls and structures around the castle and its curtilage, having complexity in three dimensions due to the variable scale of the buildings and the topography.
- The prominence of the castle is key, and the surrounding buildings do not intrude upon it. They are quite small, and there remains a feeling of the human scale almost everywhere; it feels like a hand-made place.

5. Summary of Issues

- The condition of the castle's medieval remains is a concern. The sections that are scheduled as an ancient monument are included on the national Heritage at Risk register. The priority given to this is C, being less than A and B, and meaning that the asset is suffering from slow decay with no agreed solution. It therefore stands that it will continue to suffer from structural collapses on an ongoing basis, but that loss of the asset is not considered immanent. Nonetheless, this should be considered a problem in need of constant monitoring and action to address it sooner rather than later.

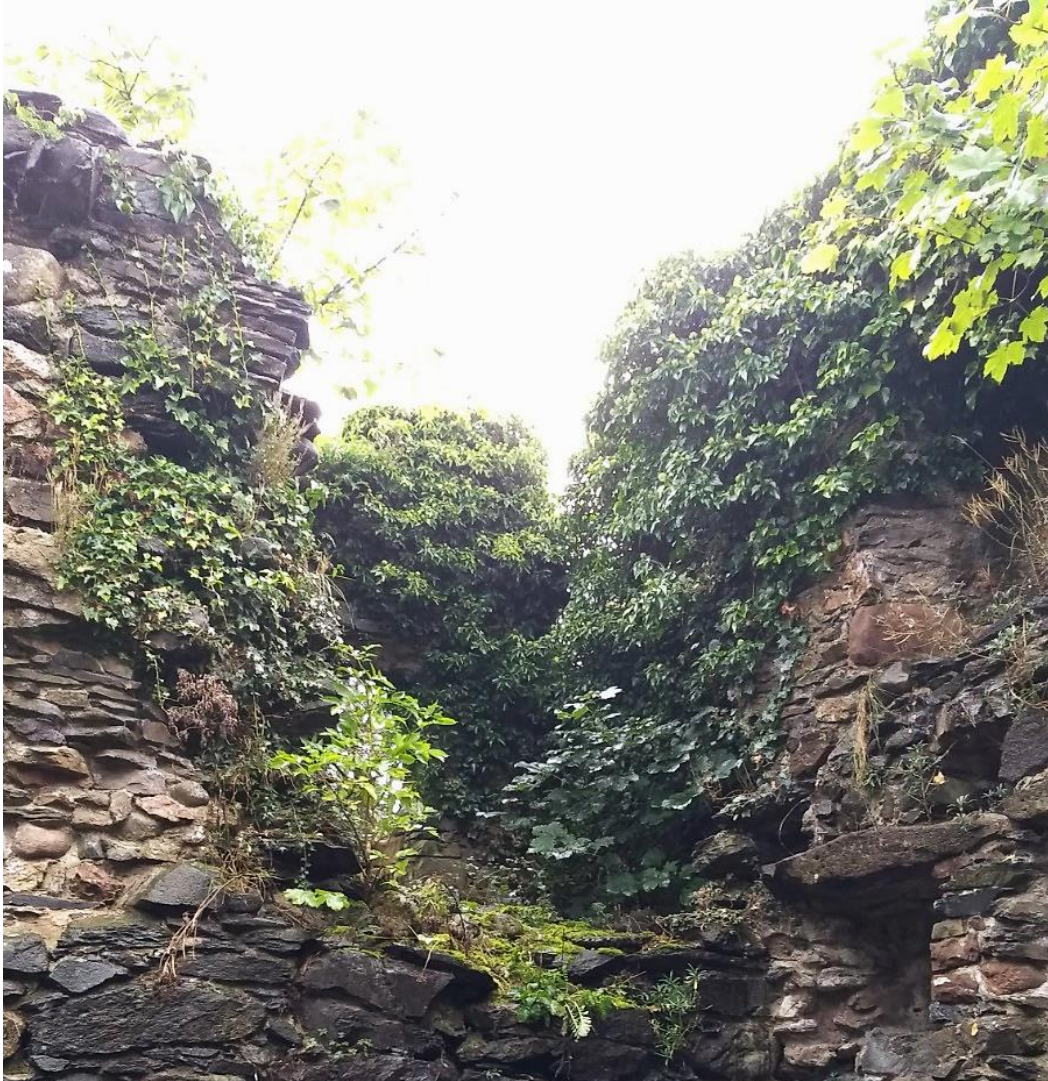


Figure 19 Significant self-seeded plant growth can be found in the masonry, including sycamore trees and ivy

- The condition of the schoolroom and headmaster's house is concerning. These are less significant assets than the castle, however they have fallen out of use and are in need of repair and maintenance. They are in reasonable condition, currently, but without ongoing maintenance, the amount of money required to bring them back into use increases.

6. Appendices

6.1. Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats (SWOT Analysis)

Strengths

- Remarkable historic collection of buildings, almost unaffected by modern development, and with their setting largely preserved
- The church in particular retains a community feel, and offers amenities.
- The castle contains the present farmhouse, and by virtue of being an occupied working farm, it is afforded better protection than if it were empty.
- Despite its historic nature, parking, toilet facilities and tea and coffee provision are all available, strengthening the area's ability to attract visitors.
- It mostly benefits from a high level of legal protection (scheduling; two grade I designations; numerous grade II designations).
- It is additionally within walking distance of Millom town.

Weaknesses

- Substantial repair and maintenance costs are incurred for all of the buildings. The church is largely in good condition, however the castle ruins, schoolroom and headmaster's house are all in need of attention. This is likely to be an ongoing problem

Opportunities

- The site is fairly little known by tourists, however it is sufficiently provided with amenities that visitors could be supported, and the use of the buildings for community events increased.
- Broader recognition of this nationally significant grouping has the potential to increase the profile of Millom more generally.

Threats

- Ongoing structural decline risks the integrity of surviving assets. Irreversible damage to the castle ruins will occur without work to clear and stabilise the masonry.
- Damage to the peel tower and to the schoolroom and headmaster's house are also possible due to ongoing maintenance requirements.

6.2. Gazetteer of Designated Heritage Assets

List Entry No.	Name	Address	Grade	Date designated	Date constructed
1007126	Millom Castle (Ruined portions)	Millom Castle, A5093, Millom	SAM	08/09/1967	14 th -17 th centuries
1086619	Millom Castle	Millom Castle, A5093, Millom	GI	08/09/1967	14 th -17 th centuries
1086617	Church of Holy Trinity	Church of Holy Trinity, Millom	GI	08/09/1967	12 th -14 th centuries
1086618	Sundial approx. 6m south of chancel of Church of Holy Trinity	Church of Holy Trinity, Millom	GII	14/07/1989	Medieval
1063720	Postlethwaite memorial immediately to south of chancel of church of holy trinity	Church of Holy Trinity, Millom	GII	14/07/1989	18 th century
1063715	Cross base approximately 6 metres to north of porch of church of holy trinity ³	Church of Holy Trinity, Millom	GII	14/07/1989	Assumed 13 th century
1065707	Gatepiers to east of Millom castle	Millom Castle, A5093, Millom	GII	14/07/1989	Probably 17 th century
1086620	Gatepiers to north east of Millom castle	Millom Castle, A5093, Millom	GII	14/07/1989	Probably 17 th century

³ This has been relocated to within the porch of the church to protect it from weather

6.3. Area Maps

6.3.1. Heritage Assets



Figure 20 Map of conservation area with heritage assets

- Boundary (red dashed)
- Listed buildings (purple)
- Scheduled monuments (blue)
- Assets considered within the curtilage of the Castle listing (Yellow)
- Non-designated heritage assets (green). This shows the buildings only; walls and surfaces are not shown, but are still significant and should be identified using heritage assessment.
- Some trees are significant; others are problematic. These are not shown here.

6.3.2. Castle Farm Site Assessment Map



Figure 21 Farmstead Assessment Map for Castle Farm

1. Grade I listed farmhouse (Dark blue)
2. Grade I listed ruins of castle, and grade II listed gate piers (Purple)
3. Historic farmstead buildings in existence by 1922 (Yellow)
4. Farmstead buildings added since 1922 (Pink)
5. Farm yards (Brown)
6. Historic boundaries enclosing Castle curtilage, also containing Millom Castle (Ruined portions) scheduled monument, including moat (Dashed line)
7. Important views⁴ (Arrows)

⁴ Please note, some of these are to, from and within private land and not accessible to the public. There are additionally important views from further afield.

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