

**HUNTING IN MEDIEVAL FURNESS**  
**TALK GIVEN IN MILLOM ON 9 IX 2023**

**INTRODUCTION**

- WHY ME?
- CHILDHOOD HOLIDAYS IN WOODLAND  
CRAWLING THROUGH HOGG HOLES
- CLIMBING THE DIFFERENT WALLS,  
THEN:
- STUDIED HISTORY AT CAMBRIDGE
- INSPIRED BY ANGUS WINCHESTER AND  
FIONA EDMONDS
- COMBINED THE TWO INTERESTS TO  
WRITE A HISTORY OF WOODLAND
- UNLIKE JAN I HAVE NOT GOT ROUND  
TO PUBLISHING
- BECAME INTERESTED IN THE  
MEDIEVAL ORIGINS OF SETTLEMENT
- I GAVE THIS TALK BEFORE IN AN  
OVERHEATED HALL IN KIRKBY AND  
EVERYONE FELL ASLEEP

## **SETTLEMENT CHRONOLOGY AND HUNTING**

**-I SUSPECT THE MAIN DRIVER FOR SETTLEMENT IN THE FURNESS FELLS WAS TO PROVIDE BASES FOR**

**(A) 12<sup>TH</sup> AND 13<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES**

**LANCASTER COURTIERS TO ASSIST IN THE HUNTING IN TORVER, CONISTON AND BLAWITH**

**(B) 13<sup>TH</sup> AND 14<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES**

**YOUNGER SONS OF THE LOCAL LORDS, WHO COULD SUPERVISE THEIR HUNTING. THEY WERE FREEHOLDERS AND BROUGHT SERFS WITH THEM.**

**THOSE FARMS REMAINED FREEHOLDS TO MODERN TIMES**

**DEER ARE DISASTROUS FOR CROPS**

**-MAJOR POPULATION GROWTH FROM MID/LATE 12<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY, ENDING EARLY 14<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY WITH DISASTROUS WEATHER CULMINATING IN THE BLACK DEATH**

## **WHAT WAS MEANT BY HUNTING?**

- OVERLAPPING AND CONFUSING FEUDAL TENURES WITH THE ABBEY
- 1163 DIVISION OF THE FELLS WITH REFERENCES TO HUNTING
- DEER WERE THE EXCLUSIVE PRESERVE OF THOSE WITH ROYAL GRANTED RIGHTS
- A STATUS SYMBOL
- THE MAIN OBSESSION

## **THE LANCASTERS**

- THE LORDS OF LANCASTER, PARTLY BASED IN KENDAL BUT OFTEN WITH THE KING, A LONG WAY TO COME
- A MID 12<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REFERENCE IS TO THE TORVER DEER DYKE, COVERED LATER
- DEER ON THE HIGH COMMON, BIRDS ON THE LOW COMMON
- GRANT OF HAWKS FOR LAND RIGHTS

## **THE LOCAL LORDS**

-THE KIRBYS, THE TOWERS, DE  
BOYVILLES/HUDDLESTONS, AND NOT  
LEAST THE MONKS

-1337 EMPARKMENT RIGHTS FOR  
ALEXANDER DE KIRKBY

-THEY NEEDED TO PLACE THEIR  
YOUNGER SONS TO DO SOMETHING, IF  
NOT THE VICAR, AND IF NOT WELL  
MARRIED

-THE ENCLOSED PARKS BECAME LIKE A  
DEEP FREEZE

## **MATERIAL REMAINS**

-THE DEER DYKE ON HIGH TORVER  
COMMON, ONE OF THREE PLACES  
HATED BY MY KIDS

-A MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECT,  
POSSIBLY TWO GANGS WHO GOT IT  
WRONG

-A DEFILE INTO WHICH DEER WERE  
DRIVEN THEN SHOT, NOT CHASED ON

HORSEBACK. SIMILAR TO SCOTLAND  
AND IRAQ

-MASSIVE WALLS OF KIRKBY PARK  
WOOD, EARLY 14<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY WHEN  
PEOPLE WERE DYING, AND HUNTING  
LODGE

### **DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE**

-KUERDEN TREASURE TROVE CHARTERS  
-FURNESS COUCHER BOOK  
-LEGAL DOCUMENTS  
-WITNESSES TO DIVISION OF THE FELLS

### **PLACE NAMES**

-THERE ARE MANY, AND OTHERS TO BE  
DISCOVERED  
-THE PARKS, MILLOM, BROUGHTON,  
CONISTON, KIRKBY, ULPHA,  
SEATHWAITE  
-BOWMANSTEAD, TOTTEBANK (3),  
STABLE HARVEY, ROSLEY THORNS,  
ROSTHWAITE, HAY, FRITH

## **FREEHOLDER FARMS**

- WOODLAND: THORNTHWAITE, RING HOUSE
- BROUGHTON: TROUGHTON HALL, ROSTHWAITE
- SUBBERTHWAITE: HIGH STANNERLEY
- ALL GOOD FOR HUNTING NEARBY

## **CONCLUSION**

- A TIME OF ENDLESS SUFFERING, INEQUALITY AND WILDNESS
- FOR WILDNESS, THE TOWERING WALLS AT NETHER BOLTON TO KEEP OUT WOLVES POSSIBLY
- DANIEL FLEMING AND GIFT OF 40 FAT BEAVER PELTS AND VENISON
- PATH OF THE RED DEER THROUGH THE STEERS POOL MOSSES, WOODLAND AND THE FELLS
- GO TO THE TORVER DEER DYKE!

## **MILLOM**

FINALLY:

- ORM DE KIRKBY GOT HUNTING RIGHTS  
IN ULPHA, POSSIBLY A DOWRY
- MILLOM PARK
- ULPHA OLD HALL
- FRITH HALL