



## Millom Footprints

"Millom Footprints" refers to prehistoric human footprints preserved in the coastal clays of the Duddon Estuary near the Mains, Millom, Cumbria.

For many years, locals in Millom have been aware of footprints in the clay near Millom Mains but it was only in 2017 that local historian, Duane Farren, identified them as ancient footprints.



Duane notes in his diary, **6th January, 2017: Animal footprints - finding animal bones along the Mains shoreline. Could they be old? 7th January: More animal bones turning up. Also many animal footprints are starting to show up on the Duddon foreshore.**

After seeking advice from archaeologists it was confirmed Duane had discovered ancient tracks that offered insights into Millom's prehistoric inhabitants going back to the mesolithic period.

From that moment on, Duane began to visit Millom Mains regularly to monitor and keep a photographic record of the numerous human and animal footprints that turned up after high tides. He regularly took groups

HOME

NEWS

PROGRAMME

MILLOM  
THROUGH TIME

PROJECTS

MILLOM  
FOOTPRINTS

MEMBERSHIP

Duane took over 150 photographs of the human footprints as well as footprints of aurochs - a huge cow that became extinct in Britain in the Bronze Age - wild boar, red deer, roe deer, and birds.

Millom and District Local History Society have scanned the photographs and put them into seven pdf files to enable easy access.

[Duddon Foreshore Volume 1.](#)

[Duddon Foreshore Volume 2.](#)

[Duddon Foreshore Volume 3.](#)

[Duddon Foreshore Volume 4.](#)

[Duddon Foreshore Volume 5.](#)

[Duddon Foreshore Volume 6.](#)

[Duddon Foreshore Volume 7.](#)

PLEASE: DO NOT WALK ON THE MUD FLATS OR LET YOUR DOG WALK ON THEM AS THIS WILL SERIOUSLY DAMAGE ANY EVIDENCE THERE IS. THANK YOU.

## MARK BRENAND, COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGIST

I was truly sorry to hear that Duane had died. We went out to the beach in 2017, and Duane showed me around and what he had identified, although visibility was perhaps not at its best on that day. Thank you for the information and links to the archive you have compiled. His archive is testament to his hard work and observational ability. It is not just the footprints, of course. The twine and cord are also of significance.

DR ALISON BURNS, MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY

How very sad to hear of the passing of Duane. It is very appropriate to have a tribute to his work! I'm sure it will be much appreciated.

Thank you for sending me the link. The footprints are a fantastic record.

# DR. SUE SALLIBRASS, LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY

Thank you very much for getting in touch, Jan. I hadn't heard the sad news. Quite a shock.

Duane & everybody else in the Millom group have been doing excellent work and I am very glad that you plan to create a tribute to Duane & to continue the project. The coastal footprints are so fragile and ephemeral, that it really takes a team of local volunteers to 'catch them' when they appear. They are such a tangible link to people moving about the local environment in the past.

With very best wishes and sad (if belated) condolences

Sue

# UK PREHISTORIC FOOTPRINTS



- Low Hauxley, Northumberland
- Happisburg, North Norfolk
- St Oen's Bay, Jersey
- Magor Pill, Gwent and Uskmouth, Newport, South Wales
- Goldcliff, Gwent, South Wales
- Kenfig, Pembrokeshire, Wales
- Splashpoint, Rhyl, Denbighshire, Wales
- Formby Point, Sefton Coast, Merseyside
- Walney Island, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria
- Millom, Cumbria

January 2017

week 2

6 Friday

# ANIMAL FOOTPRINTS

07:00

FINDING ANIMAL'S

08:00

BONES ALONG THE

09:00

MAIN'S SHORE LINE

10:00

COULD BE OLD?

11:00

12:00

13:00

14:00

15:00

16:00

17:00

January						
M	2	9	16	23	30	
T	3	10	17	24	31	
W	4	11	18	25		
T	5	12	19	26		
F	6	13	20	27		
S	7	14	21	28		
S	1	8	15	22	29	
WK	1	2	3	4	5	6

January 2017

week 2

Saturday 7

07:00

MORE ANIMAL BONES

09:00

TURNING UP!

11:00

ALSO MANY ANIMAL

13:00

FOOT PRINTS ARE

15:00

STARTING TO SHOW

17:00

UP ON THE DUDEEN

FORESHORE

February						
M	6	13	20	27		
T	7	14	21	28		
W	1	8	15	22		
T	2	9	16	23		
F	3	10	17	24		
S	4	11	18	25		
S	5	12	19	26		
WK	6	7	8	9	10	

May 2017

31 Wednesday

week 23

6:00 AM AND

07:00

ON THE MAIN BEACH

08:00

THE SUN IS JUST BREAKING

09:00

THROUGH THE CLOUDS.

10:00

11:00

FOUND SOME NICE FOOT

12:00

PRINTS OF A WILD

13:00

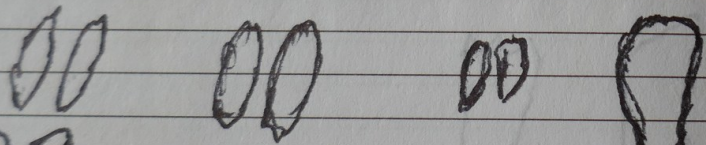
BOAR AND RABBIT & FALCON

14:00

DEER / HUMAN

15:00

16:00



17:00

BOAR

DEER

DEER

HUMAN

May

M	1	8	15	22	29
T	2	9	16	23	30
W	3	10	17	24	31
T	4	11	18	25	
F	5	12	19	26	
S	6	13	20	27	
S	7	14	21	28	
WK	19	20	21	22	23

week 23

June 2017

Thursday 1

07:00

PLENTY OF DOG WALKERS

08:00

HAVE WALKED OVER QUITE

09:00

A FEW OF THE FOOT PRINTS,

10:00

JUST AS WELL GO DOWN

11:00

AND TAKE PHOTOS MOST

12:00

DAYS.

13:00

14:00

15:00

16:00

17:00

June

M	5	12	19	26	
T	6	13	20	27	
W	7	14	21	28	
T	1	8	15	22	29
F	2	9	16	23	30
S	3	10	17	24	
S	4	11	18	25	
WK	23	24	25	26	27



# Irene Rogan, artist

- Duane Farren's work inspired the Moving Mountains art programme in 2018, a community arts project in and around Millom.
- His exploratory walks, where he examined findings such as footprints and rope, became well known and went on to inspire artists from beyond the region.
- Among them was Marcus Coates, a nationally recognised environmental artist, whom Duane assisted in developing ideas for a public art project.
- Through his passion and thorough investigations, Duane helped many people appreciate the cultural and historical significance of Millom in ancient times.

# FUTURE?

- Booklet commemorating Duane's work on the footprints
- Volunteers to continue Duane's work monitoring the foreshore