

# Victoria County History of Cumbria Project.

## Draft parish/township histories

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Parish/township: ANGERTON (otherwise Angerton Moss)

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## ANGERTON

Angerton (also known as Angerton Moss) was an extra-parochial place on the west of the Furness peninsula, in North Lonsdale hundred, Lancashire. It became a civil parish following the Extra-Parochial Places Act 1857 and in 1976 merged with Seathwaite with Dunnerdale, and Broughton West parishes, to form Duddon parish.<sup>1</sup> Surrounded by the parish of Kirkby Ireleth, it lay between the Duddon estuary and Kirkby Pool (formerly Steers Pool), north of Kirkby-in-Furness. To the north it was bounded by Otter Pool and by a ditch through the mosses called Raby Cut, which may be an extension of a dyke mentioned in a grant of c.1290 as extending west across the mosses, reaching the coast north of Whelpshead Crag.<sup>2</sup> In 1545 this part of the boundary appears to have been known as the Black Ditch.<sup>3</sup> Prior to its grant to Furness Abbey, Angerton belonged to the manor of Broughton-in-Furness, within the barony of Ulverston.<sup>4</sup>

The acreage of the civil parish was subject to frequent revision as a result of different definitions, as well as the effects of natural changes to the Duddon channel, and reclamation of the marshes.

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<sup>1</sup> Extra-Parochial Places Act 1857 (20 Vict. c. 19); <http://www.duddonparishcouncil.org.uk/> (accessed 12 Dec. 2014).

<sup>2</sup> TNA, DL42/3, CLXXXVI, Grant & confirmation by Richard Fitz Simon; *Coucher Book of Furness Abbey, Part II*, (Chetham Society 1887), p. 325.

<sup>3</sup> TNA, DL4/48/R5.

<sup>4</sup> TNA, DL42/3, CLXXXVI.

The Ordnance Survey gave its acreage as 2,195 acres (888 ha) in 1846-7 and 2,426 acres (982 ha) in 1911, at least half of which was below the high water mark of spring tides.<sup>5</sup> The figure recorded in census returns appears to have excluded the foreshore and was given as 1,250 acres (506 ha) in 1861, 918 acres (372 ha) in 1901 and 959 acres (388 ha) in the 1921 and later censuses. Earlier estimates include 772 acres (312 ha) of arable, meadow and pasture in 1840, of which around one third was mossland, although this figure excluded the salt marsh and sands;<sup>6</sup> 708 statute acres (287 ha) of moss, meadow, pasture, turbary and marsh in 1610, of which over a quarter was moss;<sup>7</sup> and a quarter of a league by a quarter of a league in 1299, probably equating to around 580 statute acres (c. 235 ha), again excluding the salt marsh and sands.<sup>8</sup>

Angerton Moss was clearly named after the habitation site Angerton, recorded in Angerton Farm in the township of Broughton, which occupies an elevated position overlooking the Duddon estuary (SD 213843). The name may be interpreted as ‘settlement by the grazing grounds’, from the first element which is probably OE *anger* ‘pasture’ (though ON *angr* ‘bay; arm of the sea’ has also been suggested).<sup>9</sup> All place-names within the extra-parochial area are either non-habitative, or recent. Whelpshead Crag (recorded 1235) preserves the lost name ‘Welpesat’, which suggests a sheiling or seasonal pastoral location (ME *sat, set*; ON *saetr*) on the edge of the moss.<sup>10</sup> Waitham Hill, on a slight elevation within the moss, may derive from ON *veidi-bolmr*, an island from which hunting was carried out.<sup>11</sup>

## Landscape

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<sup>5</sup> OS 1:10,560 map., Lancs. sheet 10 (1850 edn); sheet 10NE (1919 edn).

<sup>6</sup> TNA, IR29/18/14,

<sup>7</sup> Lancs. Archives (hereafter LA), DDK 1400/1.

<sup>8</sup> TNA, C143/29/8. Assuming a league of three miles, and a mile of 2240 square yards (based on a seven yard perch).

<sup>9</sup> G. Fellows-Jensen, *Scandinavian Settlement Names in the North West* (Copenhagen, 1985), 419; E Ekwall, *The Place-Names of Lancashire*, (Manchester University Press, 1922) 220-1.

<sup>10</sup> Fellows Jensen, 72-3; Ekwall, 16, 222.

<sup>11</sup> Ekwall, 198, 222.

Waitham Hill and Whelshead Crag are small low islands of Silurian sandstones, rising a little above a landscape which is otherwise almost completely flat, and which entirely comprises raised marine or estuarine deposits dating from a post-glacial period when sea levels were a little higher than at present, and upon which peat began to develop around 7,000 years ago.<sup>12</sup> To the seaward side of the area are more recent salt marshes. Although the whole area was historically normally referred to as Angerton Moss, suggesting a landscape of raised bog with sphagnum moss overlying peat, extensive deposits of peat today survive only on White Moss, north of Waitham Hill, which is largely outside the boundaries of the extra-parochial area. It is likely however that, in the late eighteenth century, a thin layer of peat covered much of the area, extending as far as Moss Houses, although this has since been stripped away.<sup>13</sup> The soils today are predominantly loamy or sandy with a peaty texture and of moderate fertility, with high groundwater controlled by extensive drainage ditches: in 2014 only the White Moss area, which remains uncultivated and is part of the Duddon Mosses National Nature Reserve, having been designated a Special Area of Conservation in 2004,<sup>14</sup> is characterised by raised bog peat soils, naturally wet and of low fertility.<sup>15</sup> Historically, much of the area was cut for peat, but was also used for seasonal grazing. From the late eighteenth century, a proportion of the land was used for arable, but in the twenty-first century, outside the NNR, most of the land comprises improved pasture, with some rough grazing, and a small area of coppice.

## Settlement

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<sup>12</sup> British Geological Survey, 1:50,000 Series, Sheet 48,(Ulverston, Solid and Drift).

<sup>13</sup> William Yates, *Map of Lancashire* (1786) shows symbol for 'Heaths and Commons' covering the central two-thirds or more of Angerton.

<sup>14</sup>

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140712082125/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designations/nnr/1006954.aspx> (accessed 12 Dec. 2014).

<sup>15</sup> Soilscales Viewer, National Soil Resources Institute, Cranfield University <http://www.landis.org.uk/services/soilscales.cfm> (accessed 12 Dec. 2014).

It is unlikely that there was any permanent settlement before the sixteenth century. Seasonal occupancy is suggested by the place-names Whelpshead and Herd House, the former probably recording a sheiling ground and the latter perhaps recording a seasonal habitation or shelter for a common cow-herd or shepherd. In 1545 it was reported that tenants with turbary rights were sometimes obliged to stay overnight or longer during the peat-cutting season at times of high tides when their access from the south was cut off.<sup>16</sup> The earliest permanent settlement would appear to have been at Moss Houses, where four small cottages had been established by 1587, associated with a large number of small enclosures along the east bank of the Steers Pool.<sup>17</sup> From then until the end of the eighteenth century it appears there was no further settlement. In 1786 there were three buildings at Moss Houses, but nothing else within the extra-parochial area.<sup>18</sup> However by 1818 there were more buildings in the vicinity of Moss Houses (which had been divided into Moss Houses to the north and Marsh Field to the south by 1846), together with a building on Waitham Hill, while the property named as Herd House was in existence by 1828.<sup>19</sup> Herd House was abandoned later in the nineteenth century, possibly as a result of access problems following the construction of the Furness railway, to be replaced by Moss Farm (recorded as Moss Barns in 1846;<sup>20</sup> and renamed Moss Farm by 1888-9, and again as Angerton Hall prior to 1950-1).<sup>21</sup> At no time have there been any buildings within Angerton other than farm houses and associated structures.

## **Communications**

By the late sixteenth century there were a number of over-sands routes crossing the marsh before heading across the Duddon estuary to Millom, and at the time of writing there are still public rights of way across Duddon Sands. In 2014 there were no through roads through

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<sup>16</sup> TNA, DL3/48/R5, 37 Hen 8 Commission to perambulate Angerton Moss.

<sup>17</sup> TNA, MPC1/34, map of Angerton Moss 1587.

<sup>18</sup> Yates, *Map of Lancs.*

<sup>19</sup> C. Greenwood *Map of Lancashire* (1818); G. Hennet *Map of Lancashire* (1828).

<sup>20</sup> OS 1:10,560 Lancs. Sheet 11 (surveyed 1846-7); OS 1:63,360, sheet 88 (Seventh Series, 1950-1).

<sup>21</sup> OS 1:2,500 Lancs. Sheet 10.15 (surveyed 1888-9).

Angerton, only narrow lanes linking the settlements, with access from the north limited by a manned level crossing. In 1818 the route from Kirkby to Broughton would have involved fording the Steers Pool and crossing the marsh before reaching Angerton.<sup>22</sup> In 1848 the Furness Railway Company extended its line from Kirkby-in-Furness to Broughton-in-Furness, crossing the area in a straight line from south-east to north-west, between the stations of Kirkby-in-Furness to the south and Foxfield to the north, each situated near to, but outside, the boundaries of Angerton.<sup>23</sup>

## **Population**

The population of the extra-parochial area was not recorded separately until 1841, at which date there were 36 people living in Angerton. Map evidence suggests that prior to the end of the eighteenth century there were never more than three families living in the place. However, that does not mean Angerton was unfrequented: seasonal usage, both by stock exercising grazing rights and by those with turbarry rights (see below, Economic History), brought herdsmen and peat-diggers to the moss, particularly in the summer months. Since the mid-nineteenth century the population has been in decline, falling to 21 by 1951 and to just 14 in 2001. Until the early-twentieth century, the residents were all tenant farmers and their families and servants, with no resident landlords.

## **LANDOWNERSHIP**

Angerton was never a manor. In the late-thirteenth century it was an uninhabited parcel of waste belonging to Broughton manor, within the barony of Ulverston. Around 1290, Richard, lord of Broughton, leased the moss to Ralph son of Alan of Kirkby Ireleth, but in 1292 Richard

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<sup>22</sup> Greenwood *Map of Lancs.*

<sup>23</sup> Furness Railway Trust <http://www.furnessrailwaytrust.org.uk/frco.htm> (accessed 12 Dec. 2014)

granted it to Thomas Skillar, a burgess of Dalton.<sup>24</sup> The lease amounted to 100 (customary) acres of pasture and 200 acres of turbary.<sup>25</sup> At the same time as the grant, Skillar was awarded seisin from Richard of Broughton of one messuage, five acres of meadow, 24 acres of pasture and four acres of wood in Angerton.<sup>26</sup> The exact location of this land is not specified, but the messuage is likely from the context to have been Angerton Farm in Broughton, outside the extra-parochial area. Thomas Skillar granted Angerton Moss to Furness Abbey c.1299,<sup>27</sup> the territory covered by his grant being essentially that granted to him in 1292, within boundaries which appear to have remained unchanged and become those of the modern civil parish.

The Abbey consolidated its rights by obtaining quitclaims from the widow of Adam son of Ralph of Kirkby, Richard of Broughton, John of Lancaster and others in respect of any rights they might have had in the moss, thus giving it undisputed possession of the soil.<sup>28</sup> Nevertheless, a number of individuals in both Kirkby and Broughton had held pasture and turbary within Angerton, and some turbary rights were retained even after the grant.<sup>29</sup>

Despite the grant and quitclaims to Furness Abbey, the Kirkby family later attempted to reassert their rights in Angerton Moss. In 1424 Sir Richard of Kirkby made claims to the freehold of Angerton, including common of turbary to the number of 270 loads of turf a year.<sup>30</sup> An arbitration confirmed that the whole of Angerton Moss belonged to the abbey, but Richard was awarded 80 loads of turf a year. Thereafter the abbey enjoyed quiet possession until the Dissolution, using it as a common resource, predominantly for fuel, for all of its tenants of Low

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<sup>24</sup> TNA, DL42/3, CLXXXVI, CLXXXVII; *Coucher Book of Furness Abbey, Part II*, (Chetham Society 1887), pp. 325, 327. Richard retained from Skillar a rent of five shillings, plus rights to sufficient thatch, and sixty loads of turf per year. Ralph son of Alan of Kirkby had earlier assigned 60 loads of turf a year to John de Kirkby Ireleth, in exchange for pasture between Whelpshead and Steers Pool. The name Skillar is variously spelled Skilhar, Schillehar, Scillehare, Skelhar etc.

<sup>25</sup> TNA, DL42/3, CLXXXVIII; *Coucher Book*, p. 328.

<sup>26</sup> TNA, DL42/3, CLXXXVII, CXCI; *Coucher Book*, pp. 328, 331.

<sup>27</sup> TNA, DL42/3, CLXXXIX, CXC, CXCI; *Coucher Book*, pp. 329, 330, 331.

<sup>28</sup> TNA, DL42/3, CLXXXV, CXCIV, CXCI, CXCI; *Coucher Book*, pp. 324, 337, 332, 335.

<sup>29</sup> See note 1, above

<sup>30</sup> TNA, DL25/398 Award, Angerton Moss 1424, Transcribed in T West, *Antiquities of Furness* (1774), Appendix XI(5)

Furness. In a rental of c.1535, the moss was valued at 28s. 4d. a year less a payment of 5s. to the earl of Derby, as lord of the manor of Broughton.<sup>31</sup>

On the Dissolution of Furness Abbey in 1537, its estates were absorbed into the Duchy of Lancaster, which retained the lordship of Furness, although letting various estates out to farm.<sup>32</sup> In 1586, 124 customary acres (c. 200 statute acres) of pasture and moss in Angerton, together with a cottage, were leased to John Richardson and Leonard Rawlinson of Furness for 31 years.<sup>33</sup> Almost immediately the two lessees challenged the rights claimed by Thomas Preston (whose father had in 1549 leased the site of Furness Abbey and the associated estate known as The Manor), Roger Kirkby (the lord of Kirkby Ireleth) and another 24 named individuals.<sup>34</sup> A commission reported that Preston ought to have 90 acres of land within Angerton, according to his lease. At the time he was occupying just 59 acres of arable and meadow, plus 16 acres of turbarry, so a further 15 acres needed to be enclosed for him.<sup>35</sup> However, the river Duddon had changed course since the Dissolution, exposing some 150 acres of new marshland, which was claimed by the earl of Derby, as lord of Broughton.<sup>36</sup> An inquiry into ownership of the new marsh concluded that the new land belonged to the Queen, as lord of Angerton. Upon a further enquiry the whole of the area south of Whelpshead and Otter Pool was determined to be the Queen's land, with Lord Derby's land (in Broughton) to the north, and Mr Kirkby's land (in Kirkby) to the south and east of Steers Pool.<sup>37</sup> By then there were two further significant areas of enclosure in Angerton, totalling almost 200 statute acres (c.80 ha), which approximates to Preston's lease of 90 customary acres. Thus at this date, all the enclosed land in Angerton was leased to Preston of The Manor, and occupied by his undertenants who also had turbarry and

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<sup>31</sup> TNA SC 12/9/73 (rental, Furness Abbey, c.1535). The same figures are quoted in *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, 269-70.

<sup>32</sup> TNA, E322/91 (surrender of Furness Abbey).

<sup>33</sup> TNA, DL1/137/R 12 Angerton, 28 Eliz.

<sup>34</sup> *VCH Lancs* VIII, 311-2.

<sup>35</sup> TNA, DL44/379 (special commission 1585).

<sup>36</sup> TNA, DL1/139/D4 (bill of Lord Derby 1586).

<sup>37</sup> TNA, DL6/34 (draft decree 23 June 1586); DL4/29/2 (commission 1587); MPC1/34 (map of Angerton 1587).

grazing rights on the unenclosed 124 customary acres which were leased to Richardson and Rawlinson, but within which various other parties from Broughton, Kirkby and Low Furness also had turbary rights.

The 124-acre estate leased to Richardson and Rawlinson passed to William Knype, then, in 1610, to the earl and countess of Derby who acquired a lease for sixty years.<sup>38</sup> By the early seventeenth century, therefore, the extra-parochial area was held in three parts: 124 customary acres (calculated at 7 yards to the rod) in the hands of the earl of Derby, Thomas Preston's lease of 90 customary acres (calculated at 8 yards to the rod), and 150 acres of marsh (again at 8 yards) retained in the hands of the Crown, as parcel of the Duchy of Lancaster. Together they covered c. 708 statute acres (286 ha), which approximates to the whole of Angerton Moss, excluding the sands.

The three parts descended separately for some time. At the Restoration, the Duchy interest passed to General Monk, created duke of Albermarle, and subsequently descended to the dukes of Buccleuch and Queensberry.<sup>39</sup> The part leased to Thomas Preston was purchased from the Crown by the Prestons in 1608, and added to the Abbey (or Manor) estate, but in 1674 Sir Thomas Preston, having no sons, gave his property to the Jesuits upon his joining that order.<sup>40</sup> This led to the whole estate, including Angerton Moss, being forfeit to the crown, from whom the nearest Protestant heir, Thomas Preston of Holker, then obtained a lease. When he took possession in 1682, Preston's share of Angerton Moss was worth £16 9s. 3d. a year, with 19 tenants paying either 8s. 4d. or 16s. 8d. each per year in rent, while a further 90 tenants paid rents for turbary, generally between ½d. and 1s. 6d. a year, although William Kirkby esq paid 8s. 0d. turbary rent.<sup>41</sup> In 1717, Elizabeth Preston, widow of Thomas, was granted the estate in fee, in

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<sup>38</sup> Thomas West, *Antiquities of Furness*, 174-77; LA, DDK 1400/1 (Angerton Marsh and Moss 1610).

<sup>39</sup> *VCH Lancs.* viii, 300.

<sup>40</sup> West, *Antiquities*, pp. 139-41; *VCH Lancs.* viii, 271, 312.

<sup>41</sup> LA, DDCA/4/1 (rental Angerton Moss 1682).



trust for their daughter's husband, Sir Thomas Lowther, through whose daughter it descended to the Cavendish family, earls of Burlington and dukes of Devonshire.<sup>42</sup>

The Derby share was presumably sold with the rest of the Broughton estate in 1653-4;<sup>43</sup> By the early nineteenth century it had been acquired by the Towers family of Duddon Hall. In 1805 virtually the whole of Angerton had been divided into a western portion held by Burlington and an eastern portion held by Towers, with a relatively small remainder largely held by the duke of Buccleuch.

In 1845, the Towers portion, by then 345 acres (140 ha) was held by trustees for Frances Esther Millers, heiress of Richard Towers of Duddon Hall, deceased, while the earl of Burlington's portion was 296 acres (120 ha).<sup>44</sup> By 1902 the Duddon Hall estate was the sole proprietor within Angerton, with the exception of a small area in the north-east retained by Buccleuch, and a strip of Bank End moss owned by Mr Wakefield.<sup>45</sup> On the sale of the Duddon Hall estate in 1902, the Angerton area was divided into four lots: Waitham Hill (125 acres; 51 ha), Moss House Farm (90 acres; 36ha); Marshfield Farm (140 acres; 57 ha) and Moss Farm and Herd House, treated as one property (226 acres; 92 ha).<sup>46</sup> All were sold as freehold with sitting tenants, with different members of the Whineray family farming Moss Farm (subsequently renamed Angerton Hall at some date between 1927 and 1950), Marsh Field and Waitham Hill.<sup>47</sup> Most of the properties have since been sold and resold, Waitham Hill being bought by the Curwen family in 1948.<sup>48</sup> Joss Curwen, descended from the Whinerays on his mother's side, still occupied Waitham Hill in 2014<sup>49</sup> Part of Bank End Moss formerly held by Buccleuch, and a part of Herd House Moss,

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<sup>42</sup> *VCH Lancs.* viii, 271, 312; West, *Antiquities*, 141.

<sup>43</sup> *VCH Lancs.* viii, 403, 407.

<sup>44</sup> TNA, IR29/18/14.

<sup>45</sup> LA, DDHH1/57 (Duddon Hall estate sale catalogue, 1902).

<sup>46</sup> *Ibid.* It is likely that by this date Herd House, isolated by the railway line, was no longer occupied.

<sup>47</sup> *Ibid.*; inf. from Joss Curwen (2014).

<sup>48</sup> Inf. from Joss Curwen (2014).

<sup>49</sup> *Ibid.*

formerly held by Burlington, became part of the Duddon Mosses National Nature Reserve in 2004.<sup>50</sup>

## **ECONOMIC HISTORY**

From the earliest records, the economy of Angerton Moss was largely based upon peat. Agriculture was predominantly pastoral, with some arable. Fishing in the Steers Pool (Kirkby Pool) and Duddon estuary has long taken place, while there was shooting over the mosses in the nineteenth and early-twentieth century. There is evidence for some gravel extraction and quarrying for local use, as well as a short-lived lime kiln.

### **Peat Cutting**

The chief value of Angerton Moss to the abbots of Furness, and to their successors, lay in the leasing of 'moss rooms', both to their own tenants throughout Low Furness and also to tenants of neighbouring lords in Broughton and Kirkby. In 1545, a commission reported that the king's tenants throughout Low Furness had common of turbary within Angerton, but that they only had pasture for their oxen and horses there during the time when they were actually cutting and leading turf.<sup>51</sup>

In 1612, when Ireleth school was endowed, the tenants of Kirby Ireleth agreed to deliver to the school one cart load of peat from Angerton Moss for every 13s. 4d. of rent they paid.<sup>52</sup> In 1632 there was a dispute over whether crown tenants throughout Low Furness, from as far away as Barrowhead and Salthouse, had moss rooms as of right. At that date, the moss was leased from Mr Preston by Mr Kirkby of Kirkby, and was managed by four 'sworn men' who had authority over the tenants of Kirkby Ireleth, but not over the king's tenants, who were taking turf as far

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<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140712082125/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designations/nnr/1006954.aspx> (accessed 12 Dec. 2014)

<sup>51</sup> TNA, DL3/48/R5 37 Hen VIII.

<sup>52</sup> J. L. Hobbes, 'Notes on Ireleth School and Chapel', *CW*2, 48 (1948), 145-67.

north as Waitham Hill. In 1683, 90 tenants, probably largely from Kirkby and Low Furness, were paying £3 2s. 7d. a year to the Preston estate.<sup>53</sup> At the same time it is likely that tenants of Broughton were paying turbary rents to the Buccleuch estate. In 1726, 24 tenants were paying ‘moss rents’ on the Lowther (formerly Preston) holding for grazing there, while 77 were paying turf rents.<sup>54</sup>

In the middle ages, peat had probably been dug from shallow deposits over much of the area, which would have become grazing land as the turf was stripped away exposing the estuarine deposits beneath, eventually leaving only the deep basin peats of Bank End Moss and White Moss. In the latter, outside the extra-parochial area, a ‘bog-litter’ works operated until the Second World War, with peat destined for stables and similar uses loaded onto boats at Galloper Pool, north of Angerton Farm. Turbary rights had been sold with the farms in 1902, with Moss House farm, for example, then having rights on 74 acres of Bank End Moss, part in Broughton and part in Angerton.<sup>55</sup>

## **Agriculture**

The first enclosure and improvement for arable and meadow commenced in the early sixteenth century, under the abbots of Furness.<sup>56</sup> Thirty acres of the moss (almost certainly at Moss Houses) had been enclosed by the abbots as arable and meadow, and houses had been built, which after the Dissolution were held of the king by tenantright, with a rent of 33s. 4d.<sup>57</sup> In addition, a further enclosure and improvement of 50 acres took place under the abbots by tenants living in Kirkby, who encroached upon a further 20 acres after the Dissolution. As a result, by the 1580s, some 124 local acres (*c.*200 statutory acres; *c.*80 ha) were under cultivation.<sup>58</sup>

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<sup>53</sup> LA, DDCA/4/1.

<sup>54</sup> LA, DDCA/4/2 (rental Angerton Moss 1726)

<sup>55</sup> LA, DDHH 1/57 (Duddon Hall estate sale catalogue 1902)

<sup>56</sup> TNA, DL3/48/R5 37 Hen VIII.

<sup>57</sup> TNA, DL1/137/R 12 Angerton, 28 Eliz.

<sup>58</sup> *Ibid.*

There would then appear to have been little further enclosure and improvement before the end of the eighteenth century, but by 1805 the enclosed, if not necessarily cultivated, area had doubled.<sup>59</sup> A lime kiln, recorded in 1805 in the vicinity of the later Moss Farm, was probably associated the enclosure and improvement episode around the turn of the nineteenth century. At the same time, new farms were built at Waitham Hill and Herd House, to exploit the newly enclosed areas. Since the early nineteenth century there has been no further expansion of the cultivated area.

Agricultural activity was probably at its peak in the mid-nineteenth century, at which time 469 acres (190 ha) of the total titheable area of 772 acres (312 ha) were farmed land, while 303 acres (123 ha) were mossland, of which 25 acres (10 ha) were enclosed for pasture, the rest being ‘common’.<sup>60</sup> The land was described as ‘poor in quality’, the tithe commissioners concluding in 1839 that ‘High Farming would be thrown away upon it’. One third of the farmed land, called ‘hard land’ to distinguish it from the moss, was considered suitable for crops, the rest being meadow and pasture. At this date the main arable crop seems to have been oats, with barley and some wheat. The existence of field names ‘Rye Parrock’ and ‘Rye Close’ might suggest that rye had also been grown, but was perhaps unusual, while the tithe map and apportionment also note the presence of an ‘Orchard’ and a ‘Cabbage Garth’.<sup>61</sup> Field names such as ‘Bull Meadow’ (twice), ‘Calf Parrock’ and ‘Cow Close’ suggest cattle breeding and rearing, but the value of the small tithe for lambs and fleeces was more than three times that for calves, heifers and ‘strippers’ (dry cows) combined, suggesting that sheep were the main livestock. In 1902 there were a turnip house, potato house, piggeries and granary at Waitham Hill farm, as well as cow houses and stables.<sup>62</sup> By this date a wood, Fir Coppice, had also been planted.

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<sup>59</sup> TNA, IR30/18/14: a note on the map states it was ‘copied ... from a plan surveyed by Mr Gibson 1805’; Greenwood, *Map of Lancs.*

<sup>60</sup> TNA, IR18/3895.

<sup>61</sup> TNA, IR29/18/14; IR30/18/14.

<sup>62</sup> LA, DDHH 1/57 (Duddon Hall estate sale catalogue, 1902).

## Hunting, shooting and fishing

The name Waitham (perhaps to be interpreted as ‘hunting island’) may suggest a base for hunting in the early medieval period. In 1902 it was claimed that there was ‘some capital shooting’ at Waitham Hill.<sup>63</sup> Shooting rents were also noted at that date at Moss House, and Moss Farm/Herd House.

Fishing is recorded from the thirteenth century, when three *stalnettis* (stake-nets) in Steers Pool were retained by John of Kirkby, out of a larger fishery there granted to Adam son of Ralph son of Alan.<sup>64</sup> In 1533, fishing in the Duddon was worth 10s. 0d. to the monks of Furness, a perambulation of Angerton Moss in 1545 stipulating that the fishing associated with Angerton extended to the midstream of the Duddon and midstream of Steers Pool (now Kirkby Pool). At that date it was claimed that the inhabitants of Kirkby had wrongfully made a fish garth right across Steers Pool,<sup>65</sup> perhaps the fish trap near the mouth of the Kirkby Pool, visible on aerial photographs.<sup>66</sup> In 1801-2 the Cavendish estate received 5s. rent per half-year from the duke of Buccleuch for the Duddon fishery.<sup>67</sup>

## Mining and Quarrying

To the north of Waitham Hill, gravel pits were present in 1846-7, and ‘Old Quarries’ in 1888-9.<sup>68</sup> It is likely that the former were used for road metal within the extra-parochial area, while the quarries appear to have been used for local building stone, although it is not of high quality. The house and farm buildings at Waitham appear to have been built using this stone. In 1841 two of the five households were headed by a ‘Quarryman’ and ‘Slater/Quarryman’ who probably

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<sup>63</sup> Ibid.

<sup>64</sup> TNA, DL42/3 CLXXXIII; *Coucher Book*, p. 320.

<sup>65</sup> TNA, DL3/48/R5 37 Henry VIII.

<sup>66</sup> Monument no 1491194.

<sup>67</sup> LA, DDCA/1/115 (Cavendish account 1801-2).

<sup>68</sup> OS 1:10,560 Lancs. Sheet 10 (surveyed 1846-7); OS 1:2,500 Lancs. Sheet 10.4, surveyed 1888-9

worked in the Kirkby quarries, some 2-3 kms away. This occupation may have been short-lived, as later censuses show only farmers and their families, together with farm and domestic servants.

### **Economic History since 1945**

Peat cutting for domestic fuel purposes continued into the 1950s<sup>69</sup> In 2014, much of the farmed land was under grass, predominantly for sheep, with some cattle. The largest farm, Waitham Hill has not been farmed directly since around 2000, the grazing being leased.<sup>70</sup>

### **RELIGIOUS HISTORY**

Despite its status as an extra-parochial place, small tithes were paid to the dean and chapter of York, as owners of the advowson of St. Cuthbert's, the parish church of Kirkby Ireleth, suggesting that it served the few inhabitants of Angerton Moss. The extra-parochial place was also included with Kirkby Ireleth parish for charity returns.<sup>71</sup> Nevertheless, prior to the building of the road bridge over Kirkby Pool c.1938, it was easier for residents to get to Broughton, so weddings, christenings and funerals tended to be held there; likewise, Angerton children went to school in Broughton prior to the Second World War.<sup>72</sup>

### **SOCIAL HISTORY**

There were no inhabitants living permanently in any part of Angerton Moss until cottages were erected at Moss Houses in the early-sixteenth century.<sup>73</sup> Other tenements were added after an enclosure episode around 1800, but at no time were more than five farms occupied, all tenanted. By 1902, four farms were occupied, three of them by members of the Whineray family. By the

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<sup>69</sup> Inf. from Joss Curwen (2014).

<sup>70</sup> Ibid.

<sup>71</sup> E.g. CAC (Barrow), BDX 606/4 (return and digest for endowed charities, parish of Kirby Ireleth and extra-parochial place of Angerton, 5 March 1903).

<sup>72</sup> Inf. from Joss Curwen (2015).

<sup>73</sup> TNA, DL3/48/R5 37 Hen VIII

second half of the twentieth century, one extra property had been built, and all were by then owner-occupied, but by the early twenty-first century, only two of the premises were still being farmed by the residents.

In 1901 two of the four households were headed by people born in Angerton and the other two by people born less than ten kilometres away. However, the fact that only one of the total of ten children was born in Angerton suggests the farming families had been reasonably mobile, albeit within a restricted area. The living-in farm servants, labourers and domestic servants (amounting to nine persons, or a third of the then population) without exception also came from the surrounding area – Kirkby, Dalton, Millom, Barrow, Whicham, Ulverston and Cartmel.

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Angerton was regarded as part of the manor of Low or Plain Furness, with admittances enrolled at the court at Dalton into the twentieth century.<sup>74</sup> In the seventeenth century, ‘sworn men’ of the manor of Plain Furness managed moss rooms on part of the moss, although there was controversy between them and the ‘sworn men’ of Kirby Ireleth over jurisdiction.<sup>75</sup> The inhabitants paid no poor rate (and hence would not have been eligible for poor relief under the Old Poor Law), nor other rates, apart from a county rate of 7d. in the pound.<sup>76</sup> If formal meetings of the civil parish council were held after its formation in 1857, their records do not appear to have survived. In 1892, Angerton joined with six other districts in constituting the High Furness Highways Board, under the Highways Act 1862<sup>77</sup> In 1976 the civil parish of Angerton merged with Seathwaite with Dunnerdale, and Broughton West parishes, to form Duddon parish.<sup>78</sup>

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<sup>74</sup> CAC (Barrow), BDHJ/184/14/5 (manor of Plain Furness: admittance of Samuel Whineray of Marsh Field, Angerton, 1904).

<sup>75</sup> TNA, DL4/83/50.

<sup>76</sup> TNA, IR18/3895.

<sup>77</sup> LA, QSP 4364/5, 4364/11; CAC (Barrow), BSHBHF.

<sup>78</sup> <http://www.duddonparishcouncil.org.uk/> (accessed 12 Dec. 2014).