

Rabbit Smoots in Levens

Smoots are small openings in stone walls that were used to trap rabbits and hares. They allowed the rabbits to pass from the fell into the intakes (lower fields). Stone-lined pits were sometimes dug below the smoots, above which was a counter-weighted trap door. The rabbit would trigger the trap door and fall into the pit beneath, from which it could be collected and used to supplement the countryman's diet'.

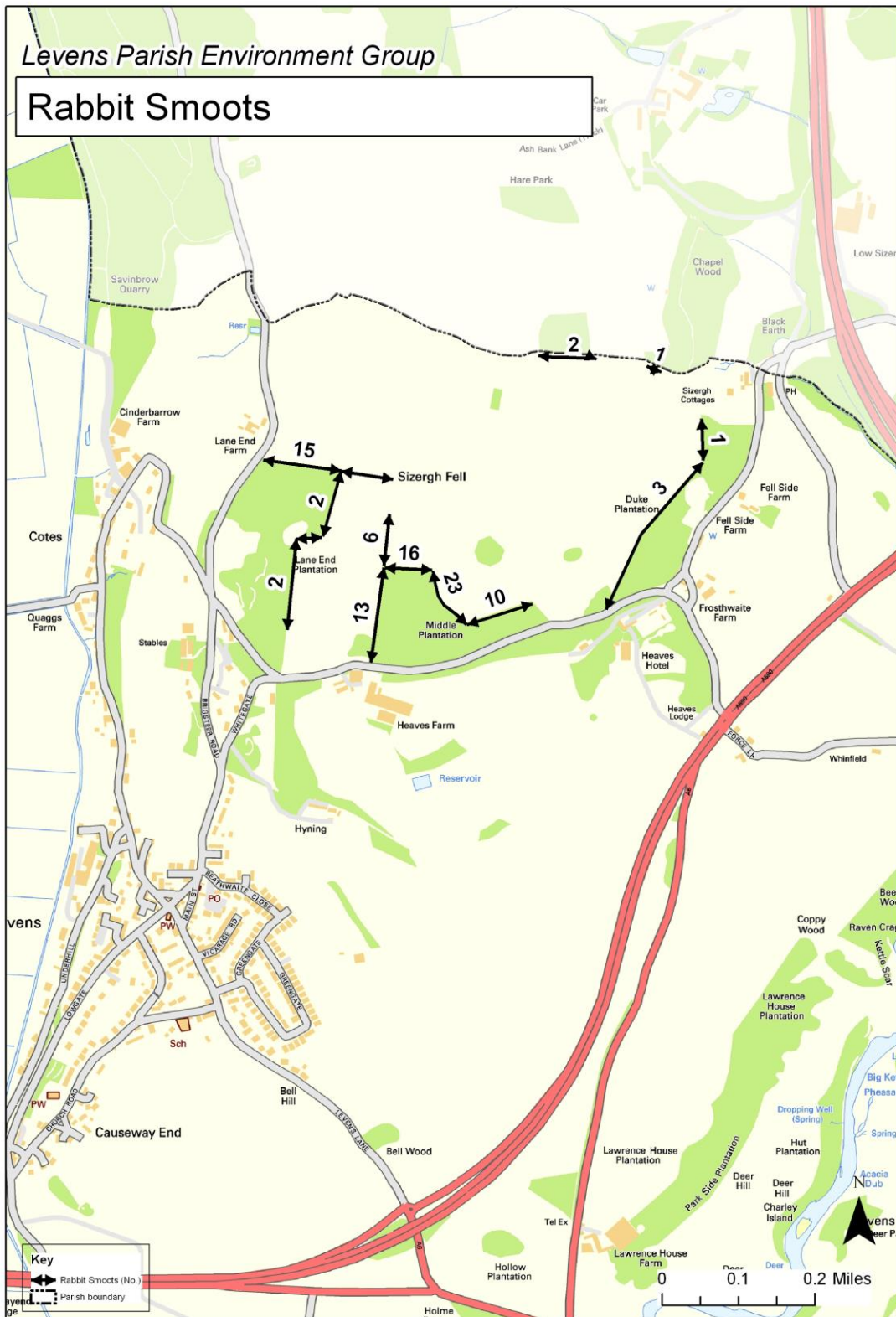


From: http://www.ruskinmuseum.com/stone_wall.htm

The survey, as illustrated in the map on the following page, revealed 94 smoots, primarily on Sizergh Fell and mostly in walls around woodland. Some are very close together, such as 23 in the curved wall NE of Middle Plantation: others occur as singles or in small groups. The numbers on the map represent numbers of smoots along the lengths of wall defined by the arrows.

Levens Parish Environment Group

Rabbit Smoots



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