

# Community Archaeology Excavation Report

## **Greyside Abandoned Farmstead, Newbrough, Northumberland**

**Excavation 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> March 2020  
and 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

***(updated version of 2020 excavation report)***



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## 2 Summary

Greyside abandoned farmstead lies 1.5km south of Hadrian's Wall in rough pasture, far from any other buildings or roads. It was identified originally from aerial photographs and classified as a series of animal pens along the south edge of an enclosure. Excavation in 2020 and 2022, following survey work in 2019, shows that it is in fact a substantial farmstead, formed of long rectangular building with three sections. The easternmost part has a large fireplace and flagged floor. It was probably the original longhouse farm, with animals in one end and humans living in the other. The central section was then added containing a byre to house the livestock, so all the longhouse could be occupied by the farming family. The byre contained livestock pens each side of a central cobbled drain. Later the western section was added; this has no floor, and possibly wasn't roofed. Hence it was a barn or livestock enclosure. Dating is a problem as the farmstead appears on no maps. However, the pottery found is all later than the medieval period and there is no evidence that the farmstead was in use before about 1700. Hopefully documentary evidence may be found to clarify this.

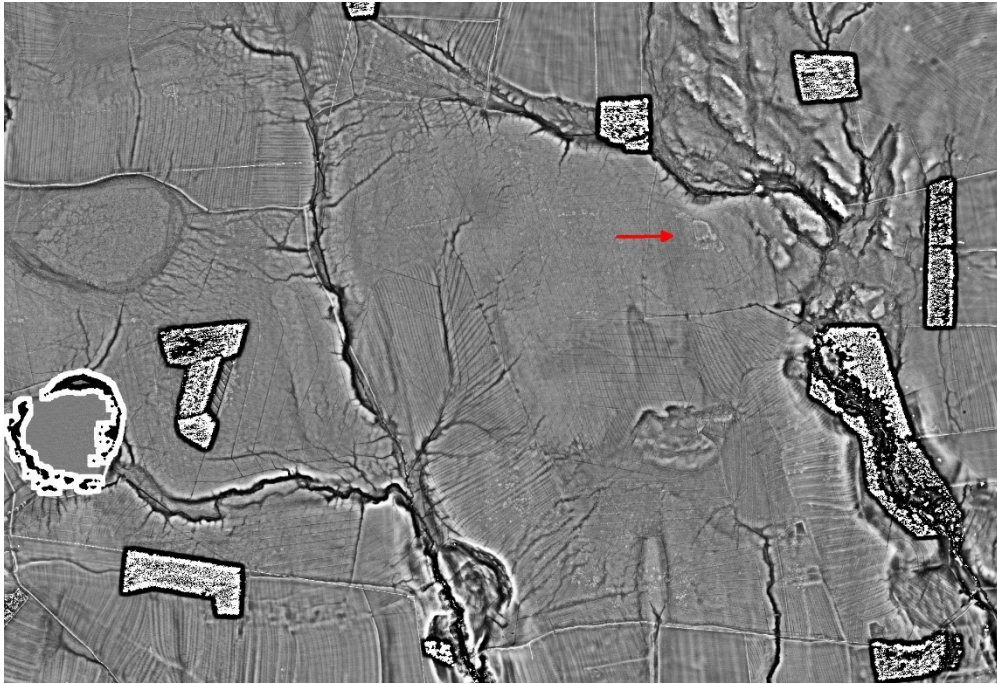
## 3 Introduction

This report describes archaeological excavations carried out at Greyside abandoned farmstead, Northumberland, by members of the Tynedale North of the Wall Archaeology Group (NOWTAG). An interim version of this report was produced describing the 2020 excavation; this is an updated version following further excavation in 2022. These excavations followed on from a Level 1 Survey in 2018 by the Group, covering 1km x 2km of Greyside Farm. The report of this survey can be downloaded from the [NOWTAG website](http://tyndalearchaeology.org.uk). The group is a community archaeology organisation, exploring the archaeology of upland Northumberland on the north side of the Tyne valley with a particular interest in non-Roman sites.



Location map of survey area.

The survey area is located about 10km north of Hexham and 1.5km south of Hadrian's Wall. It is a single field of rough damp pasture through which there is a little-used bridleway, but no roads or tracks. LIDAR images of this area have recently become available, but have not yielded significant extra archaeological information.



**LIDAR image of survey area (DSM, 10m Simple Local Relief Model). Farmstead arrowed.**

(National LIDAR Programme data: Open Government Licence v3.0)

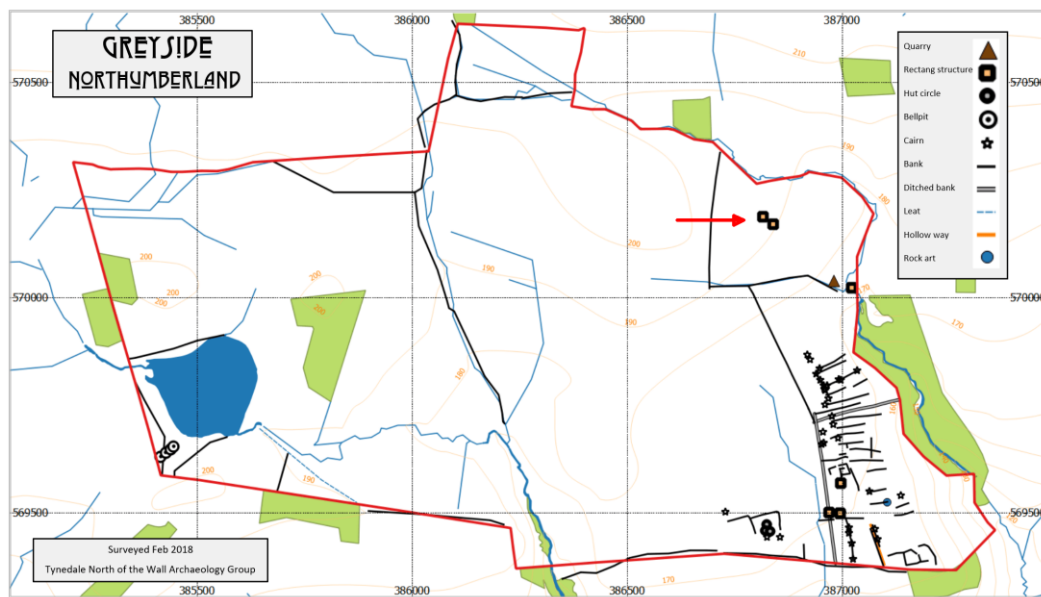
The Historic Environment record for the area lists an enclosed prehistoric settlement and some medieval field boundaries and enclosures. The NOWTAG survey showed that there was in fact an extensive system of strip fields (probably medieval) over much of the drier parts of the eastern side of the area. Adjacent to these fields were several enclosures. The western part of the survey area contained few features of interest apart from meandering earthen boundary dykes and some bell-pits.

In the north-east part of the survey area was an enclosure with several rectangular structures running along its southern boundary. This is listed in the Historic Environment Record as follows, having been noted on a 1992 aerial photograph:

Pastscape Monument **1445647**, NMR number **NY87SE165**, position **NY86817019**

*"A rectilinear enclosure of probable Post Medieval date was seen as an earthwork and mapped from air photographs. The enclosure lies to the south of Meggie's Dene Burn. The enclosure is 41m by 34m. One side of the enclosure is curved; the southern side is formed by a line of small conjoined rectilinear enclosures which appear to be formed by stonework and could possibly be pens."*

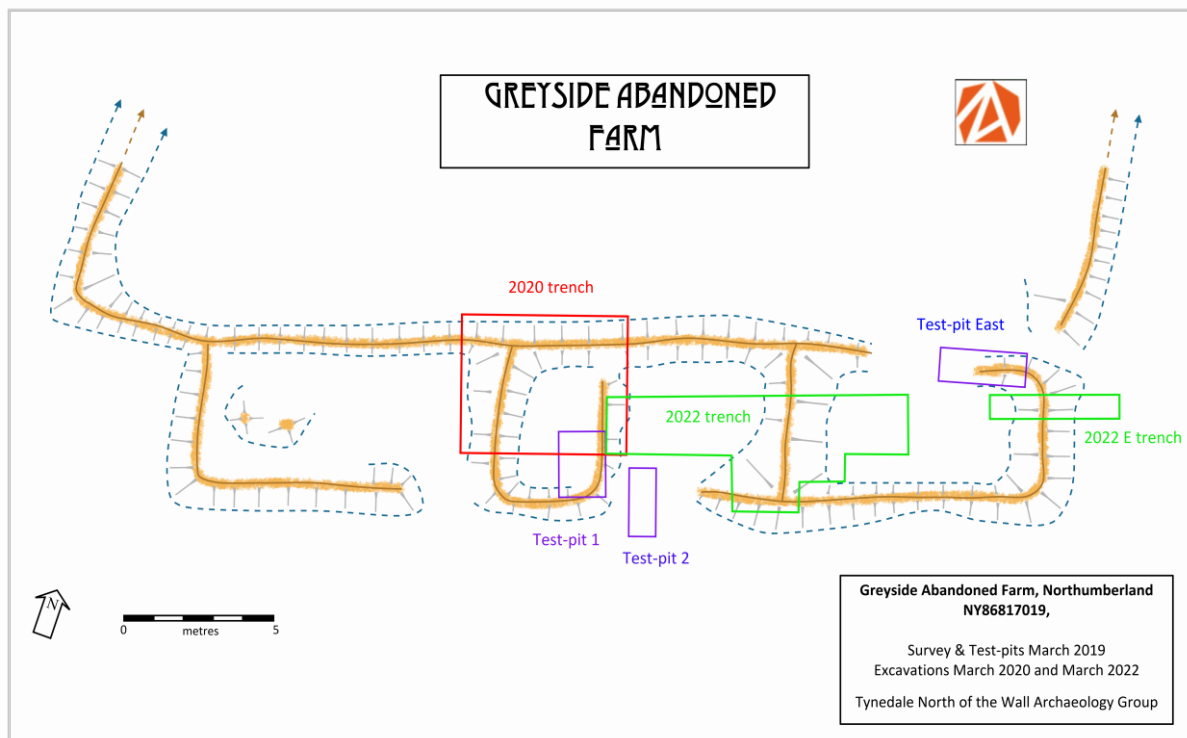




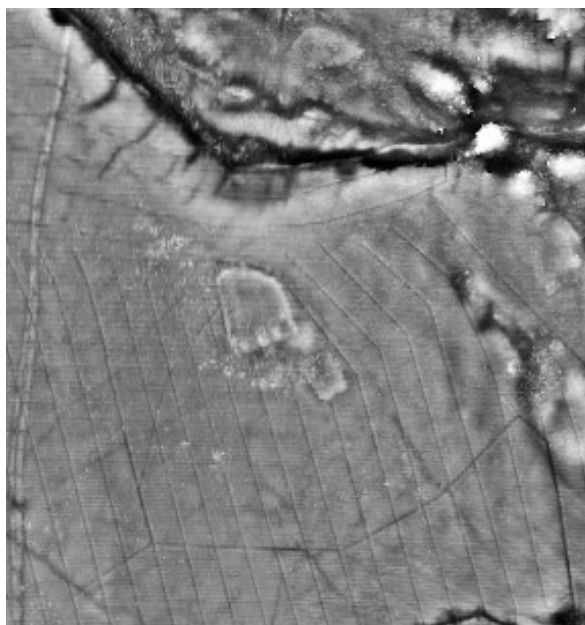
**Greyside Survey plan: abandoned farmstead arrowed.**

During the 2018 Level 1 survey of the area, this site was examined on the ground and it was realised that the rectangular structures were more likely to be the ruins of buildings, rather than enclosures. The wall foundations were substantial and were lime-mortared. Post-medieval pot-sherds were found in molehills on the site, despite there being no known nearby farmhouses. Hence in 2019 the site was investigated further by a detailed survey, further examination of finds from molehills, and the digging of three test-pits on the rectangular structures. The results have been published in a report; in summary:

- 1 A theodolite survey of the rectangular structures suggested that two of the rectangular structures had entrances to the south and the third (eastern) structure had an entrance to the north, leading in to the adjacent enclosure. The central structure had a dividing wall (north-south). The enclosure bank joined on to the north-west corner of the western structure, but there was a gap of about 2m between the enclosure bank and the eastern structure's north-east corner.
- 2 A gridded survey of molehills close to the foundations found a considerable number of potsherds (30) as well as clay pipe fragments (5), pieces of glass (3), and lumps of coal and of lime mortar. The pottery was all post-medieval, probably mostly 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century cheap domestic wares. The mortar fragments were concentrated in the immediate vicinity of the foundations.
- 3 Three test-pits confirmed that the walls were substantial double-faced structures. There was a stone floor surface in the central cell of the buildings, and a probable paved area in the eastern cell. Finds included two fragments of crude bricks, more sherds of post-medieval glazed pottery, and fragments of slate.



**Theodolite survey plan of farmstead.  
Location shown of 2019 test pits and 2020 and 2022 trenches.**



**LIDAR close-up view of farmstead. Note raised area adjoining building, to SE, with a platform further SE.**

(National LIDAR Programme data: Open Government Licence v3.0)

## 4 Historical background

Surprisingly, the first and second edition Ordnance Survey maps of the area (surveyed in 1861/2 and 1895) show no structures at or near the location of the farmstead.



**Farmstead location (red circle) on OS maps: first edition (left) and second edition (right)**  
**Note limekiln on first edition map, outlined with blue rectangle 1.1km NE of farmstead.**

The nearest buildings shown are the three houses along a lane, over 900m to the east. There are no other buildings, not even barns or ruins, closer than this, nor nearby tracks. Similarly, Armstrong's map of 1769 shows no farmhouses south of the Wall between Newbrough Burn and Meggie's Dene Burn. His map is rather inaccurate, but does correctly show Carrs Edge, Prudhamstone, and Ridleys Close. Birney Hill (1km E of the farmstead) and Nixon Close (1km W) on his map do not appear on Ordnance Survey maps, so might be the farmstead incorrectly located.

Early maps are shown in Northumberland CC (2018), a report prepared for the County Council regarding a right-of-way running north-south across the pasture. These maps include several early 19<sup>th</sup> century maps which show no evidence of a house at the site. This right-of-way is depicted on Ordnance Survey maps and is classed as a bridleway, but on the ground there is no apparent path or track across the pasture. Thus, not only is there no documentary evidence of a building at the farmstead's location in the last 200 years, but there are no nearby buildings or tracks.

A dwelling at this location could be either a permanently occupied farm, or a shieling (i.e. a summer farm). There is a strong tradition in upland Northumberland of farmsteads occupied only in the summer, April to August, allowing lower meadows to be used for hay production. *Shielings and Bastles*, (Ramm, McDowall and Mercer 1970) and *The Harvest of the Hills* (Winchester 2000) describe the practice. Documentary evidence shows that this transhumance was common in the area around the 13<sup>th</sup> century (and probably earlier). Later, the practice declined and had effectively died out by 1700.

Shielings in Tynedale and around Hadrian's Wall are discussed further by Woodside and Crow (1999) and by Roberts, Carlton and Rushworth (2010). The decline in use of shielings was for several reasons. Firstly, population numbers were reduced after the plagues and famines commencing in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, so there was less need to exploit the marginal upland grazing areas. Secondly, the area was unstable in the era of the border reivers, again leading to a reduced farming population. And thirdly, the farming

economy moved away from cattle to sheep which, not being milked, could be left to roam almost unattended in the summer on upland pastures.

The distinction between a shieling and a permanent farmstead is not rigid; many sites will have been permanent in one era and shielings in another, depending on security, weather conditions, and other factors. However, the Greyside farmstead is a much more complex site, with a larger range of buildings and a larger attached enclosure than would be normal for a shieling (see plans of shielings in the references above). Shielings normally consist of a small rectangular un-mortared building of one or two rooms, sometimes with small attached garths.

## 5 Excavation aims and methods

The site survey and the analysis of mole-hill finds showed that the site was probably occupied in the post-medieval period and that the structures were buildings (not enclosures as suggested by the HER entry) with substantial mortared stone walls. There were no medieval or earlier artifacts. Domestic occupation was suggested by the presence of glazed pot sherds and coal. The aims of excavation in 2020 and 2022 were:

- to collect more finds and samples for further information as to the occupation date and use of the site
- to discover the use of each compartment of the buildings
- to assess the state of preservation and risks to the site

Excavation was planned to last 5 days in March 2020. Unfortunately, weather during this period was poor, with rain and high winds, limiting what could be achieved on this very exposed site in the short time available. Work was also constrained by the remoteness of the site: access (including transport of equipment) involved a walk of 2km from the south or north, including very wet rough ground. Depth of excavation was also limited by the saturated condition of the land, following the wettest February on record. In March 2022 a further 4 days of excavation was carried out, this time in rather better, though still cold and windy, weather.

All excavation and back-filling were by hand. Stones, earth, and turves were stacked separately. The structures were cleaned to expose walls and floors. No attempt was made to excavate below floor level or to dismantle the walls. No stratification was noted in the topsoil, so the finds were not recorded by context. At the end of the excavation the trench was back-filled and re-turfed.

The position of the trenches is shown in the plan above (in Section 2). Test-pits dug in 2019 are also shown.

In 2020 a single trench was excavated, 4m (N-S) x 5.5m (E-W). This was extended by 0.5m along most of its southern edge to clarify the floor surface layout. The trench was placed over the north-west quarter of the central of the three compartments, including the northern part of the dividing wall across this compartment. Each of the three compartments is approximately 5m (N-S) x 9m (E-W), so the line of three cover a total length of approximately 27m.

In 2022 a 2m (N-S) x 10m (E-W) trench was excavated along the axis of the farmstead eastwards (with a small overlap) from the 2020 trench. It crossed the wall between the central compartment, entering the eastern compartment. Later it was extended southwards each side of this wall, reaching the south wall of the farmstead. A second small trench 0.8m (N-S) x 3.5m (E-W) was dug across the east wall of the farmstead, to examine the floor in the east end of the eastern compartment.

Recording was by photogrammetry. This technique involves using computer software to construct a 3-D model of the trench from about 30 conventional photographs taken from multiple directions. A computer-derived vertical view of this model is a scale-correct “orthophoto”: i.e. it has the characteristics of a drawn plan, being free of the projection and lens distortions of conventional photographs. If necessary, an accurate plan can then be drawn from the orthophoto to clarify features.

## 6 Photogrammetry and plans of the trenches



**Oblique photogrammetry view of 2020 trench. North at top. Ranging poles are 1m.**





**Vertical photogrammetry view of 2020 trench. North at top. Ranging poles are 1m.**



**Vertical photogrammetry of the 2022 small eastern trench. North at top.**



**Vertical photogrammetry of the 2022 main trench. North at left.**



# GREYSIDE FARMSTEAD



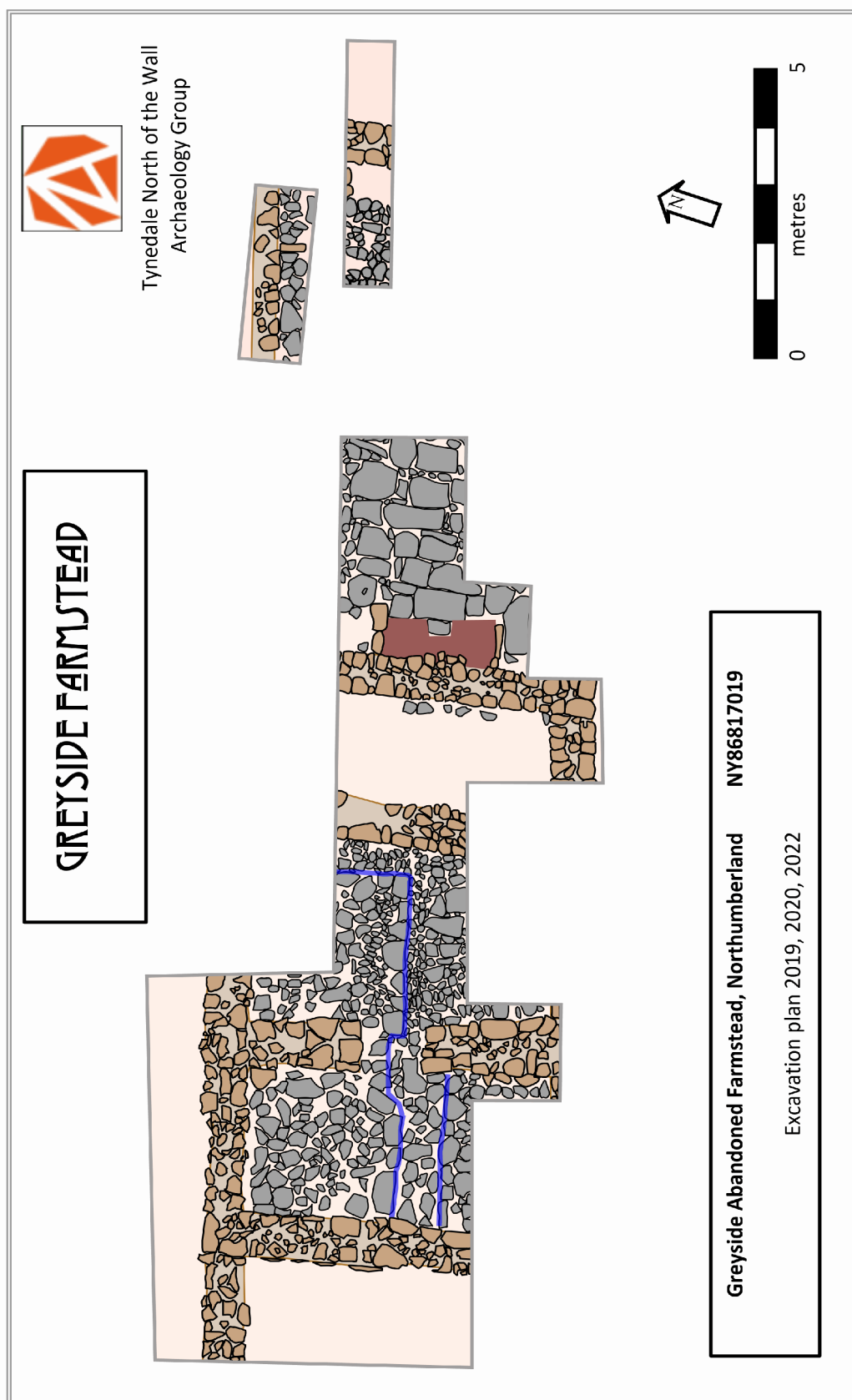
Tynedale North of the Wall  
Archaeology Group



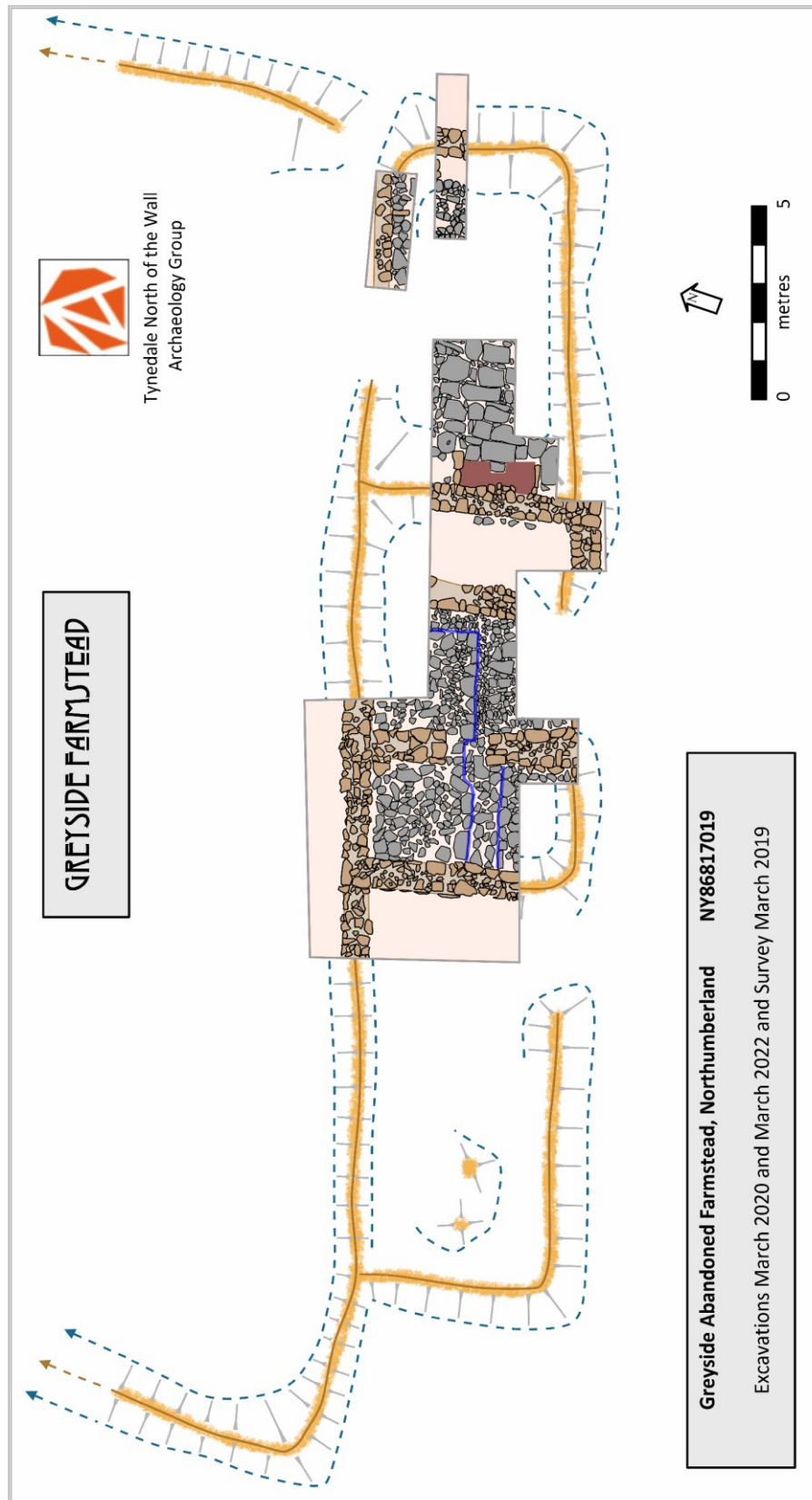
Greyside Abandoned Farmstead, Northumberland NY86817019

Vertical photogrammetry of 2020 and 2022 trenches

Vertical photogrammetry of 2020 and 2022 trenches combined



Combined plan of 2020 and 2022 excavation and test-pits (except Test-pit 2).  
Walls are shown in brown, floors in grey. The fireplace in-fill is in red-brown  
The edge of the byre stalls (separated by the drain) is shown as a blue line.



Plan (as in previous figure), overlaid on 2019 survey of farmstead.  
The southern ends of the enclosure banks are shown.



## 7 Excavation findings

The walls were of undressed, roughly coursed stones. They had collapsed leaving a spread of rubble over and around the lower courses. About 0.6m of the walls survived above floor level. There were many lumps of lime mortar in the rubble and between the stones of most of the walls. In a few places the mortar was bonded to the stones, but it was mostly loose, so that the material between the wall stones was a mixture of earth and mortar particles. There was no evidence that the walls had been plastered. They were approximately 0.8m wide, consisting of facing stones separated by an infill of smaller irregular stones. The only un-mortared wall was the small length of the south wall of the central compartment exposed in 2022.

Examination of the walls showed that the north wall of the western compartment abutted the NW corner of the central compartment. Similarly, the south wall of the central compartment abutted the SW corner of the eastern compartment, which had a large quoin. Thus, the three compartments were clearly built in phases (as discussed below), not as a single structure.

Rural vernacular buildings may have a cruck-framed structure (as found at Holwick in upper Teesdale, see discussion in Green & Frodsham (2019)). Whether any of this farmstead was of this type is unknown as insufficient of the outer walls were excavated to find pad-stones or other evidence of a timber frame.

### **The western compartment**

About 1.6m of the westernmost of the three compartments was included in the 2020 excavation. This was found to have no floor level, apart from a compacted layer of earth and mortar fragments overlying the clay-rich natural subsoil. A sondage was dug for 0.5m through this to confirm that there was no lower floor level. The western compartment may therefore have been a barn or walled garth built against the side of the central compartment.

The survey suggested that it was about 9m long internally and had a wide (about 2.5m) entrance at the east end of its south wall.

### **The central compartment**

Two N-S cross-walls divided the central compartment into three sections. Of these two cross-walls, the eastern consisted had a 1m gap in the middle, with its two halves mis-aligned. It abutted the north wall of the compartment so was added after the building was constructed. Its south end was not exposed sufficiently to assess. The western cross-wall was fragmentary and may have been mostly demolished before the building became disused.

The floor of the central compartment (apart from its eastern end) consisted of cobbles and slabs differing widely in size (from 0.7m to 0.1m), laid irregularly with no bonding. Many showed signs of wear. The best-laid, largest slabs were in the edges of the floored area, presumably having been less damaged by heavy usage and thus less repaired. The floor was not level: there was a central lower section 0.8m wide, running east-west, edged by large stones and with a cobbled base. The most likely interpretation is that it was a sunken drain/walkway running between livestock pens. The eastern cross-wall divided these pens.

The drain passed through the gap in the cross-wall and continued to the east of it, before turning north (possibly to exit the building). The width of the building is sufficient for small cattle, such as Dexters (which are about 2m long) to be housed in this way.

The floor butts against the external walls of the compartment, hence was constructed after them. However, two of the floor stones extend under the lower stones of the eastern cross-wall, consistent with it being a later addition (or re-build).

No hearths or hearth-stones were found in the central compartment, but there were two scanty patches of coal-rich burnt material lying on the floor surface and numerous small pieces of coal spread throughout the building. The stones of the floor were not fire-damaged. There was no charcoal in the burnt material. Both patches were towards the side of the floor, close to walls.

The eastern part of the central compartment is clearly different from any other part of the building excavated. In sequence (from top down) there was rubble from collapsed walls, then a thin soil layer, then a fragmentary upper flagged area, then a thin (5cm deep) dark loose deposit with coal and cinders, then another fragmentary flagged area, then more dark loose deposit with coal and cinders, and (at the bottom) the clay-rich subsoil. At all levels (including under the lower flagged surface) there were post-medieval pot-sherds (see Finds section). The upper flagged area covered 1.2m (N-S) x 0.6m (E-W) in the SE corner of the compartment. The lower flagged area was larger, covering the easternmost 1m of the compartment. Both flagged areas were loosely laid on uncompacted material, so were probably platforms for storage rather than floors. Most of the flagstones were unworn. In addition, there were several patches of mortar, one of which extended under the south un-mortared wall of the building. Another patch was left un-excavated and can be seen in the photogrammetry image, lying on the lower flagged surface. These were possibly where mortar had been mixed for repair work.

This suggests that unlike the rest of the central compartment, this section was not used for animal pens. Nor were there any hearths, so it is unlikely to have been for human occupation. Hence use for storage is most likely.... but the flagged areas and deposits hint at changes of use over its lifetime.

The south wall of the central compartment was only excavated at its eastern end. It is clearly late in the construction sequence as it abuts the SW corner of the eastern compartment, is un-mortared, is only one course high, and its base is at a higher level than the adjacent mortared wall. Possibly it was built to infill the widely open south front of the byre.

### **The eastern compartment**

The 2022 excavation examined the eastern compartment along its central axis, but did not excavate its north or south walls. The 2019 survey suggested that it had an entrance halfway along its north side. It may have had other narrow doors. Excavation revealed a fireplace against its west wall. The accumulation of collapse rubble was particularly large here and included a few bricks (absent elsewhere), suggesting a substantial chimney. The fireplace was slightly to the south of the centre-line of the building. It was about 1.7m across defined by wing-walls which presumably supported a hood. The north wingwall was constructed out of three courses of stone blocks which may have been Roman (see photos). The south wingwall was less substantial, being a dressed stone slab, chamfered on some edges and with tooling marks on both sides; it was probably re-used from elsewhere. The fireplace had been infilled with

stone rubble, mortar and some bricks to restrict its size to a rectangle only 30cm across and 20cm deep. It contained a layer of cinders ash and coal. The wingwalls were clearly built on top of the floor slabs.

The compartment had a well-constructed floor of limestone flags, with small stones to fill gaps. To the north of the fireplace one slab was of a dense sandstone, dressed to be almost round and with a small central slot cut into its upper side. The underside was crudely dressed. It may have been a rough-out for a grindstone or small millstone, re-used as flooring.

A second small trench was excavated in 2022 to establish whether this flagged floor extended to the east wall: in fact, the floor next to the east wall was cobbled not flagged, hinting at the compartment being sub-divided in some way.

## 8 Finds 2020 & 2022

At the end of this section are photographs of groups of the finds; tables of the finds for each year are given at the end of this document.

**Coal:** In 2020 Approximately 12 small lumps of coal were found over the floor, mainly cubic lumps of about 1cm – 2cm across. In 2022 numerous pieces of coal were found in all parts. especially in the fireplace area (with cinders).

**Clay pipes:** In 2020, three stems of clay pipes were found, adding to the five that had been found in the 2019 molehill survey. No bowls were recovered. The largest was of grey clay coated in white slip to disguise it, a 4/64 inch diameter suggesting an earliest date of 1750. The two smaller pieces had narrower bores so likely to be of a later date, probably Victorian. None of the three pieces have the large bores (6/64 inch and over) typical of early clay pipes: see <http://www.pipearchive.co.uk/howto/date.html>.

In 2022 more stems were found, all had narrow bores, about 5/64". The only bowl fragment had an estimated internal diameter of over 13mm. As with the 2021 pipes, this suggests a date later than 1700, and probably later than 1750.



Pipe stems

**Glass:** In 2020, two fragments of thin (1mm) flat glass were found. They were similar to the fragment found in the molehill survey. One was abraded, the other had patina.

In addition, two fragments of thick curved glass were found; possibly from onion glass bottles (these can

date from the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, through the 18<sup>th</sup> century) or a bowl. The fragments were a single piece with the join surface patinated so not recently broken. The brown patina is too thick to reveal clearly the original colour, but green and copper in the patina suggests green glass. More thick curved green glass of this type was found in 2022.

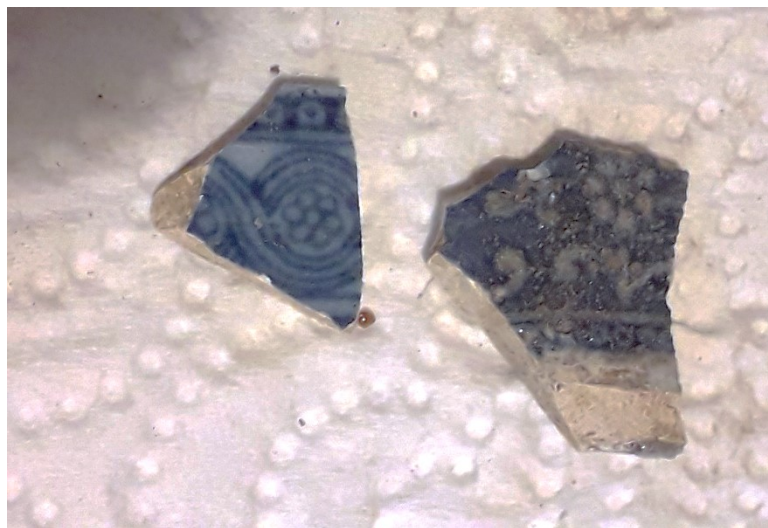
**Ceramics:** In 2020, Lorraine Clay's assessment of the pottery was as follows:

Sherds included nine pieces of terracotta with varying grogs, four with white bodies and seven off white, possibly being ironstone. None were bone china. Over half the terracotta had honey glaze over white slip, two pieces with clear glaze, two with shiny black, one had black/brown detail over the slip. None were thick suggesting domestic use. All were evenly and well fired suggestive of a Victorian date. A small unglazed sherd with only one flat face had spaces in the body from organic grog. It is low fired. It could be early, even Roman.



**Small unglazed sherd on left, with Roman sherds on right for comparison**

Three of the white-bodied clay sherds had oxide decoration; one was overfired and bubbled (or burned) and had a band of cobalt with tiny white flower motifs. A similar motif is found on an ironstone sherd with a tiny cobalt decoration of circles within circles surrounded by lines curling round to meet the next motif. It is much more refined than the previous one. Ironstone suggests post 1813.



**Decorated sherds as mentioned in paragraph above**

In 2022, a similar assemblage of sherds was found. It included further pieces of cobalt blue transfer-decorated ware as illustrated above (but not the same design). The process was only invented in the 1750s, so these sherds must be later. No medieval or earlier sherds were found.

**Slate:** several small pieces of slates were found in 2020 and 2022, adding to the two pieces found in the 2019 test-pits. None were complete slates and the small quantity found make it unlikely that there was a slate roof. Slate roofs were unusual in the area before railway transport. No stone roofing slabs were found either.

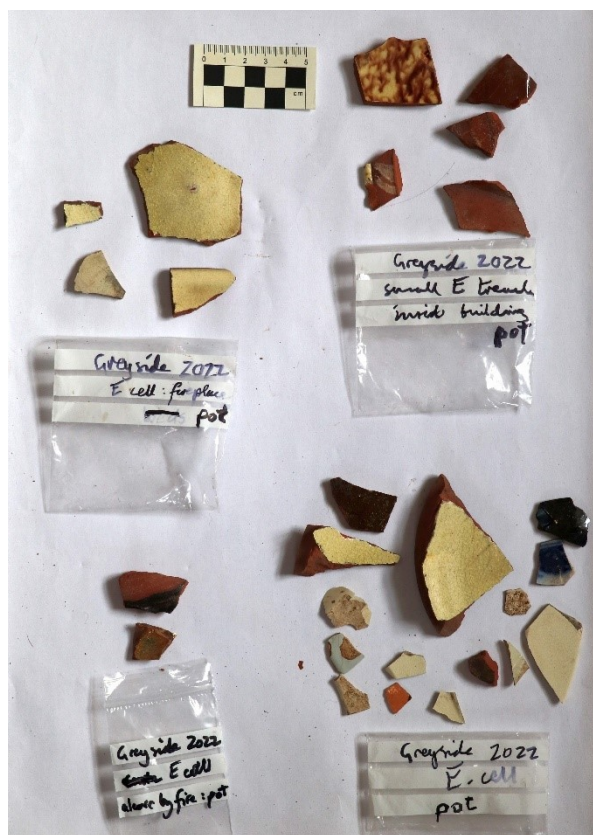
**Brick:** In 2020 no brick or tile fragments were found, despite two pieces of coarse brick having been found in the test-pits. In 2022 several partial bricks were found in the area of the fireplace, and the infilling to reduce the size of the hearth used brick as well as blocks of stone.

**Bone:** there was a single bone fragment 12cm long, probably a sheep metacarpal with spiral and lengthways fractures, possibly burned. Several more animal long-bones and two teeth (probably cattle) were found in 2022.





**Finds 2020:** The lower image is of the same finds as upper image, turned over.



Finds 2022: Pottery of centre (top) and east (bottom) cells.  
Sherds are turned over in right-hand images





**Finds 2022: Iron finds. Centre cell (top left), metal-detected (top right), east cell (bottom)**



Finds 2022: Glass and flint (top) and clay pipe fragments (bottom)

## 9 Discussion

Excavation has clearly established that a farmhouse and associated structures existed on this site, and was in use for a long period. It was clearly not a shieling, or a set of animal pens. There is now enough evidence to point to the probable sequence of changes to the farmstead.

- The eastern compartment is probably the oldest and was originally a small longhouse about 10m long, with animals housed in its east (downhill) end on a cobbled floor and humans in the west end on a flagstone floor. Maybe there was a central fire. There was a door on the long north wall, giving access to a large enclosure to the north of the longhouse. To its north was a large banked and hedged enclosure, which may have predated the longhouse.
- With increasing resources, a building used as a byre and store (the central compartment) was built, extending west from the longhouse. This was uphill, so not ideal for the management of animal waste, but it couldn't be built to the east as it would then have had no access to the enclosure.
- Changes in use of the eastern part of the byre resulted in new flagged areas being inserted, probably as storage platforms. Several mortar patches may indicate it was used for mixing mortar. As one of these spreads extended under its south wall, which is un-mortared and only a single course high, then this will may be a late phase in the building, possibly to partly block the widely open south side of the byre.
- The whole of the longhouse section (the eastern compartment) could then be used for human occupation as it was no longer needed for animals. Its fireplace was narrowed to a third of the original width, possibly as now coal was the main fuel.
- Finally, the farmhouse and byre were extended even further east, building a barn (the western compartment) on the west end of the byre.

Although a few slate fragments were found, the building is unlikely to have been slate roofed: far more and larger fragments would have been expected if that was the case. Similarly, no stone roof-slabs were found, so stone roofing is also unlikely. Slate roofing would not have been common before cheap rail transport was available in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Before then, heather, rush, or turf would have been used.

The walls were mostly lime-mortared. Easy availability of lime is shown by the limekilns only 1.1km to the NE (see map in Section 2) and visible from the site (see photo). The kilns exploited a limestone outcrop. Local coal, probably poor quality, would have been available from small seams in the Carboniferous rocks of this area to burn the lime. Coal was used by the Romans at Housesteads fort (Rushworth 2009). Even in modern times there was a small colliery at Fourstones, nearby to the south. The use of coal for heating the farmhouse is indicated by the cinders and small pieces of coal scattered across the site, and also by the restriction in size of the fireplace, since a small well-ventilated hearth is needed for coal burning rather than the larger hearth for wood.



The part of the central compartment excavated is probably a byre; it has raised platforms for livestock, each side of a stone-lined drain for slurry. The width of the platform, 2m, is large enough to have housed older breeds of cattle (e.g. Dexters) which were far shorter than modern breeds. Excavation of a longhouse farm in upper Teesdale by Altogether Archaeology showed a similar arrangement in the animal end of the building (Green 2019, Green and Frodsham 2019). The cross-wall was probably inserted to split the byre into sections. The cross-wall may have been only high enough to separate animals, or it may have been full-height, separating the central compartment into two rooms. The long flat stones in the rubble blocking the gap in the cross-wall (see the photograph section at the end of this report) may have been lintel stones, suggesting a full-height wall.

The use of different parts of the buildings would have varied over time and between the seasons. Hodgson (1827), describes “inferior farm-houses” in pre-Victorian Northumberland:

*The room at the entrance of which was, and still continues in many places to be, a byer in winter and a bed-room in summer, and is called Out-bye: the In-bye, or inner room, with three small windows to the left of the out-door, was the dwelling of the family, and often partitioned by two pressbeds into two compartments.*

The western compartment of the line of structures was found to have no floor, and the wall-join showed that it was a later addition, possibly a barn or walled garth. The survey found no entrance from the western (or central) compartment into the large enclosure to the north whereas the western compartment has an entrance from the open land to the south. Hence neither the western or central compartments are likely to have been shelters for livestock held in the enclosure. Without more excavation of the south and north walls of the buildings, their relationship to the enclosure is obscure. Similarly, the usage of the “platform” seen on lidar to the SE of the buildings is unclear.

No evidence of medieval or earlier occupation was found. All finds were clearly post-medieval, apart from a terracotta fragment and a single worked flint. Clay-pipe smoking was introduced to England around 1580 and became common in the north-east around 1650 (Graves and Heslop 2013), though the pipe-stems found in this excavation are 18<sup>th</sup> century at the earliest. Similarly, onion glass bottles (or similar forms) are mostly 18<sup>th</sup> century (though can be a little earlier).

The puzzle over why the building is not shown (even as a ruin) on 19<sup>th</sup> century maps remains. Examination of tithe and other earlier maps might throw light on this.

## 10 Acknowledgements

We are grateful to the landowner, Mr Walton of Greyside Farm, Newbrough, for permission to carry out the excavation. Photogrammetry by Andy Curtis, using Agisoft software. LIDAR processing and plan drawing by Martin Green using QGIS and Serif DrawPlus software. Lorraine Clay examined the 2020 finds. Derek Gunby and Michael Hall provided historical information.

Members of NOWTAG who bravely took part in the excavations, despite challenging conditions: Phil Bowyer, Lorraine Clay, Ian Cooper, Andy Curtis, Derek Gunby, Martin Green, Michael Hall, Will Higgs, Liz Pounds, Elaine Vallack, Christine Ward.

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## 12      Photographs



2020 trench at early stage of excavation: north wall and cross-wall being exposed.



Floor of central compartment at completion of 2020 excavation, looking north-west.





The gap in the cross-wall, looking west. The 1m ranging pole is placed across the gap. The rubble blocking the gap is still in place under the pole. In the rubble are some long (0.7m) flat stones which may have been lintels (see discussion section).



The gap, after removal of rubble. Photograph from same position as previous photograph.





The west wall of the central compartment, looking east.



Close-up of north end of west wall, showing join with north wall of western compartment (on left). See next photograph for a view of this wall-joint from the other side.





North-west corner of central compartment, seen from outside, looking south.  
Shows join with north wall of eastern compartment (on right).



Same wall-join as previous photograph, diagonal view looking south-east.





Interior of central compartment, looking west at end of 2020 excavation. Shows join between cross-wall and (on the right) the north wall.



The fireplace, looking west, during removal of rubble from the 2022 trench.





The fragmentary upper flagstone surface, forming a raised platform abutting the gable wall at the east end of the central compartment, looking east. Some stones of the fragmentary lower flagstone surface are also visible. The inner face of the south wall is on the right.



After removal of the upper flagstones, and the loose dark deposit underlying it, the lower fragmentary stone surface is revealed. At far left is a spread of mortar lying on this floor.





The fireplace under excavation, showing north wingwall of stone blocks and in-filling of loosely placed bricks, mortar and stones in a dark matrix smelling of cinders.



The fireplace, looking north. Note the “Roman” masonry of the north wingwall, unlike any other wall excavated.





The fireplace at the end of the excavation, showing the in-fill restricting its size to a third of its original width. Note the stone with slot in it (a possible grindstone roughout) re-used as a floor-stone to the right of the right (north) wingwall.



The same stone as in the previous picture, showing the underside.





The SW corner of the eastern compartment (to right and upwards) formed of mortared rough stonework, with a large quoin. Abutting it, to the left, is un-mortared south wall of the central compartment. One of its stones has a slot cut into it; it may have previously supported a door-post before being re-used.



The same corner from the opposite side, looking south. Although the south wall is un-mortared, there is a lens of mortar-rich material beneath it. The base of this wall is at a higher level than that of the wall-corner that it abuts, suggesting it is a later phase.





Looking NE from the site across the valley of Meggie's Dean Burn. On the horizon, twin limekilns can just be seen, in front of a limestone crag.



The floor of the byre excavated in 2022, showing the central cobbled drain.





At the end of the 2022 excavation, the small east trench, showing the floor at the east end of the eastern compartment, with the upper ranging pole along the line of its east wall.



The main trench at the end of the 2022 excavation, looking NW. In the foreground is the flagstone floor and fireplace of the western compartment. Beyond it is the byre.

## 13 Finds table 2022

This includes all pot, glass, flint, bone/tooth, and iron. There were no non-metallic finds or coins. The sherds and glass fragments had only light abrasion, with most edges still sharp.

### ***Classes of the pottery found (not an expert assessment!):***

**Cream slip-decorated ware:** Fine red-brown fabric, internal cream and brown slip decoration (mostly marbling and dribbling), unglazed externally. About 6mm thick.

**White glaze ware:** Fine red-brown fabric, internal white glaze, externally part brown glaze, part unglazed. About 4mm thick.

**Incised line ware:** Fine red-brown fabric, occ quartz inclusions. Internally cream glaze, with sets of 3 parallel incised lines, in a diamond pattern, glazed in brown. Externally partly glazed in brown. About 6mm thick.

**Dark brown ware:** Fine red-brown fabric, occ. fine quartz inclusions. Internally (and partially externally) dark brown glaze. About 7mm thick.

**Fine blue transfer decorated ware:** Fine cream fabric, dark cobalt blue fine-detailed decoration, blue-white glaze (?tin). honeycomb pattern in part. About 2mm thick.

**Black ware:** Fine very dark brown fabric. Black glaze internal and external. About 2mm thick.

**Fine cream ware:** Fine cream fabric, cream glaze internal and external. No decoration. About 3mm thick.

**Fine pale blue ware:** Fine cream fabric. Bluish-white glaze one side, the other rough unglazed (?de-laminated). About 2mm thick.

**Orange-brown slip ware:** Dark cream fine fabric, Terracotta-orange glaze with brown trailed slip on one side, the other rough in some sherds (?de-laminated). About 2mm thick. Other sherds are 3mm thick with white interior glaze.

**Dark brown slip ware:** Fine red-brown fabric. Dark brown glaze both sides, with white slip trailed decoration externally of parallel lines. About 4mm thick

**Murky cream brown ware:** Fine brown fabric. Murky brown glaze externally, murky cream on rim. About 4mm thick.

<b>find type</b>	<b>location</b>	<b>size, mm</b>	<b>description</b>
<b>bone/tooth</b>	centre cell	83x11x12	fragment of long bone. sheep?
		155x18x15	long bone sheep?
		40x24x16	tooth, cow?
		45x25x18	tooth, cow?
	E cell fireplace	93x12x6	long bone, fowl?
<b>glass</b>	centre cell	50x50x10	thick green glass, a few bubbles. bottle/flagon base fragment? abraded
		35x35x9	thick green glass, large bubble, unidentifiable curved fragment, abraded
		18x15x3	very pale green flat, no bubbles, abraded
		25x13x3	very pale green, slightly curved, no bubbles, abraded
	E cell, fire alcove	20x18x4	Golden (both on surface and broken edges), opaque, small vessel, green metallic patch
<b>flint</b>	E cell, fireside alcove	45x20x10	flint flake, cortex on one face, edge retouched.



find type	location	size, mm	description
clay pipe	centre cell	18x18 Estimated internal diam 16mm	fragment of pipe-bowl. Leaf decoration down front seam.
		52x7 (diam) bore: 2.0mm (5/64")	stem, no decoration
	centre cell (S end)	30x6 (diam) bore: 2.0mm (5/64")	stem. No decoration
	E cell	20x7 (diam) bore: 2.0 (5/64")	stem no decoration
iron	E cell, fireplace	75x5x5 (tapering)	nail, no head, square section
		18x10x10	tapering to point, bent in right-angle, flat head.
		90x5x30	square fragment of 4mm tick blade attached at right-angles to socket for 20mm diam handle. Broken hoe or adze?
	centre cell	60x6 9 (diam)	nail, curved, small head, ?round section
		43x8 (diam)	small head at one end, large head at other of round "nail"
	E trench, inside building	73x5x4 (tapering)	nail, small head, rectangular section

find type	location	size, mm	description
		120x8x5	nail or staple, rectangular section, bent into a "U" Concretion of rust and small bits of coal adherent.
		140x10 (diam)	round bar bent into a broad "U". Not clear if circular section. Concretion of rust and small bits of coal adherent.
		90x20x7	sickle-shaped fragment of iron with concretions. ??horseshoe segment
	centre cell (S end)	73x5x4 (tapering)	nail, large head, square section
		50x10x3	curved fragment, with concretions. fragment of horseshoe?
		70x6x5 (tapering)	nail, rectangular section, At head end, concretion of rust and small bits of coal adherent.
		100x40x20	a concretion lump of cinders, small coal pieces and rust. Impossible to distinguish shape of iron core.
	central cell (sondage)	60x25x20	a concretion lump of cinders, coal pieces (largest is 25x10x8), and rust.
		80x60x45	a concretion lump of cinders, coal pieces (largest is 12x12x6), and rust.
	metal detected to SE of building	130x120x5	irregular fragment of curved iron vessel. Estimated diameter 500m. Decorated externally with parallel raised bands 55mm apart, 5mm wide.
		160x140x8	broken fragment of iron plate. Slightly curved. ?agricultural tool.

find type	location	size, mm	description
		70x40x40, 50x35x4	two irreg fragments of iron sheet, very corroded with rust concretion including small pieces of coal
<b>pot</b>	E trench, inside building	2 sherds	cream slip-decorated ware
		2 sherds	white glaze ware
		1 sherd	incised line ware
	E cell, alcove by fire	1 sherd	dark brown ware
	E cell, fireplace area	3 sherds (1 a rim)	cream slip-decorated ware (no decoration)
		1 sherd	Fine cream ware
	E cell	1 large sherd (in 2 parts) and 1 small sherd	cream slip-decorated ware (but without slip decoration)
		1 sherd	fine blue transfer decorated ware
		1 sherd	black ware
		6 sherds including 2 rims	fine cream ware
		1 sherd (in 2 pieces)	orange-brown slip ware

find type	location	size, mm	description
	centre cell, under lowest flagged surface	2 sherds. 1 is a rim with cream band and impressed toothed rim decoration.	cream slip-decorate ware
	centre cell, southern part	4 sherds (3 are rims)	cream slip-decorate ware
		1 sherd	dark-brown slip ware
		1 sherd	dark brown ware
		1 sherd	murky cream brown ware
	centre cell	1 sherd	fine blue transfer decorated ware
		13 sherds (1 is a rim)	cream slip-decorated ware
		1 sherd	dark brown ware
		2 sherds	orange brown slip ware
		5 sherds, (1 a rim with decoration of brown band, 1 has a brown rim)	fine cream ware
		2 sherds	dark brown ware



## 14 Finds table 2020

ID	material	body	section	thickness mm	colour	method	glaze inside	glaze outside	detail
1	glass		curved	5-6	brown	blown			gold /copper fleck joins 2
2	glass		curved	4-5	brown	blown			gold /copper fleck joins 1
3	ceramic	terracotta abundant white inclusions	twisted curve	4-6	brown	thrown	shiny black silver patina	shiny black, silver patina	throwing line
4	ceramic	terracotta sparse white inclusions	gentle curve	5-8	brown	thrown	honey over white slip	none	flat base
5	ceramic	terracotta sparse white inclusions		5-13	brown	thrown	honey over white slip	none	nicely turned foot ring
6	coal	coal	flat		black				
7	ceramic	terracotta	gentle curve	3	brown		shiny black	shiny black	no silver
8	ceramic	terracotta abundant white inclusions	gentle curve	4	brown		honey over white slip	honey	might join 5
9	ceramic	terracotta	gentle curve	5	brown		clear	none	
10	ceramic	terracotta black inclusions	gentle curve	3	brown		honey over white slip	honey	

ID	material	body	section	thickness mm	colour	method	glaze inside	glaze outside	detail
11	ceramic	off white	flat		beige	slipcast	white	white	overglaze cobalt on rim and lines on inside with stiff brush or lines slipcast
12	ceramic	white	flat	3	white	slipcast	clear	clear	rectangle
13	ceramic	off white	flat	4	beige		blue tint	blue tint	rhombus
14	ceramic	off white	gentle curve	4	beige		yellow tint	yellow tint	5 sides
15	ceramic	white	gentle curve	2-3	white	slipcast	clear diffuse cobalt design below rim	clear	
16	ceramic	off white	flat	3	beige	slipcast	clear	clear	rim
17	ceramic	off white	cylindrical curve	2-3	beige	slipcast	opaque yellow	opaque yellow	milled rows of square dots and recessed row of circles. Jam pot?
18	ceramic	off white	curved	3	white		clear	thin brown slips under a clear glaze	no texture on outside so colour added during casting? Or monoprint? tip of bird tail or wing? Dark brown/white rope? Seems to be mimicking 19
19	ceramic	terracotta	curved	2-4	brown		honey	white slip with black line near edge and brown dappling under honey glaze	rim or associated with handle
20	ceramic	terracotta with organic grog	one flat side		brown				Roman ?
21	ceramic	white	curved	2-3	white		copper line over	copper and iron(?) over clear glaze	rim or associated with handle

ID	material	body	section	thickness mm	colour	method	glaze inside	glaze outside	detail
							(?) clear glaze		
22	ceramic	ironstone?	curved	2	beige	slipcast	tiny cobalt design of 6 small circles in a circle surrounded by 4 blue lines interlacing with next group of circles and at rim row of tiny squares with dot in middle	clear blue tint	rim. Can't see printing. Dense colour - 1830?? Similar motif to 23
23	ceramic	white	one flat side	4	white		white with over(?)glaze cobalt band with teeny flower (white centre and 6 white petals) Badly overfired (or burned)	white overfired or burned	similar motif to 22 but not as refined
24	ceramic	grey	straight	4/64	grey	one end sooty, probably near bowl	none	white slip to disguise grey clay	post 1750
25	ceramic	pipe clay	straight	<4/64					more post 1750! Same bore as 26. fingernail mark, slightly oval
26	ceramic	pipe clay	straight	<4/64					more post 1750! Same bore as 25
27	glass	glass	flat	1	clear				opalescent patina
28	glass	glass	flat	1	frosted				abraded
29	bone	metacarpal	long bone	sheep?					spiral fracture and lengthways fracture. Burned

