

Record Name: Clapper Bridge
SWAAG ID Number: 440
Recorded Date: 2012-01-28 17:13:50
Recorded by: Stephen Eastmead
Category: Stone structure
Record Type: Archaeology
Site Access: Army Range
Record Date: 2012-01-28
Location: Bellerby Moor
Civil Parish: Bellerby
British National Grid: SE 09179 93140
Altitude: 294m

Description: Stone Clapper Bridge constructed over a small beck. The track leading to the bridge connects the Preston Moor coal pits with the main road towards Leyburn, North Yorkshire. In addition the area is rich in pre-historic archaeology including adjacent Burnt Mounds, cairns, a possible burial mound and a nearby barrow.

This is an active army range with no public access.

[This is a link to more examples of Clapper Bridges](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Stone_bridges_-_clapper_bridges_-_flat_slabs_bridges)

SWAAG Site: Bellerby Moor
Last Update: 2012-02-02



Record Number 440 >>> Image 1: Clapper Bridge



Record Number 440 >>> Image 2: Clapper Bridge



Record Number 440 >>> Image 3: Clapper Bridge

Record Name: Clapper Bridge

SWAAG ID Number: 446

Recorded Date: 2012-02-01 10:24:52

Recorded by: Mike Walton

Category: Stone structure

Record Type: Archaeology

Site Access: Army Range

Record Date: 2012-01-28

Location: Bellerby Deer Park, Army range.

Civil Parish: Bellerby

British National Grid: SE 09056 93188

Altitude: 296m

Description: Stone Clapper Bridge built over a small stream. The track over the bridge connects the Preston Moor coal pits with the main road towards Leyburn, North Yorkshire. There is another similar bridge a short distance further downstream, see SWAAG record ID 440.

Additional Notes: This is an active army range with no public access.

SWAAG Site: Bellerby Moor

Last Update: 2012-02-07



Record Number 446 >>> Image 1: Clapper Bridge on Bellerby Moor



Record Number 446 >>> Image 2: SWAAG members inspecting clapper bridge

Record Name: Beehive quern top stone.

SWAAG ID Number: 716

Recorded Date: 2013-04-13 20:26:38

Recorded by: Stephen Eastmead

Category: Stone structure

Record Type: Archaeology

Site Access: Private

Record Date: 2013-04-13

Location: Healaugh

Civil Parish: Reeth

British National Grid: SE 017 990

Altitude: 205M

Description: Beehive quernstone found several years before in a house in Healaugh. Where and when it was originally found is unknown. The quernstone is now kept in a private garden above Healaugh.

The quernstone has a lop-sided asymmetrical shape similar to a horses hoof see image 10. There is a single hole for a handle which is conical in shape. The hopper is relatively large. It is made from a coarse millstone grit containing no crinoids or other fossils, but occasional pebbles up to 1cm.

Diameter: Ovoid 300mm - 330mm. Height varies between 160mm - 190mm. Hopper and Feed pipe are both off-centre. Hopper width ovoid 140mm - 150mm. Hopper Depth 60mm. Diameter of feed pipe 23mm. Handle hole ovoid and conical 30mm - 35mm diameter and 75mm deep. approx. The handle hole does not piece the feed pipe. The feed pipe gives the impression that it was mainly drill from the top, but later drilled from the bottom to complete the feed pipe.

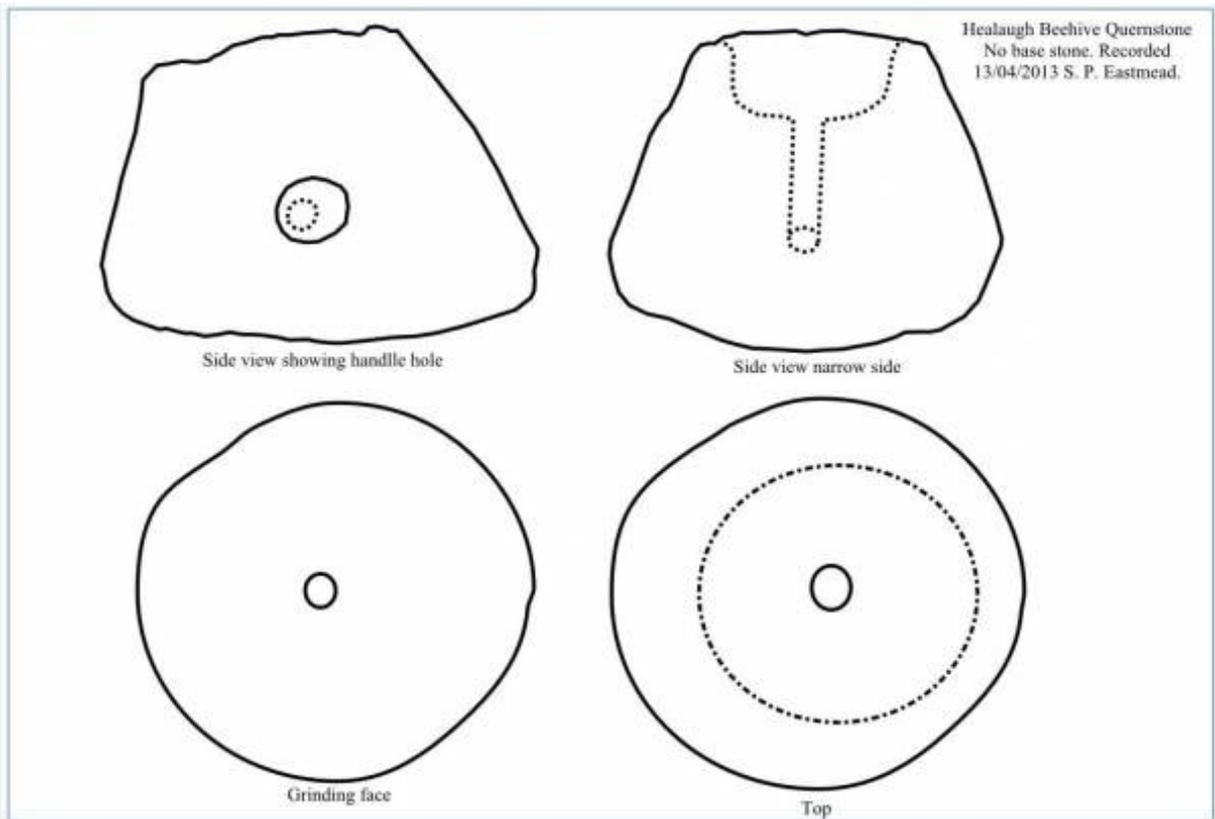
Dimensions: See above

Additional Notes: The technology change from Saddle to Beehive querns is thought to have occurred locally in the 4C BC. This quern is probably made locally from millstone grit similar to that found in Arkengarthdale.

There is no apparent equivalent form for millstone grit top stones in D.A. Heslop's Patterns of Quern Production, Acquisition and Deposition, Yorkshire Archaeological Society Occasional Paper No. 5. Most hoppers appear to have a more conical shape to their hoppers whereas this quernstone has a more gradual 'bowl' shape.

Image 12 shows the larger quern found at the Healaugh excavation 1988-90.

Last Update: 2013-04-14



Record Number 716 >>> Image 1: Drawing of a top stone of a Beehive quern found in Healough.



Record Number 716 >>> Image 2: Top stone of a Beehive quern found in Healough.



Record Number 716 >>> Image 3: Top stone of a Beehive quern found in Healaugh.



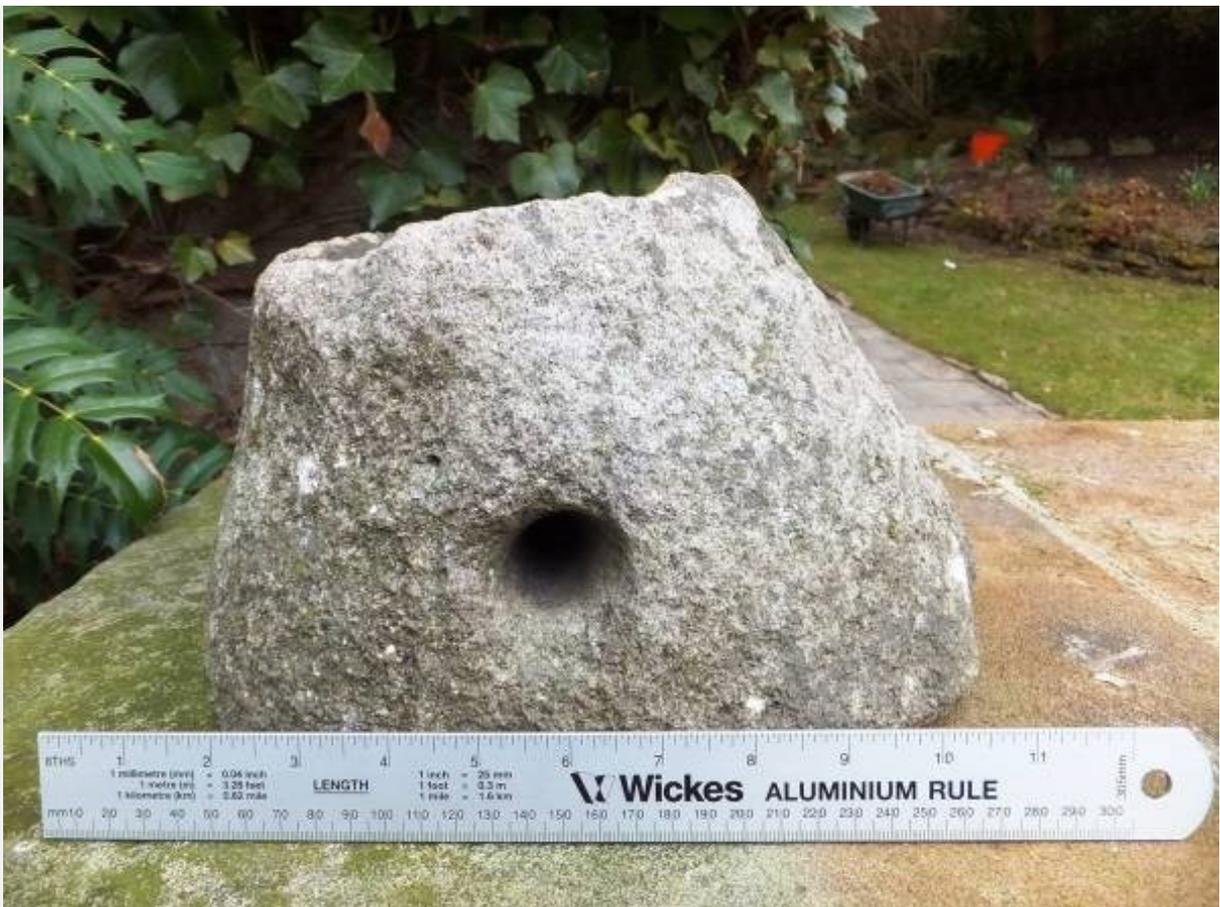
Record Number 716 >>> Image 4: Top stone of a Beehive quern found in Healaugh.



Record Number 716 >>> Image 5: Top stone of a Beehive quern found in Healaugh.



Record Number 716 >>> Image 6: Top stone of a Beehive quern found in Healaugh.



Record Number 716 >>> Image 7: Top stone of a Beehive quern found in Healaugh.



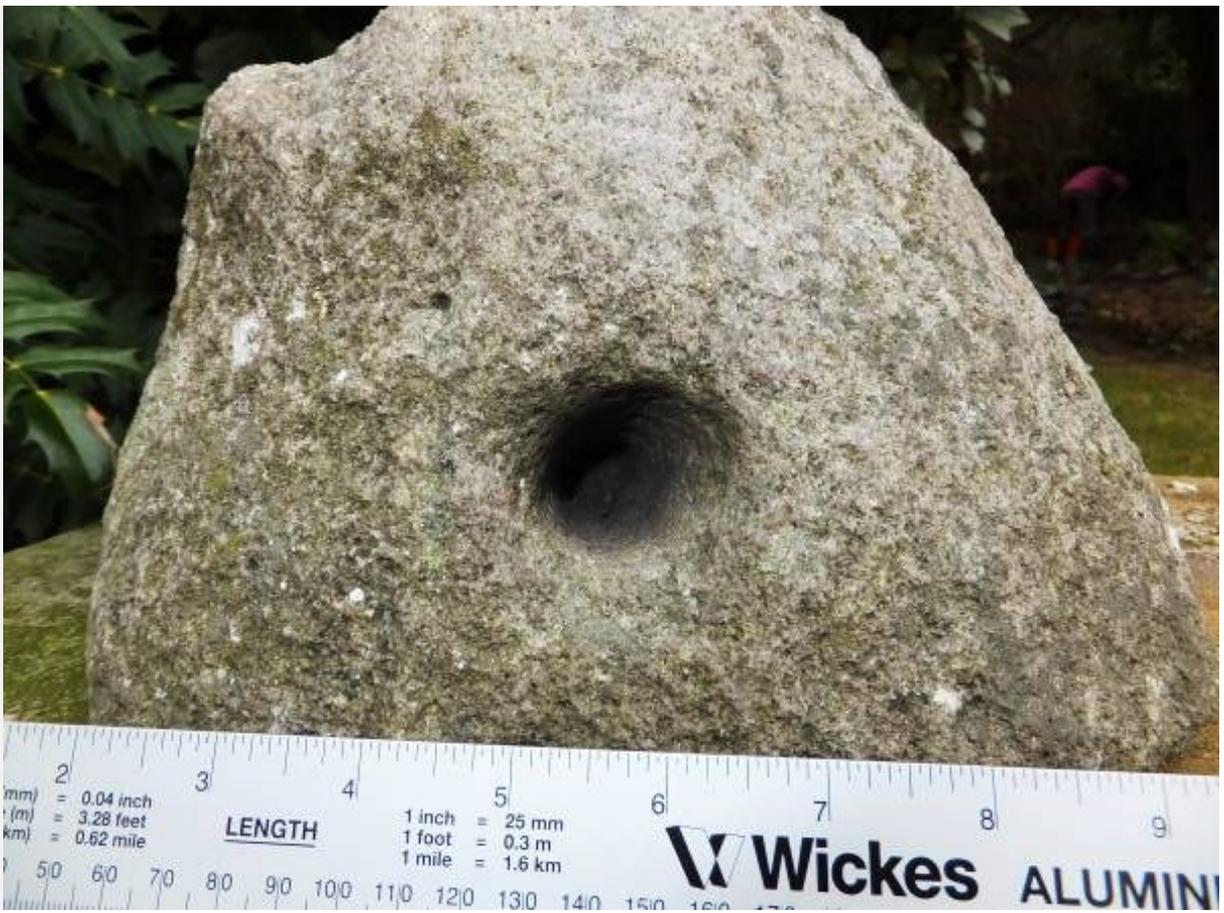
Record Number 716 >>> Image 8: Top stone of a Beehive quern found in Healaugh.



Record Number 716 >>> Image 9: Top stone of a Beehive quern found in Healaugh.



Record Number 716 >>> Image 10: Top stone of a Beehive quern found in Healaugh.



Record Number 716 >>> Image 11: Top stone of a Beehive quern found in Healaugh.



Record Number 716 >>> Image 12: Quern found during the 1988-90 excavation at Healaugh.



Record Number 716 >>> Image 13: Quernstone found on Hagg Farm Fremington



Record Number 716 >>> Image 14: Quernstone found on Hagg Farm Fremington



Record Number 716 >>> Image 15: Quernstone found on Hagg Farm Fremington



Record Number 716 >>> Image 16: Quernstone found on Hagg Farm Fremington. Note shallow handle hole.



Record Number 716 >>> Image 17: Millstone found during excavation of Site 103 in 2012 at on Hagg Farm Fremington. Site 103 is a Roman-British settlement abandoned around AD 370.

Record Name: Nanny Ward's Well
SWAAG ID Number: 732
Recorded Date: 2013-06-24 11:51:55
Recorded by: Will Swales
Category: Stone structure
Record Type: General HER
Site Access: Public Footpath
Record Date: 2013-06-20
Location: West of Grinton village
Civil Parish: Grinton
British National Grid: SE 045 983
Altitude: 190m

Description: On the OS Explorer map, Nanny Ward's Well is marked in blue and named as a spring. It is identified as being to the west of Grinton village, but its precise location isn't clear. Fortunately the OS 25-inch map of 1912 is more specific and marks its location very precisely at the junction of two footpaths. It's where the path from the moor at Blue Ball, which descends the dale side roughly parallel with Grinton Gill, meets the path from the village running westwards across fields to meet Swale Hall Lane. At the junction of the two footpaths there is a spring but it is not the spring head. The water rises about 150 metres higher up the dale side, next to the path from Blue Ball.

At the footpath junction there are the scattered remains of some sort of stone structure, possibly a small dwelling that might have been constructed over the top of the spring, or alongside it. A few metres downstream the spring appears to join the mill race that once brought water from Cogden Gill to power the corn mill on Swale Hall Lane. Conceivably the structure at Nanny Ward's Well predated the construction of the mill race. But what was it? Perhaps it was a cistern for accumulating the spring water.

And who was Nanny Ward? The name goes back to before 1857 when Nanny Ward's Well was marked on the first OS map published in that year. The OS surveyors gathered their information from local people. What did they say? Was she simply the purveyor of the cleanest water in town, or did she claim it to have special health-promoting properties? More investigation is required.

See also John Moss's Chair at record 731

Last Update: 2013-06-24



Record Number 732 >>> Image 1: The site of Nanny Ward's Well looking eastwards to stone remains, the spring and the stile on the footpath from Grinton village



Record Number 732 >>> Image 2: Another view of the site of Nanny Ward's Well looking eastwards, showing some of the scattered stone remains.

Record Name: Sheepfold with washing pool

SWAAG ID Number: 823

Recorded Date: 2014-07-27 15:31:20

Recorded by: Doug Waugh

Category: Stone structure

Record Type: Miscellaneous

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2014-07-24

Location: Sheepfold with washing pool beside the track just beyond the gate from the Grinton to Redmire road.

Civil Parish: Preston Under Scar

British National Grid: SE 07944 93828

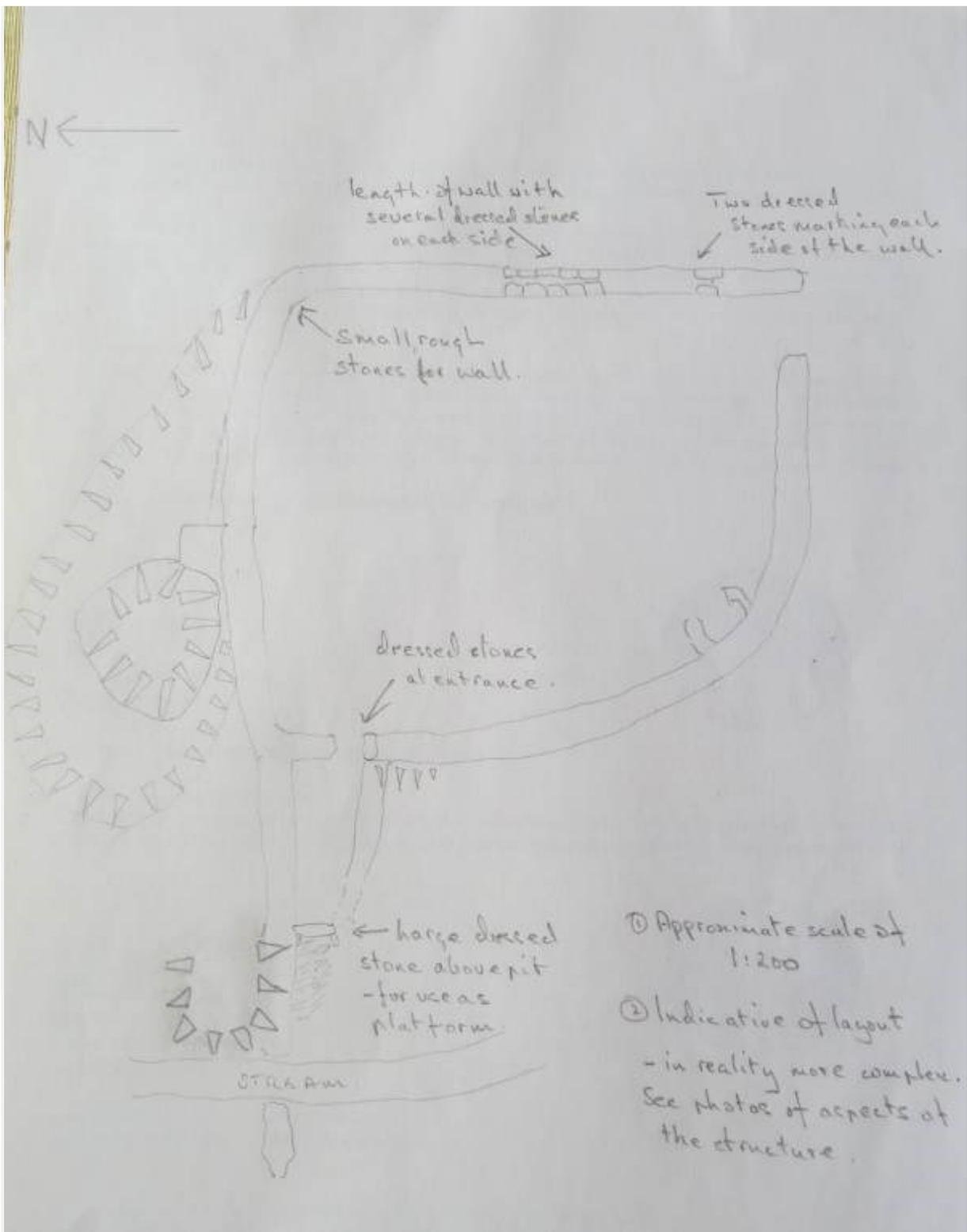
Altitude: 341mtrs

Description: A large irregular sheepfold whose walls are now largely collapsed, but show significant differences in construction with large regular, worked stones in places as against rough, gathered, small stones elsewhere, suggesting many years use with occasional repairs. The walls have rounded corners and funnel towards the western side with a smaller gathering area built on to the main wall. The gathering area then narrows still further and leaves the fold with the main wall to the North and much less left of one to the South. This small area converges on a large flat stone above a pit which close inspection reveals to at least partially to have been lined with regular, worked stones. The wall to the North continues to become what appears to be the remains of a dam that blocked the small stream (Black Beck) that runs past so as to fill the pool. The dam remains can be seen to continue on the far bank of the beck. The overall purpose would seem to contain gathered sheep and then wash them in a constructed pool. Although the walls follow the contours of the land and allow for such things as a coal pit, the site overall is flat, most of it varying less than a metre in height.

Dimensions: 40mtrs x 27mtrs

SWAAG Site: Preston Moor

Last Update: 2014-09-03



Record Number 823 >>> Image 1: Drawing to indicate the shape and relationships within the whole site, but accuracy is not its strong point.



Record Number 823 >>> Image 2: The East wall showing some high-quality stones and the clear wall-line. The East wall is both the straightest and contains the best stone.



Record Number 823 >>> Image 3: The North Wall from the washing pit back to the NE corner showing the meandering nature of this wall as well as the small internal enclosure where sheep will have been kept

immediately prior to being immersed in the pit of water.



Record Number 823 >>> Image 4: A small external enclosure (1.4m square), one side being the main wall, two having thin, flat stones on their sides (the only place this occurs) and the fourth side being the coal pit. Both this enclosure and the main wall go over the spoil from the pit which is part of a 19th century area of pits (Mines and Miners of Wensleydale by IK Spensley) suggesting the enclosure is no older than that.



Record Number 823 >>> Image 5: The junction of the main East wall and the internal enclosure showing one of the highest points of the overall enclosure. The internal enclosure is believed to have been used for gathering sheep immediately prior to their being immersed in the pool.



Record Number 823 >>> Image 6: The exit from the internal enclosure. Note the dressed stone on the left

- which sits on another similar one.



Record Number 823 >>> Image 7: From the internal enclosure it seems the sheep were brought to this large (at least 1.70m x 50cm) flat, dressed stone (SE 07909 93836) which was the platform for pushing the sheep into the pool. The stone sits on a well-built stack and has sides radiating on either side and forming the banks of the pool. The construction would support heavy weights and allow violent activity.

Sheep washing at Mill Dale



Date: May - June 1939 (c.)

Description: Sheep were washed about ten days before shearing to remove grease and dirt from their fleeces. Pictured here are Frank Wint (in the River Dove), George Harrison Sr. with pipe, Miss Mary Meller of Elms Farm, Wetton. The young boy is Leonard Hambleton.

Record Number 823 >>> Image 8: Illustration and text from Staffordshire Past-Track, copyright Staffordshire County Council, showing a seemingly almost identical facility in use. Note the dam, permanent wall to the North, temporary wall to the South, the pool and the large, flat platform stone.



Record Number 823 >>> Image 9: Unusual, unidentified plant growing below the platform stone.



Record Number 823 >>> Image 10: Looking SE from the internal enclosure exit showing the way the wall curves round and there is another small internal circular enclosure at the apex. This wall is both the west and south side of the enclosure and finishes back at the entrance to the enclosure.

Record Name: The remains of the Old Church of St Mary's Church, Brignall and evidence for Pre-Conquest Christian Oratory and Graveyard on the site of Roman and Celtic Shrines.

SWAAG ID Number: 845

Recorded Date: 2015-01-07 17:14:30

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Stone structure

Record Type: Archaeology

Site Access: Public Footpath

Record Date: 0000-00-00

Location: Old Church of St Mary, Brignall, North Yorkshire

Civil Parish: Not known

British National Grid: NZ 077 122

Altitude: 200m

Geology: Flood plain of the ravine of the River Greta.

Description: The purpose of this record is to draw attention to the presence of the romantic ruins of the Old Church of St Mary of Brignall located close to the River Greta far below the Village. Secondly attention will be drawn to the evidence for the existence of an earlier Pre-Conquest Christian Oratory or Church, and Graveyard occupying the location of a yet much earlier Roman and Celtic Shrine. The historical evidence for the appearance and historical development of the Old Church is vividly described by the late Dennis Coggins with Ken Fairless in their summary of recent consolidation work to clear vegetation and trees from the Graveyard and from the remaining masonry of the Old Church during 1986/7. Reference: Durham Archaeological Journal, 17, 2003, 25-41.

The historical development as understood from earlier accounts, notably: Victoria County History, North Riding of Yorkshire together with evidence for pre-Christian activities at the riverside location of the Old Church of St Mary's, Brignall as detailed by Dennis Coggins and Ken Fairless, 2003, can briefly be summarised, as follows:

Date

1833 The Old Church abandoned and demolished. Masonry from the demolitions reused in the building of the present Church close to the Village.

1780 Churchyard enclosing wall

16th to 18thC. The 13thC church remodelled with three lancet windows in the East Gable replaced by a square headed four light window.

13thC. Probable date of the construction of the Old Church.

12th-11thC Three incised grave markers forming cills or lintols to the earlier lancet windows attributed to this period point to the existence of an earlier church on or close to the 13thC church.

10thC and earlier Pre-Conquest Christian activities. The presence of a interlace decorated fragment of a cross shaft built into the North Wall of the Chancel points to the existence of an Early Pre-Conquest Christian Oratory, or similar timber structure.

This conclusion is strengthened by the recognition by Coggins and Fairless of low curving earthen banks outside the present rectangular churchyard wall together with a sunken area which could be the site of a timber structure. The resistivity survey by Coggins and Fairless of part of the interior of this earlier enclosure seems to indicate the existence of a pre-existing church/oratory and confirms the curvilinear enclosing bank.

Three Roman Altars have been recognised at the Old Church, one of which is in the Richmond Museum the other two (possible) altars are reused as grave headstones. These altars provide evidence for the presence of a Roman and possibly also an earlier Celtic Shrine on the bank of the River Greta, perhaps dedicated to the River Goddess Nymph, similar to the altar dedicated to her recorded from the Roman Fort at Greta Bridge riverside shrine on the south bank of the Tees, at Rokeby, located some 300m downstream of the Meeting of the Waters.

The above is no substitute for reading the very detailed and illustrated account by Coggins and Fairless: Durham Archaeological Journal, 17, 2003, 25-41.

Dimensions: See photos

Additional Notes: The only available extant image of Old Church of St Mary, Brignall in the landscape of the River Greta is an etching by S Rawle of the lost watercolour by J.M.W. Turner of Brignall Church. The original watercolour by Turner was lost in a fire some 100 years ago. This etching is reproduced in the excellent finely illustrated account of J.M.W. Turner's visit and tour of Yorkshire, reference: David Hill, 1984. 'In Turner's Footsteps: Through the hills and dales of Northern England.' John Murray(Publishers)Ltd. Figure 68, p71.

Record Update: Caption to Photo No 7: Small headstone, undecipherable (by Me) see below:
Sue Nicholson has kindly informed me that she reads this small headstone to be that of 'John Grisewold'.
Sue also informs me that John Grisewold is listed within the 1673 Hearth Tax Returns. The Hearth Tax,
or Chimney Money, was introduced by Charles 11 to raise money to meet the shortfall in the 'Borrowing
Requirement'. A form of Poll Tax. Soak the poor! Nothing changes!
Last Update: 2015-01-10



Record Number 845 >>> Image 1: Brignall Old Church and burial ground.



Record Number 845 >>> Image 2: The Chancel. Surviving fragment.



Record Number 845 >>> Image 3: Interlace decorated Ninth C. cross fragment built into the masonry.



Record Number 845 >>> Image 4: The old church and burial ground, Brignall. Note the fence beyond the East Gable marking the eroded bank of the River Greta.



Record Number 845 >>> Image 5: 17C Headstone. The Poft Master, Greta Bridge.



Record Number 845 >>> Image 6: Later headstone.



Record Number 845 >>> Image 7: Evocative but undecipherable (by me) small headstone. Sue Nicholson has now informed me that she has attributed this small headstone to "John Grisewold" and that John Grisewold is listed within the 1673 Hearth Tax Returns.

Record Name: Cluster of sunken stone lined huts interpreted as a high moorland refuge.

SWAAG ID Number: 897

Recorded Date: 2015-10-09 12:24:33

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Stone structure

Record Type: Archaeology

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2015-10-03

Location: Fagnergill Moor

Civil Parish: Arkengarthdale

British National Grid: NY 9915 0778

Altitude: 470m

Geology: Thin drift on Namurian Sandstone above the Little Limestone

Description: This unusual earthwork comprises a number of sub-circular excavations several with fragments of stone lined walling, now completely collapsed or quarried out together with interconnecting passage ways which, together are here provisionally interpreted as a clover leaf- on- plan group of sunken huts which were probably roofed with turf or heather thatch as refuges on the line of a natural high level pack horse trackway on the interfluvium above the southern edge of Teesdale or through Fagnergill to Bowes and the Stainmore Pass now the line of the A66.

The small diameter of the individual 'huts' being determined by the small section timber rafter supports available from any stunted trees present in the area.

Dimensions: Some 30m overall

Additional Notes: The above interpretation must be regarded as provisional as the site could just be a quarry site. However close examination suggests that this is a purpose made group of simple stone huts each recessed into the ground for shelter. There are rather better preserved examples of similar sites at similar localities elsewhere in the Pennines, with well built corbelled circular huts recessed below ground and being close to exposures of good building stone, are often to a large or lesser extent quarried out.

Last Update: 2015-10-09



Record Number 897 >>> Image 1: Fagnergill Moor seen from below and from the south



Record Number 897 >>> Image 2: At first sight the site is a mass of quarried stone.



Record Number 897 >>> Image 3: The existence of structures is indicated by long passage ways leading to sunken circular areas.



Record Number 897 >>> Image 4: Curving passage



Record Number 897 >>> Image 5: Possible recessed hut

Record Name: Preston Moor - several structures
SWAAG ID Number: 1008
Recorded Date: 2018-04-25 11:51:17
Recorded by: Doug Waugh
Category: Stone structure
Record Type: Archaeology
Site Access: Public Access Land
Record Date: 2014-07-23
Location: From the access gate at SE 081938
Civil Parish: Ellerton Abbey
British National Grid:

Description: This record is incomplete and requires considerably more work, which, hopefully, will be done in the future, not necessarily by the original explorers. It is incomplete because it comes from a spur-of-the-moment walk that Tim Laurie and I made into Preston Moor. We followed the track and soon came to the coal pits - at first just the tops of small shafts with limited waste, forming a circular mound. But as we progressed alongside the stream into the flat, plain area we found shafts surrounded by larger mounds, sometimes elliptical and flattened - almost certainly for some sort of horse-worked mechanism for pulling up the shaft - men and coal. This is where - we believe - there were horizontal workings from the shaft.

Some shafts also had noticeable stones around the inside - but not good enough to categorically say they had been lined.

In the middle of the "plain" to the left Tim said there was a burnt mound and it was a very good one. We went over (it is at the front of the rising ground) and used my tape to measure it.

We walked on on that side, admiring the shafts, even plants, and then worked a little to the right and faced two valleys - i.e. from the south there was the rising ground, a valley, a promontory, a valley then more rising ground before the stream and going on to where the very striking old farmhouse remains were - like the walls of a Pele tower.

We took the right valley and found the trace of a wall. It ran between the two rising grounds, across the valleys and the promontory.

After walking it and checking both ends to see if we could find any continuation (the Southern end was lost where 3 or so hollow ways were) we walked on from the North end and soon came to what seemed to me like rectangular remains, but Tim wondered if hut circle - v. good walling remains - and then another deeper circle with a little stone visible in one corner. Still further, a little to the left was a small ring cairn or quarried cairn - all very exciting.

We walked on to shortly find on the promontory the remains - Tim had come here many years ago and found lots of medieval pottery. And sure enough there was a piece on the Southern slope, out of a rabbit hole.

The rabbit holes on this side helped a lot as we found a lot of slag, ranging from light, lightly-burned stuff to heavy metal-coated stuff. This all came from this long slope and at the top were these stones that formed a rectangle. To the South were more substantial and a little larger remains, marked by banks. But all that slag indicated, perhaps, a blacksmiths - with a two-part building.

This was a real question (not helped by the new book on Wensleydale mining) - where were the mine offices, stables for all the horses, blacksmiths and workshops for all the fabrication etc., shelter for the miners, mine shops etc.

SWAAG Site: Preston Moor
Last Update: 2020-05-23



Record Number 1008 >>> Image 1: The wall debris looking north. The wall appears to be running from one ridge to the other, but its purpose is not obvious. It does not appear to link to any other wall or obstacle and only runs north/south for a reasonably short distance. The building in the distance should establish the position, should there be any difficulty finding it.



Record Number 1008 >>> Image 2: The wall debris looking north again from a different vantage point.



Record Number 1008 >>> Image 3: This time looking south.



Record Number 1008 >>> Image 4: A further view looking south



Record Number 1008 >>> Image 5: This is a stone in the middle of the wall debris. It appears to have a use now; did it in earlier times?



Record Number 1008 >>> Image 6: An image of one of the circular structures.



Record Number 1008 >>> Image 7: A further image of a circular structure.



Record Number 1008 >>> Image 8: Tim looking at one of the circular structures. The view should allow the location of the structure to be fixed, if there is any doubt.



Record Number 1008 >>> Image 9: A further image of a circular structure.



Record Number 1008 >>> Image 10: Tim standing on the sw corner of what appears to be the smithy. There was considerable appropriate waste on the slope to the left (Tim's right).