

# WELL HEAD DESERTED SETTLEMENT Holwick, Teesdale

*Project Design for 2018 (2nd season) Excavation  
and Interim Report on 2017 Excavation*



## ALTOGETHER ARCHAEOLOGY



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Photogrammetry images are by Stephen Eastmead, <https://eastmead.com/>

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**Please note:** The features described in this report lie on private farm-land with no public access.

**Cover image:** Photograph of Trench 1, during the Sept 2017 AA excavations at Well Head, showing rectangular building F8, looking east. *(photo by Stephen Eastmead)*



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## 1 SUMMARY

This is a Project Design for the proposed excavation in May 2018 of the Well Head deserted settlement at Holwick (Upper Teesdale). This is the second season of the investigation of the Well Head site: in 2017, work included surveying the site, completing a gazetteer of structures, and then excavation of three trenches to investigate several of the structures. Some preliminary results from the 2017 season is presented in Appendices of plans, sections, a context table, and photographs. A single final report will be prepared after the further excavation

Included in this document are the reasons, strategy and methodology for undertaking a second season of excavation. This Project Design is also intended to function as an introduction to the site and the project for participants.

Excavation will be by volunteer members of Altogether Archaeology (AA), a community archaeology group for the North Pennines and surrounding area. Professional archaeological supervision will be by Paul Frodsham (Oracle Heritage Services: <http://www.oracleheritageservices.com>). Information about Altogether Archaeology is given at <https://altogetherarchaeology.org>, where reports of all previous surveys and excavations are available (see the Reports page).

AA receives grant support from the Northern Heartlands Project <https://northernheartlands.org> enablin increased public awareness and involvement in AA's work at Holwick.

Documents concerning Holwick that can be downloaded from the AA website:

- **2011 Holwick Survey Report** (*Oxford Archaeology North and AA*): a survey of the floor of upper Teesdale, covering 2.35 km<sup>2</sup> (Schofield and Quartermaine 2011)
- **2017 Holwick Scar Settlement Survey Report** (AA): a survey of the group of rectangular structures (presumed to be shielings) on the hillside above Well Head. (Eastmead 2017)
- **2017 Well Head Settlement Survey Report** (AA): a survey of the field in which the Well Head settlement is situated, with a gazetteer of structures found. (Green 2017a)
- **2017 Well Head Settlement Excavation Project Design**: (AA) the project design for the first season of excavation at Well Head. (Green 2017b)

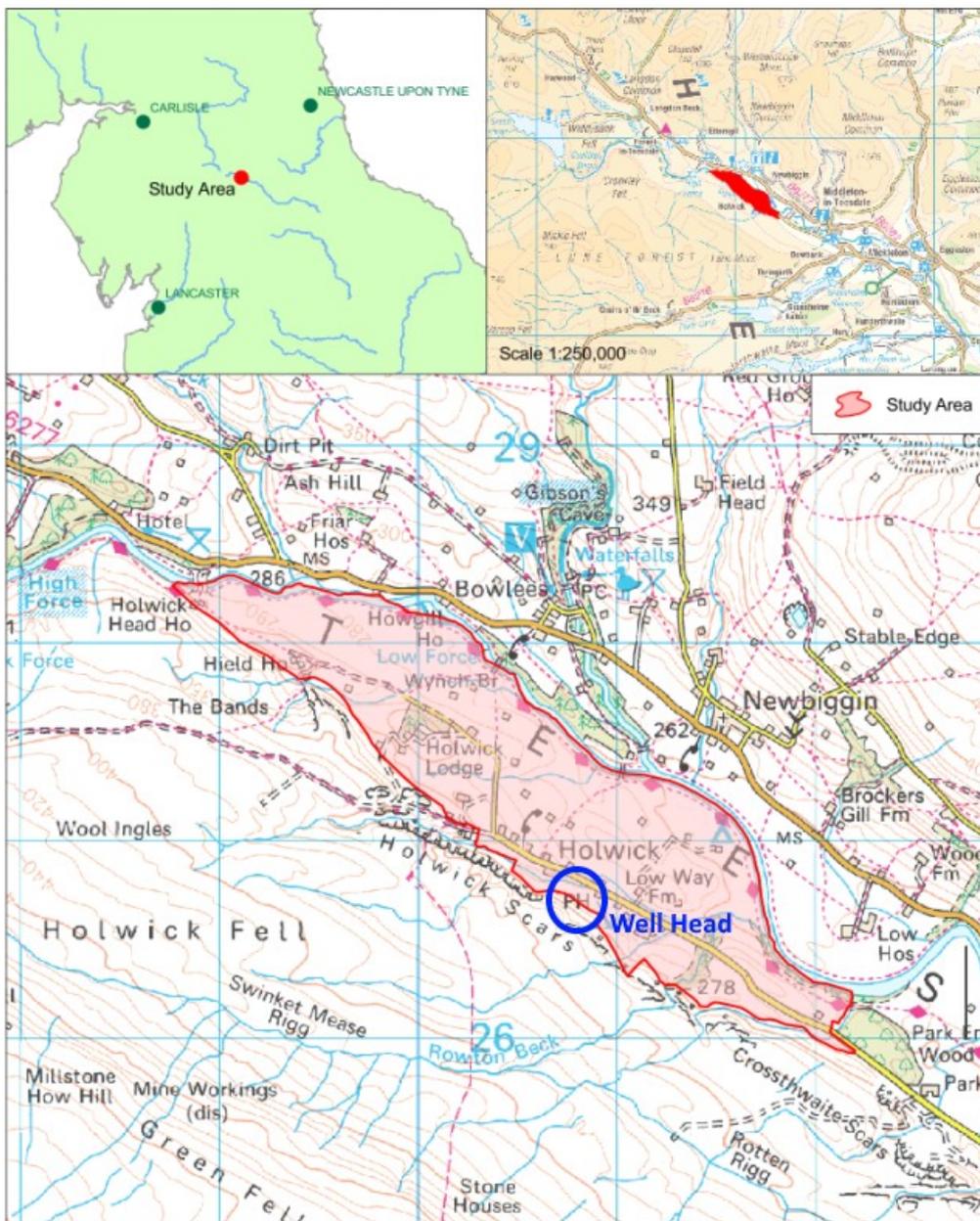
Well Head is one of a series of small deserted farmsteads and hamlets along the southern edge of the valley floor of upper Teesdale. They consist of the dwarf-wall foundations of rectangular long houses, with associated enclosures and fields. These settlements are thought to have been in use in the high medieval era (1066 AD to 1350 AD), but none have been previously excavated to confirm this.

In the 2011 Holwick Survey, the valley floor was surveyed at Level 1 and, in addition, three of the deserted settlements (and some other sites) were surveyed at Level 3 (Ainsworth 2007). The survey results and the archaeology and history of the area are discussed in detail in the survey report. The report recommended (paragraph 6.5.7) that the Well Head settlement should also be investigated further; it was not one of the sites investigated at Level 3 in 2011.

The AA 2017 Well Head Settlement Survey showed that the settlement is a complex group of rectangular buildings, ten of which could be identified, with associated yards, platforms, tracks, and field boundaries. It is one of the largest of the series of upper Teesdale abandoned "medieval" settlements and is located in a classic position for long-term settlement; on a small hillock by a spring, at the boundary of the good "in-bye" land and the rough grazing of the higher ground.

A nearby group of buildings on the side of the valley above Well Head was also surveyed (Eastmead 2017): this is probably a shieling associated with the settlement.





**Figure 1: Location map of Well Head. The 2011 survey area is shaded in pink.**  
 Map from Schofield and Quartermaine (2011): Oxford Archaeology North.  
 Map data © Crown copyright

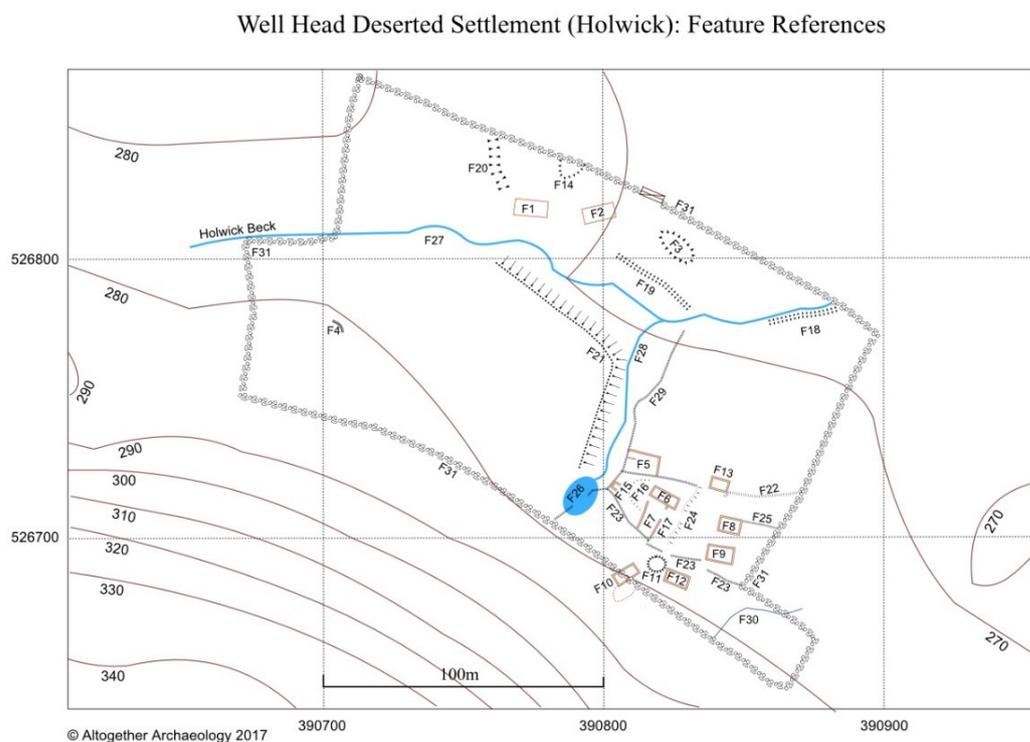
The Well Head site is not a Scheduled Monument, nor is it in an SSSI or Nature Reserve. It lies in a field of rough pasture, not cut for hay.



## 2 SURVEY OF WELL HEAD SETTLEMENT APRIL 2017

The May 2017 Well Head Settlement Survey was by a variety of technique to familiarise AA volunteers with the different methods. In addition, Pete Schofield (then of Oxford Archaeology North) took drone photographs which were used to create a photogrammetry model of the site.

The survey report should be consulted for the detailed survey results and the gazetteer of features. In summary, the Well Head settlement is sited on the edge of the in-bye land, beside the head dyke wall which divides the good farming land from upland pasture. One rectangular feature, F10, is overlain by the current field wall. Linking the settlement to the higher ground are two tracks running diagonally up-slope. One leaves the settlement beside F10, the other parallel track is further east. This second track leads past the Holwick Scar shieling settlement on higher ground. Inside the Well Head settlement are trackways, seen as hollow ways, running between the buildings.



**Figure 2: Hand-held GPS survey of Well Head, showing feature numbers (from Well Head Survey Report).**

In the centre of the settlement, at the summit of a hillock beside a large spring, are two single-celled rectangular structures at right angles to each other (F6, F7), overlain by old tumbled field walls and rubble. To the NW of F7 are two platforms lower on the slope (F15, F16). To the southeast of F7 is a rectangular platform (F17). **See Figures 3 and 4 for plans of this core area.**

Around this central core are six rectangular buildings (F5, F8, F9, F10, F12, F13), all (except F10) roughly sharing the orientation of F6. Some are single-celled. However, F9 and F12 may be two-celled. The western end of F13 has been lost in debris from a steep earth slope. Only F6, F7, and F8 have clear entrances: these are in their long sides. F10 has an attached yard to its east. F5 has a flat platform attached to its north side, possibly a yard.

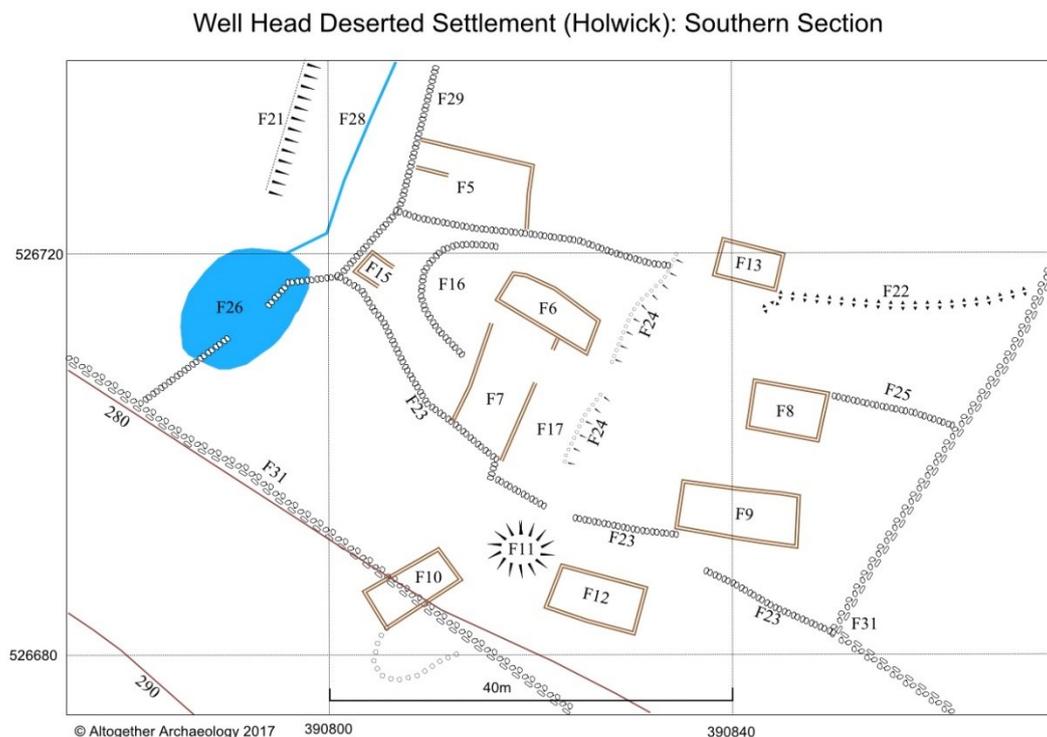


The other side of a beck, 100m north of the core area, are the foundations of two larger buildings (F1, F2), but interpretation is difficult as one side of F2 is absent and the feature lies in wet ground near the beck. A platform, F14, lies at the top of the slope to the north and there is an old track, F20, leading down to the watering place and providing access to these buildings; the nearby modern road dates from circa 1800. The only feature to the W of the main settlement is F4. The nature of this short curving bank is unclear. The lack of features in this area is probably due to previous ploughing, as evidenced by the “clean” appearance on lidar images.

The tumbled field walls across the settlement were clearly built after the settlement had gone out of use but are older than the current field walls. Their layout suggests that they were stock enclosures and intended to control access to water. The “stepped” gap in the tumbled wall beside F9 may have been to control stock descending from the moors. One of the walls, F22, is only seen as foundations and may be an older boundary between the settlement and agricultural land. There is no clear straight route through the settlement for livestock movement. This may be because the steepness of the slopes necessitated zig-zag tracks, and the location of the settlement on a hillock discouraged through traffic.

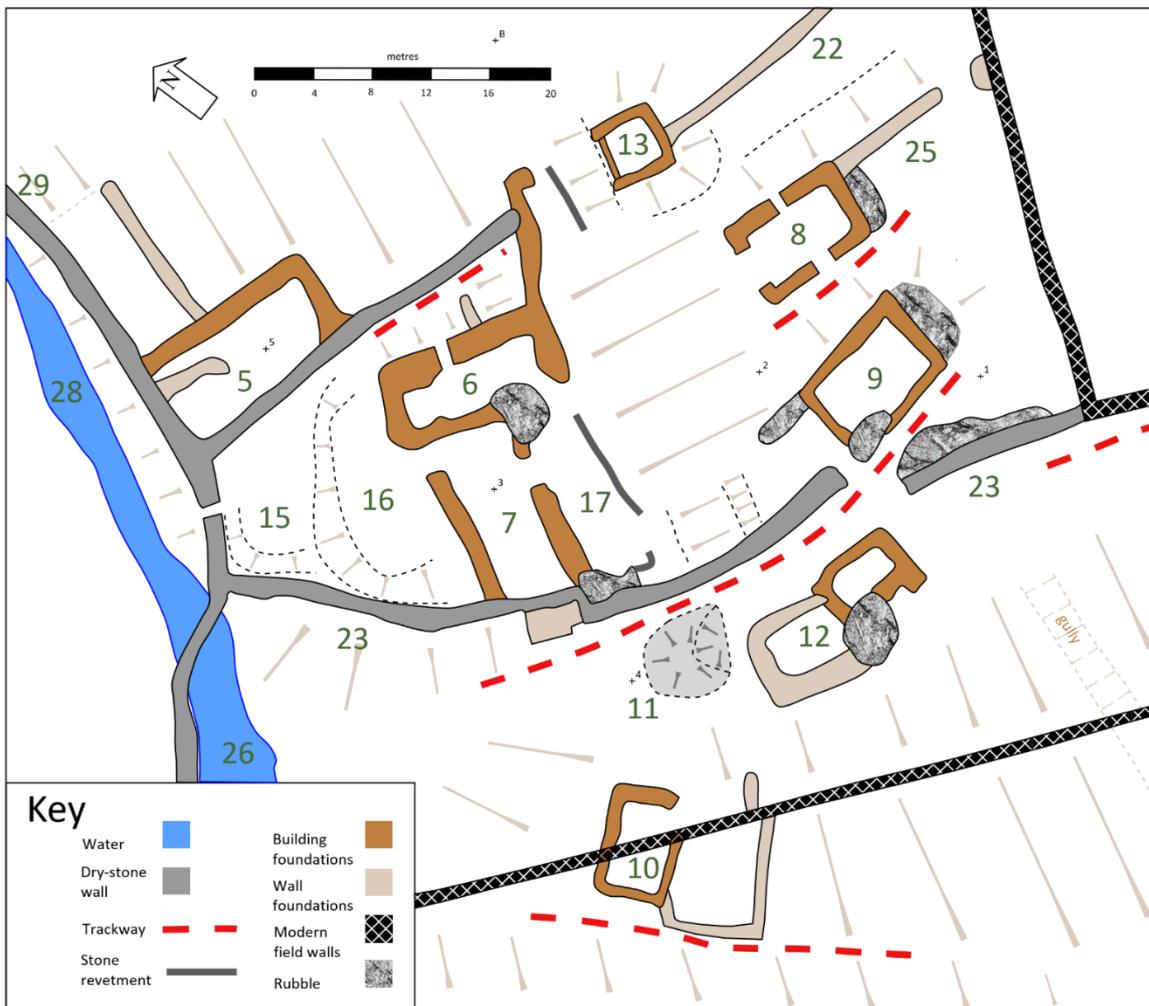
Some of the east side of the settlement may have been obscured by debris from a chute through the crags, and by the ploughing of the field behind the pub. This field is a later enclosure, carved out of the settlement field. A small mound, F11, is located in the southern part of the settlement. There is a scoop quarried into one face. It is unclear if this is a natural feature or is a constructed cairn.

The rectangular buildings of the settlement survive as dwarf-wall foundations of stone and earth about 0.2m high.



**Figure 3: Hand-held GPS survey of core area of the Well Head settlement (from Well Head Survey Report).**





**Figure 4: Theodolite-with-disto survey of core area of the Well Head settlement**  
*(from Well Head Survey Report)*

A Bartington dual sensor magnetometer was used to examine the site in August 2017. As expected this yielded little useful information (see Well Head Survey Report) due to the highly magnetic nature of the local rock. The site is beside crags of the Whin Sill, composed of an intrusive dolerite, with most of the stones on the site derived from the crag.

### 3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The historical background is detailed in previous reports. Briefly, after the Norman Conquest, Holwick was given to Bodin. In the later 11<sup>th</sup> century the area suffered badly from the Harrying of the North and Scots invasions. By 1235 Holwick was part of the Barony of Greystock. It was increasingly divided up until part of it was bought by the Bowes family in 1561. They later (in 1766) bought most of the rest of Holwick which now forms part of their Strathmore Estate.

In the medieval period there were probably many small equal farming tenancies, under the tight control of estates, and farming communally. This would have been the era of the extensive ridge-and-furrow arable cultivation of the valley floor, with the creation of long lynchets.

Later these holdings were consolidated into a smaller number of farms, controlled by the more affluent farming families, with an underclass of labourers, smallholders and squatters. This process was helped by the Bowes family having sold long-leases for much of the area in 1607 to local farmers, so that Bowes control over the estate was greatly reduced.

At least one family lived at Well Head in 1607 because John Jordan of Well Head paid 7s for rent of land in Holwick. In 1627 he was noted as entitled to his own sheep-mark so was clearly still actively farming.

Map evidence (see survey report) shows that by 1800 the settlement was largely deserted with stone field walls built across it (now mostly tumbled) and only two remaining buildings: a cow byre north of the beck (at F2) and rectangular structures in the core of the settlement (F6 and F7), possibly already ruined. By the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century there were no structures apart from field walls.

## 4 FIRST EXCAVATION SEASON: SEPTEMBER 2017

### 4.1 Trench locations and recording

Excavation of three trenches was carried out by AA members under the guidance of Paul Frodsham during two weeks in September 2017. After recording, the trenches were back-filled and re-turfed. See Figure 11 for a plan of trench positions in the settlement.

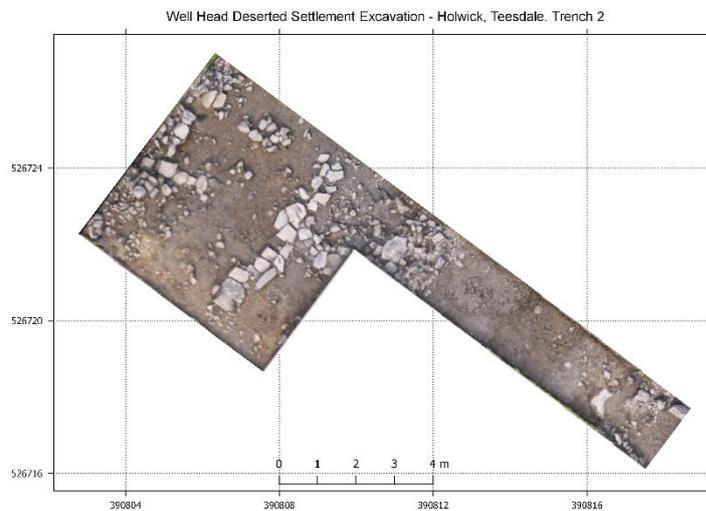
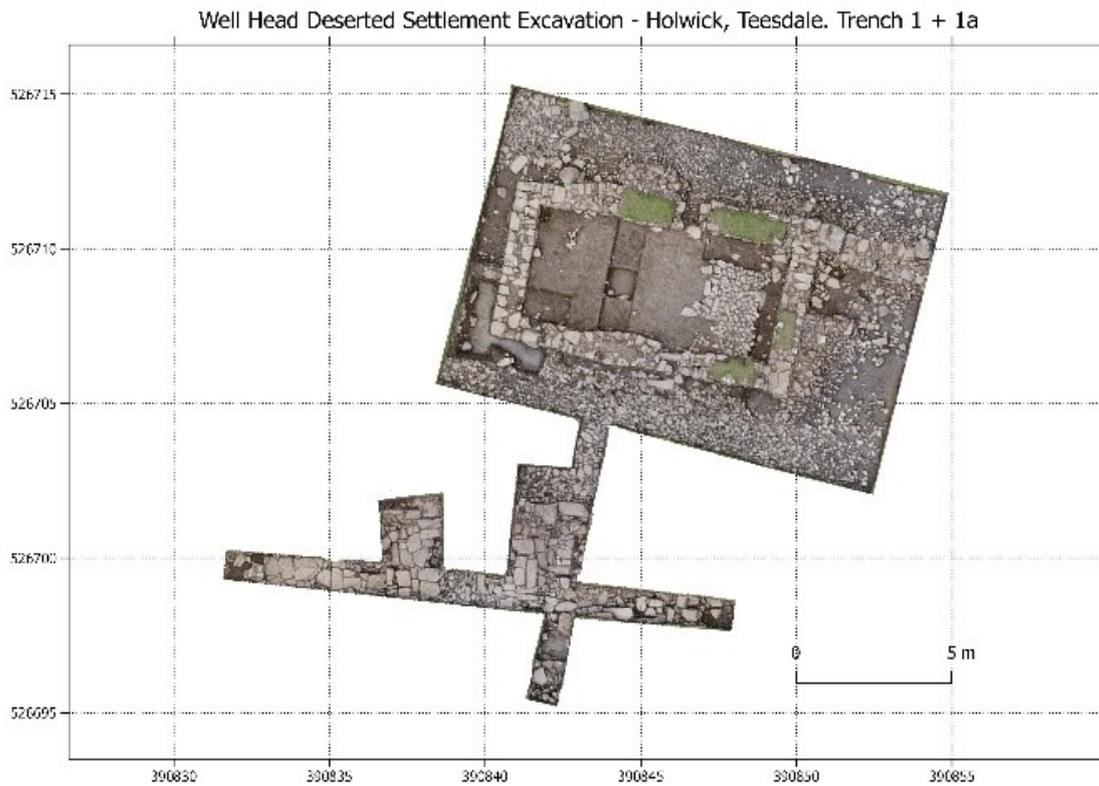
**Trench 1**, 10m x 14.3m, examined the rectangular structure F8 which was fully excavated, except that the stone wall-bases were not dismantled.

**Trench 1a**, 1m wide along the centre of both axes of rectangular structure F7, with widening of the trenches in two places. The arm of the trench across the width of F7 was extended to join up with Trench 1, enabling examination of the surface between F7 and F8.

**Trench 2**, 16m x 2m widened to 6m x 6m at its lower (west) end, examined the west side of the central hillock in the settlement, from the side-wall of F7, a rectangular structure on the top of the hillock, down across two platforms, F15 and F16.

In all about 223m<sup>2</sup> of trenches were excavated. The trenches were recorded by photogrammetry (using photographs taken with a pole-camera) and sections were drawn conventionally. Levels were taken to establish altitude. The trench positions and a temporary bench mark OD were established using a professional-grade GPS unit kindly lent to AA by the Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Archaeology Group. Plans, sections, and a context table are given in appendices.





**Figure 5: 2017 trench locations on OS grid (Stephen Eastmead)**

Finds in the first excavation season were mainly of ceramics: there were no identifiable coins and few metal objects. Several spindle whorls were found. The potsherds (over 750) have been washed and are currently being analysed with advice from local professional ceramic experts; preliminary results show that the pot is of many types, covering the period from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.



## 4.2 Trench 1

See below for a photogrammetric vertical view of this trench. The trench examined F8, a longhouse with entrances in middle of long sides. The walls are dwarf roughly-dressed stone structures with a rubble core. There is no mortar bonding.

There was a surface of worn cobbles in the downhill half (probably the part used to house livestock), but no drain was found. In the other (western) end of the house there was a surface of redeposited clay and subsoil. There were fragmentary remains of a robbed flagstone floor overlying this.

Outside the structure were cobbled surfaces: there was a good surface of small worn cobbles outside the north door, along most of the length of the north wall. On the south side of the structure was a surface of larger rougher cobbles with a drainage gully. This surface was continuous between F8 and the neighbouring structure F9 (examined by Trench 1a). To the northwest of F8 was a cobbled area edged with larger stones and overlying the cobbles outside the door.



**Figure 6: Trench 1 vertical photogrammetry view. Building F8. The cobbled surface at the east end has been partly excavated in this view. (Stephen Eastmead)**

**Enlarged versions of photogrammetric views of trenches can be found in Appendix A**

A field wall abuts the northeast corner and rubble was piled against the outside of the north, east, and south sides of the structure, overlying the cobbled surfaces. There was also rubble piled against the inside of the west wall.

There is evidence of a robber pit at the SW corner of the structure, presumably this was associated with the robbing of the floor (unfortunately taking the hearth too): finds of clay-pipes of circa 1800 at this location probably date the robbing event. The west wall was an obvious target for robbing as



the most massive of the four walls. Paradoxically this means that it is now the only wall not visible above ground.

The dwarf stone walls would have provided a support for timber framed upper walls and roof, but there are no support pads. Presumably there was a beam laid on the walls. The north wall is kinked: probably because its eastern end was based on the pre-existing field-wall on a slightly different alignment.

The west wall is strongly built to withstand earth pressure, the east wall is somewhat more lightly constructed, and the long north and south walls are even less robust; the south wall faces are slumping apart to the west of the south door. The east wall is later (abutting) the north wall, consistent with the east end of the north wall having been a pre-existing field wall.

Cobbles run into the north door from the outside. The south door has a slab in a displaced position with deep scratches marks on underside, suggesting a failed attempt at robbing it.

#### **4.1 Trench 1a**

This trench examined structure F9, a long-house type building about 5m south of and at a slightly different orientation to long-house F8. No attempt was made to fully excavate this; crossed 1m wide trenches were excavated centrally along the short and long axes of the structure and crossing the gap to Trench 1, enabling the surface between the structures to be examined. The intention was to enable an assessment of whether the two structures F8 and F9 were similar.

The cobbled surface stretched all way across the gap between structures F8 and F9. The walls of F9 were similar to those of F8: dwarf roughly-dressed stone walls, lacking mortar. The west end was not defined: there may be a cross wall or end wall two thirds of the way along the trench with the west end of the structure represented by the large stone and smaller stones. There was a short internal stub wall (143).

The interior of F9 was almost completely paved in a patchwork of areas of different size cobbles and flags. There were fragmentary remains of an upper flagged surface seen in the trench section. East of the house was a cobbled surface, similar to that between F8 and F9. Two threshold-stones/doorsteps were found in the NW corner of the trench, these may have been re-used for wall-building rather than being in situ.





**Figure 7: Trench 1a vertical photogrammetry view. Structure F9. (Stephen Eastmead)**

## **4.2 Trench 2**

Trench 2 investigated the two platforms (F15 & F16) on the stream side of the hillock with the aim of showing whether they were natural or man-made, and whether they were yards or had structures on them. Excavation showed no building foundations or post-holes. There was evidence of paving, perhaps paths. The platforms were clearly man-made with stony banks revetting the edges. The lower end of the paving extended under, so was earlier, than the stony bank by the stream.

A wall of the rectangular structure (F7) on the hillock was cut at the east end of the trench, possibly passed through an entrance. The wall was just a line of rubble not dressed stone. F7 is an oddity: it has a different orientation to the other buildings on the site and seems unlikely to be a long-house.

## **4.3 Finds**

Finds analysis is still underway and will be reported later. A considerable number of pot sherds were retrieved; preliminary analysis suggests that they cover a date range from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, with a single sherd of Roman pottery. Few metal artefacts were found, and no identifiable coins. Three spindle whorls were found: one lead, one stone, and one stone (not fully perforated).



Figure 8: Trench 2 vertical photogrammetry view. (Stephen Eastmead)

## 5 DISCUSSION AND PROJECT AIMS FOR THE SECOND SEASON (2018)

Both of the relevant Research Frameworks highlight the lack of knowledge of medieval rural settlement in the North Pennines. The **North Pennines Archaeological Research Framework** (Frodsham 2017) states that:

*“Buildings of presumed medieval date survive as earthworks in many places, for example at Holwick (Upper Teesdale). [...] A selection of such sites, in different places throughout the North Pennines, should be subjected to detailed survey and excavation to find out more about them and establish their chronology.”* (Paragraph 6c)

*“Much work is required to understand medieval agriculture throughout the North Pennines.”* (Paragraph 6h)

The **North East Regional Research Framework** (Petts and Gerrard 2006) also refers to the lack of understanding of medieval and early medieval rural domestic structures:

*“Even basic questions, such as when the transition from the Romano-British tradition of circular buildings to the medieval rectangular tradition took place, are still unanswered. It is possible that many rectangular structures, ostensibly of later medieval date, may in fact be of pre-Conquest date.”* (page 159)

*“Despite the overwhelmingly rural nature of the medieval settlement pattern, there has been relatively little archaeological work on rural settlements, and virtually none in the North Pennines or in northern or upland Northumberland, with most excavated sites being found in South Durham and Cleveland”* (page 165)

The recently completed Lidar Landscapes project (HLF-sponsored and managed by the North Pennines AONB). showed that early settlements are found in all parts of the dale, both above and



below Holwick. In areas of later medieval ploughing (most of the valley floor at Holwick and lower down the dale) they are, not surprisingly, absent. This suggests that much of the dale was in cultivation *before* the early medieval era. *During* the early medieval period (up to 1066 AD) the picture is less clear. Place names suggest Anglo-Saxon and Viking occupation. At Simy Folds (on higher ground west of Holwick) Coggins found evidence of long-term multi-period occupation, with two hearths dated to the 8<sup>th</sup> century (Coggins, Fairless and Batey 1983). Otherwise, evidence is lacking.

The first season of excavation confirmed that the Well Head settlement was indeed a deserted medieval hamlet. The large number of sherds of pottery recovered (over 750) were of a wide range of dates from 11<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries (plus a single sherd of Roman pottery). Clearly the settlement was in use for a long period, as suggested by its complexity of structure and the well-worn tracks connecting it to the upland shielings and pasture. The pottery collection is already one of the largest recovered in the area from the medieval period and is itself of great interest.

Comparisons are difficult as so little previous work on other upland medieval hamlets has been carried out. In one similar hamlet at Hound Tor (Dartmoor), excavations showed that not all of the rectangular structures were houses, three were barns with corn-drying kilns (Beresford 1979). The houses were dated to the 13<sup>th</sup> century but overlay earlier small scooped buildings of turf and wattle. The settlement was abandoned in the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

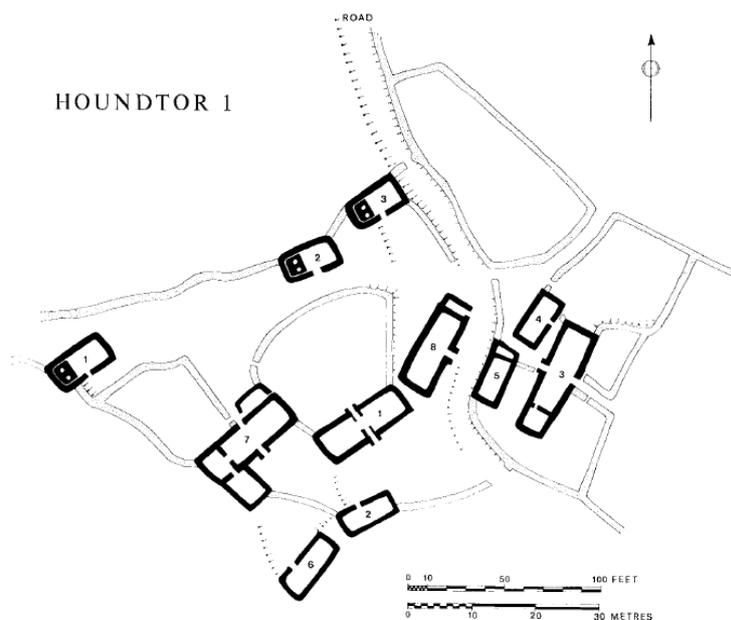


FIG. 2  
Houndtor Village. Plan of 13th-century settlement with stone houses.  
Buildings 1-3 to the north are corn-drying barns

**Figure 9: Plan of Hound Tor settlement, Dartmoor (from Beresford 1979)**

In the Duddon valley, Cumbria, upland long-houses were recently excavated by local volunteers, directed by Oxford Archaeology North (Bradley et al 2016). The illustration below shows a 7m long-house with a central hearth and opposed doors on the long sides. Charcoal dating suggested last occupation in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.





**Figure 10: Excavation of a long-house, Duddon Valley, Cumbria**  
*(from Bradley et al 2016, Oxford Archaeology North)*

An as yet unanswered question is the date of first occupation of the Well Head settlement. Evidence of early medieval settlement is often scanty with few artefacts surviving and traces of farmsteads vestigial compared to later medieval farmsteads. A second unanswered question is what the functions of the structures in the settlement were and whether they were all in use simultaneously. It cannot be assumed that all rectangular dwarf-wall structures were long-houses (as shown by the Hound Tor excavations).

One structure, F8, was investigated in the first season and shown to be a long-house with evidence for use for human occupation at one end (where spindle whorls and much pot was found), with livestock being housed at the other. Although trenches were excavated across the neighbouring rectangular structure, F9, they were only extensive enough to show that this was a well-paved building, with evidence of complex form of the floor (with the likelihood of one floor level overlying another), at least one internal wall, and copious pottery finds. Its floor was not robbed out. An obvious target for investigation is to excavate F9 more extensively to clarify its structure and use, with a high possibility of recovering dating evidence from hearths and sealed under floors.

A second target for investigation would be the area between F9 and the head-dyke wall where there is a structure that appears to have a scooped floor (F12), a cairn/mound (F11) and a rectangular structure (F10) which underlies the wall so must have been out of use before the wall was built. This area seems likely to yield evidence of early medieval occupation (if the hamlet was occupied then). However, complete excavation of these structures is not possible due to the wall crossing F10.

A third target for investigation is the curved structure F4, lying on the opposite side of the spring to the hillock. This is a low curving bank 6m long with several earth-fast rocks on its line (see the Survey Report gazetteer for a photograph). Lidar images confirm that it is possibly the remnant of a circular structure. This location seems to be the most likely to yield evidence of pre-medieval settlement as F4 could be the partially ploughed out remains of a roundhouse. The Well Head site is such a



favoured one for occupation that it a possible settlement site in the Romano-British period and previously.

A fourth target is the central part of the hillock, rectangular feature F6, which from the surviving dwarf walls appears to be a long-house with entrances in the middle of the long sides. As it occupies a central location in the settlement it may be the highest-status dwelling, and possibly one of the first to be constructed.

Finally, in the 2011 Holwick Survey Report it was suggested that selective test-pitting across a settlement could be used to investigate the size of the settlement at different eras. In view of the copious ceramic finds recovered in the first season of excavation, this may be a useful technique.

## 6 METHODS

### 6.1 Proposed 2018 trench locations

Trench locations are provisional. As excavation proceeds, and more information is available, then the locations may be updated. The intention is to excavate only a small fraction of the total area of the settlement.

Provisional trench sizes and locations are as follows (refer to the gazetteer in the Well Head survey report for descriptions of features and Figure 11 below for a plan):-

**Trench 3:** 17m x 8m trench to fully excavate F9, the rectangular structure partially investigated by Trench 1a in 2017.

**Trench 4:** 7m x 4m trench to examine curved structure F4, located to the west of the spring.

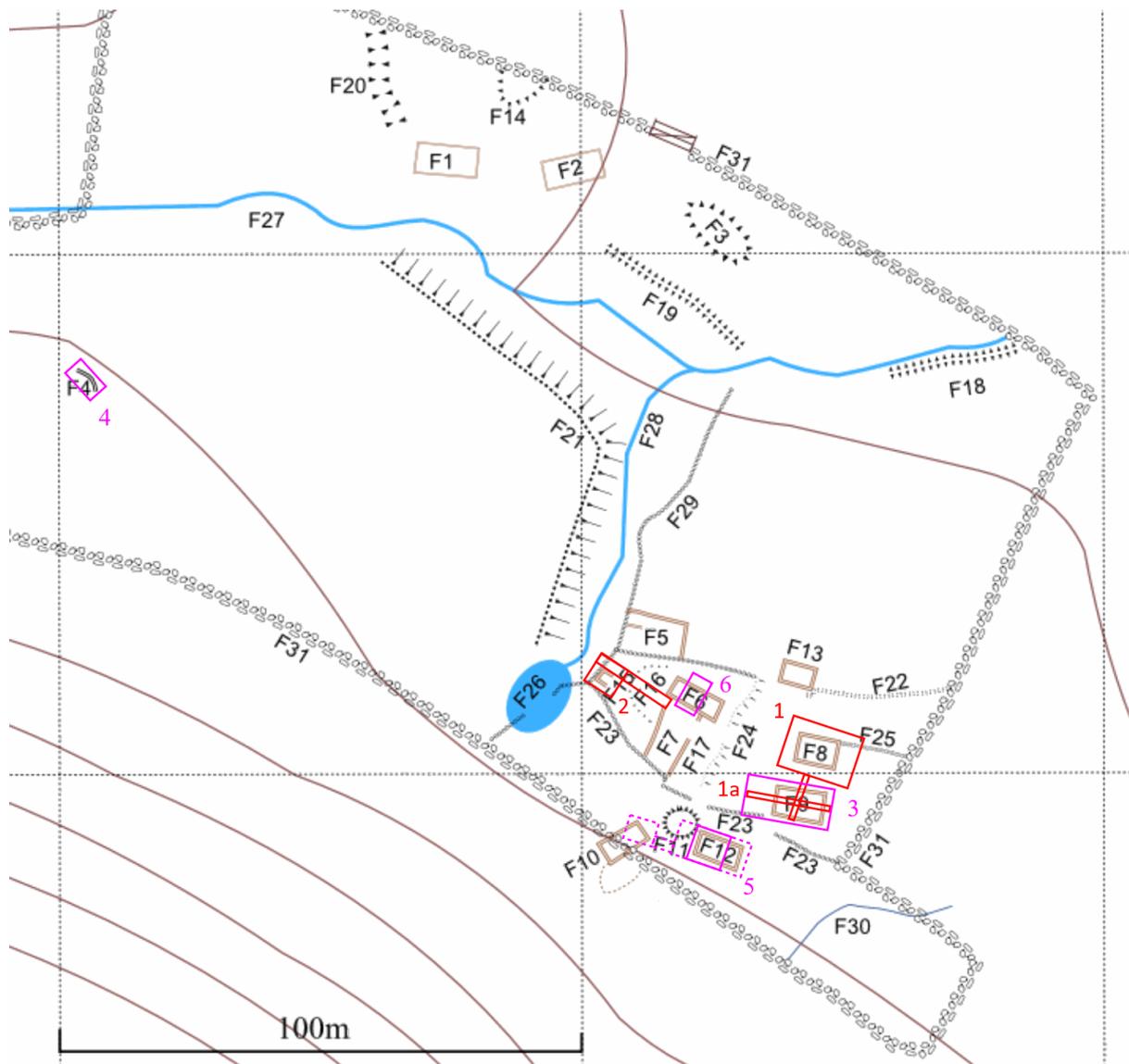
**Trench 5:** 7m x 7m trench to examine the western end of rectangular scooped structure F12. Depending on findings, this trench may be extended westwards by 7m x 3m to examine the eastern end of F12, and/or extended eastward to examine a quadrant of mound F11 and the NE end of structure F10 which lies partly under the head-dyke wall.

**Trench 6:** 7m x 4m trench across the centre of rectangular structure F6 which lies on the top of the hillock at the centre of the settlement.

**Test-pits** 1m x 1m to examine both the central area and periphery of the settlement to gain evidence from potsherd finds of the changes with time of the size of the settlement.

In all, apart from the test-pits, this totals 241m<sup>2</sup> of excavation (plus extensions to Trench 5), which would only be possible to achieve in the allocated time (16 days) if the weather were consistently good and volunteer numbers at the maximum (25) each day. Hence the plan is likely to need revision in light of weather, available volunteers, and findings in the trenches. Initially Trenches 3, 4, and 5 will be commenced. Test-pits, further trenches or trench extensions will only be opened if it will be possible to excavate them carefully, record them, and back-fill in the available time. In the 2017 excavation, 223m<sup>2</sup> of trenches were excavated in a slightly shorter time (14 days) and frequent poor weather.





**Figure 11: Provisional location of 2018 trenches. Trenches excavated in 2017 are shown in red, those planned for 2018 are shown in purple.**

## 6.2 Excavation of trenches

The excavation will be carried out in accordance with the guidance given in the Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (IfA 2008), and will be completed according to relevant professional standards and guidelines. The settlement is not a Scheduled Monument, nor is any part of it in a Site of Special Scientific Interest or Nature Reserve.

The excavation will be directed by a professional archaeologist (Paul Frodsham, Oracle Heritage Services) and undertaken by Altogether Archaeology members, who will receive training and on-site guidance and supervision. They will be briefed on health and safety before being allowed to take part. Risk assessment documents (generic AA and site-specific) will be circulated to them before the dig.

The excavation areas will be defined by Netlon fencing if necessary to prevent animals from entering the area when the site is unattended. The farmer has agreed that the field will not contain cattle



during the excavation. The depth of the excavations is not expected to exceed 1m. Advice will be taken from the professional archaeologist, if necessary, as to precautions needed for deep excavation.

Position of the trenches (OS National grid co-ordinates) and the OD of a temporary bench-mark will be established by professional-grade GPS. All excavation will be by hand. Turf, stones, and soil will be stored separately on site. After the completion of the excavation, the original ground surface will be restored and the area re-turfed to return it to its original state.

All excavated archaeological deposits will be recorded stratigraphically by context using a paper recording system, as used in previous Altogether Archaeology excavations. The trenches will be recorded by photogrammetry to give isometric views of plans and sections, as well as 3-D models of them. Important sections will be hand-drawn at 1:10 scale. A dumpy level will be used to establish heights.

A photographic record will be maintained, using colour digital photography, of all significant features, finds, deposits and general site working. The photographic record will illustrate both the detail and the general context of the principal features and finds excavated and the site as a whole. A site notebook and loose-leaf folder will be maintained to record the volunteers present, work done, photography, plans, sections, levels, contexts and significant finds.

### **6.3 Finds, environmental sampling and human remains**

All artefacts from excavated contexts will be retained, except those considered to be of no intrinsic interest from features or deposits of obviously modern date. However, in such circumstances, sufficient artefacts may still be retained in order to elucidate the date and/or function of the features or deposits. The context and position of selected finds (e.g. all metal finds, carved or shaped stones, and unusual potsherds) will be recorded; other artefacts will be recorded by context alone. All retained artefacts will, as a minimum, be washed, weighed, counted, marked (as necessary), identified, and bagged or boxed in suitable containers. AA volunteers and interested local people will have the opportunity to take part in the post-excavation cleaning and labelling of finds. Any artefacts requiring conservation or specific storage conditions will be dealt with in line with *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 2001) and after taking expert advice.

All artefacts recovered during the excavations on the site remain the property of the farmer/landowner. They will be suitably bagged by context and boxed after any necessary conservation (on expert advice and subject to agreement with the landowner). Finds will be kept in a secure location overnight. No finds will be discarded before post-excavation assessment. If material is recovered that is considered to be covered by the Treasure Act of 1996 all the necessary information required by the Act will be reported and the Finds Liaison Officer for County Durham advised.

Sealed deposits suitable for paleo-environmental examination and dating may be found during this excavation. Such samples will be taken, stored, and processed according to accepted procedures.

It is extremely unlikely that human remains will be discovered during this excavation. If any are discovered then the advice of the professional archaeologist will be taken regarding recording, excavation and removal from the site, subject to compliance with the appropriate legislation and guidance. All excavation and post-excavation treatment of remains will be in accordance with the standards set out by the Institute for Archaeologists (McKinley and Roberts 1993).



## 6.4 Community Engagement

AA is receiving grant support from Northern Heartlands to increase community awareness of the archaeology of upper Teesdale. Northern Heartlands is a County Durham Community Foundation project and receives funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. “Academic” aspects of the project (e.g. report printing, radiocarbon dating, environmental sample analysis) will be funded by AA from members’ subscriptions and donations.

Community engagement will be assisted by facilitators employed by the Northern Heartlands project and will include:

- Public talks in April 2018 at Middleton-in-Teesdale to increase local knowledge in the archaeology of upper Teesdale, the results of our work so far, and the planned May 2018 excavation
- An open day at the May 2018 excavation
- Public talks in summer 2018 to communicate the results of the May 2018 excavation
- A finds-processing session in a village hall to enable local people to take part in the washing and processing of pottery finds and be able to see and handle other finds.
- Public walks to see some of the archaeological sites of upper Teesdale.

## 6.5 Report

Specialists will be called on as necessary from Durham University and elsewhere to assess finds, process samples taken, and advise on archaeological findings.

A comprehensive Project Archive will be prepared and a report issued, intelligible to the interested non-specialist, which will include:

- Introduction and background to the project, using updated and expanded extracts from this Project Design, the 2011 Holwick Survey Report and the 2017 Well Head Survey Report
- A site location plan, with trenches marked, notated with the OS grid
- A concise description of the dates of the project, methods used, and results obtained
- Drawn and photogrammetric plans and sections of the archaeological deposits
- A list of significant finds with any specialist reports on these
- A report on any environmental and dating work undertaken, giving results

Copies of the report will be supplied to the landowners, farmer, AONB and County Archaeology Service. An electronic copy of the report will be, in keeping with previous practice, posted on the AA website for public access: <http://www.altogetherarchaeology.org>

The report will be made available via the ADS/OASIS archive

## 7 PROJECT TEAM & COMMUNICATION

In accordance with standard Altogether Archaeology practice, this project will be overseen by a Project Team. The team will be in daily contact during the two weeks of the excavations.

Overall supervision of the excavation will be by Paul Frodsham. He has over twenty years’ experience of directing archaeology projects in North-East England and has previously been employed as the senior archaeologist for the Northumberland National Park and for the North Pennines AONB. He directed the HLF-funded Altogether Archaeology community project from 2010 to 2015 and currently works for his own consultancy, Oracle Heritage Services.



All volunteers taking part in the excavation are required to be paid-up members of AA and to specifically register for the project, giving days of attendance. The number of volunteers will be limited each day to no more than 25; the number of days allocated to each volunteer may be reduced to avoid exceeding the limit. Publicity about the project will be disseminated via email to all members of AA

On registration for the project, volunteers' contact details and those of their emergency contact will be recorded, and they will be given the contact details of the fieldwork co-ordinator and archaeological director. Volunteers should contact the fieldwork co-ordinator if concerned that excavation may not take place due to adverse weather or other factors, or if they are unable to attend as planned. Emergency contact details will not be retained by AA after the excavation has finished.

Professional Archaeologist/Director	Paul Frodsham	paulfrodsham@hotmail.com
AA Fieldwork Co-ordinator	Martin Green	martin@altogetherarchaeology.org
AA excavation task group member	Stephen Eastmead	
AA excavation task group member	Tony Metcalfe	

## 8 SITE ACCESS, HEALTH AND SAFETY, INSURANCE, AND WELFARE

Parking will be on the verge of the road by the field. If no spaces are left there, cars should be parked further along the road. The pub landlords have requested that the pub car park should not be used. Volunteers are encouraged to car share. The pub will provide toilet facilities, available via the back door outside opening hours (i.e. before noon and on Tuesdays).

The farmers' advice will be followed regarding restrictions in access. **No dogs will be allowed on site.**

Full consideration will be given to matters of health and safety throughout this project. All work will be undertaken in accordance with the 1974 *Health and Safety Act* and its subsequent amendments, the 2007 *Construction Design and Management Regulations*, and the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (SCAUM) Health and Safety Manual (2007).

In accordance with standard AA practice, all work will be subject to the generic AA Risk Assessment and also to a specific risk assessment, covering all real and potential hazards associated with this particular site. A comprehensive health and safety induction will be given to all volunteers at project start-up and will be emailed to them to read before participation. They will be asked to sign a register, confirming that they understand the risk assessment. An appropriate first aid kit will be on site at all times while fieldwork is in progress. Antiseptic gel and wipes will be available on site. Paul Frodsham is a qualified First Aider. AA has arranged a day course in First Aid to be held in April 2018 to enhance members' abilities in this area.

The site is normally in mobile phone coverage in case of emergencies, but if reception is difficult the pub telephone should be used.

Altogether Archaeology pays for insurance to cover volunteer activities, including excavation.

## 9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AA thanks the farmers, the Robinson family of Middle Farm, for their interest and assistance. Thanks also for permissions to the Strathmore estate and for the hospitality of the landlords of the Strathmore Arms. The Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Group (SWAAG.org) have made their



magnetometer and GPS unit available for use by Stephen Eastmead on our site. We are grateful for grant funding from Northern Heartlands and for anonymous donations.

## 10 REFERENCES

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**Trench 1: North is to right. Trench is 10m wide (north-south). The interior cobbled surface in the east end of the building has been partially excavated.**



**Trench 1a: North is to right. Narrow trenches are 1m width. The edge of Trench 1 is at the right of this image.**





**Trenches 1 and 1a oblique view looking southwest**



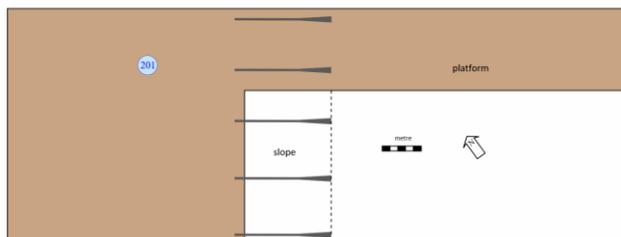
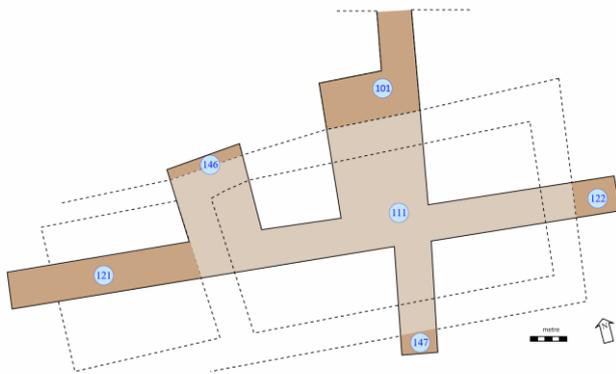
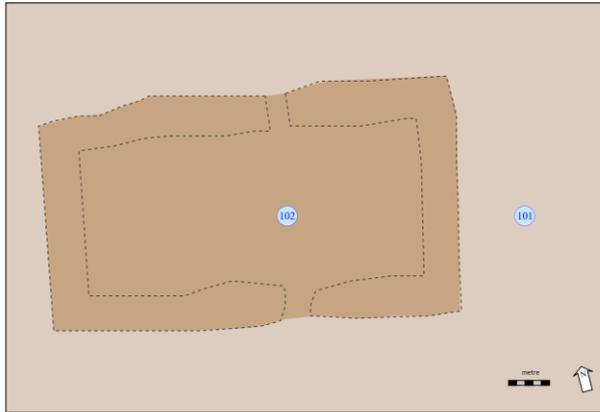


**Trench 2: North is to right. The narrow part of the trench is 2m wide, the wider part is 6m wide. (All photogrammetry by Stephen Eastmead)**

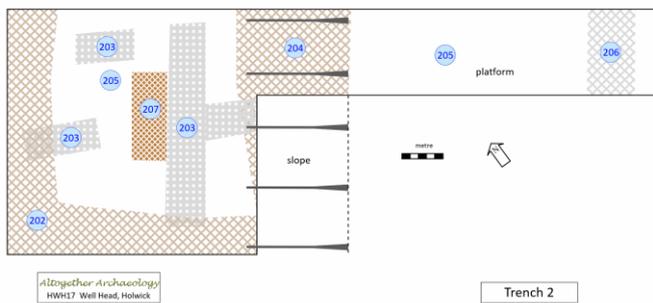
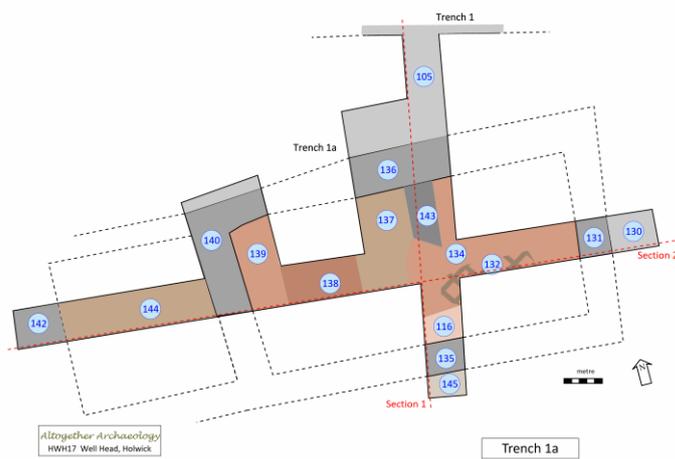
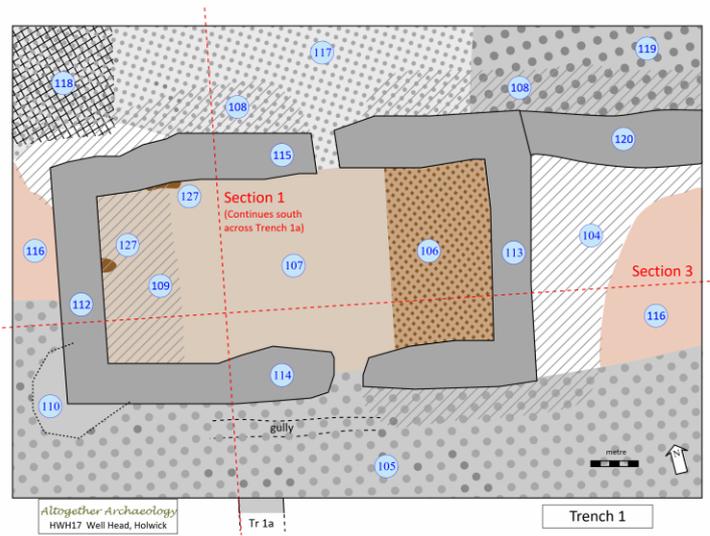


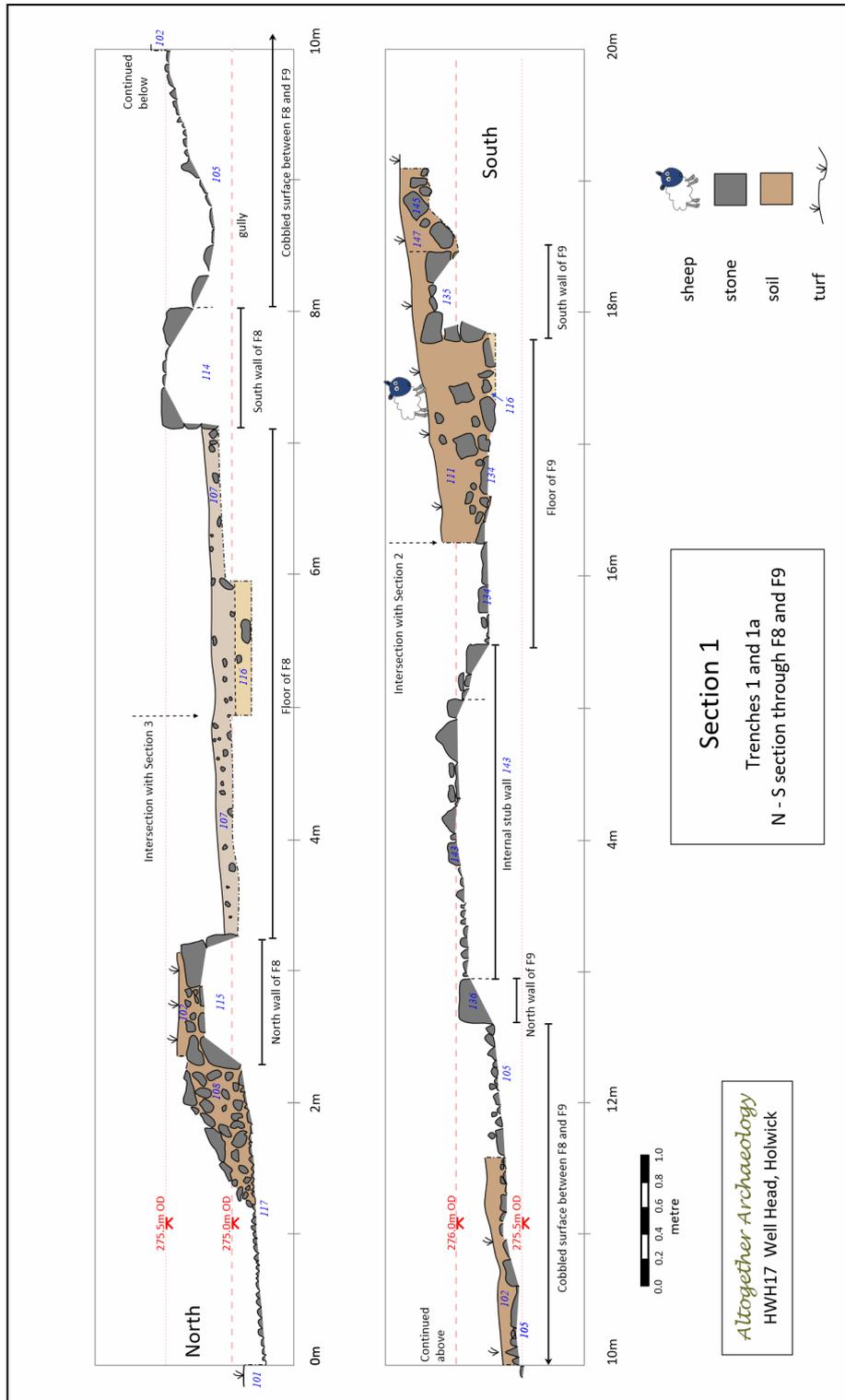
12 APPENDIX B: PLANS AND SECTIONS OF 2017 TRENCHES

Topsoil contexts of Trenches: 1, 1a, and 2

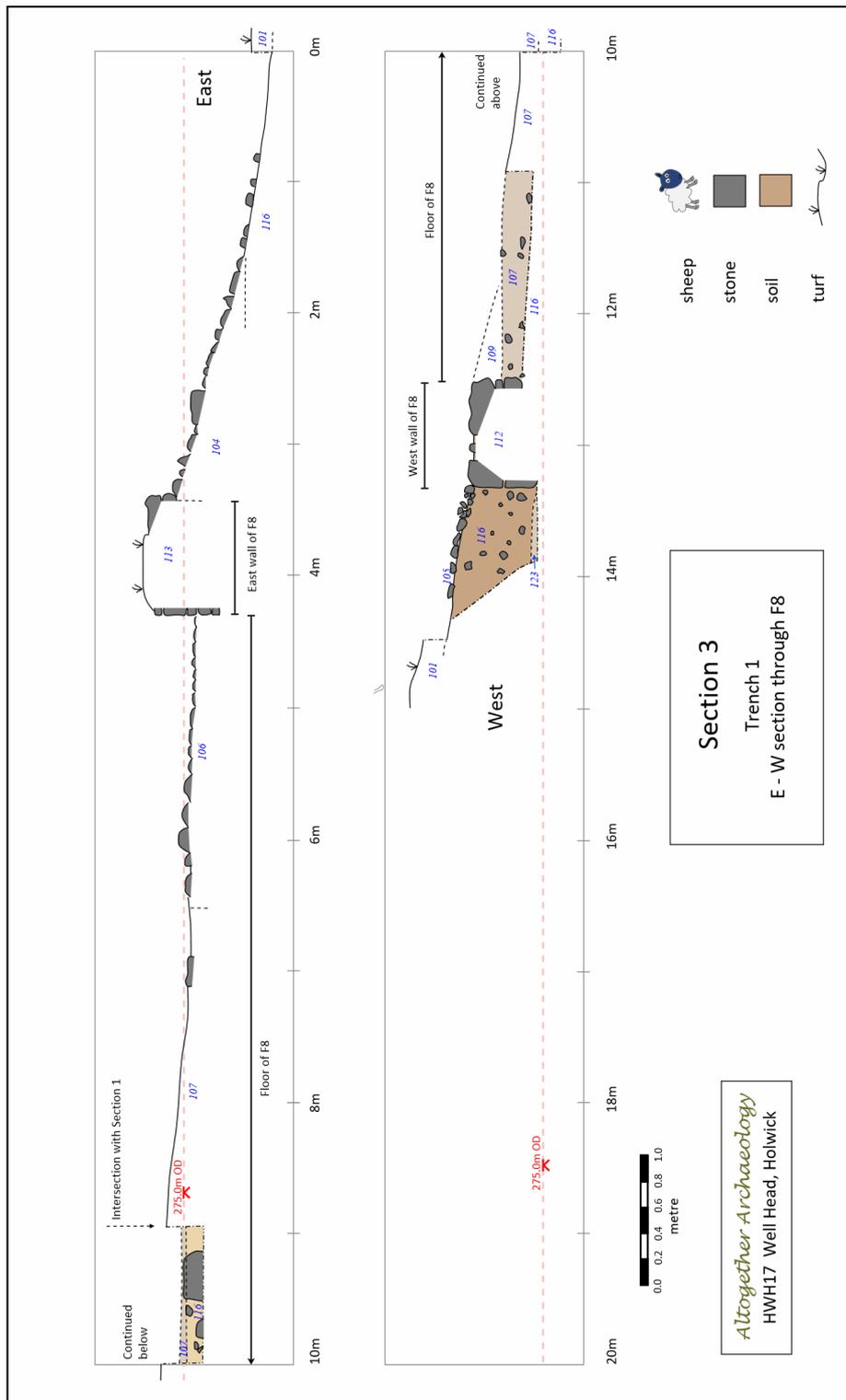


## Lower contexts of Trenches 1, 1a, and 2









## 14 APPENDIX D: CONTEXT TABLE FOR 2017 TRENCHES

Context #	Tr	Is above	Is below	Adjoins	Description (Deposit unless stated otherwise)
101	1	104, 105, 108, 116, 117, 118, 119		102, 111	Topsoil outside structure F8
102	1	106, 107, 109, 112, 113, 114, 115, 120, 127		101	Topsoil on and inside structure F8
104	1	105, 116	101	113, 120	Stone rubble piled against outer face of E wall of F8
105	1, 1a	116	101, 104, 110	112, 113, 114, 136	Rough surface of medium cobbles to S of F8. Cobbles are larger close to S entrance.
106	1	116	102	107, 113, 114, 115	Cobbled floor surface inside E end of F8
107	1	116	102, 109, 127	106, 112, 114, 115, 117	Clay surface inside W end of F8. Composition similar to mixture of subsoil 116 and underlying glacial till 123. Overlain by remnant of flagged floor 127
108	1	117, 118, 119	101	112, 115, 120	Stone rubble against outer face of N wall of F8
109	1	107, 127	102	112, 14, 115	Stone rubble against inner face of W wall of F8
110	1	cuts: 105, 116			Cut: Robber trench, ill-defined, SW corner of F8
111	1a	131, 132, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 143		101, 121, 122, 146, 147	Topsoil on and inside structure F9
112	1		102	105, 107, 108, 109, 114, 115, 127	W wall-base of F8
113	1		102	104, 105, 106, 117, 119, 120	E wall-base of F8
114	1		102	105, 106, 107, 109, 112	S wall-base of F8



Context #	Tr	Is above	Is below	Adjoins	Description (Deposit unless stated otherwise)
115	1		102	106, 107, 108, 109, 112, 117, 127	N wall-base of F8
116	1	123	101, 104, 105, 106, 107, 110, 117, 119, 134		Geology: Subsoil (orange, gritty) below clay surface 107 in F8 and elsewhere on site
117	1	116	101, 108, 118	107, 113, 115, 119	Surface of well-worn small cobbles to north of F8
118	1	117	101, 108		Surface of well-worn medium cobbles to NW of F8
119	1	116	101, 108	113, 117, 120	Rough surface of medium cobbles to NE of F8
120	1		102	104, 108, 113, 119	Field wall foundation running E from NE corner of F8
121	1a	142, 144		111	Topsoil to W of structure F9
122	1a	130		111	Topsoil to E of structure F9
123	1		116		Geology: Glacial till underlying subsoil 116, only reached in SW corner of Trench 1
124	1	see 116			Geology: Subsoil above glacial till in SW corner of Trench 1, equivalent to subsoil 116 seen elsewhere on site
125	1	see 101			Topsoil above subsoil in SW corner of Trench 1, equivalent to topsoil 101
126	1	see 105			Cobbles above subsoil in SW corner of Trench 1, a continuation of cobbled surface 105 on S side of F8
127	1	107	102, 109	112, 115	Flagstone fragmentary surface at W end of F8, lying above clay surface 107. Probably remains of robbed flagstone floor
130	1a		122	131	Surface of cobbles outside E end of structure F9
131	1a		111	130, 134	E wall-base of F9
132	1a	133	111		Flagstone layer (fragmentary) in interior of F9, overlaying flagstone surface 134
133	1a	134	132		Layer of mid-brown humic/silty deposit lying between flagstone surfaces 132 and 134 in F9



Context #	Tr	Is above	Is below	Adjoins	Description (Deposit unless stated otherwise)
134	1a	116	133, 111	131, 136, 137, 143	Surface of cobbles and small flagstones in centre of structure F9
135	1a		111	145	S wall-base of F9. Single stone course.
136	1a		111	105, 134, 137, 143	N wall-base of F9
137	1a		111	134, 136, 138, 143	Surface of medium flagstones in centre of structure F9
138	1a		111	137, 139	Surface of cobbles and small flagstones in structure F9, abutting W side of surface 137
139	1a	141	111	138, 140	Surface of medium flagstones in centre of structure F9, abutting W side of surface 138. Similar to and may be continuation of surface 137 through unexcavated baulk.
140	1a		111	139, 144	Surface comprising two door-sills and other stones possible forming base of W wall (or internal cross-wall) of structure F9
141	1a		139		Layer of dark-brown soil, no inclusions, below flagstone surface 139
142	1a		121	144	Possible W wall-base of F9, consisting of one large stone 0.5x0.5x0.4m, and several much smaller stones.
143	1a		111	134, 136, 137	Possible wall-base of internal cross wall, abutting N wall of F9, 1.5m long. Has inner and outer rows of large stones with smaller packing stones between
144	1a		121	140, 142	Flagstone surface at W end of F9, may be internal or external, depending on whether external W wall is 142 or 140
145	1a		147	135	Stone rubble abutting outer face of S wall-base of F9
146	1a			111	Topsoil to NW of F9
147	1a	145		111	Topsoil to S of F9
201	2	202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207			Topsoil over all of Trench 2



Context #	Tr	Is above	Is below	Adjoins	Description (Deposit unless stated otherwise)
202	2	203	201		Revetted stony bank forming SW and NW sides of lower platform in Trench 2
203	2		201, 202, 204	207	Surface of sandstone flags on lower platform in Trench 2, may be remnant of more extensive surface. Two irregular lines of flags remain, 4.6m NE-SW and 2m E-W
204	2	203	201		Stone-revetted bank between upper and lower platform in Trench 2. Similar to bank 202 and may be continuous with it
205	2		201		Geology: Subsoil, red-brown clay/sand in Trench 2
206	2		201		Irregular stony surface, 1m wide, may be wall base
207	2		201	203	Surface of small cobbles, adjacent to flagstone layer 203



15 APPENDIX E: PHOTOGRAPHS OF 2017 TRENCH 1



Building F8, looking northeast



Building F8, looking east





Interior of building F8: worn cobbled surface 106, looking east



Cobbled surface 118 outside northwest corner of F8, looking east



Building F8, looking south with worn small cobble surface 117 outside north door and rubble 108 piles against exterior of wall



Rough cobbled surface 105 and gully (with water flowing) outside south door of F8



Building F8: southeast corner looking east



Building F8 southeast corner looking north



Building F8: south door looking north, blocked by displaced threshold-stone/doorstep



Building F8: south wall looking east



Building F8: west wall looking north

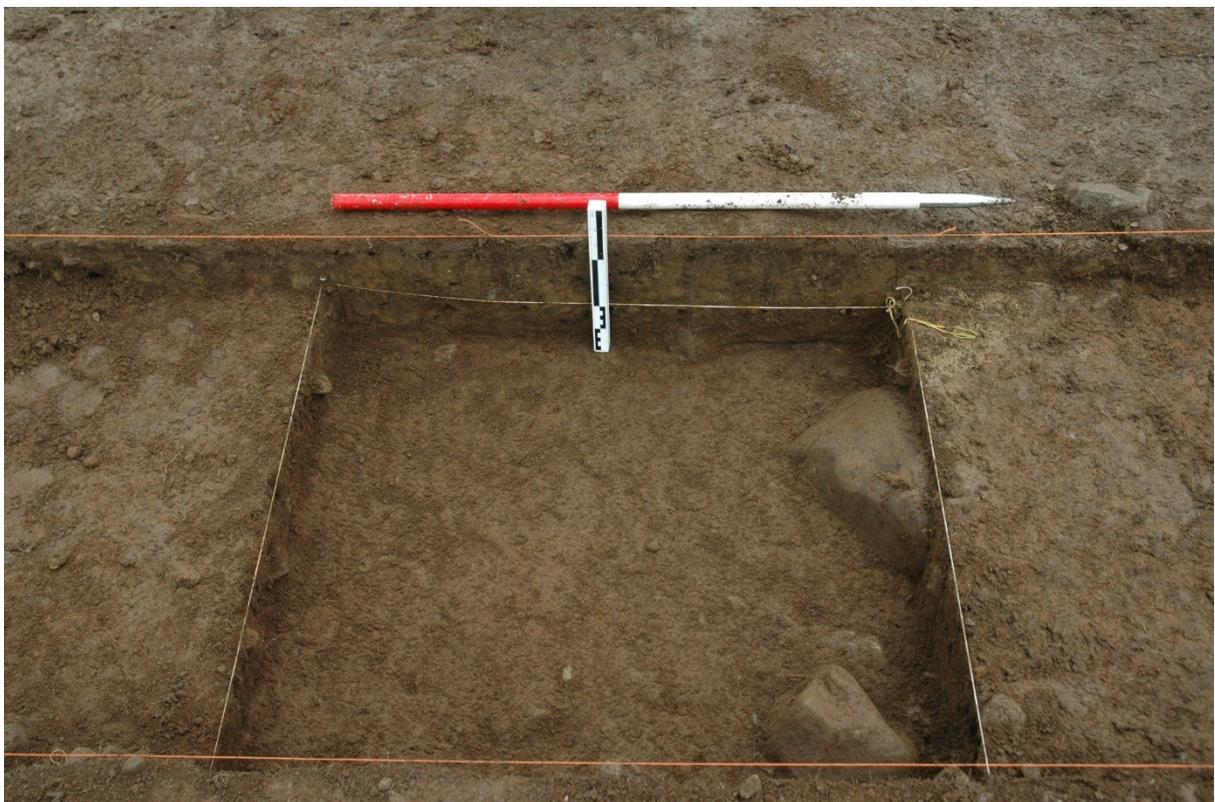


Building F8: northwest corner with cobbled surface *118* beyond





Building F8: worn cobbled surface 117 outside north door, with rubble 108 against outside of north wall



Building F8: sondage through floor of building F8

16 APPENDIX F: PHOTOGRAPHS OF 2017 TRENCH 1A



Looking east (east end of trench). Upper paved surface 132 seen in right-hand section, east wall 131 is at far end of trench.



Looking east (west end of trench)





Building F9: Threshold stone/doorstep 1



Building F9: Threshold stone/doorstep 2



Building F9: south wall 135



Building F9: short stub cross-wall 143

17 APPENDIX G: PHOTOGRAPHS OF 2017 TRENCH 2



Revetted slope 204 between platforms



Line of paving 203, looking east

