



WELL HEAD DESERTED SETTLEMENT Holwick, Teesdale

Project Design for 2019 (3rd season) Excavation



ALTOGETHER ARCHAEOLOGY



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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 AA members at May 2018 excavations



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1 SUMMARY

This is a Project Design for the proposed excavation in May 2019 of the Well Head deserted settlement at Holwick (Upper Teesdale). It will be the third season of 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. Preliminary results from the 2017 season were presented in a report, which also included the Project Design for the second (2018) season (Green 2018). In the second (2018) season, three further trenches were excavated; an Interim Report describes the findings (Green 2019). A single final report will be prepared to summarise the overall results of the project.

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

Excavation, as before, 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>) who is the Archaeological Advisor to AA. Information about AA 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> enabling 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 km² (Schofield and Quartermaine 2011)
- **2017 Holwick Scar Settlement Survey Report** (AA): a survey of the group of rectangular structures (peat stores?) on the hillside above Well Head. (Eastmead 2018)
- **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). For 2017 (1st) season. (Green 2017b)
- **2017 Well Head Settlement Interim Report on 2017 (1st season) and Project Design for 2018 (2nd) season** (AA) (Green 2018)
- **2018 Well Head Settlement Interim Report on 2018 (2nd season)** (AA): (Green 2019)

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 by AA volunteers 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 (Schofield and Quartermaine 2011). 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 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 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The historical background is detailed in previous reports. Briefly, after the Norman Conquest, Holwick was given to Bodin. In the later 11th 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 most of it was bought by the Bowes family (now the Strathmore Estate), manor by manor, starting in 1561.

In the medieval period there were probably many small farming holdings, 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 dominant 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. Near the end of the 17th century, the Jordan family sold their tenancy of Well Head.

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 settlement core (F6 and F7), possibly already ruined. On the mid-19th century first edition Ordnance Survey map there were no structures in the settlement core, apart from field walls.

A discussion of the geology of the area was given in the Interim Report for the second (2018) season excavations (Green 2019).

3 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 ruined structures (probable peat store) on higher ground (Eastmead 2018). Inside the Well Head settlement are trackways, seen as hollow ways, running between the buildings.



Well Head Deserted Settlement (Holwick): Feature References

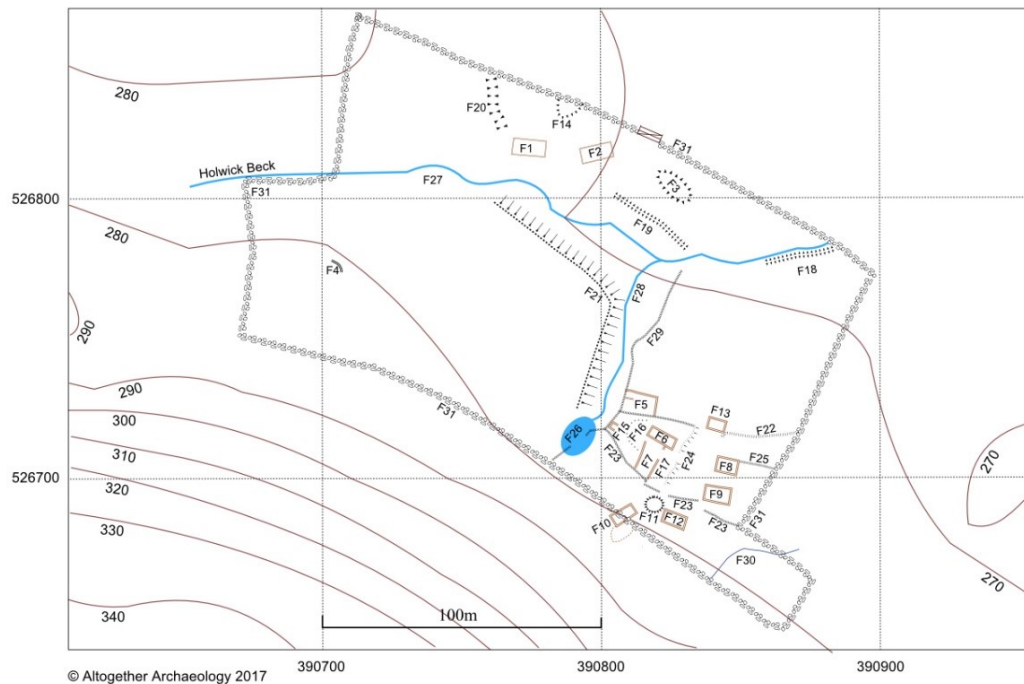


Figure 2: Hand-held GPS survey of Well Head, showing feature numbers (from *Well Head Survey Report*).

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 are 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 west of the main settlement is F4. The nature of this short curving bank was unclear, though excavation in 2018 showed it to be the probable damaged remains of a Bronze Age ring cairn. 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.

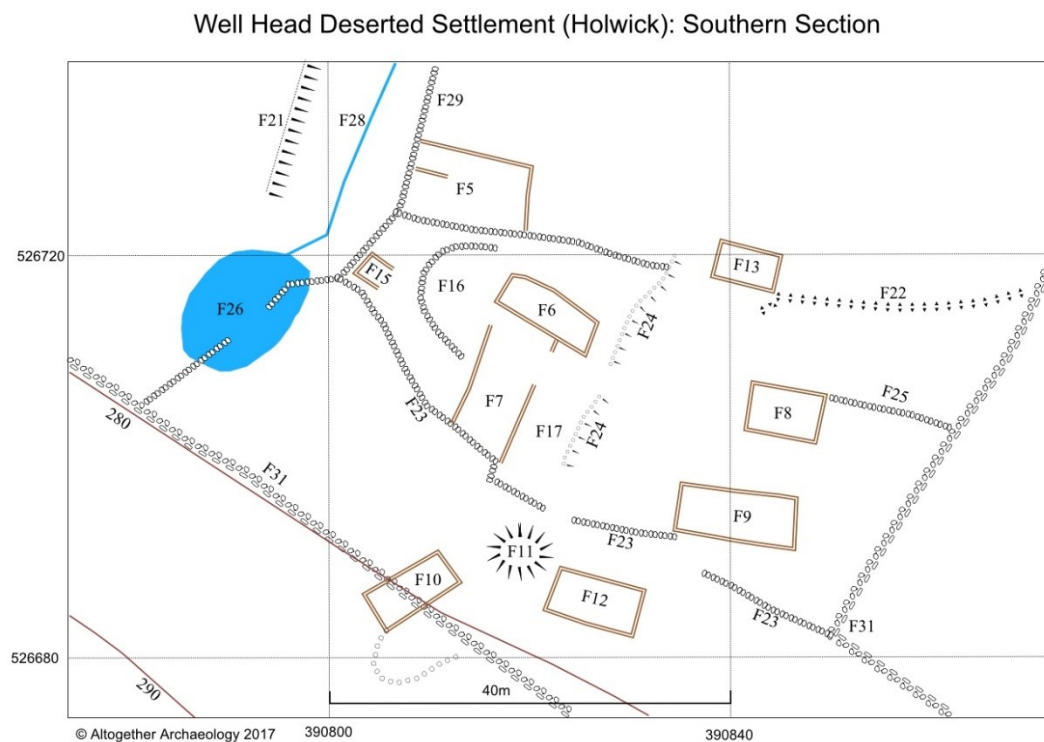


Figure 3: Hand-held GPS survey of core area of the Well Head settlement (from *Well Head Survey Report*).

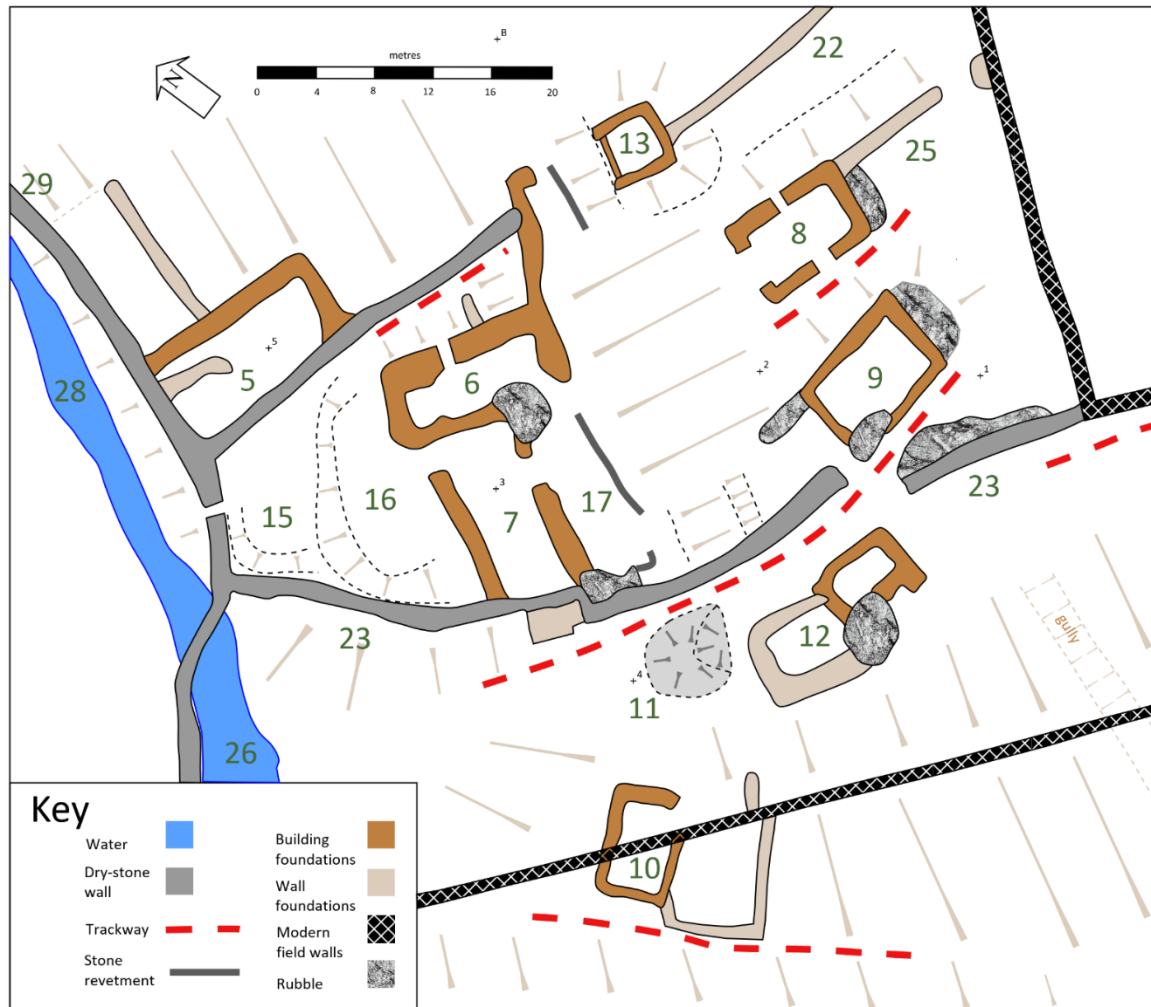


Figure 4: Theodolite-with-disto survey of core area of the Well Head settlement
(from Well Head Survey Report)

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.

4 FIRST EXCAVATION SEASON: SEPTEMBER 2017

4.1 Trench locations and descriptions

Excavation of three trenches, totalling 223 m², was carried out by AA members under the guidance of Paul Frodsham during two weeks in September 2017. After recording by photogrammetry, the trenches were back-filled and re-turfed.

Trench 1, 10m x 14.3m, examined the longhouse F8 which was fully excavated, except that the stone wall-bases were not dismantled. F8 had low walls of roughly coursed unbonded masonry, entrances

Excavation of three main trenches, plus two ancillary tranches, totalling 300 m², was carried out by AA members under the guidance of Paul Frodsham during two weeks in May 2018. After recording by photogrammetry, the trenches were back-filled and re-turfed.

Trench 3, 19m EW x 8m NS, examined a longhouse F9 which had been sampled by Trench 1a of the 2017 excavation. F9 had entrances on opposite long sides, a rough flagstone floor in all parts except the westernmost 2m, two animal pens at the lower (east end), a stone cross-wall to the west of the entrances, and a higher flagstone floor placed over the original one in the cross-passage and western chamber. Along the outside of the south wall was a stone-built drain. The building had padstones for a timber cruck-frame to support the roof. It had two hearths: one was conventionally placed in the upper chamber on the back of the stone cross-wall. The other hearth (radiocarbon dated to the 16th century) was under the line of a missing section of the north wall of the building.

Trench 3a, 3m EW x 2m NS, max depth 0.3m, was placed north of Trench 1, with an unexcavated baulk of 2m between the trenches. It examined the paved path leading to the north entrance of F9.

Trench 4, 8m EW x 7m NS, with a southern extension 1m EW x 5m NS, examined a curving bank F4 located 150m west of the settlement core, on the opposite side of the beck and spring. The bank was found to be a man-made stone wall, with flatter stones laid inside its curve and close to the centre of the arc. Radiocarbon dating of charcoal under the flat stones gave a date in the Early Bronze Age. It was probably the very damaged remains of funerary ring cairn, about 9m in diameter.

Trench 5, 13.2m EW x 7m NS with 6m x 2m unexcavated in the SE corner, examined a two-celled scooped structure F12. This was found to consist of two unequal rectangles, defined by crude stone walls. Neither had floor surfaces, other than a spread of angular rubble. The larger (eastern) rectangle was scooped. In its north-east corner was a very irregular area of heat-altered clay, with a surrounding surface of compacted clay in which was charcoal, radiocarbon dated to the 16th century. The north wall overlaid this surface.

Trench 5a, 7.4m EW x 1.45m NS, examined a linear stony feature lying to the south of Trench 5. It contained the remains of a stone field wall, probably robbed to build the adjacent modern field-wall.

5.2 Finds

Small finds were similar to those in the first season. They included a lead spindle whorl identical in design to one found in the first season. Once again, no identifiable coins were found.

A broken octagonal creeling-trough was found in rubble beside longhouse F9; this would have been used as a mortar to prepare grain (and other foodstuffs) before cooking.

Lying face-down over the ditch to the south of F9 was an incised stone with a crude rectangular pattern reminiscent in part of a twelve-mens-morris gaming board. It may have had an apotropaic (i.e. protective against evil) function.



6 DISCUSSION AND PROJECT AIMS FOR THE THIRD SEASON (2019)

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)

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. These are assumed (but not proven) to date to the Iron Age and Romano-British periods. 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 8th 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 11th to 17th 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 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 13th century but overlay earlier small scooped buildings of turf and wattle. The settlement was abandoned in the 14th century. In the Duddon valley, Cumbria, upland long-houses were recently excavated by local volunteers, directed by Oxford Archaeology North (Bradley et al 2016). A 7m long-house was excavated: it had a central hearth and opposed doors on the long sides. Charcoal dating suggested last occupation in the 16th century.

Larger rural medieval settlements have been excavated in the region at West Whelpington in Northumberland (Evans, Jarret and Wrathmell 1988) and West Hartburn in the lower Tees Valley. (Still and Pallister 1964). These excavations show that the longhouses in these settlements had been long-lived and had undergone alteration and adaptation. The most investigated medieval rural



settlement in northern England is that at Wharram Percy (Wrathmell 2012a). Despite the massive amount of information collected and analysed from surveys and from trenches covering a hectare in all:

“It is one of the ironies of the Wharram Research Project that 40 years of archaeological investigations, intended almost from the start to explore the lives of medieval peasants, uncovered so few coherent plans of medieval farm buildings, and even fewer that could claim to represent the homes of the village’s tenant farmers.” (Wrathmell 2012b)

Hence the Well Head project has already added significantly to the body of knowledge about the rural peasant; in particular showing that even in a comparatively remote and high location such as Holwick, there were wood framed robust houses of considerable sophistication from around 1200 (rather than the flimsy ephemeral peasant buildings that until recently were assumed to be the norm in the medieval period). However, there are still unanswered questions about longhouse F9: Were the walls as seen now original features of the house, or built around an older timber frame? Were the timbers originally set on the ground or in shallow postholes, with the rotten lower parts replaced later by padstones, or were the padstones an original feature? When was the house finally abandoned? Was there a previous building on the site? The date of first occupation of the Well Head settlement is unknown, though now that F4 has been identified as a probable Bronze Age funerary monument, there clearly has been human activity in the area for millennia. Unfortunately, evidence of early medieval settlement is often scanty with few artefacts surviving and traces of farmsteads vestigial compared to later medieval farmsteads.

Another 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). The three structures investigated so far (F8, F9, and F12) are very different from each other, so that the nature of the other buildings in the settlement cannot be assumed.

A target for investigation would be the area between F12 and the head-dyke wall where there is 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 F10 is not possible due to the wall crossing it.

Another target is the central part of the hillock, where rectangular feature F6 appears to be a small 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. Nearby is another rectangular structure F5, with a curious stub wall at one of its ends.

In summary, much still waits to be discovered about the buildings of the settlement and their usage. Well Head is proving to have been a complex, well-built and long-lived settlement, despite its peripheral and high location.

7 METHODS

7.1 Proposed 2019 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 6 below for a plan):-

Trenches 3n & 3s: Re-opening of small portions of 2018 Trench 3 to examine ground under the walls and padstones of the longhouse F9, in particular to look for evidence of postholes or an earlier phase of the wall. Two trenches, each 2.5m x 8m. Total 20m².

Trench 6: Trench to examine rectangular structures F5 and F6. This would consist of a 13m x 8m rectangular section over F6, and a contiguous 13m x 6m rectangular section to examine F5. The proportion of F5 excavated would depend on available time and volunteer numbers. Total approx. 200m².

Trench 7: A rectangular trench 12m x 8m to examine the southern half of the small mound F11 (giving a section through it), and the northern part of rectangular structure F10. The southern part of F10 is not accessible as it lies close to, or under a high field-wall. The south-east quadrant of this trench, 6m x 5m, may not be fully excavated. Total 66m².

In all, this totals 286m² of excavation, 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. 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, 223m² of trenches were excavated in a slightly shorter time (14 days) and frequent poor weather. In 2018, 300m² of trenches were excavated in 16 days of generally good weather.



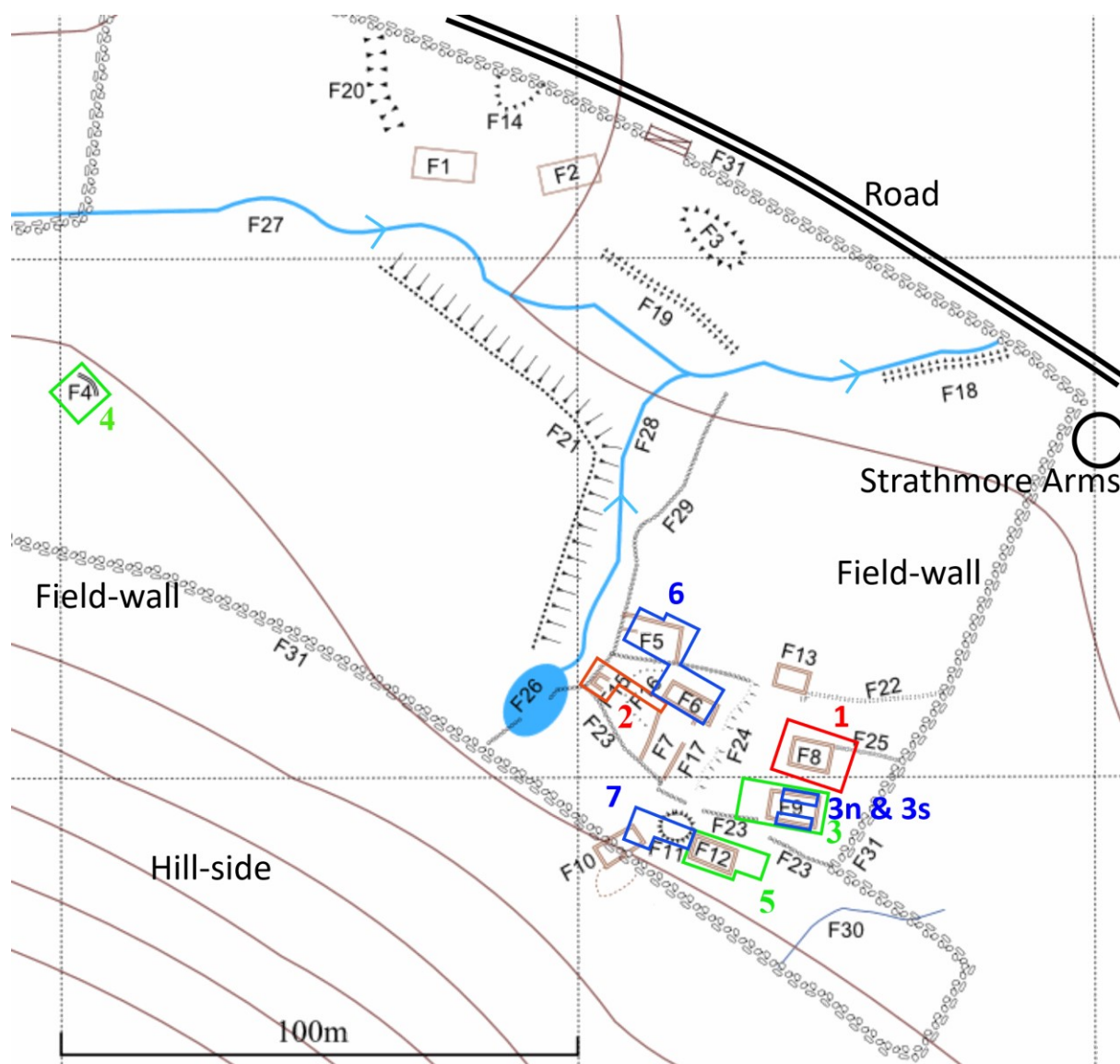


Figure 6: Provisional location of 2019 trenches (blue). Trenches excavated in 2017 (red) and 2018 (green) are also shown

7.2 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 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.

7.3 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. Durham University is arranging training of volunteers in geoarchaeology and process sampling and has provided lab resources. Durham University is also assisting with the analysis of ceramic finds. Radiocarbon dates from samples taken in 2018 have been processed at Queens University Belfast, and (thanks to funding from the Community Archaeology Radiocarbon Dating Fund) at Edinburgh University.

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).

7.4 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 from donations.

Community engagement facilitated by the Northern Heartlands project will include:

- Filming of the excavation and of volunteers to produce a professional-standard video exploring the importance of Holwick and the sense of place.
- Collection of stories and oral history about the site and the excavations
- Two public open afternoons at the excavation
- Involvement of a local primary school (Cotherstone) in the project with pupils visiting the site and helping with washing finds post-excavation.
- Finds-processing sessions 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.
- Two public walks during the excavation to see some of the archaeological sites of upper Teesdale.
- An art group to visit and paint/sketch the excavations and landscape.

7.5 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 final project 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

Interim reports have already been issued, describing the 2017 and 2018 seasons. A summary of the 2017 and 2018 excavations has already been prepared and submitted to the academic journal *Medieval Settlement Research*.



8 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	

9 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. In 2018 AA arranged a day course in First Aid 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.

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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