



Redesdale

Landscapes through Time

Landscape Area 3

Prehistoric period by Keith Cooper
Medieval period by Geoffrey Carter
Post-medieval period by Ailsa Graham

January 2022



This report is one of a series of six, produced by project volunteers during the *Redesdale Landscapes through Time* project, part of the NLHF-funded *Revitalising Redesdale* Landscape Partnership scheme. The project was managed by Karen Collins (Revitalising Redesdale Heritage & Engagement Officer).

The project background, methodology and general results are summarised in a general Project Report by the Project Consultant, Paul Frodsham (ORACLE Heritage Services). The Project Report and all six Area Reports are available on the Revitalising Redesdale website: <https://www.revitalisingredesdale.org.uk/>

Any questions about the project prior to September 2022 should be addressed to Karen Collins: karen.collins@nnpa.org.uk

From September 2022 onwards, please address any questions to Paul Frodsham (ORACLE Heritage Services): paulfrodsham@hotmail.com



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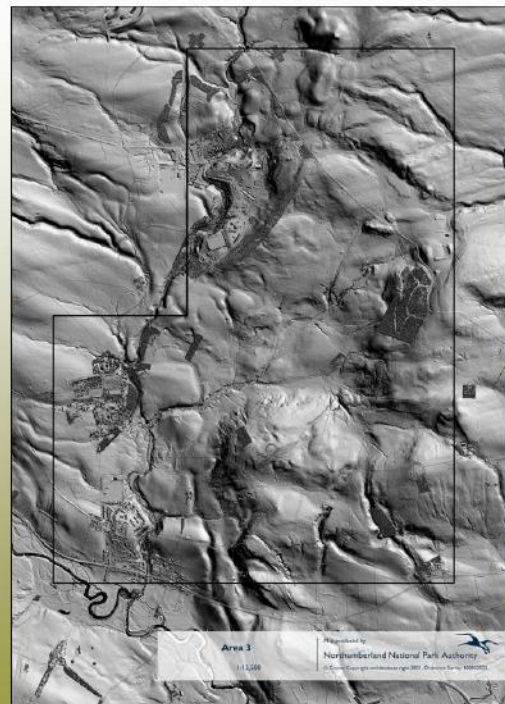
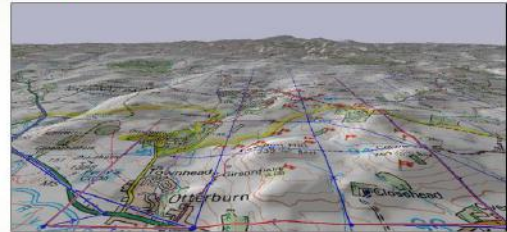
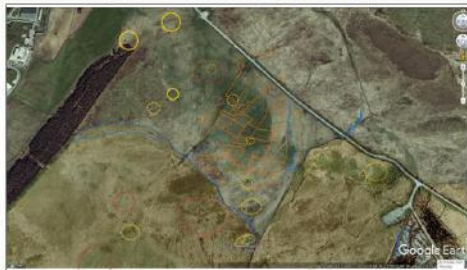
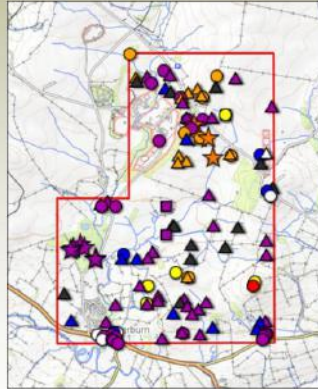
Cover illustration

Lidar imagery of part of Area 3. This image, extracted from the actual imagery used by volunteers during the Landscapes through Time project, shows the Iron Age hillfort of Fawdon Hill with an extensive cairnfield of probable Bronze Age date to its south-east. Further west, an Iron Age or Roman homestead with roundhouses can be seen surrounded by ridge-and-furrow fields of medieval or post-medieval date. Volunteer used this imagery, along with other sources, to construct 'landscape biographies' for each of the project's six areas.

Redesdale Landscapes Through Time Area 3

Stage 4 Report

Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman/Romano British
and Early Medieval



Redesdale Landscapes Through Time

- **Area 3 Report**
- **Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and Early Medieval Periods**

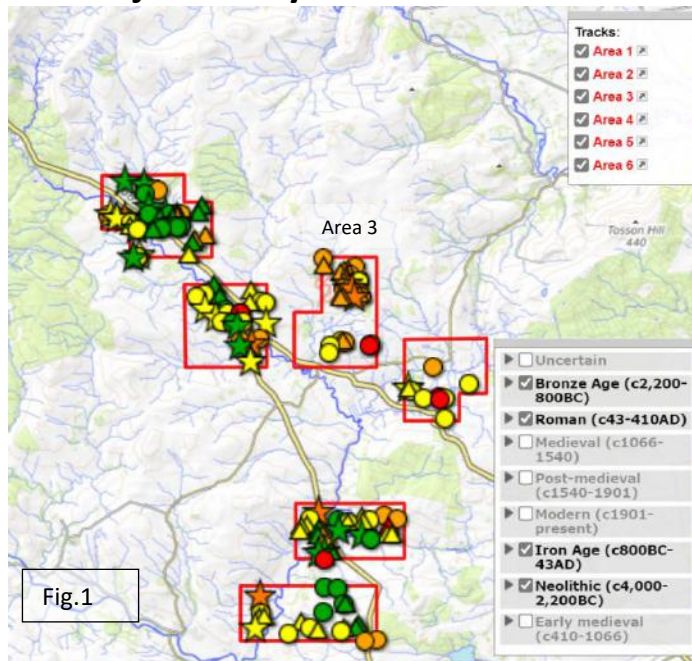
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Redesdale Landscapes Through Time

3.0 Project study areas



3.0.1 The six areas selected are shown in fig.1. The periods to be studied in this section of the Area 3 Report are shown all study areas. In addition sites termed “uncertain” were considered, their relevance assessed and recorded in section 3.28 of this report. However in the interest of clarity they are not shown here.

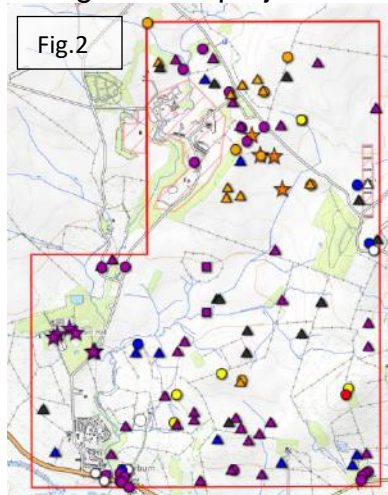
Fig 1 clearly demonstrates that sites are distributed across six study areas in different ways. For example there are greater concentrations of sites from different periods in some areas rather than others.

It should be remembered that the six study areas offer a window on selected areas but that sites in the wider area may be of equal or even greater significance. In addition, when studying a particular area it is important to take into consideration sites in a wider context.

3.0.2. Landscapes Through Time study periods are:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| a. Mesolithic | (c10,000-4,000BC) (None recorded) |
| b. Neolithic | (c4,000-2,200BC) (Red) |
| c. Bronze Age | (c2,200-800BC) (Orange) |
| d. Iron Age | (c800BC-43AD) (Yellow) |
| e. Roman | (c43-410AD) (Green) |
| f. Early medieval | (c410-1066) (Blue) |
| g. Medieval | (c1066-1540) (Light Blue) |
| h. Post-medieval | (c1540-1901) (Purple) |
| i. Modern | (c1901-present) (White) |
| j. Uncertain | (c10000 – present day) (Black) |

3.0.3 The periods studied within the first section of the Area 3 study and throughout the project area are shown in fig 2 below:



- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| a. Mesolithic | (c10,000-4,000BC) |
| b. Neolithic | (c 4,000-2,200BC) |
| c.. Bronze Age | (c 2, 200-800BC) |
| d. Iron Age | (c 800BC-43AD) (Yellow) |
| e. Roman | (c 43-410AD) |
| f. Uncertain | (c10000 – present day) |

3.1 Area 3 - Otterburn Village and Camp

General introduction to the Landscape Area.

(Based on Exercise Lidar Truth Otterburn, Northumberland Report;
Archaeological Evaluation 2 Doc ref 221931.03 Issue 1, January 2021)

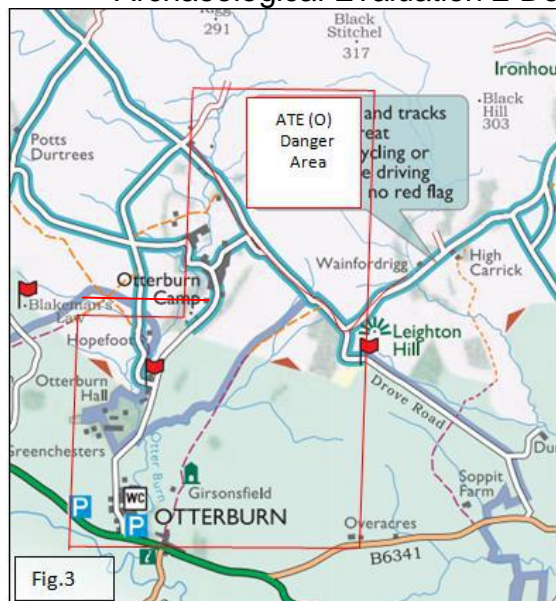


Fig.3

Otterburn Ranges (ATE O): Controlled and Open Access Areas

3.1.1 Area 3 comprises of ten square km of upland north of the River Rede as shown in fig.1.

A significant portion of the northern half of Area 3 (indicated by the red arrows in fig. 3) is located within ATE O.

3.1.2 ATE O is a 23,000 ha upland estate and a major UK training area predominantly used for artillery firing and field firing by infantry.

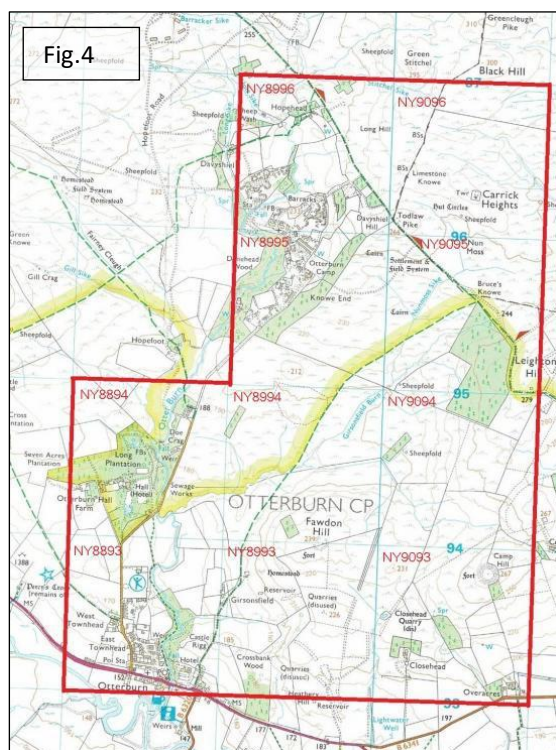


Fig.4

3.1.3 The portion of Area 3 designated military training is located north of the Yellow boundary shown on the map (see fig 4). The controlled access area used for Live Firing and as an Impact Area for live firing is also located in the North East portion of Area 3 and is indicated by the red arrows in figure 4. Access to the general public is only possible when no training is taking place or at stand down periods, during bank holidays or for a month during lambing. Access to the area north east of the red arrows is controlled and permission to enter certain areas must be sought from Range Control based in Otterburn Camp. Guidance on access can be gained by visiting:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/33311/otterburn_control_access_lr.pdf

3.1.4 Agriculture is largely mixed arable, dairy and upland sheep farming. The southerly portion of Area 3 is largely mixed farmland whilst the northern portion is mainly upland mixed hill farms.

3.1.5 There are three major areas of habitation ranged north - south along the western boundary of the area; the permanently occupied Otterburn Village and Otterburn Hall and the temporarily occupied Otterburn Training Camp. The two larger settlements occupy the south western portion of Area 3, they are Otterburn village itself and Otterburn Hall.

3.1.6 Route ways within Area 3 are limited with continuous public access confined to the minor road linking Otterburn village to Otterburn Camp via Otterburn Hall. Two unclassified roads with limited access form the southern boundary of the Danger Area to link the Otterburn area to Coquetdale via Chew Green, to the west and High Carrick to the east. The same road, a former drove road, continues to the south east to Morpeth and Newcastle via Elsdon. These route ways have been followed throughout much of history and possibly owe their origins to pre historical times.

3.1.7 The underlying geology is mapped as Tyne Limestone Formation - Limestone, Sandstone, Siltstone and Mudstone. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 331 to 339 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period. Local environment previously dominated by shallow carbonate seas' (British Geological Survey 2020). No superficial deposits are mapped in the immediate area, although there are deposits of Peat (Peat. Superficial Deposits formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. Local environment previously dominated by organic accumulations') nearby (ibid.).

3.2 Period overviews

3.2.1 This section will describe what is known, by reference to specific sites and/or finds where relevant, using the period divisions used earlier in the project.

3.2.2 The periods studied within this section of the Area 3 study are:

a. Mesolithic	(M)	(c10000-4,000BC)
b. Neolithic	(N)	(c4000-2,200BC)
c. Bronze Age	(BA)	(c2200-800BC)
d. Iron Age	(IA)	(c800BC-43AD)
e. Roman	(R)	(c43-410AD)
f. Uncertain	(U)	(c10000 – present day)

3.3 Area 3 Period Overviews: Mesolithic (c10000-4,000BC)

Fig.5 In this illustration by Dave Hall many of the elements of Mesolithic hunter gatherer life are captured.

Although taken from a display panel at Maelmin near Wooler it is probably representative of life in Redesdale during the Mesolithic period circa 10000 - 4000 BC

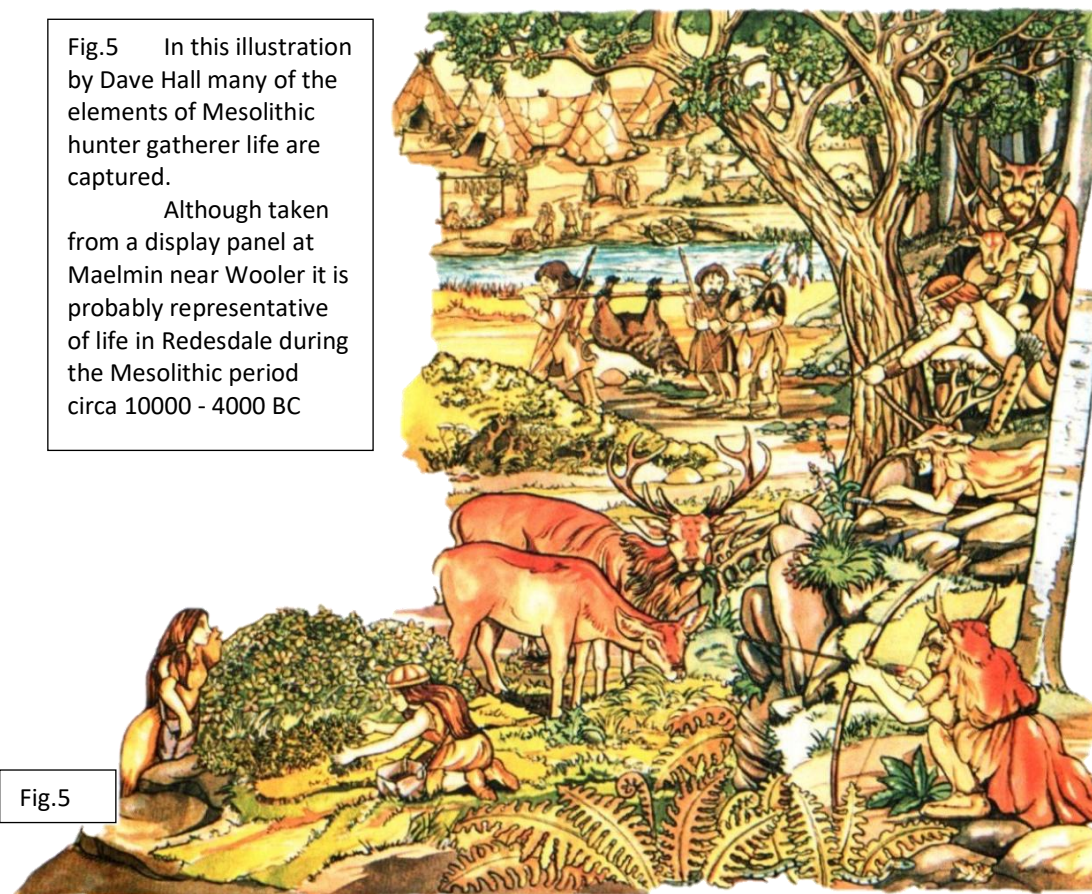


Fig.5

3.3.1 There are no recorded finds in Area 3 relating to the Mesolithic period.

3.3.2 Paul Frodsham commented that “the lack of finds in this area is mirrored throughout most of Redesdale, even though pollen evidence suggests people were active here.” He thought it unlikely that progress will be made in this area given the lack of ploughed fields for field walking. Although it is possible that occasional stray finds may offer some clues.

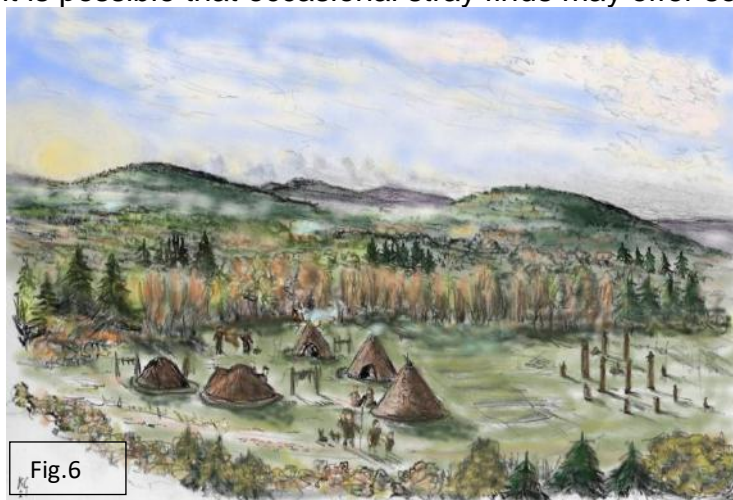


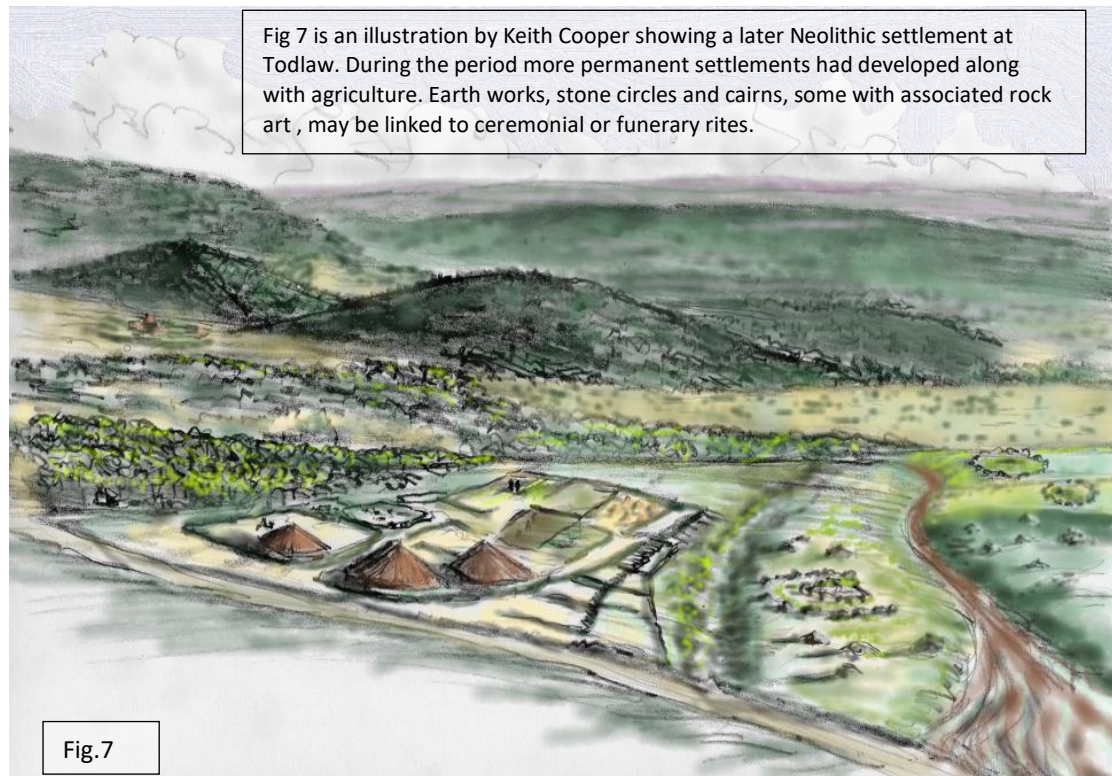
Fig.6

Fig.6 shows visualisation by Keith Cooper, of a possible Mesolithic settlement at Todlaw.

3.3.3 Palaeo-environmental research carried out by Rob Young (see Young in Frodsham 2004) suggests that there was both a Mesolithic and Neolithic

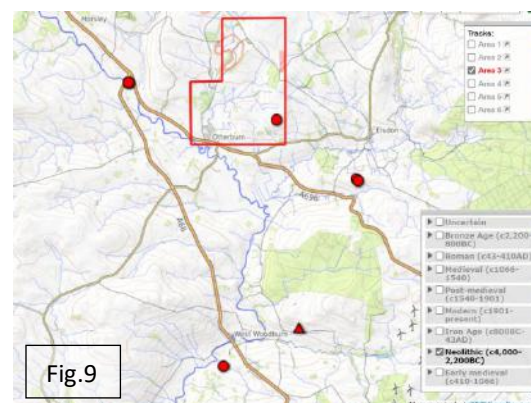
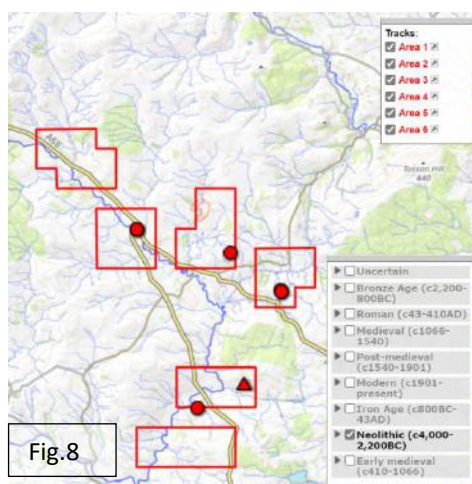
presence in the general area (See 3.4.0 below). Paul Frodsham suspects that settlement was largely mobile into the early Bronze Age (BA).

3.4 Area 3 Period Overviews: Neolithic (c4000-2,200BC)



3.4.1 Within the Redesdale Landscapes Through Time study area six sites are recorded on interactive Geo map supplied. Unfortunately the variety of sites is insufficient in number to establish a pattern of settlement.

3.4.2 Evidence of habitation or agriculture is significantly lacking whilst the sites documented seem to demonstrate a range of activities that may indicate a more settled lifestyle towards the close of the period.



3.4.3 Other sites assessed as dating from the Neolithic period have been recorded within the wider study area and need be collated in order to increase understanding of the area during the Neolithic period.

3.4.4 Paul Frodsham suspects that the large circular enclosure at Todlaw, partly excavated in 2020, may be Neolithic.

3.4.5 Within Area 3 only one Neolithic find, a spearhead found on Camp Hill, is recorded in the Historical Environmental Record (HER). However a further four interactive Geomap sites in the areas studied for the Landscapes Through Time Project are also detailed below to provide a context to the Area 3 site.

3.4.6 The location of these sites and finds may be associated with, or linked to, natural route ways within Redesdale. These valleys have been significant route ways throughout history. This may also have been the case during pre-history and the discovery of a stone axe linked to the Lake District may demonstrate that this was the case during the Neolithic period.

Stone axe

3.4.6.1 At Elishaw Bridge in Area 2 a Neolithic polished stone axe head was found here in the 19th century. The axe head is now lost.

Flint Spearhead

3.4.6.2 In Area 3 there is one recorded find relating to this period and that was made in the 19th century. A flint spearhead was reported to have been found on Camp Hill. No context is known and therefore it could be evidence of an early occupation of the hill top site or the result of any number of chance circumstances.

Round Barrow

3.4.6.3 In Area 4 a curious large circular earthwork was recorded as being visible on lidar imagery. It may be a stock shelter and the date is unknown. However a 'mound' possibly the remains of a barrow or cairn is recorded here on the HER as N25313, which could be the same site. They are part of an extensive earthwork complex on Gallow Hill.

Stone Circle

3.4.6.4 In Area 5, on the south facing lower slopes of Staney Hill, East Woodburn, a stone circle was reported by farmer. There are no further details known at this time.

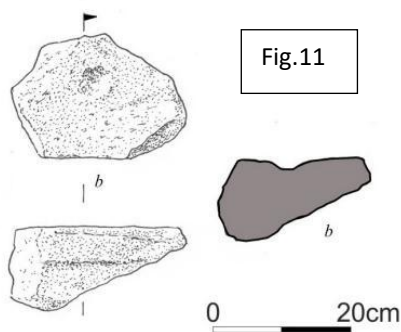
Stone Axe

3.4.6.5 In Area 6 a Neolithic polished stone axe head found at West Woodburn. This was presented by Mr. Wallace of West Woodburn to the Blackgate Museum, Newcastle in 1948. The stone, from the Langdale Pikes, "has a damaged butt, is of grayish stone. It is about 6" long, 3" wide with a cutting edge, 2 inches wide at butt and about 1 inch thick."

Cairns

3.4.6.6 Within Area 3 recent excavations (R Carlton 2019 and 2021) of mounds at a site on Fawdon Hill (See Annex A) revealed the presence of cup marked rocks within the structure of a cairn. Although the cairn was dated as Bronze Age (BA) it is probable the cup marked rocks were of earlier, possibly Neolithic origin. Fawdon Hill is approximately 1km west of the location of the flint spear head found on Camp Hill.

3.4.6.7 In 2020, during the excavation of a possible BA ring cairn at Todlaw pike two items of worked flint were discovered. Although thought to be Neolithic in origin neither was within a sealed context. A partial reconstruction of the find shown in fig.10 was possibly part of a broken tanged or leaf shaped arrow head.



3.4.6.8 The 2019 excavation of a cairn on the slopes of Fawdon Hill revealed the presence of two cup marked stones, one of which is shown in figure 11, were placed within the structure of the cairn. Whilst the cairn was dated to the Bronze Age (BA) and rock art can date from that period, it is known that rock art from the earlier, Neolithic period was included in BA ritual monuments or structures. (See fig. 22)

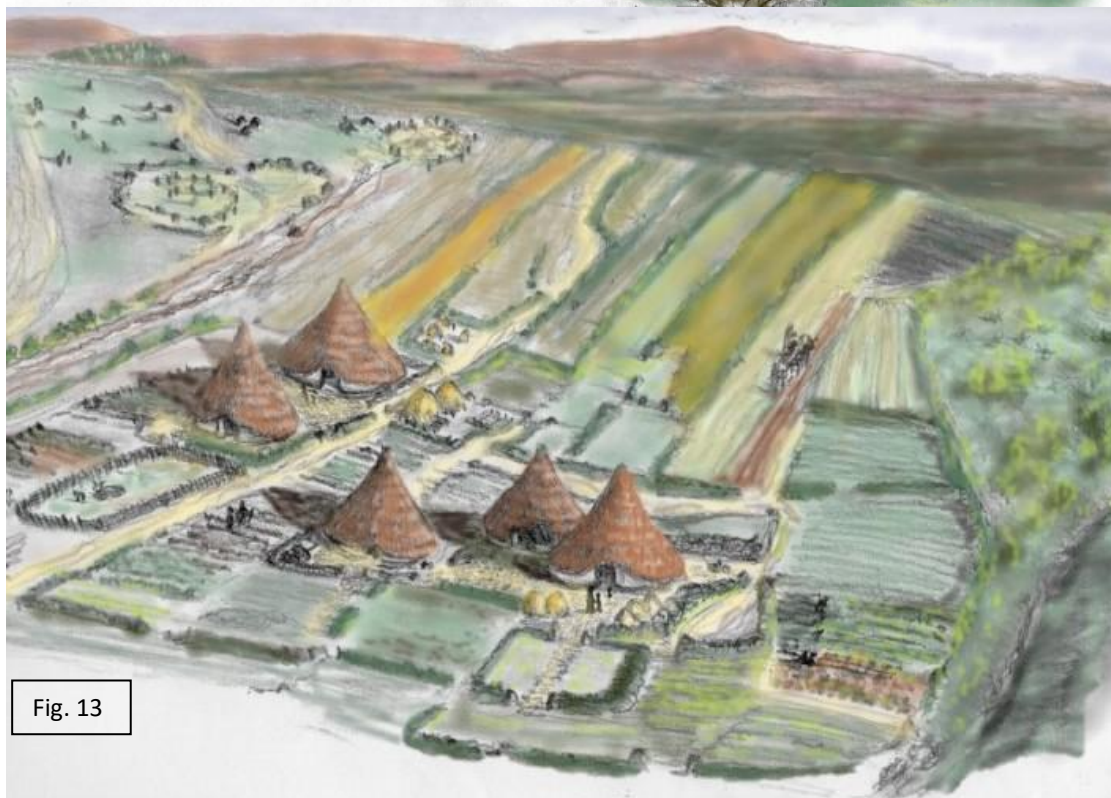
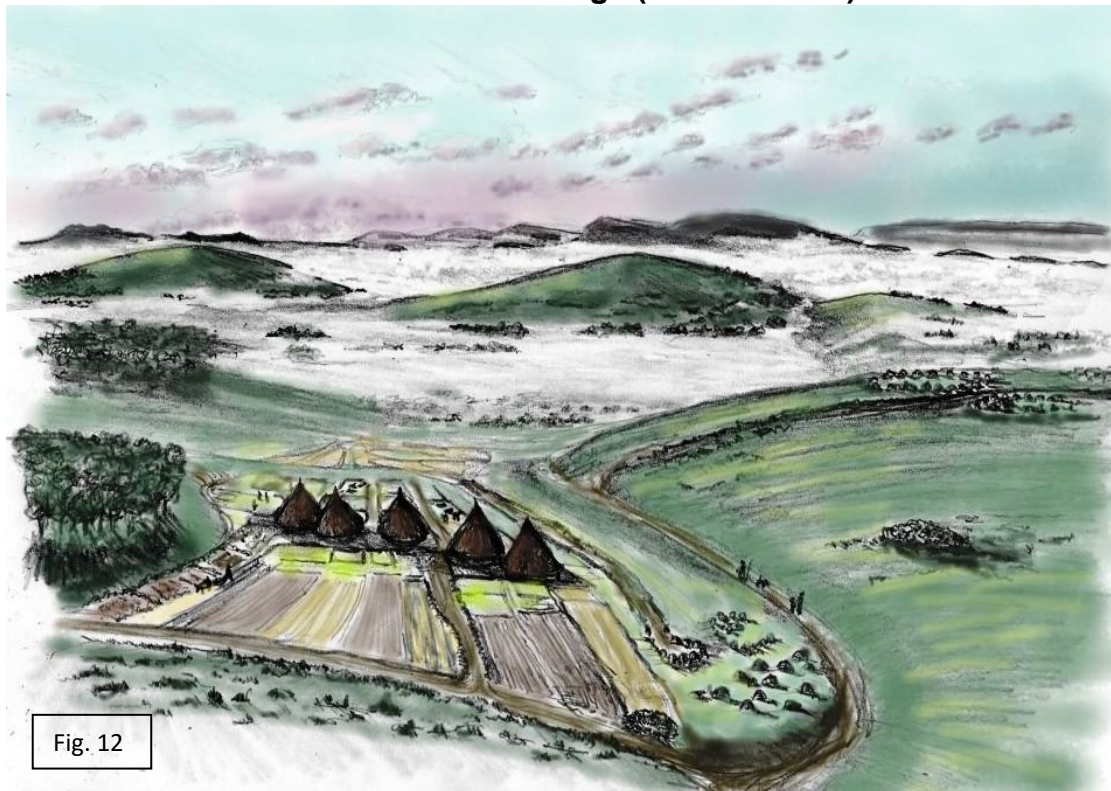
Summary

3.4.7 The Neolithic sites recorded on the Interactive Geomap from the six selected areas within the project area may have a ritual significance.

3.4.8 There is an absence of evidence for settlement in the form of structures or agriculture. This may be due to the continued use of settlement and agricultural sites into the BA that has destroyed or concealed the evidence.

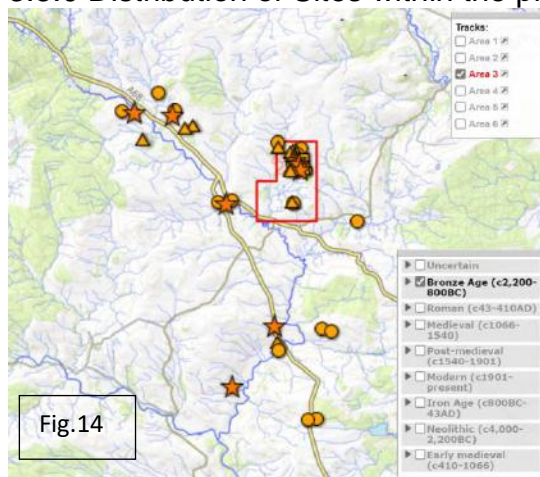
3.4.9 Further information relating to this period can be found within the Archaeological reports on excavations conducted at Fawdon Hill, Bellshiel Law and Todlaw.

3.5 Area 3 Period Overviews: Bronze Age (c2200-800BC)



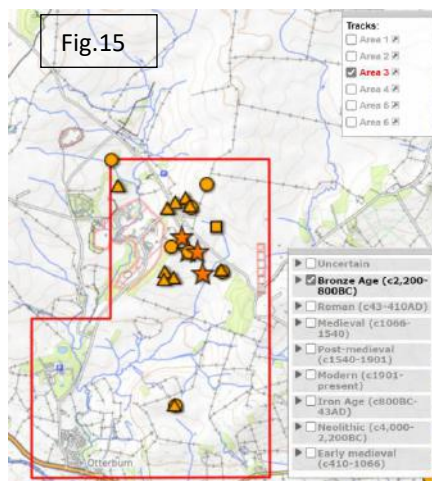
Portrayed in figures 12 and 13 are two views of the Todlaw settlement during the Bronze Age. Fig. 12 represents an impression of the view south and Fig.13 the view north. The settlement has expanded and the roundhouses have been enlarged. There are more fields. The circles and stone cairns remain. Some of the cairns appear to have been reused with the possible incorporation of Neolithic or recreated rock art and ceramic “beakers” containing cremations.

3.5.0 Distribution of Sites within the project area: Overview



3.5.1 As shown in fig.14, sites from the Bronze Age (BA) within five of the six study areas sites are mainly distributed along the course of the A68 corridor. Outside of Area 3 (outlined in red) four sites south of Area 3 conform to this pattern. Three sites in Area 5 are at some distance from the main A68 route way. One site in Area 4 and all nineteen sites in Area 3 are east of the A68 corridor.

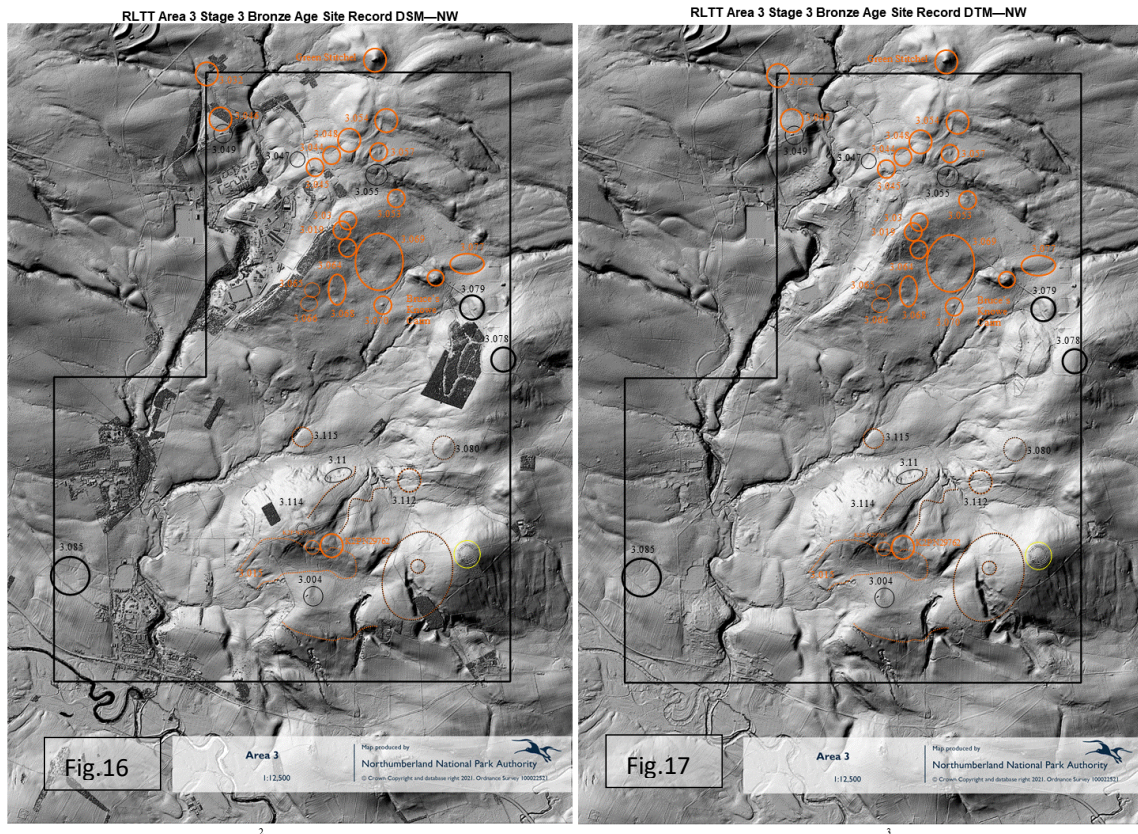
3.5.2 Within Area 3; two sites are located in the southern portion of Area 3 close to the intersection of major route ways. The remaining sites in Area 3 occupy the northern most portion of the area. Within the context of the present day this upland area seems remote but as will be discussed below within the context of the BA period the area was bisected by a NW - SE route way. It was also settled by a permanent population of farmers and also a probable site of ritual significance. The nature of the sites will be discussed below.



3.5.3 A total of nineteen sites from this period have been recorded in Area 3 as part of the Landscapes Through Time Project. The concentrations of sites in the northern half of the area are within ATE O but lie outside the Otterburn Camp area. The two southern most sites are on the slopes of Fawdon Hill, the site of an Iron Age (IA) "Hill Fort." Information on this Iron Age/Romano British site can be found at section 3.10.0 in this document.

3.5.4 Information on the five Iron Age/Romano British sites recorded in Area 3 can be found at sections 3.20 - 3.25 in this document.

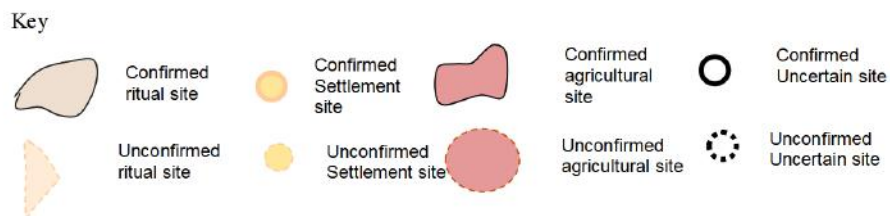
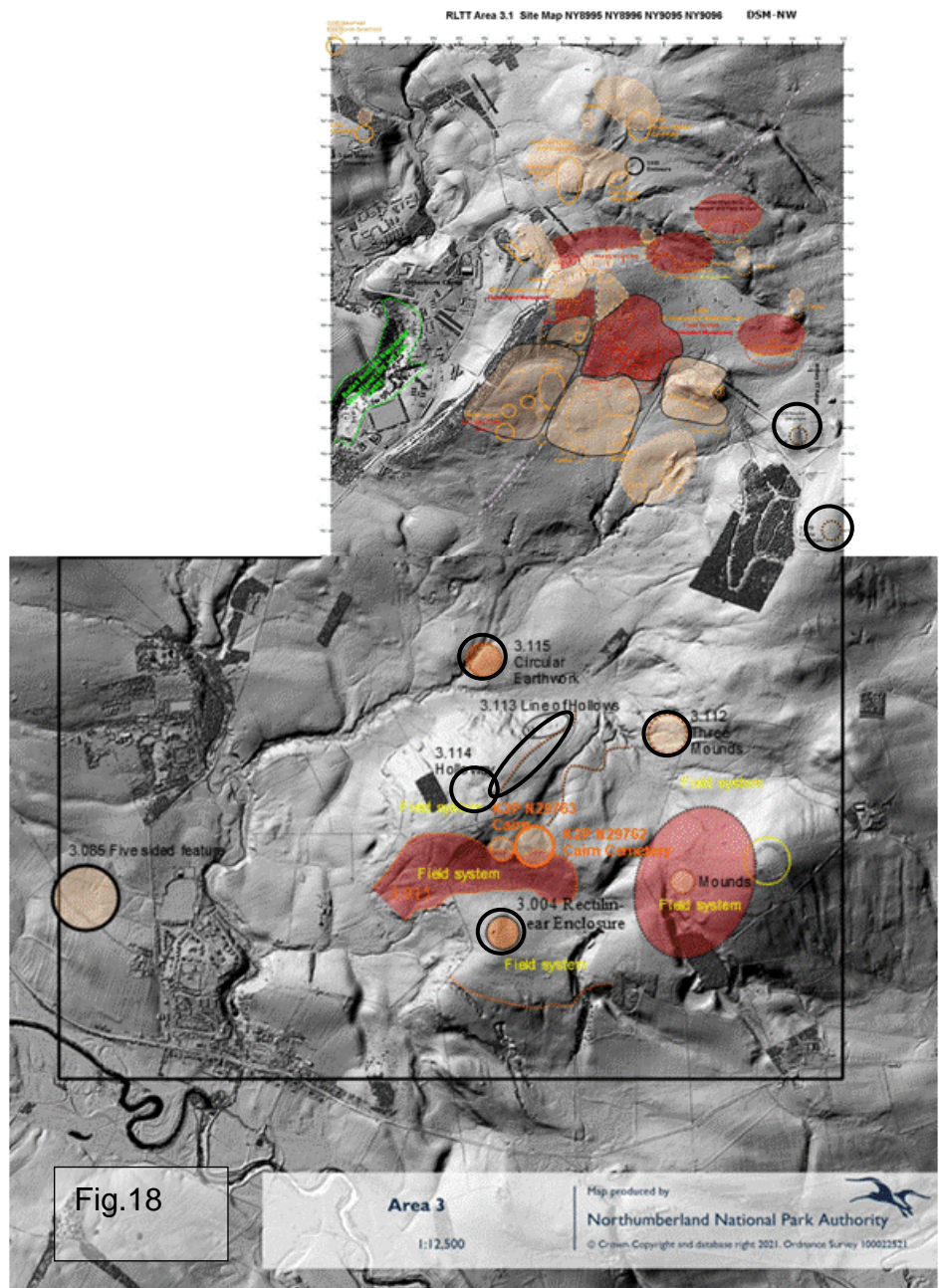
3.6 - Area 3 - BA Distribution of Sites: Lidar Overview



3.6.1 Figs 16 and 17 show all BA sites (Orange)) and Uncertain sites (Black) that were recorded on the interactive Geomap supplied as part of the RLTT project.

3.6.2 Fig 16, a digital surface model (DSM), shows surface features such as buildings, roads and forested areas. Fig 17, a digital terrain model (DTM), has these features removed. This gives an indication of the terrain as it was during the earlier study periods. Both lidar scans are lit with imaginary sunlight from the North West (NW).

3.7 Area 3 Bronze Age Distribution of Sites by Type: LIDAR Image



3.7.1 The distribution of sites clearly appears to show a division of sites in the BA. The sites appear to be divided between the concentration of sites in the north of Area 3 and those close to Fawdon Hill in the south. However those sites termed “uncertain” begin to occupy the areas that previously appeared blank in fig.15.

3.7.2 Sites attributed to the BA largely fall into six categories within Area 3:

1. Artefactual
2. Habitation/Settlement
3. Ritual
4. Agricultural
5. Route ways
6. Associated features.

3.7.3 Artefactual

There have been a limited number of finds within Area 3

3.7.3.1 A Bronze Age spearhead made of copper alloy was found in the 19th century on Daveyshiell Moor when a drain was being cut. The spearhead is now lost.

3.7.3.2 During the Todlaw excavation, Ex Lidar Truth, 2020 a flint broken arrow head thought to be Neolithic age and another flint object were found within a BA context.

3.7.3.3 At the Fawdon Hill site excavated in 2020 two examples of cup marked rocks were found within a BA cairn. One was at the centre of the cairn and the other at the periphery. The rocks may have been from an earlier period but were found in a BA context.

(See Fawdon Hill 2019 Final Interim report)

3.7.3.4 Paul Frodsham comments that:

“there is no need for the cup marks at Fawdon Hill to be earlier than BA. While complex rock art on bedrock is probably all Neolithic, there is no doubt that cup marks continued to be made into BA times and were often incorporated in burial cairns. Stan Beckinsall has speculated that making a cup marked stone and placing it in a cairn can perhaps be likened in some way to our tradition of placing flowers on graves at funerals.

3.7.4 Habitation

3.7.4.1 Paul Frodsham observes that:

“there is much to be done regarding chronology of the different sites lumped together in this project as 'BA'. The end of the BA c800BC was a very different world from the early BA c2200BC. Todlaw, with so many sites so close together, would be a great place to do some fieldwork to try and get a handle on the range of dates represented here. It is possible that some of the features are later than BA.”

3.7.5 Settlement

3.7.5.1 Low circular banks said to be the bases of the walls of round houses have been observed at four locations: Todlaw Pike- North and South, Nuns Moss and Carrick Heights. All are associated with field systems.

3.7.6 Ritual sites linked to funerary or ceremonial activities.

3.7.6.1 Ritual related:

Cremation Cemetery: A low walled circular enclosure designated a Scheduled Monument, said to be a Cremation Cemetery is located on Todlaw Pike.

3.7.6.2 Ring Cairn:

Approximately three hundred meters south of the cremation cemetery two features were excavated in 2020 and subsequently identified as ring cairns.

Paul Frodsham cautions that “the sites were only partially excavated,” and that he “would not class the large one as a 'ring cairn'” but is uncertain about its function.

3.7.6.3 Cairns and Cairn fields:

Individual cairns of varying sizes and groups of associated cairns that form cairn fields are found across Area 3. However they are found either in association with the identified ring cairns and cremation cemetery or in areas beyond the settlement/field system areas.

3.7.7 Agricultural sites in Area 3 take the form of clearly identifiable or less obvious field systems.

3.7.7.1 A good example of the former is to be found on Todlaw Pike. It is a scheduled monument and consists of readily identifiable on lidar and aerial imagery, small, irregular rectangular fields bounded by low earth walls. Within the field system the bases of at least three round houses have been identified.

3.7.7.2 Paul Frodsham recommends that the other three sites are less readily identifiable and should be investigated further. They all lie in areas that are not covered in cairns or cairn fields. If confirmed as being settlements or agricultural related sites they would go towards identifying a pattern within Area 3 that seems to indicate a division between ritual related area and those related to agriculture and settlement.

3.7.8 Route ways:

3.7.8.1 Two major route ways appear to bisect the area diagonally.

3.7.8.2 A possible hollow way (North - South) and an old drove road (now the modern range road) appear to divide the area into segments. The history of the drove road is a long one. Its origins are uncertain and may even be traced back to the BA.

3.7.8.3 For the purpose of this study the main contemporary track/holloway appears to divide the central area according to use. To the east lies the confirmed presence of an unenclosed

settlement and field system (coloured dark orange and outlined in black) is located centrally. On three other sides west, south four other probable (unconfirmed) settlements and field systems with nearby ritual sites.

3.7.9 Associated Features

3.7.9.1 The prominent isolated hill, Green Stichel, which lies immediately north of Area 3 is included as part of the study as a related feature and is discussed below. (See section 3.8 Green Stichel).

3.7.10 Summary

3.7.10.1 The sites with a ritual significance may be seen to occupy distinctly separate areas west of the track and south of the settlement and field system. Paul Frodsham comments that it should be remembered “that we can't necessarily be sure of clear distinctions between ‘agricultural’ and ‘ritual’ - some ‘clearance’ cairns may contain burials, and some cremations may even have been scattered over fields, or placed in field boundaries. It is a curious coincidence that burial mounds seem to have become redundant at about the time as permanent field systems were being created, in the middle BA. Or maybe it isn't a coincidence.”

3.7.10.2 The arrangement of sites elsewhere seem to follow a similar pattern with ritual sites located outside that used for settlement or agricultural purposes.

3.7.11 COMMENT1: The Todlaw sites, although classed as lots of different sites, are really all part of a single complex BA landscape - a detailed survey of this entire complex should be a priority (ideally along with other bits of BA landscape recorded from lidar - Darney Crag/Staniel Heugh (area 5), Horsley Wood (area1), and possibly a few others. (Paul Frodsham (PF) 2021)

3.7.12 COMMENT 2: Area 3 as a whole would benefit from further analysis to investigate the relationship between the distribution of settlement/agricultural and ritual sites within Area 3 and the wider study area. (PF)

3.7.13 COMMENT 3: There is much to be done regarding chronology of the different sites lumped together in this project as 'BA'. The end of the BA c800BC was a very different world from the early BA c2200BC. Todlaw, with so many sites so close together, would be a great place to do some fieldwork (PF) to try and get a handle on the range of dates represented here. It is possible that some of the features are later than BA. (Paul Frodsham 2021)

3.7.14 COMMENT 4: Observation regarding apparent shift of settlement focus from BA to IA; it will be interesting to see whether similar patterns can be identified elsewhere. (Paul Frodsham 2021)

3.8 Green Stichel Conundrum

3.8.1 Below Images related to “The Green Stichel Conundrum”.

3.8.2 Green Stichel serves as an example of the need to include the study of features and sites outside of, but possibly related to, features and sites within the study area. Further research on the relationship between Hare Cairn, the Cooper Stones and Green Stichel and possible links to Area 3 Todlaw sites are recommended by Paul Frodsham as part of a wider study of the landscape.

3.8.3 The images are included here to add context to the observations on the influence of various factors on the interpretation of their significance within the landscape as shown on the Lidar imagery below.

3.8.4 During the course of the investigation of sites as part of the Lidar landscapes Project it was noted that the Green Stichel Cairn Field is located some 200 meters south east of Green Stichel. It was also noted that on the summit of Green Stichel there is a cist like feature.

3.8.5 Further research revealed that Hare Cairn was large cairn that was quarried in the nineteenth century to provide material to build a stone wall nearby. Its remains also include a cist (not shown here). The site was visited along with the Cooper Stones, a group of large stones located approximately 200 meters south east of Hare Cairn.

3.8.6 Later, when researching Area 3 as part of the Lidar Landscapes Project, the features were mapped (see fig 19) and the sites located on lidar imagery (see fig 20).

3.8.7 A line drawn between Hare Cairn and Green Stichel Cairn Field also passed through the Cooper Stones and Green Stichel. The features at either end of this line are also approximately 200 meters apart.

Comment: This could well be coincidental but may be the subject of further research to explore links between this and other sites in the area.



Fig.19

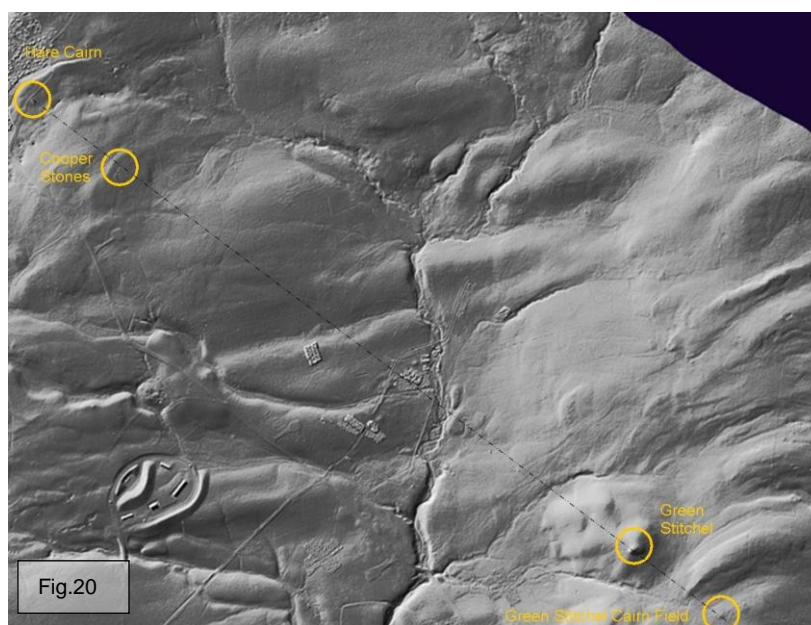


Fig.20

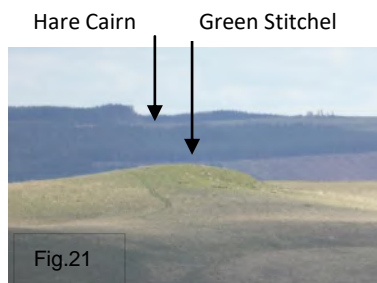


Fig.21

3.8.4 The prominent isolated knoll Green Stichel (arrowed), was probably named after the colour of the grass covering the summit area. This is distinctly different from the surrounding straw coloured grasses.



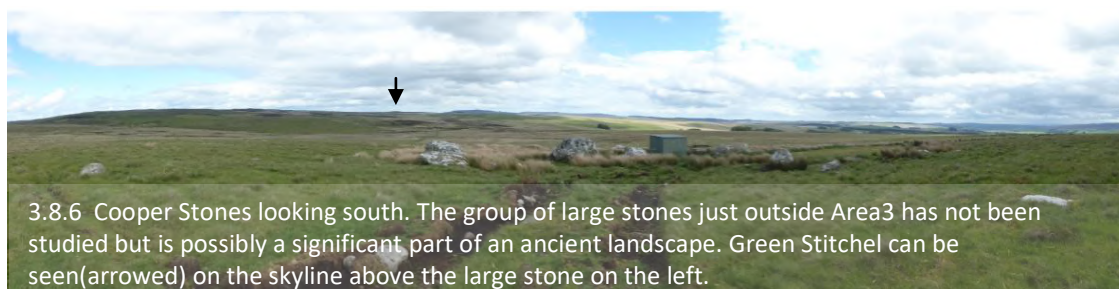
Fig.22

3.8.5 A possible "cist" on the summit of Green Stichel. Thought to be the result of military earth works it may be earlier in origin. The prominence of the hill and the gradient of the slope to its summit can be judged with reference to the figure arrowed.



Fig.23

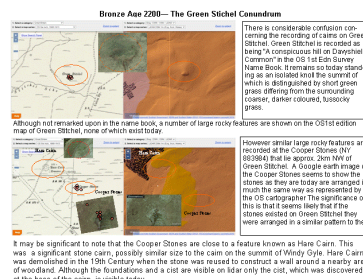
3.8.6 One of the Cairns at "Green Stichel Cairns" (3.054) which, confusingly, is located in Area 3 but not on Green Stichel (arrowed) which is visible in the image above.



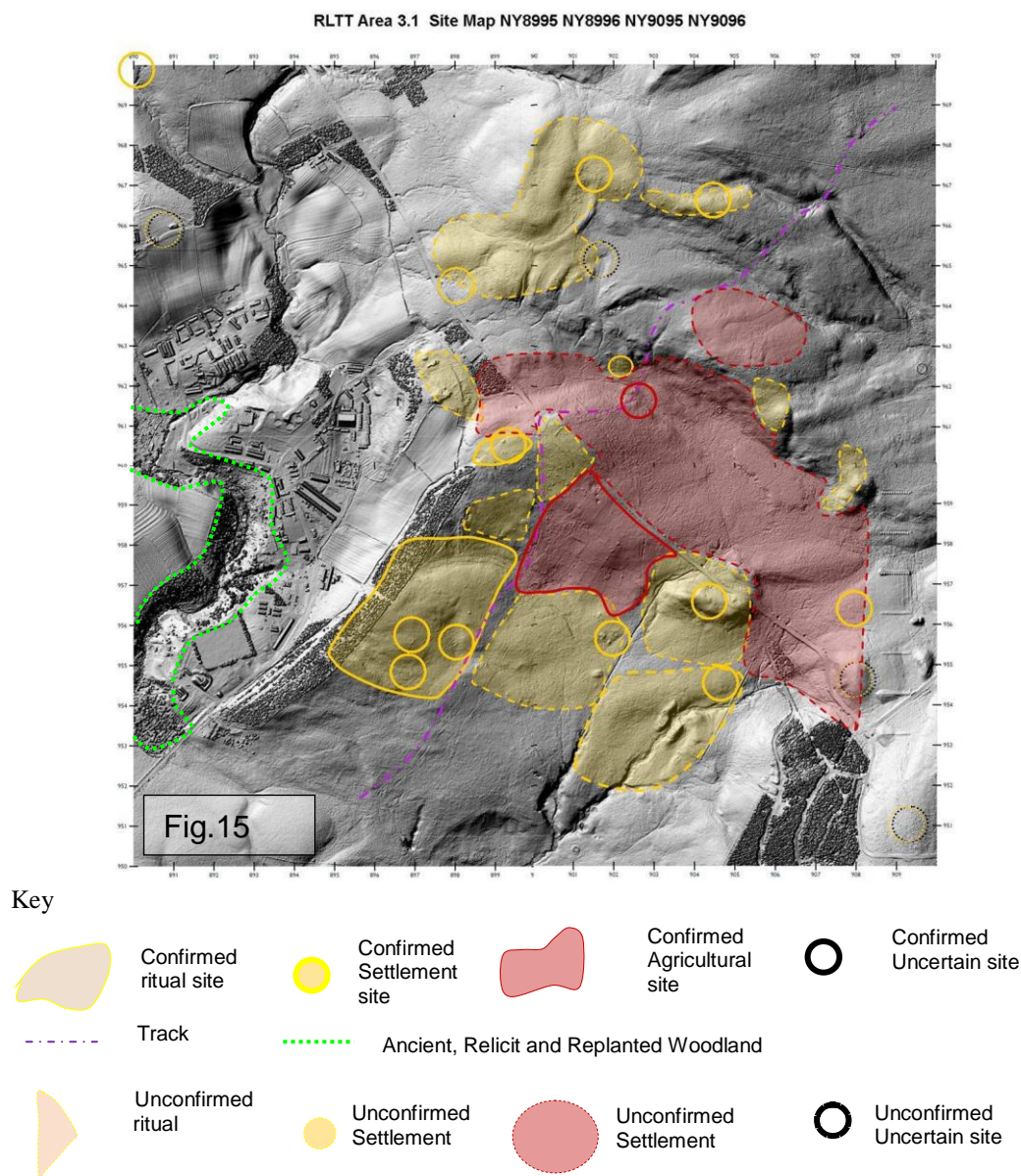
3.8.6 Cooper Stones looking south. The group of large stones just outside Area3 has not been studied but is possibly a significant part of an ancient landscape. Green Stichel can be seen(arrowed) on the skyline above the large stone on the left.



3.8.7 Site 2 Todlaw. Project members outline the extent of the ring cairn. Investigations suggest the dimensions of the Todlaw sites in Area 3 are related to those of the cairn that once stood at the Hare Cairn site.



3.9 Area 3 North BA Distribution of Sites: DSM Lidar Overlay Image

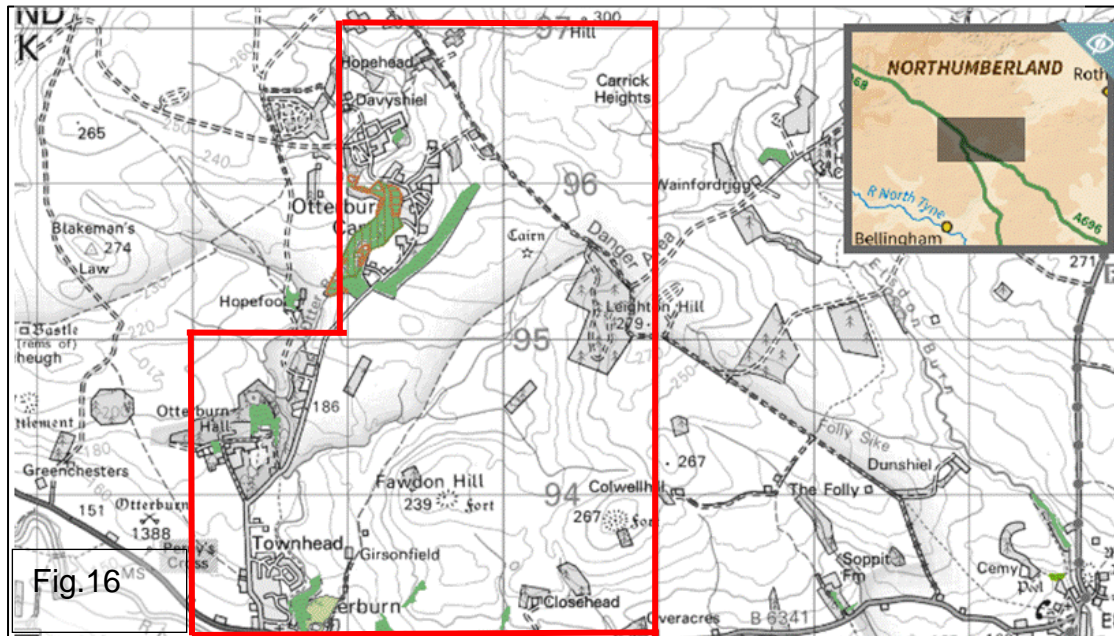


3.9.1 Ritual and Agricultural Sites Example Grouping

3.9.1 Ritual sites associated with confirmed ritual features: substantial cairns, ring cairns and a cremation cemetery are grouped closely around three sides of the confirmed unenclosed settlement and field system. Some of the unconfirmed ritual sites are close to unconfirmed agricultural sites whilst others appear to be associated sites. Absence of evidence of agricultural sites is not necessarily evidence of absence.

3.9.2 The area occupied by Otterburn Camp that was constructed post its creation in 1911 is similarly lacking in prehistoric sites, probably the result of construction work.

3.10 Area 3 Ancient Replanted Woodland



3.10.1 Across Area 3 there are areas of woodland some of which is recent plantation but others are older in origin (Fig.16). The valley of the Otterburn, immediately west of the camp and up to Hopehead is extensively covered by ancient, relict or replanted woodland. This area may have been continuously covered since prehistoric times and as such may be a subject of further investigation. For example Denehead Wood, immediately west of Otterburn Camp and Todlaw

3.10.2 Area 3 BA sites may have been retained as a source of timber or of ritual significance and may have survived whilst surrounding land changed as agricultural practices developed. This would be more noticeable in the south of Area 3.

3.10.3 COMMENT: Area 3 has other areas of woodland that may be a subject of further investigation. The Cocwudu Project, conducted over the course of the past few years by the Bernician Studies Group, explored the historical landscape between the Rivers Coquet, Font and Wansbeck and may provide a useful point of reference for further study in Redesdale.

3.10.3 The Cocwudu Project defined ancient woodlands as follows:

Eminent ecologist Dr Angus Lunn points out that woods are said to be ancient if they have had continuous tree cover since AD 1600, and semi-natural if trees have arisen spontaneously by natural regeneration. Such woods are now called Ancient Semi-Natural Woodlands. Dr Lunn suggests that a total of 16 species of small ground-level plants typical of lowland woods might indicate an Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland.

3.11 Area 3 North - BA Distribution of Sites: Aerial Base Image

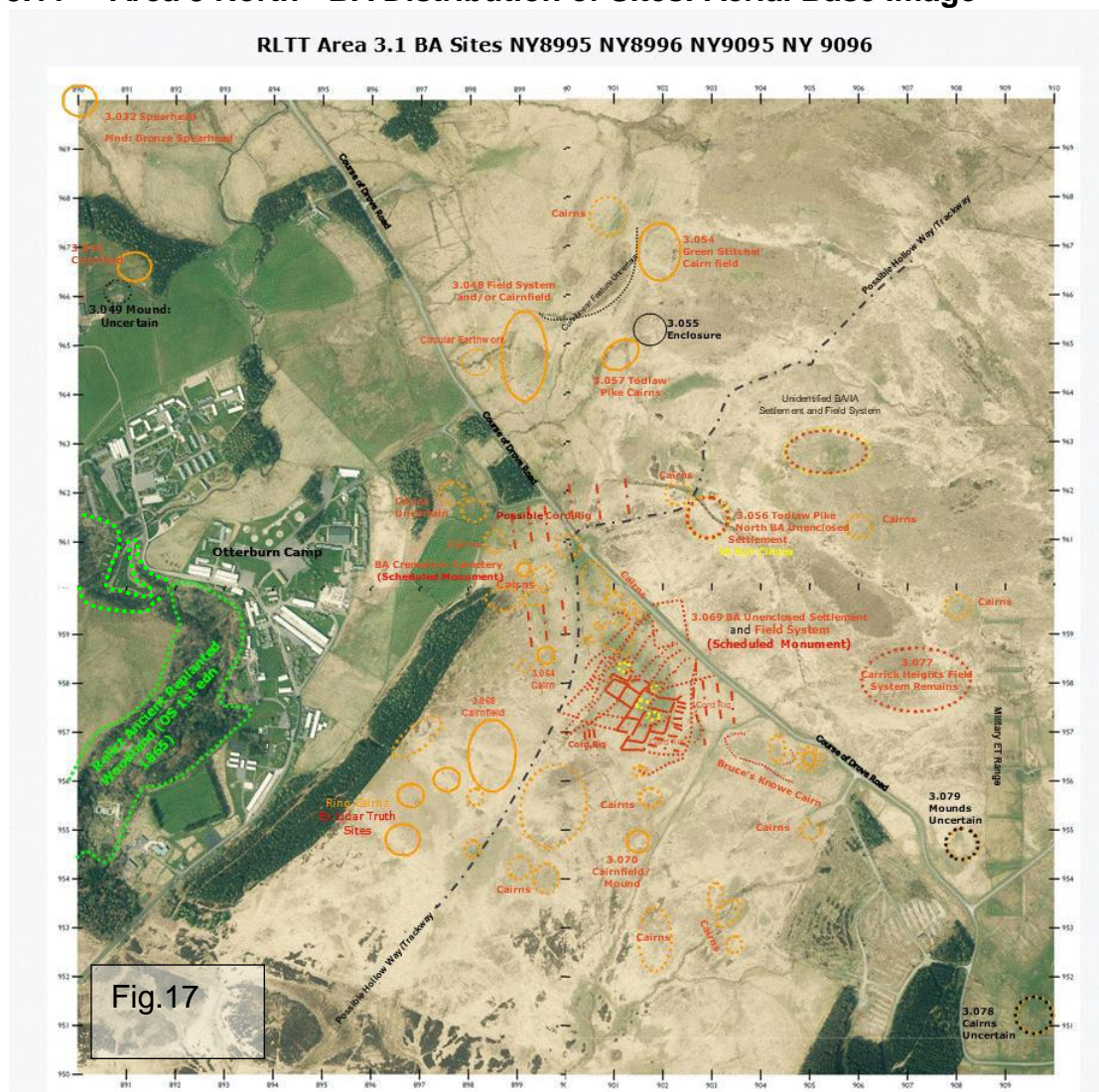


Fig.17

3.11.1 In this image (fig.17) the sites from fig 15 and 18 have been copied to overlay the composite aerial image.

3.11.2 The variation in vegetation types (Fig.19) and boundaries (Fig.18) seem to be related to the activities under taken in a particular location or to past land use. Paul Frodsham comments that he has noticed elsewhere that the presence of ancient field systems can still influence vegetation today - probably because they are more attractive than surrounding ground for sheep which consequently munch the grass while making deposits that help to keep the ground fertile.

Fig.18 Todlaw Field System

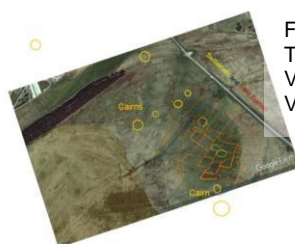
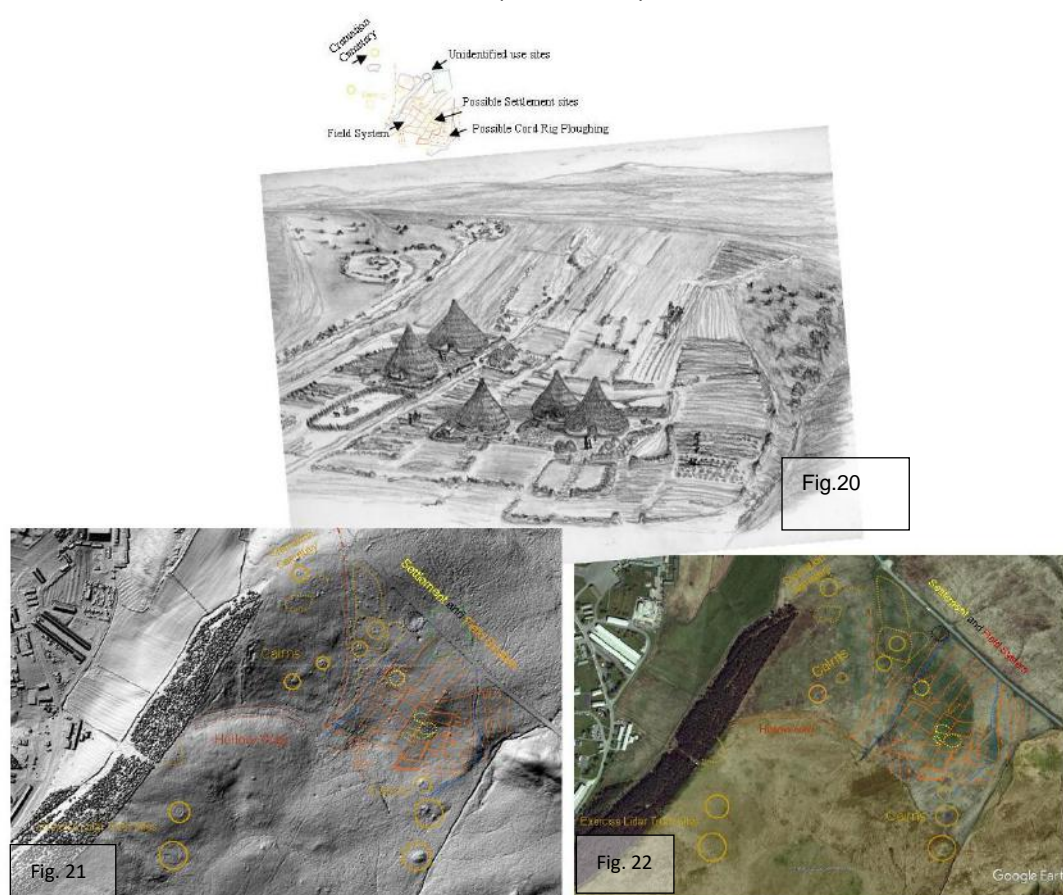


Fig.19
Todlaw
Vegetation
Variations

3.12 Distribution of Sites: Related to Function and Vegetation Type

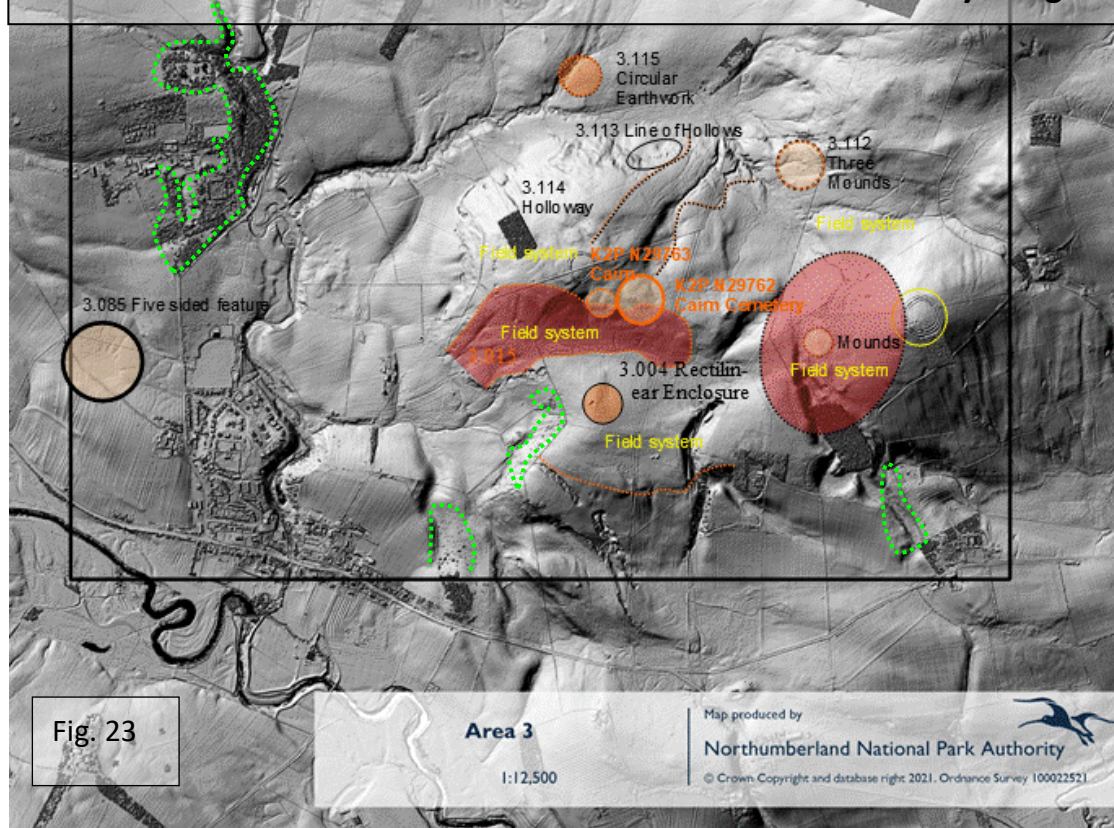
3.12.1 Bronze Age Unenclosed settlement and field system on Todlaw Pike (Otterburn).



3.12.2 Figure 20, an illustration by Keith Cooper that visualises the settlement and field system as it may have appeared during the late BA. It is based on the evidence gained from Lidar and aerial imagery combined with that contained in the HER which was based on observations made when field walking the site.

3.12.3 It is important to note that not all the sites may have been in use at the same time however the HER reports the existence of two houses with the possibility of more. The field system was made up of a series of small square or rectangular plots with stony lynchets and banks around the edges. A cairn field with up to 50 clearance cairns, some of which may contain burials can be observed immediately to the west of the field system.

3.13 Area 3 South BA Distribution of Sites: DSM Lidar Overlay Image



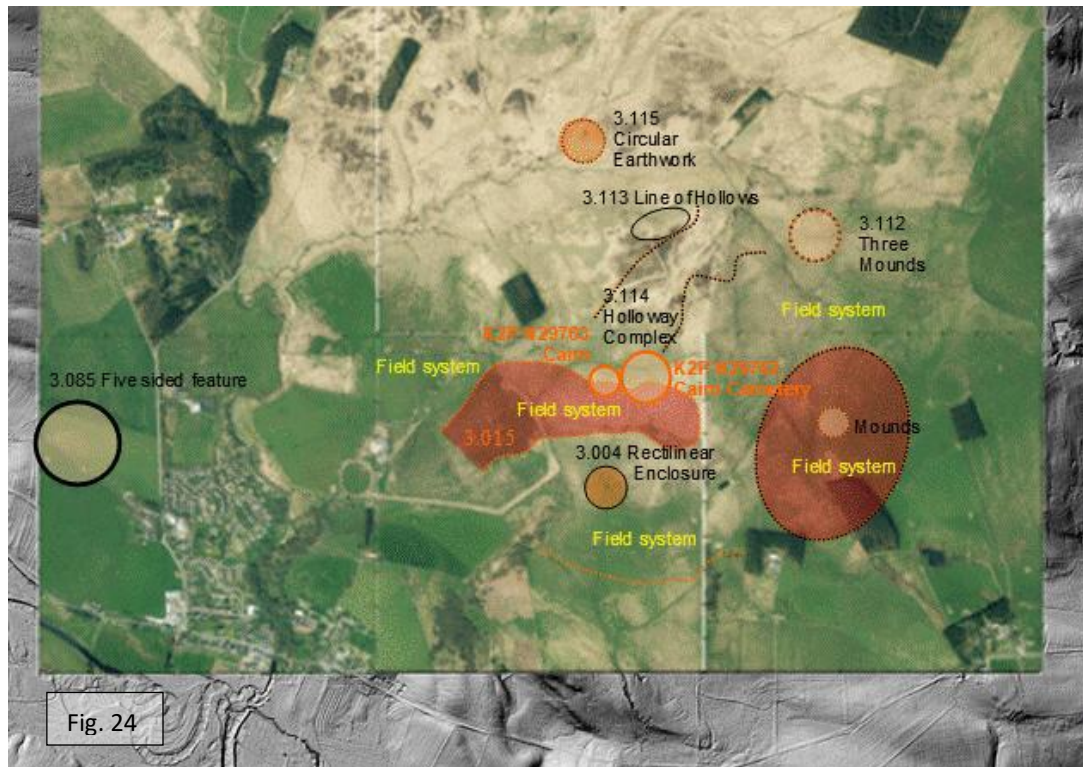
Key ○ BA sites ○ Uncertain Sites ○ BA/Uncertain (Orange Black) — Ancient, Relict and Replanted Woodland

3.12.1 Area 3 South Lidar scan reveals apparently less evidence of habitation, agricultural and ritual sites. However as was pointed out earlier absence of evidence is not necessarily evidence of absence. In a study of the circular feature 3.11.5, undertaken in relation to this report, evidence of a field system and possible ritual sites was discovered. This followed a pattern observed in Area 3 North and may be an indicator that Area 3 South was more occupied than appears to be the case at present.

3.12.2 Excavations at two cairn sites on the slope of Fawdon Hill found them to have possibly been used as ritual sites. An extensive Holloway complex leads to the area in which the cairns, along with a later hill fort, are situated. In at least three other areas there are mounds that may be associated with ritual activities.

3.12.3 At two sites earthworks that may have been settlements have been identified along with associated field systems.

3.13 - Area 3 South - Aerial Imagery - BA Distribution of Sites and Associated Vegetation Cover



3.13.1 In this aerial view comparison of sites and their relationship to the natural vegetation are less clear than in fig 9. However there is a noticeable difference in vegetation colour between the greener areas to the south west and east and the northern light straw coloured upland area. Viewed in general terms the central northern upland area is generally straw coloured but the sites identified as being earthworks or mounds are greener.

3.13.2 There is less evidence of BA activity in the area but this may be accounted for since the lower greener area shows more sign of widespread cultivation during subsequent periods up to the present day. Evidence of this is in the form of rig and furrow ploughing.

3.13.3 The two areas identified as being BA field systems (shaded brown) were probably more extensive at the time but evidence has probably been erased by subsequent ploughing.

3.13.4 The two confirmed BA sites, a cairn and cairn cemetery, occupy an area between the field system and hollow way areas and a possible enclosure/settlement. This seems to conform to the configuration of the settlements in the northern section of area 3 where there appears to be a separation of everyday life in the settlement and in the fields from the rituals associated with death.

3.13.5 Some unusual features discovered during the excavation of the Fawdon Hill Cairns are shown in figs.24 and 25 below. Of particular note is

the inclusion of apparently shaped, cup marked, slabs within the structure of one of the cairns. The incorporation of items from an earlier period, in this case the possibility that the slabs were Neolithic in origin, ties in with a theory discussed in one of a series of lectures that were part of the Belief in the North East Project currently being run by Durham University.

3.13.6 The hollow way complex leading as it does from the area of the Field system to the area of the cairns is as yet unexplained. The definition of a hollow way (KttP) is: "A track that runs through a cutting below the level of the surrounding land, often through prolonged usage." Whether that prolonged use was for ritual or agricultural purposes or both is not known. However another possible hollow way was identified in Area 3 North between the unenclosed settlement and field system and a cairn field and other sites of possible ritual significance.

3.14 Fawdon Hill Excavations 2019 -2021

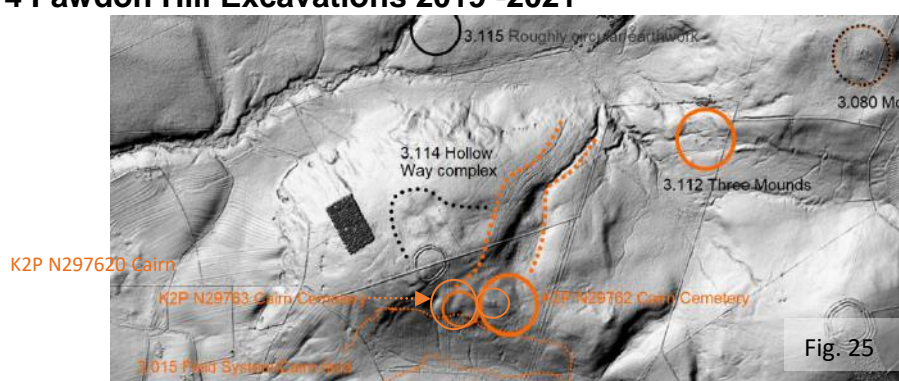


Fig. 25 shows the location of two recently (2019 and 2021) excavated sites in Area 3 South K2P N29762 and K2P N29763.

3.14.1 **Bronze Age cairn cemetery** (see fig.25 K2P N29762), south- east of Fawdon Hill (Otterburn).

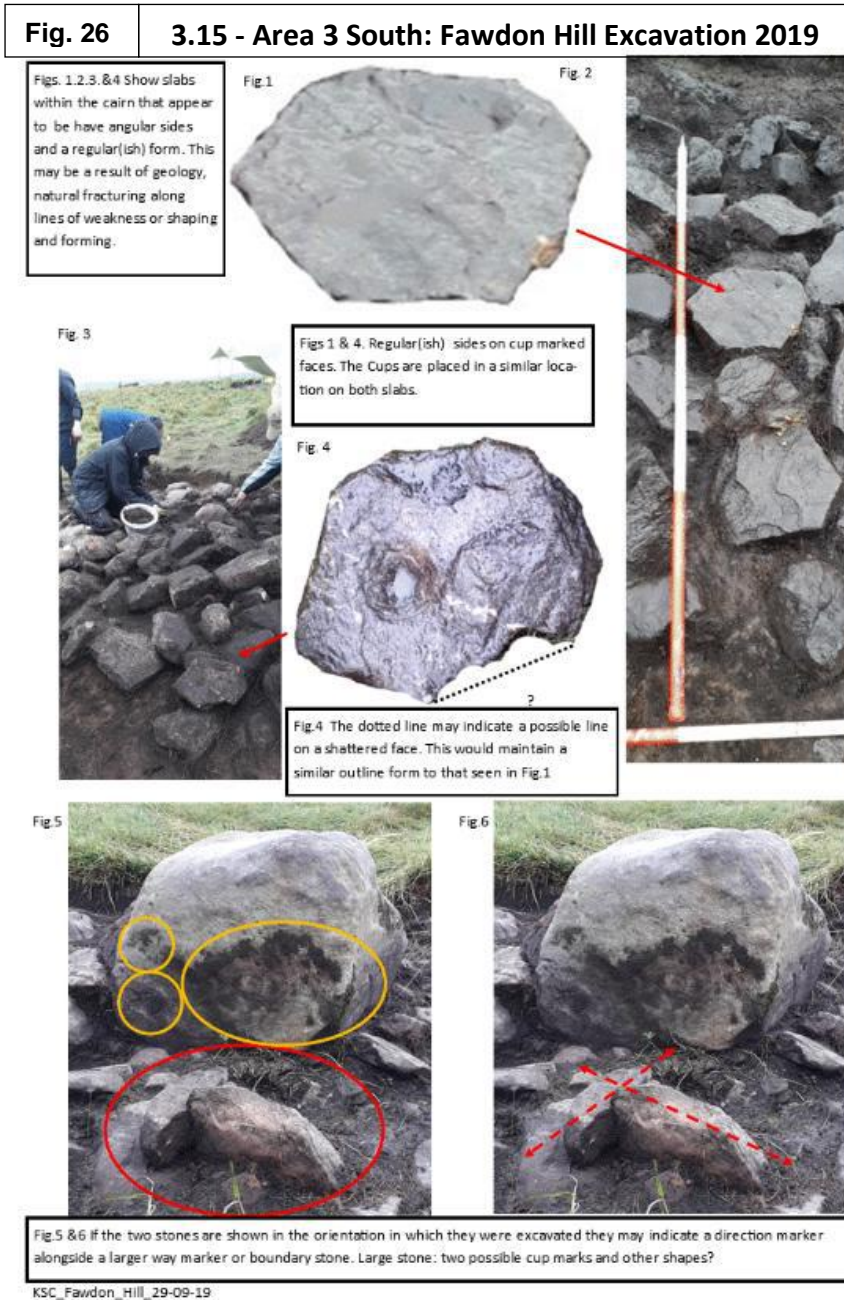
The remains of a probable Bronze Age cairn cemetery have been identified during field survey and trial trenching in 2019. It comprises of a cluster of about 30 possible cairns, linear banks and stony mounds surmounting a natural knoll, located approximately 130 meters SE of Fawdon Hill (KttP N29763). A cairn was excavated in 2021 but the results have yet to be published at the time of writing.

3.15 Bronze Age Cairn, Fawdon Hill (Otterburn)

3.15.1 The remains of a second Bronze Age cairn were surveyed and the subject of trial trenching in 2019. This has subsequently been followed by an excavation of the site in 2021. The report on which is yet to be published.

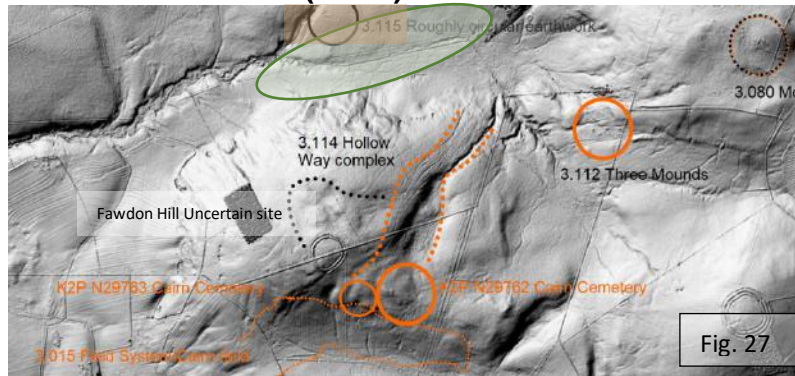
3.15.2 The site, K2P N297620 (see fig.24 and 25), is the northernmost mound in a cluster of possible cairns on a natural knoll about 130m south-east of Fawdon Hill and may be part of an enclosed Bronze Age cemetery. The overall dimensions of the cairn prior to removal of the stones forming its mound were 2.85 m (maximum width E-W) x 3.25 m (maximum length N-S) x 0.27 m (maximum depth excavated of upper stone layer). Two cup-marked

stones were discovered in the upper cairn material, both bearing single cup marks on a flat surface. Beneath the upper layer of stone material a possible structure forming the perimeter of an inner cairn was observed, comprising flatter rocks relatively level to one another, arranged in a sub circular plan and measuring approximately 1.32 m (E-W) x 0.90 m (N-S). Although this feature was left un-excavated, its location and character most likely indicate the position of a grave of likely Bronze Age date. Two possible post settings and a flagged surface were also observed.



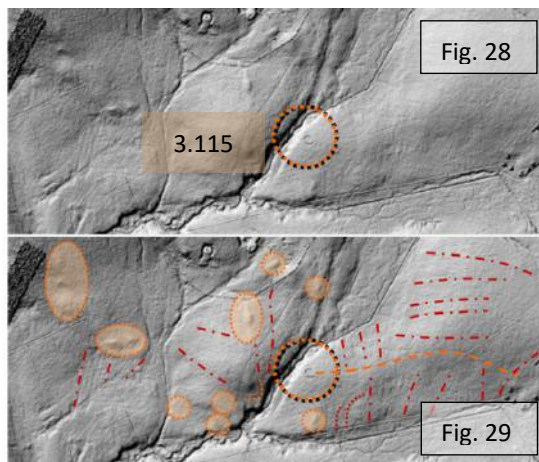
3.15.3 Illustrated above (fig.26) are examples of interesting finds from the Fawdon Hill excavation. The discovery of cup marked hexagonal slabs that seemed to have been deliberately placed on the cairn, one centrally and the other at the edge of the cairn. Nearby was a larger boulder which may have cup marks on one face and a "T" arrangement of stones which may or may not be contemporary.

3.16 Area 3 - South Related Features Circular Earthwork (3.115)



3.16.1 Figs. 26, 27 and 28; Curiously the shallow valley area (shaded light green) in the centre of Area 3 South remains largely devoid of sites apart from site 3.115 (shaded light orange). This is a circular or “C” shaped feature on a ridge at the confluence of two streams which is classified as being of uncertain origin.

3.16.2 An initial analysis of this site seems to indicate the presence of a cord rig field system and a landscape containing mounds/cairns and evidence of ploughing (fig.28) that fit in with a pattern of settlement discussed in section 3.7.

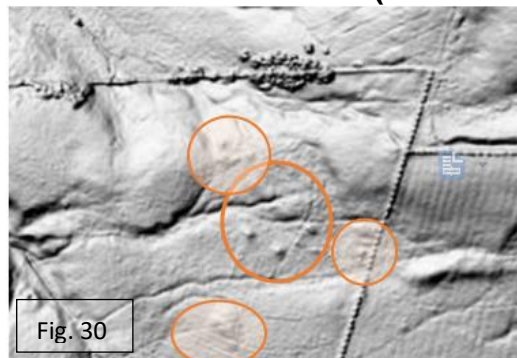


Circular Earthwork

3.16.2.1 The circular earthwork (fig.27) appears to be “C” shaped but more than that it also appears to be within a field system with a number of unidentified mounds close by (fig.28).

3.16.2.2 The origin of the mounds is uncertain but the arrangement conforms to the pattern of a settlement and field system accompanied by cairns/mounds that is found in other sites classified as being Bronze Age.

3.17 Three Mounds Site (Uncertain Site 3.112)



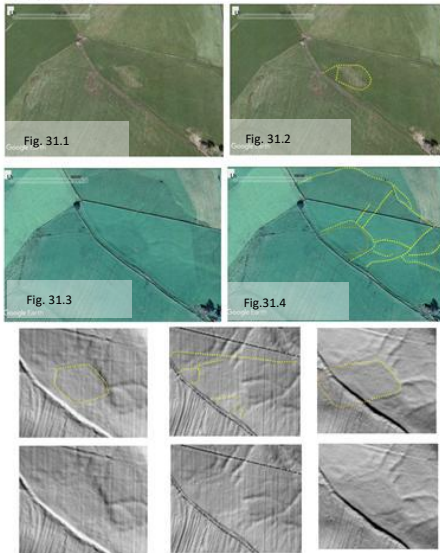
3.17.1 Three Mounds (Uncertain Site 3.112) west of Colwellhill Farm.

The so called “Three Mounds” site may, in fact, be a four mound grouping surrounded by further individual or small groups, three of which are highlighted in fig.30.

3.17.2 As the site is classified as “Uncertain” in date further comment on the site can be found in section 3.16.

3.18 Area 3 Five Sided Feature (Uncertain Site 3.085)

Site No: 3.085
 NY 88100 9.3670
 height: 18.0m
 Period: Uncertain
 Type: Unclassified
 Unusual 5-metre feature (1300m max diameter) that has a series of irregular shallow channels radiating from it.
 NLS Map & LIDAR: [NLS](#)
 K2P:
 location: England
 US site no: 889345
 © 2017 NLS AG. Below are shown a number of interpretations of the uncertain feature and the radiating "channels". The unannotated tiles are to be used for comparison.



Figs- 32.1 -6

Curious Five Sided Feature (Uncertain Site)

3.18.1 The intriguingly named site observed at the extreme western boundary of Area 3 has similarities with the feature observed in figs.33 and 34, immediately north of the hill fort on Fawdon Hill.

3.18.2 As can be seen in the aerial (figs.31.1 -4) and lidar images (fig, 32.1-6) the site appears to have central, flat, rectangular area with curved corners (playing card shape?). There are a number of possible track like linear features that extend from the perimeter of the feature in a number of directions is classified as "Uncertain" in date. further comment on the site can be found in section 3.19.

Curious Five Sided Feature (Uncertain Site)

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3.19 Area 3 Fawdon Hill (Uncertain Site(Unclassified))

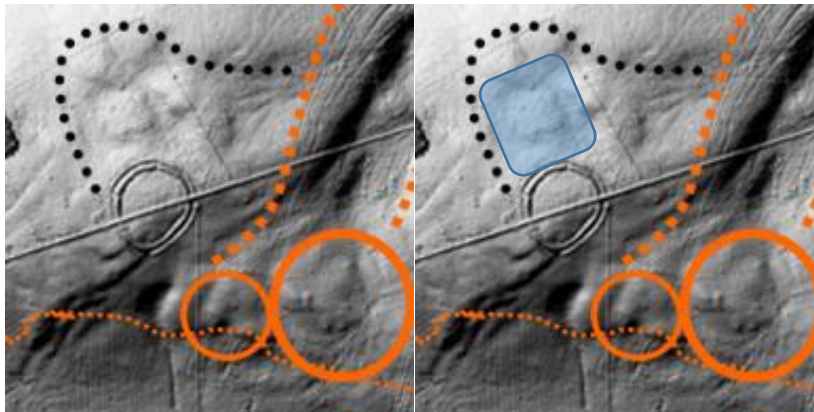


Fig. 33

Fig. 34

3.19.1 The Fawdon Hill (Uncertain Site) figs. 33 and 34 have similarities with the feature observed in figs 31 and 32, immediately north of the hill fort on Fawdon Hill.

3.19.2 As can be seen in figs 33 and 34 the aerial and lidar images the site appears to have central, flat, rectangular area with curved corners (playing card shape?). There are a number of less obvious possible track like linear features that extend from the perimeter of the feature in a number of directions.

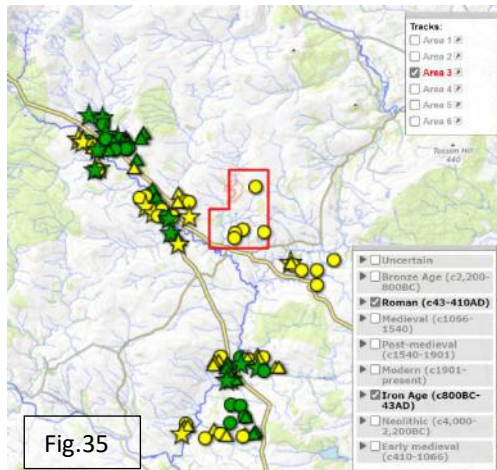
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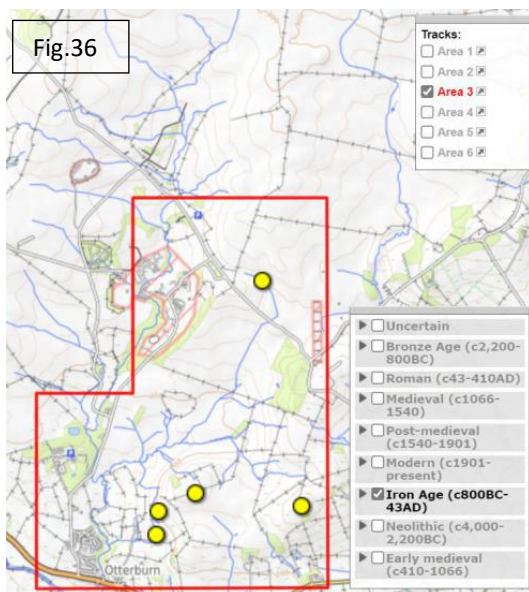
3.20 Area 3 – Iron Age/Romano British Distribution of Sites: Area Overview

Iron Age (800BC - 43AD) /Roman 43 - 410 AD

3.20.1 Distribution of Sites within the project area: Overview



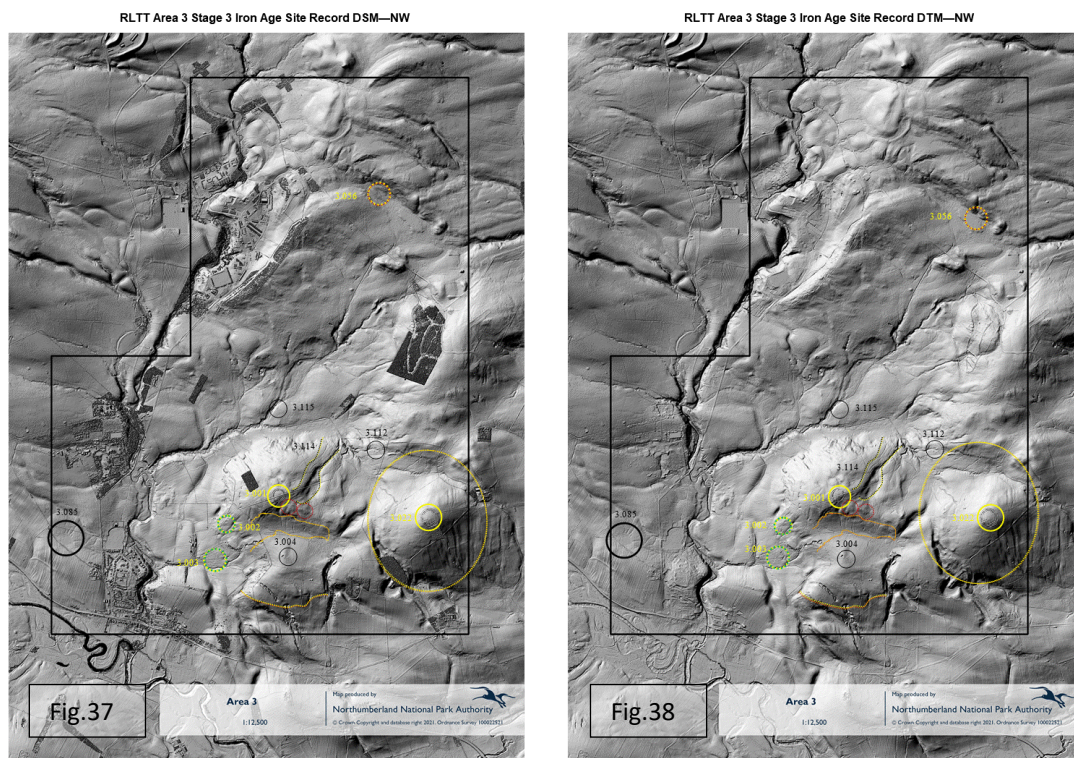
3.20.1 As shown in fig 12, sites from the Iron Age (IA) within the six study areas sites are mainly distributed along the course of the A68 corridor. Only Areas 3 and 4 are located along side and to the north of the B634. This road links Redesdale to Coquetdale via the village of Elsdon. Area 3 is outlined in red. There are no specifically Roman sites recorded in study areas 3 and 4 although there are two Romano British sites in Area 3.



3.20.2 Within Area 3; four sites are located in the southern portion of Area 3 three of which are close to the intersection of major route ways. Two of these sites are prominent Hill Forts on Fawdon and Camp Hills. Both are linked to previous BA settlements and field systems. The other two are recorded as being IA/RB settlements.

3.20.3 The remaining site in Area 3 occupies a location in the northern most portion of the area previously recorded as being one of the BA settlement and field systems in the Todlaw area.

3.21 - Area 3- IA/RB Distribution of Sites: Lidar Overview



Key
 BA sites (Orange/Black) IA sites (Yellow/Black) Roman (Green/Black) Uncertain Sites (Black/Black)
 BA/Uncertain=Orange/Black IA/U =Yellow/ Black IA/R =Yellow/Green

3.21.1 Figs 37 and 38 show all IA sites (Yellow), Romano British sites are shown as Yellow/Green and IA/ BA sites as Yellow/Orange. Uncertain sites are included as black or black/yellow, black/orange accordingly.

3.21.2 Fig 37 a digital surface model (DSM) shows surface features such as buildings, roads and forested areas. Fig 38 a digital terrain model (DTM) has these features removed. This gives an indication of the terrain as it was during the earlier study periods. Both lidar scans are lit with imaginary sunlight from the North West (NW).

3.21.3 The distribution of sites clearly appears to show a division in the use of sites between the sites in the south of Area 3 close to Fawdon Hill and Camp Hill and those in the north in the area of Todlaw. However those sites termed “uncertain” begin to occupy the areas that previously appeared blank.

3.21.4 Curiously the bowl shaped area in the centre of the study area remains largely devoid of sites apart from site 3.115 a circular or “C” shaped feature on a ridge at the confluence of two streams. (See Area 3 South Related Features P27)

COMMENT: This area would benefit from further analysis. A study of site 3.115 Circular Earthwork (see figs. 28 and 29) revealed the possible presence of a field system and nearby unidentified earthworks..

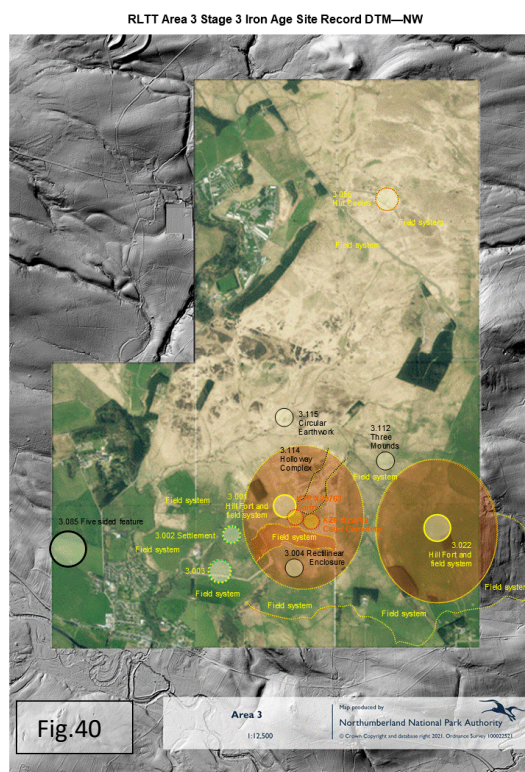
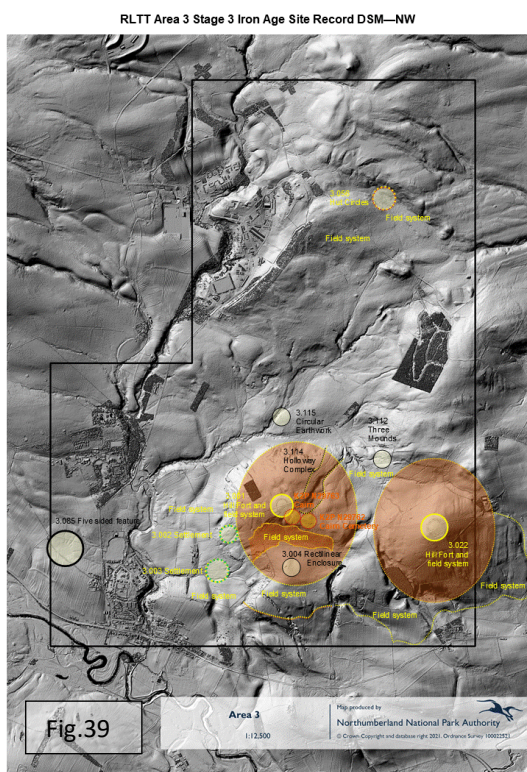
3.21.5 The area occupied by Otterburn Camp that was constructed post its creation in 1911 is similarly lacking in prehistoric sites, probably the result of construction work in the barracks area.

3.21.6 The valley of the Otterburn, immediately west of the camp and up to Hopehead is extensively covered by ancient relict woodland.

COMMENT: This area may have been continuously covered since prehistoric times and as such may be a subject of further investigation.

3.22 Area 3 Iron Age (IA) Distribution of Type of Sites:

3.22- Area 3- IA Distribution of Sites: Lidar/Aerial Overview



IA Site Overview

3.22.1 The focus of settlement within Area 3 appears to have shifted from being largely in the North of the area during the BA to the south of the area during the IA.

3.22.2 In the north of Area 3 there appears to be a continued presence in the area surrounding the site of the unenclosed BA settlement and field system.

3.22.3 In the south the most noticeable IA archaeological features to appear in the landscape are the two hill forts on Fawdon Hill and Camp Hill. The latter is the largest defended settlement in the area and occupies a dominant, hill that rises to a height of 267m. It was defended by three large ramparts and ditches and within the enclosure are four circular depressions that are probably the remains of timber round houses.

3.22.4 The summit of Fawdon Hill contains the remains of an Iron Age hill fort, also known as a defended settlement. The hill fort was defended by a ditch and a rampart, which can be seen today as earthworks. A circular bank of earth is all that remains of a wooden round house inside the hill fort. Outside the hill fort, cord rig cultivation marks the areas farmed by the Iron Age people who lived inside the hill fort.

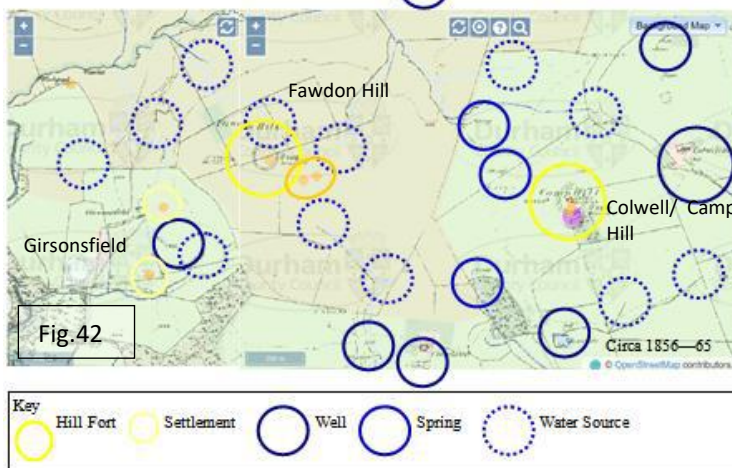
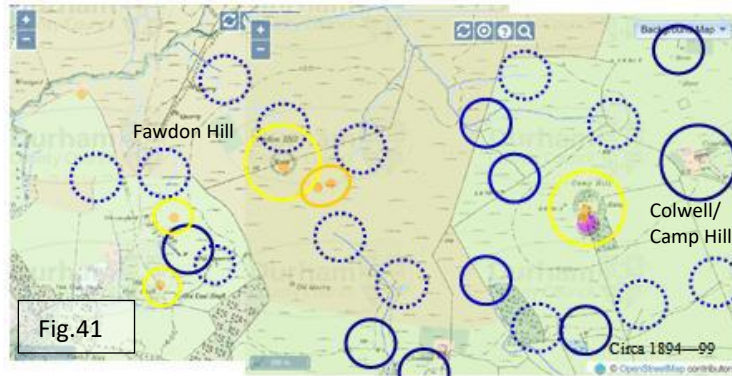
3.22.5 The remains of a Roman period farmstead lie overlooking the Otter Burn at Girsionfield. The enclosure is sub-circular and surrounded by a bank of earth and stones. The entrance is through the south-west side and inside there are two hut circles

3.22.6 East of Girsionfield the remains of a Roman period native settlement have been recorded. Later coal workings and field drainage have partly obliterated the settlement.

3.23 - Area 3 South - IA Distribution of Sites: Wells and Springs

3.23.1 Water was as it is now an important resource and the area surrounding the two hill forts and the two settlements seems to be particularly rich in water sources in the form of springs and wells.

Water Sources



Colwellhill Wells



Circa 1856 - 65 One Well

Circa 1896 - 99 Three Wells

3.24.6 As stated above it seems likely that the presence of a well or wells, notable for their cool water gave rise to the name after which the hill took its name. However in the past Fawdon hill has also been called both Camp Hill and Colwell Hill. This confusing situation should be taken into consideration when researching historic accounts of the area.

COMMENT If the Hill Forts were to withstand attack they would presumably require a significant number of defenders who would require food and water. If as has also been said livestock were secured within the perimeter they would also need to be fed and watered. As the permanent water supplies were outside the defended area this would seem to once again raise the question of the purpose of the hill forts. Were they defended settlements or did they serve another purpose?

What's in a name?

3.23.2 Fig. 41 The site of the larger hill fort has been named on OS maps since 1856 -65 as "Camp Hill" and the nearby farm as Colwellhill. It seems entirely possible that the hill itself was also known as "Col-well Hill" and that it was named "Colwell" after the profusion of Cool Wells or Springs in the area.

3.23.3 Fig 42 A closer study of the area revealed that both hill forts had access to a number of water sources proportionate to their size, five in the case of Fawdon Hill and ten in the case of Camp Hill. The two settlements at Girsonsfield were close to two water sources.

3.23.4 It is noted that Colwell Hill farm had (as did most other settlements) a well which was recorded on the OS 1st edition map of 1856 -65. The 1894 - 99 editions recorded three wells at the farm.

3.23.5 The profusion of wells seems to be unique to the area. This may have been significant in the selection of the hills for the sighting of forts or camps. It may be of interest to note that neither hill to site has a well within their boundaries.

3.24 IA/RB/Present Day Landscape



Fig.45



Fig.46

3.24.7 Fig.45 shows an imagined Iron Age landscape viewed from the, by then, probably disused Todlaw site. Fig.46 shows archaeological excavations taking place in 2019 at the same site as part of Exercise Lidar Truth which was held in conjunction with the Revitalising Redesdale Landscapes Partnership. These two images complete the landscapes development over 10000 years from the early Mesolithic hunter gatherers to the settled Iron Age farmers.

3.25 IA Site Records

Camp Hill Iron Age hillfort

Site No: 3.022

NY 90720 93850

Height: 264m

Period: Iron Age (c800BC-43AD)

Type: Hillfort

Earthworks of Camp Hill Iron Age hillfort visible on lidar imagery .K2P: [9740](#)

The [earthwork](#) remains of an [Iron Age](#) settlement stand on the summit of Camp Hill. The settlement is roughly circular in shape and is protected by three large [ramparts](#) and three ditches. There are two entrances into the settlement, on the north-east and south-west sides. The south-west entrance is staggered and has extra defences to protect it. Inside the enclosure are at least four circular depressions that are probably where [prehistoric](#) timber round houses once stood.

Fawdon Hill Iron Age hillfort

Site No: 3.001

NY 89630 93980

Height: 237m

Period: Iron Age (c800BC-43AD)

Type: Hillfort

Well preserved ramparts visible on lidar imagery.NLS Map & LIDAR: [NLS](#)

K2P: [8284](#)

The summit of Fawdon Hill contains the remains of an [Iron Age hillfort](#), also known as a defended settlement. The hillfort was defended by a ditch and a [rampart](#), which can be seen today as [earthworks](#). A circular bank of earth is all that remains of a wooden [round house](#) inside the hillfort. Outside the hillfort, [cord rig](#) cultivation marks the areas farmed by the [Iron Age](#) people who lived inside the [hillfort](#). This is a [Scheduled Monument](#) protected by law.

Reference number: **N8284**

Three mounds, origin unknown

Site No: 3.112

NY 90330 94310

Height: 215m

Period: Uncertain

Type: Mounds

Three mounds clearly visible on lidar imagery with no indication of date or function.

NLS Map & LIDAR: [NLS](#)

Holloway complex

Site No: 3.113
NY 89850 94150
Height: 227m
Period: Uncertain
Type: Earthwork
Complex of well-developed holloways visible on lidar imagery.
NLS Map & LIDAR: [NLS](#)

Circular earthwork, origin unknown

Site No: 3.115
NY 89620 94610
Height: 190m
Period: Uncertain
Type: Unclassified
Roughly circular earthwork visible on lidar imagery.
NLS Map & LIDAR: [NLS](#)

Rectilinear enclosure

Site No: 3.004
NY 89700 93550
Height: 225m
Period: Uncertain
Type: Enclosure
Rectilinear enclosure 30 x 20m visible on lidar imagery.
NLS Map & LIDAR: [NLS](#)

IA/RB settlement at Girsonfield.

Site No: 3.002
NY 89240 93800
Height: 198m
Period: Iron Age (c800BC-43AD)
Type: Settlement
Lidar imagery shows at least 2 roundhouses overlooking an enclosed yard or paddock to the east, with possible smaller enclosure to the north.
NLS Map & LIDAR: [NLS](#)
K2P: [8298](#) The remains of a Roman period farmstead lie overlooking the Otter Burn at Girsonfield. The enclosure is subcircular and surrounded by a bank of earth and stones. The entrance is through the south-west side and inside there are two [hut circles](#).
Reference number: **N8298**

Girsonfield East IA/RB settlement.

Site No: 3.003
NY 89220 93560
Height: 185m
Period: Iron Age (c800BC-43AD)
Type: Settlement
An irregular enclosure visible on lidar imagery, with possible internal roundhouse.
NLS Map & LIDAR: [NLS](#)
K2P: [8314](#)

Unusual 5-sided earthwork

Site No: 3.085
NY 88100 93670
Height: 168m
Period: Uncertain
Type: Unclassified
Unusual 5-sided feature (c100m max diameter) that has a series of irregular shallow channels radiating from it.
NLS Map & LIDAR: [NLS](#)

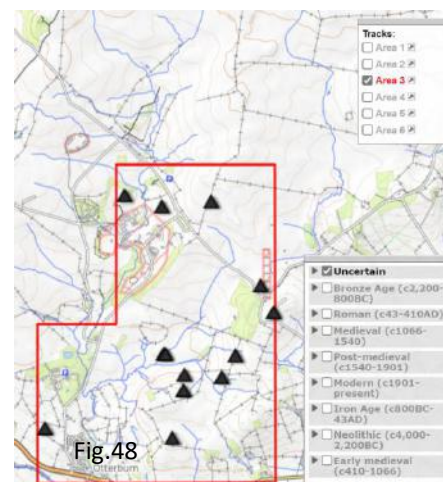
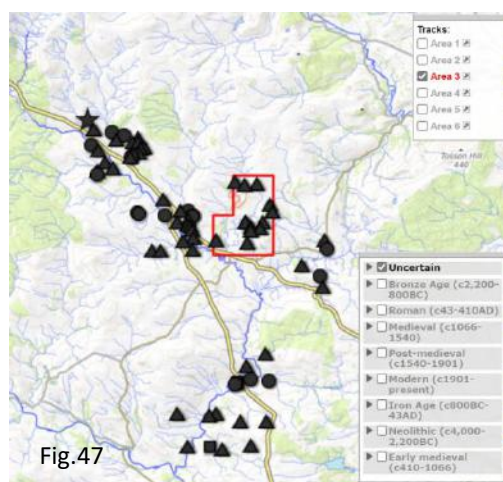
3.26 Roman

3.26.1 There are no specifically documented Roman period sites within Area 3.

3.27 Early Medieval

3.27.1 There are no specifically documented Early Medieval period sites within Area

3.28 Sites of Uncertain Origin



3.28.1 Information regarding the twelve sites of an uncertain origin can be found within the period reviews of Area 3 in this document.

3.29 - Area 3 Footnote

This, largely prehistoric, section of the Area 3 report has focused largely upon the results of the Lidar Landscapes survey carried out by volunteers engaged in the Revitalising Redesdale project. It represents an attempt to integrate these observations into a coherent narrative that spans a wide time scale of some 10000 years.

During this time people, language, cultures and ways of life changed greatly from that of nomadic hunter gatherers to settled farmers and the influence of the Roman Empire.

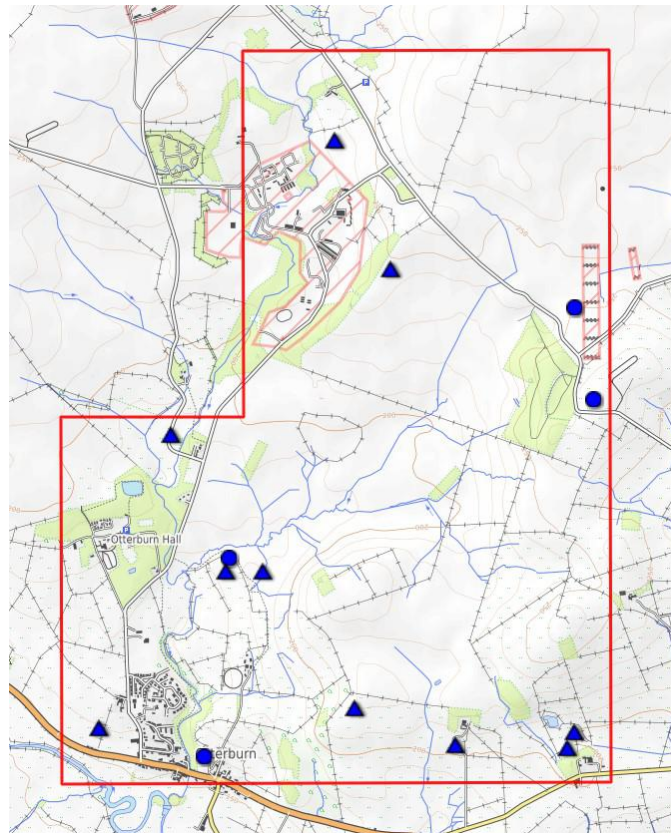
The natural vegetation changed as the climate that warmed following the end of the last ice age. The post glacial terrain however remained largely unaltered whilst the landscape developed along with the flora and fauna and human influence.

Attempting to discriminate the complex interactions of the periods has been challenging and the resulting Area 3 Report represents a step in the long process of developing a more complete understanding of Redesdale.

Keith Cooper
January 2022

Area 3 – Medieval Period

We know a lot about medieval England despite the fact that more documentary evidence has been lost than has survived. We know a reasonable amount about medieval Northumberland. However, we know comparatively little about medieval Redesdale. In one of the few modern studies of medieval Redesdale, Keith Stringer wrote '*Medieval Redesdale is the poorest documented liberty to be considered in this book, and no study can expect to provide a fully rounded analysis of its governance and society*'.¹ Modern historians have thus largely relied on the work of 19th century antiquarians, principally the Rev. John Hodgson.²



Area 3 Medieval Sites

When looking at Area 3 of our study in the medieval period the key feature is Site 3.087, Otterburn Tower. What little we know from the surviving records indicate that Otterburn was a secondary manor of the Umfraville family whose principal residence was at Harbottle Castle from the beginning of the 13th century. It is mentioned in an undated *Inquisition Post Mortem* of Gilbert de Umfraville in 1245 and described as a '*capital messuage*' in the *Inquisition Post Mortem* of his son, also Gilbert de Umfraville, in October 1307. In the latter document it is described to include a '*park nearly a league in circuit*'. A medieval league was roughly three miles. It is thus likely that this park occupied a substantial part of Area 3 around the tower itself.

¹ Holford & Stringer, *Border Liberties and Loyalties: North-East England, C. 1200 to C. 1400*, Edinburgh University Press, 2010, p359.

² Hodgson, *A History of Northumberland Part II Vol. I*, 1827

49.	Gilbert de Umframvill <i>alias</i> de Umframvill.
	<i>Writ of extent</i> to Robert de Creppinges, 31 March, 29 Hen. III, for assigning dower to Maud, late the wife of the said Gilbert.
[Northumberland.]	<i>Inq. (undated.)</i>
	Hyrbotle manor and borough (extent given) with Otturburne manor, member of Hyrbotle, Alwenton, and the advowson of the church at Ellesden.
Northumberland.	<i>Inq. (undated.)</i> Prudehou manor with its members, Hyrlawe, Inghou, and Welpintan' (extent given), and with Ovingham, Kerneslawe, the granges of Bolland, Fyleton, and Ruhehop', woods in Horsele and Prudhou, and the advowsons of Ovingham and Whelpinton. Five knights' fees and nine parts of a fee pertain to Prudhu.
	<i>C. Hen. III. File 3. (9.)</i>

47.	GILBERT DE UMFRAMVILL <i>alias</i> DUNFRANVYL, EARL OF ANEGOS <i>alias</i> DANEGUS.
	<i>Writ</i> , 13 Oct. 1 Edw II.
NORTHUMBERLAND.	<i>Inq.</i> Tuesday before SS. Simon and Jude, 1 Edw. II.
	Prodhov. The castle (extent given), including a park a league in circuit. Hirlaw. The manor (extent given), pertaining to the said castle. Birteley. The manor (extent given), including a park a league in circuit. All held of the king in chief by service of 2 1/2 knights' fees and doing suit at the county (court) of Newcastle on Tyne. Redesdale (<i>Vallem de Rede</i>) with the liberty, in which is the castle of Hirbotell (extent given), including a borough called Hirbotell, a capital messuage at Oterburn, a park nearly a league in circuit, and free tenants in Ellesden, all held freely (<i>in libertate</i>) of the king in chief by service of defending the same from wolf and robber. Alwenton. 200a. arable and 10a. meadow, the lordship of the ten towns of Alwenton, Clonhill, Bydellesden, Angreham, Faudon, Ryhill, Scharberton, Nodirton, Boroudon, and Thirnum, which rendered nothing to the earl but knight's service and suit at his court of Hirbotell, and two water-mills, all held of the heirs of Vesci in chief of the barony of Alnewyck by service of 2 knights' fees, and doing suit at the court of Alnewyck. Robert his son, aged 30 and more, is his next heir.
	<i>C. Edw. II. File 2. (21.)</i>

The tower is also listed in a survey of 1415 as '*Tauris de Otiburne*'. Beyond that we have little detail of the structure but the description '*capital messuage*' suggests a residence of some substance.

In their 1979 study of medieval parks Cantor and Hatherly describe the typical park as being securely enclosed to retain deer both for hunting and as a source of fresh meat. They add "*The enclosure usually consisted of a combination of earth bank, topped by a wooden paling fence and with an inside ditch, which an impassable barrier. In some districts, the wooden fence might be replaced hedge or by a stone wall, and where the topography was suitable, for example just crest of a steep slope, the paling fence alone might serve. Water seems to have been barrier to the passage of deer and some parks were partly circumscribed by rivers areas. The park was part of the demesne lands of the lord of the manor and typically consisted of "unimproved land", including some woodland to provide covert for the deer.*" It was not uncommon for such parks to be located in subsidiary manors. They also suggest that park boundaries may be traced in the landscape today or reconstructed from documentary and older mapping sources.³ We can find no record of this having been done for Otterburn and it may be an interesting topic for a further study.

To give some idea of the possible size of the park an entirely speculative boundary has been drawn on a modern aerial image. This takes the Otter Burn as the western and northern boundaries and the road through Otterburn as the southern extent. The boundary is 2.7 miles in circumference,

³ Cantor & Hatherly, *The Medieval Parks of England*, 1979, Geography, Vol. 64, No. 2 (April 1979), pp. 71-85.

approximately one league. Generally parks began to deteriorate from the middle of the 14th century following the Black Death and the consequent decline in population and availability of labour to maintain them. The impact of the plague on Redesdale is difficult to quantify in the absence of detailed evidence.



Figure 1 Speculative Medieval Park Boundary

Within this lower part of Area 3 there are a number of features identified as 'medieval' in the earlier stages of the project. Of these, three close to the southern boundary of the Area are ridge & furrow (Sites 3.084, 3.005 and 3.023) and will be dealt with below. Also in this part of the Area are two references to possible rectilinear enclosures and buildings in the vicinity of Overacres and Closehead (Sites 3.021 and 3.026). The long history of Scottish border raiding and inter-family reiving has left Redesdale with little surviving evidence of non-fortified domestic structures. Put simply, it was hardly worth constructing anything of substance if it were likely to be destroyed. The faint evidence of the LIDAR traces tells us nothing beyond the shapes of these features which are most likely to be related to farmsteads of the medieval or post-medieval period.

At the northern extent of this lower part of Area 3 is Site 3.099, the remains of a possible bastle at Girsonfield plus two areas of ridge & furrow (Sites 3.097 and 3.109). Bastles (fortified farmhouses) stand as testament to the well-documented violent past of Redesdale in the medieval and post-medieval period. Hodgson wrote of it "*A little to the north of Otterburn, and on the east side of the Otter, on a plot of rich green sward, stood Girsonfield, a farm house, which, since the time of Queen Elizabeth, had belonged to the proprietors of Otterburn Castle. Some parts of its walls still remain ; and a new house of the same name has been built on the hill side to the east of it, in a much more exposed, poor, and inconvenient situation.*"⁴ More recently, Dodds, in his study of medieval strongholds of Northumberland, describes it as "... the successor to a small tower, the foundations of

⁴ Hodgson p110

which are nearly lost in the grass a few hundred yards further into the hills. There is barely enough of the tower left to date, but almost certainly it was a fifteenth century building.” If this is correct then it probably post-dates the peak period of the Umfraville’s park. The two areas of ridge & furrow may be associated with the farm.⁵

The final artefacts in Area 3 designated as ‘medieval’ are two stones said to have been discovered at Leighton Hill in the 19th century, Site 3.073. The current location of these stones is unknown. The discovery of these stones was reported to the Society of Antiquaries in Newcastle thus:

*“The Secretary (Mr. Blair) reported that Dr Robertson of Otterburn had thus written to him concerning a DISCOVERY NEAR OTTERBURN. “Two stones have just been discovered on Grassinsfield farm or rather moor to the north-east of Otterburn, which I think may interest you and perhaps be even worthy of mention to the Antiquarian Society. These stones were discovered by Mr. George Thompson, who acts as shepherd on the farm, a few days ago. They were lying exposed on an old nearly levelled sod-fence on Leighton Hill, which is a hill to the north-east of Otterburn. One of them, a cross-shaped stone, 17 ins. high by 17 ins. across the arms, by 5 ins. wide and 4 to 7 ins. thick, is of the common sandstone of the district, and the cross engraved on it seems to be the cross-shaped hilt; of a sword, like those found on sepulchral slabs of our old churches. The singular thing is that such a stone should be lying in the middle of one of our moors. The stone looks as if it had been part of some longer shaped cross, but there is no ragged fracture of the lower end of the stone, and I can not find in the neighbourhood of the place any other stones that seem to have formed a continuation of the stone. The other stone is lying beside it, but I can not make out what the cavity in it could have been made for. The interesting position of the find and perhaps also the appearance of the carving on the stone, which one may guess to be of about the fifteenth century, might make one associate the stone with the battle of Otterburn. Leighton hill, with its neighbouring eminence Fawdon, has been always considered one of the probable sites where the battle may have been fought. I, for one, have always rather been of the opinion that the camp the Scots occupied was the British camp on Fawdon and not the camp on Greenchester, which is more usually believed to have been the site of the battle, and thus that there is no unlikelihood of anything belonging to the battle being found just where this stone has been discovered.”*⁶

There has long been a tendency (not entirely absent today) to link any potentially medieval artefact with a military connotation discovered in the vicinity of Otterburn to the battle fought nearby in 1388. While the Revitalising Redesdale project ‘*The Battle of Otterburn – Conflict in a Landscape*’ has yet to formulate a view of the location of the battle, the location at Fawdon Hill is considered unlikely. Recent excavations at Fawdon Hill have produced no evidence to indicate any connection with the battle and as the stones have been lost and no drawings seem to exist, it is impossible to form any view as to what purpose they may have served. A full discussion of Fawdon Hill as a possible location for the battle is given in Appendix 1 to the recent report on the excavations Richard Carlton and Mark Johnstone.⁷

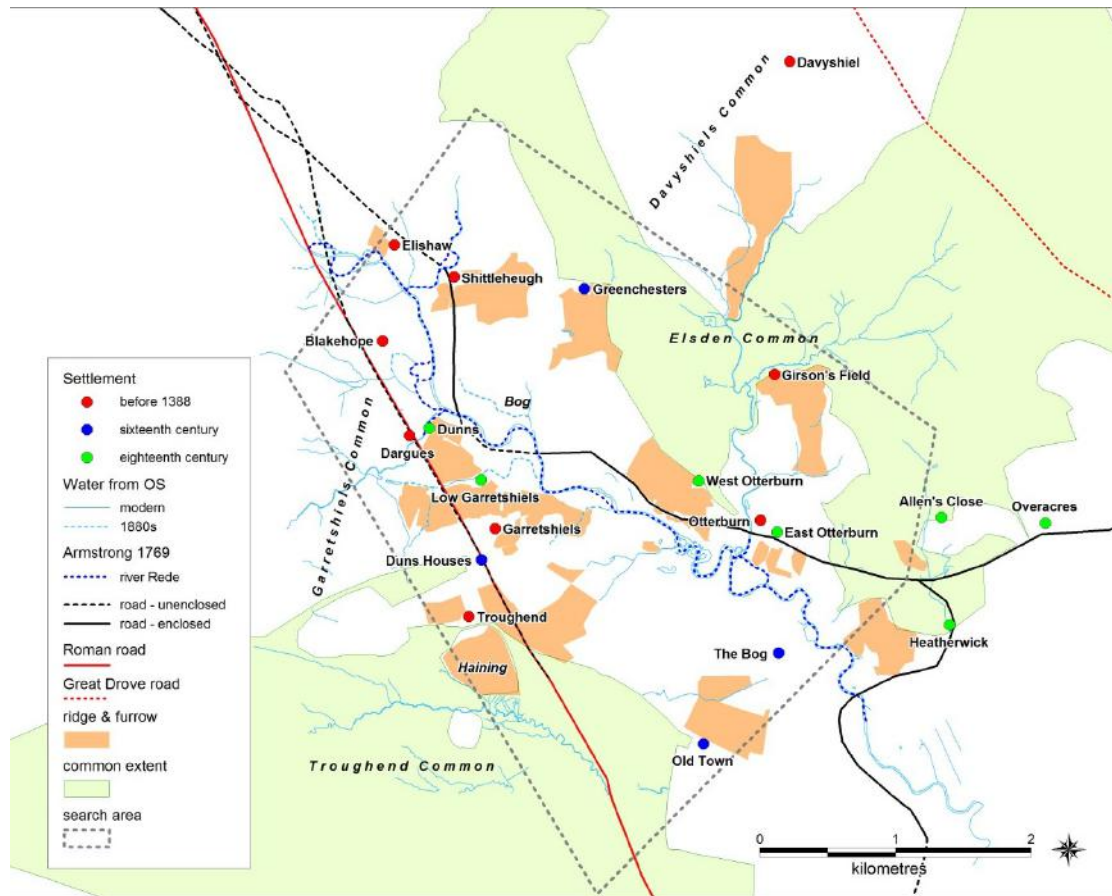
Finally, as mentioned above, Area 3 contains a number of areas of ridge and furrow ploughing. In connection with the project to look at the battle of Otterburn, Dr Tracey Partida has undertaken a study of the landscape in this area as the project’s landscape archaeologist. This study, as yet

⁵ Dodds, Bastions and Belligerents, Keepdate Publishing, 1999, p 331

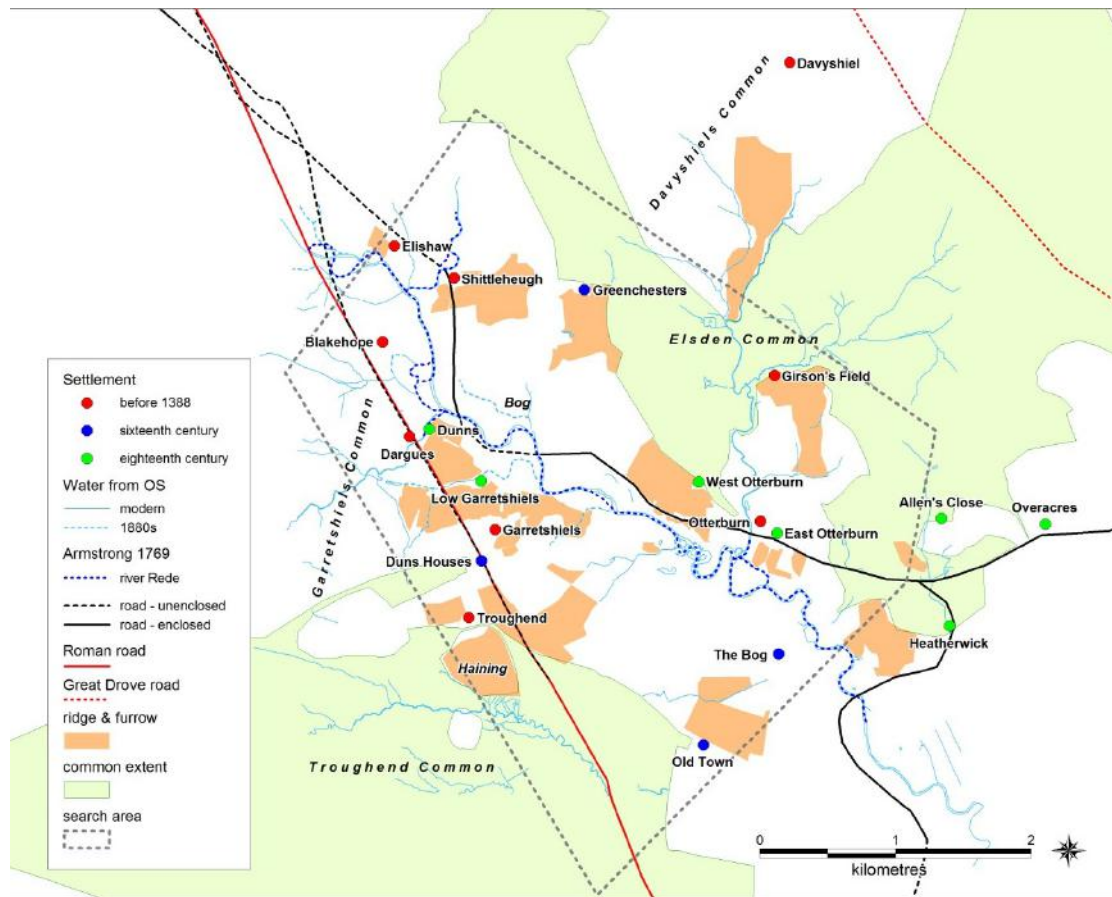
⁶ Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, Vol IV, 1890, 21, p216

⁷ Carlton & Johnstone, Field Survey and Exploratory Excavation of Cairn-like Features on the South Side of Fawdon Hill, Redesdale, Northumberland, 2019, p15ff

unpublished, builds on earlier work undertaken by a number of archaeologists and on the examination of a variety of documentary, photographic, LIDAR and map sources.⁸ Dr Partida's analysis of the areas of ridge & furrow in the vicinity of Otterburn is shown in these maps:



⁸ Partida, Otterburn Battlefield Landscape, Unpublished Report, 2020



Dr Partida comments, “Classification of period of rig by form (broad, narrow etc.) is not straightforward as there are various complicating factors including population decline caused by the Black Death (1348), climatic change causing the altitude limit for cereal ripening to reduce to around 200m, and Border Warfare and reiving. Some, or all, of these issues may have had an effect on settlement and on the extent of arable land use in Redesdale. It is likely that by the time of the battle, in 1388, these factors may already have led to abandonment of some settlements and reversion of some, perhaps even most or all, arable to pasture around Otterburn, even if there was perhaps subsequent reoccupation of settlements and return of early rig to arable. Thus the presence of potentially early rig, even if it is medieval in origin, does not prove it was still arable when the battle was fought. Moreover, classification here of rig as early is further complicated by the well documented continued use of wide rig, and indeed of ox teams for cultivation as late as the 18th century.” and recommends that further research in this area is desirable.

Conclusions

Overall, there is little in Area 3 that sheds any new light on medieval Redesdale which has been discussed by many earlier writers from the 19th century onwards. It was a place well-used to violence and conflict, primarily from the recurrent cross-border raiding of the Scots and a seeming climate of general lawlessness. The tenure of the lands granted by the king to the Umfraville family is expressed in the *Inquisition Post Mortem* of 1307 previously mentioned as being 'by service of defending the same from wolf and robber' and Hodgson records a 'watch list' from 1572 as follows:

"Redesdale. —The day-watch of Redesdale receiving it from Tindale at the Rowtree-cragg, and beginning at Deadwood-cragg. First,--The inhabitants of Evock-stanes and the Woolaw shall watch at Deadwood-cragg, with two men in the watch. The inhabitants of Birdhope and Richester shall watch at Berehope-law, with two men in the watch, Clement Hall and Matthew Cookson to be setters and searchers of these two watches. The inhabitants of the two Durtrees to watch at the Ridyatlaw, with two men in the watch, John Hall of Brentshaw, and Thomas Storey, to be setters and searchers of this watch. The inhabitants of Allenton and the Parkhead to watch at Paspethhead, with two men in the watch, and Perseval Harbottle, and John Wilkinson, to be setters and searchers of that watch. So the day watch of Redesdale begins with Tyndale, at Deadwood-cragg, and ends at Paspeth, where it joins with Cokedale. Redesdale. —The Hindhaughford to be watched with the inhabitants of Broomhope and the Steel, with two men nightly. Risinghamford to be watched with the inhabitants of the Cragg, and a part of Chesterhope with two men nightly: setters and searchers of these two watches, Gerard Reed and Thomas Reed. The Yarehaugh ford to be watched with one half of West Woodburne with two men nightly. The Smotwell ford to be watched with the inhabitants of East Woodburne with two men nightly. The Priest's ford to be watched with the inhabitants of Stiddle-hill and Whetstone house, with two men nightly: setters and searchers of these three watches, Richard Forster of Woodburne, and Robert Forster of the Yate. At the Forkins, betwixt the Priest's Ford at Otterburne mill, to be watched with the inhabitants of the Heads and the Hill, with two men nightly. The ford at Otterburne mill to be watched nightly with the inhabitants of the Old-town with two men. The two fords at the Garret sheels to be watched with the inhabitants of Troughen and Garret sheels, with two men nightly: setters and searchers of these three watches, John Reed of Troughen, and Clement Reed of the Old-town. The two fords at Elishaw to be watched with the inhabitants of Dagsburne and Blakam and Rattenraw, with two men at every ford nightly. The Bowgraw ford to be watched with the inhabitants of Kelleyburne with two men nightly. The Todlaw ford to be watched with the inhabitants of Evokstones, with two men nightly: setters and searchers of these three watches, John Reed of Blakam, and John Fletcher of Evokstones. The street of Acamside moor and Pringlehaugh, to be watched with the inhabitants of Birdhope and 'Ratchester', Horsley, and the Stobbs, Allshaugh and the Spitelhaugh, with four men nightly: setters and searchers of this watch, Clement Hall and Thomas Anderson, of Burdhope. The Sawfield and the Craggsheels to be watched with the inhabitants of Durtrees, Davysheils, of Otterburne, and Hatherwick, with six men nightly: setters and searchers, William Wallis and David Wallis. The street under Gulmore-bush and the Smidyclough-head to be watched at the head of Houalcloughs, to be watched with the inhabitants of the Woodside Carrick, Elsdon, Laugheyte', and the East Nook, with six men nightly: setters and searchers, William Pott and John Pott. Fulbere, Cleughfoot, Whitelawletch, and Sandforth above Barrow to be watched with the inhabitants of Barrow, Harbottle, the Peels and the Hallystone, the Woodhouses and Yardhope, with six men nightly: setters and searchers, Percevall Fenwick and sir John Hall, priest—so that the night watch of Redesdale receives the night watch of Tyndal at the Nookmill, and goes northward to the watch of Cokedale, and joins with them at the Sandyford

besides Barrow."⁹ He also records Sir Ralph Sadler, Warden of the East & Middle Marches, describing the people of Redesdale in 1559 as "*naughty, evil, unruly and misdemeaned*".¹⁰

It seems likely that for much of medieval period Area 3 would have been dominated by the Umfraville's park which is worthy of much closer study. Beyond this the area is likely to have conformed to a pattern of scattered settlements and farms with limited arable cultivation, primarily for the subsistence of the occupants and perhaps more widely dairy farming. Stringer notes of Redesdale "*Much of the terrain rises above 1,000 feet, and there are few expanses below 600 feet. Accordingly it was (and is) a markedly different environment from Northumberland's domesticated lowlands. In 1307, for example, twenty-four vaccaries (cattle farms) accounted for threequarters of the liberty-owner's estimated annual income.*"¹¹

⁹ Hodgson p71

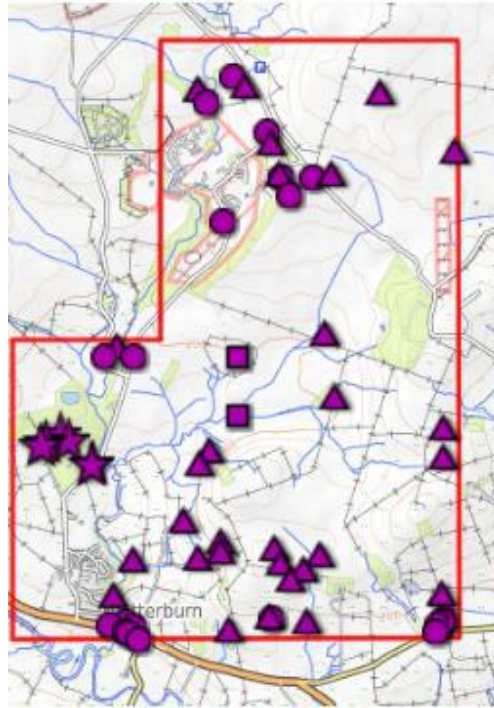
¹⁰ Hodgson p72

¹¹ Holford & Stringer p361

Landscape Narrative of Area 3: Post-Medieval period (c1540-1901) Modern period (1901 – present day)

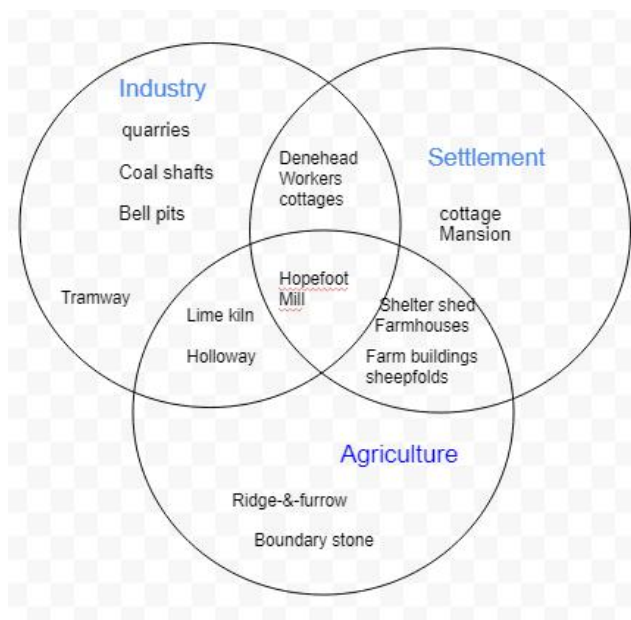
Area 3 comprises of Otterburn and Otterburn Camp which also incorporates Tod Law and Fawdon Hill. Today this landscape of rolling upland valley could also be described as wild and remote. It would also have applied to the character of the ancient landscape.

The archaeological sites across Area 3 from the post-medieval period are shown in the map below.



map by Andy Curtis

All of the sites can be linked to human interaction of industry, settlement or agriculture (as illustrated in the diagram below):



Following on from the Medieval period, we know that people were continuing to interact with this landscape.

Occupied settlements in the 16th century;

- Overacres (Howard & Hall family)
- Otterburn, (Otterburn castle belonged to the Hall family)
- Girsonfield, home of the Hall family, including fortified bastle house.
- Closehead
- Denehead
- Davyshield



1695 Morden's map of Northumberland

As illustrated by this 17th century map (as above), it shows that Elsdon was the larger settlement and remained the parish over Otterburn until 1921.

18th century map with highlighted place names of Area 3 below.



Armstrong county map 1769

Girson's Field as Grasing Field.

By the 18th century Otterburn had a modern mansion house as described in the article from 1782 below.

Manor of Otterburn, in Northumberland.

*To be SOLD in public Auction,
At the House of Mr Hugh Bradie, the Turk's Head, in New-
castle upon Tyne, on Tuesday the 27th day of August, 1782,
at four o'clock in the afternoon, by the Assignees of the estate
and effects of Henry Ellison, Esq.*

THE Manor of **Otterburn** with an elegant and modern-built capital Messuage, or Mansion House, called Otterburn-Hall, pleasantly and desirably situated in the parish of Eldon, in the county of Northumberland, near the conflux of the rivers Reed and Otterburn, in the finest Sporting Country in the Kingdom; abounding with Black Cock, Grouse, and all other sorts of Game; remarkable fine Fish Streams, &c.—at a convenient distance from the great North Road from London (by Newcastle) to Edinburgh, which leads through the estate,—with Gardens, Orchards, and Plantations, beautifully disposed, and good Coach-houses, Stables, Barns, and other convenient and useful Out-houses, well suited for the immediate accommodation of a Gentleman's Family.

And also all those several Farms, laying contiguous to the said Mansion-House, and to each other, without the Mixture of any other Person's Property therein;—all of which have commodious Houses, Out-buildings, and Conveniences belonging to them, and in good repair, called the Hall Farm, Otterburn Demesne, Town-head Farm, Gerfen's Field, Coal Well Hill, Wainford Rigg, a Water Corn-mill called Cant's Mill and Fair Moor, Otterburn Burnside, Walk Mill, East's Meadows, and Five several Cottages, which are now in the occupation of several good Tenants at the yearly rents of 530l 19s subject to the usual taxes and out goings, the whole premises containing, by a late admeasurement, 1952 acres, 2 roods, and 26 perches, all within a ring fence.

Newcastle Courant 1782

Also mentioning Mines & Mineral rights:

And also several yearly Quit Rents issuing out of divers lands in the neighbourhood, payable to the Manor of Otterburn aforesaid, amounting in the whole, yearly, to 13l 19s. 6d. payable at Whitsuntide.

The whole Estate is of Freehold Tenure, and the Mines and Minerals belong to the Owner of the Land, in great part of which there are good Seams of Coal, and great Plenty of Limestone.

The Purchaser to be entitled to all the Rents and Profits of the Premises, which shall accrue after Martinmas next, and to pay the Purchase Money by Two equal Payments, at three and six Months from the day of sale, or as can be otherwise agreed upon at the time of sale.

Description of 19th century, Otterburn estate:

EAST OTTERBURN ESTATE.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
*At the George Inn, Newcastle upon Tyne, on Saturday, the 2d
Day of April next, at 12 o'clock at Noon,*
(Subject to such Conditions as will then be produced,)
Lot 1. THE FREEHOLD ESTATE of OT-
TERBURN HALL (including the Farm of
Grisenfield), the Property of the late James Ellis, Esquire,
situate in the Parish of Elsdon, in the County of Northum-
berland; together with certain Quit-rents, payable out of the
Estates in the Neighbourhood. The Lands contain upwards
of 1100 Acres, a considerable Portion of which is of the best
Quality, and exempt from Tithes of Hay, Corn, &c. and the
Residue consists of excellent Pasture for young Cattle and
Sheep. The Mansion House (which comprises Part of the
ancient **Castle** of Otterburne, celebrated in Border History,)
is pleasantly situated and capable of receiving a large Family.
The River Reed runs through the Estate, and affords excellent
Fishing, and the Grounds abound with Game of all Kinds,
particularly Grouse and Black Game. The Turnpike Road
from Newcastle to Edinburgh, by the shortest Line, leads
through the Estate, and the nearest Road between London
and Edinburgh passes within a Mile of it.

Newcastle Chronicle 1831



Tower Hotel Otterburn 1950

The article below gives a 19th century description of the rural population and landscape that would have incorporated Area 3.

bered with veneration. The Parish of Elsdon is one of the largest, and, according to its extent, one of the least populous in England. Its length, extending to the Scotch border, is twenty-one miles, and its mean breadth about five. It contains nearly one hundred thousand square acres, a great portion of which is heathery waste, and the population, about two thousand, are thinly scattered over the district. Many

Newcastle Journal 1860

This is in contrast to an earlier description of 17th century Redesdale, which would have included the settlements of Area 3:

ever had a custom, if a man have issue ten sons, eight, six, five or four, and sits on a holding but of six shillings rent, every son shall have a piece of his father's holding'.² This practice undoubtedly gave rise to high population pressure on the better quality land. In 1542 Tynedale and Redesdale were described as being 'overcharged' with inhabitants, and there can be no doubt that the physiographic population density of these areas was high, and that they were, under the existing conditions, overpopulated. The effects of partible inheritance are clearly seen in the small-sized holdings of tenants – members of the same family – who inhabited the hamlets of North and South Tynedale and Redesdale. Table 3.4 provides illustration of this fact, giving details of the holdings in Carrick, Headshope and Landshot, three small settlements in Redesdale in 1604.

Northumberland National Park Village Atlas - Elsdon 2004

Archaeological sites providing evidence of agricultural use of this landscape:

- Hopehead East Farmhouse
- Ruined farmstead W of Hopehead farm
- Ruined farmstead E of Hopehead farm
- Ruined buildings NE of Otterburn Camp
- Earthwork 250m SSW of Hopehead
- Overacres; shelter shed, granary & stables
- Overacres farmhouse
- Otterburn Hall; stable block, farmhouse, farmbuildings
- Sheepfolds Carrick Heights W & S
- 2 sheepfolds W & SW Leighton Hill
- Boundary Black Hill to Todlaw Pike
- Ruined building at Denehead
- Ridge-and-furrow (widespread distribution across area 3)

The 1604 survey of the 'Debateable lands' of the border indicated a large number of small units of cultivation. 1606 Survey showed that tenants of the Lordship of the Rede valley were either freeholders, performed military service for right to have property, or customary tenants that paid rent. The quantity of arable land was small compared to meadow, pasture and moor land. 17th century system of cultivation of small-scale infield-outfield, with emphasis on pastoralism, raiding, and theft.

From 1640 the Howards began to break up the real estate of the Lordship through sales.

Post-medieval agriculture in Area 3 was affected by warfare and industrial development:

"With the termination of border warfare in the 17th century, agrarian reforms proceeded rapidly, via enclosure and improved farming methods, to a modern agrarian and industrial society"

Studies of Field Systems in the British Isles R.A. Butlin

After the union 1707, and the end of raids, the value of land increased:

"....the sudden prosperity caused by their cessation led to extravagance and excess, and gradually the richer farmers in a village ate up the smaller ones - a result favoured by the demand for wool, and the general dislike of land-agents for small holdings."

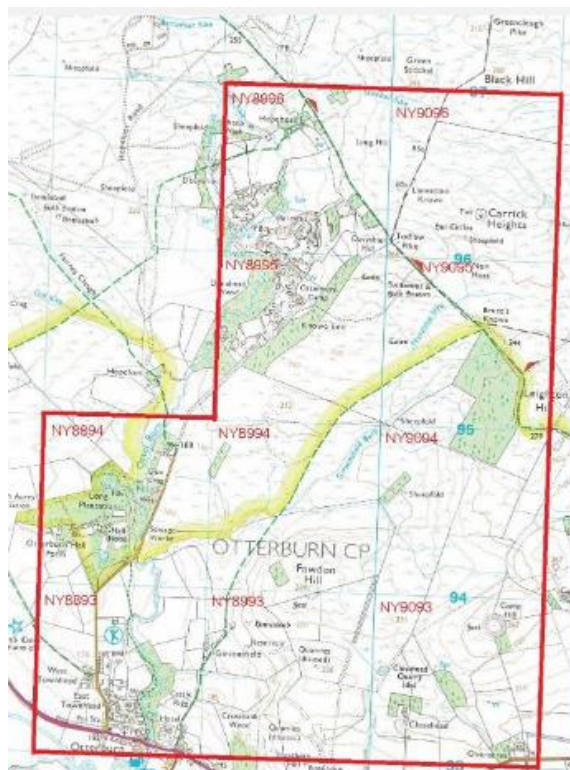
1895 Cadwallar J. Bates History of Northumberland

1747 William Howard sold the family farm at Overacres, along with the title of Lordship and the remaining seigniorial rights to the Duke of Northumberland.

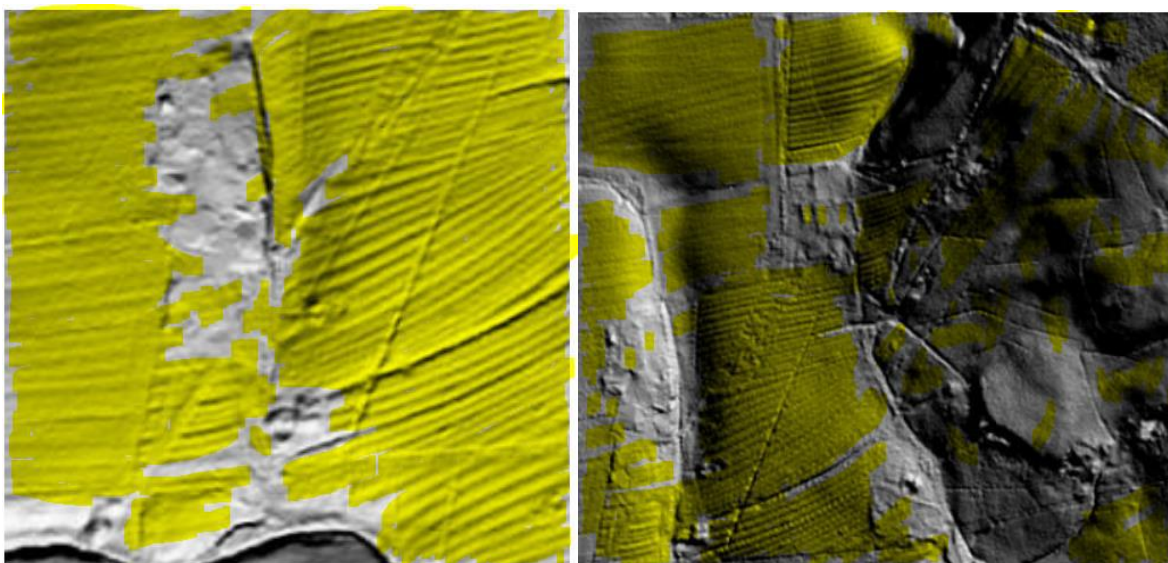
Enclosure of open and common land in 1794 The Board Of Agriculture described Northumberland's land suitable for cultivation as well enclosed by live hedges. By the end of the 18th century, vast expanses of moor in Redesdale were enclosed. The commoners were awarded parcels of land in exchange, which encouraged settlement into traditional shieling grounds.



Of the 10 km squares that make up Area 3, only 9095km² does not have example of ridge-and- furrow. Land in 9095km² is used by the military, so earthworks could have been covered or destroyed since 1912. Every other square has medieval to post-medieval ridge-and-furrow, except 9094km² has post-medieval to modern ridge-and-furrow.



Ridge-and-furrow surrounding the post medieval settlement of Girsonfield, with possible signs of alignment of the earthworks beneath the settlement, predating it.



DTM NE

Possible open field system in NW of image DTM S

Ancient infield land and good arable & meadow land is referred to in 18th century sales information, located at Fawdon Hill, Leighton Hill & Girson's Field.

This could suggest that the infield enclosures continued to have been utilised from the medieval period or earlier.

'To be LET,
And entered on the 11th May next,

ALL that STOCK FARM, situate at Otterburn, in the Parish of Elsdon, in Northumberland, comprizing Fawdon Hill, Leighton Hill, and Otterburn Moor, containing together, by Survey, 791 A. 2 R. of which upwards of 100 Acres are ancient Infield Land, and free from Corn and Hay Tythes.

And also all that FARM of LAND, situate at Otterburn aforesaid, comprizing Girson's Field, which contains by Survey 163 A. 2 R. 16 P. and certain Closes of good Arable and Meadow Land, containing together by Survey 36 A. 1 R. 19 P. making in the whole 119 A. 3 R. 35 P. all of which, (except about 30 Acres) is ancient Infield Land, and free from Corn and Hay Tythes.

Persons inclined to take either or both of these Farms, are requested to send Proposals, in writing, to J. Ellis, Attorney at Law, in Newcastle upon Tyne, on or before the 9th December next, or deliver the same to him at Mr. Geo. Anderson's, in Otterburn aforesaid, on the Monday or Tuesday following, on which last Day the Premises are intended to be let.

Newcastle Courant 11 Nov 1797

In the 18th century, Girson's Field farm consisted of 600 acres of moorland, 323 acres of arable, meadow and pasture ground.

GRINSON'S FIELD FARM, containing 323 Acres, or thereabouts, of Arable, Meadow, and Pasture Ground: Also 600 Acres, or thereabouts, of good improveable Moor Land.

Newcastle Chronicle 1783

19th century descriptions of land at Girson's field, Otterburn, Coolaw Hill, Fawdon camp:

462 *Report of Meetings for 1881.* By Jas. Hardy.

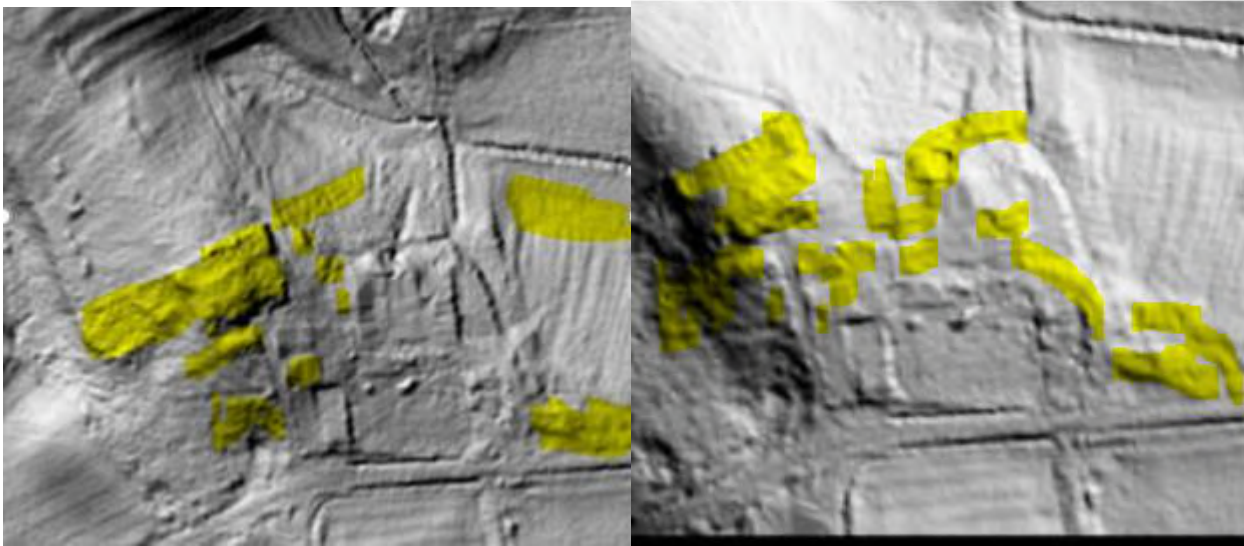
as those occurring among the Cheviots near Wooler. A hut-circle fifteen feet in diameter was still traceable. Mr Arkle has drawings and measurements of this camp. There is a far view from it. A wide extent of grazing ground lay to the north, and upon it on a lower height another similar camp, called Fawdon Camp, was visible, which Mr James Ellis of Otterburn was of opinion was that occupied by the Scots on the evening previous to the battle of Otterburn; and he also held that the scene of conflict lay along the slopes and unequal ground between these two ancient camps. Lower than the last, but more distant, and nearer the Otter burn, the farm place of Gersonfield, marked "Grasing Field" by Armstrong, was pointed out—modern—but carrying the name of another steading once in the occupancy of the "fause-hearted Ha's" (Halls) who betrayed Percy or Parcy (Percival) Reed of Troughend, a keeper of Redesdale, to a band of moss-troopers of the name of Crosier, who slew him at Batinghope, near the sources of Rede-water. The plants gathered in the descent were chiefly such as grow in moory soils. *Myosotis repens* appeared in the pools. After crossing a ravine some deserted coal-pits and lime-kilns were passed. There was not time to attend to the geological features of the district, but Professor Lebour's paper on the subject makes ample amends for what was gone over in a rapid tramp. Gaining the Newcastle road, the wild

History of the Berwickshire Naturalists' club

Lidar image showing that existing buildings at Overacres (built in 18th century) are over the medieval ridge-and-furrow.



Lidar showing earthworks of the settlement at Overacres pre-dating the 18th century.



18th century gate piers.

Overacres Farmhouse.

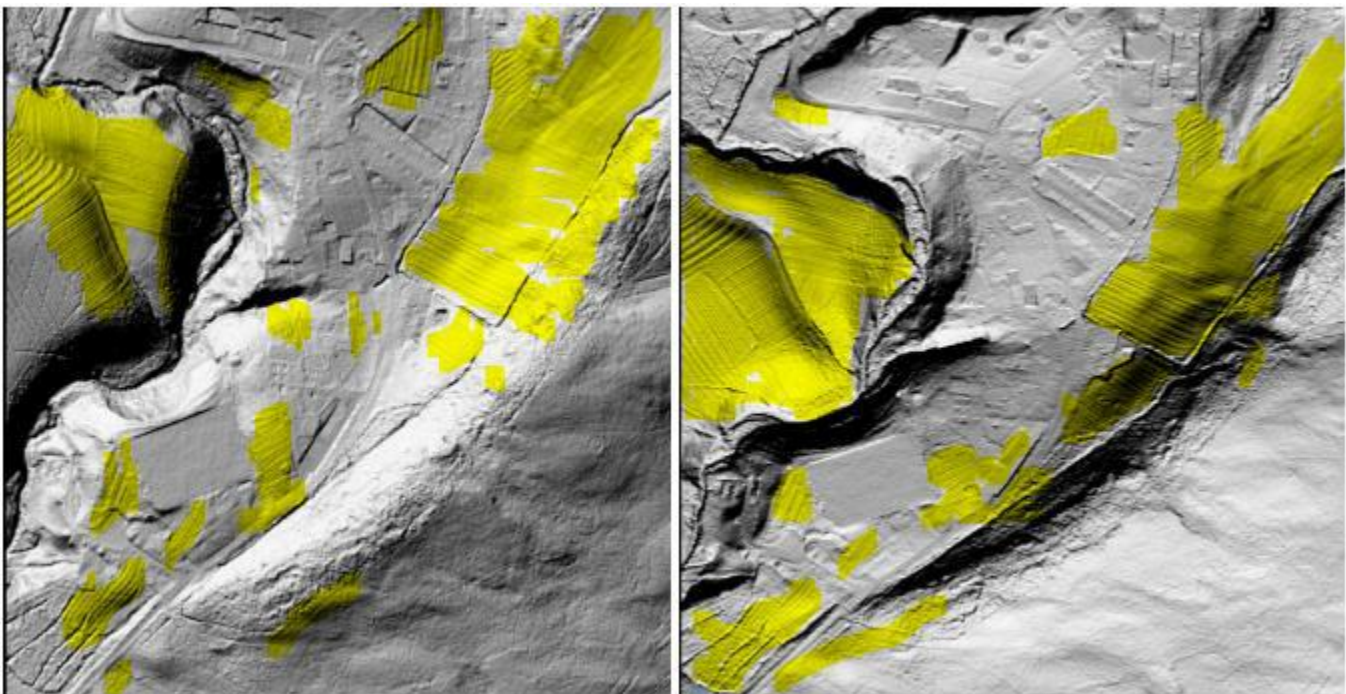
To be SOLD,

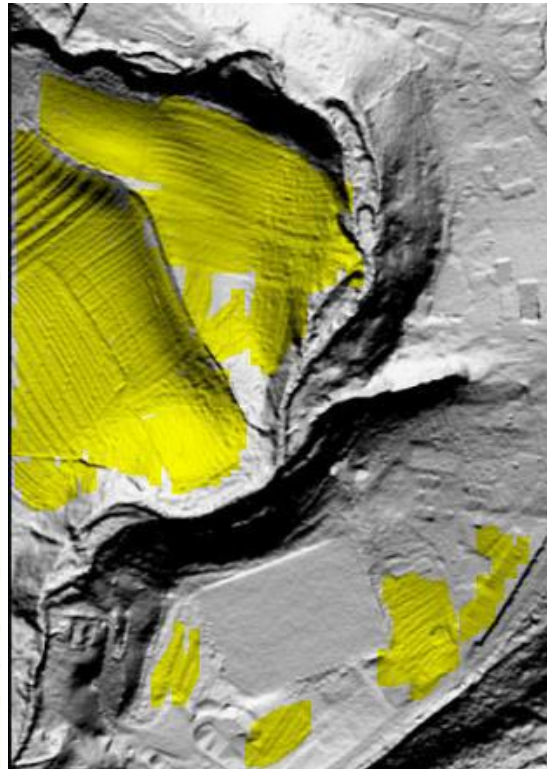
THE Estate of OVERACRES, in the Parish of Elfdon, in the County of Northumberland, of the yearly Value of One Hundred Pounds: And also the Patronage or perpetual Advowson of the Living or Parish Church of Elfdon, in the said County; together with the Manor or Lordship of Ridsdale, in the said County, and the yearly Rents of Forty-two Pounds, thirteen Shillings, and Five-pence, payable out of several Messuages, Lands, and Tenemen's within the said Manor, and all the Royalties, Liberties, and Privileges to the said Manor belonging. Enquire at Mr James Scott of Alnwick, in the County of Northumberland, Attorney at Law, at his House in Alnwick, or his Chamber in Newcastle upon Tyne, who will treat about the same. And all Persons who have any legal Demands upon the said Estate, are desired to deliver them in immediately to the said Mr Scott.

Newcastle Courant 24th Jan 1747

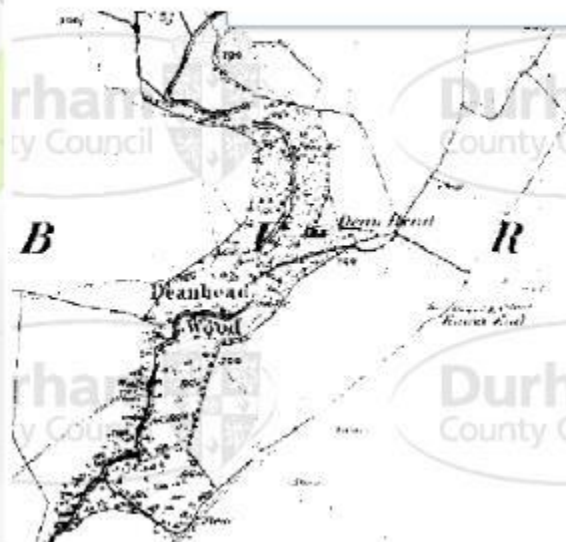
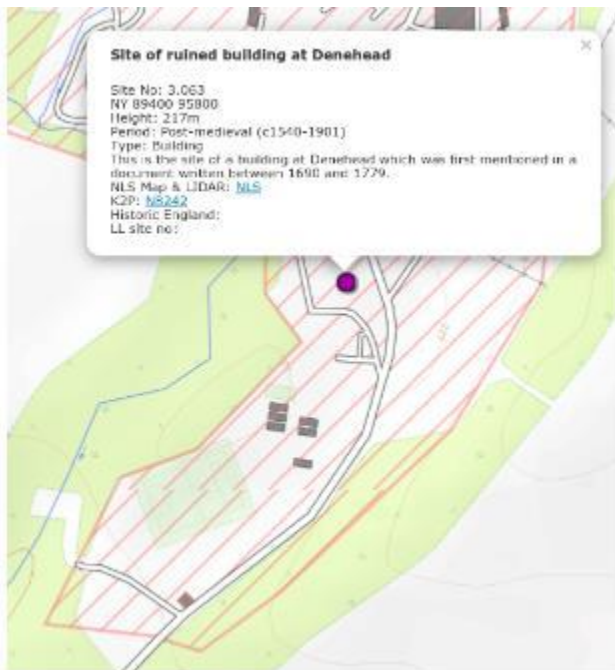
South end of Otterburn camp.

Highlighted possible ridge-and-furrow from post medieval period, pre-dating the wood surrounding Dean Head wood?





ridge-and-furrow
that is beneath some of Denehead wood.



1856-1865 map



Armstrong county map 1769

18th & 19th century maps have the place name as Dean Head instead of Denehead.

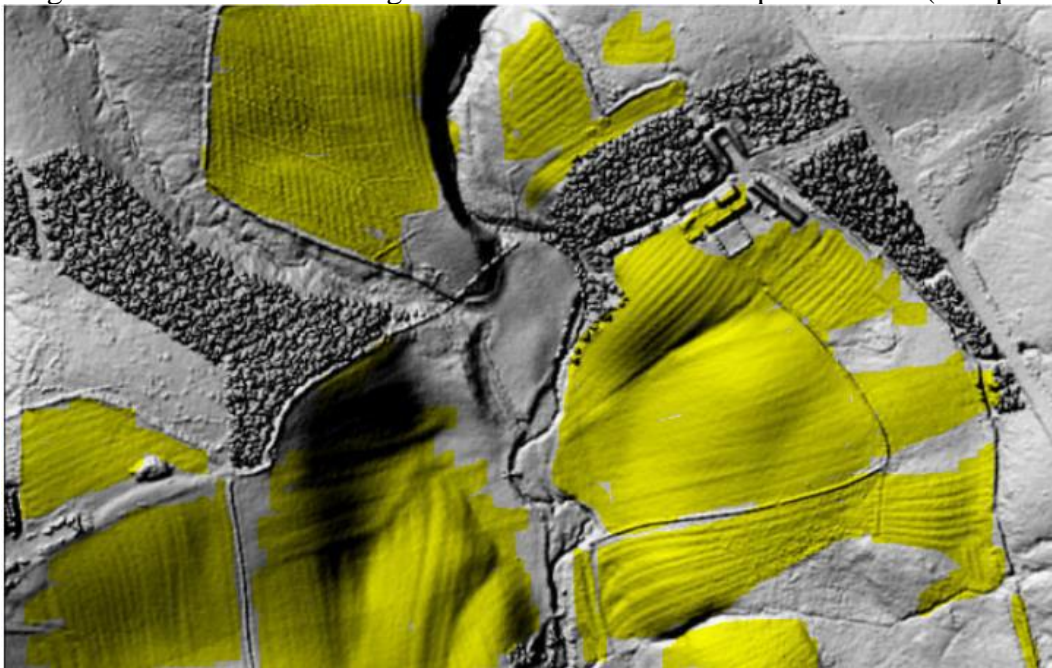
Timber was being sold at Dean Head Estate, which included Larch, Scotch, Fir & Ash trees. (March 1847 Newcastle Courant).

Highlighted areas of ridge-and-furrow perhaps linked to Davyshiell Common.



Although outside of area 3 boundary, the medieval and post-medieval settlement is in close proximity to Dean Head.

Ridge-and -furrow surrounding Ruined farmstead W of Hopehead farm (occupied in the 18th century).



DSM NW

THE Proprietors of Davy Shield and Davy Shield Common, within the parish of Eldon, in the county of Northumberland, purpose perambulating their Boundary on Monday the 8th day of November next.

Notice is hereby Given to such Persons whose property may adjoin the said Common, that they will, by themselves, or their Agents, meet the said Proprietors at Davy Shield Hope-head at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, in order to have the above boundaries amicably settled.

N B This will be no more advertised.

Newcastle Courant 30 October 1784

18th century use of Davy Shield Common

1838 Poll Book
Land owners of Otterburn Township

3.—OTTERBURN TOWNSHIP.				
1173	Anderson, Robert	Otterburn	House, public house, and land as occupier	Otterburn and Townhead.....
1174	Anderson, Robert.....	Shittleheugh	House and land as occupier	Shittleheugh
1175	Anderson, Archbold.....	Shittleheugh	House and land as occupier	Shittleheugh
1176	Armstrong, Joseph	Soppit	House and colliery as occupier	Soppit colliery
1177	Baresford, William John	Bolam	Freehold annuity charged on freehold lands	Davyshield hill
	Robert Horsley			
1178	Boiston, John	Otterburn Townhead	House and land as occupier	Otterburn Townhead
1179	Brodie, Michael	Hatherwick	Freehold house and land	Hatherwick
1180	Clark, George	Davyshield	House and land as occupier	Davyshield
1181	Clark, Hector	Davyshield Deanhead	House and land as occupier	Deanhead
1182	Curry, Andrew	Closehead	House and 329 acres of land as occupier	Closehead
1183	Davidson, John	Ridley hall	Freehold lands	West Otterburn.....
1184	Fail, Robert ..	Davyshield Hopehead	House and land as occupier	Hopehead
1185	Hedley, William	Hatherwick	Freehold lands	Hatherwick
1186	Henderson, William	Monkridge hall	House and land as occupier	Monkridge hall ..
1187	Henderson, William.....	Otterburn	House and land as occupier	Otterburn and Grassensfield...
1188	James, Thomas.....	East Otterburn	Freehold lands	East Otterburn
1189	Mitchell, John	Otterburn	Land as occupier	Otterburn
1190	Patterson, Christopher.....	Potts Durtrees	House and land as occupier	Potts Durtrees
1191	Patterson, Thomas ..	Overacres	House and land as occupier	Overacres
1192	Sanderson, Richard Burdon	West Jesmond	Freehold house and lands	Davyshield and Hopehead ...
1193	Storey, Henry	Fairney cleugh	Freehold lands	Fairneycleugh ..
1194	Turnbull, William	Hopefoot	House and land as occupier	Hopefoot
1195	Waddell, William	Otterburn	House, mill, and land as occupier	Otterburn

19th century inhabitants of Davyshield Hill and East & West Hopehead are using the share of common land in 1851 for sheep and farming (shown below on 1851 Census record).

Parish or Township of		Ecclesiastical District of		City or Borough of		Year of		Village of	
Name of Family (Surname, first name, and Maiden Name of Women)		Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house on the Night of the 30th March, 1851		Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of Male Persons	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	
41. Davyshield		Robert Jones	Head	Mar.	48		Gamekeeper	North-Nottingham	
		Mary Jones	Wife	Mar.	45			Do	Do
		John Jones	Son		15		Labourer	Do	Do
		Ellen Jones	Daughter		12			Do	Do
		Thomas Jones	Son		9			Do	Do
42. Davyshield Hill		Thomas Jones	Head	Mar.	51		Householder Farmer of 90 acres with a share of 100	Do	Do
		Mary Jones	Wife	Mar.	48			Do	Do
		George Jones	Son		15			Do	Do
		Elizabeth Jones	Daughter		12			Do	Do
		James Jones	Son		9			Do	Do
		Margaret Jones	Daughter		6			Do	Do
		Thomas Jones	Son		3			Do	Do
43. East Hopehead		George Jones	Head	Mar.	51		Shepherd upon a farm of 100 acres with a right upon 100	Do	Do
		Mary Jones	Wife	Mar.	48			Do	Do
		William Jones	Son		15			Do	Do
		Elizabeth Jones	Daughter		12			Do	Do

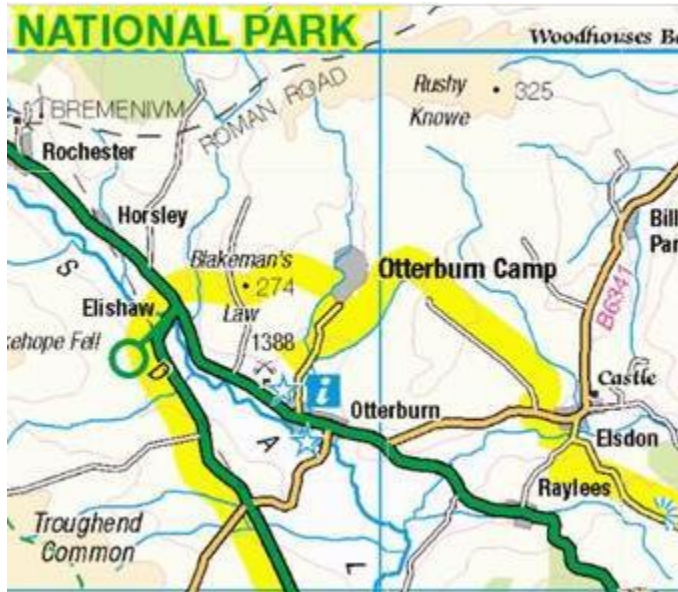
Parish or Township of		Ecclesiastical District of		City or Borough of		Year of		Village of	
Name of Family (Surname, first name, and Maiden Name of Women)		Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house on the Night of the 30th March, 1851		Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of Male Persons	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	
44. East Hopehead		George Jones	Head	Mar.	51		Farmer of 100 acres with a share of Davyshield common	Do	Do
		Mary Jones	Wife	Mar.	48			Do	Do
		John Jones	Son		15		employed on the farm	Do	Do
		Elizabeth Jones	Daughter		12			Do	Do
		Andrew Jones	Nephew		10			North-Nottingham	
		Mary Jones	Serv.		10		House Servant	Do	Do
		Robert Jones	Serv.		10		Ag. Labr.	Do	Do
		William Jones	Serv.		10		Ag. Labr.	Do	Do
		William Jones	Serv.		10		Shepherd upon a farm	Do	Do

During the 19th century, the Township of Otterburn included all of the settlements of area 3. The 1871 census described it as a pastoral district;

“...few Ag. Labs employed, that species of labour being performed mostly by Domestic Servants.

In 1911 the MOD purchased 20000 acres to provide an artillery training area and camp.

Area 3 becomes part of Northumberland National park in 1956:



1950's description of Otterburn Camp, a "permanent town in miniature";

put prevented some of those due for camp from going. Major L. V. Gibson, Battery Commander, told a News Post reporter who visited the camp this week that he considered it the most successful since the war. "We have a grand set of men in the battery, willing to do everything they can. Their response to the work and instruction has been very encouraging."

Otterburn camp, two miles from the village, is a permanent town in miniature, set in the hills. Although the T.A. men in camp sleep under canvas, officers and N.C.O.s are accommodated in brick buildings. A regular camp depot staff administer the everyday facilities, and amenities include recreation rooms and a large

Despite rain every day, the men have not been downhearted, although some have been disappointed. Special rummations have been issued because of the wet.

One of the best days of the week was Sunday, when the men's families arrived from Blyth in seven coaches. They were entertained by the men and the regimental band, which is composed of many Blyth men, and had tea in the N.A.A.F.I.

For Gunner William Coupe-land, of 24 Worsall Street, Blyth, it has been his fourth camp. He has now completed his T.A. training and does not think he will sign on again—unlike Bom- bardier Edward Greenwell, of Millfield Gardens, Blyth. Cleaning one of the guns after

who lives at 10 Fifth Avenue, Blyth, is completing his 21st camp. He thinks it is the best one for food he has ever known. His colleague, B.S.M. Harry Brown, of 44 Twentieth Avenue, Blyth, works underground as a bricklayer at Crofton Mill Pit. He first joined the T.A. in 1925 and spent part of his war service with B.S.M. Graham.

It is the third camp the regiment has spent at Otterburn. The men think that more of the modern facilities in brick build- ings and less of the "make do and mend" tradition of some camps would encourage others to join the T.A. if they could see the opportunities offered.

So keen are some Blyth men to join the battery that three applied two days before the camp started, in the hope of going away.



News from home. These Blyth men look eagerly at Monday's edition of the News Post, to see how things are going

PLEA FAILS FOR GRANT TO TEACHER

Two clergymen on Northumberland Education Committee appealed to their colleagues at yesterday's meeting of the authority in Newcastle to reconsider a Scholarships and Exhibitions sub-committee's recommendation that an application of a Bedlington assistant mistress at Bedlington Station County Modern School for a grant to enable her to attend a three-year course in divinity be turned down.

Because the teacher had already received assistance from

Blyth News 1950

OTA in 1955



1955



Pre -industrial lime kiln.

(Image Historic England)

Kiln's were intended to be temporary structures. Used since the Roman period.

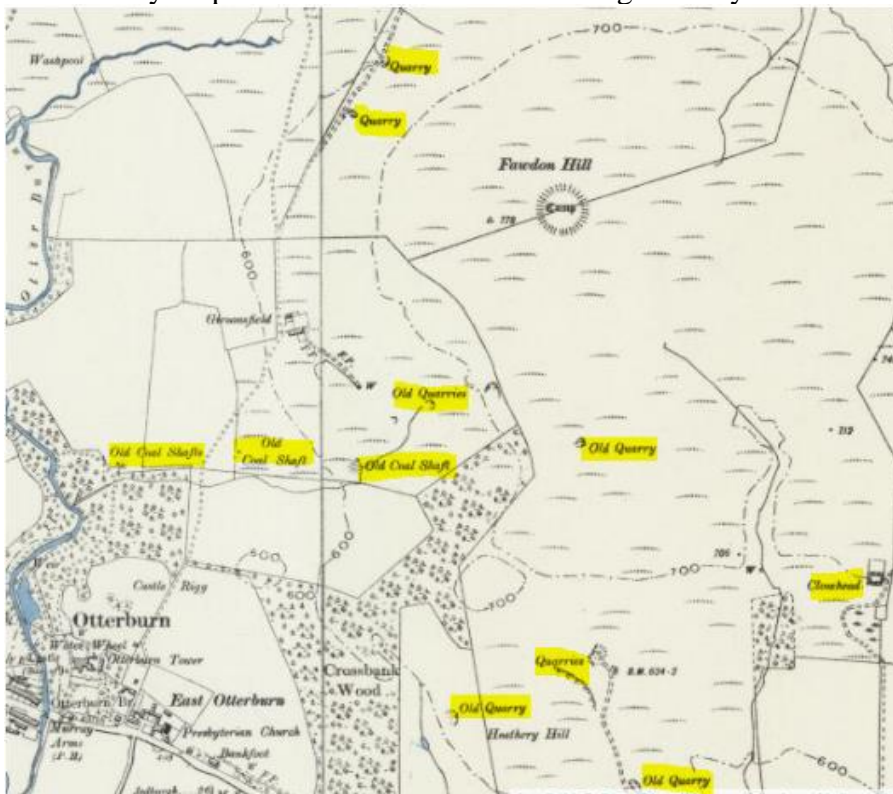
Industrial sites recorded from Post Medieval period:

- Heathery Hill old quarry
- Old quarry near Hopehead farm
- Hopefoot Mill
- Four shallow pits near Hopefoot
- Old quarry Girsonfield wood
- Two other quarries nearby
- Girsonfield settlement; Several old quarries and coal shafts
- Heathery Hill lime kiln
- Closehead quarry, cluster small pits and old quarries
- Two Bell pits
- Tramway



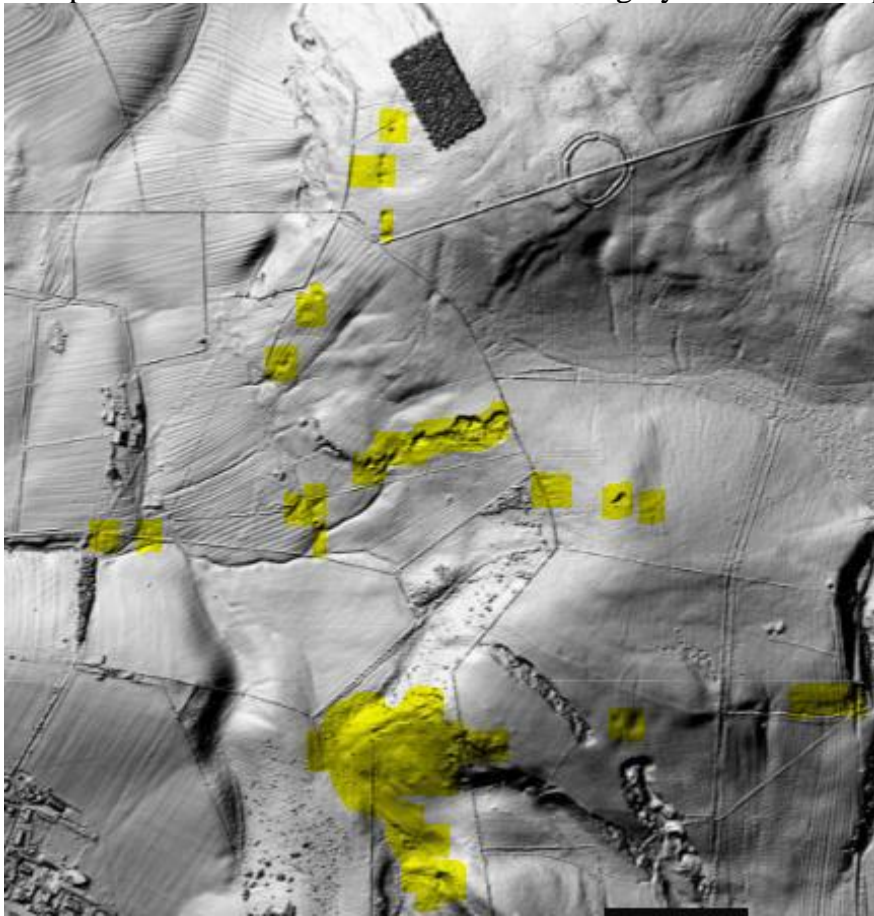
1724 County Map, showing that there were neither lead or coal pits in the Otterburn area at that time. An 18th century corn mill was first recorded as existing in 1742 and last recorded in 1785 (the site is South of Overacres in the Area 3 map).
Keys to the Past

19th century map shows sites of old and working industry in the landscape.



Map c1888-1913

Interpretation of industrial sites on lidar imagery shown on map area above.



DSM NW

Limestone & coal at Overacres, mentioned in this article from 1785.
440 acres of arable, meadow and pasture land.

To be LET and entered upon immediately,
ALL that improveable Farm, called **Overacres**, in the Manor of Ridsdale, in the county of Northumberland, two miles to the Westward of Elsdon, and adjoining upon both sides of the great Turnpike Road leading from Newcastle to Jedburgh and Hawick, containing about 440 acres of arable, meadow, and pasture Land, well watered, and a part thereof inclosed with quickset fences; very good Limestone may be had in the premises, and Coal within less than two miles distance. There is a modus of ten shillings paid in lieu of Corn and Hay Tithe, of the Infield Lands.—For further particulars, apply to Mr Simon Dodd, formerly of Reedswold, now of the Steel, near Bellingham.

Newcastle Courant 1785

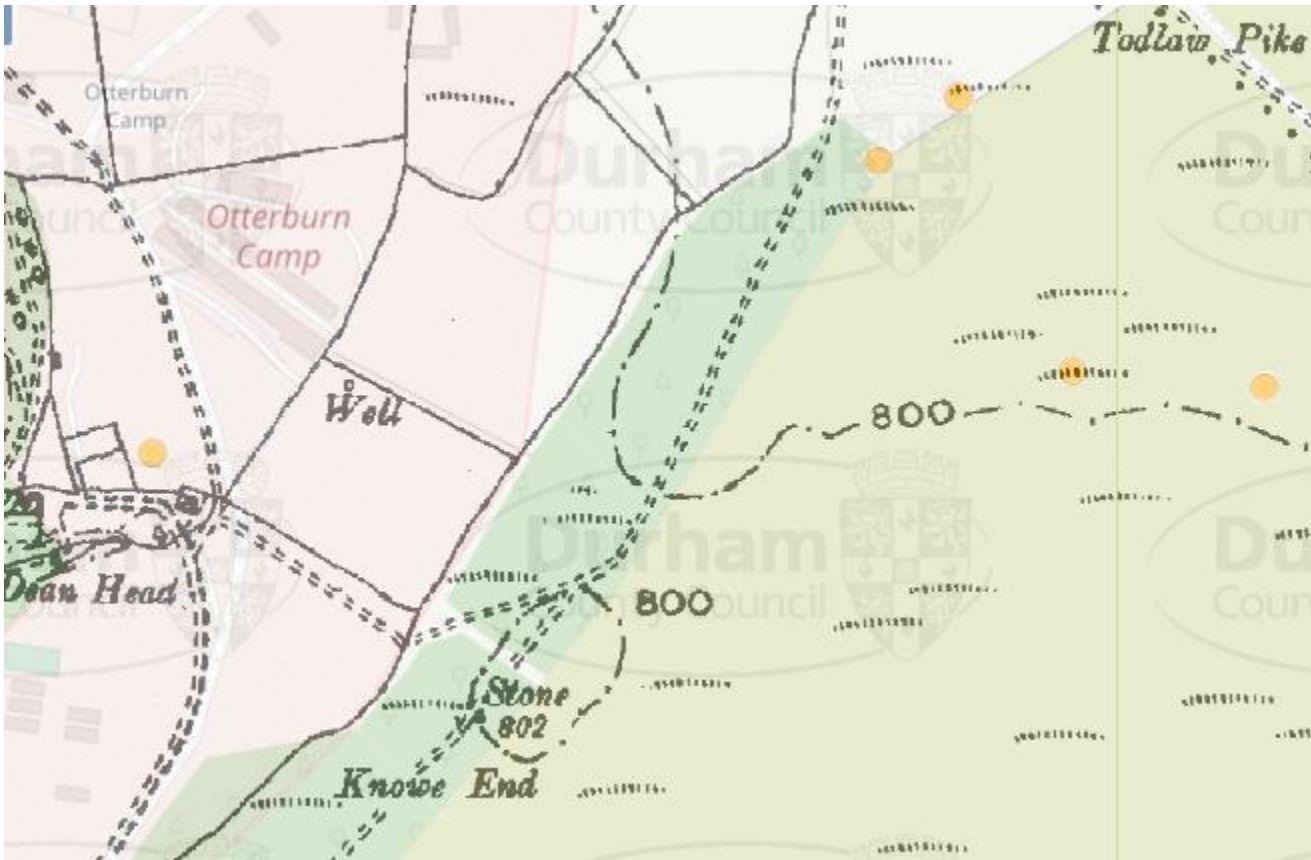
Berraker Shields quarry is mentioned in this 19th century article, along with the discovery of interesting footprints “new to science”. The property owner R.B. Sanderson is listed in the 1838 poll book as owning land at Davyshield and Hopehead.

REMAINS OF THE NORTHUMBERLAND CARBONIFEROUS STRATA.—The footprints, illustrations of which accompany this brief description, writes Mr T. P. Barkas, F.G.S., in the *Colliery Guardian* of Saturday last, were found in the Lower Sandstones of the Carboniferous Limestone formation, Northumberland. The locality in which they were found is known as Berraker Shields Quarry, Deanhead, near Otterburn, North Tyne. The country in that district is very hilly; indeed, it, for the most part, is uncultivated moorland, and the height of the quarry above the sea level is, according to the geological survey, nearly 800 feet. The moor, in which the quarry is situated, is the property of R. B. Sanderson, Esq., Mayor of Newcastle-on-Tyne, and it was from that gentleman I, in the first instance, obtained specimens of the footprints. The footprints represented on slabs figs. 181 and 182 are new to Northumberland Carboniferous palæontology, and, I believe, are new to science. They more closely resemble *Batrachopus* and *Sauropus* figured or described as Owen's "*Palæontology*" and Dawson's "*Acadian Geology*," than any other ichnites I have seen figured or described. *Sauropus* has four well-defined, and one ill-defined toes, the impressions of the extremities of which are isolated in the same manner as are those now being described, but the heel marks are very faint, and, in some instances, entirely absent. *Batrachopus* and

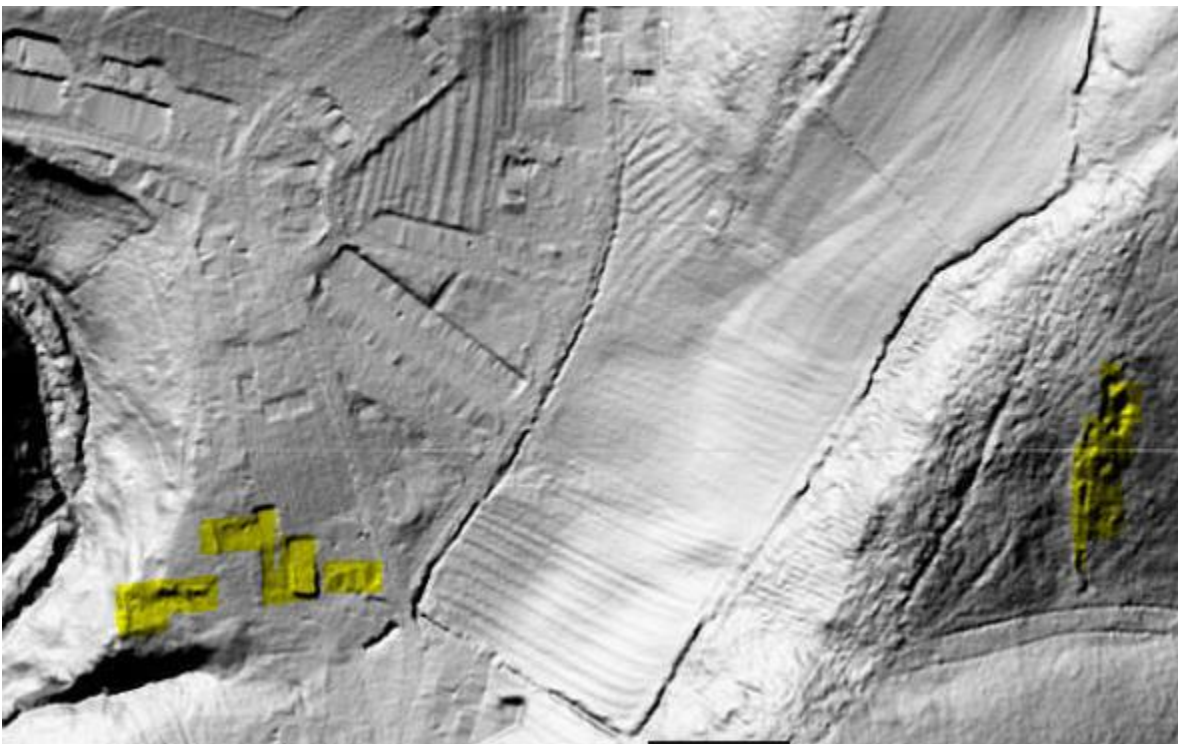
Newcastle Courant 21st July 1871

The location of the quarry is described at Deanhead near Otterburn, situated on uncultivated moorland the height of 800ft

This map from 1894 shows two sites of 800 ft that are in close proximity to Dean Head, possible location of Berraker Shields quarry, however it remains unmarked on any OS maps.



This lidar image shows a possible location of the quarry and the position of Dean Head.



Cultural and technological changes that have impacted on this landscape from the post-medieval period:

- Union of Scotland and England
- End of border reiving
- Enclosure of land
- Industrial revolution, including machinery development, transport and roads
- Communication development, telecomms.
- Otterburn Training area opened in 1912

Aspects of the landscape that have remained the same over time;

- Dispersed settlements
- Rural
- Moorland
- Farming

“...the landscapes of Northumberland have played an active role in shaping patterns of settlement, economic, political and ritual activity.” (Landscape Character Assessment of Northumberland)

Ailsa Graham