



# Redesdale

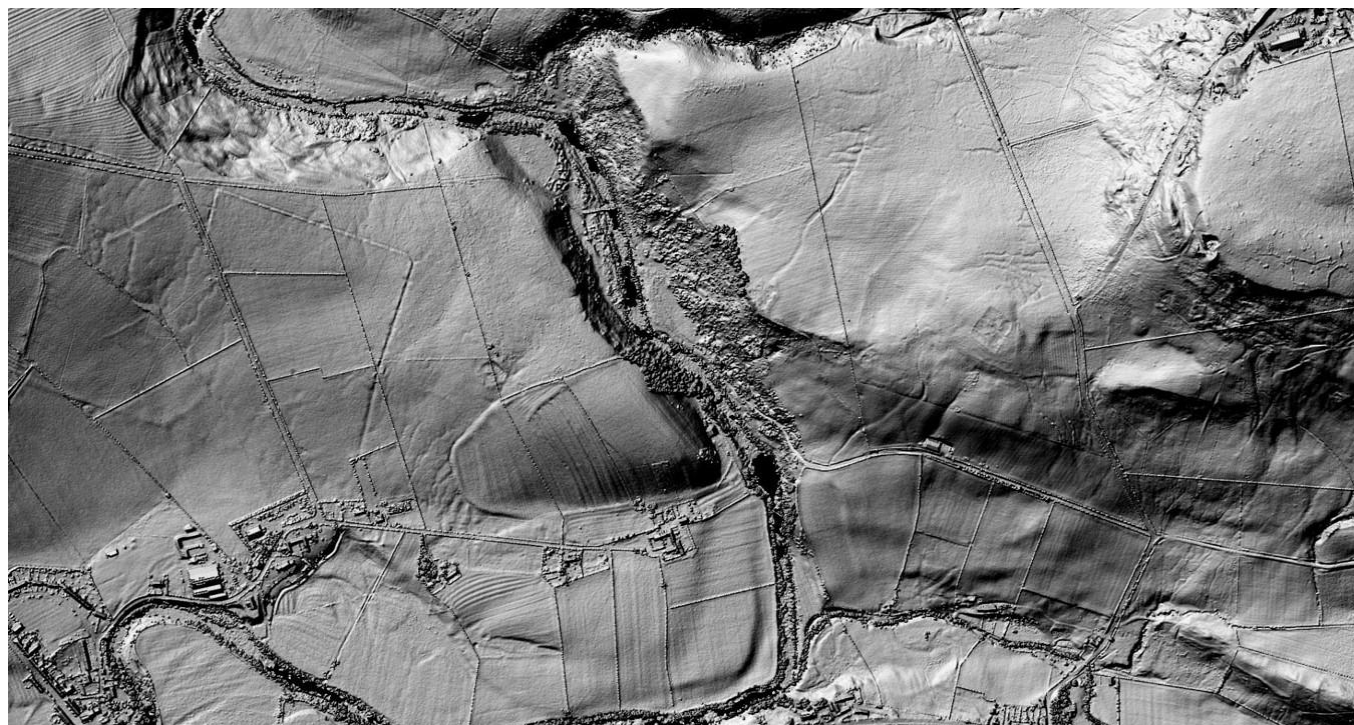
## Landscapes through Time

### Landscape Area 5

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Report by Ian Cooper

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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](mailto:karen.collins@nnpa.org.uk)

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



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### ***Cover illustration***

*Lidar imagery of part of Area 5. This image, extracted from the actual imagery used by volunteers during the Landscapes through Time project, shows the Bronze Age cairnfields on Darney Crag at the north-east corner, and the huge West Woodburn Roman camp towards the west margin. Many other features, dating from prehistory to present, can also be clearly seen. Volunteers used this imagery, along with other sources, to construct 'landscape biographies' for each of the project's six areas.*

## Redesdale – Landscapes through Time Stage 3

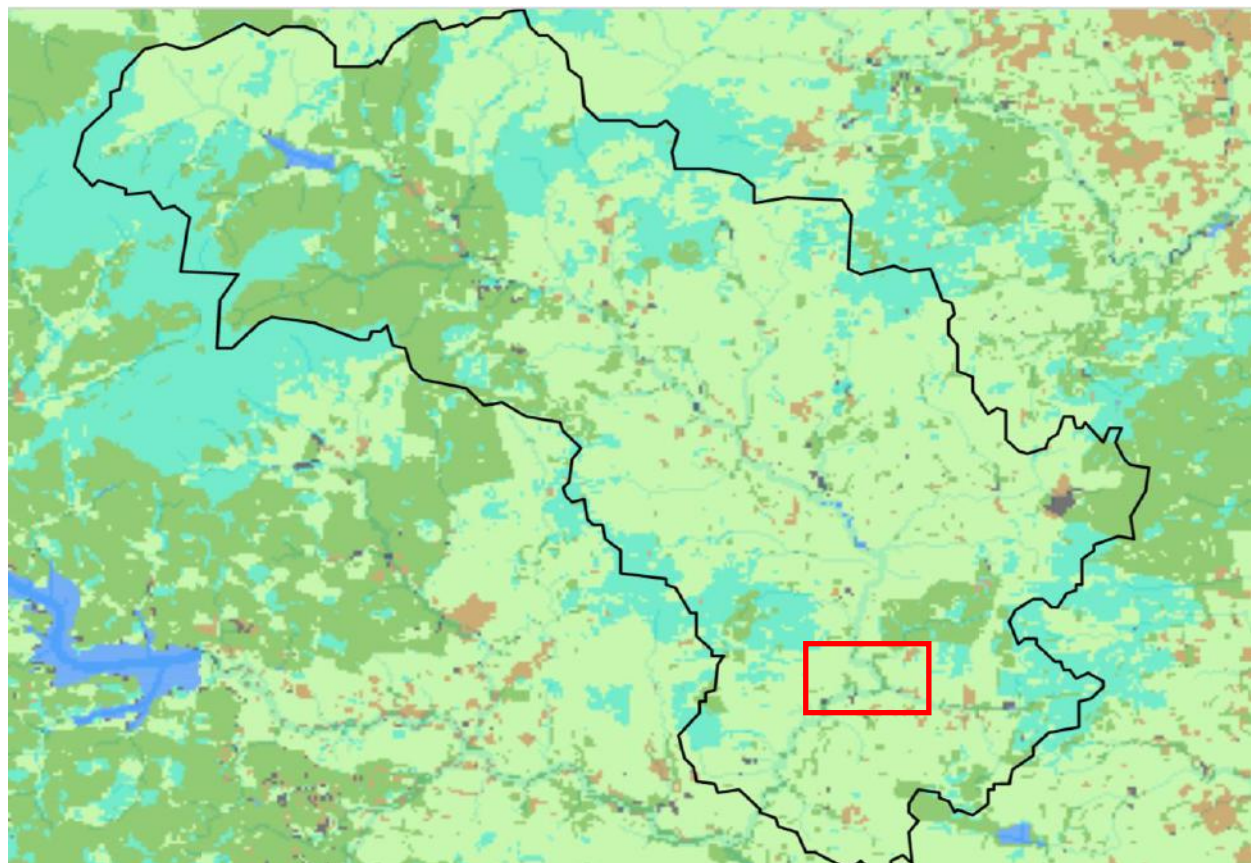
### AREA 5 Report

#### 1 Introduction

Redesdale is the central of the three main routes between the modern countries of Scotland and England across or around the Cheviot massif. Its's importance to traders, raiders and armies has been a key factor since the area was first settled. The location of the valley has had a significant effect on the lives of the inhabitants

Redesdale extends for 22 miles from the watershed at Carter Bar southwards to the junction of the River Rede with the North Tyne at Redesmouth. The area of the catchment is 344km<sup>2</sup> falling from 578m to 106m AOD. Annual rainfall increases from 700mm in Study Area 5 at East Woodburn to over 1000mm at the head of the catchment.

The basal geology is Carboniferous series mostly covered by boulder clay, alluvium and upland peat. Two thirds of the catchment is grassland with upland heath. Land use is now mainly forestry and grazing. The distribution of land use is shown in Fig 1



Study Area 5

-  Woodland
-  Arable and Horticulture
-  Grassland
-  Mountain, Heath, Bog
-  Water (inland, sea, estuary)
-  Built-up areas

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Data from UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology [[National River Flow Archive \(ceh.ac.uk\)](https://nationalriverflowarchive.ceh.ac.uk/)] accessed 17/04/2021]

Fig 1

## 2 Study Area 5

### Location and Character

The study area is centred on the adjoining small villages of East and West Woodburn situated in the parish of Corsenside. The villages make up a dispersed settlement running continuously along the banks of the River Rede and its tributary the Lisle Burn. There are only limited areas of cultivated land along the valley floors and the valley sides rise steeply to moorland heights. There is no land presently under arable cultivation, sheep rearing predominates, some cattle are grazed on the upland areas. The active quarry at Darney Crag is on the northern boundary of the study area.

The iron workings at Ridsale lay immediately outside the southern boundary of the study area but have been influential in the development of the area in the 19<sup>th</sup> C. The iron ore deposits can be assumed to have been worked in earlier periods though evidence is presently lacking, removed by the latest extensive workings.

### Climate

A very broad overview of the climate in the periods covered in this report is that climate fluctuations resulted in conditions more favourable than present reaching peaks in the early Bronze Age, Roman and Medieval periods. In between these highs the climate had periods less favourable than the present in the Iron Age, Early Medieval and Post-Medieval periods. The possible effect of these fluctuations on farming activity in the study area are discussed in the Period Summaries in Section 3

### Conflict

Communities in the Rede catchment are divided by the watershed from communities to the north. In the times when this has formed a boundary between tribes or kingdoms it has resulted in the passage through Redesdale of armed bands or even entire armies with devastation as they pass.

The ebb and flow between times of settled conditions and times of disturbance has shown something of the same inevitability to it as the fluctuations in climate. The Bronze Age and Iron Age sites within the study area do not have the appearance of being provided with substantial defensive works. The Roman military domination of Southern Scotland lasted only for two short periods (85-c.105AD & 142-c.160AD). Thereafter there were repeated Roman campaigns northwards of the Tyne Solway gap throughout the third and fourth centuries. In the Early Medieval period the Northumbrian kingdom grew until the eighth century but then progressively weakened against stronger neighbours and became increasingly susceptible to attack. The creation of the Northumbrian earldom in the 11<sup>th</sup> century marked an end to these conditions and more peaceful times up to the Anglo-Scottish Wars after 1286. Subsequently cross border raiding became the natural order of existence until the Union of the Crowns with James VI/I in 1603.



### 3 Period Overviews

#### i) Mesolithic

The Redesdale project Landscape Area Site Audit (LASA) for Area 5 contains no entries dated to the Mesolithic. Mesolithic sites have been excavated across the North East region, and sites have been identified in Tynedale. There is nothing against activity following the North Tyne and the River Rede upstream. The higher ground directly overlooking the Rede at The Heughs [NY901875] -is close to a variety of habitats stretching from the valley floor to the heights of Staniel Haugh and may have been an attractive location to the peoples of this period

#### Neolithic

Based on genetics as well as artefacts Sheridan (2021) makes a strongly stated case for the discontinuity between Mesolithic peoples and those categorised as Neolithic. Even if this is not accepted, the contrast between the transient existence seen as typical of the Mesolithic and the more permanent Neolithic settlements require different sets of resources and hence overlap and influences in occupation sites between the Mesolithic and Neolithic is not likely.

The Northumberland Historic Environment Record (HER) contains two adjacent entries for the discovery of a Neolithic stone axe; N9751, “discovered at Woodburn in the 1930’s”, and N9752, “discovered at West Woodburn in mid-20<sup>th</sup> century”. Both entries in the HER link to a single entry in Keys to the Past (K2P) under the reference N9752. [5.047]. The findspot is not given precisely but only the NGR for the 1 km sq which contains Risingham Roman fort and adjacent remains. It is assumed here that the two entries in the HER represent the same find which will be discussed below in the context of the Roman presence.

There is an unconfirmed report of a stone circle at Staniel Haugh [5.020]. There are numerous surface boulders on the lower slopes in the Haugh, it is possible that some of these have been interpreted as a forming a manmade feature.

#### ii) Bronze Age

Of this period areas of settlement and cultivation are identified on Darney Craggs [5.019] and Staniel Heugh [5.023] both at close to 250m AOD and a tumulus [5.076] north of Woodhouse at 200m AOD. Two barrows [5.034 & 5.035] potentially of this period have been identified in the vicinity of Risingham fort on the low lying lands (130m AOD) adjacent to the Rede. It is a possibility that one or both of these are Roman funerary monuments.

The prehistoric field system near Darney Crag consists of field clearance cairns and banks, as well as several burial cairns. Some of the burial cairns have retaining kerbs around the base. (K2P)

At Staniel Haugh on East Woodburn Common is a prehistoric round house 9m in diameter with walls standing up to 0.4m high. Nearby is a group of about 45 prehistoric field clearance cairns standing up to 0.6m high. One partly robbed burial cairn also lies nearby. Associated with these remains are traces of cord rig cultivation lying in small plots. (K2P)

The distribution of sites with height is shown in Fig. 2. The highlighting shows the clustering of the sites. Leaving aside the two barrows at 130m AOD (possibly Roman) the identified Bronze Age sites lay above 200m AOD whilst the later Iron Age sites cluster at a lower level between 150 and 200m AOD. The medieval sites are lower still around or below a height of 160m AOD. Only in period 8, (post medieval) are sites found at all levels but still with a heavy concentration below 160m AOD

Height mAOD	Period								
	Not Assigned	2 Neolithic	3 Bronze Age	4 Iron Age	5 Roman	6 Early Med.	7 Medieval	8 Post Med.	9 Modern
250								1	
240			2						
230							1	3	
220				1				1	
210				1					
200		1	1	1				1	
190				1			2	1	1
180	1			2				1	1
170				1			1	1	
160				2			6	3	
150	1			1	2			3	
140	1			1	2	1	3	7	
130	1	1	2		3		3	9	1
120	3				1		3	6	
110					1		1		

Fig 2

The sites identified as Iron Age/Romano British (IA/RB) may extend back into the Bronze Age, but it is unlikely this would have happened at every Bronze Age site. Field patterns are discussed below in the Medieval Period section, whilst it is proposed that relict areas of IA/RB ploughed cultivation can be identified at locations between 150 & 200m AOD, there are no relict areas of cord rig, seen as typical of the Bronze Age, amongst areas which have been ploughed in later periods.

The impression given by the plot is one of a steady descent of activity from the upland areas to the valley floors. This may be due to a deterioration in climate making upland areas less easy to cultivate, it may be that changes in techniques allowed more fertile valley soils to be preferably exploited.

For comparison the combined plot of all the sites (652) in the six study areas is presented in Fig 3a.

In Fig 3b the sites (323) which are fixed in their location by their function (e.g. quarries, roadside features, etc) have been removed to highlight differences driven by agricultural practice. The removal of burial sites results in the reduction of Neolithic sites seen in the figures presented

Height mAOD	Period								
	Not Assigned	2 Neolithic	3 Bronze Age	4 Iron Age	5 Roman	6 Early Med.	7 Medieval	8 Post Med.	9 Modern
300	1							1	
290	1				1			4	
280			1		3		1	9	
270	4		3				1	4	1
260	2	1	2	2				10	
250	4	2	12	3	3		4	12	1
240	6		9	1	4		4	12	1
230	4		5	1	5		4	27	1
220	8			12	3		5	31	
210	5		1	3	4		5	26	
200	4	1	2	5	5		11	38	3
190	5			4	3		4	34	4
180	7			10	1	1	6	25	1
170	5			3	4		13	22	
160	4		2	6	2		14	23	2
150	3	2	3	4	3		2	11	1
140	4			2	2	1	3	9	
130	2	1	2	1	3		3	13	1
120	3				1		3	7	
110	0				1		1	2	

Fig 3a

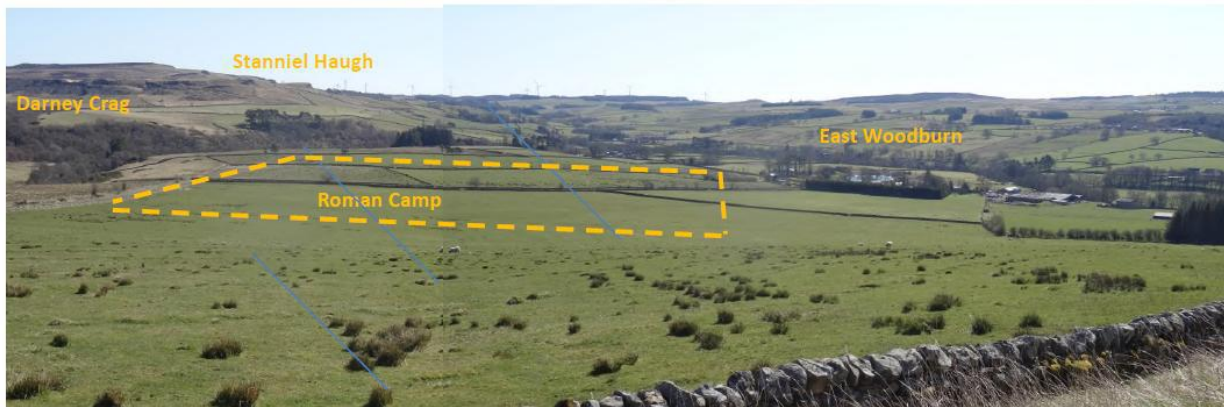
Height mAOD	Period								
	Not Assigned	2 Neolithic	3 Bronze Age	4 Iron Age	5 Roman	6 Early Med.	7 Medieval	8 Post Med.	9 Modern
300	1								
290	1				1			1	
280			1				1	4	
270	2		2						
260	1		1	1				4	
250	2	1	10	3			4	8	
240	4		7		1		4	7	
230	4		4	1			4	17	
220	7			10			4	10	
210	4			3	2		4	12	
200	1		2	5	1		10	13	2
190	4			3	1		3	9	
180	6			10		1	4	4	
170	4			3			11	8	
160	4			6			10	7	
150	1			4			2	4	
140	2			2	1	1	3		
130	1			1			2	1	
120	2						3	2	
110							1		

Fig 3b

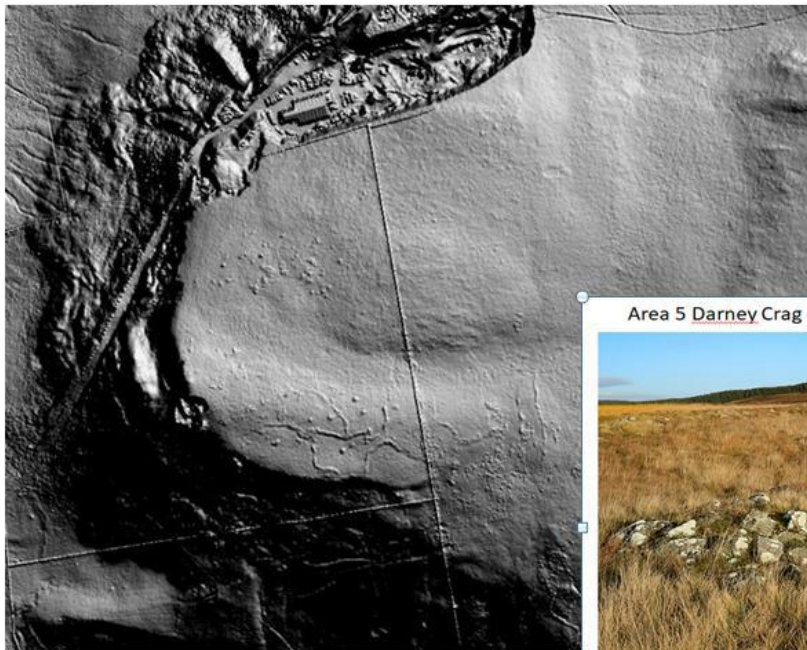
Notes:- Burials and Finds are amongst the exclusions in Fig 3b The differences below 220m in the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods are made up as:- Neolithic 130, 1 Find; 150, 2 finds; 200, Unconfirmed stone circle

Bronze Age 130, 2 Barrows at West Woodburn; 150, 3 burials; 160 2 finds; 210, standing stone

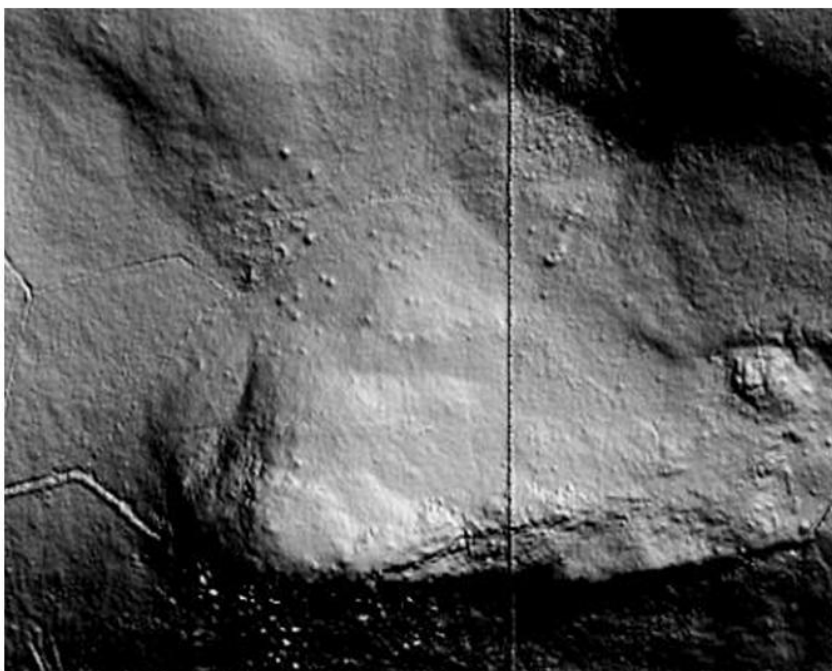
Area 5 View from A68 looking West



Area 5 Darney Crag Cairns & Field system



Area 5 Darney Crag - Cairns



Area 5 Stanniel Haugh  
Cairns

## Iron Age

The sites identified as Iron Age ( & Romano British) occupy lower ground than the identified Bronze Age sites. There is no evidence of continuity in the areas chosen for settlement between the two periods.

The Iron Age sites in the study area can be split into four groups

- a) West of Dere Street (sites 5.071, 080, 081 & 082)
- b) Between Dere Street and the River Rede (sites 5,088 & 087)
- c) East of the River Rede (5.005, 006 & 008)
- d) East of East Woodburn (5.013 & 016)

It is notable that all sites have a southern aspect . The north facing hillside rising from the River Rede & the Lisle Burn up to Ridsdale is empty of any settlement

The groups of sites a), b), & d) are overlain by later cultivation and will be discussed below in Section vii Medieval.

Sites of the period may be classified as either enclosed or unenclosed. Enclosed sites have no visible evidence of an external ditch, round houses with stone footings are placed on the better drained land at the back of the settlement with one or more sunken forecourts; the sites in the study area appear to be this type Unenclosed sites show similar arrangements of houses and forecourts but lack any enclosing feature.

It was the view that the Iron Age peoples of Britain in the Pennines and northwards were pastoralists. This view has been revised over the last fifty years, modified by the number of Roman sites along Hadrian,s Wall found to overlay previously ploughed land. More recently excavations to the north of Newcastle have shown an extensive system of agriculture expanding into the Northumberland coastal plain (Hodgson, 2012). However, these areas lay between 50 and 150mAOD, and the study area is higher, possibly less suitable for crops and that cattle were the agricultural mainstay. Then the sites in Group c, the settlement, the system of enclosures (field system ?) and hollow-way may form a unit for cattle ranching. These sites now lay in unimproved moorland and are not overlain by later features. It is a possibility that this land was medieval forest 'Waste' and so escaped later arable cultivation

### iii) Roman

- a) West Woodburn Roman Camp

First identified in the 1980s LIDAR now shows the earthworks to be more extensive than originally believed from air and ground survey. The internal area is 19.5 Ha (48 acres), larger than any of the camps to the north along Dere Street until Newstead (NT574342) and after there Pathead (NT396636)

Of the camps along Dere Street [5.072] between Corbridge and Newstead, West Woodburn and the 16.5Ha camp Bellshiel (NY 818998) are notably not laid out in alignment with the road and this could indicate that they are earlier. (Jones 2012, p46)

At East Woodburn the valley bottom is much narrower than further downstream yet the river is broader and more easily crossed, the location at this point of the medieval village of East Woodburn [NY905868] and the later drove bridge (Chairford Bridge) point to here being a natural crossing point



The situation of West Woodburn camp on the flat area of a bluff overlooking a river is matched at other sites such as Corbridge , Newstead and Castledykes. At these sites forts later developed. Here the route chosen for the construction of Dere Street may have been selected to provide gentler gradients at the cost of more expensive bridging and approach works across the wider valley floor. The fort of Risingham then being built alongside the road in the mid second century

#### b) Dere Street

For much of its length in Northumberland the Roman road into modern Scotland known as Dere Street is now overlain by the A68. From Swine Hill (NY906815) south of the study area to Woodhouse (NY889872) the route of the road lies in open country, and can be traced on the Lidar. The site of the bridge over the Rede at Risingham was recorded in the 19th century, when paving was noted in the river bed, but this has since been removed and there is now no trace of the crossing. The southern approach from the fort to the bridge is faintly visible on the lidar images and north of the river the line is clearly discernible to Woodhouse

#### c) Risingham site

The visible remains are believed to date from the early third century when the fort accommodated a garrison of 1000 horsemen. Excavation has provided evidence for an earlier mid second century fort. The first Roman presence in the area would date to the first recorded campaigns to the north, into modern Scotland, in the late first century [Historic England, Scheduled Monument 1008561 Habitancum Roman Fort]

A study at Vindolanda estimated an area extending one km around the site would be needed to supply the needs of the garrison for fodder, pasture, timber and other natural resources. Whether these areas were taken under direct Roman control or existing settlements were able to continue, adapting to meet the needs of the garrison is not known. The local population may have abandoned agriculture and moved to other occupations more profitable to them. Those remaining on the land would be paying tax or tribute, Taxes were paid in cash and would require more than subsistence level of agriculture, tribute would be paid in whatever form was dictated, this would influence the split between arable and pastoral farming. Roman military demand for livestock products could have caused a shift from basically an agricultural subsistence economy to one based primarily on livestock. (Hodgson 2012, p219) The post-medieval droving economy could have had a precursor in Roman times (Stalibrass, 2009)

The effects of the Roman presence cannot be determined without evidence from excavation of the dating and nature of the occupation of the settlement sites identified in the study area. The occupants of those sites would experience periods of conflict between roman forces and the peoples to the north. Hodgson (2012, p218) describes the abandonment of native sites in the SE Northumberland plain after the mid second century. He discusses the possibility of a 10 mile exclusion zone beyond Hadrians Wall and notes that sites in Tynedale showing continued occupation are beyond this limit. The factors behind this may equally apply in Redesdale. Here the 10 mile limit closely approximates to the River Rede – Lisle Burn line and it has already been noted that the listed IA/RB sites in the study area lay to the north of that line. Hodgson points out that Risingham, and Netherby each lay on the putative 10 mile limit in his discussion of control points .

#### d) Iron ore deposits

Iron ore deposits at Ridsdale were worked briefly between 1838 & 1879. The KTCP records ironstone workings at Birtley (N8061) at NY890941 some 2km to the west where the earliest workings are believed to be Romano British. It can reasonably be assumed that the deposits at Ridsdale were also known to the Romans. The excavations at Corbridge in 1909 discovered a Roman Ingot ('bloom') about 1 metre in length and weighing 200kg reportedly built up "by welding together small blooms of iron previously smelted somewhere in the neighbourhood" (Haverfield, 2012, p266). This is suggestive that Corbridge was a central depot for the manufacture of items from material sourced from southern Northumberland.

A notable sculptural find at Corbridge is the frieze identified as potentially belonging to a temple of Jupiter Dolichenus; there is a connection between Dolichenus and iron working (Harris & Harris, 1965. Pp55-62, p66). Dedications to Dolichenus have been found at Risingham (RIB 1219 & RIB1220), with a possible connection to iron working there.

The discovery of a neolithic axe in the vicinity [5.047] throws a possible sidelight on Roman activity on the site. Adkins & Adkins (2007) note the number of finds of neolithic axe heads on Roman sites and propose that they could have been deliberately collected in the Roman Period for religious or superstitious reasons. They also note the belief that axe heads represent thunderbolts. Jupiter Dolichenus is portrayed carrying a double headed axe and a link to axe heads would form part of the cult. It is interesting to speculate that a Roman officer with time on his hands would indulge in Antiquarian interests especially when these carried a religious connection

#### iv) Early Medieval

The (HER) describes the evidence for post roman occupation. There is evidence for continued occupation of Roman site into the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> centuries. Areas where extensive clearance already existed in the fourth century retained that level throughout the fifth and until late in the sixth century (Higham 1986, p243). The establishment of the Anglian Kingdom of Northumbria by the early seventh century brought about a change in the political conditions and would have had an effect on settlement. The study area is lacking in remains that can be placed in the period 600-1100AD.

The cross base [5.010] at Woodburnhill & adjacent Well [5.009] are described here because of their possible Early Medieval origin. The base is a sandstone block. 0.53m by 0.74m, 0.2m high with a rectangular socket. There is no established typology for cross bases to help with dating. The KTCP site proposes a Medieval date. The cross base now at Corsenside church [N7941] is placed in the wide Medieval/Post Medieval date range, elsewhere it is given an Early Medieval date (Points 2012, p364). Pieces of Early Medieval sculpture can be seen in the churches at Birtley (NY878779) Chollerton (NY931719) & Warden NY913664 in the North Tyne valley stretching south from Corsenside (Points, 2012). Hodgson (1827, p5) names the last Anglo-Saxon Lord of Redesdale before the Umfravilles as Mildred, the scarcity of any remains is not because the area was not occupied in Early Medieval times. It is the association with the well that suggests that possibility of a link. The well is now covered by a modern brick chamber and cover. It would be better described as a hillside spring. It is speculation that the site had pre-Christian significance resulting later in the erection of the cross.

If the cross has no relation to the spring it does stand on a prominent ridge overlooking East Woodburn, which may have been at a meeting point for the village, as is suggested at other village sites, i.e. ,Mote Hills at Harbottle, Elsdon, Wark , & Haltwhistle (Hodgson 1827 p3). The possibility of it being a wayside marker depends on the route followed from East Woodburn Bridge [5.001] to Threeburn Mouths [NY944863, 3km east] on the Great Drove Road from Elsdon-south to Stagshaw Bank, Corbridge. This route could follow the farm track passing the cross, onto Woodburnhills and Blakelaw; a more natural route is along the line now taken by the minor road some 200m to the north.

## v) Medieval

The possibility of an Early Medieval date for East Woodburn village has been part of the discussion in the previous section. Given the documented presence of the DeLisle family seat at Hallyards, East Woodburn from the 14<sup>th</sup> century there must have been associated settlement.

There are no recorded shielings in the study area. There are possible slight remains on East Woodburn Common east of the study area

The present day field pattern offers evidence of medieval settlement and can be split into two zones:-

- 1) At East Woodburn there is a pattern of long rectangular fields running south from the Lisle Burn and River Rede To a degree these divisions do not respect the landform. [Fig 4]
- 2) To the west of the River Rede large open enclosures laid out with regard to the landform are used for pastures for mainly sheep with some cattle on small sections of land which have not been improved

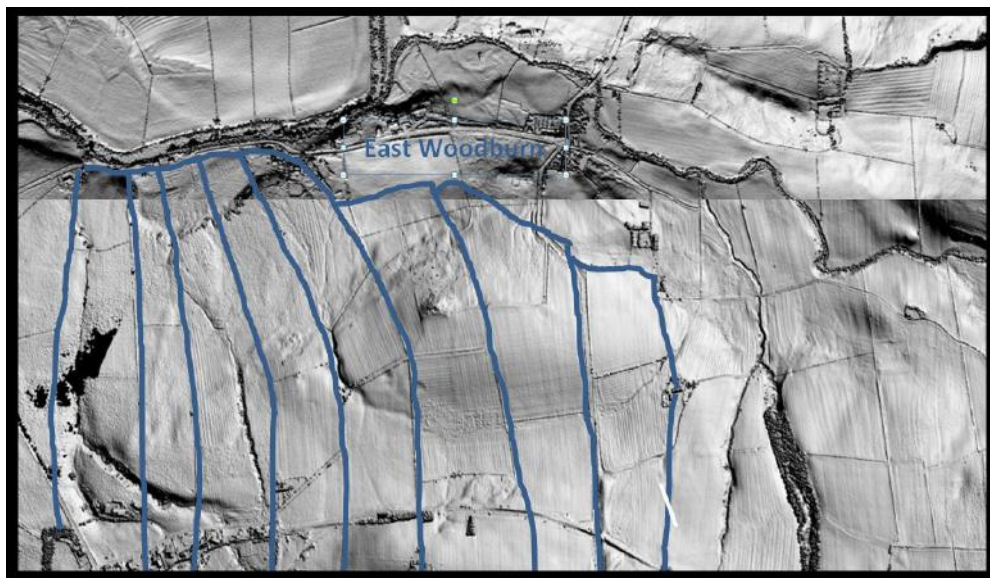
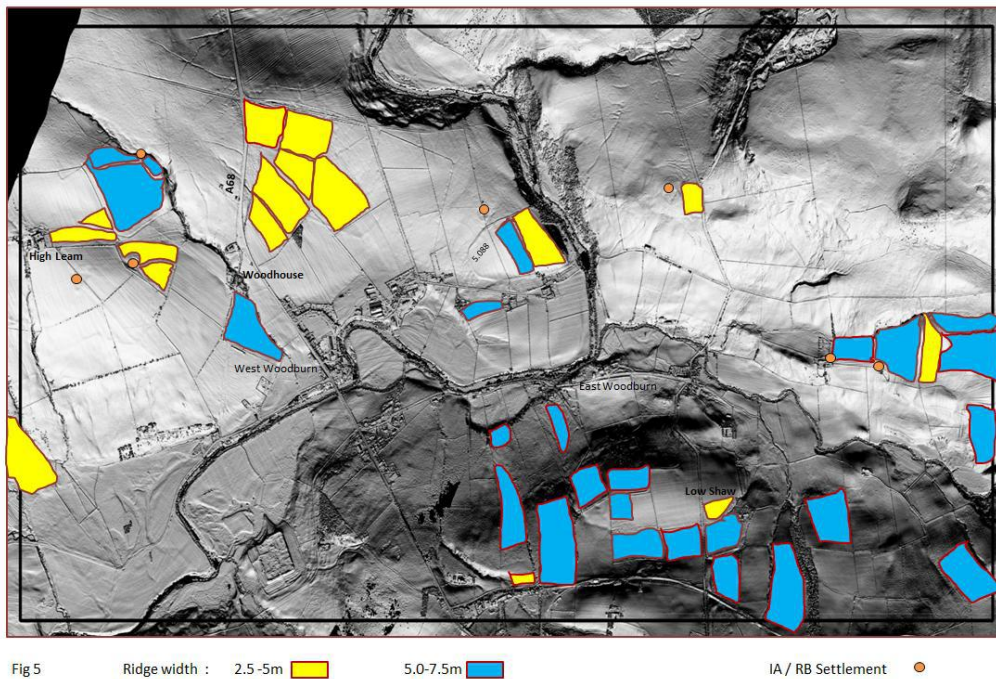


Fig 4 Strip fields south of East Woodburn

The pattern of long fields shown on Fig 4 suggest the enclosure of medieval strip fields. East of the village centre the squarer fields may represent a later enclosure of areas of well preserved ridge and furrow which suggests early conversion to pasture without later cultivation

The areas where ridge and furrow is still sufficiently visible on the LIDAR for their width of the ridges to be measured are shown on Fig 5.



There is a clustering of narrower ridges (3.0 - 4.9m) between High Leam and Woodhouse and north of Woodhouse east of the A68. The boundaries of each of these areas generally do not cross the modern field boundaries, earlier boundaries have been cleared to make the modern pattern.

East of the Rede the width of ridge is typically greater in the range 5.0 -7.6 m with small infills of narrower type.

To understand these differences three areas are studied in more detail

#### Area A High Leam

Adjacent to the two identified IA/RB sites there are small patches of ridge and furrow of different alignments with ridge widths between 3.5 and 6 m. These plots now fall within two modern enclosures, they are at a height of 200m AOD or greater which is seen as being above the above limit of medieval cultivation as illustrated in Fig 3. These plots would not have been subject to being overploughed in medieval times destroying the pattern which we now see. The modern enclosures may have been laid out when land left waste in medieval times was converted to improved pasture for sheep in the post-medieval period.

On the east side of the A68 within a single modern enclosure there is a cluster of areas of straight ridges on different alignments with notably narrower widths of between 2.8 and 4.3 metres at heights of between 150 & 180 m AOD. The narrower ploughing is seen as post-medieval improvement from the early 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> century (Carter, 1997 p447). The ridges produced enhanced drainage and improved the pasture for sheep.

#### Area B West Woodburn

This area is contained in a loop of the Rede and is centred on the curved earthwork feature [5.088]. The feature is contained within two fields, in the western, which contains the curved section, the ridge and furrow runs over the northern arm of the earthwork but stops at the southern ditch, in the eastern field the ridge and furrow does not overlay the northern section but also overlays the bank on the southern arm.

Feature 5.088 is hard to interpret, it does not surround a crest or protect a promontory and lies across a southern facing slope, it does not appear defensive. Going by the ridge and furrow it is no later than



medieval. It is close to the eastern rampart of the Roman Camp but has no characteristics that would identify it as Roman. A potential IA/RB site lies only 25 metres north, but there are no obvious parallels with such a feature at sites of that same period. It is an open question what this is

#### Area C Low Shaw

This area in the south –east corner of the study area lies between 150 and 200 m AOD. The plan shows small blocks of ridge and furrow of different width and orientation with larger modern fields. This area lies east of the 'strip' fields running south from the road from East to West Woodburn.

The land is divided into small parcels, this may be an area of earlier enclosure of the 17<sup>th</sup> century when previously common land was divided between those who previously had the rights to the land for grazing. The range of ridge widths may have arisen through different methods being adopted at different times

### vi) Post-Medieval

#### a) Bastles

The style of defensible two storey free standing dwellings referred to as Bastles appeared in the Border region in the second half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The impetus behind them is unclear. The Dissolution of the monasteries brought extensive tracts of land into Crown ownership. The Crown may have encouraged the development of networks of bastles to increase security in the Borders or their construction may be from individual initiatives or both factors may apply to different degrees in different locations.

Within the study area the LASA lists one Bastle at Cherry Trees [5.093]. Outside the study area there are three further Bastles within 2km (Low Cleughs, N7944: Low Leam, N7957: and Hole, N8064). These four Bastles are all on the west bank of the Rede. South of Otterburn there are no Bastles on the east side of the River Rede.

Beyond the eastern limit of the study area on the headwaters of the Lisle Burn there are two possible Bastles.(The Heads N9380, and Harewalls, N9379).

It appears from the distribution that there is an element of overall planning in the siting of the Bastles. They are not sited on the higher ground which would have formed waste land before enclosure and conversion to sheep pasture. They are sited on land that would already be managed.

The convent at Holystone held lands in Corsenside, it may be that land released by the Dissolution of the Monasteries was leased to new tenants or sold with conditions. The Northumberland County History (vol 4 pp. 404-405) mentions a Crown lease of 1567 with the condition that " a substantial house of stone and timber, commonly called a bastle house" be built and a record of 1541 of two bastles built on leased Crown land "belonging to the late suppressed monastery at Newminster.

#### b) Droving

The droving way which crosses the study area was significant enough for East Woodburn bridge [5.001] to be reconstructed in a style more elegant than the functional demand for a new crossing. The bridge carries a date of 1832 on the rebuilt principal span along with the names "John Park Builder, John Stothert Foreman". The circumstances of the bridge's construction are unknown, it may have required an Act of Parliament but one has not been identified. The need for a new bridge may be linked to conversion to turnpike of the road now the A68, tolls along this route south may have increased movement over the old bridge to join the unmade drove road running south from Elsdon. If the new

bridge was not paid for by an unknown benefactor it is likely it would have been tolled though there is no evidence of this.

The linear earthwork at Black Burn bridge [5.007] is on the parish boundary of Corsenside. It may be a cross dyke to a droving route following the east bank of the river Rede, there to control movement at the parish boundary or simply to help funnel the cattle to the bridge. The Holloways [5.058] south of East Woodburn may be a continuation of this route from Blackburn Bridge to Chairford Bridge and southwards. They may be the medieval route from East Woodburn village to higher pastures.

#### c) Enclosures

Some reference to enclosure is made in the Medieval section. A detailed discussion of post medieval enclosures, particularly in the 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> centuries needs access to documents. Parry (1979) proposes a typology of cultivation ridges for dating the abandonment of open arable land to enclosed pastures. In collecting the data for Fig 5 it was hoped to use this method but did not prove practical in the time available.

A study of the field walls would also be useful here. Just to note that the walls each side of the section of minor road from the A68 towards East Woodburn Bridge, which might be expected to be built with the road and be the same are of very different standards of construction.

#### vii) Modern

The LASA has only only three entries, All Saints Church, the War Memorial and the Rede pipeline from Catcleugh reservoir [5.061, 027, 079]. The Rede pipeline is evident on the Lidar below High Leam.

The continued working and expansion of Darney Quarry [5.018] is the only modern activity likely to impact on the landscape .

## 4 SUMMARY

The Redesdale Lidar Landscapes project (Frodsham, 2020) produced a substantial enhancement of the Historic Environment Record. This report has been prepared under the follow up Landscapes through Time Project with the aim of producing a seamless landscape narrative for each area whilst recognising there are significant gaps in the available record.

Made landscapes are influenced by both topography and the social structures of the societies which have produced them. This report shows topography influencing the early settlement pattern which shows occupation moving from higher to lower land. The influence of social change such as the development of power structures in growing populations can only be speculative at these early times. It is only in historical periods that changes in landscape can be related to documented social and economic change.

The scarcity of identified Early Medieval sites (410 – 1066AD) is a substantial impediment to developing a continuous narrative. Despite this it is noted that Iron Age sites largely favour south facing slopes, and the same pattern is seen again in the distribution of post Medieval Bastle sites. The same pattern is not evident in Medieval occupation. Sites have been assigned to periods based on similarities in layout, a better dating structure based on excavation could go some way to filling the gaps presently seen in the record.

Post Medieval and Modern developments have been primarily treated in isolation, the determining factors between arable and livestock farming have not been explored. Recommendations for the further study of post medieval agriculture are made in the next section.

## 5 FUTURE RESEARCH

The greatest gap that I have felt in the preparation of this report is in the understanding of the development of East Woodburn. I think an understanding of medieval tenures and services is needed to provide context for the patterns we see in the landscape now.

Essentially the same gap exists in studying the Roman period, here the answer may not be found. The purpose of building Hadrian's Wall is not known, it cannot be assumed that at any stage it formed the boundary of a province. At times before and after its construction Roman direct control extended to the Forth Clyde line, in between or subsequent to those periods the Roman view of the extent of the province was not necessarily bounded by military dispositions. The treatment of the peoples of Redesdale would be dependent on their legal status in the Roman system, whether they kept or were likely to lose their livelihoods, or their lives.

As regards future fieldwork, I have suggested a study of the field walls and banks. Excavation at the IA/RB sites may provide dating for their occupation but they are noted for the scarcity of finds of dateable objects.

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## DATA SOURCES

Northumberland Historic Environment Record (HER):-[HeritageGateway - Historic Environment Record Details](#)