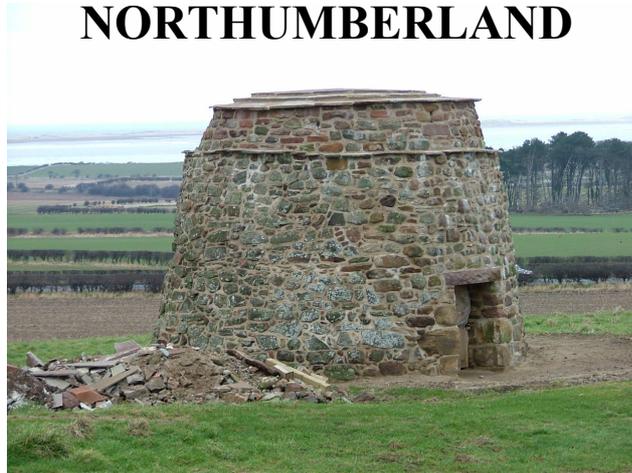

NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Client Report No CP/528/07

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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
BUILDING RECORDING
PROJECT AT
BUCKTON DOVECOTE,
BUCKTON FARM,
BELFORD,
NORTHUMBERLAND**



**FOR
MRS BARCHAM**

NGR: NU 081 386

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In June 2007, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. were commissioned by Mr D McCreath, on behalf of Mrs Barcham, to undertake a building recording project at Buckton Dovecote, Buckton Farm, Belford, Northumberland (NU 081 386). English Heritage requested an archaeological building recording project be undertaken on the structure, corresponding to an English Heritage Level 3 survey, as the landowner intended to consolidate the monument, involving the removal of collapsed material, reinstatement of the collapsed structure and the construction of a new roof.

Buckton Dovecote is an example of a beehive dovecote, dating to at least the early 17th century. The earliest known historical reference to the dovecote at Buckton Farm dates to 1626. At that time Buckton formed part of the manor of Etal. It is a Grade II Listed Building and a Scheduled Ancient Monument (ND 113), which is currently on the Buildings at Risk Register, as a Priority Category A.

By necessity the building recording was undertaken in three stages. Phase 1 comprised an outline metric building survey and documentary research prior to the proposed alterations. This was followed by Phase 2, archaeological monitoring and recording undertaken following the removal of collapsed stone rubble. Phase 3 comprised building recording of the final form of the dovecote, after works had been completed.

The building appears to have been constructed in a single phase, and had survived largely in its original state until the present works. Apart from being re-roofed with slate, and some repair work with cement render on the walls, no evidence was visible for later re-use of the building. The south side of the monument has suffered badly from collapse, but the remainder of the building was in relatively good condition, apart from some small areas external of damage on the northwest side. Following the removal of collapsed stone rubble on the south side of the building the, the clay and rubble core of the dovecote was revealed, and the original entrance was exposed. This part of the building was rebuilt, all the outer walls were rendered, and the roof was repaired to make the structure sound.

The interior of the building had survived in very good condition and contained around 300 stone nest boxes, in alternate layers running almost the entire height of the building. This provided a simple but elegant solution to housing a large number of birds. Ledges on the exterior provided landing places, and a roof entrance provided the birds with access to the interior. Human access was gained through a low entrance passage on the southwest side, although the original door had not survived.

Consolidation and restoration of the building comprised the re-pointing of external walls, the rebuilding of the collapsed south side, and the re-roofing of the structure using new stone slabs. A new timber door was also added in the original location. The final form of the building was true to the original design, and provides a rare example of a complete beehive-shaped dovecote in its original (restored) form.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Mr D McCreath for commissioning the project. North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would also like to extend their thanks to Sarah Rushton, English Heritage Field Monument Warden, Karen Derham, Assistant County Archaeologist Northumberland County Council, and the staff at the Northumberland Museum, Archives and Country Park, Woodhorn, Ashington for their help during this project.

The building survey was undertaken by Martin Railton, NPA Senior Project Officer, and Fiona Wooler, NPA Building Specialist, who also conducted the historical research. The report was prepared by Martin Railton and Fiona Wooler, and illustrated by Martin Railton. The project was managed by Martin Railton, NPA Senior Project Officer. Matthew Town, NPA Senior Project Officer, edited the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In June 2007 North Pennines Archaeology Limited were commissioned by Mr D McCreath, on behalf of Mrs Barcham, to undertake an archaeological building recording project of a dovecote at Buckton Farm, Buckton, Belford, Northumberland (NU 081 386) prior to consolidation of the structure (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 Buckton Dovecote is a post-medieval beehive dovecote, believed to be constructed prior to 1626. It is a Grade II Listed Building and a Scheduled Ancient Monument (ND 113), which is currently on the Buildings at Risk Register, as a Priority Category A. The structure was roofless at the start of the project and was in urgent need of consolidation having suffered collapse on the south side, exposing the clay-bonded core and internal nest boxes.
- 1.1.3 English Heritage requested an archaeological building recording project be undertaken on the structure, as the landowner intended to consolidate the monument, involving the removal of collapsed material, reinstatement of the collapsed structure and the construction of a new roof. The recording work required was specified in an English Heritage brief¹, and comprised a metric building survey and documentary research prior to the proposed alterations (Phase 1), followed by archaeological monitoring and recording undertaken once works at the site commenced (Phase 2), and building recording after works had been completed (Phase 3). The archaeological building recording project corresponded to an English Heritage Level 3 survey². The work was undertaken according to a North Pennines Archaeology Project Design³, which was submitted to, and approved by English Heritage, prior to the works commencing.
- 1.1.4 The first phase of metric building survey was undertaken by Martin Railton and Fiona Wooler between the 6th and 8th August 2007, prior alterations taking place. An interim report was submitted to English Heritage and presented the results of the Phase 1 recording works. Phase 2 recording was undertaken by Martin Railton on 24th October 2007. The final phase was undertaken by Fiona Wooler on 14th February 2008, once consolidation of the structure was complete. This final report contains all three phases of the building recording project.

¹ English Heritage, 2007

² English Heritage, 2007

³ Railton, 2007

1.2 SITE LOCATION

- 1.2.1 Buckton Dovecote (NU 081 386) is located in a field just to the north of Buckton Farm, Belford (Figure 2). The structure is located on a slight ridge, in a prominent position overlooking the main A1 trunk road, the East Coast Rail Line, and the North Sea, with Holy Island visible to the east (Plate 1).
- 1.2.2 At the time of survey, the field was used as pasture for cattle. A small former quarry was observed just to the north of the dovecote, and earthworks, including a hollow way, were noted to the west. On the initial visit the south side of the dovecote was overgrown with nettles, and an elder was growing out of the south side.



Plate 1 – Buckton Dovecote during consolidation, looking east towards the North Sea with Holy Island visible in the distance

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1.1 The purpose of the building recording project was to produce a detailed record of the existing form and fabric of the dovecote, including structural and architectural details, and any archaeological evidence for the buildings origins and development. The recording project comprised a metric building survey, supported by historical and documentary research, corresponding to an English Heritage Level 3 survey⁴.
- 2.1.2 By necessity the building recording was undertaken in three stages. Phase 1 comprised an outline metric building survey and documentary research prior to the proposed alterations. This was followed by Phase 2, archaeological monitoring and recording undertaken once works at the site commenced. Phase 3 comprised building recording of the final form of the dovecote, after works had been completed.

2.2 BUILDING SURVEY

- 2.2.1 Detailed recording of the building was undertaken in order to provide an accurate record of the structure, and to identify the origins, main phases of development and use of the building.
- 2.2.2 *Phase 1:* Firstly, a metric survey of the plan of the building, and an outline metric survey of exterior of the building was undertaken using a Trimble 3605 Reflectorless Total Station. Additional detail was measured by hand, and added to the outline survey in a CAD environment, to produce four external outline elevation drawings of the north, south, east and west sides. These show all openings, breaks in masonry, architectural detail, and other detail relating to the previous use of the building.
- 2.2.3 *Phase 2:* A detailed elevation drawing was produced of the exposed south side of the building using a combination of metric survey and rectified photography, once loose stone rubble has been removed. Fixed targets were used to create a series of control points on this elevation. These were surveyed using the Trimble 3605 Reflectorless Total Station, to form a framework for rectifying digital photographs of the building. The image rectification was undertaken using Monobild Software. The resulting digital photographs were then digitised in a CAD environment to produce a stone-by-stone scale drawing of the southern elevation, showing the locations of the exposed nest boxes. Additional internal detail was recorded by hand using measured sketches, and added to the survey using AutoCAD software. The metric survey and rectified photography were undertaken according to English Heritage specifications⁵.
- 2.2.4 The building survey also comprised an internal and external observation of the building, and the production of a written and photographic record. Photographs were taken using black and white print and colour slide film. Shots were taken of all external elevations, to show significant structural of architectural detail, and to show the building in its wider context. All photographs will include a graduated scale.

⁴ English Heritage, 2006

⁵ English Heritage, 2006

- 2.2.5 The results of the building survey were used to inform a written description of the building, and an account of the building's origins development and use. The final report includes a scale floor plan, and drawings of all external building elevations.
- 2.2.6 *Phase 3:* The final stage of building recording comprised a photographic survey of the dovecote, once consolidation of the structure was complete, in order to record the final form of the building.

2.3 DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH

- 2.3.1 Historical research was undertaken to provide additional information regarding the origins, development and use of the building, and to provide a historical context for the site. This comprised a search of all pertinent documentary, photographic, pictorial sources and historic maps relating to the building. This included consultation of the Northumberland Record Office (NRO), Northumberland Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), National Monuments Record (NMR), Archaeological Data Service, Local Libraries, and any available material held by the current landowner and estate. Details of pertinent documentary sources are included in Appendix I.
- 2.3.2 A search was made of all records held by the Northumberland Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), within 1km of the site of the dovecote. Details of these records are included in Appendix II.
- 2.3.3 Historic maps of the site were analysed in order to assess the historical development of the site. Extracts from these are included in Appendix III.

2.3 ARCHIVE

- 2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (1991). The archive will initially be held at the North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. offices at Nenthead, and will be deposited within the Museum of Antiquities following the completion of the project including the original photographs.
- 2.3.2 One copy of the final report will be sent to Northumberland County Council for inclusion in the HER, where viewing will be available on request. Digital survey data, and a digital copy of the report (in pdf format) will also be made available.
- 2.3.3 The project is also registered with the **Online Access to the Index of archaeological InvestigationS (OASIS)**, where digital copies of the report will also be made available. The **OASIS** reference for the project is: **northpen3-37956**

3. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- 3.1 According to Hodgson writing in 1820, the first mention of a dovecote at Buckton Farm appears to be in 1626, when it is associated with *'tower land, malt barn and kilne'*⁶. A tower at Buckton is listed as early as 1415, although there are no visible remains of the tower. Its location may be under the present farmhouse (SMR ID 3733).
- 3.2 Buckton is the site of a deserted medieval village, which was first mentioned in a survey of 1560/1, when there were *'12 husbandlands, 12 cottages, 20 tenants each with a tenement and 16 acres of arable land'* (SMR ID 3752). In 1580 there were 12 tenants equipped for Border Service, and at the 1666 Hearth Tax, there were 29 householders⁷. Aerial photographs of the area have revealed a pattern of tofts and ridge and furrow earthworks around the present farm (SMR ID 3752).
- 3.3 Writing in 1922, Vickers notes that in the early 17th century, Buckton formed part of the manor of Etal: *'Soon after the accession of James I [1603], the manor of Etal was surveyed and was found to contain 4,971 acres but of this only 1,984 lay in Etal itself, for the term 'manor' covered all that had one been Manners property, including lands in Bowsden, Humbleton, Howtel, Kilham, Hetherslaw and Ewart in Glendale, and Berrington, Buckton, Gorwick and Norham'*⁸.
- 3.4 By the date of the Restoration of the monarchy (1660), Haggerston Estates centred around the townships of Haggerston, Fenwick and Buckton. In 1670/1, Haggerston Estate was used for large scale sheep farming; however the farms at Buckton and Fenwick were not directly farmed, but leased out to tenants. By 1711, Buckton was leased to a single tenant. In 1757 a survey of the estate showed that Fenwick's three farms consisted of the dispersed farms of Isely Hill and Mount Hooley in the hands of a single tenant, Moor Farm and the Town Farm, whilst Buckton was divided between Buckton Town Farm and the dispersed farms of Moor Farm and Smeafield⁹.
- 3.5 Buckton, in Kylee parish, is described in Parson and White's Directory of 1828 as *'an estate, which lies near to the Smeafield Farm, at the southern extremity of Islandshire, [which] was anciently possessed by a family of its own name, from whom it passed to the Maners, Adamsons, Howburns and Haggerstons'*¹⁰.
- 3.6 Buckton Farmhouse, to the south of the dovecote, is a Grade II listed buildings of mid-18th century date with 19th century alterations and additions (SMR ID 3767). An outbuilding located approximately 20 yards west of Buckton Farmhouse is also a Grade II listed building, built in the 18th century as a tack room and bothy (SMR ID 3768). The walled garden, stable and coach house located just to the north of Buckton House are also 18th century in date and Grade II listed (SMR ID 3769).
- 3.7 There does not appear to be any early maps which show the dovecote held at the Northumberland Archives at Woodhorn. There is no Inclosure Award for Kylee parish or listed under Buckton, and the Tithe Map of 1848 for the Township of Kylee does

⁶ Hodgson, J.C, 1820

⁷ Dixon, P.J, 1984, Pages 104-7

⁸ Vickers, K.H, 1922, Page 453

⁹ Dixon, P.J, 1984, Page 221

¹⁰ Parson and White, 1828, Page 336

not include Buckton¹¹. A map showing turnpike road improvements between Cow Causey and Buckton Burn dating to 1835 does not show properties at Buckton¹².

- 3.8 The first known map to show the buildings and dovecote at Buckton is the 1866 First Edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 3). The dovecote is marked in a field to the north of the main farmstead, along with a small quarry (although it is not marked as such) and a spring. This map clearly shows the buildings and gardens at Buckton estate with a similar layout as today, and a reservoir shown to the east of the main house (SMR ID 19596). The larger scale Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1899 clearly shows the reservoir along with all the buildings, and the circular dovecote to the north (Figure 4).
- 3.9 Various Trade Directories were sampled for entries relating to Buckton Farm, these are included in Appendix I.

¹¹ Northumberland Record Office, Woodhorn, Ref: DT 282

¹² Northumberland Record Office, Woodhorn, Ref: QRUP 32

4. SURVEY RESULTS

4.1 THE PURPOSE OF THE DOVECOTE

- 4.1.1 Dovecotes (sometimes referred to as dovecots, pigeon house of culvery) were common features on farmsteads from the Middle Ages through to the eighteenth century. Pigeons were kept for their meat, eggs, and in particular the manure, which was regarded as an especially powerful fertiliser¹³. According to Wade Martins, the heyday of the dovecote was the period 1640-1750¹⁴, although there are many earlier examples. Beehive-shaped dovecotes, of which Buckton Dovecote is an example, are circular in plan and according to Brunskill are found mainly in the Scottish Lowlands¹⁵, although Hansell cites an example at Embleton (north of Alnwick) in Northumberland¹⁶.
- 4.1.2 A collapsed example of a beehive-shaped dovecote survives at Kyoel, located only c.1km to the north of Buckton. A complete example can be found at Bamburgh, located c.5km to the southeast, which stands 5.5m high and 6.7m wide. This dovecote has three lines of bricks on which the birds could land, and about 250 internal nest holes. Three windows in the building are modern additions. This style of dovecote is believed to date to the 16th or 17th centuries. The example at Embleton, located c.7km to the south, is of a type known as a tun-bellied dovecote (where the walls bulge outward slightly before tapering upward). Later dovecotes are often incorporated into other farm buildings.
- 4.1.3 Internally dovecotes contain nesting boxes for the birds, constructed either from the same material as the building itself or from tile, clay or timber partitions. A doorway into the structure was often provided for human access, to clear out the manure, and collect eggs, but was low enough to discourage the birds from flying out. In some cases, depending on the height of the dovecote, a potence was included within the interior, which was a revolving ladder that allowed the collection of eggs at higher levels¹⁷.

4.2 PHASE 1: BUCKTON DOVECOTE PRIOR TO WORK COMMENCING

- 4.2.1 The first phase of metric building survey was undertaken by Martin Railton and Fiona Wooler between the 6th and 8th August 2007, prior to the proposed alterations. The southern side had suffered badly from collapse, and much detail was hidden from view on this side at the time of the visit (Plates 2-5).
- 4.2.2 The dovecote is a circular building which tapers as the height increases (Figure 5). It was constructed of uncoursed rubble sandstone, with more recent cement mortar. The south side of the structure had collapsed exposing some of the internal nesting boxes and the clay bonding (Plate 6).

¹³ Brunskill, R.W, 1999, Page 84

¹⁴ Wade Martins, S, 1991, Page 33

¹⁵ Brunskill, R.W, 1999, Page 85

¹⁶ Hansell, P & J, 2001, Page 11

¹⁷ Brunskill, R.W, 1999, Page 87

- 4.2.3 It is located in a prominent position in a field to the north of Buckton Farm, away from other farm buildings and trees (Figure 2). According to Hansell, it was not unusual for dovecotes to stand alone as it was believed that a conspicuous position, free from surrounding trees and buildings, was thought desirable, so the homing birds could easily find their nests¹⁸. At the time of the Phase 1 survey, earthworks (which included a hollow way) were noted to the west of the dovecote, and a small quarry was observed to the north.
- 4.2.4 The dovecote was slightly oval in plan, with external measurements of 5.7m northeast to southwest, and 5.2m northwest to southeast at its base. The diameter decreases to 3.5m externally at its top. It had no opening around any of its exterior walls apart from a low doorway on the south side, which at the time of survey, was located within the collapsed area.
- 4.2.5 At the top of the building, at heights of 3.2m and 4m, are two courses of sandstone slates (Plates 7 & 8), with some later Welsh slate inserted on the western side. Above the lower of the sandstone slate courses a step of 0.3m, reduces the external diameter to 3.9m. These sandstone courses would have provided ledges for the birds. At the time of survey there was no evidence for a roof covering, however it may have originally had a corbelled stone roof, or may have been constructed of timber in which case little would survive. The top of the building may have consisted of a louver which allowed the birds to access the dovecote but which also protected the birds from the wind and rain. Many openings in dovecotes faced south to gain the maximum amount of sun¹⁹; this is certainly the case with the low doorway.
- 4.2.6 At the point where part of the wall had collapsed it was possible to measure the thickness of the wall just above the low doorway as c.130cm, although the wall thickness decreases higher up the walls. At this same point it was possible to measure the external dimensions of the nest boxes, which were 30cm wide, 40cm deep and 20cm high. Hansell notes that each box needed to be large enough to accommodate at least one parent and two chicks, although due to the rapid breeding cycle of the bird, sometimes three niches may have been provided for every two pairs²⁰.
- 4.2.7 As no Ordnance Survey Benchmark could be located close to the monument an arbitrary datum of was adopted for the Phase 1 survey, and is shown in Figure 5.

¹⁸ Hansell, P & J, 2001, Page 9

¹⁹ Hansell, P & J, 2001, Page 9

²⁰ Hansell, P & J, 2001, Page 23



Plate 2 – Buckton Dovecote as seen from the east showing collapsed area to the south
(scale = one metre)



Plate 3 – Buckton Dovecote as seen from the south (scale = one metre)



Plate 4 – View of the dovecote as seen from the west (scale = one metre)



Plate 5 – View looking south-east (scale = one metre)



Plate 6 – Detail of upper part of south elevation showing collapsed section and slates at top



Plate 7 – Detail of two courses of sandstone slates at top of dovecote



Plate 8 – View looking north of two courses of sandstone slates with collapsed section right of photograph

4.3 PHASE 2: BUCKTON DOVECOTE DURING CONSOLIDATION

- 4.3.1 The second phase of metric building survey was undertaken by Martin Railton on 24th October 2007, following the removal of stone rubble from the south side of the building. The collapsed south elevation was fully visible, and was recorded using a combination of metric survey and rectified photography. The doorway on the south side had also been exposed, providing access to the interior for the first time.
- 4.3.2 Most of the outer wall on the south side of the dovecote had collapsed exposing the clay bonding and rubble core (Plate 9). On the east side of this area at least ten layers of nest boxes were exposed (Figure 6).
- 4.3.3 The doorway to the building was located on the southwest side (Plate 10). This comprised a 1.38 high, and 1m wide opening through the outer wall, forming a 0.65m-long passage. The original door frame was marked by a 0.08m wide step in the wall at either side, forming an opening 0.76m wide. A further 0.51m long passage gave access to the interior, the internal doorway being 0.5m wide and 1.35m high. The lintel was former of a single unshaped 1.35m-long timber, measuring 0.2m wide and 0.1m deep.



Plate 9 – The exposed south elevation showing the collapsed section and doorway
(scale = 1.6 metre)



Plate 10 – The dovecote entrance passage, looking northeast (scale = 1.6 metre)

- 4.3.4 The compacted earth floor of the dovecote measured 3.85m wide east-west, and 3.35m wide north-south. The internal walls measured 0.25m high on the east side, increasing to 0.4m high to the west. Above this were 13 layers of nest boxes, formed by stone slabs up to 0.7m wide, and square stone uprights (Plates 11 & 12). This arrangement continued the full height of the dovecote. The nest boxes were on average 0.2m wide, 0.25m high, and 0.35m deep. The bottom two layers of nest boxes on the west and north sides had been blocked with stone and clay at some point in the building's history, probably because these were too close to the ground. It was estimated that in its present form the dovecote contained around 300 nest boxes.
- 4.3.5 The roof of the building was formed of large stone slabs, which had been overlapped to form a rectangular opening measuring approximately 1m by 0.8m. The south side of the roof had collapsed, but was largely intact on the north, west and east sides, with some later repairs externally (Plate 13).



Plate 11 – The dovecote interior, showing the arrangement of the lower nest boxes (looking west)



Plate 12 – The dovecote interior, showing the arrangement of the upper nest boxes (looking west)



Plate 13 – The dovecote roof and opening from within (looking east)

4.4 PHASE 3: BUCKTON DOVECOTE FOLLOWING CONSOLIDATION

- 4.4.1 The final phase of building recording was undertaken by Fiona Wooler on 14th February 2008, following the consolidation and renovation of the building. The existing exterior walls had been re-pointed, the collapsed southern side of the building had been rebuilt, and the structure had been re-roofed using new stone slabs by this time. A new timber door had also been added in the original location with a new stone lintel over the entrance passage (Figure 15).
- 4.4.2 The restored form of the dovecote is true to the original design. This includes the preservation of the original asymmetrical form of the building (Figure 16). The new roof comprises three overlapping layers of sandstone slabs making the roof watertight (Figure 17). It was not possible to gain access to the interior at the time of the final visit.



Plate 14 – The restored dovecote (looking northeast)



Plate 15 – The restored dovecote (looking southeast)



Plate 16 – The restored dovecote showing the new roof (looking east)

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 Buckton Dovecote is an early example of a beehive dovecote, dating to at least the early 17th century. The earliest known historical reference the dovecote at Buckton Farm dates to 1626. At that time Buckton formed part of the manor of Etal. The working dovecote would have provided the farmstead with an important source of meat, eggs, and fertiliser. However, very little historical information has been recorded about the monument.
- 5.2 The building appears to have been constructed in a single phase, and had survived largely in its original state. Apart from being re-roofed with slate, and some repair work with cement render on the walls, no evidence was visible for later re-use of the building. The south side of the monument had suffered badly from collapse, but the remainder of the building was in relatively good condition, apart from some small areas external of damage on the northwest side.
- 5.3 The interior of the building had survived in very good condition and contained around 300 stone nest boxes arranged in alternate layers running almost the entire height of the building. This provided a simple but elegant solution to housing a large number of birds. Ledges on the exterior provided landing places, and a roof entrance provided the birds with access to the interior. Human access was gained through a low entrance on the southwest side, although the original door had not survived.
- 5.4 Consolidation and restoration of the building comprised the re-pointing of external walls, the rebuilding of the collapsed south side, and the re-roofing of the structure using new stone slabs. A new timber door was also added in the original location. The final form of the building is true to the original design, and provides a rare example of a complete beehive-shaped dovecote in its original (restored) form.

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- Vickers, K.H, 1922, *The History of Northumberland*, Volume XI, Newcastle upon Tyne
- Wade Martins, S, 1991, *Historic Farm Buildings*, London: Batsford

APPENDIX I : Documentary Sources

Northumberland Record Office (NRO), Woodhorn

Maps

Greenwoods Map c.1822 shows representations of properties at Buckton but does not identify the dovecote

1835 Turnpike Road Improvement map between Cow Causey and Buckton Burn does not show properties at Buckton (NRO Ref: QRUP 32)

No Inclosure Award at NRO for Kyleo Parish or Buckton

1848 Tithe Map of the Township of Kyleo does not show the estate at Buckton (NRO Ref: DT282)

First Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1866 (Scale = 6 inch to one mile) (NRO)

No First Edition Ordnance Survey Map c.1865 at NRO (Scale = 25 inch to one mile)

Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1900 (Scale = 25 inch to one mile) (NRO)

Trade Directories, Histories and Publications

History, Directory and Gazetteer of the Counties of Durham and Northumberland – Parson and White 1828, Volume II

Page 336 – Kyleo Parochial Chapelry

‘Contains the village and township of Kyleo, the hamlets of Beal and Fenwick and a number of scattered houses, the joint population of which, in 1801, amounted to 968 souls, in 1811 to 958 and in 1821 to 990, consisting of 187 families resident in 185 houses. The annual value of the lands and buildings in the chapelry was estimated for the Durham County rate at £8,178’.

‘Kyleo village is situated at the foot of Copsey hill, near the north road, 5 miles NNW of Belford. It gave name to a resident family in the reign of Edward I., but a great part of the lands in the chapelry now belongs to Sir C Haggerston, J.P, Selby Esq and Henry Morton Esq. The church was rebuilt in 1792, it stands on the summit of a hill on the north side of the village and commands an extensive and interesting view from Berwick Bay to Holy Island and the Farn Islands. In 1750, Lord Crewe’s Trustees gave £50 to repair the chancel. The benefice is a curacy and a peculiar, belonging to the Dean and Chapter of Durham, and has the curacy of the parish of Lowick in Glendale Ward, Northumberland, annexed to it. The Rev. Robert Fenwick is the incumbent of the joint benefices and the Rev. Robert Smith is the sub-curate. Coal and lime are found in the parish. The estate called Buckton, which lies near to the Smeafield Farm, at the southern extremity of Islandshire was anciently possessed by a family of its own name, from whom it passed to the Maners, Adamsons, Howburns and Haggerstons’.

Whellan's Directory of Northumberland 1855

'Buckton, a township in this chapelry, situated at the southern extremity of Islandshire, is in the occupancy of James Hogg, farmer and at East Kyloe'.

Bulmer's Directory of Northumberland – Wansbeck Division 1887

Kyloe Parochial Chapelry (Islandshire)

'This chapelry comprises the townships of Beal with Lowlin, Berrington, Buckton, Fenham, Fenwick and Kyloe, whose united area is 9,764 acres. The population in 1801 was 968, and in 1881, 782. This chapelry, with the rest of Islandshire, was a part of the county of Durham until 1844, in which year it was severed by an Act of Parliament and added to Northumberland. The land is chiefly owned by Captain Leyland'.

'Buckton is a township and estate at the southern extremity of Islandshire, farmed by Mr James Hogg. It was anciently possessed by a family of its own name, from whom it passed to the Manners, Adamsons, Holburns and Haggerston's'.

James Hogg, farmer, Buckton

Kelly's Directory of Durham and Northumberland 1938

Jas Scott, farmer, Buckton [listed as farm over 150 acres]

Highways and Byways in Northumbria – P Anderson Graham, Manchester, 1973 (first published 1920)

'The excellent main road we are on now turns sharply to the left at Haggerston Castle, where once stood the ancient tower of the Haggerston family. Leland calls it 'a towne upon the south side of Lindis ryver'. A mile further on a road branches to the left for Holy Island. The Kyloe Hills are on our right, and the rugged crags near Belford are very fine, with trees and heather and many rare plants. On the height is a British camp with a double rampart, and the foundations of St Mary's Chapel of uncertain date and history. A well near the roadside is called St Mary's Well and a century ago still had two ladles fastened by chains to the side to refresh the thirsty passers-by. From the crags on a clear day the view of Holy Island and the Farnes and Bamburgh is very beautiful. On the roadside by the hamlet of Buckton is a plantation called Grizzy's Clump, where Grizzel Cockrane robbed the mail of the warrant for her fathers execution who was in prison for taking part in a rising against James II'.

The History of Northumberland – Volume XI, Kenneth H Vickers, 1922, Newcastle upon Tyne

'Soon after the accession of James I, the manor of Etal was surveyed and was found to contain 4,971 acres but of this only 1,987 lay in Etal itself, for the term 'manors' covered all that had once been Manners property including lands in Bowsden, Humbleton, Howtel, Kilham, Hetherslaw and Ewart in Glendale, and Berrington, Buckton, Goswick and Norham in North Durham'.

Deserted Medieval Villages of North Northumberland Volume – A Settlement History from the 12th to the 19th Century, Volume I – P J Dixon, 1984, PhD Thesis, University of Wales

The lesser estates – 1 – The Haggerston Estate

'Between c.1650 and c.1750 the Haggerston family managed to increase substantially the size of their estate. In the early 17th century this consisted of the township of Haggerston and parts of several other townships such as Lowick and Cheswick, but by the late 18th century it had grown to an estate of more than half a dozen townships. This was achieved despite the Catholic and Royalist sympathies of the family in the 17th century which resulted in the confiscation of their estates following the Civil War. They re-occupied their estate, through the agency of Brownell and Crouch however, and by dint of good management and a refusal to be drawn into any subsequent Jacobite uprisings, they improved their estates and were known for their dairy products and cattle in the 18th century (Raine 1852). At the Restoration the Haggerston estates centred around the townships of Haggerston, Buckton and Fenwick. Shortly after in 1670/1 Haggerston township, which had formerly been divided into two parts, was farmed as a demesne and was used for large scale sheep farming. Buckton and Fenwick were not directly farmed, but leased to tenants. However, as early as 1711 Buckton was leased to a single tenant and Fenwick to three tenants and six coaters. It is not certain if enclosure had been effected at this time, but it had been achieved by 1757 when a survey of the estate showed that Fenwick's three farms consisted of the dispersed farms of Isley Hill and Mount Hooley in the hands of a single tenant, Moor farm and the Town farm, whilst Buckton was now divided between Buckton Town farm and the dispersed farms of Moor farm and Smeafield'.

APPENDIX II : Sites and Monuments Records

One Kilometre SMR search centred on Buckton Dovecote:

SMR ID	Name	Grid Ref	Date	Description
3733	Buckton Tower	NU 0812 3845	Medieval Post Medieval	Tower listed in 1415 and in 1626 mention is made of 'Tower land, malt barn, kilne and dovecoat'
3740	Buckton Dovecote	NU 0806 3857	Post Medieval	Dovecote c.50 yards north of Buckton House mentioned in 1626
3752	Buckton, deserted medieval village	NU 083384 NU 082385	Medieval Post Medieval	Buckton was a member of the Bishop of Durham's estate of Islandshire. 1560/1 survey, 1666 Hearth Tax. Ridge and furrow and field systems
3767	Buckton Farmhouse	NU 0813 3846	Post Medieval	Grade II listed building. Mid 18 th century with early 19 th century alterations and additions
3768	Outbuilding at Buckton Farmhouse	NU 0809 3846	Post Medieval	Outbuilding c.20 yards west of farmhouse. Grade II listed building. 18 th c tack room and bothy
3769	Walled garden, stable and coach house	NU 0812 3850	Post Medieval	Walled garden, stable and coach house c.30 yards north of Buckton House. Grade II listed building. 18 th century
19596	Reservoir	NU 08196 38426	Post Medieval	Reservoir marked on the OS map of 1866
19594	Spring	NU 07963 38914	Post Medieval	Spring to the north of Buckton as marked on the OS map of 1866
19595	Spring	NU 07830 38607	Unknown	Spring to the north-west of Buckton marked on the OS map of 1866

SMR ID	Name	Grid Ref	Date	Description
19892	Well	NU 9036 8551	Post Medieval	Well next to Lowmoor Gate on the east coast railway line as shown on the OS map of 1866
3751	Fenwick Stead	NU 081 395	Medieval Post Medieval	Earthworks and ridge and furrow surround the farmstead
3772	Cottages and stables	NU 0798 3953	Post Medieval	Cottages and stables c.35 yards north east of Fenwick Stead Farmhouse. Grade II listed building. Early 19 th century
3773	Stores and garage	NU 08020 39508	Post Medieval	Stores and garage c.50 yards east of Fenwick Stead Farmhouse. Grade II listed building. Late 18 th to early 19 th century
3774	Stables	NU 0798 3949	Post Medieval	Stables c.30 yards east of Fenwick Stead Farmhouse. Grade II listed building. Early 19 th century
19589	Spring	NU 07602 39348	Unknown	Spring to the west of Fenwick Stead as marked on the OS map of 1866
19590	Spring	NU 07693 38912	Unknown	Spring to the south west of Fenwick Stead as marked on the OS map of 1866
19591	Sheep wash	NU 08212 39377	Post Medieval	Sheep wash at Fenwick Stead as marked on the OS map of 1866
19901	Well	NU 8126 9452	Unknown	Well to the east of Fenwick Stead as shown on the OS map of 1866
20779	Fenwick Stead coal working	NU 08000 39000	Unknown	Dark fireclays and shales noted in 1927 by members of the Geological Survey in an old working

SMR ID	Name	Grid Ref	Date	Description
19593	Milepost	NU 08142 38716	Post Medieval	Milepost 11 miles south of Berwick and 3.5 miles north of Belford as marked on the OS map of 1866

APPENDIX III : Illustrations

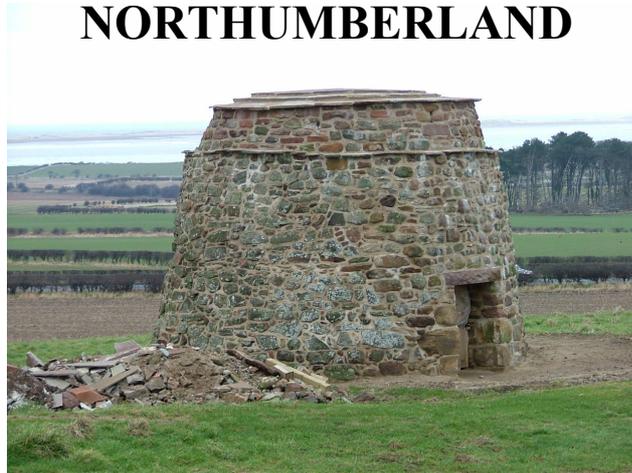
APPENDIX IV : Project Design

NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Client Report No CP/528/07

February 2008

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
BUILDING RECORDING
PROJECT AT
BUCKTON DOVECOTE,
BUCKTON FARM,
BELFORD,
NORTHUMBERLAND**



**FOR
MRS BARCHAM**

NGR: NU 081 386

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In June 2007, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. were commissioned by Mr D McCreath, on behalf of Mrs Barcham, to undertake a building recording project at Buckton Dovecote, Buckton Farm, Belford, Northumberland (NU 081 386). English Heritage requested an archaeological building recording project be undertaken on the structure, corresponding to an English Heritage Level 3 survey, as the landowner intended to consolidate the monument, involving the removal of collapsed material, reinstatement of the collapsed structure and the construction of a new roof.

Buckton Dovecote is an example of a beehive dovecote, dating to at least the early 17th century. The earliest known historical reference to the dovecote at Buckton Farm dates to 1626. At that time Buckton formed part of the manor of Etal. It is a Grade II Listed Building and a Scheduled Ancient Monument (ND 113), which is currently on the Buildings at Risk Register, as a Priority Category A.

By necessity the building recording was undertaken in three stages. Phase 1 comprised an outline metric building survey and documentary research prior to the proposed alterations. This was followed by Phase 2, archaeological monitoring and recording undertaken following the removal of collapsed stone rubble. Phase 3 comprised building recording of the final form of the dovecote, after works had been completed.

The building appears to have been constructed in a single phase, and had survived largely in its original state until the present works. Apart from being re-roofed with slate, and some repair work with cement render on the walls, no evidence was visible for later re-use of the building. The south side of the monument has suffered badly from collapse, but the remainder of the building was in relatively good condition, apart from some small areas external of damage on the northwest side. Following the removal of collapsed stone rubble on the south side of the building the, the clay and rubble core of the dovecote was revealed, and the original entrance was exposed. This part of the building was rebuilt, all the outer walls were rendered, and the roof was repaired to make the structure sound.

The interior of the building had survived in very good condition and contained around 300 stone nest boxes, in alternate layers running almost the entire height of the building. This provided a simple but elegant solution to housing a large number of birds. Ledges on the exterior provided landing places, and a roof entrance provided the birds with access to the interior. Human access was gained through a low entrance passage on the southwest side, although the original door had not survived.

Consolidation and restoration of the building comprised the re-pointing of external walls, the rebuilding of the collapsed south side, and the re-roofing of the structure using new stone slabs. A new timber door was also added in the original location. The final form of the building was true to the original design, and provides a rare example of a complete beehive-shaped dovecote in its original (restored) form.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Mr D McCreath for commissioning the project. North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would also like to extend their thanks to Sarah Rushton, English Heritage Field Monument Warden, Karen Derham, Assistant County Archaeologist Northumberland County Council, and the staff at the Northumberland Museum, Archives and Country Park, Woodhorn, Ashington for their help during this project.

The building survey was undertaken by Martin Railton, NPA Senior Project Officer, and Fiona Wooler, NPA Building Specialist, who also conducted the historical research. The report was prepared by Martin Railton and Fiona Wooler, and illustrated by Martin Railton. The project was managed by Martin Railton, NPA Senior Project Officer. Matthew Town, NPA Senior Project Officer, edited the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In June 2007 North Pennines Archaeology Limited were commissioned by Mr D McCreath, on behalf of Mrs Barcham, to undertake an archaeological building recording project of a dovecote at Buckton Farm, Buckton, Belford, Northumberland (NU 081 386) prior to consolidation of the structure (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 Buckton Dovecote is a post-medieval beehive dovecote, believed to be constructed prior to 1626. It is a Grade II Listed Building and a Scheduled Ancient Monument (ND 113), which is currently on the Buildings at Risk Register, as a Priority Category A. The structure was roofless at the start of the project and was in urgent need of consolidation having suffered collapse on the south side, exposing the clay-bonded core and internal nest boxes.
- 1.1.3 English Heritage requested an archaeological building recording project be undertaken on the structure, as the landowner intended to consolidate the monument, involving the removal of collapsed material, reinstatement of the collapsed structure and the construction of a new roof. The recording work required was specified in an English Heritage brief¹, and comprised a metric building survey and documentary research prior to the proposed alterations (Phase 1), followed by archaeological monitoring and recording undertaken once works at the site commenced (Phase 2), and building recording after works had been completed (Phase 3). The archaeological building recording project corresponded to an English Heritage Level 3 survey². The work was undertaken according to a North Pennines Archaeology Project Design³, which was submitted to, and approved by English Heritage, prior to the works commencing.
- 1.1.4 The first phase of metric building survey was undertaken by Martin Railton and Fiona Wooler between the 6th and 8th August 2007, prior alterations taking place. An interim report was submitted to English Heritage and presented the results of the Phase 1 recording works. Phase 2 recording was undertaken by Martin Railton on 24th October 2007. The final phase was undertaken by Fiona Wooler on 14th February 2008, once consolidation of the structure was complete. This final report contains all three phases of the building recording project.

¹ English Heritage, 2007

² English Heritage, 2007

³ Railton, 2007

1.2 SITE LOCATION

- 1.2.1 Buckton Dovecote (NU 081 386) is located in a field just to the north of Buckton Farm, Belford (Figure 2). The structure is located on a slight ridge, in a prominent position overlooking the main A1 trunk road, the East Coast Rail Line, and the North Sea, with Holy Island visible to the east (Plate 1).
- 1.2.2 At the time of survey, the field was used as pasture for cattle. A small former quarry was observed just to the north of the dovecote, and earthworks, including a hollow way, were noted to the west. On the initial visit the south side of the dovecote was overgrown with nettles, and an elder was growing out of the south side.



Plate 1 – Buckton Dovecote during consolidation, looking east towards the North Sea with Holy Island visible in the distance

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1.1 The purpose of the building recording project was to produce a detailed record of the existing form and fabric of the dovecote, including structural and architectural details, and any archaeological evidence for the buildings origins and development. The recording project comprised a metric building survey, supported by historical and documentary research, corresponding to an English Heritage Level 3 survey⁴.
- 2.1.2 By necessity the building recording was undertaken in three stages. Phase 1 comprised an outline metric building survey and documentary research prior to the proposed alterations. This was followed by Phase 2, archaeological monitoring and recording undertaken once works at the site commenced. Phase 3 comprised building recording of the final form of the dovecote, after works had been completed.

2.2 BUILDING SURVEY

- 2.2.1 Detailed recording of the building was undertaken in order to provide an accurate record of the structure, and to identify the origins, main phases of development and use of the building.
- 2.2.2 *Phase 1:* Firstly, a metric survey of the plan of the building, and an outline metric survey of exterior of the building was undertaken using a Trimble 3605 Reflectorless Total Station. Additional detail was measured by hand, and added to the outline survey in a CAD environment, to produce four external outline elevation drawings of the north, south, east and west sides. These show all openings, breaks in masonry, architectural detail, and other detail relating to the previous use of the building.
- 2.2.3 *Phase 2:* A detailed elevation drawing was produced of the exposed south side of the building using a combination of metric survey and rectified photography, once loose stone rubble has been removed. Fixed targets were used to create a series of control points on this elevation. These were surveyed using the Trimble 3605 Reflectorless Total Station, to form a framework for rectifying digital photographs of the building. The image rectification was undertaken using Monobild Software. The resulting digital photographs were then digitised in a CAD environment to produce a stone-by-stone scale drawing of the southern elevation, showing the locations of the exposed nest boxes. Additional internal detail was recorded by hand using measured sketches, and added to the survey using AutoCAD software. The metric survey and rectified photography were undertaken according to English Heritage specifications⁵.
- 2.2.4 The building survey also comprised an internal and external observation of the building, and the production of a written and photographic record. Photographs were taken using black and white print and colour slide film. Shots were taken of all external elevations, to show significant structural of architectural detail, and to show the building in its wider context. All photographs will include a graduated scale.

⁴ English Heritage, 2006

⁵ English Heritage, 2006

- 2.2.5 The results of the building survey were used to inform a written description of the building, and an account of the building's origins development and use. The final report includes a scale floor plan, and drawings of all external building elevations.
- 2.2.6 *Phase 3:* The final stage of building recording comprised a photographic survey of the dovecote, once consolidation of the structure was complete, in order to record the final form of the building.

2.3 DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH

- 2.3.1 Historical research was undertaken to provide additional information regarding the origins, development and use of the building, and to provide a historical context for the site. This comprised a search of all pertinent documentary, photographic, pictorial sources and historic maps relating to the building. This included consultation of the Northumberland Record Office (NRO), Northumberland Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), National Monuments Record (NMR), Archaeological Data Service, Local Libraries, and any available material held by the current landowner and estate. Details of pertinent documentary sources are included in Appendix I.
- 2.3.2 A search was made of all records held by the Northumberland Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), within 1km of the site of the dovecote. Details of these records are included in Appendix II.
- 2.3.3 Historic maps of the site were analysed in order to assess the historical development of the site. Extracts from these are included in Appendix III.

2.3 ARCHIVE

- 2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (1991). The archive will initially be held at the North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. offices at Nenthead, and will be deposited within the Museum of Antiquities following the completion of the project including the original photographs.
- 2.3.2 One copy of the final report will be sent to Northumberland County Council for inclusion in the HER, where viewing will be available on request. Digital survey data, and a digital copy of the report (in pdf format) will also be made available.
- 2.3.3 The project is also registered with the **Online Access to the Index of archaeological InvestigationS (OASIS)**, where digital copies of the report will also be made available. The **OASIS** reference for the project is: **northpen3-37956**

3. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- 3.1 According to Hodgson writing in 1820, the first mention of a dovecote at Buckton Farm appears to be in 1626, when it is associated with *'tower land, malt barn and kilne'*⁶. A tower at Buckton is listed as early as 1415, although there are no visible remains of the tower. Its location may be under the present farmhouse (SMR ID 3733).
- 3.2 Buckton is the site of a deserted medieval village, which was first mentioned in a survey of 1560/1, when there were *'12 husbandlands, 12 cottages, 20 tenants each with a tenement and 16 acres of arable land'* (SMR ID 3752). In 1580 there were 12 tenants equipped for Border Service, and at the 1666 Hearth Tax, there were 29 householders⁷. Aerial photographs of the area have revealed a pattern of tofts and ridge and furrow earthworks around the present farm (SMR ID 3752).
- 3.3 Writing in 1922, Vickers notes that in the early 17th century, Buckton formed part of the manor of Etal: *'Soon after the accession of James I [1603], the manor of Etal was surveyed and was found to contain 4,971 acres but of this only 1,984 lay in Etal itself, for the term 'manor' covered all that had one been Manners property, including lands in Bowsden, Humbleton, Howtel, Kilham, Hetherslaw and Ewart in Glendale, and Berrington, Buckton, Gorwick and Norham'*⁸.
- 3.4 By the date of the Restoration of the monarchy (1660), Haggerston Estates centred around the townships of Haggerston, Fenwick and Buckton. In 1670/1, Haggerston Estate was used for large scale sheep farming; however the farms at Buckton and Fenwick were not directly farmed, but leased out to tenants. By 1711, Buckton was leased to a single tenant. In 1757 a survey of the estate showed that Fenwick's three farms consisted of the dispersed farms of Isely Hill and Mount Hooley in the hands of a single tenant, Moor Farm and the Town Farm, whilst Buckton was divided between Buckton Town Farm and the dispersed farms of Moor Farm and Smeafield⁹.
- 3.5 Buckton, in Kylee parish, is described in Parson and White's Directory of 1828 as *'an estate, which lies near to the Smeafield Farm, at the southern extremity of Islandshire, [which] was anciently possessed by a family of its own name, from whom it passed to the Maners, Adamsons, Howburns and Haggerstons'*¹⁰.
- 3.6 Buckton Farmhouse, to the south of the dovecote, is a Grade II listed buildings of mid-18th century date with 19th century alterations and additions (SMR ID 3767). An outbuilding located approximately 20 yards west of Buckton Farmhouse is also a Grade II listed building, built in the 18th century as a tack room and bothy (SMR ID 3768). The walled garden, stable and coach house located just to the north of Buckton House are also 18th century in date and Grade II listed (SMR ID 3769).
- 3.7 There does not appear to be any early maps which show the dovecote held at the Northumberland Archives at Woodhorn. There is no Inclosure Award for Kylee parish or listed under Buckton, and the Tithe Map of 1848 for the Township of Kylee does

⁶ Hodgson, J.C, 1820

⁷ Dixon, P.J, 1984, Pages 104-7

⁸ Vickers, K.H, 1922, Page 453

⁹ Dixon, P.J, 1984, Page 221

¹⁰ Parson and White, 1828, Page 336

not include Buckton¹¹. A map showing turnpike road improvements between Cow Causey and Buckton Burn dating to 1835 does not show properties at Buckton¹².

- 3.8 The first known map to show the buildings and dovecote at Buckton is the 1866 First Edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 3). The dovecote is marked in a field to the north of the main farmstead, along with a small quarry (although it is not marked as such) and a spring. This map clearly shows the buildings and gardens at Buckton estate with a similar layout as today, and a reservoir shown to the east of the main house (SMR ID 19596). The larger scale Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1899 clearly shows the reservoir along with all the buildings, and the circular dovecote to the north (Figure 4).
- 3.9 Various Trade Directories were sampled for entries relating to Buckton Farm, these are included in Appendix I.

¹¹ Northumberland Record Office, Woodhorn, Ref: DT 282

¹² Northumberland Record Office, Woodhorn, Ref: QRUP 32

4. SURVEY RESULTS

4.1 THE PURPOSE OF THE DOVECOTE

- 4.1.1 Dovecotes (sometimes referred to as dovecots, pigeon house of culvery) were common features on farmsteads from the Middle Ages through to the eighteenth century. Pigeons were kept for their meat, eggs, and in particular the manure, which was regarded as an especially powerful fertiliser¹³. According to Wade Martins, the heyday of the dovecote was the period 1640-1750¹⁴, although there are many earlier examples. Beehive-shaped dovecotes, of which Buckton Dovecote is an example, are circular in plan and according to Brunskill are found mainly in the Scottish Lowlands¹⁵, although Hansell cites an example at Embleton (north of Alnwick) in Northumberland¹⁶.
- 4.1.2 A collapsed example of a beehive-shaped dovecote survives at Kylvoe, located only c.1km to the north of Buckton. A complete example can be found at Bamburgh, located c.5km to the southeast, which stands 5.5m high and 6.7m wide. This dovecote has three lines of bricks on which the birds could land, and about 250 internal nest holes. Three windows in the building are modern additions. This style of dovecote is believed to date to the 16th or 17th centuries. The example at Embleton, located c.7km to the south, is of a type known as a tun-bellied dovecote (where the walls bulge outward slightly before tapering upward). Later dovecotes are often incorporated into other farm buildings.
- 4.1.3 Internally dovecotes contain nesting boxes for the birds, constructed either from the same material as the building itself or from tile, clay or timber partitions. A doorway into the structure was often provided for human access, to clear out the manure, and collect eggs, but was low enough to discourage the birds from flying out. In some cases, depending on the height of the dovecote, a potence was included within the interior, which was a revolving ladder that allowed the collection of eggs at higher levels¹⁷.

4.2 PHASE 1: BUCKTON DOVECOTE PRIOR TO WORK COMMENCING

- 4.2.1 The first phase of metric building survey was undertaken by Martin Railton and Fiona Wooler between the 6th and 8th August 2007, prior to the proposed alterations. The southern side had suffered badly from collapse, and much detail was hidden from view on this side at the time of the visit (Plates 2-5).
- 4.2.2 The dovecote is a circular building which tapers as the height increases (Figure 5). It was constructed of uncoursed rubble sandstone, with more recent cement mortar. The south side of the structure had collapsed exposing some of the internal nesting boxes and the clay bonding (Plate 6).

¹³ Brunskill, R.W, 1999, Page 84

¹⁴ Wade Martins, S, 1991, Page 33

¹⁵ Brunskill, R.W, 1999, Page 85

¹⁶ Hansell, P & J, 2001, Page 11

¹⁷ Brunskill, R.W, 1999, Page 87

- 4.2.3 It is located in a prominent position in a field to the north of Buckton Farm, away from other farm buildings and trees (Figure 2). According to Hansell, it was not unusual for dovecotes to stand alone as it was believed that a conspicuous position, free from surrounding trees and buildings, was thought desirable, so the homing birds could easily find their nests¹⁸. At the time of the Phase 1 survey, earthworks (which included a hollow way) were noted to the west of the dovecote, and a small quarry was observed to the north.
- 4.2.4 The dovecote was slightly oval in plan, with external measurements of 5.7m northeast to southwest, and 5.2m northwest to southeast at its base. The diameter decreases to 3.5m externally at its top. It had no opening around any of its exterior walls apart from a low doorway on the south side, which at the time of survey, was located within the collapsed area.
- 4.2.5 At the top of the building, at heights of 3.2m and 4m, are two courses of sandstone slates (Plates 7 & 8), with some later Welsh slate inserted on the western side. Above the lower of the sandstone slate courses a step of 0.3m, reduces the external diameter to 3.9m. These sandstone courses would have provided ledges for the birds. At the time of survey there was no evidence for a roof covering, however it may have originally had a corbelled stone roof, or may have been constructed of timber in which case little would survive. The top of the building may have consisted of a louver which allowed the birds to access the dovecote but which also protected the birds from the wind and rain. Many openings in dovecotes faced south to gain the maximum amount of sun¹⁹; this is certainly the case with the low doorway.
- 4.2.6 At the point where part of the wall had collapsed it was possible to measure the thickness of the wall just above the low doorway as c.130cm, although the wall thickness decreases higher up the walls. At this same point it was possible to measure the external dimensions of the nest boxes, which were 30cm wide, 40cm deep and 20cm high. Hansell notes that each box needed to be large enough to accommodate at least one parent and two chicks, although due to the rapid breeding cycle of the bird, sometimes three niches may have been provided for every two pairs²⁰.
- 4.2.7 As no Ordnance Survey Benchmark could be located close to the monument an arbitrary datum of was adopted for the Phase 1 survey, and is shown in Figure 5.

¹⁸ Hansell, P & J, 2001, Page 9

¹⁹ Hansell, P & J, 2001, Page 9

²⁰ Hansell, P & J, 2001, Page 23



Plate 2 – Buckton Dovecote as seen from the east showing collapsed area to the south
(scale = one metre)



Plate 3 – Buckton Dovecote as seen from the south (scale = one metre)



Plate 4 – View of the dovecote as seen from the west (scale = one metre)



Plate 5 – View looking south-east (scale = one metre)



Plate 6 – Detail of upper part of south elevation showing collapsed section and slates at top



Plate 7 – Detail of two courses of sandstone slates at top of dovecote



Plate 8 – View looking north of two courses of sandstone slates with collapsed section right of photograph

4.3 PHASE 2: BUCKTON DOVECOTE DURING CONSOLIDATION

- 4.3.1 The second phase of metric building survey was undertaken by Martin Railton on 24th October 2007, following the removal of stone rubble from the south side of the building. The collapsed south elevation was fully visible, and was recorded using a combination of metric survey and rectified photography. The doorway on the south side had also been exposed, providing access to the interior for the first time.
- 4.3.2 Most of the outer wall on the south side of the dovecote had collapsed exposing the clay bonding and rubble core (Plate 9). On the east side of this area at least ten layers of nest boxes were exposed (Figure 6).
- 4.3.3 The doorway to the building was located on the southwest side (Plate 10). This comprised a 1.38 high, and 1m wide opening through the outer wall, forming a 0.65m-long passage. The original door frame was marked by a 0.08m wide step in the wall at either side, forming an opening 0.76m wide. A further 0.51m long passage gave access to the interior, the internal doorway being 0.5m wide and 1.35m high. The lintel was former of a single unshaped 1.35m-long timber, measuring 0.2m wide and 0.1m deep.



Plate 9 – The exposed south elevation showing the collapsed section and doorway
(scale = 1.6 metre)



Plate 10 – The dovecote entrance passage, looking northeast (scale = 1.6 metre)

- 4.3.4 The compacted earth floor of the dovecote measured 3.85m wide east-west, and 3.35m wide north-south. The internal walls measured 0.25m high on the east side, increasing to 0.4m high to the west. Above this were 13 layers of nest boxes, formed by stone slabs up to 0.7m wide, and square stone uprights (Plates 11 & 12). This arrangement continued the full height of the dovecote. The nest boxes were on average 0.2m wide, 0.25m high, and 0.35m deep. The bottom two layers of nest boxes on the west and north sides had been blocked with stone and clay at some point in the building's history, probably because these were too close to the ground. It was estimated that in its present form the dovecote contained around 300 nest boxes.
- 4.3.5 The roof of the building was formed of large stone slabs, which had been overlapped to form a rectangular opening measuring approximately 1m by 0.8m. The south side of the roof had collapsed, but was largely intact on the north, west and east sides, with some later repairs externally (Plate 13).



Plate 11 – The dovecote interior, showing the arrangement of the lower nest boxes (looking west)



Plate 12 – The dovecote interior, showing the arrangement of the upper nest boxes (looking west)



Plate 13 – The dovecote roof and opening from within (looking east)

4.4 PHASE 3: BUCKTON DOVECOTE FOLLOWING CONSOLIDATION

- 4.4.1 The final phase of building recording was undertaken by Fiona Wooler on 14th February 2008, following the consolidation and renovation of the building. The existing exterior walls had been re-pointed, the collapsed southern side of the building had been rebuilt, and the structure had been re-roofed using new stone slabs by this time. A new timber door had also been added in the original location with a new stone lintel over the entrance passage (Figure 15).
- 4.4.2 The restored form of the dovecote is true to the original design. This includes the preservation of the original asymmetrical form of the building (Figure 16). The new roof comprises three overlapping layers of sandstone slabs making the roof watertight (Figure 17). It was not possible to gain access to the interior at the time of the final visit.



Plate 14 – The restored dovecote (looking northeast)



Plate 15 – The restored dovecote (looking southeast)



Plate 16 – The restored dovecote showing the new roof (looking east)

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 Buckton Dovecote is an early example of a beehive dovecote, dating to at least the early 17th century. The earliest known historical reference the dovecote at Buckton Farm dates to 1626. At that time Buckton formed part of the manor of Etal. The working dovecote would have provided the farmstead with an important source of meat, eggs, and fertiliser. However, very little historical information has been recorded about the monument.
- 5.2 The building appears to have been constructed in a single phase, and had survived largely in its original state. Apart from being re-roofed with slate, and some repair work with cement render on the walls, no evidence was visible for later re-use of the building. The south side of the monument had suffered badly from collapse, but the remainder of the building was in relatively good condition, apart from some small areas external of damage on the northwest side.
- 5.3 The interior of the building had survived in very good condition and contained around 300 stone nest boxes arranged in alternate layers running almost the entire height of the building. This provided a simple but elegant solution to housing a large number of birds. Ledges on the exterior provided landing places, and a roof entrance provided the birds with access to the interior. Human access was gained through a low entrance on the southwest side, although the original door had not survived.
- 5.4 Consolidation and restoration of the building comprised the re-pointing of external walls, the rebuilding of the collapsed south side, and the re-roofing of the structure using new stone slabs. A new timber door was also added in the original location. The final form of the building is true to the original design, and provides a rare example of a complete beehive-shaped dovecote in its original (restored) form.

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APPENDIX I : Documentary Sources

Northumberland Record Office (NRO), Woodhorn

Maps

Greenwoods Map c.1822 shows representations of properties at Buckton but does not identify the dovecote

1835 Turnpike Road Improvement map between Cow Causey and Buckton Burn does not show properties at Buckton (NRO Ref: QRUP 32)

No Inclosure Award at NRO for Kyleo Parish or Buckton

1848 Tithe Map of the Township of Kyleo does not show the estate at Buckton (NRO Ref: DT282)

First Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1866 (Scale = 6 inch to one mile) (NRO)

No First Edition Ordnance Survey Map c.1865 at NRO (Scale = 25 inch to one mile)

Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1900 (Scale = 25 inch to one mile) (NRO)

Trade Directories, Histories and Publications

History, Directory and Gazetteer of the Counties of Durham and Northumberland – Parson and White 1828, Volume II

Page 336 – Kyleo Parochial Chapelry

‘Contains the village and township of Kyleo, the hamlets of Beal and Fenwick and a number of scattered houses, the joint population of which , in 1801, amounted to 968 souls, in 1811 to 958 and in 1821 to 990, consisting of 187 families resident in 185 houses. The annual value of the lands and buildings in the chapelry was estimated for the Durham County rate at £8,178’.

‘Kyleo village is situated at the foot of Copsey hill, near the north road, 5 miles NNW of Belford. It gave name to a resident family in the reign of Edward I., but a great part of the lands in the chapelry now belongs to Sir C Haggerston, J.P, Selby Esq and Henry Morton Esq. The church was rebuilt in 1792, it stands on the summit of a hill on the north side of the village and commands an extensive and interesting view from Berwick Bay to Holy Island and the Farn Islands. In 1750, Lord Crewe’s Trustees gave £50 to repair the chancel. The benefice is a curacy and a peculiar, belonging to the Dean and Chapter of Durham, and has the curacy of the parish of Lowick in Glendale Ward, Northumberland, annexed to it. The Rev. Robert Fenwick is the incumbent of the joint benefices and the Rev. Robert Smith is the sub-curate. Coal and lime are found in the parish. The estate called Buckton, which lies near to the Smeafield Farm, at the southern extremity of Islandshire was anciently possessed by a family of its own name, from whom it passed to the Maners, Adamsons, Howburns and Haggerstons’.

Whellan's Directory of Northumberland 1855

'Buckton, a township in this chapelry, situated at the southern extremity of Islandshire, is in the occupancy of James Hogg, farmer and at East Kyloe'.

Bulmer's Directory of Northumberland – Wansbeck Division 1887

Kyloe Parochial Chapelry (Islandshire)

'This chapelry comprises the townships of Beal with Lowlin, Berrington, Buckton, Fenham, Fenwick and Kyloe, whose united area is 9,764 acres. The population in 1801 was 968, and in 1881, 782. This chapelry, with the rest of Islandshire, was a part of the county of Durham until 1844, in which year it was severed by an Act of Parliament and added to Northumberland. The land is chiefly owned by Captain Leyland'.

'Buckton is a township and estate at the southern extremity of Islandshire, farmed by Mr James Hogg. It was anciently possessed by a family of its own name, from whom it passed to the Manners, Adamsons, Holburns and Haggerston's'.

James Hogg, farmer, Buckton

Kelly's Directory of Durham and Northumberland 1938

Jas Scott, farmer, Buckton [listed as farm over 150 acres]

Highways and Byways in Northumbria – P Anderson Graham, Manchester, 1973 (first published 1920)

'The excellent main road we are on now turns sharply to the left at Haggerston Castle, where once stood the ancient tower of the Haggerston family. Leland calls it 'a towne upon the south side of Lindis ryver'. A mile further on a road branches to the left for Holy Island. The Kyloe Hills are on our right, and the rugged crags near Belford are very fine, with trees and heather and many rare plants. On the height is a British camp with a double rampart, and the foundations of St Mary's Chapel of uncertain date and history. A well near the roadside is called St Mary's Well and a century ago still had two ladles fastened by chains to the side to refresh the thirsty passers-by. From the crags on a clear day the view of Holy Island and the Farnes and Bamburgh is very beautiful. On the roadside by the hamlet of Buckton is a plantation called Grizzy's Clump, where Grizzel Cockrane robbed the mail of the warrant for her fathers execution who was in prison for taking part in a rising against James II'.

The History of Northumberland – Volume XI, Kenneth H Vickers, 1922, Newcastle upon Tyne

'Soon after the accession of James I, the manor of Etal was surveyed and was found to contain 4,971 acres but of this only 1,987 lay in Etal itself, for the term 'manors' covered all that had once been Manners property including lands in Bowsden, Humbleton, Howtel, Kilham, Hetherslaw and Ewart in Glendale, and Berrington, Buckton, Goswick and Norham in North Durham'.

Deserted Medieval Villages of North Northumberland Volume – A Settlement History from the 12th to the 19th Century, Volume I – P J Dixon, 1984, PhD Thesis, University of Wales

The lesser estates – 1 – The Haggerston Estate

'Between c.1650 and c.1750 the Haggerston family managed to increase substantially the size of their estate. In the early 17th century this consisted of the township of Haggerston and parts of several other townships such as Lowick and Cheswick, but by the late 18th century it had grown to an estate of more than half a dozen townships. This was achieved despite the Catholic and Royalist sympathies of the family in the 17th century which resulted in the confiscation of their estates following the Civil War. They re-occupied their estate, through the agency of Brownell and Crouch however, and by dint of good management and a refusal to be drawn into any subsequent Jacobite uprisings, they improved their estates and were known for their dairy products and cattle in the 18th century (Raine 1852). At the Restoration the Haggerston estates centred around the townships of Haggerston, Buckton and Fenwick. Shortly after in 1670/1 Haggerston township, which had formerly been divided into two parts, was farmed as a demesne and was used for large scale sheep farming. Buckton and Fenwick were not directly farmed, but leased to tenants. However, as early as 1711 Buckton was leased to a single tenant and Fenwick to three tenants and six coaters. It is not certain if enclosure had been effected at this time, but it had been achieved by 1757 when a survey of the estate showed that Fenwick's three farms consisted of the dispersed farms of Isley Hill and Mount Hooley in the hands of a single tenant, Moor farm and the Town farm, whilst Buckton was now divided between Buckton Town farm and the dispersed farms of Moor farm and Smeafield'.

APPENDIX II : Sites and Monuments Records

One Kilometre SMR search centred on Buckton Dovecote:

SMR ID	Name	Grid Ref	Date	Description
3733	Buckton Tower	NU 0812 3845	Medieval Post Medieval	Tower listed in 1415 and in 1626 mention is made of 'Tower land, malt barn, kilne and dovecoat'
3740	Buckton Dovecote	NU 0806 3857	Post Medieval	Dovecote c.50 yards north of Buckton House mentioned in 1626
3752	Buckton, deserted medieval village	NU 083384 NU 082385	Medieval Post Medieval	Buckton was a member of the Bishop of Durham's estate of Islandshire. 1560/1 survey, 1666 Hearth Tax. Ridge and furrow and field systems
3767	Buckton Farmhouse	NU 0813 3846	Post Medieval	Grade II listed building. Mid 18 th century with early 19 th century alterations and additions
3768	Outbuilding at Buckton Farmhouse	NU 0809 3846	Post Medieval	Outbuilding c.20 yards west of farmhouse. Grade II listed building. 18 th c tack room and bothy
3769	Walled garden, stable and coach house	NU 0812 3850	Post Medieval	Walled garden, stable and coach house c.30 yards north of Buckton House. Grade II listed building. 18 th century
19596	Reservoir	NU 08196 38426	Post Medieval	Reservoir marked on the OS map of 1866
19594	Spring	NU 07963 38914	Post Medieval	Spring to the north of Buckton as marked on the OS map of 1866
19595	Spring	NU 07830 38607	Unknown	Spring to the north-west of Buckton marked on the OS map of 1866

SMR ID	Name	Grid Ref	Date	Description
19892	Well	NU 9036 8551	Post Medieval	Well next to Lowmoor Gate on the east coast railway line as shown on the OS map of 1866
3751	Fenwick Stead	NU 081 395	Medieval Post Medieval	Earthworks and ridge and furrow surround the farmstead
3772	Cottages and stables	NU 0798 3953	Post Medieval	Cottages and stables c.35 yards north east of Fenwick Stead Farmhouse. Grade II listed building. Early 19 th century
3773	Stores and garage	NU 08020 39508	Post Medieval	Stores and garage c.50 yards east of Fenwick Stead Farmhouse. Grade II listed building. Late 18 th to early 19 th century
3774	Stables	NU 0798 3949	Post Medieval	Stables c.30 yards east of Fenwick Stead Farmhouse. Grade II listed building. Early 19 th century
19589	Spring	NU 07602 39348	Unknown	Spring to the west of Fenwick Stead as marked on the OS map of 1866
19590	Spring	NU 07693 38912	Unknown	Spring to the south west of Fenwick Stead as marked on the OS map of 1866
19591	Sheep wash	NU 08212 39377	Post Medieval	Sheep wash at Fenwick Stead as marked on the OS map of 1866
19901	Well	NU 8126 9452	Unknown	Well to the east of Fenwick Stead as shown on the OS map of 1866
20779	Fenwick Stead coal working	NU 08000 39000	Unknown	Dark fireclays and shales noted in 1927 by members of the Geological Survey in an old working

SMR ID	Name	Grid Ref	Date	Description
19593	Milepost	NU 08142 38716	Post Medieval	Milepost 11 miles south of Berwick and 3.5 miles north of Belford as marked on the OS map of 1866

APPENDIX III : Illustrations

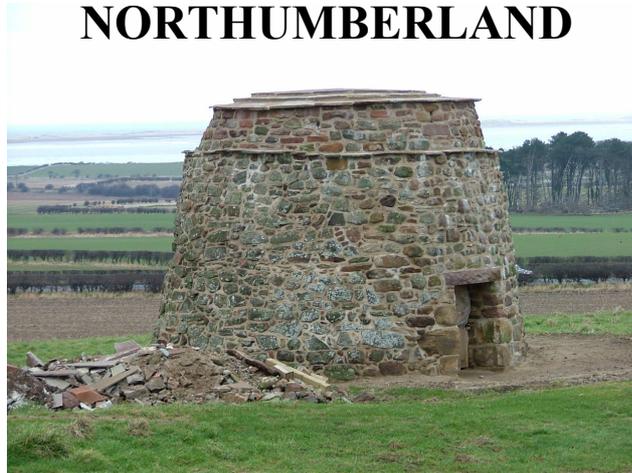
APPENDIX IV : Project Design

NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Client Report No CP/528/07

February 2008

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
BUILDING RECORDING
PROJECT AT
BUCKTON DOVECOTE,
BUCKTON FARM,
BELFORD,
NORTHUMBERLAND**



**FOR
MRS BARCHAM**

NGR: NU 081 386

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In June 2007, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. were commissioned by Mr D McCreath, on behalf of Mrs Barcham, to undertake a building recording project at Buckton Dovecote, Buckton Farm, Belford, Northumberland (NU 081 386). English Heritage requested an archaeological building recording project be undertaken on the structure, corresponding to an English Heritage Level 3 survey, as the landowner intended to consolidate the monument, involving the removal of collapsed material, reinstatement of the collapsed structure and the construction of a new roof.

Buckton Dovecote is an example of a beehive dovecote, dating to at least the early 17th century. The earliest known historical reference to the dovecote at Buckton Farm dates to 1626. At that time Buckton formed part of the manor of Etal. It is a Grade II Listed Building and a Scheduled Ancient Monument (ND 113), which is currently on the Buildings at Risk Register, as a Priority Category A.

By necessity the building recording was undertaken in three stages. Phase 1 comprised an outline metric building survey and documentary research prior to the proposed alterations. This was followed by Phase 2, archaeological monitoring and recording undertaken following the removal of collapsed stone rubble. Phase 3 comprised building recording of the final form of the dovecote, after works had been completed.

The building appears to have been constructed in a single phase, and had survived largely in its original state until the present works. Apart from being re-roofed with slate, and some repair work with cement render on the walls, no evidence was visible for later re-use of the building. The south side of the monument has suffered badly from collapse, but the remainder of the building was in relatively good condition, apart from some small areas external of damage on the northwest side. Following the removal of collapsed stone rubble on the south side of the building the, the clay and rubble core of the dovecote was revealed, and the original entrance was exposed. This part of the building was rebuilt, all the outer walls were rendered, and the roof was repaired to make the structure sound.

The interior of the building had survived in very good condition and contained around 300 stone nest boxes, in alternate layers running almost the entire height of the building. This provided a simple but elegant solution to housing a large number of birds. Ledges on the exterior provided landing places, and a roof entrance provided the birds with access to the interior. Human access was gained through a low entrance passage on the southwest side, although the original door had not survived.

Consolidation and restoration of the building comprised the re-pointing of external walls, the rebuilding of the collapsed south side, and the re-roofing of the structure using new stone slabs. A new timber door was also added in the original location. The final form of the building was true to the original design, and provides a rare example of a complete beehive-shaped dovecote in its original (restored) form.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Mr D McCreath for commissioning the project. North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would also like to extend their thanks to Sarah Rushton, English Heritage Field Monument Warden, Karen Derham, Assistant County Archaeologist Northumberland County Council, and the staff at the Northumberland Museum, Archives and Country Park, Woodhorn, Ashington for their help during this project.

The building survey was undertaken by Martin Railton, NPA Senior Project Officer, and Fiona Wooler, NPA Building Specialist, who also conducted the historical research. The report was prepared by Martin Railton and Fiona Wooler, and illustrated by Martin Railton. The project was managed by Martin Railton, NPA Senior Project Officer. Matthew Town, NPA Senior Project Officer, edited the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In June 2007 North Pennines Archaeology Limited were commissioned by Mr D McCreath, on behalf of Mrs Barcham, to undertake an archaeological building recording project of a dovecote at Buckton Farm, Buckton, Belford, Northumberland (NU 081 386) prior to consolidation of the structure (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 Buckton Dovecote is a post-medieval beehive dovecote, believed to be constructed prior to 1626. It is a Grade II Listed Building and a Scheduled Ancient Monument (ND 113), which is currently on the Buildings at Risk Register, as a Priority Category A. The structure was roofless at the start of the project and was in urgent need of consolidation having suffered collapse on the south side, exposing the clay-bonded core and internal nest boxes.
- 1.1.3 English Heritage requested an archaeological building recording project be undertaken on the structure, as the landowner intended to consolidate the monument, involving the removal of collapsed material, reinstatement of the collapsed structure and the construction of a new roof. The recording work required was specified in an English Heritage brief¹, and comprised a metric building survey and documentary research prior to the proposed alterations (Phase 1), followed by archaeological monitoring and recording undertaken once works at the site commenced (Phase 2), and building recording after works had been completed (Phase 3). The archaeological building recording project corresponded to an English Heritage Level 3 survey². The work was undertaken according to a North Pennines Archaeology Project Design³, which was submitted to, and approved by English Heritage, prior to the works commencing.
- 1.1.4 The first phase of metric building survey was undertaken by Martin Railton and Fiona Wooler between the 6th and 8th August 2007, prior alterations taking place. An interim report was submitted to English Heritage and presented the results of the Phase 1 recording works. Phase 2 recording was undertaken by Martin Railton on 24th October 2007. The final phase was undertaken by Fiona Wooler on 14th February 2008, once consolidation of the structure was complete. This final report contains all three phases of the building recording project.

¹ English Heritage, 2007

² English Heritage, 2007

³ Railton, 2007

1.2 SITE LOCATION

- 1.2.1 Buckton Dovecote (NU 081 386) is located in a field just to the north of Buckton Farm, Belford (Figure 2). The structure is located on a slight ridge, in a prominent position overlooking the main A1 trunk road, the East Coast Rail Line, and the North Sea, with Holy Island visible to the east (Plate 1).
- 1.2.2 At the time of survey, the field was used as pasture for cattle. A small former quarry was observed just to the north of the dovecote, and earthworks, including a hollow way, were noted to the west. On the initial visit the south side of the dovecote was overgrown with nettles, and an elder was growing out of the south side.



Plate 1 – Buckton Dovecote during consolidation, looking east towards the North Sea with Holy Island visible in the distance

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1.1 The purpose of the building recording project was to produce a detailed record of the existing form and fabric of the dovecote, including structural and architectural details, and any archaeological evidence for the buildings origins and development. The recording project comprised a metric building survey, supported by historical and documentary research, corresponding to an English Heritage Level 3 survey⁴.
- 2.1.2 By necessity the building recording was undertaken in three stages. Phase 1 comprised an outline metric building survey and documentary research prior to the proposed alterations. This was followed by Phase 2, archaeological monitoring and recording undertaken once works at the site commenced. Phase 3 comprised building recording of the final form of the dovecote, after works had been completed.

2.2 BUILDING SURVEY

- 2.2.1 Detailed recording of the building was undertaken in order to provide an accurate record of the structure, and to identify the origins, main phases of development and use of the building.
- 2.2.2 *Phase 1:* Firstly, a metric survey of the plan of the building, and an outline metric survey of exterior of the building was undertaken using a Trimble 3605 Reflectorless Total Station. Additional detail was measured by hand, and added to the outline survey in a CAD environment, to produce four external outline elevation drawings of the north, south, east and west sides. These show all openings, breaks in masonry, architectural detail, and other detail relating to the previous use of the building.
- 2.2.3 *Phase 2:* A detailed elevation drawing was produced of the exposed south side of the building using a combination of metric survey and rectified photography, once loose stone rubble has been removed. Fixed targets were used to create a series of control points on this elevation. These were surveyed using the Trimble 3605 Reflectorless Total Station, to form a framework for rectifying digital photographs of the building. The image rectification was undertaken using Monobild Software. The resulting digital photographs were then digitised in a CAD environment to produce a stone-by-stone scale drawing of the southern elevation, showing the locations of the exposed nest boxes. Additional internal detail was recorded by hand using measured sketches, and added to the survey using AutoCAD software. The metric survey and rectified photography were undertaken according to English Heritage specifications⁵.
- 2.2.4 The building survey also comprised an internal and external observation of the building, and the production of a written and photographic record. Photographs were taken using black and white print and colour slide film. Shots were taken of all external elevations, to show significant structural of architectural detail, and to show the building in its wider context. All photographs will include a graduated scale.

⁴ English Heritage, 2006

⁵ English Heritage, 2006

- 2.2.5 The results of the building survey were used to inform a written description of the building, and an account of the building's origins development and use. The final report includes a scale floor plan, and drawings of all external building elevations.
- 2.2.6 *Phase 3*: The final stage of building recording comprised a photographic survey of the dovecote, once consolidation of the structure was complete, in order to record the final form of the building.

2.3 DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH

- 2.3.1 Historical research was undertaken to provide additional information regarding the origins, development and use of the building, and to provide a historical context for the site. This comprised a search of all pertinent documentary, photographic, pictorial sources and historic maps relating to the building. This included consultation of the Northumberland Record Office (NRO), Northumberland Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), National Monuments Record (NMR), Archaeological Data Service, Local Libraries, and any available material held by the current landowner and estate. Details of pertinent documentary sources are included in Appendix I.
- 2.3.2 A search was made of all records held by the Northumberland Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), within 1km of the site of the dovecote. Details of these records are included in Appendix II.
- 2.3.3 Historic maps of the site were analysed in order to assess the historical development of the site. Extracts from these are included in Appendix III.

2.3 ARCHIVE

- 2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (1991). The archive will initially be held at the North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. offices at Nenthead, and will be deposited within the Museum of Antiquities following the completion of the project including the original photographs.
- 2.3.2 One copy of the final report will be sent to Northumberland County Council for inclusion in the HER, where viewing will be available on request. Digital survey data, and a digital copy of the report (in pdf format) will also be made available.
- 2.3.3 The project is also registered with the **Online Access to the Index of archaeological InvestigationS (OASIS)**, where digital copies of the report will also be made available. The **OASIS** reference for the project is: **northpen3-37956**

3. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- 3.1 According to Hodgson writing in 1820, the first mention of a dovecote at Buckton Farm appears to be in 1626, when it is associated with *'tower land, malt barn and kilne'*⁶. A tower at Buckton is listed as early as 1415, although there are no visible remains of the tower. Its location may be under the present farmhouse (SMR ID 3733).
- 3.2 Buckton is the site of a deserted medieval village, which was first mentioned in a survey of 1560/1, when there were *'12 husbandlands, 12 cottages, 20 tenants each with a tenement and 16 acres of arable land'* (SMR ID 3752). In 1580 there were 12 tenants equipped for Border Service, and at the 1666 Hearth Tax, there were 29 householders⁷. Aerial photographs of the area have revealed a pattern of tofts and ridge and furrow earthworks around the present farm (SMR ID 3752).
- 3.3 Writing in 1922, Vickers notes that in the early 17th century, Buckton formed part of the manor of Etal: *'Soon after the accession of James I [1603], the manor of Etal was surveyed and was found to contain 4,971 acres but of this only 1,984 lay in Etal itself, for the term 'manor' covered all that had one been Manners property, including lands in Bowsden, Humbleton, Howtel, Kilham, Hetherslaw and Ewart in Glendale, and Berrington, Buckton, Gorwick and Norham'*⁸.
- 3.4 By the date of the Restoration of the monarchy (1660), Haggerston Estates centred around the townships of Haggerston, Fenwick and Buckton. In 1670/1, Haggerston Estate was used for large scale sheep farming; however the farms at Buckton and Fenwick were not directly farmed, but leased out to tenants. By 1711, Buckton was leased to a single tenant. In 1757 a survey of the estate showed that Fenwick's three farms consisted of the dispersed farms of Isely Hill and Mount Hooley in the hands of a single tenant, Moor Farm and the Town Farm, whilst Buckton was divided between Buckton Town Farm and the dispersed farms of Moor Farm and Smeafield⁹.
- 3.5 Buckton, in Kylee parish, is described in Parson and White's Directory of 1828 as *'an estate, which lies near to the Smeafield Farm, at the southern extremity of Islandshire, [which] was anciently possessed by a family of its own name, from whom it passed to the Maners, Adamsons, Howburns and Haggerstons'*¹⁰.
- 3.6 Buckton Farmhouse, to the south of the dovecote, is a Grade II listed buildings of mid-18th century date with 19th century alterations and additions (SMR ID 3767). An outbuilding located approximately 20 yards west of Buckton Farmhouse is also a Grade II listed building, built in the 18th century as a tack room and bothy (SMR ID 3768). The walled garden, stable and coach house located just to the north of Buckton House are also 18th century in date and Grade II listed (SMR ID 3769).
- 3.7 There does not appear to be any early maps which show the dovecote held at the Northumberland Archives at Woodhorn. There is no Inclosure Award for Kylee parish or listed under Buckton, and the Tithe Map of 1848 for the Township of Kylee does

⁶ Hodgson, J.C, 1820

⁷ Dixon, P.J, 1984, Pages 104-7

⁸ Vickers, K.H, 1922, Page 453

⁹ Dixon, P.J, 1984, Page 221

¹⁰ Parson and White, 1828, Page 336

not include Buckton¹¹. A map showing turnpike road improvements between Cow Causey and Buckton Burn dating to 1835 does not show properties at Buckton¹².

- 3.8 The first known map to show the buildings and dovecote at Buckton is the 1866 First Edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 3). The dovecote is marked in a field to the north of the main farmstead, along with a small quarry (although it is not marked as such) and a spring. This map clearly shows the buildings and gardens at Buckton estate with a similar layout as today, and a reservoir shown to the east of the main house (SMR ID 19596). The larger scale Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1899 clearly shows the reservoir along with all the buildings, and the circular dovecote to the north (Figure 4).
- 3.9 Various Trade Directories were sampled for entries relating to Buckton Farm, these are included in Appendix I.

¹¹ Northumberland Record Office, Woodhorn, Ref: DT 282

¹² Northumberland Record Office, Woodhorn, Ref: QRUP 32

4. SURVEY RESULTS

4.1 THE PURPOSE OF THE DOVECOTE

- 4.1.1 Dovecotes (sometimes referred to as dovecots, pigeon house of culvery) were common features on farmsteads from the Middle Ages through to the eighteenth century. Pigeons were kept for their meat, eggs, and in particular the manure, which was regarded as an especially powerful fertiliser¹³. According to Wade Martins, the heyday of the dovecote was the period 1640-1750¹⁴, although there are many earlier examples. Beehive-shaped dovecotes, of which Buckton Dovecote is an example, are circular in plan and according to Brunskill are found mainly in the Scottish Lowlands¹⁵, although Hansell cites an example at Embleton (north of Alnwick) in Northumberland¹⁶.
- 4.1.2 A collapsed example of a beehive-shaped dovecote survives at Kyoel, located only c.1km to the north of Buckton. A complete example can be found at Bamburgh, located c.5km to the southeast, which stands 5.5m high and 6.7m wide. This dovecote has three lines of bricks on which the birds could land, and about 250 internal nest holes. Three windows in the building are modern additions. This style of dovecote is believed to date to the 16th or 17th centuries. The example at Embleton, located c.7km to the south, is of a type known as a tun-bellied dovecote (where the walls bulge outward slightly before tapering upward). Later dovecotes are often incorporated into other farm buildings.
- 4.1.3 Internally dovecotes contain nesting boxes for the birds, constructed either from the same material as the building itself or from tile, clay or timber partitions. A doorway into the structure was often provided for human access, to clear out the manure, and collect eggs, but was low enough to discourage the birds from flying out. In some cases, depending on the height of the dovecote, a potence was included within the interior, which was a revolving ladder that allowed the collection of eggs at higher levels¹⁷.

4.2 PHASE 1: BUCKTON DOVECOTE PRIOR TO WORK COMMENCING

- 4.2.1 The first phase of metric building survey was undertaken by Martin Railton and Fiona Wooler between the 6th and 8th August 2007, prior to the proposed alterations. The southern side had suffered badly from collapse, and much detail was hidden from view on this side at the time of the visit (Plates 2-5).
- 4.2.2 The dovecote is a circular building which tapers as the height increases (Figure 5). It was constructed of uncoursed rubble sandstone, with more recent cement mortar. The south side of the structure had collapsed exposing some of the internal nesting boxes and the clay bonding (Plate 6).

¹³ Brunskill, R.W, 1999, Page 84

¹⁴ Wade Martins, S, 1991, Page 33

¹⁵ Brunskill, R.W, 1999, Page 85

¹⁶ Hansell, P & J, 2001, Page 11

¹⁷ Brunskill, R.W, 1999, Page 87

- 4.2.3 It is located in a prominent position in a field to the north of Buckton Farm, away from other farm buildings and trees (Figure 2). According to Hansell, it was not unusual for dovecotes to stand alone as it was believed that a conspicuous position, free from surrounding trees and buildings, was thought desirable, so the homing birds could easily find their nests¹⁸. At the time of the Phase 1 survey, earthworks (which included a hollow way) were noted to the west of the dovecote, and a small quarry was observed to the north.
- 4.2.4 The dovecote was slightly oval in plan, with external measurements of 5.7m northeast to southwest, and 5.2m northwest to southeast at its base. The diameter decreases to 3.5m externally at its top. It had no opening around any of its exterior walls apart from a low doorway on the south side, which at the time of survey, was located within the collapsed area.
- 4.2.5 At the top of the building, at heights of 3.2m and 4m, are two courses of sandstone slates (Plates 7 & 8), with some later Welsh slate inserted on the western side. Above the lower of the sandstone slate courses a step of 0.3m, reduces the external diameter to 3.9m. These sandstone courses would have provided ledges for the birds. At the time of survey there was no evidence for a roof covering, however it may have originally had a corbelled stone roof, or may have been constructed of timber in which case little would survive. The top of the building may have consisted of a louver which allowed the birds to access the dovecote but which also protected the birds from the wind and rain. Many openings in dovecotes faced south to gain the maximum amount of sun¹⁹; this is certainly the case with the low doorway.
- 4.2.6 At the point where part of the wall had collapsed it was possible to measure the thickness of the wall just above the low doorway as c.130cm, although the wall thickness decreases higher up the walls. At this same point it was possible to measure the external dimensions of the nest boxes, which were 30cm wide, 40cm deep and 20cm high. Hansell notes that each box needed to be large enough to accommodate at least one parent and two chicks, although due to the rapid breeding cycle of the bird, sometimes three niches may have been provided for every two pairs²⁰.
- 4.2.7 As no Ordnance Survey Benchmark could be located close to the monument an arbitrary datum of was adopted for the Phase 1 survey, and is shown in Figure 5.

¹⁸ Hansell, P & J, 2001, Page 9

¹⁹ Hansell, P & J, 2001, Page 9

²⁰ Hansell, P & J, 2001, Page 23



Plate 2 – Buckton Dovecote as seen from the east showing collapsed area to the south
(scale = one metre)



Plate 3 – Buckton Dovecote as seen from the south (scale = one metre)



Plate 4 – View of the dovecote as seen from the west (scale = one metre)



Plate 5 – View looking south-east (scale = one metre)



Plate 6 – Detail of upper part of south elevation showing collapsed section and slates at top



Plate 7 – Detail of two courses of sandstone slates at top of dovecote



Plate 8 – View looking north of two courses of sandstone slates with collapsed section right of photograph

4.3 PHASE 2: BUCKTON DOVECOTE DURING CONSOLIDATION

- 4.3.1 The second phase of metric building survey was undertaken by Martin Railton on 24th October 2007, following the removal of stone rubble from the south side of the building. The collapsed south elevation was fully visible, and was recorded using a combination of metric survey and rectified photography. The doorway on the south side had also been exposed, providing access to the interior for the first time.
- 4.3.2 Most of the outer wall on the south side of the dovecote had collapsed exposing the clay bonding and rubble core (Plate 9). On the east side of this area at least ten layers of nest boxes were exposed (Figure 6).
- 4.3.3 The doorway to the building was located on the southwest side (Plate 10). This comprised a 1.38 high, and 1m wide opening through the outer wall, forming a 0.65m-long passage. The original door frame was marked by a 0.08m wide step in the wall at either side, forming an opening 0.76m wide. A further 0.51m long passage gave access to the interior, the internal doorway being 0.5m wide and 1.35m high. The lintel was former of a single unshaped 1.35m-long timber, measuring 0.2m wide and 0.1m deep.



Plate 9 – The exposed south elevation showing the collapsed section and doorway
(scale = 1.6 metre)



Plate 10 – The dovecote entrance passage, looking northeast (scale = 1.6 metre)

- 4.3.4 The compacted earth floor of the dovecote measured 3.85m wide east-west, and 3.35m wide north-south. The internal walls measured 0.25m high on the east side, increasing to 0.4m high to the west. Above this were 13 layers of nest boxes, formed by stone slabs up to 0.7m wide, and square stone uprights (Plates 11 & 12). This arrangement continued the full height of the dovecote. The nest boxes were on average 0.2m wide, 0.25m high, and 0.35m deep. The bottom two layers of nest boxes on the west and north sides had been blocked with stone and clay at some point in the building's history, probably because these were too close to the ground. It was estimated that in its present form the dovecote contained around 300 nest boxes.
- 4.3.5 The roof of the building was formed of large stone slabs, which had been overlapped to form a rectangular opening measuring approximately 1m by 0.8m. The south side of the roof had collapsed, but was largely intact on the north, west and east sides, with some later repairs externally (Plate 13).



Plate 11 – The dovecote interior, showing the arrangement of the lower nest boxes (looking west)



Plate 12 – The dovecote interior, showing the arrangement of the upper nest boxes (looking west)



Plate 13 – The dovecote roof and opening from within (looking east)

4.4 PHASE 3: BUCKTON DOVECOTE FOLLOWING CONSOLIDATION

- 4.4.1 The final phase of building recording was undertaken by Fiona Wooler on 14th February 2008, following the consolidation and renovation of the building. The existing exterior walls had been re-pointed, the collapsed southern side of the building had been rebuilt, and the structure had been re-roofed using new stone slabs by this time. A new timber door had also been added in the original location with a new stone lintel over the entrance passage (Figure 15).
- 4.4.2 The restored form of the dovecote is true to the original design. This includes the preservation of the original asymmetrical form of the building (Figure 16). The new roof comprises three overlapping layers of sandstone slabs making the roof watertight (Figure 17). It was not possible to gain access to the interior at the time of the final visit.



Plate 14 – The restored dovecote (looking northeast)



Plate 15 – The restored dovecote (looking southeast)



Plate 16 – The restored dovecote showing the new roof (looking east)

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 Buckton Dovecote is an early example of a beehive dovecote, dating to at least the early 17th century. The earliest known historical reference the dovecote at Buckton Farm dates to 1626. At that time Buckton formed part of the manor of Etal. The working dovecote would have provided the farmstead with an important source of meat, eggs, and fertiliser. However, very little historical information has been recorded about the monument.
- 5.2 The building appears to have been constructed in a single phase, and had survived largely in its original state. Apart from being re-roofed with slate, and some repair work with cement render on the walls, no evidence was visible for later re-use of the building. The south side of the monument had suffered badly from collapse, but the remainder of the building was in relatively good condition, apart from some small areas external of damage on the northwest side.
- 5.3 The interior of the building had survived in very good condition and contained around 300 stone nest boxes arranged in alternate layers running almost the entire height of the building. This provided a simple but elegant solution to housing a large number of birds. Ledges on the exterior provided landing places, and a roof entrance provided the birds with access to the interior. Human access was gained through a low entrance on the southwest side, although the original door had not survived.
- 5.4 Consolidation and restoration of the building comprised the re-pointing of external walls, the rebuilding of the collapsed south side, and the re-roofing of the structure using new stone slabs. A new timber door was also added in the original location. The final form of the building is true to the original design, and provides a rare example of a complete beehive-shaped dovecote in its original (restored) form.

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APPENDIX I : Documentary Sources

Northumberland Record Office (NRO), Woodhorn

Maps

Greenwoods Map c.1822 shows representations of properties at Buckton but does not identify the dovecote

1835 Turnpike Road Improvement map between Cow Causey and Buckton Burn does not show properties at Buckton (NRO Ref: QRUP 32)

No Inclosure Award at NRO for Kyleo Parish or Buckton

1848 Tithe Map of the Township of Kyleo does not show the estate at Buckton (NRO Ref: DT282)

First Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1866 (Scale = 6 inch to one mile) (NRO)

No First Edition Ordnance Survey Map c.1865 at NRO (Scale = 25 inch to one mile)

Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1900 (Scale = 25 inch to one mile) (NRO)

Trade Directories, Histories and Publications

History, Directory and Gazetteer of the Counties of Durham and Northumberland – Parson and White 1828, Volume II

Page 336 – Kyleo Parochial Chapelry

‘Contains the village and township of Kyleo, the hamlets of Beal and Fenwick and a number of scattered houses, the joint population of which , in 1801, amounted to 968 souls, in 1811 to 958 and in 1821 to 990, consisting of 187 families resident in 185 houses. The annual value of the lands and buildings in the chapelry was estimated for the Durham County rate at £8,178’.

‘Kyleo village is situated at the foot of Copsey hill, near the north road, 5 miles NNW of Belford. It gave name to a resident family in the reign of Edward I., but a great part of the lands in the chapelry now belongs to Sir C Haggerston, J.P, Selby Esq and Henry Morton Esq. The church was rebuilt in 1792, it stands on the summit of a hill on the north side of the village and commands an extensive and interesting view from Berwick Bay to Holy Island and the Farn Islands. In 1750, Lord Crewe’s Trustees gave £50 to repair the chancel. The benefice is a curacy and a peculiar, belonging to the Dean and Chapter of Durham, and has the curacy of the parish of Lowick in Glendale Ward, Northumberland, annexed to it. The Rev. Robert Fenwick is the incumbent of the joint benefices and the Rev. Robert Smith is the sub-curate. Coal and lime are found in the parish. The estate called Buckton, which lies near to the Smeafield Farm, at the southern extremity of Islandshire was anciently possessed by a family of its own name, from whom it passed to the Maners, Adamsons, Howburns and Haggerstons’.

Whellan's Directory of Northumberland 1855

'Buckton, a township in this chapelry, situated at the southern extremity of Islandshire, is in the occupancy of James Hogg, farmer and at East Kyloe'.

Bulmer's Directory of Northumberland – Wansbeck Division 1887

Kyloe Parochial Chapelry (Islandshire)

'This chapelry comprises the townships of Beal with Lowlin, Berrington, Buckton, Fenham, Fenwick and Kyloe, whose united area is 9,764 acres. The population in 1801 was 968, and in 1881, 782. This chapelry, with the rest of Islandshire, was a part of the county of Durham until 1844, in which year it was severed by an Act of Parliament and added to Northumberland. The land is chiefly owned by Captain Leyland'.

'Buckton is a township and estate at the southern extremity of Islandshire, farmed by Mr James Hogg. It was anciently possessed by a family of its own name, from whom it passed to the Manners, Adamsons, Holburns and Haggerston's'.

James Hogg, farmer, Buckton

Kelly's Directory of Durham and Northumberland 1938

Jas Scott, farmer, Buckton [listed as farm over 150 acres]

Highways and Byways in Northumbria – P Anderson Graham, Manchester, 1973 (first published 1920)

'The excellent main road we are on now turns sharply to the left at Haggerston Castle, where once stood the ancient tower of the Haggerston family. Leland calls it 'a towne upon the south side of Lindis ryver'. A mile further on a road branches to the left for Holy Island. The Kyloe Hills are on our right, and the rugged crags near Belford are very fine, with trees and heather and many rare plants. On the height is a British camp with a double rampart, and the foundations of St Mary's Chapel of uncertain date and history. A well near the roadside is called St Mary's Well and a century ago still had two ladles fastened by chains to the side to refresh the thirsty passers-by. From the crags on a clear day the view of Holy Island and the Farnes and Bamburgh is very beautiful. On the roadside by the hamlet of Buckton is a plantation called Grizzy's Clump, where Grizzel Cockrane robbed the mail of the warrant for her fathers execution who was in prison for taking part in a rising against James II'.

The History of Northumberland – Volume XI, Kenneth H Vickers, 1922, Newcastle upon Tyne

'Soon after the accession of James I, the manor of Etal was surveyed and was found to contain 4,971 acres but of this only 1,987 lay in Etal itself, for the term 'manors' covered all that had once been Manners property including lands in Bowsden, Humbleton, Howtel, Kilham, Hetherslaw and Ewart in Glendale, and Berrington, Buckton, Goswick and Norham in North Durham'.

Deserted Medieval Villages of North Northumberland Volume – A Settlement History from the 12th to the 19th Century, Volume I – P J Dixon, 1984, PhD Thesis, University of Wales

The lesser estates – 1 – The Haggerston Estate

'Between c.1650 and c.1750 the Haggerston family managed to increase substantially the size of their estate. In the early 17th century this consisted of the township of Haggerston and parts of several other townships such as Lowick and Cheswick, but by the late 18th century it had grown to an estate of more than half a dozen townships. This was achieved despite the Catholic and Royalist sympathies of the family in the 17th century which resulted in the confiscation of their estates following the Civil War. They re-occupied their estate, through the agency of Brownell and Crouch however, and by dint of good management and a refusal to be drawn into any subsequent Jacobite uprisings, they improved their estates and were known for their dairy products and cattle in the 18th century (Raine 1852). At the Restoration the Haggerston estates centred around the townships of Haggerston, Buckton and Fenwick. Shortly after in 1670/1 Haggerston township, which had formerly been divided into two parts, was farmed as a demesne and was used for large scale sheep farming. Buckton and Fenwick were not directly farmed, but leased to tenants. However, as early as 1711 Buckton was leased to a single tenant and Fenwick to three tenants and six coaters. It is not certain if enclosure had been effected at this time, but it had been achieved by 1757 when a survey of the estate showed that Fenwick's three farms consisted of the dispersed farms of Isley Hill and Mount Hooley in the hands of a single tenant, Moor farm and the Town farm, whilst Buckton was now divided between Buckton Town farm and the dispersed farms of Moor farm and Smeafield'.

APPENDIX II : Sites and Monuments Records

One Kilometre SMR search centred on Buckton Dovecote:

SMR ID	Name	Grid Ref	Date	Description
3733	Buckton Tower	NU 0812 3845	Medieval Post Medieval	Tower listed in 1415 and in 1626 mention is made of 'Tower land, malt barn, kilne and dovecoat'
3740	Buckton Dovecote	NU 0806 3857	Post Medieval	Dovecote c.50 yards north of Buckton House mentioned in 1626
3752	Buckton, deserted medieval village	NU 083384 NU 082385	Medieval Post Medieval	Buckton was a member of the Bishop of Durham's estate of Islandshire. 1560/1 survey, 1666 Hearth Tax. Ridge and furrow and field systems
3767	Buckton Farmhouse	NU 0813 3846	Post Medieval	Grade II listed building. Mid 18 th century with early 19 th century alterations and additions
3768	Outbuilding at Buckton Farmhouse	NU 0809 3846	Post Medieval	Outbuilding c.20 yards west of farmhouse. Grade II listed building. 18 th c tack room and bothy
3769	Walled garden, stable and coach house	NU 0812 3850	Post Medieval	Walled garden, stable and coach house c.30 yards north of Buckton House. Grade II listed building. 18 th century
19596	Reservoir	NU 08196 38426	Post Medieval	Reservoir marked on the OS map of 1866
19594	Spring	NU 07963 38914	Post Medieval	Spring to the north of Buckton as marked on the OS map of 1866
19595	Spring	NU 07830 38607	Unknown	Spring to the north-west of Buckton marked on the OS map of 1866

SMR ID	Name	Grid Ref	Date	Description
19892	Well	NU 9036 8551	Post Medieval	Well next to Lowmoor Gate on the east coast railway line as shown on the OS map of 1866
3751	Fenwick Stead	NU 081 395	Medieval Post Medieval	Earthworks and ridge and furrow surround the farmstead
3772	Cottages and stables	NU 0798 3953	Post Medieval	Cottages and stables c.35 yards north east of Fenwick Stead Farmhouse. Grade II listed building. Early 19 th century
3773	Stores and garage	NU 08020 39508	Post Medieval	Stores and garage c.50 yards east of Fenwick Stead Farmhouse. Grade II listed building. Late 18 th to early 19 th century
3774	Stables	NU 0798 3949	Post Medieval	Stables c.30 yards east of Fenwick Stead Farmhouse. Grade II listed building. Early 19 th century
19589	Spring	NU 07602 39348	Unknown	Spring to the west of Fenwick Stead as marked on the OS map of 1866
19590	Spring	NU 07693 38912	Unknown	Spring to the south west of Fenwick Stead as marked on the OS map of 1866
19591	Sheep wash	NU 08212 39377	Post Medieval	Sheep wash at Fenwick Stead as marked on the OS map of 1866
19901	Well	NU 8126 9452	Unknown	Well to the east of Fenwick Stead as shown on the OS map of 1866
20779	Fenwick Stead coal working	NU 08000 39000	Unknown	Dark fireclays and shales noted in 1927 by members of the Geological Survey in an old working

SMR ID	Name	Grid Ref	Date	Description
19593	Milepost	NU 08142 38716	Post Medieval	Milepost 11 miles south of Berwick and 3.5 miles north of Belford as marked on the OS map of 1866

APPENDIX III : Illustrations



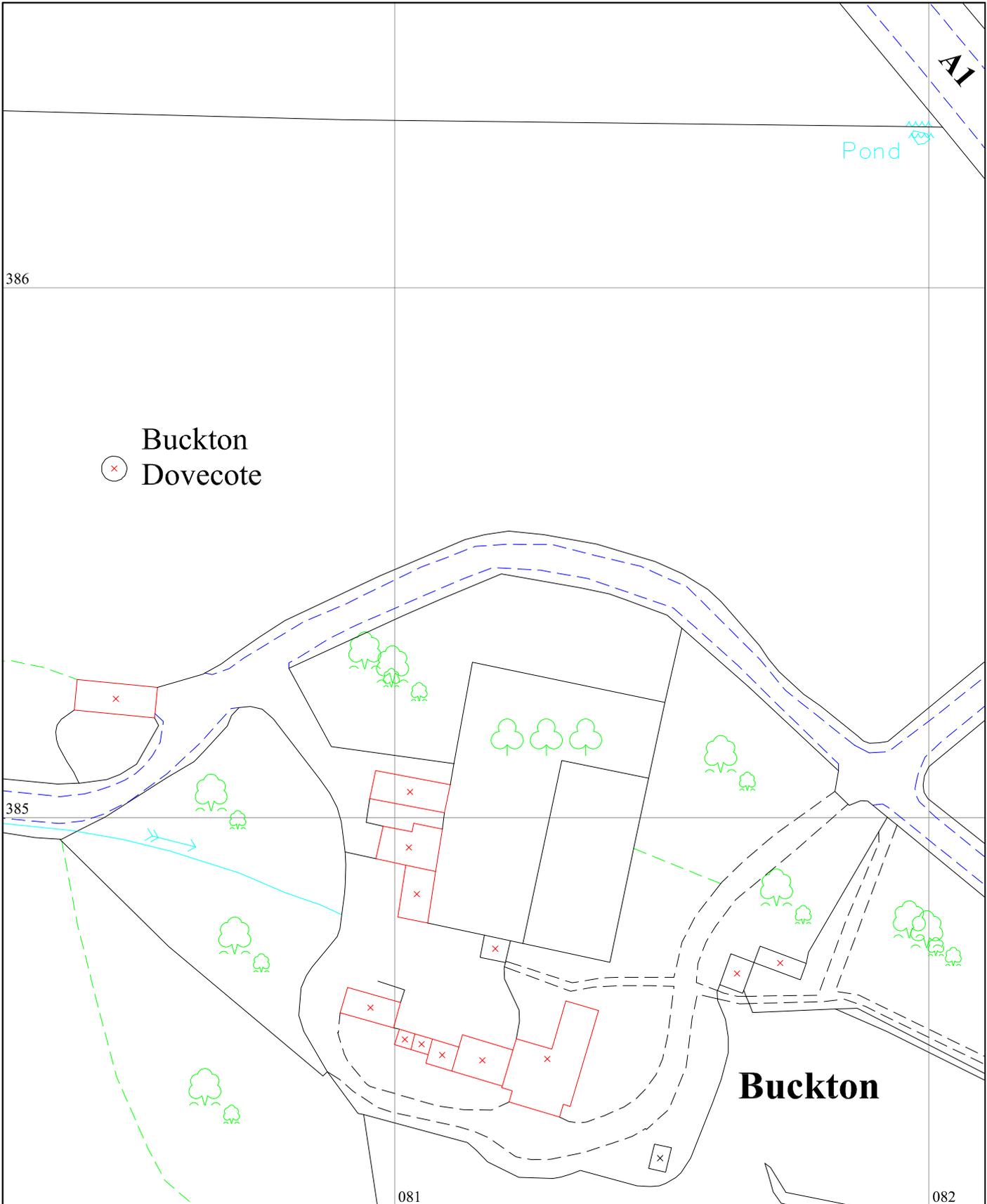
North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
2007

PROJECT: Buckton Dovecote
 SCALE: 1:100 000
 REPORT No: CP 528/07
 CLIENT: Mrs Barcham
 DRAWN BY: MDR
 DATE: August 2007
 FIGURE No: 1

site location

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Figure 1 : Location map



North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
2007

PROJECT: Buckton Dovecote
 SCALE: 1:1000
 REPORT No: CP 528/07
 CLIENT: Mrs Barcham
 DRAWN BY: MDR
 DATE: August 2007
 FIGURE No: 2

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Figure 2 : Location of Buckton Dovecote

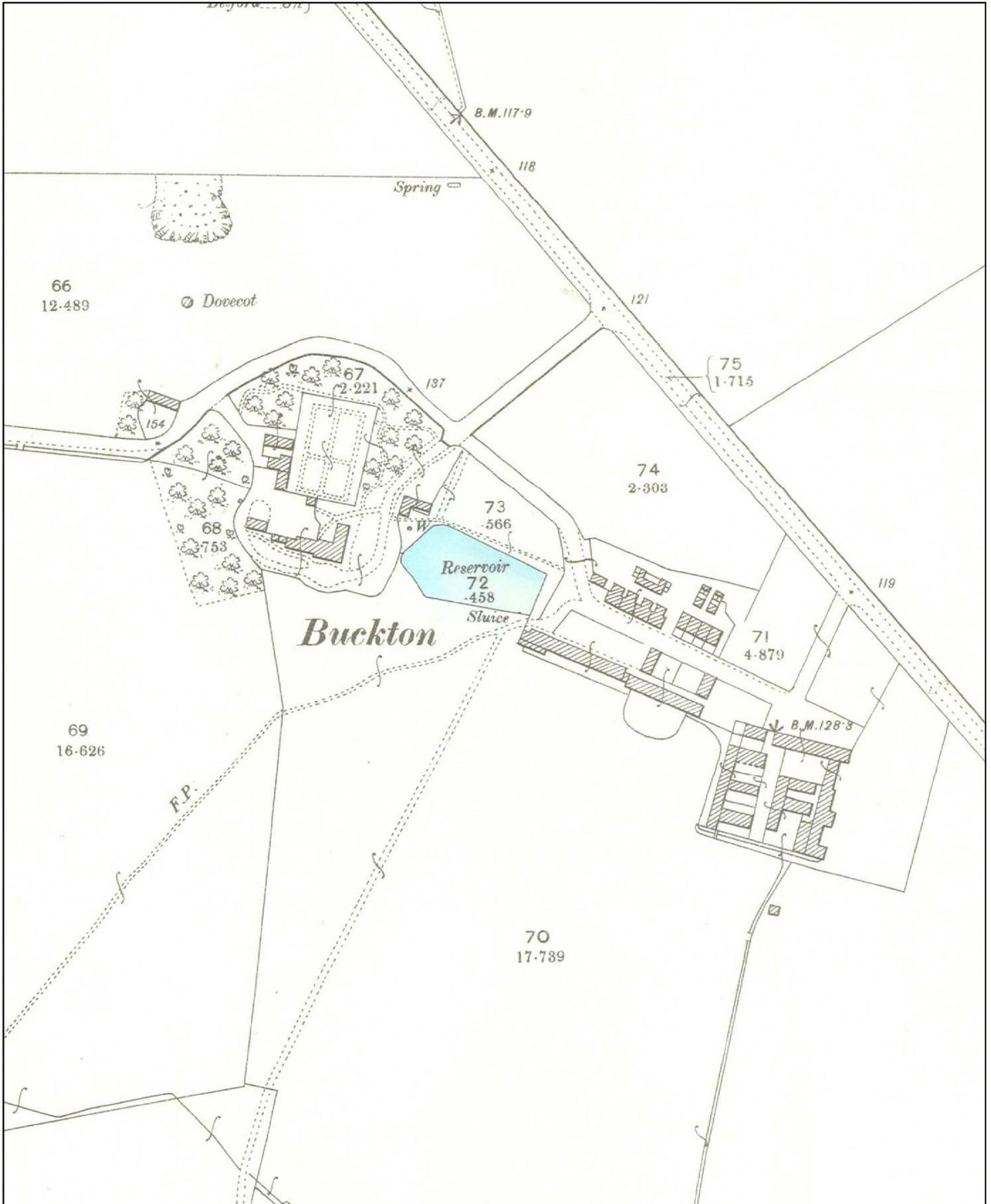


North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
2007

PROJECT: Buckton Dovecote
 SCALE: 1:5000
 REPORT No: CP 528/07
 CLIENT: Mrs Barcham
 DRAWN BY: MDR
 DATE: August 2007
 FIGURE No: 3



Figure 3: Extract from the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1866



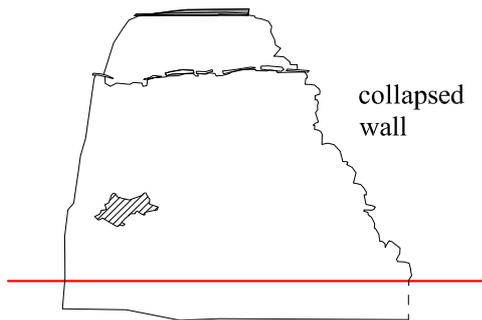
North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
2007

PROJECT: Buckton Dovecote
 SCALE: 1:2500
 REPORT No: CP 528/07
 CLIENT: Mrs Barcham
 DRAWN BY: MDR
 DATE: August 2007
 FIGURE No: 4

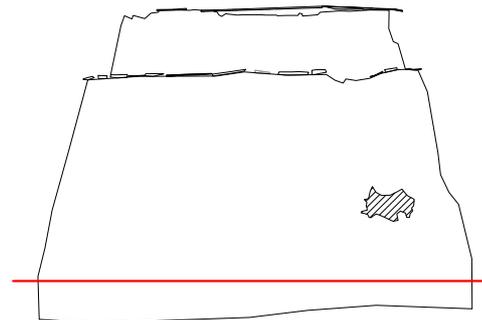


Figure 4: Extract from the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map of c.1900

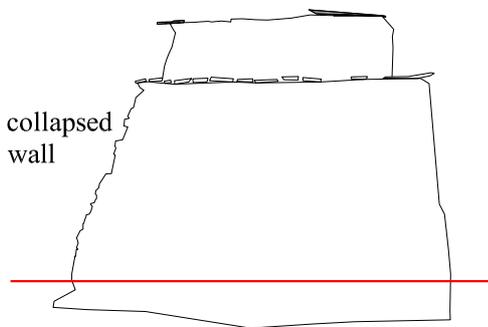
West-facing elevation



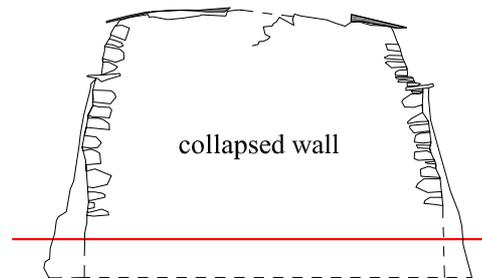
North-facing elevation



East-facing elevation



South-facing elevation



North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
2007

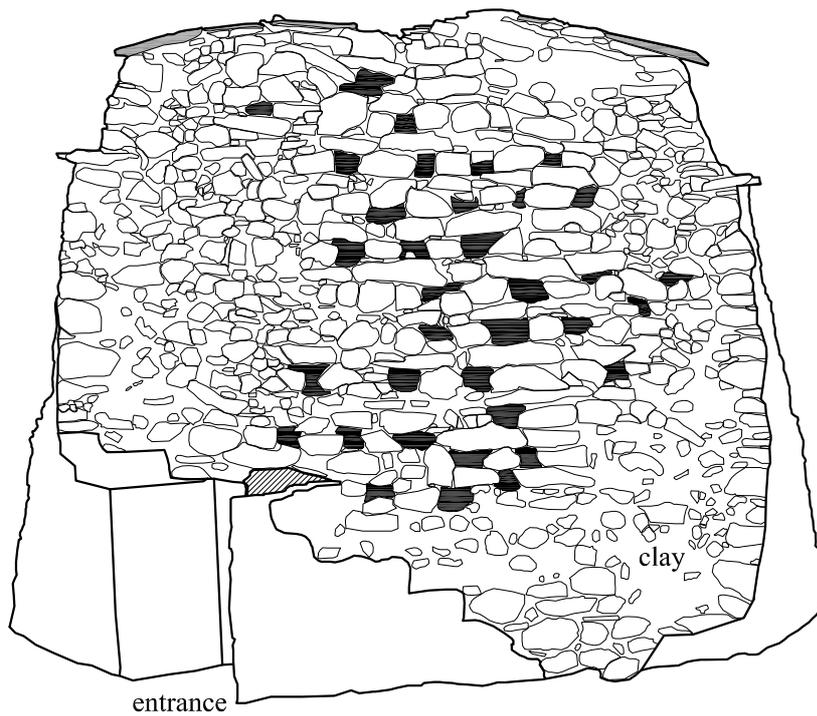
PROJECT: Buckton Dovecote
SCALE: 1:100 at A4
REPORT No: CP 528/07
CLIENT Mrs Barcham
DRAWN BY: MDR
DATE: August 2007
FIGURE No: 5

— datum level

KEY:

 void
 roof

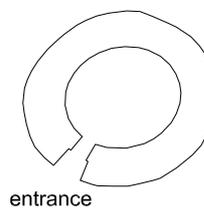
Figure 5 : Plan and outline elevations of Buckton Dovecote



North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
2006

PROJECT: Buckton Dovecote
 SCALE: 1:50 at A4
 REPORT No: CP 528/07
 CLIENT: Mrs Barcham
 DRAWN BY: MDR
 DATE: August 2007
 FIGURE No: 6

PLAN: Scale 1:250



KEY:

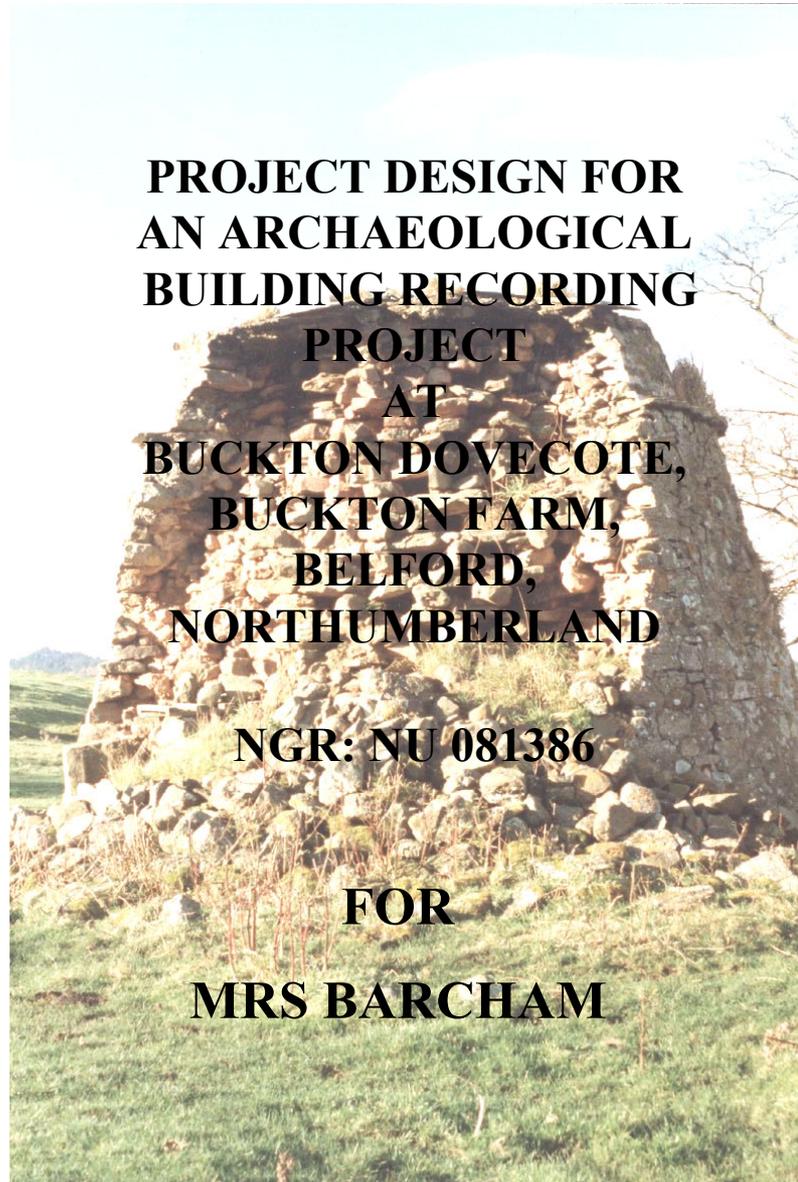
-  opening
-  roof
-  exposed nest box

Figure 6 : Detailed elevation drawing of the collapsed south side

APPENDIX IV : Project Design

NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Project Design No 528/07



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19th June 2007



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1 INTRODUCTION AND LOCATION

- 1.1 North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. have been invited by English Heritage to provide a quote and project design for an archaeological building recording project at Buckton Dovecote, Buckton Farm, Belford, Northumberland.
- 1.2 Buckton Dovecot is a post-medieval beehive dovecote, built prior to 1626. The site is located in a field of pasture, to the north of Buckton Farm, Belford (NGR NU 081386). The roofless structure is in urgent need of consolidation; it has suffered collapse on the south side, exposing the clay-bonded core and internal nest boxes, which are suffering deterioration as a result.
- 1.3 The dovecote is a scheduled ancient monument (ND 113), and is currently on the Buildings at Risk Register, as a Priority Category A. The landowner is intending to consolidate the monument, which will involve the removal of collapsed material, reinstatement of the collapsed structure, and the construction of a new roof. As a result, English Heritage has recommended an archaeological building recording project be undertaken, in accordance with a written specification (English Heritage 2007). This project design is for the building recording project which will comprise a metric building survey (corresponding to an English Heritage Level 3 survey) and documentary research, which will be undertaken prior to the proposed alterations, archaeological monitoring and recording, undertaken once works at the site commence, and building recording after works have been completed. The quote for this work is included in the Appendix.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The purpose of the building recording project is to produce a detailed record of the existing form and fabric of the building, including structural and architectural details, and any archaeological evidence for the buildings origins and development. This will take the form of a detailed metric building survey, supported by historical and documentary research. The archaeological building recording project will correspond to an English Heritage Level 3 survey (English Heritage 2006), which will be undertaken prior to the consolidation of the building, followed by archaeological monitoring and recording during consolidation works once they commence. All work will be undertaken according to the recommendations of the Institute of Field Archaeology (IFA 2001) and Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO 1997).

2.2 Building survey

- 2.2.1 Detailed recording of the building will be undertaken in order to provide an accurate record of the existing structure, and to identify the origins, main phases of development and use of the building.
- 2.2.2 Firstly, a metric survey of the plan of the building, and an outline metric survey of exterior of the building will be undertaken using a Trimble 3605 Reflectorless Total Station. Additional detail will be measured by hand, and added to the outline survey in a CAD environment, to produce three external elevation drawings of the north, east

and west sides. These will show all openings, breaks in masonry, architectural detail, and other detail relating to the previous use of the building.

- 2.2.3 A detailed elevation drawing will be produced of the exposed south side of the building using a combination of metric survey and rectified photography, once loose stone rubble has been removed. Fixed targets will be used to create a series of control points on this elevation. These will be surveyed using the Trimble 3605 Reflectorless Total Station, to form a framework for rectifying digital photographs of the building. The image rectification will be undertaken using Monobild Software. The resulting digital photographs will then be digitised in a CAD environment to produce a stone-by-stone scale drawing of the southern elevation, showing the locations of the exposed nest boxes. Additional internal detail will be recorded by hand using measured sketches, and added to the survey using AutoCad software. The metric survey and rectified photography will be undertaken according to English Heritage specifications (English Heritage 2000).
- 2.2.4 The building survey will also comprise an internal and external observation of the building, and the production of a written and photographic record. Photographs will be taken using black and white print and colour slide film. Shots will be taken of all external elevations, to show significant structural or architectural detail, and to show the building in its wider context. All photographs will include a graduated scale.
- 2.2.5 Historical research will be undertaken to provide additional information regarding the origins, development and use of the building. This will comprise a search of all pertinent documentary, photographic and pictorial sources relating to the building, and the analysis of historic maps of the site. This will include consultation of the County Record Office, County Historic Environment Record, National Monuments Record, Archaeological Data Service, Local Libraries and material held by the current landowner and estate.
- 2.2.5 The results of the building survey will be used to inform a written description of the building, and an account of the building's origins development and use. The report will include scale floor plans, and detailed drawings of all external building elevations. Separate drawings will be provided to illustrate significant structural or architectural detail.

2.3 Archaeological monitoring and recording

- 2.3.1 The archaeological monitoring and recording will be undertaken during the removal of collapsed material, and consolidation of the building. The monitoring will include the recording of all features of historic or architectural importance that are revealed during the building works.
- 2.3.2 In summary, the main objectives of the archaeological monitoring will be:
- to identify the presence/absence, nature, and extent of historic and architectural features and to record these where they are observed
 - to accurately locate these features on plans and elevations of the building
 - to produce a photographic record of these features, cross-referenced to the building survey
- 2.3.3 The information gained during the archaeological monitoring will be added to the building survey and incorporated in the final report.

3 REPORTING

- 3.1 The building recording will be followed by an assessment of the data, the process being adopted as set out in the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (2nd Edition, 1991).
- 3.2 This process will culminate in the production of survey report, which will be prepared in accordance with the guidelines for a Level 3 survey, and will include the following:
- A site location plan, related to the national grid.
 - The dates on which the project was undertaken.
 - A concise, non-technical summary of the results
 - A description of the methodology employed, work undertaken and results obtained
 - A written account of the building's form and analysis of its origins, development and use
 - Annotated scale plans and detailed elevations, identifying the main phases of development and use of the building
 - Digital photographs of the building, showing the locations of the building, major elevations, and important structural or architectural detail.
- 3.3 Recommendations for further archaeological work, if applicable, will be set out in a separate letter to English Heritage.

4 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 4.1 Full consideration will be given to health and safety issues during all fieldwork. North Pennines Archaeology Ltd Health and Safety Statement conform to the provisions of the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (SCAUM) Health and Safety Manual.

5 STAFFING

- 5.1 The work will be undertaken under the overall direction of Frank Giecco, BA, Dip Arch. AIFA, NPA Principal Archaeologist.
- 5.2 The day-to-day management of the project will be conducted by Martin Railton, BA Hons, MA, AIFA NPA Senior Project Officer. Martin Railton is a qualified archaeological surveyor, who has undertaken numerous building recording projects in Northern England for both North Pennines Archaeology Ltd, and his previous employer Archaeological Services Durham University. Martin Railton has recently completed similar major detailed building surveys at Blencow Hall in Cumbria, and at Blackcleugh Bastle, Allendale, Northumberland, using a combination of rectified photography and metric building survey. Examples of previous building recording work can be provided on request.
- 5.3 Martin Railton will be assisted by Fiona Wooler, BA, MA, NPA Buildings Specialist. Fiona Wooler has an MA in the Archaeology of Buildings from the University of York. She has experience in illustration, photographic surveys, documentary research

and buildings surveys, which are her particular interest. She is especially interested in vernacular structures, such as farm buildings and water-mills, and she is continuing her research into buildings on the farm, which house certain processes such as threshing, a topic which was the subject of her MA dissertation.

6 WORK TIMETABLE

- 4.1 The building survey of internal and external elevations, and historical research could commence within 10 working days, following approval of this project design, and would take approximately 10 working days to complete. A report on this phase of the work, and digital survey drawings of the building would be available within 1 month following the completion of the fieldwork.
- 4.2 The archaeological monitoring and recording would be undertaken once consolidation works began, and timed to coincide with the building works.
- 4.3 A final report combining all stages of the work would be available within 3 months of the completion of the fieldwork.

7 PUBLICATION & ARCHIVE

- 7.1 Depending on results, the findings of the building recording will be published in summary form in the *Archaeologica Aeliana*.
- 7.2 One copy of the final report will be sent to Northumberland County Council for inclusion in the HER, where viewing will be available on request. Digital survey data, and a digital copy of the report (in pdf format) will also be made available.
- 7.3 The project will also be registered with the **Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological InvestigationS (OASIS)**, where digital copies of the report will also be made available.
- 7.4 A full professional archive will be compiled in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (1991). The archive will initially be held at the North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. offices at Nenthead, and will be deposited within the Museum of Antiquities following the completion of the project.

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