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SHIELING BY LEWIS BURN

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT

by Keith Blood



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**SHIELING BY LEWIS BURN
TYNEDALE
NORTHUMBERLAND**

NMR No: NY 68 NW 1

NGR: NY 6325 8943

SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENT No: SM 25127

Surveyed: September 1998
Surveyed by K. Blood
Report by K. Blood
Drawings by K. Blood

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INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND TO SURVEY

At the request of Forest Enterprise and English Heritage, the RCHME have undertaken a survey of scheduled ancient monuments in the Kielder Forest area (Kielder Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) Survey). The purpose of this survey is to inform management plans for this group of monuments and also to increase the currency of the National Monuments Record (NMR) for this area. The monument described below (RSM No. 25127) is a single shieling situated beside Lewis Burn at NY 6325 8943. It has not been recorded previously in the NMR, and was discovered in 1988 by B.Long, at that time an employee of the Forestry Commission and custodian of Kielder Castle (Long, B., 1988). It was scheduled on 07-DEC-1994 (English Heritage, 1994). The site was surveyed entirely by graphic methods (tapes and offsets) at 1:250 scale in September 1998 (Figure 1).

GEOLOGY, TOPOGRAPHY AND LAND USE

The solid geology for the whole of Kielder Forest comprises alternate layers of sandstone, shale and limestone. This is covered by clayey glacial drift to varying depth which accounts for the very poor drainage pertaining in much of the forest.

The shieling lies on an afforested natural terrace 30m to the north of the confluence of Lewis Burn with an unnamed tributary some 6.5m above the level of the burn and at about 200m above OD. A footbridge across the tributary is 12m to the south-west. In about 1990 the block of conifers around the shieling, which were planted in 1936 (Forest Enterprise: Forest Design Felling Plan 1:10000), were felled and the area subsequently replanted, but the trees on the shieling itself have been left untouched, presumably to avoid damage during felling and extraction. Three mature trees remain on it together with the stumps of others which were thinned well before the recent harvesting.

RCHME ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SURVEY 1998

The shieling is in poor condition having been reduced to its foundations, which are now overgrown with moss, rank grass and some bracken and which have been damaged by the root systems of present and former conifers. Removal of the moss reveals that the shieling is stone-built (or at least the foundations are) with a wall, surviving not more than 0.3m high and spread to about 0.8m wide. Up to five outer facing stones, 0.3m maximum height, can be identified along the north-west side, and a further two, up to 0.15m high, occur in the south-east. No entrance is visible. Internally, the shieling measures 5.2m from north-east to south-west by 2.3m transversely; the interior appears to be some 0.2m above the surrounding ground level. Abutting the north-east side of the shieling some 0.2m below it is a further stone-walled structure, 1.6m long, and roughly the same width as the shieling. This is not well-preserved; it may be a second room or a lightly-built annexe or possibly the remains of an earlier shieling superceded and substantially overlaid by the later building.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

English Heritage 1994, scheduling amendment 07-DEC-1994.

Long, B. 1988, List of Ancient Monuments-The Kielder Forest (unpublished-Forestry Commission).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1. List of figures

Figure 1. Copy of 1:250 survey.

APPENDIX 2. Table of NMR numbers linked to this site

SITE NAME	COUNTY	DISTRICT	PARISH
Lewis Burn	Northumberland	Tynedale	Kielder

NMR no	Unique Identifier	NGR	Site Name
NY 68 NW 1	1183546	NY 6325 8943	Lewis Burn

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE HISTORICAL MONUMENTS OF ENGLAND				
OFFICE OF ORIGIN YORK	COUNTY NORTHUMBERLAND	SCALE OF SURVEY 1: 250	METHOD GRAPHIC	OS MAP No NY 68 NW
PROJECT NAME KIELDER SAMS	DISTRICT TYNE DALE	DATE OF SURVEY 16-SEP-1998	ASSOCIATED PLANS FIELD PLOT (PENCIL)	NAR No -
SITE NAME LEWIS BURN	PARISH KIELDER	SURVEYOR(S) KB		SAM No SM 25127
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