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The deserted village of West Whelpington,  
Northumberland. Third Report, Part Two

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The deserted village of West  
Whelpington Northumberland.  
Third Report, Part Two

Microfiche 1

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## APPENDIX A THE MANOR AND ITS LORDS

The descent of the manor forms a necessary background to the agrarian history of West Whelpington. In a township which is known to have supported both 'nucleated' and 'dispersed' settlement at various times, the form of settlement in any period will have depended mainly upon the way in which the agrarian economy was organised. That organisation will have been conditioned to some extent by lordship (whether actively or passively), though it must be admitted that the documentary evidence for West Whelpington is insufficient to see clearly its effects. In other Northumberland townships such influences are more obvious: in, for example, the Delaval townships at the end of the 16th century; or in the Douglas and Percy estate policies of the 18th century (Wrathmell 1975, 170 - 2 and 240 - 1; 1980, 113 - 126).

The history of West Whelpington manor is complicated by the failure of some records to differentiate it from East (or Kirk) Whelpington, and also by its long association with the adjoining manor of Ray. All three were members of the barony of Prudhoe, an extensive lordship which was held by the Umfravill family from the time of Henry I until the end of the 14th century, when it passed to the Percy earls of Northumberland (NCH XII, 80 - 1, 103 - 4). The barony was centred upon Prudhoe Castle, in the Tyne valley, but it encompassed a number of detached areas, including almost the whole of the medieval parish of Kirkwhelpington. In view of what is known about the origins of baronies in Northumberland, the link between Prudhoe and Kirkwhelpington may have been established when the barony was formed out of existing estates after the conquest of the Earldom. Some of the extensive parishes of the region can be shown to have originated as the territories of churches set up to serve estates, their boundaries becoming fossilised in pre-Conquest times (Wrathmell 1975, 74 - 7). Kirkwhelpington may represent one such unit, and provide the early administrative context for the land which emerges as West Whelpington manor. This does not, of course, tell us whether West Whelpington vill existed in this period as a defined agrarian unit.

At some date before 1226 the lord of Prudhoe, Richard de Umfravill, gave the vill of Ray to Peter de Insula (Abb. Plac. 226; N & D Deeds 110, no. 7"), whose family came to possess a number of manors in the area, and established its caput at Chipchase in the North Tyne valley. Ray seems to have been held by socage rather than military tenure (Abb. Plac. 218). West Whelpington,

on the other hand, was subinfeudated by Prudhoe as a half knight's fee. It is recorded in an inquisition post mortem of 1325, when it was held by Hugh de Whelpington (PRO C134/90/12). He was probably the same man who was a juror for the inquisition into the lands of Gilbert de Umfravill's widow in 1329 (Bain 1887, 177, no. 978). Hugh's family had probably been in possession of the manor in the late 13th century: during the 1270s a Hugh de West Whelpington, presumably an ancestor, had been in dispute with members of the de Harle family about the status of various tenements in the vill. In 1274 Hugh brought an action against William, son of Ralph de Harle, concerning six messuages and lands (Northumbrian Pleas, nos. 96, 285, 468). At a further hearing in 1277 Hugh claimed that this holding had been demised to William for a term. William replied that it had been demised not for a term but in fee, and he brought three charters in support, which Hugh claimed were forgeries. In 1279 the assize at Newcastle considered the status of four messuages and lands which were the subject of a dispute between Hugh and John, son of John de Harle (Page 1890, 242). John claimed that his father, at his death, had been seized of these tenements in fee. Hugh responded that at the death of John the elder he had seized himself of the tenements tanquam capitalis dominus; and he returns them to the younger John per licentiam. There are no reliable indications in later records of either a divided lordship or freeholds within the manor. The de Harles seem, therefore, to have failed ultimately to establish their claims to heritable tenancies.

In the later 14th century Chipchase and its members (including Ray) came into the possession of the Herons of Ford. The transfer was initiated by an agreement, made in 1348, between Sir Robert de Lisle and Sir William Heron (NCH IV, 342). The former sold to the latter the wardship and marriage of his granddaughter, Cecily, upon whom he had entailed reversion of the manor of Chipchase; she was to be married to one of Sir William's sons. The chosen husband was the youngest son, Walter, and the union produced an heir named Roger (Hedley 1970, 59). West Whelpington was added to the estate towards the end of the century. Though it had been in the hands of the de Whelpingtons in the 1320s, the manor had evidently been acquired by the Herons of Ford before 1377; in that year Sir William settled it upon his son Andrew, with remainder to Roger, son of Walter Heron of Chipchase (NCH IV, 342; Hedley 1970, 48). Through this remainder the manors of Ray and West Whelpington became united under one lord.

Chipchase Castle remained the seat of the Herons until 1727, but by that date it had been shorn of virtually all its lands and subordinate manors. The process of dissolution had begun over sixty years earlier. In 1662 Cuthbert Heron had been created first baronet, and, in the words of W. Percy Hedley, 'shortly after this mortgages on the estates started to pile up. Before the end of the century the combination of mortgages, provision for widows and the portions for daughters had encumbered the estates inextricably' (Hedley 1970, 57). The story of decline is detailed by Hedley, and need not be reiterated here. It is one which, *mutatis mutandis*, can be told of several landed families in this part of the county, including the Crnaby lords of Halton and the Fenwicks of Matfen (Hughes 1952, 3 - 11; Wrathmell 1975; 1980). The result was a large-scale transfer of lands to creditors, men who had accumulated capital through various trades and professions and who now wished to establish their families among the landed gentry.

The chief beneficiaries of the Herons' decline, the successors to Chipchase, were the Allgoods of Newcastle; but some peripheral manors were conveyed to the Milbank family, and among these were numbered West Whelpington and Ray. Mark Milbank, who was a merchant and alderman of Newcastle, had become one of Sir Cuthbert's main sources of money. In January 1659/60 Sir Cuthbert had arranged to levy a fine and suffer a recovery so as to bar the entail on his manors of Pigdon and West Whelpington, the latter deemed to include Ray (NRO ZAL 23/2, no. 5). A few months later Milbank purchased Pigdon for £2,100 (*ibid.* no. 6). In 1670 Sir Cuthbert raised a further £2,000 from Milbank as a loan, using lands in Tynedale as security (NRO ZAL 32/2). Then in September 1675 he leased West Whelpington to Milbank for a term, so that a deed of release could be executed to convey to the latter the tenancy in fee simple (NRO ZAL 23/2, no. 8).

Mark Milbank died in 1677. His son Mark, the first baronet, established his seat at Halnaby in Yorkshire, and the entire family came to reside in that county. West Whelpington and Ray descended in the cadet lines of the family: in the 1720s and 1730s they were held by Mark Milbank of Barningham (NYRO ZAL 16/2); and in the late 18th and early 19th centuries the farms there were sold off by William Milbank of Barningham and Thorp Perrow (VCH N. Riding I, 351 - 2; NYRO ZAL 16/3/5; cf. Hodgson 1827, 187).

APPENDIX B WILLS AND INVENTORIES

While the archaeological evidence points to mixed farming at West Whelpington it does not enable us to assess the relative importance of arable and pastoral aspects, still less to number the different animals on a holding. Unfortunately only two relevant documents survive, and the second of these certainly represents an atypical holding.

1. Inventory of the goods and chattels of Thomas Hynmers (Hemers), dated October 1661:

	£	s	d
Itm sixe oxen	14	0	0
Itm eighte kie (kine)	16	0	0
Itm throty shep	6	0	0
Itm three horeses and meares	7	0	0
Itm the corne in the yard and sowen in the ground	10	0	0
Itm housel stoufe	3	10	0
Itm foure stirkes two oxen and two quise	3	0	0
Suma total	59	10	0
the desesed oweing the sume of	11	10	0

In value corn and cattle are the most important elements. The eight milk cows represent almost 29% of the total value of stock, the flock of sheep only 11%. A total of fourteen beasts and three horses would have required housing during the following winter.

Thomas's will gives some details of his household possessions; most were of organic materials and only the 'great kettell' might have survived to be excavated in the 20th century:

- Item I give and bequeath to my son robart hinmarse and  
and (sic) willyam hinmarse for heire looms
- Item 1 table
- Item 1 cubbard
- Item 1 great kettell
- Item 1 long sedle (settle)

Item 1 bed

Item 1 girdle

Item more I give and bequeathe in leggesye to my sones son  
edward hammers a lesser quy stirke and five sheepe either  
ewes or gimmers

Item I give to my son george hammers his son John the bigger quy  
stirke

Item more I give to my son william masane his son william an  
oxe stirke the bigger

Item more I give to to (sic) my sonn Robart hammers an oxe stirke  
lesser

£ s d

Item more oweing in debts 11 10 0

Item all the rest of my goods moveable and unmoveable I give  
to my wife and my sonn william hammers to part betwixt them.

(Durham, Probate 1661, Thomas Hinmarse or Hemers)

2. Inventory of the goods and chattels of Thomas Stott, dated May 1711:

	£	s	d
His purse and apparrell	10	0	0
16: Oxen £56 : six stotts £14	70	0	0
3: Yeal whyes & two Bulls	10	0	0
8: Colts & 2: foles	20	0	0
8: Ridden horses and mares	20	0	0
11: Year old stirks	10	0	0
23 Cowes	60	0	0
390 Sheepe	110	0	0
Corne & hay in the yard	15	0	0
Waine gear & plowgeare	10	0	0
Houshold goods	10	0	0
Cropp of corne on the ground & debts owing to the deceased	15	0	0
	<u>360</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

(Durham, Probate 1711, A 49)

M1/A8



In this list sheep represent almost one-third of the total value of the farm stock, suggesting a greater emphasis on sheep farming than is apparent on the Hynmers farm 50 years earlier. We must however remember that Stott was clearly wealthier than most farmers; we have argued that he may already have been the tenant of Cornhills. Comparison with the Hynmers inventory must therefore be undertaken with extreme caution, in the absence of other lists which might provide a standard. Moreover some of the proportional variations between the two lists may simply reflect the different seasons when the valuations were made. We may note that no single farmstead on the village site could have accommodated the horses and cattle listed; but some may have been intended for sale before the following winter.

APPENDIX C THE TOWNSHIP BOUNDARIES

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The earliest account of the township boundaries is dated 1 May 1665; it is an account of a boundary riding by Sir Cuthbert Heron:

'beginning at the east end of West Whelpington at a place called the Orchard Ford, from thence about ye Broomhill park then up ye West Close Burn (als Wanspeck) And then up by Fernyrigg Sike (keeping it on ye left hand) to ye to of Lungga Cragg, and so to ye west end of another place called Lunggay and the to Archie sheele from thence right over to ye west end of Greate Wanney Hewes and then over at ye east end of Little Wanney Hewes And so up the north side to Aide head and then from Aide Head to ye west end of ye Hepple Heugh. And then eastward down to ye Red Peth And then straight down to ye Pcasey burn till you come to Ray tongue. And northward to ye east side of ye Muckle Close And then up Lires burn ...[boundaries of Ray and Blackhall]...then down ye dike to Howpeth and so down ye burn to Roulay And so down ye burn to ye meeting of ye burns. And so directly westward up ye burn to ye orchard ford.' (NYRO ZAL 16/2/5)

A fuller description is given in a similar account which can only be dated to the period 1665 - 1736:

'Beginnning at the blue stone at ye Orchard Ford, and so by the east side of Broomhill park and so quite round it to Wanspeck Burn and then up by Farneyrigg sike viz keeping it on ye left hand to the top of Lugga Crag to the Midlemost door and so directly north-west to the White Horse and so directly to Archy shele wall, and so right to ye three green shares at the back of Muckle Wanney house, and straight from thence to Little Wanney house and from thence to the top of Pliver Hill and then straight through the Flow Moss to Add Head and from thence straight down to ye top of Heppleheugh and so down to red path and so down by the double cast to Reasey burn, and so along Ray tongue dike and thence by the west side of green sheal and from thence to ye east side of the Muckle close and so up to the rotten sike and from thence to ye three burn mouths and so up sharney burn to the Black Balls in the middle of Crane strudder and straight through the flow moss to the Lonching stone and so to Sardy pike and straight from thence to ye Long Crag pike and from thence to ye Blacky Cragg Fike and then to ye casten ditch at Blackey dike nook and so along the dike to Howpeth burn and down ye burn to Rowley and so down to the foot of ye heald and so up

ye burn to Orchard ford where we begun.'

(NYRO ZAL 16/2/4)

'Broomhill park' is clearly the 'South Field' of the Tithe Survey, opposite the village on the right bank of the Wansbeck.

MI/A11

APPENDIX D      PRE-MEDIEVAL EARTHWORKS IN WEST WHELPINGTON TOWNSHIP

For location of the sites listed see figs. 119, middle, and 128.

1. NY 942840                  over 244 m O.D

A complex of six possible roundhouses, indicated by foundations of large stones set on end; the sites of three of the buildings are certain but the other three are heavily overgrown with bracken. A curving stone enclosure bank abuts the wall of one house and clearly predates the post-medieval field systems, one of whose banks cuts it. It may be related to two other irregular stone banks at some distance to the south. The post-medieval banks seem to be uniformly of earth or clay, so these stone banks are likely to be earlier.

Most of the area south and west of the roundhouses was covered in peat, through which a number of stone alignments projected. These were too fragmentary to plan with confidence but it seems likely that the peat conceals a significant number of prehistoric field boundaries.

2. NY 932834                  c. 305 m O.D.

A D-shaped univallate hill-fort enclosing c. 0.36 ha (0.9 acres) on the top of Great Wanney Crag (Jobey 1965, no. 118). The unenclosed north side was formed by the cliff; the other sides have bank and ditch. No associated features were found, but the adjacent areas were covered with bracken. Hodgson describes it as 'a semi-circular entrenchment, the base of which is about 102 yards, and fronts the edge of the crag: the arc consists of a ditch partly grown up with peat moss, and a vallum composed of earth and stones rudely thrown together...' (Hodgson 1827, 198n.)

3. NY 955841                  over 244 m O.D.

A rectangular banked-and-ditched enclosure sited on the brow of the rise to the east of the later farmstead of Middle Rig (Jobey 1960, no. 81); entrance on the east side. Hodgson noted that its lines were well defined (Hodgson 1827, 198n.).

4. NY 955842            c. 244 m O.D.

A rectangular banked-and-ditched enclosure sited on an east-facing slope above the Ray Burn (Jobey 1960, no. 82). The banks are of earth. Remains of a rectangular building in the N.E. corner are not necessarily contemporary. On the east side the enclosure is abutted by a second enclosure which is probably later; this is broadly rectangular with stone walls, and appears to be associated with three rectangular buildings which may, with the second enclosure, be medieval or later.

5. NY 959836            c. 243 m O.D.

A rectangular banked-and-ditched enclosure sited on a gentle rise facing south-west (Jobey 1960, no. 80); possible entrance on the south-west. The east side of the enclosure is overlain by part of the post-medieval range of Ferneyrigg farm which has suffered subsidence and cracking in consequence. The counterscarp bank of the enclosure has been enhanced by a headland ridge. To the east are traces of an outer rectangular enclosure, most of which has been obliterated by later ridge and furrow and by post-medieval farm buildings.

6. NY 952843            c. 240 m O.D.

A scooped enclosure set in the lee of a north-east facing slope, containing the remains of a broadly rectangular building platform of uncertain date. To the north-east lies a second small stone building which is probably medieval or post-medieval.



## APPENDIX E. EXCAVATIONS, 1958 - 69 : REINTERPRETATION

This report describes excavations carried out between 1970 and 1976. What follows is a reinterpretation of some of the earlier excavations in the light of this later work. As noted above in Part One work began in the south-east corner of the village and extended north and west. As the excavators gained more familiarity with the site the excavation and recording techniques were adapted to meet its particular needs; as a result the reliability of interpretations tends to be greater on the more westerly sites.

In some cases, such as sites 21 and 23, excavation was on such a small scale that reinterpretation is not possible. In others, (e.g. sites 6a, 16b, 17a) there is no reason to reject the published interpretation, and questions of phasing or plan form will be dealt with in Sections 5 and 6. Where sites have been reinterpreted here the original site archive has been consulted; this has led to the inclusion of some details omitted from earlier accounts.

It should be stressed that the interpretations here are more subjective than those in this report; in some cases they may result from the imposition of patterns (or the search for elements in those patterns) derived from later work, rather than from evidence firmly recorded at the time of excavation.

### A. SITES 1 - 3 (fig. 71; Second Report, 214 - 9 & figs. 8 - 10)

These sites appear to form part of a north-eastern terrace extending to site 5. None of the buildings was completely excavated, so that

relationships between structures were not always properly established. Most of the west end of the terrace was destroyed without excavation. Paving and walls were not dismantled, and reliable reinterpretation of these structures is not possible. Nonetheless it seems possible to define three phases of building on these sites.

#### Phase I

At least one building can be recognised on site 2, 3.5 m. wide and at least 8 m. long; it was defined by a rock-cut drainage gully to the north and an edge of chipped bedrock to the south. A living room to the west was separated by a transverse drainage gully from a room with a number of regularly spaced rock-cut postholes 0.1 m. diameter close to the side walls; these might indicate stall divisions within a byre. The living room had a stone hearth sealed beneath a Phase II cross-passage. The east and west limits of the building were not defined.

Though no other rock-cut gullies were recorded from these sites, comparison with site 15 suggests that this structure may have been part of a discontinuous line of buildings.

#### Phase II

Five long-houses appear to have formed a continuous terrace fronting crofts A to C; some changes of alignment probably mirror the alignment of the crofts, others were probably dictated by the topography of the croft frontages. 62 m. of this terrace were examined, and the earthwork survey suggests that it may have continued for another 40 m. to the west. If the interpretation is accepted the houses will have varied in internal length



between 9.5 and 13 m.; this is comparable with the 11 to 16.5 m. of the north-west terrace. If the terrace did extend 40 m. further west this suggests that it once contained eight or possibly nine holdings. Few internal details are available; as interpreted here all consisted of a living room and a byre, separated by a cross-passage; in four of the five the byre lay on the east or downhill side. In the fifth the size of the rooms suggests that the byre may have been at the west. Where hearths were recorded they were no more than areas of burnt bedrock; two small ones lay near the centre of a living room or close to the cross passage, a larger one was against an end wall. Some of the byre sumps were paved troughs, others were rock-cut. The two eastern holdings had at least one wall built on a clay bank; the clay platforms on these sites mostly belong to Phase III, though there is a possible Phase II clay floor in the fourth house from the east.

The two eastern houses had a total length of c. 22 m. and a width of 4.5 m. The north wall was built on a clay bank which ran east from the west wall of croft A. A robber trench defined by external tumble marked the line of the south wall; photographs of the baulks suggest that this also stood on a clay bank. The eastern limit of this part of the terrace is indicated by the end of the northern clay bank and by a line of internal paving, the western by a change in the angle of the terrace and by the junction with the northern croft wall.

The easternmost building had a paved byre sump 5.5 m. long and 1.2 m. wide; part of the stall paving to the north also survived. Substantial paving in its southern part marks a cross-passage 1.5 m. wide. The western edge of an area of burnt bedrock - a hearth 2 x 1 m. in extent - marks the line of the west wall. Layers of ash and burnt material over

much of the eastern part of the site suggest destruction of the building by fire.

In the western building on site 1 a deep rectangular rock-cut trough may indicate the east end of the byre sump, though no shallower channel to the west was recorded. A rock-cut posthole defines the position of the south threshold and presumably the cross-passage; close to it a burnt patch of bedrock, measuring 0.8 x 0.6 m., marks the hearth. The position of the west wall is not recorded, but is suggested by the junction with the croft wall, the west end of the northern clay bank, and the change in alignment of the terrace.

The section of the terrace described in the Second Report as sites 1b, 2 and 3 seems to have consisted of three longhouses. Extensive robbing and incomplete excavation have left us inadequate detail; the suggested plans derive from odd fragments of paving beneath later structures and clay floors.

The third building from the east lay on sites 1b and the eastern part of 2; it would thus have extended to the west wall of croft A. The paving at the west end of 1b, 0.1 m. lower than the floor of the Phase III byre to its east, probably formed part of the byre; its extent is uncertain. No trace of a cross-passage survived. To the west the living room contained an open hearth, 1.2 x 0.8 m., on the bedrock. It seems likely that the walls respected the Phase I drainage gully to the north and the chipped bedrock ridge to the south, suggesting an internal width of ca. 3.75 m. The position of the west wall is unknown.

The main feature of the fourth building in the terrace is a massive

cross-passage, overlying a Phase I hearth but otherwise sited on bedrock. It was composed of large flat paving slabs, was 1.5 m. wide, and extended beyond the north entrance. Substantial areas of paving to the west are clearly of this phase, and are interpreted as part of a byre floor. If the west wall of this building is marked by the junction with the west wall of croft B and the end of the byre of the next house the size of room so formed is more appropriate to a byre than a living room; but other Phase II longhouses in this area all had eastern byres.

Site 3 and the western part of site 2 covered the fifth house in the terrace. Its paved byre sump had stone kerbs on either side; part of that on the north was reused in a later wall. Heavy paving to the west was probably part of a cross-passage. Neither the walls nor the details of the living room are known. The surviving north wall may be of this period, but it would give stalls with a depth of no more than 1.8 m. and may be of Phase III.

### Phase III

Robbing of Phase III structures had been more extensive; but superimposed hearths, robber trenches on alignments inappropriate to Phase II, and an abundance of late 17th century finds all attest occupation. Details are not clear, but two farmsteads appear to have replaced the five longhouses of Phase II.

The eastern steading was 27 m. long internally. It had a byre and living room to the west and another byre and an outhouse in the east. A rectangular open hearth, 1.8 x 1.4 m., set against the west wall is the clearest evidence for the living room. East of it a room with a clay

floor and some large fragments of paving may have been a byre. Further east a small (3.5 x 2 m.) outhouse was built over a Phase II byre. Its walls were clay-boarded and survived to a height of two or three courses. The earlier byre floor was covered with a thin layer of clay, perhaps derived from the collapse of the Phase II banks. This was overlain by layers of ash and burning, covered with earth (Second Report, pl. XXII, 2), possibly debris from the rest of the site. Above this was a stone hearth backed by two postholes (ibid., pl. XXIII, 1 & fig. 9).

The function of the room is unknown. West of the living room, on site lb, lay the second byre. It was at least 5 m. long and probably continued further west. The evidence consists of the large paving slabs of its sump, together with a number of possible stall divisions. It may have been joined to the western farmstead by a stretch of enclosure wall, or by a small outbuilding: a bank or partially robbed wall can be seen in the photographs.

The walls of the western steading had been completely robbed. The living room c. 6.5 x 4 m. in extent, contained a stone backed hearth, presumably against the east wall. The southern edge of a clay platform which extended to the edge of the Phase II cross-passage probably marks the south wall. The end wall was presumably in this vicinity, since the edge of the cross-passage had been damaged by a later robber trench (Second Report, 217 - 8). Attached to the west end of the building was a further room, presumably not domestic in function. The robber trenches of its north, west and south walls were defined by internal tumble. It was clearly on a more northerly alignment than the Phase II terrace, and

was at least 3.5 m. wide. Its east wall was presumably merely a partition; a clay floor might belong to this phase. To the west this room was linked by a small outbuilding, 4 x 2.5 m., to the westernmost building of this phase. This lay south of the Phase II terrace; its east wall overlaid a Phase II byre sump, and its north wall partially incorporated the sump kerbs.

A number of clay pipes, glass wine bottles and vessels of slipware and delft probably belong to this phase of occupation. A brass candlestick was found in the western byre of the eastern steading.

#### B. SITES 6 and 7 (fig. 72; Second Report, 221 - 6 & fig. 11)

The two house sites at the east end of the north-western terrace were published in the Second Report, and an interpretation was advanced; but it was acknowledged that excavation further west (especially on site 8) might modify that interpretation. Excavation of the whole terrace has now necessitated a complete reappraisal of these two sites. For a discussion, see Jarrett & Wrathmell 1977.

As elsewhere in this part of the village three main structural phases can be defined (figs 9 - 11). Certain elements of these phases were recognised in the Second Report, but others can now be better understood in the light of later work.

#### Phase I

The earliest structure was a rectangular building on an east - west alignment, measuring at least 14.8 x 4.2 m. internally. It may predate

the knowncroft boundaries. It was principally defined by its north wall, and by the survival of parts of its clay floor; parts of the south wall may have been incorporated in later structures.

The north wall survived as a stretch of internal facing of small neat stones resting directly on bedrock, in contrast to the Phase II walls which were founded on earth, clay and rubble. Its line was continued westwards for 8.8 m. by the edge of the clay floor. To the east the wall line was continued by two shallow rock-cut sockets, 2.5 m. apart.

The position of the south wall is indicated by the limit of the clay floor, and by a possible stretch of external facing similar to that of the north wall, preserved in the Phase II south wall. The line was continued to the west for a 4 m. by a ridge of chipped bedrock.

The floor of the building was covered by areas of burning. The only associated pottery was sealed by this burning, and was of medieval date. To the north and east three storage pits (pits 1 - 3) were probably associated with this structure. All were rock-cut and had a ledge running round the sides a few centimetres from the bottom. Pits 2 and 3 were 1.2 x 1.0 x 0.5 m. deep, and were filled with earth and large whin chips; pit 1 was similar in size. It was sealed at the top with a layer of yellow clay which was itself capped by sandstone flagging; medieval pottery was found below the seal.

#### Phase II

Phase II consisted of two longhouses (6/1 and 7) which formed the eastern end of a continuous terrace extending from house 6/1 to 9/2 (Section 3,

above). 6/1 and 7 fronted crofts E and F respectively. Although both houses had been extensively robbed enough survived to show that their living rooms and byres had been of equal size.

#### House 6/1

This house will have measured 18 x 4.5 m. internally. It lay on an east - west alignment with a living room at the west and a byre to the east; although only one entrance survived it is probable that as with other buildings in the terrace a cross-passage once separated the two rooms.

The living room measured 9 x 4.4 m. internally. Substantial parts of its north wall survived, overlain by or incorporated in later walls; it was constructed of large, regular whinstone blocks. The approximate position of the robbed west wall is indicated by the west wall of croft E, which had probably continued south to form a butt joint with the north wall of the terrace. The byre sump of site 7 ends in a straight line immediately to the west, suggesting a north - south wall at this point. Part of the south wall, incorporating the Phase I wall, survived. In the centre of the room a rectangular hearth had been cut into the bedrock.

The north doorway, 1 m. wide, lay 9 m. east of the presumed west wall; it was backed by paving across the inner part of its threshold. No trace of a cross-passage survived, but most of it would probably have been removed during the construction of Phase III. The south wall at this point was almost completely robbed.

The byre lay to the east of the presumed cross-passage, and measured 7.5 x 4.5 m. internally. Parts of its north wall were incorporated in the Phase

III building. The south and east walls had been robbed. An axial sump is indicated by a line of paving 2.5 m. long, edged by credible kerb stones in the eastern half of the room; it could not have extended any further east because the bedrock rose sharply at this point. Part of the sump paving was covered with a layer of ash and soil which was itself sealed by the east wall of the Phase II living room.

#### House 7

The principal surviving evidence for a building on this site in Phase II consists of a byre sump associated with areas of paving to the west, sealed by a Phase III building, site 8/2. Any interpretation based on these fragments must be uncertain; that advanced below seems to fit both the surviving evidence and what is known of the rest of the terrace during this phase; moreover it is clear that the interpretation of the Second Report (221 - 6) can no longer stand.

The new building measured c. 14 x 4.45 m. internally. The byre occupied the eastern half, and the living room presumably lay to the west. The fragments of paving adjoining the sump may be the last traces of a cross-passage, but no trace of either entrance remained. All the walls had been completely robbed.

The byre measured 6.5 x 4.5 m. internally. The axial sump lay directly on bedrock, and sloped down from west to east. It was edged on either side with stone kerbs. The east end was squared off, suggesting a wall at this point. Enough flagging survived to suggest that it had originally been paved, though it may only indicate a levelling of the bedrock.



The living room and cross-passage depend more on inference and analogy than on precise surviving evidence. Fragments of paving west of the byre and others which were sealed by the Phase III byre of 8/2 demonstrate the existence of some structure in this area.

No pottery was found beneath any of the Phase II structures on sites 6 and 7, nor beneath the walls or paving of the Phase III building 6/2. The only stratified finds relating to this period were those sealed beneath the east end of the byre of 8/2; the latest was a Raeren drinking mug of the late 15th or early 16th century. Other finds were all medieval.

### Phase III

The two former holdings were replaced by one, the tenement on site 7 being apparently abandoned. A new farm (6/2) was built to the east. It occupied some 22 m. of the terrace, and had three separate rooms. The living room was flanked by a byre to the west and a small room to the east. A yard or enclosure at the west end of the byre encroached on to the green.

The new living room was 7 m. long, and narrowed from 4.3 m. at the west to 3.6 m. at the east. The Phase II north wall was reused but all the other walls were new; they were of whinstone with a rubble core, bonded with clay. The rebuilt north wall had its entrance blocked; it was bonded with the new east wall, but the west wall butted against it. The east wall overlay the Phase II byre paving. The south wall was badly robbed, but its line was clear: the new entrance lay near its west end. An open hearth was built against the centre of the west wall. The floor was of bedrock, levelled up with earth and whin chips.

The eastern room probably measured 4.3 x 3 m. internally. Its walls were of irregular whinstone blocks bonded with clay. There was an entrance 3 m. from the west end of the north wall, which incorporated parts of its Phase II precursor. The east wall was partly robbed; the surviving portion overlay a Phase I pit (3). The robbed south wall had presumably abutted the south-east corner of the living room, and it probably overlay or abutted the paving of the Phase II byre sump. Parts of the interior had been levelled with flagstones.

At the west of the steading the Phase II living room was converted into a byre. The Phase II walls seem to have been retained, though the north wall was partly rebuilt on a different alignment and a new entrance was inserted in the south wall close to its east end. This was associated with a large area of paving in the eastern half of the room which overlay the Phase II hearth. A raised line of facing stone ran through this paving, and probably represents the northern edge of an axial byre sump. The western limit of the room is uncertain; it might coincide with the west wall of croft E.

A yard or enclosure occupied most of the site of the Phase II byre of house 7; it lay south and west of the new byre, and measured about 9.5 x 7 m. Such a large area is unlikely to have been roofed. The north wall continued that of the byre; it is represented by a clay-filled robber or foundation trench (Second Report, fig. 12). The west wall coincided with the east end of B/2; a line of tumble extended southwards, with a possible fragment of internal facing at the south end. The south wall survived only in the south-east corner of the yard, where it consisted of large boulders facing a rubble core. A return to the north butted on to

the south wall of the byre 4.5 m. west of its entrance. An area of paving extended southwards from the byre entrance, and was bounded on the south by a line of large paving slabs parallel to the yard wall; these slabs were used to level a natural gully.

North of 6/2 a line of boulders was laid parallel with and 0.5 m. from the north wall; in places it stood two course high. The area beyond was not excavated, so its function is uncertain, but it must be later than Phase II, whose north entrance it effectively blocks.

6/2 appears to have been destroyed by fire, but probably some years after the end of occupation. Heavy burning was found along the north walls of the byre and the living room, but also overlay the tumble to the north. A layer of clay and sooth 0.3 m. deep filled the gap between the north wall and the boulder facing beyond. An oval parth of burnt clay (0.5 x 0.4 m.) overlying the byre flagging may be collapsed constructional material. Above the burning a layer of soil accumulated; this yielded window glass, fragments of lead, a possible roofing flag and a piece of slipware.

#### Phase IIIb

An outbuilding 2.5 m. wide was constructed across the line of the south wall of the yard. Two neat and narrow walls of whinstone enclosed a thick layer of burnt earth and charcoal; the northern edge of this layer indicated the position of the north wall. That of the south wall is uncertain. Th destruction of this outbuilding might well be contemporaneous with that of 6/2. It yielded the only stratified pottery and clay pipes from Phase III levels in this part of the village, as well

as some window glass (Second Report, fig. 29, no. 43; p. 2777, no. 13).

The building was partly surrounded by a large enclosure which extended south on to the green. Robber trenches marked the south and west walls; a small area of paving was found in the south-west corner. North of this another length of walling ran westwards, indicating another encroachment on to the green.

#### Phase IV

After the abandonment of the byre of 6/2 a rough north - south wall was built on top of a layer of soil 0.2 m. thick which had accumulated above the Phase III paving. It was a line of large whinstone blocks; date and function are uncertain.

Unstratified clay pipes and slipware from 6/2 suggest that occupation continued into the second half of the 17th century if not beyond.

#### C. SITES 16a and 16c (fig. 73. Second Report, 244 - 9)

The initial earthwork survey suggested that these were two discrete holdings; they were therefore excavated as two separate units. The interpretation offered in the Second Report was inevitably coloured by this assumption. However a number of facts which clash with this interpretation were noted at the time - especially in the area between the two sites. A re-examination of photographs and site notes shows that these two areas formed part of a continuous but substantially robbed terrace. If the evidence for modifications survived it was not so well

recorded as on the north-western terrace; dating evidence is particularly sparse as most of the walls and paving were not dismantled.

### Phase I

The remains of the earliest structures were slight. There was evidence for at least one building on an east - west alignment. It appears to have resembled houses 15/1 and 15/2; it was bounded by drainage gully round its west end, and appears to have been of timber construction on narrow stone sills; a passage entrance divided the building into two rooms. If the analogies with 15/1 and 15/2 are correct this would not have formed part of a terrace but would have been one of a number of separate buildings in the area. Phase I ended in a fire. To the west a number of pits and postholes which were similarly sealed by burning and were on the same alignment may represent parts of contemporary buildings. Associated with this burning was a coin of Edward I; the burning may therefore be contemporary with the abandonment of the west end of the village, and could be the result of a Scots raid.

### Site 16c.

This was defined by an area of burnt bedrock measuring 3.4 x 2.7 m. It was bounded on the north by a short stretch of stone sill; a stake-hole set in a shallow cut in the bedrock presumably relates to a timber superstructure. A rock-cut drainage channel ran round the west end; the burning ran up to the gully, and in places ran down into it, but it never crossed it. Another stone sill set in a cut in the bedrock marks the south wall; it was sealed by the clay bank of the Phase II south wall, and

the burning does not extend beyond it. A rock-cut gully lay 1 m. to the south, but its relationship to the western gully is uncertain. To the east lay the remains of a paved entrance with pivot stone to the east. A single fragment of external paving beyond the north wall may indicate that the house had a cross-passage; its western room would have measured approximately 4.5 x 2.7 m. Burning clearly continued eastwards from the hypothesised cross-passage, and there is no clear evidence for an east wall at any point.

West of this building a number of postholes and pits on the same alignment may derive from a second structure. Much of the area shows evidence of burning. The silver penny of Edward I was found at this level, sealed by a later floor. Further west a clay-cut pit was sealed by charcoal and burning and subsequently by the platform at the west end of site 16c.

Further east 16a/2 probably belongs to this phase (Second Report, fig. 23), together with a short length of east - west wall south of 16a/3 and 16a/4. The alignment of these buildings suggests that they may have been complemented by buildings on the frontage.

#### Phase II

Re-examination of the site archive suggests that in Phase II the buildings excavated on sites 16a and 16c formed part of a continuous terrace some 52 m. long. There were probably four holdings here, rather than the two suggested in the Second Report. Robbing had been extensive, and internal details are not certain; but the two eastern holdings at least were of longhouse type, and it is tempting to infer a similar construction for the two western holdings. A small rectangular outbuilding or platform

at the end of the terrace may belong to this phase or its successor.

Most of the terrace was aligned north-east - south-west, but it adopted something closer to east - west towards its east end. It was edged to the north by an area of cobbling and rough paving which presumably opened on to the green. Traces of similar cobbling extended southwards towards the enclosures and crofts. At least one of the houses was built on a clay platform, and substantial stretches of the north and south walls had been built on clay banks. The houses are here described from east to west.

Site 16a, eastern holding

This was originally interpreted as the eastern half of 16a/1 (Second Report, 246 - 7). It is now interpreted as a living room west of a cross-passage with (presumably) a byre beyond. The suggested internal dimensions are 12 x 4.5 m.

The position of the west wall is indicated by the east end of the byre of the next house. A large hearth lay in a hollow in the bedrock close to the cross-passage, of which much of the paving survived. Little of the presumed byre sump remained, but there were fragments of paving in the northern part of the room. Patches of burning in both rooms suggest destruction by fire.

Site 16a, western holding

Previously interpreted as 16a/3 and the western part of 16a/1 (Second Report, 246 - 8) this house had a well-preserved byre of a cross-passage and living room. Its alignment differs from that of the eastern holding;

it was built on a clay platform, and measured c. 11 x 4.25 m. internally.

At 5 m. the byre was shorter than those on the north-west terrace. Its axial sump was edged by raised kerbs with paving beyond them. Much of the cross-passage survived but the living room was badly disturbed by robber trenches and a field drain; the position of the west wall was marked by a robber trench cut through the clay platform.

#### Site 16c, eastern holding

This building occupied the areas at the east end of 16c and the west end of 16a, which appear almost blank on the plans in the Second Report (figs. 22 - 3). It had been extensively robbed and was not recognised at the time of excavation. The east and west walls were marked by robber trenches at the ends of the buildings to either side. The north and south walls were sited on clay banks which ran continuously between the western holdings on sites 16a and 16c. The robber trench of the north wall is marked by an edge in the external cobbling.

#### Site 16c, western holding

This broad y corresponds to the "period II building on site 16c" described in the Second Report (pp. 244 - 5). The north and south walls lay on parallel clay banks. The site of the east wall is marked by a robber trench of dark brown soil and rubble. The position of the west wall is not known; it may have lain immediately to the east of a stone platform. Most of the western part of the interior was covered with small neat cobbling set on the natural clay; the cobbles may belong to this or an



earlier phase, but they do not continue beneath the western platform. The platform might be a stack-stand or an outbuilding at the end of the terrace, but could relate to a Phase II holding. The eastern third of the building was covered with a 0.1 m. layer of ash and burnt clay.

### Phase III

In this phase the four earlier tenements were replaced by two farms. These correspond broadly to the later buildings on sites 16a and 16c as originally interpreted, though some modification is required. Some elements of the Phase II structures were reused.

#### The eastern holding

The new farm was probably c. 25 m. long internally, with a living room to the east of a byre and outbuilding. Robbing has removed much internal detail. The living room was constructed in the centre of the Phase II eastern holding. Its west wall is probably represented by a robber trench which cut the western edge of the Phase II hearth. A new stone hearth was built against this wall. The Phase II north and south walls were presumably reused. A robber trench, defined by internal and external tumble, probably represents the east wall; this would give a large room of about 7.5 x 4.5 m. If this is thought to be too large it could be argued that a large area of burning in the northern part of the room marks the north-east corner, rather than the north-west corner of the Phase II byre as suggested above: this would give a room of 5.25 x 4.5 m., which is closer to others of this phase.

To the west the Phase II byre was reused and probably extended to a length

of 10 m. Its new west wall would have been in the area cut by a later field drain; a line of rubble to the west may mark the west side of its robber trench. Beyond this an isolated piece of walling and sporadic lines of tumble suggest that there was a small (5 x 3 m.) outbuilding between this steading and that on site 16c; within it was a small fragment of paving which may be of this phase. It was overlain by a spread of ash and charcoal.

#### The western holding

This smaller steading (19 x 4 m.) consisted of a byre to the east of a living room and a small outbuilding. The north and south walls were probably those of Phase II. Robbing has removed much detailed evidence, such as that of the entrances.

A robber trench defines the eastern limit of the byre and the living room will have cut off the west end; it had an internal length of 7.5 m. Its sump was a rock-cut channel, partly flagged and edged on the north with flagstones set on end (Second Report, 248 - 9). No trace of stall paving was found, but the byre lay on bedrock and paving may have been deemed unnecessary.

The living room measured 7 x 4 m. internally. Its east wall robber trench was defined internally by the heavily burnt north-east corner. Part of the north wall, survived. The robbed west wall was defined by a stone built against its east face and by the edge of the clay floor of the outbuilding to the west. A drain or soakaway crossed the line of the wall immediately north of the hearth. The floor was a layer of yellow clay and whin chippings deposited over the burning on the Phase II floor levels.

To the west lay a small (3.75 x 3.5 m.) room. Parts of its south and west walls survived. The foundation trench of the west wall cut through the Phase II cobbled floor. There are signs of an entrance in the middle of the south wall. The eastern 2 m. of the room were covered with a clay platform 0.15 m. thick, the remainder was roughly paved. Outside it three pits were dug through the Phase II obbling; beyond them the platform may have been built, or have continued in use.

#### Dating

There is little stratified material from these buildings. The Edward I coin is associated with burning at the end of Phase I, and was sealed by the phase III floor of the living room of the western farm. Pots 67, 72 and 78 were sealed in a Phase I layer of burning below the platform at the end of the Phase II terrace (Second Report, figs. 30 - 1); pots 69, 73 and 77 were also sealed beneath the platform. Pot 75 was found in the robber trench of the east wall of the Phase II western longhouse on site 16c. All these vessels are fairly standard medieval forms. The only other stratified vessel was no. 76, a small brown-glazed red ware cup from a Phase III pit on site 16c; similar vessels were sealed beneath Phase III structures on the north-west terrace, and evidently came into use during Phase II.

Site 16a yielded a number of brown glazed platters and bowls, some with trailed slip decoration: these clearly belong to the Phase III farmstead.

The Weser slipware (no. 66) probably also belongs to this phase, as most Weser exports to Britain seem to be of the 17th century. Some of the stoneware (nos. 67 and 62) might belong to Phase II.

On site 16c the Cistercian wares (79 and 80) probably relate to Phase II. The probable Scots turner (coin 1) was found in tumble round the Phase III outhouse. This and most of the clay pipes (with an overall date range of 1620 to 1710) probably relate to Phase III.

#### D. THE EAST END OF THE VILLAGE

The disposition of buildings and structures at the east end of the village is not clear. Most of those recorded as earthworks were never even partly excavated, and the original survey was certainly incorrect. It seems likely that the east end was almost closed off; there may have been access to the green between sites 22 and 23; between site 25 and the north-eastern block of crofts; and possibly between crofts U and V, though this was subsequently blocked by an enclosure wall. These droeways would have joined the track to Kirkwhelpington and the ford across the Wansbeck, as well as the network of droeways leading through the town fields to the common west of the village (section 9, below).

There were at least two houses in the area, site 20 (First Report, 203 - 7 and section 4, below) and 21 (First Report, 207 - 11). It is possible that site 20 formed the north-eastern end of a terrace fronting crofts T and U; if so site 18a was completely misinterpreted, since it presumably also formed a part of the terrace. In Phase II site 20 appears to have been a longhouse, which was replaced by a farmstead in Phase III. Site 21 was never fully excavated and its development cannot be determined; it

appears to have had a dependent croft (V) and a possible outbuilding (site 22). Site 23 (First Report, 210 - 1) may have been an outlying house with a dependent croft to the north containing two buildings (sites 24 and 25). The former (First Report, 211 - 2; Second Report, 251 - 5; and 4 below) probably was a barn with opposed entrances; its occupation ended in a fire.

#### E. THE SOUTH-EASTERN TOFTS AND CROFTS

A curving block of enclosures of different sizes extended from area Q to croft U (figs. 4 - 5). The western half (Q to S) enclosed an area c. 60 x 55 m., the eastern half had a frontage of some 70 m., but its original extent to the south-east is uncertain; at the time of the original survey it survived for some 35 m.

Most of the frontage of this block was never examined, as site 17 was the only toft which showed clearly as an earthwork (Second Report, 249 - 51, and Section 4, below). Here two clear phases of buildings were present. Two Phase II longhouses were replaced by a single farmstead in Phase III. North-east of site 17 enclosure walls curved northwards, presumably to join the postulated terrace which fronted crofts T and U; as this is a greater change in angle than that between sites 1 and 1b the terrace may not have been continuous.

In its final form the block appears to have comprised four large crofts, R to U, flanked by a small enclosure Q to the west and by a possible driveway to the north-east. In Phase III area Q had suffered encroachment from a D-shaped enclosure extending westwards from site 17. Aerial photographs suggest that it once extended further west, and that

the recorded western boundary was secondary. At the other end of the block there is the suggestion of a driveway between crofts U and V. We do not know the number of holdings in this block, since it is the part of the village for which we have the least accurate earthwork survey, the smallest coverage by aerial photographs and the least extensive excavations. Its size suggests comparison with the north-eastern block, with eight or nine holdings in Phase II. There were a number of enclosures and outbuildings within the crofts. Some, such as sites 18 and 18a (First Report, 199 - 200) may relate to any phase; the incompleteness of the excavation makes it difficult to say much about either their plan or their status. 18a seems anomalous, even as a cottage. Others, such as 17a (Second Report, 251) and its dependent enclosures clearly relate to the later holdings on site 17. Site 19 probably represents a cottage encroachment on to the green (First Report, 200 - 3, and below); in Phase III there appears to have been a yard to its south-east, probably linked to site 20.

SITE 17 (fig. 74; (Second Report, 249 - 51 & fig. 25)

Adverse weather conditions and inadequate time mean that this part of the site was less thoroughly excavated than others. The interpretation offered in the Second Report was backed by very little dating evidence, and was almost inevitably liable to revision in the light of later work.

It was suggested that the site consisted of two post-medieval buildings (17/3 and 17/4) at the east end with a medieval building (17/2) at the west which was overlapped by a building (17/1) which lay to the south and was largely unexcavated. The relationship between 17/3 and 17/4 was not resolved. A re-examination of the site archive suggests an

alternative interpretation of the whole site, bringing it closer to other areas within the village.

#### Phase I

The site lay on bedrock, and if there had been any early medieval activity its remains would probably have been slight. The two opposing postholes at the west end of 17/3 (Second Report, fig. 25) may have been part of an early timber building. Some of the fragments of walling at the east end of the site, and some of the cobbling outside building 17/1 might relate to an early medieval phase of activity.

#### Phase II

As reinterpreted the earliest stone remains formed two conjoined holdings (broadly corresponding to buildings 17/2 and 17/3) in the western part of the site and some fragments of enclosure walls to the east. One of the buildings was clearly a longhouse and the other may have been. There is no positive evidence for a continuous terrace fronting crofts R to V. but it seems reasonable to argue that there would once have been holdings along the fronts of crofts S to U. The apparent absence of a building in the eastern part of site 17 may reflect the inadequacies of the excavation; more probably the change in direction of the frontage line may have necessitated an alternative terrace plan, perhaps two blocks of holdings linked by enclosure walls. It should be stressed that most of this part of the village had been destroyed before any satisfactory aerial photography or resurvey was carried out, so that no explanation can carry complete conviction \*

### The eastern holding

This building measured 15 x 4 m. internally, and consisted of a byre separated by a cross-passage from a western living room. Part of the building was erected on a clay platform; its walls had been completely robbed, unless some fragments at the east end were incorporated in the later walls.

The byre, measuring 7.2 x 4.4 m., had an axial sump; the western 3 m. of its paving survived. The northern part of the room was paved, and the paving was sealed by a Phase III floor.

The cross passage was 2 m. wide, paved with freestone slabs. Both entrances had been robbed.

The western room was presumably the living room, though no hearth was found. It measured 5.8 x 4.1 m. internally. Its north-west corner was clearly defined by an area of intense burning. Though all the walls had been robbed the edge of the clay platform indicates the position of the north wall. The two postholes noted above under Phase I might relate to this structure.

This phase of occupation ended in a fire. Patches of intense burning were found in the living quarters, and an extensive layer of burnt material covered most the byre paving, to be sealed by the Phase III clay floor.

Butted on the east wall of the byre were two sections of walling. They were of fairly neat construction; they swung round to the north-east,



mirroring the change in alignment of croft 5.

#### The western holding

This structure derives from a reinterpretation of buildings 17/1 and 17/2. It was 4 m. wide and at least 10.5 m. long. It would be wrong to suggest that we have a clear understanding of its fragmentary remains.

The position of the east wall is defined by the western extent of the eastern holding. Of the south wall only a 5 m. length survived; it was of small neat construction. Butted on to its west end was a length of croft or enclosure wall. Substantial parts of a west and north wall survive, but they may belong to Phase III rather than Phase II.

Rough cobbling to the north and west appears to cross the line of the north and south walls; it may therefore belong to a later phase. The interior of the building seems to have been divided into two parts: the western part was roughly levelled with small and irregular flagstones. No hearth was located, and there was no sign of paved byre sump; but the photographs suggest a rock-cut trough in the centre of the building with a few fragments of paving to either side.

#### The enclosures

The relationship between the buildings on site 17 and the enclosures to the south was not satisfactorily established. Since the finds from building 17a were predominantly of the 17th century, it is likely that the surrounding enclosure was of similar date. If this is so it may be that the stretches of walling extending southwards from the Phase II holdings are part of the original walls ofcroft R.

### Phase III

The two Phase II holdings were replaced by a single farmstead on a slightly different alignment. This occupied the eastern part of the site, and incorporated those structures described in the Second Report as 17/4 and the eastern half of 17/3. Neither structural evidence nor finds suggest occupation of the western part of the site at this period. The new steading seems to have been associated with three sub-rectangular enclosures to the south, and with site 17a.

The farm consisted of a living room with a byre and a paved outbuilding to the east. The internal length was 18.5 m., comparable with houses 8/2 and 9/3. Most of the walls had been robbed, and the building is mainly defined by a clay floor, internal paving and stone-free robber trenches. The walls were clay-bonded (in contrast to those of Phase II) and some were sited on clay banks.

The living room, c. 4.8 x 4.6 m. internally, was defined by a clay floor, partially paved. At the east end, and presumably against the east wall, was a 1 m. square stone hearth. The position of the entrance cannot be established.

The byre was 4 m. wide and may have been 8.5 m. long. The north and south walls were set on clay banks. An entrance may have been in the south wall. An axial sump, with kerbs on either side, survived for at least 2.5 m.; there were substantial areas of paving in the room. Finds of the 17th century were sealed by the paving of the floor, though of course this might be secondary.

East of the byre a small room was defined by internal tumble and external paving; the robber trenches indicate a structure measuring about 4.5 x 3.25 m. internally. Part of the interior was paved. Although small outbuildings seem to be common in Phase III, nothing survives to indicate their function.

The only stratified finds from this steading were the base of a stoneware mug (Second Report, no. 108) and a clay pipe stem from the occupation layer in the byre. Other finds possibly associated with this phase are two Scots turners of the 1640s, a copy of a Surrey white ware jar (ibid., no. 104), brown-glazed coarsewares, delft and a slipware plate. To the east of the outbuilding was dung-hill overlying a paved platform. It seems likely that part of the Phase II south wall was retained as an enclosure wall to prevent stock from straying from the green into the enclosures.

SITE 19 (fig. 75; First Report, 200 - 203)

The T-shaped structure lay at the east end of the village green; traces of at least three buildings survived, though it was thought that there were as many as six phases present. The main sequence remains the same,

though the earliest feature (a clay-filled gully, which may just have been natural) has been ignored since it cannot be related to any other feature. While Phase I and II are interpreted as cottages, it should be noted that no evidence was found for a hearth in either phase.

#### Phase I

A cottage with a semi-circular platform to the west was aligned approximately east - west. A few surviving facing stones showed the positions of the north, west and south walls. A length of walling at the east may belong to this or to the Phase II cottage. The internal dimensions were 3.5 m. x at least 5.5 m. The platform, which covered the whole width of the building and projected for some 3.5 m., had a core of rubble and earth with an edging of whin and freestone boulders.

#### Phase II

This was a rebuilding of Phase I, with a new west wall overlying part of the original platform. A new, smaller platform was built over the old. If the east wall belongs to this building it had internal dimensions of 7 x 3.5 m., comparable to site 16b (Second Report, fig. 16). There were traces of a partition wall, dividing the cottage into two rooms.

#### Phase III

At some time after the abandonment of the Phase II building a new enclosure wall was built north of its north wall, and a rectangular building was attached at right angles. The whole area had been levelled before construction with a layer of whinstone chippings. The new

structure measured 5 x 2.5 m. internally.

Certainly later than Phase II, which it partially overlies, was the corner of an enclosure. It could be of this phase. At first thought to be an unrecorded croft wall or a post-desertion boundary, it can now be seen as evidence for a yard encroaching on to the green, probably associated with the Phase III farm on site 20.

Dating evidence from this site is more scanty than usual. If we are correct in attributing the enclosure wall to Phase III then there is no reason why the second cottage at least should not belong to Phase II. Finds such as a Siegburg jug certainly suggest some activity on site 19 in the sixteenth century.

#### SITE 20 (fig. 76; First Report, 203 - 7)

It was originally suggested that this comprised a single-roomed house of at least two phases, with some fragments of robbed outbuildings to the west. This interpretation is no longer convincing: the outbuildings seem excessively narrow, and the house was far better built than other cottages and produced a far more extensive range of finds, including imports. The following reassessment brings the site more nearly into line with others in the village.

#### Phase II

The earliest building was a longhouse with a living room separated by a cross passage from a byre to the south-west. The main evidence for the

living room was an area of intense burning on the whinstone, sealed beneath the Phase II clay floor. The surviving north-east corner might belong to this phase; the rest of the walls have been robbed. The substantial remains of the cross-passage (First Report, pl. XXV, lower) opened on to an area of paving to the north. In the byre part of the sump paving still survived; it was previously interpreted as an eastern threshold to the outbuilding (ibid., 207). The sump was bounded on the south by the robber trench of its kerbs; some of the northern kerbs survived. A line of facing extended along the edge of the cross-passage. Postholes to the north may represent stall divisions. A possible fragment of west wall may belong to this phase.

This interpretation would give a building 20 m. long. The line of the south wall on fig. 76 is conjectural, and assumes that the sump was central. If it is correct the building was 5.5 m. wide, substantially larger than most of the other known longhouses.

Occupation appears to have ended in fire: the living room contained a 0.3 m. thick layer of ash. Pottery incorporated in this deposit was of the 16th and 17th centuries.

### Phase III

As elsewhere in the village the longhouse was replaced by a farmstead. The living room remained in the east, with another room to the west; this was probably the Phase II byre, extended by the incorporation of the cross-passage.

In the living room a new clay floor was laid over the deposit of ash from the previous phase. A partition wall formed the west side of the room, and a stone hearth was set against it with a raised hob to the south. Access to the byre was provided by an internal door north of the fireplace. As the north wall continued westward beyond the living room and across the line of the earlier cross-passage there was clearly a second room in use during this period. This was presumably the earlier byre reused. A semi-circular stone feature against the west side of the partition wall may have served as a stand for something like a manger; the original interpretation as a buttress chimney seems unlikely: no other evidence has been found for stone chimneys, and they do not seem to be found in this area before the advent of improved houses with slate roofs (section 6, below). A stretch of walling to the south may be part of the modified byre or of a later enclosure.

An enclosure wall butted against the north-east corner of the living room linked it to site 21: it might belong to either phase or both. To the north-west lay site 19; a curving stretch of enclosure wall there probably indicates a yard encroaching on to the green. Analogy suggests that this would be in Phase III, and it is likely to belong to site 20.

The large number of late 17th century finds, and the fact that the clay floor sealed pottery of the 16th and 17th centuries suggests most strongly that this final version of site 20 should be assigned to Phase III; nothing precludes the view that the earlier longhouse was of Phase II.

SITE 24 (fig. 77; First Report, 211 - 2; Second Report, 251 - 5)

This site in the north-east corner of the village was linked by an enclosure wall to site 25 (fig. 4). Its walls were of freestone, with a clay-bonded rubble core. It measured 13.25 x 4.25 internally. Although interpreted as a house in the Second Report the evidence is not conclusive; the burnt flagging which was thought to derive from a hearth might have been part of the cross-passage of a building which was destroyed by fire.