

NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Client Report No. CP/842/08



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SUMMARY

In December 2008, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Tims Morris Ltd on behalf of Mr and Mrs Buckland (the Clients) to undertake an archaeological rapid desk-based assessment and watching brief at Falstone Farm, Falstone, Northumberland, prior to and during the erection of a new dwelling and garage on the site (NGR NY 7248 8739).

Prior to the watching brief a rapid desk-based assessment was undertaken in order to achieve a full understanding of the nature of the existing resource regarding the geographical, topographical, archaeological and historical context of the site. The desk-based assessment involved the examination of all pertinent documents and cartographic sources held at Northumberland Archives, Woodhorn, and the consultation of the Historic Environment Record (HER) at Northumberland County Council. The HER includes the locations and settings of Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Parks and Gardens and other, non-designated archaeological remains. In addition, a number of published sources were consulted to provide background information, including *Archaeologia Aeliana*.

The rapid desk-based assessment revealed that the proposed development site lies adjacent to the present church of St Peter's, however an earlier chapel on the site is known to have existed, possibly to the south of the present church. Fragments of Anglo-Saxon sculpture found in the churchyard may suggest the church site was occupied as early as the 8th-9th century, consequently there is potential for archaeology dating to that period. Falstone Farm incorporates a bastle house, which may have had associated buildings located close to the proposed development area. There is also the potential for below ground archaeology associated with the construction and operating of the railway given the proposed development sites proximity to the course of the track as shown on early Ordnance Survey mapping.

The watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of a service trench. No archaeological deposits were revealed, though it was noted that earlier cultivation (rig and furrow) does remain extant in the field and will be affected by the construction of the proposed dwelling and garage. This work was undertaken prior to the archaeological evaluation of the site, which has been requested by by the Northumberland National Park Authority.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would like to offer thanks to Matthew Tims of Tims Morris Ltd and Mr and Mrs Buckland for commissioning the project and for their assistance during the fieldwork.

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would also like to extend their thanks to Liz Williams, Northumberland County Council, and staff at Northumberland Archives, Woodhorn, Ashington.

The rapid desk-based assessment and undertaken by Fiona Wooler, and the archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Tony Liddell. The report was written by Tony Liddell and Fiona Wooler. The project was managed by Martin Railton, Project Manager for NPA Ltd. The report was edited by Martin Railton.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In November 2008 North Pennines Archaeology Limited were commissioned by Tims Morris Ltd on behalf of Mr and Mrs Buckland (the clients) to undertake a rapid desk-based assessment and watching brief prior to, and during groundworks associated with the erection of a new dwelling and a garage on land at Falstone Farm, Falstone, Northumberland (NGR NY 7248 8739).
- 1.1.2 The proposed development has the potential to impact upon archaeological remains through the excavation of foundation trenches, landscaping and the provision of services. The Northumberland National Park Authority (NNPA) has therefore recommended that a programme of archaeological work be implemented in accordance with a project design that has been submitted to and approved by the NNPA (Railton 2008).
- 1.1.3 The rapid desk-based assessment comprised a search of both published and unpublished records held by Northumberland Archives, Woodhorn; the Historic Environment Record (HER) database maintained by Northumberland County Council and the archives and library held by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. The principal objective of this assessment is to undertake sufficient work in order to identify and characterise the archaeological constraints associated with the development area, in order to assess the archaeological and historical potential of the development site.
- 1.1.4 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the 13th January when a service trench and pipe was laid across the development area (see Figure 2). This work was undertaken as a precursor to the archaeological evaluation of the site, as requested by the Northumberland National Park Authority (Jones 2008).

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 A project design was submitted by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd to NNPA in response to a request by Tims Morris Ltd for an archaeological rapid desk-based assessment and watching brief at Falstone Farm (Railton 2008). Following acceptance of the project design, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by the client to undertake the work. The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 RAPID DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

- 2.2.1 Several sources of information were consulted, in accordance with the project design. The study area consisted of a 0.5km radius centred on the proposed development area. The principal sources of information were the Historic Environment Record (HER) held by Northumberland County Council at Morpeth, historical maps and secondary sources.
- 2.2.2 **Historic Environment Record (HER):** the Northumberland HER, a database of archaeological sites within the county, was accessed. This was in order to obtain information on the location of all designated sites and areas of historic interest and any other, non-designated sites within the study area, which included monuments, findspots, Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas. A brief record including grid reference and description was obtained for the various sites within the study area; these are listed in *Appendix 1*.
- 2.2.3 **Northumberland Archives, Woodhorn, Ashington:** the Archives at Woodhorn was visited to consult documents specific to the study area. Historic maps of the study area, including surveys, Tithes and Enclosure Maps, and early Ordnance Survey maps, were examined. Several secondary sources, in particular the journals of *Archaeologia Aeliana*, were also consulted.
- 2.2.4 **North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (NPAL):** various publications and unpublished reports on excavations and other work in the region are held within the North Pennines Archaeology library and any undeposited archives of the sites themselves were examined. An electronic enquiry was also made of English Heritage's National Monuments Record and the website of the Archaeology Data Service. This was in order to enhance and augment the data obtained from a search of the appropriate repositories.
- 2.2.5 All work relating to the desk-based assessment was conducted according to the recommendations of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2002).

2.3 WATCHING BRIEF

2.3.1 The watching brief was conducted during all topsoil stripping and excavation of the drainage trench.

- 2.3.2 Excavation was undertaken by the client's contractor, using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket. The entire length of the service trench was closely monitored with the proviso that if any archaeological features were discovered they would be investigated and recorded according to the NPA standard procedure as set out in the company Excavation Manual (Giecco, 2003).
- 2.3.3 A photographic record of all aspects of the archaeological watching brief was made with relevant photographs including a graduated metric scale.
- 2.3.4 The area watched by the archaeologist was accurately tied into the national grid and is shown on Figure 2.
- 2.3.5 If any archaeological deposits were discovered they would be sampled and assessed for their environmental potential. The recommended sample sizes for dry deposits were 30-60 litres and for wet deposits the sample sizes should be approximately 5 litres.
- 2.3.6 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IFA 1994).
- 2.3.7 All references to cardinal directions refer to site grid north, aligned approximately with Ordnance Survey (OS) grid north.
- 2.3.8 This report sets out the results of the work in the form of a short document outlining the findings, followed by a statement of the archaeological potential of the area, an assessment of the impact of the proposed development, and recommendations for further work.

2.4 ARCHIVE

- 2.4.1 The archive arising from the archaeological work will be deposited in an appropriate local institution, in a format agreed with that institution. The Northumberland National Park Authority will be notified of the arrangements made for the deposition of the archive.
- 2.4.2 North Pennines Archaeology Ltd supports the **Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS)** Project. The overall aim of the project is to provide an online index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. Details of this project will be made available by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd as part of this national project under the unique identifier **northpen3-52969**.

3. LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1 The village of Falstone is situated in the upper reaches of North Tynedale in south-central Northumberland, on the western edge of the Northumberland National Park (Figure 1). The present-day settlement of Falstone is centred around the Church of St Peter, with later houses added by the Forestry Commission to the north. To the west the village is bounded by the River North Tyne, which then loops round to the south. To the north and south the settlement is overlooked by hillsides covered in extensive conifer plantations, whilst only 1.5km further up the valley is the modern man-made reservoir of Kielder Water.
- 3.2 Falstone Farm is situated on south side of the village, immediately to the south of St Peter's Church. The proposed development area is located in the field to the east of the church and separated from it by a single-track road (Figure 2).
- 3.3 The solid geology of the area consists of sedimentary rocks of Carboniferous age, over which a thick mantle of boulder clay was laid during the last glacial period (Countryside Commission 1998).



Plate 1. The development area, looking north west.

4. RAPID DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT RESULTS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 The assessment results are based on primary documents, most notably historical maps, and on secondary sources such as publications. The study area consisted of a 0.5km radius of Falstone Farm, Falstone, Northumberland.

4.2 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD (HER)

4.2.1 **Northumberland County Council HER:** there are 24 HER records within the study area, which is defined as a 0.5km radius around the site. A brief description of the relevant HER records can be found in *Appendix 1*.

4.2.2 **Listed Buildings:** the HER records include 10 listed buildings within a 0.5km radius of Falstone Farm, one of which is the bastle house incorporated into Falstone Farmhouse (HER 6967). The listed buildings are noted in the table in *Appendix 1*.

4.2.3 **Scheduled Ancient Monuments:** there are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within a 0.5km radius of Falstone Farm.

4.2.4 **Conservation Area:** according to the HER there are no Conservation Areas within the vicinity of Falstone Farm.

4.3 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

4.3.1 The earliest readily-available map consulted during the rapid desk-based assessment was Speed's Map of Northumberland dating to 1610 which shows the sites of churches and notable houses. The extract reproduced in Figure 3 shows a church (or chapel) and a house annotated with 'Fauset Hall' in the approximate location of Falstone (Figure 3).

4.3.2 Armstrong's Map of Northumberland 1769, which shows, amongst other features, towns, villages, farmhouses, churches, notable houses (along with the owner's name) and sites of ruins. The extract covering the area including and surrounding Falstone is reproduced in Figure 4. Falstone is shown to have a church, with a notable house located immediately to the south with the annotation 'Mr Robson', this appears to refer to Thomas Robson and represent Falstone Farm. To the west of Falstone is a site marked as 'Ruins' close to Hawkhope (Figure 4).

4.3.3 Produced in 1820, Fryer's Map of Northumberland appears to show the properties in Falstone at that date, including a symbol for a church. A Rectory is annotated to the east of the village, whilst the road through the settlement appears to follow a slightly different route to the present road, with Falstone Farm possibly shown on the opposite side of the road to the church (Figure 5). Note the interestingly named property 'Make me rich' to the south-east of Falstone, on the north side of the river North Tyne.

4.3.4 Tithe maps and awards were produced following the Tithe Commutation Act of 1836, and are useful for providing details of land ownership, occupiers, field names, acreage and state of cultivation. The Tithe map for Falstone dates to 1841 and it shows the land associated with Falstone Farm at that date edged blue (Figure 6). The landowner of

Falstone Farm in 1841 was Thomas Robson Esq, who was also the occupier. The land is described as ‘Falstone Grounds’, and consisted of 234 acres 2 roods 14 perches. This particular Tithe Map does not provide information on the state of cultivation of each individual field as most Tithe Maps do, so it is not possible to note how the land in which the proposed development is sited was utilised in the mid-19th century.

- 4.3.5 The First Edition Ordnance Survey map was published c.1860 and clearly shows the properties and other features in Falstone at that date. A railway line has been constructed down the east side of the village, orientated north-west to south-east, with a coal and lime depot and station located to the east of Falstone Farm. The field in which the proposed new dwelling is to be constructed, to the north-east side of Falstone Farm, is shown to be adjoin the railway track, and close to the eastern edge is a ‘Well’ with a footpath marked leading to the south-west. In the western corner of the field there are two small buildings (Figure 7).
- 4.3.6 By 1897 this ‘Well’ appears to have gone out of use as it is no longer marked on the Ordnance survey map of that date. A sheepfold is now annotated to the south-east side of the field (Figure 8).
- 4.3.7 The Third Edition Ordnance Survey map published c.1920 appears to show that the sheepfold has fallen out of use. The field in which the proposed new dwelling is to be constructed continues to be vacant apart from the top corner which now has a tree annotated suggestive of a small wooded area or orchard (Figure 9).

4.4 PUBLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTS

- 4.4.1 The place name ‘Falstone’ may have derived for one of several sources: Parson and White suggest it dervies from the Anglo-Saxon word *faeston* meaning a strong hold for the purpose of fastening or securing cattle, adding that in 1828 the ‘*house of Mr Thomas Robson was still a very complete specimen of one of these ancient peels*’ (Parson and White 1828, 576). Tomlinson concurs that the place name means a stronghold (Tomlinson 1888, 224). It has, however, also been suggested that the name means ‘*the multi-coloured stone*’ or the ‘*speckled stone*’ from the Old English *fāga stān* (Barrow 1974, 150).
- 4.4.2 **Prehistoric:** according to Parson and White, writing in 1828, the area around Falstone, from the source of the North Tyne to Bellingham contained ‘*numerous traces of the castramentations, or strongholds, of the ancient Britons, viz. Bell’s Hunkin, Ryan’s Hill; Hitchill Wood, Camp-Rig, Lowey Knough, Hob’s Knough; Harpney-Rigg, Baresdale and Hawks Knough*’ (Parson and White 1828, Page 576). There is, however, as yet no evidence for prehistoric activity or settlement at Falstone, or within the immediate vicinity.
- 4.4.3 **Romano British:** from the later 1st century AD, North Tynedale, along with the rest of the Northumbrian uplands, fell under the control of the expanding Roman empire. The principal bases of Roman power in the wider area lay to the east and north east of Falstone, at the forts of Risingham (*Habitancum*) and High Rochester (*Bremenium*), both situated on Dere Street, the main road into Scotland, and to the west at Bewcastle (*Fanum Cocidii*). No official Roman military sites have been identified as yet in North Tynedale north of the Hadrian’s Wall zone (The Archaeological Practice 2004, 227).

- 4.4.4 In contrast, evidence for the local rural population during this period is known from sites excavated in the 1970s by George Jobey in advance of the flooding of the valley by Kielder Water. These sites at Tower Knowe, Belling Law, Kennel Hall Knowe near Plashetts and Gowanburn Camp revealed evidence for timber roundhouses and palisaded enclosures, which were replaced several times. Radiocarbon dates from the last two centuries BC and 1st century AD were associated with these earlier phases, which were followed by a rebuilding in stone no earlier than the mid second century AD (The Archaeological Practice 2004, 228).
- 4.4.5 The HER records the retrieval of a gold coin of Magnentius (dated to cAD 350-53) found during grave digging in the churchyard of St Peter's in the middle of the 19th century (HER 6966). Although this coin may simply be a stray find, The Archaeological Practice has suggested that its presence may relate to the early medieval occupation of the site (which will be referred to below) if the object was being reused as a high status ornament (The Archaeological Practice 2004, 228).
- 4.4.6 **Early Medieval:** several fragments of carved sandstone have been discovered in the churchyard of St Peter's and in the wall of the adjoining farmhouse. Writing in 1940, Madeline Dodds noted that these fragments were originally from at least two different early medieval crosses dating to the 9th century and containing elements of the Hexham school of design (Dodds 1940, 261). An undated document housed at Woodhorn notes the date of discovery: *'These fragments of a Saxon cross, circa AD700-800, with interlaced ornament sculptured in relief, in imitation of St Wilfred's School of Saxon Art at Hexham, were discovered in April and May 1885 in Falstone Churchyard to the south of the porch and in the walls of the adjoining farmhouse by the late Rev Owen Picton, Esq, eldest son of the late Rev Robert Picton, Rector of Falstone'* (Woodhorn Ref: EP 82/29 1-3).
- 4.4.7 A further, rather unusual, carved stone in the form of an inscribed, house-shaped memorial, was found by the Rev. James Wood, the Presbyterian Minister of Falstone, in 1813 during clearance and levelling of land near Hawkhope, on the left bank of the North Tyne, close to the site marked as 'ruins' on Armstrong's map of 1769 (see Figure 4) (Dodds 1940, 255). The stone contains a runic text, which has been translated as *'Eomaer set this up for his uncle Hroethbert. Pray for his soul'* (Graham 1978, 146). Recent studies of the piece concluded that it was a copy in stone of the type of metal or bone reliquaries or shrines known from the British Isles and on the continent from the 7th and 8th centuries. Surviving examples of such caskets feature handles with clasps of the type depicted on the Falstone carving. On the basis of these stylistic parallels, the stone monument is dated to AD 750-850. It is possible that this stone may have been removed from its original site for reuse and may have originally derived from the immediate environs of St Peter's Church, where the other fragments of early medieval stonework were discovered (The Archaeological Practice 2004, 231).
- 4.4.8 **Medieval:** there appear to be few direct references to Falstone in the medieval period. There is, however, mention in a Latin chronicle of an event in 1318 which is relevant here: *'Robert king of Scotland conferred the land of North Tynedale on Philip Moubray knight, who built for himself a certain fortified stronghold [presidium] near the chapel of "Fonstan"'*. The place name "Fonstan" is believed to be an early form of 'Falstone' (Barrow 1974, 149-150). What this chronicle suggests is that firstly there was a chapel in or close to the present village of Falstone in 1318, and that there was a

- fortress of some form at this date, possibly close to the site of the ‘ruins’ shown on Armstrong’s map of 1769 (see Figure 4), although this implies that the fortress had at some point been constructed of stone rather than earth and timber (The Archaeological Practice 2004, 234).
- 4.4.9 Documentary sources report three men having been murdered at ‘Faustane’ in 1371. The Court of Chancery ordered the manorial court at Wark to forward papers for ‘*an inquisition what evildoers and breakers of the peace at Falstone in Tynedale slew John Robson of Tynedale, Adam Robson and Thomas Robson*’. It is interesting to note the occurrence of the name ‘Robson’ which was to become synonymous with border reiving clans in North Tynedale and Redesdale during the late 15th and 16th centuries (The Archaeological Practice 2004, 234).
- 4.4.10 A further documentary source records brothers Henry and John Robson living at Falstone Farm in c.1540. They may have been living in the peel tower which is now incorporated into the present farmhouse, although the tower has a date stone of 1604 (HER 6967). This building may be the ‘Fauston Hall’ shown on Speed’s map of 1610 (see Figure 3). The bastle at Falstone Farm is included in the RCHME study of shielings and bastles dating to 1970 in which it is described as: *Standing in Falstone village immediately south of the church. The village stands on a river terrace north of the North Tyne with part of Kielder Forest rising to a height of over 1000ft behind it. The farmhouse has developed as an enlargement of the bastle and the original end entrance is now internal. It has one jamb cut away; the remaining jamb is roll-moulded and the lintel carved with the letters and the date [A]BCDEFG1604HIK. The ground floor is vaulted but part of the vault has been removed to make way for a staircase. The south front was remodelled with new windows probably in the late 17th century and no traces of original windows or of a first floor doorway now remain. The walls are 3ft to 3½ ft thick*’ (Ramm *et al* 1970, 86). Ryder describes the date inscription, with its capital letters for the start of the alphabet, as ‘*interesting evidence of the degree of literacy of the builders and owners of even a rather superior bastle such as this one*’ (The Archaeological Practice 2004, 235), whilst Grundy noted that the bastle is a ‘*touching monument quite vigorously carved with a nonsense inscription and a possibly genuine date of 1604 which makes one suspect that there was not a great deal of learning here in those days*’ (Grundy 1987, 140-148). Frodsham compares the bastle at Falstone Farm to that at Woodhouses which also has a lofty vault and contains evidence of a corner staircase. He also notes that recent works at Ridge End (2002) revealed many interesting features including clear evidence of a removed basement vault and possibly also of a top vault like that at Snabdaugh (Frodsham 2004, 267-268).
- 4.4.11 The bastle at Falstone Farm is one of three in close proximity to the village: Hawkhope stands west of Hawkhope Burn, whilst Ridge End stands at the confluence of Smales Burn and the North Tyne (Ramm *et al* 1970, 86). In his publication ‘Castles of Northumberland’ Brian Long refers to a further pele tower located ‘*a little to the north of Stannersburn but this was removed c.1800 and now there is nothing to indicate the spot where it stood*’. Long also refers to Falstone Tower, as being distinct from Falstone Pele, which has now disappeared. He notes the reference in 1541 of a chapel at ‘*the Fawe Stone used for private masses*’, where the occupants of the tower ‘*which must have stood close at hand*’ would have attended (Long 1967, 102-103).

- 4.4.12 It has already been noted above that there is mention in documentary sources of a chapel at Falstone in 1318; that chapel or another is noted to be in existence in 1541 when there was a chapel three miles above Bellingham at *the Fawe Stone* used for private masses. The chapel is not mentioned again until 1650, when the parliamentary commissioners recommended that all Bellingham chapelry west of the Tasset and Chirdon burns should be made into a separate parish (Dodds 1940, 257).
- 4.4.13 **Post-Medieval:** in the early 18th century a ruined chapel at Falstone was rebuilt and used as a Presbyterian chapel from 1709 onwards. In c.1715, during observations made by John Warburton, the chapel at Falstone was described as *'the remains of a chapel in ruins but now rebuilt and reused [by] ye Presbyterians'* (Hodgson 1916, 14). In the late 17th and 18th centuries nonconformism made inroads into the upland valleys of Northumberland, mainly via Scottish Presbyterian preachers who were fleeing persecution in their home country during the reign of Charles II (The Archaeological Practice 2004, 242). Tomlinson noted that the Presbyterian church at Falstone was one of the first established in England (Tomlinson 1888, 225). Writing in 1835, Oliver noted that the religious instruction of the inhabitants of the upper parts of North Tynedale had been neglected during the 17th century, and consequently when the Church of England attempted to rectify this in the early 19th century however, as Oliver described, *'this good work has been delayed a century too long and the Church of England, where it has been so late in sending labourers, has no right to expect an abundant harvest. Ministers in communion with the Church of England were assiduously employed in imparting religious instruction to the neglected people of this part of the county long before the Church of England thought them worthy of attention, and the consequence is that the Presbyterian Chapel at Falstone is, every Sunday, crowded while that of the Church of England is comparatively empty'* (Oliver 1835, 158-159).
- 4.4.14 A new Anglican church was constructed in 1724 and the Presbyterians continued to occupy the earlier chapel until 1735, when a new meeting house was constructed to the west of the village. The earlier chapel, occupied by the Presbyterians from 1709 to 1735, has now gone, but it is believed to have been located to the south of the present church of St Peter's (Dodds 1940, 258). Within the churchyard of St Peter's there are several interesting gravestones, dating to the first half of the 18th century and which are now listed Grade II (HER No's 13477 to 13481).
- 4.4.15 Writing in 1828 Parson and White noted that the church at Falstone was taken down in the early 1820s after it was made parochial, and rebuilt at a cost of £1040, the money for which was provided by several individuals such as the Duke of Northumberland, the Bishop of Durham, and the Commissioners and Governors of Greenwich Hospital, as well as Mr Thomas Robson, who is described as a yeoman at Falstone, and who is noted elsewhere to have lived at Falstone Farm. Parson and White also note that a further Scotch Presbyterian chapel was constructed in 1807, presumably replacing that built in 1735 (Parson and White 1828, 576).
- 4.4.16 In 1876 the Presbyterian meeting house was restored once again at a cost of £500, when a tower with a lofty pointed slate roof and a vestry were added. The Anglican church of St Peter's was also rebuilt in 1892, following a fire in 1890 (Kelly's Directory 1910).

- 4.4.17 The first school at Falstone was constructed in 1813 by Sir John Swinburne, and had stables beneath for the benefit of the parishioners. Following W E Forster's Elementary Education Act of 1870, a new school building was erected in the village and this building still stands (The Archaeological Practice 2004, 245).
- 4.4.18 During the 19th century, Falstone experienced steady growth from a small hamlet clustered around a couple of chapels to a compact village with many facilities including a railway station. Many of the buildings in the village date to the 19th century and it was during this period that the village took the form it has today (The Archaeological Practice 2004, 242). The Black Cock Inn (which the HER dates to the mid-19th century – No.14123), appears to have been located to the west of St Peter's Church (see Figure 7) Writing in 1835, Oliver noted the Black Cock Inn as being an excellent public house, despite being '*only a cottage*' which provided better accommodation to the angler in the summer and the shooter in the autumn '*than many an inn in greater pretensions*' (Oliver 1835, 159). In 1888, the inn was described as having '*good accommodation*' in a period when the village and surrounding area was still chiefly visited by sportsmen and anglers (Tomlinson 1888, 225).
- 4.4.19 Several trade directories dating to the 19th and 20th centuries were sampled for references to Falstone Farm. There only appears to have been two farms in the parish in these periods, and Falstone Farm itself is not specifically named in many, although there are farmers listed with no farm name attributed:

Parson and White 1828

Thomas Robson, yeoman, Falstone

Kelly's Directory 1879:

Fergus Robson, farmer

Matthew Ridley, farmer, Hawkhope Hill

Kelly's Directory of Northumberland 1902

Edward Nichol, farmer, Hawkhope

Archibald Swann, farmer

Kelly's Directory of Northumberland 1929

James and Joseph Weathersson, farmers [no farm name given]

- 4.4.20 The railway line, formerly located to the north-east side of the proposed development site and shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of c.1860 (Figure 7) was part of the Border Counties Railway constructed in the 1850s. The railway station and station masters house date to c.1860, and are now occupied by the Forestry Commission (HER 14128). The farm buildings at Falstone Farm date from the early to mid-19th century (HER 14127).
- 4.4.21 Coal mining formed part of the economy of the area around Falstone during the 19th and 20th centuries. In 1910 the coal was described as '*of a good bitumous quality very abundant, and two collieries are worked for the supply of the district*' (Kelly's Directory 1910). Two collieries are again mentioned in 1914 when the Falstone Coal

Co Ltd was offered for sale, together with nine colliery built houses (five at Mouseyhaugh and four at Stanners Burn). The coal was described as being of household quality (Undated notes on Falstone Colliery, Woodhorn). Attempts to sell the pits appear to have failed and on the Third Edition Ordnance Survey map of c.1920 the pits are annotated as 'disused', although the colliery did reopen for a time during the 1930s (The Archaeological Practice 2004, 243).

- 4.4.22 **Modern:** By 1956 the railway station at Falstone closed to passengers, and two years later to freight services when the entire line above Bellingham and below Redesmouth was lifted. Despite the loss of the railway, the village continued to grow with housing constructed on the north-west side of the village to house the Kielder Forest workforce (The Archaeological Practice 2004, 243).
- 4.4.23 By the late 1960s the demand for water for Tyneside and the North East created the need for new sources. This prompted the construction of the Kielder Dam, $\frac{3}{4}$ mile upstream from Falstone village. Work on the scheme commenced in 1975, with the start of construction of the Dam occurring one year later. During the height of construction in 1979 and 1980, around 750 people were employed on the scheme, with over two-thirds travelling to the site from the surrounding areas. By 1982 the reservoir was filled covering an area of around 2684 acres, and with a shoreline of 27½ miles (Forestry Commission 1982, 78 and 80).

4.5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

- 4.5.1 The village of Falstone was included within a historical synthesis of villages in the Northumberland National Park compiled by The Archaeological Practice in 2004, a copy of which is housed at Northumberland Archives at Woodhorn, entitled *Historic Village Atlas* (Ref: NRO 6526/1/1). Information from this work is included within Section 4.4 above.
- 4.5.2 In 2007 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by The Archaeological Practice Ltd during the excavation of foundation trenches at the Old Garage Site, Falstone, located immediately to the north of the church and churchyard. Remains encountered were a pit associated with the use of the site as a garage, remains of chicken sheds and an early-mid 20th century dump. No archaeological features, deposits or finds of earlier archaeological or historical significance were encountered during the works (HER Ref: 13739).
- 4.5.3 Also in 2007, archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Archaeological Services University of Durham in advance of the construction of a two-storey extension to the rear of Elm Croft, located to the north-west of Falstone Farm. No archaeological features or artefacts were identified within the development area (HER Ref: 13827).

5. WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

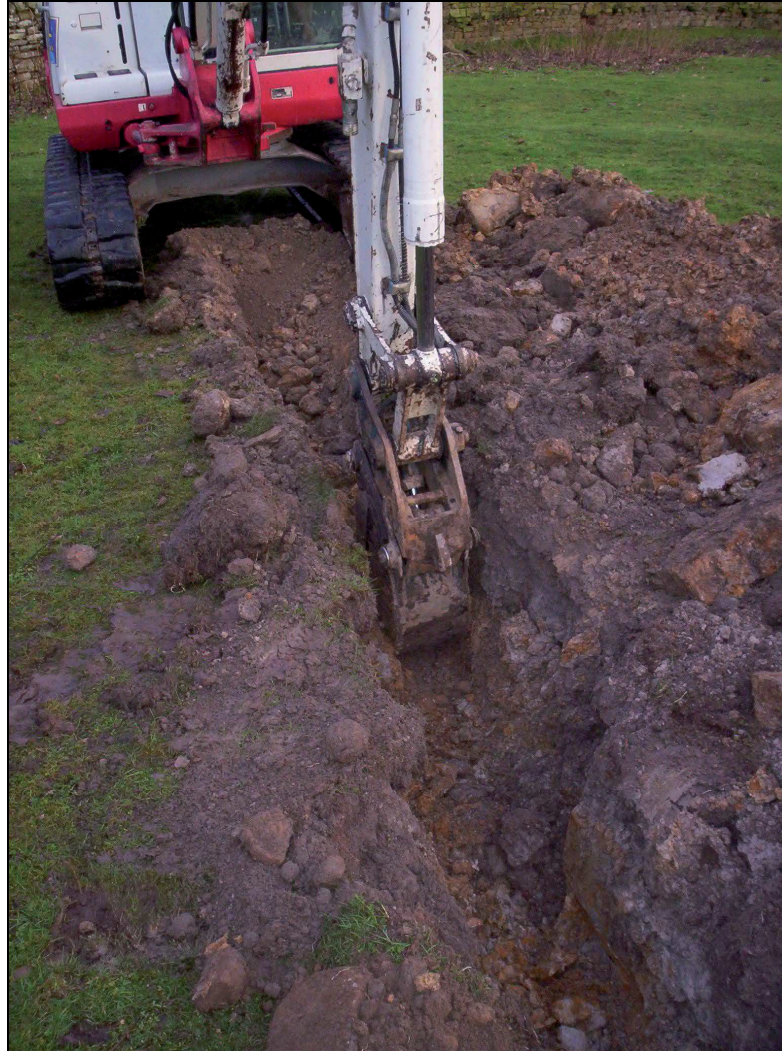


Plate 2. Excavating the trench, looking north-east.

- 5.1.1 The watching brief took place on 13th January 2009, monitoring the excavation of the service trench. The location plan of the trench can be seen on Figure 2.
- 5.1.2 The watching brief was subject to a monitoring visit by Chris Jones of The Northumberland National Park Authority.

5.2 RESULTS

- 5.2.1 The trench measured c.0.45m in width and 27.45m in length, and was excavated by mechanical excavator down to the natural substrate (**101**), a compact yellow-brown clay. The trench was orientated northeast-southwest.

- 5.2.2 Above the natural substrate was dark brown silty clay subsoil (**102**), with frequent stone inclusions. As well as small stones, the subsoil produced a number of boulders up to 0.70m in diameter. This subsoil measured c.0.40m thick in the south-west end of the trench, grading gradually up to 0.60m thickness in the north-eastern extent.
- 5.2.3 Above the subsoil was a c.0.10m thick deposit of topsoil and turf (**101**), a dark grey-brown silty clay. This deposit was observed to cover the entirety of the development area.
- 5.2.4 No archaeological remains or artefactual evidence were recovered from this trench: it was noted that the excavations barely missed rig and furrow earthworks observed in the field, lying to the east of the service trench. The stony subsoil is likely to be a product of stone-packing into the wet ground to help assist land drainage in the area, as well as rubble from the construction of the railway embankment to the north, and potentially the construction of the dry-stone wall surrounding the plot.

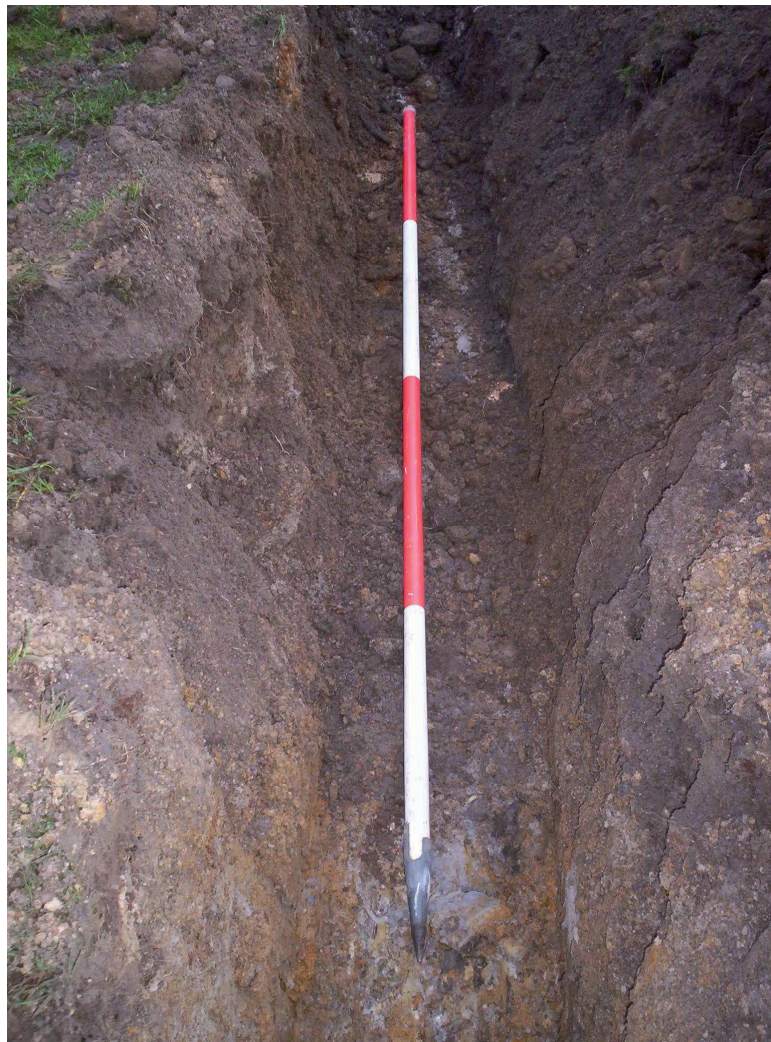


Plate 3. The excavated service trench, looking northeast.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The rapid desk-based assessment revealed that despite the existence of prehistoric archaeology in the hinterland surrounding Falstone no archaeological work has, as yet, revealed any evidence for activity during this period within the village itself.
- 6.2 The discovery of fragments of Anglo-Saxon sculpture in the churchyard of St Peter's, and the memorial stone found at Hawkhope, does suggest early medieval activity in the area in the 8th and 9th century although it is not known if any of these stone fragments were found in their original location.
- 6.3 There is very little documentary evidence for occupation of the area in the medieval period although there is a reference to a chapel and stronghold at *Fonstan* in the early 14th century. The ruins marked on Armstrong's map of 1769 (Figure 4) may represent the site of either the chapel or the stronghold mentioned in 1318.
- 6.4 Falstone Farmhouse incorporates a bastle house with a date stone of 1604, but which may actually be earlier or stand on the site of an earlier building, as there is reference to Henry and John Robson living at Falstone Farm in c.1540. Speed's Map of 1610 annotates *Fauston Hall*, which may be the bastle at Falstone Farm (Figure 3). It is possible that buildings associated with the early 17th century bastle house may exist in the proximity of the proposed development site.
- 6.5 A chapel is recorded at *Fonstan* in 1318, and again in 1541 when there was a chapel 'three miles above Bellingham at the Fawe Stone' used for private masses'. The chapel is not mentioned again until 1650, and by 1709 the building was being used by the Presbyterians. A new Anglican church was constructed in 1724 and the Presbyterians built a new meeting house in 1735. The earlier chapel, used by the Presbyterians from 1709 to 1735, is believed to have been located to the south of the present St Peter's Church.
- 6.6 In the middle of the 19th century the railway line was constructed immediately to the north-east of the field in which the proposed development is sited. It is therefore possible that archaeology relating to the construction and the operation of this railway may survive below ground within the proposed development area.
- 6.7 The watching brief discovered no archaeological deposits, though it was noted that earlier cultivation (rig and furrow) does remain extant in the field and will be affected by the construction of the proposed dwelling and garage.

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

7.1 MAPS

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Plan of the Township or Quarter of Plashetts in the Parish of Fallston 1841 [Falstone Tithe Map, Ref DT/375M]

First Edition Ordnance Survey Map c.1860, 25" to 1 mile scale

Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map c.1897, 25" to 1 mile scale

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APPENDIX 1: GAZETTEER OF SITES

HER No.	Site Name	DESCRIPTION	Grid Ref	Period
6966	Gold Coin from Falstone	About 1850 when digging a grave to the south of the present church at Falstone a gold coin of Magnentius was found.	NY 7242 8740	Roman
6967	Falstone Farm	Grade II listed building. Incorporates a bastle house. Probably 1604 in date with an extra storey added in mid 18th century and extended to the right in the early 19th century	NY 7240 8739	Post Medieval
6968	Pre-Conquest Cross Shaft	Fragments of at least two different early medieval standing crosses have been found at various times in modern buildings in Falstone and are preserved in the church	NY 7240 8741	Early Medieval
6969	Cultivation Terraces west of Falstone	Cultivation terraces	NY 7235 8768	Medieval Post Medieval
6981	Church of St Peter	Built 1824, restored 1892 after fire damaged	NY 72408 87412	Post Medieval
6987	Falstone Bridge	1843. Grade II listed building	NY 7227 8713	Post Medieval
6988	United Reformed Church	Grade II listed building. Formerly Presbyterian, built 1807	NY 7229 8751	Post Medieval

HER No.	Site Name	DESCRIPTION	Grid Ref	Period
13476	Drinking Fountain	Cast-iron fountain built in 1897 for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. Grade II listed building	NY 72339 87474	Post Medieval
13477	Routledge Gravestone	18 th century gravestone to John Routledge dated 1730. Grade II listed. In St Peters Churchyard	NY 72393 87415	Post Medieval
13478	Goodfellow Gravestone	18 th century gravestone to Hector Goodfellow dated 1722. Grade II listed. IN St Peters Churchyard	NY 72398 87410	Post Medieval
13479	Gravestone of Elizabeth B..	Dated 1727. Grade II listed. In St Peters Churchyard	NY 72401 87401	Post Medieval
13480	Rutherford Gravestone	Dating to 1720s. Grade II listed. In St Peters Churchyard	NY 72421 87402	Post Medieval
13481	Tindall Gravestone	Dated 1746. Grade II listed. In St Peters Churchyard	NY 72420 87397	Post Medieval
14123	The Blackcock Public House	Mid-19 th century	NY 72379 87439	Post Medieval
14124	Briar Cottage and Rose Cottage	Two mid-19 th century cottages	NY 72387 87467	Post Medieval
14125	Bridge by Village Green	Early 19 th century	NY 72321 87481	Post Medieval
14126	Falstone Cemetery Entrance Gates and Railings	Late 19 th century	NY 72223 87023	Post Medieval
14127	Farm Buildings at Falstone Farm	Early to mid-19 th century	NY 72445 87352	Post Medieval
14128	Falstone Forestry	Probably built c.1860. Former station masters	NY 72600 87289	Post Medieval

HER No.	Site Name	DESCRIPTION	Grid Ref	Period
	Commission Office	house and station		
14129	Falstone Old School	Built in about 1870	NY 72357 87456	Post Medieval
20428	Falstone War Memorial	Located in cemetery. Grade II listed	NY 7225 8702	Post Medieval

Table 1. Gazetteer of Sites

APPENDIX 2: DOCUMENTARY SOURCES

History, Directory and Gazetteer of the Counties of Durham and Northumberland, Parson and White 1829, Volume 2

‘Falstone is a small village in the township of Plashets, 9 miles W by N of Bellingham. Its name is said to be a corruption of the Anglo-Saxon word Faeston, signify a strong hold for the purpose of fastening or securing cattle etc; indeed the house of Mr Thomas Robson, the present hospitable laird, of Fausten, is still a very complete specimen of one of these ancient peels. From the source of the North Tyne in this parish, to Bellingham, there are numerous traces of the castramentations or strongholds, of the ancient Britons, viz – Bell’s Hunkin and Ryans Hill, one mile above Keilder Castle; Hitchill Wood and Camp-rig near Keilder; Lowey Knough and Hob’s Knough about a mile from the last-named place; Harpney-Rigg and Baresdales on the Lewisburn; and Hawks Knough. There is also one on Wellhaugh Moor, another in a wood near Eals, and another on Knopping-Holm Hill, opposite to Target Castle. The old chapel at Falstone was taken down after it was made parochial; and the present neat church was erected at the cost of £1040, towards which the Bishop of Durham gave £200, the Duke of Northumberland £150, Dixon Dixon Esq. £50, John Ridley, Esq. £10, Mr Thomas Robson, £5, and the Commissioners and Governors of Greenwich Hospital, £400. The latter, who are the patrons of the benefice, also erected at their own expense, a handsome Rectory House, which is now occupied by the Rev. Samuel Kennedy, who officiates as curate to the Rev. George Burdon, M.A. the present rector. The old chapel was certified at the annual value of £10, and was augmented with Queen Anne’s Bounty, and £200 given by the Rev. Mr Stanniforth, who was rector of Simonburn in the early part of the 18th century. Here is also a Scotch Presbyterian chapel, which was built in 1807, and is now under the ministry of the Rev. John Smith Grey.

Farmers listed at Falstone:

Thomas Robson, Yeoman

Kelly’s Directory of Northumberland 1879

Falstone Farm not named, but two farmers are listed in Falstone: Matthew Ridley, farmer, Hawkhope Hill and Fergus Robson, farmer [listed with no farm name, therefore maybe Falstone Farm]

Kelly’s Directory of Northumberland 1902

Falstone Farm not named, but two farmers are listed at Falstone: Edward Nichol, Hawkhope and Archibald Swann [listed with no farm name]

Kelly’s Directory of Northumberland 1910

‘Falstone is a small village, but extensive parish, comprising the townships of Plashetts and Wellhaugh, with a station on the section of the North British railway extending from Riccarton junction to Hexham and Morpeth, and is 9 miles west-north-west from Bellingham and 26 miles north-west by north from Hexham, in the Hexham division of the county, Bellingham petty sessional division, union and county court district, north-west division of Tindale ward, rural deanery of Bellingham, archdeaconry of Northumberland, and diocese of Newcastle. Falstone

is pleasantly seated on the bank of the river North Tyne, over which is a fine stone bridge of three arches, each 40 feet span, erected in 1853 as a cost of £2,300, and connecting the hamlets of Falstone and Stannersburn. This beautiful river has its source in a morass in this parish, and in its progress receives the Kielder and numerous tributary streams; in the same morass is also the source of the river Liddel, within a few yards only of the boundary between this place and Scotland, into which it takes its course. The North Tyne affords fish in abundance, and the scenery on the banks of the river is picturesque and romantic. The parish of Falstone extends eastwards from the limits of Cumberland and Scotland to the parishes of Thorneyburn and Greystead, a distance of upwards of 12 miles, and comprises an area of 63,678 acres of wild moor and mountainous land, affording good game and pasture for sheep, and of which some portion, especially near the river, is a rich alluvial soil: the quantity of arable land is very small. This place, anciently Fast-stone, was formerly a chapelry in the very large parish of Simonburn, divided by Act of Parliament in 1811. The church of St Peter is a small edifice of stone, in the Perpendicular style, consisting of chancel, nave, vestry, organ chamber, south porch, and an embattled western tower containing one bell: the font, presented by Miss Picton, is a memorial to the son of the then rector, d. June 1888: there is a stained window, erected in 1889 by Thomas Spencer esq. of Ryton, to commemorate his wife: the church was burnt down at Christmas 1890, and rebuilt in 1892 at a cost of £2000: there are 80 sittings. During some excavations in the churchyard in 1885 a portion of a Saxon cross, bearing an inscription was found. The registers date from the year 1742, the living is a rectory, net yearly value £220 including 11 acres of glebe, with residence, in the gift of the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital, and held since 1909 by the Rev. Augustine Rhun Price MA of Queen's College, Cambridge, late chaplain. The rectory room, in the rectory grounds, is used as a Sunday school and for parochial purposes. The Presbyterian Church of England here, first built in 1709 in connection with the Church of Scotland, was re-erected in 1807, and again in 1876 at a cost of £500 when a tower with a lofty pointed slate roof and a vestry were added: it will seat 300 persons. Coal of a good bitumous quality is abundant, and two collieries are worked for the supply of the district. The Falstone Agricultural and Industrial show is held here annually in October. The Duke of Northumberland, Sir John Swinburne of Capheaton Hall and Thomas Taylor of Chipchase Castle are chief landowners'.

Kelly's Directory of Northumberland 1929

Farmers listed at Falstone: James and Joseph Weatherson, farmers [no farm name given]

Tynedale from Branchland to Carter Bar, Frank Graham, 1978

Pages 146-147

'Falstone: The name of this small village is derived from fallows-stone meaning dull coloured yellow. Here was discovered a fragment of a Runic cross bearing an Anglo-Saxon inscription, the oldest post-Roman inscribed stone found in Northumberland. The words are usually translated as "Eomaer set this up for his uncle Hroethbert. Pray for his soul". It has been suggested that Hroethbert is the Robert of our day and that his descendants would be called Robertson of Robson which is the chief name around Falstone: a romantic suggestion which cannot be taken seriously'.

The Kielder Forest – A Forestry Commission Guide, 1982

Pages 78-80

'By the late 1960s the demand for water fro Tyneside and for the whole of the north-east region required that new sources of water be found. This led to the conception of a truly regional scheme, the Kielder Water Scheme. The site chosen for the dam was $\frac{3}{4}$ mile upstream of Falstone Village. Here the dam holds back 44,000 million gallons of water, covering an area of 2684 acres within a shoreline of 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles. It is a massive engineering project which during construction gave the North Tyne valley the greatest concentration of earthmoving equipment on any construction site in the United Kingdom'.

'Work started in 1975, the Dam was started in 1976 and the reservoir was filled by spring 1982. During the height of construction in 1979 and 1980, around 750 men and women were employed; over two thirds of them travelled each day from the surrounding areas'.

APPENDIX 3: CONTEXT LIST

Context	Type	Description
100	Deposit	Topsoil and turf
101	Natural	Boulder clay
102	Deposit	Subsoil

Table 2. Context List

APPENDIX 4: FIGURES




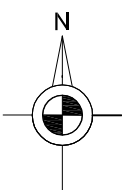
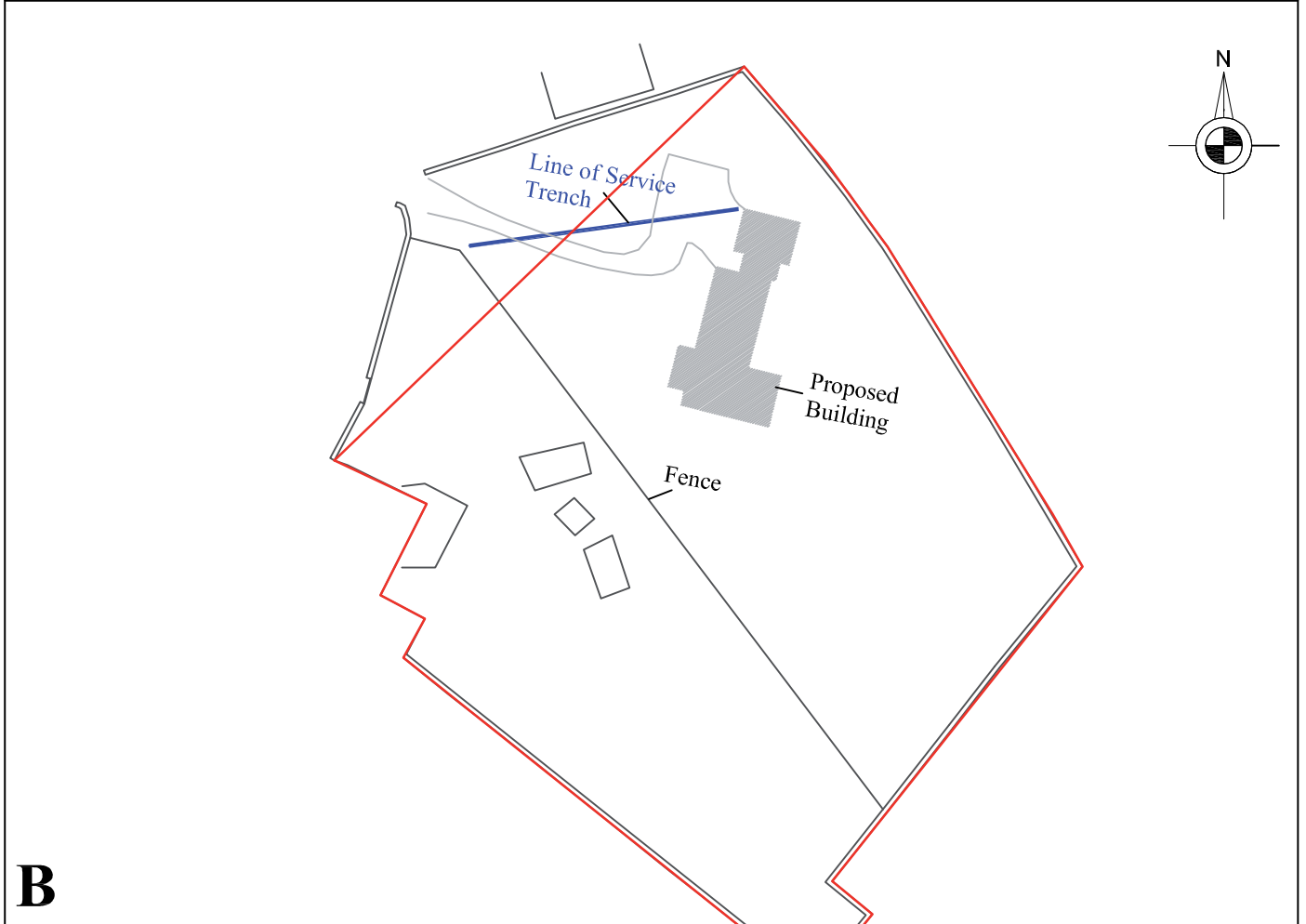
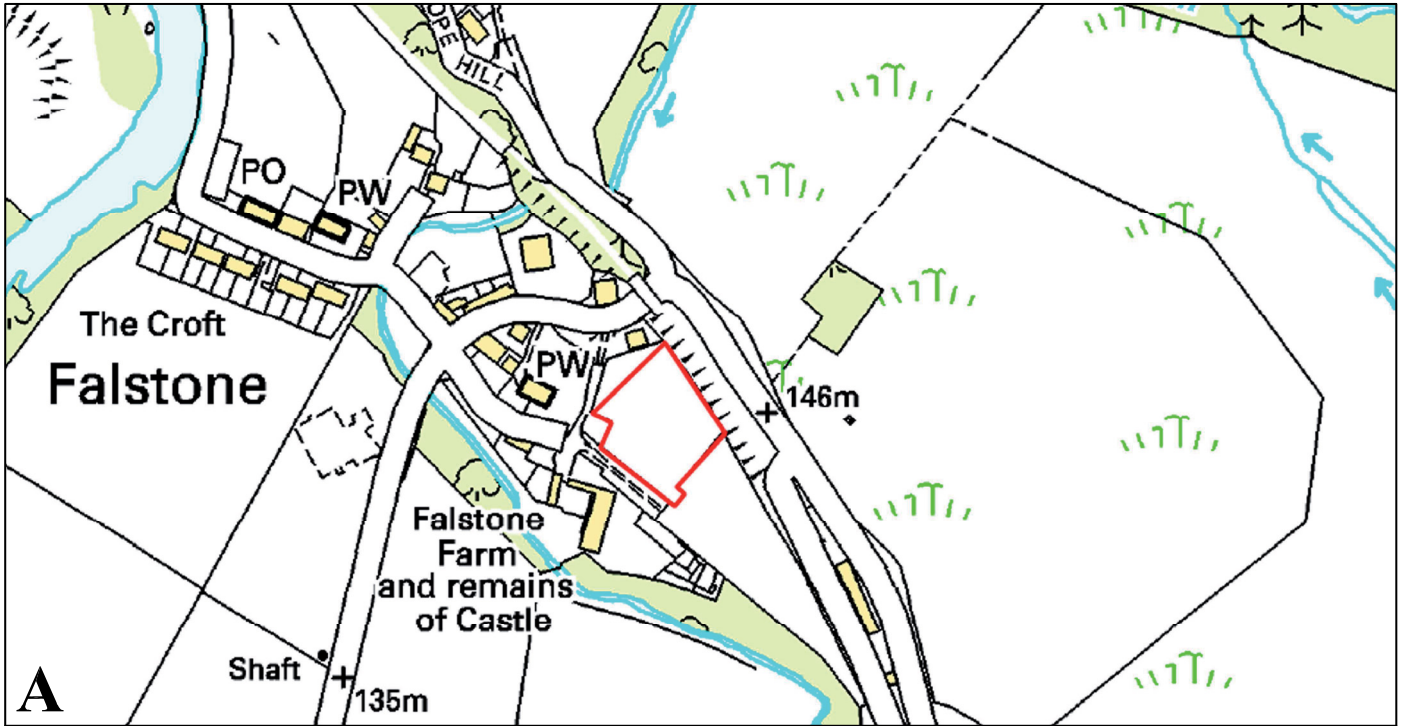
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Figure 1: Site Location within Northumberland







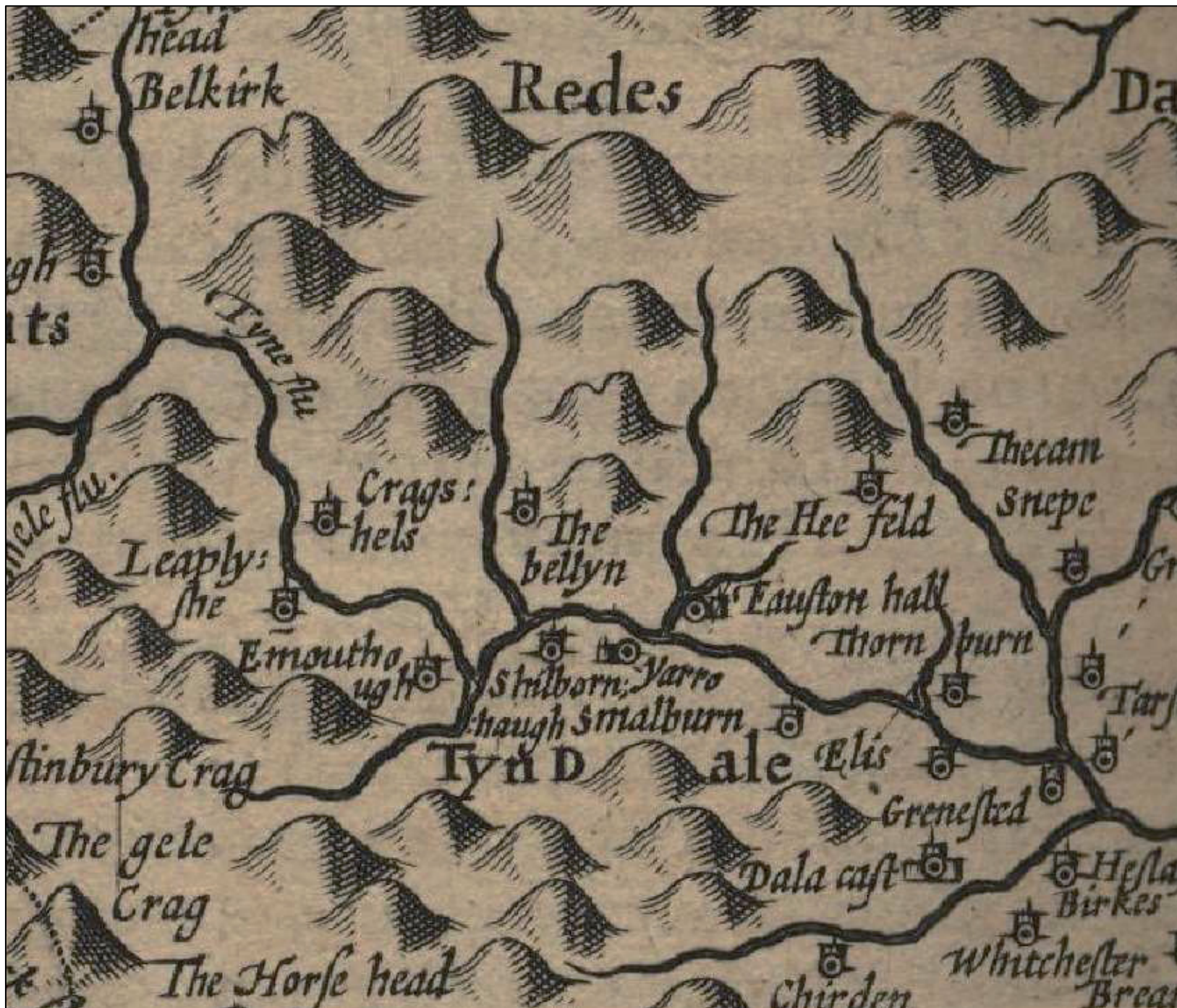
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Figure 2: Location of site within Falstone, and location of watching brief within development area.

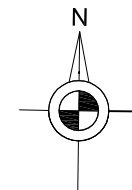


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Figure 3 : Extract from Speed's Map of Northumberland 1610

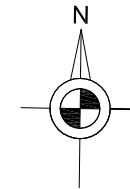


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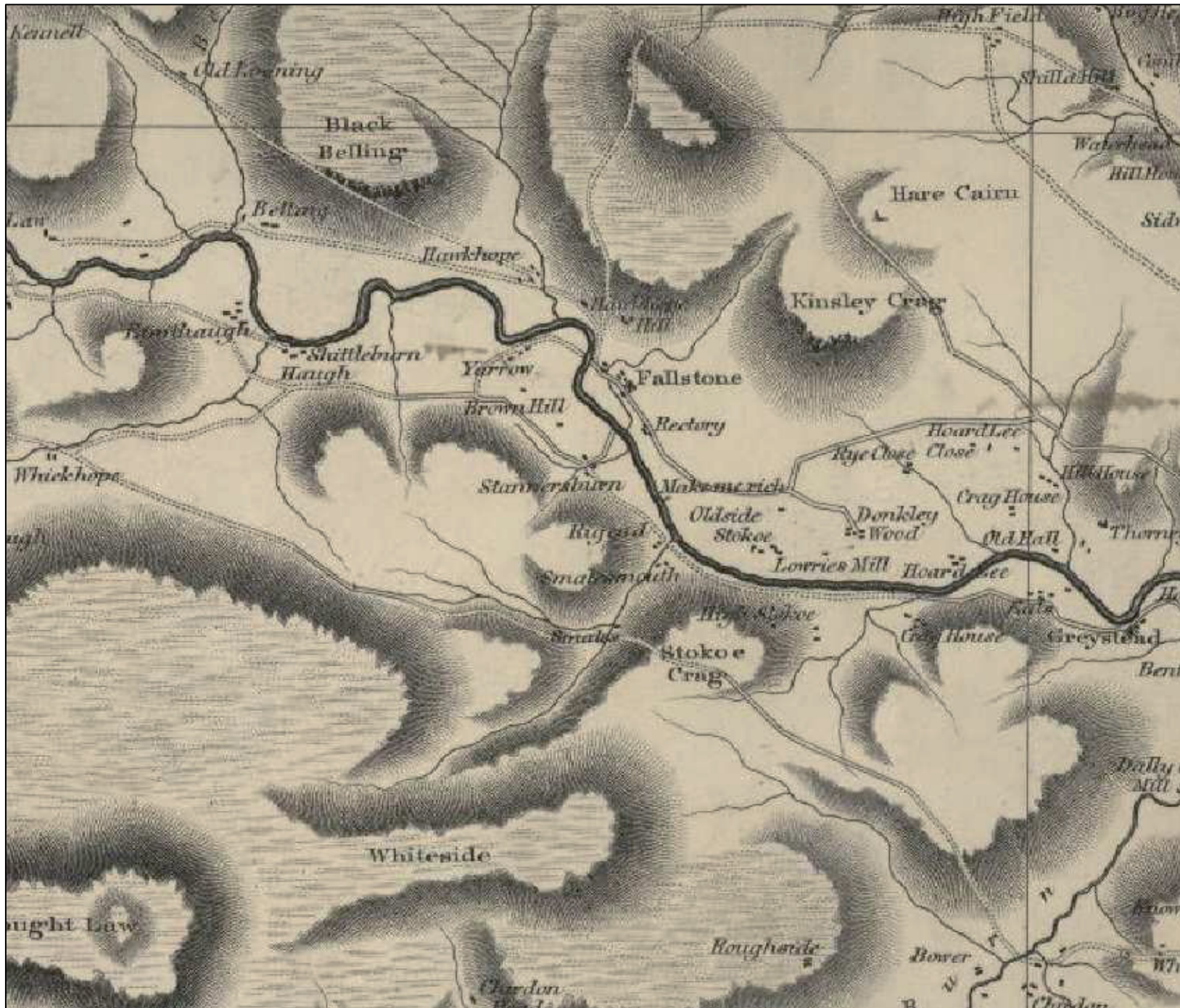
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Figure 4 : Extract from Armstrong's Map of Northumberland 1769

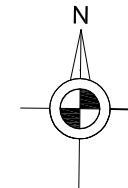


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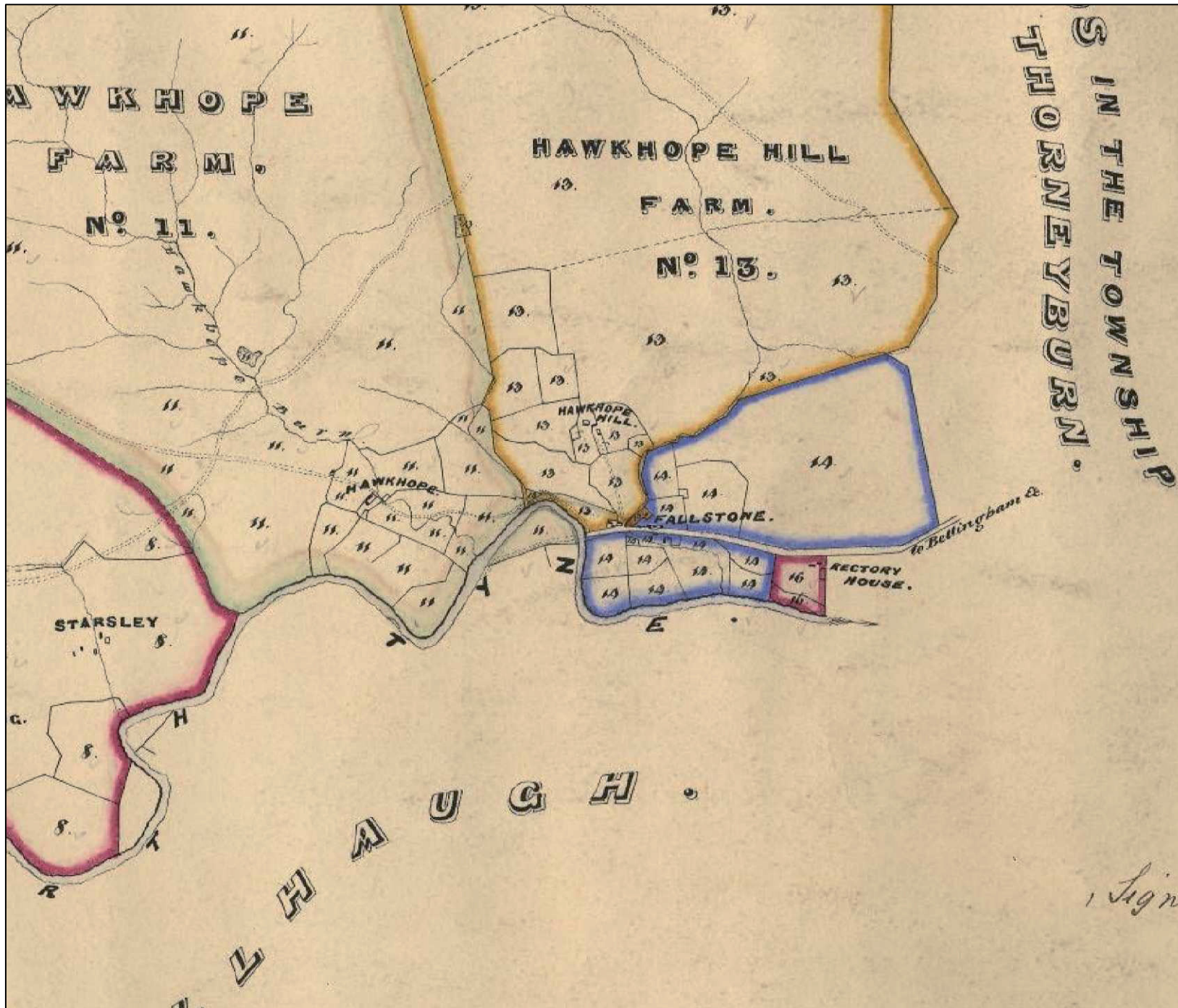
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Figure 5 : Extract from Fryer's Map of Northumberland 1820

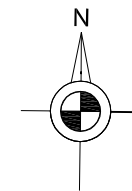


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Figure 6 : Extract from Falstone Tithe Map 1841

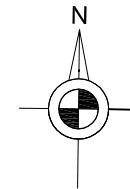


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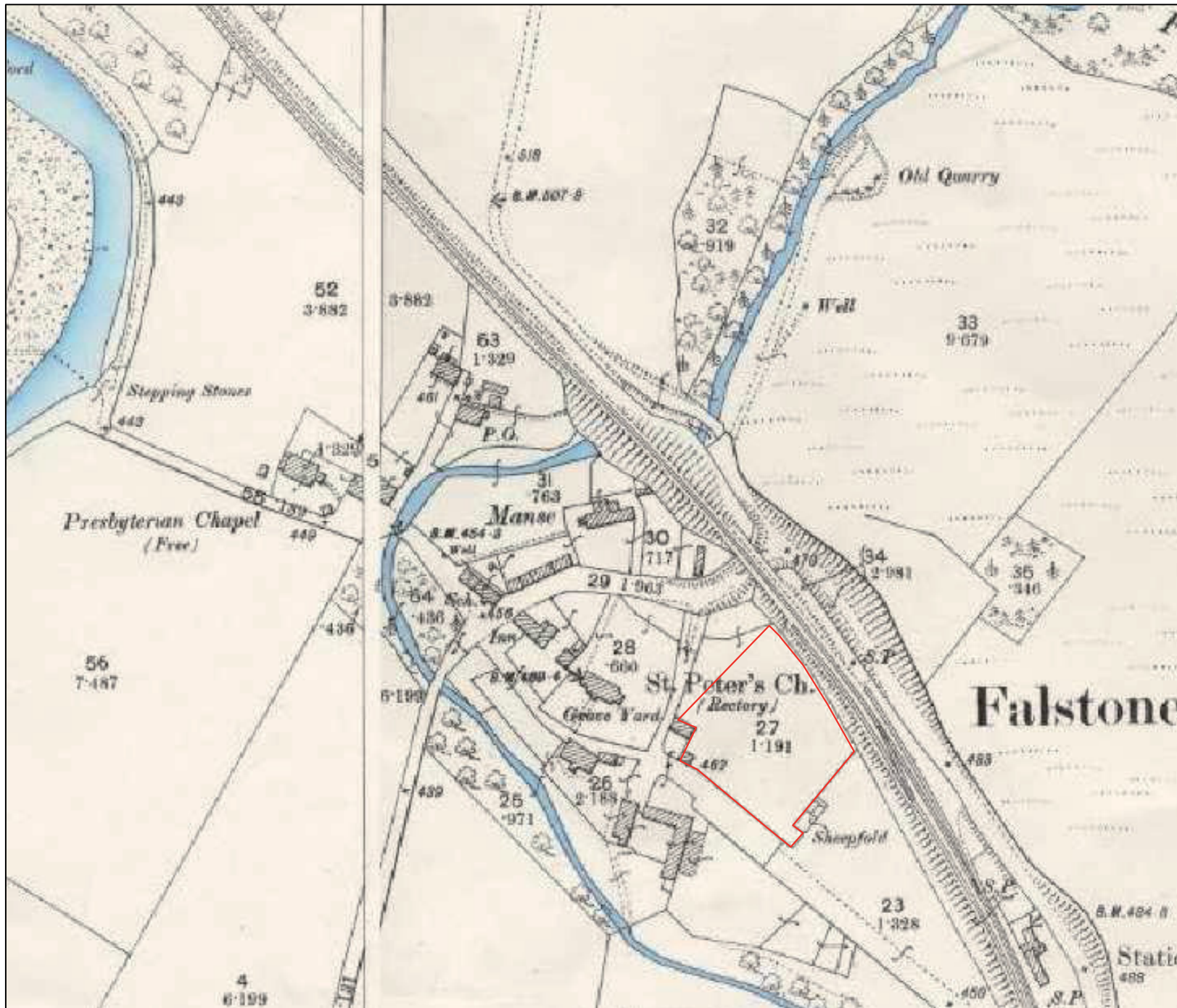


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Figure 7 : First Edition Ordnance Survey Map c.1860 (25" to 1 mile scale)

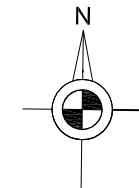


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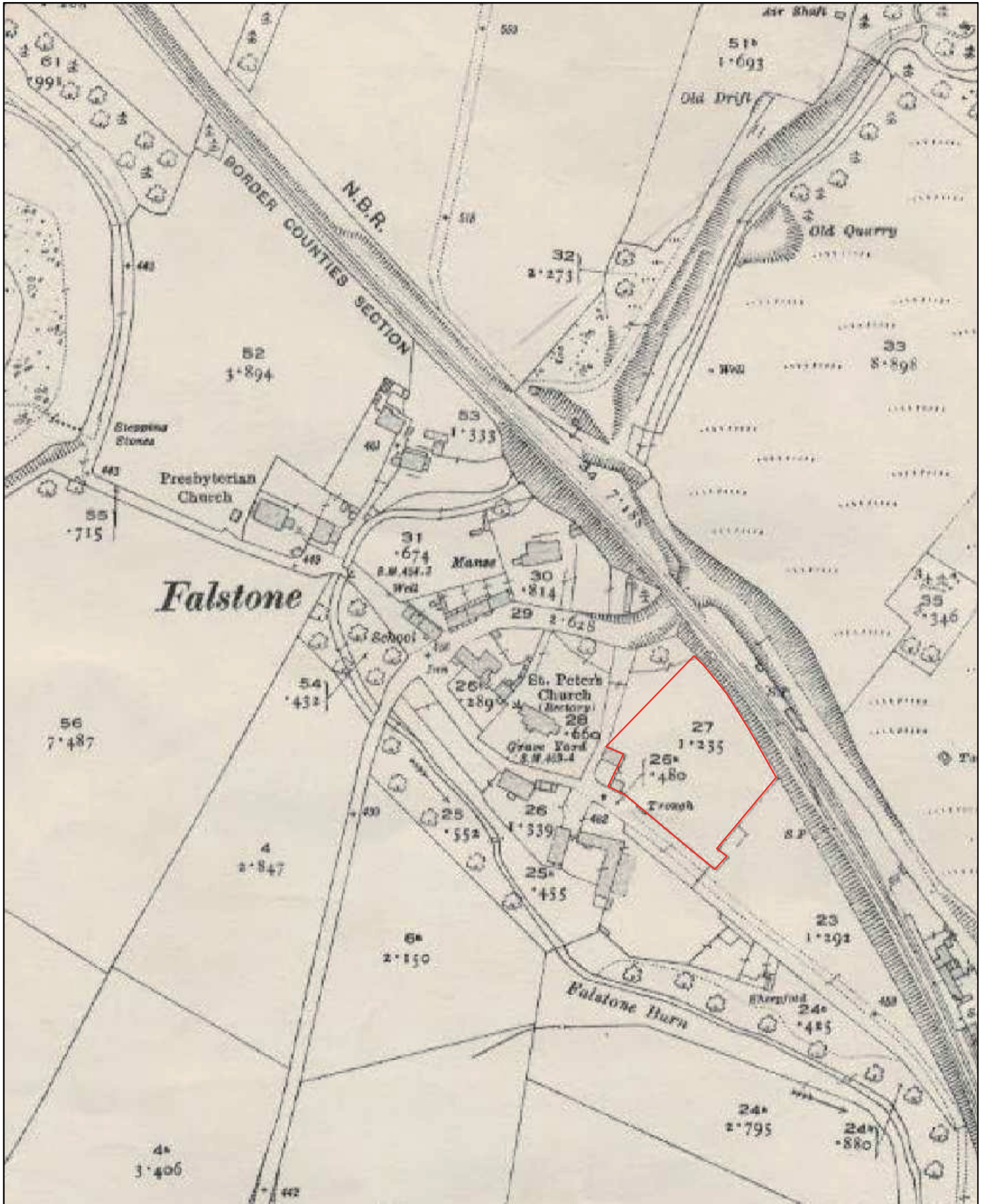


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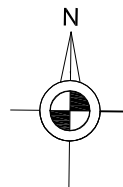
Figure 8 : Second Edition Ordnance Survey c.1897



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Figure 9 : Third Edition Ordnance Survey Map c.1920