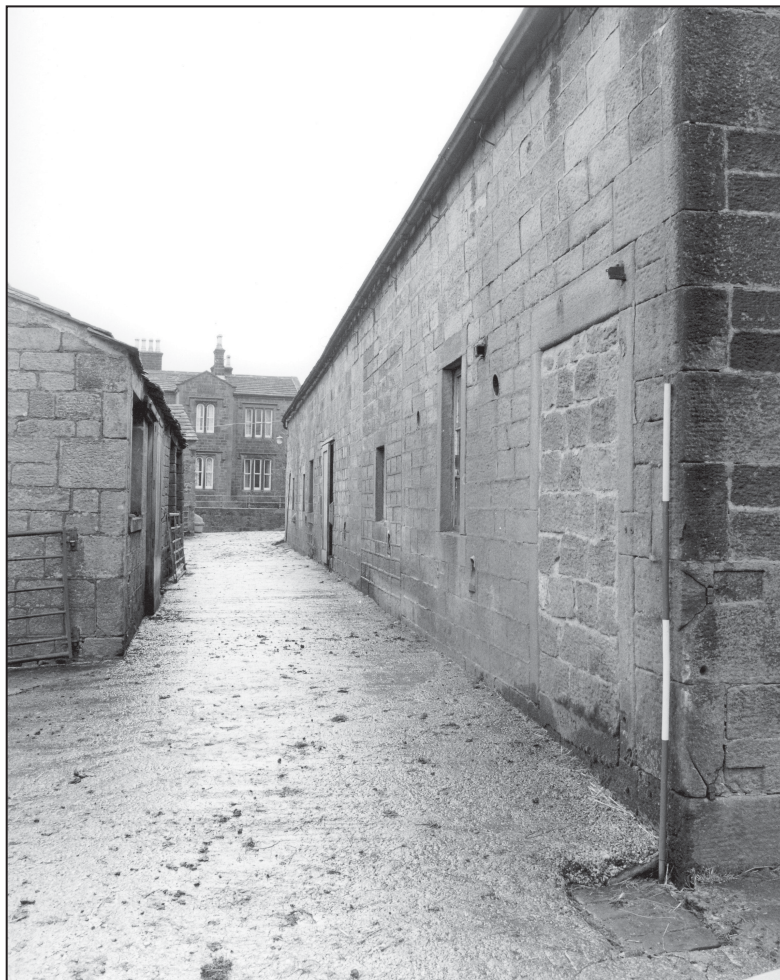


Farm Buildings at Bough Gap  
Keighley Road, Trawden, Lancashire:  
Archaeological Building Recording



April 2008

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# Farm Buildings at Bough Gap Keighley Road, Trawden, Lancashire: Archaeological Building Recording

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## SUMMARY

Archaeological building recording was carried out for CRS Plant Ltd in March 2008 at a farm called Bough Gap, near Trawden in east Lancashire (NGR: SD 91564006), before the conversion of a barn to dwellings. There are six historic stone buildings within the farmstead including the large barn (which was much altered in the 1930s), an unusual adjoining cart-shed, a former cottage, pig-sties, covered middenstead and shippon, most of which date from the 19th century. This record includes floor plans, section drawings, photographs, and written descriptions.

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## **FARM BUILDINGS AT BOUGH GAP, KEIGHLEY ROAD, TRAWDEN, LANCASHIRE:**

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING**

#### **LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS INCLUDED IN THIS REPORT**

Only a selection of the photographic record is reproduced in this report; the full record forms part of the project archive.

#### **Photo Subject**

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 1  | Building 2 (cart-shed) and farmhouse, from the south-west                         |
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## **FARM BUILDINGS AT BOUGH GAP, KEIGHLEY ROAD, TRAWDEN, LANCASHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING**

### **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 This report presents the results of the archaeological recording of the historic farm buildings at Bough Gap, a farm at the edge of Trawden near Colne in Lancashire. The work was commissioned by the developer CRS Plant Ltd, and carried out in March 2008, to fulfil a condition of planning consent from Pendle Borough Council for the conversion of the site to residential use.
- 1.2 There are a total of six buildings covered by this report: a large barn, previously converted to a cow-shed, and with attached cart-shed, both probably of 19th century date; a former cottage, much altered but perhaps of 18th or early 19th century date; a group of 19th century pig sties and adjoining middenstead, and a small, early 20th century shippon. Another barn 100m to the south, which formerly belonged to Bough Gap, is known as Souteril Laithe and was recorded before its conversion to a dwelling in 2006<sup>1</sup>.
- 1.3 The work was carried out in accordance with the standard specification from the Lancashire County Archaeology Service for recording historic farm buildings, and involved drawn, written, and photographic recording, with historic maps being incorporated. This report will be submitted to the client, Pendle Borough Council, the Lancashire County Archaeology Service and the English Heritage National Monuments Record, while the project archive will be deposited with the Lancashire Record Office.

### **2 Location and current use**

- 2.1 Bough Gap is a small farmstead lying about 1km north-east of Trawden village, on the minor road known as Keighley Road, about 2km east of Colne, in Trawden Forest civil parish in east Lancashire (NGR: SD 9156 4006; Figure 1). The site lies at an altitude of 210m AOD and is an upland area characterised by pasture fields enclosed by dry-stone walls.
- 2.2 The farmhouse stands on the east side of Keighley Road and the farm buildings on the west side: the six historic buildings form two main ranges either side of a narrow yard which continues down to the west towards two modern buildings (Figure 2). The barn (building 1) is the largest of the six and faces north onto this yard, and it has a long narrow cart-shed adjoining its south elevation (building 2). To the north-east of the barn is a two storey building which appears to be a

former cottage (building 3), and to the west of it is a group of pig sties (building 4), a former covered middenstead now used as a garage (building 5), and a small shippon (building 6).

- 2.3 The farm buildings were still in agricultural use by the owner Mr P Sedgwick, at the time of survey.

### **3 Planning background**

- 3.1 None of the buildings at Bough Gap is believed to be listed as having special architectural or historic interest. Planning consent was granted by Pendle Borough Council on 10 March 2005 for the conversion of the barn to three dwellings (application no 13/05/0035P), with a condition that a record is made of the buildings prior to development, which this report and archive constitute.

### **4 Historical background**

- 4.1 Traditional farm buildings are of historic interest because they contribute to an understanding of the vernacular architecture and past farming systems of the region. As a group they are under threat due to redundancy and neglect, as well as their potential for conversion, and records of them can help provide an understanding of this diminishing and irreplaceable stock.
- 4.2 The farmhouse at Bough Gap bears a datestone inscribed "LR MR 1626" and "Rebuilt 1878 RS AS", and indeed appears to have been fully rebuilt at that time, but little else is known of the history of the site. The first edition Ordnance Survey 1:10560 map surveyed in 1844 shows the barn (building 1) as a long linear building with two projections on its north elevation, and also shows building 3 in some form (Figure 3). The first edition 1:2500 map, surveyed in the early 1890s, shows building 1 without the two projections, but with the apparent addition of building 2 along its south side (Figure 4). Building 3 is shown with an L-shaped plan at this scale, with an addition to the south, while buildings 4 and 5 had been built in the intervening period. The 1912 edition (Figure 5) shows the arrangement in more detail, but seemingly without significant alteration, as does the south sheet of the 1931 edition (Figure 6), although the latter does seem to show that building 6 had been added in the previous two decades. (The site lies on the sheet edge on the Ordnance Survey's county series.)
- 4.3 Closely associated with the farm is a large gritstone quarry to the south-east, which maps indicate to have been established between 1847 and the 1890s and

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<sup>1</sup> *Souteril Laithe, Keighley Road, Trawden, Lancashire: Archaeological Building Recording* Stephen Haigh Buildings Archaeologist, March 2006 (deposited with Lancashire HER)

which was almost certainly the source of stone for the rebuilt farmhouse and some of the farm buildings.

## **5 Recording methodology**

- 5.1 The archaeological building recording took place on 26 March 2008, and in accordance with the standard specification issued by the Lancashire County Archaeology Service for recording historic farm buildings. It involved drawn, photographic and written records.
- 5.2 The drawn record comprises new plans of all six historic farm buildings, and cross-section drawings of buildings 1, 2 and 5. These were produced by hand measurement and show all significant archaeological detail, employing conventions based on those specified by English Heritage<sup>2</sup>.
- 5.3 The photographic record covers all the buildings, and was made using a medium format camera with perspective control and other lenses, and black and white film for its archival qualities. External and internal photographs were taken, using either a 1m or 2m ranging pole marked with 0.5m graduations as a scale, and the locations of the photographs are shown on a site plan and copies of the floor plans. All the photographs have been printed to a size of 7" x 5", with three at 10 x 8", and form part of the project archive; a selection is copied in this report, where they are referred to by numbers in bold.

## **6 Description of the buildings**

### **General**

- 6.1 As noted above the farmhouse stands to the east of Keighley Road and the farm buildings to the west (**1,2**), where they extend for around 100m, a modern shed and Dutch barn at the west end forming the most recent additions (**3**). A narrow yard of stone setts and concrete forms a thoroughfare between the older buildings (**4,5**), the barn (building 1) standing on the south side.

### **Building 1 (barn)**

- 6.2 The barn is a very large example of its type, measuring 29.4m long and 11.9m wide, and appears to have been built to this size originally; however it suffered a fire in the 1930s (P Sedgwick, pers comm), following which its height was reduced, a new roof added at the lower level, and its interior converted into the single large cow-shed as which it now functions.

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<sup>2</sup> English Heritage 2006 *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice*

- 6.3 The barn has outer walls faced with neatly coursed gritstone and the masonry is of a high quality, indicative of professional builders; it has edge-laid quoins and dressings to most of the openings, including some which date from alterations. The masonry along the south side, where it is less visible, is of slightly inferior quality, and that enclosed within the adjoining building 2 is rendered. The blue slate roof with full length roof-lights and tile ridge is an artefact of the 1930s changes and it is thought that it would have had a local stone slate roof covering originally, some 2.5m higher than the present roof.
- 6.4 The barn's front elevation is that facing north (6), within which is a wide cart entrance near the west end, now lacking its arch and blocked with stonework containing a window and earthenware ventilation pipe (7); there are similar pipes along the whole of the elevation, which are thought to have been put in in the 1930s, and the window is of a form with two further examples to the east (8), indicating that these too are probably insertions. The fact that building 6 stands so close to this blocked cart entrance leads to the inference that the doorway was blocked when it was rendered unusable by this new building in the early 20th century.
- 6.5 Two of the windows in this elevation are of a different form and larger size, and one has a concrete sill so may have been a doorway originally, but the quality of the masonry around these openings is such that they may also be well-finished insertions; the present entrance with sliding door is clearly secondary. There is a wide pedestrian doorway with tie-stone jambs at the west end of this elevation, also blocked (9), its size and proximity to a window perhaps indicating use of this end of the building as a stable at one time. Another feature of this elevation is a slight change in the depth of the courses, 1.2m below the eaves, probably the result of rebuilding when the new roof was added. The north elevation does not contain any evidence for the two projections shown on the 1848 map, raising the possibility that the barn was rebuilt after that date.
- 6.6 The barn's east gable has been partly hidden by a breeze block lean-to at the south end and a rubble lean-to at the north (10,11), but there are three doorways within the elevation, with the distribution characteristic of a gable-entry shippon, ie with a central feeding passage and rows of stalls to either side facing onto it. The central opening has quoined jambs, the left one tie-stone jambs, but the north doorway is within the breeze block lean-to and is not visible. The opposite, west gable has an inserted (or enlarged) central doorway and a small window to the right, probably inserted (12).
- 6.7 As noted above the barn's south elevation is mostly within the later cart-shed (13,14), although to the west of this it has a low parapet which suggests the roof line may have been higher originally, in similar fashion to the north elevation. The present doorway linking cart-shed and barn is thought to be secondary, and

there are at least five other, blocked openings in this elevation, two at ground floor level and three forking holes at upper level (15), further indication that the barn was originally a taller building.

- 6.8 The interior of the barn shows almost no evidence for its original appearance before the 1930s fire and alterations, as it now form a single large cow-shed open to the roof, with rendered walls, concrete floor and steel cubicles (16-18). The pair of doors in the south elevation appears to be the only fixture of historic interest (19), and these doors are probably late 19th century. The roof is carried on steel trusses and softwood purlins and is underboarded.
- 6.9 There is little evidence to date the barn but the quality of the masonry and the anomalies in the historic maps suggest it was rebuilt with its present outline between the 1840s and the 1890s, perhaps around the same time the farmhouse was rebuilt (1878).

### **Building 2 (cart-shed)**

- 6.10 Maps suggest that the long, narrow cart-shed along the south side of the barn was added between 1844 and the 1890s, but the present structure incorporates the base for a water tank, which appears to have been an addition to the original cart-shed. The building comprises a south wall, to a height of around 4.5m, which supports a roof spanning the gap between this and the south side of the barn, now standing well above the present barn roof (20). The south side of the cart-shed is of poorer quality stonework than the barn (21) and appears to have been extended to the west to carry the water tank, although this is not certain. It has a hipped roof of stone slates and stone ridges, and there are full width doorways to both east and west, the former set beneath the canted roof; at the west end the hip is covered with asbestos cement sheets, with the water tank continuing beyond these. The south wall has moulded terracotta gutter brackets in keeping with its presumed date.
- 6.11 The interior of the cart-shed has an earth floor, rendered walls and is open to the roof (14). It would have provided housing for carts and implements, but also would have allowed forking of crops into the barn under cover. It may also have had a role in mechanised crop processing, but there are no fixtures such as bearings, shafts or pulleys, although there are two pairs of opposing cast iron brackets high up in the walls, which may have held partitions or other structures. The shed is also badly lit and the only ventilation is through the two end doorways. The roof comprises five king-post trusses fashioned from oak or other hardwood, but with bolted posts (22,23); the purlins are of similar timber and are trenched into the principal rafters.

- 6.12 At the west end of building 2 is a large water tank made up of cast iron sections bolted together (**24**), and with an open top, which appears to be at too high a level to have been filled with rainwater by gravity, so was presumably connected to a mains supply or to a pump and cistern or well. It feeds pipes running into the barn and was probably installed in the 1930s to give a reliable supply to the cattle housed within it, although it may be earlier; there is a similar tank to the rear of the farmhouse situated over a rear wing.

### **Building 3 (former cottage)**

- 6.13 The two storey building at the north-east corner of the group is thought to be a former cottage and is probably the oldest of the six farm buildings, to judge from the character of the stonework and the form of the openings (**25**). However it has been altered a great deal, and in particular there is nothing of interest visible within its interior to provide further evidence for its former appearance and use; it is also worth noting that the building also formerly continued to the south, as both architectural and cartographic evidence indicates.
- 6.14 Building 3 has walls of poorly coursed gritstone rubble, very different from that used in the barn, with gritstone dressings of varying types, a very mixed pattern of openings, and a stone slate roof with a ceramic ventilation cowl. The west elevation (**26**) has a blocked doorway at the north end with chamfered jambs, of 17th or early 18th century character, (**27**) and to the north the quoins are toothed, suggesting either that the building once continued further, or that this masonry has been re-used. To the right of this is a blocked window with roughly finished surround, and the present entrance, which is clearly secondary. There are two blocked windows at first floor level, similar to the ground floor window and also no doubt mullioned originally.
- 6.15 The south gable contains the remains of an adjoining lean-to with mass concrete roof, and has been much disturbed (**28**); there is also a blocked first floor window (poorly defined), and it is reported that there was once a chimney to this side of the building (P Sedgwick, pers comm). To the east side, partly obscured by a milk churn stand, are two former ground floor doorways at different levels, one with quoined jambs, the other with cut stone surrounds (**29**). Above the right-hand one is a feature resembling a blocked breather (ie a slit vent), and at first floor level is a blocked window similar to those in the west side. The north side has a single window with concrete sill and lintel, probably a secondary opening. Inside the building all walls are rendered (**32**) and there is a ceiling below the first floor, with no means of access to the first floor. It appears that the ground floor was used as a dairy in the mid 20th century but was later adapted to house livestock.



#### **Building 4 (pig sties)**

- 6.16 To the west of building 3 is a pair of pig sties adjoining building 5; at one time there was a third sty but this has been demolished (**33-35**). These date from the second half of the 19th century and post-date the middenstead to the west (building 5). They are built from poor quality gritstone rubble with rough dressings, and are built over an earlier retaining wall standing above the field to the north, which gives them their irregular plan. The single-pitch roof is of stone slate.
- 6.17 The pair are mirror images of each other: each has a small walled pen to the south with flagged floor and concrete trough (cast in situ), and the doorways in the front elevation lead into two small rooms with windows at a higher level. Pig sties such as these were generally built in the second half of the 19th century to make productive use of the by-products of dairy farms (eg from cheese making), and these are good examples of the type.

#### **Building 5 (middenstead)**

- 6.18 The principal building within the north range is a covered middenstead which would have served as a roofed store for manure from the livestock housed within the barn, the roof preventing rainfall from diluting the manure and reducing its value as a fertilizer and soil conditioner. It appears to date from the second half of the 19th century.
- 6.19 The south-east corner of the building has been removed, no doubt to allow vehicles to use it (**36**), and the remaining south elevation comprises two partly open bays above a low wall, with masonry piers between (**37**). The stonework varies in quality, some coursed but the majority of random rubble, while the roof is of stone slate with stone ridge. There are no openings in the gables, and access was presumably through a doorway in that part of the south side which has been demolished, close to the presumed shippon in the east end of the barn to minimise the distance manure had to be moved. Two openings in the north side of the building have sloping flagstone sills and would have been used to eject manure directly into carts below (**38**). There are no features of interest inside the building, other than the charred roof trusses which are of softwood and have bolted king-posts (**39**). (This building suffered a fire in the 1950s – P Sedgwick, pers comm.)



- 6.20 Covered middensteads such as this one are not common in the region but a very similar example, albeit without the loading chutes, was recorded at High Barn, Dean Slack, near Slaidburn in 2005<sup>3</sup>.

### **Building 6 (shippon)**

- 6.21 This small single storey shippon was added to the west end of building 5 in the 20th century, probably between 1910 and 1930, when the cart entrance in the north side of the barn was no longer used. Its walls are faced with coursed gritstone, the openings have a mixture of concrete and stone dressings, and the eaves on the north side have terracotta gutter brackets (**40-43**); the roof is of stone slate and bears a ceramic ventilator. The entrance is in the south side and there are windows in all three elevations. Inside the building has wall faces of brick, partly rendered, and a concrete floor with steel cubicles facing out. There is a single king-post truss (**44**).

## **7 Discussion and conclusion**

- 7.1 There has been settlement at Bough Gap since the late 17th century and possibly earlier, but the present buildings mostly date to the 19th century when the farm seems to have been a prosperous enterprise. Although building 3 has some features which suggest an early date (perhaps 18th century) these may instead arise from the re-use of masonry at a later time. The barn appears to have been built in its present form in the second half of the 19th century and is a large example of a mixed use or combination barn typical for the district, but was once a taller building with an upper storey. The adjoining cart-shed and the middenstead to the north suggest that the farm was being run on progressive lines with modern agricultural principles in mind, and by someone with the financial means to erect well-built and planned buildings for use in what was chiefly a dairy enterprise. The cart-shed may have served to house mechanised agricultural processing, and is of some interest because of this, while the middenstead is a good example of a relatively unusual building type. The pig sties adjoining it are also good examples of their type and together the group has valuable character as a historic farmstead.

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<sup>3</sup> *High Barn, Dean Slack, Slaidburn, Lancashire: Archaeological Building Recording* Stephen Haigh Buildings Archaeologist, July 2005 (deposited with Lancashire HER)

## Appendix 1: Contents of the project archive

To be deposited with the Lancashire Record Office

1 file, containing:

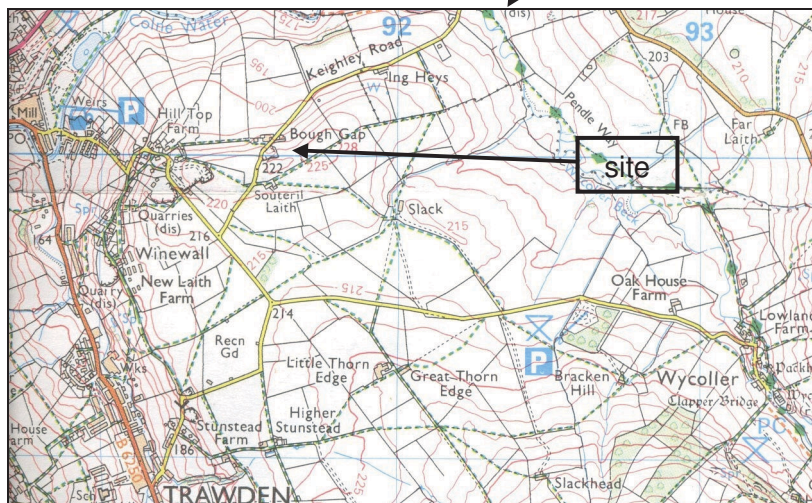
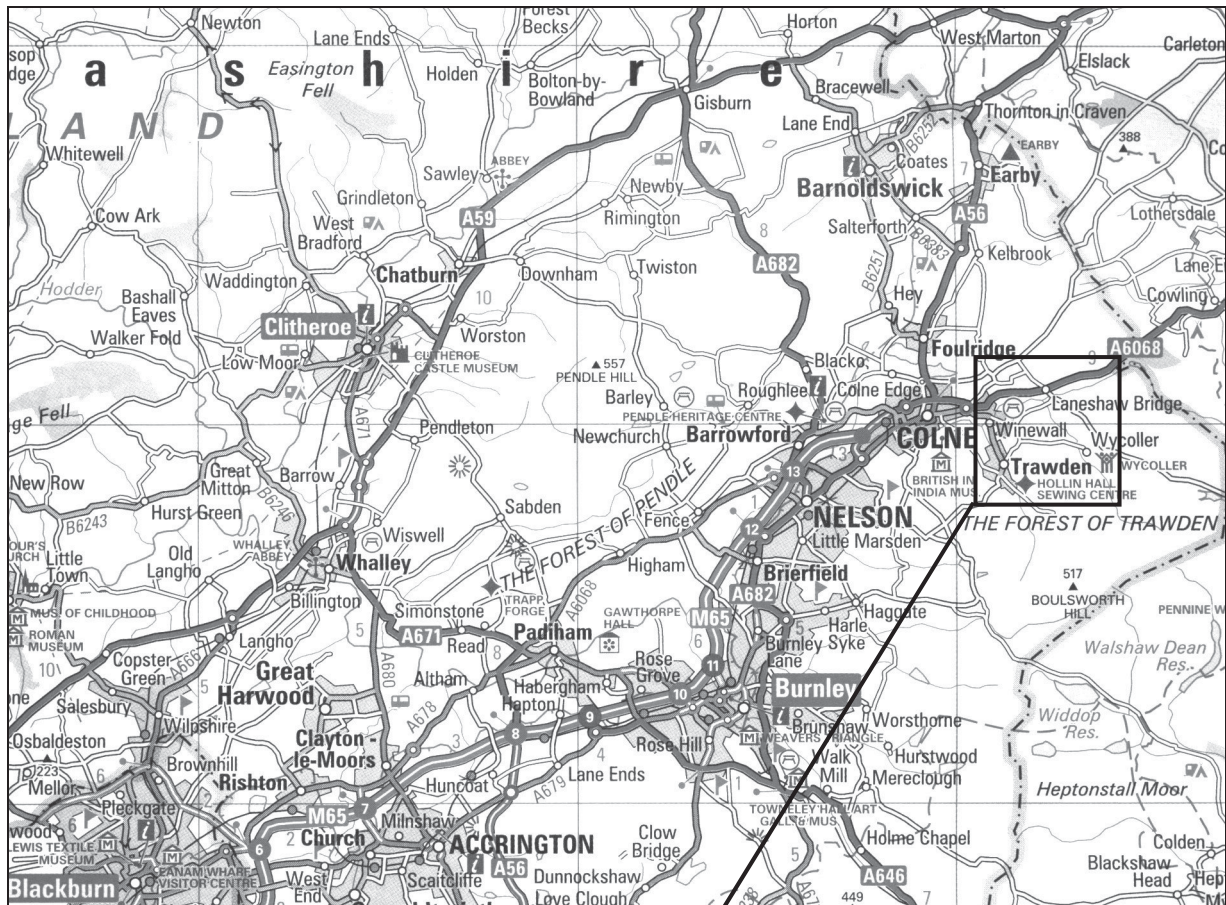
- a copy of the report
- full set of black and white photographs
- site notes (annotated plans etc)

### Complete list of photographs taken, in film order

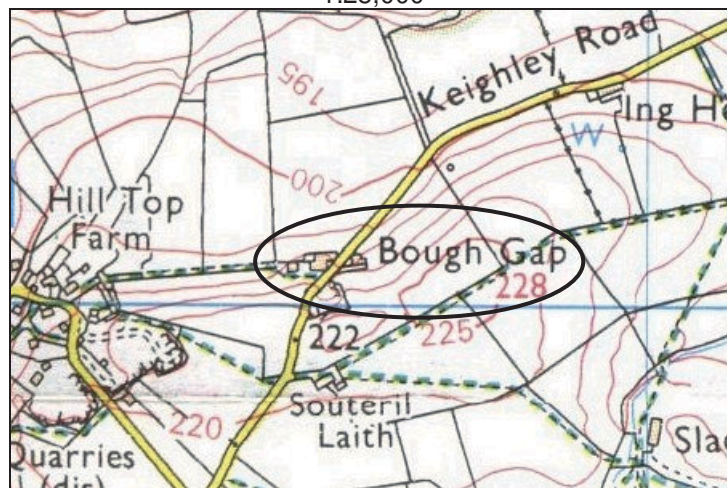
Photo	Film	Frame	Subject
10	1	1	Building 1 (barn), from the north-east
11	1	2	Buildings 1 & 2 (barn & cart-shed), from the east
20	1	4	Buildings 1 & 2 (barn & cart-shed), from the south-east
2	1	5	Farmhouse, from the south-west
1	1	6	Building 2 (cart-shed) and farmhouse, from the south-west
21	1	7	Building 2 (cart-shed), from the south-west
13	1	8	Buildings 1 & 2 (barn & cart-shed), from the south-west
3	1	10	General view of the farm, from the south-west
12	1	11	Buildings 1 & 2 (barn & cart-shed), from the west
9	1	12	Building 1 (barn), from the north-west
5	1	13	Yard between buildings 1 (barn) and 6, from the west
40	1	14	Building 6 (shippon), from the south-west
7	1	16	Blocked cart entrance in north side of building 1 (barn), from the north-east
8	1	17	Different window openings in north side of building 1 (barn), from the north-west
6	1	18	North side of building 1 (barn), from the north-west
18	2	1	Interior of building 1 (barn), from the west
17	2	2	Interior of building 1 (barn), from the south-east
16	2	4	Interior of building 1 (barn), from the north-east
19	2	5	Door between buildings 1 and 2 (barn and cart-shed), from the north
14	2	6	Interior of building 2 (cart-shed), from the west
22	2	7	Roof structure of building 2 (cart-shed), from the west
23	2	8	Detail of roof structure of building 2 (cart-shed), from the west
24	2	10	View of water tank at west end of building 2 (cart-shed), from the east
15	2	11	Blocked forking hole in south side of building 1 (barn), and adjacent cast iron bracket
42	2	12	Buildings 5 and 6 (middenstead and shippon), from the north-west
43	2	13	Building 6 (shippon), from the north
38	2	14	Building 5 (middenstead), from the north-west
35	2	16	Buildings 4 and 6 (pig sties and middenstead), from the north-east
30	2	17	Building 3 (former cottage?) from the north-east
31	2	18	Building 3 (former cottage?) from the north
41	3	1	Building 6 (shippon), from the south-east
37	3	2	Building 5 (middenstead), from the south-west
33	3	4	Building 4 (pig sties), from the south-west
34	3	5	Building 4 (pig sties), from the south-east
44	3	6	Interior of building 6 (shippon), from the south-west
39	3	8	Roof truss in building 5 (middenstead), from the south-east
4	3	10	Buildings 1 (barn) and 5 (middenstead), and yard between, from the east

36	3	11	Buildings 4 (pig sties) and 5 (middenstead), from the south-east
28	3	12	Building 3 (former cottage?) from the south
29	3	13	Building 3 (former cottage?) from the east
26	3	14	Building 3 (former cottage?) from the west
25	3	15	Building 3 (former cottage?) from the south-west
32	3	17	Interior of building 3 (former cottage?) from the south-west
27	3	18	Building 3 (former cottage?): blocked doorway and toothed quoins at north-west corner





1:25,000



1:10,000

**Figure 1: Location maps**

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