

Northumberland National Park Authority



Historic Village Atlas 1:

Akeld



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The Archaeological Practice Ltd.
Newcastle upon Tyne

AKELD NORTHUMBERLAND

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL STUDY OF A BORDER TOWNSHIP



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PART 1

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

1. BACKGROUND, AIMS & METHODS

The Northumberland National Park Historic Village Atlas Project is a collaborative project between the National Park Authority and local communities,¹ the main product of which is an atlas of Historic Villages in the Northumberland National Park (NNP) area.

Despite a considerable amount of historical and archaeological research within NNP, much of this work has been targeted on outlying sites and areas and there has been little targeted study of the historic villages themselves. Previous studies undertaken into the history of the villages, including those provided by the antiquarian, Hodgson (1820-1840), those contained in the County Histories, as well as the later work of Wrathmell (1975) and Dixon (1985), cover some of the same ground as the present studies, but are now in need of revision in the light of subsequent archaeological discoveries and historical findings, as well as changes to both the built fabric and community of the villages in the National Park area. Even John Grundy's impressive work on the buildings of the National Park completed as recently as 1988 has been rendered out of date by the conservation, renovation, adaptation and, in some cases, demolition of many buildings covered in his report.

The increased pace of modern development within the National Park has put pressure on its cultural heritage resource, specifically its historic buildings and villages. One of the aims of the Historic Village Atlas Project, therefore, is to provide additional information, which NNPA can use to further inform its approach to the management of sites of cultural heritage importance.

Changes in the social fabric of the area, often linked to the development work outlined above, mean that traditional lifeways maintained over many generations are now becoming increasingly rare or extinct. In particular, many traditional farming practices and the skills, tools and buildings used to support them have been lost and are being lost, and along with these has gone a regional vocabulary of specific terms and expressions. However, within the same communities there is also a considerable interest in the history and archaeology of the villages. Part of the purpose of the Historic Village Atlas Project, therefore, is to provide information and advice to facilitate not only greater understanding, but also active participation by community members in investigating and preserving aspects of the past. Some of the ways in which this can be achieved is through the presentation of data, guided walks and oral history recordings, all of which have been built into the project brief.

The study presented here was commissioned in order to redress the lack of systematic research into the historic settlements of the Northumberland National Park area, with the intention not only to contribute to the Regional Research Agenda, but to inform the planning and heritage management process, and provide impetus and encouragement for local communities to carry out their own work.

The main aims of the project are as follows:

- To further the study, understanding and enjoyment of the historic villages, both by interested individuals and community-based groups.
- To reinforce and develop the existing sense of place and belonging of individuals within the communities of the region.

¹ See the Acknowledgments section of the Synthesis volume for a list of institutions and individuals that have provided assistance in various ways.

- To provide a springboard for future community-led initiatives by supplying information which community groups can use to develop their own proposals.
- To facilitate the management of the cultural heritage by the NNPA

Village settlements, traditionally recognisable as clustered assemblies of houses and farmsteads, are scarce within the Park, where most settlements are isolated farms and hamlets. However, on the basis of their current status and what was known about their historic importance, the NNPA identified seventeen historic villages for study:

| | | |
|----------------|------------|-----------------|
| Akeld | NT 957 296 | Glendale |
| Alnham | NT 996 108 | Alndale |
| Alwinton | NT 923 065 | Coquetdale |
| Byrness | NT 764 026 | Redesdale |
| Elsdon | NY 937 934 | Redesdale |
| Falstone | NY 724 875 | North Tynedale |
| Great Tosson | NU 027 006 | Coquetdale |
| Greenhaugh | NY 795 873 | North Tynedale |
| Harbottle | NT 935 046 | Coquetdale |
| Hethpool | NT 896 284 | College Burn |
| High Rochester | NY 832 982 | Redesdale |
| Holystone | NT 955 026 | Coquetdale |
| Ingram | NU 019 164 | Breamish Valley |
| Kilham | NT 884 325 | Glendale |
| Kirknewton | NT 915 303 | Glendale |
| Tarset | NY 788 855 | North Tynedale |
| Westnewton | NT 903 303 | Glendale |

Villages do not exist as self-contained units, but rather as focal points within the wider landscape. It is important, therefore, in attempting an understanding of the development of villages themselves, that the study villages are investigated in the context of their wider landscapes, which may be definable by bounded areas, such as parishes and townships, or by topographic features such as river valleys.

Modern villages exist within clearly demarcated territories known as civil parishes, which are generally based on the boundaries of earlier territorial units labelled townships – units of settlement with pre-Norman origins which were regarded as discrete communities within each ecclesiastical parish. The ecclesiastical parish represented a unit of land paying tithes to a parish church, and in upland Northumberland these parishes were often vast, incorporating entire dales and numerous townships. A township has its own settlement nucleus and field system and is thus an area of common agricultural unity and is often equivalent to the medieval *vill* – though the latter frequently refers to a taxation unit or administrative entity, whereas a territorial township refers to the physical fabric of the community (fields, buildings, woods & rivers). Township boundaries sometimes follow pre-Norman estate divisions and in some cases may even be earlier - it seems likely that a system of land organisation based around agricultural territories was in operation in Roman or pre-Roman times. Therefore, in some instances very ancient boundary lines may have been preserved by later land divisions. The various forms of parish and township and their development over time are discussed more extensively in the historical synthesis in Section 3.

In order to carry out a study focussing on the village core whilst attempting also to understand it within the local and regional context, a variety of approaches has been taken using

information derived from a wide range of sources, including existing archaeological and historic buildings records, historic maps and documents, historic and aerial photographs and published information. In the present section (Section 1) the location of the village is discussed and an indication is given of the area covered by the present study. Section 2 provides a background to the sources of information used to compile the report, listing the archives consulted and some of the most significant maps, documents and photographs used to compile a list of cultural heritage sites. Section 3 provides a listing of all the historic and archaeological monuments identified within the study area and synthesizes the collected data to provide a summary of the known history of the settlement. Section 4 contains suggestions for future work and sets out the report's conclusions regarding the village's historical development which in turn inform the judgements regarding the levels of archaeological sensitivity applied to different parts of the settlement and displayed graphically on the 'sensitivity maps'. The appendices contain catalogues of the various categories of collected data. A glossary of historical terms used and a full bibliography are also provided.

One final point cannot be over-emphasized. Too often the completion of a substantial work of this kind tends to create the impression that everything is now known regarding a particular subject and thereby discourages further investigation. In compiling this report, the consultants have on the contrary been all too conscious of barely scratching the surface and aware that many additional avenues of research could have been pursued. The Historic Village Atlas should be a starting point not a conclusion to the exploration of this broad and fascinating field.

2. LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Location and topography

The village of Akeld lies in north Northumberland on the northern limit of the Northumberland National Park. Its location within the region and within the National Park is shown on figures 1 and 2 respectively. Akeld falls within the district commonly known as Glendale, and is situated only 15 km from the border with Scotland at Coldstream, and a short distance to the west of the market town of Wooler. The village lies at the foot of the Cheviot massif, at the point where narrow valley of the Glen opens out on to the broad expanse of the Milfield Basin, and is dominated by the slopes of Akeld Hill and Harehope Hill on either side of the Akeld Burn. Today Akeld comprises one main settlement centred on Akeld Manor, with a smaller outlying group near the former station at Low Akeld a short distance to the north. Both settlements lie on the Akeld Burn beside the A697 road leading from Morpeth to Scotland. To the south and west, the village is overlooked by the northern extent of the Cheviot Hills, while to the north the upland area gives way to the fertile Border lowlands, including the Milfield Plain.

2.2 Area of Study

The area of study adopted is represented by the 19th century township of Akeld, one of fifteen townships incorporated in the huge, 38,000 acre ecclesiastical parish of Kirknewton. The village's location within the framework of the ecclesiastical parish and the township is shown on figure 3. The parish embraced the bulk of the north Cheviot massif and a substantial proportion of what is now the Northumberland National Park. Akeld Township itself contained 2267 acres and embraces the valley of the Akeld Burn and the corresponding section of the flood plain of the Glen as far north as the river itself (NCH XI (1922), 229-40). The modern civil parish of Akeld covers a wider area, including the former township of Humbleton (in Chatton ecclesiastical parish). A full discussion of the development of parochial and township structures is provided in the next section.



Fig. 1: Location of Akeld in Northumberland

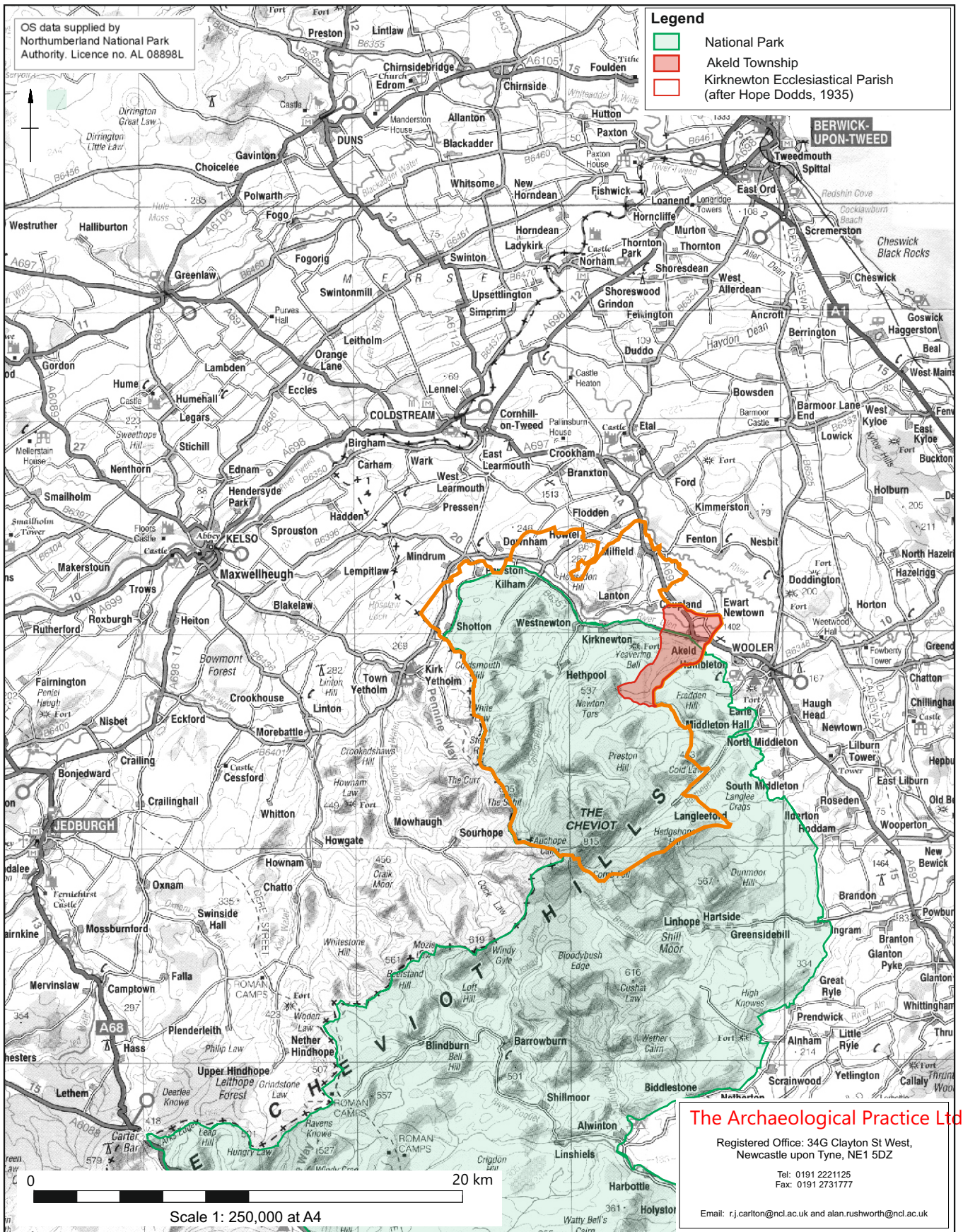


Fig. 2: Location of Akeld township, Northumberland National Park

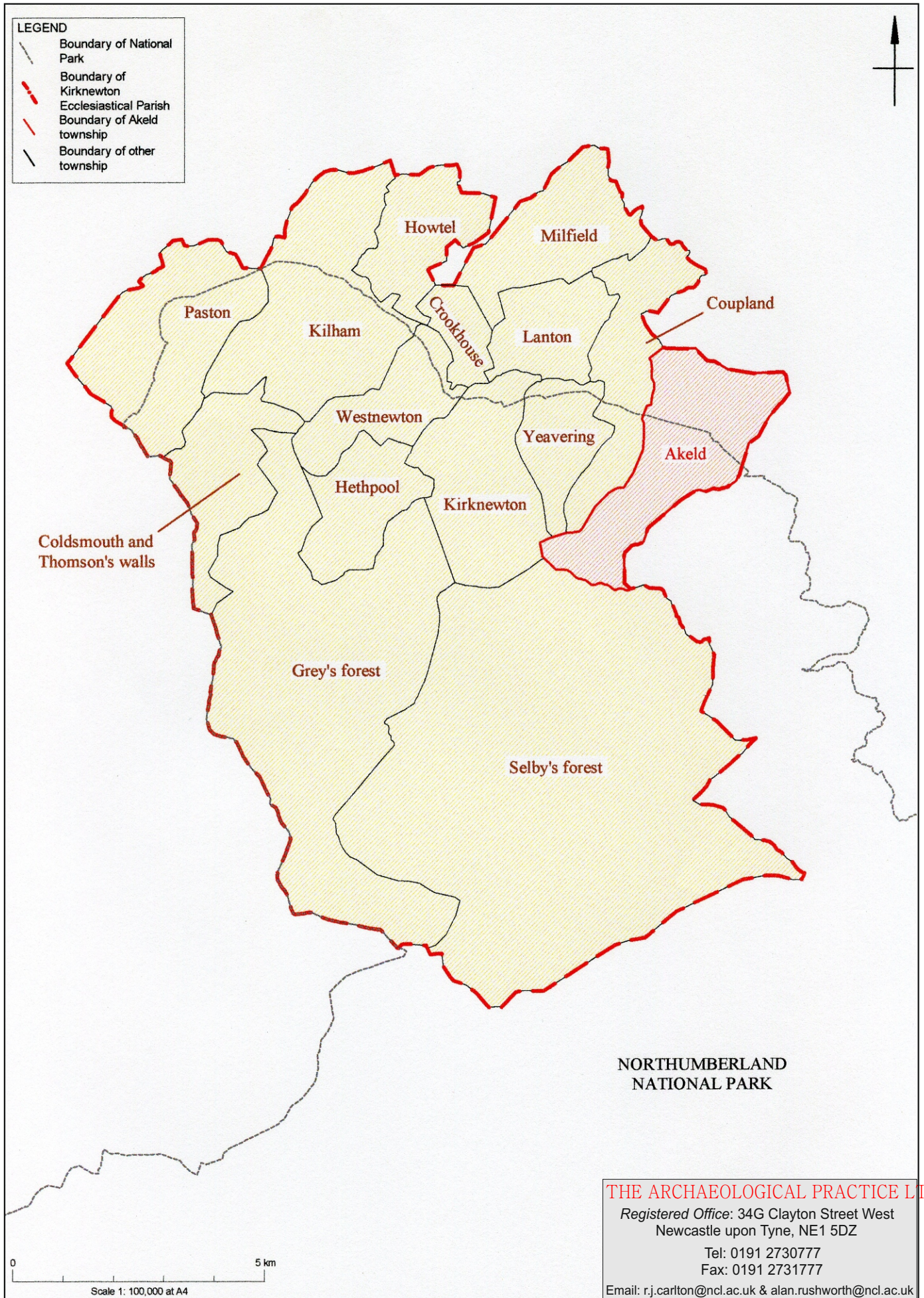


Fig. 3: Map showing Akeld Township within Kirknewton ecclesiastical parish

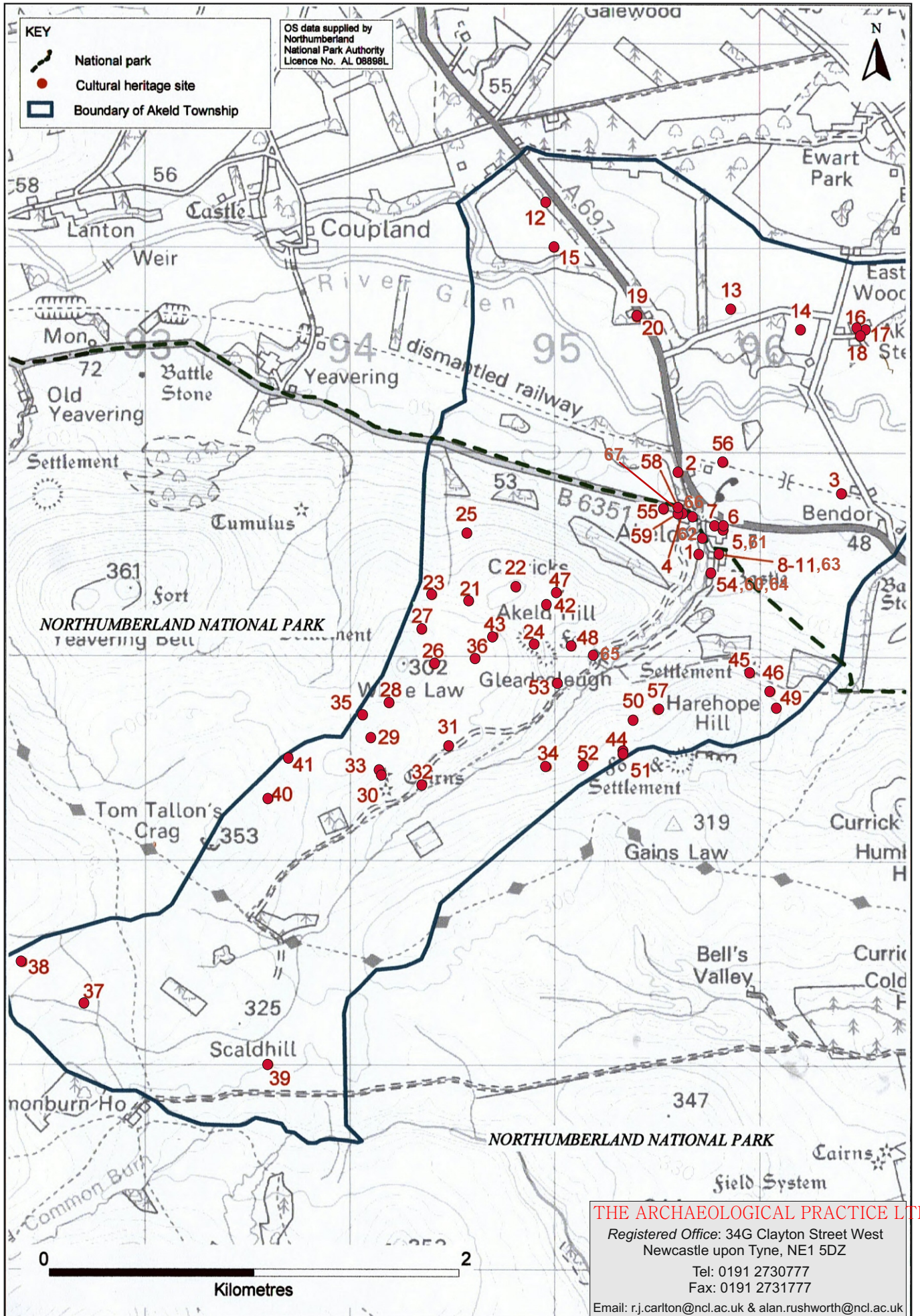


Fig. 4: Cultural Heritage Sites in Akeld and the surrounding area (keyed to Table 1 and Appendix 4)

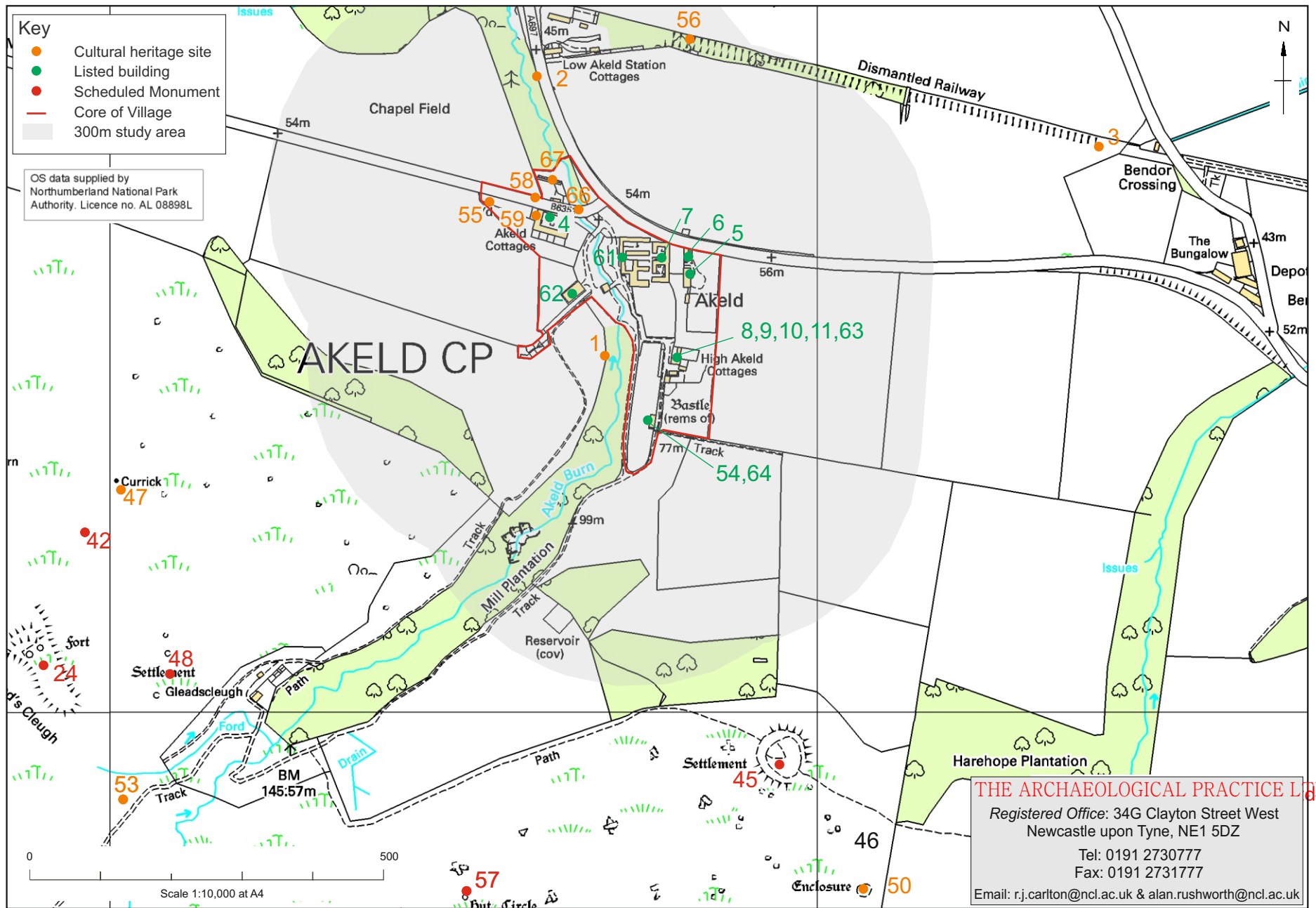
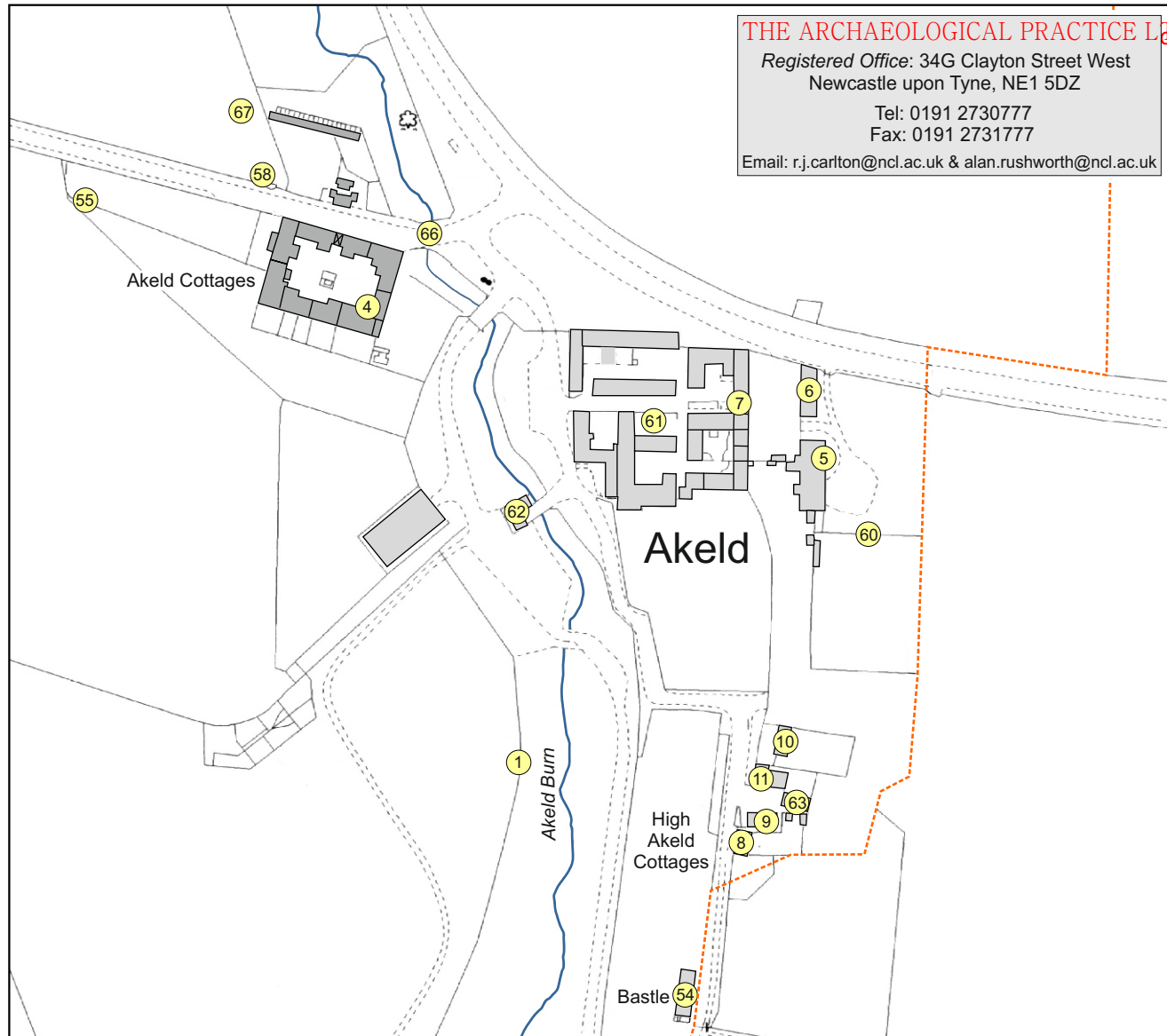


Fig. 5: Cultural Heritage sites in the vicinity of Akeld village, showing sites of known cultural heritage value (keyed to Table 1 and Appendix 4). [The 300m study area defines the main focus of the present study].



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Fig. 6: Cultural Heritage Sites in Village Core (Catalogue numbers keyed to Table 1 & Appendix 4)

3. TERRITORIAL UNITS AND SETTLEMENT TYPES

3.1 Parishes and Townships, Baronies and Manors

To understand the history of a particular village settlement like Akeld it is necessary to distinguish and define the various different territorial units within which a village such as Akeld was incorporated, and which provided the framework for the development of that community. Each of these units related to different aspects of the settlement's communal relations – religious, economic and administrative, and seigneurial – and their function changed over time. The development of the institution of the civil township, in particular, was far from straightforward.

The Parish was the basic unit of ecclesiastical administration and essentially represented ‘a community whose spiritual needs were served by a parish priest, who was supported by tithes and other dues paid by his parishioners’ (Winchester 1987, 23). It was the payment of tithes - established as a legal principle since the reign of King Edgar 959-75 (Platt 1981, 47) - which gave the parish a territorial dimension so that the boundaries of the parish came to embrace all that community's landed resources. Only the most remote areas of upland waste or ‘forest’, such as Kidland and Cheviot Forest, remained ‘extra-parochial’. Ecclesiastical parishes in the Northumbrian uplands typically covered extensive areas, sometimes very extensive areas, Simonburn in North Tynedale, Elsdon in Redesdale and Kirknewton in Glendale being amongst the largest parishes in the country. Others, such as Alnham or Ingram were not in the same class as Simonburn or Kirknewton, but, in common with almost all the upland parishes, embraced several civil township communities or *vills*. In all, six of the seventeen villages studied in this survey were parochial centres in the medieval period, namely Elsdon, Holystone, Alwinton, Alnham, Ingram and Kirknewton. Others, namely Falstone, Harbottle, Akeld, Kilham, Hethpool and perhaps Byrness, were the site of dependent chapels of ease. The presence of early medieval carved stonework at Falstone suggests it had long been an ecclesiastical centre and may have had greater significance in the 8th and 9th centuries (as a small monastic site?) than it possessed later on. However several of the villages studied as part of the Historic Village Atlas Project contain no places of worship whatsoever, and it is clear that the traditional, almost unconscious, English equation of village and parish church does not apply in Northumberland, and certainly not in the Northumbrian uplands.

It is thus clear that these large medieval parishes embraced many distinct communities and the church was often too distant to conveniently serve all the spiritual needs of the parishioners in the outlying townships. However there are relatively few instances of new parishes being carved out of a well-established parish and practically none after 1150. The payment of tithes created a strong disincentive to do so since creating a new parochial territory would inevitably reduce the income of the priest in the existing parish. This relatively early fossilisation of parish territories was given added impetus once ownership of parish churches was largely transferred from the hereditary priests or local lay lords whose predecessors had founded the churches over to the monasteries in the 12th and 13th century, since these ecclesiastical corporations strenuously defended their legal and economic rights (Lomas 1996, 111, 116-7; Dixon 1985 I, 64). Instead the needs of the more distant township communities were catered for by the construction of dependent chapels of ease, which were established either by the monastic institutional patrons or on the individual initiative of local lay lords. Even so many townships had neither a church nor chapel of their own (Lomas 1996, 111-4).

In the medieval era the parish was a purely ecclesiastical institution and was to remain so until the beginning of the 17th century when the Elizabethan Poor Law Act of 1601 made this

territorial unit responsible for the maintenance of the poor through the appointment of overseers for the poor and the setting of a poor rate (*Statutes* 43 Eliz. I c.2; cf. Winchester 1978, 56; Charlton 1987, 98). This is in many respects typical of the history of English local government whereby ‘new administrative units have generally been created by giving new functions to existing territorial divisions’ (Winchester 1987, 27). Thereafter parochial administration of poor law was particularly prevalent in southern and midland England, where parishes were generally smaller and often coterminous with the civil townships. However in northern England even these additional functions tended to devolve down to the constituent townships, which were a more convenient and manageable size than the extensive parishes. The modern civil parishes were established by the Local Government Act of 1889 and were substantially based on the earlier townships rather than the ecclesiastical parishes (*Statutes* 52/53 Vict. c.63).

The Township or Vill (in medieval Latin) was the basic territorial unit in Northumberland, instead of the ecclesiastical parish. The term *vill* can be defined in two ways, on the one hand as a territorial community, which may be labelled the *territorial vill*, and on the other as the basic unit of civil administration in medieval England, the *administrative vill*. The two units were related and they could indeed be cover identical territorial divisions, but this was not always the case and they must therefore be carefully distinguished.

The territorial vill is synonymous with the English words *town* or *township*, deriving from the Old English *tun*, the commonest element in English place names, i.e. a settlement with a distinct, delimited territory, the latter representing the expanse of land in which that particular community of peasants lived and practised agriculture. A township/territorial vill was not the same as the village itself, which was simply the nucleated settlement which commonly lay at the heart (though not necessarily the geographical centre) of the township, and where the bulk of the individuals who made up the community might reside. A classic township, centred on a nucleated village settlement, was composed of three main elements, the village itself, the cultivated arable land and meadows, and the moorland waste or common. However a township community might live scattered about in dispersed farms instead of or as well as being grouped together in a nucleated village or hamlet. Any combination of these elements was possible, but some permanent settlement was required for there had to be a community for a township to exist. Writing between 1235 and 1259, the lawyer Henry de Bracton defined the township thus (*De Legibus et Consuetudinibus Angliae*, iii, 394-5; cited by Winchester 1978, 69; Dixon 1985, I, 75-6):

“If a person should build a single edifice in the fields, there will not be a *vill*, but when in the process of time several edifices have begun to be built adjoining to or neighbouring to one another, there begins to be a *vill*.”

A township’s consciousness of itself as a distinct community would have been reinforced by the communal agricultural labour required to work the land. This is particularly obvious in the cases where the township was centred on a nucleated village, its members living and working alongside one another, but even in townships composed of scattered hamlets or farmsteads it was just as vital to regulate access to the use of communal resources such as the upland waste or commons. Such activities would have generated a sense of communal cohesion however fragmented the framework of manorial lordship and estate management in the township might have become over time (see below).

The boundaries of such township communities would have become fixed when the land appropriated by one community extended up to that belonging to neighbouring settlements (Winchester 1987, 29). In the lowlands intensive cultivation had been practised for millennia prior to the medieval period, when townships are first documented. Consequently it has been argued that many of these boundaries were of considerable antiquity, particularly where

obvious natural features such as rivers and streams and watersheds were followed, although such antiquity is difficult to prove conclusively. In the uplands, settlement is thought to have experienced successive cycles of expansion and contraction in response to a variety of stimuli, including environmental factors such as climatic change, but doubtless also political and economic issues. This may have resulted in periodic obscuring of the boundaries when communities were not fully exploiting the available resources and hence had less need to precisely define their limits. In all areas the definitive boundary network recorded by the first Ordnance Survey maps is obviously a composite pattern, in which precise delineation occurred in a piecemeal fashion over the centuries.

The administrative vill: The term vill also designated the basic unit of civil administration in medieval England, representing a village or grouping of hamlets or farmsteads, which were obliged to perform a range of communal administrative duties. The latter included the delivery of evidence at inquests, the upkeep of roads and bridges, the apprehension of criminals within its bounds and the assessment and collection of taxes (Vinogradoff 1908, 475; Winchester 1978, 61; 1987, 32; Dixon 1985, I, 78). The most comprehensive listing of these administrative vills is provided by the occasional tax returns known as Lay Subsidy Rolls. The assessment units recorded therein essentially correspond to the vills and, although clearly incomplete, sufficient survives of the 1296 and 1336 Northumberland rolls to provide a good impression of the number and distribution of the administrative units in many parts of the county (*cf.* Fraser (ed.) 1968, xv-xvi).² In many areas these administrative vills correspond very closely to the territorial vills and with the later poor law townships (see below). Dixon has shown this to be the largely case in north Northumberland (north of the Coquet), for example (1985 I, 78-9). This was by no means the case everywhere in the border counties, however. In the district of Copeland in west Cumbria, where a predominantly dispersed settlement pattern of scattered 'single farmsteads, small hamlets and looser groupings of farms' prevails, Winchester has demonstrated that the administrative vills had a composite structure, frequently embracing several 'members' or 'hamlets' which correspond to the basic territorial townships (1978, 61-5). In many instances administrative vills were significantly larger than the later poor law townships. These relatively large, composite administrative vills correspond to what were termed *villae integrae* ('entire vills') elsewhere in England. It is possible that a similar pattern of composite administrative vills might be have been introduced in areas of the Northumbrian uplands such as Redesdale and North Tynedale, where hamlets and farmsteads were more common than nucleated villages. However these areas were liberties or franchises, like the lands of the Bishops of Durham, i.e. the normal apparatus of royal government was absent and their administration was entrusted instead to the baronial or ecclesiastical lord. This may have resulted in administration and justice being exercised through the structures of manorial lordship rather than a separate tier of specifically administrative land units. Finally, Winchester also suggests that the term vill gradually acquired a more specific administrative connotation as the organisation of local government became more standardised after the Statute of Winchester in 1285, with the result that in his study area, from the end of the 13th century, the term was restricted to the administrative units and no longer applied to the basic territorial townships (1978, 66-7).

This idea of the vill as an area of land with defined boundaries, potentially enclosing a number of settlements, rather than a the territorial resource of a single community, is expressed in a passage by Sir John Fortescue, writing towards the end of the medieval period, and makes an interesting contrast with Bracton's description over two hundred years earlier (Fortescue, 54-55; *cf.* Winchester *ibid.* n.27):

² The 1296 roll omits Alnham, as well as Fawdon and Farnham (two of the 'ten towns of Coquetdale'), Castron, Wreighill, Prendwick and Unthank and probably Branton, Hedgeley, Glanton, Little Ryle and Shawdon (Fraser (ed.) 1968, xv-xvi), but this is most likely simply to reflect the loss of parts of the original roll rather than the absorption of these vills in a larger 'villa integra'.

On the other hand the regalian liberties of Redesdale, upper Tynedale and the Northumbrian holdings of the Prince Bishops of Durham were never included in the roll (*ibid.*, xiii).

Hundreds again are divided into vills the boundaries of vills are not marked by walls, buildings, or streets, but by the confines of fields, by large tracts of land, by certain hamlets and by many other things such as the limits of water courses, woods and wastes there is scarcely any place in England that is not contained within the ambits of vills

The Poor Law Township, to use Winchester's term (1978), is the form of township community most familiar today through in the works such as the Northumberland County History and Hodgson's *History of Northumberland*, where, along with the parish, it provides the framework for the historical narrative of individual localities. The boundaries of these territorial communities were mapped by the 1st edition Ordnance Survey in the mid-19th century and they have generally been presumed to have had a long and largely uninterrupted history stretching back in most cases to the townships of the medieval period. They are conveniently depicted on the maps which front of each volume of the Northumberland County History, from which figure 3 in each of the individual village reports is derived. A more detailed record of each township territory is provided by their respective tithe and enclosure maps and other historic maps catalogued and reproduced in the village reports.

The assumption that the medieval administrative vill was the direct ancestor of the post-medieval poor law township, and hence of the modern civil parish, was a reasonable one since functionally they are somewhat similar, representing the most basic level of civil administration. However the actual line of descent is much more complex.

The administration of poor relief was originally established at parochial rather than township level, with the requirement of the Elizabethan Poor Law Act of 1601 that overseers for the poor be appointed in every ecclesiastical parish in England (*Statutes* 43 Eliz. I c.2; cf. Winchester 1978, 56). Following pressure in parliament to permit the subdivision of the huge ecclesiastical parishes in the northern counties into smaller, more convenient units, the 1662 Poor Law Act allowed 'every Township or Village' in northern England to become a unit for poor-rate assessment and collection with their own overseers (*Statutes* 14 Charles II c.12, s.21; cf. Winchester 1987, 27). Winchester has argued, on the basis of the arrangements he documented in the Copeland district of west Cumbria, that it was the territorial townships rather than the administrative vills, which were most frequently adopted to serve as the new poor law townships. However in Northumberland north of the Coquet there was in any case relatively little difference between the medieval territorial and administrative units, as noted above, and about three quarters of the townships identifiable in the 13th century may be equated with the poor law townships recorded by the Ordnance Survey. The disappearance or radical alteration of the remaining 25 percent was the result of settlement abandonment or colonisation during the late medieval period and estate reorganisation in the post-medieval period (Dixon 1985, I, 79-84)³. The upland dales south of the Coquet were a very different matter. Redesdale and North Tynedale fell within the vast parishes of Elsdon and Simonburn respectively, the latter with a dependent chapelry at Bellingham which itself embraced all of upper North Tynedale. In Redesdale, six large 'wards' or townships are found, namely Elsdon, Otterburn, Woodside, Rochester, Troughen and Monkridge, plus the small extra-parochial township of Ramshope (Hodgson 1827, 82-3). The wards were almost certainly created in response to the 1662 act and presumably represent subdivision of the parish to facilitate the administration of poor relief. There is no indication that they existed at an earlier date. They are not recorded in the 1604 border survey, which instead lists a great number of 'places' or 'parts of the manor' within the constituent parishes of the Manor of Harbottle. These places were in most cases more than hamlets, groups of farms or individual farmsteads, the kind of small early territorial township found in upland areas. The twelve townships of upper North Tynedale, described in the County History (NCH XV (1940), 234-

³ Dixon (1985, I) provides a comprehensive summary of these changes for north Northumberland, including lists of abandoned early townships, new townships and identifiable boundary shifts or rationalisations.

80), were established in 1729 by Thomas Sharp, Archdeacon of Northumberland, specifically to administer poor relief, each township being responsible for the maintenance of its own poor and setting a separate poor rate (Charlton 1987, 98-9).⁴ Some of these townships may have been based on earlier territorial units, but others have rather artificial names – West Tarsset or Plashetts and Tynehead- indicative of institutions established by bureaucratic fiat.

It is from these ‘poor law townships’, however ancient or recent their origins, rather than the medieval administrative vill, that the modern civil parish is directly derived in northern England. The Local Government Act of 1889, which established the civil parish, specifically stated it was to be ‘a place for which a separate poor rate is or can be made’ (Statutes 52/53 Vict. c.63 sec. 5). Today’s civil parishes, however, are generally somewhat larger than the preceding townships, in part as a result of more recent amalgamations.

The Manor was a territorial unit of lordship and the basic unit of seigneurial estate administration. Jurisdiction was exercised by the manorial lord over the estate, its assets, economic activities and customary and legal rights, through his manor court sometimes termed the *court baron*.

Manorial lordship thus represented only one link in the chain of feudal and tenurial relationships, which extended from the lowly peasant through to the baronial superior lord and ultimately right up to the king himself. In its simplest form a township would be encapsulated within a single manor and would therefore have the same territorial limits. However such ‘classic’ manors were much rarer than primary school history lessons might have us believe. Then as now, the processes of succession and inheritance and the inevitable variability in human fortunes resulted in the amalgamation or, more often, fragmentation of estates. Most townships therefore were divided between a number of manorial landholders.

Thus a parish, township and manor could all be coterminous, with a small parish serving the spiritual needs of a single township community whose landed resources formed a single manorial estate and whose members were bound by a variety of personal and tenurial relationships to a single lord. However this simple arrangement was highly unusual in Northumberland, and particularly so in the upland areas of the county, where, as we have seen, the parishes were often very large (e.g. Simonburn, Elsdon, Alwinton-Holystone, and Kirknewton). Thus there were only 63 parishes in the county in 1295, whilst the total number of townships at the same time, although not precisely quantifiable, was probably not far short of 450 (Lomas 1996, 71, 108-10). The number of manors would have been greater still.

3.2 Villages, Hamlets and Farmsteads

The territorial labels discussed above can all be defined with relative ease, despite the complexity caused by their changing role over time (which is especially marked in the case of the township), since they describe specific entities which figure in legislation and other formal records from the medieval period onwards. However it is a very different matter when it comes to precisely defining the terms used to describe different types of settlement, such as ‘village’ or ‘hamlet’. As the foremost scholars of landscape and settlement studies have admitted (e.g. Roberts 1996, 14) it is extraordinarily difficult to define these terms with precision in such a way as to impose any absolute consistency of usage upon them.

For the purposes of this study the following definitions of settlement were used, all drawn from Brian Roberts’ extensive work, in particular the succinct discussion provided in *Landscapes of Settlement* (1996, 15-19):

⁴ Prior to 1729, the Chapelry of Bellingham had been subdivided into four wards for more convenient collection of the poor rate, but these wards had not set a separate rate.

VILLAGE: A clustered assembly of dwellings and farmsteads, larger than a hamlet, but smaller than a town
and

A rural settlement with sufficient dwellings to possess a recognisable form (Roberts 1976, 256).

HAMLET: A small cluster of farmsteads

FARMSTEAD: 'An assemblage of agricultural buildings from which the land is worked'

TOWN: A relatively large concentration of people possessing rights and skills which separate them from direct food production.

The most substantial body of work on village morphology is that undertaken by Brian Roberts (e.g. 1972; 1976; 1977; 1990). Roberts has identified a complex series of village types based on two main forms, termed 'rows' and 'agglomerations', multiplied by a series of variable factors:

- Regular or irregular
- The presence or absence of greens
- Complexity – e.g. multiple row villages
- Building density – infilling of toft areas
- Fragmentation – 'exploded' versions of row villages and village agglomerations

This provides a useful schema for classifying villages, but it is difficult to determine what these different morphological characteristics actually signify. Dixon (1985, I) is sceptical of regularity or irregularity as a significant factor, noting that irregularity does not necessarily mean that a village was not laid out in a particular order at a particular time; that the regularity of a layout is a subjective judgement; and that an irregular row may simply be a consequence of local terrain or topography. He also points out that however irregular it might appear, by its very existence the row constitutes an element of regularity. He is especially dismissive of the presence or absence of a green as a significant factor in village morphology, arguing that a green is simply an intrusion of the common waste into the settlement; if such a space is broad it is called a green, if narrow it is a street or gate.

In the case of the Historic Village Atlas Project a still more substantial problem is posed by the lack of detailed mapping earlier than c. 1800 for many of the 17 villages considered. In other words, there is no reliable cartographic evidence which predates the late 18th-19th century transformation of populous village communities of the medieval and early modern era into 'farm hamlets', i.e. settlements focussed on one or two large integrated farm complexes. In Northumberland, particularly in the northern half of the county, the 1st edition Ordnance Survey – so often the first resort in analysing settlement morphology – and even the relevant tithe map do not provide a reliable guide to the early modern or medieval form of any given village. Moreover the documentary evidence assembled by Wrathmell and Dixon suggests there was often a marked reduction in the size of the village population in the later 17th and early 18th centuries, accompanying a gradual reduction in the number of tenancies. Thus, even where 18th –century mapping does survive for a particular village, it may actually under-represent the extent of the earlier, medieval and 16th-17th century phases of that settlement.

If Brian Roberts, using the methods of historical geography, has perhaps done more to shape current thinking on the overall pattern of medieval village settlement than any other scholar, at the micro level of the individual village and its components the seminal investigation in Northumberland has been Michael Jarrett's archaeological excavation of West Whelpington village. Conducted over a period of fifteen years from 1966 onwards this revealed a

substantial proportion of a medieval village (Jarrett et al. 1987; 1988). Lomas (1996, 71-86) has recently emphasised the fundamental degree to which our understanding of life in a medieval Northumbrian village rests on the programme of research at West Whelpington.

Two major studies (both regrettably unpublished), which to some degree were able to draw on the work of Roberts and Jarrett, comprise Stuart Wrathmell's PhD thesis on medieval village settlement in south Northumberland (Wrathmell 1975) and Piers Dixon's equivalent doctoral research on the medieval villages of north Northumberland (Dixon 1985). Dixon's work, in particular is of fundamental importance for the Historic Village Atlas, as the citations in the text of the individual reports and the synthesis makes clear, since it covered many of the settlements in the northern half of the Northumberland National Park included in the Project. The villages in the central band of the county between the River Coquet and the North Tyne catchment remain as yet uncovered by any equivalent study, however.

This lacuna particularly unfortunate because a similar level of coverage of the south side of the Coquet and Redesdale would have served to emphasise how similar the settlement pattern in these areas was to that prevailing in upper North Tynedale and how different from that encountered in north Northumberland, even in the Cheviot uplands and Glendale. Lomas (1996, 86), has characterised the long Pennine dales in the eastern half of the county as areas of 'commons with settlements' rather than 'settlements with commons'. These areas – North Tynedale, Redesdale, and the south side of Coquetdale, along with South Tynedale, and East and West Allendale largely outside the National Park – were distinguished by a prevailing settlement pattern of dispersed farmsteads and hamlets. In marked contrast, a more nucleated pattern predominated in the upland Cheviot valleys of north Northumberland, although the density of such settlements was inevitably reduced by comparison with the lowland districts in the northern part of the county. The excellent fertility of the Cheviot soils permitted intensive agricultural cultivation during optimal climatic phases, but only at locations within the massif where there was sufficient level ground – such as Hethpool – and even there substantial terracing of the adjacent hillsides was required to create enough ploughland to make the settlement viable.

To some extent the gap left by Wrathmell and Dixon in Redesdale and southern Coquetdale has been filled by the programme of investigation conducted by Beryl Charlton, John Day and others on behalf of the Ministry of Defence, which resulted in a series of synthetic discussions of various aspects of settlement in the two valleys (Charlton & Day 1978; 1979; 1982; Day & Charlton 1981; all summarised in Charlton & Day 1976 and Charlton 1996 and 2004). These may be compared with the summary of the development of medieval and early modern settlement in upper North Tynedale provided by Harbottle and Newman (1973). However the former was restricted in scope by its emphasis for the most part on the Otterburn Training Area (although the authors did extend their scope beyond the confines of the military range where this obviously provided a more coherent analysis⁵), whilst the principal focus of Harbottle and Newman's work was the rescue excavation of a series of early modern and later farmsteads threatened by the construction of Kielder Water, to which the settlement overview provided an invaluable but all too brief introduction. Hence all three valleys still merit comprehensive syntheses of their medieval/early modern settlement patterns, combining analysis of the historic maps and documents – including what is known regarding the pattern of seigneurial and ecclesiastical landholding – with the evidence of the surviving physical remains and site layouts.

⁵ In particular the initial overview provided by Charlton & Day 1976, plus Charlton & Day 1978, covering the late prehistoric and Romano-British settlements, and Charlton & Day 1982, dealing with the corn mills and drying kilns, extend their treatment well beyond the Otterburn Training Area.

PART 2

SOURCES OF EVIDENCE

4. LOCATION OF EVIDENCE

Accessible regional and national archives, libraries and record offices consulted for documentary, cartographic and pictorial material relevant to the present study include the following:

- Northumberland Record Office, Melton Park, Gosforth (NRO-MP)
- Northumberland Record Office, The Kylins, Morpeth (NRO-TK)
- Northumberland County Council Sites & Monuments Record, County Hall, Morpeth (NCC-SMR)
- Morpeth County Library, Local Studies Section (ML)
- Museum of Antiquities Records Room, University of Newcastle upon Tyne (MA)
- Newcastle Central Library, Local Studies Section (NCL)
- The Robinson Library, Newcastle University (NUL)
- Palace Green Library, University of Durham (DUL)
- The Public Record Office, Kew (PRO)
- National Monuments Record (NMR)

4.1 Compiling the project database

Assembly of the research material required to produce the Atlas has been achieved by the following methods:

4.1.1 Air Photographic coverage

All locally accessible air photographic coverage of the listed villages was inspected and catalogued, including photographs held by Northumberland National Park, the Northumberland County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), Newcastle Central Library and the Museum of Antiquities at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. In addition, a considerable body of new oblique aerial photography, specifically commissioned for the project and covering all the designated villages was analysed in order to provide pointers for further research both within and outside the scope of the present study.

4.1.2 Documentary survey

A wide range of medieval and early modern documentation, including inquisitions post mortem, ecclesiastical chartularies, royal charters and judicial proceedings, Border Surveys and other official correspondence, has been used to illuminate the history and development of the village and its setting. In addition several categories of more recent archival material - maps, sketches, photographs - and local historical descriptions, have proved informative.

Documentary sources provide most of our information on certain aspects of the village's past, notably its medieval origins and development, and its tenurial and ecclesiastical framework. A targeted approach to the analysis of data from such sources was adopted in order to maximise the amount of information gained in the available timescale. Accordingly, data gathering focussed on cartographic, pictorial and photographic evidence, whilst the County History volumes and other historical syntheses covering sub-regional geographic units or settlements were used to identify particularly important documentary source material worthy of further scrutiny.

Historic Maps

All available historic maps and plans were examined and, where possible, copied. These include the successive county maps - Saxton 1576, Speed 1611, Armstrong 1769, Smith 1808, Fryer 1820, Greenwood 1828 etc, (figures. 9, 10, 13, 15) - but more importantly the tithe (c. 1840, fig. 17) and enclosure maps and Ordnance Survey editions (figs. 18-20), as well as other detailed mapping, privately commissioned during the 17th-19th centuries (e.g. fig. 16). The earliest detailed mapping covering Akeld is represented by a curious series of maps contained in the Survey and Rental of the Baronies of Wark and Wooler (figs. 21-23) compiled for Sir Thomas Grey at some stage between 1568 and his death in 1589. These depict four large parcels of land in outline. Some of these are difficult to interpret unambiguously, particularly as there is no other detailed map for Akeld before a Bell Survey of 1822 (NRO ZAN Bell 55.1; *cf.* fig. 16), but the area of common is clear enough for example.

The tithe and enclosure maps for the relevant townships, provide evidence for the layout of field patterns to assist in interpreting the extant earthwork systems. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey (Fig. 18) in many instances constitutes the earliest reliable and comprehensive evidence for the settlement pattern in each village. The relationship of this baseline record to surviving earthworks is key to understanding the dynamic processes involved in the development of the settlement.

Pictorial representations

Pictorial representations - prints, sketches and paintings - and early photographs, were examined and, where possible, copied. The principal source of such representations was the NRO Photographic archive. Such photographs show the appearance of buildings shown in plan on historic maps, as well as features not included on such plans. In some cases they also provide useful information on the function of such buildings. The participation of local individuals who have made available their collections of earlier photographs, postcards or paintings, has been particularly useful and may provide a source of additional material in the future.

Published Syntheses and published collections of sources

Existing published research covering the historic village has been summarised for inclusion in the historical synthesis, including information from the Volume XI of the Northumberland County History (NCH XI (1922)) and from P.J. Dixon's unpublished PhD thesis on medieval settlement in north Northumberland (Dixon 1985). The County History volume, in particular, summarises the important evidence provided by the unpublished Cartulary of Kirkham Priory, regarding monastic landholding and the origins of Akeld chapel.

Other published sources include: Inquisitions Post Mortem (IPMs), the Lay Subsidy Roll for 1296 (Fraser 1968) and Bowes and Ellerker's Border survey of 1541 (reproduced in Bates 1891).

4.1.3 Archaeological Survey

The Northumberland County Sites and Monuments Record was consulted in order to prepare a summary gazetteer of all archaeological sites recorded in each township, including industrial archaeological monuments, find spots and communications routes. Sites newly identified during the course of the study have also been added to the gazetteer.

Listed Building Records were consulted through the NMR along with Grundy's survey of the historic buildings in the National Park (1988) in order to compile a gazetteer of historic buildings in the township. Photographs of the exterior of each building have been incorporated in the archive gazetteer. A small number of structures, which by virtue of their importance and complexity of fabric are considered by the project team to merit stone-by-stone recording, have also been identified.

4.1.4 Survey of Village environs

The wider setting of the villages have been assessed, using the territorial framework of the historic township where relevant, through a combination of aerial photographs, historic maps, documents, previous historical syntheses and site visits. Where possible the various components - infield arable and meadow, outfield pasture, woodland – have been identified and different phases of activity evidence of change over time have been noted in the historical synthesis. Information regarding the extent of outlying settlement has also been summarised in the synthesis, and particular attention has been paid to essential components as watermills which could often be located some distance from the main settlement.

More detailed recording of the surrounding field systems could form the basis of future community-led studies. These might involve recording the wavelength of ridge-and-furrow, examining field boundary walls to detect different structural phases present (sometimes evident in longstanding walls such as the head-dyke separating enclosed infields from the rough pasture (outfield) beyond, for example) or noting where a wall or sod-cast hedge has been replaced by more recent fencing and identifying ancient hedgelines by the variety of flora present. The data gathered could then be interpreted using the assembled resource of historic maps, aerial photographs and documented history provided by this report.

4.1.5 Site inspections

Site visits were undertaken to examine the village and wider township area, their principal monuments, built environment and field systems. Rather than being a comprehensive field survey, this was carried out to enable the project team to characterise the built fabric, archaeological landscape features and wider landscape setting of the village and to examine features which other data collection methods (air photography/documentary survey etc.) identified as being of particular importance. Photographs were taken of all the historic buildings and other sites or features of especial significance.

4.1.6 Public information and involvement

The NNPA Archaeologist organised presentations or guided walks at six of the largest villages under study. At least one member of the project team participated in these presentations/walks. It was anticipated that this would help to identify knowledgeable local informants who could be interviewed further during the site visits. This proved to be the case. A more informal process of gathering such local information was undertaken during the site visits at the smaller communities under study. This process in turn assisted in selection of suitable individuals for an associated oral history project, focussed on the communities of upper North Tynedale, Redesdale and upper Coquetdale, which was established as an important adjunct to the material Atlas research.⁶

It was also anticipated that these methods would also identify questions concerning the historical past of the villages which were of particular interest to members of the local community and which the project might address in its report, or alternatively might form the basis for follow-on community based projects. It was clear from the meetings and presentations that there was a significant degree of interest amongst several communities in the past of their settlements. It is hoped that this engagement with the past can be supported through future community-led projects, aimed at facilitating more detailed, long term studies of these villages and their landscape settings. The meetings and presentations were particularly successful in prompting local participation in data collection, inspiring the villagers to assemble and bring in for copying numerous privately-held photographs, historic maps, photographs, deeds and other documents. These have all been scanned and incorporated in the project archive and many have been included in the individual Historic Atlas Village Reports. Northumberland Record Office has also made digital copies of the

⁶ See *A Report on the Oral History Recording made for the Historic Village Atlas Project 2004*. The Archaeological Practice Ltd & Northumberland National Park Authority; 2004.

maps and documents to ensure the preservation of this valuable record. Although much new material has been come to light by this means, it is doubtful that the potential has been exhausted.

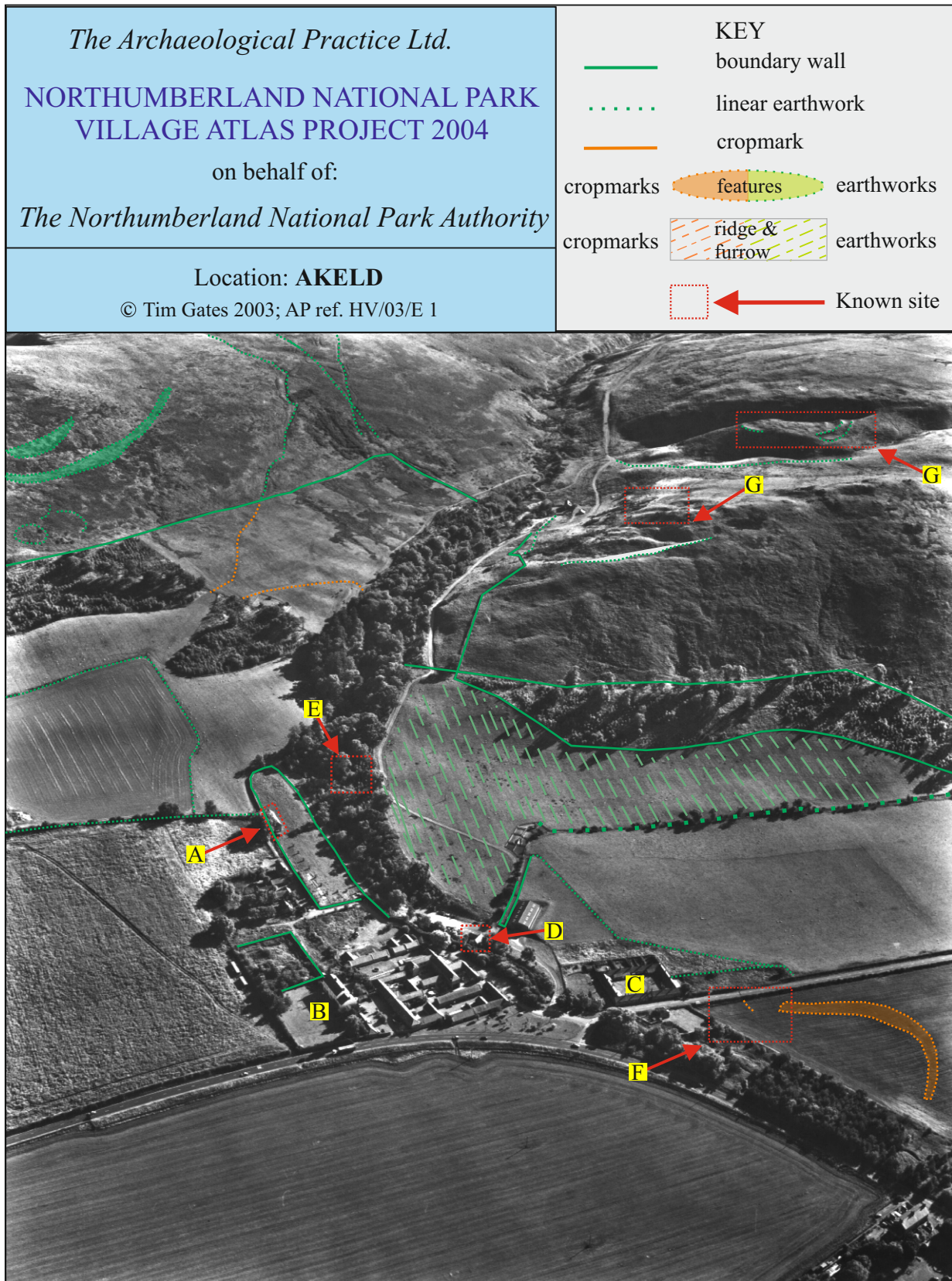


Fig. 7: Aerial photograph of Akeld marking features of known and potential interest.

Features of particular note in this photograph include medieval or later 'ridge & furrow' cultivation features and a 16th century bastle (A) north of the present Akeld Manor (B), with its adjacent 19th century farm complex and, further west, Akeld Cottages (C). In addition to the bastle and two likely watermill sites (D & E), the site of a medieval chapel (F) is shown along with some possible cropmarks which may be associated with it. Above the village to the south are some prehistoric enclosures (G).

The Archaeological Practice Ltd.

**NORTHUMBERLAND NATIONAL PARK
VILLAGE ATLAS PROJECT 2004**

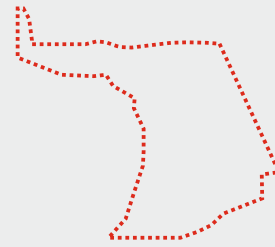
on behalf of:

The Northumberland National Park Authority

Location: **AKELD**

© Tim Gates 2003; AP ref. HV/03/E 6

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The red dotted line indicates approximately the extent of the area considered to display moderate or high archaeological potential (see Figure 47)



Fig. 8: Aerial photograph of Akeld village.

This close-up, oblique view of Akeld taken from the south shows the bastle and suspected medieval mill site in the foreground, with the Manor and farm adjacent to the Wooler-Coldstream road. Some of the linear earthworks highlighted in Figure 7 are also visible, including possible ridge & furrow earthworks south-west of the farm. The lay-out of the farm can be compared with an earlier aerial view from 1974 (see Figure 28) before its conversion from working farm to leisure complex.

NORTHUMBERLAND NATIONAL PARK VILLAGE ATLAS PROJECT 2004:
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Fig. 9: Akeld shown as 'Ecalde' on Mercator's map of 1595, NRO ZAN M16-B21 (p. 250)



Fig. 10: Akeld shown but not labelled on Speed's map of 1610, NRO ZAN M16-B21 (p. 242)

NORTHUMBERLAND NATIONAL PARK VILLAGE ATLAS PROJECT 2004:
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Fig. 11: Akeld shown but not named on Jansson's map of 1646, NRO ZAN M16-B21 (p.242)

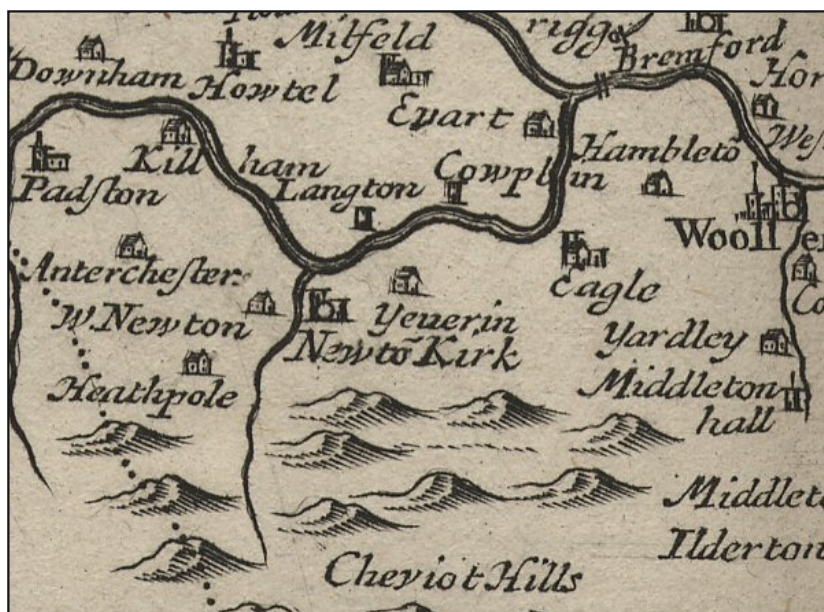


Fig. 12: Akeld shown as 'Eagle' on Morden's map of 1695, NRO ZAN M16-B21 (p. 252)

NORTHUMBERLAND NATIONAL PARK VILLAGE ATLAS PROJECT 2004:
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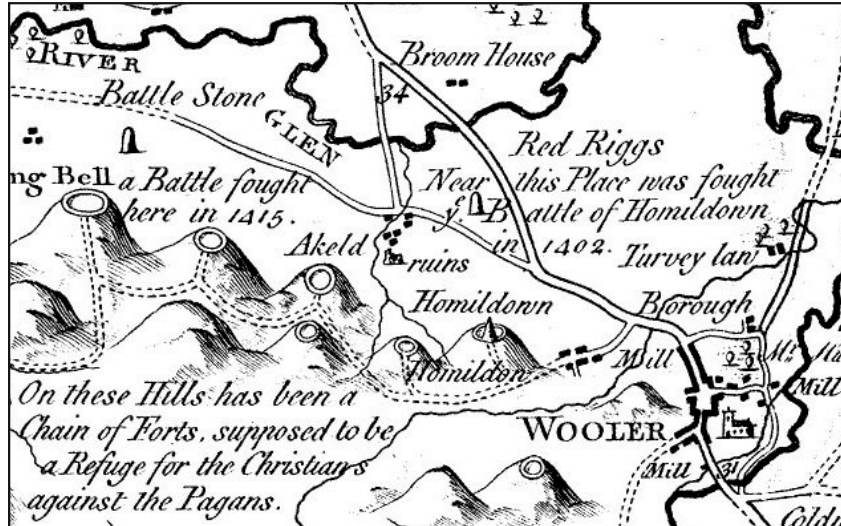


Fig. 13: Extract from Armstrong's Map of Northumberland, 1769



Fig. 14: Extract from Cary's Map of Northumberland, 1789,
NRO ZAN M16-B21 (p. 254)

NORTHUMBERLAND NATIONAL PARK VILLAGE ATLAS PROJECT 2004:
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Fig. 15: Extract from Fryer's Map of Northumberland, 1820

NORTHUMBERLAND NATIONAL PARK VILLAGE ATLAS PROJECT 2004:
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Fig. 16: Plan of Matthew Culley's Akeld Estate, 1822 (note corn mill south of south of the village), AK_M&D 018

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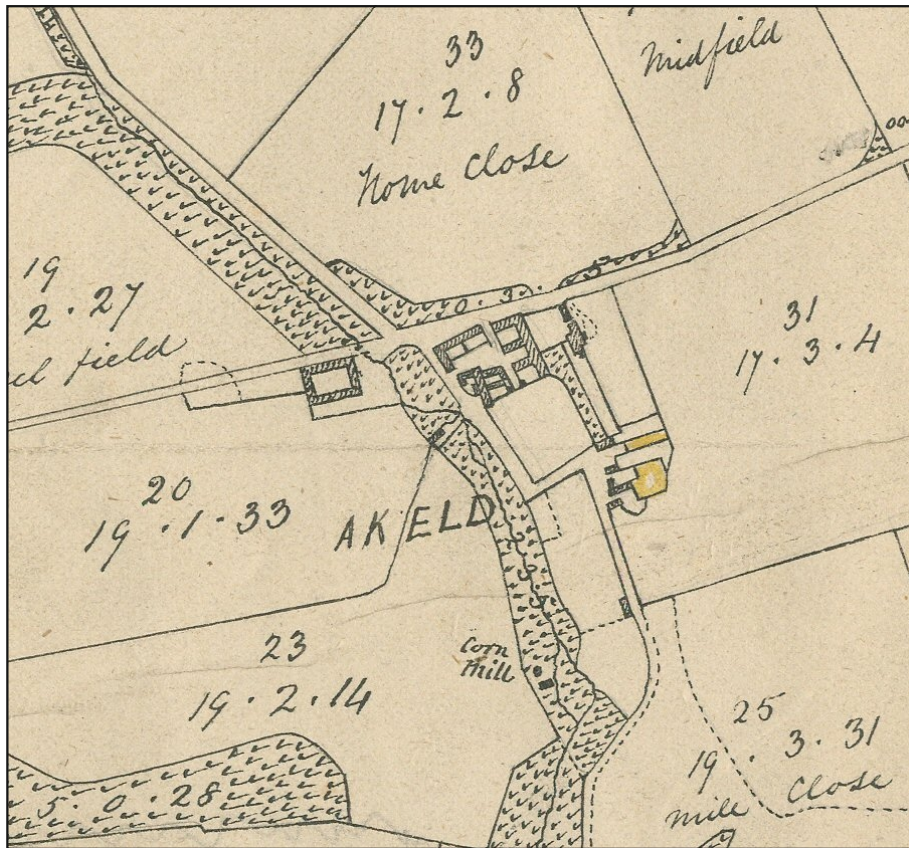


Fig. 17: Tithe plan showing the position of the corn mill (south of village), and the farm mill pond, 1840 AK_M&D 017

NORTHUMBERLAND NATIONAL PARK VILLAGE ATLAS PROJECT 2004:
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Fig. 18: First Edition Ordnance Survey Plan (Northumberland, Roll 5), 1860, AK_M&D 007

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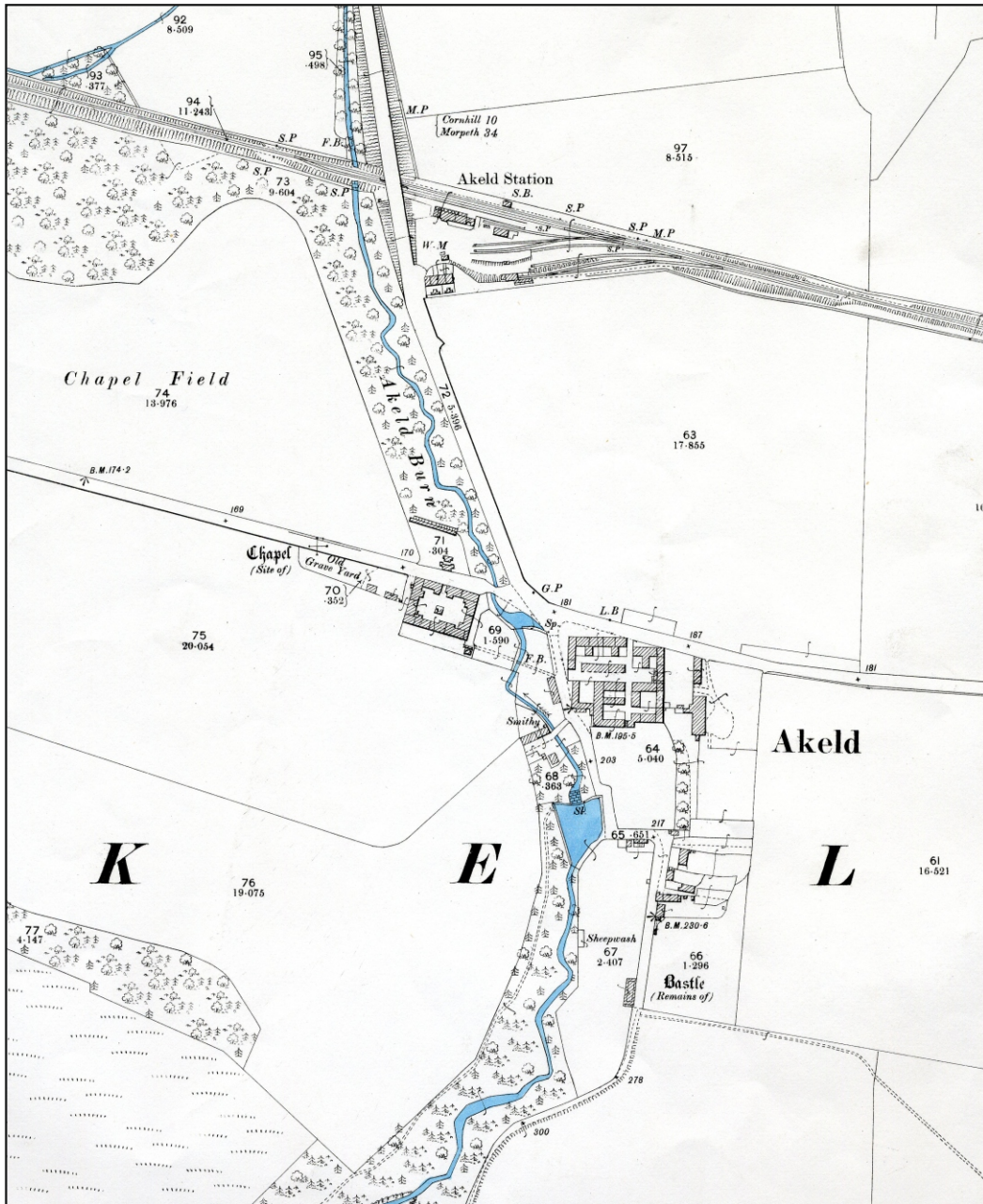


Fig. 19: Second Edition Ordnance Survey Plan (ref. 19.3), 1898, AK_M&D 008

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Fig. 20: Third Edition Ordnance Survey Plan, 1921, AK_M&D 010



Fig. 21: Sir Thomas Grey's Survey of the Baronies of Wark & Wooler, c.1568-89:
p.76 Landholding at Akeld, AK_M&D 002

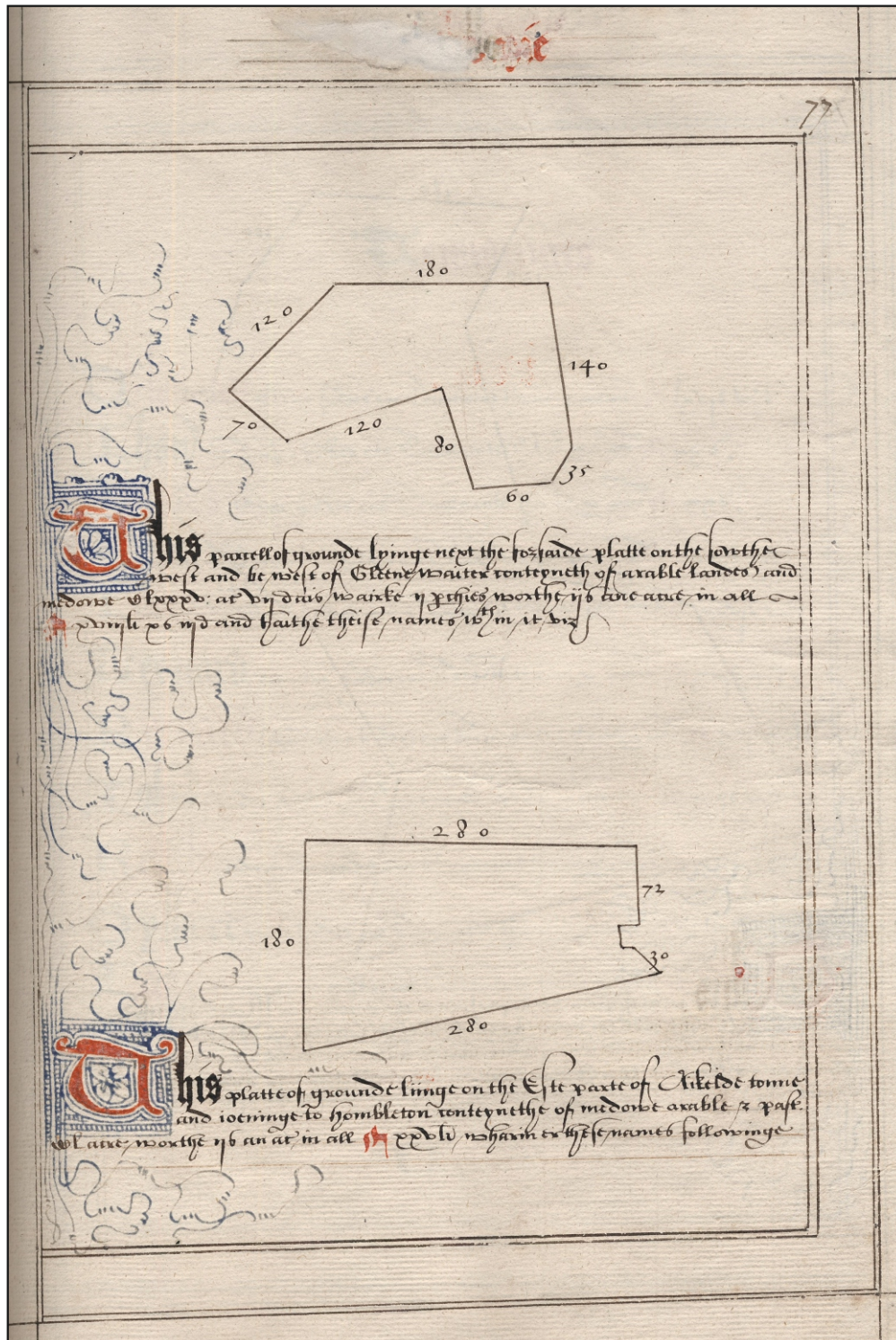


Fig. 22: Sir Thomas Grey's Survey of the Baronies of Wark & Wooler, c.1568-89:
p.77 Landholdings at Akeld, AK_M&D 003

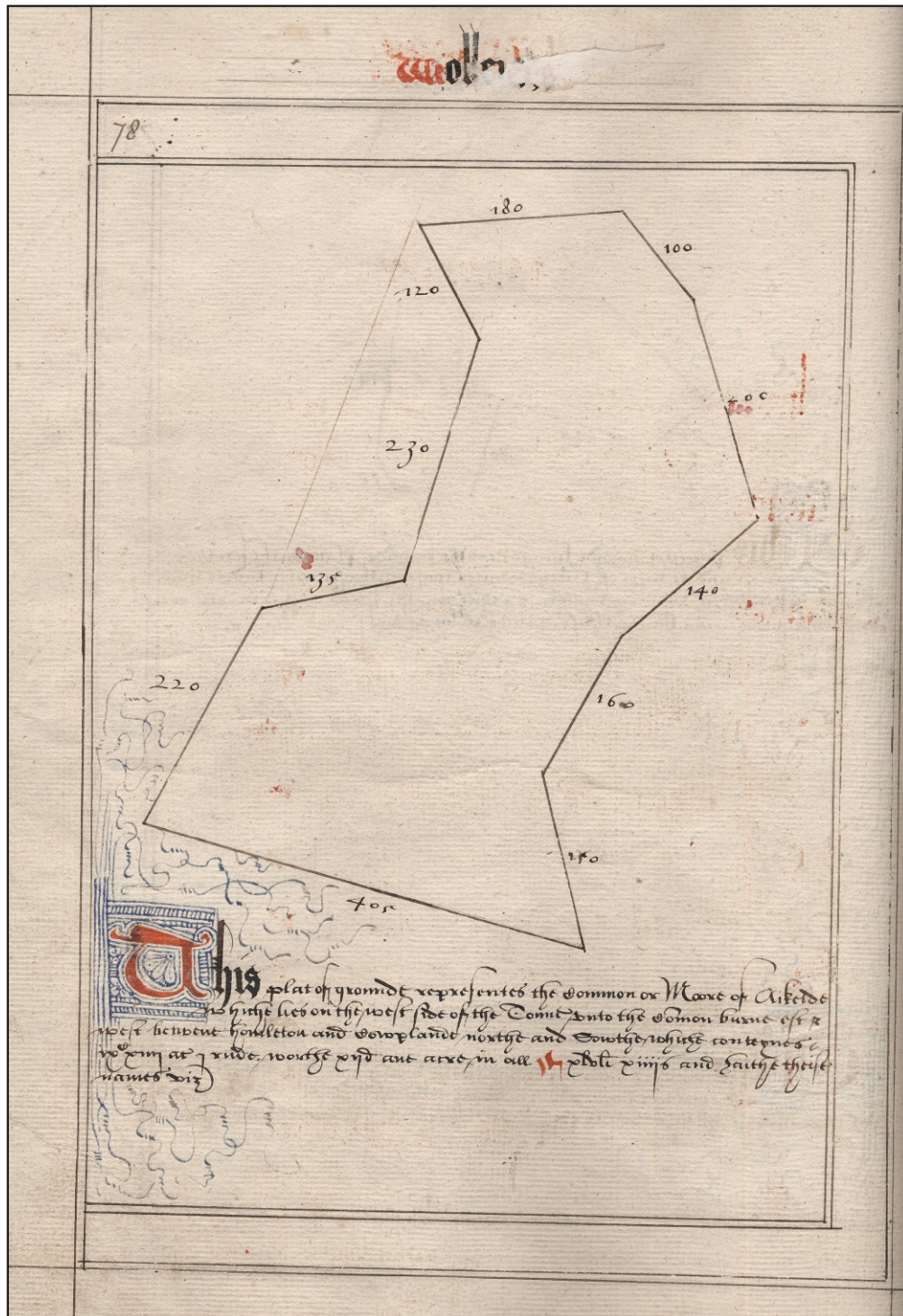


Fig. 23: Sir Thomas Grey's Survey of the Baronies of Wark & Wooller, c.1568-89:
p.78 Landholding at Akeld, AK_M&D 004

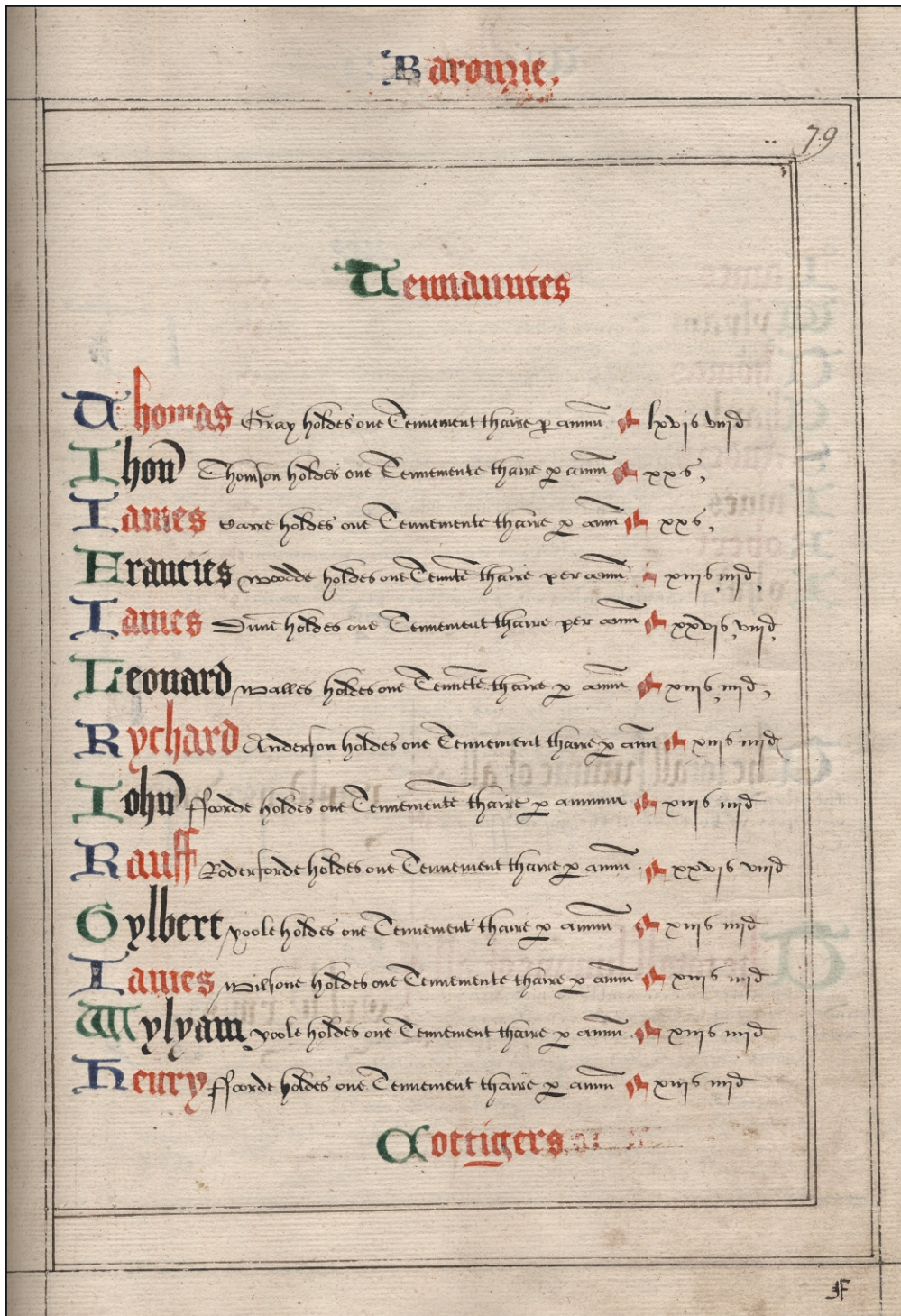


Fig. 24: Sir Thomas Grey's Survey of the Baronies of Wark & Wooller, c.1568-89: p.79, list of tenants, AK_M&D 005

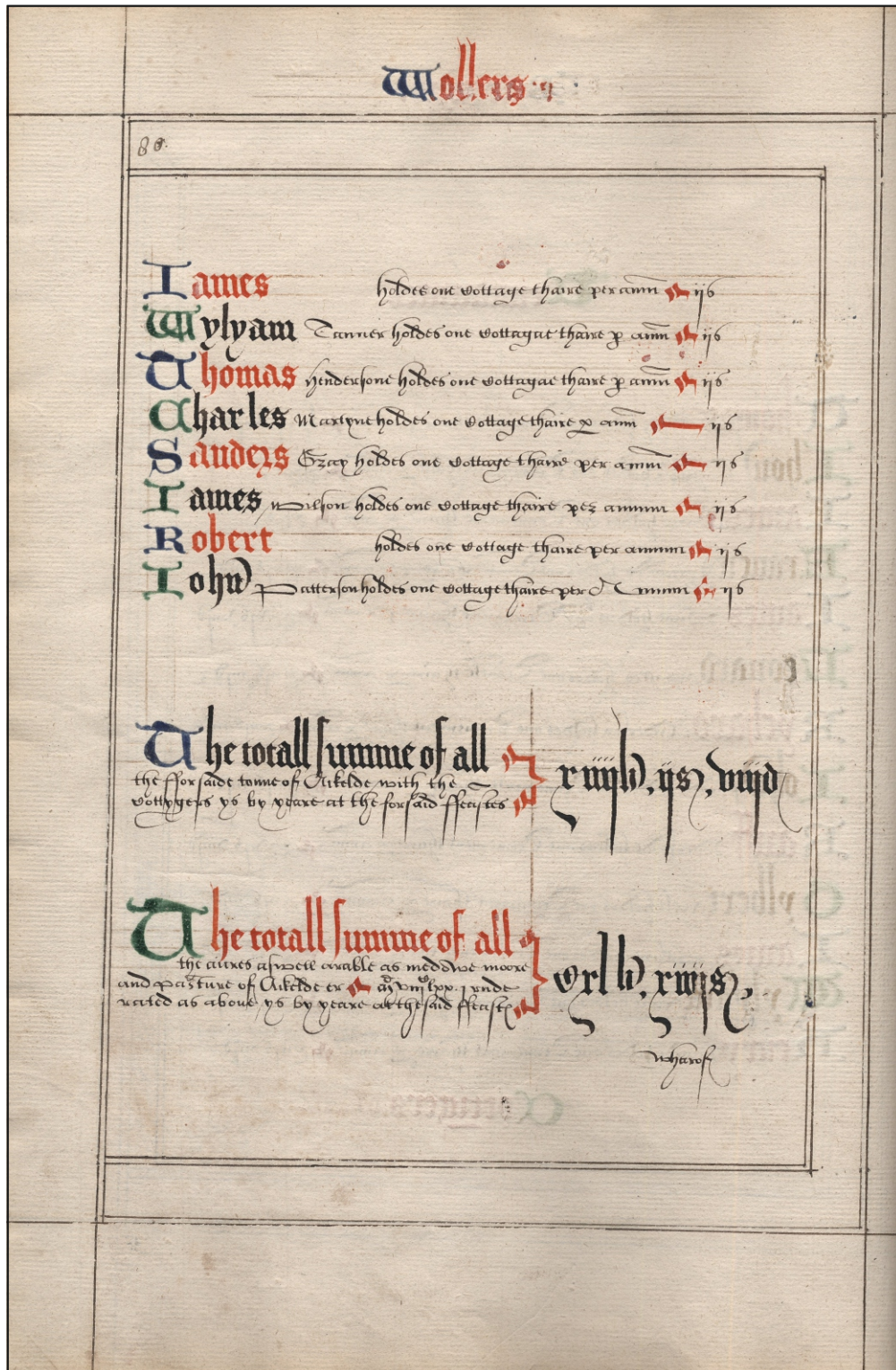


Fig. 25: Sir Thomas Grey's Survey of the Baronies of Wark & Wooler, c.1568-89: p.80, list of tenants and summary of holdings, AK_M&D 006

| Hicknewton Parish | | Continued |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Akeld Constabulary | | |
| Richard Atkin | | Carpenter & Farmer |
| George Service | | |
| William Redpath | } | { Servants |
| John Jameson | | |
| Andrew Thompson | | Weaver |
| John Shanks | | Butcher |
| James Hogg | | Farmer |
| James Davison | | Labourer |
| George Hunter | | Blacksmith |
| Edward Johnston | } has a running of an eye | { Labourers } |
| George Chriap | | |
| William Cockburn | | { Weavers } |
| Andrew Young | | |
| James Holson | | { Shepherds } |
| William Scott | | |
| John Inature | | |
| John Bell | | |
| William Thompson | | |
| James Bryson | Lame of one Foot | Labourer |
| | | George Hindmarsh petty Constable. |
| Hithpool Constabulary | | |
| William Smith | | Hoied |
| Robert Davidson | } | { Herds } |
| John Steinson | | |
| Palmer Head | | Gardener |
| | | James Ilea petty Constable. |
| Ford Houstele Constabulary | | |
| Thomas Bartram | | Shepherd |
| William Hope | } Same of an Horse | { Husbandmen } |
| John Wakerstare | | |
| George Chesem | | |
| William Allon | | Taylor |

Fig. 26: 1762 Militia List, Glendale Ward, West Division, AK_M&D 001.

AKELD

AKELD is recorded in the Survey of 1541 as the site of a 'bastle'.¹ At the S. end of the village (NT 957296), just below the Cheviot Hills, is a structure (Plate 35) of which the lower storey is probably part of the building referred to in the Survey. The upper storey is entirely of later date.

The building is of greater length than most other bastles described, being 55 ft. long internally. It has walls 4 ft. thick built of random rubble, largely a red conglomerate, with freestone dressings and some large boulders in the base course. The lower storey is covered by a barrel vault pierced with a ladder-hole, 11 ins. by 14 ins. The doorway (Plate 16) is in the long W. wall and has chamfered jambs and lintel, the jambs having a double check and a tunnel for a drawbar. The only other openings are rough ventilation slits.

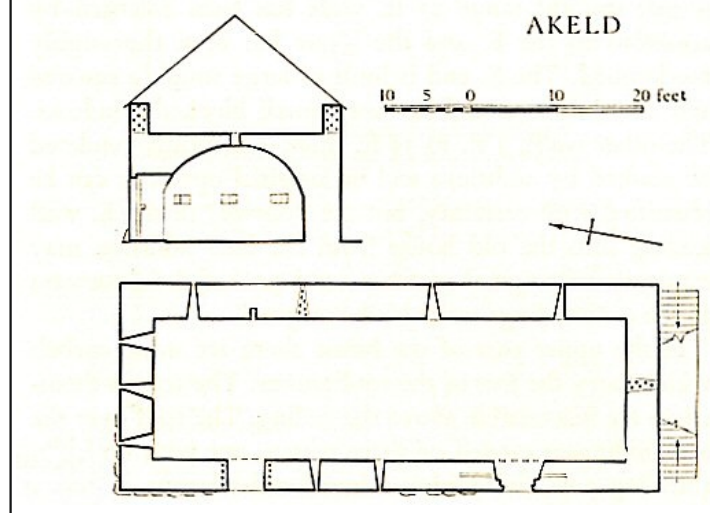


Fig. 27: A Plan of Akeld bastle, 1970 (AK M&D 020)

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AKELD

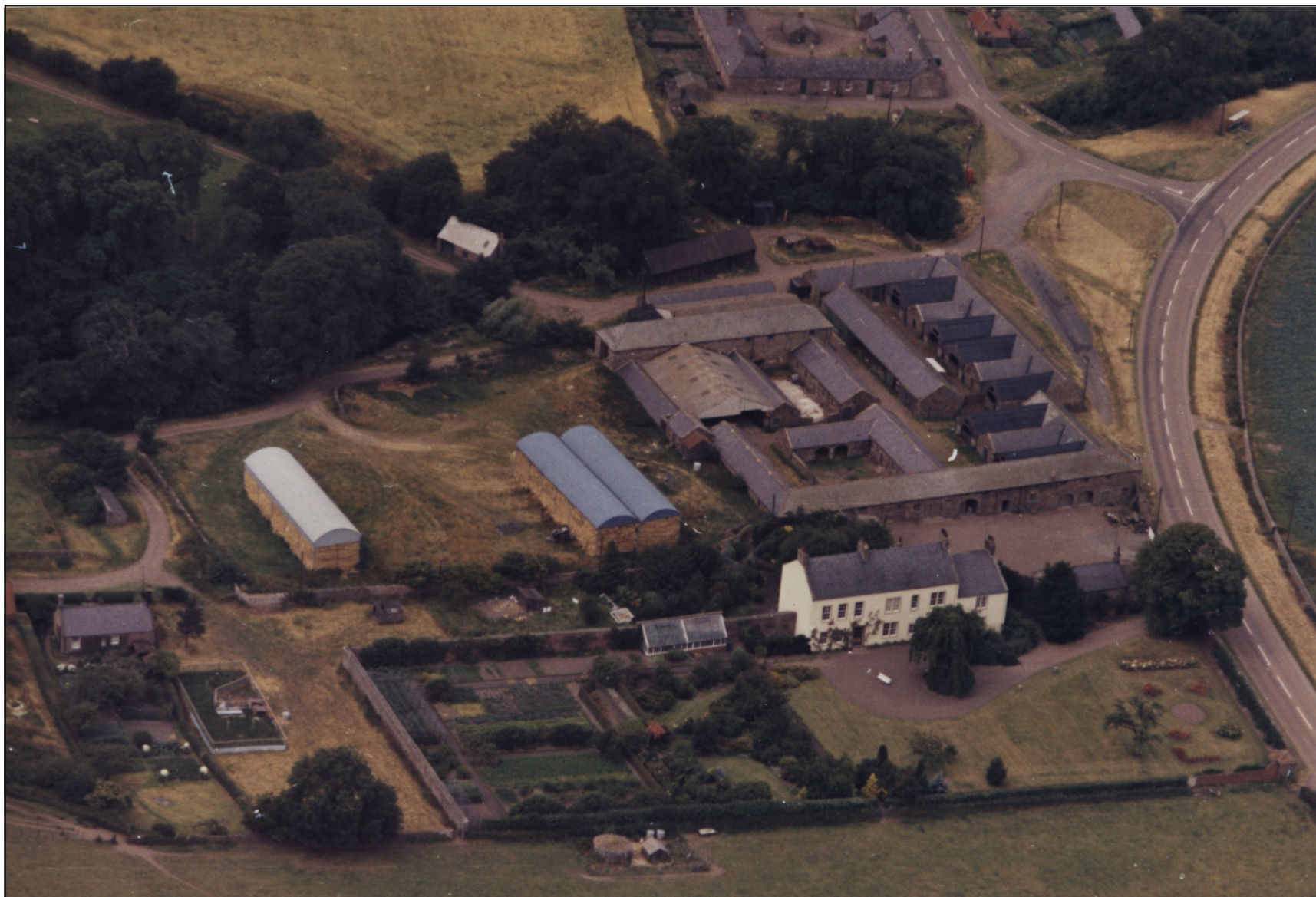


Fig. 28: Aerial photograph of Akeld, August 1974, AK_HP 001

NORTHUMBERLAND NATIONAL PARK VILLAGE ATLAS PROJECT 2004:
AKELD



Fig. 29: Datestone, Akeld Cottages, AK_MP 002



Fig. 30: Akeld Bridge, AK_MP 003

NORTHUMBERLAND NATIONAL PARK VILLAGE ATLAS PROJECT 2004:
AKELD



Fig. 31: Akeld Cottages, AK_MP 007



Fig. 32: A Second World War Pill Box, AK_MP 011

NORTHUMBERLAND NATIONAL PARK VILLAGE ATLAS PROJECT 2004:
AKELD



Fig. 33: Piggeries opposite Akeld Cottages, AK_MP 012



Fig. 34: Repositioned millstone and gatepost, AK_MP 020

NORTHUMBERLAND NATIONAL PARK VILLAGE ATLAS PROJECT 2004:
AKELD



Fig. 35: Miller's Cottage, AK_MP 027



Fig. 36: Akeld bastle, AK_MP 030

NORTHUMBERLAND NATIONAL PARK VILLAGE ATLAS PROJECT 2004:
AKELD



Fig. 37: Akeld bastle interior, AK_MP 033



Fig. 38: View of Akeld bastle and modern farm, AK_MP 038

NORTHUMBERLAND NATIONAL PARK VILLAGE ATLAS PROJECT 2004:
AKELD



Fig. 39: Akeld Manor, AK_MP 042



Fig. 40: Adapted farmbuildings, Akeld farm, AK_MP 046

NORTHUMBERLAND NATIONAL PARK VILLAGE ATLAS PROJECT 2004:
AKELD



Fig. 41: Akeld Manor Cottage, AK_MP 047



Fig. 42: Bendor Crossing signal box, AK_MP 051

NORTHUMBERLAND NATIONAL PARK VILLAGE ATLAS PROJECT 2004:
AKELD



Fig. 43: Bridge over the Akeld Burn, next to site of Akeld mill (AK_MP 074)



Fig. 44: View of Gleadscleugh from the East (AK_MP 062)

PART 3
SYNTHESIS
&
ANALYSIS

5. GAZETTEER OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES

A summary site gazetteer is set out below. Fuller descriptions are provided in Appendix 4 and complete entries for those sites listed in the Northumberland Sites and Monuments Record (NSMR) may be consulted by contacting the Conservation Team at County Hall, Morpeth. The gazetteer sites are all located on figure 4 and, in the case of those in the immediate vicinity of the village and in the village core, on figures 5 and 6 respectively. For convenience figures 4 and 5 are reproduced in this section as figures 45 and 46, whilst the village core sites are marked on the archaeological sensitivity plan in Part 4 (fig. 47). For further ease of identifiability the site catalogue numbers are placed between square brackets when cited in the report text. Thus catalogue number 20 would normally appear as [20], although in some cases a site may be more fully identified.

Table 1: Known sites of cultural heritage importance within the wider study area.

| Catalogue No. | SMR No. | Period | Site Name | Grid Ref. | Status |
|---------------|---------|-------------------|--|------------------|----------|
| 1 | 1569 | MEDIEVAL | Akeld | NT 395700 629500 | |
| 2 | 1585 | POST MEDIEVAL | Akeld Railway Station | NT 395600 629900 | |
| 3 | 1586 | POST MEDIEVAL | Bendor Crossing, Signal Box | NT 396400 629800 | |
| 4 | 1599 | POST MEDIEVAL | Akeld Cottages Nos 1-9 | NT 395620 629700 | Grade II |
| 5 | 1600 | POST MEDIEVAL | Akeld Manor | NT 395820 629620 | Grade II |
| 6 | 1601 | POST MEDIEVAL | Cottage, carriage house and gateway attached to north of Akeld Manor | NT 395820 629640 | Grade II |
| 7 | 1602 | POST MEDIEVAL | Range of farmbuildings c.30 yards west of Akeld Manor | NT 395780 629640 | Grade II |
| 8 | 13901 | POST MEDIEVAL | High Akeld House | NT 395800 629500 | Grade II |
| 9 | 1603 | POST MEDIEVAL | Boute House | NT 395800 629500 | Grade II |
| 10 | 1605 | POST MEDIEVAL | Rose Cottage | NT 395800 629500 | Grade II |
| 11 | 1606 | POST MEDIEVAL | Wash house c.10 yards south of Rose Cottage | NT 395800 629500 | Grade II |
| 12 | 2112 | BRONZE AGE | Cropmark of a ring ditch 1.15km east of Coupland | NT 394960 631220 | SAM |
| 13 | 2140 | LATER PREHISTORIC | Henge 600yds (550m) east of Akeld Lodge | NT 395860 630700 | |
| 14 | 2167 | UNKNOWN | House Plantation, crop mark complex | NT 396200 630600 | |
| 15 | 2169 | MESOLITHIC | Mesolithic artifacts from the Milfield Basin | NT396 000 633000 | |
| 16 | 2171 | POST MEDIEVAL | Farmbuildings north west of farmhouse, Akeld Steads | NT 396480 630600 | Grade II |
| 17 | 2186 | POST MEDIEVAL | Akeld Steads Farmhouse | NT 396510 630600 | Grade II |
| 18 | 2187 | POST MEDIEVAL | Cart shed and granary c.30 yards south west of Farmhouse | NT 396490 630570 | Grade II |
| 19 | 2199 | POST MEDIEVAL | Akeld Lodge | NT 395400 630670 | Grade II |
| 20 | 2200 | POST MEDIEVAL | Screen walls and gatepiers c.10 yards south east of Akeld Lodge | NT 395400 630660 | Grade II |
| 21 | 1396 | MEDIEVAL | Two medieval shielings on Akeld Hill, 680m WNW of Gleadscleugh | NT 394580 629270 | SAM |
| 22 | 1398 | POST MEDIEVAL | Sheepfold | NT 394810 629340 | |
| 23 | 1399 | UNKNOWN | Steadings and garths north west of Akeld Hill | NT 394400 629300 | |
| 24 | 1401 | IRON AGE | Glead's Cleugh Iron Age promontory fort | NT 394900 629060 | SAM |
| 25 | 1406 | UNKNOWN | Trackways | NT 394570 629600 | |
| 26 | 1416 | UNKNOWN | Clearance cairns | NT 394410 628960 | |
| 27 | 1418 | UNKNOWN | Hut circle (not located) | NT 394350 629130 | |
| 28 | 1420 | UNKNOWN | Sheepfold | NT 394190 628770 | |
| 29 | 1426 | BRONZE AGE | Burial cairn | NT 394140 628440 | |
| 30 | 1426 | BRONZE AGE | Burial cairn | NT 394140 628440 | |
| 31 | 1427 | UNKNOWN | Akeld Burn, unenclosed settlement | NT 394480 628560 | |
| 32 | 1428 | UNKNOWN | Settlement (not located) | NT 394350 628370 | |
| 33 | 1430 | LATER PREHISTORIC | Settlement 500yds (450m) south west of White Law | NT 394100 628600 | |
| 34 | 1433 | UNKNOWN | Probable sheepfold | NT 394960 628460 | |
| 35 | 1459 | BRONZE AGE | Mounds on Swint Law | NT 394060 628710 | |
| 36 | 1460 | UNKNOWN | Sheepfold | NT 394610 628990 | |
| 37 | 1465 | IRON AGE | Possible Iron Age/RB settlement | NT 392700 627300 | |

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| | | | | | |
|----|-------|-------------------|--|------------------|-----------|
| 38 | 1470 | LATER PREHISTORIC | Newton Tors East, possible unenclosed settlement | NT 392400 627500 | |
| 39 | 1472 | LATER PREHISTORIC | Scaldhill, field plots and possible hut circles | NT 393600 627000 | |
| 40 | 1476 | LATER PREHISTORIC | West Swint Law, unenclosed settlement | NT 393600 628300 | |
| 41 | 1476 | LATER PREHISTORIC | West Swint Law, unenclosed settlement | NT 393600 628300 | |
| 42 | 1487 | MEDIEVAL | Medieval shieling and enclosure 300m north west of Gleadscleugh | NT 394960 629250 | SAM |
| 43 | 1488 | UNKNOWN | Sub-circular enclosure north west of Gleadscleugh | NT 394700 629100 | |
| 44 | 1498 | UNKNOWN | duplicate record | NT 395330 628540 | SAM |
| 45 | 1509 | IRON AGE | Defended settlement on north slope of Harehope Hill, 570m south east of High Akeld Cottages | NT 395950 628920 | SAM |
| 46 | 1511 | UNKNOWN | Stone quarry scoops | NT 396050 628830 | |
| 47 | 1514 | UNKNOWN | Sheepfold | NT 395010 629310 | |
| 48 | 1515 | UNKNOWN | Unenclosed hut circle settlement 120m north west of Gleadscleugh | NT 395080 629050 | SAM |
| 49 | 1516 | BRONZE AGE | Unenclosed scooped settlement on the east slope of Harehope Hill, 750m south east of High Akeld Cottages | NT 396080 628750 | |
| 50 | 1517 | POST MEDIEVAL | Earthwork (sheepfold or lambing pen) | NT 395380 628690 | |
| 51 | 1522 | LATER PREHISTORIC | Prehistoric unenclosed hut circle settlement west of Monday Cleugh, 520m SSE of Gleadscleugh and isolated hut circle | NT 395330 628520 | SAM |
| 52 | 1522 | LATER PREHISTORIC | Prehistoric unenclosed hut circle settlement west of Monday Cleugh, 520m SSE of Gleadscleugh and isolated hut circle | NT 395330 628520 | SAM |
| 53 | 1528 | UNKNOWN | Foundation of enclosure | NT 395010 628870 | |
| 54 | 1529 | MEDIEVAL | Akeld Bastle | NT 395760 629410 | Grade II* |
| 55 | 1530 | MEDIEVAL | Site of chapel | NT 395530 629720 | |
| 56 | 1531 | BRONZE AGE | Beaker from Railway cutting | NT 395820 629950 | |
| 57 | 1565 | LATER PREHISTORIC | Prehistoric hut circle on Harehope Hill, 400m south east of Gleadscleugh | NT 395500 628740 | SAM |
| 58 | 1655 | MODERN | Pillbox | NT 395600 629730 | |
| 59 | 1675 | UNKNOWN | Water Mill at Akeld | NT 395600 629700 | |
| 60 | 13902 | POST MEDIEVAL | Garden walls | NT 395840 629589 | |
| 61 | 13903 | POST MEDIEVAL | Farm buildings W of Akeld Manor | NT 395752 629635 | |
| 62 | 1675 | POST MEDIEVAL | Watermill 60 yds Sw of Akeld Manor | NT 395700 629600 | |
| 63 | 1604 | POST MEDIEVAL | Cottages c.10 yards south of Rose Cottage | NT 395800 629500 | Grade II |
| 64 | 1529 | MEDIEVAL | Walls by Akeld Bastle | NT 395750 629450 | |
| 65 | 13905 | POST MEDIEVAL | Shepherds Cottage, Gleadscleugh | NT 395209 629020 | |
| 66 | | POST MEDIEVAL | Akeld Bridge | NT 395720 629790 | |
| 67 | | POST MEDIEVAL | Piggery and associated buildings | NT 395600 629730 | |

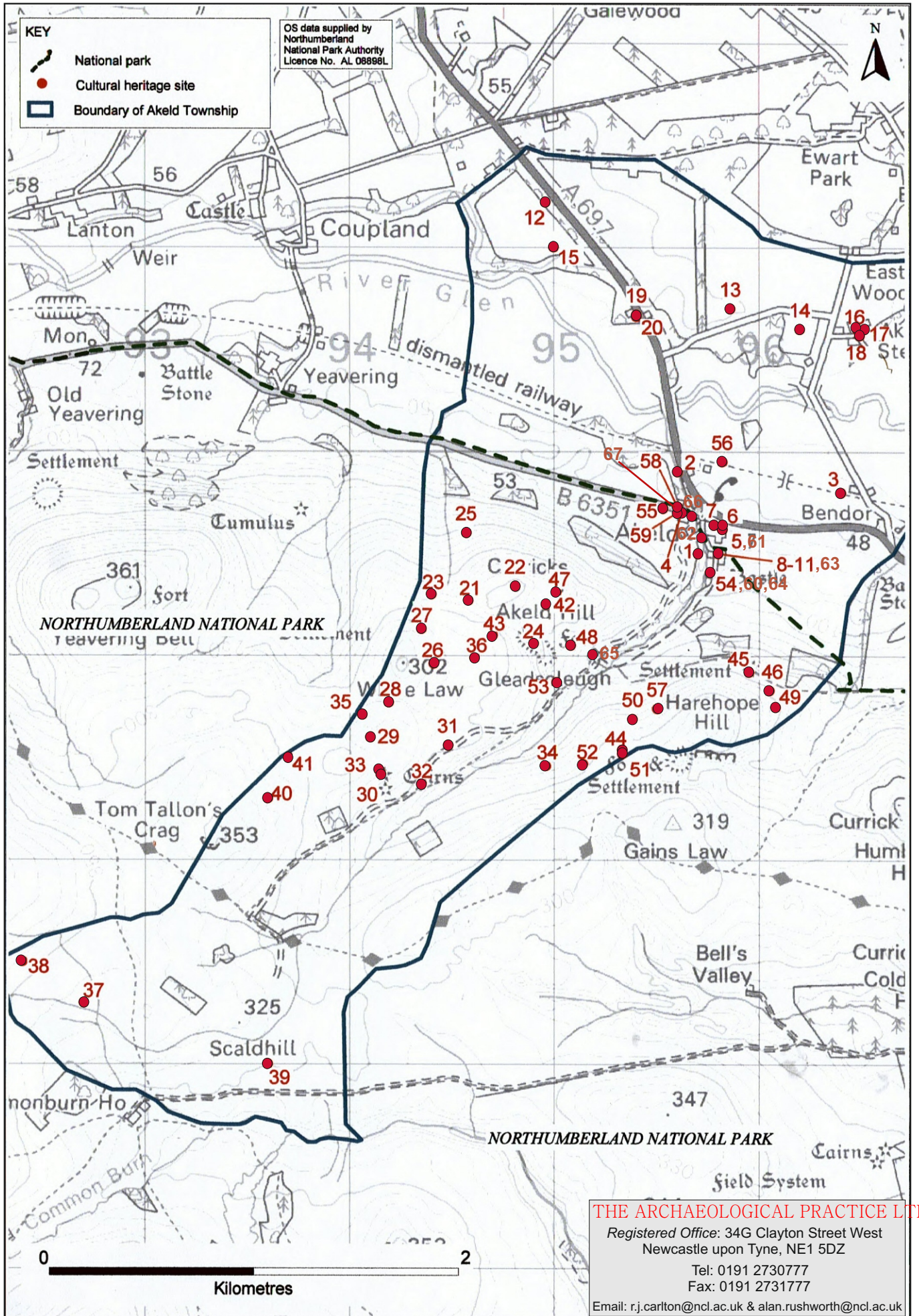


Fig. 45: Cultural Heritage Sites in Akeld and the surrounding area

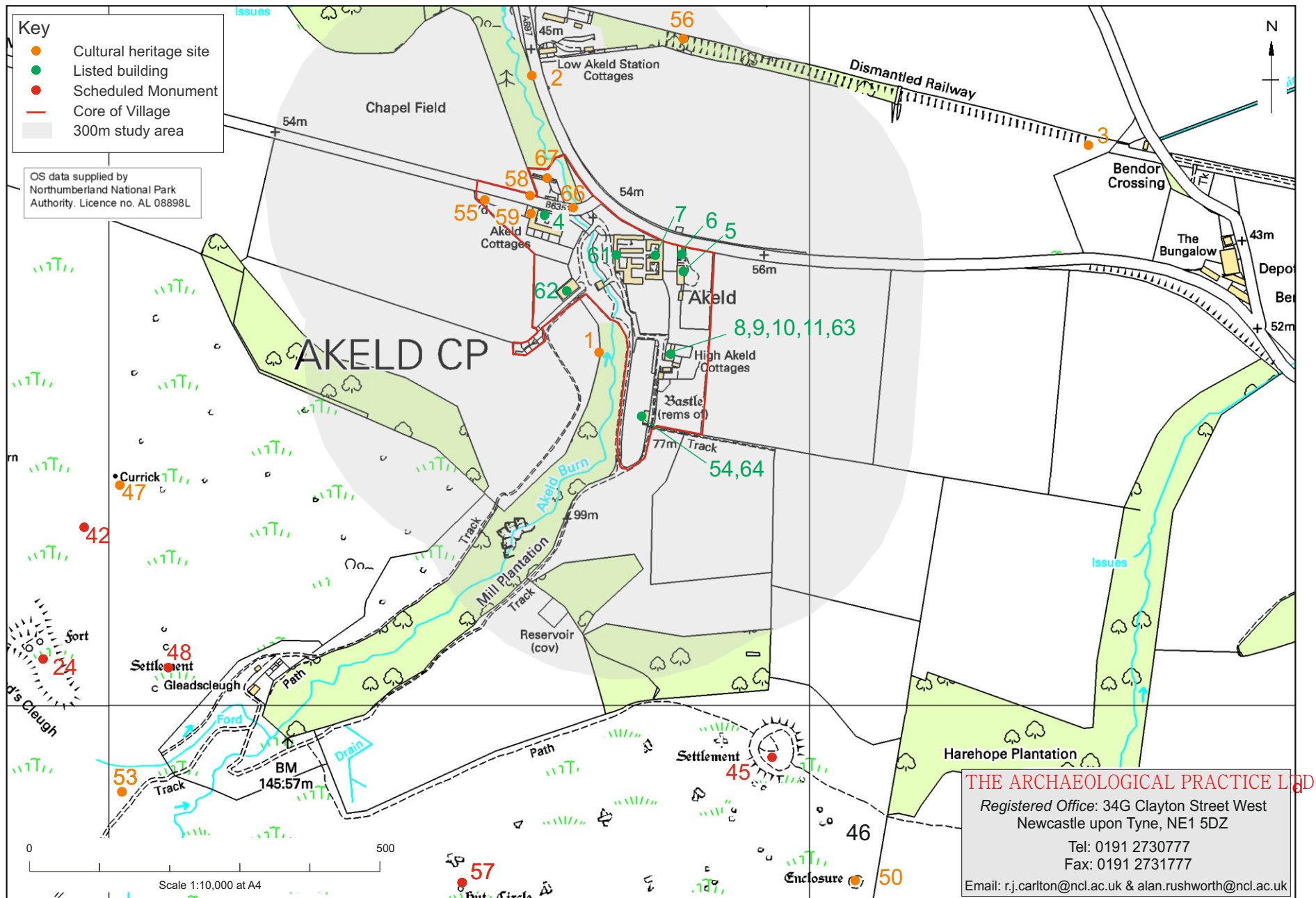


Fig. 46: Cultural Heritage sites in the Vicinity of Akeld Village.

6. HISTORICAL SYNTHESIS

6.1 Standard works

NCH XI (1922), 229-40; Dixon 1985 II, 21-2.

6.2 Prehistory

6.2.1 Palaeolithic and Mesolithic (500,000 BC – 5000 BC)

Research in the vicinity of Milfield village to the north did not produce diagnostic Late Upper Palaeolithic finds, and it seems likely that this area was not densely settled until the Late Mesolithic (Waddington 1999, 180-1). There are no recorded sites on the Northumberland Sites and Monuments Record for either the Upper Palaeolithic or Mesolithic periods within the Akeld study area. Mesolithic artefacts were found between NT 9531 and 9733, though it is unclear exactly where (catalogue number [15]⁷). The Cheviot slopes south of Akeld, in common with other upland areas in the Cheviots, would have been wooded throughout the Mesolithic and may have been exploited on a seasonal basis by hunting or foraging parties (*ibid.* 104 -6). As the gravel terraces adjacent to the alluvial floodplain of the rivers Till and Glen are thought to have supported year round Mesolithic occupation, the scarcity of recorded Mesolithic finds in the Akeld area probably reflects the lack of detailed research, rather than genuine absence of occupation.

6.2.2 Neolithic (c. 5000 BC – 2000 BC)

Work undertaken in the Milfield basin suggests that this area was at least semi-permanently settled by the end of the Neolithic (*ibid.*), though only one Neolithic site is known from within the boundaries of Akeld township. A cropmark believed to be a henge monument is known from aerial photographs at NT 958307, near to Akeld Lodge [13]. Henges are circular monuments with one or two entrances marked out by an earth bank and inner ditch, and they are usually Later Neolithic in date (c. 1950 – c. 1590 BC), though they continued to be used into the Bronze Age. The purpose of these monuments remains unclear, though they are often seen as focal points for ceremonies or religious rites. They are unlikely to have existed in isolation; rather, they seem to have been part of a complex ritual landscape. At least ten other henges or henge-type monuments are known from the Milfield basin, and they may have been liked by some form of processional route or pathway (Waddington 1999, 159).

6.2.3 Bronze Age (2000 BC – 700 BC)

The hollow recorded by the SMR at NT 941284 [29, 30] may be the remains of a Bronze Age burial cairn badly damaged by robbing. A distinctive type of pottery vessel of the Later Neolithic and Bronze Age known as a beaker was discovered during excavations for the railway cutting near Akeld station in 1885 ([56] NT 958299). Although the precise provenance of the find is unknown, beakers are most often associated with burials, possibly of high-status individuals (Higham 1986, 111).

Several unenclosed settlements believed to be of Bronze Age date are known from within Akeld Township. The cropmark known from aerial photographs at Newton Tors East ([38] NT 924275), and the hut circles associated with a field system at West Swint Law ([40,41] NT 936283) may be settlements of this type, though there is little information recorded about either of these sites. A further settlement is known 120m northeast of Gleadscleugh ([48] NT

⁷ The gazetteer sites referred to in the text are all located on figures 4 and 45. Those in the immediate vicinity of the village and in the village core are also shown on figures 5 & 46 and 6 & 47, respectively. For ease of identifiability the site catalogue numbers are placed between square brackets in the report text; thus catalogue number 26 would normally appear as [26].

950290), where a group of five stone built huts are situated within the remains of a field system. Though all of these settlements are attributed to the Bronze Age, none have been excavated, so no absolute dating exists to confirm this. Settlements of this kind are fairly common in the Cheviots throughout the Bronze and Iron Ages, and were traditionally distinguished on the basis of type, particularly the presence or absence of an enclosure. However, recent studies have shown the picture to be rather more complex than this; enclosures themselves may have had little chronological significance (Welfare 2002, 72). As most of the difficulties with these earlier models are attributable to lack of excavated, well-dated examples, the Bronze Age date attributed to these sites should be treated with caution.

6.2.4 Iron Age (700 BC – AD 70)

Although Akeld Township is richer in sites of postulated Bronze Age date than other study areas close by (see the comparable discussions for Kirknewton/Westnewton and Kilham villages), conversely, it is poorer in Iron Age sites. The hillfort at Glead's Cleugh or Gleadscleugh ([24] NT 949290) and the defended settlement at Harehope Hill ([45] NT 959289) are likely to have been in existence by the mid-first millennium BC. Cheviot hillforts are far smaller in size than those in the southern English counties, and their construction would not have required such major mobilisation of manpower. However, hillforts and defended settlements are present in considerable numbers; this clearly suggests that a large, permanently settled population was well-established on the Cheviot uplands and in the Glen and College valleys by this time.

The promontory fort at Glead's Cleugh ([45] NT 959289), is strongly situated on a spur of Akeld Hill overlooking the Akeld Burn valley, protected by double ramparts, with steep slopes on three sides. It does not command the highest point in the locality, but is overlooked by both Akeld Hill and White Law. Although this may simply be because these higher points presented a less suitable defensive position, other explanations might be considered. Recent survey work undertaken by English Heritage at West Hill (NT 909295) and St Gregory's Hill (NT 916297), Kirknewton, suggests that defensive criteria may sometimes have been secondary to considerations of status and prestige (Oswald and McOmish, 2002, 30). The irregular ramparts at Harehope Hill ([45] NT 959289), though concealed from the lower ground, do not occupy a defensive position, something that does not support the classification of this work as a "defended settlement", and adds weight to the suspicion that many hilltop enclosure sites of the first millennium BC are not primarily defensive.

The remains of stone founded huts and scooped occupation platforms at both Harehope Hill and Glead's Cleugh indicates that at some time they certainly served as settlements, though such remains are not necessarily contemporary with the construction of the ramparts (e.g., St Gregory's Hill, *ibid*, 14). The small interior area of most Cheviot hill forts indicates that they cannot have supported any sizeable population, and many may simply have been defended farmsteads (Oswald *et al*), though the poorly defended examples, such as Harehope hill, rather stretch this interpretation. In all likelihood, there is no single explanation for all so-called hillforts in the cheviots; they may have served as animal enclosures, market places or trading stations, defensive enclosures, community centres and places of worship. Only detailed work, such as that recently undertaken by English Heritage as part of the "Discovering Our Hillfort Heritage" project, has the potential to understand this very complex situation.

6.3 Romano-British period and after (AD 70-500)

Towards the end of the first millennium BC, pollen evidence suggests that all remaining upland forest had been cleared, and small-enclosed settlements or “homesteads” were established in increasing numbers on slopes and high moorland. Some of these new settlements seem to have been established within the ramparts of earlier hillforts, or overlying the defences, which in some cases were seen to have been abandoned for some time (Welfare 2002, 75). The ‘scooped platforms’ at Glead’s Cleugh and Harehope Hill may date to this later period. Settlements of this type are very common in this region, their distinctive appearance being the result of digging out or “scooping” house platforms and stockyards directly into the hill slopes. Though they are usually considered Romano-British, it is possible that they may have originated in the late Pre-Roman Iron Age and are likely to have been in use for a considerable period.

This part of Northumberland lay beyond the Roman frontier for much of the period of occupation, and the influence of Roman culture is likely to have been slight and very indirect (Higham 1986, 224-6). Small enclosed homesteads such as these are likely to have continued to be used for several centuries, and were perhaps only eventually abandoned in favour of lower-lying hamlets and villages, many of which are in existence today, in the early medieval period, following a political takeover by new warrior elites originally deriving from Northern Europe and Scandinavia.

6.4 Early Medieval Glendale

The significance of Glendale in the early medieval period needs little emphasis. Only two miles west of Akeld, in the township of Yeavinger, lies the renowned site of *Ad Gefrin*, the Anglian palace complex. This ‘*villa regia*’ figures in Bede’s *Ecclesiastical History* as the centre of Bishop Paulinus’ mission to the Bernician kingdom, where the saint is said to have baptized the surrounding populace in the River Glen over 36 days in AD 627 (*HE* II, xiv). The site was the subject of magisterial excavation by Brian Hope-Taylor between 1952-1962 (Hope-Taylor 1977). Whilst archaeologists still debate the results of Hope-Taylor’s excavations and the conclusions he drew from them, the basic outline seems clear. The complex was a major royal centre in the Anglian kingdoms of Bernicia, and, later, Northumbria, with administrative and ceremonial functions which involved the collection the renders provided by the surrounding peasant communities and redistributing them to key royal supporters and valued warriors. The complex contained a great defended or enclosed meeting place with adjacent halls, churches and a timber-built ‘theatre’ or political arena.

Sitting right at the mouth of Glendale, *Ad Gefrin* was well-positioned to control population and resources over a wide area, not only Glendale itself - embracing the hills and valleys of the Cheviots to the south and west - but also a large tract of the Till flood plain to the east. The complex must have lain at the centre of a substantial royal estate embracing these areas, which O’Brien has recently labelled ‘Gefrinshire’ (O’Brien 2002).

The suggestion that this site may have originated in the 5th century and was associated with the British polities which preceded the Anglian kingdoms of Bernicia and Northumbria, is more controversial (Hope-Taylor 1977, 209; Higham 1986, 247). However, on a more basic level, it is difficult to believe that it is a mere coincidence that this major complex sits at the foot of Yeavinger Bell, the site of the largest hillfort in Northumberland and where evidence for continued occupation in the Romano-British period has been identified. In other words, some continuity of political and territorial focus seems likely in north Northumberland, from the Iron Age through the Roman period and into the early medieval era, even as the social and political structures of those territorial communities were perhaps evolving from kinship-based clans or tribes into chiefdoms and ultimately small states. Yeavinger would thus represent an inland counterpart to the coastal stronghold of Bamburgh, where occupation spanning the

same period is attested. Bamburgh remained a principal political centre for kings, ealdermen and earls in Northumbria throughout the early medieval period and continued to function as a royal castle thereafter. In contrast, as Bede tells us, under King Edwin's successors *Ad Gefrin* was eventually replaced by a new, more enclosed site, *Maelmin*, situated 4km further north beside the Till near Milfield, and the archaeological evidence suggests that by c. AD 685 *Ad Gefrin* was completely abandoned.

The abandonment of *Ad Gefrin* might be connected with the grant by King Oswine to St Cuthbert of a large tract of land beside the River Bowmont, including 12 named villas, in c. AD 651, which is recorded by the *Historia de Sancto Cuthberto*, or 'History of St Cuthbert', a work probably compiled in the mid tenth century (*HSC*, par. 3 (Roll Series edn. i, 197); Craster 1954, 180; Barrow 1973, 32-5; Hart 1975, doc. 139; Morris 1977, 91; Higham 1986, 288-9). Craster followed by Barrow and Morris suggested that this was one of the twelve estates which King Oswine is said by Bede to have granted to the church in 655 (*HE* III, xxiv). Hart was more sceptical regarding the precise historical context, but agreed that the account was probably based on some early record of the endowment of Melrose, the daughter house of Lindisfarne. The most readily identifiable of the 12 villas – Yetholm, Clifton, Shotton, Halterburn and Mindrum – all lie along the west flank of the Cheviots, but Barrow (1973, 34, n.133) has suggested that *Colwela* may represent 'Colewell', a lost township situated somewhere near Westnewton recorded in several documents between 1319 and c.1330 (NCH XI (1922), 152; Macdonald 1950, 112-5, nos. 12,18, 21); and that *Waquirtun* might be associated with 'Wakerich' which is encountered in 1631 in one of the Laing Charters (*Laing Charters*, no. 2090, 499) and evidently lay somewhere in Kirknewton parish. Wakeridge Cairn, which marks the boundary between Kirknewton, Yeavinger and Akeld townships on the eastern slope of Newton Tors (NT 92702767), figures on maps from the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (fig. 18) onwards. Similarly, one could further speculate that *Thornburnum* might represent the area around Thornington, the hamlet on the north side of the river near Kilham. Although the very tentative nature of these identifications must be acknowledged, if correct they would extend the limits of the land grant right along the Bowmont Water to its confluence with the College Burn. The alienation of so much adjacent territory to St Cuthbert's monasteries, either Melrose, or perhaps the mother house, Lindisfarne, would have meant that a royal estate centre at *Ad Gefrin* was no longer so well-situated and may have prompted a shift further north to *Maelmin*, which was better placed to control the remaining royal estates in the Milfield basin and the eastern Cheviot fringe⁸.

6.4.1 Shires and concept of the 'Multiple Estate'

Thus we can recognise the major royal estate centre in Glendale and make some attempt to plot the extent of subsequent land grants to the church. These 'multiple estates' or 'shires', as they are generally termed, are considered typical of this period, representing large administrative districts cum landholdings composed of many separate communities. The constituent communities, or *vills*, all rendered the larger proportion of their surplus produce and labour to a single, central lord's hall or *caput*, rather than to their local manorial lord, as in the high medieval period from the 11th/12th centuries onwards.

Although there is much regarding the history and workings of such shires that remains contentious (*cf.* Kapelle 1979, 50-85), the individual rural communities, which must have made up such estates are still more shadowy, particularly in the uplands. Little is known for certain of settlement patterns in the north Northumbrian uplands in the centuries following the

⁸ O'Brien has discussed in detail the evidence for these two multiple estates, which he labels 'Yetholmshire' and 'Gefrinshire' (2002, 53-6, 61-6). For the reasons outlined above 'Maelminshire' would seem to be a better title than Gefrinshire for the territorial unit analysed by O'Brien, since that territory would appear to represent the residual area left after Yetholmshire had been carved out of the original royal estate (which *could* perhaps be properly labelled Gefrinshire) and alienated to St Cuthbert's community at Lindisfarne or to one of the latter's daughter houses. More generally, this serves to emphasise that the history of these multiple estates was perhaps more fluid and linked to the context of specific events than has hitherto been acknowledged.

collapse of Roman imperial authority. Nevertheless, it is likely that the enclosed farmsteads which were such a feature of rural settlement in the preceding Romano-British period, continued to be occupied well into the early medieval era, but diagnostic dating evidence is lacking and at present it is impossible to say with any degree of certainty when they were replaced by a different type of settlement or what form that settlement took and how it was distributed.

By the 12th-13th centuries, when abundant documentary evidence becomes available again and archaeologically dateable pottery is found in significant quantities, communities were focussed in nucleated village settlements like Akeld. However the formation of these nucleated settlements may be relatively late. Brian Roberts (1972, 33-56; *cf.* Taylor 1983, 133-47) has argued that the regular row plans of many villages in County Durham and North Yorkshire were part of a reorganisation of rural settlement and landscape instituted by the Anglo-Norman lords in the late 11th and 12th centuries, following the devastation wrought by the conquest of those areas. Dixon (1985, I) was more cautious with regard to the evidence for widespread replanning of the villages of north Northumberland and it is clear that the implantation of Anglo-Norman lordship occurred later there (not till the early 12th century) and in different, less violent, circumstances. Nevertheless such evidence as we possess does suggest that settlement in the northern part of the county from the 12th century onward was predominantly focussed on nucleated village communities with defined territories.

What form rural settlement took prior to that time, i.e. what constituted a *---tun* before 1100, remains unresolved. There may conceivably have been something of a retreat from the uplands from the later 7th or 8th-century onwards, perhaps affected by climatic deterioration, widespread warfare and political upheaval following the Viking invasions – the same kind of factors which led to a similar retreat in the 14th century – with exploitation henceforth achieved by seasonal transhumant migration up to the highland pastures, as was pursued in parts of Northumberland in the medieval and early modern eras. In these circumstances, permanent settlement may have moved off the Cheviot hilltops and slopes and become focussed on lower-lying sites to form township communities, designated *villa* in Latin documents.

It is noteworthy that the Romano-British settlements scattered along Glendale or the Breamish Valley, tend to occupy elevated sites overlooking the valley bottom, often indeed overlying the ramparts of the earlier hillforts, whereas the medieval villages sit at the foot of the hillsides on valley terraces just above the land likely to be periodically flooded. In this the latter parallel the location of the Anglian palace complexes. Both types of community – settlement and village – were probably exploiting the same mixture of resources, but they doing so in different ways. The new township communities, whatever factors were responsible for their emergence, could have been based on village settlements, hamlets or groups of dispersed farmsteads. However aerial photography of Glendale or the Milfield Basin has not so far revealed substantial numbers of sites which might, even tentatively, be proposed as candidates for 8th-11th century township settlements – aside from the major estate centres of *Ad Gefrin* and *Maelmin*, only the smaller complex at Thirlings and some sunken floored buildings (*grubenhäuser*) at New Bewick have been identified, all of which could be slotted with the 5th-8th century timeframe rather than later. In part, the problem is related to the difficulty in actually identifying these classes of site from the air. Even *grubenhäuser* are relatively hard to spot and rectangular halls constructed with posts set in individual postholes, rather than continuous construction slots, are almost invisible. More *grubenhäuser* sites may be in the process of identification as a result of the re-examination of existing coverage in the quest for other types of monument (T.G. Gates pers. comm.) and this in turn may lead to the identification of timber halls which are often associated with *grubenhäuser*, either on the same

site or very close by.⁹

Nevertheless, it is tempting to assume that the most successful settlements of the early medieval era, which may have formed the original township centres, lay on the same sites as the later villages and are as a result masked by the modern settlements or by the remains of the medieval period (*cf.* Dixon 1985 I). If this was the case, such proto-village, township centres would have been nucleated, forming either hamlets or villages, but, equally, many of the Romano-British settlements on the hilltops contain numerous round houses and represent sizeable communities, corresponding to villages or hamlets in scale, so there may actually may have been relatively little change in that regard. Indeed, the very act of bounding the Romano-British settlements by an enclosure wall would have created a strong impetus to restrict the area occupied by such settlements, giving a misleading impression of their population size relative to the later villages. The suggested proto-villages might then, in turn, have been reorganised and formalised into regular village settlements by Anglo-Norman lords of the 12th century.

6.4.2 Maelmin, Milfield and Akeld Strother

One final point is worth noting in this context. Milfield does not seem to have formed a separate township before the 16th century (*cf.* NCH XI (1922), 243-4). Instead it seems to have constituted a detached and marginally exploited part of Akeld township known as Akeld Strother during the medieval period. Thus in 1349 Adam Davidman of Akeld gave to Walter of Hakeford and his heirs various parcels of land in the peat moss in the vill and territories of Akeld and Akeld Strother, including half an acre of land on 'le Milnefeld' between the land of William Heron and that of Robert Haggerston (NCH XI (1922), 236-7 & 243 n.3). In 1512 a Scottish force was ambushed in 'a brome felde called Mylfeld', a description which suggests the area was still not intensively cultivated at that date (*cf.* NCH XI (1922), 243). The earliest reference to an actual township centred on Milfield is provided by the border commissioners, Bowes and Ellerker, in 1541, who note 'the townshipp of Mylnefelde conteyneth vi husband lands plenyshed without any fortresse or barmekyn and ys of th'inherytaunce of a wedowe late the wife of Mychaell Muschiens (Muschamp) (*cf.* Bates 1891, 34).

It might at first seem odd that the former centre of a large multiple estate should dwindle to such insignificance, with little indication of permanent dwellings and no evidence that it developed into a township community during the high medieval era. And yet this is precisely what our theoretical understanding of multiple estates might lead us to expect. The estate centres were extra-township, or *forinsec*, i.e. they lay outside the territorial framework of the numerous township communities. A site such as *Maelmin* or *Ad Gefrin* was an administrative and ceremonial centre, where the renders from the various townships making up the estate were collected and stored, to be consumed by the royal household during its periodic visits, but probably did not represent a focus of agricultural cultivation in its own right with a discrete tract of farmland. Hence when the administrative complex at *Maelmin* was finally abandoned there was probably no resident community of agricultural cultivators which could simply be transformed into a straightforward township settlement, and instead the site was completely deserted. *Ad Gefrin* may have undergone the same process of complete dereliction after that palace and estate centre was abandoned in the late 7th century, as Bede suggests (*HE*), but it had had more time than its successor to re-emerge as a small township community by the 13th century, when the vill or 'hamlet' of 'Yever' is first mentioned in documents such as the feudal survey of 1242 (*Liber Feodorum* II, 1119; *cf.* NCH XII (1922), 241).

6.5 Township and Parish, Barony and Manor

⁹ The authors are grateful to Mr Tim Gates for discussing with them the problems currently faced in identifying early medieval sites through aerial photography.

Before examining the medieval village community of Akeld in detail, it is necessary to outline the various different territorial units within which it was incorporated, and which provided the framework for the development of the village. Each of these units related to a different aspect of the settlement's communal relations, both internal and external. More extensive definition and discussion of the different types of territorial unit and their development over time is contained in Section 1, above.

6.5.1 Akeld Township and Kirknewton Parish

The 19th century township of Akeld, which forms the basic framework for the historical summary set out in volume XI of the Northumberland County History (NCH XI (1922), 229-40), was one of 15 townships incorporated in the huge, 38,000 acre parish of Kirknewton which embraced the bulk of the north Cheviot massif. The township itself contained 2267 acres and embraces the valley of the Akeld Burn and the corresponding section of the flood plain of the Glen as far north as the river itself. The modern civil parish of Akeld covers a wider area, including the former township of Humbleton (in Chatton ecclesiastical Parish), also partly in the National Park.

6.5.2 The Barony of Wooler and Manor of Akeld

Akeld formed one of the constituent manors of the barony of Wooler which was held by the Muschamp lineage until the male line was extinguished with the death of Robert de Muschamp III in 1250. The lordship was established by Henry I (1100-35), in common with the great majority of Anglo-Norman baronies in Northumberland (Kapelle 1979, 199, 207; Lomas 1996, 22-5)

In the feudal survey of 1242, the barony was held by Robert de Muschamp (*Liber Feodorum* II, 1119-20). The manor of 'Akeld was in turn subinfeudated, the lord of the manor being one William de Akeld who also held Coupland and Yeavering for the military service, or fee, of one knight. There is evidence to suggest that William's family had held this estate for a considerable period. Thus Robert de Akeld (presumably William's father) is mentioned in a series of early 13th century charters detailing the endowment of a chapel at Akeld, which are preserved in the Cartulary of Kirkham Priory. An even earlier ancestor is most probably represented by one Elias son of Alured, who is recorded holding a single knight's fee in the Wooler barony by a previous feudal survey in 1166 (*Red Book*). Unlike the more thorough 1242 survey, the 1166 return does not record the extent or location of each knight's holding, but this Elias is probably to be identified with the Helias de Achelda whose name occurs in the Pipe Rolls for 1170 and 1171, and therefore with the same Akeld lineage of which Robert and William were later members (*cf.* Hedley 1970, 241). Still more intriguingly, the name of Helias' father indicates the family was of indigenous Northumbrian extraction rather than forming part of the Anglo-Norman settler class, just like another of the Wooler barony's knights in 1166, Liulf son of Alwold.

6.5.3 From thane to knight

Lomas (1996, 22-5), followed by O'Brien (2002, 64), has persuasively suggested that this holding of three contiguous townships represents an old pre-Conquest thanage. If this is suggestion is correct, Akeld would potentially represent the centre of a very old estate. Moreover it would also imply that the transition from Saxon to Norman administration in this part of Northumberland was less disruptive than elsewhere, involving little more than a change in title from thane to knight on the part of a leading member of the local elite.

William of Akeld was still living in 1255, but by the later 13th century (certainly by 1279) the manorial lordship seems to have become fragmented between four co-heiresses. In 1291 these four holdings were in the hands of John Prendergast, Thomas Haggerston, Robert of Bellingham and Thomas of Detchant. The subsequent complex history of the manor is fully detailed in the County History (NCH XI (1922), 230-6). By the mid 14th century, however,

manorial tenure was once again becoming much more straightforward with three quarters of Akeld being recorded in the hands of John Coupland in 1364. By 1428 this holding had in turn come into the possession of the Greys of Chillingham (perhaps having been sold to them in 1408 – *op. cit.* 233-4), one of Northumberland's principal late-medieval baronial lineages, in whose hands it remained until the 18th century. A number of small freeholders are also recorded in legal documents and monastic cartularies, whilst Kirkham Priory held some land in the township, certainly from the early 13th century onwards if not earlier.

6.6 The Medieval Village

6.6.1 Population and tenancies

The evidence for population and the number of tenancies has been summarised by Dixon (1985, II, 21-2). There were thirteen taxpayers in 1296 (Fraser 1968, No 304, see *Selected Sources and Surveys*), and ten in 1312/3 (PRO E179/158/6), but the Poll Tax return of 1377 lists sixty-two adults (PRO E179/158/32). The township was relatively prosperous in 1296, when moveable goods of the wealthier inhabitants, who were eligible for the lay subsidy, or tax, were valued at £53 in total.

In 1541, when the vill was mainly in the hands of the Greys of Chillingham, there were sixteen husbandlands and a bastle house [54](Bates 1891 33; *Selected Sources and Surveys*). In 1580 although it had been wasted by the Scots, there were still sixteen tenants (*CBP* I 14-9). The Survey and Rental of the Baronies of Wark and Wooler compiled for Sir Thomas Grey at some stage between 1568 and his death in 1589 (NRO 4118; cf. figs 21-25 and Appendix 8) lists 13 'tenants' and 8 cottagers. The cottagers were valued at 2s in rent each (the same as an acre of arable or meadow) and were evidently no more than smallholdings perhaps comprising a cottage dwelling and associated garden plot. The thirteen tenancies were clearly much more substantial holdings, equivalent to the husbandlands mentioned in the other sources. Twelve of these were worth between 26s 8d and 8s 4d in rent, and there were clearly a series of relatively standard sized holdings since seven were valued at 13s 4d, another couple at 20s and a further pair at 26s 8d (i.e. exactly double the rent of the most common holding). The rental value of one tenancy, held by one Thomas Grey – presumably an eponymous relative of Sir Thomas – was much greater than any of the others, being rated at 66s 8d. This may represent a demesne holding leased out to a relative. The number of tenants listed in the Grey survey tallies quite well with the figure of sixteen husbandlands provided by the other sources, if it is assumed that there were three or four more tenancies which formed part of that quarter of the township not held by Sir Thomas Grey. There may also have been additional cottage holdings attached to this quarter, which was held by the Wallis family throughout the 16th and 17th centuries.

6.6.2 Layout of the village

The earliest mapping covering Akeld is also contained in the Grey survey and rental of the Wark and Wooler baronies discussed above. The manuscript volume contains a curious series of maps depicting four large parcels of land in outline at Akeld (figs. 21-23). These are difficult to interpret unambiguously, particularly as there is no other detailed map for Akeld before a Bell Survey of 1822 (NRO ZAN Bell 55.1; cf. fig. 16) and the tithe map drawn up in 1840 (fig. 17). However the outline of the common is clear enough (fig. 23) and a large open field on either side of the Glen (fig. 21) can be restored in the modern field layout.

The earliest clear map evidence of the settlement as a whole is provided by Armstrong's map of 1769 (fig. 13) which shows a small village on the south side of the Wooler–Kirknewton road, with a ruin (probably the early 16th century bastle house) situated at its southern end. By the time detailed mapping becomes available, in the early-mid 19th century, the field pattern has been clearly extensively reorganised, and at first sight little remains of the medieval pattern. However a series of five-six narrow croft-like enclosures, aligned west east, survive

on the east side of the village, between Akeld Manor [5] and the bastle house. They appear on all the historic maps, and are shown with particular clarity on the 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey (figures 18 & 19). It is reasonable to suppose that these crofts relate to a series of tenant holdings laid out on a north-south alignment perpendicular to the main Wooler-Kirknewton/Milfield road. To the north the continuation of the row may have been swallowed up by Akeld Manor farm (unless this was the site of the medieval capital messuage of Robert and William of Akeld). There may also have been a corresponding row to the west, backing on to the Akeld Burn, which has been obliterated by the later farm complex. Such an arrangement, whereby the village was for the most part laid out along one side of the burn, on a north-south alignment perpendicular to the main Wooler-Kirknewton/Milfield road, is remarkably similar to the layout of Kilham, for example.

To the northwest, on the other side of the burn, a chapel with a burial ground was apparently bisected by the road to Kirknewton. The original course of the Kirknewton road perhaps ran further south. The site of the original manor house, or capital messuage, of Robert and William of Akeld cannot be identified with certainty, but the most plausible candidate is perhaps the site of the present Akeld Manor House [5], where Grundy suggests the core of the building is older than the late 18th-century exterior. The alternative candidate, the bastle house, appears to relate to the smaller of the two manorial holdings into which Akeld was divided by the late medieval period (see below), and perhaps represents a new capital messuage site, established by the Wallis family in the early 16th century, from which to preside over their quarter of the township.

6.6.3 Chapel [55]

There is abundant documentary evidence for the existence of a chapel at Akeld. This has been summarised by the County History (NCH XI (1922), 237-40). The chapel was probably founded during the first half of 13th century. Under the heading *Carta de Terra Ecclesiae de Akeld* (Charter of church land of Akeld), the Kirkham Cartulary records that Robert of Akeld, the lord of the manor, gave to Kirkham Priory two bovates held of land held by one of his tenants, Adam Despenser, and another six acres of land and two of meadow, lying next to the path leading to the mill (*Kirkham Cartulary*, fol. 84). This donation (which must predate 1242, by which time Robert's son, William, was lord of the manor) probably served as an endowment for the chapel since the priory also gave licence to Robert and his heirs to have a chantry (*cantaria*)¹⁰ in the chapel of Akeld on condition that they continued to attend the parish church of Kirknewton at Christmas, Easter, Ascension Day and Whitsunday and the other major feast days and festivals, including all the festivals of Our Lady and of the parish's patron saint, St. Gregory. Robert and his heirs were to keep the chapel in repair and provide all necessary books and vestments so long as they wished to have a chapel there and for their part the canons of Kirkham undertook to pay 10s. a year to Robert and his heirs so long as the latter maintained a chapel and chantry there (*Kirkham Cartulary*, fol. 84).

The County History suggests the chapel may have been dedicated to the Virgin Mary based on the existence of the 'Lady's Close' and 'Lady's Well' in the near vicinity and the obligation to attend the parish church on all the festivals of Our Lady, noted above. The County History also argues that the chapel may have fallen into disuse by 1386 (NCH XI (1922), 238, citing *Cal. Patent Rolls*, 1385-1389, 287), based on the observation that 'a messuage (building plot) and 24 acres of land in Akild, which the lady of Akild once gave for a chaplain to celebrate divine service three days a week in the chapel there,' was in that year granted by the king for life to John, son of John Cresswell, in part payment of a debt. Precisely by what means this property came into the possession of the crown is unclear, however, although it may have been forfeited by one of Akeld's manorial lords, such as the

¹⁰ The County History (NCH XI (1922), 238, n.1) suggests that *cantaria* here refers to the ordinary services held within a chapel rather than its common meaning of a private chapel established within a church where prayers were said (chanted) for a patron.

Prendergasts, as a result of taking the Scottish side during the wars of the late 13th and early-mid 14th centuries. In 1737 there is reference to ‘about 54 acres of land called churchland’ at Akeld, in the possession of Samuel Kettilby, which might represent all or part of the original endowment of the chapel.

This chapel apparently stood at NT 95532972 [55], where the modern Akeld-Kirknewton road now runs. In 1828 Archdeacon Singleton noted ‘there is a tradition of a parochial chapelyard at Akeld, but it seems now to be alienated and I was told the high road to Wooler passed through it’. The chapel is located at this spot by the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (1860). The field immediately north of the Kirknewton road and west of the Akeld Burn is known as Chapel Field and is so labelled on an estate map of 1822 (fig. 16), the earliest detailed map covering Akeld, whilst the narrow field on the south side of the Kirknewton road is identified as the graveyard on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (fig. 18). The original sub-circular form of this churchyard is shown bisected by the road on the tithe map and the 1822 estate map (fig. 16) (ZAN Bell 51-1). Evidently the Kirknewton road must originally have followed a different, perhaps more southerly course. In 1889 this graveyard was enclosed on three sides, but was still open to the road (*AA* 2nd ser. xiii, 66-7)), but it is shown enclosed on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey (c.1896 fig. 19). Kelly’s Directory for 1910 indicated it was used as a camping ground by gypsies around that time. Warburton’s note suggests the ruins of the chapel were still standing in 1715 (Hodgson 1916, 11; see below *Selected Sources and Surveys*).

6.6.4 Mill

A mill in Akeld Township is mentioned in the charter preserved in the Kirkham cartulary recording the endowment of the chapel noted above. The location of this mill cannot be determined on the basis of the evidence contained within the charter itself, although the reference to ‘the path leading to the mill’ is tantalising. A corn mill is marked on the Bell estate map of 1822 (NRO ZAN Bell 51-1). This lies upstream of the dam and sluice shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey and clearly predates these features. It might represent the same site as the medieval mill, but this cannot as yet be confirmed. Moreover a letter written by Samuel Kettilby in 1734 implies there was no mill on his Akeld estate at that date, suggesting the 1822 corn mill was a mid-late 18th-century foundation.

6.6.5 Akeld Bastle [54]

The earliest reference to a fortified building at Akeld occurs in 1522, when Lord Dacre proposed to place ten men there under John Wallis for the defence of the border (*LP Hen VIII* III, 2 no.1986; cf. NCH XI (1922), 240). The term tower was used by Dacre in 1522, but in 1541, the border commissioners, Sir Robert Bowes and Sir Ralph Ellerker, described it as ‘a lytle fortelett or bastle house without a barmekyn’ (see *Selected Sources and Surveys*; Bates 1891, 33; cf. Cathcart King 1983, 356, 478, nn.486-7). The degree of terminological confusion or uncertainty displayed by these sources might actually be appropriate to the type of grander bastle house, or strong house, which the surviving remains at Akeld seem to represent (see Ryder below) – almost tower-like in height, but more house-shaped in plan and proportion. They may have proved as difficult for contemporaries to define and describe as they have for modern historians.

Akeld’s need for the kind of protection which the bastle or stronghouse could provide is not in question. Glendale was particularly exposed to raids launched by the reiving clans, or ‘surnames’ of Teviotdale, especially during the chronic insecurity of the 16th century. It was also one of the invasion routes followed by larger Scottish forces and two sizeable engagements were fought in the immediate vicinity of Akeld in the early 15th century – the Battle of Homildon Hill (Humbleton Hill) in the fields just to the east of Bendor in September 1402 and the ‘Battle of Geteryne’ (Yeavinger) a little further to the west in 1415.

Bowes and Ellerker imply, but do not explicitly state, that the bastle house was part of Lord

Grey's holding. However the reference to a garrison being stationed there in the charge of John Wallis, in 1522, suggests the building formed part of that quarter of the manor, which was held by the Wallis family throughout the 16th and 17th centuries. Armstrong's map (1769 fig. 13), which marks a ruin in a spot corresponding to that of the bastle, indicates the structure was in a state of considerable decay by the late 18th century. The rebuilding which gave the building its present form, involving the construction of a new first floor to form a granary and dovecote, must have occurred later on, at some stage between c. 1770-1850 (see Ryder description below). The field walls attached to the north and south ends of the bastle stand over 1.5m ('5ft') high and are more substantial than other field walls in the vicinity. Grundy has suggested that these may even represent defensive outworks, or barmkin, associated with the bastle in which case the barmkin would enclose an elongated area extending north and south of the building. If the suggestion is valid the enclosure must represent a secondary addition to the bastle for Bowes and Ellerker indicate there was no barmkin there in 1541.

There was presumably an earlier manorial complex, which must have served William of Akeld and his predecessors during the 12th -13th centuries (and perhaps even earlier if the Akeld manor did originate as a Saxon thanage as has been suggested). There is no evidence to indicate whether this lay on the same site as the bastle and Akeld Manor Farm is a plausible alternative candidate.

Akeld Bastle: Description

(P.F. Ryder account after a visit 19 7 90)

The building long known as 'Akeld Bastle' stands on the west side of a lane running southwards up the fellside from the hamlet of Akeld, and to the east of a small stream flowing down from the Cheviots; the site is of no particular strength. It is a rectangular structure 19 by 7.3 m externally, with walls 1.2 m thick of heavy rubble. The stone being a local reddish conglomerate. The quoins and dressings are of sandstone; the dressings of the first-floor openings, and the greater part of each angle quoin (laid in side-alternate manner) are roughly-tooled blocks of a bluish-grey stone. These look to be of 18th-century date, although an account of the building by the Rev. M.Culley in *Archaeologia Aeliana* 3rd series IX (1915) 35-43, states that the upper floor 'would appear to be an addition of 70 or 80 years ago'.

The ground floor of the building is a single undivided chamber with a semicircular barrel vault; it is entered by a square-headed doorway towards the south end of the long west wall, with a chamfered surround and a rough relieving arch above; the rather tall proportions of the doorway hint that it might have been heightened, but there is no clear proof of this. There are two checks for doors, and a single drawbar tunnel in the south jamb; further north in the same wall a modern doorway has been cut through the wall. The basement is lit by an assortment of narrow splayed loops, some cut rather obliquely through the walls. There are three loops in the south end, with above them a fourth which, unlike the others, has roughly-cut sandstone dressings. There is also a higher-level loop in the centre of the south end, now blocked by the external staircase. These upper loops seem to have lit some sort of lofts (or lofts) beneath the vault; there are various sockets for timbers c 1.5 m above the present floor, mostly in the end walls. There is a remarkably small ladder hole (according to RCHM 0.36 by 0.28 m) in the crown of the vault a short distance north of the entrance.

The upper part of the building has been completely rebuilt, and has much thinner walls. A double stair at the south end rises to a central square-headed doorway giving access to a granary, lit by three small windows on the west. The north end of the floor is partitioned off and forms a dovecote, access to which is by a more recent door in the east wall. The north gable has an impressive array of round-arched pigeon holes, arranged in groups of two or three, with alighting shelves beneath.

Akeld Bastle does not seem to have been a bastle house in the same sense as the many small defensible farmhouses found further south in the county; its parallels are more with larger buildings such as that at Pressen (NT 836358) and the surviving range at Castle Heaton (NT 901419) which are perhaps better regarded in a separate class as 'stronghouses'. The 1541 Border Survey mentions a 'lytle fortelett or bastle house without a barmkin' at Akeld. It is not clear whether this reference is to the surviving

building, or a predecessor.

6.7 Later History

6.7.1 Remodelling the township: Landholding, farm tenancies and field enclosure

The number of households and tenancies listed in the documentary evidence relating to the township, summarised by Dixon (1985, II, 21-2), implies that the village retained its pre-existing, essentially medieval, form throughout the 17th-century. Thus the Hearth Tax return of 1665 recorded eighteen households (PRO E179/158/103). In the Wooler Court Roll of 1690 there were eleven tenants, nine of whom appear in the 1693 rental when eight leaseholders and five cottagers were recorded (NRO ZBM 5 & NRO 424 Box 4A). Likewise, much of the earlier field layout may still have continued in use at this stage since the township had evidently not yet been improved and enclosed. It was stated in 1713 that:

The various parcels of land belonging to them (the two landowners) lay intermixt and in common, which is not only a great discouragement and bar to the improvement of them, but as the tenants are continually trespassing upon each other, the produce of the crops of hay and corn are greatly lessened and thereby the tenements stock reduced to their great impoverishment who also being many in number on so small an estate are all in low and mean circumstances.¹¹

The fundamental transformation of these associated settlement- and field patterns probably occurred in the mid 18th century. In 1713 Ralph Wallis sold his quarter of Akeld, plus the neighbouring township of Coupland, to John Ogle of Newcastle upon Tyne, who bought the estate on behalf of his son, Chaloner Ogle. On acquiring the Akeld estate, Sir Chaloner Ogle attempted to collect the scattered strips into two coherent holdings, but it was not until 1741 that an agreement was reached with the other landowner, Samuel Kettilby of Berwick, to divide the township into a series of compact tenancies. Kettilby had purchased the three quarters of Akeld which had belonged to the Grey lineage for the sum of £4200 in 1733 and thereafter had vainly sought to acquire the remaining portion of the township, offering Sir Chaloner Ogle £1800 for the estate in 1737 (NCH XII (1922), 234, 236). As a result of this remodelling of the holdings the number of tenants of Akeld recorded in the Wooler Court Rolls declined from nine to four between 1737 and 1745 (Dixon 1985, II, 22). Early in the following century Akeld did at last become concentrated into a single estate, in the hands of Matthew Culley, of Denton in Teesdale, who bought the larger estate towards the end of the 18th century and completed his acquisition of the township when he subsequently inherited the smaller of the two estates.

The role of Matthew Culley, with his brother George, in improving Northumbrian agricultural practices is well known. One result was the introduction of new crops, including fodder crops such as turnips, into the rotational cycle to increase the number of livestock, particularly sheep, which could be maintained and thereby ensure proper manuring of the land (cf. Barnwell & Giles 1997, 68-9). At Akeld, the Culleys' work is perhaps reflected in the fact the township was later famous for turnips, of which the yield was considerable, as noted in Kelly's Directory for 1910 (1910, 177). More evident today is the impact of Matthew Culley's tenure on the layout and appearance of the village.

6.7.2 Remodelling the village

The impact of all these changes on the village itself is revealed in the surviving built fabric of the settlement and can be charted in the detailed map evidence, which first becomes available in this period, in the form of a Bell estate map of 1822 (fig. 16), the tithe map (1840, fig. 17) and ultimately the Ordnance Survey series, from c. 1860 onwards. Akeld Manor, a plain but

¹¹ Quoted by Dixon (1985 II, 21-2) and NCH XII (1922), 236, the latter citing the Letters of Samuel Kettilby, 8th August 1734, Ewart Park MSS.

substantial late 18th-early 19th-century six-bay farmhouse [5; Grundy 1988, AKE 8; Pevsner 2001, 125], figures on all these maps at the north end of the village and was reportedly built in 1795 by Matthew Culley (Kelly's Directory 1910, 177), conceivably on the site of the medieval manorial centre (see above). The attendant, large but compact planned complex of farmbuildings to the west [61] was separated from the house by a courtyard with a cottage, carriage house and gateway on the east side of the yard [6] and a range of cartsheds and stables on the west side [7]. Although these structures (Grundy 1988, AKE 10-12) represent more than one building phase – the cartshed (Grundy 1988, AKE 11) on the west side of the courtyard is older (late 18th century) than the remainder of that range for example – they all appear to fall within the same overall late 18th-early 19th century timeframe for the remodelling of the village and were certainly in existence by the time the settlement is first covered by detailed map evidence. Indeed the entire complex may substantially represent the work of Matthew Culley, which association considerably enhances the significance of this building assemblage.

Further west still, four ranges of single storey farm cottages were arranged around a square, on the opposite side of the burn ([4]; Grundy AKE 14; Pevsner 2001, 125). These are marked on Fryer's map (fig. 15) and the 1822 estate map. A datestone inscribed 'MC 1795 MC 1895' indicates the cottages were originally erected by Matthew Culley in 1795. The datestone itself must have been set up in connection with later alterations made by a descendant, the Rev. Matthew T Culley, which are evident on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey, including the addition of a block of privies in the centre of the courtyard. The string of cottages between Akeld Manor and the bastle to the south [8-11] appear for the most part to have been constructed within the same general timeframe, though perhaps on the site of earlier dwellings. Indeed, apart from the bastle, the only building at Akeld which certainly precedes the late 18th-early 19th century remodelling is a mid-18th-century wash house ([11]; Grundy 1988, AKE 7) on the south side of Rose Cottage. On the opposite (west) side of the burn lay two successive watermills built and modified at various stages in the 18th and 19th centuries (see below).

Watermills

(including information provided by the NE Mills Group)

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Site Name: | Akeld |
| Grid Reference: | NT956297 |
| First recorded | Not Known |
| Last recorded | 1866 |

There is documentary reference to a mill at Akeld in the early 13th century (see above), though its precise location is uncertain. The earliest mill which can be firmly located appears on an estate map of 1822 (NRO ZAN Bell 51-1), where two buildings labelled 'corn mill' are shown to the south of the settlement, on the west bank of the burn. The burn splits divides in two for a short distance at this point suggesting that the more westerly channel, which ran adjacent to the mill, may represent a deliberately constructed leet. The nearby field, immediately south of the bastle, is also called 'Mill Close' whilst the wood along the burn is labelled 'Mill Plantation' on the later 1st edition Ordnance Survey. The two buildings are still shown, though not labelled, on the tithe map (1840, fig. 17), but do not appear on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey and had therefore probably gone out of use and been demolished by the 1860s. Access to the mill from the settlement was probably via path leading southward from the main farm complex to a footbridge across the burn, which does figure on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey.

A second watermill, which was probably associated with the main farm complex, is clearest on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (1866). The mill building [62] still stands on the west side of the burn beside a small bridge leading to the main farm complex. Associated with it to the south was a millpond with a 'sluice' marked on the same map. This farm mill presumably superseded the more southerly corn mill, perhaps before 1840 and certainly by c. 1860. The estate map shows a much smaller building at the site of the farm mill, located too distant from the burn to have functioned as a watermill. However the tithe map depicts a building there similar in size to that which figures on the Ordnance Survey maps. It may therefore have supplanted the earlier corn mill by this stage, although the latter's buildings are also

shown and were presumably still standing. A pond is also shown on the tithe map, but this appears to be smaller than the mill pond which figures on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey onwards, and to be situated somewhat further to the north. Neither site is labelled as a mill.

As for the preceding corn mill, its origins may be illuminated by a letter written in 1734 (NRO - ZBU A2 p18; cf. *Northumbrian Mills* 22, 9-10). This letter from Samuel Kettilby to Robert Paul Esq. complained about the conduct of Mr Wearg, tenant at Coupland Mill. In it he claims he has been “urged...to build a mill at Akyld”. While he has “never intend any such things” the possibility is opened up if Mr Wearg did not mend his ways.

Site Name: *Yeavinger Farm*
Grid Reference: NT936304
First recorded 1866
Last recorded 1950s

This farm mill is indicated by a clear race leading to a building on the 1866 Ordnance Survey map and subsequent editions up to the mid 20th century. Nothing is known about what is presumed to be a farm mill. It appears that the farm buildings have been converted recently for accommodation so any remaining signs of the former mill will probably have been lost. The Northumberland sites and monuments record suggest this as the site of ‘Yeavinger Mill’ but this could also have been at Old Yeavinger.

Signs of ponds and a possible race are also visible at Old Yeavinger (NT904302), but no documentary or map evidence is known to back this up as a possible mill site.

6.7.3 19th-century population

The population of the township as a whole steadily rose in the first half of the 19th century, from a figure of 153 recorded in 1801 census to a maximum of 186 by 1851. Thereafter numbers declined significantly with only 136 registered by 1901, perhaps reflecting the impact on the local farming economy of the prolonged agricultural depression experienced during the late 19th century. Parson and White’s Directory records a total 27 houses and families in the township in 1827. The bulk of these households were probably located in the village itself. Only one substantial farm was situated outside the village during this period, Akeld Steads [16-18], on the north side of the Glen. This farmstead was known by a number of different names over time. It is labelled ‘Red Stead’ on the tithe map (fig. 17) and the earlier estate map, but figures as ‘Akeld Lodge’ on Greenwood’s map (1828) and as ‘Broom House’ on Fryer’s map (1820; cf. fig. 15) and, earlier still, on Armstrong’s map (1769; fig. 13). To the east of the village, the Black Bull Inn at Bendor served traffic along the newly turnpiked routes from Wooler northward towards Coldstream and westward towards Kirknewton and the Scottish border. There was a shepherd’s cottage to the south of the village at Gleadseleugh, built in the early-mid 19th century ([65]; Grundy 1988, AKE 15). It figures on the 1822 estate map (fig. 16) and on Fryer’s map (1820), but not on Armstrong’s map (1769). Both Fryer’s map and the estate map depict another building - perhaps an earlier shepherd’s cottage - beside the Harehope Burn to the south east of the village. It is captioned ‘Hareup in ruins’ on the estate map and was evidently already out of use by this stage. It does not appear on any later map.

Bondagers

A significant, if transient element in the population of the Border villages during the 18th and 19th centuries were the females outworkers, or ‘bondagers’, who were employed to labour in the fields of the region’s agricultural estates. The use of such female bondagers as agricultural labourers was especially prevalent in south-east Scotland and extended into north Northumberland. The system is recorded in the Scottish Borders as early as 1656, when it is documented that a hind (agricultural labourer) was bound to provide a women whose labour at harvest paid the rent of his house, and to be on call as a day labourer whenever required (Fenton 1976). In the mid 19th century the rate for such labour was about 10d a day. The

bondager's work was regarded as paying the rent of the cottage in which the hind's family lived and it was the hind's responsibility to supply this labour, either in the shape of female relatives able to do the work or, if necessary, by engaging one or two women or girls to 'live in'. As well as making a major contribution to the local agricultural economy these women were noteworthy for their distinctive costume, which has been the subject of detailed study (Thompson 1977). By the turn of the 19th century the Bondage System had finally fallen into disuse, with the farmer hiring the required labourers directly, although the term bondager persisted till the end of the First World War.

6.7.4 Transport and Communications

In addition to the adoption of new agricultural techniques facilitated by the construction of coherently-planned farm complexes, steady improvements to the area's transport infrastructure also contributed to the prosperity of farming in Glendale's estates during the late 18th and 19th centuries. The main routes from Wooler northward towards Coldstream and westward towards Kirknewton and the Scottish border had been converted into turnpikes by the early 19th century. The map evidence from Fryer onwards reveals there was a toll bar at Bendor, where, as we have seen, the Black Bull Inn was also located and doubtless profited from feeding and watering travellers along these routes. A certain Margaret Chambers was the innkeeper in the early-mid 19th century (Parson & White's Directory 1827, 517; NRO DT 6M (1841 tithe award), listed as 'Bendor Inn Farm'). The turnpike trusts were gradually wound up in the face of competition from the railways during the mid-late 19th century. It was not until 1887 that a branch line serving the small communities of Glendale, and operated by the North Eastern Railway (NER), was finally opened, although a number of other schemes intended to serve north and central Northumberland had been put forward previously, all of which were designed to traverse either Glendale or the Milfield Plain. Indeed the origins of the railway owed more to the commercial rivalry of Victorian railway companies than it did to the needs of this sparsely populated, rural part of Northumberland.

The Alnwick and Cornhill Railway

Various schemes were promoted in the mid-late 19th century for a railway line through either Glendale or the Milfield Plain and thence through central Northumberland, to enable the Edinburgh-based North British Railway (NBR) to gain direct access to the lucrative traffic of industrial Tyneside. Thus in 1860s the Northumberland Central Railway (NCR) was proposed to run between a junction with NBR's Wansbeck Railway at Scots Gap, via Rothbury and Wooler culminating in a junction with the North Eastern Railway's Tweedmouth-Kelso branch at Cornhill. North of Wooler the railway was projected to cross the Milfield Plain, following the course of the River Till rather than the Glen and the Bowmont like the later Alnwick-Coldstream branch, but a station was to have been provided at Akeld. In the final event, however, only the section between Rothbury and Scots Gap was constructed (Warn 1975, 29-31; Jenkins 1991, 9-26; Sewell 1992, 82-5; Mackichan 1998, 39ff). Another scheme, labelled, with only a modicum of originality, the Central Northumberland Railway, was promoted in 1881, perhaps with tacit NBR support. This was projected to run from Newcastle to Scotsgap via Ponteland, thence over the NCR to Rothbury continuing to Wooler and on to a junction with the Kelso line at Sprouston (QRU p152; Warn 1975, 41, 43; Jenkins 1991, 45-6; Mackichan 1998, 129-54). The threat posed by the Central Northumberland Railway finally spurred the powerful North Eastern Railway (NER), somewhat reluctantly, to promote a branch line of its own between Alnwick, Wooler and Cornhill to block this particular line of commercial attack. In this the company was strongly supported by the tradespeople of Alnwick who were concerned at the potential loss of business if the farmers of Wooler and north Northumberland had a direct raillink to the rival market and shops in Rothbury. Both schemes were presented to Parliament in 1881 and it was the NER route, which gained approval with the Alnwick and Cornhill Act, passed on 19th May 1882.

The new single-track line finally opened on 5th September 1887, having cost £272,266 15s 3d to construct. North of Wooler, it ran alongside the Glen and then the Bowmont, turning north as it emerged from the narrow valley to reach a junction with the Tweedmouth-Kelso branch at Coldstream

station.¹² Between Wooler and Coldstream there were stations at Akeld, Kirknewton and Mindrum and goods sidings at Kilham.¹³

The quality of all the station buildings was remarkable. They have been acclaimed as '*probably the best ever built by the North Eastern Railway in its sixty eight years of existence*' (Hoole 1984) and '*unsurpassed on any other minor rural line in Britain*' (Young 2003, 28). This has resulted in virtually complete survival of these buildings. Akeld [2], in common with most of the other examples, has been converted to residential use.¹⁴ The stations were all constructed to the same basic design, but varying in size according to the anticipated scale of traffic. The northeast railway historian Ken Hoole has classified them into five categories (1984):

- A: Single storey station, separate stationmaster's house (Kirknewton, Edlingham)
- B: Island platform, separate house (Whittingham)
- C: Two storey station including house (Mindrum, Ilderton, Wooperton, Hedgeley, Glanton)
- D: Larger two storey station including house (Akeld)
- E: Still larger two storey station including house (Wooler)

Akeld was one of the largest stations on the line, falling into Hoole's category D. Only Wooler, the principal traffic centre, was larger. The buildings were constructed of buff-coloured rock-faced sandstone with half-hipped slate roofs, tall chimneystacks and iron finials. Passengers were sheltered by herringbone patterned wood-and-glass lean-to structures that extended along the platform frontage. All stations handled freight as well as passengers and substantial goods sheds were provided at all but the smallest stations. There was a level crossing at Bendor, to the east of Akeld, with an associated signal box also now converted to residential use [3].

It is somewhat puzzling, however, why the NER should choose to lavish such splendid facilities on such a minor and relatively unremunerative line, especially as the NER was in many respects the most profitable and professionally managed of Britain's Victorian railway companies with financial controls far ahead of its time (cf. Mackichan 1998, 157-8). Perhaps it was felt that the strategic importance of this line in safeguarding NER territory from possible penetration by a competing NBR main line justified the expenditure as a clear demonstration of the NER's commitment to provide the area with a proper service. Nevertheless, the passenger service was always meagre with three trains each way on weekdays stopping at all stations, four on Saturdays and, before the First World War, on Mondays. There was no Sunday service. Goods traffic was predominantly agricultural, largely consisting of grain and livestock, including horses, outward and feed, machinery, coal and oil inward.

The passenger trains were withdrawn after only 43 years on 22nd September 1930, just as the Great Depression began to bite, making it at the time the longest British route to have closed. Several stations on the line, including Akeld itself, were adjacent to the A697 and therefore particularly vulnerable to bus competition. Many were some distance from the villages they purported to serve (though this did not apply to Akeld itself). An internal LNER memo of June 1930 noted that passenger traffic had suffered a large decline 'due, for the most part, to road competition' (Young 2003, 28). However the goods and parcels services continued to run and special passenger trains occasionally visited the line after 1930. Whenever necessary a coach was attached to the daily parcels train to enable holidaymakers to travel to the camping coaches which the LNER still maintained in the sidings at Akeld and other stations along the line. The establishment of Milfield airfield by the RAF during World War II generated additional traffic, including troop trains, with Akeld station, four miles to the south, serving as the railhead for the airfield.

Ending the passenger service brought only a limited financial respite, however. There was little reduction in the line's overheads, which now fell entirely on the goods and parcels service. Full signalling was maintained throughout until the end of the LNER period, stations were still staffed, and

¹² Coldstream station was actually located on the south side of the Tweed at Cornhill and originally bore that name, only being renamed Coldstream in October 1873. To add to the confusion the Glendale line was officially titled the Alnwick and Cornhill Railway!

¹³ Mindrum station was actually situated closer to the hamlets of Downham and Pawston than to Mindrum itself, a common phenomenon in respect to the stations on this line. Akeld and Kirknewton were actually unusual in being located right beside the villages they served.

¹⁴ Only Whittingham station stands empty and derelict because, uniquely, it was built on an island platform, but the nearby stationmaster's house and railway cottages remain in residential use.

a daily parcels train had to be introduced which must have cost as much to run as one of the passenger trains! Nevertheless the line continued without major incident until the torrential storms of 12 August 1948 which caused severe flooding right across the Borders and severed the Alnwick-Coldstream line in several places. Most of the damage was repaired by the following year, with the exception of a bridge between Mindrum and Kirknewton stations, which were then operated as the termini of two separate branch lines until further flooding in October 1949 cut the line between Ilderton and Wooler. This damage was not repaired. Instead the bridge near Kirknewton was restored, and services were now restored north of Wooler and south of Ilderton. Operations on the southern half of the line did not prove economically viable for long under this arrangement and closed completely in March 1953. Goods services were withdrawn from Kirknewton and Kilham sidings in the same month. However the remaining freight services on the northern half of the line to Wooler, which included Akeld station, lasted for a further twelve years, finally closing on 29th March 1965 along with the Tweedmouth-Kelso branch.

6.7.5 Akeld in the 20th century

The outward form of the village altered relatively little in the 20th century, but this masks changes in the local economy and population every bit as profound as any of those in the preceding centuries. Its development can be traced in the photographs and maps reproduced in this study.

The momentous events of the first half of the 20th century, which drew men away from the Glendale estates to fight in two world wars, many never to return, also left their mark on the physical fabric of the locality. Milfield airfield, four miles to the north of Akeld, was established as an RAF base to intercept Luftwaffe bombers attacking from Norway, and later became one of the main centres for training aircrew in the air to ground attack methods vital for the control of the Normandy beach-heads and the following 'push' through Europe. The airfield was manned by pilots of many nationalities, and the tombstones of airmen killed in action (and during training) can still be seen in Kirknewton churchyard, many of the stones being decorated with the crest of the particular squadron or wing to which the deceased belonged. At Akeld itself a D-shaped pillbox [58] was constructed opposite the cottages, but fortunately never had to be used for its intended purpose.

Throughout the century the number of people employed in agriculture continued to decline as a result of mechanisation and the decline in farming incomes. The size of the individual farm tenancies correspondingly increased leading to the many farm complexes becoming redundant, including Akeld itself. Consequently agriculture no longer employs the bulk of the village's population. Moreover domestic service, which also provided substantial employment on the estates of north Northumberland at the beginning of the 20th century had ceased to be a significant factor by the second half of the century. The second half of the 20th century has also seen rural services and facilities come under increasing threat. The closure of the railway line through Glendale was an early example of this, as noted above, the passenger trains being withdrawn in September 1930 with the freight and parcels services following in 1965. These processes have in turn led to a reduction in the size of the village population and profound changes in its demographic profile. The village is predominantly inhabited by commuters and retired people. There are few children in Glendale today.

However it would be wrong to paint an wholly negative picture. Living standards have immeasurably increased in Glendale in common with the rest of British society whilst the social and economic opportunities available today are far greater than those facing the inhabitants of Akeld at the beginning of the 20th century. New economic opportunities and livelihoods have also emerged during this period, generated by society's increased leisure time and the growth in tourism. The Northumberland National Park was established in 1956 to conserve and enhance the breathtaking natural and historic environment of upland Northumberland including the Cheviots and to promote public understanding and enjoyment of that landscape. This represents an explicit acknowledgement of the immense attraction that

such wild spaces have in the modern world and has helped to ensure that this invaluable resource will be maintained for future generations to enjoy. It has also led to the creation of a powerful body, in the shape of the National Park Authority, which aims to foster the social and economic well being of local communities within its boundaries (*cf.* Frodsham 2004, 144-5). The recent conversion of the farm buildings at Akeld into a restaurant is one imaginative effort to take advantage of these opportunities, and provides some grounds for optimism that communities such as Akeld will meet the challenges facing them in the 21st century.

7. SELECTED SOURCES AND SURVEYS

1. *Liber Feodorum (The Book of Fees) II, 1119-20; Northumberland, 1242*

Baronia de Muschamp

Robertus de Muschamp tenet in capite de domine rege Wllouere, Hetpol, Lowye, Beleford, Ford, Hethal, Crucun, Hedrislawe, Kynermerston, Brankeston, Heddon, Akild, Coupland, Yever, Hamildon, Houburn, Beyirmor, Ditchend, Middelton, Fenton, Yesington, Trikilton, Bollisdon, Ulecestr et medietatem de Elwyc per quatuor feoda de veteri feoffamento.

.....
Willelmus de Akild tenet Akild, Coupland, et Yever per unum feodum de veteri feoffamento.

Translation:

Barony of Muschamp

Robert de Muschamp holds in chief from the lord king Wooler, Hethpool, Lowick, Belford, Ford, Etal, Crookham, 'Heatherslaw, Kimmerston, Branxston, Heddon, Akeld, Coupland, Yeavinger, Humbleton, Holburn, Barmoor, Detchant, Middleton, Fenton, Easington, Tricklely, Bowsden, Outchester and half of Elwick for four (knights') fees by ancient feoffment.

.....
 William de Akeld holds Akeld, Coupland and Yeavinger for one fee by ancient feoffment.

2. *The Lay Subsidy 1296* (Fraser (ed.) 1968, 128 no. 304)

Akeld (*Akild*) in the Ward of Glendale

| Taxpayer | Tax | | |
|---|------------|----|----|
| Thomas the chaplain's servant (<i>servientis</i>) | £3 | 8 | 10 |
| Emma wife of William | £6 | 3 | 2 |
| John the chaplain | £1 | 7 | 6 |
| Thomas Baret | £6 | 10 | 4 |
| Ranulph the miller | | 16 | 11 |
| Roger son of Walter | £1 | 7 | 0 |
| Elias brother of Walter | £1 | 15 | 4 |
| William Genur | | 15 | 9 |
| Stephen Littil' | £2 | 16 | 8 |
| Duncan | £1 | 14 | 0 |
| William Palmer | £13 | 18 | 4 |
| Lady Lucy | £10 | 15 | 1 |
| Robert Palmer | £1 | 11 | 0 |
| Total Assessment of Akeld | £53 | 0 | 0 |
| Tax Due | £4 | 16 | 4½ |

3. *A View and Survey . . . of the borders or frontier of the East and Middle Marches of England, Sir Robert Bowes and Sir Ralph Ellerker'1541* (cf. Hodgson 1828, 185; Bates 1891, 33)

Margin

Aykeld

Gray of Chillingham
a little fortelett

Description

The townshippe of Aykeld conteyneth xvi husband lands all plenyshed and hath in yt a lytle fortelett or bastle house without a barmekyn. And the most parte therof ys of th'inheritaunce of the said Mr Graye of Chyllingham.

4. *John Warburton's description of 1715*

Warburton's notes, compiled in 1715, contain the following description of the village (Hodgson 1916, 11):

Akeld: a village in several hands with the ruins of an ancient chapell.

PART 4:
SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS
& RECOMMENDATIONS:

8. CONCLUSIONS AND POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

- 1 The outstanding significance of the extant late prehistoric and Romano-British monuments in Glendale needs no emphasis. Several recent surveys undertaken by English Heritage as part of the Discovering our Hillfort Heritage Project have revealed just how many elements of the more extensive landscape can be traced around these sites and demonstrated the progress which can be made in phasing the various different components through detailed survey. However major questions of chronology, site hierarchy, settlement transition remain unresolved and when set against the outstanding survival international quality of these historic landscapes it is extraordinary how little has been carried out in recent decades.
2. The late antique/early medieval period is still especially poorly understood. Significant progress has been made in understanding the overall pattern of estates known as 'shires' or 'multiple estates' and something of their historical development. Some of the major estate centres have been investigated or are known from aerial photography (e.g. *Ad Gefrin*, *Maelmin*, Sprouston) and a few lesser sites have been excavated, notably Thirlings. However the processes by which shift was accomplished from the numerous hilltop or hillside settlements of the Romano-British period to the nucleated villages - like Akeld - located in the valley bottom, which are apparent in the 12th and 13th centuries, remain very unclear. This shift undeniably represents a substantial reordering of settlement and society over time.
3. There is convincing evidence that Akeld was the centre of a pre-Conquest thanage which also embraced the contiguous townships of Coupland and Yeavering. This makes Akeld a very promising candidate for the investigation of the transition from the Anglo-Saxon to Norman periods and the origins of manorial lordship in Northumberland.
4. The cartulary of Kirkham Priory provides detailed information on landholding and land use in Glendale during the medieval period. Further systematic study of this source would almost certainly yield dividends in terms of our understanding of medieval settlement and society in the district. A published edition of this document is urgently awaited.
5. It is easy to imagine that the history of the previous century is extensively documented in a wide variety of media. Yet, despite the beautiful scenery through which it passed, relatively few photographs appear to have been taken of the Alnwick-Cornhill line in operation, for example, certainly by comparison with similar lines elsewhere, and it is now nearly 40 years since the line closed. Many other subjects which have not received such enthusiastic attention as railway history are still more poorly documented. This underlines the importance and urgency of oral history projects and archival 'ingathering' schemes as a means of recording the profound changes experienced in so many aspects of life during the 20th century.

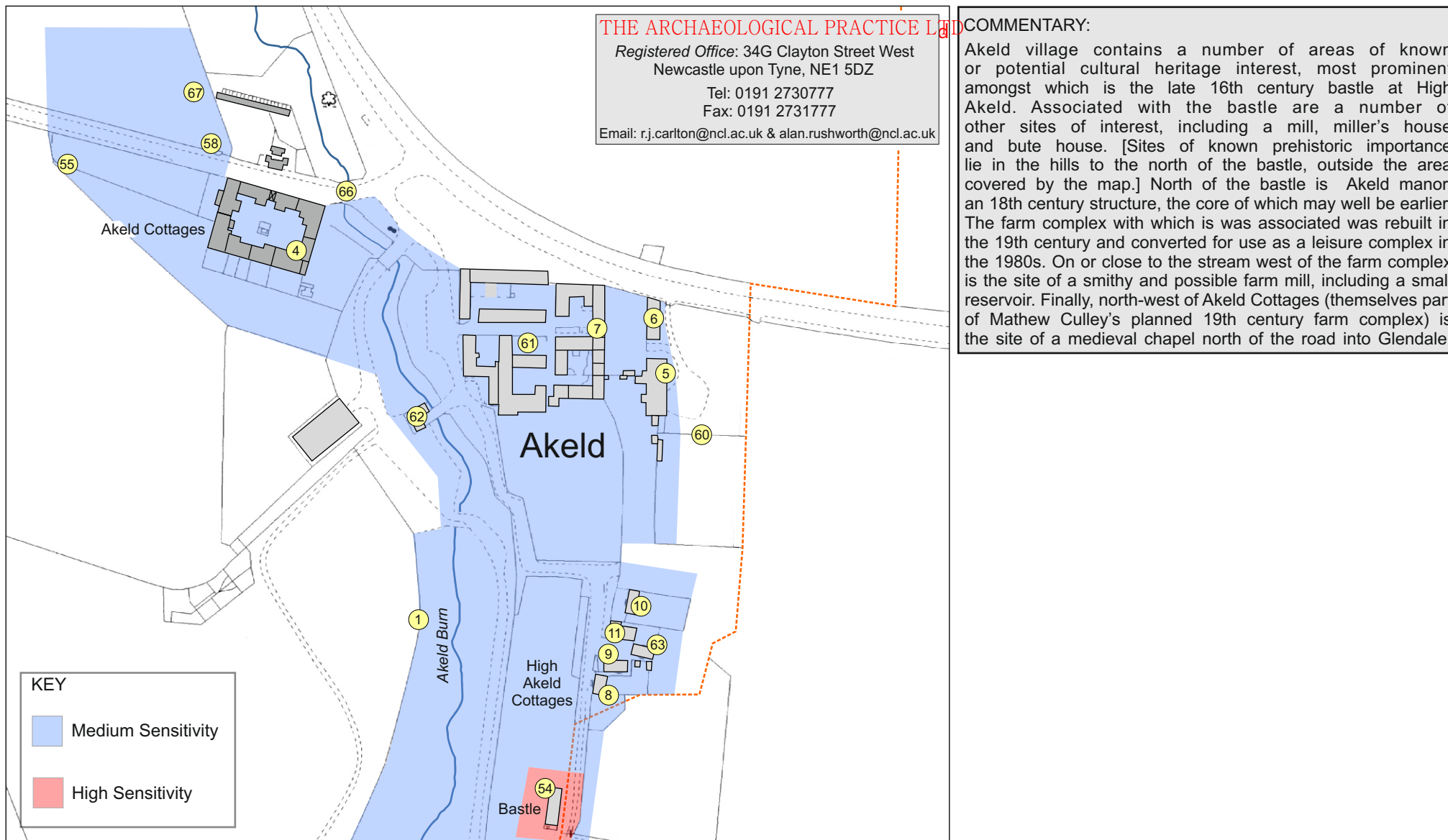
9. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY ISSUES

The grades of sensitivity shown on the accompanying archaeological sensitivity map (fig 47) are based on the following conclusions drawn from the available archaeological, documentary and cartographic evidence. The following guidelines have been adopted as the basis of classifying the sensitivity areas. Sites or areas where the survival archaeological remains can be demonstrated are accorded high sensitivity. Areas where the former existence of historic settlement is known or suspected, but the degree of survival of any associated archaeological deposits is uncertain, are accorded medium sensitivity.

1. Akeld Bastle [54] is a substantial monument probably representing the remains of an early 16th century stronghouse and is therefore accorded the highest sensitivity. Its parallels are more with the class of substantial fortified dwellings found in north Northumberland, which have been labelled 'stronghouses' (notable examples being Pressen, Doddington and the surviving range at Castle Heaton), rather than with the many small defensible farmhouses or 'bastles' found further south in the county, in Redesdale and Tynedale for example. The former were almost tower-like in height, but more house-shaped in plan and proportion than the late medieval towerhouses. Their distribution exemplifies the difference between the gentry-dominated civil society of northeast Northumberland and the kinship-based society prevalent in the dales of the Middle and West Marches. The first documentary reference to the building occurs in 1522.
2. There is no conclusive evidence relating to the location and layout of the medieval village settlement since all the detailed maps postdate the radical remodelling of the village from the end of the 18th century onward. However the limited evidence provided by Armstrong's map (fig 13) and the analogy with other better-understood settlements such as Kilham and Kirknewton suggests that it most probably represented by the string of cottages between Akeld Manor Farm and the bastle.
3. The medieval chapel probably lay to the west of the village on a site, which can be traced on early 19th century maps and is now bisected by the Akeld-Kirknewton road.
4. The site of the medieval manorial complex (capital messuage) held by William of Akeld in the 13th century is uncertain. The site of the present Akeld Manor Farm has been tentatively suggested here. The potential that this might present to trace the evolution of a manorial complex from its possible origins as the centre of a thanage in late Saxon period (and possibly even earlier – see above) make the firm identification and investigation of this site a high priority.
5. The existence of a medieval corn mill is attested at Akeld in contemporary documents although its precise location is unknown, whilst the historic maps plus surviving buildings and associated features provide evidence for two corn mills beside the burn, which probably operated successively in the 18th and 19th centuries.
6. At the end of the 18th century Akeld farm came in to the possession of Matthew Culley who with his brother, George Culley, was one of the principal proponents of 'agricultural improvement'. The farm appears to have been remodelled by Culley at this time. The farm buildings have now been converted to alternative uses and the farm cottages laid out around a courtyard were remodelled at the end of the 19th century. Nevertheless the significance of this complex, as an example of the work of

one of the major exponents of agricultural innovation, remains high and recording work should be considered if any further alterations to this group are proposed.

7. Despite its limited commercial potential, the Alnwick to Cornhill branch line was furnished with arguably some of the finest rural stations built in the British Isles (Hoole 1984; Young 2003, 28). Akeld station[2], like the rest of its counterparts has survived in residential use with remarkably little alteration. Together these structures have a high group value, representing the late 19th century apogee of the British railway branch line construction. Photographic recording should be considered in the event of any proposal to develop or modify these buildings.



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Fig. 47: Archaeological Sensitivity Map of Akeld (Catalogue numbers keyed to Appendix 4).

Areas of the map designated 'High Sensitivity' are those known to contain important visible or buried archaeological remains; those designated 'Medium Sensitivity' are areas thought likely to contain such remains on the basis of map & documentary evidence or their proximity to known sites. The above map covers the modern village core and its environs; other sites and localities in the wider vicinity (see Figures 45 & 46) will also display significant levels of archaeological sensitivity.

PART 5:
APPENDICES
&
BIBLIOGRAPHY

10. GLOSSARY

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Advowson | the legal right to appoint a priest to a parish church. |
| Agistment | the grazing of livestock on pasture belonging to someone else. |
| Alienate | to grant land to someone else or to an institution. |
| Assart | land cleared for cultivation. |
| Assize | a legal procedure |
| Barony | the estate of a major feudal lord, normally held of the Crown by military tenure. |
| Borough | a town characterised by the presence of burgage tenure and some trading privileges for certain tenants. |
| Bovate | measure of arable land, normally equivalent to approx. 12-15 acres. This measurement especially popular in eastern and northern counties of England. |
| Burgage | A form of property within a borough |
| Capital Messuage | A messuage containing a high status dwelling house, often the manor house itself. |
| Cartulary | a book containing copies of deeds, charters, and other legal records. |
| Carucate | a unit of taxation in northern and eastern counties of England, equivalent to eight bovates or one hide (120 acres). |
| Charter | a legal document recording the grant of land or privileges. |
| Chattels | movable personal property. |
| Common land | land over which tenants and perhaps villagers possessed certain rights, for example to graze animals, collect fuel etc. |
| Common law | a body of laws that overrode local custom. |
| Copyhold | a tenure in which land was held by copy of an entry recording admittance made in the record of the manor court. |
| Cotland | a smallholding held on customary tenure . |
| Cottar | an unfree smallholder. |
| Croft | an enclosed plot of land, often adjacent to a dwelling house. |
| Custom | a framework of local practices, rules and/or expectations pertaining to various economic or social activities. |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Customary tenure | an unfree tenure in which land was held “at the will of the lord, according to the custom of the manor’. In practice usually a copyhold of inheritance in Cumbria by the sixteenth century. |
| Deanery | unit of ecclesiastical administration consisting of a group of parishes under the oversight of a rural dean. |
| Demesne | land within a manor allocated to the lord for his own use. |
| Domain | all the land pertaining to a manor. |
| Dower | widow’s right to hold a proportion (normally one-third) of her deceased husband’s land for the rest of her life. |
| Dowry | land or money handed over with the bride at marriage. |
| Enfeoff | to grant land as a fief . |
| Engross | to amalgamate holdings or farms. |
| Farm | in medieval usage, a fixed sum paid for leasing land, a farmer therefore being the lessee. |
| Fealty | an oath of fidelity sworn by a new tenant to the lord in recognition of his obligations. |
| Fee/Fief | hereditary land held from a superior lord in return for homage and often, military service. |
| Fine | money payment to the lord to obtain a specific concession |
| Forest | a Crown or Palatinate hunting preserve consisting of land subject to Forest Law, which aimed to preserve game. |
| Free chase | a forest belonging to a private landholder. |
| Freehold | a tenure by which property is held “for ever”, in that it is free to descend to the tenant’s heirs or assigns without being subject to the will of the lord or the customs of the manor. |
| Free tenure | tenure or status that denoted greater freedom of time and action than, say, customary tenure or status, a freeman was entitled to use the royal courts, and the title to free tenure was defensible there. |
| Free warren | a royal franchise granted to a manorial lord allowing the holder to hunt small game, especially rabbit, hare, pheasant and partridge, within a designated vill . |
| Furlong | a subdivision of open arable fields. |
| Glebe | the landed endowment of a parish church. |
| Headland | a ridge of unploughed land at the head of arable strips in open fields providing access to each strip and a turning place for the plough. |

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Heriot | a death duty, normally the best beast, levied by the manorial lord on the estate of the deceased tenant. |
| Hide, hideage | Angl-Saxon land measurement, notionally 120 acres, used for calculating liability for geld. <i>See carucate.</i> |
| Homage | act by which a vassal acknowledges a superior lord. |
| Knight's fee | land held from a superior lord for the service of a knight. |
| Labour services | the duty to work for the lord, often on the demesne land, as part of the tenant's rent package. |
| Leet | the court of a vill whose view of frankpledge had been franchised to a local lord by the Crown. |
| Manor | estate over which the owner ("lord") had jurisdiction, exercised through a manor court. |
| Mark | sum of money equivalent to two-thirds of a pound, i.e., 13s. 4d. |
| Merchet | a fine paid by villein tenants. |
| Messuage | a plot of land containing a dwelling house and outbuildings. |
| Moot | a meeting. |
| Multure | a fee for grinding corn, normally paid in kind: multure can also refer to the corn thus rendered. |
| Neif | a hereditary serf by blood. |
| Pannage | payment for the fattening of domestic pigs on acorns etc. in woodland. |
| Perch | a linear measure of 16½ feet and a square measure equivalent to one fortieth of a rood . |
| Quitclaim | a charter formally renouncing a claim to land. |
| Relief | payment made by a free tenant on entering a holding. |
| Rood | measure of land equivalent to one quarter of an acre; and forty perches. |
| Serf | an unfree peasant characterised by onerous personal servility. |
| Severalty | land in separate ownership, that is not subject to common rights, divided into hedged etc., fields. |
| Sheriff | official responsible for the administration of a county by the Crown. |
| Shieling | temporary hut on summer pasture at a distance from farmstead. |
| Socage | a form of tenure of peasant land, normally free. |

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| Stint | limited right, especially on pasture. |
| Subinfeudate | the grant of land by on a lord to another to hold as a knight's fee or fief . |
| Subinfeudation | the process of granting land in a lordship to be held as fiefs |
| Suit of court | the right and obligation to attend a court; the individual so attending is a suitor . |
| Tenant in chief | a tenant holding land directly from the king, normally termed a baron. |
| Tenement | a land holding. |
| Tenementum | a land holding (Latin). |
| Thegn or Thane | Title given to a local lord during the Anglo-Saxon period, roughly equivalent to a Norman knight. His landholding his term a thanage . |
| Tithe | a tenth of all issue and profit, mainly grain, fruit, livestock and game, owed by parishioners to their church. |
| Toft | an enclosure for a homestead. |
| Unfree tenure | see customary tenure . |
| Vaccary | a dairy farm. |
| Vassal | a tenant, often of lordly status. |
| Vill | the local unit of civil administration, also used to designate a territorial township community (prior to the 14 th century) |
| Villein | peasant whose freedom of time and action is constrained by his lord; a villein was not able to use the royal courts. |
| Villeinage | see customary tenure and unfree tenure . |
| Virgate | a quarter of a hide ; a standardised villein holding of around 30 acres. Also known as a yardland . |
| Ward | administrative division; the word implies a guarded or defended unit. The term most commonly relates to large administrative subdivisions of the county (usually 5 or 6) from the 13 th century. Equivalent to a Poor Law township in Redesdale from 1662 onwards and in upper North Tynedale (Bellingham Chapelry) between 1662-1729. |

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Journal and Corpora Abbreviations

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| <i>AA</i> ¹ | <i>Archaeologia Aeliana</i> , First Series etc. |
| <i>Corpus</i> | <i>Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture. Volume I: County Durham and Northumberland.</i> R Cramp, (1984), Oxford University Press for the British Academy; Oxford. |
| <i>CW</i> ² | <i>Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmoreland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society</i> , Second Series etc. |
| <i>PSAN</i> ⁴ | <i>Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne</i> , Fourth Series etc. |
| <i>PSAS</i> | <i>Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.</i> |

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12. APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: LIST OF HISTORIC DOCUMENTS

APPENDIX 2: LIST OF MODERN PHOTOGRAPHS

APPENDIX 3: LIST OF AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

APPENDIX 4: LIST OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

APPENDIX 5: LIST OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS (GRUNDY 1988)

APPENDIX 6: PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICE CATALOGUE

*APPENDIX 7: NORTHUMBERLAND RECORDS OFFICE
CATALOGUE*

*APPENDIX 8: GREY'S 16TH CENTURY SURVEY OF AKELD
TOWNSHIP*

[**NOTE:** Historic Maps & Documents (M&D), Historic Photographs (HP) and Modern Photographs (MP), listed in Appendices 1 & 2, are archived in digital form with the Northumberland National Park Authority and Northumberland Records Office]

APPENDIX 1: Historic Documents

1.1 AKELD: Catalogue of historic maps and documents

| Location | Code | Date | Source | Description |
|----------|------------|---------|-------------------------------------|--|
| AKELD | AK_M&D 001 | 1762 | Northumberland Records Office (NRO) | Militia list; Glendale Ward West Division |
| AKELD | AK_M&D 002 | 1568-89 | NRO | Sir Thomas Grey's Survey of the Baronies of Wark and Wooler |
| AKELD | AK_M&D 003 | 1568-89 | NRO | Sir Thomas Grey's Survey of the Baronies of Wark and Wooler |
| AKELD | AK_M&D 004 | 1568-89 | NRO | Sir Thomas Grey's Survey of the Baronies of Wark and Wooler |
| AKELD | AK_M&D 005 | 1568-89 | NRO | Sir Thomas Grey's Survey of the Baronies of Wark and Wooler |
| AKELD | AK_M&D 006 | 1568-89 | NRO | Sir Thomas Grey's Survey of the Baronies of Wark and Wooler |
| AKELD | AK_M&D 007 | 1860 | NRO | 1 st edition OS Roll 5 |
| AKELD | AK_M&D 008 | 1897 | NRO | 2 nd edition OS 19.3 |
| AKELD | AK_M&D 009 | 1897 | NRO | 2 nd edition OS sheet 19NE |
| AKELD | AK_M&D 010 | 1920 | NRO | 3 rd edition OS sheet 15 SE |
| AKELD | AK_M&D 011 | 1920 | NRO | 3 rd edition OS 15.12 |
| AKELD | AK_M&D 012 | 1827 | NRO | Parson & White's Trade Directory |
| AKELD | AK_M&D 013 | 1827 | NRO | Parson & White's Trade Directory |
| AKELD | AK_M&D 014 | 1827 | NRO | Parson & White's Trade Directory |
| AKELD | AK_M&D 015 | 1827 | NRO | Parson & White's Trade Directory |
| AKELD | AK_M&D 016 | 1881 | NRO | North Eastern Railway, Alnwick to Cornhill branch documents (incl. plans) |
| AKELD | AK_M&D 017 | 1822-55 | NRO | Plan of Akeld & Humbleton estates belonging to Matthew Culley, reduced from a plan by Wm Bates |
| AKELD | AK_M&D 018 | 1840 | NRO | Tithe plan |
| AKELD | AK_M&D 019 | 1840 | NRO | Text associated with above tithe plan |
| AKELD | AK_M&D 020 | 1970 | PR | RCHM 1970 plan of Akeld bastle |

1.2 AKELD: Catalogue of historic photographs and images

| Location | Code | Date | Source | Description |
|----------|-----------|------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| Akeld | AK_HP 001 | 1974 | Akeld Manor | Aerial photograph from 1974 |

APPENDIX 2: Catalogue of modern photographs

| Village | Code | Date | Description |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|--|
| Akeld | AK_MP 001 | June 2004 | Looking W past Akeld Cottages towards Yeavinging |
| Akeld | AK_MP 002 | June 2004 | Date stone on E side of Akeld Cottages |
| Akeld | AK_MP 003 | June 2004 | Akeld Bridge from South |
| Akeld | AK_MP 004 | June 2004 | Akeld Cottages, E side, S end |
| Akeld | AK_MP 005 | June 2004 | Akeld Cottages, E side, N end |
| Akeld | AK_MP 006 | June 2004 | Akeld Cottages, NE corner looking West |
| Akeld | AK_MP 007 | June 2004 | Akeld Cottages, N side (No.3), from North |
| Akeld | AK_MP 008 | June 2004 | Akeld Cottages, centre of N side looking through entrance passage to interior |
| Akeld | AK_MP 009 | June 2004 | Akeld Cottages, interior looking towards N side entrance passage |
| Akeld | AK_MP 010 | June 2004 | Village from W, with Akeld Cottages to S and pill box to N |
| Akeld | AK_MP 011 | June 2004 | Pill Box on N side of Yeavinging road, from S |
| Akeld | AK_MP 012 | June 2004 | Piggeries behind N side of Yeavinging road, from S |
| Akeld | AK_MP 013 | June 2004 | Building E of pill box on N side of Yeavinging road |
| Akeld | AK_MP 014 | June 2004 | E side of piggeries (see AK_MP 012) |
| Akeld | AK_MP 015 | June 2004 | Doorway of a piggeries unit |
| Akeld | AK_MP 016 | June 2004 | Former farmbuilding, W side of former Akeld Farm complex (N end), viewed from West |
| Akeld | AK_MP 017 | June 2004 | Former farmbuilding, W side of former Akeld Farm complex (N end), viewed from West |
| Akeld | AK_MP 018 | June 2004 | Former farmbuilding, aligned E-W (S-facing frontage shown) – central part of former Akeld Farm complex, viewed from SW |
| Akeld | AK_MP 019 | June 2004 | S end of shed with arched opening, a former farmbuilding on the West side of the former Akeld Farm complex (S end), viewed from the South |
| Akeld | AK_MP 020 | June 2004 | Gatepost and millstone (not <i>in situ</i>), displayed at SW corner of the former Akeld Farm complex |
| Akeld | AK_MP 021 | June 2004 | Gatepost and millstone (not <i>in situ</i>), displayed at SW corner of the former Akeld Farm complex, with new holiday cottages in background |
| Akeld | AK_MP 022 | June 2004 | ‘Rose Cottage’, viewed from SW |
| Akeld | AK_MP 023 | June 2004 | Wash House, viewed from the North |
| Akeld | AK_MP 024 | June 2004 | Grindstone outside ‘Wash House’ |
| Akeld | AK_MP 025 | June 2004 | ‘Bracken Lodge’ (Boute House) with outbuildings (piggeries/‘boutes’?) to rear and side of ‘Timberwick Green’, viewed from NW |
| Akeld | AK_MP 026 | June 2004 | Depression indicating likely site of Akeld farm mill pond |
| Akeld | AK_MP 027 | June 2004 | Miller’s Cottage |
| Akeld | AK_MP 028 | June 2004 | Akeld bastle from SW |
| Akeld | AK_MP 029 | June 2004 | Akeld bastle from NNE |
| Akeld | AK_MP 030 | June 2004 | Akeld bastle frontage from ENE |
| Akeld | AK_MP 031 | June 2004 | Akeld bastle from SSW |

| | | | |
|-------|-----------|-----------|---|
| Akeld | AK_MP 032 | June 2004 | Akeld bastle interior, N end |
| Akeld | AK_MP 033 | June 2004 | Akeld bastle interior, S end |
| Akeld | AK_MP 034 | June 2004 | Akeld bastle, doorway towards S end of E side, showing groves and sockets |
| Akeld | AK_MP 035 | June 2004 | Akeld bastle, doorway towards S end of E side, showing groves and sockets |
| Akeld | AK_MP 036 | June 2004 | Akeld bastle, doorway towards S end of E side, showing groves and sockets |
| Akeld | AK_MP 037 | June 2004 | Akeld bastle from SE, showing attached paddock entrance and walls |
| Akeld | AK_MP 038 | June 2004 | View of Akeld manor, farmstead and bastle from hillside to SW |
| Akeld | AK_MP 039 | June 2004 | Modern building remains (floor) NNE of bastle, adjacent to High Akeld Cottages |
| Akeld | AK_MP 040 | June 2004 | Akeld Manor garden wall from S |
| Akeld | AK_MP 041 | June 2004 | View from N of earthen bank forming E-W plot boundary between Rose Cottage and Wash House |
| Akeld | AK_MP 042 | June 2004 | Akeld Manor frontage, from NE |
| Akeld | AK_MP 043 | June 2004 | Corn barn or hayrick pillar (?local) in garden of Akeld Manor |
| Akeld | AK_MP 044 | June 2004 | Summer house at NE corner of Akeld Manor garden |
| Akeld | AK_MP 045 | June 2004 | Summer house at NE corner of Akeld Manor garden; linear earthwork on lawn in foreground |
| Akeld | AK_MP 046 | June 2004 | E frontage of former farmbuildings facing Akeld Manor Cottage |
| Akeld | AK_MP 047 | June 2004 | Akeld Manor Cottage from SW |
| Akeld | AK_MP 048 | June 2004 | Gateway to Akeld Manor, from W |
| Akeld | AK_MP 049 | June 2004 | Garage and disused pumps on main road c.700m E of Akeld, 150m SE of Bendor Crossing |
| Akeld | AK_MP 050 | June 2004 | Akeld from Bendor Crossing |
| Akeld | AK_MP 051 | June 2004 | Railway signal box at Bendor Crossing, from S |
| Akeld | AK_MP 052 | June 2004 | Railway signal box at Bendor Crossing, from SW |
| Akeld | AK_MP 053 | June 2004 | Bendor Crossing garage, from SE |
| Akeld | AK_MP 054 | June 2004 | Viaduct on dismantled railway line c.300m NE of Akeld Manor grounds |
| Akeld | AK_MP 055 | June 2004 | Akeld bastle, interior looking North |
| Akeld | AK_MP 056 | June 2004 | Akeld bastle, interior of NW door |
| Akeld | AK_MP 057 | June 2004 | Akeld bastle, North end |
| Akeld | AK_MP 058 | June 2004 | Akeld bastle, SW doorway |
| Akeld | AK_MP 059 | June 2004 | Akeld bastle, SW view |
| Akeld | AK_MP 060 | June 2004 | Akeld bastle, West view |
| Akeld | AK_MP 061 | June 2004 | Akeld bastle, WNW view |
| Akeld | AK_MP 062 | July 2004 | Gleadsleugh from East |
| Akeld | AK_MP 063 | July 2004 | Gleadsleugh from East, with prehistoric settlement beyond |
| Akeld | AK_MP 064 | July 2004 | Cobbled track surface on East side of Akeld burn |
| Akeld | AK_MP 065 | July 2004 | Sheep shelter on trackside, East side of Akeld burn |
| Akeld | AK_MP 066 | July 2004 | Remains of probable field boundary running across track on East side of Akeld burn |

| | | | |
|-------|-----------|-----------|---|
| Akeld | AK_MP 067 | July 2004 | The Old Smithy (front) |
| Akeld | AK_MP 068 | July 2004 | The Old Smithy (front) |
| Akeld | AK_MP 069 | July 2004 | Wash House adjacent to Rose Cottage, High Akeld Cottages |
| Akeld | AK_MP 070 | July 2004 | Quern or grindstone in pathway adjacent to Boute House, High Akeld Cottages |
| Akeld | AK_MP 071 | July 2004 | Boundary bank between rear gardens of Rose Cottage and Wash House |
| Akeld | AK_MP 072 | July 2004 | Field wall North of Akeld bastle |
| Akeld | AK_MP 073 | July 2004 | 'The Old Smithy' (Akeld Mill), viewed from the West |
| Akeld | AK_MP 074 | July 2004 | Bridge over Akeld burn adjacent to 'The Old Smithy' (mill site), viewed from the North side |
| Akeld | AK_MP 075 | July 2004 | 'The Old Smithy' (?mill) viewed from SW (position of forge?) |

APPENDIX 3: Aerial Photographic Collections

Museum of Antiquities Aerial Photographic Collection, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne

Archive search results

| 4 fig NGR | Date Flown | Description | Arch. Interest? | Repository | Copyright | View |
|-----------|------------|---|-----------------|------------|-----------|------|
| NT 9529 | N/A | No APS found. May be missing, as box is present | N/A | MoA | N/A | N/A |

English Heritage National Monuments Record Collection

Specialist collection (oblique)

Individual Record

| NGR Index | Accession No. | 6 Fig NGR | Date Flown | Description | Frame | Repository | Copyright |
|-----------|---------------|-----------|------------|------------------|-------|------------|-----------|
| NT 9529 | N/A | N/A | N/A | No Records Found | N/A | N/A | N/A |

Vertical coversearch (vertical)

Sortie Record (3 sorties, 5 prints)

| NGR Index | Library No. | NGR Start | NGR end | Date Flown | Description | Scale | Start Frame | End Frame | Cam. Pos | Repository | Copyright | Copied |
|---------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------------|-------|-------------|-----------|----------|------------|-----------|--------|
| RAF/541/A/437 | 922 | NT 955284 | NT 955284 | 7/28/1948 | Unavailable | 9960 | 3202 | 3202 | RP | MOD | RAF | N |
| RAF/541/A/437 | 922 | NT 956304 | NT 956304 | 7/28/1948 | Unavailable | 9960 | 4202 | 4202 | RS | MOD | RAF | N |
| RAF/540/611 | 1222 | NT 951293 | NT 951293 | 10/9/1951 | See Descriptions | 10750 | 3389 | 3389 | RP | MOD | RAF | Y |
| OS/74132 | 9700 | NT 951294 | NT 958294 | 6/13/1974 | See Descriptions | 7800 | 372 | 373 | V | NMR | CRW | Y |

Northumberland Sites and Monuments Record Collection

Archive search results

| 4 fig NGR | Date Flown | Description | Arch. Interest? | Repository | Copyright | View |
|-----------|------------|------------------|-----------------|------------|-----------|------|
| NT 9529 | N/A | No Records Found | N/A | SMR | N/A | N/A |

Descriptions of National Monuments Record (NMR) photographs

| NGR Index | Frame No. | 6 Fig NGR | Date Flown | Description |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|------------|--|
| RAF/540/611 | 3389 | NT 951293 | 10/9/1951 | Shows Gleadscleugh Iron age Hillfort, bottom left, and defended settlement on North slope of Harehope hill, SMR 1509. Also shows a long linear earthwork running north east from an enclosure on Gains Law. Akeld Railway station visible centre right. Some ridge and furrow below right |
| OS/74132 | 372 | NT 951294 | 6/13/1974 | Shows Gleadscleugh Iron age Hillfort and defended settlement on North slope. More detail than above shows traces of right angled corner of large square enclosure in field immediately NW of Akeld village |
| OS/74132 | 373 | NT 951294 | 6/13/1974 | As above, view slightly to the E. Also shows 'comb' like curving cropmarks of broad ridge and furrow cultivation overlain by the distinct cropmark of a wide road that is not recorded on the modern OS map. faint traces of what may be enclosures and trackways of a settlement at the top right of the photo. |

Tim Gates Village Atlas Aerial Photographic Survey, August 2003**Film No. HV/03/E**

| Frame No. | Date Flown | 6 Fig NGR | Site Name | Held by | Copyright | Description |
|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|---------|-----------|--|
| 1 | 8/4/2003 | NT 957 296 | Akeld | NNPA | TMG | Hillfort of Harehope hill visible top left; promontary fort near top right |
| 2 | 8/4/2003 | NT 957 296 | Akeld | NNPA | TMG | See Fr. 1 |
| 3 | 8/4/2003 | NT 957 296 | Akeld | NNPA | TMG | Shows Railway Station (lower centre) |
| 4 | 8/4/2003 | NT 957 296 | Akeld | NNPA | TMG | Settlement below Harehope visible, and Humbleton hillfort, top right |
| 5 | 8/4/2003 | NT 957 296 | Akeld | NNPA | TMG | Settlement and Humbleton hill visible |
| 6 | 8/4/2003 | NT 957 296 | Akeld | NNPA | TMG | |
| 7 | 8/4/2003 | NT 957 296 | Akeld | NNPA | TMG | |
| 8 | 8/4/2003 | NT 957 296 | Akeld | NNPA | TMG | |
| 9 | 8/4/2003 | NT 957 296 | Akeld | NNPA | TMG | |
| 10 | 8/4/2003 | NT 957 296 | Akeld | NNPA | TMG | |
| 11 | 8/4/2003 | NT 957 296 | Akeld | NNPA | TMG | |
| 12 | 8/4/2003 | NT 957 296 | Akeld | NNPA | TMG | |
| 13 | 8/4/2003 | NT 957 296 | Akeld | NNPA | TMG | |
| 14 | 8/4/2003 | NT 957 296 | Akeld | NNPA | TMG | |
| 15 | 8/4/2003 | NT 957 296 | Akeld | NNPA | TMG | Settlement below Harehope hill visible |
| 16 | 8/4/2003 | NT 957 296 | Akeld | NNPA | TMG | Various cropmarks visible east of village. Maybe geological. |
| 17 | 8/4/2003 | NT 957 296 | Akeld | NNPA | TMG | Various cropmarks visible east of village. Maybe geological. |

APPENDIX 4: Northumberland Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)

The following contains details of archaeological sites, monuments, and listed buildings in Akeld township listed in the Northumberland County Council Sites and Monuments Record. Catalogue numbers relate to site distribution plans reproduced in this volume.

| Catalogue No. | SMR No. | Period |
|---------------|---------|----------|
| 1 | 1569 | MEDIEVAL |

| Site Name | Listing/scheduling | Type |
|-----------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Akeld | None | Deserted Settlement |

Description

Akeld deserted medieval village, NT 957295. Akeld was a member of the barony of Wooler. 1296: 13 taxpayers. 1312/3: ten taxpayers. 1377: 62 adults. 1580: 16 tenants. 1665 Hearth Tax: 18 households. 1690 Wooler Court Roll: eleven tenants. 1745: four tenants. No trace of former village.

| Catalogue No. | SMR No. | Period |
|---------------|---------|---------------|
| 2 | 1585 | POST MEDIEVAL |

| Site Name | Listing/scheduling | Type |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Akeld Railway Station | None | Railway Station |

Description

A line-style station on the 1887 Alnwick to Cornhill Railway. Closed to passengers in 1930, this section closed completely in 1965. Comprises station offices, goods shed, weigh cabin, house and cottages.

| Catalogue No. | SMR No. | Period |
|---------------|---------|---------------|
| 3 | 1586 | POST MEDIEVAL |

| Site Name | Listing/scheduling | Type |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Bendor Crossing, Signal Box | None | Signal Box |

Description

Signal box on the 1887 Alnwick to Cornhill Railway. The signal and crossing box have been converted to domestic use.

| Catalogue No. | SMR No. | Period |
|---------------|---------|---------------|
| 4 | 1599 | POST MEDIEVAL |

| Site Name | Listing/scheduling | Type |
|------------------------|--------------------|-------|
| Akeld Cottages Nos 1-9 | Listed Grade II | House |

Description

Akeld Cottages Nos 1-9 (consecutive). Grade II listed building. c.1892. Four ranges around a courtyard.

| Catalogue No. | SMR No. | Period |
|---------------|---------|---------------|
| 5 | 1600 | POST MEDIEVAL |

| Site Name | Listing/scheduling | Type |
|-------------|--------------------|-------|
| Akeld Manor | Listed Grade II | House |

Description.

Akeld Manor. Grade II listed building. 18th or 19th century, with earlier core.

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Catalogue No. | SMR No. | Period |
| 6 | 1601 | POST MEDIEVAL |

| | | |
|--|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Site Name | Listing/scheduling | Type |
| Cottage, carriage house and gateway attached to north of Akeld Manor | Listed Grade II | Carriage house etc |

Description

Cottage, carriage house and gateway attached to north of Akeld Manor. Late 18th century.

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Catalogue No. | SMR No. | Period |
| 7 | 1602 | POST MEDIEVAL |

| | | |
|---|---------------------------|---------------|
| Site Name | Listing/scheduling | Type |
| Range of farmbuildings c.30 yards west of Akeld Manor | Listed Grade II | Farmbuildings |

Description

Range of farmbuildings c.30 yards west of Akeld Manor.

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Catalogue No. | SMR No. | Period |
| 8 | 1603 | POST MEDIEVAL |

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Site Name | Listing/scheduling | Type |
| Boute House | Listed Grade II | House |

Description

Boute House, High Akeld. Grade II listed building. Early 19th century cottage.

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Catalogue No. | SMR No. | Period |
| 9 | 1604 | POST MEDIEVAL |

| | | |
|---|---------------------------|-------------|
| Site Name | Listing/scheduling | Type |
| Cottages c.10 yards north east of Boute House | Listed Grade II | House |

Description

Cottages c.10 yards north east of Boute House, High Akeld.

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Catalogue No. | SMR No. | Period |
| 10 | 1605 | POST MEDIEVAL |

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Site Name | Listing/scheduling | Type |
| Rose Cottage | Listed Grade II | House |

Description

Grade II listed building. Late 18th to early 19th century.

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Catalogue No. | SMR No. | Period |
| 11 | 1606 | POST MEDIEVAL |

| | | |
|---|---------------------------|-------------|
| Site Name | Listing/scheduling | Type |
| Wash house c.10 yards south of Rose Cottage | Listed Grade II | House |

Description

Grade II listed building. 18th century. Originally a cottage.

| Catalogue No. | SMR No. | Period |
|---------------|---------|------------|
| 12 | 2112 | BRONZE AGE |

| Site Name | Listing/scheduling | Type |
|--|--------------------|------------|
| Cropmark of a ring ditch 1.15km east of Coupland | None | Ring Ditch |

Description

A clear cropmark of a ring ditch is visible against a background of marks of geological origin at c.NT 94963122. Immediately to the east are two or three less distinct cropmarks which hint at the presence of further ring ditches.

| Catalogue No. | SMR No. | Period |
|---------------|---------|----------------------|
| 13 | 2140 | LATER PREHISTORIC |

| Site Name | Listing/scheduling | Type |
|---|--------------------|-------|
| Henge 600yds (550m) east of Akeld Lodge | Scheduled Monument | Henge |

Description

NT 95863070] Cropmark. Ring ditch. (1). No visible remains. The site falls in flat featureless arable fields. Examination of the site during the dry summer of 1976 revealed that the ditches external diameter was circa 36m and the ditch itself was 6.7m wide. There were also traces of two possible entrances. Inside the ditch was an internal ring of evenly spaced pits. A ring of nine smaller pits encircled a central pit probably a grave. From this evidence it is thought that the cropmarks represent a henge monument.

| Catalogue No. | SMR No. | Period |
|---------------|---------|---------|
| 14 | 2167 | UNKNOWN |

| Site Name | Listing/scheduling | Type |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|------|
| House Plantation, crop mark complex | | |

Description

Complex of linear cropmarks, including a lattice of linear marks which seem geological, but other marks include ditches and at least one ring ditch.

| Catalogue No. | SMR No. | Period |
|---------------|---------|------------|
| 15 | 2169 | MESOLITHIC |

| Site Name | Listing/scheduling | Type |
|--|--------------------|------------|
| Mesolithic artifacts from the Milfield Basin | None | Microliths |

Description

Mesolithic material found in the Milfield Basin between NGRs NT 9531 and NT 9733. Finds held by J Weyman.

| Catalogue No. | SMR No. | Period |
|---------------|---------|---------------|
| 16 | 2171 | POST MEDIEVAL |

| Site Name | Listing/scheduling | Type |
|---|--------------------|---------------|
| Farmbuildings north west of farmhouse, Akeld Steads | Listed Grade II | Farmbuildings |

Description

Akeld Steads, farmbuildings north west of farmhouse, Grade II. 18th and early 19th century. Range of shelter sheds with two storey central section with arch and granary over. Three single storey shelter sheds project from this range, the right one ends in a hen house with dovecote above. Two-storey stable with granary over and two-storey threshing barn with granary over on right and left of rear range.

| Catalogue No. | SMR No. | Period |
|---------------|---------|---------------|
| 17 | 2186 | POST MEDIEVAL |

| Site Name | Listing/scheduling | Type |
|------------------------|--------------------|-------|
| Akeld Steads Farmhouse | Listed Grade II | House |

Description

Akeld Steads Farmhouse. Grade II listed building. Late 18th to early 19th century.

| Catalogue No. | SMR No. | Period |
|---------------|---------|---------------|
| 18 | 2187 | POST MEDIEVAL |

| Site Name | Listing/scheduling | Type |
|--|--------------------|----------------------|
| Cart shed and granary c.30 yards south-west of Farmhouse | Listed Grade II | Cartshed and Granary |

Description

Cartshed and granary c.30 yards south west of Akeld Steads Farmhouse. Grade II listed building. Late 18th to early 19th century.

| Catalogue No. | SMR No. | Period |
|---------------|---------|---------------|
| 19 | 2199 | POST MEDIEVAL |

| Site Name | Listing/scheduling | Type |
|-------------|--------------------|-------|
| Akeld Lodge | Listed Grade II | House |

Description

Akeld Lodge. Grade II listed building. Early 19th century.

| Catalogue No. | SMR No. | Period |
|---------------|---------|---------------|
| 20 | 2200 | POST MEDIEVAL |

| Site Name | Listing/scheduling | Type |
|---|--------------------|----------|
| Screen walls and gatepiers c.10 yards south east of Akeld Lodge | Listed Grade II | Gatepier |

Description

Screen walls and gatepiers c.10 yards south east of Akeld Lodge

| Catalogue No. | SMR No. | Period |
|---------------|---------|----------|
| 21 | 1396 | MEDIEVAL |

| Site Name | Listing/scheduling | Type |
|--|--------------------|-----------|
| Two medieval shielings on Akeld Hill, 680m WNW of Gleadscleugh | Scheduled Monument | Enclosure |

Description

remains of two medieval shielings, an enclosure and midden, situated on the east side of a neck of land between Akeld Hill and White Law.

| Catalogue No. | SMR No. | Period |
|---------------|---------|---------------|
| 22 | 1398 | POST MEDIEVAL |

| Site Name | Listing/scheduling | Type |
|--|------------------------------|-----------|
| Two medieval shielings on Akeld Hill, 680m WNW of Gleadscleugh | Formely a Scheduled Monument | Sheepfold |

Description

The monument includes an oval enclosure situated on the summit of Akeld Hill with extensive views to the north and east. The enclosure measures 32m north east/south west by 23m and is enclosed by a bank, 1m wide by up to 0.5m high. It is fragmentary in places and composed of large stones. There is no trace of an entrance or any internal features. In the past the enclosure has been interpreted as a small hillfort or, more likely, a sheepfold. A modern cairn is located inside the northern half of the enclosure. Once thought to be a hillfort, but now believed to be the remains of a sheepfold

| Catalogue No. | SMR No. | Period |
|---------------|---------|---------|
| 23 | 1399 | UNKNOWN |

| Site Name | Listing/scheduling | Type |
|---|--------------------|-----------|
| Steadings and garths north west of Akeld Hill | None | Enclosure |

Description

Sub-rectangular enclosure is located on a north facing steep sloping site and measures 25m by 28m. The walls stand up to 0.75m high and are spread up to 2m, they are made up of large rubble. The south (upslope) wall of the enclosure runs across an earlier hollow way. A smaller rectangular enclosure lies in the south east corner of the main enclosure and another is attached externally to the south west corner and measures 10m by 4m. Further to the west along the same contour are further irregular enclosures.

| Catalogue No. | SMR No. | Period |
|---------------|---------|----------|
| 24 | 1401 | IRON AGE |

| Site Name | Listing/scheduling | Type |
|---|--------------------|-----------------|
| Glead's Cleugh Iron Age promontory fort | Scheduled Monument | Promontory Fort |

Description

Glead's Cleugh camp, scheduled monument *Northumberland 501*. Promontory fort defended by two and part of a third bank and ditch: these are carried round in a curve and are 5ft to 10ft high. Steep hillside on three sides. Circular depressions may indicate huts.

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Catalogue No. 25 | SMR No. 1406 | Period UNKNOWN |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Site Name Trackways | Listing/scheduling None | Type Trackway |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|

Description

Area centred NT 94572960. A series of trackways some forming hollow ways similar to many other in this region. No evidence for dating purposes, but probably recent.

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Catalogue No. 26 | SMR No. 1416 | Period UNKNOWN |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Site Name Mounds | Listing/scheduling None | Type Clearance Cairn |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|

Description

Several small mounds in the area, measuring 2m diameter and 0.5m high: probably no more than a result of stone clearance associated with old fields close by.

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Catalogue No. 27 | SMR No. 1418 | Period UNKNOWN |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Site Name Enclosure | Listing/scheduling None | Type Enclosure |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|

Description

An enclosure or fortified dwelling with walls 4ft 8in thick and with complicated internal arrangements. This enclosure not located. The references can be applied to the complex of recent steadings and garths centred on NT 944293.

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Catalogue No. 28 | SMR No. 1420 | Period UNKNOWN |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Site Name Enclosure | Listing/scheduling None | Type Enclosure |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|

Description

Situated 30m along the small valley is a smaller oval enclosure measuring 5m by 4m formed of rough loose stones taken from the nearby scree, with a short stretch of denuded walling emanating from the north-west corner. The whole has a modern appearance and is probably a tumbled lambing pen.

| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Catalogue No. 29, 30 | SMR No. 1426 | Period BRONZE AGE |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Site Name Hollow | Listing/scheduling None | Type Cairn |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|

Description

The large hollow referred to in 'A' (NT 9414 2844) has been adapted as a sheep shelter, but originally may have been formed by robbing. In 'B' (NT 9415 2842) a square slab of stone 0.6m square and 0.2m thick in the robbed area may be the remains of a cist.

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Catalogue No. | SMR No. | Period |
| 31 | 1427 | UNKNOWN |

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Site Name | Listing/scheduling | Type |
| Akeld Burn, unenclosed settlement | None | Sheepfold |

Description

The circular enclosure, formed by large stones now partially turf covered, appears to be no more than the denuded remains of an old sheepfold. This type is common in the area and averages 12m in diameter.

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Catalogue No. | SMR No. | Period |
| 32 | 1428 | UNKNOWN |

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Site Name | Listing/scheduling | Type |
| Akeld Burn, unenclosed settlement | None | Settlement |

Description

(NT 94352837) Settlement of four or five elements, one hut circle and one squarish. The site indicated occurs on a steep slope and would appear to be an unlikely spot for habitation. Perambulation of the area revealed only rock outcrop and loose boulders.

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Catalogue No. | SMR No. | Period |
| 33 | 1430 | LATER PREHISTORIC |

| | | |
|---|---------------------------|-------------|
| Site Name | Listing/scheduling | Type |
| Settlement 500yds (450m) south west of White Law | None | Settlement |

Description

(NT 94352837) Settlement of four or five elements, one hut circle and one squarish. The site indicated occurs on a steep slope and would appear to be an unlikely spot for habitation. Perambulation of the area revealed only rock outcrop and loose boulders.

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Catalogue No. | SMR No. | Period |
| 34 | 1433 | UNKNOWN |

| | | |
|---|---------------------------|-------------|
| Site Name | Listing/scheduling | Type |
| Settlement 500yds (450m) south west of White Law | None | Sheepfold |

Description

The enclosure is demarcated by a line of stones, the foundations of a wall or bank, maximum height 0.3m. A dividing wall runs east-west across the northern part of the enclosure. There is an apparent entrance to the north, to the east of this entrance and attached to the outside of the enclosure is a hut circle. There is no trace of internal habitation that may exist. The purpose of the enclosure was almost certainly pastoral. The date of this enclosure is not known.

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Catalogue No. | SMR No. | Period |
| 35 | 1459 | BRONZE AGE |

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Site Name | Listing/scheduling | Type |
| Mounds | None | Mound |

Description

Only two mounds are visible in the area situated at NT 94022877 and NT 94062871 respectively. They are turf-covered earth and stone, and average 10m in diameter and 0.7m high. No trace of upright stones. Both are doubtful barrows.

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Catalogue No. 36 | SMR No. 1460 | Period UNKNOWN |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Site Name Rectangular enclosure | Listing/scheduling None | Type Enclosure |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|

Description

NT 94592895. A rectangular enclosure situated on a level shoulder of the eastern slopes of White Law Hill, 800-900ft OD. It is contained by a bank of earth and stones 2m-3m wide with a maximum height of 0.3m. The enclosure measures 22m east-west and 25m north-south, with an entrance on the east side. Inside the enclosure are two hut circles, one immediately south of the entrance and the other in the south-west angle.

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Catalogue No. 37 | SMR No. 1465 | Period IRON AGE |
|----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Site Name Cropmarks | Listing/scheduling None | Type Cropmarks |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|

Description

Cropmarks of a possible Iron Age/Romano British settlement was recorded from the air at NT 927273. Nothing visible on OS air photographs.

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Catalogue No. 38 | SMR No. 1470 | Period LATER PREHISTORIC |
|----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|

| | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Site Name Newton Tors East, possible unenclosed settlement | Listing/scheduling None | Type Circular enclosure |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|

Description

Aerial photos show the earthwork remains of a circular enclosure. NT 924275. Newton Tors East possible unenclosed settlement.

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Catalogue No. 39 | SMR No. 1472 | Period LATER PREHISTORIC |
|----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Site Name Scaldhill, field plots and possible hut circles | Listing/scheduling None | Type Field System |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|

Description

Aerial photographs have revealed a group of previously unrecorded field plots and possible hut circles at Scaldhill.

| | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Catalogue No. 40,41 | SMR No. 1476 | Period LATER PREHISTORIC |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Site Name West Swint Law, unenclosed settlement | Listing/scheduling None | Type Field System |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|

Description

Area of prehistoric field system containing one hut circle and several cairns.

| Catalogue No. | SMR No. | Period |
|---------------|---------|----------|
| 42 | 1487 | MEDIEVAL |

| Site Name | Listing/scheduling | Type |
|--|--------------------|----------|
| Medieval shieling and enclosure 300m north west of Gleadscleugh | Scheduled monument | Shieling |

Description

remains of a medieval shieling and a surrounding enclosure situated on the south facing slopes of Akeld Hill in a natural depression.

| Catalogue No. | SMR No. | Period |
|---------------|---------|---------|
| 43 | 1488 | UNKNOWN |

| Site Name | Listing/scheduling | Type |
|--|--------------------|------------------------|
| Sub-circular enclosure north west of Gleadscleugh | None | Sub Circular enclosure |

Description

About 150m north west of Gleadscleugh, on a gently sloping shelf of land above a deep gully, lies a sub-circular enclosure.

The enclosure is defined by large orthostats and measures c.9m by 13m. There are no internal features or an entrance.

| Catalogue No. | SMR No. | Period |
|---------------|------------|----------------------|
| 44,51,52 | 1498, 1522 | LATER PREHISTORIC |

| Site Name | Listing/scheduling | Type |
|--|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Prehistoric unenclosed hut circle settlement west of Monday Cleugh, 520m SSE of Gleadscleugh and isolated hut circle. | Scheduled Monument | Unenclosed hut circle settlement |

Description

the remains of a prehistoric unenclosed hut circle settlement situated on the crest and level top of a broad ridge above the valley of the Akeld Burn. It comprises six hut circles and two enclosures surviving as upstanding features in heather moorland. 1498 duplicates record 1522.

| Catalogue No. | SMR No. | Period |
|---------------|---------|----------|
| 45 | 1509 | IRON AGE |

| Site Name | Listing/scheduling | Type |
|---|--------------------|------------|
| Defended settlement on north slope of Harehope Hill, 570m south east of High Akeld Cottages | Scheduled Monument | settlement |

Description

Defended settlement on north slope of Harehope Hill, 570m south east of High Akeld Cottages. This monument includes a bivallate defended settlement of a type constructed during the Early Iron Age in northern Britain. The enclosure is contained within two concentric banks of earth and stone. The interior contains the remains of internal divisions and the stone foundations of prehistoric buildings.

| Catalogue No. | SMR No. | Period |
|---------------|---------|---------|
| 46 | 1511 | UNKNOWN |

| Site Name | Listing/scheduling | Type |
|-----------|--------------------|--------|
| Quarry | None | Quarry |

Description

(NT 96012889) Isolated huts (1). The position indicated occurs on a shoulder in a general northern slope. No traces of hut circles were discovered in an area of rock outcrop and loose boulders. This most probably applies to a series of stone quarry scoops (probably for walling) centred at approximately NT 96052883.

| Catalogue No. | SMR No. | Period |
|---------------|---------|---------|
| 47 | 1514 | UNKNOWN |

| Site Name | Listing/scheduling | Type |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Circular enclosure | None | Sheepfold |

Description

NT 95012931. A small near circular enclosure situated on a rise in the ridge. It has an average diameter of 11m and is demarcated by a line of stones, apparently the remains of a wall. The remains are scanty and the age of the feature could not be determined. Possibly an old sheep fold.

| Catalogue No. | SMR No. | Period |
|---------------|---------|---------|
| 48 | 1515 | UNKNOWN |

| Site Name | Listing/scheduling | Type |
|--|--------------------|------------|
| Unenclosed hut circle settlement 120m north west of Gleadscleugh | Scheduled Monument | settlement |

Description

the remains of an unenclosed hut circle settlement of Bronze Age date situated on the lower southern slope of Akeld Hill. The settlement comprises a trackway and a linear scatter of four stone built hut circles, each terraced into the hillside and with evidence for a porch. The three most northerly hut circles lie in a natural hollow, the fourth lies on a slight spur to the south west.

| Catalogue No. | SMR No. | Period |
|---------------|---------|------------|
| 49 | 1516 | BRONZE AGE |

| Site Name | Listing/scheduling | Type |
|--|--------------------|-----------|
| Unenclosed scooped settlement on the east slope of Harehope Hill, 750m south east of High Akeld Cottages | None | Sheepfold |

Description

A scooped settlement and associated features. It is situated on a relatively level platform approximately midway down the east slope of Harehope Hill. Consists of three scooped enclosures and the remains of at least two building platforms. The settlement is not enclosed but the northern boundary is defined by a low bank. The remains of a trackway run along the northern edge of the settlement onto the top of Harehope Hill.

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Catalogue No. 50 | SMR No. 1517 | Period POST MEDIEVAL |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Site Name Enclosure | Listing/scheduling None | Type Enclosure |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|

Description

NT 95382869. This probable pastoral enclosure must be considered contemporary to the trackway that forms its south-east boundary. This way is only one of several that lead to the high pastures of the Harehope Hill ridge and as such they should be classed medieval/post-medieval in origin.

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Catalogue No. 53 | SMR No. 1528 | Period UNKNOWN |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Site Name Enclosure | Listing/scheduling None | Type Enclosure |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|

Description

(NT 95012887) Foundation of enclosure. No surface indications visible but the dense bracken may conceal any slight traces that may exist. The situation is on level ground at the foot of a steep south-east slope, and approximately 550 feet above sea level. Re-checked under good conditions, nothing resembling the remains of an enclosure was located.

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Catalogue No. 54 | SMR No. 1529 | Period MEDIEVAL |
|----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Site Name Akeld Bastle | Listing/scheduling Listed Grade II* | Type Bastle |
|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------|

Description

Akeld bastle and attached walling to south. Grade II*. Bastle forerunner, now animal shelter. Late medieval, upper storey probably rebuilt late 16th or 17th century. Walls 5ft thick. Welsh slate roof. Two-storey, c.62ft x 25ft. Details as previously. Field wall attached on right return, running for c.100 yards south, is over 5ft high and may partly represent the former barmkin.

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Catalogue No. 55 | SMR No. 1530 | Period MEDIEVAL |
|----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Site Name Chapel at Akeld | Listing/scheduling None | Type Chapel |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|

Description

(NT 95532972) Chapel (Site of). The chapel at Akeld goes back at least to the first half of the 13th century being endowed by Robert of Akeld who preceded William of Akeld (living 1255). Licence was granted by the Canons of Kirkham for a chantry in the chapel. No trace of antiquity in either of the pasture fields adjoining the road. The small narrow field south of the road is apparently the graveyard. Local inhabitants confirm this but have no knowledge of anything being found in the vicinity.

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Catalogue No. 56 | SMR No. 1531 | Period BRONZE AGE |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Site Name Beaker | Listing/scheduling None | Type Beaker |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|

Description

A Bronze Age beaker, found in making a railway cutting at Akeld, Northumberland, c.1885, was given to the Society of Antiquaries Newcastle by Mr G G Butler, Ewart Park, Wooler on November 30th 1932.

| Catalogue No. | SMR No. | Period |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| 57 | 1565 | LATER PREHISTORIC |

| Site Name | Listing/scheduling | Type |
|---|---------------------------|-------------|
| Prehistoric hut circle on Harehope Hill, 400m south east of Gleadscleugh | Scheduled Monument | Hut Circle |

Description

a prehistoric hut circle situated on the western slopes of Harehope Hill on a natural ledge near the crest of a steep north facing slope. The hut circle measures externally 10m north-south by 11m east-west and is defined by a roughly circular earth and rubble bank up to 0.5m high. The monument is partly levelled into the slope to create a level platform. There is an entrance in the north west side and a possible entrance in the east side. On the east side there is an annexe 6m wide, the south edge of which is retained by large boulders.

| Catalogue No. | SMR No. | Period |
|----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 58 | 1655 | MODERN |

| Site Name | Listing/scheduling | Type |
|------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Pillbox | None | Pillbox |

Description

D-shape brick and concrete built pillbox.

| Catalogue No. | SMR No. | Period |
|----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 59 | 1675 | UNKNOWN |

| Site Name | Listing/scheduling | Type |
|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Water Mill at Akeld | Unknown | Mill |

Description

A water mill has been identified at Akeld by the North East Mills Group. The present condition of the feature is unknown.

APPENDIX 5: List of Historic Buildings

A summary of buildings described by John Grundy in Akeld Township (*Grundy 1988*), with catalogue numbers referring to the distribution plans included in this volume.

| Catalogue No.: | Grundy's ID: | Name: | Date: | Grade: | Materials: | Grid Ref. |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------|--------|---|---------------------|
| 54 | AKE 1 | Akeld Bastle | late C15 or Early C16 | II* | Igneous rubble with sandstone dressing | NT 395750 629450 |

Summary:

Important building first mentioned 1522. 2 storeys, dimensions c. 65x25 ft. Original door to right with chamfered surround, drawbar holes & relieving arch over. Later door to right. Double outside stone steps to 1st floor doorway. First floor not probably not a later addition on basis of stonework. High tunnel vault inside with 4 deeply-splayed split windows. This bastle of different type to others in County. Similar to 'bastle' at Pressen, nr Carham and with remains of Heaton castle on R. Till.

Importance: One of the most important historic buildings within the park

Present status: AK_MP 28-38

| Catalogue No. | Grundy's ID: | Name: | Date: | Grade: | Materials: | Grid Ref. |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------------------|------------|--------|----------------|---------------------|
| 64 | AKE 2 | Field walls by Akeld Bastle | Prob C18th | II* | Igneous rubble | NT 395750 629450 |

or earlier core

Summary:

Field walls c. 5 ft high with pronounced batter on broad base. More substantial than other field walls roundabout may represent defensible outworks to Bastle [barmkin?]. Cf. field wall to north of Old Walls at Old Yeavinger, another defensible building.

Importance: Important as context to Bastle; barmkin area may contain below ground structures

Present status:

| Catalogue No. | Grundy's ID: | Name: | Date: | Grade: | Materials: | Grid Ref. |
|---------------|--------------|---------------------------|-------------|--------|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| 9 | AKE 3 | Boute House High Akeld | Early C19th | II | Random igneous rubble w/ ashlar SS | 395800 629500 |

dressings and WS
roof

Summary:

Simple single-storey 3-bay cottage with 12-pane sash windows and C20 door in tooled-and-margined alternating-block surrounds. Gabled roof w/ flat stone coping and corniced ashlar end stacks.

Importance: Not important in own right but part of picturesque and unspoilt group.

Present status:

| Catalogue No. | Grundy's ID: | Name: | Date: | Grade: | Materials: | Grid Ref. |
|---------------|--------------|---|-------------|--------|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| 63 | AKE 4 | Pair of cottages by Boute House, High Akeld | Early C19th | II | Random igneous rubble w/ ashlar SS | 395800 629500 |

dressings and WS
roof

Summary:

2 cottages c. 10 yards NE of Boute house. Semi-detached 2 storey 2 bay cottages w/ boarded door and 12 pane YS on ground floor and 2 small YS on 1st floor Gabled roof w/ flat stone coping and small square old brick end stacks.

Importance: Unaltered and important for group value

Present status:

| Catalogue No. | Grundy's ID: | Name: | Date: | Grade: | Materials: | Grid Ref. |
|---------------|--------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|--------|--|------------------|
| 8 | AKE 5 | High Akeld house, High Akeld | Mid-late C19th | IV | Igneous rubble w/ SS ashlar dressings | 395800 629500 |

and WS roof

Summary:

2 storeys, 3 bays. Raised alternating quoins. Unsympathetic C20 porch. C20 sash windows in original openings. Gabled roof w/ C20 brick chimneys.

Importance: Marred by some unsympathetic C20 details

Present status:

| Catalogue No.: | Grundy's ID: | Name: | Date: | Grade: | Materials: | Grid Ref. |
|----------------|--------------|----------------------------|-----------|--------|--|------------------|
| 10 | AKE 6 | Rose cottage High Akeld | Mid C19th | II | Random Igneous rubble w/ SS dressings and WS roof | 395800 629500 |

Summary:

single storey 3 bay cottage of early C19 type but not shown on 1st ed. OS (1860). Small C20 porch. Original 12 pane sash windows Gabled roof with end stack

Importance: principally of interest for group value

Present status: AK_MP 022

| Catalogue No. | Grundy's ID: | Name: | Date: | Grade: | Materials: | Grid Ref. |
|---------------|--------------|---|-----------|--------|--|------------------|
| 11 | AKE 7 | Wash house by Rose cottage High Akeld | Mid C19th | II | Random Igneous rubble w/ SS dressings and WS roof | 395800 629500 |

Summary:

c. 10 yards south of Rose Cottage. Only building apart from Bastle to predate C19 rebuilding. Single storey, 3 irregular bays. Boarded door to right 2 small windows, steeply pitched roof

Importance: Only building apart from Bastle to predate C19 rebuilding

Present status: AK_MP 069 Much altered

| Catalogue No: | Grundy's ID: | Name: | Date: | Grade: | Materials: | Grid Ref. |
|---------------|--------------|-------------|---|--------|---|------------------|
| 5 | AKE 8 | Akeld Manor | Early C19th poss. w/ earlier core | II | Rendered w/ SS ashlar dressings Scottish Slate roof. Stone ridge pierced | 395750 629650 |

Summary:

2 storeys, 6 bays w/ lower 1 bay section to right. Irreg. façade of at least 2 periods. Mid-C19 half-glazed door and orig. 12 pane sashes Good interior with 2 early C19 staircases, 6 panel doors and panelled shutters

Importance: Well preserved C19 interior

Present status: AK_MP 38, 42

| Catalogue No. | Grundy's ID: | Name: | Date: | Grade: | Materials: | Grid Ref. |
|---------------|--------------|--|-------------|--------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| 60 | AKE 9 | Garden walls to S and E of Akeld Manor | Early C19th | II | Random igneous rocks w/SS dressings | 395750 629650 |

Summary:

High garden walls w/ flat coping. Square gatepiers to N of house. Early C20 gazebo in NE corner.

Importance: Included for group value with house

Present status: AK_MP 040

| Catalogue No. | Grundy's ID: | Name: | Date: | Grade: | Materials: | Grid Ref. |
|---------------|--------------|--|-------------|--------|--|------------------|
| 6 | AKE 10 | Cottage, carriage house and gateway by Akeld Manor | Early C19th | II | Rendered w/ SS ashlar dressings and Lakeland Slate roof. | 395750 629650 |

Summary:

Single storey 3 bay cottage w/ central doorway and 12 pane sash windows all in raised stone surrounds. Gabled roof w/ flat stone coping and rendered end-stacks. Lower carriage house attached to left. Single storey, 3 bays. 3 segmental arches w/ square piers. Left 2 have boarded double doors, the right arch is blocked.

Importance: Important group within courtyard to rear of house

Present status: AK_MP 047, 48

| Catalogue No. | Grundy's ID: | Name: | Date: | Grade: | Materials: | Grid Ref. |
|---------------|--------------|--|--------------------------|--------|--|------------------|
| 61 | AKE 11 | range of cartsheds & stables west of Akeld Manor | Early C19th & Late C18th | II | Random igneous rock w/ ss ashlar dressings. Lakeland Slate roof. | 395750 629650 |

Summary:

Approx. 30 yards to west of Akeld manor. Range of farmbuildings forming west side of courtyard behind house. and rendered end-stacks. Lower carriage house attached to left. Single storey, 3 bays. 3 segmental arches w/ square piers. Left 2 have boarded

2 storey to left, single storey to right owing to lie of land. Cartshed to right is older. It has 4 round headed arches. Fine roof of large graduated Lakeland slates.

Importance: Important group value

Present status: AK_MP 046

| Catalogue No.: | Grundy's ID: | Name: | Date: | Grade: | Materials: | Grid Ref. |
|----------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|--------|---|------------------|
| 7 | AKE 12 | Farmbuildings west of Akeld Manor | Early C19th | III | Random igneous rubble w/ ss ashlar dressings. Some WS, some graduated Lakeland Slate roofs. | 395750 629650 |

Summary:

Attached to rear of 11. Extensive & well built group of planned farm buildings. Façade toward A road damaged, but rest intact. Inside altered to include C20 shed but outside walls form an important screen to this. Visually best of group is the long 2 storey range to rear w/ fine hipped roof. 2 storey to left, single storey to right owing to lie of land. Cartshed to right is older. It has 4 round headed arches. Fine roof of large graduated

Importance: Attractive but North range roofless and altered

Present status: AK_MP 046

| Catalogue No.: | Grundy's ID: | Name: | Date: | Grade: | Materials: | Grid Ref. |
|----------------|--------------|---|-------------|--------|---|------------------|
| 59 | AKE 13 | Remains of water mill c. 60 yards SW of Akeld Manor | Early C19th | IV | Random rubble w/ ss dressings Asbestos roof. | 395700 629650 |

Summary:

Altered and of no interest. Remains of Impressive mill dam immediately to the south.

Importance: Much altered and no longer of any interest

Present status:

| Catalogue No.: | Grundy's ID: | Name: | Date: | Grade: | Materials: | Grid Ref. |
|----------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------|---|------------------|
| 4 | AKE 14 | Nos. 1-9 Akeld cottages | Early C19th restored 1892 (5?) | II | Random igneous rubble w/ tooled and margined ashlar dressings. WS roofs w/brick chimneys. | 395600 629700 |

Summary:

Dated 1892 but shown in their presents form on 1st edition OS. An unusual complete square of cottages still very much in their original state. [Grundy does not mention the date plate on the north east end of the row, which reads MC 1795, MC 1895. This looks to date from the 1895 restoration; it is very odd that he does not mention it]

Importance: An unusual complete square of cottages still very much in their original state.

Present status: AK_MP 004-009

| Catalogue No.: | Grundy's ID: | Name: | Date: | Grade: | Materials: | Grid Ref. |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|--------|--|------------------|
| 65 | AKE 15 | Shepherd's house, Gleadscleugh | Early-mid C19th | IV | Igneous rubble w/ SS dressings WS roof and brick chimneys | 395220 629020 |

Summary:

A 2 storey cottage w/ a boarded door and three 12 pane sashes on the ground floor; on the 1st floor 2 12 pane sashes in gabled half dormers. Gabled roof with flat coping

Importance: Grundy's Grade IV - worthy of inclusion in Gazetteer but not of special architectural or historical merit

Present status:

APPENDIX 6: Public Records Office (PRO) catalogue

A catalogue of documents held in the PRO collection relating to Akeld.

| PRO REFERENCE | TITLE/SCOPE & CONTENT | COVERING DATES | NO. OF DOCUMENTS |
|---------------|--|----------------|------------------|
| OS | <i>Records of the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain</i> | | 15 |
| OS 35/5489 | <i>Akeld</i> | 1921-1922 | |
| OS 35/5491 | <i>Akeld</i> | 1921-1922 | |
| OS 35/5492 | <i>Akeld</i> | 1922 | |
| OS 35/5494 | <i>Akeld</i> | 1922 | |
| OS 35/5505 | <i>Akeld</i> | 1921 | |
| OS 26/7714 | <i>Northumberland: Akeld</i> | 1859 | |
| OS 26/7705 | <i>Northumberland: Akeld</i> | 1859 | |
| OS 26/8116 | <i>Northumberland: Akeld</i> | 1859 | |
| OS 26/8045 | <i>Northumberland: Akeld</i> | 1859 | |
| OS 26/8029 | <i>Northumberland: Akeld</i> | 1859 | |
| OS 26/8053 | <i>Northumberland: Akeld</i> | 1859 | |
| OS 27/3945 | <i>Northumberland: Akeld Tp</i> | 1859 | |
| OS 29/194 | <i>Akeld, Northumberland</i> | 1859 | |
| OS 31/1076 | <i>Includes: Northumberland: Akeld PH; Branxton PH; Carham PH; Coupland PH; Crookhouse PH; Doddington PH; Ewart PH; Ford PH; Howtel PH; Kilham PH; Kirknewton PH; Lanton PH; Milfield PH; Nesbit PH; Westnewton PH; Wooler PH; Yeavinger PH</i> | 1897 | |
| OS 31/1081 | <i>Includes: Northumberland: Akeld PH; Cornhill PH; Coupland PH; Crookhouse PH; Earle PH; Ewart PH; Grey's Forest PH; Heathpool PH; Humbleton PH; Kirknewton PH; Lanton PH; Middleton Hall PH; North Middleton PH; Selby's Forest PH; Westnewton PH; Wooler PH; Yeavinger PH</i> | 1897 | |

APPENDIX 7: Northumberland Records Office (NRO) catalogue

A catalogue listing documents relating to Akeld held in the NRO collection

| NRO cat. No. | Details | Where |
|----------------------|--|--------------|
| (H2)CLAS 118 | Sale catalogue Coupland Castle Estate (portions), Akeld Steads Farm, Bendor Farm | Morpeth |
| (H2)CLAS 176 | Sale catalogue Akeld Manor, 1936 | Morpeth |
| (H2)ZAN Bell 51/1-3 | Plan of Akeld and Humbleton estates, 1822 | NRO |
| (E) DT 6 M | Tithe Award 1841 | NRO |
| (E) QRUp | see Deposited Plans index | NRO |
| (H2) 385 CS13 | Bridge materials | Morpeth |
| (D2) B24/1-2 | Deed Akeld tithes 1675,1705 | NRO |
| (A8) ZCU/46 | Deed of settlement re. Culley family estate in Akeld and elsewhere, 1807 | NRO |
| (G) NRO. 2000/7 | Domesday Book 1910 | NRO |
| (G) NRO. 2794 | Agricultural survey of Akeld, 1966 | NRO |
| (A7) NRO.1147/F.10 | Deed, 1689 | NRO |
| (H2) NRO.2176/199 | Correspondance re Akeld Steads, 1938 | Morpeth |
| (C2) E.P. 3/36/1 | Tithe Award 1841 | Morpeth |
| (H1) QSI Easter 1786 | Indictment, Akeld Bridge | Morpeth |
| (H1) QSI Mich. 1788 | Indictment, Akeld Bridge | Morpeth |
| (H1) QSI Xmas 1790 | Do. | Morpeth |
| (G) NRO. 2987/10 | Sale Catalogue, Akeld Manor | NRO |
| (G) NRO.3212 | Photocopies of station masters returns to NER 1888, 1906,1911 | NRO |
| (G) NRO 3274/18 | Land tax redemption certificate Bender, Akeld, 1926 | NRO |

APPENDIX 8: Sir Thomas Grey's Survey and Rental of the Baronies of Wark & Wooler c. 1568/1589 – Akeld Township

The following is a transcript of the section of the Grey survey of the Wooler barony relating to Akeld (NRO 4118). It was produced with the assistance of Carol Scott, archivist at Northumberland Record Office. The relevant pages of the manuscript volume (76-80) are reproduced in this report as figures 21-25.

(Page) 76 (see fig. 21)

Header: **Wollers**

Aikelde

(Measured field outline)

Thys platte of grounde representynge one of the feildes of Aikelde / lyinge on boithe the sides of Glene contenethe 521 acres of arable, / medow and pasture worthe 2s an acre, in all £52, wharein er these names viz

77 (fig. 22)

Header: **Baronne** (largely erased)

(Measured field outline)

This parcell of grounde lyinge next the forsaide platte on the sowthe / west and be west of Gleene waiter conteyneth of arable landes and / medowe 185 ac(res) 7 dais wairke 2 perchies worthe 2s ane acre, in all / £18 10s 3d and haithe these names within it viz.

(Measured field outline)

This platte of grounde liinge on the este parte of Aikelde towne / and ioeninge to Hombleton conteynete of medowe, arable & past. / 150 acre worthe 2s an ac(re), in all £25, wharin er these names followinge

78 (fig. 23)

Header: **Wollers**

(Measured field outline)

This plat of grownde representes the common or Moor of Aikelde / whiche lies on the west side of the Towne onto the comon burne est & / west betwene Homleton and Cowplande northe and sowthe whiche conteynes / 1524 ac(res) 1 rude worthe 12d ane acre in all £45 9s and haithe these / names viz

79 (fig. 24)

Header: **Baronne**

Tennantes

Thomas Grey holdes one tennement thaire (per) annm 66s 8d
Jhon Thomson holdes one tennemente thaire (per) annm 20s
James Carre holdes one tennemente thaire (per) annm 20s
Francies Woode holdes one ten(ne)m(en)te thaire (per) annm 13s 4d
James Dune holdes one tennement thaire (per) annm 26s 8d
Leonard Walles holdes one tennement thaire (per) annm 8s 4d
Rychard Anderson holdes one tennement thaire (per) ann 13s 4d
John Ffoorde holdes one tennement thaire (per) annum 13s 4d
Rauff Roderforde holdes one tennement thaire (per) annm 26s 8d
Gylbert Yoole holdes one tennement thaire (per) annm 13s 4d
James Wilson holdes one tennement thaire (per) annm 13s 4d
Wylyam Yoole holdes one tennement thaire (per) annm 13s 4d
Henry Ffoorde holdes one tennement thaire (per) annm 13s 4d

Cottigers

80 (fig. 25)

Header: **Wollers**

James (no surname given) holdes one cottage thaire per ann 2s
Wylyam Tanner holdes one cottagae thaire per ann 2s
Thomas Hendersone holdes one cottagae thaire per ann 2s
Charles Maxtyne holdes one cottage thaire per ann 2s
Sanders Gray holdes one cottage thaire per amm 2s
James Wilson holdes one cottage thaire per anmm 2s
Robert (no surname given) holdes one cottage thaire per annum 2s
John Patterson holdes one cottage thaire per annum 2s

The total summe of all

the fforsaide towne of Aikelde with the } £14, 2s. 8d. (?)
cottigers is by yeare at the forsaid ffeastes

The total summe of all

the aicres as well arable as medowe, moore } £140, 14s.
and pasture of Aikelde er ac(res) 870 1 rude
rated as above is by yeare at the said ffeaste