

Historic Environment Survey for the National Trust Properties on the Northumberland Coast

Lindisfarne

Prepared for



THE NATIONAL TRUST

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'At present there are four inns on the island. Not long ago there were as many as thirteen. Holy Island, however, is still noted for conviviality and the air is said to be so strong that no quantity of drink will go to a man's head. After a glass of beer with Mr Kyle I went off to see the Castle, which is perched on a precipitous eminence called Beblowe rock.'

Goldring undated, 36

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Introduction and Summary

" The prospect from this island is beautiful: to the northward you command a view of the town of Berwick, over an arm of the sea about seven miles in breadth: at nearly the same distance you view Bambrough castle, on a bold promontory, towards the south: on the one hand you have a view of the open sea, sometimes rough and gloomy, and at other times calm and resplendent, and scattered over with vessels; and on the other hand a narrow channel, by which the land is insulated, about two miles in width; the distant shore exhibits a beautiful hanging landscape of cultivated country, graced with a multitude of cottages, villages and woodlands."

Mackenzie E. (1825) `History of Northumberland' Vol.1, 319

The National Trust landholding at Lindisfarne comprises 15 hectares consisting of Lindisfarne Castle, Castle Field and a single field strip to the west of the castle. It also owns Glen House, Elm House and St Oswald's on Marygate and a property on Lewins Lane. This survey deals predominantly with the landholdings at and around the castle.

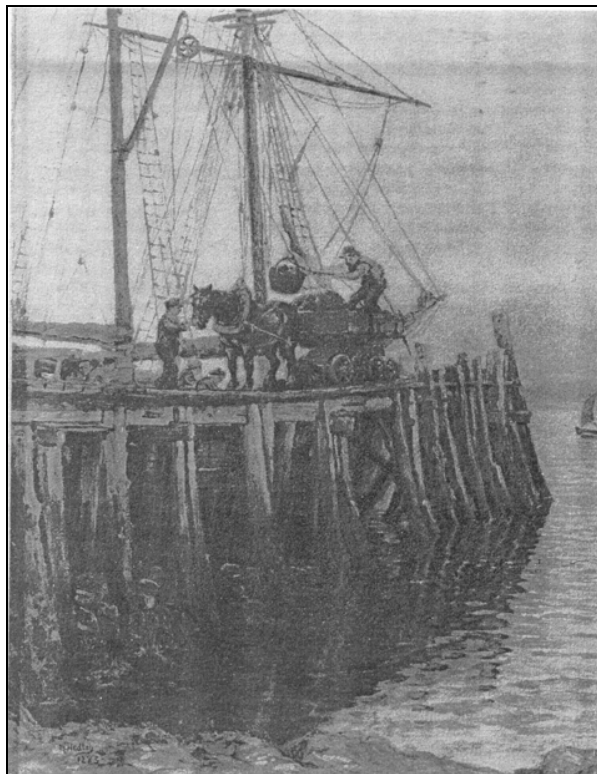


Plate 1. 'Unloading coal at a wood jetty – Holy Island' by Ralph Headly, in Jermy 1992

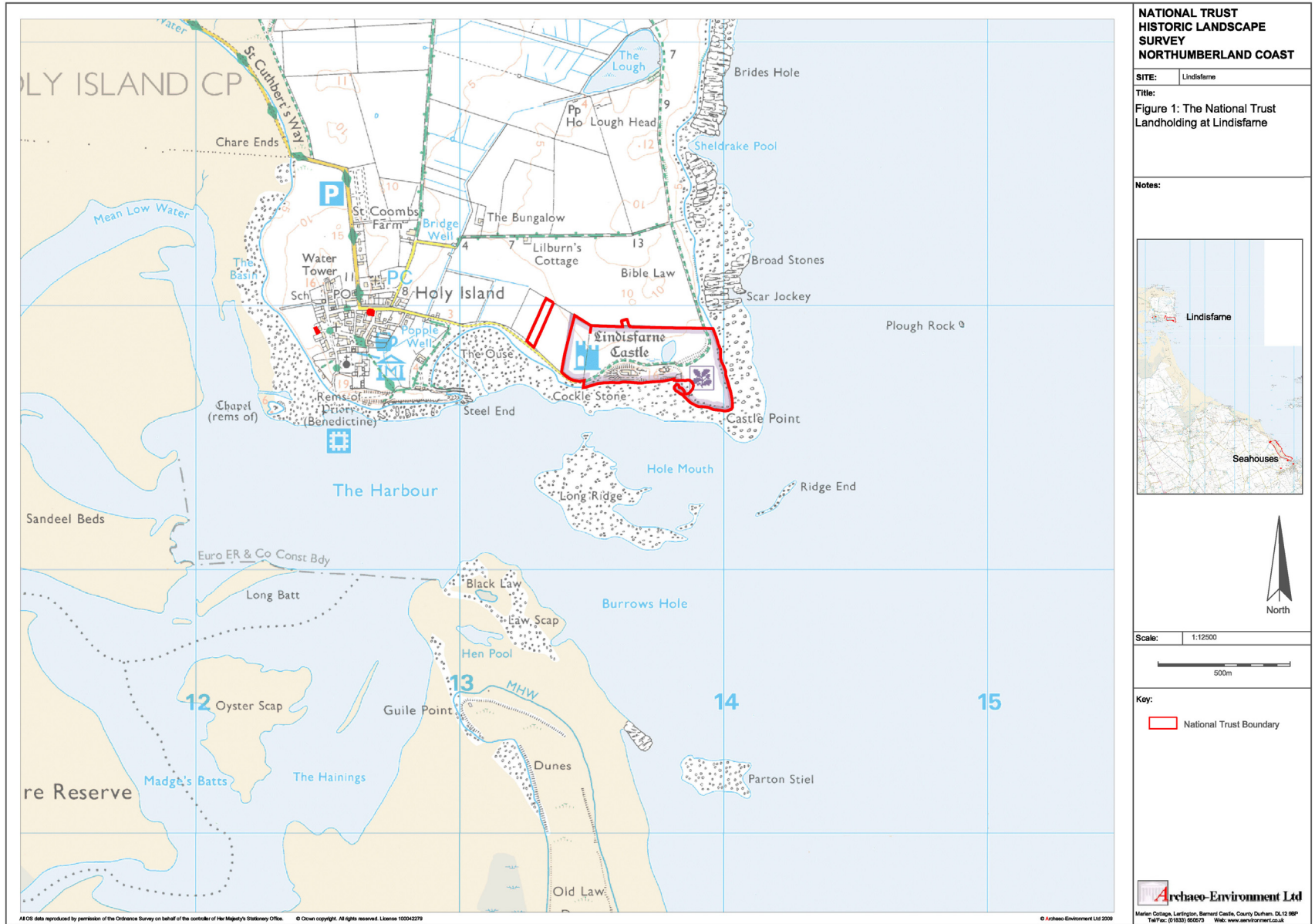


Figure 1. The National Trust landholding at Lindisfarne, Northumberland

Aims and Objectives

This survey work commissioned for Lindisfarne is to the National Trust's Level Three standard. This is a level of survey which combines field work with documentary research, resulting in a comprehensive survey report of all historic environment features. It also outlines recommendations for management and future research for both individual features and the landscape as a whole. However management recommendations are published in a separate volume covering all NT coastal properties in Northumberland.

Statutory and non Statutory Constraints

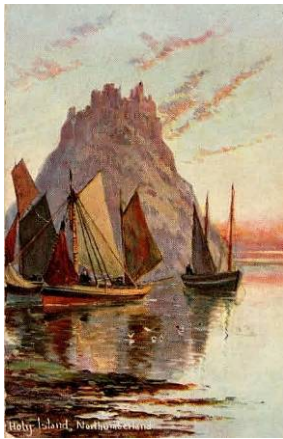


Plate 2. Lindisfarne Castle c.1900

Holy Island is probably one of the most designated places in England. It's combination of wildlife habitats and historic environment have made it one of the nation's most treasured places. The castle is a listed building grade 1 and therefore considered to be nationally important. The limekilns at Castle Point are Scheduled as Ancient Monuments and also therefore

nationally important.¹ The castle garden is a registered historic garden² and its walls are listed grade 2. St Oswald's is also listed grade 2. The entire island above the high water mark is a Conservation Area and therefore considered to be of special architectural or historic interest, the character of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.

The island lies within the Northumberland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and is part of the Heritage Coast. The primary purpose of the AONB legislation is to conserve and enhance natural beauty. The term 'natural' beauty is defined as being '...not just the look of the landscape, but includes landform and geology, plants and animals, landscape features and the rich

¹ SMR NU 14 SW 16, SAM 555

² GD 2052

history of human settlement over centuries.³ Heritage Coast is a non-statutory definition and is designed to cover the most unspoilt areas of undeveloped coastline around England and Wales. The main purpose of the Heritage Coast definition is to conserve the natural beauty of the coastline and, where appropriate, improve accessibility for visitors. In addition Heritage Coasts are designed to maintain the environmental health of inshore waters.⁴

The whole stretch of coastline here is part of a National Nature Reserve and the fields around the castle are a Local Nature Reserve. On the seaward side the European Marine Site extends from the Scottish border to Alnmouth and therefore is of international importance for marine and bird life. Designations designed to protect the natural environment can have implications for implementing conservation works on archaeological sites if they are likely to result in disturbance to dune flora or fauna, even if this impact is only indirect. Likewise, the conservation of the natural environment has the capacity to conflict with the conservation of historic sites, e.g. the expansion of native woodland cover or the construction of ponds.

Landscape Character

Lindisfarne, or Holy Island, is a tidal island (tombolo), which lies approximately one mile off the coast of Northumberland, some 12 miles south east of Berwick and is accessible by causeway at low tide. Called a semi-island by Bede (Parsons and White 1828, 333), the modern metalled causeway from the mainland to the island was completed in 1954 and crosses at the shortest point, but the ancient route across the sands ran from Beal to Chare Ends and is marked by posts, refuge points and the vestiges of previous post lines (O’Sullivan and Young 1995, 13).

³ Northumberland Coast AONB & Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast EMS Management Plan draft 2009, 3

⁴ Countryside Commission 1992 CCP 397

The National Trust landholding at Lindisfarne lies within the North Northumberland Coastal Plain Character Area (JCA 1). This is characterised by a low lying wind swept open plain with wide views out to sea and along the coast towards the dramatic iconic castles of Lindisfarne, Bamburgh and Dunstanburgh. The

“...where the waves are eager to curl over the shore with grey water, but rush to lay them bare as they go to their backward course, and the blue depths encircle a sacred land...”

(A description of Lindisfarne by the ninth century poet Aethelwulf)

heritage is particularly renowned for its monuments to ecclesiastical power and the defence of the land. The field pattern represents the regular pattern imposed by mainly 18th century enclosure, although relic landscapes do survive below in some places. As the coastal strip is particularly fertile, the fields tend to be much improved and so archaeological remains are often reduced to cropmarks rather than upstanding earthworks. Holy Island has a curious combination of regular 18th century field enclosure on its southern side with wind swept dunes to the north. The enclosure field system, the modern houses and giant car park along the main approach road seem rather incongruous in this semi-island setting. However the northern half of the island consists mainly of dunes which in turn cover, protect and then expose buried remains from prehistoric times, including the substantial flint producing site at Nessend, early Christian period settlement and more recent lime production. The dunes have also served their time as rabbit warrens. There is a strong contrast between the sheltered narrow streets of the village and the open spaces of the rest of the island, including the National Trust landholding.

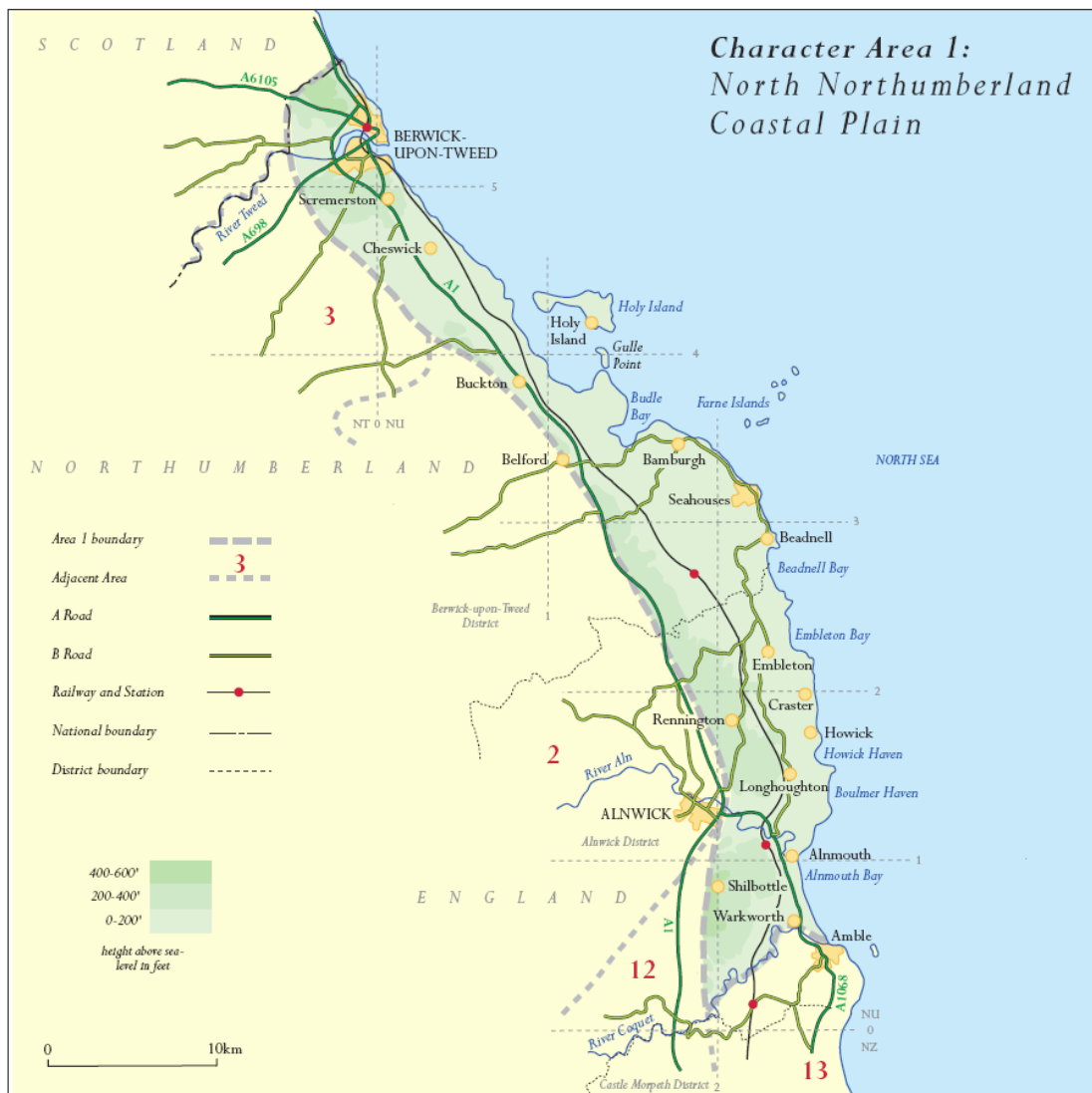


Figure 2. The North Northumberland Coastal Plain Character Area (JCA 1 Natural England)

Physical Influences

Most of the island is relatively flat and low-lying but the castle is built on a dramatic outcrop of basalt making it the island's most visually dominant historic building. Such outcrops break through middle and lower limestones laid down during the early part of the Carboniferous period. The ridge of volcanic rock can also be seen at The Heugh and as a ridge running across the National Trust landholdings to the west of the castle. On top of these rocks drift deposits creating the present day soil base have been laid down by glaciers moving over the area between 2 million and 10,000 years ago. Prior to the post-glacial era which began about 10,000 years ago, Holy Island would

not have been an island at all. The coast at Lindisfarne would have been about 6km out from the modern coastline. However the melting of the glaciers, and the subsequent rise in sea level, has inundated the low lying ground between the present day island and the mainland. Changes have continued in more recent times. The Tudor coastline extended right up to the edge of The Palace⁵ and the raised beach can still be seen near the priory. The house built by Lutyens for Edward Hudson (St Oswald's⁶) next to The Palace would have been underwater a few hundred years earlier!

The island's natural resources of limestone, iron ore and coal have been exploited, particularly allowing a lime industry to flourish in the 19th century and leaving behind various kilns and waggonways mainly in the south eastern part of the island. The limestone was also quarried in medieval times to provide building stone as were the sandstones, the youngest rocks on Lindisfarne. The exploitation of the island's geology extends back thousands of years with the quarry at Nessend being used over a period of thousands of years for the production of flint tools. The dunes were also used as large warrens to farm rabbits. Rabbits were introduced by the Normans to England and were initially reared as a controlled food resource, then allowed to run wild.

Part of the island provided good agricultural land but the village has to a large extent developed as a result of the fishing industry. The margins of the island have been the subject of flooding and of blown sand but the village occupies a slightly elevated site at 12m AOD and a ridge of higher ground, known as 'the Heugh', shelters part of the village. The form of the village has been strongly influenced by the local topography in that it avoids the extreme margins of the island, has taken a fairly nucleated form and buildings have been sited at relatively sheltered locations. There are a number of springs and wells including Jenny Bell's Well but these are not sufficient for the present day population and water has been piped in since 1955 (O'Sullivan and Young

⁵ HER 5636

⁶ HER 5386

1995, 22). The dune system on the north side of the island is relatively recent having formed only since the 16th century.

Beyond Lindisfarne Castle – the Wider Historic Landscape and Cultural Influences

Evidence of prehistoric activity has been found during archaeological field survey and excavation on the island, with a natural harbour and plentiful food supply from the sea, would have been an attractive site for early settlement. Stray finds of prehistoric date have been recovered from around Holy Island, but the largest single site of prehistoric date is at Nessend quarry where flint and stone tool production took place over a number of different periods between the Mesolithic period and the Bronze Age (Beavitt *et al* 1986, 3-4; The Archaeological Practice 1996a, 5). Excavation in Marygate in 1995 uncovered a number of features which were later dated to 3365 to 3685 BC (The Archaeological Practice 1996b, 7).

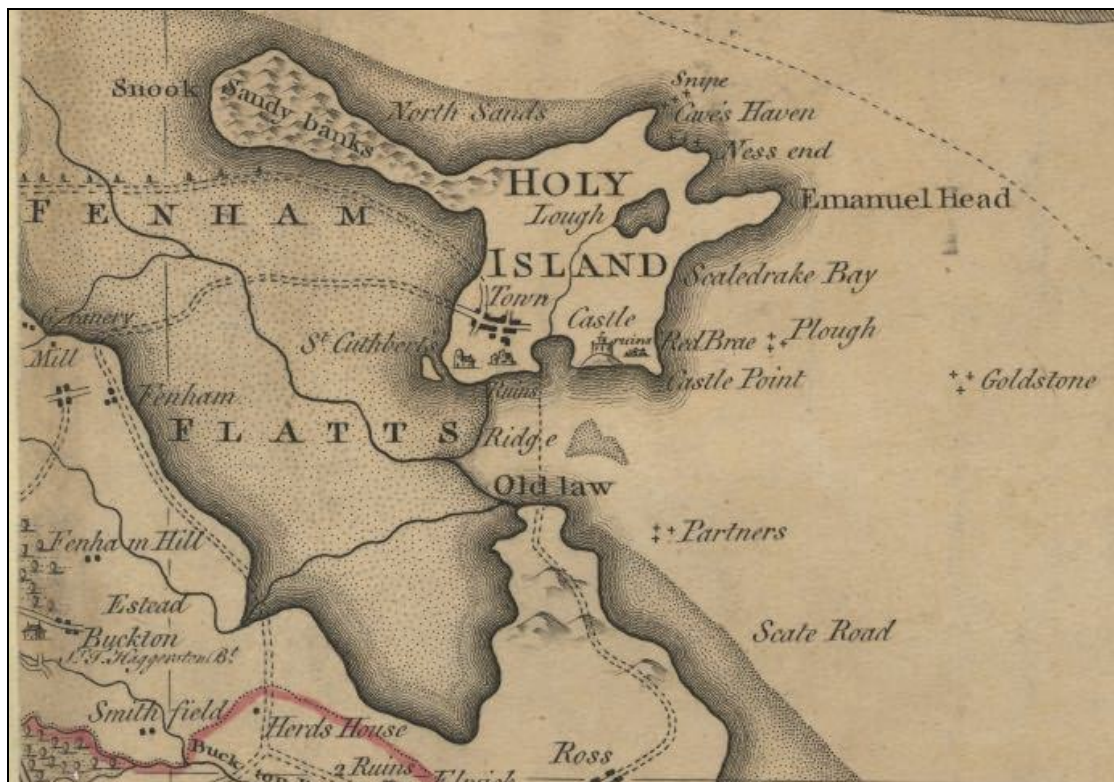


Figure 3. Armstrong's map of 1769 showing the castle in ruins

A surprise prehistoric discovery was made during the excavations of The Palace, west of the National Trust landholding on the edge of the village in 2000.⁷ Here, along with a Tudor supply base, was a ditch containing a prehistoric carved rock. Such finds were previously unknown on Holy Island and does suggest that the island may have many more exciting discoveries to expose.

The first documentary reference to Lindisfarne is found in the eighth century in Bede's writings which describe how St Aidan arrived from the monastery of Iona in 635 and was instructed by King Oswald to found a see and a monastery. The coastal strip has strong associations with the spread of Christianity in the Anglo-Saxon period with hermitages on Coquet Island and the Farnes, plus an early monastery at Lindisfarne and a later chapel at Beadnell (Hardie and Rushton 2000, 34). Oswald's secular power base at Bamburgh also played an important role in the legitimization of Christianity and it is therefore no coincidence that the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Bamburgh includes the remains of both pagan and Christian people, including some which may have called Iona or Ireland their home.

While little is known for certain about the buildings and layout of the early monastic complex at Lindisfarne, some of the products of the monastery have survived including the very fine illuminated manuscript of the Lindisfarne Gospels. Some timber building remains have also been uncovered behind the 'home of Lindisfarne Mead' which may relate to this early monastic site (Young and Fraser 2001, 22). The first documented Viking raid on Holy Island occurred in 793 and the traditional view is that the monastery was harassed by the Danes until it was abandoned (or destroyed) in the mid- or late ninth century (O'Sullivan 1985, 27). The situation is probably a lot less clear cut. A secular settlement at the northern end of the island, Green Shiel,⁸ may date from the ninth century and there could also have been continuity of secular occupation in the vicinity of the priory. The evidence for the latter is suggested

⁷ Hardie, C *pers. comm.*

⁸ SMR NU 14 SW 2

by the earliest remains in the parish church (Pevsner 1992, 335). After 875 there seems to have been no formal monastic life on the island until the site was refounded in 1083 by the Bishop of Durham, William of St Calais, as a cell of the Benedictine monastery of Durham. A secular community with its own church may have been established on the island by this time (O’Sullivan 1985, 43). It is clear from the similarity between the architecture of the Priory and Durham Cathedral (built after 1093) that building began on Holy Island at almost the same time (Pevsner 1992, 335). The land around Norham, Holy Island and Bedlington formed the south Tweedshire estate of the Bishops of Durham administered from Norham.

In the 16th and 17th centuries, Holy Island played a role in the defence of the realm when the Crown built a small fort (1549-50)⁹ at the east of the island, possibly replacing an earlier lookout tower. It was this fort which was to evolve over time into the iconic Lindisfarne Castle.

During the Tudor period additional defences were built in recognition of the strategic importance of the island in controlling Scottish neighbours. These consisted of a possible remodelling of the island, the conversion of a medieval house to a military supply base (now known as The Palace) and the possible construction of bulwarks around the harbour (see below).

“The Holy Island is also a place much necessarye to be defended and preserved for there is a harbrough sufficient for a great range of shippes to rest safely in and very aptly for the warrs towards Scotland”.

Bowes 1551

The first evidence for land use in the area is provided by a plan of 1673 (*‘The Ground Plott of Holy Island upon the Coaste of Northumberland near Berwick. Surveyd in the yeare one Thousand Sixe Seventy Three.’*)¹⁰ This shows the area around the castle to be unenclosed land, in common with much of the rest of the island. The only cultivated enclosures represented were in the

⁹ SMR NU 14 SW 12

¹⁰ County Record Office, Stafford. Ref. No.: D(W)1778/III/03

immediate vicinity of Holy Island village. This land use was confirmed by Raine (1852, 161) in his book *'North Durham'* who quotes a document of 1728 which tells us that 'The Antient infield lands' comprised only 20-25 acres with the remaining c. 1000 acres of Holy Island being common land on which the 24 'Burgesses or Freemen' of the 'antient town' of Holy Island had rights to depasture cattle, cut bents for thatching, and to win freestone from the quarry for their own use. They were also allowed to keep a fishing boat and to cure and dry fish 'on the Common Field where there is a place made for the purpose'. The 'Stallengers', of lesser status, were also allowed to depasture their cattle but were stinted to a lesser number than the freemen.



Plate 3. Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne outing in 1940

The range of activities represented on the island was extended in the 19th century when the island became the site of relatively large-scale lime industry. This industry has produced a range of associated monuments and features, some of which remain today including kilns and waggonways, mainly in the south east part of the island and in National

Trust ownership. From the 18th century the island also began to be used as a resort. The advent of the railway, with a station at Beal, brought tourists with antiquarian interests to the area and the completion of the metalled causeway crossing to the island in 1954 substantially increased the number of visitors. Today there is still a small fishing fleet but the island is now largely dependant on the tourist industry (O'Sullivan and Young 1995, 11).



Figure 4. Fryer's map of 1828 showing the rabbit warrens to the north and the recently laid out enclosures north of the castle and village

“in remembrance of Holy Island, the importance of the place being as such as cannot be waresly looked into”.

Elizabeth I 1569

While the dune system is dynamic, the wider landscape area is relatively stable. Indeed within the AONB, three quarters of the landscape has

survived unchanged since the mid 19th century (EMS/AONB management plan 2008, 39). However some accretion may have taken place around Castle Point where the land available appears to have increased since the mid 19th century. This can be seen in the historic mapping below.

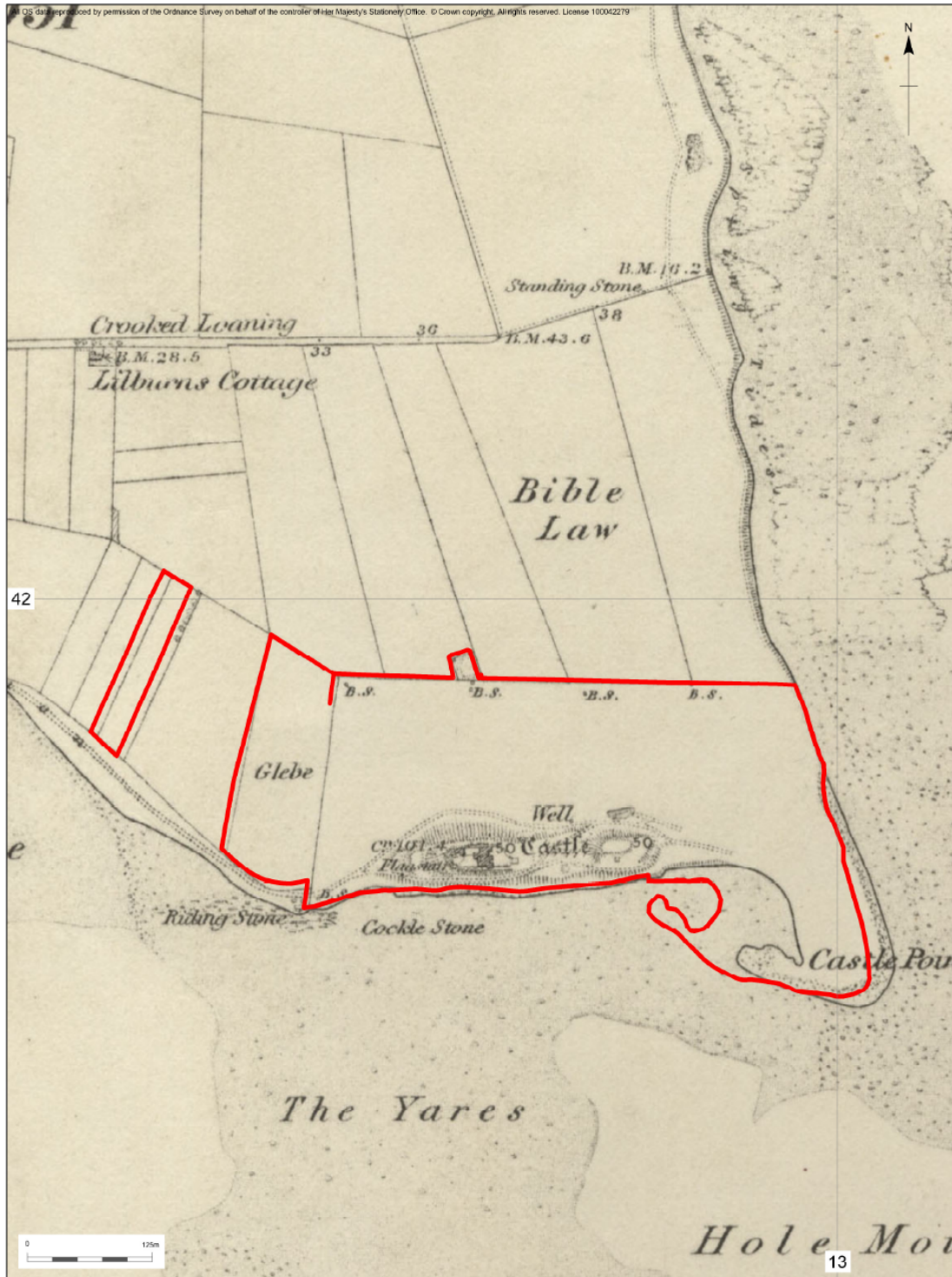


Figure 5. 1st edition OS 6" map dating to 1860 showing the extent of the present day National Trust landholding.

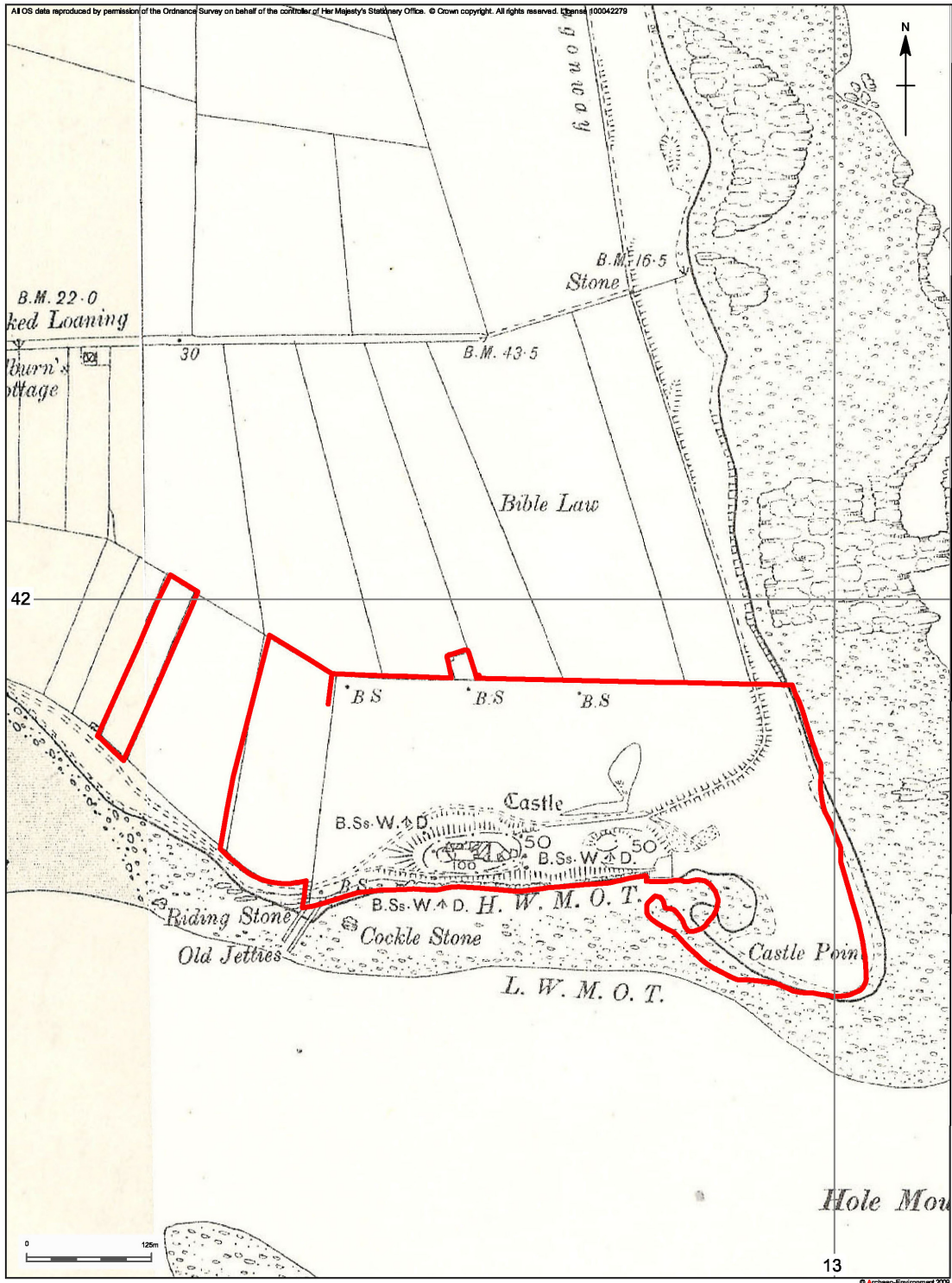


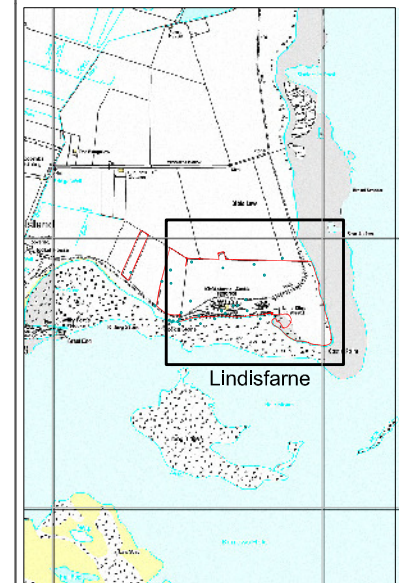
Figure 6. OS second edition map dating to 1897

**NATIONAL TRUST
HISTORIC LANDSCAPE
SURVEY
NORTHUMBERLAND COAST**

SITE: Lindisfame

Title:
Figure 8a: National Trust HER sites at Lindisfame

Notes:

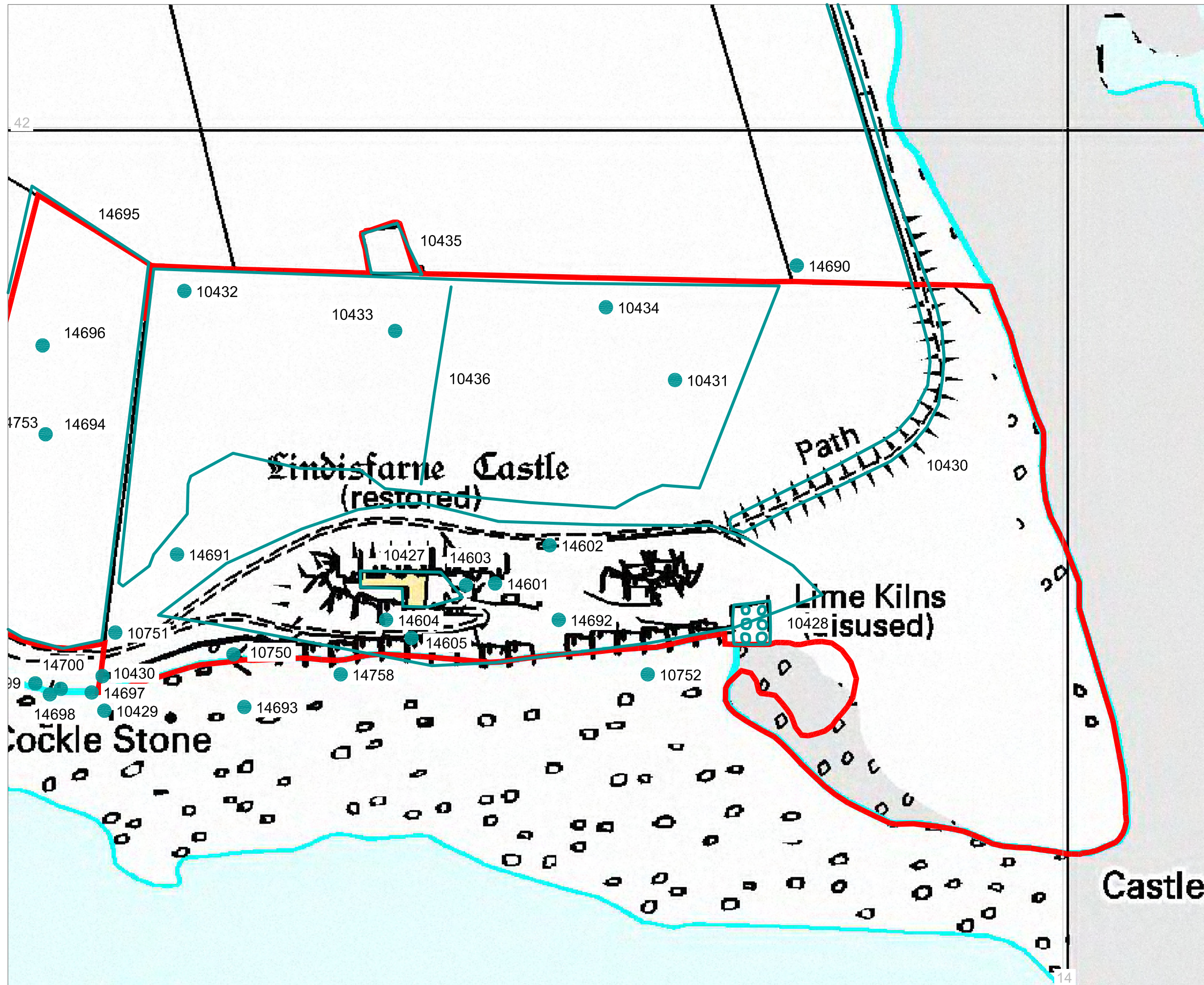


Scale: 1:2000



Key:

- NT HER Site
- National Trust Boundary

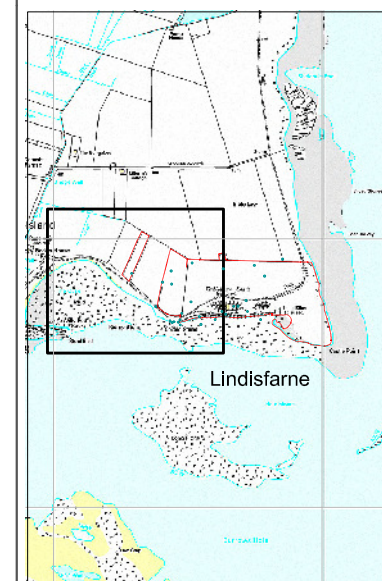


**NATIONAL TRUST
HISTORIC LANDSCAPE
SURVEY
NORTHUMBERLAND COAST**

SITE: Lindisfame

Title:
Figure 8b: National Trust HER
sites at Lindisfame

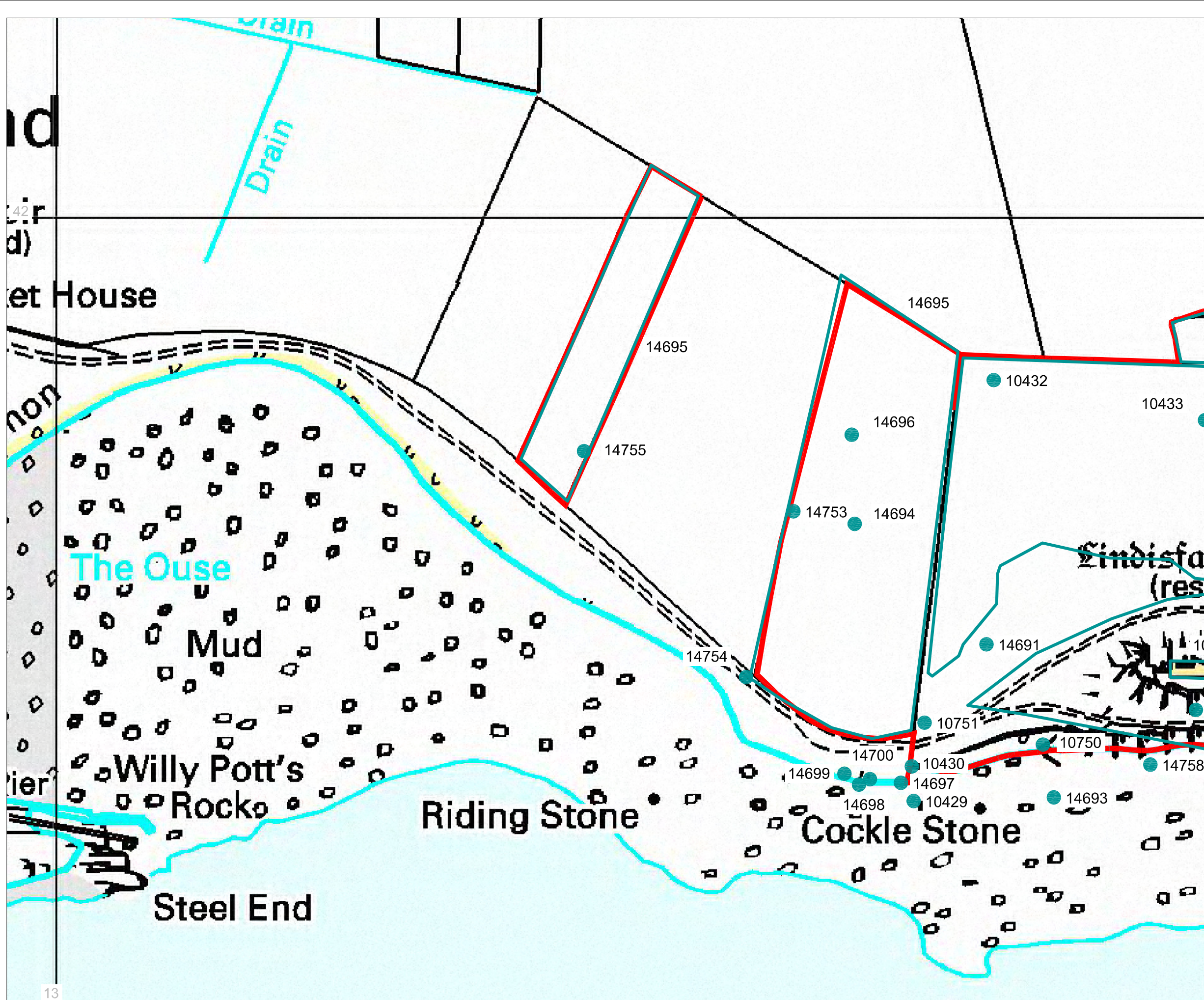
Notes:



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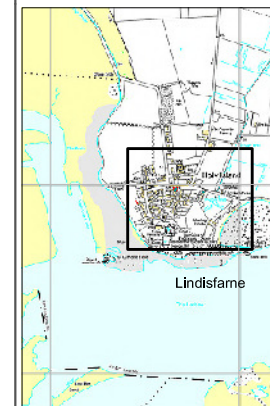
- Key:
- NT HER Site
 - National Trust Boundary



SITE: Lindisfarne

Title:
Figure 8c: National Trust HER sites at Lindisfarne

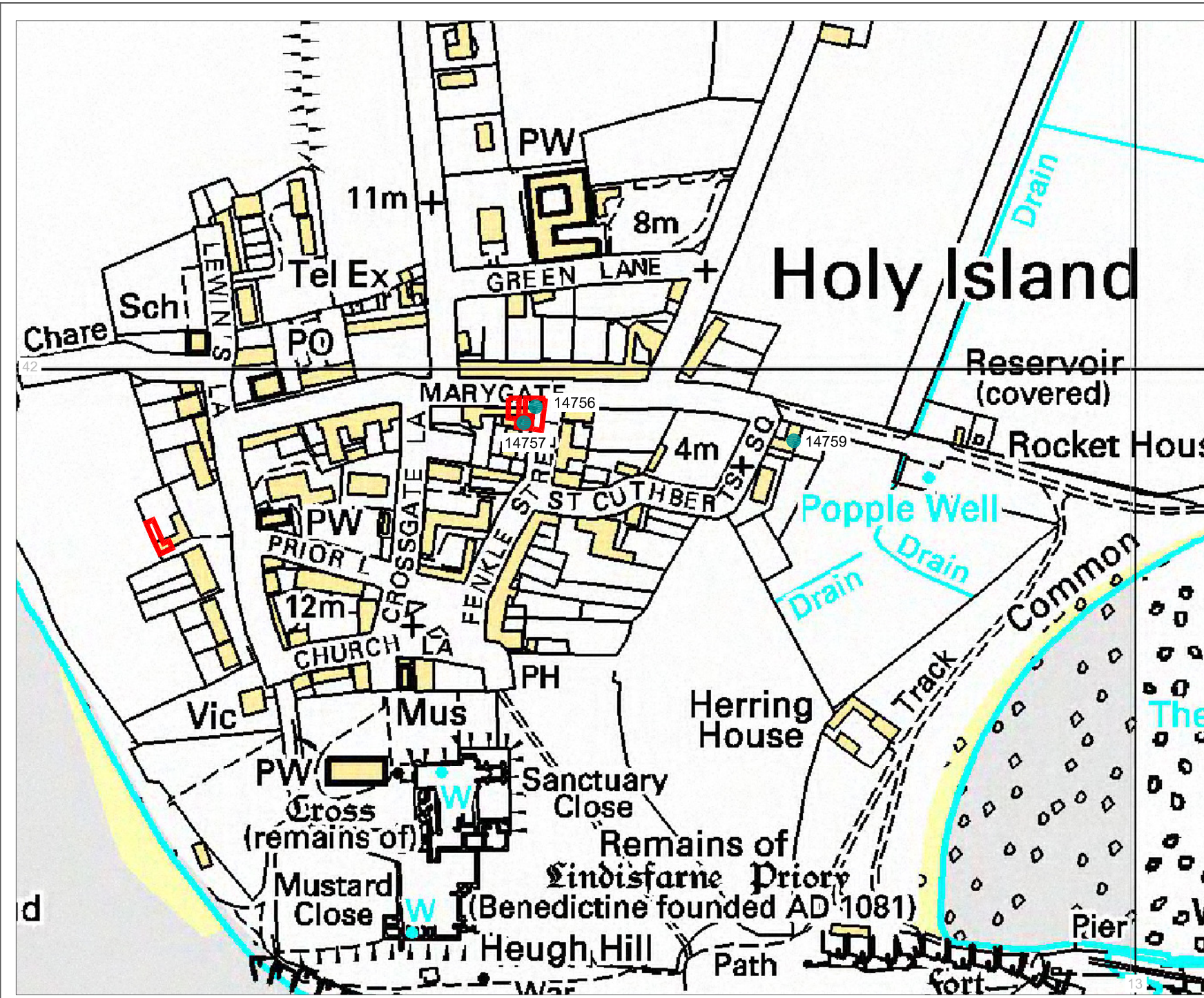
Notes:



Scale: 1:2000



- Key:
- NT HER Site
 - National Trust Boundary



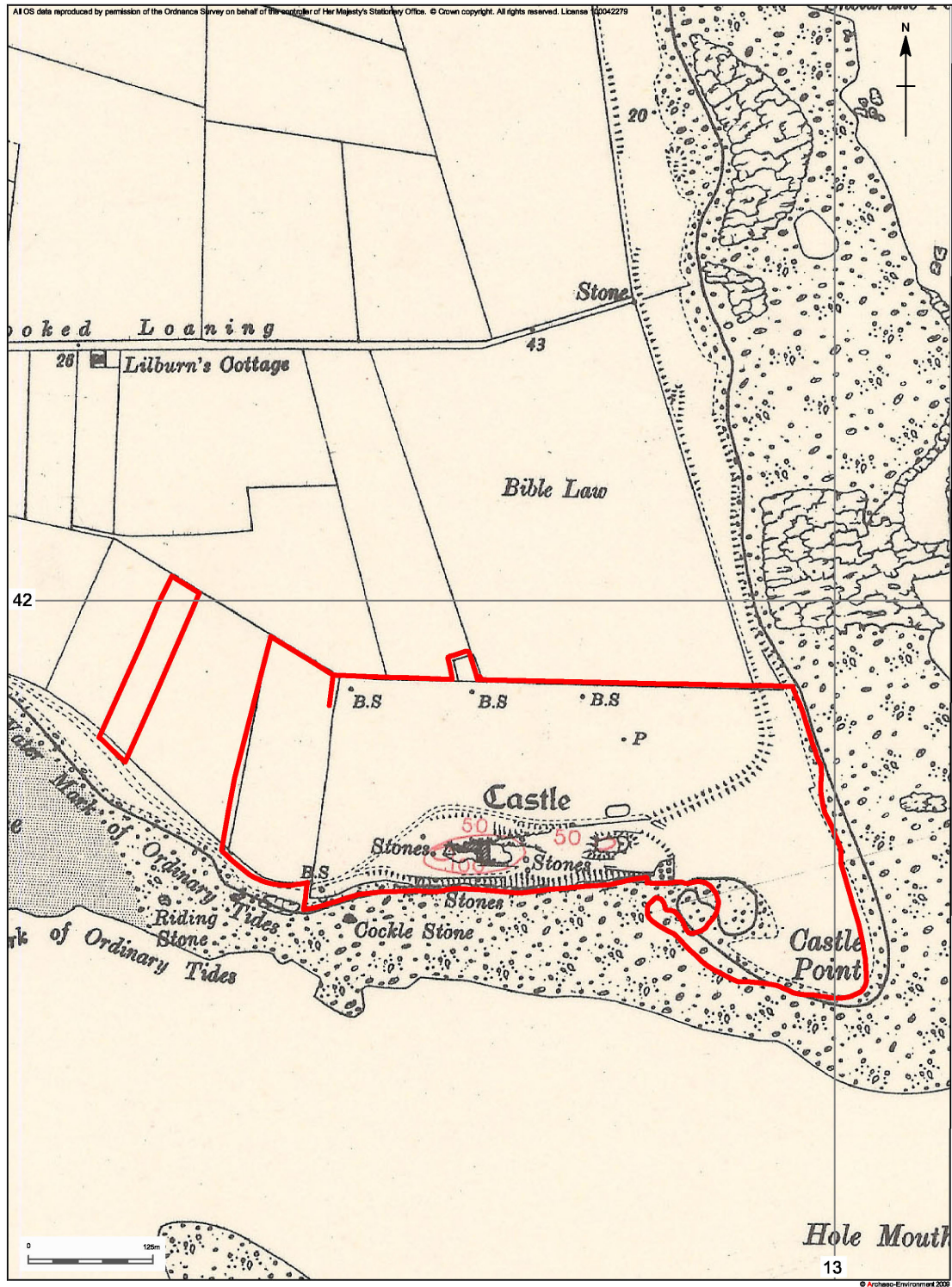


Figure 7. the OS 3rd edition map dating to 1926.

Nature of the Archaeological Evidence on the National Trust Landholding

As a result of fieldwork and database reorganisation, the number of sites now recorded on the National Trust SMR is 36. The County Council has 17 sites recorded, all duplicates of the NTSMR.

Prehistoric Remains

Only one find has come from the landholding of prehistoric date; a flint (NT 14604) found at the base of the castle wall in the 1930s. It is hard to imagine that a rocky promontory the size of the castle site would have not caught the attention of prehistoric people and therefore there is some potential for further discoveries in the future during ground disturbance.

Roman

No finds or remains associated with the Roman period have been found within the landholding (or indeed the island).

Early Medieval

A ninth century bronze strap end was found (NT 10750) during work to rebuild the beach wall between the entrance to the Castle Field and the start of the track to the Castle in the 1980's. Strap ends are still used today on the end of belts to prevent them fraying and to ease their passage into the buckle.

Beblowe (NT 10427), as a possible viewing place, would have had a particularly important role in early medieval times, particularly for communication between the monastic establishment on the Farne islands and the mother house at Lindisfarne. We know that a fire beacon was employed to relay news of the death of St. Cuthbert from Inner Farne to the Lindisfarne community and it is likely that the signal was received by bretheren stationed to watch for it on the highest available point on the island – this may have been the summit of Beblowe or the Fort on the Heugh. However any remains associated with this period will have been removed by later activity.

Post medieval

Beblowe (or Lindisfarne Castle) (NT 10427)

In the 16th and 17th centuries, Holy Island played a role in the defence of the realm when the Crown built a small fort (1549-50)¹¹ at the east of the island, possibly replacing an earlier lookout tower. The castle and the Fort on the

¹¹ SMR NU 14 SW 12

Heugh (Osborne's Fort) on the opposite side of the harbour provide an important context to the strengthening of the island as a strategic harbour and supply base. In 1542, bulwarks were built to defend the island, although their whereabouts are not known (Hardie and Rushton 2000, 79). It is possible that they were located at strategic points around the harbour and as such the castle site and the Heugh may have been good defensive locations. The 1548

'Crowning the summit of whinstone rock, called the Beblowe, is a heavy, unpicturesque-looking castle, probably erected in 1539 or 1540, at which time an Order in Council decreed that "All havens should be fenced with bulwarks and blockhouses"'

Bulmer 1887, 861

plan shows nothing on the site of Lindisfarne Castle except a beacon. But in 1549 an artillery fort was constructed on what was known as Beblowe Crag (the castle site) using stone quarried from the Priory which had been closed during the Dissolution. It was first constructed as a simple gun platform to defend the harbour and was later replaced by a fort in the 1560s. The castle was strengthened between 1570 -

1572 and the former Priory used to store naval equipment. During the reign of Elizabeth I, minor repairs were done and new platforms for advanced artillery (such as large cannons) were built.

Later in the 17th century, the risk of attack from Dutch privateers was thought to be the reason for the construction of a Fort on the Heugh (Hardie and Rushton 2000, 82). It was intended to complement Beblowe fort in the defence of the harbour. This gun battery was constructed in 1671. In the 18th century, a brief Jacobite occupation occurred during the *Fifteen*, but the castle was soon recovered by soldiers from Berwick. The Jacobites were held prisoner, but managed to escape. They hid for 9 days close to nearby Bamburgh Castle before making their way north to return home.

The castle remained in Crown hands and was garrisoned at least in times of stress, by a small detachment from Berwick. A report to the Board of

Ordnance in 1766 records that ‘The walls, Roofs and Storehouse were in good order and that 4 guns were emplaced at this time’.

The castle garrison was disbanded in 1821 but ‘a generation later’ saw use as a Coastguard Station (Perry R 1946, 42) and later still became a coastal artillery drill station for a detachment of the Royal Artillery Volunteers from 1878 until 1894. The names of these men and their families survive in the census return of 1881 when the Castle was occupied by Alfred Dean age 37 who was a sergeant for the Royal Artillery and was originally from Taunton. The castle was also a family home as he shared it with his wife Charlotte and two daughters and four sons. Only the youngest daughter Matilda had been born on Holy Island, the other children having been born wherever their father was posted (Woolwich, Sheffield and Wellington). The castle was also home to two gunners from the Royal Artillery and a farm servant, Margaret Mooney, a widow aged 40 and a native of Holy Island.

117	Lindisfarne Castle	1	Alfred Dean	Head	Mar	37	Sergeant Royal Artillery	Taunton
			Charlotte Dean	Wife	Mar	37		Wellington
			Louisa Dean	Daughter		14		Woolwich
			Alfred Dean	Son		12	Sheffield	Do
			Frederick Dean	Son		11	Do	Do
			Harry Dean	Son		9	Do	Sheffield, Sheffield
			Matilda Dean	Son		4	Do	Wellington
			Matilda Dean	Daughter		1		Holy Island
118	Lindisfarne Castle		Alfred Dean	Head	Mar	43	Gunner Royal Artillery	Northampton
119	Do		Frederick Mooney	Head	Mar	40	Gunner Royal Artillery	Northampton
120	Do	1	Margaret Mooney	Head	Widow	40	Farm Servant	Holy Island

Plate 4. Extract from the 1881 census showing the occupants of Lindisfarne Castle: the Royal Artillery sergeant Alfred Dean and his family, two gunners and a farm servant.

The castle was already attracting tourists by the 1800s one of whom (in the opening years of the 20th century) was Sir Edwin Lutyens who found Lindisfarne Castle while touring Northumberland and climbed over the wall to explore it. In 1902/3 Lutyens took the derelict castle and converted it for use as a dwelling for Edward Hudson, publisher and founder of Country Life magazine who had bought it a year earlier (Pevsner 1992, 340). Hudson subsequently refurbished the castle in Lutyen's Arts and Crafts style. The existing enclosure on the north side of the Castle Field was laid out as a garden by Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll in 1911 and was replanted in the early 1970's to a plan based on her original designs (National Trust 2007). Country

Life magazine featured many of Lutyen's house designs, including Lindisfarne.

The Castle was given to the Trust by Sir Edward de Stein and his sister in 1944 and 30 acres of land (the Castle Field and several small strip fields towards the village) were purchased in 1959.

Parish of Holy Island																		
No. of Assessment.	No. of Poor Rate.	Christian Names and Surnames of Occupiers.	Christian Names and Surnames of Owners, with their Residences.	Description of Property— If an Inn, &c., the name or sign by which known.	Street, Place, Name and Precise Situation of Property.	Poor Rate.				Reference to Map.	Extent as determined by Valuer.				Original Gross Value.	Deductions for		
						Estimated Extent.	Gross Annual Value.	Ratable Value.			Acres.	R.	P.	Y.		Buildings and other Machinery.	Tithes.	Other.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
48	54	Ed. Hudson.	Trusty of Holy Island	Castle	Holy Island		20	17										
60	58	do	do	Agree Land	do	30	30	17	10	21	7	2	2	1220				

Plate 5. Valuation Role of 1910 showing Edward Hudson's ownership of the castle.

The fields to the west of the castle and Boundary Stones (NT 10432-34, 14690, 10751, 14691-95)

The land to the west of the castle was enclosed after 1791¹² and the accompanying *Plan of Holy Island showing the land division...*¹³ illustrates a radical transformation of the island landscape with a much greater acreage of enclosed land. The area immediately around the castle was 'Allotted to the King' and comprised 'The Stank'; 'The Castle'; and 'The Sheep Lairs' - in all 25 acres. The parcel immediately to the west (just over four acres) was allotted to 'Revd. Lane Wilson, Curate of Holy Island' and appears on some subsequent maps as 'The Glebe'.¹⁴ The Glebe (NT14694) was originally subdivided, but the dividing wall has since mostly collapsed. The trapezoidal enclosure which now forms the Castle Garden (NT10435) appears on this plan, although its boundaries are not as sharply defined as the other enclosures which may suggest a subsequent addition.

¹² The Enclosure Act dated 1791 and Enclosure Award 1793

¹³ N.R.O. Ref. No.: 683/27/2

¹⁴ Glebe is the name usually given to land which belongs to the parish church or an ecclesiastical office

Not surprisingly the transformation following the Enclosure Award in 1793 (Raine 1852, 161) was not carried out without dispute. The boundary stones set up in the Castle Field (Sites 10432-10434) date from this period as documents of 1796 in the Selby papers at the County Records Office¹⁵ record a dispute over 'Encroachment' on Board of Ordnance property.

'The cultivated part of the island, which inclines to the south-west was inclosed in 1792, and now produces abundant crops of grain of every description. The soil is sandy, the chief crops are barley, oats, beans, turnips and potatoes.'

Kelly's Trade Directory 1910

The dispute started when a Major Caddy reported to the Board of Ordnance on 16th June 1796 that while he was at Holy Island to inspect repairs to the road up the rock to the castle he observed:

'...a very material alteration had been made to the ground within the stones set up to determine the boundaries of the King's land surrounding the castle, which are placed at the distance of one hundred and fifty yards from the (works?marks?) agreeable to the Act of Parliament for inclosing the Island and on walking the boundary I found the whole space within it stript (sic) entirely of the sod, plowed up and sown with oats or Barley - which occasioned me to enquire of the person who was there at work, on the spot, whose permission he had for breaking that ground belonging to the Castle. He answered me he was employed by a Mr Grigson who lives at Beal, a place about a mile and a half from the shore opposite the island who rented that, with the land adjoining, from a Mr Collingwood Selby, Lord of the Manor of the Island, this Gentleman I am informed resides at Swansfield near Alnwick'.¹⁶

The Office of Ordnance send a rocket to Henry Collingwood Selby on 29th June 1796¹⁷ asking him to explain this 'incroachment' and he drafted a reply

¹⁵ N.R.O. 683/6/62-70

¹⁶ NRO 683/6/67

¹⁷ NRO 683/6/68

(from Lincoln's Inn Fields, where the letter followed him) to Mr Crewe, Secretary to the Board of Ordnance on 14th July 1796:

*'The reason for putting up the stones...was only for the purpose of marking out that part of the Allotment [the land, formerly Common, had been allotted to H.C. Selby 'by the Award of the Division as lessee of the Crown and the Act of Parliament which passed in the year 1791' upon which no wall, fence or building was to be erected, that might be detrimental to the Fort, but by no means to prevent the Lessee of the Crown from improving and enjoying the land - see page 35 of the Act (a copy of which he proposed to enclose with the letter).'*¹⁸

The matter was clearly not resolved as on 18th June 1799 a Major Mc Kerras, officer Commanding Royal Engineers, Northern District, wrote to H. C. Selby from Newcastle that:

Following an attempt to find a source of clay for 'certain repairs' to the Castle, ordered by the Board of Ordnance, 'the artificer ordered to execute the same' writes to Major Mc Kerras to say that he has been informed that clay cannot be won without permission of the Lord of the Manor - H.C Selby. The Major enquired if it is really was the case that the ground around the Castle was allotted 'without right of being able to command the same when necessary'. He went on to ask by what Department of Government or by who's authority 'you have now in cultivation the above mentioned property of His Majesty's around the said Castle, the boundaries of which have been ascertained and are now marked out by stones carrying the King's Broad arrow &c.'

Boundary Stones (10432, 10433, 14690, 10434, 10751, 14691, 14692, 14693, 14694, 14695)

There are two sets of boundary stones – one 18th century set demarcating a large area around the castle and another later set, mostly now destroyed,

¹⁸ NRO 683/6/68

defining a much reduced area around the castle. The first set date from the period following the Enclosure Award in 1793. A document of 1796 in the Selby papers at the County Records Office records a dispute over 'Encroachment' on Board of Ordnance property at this time (see above).¹⁹



Plate 6. the remaining standing boundary stone NT SMR 10433

Boundary stones are aligned along the northern boundary of Castle Field. Four stones are shown on the first edition O.S. 6" map of 1866, which appear to pre-date the present walled boundary of the field and were intended to demarcate the extent of Crown Land around the Castle at the time of 'enclosure'. Only one of the four stones (see also Sites 10432, 10434, 14690) remains standing north of the castle, one has fallen over (10432) and a further stump can be seen just inside the Castle Field gate to the south (10751). The stones pre-date the ridge and furrow cultivation in the field (see Site 10436).

NT SMR 10434. This stone originally stood 0.5m high and is 26cm (10") square in section. The top is dressed to a rounded point and the original corners of the stone are worn smooth by its use over many years by stock as a rubbing post. There is no sign of any inscription on any of the four faces. Today the stone lies flat within a slight depression in the ground which makes it difficult to spot in long grass. The stone is markedly rougher than the later C19 boundary stone found on the beach below the Castle (see Site 10751).

NT SMR 10433. This stone lies almost opposite the gate to the Castle Garden. It has a slightly tapering top (see plate 4). The upper part (c.60cms) of the stone was had been broken off at ground level but has recently been reset.

¹⁹ NRO 683/6/62-70



Plate 7. Fallen boundary stone NT SMR 10432

NT SMR 10432 (see plate 7). This stone is no longer earthfast and lies in a shallow depression (probably caused by the trampling of stock over a long period). The lower portion of the stone (which was originally buried) is 35cm long and is not squared. The middle portion is 45cm long and the taper to the top of the stone is 20cm high, giving an overall length of 1m.

These boundary stones are presumably the forerunners of the late C19 War Department Boundary stones set immediately around the Castle (NT 14691-

3) and seen on the 2nd and 3rd edition OS maps dating from 1897 to the 1920s. So in the long term it seems that Henry Collingwood Selby won the day!

Boundary Stones (NT 14691-3)

The Ordnance Survey 1/2500 plan of 1897 shows 8 stones disposed in an approximate rectangle around the Castle on the slopes of Castle Crag (and records that they are marked: W ^ D, No.1. to W ^ D, No. 8. respectively). The 1922 edition simply records eight `stones'. This arrangement was confirmed by the find on the beach below the Castle on one of the stones (14693) (presumably fallen from the cliff below the Castle track where `No. 8' is shown on the 1890's plan). The stone is rectangular (108cm long and 30cm [12"] square in section) and neatly dressed for that portion which projected above the ground and is inscribed on one face:

W ^ D

No. 8

The inscription records Crown ownership (indicated by the 'broad arrow' between 'W' and 'D') of the demarcated parcel of land, including the castle, under the War Department (which changed its name from the Board of Ordnance in 1855, providing a *terminus post quem* for the stones). This arrangement may date from 1878 when the Volunteer Coast Artillery were using the castle:

“Holy Island was approved by the Secretary of State as a drill station, Oct 24, and the use of the guns and stores at Holy Island Castle for drill and gun practice sanctioned.” (Hicks , no date, 34)

The guns were finally removed in 1893 (ibid.43) and in December 1894 the Crown assigned the tenancy of the castle to Sir William Crossman (Baker 1975, chp 3).

Boundary Stone (NT SMR 10751)

The stump of a boundary stone lies among the earthworks of the tramway as it approaches the inland end of the old jetties, just inside the gate of the Castle Field.



Plate 8. A stump of a boundary stone seen on the approach to the castle (NT10751)



Plate 9. A possible clearance cairn (NT 14753)

The fields themselves are defined by drystone walls, now largely in poor condition. Once erected in the late 18th century, maintenance must have been a constant requirement and typically of most farmers, what was close to hand was used to fill the gaps. In the case of the NT

owned fields, iron bedsteads, often quite ornate, were used to make the collapsing walls stockproof. The stone used to construct the walls in the 18th century is not without interest. Much of it appears to be water worn and may have been quarried locally. Indeed there are shallow depressions around the perimeter suggesting that they are in fact borrow pits (NT 14755). Many of the stones also show signs of having been elsewhere, but exposed, before becoming part of a wall. One horizontal example at the foot of the wall displays signs of water erosion which could only be acquired if the stone had originally been turned 90° upwards. Other stones are remarkably like ‘cup marked’ rocks and while most are natural in origin, it may be worth observing them more closely during maintenance works in case any do indeed turn out to be prehistoric. Once ploughing took place in 1769 for oats and barley, inevitably stones would have been disturbed by the plough. This must have been particularly difficult given the presence of a dry beach (NT 14696) running across the fields in the direction of the castle. At least one mound close to the boundary of the most westerly field may be a clearance cairn (NT SMR 14753, see plate 9).



Plate 10. (i) The replacement of walls with post and wire fencing will lead to a change in historic character. (ii) Iron bedsteads provide an ornate solution to stockproofing. (iii) a rock in the wall shows signs of having been upright with rainwater eroding down its face before being used to build a wall in the 18th century.

Limekilns (NT 10428)

Lime has been used for hundreds of years. Priory accounts dating from the 14-16th centuries indicate that the monks burnt their own lime and had a limekiln on the island. It is possible that any limekilns would have been located close to the priory buildings to provide lime for mortar when the priory buildings were being repaired or built, as has been found at St Ebba's Chapel near Beadnell.

Lime can also be used to process hides for leather. More recently, by the 18th and 19th centuries it became a valuable resource, used to improve the quality of poor soils so that land could be enclosed and used to grow crops. Vast tracts of moorland and the acidic soils of the Island were converted into fertile fields, but this process required 10 tons of lime for every acre of moor.



Plate 11. Castle Point limekilns

Lindisfarne developed an important lime industry to help meet these needs, mainly through William Nicoll, a Dundee merchant (Addyman Archaeology 2009). It was an ideal centre of production. A good source of limestone existed on the island, a little coal for fuel and a good harbour where ships could bring in extra coal and take away the burnt lime for export. The burnt lime was exported mainly to the coast of Northumberland and to the hinterland of Dundee in Scotland. Parsons and White's *Directory* of 1828 lists limestone, coal and iron ore as the main industries (1828, 333), although the small seam of coal was never much worked and the iron ore in a bed of slate had to be worked at the ebbing tide because the ore lay below the high water mark (Hutchinson 1794, 361). By 1861, 20% of the adult male population of Lindisfarne were employed in lime working and it was to this time that the Castle Point kilns were constructed. The kilns are shown as 'proposed', along with a 'proposed' new tramway from Nessend Quarry to Castle Point on a map of 1860 by John Higgins (see figure 9). Their construction was not advanced enough to appear on the OS first edition map surveyed in the same year, but the earlier kilns at Kennedy Point were.

Six of Nicoll's ships sailed regularly between Holy Island and Dundee in the 1860s – the *Isabella*, *Agnes*, *Maria*, *Lancaster*, *Belford* and *Margaret Reid* (Addyman Archaeology 2009, 13). The level of quarrying and lime production at the Castle Point Limekilns was decreasing in the 1870s, when the quarrying was in the hands of a contractor and only ten men were employed at the quarry under the supervision of a foreman. As a consequence the number of ships sailing between Dundee and Holy Island declined and Nicoll appears to have sought alternative cargoes to boost his income. By the early 1880s the number of men employed in the industry had decreased significantly, with just four men working at the quarry and one at the kilns. The shipping records also indicated that the work had become highly seasonal. This in part may have been due to problematic relations between Nicoll and Crossman (to whom the land had been transferred in 1874). The last recorded departure of lime was in September

1883 and it seems that this was the end of Nicoll's lime burning activities on Holy Island (Addyman Archaeology 2009, 17)

Permanent limekilns were built of stone or brick. They were generally circular in plan and funnel shaped in section. At the base of the kiln was one or more arched openings called draw arches where the initial fire to start each burn at the bottom of the kiln was lit and the rate of burning could be controlled and from which the processed lime was removed. Kilns were loaded from the top, so they were often built into a hillside or had an earthen ramp constructed above them along which a waggonway could run to supply the coal and limestone, which were tipped in layers to ensure a good mix of fuel and stone to be burnt throughout the charge. The limestone and coal settled as the charge burnt down and heated to temperatures in excess of 1000 C. The heated lumps of limestone became chemically altered from calcium carbonate to calcium hydroxide or quicklime. This was highly reactive if wetted (hence the old name of quicklime - quick was another term for living) and a number of ships transporting quicklime from Lindisfarne caught fire because the cargo had come into contact with seawater. To take advantage of this character farmers would place small piles of burnt lime at regular intervals across the land being limed and the chemical reaction with rain and damp ground would cause the lime to heat and small bits to spit out from the heap, which saved spreading it!! The burnt lime helped to reduce acidity in the soil and break up heavy clay soils (Hardie and Rushton 2000, 62)

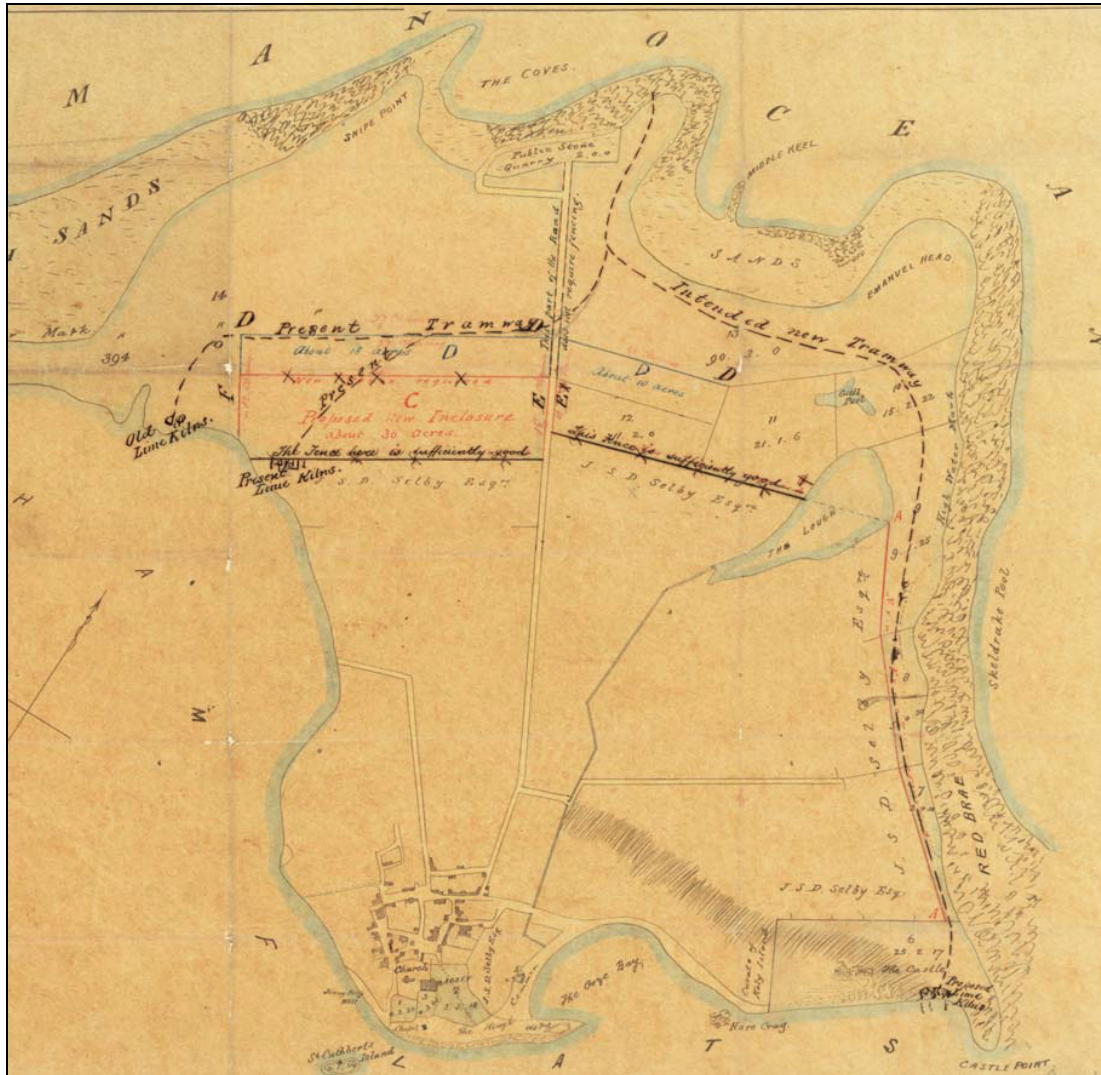


Figure 8. John Higgins' map of 1860 showing the proposed Castle Point Lime workings. The National Archives. From Addyman Archaeology 2009, 9

The Castle Point examples are one of the largest kiln banks in Northumberland, and consist of a fine battery of six limekilns arranged in a rectangle (c.25m x 30m) with each pot having several drawing arches - those within the structure served by access tunnels intended to allow the burnt lime to be removed in wheeled tubs. Access to the top of the kilns was obtained by building out a vast ramp, retained on the south by a high wall, from around an existing outcrop which the kilns were built against the foot of. This gave a large working platform on the north and west sides of the kiln tops and tramway branches were laid out to serve this area. The line bringing stone had a loop around the north side of the outcrop to the kiln top and a further branch led down a steep descent to the foot of the kilns giving a connection

between the upper and lower tramway layouts. Both coal and limestone were no doubt stored on the platform formed between the kilns and the slope to the Castle where there is a further tramway ramp for loading materials.



Plate 12. Access tracks to the top of the limekilns

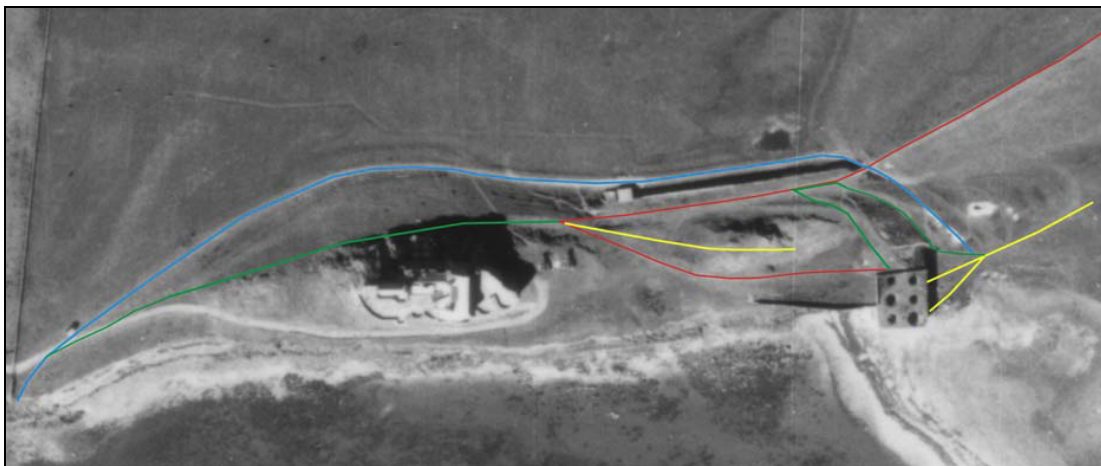


Plate 13. 1977 vertical aerial photograph, with digitised tramways (high level – red, low level – blue, spur – yellow, transfer line – green). AP, Cambridge University Aerial Photograph Collection; taken from Addyman Archaeology 2009, 19

A number of firebricks lying on the foreshore outside the kilns are stamped 'Radcliffe' - probably the product of a brickworks belonging to the Radcliffe Coal Company at Amble Staith. These brickworks operated from the 1870's until 1955 and *'In 1890 the Company was exporting firebricks to the Baltic, Mediterranean, and French ports, as well as sending them by boat to the south of England'* (Davison 1986. 23,25,280). A number of firebricks are also stamped 'Glenboig' .The Glenboig Fire-clayCompany, formed by James Dunnachie in partnership with John Hurl and John Young, specialised in furnace lining bricks and pipe work. However, the partnership folded in 1872 and James Dunnachie built the Star Works immediately adjacent to the old works, in competition with them. In 1882 the two companies decided to amalgamate as the Glenboig Union Fireclay Company Ltd with Dunnachie as Managing Director. As the firebricks in the kiln were changed regularly, those which remain at the Castle Point kilns are likely relate to nearer the end of the functional time span of the kilns, in the early 1880s (Addyman Archaeology 2009, 12)

Waggonways and bridge (10430)

A section of waggonway connecting the kilns to the quarries on the north side of the island is visible as a substantial earthwork running immediately eastwards from the kilns. A little bridge carried one tramway over another.



Plate 14. Waggonways built to carry limestone from the quarries to the kilns



Plate 15. The route of the waggonways from the quarry to the limekilns and jetty (from Addyman Archaeology 2009, 2)

The Cocklestone Jetty (10429)

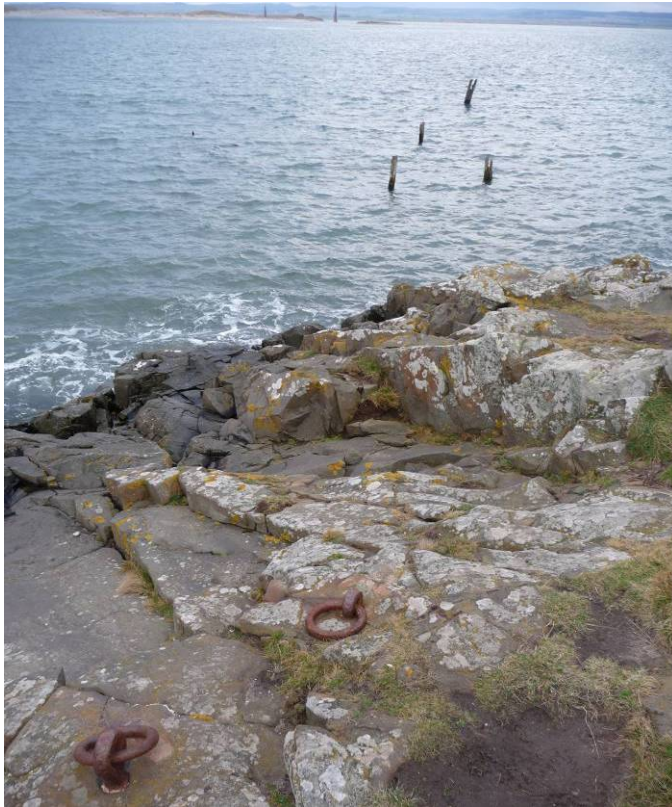


Plate 16. The jetty with two mooring rings in the foreground (NT 10429, 14697- 99)

The jetties were built by Nicoll to import coal for the kilns and take away burnt lime. The line of the two tramways or waggonways can be followed within the area of Castle Field. Both are contemporary with the limekilns at the eastern end of Castle Crag. One linked the jetties to the WSW of the Castle with the foot of the limekilns and the other is part of a longer waggonway

which brought stone from limestone quarries at the

north side of Holy Island, beyond the landholding, to the top of the limekilns (circling the Castle Field on an embankment and crossing the `jetties' line by a simple trestle bridge). The Cocklestone Jetty was constructed by Nicoll as part of the Castle Point lime workings. The waggonways went out of use when the limeworks closed in the 1890's and were ruinous (though the outer end of the decking of one remained) when photographs were taken for a `Country Life' article in 1920. Since then the ravages of winter storms and, no doubt, a certain amount of salvage of useful timbers, has left only a straggly line of uprights to represent each jetty. They are much photographed as a `frame' for scenic photographs of the castle. There is a rock cut `bench' in the outcrop at the shore end of the jetties which may be an earlier wharf. A number of mooring rings and other pieces of ironwork remain in the surrounding rocks (including a ring set into a large block (the "Cockle Stone") on the beach nearby.



Plate 17. An earlier photograph of the jetty in Linsley 2005, 59

The line of the 'jetties' branch is used for regular vehicle access and the Administrator has a garage alongside it on the north side of the crag between the Castle and the limekilns.



Plate 18. Additional mooring rings near the jetties

Upturned boats (NT SMR 14601)

Around the harbour and just below the castle, are a number of fishermen's stores made from upturned boats, originally Northumbrian cobbles cut in two.

In the 19th century many such boats were used as dwelling places on the Northumberland coast. These boats are a

It is clear that at all these fishing villages [Cullercoats, Newbiggin, North Sunderland and Holy Island] there has within the last 20 years been a constant increase in the number of fishermen, the size of their boats, and the quantity of nets and other gear.'

1866 Fishery Commission

tangible reminder of the fishing industry, still very much alive, but once a crucial mainstay to the island's economy.



Plate 19. Views of the upturned boats are as iconic as the castle itself

Little is known of the earliest days of commercial fishing on Northumberland's coast. In 1547 many of the 192 coast-based fishermen in Northumberland were thought to be Scots and by 1626 the numbers of fishermen on Holy Island were 27, out of 284 resident fishermen along the whole coast between the Tweed and the Tyne (Linsley 2005, 14). This does not include the many women who were employed to gut the fish. The market for most fish was local until the railway network was established, although specially designed smacks could carry lobsters, salmon and turbot alive to London. Non-local markets were also served by cured fish resulting in the kipper. The upturned boats at Holy Island were associated with the herring industry in particular. These were the mainstay of the fishing industry in the 19th century and on Holy Island, Berwick, Seahouses, Beadnell and Hauxley, herring curing stations were established. The size of the fishing boats increased throughout the 19th century, presumably leaving the native coble somewhat redundant. What better use than to turn them upside down, cut in a door and use them for

storage? The last sailing fishing boat on Holy Island was laid up in 1914, overturned and used as a store (Linsley 2005, 17). In the meantime the large steam powered trawlers out-fished the small fishing communities like Holy Island, depleted spawning grounds and made the small harbours, which were not deep enough to accommodate them, redundant. A fire in 2005 destroyed two of the replaced upturned boats (Beamish 2006, 55) which have since been replaced by portions of a traditional, but more recent, boat from Leith. One 19th century boat store remains on site.



Plate 20. Upturned boats at Lindisfarne Castle

Navigation Buoy (NT SMR 10752)

A large (2.50m long) riveted wrought iron or steel buoy, conical in shape with a base diameter of 1.32m, with a heavy mooring swivel still attached to the point of the cone and a lighter, fixed, securing or recovery ring in the centre of the base of the cone. (The position of the mooring swivel indicates that the cone would be inverted when the buoy was afloat. There are no indications of fixings for a topmark). This may be the 'Black Buoy' shown as marking the seaward extent of the reef 'Ridge End' on a chart of 'Holy Island Harbour', surveyed by Commander E.I. Johnson in 1831 and corrected to March 1867.²⁰

²⁰ NRO 683/27/5

Well (NT SMR 10431)

A well or pump adjacent to a low lying area ('The Stank' on the Enclosure Survey) which still ponds up in the winter. A primary function for this may have been for watering stock at periods of the year when the water in The Stank dried up. The present site is shown as a 'pump' on the 1922 25" Plan.



Plate 21. The Stank (left) and the later well/pump

Ridge and Furrow (NT SMR 10436)

Castle Field shows signs of former cultivation - the characteristic 'ridge and furrow' of earlier ploughing being fossilised by a change of land use to permanent pasture. The width between the ridge tops is approx. 3.5m and the ridges are straight, indicating a relatively late date. The use of this land for ploughing is confirmed by a document of 1796 which records that the area had been "plowed up and sown with oats or barley..." following the 'enclosure' of Holy Island.



**Plate 22. Slight traces of ridge and furrow can be seen in Castle Field (NT SMR)
"plowed up and sown with oats or barley..." in 1796**

Glen House and Elm House (NT SMR 14756)

These two properties on Marygate owned by The National Trust appear to be 18th century in date although there is some limited evidence for earlier buildings on the site and a range of pottery types from the garden dating to between the 13th and 19th centuries (Bernicia Archaeology 2000).

Modern Period



Plate 23. View towards the castle from the garden seat

The Garden (NT SMR 10435)

The Castle Garden was laid out by Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll in 1911 as part of the development of Lindisfarne Castle as a holiday home in the early years of last century. The walled enclosure was already in existence, appearing first on the Enclosure Act of 1791 -

*'Plan of Holy Island showing the land division...'*²¹ The boundaries of the trapezoidal enclosure which surrounds the Castle Garden appear to be not as sharply defined as the other enclosures (including that for the Castle Field) marked on this plan which may suggest their subsequent addition, presumably as a productive garden for the castle garrison. Originally Hudson wished to develop a garden between the original walled garden and the castle, but this proved to be too expensive. Lutyens designed a structure within the old walled garden consisting of paths and garden walls in January 1911 and Gertrude Jekyll added two planting plans, the first for an initial establishment year with vegetables and annual flowers. The second plan was for a longer term planting of shrubs, herbaceous perennials and annual flowers, with a single border set aside for vegetables. Planting was not

²¹ NRO 683/27/2

restricted entirely to the walled garden – Jekyll sent from Munstead Wood some 500 thrift, 50 snow in summer and 50 rock roses for the castle batteries and Beblow Hill (National Trust 2007). In 1921 Edward Hudson sold the castle to Oswald Falk, and two years later Gertrude Jekyll redesigned the garden changing its character once again.

The garden has been through a few restorations schemes since then. Most recently, it was restored back to Jekyll's original 1911 plan in 2002 using as near as possible the original cultivars. It is now under the management of Phillipa Hodgkinson with help from volunteers and is a popular attraction for visitors.

'this place has been a much more expensive amusement than I ever anticipated'.

Edward Hudson to Colonel Crossman's agent

St Oswald's (NT SMR 14759)

St Oswald's is a small stone house built for Edward Hudson sometime between 1911 and 1923 and apparently designed by Lutyens. Local tradition suggests that Hudson had it built for a Mr Fender who lived in what Hudson perceived to be an offensive shack in the castle field. In order to prevent another shack being built for Mr Fender, Hudson had St Oswald's built. Later, the house passed to the Lilburn family who looked after the castle in Hudson's absence and was recently purchased from the Lilburn Estate by the National Trust. The external design has a number of Lutyen's design characteristics such as a steeply pitched roof and the blocky two step chimneys, but other features are distinctive to north Northumberland and the coastal plain, namely pantile roofs and projecting skewputs (Dixon pers comm, see Appendix B for a fuller account).

Previous Archaeological and Historical Research

2009

Addyman Archaeology was commissioned by the National Trust to undertake an archaeological and historical study of the Lindisfarne Castle Limeworks. This included a contour survey of the castle and limeworks area and some

research of shipping registers between Dundee and Holy Island. It also included an assessment of information which could be obtained from aerial photographs.

2008

A Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment was carried out along the Northumberland coast by English Heritage. This identified a number of features from aerial photographs.

2000

A watching brief and building recording took place at Glen House and Elm House by Bernicia Archaeology in response to a planning condition associated with the refurbishment of both properties.

1998

In October 1989, The Archaeological Practice undertook an archaeological evaluation in advance of the erection of the new ticket office and associated with the new access arrangements to the castle. A subsequent watching brief was carried out in 2000. Nothing was found (NT 14603, 14605).

1995

Deirdre O’Sullivan and Rob Young publish their English Heritage book on Lindisfarne. This summarises years of research into the settlement at Greenshiel outside the NT holding and also some smaller archaeological interventions at the Fort on the Heugh and within the village. It does cover some research into the castle and reproduces some 16th century mapping of the castle site from the Public Records Office.

1992

Jermy, R 1992 *Lindisfarne’s Limestone Past: quarries, tramways and kilns*, Northumberland County Library, was published. This draws together a significant amount of the available information, including information regarding

the Castle Point Limekilns, but does not include information from Scottish archives.

1972

Hogg, S, 1972 *Post-weichselian history of the Northumberland coastal zone*, unpublished MSc thesis, University of Durham. This is a study of the palaeo-environmental significance of the coast including Holy Island and outlines the potential for Mesolithic remains on the island due to the stronger influence of the uplift over sea level rises leading to the survival of raised beaches, particularly around the castle site.

Archaeological Potential



Plate 24. An eroding section along the sea front adjacent to the access road displays charcoal, old ground surfaces and long buried shells

The archaeological potential of the island as a whole is very high. In 1994, the County Council identified the Holy Island area as one of high archaeological potential and a high erosion rate – *'Holy Island has almost unlimited archaeological potential; virtually its entire perimeter possesses scope for revealing significant archaeological remains of most periods in history*

and prehistory, and its significance for Early medieval activity is of national, and indeed international, importance.' (NCC 1994, 13).

1. Sea erosion can be seen on the NT property along the access road towards the castle (plate 23), visitor erosion has been reduced by earlier management around the kilns and there is some limited sheep scarring along the waggonways. All of these erosive surfaces have the potential to expose buried archaeological remains.
2. The predictions for flooding due to sea level rise suggest that the heugh land and the enclosures may become partially flooded restoring

the water levels to those seen in medieval times.²² This may expose further archaeological remains as (if) the water retreats.

3. The potential exists in more stable areas too. Running across the NT landholding is a dry beach which can be seen as a ridge (NT 14696). This has particular potential for Mesolithic remains as identified in the regional research agenda (NERRF 2006, 13). Although the field is under pasture and therefore stable, there is some rabbit burrowing which could be monitored for stray flints. The burrowing has already exposed some shells in the sandy soil.



Plate 25. (i) A rock displaying a type of 'cup mark' seen as a natural feature throughout the Holy Island area set within a NT 18th century enclosure wall (ii) similar 'cup marks' on the cross base at the priory entrance and (iii) similar 'cup marks' on the priory walls.

4. The island may also have more to contribute towards our understanding of prehistoric carved rocks. One such rock, probably Neolithic or Bronze Age in date, was found at The Palace, outside the NT landholding. A brief examination of the boundary walls within the NT landholding revealed a number of rocks which display similar characteristics, but are presumably natural. However, an example on the cross base outside the priory ruins looks more convincing as do further examples incorporated into the building itself. The relationship between naturally occurring cup marks and ones carved by prehistoric ancestors is probably quite complex. Human -produced carvings may well have been influenced by natural ones and humans may have also added cup marks to stones with existing natural ones. Examples found further south at Beadnell caravan park also suggest natural cups with

²² NT CRA2 maps

human-made cups superimposed. To this end, the possibility for prehistoric carved rocks to be found within the landholding needs to be considered as high.



Plate 26. The cup marked stone from the excavations at The Palace

5. Beblowe Rock would have been a prominent landscape feature in prehistoric times and it is likely that it was utilised in some way. The later use of the site as a garrison and holiday home will have destroyed most evidence, but there is still some potential for earlier remains to be exposed on the rock in areas of erosion or in areas where ground disturbance is necessary as part of maintenance.
6. The extensive limeworks have the potential to offer additional information on limeworking on the island, but this is best perhaps carried out by limited excavation of the wider area to include the quarry workers cottage at Nessend, as well as the tramways to examine construction techniques and the land around the kilns and jetties for additional information on imports and exports.
7. As a wetland feature The Stank appears to come and go. It may offer interesting palaeo-environmental samples in the form of preserved pollens, beetle remains, organic artefacts and seeds which would help us to understand how the immediate landscape looked from prehistoric times to the present day.

Conclusions and Statement of Significance

Lindisfarne Castle is one of the island's most dominant features, visible for many miles around. It casts a spell on any visitors to the island who find that they are unable to resist taking photograph after photograph of this dramatic structure, often at the expense of less photogenic features (although Bulmer disagreed in 1887, before Lutyen's conversion, see page 19). The castle's fairytale appearance belies a complex history and changes of use. Northumberland as a tourist destination markets its dramatic and picturesque castles and Lindisfarne is one of the visually most easy to identify with the county. It has attracted tourists, artists and poets for centuries. The kilns are perhaps less romantic, but taken with their surrounding infrastructure, they have a story to tell which in many ways is more typical of the county and had a greater impact on a larger number of people. The fields to the west of the castle are perhaps less exciting for the visitor, but by having them in NT ownership, ensures that the approach to the castle is unspoilt. However decisions do need to be made regarding the continuing use and maintenance of the 18th century enclosures. The current walls have tumbled down and are being replaced by post and wire fencing. While the presence of enclosures on the holy island may seem dully practical, they have at least a little more landscape interest than post and wire fencing.

The following section looks at aspects of the landholding and explores their significance under different themes. However, as an overall significance, there can be no doubt that Lindisfarne Castle is a national treasure.

Rarity Value

The Lindisfarne Castle landholding can truly claim to be unique. It is not the only castle in the wider area, but its prominent outcrop location on a tidal island; its long term association with national defence, Country Life and Gertrude Jekyll all add up to a highly significant site. The limekilns are not unique (there are 2418 recorded on the National Monuments Record for England, and 565 from Northumberland and Durham, suggesting that the north east has a particularly strong representation in the national record) but

they are one of the largest examples in the county (with the NT kilns at Beadnell and those at Seahouses). Their status is recognised in the scheduled designation making them nationally important.

Documentary Evidence

Holy Island has often held a strategic role of national and regional importance and therefore there is considerable documentary evidence for the island and the castle in particular at national and local archives. The recent work by Addyman Archaeology has also shown that further records exist for the lime industry in Scotland relating to the economic links between the Island and Dundee. It is probably worth noting that Scotland was in many ways a more conveniently located economic partner than England was. In terms of documentary evidence the site is therefore highly significant. Further, its starring role in *Country Life* and its association with a nationally renowned gardener with her original plans surviving, means that its significance is considerably enhanced by its association with documentary records. There are also records relating to Coastguards in the national archives and these are largely unexplored in relation to Lindisfarne Castle and offer an opportunity for further research (Mark Newman *pers. comm.*)

Associations with other sites, famous people and known political events

The island is associated primarily with a number of early Christian saints (Aidan, Cuthbert) and appears in the works of Bede. It is inextricably bound with the growth of early medieval Christianity, the Lindisfarne Gospels and was at the forefront of the Viking invasions which were to leave a permanent mark on our culture. The exotic appeal of the tombolo (the correct term for a tidal island) has also resulted in visitors flocking there to appreciate its artistic qualities, of which the castle rock was the main attraction. There are many modern artists who have painted the castle rock, but it also appears in the works of nationally renowned landscape artists such as Turner (see plate 27) and Thomas Girton (plate 28).



Plate 27. Holy Island drawn by J. M. W. Turner and engraved by W. Tembleson in 1830

The island also features in the works of Sir Walter Scott who based his poem *Marmion* (1910, 106, first published in 1833) in Northumberland which also mentions the castle, although the monastic buildings have a more central role to play:

*'The tide did now its flood-mark gain,
And girdled in the Saint's domain:
For, with the flow and ebb, its style
Varies from continent to isle;
Dry shod, o'er sands, twice every day,
The pilgrims to the shrine find way;
Twice every day, the waves efface
Of staves and sandall'd feet the trace.
As to the port the galley flew,
Higher and higher rose to view
The castle with its battled walls,
The ancient Monastery's halls,
A solemn, huge, and dark-red pile,*

Plac'd on the margin of the isle.'

These associations with nationally important artists endow the castle with added significance in terms of its cultural value and highlights the need not just to protect the castle structure itself, but its most popular views as used by artists throughout the last few hundred years.



Plate 28. Thomas Girton's imaginative painting of Lindisfarne Castle c.1797

Amenity Value

As a publicly accessible and well-used site the castle has considerable amenity value and is one of the three main star attractions on the Island (castle, priory and mead as promoted on the Enjoy England web site). Further, it is one of the star attractions for the county of Northumberland. Its significance in terms of amenity is therefore high. The kilns have considerable amenity value, and are accessible all year round (unlike the castle interior). The tramways associated with them form part of a walk linking the kilns with the quarry. The fields to the west of the castle are of less amenity value and are appreciated simply to protect the views of the castle from the village. The association with outstanding bird life on the surrounding National Nature Reserve adds considerable amenity value to the site.

The island attracts visitors seeking more spiritual experiences. The heugh land around the kilns has become the focus of many pieces of impromptu artworks; some spiritual and some just fun. All have some worth both as art and the stamp of families and groups who have had a positive experience on the island. The artwork currently constitutes human figures, hearts and Celtic crosses. It is clear from some of the crosses that they have been produced for decades as some are now quite overgrown. Their very nature is ephemeral as new budding artists often destroy earlier artwork in order to build their own. The tides and weather also put an end to those nearer the sea. These artworks add to the amenity value of the NT landholding and offer an insight into that essential human condition that has a need to leave its mark through the construction of monuments in stone.



Plate 29. A human figure and a Celtic cross from the heugh land at Castle Point.

Statutory Status

This is a particularly high density of nationally important monuments and reflects the high regard people have for the island's antiquities. Lindisfarne Castle, the limekilns and Jekyll's garden are all designated as being nationally important.

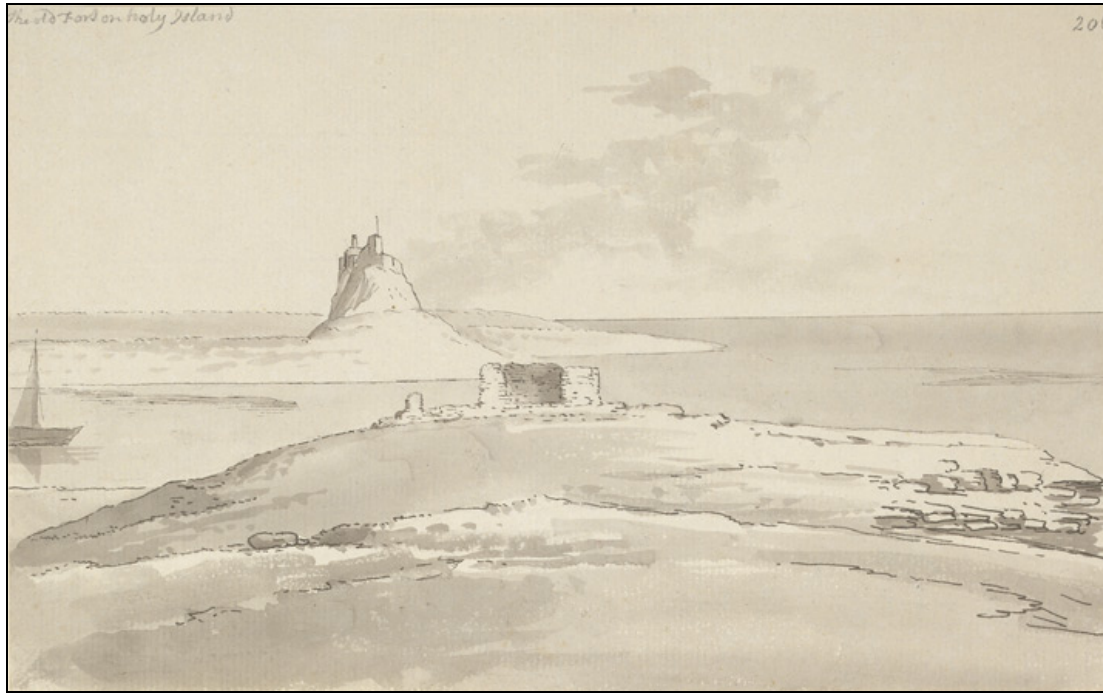









Plate 30. Drawing by Grimm 1778 of Lindisfarne Castle (British Library Additional MS 15539)

Gazetteer



NTSMR	Type	NGR	Date	SMR xref	Condition	Description	Images
10427	artillery fort	413637 641751	medieval to modern	5347	good	Grade I listed Tudor fortress possibly built on top of an earlier look-out tower.	
10428	limekilns	413827 641728	post medieval	5751	good	Scheduled Ancient Monument – limekilns and limeworks	

10429	jetties	413470 641680	post medieval	-	poor	marked as 'old jetties' on the 2 nd edition OS map c1897. Associated with iron mooring rings set into rocks	
10430	tramways and bridge	413469 641699 413830 641782 413907 641820 413927 641905 413766 641738	post medieval	5356	good, but some sheep scrapes and rabbit burrowing	tramways associated with kilns, designed to bring limestone from the quarries at the north end of the island to the kilns and then on to ships for export, mostly to Dundee. Last NGR relates to an eroding section - monitor	
10431	well	413731 641787	post medieval	23020		seen on 1 st edition OS map	



Historic Environment Survey – National Trust Northumberland Coast – Lindisfarne

10432	boundary stones	413519 641901	post medieval	5357	lying down	one of a line of four boundary stones (only three of which now exist) demarcating crown land	
10433	boundary stones	413630 641889	post medieval	5357	good	a reset boundary stone on the approach to the walled garden. one of a line of four boundary stones (only three of which now exist) demarcating crown land	
10434	boundary stones	413890 641879	post medieval	5357	not seen	One of a line of four boundary stones demarcating crown land .Stone now fallen and lying on its side in a shallow depression.	
14690	boundary stone	413851 641925	post medieval	-	not seen	Boundary stone identified from the 2nd edition 25 inch OS map of 1898. One of eight stones associated with the C19 War Department Boundary stones. These are disposed in an approximate rectangle around the Castle on the slopes of Castle Crag.	

Historic Environment Survey – National Trust Northumberland Coast – Lindisfarne



10435	walled garden	413618 641930	post medieval - modern	5354	good	0.5ha walled garden with original planting design by Gertrude Jekyll. Restored. Registered Garden.	
10436	ridge and furrow	413653 641863	post medieval	5358	stable	A document of 1796 confirms that this land was ploughed and oats and barley sown.	
10750	stray find	413541 641711	early medieval	-	unknown	strap end.	



Historic Environment Survey – National Trust Northumberland Coast – Lindisfarne



10751	boundary stone	413470 641700	post medieval	23021	stable	a stump of a boundary stone located by the gate into Castle Field. Seen on 1 st ed OS map	
10752	navigation buoy	413769 641700	post medieval - modern	-	not seen	Former navigation buoy	
14601	keel boats	413685 641750	post medieval - modern	23019	good	upturned keel boats used as storage; only one is a 19 th century example the others being replaced recently after fire.	

Historic Environment Survey – National Trust Northumberland Coast – Lindisfarne



14602	pump house	413715 641771	modern	-	good	vernacular style pump house with pantile roof adjacent to tramway.	
14603	event, watching brief	413669 641749	modern	-	n/a	watching brief during works for a new ticket office. Nothing found.	
14604	stray find	413625 641730	mesolithic	20738	unknown	flint tool	
14605	event, watching brief	413639 641720	modern	-	n/a	watching brief during access works	
14691	boundary stone	413510 641766	19 th c	-	destroyed	visible on 2 nd and 3 rd edition OS maps	
14692	boundary stone	413720 641730	19 th c	-	destroyed	visible on 2 nd and 3 rd edition OS maps	
14693	boundary stone	413547 641682	19 th c	-	destroyed	visible on 2 nd and 3 rd edition OS maps	
14694	field	413400 641824	18 th c	-	walls poor	Glebe field, formerly subdivided (on 1 st ed OS map). Originally belonged to the local vicar.	

14695	field walls and borrow pits	413479 641791 413479 641799 413487 641869 413487 641873 413494 641907 413495 641919 413319 642016	18 th c		poor	walls made of waterworn rubble and natural 'cup marked' stones. The stones have been reused in some cases as they display signs of water erosion from a different position. Some patching with old bedsteads and more recent repairs. Some building materials (wheelbarrow for example) have been dumped in the access area.	
14696	dry beach	413436 641881				an area of high archaeological potential particularly for prehistoric finds. Shells seen where animal burrowing has exposed sandy soil.	


14697	mooring rings	413463 641690			two mooring rings of iron	
14698	mooring ring	413440 614689			a single mooring ring	

14699	mooring ring	413432 641695			a single mooring ring	
14700	old ground surface	413446 641692			eroded section showing coal and shell - monitor	

Historic Environment Survey – National Trust Northumberland Coast – Lindisfarne

14753	clearance cairn	413404 641839	18 th c	-	some erosion	possible clearance cairn adjacent to field boundary. Monitor in case it is a burial cairn.	
14754	farm machinery	413378 641748	19 th c	-	poor	disused farm machinery outside glebe field	

Historic Environment Survey – National Trust Northumberland Coast – Lindisfarne

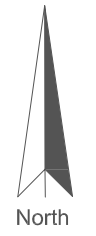
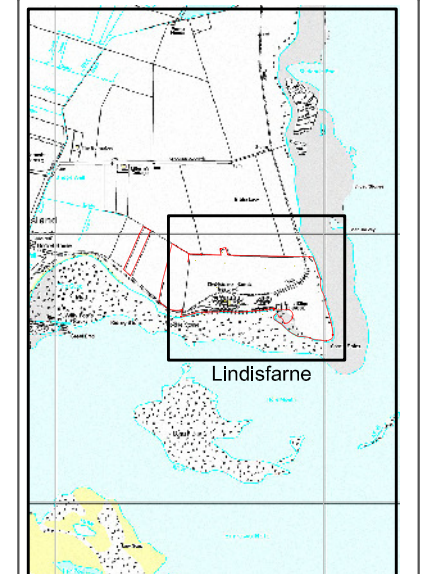
14755	borrow pits	413289 641872 413300 641895				borrow pits for wall construction	
14756	house	4126 6419	18 th c		good	Glen House/Elm House 18th century building on Marygate	
14757	Watching brief and building recording	4126 6419	13 th - 19 th c finds		N/A	Watching brief and buildings recording by Bernicia Archaeology in 2000	
14758	Desk Based Assessment	4136 6417	various			Desk Based Assessment by Addyman Archaeology 2009 around Lindisfarne Castle	

**NATIONAL TRUST
HISTORIC LANDSCAPE
SURVEY
NORTHUMBERLAND COAST**

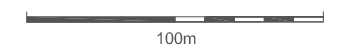
SITE: Lindisfarne

Title:
Figure 10: Conditions map for
Lindisfarne

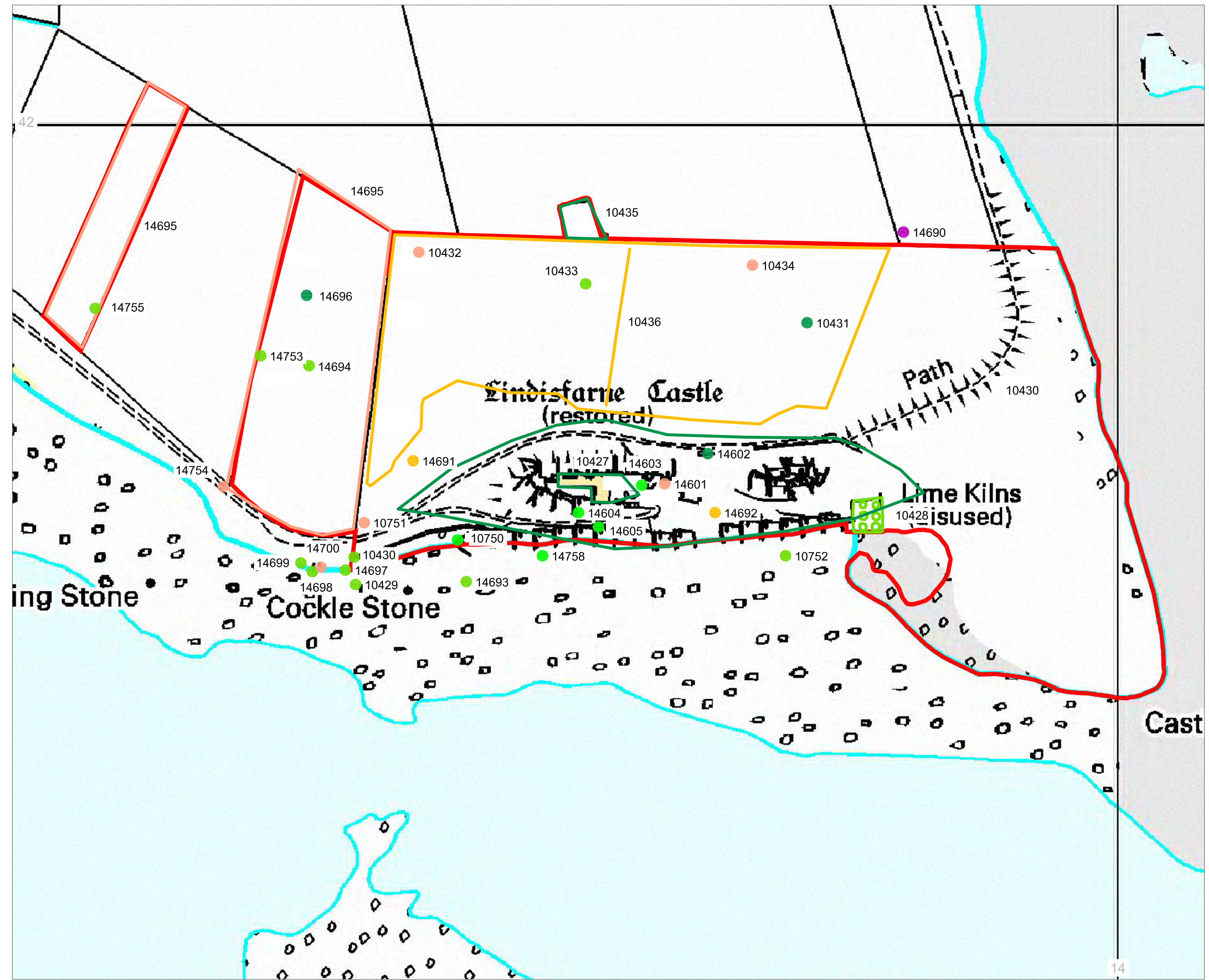
Notes:



Scale: 1:2500



- Key:
- Good
 - Moderate
 - Poor
 - Not Found
 - Destroyed
 - Not Applicable
 - National Trust Boundary



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Maps of Holy Island

- Speed, 1610, Map of Holy Island
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- Armstrong, 1769, Map of Northumberland
- Wilkin, T., 1792, Plan of the Town of Holy Island, NRO 683/9/1
- Wilkin, T., 1792, Plan of the Island, NRO 683/9/2
- undated, early 19th century, traced plan of the town, NRO 683/9/11
- undated, 19th century, traced plan of the island, NRO 683/9/19
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- Ordnance Survey 2nd edition map, 1897
- 3rd edition OS 6 inch map

16 Documents

16.1 NRO (not all consulted)

- Deeds of various properties in Marygate, Amersees Land, the Green, Prior Row, Crossgates 16th - 19th c NRO 2312/1-12
- Deeds and papers re Crossman family 1572-1960 NRO 683
- papers relating to excavations at the priory NRO 683/10/1-78
- 1888-89 Excavation Plan of the Priory 683/10/1
- 3 prints of the priory 1830 683/10/2-4
- Crossman letters relating to excavations in 1887 683/10/5
- Crossman/Hodges corespondance excavations 1886-92 683/10/6-61
- 1887-9 letters relating to excavations and

repairs to the priory	683/10/62-71
Wage book for excavations	683/10/72
Ms of recent excavations at Holy Island Priory by Crossman, 1890	683/10/72a, b
Blackwell's sketch of archaeological features on the Heugh, 1891 (reproduced in O'Sullivan and Young, 1995, p 14)	683/10/133
Rules for the reading room	683/13/11-12
Plan of the town of Holy Island, T. Wilkin, 1792	683/9/1
similar plan of the whole island	683/9/2
traced plan of the town, undated, early 19th century	683/9/11
traced plan of the island, undated 19th century	683/9/19
Plan of Holy Island 1673	2413/5, 6
Deeds of property in Marygate, "Northumberland Arms" and Pyatt Hill 18th 20th c	2496/1-2
Deeds re land on Holy Island 1784	3168/47
R.Rule, 1824 Map of Islandshire	ZMB 17
Deed 1614	(D) B22/2
Deed 1631	(D) B18/1/10
Letters from Dan Collingwood to Sir Wm. Blackett re Holy Island fort 1676	(A) ZBL 193
Bucks south view of Holy Island monastery and castle 1728	(D) ZAN M 20/1
Grimms views of Holy Island (copies) c. 1778 British Library Additional MS 15539)	(G) ZMD 163 (or
Plate of Holy Island monastery 1785	(G) NRO 2648/2
Returns of freeholders with commons c. 1800	(A) ZCR Box 9
Map showing landowners and acreages, n.d 19th c, copy	(E) NRO H917
Engravings of Castle and Abbey early 19th c ?, Plan c. 1824 of coast from Spital to Goswick	(G) NRO 603/7 (A) NRO 463/92
Messuages 1828 of Henry Collingwood Selby	(A) NRO 304/20
Views of Holy Island c.1900, photocopy	(F)NRO 539/1+3
Photos c. 1900	(F) NRO 1529

Dowsing survey of Holy Island Church, 1982
Parish Registers 1578-1904

(G)NRO 2190/24
(C) EP 136

Appendix A - 'Later Guns at Lindisfarne Castle.'

Harry Beamish – National trust Archaeologist: Yorkshire and North East

'The Peace of Paris in 1763 ended the Seven Years War against France but it hardly heralded a period of trust between the two countries and the Board of Ordnance continued to keep a close eye on the 'Forts and Garrisons' around the country. In June 1766 it received a report on the condition of its charges ...'

Holy Island: The walls, Roofs and Storehouse in good order. 4 guns.

Frank Kitchen 1991: 'Aspects of the defence of the south coast of England: 1756-1805'. in 'Fort' Vol 19, p.14

The N.T. booklet by Rena Gardiner 'Look at Lindisfarne Castle' states (p.7) that: 'In 1803 sloping stone platforms, to help check the guns' recoil, were mounted for three 12-pounder guns.'. The ramped terreplein can still be seen on the Upper Battery at Lindisfarne.

"...the narrow limits of the crown of the rock will not admit of many works, the whole strength consisting of *a single battery on the south-east point, mounted with seven or eight guns*, which command the approach to the island from the sea, but would be of little consequence against a ship of any considerable force: the rest of the summit is taken up with a house for the governor and garrison, the walls of which stand on the very brink of the precipice. This castle is a dependency of the garrison at Berwick, and a small detachment of troops are constantly stationed here during times of war. The guns were removed in 1819, by order of the government,"

MACKENZIE E. (1825) 'History of Northumberland' Vol.1 p.317

"...the Castle...*after the disbandment of the garrison in 1821, had become a Coastguard Station a generation later, and subsequently the Headquarters of an Island detachment of the Northumberland Artillery Volunteers.*"

PERRY R. (1946) 'A Naturalist on Lindisfarne' p.42

"The castle of Holy Island is still looked upon as a fortress by Government, and a few men are generally stationed in it, in connection with the garrison at Berwick. *The seven or eight guns, which formerly pointed over its walls, were removed by order of the Government in the radical year 1819 [*], and I am not aware that they have since been restored.*"

RAINE J. (1852) 'North Durham' p.167

[* - The year of the infamous 'Peterloo Massacre' and 'The Six Acts' introduced to suppress a feared popular uprising.]

"A few years later (*after 1819* when the guns were temporarily removed) *some old muzzles were seen again over its walls.* These remained until last year [1882?] when they were removed and *three rifled guns took their place.*"

KEELING W.W.F. (1883) 'Lindisfarne or Holy Island'

1878 - "Holy Island was approved by the Secretary of State as a Drill Station, October 24, and the use of the guns and stores at Holy Island Castle for drill and gun practice sanctioned."

HICKS 'The Percy Artillery' p.34

"The War Office Survey of three drawings prepared by the Royal Engineers in 1880 and revised in 1883 [records] *three sixty four pounder guns...*" [P.R.O. London. Map Room card index - W.O. 78/3088, Holy Island Castle].

B.Arch Thesis by David Baker, University of Newcastle. Jan 1975.

1893 - "The War Office having approved of the construction of a new 64 pounder battery at Goswick [1], and the transfer thereto of *three guns and dwarf traversing slides* [2] from Holy Island Castle and one from Alnmouth Battery [3], the work of dismantling Holy Island Castle and conveying the guns across the sands to Goswick was carried out by a detachment of twenty men of the District Establishment, Tynemouth. ...magazine and store sheds having been constructed and concrete platforms and racers having been previously layed by the Royal Engineers according to plans by Colonel Hildebrand CRE."

HICKS 'The Percy Artillery' p.43

[1] The Goswick installation appears on the 2nd edition O.S. 1/2500 plan of 1897 [Northumberland Sheet VII/16] as four circular emplacements on the mainland coast at Goswick Links close to a building shown as 'Middle Shiel'. The emplacements were also close to the point where an old way across the sands from the Holy Island 'safe path' [between the mainland and the end of The Snook] came ashore, continuing to Goswick as a road along the inside of the Links. The old way was marked by a double line of 'posts' - represented on O.S. maps of this date and this is probably the route which the guns from Holy Island took. The partly collapsed and infilled magazine survives tucked into the inland slope of the dunes - the battery was apparently sited on the crest of the dunes but its exact location was not confirmed, being presumably covered in by windblown sand and overgrown by the dune vegetation.

[2] The three semi-circular emplacements, two on the Lower Battery and one on the Upper Battery, at Lindisfarne Castle were designed to accommodate these guns - the last to be mounted at the castle. They would have been of cast iron - the 'RML' indicating that they were Rifled Muzzle Loaders probably of 70 or 71 cwt and firing an elongated studded shell of 64 pounds in weight which was made to spin in its flight to the target by the rifling in the barrel - giving a more predictable flight and a maximum range of c.4000 yards.

The guns and emplacements were probably identical to those of the coastal defence battery installed 'about 1860' in 'the north and west fronts' of Fort George on the Moray Firth near Inverness.

This site [in the care of 'Historic Scotland'] has a 64-pounder Armstrong Mk1 Rifled Muzzle Loader of 1865 '(the sole survivor of its type)' mounted on a replica carriage at the salient of the Duke of Cumberland's Bastion.

[information from Historic Scotland guidebook: 'Fort George' -p.17, published by H.M.S.O. 1988].

Alternatively, the guns may have begun life as 32pdr or 8 inch smooth-bore pieces and been subsequently bored out and fitted with wrought iron rifled tubes converting them to 64pdrs by the system invented by Captain Palliser and adopted by the War Department in 1863 [See - A.C. Carpenter (1984) 'The Cannon of Dartmouth Castle, Devon' p.10].

The semi-circular slots chased into the stone blocks set into the floor of the emplacements at the castle for the iron racers (on which the wheels of the traversing gun carriage would have run) take the form of two concentric circles or rather part circles with diameters of 5.42m (outer race) and 1.95m (inner race). The variations in the extent of the racers for each emplacement may reflect the intended arc of fire of each gun. The basic prescription would have been for a traversing carriage (which enabled the gun to engage moving targets - i.e. ships) topped by a slide (which absorbed the recoil of the gun and included a mechanism which enabled variations of the elevation or depression of the gun which was mounted on it to be made - thereby varying

the range of shots). The situation and form of the emplacements indicates that the guns were on Barbette Carriages - each set up to fire over the parapet of the emplacement which slopes downwards, allowing a certain degree of depression for close-in engagements. The emplacements appear smaller in diameter (c.6m) and more enclosed than examples elsewhere [apart from Fort George, above] and it is possible that the carriages were 'dwarfed' to fit them.

[3] The Alnmouth Battery survives on the cliffs to the north of the old port, though it underwent some modification for subsequent reuse during the SWW. A tablet in the original part of the structure records that:

"This Battery was erected by His Grace
Algernon Duke of Northumberland K.G.
For the use of the Percy Artillery Volunteers
Completed 12th March 1861"

The Alnmouth battery may have made use of targets along the coast on what is now Trust property at Alnmouth (See Archaeology Survey for [Alnmouth and Buston Links](#)).

The 1944 Deed of Gift between Gladys de Stein and The National Trust records a covenant by Robert Crossman (contained in a Deed dated May 1875) 'Not to erect any buildings or structure of any kind whatsoever upon or raise the surface of the land or foreshore lying southward of the line marked "A" "B" on the plan hereto without the previous consent in writing of the Secretary of State for the time being of the War Department'.

This was presumably to secure the seawards field of view for the battery on the Castle.

The radii of the racers at the Castle corresponds to that for a D pivot arrangement with the front racer at 9 feet 3 inches and the rear racer at 3 feet 4 inches.

The 64 pr. RML guns were mounted on a 'Carriage, Garrison, Sliding, Dwarf' which was itself mounted on a 'Platform, Wood, Traversing, Medium No. 18 (dwarf)'. This arrangement allowed the gun to fire over a parapet of 6ft with 5 degrees of depression and gave the crew a degree of cover while working the gun. The requisite height was obtained by bolting blocks of teak strengthened by iron stays under the frame of the platform. [see Moore D. 1994 'Arming The Forts' p.13].

Appendix B

Notes by Hugh Dixon of the National Trust

St. Oswald's, Holy Island, Northumberland

An architectural note

St. Oswald's is a small stone house with a pantiled roof. It is the last house in the village on the road to the castle. It was built for Edward Hudson, and, apparently, designed by Lutyens.

According to local tradition (which is old enough to appear in print) the house was originally built from a Mr Fender who had what Hudson regarded as an offensive shack in the castle field. To prevent him erecting another shack Hudson got Lutyens to design a small house. Later the house was given to Mr and Mrs Jack Lilburn who looked after the Castle, and its visitors, for Hudson. It is the Trustees of this Lilburn estate who are selling the house on behalf of the Lilburns great grandchildren. The exact date of construction is not known but it seems to have been between 1911 and 1913.

The building has not been surveyed or measured but it is possible that it was built in two phases (first for Mr Fender and then enlarged for the Lilburns).

The plan, broadly, is now L-shaped with an east range meeting a south range near its southern end. There is a 'front' garden in the re-entrant angle between the ranges. There is also a larger garden to the east which has a thin strip to the south of the house. On the north and west the gables are separated from the road and a side line by only a small verge.

The exterior is quite typically of Lutyens's character. The very steep pantiled roof set over single-storey stone walls represents about two thirds of the elevations. Pantiles are much used on the island (and Northumbrian coast in general) and these are kept inside the gables - again in a coastal defensive way. They have a slightly 'Scotch' feel with projecting skewputs (kneelers?) on their lower corners. In some ways the house looks like a northern, simpler cousin of the New Wing at Lambay (A.S.G. Butler, *The Architecture of Sir Edwin Lutyens*, Vol I pls.127, 132) but the eaves are not sprocketed and there are no dormer windows into the roof; indeed there are not even

skylights. The blocky two-step chimneys are also like Lambay and other Lutyens houses.

The interior is very undistinguished and appears to have had a number of partition alterations at the kitchen end. One oddity is a small room, now (and possibly always) a bathroom, set between chimneys which unite into a single stack above. On the bathroom side the chimneys are not expressed as extruding rectangles but curve outwards towards the outer wall leaving a space for the bath.

The doors have two panels, without mouldings, separated by a handle rail. The door furniture seems to be original with simple brass knobs operating iron mechanisms. They are very similar to the doors in less important locations at Middleton Park, Oxfordshire, where upper (servants'?) rooms give onto an upper landing with a light well (Butler, Vol.I, pl.247); and also under the stair - a three-panel version - at Abbey House, Barrow-in-Furness (Butler, Vol I, pl.199).

Sources

A.S.G.Butler, *The Architecture of Sir Edwin Lutyens* (Country Life 1950); Reprint Antique Collectors Club Ltd. 1984, Vol I.

N. Pevsner and Ian Richmond, *The Buildings of England: Northumberland* (Penguin 1957); John Grundy, Graced McCombie, et al, 2nd Ed. 1992, p340: 'St. Oswald's, the last house on the way to the castle, is said to be by Lutyens, and with the fineness of its vernacular detail it could well be.'

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Island tradition and Lilburn family information