



# Windgate House Excavations

by Tam Ward. 2016.

**Windgate House  
Excavations  
Tam Ward 2016**

**Revised report on the excavations at Windgate House, near Coulter, Lanark  
District, 1981 – 1985**

**By  
F Christison  
R J Gillanders  
T Ward**

**September 1985**

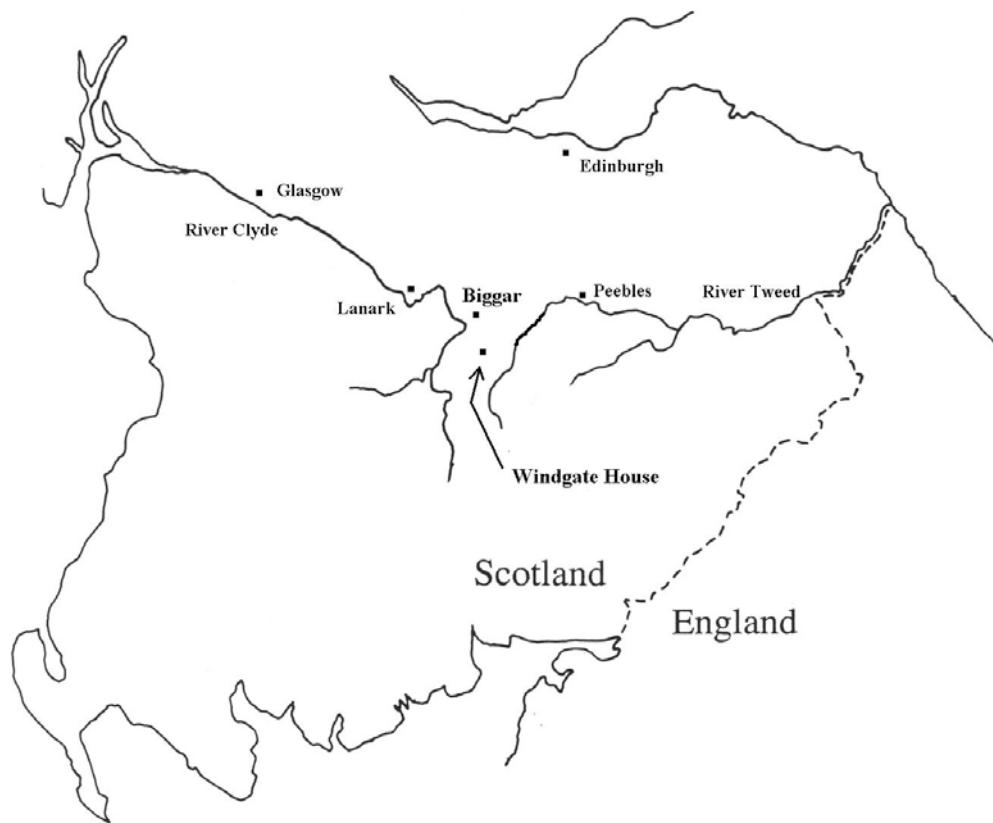
**And  
Revised report of 2016  
By  
Tam Ward  
With finds descriptions  
By  
Ian Paterson  
&  
Bone report  
By Mary Harman**

## FOREWORD

The excavation of Windgate House led to two important aspects of Scottish archaeology being founded; one was the discovery of the first recorded bastle house so far north of the Anglo-Scottish border (45 miles) (Fig 1), and the other was the gradual formation of an active group of voluntary archaeologists who became known as The Biggar Archaeology Group (BAG). BAG has not only introduced the world to excavated bastle houses and post medieval settlements in southern Scotland, but additionally it has produced a wide range of previously unknown pre historic and other sites, and large assemblages of finds, all of which are now recorded in the National Monuments Records of Scotland.

The excavation project at Windgate House was the pioneer work which began it all, and was led by the present writer

This report describes that original work; being the discovery and excavation of a 17<sup>th</sup> century bastle house in south central Scotland.



**Fig 1. Location plan.**

## ABSTRACT

*The site known as Windgate House was excavated to reveal a bastle house with a finds assemblage dating to the 17<sup>th</sup> century, features now known as sheep milking buchts were also recorded for the first time. Evidence in the form of pottery and lithic indicated a Bronze Age presence on the site. The building was eventually consolidated and left with an interpretation panel to allow visitors information on it. The site is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument.*



## INTRODUCTION

The original report on the Windgate House excavations was a limited (in house) edition (see App I) with black and white photographs illustrating the site and the finds; this is now superseded by the present paper which does however contain almost verbatim the original report, but with the inclusion of colour illustrations and some additional information including a bone report and a catalogue of finds. Notes contained in parenthesis thus [ ] give updates of the original project.

## WINDGATE HOUSE

The remains of the building known as Windgate House, with its associated structures, are situated approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile south west of Cowgill reservoir in Lanark District of Strathclyde Region [now South Lanarkshire], Nat Grid Ref NT 016 273. The relative location of the site is given in Fig 1 and more detailed in Fig 2. The site lies at an elevation of 1225 feet (373m) OD and the ruin itself is situated on the northern end of a narrow medial ridge at the head of Cowgill glen just below the pass of Kyegill and flanked by the steep sides of Windgill Bank and Heatherstane Law) (Pl 1 & Fig 2). A small stream, the Fair Burn, flows north on the NE side of the site and an unnamed tributary flows on the SW side. The ground falls away steeply to the north and west but on the NE the Fair Burn has built up an alluvial fan of debris which causes the ground to slope away only gradually from the site. To the SE the ground rises immediately from the wall of the ruin towards the pass of Kyegill (Pl 1 & Fig 2). To the north of the ruin are the dry stone footings of a rectangular structure, part of which has been built into a later sheepfold (Pl 2). Further to the NW are the remains of three rectangular earth bank structures, each having only three sides, the northern ends being open, [these are now known to be sheep milking buchts (Ward 2012b)] (Fig 3).

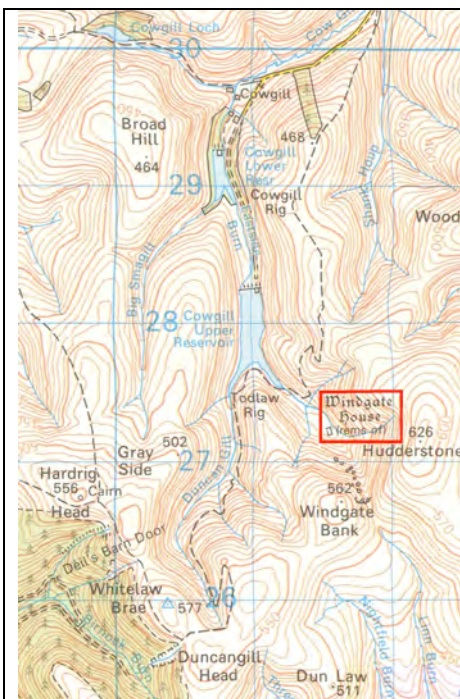


Fig 2. Location map.



Fig 3. Site environs.



Pl 1. Looking south past the site.



Pl 2. Painting of the ruinous site.



Pl 3. Looking north over the site to Cowgill reservoir on the first day. Compare with Pl 24 below.

Speculation over the years as to the history and architectural style of this enigmatic building, together with the fact that neither written evidence nor the surface remains could adequately explain the nature of the site, made this an ideal starting point for a project formulated by volunteer members of the Biggar Museum Trust and Lanark and District Archaeological Society. The scheme involved the investigation and consolidation of remains, dating chiefly of the medieval and later periods, which had hitherto been regarded as of little importance and consequently left to neglect and in some cases even demolition. The project also included the landscaping of the surrounding area and the provision of a limited form of interpretation for visitors at each site [heritage trails to the consolidated sites of bastle houses at Glenochar, Wintercleuch and Smithwood, all near the Daer valley in Upper Clydesdale are now available to the public].

At the time of writing it has not been possible to trace any surviving documents of the Lamington Estate relating to Windgate House. Local people often referred to it as ‘the old vaults’, and the general feeling among them was that it was a burial place. It appears that the original name for the building was Kyegill, and is so named on Timothy Pont’s map of Clydesdale dated 1596 and published in Blaeu’s atlas in 1642. During the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries the lands of Cowgill or Kyegill were owned by the Baillies of Lamington. The occupants of the house were either tenants of, or perhaps members of the Baillie family. The New Statistical Account <sup>1</sup> relates a story of acrimony between the Laird of Lamington and the Laird of Symington. The latter, whose tower of Fatlips on the side on Tinto Hill overlooks that at Lamington, had apparently sent a taunting message to the effect that the Lady of Lamington could not venture out of doors without her movements being observed by him. This was too much for her husband and the consequence was a house built within twelve months, whereby everything that could be observed from it would be the property of Baillie. What truth we can take from this amusing tradition is debateable, however, as the outlook from the site is extremely limited. [But nevertheless if one climbs only slightly upslope from Windgate, the location of Fatlips Tower to the north is visible!].

According to Irving it was not occupied by the Laird of Lamington but one of his principal tenants or retainers. If it was not intended as a second residence of the Baillies, Irving asserts, the reason for its erection was a wish to possess “a strength less accessible and conspicuous than that at Lamington, situated as the latter was within sight of what was then the great road from the north of England and Dumfriesshire to the Scottish capital” <sup>2</sup>.

From the lives of the Baillies <sup>3</sup>, we learn that in 1621 Sir William Maxwell alias Baillie granted in conjunct fee a charter of the lands of Caygill to Robert Baillie and his wife Marion Purves. As this Robert Baillie was a merchant in Edinburgh it is uncertain if he or his wife ever actually resided at Windgate House.

The building was certainly in ruins in 1813 as it is marked as such on Forrest’s map of Lanarkshire and Ross’s map of 1773 makes no mention of it. Part of the vault was still intact in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century as Irving <sup>4</sup>, writing in 1864, states “all that now remains is a rudely constructed vault”, and a small water coloured painting executed around 1860 shows part of the vault standing above the overgrown rubble strewn site (Pl 2).



## THE BUILDING

Prior to the excavation (Pl 3) the remains indicated an elongate rectangular building completely turf covered and the interior entirely choked with debris. The only wall faces visible were part of the inside of the ruin, clearly demonstrating the spring of a vault. These were seen to be lime mortared stone and suggested the vestiges of a tower house of unusually elongate plan.

The construction of the building throughout is of lime mortared greywacke, known locally as whinstone, and built including quoins on the random rubble principle, this stone is very difficult to work, but does tend to cleave naturally into blocks ideal for wall faces. The stone would have been gathered and quarried in the immediate vicinity of the site as it abounds there.

The external walls (Pl's 4 & 24) are 1m in thickness and are extant up to 2m in height. The springing of the vault starts at 1m above the floor level (Pl 5). Remains of a dividing wall (Pl 6) having a doorway in its centre partitions off about a quarter of the south end of the building. Its dimensions are 0.6m thick and the doorway is 0.9m wide. This small room measures 2.6m by 4.0m.



Pl 4. NW corner of the building.



Pl 5. Showing curvature of vault.

At the opposite end of the remaining area is the entrance into the house (Pl 7); 1m in width. The facing stone from around the doorway had been removed and was presumably dressed sandstone. Trace of a draw bar slot is evident on the east side of the doorway (Pl 8) and a large piece of greywacke was used as a doorstep, which is smoothed by usage.



Pl 6. Looking north showing dividing wall and doorway.



Pl 7. Looking north showing dividing wall and doorway, main entrance and stair.



Pl 8. Draw bar hole at entrance.



Pl 9. 'Scale and platt' stairway at entrance.



In the NE corner of the large room a straight flight of four steps is preserved (Pl 9). These steps are of greywacke and consist of single stones shaped as best as this intractable rock allows and do not show as much wear as the entrance step. Each measures 0.8m wide by 0.22m high. It is supposed that the stair would have turned at right angles to reach the upper floor. At this point the walls must have been slightly less thick and the continuation of the steps not as wide as those that survive, as is suggested in Fig 3. The type of stair is known as ‘scale and platt’.

The window openings were of cream coloured carboniferous dressed sandstone as parts of sills and lintels were found having holes cut into them to accommodate iron bars, two inserted vertically and set 150mm apart (Pl 10). Measurements taken from the assembled pieces of a sill suggest the width of a window to be 0.6m. Only a single piece of in situ sandstone was found, this was a squared block at the stairway on the entrance side. The roof was covered with slates typical of the Southern Upland variety, each slate having a hole 10mm in diameter for fixing to the roof with wooden pegs, the larger ones having double holes (Pl 11), the slate was economically used from large double holed examples to ones as small as 150mm.

Occasionally the walls had a projecting plinth on the outside formed by irregular large stones, this was especially true at the corners. The surviving quoin stones are battered in an attempt to round them off (Pl 4).



Pl 10. Window stones with bar holes.



Pl 11. Roofing slates, note the sizes and shapes.

## THE EXCAVATION (Fig's 3&4)

The excavation has been divided into five areas which have been marked on the site plan, Fig's 3 & 4. For convenience each of these areas will be dealt with separately.

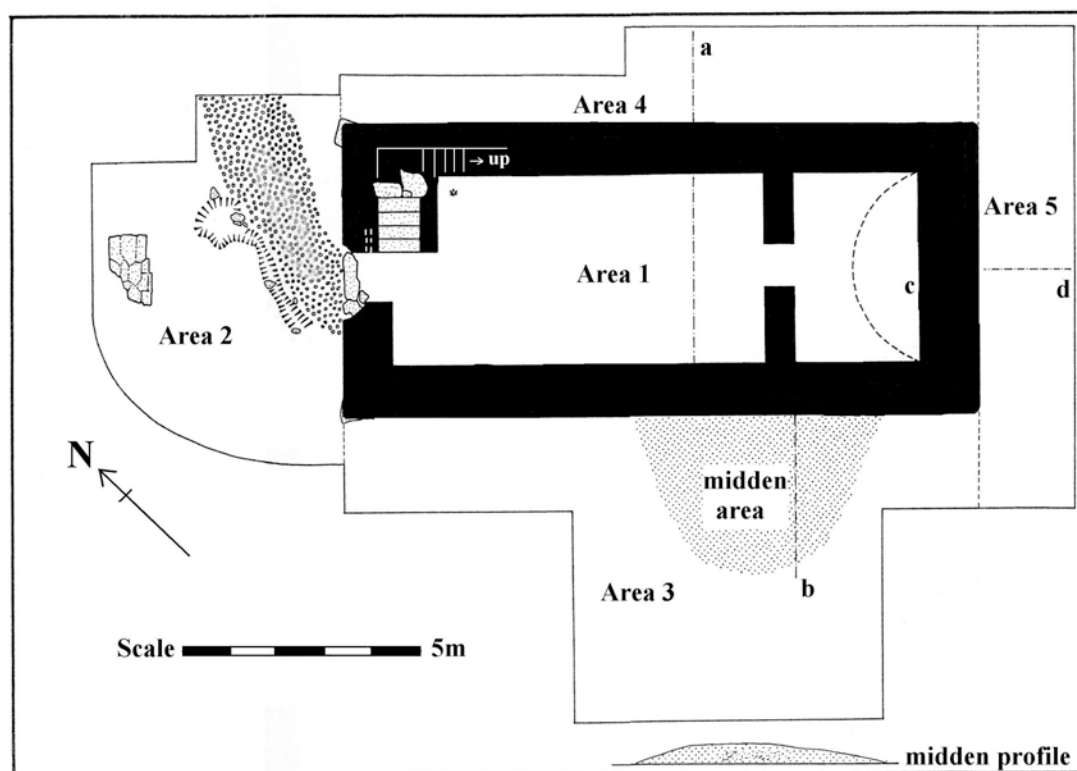


Fig 4. Excavation areas as described in the report.

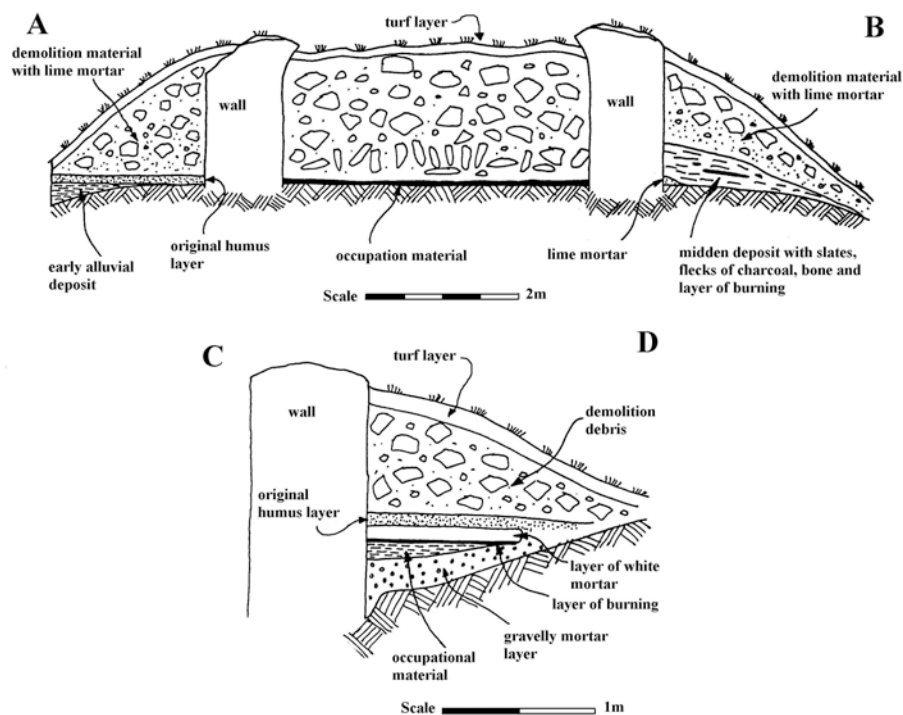


Fig 4. Sections see Fig 3.



### Area 1

The internal area of the building was cleared to reveal a complete ground floor plan of the inside. During the course of removing the upper material which was found to consist of stones of all sizes mixed with loose lime mortar, soil and turf, a James VI hardhead was found, probably from the upper floor of the house, but now unfortunately lost. No other finds were made in this higher material with the exception of the remains of several sheep carcasses and the skeleton of a dog, deposited by shepherds over the years. In the centre of the larger room a section of the collapsed vaulting was clearly evident (Pl 12), this was probably the last part standing as viewed in the painting of the ruin and seen in Plate 2, and mentioned by Irving. The floor surfaces of both rooms contained pockets of dark brown clay-like occupational material. Due to the irregularity of the elevation of the floor these deposits varied in depth up to 0.15m. These patches of material produced a quantity of finds, discussed below. The substratum consists of a compact brown ferruginous clayey material with stones which formed a natural floor surface. The only feature on the floor was a hole approximately 100mm in diameter by 150mm deep located in the NE corner and near the stair. Several areas of burning were noted; near the centre of the small room, remains of a fire had been covered with slates, above which were found tiny green glaze pot sherds and a slate whorl (Pl 29). A further area of intense burning was located in the NE corner of the large room and charred heather stems were found on the stair.

Pieces of unburnt coal up to 100mm in size were noted near the dividing wall. A block of greywacke about 1.5m long was lodged in the debris between the stair and the entrance, and is probably a lintel stone from the stair way (Pl 13).



Pl 12. Collapsed vaulting stones.



Pl 13. Lintel stones?

## Area 2

Area 2 (Pl 14) revealed a rough cobbled pathway leading away from the entrance towards more level ground, alongside which was a shallow gutter terminating in a shallow sump containing dark grey occupational material with charcoal fragments. Nearby lay a mass of collapsed masonry fallen from the gable wall, the original thickness of which could not be determined. The finds from this section suggest that they were probably sweepings from inside the building as many of the pot sherds are from the same vessel as those from the interior.



Pl 14. Outside main entrance.



Pl 15. Showing demolition rubble.

## Area 3

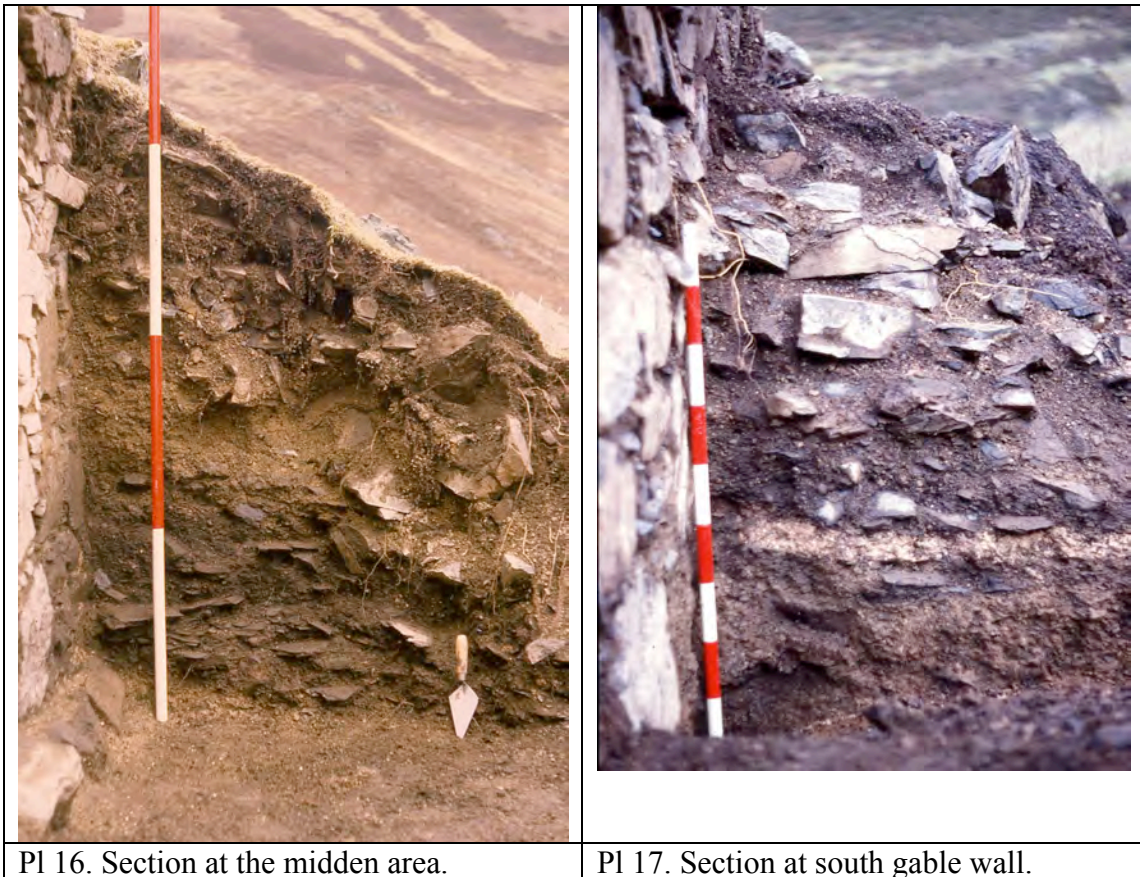
Clearance of this area produced clear evidence of deliberate demolition as demonstrated in the section Fig 4 which proved fairly typical of the four outside wall areas, for example in Plate 15 near the entrance. Under the turf lay a varying depth of loose lime mortar intermixed with stones of all sizes. The lower level of this material generally contained little or no stones. This is interpreted as the result of the process of demolition where initially all stone was being removed from the site. Beneath the mortar lay an occupational level, varying in depth up to 0.3m and consisting of a dark soil containing bone, pottery and some complete examples of slate (some of these lay beneath the occupational deposit and which were presumably early falls from the roof). A midden deposit was located against the west long wall, (Fig 4 & Pl 16). This consisted of the typical dark occupation material 0.45m at its deepest point against the wall and containing layers of slate [presumably fall offs]. A layer of burning was noted and also divots of carbonised peat. The midden material contained a greater concentration of artefacts, especially bone, and this deposit extended down the slope from the wall. Immediately on top of the midden material lay several pieces of dressed sandstone, apparently from a window above. These broken pieces of window surrounds indicate that dressed stone was removed from the building firstly when demolition commenced, and broken pieces were being discarded at that stage. Bone was fairly well preserved within the midden context and at the excavation stage it was clear that most of it came from small sheep, perhaps lambs. {See bone report below}

## Area 4

The material was similar to that in Area 3, though not quite so voluminous due to the lower height of the extant walls. The substratum in parts was overlain with an alluvial deposit up to 0.3m deep, (Fig 4). Within this alluvial and on top of the substratum several pieces of worked radiolarian chert of a local blue-grey variety and pieces of pre-historic pottery were found of which more below in App II (Pl's 37 & 38). Some



blocks of sandstone were stacked near the corner of the building which do not appear to have been used in the construction. Pieces of dressed sandstone from a window opening were also found.



### Area 5

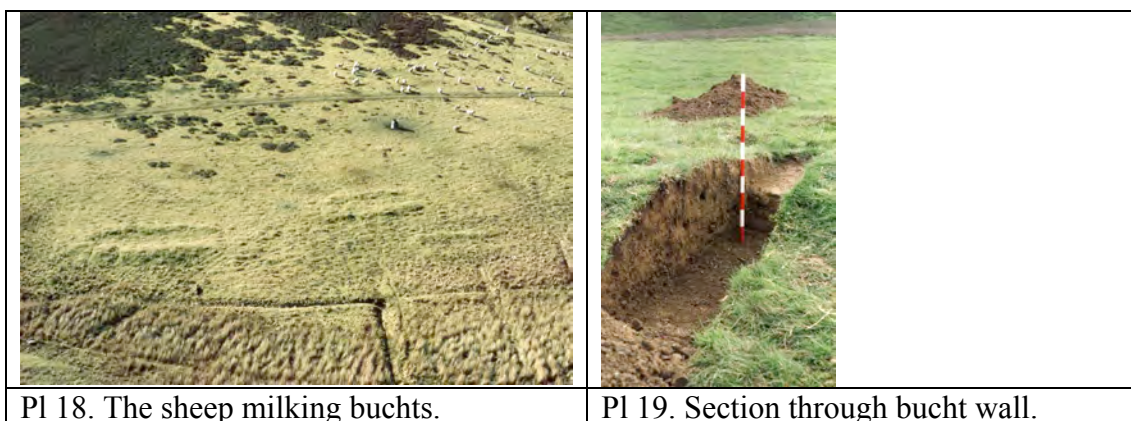
Again the typical demolition process was noted in section (Fig 3). The ground rises steeply away from the wall and had been cut into in order to lay the foundation course. However it was also noted that there was a difference of 0.4m between the bases of the inside and outside foundation stones and that the inside foundation was laid on sloping ground, a poor building technique and which probably accounted for the eventual collapsed on the internal gable wall face.

Beneath the demolition material two layers of mortar were found separated by a layer of dark soil (Pl 17). The upper layer was set mortar while that below was loose and crumbly. It is difficult to explain these two strata as the loose material was typical of demolition while the upper distinct layer seems more like repairs work.

### SHEEP MILKING BUCHTS

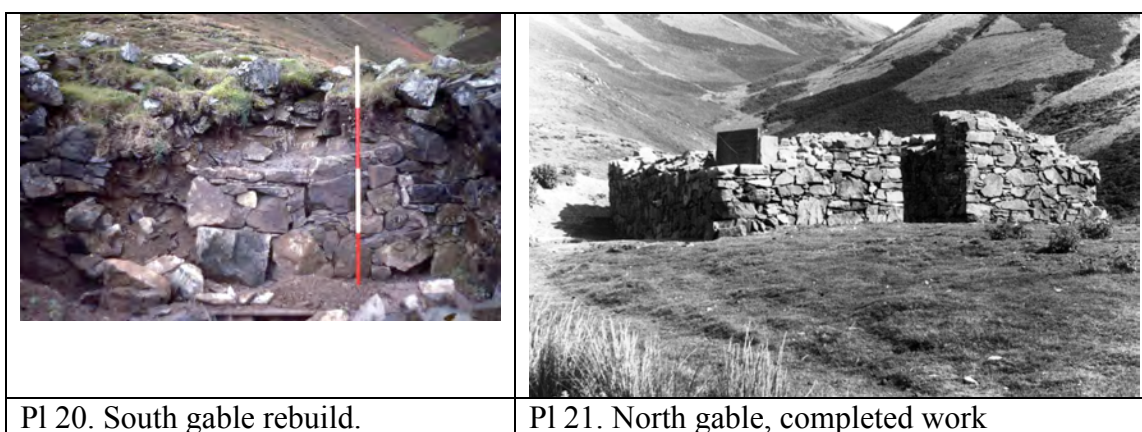
At the time of excavation the three open ended structures seen to the north of the main site (Fig 2 & Pl 18) were not understood. Such sites were not previously recorded and it was only in light of further survey and research by BAG (Ward 2012b) that they are now known as places where sheep were milked after lambing and are a common denominator of every bastle site since discovered, and also at many post medieval settlement sites since recorded by BAG in southern Scotland.

A single trench was cut through the bank of the southerly bucht (Fig 2 & Pl 19) and it was shown to have been made with turf only, the interior was featureless and the floor consisted of the natural ground surface. The only thing found was a piece of faceted haematite (Pl 36) of which several examples were recovered from the main site, indicating at the time of excavation that the three buchts were probably associated with main building, and probably also dating to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The story of buchts and bastles is now well attested by subsequent work by BAG on numerous sites.



## CONSOLIDATION OF THE BUILDING

A limited amount of consolidation work was carried out on the ruin to arrest further deterioration. This consisted of capping off all the wallheads and where necessary raising the wallheads to achieve this. The internal dividing walls and the inside of the southern gable end were extensively rebuilt (Pl 20). The missing dressed sandstone from the entrance has been replaced with greywacke (Pl 21) to maintain the appearance of the doorway. Included in this work was the part restoration of the draw bar slot. On the other side of the entrance a hypothetical reconstruction to accommodate the draw bar has been built. All the dressed sandstone from the site has been built round the NE corner of the building together with some of the roofing slates (Pl 22) and a basic interpretation plaque (P23) has been installed. The repair work was carried out using Portland cement and the original mortar aggregate gleaned from the excavation. Finally the excavated ground and spoil heaps were landscaped to give a clear view of the footprint of the bastle house remains (Pl 24).







Pl 22. Window stones re-used.



Pl 23. Interpretation panel.



Pl 24. The completed site, compare with Pl 2 above. The Bronze Age finds were located at the SE corner, bottom right in the image.

## MAMAL BONE      PI 25.

### Windgate Bone report by Mary Harman

A small group of bones was found associated with Windgate House, most of them from a midden deposit. The total numbers of loose teeth and bone fragments other than vertebrae and ribs, from different species represented, are shown in the table below:

Numbers of loose teeth and bone fragments from different parts of the site. T = teeth and B = bones.

	Cattle		Sheep		Horse		Dog	
	T	B	T	B	T	B	T	B
Midden	3	3	32	100	6	4	-	-
South end	-	2	2	4	-	1	-	-
Inside (1981)	2	2	9	12	2	-	2	2

The few cattle bones are from at least three animals; a very young calf, an older calf, probably less than a year old, and a mature beast.

The vast majority of the bones are from sheep, and they have an unusual composition, as the following list from the midden shows:

Skull : 3, mandible: 15, scapula: 3, humerus: 8, radius: 18, metacarpal: 6, pelvis : 6, femur: 14, tibia : 19, metatarsal: 3, phalanx : 2.

Many of the limb bones are from skeletally mature animals, some of at least two years or more; but most of the mandibles are from lambs with the first permanent molar either not visible or only just in wear, or at some stage in between, and therefore of about six months old or less; although there are three mandibles from mature sheep and some bones from lambs, most of the jaws and other bones cannot belong together.

The small number of bones from inside the building appears to have a similar composition. Few of the bones were sufficiently complete to be measured, but they are similar in size and build to modern Soay sheep, indicating that the animals which died at Windgate House were of a small, lightly built type. It seems likely that the bones were from animals eaten on the site; the discrepancy in ages between some of the jaws and limb bones is difficult to explain. There is very little slaughtering waste: the feet must have been discarded elsewhere.

There are also very few vertebrae and ribs, and fewer fragments of scapula and pelvis than limb bones; possibly the better joints such as saddle were eaten elsewhere, or dogs may be responsible for the disappearance of the less solid bones such as vertebrae, ribs and pelvis; two of the bones found inside the house have chewing marks, probably from dog teeth, and dogs may similarly have destroyed the ends of many of the limb bones, leaving only the more solid shafts. Possibly some of the carcasses of lambs, the jaws of which were found on the site, were sold and only parts were kept: for instance the jaws with the tongue attached.



The total absence of pig bones is interesting, and had there been any keeping of pigs or regular consumption of pork, it seems likely that a few bones or teeth would have been found, but in such a small group the lack of pig bones may be fortuitous and cannot be regarded as proof of absence.

The horse teeth found are all lower cheek teeth except for one lower canine: all were worn and small; there are also skull fragments, and bones from a hoof, again from a small animal; together these represent parts of at least one small pony of twenty years old or more.

The few fragments of dog: teeth and a femur shaft fragment, are too big to be from a fox, which can be confused osteologically, there is also a very small femur similar in size to that of a newly born collie puppy; these bones then represent dogs, rather than fox bones which have strayed on to the site after its abandonment, though a few rabbit bones are probably intrusive and recent.

The sample of bones is small, but it seems reasonable to conclude that cattle were kept, though probably beef was not eaten in any great quantity at this site; small sheep were also kept and eaten, though some of the younger animals and possibly choicer joints may have been exchanged or sold. There is evidence of at least one small pony which probably had a long working life, and dogs were kept; they may have been used for working with the sheep and probably also as guard dogs.

## FINDS

**The detailed catalogue of finds is given in App V.**



Pl 25. An array of finds with replication of haematite as keel for marking sheep fleece.

## SUMMARY OF FINDS

Compared with other bastle sites, such as Glenochar, Wintercleuch and Smithwood, the finds list is sparse. Wine bottles are virtually absent, only 2 sherds being found, and only a handful of clay pipe stem fragments were recovered. The meagre Windgate House pottery assemblage (Pl 26 & 26a) is unusual in that the majority of vessels are jugs while storage jars are scarcely represented. Tableware is absent, there being no plates or drinking vessels. It may be that this remote house was occupied only sporadically. The complete absence of decorated vessels in slipware or tin-glazed Delftware suggests an abandonment date - possibly late in the 17th Century - that is significantly earlier than that of the other bastles.



Certainly the finds indicate the period of occupation to be the whole of the 17<sup>th</sup> century and little before or after. Beginning with the James VI hardhead coin and the 16<sup>th</sup> century Hans Schultes jetton (Pl 27) indicating construction around 1600 (and in keeping with other local bastle sites) and the complete lack of diagnostic 18<sup>th</sup> century objects shows that the site was abandoned before that time (and at odds with other local bastle house sites). The end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century is indicated by the William & Mary Bodle or Turner (Pl 27) minted between 1691 and 1694.









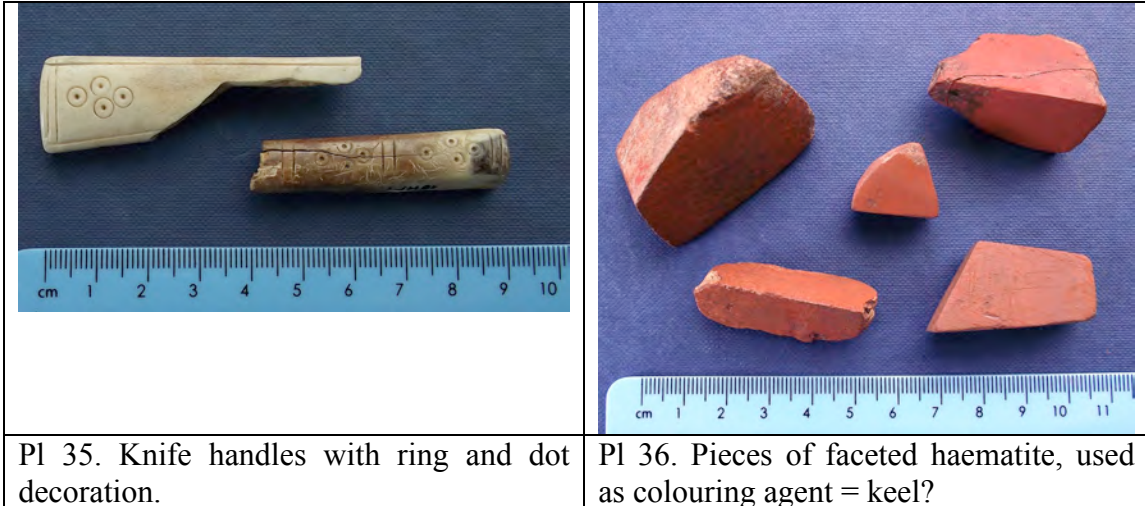
The domestic scene is indicated by the pins and needle (Pl's 27 & 28), and spindle whorls (Pl 29), however, the 'hour glass' perforated coal object (Pl 30) may have its roots in the Bronze Age activity on the site, rather than being an unfinished whorl of 17<sup>th</sup> century date.

	
Pl 29. Spindle whorls.	Pl 30. Unfinished whorl –or Bronze Age item?

Iron objects survived reasonably well as the fine rowel spur (Pl 31), padlock key (Pl 32), bridle cheek piece and buckles (Pl 33) attest. Handmade nails of square and rectangular shafts with rounded and rectangular heads were numerous (Pl 34) and these are assumed to have been used in the construction of the building, most likely in nailing sarking to the roof. Roof slates and building stones are given above.

	
Pl 31. Rowel spur.	Pl 32. barrel padlock key.
	
Pl 33. Buckles and horse cheek piece.	Pl 34. Assorted hand made nails.

The two ivory (Knife?) handles with ring and dot decoration (Pl 34) appear to have been discarded due to breakage at the blade ends, and a knife blade (not illustrated) was found which included a brass inlay of a Maltese cross shape, seen within the corroded blade surface. The inlay may have been a cutlers mark or part of further decoration not visible without conservation.



The pieces of faceted haematite (Pl 36) (See App III) are convincingly the product of obtaining a maroon colouring agent and several pieces were found in the excavations including the only find from the small trench in the nearby sheep bucht. Stones with traces of haematite on their surfaces were also found (Pl 25) indicating how the material was being processed by grinding or rubbing to obtain a powder. Such objects have now been found on every Post Medieval site explored by BAG ([www.biggarchaeology.org.uk](http://www.biggarchaeology.org.uk)) and form a common denominator for those sites, several of which have bastle houses. Excavations at other bucht sites have also produced the same items, making their association without doubt, and the interpretation given is that the substance was used in marking sheep fleece as a keel. Despite extensive research a source for the haematite, which can be found naturally on the landscape, has not been discovered.

The bones are more properly discussed above but they show that old and young sheep of a small breed were being eaten and the dominant number of bones came from sheep.

Finally and quite unexpectedly, at the SE external corner of the building and lying below a layer of hill wash gravel, the pre-historic finds were located (Pl's 37 & 38) (see App II). The sherds and chert tools would comfortably fit a Bonze Age interpretation. Radiolarian chert abounds as a natural lithic along the Southern Uplands Boundary Fault Line and was used throughout all pre-historic periods in the area from Late Upper Palaeolithic times (Paterson & Ward 2013).

The true character of the early site was not further investigated but the finds suggest a domestic purpose although a funerary site cannot be ruled out. Whatever the site was used for it is extremely unusual if not actually unique in its location at the head of a glen in this part of Scotland, although the area is awash with all types of Bronze Age sites, most especially settlements and burials.



Certainly further evidence of this aspect of the site must be preserved under the hill wash material as work on it was quickly suspended upon the realisation of its age.



**LOCATION**

Windgate house is now known to be one of a series of Clydesdale bastle houses and which could only have been built in response to Border reiving. The location of this site is alluded to above as being the result of a feud between two local lairds, such tradition may be true, however, it forms a unique distinction from all other known bastles in Clydesdale as having no farming landscape surrounding it, apart from the three sheep milking buchts. Indeed as will be appreciated from Plate 1 this house has been built in a most secluded and remote spot and even in 17<sup>th</sup> century considerations, not a convenient one. It seems likely that the location of the house was quite deliberately meant to be hidden, and it may be that the place functioned as a mini ‘Devils Beef Tub’; that glen near Moffat so often described in association with Border reivers.

**DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS**

The reader’s attention is drawn to the definitive work by R.C.A.M. England, “Shielings and bastles”, 1970. <sup>5</sup> This is the most comprehensive study on the subject dealing exclusively with English bastle houses. Although since its publication the number of known English sites has more than doubled.

What is a bastle house? Briefly, a bastle house is a defensive farmhouse, rectangular in plan, consisting of a basement, often barrel-vaulted, and having an area separated off. Above this was a single storey. In general two entrances existed, one on the ground floor to admit provisions and livestock and another above, reached by an external stair or ladder for access to the living area. In some instances the stair was located inside or a trap door connected the two levels. The entrance had a draw bar slot which reinforced the door against attack and the very small windows generally were fitted with iron bars.

The remains of Windgate House are now interpreted as being those of a bastle house of the 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. The complete ground floor plan survives, providing features and dimensions which, if compared with examples from R.C.H.M. England’s “Shielings and Bastles”, shows conclusively that it is indeed of the bastle tradition of building. The case is reinforced by the finds from the site which date it to this period of occupation. Windgate House has many of the main characteristics of bastles as

described in R.C.H.M. England's "Shielings and Bastles" such as the elongate plan, the barrel vault, draw bar slot, partitioned basement and barred windows. However, in the instance of Windgate House, the stair is located inside the building and is relatively wide [But see other Clydesdale bastle excavation reports [www.biggararchaeology.org.uk](http://www.biggararchaeology.org.uk)].

From the finds list we note that the windows are typical in size and had two iron bars built into them. The fact that the fragments of lintels and sills were found on the east and west sides indicates the situation of at least two of them. The position of one may have been immediately above the deepest part of the midden, 5m from the south gable. As no window glass was found we may conclude that the windows were not glazed but simply shuttered. The basement may have been lit and ventilated by a couple of slit windows with internal splay through the vault. However no evidence was found for this theory, although the arrangement was evident on most English examples and also at Glendorch, Smithwood and Carnwath Mill [see other Clydesdale bastle excavation reports [www.biggararchaeology.org.uk](http://www.biggararchaeology.org.uk)].

It is reasoned that the original roof surface was slate from the fact that complete and broken slates were found below the occupation deposits on the outside of the ruin. The nails as described in the finds list would have been used for woodwork only, the slates having been fixed by wooden pegs through the wide fixing holes in the slates (Pl 11).

During the course of clearing the external areas of the ruin, it became clear that at some stage the house had been deliberately and systematically demolished. This process, as seen in section (Fig 4 & pl 16), is interpreted as follows: The masonry was removed from the house during the course of which the mortar accumulated below, all the stone at this stage being removed from the site. The lower courses of stone-work having now been buried up to 2m in depth with this demolition material, the site was abandoned and the remaining wall heads left to be eroded by the elements. Finally the whole pile was covered by a growth of turf. From the fact that the doorway was robbed of its facing stone completely to ground level and that the broken fragments of dressed window stone were found immediately on top of the occupation levels, but below the demolition material, suggests that the dressed stonework was removed prior to the rest of the demolition.

The finds from the site also help in dating the occupation of the house. A quantity of assorted potsherds were found typical of those in common use during the 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> centuries. The James VI hardhead, Hans Schultes jetton and Charles II bawbee, c 1588, 1600 and 17<sup>th</sup> century respectively, are again excellent pointers to the period of occupation.

The domesticity of the scene is recognised by the spinning whorls, pins and needles, fragments of cooking pot and knives. The copper ferrules are suggested as being from the end of laces. The meat diet of the occupants seems to have been chiefly mutton, as sheep bones were abundant on the site especially from the midden. One half of a crotal bell was found which were sometimes tied to grazing animals and acted as a warning if livestock were disturbed. Perhaps the most interesting find was a piece of haematite, faceted by being ground on stones. Three of these stones were also found. This substance is recorded as keel being used for animal marking and the fortunate discovery of a piece of this material in a section cut through one of the three earth



works nearby (Fig 3) suggests that these may have been animal enclosures or pens. Therefore it appears that there is a certain amount of activity involving sheep [which has since been corroborated by BAG in subsequent projects [www.biggararchaeology.org.uk](http://www.biggararchaeology.org.uk)].

The evidence for horses comes from the horse shoe, spur and a canine tooth. The crotal bell may also have come from a horse harness.

Finally the owners of all this must have had something worth locking up as a complete barrel padlock key was found.

The three earth bank structures and the drystone footing (Fig 3) are considered to be enclosures contemporary with the house. No apparent cultivation traces are evident in the immediate vicinity of the house, although on the NW bank of Cowgill reservoir is a distinct rig and furrow field system of uncertain date.

What were the reasons for the location of the house? While the traditions of the story of the feud between the two lairds may be true, it is the building's agricultural role as a defensive farmhouse within an extensive sheep and cattle stocking area that may be the more probable explanation. However it is certain that the secluded situation was an advantage as a defence against the border raiding activities so prevalent during the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The fact that pre-historic material was located on the site points to an earlier activity here. This has not been explored further.

The pre-historic pottery and lithic (Pl's 37 & 38) (See App II) indicate a Bronze Age presence below the bastle house. On discovery outside the SE corner of the building and buried below alluvium, their source was not pursued due to lack of confidence at the time. It is clear that further archaeological finds and possibly deposits still exist at that location. The three chert objects are all scrapers since each is 'worked' at the edges.

Radiolarian chert is distinctively local in origin to the Southern Uplands of Scotland and it has since been shown by numerous BAG projects, that this material dominates nearly all pre historic lithic assemblages in the district.

The pre-historic site at Windgate may be domestic or funerary but the writer prefers a domestic interpretation on the basis of the tools. Either way, an important and highly unusual site exists here since no other location like this has been discovered in Clydesdale or neighbouring Tweeddale to date. The location dominates a limited view only down the glen and to the north (Pl 1), and the nearest recorded pre historic site is nearly visible from here; it is on the projecting ground into the reservoir seen in Plate 1, and is given on OS maps as 'Enclosure'. The circular earthwork has always been assumed to be an Iron Age monument but investigation and re-interpretation may be a worthwhile project. A very fine Late Bronze Age leaf sword was found in a drain in the Cowgill area, it is now in the National Museums but its exact find spot is now lost (PSAS 1897).

Sub note:

Since this project was completed in 1986 a series of further bastle houses have been discovered in Scotland, all those in South Lanarkshire by BAG, and a major research project is still underway on the subject. Many aspects of the Bastle project can be access on [www.biggararchaeology.org.uk](http://www.biggararchaeology.org.uk).

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The excavation and consolidation was carried by members of the Biggar Museum Trust and Lanark and District Archaeological Society. Permission to excavate was granted by the owner of the site Mr A K McCosh of Coulterallers. Mr A K McCosh, who generously donated all the finds from this dig to the Biggar Museum Trust, bore the cost of consolidation work and kindly assisted in transporting materials and tools to and from the site. This was done by Sandy Campbell, gamekeeper, to whom we are also indebted. The assistance of the Strathclyde Water Board in permitting vehicular access through their property is acknowledged. Staff of the National Museums of Antiquities advised on some of the finds, the Royal Scottish Museum identified the horse's tooth and Mary Harman analysed the mammal bone. The British Geological Survey carried out x-ray analyses of the haematite. Ian Paterson catalogued the finds for this version of the report. The Lanark and District Archaeological Society funded the production of the original report. Finally, we are grateful to all those who helped with the excavation, consolidation of the building and the preparation of both reports.

## REFERENCES

- 1 New Statistical Account of Scotland, 1845. Lanark. P.819.
- 2 Irving, G.V & Murray, A. 1864. The Upper Ward of Lanarkshire Described and Delineated. Vol. I, p 245.
- 3 Baillie, James William, 1872. Lives of the Baillies.
- 4 Irving, G, V. op cit.
- 5 Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments, England, 1970. Shielings and Bastles, by H.G. Ramm and others.

Paterson I & Ward T 2013. *The lithic geology of Biggar Archaeology Group's Prehistoric Projects*. [www.biggararchaeology.org.uk](http://www.biggararchaeology.org.uk)

(PSAS 1897) Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland Vol 32 (1897-98) p8

Ward T 2012(b). *Shielings and Buchts in Southern Scotland The Clydesdale Bastle Project*. [www.biggararchaeology.org.uk](http://www.biggararchaeology.org.uk)

Ward T 1996. *Glenochar Bastle House and Fermtoun, account of excavations*. Biggar Museum Trust and forthcoming (2015) [www.biggararchaeology.org.uk](http://www.biggararchaeology.org.uk)

## APPENDIX I

The full record of the excavation, including a set of photographs and colour slides, together with a video film, are available for reference. These together with the finds are lodged with the Biggar Museum Trust and may be consulted by appointment.

[The slides which are now digitally copied and original drawings are now deposited with NMRS but copies are available at Biggar Museum].

Copies of the original report were submitted to the following organisations:

Biggar Museum Trust

Lanark & District Archaeological Society

Ordnance Survey National Monuments Office

Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland

Scottish Development Department, Ancient Monuments Division

Scottish Vernacular Buildings Working Group

Society of Antiquaries of Scotland

## **APPENDIX II**

Report on pre-historical finds from Windgate House by Trevor Cowie of the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland.

### **Pottery**

“These sherds lack sufficient features to be able to say very much about them, but the combination of incised lattice decoration and fabric suggests a late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age range. Possibly from a small cinerary urn?”

### **Radiolarian Chert**

“This chert occurs commonly among the chipped stone collections from Southern Scotland. The chert is badly flawed which tended to limit the work which could be achieved by the knapper. Two of the pieces have been retouched at their distal end to form semi-circular scraper edges (C3 and C4): C1 may be an abandoned or unfinished blank or roughout for a tool (eg arrowhead or scraper).”

## **APPENDIX III**

X-ray report on a specimen collected during the excavation of Windgate House, a 16<sup>th</sup> century Tower House, composed of and surrounded by Ordovician greywacke.

X-ray films XE 496 & 497 showed the specimen to be hematite. It is soft and massive with striations on the surfaces of two flat areas. It is possible that the material could have been used in paints, as a marker or as polishing rouge.



R I Lawson  
Petrology, British Geological Survey  
17 June 1982

#### APPENDIX IV

Description of photographs in this report.

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Plate 1   | The site looking south to Windgate Hass, a pass over the hills.  |
| Plate 2   | Colour painting in possession of Biggar Museum Trust by Mrs Paterson, Birthwood, circa 1865, see also Plates 6 & 12.   |
| Plate 3   | The site prior to excavation looking north showing the later sheepfold and Cowgill reservoir see also Plate 24.  |
| Plate 4   | Looking south along the west wall.   |
| Plate 5   | Excavating the interior looking north and showing curvature of wall.   |
| Plate 6   | Excavation of the interior looking north showing the division wall and its doorway in the basement, curvature of the vault and also the collapsed vault stones in the centre of the photo, see also Plate 2. |
| Plate 7   | Looking north over excavated interior, note the absence of floor covering.   |
| Plate 8   | Showing remains of a draw bar tunnel on the east side of the entrance.   |
| Plate 9   | The stairway as excavated.   |
| Plate 10  | Pieces of window sills and lintels and roofing slates.   |
| Plate 11  | Examples of roofing slates, note shapes, sizes and holes.  |
| Plate 12  | Section of collapsed vaulting, compare with Plate 6.   |
| Plate 13  | Rubble near the stair with large slabs of rock.  |
| Plate 14  | Looking north showing area outside the entrance.   |
| Plate 15  | Demolition section in front of entrance.   |
| Plate 16  | West wall midden showing dark organic deposit below demolition rubble.   |
| Plate 17  | South gable showing lime mortar deposit from construction phase.   |
| Plate 18  | Looking west over the sheep milking buchts.  |
| Plate 19  | Trench through earth bank of sheep milking bucht.  |
| Plate 20  | Showing re-construction of south gable wall.   |
| Plate 21  | View of completed site with interpretation plaque.   |
| Plate 22  | Window lintel and sill fragments and slates used at interpretation plaque.   |
| Plate 23  | Visitor at interpretation plaque after site completion.  |
| Plate 24  | View north of completed site after restoration of building.  |
| Plate 25  | Finds array from the site.   |
| Plate 26  | Green glaze pottery.   |
| Plate 26a | Green glaze pottery.   |
| Plate 27  | Jetton, William & Mary Bodle or Turner, pin and needle.  |
| Plate 28  | Dress making pins and copper ferrules (boot lace ends).  |
| Plate 29  | Stone and slate spindle whorls.  |
| Plate 30  | 'Hour glass' perforated coal.  |
| Plate 31  | Iron rowel spur.   |
| Plate 32  | Iron barrel padlock key.   |
| Plate 33  | Iron buckles and harness cheek piece.  |
| Plate 34  | Iron hand made nails.  |

Plate 35	Ivory knife (?) handles with ring and dot decoration.
Plate 36	Pieces of faceted haematite.
Plate 37	Bronze Age decorated pottery.
Plate 38	Radiolarian chert tools.

## APPENDIX V

### WINDGATE HOUSE BASTLE - THE FINDS CATALOGUE

by

Ian Paterson

## CERAMIC FINDS

### Pottery

The assemblage of pottery sherds recovered in the excavation of Windgate House is meagre compared with other bastle sites such as Glenochar and Smithwood and comprises fewer than 20 vessels, mostly Scottish Post-Medieval Oxidised Ware. The fabric of almost all the vessels is silt grade with rounded quartz grains as temper. At Glenochar, this fabric was largely confined to the smaller vessels - jugs and skillets.

The Windgate House assemblage is unusual in that the vessels are jugs while storage jars are scarcely represented. It may be that in general, this remote house was occupied only in the summer. Other than jugs which were probably used for drinking, tableware is absent, there being no plates, cups or mugs. The complete absence of decorated vessels in slipware or Delft suggests an abandonment date significantly earlier than those of Glenochar, Wintercleuch and Smithwood bastles - possibly late in the 17th Century.

The featured sherds in this assemblage were individually numbered thus - [WH 81/R3 where R denotes 'rim' and 81 the year (1981) excavated. Sherds that lacked features were grouped together and labelled with the same number e.g. EH/815. In a number of cases, such groups contain sherds from several different vessels. In a few cases, some sherds assigned to one such group conjoin with one or more individually numbered sherds or can be assigned to a group of sherds that from their glaze and fabric can with some confidence be identified as being from a single vessel.

In this catalogue, the sherds have been regrouped according to the 'vessels' of which they are considered to be representatives and which are numbered in the catalogue thus - WH.P.1 *et seq.* The description of such 'vessels' in the catalogue gives the numbers originally applied to the component sherds.

### Notes

1. In an attempt to achieve consistency, glaze and fabric colours are described where possible according to the 'Rock Colour Chart', prepared by the Geological Society of America, Boulder, Colorado.
2. R = Rim sherd    S = featureless sherd (side wall)    H = handle    B = base
3. The fabric of many sherds varies in colour from interior to exterior. This has been codified as follows.

G = dark grey

g = pale grey

R = 'red' - usually Moderate reddish orange [10 R 6/6]

r = grey, almost always pale grey, with 'red' spots or blotches  
 - = transitional boundary  
 / = sharp boundary

The zones are defined from the interior outwards. Thus [r-G/r] describes a fabric in which an inner zone of pale grey with red spots passes by transition into dark grey which has a sharp boundary with a red-spotted external zone.

Accno	Type	Context	Comment
<b>WH.P. 1</b>	R	Bastle	Sherds, 4 of, 3 conjoined, from neck and rim of a jug. Diameter c.80mm. The neck expands downwards and is strongly carinated c.35mm below the slightly everted lip (cf. GO.P 235 from Glenochar bastle). Yellow-green glaze on outside. Fabric silt grade, gritty, with quartz sand temper. Grey passing outwards into pale grey [G-g]. Oxidised to greyish orange [10 YR 6/6] at rim. [1984] <sup>1</sup> . SPMOW.
<b>WH.P. 2</b>	S	Bastle	Sherds, 14 of, 4 conjoined in pairs, possibly from body of jug <b>WH.P. 1</b> . Diameter c.180mm. Rough yellow-green and brown mottled glaze on outside. Fabric silt grade, gritty, with quartz sand temper. Grey passing outwards into pale grey with oxidised spots in greyish orange [10 YR 6/6]. [1984]. SPMOW.
<b>WH.P. 3</b>	R + H	Area 1-2	Sherds, 8 of, conjoining, from rim with handle, and upper side of globular jug. The rim is everted, c.22mm high, flat-topped, internal diameter c.120mm. The strap handle, 23mm wide and c.15mm thick, part preserved, springs directly from the rim. Dark olive green glaze on inside and on to rim edge. Fabric silt grade, gritty, with quartz sand temper, light brown [5 YR 6/4] on inside and outside passing into pale grey at centre. [WH 81/H1]. SPMOW.
<b>WH.P. 4</b>	R	Area 1-2	Rim sherd, everted, c.22mm high, flat-topped, internal diameter c.120mm, almost certainly from <b>WH.P. 3</b> . Dark olive green glaze on inside and on to rim edge. Fabric silt grade, gritty, with quartz sand temper, mainly grey with patches of red on inside and outside. [WH 81/R3]. SPMOW.
<b>WH.P. 5</b>	S	Areas 1-2	Sherds, 11 of. Dark olive green glaze survives on inside of some sherds. Fabric silt grade, gritty, with quartz sand temper, light brown [5 YR 6/4] on inside and outside passing into pale grey at centre. [WH 81]. Almost certainly from <b>WH.P. 3</b> . SPMOW.
<b>WH.P. 6</b>	R	Areas 1-2	Sherds, 2 of conjoining from everted, thickened rim, c.150mm in diameter. Traces of pale yellow-green glaze on inside and over rim. Fabric silt grade, gritty, with quartz sand temper, greyish orange pink [5 YR 7/2]. [WH 81/R1]. SPMOW.
<b>WH.P. 7</b>	R	Areas 1-2	Sherds, 2 of conjoining from flange rim, thickening towards edge, c.180mm in diameter. Pale yellow-green and light brown mottled glaze on upper side and over edge. Fabric silt grade, gritty, with quartz sand temper. Dark grey, thin pale grey on top, moderate reddish orange pink [5 YR 7/2] below. [WH 81/R2]. SPMOW.

<sup>1</sup> Date excavated is given in this form throughout.



<b>WH.P. 8</b>	R	Area 3	Rim everted with attachment of handle. Dark olive-green glaze. Fabric silt grade, gritty, with quartz sand temper. Dark grey, pale grey with red spots on outside [WH 84/M/H2]. SPMOW.
<b>WH.P. 9</b>	H	Areas 1-2	Sherds, 3 of, conjoining, from rim with part of handle, of globular jug, similar to <b>WH.P. 3</b> . The rim is everted, c.22mm high, flat-topped, internal diameter c.120mm. The strap handle, 28mm wide and c.13mm thick, part preserved, springs directly from the rim. It has a broad shallow groove along its outer curve. Olive green glaze on inside but not on to rim edge. Fabric silt grade, gritty, with quartz sand temper, moderate reddish orange [5 YR 6/6] on outside passing into pale grey.[WH 81/H2]. SPMOW.
<b>WH.P. 10</b>	B	Area 3	Sherd, from flat base, c.100mm in diameter, base angle c.35°. Signs of knife trimming. Olive green glaze with some red spots on inside. Fabric silt grade, gritty, with quartz sand temper, light brown [5 YR 6/4] on inside and outside passing into pale grey at centre. [WH 84/M/B2]. SPMOW.
<b>WH.P. 11</b>	B	Areas 1-3	Sherds, 4 of, from flat base, c.120mm in diameter, base angle c.40°. Olive green glaze with some red spots on inside. Fabric silt grade, gritty, with quartz sand temper, moderate reddish orange [5 YR 6/6] on inside passing into pale grey on interior. [WH 81; 84/M/B2; 85]. SPMOW.
<b>WH.P. 12</b>	B	Area 3	Sherds, 11 of, from flat, slightly oval base, 94mm x 104mm, base angle c.37°. Olive green glaze with dark mottle on outer side and partly on base. Fabric silt grade, gritty, with some quartz sand temper. Grey on inside passing into Moderate reddish orange [5 YR 6/6] and pale grey on outside. [WH 84/M/B]. SPMOW.
<b>WH.P. 13</b>	S	Areas 1-2	Sherds, 6 of, conjoined, from side of large vessel at least 240mm in diameter. Olive green glaze with dark mottle on outside. Fabric silt grade, gritty, with some quartz sand temper. Grey on outside with thin zone of Moderate reddish orange [5 YR 6/6] on inside. [WH 81/V1/2]. SPMOW.
<b>WH.P. 14</b>	R	Areas 1-2	Sherd, from everted rim of jug, diameter c.120mm. Inside surface missing. No glaze surviving on outside. Fabric silt grade, gritty, with some quartz sand temper. Grey with thin zone of Moderate reddish orange [5 YR 6/6] on outside. [WH 81]. SPMOW.
<b>WH.P. 15</b>	S	Bastle	Sherds, 4 of, 2 conjoined, from side of large vessel. Olive-green glaze on outside. Fabric silt grade, gritty, with some quartz sand temper. Grey with pale grey on outside. ?SPMRW.
<b>WH.P. 16</b>	S	Bastle	Sherds, 5 of, conjoined, from side of vessel at least 200mm in diameter. Brownish green glaze on inside. Fabric silt grade, gritty. Grey and pale brown. SPMOW.
<b>WH.P. 17</b>	S	Bastle	Sherds, 9 of, 3 and 2 conjoined, from side and shoulder with part of everted rim of vessel c.140mm in diameter. Dark olive green glaze on outside. Fabric silt grade, gritty, with some quartz sand temper. Grey, paler towards outside; thin light brown [5 YR 6/4] zone on inside. The sherds from lower part of body are blackened. One has an abraded edge. SPMOW.

<b>WH.P. 18</b>	S	Areas 1-2	Sherd from side of vessel at least 200mm in diameter. Dull yellow brown glaze on inside. Fabric silt grade, with some quartz sand temper. Light brown [5 YR 6/4] on inside and outside with thin inner zone of pale grey. [WH 81]. SPMOW.
<b>WH.P. 19</b>	S	Areas 1-2	Sherds, 2 of, conjoined, from side of at least 200mm in diameter. Yellow green glaze on inside. Fabric silt grade, with some quartz sand temper. Light brown [5 YR 6/4] on outside, pale grey on inside. [WH 81]. SPMOW.
<b>WH.P. 20</b>	S	Areas 1-2	Sherds, 2 of, from side of vessel. Yellow green glaze on inside. Fabric silt grade, with some quartz sand temper. Moderate reddish orange [10 R 6/6] on outside, grey on inside [G/R]. [WH 81]. SPMOW.
<b>WH.P. 21</b>	B	Areas 1-2	Sherd, from flat base, base angle c.37°. Signs of knife trimming. Olive green glaze with some red spots on inside. Fabric silt grade, gritty, with quartz sand temper. Moderate reddish orange [10 R 6/6] on outside, grey on inside [G/R]. [WH 81]. SPMOW.
<b>WH.P. 22</b>	S	Areas 1-2	Sherds, 10 of, from lower side of vessel. Signs of knife trimming. Pale olive green glaze with light brown mottling in places. Fabric silt grade, gritty, with quartz sand temper. Light brown [5 YR 6/4] on inside and outside, dark grey at centre. [WH 81]. SPMOW.
<b>WH.P. 23</b>	S	Areas 1-2	Sherds, 2 of, from side of vessel. Olive green and brown mottled glaze with red spots. Fabric silt grade, gritty, with quartz sand temper. Grey on inside, thick Moderate reddish orange [10 R 6/6] zone on outside, [G/R]. [WH 81]. SPMOW.
<b>WH.P. 24</b>	S	Areas 1-2	Sherds, 11 of, from side of thin-walled vessel - probably a jug. Traces of olive green glaze on inside and outside. Fabric silt grade, gritty, with quartz sand temper. Moderate orange pink [5 YR 8/4] throughout. [WH 81]. SPMOW.
<b>WH.P. 25</b>	S	Areas 1-2	Sherds, 22 of, 11 and 2 conjoined, from side of ?jug, diameter c.200mm. Part glazed in dark greenish brown on inside and blotches on outside. Fabric silt grade, gritty, with quartz sand temper, mostly Light brown [5 YR 6/4]. [WH81/V2/1]. SPMOW.
<b>WH.P. 26</b>	S	Areas 1-2	Sherds, 8 of, from side of thin-walled vessel. - probably a jug. Dark olive green glaze on inside. Fabric silt grade, gritty, with quartz sand temper. Pale grey on inside, Moderate orange pink [5 YR 8/4] on outside. [WH 81]. SPMOW.
<b>WH.P. 27</b>	S	Bastle,	Sherd. Yellow-green glaze on outside. Fabric silt grade without quartz grains E side temper. Pale grey with Moderate orange pink [5 YR 8/4] on outside SPMOW.
<b>WH.P. 28</b>	S	Area 4	Sherds, 2 of, c.10mm thick, from large vessel c.280mm in diameter. One sherd, possibly from just below rim edge, has a ridge c.15mm down. Below this is top edge of an incised lattice panel. The other sherd has incised lattice work all over. Fabric fine-grained, black on inside, moderate reddish orange [10 YR 6/6] on outside. Bronze Age.

<b>WH.P. 29</b>	S	Area 4	Sherds, 2 of, c.10mm thick, from large vessel c.280mm in diameter. One sherd is decorated with incised lattice, the lines being c.12mm apart. Fabric fine-grained, black on inside, light brown [5 YR 5/6] on outside. Bronze Age.
-----------------	---	--------	--

#### **Clay Pipe Stems**

<b>Accno</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Comment</b>
WH.CP. 1	Bastle	Fragments 6 of, 3 conjoining, of clay pipe stems. Bore ranges from 3.2mm to 3.8mm.

#### **GLASS FINDS**

##### **Wine Bottle**

<b>Accno</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Comment</b>
WH.G. 1	Bastle	Shards, 2 of, in yellow green. Surface scratched and, in one case, corroded. Perhaps from a mallet bottle.

#### **LITHIC FINDS**

<b>Accno</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Comment</b>
WH.S. 1	Area 1-2	Cobble, rounded, 85mm x 70mm x 53mm, greywacke. Signs of use.
WH.S. 2	Area 4	Chert pieces, 5 of, labelled C1 - C5, grey and pale bluish grey. All show signs of knapping - 2 are scrapers.
WH.S. 3	Area 4	Chert pieces, 7 of, pale grey and pale bluish grey, 2 with brown mottling.
WH.S. 4	Area 1-2	Haematite, 'keel', 29 fragments of, faceted.
WH.S. 5	Area 1-2	Greywacke, 100mm x 60mm x 31mm, faceted and broken off. Two of four faces have been used for grinding keel. A third, the largest face, and presumably the base, is haematite-stained.
WH.S. 6	Area 1-2	Greywacke block, 180mm x 55mm x 43mm, faceted. One flat face has been used for grinding keel.
WH.S. 7	Area 1-2	Fragments, 6 of, of vitreous slag. The material is black glass that shows flow structures. The material was recovered from the wall mortar.
WH.S. 8	Area 1-2	Disc, roughly circular, c.25mm in diameter, in grey micaceous sandstone .
WH.S. 9	Area 1-2	Spindle whorl, in dark grey mudstone, external diameter 46.5mm, c.6.5mm thick. Diameter of central hole 12mm, drilled from both sides. On upper side, 20 radial lines incised at roughly equal intervals. A roughly circular narrow scratched loop encircles the central hole. Underside plain.
WH.S. 10	Area 1-2	Spindle whorl, three-quarters of, pale brownish grey, micaceous siltstone. External diameter 23.5mm. Thickness c.9mm. Diameter of central hole 8mm. On one side, decoration with groups of 5



radial incisions, separated by groups of 6 dots, set in a rough circle. The slightly rounded edge has a zig-zag incised line. Underside is roughly cross-hatched.

<b>WH.S. 11</b>	Area 1-2	Spindle whorl, jet or cannel coal .Roughly oval, 31mm by 26mm, 14 -15mm thick. Central hole 3.5mm in diameter surrounded on both sides by cone-shaped depression, wide at surface, from drilling. No ornament.
<b>WH.S. 12</b>	Area 1-2	Spindle whorl in pale grey, micaceous siltstone. Diameter 29mm. Thickness 9mm. Diameter of central hole 9mm. No drill marks. No decoration.

**Note:** Numerous slates were found scattered over the site. A selection of these are illustrated on Pl 11.

## METAL FINDS

### Copper Alloy

A small assemblage of objects in copper alloy was recovered in the excavation

Accno	Context	Comment
WH.CA. 1	Area 1-2	James VI hardhead, worn
WH.CA. 2	Area 1-2	Charles II bawbee, worn
WH.CA. 3	Bastle	Hans Shultes jetton..
WH.CA. 4	Bastle	Ring, fragments 2 of, 4.5mm wide; diameter c.17-18mm. Outside has 3 incised lines - one central, the others close to the edges.
WH.CA. 5	Area 1-2	Ring fragment, about 3/4 preserved, 4mm wide; diameter c.17-18mm. Outside has 3 incised lines - one central, the others close to the edges.
WH.CA. 6	Area 1-2	Dressmaker's pin, 32mm long, head round 2.5mm in diameter - formed by wrapping narrow strip around end of the pin's shank, which is tin-plated.
WH.CA. 7	Area 1-2	Dressmaker's pin, 40mm long, head round 2.5mm in diameter - formed by wrapping narrow strip around the end of the pin's shank which is tin-plated.
WH.CA. 8	Area 3-4	Ferrules, fragments 6 of, up to 23mm long and 3mm in diameter.
WH.CA. 9	Area 3	Crotal bell, part of with sound slot, flattened - probably c.20mm in diameter.
WH.CA. 10	Area 4	Copper alloy plate - irregular fragment of; 35mm x 19mm. A circular hole 6.5mm.
WH.CA. 11	Area 4	Copper alloy plate - irregular fragment of; 23mm x 16mm.
WH.CA. 12	Area 4	Copper alloy plate - irregular fragment of; 19mm x 9mm.
WH.CA. 12	Area 4	Copper alloy plate - irregular fragment of; 15mm x 13mm.
WH.CA. 13	Area 4	Copper alloy plate - irregular fragment of; 19mm x 9mm.
WH.CA. 14	Area 4	Copper alloy plate - irregular fragment of; 31mm x 22mm.
WH.CA. 15	Area 4	Copper alloy plate - irregular fragment of; partly folded over, 39mm x 23mm.
WH.CA. 16	Bastle	Pin fire cartridge, base of, 21.5mm in diameter, 9mm high with rim less than 1mm wide. Labelled on base ELEY LONDON circling 12 over a small G. 19th Century.

### Iron

Accno	Context	Comment
WH. Ir. 1	Bastle	Rowel spur, one leg missing with remains of pointed rowel wheel, but corroded, was conserved but still very fragile. Plate 31
WH. Ir. 2	Bastle	Barrel padlock key complete but corroded, was conserved but still very fragile. Plate 32

<b>WH. Ir. 3</b>	Area 1-2	A belt buckle, 39mm long x 23mm wide. It combines a square with a D-shape. The tongue, that no doubt was affixed to the central bar, appears to consist of a strip, c.30mm long and c.12mm wide, that terminates in a V-shape.
<b>WH. Ir. 4</b>	Area 1-2	Ferrule, an open-sided cylinder, 18mm long and 6-7mm in diameter -perhaps from a bootlace.
<b>WH. Ir. 5</b>	Area 1-2	A belt buckle. It consists of a plate 27mm wide, 90mm long, turned back on itself to clamp the bar of the buckle loop. This is 33mm wide by 31mm long, with rounded corners. It was made from an iron strip almost 6mm square in section. The tongue is missing.
<b>WH. Ir. 6</b>	Area 1-2	Knife, overall length 208mm; blade, 133mm long, tapering from 15mm in width to rounded point. Flat backed, gently curved edge. Insert, in copper alloy, on blade - a cross. Handle, 77mm long, of iron sheet wrapped around tang, 15mm by 9mm at butt end.
<b>WH. Ir. 7</b>	Area 1-2	Knife, overall length 1910mm; blade, 146mm long - tip broken off, tapering in width from 19mm to 7mm. Flat backed, gently curved edge. Tang, square section, tapering from 7mm next to blade.
<b>WH. Ir 8</b>	Bastle	Fragment of scythe or sickle, 53mm long, tapering from 28mm wide to 23mm. Slightly curved, sharp on concave side.
<b>WH. Ir 9</b>	Area 1-2	Needle, part of, 38mm long.
<b>WH. Ir. 10</b>	Bastle	Detached from <b>WH. Ir 13</b> .
<b>WH. Ir. 11</b>	Bastle	Strip, tapering, 68mm long, 25mm wide at broken off end, one side straight, the other curved. No indication of a sharpened edge.
<b>WH. Ir 12</b>	Bastle	Strip, rectangular, 72mm long , 16mm wide at one end, 19mm wide at the other, broken off end, with part of a perforation. Perhaps part of a nail 8mm in from the other end.
<b>WH. Ir 13</b>	Bastle	Possible leg of callipers, 114mm long, tapering from 13mm to 3mm. The thicker end terminates in a disc with pin set at right angle that appears to be part of a hinge.
<b>WH. Ir 14</b>	Area 4	?staple. Consists of a circular loop c.20mm in diameter that passes into 2 pointed legs. Overall length 40mm.
<b>WH. Ir 15</b>	Area 4	?staple. Similar to WH.Ir 14 but the internal diameter of the 'eye' is smaller - 11mm - and the legs are longer. Overall length 44mm.
<b>WH. Ir. 16</b>	Bastle	Eye from hook-and-eye ?from corset.
<b>WH. Ir. 17</b>	Bastle	Ring, 11.5mm in diameter, made from round wire 1.5mm thick, closed with a twist.
<b>WH. Ir. 18</b>	Bastle	Plate, 82mm, broken off at one end, tapering from 40mm to 37mm before curving to a pointed projection 20mm long.
<b>WH. Ir. 19</b>	Bastle	Pot legs, 2 of. Probably from same vessel. Pentangular.- 3 sides of a square with 2 sides forming a tented ridge. One, apparently complete, is 77mm long. tapering from 24mm to 18mm in width and from 25mm to 16mm in height. The other is 57mm long and



		tapers from 23mm to 18mm in width and from 23mm to 17mm in height
<b>WH. Ir. 20</b>	Bastle	Fragments of flat sheets, 10 of; the largest is 87mm x 60mm.
<b>WH. Ir. 21</b>	Bastle	Bar, 78mm x 19mm x 10mm. One end square, the other broken off.
<b>WH. Ir. 22</b>	Bastle	Unidentified object.
<b>WH. Ir. 23</b>	Bastle	Miscellaneous unidentified objects, 6 of.
<b>WH. Ir. 24</b>	Bastle	Fragments, 3 of conjoining, from base and lower side of cauldron. Diameter of base, which is flat with a low, narrow rounded foot, c.320mm,. Diameter of vessel at belly c.375mm. Heavily concreted in places.
<b>WH. Ir. 25</b>	Bastle	Fragment from flat base and lower side of cauldron. Diameter of base c.140mm, base angle c.45°. Heavily concreted in places.
<b>WH. Ir. 26</b>	Bastle	Fragments, 4 of, from everted rim, mostly broken off, of cooking pot. Rim diameter c.300mm. Thickness of metal c.3mm.
<b>WH. Ir. 27</b>	Bastle	Fragments, 4 of, 2 conjoining, from plain rim, of cooking pot. Rim diameter c.300mm. Thickness of metal c.3mm.
<b>WH. Ir. 28</b>	Bastle	Fragment, irregular shape c.150mm x 130mm, from side of cooking pot, diameter at least 360mm. Thickness of metal up to 5mm. A narrow cordon, up to 3mm high.
<b>WH. Ir. 29</b> concreted.	Bastle	Fragments, 8 of, from side of cooking pot. Heavily corroded and Perhaps from <b>WH. Ir. 24</b> <sup>2</sup> .
<b>WH. Ir. 30</b>	Bastle	Fragments, 17 of, from side of cooking pot.
<b>WH. Ir. 31</b>	Areas 1-5	Nail, head mostly broken off, rectangular cross-section. 74mm long
<b>WH. Ir. 32</b>	Areas 1-5	Nails, 3 of, heavy rectangular heads, 13mm x 7-9mm and c.6mm high. Shanks, broken off, rectangular, 6-7mm x c.3mm.
<b>WH. Ir. 33</b>	Areas 1-5	Nails, 11 of, square section, >70mm long. Large, flat circular heads.
<b>WH. Ir. 34</b>	Areas 1-5	Nails, 8 of, square section, large, flat circular heads, broken off.
<b>WH. Ir. 35</b>	Areas 1-5	Nails, 16 of, square section, 50-60mm long. Flat circular heads.
<b>WH. Ir. 36</b>	Areas 1-5	Nails, 31 of, square section, 40-50mm long. Flat circular heads.
<b>WH. Ir. 37</b>	Areas 1-5	Nails, 6 of, square section, broken off. Flat circular heads.
<b>WH. Ir. 38</b>	Areas 1-5	Nails, 9 of, square section, broken off.
<b>WH. Ir. 39</b>	Areas 1-5	Nails, very corroded and concreted, c.200g but includes a little concreted-in stone.

<sup>2</sup> Evidently there are at least two cooking pots. However, it is not possible to match, with confidence, the bases with the rims. The tentative assignation of the fragments **WH. Ir. 29** to **Wh.Ir. 24** is based solely on the degree of alteration.

<b>WH. Ir. 40</b>	Areas 1-5	Nails, 163 of, incomplete, all sizes. 490g.
-------------------	-----------	---

**Lead**

<b>Accno</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>WH.L. 1</b>	Areas 1-2	Enigmatic object. weight c.500g. A shallow box c.62mm long, 62mm wide with internal base curving up and thickening (Fig. 14) towards what is taken to be the front wall. This apparently was pierced in its upper part by an irregular slot and its outer face had been repeatedly struck by a chisel-like tool with a blade c.8mm x 3.5mm. The object appears to have been a plug, set into a wall to receive a bracket possibly for the fitting of an object such as a lamp. Its face perhaps was roughened to give plaster a grip.

<b>WH.L. 2</b>	Areas 1-2	Bar, cylindrical, 65mm long, 21mm in diameter, weight c.250g. Appears to have been attached to iron sheet at one end - ?leg of pot.
----------------	-----------	---

<b>WH.L. 3</b>	Areas 1-2	Plates, 2 of. The larger, 37mm x 16mm, has an upturned edge 6-7mm high. The other has a remnant of the same feature
----------------	-----------	---

**ORGANIC FINDS**

**Bone**

<b>Accno</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>WH.Bo. 1</b>	Bastle,	Bone, 3 fragments of, 2 conjoining. from E side.
<b>WH.Bo. 2</b>	Areas 1-2	Skull, of dog, overall length c.160mm, lacking the mandible and most of the upper teeth. [1981] <sup>3</sup> .
<b>WH.Bo. 3</b>	Areas 1-2	Tooth, equine, lower left canine. [1981].
<b>WH.Bo. 4</b>	Areas 1-2	Scapula, part of, bovine. May have been re-used as a scoop. [1981].
<b>WH.Bo. 5</b>	Area 1-2, inside	Teeth and bone fragments, c.150g. [1981].
<b>WH.Bo. 6</b>	Bastle	Teeth and bone fragments, horse, rabbit and possibly goose, c.110g. [1984].
<b>WH.Bo. 7</b>	Area 4-5	Parts of mandibles, 2 of with teeth, and limb bones, c.60g. [1984].
<b>WH.Bo. 8</b>	Area 4-5	Bone fragments, mainly ovine, c.180g. [1984].
<b>WH.Bo. 9</b>	Area 4-5	Bone fragments, ovine, c.300g. [1984].
<b>WH.Bo. 10</b>	Area 4-5	Bone fragments, bovine, c.300g. [1984].
<b>WH.Bo. 11</b>	Bastle,	Teeth and bone fragments, c.90g. [1984]. S end area

See bone report above.

**Leather**

<b>Accno</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Comment</b>
--------------	----------------	----------------

---

<sup>3</sup> Numbers in square brackets are date of excavation.

<b>WH.Le. 1</b>	Near Bastle	Front part of upper of ladies' court shoe - right foot. Decorated with a double row of stitching across the toe and a triple row of stitching round the top of the upper. ?Modern.
-----------------	-------------	--

**Wood**

<b>Accno</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>WH.Wo. 1</b>	Areas 1-2	Wood, possibly part of a lath, 78mm x 15mm x 7mm. [1981]. Inside bastle

**Peat**

<b>Accno</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>WH.Pe. 1</b>	Area 3	Peat, fragments of, carbonised.

**Metal Detected finds**

<b>Accno</b>	<b>Location (NGR)</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>WC.MD. 8</b>	NS 98006 11418	Coin, copper alloy, diameter c.24mm.
<b>WC.MD. 9</b>	NS 98104 11580	?copper alloy, Hans Schultes token . roughly circular c.25mm in diameter.
<b>WC.MD. 10</b>	NS 98070 11489	Lead object, ?spent musketball.
<b>WC.MD. 11</b>	NS 98052 11566	Lead object, ?spent musketball.
<b>WC.MD. 12</b>	NS 98045 11509	Lead strip, irregular, 27mm long.
<b>WC.MD. 13</b>	NS 98004 11418	?copper alloy, disc, 6mm in diameter, concave, ?from cartridge.
<b>WC.MD. 14</b>	NS 97927 11397	?copper alloy, ?part of large spike 16mm in diameter, with rounded head 30mm in diameter.
<b>WC.MD. 15</b>	NS 97920 11386	Horseshoe, part of heel, 83mm long and 39mm wide at end.

## **APENDIX VI**

### **Windgate Bastle House Excavation Project 1981-1985**

#### **Colour slide descriptions**

#### **Biggar Archaeology Group**

**Tam Ward 2016**

**The 35mm colour slides have been copied to digital JPG format and are also described in each image 'Properties'.**

**Abbreviations : BMT, Biggar Museum Trust**  
**: LADAS Lanark & District Archaeology Society**

#### **Initials of persons in photographs:**

**RG Richard Gillanders**

**FC Fiona Christison**

**JW Janet Ward**

**BH Ben Harker**



**IC Isobel Campbell**  
**MG Margaret Grieve**  
**HG Helen Grieve**  
**BG Betty Grieve**  
**HG Hugh Grieve**  
**TW Tammy Ward**  
**SW Stewart Ward**  
**SW Steven Ward**  
**TW Tam Ward**  
**TW Tracy Ward**  
**AW Alf Ward**  
**WH Wilma Hamilton**  
**TH Tom Hamilton**

### **And Copper (the dog)**

Note: the photographs are not necessarily in order of taking, unless otherwise stated they are the work of Tam Ward. Some images are poor quality and are retained for reference only. The slide film was Kodak Ektachrome and developed by T Ward using E6 process.

A set of duplicate B&W negatives were also taken, these for the most part are repeats of the colour slides. Photographs used in the Revised Report (Ward 2016) are given here in parenthesis [Pl --].

- W1 The site prior to excavation 31/5/81, Looking north to Cowgill Reservoir and modern sheepfold. RG, JW, FC. [Pl 3]
- W2 Ditto with excavation in progress, with summit of Tinto Hill on the horizon.
- W3 Ditto with close up of W2 and Copper.
- W4 Ditto with Copper who accompanied the writer on every visit to the site while she was alive.
- W5 View of the site from Windgill Bank, looking west, note the lime mortar pile being retrieved for restoration work.
- W6 Ditto
- W7 Ditto
- W8 Showing south chamber excavated, looking north to dividing wall in basement, note the curvature of the two long walls. [Pl 6]
- W9 Ditto, showing trampled floor surface.
- W10 Ditto rubble choked interior.
- W11 Rubble choked interior.
- W12 Ditto showing central gap in dividing wall.
- W13 Excavating main chamber looking south with FC and RG, note collapsed gable wall (later rebuilt).
- W14 View SW to trial trench on exterior of building with AW.
- W15 View south showing the site with AW.
- W16 View south along west side showing wall stones protruding from turf.
- W17 View north over SW external corner with AW [Pl 8]
- W18 View east at SW external corner showing extant masonry.
- W19 Ditto showing base of wall and wall trench.

- W20 View east to external side of west wall showing midden deposit (darker material) in rubble section.
- W21 Close up of W20 showing projecting basal stones and lime mortar in wall.
- W22 Working in internal area with RG, BH, MG, HG and IC.
- W23 Ditto looking south with BG, HG, MG, HG, RG, BH and IC, note curvature of SE internal wall at gable end.
- W24 Looking south at internal rubble, collapsed vaulting, see W100 for painting of this. [Pl 12]
- W25 Looking NW over choked interior with AW, note wall curvature.
- W26 Looking NW through gap in internal wall, excavating the floor with FC, TW and SW. note wall curvature of vault. [Pl 5]
- W27 Looking NE to internal north gable entrance, large stone in situ from stair still obscured.
- W28 Looking NW to internal north gable wall at entrance, note the random rubble quoins.
- W29 Ditto with view through entrance.
- W30 Ditto with stair beginning to show with RG.
- W31 Ditto. [Pl 13]
- W32 Ditto with Copper.
- W33 Ditto with RG, long stone equals stair tread or lintel.
- W34 Looking down towards west, showing long stone lying at stairway with both sides showing, note sandstone block on rhs, entrance to bastle on the right hand side.
- W35 Looking north working on internal chamber with TW and FC.
- W36 Looking SE to remaining internal rubble with stair beginning to appear on lhs.
- W37 View north over main chamber with stair wall showing and entrance, south chamber used for storing restoration material, with FC, RG and SW.
- W38 Ditto with LADAS members and Ed Archer.
- W39 Tea break with RG, FC, SW and BH. Looking south east.
- W40 View NW showing curvature of vault at north end and entrance with BH. Note floor deposits below rubble.
- W41 Last layer of rubble with darker floor deposits below.
- W42 Layer of roofing slates on external side, showing wooden peg holes.
- W43 Selection of dressed sandstone pieces from window sills/lintels and assorted complete roofing slates showing peg holes.
- W44 View on internal mural Scale and Platt stair with four complete treads of greywacke slabs, note single piece of dressed sandstone on lhs, long stone equals tread or lintel place there for convenience, see earlier slides; W27 and W33.
- W45 Looking NE through entrance showing threshold stone.
- W46 Same as W44.
- W47 Stakehole cut into floor of NE corner beside stair, only feature in an otherwise featureless floor surface.
- W48 Ditto looking NE.
- W49 Ditto looking north.
- W50 Excavating entrance threshold, with JW.
- W51 Janet Ward.
- W52 Looking south through the entrance, note door facing stones removed, presumably were ashlar.
- W53 Ditto both sides of entrance and stairway.
- W54 View north through entrance showing threshold and stairway.
- W55 View north over threshold showing external area under excavation.

- W56 Ditto close up.
- W57 Looking south through entrance and threshold with external area.
- W58 Excavating north external area with Tracy W, JW and TW.
- W59 Ditto.
- W60 Looking south over NW half of external area and towards entrance.
- W61 Ditto looking SE.
- W62 Ditto.
- W63 Rubble section on external NE side of entrance looking east, note the concentration of lime rubble. [Pl 15]
- W64 Ditto
- W65 Ditto
- W66 Looking south over north external area with collapsed masonry and with FC, RG and JW.
- W67 Ditto looking NE.
- W68 Looking south over collapsed masonry to entrance.
- W69 Ditto
- W70 Ditto
- W71 Looking west over collapsed masonry at north external end.
- W72 Same as W60, W61.
- W73 View SW towards bastle with north external area excavated.
- W74 View SW over northern external area showing gully/drain cut into till.
- W75 Ditto
- W76 Looking south over gully/drain to entrance.
- W77 Ditto
- W78 Ditto with collapsed masonry looking NE. [Pl 14]
- W79 Looking north over north external area with gully/drain.
- W80 Excavating north external side with WH, TH, RG, JW and FC.
- W81 Ditto
- W82 View north through main chamber to entrance after excavation, note curvature of vault lhs, featureless floor surface and internal walls. [Pl 7]
- W83 View NE showing completely excavated stairway, note single block of sandstone. [Pl 9]
- W84 View west over three sheep milking buchts; open ended turf built enclosures. [Pl 18]
- W85 View west to excavation trench through southern sheep bucht wall, with WH.
- W86 View east over bucht trench, showing earth bank (originally turf) over pre existing ground surface.
- W87 Ditto
- W88 Ditto viewing west. [Pl 19]
- W89 Ditto.
- W90 Excavating bucht trench with TW, Ed Archer and LADAS members.
- W91 Ditto
- W92 Ditto
- W93 Ditto
- W94 Ditto
- W95 Same as W85
- W96 Walking over Cowgill Rig to site with IC, RG and BH
- W97 Driving over Cowgill Rig to site with IC, TW and BH.
- W98 Looking south towards site from reservoir edge with WH, TH, JW and RG.
- W99 Getting the dinner in with SW, SW and Tracy W.

W100 Painting by Mrs Paterson, Coulter c 1865 showing part of vault in situ, with Tinto showing on the horizon. BMT Collections. See W24 [Pl 12] for in situ collapsed vaulting masonry [Pl 2]

W101 Excavating with TW and FC.

W102 Similar to W72.

W103 Looking NE through entrance and stairway with tread/lintel sitting on stair (for convenience during excavation).

W104 Lump of collapsed masonry at north external side.

W105 Ditto

W106 Looking south through entrance and threshold showing west side door surrounds having been removed during demolition, presumably because they were sandstone.

W107 Ditto on the east side of the entrance also showing remains of draw bar tunnel in wall section, note sandstone block, only such piece of stone found in situ.

W108 No photograph.

W109 View east to west long wall during excavation, note lime being retrieved for restoration and spoil heap position below building.

W110 Ditto looking SE.

W111 Looking south along west wall showing midden material (darker) in rubble section, note projecting plinth stones at base of wall and random rubble quoins, also lime being retrieved for restoration.

W112 Section showing midden material at base covered with demolition rubble on south end of west wall. [Pl 16]

W113 Ditto.

W114 Ditto

W115 Ditto

W116 Ditto

W117 Ditto

W118 No photograph

W119 Ditto

W120 Ditto

W121 Looking south to Windgate Hass with TW and RG

W122 Ditto with RG

W123 South end of west wall showing wall trench and note rounded battered greywacke quoins.

W124 SW end of gable wale wall showing wall trench and lime in wall construction.

W125 Looking north along south end of west wall showing wall trench and note battered greywacke random rubble quoins. Same as W154.

W126 Specimens of carboniferous sandstone used for window lintels/sills with bar holes cut into them; two per window at 150mm (6") centres. Note also construction of random rubble wall, internal east wall. [Pl 10]

W127 Lump of collapsed vault on external east side of building.

W128 Ditto.

W129 looking south along east wall face, being prepared for consolidation work.

W130 Ditto.

W131 Looking south along west wall during consolidation work. [Pl 4]

W132 Looking north over entire excavated building with south gable during consolidation work. Note rounded corners with battered greywacke stones.

W133 looking south along east wall preparing for consolidation.



- W134 Ditto looking north to entrance and stairway. Note wall thickness and high quality lime rubble infill.
- W135 Looking north from Windgate Hass, down onto the site with Cowgill Reservoir and Tinto Hill in background.
- W136 Looking SW to Windgate Hass.
- W137 Ditto showing site position at top of the glen. [Pl 1]
- W138 Looking NW over the site.
- W139 View NW from Windgate Hass to Cowgill Reservoir and Tinto Hill.
- W140 Ditto with heather.
- W141 View south to Windgate Hass (poor photograph).
- W142 Ditto showing site, pic taken from sheep bucht position north of the site.
- W143 View west over the site.
- W144 Photograph taken in 1962 by B Lambie, looking over site.
- W145 View north over building during excavation.
- W146 View NW over site during excavation with TW.
- W147 View NE over site, (poor pic).
- W148 No Photograph.
- W149 View east along south gable showing section with unused lime showing.
- W150 Ditto showing layer of lime sandwiched between rubble, perhaps being a repair? [Pl 17]
- W151 Lime lying immediately above wall trench fill at south gable from original construction? Looking east.
- W152 Ditto looking north to gable wall.
- W153 Building excavated prior to consolidation work, (poor pic).
- W154 Same as W125.
- W155 Looking south showing internal south gable being re constructed.
- W156 Looking south showing collapsed gable wall.
- W157 Reconstruction of south gable wall. [Pl 20]
- W158 Hypothetical re construction of draw bar slot on west side of entrance. No evidence for the tunnel was found on this side, only the east side tunnel survived in part.
- W159 FC at entrance after reconstruction (poor pic).
- W160 Aerial pic of site during excavation taken by Ed Archer.
- W161 Selection of finds from the site taken at Biggar Museum. [Pl 25]
- W162 Plan of excavations showing building ground floor
- W163 Ditto
- W164 Ditto with entire site
- W165 Sheep milking buchts plan
- W166 Excavation plan at bastle
- W167 Visitors at site interpretation panel
- W168 Ditto
- W169 Visitors to site
- W170 Ditto
- W171 No photograph
- W172 Ditto
- W173 View north showing entire site consolidated. [Pl 24]
- W174 Visitor Mia Scott (Council Planner) at site interpretation panel [Pl 23]
- W175 RG excavating at SE internal corner
- W176 TW and RG contemplate the work at SW internal area.
- W177 Roofing slates at midden base on west side.

W178 Demolition rubble against wall.

W179 Excavating TW and RG and?

### **POSTSCRIPT – A tale of ghosts and co-incidences.**

The main reason the site was chosen for the original project by the writer was that as a boy on hill walking expeditions he had ‘discovered’ the place, but of course knew nothing about it.

As time marched on and he became married to a local girl and lived in nearby Coulter, his interest in the surrounding hills and glens became more intense. Eventually a passion for archaeology and museums developed into an active hobby by 1978; by joining the Lanark & District Archaeological Society and the Biggar Museums, and in the following year, The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, a great learning curve on heritage matters began, and which continues to the present day.

#### **But to the tale:**

In the early 1920’s a shepherd from Camps, the adjoining glen to the south had been helping the Cowgill shepherd with sheep clipping and as the local herd was obliged to attend a funeral that day, the work took longer than expected. The Camps shepherd Jimmy Douglas was making his weary way home late in the evening with his faithful dog Barney, and a stray sheep he had on a lead. As they approached the ruins of Windgate, then just a pile of rubble, Jimmy observed two figures walking towards them. Even in the poor light he could see that a couple, a man and woman, were clothed in evening dress of Victorian style. As the two groups passed Jimmy greeted them with “Good evening” but received no reply and, upon turning around he was astonished to see no one there, at the same time the dog gave an uneasy growl. Wullie continued home and only spoke of the encounter the following morning to his family, one of his daughters being Jenny. Apparently after that, the dog would give the location a wide berth refusing to go near the ruin.

The matter was soon put aside in typical stoical country fashion, but soon after, the story was referenced (MacCallum-Scott 1924) and in which the writer talks about the possibilities of what the site could be, concluding “ The skilled archaeologist, exploring with his spade, may some day decipher the unwritten story of these stones”.

The co-incidences which follow are given as a matter of curiosity;

The present writer married the granddaughter of Jimmy the shepherd and heard the story second hand from an account by his mother in law, Jenny, who had learned first hand of the incident. When the story gradually got round a local myth sprung up that Jimmy’s hair had turned white overnight after his inexplicable experience. However this was put to right by Jenny who explained her fathers hair *did* suddenly change colour, but it was due to the shock of a serious motor cycle accident which took place long before the incident recounted here.

So MacCallum-Scotts hopes that a skilled archaeologist would one day solve the mystery of the site came true and that archaeologist had actually married the granddaughter of Jimmy the shepherd. A further co-incidental aspect of the story was when the writer discovered that quite unknown to him, his mother had previously presented Biggar Museum with the little painting (Plate 2) of the Windgate vault in

situ. It had been given to her by a descendant of the painter. The painting is of course further proof that the building did have a barrel vault, hence the tradition of the local attribution of 'the old vaults' but in the mistaken belief that it was a burial place.

Lastly, when the work of excavation was commenced and in full knowledge of the stories surrounding the site, it was jokingly anticipated to find two bodies in the dig to explain the ghosts away. Given in the report above two bodies *were* found soon after the work began. However, the two skeletons which were removed from below the rubble, were of fairly recently dumped sheep ! and it was not ghosts which haunted the diggers for some time afterwards – it was a high powered smell.

Regarding the ghost story, Jenny's husband Craigie, a well known wit in the community, had the last word on the subject, laughingly he stated that the spirits of the encounter more likely came from a bottle rather than the ruins.

### **References**

MacCallum-Scott A 1924. *Clydesdale*. Thornton Butterworth, Ltd, 15 Bedford Street, London, W.C.2.

Ward T 2002. *The Windgate Ghosts*. Scottish Memories Scotland's Magazine, 6-7, July 2002, Langside Publishers Ltd.