



# Fieldwalking in Upper Clydesdale and Tweeddale 2014 – 2022

Biggar Archaeology Group

2014-2022

# Fieldwalking in Upper Clydesdale and Tweeddale 2014- 2022

All work was part of our watching brief contributing to continuing Clydesdale and Tweeddale projects.

This report combines fieldwalking exercises on land being ploughed for forestry and arable purposes. Opportunities for this type of field walking are becoming limited by modern agricultural and silvicultural techniques. Opportunities to walk reservoir shorelines exposed during summer droughts are dictated by the vagaries of the weather.

## Crookburn, Crawford Parish

**2014 - 2021 | NGR: NS 96738 06120**

In summer 2014 water levels in Daer Reservoir had fallen sufficiently to allow a follow up to the 2004 excavation of Crookburn at the head of the reservoir. Crookburn is the remains of a 18/19th century settlement previously unrecorded consisting of a cobbled area with the remains of wall foundation features. In July 2014 further glass metal and pottery were recovered from field walking and excavation of a previously undiscovered drain. Erosion of the site through the rising and falling water levels in the reservoir had exposed further finds.



**2004 excavation site with 2014 revision in foreground**



**Stone drain exposed in 2014**

### Finds assembled

Ceramic – 47, metal – 2, glass – 8.

Further drops in reservoir water levels in 2016, 2018 and 2021 resulted in further lithic, ceramic and glass finds being recovered from the site.

Finds assembled – ceramic – 23 including clay pipe stem, glass – 6.

Brenda Dreghorn, Bill Glass, David Drury, Helen McCall, Jim Ness

## Daer Reservoir, Crawford Parish

**2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2021 - Shoreline field walking and metal detecting on a site of previous lithic finds.**

**NGR: NS 96709 07054 etc.**

This is a continuation of the Clydesdale Daer Reservoir project 2004 to 2012 previously published on the BAG website. The opportunity of low water levels in the summers of 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2021 allowed shoreline field walking to be undertaken.



**Exposed shoreline at Daer Reservoir 2014**

### **Finds assemblages –**

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 2016    | 1 possible chert scraper, 1 possible broken blade, 32 chert chunks, 21 chert debitage, 1 flint cortex flake, 1 pitchstone chunk.  |
| 2017-18 | 13 flint flakes, 1 pitchstone flake, 1 chert microlith, 117 chert chunks  |
| 2019    | 1 chert microlith, 14 chert flakes, 2 chert cores, 3 chert chunks, 4 debitage, 1 possible jasper Flake. Metal detecting produced a ladies' ring with large stone mount. |
| 2021    | 8 ceramic, 1 metal, 2 pitchstone, 3 chert chunks, 1 chert microlith, 7 chert flakes, 1 flint flake  |

Ian Cunnington, Brenda Dreghorn, Peter Dreghorn, David Drury, Jacquie Hastie, Bill Glass, Sandra Kelly, Jim Ness, Tam Ward, Robert Whitecross, Lex Yuill

## Camps Reservoir, Crawford Parish

**22 July 2022**

**NT 01122 22694**

This visit followed up on the Clydesdale Camps Reservoir project 1992, 1994. See BAG website.

Opportunity was taken during low water levels in 2022 for shoreline field walking. Within a nineteenth century sheepfold shown on OS 1st edition, a hitherto invisible mound was cleared of loose surface stone to reveal a consolidated stone cairn measuring 2m in diameter by 200mm high. Probably bronze age.

David Drury, Jim Ness, Lex Yuill



Nineteenth century sheepfold surrounding cairn



Cairn

## Little Clyde and Upper Howcleuch, Crawford Parish

On 27 Sep 2015 as part of a watching brief we discovered the foundations of a possible new building.

As part of a programme of fieldwalking this area is kept under a watching brief and following the harvesting of nearby forestry we revisited the area and followed the Roman road to Little Clyde and found the outline of a previously unrecorded building at NGR: NS 99532 15747

At NGR: NT 00152 14903, Upper Howcleuch, on rough pasture and forestry clearance, a kettle boiler was discovered adjacent to sheep fanks and dipper. The cast iron boiler was c.1m diameter and 1m deep encased in brick. It is assumed that it would have been used for dissolving sheep dip compound up to the mid-twentieth century. The back plate is embossed "No. 16? 4".

Brenda Dreghorn, David Drury, Jim Ness, David Paterson

## Cornhill area, Culter Parish

### April 2014 to April 2015

Three ploughed fields at Cornhill Farm – Gateside south of road near Cornhill farm NT 02667 34944, Gateside fields north of road NT 02565 35331 and Cornhill farm field NT 02231 35719 – were walked. In all these field blue and brown chert flakes and cores showed evidence of lithic being worked by man. No tools were found.

Brenda Dreghorn, David Drury, Denise Dudds, Bill Glass, Jim Ness, Tam Ward

## Muirlee Farm, Biggar, Libberton Parish

Fieldwalking at NT 0310 4115 on ploughed land for forestry planting resulted in an agate scraper being found.

## Wauk Mill Forestry, Carnwath Parish

**NGR: NT 01260 48990**

08 May 2016 a moorland field at Kerswell Mains, c.235m asl, was walked to determine the existence of prehistoric settlement. Previously unrecorded cairn sites adjacent to those recorded by RCAHMS in 1970s were found. Six prominent cairns were located by GPS amongst several others in the same vicinity. Several lithic pieces including two pitchstone flakes were also found giving further evidence of human activity. As both pitchstone and cairns were found activity may span both neolithic and bronze age.



**Disturbed cairn at Kerswell Mains**

A total of 39 bags of finds were recovered from the site – ceramic, lithic and organic. These included a possible chert arrowhead at NT 0103 4886, 2 pitchstone flakes at NT 01312 49129 and some worked agate.

Total finds – 231 chert flakes, 187 chert chunks, 6 chert microliths, 1 leaf-shaped flake, 1 chert core plus debitage. 28 flint flakes including 1 part blade, 1 flint chunk and 1 flint cortex. 9 pitchstone flakes and 1 chunk. 1 agate core. 10 (bronze age) ceramic sherds including 1 rim. 4 charcoal fragments. 5 burnt hazelnut fragments

Brenda Dregghorn, David Drury, Jim Ness

## Greens Moor, Newbigging, Carnwath Parish

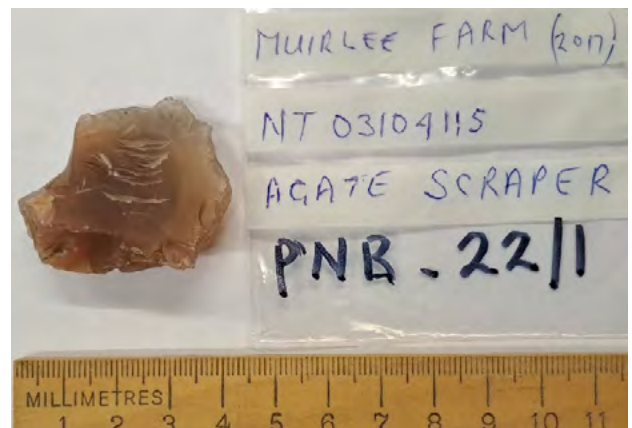
**NT 02385 48063**

Field walking a c.25 ha field ploughed for forestry on 24 Apr 2016 by traversing at 2m intervals as part of the Prehistory North of Biggar Project resulted in the following finds - 2 flint flakes, 1 flint core, 1 chert scraper, 21 chert flakes.

Brenda Dreghorn, David Drury, Jim Ness



Forestry ploughing at Green's Moor, Newbigging



Agate scraper

## Fruid Reservoir, Tweedsmuir Parish

### 2019 09 to 2021 – Shoreline field walking a site of previous lithic finds NT 10183 18352

As part of Upper Tweed Fruid Reservoir project 2013 see BAG website. Taking opportunity of low water levels in summer 2019.

### Fruid Reservoir 2021 – Shoreline walking

The area of the reservoir was visited twice in 2021, the first at Carterhope was inspected but nothing of note was seen, nor were any further flints or chert recovered.

Secondly and when the water was further down the UPS excavation site was re-visited.

A single rim sherd of urn was found washed out below the lower platform at NT 08704 19904. The sherd measures 62mm by 40mm and the rounded rim tapers out to 12mm thick at the lowest part. The internal curvature of the horizontal and vertical planes 1S pronounced and therefore shows this to have been a smaller bowl than the usual 'bucket' urns which were found. The rim diameter is between 120mm and 160mm. The hard gritty fabric is dark grey and there may be carbonised residue on both surfaces. The broken edges are fairly fresh indicating it has not been water worn for an extended period of time

At NT 08856 19770 and below the UPS/Cairn site on the NE side of the bank two sherd fragments and a fragment of cannel coal were found.

Total assemblage – 1 flint chunk, 9 chert chunks, a quantity of chert debitage.



Fruid Reservoir shoreline

