

# **Ground Survey of Archaeological Features within Clapham Bottoms**

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**YDNPA HER no. MYD1905**

## **Summary**

1. A full walkover survey of the stinted pasture known as Clapham Bottoms was undertaken, with the permission of the landowner, Dr John Farrer of the Ingleborough Estate. This was to identify the location and range of features within the area and to compare the findings with the printout of the YDNPA Monument Full Report.

2. All features were logged using a Thales Mobile Mapper GPS handset, plotting all wall lines and individual enclosures as well as prominent topographical elements within the surveyed landscape, such as three large dolines and major rock outcrops. Data were downloaded into the relevant software for GIS processing, MobileMapper Office 3.32. Figure CB1 shows all features within the survey area.

3. The main settlement site – a putative early medieval farmstead – within the area, centred on SD75861 72031, was planned using the tape and offset method at a scale of 1:50.

4. A full digital photographic record was compiled.

5. The following discrete elements were identified:

site A. putative (early) medieval farmstead with enclosures and cairn  
SD75861 72031

site B. putative (early) medieval farmstead with enclosures SD75699 71842

site C. elongated D-shaped enclosure SD75943 71892

site D. squared enclosure SD75673 71962

site E. curvilinear enclosure SD76107 72057

site F. curvilinear enclosure SD76069 72143

site G. putative pre-medieval settlement site SD76129 71996

In addition, various wall lines enclosing substantial areas were identified and plotted.

6. The survey was undertaken over four days between 9<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> July 2008.

## **Staffing**

Planning of site A – Chris Bonsall, David Johnson, Helen MacKinlay, Sonia Wilkinson.

GPS surveying – David Johnson

Photography – Chris Bonsall

GIS processing – Mark Simpson

Text – David Johnson

## Site A

Site A is a complex of a possible early medieval to medieval farmstead sited immediately above and to the north of a large outcrop of limestone bedrock, about 60m to the south of the partly walled Clapham Bottoms Pot (Fig. CB2). Within the complex is a possible **house** (feature A1) measuring internally 15m on a more or less north-south axis by 5m on a more or less east-west axis (Fig. CB3). Adjacent to this, but detached from it on its western long axis, is a second **rectangular building** (feature A2), internally 7.50m north-south by 3.50m east-west (Fig. CB4).

Though the two structures lie side by side, separated by only 600mm, each has its own long edge wall, suggesting a slightly different phase of construction. Given the closeness of the two, the question of roofing is raised with the possibility that the smaller structure was of lean-to construction. Both structures were built with double-skin dry stone wall footings, on average 1m thick, though tumble and grass growth make it difficult to make precise measurements. Limestone is the dominant building stone though there are also variable quantities of sandstone, as shown on the drawing plans (see Figs. CB3 and CB4). Much of the walling stone is now turfed over though each edge of the walls is very clear on the ground, except for the external edge of the southern gable end of the long 'house' which fades out into the outcrop. A possible east-west central division was identified with some certainty, half way along the building's long axis, with two other internal divisions apparent: the south end of the building has a 'room' 1.50m wide, separated from the main building by a clear wall line with a doorway at the eastern end of the dividing wall; and there is a small squared division within the north-west corner of this building, 3m by 2m. Neither structure has an obvious external doorway, though there may be an entry point to the long 'house' in the south-east corner.

Co-ordinates of the long 'house', feature A1:

centred on SD75868 72039, altitude 330m  
n.e. corner – 75869 72044  
n.w. corner – 75869 72041  
s.e. corner – 75878 72028  
s.w. corner – 75873 72026

Co-ordinates of the smaller structure, feature A2:

centred on SD75867 72036, altitude 330m  
n.e. corner – 75867 72040  
n.w. corner – 75865 72038  
s.e. corner – 75871 72030  
s.w. corner – 75867 72039

The farmstead has a small walled enclosure to each side (see Fig. CB2):

1. **west enclosure** (feature A4) – centred on SD 75861 72031. This has a surviving curvilinear wall line running from the western edge of the limestone outcrop to the north gable of the possible lean-to structure (A2), and a linear wall line bounding the enclosure on its southern edge. Total length of the curvilinear wall line is 32m, north-south internal length is 15m, and east-west internal width is 10m. The dominant walling material in both wall lines is limestone. No obvious entry point could be identified.

2. **east enclosure** (feature A5) – centred on SD75883 72034. This also has a surviving curvilinear wall line 26m long, dominantly limestone, running from a very large boulder at the n.e corner of the 'house' (A1) to the n.e corner of the cairn (A3). Internal length north-south is 16m and width east-west 7.80m. No obvious entry point could be identified.

The farmstead lies within an extensive enclosure, bounded by long **wall** lines extending west, north and south-east of the farmstead. The western wall ties in with Site C where this wall consists of double-skin limestone orthostats, and it approaches Site D but does not abut onto it. The **wall** running to the south-east and then south of the farmstead, composed of single limestone boulders and orthostats, ties in with Site C on the opposite side to the western wall. The overall dimensions of the large enclosure are 250m north-south and east-west.

Detached from the 'house' at its south-eastern end is a smaller and very degraded rounded structure (feature A3), probably a robbed **burial cairn**, at SD75888 72027 (Fig.CB5). This measures 4.50m in diameter. Some of the surviving stonework within the feature consists of sandstone, especially close to the cairn, to its west side, where there is a linear feature 4.50m in length consisting entirely of large sandstone boulders. It was not possible to determine if this was contemporary with the cairn. There are also similar stones seemingly haphazardly distributed between the south side of the cairn and the limestone outcrop. The cairn has a hollowed out centre suggesting it had been disturbed at some point in the past.

#### *Addendum*

On 10 April 2016 David Johnson recovered a multi-platform flint core from a molehill on the edge of the cairn.

#### **Site B**

To the west of site A is a further settlement complex, also of possible early medieval date, centred at SD75697 71840, at altitude 332m (Fig. CB6 and see Fig. CB1). It lies below two low limestone scars and extends approximately 30m east-west by 24m north-south. It is bounded by a continuous curvilinear stone wall running from the western end of the northern scar to its north-eastern end. The settlement consists of a **long 'house'-type building** at SD75699 71842, aligned more or less north-south, sited along the eastern edge of the site (see Fig. CB6). Internally it extends 9.50m on the long axis by 4m and it is bounded by wall footings composed of limestone blocks with some large orthostats and some sandstone boulders.

Between this building and the southern scar is a small rectangular **enclosure** measuring 5m north-south by 3.50m east-west. It is unlikely that this was a roofed structure, given the way it backs onto the low scar.

Adjacent to this enclosure is a further small **enclosure**, also nestling beneath the southern scar, extending 6m north-south by 5m east-west. This has a clear entry at its south-east corner.

This enclosure is bounded to the south by a further small **enclosure** 2.70m north-south by 2.50m east-west, which itself is bounded to the south by a further small **enclosure** 5m north-south by 3.50m east-west. These latter two enclosures are separated from the

'longhouse' by a 10m long and 500mm wide **passage** which runs up to enter the northern-most of this set of small enclosures.

The long 'house' and these four enclosures lie within the eastern half of the overall enclosure. Most of the western half is an open, mainly stone-free paddock-type area but at the south-western corner there is a further small **enclosure**, 6.80m north-south by 4.2m east-west.

All the internal features within this complex have walls mainly composed of limestone blocks.

An enclosure **wall**, integral to this settlement site, extends from its eastern side, just south of the long 'house' to take in a large area to the east and north of the settlement (see Fig. CB1). This wall survives as limestone orthostats and boulders with some sandstone boulders interspersed within its line. A **wall** line runs westwards and then southwards from this farmstead to incorporate a large area of grassy slopes. This wall has a similar make up to the previous one, with sandstone boulders being more prominent in this latter line. These walls enclose a large irregularly shaped area about 200m south-west to north-east by 120m north-west to south-east. The fact that the overall boundary wall of Site B, on its eastern side, does not impinge on the western boundary of Site A may suggest that the two farmsteads are broadly contemporary. This possibility is strengthened by these two wall lines having a very similar morphology.

### **Site C**

The long western enclosure wall line associated with Site A ties into a roughly **D-shaped enclosure**, Site C (see Fig. CB1), centred on SD75943 71892 at altitude 324m. On the north-south axis this enclosure extends for 18m by 17.50m east-west. Its boundary wall is substantial and is composed of limestone orthostats laid as a double-skin structure, with a scattering of sandstone boulders incorporated within it. The enclosure itself is stone-free and is heavily rabbit infested. Visible soil is very light brown in colour and possibly loess.

### **Site D**

Centred on SD75673 71962, at altitude 334m, is a **squared enclosure** running down slope from a low limestone scar, Site D (see Fig. CB1). Internally it extends 20m north-west to south-east by 22m north-east to south-west, and its wall lines are mainly composed of single limestone orthostats and boulders. Internally it is stone-free. The lower edge wall is largely missing.

### **Site E**

Towards the eastern side of lower Clapham Bottoms there is a small **oval enclosure**, at SD76107 72057, at altitude 351m, Site E (see Fig. CB1). It extends 15m north-south by 8m east-west and is bounded by a wall line made up of limestone orthostats with some double-skin walling on the lower, western side. Internally it is completely stone-free and the light brown nature of the soil may suggest loess.

## Site F

Close by Site E is a **sub-rectangular enclosure**, at SD76069 72143, at altitude 347m, Site F (see Fig. CB1). It is sited at the foot of a steep slope, and is itself on a slight slope, facing south-west. Its walls consist of limestone boulders mainly turfed over with a few sandstone pieces. The enclosure extends internally 14m north-south by 10m east-west, and internally is stone-free and, again, may contain loess.

## Site G

A further possible farmstead is centred on SD76129 71996, at altitude 348m, close to a small quarry cut into limestone on the slope above the site, Site G (Fig. CB1). It is probable, given its morphology, that this site pre-dates Sites A and B. Internally it is very rough and uneven with protruding stones though the main enclosure within the overall enclosure is stone-free, with possible loess patches. The overall enclosure extends 28.50m east-west by 20.30m north-south (Fig. CB7). At its south-western corner a long **wall** line runs off it southwards across grassy slopes towards the present PRoW. It is made up of limestone boulders.

The settlement enclosure is sub-divided into compartments of irregular size and shape. One compartment (G1) measures 11.50m east-west by 6.50m north-south, G2 is 4.70m east-west by 6.40m north-south, and G3 is 3.80m east-west by 3.50m north-south.

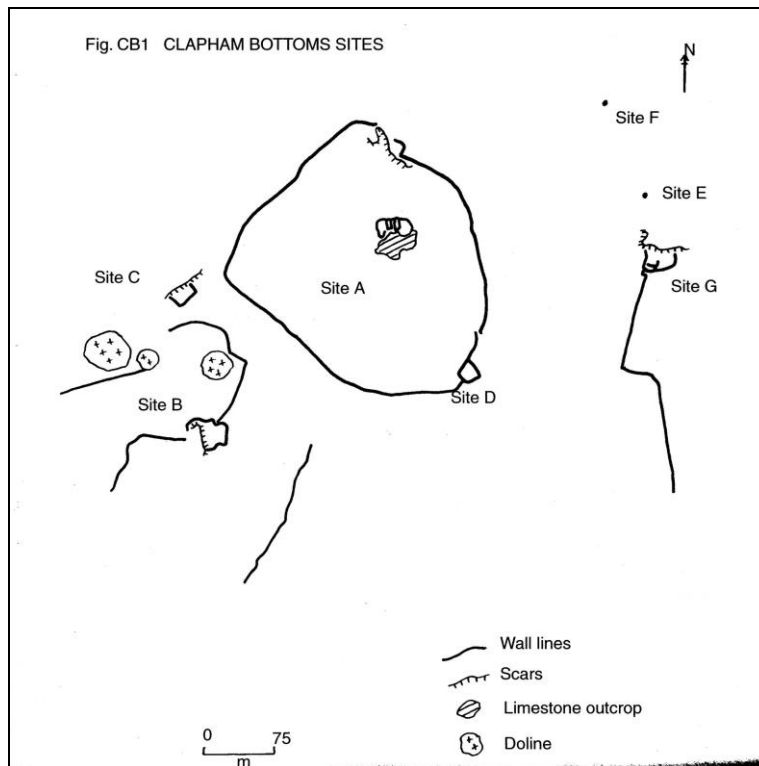
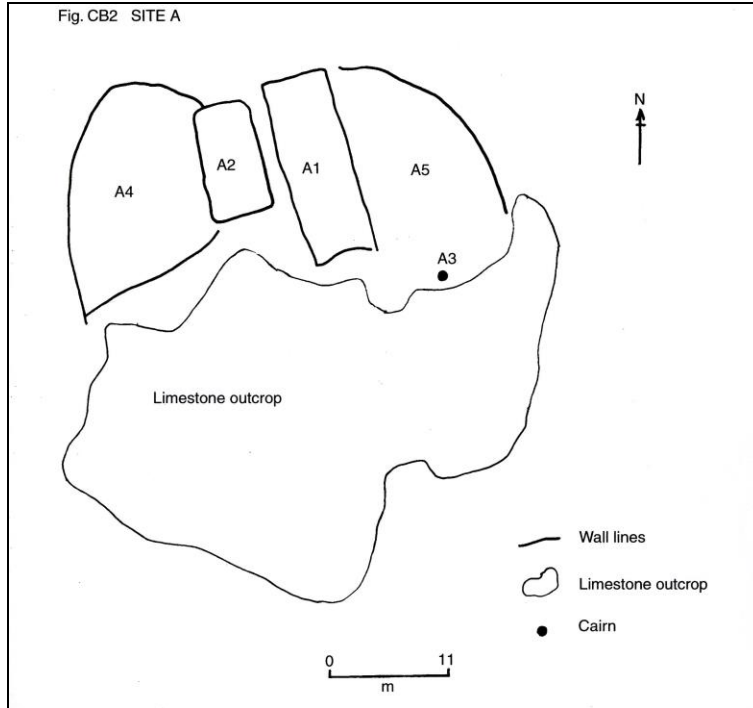
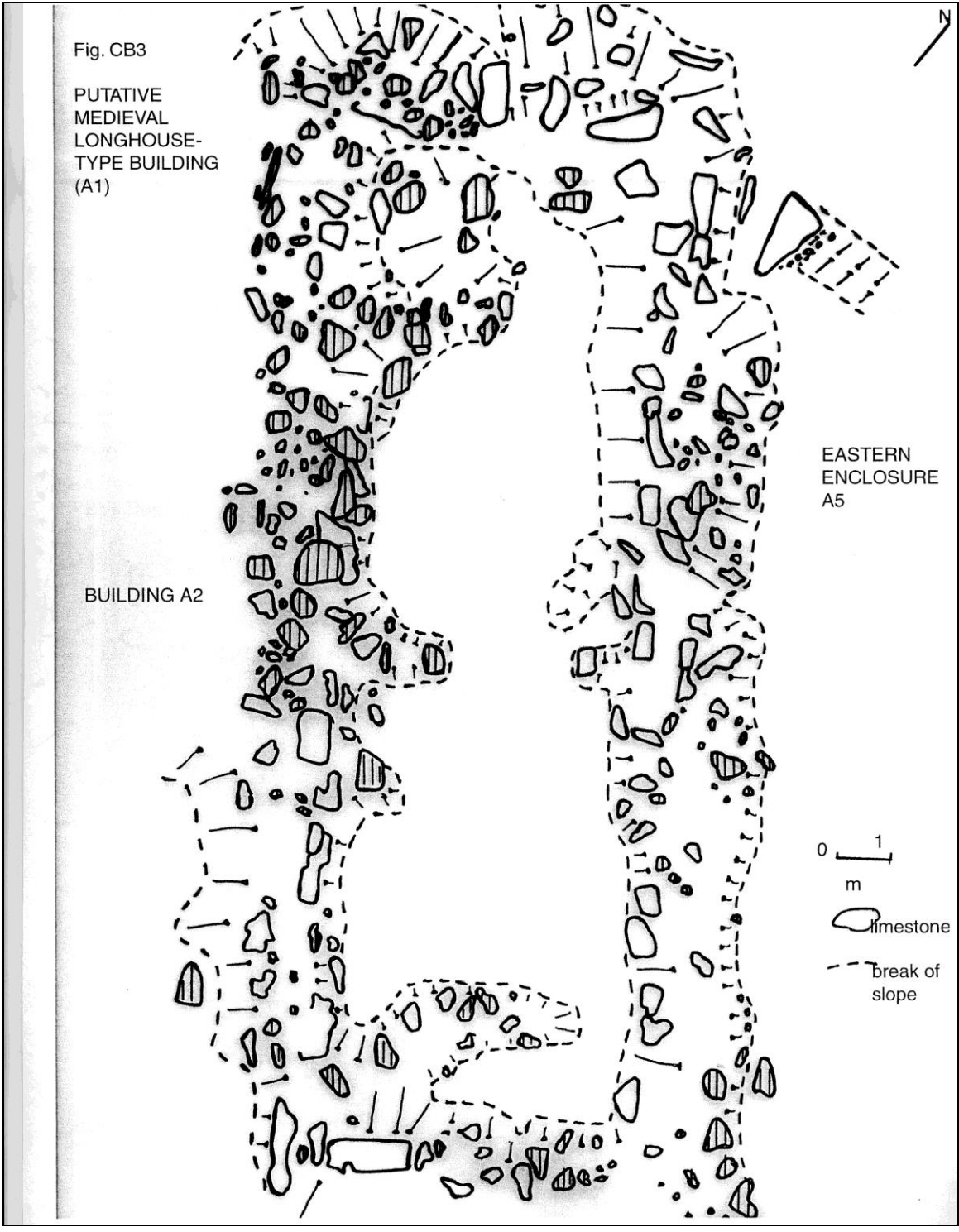
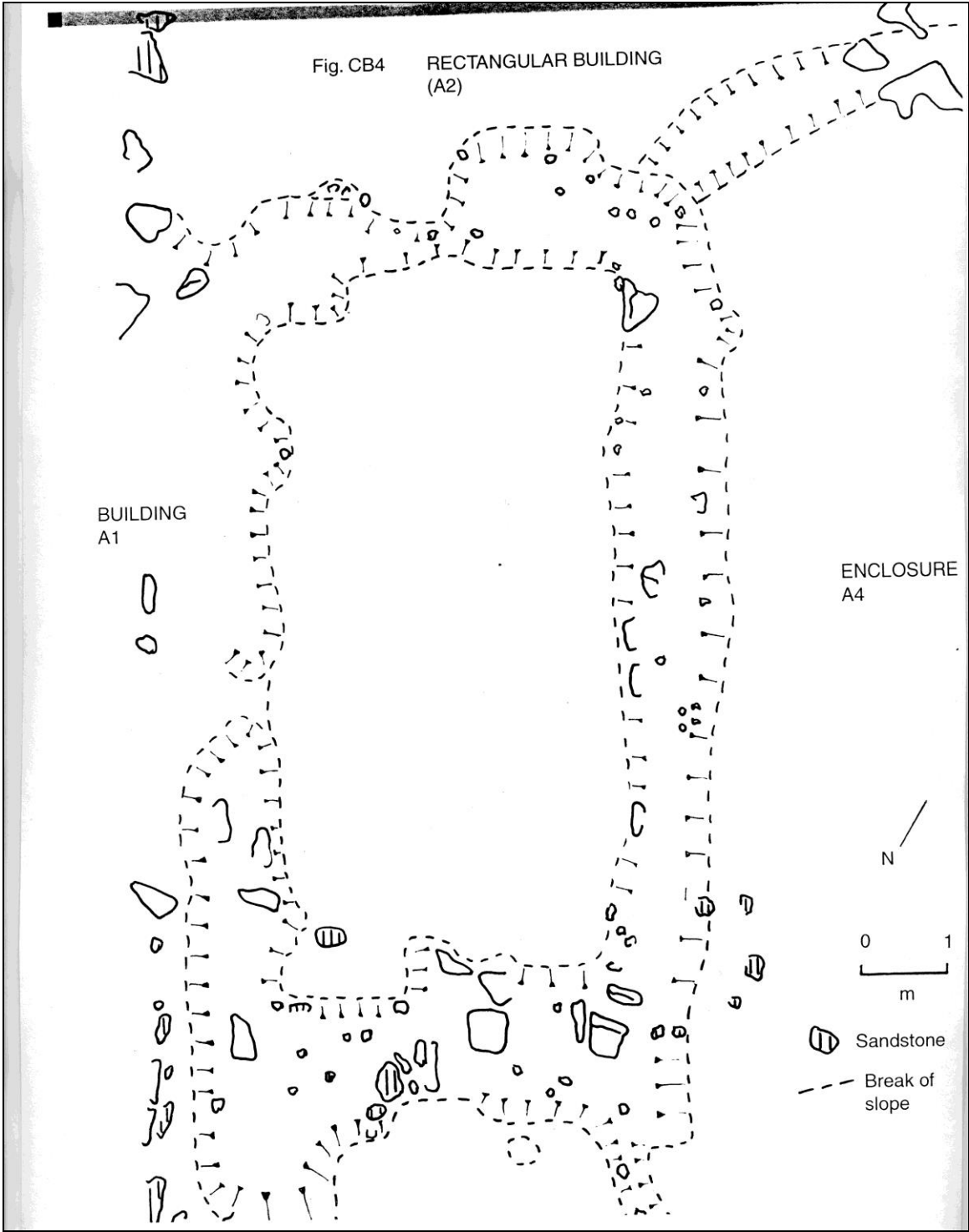


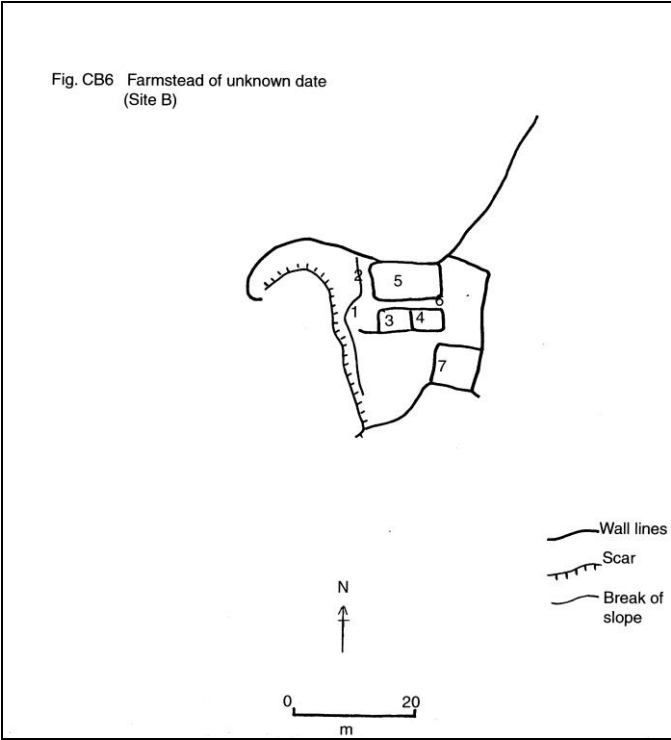
Fig. CB2 SITE A

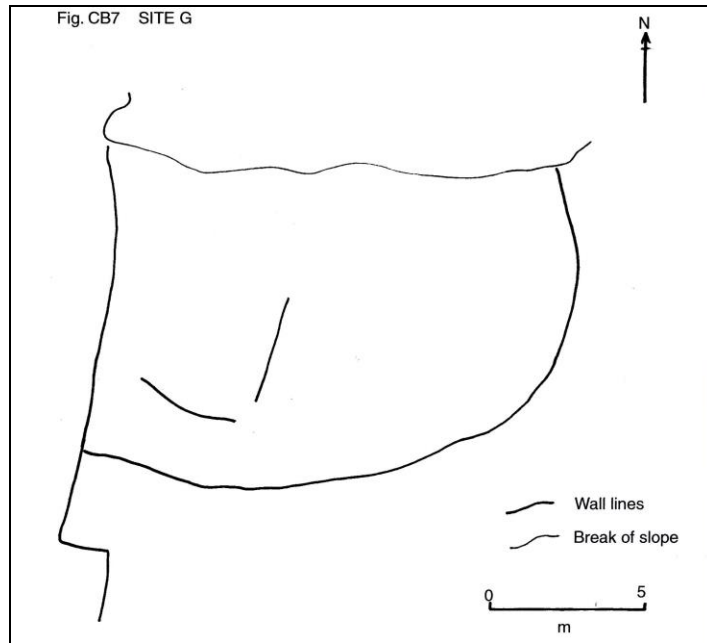












**Field notes on a rectangular structure above Clapham Bottoms (Code CB12), from a field visit on 3 August 2012**

1. rectangular structure

- located at SD75986 72388 on a level terrace on the north-eastern side of Clapham Bottoms(see sketch plan)
- orientated east-west
- consists of double-skin wall lines mainly of limestone but with the odd sandstone boulder within it, mainly turfed over
- both gable ends appear to be rounded
- measures internally 5.5m in length by 2.3m in width
- images on CDR: *clapham bottoms site 7* looking west; 8 looking east

2. stone bank

- a generally straight 8m-long stone bank runs from the north-west corner of the structure, again mainly of limestone with the odd sandstone boulder
- aligned north-west to south-east
- it appears to terminate at a large recumbent limestone slab at SD75976 72390
- images: *clapham bottoms site 9* looking north-west; 10 looking south-east; 11, of the recumbent slab, looking south

3. stone bank

- a 28m-long enclosure bank or wall line runs from the centre of the east gable of the rectangular structure, across the level grassed terrace, to a slight change in ground level close to the modern field wall, terminating at SD76018 72391
- it is curvilinear in plan
- it is mainly composed of limestone with the odd sandstone boulder visible above the turf line
- images: *clapham bottoms site 4* looking WSW; 5 looking west; 6 looking east

**Note** features 1-3 have now been given the HER number MYD56640.

#### 4. relict wall line

- a 7m-long relict wall line, composed of limestone rubble, runs across what is now exposed limestone pavement, from SD 76055 72299
- it is orientated north-south
- average width 600mm, maximum height 800mm
- it is straight-sided
- images: *clapham bottoms site* 1 looking west; 2 looking north-west, 3 top view

**Note** this has now been given the HER number MYD56641.

#### 5. Interpretation

- it is probable that all four features were integral parts of one site focussed on the rectangular structure with an enclosure bounded by the two stone banks
- the detached relict wall is on the same terrace, and to the south of the main site, but the occasional standing slab set on limestone pavement appears to extend the surviving length of wall northwards
- it is interest to note that the internal dimensions, and plan form, of the rectangular structure are almost identical to the excavated early medieval shieling in Upper Pasture (MYD 55685):

|        | <u>Clapham Bottoms</u> | <u>Upper Pasture</u> |
|--------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Length | 5.5m                   | 5.6m                 |
| Width  | 2.3m                   | 2.3m                 |
| Gables | externally rounded     | externally rounded   |

- a likely interpretation of the site in question is that it was either an early medieval shieling hut or, possibly and less likely in my opinion, a sheep cote