

## Northumbria

### Harry Beamish

REGIONAL ARCHAEOLOGIST

The impact of the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease was significant for much of the year, restricting visits to farmland and movement within the region. Fieldwork was effectively curtailed in the west until very late in 2001. Two farms were sites for disposal of affected stock by burning. The site at Shield on the Wall, Hadrian's Wall, was carefully appraised by staff of English Heritage and MAFF to take account of the particular archaeological sensitivity of the area. At the second site, at Prior Hall Farm, Wallington, an area of ridge and furrow was lost (the event was fortuitously recorded by the flying project for the estate - see below).

Information was provided for Whole Farm Plans and Countryside Stewardship applications for a number of farms across the region.

General regional archaeological matters included input to the North East Regional Research Forum and attendance at regional ALGAO (Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers) and the Council for British Archaeology North East Industrial Archaeology Panel meetings. Work on conservation projects with volunteers took place at Gibside.

*White Lea Farm Cottage, Easington Colliery, recently subject to a building recording*

H.BEAMISH/NT



### COUNTY DURHAM

#### Durham Coast Properties Pm Mo 🏠

**- building recording at White Lea Farm**  
At White Lea Farm, near Easington Colliery, a brief for contract building recording was worked up with Northern Counties Archaeological Services for work on a brick-built cottage at the seaward end of the farm buildings. Built in the 1930s, probably by the Easington Coal Company who owned the farm at that period, the cottage has been derelict for some years, but still retains some interesting period details.

Just to the north, at Beacon Hill, advice was given on appropriate levels of recording for clearance of debris within a rubble limestone barn as part of a project by East Durham Youth in Action to provide simple facilities for Outward Bound use.

Information has been provided for the same group which is involved with a Local Heritage Initiative bid to undertake work to reveal and record wartime structures on the property as part of a larger local history recording project.

### NORTHUMBERLAND

#### Hadrian's Wall R 🏰 🏰

##### - rabbit damage to earthworks

Input was given to a joint project with English Heritage and Newcastle University to investigate the impact of rabbit damage to the earthworks at King's Wicket. It is hoped that the project will also provide valuable information on this enigmatic site.

#### Lindisfarne Mp 🏰 🏰

##### - industrial archaeology

Advice was given on proposals for siting a temporary visitor reception building at the foot of the ramp at Lindisfarne Castle

A paper on the industrial period was given at a study day on Holy Island arranged by the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle. This provided an opportunity to set the surviving elements, particularly of the later nineteenth-century, large-scale lime burning and shipping operations on Trust property in their wider context.

#### Northumberland Coast Properties - recording of Watch House Pm Mo 🏠

The former Coastguard Watch House at Low Newton was subject to damage from pipe bursts in the spring of 2001. In advance of repairs, the opportunity was taken to commission from

Bernicia Archaeology an archaeological record of the building, which dates from the first half of the nineteenth century.

At Craster the consolidation of a small rubble stone quarry magazine was included as a special project in a Countryside Stewardship application.

#### Wallington Mp 🏰 🏰

##### - air photographic analysis

A programme of air photography recording and plotting was commenced by Tim Gates. This followed on from successful coverage of the Hadrian's Wall estate, to get to grips with the complex earthworks on the extensive Wallington estate. This has revealed a range of previously unrecorded sites and enhanced information about known earthwork sites. The work is of particular value in helping to unravel the complexity of ridge and furrow cultivation and field systems over large areas. It is hoped that the project will develop to include comparison of the field remains and documentary evidence for boundaries and other evidence for past land use to develop a better understanding of the evolution of the landscape

At Tuthill Farm advice was given on the siting of a new hay storage building at the eastern end of the steading.

### TYNE AND WEAR

#### Gibside Pm 🏰

##### - geotechnical investigation

Archaeological input was provided for an initial phase of geotechnical investigation in advance of proposed stabilisation works at the Hall to secure the more vulnerable elements of the building. An archaeological recording brief was prepared in liaison with English Heritage.

*Geotechnical investigation in progress alongside the north elevation of the Hall at Gibside*

H.BEAMISH/NT





*Ruins of the south East Front of Gibside Hall.*

NICK MEERS/NTPL

Work has continued to support the completion of the report on the recording work at the stable block. A project was undertaken by Photarch Surveys Limited at Gibside Hall in late spring 2001 to record the external elevations of the Hall at Gibside by rectified photography. The brief for this project was prepared with advice from staff of English Heritage. The survey provides a record of the current condition of the building and will be a valuable framework for further recording work. Parts of the interior of the building were also photographed as a record of current condition.

### City of Newcastle

Mp 🏠

#### - Holy Jesus Hospital

Further information has come to light as a result of ongoing research at the Holy Jesus Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne, where the National Trust has acquired a lease of the building from the City of Newcastle to provide a base for the Inner City Project. A placement history student from the University of Northumbria started work on the records for the 1880s General Soup Kitchen, which forms an important element of the building complex.

*The General Soup Kitchen building adjoining the Holy Jesus Hospital - seen from the top deck of a handy multi-storey car park.*

H.BEAMISH/NT



### Washington Old Hall

M Pm 🏛️

#### - watching briefs

At Washington Old Hall two watching briefs were undertaken during works to improve access and drainage arrangements. The first, in Spring 2001, involved the regrading of a path at the east side of the building and new drainage. This revealed evidence for an earlier, brick-built drain serving the building. It confirmed the position of a doorway which had been in use in the early twentieth century when the building was subdivided into tenements. The later works involved a new drain run close to the present entrance door on the south side of the building and revealed surfaces that belong to the tenement period. These relate to a doorway that was subsequently blocked when the building was restored.

### The Leas

Pm Mo 🏛️

#### - survey proposal

Information was provided for a Local Heritage Initiative project based at Arbeia Roman fort in South Shields, which is recording the archaeology of the coastal strip from the Tyne to Whitburn.

A survey proposal was worked up with staff of Tyne and Wear Archaeology for measured survey of the earthworks and structures at Trow Rocks. These include elements from a nineteenth-century volunteer coast artillery battery, an experimental hydro-pneumatic disappearing gun mounting, and concrete pillboxes and cliff-top trench systems from the First and Second World Wars.