

# **An investigation of The Fence and the site of the cattle pool of Brericar, near Higham**



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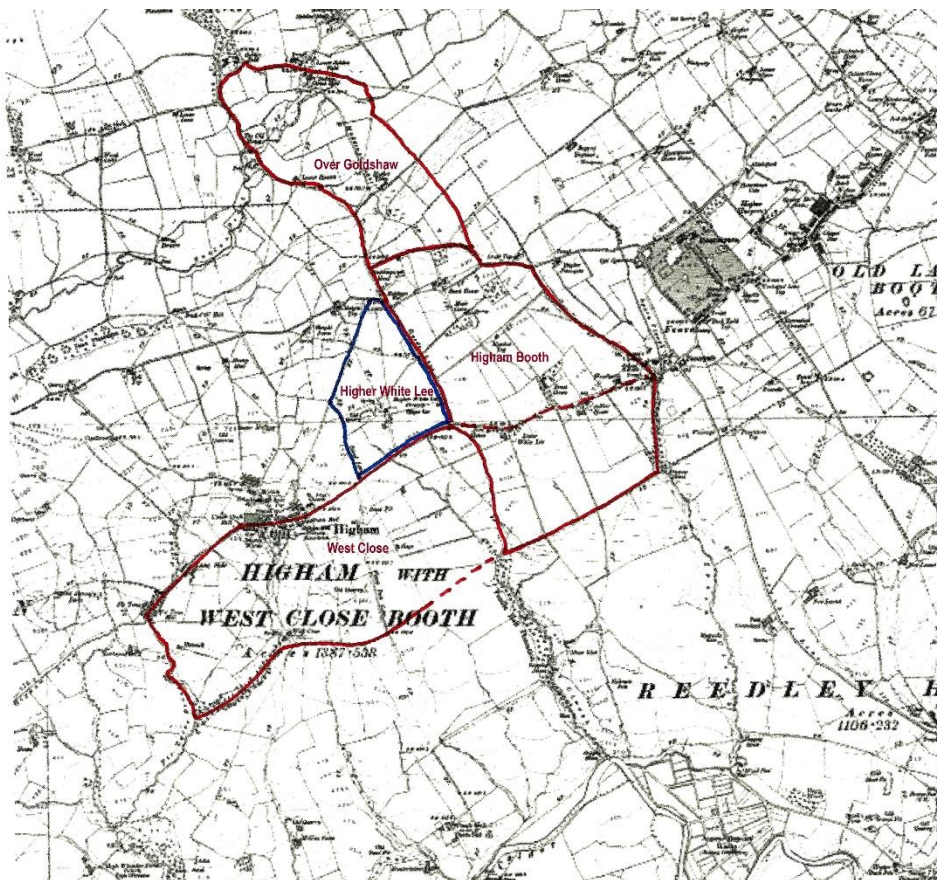
# An investigation of The Fence and the site of the cattle pool of Brericar, near Higham

*The area defined as The Fence is made up of three vaccaries, which have been identified and field walked. Two of these conjoin Brericar which is considered to be the cattle pool for the vaccaries and which has been identified as being located at Higher White Lee. Field walking, limited excavation and a geophysical survey have been undertaken at the site to support this supposition, including excavation and geophysical survey at Brericar.*

## 1.0 Introduction

For many years the Friends of Pendle Heritage - Archaeology have been investigating the de Lacy vaccaries within the Blackburn Hundred, made up of those within the Forests of Pendle, Rossendale, Trawden and Accrington. Research of the vaccaries within the Trawden Forest has already been published. The present research looks at establishing the location of The Fence within the Forest of Pendle, together with the location of the cattle pool at Brericar, and matching the site with that of Higher White Lee (formerly known as White Lee).

This research was in two parts, the first being field walking over the vaccaries within the Fence; which included those of Over Goldshaw, Higham Booth (Over Higham), West Close and Higher White Lee. The second part being limited excavation and geophysical survey at Higher White Lee the possible site of Brericar.



Map showing vaccaries and Upper White Lee

## Historical and Archaeological background.

The vaccaries in the Blackburn Hundred are thought to have been established around 1200 by the de Lacys, who were granted the lands by Roger de Poitou in the early 12<sup>th</sup> century. The vaccaries were cow pastures whose main purpose was to breed and provide oxen for the estates, which were essential in both providing the means for transportation and agriculture.

Within the Blackburn Hundred were the Forests of Pendle, Rossendale, Trawden and Accrington. The de Lacy accounts for 1295-6, prepared annually at Michaelmas, show that within the forests there were 30 vaccaries. The Forest of Pendle, in which this research took place, supported eleven, made up of, Over and Nether Roughlee, Over and Nether Barrowford, Higham Booth, Over and Nether Goldshaw, Hawksbooth (Wheatley Lane), Reedley Hallows, Barley Close.<sup>1</sup> The accounts for the years 1304-5 are similar but only 10 vaccaries are recorded. Unfortunately although details of the vaccary keeper and stock are listed for each vaccary, no information is given about the location. The vaccaries increased in number during the tenure of Henry de Lacy, the last of the male line. Henry inherited the estates from his father Edmund in 1258 when there were five vaccaries in the Pendle Forest. On his death in 1311 they passed to his daughter Alice who married Thomas Earl of Lancaster. In 1322 the de Lacy family ceded the estates due to treason by Thomas, and they passed to the King, Edward II, who in due course passed their benefits to his wife, Queen Isabella. The Trawden vaccary ceased in 1322.<sup>2</sup>

In the years 1323-1327 the stock was run down and only one vaccary was operating in Pendle (Higham Booth) and Accrington with most of the stock in Rossendale. The Higham Booth vaccary always appears to have carried the largest stock with a total of 47, the others having between 29-42 cattle. Queen Isabella received the benefit in 1327 and relinquished it in 1348. During this time the stock was built up and the letting of some vaccaries continued.

In the accounts for 1341-2 which were presented by John of Radcliffe, constable of the court at Clitheroe. The following vaccaries are listed for the Forest of Pendle; Over Roughlee, Barley, Whithalgh (Wheatley Booth), Nether Barrowford, Higham, Nether Goldshaw, Over Goldshaw, Over Barrowford, Nether Roughlee, Haghebooth (Wheatley Lane), Reedley Hallows and Brericar. Of these Reedley Hallows and Brericar were not strictly vaccaries but referred to as cattle pools where the animals were collected and sorted. Reedley Hallows dealt with the cattle within the Pendle Forest whilst Brericar managed all the cattle in the Blackburn Hundred.<sup>4</sup> It is suggested that this site could be adjacent to West Close and Higham Booth, the largest vaccary in Pendle.<sup>5</sup> Subsequently the vaccaries declined and in 1399 had ceased to be farmed for the King's stock throughout the Blackburn Hundred, with all of them now being occupied by tenants or leaseholders.<sup>3</sup>

In 1507 the Survey of the Forests or Chases of Blackburnshire (The Act of Disafforestation) took place, which gave tenants the right of copyhold with security of tenure at a fair rent. The act lists the following vaccaries in the Forest of Pendle; Higham Booth, Barley Booth, Higham Close alias Nether Higham, Over and Nether Goldshaw, Over Barrowford and Nether Barrowford, Over Roughlee and Nether Roughlee, Reedley Hallows. The main difference is that Higham Close (Nether Higham) is now described as a vaccary. Whether this means that it was a place where oxen were bred or it was literally just a cow pasture is not clear. West Close and Huntersholme are also listed but with West Close being described as a pasture. This is linked with Huntersholme, which it adjoins, and described as a parcel of ground.<sup>6</sup>



## 2.0 The Fence

The first known reference of the Fence is from an inquest of 1402 to ascertain the ancient rights and customs of the inhabitants of Blackburnshire. It was declared that every tenant ought by right to have a work horse for 4d and two beasts for 2d agisting within `le Fens` of Pendle between Michaelmas and the following Whitsuntide<sup>7</sup>. The date is significant as it is very shortly after the demise of the vaccaries around 1400. The dates when the rights can be exercised also takes into account the period when the deer should be undisturbed so reflecting its use as an area given over to them at that time.

The Fence is also referred to directly in a document called `The Commission for the Fence in Pendle Forest` dated 1546.<sup>8</sup> The areas making up The Fence are described as the vaccary of Sabden (Over Goldshaw), the vaccary of West Close and the vaccary of Higham. It was there that before the Act of Disafforestation `the herd of the stags of the said forest had their several being and lying yearly from May Day until the exaltation of the Holy Cross` (September 14<sup>th</sup>). This period reflected the need of the deer to be left undisturbed at two crucial periods. The first was fawning, `the fawn month`, traditionally the fortnight either side of Midsummers Day for fallow and red deer. Secondly `the rut` a month or more in autumn. During these periods normal activity would be restricted or rights of way curtailed.<sup>9</sup> The Fence was excluded from the survey for the Act in 1507 and the tenants enjoyed freedom from the Act. The purpose of the Commission was to include those tenants within the meaning of the Act and set their rentals accordingly.

From the date of the 1507 Act, deer were excluded from the Fence, which had been used as pasturage, and confined to an area which included Filly Close and New Laund; they were not allowed to go on to copyhold land.<sup>10</sup> It is recorded that the upkeep of the hedge and ditch to New Laund in 1341 cost 20s.<sup>11</sup>

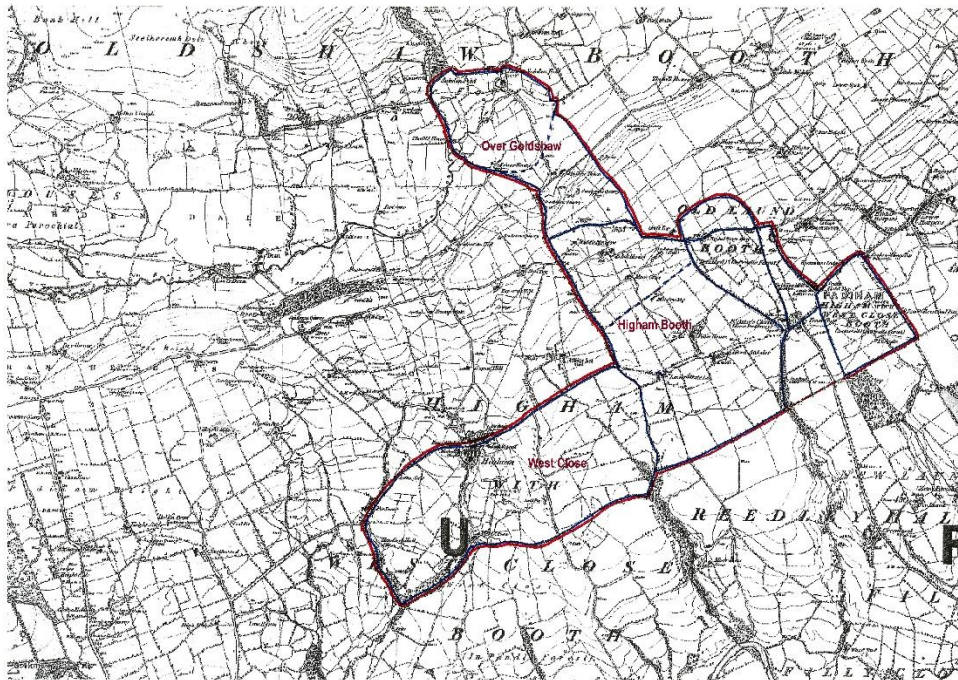
The Commission does interestingly refer to a mansion house called `Higham`.<sup>12</sup> There is also reference to a `chamber` built for the king.<sup>13</sup> Details of existing tenants are set out in the Court Rolls for the vaccaries of Sabden and Higham Booth but not for West Close.

There are many references to West Close and Higham Close (Nether Higham) in the Court Rolls of the Honor of Clitheroe.<sup>14</sup> However, on all occasions they are not referred to as a vaccary, except as in the above. Although these three areas are defined as the Fence it is not certain that they made up the actual areas as these would almost certainly have been adjusted from time to time over its life.



!848 OS map. Detached areas edged brown with the `balloon` feature shown edged green

One area of uncertainty are the two adjoining detached areas of the Forest in Old Laund Booth around Fence Gate. One includes almost the whole of an area described in the text below as a `balloon` shaped area probably given over wholly to the deer. The other abuts the former at its north-east corner and it bounded on three sides by the boundary of the Rural District. On the first edition map of 1840 it is described as `Padiham Higham with West Close`. The defined area does not extend up to the western field boundary. It is not clear why these two specific areas came to be described as `detached`, however, these areas are included in the postulated boundaries of the Fence.



Map showing postulated general area of the The Fence edged red.

The land which makes up The Fence includes either side of the ridge overlooking the Sabden valley as well as good south facing pasture on its southern side which was almost certainly well-wooded at the time of the vaccaries. Its location and form would have given the deer opportunity to shelter from the elements in varied weather conditions.

### 3.0 Field walking

Field walking took place over the area defined as the Fence namely the vaccaries of Over Goldshaw, West Close and Higham Booth. In addition Higher White Lee was walked as this is considered to be a possible site of Brericar the former cattle pool. The purpose of the walks was to try and establish any boundaries as far as possible and to record any major features within the vaccaries and these are summarised below. Extensive research was undertaken to establish the site of the cattle pool.

The boundaries indicated on the maps are based on the best visible evidence seen at the present time and could vary from those originally set out.

#### The Vaccary of Over Goldshaw

The winter pasture of Over Goldshaw is situated in the valley to the south of Pendle Hill and includes Sabden Fold, Lower Sabden Fold and Lower Houses. The pasture is located around the 755-800 ft. (230-243 m) contour and its size is 25 hectares (62 acres).

Significantly Sabden Brook crosses the site in a north-east to south-west direction. The northern boundary, commencing at Sabden Fold, is the minor road running east to Lower Sabden Fold. It then followed the line of a footpath to the north of Sabden Great Hall running south-east towards Tinedale House until it reached the line of a substantial ditch running south-west which turns to run to Lower Houses. The boundary then follows a trackway, which passes the seventeenth century farm of Lower Houses. This in turn is seen as a substantial ditch to the western field boundary where it meets Sabden Brook. From the Old House the boundary followed the bank to the west of the trackway leading up to Sabden Fold.



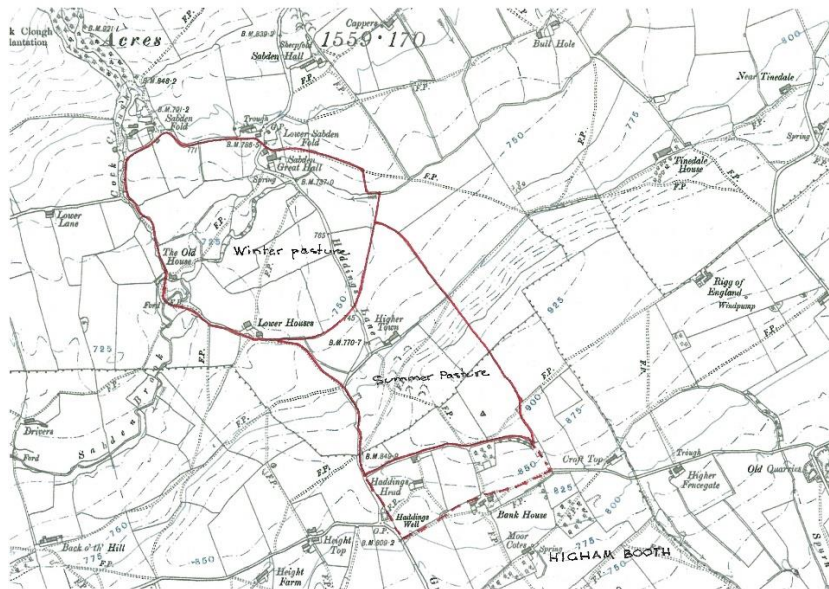
Trackway leading to Lower Houses

The summer pasture abuts the southern boundary of the winter pasture and rises up the hillside to join the northern boundary of the summer pasture of Higham Booth and is 18.5 hectares (45 acres) in area. The Clitheroe Court Rolls refer to the common boundary with a record of the breaking of the fences between the two vaccaries in 1520 by John Haspeden.<sup>15</sup>

The western boundary is Haddings Lane and the eastern an ill-defined feature commencing with a curved filed boundary abutting the winter pasture and running in a south-easterly direction to join the northern boundary of Higham Booth.

It is probable at one time that the vaccary of Higham Booth was extended into the summer pasture, as can be seen on the map, with a dotted lines showing the possible original northern boundary of the vaccary. This additional area extends to 6.4 hectares (15 acres). The addition of this to the suggested area of the vaccary would make its area some 24 hectares (60 acres) which is a more comparable value.





The vaccary of Over Goldshaw

### Discussion

A well preserved section of the boundary is the curving ditch running to the east from Lower Houses to Haddings Lane. Significantly at the time of the field walk (November) the land to the south of this boundary showed a heavy ground frost whilst that to the north did not.



Ditch to south-east boundary of winter pasture.

Several ancient boundaries can be identified within the vaccary, particularly in the bank and ditch to the north of Lower Houses. Early gate posts can be seen adjacent to Lower Houses and adjacent to the road between Sabden Fold and Lower Sabden Fold.

It is suggested that Haddings Lane post-dates the vaccary and that the original access to Sabden Great Hall was from the east, so providing a more convenient access to the property. This places the building close to the centre of the pasture.

It is also relevant to note that a bloomery has been located adjacent to the south-western boundary of the pasture, close to The Old House. This has been excavated and dated to the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>16</sup> Several other bloomeries have been seen in the valley at Stainscombe, Sabden and Blacko. This is probably due to the presence of timber in the valley at that time

which was used as a charcoal to smelt the iron ore. It was found that it was easier to take the ore to the source of fuel rather than the other way round.

### **The Vaccary of West Close**

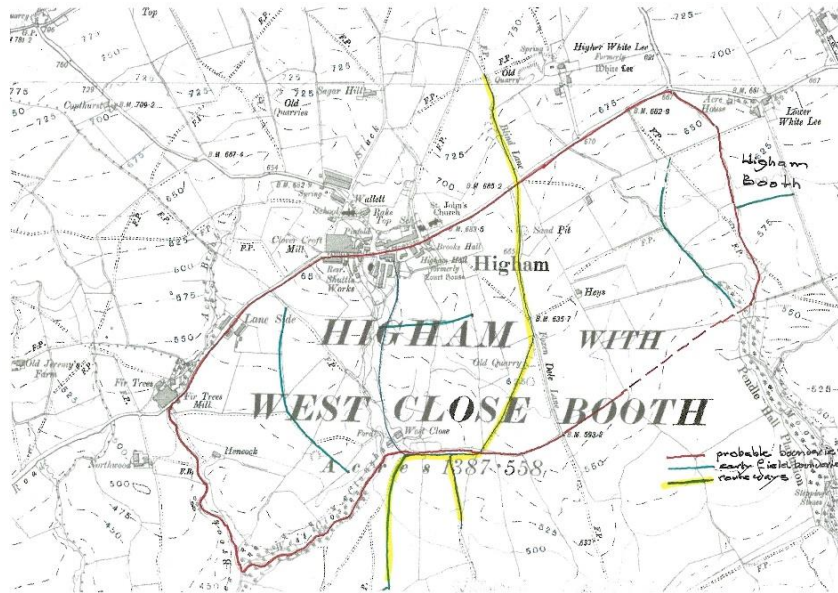
Although described in the Court Rolls as a vaccary, it is in fact a pasture having no clearly defined winter and summer pastures as seen in a true vaccary. The pasture is situated on the lower slopes to the south of Higham and lies between the 450-650 ft. (137-198 m) contours and its size is 103 hectares (253 acres). The size of the pasture is considerably more than seen in vaccaries elsewhere where the size of the winter and summer pasture has been seen generally to total some 48 hectares (120 acres).

The northern boundary is the line of the classified road to the south of Higham, taking the earlier route via Lane Side to Fir Trees Mill. The western boundary is Fir Trees Brook. The western end of the southern boundary takes the line of West Close Clough as far as West Close where it then follows the line of a holloway. The holloway leads to Foxen Dole Lane, which is the boundary until the lane changes direction to run to the north-east. The line then follows a well-defined boundaries for the next two fields. At this point the boundary is less well-defined but can be seen as a ditch leading to a water course running north-south. The eastern boundary turns north to follow the easternmost fork of the water course and joins the classified road almost opposite to Guide Lane. This boundary conjoins that of Higham Booth vaccary.



Holloway to south turning to enter settlement to left of fence





The vaccary of West Close

### Discussion

The settlement at West Close is situated in a fold in the landscape with the land to the north rising up towards Higham and that to the south rising before it descends to the Calder Valley. Any buildings situated in this position would have been hidden from view from the south, and been sheltered from the prevailing wind. This would have given it protection in troubled times. The buildings at present consist of a farm house with a detached barn now used as a dwelling. However, there is evidence of several former building platforms to the north and east suggesting a significant settlement at one time. The water course of West Close Clough turns to run up the hillside to the west of the settlement. An early field boundary within the pasture can be seen to the west of the settlement where it curves towards the east. A similar field boundary can be seen close to the eastern boundary.



Setting of the settlement in a hollow, looking east. The road is modern

The pasture is crossed by Foxen Dole Lane to the east at the settlement at West Close. This routeway runs from Over Goldshaw, then down the western boundary of White Lee, the possible cattle pool for the de Lacy vaccaries, before turning west to reach the settlement. Having entered West it then splits to return north to Higham or to the south to Ightenhill Manor.

The routeway to the south can be seen to rise up from the holloway after which it descends ends towards the river Calder . After a short distance it is lost due to the effects of open cast coal mining This route is well defined as a holloway at the southern boundary of White Lee and on Foxen Dole Lane and to the east of the West Close settlement. It can be assumed that the line of the modern road pattern bounding the settlement to the north will also have formed an effective early field boundary.



Foxen Dole Lane holloway

West Close is linked with Huntersholme in the 1507 Survey of the Forests.<sup>17</sup> It is probable that this included the area to the south of West Close adjoining Higham Close (Nether Higham) to the east. This latter suggested boundary follows a water course running into the river Calder and is also the projected route from West Close to Ightenhill Manor. Hollins Farm is in the centre of the pasture whilst Pendle Hall is sited to the east in Higham Close. A property called Huntersholme is situated towards the south of the eastern boundary close to the crossing of the Calder.

### **The Vaccary of Higham Booth (Over Higham)**

The vaccary is situated on the south facing slopes to the east of the village of Higham. It is bounded on the north by the vaccary of Over Goldshaw and on the west by Higher White Lee with the pasture of West Close adjoining the additional pasture. To the east is the balloon shaped feature which it is thought where the deer went during the breeding periods. The height of the vaccary ranges from 550 ft. (168 m) at the lowest point of the additional pasture to 875 ft. (267 m) at the highest point of the summer pasture.

The winter pasture which totals 26 hectare (63 acres) is bounded on the east by Spern Clough, which is both the Parish and Rural District boundary. This was also the western boundary to the balloon feature. Due to the shape of the ditch as it curves around this latter feature and abuts the vaccary, it would appear to post-date Higham Booth.





Eastern boundary of the winter pasture.

At the northern end of the first field a line of mature lime trees was observed marking an ancient boundary now largely ploughed out; this was seen as a ditch to the south of the tree line. This feature was also noted to hold water during wet conditions. To the north of the trees was evidence of a wide bank, now largely lost due to ploughing. On Google Earth this feature was seen across three further fields to the west, however, this was not walked due to restricted access.

The eastern boundary was followed up to the top of the second field. At this point a strong field boundary made up of a ditch to the north and bank to the south was seen to run east-west across the width of the vaccary. A build-up of earth was seen to the north of the boundary due to extensive ploughing in the northern field, where ridge and furrow was evident. This boundary was identified as being the division between the winter and summer pastures of the vaccary and is shown as red dashed line on the map. It was observed that the land to the north of this was general steeper and had more irregular contours than that to the south, which was made up of higher quality pasture with an even gradient.



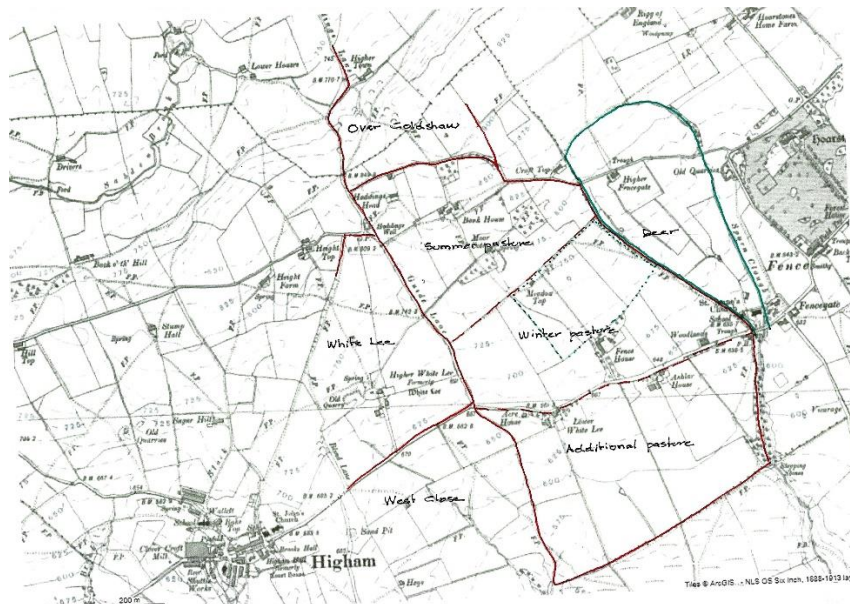
Boundary between winter and summer pastures.

Passing west from the eastern boundary four field boundaries were seen to run north-south with the third and fourth being made up of a substantial bank with a ditch to each side with that



the fourth field being more prominent to the west. At the south these boundaries joined up with the southern boundary described above, This formed an enclosure with the northern boundary being the division of the winter and summer pasture, which is dotted in green on the map. It is not possible to date this feature, which may post-date the vaccary. Meadow Top farm was sited in the third field from the east, where the former buildings have now been developed into a large modern dwelling with outbuildings.

The western boundary of the vaccary was Guide Lane, which at its southern end was several meters below the level of the fields to either side. Guide Lane also formed the eastern boundary to White Lee.



Map showing Higham Booth and the `balloon`.

The area of the summer pasture is 22 hectares (54 acres) with the quality of the land generally being inferior to the winter pasture with several fields reverting. The external boundaries are made up of Guide Lane and Croft Top Lane. At several points on the northern boundary a substantial bank can be seen bounding the road. In the centre of the pasture is sited Bank House now divided into three dwellings. This could have been the site of a farm overseeing the former summer pasture of the vaccary. Two other dwellings Haddings Head and Moor Cotes are of later date and have been extensively renovated.

An area of additional pasture has been identified to the south of the winter pasture of 31 hectares (77 acres). The western boundary conjoins that of the eastern boundary to West Close. The southern boundary was seen as a well-defined ditch with a slight bank to the inside. In the centre of the southern boundary the ditch became less well-defined, but in the last field to the east became a prominent feature. Here the ditch was deep with a slight bank to the inside. The eastern boundary abutted Spurn Clough, which was very deep due to constant erosion. At its southern end a shallow ditch with a bank to the inside could be seen running north for a short distance to the west of the Clough.

No evidence was seen of the end of the stock funnel leading into the `balloon` forming the area where the deer are thought to breed. However, it almost certainly finishes to the east of the church outside the vaccary in Old Laund Booth.

## Discussion

It has become clear that in comparison with other vaccaries walked in the Blackburn Hundred that the total area is too large just for the winter and summer pastures and must include additional pasture. On reviewing the boundaries it is clear that the boundary between the

winter and summer pasture is valid, but the division for the winter pasture from the additional pasture lies on the line of the classified road. This would provide a vaccary comprising 48 hectares (109 acres) with the winter pasture being 26 hectares (63 acres) and the summer pasture 22 hectares (46 acres). This compares favourably with the other vaccaries in the Blackburn Hundred which have been researched.<sup>18</sup> It is suggested that the additional pasture of 31 hectares (77 acres) sited to the south of the winter pasture could have been added around the beginning of the fourteenth century. At this time the number of vaccaries within the hundreds was being reduced and it could be that more cattle were being kept at Higher Booth due to it having some of the best pasture and being close to the cattle pool. This vaccary was one of the last to be closed around 1400.

The projecting curving line of the northern boundary does suggest that a portion of the summer pasture was added later from the Over Goldshaw vaccary. The area off the projecting land measures 6.4 hectares (15 acres) and if this is taken off the total area of the pasture would leave only around 16 hectares (39 acres) which is by comparison rather too small. The suggested area of 54 acres is similar to comparable vaccaries

It is significant that the eastern and southern boundaries of the vaccary are those of the Parish boundary. It is interesting that although the vaccary system was long passed reference to the vaccaries including Higham Booth as an area was still being made up to the present time.

Close to the centre of the northern boundary is sited Ashlar House, now converted into two dwellings. Ashlar House formerly known as the `new house within the Forest of Pendle, standing in that part known as the Fence`. It is significant as it is the only recognised property to have been identified in Higham Booth from the documentary record.<sup>19</sup> A date stone over the entrance records the date of 1594, but there was an earlier building on site. It may have originated as a catholic chapel and dwelling house for a priest.<sup>20</sup> An unconfirmed verbal record says that a building has been on the site from around 1100.



Ashlar House.

**The `balloon` feature, a suggested area given over to the deer. Ian Rowley.**

Notes of a field walk, see map in Higham Booth.

This feature in the shape of a hot air balloon conjoins Higham Booth to the east with its entry point to the south being in New Laund and is 17.6 hectares (44 acres) in area. The group set off in a north-westerly direction alongside the village hall the surrounding west wall of which is

an administrative boundary. Just north of the hall the western stream is culverted and running water could be heard. The boundary then follows the well-defined watercourse uphill from this point. The depth of the Clough varied quite a lot, probably averaging 2-3 metres. Holly growing in the Clough was noted. Holly was formerly used to feed deer and livestock and at higher altitudes was grown in cloughs to take advantage of the microclimate. So, some circumstantial evidence to back the view that the Fence was where deer were kept!

A path crossed the stream about 100 m south of Croft Top Lane and on reaching the Lane, it was noted that whereas most of the boundaries shown on the 1840`s map were still present south of the Lane, the ones to the north had all been removed. The path opposite Fence Gate Farm was taken to reach the top of The Fence. The north-west section is the only part of enclosure boundary that does not have a permanent stream. The ditch here was 2-3 m deep and a low bank was seen on the inside. On the southern edge of the ditch was a layered hawthorn hedge all along the northern section on intermittent remains of earth banks.



Northern boundary of balloon feature.

Returning to Top Croft Lane, the group walked east to look for the 'lost' stream shown south of the Lane on 1840`s map. This was easy to discern some metres from the eastern edge of the Fence (below, taken from Croft Top Lane, looking SW). Just before entering Spurn Clough, this stream was directed around a small field, so that the field was surrounded by water on three sides. It was thought (by the writer!) that this was a sheep fold and sheep race, where sheep were gathered then made to swim against the current of the water to wash their fleeces prior to shearing. The eastern boundary of the feature is Spurn Clough. This could not be followed due to limited access. The clough is well-defined and similar in size to the western boundary.

There used to be a short stream rising around 100 m north of the church. Originally it ran roughly north-south, then abruptly turned west-south-west passing just north of the village hall before joining the western-boundary stream where they were culverted together. There is now no sign of this small stream; part of it was under the modern bungalows to the north of the church. A culvert issues into Spurn Clough in the south east of the graveyard. The writer was told by a local man that this is water from the western stream, but the flow rate looked very low, so it may be the water from the small stream alone.

It was noted that the church shown on the 1840`s map appeared larger and further north and east than the current building, abutting Spurn Clough. To the east of the church the apparent remains of a bridge were noted in the bank of the Clough. The grave yard has been extended



to the north since the 1890's map and a 'step' in the ground could be seen c 4m north of the church where the old boundary used to be

### Discussion

Due to the semi-circular form of the northern section of the enclosure there can be no doubt that it was man-made and not a natural feature. In view of the 'uncomfortable' junction at the north-east corner with Higham Booth it would appear that the latter pre-dated the balloon.

The bed of a former stream cut by Croft Top Lane was located and it is possible that this had been diverted to form the current north-eastern boundary of the Fence. There was no trace of the small stream originating just north of the church, except possibly the culvert opening onto spurn Clough in the south east corner of the grave yard.

The concentration of holly trees in the Clough could possibly be related to its use as winter fodder for deer in The Fence. On previous walks it has been seen that holly is not evenly distributed over the district but is concentrated in specific areas such as West Close and Holly Hill (aka Holly Brow) 0.5 km west of Higham.

## **4.0 Higher White Lee formerly White Lee**

The site forms a triangle bounded on the east by Guide Lane, to the south the classified road A6068 and to the west by the former early routeway between Ightenhill and Over Goldshaw. It abuts Higham Booth to the east and West Close to the south. The site is presently made up of five fields (one of which is sub-divided) surrounding a farmhouse with an extensive platform to the north. The access to the present farmhouse is from the classified road. The area of the site is 21 hectares (52 acres) and it is set between the 670 and 810 feet contours.

The northern part of the western boundary was seen as a well-define routeway with a ditch to the west; in some areas to the north the western bank was revetted. The feature joined an unclassified road which joined Guide Lane, but no evidence was seen in the field to the north of the road. The southern portion of this feature, which continued towards Higham, was seen to branch off as a bank and ditch to the east of the field boundary leading to the northern end of Blind Lane.

Blind Lane was seen to be a well-defined holloway. At its northern end it was sunk some considerable distance below the ground level on each side suggesting that it is of some age.

A well-defined routeway was seen running to the farmhouse to the south of a quarry from the top of Blind Lane. This is recognised as the original entry to the site. However, the eastern end of this feature had largely been destroyed due to the quarry. To the south of this routeway was an early bank, with a ditch on its southern side. Interestingly a very large orthostat was set in this bank and at the top of Blind Lane was a gatepost with no evidence of fixings for rails.

### The Farmhouse

White Lee Farm was seen to be cut into a large platform, positioned to the north of the farmhouse. The platform was revetted on its west and north sides was seen to extend into the field to the east of the field boundary. The farmhouse is Listed Grade II and a date stone in its west gable reads 1771. An old quarry is sited to the west of the farmhouse from which flags were obtained.

The original house is thought to have been built by the More family in 1591. There is a re-set stone inscribed HM/1591 at the rear and this is assumed to be Hugh More. The 1840 first

edition OS map gives a date of 1545 for the building. Hugh More was a close relative of Sir Jonas More, possibly his grandfather. Sir Jonas was a distinguished engineer, astronomer and mathematician, who was born there in 1618. He died in 1679 having taken part in the draining of the fens and serving as Surveyor of Ordnance to Charles II.



White Lee Farmhouse.

A reference is made in the Clitheroe Court Rolls to a John More of Whiteheagh in 1662.<sup>21</sup> John is a probable relative of Sir Jonas (uncle) and it is likely that Whiteheagh could be White Lee, which was then described as being in Higham Booth.

The western portion of the building has been extended to include a single storey projecting wing, with the masonry differing from the eastern section, which is of large coursed stonework. The stonework to the western section is of shallower water-shot courses.<sup>22</sup> This part of the front elevation was rebuilt when the projecting wing, extending as far as the front boundary wall, was demolished. A further section of the building to the east has been demolished, which is shown on the first edition of the 1840 OS map. This was seen during an excavation carried out in September 2022, see below.

The windows to the main frontage are double sash with a central mullion with glazing bars. The central doorway has a semi-circular arched head with fanlight and glazing bars. The roof is asymmetrical with an overhang to the rear.

To the south of the driveway leading to the farmhouse are several barns. To the east is a large barn with a date stone over a central west facing door of 1836 with the initials WD. There is a matching doorway to the east elevation. This abuts an earlier dwelling to the north with four windows and a central doorway facing west. This has been converted into a barn with a central doorway being formed and the first floor removed. To the west is a further large barn with two modern extensions to the north and the west with a cottage attached to the south. A smaller barn is sited to the north of a yard. This latter barn is of some age and has been altered in the past, with a barn door to the left of a doorway being blocked up and a stable door inserted with the timber lintol over still extant. The original doorway has been built reusing a moulded lintol and part of a jamb from an earlier building. The lintol is in the form of a four centred arch with an inset cavetto mould and fillet the jamb has similar moulds and both could be late fifteenth century in date and suggests that its original use was in a building of some importance. Evidence of earlier phases of the buildings can be seen at foundation level.

The barns to the west are seen to have been built on a large platform which can be seen to extend beyond the buildings to the south.



Reused early doorway in barn to the of the west of driveway



Early shuttered window opening rebuilt into outbuilding.

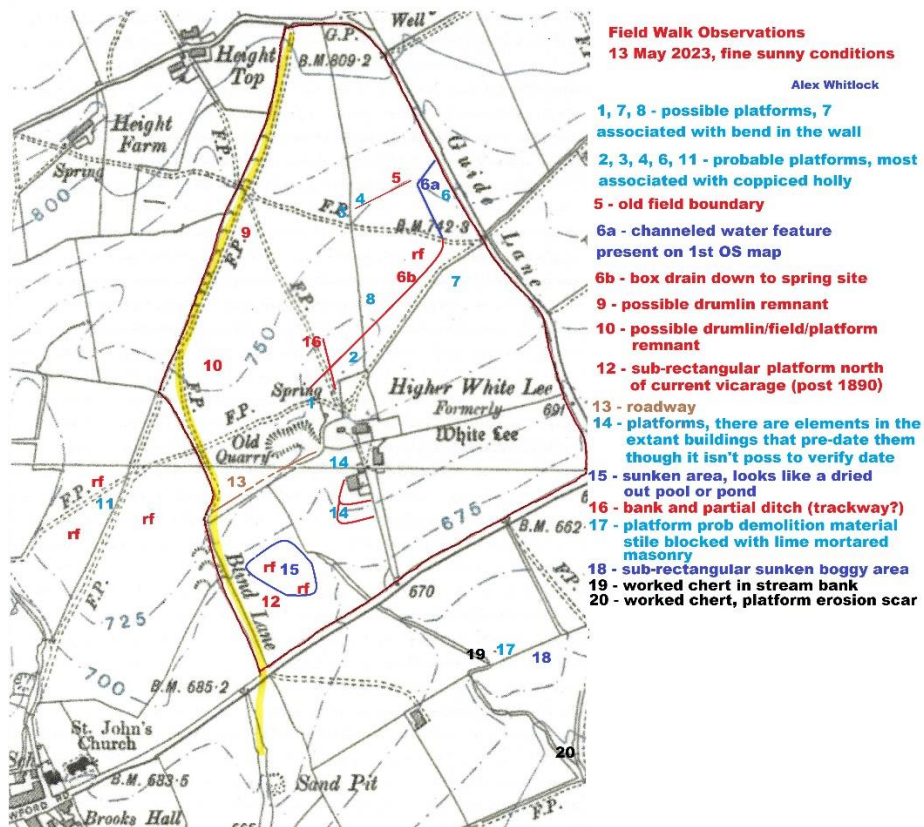
Additionally a reused window opening with hinges for external shutters is built in to an outbuilding to the north-west of the building.

The date stone in the western gable of 1771 suggests that the western extension was built at that date. The style of the main section is probably early eighteenth century. There is no part of the extant exterior of the building which reflects in style the early date stone of 1591, however, the reused doorway built into a barn could be of this date.

#### Field walking

Field walking has been undertaken by the archaeology Group over the site of White Lee and this is summarised on the image below.





Map of White Lee showing features noted during field walking (Alex Whitlock)

The site is bounded on its western side by Blind Lane. This is an early route connecting the manor house of Ightenhill with Over Goldshaw and the Barley vaccaries and would be an important link in managing the de Lacy estate.



Blind Lane

The area to the west of this feature was walked by the Group some years ago and was deduced incorrectly to be one of the Higham vaccaries. The southern end of Blind Lane lines up very closely with Foxen Dole lane, the routeway leading south to Ightenhill.

Significantly it is probable that originally there was an open water course running from feature number 6a to the spring at the end of 6b to an open water trough adjacent to 14 running in the bottom of a shallow valley to the end of the existing clough adjacent to 15. This watercourse is now in a well-constructed stone drain over the whole of its length. It is suggested that the watercourse was culverted in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century when the site was owned by the More family. It is likely to have been open at the time as its use as the cattle pool as a source of drinking water for the animals.

The large field to the west of the routeway is bounded on its north side by a steep embankment at the foot of which is a long depressed feature which is considered at one time to have been a pond.

From the size and position of the large platform on which the barns are sited to the west of the drive it is probable that this is the site of the original building. This site is larger, flatter and better placed than that to the north, where the present farmhouse is sited and where it has had to be cut into the sloping ground in order to provide the necessary depth. It is likely that when the present farmhouse was built, around the middle of the seventeenth century, the main access to the site was changed to the present driveway, as the present classified route now formed the major highway.



View looking south-west from the end of the trackway feature 13.  
The site of the early farm house is where the barns now stand.

The drive is lined on each side by five pairs of mature lime trees planted around 1900; evidence of a ditch can be seen to the west of the field boundary. Close to the classified road the line of the drive can be seen to splay out on each side

## 5.0 Brericar

The site of the cattle pool at Brericar is not known, however, Shaw states that it is 'in Pendle, probably in the West Close near Higham'.<sup>23</sup> The site is thought to only be named once and that is in the *comptus* of John of Radeclif for Queen Isabella in 1341. It cannot be ascertained when the site was established or if it was used for any length of time prior to her receiving the benefit in 1327 or after she relinquished control in 1348. All the vaccaries in the Pendle Forest were in hand at this time. It is perhaps pertinent that 1348 was the date when the plague became active in the region. This could be the reason why Isabella gave up the benefit as the

vaccaries could have been seriously affected, leading to a loss of income as she was subsequently paid an allowance from the Exchequer.

The cattle pool is the site from where the cows from the vaccaries of Blackburnshire were transferred under the heading of *de crom*. This refers to cattle selected for replacement by new stock, the older cows and oxen were taken from the vaccaries to this cattle pool and sent to the butcher or the market. The policy at this time was to build up a stock of young cattle to replace the old stock in the future that would be sent to market or Castle Rising where Isabella lived.<sup>24</sup> From the *compotus of 1341* the oxen are not listed on the vaccary returns and except under the heading of Brericar. This must represent draught beasts on the demesne farms as well as the vaccaries. The oxen were replaced by an equal number of steers.

It is put forward that that Higher White Lee now occupies that site. The evidence is compelling as the triangular site abuts West Close to the south Higham Booth to the east, whilst on the west is a major routeway connecting Ightenhill Manor with Over Goldshaw and the Barley vaccaries. There is no other site close by which offers a plausible alternative.

The keeper of the cattle pool would have required a building to operate the resource. A record in the Clitheroe Court Rolls for 1545-6 following the Commyssion for the Fence in Penhull Forest gives some rental details:<sup>25</sup>

`The King`s Tenants in Heigham Bothe took of the King a Chamber and certain parcels of land as follows:-

John Moore *alias* Jenkyn took of the King a Chamber<sup>26</sup> now built and standing at Heigham in the occupation of the said John, a reservation being made that the said Chamber should be used by the Steward, Auditor, and Receiver when doing the needful business of the King. To be repaired by the said John and his heirs for ever`.

It is also pertinent that the occupier and tenant is from the Moore family as it is recorded that the More`s built a property at White Lee in 1591. It is more than likely that the two families were the same. The involvement of the King with the Chamber could be a result of the building and its adjacent lands being used as part of the cattle pool and the wish to retain an active interest in the building in the future. The reference could refer to Brericar on the basis that the vaccaries were Crown property and it is unlikely that the King would have built it elsewhere.

The layout of the farmhouse and the surrounding fields within the triangular boundary is unusual. Field walking, examination of the existing buildings and the results of a recent geophysical survey have provided evidence that the primary building on the site was where the barns are presently site to the south-west of the present farmhouse where there is a substantial platform. It is suggested that the building was reached from the original road from the west, entering the site via a courtyard, possibly sited to the east of the present farm buildings. The overall field pattern around the farm buildings differs markedly from those in the farms adjacent.

The schedule of stock for Brericar in the 1341 *compotus* listed six types of cattle, which corresponds closely to the number of fields on the site, there being five fields with one sub-divided by a watercourse.

A `house` was repaired for the heifers and steers in 1341 at a cost of 26s 8d. The wages of a herdsman of the close was also recorded as being 26s. He kept 17 cows, 93 heifers for the whole year, and 21 cows, 1 bull and 32 twinters from the Feast of the Holy Cross (14<sup>th</sup> September) to Michaelmas (29<sup>th</sup> September). He also mowed the grass, made and stacked the hay for the feeding of the animals in winter and taking 6d each week.

The demise of the vaccary system in the Blackburn had occurred by 1400. This was brought about by several factors: the understanding that it was more profitable to let the vaccaries



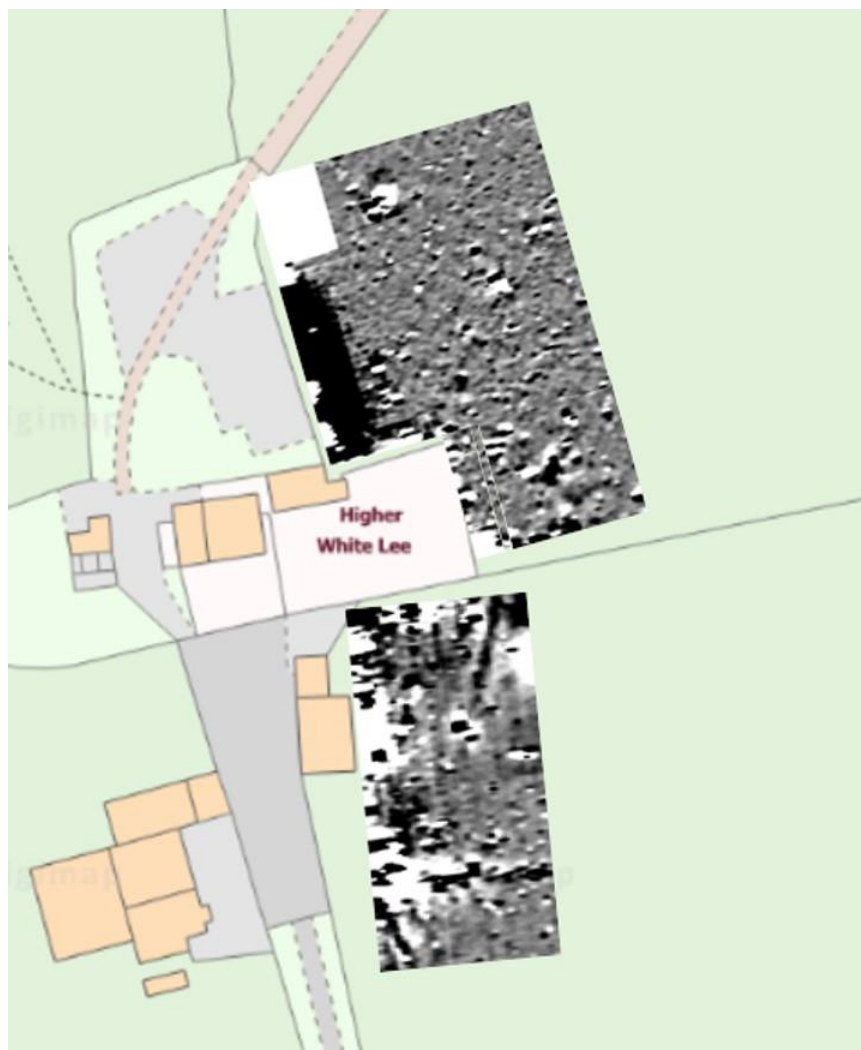
rather than farm them in hand, a climatic deterioration commencing around 1300. The Black Death, which was prevalent in the region around 1348 could have proved to be the final major factor. After the demise the land and the buildings at Brericar were leased as were the remaining vaccaries.

## 6.0 Geophysical Survey

### Geophysical survey by UCLAN

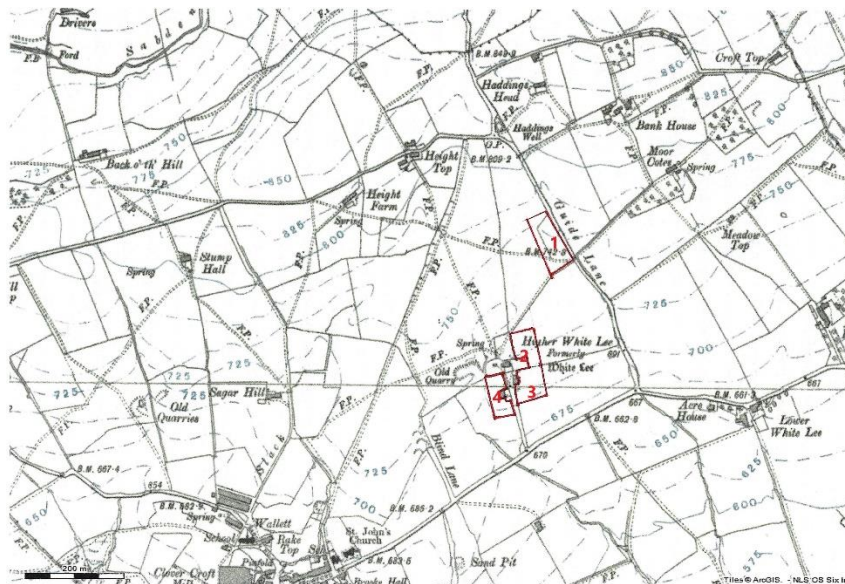
A limited geophysical survey by Lewis Hardman of UCLAN using a magnetometer produced some results to the south of the paddock. Evidence of part of a sub-circular enclosure could be seen together with a ditch running in a south-easterly direction. A possible building was evident just south of the paddock to the left of the ditch and enclosure.

The survey carried out to the north and east of the paddock was inconclusive. Further geophysical survey surrounding the farmhouse is likely to show further results.



## Geophysical Survey by Magnitude Surveys Limited

A survey of three areas of the site was undertaken in January 2024. The area include two fields to the east of the farmhouse together with the area around the barns to the south-west. A feature to the north-west adjacent to Guide lane was also surveyed.



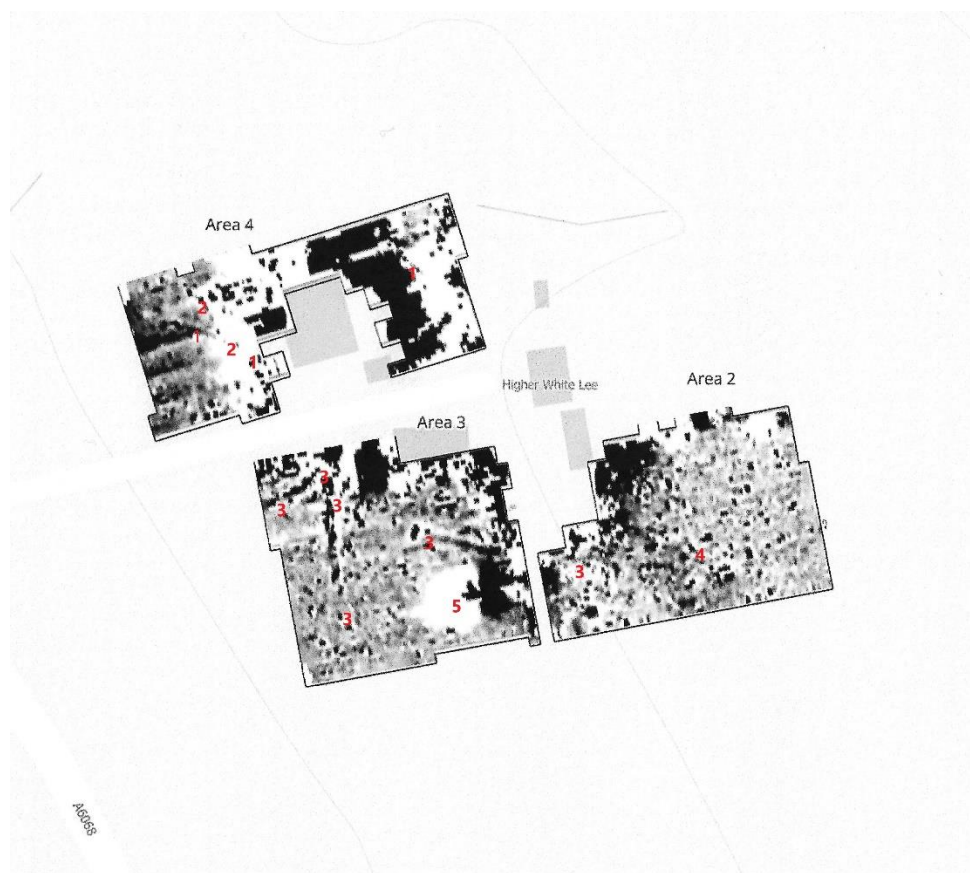
Map showing survey areas



Magnetometry survey

## Interpretation

In any survey using this technique it is difficult to recognise any chronology in the identified features. In other words it is not normally possible, except where phasing can be determined, to recognise the earliest or latest features. Interpretation is always subjective until proven by excavation.



Areas 2 and 3 with features numbered.

### Area 1

This area was surveyed as it was considered to form part of the water management system for the site. In the event no recognisable archaeological anomalies were recognised. The only linear feature running across the site to the south-east being caused by the underlying geology.

### Areas 2 and 3

These two areas comprised the two fields divided by a field boundary. To the west is the farmhouse with an adjacent paddock and two adjoining barns. Several ditches can be identified (3). These all form part of field systems which cannot be identified, all on different alignments. The easternmost ditch crosses the existing field boundary, which suggests a different arrangement of the fields to the east of the farmhouse to the extant field boundaries. A feature suggesting a curved boundary (4) can be seen to the east of the farm yard to the rear of the farmhouse. A positive feature (5) could suggest an area of burning.

### Area 4

This area includes barns and outbuildings with a defined platform to the south. As the buildings were largely metal clad this has affected the site data. It is considered that the primary building was erected in this position with a yard to the north connecting it to the original access to the site. Two drains can be seen to the north and south of the existing buildings (1). The

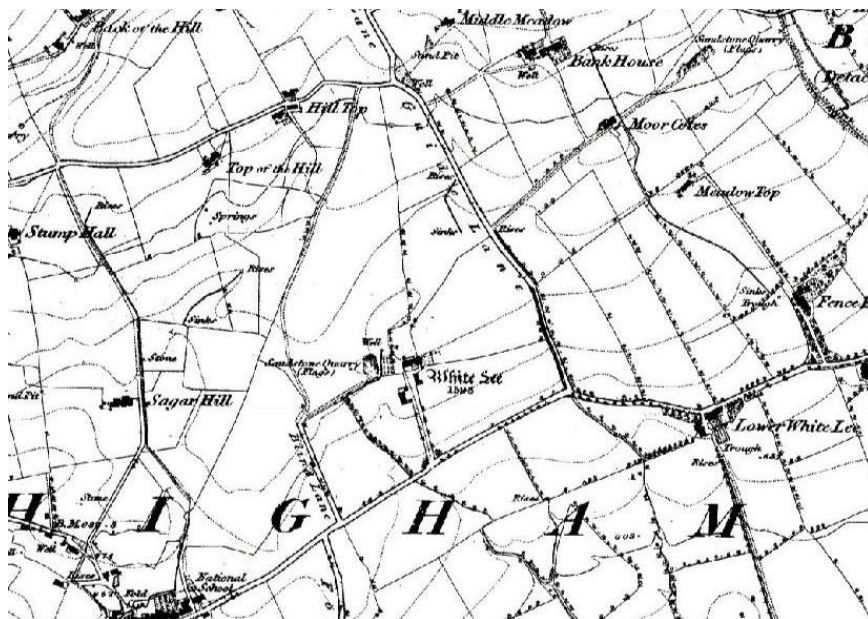


southernmost one could relate to the primary building. A row of post holes (2) run from the platform to the west.

Due to the nature of the archaeology which is being investigated, the survey has been of limited value. However, it has shown that the results are potentially significant and support the supposition that the site was a cattle pool for the Blackburn Hundred. Future excavation based on the survey could support the findings.

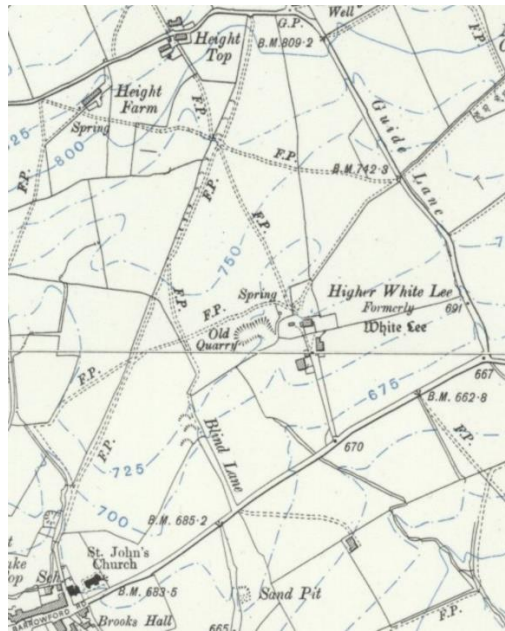
## 7.0 Map Regression

The 1840 first edition shows the house larger than at present, called White Lee, extending east into the paddock. The field divisions and access to the main road are as existing. The enclosed area to the north is shown with an area to the west indicated with the suggestion of a series of small buildings. Blind Lane is shown to run north from the classified road with an access track shown running east with a quarry shown to the north at its eastern end described 'sandstone quarry (flags)'. Access to the five fields centred on the farmhouse is shown together with an enclosed area to the north of the farmhouse. A series of small buildings (approx.12 sheds?) are shown between the western boundary and the quarry.



1840 edition

The 1890 first edition below shows the size of the house reduced to its present arrangement and called Higher White Lee, formerly White Lee. A paddock is shown to the east of the house. A footpath is shown to run west from the area to the north of the house towards Higham. A footpath is shown running from Higham against the western field building to join the track from Blind Lane to the north of the site, together with one from the house running north-west towards Height Top. A further path is shown running from Guide Lane towards Height farm. The size of the quarry has been increased with the access track not shown.



1890 edition

## 8.0 Investigation of Area around the Farmhouse

### 8.1 Excavation

#### Aim

The excavation took place over nine days in early September 2022. The purpose was to establish whether Higher White Lee was the cattle pool described in the 1341 *comptus* and to find out more information about the site.

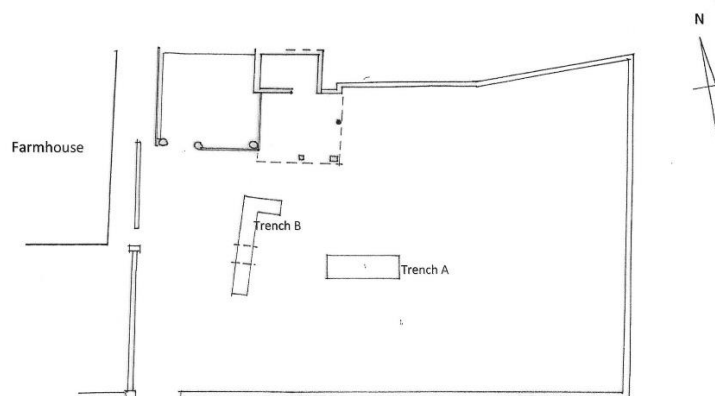
#### Methodology

Two trenches A and B were set out in a paddock adjoining the east of the farmhouse and positioned over a raised platform to the west of the enclosure. This approximated to the position of the portion of the building which had been demolished.

After site strip the top soil was removed by hand using mattocks followed by trowelling of the archaeological contexts.

Site recording used the Curlew methodology.

## Description



Higher White Lee, Higham. Location Plan of trenches.

### Trench A

Trench A measured 5 m x 1.5 m and was aligned approximately east-west across the site. It was positioned to cut the edge of a platform sited at the west of the site.

The trench was not fully excavated with only the western portion taken down to natural. The earliest feature in this section of the trench was a well-constructed stone lined drain measuring 270 x 270 mm, with the invert level 650 mm below the north-west corner of the trench. The sides of the drain were made up of stone slabs set into the base of the drain and covered with substantial cover stones approximately 100 mm thick. The bottom of the drain was unlined. Only five cover stones were seen as the remaining section of the drain was badly disturbed, either by root disturbance or an intervention by other means. The drain was set on an alignment of 120 deg. west of north and interestingly was aligned to a position close to the present septic tank for the farmhouse in the adjacent field to the south.

The fill to the drain (A4) was excavated and seen to contain two small fragments of shellfish, a mussel and a cockle shell. The feature also yielded two sherds of seventeenth century pottery. Also found in this context was a piece of brick. This was well fired with a red fabric having yellow striped inclusions similar to the pot found in the same context 8a.

Overlying this feature was a fill (A3) made up of compacted silty clay and large stones with a considerable amount of pottery. This in turn, together with the remainder of the trench, was overlaid with compacted material made up of large quantities of burnt material including clinker, coal fragments, ash and slag. Within this feature (A2) had been formed a garden with a path running to the south and to the north. This path had been formed out of consolidated clinker/clay forming a dense mass with the appearance of tarmacadam. This contained a large quantity of 19<sup>th</sup> century pot and was dated to that period.





The drain looking to the north.

### **Trench B**

Trench B was measured 6 m x 1 m with an extension to the north of 1 m by 1.5 m to the east and aligned approximately north-south.

The earliest feature over much of the trench was a layer of stone with small inclusions of lime and mortar, together with clay and grit. The top surface was made up of a concentration of lime mortar and plaster a fragment of which included an internal angle. The thickness of the plaster, laid in one coat, was often in excess of 30 mm. This feature (B2) averaging 75 mm in depth, was seen as a make-up level for a stone flagged floor now removed. It had been laid on a natural bed of yellow clay with the topsoil having been removed. The context yielded no finds.

This feature was seen to break 2.720 m from the eastern end of the trench where a clear division could be seen. At this point the white plaster bottom of the trench could be seen to stop at a point suggesting the position of an external wall. This was seen to be made up of a bed of small stone and was approximately 600 mm wide although all evidence of the walling had been robbed out. To the south of this feature the soil was seen to be a fine red/brown silty loam with some small items and burnt material and within it was seen to be a path running east-west near the end of the trench. This context yielded a small amount of glazed pottery.



Position of front wall at junction with internal surface with plaster coating

At the eastern edge of the trench some evidence of an external wall could be seen at the northernmost end. A length of stonework was seen which ran out of view under the trench side to the south. The foundation of a further wall was seen to the northern edge of the drain. This would suggest that this room was some 3.300 m deep and could have been a service area with the opening to the drain being in a corner against the external wall.

To the north of the trench in the eastern extension a drain was identified. Due to time restraints this was not fully excavated. Four cover stones were identified, although it is probable that the two closest to the end of the drain were not original as one was of worked stone, probably a window mullion. The line of the drain was seen to connect with the same feature in trench A and measured 280 mm in width. The upper part of the fill to the drain was excavated and yielded a small amount of pot, part of a mussel shell and a possible part of a pipe bowl. The remaining portion of the feature was unexcavated.

The fill over the drain (B3) was made up of medium stone and silty loam with some bone and pottery. These finds could be of late date as the end of the drain appears to have been open and not enclosed. The end of the drain curved slightly to the east at its terminal point. There was no evidence of any external wall or an entry point of the drain into the building. However, this could have been outside the extent of the trench. A possible line of stone to the eastern edge of the trench could suggest a possible line of this wall.

## **The Finds**

### **An Overview of the Pottery**

The pottery found in the upper contexts of both trenches A1, B1, A2, and B2 was made up of nineteenth century wares with the majority coming from the Staffordshire potteries. This pattern continued into A3 and B3 with a small number of sherds of mid and late seventeenth century brown wares seen. In context A4 (SF 8) the drain two fragments of mid-seventeenth century ware was identified.

## **Small Finds**

### **Trench A**

1. Half penny, Victorian dated 1900. Extremely worn. Context A1.
2. Half penny, George V dated 1920. Slightly worn. Context A1.
3. 2 bone fragments, leg joint and tooth. Context A2.
4. Fragment of sea shell, probably a mussel. Context A4.
5. Fragment of sea shell, probably a mussel. Context A4.
6. Fragment of a cockle shell. Context A4.
7. A section of a clay pipe stem, probably 17<sup>th</sup> century. Context A4.
8. 2 body sherds of storage vessels.
  - a. Storage vessel c. 250mm dia. with an orange fabric with striped yellow inclusions. Unglazed with exterior surface grooved. Probably mid-17<sup>th</sup> century. Context A4.
  - b. Storage vessel with fabric as above and a dark red slip to exterior. Exterior surface grooved. Probably mid-17<sup>th</sup> century. Context A4.
9. 3 fragments of body shreds with fabric as item 8.

I no. body sherd of storage vessel with interior brown glazed. Orange fabric well fired. Probably late 17<sup>th</sup> century. Context A3.

### **Trench B**

1. Cream coloured clay bead 13mm dia. with central hole 3mm dia. Slightly irregular in shape. Probably 19<sup>th</sup> century. Context B1.
2. Animal tooth, probably cattle. Context B1.
3. Fragment of small animal bone joint socket. Context B1.
4. Fragment of a mussel shell. Context B3.
5. Half of a shell from a nut. Probably an almond. Context B3.

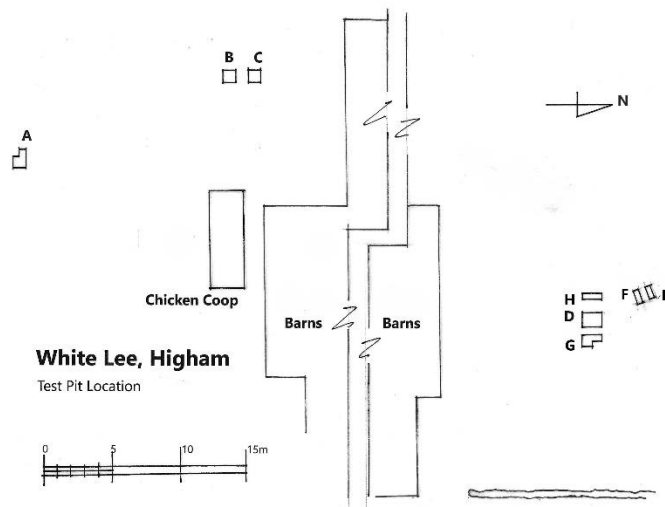
## **Discussion**

The date stone in the west gable at White Lee is dated 1771. This however, is likely to be the date of a substantial extension or remodelling of the building. From the evidence of the excavation, a wing was built to the east of the present farmhouse extending for some 5.500 m, which could have projected slightly forward of the line of the present front elevation. This was probably erected sometime at the beginning of the seventeenth century. The drain which runs from the east wall of the building is contemporary and is likely to have served a kitchen or preparation area due to the molluscs seen in the feature. The depth of this room is estimated to be 3.400 m. The remains of a garden path seen in trench A made up of clinker, suggests that gardens were laid out within the paddock. No evidence of any earlier occupation of the site was seen.



## 8.2 The Test Pits Georgina Bentley.

Following a geophysical survey of the field to the south west of the farmhouse several likely areas were identified to yield information by test pit excavation to provide dating evidence associated with the earlier buildings on the site. The position of these is shown below:



Trench A (WL24A) was cut 1m x 0.5m on the slope of a platform area 12m south of the modern shed.

Context 1 was of dark brown, soft topsoil approximately 100 mm depth which contained a few small sandstone fragments, small pieces of coal, mostly approximately 30mm size, 3 clay pipe stem fragments, sherds of coarse, brown glazed earthenware x 3, small sherds of fine brown glazed earthenware, x 4 sherds of fine white china (including one rim) x 3 and one tiny sherd of blue and white transfer print china.

Context 2, yellow/orange clay material including coal fragments and degraded sandstone with a stone feature of sub-rounded and angular stone overlaying this (photo 3). Photos 4 (S-N) and 5 (N-S). Underneath this layer, context 3 – grey/brown clay was a round feature (possibly post hole?) at the western edge of the trench. Context 4, 600mm from the north edge. The hole had grey silt material in the bottom and was filling with water.

The was extended 0.5m west to reveal the post hole feature which was 560mm in depth with a diameter of 200 x 160mm. N finds in the bottom of this feature, only around it, underneath the subsoil – 1 clay pipe stem, 18/19 c.pot

The main features were identified as the remains of a robbed-out stone wall curving field boundary wall overlying a post hole with the wall replacing a fence.

Two further trenches were opened, on the platform north of Trench A.

Trench B was 1m square, 9.1m south of the edge of the stone barn and 9.5m east of the concrete barn.

Trench C, 1m x 0.5m was 1m north of Trench B. No significant features found in either Trench B or Trench C. Finds consisted of 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery sherds, earthenware and china. One shard of glass jar base (Heinz Co.) and one ?19<sup>th</sup> century clay pipe stem from Trench B. A rusted iron blade, possibly a chisel, and bolt found in @Trench C as well as earthenware drainpipe fragments x 2.

No further excavation carried out of these two trenches and excavation moved to a field adjacent to the drive, north of the barn complex.

Trench D. 1m square trench cut 19000m south east corner of trench to the barn/gatepost to the south east and 14.100 south to the modern barn corner. Subsoil depth varied from 190mm south and north sides to 205mm on the east side. In context 2 there was a spread of charcoal along the south east edge (approximately 20% of the area). Underneath this charcoal level was pale clay material (context 3) where the wall feature was seen

Waterlogging around the Wall feature. After baling out the water the trench was extended 0.5m south. Subsoil removed amongst which were found clay pipe stem x 2, 19/20<sup>th</sup> century brown glazed pot x 2, one piece of chert, struck and worked along one edge.

The stone feature consisted of three conjoining stones of millstone grit, approximately 0.5m x 0.5m placed and bedded and levelled on clay; possibly the post pad of an earlier building. No dating evidence. The surround earth was compacted and could have formed the base to a flagged floor surface. A gritstone rounded cap stone found in south edge of trench in a makeup level.

An extension of 0.5m of the trench north of the possible padstone feature was opened. Also, on probing the ground on an east-west line 200mm depth for approximately 5m either side of the ?padstone feature, stone was detected extending 1.140m to the east and 1.480m west of the edges of Trench D. The positions were marked with canes (photo).

A definite structural feature – possibly a padstone.



The three conjoined stones suggest a possible padstone. To the right a capstone.

Trench E was cut 1m x 0.5m in a location thought to be outside any building, north-west of Trench D. No finds only an ?ovoid-circular ash pit/path feature with a 0.25mm diameter hole in the centre of the north side of the trench.

The trench was reduced further on the last day and some evidence of a wall was seen to run in an east-west direction. This could not be further investigated due to time restraints.

Trench F was cut (1m x 0.5m) 0.5m south of Trench E looking for evidence of a building outer wall or continuation of ?cinder path/ash pit feature. Nine sherds of 19/20<sup>th</sup> century domestic ware pot found in subsoil context. Context 2 as in Trench E.

There was a concentrated coal layer (context 3) in the south side of Trench F, 20-40mm thick, 280mm depth and 345mm east-west overlying a decayed sandstone band, (context 4), 90mm thick. At the west end of the trench a ?post hole feature was revealed, the bottom of which was 565mm in a grey clay/gritty mortar, context 5 (sample bagged). The feature was in the centre of the trench extending eastwards (565mm west-east). The depth of the clay/mortar layer was 540mm.

Trench G was opened 1m east of Trench D, 1m x 0.5m. A line of stones, possibly wall, was found lying on a compacted sandy clay level (context 2) north west – south east, the lengths of the trench north and east. Depth of the feature 85mm to 300mm and the width tapered from 350mm to 30mm.

This was identified as a possible robbed-out wall, approx. 600mm wide, to a building running east—west.



The ranging rod is running in the direction of the wall. (Ian Rowley)

Trench H, 0.5m west of Trench D, 1m x 0.5m. Underneath the topsoil, lying on a sandy clay level (context 2) as in Trench D were random cobble stones 200mm depth with part of a larger, flat stone disappearing into the trench edge eastwards.

The trench was extended eastwards 0.25m square which revealed the large flat stone feature with possibly associated cobble stones extending to 0.75m south-north and 0.25m east-west. The flat stone feature is 660mm in length x 470mm wide and lies at a depth of 303mm.

Both Trenches G and H were opened in response to the probing detecting stone in both these areas. Both trenches revealed promising features but so far no dating evidence. Finds of pottery were 18-20<sup>th</sup> century and discovered in context 1.



The significant stone features were found, of course, on the last day of this exploratory excavation! It is hoped to carry out further excavation at White Lea in the summer – watch this space!

#### WL24 – Finds

##### Trench A

###### Context 1

broken sandstone – possibly furniture leg rest/support, 100mm x 65mm

brown glazed earthenware sherd x 7

white glazed china sherds x 4

white post sherd, unglazed, average size 15mm x 10mm x 7

clay pipe stem fragment, 2 x 22mm length, 1 x 10mm length

##### Trench A2

###### Context 3

coal fragments x 2

brown glazed earthenware shard x 1

red earthenware sherds x 7

white post sherds, glazed x 2

fine green glass sherd, 10mm x 8mm

clay pipe stem x 1, 23mm length

##### Trench B

###### Context 1

pale earthenware, glazed ?drainpipe x 4

red earthenware sherds x 6

brown glazed earthenware sherd 20mm x 12mm

white glazed stoneware sherd 15mm – 5mm

white glazed pot sherd 15mm x 11mm

clear ?window glass, 35mm x 21mm

clear glass jar base (Heinz & Co) sherd, 42mm

fine glazed china sherds, average size 20mm x 5mm x 9

clay pipe stem fragment, 18mm

## Trench C

### Context 1

clay drainpipe fragments x 2, approximately 70 x 65mm

rusted and broken iron bade, ?chisel x 2 fragments, 87mm and 81mm length

rusted iron loop bolt, 94mm

clay pipe stem fragment, 26mm

## Trench D

### Context 1

brown glazed earthenware sherds, 35 x 25mm, 32 x 22mm

braded chert ?struck, 25mm length

clay pipe stem fragments x 2, 25mm and 32mm

## Trench E

### Context 1

cream glazed ridged earthenware, 31mm x 20mm

glazed, crazed flat clay shard, 41 x 33mm

dark blue glazed pot sherds including one rim, x 3, 15mm to 28mm

pale blue and white transfer print sherd, 21 x 22mm

blue and white ?plate rim sherd, 10 x 8mm

dark cream glazed earthenware pot with handle, 70mm x 85mm

## Trench F

### Context 1

brown glazed earthenware sherds x 2, 24 x 26mm, 21 x 16mm

dark cream glazed pot sherds x 2, 20 x 16mm, 16 x 15mm

red earthenware fabric sherd, 20 x 16mm

cream glazed fine earthenware sherds x 4, 32 x 10mm, 21 x 15mm, 18 x 9mm, 10 x 9mm

clay pipe stem fragment, 15mm length

## Trench G

### Context 1

brown glazed red earthenware rim sherd, 18 x 16mm

yellow glazed stoneware sherd, 42 x 12mm  
white and blue glazed pot sherd, 40mm x 25mm  
fine white glazed pot sherds x 2, 20 x 12mm, 10 x 14mm  
metal oval tag perforated either end, 23 x 23mm (?dog collar tag)

Trench G – 0.25 square extension

Context 1

brown glazed earthenware x 2 sherds – 45 x 34mm, 38 x 36mm  
red earthenware sherds x 3 – 39 x 26mm, 26 x 16mm, 29 x 16mm  
orange clay fabric sherd, 32 x 16mm  
matt glazed orange earthenware sherd, 26 x 27mm  
yellow glazed red earthenware sherds x 2, 29 x 25mm, 5 x 4mm  
cream glazed earthenware sherd, 16 x 15mm  
brown glazed exterior, yellow glazed interior pot, 12 x 19mm  
yellow slipware sherd – strip pattern, 23 x 21mm  
fine cream glazed china sherds, 26 x 15mm, 26 x 12mm, 21 x 15mm, 17 x 19mm, 11 x 9mm  
green glass sherds x 2, bevelled – 22 x 22mm, fine, flat – 15 x 9mm  
clay pipe stem x 4, 15mm, 20mm, 22mm, 30mm

## 9.0 Conclusion

The first part of the research relating to the field walking of West Close, Higham Booth, Over Goldshaw and White Lee confirmed the probable boundaries of the vaccaries and pastures. From this a map could be produced showing the probable general location of The Fence in the fifteenth century. However, it is recognised that this will almost certainly vary from the original due to the later boundary adjustments. Although given over to the deer at this time, many Rights of Way existed through the pastures. However, it is probable that there was a dedicated area for the deer particularly during fawning as suggested by the `balloon feature` to the north-west of St. Anne`s Church, Fence.

The site of the postulated cattle pool at White Lee is probable but not proven, particularly due to the lack of dating evidence, although it is hard to see where an alternative site could be found considering its position adjacent to West Close and Higham Booth. The location is ideal being on a major routeway to Ightenhill Manor and the size and arrangement of the site would suit its purpose. Although the site of the primary building is not confirmed, sufficient evidence supports it to be on or near the present barns to the west of the drive.

The geophysical surveys show that there had been much activity in the past with many of the earlier field boundaries laid out on different orientation.



The excavation in the paddock to the east of the present farmhouse showed that the house once extended a bay further to the east and was subsequently demolished. A good, stone built drain running from the rear of the building was seen to run to the south. No pottery earlier than the first quarter of the seventeenth century was seen. However a sherd dating to early part of the sixteenth century was found to the rear of the farmhouse.

Test pits following the geophysical survey to the north of the barn to the east of the drive showed possible structural evidence of an earlier building, although no early pottery was seen.

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## Notes

- 1 Shaw, 1956, 357
- 2 Shaw, 1956, 247, 366
- 3 Shaw, 1956, 251.
- 4 Shaw, 1956, 370
- 5 Shaw, 1956, 374.
6. Farrer, 2019, 373
- 7 Whitaker 1876, vol.1, 266
- 8 Farrer, 2019, 181-6
- 9 Birrell, 1992, 116
- 10 Shaw, 1956, 475
- 11 Shaw, 1956, 491
- 12 Shaw, 1956, 183. This must refer to a building in Higham Booth and might refer to Ashlar House, which is stated by Whittaker (*History of Whalley*, 1876, vol. II, 276) to be sited in Higham Booth and called `The Fence`, a date of 1594 is attributed to the building. Ashlar House is situated on the south side of the main road to the west of St Anne's Church.
- 13 Farrer, 2019, 185.
- 14 Farrer, 2019.
- 15 Farrer, 2019, 51

- 16 Barnett, C., Suggett, J., Whitlock, A. and Taylor D J A., *A Report of an Excavation of a bloomery site at The Old House Sabden Fold*. In course of preparation. The date of the pottery found could link it with Ightenhill Manor and the de Lacys.
- 17 Farrer 1912, 373-377
- 18 Taylor, 2021
- 19 Whitaker 1876, vol. II, 276
- 20 Historic England. List Entry no. 1243453
- 21 Farrer 2019, 528
- 22 Smith 2009, 52. Water-shot coursing is known to have been introduced locally around 1670. This is a technique of laying the external stone courses in such a way that a sloping edge 10mm-15mm wide is left exposed on the upper edge of each course. To achieve this each stone on every course is tilted at an angle of 5° to the horizontal. The top outer edge of each stone is laid perfectly vertical and in line with the course above and below. Seen at an angle the profile of the wall resembles a saw edge. Smith, John W. and Kit, 2004, *An Architectural History of Towneley Hall, Burnley*, Heritage Trust for the North West, 52.
- 23 Shaw, 1956, 370.
- 24 Shaw, 1956, 371.
- 25 Farrer 2019, 185.
26. A chamber is a large room especially one used for formal meetings.

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