

The Sneep A0039

Site Type	farmstead
Site Name	The Sneep
Other Name(s)	Sneap Snepe, Snipe.
Ownership	The Sneep, Tasset, Hexham, NE48 1RN
Related Sites	

LOCATION

National Grid Reference	NY 7922 8834	Km Square	NY 7988
TAG 2006 Atlas : Map	H3	Air Photo. No	Run C--OS/74133--205

Modern Parish	Tasset
Historic Parish & Township	Bellingham -- Tarretburn

LISTINGS

Scheduled Ancient Monument		Listed	
National Monument Record		English Heritage Pastscape	
Historic Environment Record	15054	Tasset & Greenhaugh HVA	39
Grundy	TAR 54	Tasset & Greystead Books	MM-90 LX-88

EVIDENCE

Extant

DESCRIPTION

The 'Snepe' or 'Snipe' appear on several early maps, such as Saxton's of 1576, Speed's of 1610, Kitchin's of 1750 and Cary's of 1789. The present buildings form a rectangular group of which only the south range appear on the Ordnance Survey map of 1866. These comprise the old farmhouse (with a rear outshut) and a single storeyed block to the east, a byre now partly taken into the house; the western part of the range has been replaced by the 'Big house' of the 1880s. The front elevation of the older farmhouse faces south and is of coursed roughly squared and roughly-tooled stone, and with tooled and margined dressings, looks of early 19th century date, although there is one patch of irregular rubble which must be earlier. It is of three bays, the western, its openings altered in the late 19th century now forming part of the 'Big House', but it stands on a boulder footing of an earlier character. The east end gable, above the byre roof, seems older, and the rear outshut (of similar character to the early-19th century front) seems to be an addition, suggesting that the core of the house is earlier, perhaps of the 18th century although there is nothing, other than perhaps the boulder footing, that obviously relates to the building shown here on the early county maps.

The 'Big House' faces west, across broad lawns, and has a twin-gabled ashlar front with some quirky late Victorian detail such as the brattished parapet to the bay window of the projecting northern bay, and segmental relieving arches in rusticated stone; the openings have stop-chamfered surrounds with moulded stops, and some similar pieces of

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stonework, perhaps surplus to requirements lie in the garden. This is a well-to-do house that coincides with the coming of the railway to the Tasset Valley [1861], which doubtless brought the Welsh slates for its roof.

The 'Cottage' is a detached east-west range to the north; it seems to be of around the same date as the 'Big House' although only built of roughly-coursed and roughly-squared stone, with dressings that may be older work re-used; it has little in the way of architectural detail other than a pitching door in a gabled dormer, and the eastern part of the range, probably originally a coach house has been converted into garages. At its west end is the narrow entry to the yard, and beyond that an L-plan range that angles around the north-east corner of the yard. This is made up of two parts, a stable range of roughly coursed stone with tooled-and-margined quoins and dressings that seems to be part of the 1880s remodelling of the site, and an L-plan Dutch Barn, open-fronted with cast iron piers, at the corner of the yard. At first sight this looks older having rubble masonry and old weathered quoins to its west gable end, but the Ordnance Survey maps shows that it is in fact early 20th century date (first appearing on the 3rd edition of 1925, re-using old stone and dressings that must have been imported from elsewhere.

Peter Ryder Farm Survey 2006

IMAGES

None.

NOTES

None.

REFERENCES

	Tasset Archive Group Farm Survey (2006) – The Sneep, Unpublished, produced by The Archaeological Practice, Newcastle upon Tyne.	
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