

**Burnmouth Mill A0068**

Site Type	mill (site of)
Site Name	Burnmouth Mill
Other Name(s)	
Ownership	Burnbank, Tarset, Hexham, NE48 1LY
Related Sites	Bastle remains at Burnmouth A0010, Burnmouth A0446

## LOCATION

National Grid Reference	NY 7932 8831	Km Square	NY 7988
TAG 2006 Atlas : Map	H3	Air Photo. No	Run D--OS/74062-- 025

Modern Parish	Tarset
Historic Parish & Township	Bellingham--Tarretburn

## LISTINGS

Scheduled Ancient Monument	x	Listed	x
National Monument Record	x	English Heritage Pastscape	x
Historic Environment Record	23881	Tarset & Greenhaugh HVA	68
Grundy	x	Tarset & Greystead Books	MM- LX-

## EVIDENCE

The 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map [ Sheet 59 Surveyed in 1862 ] shows Burnmouth mill, albeit in a ruinous state as a complex of at least two buildings, a wheel pit [?] and channel on the north side of the burn. A single building is shown in the same position on the tithe plan of c.1840. Armstrong's 1769 county map also shows the mill, but (presumably erroneously) on the south side of the burn. Subsequent editions of the Ordnance Survey no longer mark the site but some evidence remains on the ground, including the site of the wheel pit and leat.

## DESCRIPTION

The historic mill complex occupies an area of flat, low-lying haugh land within a bend in the stream, with channels and tracks running off to east and west and a ford site in the stream immediately south of the main mill complex.

An evaluation excavation revealed the presence of a stone-lined channel on the bottom of the linear channel visible as an earthwork and previously assumed to be the remains of the Burnmouth Mill wheel pit and/or race.

No other structural remains of significance, such as the remains of machinery were found during the excavations. However in the wider vicinity of the excavated site are a number of earthwork remains, including building platforms, trackways, a ford and stone walls or banks alongside the burn, some of which appear to comply with the location of buildings and associated trackways visible on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey plan. No evidence was found for the type of mill – vertical or horizontal wheel; undershot or overshot etc.

Close study of the results of excavation and topographic survey, allied to examination of historic maps and air photographs, suggests that two principal buildings or ranges occupied the site. One, over or adjacent to the upstream end of the wheel pit, probably

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contained the mill wheel, millstone and other equipment. the other, alongside the road approaching the mill house from the west was a longer building, perhaps used for residential or storage purposes (the quantity of domestic pottery found during the excavation certainly supports domestic activity on the site, A third structure, apparent on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the Ordnance Survey plan may be a building but could equally be a compound, perhaps for stock associated with a smallholding attached to the mill, or for horses used in transport. Traces of this structure, or at least its location, survive in the form of wall traces and terraced areas along the burn side upstream of the ford.

Aerial photographs of the wider area show that it is part of a complex of earthworks which, in addition to the structures already mentioned include other building remains, field boundaries, rig & furrow, paths trackways and Holloways. Redundant trackway features on the south and east sides of the burn to the east of the mill site, west of the modern road, are probably the remains of droveways which were late replaced by the modern road. This route is not closely connected to Burnmouth farmstead, although it does offer access to the height-land north-east of the mill across which flowed the mill leat.

*The Archaeological Practice Ltd. 2009 (Abbreviated)*

## IMAGES



## NOTES

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REFERENCES

	The Archaeological Practice, 2009. Burnmouth Mill, Northumberland. Report on Archaeological Excavations and survey of earthwork features.	
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