

Highfield A0211

Site Type	farmstead
Site Name	Highfield
Other Name(s)	
Ownership	Highfield Farm, Tasset, Hexham, NE48 1RT
Related Sites	Highfield Bastles A0212, A0213, Keb House A0214

LOCATION

National Grid Reference	NY 7528 9060	Km Square	NY 7590
TAG 2006 Atlas : Map	G2	Air Photo. No	Run B--OS/74133 --245

Modern Parish	Tasset
Historic Parish & Township	Thorneyburn -- Tasset West

LISTINGS

Scheduled Ancient Monument	x	Listed	x
National Monument Record	x	English Heritage Pastscape	x
Historic Environment Record	23004	HVA	x
Grundy	x	Tasset Books	MM- LX-96

EVIDENCE

Extant. Shown on 1st Edition of OS '6 inch' Map Northumberland Old Series Sheet 59 Surveyed 1862.

DESCRIPTION

Highfield is a remote farm, doubly so in its present situation within a clearing amongst thousands of acres of forest plantation, high in the valley of the Tasset Burn. The farmhouse has been described as incorporating a 'pele', and the remains of two probable bastles lie in the fields to the north. ['High Feelde' is mentioned in a report of the Warden of the English Middle March in 1583]

Highfield farmhouse consists of a rectangular block c.22m by 6m. With a later rear outshut and rear wing. The walls are of squared rubble, with large angle quoins, and appear to be c0.80m thick; the roof is of Welsh slate. Most of the present fenestration is relatively modern, but there are a number of blocked windows in the south front (on both ground- and first-floor levels), somewhat obscured by heavy pointing, and a pair of small attic lights high in each gable end, although those at the east are obscured by recent render. Internally there is said to be a thick cross wall midway along the range, and some interesting features in the attic. The house appears to be of the early 18th century; its overall form is quite similar to Redheugh (1732) and Stobbs in Rochester Parish, both examples of the post-bastle generation of substantial farmhouses still with quite thick wall.

There is a set of old farm buildings a little to the northwest of the house, which, interestingly, are set on a different orientation from the farmhouse and field boundaries in the area. The former align east-north-east to west-south-west, while the farm buildings are more closely aligned to the cardinal points. The main block is set north-south, with a range

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extending east from its north end and a second west from part way down its west side are set east-west. The main block is of coursed roughly-squared stone, with a Welsh slate roof, and the other two slightly lower ranges of coursed rubble, and now roofed by asbestos sheets.

The main block has two doorways with neat alternating block surrounds, the southern quite large, and with a basket arch (secondary ?) cut into the soffit of its lintel; there are also various slit vents including three in the northern gable end. The east range also has doorways with alternating block jambs, and slit vents, towards the yard but at the back (north) the eastern of the two doorways is a most unusual piece, with quite an unusual moulded surround of late 17th or early 18th century character, which perplexingly has a lug, or ear at one end of the head and none at the other. It is made up of re-used materials and the lintel one side of a smaller opening (window or even a fireplace?); it certainly does not seem to be in its original context, and presumably came from the house. The west gable end of the west range is set skew to the side walls, so as to conform with the line of the presumably earlier field boundary against which it abuts.

Only the east range seems to appear on the tithe map of c1840; the other two ranges are in position by the 1st edition of the Ordnance Survey map (surveyed c1860).

IMAGES



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REFERENCES

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