

Thorneyburn Tileworks A0254

Site Type	tileworks (drainage tiles)
Site Name	Thorneyburn Tileworks
Other Name(s)	
Ownership	High Thorneyburn, Tarset, Hexham, NE48 1AP
Related Sites	Thorneyburn Colliery A0248, A0249 BCR A0069.

LOCATION

National Grid Reference	NY 7638 8662	Km Square	NY 7686
TAG 2006 Atlas : Map	L2	Air Photo. No	Run-E--OS/74062--073

Modern Parish	Tarset
Historic Parish & Township	Thorneyburn -- Thorneyburn

LISTINGS

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

EVIDENCE

Shown on 1st Edition of OS '6 inch' Map Northumberland Old Series Sheet 59, surveyed 1862. Field walking.

DESCRIPTION

The works are shown on the 1862 OS plan with a substantial range of buildings, a square enclosure labelled 'clay pit', a mound, possibly a clay stockpile, and a rail siding with a loop leading to the BCR. This siding is described by Captain Rich, the Board of Trade Inspector as follows:-

'...a single line of Railway leading from Thorneyburn Colliery joins the main line. The junction is protected with proper signals, stop blocks and blind siding'.

Shallow earthworks for this branch can still be seen.

The size of the buildings, which presumably included a kiln, and a drying shed, and the provision of a rail connection implies a fairly substantial investment. Sewell notes that the siding was not on the NBR siding schedule of 1877 and had probably ceased working well before that date. No clayworkers are shown in any of the relevant census records and only one section of the buildings and the mound are shown on the 1896 OS plan. Today only a mound remains with some fragments of masonry. The operation of these works is therefore problematical. The square 'clay pit' may imply that a fireclay was being worked, but the slope to the north of the works appears to have been excavated for glacial till, although it is possible that it was used as a borrow pit for railway embankment construction.

On the right bank of the stream there is a channel, probably a leat, leading from the stream. There is no trace of a dam in the stream, or of the destination the leat which

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runs out at ground level. There is no sign of a wheel pit and it is possible that the leat was carried across the stream to the tileworks by a timber launder, but its purpose is not clear. Nothing is known of the actual products, although they were presumably drainage tiles and perhaps pipes. During excavations to improve site drainage at the nearby Old Hall Cottage, [A0244] a run of drainage pipes was found adjacent to the foundations. The pipes were in 13 in. lengths, had a nominal internal diameter of 2 in., were made from glacial till and have clearly been extruded. (The cottage is believed to have been built c 1845, probably well before the works were operating.)

IMAGES

None.

NOTES

REFERENCES

	Sewell, G.W.M. (1992) <i>The North British Railway in Northumberland</i> Merlin Books, Braunton, Devon.	
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