

Black Middens Bastle (1) A0296

Site Type	bastle
Site Name	Black Middens (1).
Other Name(s)	Black Middings
Ownership	Gleedlee, Tarset, Hexham, NE48 1PB
Related Sites	House (remains) A0297, Black Middens (2) A0301.

LOCATION

National Grid Reference	NY 7731 8999	Km Square	NY 7789
TAG 2006 Atlas : Map	G4	Air Photo. No	Run B--OS/74133 --248

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

LISTINGS

Scheduled Ancient Monument	1011643	Listed Grade 2* NLHE	1156429
National Monument Record	78 NE 03	English Heritage Pastscape	15658
Historic Environment Record	6990	HVA	X
Grundy	TAR 2	Tarset & Greystead Books	MM- LX-110

EVIDENCE

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DESCRIPTION

This bastle remains largely intact, with only its roof missing, and measures 7.3m x 10.4m x c.8m high to the gable ridge. Its walls are 1.4m thick and it illustrates the usual arrangement of a two storey structure with steeply pitched gables; the ground floor was used for storage and occasional shelter of animals, and the upper floor served as living quarters. The stumps of the original raised cruck roof survive. It is of the rarer type of bastle in which the ground floor had a timber ceiling instead of a vaulted stone roof. An original ventilation slit can be seen on the ground floor of the north west gable end and two later windows in the upper storey of the south west wall. There are two doorways in the south west wall, one leading into the basement and the other into the upper floor. Both are 18th century replacements of original doorways and are wider than the 16th century doors would have been, since the defensive function of narrow doors was no longer necessary by that time. The upper door was also heightened by incorporating two original windows whilst the original ladder access to the upper floor was replaced by an outer staircase.

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IMAGES



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NOTES

Black Middens includes a well preserved 16th century bastle, labelled in this archive as bastle (1), as well as an 18th century farmhouse, the remains of a second bastle (2) which survived in use as a sheepfold and a group of enclosures representing an associated inner field system and the beginnings of a larger outer field system.

In the vicinity of the buildings are numerous low banks which represent the remains of an associated field system. The building remains illustrate the development of a small upland farming community into a single linear farmstead, probably inhabited by a single family. The bastle is a Grade II* Listed Building and has been in State care since 1978.

REFERENCES

	See Pastscape & NHLE	
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