

Is there a Hermitage on Black Rake?



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Black Rake - Update November (2009) ©
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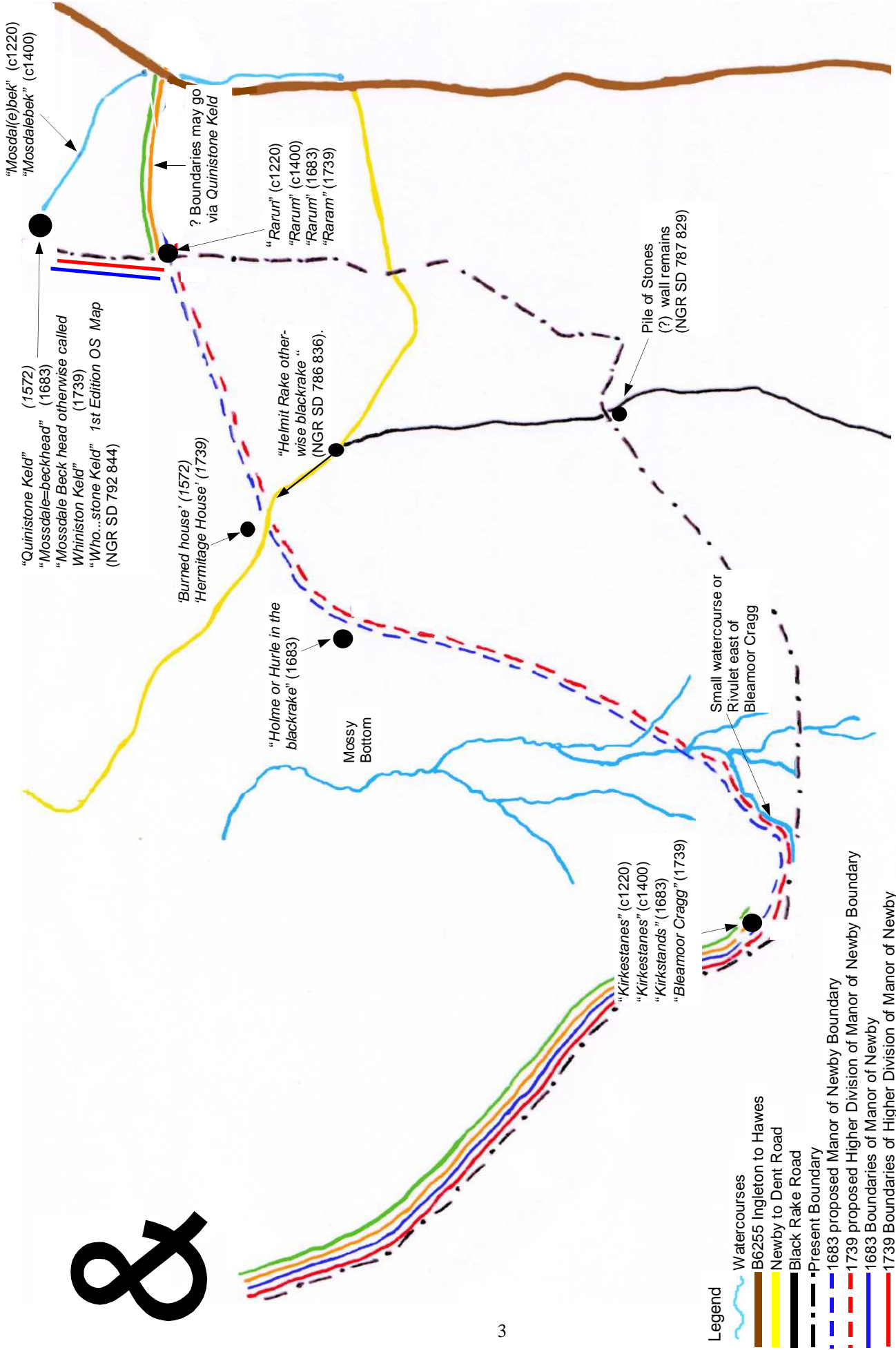


Fig 1: New Locations (1) Holme or Hurlle in Blackrake and (2) Hermitage House/Burned House

Update to - Is there a Hermitage in Blackrake?

In the above publication we mentioned a ‘burned house’ from a 1739 boundary perambulation, that we could not locate with any certainty. Further research may have shed some light on this location. At the head of Fell End Gill there is a large sheepfold. A geophysical scan, and close examination of the ground features, has revealed that the sheepfold (Plate 1) has been built on top of a previous structure. The gradiometer survey also detected higher readings, on stones protruding above the ground, on a constructed raised platform, 20m upstream from the fold (Plate2), suggesting that the stones had been subject to high temperatures.

The location of the ‘*Holme or Hurle*’ of stones, mentioned in the perambulation of 1683, has also been precisely located (Plate 3). This shows a cairn built in a stone bed that we believe is the boundary marker. These new findings have been added to our location drawing (Fig 1) and Plate 4 shows all three locations and Whinistone Keld.

If, as we believe the location of the burned house has been identified the question still remains – where is the Hermitage? As stated in our previous publication (Batty and Batty, 2009), the burned house and the ‘*Hermitage House*’ may be the same structure and this is still valid. We are still of the opinion that the term ‘*Hermitage House*’, mentioned in the 1739 perambulation, has been used to describe a recluse-hermit living in the remains of the burned house, and the proposed religious Hermitage referred to is located at Gauber High Pasture (Batty and Crack, Feb 2009).

Bibliography

Batty, A. M., Batty, A., (2009) *Is there a Hermitage on Black Rake?* Batty & Batty

Batty, A., Crack, N., (Feb 2009) *The Hermitage - Proposed Location* (2nd Ed). A.M. Batty



Plate 1: Showing sheepfold in Helmit Rake.



Plate 2: Showing raised platform, 20m upstream from sheepfold.



Plate 3: The boundary marker in the hurle of stones.

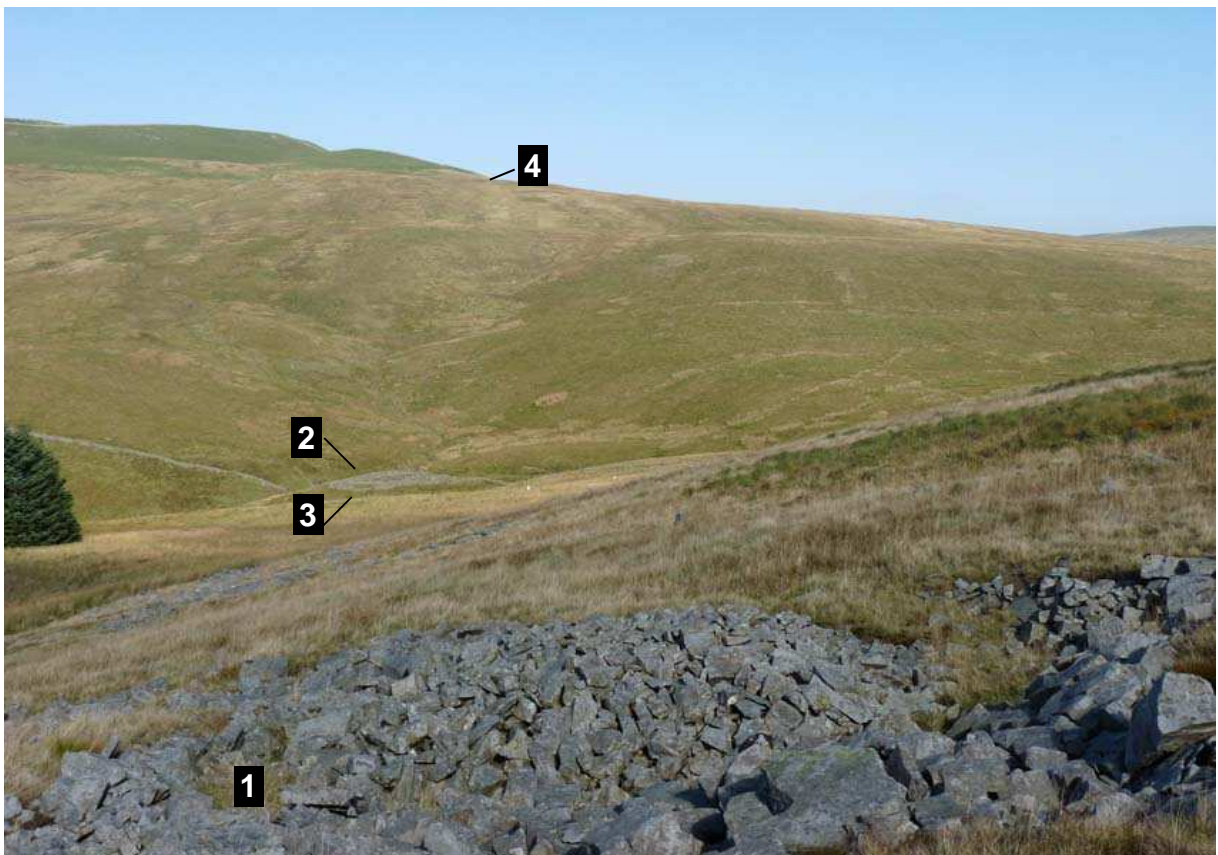


Plate 4: (1) Boundary marker in hurle of stones (2) 'Hermitage House' and (3) 'burned house' (4) is Whinistone Keld.

