Green Laid Scar
Kingsdale

A Batty & N Crack
2017
Front cover. Green Laid Scar across centre of Photograph.

*Photograph A Batty*
Green Laid Scar

Location Map
Green Laid Scar is situated midway along the north western side of the valley of Kingsdale. Other writers have noted the archaeological remains in this area and made reference to them, whether they were quoting from having inspected the remains on the ground or from aerial photographs we do not know. We have found no record of archaeological excavation or surveying having previously taken place in this field, but there are a considerable number of archaeological features in this location representing Anglo-Saxon period farming, and possibly Bronze age settlement. The remains of structures and enclosures are shown on the survey (Fig 1) and there does appear to be a clear division between the Anglo-Saxon period remains in area 1 (Fig 2) and the possible Bronze Age ones in area 2 (Fig 3).

Our research has been compiled over several years culminating in the radiocarbon dating of a hearth containing remains of charcoal and smithing slag (Plate 4) this was situated within one of the rectangular structures (Plate1). In an adjacent structure we found what was identified as a weaving sword (Plate 5 and 2), these have been found on other sites in the British Isles. On the opposite side of the valley in Brown Hills Pasture at a location called Ewe Slack is another farmstead, also dated to the Anglo-Saxon period (Batty A. Crack N. 2012). The radiocarbon dates for these two sites are not exactly identical but close enough to suggest there may have been a period of contemporary occupation.

On the northern side of the survey there is the stone-based remains of an exceptionally long structure measuring 35.2 m x 6.0m (Plate 3). We have identified an entrance in the northern end of the wall remains, there does not appear to be any cross walls to suggest that the structure was divided into different sections, but there may have been temporary timber dividers. This is the longest structure identified in our area and consider it may be for housing sheep. The wall remains suggest that the eaves were very low assuming that the structure was roofed, there is no evidence that turf walls were built on top of the stone wall remains.

The two Anglo-Saxon period sites we have dated in Kingsdale do appear to be the main focus of occupation within the valley for a considerable period of time. We do not have any other dates in Kingsdale for archaeological remains from this period, and do not know of any other sites that we would consider to be representative of Anglo-Saxon period occupation. It is possible that Braida Garth farm has been constructed on the same location as a previous Anglo-Saxon period site, but we do not know of any artefactual evidence, or structural remains having been found there to support this possibility.
Fig 1  Survey of Green Lais scar.
Fig 2  This area of the survey shows what we consider to be Anglo-Saxon period settlement.
Fig 3  This shows the area of the survey that may represent Bronze age settlement.

Bibliography.


Thanks are due to Gerry McDonnell for identifying the type of slag.
Plate 1  Red dot shows location of smithing hearth, where the charcoal for radiocarbon dating was obtained.  

Photograph  A Batty.

Plate 2  Red dot shows location where the weaving sword was found.  

Photograph  A Batty.
Plate 3  Possible large sheep house.  Photograph A Batty.

Plate 4  Smithing slag.  Photograph A Batty.
Plate 5  Weaving sword.  Photograph  A Batty.

Fig 4  Radiocarbon date of charcoal.

SUERC-24544 : 1195±30BP

68.2% probability
775AD (9.7%) 795AD
800AD (38.5%) 880AD
95.4% probability
710AD (4.3%) 750AD
760AD (88.8%) 900AD
920AD (2.2%) 940AD