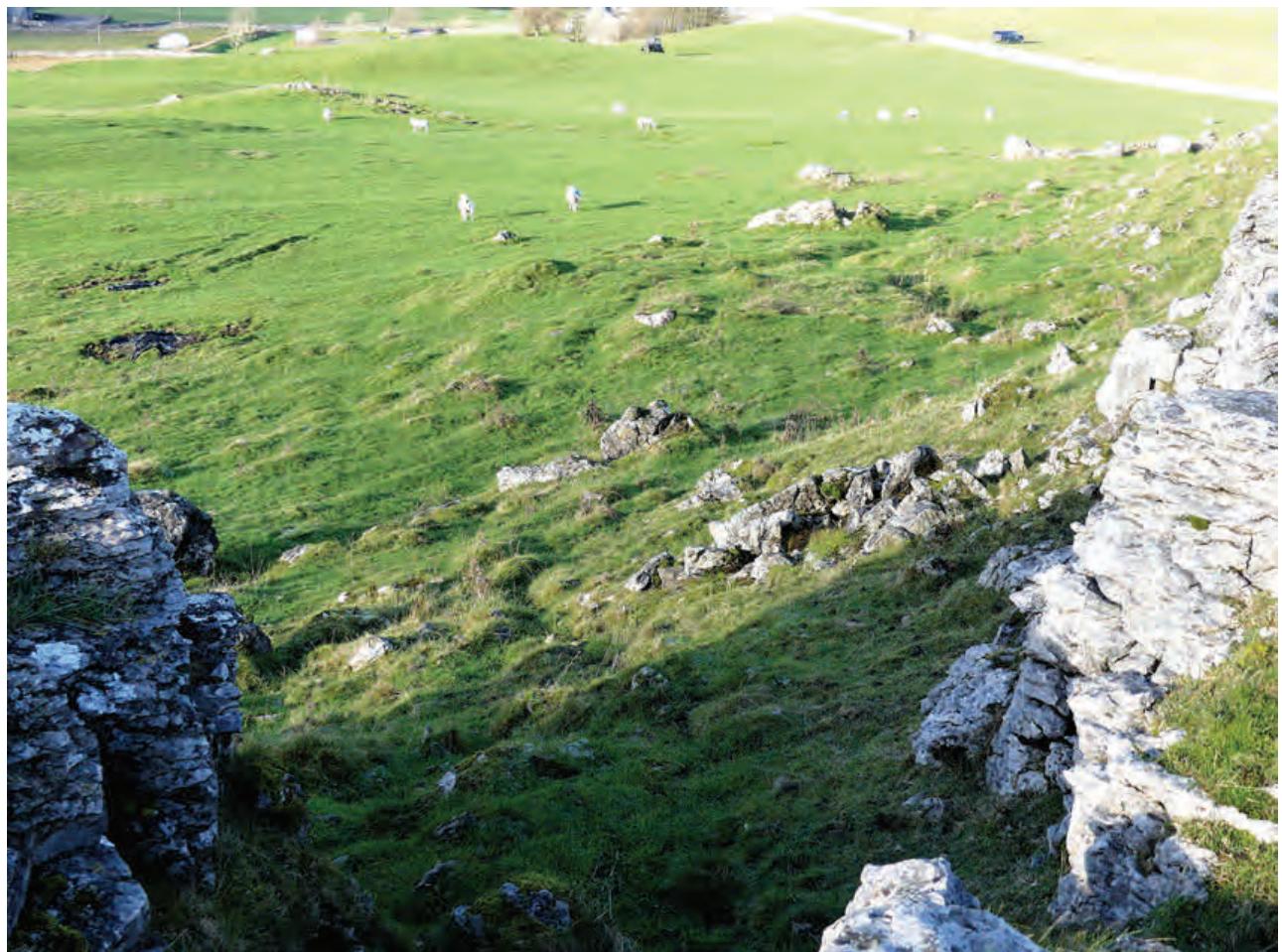


Has this been the location of a Mill ?
Anglo-Saxon ?
Medieval ?



A Batty.
2022

Front cover. Showing a double leat with each one going either side of a levelled area.

Photograph A Batty.

Possible location of Water Powered Mill.

This is located on Keld Bank.

In Chapel-le-Dale.

SD 7456 7730.

There is a leat which comes under the south eastern wall of Great Douk pasture about half way across, this runs in a northerly direction around the top side of Great Douk Cave. The leat then goes under the wall on to Keld Bank still going north to about halfway across, then turns to a more north westerly direction. It then goes over the edge of the limestone terrace, falling steeply down, and then splitting in two to go either side of the feature being discussed here (Plate1). Having passed this they re-join to form a single leat, this continues running in a northerly direction and goes under the wall into a pasture called Philpin Sleights. It then passes close by a lime-kiln which is on the eastern side, then turns to the north west and passes under the B6255 road and goes down to Philpin farm.

On the 1st edition OS map (Fig1) there is an error in the section across Keld Bank and I have marked the correct course in blue. The line at this point shown by the OS is a ridge on the ground (Plate7) not a leat, this is the course of a cast iron water pipe and probably represents the upgrading of the water supply to Philpin Farm from a leat to piped system. The point at which the leat shown in blue leaves the OS line is not very obvious, but the ridge created by burying the pipe has confused the OS surveyors, who failed to see the leat going in the direction of the blue line to the proposed location of a Mill site. The surveys I have carried out (Figs 2,3 and 4) clearly show the route of the leat and proposed mill site.

Anybody following the OS map would have missed seeing the leat as shown in (Plates1 2 and 3). I have been unable to find any reference to this potential mill site, or heard any verbal mention of it. The next step is obviously an archaeological excavation to prove if there has been a mill in this location, and if possible at what date.

The photographs (Plates 4,5, and 6) show examples of the type of structure I am suggesting may have been constructed, and the double leat on (Plate 6) is virtually identical to the one on Keld Bank (Plate1).

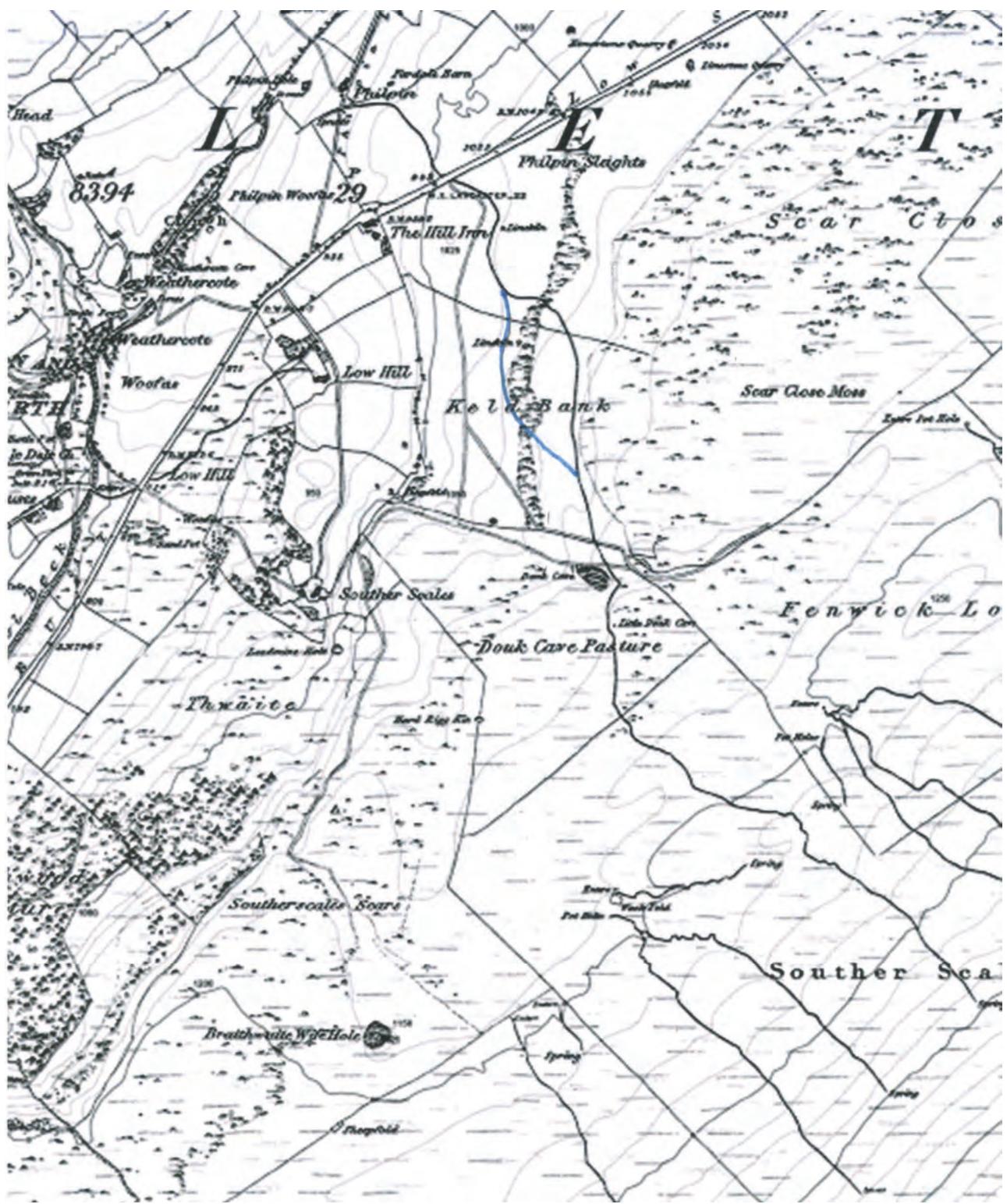


Fig 1. 1st Edition OS map 1850. This shows the line of the leat from source to Philpin Farm, the blue line shows a correction to the line of the leat.

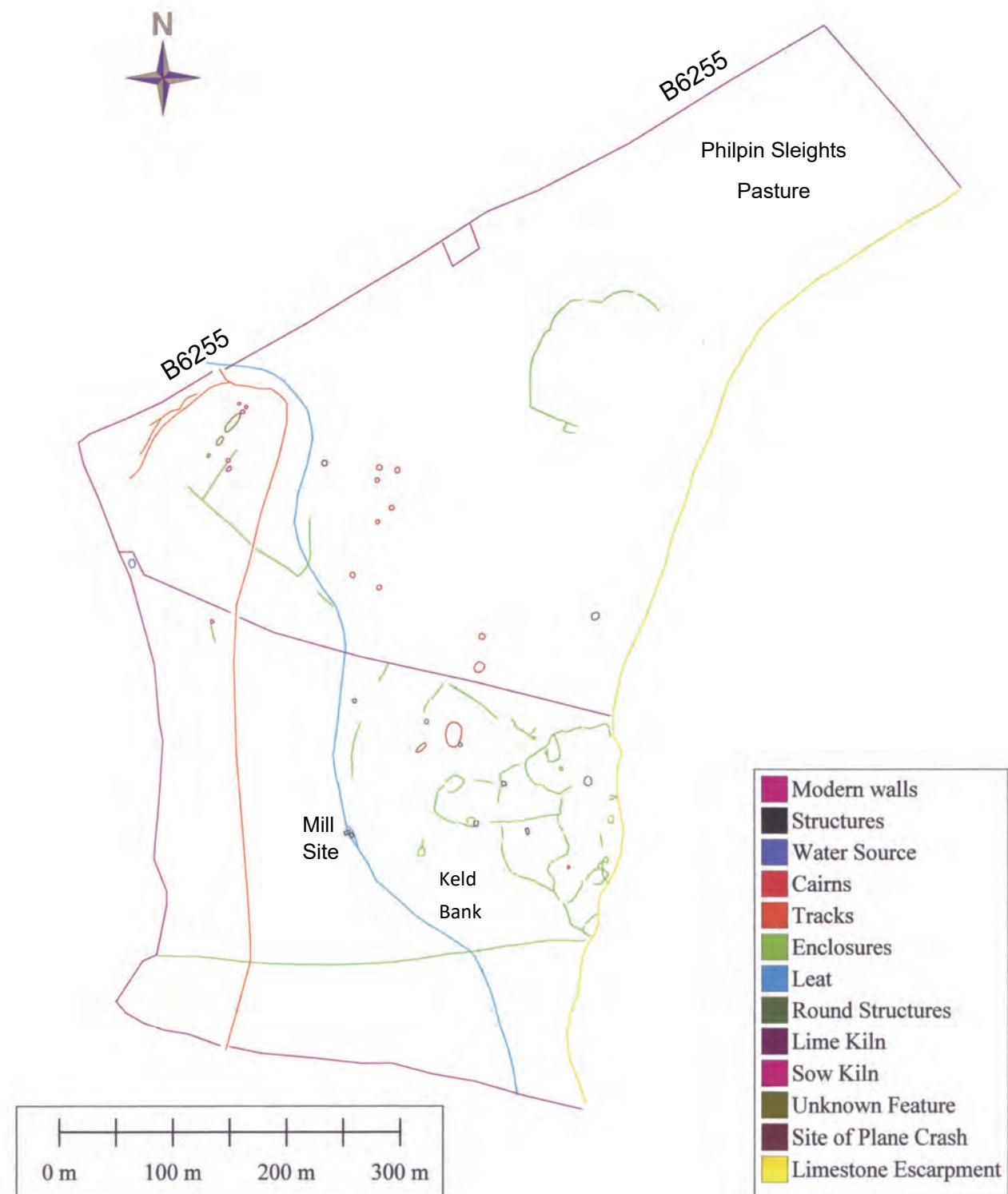


Fig 2. Survey of Keld Bank and Philpin Sleights Pasture.

Survey A Batty.

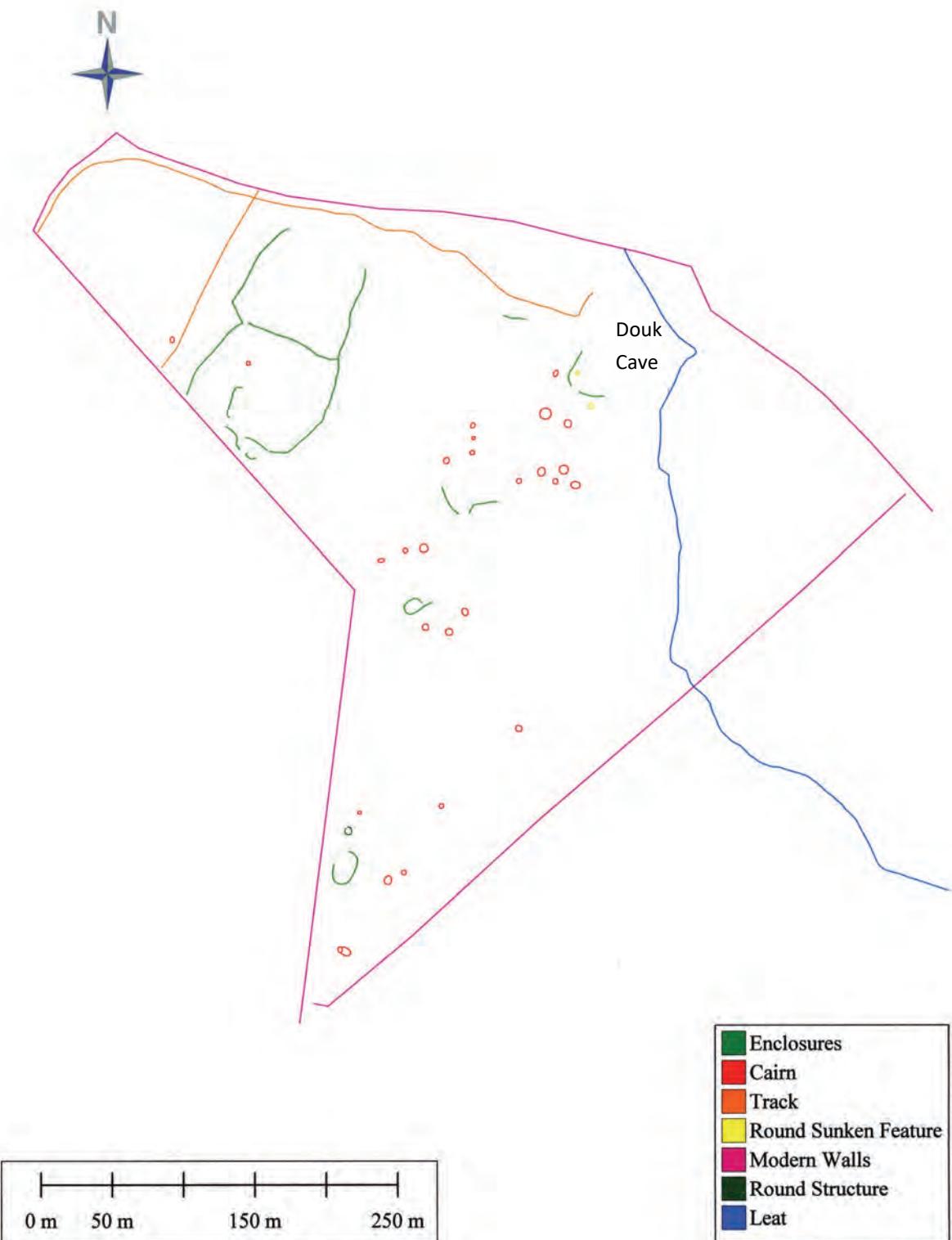


Fig 3. Survey of Douk Cave Pasture.

Survey A Batty.



Fig 4. Enlarged view of proposed Mill site. Two locations for Mill structures have been overlaid on split leat, there is no clear evidence for one of these, only the platform on which it may have stood.
A Batty.



Plate 1. Showing edge of limestone escarpment where leat falls down to proposed Mill site. The leat divides into two and re-joins again having passed the platform area lower centre.
Photograph A Batty.



Plate 2. Leat going south east from top of limestone escarpment. *Photograph A Batty.*



Plate 3. Leat continuing south east towards Douk cave which is over the wall to the right of the trees at top of photograph. *Photograph A Batty.*



Plate 4. Click Mill on Great Bernera Lewis.

Photograph A Batty.



Plate 5. Horizontal paddle wheel which drives millstone.

Photograph A Batty.



Plate 6. Click Mill remains at Huxter on Shetland.

Photograph A Batty.



Plate 7. Ridge created by laying of water pipe, going under wall into Philpin Sleights Pasture, this is surveyed as a leat on OS map.

Photograph A Batty