

Shootinglee Excavation 2020

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Excavation took place during July to November 2020 on the site of a building previously recorded in 2012 as part of the survey of Shootinglee, a forest stead in what was formerly Ettrick Forest (DES 2012, 166). The building is situated on a wide terrace 25m NW of a peel house (DES 2019, 185).

A 10m x 6m trench (Trench 7) was opened over the W half of the building to reveal the footings of the building with 0.8m thick clay-bonded walls. Internally there is a well-built drain running E-W down the centre of the floor space, i.e. along the length of the building, to the W wall which has collapsed into the drain. The drain terminates at the outer edge of the wall where it is blocked by a large boulder. To the S of the drain the floor is paved and a depressed area in the centre infilled with cobbles. To the N the flooring is a rough mix of earth and stones with some paving. Unusually the entrance appears to be in the middle of the N wall where there is an area of rough paving.

Outside the S wall there is an 8cm depth of topsoil under which is a spread of tumbled stone in a dark brown silty soil with patches of orange. Adjacent to the wall there is a discrete area of small shattered stones measuring 0.75m x 0.75m beside a paving slab. A 1.0m wide wall extends SW from the SW corner of the building which is interpreted as forming the revetment of the terrace edge.

The removal of the tumble of the W wall revealed the wall had been built on top of a thick layer of reddish-brown clay with flecks of charcoal which forms the edge of the terrace thought to possibly be from a previous building. The W end of the N wall may have been vulnerable to subsidence due to water seepage and to counteract this it has been built on courses of placed supporting stones with a short section of drain parallel to it below.

Finds have been mostly from the 17th century onwards and consist of clay pipe, pottery, glass and metal including a small billon coin. One abraded sherd of late medieval pottery has been found inside the building.



Figure 1: orthorectified vertical image of the building after the topsoil and tumble has been removed from the interior -© Peeblesshire Archaeological Society.



Figure 2: view of the cobbled stand during excavation - © Peeblesshire Archaeological Society.