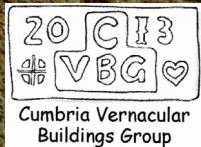


Bastles, Bee boles and Barns

- a Step by Step guide to the
Traditional Buildings
of the Lower Eden Valley

**Edited by June Hill, with contributions from Bruce Bennison,
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Fellfoot Forward

Guide to the Traditional Buildings of the Lower Eden Valley

Introduction

This guide is intended for visitors and residents alike, whether travelling by car, bicycle or on foot. The aim is to draw attention to traditional building types by highlighting examples to be found in each village described, and setting them in the context of their neighbourhood.

All the villages described lie in the lower Eden Valley, either on the eastern slopes or in the valley bottom, and all are built from the red sandstones which form the bedrock of the area. This rock was formed during the Permian and Triassic geological periods, some 300 to 200 million years ago, mostly from sand dunes in desert conditions – hard to imagine in today's Cumbria. Grains of wind-blown sand formed the rock and the building stone we see in our traditional architecture.

The time span covered by the buildings described runs from the Norman occupation of what is now Cumbria (around 1100 AD) to Georgian times. No homes of ordinary working people survive in this county from the Middle Ages as only the elite in society could afford to build in enduring materials, that is in stone. So castles, churches and peles can still be seen.

Most of the villages described were established before the Norman Conquest of 1066, although Cumberland was still part of Scotland until 1092, when William 11 (Rufus) claimed it for England. Village place-name evidence points to Celtic, Saxon, Danish and Norse (Viking) origins. The Normans introduced the feudal system and land was redistributed, so modifications were made to village plans. The area was fought over by England and Scotland for much of the medieval period, a fact reflected in the surviving buildings, most of which are defensive. This is another reason why buildings of wood and thatch have not survived. It was not until The Union of the Crowns in 1603, that Border warfare was discouraged by James VI of Scotland, who also became James I of England, on the death of Queen Elizabeth I. Even then, localised raiding, mainly cattle rustling, carried on between certain families from both sides of the Border.

From around 1600 AD we can focus on domestic houses. The period sometimes referred to as The Great Rebuild (earlier in the south of England than in the north), was when medieval houses were rebuilt in more durable materials and to the standards required at the time, although the former site and even the earlier footprint were often used. When chimneys were introduced into most houses, about 1600 onwards in Cumbria, they replaced open hearths, so bringing smoke under control. Some houses even had walls raised and

an upper floor added. Windows from this time are mullioned, although from around 1700 onwards, sash windows and casements were becoming fashionable. Some traditional practices persisted, thatched roofs and cruck frames for instance, but many buildings had new roofs of lower pitch, covered in stone flags or slate.

House plans developed from the linear (two or three rooms in a row, one room deep, often with an attached byre) to the 'four square' house typical of the eighteenth century. This had sash windows, 'front' rooms and a centrally placed front door.

This guide has been written to increase the enjoyment of our traditional buildings, for both visitors and for residents with contributions, which reflect their individual views, from several members of Cumbria Vernacular Buildings Group (CVBG). The development and production of the guide has been supported by the North Pennines AONB Partnership's Fellfoot Forward Landscape Partnership Scheme, funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund. We are particularly grateful for the co-operation of the owners of buildings featured. The format of the guide has a general description of each village followed by a detailed account of a type of building to be seen there. Types of building featured include bank barn, bastle, bridge, castle, cruck structure, defended church, farmhouse, mill and pele. There are, of course, many more buildings of interest

and listed properties in all the villages. Some of the features described can be seen in other buildings. Architectural terms are explained in the Glossary, following the village descriptions and are shown in the main text in ***bold italics*** when first mentioned.

A note about listing grades -

To be listed by Historic England, a building needs to be of 'particular architectural and/or historic significance'. Of those 2% of the national building stock that are listed, 2.5% are Grade 1, (of 'exceptional interest'), 5.5% Grade 11* ('of particular importance and of more than special interest') and the rest, 92%, are Grade 11, ('of special interest'). The fact that so many listed buildings can be seen in this area, show the richness of our built environment. We hope you enjoy taking a close look at our traditional buildings, seeing features you may not have been aware of, however familiar you are with the area.

Please respect the privacy of the people who live in the buildings described and only view them from public spaces. The villages described are either within the boundary of the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and UNESCO Global Geopark or on its fringe..

**June Hill
Chairman, CVBG.**

CUMREW

Bruce Bennison

Like its neighbour Newbiggin, Cumrew is located at the foot of the major limestone escarpment marking the Pennine Fault, forming the geological boundary between the St Bees Sandstone and the Melmerby Scar Limestone. The linear village is set back off the B6413, aligned along a probable earlier route which heads north eastwards to the elevated hamlets of Albyfield and Brackenthwaite and eventually Castle Carrock. The buildings are predominantly of St Bees Sandstone **rubble** or **ashlar** with slate roofs.. The economy of the village was mainly pastoral until the early 19th century, but the Enclosure Acts and the needs of more intensive agriculture, resulted in exploitation of the coal deposits in Geltsdale to the north east. This supported the quarrying of local limestone to be burnt in limekilns, the remains of which can be seen scattered along the escarpment above the village.

The origins of the village certainly date to the 13th century, although evidence of settlement in prehistory exists in the many former and surviving cairns and stone circles in the local area. Recorded evidence for the church can be found in Cumbria Record Office which holds a copy of a lease dated to 1238 for the church of 'Cumreu' by Patrick the Fleming, leasing for his lifetime to the Priory of Carlisle the church 'with

all its appurtenances at annual rent of 10 marks'. Cumrew was subsequently to become part of the Barony of Gilsland under the Dacres and Howards and was surveyed by one William Hayward, along with the rest of the Barony, in the early 17th century for Lord William Howard. This resulted in an extremely valuable Field Book and Plan of the manor (also held by Cumbria Record Office) showing buildings and field boundaries, some of which survive through to the present day.

Notable buildings in the village are the **former parsonage** by the gate to St Mary's church, dating from at least the mid to late 17th century and once



Norman ornamented stones, probably from a door surround in the old church, re-set into the wall of the former parsonage.

inhabited by a curate called John Calvert who was responsible for much renovation and remodelling of the church at that time. This resulted in many carved stones from the medieval fabric of the church being re-used by Calvert in both the interior and exterior walls of his parsonage.

The nearby **Cumrew House, (Grade 11)** home of the Gill family for at least 250 years, is probably early 18th century with extensions dated 1753. It sits on the site of three tenements shown on the 17th century Hayward map of Cumrew, one of which was held by Henry Gill. Its walled garden contains some rare (rebuilt) **bee boles** which are contemporary with the 18th century house. More bee boles can be seen in a garden wall at the north of the village.



Cumrew House, seen from the road. (Roy Hill)

Cruck framed barn at Helme Farm. Grade 11
Cruck framing was once commonly used in north-west England for house construction during the 17th and 18th centuries but few examples now remain in Cumbria. At Helme Farm a three bay single-storey cruck-framed barn of random rubble sandstone, beneath a slate roof retains two pairs of relatively complete cruck frames. It has recently been converted to residential use.



Cruck barn before conversion (June Hill)

NEWBIGGIN

Bruce Bennison

Lying one mile south of Cumrew is Newbiggin. It stretches eastwards off the B6413 and ends at Townhead Farm.

The buildings are predominately of St Bees Sandstone rubble or ashlar with slate roofs. The historic focus for the village lies at the eastern end, around the former **bastle** house at Townhead. The site of the bastle sits at the foot of Newbiggin Fell and guards an old packhorse route over from Geltsdale and beyond, used primarily in the 18th and 19th centuries for carrying coal but probably dating back much earlier. The village grew in association with this trade and this no doubt prompted the arrival of a Wesleyan Methodist chapel, built in 1847 to the north of Newbiggin Beck (rebuilt on the present site south of the Beck in 1867) and the development of at least one inn and a blacksmith.



Beck at the junction with the village road and the B6413. (June Hill).

Townhead Bastle, Grade 11* and Farmhouse, Grade 11

This is a small complex of sandstone buildings, the earliest of which is the 16th century Bastle. The surviving first floor entrance to the bastle has the initials T D, thought to be for Thomas, Lord Dacre (died 1566) and the date MDXX, on the lintel, (not regarded by some sources as contemporary with the current building).

Close examination of the external fabric shows it has thick walls of sandstone rubble with large **quoins**, raised in height at two different periods. It has a high pitched graduated Welsh slate roof, not of any great age, but clues to the former roof outlines can be seen particularly in the east gable end of the building.

Internally there is an impressive (blocked) first floor fireplace surviving in the west gable end. The first floor is wood, supported on timber beams; there is no evidence of there having been a more substantial floor. At some point in the last 200 years a large opening has been cut into the north elevation with an earthen bank rising up to gain access to the first floor, thus creating a **bank barn**. The building is structurally sound and currently used for storage. It has been recorded by the Royal Commission (H G Ramm et al, Sheilings and Bastles, RCHM (E), 1970).



*The gable viewed from the road, showing the massive external chimney stack, (an unusual feature on a bastle) and the ramp into the first floor entry to the bank barn.
(Ruth Lawley).]*

The adjacent **farmhouse** is dated 1702 over the main south-facing entrance, with an inscription 'Except the Lord the Builder be our labour'gs But vanity G. D. J. D.' (thought to be for Dixon). It has painted rendered walls, with large footing stones and a slate roof. There is one central chimney stack and end brick chimney stacks.



*Newbiggin bank barn, a former bastle at Townhead Farm seen from the 'low' side in the farmyard.
Note the small blocked windows at first floor level, and the signs of two roof raisings.
(with thanks to Lee Paton and Mathias Motz).*

CROGLIN

Ruth Lawley

Aerial view of Croglin looking eastwards. The tree-lined river, Croglin Water, can be seen on the right, snaking its way out of the Pennines on its way to join the Eden.

Townfoot comprises six farms and the Robin Hood Inn, while further east Townhead has two farms

and the sandstone quarry which provided stone for the buildings. The white arrow on the left of the photograph indicates the road heading north. The coal mines and lime kilns are on the fellside just below the dark heather. The white star indicates the churchyard with the church building to the left and The Old Pele to the right. The graveyard has a grave slab to Robert de Chaucy, died 1278, Bishop of Carlisle, as well as other medieval grave slabs.



The Old Pele, Grade 11*

June Hill

This was for centuries the rectory for the incumbent of the parish church in Croglin until it was absorbed into Ainstable parish in 1934. The recorded list of priests goes as far back as the thirteenth century. The building now known as The Old Pele, however, dates from the time when there was considerable turbulence in society, caused by border raids with unruly gangs of raiders, bent on stealing cattle and causing mayhem. One of their tactics was to demand protection money from inhabitants. To resist these raids, those with the means built themselves strong stone towers, now

known as **peles** for passive defence – somewhere they could stay safely until the raiders had left the vicinity. The Old Pele incorporates such a tower in its structure, although now reduced in height. With walls a metre thick and a stone-vaulted ground floor, the tower remains at the right of what appears to be a Georgian house. It was during this eighteenth century remodelling that the tower was lowered by a storey. To its left, the facade was given new sash windows but the door remained in its original position, although modified. The central part of the house was the hall, where normal everyday life took place for the whole household. The tower became a storeroom below bedrooms.



*The Old Pele, Croglin,
showing the former pele on the right.*

HIGH BANKHILL

June Hill

This small hamlet lies within the parish of Kirkoswald. It has a few scattered buildings sited along the B6413 and some farms, but no obvious centre. There was a school by 1684, founded by the then curate and endowed by John Lowthian of Staffield, another hamlet within the parish, and a relative of the William Lowthian cited below. This was replaced in 1857 by a new National School built at Sandhill, nearer to Kirkoswald centre and this became the present primary school. The Lowthians were an influential family in the area.



*Ona Ash , a thatched house, rare in Cumbria.
(Andrew Carter)*

Ona Ash, Grade 11*

Cumbria has only a few thatched houses left and this is a rare example of a type once fairly common in the county. Most have been rebuilt or given a new more fashionable look as the centuries passed, but this one has remained almost unchanged since it was built by William and Mary Lowthian in 1693. Their initials and date are displayed above the door. Built of sandstone blocks, the **uphouse** and **downhouse** arrangement can clearly be distinguished. The down house has a lower roof line and contains the dated doorway to the **cross passage** and the former cow byre, with hayloft above.



*Datestone over door to the cross passage.
The fire window is seen on the right.
(Andrew Carter)*

The whole building incorporated accommodation originally intended for both humans and livestock. It is therefore known as a **longhouse derivative**. True longhouses had only one door used by both people and animals, and none survive in Cumbria without alterations, except in the archaeological record. The former cow byre has now become the kitchen and utility, with bedrooms above, where hay was once stored. The loading door for hay remains high in the gable.



*Crucks in a bedroom of Ona Ash.
(Peter Messenger)*

The main house (up house) is entered from the cross passage into the **hall** or living room, beyond which is a small **parlour**. This hall was the principal part of the house, where cooking, eating, socialising and everyday activities of the whole household occurred. The main hearth is in an **inglenook** formed by a stone **heck** which protects the fireplace from the entrance and creates a cosy place to sit. It is lit by a **fire window** on the front.

The parlour, or private room, was also used as a bedroom when the house was of just one storey. It has a fireplace added at a later date.

A narrow dairy lies in an **outshut**, from which a stone spiral staircase rises to the upper floor. The outshut is an addition to the original simple plan, probably added in the 18th century. It is from the later upper floor that the full glory of the house can be seen. Three cruck trusses, open to the apex, are even older than the house. Signs of previous use are evident. They hold up the roof, which has been raised by a few feet to accommodate the bedrooms, the windows of which are low down, near the floor, under ‘eyebrows’ of thatch. The crucks remained but were adapted to support the new roofline.

If William and Mary Lowthian were to visit Ona Ash today, they would instantly recognise the house they built over three hundred years ago.

KIRKOSWALD

Stephanie Hewison

There is evidence of a settlement in the area of Kirkoswald going back some 3,000 years. Kirkoswald itself is recorded from 1167, the name coming from a pre-Conquest church dedicated to Saint Oswald, a Northumbrian royal saint.

The size and prosperity of the town increased after 1201 when a right was granted to hold a weekly market and an annual fair on the feast day of St Oswald, 5th August. For some 600 years it was the only market for all communities within five miles of Kirkoswald.

Markets were held until 1830 and, from the seventeenth century, a wide variety of shops and trades were in operation (coopers, butchers, bakers, and smiths, joiners, stonemasons, tailors and shoemakers). The shambles (meat trade) did particularly good business and by 1816 the market was only for butchers' meat.

In 1829 there were five public houses close to the market square, only two of which are now trading – The Crown and the Fetherston Arms, the latter built on the site of the Bluebell in 1826. Formerly set in the cobbles in front of what was The Black Bull public

house, a bull baiting ring was a reminder of earlier times, when tethering a bull in this way was thought to tenderise the meat prior to slaughter.

The cobbled market square still forms an attractive central point to the village and is surrounded by houses built in the local vernacular style. Most are of two storeys with sash windows, built of sandstone and often rendered. Roofs are of Welsh or Westmorland slate laid in diminishing courses or in some cases are covered in sandstone flags.

Kirkoswald Castle, Grade 11

A short distance south-east of the village standing in a moated enclosure are the ruins of Kirkoswald Castle. Built of square and coursed red Penrith Sandstone, these ruins are from a castle built 1330 -1350 by Ranulph, Lord Dacre. During the 15th century the castle was greatly altered by Lord Humphrey Dacre, the first Baron Dacre of the North, with his son, Thomas, being responsible for the hall, chapel and moat. The Dacres had by this time become the dominant landowners in the area (or manor). After Thomas's marriage to Elizabeth of Greystoke he was described as the 'eighth richest aristocrat in the country'. He died in 1525. By 1570 however, the castle was forfeit to the Crown and by 1604 Lord William Howard of Naworth had begun to dismantle Kirkoswald Castle, using some

of these materials to reinstate the chapel ceiling at Naworth Castle.

The castle was a small but fine building, intended more for residential than military use. Though in a ruinous state, recent conservation work on the remaining structure by the North Pennines AONB Partnership's

Fellfoot Forward Landscape Partnership Scheme, funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, in Spring 2021 has helped to preserve it for the future.

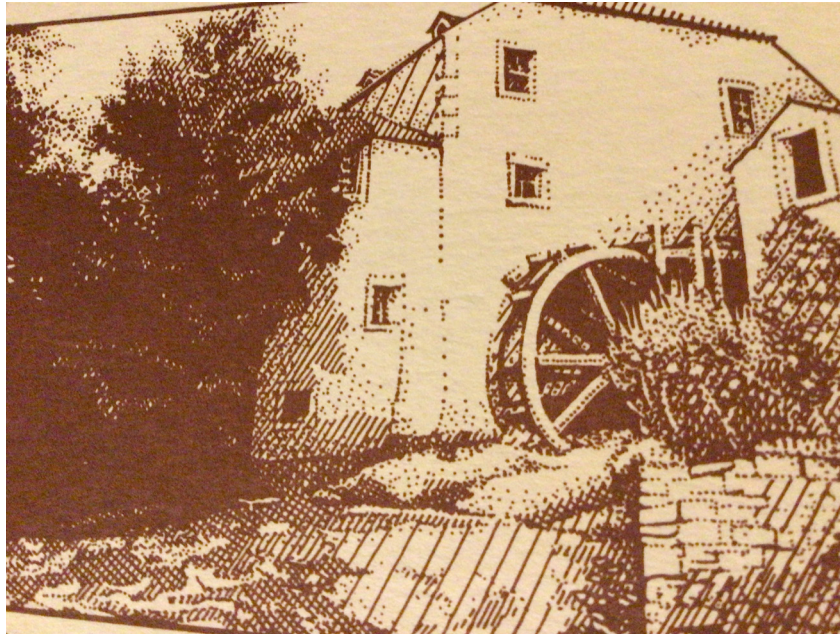
Private land. Do not trespass, but view from the roadway or from the public footpath alongside the site.



The Old Mill, Grade 11

The Raven Beck, flowing from the Pennines down to the River Eden, has, over the centuries, provided the power for many mills. First records date from the 13th century and include mills for fulling (to finish cloth produced by cottage weavers), corn, paper, bobbins and sawing wood. Now a private house, The Old Mill, previously a water corn mill, dating from the early

19th century, still stands near the centre of the village. Built from red and yellow sandstone with five bays and a large round-arched cart entrance, the building is of two storeys to the front, with two gabled dormer windows above the eaves. The building backs on to The Raven Beck and slopes to three storeys to the rear with a large overshot water wheel still in situ.



Mill, sketch by courtesy of the owners.

Mansion House, Grade 11*

Known as Demesne Farm, this fine sandstone building was recorded as being occupied in 1606 by Thomas Bartram, Crown lessee, and was known as the manor house. Thomas later rebuilt and greatly altered the house in 1619-21, though evidence remains of earlier openings. His name, along with that of his wife Benet, is recorded on a 1622 datestone, clearly seen from the road at the side of the house. The house was later further extended by adding at right angles, a two-storey, five bay wing in the newly fashionable **Anglo-Baroque** style. Windows are flat, **cross-mullioned** in moulded architraves. Flanking steps in two flights lead to a central, top-glazed, four panelled door, in a moulded architrave. This has a cornice and **broken pediment**, which provide an elegant entrance to this imposing front to the house, - the 'latest thing' when built.



Mansion House, the new front of the late 17th century.



The Mansion House, older side showing earlier door (now blocked) and blocked mullioned window.

EDEN BRIDGE, Grade 11

June Hill

This vital crossing of the River Eden is also known by the names of the villages it connects – Lazonby and Kirkoswald. Records show that a bridge has existed at or near this point from 1245/6, 1358 and 1374. It is the latest bridge on what is now the B6413, being built in 1792. The date is on the central parapet. It is of four arches, that to the mainstream being larger than the others. There are rectangular passing places for pedestrians, which rise from triangular cutwaters (streamlined projections from the pillars supporting the bridge, shaped both upstream and down to ease the flow of the water). There are two smaller 'land arches' on the Kirkoswald side, to allow water through when the river is high. Note how flat the meadows are on either bank, making a flood plain. The roads on the approaches to the bridge are enclosed with parapets on either side and are curved, to allow the shortest crossing of the river. The actual bridge itself is only ten feet/three metres wide.

The era of the three revolutions, in industry, agriculture and transport, in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, meant that heavier vehicles in ever-increasing numbers used the roads of the country. Improved technology of carts and wagons and the turnpiking of roads proved that old narrow bridges

were no longer adequate and had to be replaced. The Eden Bridge is a good example.

It still remains a single-track bridge. Traffic lights were installed as late as 2014.



Eden Bridge. Still a major crossing on the B6413. (Roy Hill)



Eden Bridge, seen from the Lazonby bank. Note the narrow width of the arches and roadway above. The three-sided refuges for pedestrians stand on triangular cut-waters which allow the river water to pass smoothly through the arches. The land arches on the far bank take flood water when the river spills over the banks.

LAZONBY

Sheila Fletcher

Lazonby stands on either side of the road on a steep hill which leads down to the Eden. Names such as Banktop and Bankfoot tell the story. It has the classic layout of a medieval village – tofts (house plots) and crofts (gardens behind them), with curved fields beyond. These would have been ploughed by teams of oxen and a heavy wooden plough. Now they are fossilised by the drystone walls of the Enclosure Act of 1819.



Towards the River Eden, Lazonby

The 1860 first edition of the Ordnance Survey map at 6 inches to the mile, shows the church of St Nicholas, two Methodist chapels, two public houses (the Joiners Arms and the Crown Inn), a school associated with the church, (recorded in 1748 and replaced on a new site in 1863, now the village primary school), and a post office. Several wells are shown.

The map was revised in 1898 (second edition) by which time big changes had taken place. The Settle to Carlisle Railway (1869 - 1876) had arrived, and with it, widened horizons. An auction mart for farm livestock was built nearby, still active, with huge sheep sales every autumn. A reading room and library had been founded in 1866; a smithy is shown; the school had been rebuilt on a new site; a bank was provided, and a timber yard and saw mill established.

Most buildings in Lazonby date from the 17th century onwards. The medieval parish church was rebuilt to a design by Salvin in 1864 – 6, although a Viking age cross in the churchyard testifies to earlier origins. Rows of 17th and 18th century houses and 18th and 19th century villas all reflect their period and style. Most are of Lazonby sandstone. Roofs of Welsh slate are a result of the railway, enabling cheap land transport to bring in building materials from distant places.

Townfoot, Grade 11

This house, with attached stables, is largely unaltered since it was built in the late 17th century. Now derelict and uninhabited, it presents a sad picture of a once substantial establishment. Details have been changed, but do not make a material difference to the basic plan arrangement, with the dwelling house in the uphouse consisting of hall and parlour, with bedrooms over. In the downhouse are the cross passage and entrance, from which one internal door led into the house. On the right are the stables, with hayloft above. The first floor door for loading hay into the loft is visible. The porch with side door was probably added in the 18th century, when fashion dictated that houses should have front doors. The windows, originally with mullions, were given sashes around the same time. That to the parlour is now blocked, but its lintel remains in place. The fire window, the small opening to the right of the house, is present. It was there to allow light into the dark corner created by the inglenook.



Town Foot Farm. Now derelict. Note the fire window on the right to light the inglenook of the hall or living room.

Danger. Strictly no entry.

GREAT SALKELD

Lesley Frazer

Great Salkeld sits on rising ground west of the River Eden and occupies a strategic location on one of the old cattle droving routes from Scotland to London. The earliest evidence of settlement arises from the dedication of the church to St Cuthbert, marking the village as one of the saint's resting places in 887AD, when Lindisfarne monks were travelling with his body to keep it safe from Viking invaders.



Great Salkeld village

Documentary evidence suggests a fairly well-established medieval settlement by the 12th century, which by the 14th century had a defensive triangle at its heart, centred on the fortified church (see below), reflecting the need for protection from border raids. Further evidence for defensive building activity comes from the nearby Rectory (Grade 11*) which incorporates a pele tower, probably from the early 15th century, modified in 1674.

With the accession of King James VI of Scotland to the English throne in 1603, a period of relative peace ensued, and Great Salkeld underwent gradual expansion as a predominately farming community. A number of farmsteads, with long strip fields behind, formed the core of the settlement along the village's north-south axial road. Other farmsteads and dwellings edged the triangular area around St Cuthbert's church and village green.

The village today contains a number of late-17th to late-18th century vernacular farmhouses, barns and cottages built in the attractive local red sandstone, many roofed in large sandstone flags, others in Westmorland slate. In all, Great Salkeld has 23 listed buildings, 21 at Grade 11. These include the late-17th century Beckbank Farmhouse, the Cottage at Nunwick Hall and Town Head Farmhouse.

St Cuthbert's Church, Grade 11*

Built in the late 11th century, but with some pre-Conquest architectural fragments, is remarkable for its massive three-storey defensive tower, added c.1380, with very thick walls, to provide refuge from marauding raiders. The church is built sandstone blocks.

The tower room is tunnel-vaulted with a fireplace on the upper floor, to make it habitable. The hearth incorporates the medieval graveslab of an Inglewood forester. Two window lintels are made of medieval graveslabs. An immensely strong **yett**, a door with interlaced iron bars, safeguards the entry to the tower.



St Cuthbert's Church.

The nave has a medieval roof. It is entered through a 1750 porch housing the narrow south-west facing Norman doorway – described by Pevsner as 'sumptuous and barbaric' – which has similar features to that at St Bees Priory on the Cumbrian coast, with carved animal heads incorporated into the incised zig-zag pattern of the semi-circular triple arch. The pillars and capitals supporting the arch are carved with fantastic animals, birds and serpents.

A new chancel in Perpendicular style was added in 1480 and the medieval nave walls were raised to match. The chancel has a round-headed priest's doorway and a 15th century window. Further alterations were made in 1674, with restorations in 1866 and 1879. A stone effigy (1399) is of Thomas de Caldbec, Rector.



Yett at the tower entrance.



Serpent on the Norman south door

LANGWATHBY

June Hill

Langwathby – the settlement by the long ford – is an ancient crossing place of the River Eden. The main road through to Alston and the Tyne valley, the A686, now crosses the river by a metal bridge, built in 1968, as a ‘temporary substitute’ for the stone bridge washed away in severe floods, a three-arched structure mentioned in Denton’s account in 1667/8.

The village is of Danish origins, going back to pre-Norman Conquest times, but in nearby Little Salkeld, Long Meg and her Daughters, one of the biggest stone circles in the country, stands as testimony that this part of the world was frequented by people from the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods, some 4,000 years ago.

Set around a large village green, bisected by the A686, with the Shepherds Inn at the centre, the traditional houses are mostly parallel with the road, but some are end-on. Many are painted white with contrasting door and window surrounds. Sandstone predominates. A characteristic of houses in the village is the double sash windows.



Church of St. Peter, partly rebuilt in 1718

High Farm, Grade 11

Facing down the green at the east end, is a house slightly different from the rest. With dressed sandstone walls under a Westmorland slate roof, it is a linear building, originally house and attached byre with the main door leading into a cross passage behind the chimney wall of the main room (hall) to the right. Three windows light the ground floor and above them and the 'front' door, four are upstairs. All are square

sash windows, sixteen panes to each. They and the door are in plain, painted surrounds. A second chimney warms the parlour. Both chimneys have two pots, indicating fireplaces on both floors.

The attached cow byre to the left, under a continuous roof-line from the house, is now lit by a ground floor window, but is otherwise blank. The house gables have ***coping*** and ***kneelers***.



*High Farm, an 18th century linear farm with a byre and cross passage in the down-house.
(Roy Hill)*

GLASSONBY

June Hill

The village of Glassonby is irregular in plan, built on a sloping site down to Hazelrigg Beck, with reminders of prehistoric activity in the area all around. It is a township and civil parish in the ancient parish of Addingham, the church of which stands half a mile south of Glassonby. There is a Viking-age cross (10th or 11th century) in the churchyard, but the early church was thought to have been washed away when the River Eden changed its course sometime in the middle ages. The present church is rebuilt on the same site, and the chancel dates from 1512.

The place-name translates from old Norse as 'Glassan's farm', and the village remains largely agricultural today.

Glassonby Bastle, at White House Farm, Grade 11*

This is one of the few bastles in Cumbria to remain virtually unchanged and still in agricultural use. Situated across the farmyard from White House Farm, it can easily be seen from the road. It displays all the main features of its type.

The walls are built of coursed sandstone rubble and are about a meter thick. Cattle are still housed on the ground floor. They formerly entered by a door with two draw-

bars in the south gable, now covered by a later building. They now use a wider opening made later in the side away from the house. Ventilation slits can be seen.

The door to the upper floor, in the side facing the farmhouse, is now reached by a flight of stone steps, a later addition. It has substantial stone surrounds and the lintel (with a 'Tudor arch') carries an incised mark which may represent the mason's 'signature' or may be a **protection mark**.

The angle of the kneelers suggests that the roof was once steeper, showing that it was thatched, possibly with turf over a heather base layer. The blocked window in the gable shows that there was probably an attic. The other tiny windows either side of the door retain their iron bars.



Glassonby bastle, view from the road.

Crucks

There were two ways of constructing a timber-framed building, either by the use of crucks or box frames. Crucks were A-shaped trusses usually obtained from a single tree and cut in half lengthwise. Prepared on the ground, they were raised into position on site to support a roof. The walls added later were not weight bearing. Several types of cruck truss are identified by their starting point above ground. Full crucks start from ground level and were usually placed on padstones to give them a level base and to prevent the timber from rotting. One truss or several could be used to create a building. In the Cumbrian climate gable walls were often built of stone, especially those facing the prevailing, rain-bearing winds. In Cumbria the crucks blades were usually joined at the apex by a saddle onto which the ridge purlin was placed, to give lateral stability to the structure. Blades could alternatively be halved and pegged to cross over, making a support for the ridge.

Bastles

A period of unrest on the Anglo-Scottish Border in the late sixteenth century led to the emergence of a type of small farmhouse now commonly referred to as a bastle. Occurring on both sides of the Border, (although few remains are found on the Scottish side), they can vary in form and detail. Their

common characteristic is that they all have living accommodation on the first floor above a ground level byre.

Bastles were usually rectangular structures with walls around a metre thick, built on a prominent boulder plinth. Large stones were selected for weak points such as corners and door jambs. Small windows to the upper floor were further secured with iron bars and the doors were protected with drawbars on the inside. When all members of the household were safely inside, the access ladder to the first floor was pulled up behind them. Stone steps were usually added later, but may have been there from the start.

The upper room was heated by a fireplace usually found on a gable wall. This room may have been subdivided by a wooden screen to create sleeping space. The floor was usually of flags placed on closely spaced beams. Livestock was driven into the byre below through a gable door into a cobble-floored space, ventilation being provided by narrow slits. Many bastles have been modified over the intervening centuries making it difficult to detect their origins. Few remain in their original form. After about 1650, there was little need for these buildings intended for passive defence.

GLOSSARY

Anglo-Baroque Term used by R W Brunskill (see Further Reading), to describe the classical style of building introduced into England at the end of the 17th century. The emphasis was on symmetry and an imposing central entrance, tall rooms and windows and a double-pile plan (two rooms deep).

Ashlar Regular blocks of cut stone, giving a smooth wall.

Bastle Defensive dwelling of c.1550-1650, on the Anglo-Scottish border.

Bee boles Recesses in a wall, usually facing east, to protect straw bee skeps from the weather and to receive morning light.

Broken pediment Classical feature above doors and windows. Broken variation is not complete at the top.

Coping Line of masonry on top of a roof, at the gable, to prevent wind and rain from lifting slates.

Cross mullioned A mullion is an upright stone dividing a window into lights. Cross mullioned windows also have a transom or horizontal division.

Cross passage Usually the way into the house through a door in the gable wall, from an entrance passage. It was also used as a space for threshing corn with a flail, the idea being that by opening both front and back doors, the chaff would be blown away. The word 'threshold' is derived from this process.

Fire window Small window, usually a single light, near the hearth, to illuminate the dark corner formed by the inglenook.

Inglenook Fireside space sheltered from draughts.

Hall Originally applied to the main room of a medieval

house where people lived communally. Here in Cumbria it is the name given to the main living room where all daily activities took place. Also known as the 'fire house'.

Heck Partition of stone or wood inside the doorway to the hall, creating a short passage to keep the draught from the fireside.

Kneeler Stone at the eaves of a slate roof to keep the coping in place. Often decorative.

Longhouse Medieval plan form with only a single entrance for humans and livestock. As living standards rose, cattle were separated from people and another door was added, creating the longhouse derivative.

Outshut Extension usually at the back of a house, with dairy, staircase, etc.

Parlour Private or 'best' room in a house. Used for sleeping when houses were of one storey only.

Pele Original meaning was the defensive perimeter or barmkin of a medieval house with a tower. Later came to be used for the tower itself.

Protection mark Symbol used to keep evil spirits or witches away, during periods of superstition. Known as apotropaic marks. Often found near openings – door, window, chimney.

Quoins Corner stones.

Rubble Walling of uneven, rough stones.

Uphouse / downhouse Two parts of a linear house or farmhouse with living accommodation in the uphouse and the cross passage, service rooms and/or livestock in the downhouse.

Yett Medieval door reinforced with horizontal and vertical iron strips and used to fortify a building against attack.

Eden Bridge

Kirkoswald

Cumrew

Key

- A road
- B road
- Minor road
- River
- Railway

4 miles / 6.4km

Eden River
B6413
Lazonby

Market Square
Mill
Mansion House
Castle
to Eden Bridge

Bee boles
Cruck barn
Cumrew House
Former Parsonage
Church

Lazonby
Townfoot
Station
to Great Salkeld

Great Salkeld
Church

River Eden
Eden Bridge
Lazonby
Great Salkeld
High Bankhill
Kirkoswald
Glassonby

Newbiggin
Town Head

Langwathby
to Great Salkeld
Church
to Langwathby
Station
High Farm
A686

Glassonby
Bastle
Langwathby

Croglin
Church
Old Pele

High Bankhill
Ona
Ash

Village sketch maps
not to scale

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Further Reading

- Hyde and Pevsner, *Cumbria, The Buildings of England*, Yale University Press, 2010.
- R W Brunskill, *Traditional Buildings of Cumbria*, Cassell, 2002.
- CVBG Newsletters, 2013 - 2022, on line at www.cvbg.co.uk

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*The lower Eden Valley
looking towards the Pennines
(John McDowell)*

NORTH PENNINES

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



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