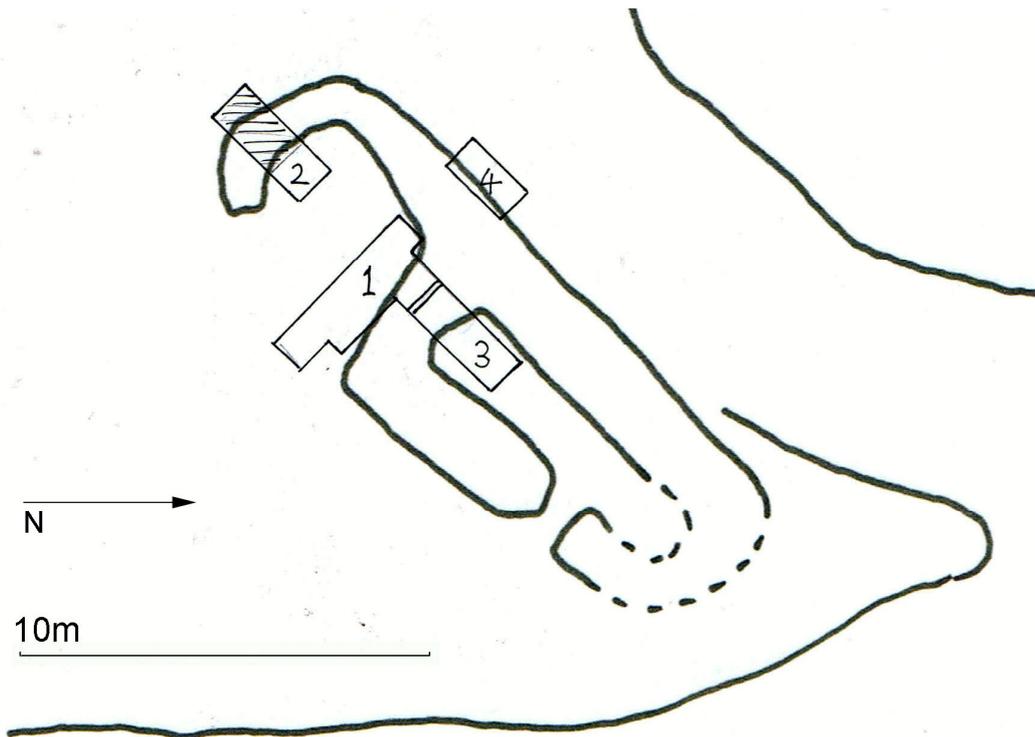


## Calfclose Sike Excavation

### Newsletter 4: 22nd April 2010

We've had two visits since the last newsletter, and some aspects of the structure of the house are becoming clearer. Valuable, if equivocal, advice has been received from various experts about our finds. We are currently working on the hypothesis that the annexe (the hook-shaped section to the SW) represents a different, earlier phase of building than the main, NE part of the building and we are searching for evidence to support this idea. The finding of a piece of glazed china in the fireplace (trench 3) adds further weight to the possibility that use of the building continued into Victorian times.



Following some dedicated work by the team, we have opened several trenches to answer various questions.

**Trench 1** Originally cut through the SW wall of the main house, this trench has been subdivided into trench 1 (stone floor of annexe) and trench 3 (house interior & fireplace). Rob Pearson cut a section into the SW house wall as an extension of trench 1, finding a consistent turf matrix resting on the rammed clay foundation already noted. This clay was covered by a thin, hard grey layer containing charcoal.

**Trench 2** No further work has been done here since we revealed the SW limit of the stone floor of the annexe.

**Trench 3** Amalgamated with trench 1 (SE end).

**Trench 4** Bryan Collins has cut a section intended to reveal the junction between the annexe wall and the main house wall. No clear dividing line can yet be seen, but the sections at the NE and SW ends are showing different wall fabrics; black and stony on the annexe side and brown and fibrous on the house side, similar to that revealed in trench 1.

**Trench 5** (Originally part of trench 1) Contains the fireplace and a stone bench. Following recording, these have been dismantled, revealing an area of burnt clay with charcoal. A piece of brown glazed china and a fragment of clay pipe bowl were found in the base of the fireplace.

It is interesting that several contexts contain charcoal, but others small fragments of coal. On the last visit I found a large piece of coal (>5cm) near the fireplace but no obvious coal ash, soot or clinker. The presence of coal or charcoal may prove to be useful in assigning periods of use.



Ferrous object lying on the stone floor of annexe. The top part is tubular, the lump at the bottom is hemispherical. Do you know what it is ?



View south towards Farglow. In the foreground trench 4 is showing a difference in fabric in the side sections, while Rob works on extending the wall section in trench 1.

Scale 1m