

## PENDLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

### An Appraisal of the Vaccary at Barley in the Forest of Pendle

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A vaccary is a cow pasture, the principal purpose of which is to breed oxen for agricultural use and as a means of transportation. The de Lacys obtained the Blackburn Hundred in the eleventh century and with it the Forests of Pendle, Trawden, Rossendale and Accrington, which between them housed 29 vaccaries in the early fourteenth century

The vaccary at Barley Booth is situated on the south western facing slopes of Pendle Hill some 7km (4.3 miles) due north of the manor at Ightenhill, from which they were run. Henry II de Lacy inherited the Blackburn Hundred on the death of his father in 1258 at the age of nine. At that time it is recorded that there were six vaccaries in the Forest of Pendle. The earliest surviving *compotus* of the Honor of Clitheroe in 1296 records the number of vaccaries as eleven. Taking into account logistical and topographical considerations and bearing in mind that this vaccary is the farthest within the forest from the manor at Ightenhill, it is likely to have been one of the last to have been established. It is probable therefore that it was laid out in the last quarter of the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

Some entries referring to the vaccary are set out in the *compotus* of `John of Radeclif, keeper of the castle of Clitheroe` in 1341. The value is given for the skins of animals, which died of murrain in the vaccary of `Bairelegh`. These were 1 twinter (two year old cow) 6d and 1 twinter and a calf over a year 4d. In the stock account for the chase of `Penhill` the numbers for `Bayrelegh` are given as follows:

	Received		Remainder
Bulls	1	addit 1 +	1
Cows	12	addit 22 + 5 died	29
Heiffers	6	5 – 1 died	0
Twinters	6	3 -	3
Calves over a year	8	2 -	6
Calves of the year	20	6 -	14

The total number of stock at 53 is less than the average for a vaccary stated in the de Lacy *compoti* of 1295-6 and 1304-5 of around 80. The apparently high mortality rate

in the cows could reflect the deterioration in the climate, which began at the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> century and caused widespread hardship throughout the county.

A further entry is set out in the *compotus* of Thomas Lord Stanley of 1463. By this time the vaccary of `Barleybooth` had been let at a rental of £113. 4d. to William Leyland who took over the tenure from Robert Banastre. It is probable that the vaccary has ceased being part of the demesne estate since the latter part of the fourteenth century. The survey of the Forests or Chases of Blackburnshire of 1507 includes the following entry under `Barleybothe`:

"There is a Vechery callid Barleybothe late at 113s. 4d. by yere and 2 smal parcell of ground adioynnyng to the same at 7s. 4d. for all the whych Vacherie and parcell the old occupiers and tenautes of the same, that is to sey, John Robynson, thelder, Richard Arley, William Arley, Roger Bowland, John Robynson theunger, James Manconholes, Richard Ballald, James Healey and Margaret Ballald, Wydowe, offren yerelie for euer £10 they to have the same after the custume of manor is aforseyd and the Kyng therin is emprowed yerelie ye somm of 79s. 4d.

The entry affirms that those stated, on the payment of £10.00, would enjoy the vaccary and parcels of land adjoining for an increased rental of 79s. 4d. forever. This New Hold land could be assigned to others but all transactions had to be carried out at a public session of the halmote court.

The vaccary is roughly triangular in shape and faces south-east. The southern and north-eastern boundaries were more elevated than the centre of the pasture giving it a dished effect. The winter pasture is approximately 62 acres in area and lies between the 240 m and the 283 m contours.

The farm at Ings End was almost certainly sited at the south-eastern corner of the vaccary. It is probable that the vaccary keeper lived and had a small area of land for his own use in this area. The area to the west of the farm has been badly disturbed by the formation of a large fishpond. The southern boundary of the winter pasture can be identified for much of its length. At the point where a track enters the pasture, to the west of the farm a ditch can be determined. After a short length this turns to run almost due west, to enclose the pasture. This is a substantial feature with a watercourse running to the north of a hedge. A slight banking can be seen on the southern side. At a point along the boundary, where a further watercourse joins, there is a substantial amount of stonework, which probably represents the site of a barn. This feature was set at the apex of the juncture of the watercourses. Significantly at its eastern end the ditch was cut into sloping ground, so confirming that it was a man-made feature.

Importantly the ditch and bank terminate at a point where it joins a ditch running approximately north-east. At the end of the ditch there was a large pile of stones and two early gateposts. A building platform close by suggests that a barn or other

agricultural building was sited in this position. The boundary ditch running north-east was seen to be significant with a bank on its inner side. This bank was greater midway towards Brown House. An early gatepost was recorded in the second field proceeding from the change in the direction of the ditch. The ditch was seen to run up to Brown House but its line could not be traced beyond here. However, some two fields further on a substantial ditch forming the postulated boundary can be seen running to Ing Head Farm to the south-east. This ditch is deeply cut and does not continue beyond the line of the track at its north-westerly end. It was clearly not a natural watercourse although a small amount of water was running. Significantly the field boundaries to the north-east join the ditch run at right angles. A slight bank could be seen at its inner edge. This ditch continued in a straight line until it reached Ing End. In the field to the north-west of the farm an early gatepost was seen in a field bounding close to the ditch. It is clear that the summer pasture was situated to the north-west of the winter pasture and was probably entered at a point close to Brown House. Its north-westerly boundary could have been the line defined by the farm of Under Pendle, Pendle House and Pendle Side.

Additional pasture was added later to both the south and north-west sides of the winter pasture. The ditch defining the southern side of the additional pasture to the south is clearly man-made as it is cut into the slope of the ground. Ditches are evident to the north-western boundary of the pasture to the north-west.

The vaccary was almost certainly accessible by two routes; one running through the present village connecting with Newchurch to the south and Overhouses and Blacko to the north. A route probably ran along the north-western edge of the winter pasture running by Under Pendle and thence by Driver Height to the Goldshaw Booth vaccary and beyond to Ightenhill.

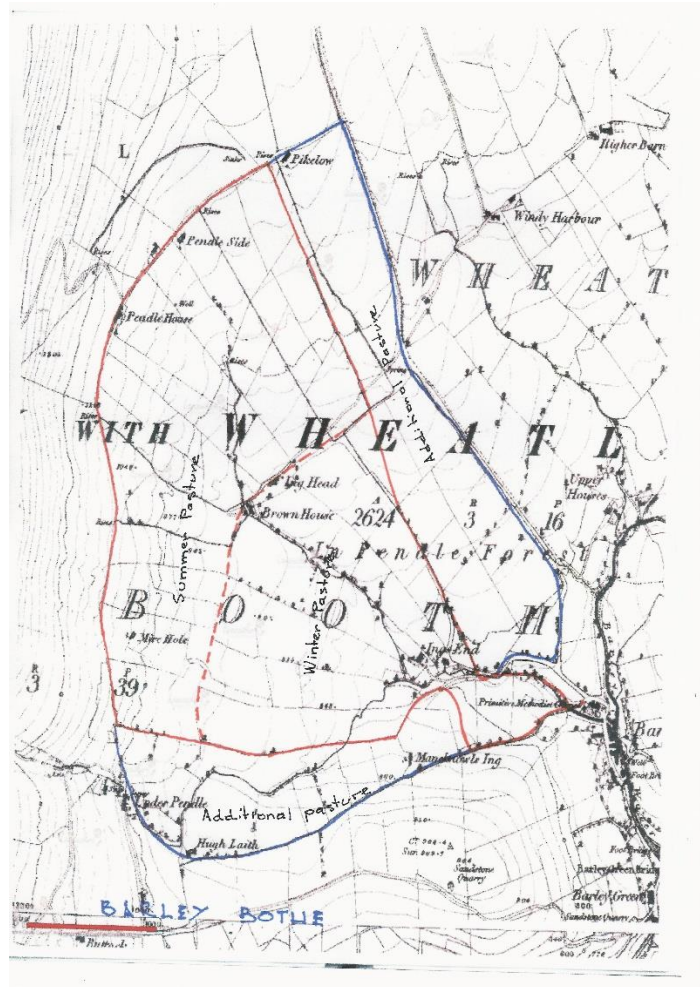
## References

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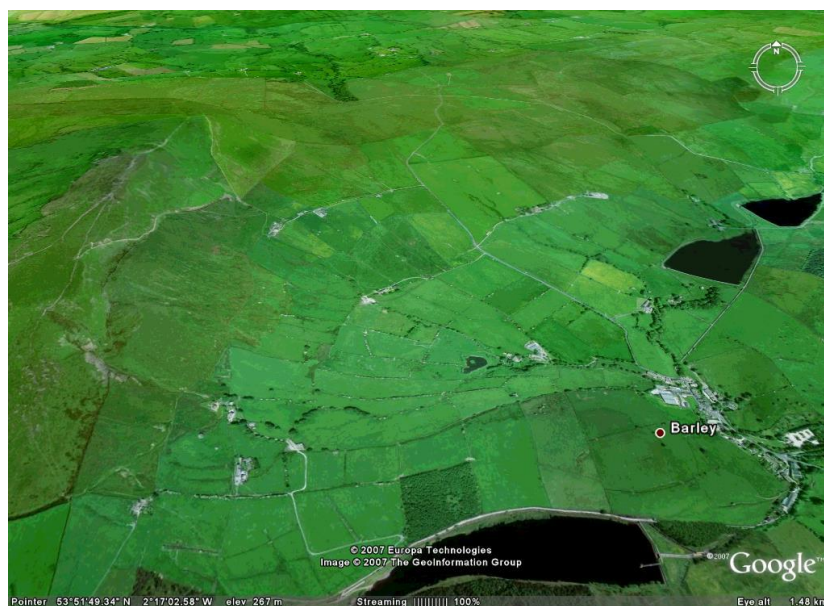
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Map of vaccary with winter and summer pastures edged red. The additional pasture is edged blue.



Aerial photograph with the vaccary placed centrally in lighter green





The southern boundary of the winter pasture looking east. The additional pasture is to the right of the ditch and its southern boundary can be seen as horizontal feature in the distance.



The eastern boundary to the winter pasture.



The boundary to the left of the track is the division between the winter and summer pasture looking to the north-east. The winter pasture is to the right.



Early gatepost adjacent to Ings End.