

Field notes on a rectangular structure above Clapham Bottoms (Code CB12), from a field visit on 3 August 2012

1. rectangular structure

- located at SD75986 72388 on a level terrace on the north-eastern side of Clapham Bottoms(see sketch plan)
- orientated east-west
- consists of double-skin wall lines mainly of limestone but with the odd sandstone boulder within it, mainly turfed over
- both gable ends appear to be rounded
- measures internally 5.5m in length by 2.3m in width
- images on CDR: *clapham bottoms site 7* looking west; 8 looking east

2. stone bank

- a generally straight 8m-long stone bank runs from the north-west corner of the structure, again mainly of limestone with the odd sandstone boulder
- aligned north-west to south-east
- it appears to terminate at a large recumbent limestone slab at SD75976 72390
- images: *clapham bottoms site 9* looking north-west; 10 looking south-east; 11, of the recumbent slab, looking south

3. stone bank

- a 28m-long enclosure bank or wall line runs from the centre of the east gable of the rectangular structure, across the level grassed terrace, to a slight change in ground level close to the modern field wall, terminating at SD76018 72391
- it is curvilinear in plan
- it is mainly composed of limestone with the odd sandstone boulder visible above the turf line
- images: *clapham bottoms site 4* looking WSW; 5 looking west; 6 looking east

Note features 1-3 have now been given the HER number MYD56640.

4. relict wall line

- a 7m-long relict wall line, composed of limestone rubble, runs across what is now exposed limestone pavement, from SD 76055 72299
- it is orientated north-south
- average width 600mm, maximum height 800mm
- it is straight-sided
- images: *clapham bottoms site* 1 looking west; 2 looking north-west, 3 top view

Note this has now been given the HER number MYD56641.

5. Interpretation

- it is probable that all four features were integral parts of one site focussed on the rectangular structure with an enclosure bounded by the two stone banks
- the detached relict wall is on the same terrace, and to the south of the main site, but the occasional standing slab set on limestone pavement appears to extend the surviving length of wall northwards
- it is interest to note that the internal dimensions, and plan form, of the rectangular structure are almost identical to the excavated early medieval shieling in Upper Pasture (MYD 55685):

	<u>Clapham Bottoms</u>	<u>Upper Pasture</u>
Length	5.5m	5.6m
Width	2.3m	2.3m
Gables	externally rounded	externally rounded

- a likely interpretation of the site in question is that it was either an early medieval shieling hut or, possibly and less likely in my opinion, a sheep cote