

Shootinglee – Excavation, 2017

Joyce Durham and Piers Dixon.

NT 31600 31400 (Canmore ID 180363)

Funders – Forestry Commission Scotland & Peeblesshire Archaeological Society

The excavation programme continued from April to November 2017. Trees planted on the site of Building 2 in the 1970s were felled and the stumps removed. Tidying operations took much of the season (Fig1).

The S end of the peel-house has been badly robbed in the past and excavation in the previous season revealed a substantial drain running N-S. This turns a right angle to run E-W under what would have been the S wall of the building. To the N of this at a higher level is an occupation layer of dark material with evidence of burning. The E half is covered by a layer of beige coloured clay which abuts the higher of the two hearths in the NE corner. Finds from the occupation layer have been mainly 17th century clay pipe pieces and nails. Below this layer are packed stones laid on end with clay filled interstices. Building 2 is interpreted as a peel-house similar to the clay bonded Slacks Tower and Mervinslaw south of Jedburgh.



Fig 1 Tree root removal



Fig 2 Tree removal completed revealing the whole of the peel-house and the extension in the foreground.