

Lowick is enormously rich in archaeology, covering a period of around 8000 years, with evidence from the Mesolithic Period to the Industrial Age.

It is, however, quite possible that the current position of Lowick isn't the original site of the village. It is probable that Lowick was established in its current location by the nucleation of several small local settlements during the Medieval period. Relocation to a prominent, elevated site at the cross roads of a historic trading route lying north to south (the Devil's Causeway) and the Pilgrims' Way lying east to west provided both trading and defensive benefits. Lowick is an Anglo Saxon name and was first referred to as Lowyk at some time between the 6th and 8th Centuries. Place names ending in 'wick' mean that historically the site was either a specialised farm, market or other important dwelling. In the case of Lowick this would have been such a place on the River Low. As the Low, as we currently know it, runs about a mile to the east of current Lowick, it is very probable that the original village was adjacent to the river.

The Lowick Heritage Group established an archaeology sub group in 2015. We have set ourselves an objective to determine the possible original site of the village, if such exists, using the extensive archaeological evidence available to us. We've called the project 'Where Was Lowick?'. Three factors are in our favour: the professional leadership provided by Dr Kristian Pedersen, lecturer at Edinburgh University, the vast open areas of land on which our predecessors lived, hunted and farmed and, perhaps most importantly, the current local landowners who have kindly given us their permission to carry out our investigations.

It is also very likely that the early Medieval people who lived around here did so on sites that had been inhabited from much earlier times. We know with certainty from visible archaeological evidence that people have lived around Lowick since at least Iron Age times, that is, around 2,500 years ago and probably even earlier. Recent activities by the archaeology group have unearthed evidence of a Bronze Age community with one find of a flint blade that could possibly have been made by a neolithic farmer. This would suggest that people possibly farmed here almost 4,500 years ago, taking advantage of the fertile soil that the last ice age left behind.

The group has also found a number of 8000 year old flint blades just to the east of the village that had been made by nomadic hunter gatherers during the Mesolithic period.