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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project origins

Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) was consulted by Eden District Council regarding a planning application for the conversion of former stables, part of Strickland Hall (also known as Low Hall), Little Strickland for domestic use (NY 56370 19695), Planning Application No. 3/10/0968.

The scheme has the potential to affect the character and appearance of a building of special architectural and historic interest. The proposal will affect the character and appearance of the buildings and, as a result, a condition has been placed on planning consent requiring a programme of archaeological building recording to be undertaken prior to the conversion taking place

In order to ascertain the historical and archaeological merits affected by this development, the brief issued by the curatorial authority requires investigation of known historical records through a rapid desk-based assessment and the survival of extant buildings via a programme of building recording equivalent to Level 3 as described by English Heritage *Understanding Historic Buildings A Guide to Good Recording Practice, 2006*.

The desk-based assessment included visits to Carlisle Library and The Cumbria Record Office, Carlisle. The objective of this exercise was to collate sufficient detail to identify the issues and potential for academic research, provide a series of questions for targeted archaeological enquiry and outline, if any, possible mitigation response.

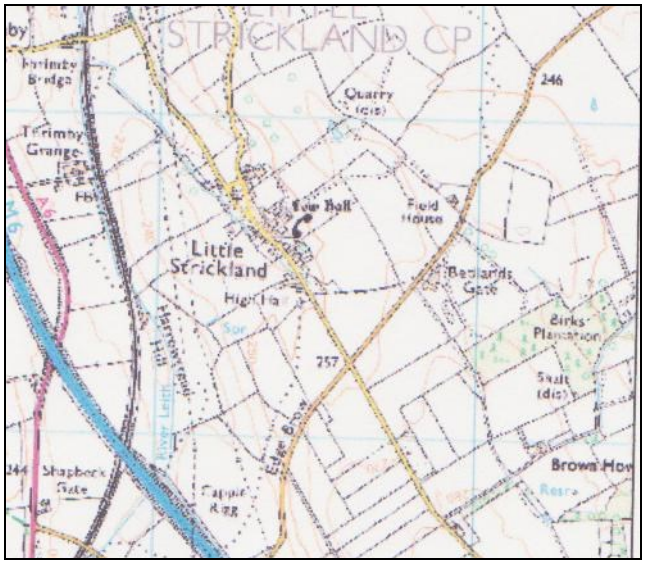


Figure 1. Location of the survey marked Low Hall
(OS copyright licence no. 100044205). Scale 1:25,000

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Project Design

In response to a request by Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service, Gerry Martin Associates Ltd submitted a project design (Written Scheme of Investigation) for the archaeological recording of extant buildings. This document outlined the contractors' professional suitability, a brief

historical summary of the study area, general objectives required of the project, the methodology and the resources needed for the successful implementation of this work.

The project design on being accepted by the curatorial body, Gerry Martin Associates Ltd was commissioned to undertake the desk-based assessment and the archaeological survey by the client Mr Brian Gardner.

The following report has been assembled to the relevant standards and protocols of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, combined with accepted best practice and in accordance with the brief prepared by the curatorial authority.

Fieldwork took place on March 9-10th 2011.

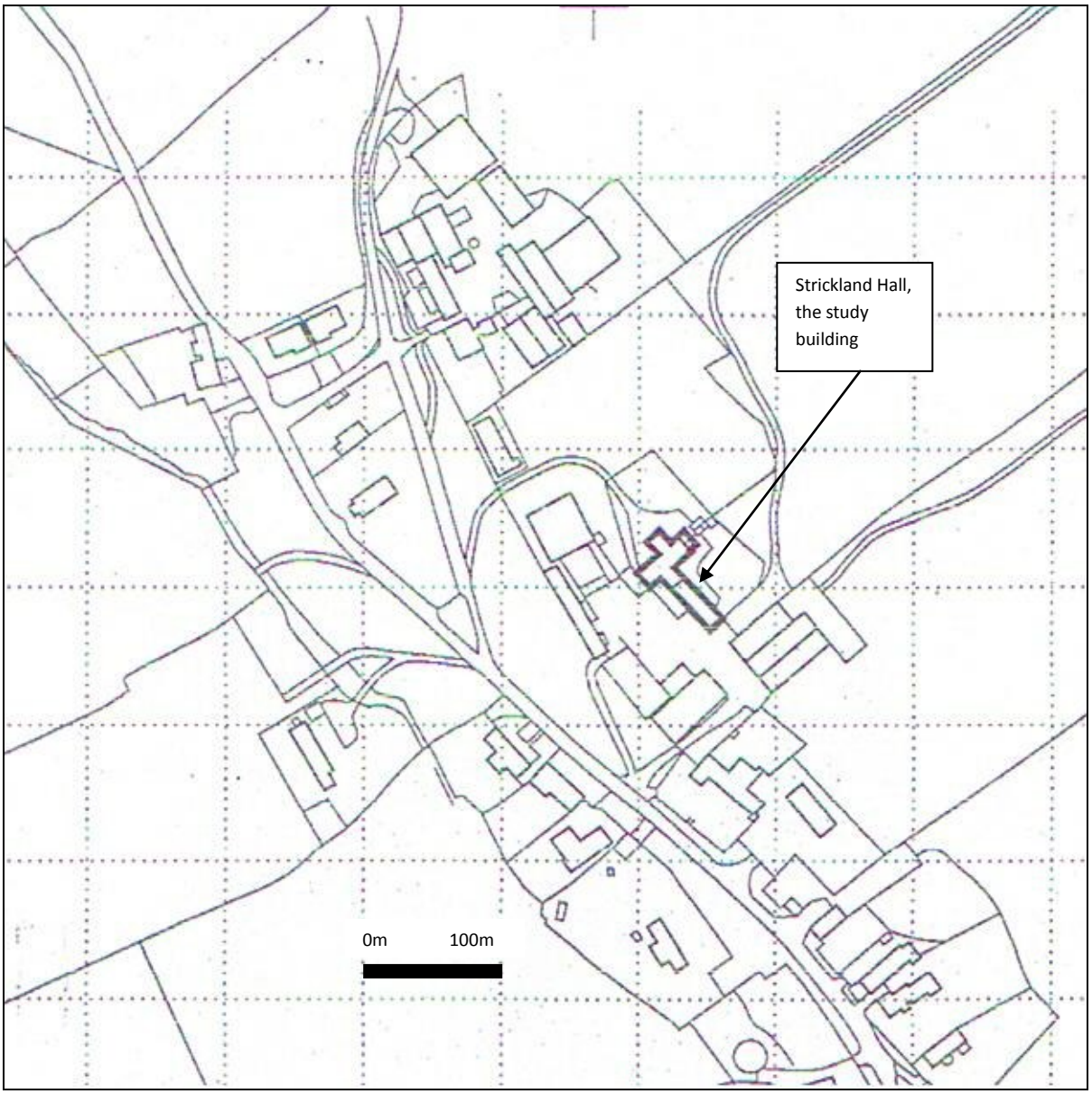


Figure 2. Location of study building

2.2 Desk-based assessment

In accordance with the Design Brief, the desk-based assessment investigated primary and secondary historical sources, maps and other literature in order to set the survey results into their past cultural, historical and topographic context.

The study area centred on (NY56370 19695) comprising a 500m radius from the development.

The desk-based assessment comprised a search of four archival repositories.

Carlisle Library provided sources for published works including newspaper articles, archaeological and antiquarian reports, photographs and journals.

Cumbria Record Office, Carlisle was sought for the earliest tithe map for the parish, details of landowners and occupiers and cartographic evidence.

The Historic Environment Record, online, provided the Sites and Monuments Record describing previous archaeological observations and electronic media showing the spatial distribution of these findings.

Papers deposited in the archives of the former Royal Commission of Historic Monuments England (RCHME) now administered by English Heritage in Swindon.

2.3 Walk-over survey

A walkover of the immediate snow-covered vicinity of Strickland Hall on March 9th 2011 did not suggest any upstanding monuments such as derelict buildings, walls or tofts existed.

The area to the west of the study building had been covered in concrete and was used as an agricultural yard on behalf of the Lowther Estate.

The eastern area was a garden whilst the southern gable backed onto a track adjacent to an egg-laying facility.

The northern area was formal garden and a drive.

2.4 Archive

The archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design and the guidelines set out by English Heritage (1991) and the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994, 2007 and 2008).

The archive will be deposited with an appropriate repository and a copy of the report donated to the County Sites and Monuments Record, as requested by the curatorial authority.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Location, topography and geology

The study area (NY 56370 19695) lies in undulating countryside, on the fringes of upland that develops into the Pennine range, that is farmed as pasture at a height of approximately 186m OD.

The area is generally afforested with pasture, a gravelly loam overlying Red sandstone bedrock with a subsoil of gravel and sand. About a third of the land was arable, and the remainder stunted meadow and mountain pasture.

The early-Permian Penrith Sandstone Formation was deposited in a structurally-controlled intermontane basin that was broadly coincident with the present Vale of Eden. The Penrith Sandstone is red-brown to brick red in colour, consisting of well-rounded and well-sorted, medium to coarse grains (Allen, Newell & Butcher 2010, 3).

4 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

4.1 History and development of Strickland Hall through previous surveys

A survey was carried out in 1935 by G.E.Chambers on behalf of the Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England (RCHME 1936, 222). The following architectural account is based on this fieldwork.

Historic development

Strickland Hall, commonly known as Low Hall, was built around 1533 (Taylor 1892, 99) to circa 1540 (Scott 1912, 116) by John, second son of Christopher Crackenthorpe of Newbiggin Hall (Nicolson & Burn 1777, 448).

After four generations, John Crackenthorpe who died in 1594 sold the property to John Pattinson of Thrimby before passing onto the Lowther estate. The Morland Registers beginning in 1538 denote that John Crackenthorpe had an heir Christopher (died 1630). The manor of Little Strickland passed to his son Richard (died 1651), his estate then passing to his son Christopher (died 1672). Thereafter, it is uncertain whether the Crackenthorpe family were resident at Little Strickland (Scott 1912, 116-117).

However during this period, the Crackenthorpe family appear to have fallen on hard times as the manor of Little Strickland was sold on 9th September 1634 to John Lowther of Hackthorpp for £280 18s 4d (DLONS/5/1/36/11).

By 1671, Sir Daniel Fleming noted that “Thos Fletcher Esquire, hath a good house and estate” and was the owner of Strickland Hall (Whiteside 1901, 172). However, this contention was challenged by Daniel Scott who intimates that the Fletcher family acquired Strickland Hall but did not live there (Scott 1912, 118-119).

The abstract of the tithe of the Revd John Fisher to Little Strickland, Low Hall (D LONS LS/1/36/25) denotes that Richard Crackenthorpe was resident in 1716 until at least 1737. However, the estate was mortgaged by Crackenthorpe and Lord Viscount Lonsdale to Mr William Herbert of Kendal on 28th February 1716 (D/LONS/L5/36/13).

By 1841, John Hodgson was resident at Strickland Hall.

The original building is represented by the main, rectangular plan north wing measuring 18.00m x 6.90m in plan that comprised the great hall, kitchen and Lord Parlour; the south wing being added very shortly afterwards at right-angles in order to form a T-shaped house (Taylor 1892, 99). It was constructed from sandstone with walls 0.80m in thickness (Jennings 1983).

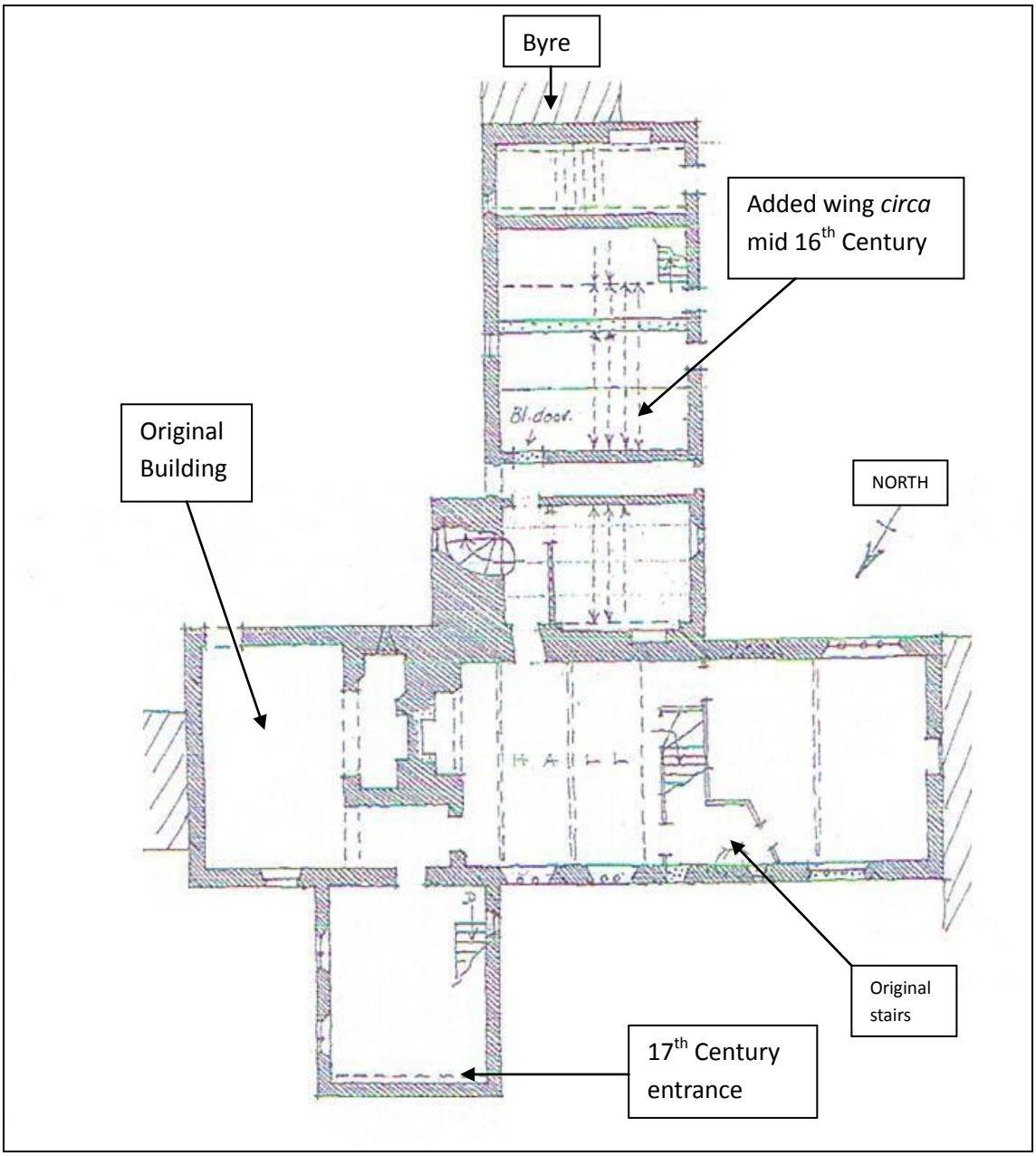


Figure 3. Original 1935 sketch by G.R.Chambers

A one storied wing was built at right-angles to the original north wall in the 17th Century.

In the 19th Century, a byre was built at the south end of the south wing and additions at the east end of the north wing.

The original stair opened out of the north-west corner of the Hall and was removed probably when the south wing was added. The existing stair in the north wing was considered in 1935 to be modern.

The plaster work to the ceilings in the west end are exceptionally good work and in a fine state of preservation.

Elevations

Original northern range, 16th Century

West of the 17th Century entrance, on this side are two three-light windows with chamfered and grouped beneath a common *moulded* (shaped ornamental strip of continuous section) label (figure 3). Just west of these is a one *light* (a window with fixed glazing) *window* (an opening to allow light and air into a building that has developed into a significant element of architectural detail), now blocked, and at the west end is a three light *transom* (a horizontal glazing bar in a window) window with a moulded label, blocked in 1935 but now apparently open.

Figure 4. Northern elevation of Strickland Hall, 1988 RCHM 28/2157

In 1935 it was recorded that the first floor had three three-light windows, the easternmost partly and the westernmost fully blocked, although this does not appear to be the case by 1988 (figure 2).

The west wall has a one attic window with a single light (figure 3).

The east wall of the north wing has blocked three-light windows to the first floor and a one light window to the attic although by 1988 these windows were unblocked (figure 4).

The south wall east of the south wing has a doorway with a square chamfered head and further west a small one light window, subsequently blocked (figure 5). By 1988, this doorway and window were replaced with a mullioned window containing four lights (figure 6)

The first floor has three two-light (figure 7) and a three-light window, the latter partly hidden by the

stair to the south wing.

West of the south wing, the south wall has a two-light first floor window and a four-light transom window to each of the ground and first floors. One of the ground floor windows has been blocked (figure 8).

Figure 5. Looking south showing the original hall and 17th Century entrance, 1935 (WH 639)

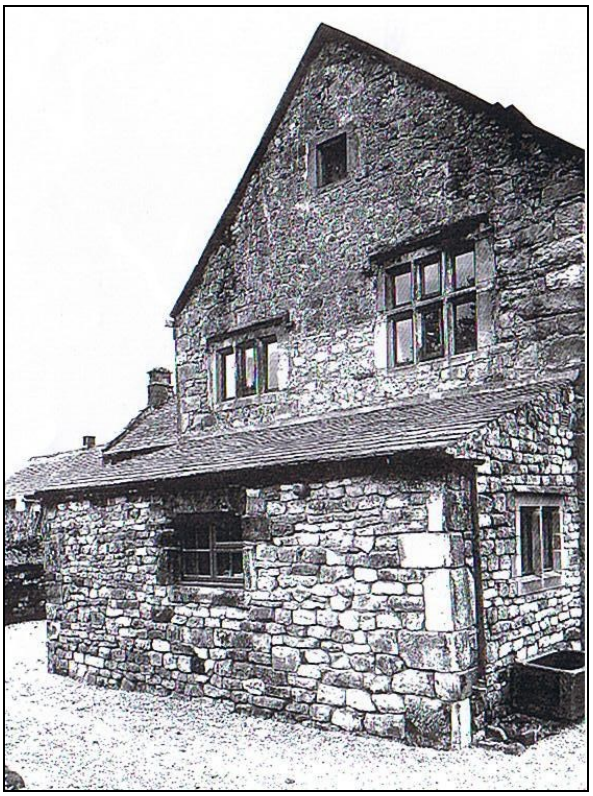


Figure 6. East elevation of Strickland Hall, 1988 RCHM 28/2157

Figure 7. Looking west showing the southern wing and the eastern range of the hall, 1935 (WH 637)

Figure 8. Later southern wing and the eastern range of the hall, 1988 RCHM 28/2157

Between ground and first floors windows is a rectangular panel which is said to have enclosed the arms of Crackenthorpe. The panel and the windows have moulded labels, the latter with shaped stops (figure 9).

Southern range, mid 16th century

The east wall of the south wing (figure 10) has a two-light chamfered window to the stairs, partly blocked in 1935 but in 1988 fully opened (figure 11). The doorway has a square chamfered head and

continuous jambs. South of this feature, it is recorded that a two-light window with the *mullion* (a vertical piece of stone or timber dividing a window into sections) now broken away existed. This appears to be a recording error as the 1935 and 1988 photographs (figures 5 and 10) indicate a single window with multiple lights. On the upper floor, a blocked two light window (figure 12) and a three-light window of which two lights are blocked existed. Both possess chamfered jambs and moulded labels with returned props (figure 10).

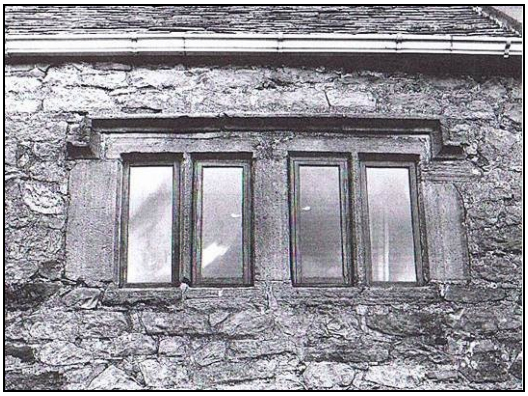


Figure 9. Pair of two-light windows sharing a common head, south side, north range RCHM 28/2157

Figure 10. Looking east showing later south wing and the western range of the hall, 1935 (WH 628)

Towards the north end of the west wall were a two-light and three-light windows to the ground and first floor respectively (figures 8 and 9). The doorway (figure 13) has a two centred pointed arch with a plain chamfer, surmounted down to the *impost* (a block or capital on which an arch rests) by a deeply covered and point hood moulding (Taylor 1892, 99).

The first floor has a chamfered one light window and towards the south end is the head and label of a four-light window in which a later door, post 1841 has been inserted (figure 14).

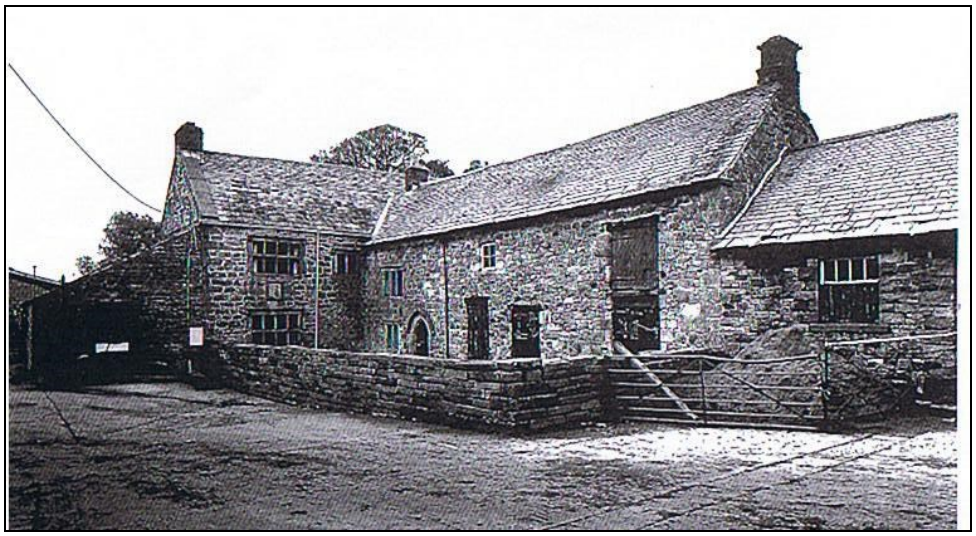


Figure 11. Later south wing and the western range of the hall, 1988 RCHM 28/2157

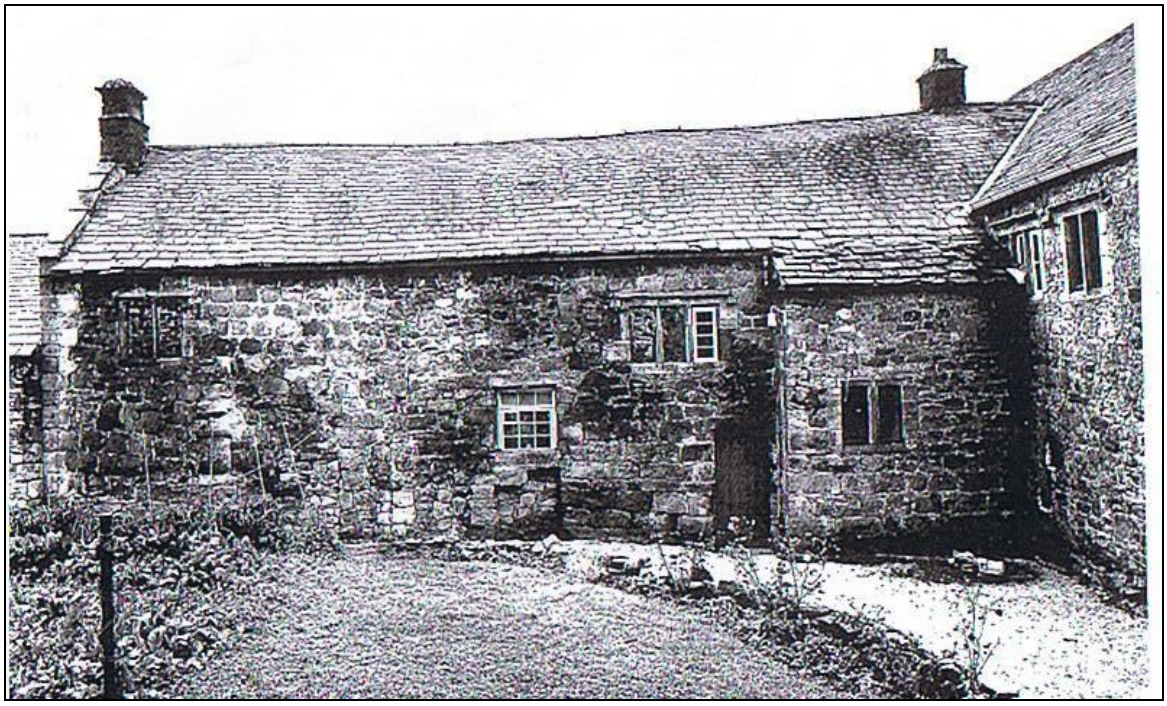
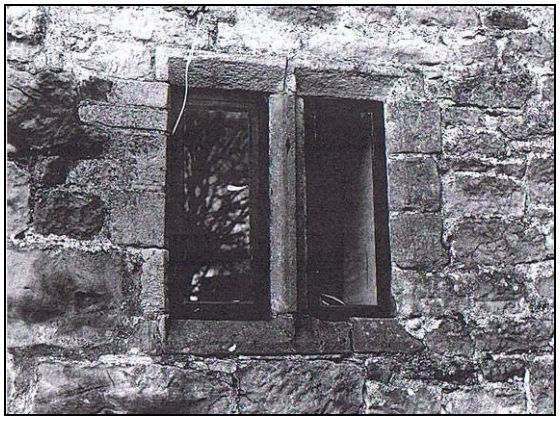
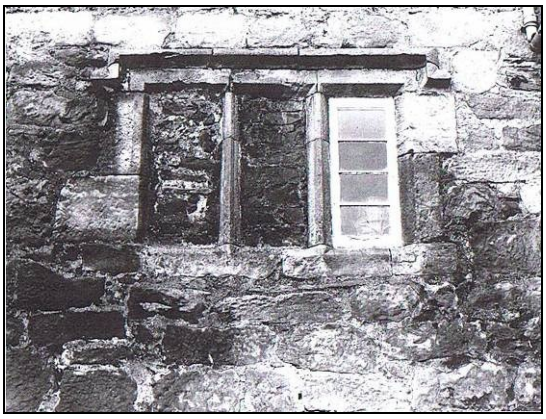


Figure 12. Looking south showing the original hall and 17th Century addition, 1988 RCHM 28/2157





Figures 13 and 14. Window beside stairs and blocked window, south range 1988 RCHM 28/2157

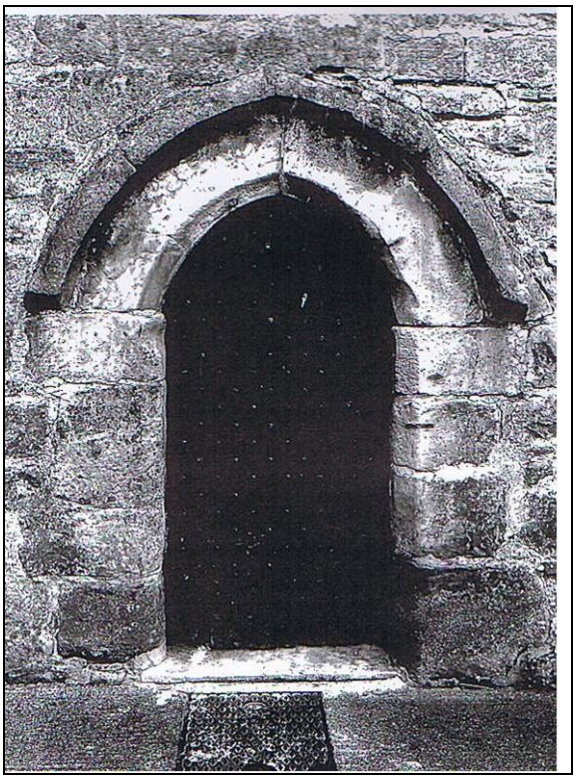


Figure 15. Doorway, west elevation, south range, 1988 RCHM 28/2157

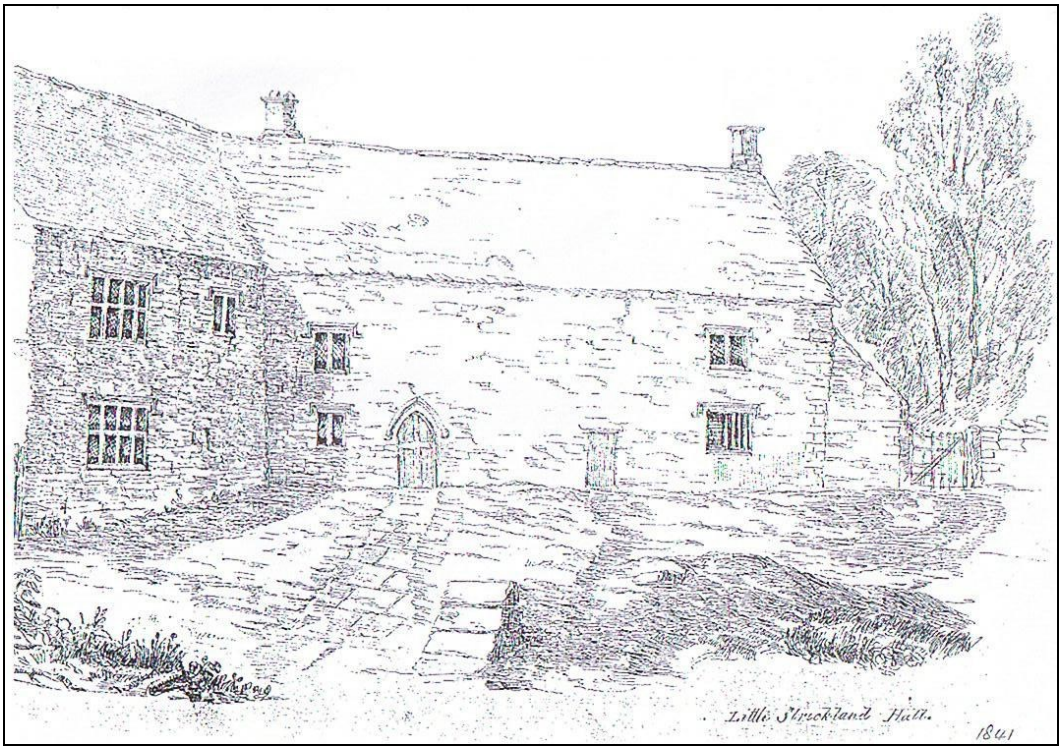


Figure 16. Drawing from circa 1841 showing the south range of Low Hall

17th Century dairy

The north wall of the north wing has at the east end a doorway with a modern window inserted, but

replaced by 1988, with square *chamfered* (an object with the edges of the front face angled back to give a sense of depth) *head* (arch above a door or window) and moulded label with returned props (figure 15).

The 17th Century dairy now an entrance, added to the north wing has two two-light windows with chamfered *jambs* (vertical portion of the frame onto which a door is secured) in the east wall.
The ridge level was lowered during the late 19th or early 20th centuries (Carrock Architects 2010, 1).
A two light mullioned window was inserted into the west wall of the entrance between 1935 and 1988 (figure 2).

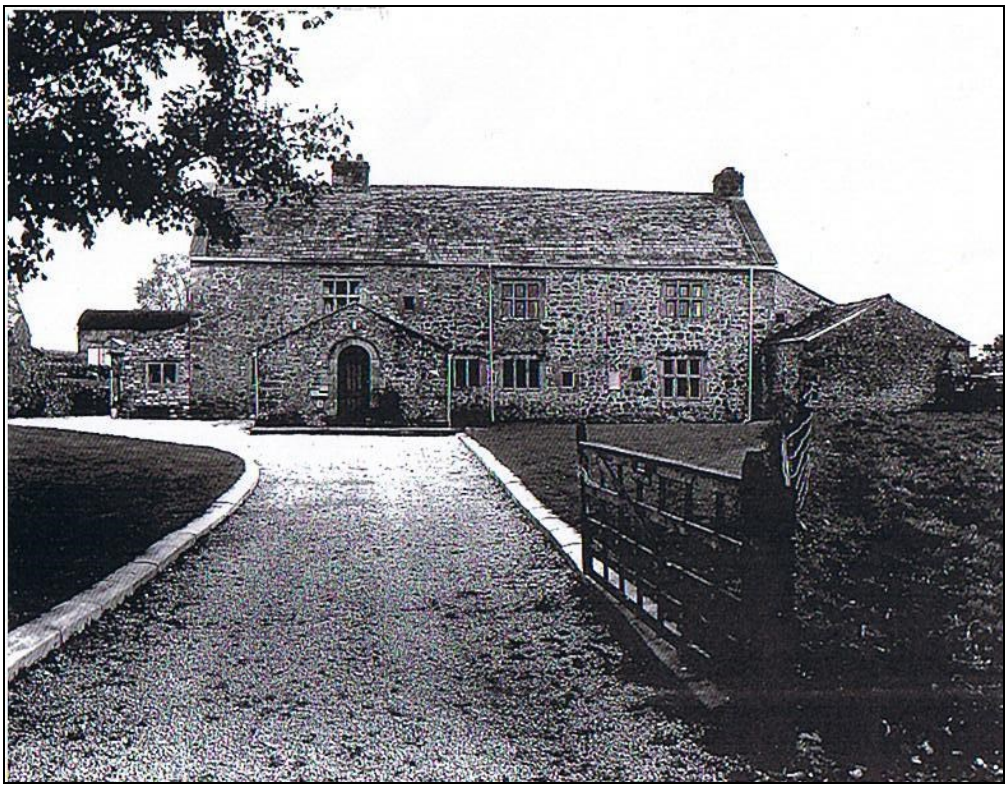


Figure 17. Northern elevation of Strickland Hall, 1988 RCHM 28/2157

Interior

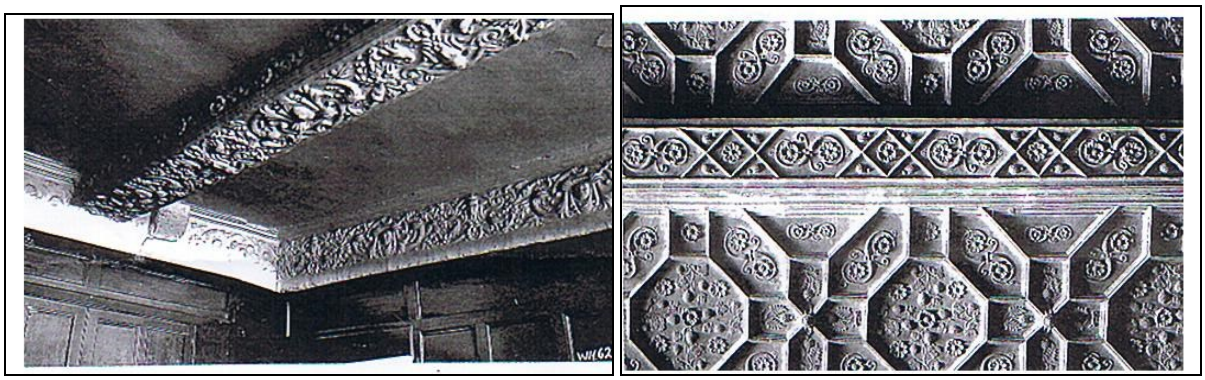
Original northern range, 16th Century

The original hall was 2.68m in height with two of the ceiling beams supported by stone *corbels* (a projecting element supporting an overhanging structure) integral with the chimney, suggesting that the ceiling is contemporaneous (Jennings 1983).
In the middle of the north range was a fireplace of *ashlar* (smoothed, even blocks of masonry), with a wide segmental chamfered arch and continuous jambs (figure 18).

The west room in the same wing has a well-preserved plaster of late 16th Century or early 17th Century date identical in pattern with that at Barton Kirk Farm in Barton parish. It is set out with a geometrical design of moulded, intersecting ribs forming panels, within which are roses, strawberry plants and thistles (figure 16). One of the main octagonal panels has a *strapwork* (stylised

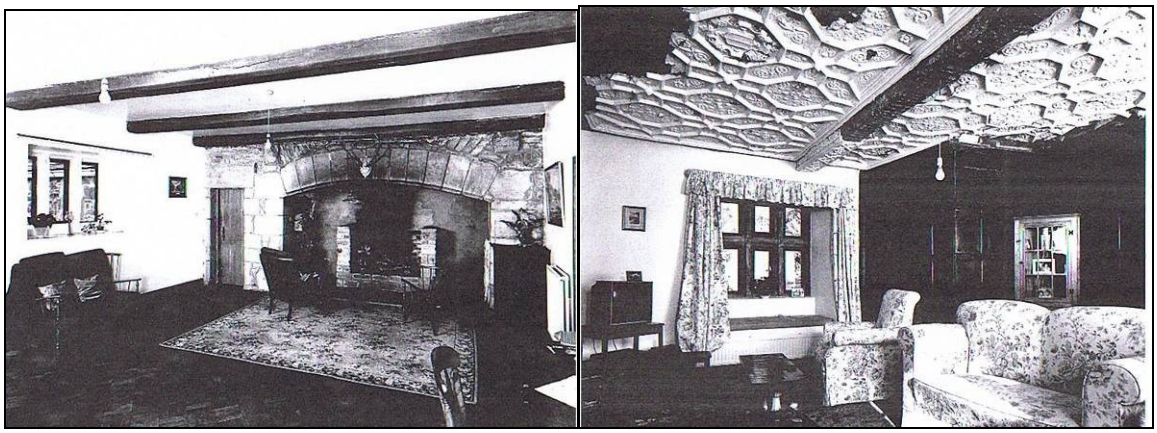
representation of strips or bands) *cartouche* (a carved panel of stone or plaster) enclosing a shield divided *palewise* (divided by perpendicular lines) but now left plain.

The ceiling is divided into two bays by the ceiling beam (figure 16), the *soffit* (the exposed underside of any construction element) of which it is divided into hexagonal, lozenge-shaped and triangular panels enclosing a scrolled rose pattern, marigolds and thistles. The sides have a running scrolled pattern with roses and marigolds (figure 17).



Figures 18 and 19. Decorated soffit and plasterwork on the ceiling (WH 627 and 626)

On the east side of this room is a wood partition with moulded panelling of mid 17th Century date.



Figures 20 and 21. Fireplace within the hall and the west room, northern range RCHM 28/2157

The west room of the north wing at first floor level is lined with panelling of mid 17th Century date (figure 19) and has a triangular headed fireplace with chamfered jambs. The moulded *cornice* (a decorative mould applied to parapets and pediments) is of plaster and has a freize of *arabesques* (an artistic motif that is characterized by the application of repeating geometric forms and fancifully combined patterns), with masks, birds, and grotesque beasts.

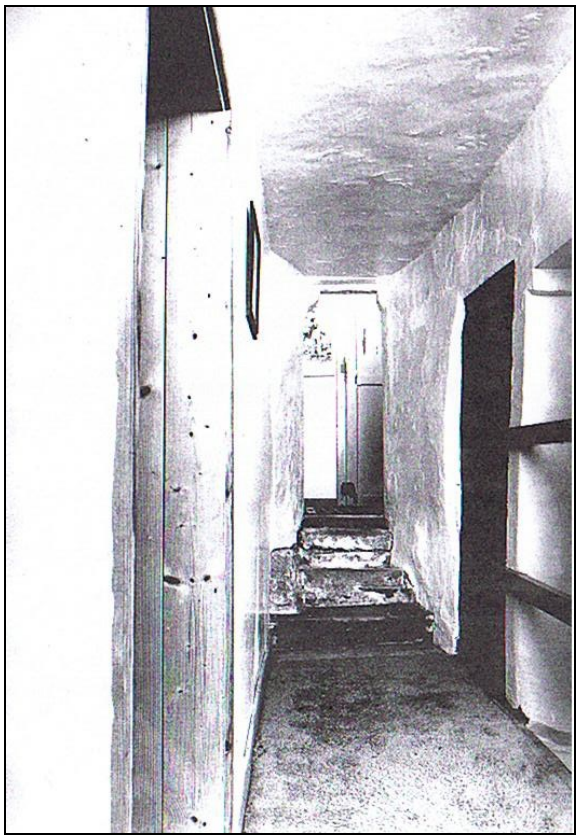
The soffit of the ceiling beam has the same design in plasterwork, and on the sides is a running design with oak foliage, fruits and roses.

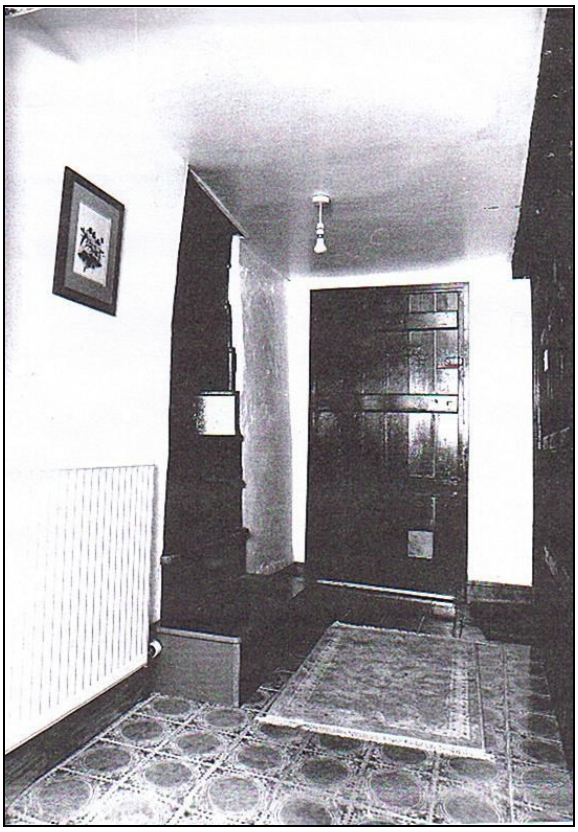
Just north-east of this room, the north wall of the wing housed a wide segmental recess, where the original door existed.

The doorway in the south wall, leading to the south wing (figure 20) has been inserted in the site of an early window and has the original shouldered lead, rebated for glass.

Southern range, mid 16th century

The adjoining passage (figure 21) in the south wing has a 17th Century panelled partition. At the south end of the wing is a blocked fireplace.





Figures 22 and 23. Passageway adjoining the south and northern ranges and cross passage

The northernmost room in the south wing has very large ceiling joists and a chamfered, triangular headed fireplace with continuous jambs.

The fireplace at the south end of this wing has a four centred opening in a square chamfered head (figure 22). The ceiling beams and joists in this wing are stop chamfered.

The roof is in four bays and has heavy tie beams, collars and side *purlins* (a horizontal structural member in a roof).

The partition walls reach only the first floor; there are no partitions upstairs in this wing. Two roof trusses appeared to rest on stone corbels that were probably original (Jennings 1983).

The southern wing was probably used for domestic accommodation, reverting to a hayloft during the 19th Century.

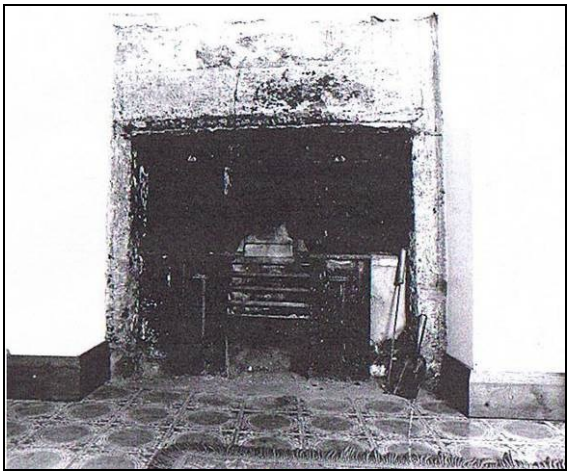


Figure 24. Fireplace in southern range RCHM 28/2157

During the tenure of Sir Thomas Fletcher (died 1695), the Westmorland Hearth Tax survey of 1674-75 lists eight domestic hearths at Strickland Hall (Phillips, Ferguson and Wareham 2009, 243), six within the north wing and two in the south wing with the original chimney still present.

Moreover, "label moulds" over stone mullioned windows exist throughout the south wing, an association generally found in the region to be with domestic buildings (Carrock Architects 2010a, 2-3).

Development between 1860 and 1900

A programme of farm building and conversion of existing buildings occurred between 1860 and 1900 expanding the ground plan of the Hall (figure 24).

During the mid to late 19th Century, the south wing was converted from principally domestic accommodation to stabling with a small lean-to demolished and a purpose built barn added to the south gable (figure 23). Two cross walls were inserted within the south wing in order to form three stables.

Towards the north a new door was created to access the first stable, an existing door serviced the second stable and the removal of a mullioned window produced the third stable door.

A separating wall was built up over the cross-passage to form a hayloft. A window on the east elevation above the first stable was blocked, whilst a door between the cross-passage and the first stable was also blocked (Carrock Architects 2010b, 3).

Butting the west wing of the northern range, a slate-roofed lean-to was added that probably served as a cowshed (figure 25)

Butting the eastern end of the northern range was a slate-roofed lean-to used as a kitchen (figure 26).

Figure 25. View from the south showing additional 19th Century barn RCHM 28/2157

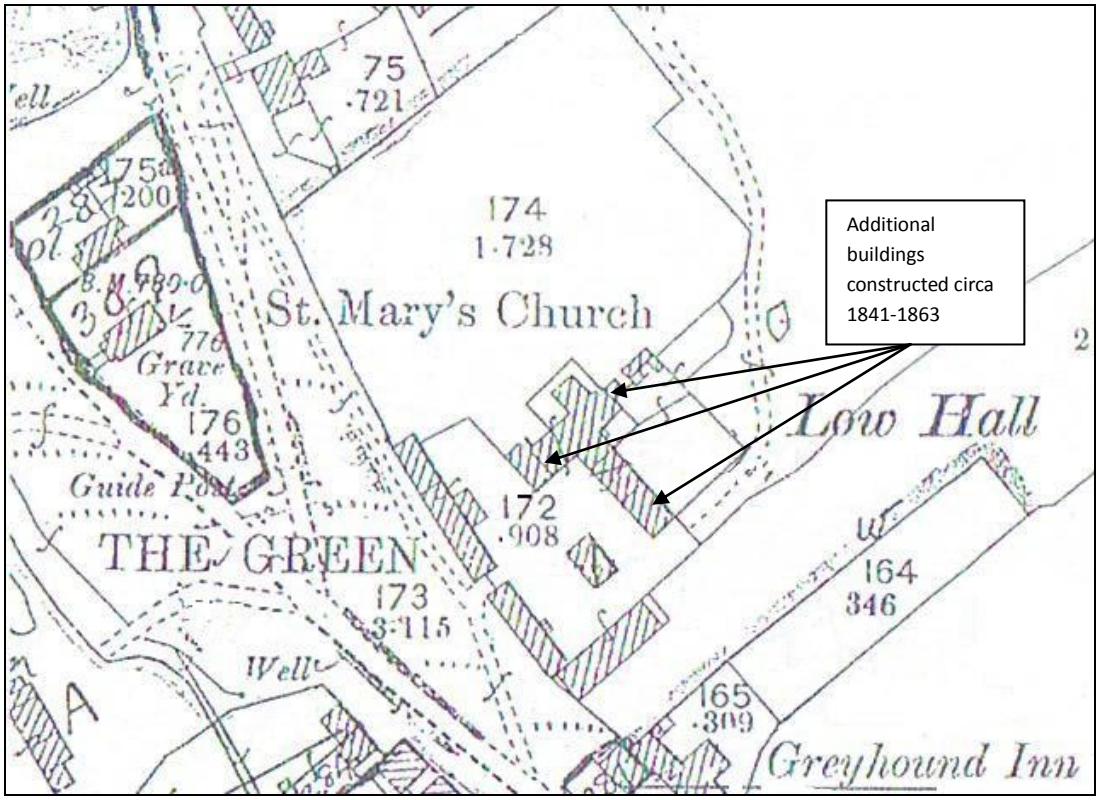


Figure 26. Second Edition Ordnance Survey map 1900

Mid 20th Century

After 1935, the floor was raised in the stable adjacent to the cross-passage (figure 27) and the door lintel was raised and external steps added at the entrance to the first stable.

The window to the first stable was also raised whilst the ground levels to the east were reduced. The western area was also enclosed by a sandstone wall (Ibid, 4).

1980s

The ground levels were lowered on the east side and retaining walls were built with a new barn

entrance also formed.

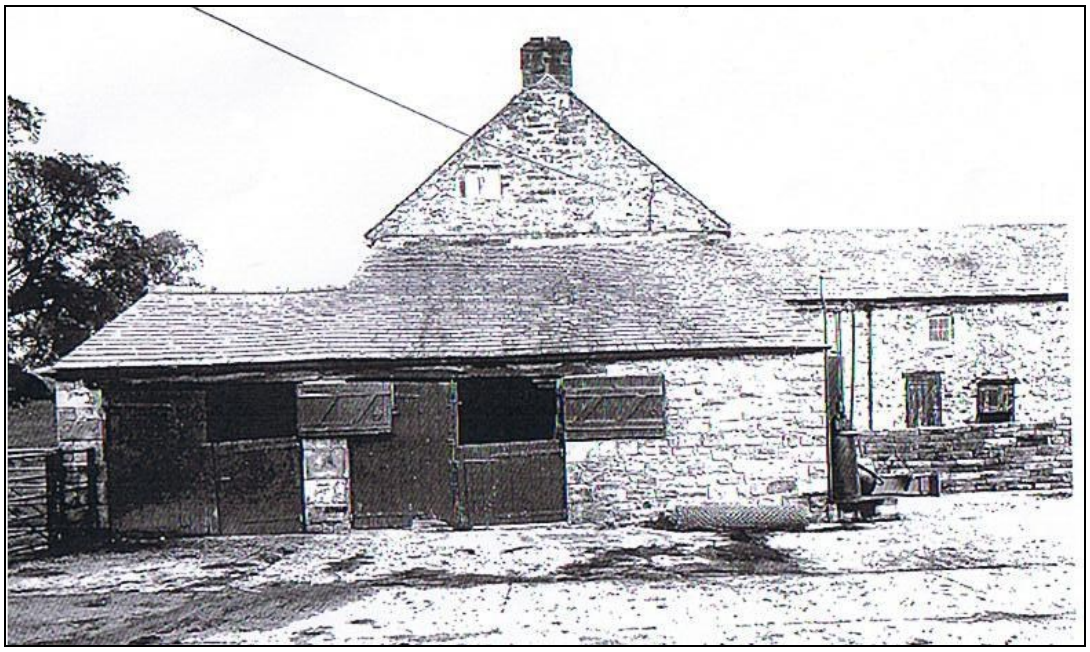


Figure 27. Additional buildings attached to the western end of the north range RCHM 28/2157

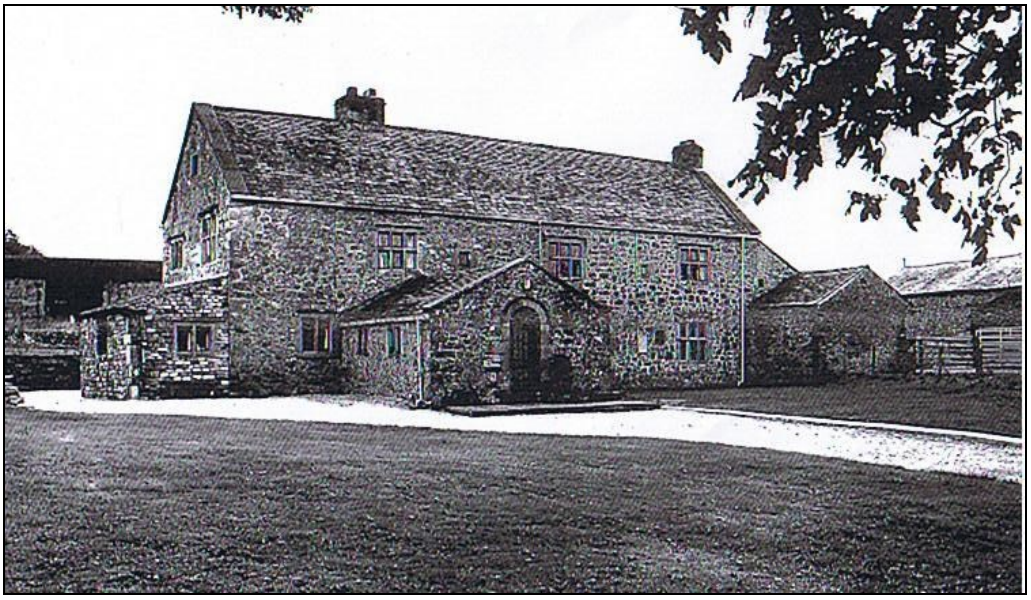


Figure 28. Northern elevation showing additional east and western adjuncts RCHM 28/2157

The barn entrance on the east elevation was blocked and a hay chute opening formed between the hayloft and the barn.

External stonework and possible rubble core was rebuilt following partial collapse of the east wall of the south wing (figure 27).

In the northern range, the dairy roof was lowered and established as the main entrance whilst the internal staircase was altered.

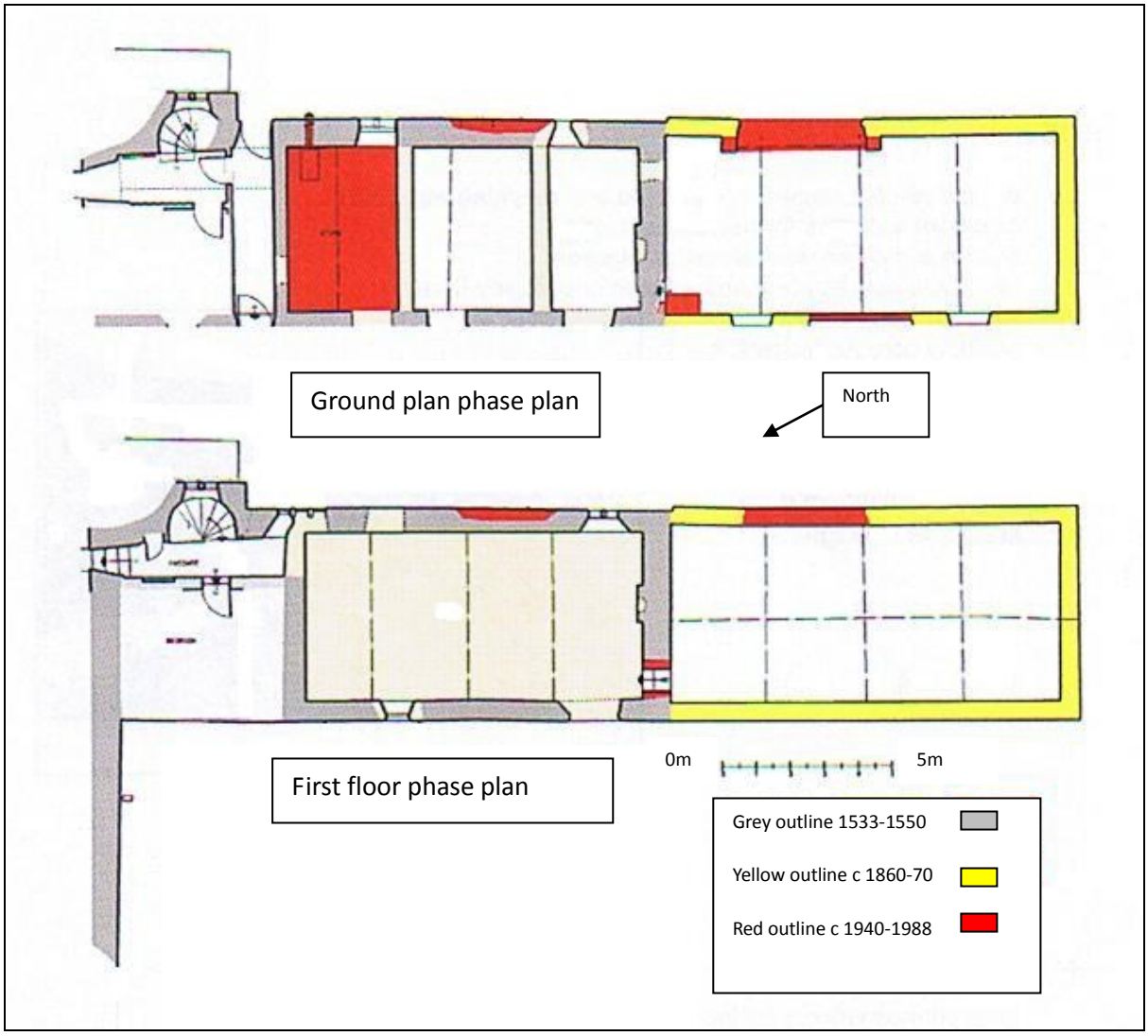


Figure 29. Phase plan relating to the south range.

5 RESULTS; THE SOUTHERN HALL

5.1 Methodology

The buildings in the study area were surveyed on March 9- 10th 2011 by Gerry Martin using a Disto measuring device and hand-held GPS equipment.

The buildings were fully accessible although natural light was restricted within the study buildings requiring flash photography.

The floor above the tack room was in a particularly fragile state of repair, inhibiting the survey and being a safety hazard.

The survey comprised of scaled photographic recording of the interiors and elevations of all the buildings, with detailed photography of any worthy architectural elements.

Using the architectural plans, notations were undertaken regarding the characteristics of these farm buildings, including metrical data, thresholds, materials and building techniques employed.

Domestic occupation is maintained to the north of the cross passage (figure 30) and does not feature in this current development or under the terms of the building survey brief.

Description and analysis of these suite of rooms has been undertaken during previous surveys and does not form part of this report.

The corpus of the following report is formed from these notes and photographs.

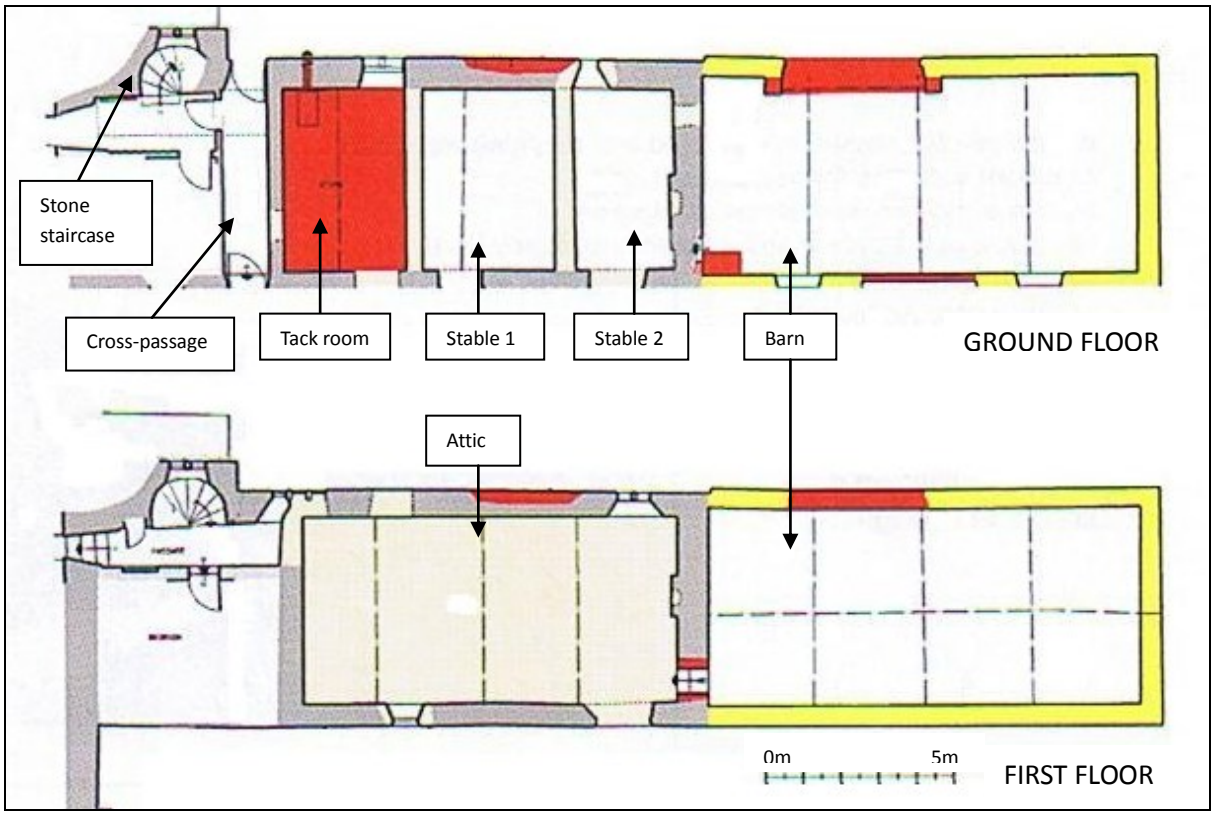


Figure 30. Lay-out of rooms

5.2 Survey results; west elevation of hall

The western elevation illustrated tow main elements; to the north a hall and to the south a barn.

South of the cross-passage, the hall had during the 19th Century been converted to a stables and tack room (figure 30)

The south wing measures 16.15m in length, stands to a maximum height of 5.00m extending to 8.00m with the roof included. The roof comprised of slates recently attached.

The doorway to the cross-passage and two late medieval elongated windows (Brunskill 2002, 170-171) to the north are still extant and their architectural details are described on page 12, undertaken during previous surveys. These features are not subject to the current programme of renovation works.

The fabric for the building comprises randomly coursed rough hewn limestone blocks bonded by a pink lime mortar with flat green sandstone pieces infilling voids, the walls measuring 0.55m in

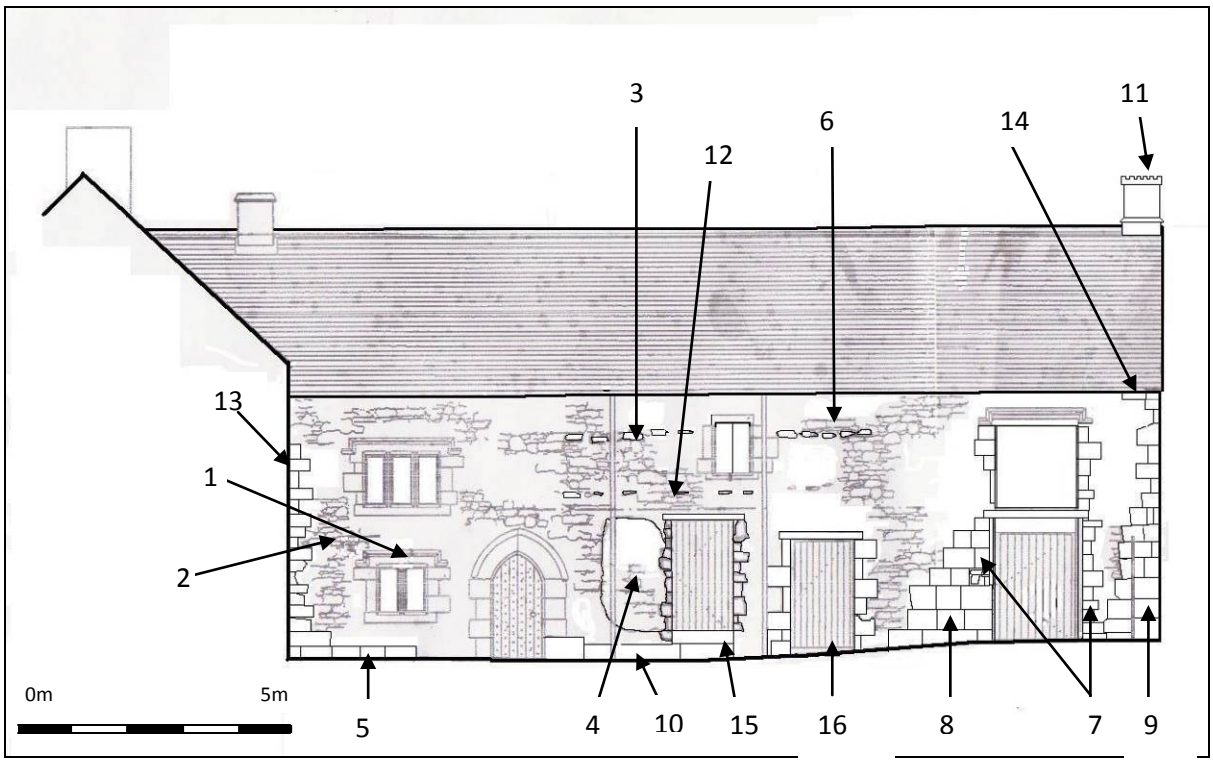


Figure 31. West elevation of south wing of former hall

Figure 32. Elongated window with repair (1)

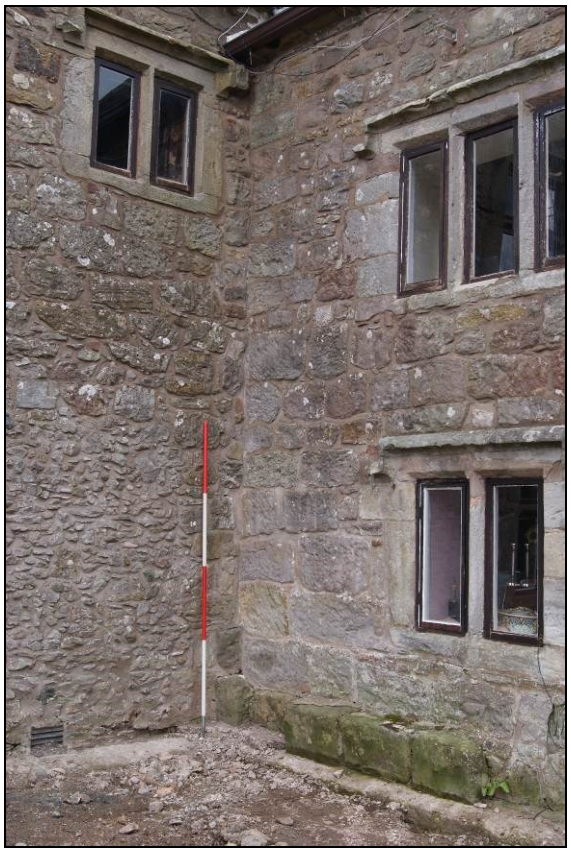


Figure 33. Stone quoins (13) and brick repair (2)

thickness. The fabric has been considerably altered since its original construction.

Figure 34. Dripstone guttering

Possibly, rough cast, a lime render traditionally applied to give protection to walls built of poor quality rubble stone or to walls in exposed locations facing driving winds, was applied, a possibility intimated by the clean finish illustrated in the 1841 drawing (figure 16). During the late 19th Century in Cumbria, the roughcast application was often removed.

The following details describe the current condition of the study buildings and any changes undertaken since the last survey by RCHME in 1988.

1. Cement repair to the central mullion on the lower window, not subject to the development (figure 32).
2. Brick repair to the wall fabric, not subject to the development (figure 33).
3. An upper set of five concordant, horizontal stone *throughs,* approximately 2.50m in length and projecting 0.10m (figure 35). The *through* would tie two faces of a wall commonly used in dry-stone walling. The use of *throughs* appears to have been a technical innovation introduced in the 18th century which was widely adopted and became standard for most dry-stone wall but relatively rare within domestic buildings. Brunskill however, acknowledges their use in limestone areas albeit undated (Brunskill 2002, 155-157).
4. An area of unpointed stonework (figure 35) exhibiting the probable original pink lime mortar with flat green sandstone filling any voids.
5. A plinth (figures 32 and 33) of four large dressed sandstone blocks (0.50m x 0.30m) and single block (0.20m x 0.30) measuring 2.20m in length that juts out by 0.20m and stands to a height of 0.30m.
6. An upper set of five concordant, horizontal stone *throughs,* approximately 1.60m in length and projecting 0.10m (figure 35).
7. A door inserted after 1841 that comprised eight courses of dressed sandstone (varying sizes

0.20-0.37m x 0.20-0.31m) to form the southern jamb to stable 2. The northern jamb only possessed four courses, both jambs possessing a slight chamfer. A timber lintel surmounted a black painted, machine-cut, modern door (figure 36). On both jambs there was a slight chamfer from the middle to the top of the jamb.

8. A set of dressed limestone blocks, six courses high, standing to a height of 1.80m in height and 1.53m in length. The blocks averaged 0.40m x 0.30m in size and appeared to form a possible set of steps leading to the upper floor, although the elevation did not jut out from the building fabric (figure 35). Alternatively, this arrangement may have been an architectural device to strengthen the corner of the building, subsequently lost by the insertion of a door (7).
9. A set of dressed stone blocks (0.35m x 0.32m) thicker at the base that formed the southwest corner of the southern wing of the hall (figure 35). A drill-hole 0.01m in diameter was present in one of the blocks. Possibly, this set of stones is a continuation of stonework just to the north (8).
10. A stone plinth offset 0.08m from the building comprising stone blocks 0.44m in depth that extends below the current concrete surface (figure 35). This feature appears to be a continuation of the stone plinth to the north (5).
11. A chimney that has a *crenellated* top comprising of five uprights (figure 37). The chimney is formed from two courses of two long sandstone blocks and two small sandstone blocks forming a square column. A bevelled course of stone interrupts this sequence before continuing as a single course of 4 sandstone blocks.
12. A lower set of stone *throughs* (figure 35) that project 0.05m and extend for approximately 5.00m in length. This set of *throughs* are approximately 1.00m below *throughs* (3) and (6).
13. Sixteen courses of stone quoins. The bottom stone measures 0.75m x 0.35m, the second block 0.56m x 0.35m and thereafter the rough hewn sandstone blocks are between 0.25m - 0.30m in size. The blocks are dressed but without a neat finish and are irregular sizes (figure 33).
14. A shallow dripstone forming guttering (figure 34) for the roof system. This appears to be of some antiquity stylistically similar to the mullioned windows.
15. Nine courses of quoins on each side of the door (figure 38) entering the tack room comprising undressed, rough hewn sandstone blocks (0.30m x 0.20m), the timber jambs measuring 1.10m apart. A timber lintel surmounts a wooden door resting above two concrete steps. The doorway does not appear to be present in 1841 (figure 16).
16. A doorway to Stable 1 (figure 39) comprising of set of five rough hewn sandstone quoins, the largest stones measuring 0.48m x 0.36m, the smallest 0.20m x 0.30m. There is a door bolt on the right hand-side, whilst the timber door and frame is modern. This doorway was probably extant in 1841 (figure 16).

Figure 35. Elevation detailing stone throughs (3), (6) and (12), exposed mortar (4), “steps” (8), stonework (9) and plinth (10)

Figure 36. Doorway to south stable 2 (7)

Figure 37. Chimney (11)

Figure 38. Tack room door (15)

Figure 39. Stable 1 doorway (16)

5.3 Survey results; east elevation of hall

The south wing measures 16.20m in length, stands to a maximum height of 4.80m extending to 8.00m with the roof included. The roof comprised of slates recently attached and the walls were limestone rubble construction measuring 0.74m in thickness.

North of the cross-passage, was a stone jetty housing a spiral staircase (figure 30) that juts 0.83m eastwards and contained a later window. These elements are not subject to the alterations proposed and have been discussed in earlier surveys.

The architectural details pertaining to the west elevation of the barn are listed below.

1. Fifteen courses of neat sandstone blocks (approximately 0.30-0.50m x 0.30m) that form the original south-eastern corner of the hall (figure 41).
2. Randomly coursed dressed yellow sandstone blocks bonded by a pink sandy mortar (figure 41). There is a pink sandy mortar repair around the upper window. Three ceramic drains have been inserted as air vents.
3. A repair around the lower window to Stable 2 comprising cream lime mortar and small stones (figure 43). The window (0.45m x 0.65m) probably a later amendment has a crude, rough hewn surround with a slight hood.
4. A crude stone repair of square rough hewn blocks and an occasional irregular block (circa 0.42m x 0.30m), unmortared, that occurred when the facade collapsed during the 1980s

(figure 41).

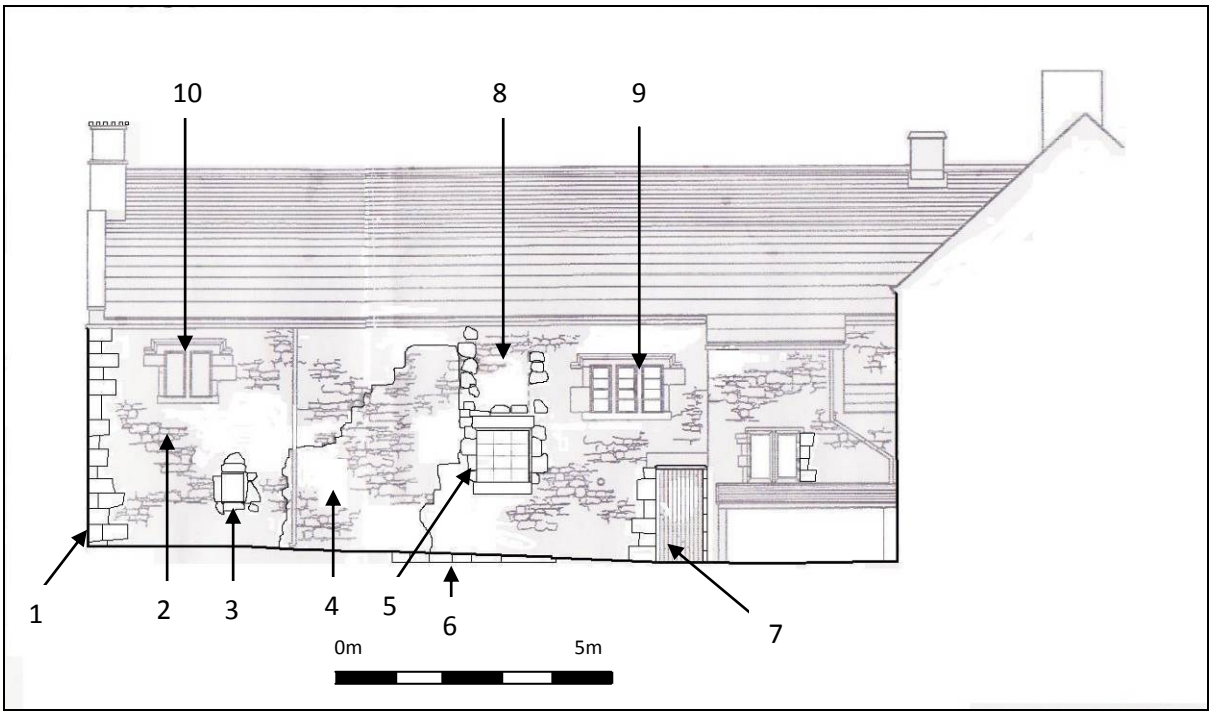


Figure 40. East elevation of the hall

Figure 41. Detail of architectural elements (1-5), (8) and (10)

5. A window that enters the tack room (figure 44). The jamb consists of three courses of sandstone blocks (0.36m x 0.30m). Originally this was a two-light window but the mullion has been removed. The sill lies beneath a cement render. Beneath the lintel, each light has a square recess for a glazing bar, since replaced by a modern timber casement.
6. A slight sandstone offset measuring 3.00m in length (figure 42).

7. The door jamb measuring 0.91m in width comprises of seven courses of sandstone quoins (0.30m x 0.35m). The chamfered door jamb (figure 47) had originally been painted white, not seen applied anywhere else to the study building. The door is set back 0.20m from the wall. Two small holes each 0.15m from the door jamb were present under the chamfered sandstone lintel. The southern was square in plan measuring 50mm x 40mm and 15mm in depth, the northern 25mm in diameter and 20mm in depth.
8. A filled window approximately 1.60m x 1.00m filled by rubble stone bonded by a pink sandy mortar (figure 45). The southern side has five quoins, the northern side three quoins, comprising sandstone blocks 0.30m x 0.24m in size.
9. A former triple light elongated window (figure 46). The southern and central lights have been blocked by an internal partition wall, the outside lights being painted in as dummy windows. The remaining light possesses a timber frame of probable 19th or 20th century date.
10. An elongated double light window possessing chamfered jambs and moulded labels with returned props (figure 48).

Figure 42. Northern part of south wing of hall

Figure 43. Window to Stable 2 (3)

Figure 44. Window to tack room (5)

Figure 45. Blocked window (8)

Figure 46. Dummy window (9)

Figure 47. Doorway (7)

Figure 48. Double light mullion window (10)

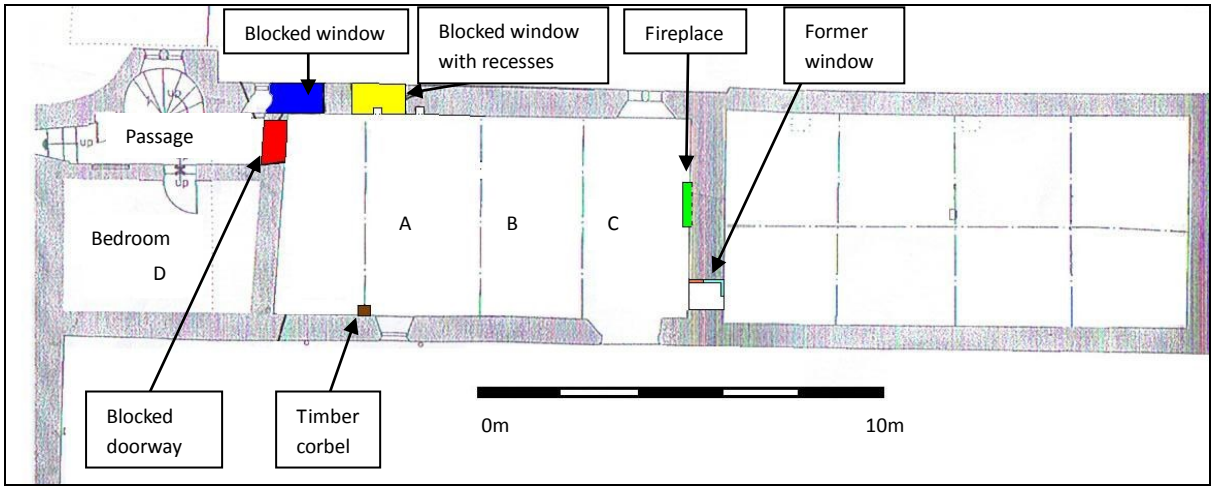


Figure 49. Plan of the first floor hall and roof space of the Victorian barn

5.4 Survey results; the attic

The interior of the attic white washed white and possessing a timber decked floor measured 10.14m x 4.95m standing to a height of 4.73m at the apex of the roof, the walls standing to a height between 2.11m and 2.34m.

The floor to the attic was exceedingly unsafe and access was only possible via a series of planks that lead down the western side. Therefore, accurate measurement of many of the features particularly those located on the eastern side of the attic was not feasible.

Nine significant architectural features and three roof trusses (A-C) were encountered (figure 49).

The southern elevation (figure 51) comprises of a rubble stone wall 0.77m in thickness and formerly represented the southern gable end of the hall. This wall was finished in pink daub or stucco, followed by the application four laminations of thin plaster, the earliest application being painted (figure 50).

Former window

A breach (1.10m x 1.25m in height) had been made into the western side of the southern gable allowing access from the Victorian barn to the attic. The finished doorway (0.66m x 1.20m) was formalised by a brick surround (orange outline figure 49) surmounted by a timber lintel (figure 51).

The breach replaced an earlier window (turquoise outline figure 49) that probably was contemporary with the suite of late Medieval elongated windows also within the southern range of the hall. A stone sill survived that had been incorporated into the breach as a step whilst the eastern prop of the former window became the eastern jamb for the entrance (figure 53).

Figure 50. Painted plaster on the south wall

Figure 51. Exposed southern gable end in the attic

Fireplace

The south gable was dominated by the chimney breast for the southern chimney (figure 54). The insertion of a stone fireplace suggested that the hall was intended to be of two stories rather than the open space of a Medieval hall, typical of hall development from the late 15th century (Breckon &

Parker 1996, 152). Interestingly, the chimney breast formed from dressed stone blocks appears to be butted by the southern gable suggesting that the current gable end may have been a replacement.

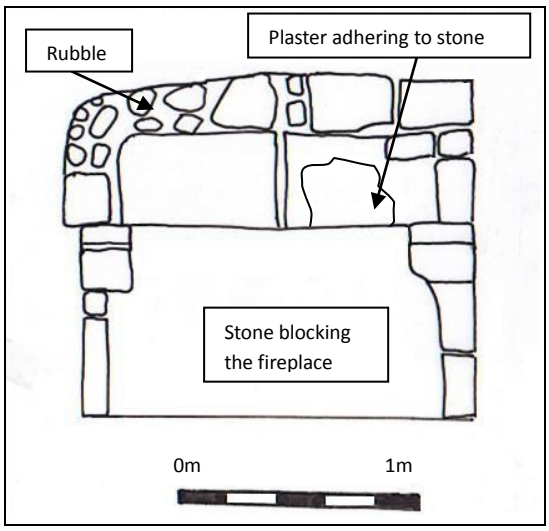


Figure 52. Fireplace in attic

Figure 53. Probable former window, south end of attic

Figure 54. Southern gable end with fireplace within the attic

The fireplace was 1.60m in width and stood to a height of 1.36m. Although heavily altered and later closed, some elements appeared to belong to its origins. These included flat, smooth stone panels that formed the mantelpiece above the fireplace; the western panel was conspicuously smooth displaying pink lime plaster (figure 52).

Comprising of three shaped stone blocks that formed the western prop to the fireplace and possessing a smooth and fine finish, there were indications of a possible moulding although this detail was obscured by the later stone filling of the hearth.

Blocked window with recesses

Towards the north east corner of the attic (yellow outline figure 49) was a crudely filled window bearing two small recesses surmounted by a timber lintel approximately 2.00m in length and 0.20m in thickness (figure 55).

The northern recess measured 0.50m x 0.30m and the southern recess measured 0.70m x 0.30m, both being approximately 0.20m in depth. There were no other architectural embellishments.

As the wall had collapsed during the 1980s, it was difficult to ascertain whether this had been rebuilt or was a feature of some antiquity. The recesses appeared to correspond with the blocked window seen on the eastern elevation (figure 45).

Figure 55. Blocked window with recesses

Figure 56. Blocked window

Blocked window

Adjacent to the blocked window described above, was another blocked window (blue outline figure 49) that corresponded to the dummy lights seen on the eastern elevation (figure 46).

The window (approximately 1.20m x 1.20m) possessed a timber lintel at least 1.20m in length and 0.25m in thickness, filled with rubble and then whitewashed (figure 56).

Blocked door

The northern elevation was a whitewashed, rubble wall comprising two phases of activity.

The main stretch of wall measured 3.60m in length and was 0.50m in thickness and had been finished in plaster (figure 57). It had been inserted probably during the 17th century to provide a private space to the north, what is now a bedroom but leaving a doorway 1.14m in width for access to the attic from an upstairs passage connected to the stair well (figure 49).

The wall stood to a concordant height of 2.23m allowing a roof space above. Possibly, a ceiling had been inserted at this level, although there was no tangible sign for this putative action.

During the 19th century, the doorway was sealed (red outline figure 49) with a rubble wall blocking two lights of a three light window (figure 46).

Figure 57. North elevation, with filled doorway

Figure 58. Timber corbel, west elevation

Timber corbel

At the north-west corner of the attic was a timber corbel (brown outline figure 49) that supported roof truss A.

The wooden corbel (figure 58) was approximately 0.25m in height, 0.20m in width and protruded approximately 0.20m. Neatly finished, it comprised of a quarter segment with a chamfered plinth in order to carry the supporting roof truss.

It indicates a technical development from cruck frames, common still in the late Medieval period in Cumbria, whereby a second floor could be sustained, rarely the case with a cruck frame (Brunskill 2002, 150).

Roof trusses

All the roof trusses were devoid of king posts but had two tie-beams, one resting upon the shell of the hall the other bracing the joists carrying the roof. This arrangement of tie-beam and light-collar roof is a style associated with the 18th or 19th century (Brunskill 2002, 152-153) and it would appear highly probable that the roof trusses are not part of the original construction.

Ad hoc corbels supported the roof trusses, only at the north-west corner (figure 58) was there a formal support.

The trusses are summarised as follows;

- Truss A (figure 59), a replacement but the tie-bean has some antiquity although there are no recesses for joists
- Truss B (figure 60), the tie beam is possibly original and has mortices that tally with the

height of the surrounding walls

- Truss C (figure 61), all replaced and machine-cut
- Truss D (figure 62), hand-cut with bracing tie-beam and light-collar

Figure 59. Roof truss (A)

Figure 60. Roof truss (B)

Figure 61. Roof truss (C)

Figure 62. Roof truss (D) above bedroom

Figure 63. Window on east elevation

Figure 64. Window on north side of west elevation

Extant windows

There were three extant windows present in the attic summarised as follows;

- On the eastern elevation, was a two light mullioned window (approximately 1.30m x 1.00m), chamfered recess with a two part flagstone sill with a stone lintel (figure 63).
- On the western elevation towards the north, was a plain window (approximately 1.00m x

0.80m) with a flat stone sill, chamfered recess containing a double hinged window. A machine-cut timber lintel replaced the original support (figure 64).

- On the southern end of the western elevation was a former elongated window (approximately 1.50m x 1.00m). This was very badly damaged, inaccessible and was now an opening without glazing or frame (figure 65).

Figure 65. Opening at south end of western elevation

5.5 Survey results; the tack room

The tack room possessed a concrete floor probably raised during the 1980s (anecdotal evidence from George Cass 2010), was painted white throughout and measured 4.84m across x 3.20m in length and was 2.17m in height falling to 2.00m on the eastern side.

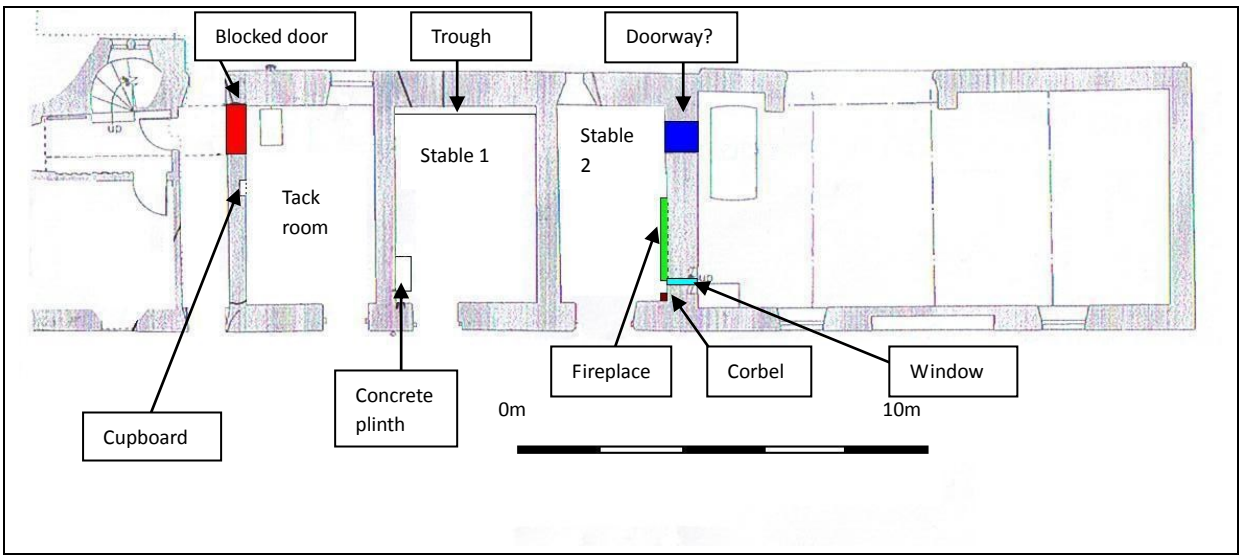


Figure 66. Ground floor plan of hall and barn

Stone corbels (figure 67) supported the ceiling joists that maintained a timber decked floor. These corbels had rounded mouldings protruding approximately 0.10m and measured 0.25m x 0.15m.

The south rubble wall was introduced when the hall was sub-divided during the mid 19th century.

The western and eastern walls possessed respectively, a modern doorway (figure 83) measuring 1.14m x 2.08m and a window measuring 1.20m x 1.15m complete with stone bench seat 0.25m in depth (figure 68).

Figure 67. Stone corbel in tack room

Figure 68. Eastern window with bench seat

Probably during the 17th century, a north wall that fronted onto the passage was introduced but was not keyed into the earlier superstructure. Built into the wall was a small rectangular cupboard or recess measuring 0.48m x 0.55m and 0.30m in depth. This feature possessed a timber surround and lining producing an internal space measuring 0.23m x 0.28m. Unfortunately, obstructions denied the opportunity to photograph this feature.

This wall contained a block doorway (red outline figure 66) towards the east measuring 1.25m in width and outlined in quoins on its western side (figure 70). This feature is not visible from the passage side.

Figure 69. Door at west end of Tack Room

Figure 70. North wall with blocked door

5.6 Survey results; stable 1

Internally, stable 1 was plaster rendered to a thickness of 0.02m on all four walls to a height of 1.00m, with all the walls painted white as was the machine-cut timber ceiling , a modern animal trough existing at the eastern side (figure 71). The floor was made of concrete and the area covered 3.45m x 4.75m.

Both the north and south walls were 19th century rubble stone walls standing to a height of 2.51m.

A concrete plinth for a tank or water trough existed towards the western side, the entry point via whilst a modern door measuring 1.16m x 2.12m was situated in an earlier door jamb bearing sandstone quoins (figure 72).

Figure 71. East wall of stable 1

Figure 72. Door at western end of stable 1

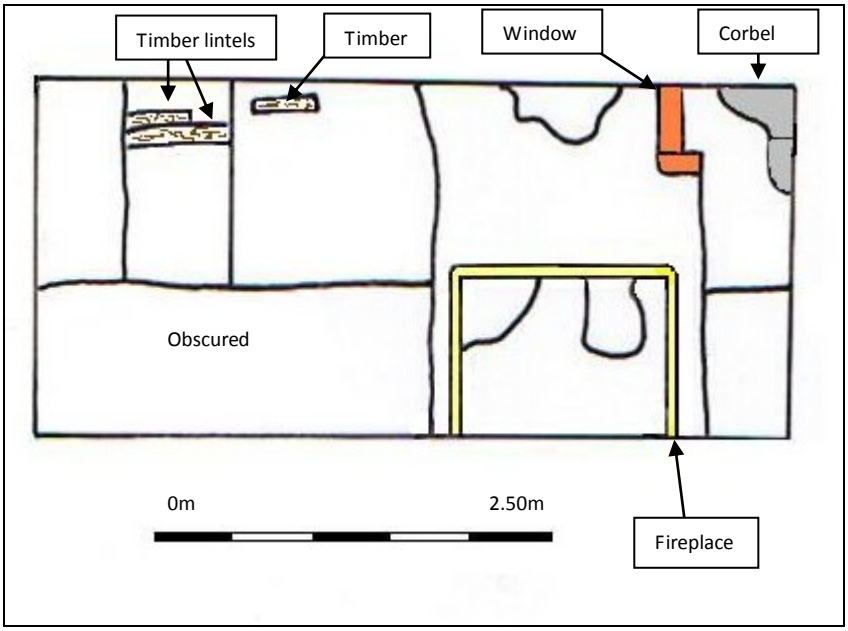


Figure 73. Architectural features within the southern elevation

5.7 Survey results; stable 2

Stable 2 measured 2.51m x 4.75m and 2.29m in height, possessed a concrete floor and comprised a 19th century rubble stone wall to the north and the superstructure of the hall on all other sides.

All four walls were rendered to a height of 1.00m then painted brown the remaining upper walls were painted white with a trough existing on the eastern elevation.

Figure 74. Fireplace within southern elevation Figure 75. Detail of truncated window jamb

The southern wall formed by dressed stone blocks to a height of 1.20m, measured 0.80m in thickness and contained a number of architectural features (figures 73) namely:

- Two timber lintels or beams (figure 78) measuring 0.70m in length and 0.18m in thickness that bore peg holes. This arrangement may have overlain a filled doorway, unseen in the barn due to the presence of an oil tank.
- A timber beam of uncertain function.
- A remnant elongated window (figure 75); the left prop was 0.16m in width whilst the sill extended 0.12m westwards. The window prop corresponds with two dressed stone blocks observed on the northern face of the barn.
- A smoothed moulded, dressed, stone corbel painted white (figure 79) measuring 0.40m in length, 0.22m in thickness and 0.70m in height protruding from the western wall.
- A sandstone fireplace measuring 1.90m in width and 1.10m in height possessing stone props measuring 0.18m in width. The hearth has been filled with stone, brick and partially cement rendered recently (figure 74).

Figure 76. Eastern window, stable 2 Figure 77. Western door, stable 2

The eastern elevation displayed a single window measuring 1.10m x 0.87m in height surmounted by a decayed timber lintel measuring 1.20m in length and 0.18m in thickness.

The western elevation yielded a door jamb measuring 1.50m x 2.51m in height and was 0.60m in depth.

Figure 78. Timber lintel, stable 2

Figure 79. Stone corbel

5.8 Phasing of the north and south ranges of Strickland Hall

The interface between the north and south ranges is key to understanding the phasing for the two ranges that form Strickland Hall. Traditionally, it was believed that the north wing was slightly earlier than the south wing although in 1983 following roof repairs Nina Jennings asserted that the south wing was the older of the two.

Although outside the formal brief of this report, the opportunity arose to investigate the interface between the two ranges. Three areas were investigated: the attic, the first floor and the ground floor.

The attic

The roof beams were embedded onto a rubble stone wall (figure 80), but as the northern range was physically higher than the southern range no stratigraphic relationship between the two buildings could be ascertained.

The first floor

A number of possible indicators visible on the first floor suggest that the southern range pre-dates the northern range. Supporting observations include the following:

- The wall on the first floor linking the two ranges was 0.99m in thickness compared to 0.66m in width where the walls were not in contact with each other.
- The eastern wing of the northern range kinks slightly southwards as it had to go around a standing obstruction. There may be a limited degree of bowing of the building but this arcing

could be due to no clear line of site for the masons and builders.

- The threshold was a former elongated window (figure 81) measuring 0.58m in width, providing a light 0.41m in width.
- A groove 4mm in depth that the light sat within was on the south side of the jamb whilst the fastening bolt was also on the south side (figure 82) that would have secured a casement window. It was customary for leaded casement windows to open inwards, whilst shutters either hinged or sliding in grooves were the rule rather than the exception during the Tudor period (Breckon & Parker 1996, 116).
- Functional exterior shutters protected the window often unglazed and opened outwards possibly indicated by an arcing groove in the stonework (figure 82). Until the 16th century windows were kept to a minimum as glass was expensive, the practice of shutters continuing beyond this period (Brown 1994, 93-95).
- A protruding stone block above the later steps (figure 83) indicated the original internal face of the northern extent of the southern range. This provided a wall thickness of approximately 0.96m, wider than the southern gable end (0.80m) but appreciably closer in dimension than 0.66m for the remaining part of the southern side of the northern range.

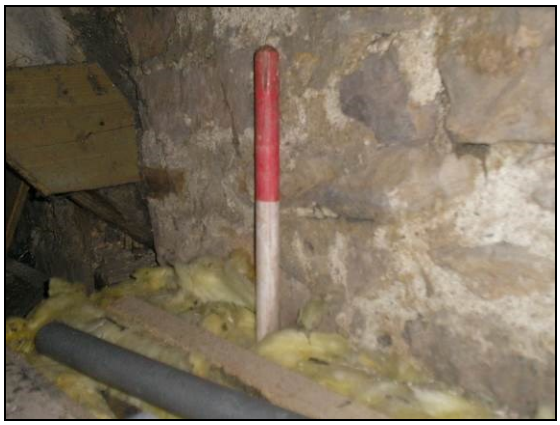


Figure 80. Roof truss in the attic, north range

Figure 81. Door linking the north and south ranges

Figure 82. Detail of bolt hole and window jamb

Figure 83. Stonework protruding within south range

The ground floor

The north and south ranges were linked by a later threshold measuring 1.35m in width and 2.05m in height. The supporting evidence in favour of the southern range being earlier, were the following

observations:

- Set back 0.37m from the southern face was a single piece of rough hewn stone measuring 1.00m in length, 0.07m in depth and over 0.21m in width indicative of a former lintel or jamb for a probable door, heavily damaged when knocked through and then expanded (figure 84).
- The eastern jamb for the new door was a neat and dressed stone prop (0.15m in thickness), probably a remnant of the original door
- A bolt-hole 0.04m in depth was located on the southern side of the party wall (figure 85).

Figure 84. Damaged threshold

Figure 85. Detail of bolt-hole

6 RESULTS; THE BARN

6.1 Survey results; west elevation of barn

The stone barn was added after circa 1865 but was extant by circa 1900 as it appears on the second edition Ordnance Survey map (figure 26) requiring the removal of a small stone lean-to building illustrated on a drawing of 1841 (figure 16).

The building measured 12.10m in length, 3.00m in height, rising to 5.80m at the apex of the modern slate roof. The building butted the pre-existing hall, hence the lack of stone quoins at the northern end. The building fabric consisted of rough hewn sandstone blocks lain in courses with walls measuring 0.50m in thickness.

Figure 86. West elevation of Victorian barn

Figure 87, Filled doorway

The architectural details pertaining to the west elevation of the barn (figure 88) are listed below.

1. A filled doorway measuring 3.00m in width and 2.75m in height. A timber lintel surmounted a double set of dressed red sandstone quoins approximately 0.40m x 0.30m in size. The

ingress was blocked by modern breeze blocks (figure 86).

2. The corner at the southern gable end (figure 87) comprised twelve courses of sandstone quoins with alternate sized blocks measuring 0.44m x 0.18m and 0.32m x 0.30m respectively. There was a slight rebate on the corner that terminated 1.00m above the ground.
3. A modern window (currently boarded over) measuring 1.00m x 1.20m with sandstone sill and lintel (figure 89). The window was outlined by six sandstone quoins to the south and seven sandstone quoins to the north (0.16-0.20m x 0.20m-0.35m) with a slight rebate to the jamb.
4. A modern window (currently boarded) measuring 1.00m x 1.20m with sandstone sill and lintel (figure 90). The window was outlined by six sandstone quoins to the north and seven sandstone quoins to the south (0.18-0.20m x 0.20m-0.35m) with a slight rebate to the jamb.

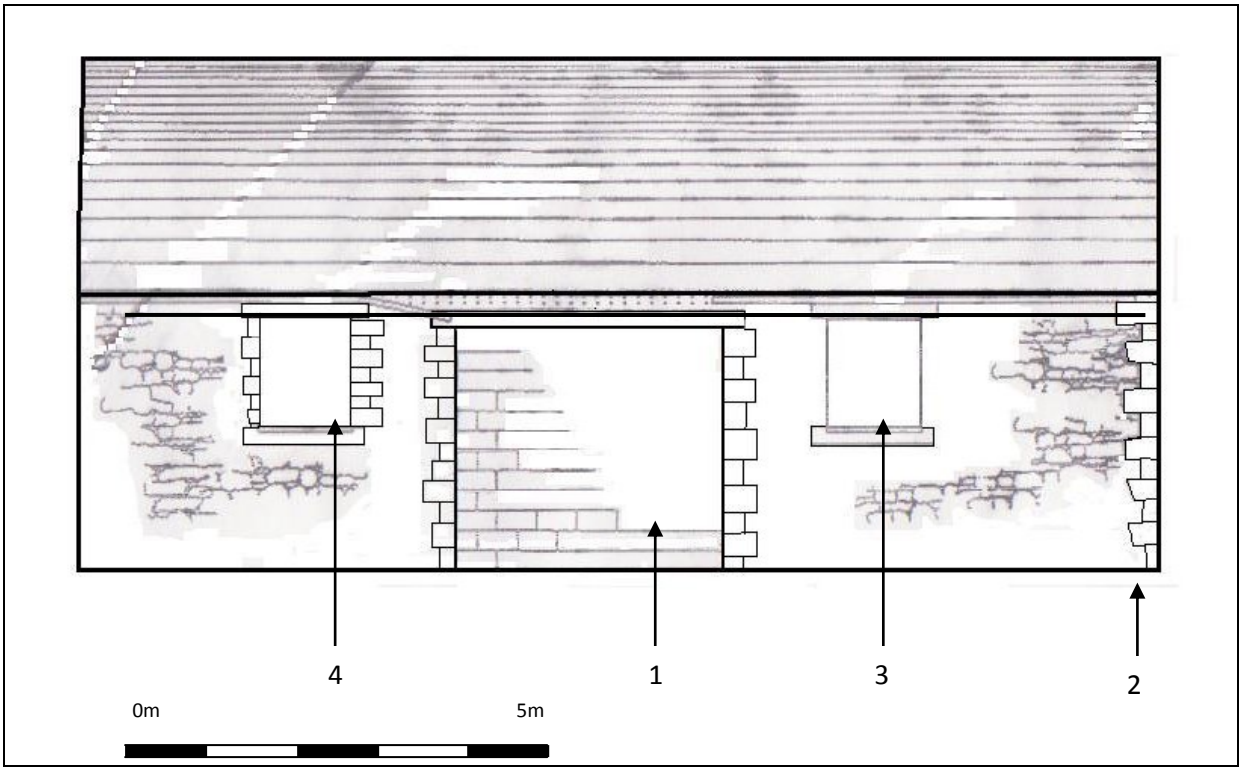


Figure 88. West elevation of the Victorian barn

Figure 89. Window (3)

Figure 90. Window (4)

6.2 Survey results; south elevation of barn

The south elevation consisted of plain, rough hewn, randomly coursed sandstone blocks (figure 91). There existed a central *louvred* vent 1.00m below the roof ridge.

Modern machine-cut timbers formed the eaves supporting a slate roof. Each corner comprised neat quoins formed from rough hewn sandstone blocks with a moulded rebate (discussed above).

Figure 91. South elevation of barn

6.3 Survey results; east elevation of barn

The eastern elevation (figure 92) was 0.13m eastwards of the hall and butted the barn to the north.

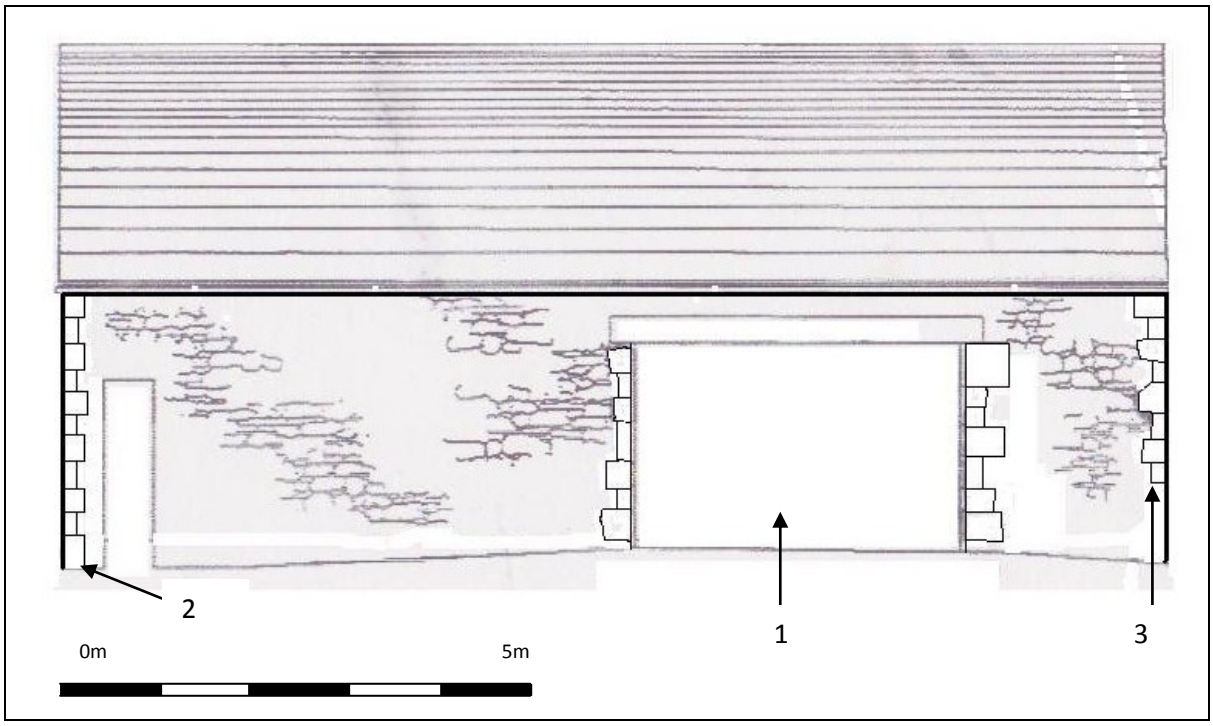


Figure 92. East elevation of Victorian barn

The building measured 12.10m in length, 3.00m in height, rising to 5.80m at the apex of the modern slate roof. The building fabric consisted of rough hewn sandstone blocks lain in courses with walls measuring 0.50m in thickness.

The architectural details pertaining to the west elevation of the barn are listed below.

1. An open doorway measuring 3.50m in width and 2.30m in height. A modern timber lintel surmounted a seven course high, double set of dressed red sandstone quoins approximately 0.35m x 0.25m in size and 0.22m in thickness (figure 93).
2. The south-eastern corner at the southern gable end (figure 91) comprised twelve courses of sandstone quoins with alternate sized blocks measuring 0.44m x 0.18m and 0.32m x 0.30m respectively. There was a slight rebate on the corner extending from the ground to the roof.
3. A series of eight rough hewn red sandstone blocks (0.30m x 0.40m approximately) beginning 0.67m from the ground

Figure 93. Eastern elevation of the Victorian barn

6.4 Survey results; interior of Victorian barn

The barn possessed internal dimensions measuring 11.42m x 5.23m and stood to a height of 5.32m at the apex of the roof ridge, the walls were 3.48m in height.

The roof comprised three machine-cut modern roof trusses with machine-cut purlins, eaves and battens supporting a slate roof (figure 94).

The western door was blocked by breeze blocks and yielded a timber lintel (figure 95).

Figure 94. Roof trusses within the barn

Figure 95. Blocked doorway within the barn

The eastern opening comprising chamfered quoins was buttressed by modern breeze block and supported by a modern steel girder. A recess within the opening denoted a former timber frame subsequently removed, whilst a small bore-hole indicated a former door bolt.

Figure 96. Floor to the barn

Figure 97. Air vents within the barn

Figure 98. Northern window within the barn

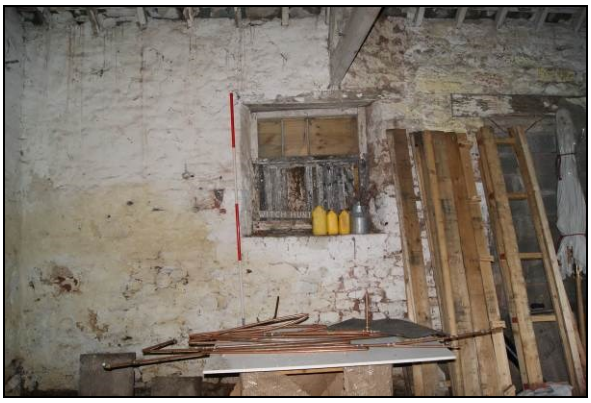


Figure 99. Southern window within the barn

Most of the floor had been removed although some large stone flags (1.00m x 0.56m x 0.09m in thickness) had been bedded directly onto reddish brown silty sand. Elsewhere, there was a remnant cobbled floor almost totally lost to the north of the barn. Towards the centre and the south of the barn there existed a thin concrete surface (figure 96).

The interior had been painted white or finished in lime-wash.

On the eastern elevation two air vents (figure 97) measuring 0.30m x 0.10m and 0.25m x 0.18m were present, but were not visible on the outside.

On the western elevation, both the southern window (figure 99) and north window (figure 98) measured 1.30m in width and 1.23m in height and comprised machine-cut timber lintel but had no sill. The original timber shutter and frames were present.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Strickland Hall

The dissolution of the monasteries between 1536-1539 by Henry VIII, appears to have influenced the development of Strickland Hall.

On 6th November 1543 Royal Letters Patent of Henry VIII to Christopher Crackanthorpe states that Henry granted Christopher Crackenthorpe, Lord of the Manor of Little Strickland, land formerly held by Holm Cultram Abbey in Cumberland and Byland Abbey in Yorkshire for £255 3s.

In Cumbria, this land included Hale Grange in Kirby Thore, the Priory of the Carmelite Brothers in Appleby and land at Wasdale.

The Crackenthorpe family, socially minor gentry, can be perceived as being upwardly mobile who through opportunistic acquisition acquired material wealth; new money articulated in the form of a family seat, Strickland Hall, displaying state of the art architecture. Moreover, the dissolution of the monasteries meant that masons formerly employed on religious projects were now pursuing private clients with social aspirations (Breckon & Parker 1996, 153).

The original building appears to have been the southern range but the northern range was quickly added.

The desire for increased comfort and privacy led to a general move from designs based on a hall open to the roof and heated by an open fire, to buildings of two or three storeys and heated by several fireplaces in designated rooms.

Strickland Hall appears to be a variation of the H-plan comprising a central block with cross-wings at each end current in Cumbria between 1560 and 1700. This arrangement maintained the narrow ground plan of Medieval houses but as the requirement for security diminished, windows were introduced improving light and air circulation and raising the level of household comfort.

One wing would house a parlour, the private quarters of the head of the house with bedrooms above containing elaborate panelled walls and plastered ceilings as is the case with the northern range at Strickland Hall.

The central block was often retained as a hall, whilst the other cross-wing comprised a set of kitchen, scullery, diary and other service rooms, integral to the house rather than conducted in detached outbuildings (Brunskill 2002, 50-53).

The square mullioned windows within the hall belonged to the "sub-Medieval phase" a tradition that lasted until the end of the 17th century (Breckon & Parker 1996, 117-118).

From the outset, the south wing of Strickland Hall was designed to have a hall on both floors as a large gable hearth was present on each level, a late Medieval advance with the introduction of flues and multiple flues rather than a single open fire. Unfortunately, the closed hearths mean that any further diagnostic architectural embellishments remain hidden.

As the south wing appears to be slightly earlier than the north wing, it is conceivable that this block may have been a miniature hall house with a two storied hall heated by a gable hearth and opening off it as an unheated parlour (Ibid 64).

This range was probably adopted as quarters for servants and other retainers and where domestic chores were carried out, although the tradition of using outbuildings for domestic functions may have been maintained, hence the lack of a second cross-wing. Indeed, the cross-passage or *mell* introduced probably in the 17th century can be interpreted as a formal spatial division segregating the private and business space of the Lord of the Manor from the houses service area.

From the 17th century onwards, the Hall appears to have been in a state of stasis. New facilities were added such as the dairy but taste appears to have been conservative with little alteration to the buildings internal fabric.

In the mid to late 19th century, the south wing became principally an agricultural building and major alterations occur with the sub-division of the ground floor into stabling, the first floor used as a loft and various ad hoc windows and doorways introduced.

Neglect continued into the 20th century, when the building fabric was seriously compromised during the 1980s. In particular, the sale of the Hall in 1983 from the Lowther Estate to private owners initiated a series of poor renovations instigating a long-running conflict between the statutory authority and successive owners.

7.2 The barn

The barn was an original construction that did not replace any former structure. Built in the mid to late 19th century it may have served as a threshing barn on account of the two wide openings.
The barn was designed for the storage and conversion of grain. The crop was first stored and during the winter winnowed, the threshed grain then transported to a mill or fed to cattle. The process required a tall open space, outward-opening doors for light and access and a porch for protection against the rain. Storage as with silage was best undertaken in a tall building with limited ventilation through narrow air vents or slits (Brunskill 2002, 96).

The study building appears to belong to a period of investment in farm buildings initiated during the later 18th Century that lasted to about 1880. This period reflected three distinct phases:

- The second half of the 18th Century when demand increased from industrialising communities and transport improvements facilitated long distance trade
- The Napoleonic War 1793-1815, when there was nationally, a large rise in agricultural production and where protectionism maintained high prices

- 1815-1880 when increased mechanisation and scientific methods increased the efficiency of the Cumbrian farm (Brunskill 2002, 27-28)

Development was enhanced by the effects of enclosure that rationalised farm holdings and scientific improvements in farming that lead to greater productivity and efficiency. This evolution was reflected in the farm buildings where basic forms developed into specialised structures, culminating in designs of some ingenuity with architectural pretensions and at a considerable cost (Brunskill 2002, 95).

By the late 19th Century and during the 20th Century, Dutch barns, silage pits and on-site storage made specialised storage buildings superfluous.

The study barn at Strickland Hall probably belongs to the third phase of agricultural improvement (1815-1880) and would have been used for grain storage and for threshing.

The floor within the barn had truncated any putative archaeological remains, bedrock being just below the current ground surface.

8 ARCHIVE

The archive for this project will be deposited with the appropriate archaeological curator, Tullie House, Carlisle. This archive has been assembled in accordance within the protocols of Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2).

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