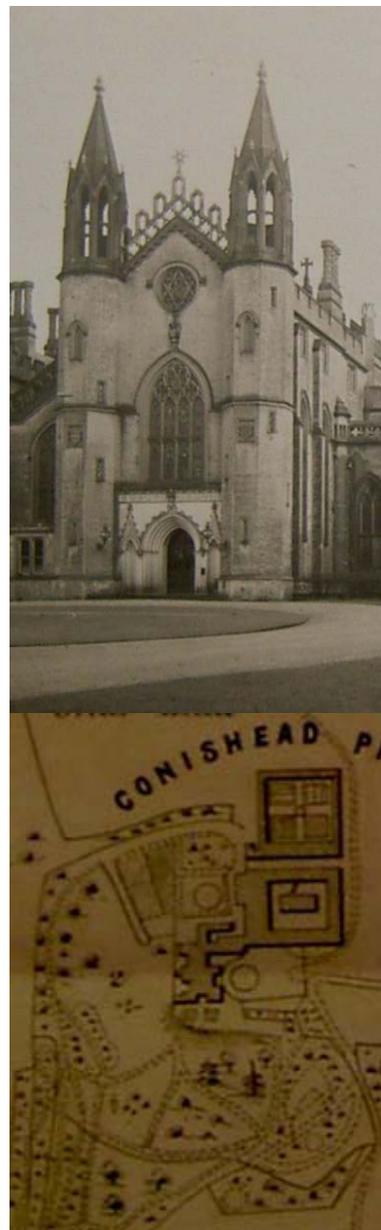


CONISHEAD PRIORY, ULVERSTON, CUMBRIA

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment



Client:
New Kadampa Tradition –
International Kadampa
Buddhist Tradition
NGR: SD 5145 9305
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May 2009



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Non-Technical Summary

As part of an on-going programme of renovation at Conishead Priory a recent application was made for funds to restore the 'chapel', which would also add further scope for the appreciation of the historical development of the site. Originally the site of a leper hospital in the early 12th century, it became a priory in c1180-1184 and remained so until the Dissolution and was seized by the Crown in 1537. Conishead Priory was dismantled and its estates were incorporated into the Duchy of Lancaster and later leased to Thomas Stanley, the second Lord Monteagle. In 1547, Conishead was granted to Sir William Paget who then sold it to John Machell a year later. In 1554 Conishead was sold to William Sandys. After William Sandys died in 1583, Conishead was left to Margaret Dodding and Barbara Philipson. Margaret's grandson George Dodding later bought out the Philipsons. The estate passed through his daughter Sarah, wife of John Braddyll, to their son Dodding Braddyll. Dodding's son Thomas Braddyll in turn left Conishead to Wilson Gale. After his death in 1818 his son, Thomas Richmond Gale Braddyll inherited Conishead. In 1821 Thomas began to rebuild the hall that was built on the ruins of the Priory, but the work took over 20 years to complete and required a change of architect in order to get it completed. In 1847 Braddyll went bankrupt and Conishead and its estates were sold off. The Priory and park was bought by a Scottish syndicate that converted it into a spa hotel. In 1925 the estate was bought by a group of investors who sold it on to the Durham Miners Welfare Committee in 1929, who used it as a convalescent home until 1970. In 1972 the estate was sold; the park was split into two and both parts were sold, with the Priory being sold to a Mr Jones of Wigan. Unable to get planning permission he put the house and estate back on the market. The Priory buildings remained empty until 1976 when it was bought by the Manjushri Kadampa Buddhist community for a sum of £75,000. The Manjushri Kadampa Buddhist community has done much to preserve its structure. In 1996 a new Buddhist temple was built in the grounds.

A list of the different elements of the landscape associated with and surrounding Conishead Priory is compiled here, with the history of the most significant features explored in more detail. These sites range in type from garden features and design elements of the estate, such as the grotto, hermitage, and sham castle, to agricultural features and other earthworks such as ridge and furrow, culverts, and systems of ditches. There are also industrial structures such as the wire works and brick works, as well as a sand quarry. More ancient remains are also represented, some only as field names such as the site of the Priory mill and a rabbit warren, and others as physical remains that have been investigated such as the 'Streetgate', a possible Roman road. Other stray finds including a Roman coin and a prehistoric axe are also recorded from the vicinity of the Priory, demonstrating the longevity of activity on the site.

A discussion of the results of this assessment is included, summarizing the pertinent points. The potential ways in which this information might be interpreted and displayed on site, together with ways in which it could be enhanced, are also presented.

Acknowledgements

Greenlane Archaeology would like to thank New Kadampa Tradition - International Kadampa Buddhist Union for commissioning and supporting the desk-based assessment, in particular Sue Jenkins, Gail Knopfel, and Neil Branthwaite. Thanks are also due to Geoffrey Roe for his assistance with accessing the archives held at Conishead Priory. Further thanks are also due to the staff of the Cumbria Record Office in Barrow-in-Furness, the Lancashire Record Office in Preston, Jo Mackintosh, Historic Environment Officer at Cumbria County Council, and Stella Brecknell archivist at Oxford University Museum of Natural History. Special thanks are also due to Peter Lowe for his help with a number of otherwise difficult to access sources, Carol Bennett at Heritage First! for her input, and Ben Elsworth for his help in accessing a particularly obscure reference.

The desk-based assessment was carried out by Steve Clarke, who also compiled the report with additional contributions from Dan Elsworth. The report was edited by Dan Elsworth, who also managed the project, and copyedited by Tom Mace.

1. Introduction

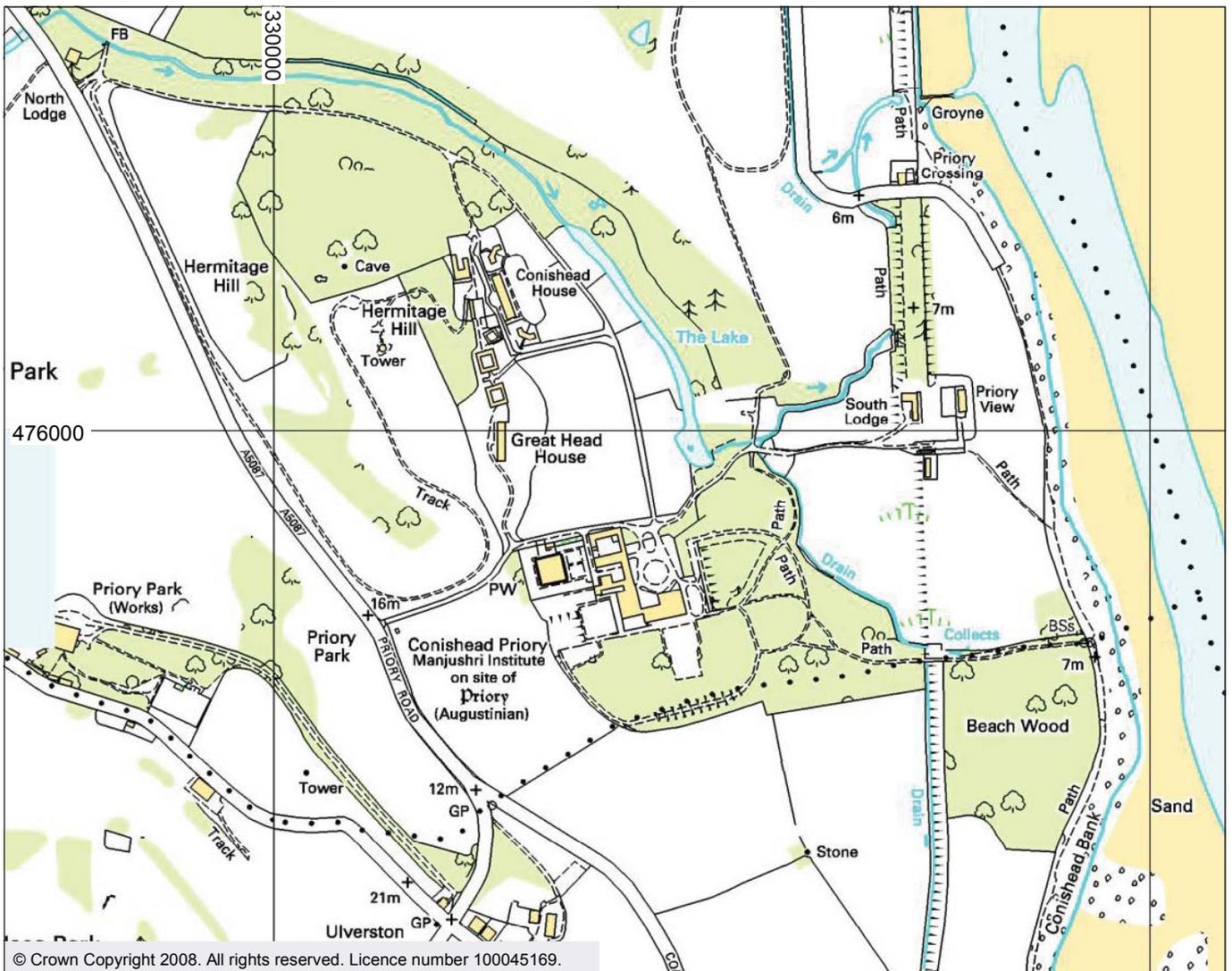
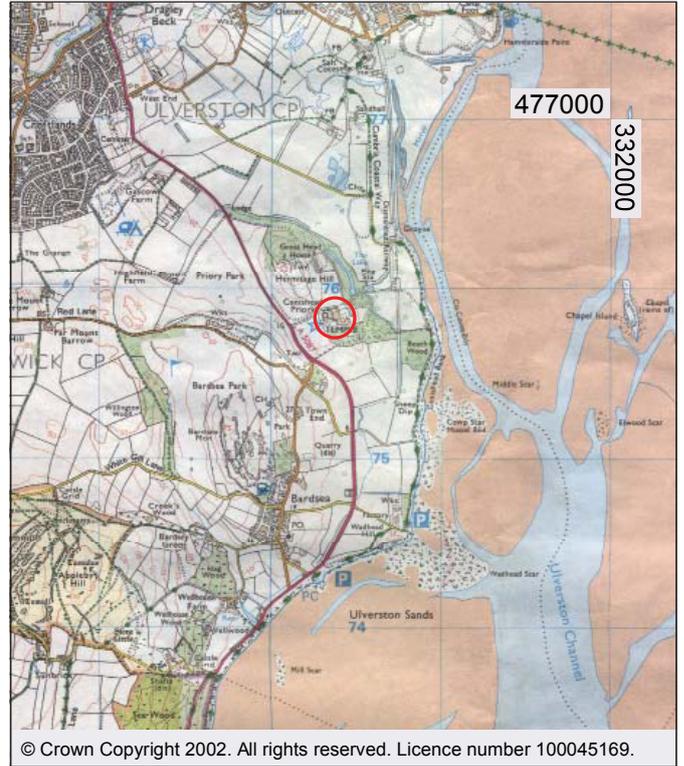
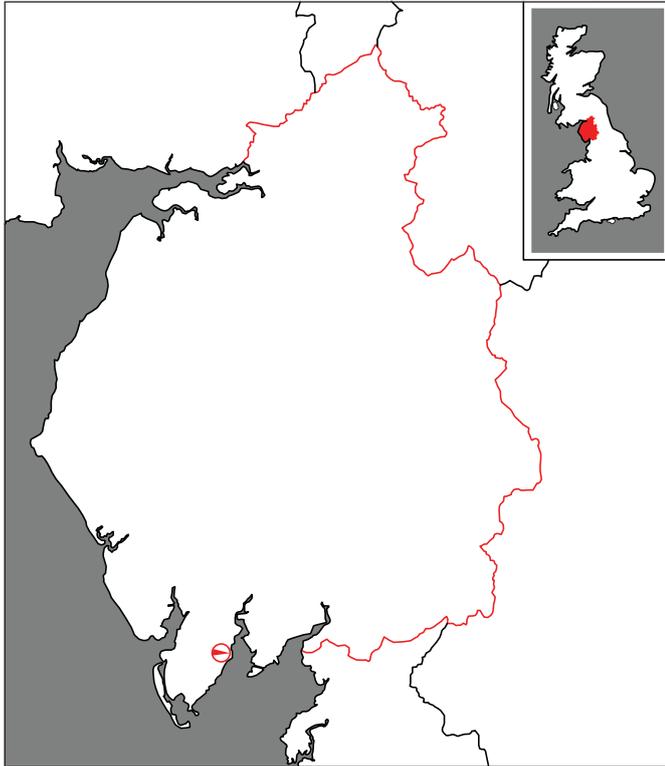
1.1 Circumstances of the Project

1.1.1 As part of an on-going programme of renovation at Conishead Priory a recent application was made to the Heritage Lottery Fund in order to restore the 'chapel', which will also provide an area for interpretation, and for the accommodation of visitors. This is also intended to facilitate an audience development plan that will enhance the visitor experience and educational potential of the site by enabling an appreciation of the buildings in their setting, principally the associated grounds, and add further scope for the appreciation of the historical development of the site. An integral part of this process is providing a detailed understanding of the priory, both in terms of its history but also the spatial arrangement and interrelationships of its various historic elements, and Greenlane Archaeology has been asked to compile this information for inclusion in a Conservation Management Plan. This work is to be completed in two parts: the desk-based assessment, which is the subject of this project, followed by a programme of on-site assessment.

1.2 Location, Geology and Topography

1.2.1 Conishead Priory is situated on the west coast of the Furness Peninsula, looking out over Morecombe Bay, some two miles south of Ulverston, Cumbria, on the coast road to Bardsea. The undulating landscape to the west comprises a mix of rough pasture, limestone walls, narrow lanes and widespread semi-natural deciduous woodland (Countryside Commission 1998, 70). The site is situated at approximately 20m above sea level (Ordnance Survey 2002).

1.2.2 The site is situated on the boundary between an area of Namurian millstone grit to the south-west and Carboniferous limestone to the north-east (Moseley 1978, plate 1), which is typically overlain by glacial deposits of boulder clay, although these have been much affected by inundations caused by changing sea levels (Countryside Commission 1998, 72). It is situated on gently sloping ground ranging from approximately 15m above sea level at the Priory itself on the west side of the site, and sea level where it extends onto the beach to the east (Ordnance Survey 2002). However, the lands immediately adjoining the Priory within the original estate extended some distance to the west where the ground rises to between 20m and 30m above sea level and included Hermitage Hill, the top of which is 52m above sea level (*ibid*).



Client: New Kadampa Tradition - International Kadampa Buddhist Union (NKT-IKBU)

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Figure 1: Site location

2. Methodology

2.1 Desk-Based Assessment

2.1.1 A variety of sources were consulted during the compilation of the desk-based assessment all of which were intended to provide a detailed understanding of the site's history and the development of the house and grounds. Eight main sources were used:

- **Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Record (HER):** this is a list of all the known sites of archaeological interest within the county, which is maintained by Cumbria County Council and is the primary source of information for an investigation of this kind. A list of all of the known sites of archaeological interest within c1km of Conishead Priory was acquired; each identified site comes with a grid reference, description and source and any additional information referenced was also examined as necessary;
- **Cumbria County Record Office, Barrow-in-Furness (CRO(B)):** this was visited in order to examine early maps and plans of the site, original documents relating to its owners and the buildings, and local and regional histories and directories;
- **Cumbria County Record Office, Kendal (CRO(K)):** this record office was visited in order to examine early plans, photographs and newspaper articles relating to the site;
- **Lancashire County Record Office, Preston (LRO):** as the Furness Peninsula was formerly in Lancashire there are a number of records relating to Conishead in the Lancashire County Record Office in Preston. These were consulted in order to identify additional original sources relating to the site;
- **Conishead Priory Archive:** the priory itself has a small archive of photographs and copies of early newspaper cuttings and other documents;
- **Local Libraries:** the local studies collection in Ulverston Library was consulted in order to examine additional sources relating to the background history of the site;
- **Oxford University Museum of Natural History (OUMNM):** copies of documents relating to the geology of the estate, from the collection of William Smith, were obtained. These included the earliest known detailed map of the priory and its associated landscape;
- **Durham County Record Office (DRO):** copies of documents were obtained from the record office in Durham, specifically those relating to work done on the house by the architect Phillip Wyatt;
- **Greenlane Archaeology library:** additional secondary sources, used to provide information for the site background and aid the understanding of features within the house, were examined;
- **Private Collections:** collections of both primary and secondary information owned by individuals in Ulverston were consulted as far as possible.

2.2 Archive

2.2.1 An archive of the project was compiled to provide a permanent paper record of the project and its results in accordance with English Heritage and IFA guidelines (English Heritage 1991; Brown 2007).

3. Desk-Based Assessment

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The landscape around Conishead Priory has evidence for human activity dating back at least 6000 years, and there is palaeoenvironmental evidence from potentially even earlier periods. However, the earliest phases of activity around the priory are largely identified through very insubstantial information; typically stray finds and conjectured arguments based on later sources. There is considerably more evidence for the later periods because of the site's connections with the medieval priory and later mansion, but even then there is some uncertainty about the meaning and validity of some of the available sources. The history of the site has therefore been divided into three sections; the early history and prehistory of the site, the history of the medieval priory, and the history of the estate after the Dissolution.

3.1.2 The physical development of the buildings and landscape associated with Conishead Priory can be established and understood through reference to the recorded history and known phases of the site with particular reference to maps of the area, and so this information is presented separately in *Section 4*. The results of previous archaeological investigations of the site are presented in *Section 3.2* below, and information contained within the national Censuses taken between 1841 and 1901 is presented in *Section 3.6* and *Appendix 5*. Reference is also made to this information in other relevant sections.

3.2 Previous Archaeological Investigations

3.2.1 The results of previous investigations of the site are incorporated into the discussion of the site history presented in following sections. As the site has been recognised as being of some archaeological and historical importance, however, it is useful to have a summary of those pieces of work that have been carried out previously. There has only ever been one large-scale archaeological investigation at Conishead Priory as far as is known; the excavations of the site of the priory church and Streetgate by Dr Wishart, one of the owners of the hydropathic hotel, which were carried out in the 1920s. Previous antiquarians had evidently visited the site and discoveries had been made during various phases of building, but these are very limited. More recently, documentary studies and research have been carried out but these have again not examined the site in any great detail. The minor pieces of investigation can be summarised as follows:

- **1770:** a note made in this year in the Reverend William Hutton's *Beetham Repository* states that '*in Mr. Braddyls House at Conishead Priory...there is an old Abbot lies under a floor in one of the best rooms. Mr. Braddyl when he found it would not have his bones disturbed*' (Ford 1906, 102). This would suggest that this burial was discovered during building work at the site, before or in 1770;
- **1774:** remarkably Father Thomas West, the area's earliest dedicated antiquarian, appears to make no mention of any physical remains discovered at Conishead. He is, however, the first person to mention the ancient road that passed through the grounds: '*The Romans had entered Furness at Conishead bank: on the perambulation-roll of the parish of Ulverston, a record of high antiquity, it is called the Spina Alba, the White-thorn on the Conishead Bank, where the road they made use of quits the sands, and is in the same roll called the Street*' (West 1774, viiii);
- **1777:** William Fell, at the time an 11 year old boy, left an account of his travels in Furness (transcribed by Ayre 1887). His description of Conishead is only brief but he mentions the castle, presumably that on what is now known as Hermitage Hill, which he describes as being old;
- **c1800:** at this date it was recorded in notes made by Dr William Close that a Roman coin was found in a field near the priory (Evans 1842, 119). It was described as follows: '*On one side was a very protuberant and perfect head surrounded by the words "CAESAR AUGUSTUS"; and on the reverse, a female figure, sitting in a chair, with the right hand extended and holding a small ball or globe, and with the left placed on her side, and having the word "SALUS" or "SALVE"*

inscribed underneath’ (“*ibid*”). This has subsequently been identified as Denarius of Augustus dated to the 1st century AD (Shotter 1989, 41);

- **1823:** Reverend Thomas Dunham Whittaker, writing in this year, appears to have been the first person to investigate the site for remains of the earlier priory buildings. The presence of the mansion, however, hampered any attempts to make a thorough exploration but he was able to identify some remains present within the standing building: *‘it appears that the church of Conishead at least was demolished immediately on the dissolution, but it is impossible to conjecture what portion of the habitable parts of the house were retained. Not a vestige, however, now appears; and it was only on a very diligent investigation of the inner walls of the present splendid mansion, built upon the site, that I could discover a few fragments of the old grout-work’* (Whittaker 1823, 398);
- **1843:** Charles Jopling, writing in this year gave a reasonably detailed description of remains that had been identified during the construction of the new mansion and that had been identified in the grounds: *‘No part of the ancient Priory is now visible; but under the lawn, to the south of the present structure, the foundations of the Church have been traced, the position of the high altar, with tombs and the pillars of the centre tower, ascertained. The church appears to have been about a hundred feet in length; and, judging from its width at the eastern end, it is probable that there were ailes (sic) to the chancel. In a tomb in the south wall, near the high altar, several skeletons were found on digging for the foundations of the present building; and among them, those of a man, a woman, and a child. From the general appearance of the tomb and the pieces of gilt coffin-plates found, it would seem to have been the burying-place of a family of some distinction. Another tomb was also discovered in the same wall, a little further to the west’* (Jopling 1843, 161-162). He also notes that there are two castles on Hermitage Hill, one evidently at least partially a later construction, the other *‘a small circular tower... covered with ivy which must have been the growth of centuries’* (*op cit*, 161);
- **1903:** JF Curwen carried out a reasonably detailed investigation of the hermitage on Hermitage Hill, the account of which is given in *Section 4.2.7-4.2.8*;
- **1920s:** between approximately 1925 and 1929 excavations were carried out by the owners of the hydropathic hotel, under the auspices of Dr Wishart. The detailed account of these is given below (*Section 3.2.2* onwards);
- **1990s:** there seems to have been remarkably little investigation of the site in the later 20th century, although elements of the wider landscape have been recorded as part of aerial photographic surveys (see *Appendix 6*) and structures associated with the iron ore trade were recorded as part of an RCHME survey in the 1990s (Bowden 2000, 36). Following the submission of a planning application for the construction of the new temple and an accommodation building in 1995 a request was made by English Heritage for archaeological work to be carried out on the site (O’Donnell 1995) but this was not ultimately made a condition of the development by the Planning Officer or County Archaeologist at the time (Sue Jenkins pers comm.);
- **2007:** an article published in 2007 (Elsworth 2007) revisited the evidence for Roman military activity in Furness, suggesting the likelihood that the ‘Streetgate’ that runs through the grounds was of Roman origin and formed part of a larger complex of roads crossing the peninsula and connecting military sites, potentially including one in Dalton;
- **2009:** during the recent survey work for the second phase of investigation carried out by Greenlane Archaeology (2009) a piece of medieval pottery was recovered from the spoil of a service trench being excavated along the east side of the courtyard immediately north of the Priory;
- **Forthcoming:** an investigation into eccles place-names in Cumbria has outlined the potential importance of an ‘*Eglsfyld*’ mentioned in a mid 16th century document relating to Conishead,

apparently relating to a piece of land within the estate (Elsworth forthcoming a). The name might be taken to indicate an early Christian church in the vicinity or a connection to one;

3.2.2 The excavations carried out by Dr Wishart were published by Paul V Kelly in 1930. They examined two main areas; the site of the supposed priory church, to the south of the mansion, and the line of the 'Streetgate'. Much of the following text is taken from Kelly's published account from 1930. It is evident that the owners of the hydropathic hotel were very interested in exploiting the archaeology of the site as their list of improvements made in 1928-1929 specifically mentions the excavations of the 'Roman road' and the opening out of the '*18th Century Shipping Port...at the beach*' (see *Appendix 4*). The account of the excavations presented below is largely taken from Kelly's published version of 1930.

3.2.3 **Excavation of the church:** an opportunity arose to excavate the site of the church in 1928 when the tennis courts were resurfaced. The owner at the time, Dr Wishart, decided to trace the foundations known to be there (Kelly 1930, 151). The plan uncovered (Plate 1) has many uncommon features, probably due to the difficulties of building on the site. The transepts are unusually short and there are no aisles, the nave is very long in proportion to its width (*op cit*, 151). The footings were between four feet and six feet in width, constructed of limestone rubble and undressed blocks of yellow sandstone; there was very little red sandstone evident. The floor of the chancel was destroyed, but had been constructed of lime concrete, and laid with diamond shaped enamelled tiles thought to be of 13th century date (*op cit*, 152). Very few facing stones were found but roofing slates with peg-holes were found in abundance. Very little red sandstone was revealed. The width of the crossing of the nave was 17 feet and the transepts 14 feet. The length of the nave was 100 feet and the chancel 15 feet, the width of both being 21 feet (*op cit*, 153). The width of the transepts was 16 feet but the length could not be ascertained as the ends had been destroyed, although they could not have not have been more than nine feet. The orientation of the church was not quite due east, the bearing of the longitudinal axis of the nave being approx 11° north of due east (*op cit*, 155). The conventual buildings were considered to be situated to the north of the church on the site of the present building (Jopling 1843, 162).

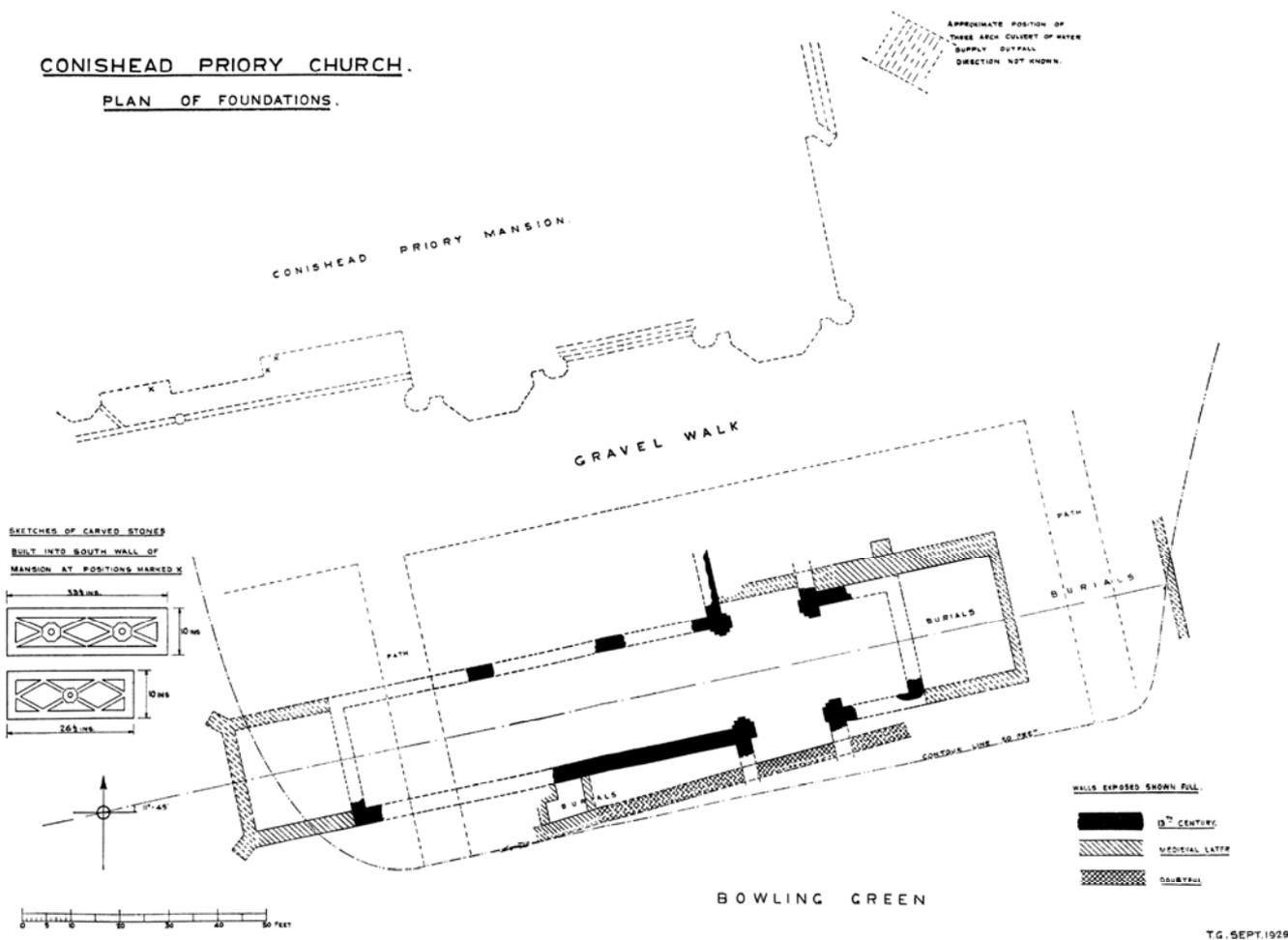


Plate 1: Plan of church foundations (after Kelly 1930, 149)

3.2.4 **The Runic Inscription:** amongst the fragments of masonry was found a red sandstone capital of a pilaster (Plate 2) with runic *graffito* on one of the inner faces (Kelly 1930, 153). The runes were translated as 'Dotbert' or 'Rotbert' (Robert) (*ibid*), although it has been suggested that it might be 'Kotbert' (Cuthbert) (Barnes 1968, 17); the first rune occurred in Denmark between 1050 and 1150, but is not found in Norway until the late 12th century, which is evidence that the use of runes continued until a fairly late date (Page 2006, 209). The stone disappeared after the excavations, but, after enquiries by J Melville in 1968 (CRO(B) WDX 427/6 1968), it was found in the gardens of the Priory and placed on display. Unfortunately its present whereabouts is unknown.

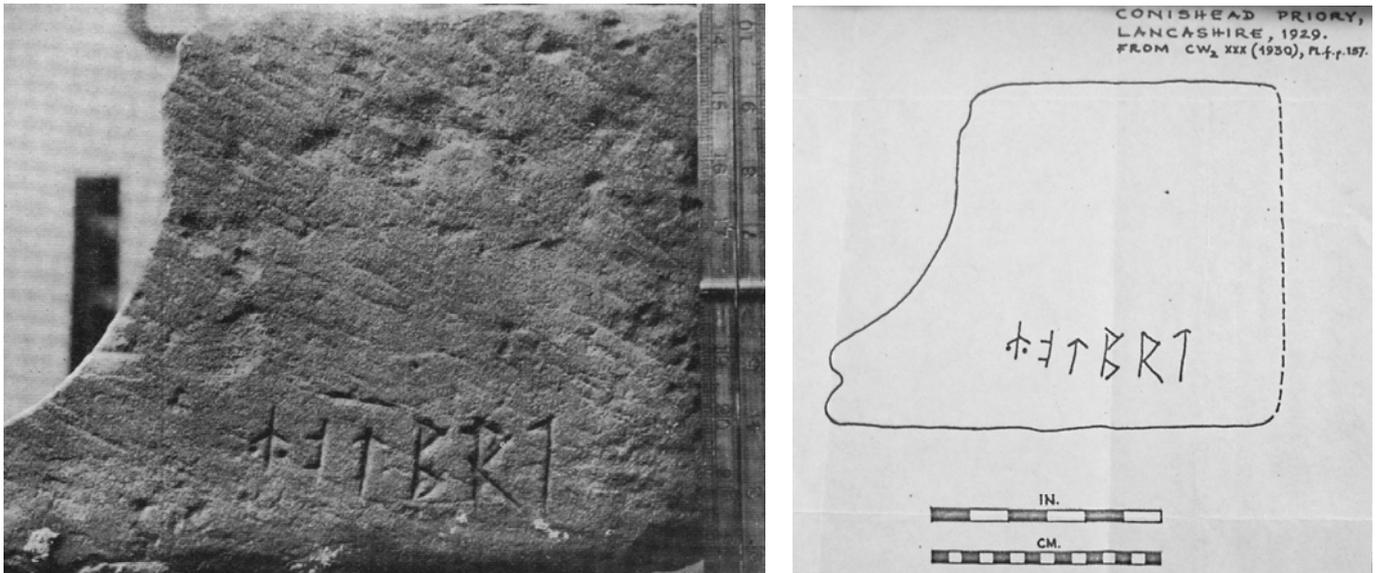


Plate 2 (left): Runic *graffito* (after Kelly 1930, 157)

Plate 3 (right): Scaled Drawing of Runic *graffito* based on the earlier photograph (CRO(K) WDX427/6 1968)

3.2.5 **Excavation of the ‘Streetgate’**: the excavation of the ancient road at Conisbank also took place in 1928. Several sections were cut through the road and these showed two distinct phases. The upper road surface was approximately a foot below the present surface and is loosely paved with small stones. The bedding layers consisted of clay, sandy gravel and crushed shell. Beneath this road was a second surface 25 feet wide and paved with cobbles with a central kerb of large cobbles running down the centre. There was an outer paving of larger cobbles and wide ditches on each side. This road was solidly built above several layers of large stones embedded in clay (Plate 4 and Plate 5; Kelly 1930, 165). The lower road surface appeared to be of a superior construction compared to the surface built over it. No dateable material was found during the excavation apart from that relating to its use in the iron ore trade (*ibid*).



Plate 4 (left): The ‘Streetgate’ following excavation showing upper and lower surfaces (after Kelly 1930, 160)

Plate 5 (right): The ‘Streetgate’ following excavation showing the ruts in the upper surface (after Kelly 1930, 160)

3.3 Early History and Prehistory

3.3.1 Evidence for early prehistoric remains are not widespread in the region, although of the few remains of the immediately post-glacial (Late Upper Palaeolithic) period that have been discovered in the North West, a considerable number have come from the limestone caves around Morecambe Bay (Young 2002, 21). Evidence for people living in the local area is more prevalent in the following Mesolithic period, although this tends to be restricted to scatters of flint artefacts (*op cit*, 24), and little in

the way of more obvious settlement activity. During the following Neolithic period more tangible, structural remains such as stone circles, enclosures and burial mounds do start to appear, but these are relatively rare. The typical find of this period is the stone axe, an example of which was found in proximity to Conishead (Harrison 1896, 9; Gaythorpe 1909b, 210). There is also evidence in aerial photographs of ancient tidal creeks in the vicinity of Conishead that demonstrate the form of the ancient landscape (Clare 2000, 6). Although not directly dateable in some cases, these are likely, based on other evidence, to belong to the late Mesolithic or Neolithic (*ibid*; Plate 6).



Plate 6: Fossilised tidal creek near Conishead Priory revealed in an aerial photograph (RB 1984 113, 20)

3.3.2 During the following Bronze Age the large monuments of the previous period become increasingly common and are supplemented by complex field systems; the presence of prehistoric sites of various types at Birkrigg, Urswick and Stainton to the west is very notable. Excavations in the early 20th century at the double stone circle on Birkrigg Common revealed material attributable to various stages of the Bronze Age (Gelderd and Dobson 1912; Committee of the North Lonsdale Field Club 1922) and at Urswick Stone Walls an engraved fragment of bronze thought to date from the Iron Age was discovered (Dobson 1907). Investigations at an enclosed homestead known as Stone Close at Stainton revealed finds including roughed out and polished stone axes, a bronze palstave and socketed axe, and both saddle and rotary querns, suggesting occupation from the Neolithic to Iron Age periods (Dobson 1912). During the Iron Age enclosures of this type are more common, such as the example excavated at Skelmore Heads near Urswick in the 1950s and 1960s (Powell *et al* 1963); although this too had evidence suggesting continuous occupation from the Neolithic (Powell 1972). Other features that can be positively dated to the Iron Age period are very rare (Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 51).

3.3.3 Activity in Furness during the Roman period has generally been thought to be confined to a few stray coins, although in the 18th century claims were made about more substantial remains (Elsworth 2007). A recent re-assessment of the evidence has suggested that these have some foundation, and that military structures might exist including a fort at Dalton and perhaps even activity in Ulverston, but this has yet to be proven (*ibid*). An ancient road, known as the Streetgate, running west from the shore towards Conishead Priory, was excavated in the 1920s and is considered to be Roman (*ibid*). There is little evidence of activity in the vicinity of Conishead following the collapse of Roman administration in the early 5th century, although a 16th century grant naming lands associated with the priory includes an 'Eglsfylde', the first element of which is likely to be derived from *ecclesia*, which is often assumed to indicate the location of an early Christian site (Elsworth forthcoming a). The name Conishead, originally Conyngsheved, which can be found in ancient documents (see for example Atkinson 1887, 420), derives from the old Norse words *konungr*; king, and *heofud*; headland (Ekwall 1960, 120) and therefore meaning 'headland belonging to the king'. The element 'king' suggests someone of significance was associated with the area from an early date, which is further suggested by the name Harlsyde, the original name for Chapel Island, derived from the Norse for 'Earl's seat' (see *Section 4.2.19* below).

3.4 The Medieval Priory

3.4.1 There is a distinct lack of detailed information about the origins of the medieval priory at Conishead, although it is known to have been founded as a hospital and subsequently developed into a priory during the reign of Henry II (1154-1189). It is thought to have been established by Gamel de Pennington, perhaps as early as 1167 as a hospital run by the Augustinian order (Barnes 1968, 30); William de Lancaster II (1170-1184), baron of Kendal, also claimed to be the founder however (Farrer and Brownbill 1908, 140). It may have developed out of an earlier hospital dedicated to St John of Jerusalem founded some time earlier by William de Lancaster I and said to be in Bardsea (Wiseman 1987, 95; citing Curwen 1906, 176-177). That the site at Conishead was established as a hospital and had a particular connection to those suffering from leprosy is known from an early date (West 1774, 186) and it seems logical that the original hospital did develop into the later priory (Wiseman 1987, 95). Gamel, who also gave the church of Orton in Westmorland to Conishead (Cherry and Cherry 2004, 264) and the vill of Poulton in Lonsdale and whose manor of Pennington adjoined the estate on which the hospital was built is described as its founder in several late mediaeval documents (Farrer and Brownbill 1908, 140). It was raised to the status of a priory soon after it was established, most likely by 1180-1181, but certainly by 1184 (Farrer 1902, 357). The charter, issued by William de Lancaster II, granted to Conishead:

'the church of Ulverston, with its chapels and appurtenances; with forty acres of land in Ulverston, adjoining to the lands of the said brethren; with a salt-work betwixt Conishead and Ulverston pule, and turf in the turbarry, sufficient for the use of the said house and salt-work; and pasture and dead wood behind Plumpton, and necessary materials for their said house out of his woods in Furness, common of pasture, and all easements belonging to Ulverston, with pannage for their hogs, thro' all his woods in Furness' (West 1774, 186).

3.4.2 Additional grants were also made at this time (*op cit*, 187), with a more substantial second grant made shortly after, again by William de Lancaster II, including 20 acres of land in Ulverston, land for a forge and bloomery, an iron mine at Plumpton, wood at Blawith for making charcoal, and fishing rights on the River Crake (*op cit*, 188-189). This demonstrates that they had an extensive landholding, including not only industrial sites but also important fishing grounds; it is also recorded as obtaining salt from near Haverigg (Cranstone 2006, 102). He does not give the original source although this would seem to be confirmed in notes made by WB Kendall cited by Kipling (1961, 61)).

3.4.3 The extent of lands and properties granted to Conishead Priory outside of the Ulverston area has never been fully examined. It is known to have held lands at Overton, which were granted c1319, by Thomas de Musgrave; the possible remains of which have recently been recorded (Cherry and Cherry 2004, 266). William de Lancaster II also granted the avowdson of St. Leonards Hospital, Kendal (Storey 1962, 167), and the priory had substantial grants of land and chapels at Muncaster, Orton, and Drigg (Farrer and Brownbill 1908, 140-143), most likely due to a wish to keep at some distance from their powerful neighbour, Furness Abbey (*op cit*, 143). Closer to home, they were granted the right to make a ditch 12ft wide from their well at Trinkeld to provide water for the priory (Farrer and Brownbill 1914, 355).

3.4.4 There is evidence of early dispute between Furness Abbey and Conishead Priory but an amicable settlement was reached in 1208. Both sides agreed to drop their claims and it was further agreed that the Priory should not exceed more than thirteen canons. Also, acquisition of land by the Priory must be confined to the Ulverston fief and not exceed a third of this area; in addition there was an annual 50s pension to be paid to the Abbey (Barnes 1968, 30). However, some of the endowments brought the Priory into conflict with the monks of Furness Abbey and early records show almost continuous rivalry between the two religious houses. The disputes were finally settled in 1338 when Edward III bestowed a royal charter on Conishead, thus confirming all the grants (Anon 1895a, 122).

3.4.5 In 1326 the Abbot of Furness Abbey petitioned Edward II for the appointment of a coroner in Furness due to the number of people drowning while crossing the Leven to reach the coroners court in Lancaster (Hindle 1984, 130). It may be at this time that a guide was first appointed, although the first record is not until the 1530s (*ibid*). These guides were known as carters, possibly because the first was known by that name, or they were carters who would have the necessary knowledge to cross the sands

(*ibid*). The route across the sands remained in common use until the coastal railway was completed in 1857 (*op cit*, 131).

3.4.6 In 1536 Conishead Priory, along with Cartmel, was surrendered to the King. At this time the Priory had seven canons and 41 servants as well as an ex-prior with a pension and a canon at Orton (Barnes 1968, 44). In 1537 it was seized by the crown under the Act of Suppression. Despite strong opposition from the local people, the canons were evicted, the building dismantled and the lead, bells and timber sold for £333 6s and 3d. Of the bells, two are believed to have gone to the church at Aldingham, one to Colton, and one to Urswick (Anon 1962, 339). Some of the stone was carried to Ulverston and used to restore the tower of St Mary's Parish Church which had been destroyed in a gale (Fell 1899, 102). The remainder would almost certainly have been used to build the first house on the site.

3.5 The Post-Priory Estate

3.5.1 After the transfer of the Priory to the King (Henry VIII) it was incorporated in the Duchy of Lancaster; and in the latter part of his reign it was leased to Thomas Stanley, the second Lord Monteagle. In 1547, the first year of the reign of Edward VI, Conishead was granted to Sir William Paget who then sold it to John Machell a year later (Farrer and Brownbill 1914, 352n). In 1554 Conishead was sold to William Sandys (Philp 1880, 6), the details of which are recorded in the *Final Concords for Lancashire*:

'Between William Sandes, plaintiff, and John Machell and Joan his wife of the manor of Conysshede, otherwise Conyngshede, with the appurtenances, and of 10 messuages, 6 cottages, 4 tofts, 10 gardens, 8 orchards, 2 dovecotes, a water-mill, 200 acres. of land, 100 acres. of meadow, 200 acres. of pasture, 40 acres. of wood and underwood, 100 acres. of moor, 100 acres. of moss, 100 acres. of turbarry, 100 acres. of furze and heath, and 4s. of rent in Conysshede [Conishead], otherwise Conyngshede' (Farrer 1910, 106).

3.5.2 William Sandys was killed during a dispute in 1559, and his son Francis died without issue in 1583 leaving two married half-sisters, Margaret Dodding and Barbara Philipson, as heirs. Margaret's grandson George Dodding, a zealous Roundhead, later bought out the Philipsons; his son Miles died in 1683 leaving two daughters (Farrer and Brownbill 1914, 352). One died childless, so the estate passed through her sister Sarah, wife of John Braddyll of Portfield, to their son Dodding Braddyll, Whig MP for Lancaster 1715-22. Dodding's son Thomas Braddyll in turn died unmarried in 1776, leaving Conishead to Wilson Gale (1756-1818) who took the name and arms of Braddyll. Wilson Gale-Braddyll was Groom of the Bedchamber to King George III and Colonel of the 3rd Royal Lancashire (Philp 1880, 8); later he was a member of parliament for Lancaster 1780-84 and Carlisle 1791-96 as a Whig. Wilson's maternal grandfather was Christopher Wilson who owned Bardsea Hall, the neighbouring estate. On the Bardsea estate to the south west of Conishead there is the Braddyll Memorial; constructed c1770 inscribed with his grandparents names (Cross 2002). After his death in 1818 his son, Thomas Richmond Gale Braddyll inherited Conishead (Farrer and Brownbill 1914, 353).

3.5.3 Thomas was born in 1778 and was Lieutenant Colonel in the Coldstream regiment of the Foot Guard (Philp 1880, 8). The Priory mansion (Plate 7) was a residence of some magnitude and had been built out of the ruins of the original religious house and its office soon after the Dissolution (Birkett 1949, 21). It is apparent that some extensive rebuilding had taken place in the mid 18th century; Whitaker writing in 1823 mentions that it was '*almost wholly renewed about sixty years ago*' (Whitaker 1823, 398), therefore in c1763. There had certainly been a partial rebuilding and renovation prior to 1777, described by William Fell as '*one side built anew by the Curious Architect Hird*' (Ayre 1887, 8). This seems to be a reference to John Hird, an architect from Cartmel (Gaythorpe 1909a, 46). Earlier, in 1774 Thomas West described it thus; '*the north front is in the Gothic style, and a piazza supported by clustered gothic pillars, and three series of ox-eye windows, crowned with a battlement, give to the whole an elegant and respectable appearance*' (West 1774, xxvii). He famously also described it as '*the paradise of Furness*' (it is also referred to by this name in the second and later editions of *The Antiquities of Furness* (West 1805, 27), but in the first edition it is called '*the Woodburn farm of Furness*' (West 1774, xxvii)) and a '*Mount Edgcombe in Miniature*' (West 1789, 42). By the end of the 18th century, however, it seems

tastes had changed as it was described in 1798 by a visitor named Henry Kett as '*a disgrace to the noble scenery around it*' (Lowe and Bennett 2006, 44) and in 1814 it was also unfavorably called '*an old venerable looking structure, somewhat scandalized by white-wash*' (MacLeod 1988, 129), though it appears the gardens were well established at this time (*ibid*).

3.5.4 One of Thomas Braddyll's most pressing requirements was to improve the mansion at Conishead. It is clear from the sources above that by the time he inherited the estate the Georgian mansion was in poor condition and needed to be replaced. The new home that he had constructed was dogged by problems and the available documentary sources are somewhat contradictory, however. The designer of the new Conishead was Philip William Wyatt, the youngest son of the architect James Wyatt (Robinson 1991, 175). Phillip was dismissed from the project while it was still in progress, however, and replaced by George Webster of Kendal (*ibid*; the original correspondence concerning this is in DRO D/Lo/C 141 1827-1831). It has been stated that it was completely pulled down and rebuilt, beginning in 1821 (Philp 1880, 10) but this seems to contradict sources available only a year later, namely an article about and illustration of the priory (Anon 1822; Plate 7) and William Smith's plan (Plate 19). The former of these shows the original mansion still standing, while the latter shows that the plan of the building was quite different to that of the present structure. Moreover, the article from 1822, which states that My Wyatt was the architect of the new works and that the priory is being rebuilt at this time only mentions the construction of a new conservatory (Anon 1822, 211). Confusingly at least one recent writer is of the opinion that Wyatt did not begin the work until 1822 (Robinson 1979, 121). Significantly, an article from 1895 states that work was begun at the west end, utilizing Bath stone (Anon 1895a, 127-128), and this may represent Wyatt's contribution.

3.5.5 The point at which George Webster took over the project is uncertain; Angus Taylor states 1838 (Martin 2004, 131), but it is known that Wyatt was dismissed from the project for lack of progress in 1829 (Robinson 1979, 122; Taylor says 1828, presumably incorrectly (Martin 2004, 131)). However, there is a pair of plans in the record office in Barrow-in-Furness, showing the first and second floors of what appears to be the present eastern and main part of the mansion, one of which is signed by George Webster and apparently dated April 1818 (Plate 9). It has been alternatively suggested that this date is 1878 (Martin 2004, 131), but by this date both Webster and Braddyll were dead and the house was long built. A more likely explanation is that Webster was originally asked to draw up plans for a new mansion by Braddyll - it is probably not a coincidence that 1818 is also the year Braddyll inherited the estate, and that Webster was able to use his existing plans and transpose them onto the substantially incomplete work carried out by Wyatt. This also indicates that the west end of the building contains a considerable amount of the earlier house, which was simply remodeled by Wyatt. Indeed, the form of Conishead and the remodeling of an existing wing and addition of a new house section are extremely similar to the work carried out by Webster at Eshton Hall in Gargrave, North Yorkshire (OA North 2002a; 2002b).



Plate 7: Print of the earlier Priory mansion in 1822 (Anon 1822, 200)



Plate 8: View of Conishead Priory from the south-west after the construction of the new mansion, 1831 (Austin *et al* 1831)

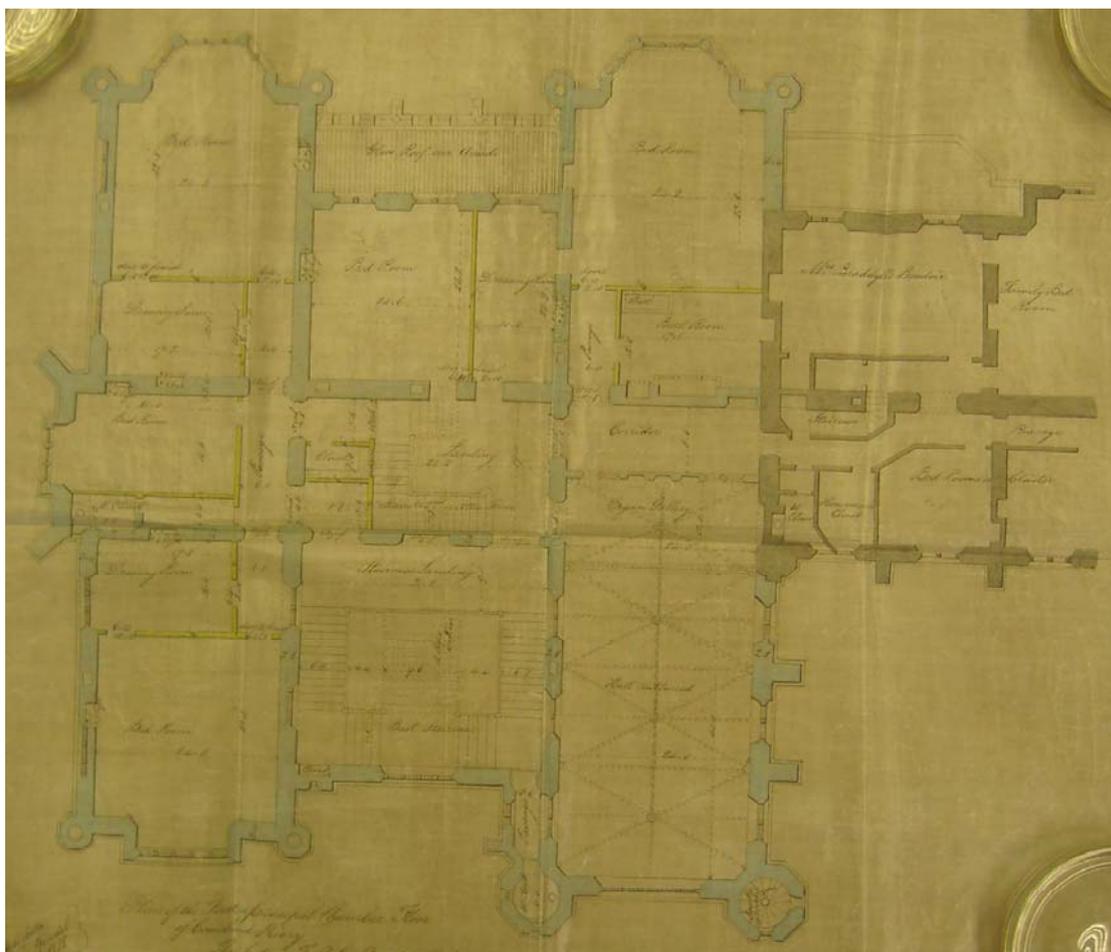


Plate 9: Plan of the 1st floor of the Priory by George Webster, apparently dated 1818 (CRO(B) Z1019/1 1838-1923)



Plate 10: A view of Conishead Priory shortly after the completion of the new mansion (Twycross 1847, 4)

3.5.6 The new mansion took up to 20 years to complete and cost £140,000 (Anon 1895a, 128; Plate 10); indeed, an account written in 1842 describes at least one room as being '*in an unfinished state*' and several others as '*not yet finished*' (Jopling 1843, 155 and 157). A letter, written at the same time regarding Braddyll's financial situation, explained that he was considered to have '*greatly embarrassed himself, by building an enormous House at Conishead Priory*' (DRO NCBI/JB/1038 1842). His financial worries were not confined to the cost of the mansion, however, and in 1847 he was declared bankrupt due to disastrous speculation in Durham coal mines and by order of the Chancery Court the estate was sold off (Ashburner 1988). In 1848 on 17th of October Conishead Priory and 424 acres of land was put up for auction at the Bull Inn, Preston (see *Appendix 2*). This included gardens, parkland, a Swiss fishery cottage, ornamental summer house, folly and ice-house. Also for sale were the deer park and three freehold farms adjoining the estate, including Gaskow farm and Sand Hall Farm. On October 20th 1848, at the Braddyll's Arms in Bardsea, Lane House Farm with 80 acres of farmland adjoining the Priory was also put up for auction (Anon 1848). It would appear that the estate initially struggled to sell as it was offered for sale again with 1,100 acres of land in August 1850 in London (Anon 1850a). Included in the sale was Gascow Farm, Sandhall Farm, Lane House Farm, the deer park and enclosures of land around Bardsea. Separate lots of the contents of the Priory were also sold off including furniture, suits of armour, glass and porcelain, and linen. Also sold were the contents of the library and the wine cellar (*ibid*). The Priory and estate was finally bought by Henry Askew of Minard Castle, Inverary (Ashburner 1988). As well as a place of residence, which he apparently shared with Henry Schneider (Casson 1900, 33), the iron mining entrepreneur who was heavily involved in the growth and development of Barrow-in-Furness (Barnes 1968, 95), it seems Askew was using the Priory as collateral to raise money as he re-mortgaged the property at least five times between 1859 and 1874 (LRO DDX 75/56 1859; DDX 75/60 c1860; LRO DDX 75/58 1867; LRO DDX 75/59 1867; LRO DDX 75/63 1874) before finally putting the house and estate up for sale in 1874 (*Appendix 3*). He is recorded as having made some additions during his period of ownership, including the construction of the clock tower and associated buildings (Ashburner 1988), most probably those dated 1853 (English Heritage 2007).



Plate 11: 19th century print of the west elevation and main entrance (LRO DDX 41/25 n.d.)



Plate 12: 19th century print of the east and north elevations (LRO DDX 41/25 n.d.)

3.5.7 In 1874 the estate was bought by a local solicitor, John Poole of the firm Wood and Poole of Ulverston (CRO(B) BDKF/145/25 1874). Poole sold much of the estate's land for building purposes and the largest purchaser was William Gradwell, a developer from Barrow-in-Furness (*ibid*; see Trescatheric 1985 for information about William Gradwell). Gradwell was given permission by Poole to build a railway from the quarry across the highway to other parts of the estate (*ibid*). In 1878 the Priory and surrounding park (around 150 acres) was finally sold to a Scottish syndicate who converted it to a spa hotel (Anon c1929; Ashburner mistakenly gives the date as 1887 (Ashburner 1988)). In 1925 the estate was bought by Dr John Wishart and the Rev Dr JC Gibson who in conjunction with friends formed the Conishead Co Ltd 'with the view to making it an ideal holiday resort' (CRO(K) WDX 427/2 1928). Considerable improvements were made, particularly modernizing the grounds, which with the automobile in mind included garage accommodation for over 100 cars (see *Appendix 4*). Only four years later Dr Wishart put the Priory and estate up for sale and it was bought by the Durham Miners Welfare Committee in 1929 for £35,000 (Ashburner 1988).

3.5.8 In 1928, the Durham Miners Association set to work to find a suitable building to use as a convalescent home. They inspected Conishead Priory and lost little time in acquiring it (Anon 2009a, 30). In 1929 the Durham Miners Welfare Committee employed the architect Arthur Kellett of Barnard Castle to redesign the interior to facilitate the conversion to a convalescent home (CRO(B) Box 53/10/4 1929), (Plate 13 to Plate 16). The Priory was opened on August 23rd 1930 and every fortnight up to 150 residents were admitted, the men spending two weeks there to help them recover from mining injuries (Anon 2009a, 30). During World War II the Priory served as an emergency hospital for air-raid victims although in the event it was not used as such but was instead use for wounded servicemen, approximately 8,000 of whom were treated there (Ashburner 1988). It is said to have been the largest military hospital in the North West (Manjushri Kadampa Meditation Centre c2004, 7). The Priory was reopened as a convalescent home by the Durham Miners Welfare Committee in April 1946.

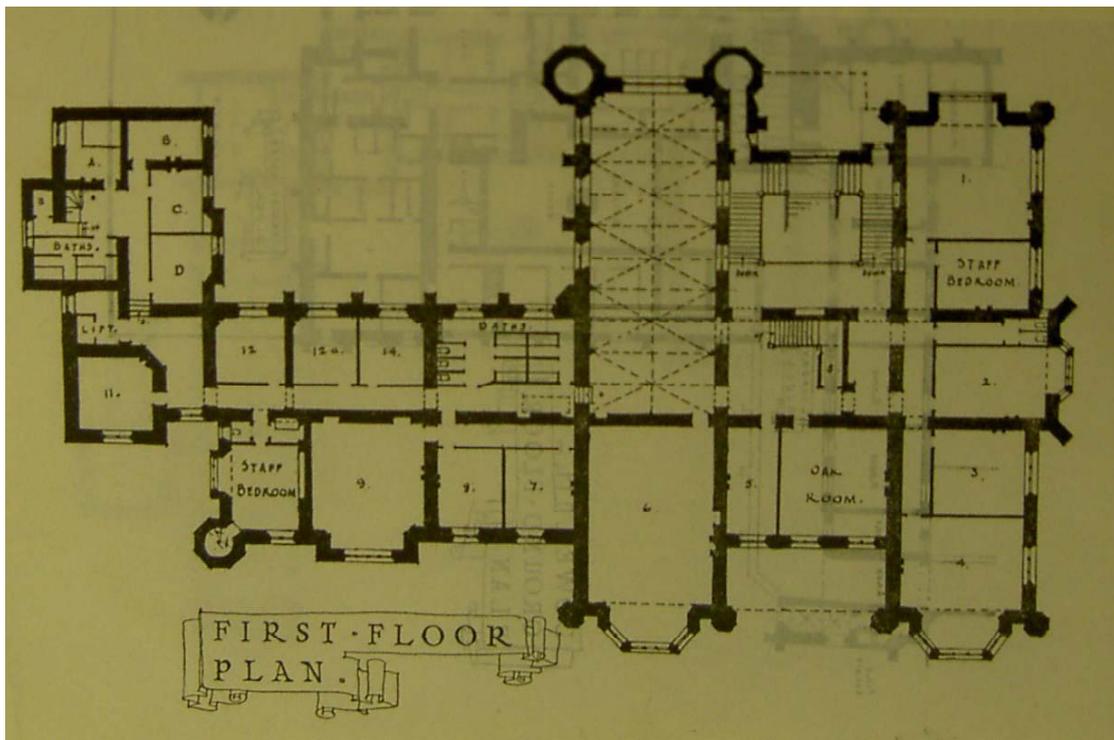


Plate 15: First floor plan of the Conishead Convalescent home (CRO(B) BDX53/2/5 1930)

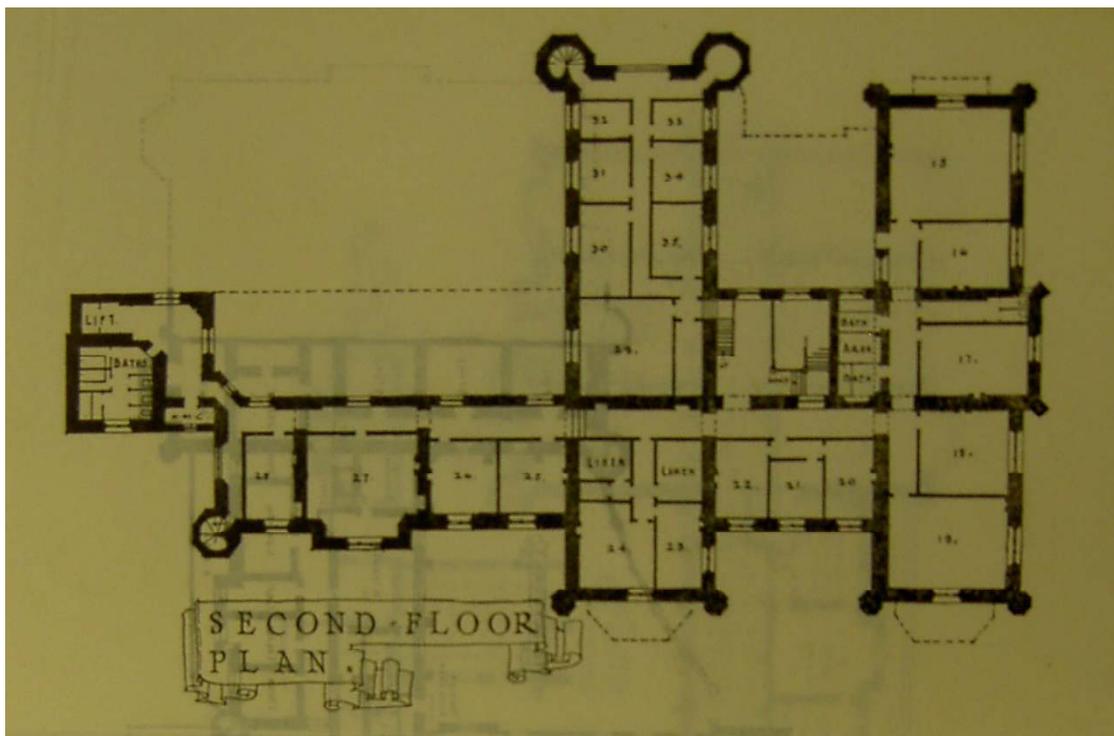


Plate 16: Second floor plan of the Conishead Convalescent home (CRO(B) BDX53/2/5 1930)

3.5.9 After the war the Priory reverted back to the Welfare Committee who, at the end of their tenure, put it up for sale in 1970 (Ashburner 1988). By this time the Priory and estate consisted of 226 acres and nine other houses and in 1971 it was to be auctioned off in 13 lots, although this sale was postponed due to boundary issues (Anon 1971). Finally, in 1972, the estate was sold; the park was split into two and both parts were sold, one part with the old Staff House to a Mr R Fisher (Ashburner 1988). The other part with the Priory was sold to a Mr Jones of Wigan who intended to use the house and park as a hotel and caravan park. Unable to get planning permission, Mr Jones put the house and estate back on the

market. By 1977 Mr Fisher had built and moved into Great Head House, which is situated halfway between the Priory and Conishead House (*ibid*).

3.5.10 The Priory buildings remained empty until 1976 when it was bought by the Manjushri Kadampa Buddhist community who have done much to preserve its structure (Anon c1976). After years of neglect the building was suffering from dry rot, which was affecting the timber structure and plaster work, and a major scheme of renovation and repair was carried out to save the building from complete ruin (*ibid*). In 1996 a new temple was built in the grounds, which was designed to incorporate both eastern Tibetan Buddhist design and Gothic and 'Tudorbethan' styles taken from the existing Priory buildings (Saunders 1996).

3.6 The National Census 1841-1901

3.6.1 **Introduction:** the Census is a very useful source of information to get some idea of the social background of the people who lived at Conishead Priory during the Victorian period. Also revealed, by the listing of the individuals, is the fact that there appears to be far more buildings for domestic use on the estate than is otherwise recorded.

3.6.2 **1841 census:** the entries for Conishead Priory in this year (*Appendix 5*; Table 1) show how large the household of a large Victorian mansion is, with 20 staff tending to a family of five and looking after the house and grounds. Unfortunately the script has faded on the census so it is not possible to know the ratio of domestic servants and labourers. The census informs us that at least two buildings on the estate are used as quarters for domestic staff: the Priory Lodge and the Dog Kennel. The house staff will have their own quarters in the Priory.

3.6.3 **1851 census:** the entries for Conishead are much reduced following the sale of the estate the year before (*Appendix 5*; Table 2). It appears that the Askew family has not yet moved into Conishead Priory, as the housekeeper is the only occupier. The gamekeeper and his family, who have been with the estate since the last census, have also been kept on to maintain the house and estate along with two labourers. While the labourers live in the lodge, the gamekeeper remains at the Dog Kennel.

3.6.4 **1861 census:** by this date the Askew had moved into Conishead Priory (*Appendix 5*; Table 3). The domestic household is smaller than the Braddyll's in 1841, with 12 staff, including: servants, gardeners, coachman, groom, and gatekeepers. The Askews also employed a governess, presumably for their daughter, Francis, who is the only member of the Askew family present at the time of the census. The census mentions two lodges, as the occupants are both gatekeepers the lodges must be those at the end of the drives at the entrances to the road. Agnes Stalker has replaced her husband who was the gatekeeper in 1851.

3.6.5 **1871 census:** Henry Askew is still the owner of Conishead, and both he and his family are present (*Appendix 5*; Table 4). The Askews still have a dozen staff, but he now has a butler and a footman. The servants' occupations are described in more detail; Kitchen maid, house maid and ladies' maid. The housekeeper now lives in the Priory. Two lodges are mentioned; Middle and High Lodge. High Lodge was probably Priory Lodge and is where Agnes stalker lived, listed as being 81, and who was retired at the time.

3.6.6 **1881 census:** the Priory is now a Hotel, described in the census as a hydropathic establishment (*Appendix 5*; Table 5). The census lists a total of 32 staff now working at the Priory, of which 19 are described as domestic servants, two as bath attendants, and two as porters. The hotel manager is listed as is a telegraph clerk and a housekeeper, and a resident physician and his family. There are 62 guests, referred to as boarders, entered in the census (possibly from the hotel register?). Many are of independent means or retired professionals and their families. There are manufacturers of iron, wool and silk, merchants of said goods, and foundry and mine owners. There are now more buildings mentioned; the Gate lodge and Gardeners lodge, though these might be the High and Middle Lodges mentioned in the 1871 census, and two entries for a garden bothy, a small cottage. The Gardeners lodge and bothy is occupied by gardeners, the head gardener probably occupying the lodge. The gate lodge is occupied by a porter and his wife, the remaining bothy is occupied by a bath attendant, Robert Redpath and his wife and child.

3.6.7 1891 census: in this year the hotel still appears to be popular; there now 41 staff, with 46 guests, listed as visitors in the census (*Appendix 5*; Table 6). The manager, the occupation listed as 'manageress', is now listed as 26-year old Isa Wright, which would have been fairly unusual at the time, being young and female. This census lists the occupations of the staff in a lot more detail; there is the housekeeper and the cook, housemaids, pantry maids, kitchen maids, laundry maids, linen maids, scullery maids and waitresses, as well as bath attendants, page boys and boot boys. Also listed is an upholsterer, probably visiting. The guests are similar to those visiting 10 years previously, retired professionals and those with their own means, and as well as manufacturers and merchants, there is also a doctor, a surgeon, and a vicar. There are now four places of occupation, three lodges and a bothy. The census lists the occupiers of Priory Lodge as Alexander Grant, gardener and overseer, and his wife. Occupying the 'priory bothy' are three gardeners and a drover, probably employed on one of the estate's farms. The Priory Middle Lodge is also occupied by a gardener, and his wife, a dairy maid. There is now a 'Bathman's Priory Lodge', which is occupied by the bath attendant, Robert Redpath. Redpath now has four children which is probably why he has moved from the bothy to the lodge.

3.6.8 1901 census: in 1901 there were 21 guests and 32 staff with the number of house servants reduced from 10 years ago (*Appendix 5*; Table 7). The manager is now a Peter Keiller, who also has his wife and four children with him. It is possible he and his family occupy one of the lodges. The guests are of the same class and professions as previous census's; merchants, manufacturers, and their wives. Also at the Priory was a house furnisher who may possibly have been present on business. There are just two other buildings mentioned with occupants; 'Priory Gate Lodge' and 'The Bothy'. The Lodge is occupied by the estate carpenter and his family. The Bothy is occupied by eight staff, which must have been very crowded, of which five were gardeners, a driver and coachman, and a stockman from one of the farms estates. A photograph of workers at the hotel dated c1925 (CRO(K) WDX 427/1 1925), or hydro-spa as it was known at the time, shows how extensive the workforce was in the early part of the 20th century (Plate 17).



Plate 17: Employees of the hydro spa c1925 (CRO(K) WDX 427/1 1925)

4. The Physical Development of the Landscape

4.1 Map Regression

4.1.1 **Yates' map of 1786:** Although not detailed, this map (Plate 18) does show the Priory gate lodge at the north boundary (top left corner) and a building on the site of the Dog Kennel. Streetgate is shown to the south of the priory. The road running east/west on the north side of the priory doesn't appear to line up with roads on either the earlier or later maps.



Plate 18: Yates map of 1786

4.1.2 **Smith's map of 1822:** this map (Plate 19) was drawn by William Smith in 1822 to show the ranges of limestone rocks around Conishead Priory. As this map was produced in 1822 (OUMNH 462-smith/Box 16/Folder 1/1 1822) it is almost certainly of the original hall, although the outline is not dissimilar to the present building. The dog kennel, hermitage and castle folly are also represented. The road to the south of the priory, running east/west, was known as 'The Streetgate', and the crossing point at the west end is also clearly defined. William Smith was a pioneer of geology in the 19th century and created the first geological map of England (Winchester 2002). Bankrupt in 1819 he fled north where he offered his services to landowners who might benefit from him surveying their land with the discovery of profitable mineral seams (*op cit*, 269).



Plate 19: Smith's map of 1822

4.1.3 **Jonathan Binns' map of 1843:** this detailed map (CRO(B) BDHJ/Plan 24 1843) shows the house and surrounding land owned by the estate (Plate 20). The parkland around the house appears plain although there is an avenue of trees running east/west in the area to the south called Gleaston Flatts, which marked the line of the old road from Conishead Bank. Although Binns' map of 1843 does not show any gardens, according to Jopling they were well established at this time (Jopling 1843, 161). The 'Old castle' to the northwest is a ruin, probably a folly, and just to the north on the edge of the wooded area is the hermitage. The lake is shown only half the size it is depicted on both the 1822 and the 1846 maps, which suggests it had been dammed temporarily for some reason.



Plate 20: Jonathan Binns' map of 1843 (CRO(B) BDHJ/Plan 24 1843; north is to the right)

4.1.4 **Jonathan Binns' Map of 1846:** this is the second map (CRO(B) BDHJ/Plan 20 1846) by Binns of the Conishead estate. It is very detailed and now includes the gardens (Plate 21); the Flower Garden was situated in front of the conservatory, the Fountain Garden was on the east side of the Priory, and the Old American Garden and the New American Garden were on the south side of the Priory (Jopling 1843, 158). The outbuildings have been demolished and a turning circle installed to the north of the house. The narrow lake to the north has also been extended considerably. Also the avenue on Gleaston Flatts has been removed and another planted along the track running to the south of the house. The South Lodge can be seen in the bottom left corner.



Plate 21: Jonathan Binns' map of 1846 (CRO(B) BDHJ/Plan 20 1846; north is to the right)

4.1.5 **Ordnance Survey map 1850:** this map (Plate 22) also shows Conishead Priory in great detail, naming the gardens, fishponds and ornamental features. Note that the layout of the formal garden to the west has been changed.

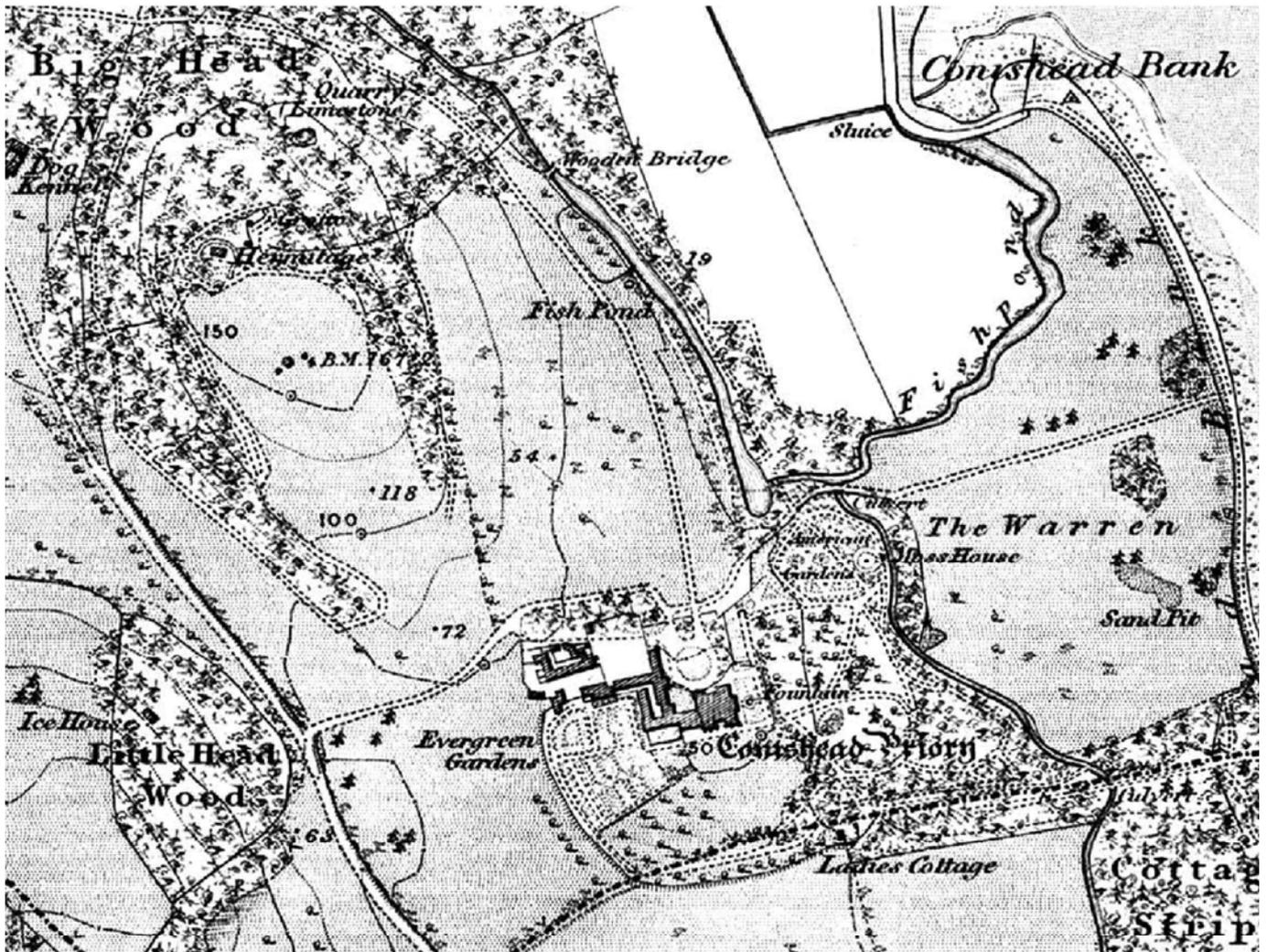


Plate 22: Ordnance Survey map of 1850

4.1.6 **Estate plan of 1866:** this plan (Plate 23) shows the estate as divided into ‘Villa and Other Lots for Sale’ (CRO(B) BSX 53/10/2 1866). It is evident that the site was proposed to be sold at this time, which is curious as it was owned by Henry Askew who continued to occupy it until 1874 (see Section 3.5.6 above). This may have been connected with his various attempts to raise capital using the estate. It is essentially the same as the earlier Ordnance Survey map, and does not show the buildings to the north-west of the site despite these having been built in 1853 (English Heritage 2007).



Plate 23: Estate plan of 1866 (CRO(B) BDX 53/10/2 1866; north is to the right)

4.1.7 Schedule Plan of 1874: this plan (Plate 24) is from the conveyance for a mortgage raised by HW Askew and submitted to Ulverston Urban Council '*...reserving to Henry William Askew the right to grant a lease of the mines of iron ore and iron stone with right for W.M.A. to take the royalties under such a lease for 12 years*' (LRO DDX 75/63 1874).



Plate 24: Schedule Plan of 1874 (LRO DDX 75/63 1874)

4.1.8 **Plan of land for sale, 1879:** this map (CRO(B) BDKF30/19 1879) highlights the land of the estate offered for sale by Henry Askew (Plate 25). Since 1850 the building to the northwest of the house has been demolished and replaced with formal gardens, which have been moved from the southwest side of the house. A new block has also been added to the north side of the house. The Conishead Railway, constructed in 1874 (Barnes 1968, 90), is also shown. This spur from the Furness Railway line at Ulverston ran north/south along the shoreline. Also shown are the farms and the brickworks belonging to the estate. Other industrial sites that have come with the industrial revolution are shown such as the wireworks, chemical works and iron and steelworks situated to the north-east of the estate.

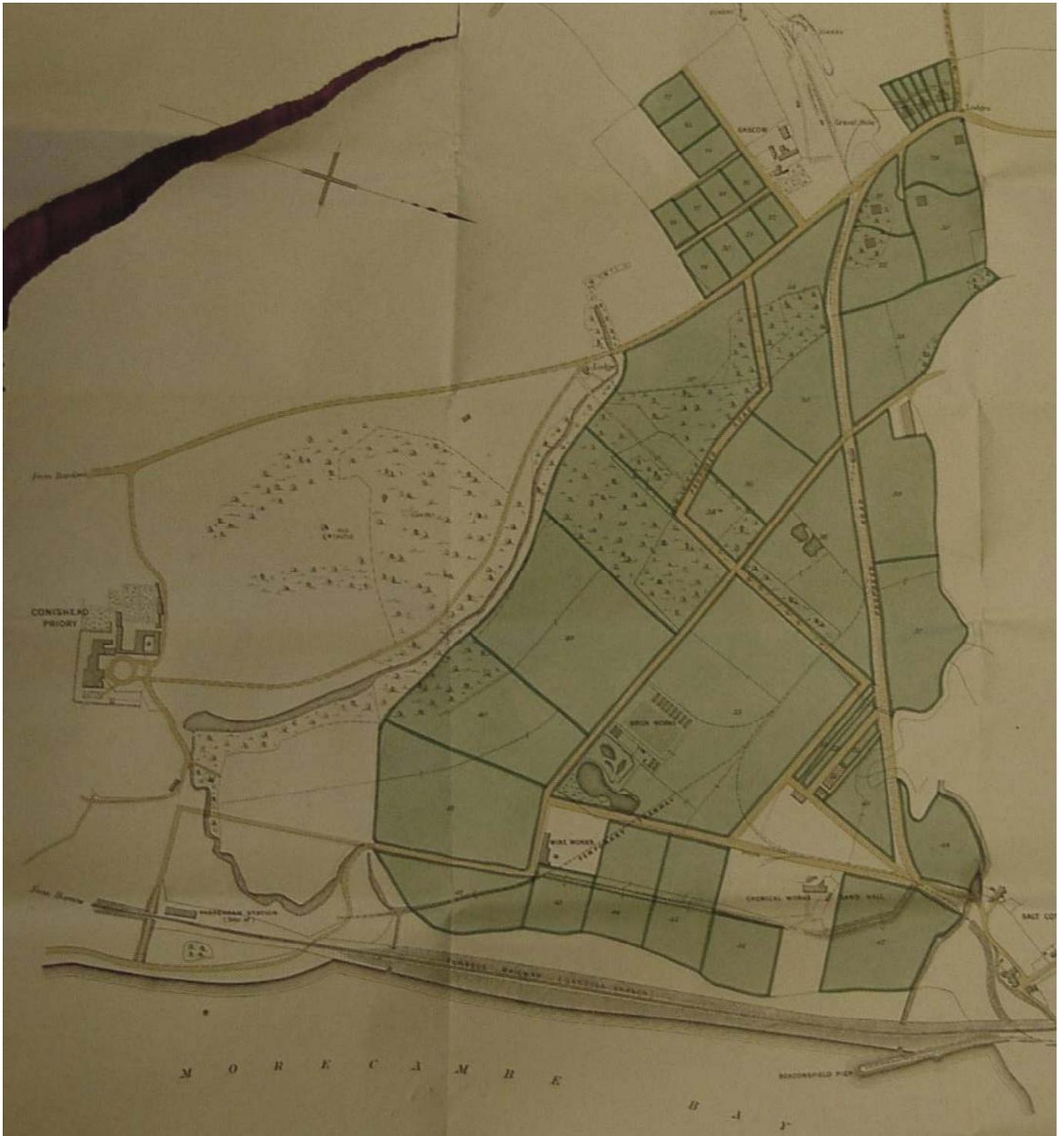


Plate 25: Map of land for sale of Conishead Priory estate, 1879 (CRO(B) BDKF30/19 1879; north is to the right)

4.1.9 Ordnance Survey Map, 1891: this map (Plate 26) shows little change since 1879 except that the grounds to the south of the house are more heavily wooded. The railway line is now described as the Bardsea branch. The map shows the castle ruin in good detail as the remains of two towers. Also the Hermitage (Plate 32) and grotto, which were still extant, are shown, as is a well, situated just to the west, which is not shown on the other maps.



Plate 26: Ordnance Survey map of 1891

4.1.10 **Mawson's plan:** this plan (CRO(K) WDB 76/147 n.d.) shows a section of the gardens on the south side of the Priory and was drawn up by Mawson and Partners (Plate 27). The plan shows a section of the garden at the south-west corner of the Priory; the same design is just visible on the Ordnance Survey of 1891 (Plate 27). As the plan is undated, it is not known if Conishead was an early commission, or if it was a plan of an already established garden. Mawson did not begin working in the area until 1885 (Beard and Wardman 1976, 7). It is conceivable that he might have been working at Conishead at this date, and that the Ordnance Survey map of 1891 might be showing a part of the gardens that he designed, but this cannot be confirmed.

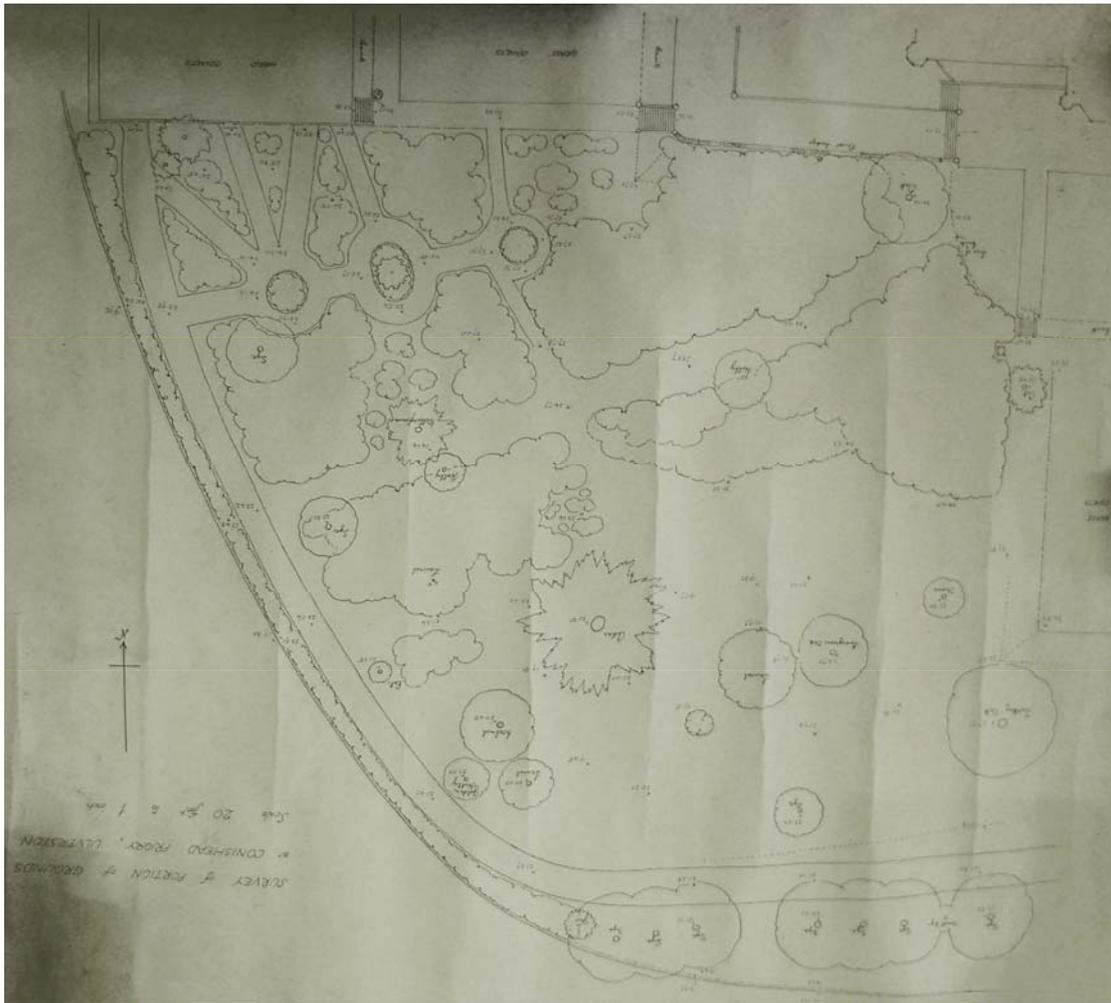


Plate 27: Mawson's plan of a section of the priory gardens (CRO(K) WDB 76/147 n.d)

4.1.11 Ordnance Survey Map, 1933: This map (Plate 28) has undated additions by an unknown author (BDX/53/11/9 n.d.). The staff house, built in 1933, and access road are drawn on, and the land belonging to the Priory is marked with a 'P'. The buildings marked as a pumping station just to the north-east of the Priory was the site of the gasworks in 1891. This map also shows both towers on Hermitage Hill as being extant.

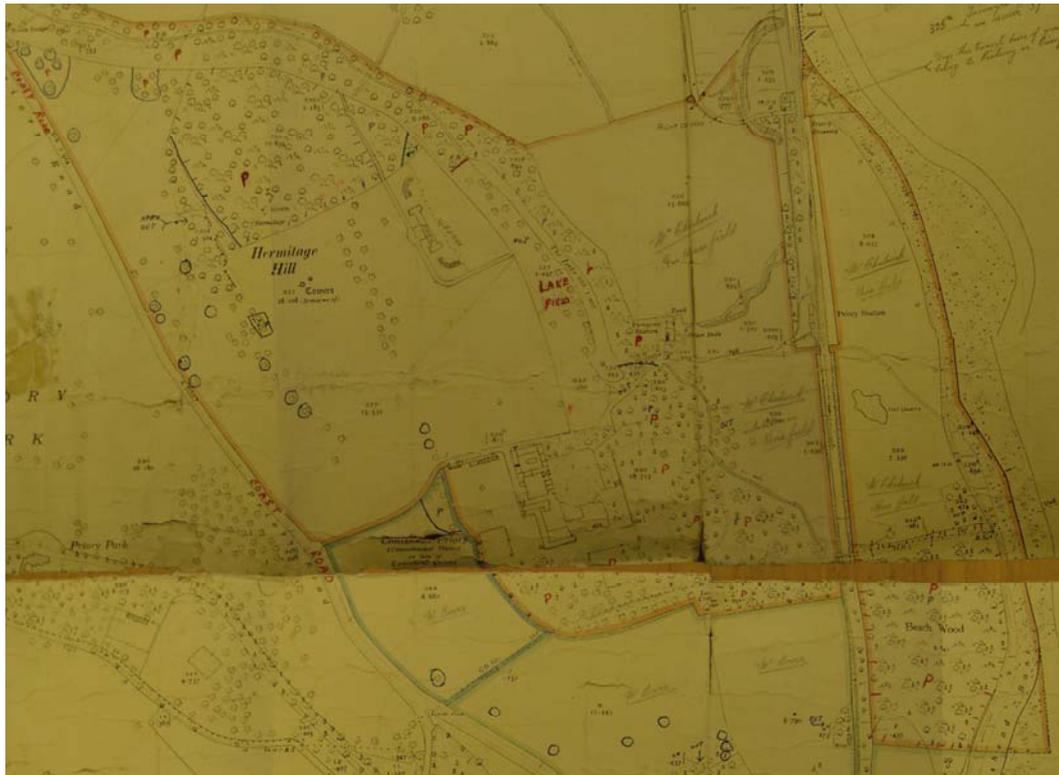


Plate 28: Ordnance Survey map of 1933 with undated notes (BDX/53/11/9 n.d.)

4.1.12 **Plan of c1980:** this is a recent plan of the site, showing the elements that were present shortly after it was acquired for the use as a Buddhist centre (CRO(B) PH7557 LC173CB/con c1980; Plate 29). It shows that a number of elements of the early estate had survived, including the Swiss Cottage and ruins of the Ladies' Cottage, as well as naming the various parts of the building and their uses.

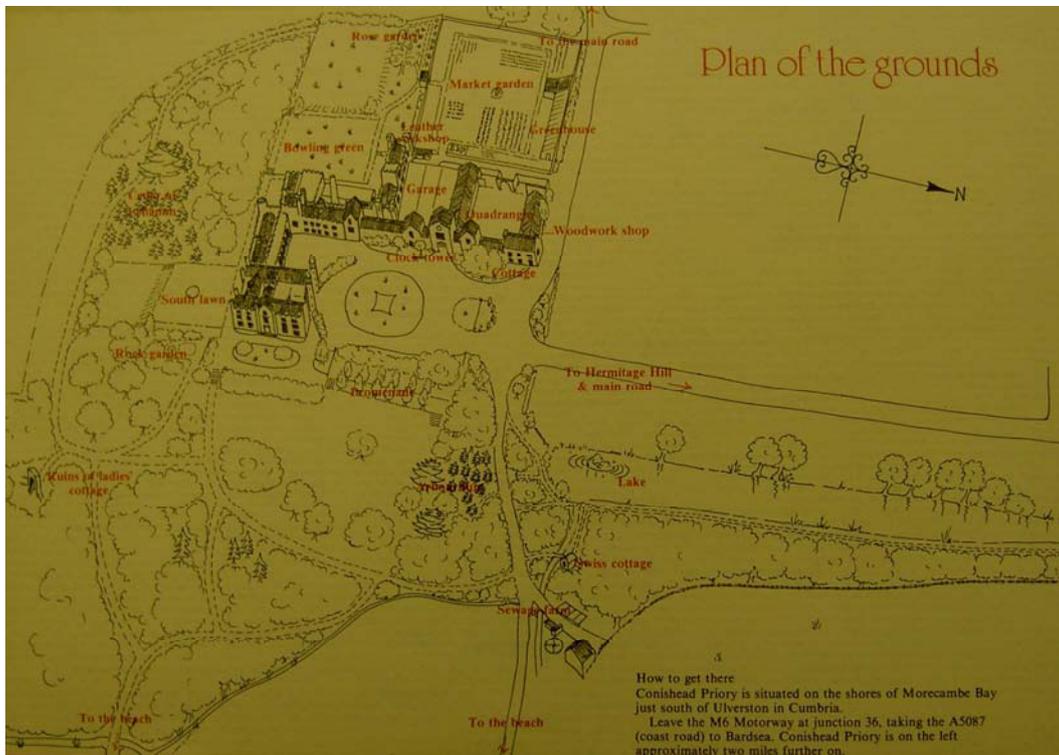


Plate 29: Plan of the Priory and gardens, c1980 (CRO(B) PH7557 LC173CB/con c1980)

4.2 Elements of the Priory Landscape

4.2.1 **Introduction:** the grounds of Conishead Priory contain many features and buildings of historical and archaeological importance, which are mentioned in early documents and recorded on maps, several of which are no longer extant or have changed use. The following paragraphs describe some of the more notable sites and their usage within the estate, and they are all included in the site gazetteer (*Appendix 6*), along with other sites identified during the desk-based assessment.

4.2.2 **'The Streetgate or Red Lane':** the physical remains of this ancient road run east/west between Conishead Bank to the east and the coast road to the west. It is then visible as earthworks forming one route heading north towards Ulverston, and another west towards Dalton (Elsworth 2007, 31), before ultimately crossing the peninsula and the Duddon estuary, leading to Millom and northwards (Collins 1953, 168). This route originated from south Lancashire, running up the west side of the Fylde to Hest Bank where it crossed Morecambe Bay to Kents Bank, from there to Cartmel, before crossing the Leven Estuary to Conisbank (*op cit*, 116). The origins of this road are uncertain; it is recorded in the 15th century and so is evidently of some antiquity, and its name would indicate that it was likely to be Roman (Elsworth 2007). Excavations carried out in the 1920s (see *Section 3.2* above) revealed two metalled surfaces, the lower of which was 25 feet wide with flanking ditches and, although not directly dated, certainly had the appearance of a Roman road (*ibid*). It is evident from Smith's map of 1822 (see Plate 19) that at this time the road running north towards Ulverston was the original access to the Priory, so its antiquity is debatable. The name Red Lane seems to have become applied to this road by at least the 19th century and is still in use for a road to the west of Conishead Priory (see Elsworth 2007 for a discussion of this). It was so-named because of the use of the road for carts carrying iron ore to be loaded onto boats at Conishead Bank (Marshall 1958, 84-85), accidental losses from which stained the lane (Philp 1880, 17). The date at which the beach at Conishead began to be used for the shipping of ore is uncertain; it was apparently taking place in the mid to late 18th century (Marshall 1958, 85), and probably ceased with the opening of the Ulverston Canal in 1796 and the development of the port at Barrow-in-Furness (Leach 1872). It is notable that there is a large enclosure shown on Smith's map of 1822 at the end of the road, which perhaps represents some form of loading area (Plate 19).

4.2.3 **The lake:** (Plate 30) this is situated just north of the priory and gardens. It comprises a very narrow body of water, forming a typical medieval monastic fishpond (SMR 167). At the south end it widened and there was a small island. The lake was originally a beck that ran from the north end of the estate before turning east to run down to Conisbank and the estuary. The beck had been dammed at the turn to create a fishpond, although, it could have been originally dammed to provide power to a mill. The Ordnance Survey map of 1850 (Plate 22) shows a wooden bridge at the north end, which is still extant on the Ordnance Survey of 1933 (Plate 28). The beck from the south end of the fishpond to the estuary is also marked as a fishpond on the 1850 Ordnance Survey map and it is sluiced at the estuary end.



Plate 30: The lake viewed from the south, c1895 (Anon 1895b, 149)

4.2.4 Mill Meadow: this meadow is situated on the east side of the lake and stretches from the north of the lake down to the beck. It is only mentioned on the maps of 1846 (Plate 21) and 1874 (Plate 24). The name indicates that at some time there was a mill in the vicinity, using the water from the lake as a means of power. There are early references of a mill belonging to Conishead, although the exact location is not known. When William Paget sold the manor in 1548 a mill was included, along with two dovecotes (Farrer and Brownbill 1914, 352n). A mill must still have been in existence in 1649 as there is a record of '*rent due from the farmer of the mill at Conishead*' (MCL BR 942.72F4 c1810). It is not certain when it disappeared but it is not shown on any of the available maps, so it must have been demolished before 1786 (see *Section 4.1*).

4.2.5 The Warren: this piece of land is situated to the west of the Priory between the beck running off from the lake and Streetgate to the south; the east side is flanked by the estuary. This Warren could also probably originate from the time of the monastery or soon after as a manorial warren; it was a ready supply of food from land that was marginal and not suitable for arable farming (Thirsk 1984, 238). The warren could certainly have still been in use up until the late 19th century as the estate was still employing gamekeepers during this time. The Ordnance Survey of 1850 (Plate 22) shows a sandpit excavated on the warren. It is probable that this was dug to extract sand for the construction of the Priory.

4.2.6 The 'Castle' ruins: these small ruins in the grounds just north of the priory have been marked on all of the detailed maps of the site from Smith's plan of 1822 onward (see *Section 4.1*). Jonathan Binns refers to it as 'Old Castle' in his plans of the estate. The earliest documentary evidence found of the ruin is from William Fell's account of 1777, where he also refers to '*an old castle*' (Ayre 1887, 8). The photograph of c1895 (Plate 31), shows the remains of two ruins of disparate styles. The angular building to the left of the photograph is almost certainly a folly constructed by Braddyll in the 19th century. The circular structure appears older and possibly dates from the 18th century, although it could be older. This older tower was probably demolished by the 1930's; a plan from 1935 (CRO(B) BDX 53/10/7 1935) shows the summit of Hermitage Hill had been redesigned, with only the later tower still standing. The surviving tower is a Grade II Listed Building and the listing describes it as a summerhouse and as having been restored in the 1980s.



Plate 31: The 'castle' ruins (Anon 1895b, 148)

4.2.7 The Grotto: this feature is a shallow cave to the north-east of the hermitage and situated in Great Head Wood. The earliest reference found is the Ordnance Survey map of 1850 which suggests that it is a folly created by Thomas Braddyll. Grottos were a common feature in many large estates, first coming into existence in the 17th century, but becoming more common in the 18th (Tyson 1980). They were considered an essential element of a Romantic landscape and a place of quiet refuge, often taking the form of artificial caves cut into the hillside and lined with shells and reflective semi-precious stones (*ibid*). It has also been suggested that the grotto was originally used as a hermitage, before the existing building was constructed (Gaythorpe 1903, 77), but there is no evidence to substantiate this.

4.2.8 The Hermitage: the earliest written record of the hermitage is 1843 in Jopling's *Sketch of Furness and Cartmel* (Curwen 1903, 72), but it is shown on Smiths map of 1822 (Plate 19), so was probably built before the present Priory. The Hermitage (Plate 32) was largely intact but derelict in 1903 when JF Curwen described the building. The building was cruciform in shape, orientated east to west (Plate 33). A chapel with altar was situated at the east end and a dwelling cell with a porch at the west end (Curwen 1903, 72). The floor of the porch was cobbled with a cross of slate laid on edge (*ibid*). There was an altar in the chapel of a later date (*op cit*, 75), and fragments of a broken stone cross were said to be lying on the floor (*ibid*). Jopling also mentioned the existence of a stained glass window depicting the Annunciation, although no longer *in situ* (Jopling 1843, 146; stained glass was also recalled by Dr TK Fell at a slightly later date (Gaythorpe 1903, 76)). A stained glass window depicting the Virgin Mary and Infant Jesus, said to have come from the hermitage was sold by auction in 1972 (CRO(B) BDX53/5 1972). It is possible that the hermitage was built at the same time as the rebuilding of the house in 1821, although in 1820 Colonel Braddyll was said to have kept an old man from Bardsea there as a hermit: '*He was there for about twenty years and he never had his hair or nails cut*' (*ibid*). In this regard he was more successful than Joseph Pocklington, who owned a large and extravagant mansion on the shores of Derwentwater in Borrowdale; it too had a hermitage, also in the form of a sham chapel, but despite advertising for a hermit to occupy it, he was never able to acquire a tenant (Greenlane Archaeology 2006). There has been some debate regarding the possible presence of an earlier, perhaps medieval hermitage, and the '*ruins of other buildings nearby*' might add some credence to this (Gaythorpe 1903, 76), although this is likely to be a reference to the castle(s) (see Section 4.2.6 above).



Plate 32: The Hermitage (Curwen 1903, 73)

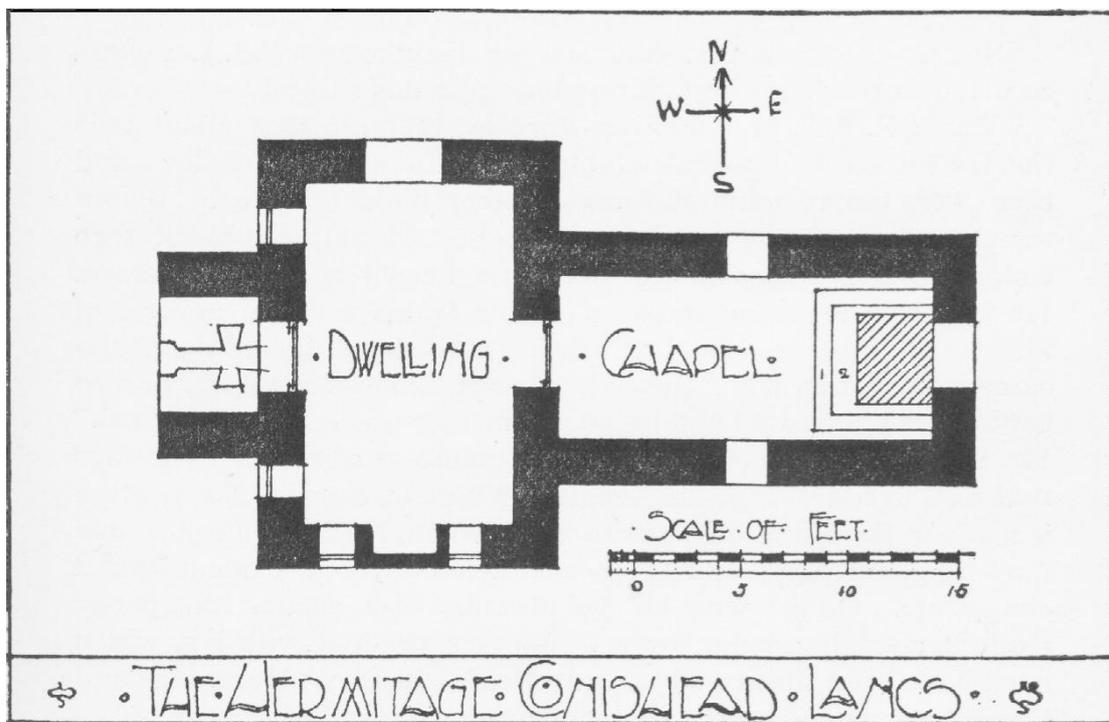


Plate 33: Plan of the Hermitage (Curwen 1903, 75)

4.2.9 **The Dog Kennel:** this building was in existence since at least 1822 (Plate 19) and was extant up until the 1900s. The 1846 map shows two buildings situated to the north end of the park beyond Great Head Wood in Dog Kennel Meadow (Plate 21). The Dog Kennel had some type of residence attached, probably a small cottage, as it was occupied by the gamekeeper in 1841 and 1851, but its original function is not certain (*Appendix 5*). The name might indicate what this building was, but it is also recorded that a tame lion was kept there by Thomas Braddyll (Gaythorpe 1903, 76).

4.2.10 **The Gate Lodge:** the lodge (Plate 34) and the opposing building were situated on what is now the coast road and at the north end of Priory Park on the north boundary. This building was demolished some time in the early 20th century probably to widen the road. The lodge was nick-named by locals 'Rat

Castle' or 'Rat House'; this name probably derived from the misidentification of the badger in the Braddyll's coat of arms above the doorway (Snell and Snell 2008, 92). The Lodge is first shown on Yates' map of 1786 (Plate 18). The gates and piers were removed in 1878 and the footpath widened to eight feet (Elsworth forthcoming b).



Plate 34: Gate Lodge (Lowe and Bennett 2006, 125)

4.2.11 **Lodges:** there are a number of other lodges mentioned on the Census apart from 'Gate Lodge, Priory'. There are references to Lodges, Priory Lodge, Middle Lodge, High Lodge and South Lodge (Plate 35). It is, however, difficult to differentiate between them, or to know where they were situated and how many there were at any one time. Apart from the Gate Lodge, the only other lodge whose location is known is the one at the entrance to the road running to the Priory from the north, which is probably North Lodge. Middle Lodge was probably the lodge at the entrance to the driveway, west of the Priory.

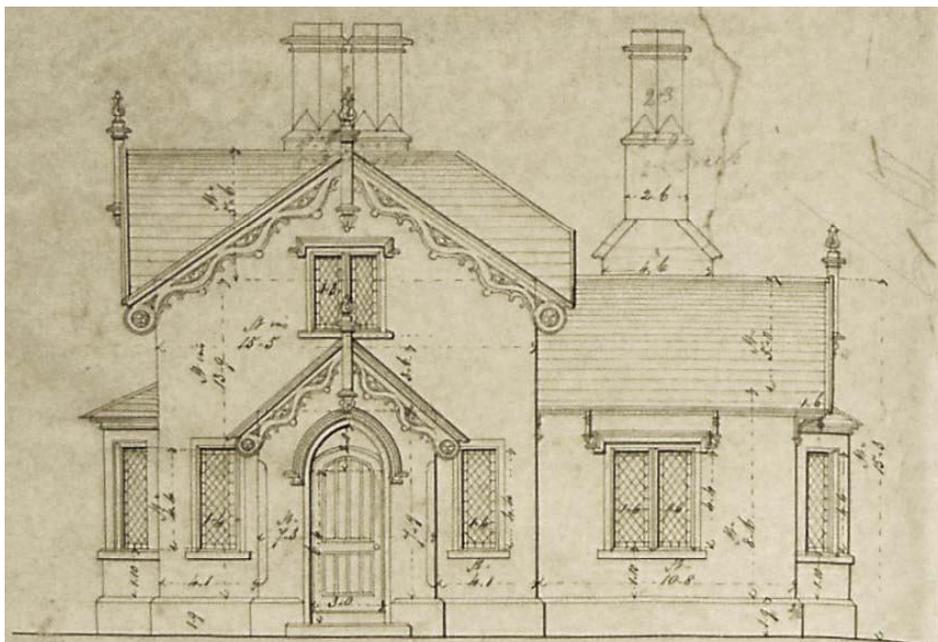


Plate 35: Designs for the west elevation of South Lodge by George Webster, 1840 (CRO(B) BDX 53/10/1 1839-1844)

4.2.12 **Ladies' Cottage:** this building (Plate 36) was a summer house set in the gardens to the south of the house, although it housed a small collection of curiosities such as fossils, glazed tiles and coffin plates found on the site of the old priory (Jopling 1843, 161). The cottage was renovated in 1926-28 (CRO(K) WDX427/2 1928) and although it was still in existence in the early 20th century, it was subsequently demolished as it is no longer standing (Lowe and Bennett 2006, 125).



Plate 36: Ladies' Cottage, c1905 (Lowe and Bennett 2006, 125)

4.2.13 **Priory Railway Station and Crossing:** in 1883 the Furness Railway Company opened the Bardsea Loop Line which was built only as far as the Priory; the main purpose of the line was to serve the North Lonsdale Ironworks (Batty and Peascod 1996, 15). The line ran down the east side of the estate through the Warren, terminating just north of the Streetgate; the railway embankment continuing on for some 200m. A station was built on the west side and a short road connected it to the Priory; 240m north of the station a crossing with cottage was built to allow access from Brick Kiln Road to Conishead Bank. The line was a continuation from the site of the North Lonsdale Company Ironworks and their blast furnaces were erected about a mile south of Plumpton junction; a branch was laid into the works and extended on the Conishead Priory estate. For a time a passenger train service was run, but for some years before the 1914-1918 war this had dwindled to occasional excursion work and the line fell into disuse beyond North Lonsdale ironworks (McGowan Gradon 1946, 6). The line was closed in 1917 and by 1953 the permanent way had been removed (CRO(B) BTBR Bundle 7/BW 181/53 1953). The 1891 census shows that the station master resided at the station and there were also two occupied cottages at the Priory Crossing, which was just north of the station. The railway station is now called South Lodge.



Plate 37: Priory Station (CRO(B)BDX 53/8/4 1970)



Plate 38: Priory Crossing (CRO(B) BDX 53/8/4 1970)

4.2.14 **The Swiss Cottage:** this cottage, later called the Swiss Fishing Chalet, was also renovated in 1926-28 (CRO(K) WDX427/2 1928). Although the location is not shown on earlier maps it is recorded on a plan from 1980 (Plate 29).

4.2.15 **Gasworks:** the Ordnance Survey map of 1891 (Plate 26) shows a gasworks and gasometer sited on the grounds at the south end of the lake adjacent to the pumping station. This is the only reference to the gasworks and it was probably erected at around this time. As the works are within the grounds, it can be assumed that this installation was to supply the hotel rather than the commercial concerns of the park to the north.

4.2.16 **Pumping Station:** this building is referred to on the Ordnance Survey map of 1933. The Pumping station is situated at the south end of the lake on the site of the gasworks which were sited here on the Ordnance Survey map of 1891. The 1850 map also shows that a hydraulic ram was installed on the east side of the lake which was probably a predecessor to the pumping station. The exact use for the ram is not known but it is probable that it was needed to run the fountains in the American Garden on the east side of the Priory. Although the ram is not shown on the earlier maps, there were fountains in the gardens from as early as 1850 (Plate 22) and hydraulic rams had been in use since the 19th century (Anon 1977, 57). These rams used the water's own pressure to force the water to a higher level than its source (*sic*).

4.2.17 **Beech Wood:** this parcel of land is situated south of the Streetgate on the edge of the estuary. The name of Beech Wood is fairly recent with the earliest mention on the Ordnance Survey map as 'Beach Wood' in 1891 (Plate 26). The Ordnance Survey of 1850 refers to this land as Cottage Strip (Plate 22), and in 1843 it was described as marsh land (Plate 21).

4.2.18 **Staff House:** in 1933 a new staff house was built (Plate 39) by the Durham Miners Welfare Committee, at a cost £20,000, in the grounds some 200m north of the Priory (Brooks 1933). This building, with a 170-ft frontage, has three floors and along with the living quarters and utility rooms on the ground floor, had twelve single and ten double bedrooms in addition to four suites of three bedrooms, each complete with bathroom and lavatories (*ibid*). Two cottages for ground staff were also built adjacent to the main building (*ibid*). The staff house later became a nursing home and after the sale to Mr Fisher was converted into apartments, now called Conishead House (Ashburner 1988).

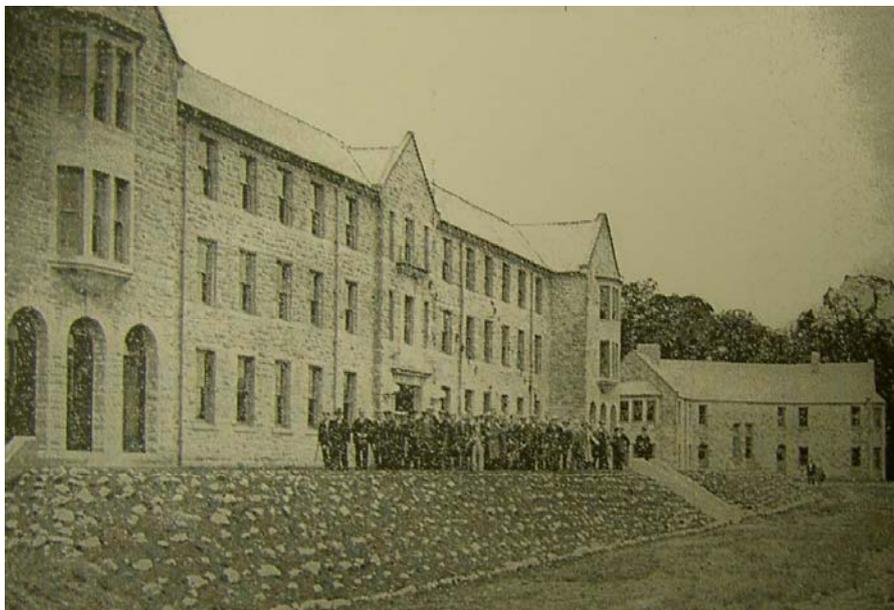


Plate 39: The Durham Miners Welfare Committee Staff House (photograph taken by CC Brooks; Anon 1933)

4.2.19 **Chapel Island:** this is a lime outcrop situated in the Leven estuary just over a kilometer directly west of Conishead Priory (Plate 40). The island is approximately 150m long, north to south, and 90m wide at its widest point. The earliest documentary evidence referring to the island is in 1593 when it was known as Harlesyde Island. In 1592 it was awarded by Queen Elizabeth I to William Tipper and Robert

Dawe who promptly sold it in 1593 to Myles Dodding (Gaythorpe 1909a, 48). It was apparently referred to as 'Harlsyde' by the Quaker botanist Thomas Lawson, who collected plants there in the 1670s (Whittaker 1986, 2), and it was labeled 'Harlside Island' on a plan of 1737 (Gaythorpe 1909a, 48). West, in his *Antiquities of Furness* of 1774 (West 1774, xv) refers to it as '*the chapel isle*', while William Fell calls it Harlside Chapel (Ayre 1887). It was not until 1795 when Anne Radcliffe compiled her *Tour of the Lakes* of 1795 that it is definitely referred to as 'Chapel Island', and it is her account that is considered likely to have popularised the present name (Farrer and Brownbill 1914, 276). The origins of the name Harlesyde are unclear; there appears to be no exact definition of 'harle' though it is likely to have the same meaning as 'yarle' meaning earl, while 'syde' means 'seat'. It probably therefore has the same meaning as Yarlside in nearby Barrow (Ekwall 1922, 202) and a Yarlside near Shap in Westmorland (Smith 1967, 178).

4.2.20 The Island lies on the path of the ancient crossing from Cartmel to Conishead and would have been a place of haven to travelers caught out by the tide (Melville 1971, 36). There is some evidence that there was a medieval chapel on the island, although many assumptions have been made about the date of its erection, who had it built, and the likely presence of a shrine to St Christopher, the patron saint of travellers (*ibid*), without any other evidence being forthcoming. Thomas West noted that there were ruins still extant on the island in 1774 (West 1774, xv). The island was also made famous in the early 19th century after it was mentioned by William Wordsworth in the Prelude X, written in 1792:

*'... Over the smooth sands,
Of Leven's ample estuary...
... Upon an small
And rocky Island near, a fragment stood...
Of a dilapidated structure, once,
A Romish Chapel, where the vested priest,
Said matins at the house that suited those,
Who crossed the sands with the ebb of morning tide'*

(cited in Gaythorpe 1909a, 49).

4.2.21 The original ruins are thought to have been augmented by a folly erected by Thomas Braddyll in 1823 (Gaythorpe 1909a, 50). There was also a cottage on the island, probably also built in the early 19th century, which was generally occupied by fishermen. The earliest mention of inhabitants living on the island since the monastic period is in *Sketches of Grange*, which states that a fisherman occupied the cottage '*at the instance of the owner of the Priory who has erected a cottage close to the ruins*' (Anon 1850b, 76). An undated plan of the cottage may well be for this very building (CRO(B) BDX 53/10/12 n.d.; Plate 41). Some record of the people living on the island can be gained by an examination of the census. The Census for 1851 (*Appendix 5*) lists the occupiers of the cottage as Thomas Benson, a mariner, his wife and stepson. By 1861 Edward Barker, his wife and three sons, all the men being fishermen, were the occupiers. The 1871 census shows that only the sons were resident and they were no longer fishermen, now occupied as quarrymen, probably at the Priory's own limestone quarry; it was noted in 1971 that other outcrops in the channel had been quarried (Melville 1971, 35) and it is recorded that parts of Chapel Island had been too (Waugh 1874, 131). After 1871 no further entries were found so it is possible that they were the last occupants of the cottage, which is now a ruin. A dramatic account of a visit to the island while fleeing the advancing tide is given by Edwin Waugh in his *Lancashire Sketches*, originally published in 1869 (Gaythorpe 1909a, 50). He describes the buildings as following:

'The fisherman's cottage was the only dwelling on the island. We found the door open, and the birds were singing merrily among the green bushes about the entrance. There was nobody in but the old fisherman's wife and she was deaf... The walls of the room... were partly those of the ancient chapel which gives name to the island; in fact, the little ragged, weed-grown belfry still stood above our heads, almost the only relic of the ruined chantry, except the foundations, and some pieces of the old walls built up into the cottage' (Waugh 1874, 127-128).



Plate 40: Chapel Island and ruined sham chapel, 1909 (Gaythorpe 1909a)

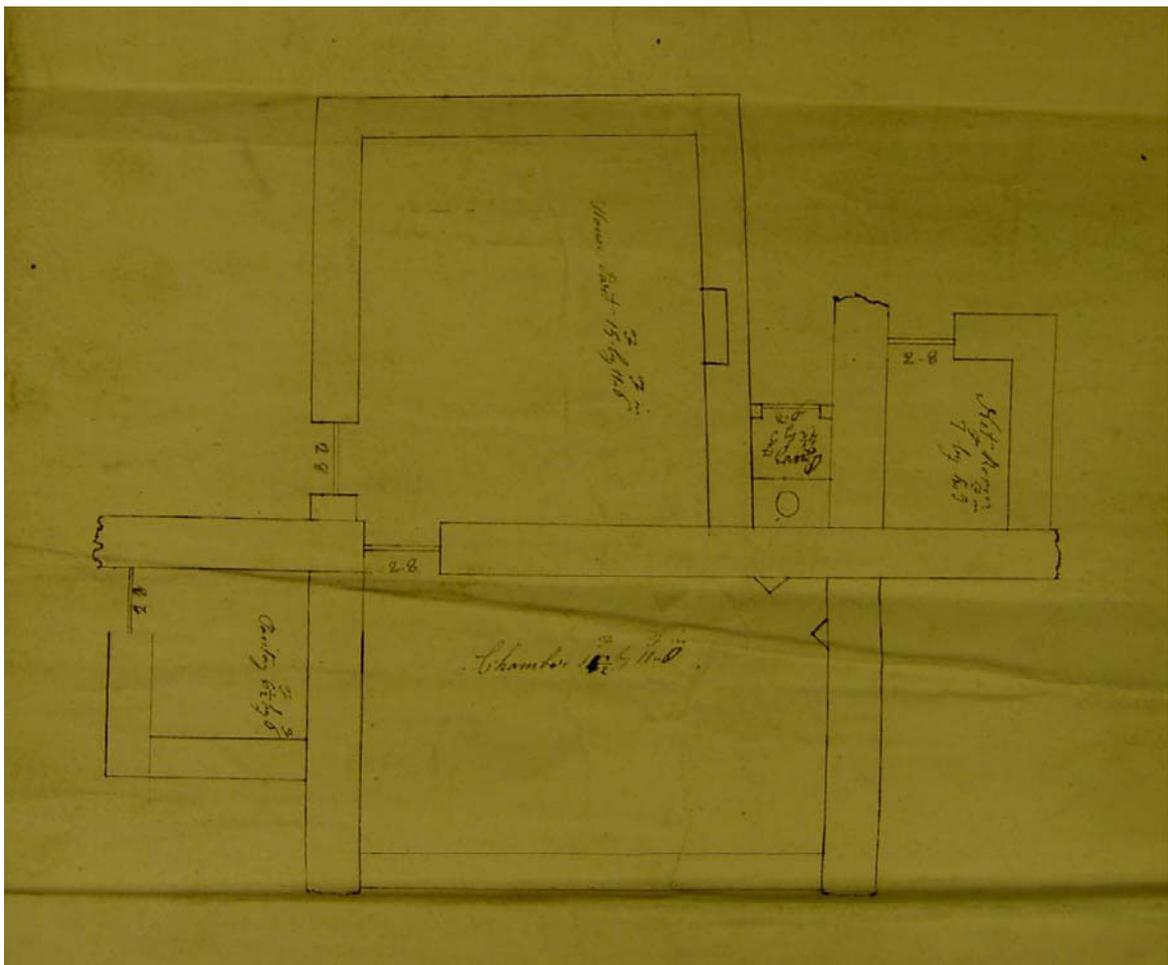


Plate 41: Undated 'Plan of the Intended Alteration of a House on Chappel Island' (CRO(B) BDX 53/10/12 n.d.)

5. Discussion and Conclusion

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The recorded history of the site, maps, early descriptions, and other documentary sources allow a relatively detailed understanding of the Priory and surrounding park to be established. Nevertheless, there are still gaps in the understanding of the site, primarily because some of the most significant periods of alteration took place before adequate mapping of the area was available. The lack of detailed plans or records of the site until the later part of the 19th century has also hampered understanding of the history and context of previous buildings within the original Priory estate. However, some reconstruction of the form and component parts of the medieval and earlier landscape is possible based on what is available in the sometimes scattered sources of information.

5.1.2 The earliest map of the site, produced by the geologist William Smith in 1822, was drawn at the time the original house was being demolished and the present mansion was being built; as the present building took around 20 years to complete, it is fairly certain that this map shows the original house. This map also shows the surrounding park and its features, which were firmly established; it is unlikely that the folly, hermitage and Dog Kennel were built at the same time as the new Priory. Later 19th century maps show that buildings were removed and replaced by extensions to the Priory, and that the associated service wings and outbuildings were being added to and modified throughout this period. The road to the south of the Priory, historically known as the 'Streetgate', and the west end of the cross-sands route has probably been in existence since medieval times, if not before, and there is evidence for activity on the site in the form of stray finds for at least 6,000 years.

5.1.3 Previous archaeological work, most importantly carried out in the 19th and early 20th century, suggests that the present Priory mansion was built incorporating some parts of the earlier house, and this in turn was sited on the foundations of the medieval priory. There is therefore not only a long history of use of the general site, but a continuous and direct history of re-use of the site of the mansion for almost 1,000 years.

5.2 Conclusion

5.2.1 It is reasonable to say that the site of the hospital which preceded the priory was chosen for its vicinity to the established crossing to Cartmel over the Leven estuary. This crossing and the road leading west, the 'Streetgate', itself possibly Roman, would have been used quite frequently by travellers to the Furness peninsula.

5.2.2 There is very little remaining evidence of the original Priory. Early 20th century archaeologists revealed the foundations of the church, and deduced from this, and earlier discoveries that the other buildings are under the present Priory and gardens. This is borne out by documentary evidence that the present building was built on the footings of the previous house, which itself made use of the remaining footings and walls of the medieval Priory.

5.2.3 The castle or 'castles' on Hermitage Hill are not mentioned in documents until the 1700's, and, although probably follies, it is possible that parts may be much earlier. Other elements of the landscape such as the folly and grotto, despite a lack of contemporary evidence, were almost certainly built as follies by Thomas Braddyll or his father Wilson Braddyll.

5.2.4 With regards to other buildings on the estate, there are references to many other outbuildings with various obsolete functions that are no longer extant. Due to the paucity of documentary evidence it is not possible to know their exact locations within the estate, or when and how they were built. Some of these, such as the various lodges, have either been destroyed or subsequently used as private houses. There are, however, a large number of sites of historic interest remaining within the environs of Conishead, although not all of these are within the area of land presently belonging to the Priory.

5.3 Potential

5.3.1 The landscape surrounding and associated with Conishead Priory contains a large number of sites of archaeological and historical interest. Many of these, including the priory itself, have been explored in relatively little detail and there is certainly the potential to discover a great deal more about them. Some are even less well understood, and would benefit from even a limited amount of additional investigation. Conishead Priory is connected to many of these sites, either directly, because they were part of its original estate or grounds, or indirectly as elements associated with one particularly use.

5.3.2 On a small and localised scale there is considerable potential for interpretation of the accessible features situated within the land currently owned by the priory. This could take the form of improved signage, enhanced visitor information such as leaflets or an estate plan. On a wider scale Conishead connects to several other places such as the village of Bardsea (through the Bardsea Hall estate), Ulverston, the wider coastal strip, and further afield with its historical connections as an attraction for visitors to the Lake District.

5.3.3 Interpretation of the site could potentially to be ongoing, continually improving, and dynamic if further investigation of the site were to be carried out. This might take the form of additional historical research, or physical investigation such as topographical and geophysical survey, archaeological excavation, and examination of the standing buildings. The presence of a dedicated interpretation area in the 'Chapel' will further enable any of the above aims to take place.

5.3.4 It is acknowledged that moves are already being made to collate information about Conishead Priory into a dedicated archive on the site, and while this aim is laudable, it might ultimately be difficult given the widely dispersed nature of the material, much of which is already held in other archives or private collections. A collection of artefacts relating to the site would perhaps be more achievable and could be added to as more work is carried out.

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Appendix 1: Documents Relating to Conishead Priory held in the National Archives

Catalogue Ref	Title/Scope and Content	Covering Dates
DL 10	Duchy of Lancaster: Royal Charters	c1087 - c1760
DL 10/229	Confirmation for Conishead priory, co. Lancs, of various grants.	1318
DL 10/396	Letters patent, under the Palatinate seal, of general pardon for Conishead priory, co. Lancs.	1485
DL 25	Duchy of Lancaster: Deeds, Series L	c1100 - 1682
DL 25/290	Settlement, indented, of a dispute between the priories of Cartmel and Conishead about the land of Little Wynderhya and Holker Mill. Conishead Priory renounces its claim, and is granted land of Cartmel Priory in the fields of Bolton (Bothiltun) and Adgherlyd: (Lanc.)	
DL 25/291	Confirmation by H[onorius], Archdeacon of Richmond, of the appropriation by R., Archbishop of York, to the canons of Conishead, of the churches of Muncaster (Molecastre), Whitbeck, and Pennington: (Cumb'l'd), (Lanc.)	1199
DL 25/292	Hugh, Bishop of Carlisle to Conishead Priory: Appropriation of the church of Orton (Overton): (West'm'l'd)	1218 - 1233
DL 25/293	Letters of institution by Ralph, Bishop of Carlisle, of Simon de Horblyng, a canon of Conishead Priory, to the vicarage of Orton, on the presentation of Conishead Priory.	1280
DL 25/295	Letters of John, Bishop of Carlisle, notifying that Conishead Priory have always held in appropriation the church of Orton: (Westmorland)	
DL 25/296	An account of the dates of the consecration of the Bishops of Carlisle from 1133 to 1158 certified by the Prior and Chapter of Carlisle at the request of Conishead Priory	1343
DL 25/297	Robert de Wodehous, Archdeacon of Richmond to Conishead Priory: Appropriation of the church of Hale: (Cumb'l'd)	1345
DL 25/298	Notification by Brother Martin, proctor, and Sabina, Prioress of the nuns of Brune, to the Official and the Dean and Chapter of Copeland, that the dispute between them and the Master and brethren of Conishead had been settled at Dalton: (Lanc.)	
DL 25/400	Letter from T. the prior, and the canons, of Conishead stating the terms of settlement of the controversy between them and Furness Abbey concerning the churches of Ulverston and Pennington, etc.: (Lancs)	1197 - 1200
DL 25/401	Confirmation by the Archdeacon of Richmond of the grant by Furness Abbey to the canons of Conishead of the church of Uriswick: (Lancs)	1197 - 1200
DL 25/472	Letter from Thomas son of William de Greistoc, knight, to judges-delegate from the apostolic see, in a cause between John, Rector of	1233 - 1246

Catalogue Ref	Title/Scope and Content	Covering Dates
	Gosforth, and Conishead Priory, concerning the chapel of Drigg: Lancs.	
DL 25/563	Decree by the priors of St. Andrew's and St. Mary's of York, in favour of Conishead Priory, against J. de Rumeli, clerk, accused of unjustly detaining possession of Overton church: (Lancs)	1220
DL 25/564	Laurence fitz Richard, knight to Conishead Priory (Thomas, prior): Grant, indented, of land in Ulverston: (Lancs)	1272 - 1278
DL 25/565	John de Lancastre, son and heir of Sir John de Lancastre to Conishead Priory (William, prior): Grant of his right in the land, etc., he held in the township of Torver, etc.: (Lancs)	1299 - 1320
DL 25/566	Robert son of Roger de Bracanbreg to Conishead Priory (Sir Thomas de Morthyng, prior): Quitclaim of all Allithwaite (Holtwayt), land at Rode, etc.: (Lancs)	1272 - 1280
DL 25/567	Adam son and heir of Robert de Brakanberg to Conishead Priory: Quitclaim of the land which Roger his grandfather and Robert his father granted to the priory at Allithwaite, Rode, etc.: (Lancs)	1310 - 1322
DL 25/568	Alexander de Morthing to Conishead Priory (John, prior): Grant of two oxgangs in Whitbeck: (Cumb)	1236
DL 25/569	Alexander de Morthing to Conishead Priory (John, prior): Grant of two acres in the field of Whitbeck: (Cumb)	1228 - 1243
DL 25/570	Eleanor daughter of Simon de Boiville, widow to Conishead Priory: Grant of two acres in the territory of Whitbeck: (Cumb)	1228 - 1243
DL 25/572	John de Morthing to Conishead Priory: Grant of half an acre in the vill of Whitbeck: (Cumb)	1228 - 1243
DL 25/573	John de Morthing to Conishead Priory: Grant of a toft and croft, with all easements, pertaining to the vill of Whitbeck: (Cumb)	1228 - 1243
DL 25/574	John de Morthing to Conishead Priory: Grant of half a rood of land and ten rod-falls (casus virge) in the vill of Whitbeck: (Cumb)	1261 - 1272
DL 25/575	William de Mording and Eleanor his wife to Conishead Priory: Grant of a messuage and land by Whitbeck: (Cumb)	1220 - 1230
DL 25/576	Richard son of Richard do Morthing to Conishead Priory: Grant of part of his land in Whitbeck: (Cumb)	1228 - 1243
DL 25/577	Conishead Priory (J., prior) to Thomas son of William and Cecily his wife: Grant of land in Langliferhe: (Cumb)	1228 - 1243
DL 25/578	William de Lancastria to Conishead Priory: Grant of his fishing in the Leven, with the seine net and boat, from the place where the Crake falls into the Leven: (Lancs)	1220 - 1246

Catalogue Ref	Title/Scope and Content	Covering Dates
DL 25/579	B[enedict] de Peningtun to Conishead Priory: Grant of the church of Muncaster (Molecastre) and the chapel of St. Aldeburgh: (Cumb)	1185 - 1201
DL 25/580	John de Hodelston to Conishead Priory: Agreement to pay 12d. yearly for land in Staynton in Millom: (Cumb)	1250 - 1293
DL 25/581	Robert de Mora to Conishead Priory: Mortgage of a grange and five acres in Millom to secure a payment of three marks: (Cumb)	1282
DL 25/582	William Skillehare to Conishead Priory: Grant of land in the vill of Calder: (Cumb)	1228 - 1243
DL 25/583	Roger son of Thomas de Kinemund to Conishead Priory: Grant of an acre in the territory of Kinemund: (Cumb)	1201 - 1216
DL 25/584	Agreement, indented, between Conishead Priory (J., prior) and Alan de Coupland that the priory may divert the watercourse of Flickebec to their mill of Kenemund: (Cumb)	1236 - 1252
DL 25/585	Henry son of Arthur to Conishead Priory: Grant of moss land beginning at the moss called 'Wytharward': (Cumb)	1183 - 1216
DL 25/586	Patrick son of William de Morthing to Conishead Priory: Grant of his land in Godrykby by the highway from Hesilgyle: (Cumb)	1228 - 1243
DL 25/587	Stephen son of Elizabeth de Aykeschard to Conishead Priory: Quitclaim of land in the vill of Aykeschard: (Cumb)	
DL 25/1127	Humphrey de Cherleton, Archdeacon of Richmond to Richard de Bolton, Prior of Conishead: General release as Receiver in the deaneries of Kendal, Lonsdale, Amounderness, Furness, and Copeland: Westmorland, Lancashire, Cumberland	1376
DL 25/1191	Acknowledgment by Humphrey de Cherleton, Archdeacon of Richmond of the receipt from Richard de Bolton, Prior of Conishead, of £25, farm of his church of Bolton in Lonsdale: (Lanc.)	1373
DL 25/1200	Indenture of exchange of parcels of land in Whitbeck between Conishead Priory (George, prior) and Thomas Lewnes of Berkshire in the county of Oxford, gentleman: Cumb'l'd	18 Hen.VIII
DL 25/1355	Christina late the wife of Thomas Barn to Conishead (Cunigesh') Priory (Thomas, prior): Quitclaim of her dower-right in a free tenement in Middleton: Westm'l'd	
DL 25/1464	Furness Abbey (Alexander, abbot) to Conishead Priory (George, prior): Acknowledgment of the receipt of £3 on account of their pension of the church of Ulverston: (Lanc.)	14 Hen.VIII
DL 25/1489	John Chapman of York, notary public, sub-collector of the fruits and issues of the apolostolic chamber in the province of York to Prior of Conishead: Receipt for 7s.	1517
DL 25/3263	Henry son of Robert de Solebi to Church of Orton All Saints (Hoverton) and Conishead Priory : Quitclaim of his right in dikes, etc.	

Catalogue Ref	Title/Scope and Content	Covering Dates
	in the territory of Frerebigkin, and in any right in the said church : (Lancs) (Westmor)	
DL 25/3276	John son of Adam de Bothil to Conishead Priory (John, prior) : Grant of land in Bootle (Bothil) and on Bighusthwayt : (Cumb)	
DL 25/3277	Adam son and heir of Robert de Brakanbery to Conishead Priory : Grant of land in Thorer (Torner) : (Yorks, W.R.)	
DL 25/3278	Roger de Heton to Conishead Priory: Grant of land in Thorer (Torner) : (Yorks, W.R.)	
DL 25/3279	Conishead Priory (John Gylet, prior) to Dame Joan de Peniton, late the wife of Sir John de Peniton : Demise, indented, for six years, of land in Muncaster (Mulcastre) : (Cumb)	1440
DL 25/3280	Robert de Bastonthuait to Conishead Priory (John, prior) : Grant of land in Ponsonby which Richard de Punzunby gave him in free marriage with his daughter Goditha : (Cumb)	
DL 25/3282	Conishead Priory to Richard de Belyngeam of Burnoldsheved, esquire : Demise, indented, for 19 years, of half the township of Patton : Westmor	3 Hen. V
DL 25/3283	Conishead Priory (George, prior) to Edward Pennington of Colton, miller : Demise, indented, for life of the mill of Crake with Seidehawe, and licence to take great timber for repairs in Lowick (Lawyke), etc. : (Lancs)	17 Hen. VIII
DL 25/3302	John son and heir of William de Morthyng to Conishead Priory (Thomas, prior) : Grant, indented, of land in Whitbeck, etc. : (Cumb)	
DL 25/3599	Leonard Huddylston of Monkfors, co. Cumberland, gentleman, and others to Conishead Priory: bond for the performance of covenants: Cumb	10 Hen. VIII
DL 25/3625	William son of John de Morthing to Conishead Priory: grant, indented, of land and a tenement he had from Robert del Myre in Whitbeck: (Cumb)	
DL 29/158/3	Incomplete draft of tabulated return to articles of enquiry apparently made to the king's commissioners to survey Conishead priory, Lancs (2pp)	?28 Hen. VIII
DL 29/158/4	Draft of certificate as to Conishead priory, Lancs, made by the king's commissioners to view religious houses in Lancs (1p)	?28 Hen. VIII
DL 29/158/5	Draft of the declaration of the spiritual and temporal possessions of Conishead priory, Lancs (4pp)	27-28 Hen. VIII
DL 29/158/6	Declaration or view of the accounts of possessions of Conishead priory, Lancs (4pp)	27-28 Hen. VIII
DL 29/158/20	Account of the prior of Conishead, Lancs, of expenses of the kitchen (1p)	27-28 Hen. VIII

Catalogue Ref	Title/Scope and Content	Covering Dates
DL 29/158/21	Inventory of goods in Conishead priory, Lancs (paper, 10mm)	28 Hen. VIII
DL 29/158/22	Petition of Richard Johnson for the office of carter or guide of Seven Sands, which office his grandfather and father held of the prior of Conishead, Lancs (1m)	Hen. VIII
DL 29/158/23	Petition of John Harteley to be continued in the office of carter or guide of Seven Sands, which office he held of the prior of Conishead, Lancs (1p)	Hen. VIII
DL 29/158/24	Letters, subsidiary accounts, etc, relating to the tithes and other possessions of the suppressed priory of Conishead, Lancs (10 documents)	Hen. VIII
DL 29/158/25	Accounts of the sacristan of Conishead priory, Lancs (2 documents)	26-27 Hen. VIII
DL 29/158/28	Memoranda subsidiary to ministers' accounts of Conishead priory, Lancs (1 parcel)	29 Hen. VIII
DL 29/3597	Receiver's account of Burscough, Cartmel, Conishead and Holland priories, Lancs (roll)	36-37 Eliz. I
Subseries within DL 29	Declaration of the new survey made by the king's commissioners of Conishead Priory, Lancashire	
Subseries within DL 29	Calendars of the demesne lands and other possessions of suppressed priories of Cartmel, Conishead, Burscough and Holland Lancashire	
Subseries within DL 29	Accounts for the Prior of Conishead, Lancashire, for the office of cellarer	
Subseries within DL 29	Receipts and other memoranda subsidiary to accounts of Conishead Priory, Lancashire, upon its dissolution	
DL 30/80/1084	Conishead, with- Bardsea and Urswick, Ulverston, Pennington, Crake, Blawith, Torver; Lancaster, Whitbeck (Witbeke), with- Annaside? (Annersett), Bootle? (Force bottle) and Corney, Kynmonde, Calder and Ponsonby (Punsumbe).; Cumberland, Baysbrown; Westmoreland: Courts	31 to 32 Hen. VIII
DL 30/80/1085	Conishead-in-Furness, &c. (as in DL 30/1084); [Lancaster], Whitbeck, &c. (as in DL 30/1084), and with- Ravenglass; Cumberland: Courts	34 to 36 Hen. VIII 1 Edw. VI
DL 30/80/1087	Whitbeck, parcel of the manor of Conishead?	4 Eliz. I
DL 41/126	Notarial instrument setting forth proceedings relative to the appropriation of Hale parish church to the uses of the prior and convent of Conishead	1344
DL 41/175	Transcript of an indenture between the king and Robert Bull relating to a grant of part of the possessions of Conishead priory, Lancs	3 Edw. VI
DL 41/203	Proofs of the title of the prior of Conishead to the hospital of St	15th century

Catalogue Ref	Title/Scope and Content	Covering Dates
	Leonard of Kirkby in Kendal, Westm	
DL 41/344	Warrant of like purport to DL 41/9/10: directed to the steward of the manors pertaining to the late priory of Conishead, Lancs	22 Eliz. I
DL 41/489	Pye or docket of obligations taken by the king's commissioners for and concerning the late suppressed monasteries of Burscough, Holland, Conishead, Cartmel and Cockersand, Lancs	28 Hen. VIII
DL 41/499	Letters and papers relative to the dissolution of the religious houses of Conishead and Cockersand, Lancs	1536
DL 41/499/1	Commandment to the prior of Conishead	1536
DL 41/499/4	Prior of Conishead to Thomas Burgoyne	1536
DL 41/499/8	Conishead's first offer	1536
DL 41/499/9	Conishead's second offer	1536
DL 41/499/10	List of lead at Conishead	1536
DL 41/634	List of documents relating to Conishead priory, Lancs	?Chas. II
DL 43/4/4	Lancashire: Bardsea, Lancaster, Conishead: Book of miscellaneous rentals	Hen. VIII (various dates)
DL 43/5/2	Lancashire: Cockersand, Burscough, Penwortham, Conishead, Cartmel, Holland, Lathom: Valor of the monasteries	Hen. VIII
DL 43/19/1	Lancs, Westmor, Cumb: Lands of Conishead priory, Conishead, Ulverston, Swarthmoor, Lowick, Crake, Blawith, Torver, Bardsea, Urswick, Lancaster, Goosnargh, Ellel, Poulton le Sands, Bolton le Moors, Cartmel, Baysbrown, Kendal, Haverbrack, Whitbeck, Annaside, Hyton, Bootle, Corney, Force, Wickham, Calder Bridge, Ponsonby, Ravenglass, Ulverston rectory, Pennington rectory, Orton rectory, Hale rectory, Whitbeck rectory, Ponsonby rectory	1562
DL 43/4/17	Cartmel, Conishead, Burscough, Holland: Valor of possessions of the late priories	Hen. VIII.
DL 43/4/18	Cartmel, Conishead, Burscough, Holland: Valor of possessions of the late priories	Hen. VIII
DL 43/5/6	Cockersand, Cartmel, Conishead, Burscough, Holland: Valor of the dissolved priories	28 Hen. VIII
DL 43/5/7	Cockersand, Cartmel, Conishead, Burscough, Holland: Certificate of the commissioners for the survey of religious houses	28 Hen. VIII
DL 43/5/8	Conishead Priory: Rental of possessions.	28 Hen. VII
DL 43/5/9	Conishead Priory: Survey and valor.	28 Hen. VIII

Catalogue Ref	Title/Scope and Content	Covering Dates
DL 43/5/10	Conishead Priory: Survey of the demesne lands.	28 Hen. VIII
DL 43/5/11	Conishead Priory: Rental of the possessions.	28 Hen. VIII
DL 4/29/27	Jon v Doddinge and Philippson: Conishead: Lancs	Eliz. I
E 134/12Jas1/Mich12	Matthew Richardson v. Wm. Kylner, Peter Brigge, Jas. Geldart, Geo. Pearson, John Allenson.: Payment of "wheat farm rent" in the manor of Muchland. Customs of manor. [The names of Francis Preston, of Parkehouse (Lancaster), Henry Curwen, John Leckonbie, Edwd.	12 Jas. 1 1614
E 134/12Jas1/Hil17	Attorney-General, by the relation of Richd. Myers, Jas. Aiskewe, Wm. Geldart, and others, tenants of the manor of Michelland. v. Jas. Anderton, Wm. Hutton, Roger Harrington.: Bardsey More; whether parcel of the manor of Bardsey, lying in Furneis. Meets and bounds of manor.	12 Jas. 1 1614
E 134/12Wm3/Mich37	Thos. Lower, "doctor in phisick," Edmd. Denison, yeoman. v. Francis Petty, Joseph Richardson, Peter Bradshaw, Richd. Richardson, Thos. Richardson, junr., Timothy Cragge, Miles Hall, John Long, Thomas Bibby, Thos. Fleming, senr., Julian Dawson, widow, and other inhabitants of Dalton	12 Wm. 3
E 317/Lancs/11	Conishead: survey of the manor (3ff)	1658 Feb
E 317/Lancs/13	Conishead: survey of the manor (3ff)	1650 Feb
C 132/41/13	Peter de Brus (Bruce): Westmorland: Kirkby Kendal; Yorkshire: Skelton, Danby town, Yarm, Skelton, Thorp, Great Moorholme, Cromer, Elmeland, Coatham marsh, Redcar, Skelton, wreck of the sea from Yarm to Runswick, Skelton borough, Coatham marsh, Redcar, Marske, Brotton, Sedgwick, Skelton, Holm, Aysdale, Stanghow, Kate Ridding, Great Moorholme, Sedgwick, Marske, Dunsdale, Upleatham, Brotton, Scinergreve, Playgrive, Langbargh wapentake, Middlesborough church, Danby, Lealholm, Heckdale forest, Clither Beck, Yarm, Kirkburn, Eastburn, Southburn, Kirkburn, Tibthorp, Tipetoft township, Walton, Carlton, Thorp Arch; [Westmorland and Yorkshire]: Kendal castle, Kentmere dale, advowson of Conishead priory, wreck of the sea in Cleveland; [York and Westmorland]: Carlton, Thorp Arch, Walton manor, Tibthorp manor, Southburn, Eastburn, Kentmere dale, advowson of Nun Monkton, wreck of the sea in Cleveland; [Yorkshire]: Danby manor, Lealholm, Wood Dale, Manselinges, Brotton manor, Skinnergrave, Yarm, Gre	1272
C 143/117/5	Adam de Clayf, William de Clayf, and Thomas son of Gilbert to grant land in Tornergh to the prior and convent of Conishead. Lancs	9 Edward II
C 1/600/15	Thomas ... v. John, prior of Conishead: Detention of complainant's grant, under seal of the prior and convent, of the office of high steward of the monastery lands, and other deeds: Lancaster	1518-1529
BT 31/5280/36027	No. of Company: 36027; Conishead Ship Company Ltd	1892
BT 31/14601/12279	No. of Company: 12279; Conishead Priory Hydropathic Company Ltd	1878

Catalogue Ref	Title/Scope and Content	Covering Dates
BT 31/29675/217727	No. of Company: 217727; Conishead Priory Company Ltd	1926
SC 6/JASI/494	LANCASHIRE (and Isle of Man): Possessions of the dissolved religious houses of Cartmell, Conishead and Burscough assigned to the duchy of Lancaster	4 - 5 Jas. I
SC 6/JASI/495	LANCASHIRE (and Isle of Man): Possessions of the dissolved religious houses of Cartmell, Conishead, Burscough and Holland, assigned to the duchy of Lancaster. (Receiver)	4 - 5 Jas. I
COAL 75/1310	Conishead Priory Convalescent Home for Durham Mineworkers Management Committee Formation: Durham Division	1961-1964
COAL 77/3166	Derwent Colliery North Durham Area H.Q. Whitburn Conishead Priory Committee Formation: Northumberland & Durham Division	1948-1961
SP 5/5	26: Return of the Earl of Southampton, Chancellor of the Duchy, to above writ: Burscough, Conishead, Cartmel and Holland (i.e. Upholland)	
LR 14/1021	GRANTOR: William Tipper and Robert Dawe of London, gentlemen. GRANTEE: Edward Doddinge of London, esquire. PLACE OR SUBJECT: Copy of an indenture of sale of the site and demesne lands of the late priory of Conishead and of fishing in the river Crake, and of lands, etc	30 Eliz. I

Appendix 2: A Description of the Priory from 1848

From: *Some Ulverston Records* (Park 1932, 33)

Introduction: These following descriptions of the priory and outbuildings, transcribed from the particulars of sale date 17th October 1848, give some idea of the décor and furnishings of the Priory.

Second Floor: The upper floor contains The Yellow Velvet Bed Room, 24-ft square, dressing room, bath room and closet, two other bedrooms, a splendid room 24-ft square, with dressing room and water closet, two other bed rooms, and water closet. The Green Bed Room, 24 ft square, dressing room, four other bedrooms, bathroom, dressing room, and water closet; a bachelor's bedroom and closet.

First Floor: The Chintz Bed Room elegantly fitted up with a Dressing Room. The Old Oak Bed Room exquisitely finished in carved wainscot, with enriched ceiling in white and gold tablets, and medallion in carved oak. The State Bed Room (not finished) and dressing room. The Oriel Bed Room, closets, bathroom and water closet. The Point Lace Bed Room, 27-ft by 25, with dressing room, an organ gallery with groined arches in wainscot, leading to the west wing over the cloisters, where there are five bedrooms and water closet. The Lady's Bed Room, 26-ft by 24, and dressing room, bathroom and water closet, with boudoir, 27-ft by 16, handsome carved doors in white and gold, and costly statuary marble chimney-pieces. The Lancaster Tower Bed Room and dressing room; and on a vestibule are four servants' rooms, housemaids' closets, a store room and water closet. The housemaids' closets on the several floors are supplied with water. Towards the west wing are four men servants' bedrooms. Near the tower four bedrooms for visitors, servants and a washing closet; and up separate stairs near the kitchen are six bedrooms for female servants.

The Principal Floor: The north front which forms the grand Entrance, and the splendid window over it with the quarterings of the benefactors of the ancient priory, is a fine design; on each side are two Lantern Towers, which rise to the height of a 100-ft. The Hall is 60-ft in length and 24-ft in width, the height of the groining is 41-ft with foliated capitals, screens and pillared walls, finished in true baronial style, with fine and valuable suits of Norman chain mail, upwards of six centuries old, armours of the reign of Edward IV and other suits of the 16th century. The lancet windows exhibit rare and unique specimens of emblazoned painted glass, representing 'Our Saviour From His Infancy To His Ascension'. A raised platform, or dais leads to the cloisters, which are about 140-ft in length, and are approached through a richly ornamented screen with groined roof and organ gallery, the walls adorned with different kinds of arms and suits of black armour of the date of James I and Charles I. On this floor is The North Drawing Room (not completed), 40-ft by 24. The Blue Drawing Room (not quite finished), is 44-ft by 24. These rooms open to an octagon vestibule, 18-ft. diameter and form a noble suite of lofty rooms. The vestibule opens in a direct line from the cloisters to the East Terrace, and displays through glass doors, the estuary, Chapel Island, and promontory of Cartmel, &c.

The Saloon: 31-ft by 22, opens to a Summer Conservatory, 31-ft by 10-ft wide on the south. The Dining Room, 44-ft by 24, which is finished in carved oak, the Breakfast Room, 26-ft by 16, and Library. The whole (with the exceptions named) elegantly painted and papered, and finished in the most complete manner, with statuary and other costly chimney-pieces. Gentleman's dressing room, bathroom and water closet; Study with oak carvings, exquisitely finished. The Northern Tower, with winding staircase, 100-ft in height, commands a magnificent view. Near the Lancaster Tower on the southwest corner are winding stone stairs, which form a communication with the several floors and the South Terrace. A housekeeper's room, a noble kitchen with vaulted roof, with glazed terrace, with glazed turret, 33-ft by 27, a smaller kitchen, cook's sitting room, still room, two larders, a servants hall, 41-ft by 26, butler's bedroom, sitting room and pantry, housemaids parlour, lamp room, other rooms, and five cellars. A cockle and pipes to convey warm air throughout the ground floor. A patent apparatus for warming and forcing water into the baths, and Eastham's Ram forces water from the stream near the priory to the several floors. The adjoining rooms consist of a knife room, game larder, and other minor offices, a pump with pipe and well to receive the salt water for the use of the bathrooms.

Courtyard and Gardens: Spacious court yard, standing for six carriages, a six stall stable, two-three stall ditto, not finished loose box and two harness and saddle rooms with lofts and rooms over. A

handsome finished building, to correspond with the character of the Priory, which has a very good effect, with turreted towers and Saxon windows, and turret clock in the centre; this is appropriated for baking, brewing, &c. The continuous roof covers the barn, cart house, stabling, carpenter's shop, etc. a dairy, piggery, and infinity of outbuildings. The east, west and south of the priory open upon extensive terrace walks, eight hundred feet in length, with verdant lands and grounds, dressed everywhere with the most rare and valuable shrubs, tulip trees, magnolias, Cedars and foreign oak in the highest perfection.

A conservatory: of most elegant structure 78-ft in length, Gothic vestibule and ante-room, with a beautiful flower garden in front, 113-ft long and 110 feet wide. And towards the east of the priory is the Fountains Flower garden 158 feet in length. From these grounds you descend by a flight of many steps to the splendid American Garden and Arboretum, intersected with various walks and wide spreading Oaks, whose branches sweep the ground; the varied specimens of rare Fir are so judiciously interspersed as to give a striking effect to the several tints of foliage, amongst the examples is the great Sorrell tree of North America, considered one of the finest specimens in Europe. In the midst of these gardens is the ornamental Summer House; a grotto opening to a lake stocked with trout; the overflowing of this powerful stream is relieved by cascades; and at the termination of these falls is an elegant Swiss Fishing Cottage. On the top of a beautiful knoll in the park is a secluded hermitage, with a painted window of 'The Annunciation'. Near to this spot are the remains of a castle and circular tower, embosomed in ivy, Rookery and Ice house, Keeper's residence and kennels, the whole surrounded by the park and rich lands, together containing 424 acres and nine perches (more or less). The grazing portion as fine as in any of the richest feeding districts, and the arable of a deep alluvial soil congenial to the growth of wheat, barley and turnips.

Appendix 3: Particulars of Sale Poster, 1874

Particulars.

CONISHEAD PRIORY,
SITUATE IN
THE BAY OF MORECAMBE,

In the romantic vicinity of Furness Abbey, and in the District of the English Lakes,

It is in the Parish of Ulverstone, about twenty miles North West by West from the County Town of Lancaster, and two miles from the Station of the Whitehaven and Furness and Lancaster and Carlisle Railways, at the flourishing Market Town of Ulverstone.

THE GROUNDS ARE ENTERED BY LODGE GATES ON THE NORTH AND SOUTH:

The former, on the road from Ulverstone, with Towers and Fort-like adjuncts; the latter of neat Tudor Cottage character, on the road from Athingham, and the new important Port of Barrow. Hanging Woods and overspreading umbrage flank the drives, which are enriched also by hedges of American and other flowering shrubs in great variety.

THE MANSION

Is a noble and commanding Structure, Gothic in its style of Architecture, erected within the last forty years, from designs principally by the late eminent Architect, P. F. WYATT.

AT A COST OF CONSIDERABLY MORE THAN £100,000.

Its Site is that upon which once stood the ancient Priory of its name, dedicated "to God and St. Mary," and is surrounded by a moat

BEAUTIFUL AND EXTENSIVE PARK
AND
FERTILE LANDS,

Delightfully undulating and magnificently wooded—Chestnut, Elm, Beech, Birch, Pine, Sycamore, and other Native Forest Trees of all ages, including Timber Trees of great luxuriance and large dimensions, abounding upon the Estate. It may be safely affirmed that for salubrity of situation, for the picturesque beauty of its Scenery and Architecture, and for easy accessibility, the locality cannot be surpassed in England. The Mansion opens to the entrance front by

A GRAND HALL, 34 BY 24 FEET,

With groined and vaulted ceiling 50 feet in height, the walls enriched by canopied niches and moulded cornices, and lighted by stained Glass Windows, presenting Heraldic and other decorative devices, the principal window (over the door) bearing the quarterings of the original benefactors of the Priory, and three lancet windows on one side, (each about twenty feet in height) representing the principal events in the Life of our Saviour. On each side the door are

LANTERN TOWERS, RISING TO A HEIGHT OF 100 FEET,

Commanding views of great extent and varied beauty, embracing a wide range of Mountain Scenery, from the highest peak of Seawfell above West Water, including the Mountains above Coniston, Windermere, Keswick, and Ullswater in Cumberland, North Lancashire and Westmoreland, to the less elevated, but picturesque, Ingleborough, in Yorkshire; and forming, with the rich foreground of the Bay of Morecambe, the Viaduct across the estuary of the Leven, and other objects of interest, a scene not to be surpassed. At right angles with the Hall,

THE PRINCIPAL CORRIDOR, OR CLOISTERED AMBULATORY,
170 FEET IN LENGTH,

Plate 42: Poster advertising the sale of Conishead Priory in 1874 (DMC/CP2 1874)

Appendix 4: Improvements made during 1926-28

This information is transcribed from a special supplement to the *Ulverston Reminder: A Pictorial and Historical Souvenir of Conishead Priory* (CRO(K) WDX 427/2 1928).

Main improvements carried out during 1926-7-8

1. **Lake:** cleared of 2000 tons of dead foliage etc; increased depth all over to 3ft-6"; pleasure boat provided; new footpath 4ft broad; new waterfalls made; trout spawn to be added to lake in 1928; three rustic bridges built.
2. **Promenades:** East and South re-laid for motor traffic, using 800 tons of material from our own quarry.
3. **Roadway at East Door:** widened from 10 feet to 16ft6"
4. **West Drive:** Widened to 20 feet in eastern half and 15 feet in western half, is now being laid for Motor Traffic.
5. **Avenue of 100 Beech Trees** planted along north side of West Drive and a plantation of Ash Trees laid down in the old golf field.
6. **Bath-Sea Water Supply:** Now sufficient for 200 baths daily.
7. **Sanitary Arrangements:** thoroughly overhauled and many improved appliances added including four new bathrooms and a new cloakroom for ladies on the first floor.
8. **Decorations and Furnishings:** The Gent's Bath Corridor and Rooms have been painted throughout; twin single beds have replaced double beds in many of the rooms; much additional furniture has made the Hydro more comfortably and adequately furnished.
9. **Motor Workshop:** Well equipped, along with sanitary conveniences, has been added to the Garage.
10. **Fire Brigade and Equipment:** is completed and more than adequate.
11. **Library of a 1000 volumes added:** also series of Guide Books, complete set of telephone Directories, and a Magazine Table with over 30 Magazines and Newspapers.
12. **Maps:** Autocar (1926) of British Isles; Conishead Distance Map
13. **Lifebuoys:** Two installed on beach for use of bathers.
14. **Ladies Cottage:** and Swiss Fishing Chalet renovated.
15. **Cosy Corner:** established near Manager's House
16. **Grounds:** near paths cleared of undergrowth, and paths widened and sanded
17. **A "Roman Road" (?)** has been unearthed two feet below the surface in the grounds behind the Ladies Cottage, and the 18th Century Shipping Port has been opened out at the beach.
18. **Electric Lighting:** issued throughout
19. **Wireless** (5 valve) Set added
20. **Dark Room** for photography
21. **Bathing Mats** for Ladies and Gents
22. **Beach Shelter** built

Appendix 5: Census

Table 1: 1841 Census (HO 107/Piece 2274/Page 5)		
Name	Age	Occupation
Conishead Priory		
Thomas Braddyll	55	Ind.
Frances Braddyll	60	Ind.
Frances Braddyll	30	Ind.
Margaret Braddyll	25	Ind.
Jane Braddyll	20	Ind.
Eliza Verson	20	Maid
Penelope Hadfield	55	
Hannah Ogle	25	
Matilda Hard	30	
Mary Burrel	20	
Jessy Lower	15	
Betsy Skeeter	20	
Jane Sharp	20	
Mary Kirby	20	
Isabella Wiseman	20	
Dorothy Kirby	15	
Elizth Braithwaite	25	
Ralph Fran	25	
William Gammy	25	
Thomas Hodgson	30	
Joseph Crean	15	
James Beck	25	
Samuel Hayward	30	Upholsterer
John Bowersox	50	Cabinet maker
John Simpson	20	
Priory Lodge (North Lodge)		
Mary Hodgson	25	
Henry Hodgson	10m	
Margaret Holme	29	
Kennel House		
Thomas Willman	30	Gamekeeper
Isabella Willman	25	
Ann Willman	6	
Isabella Willman	3	
John Willman	2	
Thomas Willman	6m	

Table 2: 1851 Census (HO 107/Piece 2274/Page 5)		
Name	Age	Occupation
Conishead Priory		
Mary Beck	72	Housekeeper
James Beck	38	Agricultural
Priory Lodge (North Lodge)		
Robert Stalker	53	Agricultural labourer
Agnes Stalker	62	
Dog Kennel		
Thomas Willman	45	Gamekeeper
Isabella Willman	38	
Isabella Willman	13	
John Willman	11	

Thomas Willman	10	
Chapel Island		
Thomas Benson	40	Mariner
Betsy Benson	46	
George Wilson	17	Scholarship

Table 3: 1861 Census (RG9/3167/Folio 18/Page2)

Name	Age	Occupation
Conishead Priory		
Francis Askew	16	Scholar
Isabella Runciman	55	Private governess
Mary Longmale	50	Servant
Jane ?	31	Servant
Anne Leasdale	25	Servant
Sarah Leasdale	22	Servant
Mary Boyer	24	Servant
Michael Curwen	31	Coachman
Robert Utton	25	Groom
John Jordan	26	Gardener
Edward Anderson	21	Gardener
John Thompson	26	Gardener
Lodge		
Agnes Stalker	73	Gatekeeper
Lodge		
William Aldeston	31	Gamekeeper
Chapel Island		
Edward Barker	59	Fisherman
Dorothy Barker	56	Fisherman's wife
Richard Barker	36	Fisherman
Thomas Barker	34	Fisherman
William Barker	30	Fisherman

Table 4: 1871 Census (RG10/Piece 4240/Folio 18/Page 2-3)

Name	Age	Occupation
Conishead Priory		
Henry William Askew	62	Landed proprietor
Lucy Askew	59	
Charlotte E Askew	35	
Emily M Askew	33	
Francis L Askew	26	
Ann Mount	37	Housekeeper
Elizabeth Sill	27	Cook
Jane Cook	20	Kitchen Maid
Jane Carr	22	Housemaid
Elizabeth Wake	23	Ladies maid
William Peters	37	Butler
James Adgie	20	Footman
Charles Nicholls	34	Coachman
Thomas Crearry	21	Groom
Gardeners Cottage		
Alexander Brown	25	Gardener
Middle Lodge		
Thomas Sanders	49	Labourer
Mary Jane Sanders	20	
High Lodge		

Agnes Stalker	81	
Chapel Island		
Richard Barker	60	Quarry man
Thomas Barker	58	Quarry man
William Barker	40	Quarry man

Table 5: 1881 Census (RG11/Piece 4277/Folio 27/Page 15-19)

Name	Age	Occupation
Conishead Priory – Hydropathic establishment		
Francis G Grant	28	Manager
Christina Thompson	29	Housekeeper
Cordelia Higham	25	Telegraph clerk
James Smith	25	Bathman
Rose Ann Johnstone	32	Cuisemere
William Bladen	43	Night porter
Joseph Taylor	22	Coachman
Matilda Mc Gregor	23	Domestic servant
Catherine Winton	25	Domestic servant
Mary J. Balfour	24	Domestic servant
Mary J. Burrow	16	Domestic servant
Helen Cowan	25	Domestic servant
Agnes Aldcorn	17	Domestic servant
Kate Kassels	22	Domestic servant
Isabella Still	27	Domestic servant
Janet Winton	20	Domestic servant
Ada Walker	18	Domestic servant
Annie Burns	23	Domestic servant
Jane Veitch	25	Domestic servant
Janet Ferguson	19	Domestic servant
Agnes Barro	23	Domestic servant
Elizabeth Hodgson	24	Domestic servant
Margaret B. Donel	15	Domestic servant
Jane Mc Gregor	18	Domestic servant
William Stackhouse	15	Domestic servant
Hannah Telford	18	Domestic Servant
Janet L Martin	??	Boarder
Marion S Taylor	44	Boarder
May S Taylor	9	Boarder
James Keith	32	Boarder
Agnes B. Lennox	50	Boarder
David Lennox	22	Boarder
Gordon Lennox	7	Boarder
Agnes B. Lennox	12	Boarder
Thomas Marshall	31	Boarder (resident physician)
Alice Marshall	32	Boarder
Oliver Marshall	1	Boarder
Henretta McConnel	33	Boarder
George Patrickson	36	Boarder
Elizabeth A. Frost	48	Boarder
John Hall	59	Boarder – Wool merchant
Patrick Martin	67	Boarder – Retired cloth merchant
Wilson Waterfall	68	Boarder – Retired bank manager
Frances Martin	60	Boarder
Edith I. Sharp	25	Boarder
Eleanor M. Sharp	19	Boarder
William H. Saunders	28	Boarder – Commercial traveller

Reuben Wright	59	Boarder – Retired wool buyer
Fred Martin	36	Boarder – Woollen cloth manufacturer
Emma Buckley	49	Boarder
David Caruthurs	33	Boarder – Iron merchant / manufacturer
Agnes Caruthurs	22	Boarder
Isabella Railton	57	Boarder
Isabella Railton	20	Boarder
Annie Railton	14	Boarder
Mary R. Pattinson	27	Boarder
Theobald F. Butler	36	Boarder – Iron merchant
Margaret A. B. Hall	28	Boarder
John King	61	Boarder
Thomas M. Rowles	57	Boarder
Isabella E. Watso	30	Boarder
John H. Lace	43	Boarder
Geo. Buchanan	56	Boarder – Iron merchant
Mary M. Buchanan	27	Boarder
Patricia Bankhead	39	Boarder
William D. Mc Laren	25	Boarder – Student in theology
John P. Walton	42	Boarder – Mine owner
Frances M. Walton	33	Boarder
Joseph Rhodes	71	Boarder – Iron foundry owner
Grace Rhodes	63	Boarder
William Ranch	17	Boarder - Scholar
John Dennis	39	Boarder – Furnace builder
Rebecca Dennis	35	Boarder
Christopher Ling	43	Boarder – Corn merchant
Sarah Ling	36	Boarder
William D. Ling	8	Boarder
John R. Ling	2	Boarder
Christopher G. Ling		Boarder
Thomas Watson	60	Boarder - Silk manufacturer, JP
Helen Watson	56	Boarder
Robert S. Aitchison	24	Boarder - Stationer
William Blackburn	56	Boarder – Wool carder
Alice Watson	21	Boarder
Isabella B. Brown	28	Boarder
Catherine B. Brown	40	Boarder
Ada J. Watson	20	Boarder
Harriette Nicholls	63	Boarder
<i>Gardener's Lodge</i>		
Charles Milne	??	Gardener
Eliza Milne	32	
<i>Gardener's bothy (cottage)</i>		
James Adam	34	Gardener
John English	21	Gardener
John L Stackman	18	Gardener
<i>Gardener's bothy (cottage)</i>		
Robert Redpath	25	Bath attendant
Betsy Redpath	25	
Isabella Redpath	2	
<i>Gate Lodge</i>		
Peter Milne	25	House porter
Christina Milne	23	

Table 6: 1891 Census (HRG12/Piece 3476/Folio 40/Page 51-54)		
Name	Age	Occupation
<i>Priory Lodge</i>		
Alexander Grant	34	Gardener and overseer
Elizabeth Grant	32	
Leah Grant	9	
<i>Priory Middle Lodge</i>		
Evan Fraser	55	Gardener
Ann Fraser	49	Dairy maid
<i>Priory Bathman's Lodge</i>		
Robert Redpath	35	Bath attendant
Elizabeth Redpath	35	
Isabella Redpath	12	
William Redpath	8	
Herbert Redpath	7	
Elizabeth Redpath	5	
<i>Priory Bothy</i>		
Richard Stainton	41	Drover, cattleman
Andrew Alexander	22	Gardener
John Lyall	20	Gardener
William Mooney	16	Apprentice gardener
<i>Conishead Priory – Hydropathic establishment</i>		
Isa Wright	26	Manageress of Hydropathic Co.
Jessie C McMurtrie	35	Cashier
Arthur Young	55	Visitor – Woollen merchant
Sarah Young	55	Visitor – Living on her own means
Mary E Young	21	Visitor
Fon L Jackson	26	Visitor - Surgeon
Robert G Roberts	29	Visitor – General practitioner
Sarah A E Roberts	23	Visitor
George E Burrows	29	Visitor – Woollen manufacturer
Thomas W Anderson	37	Visitor – Vicar of Temple Sowerby
Ann I Anderson	35	Visitor
Thomas A Holland	39	Visitor
Thomas K Marphy	54	Visitor – Retired civil engineer
Peter Huddart	72	Visitor – Retired ship owner
Henry Euler	47	Visitor – Wool merchant
William P Euler	15	Visitor
John Schofield	63	Visitor – Retired dyer
Elizabeth Schofield	63	Visitor
Ellen Schofield	33	Visitor
Richard Ripley	55	Visitor – Blue manufacturer
Lilian W Ripley	27	Visitor
Florence E Ripley	20	Visitor
John K Boyd	61	Visitor – Flass spinner
Anna Boyd	55	Visitor
Emma S Boyd	35	Visitor
Bessie Boyd	20	Visitor
Arthur G Smith	43	Visitor – Chemical agent
Isabella D Smith	38	Visitor
Dorothy B Smith	1	Visitor
Henry Sheerman	54	Visitor
Elizabeth Sheerman	45	Visitor
Jane Swan	50	Visitor – Wife of a general merchant
John Paterson	39	Visitor – Ironworks manager
Elizabeth Paterson	44	Visitor

George D Paterson	13	Visitor
John Paterson	11	Visitor
Mary S Paterson	6	Visitor
Matilda M Le Rossignol	56	Visitor – Proprietress of houses
Mary E Mantell	33	Visitor – Wife of a hotel proprietor
William R Jones	35	Visitor – Secretary to Caledonian Insurers
Mary Jones	32	Visitor
Hannah G Perks	42	Visitor – Living on her own means
Sarah Knowles	21	Visitor – Domestic servant (nurse)
Margaret J Fell	20	Visitor – Domestic servant (housemaid)
Julia F Johnson	33	Visitor – Living on her own means
Elizabeth Gates	32	Visitor – Hospital nurse
Mary Ennis	48	Visitor – Hospital nurse
Sarah Stewart	26	Upholsterer
Mina Mc Lean	28	Cook
Eliza J Vincent	15	Pantry maid
Soaphoar Mc Lean	16	Pantry maid
Margaret A Parry	21	Pantry maid
Ann Lyon	20	Pantry maid
Annie Jewell	20	Waitress
Jessie Duff	36	Waitress
Mary A Watson	29	Waitress
Isabel Cherry	19	Waitress
Sarah E Wilson	16	Scullery maid
Mary E Ward	22	Scullery maid
Margaret Argo	2020	House maid
Mary McKechnie	24	House maid
Emily Halsall	17	House maid
Florence Spencer	19	House maid
Agnes A Smith	18	House maid
Bridget Mulholland	27	House maid
Annie McPhun	23	House maid
Hettie Barnfield	21	Kitchen maid
Nellie Brew	18	Kitchen maid
Mary Lennan	26	Laundress
Annie Lennan	19	Laundress
Agnes Douglas	37	Laundress
Elizabeth S McIvor	34	Linen maid
Annie Ohara	45	Bath attendant
John Stainton	34	House porter
John J Cherry	39	Waiter
George R S Ross	15	Office Boy
James Storey	14	Kitchen Boy
Thomas Morris	20	Boots (cleaner ?)
John H Davidson	16	Page boy
Priory Middle Lodge		
Evan Fraser	55	Gardener
Ann Fraser	49	Dairy maid

Table 7: 1901 Census (HO 107/Piece 2274/Page 5)

Name	Age	Occupation
Conishead Priory		
Samuel J Summerson	49	Visitor - Iron trade, railway plant manufacturer
Dorothy Worth Summerson	27	

Walter Thorp	63	Visitor - Colliery agent and proprietor
Edith Thorp	22	Visitor -
Alex McDougall	63	Visitor – Master mariner, seas
Florence A Jackson	45	Visitor -
Clara E L Grieve	23	Clerk
Joseph F Hodgson	49	Visitor – Independent means
Bessie Hodgson	44	Visitor -
Sarah Tweedy	44	Visitor -
Edith M Elles	24	Visitor -
William D Ellis	26	Visitor - Merchant
Mary Kleinwort	68	Visitor -
Louisa Kleinwort	31	Visitor -
Lizzie K T Dubson	27	Visitor –House Keeper
Arthur A Cole	33	Visitor –Draper, house furnisher
Mary Cole	24	Visitor -
Mary Leach	56	Visitor -
John Shallcross	68	Visitor – Retired corn merchant
Emma Shallcross	64	Visitor -
Sarah Jane Sharp	45	Visitor -
Mary E Winterbottom	37	Visitor -
Sarah E Saville	40	Visitor – Journalist, author
Maud M Middlemost	39	Visitor -
Clara H Middlemost	30	Visitor -
Alexander S Bridgeford	28	Hall porter
Thomas Buchan	24	Servant - boots
Annie M Jackson	19	Servant
Ellen Slavin	19	Servant
Charlotte Crewdson	22	Servant
Mary Jane Salvin	21	Servant
Mary D McLean	34	Waitress
Jeannie W Gillen	21	Kitchen maid
Sarah Allen	45	Cook
Eliza Quayle	23	Housemaid
Mary Brown	21	Housemaid
Margaret Obrien	18	Housemaid
Mary Quayle	19	Linen maid
Annie Farrell	23	Housemaid
Annie Wilding	14	Hall maid
Mary Farrell	21	Laundry maid
Sarah J Brown	28	Laundry maid
Thomas Jones	16	Servant - boots
Jennie Cottell	28	Maid
Frances E Garrett	34	Bath maid
Priory Gate Lodge		
David Ferguson	34	Joiner on estate, carpenter
Christine Ferguson	35	
Margaret Ferguson	4	
Mary Ferguson	1	
Priory Lodge		
Peter Keiller	34	Manager of Hydropathic Co.
Elizabeth Keiller	33	
William D Keiller	6	
James Jane Keiller	4	
Agnes E Keiller	2	
Thomas Alex Keiller	1m	
John William Pawson	40	Bathman
Esther Pawson	41	Laundress

<i>The Bothy</i>		
William Rock	25	Gardener
William Johnson	24	Stockman on farm
Peter Durham	16	Gardener
Harry Walker	18	Gardener
James Whiting	18	Gardener
William G Gudgeon	21	Gardener
Joseph B Ward	22	Driver
John Thompson	28	Coachman

Appendix 6: Site Gazetteer

Site No. 1**SMR Number: 16047****Site Name:** Furness Railway Bardsea Branch, Ulverston**NGR:** 330630 477550**Description:** Site of the Bardsea Branch line of the Furness Railway running to a station at Conishead Priory. It originally ran some distance to the south but was never completed.**Sources:** Ordnance Survey 1891; McGowan Gradon 1946; Batty and Peascod 1996

Site No. 2**SMR Number: 16027 and 5324****Site Name:** Sandhall Brick Works, Ulverston**NGR:** 330400 476620**Description:** Site of Sandhall Brick Works and kilns. A brick works that grew out of a small enclosure labelled 'Brick Croft' on Binns' estate plan of 1846. This was probably originally a kiln established to provide bricks for the rebuilding of Conishead Priory, commencing in 1821 (see Site 05 below). After the sale of the estate it was taken over as a private brick works and expanded onto the north side the road. It later formed part of a larger complex connected to adjoining sites by a building mineral railway.**Sources:** CRO(B) BDHJ Plan 20 1846; Ordnance Survey 1891; McKeever and Layfield 2004, 120-123

Site No. 3**SMR Number: 16028****Site Name:** Brick Kiln Road Culvert, Ulverston**NGR:** 330450 476565**Description:** Site of Culvert.**Sources:** Ordnance Survey 1850

Site No. 4**SMR Number: 16001****Site Name:** Ulverston Wireworks**NGR:** 330510 476570**Description:** Site of Ulverston wire works. A chimney is all that remains. There is little recorded history of the site, although it was in existence by 1882.**Sources:** Ordnance Survey 1891; McKeever and Layfield 2004, 126

Site No. 5**SMR Number: 5324****Site Name:** Conishead Priory Brick Kiln, Ulverston,**NGR:** 330362 476545**Description:** A "Brick Ground" and "New Brick Kiln Field" are shown on an estate plan from 1846 of Conishead Priory. This later grew into the Sandhall Brick works (see Site 2 above).**Sources:** CRO(B) BDHJ/Plan 20 1846

Site No. 6**SMR Number: 5325****Site Name:** Conishead Priory Mill Meadow, Ulverston,**NGR:** 330481 476225

Description: A "mill meadow" is shown on an 1846 estate plan of Conishead Priory, indicating a mill in this area. The grid reference given is the approximate centre of the field 'Mill Meadow'. This is likely to be the general location of a mill; one of two that seem to have existed on the site from at least 1548.

Sources: CRO(B) BDHJ Plan 20 1846; Farrer and Brownbill 1914, 352n

Site No. 7

SMR Number: 16014

Site Name: Hermitage Hill Bridge, Ulverston

NGR: 330324 476243

Description: Site of a bridge variously described as a wooden bridge (Ordnance Survey 1850) and a foot bridge (Ordnance Survey 1891).

Sources: Ordnance Survey 1850; Ordnance Survey 1891

Site No. 8

SMR Number: 16043

Site Name: Hydraulic Ram, Ulverston

NGR: 330416 476174

Description: Site of Hydraulic ram.

Sources: Ordnance Survey 1891

Site No. 9

SMR Number: 16037

Site Name: Conishead Priory Fishpond, Ulverston

NGR: 330480 475990

Description: Site of fishpond. This is a classic-shaped medieval monastic fishpond, belonging to Conishead Priory. The Ordnance Survey map of 1850 also shows another fishpond, utilising a natural river course at Conishead Bank and controlled by a sluice. The date of this fishpond is not known. The course of the fishpond had to be culverted with the construction of the Furness Railway, Bardsea Branch, sometime before 1900. The former fishpond appears on modern maps as a stream.

Sources: Ordnance Survey 1850; R Newman pers comm. 14/6/2005

Site No. 10

SMR Number: 2389

Site Name: Conishead Priory Grotto, Ulverston

NGR: 330080 476195

Description: There is a deep grotto near the remains of a hermitage (SMR2387). Thought to be 18th or 19th century and built by the Braddylls. It is said that a bearded tramp was installed in the cave and passed off as a hermit by Colonel Thomas Braddyll.

Sources: Jopling 1843, Curwen 1903; Gaythorpe 1903

Site No. 11

SMR Number: 2387

Site Name: Conishead Priory Hermitage, Ulverston

NGR: 330050 476175

Description: A small building, cruciform in plan, constructed of limestone blocks, once roofed over, with a pointed arch, but now roofless and ruined with walls standing 1-2 m high. The interior is overgrown and interior features are gone. There were fragments of a large sandstone cross apparently situated within it in 1903. The chapel appears to have been erected in the late 18th or early 19th century by the Braddylls – it is clearly shown on Smith's plan of 1822 and so must predate it.

Sources: 462-smith/Box 16/Folder 1/1 1822; Jopling 1843, Curwen 1903; Gaythorpe 1903

Site No. 12**SMR Number: 2390****Site Name:** Conishead Priory Tower, Ulverston**NGR:** 330122 476097

Description: Jopling suggests there was formerly an earlier castle here, but according to other sources, the towers are follies built by the Braddyls in the 18th or 19th century. One tower remains. It is octagonal, built of stone, slate and brick in Gothic style, with a small window on each face. The tower appears to have been connected to a second tower, the remains of which at one time consisted of a circular mound of grass-covered stones, 4m in diameter, 0.3 m high, and hollowed at the centre. There is a distance of approximately 12m between the two towers. Listed Grade II.

Sources: Jopling 1843; Ayre 1887, 8; Anon c1895a

Site No. 13**SMR Number: 11158****Site Name:** Conishead Priory Field Boundaries, Ridge and Furrow, Ulverston**NGR:** 329600 476200

Description: Old field boundaries and ridge and furrow are visible on an aerial photograph. The fields have been improved; the remains of field boundaries are still evident, but the ridge and furrow is fairly faint now (November 2001).

Sources: CCC n.d. b

Site No. 14**SMR Number: 16044****Site Name:** Conishead Priory Gas works, Ulverston**NGR:** 330560 476020

Description: Site of Gas works (gasometer and tanks). Subsequently marked as a pumping station.

Sources: Ordnance Survey 1891

Site No. 15**SMR Number: 16046****Site Name:** Priory Railway Station, Ulverston**NGR:** 330730 476030

Description: Site of Conishead Priory railway station on Bardsea branch of the Furness railway (SMR 16047).

Sources: Ordnance Survey 1891

Site No. 16**SMR Number: 16033****Site Name:** Conishead Priory Culvert, Ulverston**NGR:** 330550 475980

Description: Site of a culvert, north-east of Conishead Priory.

Sources: Ordnance Survey 1850

Site No. 17**SMR Number: 2391**

Site Name: Conishead Priory Port, Ulverston

NGR: 330937 475768

Description: Directly opposite Chapel Island at the end of the avenue from Conishead Priory, which is on the line of an old iron ore track, there are remains of the wooden supporting posts of a landing stage. This extends 35m from high to low water mark. They were formerly said to be mooring posts, and comprise a timber construction. It may be medieval monastic in origin, or post-medieval and associated with iron ore shipments.

Sources: R Newman pers comm. 2005

Site No. 18

SMR Number: 41206

Site Name: The Warren, Conishead Priory, Ulverston

NGR: 330700 475900

Description: Medieval monastic rabbit warren, still shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1850. The warren was truncated by the construction of the Furness Railway, Bardsea Branch (SMR 16047), sometime before 1900.

Sources: Ordnance Survey 1850

Site No. 19

SMR Number: 41207

Site Name: The Warren Sand Pit, Conishead Priory, Ulverston

NGR: 330730 476030

Description: Sand pit shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1850, excavated within the area of a medieval monastic rabbit warren (SMR 41206).

Sources: Ordnance Survey 1850

Site No. 20

SMR Number: 16038

Site Name: Conishead Priory Fountain, Ulverston

NGR: 330480 475820

Description: Site of Fountain in grounds of Conishead Priory.

Sources: Ordnance Survey 1850

Site No. 21

SMR Number: 2395

Site Name: Axe Find, Conishead Priory, Ulverston

NGR: 330460 475790

Description: A polished stone axe found "near Conishead Priory" before 1893 about 6 ft below the ground surface. It is of grey fine-grained stone, the ends chipped only, the two faces polished in facets lengthwise, the sides quite sharp, surface covered with a brown deposit. Length: 14½ inches. Presented to the British Museum.

Sources: Harrison 1896, 9; Gaythorpe 1909b, 210

Site No. 22

SMR Number: 2392

Site Name: Conishead Priory and Leper Hospital, Ulverston

NGR: 330460 475790

Description: Conishead Priory: originally a leper hospital founded in c1154, it became an Augustinian priory c1180, which was dissolved in 1536. The present structure, built c1821, was designed by Philip

Wyatt and George Webster, and is probably on the site of an earlier residence as well as the priory. There are said to be some old carved stones in the foundations on the south side near the west end. Foundations of the priory church were traced in 1823 under the lawns to the south of the present building. The church appeared to be ca 100 ft in length. An excavation in 1928 revealed almost the complete plan of the church, which was cruciform in shape. The conventual buildings were north of the church and have now been built on. Finds included: tiles, slates, various building materials, glass, flagons, pot sherds, animal bones, human remains, etc. Nothing can be seen of the remains of the priory which are either under the lawns or built on.

Site No. 23**SMR Number: 2393****Site Name:** Conishead Priory Drain, Ridge and Furrow, Ulverston**NGR:** 330460 475790

Description: Some of the drainage system for the medieval priory is still evident. There are three known channels leading away from the site. At SD 30267577 is a sump, a circular pit approx 3m in diam, lined with stone, vaulted with modern brick. There is a stone culvert in the east side. At SD 30447562 is a similar sump, also bricked over. A second stone culvert leads due north in the direction of the priory for c170m. There is also said to be a third channel which extends in a north-east direction from the priory for a distance of c150m, but this is partly covered over by the present mansion. This drained directly into the sea.

On the aerial photos, Conishead Priory and its environs are visible, as are ridge and furrow in the surrounding fields.

Sources: CCC n.d. d-f

Site No. 24**SMR Number: 16036****Site Name:** Little Head Wood Ice House, Ulverston**NGR:** 330010 475810**Description:** Site of Ice House.**Sources:** Ordnance Survey 1850

Site No. 25**SMR Number: 11046****Site Name:** Conishead Priory Ridge and Furrow, Ulverston**NGR:** 330300 475700

Description: Ridge and furrow visible on aerial photographs of Conishead Priory and environs. See also SMR Nos. 2392 and 2393.

Sources: CCC n.d. d-f



Plate 43: Ridge and furrow west of Conishead Priory (Site 25; CCC n.d. e)

Site No. 26

SMR Number: 16029

Site Name: Red Lane Culvert, Urswick

NGR: 330745 475735

Description: Site of culvert.

Sources: Ordnance Survey 1850

Site No. 27

SMR Number: 16031

Site Name: Beech Wood Culvert, Conishead, Urswick

NGR: 330780 475730

Description: Site of culvert.

Sources: Ordnance Survey 1850

Site No. 28

SMR Number: 16032

Site Name: Conishead Estate Summer House, Urswick,

NGR: 330880 475710

Description: Site of summer house south-east of Conishead estate. Known as the 'Ladies' Cottage'.

Sources: Ordnance Survey 1850

Site No.29

SMR Number: 4247

Site Name: Conishead Roman Road, Urswick,

NGR: 330000 475000

Description: A stretch of "Roman road" that ran through the grounds of the Priory was excavated in 1928. There were two roads, one above the other. The upper was 1ft under ground level, loosely paved with small stones. The other was 2ft below. This was 25ft wide, paved with cobbles, with an outer paving of larger cobbles and wide ditches on each side. Down the centre of each track were deep grooves or cart ruts. The only finds were related to the iron ore traffic.

Sources: Kelly 1930; Elsworth 2007

Site No. 30

SMR Number: 11041

Site Name: Priory Park Earthwork

NGR: 329980 475640

Description: A square earthwork platform, which may be 19th century, is visible in an aerial photograph.

Sources: CCC n.d. c

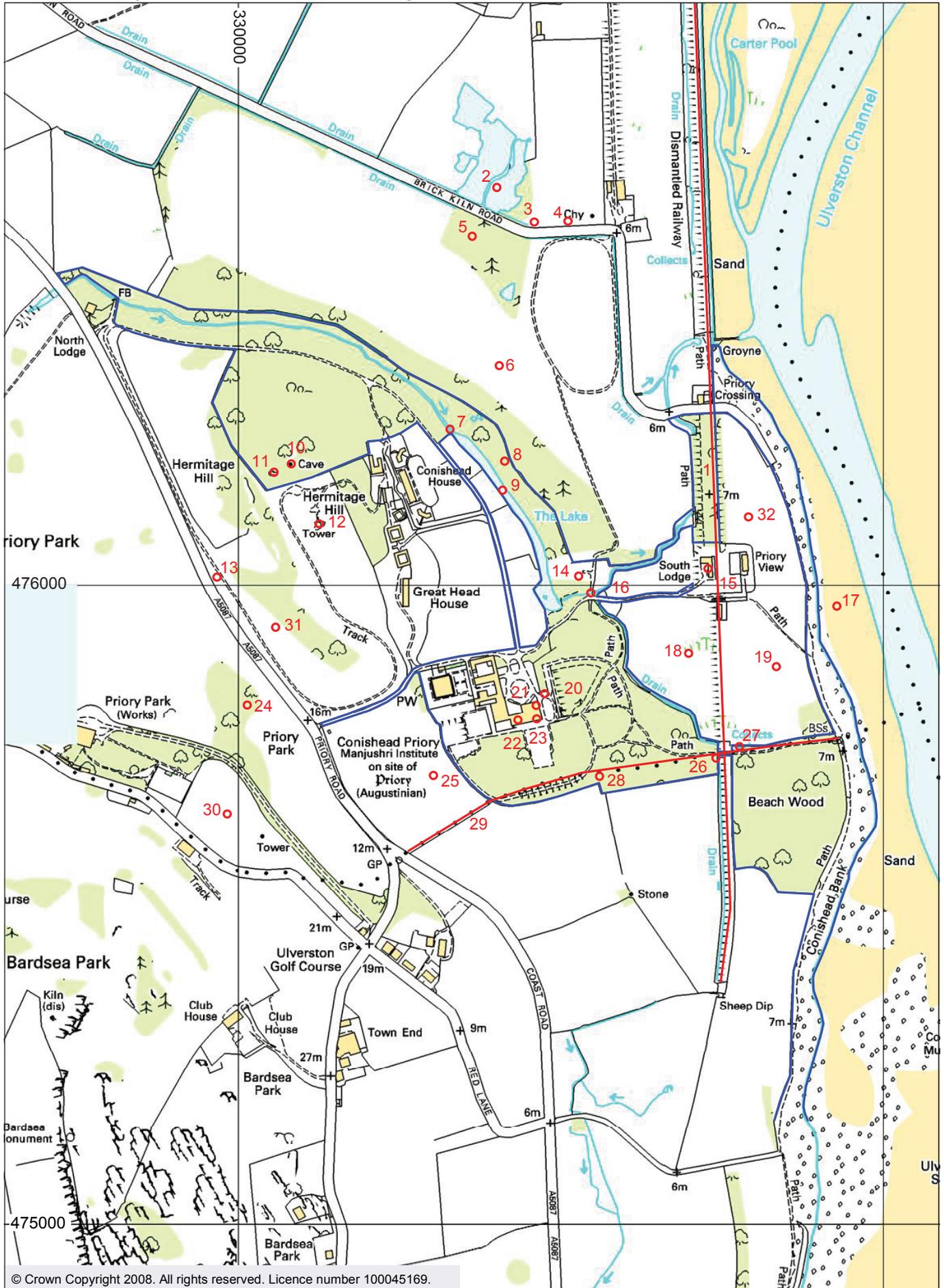


Plate 44: Earthwork in Priory Park (Site 30; CCC n.d. c)

Site No. 31**SMR Number: 11000****Site Name:** Conishead Priory Dykes, Ulverston**NGR:** 330000 476000**Description:** Dykes in Conishead Park are visible on an aerial photograph.**Sources:** CCC n.d. a

Plate 45: Conishead Priory Dykes (Site 31; CCC n.d. a)

Site No. 32**SMR Number: 11052****Site Name:** Ulverston Unclassified Earthworks**NGR:** 330850 476150**Description:** Site of earthworks and possibly part of the old coastline are visible on an aerial photograph.**Sources:** CCC n.d. g



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Figure 2: Gazetteer site plan