
NORTH PENNINES HERITAGE TRUST

Project Designs and Client Reports No.CP59/03

**REPORT ON
A LEVEL 2
BUILDING SURVEY AT
TARN, FELL END
NEAR RAVENSTONEDALE
CUMBRIA**

NGR: SD 7196 9758
Planning Application Reference No.3/03/0277

For

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5th September 2003



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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The North Pennines Heritage Trust was commissioned by Philip Mells in July 2003 to undertake a level 2 building survey of the barn adjoining Tarn, Fell End, Kirkby Stephen in Cumbria (NGR SD 7196 9758). The work was carried out on behalf of the owner Mr. Philip Mells, prior to the conversion and alteration of the barn to use as an outdoor centre.
- 1.2 A brief was produced by the County Archaeology Service of Cumbria County Council. This required a record of the building prior to the commencement of building work in accordance with guidance given in Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 (Planning and the Historic Environment) and Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (Archaeology and Planning), as well as with Policy 26 of the County Structure Plan and Eden Local Plan (Planning application number 3/03/0277). To meet these requirements a Level 2 Building Survey, as specified in *Recording Historic Buildings: A Descriptive Specification*¹, was carried out.
- 1.3 The barn, adjoining Tarn, Fell End (Plate 1) in the Parish of Ravenstonedale is not designated as a listed building, but is recorded on the County Sites and Monuments Record, reference 40002. The building is in a good state of repair and is currently used as a general-purpose storehouse.
- 1.4 The survey was carried out during early August 2003 by Philip Cracknell BA (Hons), AIFA and Fiona Wooler BA (Hons).

2. SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 The farm and barn are sited on the northern side of the valley of the River Rawthey (Figure 1) in the Howgill Fells.
- 2.2 The barn is sited at a height of c.290 metres above mean sea level in an area of scattered farmsteads between Ravenstonedale and Sedbergh (Figure 1).
- 2.3 This is an area of open moorland, rocky limestone outcrops and small fields with drystone field walls, and is more characteristic of the North Yorkshire Dales than the rest of Cumbria.

3. AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 THE BUILDING SURVEY

3.1.1 The survey consisted of three basic elements:

- A written account
- A measured survey with accompanying drawings
- A photographic record

3.2 The written account is included in this document together with a selection of photographs and plans from the on-site drawn survey.

3.3 The photographic archive consists of:

- A series of 35mm black and white prints, which include general views of the exterior of the buildings, elevations and part elevations, along with specific external and internal details (e.g. windows, doorways etc).
- A series of 35mm colour prints showing general views of the exterior of the building and its setting.
- A series of 35mm transparencies showing general views of the building and its setting.
- A series of digital views of the exterior of the building, the interior of the building and specific internal details (e.g. roof trusses, carvings etc) supplied on CD-Rom.

3.4 Project Archive

3.4.1 The full archive of the desk-based assessment and Level 2 building survey has been produced to a professional standard in accordance with the current English Heritage guidelines set out in the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (MAP) 2nd Edition 1991). The archive will be deposited with the County Record Office and a copy of the report given to the County Sites and Monuments Record where viewing will be available on request.

4. PREVIOUS WORK

- 4.1 No previous archaeological work has been carried out at the site.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1 THE BARN SURVEY (Figure 2 and Plate 1).

- 5.1.1 The building is rectangular, measuring c.13 metres by c.6.50 metres with a large porch and double doors in the eastern gable end (Plate 3), and a smaller porch on the southern elevation (Plate 2). The range of farm buildings including the barn, are built along the contour line of the steep valley side, aligned virtually east-west.
- 5.1.2 The farm and barn are built of coursed limestone rubble masonry. The ground floor of the barn (Figure 3a) is divided up into three rooms with three doors allowing access on the northern elevation (Plate 4) and two doors on the southern elevation (Plate 2). The first floor is open and of four bays (Figure 3b) with the only access via the double doors in the eastern elevation (Plate 3). The barn is of two storeys throughout.
- 5.1.3 The barn has been added to the existing range of farm buildings. At the western end of the barn, the eastern gable of the adjoining building has been incorporated within the fabric of the western wall of the barn. There is a blocked window with a wooden lintel visible inside the barn in the western wall at first floor level (Plate 5). Similarly, the roof line of the gable end of the adjoining building is visible above the blocked window (Plate 5).
- 5.1.4 On the northern elevation, towards the western end of the barn there is a clear vertical construction break at ground floor level (Figure 3a and Plate 6), which marks the original eastern end of the adjoining building. At the western end of the barn, on both the northern elevation (Plate 7) and the southern elevation (Plate 8), the large quoinstones, evident at the south-eastern and north-eastern corners, have only been added above the eaves level of the adjoining building.
- 5.1.3 There have been no apparent alterations or additions to the original barn, except for the blocking of a small window on the southern elevation near the western end (Figure 3a and Plate 9).

6. THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- 6.1 The scope of the brief does not allow for any documentary research.
- 6.2 On the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1867, the range of farm buildings are shown as they exist today (Figure 4).
- 6.3 The inner faces of the double doors on the eastern gable end are covered in graffiti. The earliest inscription, placed centrally on the right-hand door is:

G.F. 1850
(See Plate 10)

- 6.4 Inscribed on the southern jamb of the porch on the eastern gable end are the letters:

G F
(See Plate 11)

- 6.5 Inscribed on the first roof truss at the eastern end of the barn opposite to the entrance in the eastern gable end:

G F 1850
(See Plate 12)

- 6.6 It could be tentatively suggested that the reoccurrence of the initials G F, accompanied by the date 1850, in prominent positions, are the initials of the owner or the tenant of the farm at the time of the barns construction.
- 6.7 However, it should be borne in mind that only further documentary research would confirm this suggestion.

7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The bank barn is not a listed building and is clearly not of national importance. It is, however, a good example of a 19th century barn in an area of Cumbria that is significantly different in character to the rest of the county. In particular, at least five of the six doors appear to be original and retain the original hinges, door-latches etc.
- 7.2 The internal faces of the barn walls have been recently pointed. Every effort should be made to retain the character of the building, i.e. the external faces of the barn walls should not be pointed, and where possible, the doors with their 19th century fittings should be retained. In short, the building is a good example of a true Cumbrian bank barn² of mid-nineteenth century date.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Recording Historic Buildings: A Descriptive Specification, Third Edition, RCHME, 1996

1867 Ordnance Survey First Edition Map

Brunskill, RW, London, 2002, Traditional Buildings of Cumbria

Denyer, S, London, 1991, Traditional Buildings and Life in the Lake District

9. NOTES

¹ Recording Historic Buildings: A Descriptive Specification, Third Edition, RCHME, 1996

² Brunskill, RW, Pg.105

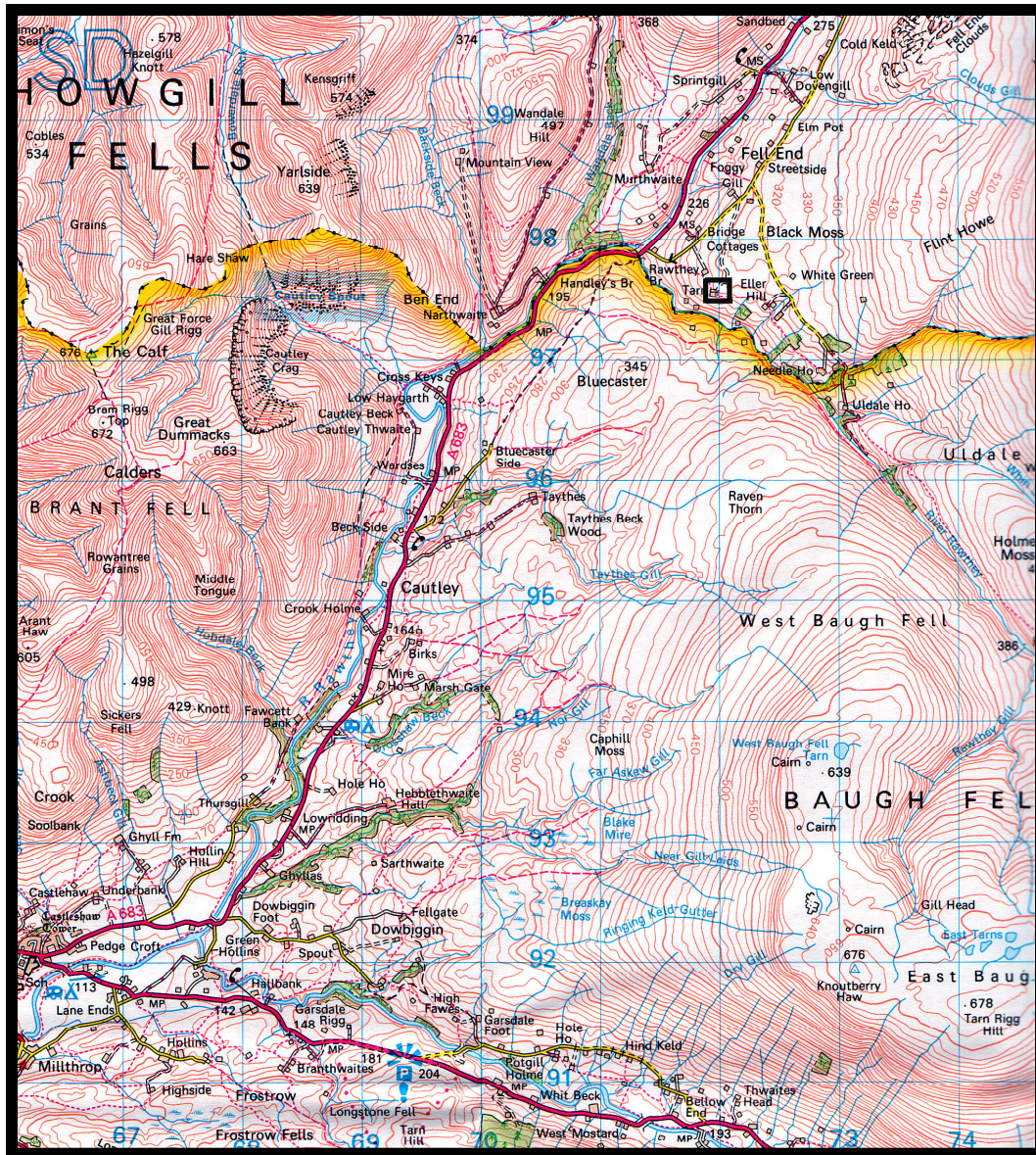


Figure 1

Site Location.

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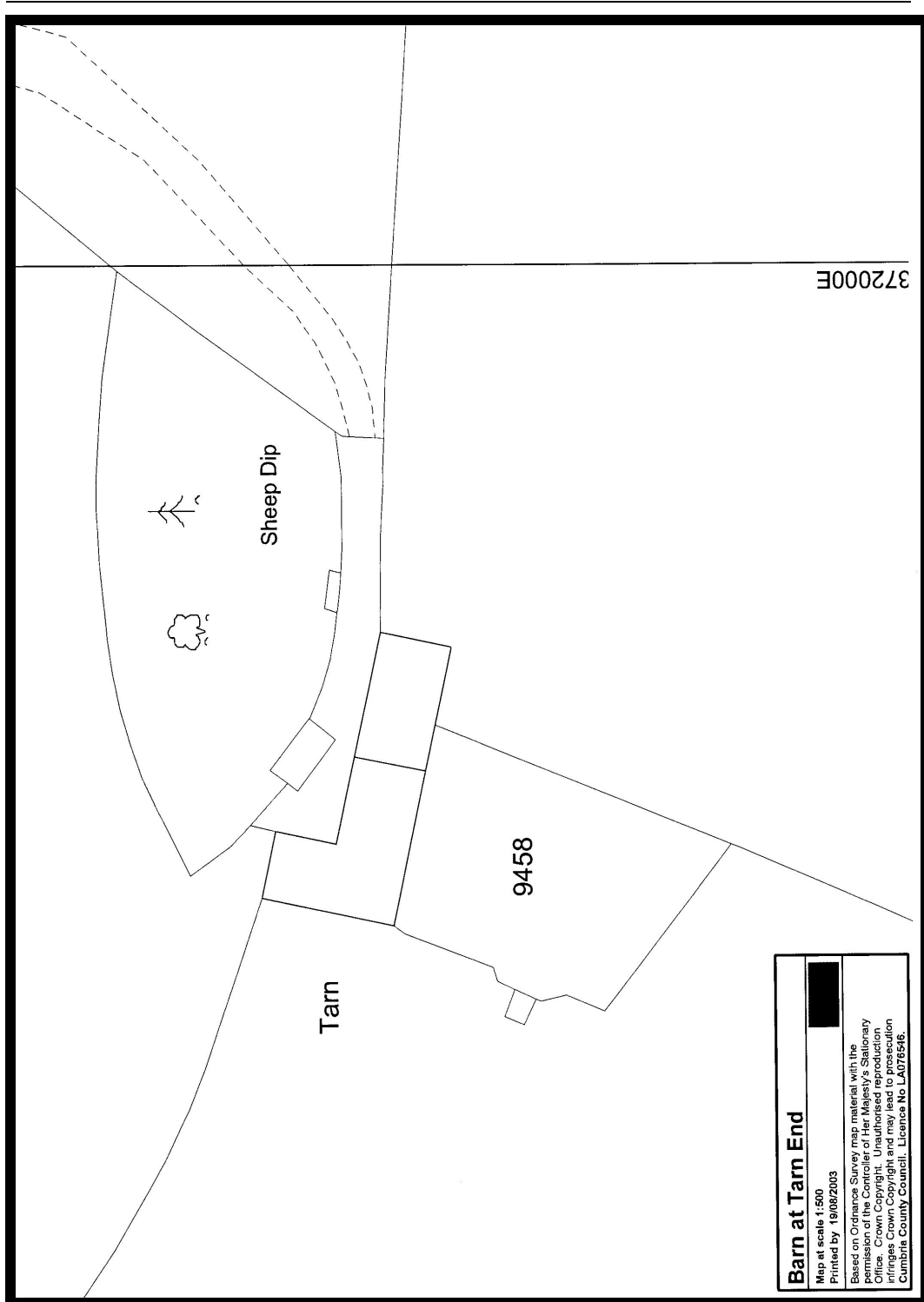


Figure 2
Site plan. Tarn, Fell End near Ravenstonedale.
(Scale 1:500)

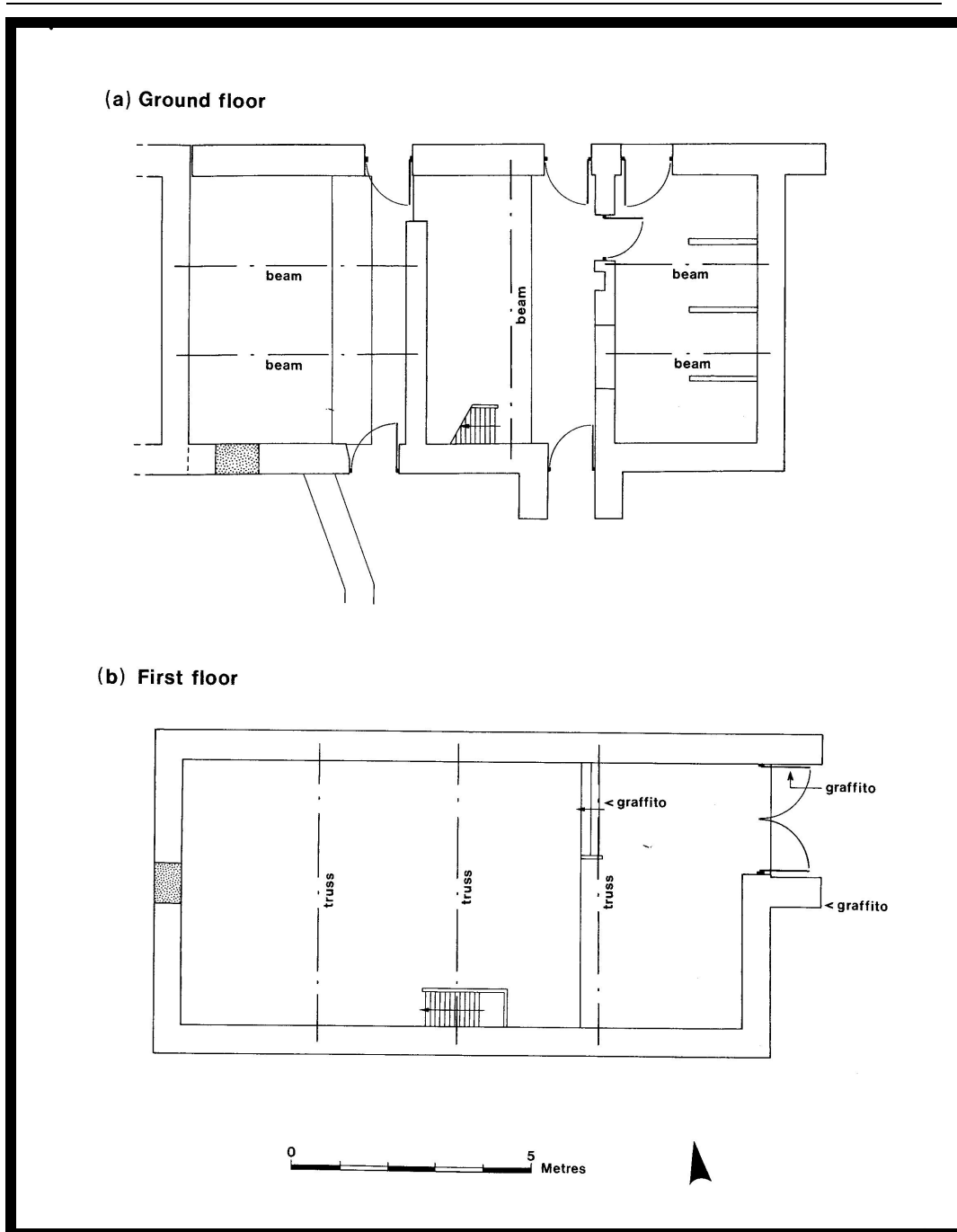


Figure 3
Ground floor plan (a), First floor plan (b).
(Scale 1:100; Illustration: P. Cracknell)

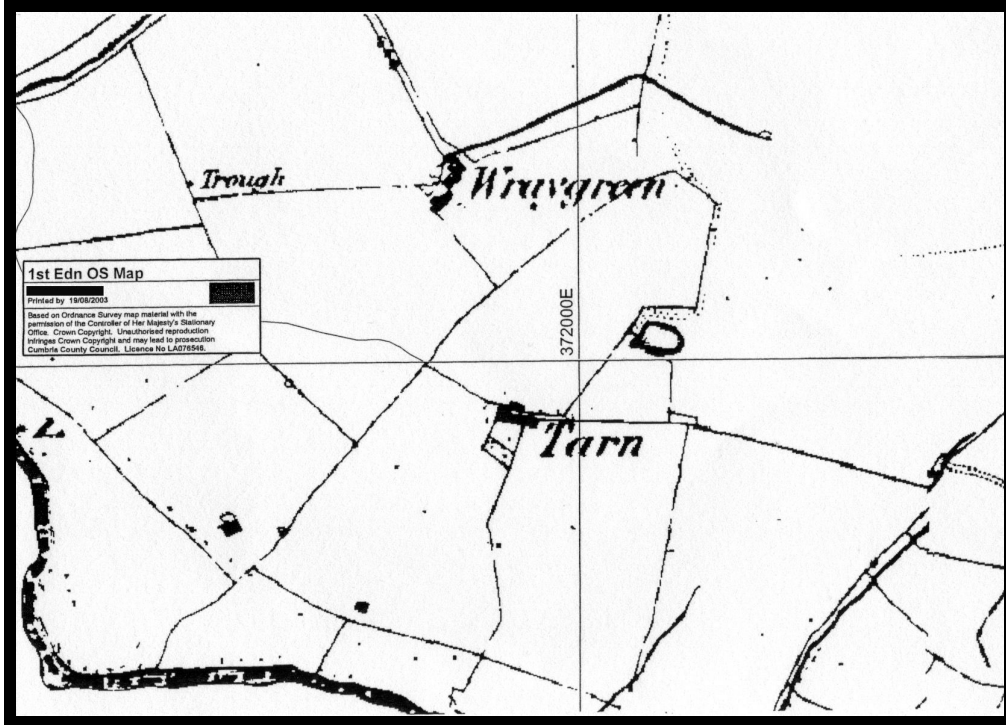


Figure 4

The First Edition Ordnance survey map of 1867.
(Scale 1:5,000)



Plate 1

General view of the farm buildings from the south-east. The scale measures 2 metres.
(Photograph: P. Cracknell)



Plate 2

The southern elevation of the barn. The scale measures 2 metres.
(Photograph: P. Cracknell)



Plate 3

The eastern elevation of the barn. The scale measures 2 metres. (Photograph: P. Cracknell)



Plate 4

The northern elevation of the barn from the north-east. The scale measures 2 metres.
(Photograph: P. Cracknell)



Plate 5

The western wall of the barn with the blocked window in the left-hand corner (arrowed), and the roof line above (arrowed) from the eastern gable of the adjoining building.
(Photograph: F. Wooler)



Plate 6

Northern elevation. The vertical construction break, which marks the original eastern end of the adjoining building, can clearly be seen just to the left of the ranging pole. The scale measures 2 metres. (Photograph: F. Wooler)



Plate 7

Northern elevation. The large quoin stones above the eaves level of the adjoining building.

(Photograph: P. Cracknell)



Plate 8

Southern elevation. The large quoin stones above the eaves level of the adjoining building.
(Photograph: P. Cracknell)



Plate 9

Southern elevation. Blocked window at the western end of the barn.
The scale divisions each measure 200 millimetres. (Photograph: P. Cracknell)



Graffiti on the barn door, with 'GF 1850' arrowed. (Photograph: F. Wooler)



Graffito (GF) on the southern jamb of the porch on the eastern gable end. (Photograph: F. Wooler)



Plate 12

Graffito (GF 1850) on the first roof truss.
(Photograph: F. Wooler).