

Part of Lumb Holes Mill
Cowpe Road, Waterfoot, Rossendale, Lancashire:
Archaeological Building Recording



August 2006

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Photographs

SUMMARY

Archaeological building recording was carried out in August 2006 at Lumb Holes Mill, a former woollen mill at Waterfoot, Rossendale, Lancashire (NGR: SD 83522132), for the developers Colway Contracts Ltd. Work was confined to the end of a two storey building, representing a small part of the former mill complex, dating to between 1847 and 1891 but of uncertain function and which is to be converted to residential use. The records made include floor plans, a section and photographs, as well as a written account.

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**PART OF LUMB HOLES MILL, COWPE ROAD, WATERFOOT, ROSSENDALE,
LANCASHIRE:**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS INCLUDED IN THIS REPORT

Photo Subject

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | West elevation of building, across the Cowpe Brook |
| 2 | West elevation of building from the north-west |
| 3 | West elevation, across the Cowpe Brook |
| 5 | West elevation of previously converted part of building, across the Cowpe Brook |
| 6 | North elevation |
| 8 | Detail of inserted lower floor doorway in north elevation |
| 9 | Detail of external door in inserted doorway on north side of upper floor |
| 11 | Lower floor area, from the north |
| 12 | Lower floor area, from the south-west |
| 14 | Lower floor area, from the north-east |
| 18 | Upper floor area, from the south-east |
| 20 | Upper floor area, from the south-west |
| 21 | Upper floor area, from the north-west |
| 23 | Detail of column on upper floor, from the south-west |
| 24 | Roof truss in east side of building, from the south-west |

A complete set of photographs forms part of the project archive (see Appendix 1)

PART OF LUMB HOLES MILL, COWPE ROAD, WATERFOOT, ROSSENDALE, LANCASHIRE:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report presents the results of archaeological building recording at Lumb Holes Mill at Waterfoot, Rossendale, Lancashire, carried out in August 2006. The work was commissioned by Colway Contracts Ltd, to fulfil a condition of planning consent from Rossendale Borough Council, for the conversion of the building to residential use.
- 1.2 Lumb Holes Mill was probably established in the early nineteenth century as a water-powered woollen mill and expanded during the nineteenth century, when it appears to have been converted to steam power. The majority of the buildings have been demolished, but there remains a two storey building dating from between 1847 and 1891. This is of seven bays, mostly converted to residential use previously, and this recording was confined to the northern three bays. Records made include floor plans, a section drawing, photographs, and a written account.
- 1.3 The recording was carried out in accordance with a proposal approved by the Lancashire County Archaeology Service. This report will be deposited with the client, the planning authority, the County Archaeology Service and the English Heritage National Monuments Record. The project archive will be deposited at the Lancashire Record Office.

2 Location and current use

- 2.1 Lumb Holes Mill stands on the east bank of the Cowpe Brook, 500m south of Waterfoot in the Rossendale Valley, at NGR SD83522132 and at an altitude of approximately 225m AOD (Figure 1). The area contains housing and at one time numerous industrial sites, but most of these are no longer functional.
- 2.2 The area of the former mill is extensive, measuring around 100m from north to south and 40m from east to west, but the majority of it has been demolished and much of it redeveloped. The building recorded stands at the north end of the site and is a detached building partly of two storeys, built into the slope. Four of the building's seven bays have been converted to housing previously; the remaining three form a now disused industrial unit.

3 Planning background

- 3.1 The building is not listed as having special architectural or historic interest. Planning permission was granted by Rossendale Borough Council on 28 April 2004 for the conversion of the north end to apartments (application no: 2004/041), and condition no 3 attached to the consent requires a detailed record of the building to be made before development, which this report is intended to fulfil.

4 Historical background and architectural interest

- 4.1 The history of Lumb Holes Mill does not appear to have been recorded in detail although a number of sources are quoted by Davies (1984), and Ordnance Survey maps contribute to an understanding of its development. The earliest reference appears to be from 1828 when James Ashworth, a woollen and baize manufacture is noted (Davies 1984, 90). In 1849 the first edition OS 6" to the mile map shows a single building with mill ponds, named "Lumb Holes Mill (woollen) (Figure 3); at the time it was one of five such mills on the Cowpe Brook.
- 4.2 In 1854 Robert Cunliffe & Sons, woollen manufacturers, were listed at the mill, and in 1860 members of the Stansfield family are recorded as having made felt there. It was burned out in 1863, at a time when it was occupied by Mr Emanuel Nuttall and already described as "of somewhat ancient structure". Rebuilding appears to have taken place and later in the century there are a number of references to felt manufacture by various individuals, but in 1884 a flood caused significant damage. The 1893 OS 1:2500 map shows that by this date the mill had expanded significantly with a large new building to the north having been built, this being the subject of the present recording (Figure 4); at this time it was occupied by Mr William Stansfield. There were some minor changes between 1891 and 1908, but between then and 1928 the mill had become disused, according to the OS map of 1930. It is not known whether it ever resumed working, but by 1960 the majority of the site had been razed, leaving the present two storey building, a chimney and some other minor structures.

5 Recording methodology

- 5.1 The archaeological building recording took place on 21 August 2006, and in accordance with a method statement approved by the Lancashire County Archaeology Service. It involved the production of floor plans and a section drawing of the building, showing all significant archaeological detail, and employing conventions based on those specified by English Heritage¹. The plans are based on an existing architect's survey.

¹ English Heritage 2006 *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice*

- 5.2 A photographic record was also made, using a medium format camera with shift and other lenses, and black and white film for the sake of archival permanence. External and internal photographs were taken, in most cases using either a 1m or 2m ranging pole marked with 0.5m graduations as a scale, and their locations are shown on copies of the site and floor plans. The photographs have been printed to a size of 7" x 5", and a selection are copied in this report, where they are referred to by numbers in bold. A small number of 35mm colour slides was also taken.
- 5.3 Access around the building was limited by the dense vegetation and adjacent occupiers, although there was no hindrance in recording the interior.

6 Site description

- 6.1 The building recorded is approximately 25m by 18m in plan and partly two storeys high **(1)**. It is situated on the east bank of the Cowpe Brook, where the sloping ground means that the lower floor is confined to the west half **(2)**, while the upper floor is of the full width. The walls are of random gritstone rubble with plain dressings bearing a variety of tooling; these include plain sills and lintels to window openings, and square profile eaves brackets, while the twin-span roof is covered with blue slate and has tile ridges; there are modern roof lights in the residential parts of the building, and earlier but nonetheless secondary roof lights in the northern end of the building.
- 6.2 The three northern bays of the building have large, regularly spaced windows facing west on both the lower and upper floors **(3,4,5)**, and a single window in the west part of the north elevation, but the three doorways in this side of the building are all inserted, and probably date from the twentieth century **(6,7,8)**. Two of them are vehicular entrances, while the third, reached up a short flight of concrete steps, has a decorated panelled door which appears to have been re-used **(9)**. There are also small, rectangular ventilation openings near the two roof ridges. In the east side of the building is a single window opening, which appears to have been a doorway at one time **(10)**.
- 6.3 The lower floor forms a single space truncated to the south by a breeze block wall enclosing the residential areas **(11)**; the retaining wall to the east is of rubble **(12,13)**. The floor is of earth, albeit with areas of modern concrete, while above, stout beams carry the upper floor **(14,15)**. There are no features indicating that power was transmitted into or through this area, nor any other indications of the original purpose of the building, and it is possible that it was used simply as a warehouse.
- 6.4 The upper floor has twice the width; there is a timber floor over the area of the lower floor but the remainder is of concrete and incorporates a modern loading

bay at a lower level (17-22). The interior wall faces are again of rubble with breeze block to the south and no early fixtures or fittings; the present iron stove is a modern insertion.

- 6.5 The twin-span roof has a central cast iron valley gutter, supported by two columns (and presumably more to the south), which have bolting faces on their west sides. However there is no bearing in the north wall and it is doubtful that the columns were used to support shafting, which leads to the same conclusion as for the lower floor, that this area was used for storage.
- 6.6 The roof trusses are of standard bolted king-post form with raking struts, and butt purlins held in place by bolts; three of the four roof pitches have been replaced, two of them with modern roof lights.

7 Conclusion

- 7.1 This recording covers only a small part of Lumb Holes Mill, and the majority of the complex was demolished in the mid twentieth century. The surviving building may have been a warehouse or perhaps housed production areas, but most of it, including that closest to the core of the mill, has been previously converted and this means that an understanding of the surviving, less altered portion is limited.

8 Reference

Davies, J 1984 *The Mills of Rawtenstall* (unpublished typescript, Rawtenstall library)

Appendix 1: Contents of the project archive

To be deposited with the Lancashire Record Office, Preston
1 file, containing:

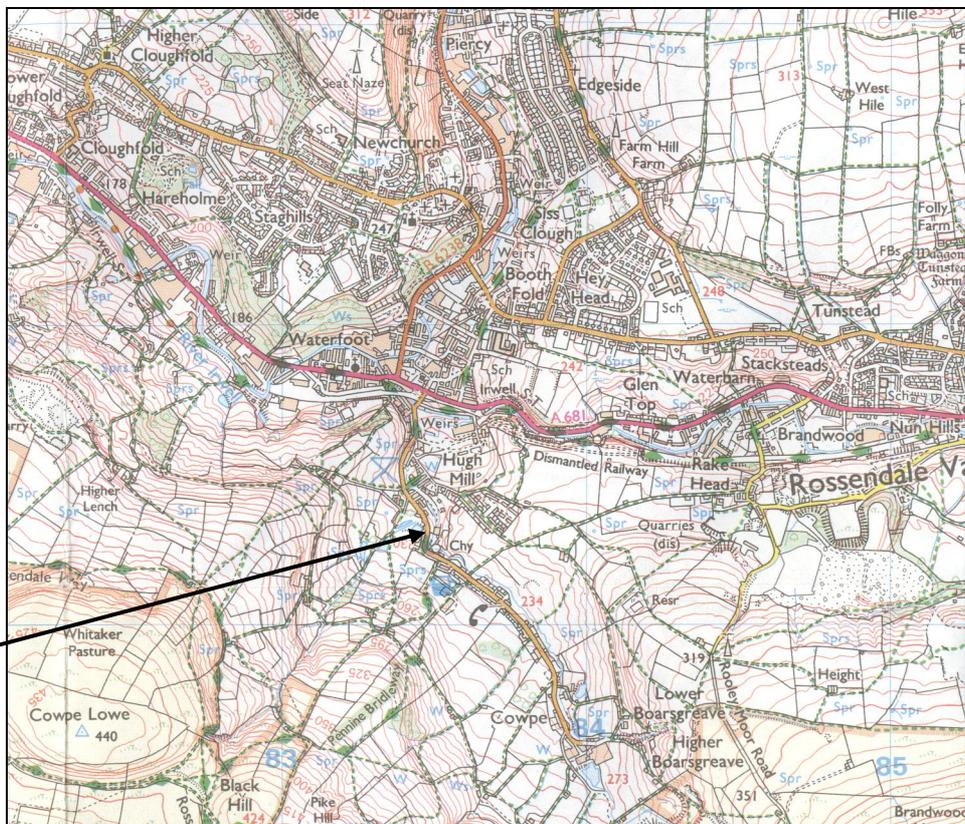
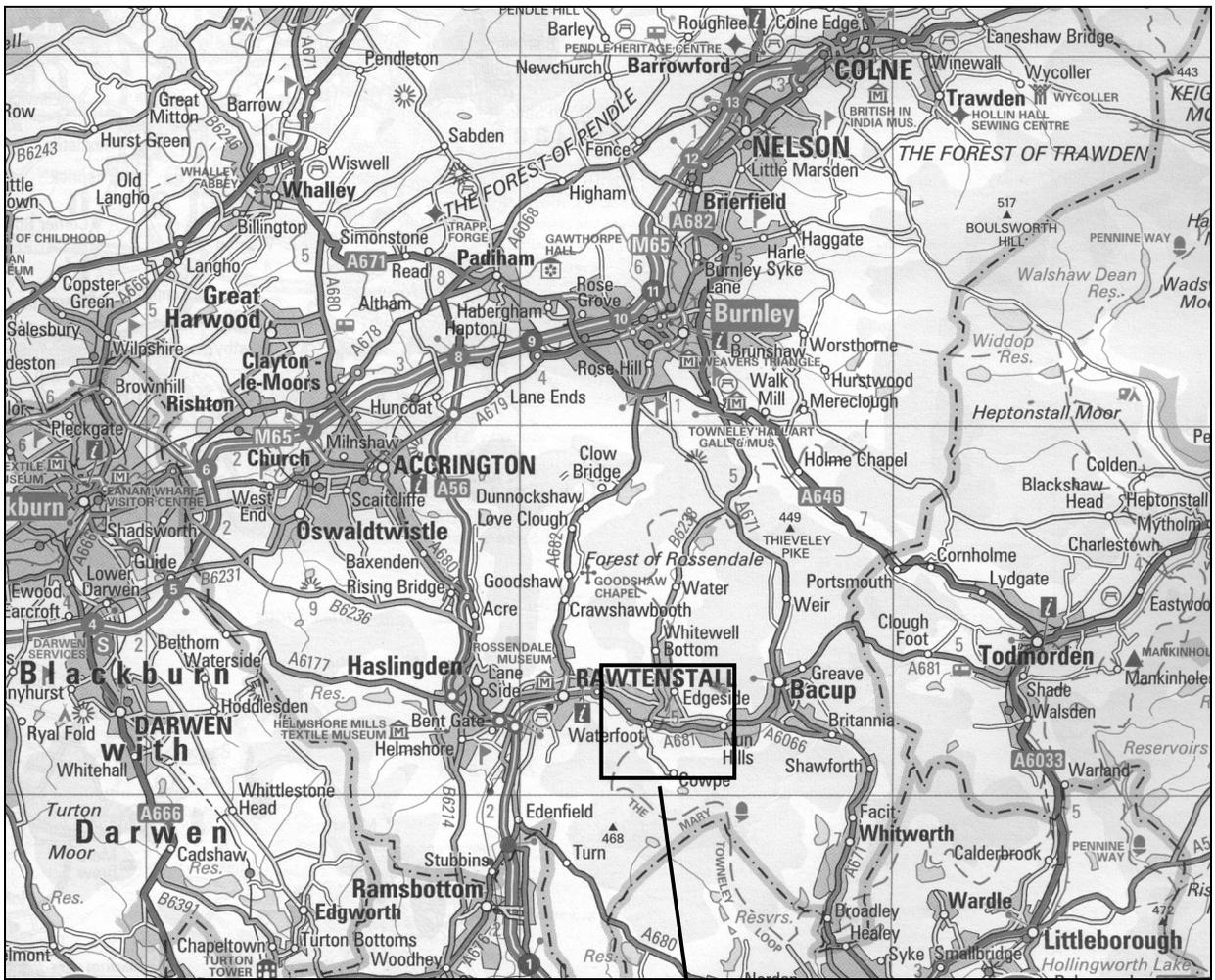
- a copy of the report text & figures
- full set of labelled photographs
- photographic negatives
- 35mm colour slides
- site notes (annotated plans etc)

Complete list of photographs taken, in film order

Photo	Film	Frame	Subject
17	1	7	Upper floor area, from the north-east
18	1	8	Upper floor area, from the south-east
19	1	10	Upper floor area, from the south
20	1	11	Upper floor area, from the south-west
21	1	12	Upper floor area, from the north-west
22	1	13	Upper floor area, from the north
	1	15	Same as 1/16
23	1	16	Detail of column on upper floor, from the south-west
24	1	17	Roof truss in east side of building, from the south-west
9	1	18	Detail of external door in inserted doorway on north side of upper floor
11	2	1	Lower floor area, from the north
14	2	3	Lower floor area, from the north-east
15	2	4	Lower floor area, from the south-east
12	2	5	Lower floor area, from the south-west
13	2	6	Lower floor area, from the north-west
16	2	7	Detail of typical window in west side of lower floor
3	2	9	West elevation, across the Cowpe Brook
5	2	10	West elevation of previously converted part of building, across the Cowpe Brook
1	2	11	West elevation of building, across the Cowpe Brook
4	2	12	West elevation, from the south-west
6	2	13	North elevation
7	2	15	Detail of upper floor window and inserted doorway in north elevation
10	2	16	Detail of window (former doorway) in east elevation
8	2	17	Detail of inserted lower floor doorway in north elevation
2	2	18	West elevation of building from the north-west

LIST OF COLOUR SLIDES

- 1 West elevation of building, across the Cowpe Brook
- 2 West elevation of building from the north-west
- 3 West elevation, across the Cowpe Brook
- 4 North elevation
- 5 Upper floor area, from the south-east
- 6 Upper floor area, from the south-west



site

Figure 1: Location maps

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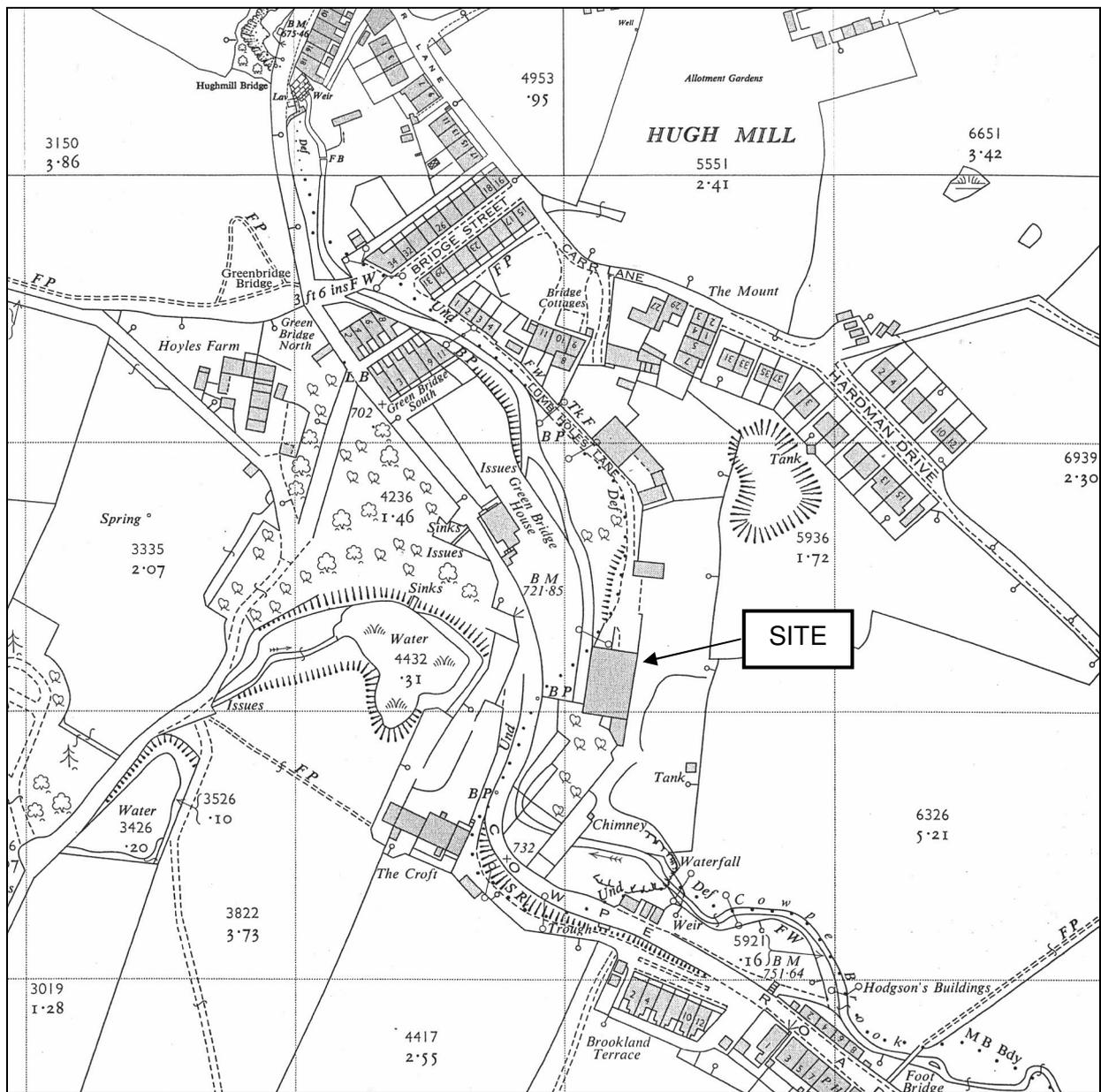


Figure 2: Detailed location map (1:2500)

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Figure 3: Extract from Ordnance Survey
1849 6" to mile map (surveyed 1844-7)
Sheet no: Lancashire 72

The present building had not been built by this date.

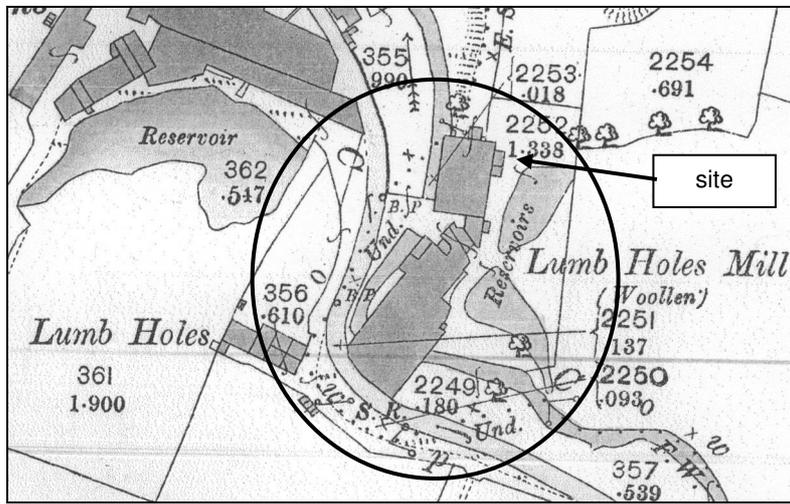


Figure 4i:
Extract from OS
1:2500 map
1893 edition,
surveyed 1891

Sheet no:
Lancashire 72.14

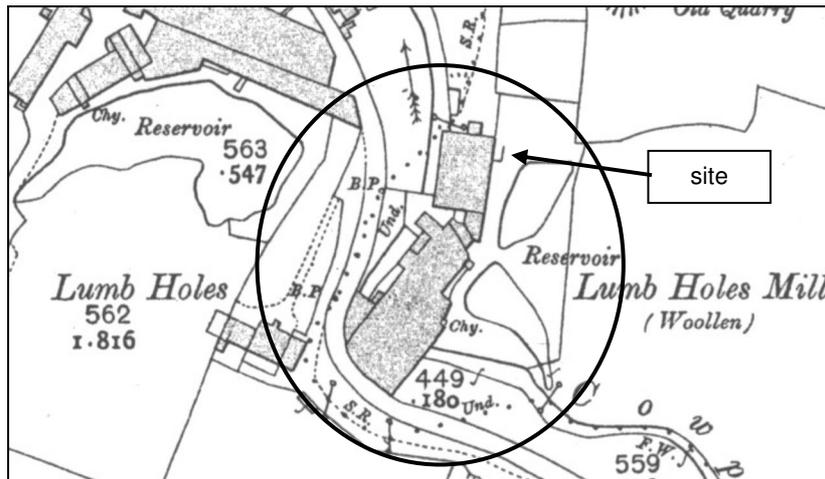


Figure 4ii:
Extract from OS
1:2500 map
1911 edition,
revised 1908

Sheet no:
Lancashire 72.14

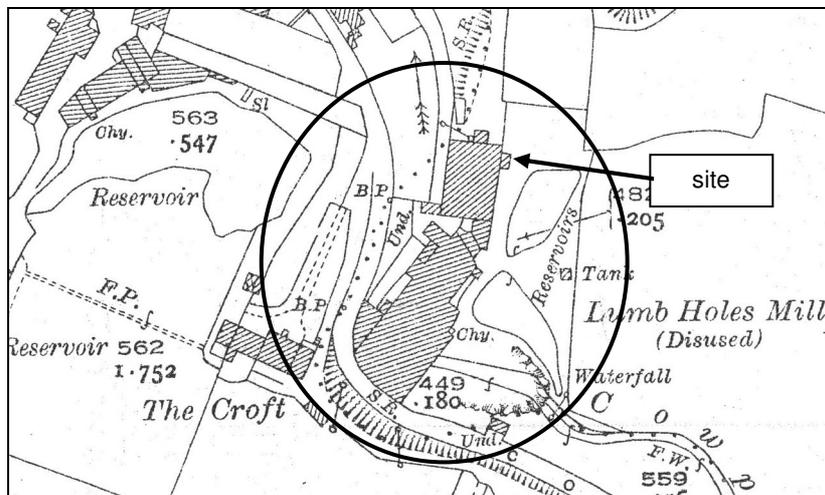


Figure 4iii:
Extract from OS
1:2500 map
1930 edition,
revised 1928

Sheet no:
Lancashire 72.14

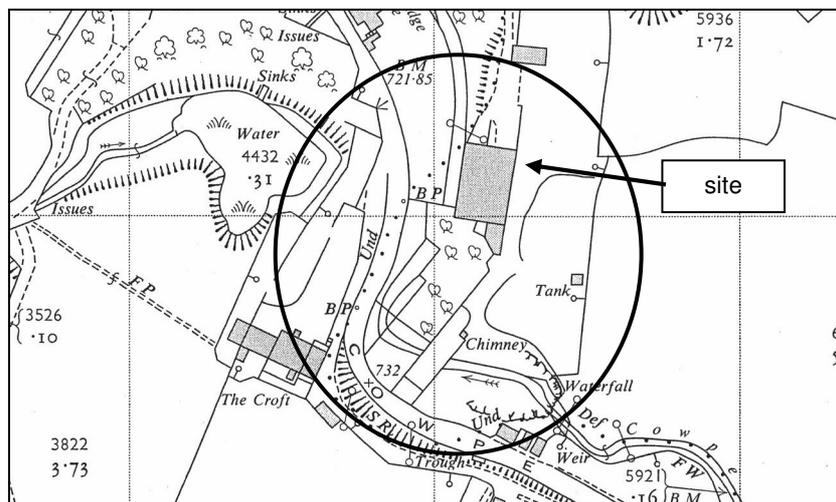
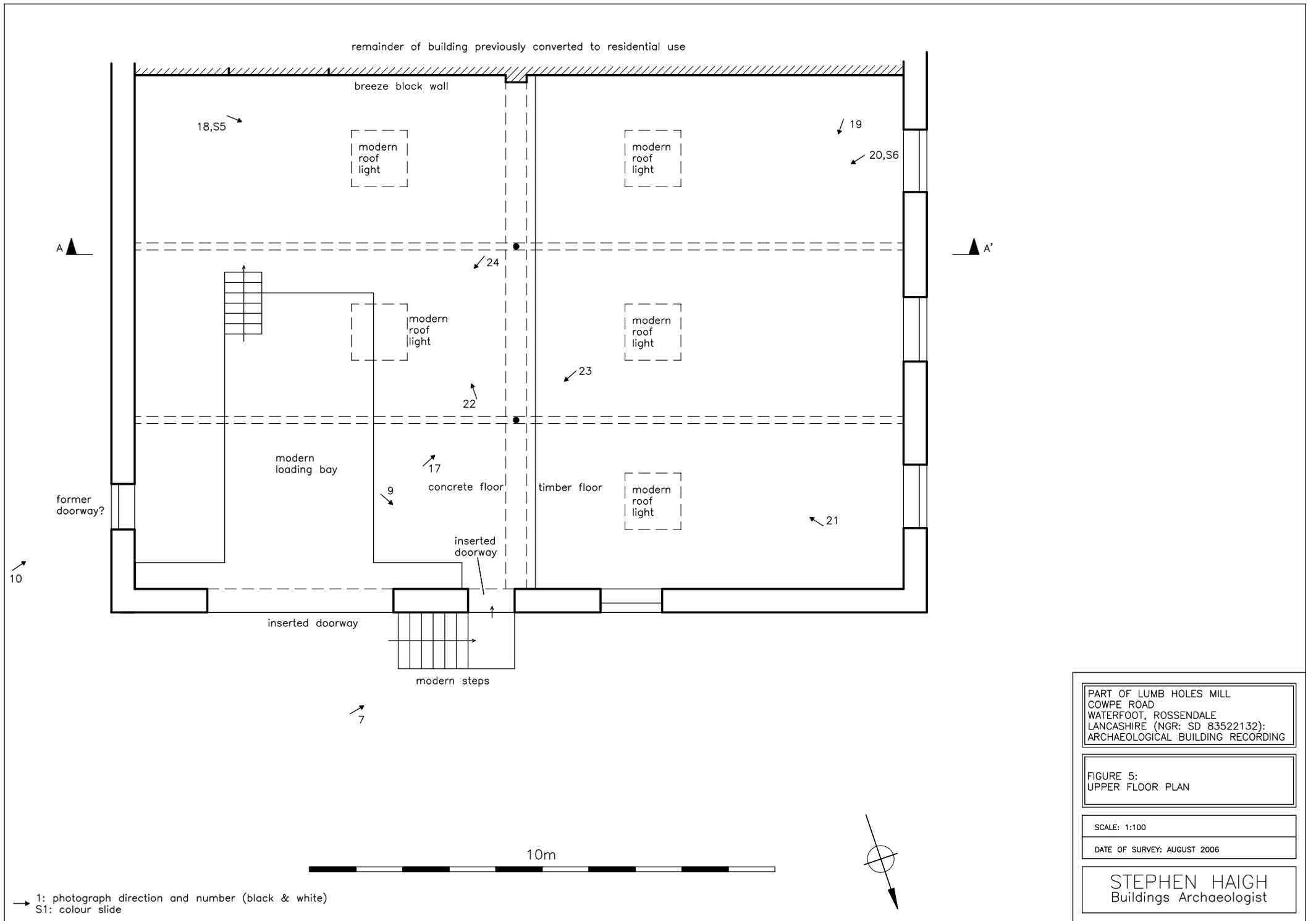


Figure 4iv:
Extract from OS
1:2500 map
1963 edition,
surveyed 1960

Sheet no:
SD8221/8321



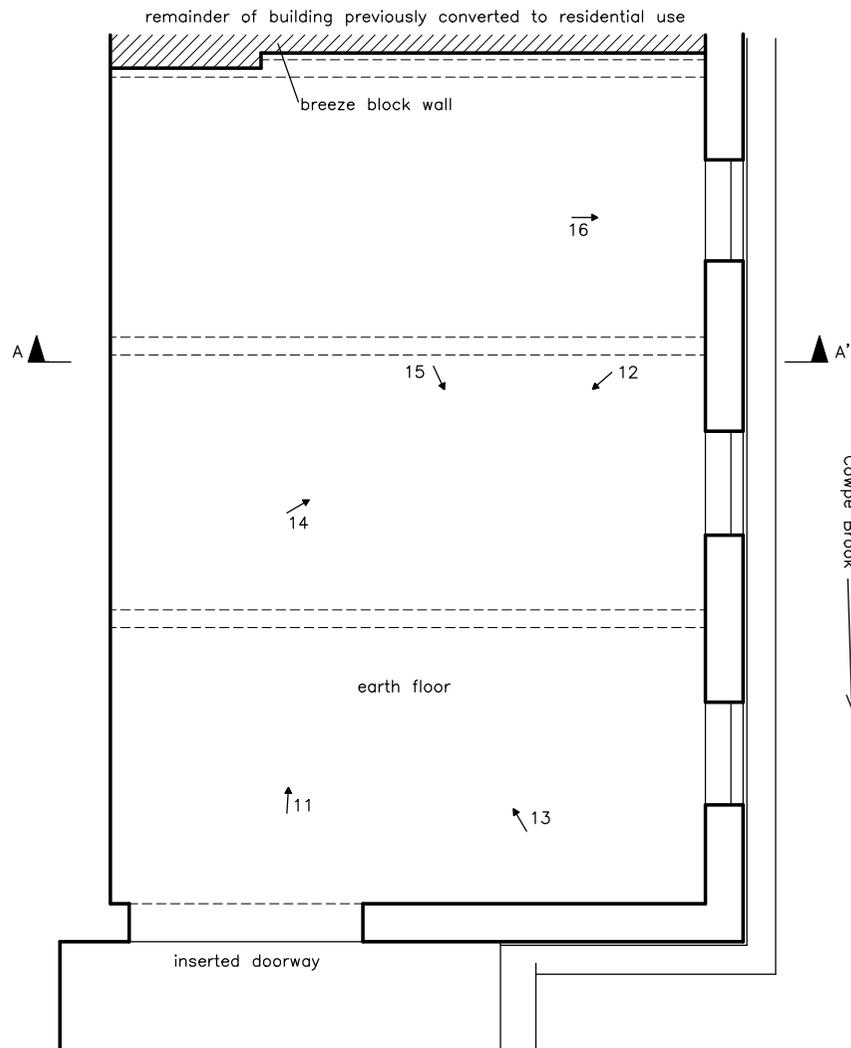
PART OF LUMB HOLES MILL
 COWPE ROAD
 WATERFOOT, ROSSENDALE
 LANCASHIRE (NGR: SD 83522132):
 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

FIGURE 5:
 UPPER FLOOR PLAN

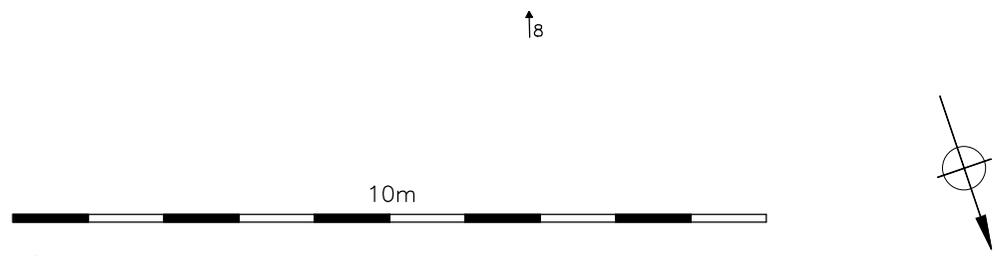
SCALE: 1:100

DATE OF SURVEY: AUGUST 2006

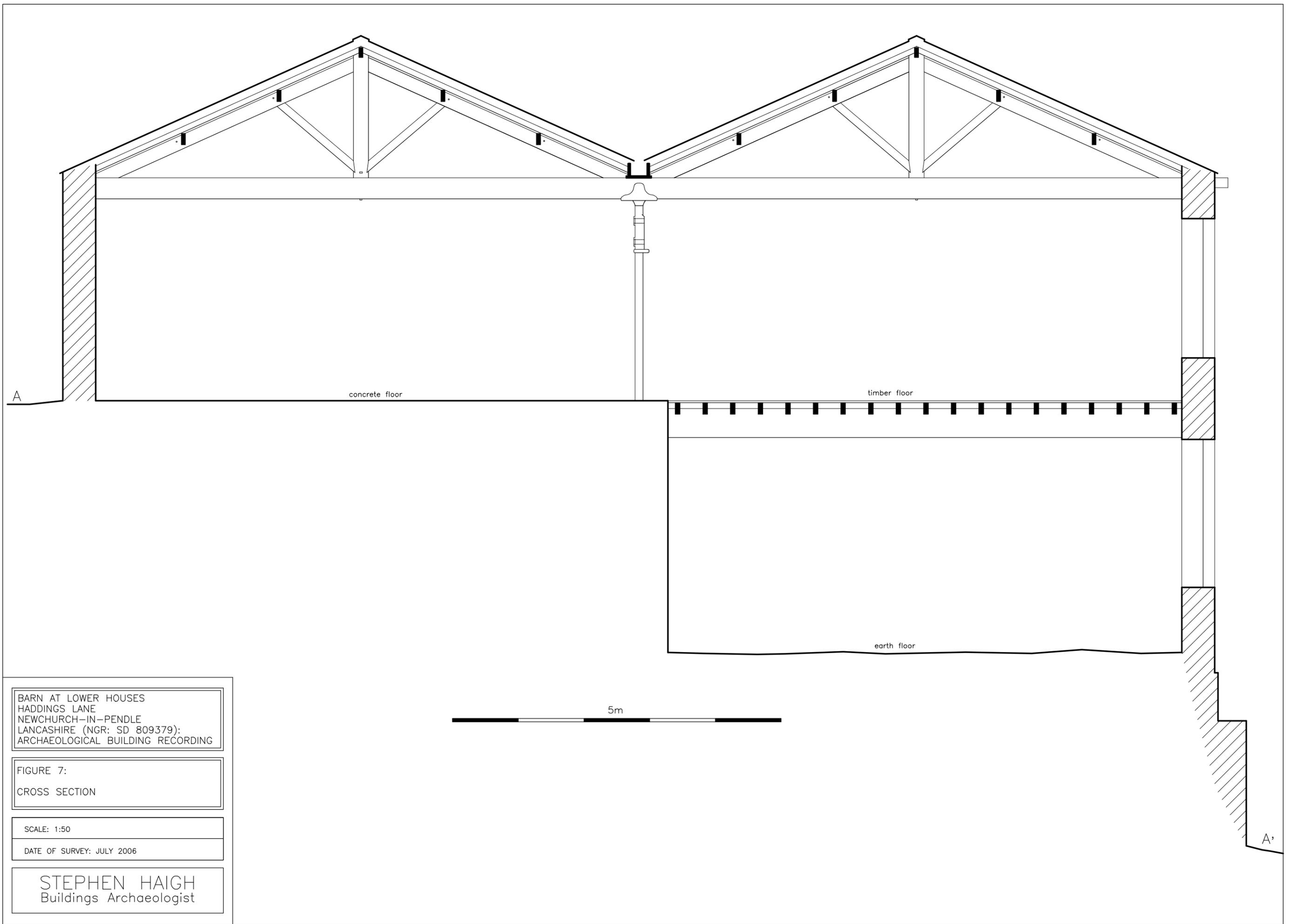
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PART OF LUMB HOLES MILL COWPE ROAD WATERFOOT, ROSSENDALE LANCASHIRE (NGR: SD 83522132): ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING
FIGURE 6: LOWER FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 1:100
DATE OF SURVEY: AUGUST 2006
STEPHEN HAIGH Buildings Archaeologist



→ 1: photograph direction and number (black & white)
 S1: colour slide



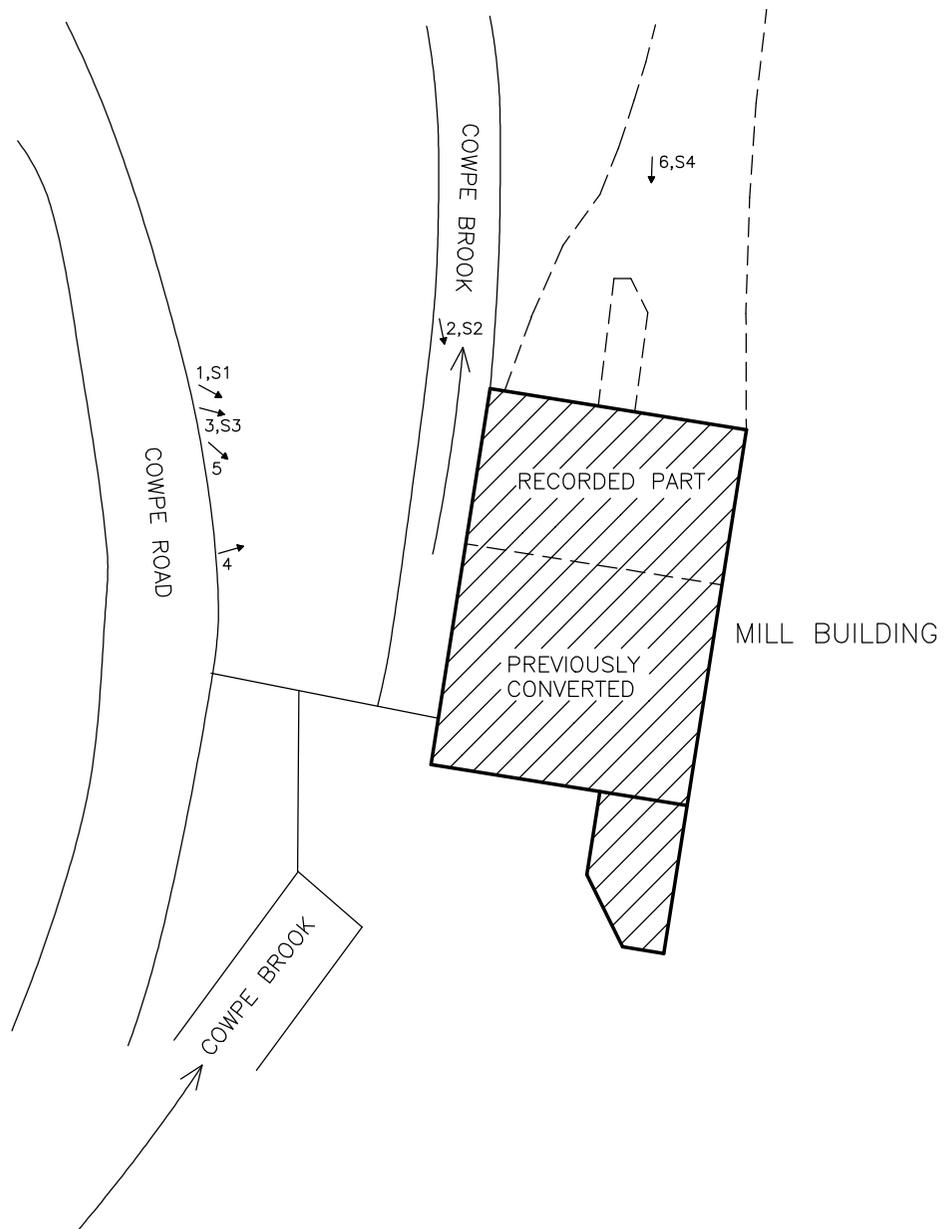
BARN AT LOWER HOUSES
 HADDINGS LANE
 NEWCHURCH-IN-PENDLE
 LANCASHIRE (NGR: SD 809379):
 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

FIGURE 7:
 CROSS SECTION

SCALE: 1:50

DATE OF SURVEY: JULY 2006

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→ 1: photograph direction and number (black & white)
 S1: colour slide

100m



PART OF LUMB HOLES MILL COWPE ROAD WATERFOOT, ROSSENDALE LANCASHIRE (NGR: SD 83522132); ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING
FIGURE 8: SITE PLAN WITH KEY TO PHOTOS
SCALE: 1:500
DATE OF SURVEY: JULY 2006
STEPHEN HAIGH Buildings Archaeologist



Photo 1: West elevation of building, across the Cowpe Brook



Photo 2: West elevation of building from the north-west

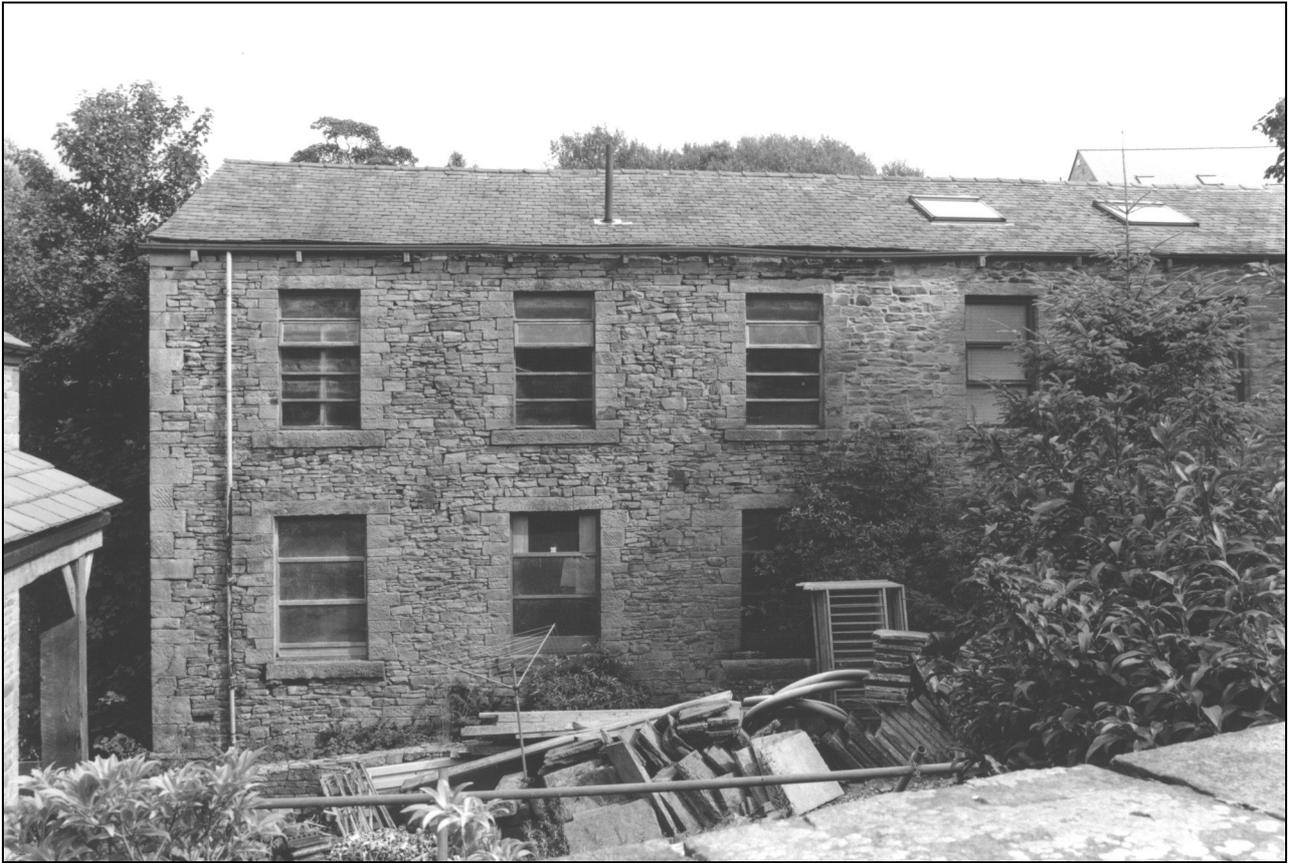


Photo 3: West elevation, across the Cowpe Brook



Photo 5: West elevation of previously converted part of building, across the Cowpe Brook



Photo 6: North elevation



Photo 8: Detail of inserted lower floor doorway in north elevation



Photo 9: Detail of external door in inserted doorway on north side of upper floor



Photo 11: Lower floor area, from the north



Photo 12: Lower floor area, from the south-west



Photo 14: Lower floor area, from the north-east



Photo 18: Upper floor area, from the south-east



Photo 20: Upper floor area, from the south-west



Photo 21: Upper floor area, from the north-west



Photo 23: Detail of column on upper floor, from the south-west



Photo 24: Roof truss in east side of building, from the south-west