

# THE BIRCHES, CANTSFIELD ROAD, CANTSFIELD, LANCASHIRE

Archaeological Building Recording



Client: Mr Jeff Niland

NGR: SD 60258 72840

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## Non-Technical Summary

Following to the submission of a planning and Listed Building consent applications to erect a single-storey extension and carry out a number of improvements to The Birches, Cantsfield Road, Cantsfield, Lancashire, an archaeological recording of the structure was requested by the Planning Officer at Lancashire County Council, Doug Moir. The building is Listed Grade II and known to contain a datestone of 1623. This work was carried out by Greenlane Archaeology in August 2011.

There is relatively little detailed documentary evidence regarding the origins and early history of the house although it evidently originally formed a part of the adjoining Cantsfield Hall. The datestone also bears the name Isabel Cansfield and the Cansfield family are known to have been associated with the area from at least the medieval period. Cantsfield Hall is thought to have been a dower house belonging to a minor branch of the family. The earliest available maps of the site show that the present arrangement was certainly in existence by the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The building recording revealed three main phases of building and alteration, the earliest probably corresponding with the datestone of 1623, with the extension to the west probably added in the late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century, and further modifications made in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The unusual arrangement of the first phase is suggestive, based on examples elsewhere and some of the documentary evidence, that it may have been utilised for weaving.

## Acknowledgements

Greenlane Archaeology would like to thank Jeff Niland for commissioning the project. Thanks are also due to Erica Wright and colleagues at The Wright Design Partnership for their help and for providing the 'as existing' drawings of the building. Additional thanks are due to Doug Moir, Planning Officer (Archaeology), Lancashire County Council, for approving the project design, the staff of the Lancashire Record Office in Preston for assistance with accessing archive material, and the staff at the Lancaster City Council Regeneration and Policy Service, in particular Michaela Richardson and Daniel Ratcliffe, for providing details of previous planning applications. Further thanks are due to the occupants of Cantsfield Hall for allowing access onto their property in order to examine the south side of the building, and John Dean and Nick Hill for their comments on the taper marks.

The building recording including desk-based assessment was carried out by Dan Elsworth and Tom Mace, both of whom also produced the report and illustrations. Medium format photographs of the building were taken by Jonathan Ratter, who also provided the copy of Isabel Cansfield's will of 1635 and photographs from 1978. The report was edited by Jo Dawson, and the project managed by Dan Elsworth.

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Circumstances of the Project

1.1.1 Following the submission of a planning application (1/11/00653/FUL) and Listed Building Consent (1/11/00654/LB) to erect a single-story extension and to make a number of alterations to The Birches, Cantsfield Road, Cantsfield, Lancashire (NGR 360258 472840), a request for an archaeological building recording was made by Doug Moir, Planning Officer (Archaeology) at Lancashire County Council, in consultation with Emma Coffey, Lancaster City Council Conservation Officer. The building is Grade II Listed, the listing information indicating that it is of early 17<sup>th</sup> century date (with a datestone of 1623) with surviving timber mullions and other features of historic interest (English Heritage 2011).

1.1.2 Greenlane Archaeology produced a project design for the work, in response to discussions with Doug Moir. The building recording was carried out in August 2011.

## 1.2 Location, Geology, and Topography

1.2.1 The Birches is situated in the hamlet of Cantsfield, which is in the lower Lune Valley (see Figure 1). It is approximately 6km north-east of Hornby and 6km south-east of Kirkby Lonsdale (Ordnance Survey 2005).

1.2.2 The underlying solid geology is dominated by Namurian millstone grit (Moseley 1978, plate 1), which is overlain by glacially derived boulder clay but also sand and gravel derived from glacial meltwater (Countryside Commission 1998, 93).

1.2.3 The area is dominated by lush pasture supporting dairy herds defined by irregular field patterns formed by mature hedgerows (*op cit*, 94). The site lies approximately 45m above sea level (Ordnance Survey 2005).

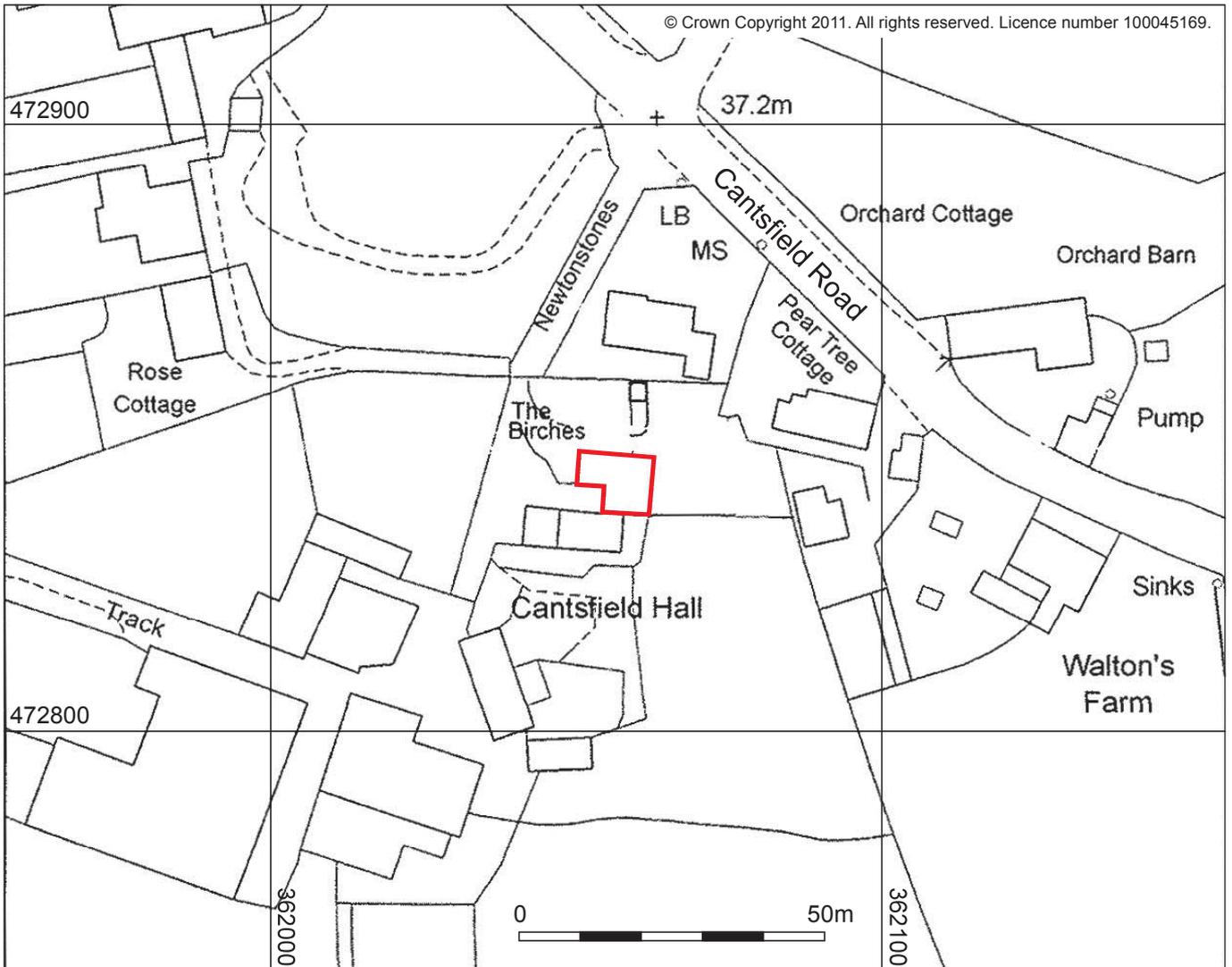
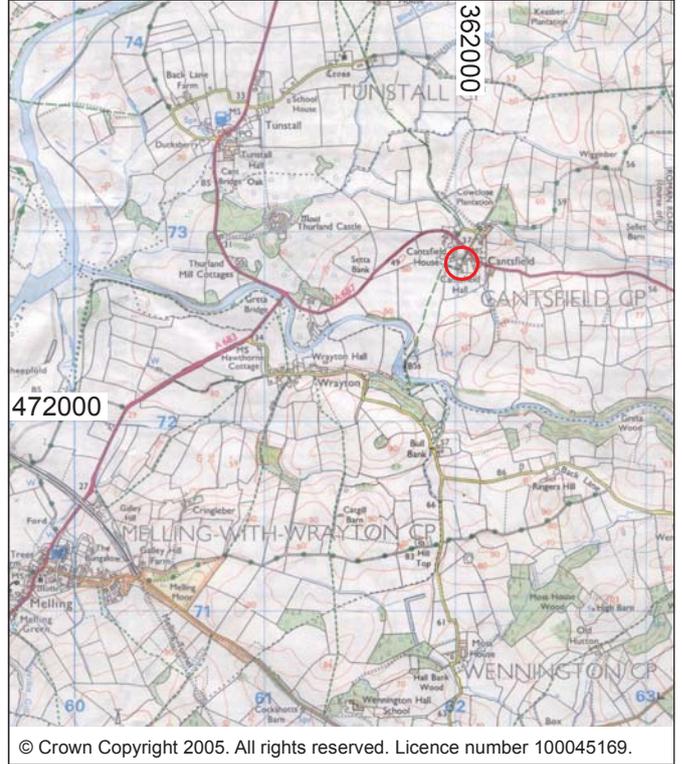
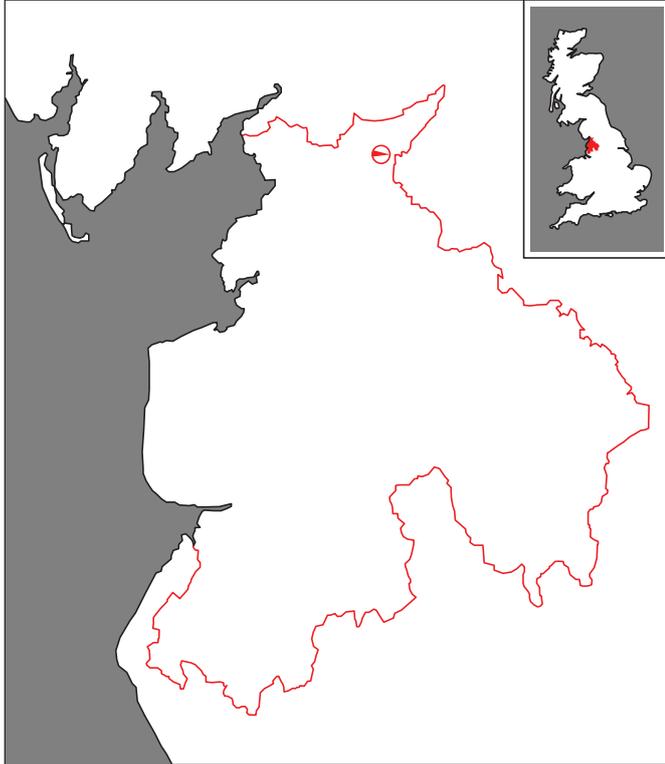


Figure 1: Site location

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## 2. Methodology

### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The building investigation comprised three separate elements intended to provide a suitable record of the structure in line with English Heritage standards (English Heritage 2006) and the guidelines of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008a; 2008b). These comprised a desk-based assessment, the building recording itself, and the completion of a site archive.

### 2.2 Desk-Based Assessment

2.2.1 Information was gathered from the following locations:

- **Lancashire Record Office, Preston (LRO):** this was visited in order to examine early maps of the site and other primary sources as well as secondary sources such as trade directories in order to identify information about the development and use of the building;
- **Lancaster City Council, Planning Department:** details of previous planning applications relating to the building were examined in order to provide information about more recent changes to the building, although no specifically relevant material was available;
- **Greenlane Archaeology library:** additional secondary sources were used to provide information for the site background;
- **Lancaster University:** information specifically relating to Cantsfield Hall, collected as part of the Lune Valley Architectural Survey, carried out in the late 1970s under the auspices of Lancaster University, was also examined. Some of this was provided by Jonathan Ratter, who carried out much of the survey work at the time, while the rest was accessed via the online archive (see *Section 3.3.7*).

### 2.3 Building Recording

2.3.1 The building was recorded to English Heritage Level-2/3 type standards (English Heritage 2006). This is a largely descriptive investigation, but with a more detailed level of interpretation of the phasing and use of the building, making use of the available documentary information. The recording comprised several parts:

- **Written record:** descriptive records of all parts of the building were made using Greenlane Archaeology *pro forma* record sheets;
- **Photographs:** photographs in 35mm black and white print, black and white medium format print, and colour digital format were taken of the main features of the building, its general surroundings, and any features of architectural or archaeological interest. A selection of the colour digital photographs is included in this report, and the remaining photographs are in the project archive. An index of all the photographs that were taken is presented in *Appendix 4* and their locations shown in Figures 7-9;
- **Drawings:** drawings were produced by hand-annotating 'as existing' drawings provided by the architect. The drawings produced included:
  - i. 'as existing' floor plans of the building at 1:100;
  - ii. 'as existing' elevations of all accessible external aspects at 1:100;
  - iii. a cross-sections at 1:50;
  - iv. a plan and elevation of the spiral staircase at 1:20;
  - v. elevations of the ogee-head doorframes at 1:10;
  - vi. elevations and plan views of the timber mullion windows at 1:10 and 1:20.

## 2.4 Archive

2.4.1 A comprehensive archive of the project has been produced in accordance with current IfA and English Heritage guidelines (Brown 2007; English Heritage 1991). The paper and digital archive and a copy of this report will be deposited in the Lancashire Record Office in Preston on completion of the project. A copy of this report will be deposited with the client and one will be retained by Greenlane Archaeology, while a digital copy will be provided to the client's architect and with the Lancashire County Historic Environment Record (HER). In addition a record of the project will be made on the OASIS scheme.

### 3. Desk-Based Assessment

#### 3.1 Background History

3.1.1 **Early History:** the history of The Birches is directly tied to the history of Cantsfield Hall, of which it originally formed a part, and of the hamlet of Cantsfield. Cantsfield was recorded in the Domesday survey, although the origins of the place-name are uncertain (Ekwall 1922, 183). More recently Mary Higham has discussed the British origin of 'cant' place-names meaning 'boundary' (Higham 2007, 57-59). The family of de Cansfield is recorded from at least the middle of the 13<sup>th</sup> century in connection with the manor of Aldingham, in Furness, which they acquired through marriage (Farrer and Brownbill 1914, 237). This formed a larger manor, with Cantsfield itself forming a smaller estate held by a member of the same family based at Robert Hall in Tatham (*ibid*).

#### 3.2 Owners and Occupiers of Cantsfield Hall

3.2.1 **Owners:** there is some information about the early owners of the building. The datestone of 1623 within the building carries the name Isabel Cansfield, who was presumably the owner of Cantsfield Hall; the date may relate to the original period of construction of Cantsfield Hall, The Birches or both - Chippendall certainly took the view that Cantsfield Hall (and therefore also The Birches) was likely to have been built or substantially modified in 1623 (1940, 43). According to Emmeline Garnett, Isabel Ashton of Croston married John Cansfield in 1601 (Garnett 1999, 34). The de Cansfields owned Robert Hall in Tatham from at least 1376 (see above) and Cantsfield Hall is considered to have been a dower house (*ibid*). They were evidently a wealthy family in the area; Thomas Cansfield is recorded as having a 21 year lease of the '*Great Milln called Tatham Miln*' in 1573 (Chippendell 1939, 58). The family were staunch Catholics (Wrennall 1907, 319), but despite the hindrance this would have been at the time Isabel's son John (of Robert Hall) was knighted in 1644 '*for service at the Battle of Newbury*' (*ibid*). Isabel was buried on 18<sup>th</sup> January 1634 (Kendal and Brierley 1911, 97) and her will, proved the following year, gives a detailed list of her possessions and what are presumably elements of Cantsfield Hall and The Birches (see *Appendix 2*). Details of subsequent owners are difficult to ascertain; Cantsfield Hall is not specifically listed in the parish registers (Kendal and Brierley 1911), although it is likely that the Cansfield family continued to own the property for some time. Some of the later occupiers were also probably owners, but again this is uncertain. The apportionment for the Tithe Map of 1846 shows that it was most likely owned by a Robert Jerrard (see *Section 3.3.2* below). An abstract of title dated 1932 shows that freehold property in Cantsfield, including Cantsfield Hall Farm, was certainly held by the Gerard family (presumably the correct spelling) until this time, although it is not clear if they still held Cantsfield Hall at this point (LRO DDX/1581 1873–1956).

3.2.2 **Occupiers:** details of the occupiers are also difficult to be sure of, although it is likely that the Cansfield family owned and occupied it from at least 1623. Later occupiers are less certain until the compilation of the census between 1841 and 1901, although a will of 1834 for an Anthony Metcalfe, described as a yeoman of Cantsfield Hall (LRO W/RW/L/R642/41 1834), suggests that he occupied the house at that time. Remarkably this shows that the same family, the Barghs, occupied Cantsfield Hall through this entire period (although it is not identifiable in the 1861 census and so it is unclear who occupied it at this point). The initial occupier, George Bargh, had a considerable number of children, and many of these went on to occupy other parts of the village. One of his sons, Robert, then took over the occupation of Cantsfield Hall by 1881. He too had a large number of children, in part because he had evidently remarried by 1891. The details of the occupiers of Cantsfield Hall as given in the census, are presented in *Appendix 3*. In addition, the Tithe Apportionment of 1845 confirms that Cantsfield Hall was occupied by George Bargh (see *Section 3.3.2* below). M and JE Bargh are also recorded as occupying Cantsfield Hall farm in 1932 (LRO DDX/1581 1873–1956), showing their continuing connection with the site.

#### 3.3 Map Regression

3.3.1 **Introduction:** early county maps of late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century were examined but these typically did not show enough detail to be of any use in understanding the building. The earliest detailed

map of the area is the plan of the township of Cantsfield c1846, which is drawn from the Ordnance Survey.

3.3.2 **Plan of the township of Cantsfield c1846:** the site was presumably not known as ‘The Birches’ at the time and seemingly formed part of the Cantsfield Hall estate (Plate 1). Unfortunately, it is unclear which elements of the structure relate to the current property, which appears to overlap the east/west range to the south of the block of which it forms part. The east/west section of the block (to the north) which is thought to relate to The Birches is also slightly narrower (from north to south) than it appears later. The numbers on the map relate to the apportionment of the rent-charge *in lieu* of tithes confirmed by the Tithe Commissioners for England and Wales c1845 (LRO DRB 1/34 1845). Unfortunately, it is slightly unclear which of the numbers relate to the property at the Birches; it seems most likely to be referred to by entry 146, which describes a “Homestead, Outbuildings, Garden &<sup>c</sup>” with George Bargh listed as occupier, whose name also appears on the 1841 census (HO107/530/12 1841; see Appendix 3). The entries from the accompanying schedule for numbers 142 to 149 are summarised in Table 1.

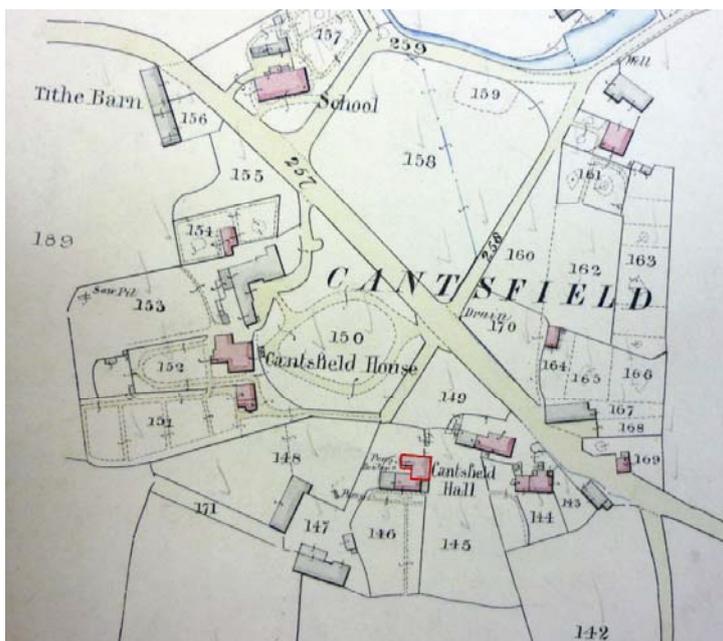


Plate 1: Extract from the 1846 plan of the township of Cantsfield (LRO DRB 1/34 1846)

Number	Owner	Occupier	Description
142	Edmund Tatham Proctor	Samuel Bargh	Paddock
143		Richard Shaw	Dwellinghouse, Outhouse, Orchard & <sup>c</sup>
144		Thomas Whillam	Dwellinghouse, Outhouse, Garden & <sup>c</sup>
145	Robert Jerrard Esquire	George Bargh	Paddock
146			Homestead, Outbuildings, Garden & <sup>c</sup>
147			Outbuildings & Yard
148			Outbuildings, Orchard, Garden & <sup>c</sup>
149	Edmund Tatham Proctor	Samuel Bargh	Homestead, Outbuildings & <sup>c</sup>

Table 1: Summary of the Tithe apportionment details relating to properties near to and including Cantsfield Hall (from LRO DRB 1/34 1845)

3.3.3 **Ordnance Survey 1847:** this is the first Ordnance Survey map, although its scale means that the site is very small and no internal divisions are shown (Plate 2). The basic arrangement of the whole building can be discerned and is much as it now appears. In addition, what appears to be a short flight of stairs can be clearly seen leading up to the north-west corner.



Plate 2: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1847 showing Cantsfield Hall

3.3.4 **Ordnance Survey 1893:** this is the earliest map to show the site in great detail and it has clearly taken on much of its present form by this date (Plate 3). Much the same arrangement as before can be seen, although the connection with the adjoining building is clearer; The Birches does not appear to overlap the adjoining building to the south and a division is shown which separates the south-east corner of the block of which it is a part. The flight of steps to the north-west corner is still clearly shown.

3.3.5 **Ordnance Survey 1913:** this map shows a similar arrangement of buildings to the previous edition of the Ordnance Survey map, although the south-east corner of the block is stepped in and whatever was shown in that location of earlier editions has seemingly been removed (Plate 4).

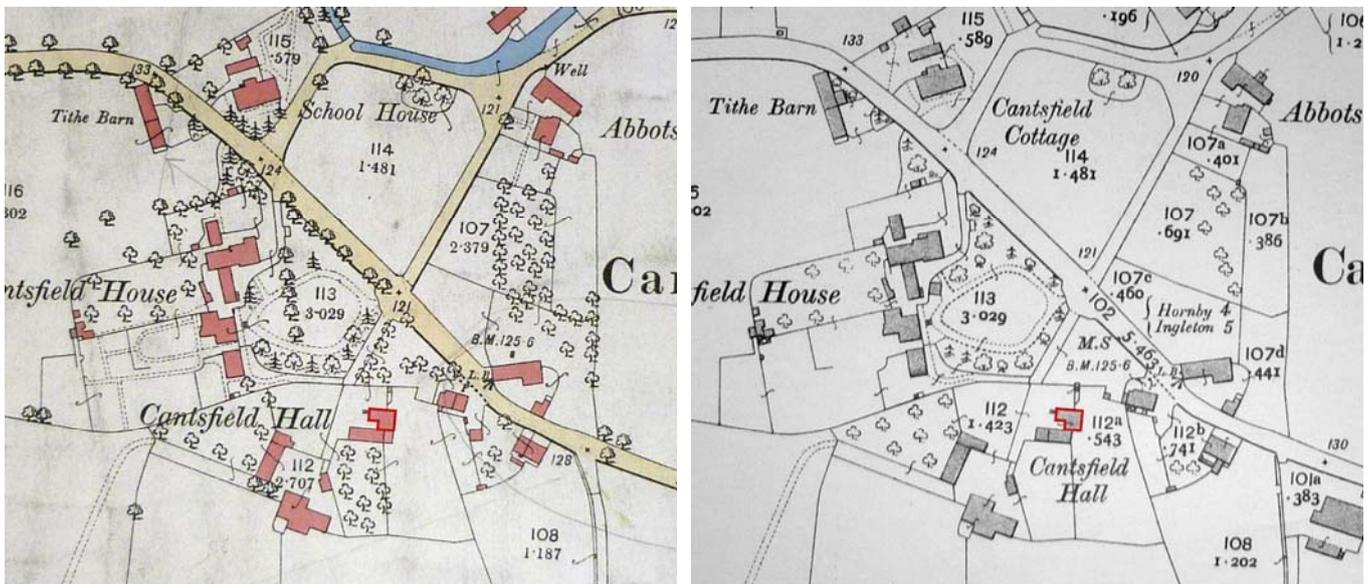


Plate 3 (left): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1893

Plate 4 (right): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1913

3.3.6 **Photograph, c1940:** Chippindall includes two photographs relating to Cantsfield Hall in his history of the Parish of Tunstall (Chippindall 1940). The first shows the south-east corner of what at the

time evidently was still known as Cantsfield Hall, rather than The Birches, as it is labelled as such (*ibid*, fig 3; Plate 5). The building is relatively unchanged compared to today (*cf.* Plate 16), although it appears to have been re-roofed since it was taken and the northernmost of the first floor windows is only half its current width. More noticeable is the change to the east gable of the building to the south (currently known as Cantsfield Hall), which had a massive external chimney stack and the north pitch of the roof seems to have been flat rather than sloping (perhaps incorporating a dormer window). In addition the numerous boundary walls that are now present had not been constructed by this time. The second image is of the datestone, which shows the Cantsfield coat of arms (Plate 6).



**Plate 5 (left): Photograph of 'Cantsfield Hall', c1940 (Chippindall 1940, fig 3)**

**Plate 6 (right): Photograph of Cantsfield Coat of Arms (Chippindall 1940, fig 4)**

**3.3.7 Photographs, 1978/1979:** Cantsfield Hall and the Birches were visited in 1978/1979 as part of the Lune Valley Architectural Survey carried out by Lancaster University (the full archive for which is now held by the Centre for North-West Regional Studies - <http://www.lancs.ac.uk/depts/cnwr/archives.html>, 32 images can be found at <http://cat.lib.lancs.ac.uk>). These show that The Birches has changed very little since this date, although it is apparent that there was open access between attic of The Birches and Cantsfield Hall and the external flight of steps to the first floor was still extant. Two digital images based on slides taken as part of this survey were made available by Jonathan Ratter. One of these shows the east external elevation (Plate 7), which is relatively unchanged from the c1940 photograph with the addition of chimney pots, a television aerial, and water pipes relating to the plumbing of the bathroom on the first floor. The second image, of the datestone (Plate 8), shows that its condition was similar in 1978, although the timber frame that is still partially present had not been added by this date (compared to Plate 22).



**Plate 7 (left): Photograph of the east external elevation in 1978 (provided by Jonathan Ratter)**

**Plate 8 (right): Photograph of the datestone in 1978 (provided by Jonathan Ratter)**

## 3.4 Conclusion

3.4.1 Documentary evidence indicates that The Birches, which originally formed part of Cantsfield Hall, is likely to date from 1623 and to have been built by members of the Cansfield family, who owned the manor. The available maps provide little useful information; the building had clearly taken much of its present form by the time they were produced, although they do show that a flight of steps was situated against the west end of the building in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Details of later occupiers show that the same family occupied Cantsfield Hall, and presumably therefore The Birches, throughout the majority of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## 4. Building Recording

### 4.1 Arrangement and Fabric

4.1.1 The building is essentially L-shaped in plan, with one arm orientated approximately north/south and joined to Cantsfield Hall at the south end, the other arm orientated east/west and extending from the west side of the north end of the north/south arm (Figure 1). It is unclear exactly what the relationship with Cantsfield Hall is; it seems unlikely that The Birches is earlier and while it could be contemporary it is perhaps more likely to be slightly later. It is apparent, however, that the east/west arm of the building butts against the north/south arm.

4.1.2 Externally the entire structure is largely built from the local dark yellowish-orange gritstone, with some other dark greyish green volcanic stone, presumably derived from the local boulder clay, which is laid in rough courses and pointed with concrete mortar. The corner and jambs of the apertures are finished with irregular quoins in the north/south arm, while the east/west arm has much larger and more regular dressed quoins. In the north/south arm the lintels are generally exposed and made from hand-finished timber, while in the east/west arm they are stone. The roofs are slate, the north/west arm a purple Welsh slate and the east/west a grey probably Cumbrian slate, finished with v-shaped stone ridge tiles. There is a stone built chimney at the south end of the north/south arm, which is squat and rectangular in plan with a slate coping or drip course around the top and one ceramic pot. The north/south arm is three storeys tall, the east/west two storeys. The north/south arm has a slight plinth apparent along the base of the north, east, and west elevations and there are boundary walls attached to the north, west, and south elevations. A gatepost at the entry to the property has had the date '1979' carved into it.

4.1.3 Internally the entire building has been extensively modified, with concrete floors throughout on the ground floor and modern wall finishes. Where the original timber work is exposed it is typically hand-finished and probably original and there are some early timber stud walls.

### 4.2 External Detail

4.2.1 **North elevation:** the western part of this forms the gable end of the north/south arm and is three storeys tall, while the eastern part forms the side elevation of the east/west arm and is two storeys tall (Plate 9 and Plate 10). Within the west section there is a doorway at ground floor level with an adjacent window with a single-light casement, both of which are below a hand-finished timber lintel with stop-chamfer decoration. It is likely that this originally represented a single large window that was modified to incorporate a doorway on its west side. At first floor level there are two windows with rough timber lintels, the eastern of which has been blocked with stone and the western of which has a two light casement formed around a timber mullion. The second floor has two slightly smaller windows, again also with rough timber lintels, but with the western one blocked with stone and with the east housing a two-light timber casement. There are various metal and plastic water pipes attached across the elevation.



**Plate 9 (left): The east side of the north external elevation**



**Plate 10 (right): The east side of the north external elevation, showing relationship to the east external elevation**

4.2.2 The western end has two ground floor windows, the one to the east was formerly a doorway with the lower part filled to form a window, which has a narrow stone sill (Plate 11). The western window has a concrete sill and a small section above this filled with concrete below the casement. Both windows have stone lintels and modern timber casements; four lights in the east and two in the west. The first floor has a single window on the east side with a stone lintel and slate sill (probably reused roof slates) and a four-light timber casement.



**Plate 11: The west side of the north external elevation**

4.2.2 **West elevation:** the north side comprises the gable end of the east/west section, while the south side is the side elevation of the north/south section. The north end is two storeys high; the ground floor has what appears to be a doorway blocked with stone on the north side, although it may just be rebuilt as it has no apparent lintel or quoins. Above this is a first floor doorway with quoined jambs, a stone lintel and step and modern tongue and groove plank door with two lights in its upper half (Plate 12). The southern section is three storeys tall, although the top floor is not evident and there are no windows into it. The ground floor has a very wide window spanning a considerable amount of the elevation (Plate 13). This has evidently been extended to the south and has a long stone lintel extending the full length of the original opening with an iron beam (clad with a concrete skim) below spanning the full length including the extended section. The sill comprises a single dressed piece of stone, again extending as far as the original opening, with an added piece filling the gap in the extension on the south side. The southern jamb is skimmed with concrete, the window houses a modern eight-light casement, and the entire wall section has a shallow plinth (c0.1m deep) along it. The first floor has a single window against the east/west arm, with sill constructed from two layers of slate held together with concrete, with some possible rebuild below, and what appears to be a timber lintel covered with a skim of concrete. It evidently originally extended c0.4m further to the south but has been partially blocked, and houses a modern two-light casement.



Plate 12 (left): North side of the west external elevation

Plate 13 (right): South side of the west external elevation

4.2.3 **South elevation:** this is divided by the adjoining Cantsfield Hall, and so only two sections are visible. The western section comprises the south side elevation of the east/west arm. It has a central doorway, which is blocked with stone and has a stone lintel and the end of the wall and jambs of the doorway are finished with dressed quoins (Plate 14). The eastern part represents the east side of the end gable of the north/south arm. It is topped by the chimney, which has some quoins on the east side (much squarer than elsewhere in this part of the building). Below it is a former window blocked with stone at first floor level with no evident sill or lintel but with some quoins (Plate 15). Below this, at ground floor level is a wide blocked aperture, presumably a doorway, again with no lintel, and some rough quoins, which is also blocked with stone.



**Plate 14 (left): Blocked doorway in the west side of the south elevation**

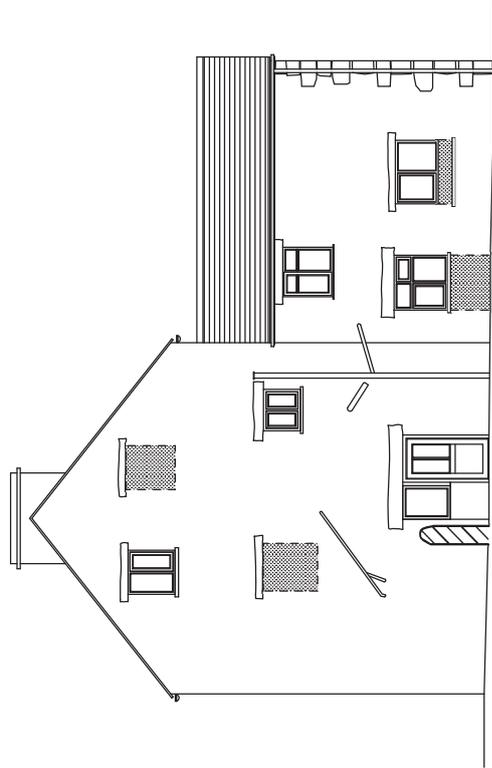
**Plate 15 (right): East side of the south elevation showing blocked openings**

4.2.4 **East elevation:** this forms the side wall of the north/south arm only. It is three storeys, although the second floor is not visible from this side and there are no windows (Plate 16). The ground floor has a former doorway blocked with stone on the north side, with no evidence for a lintel (this has presumably been removed) and a modern vent has been inserted through the blocking. There are two further grill vents and ground floor level to the south. Above these are two former windows, both also blocked with stone. The northernmost is only small, and adjacent to the blocked doorway, while the southernmost is very long. Both have no evident remains of a lintel (these too have presumably been removed) but there are rough quoins denoting the position of the jambs. The first floor has two small windows, both with hand-finished timber lintels and stone sills, although these have possibly been raised slightly. Both have modern three-light casements, and the southernmost has a second rough timber set below the lintel, perhaps part of an earlier casement. There is a modern timber barge board below the roof and plastic rain water goods.

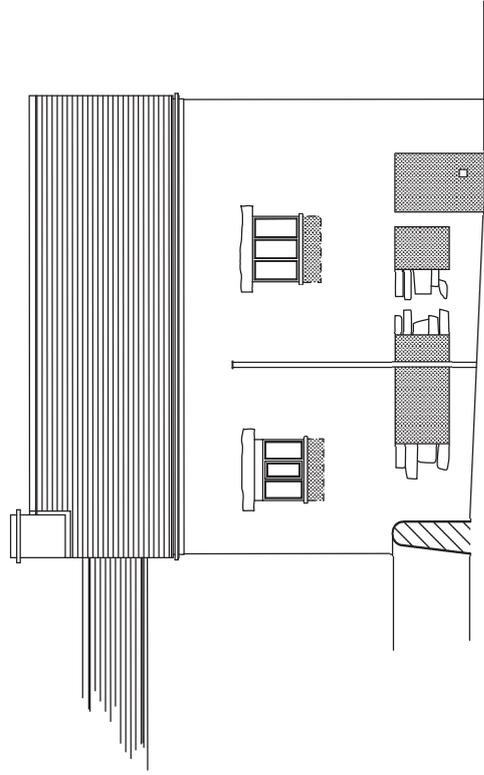


**Plate 16: East external elevation**

NORTH ELEVATION



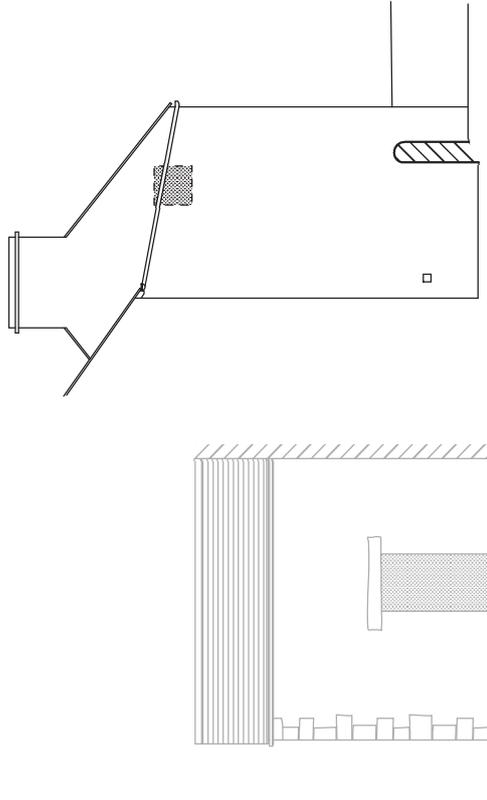
EAST ELEVATION



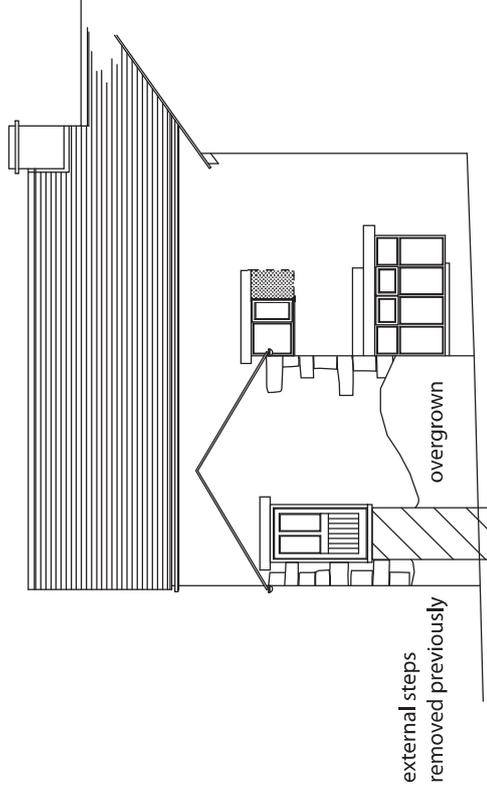
Key:  
blocked feature  
cross-sectional timber  
cross-sectional wall  
features behind another structure



SOUTH ELEVATION



WEST ELEVATION



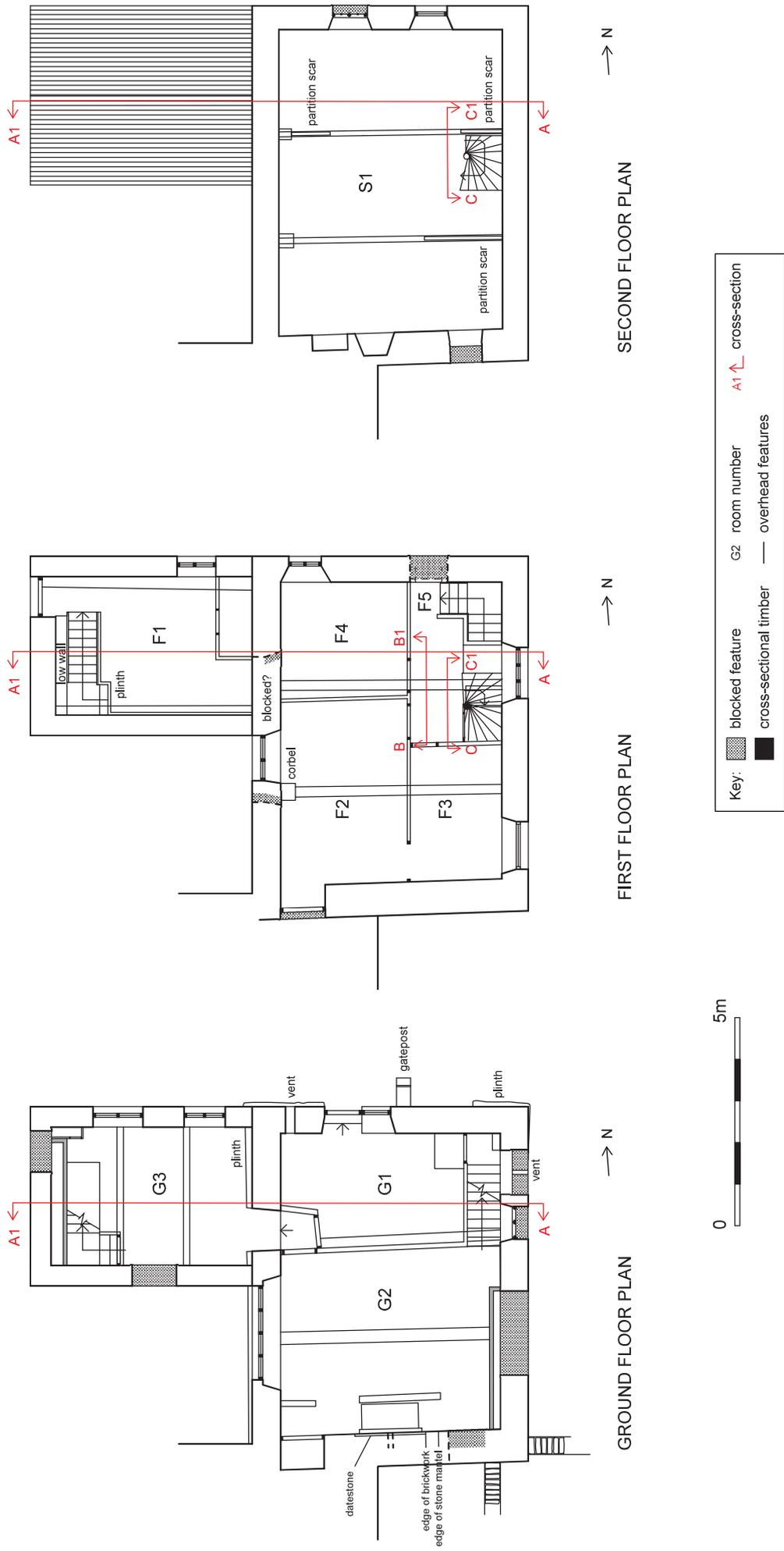
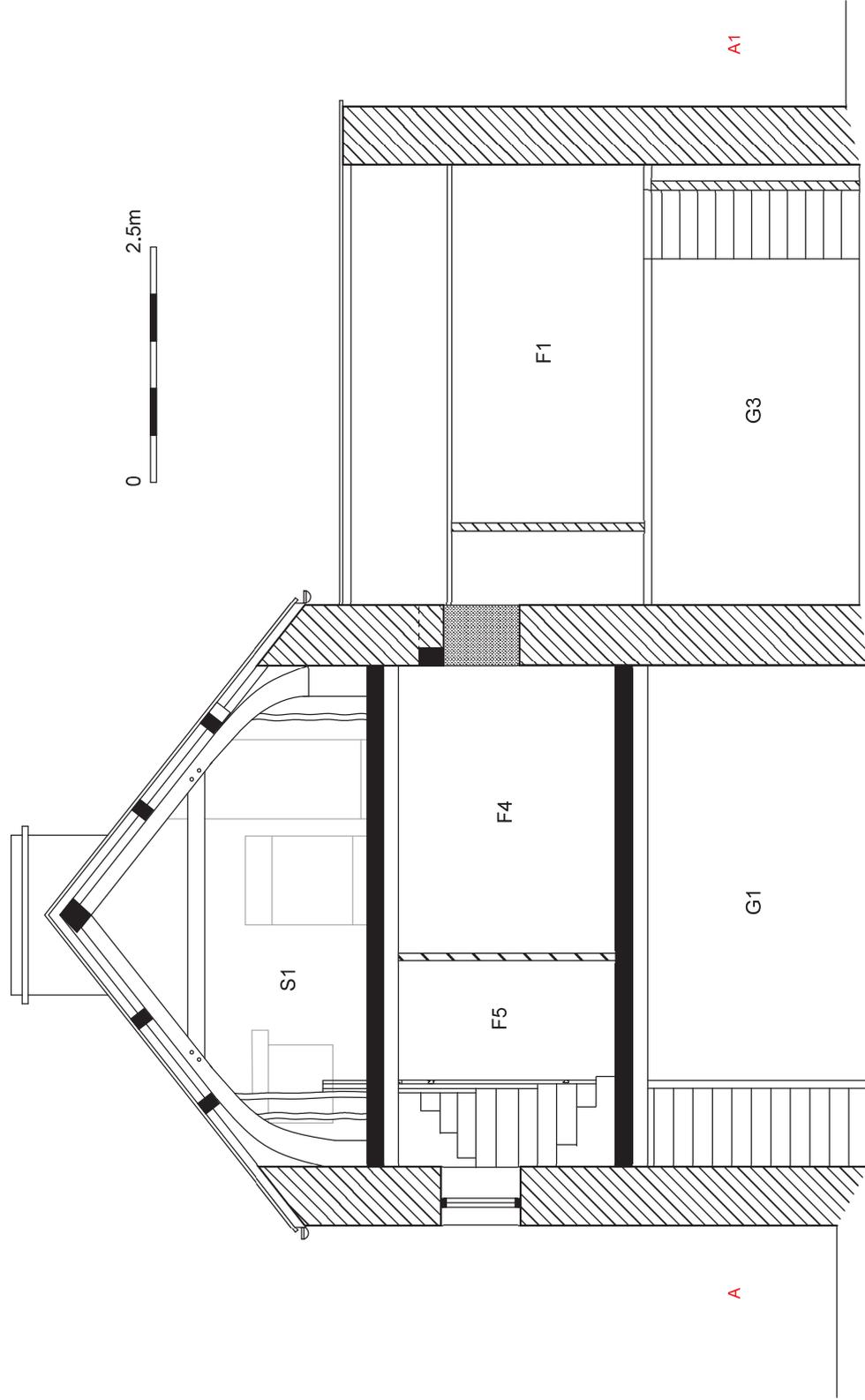


Figure 3: Floor plans

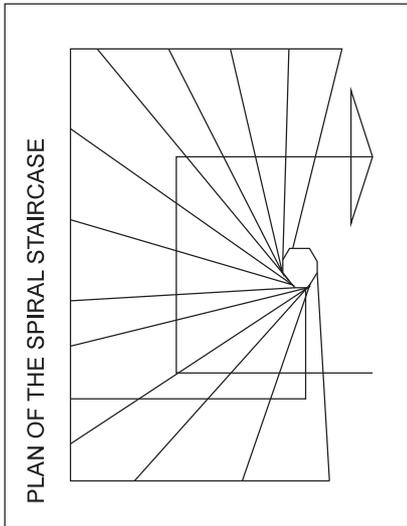


CROSS-SECTION A-A1

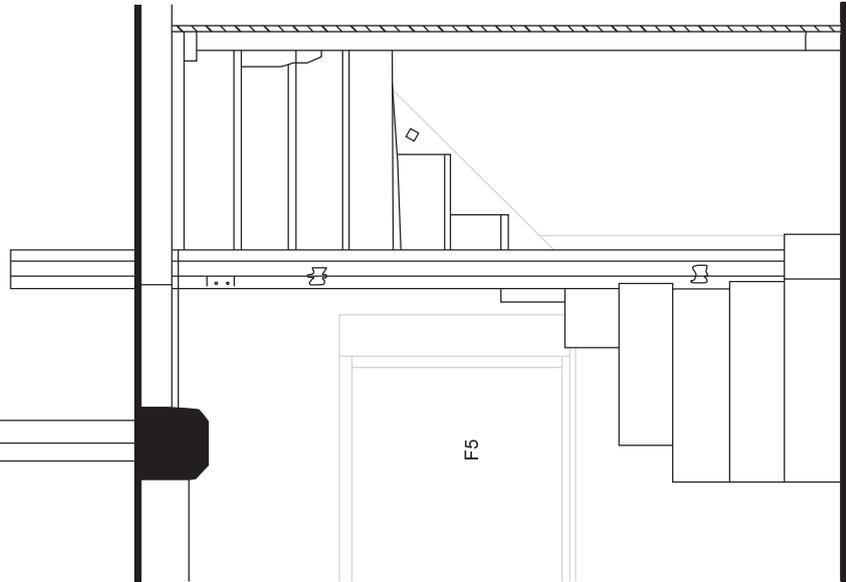
Key: cross-sectional timber cross-sectional wall blocked feature features to the rear G3 room number

DETAILED DRAWINGS OF OGEE-HEADED DOORWAYS AND SPIRAL STAIRCASE

Key:	cross-sectional timber
	cross-sectional wall
	continuation of line
	features to the rear
	F5 room number



S1

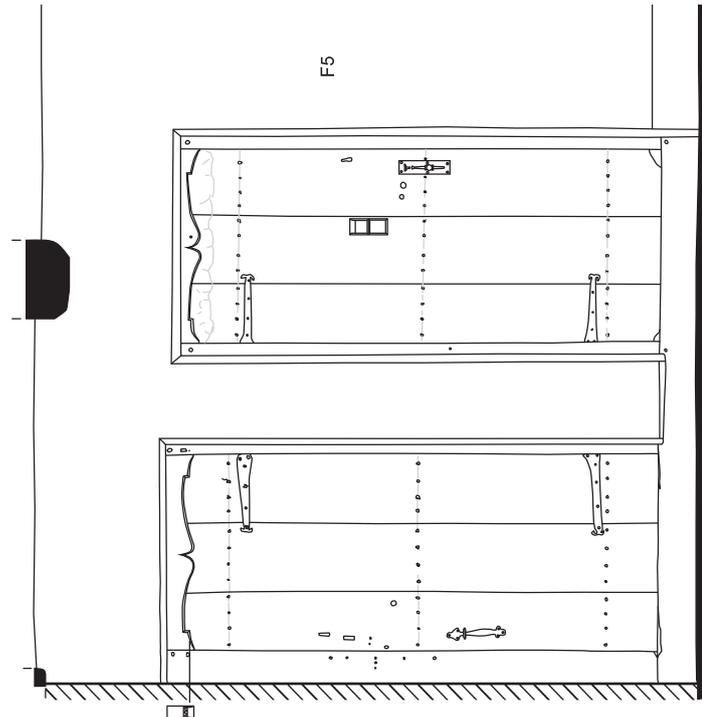


C1

F5

C

SECTION C-C1



F5

B1

B

SECTION B-B1

Figure 5: Detailed drawings of ogee-headed doorways and spiral staircase

Key:

- cross-sectional timber
- ▨ cross-sectional wall
- ▩ blocked feature
- continuation of line

DETAILED DRAWING OF THE TIMBER MULLION WINDOW ABOVE THE STAIRS, ROOM G2

DETAILED DRAWINGS OF THE TIMBER MULLION WINDOW, ROOM S1

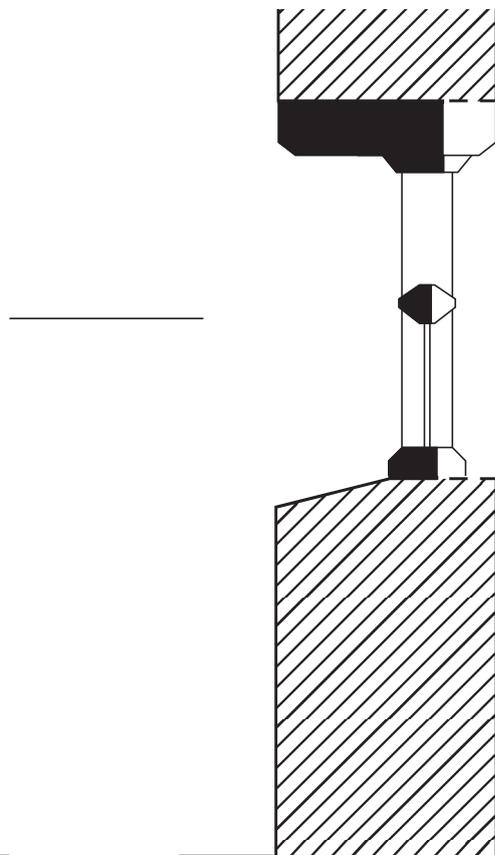
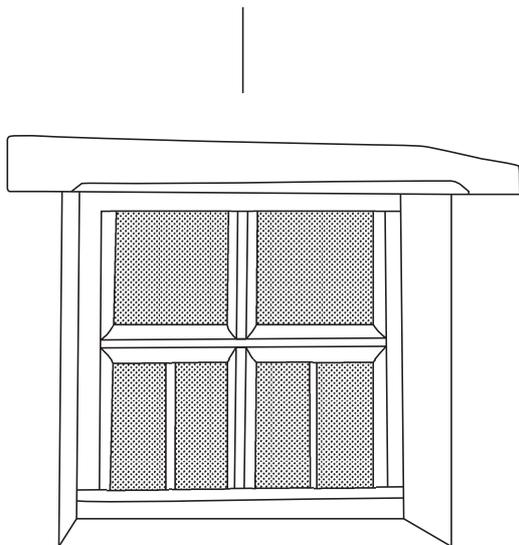
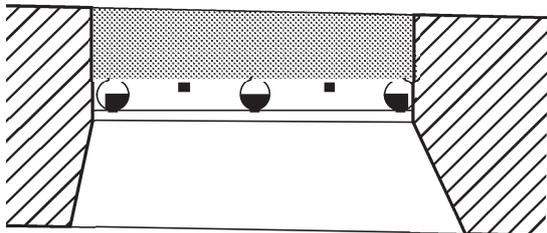


Figure 6: Detailed drawings of timber mullion windows

### 4.3 Internal Detail

4.3.1 **Ground Floor Room 1:** this has a concrete floor and the ceiling is finished with plaster and has a large hand-finished timber beam orientated east/west running against the south elevation. There is a small sloping section of ceiling in the north-east corner (below the stairs in Room G2). The walls are all finished with painted woodchip wallpaper and there are modern kitchen units in the south-east corner and some plain modern skirting board against the west elevation. The north elevation is essentially plain, apart from the large opening forming a doorway and window, which has splayed both sides, more so to the west, and the window has a tiled sill (Plate 17). There is a single step up to the door, which is also finished with tiles. The door is a relatively modern tongue and groove plank and batten type with two lights. The north side of the west elevation is a solid wall, with scars for shelving within a recessed formed by a timber stud wall returning at the south end to the east, within which is a doorway with an early door with six moulded panels although the surround is relatively modern and quite plain (Plate 18). The south elevation is plain, with a batten with iron coat hooks, a radiator, and a towel rail attached. The east elevation is a modern stud wall, forming a boxed area around the stairs with a doorway on the north side allowing access to a small cupboard below the stairs. Within this cupboard there is a wide recess representing the position of the blocked doorway evident externally, which now houses a boiler. Against the north jamb of the blocked doorway was a low block of projecting masonry with a slate capping (perhaps part of a slate bench for cold storage?). The stairs to the south are an entirely modern construction.



Plate 17 (left): Window and doorway in north elevation of Room G1



Plate 18 (right): West elevation in Room G1

4.3.2 **Ground Floor Room 2:** this has a presumably concrete floor, covered by vinyl sheeting. The ceiling is finished with plaster and painted woodchip wallpaper, with a single hand-finished timber beam orientated east/west with stop-chamfer decoration at the west end. There are also two east/west orientated battens fixed to the ceiling to the south of this with beaded edges, one of which has pulley wheels attached, which both presumably originally supported hanging clothes dryers. The walls are

mainly finished with plaster and painted woodchip wallpaper but some areas have been exposed to the plaster beneath, which has patches of modern skim. There is a plain modern skirting board throughout. The north elevation is an early timber stud partition, albeit extensively re-plastered. There is a doorway at the west end with four panels with stop-chamfer decoration (probably of late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century date) and a plain modern surround. The east end accessing a flight of stairs leading to the first floor, which are of modern timber construction, and have a circular section handrail on the west side. The west elevation is dominated by a very wide window with splayed jambs and a timber window seat with beaded planking over the back a plain panel against the north side (Plate 19). It has a modern plain eight-light casement and a plywood pelmet covering the curtain rail.



**Plate 19: Large window in the west elevation of Room G2**

4.3.3 The south elevation has a doorway on the west side leading to a cupboard, the door to which is constructed from large beaded planks and held with large strap hinges with long plates (Plate 20). There is also an early latch plate and the door surround is moulded. Within the cupboard are modern timber shelves on modern battens. The centre of the elevation is dominated by a large fireplace. The hearth opening has had a lining added to either side a single brick thick (the bricks being mid-red and machine made), which supports an iron I-beam below the original stone lintel (Plate 21). The resulting space has then been largely filled with more modern red brick leaving a small opening for a wood burning stove, below which are the remains of a modern raised hearth stone with stone cladding, which originally must have extended across the opening. The lintel proper comprises a huge piece of grey gritstone and is decorated in relief with inscription 'ISABEL CANSFIELD' and 'ANO DNI 1623' either side of an armorial design, and with two pairs of shears above the name (Plate 22). It is not clear whether some of the inscription is actually plaster or whether this is in fact layers of plaster on top of the original stone, but it has clearly been painted and probably finished with plaster several times. Where the paint has come away in one area the stonework beneath appears to be sooted or finished with blacking. The remains of a modern timber surround are still present on the west side and a scar runs around the top and bottom. To the east of the fireplace a further blocked doorway is evident as a crack in the modern skim, perhaps extending as far to the west as the lintel over the fireplace. The east elevation is largely covered by an inserted concrete wall of uncertain function. Behind this the wall proper is just visible; it is apparent that the south-east corner is slightly rounded and the line of a blocked window is evident within the wall. At the north end a window has been recently uncovered, apparently from behind a layer of plaster board. It has a four-light mullion casement, the mullions rhomboid in section and quite plain in profile, and a hand-

finished timber lintel with stop-chamfer decoration (Plate 23). The window is blocked from the outside and had evidently been whitewashed or skimmed with plaster and then painted on the inside. Beyond this, to the north, and effectively within Room G1, the lintel of the blocked doorway is exposed, and it also has a chamfered timber lintel.



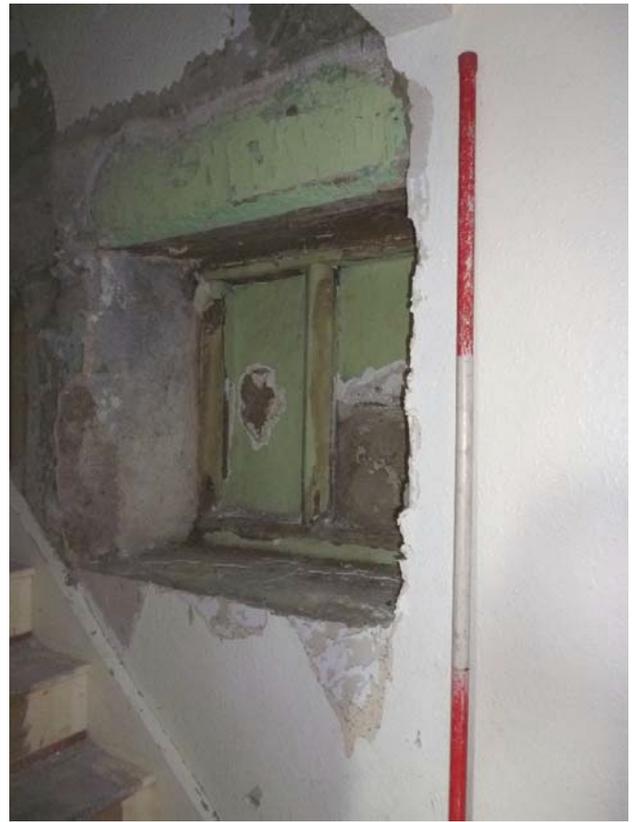
**Plate 20 (left): Cupboard door, west side of the south elevation, Room G2**



**Plate 21 (right): Fireplace in the centre of the south elevation and flanking doorways, south elevation, Room G2**



**Plate 22 (left): Detail of datestone, south elevation, Room G2**



**Plate 23 (right): Timber mullion window at east end of south elevation, Room G2**

4.3.4 **Ground Floor Room 3:** this too has a concrete floor, slightly raised relative to the level of the rooms to the east. The ceiling is finished with plasterboard and there are two beams orientated north/south both of which are sawn square and neatly adze-finished; the western of these had iron meat hooks inserted into its west face. The walls are all finished with painted wood chip wallpaper. The north elevation has two windows, the west with a two-light hinged casement and the east with a four-light hinged casement, and both with a timber sill, probably modern and relatively square jambs (Plate 24). The west elevation is plain and evidently an inserted concrete block construction covering the wall proper (as can be seen within the cupboard covering the fuse box in the north-west corner), perhaps added to support a modern staircase that leads up from the south side or to cover a fireplace at this end (there is no corresponding chimney externally but this could have been removed). The stairs are accessed by a pedestrian doorway with a presumably re-used door with six moulded panels (Plate 25). The south elevation is entirely plain, while the east elevation has a bulge at the base of the wall corresponding to the line of the plinth evident externally to the south, and an opening on the south side with no door or surround, with a single step down into a small lobby between Rooms G1 and G2.



Plate 24 (left): The north elevation of Room G3 showing the windows and beams



Plate 25 (right): The west elevation of Room G3 showing the modern staircase

4.3.5 **First Floor Room 1:** this has a modern chipboard floor, open on the west side to the stairs with a handrail across the opening, and plasterboard ceiling attached to timber battens. The walls are all finished with painted woodchip wallpaper. Modern stud partition walls have been added in the north-east corner to form an *en suite* toilet and there is a plain skirting board throughout. The north elevation has a single window on the east side with a four-light hinged casement and modern timber sill. The west elevation is stepped out at the base, corresponding to the concrete block wall in the room below and presumably in order to support the staircase. Above this there is a doorway on the north side with a tongue and groove plank and door with two lights in the upper half. The south elevation is plain, but with projecting boxing at floor level presumably covering pipes or cables. The east elevation is plain with a sink and toilet within the *en suite*.



Plate 26: The west elevation of Room F1

4.3.6 **Roof space over First Floor Room 1:** this could not be fully accessed but could be viewed through an access hatch in the room below. The roof is supported by a single purlin on each side and a single vertically-set roof purlin, all of which are neatly sawn and likely to be Baltic pine. The rafters appear more recent. The east end is plain and finished with whitewash, while the west end is similar but

appears to have a vertical line running through it, perhaps denoting the position of a flue? Remains of a thick piece of rope are fixed to the upper side of the each purlin at the east end with a U-shaped staple.

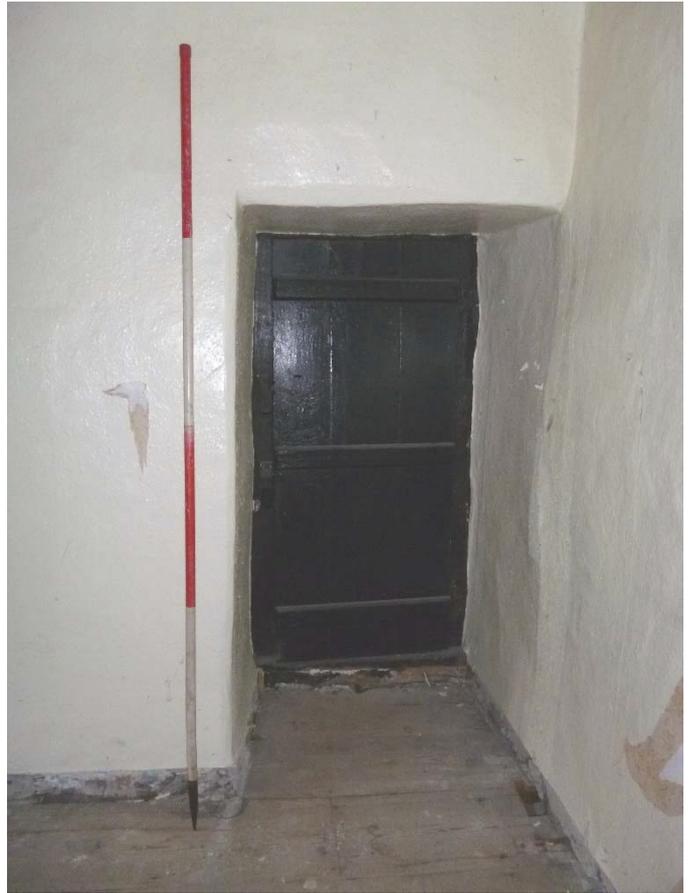


**Plate 27: Roofspace above Room F1**

**4.3.7 First Floor Room 2:** this has wide, presumably original floorboards, which continue into Room F3 to the east. The ceiling is lathe and plaster, although this has been removed on the south side exposing the joists, which are socketed into a single beam orientated east/west, which is hand-finished and chamfered and has an additional timber 'corbel' at the west end supported by a large semi-circular corbel below (presumably stone?) (Plate 28). The walls are mostly finished with painted woodchip wallpaper, and there are scars of former stud walls on the floor on the south side of the room. The north elevation is plain, but an early timber stud partition wall. The west elevation has a window with a modern timber sill and two-light hinged casement. To the south of this the plaster has been removed, exposing the original jamb of the window, which is splayed and finished with plaster, with the gap between it and the extant window blocked with stone (the resulting voids have now been filled with green expanding foam) (Plate 29). The south elevation is mostly plain, although there is a doorway on the west side with an early nailed plank and batten door with long strap hinges with decorative ends in a plain surround, the edges of which are recessed to fit the door. The east elevation is a stud partition wall, the studs of which are exposed but finished with floral wallpaper (Plate 30). On the south side there is an opening, presumably originally a doorway or perhaps an inserted doorway. At the north end there is a definite doorway, with an early plank and batten door in a plain surround, held with pegs and with a slight step at the base.



**Plate 28 (left): Beam and corbels and window in west elevation, Room G2**



**Plate 29 (right): Early plank and batten door on the west side of the south elevation, Room G2**



**Plate 30: Early stud partition wall, east elevation, Room F2**

4.3.8 **First Floor Room 3:** this too has early wide timber floorboards, extending from Room G2. The ceiling is finished with plaster and woodchip wallpaper and supported by a single hand-finished and chamfered beam orientated east/west. All of the walls are finished with plaster and woodchip wallpaper. The north elevation is plain, apart from a narrow doorway on the west side with a tongue and groove plank and batten door set in a plain surround with a slight step at the base. The west elevation is an early stud partition wall with a sink against it in the centre and an opening, presumably originally a doorway, at the south end. The south elevation is plain, with a bath on the east side, originally tiled above. The east elevation has a window on the south side with a modern three-light casement, splayed jambs, and a window seat below that has been tiled, beneath which is a bath. There is a toilet to the north of this.

4.3.9 **First Floor Room 4:** the floor is finished with tongue and groove boards, actually sat on top of the earlier floorboards, some of which are evidently wide and fairly early, while others are more recent tongue and groove. The ceiling is finished with plasterboard, although some has been removed, exposing the joists on the south side, and is supported by a single east/west hand-finished timber beam with chamfer decoration (Plate 30). Attached to the west end of this is an additional chamfered timber 'corbel', scarf jointed to the beam and fixed with pegs and round-headed iron bolts (Plate 34). The walls are typically finished with plaster and wallpaper. The north elevation is largely plain, apart from a window on the west side with a two-light hinged casement formed around an ovolo-moulded timber mullion and with similarly moulded sides set within splayed jambs (Plate 32). The west elevation is plain, although the plaster has been partially stripped to reveal the right jamb of window that presumably originally extended beyond the line of the south wall. It has a hand-finished timber lintel with stop-chamfer decoration and the jamb is splayed (Plate 33). It is similar in form and size to the blocked section of window in Room G2, and it is possible that this represents a single long window extending across this elevation before the east/west arm or the stud walls dividing Rooms G2 and G4 were constructed. The south elevation is a plain early stud partition (Plate 34), as is the east, although with a doorway on the

south side. This houses a door of early plank and batten construction on hung hinges, with early timber latch fittings, a plain surround, and a step formed from the base rail of the stud wall.



Plate 31 (left): Beam with additional corbel in Room F4



Plate 32 (right): Ovolo-moulded mullion window, north elevation, Room F4



Plate 33 (left): Blocked window, west elevation, Room F4



Plate 34 (right): Early stud wall, south elevation, Room F4, showing corbel jointed to beam above

4.3.10 **First Floor Room 5:** this comprises a hall connecting the stairs from Room F2 to the first floor rooms and the spiral staircase to the second floor. The floor is finished with a mixture of early wide boards and more modern tongue and groove type, with a modern flight of timber stairs leading down to the ground floor in the north-east corner and a spiral staircase leading to the second floor against the

east elevation. The modern staircase is essentially plain, with boxed in hand rail around the top, while the spiral staircase has an octagonal newel post with two slots, perhaps relating to a doorway to a cupboard beneath the stairs (Plate 35). The steps are all original sawn planks (although covered with hardboard sheeting) one of which has a levelling mark on its rear (south) face (Plate 36), and the newel post sits on a massive block of timber that extends below the bottom step. All of the walls are finished with plaster and painted wall paper. The north elevation is plain, although a section of plaster has been removed on the west side revealing a narrow blocked aperture, apparently a doorway, in the wall (Plate 37). This has a plain timber surround with pegged joints at the top and a rebate for the door (although this is not present) and the east side of the surround has a group of taper burn marks on it (Plate 38). Internally the jambs are plastered and they appear to be splayed in the reverse direction. This aperture apparently corresponds to the position of a blocked window externally, but it is not clear why a doorframe was added into the opening.



**Plate 35 (left): Spiral staircase in Room F5**

**Plate 36 (right): Levelling mark on the rear of one of the planks forming the steps of the spiral staircase**



**Plate 37 (left): Blocked doorway in the north elevation of Room F5**

**Plate 38 (right): Detail showing the taper burn marks on the east jamb of the doorway**

4.3.11 The west elevation has two doorways, both of which have essentially identical early nailed plank and batten doors with long strap hinges with decorative ends set within surrounds that are essentially plain and of pegged construction, but with ogee-moulded heads with denticulate decoration. The northern door also has an attached angled timber bracket or handle. The south elevation is a timber stud wall, with the studs exposed but painted black, and with a narrow doorway on the west side with a plank and batten door. The wall continues behind the spiral staircase on the east side. The south end of the east elevation continues behind the spiral staircase; a loose relatively modern plank and batten door probably originally covered the area below the stairs. Immediately to the north of the stairs is a window with splayed jambs, a hand-finished timber lintel, and a modern casement and sill.



**Plate 39 (left): Northernmost west doorway in Room F5**

**Plate 40 (right): Southernmost west doorway in Room F5**

4.3.12 **Second Floor Room 1:** this is essentially an attic room, and so only has proper elevations at the north and south ends. The floor is constructed from sheets of modern chipboard. It is open to the roof, which has two purlins per pitch and a diagonally-set ridge purlin. The purlins on the east side are relatively modern replacements, while those to the west are probably original and neatly hand-finished. The purlins are supported by a pair of raised cruck trusses or curved principal rafters, each with a collar jointed to the cruck blades and pegged together (Plate 41 and Plate 42). There are hammered carpenter's marks on the west end of each truss, on the south face at the junction between the collar and the principal/cruck in the form of Roman numerals: 'I' on the southern example and 'II' on the north (Plate 43). In addition, there is a taper mark on the north face of the principal/cruck of the southern truss at the west end (Plate 44). The base of the both of the western principals/cruks is encased in a block of plaster (Plate 42) and there are upright studs, presumably from former stud walling around the access to the spiral stair case, beneath the east ends. All of the walls are finished with rough plaster and whitewash. The east and west elevations are plain. The north elevation has two windows. The west has recently been exposed and comprises a four-light timber ovolo-moulded mullion and transome window, with vertical timber dividing bars in the lower two lights (Plate 45). The aperture has splayed jambs and a hand-finished timber lintel with stop-chamfer decoration. The east window was partially obscured by an attached sheet of plywood, but was clearly originally similar in style, as the sides of the casement are ovolo-moulded and a scar from where the transome had been sawn off visible. It now has a two-light hinged casement, but the aperture also has splayed jambs and a hand-finished stop-chamfered timber lintel. The south elevation has a window on the east side that has been blocked to leave an alcove (Plate 46). It too has a hand-finished timber lintel with stop-chamfer decoration and splayed jambs although, unlike the windows to the north, the sill is much closer to floor level. Slightly west of the centre there is a former fireplace with a heavy stone lintel, the sides and back of which are finished with rough plaster. At the west side there is a further wide opening forming an alcove, but this is much taller, perhaps indicating that it was originally a doorway. It has no lintel, however, the opening continuing to the roof level, where

there is some rebuilt in concrete blocks in the wall behind. The jambs and back are all finished with plaster, and the east jamb turns slightly to the east at the top.



**Plate 41 (left): The trusses in Room S1, east side**

**Plate 42 (right): The trusses in Room S1, west side**



**Plate 43 (left): Carpenter's mark 'll', west end of northern truss, Room S1**



**Plate 44 (right): Taper mark, west end of southern truss, Room S1**



**Plate 45 (left): Timber mullion and transom window in the north elevation, Room S1**

**Plate 46 (right): Window, fireplace and 'doorway' in the south elevation, Room S1**

## 5. Discussion

### 5.1 Phasing

5.1.1 **Introduction:** the building retains a remarkable number of early or original features, some of which are broadly dateable, while the presence of the datestone is of particular significance in understanding its origins. Three phases of development can be identified.

5.1.2 **Phase 1 (early 17<sup>th</sup> century):** there is every reason to suppose that the datestone of 1623 relates to the origins of the building, although this initially only comprised the north/south three storey range. In addition, a number of features, in particularly the ogee doorheads and associated decorative strap hinges and timber mullion and transom windows can be dated by analogy to this general period (Alcock and Hall 2002, 20-23 and 38-39). There are several indications that the original arrangement of the building has been much altered, with a number of doorways and windows blocked and a new staircase added, which has disguised the fact that as originally built access across the building was very different to the present arrangement. The ground floor was only accessible through a doorway in the south elevation and one in the east elevation, with perhaps another in the west; there was apparently no access between it and the first floor. The first floor could be accessed via a doorway in the southern elevation leading into Cantsfield Hall. Another possible doorway existed in the north elevation, as shown by the doorway revealed internally, although this seems implausible given the height from the ground and the lack of evidence for any associated external staircase, which would have been necessary. The spiral staircase linked the first and second floors, and presumably belonged to this period, although its position slightly blocking the neighbouring window might suggest it is later. One feature of interest within the phase 1 fabric is the presence of a group of taper marks in the doorframe at the north end of Room G5 and on the southern truss. The significance and meaning of these is uncertain but recent research has suggested that they are difficult to create artificially and may instead have been produced for some ritual purpose or as construction marks (Dean and Hill 2011a; 2011b). In addition the levelling mark on the timber within the newel staircase is of interest, and unlikely to be later than the 17<sup>th</sup> century in date (Miles and Russell 1995).

5.1.3 In light of its curious access arrangements the original function of the building is difficult to be certain of. Its plan is unlike any standard form of domestic or farm building. An alternative suggestion is that it was utilised, at least in part, to house weavers as a form of proto-industrial workshop. Examples of such buildings are relatively well known in other parts of the country, although they have not been examined in detail in North Lancashire. Typical features tend to be large or plentiful windows, in order to allow the maximum amount of light into the room, and separate access to the workshop areas. Examples combining these elements are known in the Greater Manchester area (Redhead 2003, 71-74), the Lancashire Pennines (Pearson 1985, 97-99), Yorkshire (Giles 2004, 75-79), and the Douglas Valley (Miller 2002, 96). More recently individual possible examples have been recorded such as Frosthwaite Farm near Kendal (Greenlane Archaeology 2007) and possibly Black Beck Hall in the Cartmel Peninsula (Greenlane Archaeology 2006) and Slackwood Farm near Silverdale (Greenlane Archaeology 2011). The movement towards greater industrialisation of activities such as weaving is known to have been taking place by the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, with the clothiers able to '*live well and growe riche and sett thousands on woorke*' (Raistrick 1993, 71), and wills of the period often contain reference to textile weaving equipment or stocks of yarn and cloth (*op cit*, 72). It is interesting to note that although Isabel Cansfield's inventory (*Appendix 2*) includes no looms or other equipment appearing to relate to weaving, it does have a considerable amount of finished textile items including sheets, covers and cushions, far more than would seem necessary for a single household. However, an entry in Isabel Cansfield's inventory lists '*eyght hames with other iron geare*' in '*the old loft over the kitchen*' – it is conceivable that 'hames' is in fact a mis-reading of 'frames', referring to frames used in weaving, although a hame is also a specific piece of horse harnessing gear. Identifying the rooms listed in the inventory is unfortunately difficult, although it is conceivable that 'kitchen' is the large ground floor room with the datestone (G2; Chippendall certainly refers to this as the kitchen (1940, 43)), and the 'gallorie' might refer to a room used for spinning, and from its description it could represent some or all of the first floor. It is listed as containing six beds and associated bedding, which may be significant as in at least some cases (albeit of

19<sup>th</sup> century date) weavers slept where they worked (Giles 2004, 81). It is perhaps also not a coincidence that the datestone also includes two pairs of 'wool shears' (Garnett 1999, 34).

**5.1.4 Phase 2 (late 18<sup>th</sup> – early 19<sup>th</sup> century?):** the two storey east/west wing of the building is clearly a later addition. Its general style and the type of timber used would suggest it is late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century in date; it was certainly constructed by the time the first Ordnance Survey map and Tithe Map were surveyed in the mid-1840s. The purpose of this addition is unclear. Like the rest of the building, it too originally had separate access to the first floor, via an external staircase against the west gable that has since been removed, but there was originally no internal staircase between the ground and first floor. The later date makes a similar function to the earlier part of the building perhaps unlikely. It is more likely that it served as a stable or other agricultural building, perhaps with a hay loft or granary above, although this could also have been used as accommodation.

**5.1.5 Phase 3 (20<sup>th</sup> century):** the most recent alterations have, in many ways, been the most damaging. Most noticeable is the addition of stairs between the ground and first floor, which have involved considerable alteration to internal stud walls and floors. In addition, alterations have been made to several windows and doors, with some being blocked (most notably in Rooms G1, G2 and G3) or the size altered (for example in G2), much this work evidently having been carried out before 1940. In addition, at least one new doorway was created, through a former window into Room G1.

## 5.2 Conclusion

**5.2.1** The Birches evidently began its life as part of Cantsfield Hall, although its direct chronological relationship with the remains of the latter is uncertain, especially given the extensive modification Cantsfield Hall has seen. By contrast The Birches has remained remarkably well preserved; it seems logical that the earliest phases of development can be dated to 1623 and many features belonging to this period are present. The unusual arrangement of the building does indicate something other than a purely domestic function. The evidence for it having been utilised for textile weaving is not explicit in the documentary sources but there are clues that this was the case within the building itself and possibly within Isabel Cansfield's will. If this is the case it is an unusual and important example of a 'proto-factory', examples of which are known from the wider area, although the phenomenon has not been widely reported in North Lancashire.

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## Appendix 1: Listed Building Details

(From English Heritage 2011)

Name: Cantsfield Hall

Date listed: 4<sup>th</sup> December 1985

Grade II

House, 1623, altered. Slobbered rubble with slate roof. Comprises 2 wings abutting at right angles, probably added to an earlier building which has subsequently disappeared. Both wings are of 2 storeys with attic. The original windows had external timber lintels, plain reveals, and ovolo-moulded wooden mullions: a few survive. The east wall of the north block has 2 1st floor windows with timber lintels remaining. At the right on the ground floor is a similar lintel over a blocked opening. Left-hand gable chimney. This south gable wall has traces of blocked doorways on the ground and 1st floors. The left-hand part of the wall is overlapped by the adjoining wing. The right-hand (north) gable has a timber lintel over a ground-floor door and window. On the 1st floor are 2 lintels, the left-hand one over a blocked opening, the right-hand one over a 2-light ovolo-moulded mullioned window. The attic has one window with ovolo-moulded timber surround, and another blocked window. The south wall of the south wing is of 2 bays and has modern windows with plain stone surrounds, except at the left on the ground floor where there is a small high opening with plain reveals. The north wall of this wing has a ground-floor window with timber lintel and ovolo-moulded wooden surround. On the 1st floor is a 3-light window with ovolo-moulded wooden mullions. Interior. North wing has a stone lintel above a modern fireplace, carved with the arms of the Cansfield family and inscribed: 'ISABEL CANSFIELD ANO DNI 1623. On the 1st floor are timber-framed partitions with depressed ogee doorheads. The roof of the north wing has curved principals. In the north wall is a blocked ovolo-moulded timber cross window.

## Appendix 2: Will of Isabel Cansfield, 1635

(copy and transcription provided by Jonathan Ratter; original reference LRO WRW/L/R555 A/2 1635)

In the name of God Amen. I Isabell Cansfield widdow beeinge in good and pfect memorie do hereby constitute make and ordain this my last will and testament in maner and forme following this psent thertinth of Januarue 1635. Ferst I give & bequeath my soule into the hands of allmightie God and my bodie to Christian buriell at Tunstall or els where at the discretion of my exequitors. Ite: I give to my eldest sonne John Cansfield my weddinge ringe in full satisfaction of his chills pt or of any other titell of claime he might or may make unto any pt of my goods requesting my saide sonne to leave the same ringe as an heirloome to his right heirs and posteritie. Ite: my will is that after my debtes and funeral expenses be discharged then I say my will is that all the residue of my goods other that I dye possessed of or at that time is or may bee any way of right due unto me; bee equally divided amongst my younger children then livinge to witt Charles Cansfield Blanch Cansfield Erill Cansfield the survivors or survivor of them at the time of my death provided all wayes and it is my will that what so ever expenses my exequitors bee any way put unto consarning this my will bee discharged of out of my said goods and all such legacies as I shall by word of mouth by sceduell or other ways might unto them be truly discharged. And of this my last will & testament I constitute and ordaine my brother Henery Ashton and my cozen Lucke Hodskinson of Preston my exequitors and my cozen Roger Hesketh supvisor intreatinge him to ayed and assist my exequitors. Wittnes where of to this my last will and testament I have put my hand and seale this psent thertinth day of Januarie 1635

The marke of

X

Isabell Cansfield

1635

An inventorie of the goods and chattels of Mrs Isabel Cansfield of Cansfield widow deceased 2 prized by these fower men Richard Bilton Ffrancis Carrington John Battison and Robert Fishweeke

	£	s	d
Five steares	4	-	-
Three heffers	8	10	-
Thirteen kine & one suckling calfe	38	-	-
One cowe & tenne calfe	15	-	-
Fourtie fower old sheepe	13	-	-
Twenty five hoggs & one goate	5	-	-
One young blacke gelding	7	-	-
One old horse	1	-	-
Twoe swine	1	8	-
Geese turkies & other powltry	2	10	-
Corne within the barne	32	-	-
Barly, bigg, oates & pease in fodder haye & strawe with worthing	6	8	4
In meale	31	-	-
In malt and barlie	25	-	-
Five great arkes	6	13	4
Bedstocks & other husbandrie geare in the stable loft	-	15	-
In one out howse one steeping tub	1	10	-
Brewing vesstlls knop cowler [?] & gullefatt	4	-	-
In the upper buttery fower Salting tubs & one great chiste	2	-	-

Client: Jeff Niland

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In the same place groats	2	-	-
In the hall two tables and fower formes	1	6	8
In the plour one longe table one square table one livery cupboard fived seeled chaires & three formes	4	-	-
In the backe buttery one great cupboard one lesser cupboard and six hogsheds	2	-	-
In the old loft over the kitchen eyght hames with other iron geare	2	-	-
In the same place one great presse & one chiste	1	6	8
Seeves & widlets	-	3	4
Loose seeling cowper timber and other loose boards	3	10	-
One bedd two tubs with feathers in and two little chistes	1	-	-
In potts and pott mettle	5	15	-
Unbound pann mettle	4	-	-
Two brasse candlesticks & a little chafing dish	-	3	4
Pann mettle bound with iron	2	10	-
In the kitchen one iron grate five rackencrooks one pair touns one fire prodd one brandreth five spits one pair of racks 3 iron barrs that the rackencrooke hangs on	4	-	-
In other old iron implements	1	-	-
In the milk howse and pantrie [?] loose board & all other wooden vessel	3	-	-
In al manner of pewter	13	6	8
In the little chamber one standing bedd with curtaines two feather beds one boulster 3 blanketts twoe chists and one rugge	5	-	-
In the closet one chiste with other odd boxes & a little basket	-	13	4
In the chamber over the hall a little trundle bedd one owld mattress one feather bed one boulster 2 blankeys one coverlet	1	10	-
Twenty fower cushions	3	-	-
Fower thrown chairs & tenn stooles	1	-	-
One long table one round table one livery cupboard & one standing cupboard with glasses one cabonit with little glasses one plodd [?] covering and two formes & a paire of tables	2	13	4
One fire prodd shovel & a little p. of tongs	-	2	-
In the chamber over the plour one trundle bedd one mattres one feather bed one boulster and blanketts & 2 coverletts	3	5	-
One livery cupboard one greene chaire one little chaire & a little stoole covered with black velvett one chist one needle woorke carpet one quisson & other 3 coloured carpetts	4	10	-
In silver plate of all sortes	26	13	4
In linning cloath 20 yards	2	-	-
Fower dozen of fine linge napkins one dozen & fine damaske napkins tow dozen of course napkins & one dozen of course towels	4	15	-
Eyght fine lining towels one damaske & one diapa little diaper cupboard cloth	1	10	-
7 livery cupboard cloaths	-	14	-
3 square table cloathes	-	12	-
Three longe diap table cloathes & one damaske table cloth	3	3	4
3 long linen table cloathes	1	13	4
Elevean table clothes courser	1	4	-
Fine wrought pillow beares & two cambricke	2	-	-
Twenty other pillow beares	1	10	-
One paire of cambricke sheets	2	6	8
Eyght paire of holland sheets	12	-	-
Eleaven paire of course sheets	6	-	-
Tenn paire of linn sheets	5	-	-
Twelve pair of old worne sheets	1	4	-
In the little chamber over the buttery one trundle bedd a cupboard and a greene cupboard cloath	-	10	-
In the highest chamber one standing cupboard two little tables fower little chaires 4 formes 2 greene carpetts 3 black quissons one old chist and one old trunk	4	-	-
In the gallorie 6 feather beds 6 boulsters 5 pillowes 3 coverletts and two blanketts	10	-	-

One long chist one square table fower little trunkes one paire bed stocks two little forms loose boards and 2 little boxes	2	6	8
Linnen yarne	-	17	-
One bushel of wheat or thereabouts	-	15	-
In butter and cheese	2	-	-
Mugg potts and cannis	1	-	-
One old horse skin & a calf shinn	-	3	4
In the old chamber one bedd one bowlster one paire sheets two blancketts and 2 coverletts	1	-	-
In the chamber over the stable five coverlets one blankett one paire sheets and two boulsters	1	-	-
Twelve sacks & two windowe sheets	1	10	-
Two quisson cases & stoole coverings	-	6	-
One standing bedd over the hall one other standing bed over the parlour and one other standing bedd over the buttery wth furniture thereunto belonging	12	-	-
One standing bed in the high most roome with furniture	2	13	4
In the kitchen chamber one low bedd wth appurtenances	1	10	-
Beefe bacon sewit wth bread & drink and other odd victuals and candles	3	10	-
One womans sadle two old pads pillion seat & cloathes one little iron grate in the chamber over the parlour and a paire of tounges	-	14	8
One sledd ploughes carts wheels ladders yoakes harrowes with other things in the henn howse	2	13	4
All her apparel wth rings and other jewells	10	10	-
Summa total	418	10	-

## Appendix 3: Occupiers of Cantsfield Hall taken from the Census, 1841-1901

<b>1841 Census HO107/530/12</b>				
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Place of Birth</b>
George Bargh	40	Farmer	Cantsfield Hall	Lancashire
Elizabeth Bargh	40		Cantsfield Hall	Lancashire
Samual Bargh	17		Cantsfield Hall	Lancashire
Henry Bargh	15		Cantsfield Hall	Lancashire
Elizabeth Bargh	14		Cantsfield Hall	Lancashire
George Bargh	12		Cantsfield Hall	Lancashire
Hannah Bargh	10		Cantsfield Hall	Lancashire

<b>1851 Census HO107/2273/3</b>				
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Place of Birth</b>
George Bargh	52	Farmer of 276 acres	Cantsfield Hall	Derby, Nr Chesterfield
Henry Bargh	26	Farmer's son	Cantsfield Hall	Lancashire, Cantsfield
George Bargh	22	Farmer's son	Cantsfield Hall	Lancashire, Cantsfield
Hannah Bargh	19	Farmer's daughter	Cantsfield Hall	Lancashire, Cantsfield
Isaac Bargh	16	Farmer's son	Cantsfield Hall	Lancashire, Cantsfield
Sarah Jane Bargh	14	Farmer's daughter	Cantsfield Hall	Lancashire, Cantsfield
Robert Edward Bargh	10	Farmer's son	Cantsfield Hall	Lancashire, Cantsfield
William Joseph Bargh	10	Farmer's son	Cantsfield Hall	Lancashire, Cantsfield
Elizabeth Nelson	24	Farmer's daughter	Cantsfield Hall	Lancashire, Cantsfield
Joseph[?] Nelson	1	Farmer's grandson	Cantsfield Hall	Lancashire, Cantsfield
Elizabeth Nelson	4 months	Farmer's grand daughter	Cantsfield Hall	Lancashire, Cantsfield

<b>1871 Census RG10/4236/13</b>				
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Place of Birth</b>
George Bargh	72	Farmer	Cantsfield Hall	Derbyshire
Elizabeth Bargh	50	Farmer's wife	Cantsfield Hall	Lancashire, Heysham
William Joseph Bargh	30	Farmer's son	Cantsfield Hall	Lancashire, Cantsfield
Thomas James Bargh	13	Scholar	Cantsfield Hall	Lancashire, Cantsfield
Margaret Borrow	14	General servant/domestic servant	Cantsfield Hall	Lancashire, Warrington
Ellen Smith	57	Wife's sister	Cantsfield Hall	Lancashire, Heysham

<b>1881 Census RG11/4273/11</b>				
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Place of Birth</b>
Robert Edward Bargh	46	Farmer of 108 acres	Farm House	Lancashire, Cantsfield
Jane Bargh	40	Farmer's wife	Farm House	Lancashire, Cantsfield
Elizabeth Bargh	17	Farmer's daughter	Farm House	Lancashire, Cantsfield
Maria Bargh	15	Farmer's daughter	Farm House	Lancashire, Cantsfield
Samual Bargh	13	Scholar	Farm House	Lancashire, Cantsfield
Mary Jane Bargh	11	Scholar	Farm House	Lancashire, Cantsfield
Edith Ann Bargh	6	Scholar	Farm House	Lancashire, Cantsfield
Lillian Sarah Bargh	3	Scholar	Farm House	Lancashire, Cantsfield
Amelia Alice Bargh	8 months	-	Farm House	Lancashire, Cantsfield
William Mason	24	Farm servant/agricultural labourer	Farm House	Yorkshire, Dent

<b>1891 Census RG12/3472/12</b>				
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Place of Birth</b>
Robert E Bargh	49	Farmer	Cantsfield Hall	Lancashire, Cantsfield
Martha Bargh	45		Cantsfield Hall	Yorkshire, Burton-in-Lonsdale
Samual Bargh	23	Farmer's son	Cantsfield Hall	Lancashire, Cantsfield
Mary J Bargh	21		Cantsfield Hall	Lancashire, Cantsfield
Lillian SA Bargh	13		Cantsfield Hall	Lancashire, Cantsfield
Robert B Casson	11	Scholar	Cantsfield Hall	Yorkshire, Bentham
Amalia A Bargh	10	Scholar	Cantsfield Hall	Lancashire, Cantsfield
George Bargh	6	Scholar	Cantsfield Hall	Lancashire, Cantsfield
Maggie Bargh	5	Scholar	Cantsfield Hall	Lancashire, Cantsfield
Kate Bargh	2		Cantsfield Hall	Lancashire, Cantsfield
John E Bargh	1		Cantsfield Hall	Lancashire, Cantsfield
William J Lambert	17	Farm servant	Cantsfield Hall	Lancashire, Lower Kellet

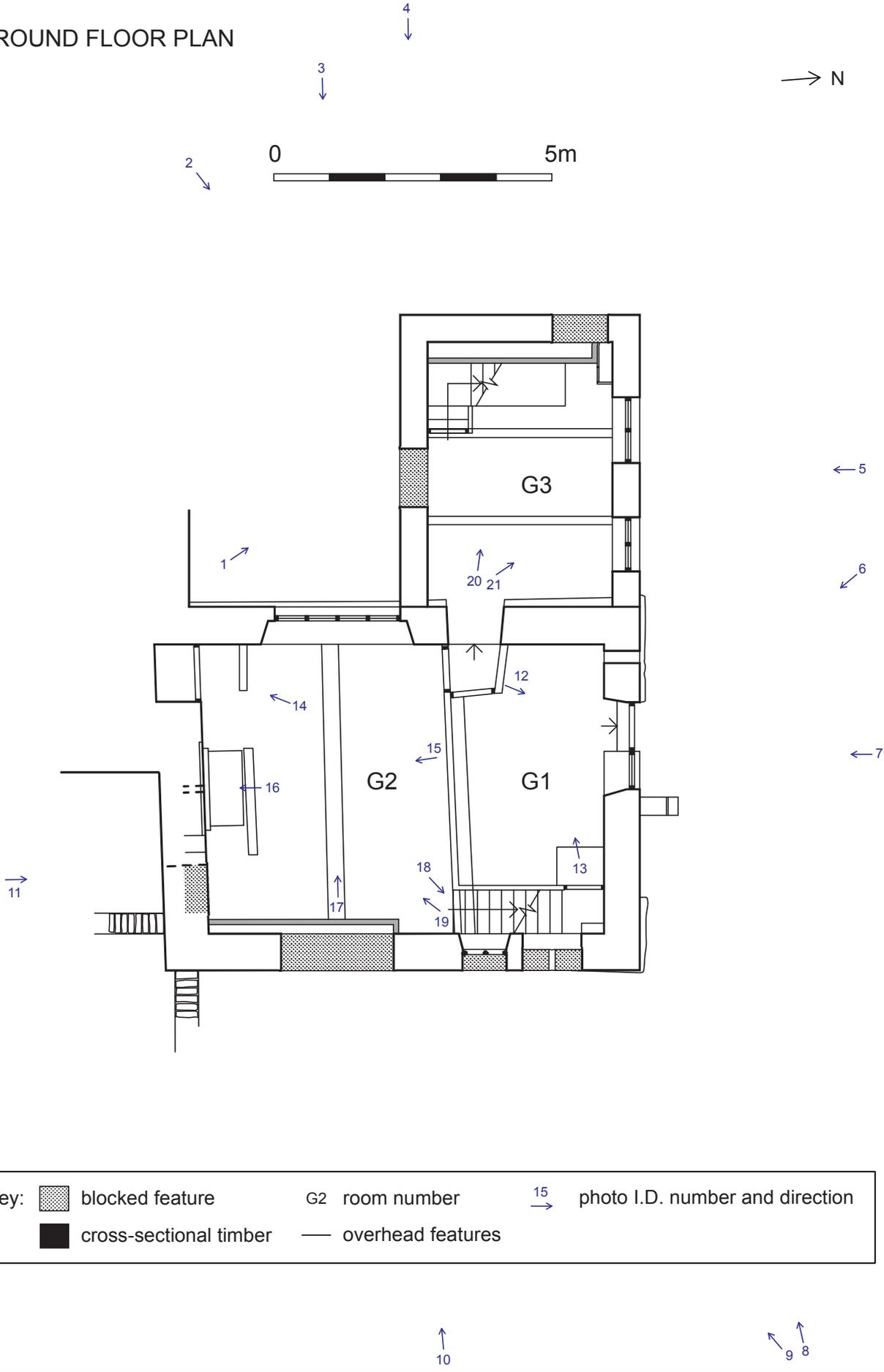
<b>1901 Census RG12/3472/12</b>				
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Place of Birth</b>
Robert E Bargh	59	Farmer	Cantsfield Hall	Lancashire, Tunstall
Martha Bargh	53		Cantsfield Hall	Lancashire, Thorton
George Bargh	16	Farmer's son	Cantsfield Hall	Lancashire, Tunstall
Maggie Bargh	15		Cantsfield Hall	Lancashire, Tunstall
Kate Bargh	12		Cantsfield Hall	Lancashire, Tunstall
John Ed Bargh	10		Cantsfield Hall	Lancashire, Tunstall
Thomas Casson	17	Farm servant	Cantsfield Hall	Lancashire, Tatham

## Appendix 4: Photographic Register

Photo ID No.	Area	Description	Medium format	Black and white	Colour digital
1	South elevation	West side of the south elevation		02-01	01-01
2	West elevation	Whole elevation from the south-west	04-007		
3	West elevation	South side of the west elevation	04-005	02-02	01-02
4	West elevation	Whole elevation from the west		02-04	01-04
5	North elevation	West side of the north elevation	04-003	02-05	01-05
6	North elevation	West side of the north elevation		02-07	01-07
7	North elevation	East side of the north elevation		02-06	01-06
8	North elevation	Whole elevation	04-002	02-08	01-08
9	East elevation	Whole elevation		02-09	01-09
10	East elevation	Whole elevation	04-001	02-10	01-10
11	South elevation	East side of the south elevation	04-006	02-03	01-03
12	G1	Door and window to the north		02-11	01-11
13	G1	Door and stud wall to the west		02-12	01-12
14	G2	South elevation cupboard		02-14	01-14
15	G2	South elevation general; from the north		02-15	01-15
16	G2	South elevation datestone		02-16, 02-17	01-16, 01-17
17	G2	West elevation window		02-13	01-13a, 01-13b
18	G2	Mullion window	04-010	02-22	01-22
19	G2	South elevation general; from the north-east	04-009		
20	G3	West elevation modern stairs	04-008	02-19	01-19
21	G3	North elevation windows		02-18	01-18
22	F1	West elevation door		02-20	01-20
23	F1	Roof space		02-21	01-21a, 01-21b
24	F2	General view from the south-west	04-014		
25	F2	Door to the south		02-23	01-23
26	F2	Window and beam		02-26	01-26
27	F2	Stud wall to the east		02-24	01-24
28	F2	Window to the west		02-25	01-25a, 01-25b
29	F4	Window to the north		03-01	01-38
30	F4	Window to the north (detail)		03-02	01-39
31	F4	Stud wall to the south; from the north		02-36	01-37
32	F4	Stud wall to the south; from the north-west	04-013		
33	F4	Beam, west end		02-35	01-36
34	F4	Blocked window to the west		02-34	01-35
35	F3	Window to the east		02-33	01-34
36	F5	Stairs	04-012	02-31	01-31
37	F5	Door at the north end	04-011	02-27	01-27
38	F5	Taper marks on door		02-28	01-28
39	F5	Door to the west; north side		02-29	01-29
40	F5	Door to the west; south side		02-30	01-30
41	F5	Levelling mark		02-32	01-32, 01-33
42	S1	General view of the north-east end of the room	04-015		
43	S1	Truss collars		03-17	01-54
44	S1	Mullion window		03-07	01-44
45	S1	Trusses; east side		03-04, 03-06	01-41, 01-43
46	S1	Mullion window (detail)		03-08	01-45
47	S1	Window to the east; north elevation		03-09	01-46
48	S1	Trusses; west side		03-03, 03-05	01-40, 01-42
49	S1	South elevation		03-10	01-47
50	S1	South elevation; fireplace and door		03-12	01-49
51	S1	South elevation; window to the east		03-11	01-48
52	S1	Cruck ends		03-13	01-50

<b>Photo ID No.</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Medium format</b>	<b>Black and white</b>	<b>Colour digital</b>
53	S1	Carpenter's mark; south truss		03-14	01-51
54	S1	Taper mark, south truss		03-15	01-52
55	S1	Carpenter's mark; north truss		03-16	01-53
-	-	General view of The Birches from the west			01-55
-	-	General view of outbuildings from the south-west	04-004		

# GROUND FLOOR PLAN



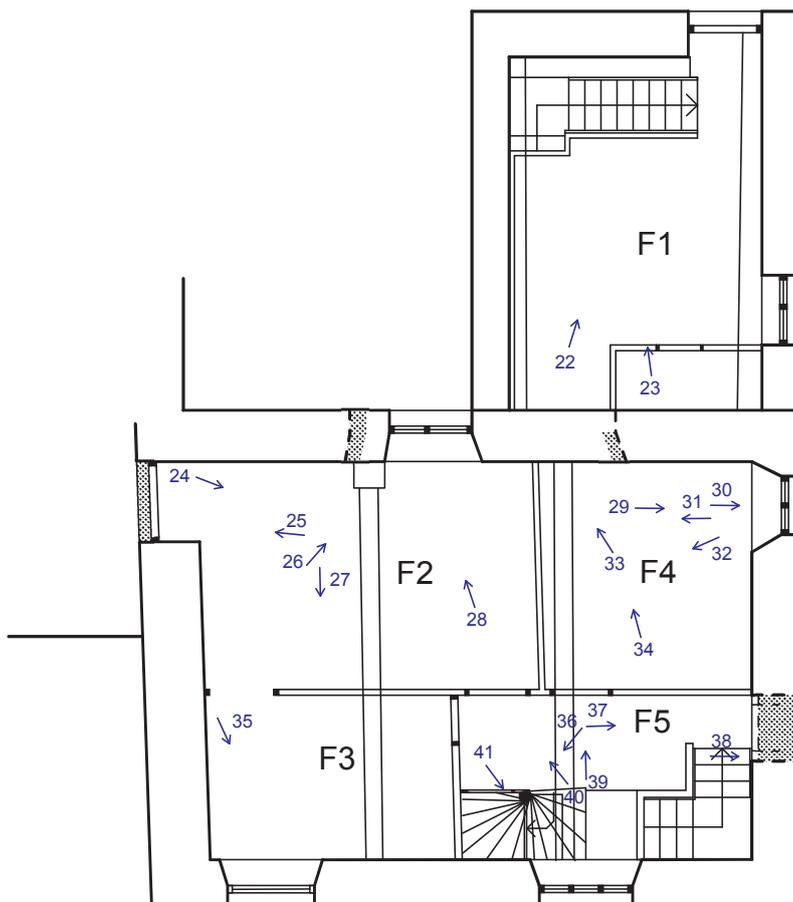
Key: blocked feature      G2 room number      photo I.D. number and direction  
 cross-sectional timber      — overhead features

Figure 7: Plan of the position and direction of photographs taken on the Ground Floor

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

→ N

0 5m

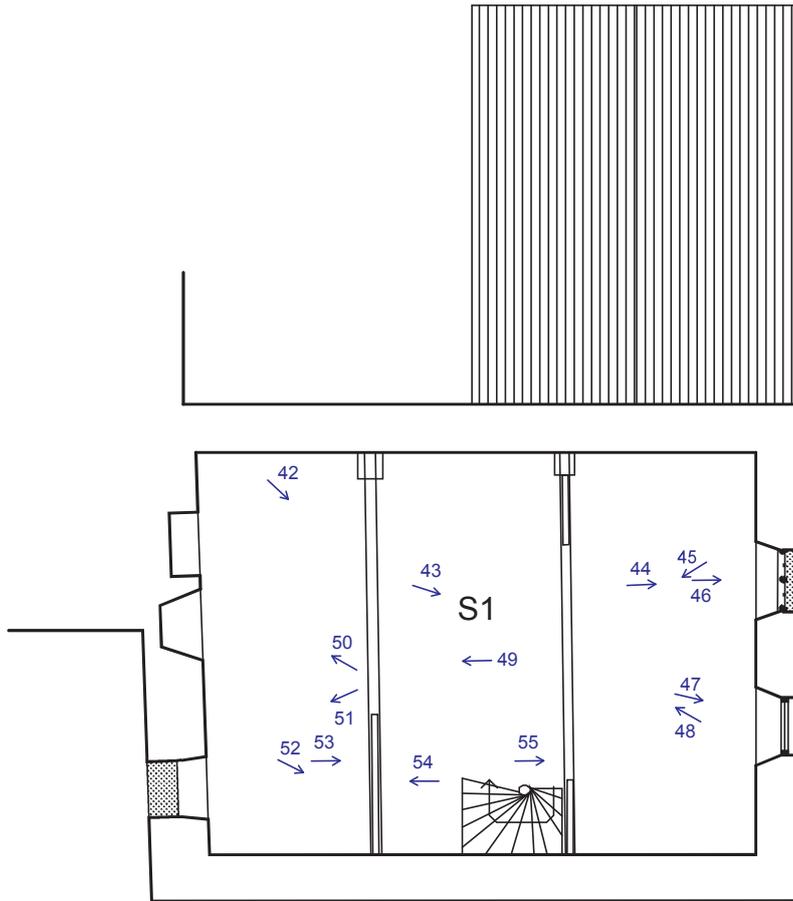



Key:	 blocked feature	G2 room number	 photo I.D. number and direction
	 cross-sectional timber	— overhead features	

**Figure 8: Plan of the position and direction of photographs taken on the First Floor**

# SECOND FLOOR PLAN

→ N



Key:	blocked feature	G2 room number	photo I.D. number and direction
	cross-sectional timber	— overhead features	

Figure 9: Plan of the position and direction of photographs taken on the Second Floor

Client: Mr Jeff Niland

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## Appendix 5: Archive Index

<b>Project name:</b>	The Birches, Cantsfield Lane, Cantsfield, Lancashire		
<b>Project Code:</b>	G1173	<b>Site Code:</b>	TB11
<b>Description</b>	<b>Material</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
Report	Paper	A4 and A3, Comb-bound	52 pages, printed double-sided
Record sheets	Paper	A4	17 sheets, double-sided
Photo record sheets	Paper	A4	3 sheet, double-sided
Annotated architect's drawings	Paper	A4	12 sheets, single-sided
Site drawings	Drafting film	Oversize	4 sheets, single-sided
Black and white prints	Photographic gloss prints	6 inches x 4 inches	53 prints
Negatives	Negative film	6 inches x 1 inch (approx)	19 strips
Negatives	Negative film	Medium format	1 sheet
Digital archive index	Paper	A4	1 sheet, single-sided
Digital archive	CD	-	1