

MOOR HOUSE FARM, BROUGHTON BECK, ULVERSTON, CUMBRIA

Archaeological Building Recording



Client: Neil Price Ltd

NGR: 337874 478761

Planning Application Ref.:
SL/12/0386

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Non-Technical Summary

Following the submission of a planning application for the demolition of the former farmhouse at Moor House Farm, Broughton Beck, Ulverston, Cumbria and erection of a replacement dwelling, a recommendation was made that an English Heritage Level 2 archaeological building recording be carried out. Although not listed the building is shown on Yates' map of Lancashire of 1786 and so considered worth recording so that a permanent record of it is made prior to demolition. Greenlane Archaeology was commissioned to carry out the building recording, which was undertaken in June 2012.

Little is known about the history of the building. It is shown on Yates' map but the earliest detailed representations only appear on the Ordnance Survey maps of the 19th century. The documentary sources demonstrate the existence of a dwelling of some form at 'Moorhouse' from at least 1721. It was clearly originally a farm, but by the later 19th century it was occupied by quarrymen and their families, some of which were quite large, and it is clear from the map evidence that the building was enlarged at this time.

The building recording revealed that the earliest phase of the building comprises a double-pile plan house, which is likely to be of early 18th century date based on a comparison with similar structures and the form of some of the features. These include L-shaped and other hinges, the staircase, two-panel doors with ovolo mouldings, and the general style of the roof truss, which had unusual cross-hatch levelling marks, again suggestive of an early date. Other features, such as a pair of timber mullion windows in the attic, perhaps suggest an even earlier date. The building was subsequently extended to the north-east, with a range of outbuildings, and south-west with a two storey addition, and also with gabled porches to the north-west and south-east, probably in the 19th or early 20th century. This corresponds with the period in which it was occupied by one or two families, and it is arguable that it was enlarged to accommodate them. During the late 20th and 21st century it was modified again, largely unsympathetically, with a concrete skim being added to much of the interior, concrete floors added, and the exterior being entirely finished with concrete render. The original windows were probably removed during this period and replaced with the present UPVC casements, and it is possible that the mullion windows in the attic were blocked at this time, although this probably occurred at an earlier date. Most recently the majority of the later additions have been demolished, leaving only a single outshut to the north-east and the two porches.

The farm house at Moor House Farm is a good example of an early double pile plan house, one of a number of recently recorded examples that demonstrate that these are often earlier than generally considered to be the case. It also retains a number of early or original features including several doors and the staircase, although the building as a whole is in a generally poor condition.

Acknowledgements

Greenlane Archaeology would like to thank Neil Price Ltd for commissioning the project and providing the 'as existing' drawings of the building, in particular Tim Coldrick. Additional thanks are due to the staff of the Cumbria Record Office in Barrow-in-Furness (CRO(B)) for their help in accessing the records.

The desk-based assessment was carried out by Dan Elsworth and the building recording was carried out by Dan Elsworth and Tom Mace. The report was written by Dan Elsworth and the illustrations produced by Tom Mace. The report was edited by Jo Dawson and Dan Elsworth managed the project.

1. Introduction

1.1 Circumstances of the Project

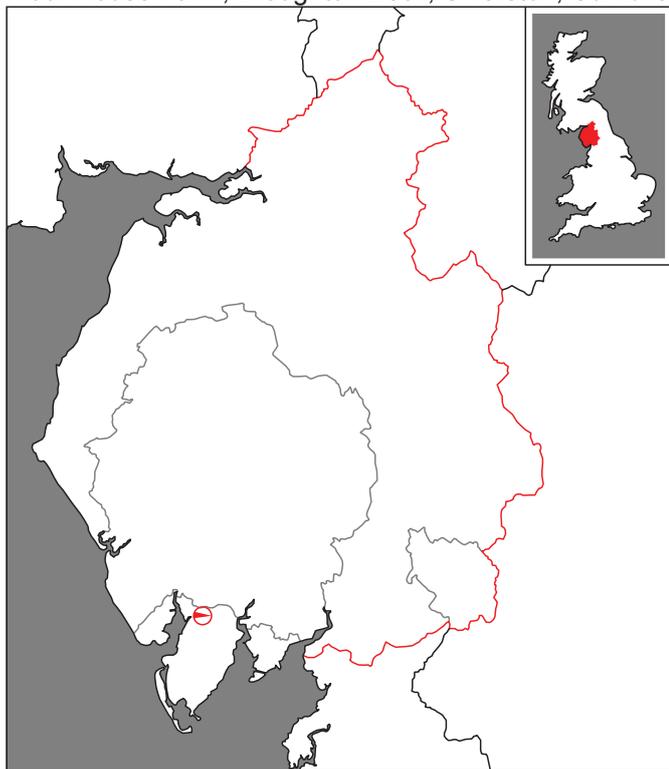
1.1.1 Following the submission of a planning application to demolish the former farmhouse at Moor House Farm, Broughton Beck, Ulverston, Cumbria (NGR 337874 478761) and erect a replacement dwelling (Planning Application Ref: SL/12/0286), Jeremy Parsons, Historic Environment Officer at Cumbria County Council, advised Kate Lawson, Planning Officer at South Lakeland District Council, that an English Heritage Level 2 type recording of the building should be carried out (English Heritage 2006). This is intended to provide a record of the building before demolition. Greenlane Archaeology was commissioned by Neil Price Ltd (hereafter 'the client') to carry out the building recording, and produced a project design for the work, which was carried out on June 2012.

1.1.2 The building is not Listed but is shown on Yates' map of 1786 and so considered to be at least 18th century in date.

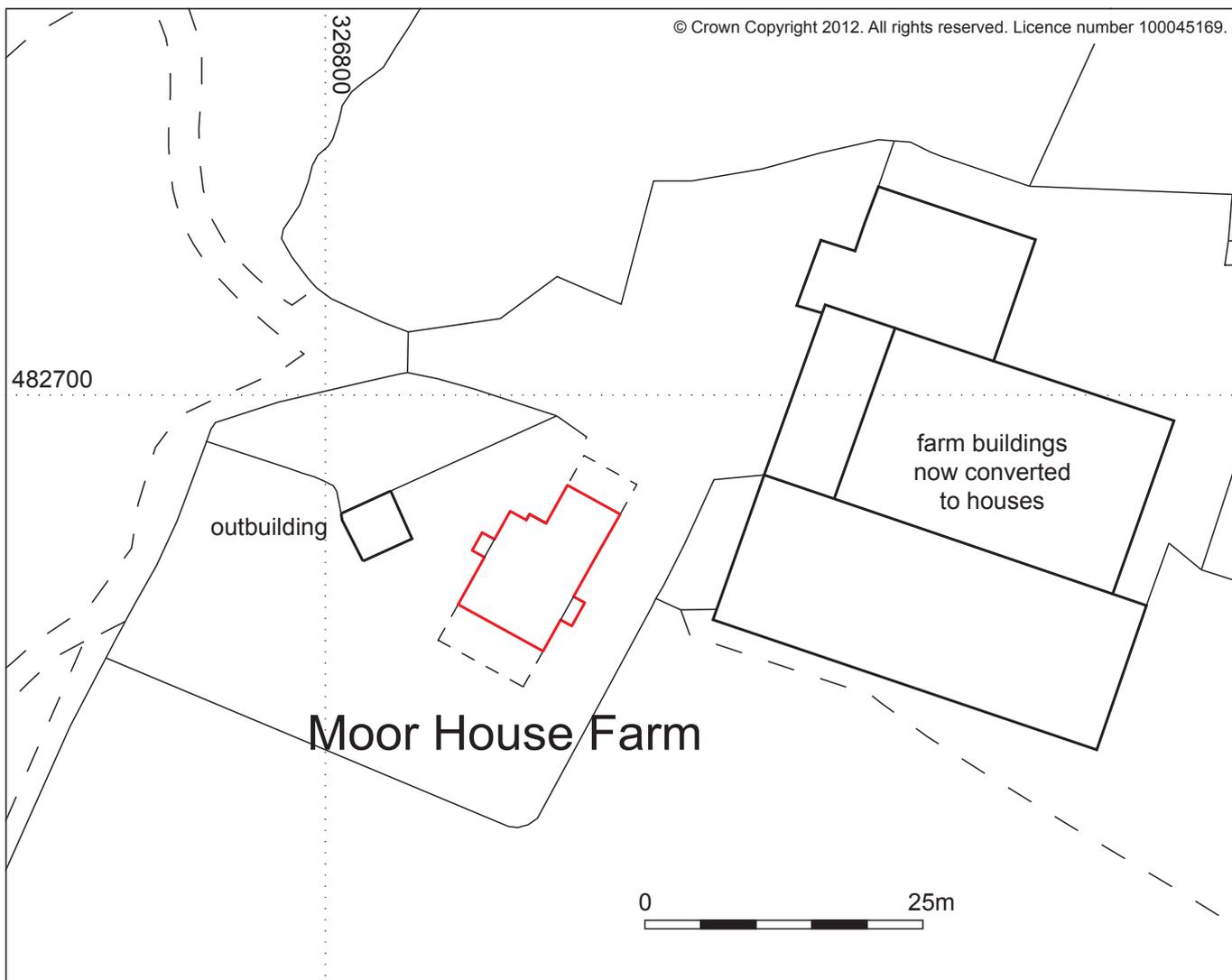
1.2 Location, Geology, and Topography

1.2.1 The site is situated approximately 1.5km west of Broughton Beck and 4km north-west of Ulverston (Figure 1). It is on the edge of open moorland to the west and at approximately 195m above sea level (Ordnance Survey 2010).

1.2.2 The solid geology of the area is dominated by Bannisdale slates of the Silurian group (Moseley 1978, plate 1), overlain by glacial till (Countryside Commission 1998, 66). The landscape is characterised by '*low fells and ridges*' dominated by pasture set within dry stone walls with only small areas of woodland (*op cit*, 64). Higher ground is more rugged, comprising '*heathland and rough grassland, interspersed with rocky outcrops, small tarns and becks, and stretches of bracken*' (*op cit*, 66).



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Figure 1: Site location

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). In addition a desk-based assessment was carried out in accordance with the project design and IfA guidelines (IfA 2008b) prior to the building recording, and a suitable archive was compiled to provide a permanent record of the project and its results in accordance with English Heritage and IfA guidelines (English Heritage 1991; Brown 2007).

2.2 Desk-Based Assessment

2.2.1 Information was gathered from the following locations:

- **Cumbria Record Office, Barrow (CRO(B))**: 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;
- **Greenlane Archaeology library**: additional secondary sources were used to provide information for the site background.

2.3 Building Recording

2.3.1 The building recording was carried out to English Heritage Level-2 type standards (English Heritage 2006), which is a largely descriptive investigation, with the interpretation only making a limited use of the available documentary information. The recording comprised the following elements:

- **Written record**: descriptive records of all parts of the building were made using Greenlane Archaeology *pro forma* record sheets;
- **Photographs**: photographs in both 35mm colour 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;
- **Drawings**: drawings were produced by hand-annotation of printed plots of 'as existing' architect's drawings provided by the client's architect. In addition, a cross-section was produced by hand. The drawings produced ultimately comprised:
 - i. each of the principal elevations at a scale of 1:100;
 - ii. a plan of each of the main floors at a scale of 1:100;
 - iii. a single cross-section at a scale of 1:50
 - iv. a detailed drawing of one of the timber mullion windows at a scale of 1:10.

2.4 Archive

2.4.1 A comprehensive archive of the project has been produced in accordance with the project design and 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 Cumbria Record Office in Barrow-in-Furness on completion of the project. Three copies of this report will be provided for the client, and one will be retained by Greenlane Archaeology. In addition a digital copy of the report will be provided to client's agent and the Cumbria Historic Environment Record (HER) in Kendal and a digital record of the project will be made on the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) scheme.

3. Desk-Based Assessment

3.1 Map Regression

3.1.1 **Introduction:** very early maps of the area tend to be relatively lacking in detail and are certainly not specific enough to be useful in understanding the development of the property. The earliest useful maps are therefore only from the 19th century, although Yates' map of 1786 also provides some information in this case.

3.1.2 **Yates 1786:** this map, although not as detailed as those that follow, is of use as it clearly depicts Moor House, which is labelled, and shows a single building (Plate 1). However, it is not necessarily clear whether this represents a single building or close group of buildings, or what their exact form was.

3.1.3 **Ordnance Survey, 1850:** despite its scale this plan is detailed enough to show the general arrangement of buildings at Moor House Farm (Plate 2). It is apparent that by this time much of the present arrangement was essentially in place, with the house shown as a rectangular block orientated north-east/south-west, with a further block, presumably of farm buildings, to the north-east. A track leads from the farm to the main road to the east and the site is clearly labelled 'Moor House'

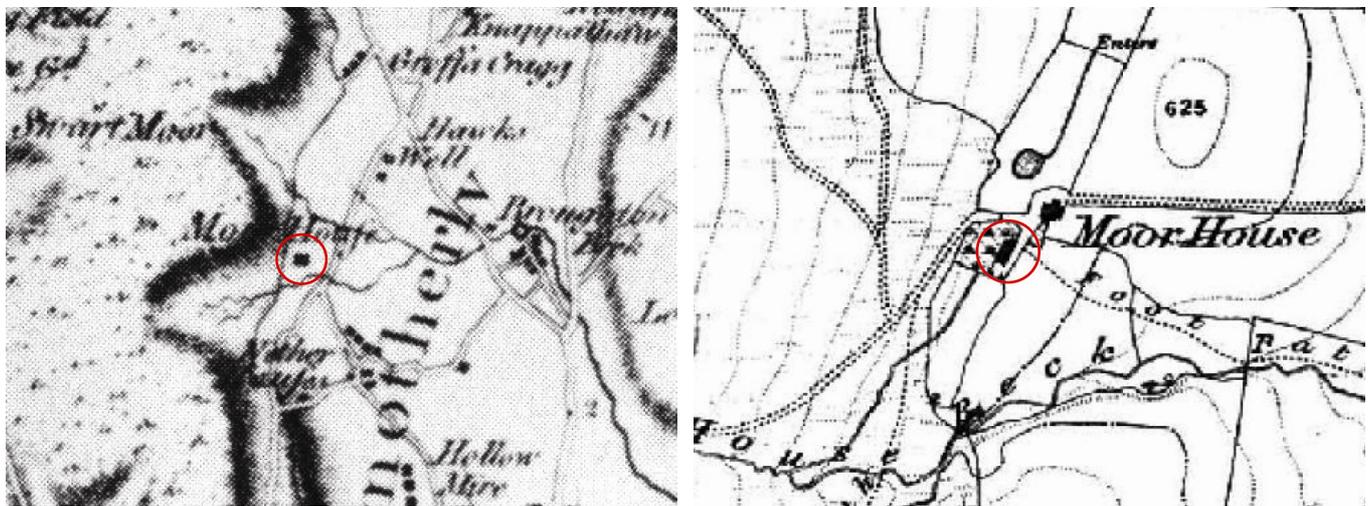


Plate 1 (left): Extract from Yates' map of Lancashire, 1786

Plate 2 (right): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1850

3.1.4 **Ordnance Survey, 1890:** this is the first map to show the divisions within the different parts of the building, although these are evidently largely incorrect, and it clearly demonstrates that by this time a number of additions have been made (Plate 3). The original rectangular block is still visible, but a group of smaller additions is visible at the north-east end, a small extension at the south-west end, a probable porch to the south-east and a further extension to the north-west. All or most of these additions appear to have been made since 1850, although the detail of the earlier plan makes it difficult to be certain in some cases.

3.1.5 **Ordnance Survey, 1913:** this shows essentially the same details the previous map, although the divisions within the building are differently arranged (Plate 4). In this case the central block of the building appears to be essentially square in plan, with a narrow outshut spanning the width of the south-west end and smaller outshuts to the north-east as shown on the earlier map.

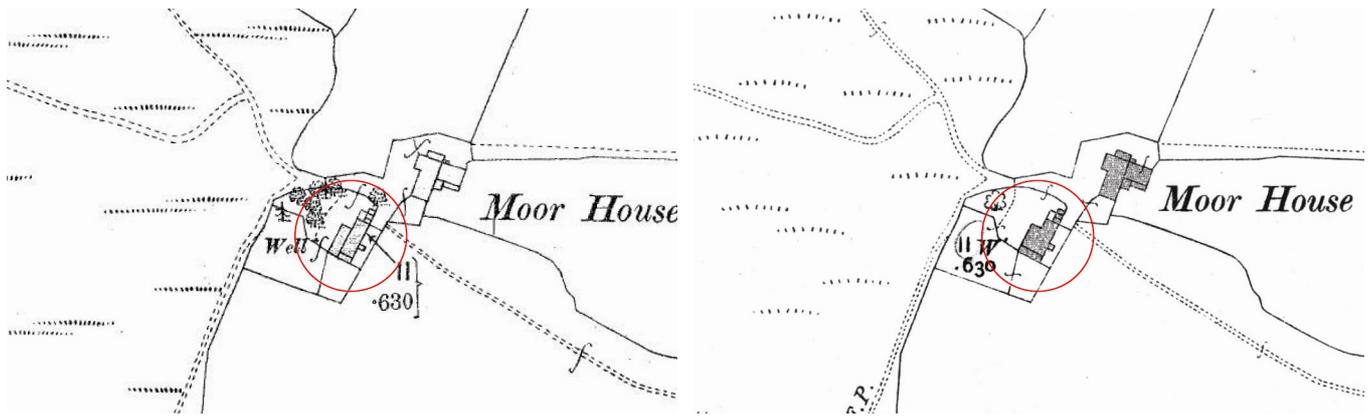


Plate 3: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1890

Plate 4: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1913

3.2 Site History

3.2.1 **Introduction:** there is little specific historical information about the property prior to the 19th century. While Broughton Beck has its origins in at least the 13th century, it being mentioned in connection with Furness Abbey (Ekwall 1922, 213), it is not known when Moor House Farm developed. The most useful evidence relating to its origins is in the local parish registers, trade directories, and census details. The earliest record of it is in 1721, in the registers of Ulverston parish church, and it appears with relative regularity in several directories and other sources from that date onwards, although there a number of gaps (see Table 1). The recorded occupiers seem to change quite regularly, although some families are evidently associated with it for more than a single generation – the Garners or Gardners for example, between at least 1744 and 1755 and the Picthalls between 1887 and 1901. The insertion of a Robert Benson between two generations of Garner/Gardner might suggest that more than one family occupied the site at any given time and it is of note that one directory refers to Moorhouse as ‘a hamlet in the township of Osmotherley, parish of Ulverstone [sic]’ (Clarke 1830, 121), suggesting that there was indeed more than one dwelling.

Date	Name	Occupier	Occupation	Source
1721	Moorhouse	John Jackson	-	Bardsley and Ayre 1886, 389
1744	Moorhouse	John Garner [sic]	-	Bardsley and Ayre 1886, 335
1747	Moorhouse	James Gardner	-	Bardsley and Ayre 1886, 339
1751	Moor-house	Robert Benson	-	Bardsley and Ayre 1886, 343
1755	Moor-house	James Gardner	-	Bardsley and Ayre 1886, 349
1769	Moorhouse	Robert Garnett	-	Bardsley and Ayre 1886, 590
1777	Moor-house	William Bell	-	Bardsley and Ayre 1886, 598
1783	Moorhouse	William Bell	-	Bardsley and Ayre 1886, 605
1801	Moorhouse	Thomas Kendall	-	Bardsley and Ayre 1886, 540
1825	Moor hs.	John Coward	Cattle dealer	Baines 1825, 658
1829	Moorhouse	John Coward	Farmer	Parson and White 1829, 731
1849	Moor house	Richard Ray	Farmer	Mannex 1849, 460
1887	Moorhouse	William Swainson Picthall	-	Bland n.d., 5; Anon n.d.
1887	Moor House	Ann Picthall	-	CRO(B) BDTB/Wills Box 1/165, 1887
1901	Moorhouse	Jonathan Patrickson	-	Bland n.d., 4
1909	Moorhouse	Ann Sawrey	-	Bland n.d., 5

Table 1: Known occupiers of Moor House recorded in the parish registers and directories

3.2.2 The available census entries, from 1841 to 1901, also provide a considerable amount of additional information about the families occupying the house during that time (*Appendix 1*). These are of interest, not only because they are more detailed than the other sources, but because they explain some of the gaps. Between 1841 and 1861 it is occupied by farmers and their families and only a single household is listed. From 1871 onward the occupiers are described as quarrymen and their families, there are always two households listed at Moorhouse. It is clear, therefore, that the building was no

longer functioning as a farmhouse at that time, although it is not clear whether the farm buildings that stood to the north-east were still in use or whether any of these had been converted to housing to accommodate these additional people, especially as some of the families are quite large. It certainly appears to be the case, judging by the early map evidence, that the house had been enlarged by 1890 at least. It is also interesting to note that the quarrymen's family members were typically born in several different places in the local area, suggesting that they were perhaps semi itinerant. Also of note is the fact that the building is apparently unoccupied in 1891, which, along with the regularly changing occupants, perhaps explains why it is listed in so few of the directories of the later 19th century.

3.3 Conclusion

3.3.1 Although the documentary sources are not particularly detailed, it would appear that a dwelling at 'Moorhouse' existed from at least 1721, and may have housed more than one family or have originally comprised more than one house. The map evidence does not provide any useful information until the 19th century, by which time the site has clearly been enlarged and modified at least once. The census returns from the late 19th century show that two families, some of which were occasionally quite large, were living at the site, and that having originally been occupied by farmers it was latterly used to house quarry workers.

4. Building Recording

4.1 Arrangement and Fabric

4.1.1 Until relatively recently Moor House Farm formed a two-storey rectangular structure, orientated essentially north-east/south-west, with a single storey outshut outbuilding to the north-east, attached to the north-west side of which was a further low outshut (Figure 1). The north-easternmost outshut and a two storey extension to the south-west were demolished as part of a previous planning application (Tim Coldrick pers comm.), leaving only the early, essentially square, block with a single storey extension to the north-east. It is entirely detached, with its front elevation facing to the south-east.

4.1.2 Externally the entire building is finished with a smooth concrete render, with the exception of the south-west elevation, which is finished with rough plaster, and has evidently become an internal wall at one stage (Figure 2). The scars for adjoining walls are evident either side of this. The main part of the building is constructed on a deep plinth, typically 0.3m high and 0.1m deep, with large rounded boulders forming the corners. There are gabled porches projecting over the front and rear entrances to the south-east and north-west, and a projecting section on the north-west side of the north-east elevation (corresponding to the position of what was probably the main kitchen fire place internally), and the single storey extension clearly butts the north-west end. The scar of the extension to the south-west is visible and the further extension to the north-east was clearly constructed of concrete blocks. The roof is finished with local grey slate, although largely covered by tarpaulins, and there is a single chimney at each of the north-east and south-west ends.

4.1.3 Internally the buildings has largely been extensively modernised, with modern wall finishes, concrete floors (on the ground floor), and UPVC window casements. Some early features have survived, however, and the ceiling joists and roof trusses are constructed from hand-finished timbers. It is arranged to form four main rooms per floor, plus the staircase, with an additional room at the ground floor level in the outshut to the north-west (Figure 3). There is also a single attic level room spanning the full footprint of the building, although a plan of this was not produced.

4.2 External Detail

4.2.1 **North-west elevation:** this forms the side elevation (Plate 5; Figure 2). The main elevation has two ground floor windows, both with modern UPVC two-light casements and stone sills and lintels. These are positioned either side of a gabled porch, which is of red brick construction finished with roughcast render painted white and has a slate roof finished with ceramic ridge tiles and a timber barge board. Internally the underside of the roof is constructed from machine cut rafters and backed with tongue and groove boards and the walls are whitewashed. The doorway within the porch has a tongue and groove plank and batten door with what is probably a glazed upper panel, although this is covered with a plywood sheet, and it has a plain timber surround. To the south-west of the porch, situated between ground and first floor level, is a tall stair window. This has a single-light UPVC casement, a slate sill and slate drip course above (Plate 6). On the first floor there are two windows, one on either side, both with a two-light UPVC casement and slate sill. The north-east end is extended by a single-storey outshut finished with concrete render as per the rest (although some of the rough stone masonry is exposed at the north-east end where the render has come away). There is a doorway on the south-west side with a slate lintel; some of its plain surround survives but it has no door.



Plate 5 (left): North-west external elevation



Plate 6 (right): North west and south-west external elevations

4.2.2 North-east elevation: this forms the gable end of the main building (Plate 7; Figure 2). The ground floor on the south-east side is covered by the low outshut, the gable end of which in effect forms part of this elevation. The upper part of this is finished with concrete render and the lower with an internal concrete plaster, and dividing the two types is the concrete scar of a former corrugated roof for the now demolished additional extension to the north-east, which was evidently monopitch. To the north-west, on the main elevation proper, there is a large projecting section of masonry at ground floor level filling the remaining space, evidently corresponding to some form of oven or fireplace internally. To the north-west of this is a modern electricity or gas meter box set into the wall. The first floor level is relatively plain, with a lintel projecting through the render on the south-east side at attic level. The gable is topped by a rectangular section chimney, also finished with concrete render, with a slate drip course near the base and a coping at the top and two ceramic chimney pots.



Plate 7 (left): North-east external elevation



Plate 8 (right): South-east external elevation, south-west end

4.2.3 South-east elevation: this forms the opposing side elevation (Plate 8; Figure 2) is entirely finished with smooth concrete render, apart from the plinth, which consists of courses of local slate, including large boulders at the south corner (Plate 9), and has two iron grates on the north-east side. There are two windows on the ground floor, both of which are relatively wide and have three-light UPVC hinged casements and slate sills. These windows are positioned either side of a central porch, which has a gabled roof finished with slate and finished with red sandstone v-shaped ridge tiles. Internally this is finished with timber boarding. The porch is also finished with concrete render externally and plaster and white paint internally (the paint continues onto the front elevation), and within it is a doorway leading into the building with a modern timber door with two solid panels and four glazed. The first floor has three

windows, all with thin slate sills and modern single-light UPVC casements. The elevation is extended at the north-east end by the single storey extension (Plate 10), which also has a slate roof, finished with red sandstone v-shaped ridge tiles and a single-light skylight consisting of just a sheet of glass. The wall is also finished with concrete render and has a single window with a timber two-light casement.



Plate 9 (left): Plinth exposed at the south-west end of the south-east external elevation

Plate 10 (right): North-east end of the south-east external elevation

4.2.4 **South-west elevation:** this forms the gable end of the building (Plate 11; Figure 2), and is mostly covered by a fairly rough skim of concrete, into which, on the north-west side at ground floor level has been scored 'R WALKER 26 NOV 1964' and 'M EDMONDSON 1964' (Plate 12). The plinth is visible below what would have been the floor level of the former extension to this end of the building, and comprises large boulders at either corner with roughly coursed local slate between. The scars for the former external walls are also visible at either side, and where they were attached traces of the original roughcast render and stone walling are exposed. Some through stones project through the render at first floor level and there is also what is evidently a lintel projecting on the north-west side at attic level. Various water pipes are attached across the elevation and the gable is topped by a rectangular section chimney of stone construction finished with concrete render, with slate coping and a single ceramic square-section pot. Below the eaves the ends of the purlins are exposed as is the end rafter below the roof.



Plate 11 (left): South-west external elevation

Plate 12 (right): Graffiti scratched into the render on the south-west external elevation



NORTH-WEST ELEVATION



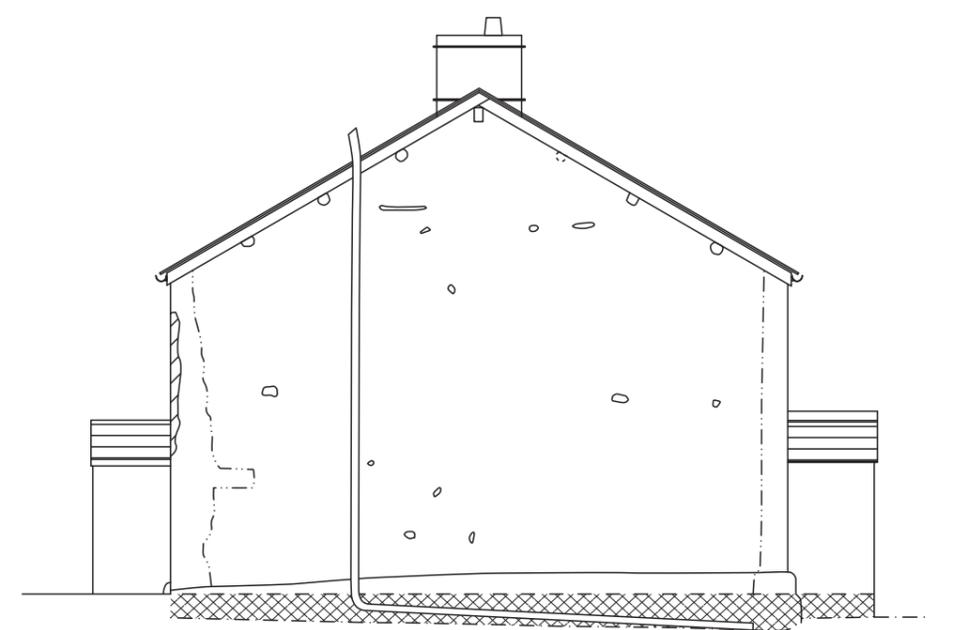
NORTH-EAST ELEVATION

Key:

-  foundation level
-  cross-sectional wall
-  demolished
-  scar of former wall



SOUTH-EAST ELEVATION



SOUTH-WEST ELEVATION





Key: cross-sectional timber G2 room number A1 ↗ cross-section demolished --- overhead features ——— attic level windows

Figure 3: Floor plans

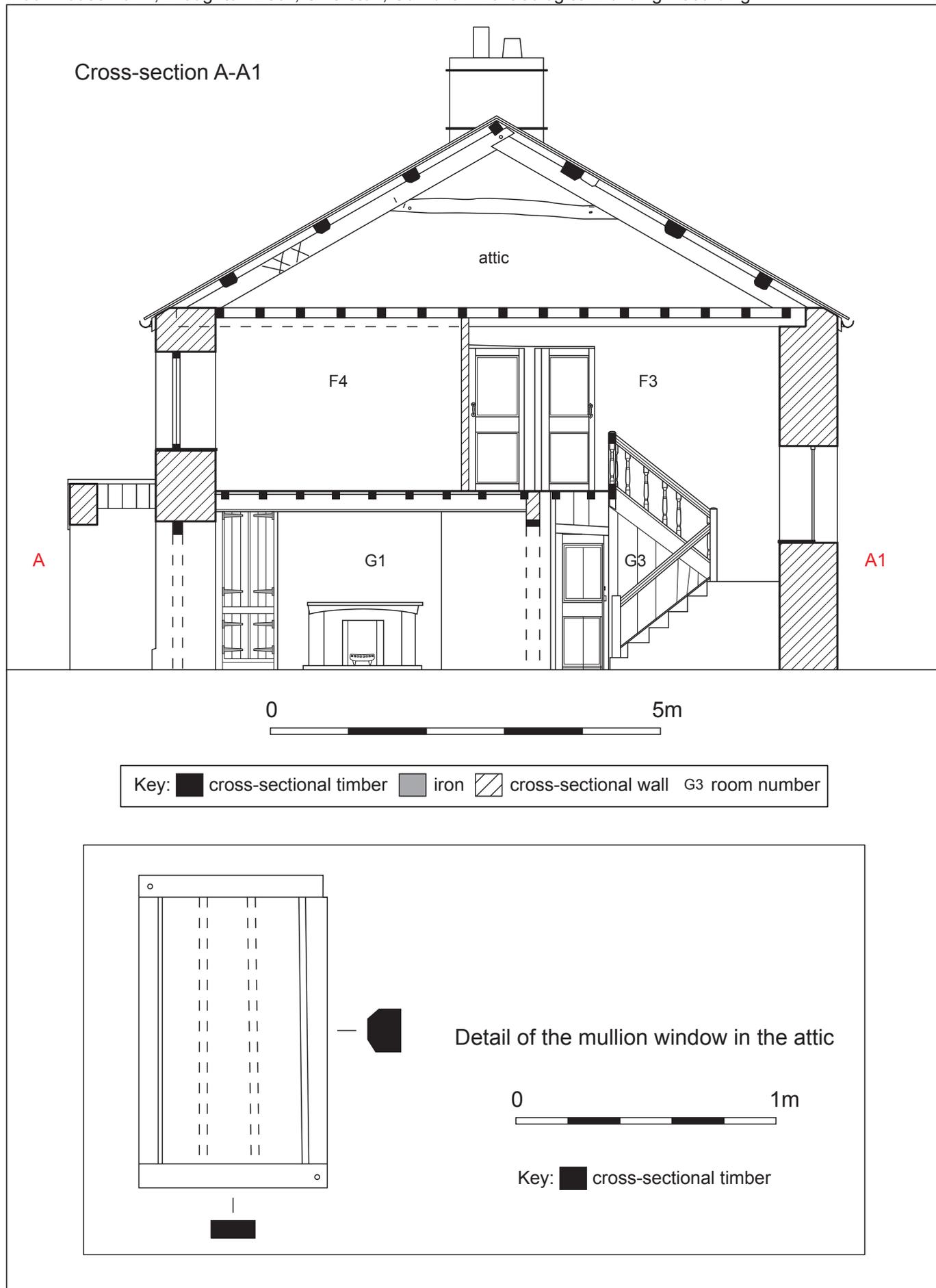


Figure 4: Cross-section A-A1 and detail of the mullion window in the attic

4.3 Internal Detail

4.3.1 **Ground Floor Room 1:** this has a concrete floor, perhaps covering earlier stone flags, and the ceiling is supported by two beams orientated north-west/south-east, which are hand-finished and chamfered. The north-east beam has a more recent timber shelf attached to it and the joists are evidently sawn and support the floor boards of the floor above, which are exposed (Plate 13). All of the timber has been stained or varnished a dark gloss brown. All of the walls are finished with plaster, much of which has been replaced by a modern concrete skim, and wallpaper and all are of solid masonry construction. The north-east elevation is plain, the south-east has a doorway on the north-east side with a modern door with two panels and four glazed sections and a timber lintel. To the south-west of this is a window, which is relatively wide and has splayed jambs and a two-light UPVC casement. The south-west elevation has a central chimney breast with a 20th century tiled fireplace surround and hearth, and a cupboard built into the alcove to the south-west with a perhaps early moulded surround but seemingly later tongue and groove plank and batten doors with strap hinges (Plate 14). The north-west elevation is relatively plain, with a doorway at the north-east end with a tongue and groove plank and batten door in a plain surround.



Plate 13 (left): Beams and joists in Room G1

Plate 14 (right): Fireplace, south-west end of Room G1

4.3.2 **Ground Floor Room 2:** this too has a concrete floor, still partially covered by lino on the north-east side. There are slate benches along the south-east and south-west walls, supported on masonry pillars. The ceiling is supported by two beams orientated north-west/south-east, which are chamfered but whitewashed, as are the joists and the plaster ceiling. The north-east beam supports the structure of the adjoining staircase, which forms part of the north-east elevation and the space beneath its angled north-west end forms part of the room, and is also supported by two upright posts both of which are hand-finished. The walls are finished with plaster and whitewash. The north-east elevation has a doorway on the south-west side with a two-panel doorway with relatively early strap hinges and early latch plate. To the north-west of this the wall is constructed from thick hand-finished boards, which continue below the stairs. All of the timber work in the doorway, wall, and stairs is of pegged construction and the underside of the stairs is finished with lath and plaster. The south-west and south-east elevation are plain apart from having slate benches set against them. The north-west elevation has a central window with relatively splayed jambs, below which is the scar of a timber shelf and there are further timber brackets above for another shelf.



Plate 15 (left): Slate benches against the south-west elevation of Room G2

Plate 16 (right): Door and panelled wall, north-east elevation of Room G2

4.3.3 Ground Floor Room 3: this room also has a concrete floor on the south-east side but is continued by timber steps forming the main staircase on the north-west side. The staircase is clearly very early but in relatively poor condition. A moulded handrail and square section newel post is all that survives, apart from the steps, at ground floor level although turned balusters remain *in situ* on the first floor (see *Section 4.3.9* below). All of the elevations apart from the south-west are finished with plaster or a concrete skim and wallpaper. The north-east elevation has a doorway on the south-east side with a plain modern surround and door. The south-east elevation has a doorway with an ovolo-moulded surround and beaded tongue and groove plank and batten door. The south-west elevation is constructed from thick timber planks forming the side of the staircase and on the south-east side these incorporate a doorway with an ovolo-moulded surround and door with two bevel-raised and fielded panels with an ovolo-moulded border. The north-west elevation is at landing level and is described as part of the first floor (see *Section 4.3.9* below).



Plate 17 (left): Early panel door, south-west side of Room G3

Plate 18 (right): Lower part of the stair case, Room G3

4.3.4 Ground Floor Room 4: this too has a concrete floor, and the ceiling is supported by a single timber beam orientated north-west/south-east, which is hand-finished and chamfered and has had an old slot near the centre that has been filled with a piece of timber, suggesting that it is re-used and was perhaps originally a cruck blade. This beam is supported at the south-east end by a heavy and hand-finished timber post. The walls are all finished with a concrete skim or plaster and painted and there is a plain skirting board throughout. The north-east elevation is essentially plain, with numerous electrical fittings attached, although there is brick in the wall, which is evidently blocking a former fireplace, perhaps in two phases (Plate 19). The south-east elevation has been mostly removed to create a large opening and connect the room more fully with G5. A new beam has presumably been added to span this opening, but this has been plastered over, and part of the wall has been left on the north-east side and topped with a timber shelf to form a 'bar' (Plate 20). The post supporting the ceiling beam is incorporated into this section of wall. The south-west elevation is plain, apart from a doorway on the south-east side with a plain modern door and surround. The north-west elevation has a doorway on the south-west side, with a beaded tongue and groove plank and batten door the top part of which was probably glazed but is now covered by plywood (Plate 21). To the north-east is a window, with splayed jambs extending to the floor, within which is a modern UPVC two-light casement and a sink unit (Plate 21). A timber shelf is attached to the wall just below the ceiling to the north-east of this.



Plate 19 (left): North-east elevation in Room G4



Plate 20 (right): South-east elevation in Room G4

4.3.5 Ground Floor Room 5: this has tongue and groove floorboards, which are stained dark brown around the edges of the room, and there is a tiled hearth corresponding to the fireplace on the north-east side. The ceiling is supported by a single central beam orientated north-west/south-east, which is considerably wider than that to the north-west, hand-finished and chamfered and supported at the north-west end by the same post supporting the beam in Room G4. The ceiling is finished with tongue and groove boards. The walls are finished with plaster or a concrete skim and wallpaper and paint and there is a roll-moulded skirting board throughout. The north-east elevation has a central fireplace with a mid-20th century tiled surround (Plate 22). The south-east elevation has a wide central window with splayed jambs and a concrete skim over the sill/seat and a modern UPVC three-light casement. The south-west elevation is plain, while the north-west has been partially knocked through and is open on the south-west side but retains a low wall to the north-east incorporating the post supporting the ceiling, as per Room G4.



Plate 21 (left): North-west elevation in Room G4



Plate 22 (right): Fireplace in north-east elevation of Room G5

4.3.6 Ground Floor Room 6: this forms the entire space within the single-storey outshut to the north-east of the main building. It has a concrete floor, with a raised block in the south corner, into which an iron tether ring has been set and on top of which a low brick wall has been constructed. A further low brick wall is situated to the north-east of this, to the same height, and it is apparent that these two walls supported a shelf or bench of some form (Plate 25). Adjacent to the north-west side of the raised block is a square block of concrete set into the floor, within which are bolt holes indicating that this was a setting

for a piece of machinery or similar. The room is open to the roof, which is supported by a single purlin per pitch plus a ridge purlin, all of which are machine sawn (Plate 23). There is a small skylight in the south-east pitch of the roof. All of the walls have slightly different finishes. The north-east elevation is finished with lime wash, but has been extensively patched with concrete render. There is an alcove on the south-east side with a slate lintel, and various water pipes are attached across the whole elevation (Plate 24). The south-east elevation is essentially exposed stone. There are two iron brackets and a broken off pipe going into the floor, evidently for a cistern and toilet on the north-east side, and a single window in the centre with a two-light timber casement and stone lintel and sill. To the south-west of this the low brick walls and concrete base are set against the wall (Plate 25). The south-west elevation was originally the external wall of the main house, and is covered by rough cast render that has been finished with lime wash, with a low plinth discernible at the base (Plate 26). The north-west elevation is almost entirely finished with concrete skim and has water pipes attached. On the south-west side there is a doorway, with a stone lintel and some of the surround remaining but no door.



Plate 23 (left): Roof in Room G6



Plate 24 (right): North-east elevation in Room G6



Plate 25 (left): South-west side of the south-east elevation in Room G6



Plate 26 (right): South-west elevation in Room G6

4.3.7 **First Floor Room 1:** this has wide floor boards, which have evidently been polished or sanded, and a shallow hearthstone against the south-west elevation (Plate 27). The ceiling is finished with plaster and there is a north-west/south-east orientated beam along the north-east elevation, which is also finished with plaster. The walls too are finished with plaster and paint, although there is also some concrete skim. The north-west and south-west elevations are plain. The north-east is a stud wall; the

beam running along the top is actually the tie beam of the truss visible in the attic (see *Section 4.3.13* below) and there is a doorway at the north-west end with an early two panel door (as per those in Room G3, see *Section 4.3.3* above) with L-shaped hinges (Plate 28), a later latch, and plain surround. The south-east elevation has a central window with splayed jambs, a timber sill, and modern single-light UPVC casement.



Plate 27 (left): South corner of Room F1



Plate 28 (right): Detail of hinge in Room F1

4.3.8 First Floor Room 2: this was formerly the bathroom. The floor is finished with lino and the ceiling finished with plasterboard. The walls are finished with plaster and paint. The south-west and south-east are plain; there is a modern cupboard in the south corner housing hot water tank and the south-west elevation has the scar of a toilet and a sink attached to it. The north-east elevation has a doorway on the south-east side with an early two panel door (as per that in Room F1; Plate 29), which is now held by modern strap hinges but the scars of earlier L-shaped ones are visible in the paint. The north-west elevation has a window with slightly splayed jambs and a modern UPVC casement. The lower part of the jambs and the sill are tiled and there is a bath below, extending into the west corner, around which the wall is also tiled.



Plate 29 (left): Early door, north-east elevation of Room F2

Plate 30 (right): Handrail and turned balusters in Room F3

4.3.9 **First Floor Room 3:** this is the upper level of the stairs and the landing. The steps are probably original and in poor condition, but the moulded hand-rail, square newel posts (capped with domed tops), and turned balusters are almost all present at this level (Plate 30; Figure 4). The early wide floorboards also survive throughout, although some have been replaced with later tongue and groove type. All of the walls are stud partitions, apart from the north-west. There are two doorways to the north-east, one with an early two-panel door the constructed from three wide beaded planks (Plate 31), and there are two doorways to the south-west, both with early two-panel doors with bevel raised and fielded panels and ovolo-moulded surrounds (Plate 32), with a beam along the elevation at ceiling level. The south-east elevation is constructed from wide beaded tongue and groove planks with a door of similar construction on the south-west side (Plate 33). The north-west elevation has a tall window at landing level, with splayed jambs and a single-light UPVC casement.



Plate 31 (left): Doors on the north-east side of Room F3



Plate 32 (right): Doors on the south-west side of Room F3



Plate 33 (left): South-east elevation and door in Room F3



Plate 34 (right): North-west elevation and door in Room F4

4.3.10 **First Floor Room 4:** this has what appear to be early wide floorboards, covered by the remnants of an early lino. The ceiling is finished with plaster, as are the walls, which are also painted. The north-east and south-west walls are stud partitions while the north-west is constructed from wide beaded tongue and groove planks (Plate 34). Most of the walls are essentially plain. The south-east has a central window with splayed jambs, a timber sill and a single-light UPVC casement. The north-west has a doorway on the south-west side with a beaded tongue and groove plank and batten door.

4.3.11 **First Floor Room 5:** this too has a wide plank floor and the ceiling is finished with plaster and supported by a north-west/south-east beam, which is also finished with plaster. The walls too are finished with plaster and wallpaper and mostly plain. There is a window in the north-west elevation, with splayed jambs, a timber tongue and groove board sill, and single-light UPVC casement (Plate 35). There is a doorway in the south-east side of the south-west elevation, with an early two-panel door with L-shaped hinges and a plain surround (Plate 36).



Plate 35 (left): Window, north-west elevation, Room F5



Plate 36 (right): Door, south-west elevation, Room F5

4.3.12 **First Floor Room 6:** this has narrower tongue and groove floorboards and the ceiling is finished with plaster and supported by a north-west/south-east beam against the south-west elevation, which is also finished with plaster. The walls are also finished with plaster and paint and generally plain. The south-west has a central window with splayed jambs and a UPVC single-light casement (Plate 37). The sill has been removed and stuffed into the gaps below and around the window are pieces of newspaper dated 2006. The south-west elevation has a doorway on the north-west side with a door constructed from three wide beaded planks and battens supported on strap hinges (Plate 38).



Plate 37 (left): Window, south-east elevation, Room F6



Plate 38 (right): Door, south-west elevation, Room F6

4.3.13 **Attic:** this is open to the roof and the floor comprises just the exposed joists and the two north-west/south-east tie beams from the two trusses supporting the largely lathe and plaster ceilings of the rooms below, although the west corner is plasterboard. All of the timber is hand-finished and the joists mortice and tenon jointed to the tie beams. The two trusses are of relatively simple tie beam type with collar, the principals fixed at the top in a relatively simple notched lap joint (Plate 39 and Plate 40). All of the timber is hand-finished, with a chamfer along the edges of the principal rafters, stopping at the collars, and fixed with timber pegs although one of the collars also has an iron bolt. Three out of four of the principal rafters have cross-hatched markings on the north-east face, most likely levelling marks (Plate 41), and there are chiselled carpenter's marks, '1', at the junction of the principals of the north-east truss (Plate 42) and the junction of the collar and the south-east principal on the south-west truss (Figure 4) but others are also likely to be present. There are three purlins per pitch and a diagonally-set ridge purlin, with different sections scarf-jointed together where they meet at the trusses. There are two further timbers in the roof; at the north-east end a horizontal beam, with a row of joist slots in the upper side perhaps suggesting it originally supported a small area of higher-level flooring, has been between the two upper purlins. At the south-west end there is a similar timber, but without the joist slots, on top of which is a central 'king post', which seems to be adding further support to the ridge purlin.

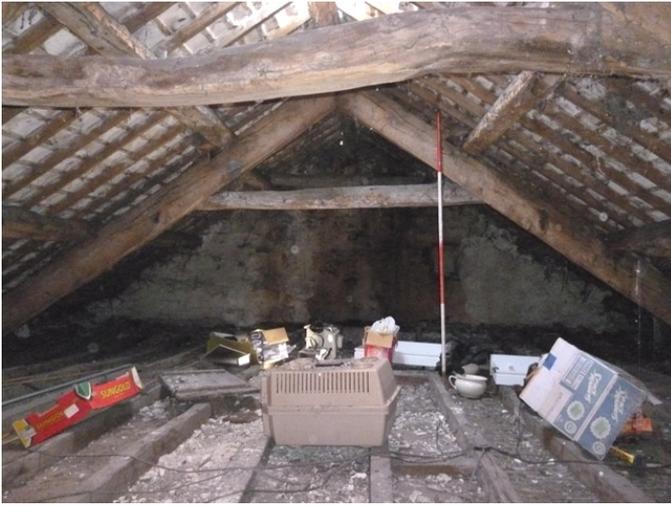


Plate 39 (left): North-east truss within the attic



Plate 40 (right): South-west truss within the attic



Plate 41 (left): Cross-hatch levelling marks



Plate 42 (right): Carpenter's marks on the north-east truss

4.3.14 The north-west and south-east elevations comprise the two pitches of the roof; the rafters are evidently later than the other timber, and the underside of the slates is plastered. The north-east elevation has rough lime mortar exposed throughout, which covers much of the stonework. There is a small window on the south-east side with a timber lintel and slate sill, which has been blocked externally leaving an alcove. It has splayed jambs and the remains of a timber mullion surround are just visible, although largely obscured by mortar used in blocking the window (Plate 43). The south-west elevation is essentially the same as the north-east, with another small window on the north-west side. This has an overlong timber lintel, the north-west side has been covered with a large amount of thick lime plaster, and it has splayed jambs and a stone lintel. Again the window has been blocked externally leaving an internal alcove (a large slate slab has evidently been inserted into the opening), and the timber mullion surrounds are more visible. These are five sided in the jambs and square in the sill and lintel, with holes for diagonally-set central bars (Figure 4; Plate 44), only remnants of one now surviving.



Plate 43 (left): Mullion window, north-east elevation, attic

Plate 44 (right): Mullion window, south-west elevation, attic

4.3.15 **Outbuilding:** although not specifically include in the building recording, photographs were also taken of a detached outbuilding. This was largely of stone construction (Plate 45) and rectangular in plan (and approximately parallel to the building and so orientated north-east/south-west) although the north-east end has been largely rebuilt in machine-made red brick, although externally it is finished with concrete render (Plate 46), with an iron girder for a lintel to provide a wider garage entrance. The roof is constructed from corrugated concrete sheeting, supported by a single truss constructed from L-shaped iron girders (Plate 47). Internally there is little of interest, although the doorway was closed by a large folding door on a rail that allowed it to be moved against the side wall (Plate 48).



Plate 45 (left): South-east external elevation of the outbuilding



Plate 46 (right): North-east external elevation of the outbuilding



Plate 47 (left): Truss within the outbuilding



Plate 48 (right): Folding door within the outbuilding

5. Discussion

5.1 Phasing

5.1.1 **Introduction:** the building clearly retains a considerable amount of original fabric but has also undergone a number of alterations and modifications. In total, three phases of development were identified.

5.1.2 **Phase 1 (early 18th century):** the recent demolition of the extensions to the north-east and south-west mean that it is the earliest elements of the building that now remain. The documentary evidence, although relatively limited, indicates that a dwelling at Moor House was in existence from at least 1721 (see Table 1) and it seems likely that the extant house dates from at least this period. The map evidence only shows that by the middle of the 19th century the house had been built and considerably extended. A number of elements within the building suggest an early 18th century date of construction is likely; the L-shaped hinges, and some of the others, can be dated by comparison with others to the first decades of the 18th century (Alcock and Hall 2002, 24-25). The staircase too, and two-panel doors are also suggestive of this date (*op cit*, 3, 8 and 17). The roof trusses also potentially belong to this period, although of a type found throughout the 18th and into the early 19th century (Brunskill 2002, 153). However, the presence of levelling marks on the trusses again suggests an early 18th century date as these would have been quite archaic any later (Miles and Russell 1995). In all, these features suggest a date of perhaps 1700 for the construction of the main, essentially square, block of the house. Although double-pile plan houses of this type are considered to be late 18th or even 19th century in date (Brunskill 2002, 82-83), several examples are known in the region that are certainly or definitely of early 18th century date (Greenlane Archaeology 2006; 2011; 2012a). The presence of the timber mullion windows in the attic might suggest an even earlier date for this phase; mullions in both timber and stone might be considered more typical of a 17th or even 16th century date, but continued to be used in the region into the 18th century (Brunskill 2002, 172). Very similar examples in attics have recently been recorded in Kendal, in a 16th century building (Greenlane Archaeology 2012b), and at Swarthmoor Meeting House near Ulverston, in what is thought to be a late 17th century phase (Greenlane Archaeology 2012c).

5.1.3 **Phase 2 (19th – early 20th century):** it is evident that the original block was extended with the addition of at least one single storey extension to the north-east (comprising Room G6) and a two storey extension to the south-west. These changes clearly coincide with the change in use from a farm house to simply a dwelling used for quarrymen and the presence of multiple families presumably required such an increase in size. The majority of these additions were demolished in Phase 3, with the exception of the single storey outshut. The porches too were probably added during this period, and all of these elements are shown at their fullest extent on the Ordnance Survey map of 1890. The detached outbuilding to the west was evidently constructed some time after 1913. Internally alterations belonging to this period are not particularly evident, although the tongue and groove doors present on both floors perhaps do as do the tongue and groove floor boards evident in some rooms. The fireplace in Room G4 was probably partially blocked in this period to form a narrower opening, before being fully blocked in a later phase (see Section 5.1.4 below).

5.1.4 **Phase 3 (late-20th and 21st century):** the most recent alterations have had the most dramatic impact on the building. Throughout the interior the walls have tended to be patched or entirely replastered with concrete skim, and floors replaced or perhaps earlier floors covered with concrete. Some of this work can be dated by the graffiti in the south-west elevation to 1964. Some modern doors have been added, but most of the original ones were retained, at least internally. In addition, the wall between G4 and G5 was largely taken down, effectively knocking the two rooms into one, a new timber post being added to support the ceiling beams and presumably a concealed beam added along the line of the wall. Where the fireplaces remained they had new tiled surrounds added, but others were clearly completely blocked at this time. All of the window casements were replaced with the present UPVC ones, at least some of which appear to have been added as late as 2006. Externally the whole building was covered with a layer of concrete render, which may have coincided with the windows in the attic being blocked at the same time, although it is more likely that these were blocked in Phase 2. The addition of this

concrete along with the concrete used internally, has led to considerable damp problems, which have been exacerbated by the addition of the, essentially sealed, UPVC windows.

5.2 Significance

5.2.1 Although in poor condition the building retains a number of original or very early features, and remains a good example of its type. The two-panel doors and staircase, as well as the roof structure are all probably original, and many of the other plank and batten doors are probably quite early. The timber mullion windows in the attic are also an extremely rare survival, although they have been blocked and are damaged. Unfortunately all of the original windows, which would almost certainly have been of sliding sash construction, have been removed and the entire exterior has been covered in relatively late concrete render. This, combined with the addition of concrete floors, and knocking through of the wall between Rooms G4 and G5, has led to a gradual degradation of the building, largely due to the ingress of damp but also poor maintenance.

5.2.2 Regardless of its current condition the building is a good example of its type, and represents another double-pile plan house of relatively early date.

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Appendix 1: Details from the Census Returns, 1841-1901

1841 Census HO 107/531/7				
Name	Age	Occupation	Address	Place of Birth
John Robinson	60	Farmer	Moorhouse	Lancashire
William Robinson	25	Farmer	Moorhouse	Lancashire
Margaret Robinson	25	Farmer	Moorhouse	Lancashire
Jane Robinson	20	Farmer	Moorhouse	Lancashire
Jane Robinson	3 mths	Farmer	Moorhouse	Lancashire
James Bell	20	Male servant	Moorhouse	Lancashire
Hannah Bell	20	Female servant	Moorhouse	Lancashire

1851 Census HO 107/2274				
Name	Age	Occupation	Address	Place of Birth
Richard Ray	47	Farmer of 75 acres	Moorhouse	Cartmel, Lancashire
Elizabeth Ray	37	Farmer's wife	Moorhouse	Cartmel, Lancashire
Mary Ray	15	Farmer's daughter	Moorhouse	Cartmel, Lancashire
Dinah Ray	14	Farmer's daughter	Moorhouse	Cartmel, Lancashire
Thomas Ray	13	Farmer's son	Moorhouse	Cartmel, Lancashire
Richard Ray	12	Farmer's son	Moorhouse	Cartmel, Lancashire
Margaret Ray	10	Scholar	Moorhouse	Cartmel, Lancashire
Isabella Ray	7	Scholar	Moorhouse	Cartmel, Lancashire
Agness Ray	5	Scholar	Moorhouse	Cartmel, Lancashire
Elizabeth Ray	2	Scholar	Moorhouse	Cartmel, Lancashire
Edmund Ray	1	Scholar	Moorhouse	Osmotherley, Lancashire

1861 Census RG 9/3167				
Name	Age	Occupation	Address	Place of Birth
Thomas Ray	23	Farm manager	Moorhouse	Cartmel, Lancashire
Margaret Ray	20	Housekeeper	Moorhouse	Cartmel, Lancashire
Isabella Ray	17	-	Moorhouse	Cartmel, Lancashire
Agness Ray	15	-	Moorhouse	Cartmel, Lancashire
Elizabeth Ray	12	Scholar	Moorhouse	Cartmel, Lancashire
Edmund Ray	11	Scholar	Moorhouse	Cartmel, Lancashire
Thomas Walker	18	Farm servant	Moorhouse	Osmotherley, Lancashire

1871 Census RG 10/4240				
Name	Age	Occupation	Address	Place of Birth
Thomas Jackson	34	Quarryman	Moorhouse	Aldingham, Lancashire
Mary Jackson	28	Wife	Moorhouse	Suberthwaite, Lancashire
John Jackson	8	Scholar	Moorhouse	Kirkby, Lancashire
Robert Jackson	6	Scholar	Moorhouse	Kirkby[?], Lancashire
William Jackson	4	At home	Moorhouse	Lowick, Lancashire
John Burton	39	Quarryman	Moorhouse	Kirkby, Lancashire
Mary Ann Burton	30	Wife	Moorhouse	Preston, Lancashire

1881 Census RG 11/4277				
Name	Age	Occupation	Address	Place of Birth
William Pickthall	56	Quarryman – stone	Moorhouse	Osmotherley, Lancashire
Ann Pickthall	52	-	Moorhouse	Dalton, Lancashire
Joseph Pickthall	21	Farm servant	Moorhouse	Osmotherley, Lancashire
Hannah Pickthall	19	General servant	Moorhouse	Lowick, Lancashire
Robert Pickthall	16	Quarryman – stone	Moorhouse	Lowick, Lancashire
George Coward	33	Slate dresser	Moorhouse	Osmotherley, Lancashire
Elizabeth Coward	31	-	Moorhouse	Cartmel, Lancashire
Sarah Ann Benson	13	Scholar	Moorhouse	Cartmel, Lancashire
William J Coward	111	Scholar	Moorhouse	Osmotherley, Lancashire
Mary Jane Coward	6	Scholar	Moorhouse	Osmotherley, Lancashire
Maggie Hannah Coward	4	Scholar	Moorhouse	Kirkby Ireleth, Lancashire
John Coward	3	-	Moorhouse	Kirkby Ireleth, Lancashire
Lizzie Coward	1	-	Moorhouse	Osmotherley, Lancashire

1891 Census RG 12/3476				
Name	Age	Occupation	Address	Place of Birth
[Unoccupied]	NA	NA	NA	NA

1901 Census RG 13/4003				
Name	Age	Occupation	Address	Place of Birth
Mary Atkinson	31	-	Moorhouse	Cartmel Fell, Lancashire
Annie Atkinson	9	-	Moorhouse	Crosthwaite, Westmorland
David Atkinson	7	-	Moorhouse	Crosthwaite, Westmorland
Mary Atkinson	5	-	Moorhouse	Cartmel Fell, Lancashire
Lizzie Atkinson	3	-	Moorhouse	Pennington, Lancashire
Jonathan Atkinson	1	-	Moorhouse	Osmotherley, Lancashire
George Nicholson	25	Horse [?] keeper on farm	Moorhouse	Cartmel Fell, Lancashire
Mary Nicholson	23		Moorhouse	Dalton-in-Furness, Lancashire