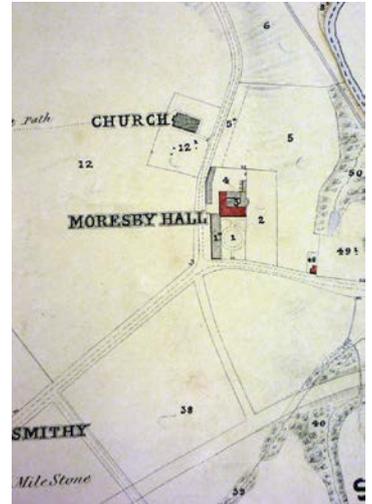


# MORESBY HALL, MORESBY, WHITEHAVEN, CUMBRIA

## Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment



Client: David and Jane Saxon

NGR: 298338 520978

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October 2014



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## Non-Technical Summary

Prior to a programme of proposed alterations and additions to Moresby Hall, Greenlane Archaeology was commissioned to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment. This is intended to not only examine the development of the hall and associated grounds and outbuildings, but also to provide an archaeological context for it by examining the known and unknown archaeological resource of the surrounding area. This was carried out through the examination of both primary and secondary sources, as well as the Cumbria Historic Environment Record. A site visit was also carried out in order to make a brief assessment of the structural remains of the hall to aid in the understanding of its development.

The settlement of Moresby has at least medieval origins, and was probably established after the late 11<sup>th</sup> century taking of Carlisle that followed the Norman Conquest. However, finds of Bronze Age date have been made close to Moresby Hall and there is evidence for earlier prehistoric activity from the wider area. More significantly, Moresby Hall is situated immediately to the east of the Roman fort of *Gabrosentum*, which is thought to have been established in the early 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD during the reign of the Emperor Hadrian. Evidence for early medieval activity is scarce, although place-names from the wider area denote the presence of Anglian and Norse settlers. Burials found underneath the hall may also be early medieval in date, although they are equally likely to be earlier. The manor and village of Moresby are recorded from the medieval period onwards and there have been suggestions that Moresby Hall itself contains the remnants of a medieval pele tower, although even if this is not the case it certainly has elements belonging to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. From this point to the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century Moresby Hall belonged to the locally important Fleming family, who were almost certainly responsible for the decorative south façade, which was perhaps constructed in the 1670s. By the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century it had come into the possession of the Lowthers. It appears to have become somewhat derelict during their ownership, and by the 19<sup>th</sup> century at least part of it was serving as a farmhouse. It did see some renovation during this time, and the house was rented to a number of people during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries while part continued to be used as a farm, before being acquired by a local company, High Duty Alloy, to serve as a guest house, in 1940. They ultimately reunited the two parts, although not all of the outbuildings, before it was sold into private hands and returned to use as a guest house by the current owners.

The site visit, although brief, was able to reveal that while elements of the north wing are clearly early, there is no compelling evidence for a pele tower, and a courtyard house of 16<sup>th</sup> century date is quite likely. Within the south part of the hall the elaborate façade may in fact simply be attached to an existing element, and contains fireplaces and panelled details consistent with early 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century improvements. The main staircase, which is housed inside a tower that projects into the courtyard, has a staircase of probable late 17<sup>th</sup> century date, consistent with it being contemporary with the construction of the façade. The buildings to the north are all consistent with the map evidence, being farm buildings of probable late 19<sup>th</sup> century date. The south garden wall also has evidence for the original position of the front gate, as shown on early mapping, with the extant gate piers clearly being the original ones reused and moved to their current location.

An assessment of the potential for the site to contain archaeological remains, both known and unknown, and the significance of those remains was also carried out. This in turn led to suggestions regarding the need for further work, although this would be dependent on the form and extent of any development at the site.

## Acknowledgements

Greenlane Archaeology would like to thank David and Jane Saxon for commissioning the project, for their hospitality during the site visit, and for providing information about the building. Additional thanks are due to the staff of Cumbria Archive Centre in Whitehaven for help with accessing their archives and Jeremy Parsons, Historic Environment Officer at Cumbria County Council, for his help with accessing the Historic Environment Record. Further thanks are also due to Mike Darwell at John Coward Architects for providing other useful information, and the staff of Ulverston Library and the Cumbria Archive Centre in Barrow-in-Furness (CAC(B)) for their assistance in accessing secondary sources.

The project was managed and carried out by Dan Elsworth who also wrote the report with Tom Mace. The illustrations were produced by Tom Mace, and the report was edited by Jo Dawson.

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Circumstances of the Project

1.1.1 Prior to a programme of proposed alterations and additions to Moresby Hall, Moresby, Whitehaven, Cumbria (NGR 298338 520978), Greenlane Archaeology was commissioned by David Saxon (hereafter 'the client') to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment of the property. This was intended to provide information about the site in order to generate a heritage statement, which would enable the impact of the proposed development on the historic fabric to be assessed. A project design was produced by Greenlane Archaeology and the work was undertaken in August 2014.

## 1.2 Location, Geology, and Topography

1.2.1 Moresby Hall is situated immediately north-east of Parton, which is in turn north of Whitehaven, and south of Lowca. It is adjacent to what is now the A595, to the south, although the old road to the east, which is now truncated, runs along the south boundary (Figure 1). St Bridget's Church is situated on the higher ground to the west, and immediately outside the eastern rampart of the Roman fort. The hall is at approximately 30m above sea level.

1.2.2 The solid geology comprises Westphalian coal measures of the Carboniferous period (Moseley 1978, plate 1), with overlying drift deposits of glacially derived boulder clay and some sand and gravel (Countryside Commission 1998, 27). The surrounding landscape is primarily pasture for cattle and defined by medium to large fields divided by hedges and dry stone walls (*ibid*), although the area to the north was once heavily industrial in character and has since been regenerated.

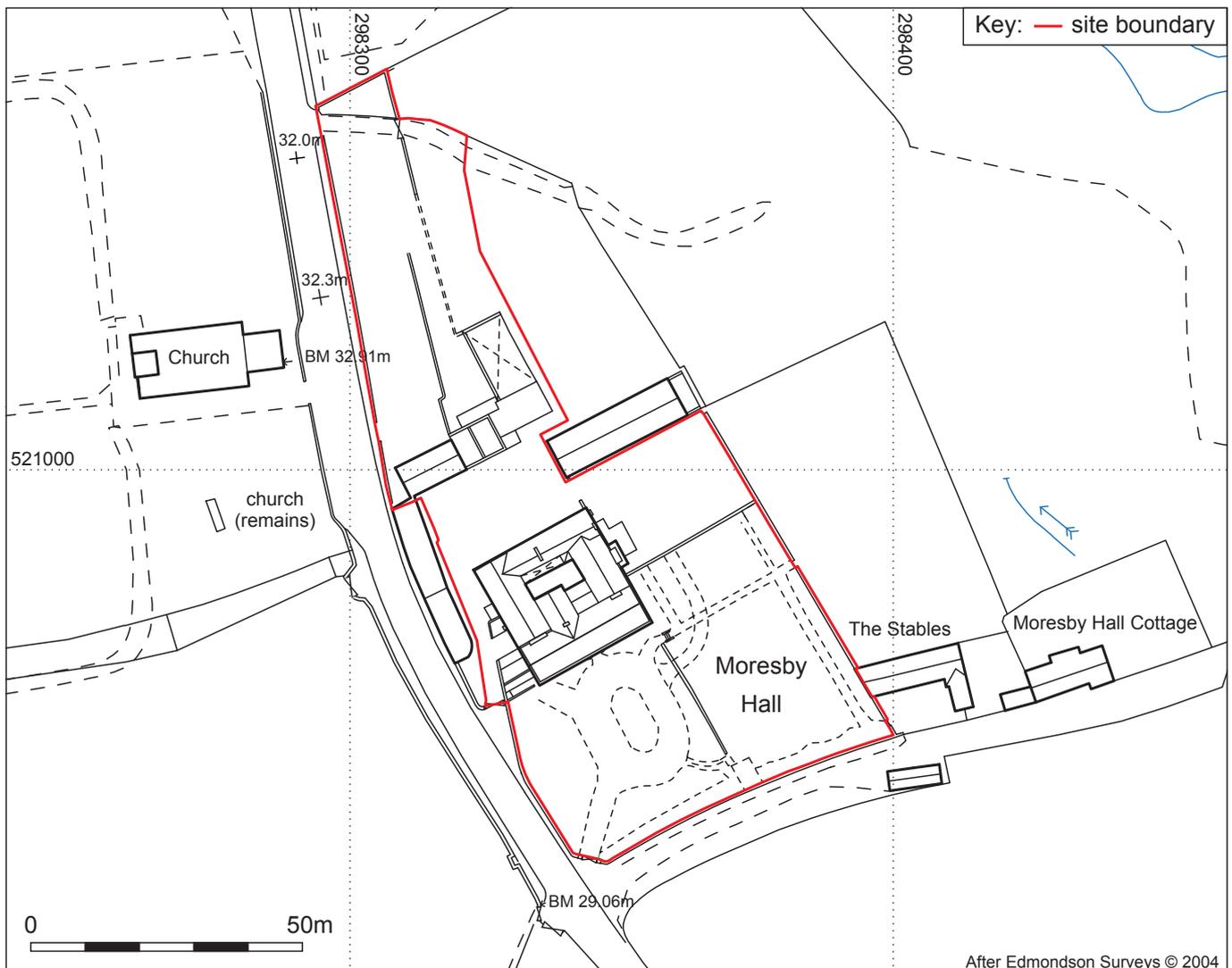
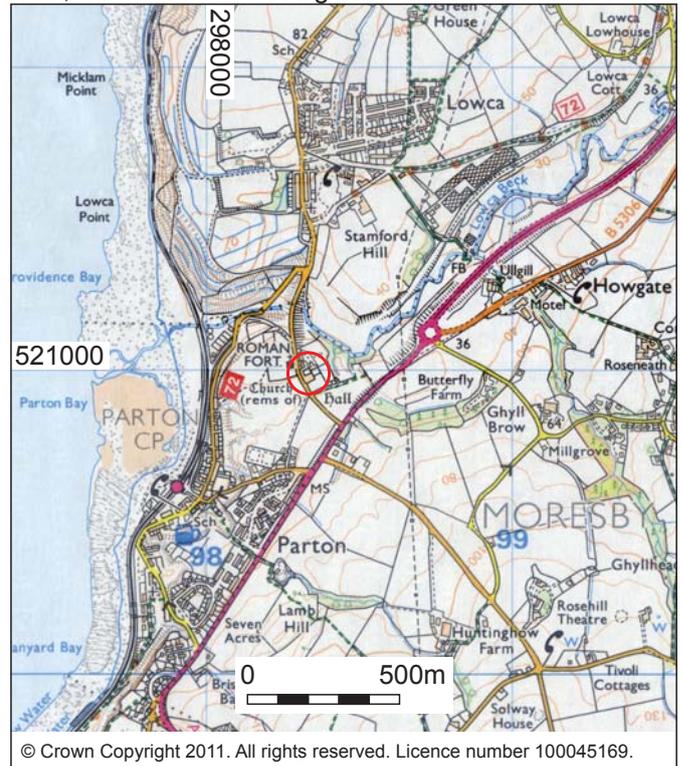
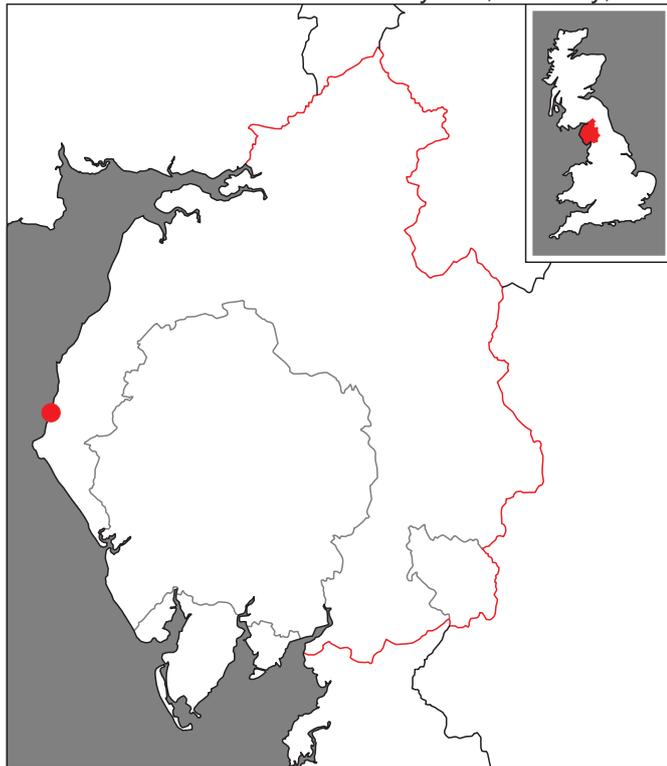


Figure 1: Site location

Client: David and Jane Saxon

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## 2. Methodology

### 2.1 Desk-Based Assessment

2.1.1 A desk-based assessment was carried out in accordance with the guidelines of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008). This principally comprised an examination of early maps of the site and published secondary sources. A number of sources of information were used during the desk-based assessment:

- **Cumbria Historic Environment Record (HER):** this is a list of all the known sites of archaeological interest within the county, which is maintained by Cumbria County Council and is the primary source of information for an investigation of this kind. All of the known sites of archaeological interest within approximately 300m of the proposed development area were examined; each identified site comes with a grid reference, description and source and any additional information which was referenced was also examined as necessary. In addition, unpublished reports of archaeological investigations in the vicinity of the site were examined;
- **Cumbria Archive Centre, Whitehaven (CAC(W)):** this was visited principally in order to examine early maps and plans of the site, but other documentary sources and published records were also consulted in order to gather information about the historical development of the site and its environs, and also information about the archaeology of its immediate environs;
- **Ulverston Library, Local Studies Collection:** secondary sources held here were also consulted;
- **Cumbria Archive Centre, Barrow-in-Furness (CAC(B)):** secondary sources held here were also consulted;
- **Greenlane Archaeology library:** additional secondary sources, used to provide information for the site background, were examined.

### 2.2 Site Visit

2.2.1 A brief site visit was carried out, primarily with the intention of better understanding the development of the site, but also to inform documentary evidence revealed during the desk-based assessment. In addition, the presence of any features, finds, or deposits of possible archaeological interest were noted. Digital photographs of area of interest were also taken, primarily for use as illustrations in the report.

### 2.3 Archive

2.3.1 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 Archive Centre in Whitehaven at a suitable time on completion of the project. A copy of this report will be provided for the client, a digital copy for the client's agent, and a copy will be retained by Greenlane Archaeology. In addition, at a suitable time a digital copy will be provided to the Historic Environment Record at Cumbria County Council, and a record of the project will be made on the OASIS scheme.

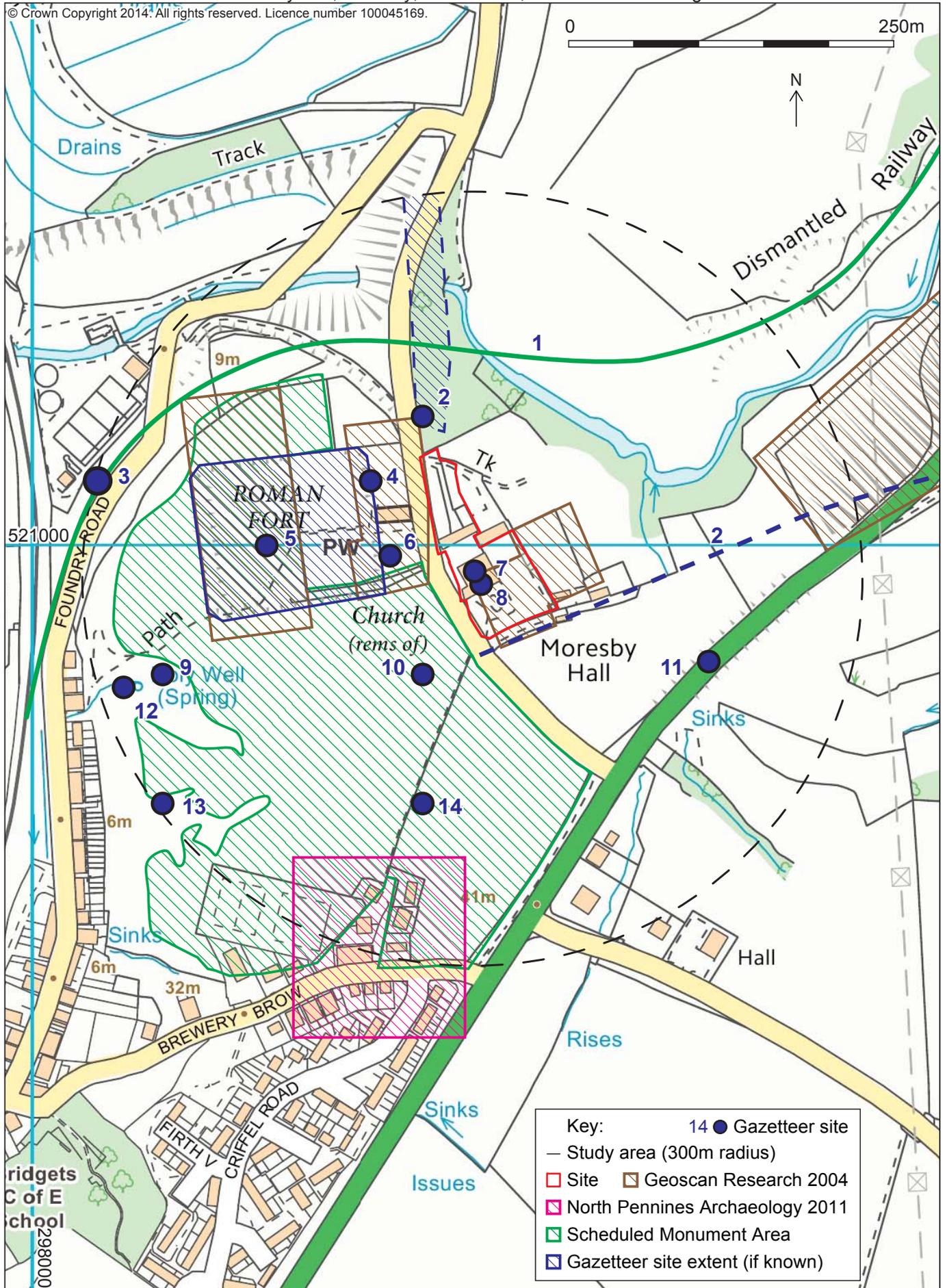


Figure 2: Gazetteer site plan

Client: David and Jane Saxon

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## 3. Results

### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 A total of 14 sites of archaeological interest were identified within the study area during the desk-based assessment (Figure 2; summarised in Table 1 below) ranging from possibly Bronze Age to post-medieval in date. Find spots are often not accurately located (which is noted especially for **Site 13**), so their significance to the study area is uncertain. Sites included in the gazetteer that relate to periods of the study area's history are individually mentioned in the site history (see *Section 4* below). The skeletons uncovered at Moresby Hall (**Site 8**) are of unknown date and are speculated to be either Bronze Age or Roman, although they could easily be post-Roman. The date of the cremation burial and possible cairn site (**Site 10**) is also uncertain but is likely to be prehistoric and therefore probably dates to the Bronze Age. The exact location of this site is also uncertain.

Site No.	Type	Period	Site No.	Type	Period
1	Dismantled railway	Post-medieval	8	Burials/cemetery?	Bronze Age/Roman?
2	Possible Roman road	Roman	9	Bath house	Roman
3	Altar and sculptured stone find spot	Roman	10	Cremation burial/cairn site	Prehistoric – Bronze Age?
4	Spearhead, flints and arrowhead find spot	Bronze Age	11	Coins find spot	Roman
5	Fort	Roman	12	Well	Medieval
6	Chancel arch	Medieval	13	Coins find spot	Roman
7	Moresby Hall	Medieval – post-medieval	14	Pottery find spot	Roman

Table 1: Summary of sites of archaeological interest within the study area

### 3.2 Desk-Based Assessment

3.2.1 The results of the desk-based assessment have been used to produce two separate elements. Firstly all sites of archaeological interest recorded within the study area were compiled into a gazetteer (*Appendix 1* and shown in Figure 2). This was in turn informed and enhanced by the site visit (see *Section 3.5*). The gazetteer is used to assess the general type of historic landscape that makes up the study area, contribute to the compilation of the general history of the site (see *Section 4*) and, more importantly, identify sites that are likely to be affected by the proposed development. The significance of each of these sites and the degree to which they are likely to be affected is considered in *Section 5* and from this recommendations for further work are produced.

3.2.2 The second purpose of the desk-based assessment is to produce a background history of the site. This is intended to cover all periods, in part to provide information that can be used to assess the potential of the site (particularly for the presence of remains that are otherwise not recorded in the study area), but more importantly to present the documented details of any sites that are known (see *Section 4*).

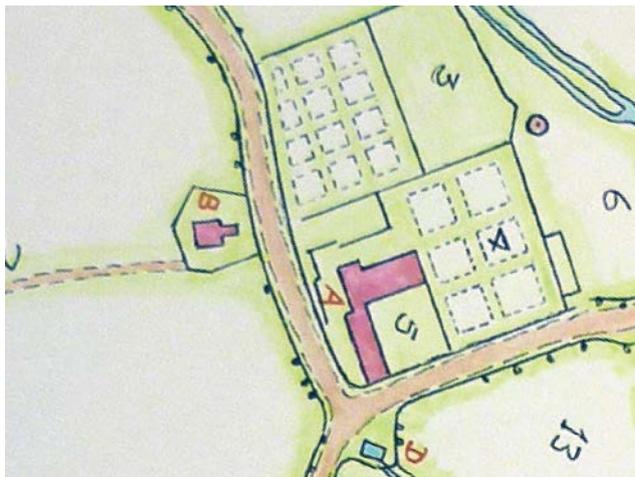
### 3.3 Map and Image Regression

3.3.1 **Introduction:** although there are early, typically county-wide, maps that include the area are generally very small scale and so the first useful maps of the area do not appear until the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. As a result, it is primarily maps from that date onward that are discussed below, although there is one detailed map of 18<sup>th</sup> century, which is also included. Other images primarily comprise photographs of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards, although earlier images are also available.

3.3.2 **Plan of Morrisby Hall and Gardens, November 10<sup>th</sup> 1751:** this map is blockish, showing three buildings to the north of the Turnpike Road and east of 'Road to the Mill' (Plate 1; a copy is held in the Cumbria Archive Centre in Whitehaven, redrawn after the original which is held at the Cumbria Archive Centre in Carlisle (CAC(C) DLONS/W/4/16 1713-1760)). The main structures of the Hall as they were at

that time are recognisable and the main entrance is clearly from the south wall, rather than the south-west corner.

**3.3.3 Plan of Moresby Hall, c1810 (CAC(W) YDX/304/13/10 c1810):** while relatively basic this map shows what appear to be formal gardens to the north and east of the Hall (Plate 2); these are named 'Garden Meadow' (No. 3) and 'Garden' (No. 4) in the accompanying schedule. The arrangement of the buildings appears different to the earlier map, forming two rectangular ranges, with no square building butting the west side of the Hall. However, there are what appear to be boundary walls to the north of the house that appear to correspond to the earlier form of the building. This perhaps suggests that the rear (north) part of the house was disused and/or partially ruinous at this time, something that is suggested by other evidence (see Section 4.5.2 below). The old church, to the north-west, is enclosed within a roughly hexagonal churchyard.

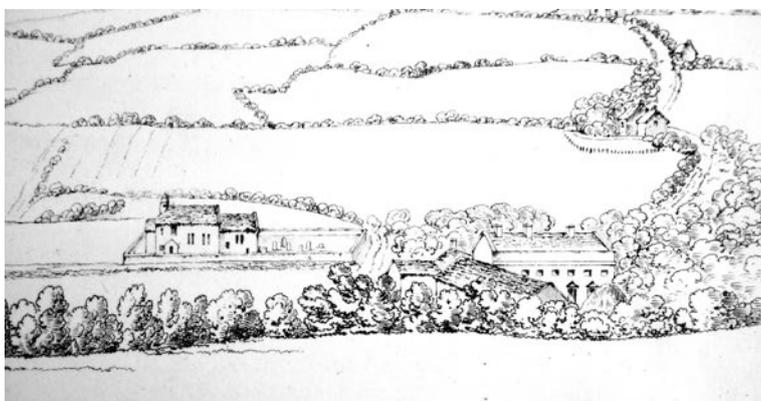


**Plate 1 (left): Extract from *Plan of Morrisby Hall and Gardens*, 1751**

**Plate 2 (right): Extract from *Plan of Moresby Hall*, c1810 (CAC(W) YDX/304/13/10 c1810)**

**3.3.4 Lyson, 1816:** the account of Roman remains at Moresby given in Lyson and Lyson (1816) includes a drawing of the fort, produced by Samuel Lyson, which also shows the church and Moresby Hall (Plate 3). Although it does not show the hall in great detail, it is the earliest dated illustration to show the former stable block at the west side of the front.

**3.3.5 Undated oil painting:** an oil painting, held by the current owners of Moresby Hall, showing the old church and so pre-dating 1822, also shows the Hall in remarkable detail (Plate 4). Of particular interest is the position of the original gate, shown in the centre of the south-wall, and in a form that suggests that the gate piers were moved to their present location. In addition, the west side of the stable block to the west of the front of the house is shown in some detail, indicating that it was constructed on two levels in the manner of a bank barn, with the upper level accessible from the road to the west.



**Plate 3 (left): Lyson's illustration of 1816 (from Lyson and Lyson 1816)**

**Plate 4 (right): Undated oil painting of Moresby Hall and Moresby Old Church**

3.3.6 **Drawing of 1826:** a pencil drawing of the hall dated 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1826 is also held by the present owners of Moresby Hall (the original is in the Beacon at Whitehaven) (Plate 5). This primarily shows the main south façade, but is again useful in showing the east side of the stable block positioned to the west of the front entrance, which has rows of what are presumably ventilation slots and a mullion window on the first floor at the north end.

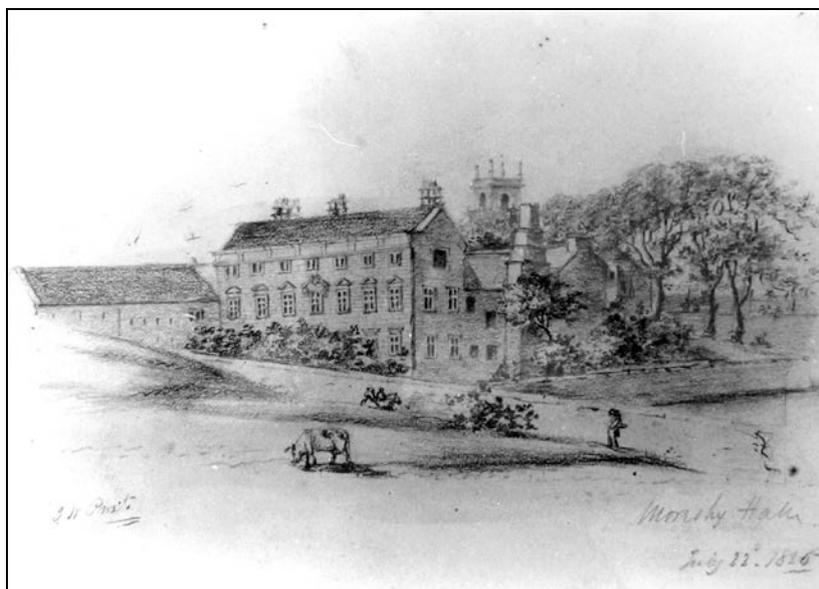


Plate 5: Sketch of Moresby Hall from 1826

3.3.7 **Tithe Map for the Parish of Moresby, 1838 (CAC(W) YPR/15/104 1838):** a long building is now shown along the north/south road, west of the main block of Moresby Hall (Plate 6). The shape of the Hall has also been altered or added to and the church to the north-west has moved and been altered, with the enclosure around it being more rectangular. There is also a turning circle next to the Hall and the entrance to the hall is still evidently via the centre of the south wall. The accompanying schedule provides relatively little useful information about the building (see below), although it lists the owner as the Earl of Lonsdale and Thomas Jackson as the occupier.

Plot number	Description
1	Garden
1a	Barn
2	Garden
3	Dwelling house and farm buildings
4	Farm yard
5	Bull copy
5a	Stack yard

Table 2: Details from the tithe schedule of 1838 (CAC(W) YPR/15/158 1838)

3.3.8 **Ordnance Survey, c1865:** this shows a similar arrangement to the earlier plan with some alterations (Plate 7). Most notably a new group of buildings has been built to the north but other alterations have also occurred to the main block and the range to the south.



Plate 6 (left): Extract from *Plan of the Parish of Moresby*, 1838

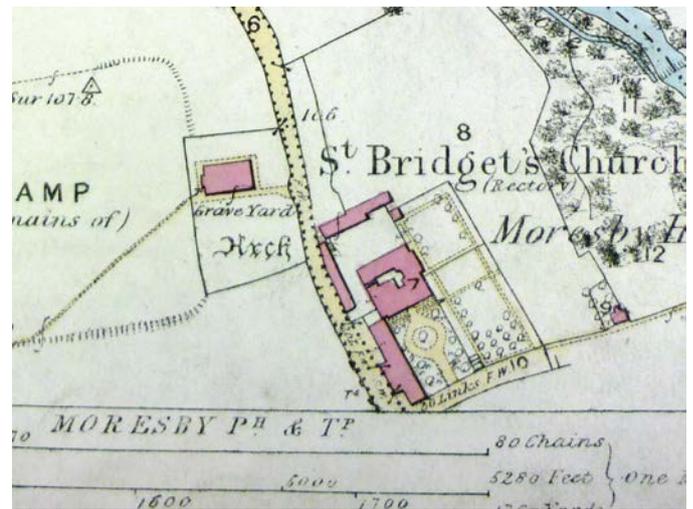


Plate 7 (right): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map, c1865

3.3.9 **Photograph, from client:** this undated photograph must pre-date the Ordnance Survey map of 1899 as it shows not only the south-east external elevation of the Hall and gardens, but also the stable block to the west as still extant, although it does not show much additional detail (Plate 8).



Plate 8: Undated photograph from client

3.3.10 **Ordnance Survey, 1899:** buildings to the north have changed and been added to dramatically, the long range to the south has gone and the entrance has been moved to its present position at the west end of the southern boundary wall (Plate 9). A new group of buildings has been built to the south-east and a glasshouse has been built in the gardens to the east.

3.3.11 **Ordnance Survey, 1925:** the main structures appear unchanged although the buildings to the north have again been extended (Plate 10).

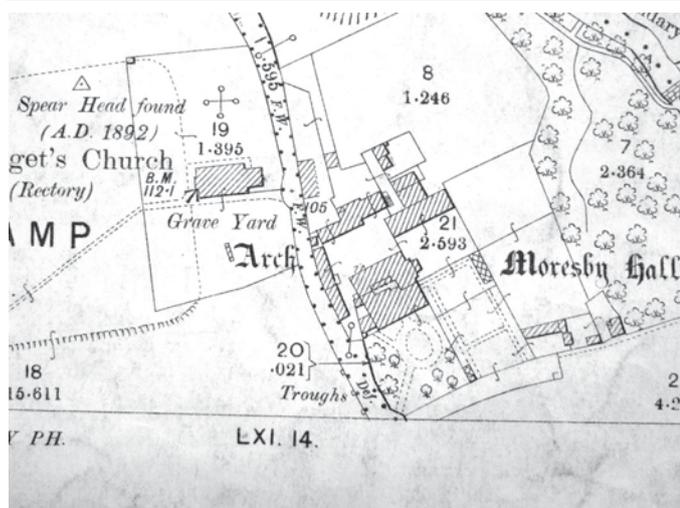


Plate 9 (left): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map, 1899

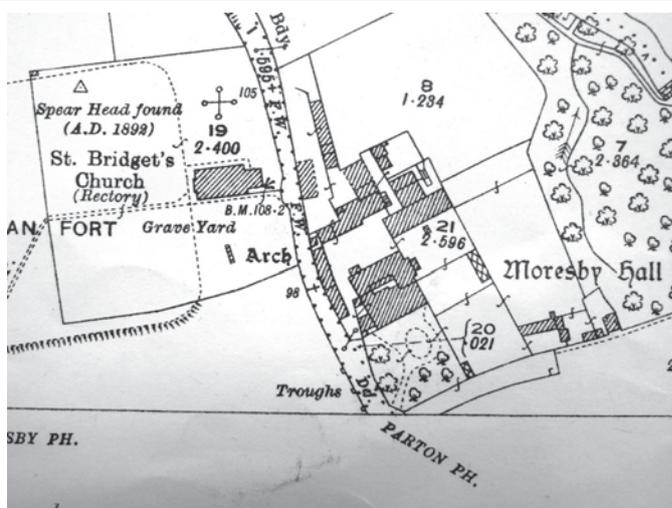


Plate 10 (right): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map, 1925

3.3.12 **Conveyance Plan, 27<sup>th</sup> February 1927**: the conveyance plan of 1927 seems to be based on the earlier Ordnance Survey mapping (Plate 11; cf. Plate 9). Although a block plan and so not providing much detail, it is useful in showing the point at which the building was split in two at this time (marked as a thick red line; Plate 12).

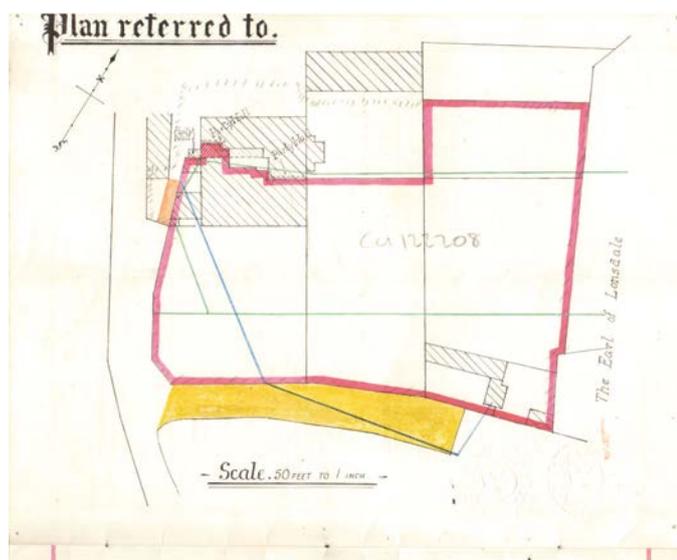


Plate 11 (left): Conveyance Plan, 1927

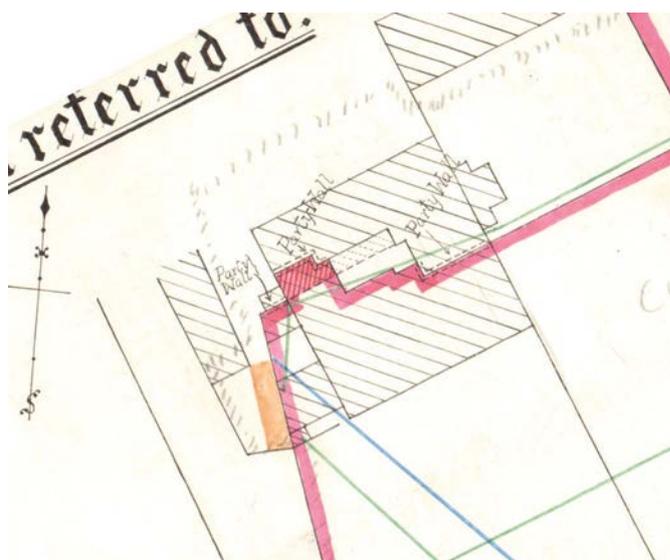


Plate 12 (right): Re-orientated extract from the Conveyance Plan, 1927

3.3.13 **Aerial photograph, 1939**: this aerial photograph shows the church and hall from approximately the north-east (Plate 13). It is not zoomed in sufficiently to discern much further detail about the Hall buildings, although it is clear that the area to the north has not yet been fully developed.



Plate 13: Aerial photograph of the church and Moresby Hall viewed from the north-east (St Joseph 1939, NX9281/A)

3.3.14 *Alterations and Additions, Moresby Hall, 1940*: these plans show proposed alterations and additions to Moresby Hall (CAC(W) SRDE/3/PLANS1/497 1940), essentially all relating to the toilet, bathroom, and boiler room (Plate 14, Plate 15, and Plate 16).

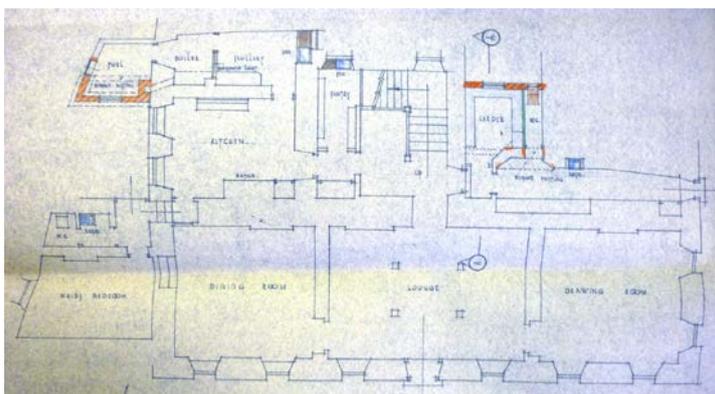


Plate 14: Proposed alterations and additions to the ground floor, 1940 (CAC(W) SRDE/3/PLANS1/497 1940)

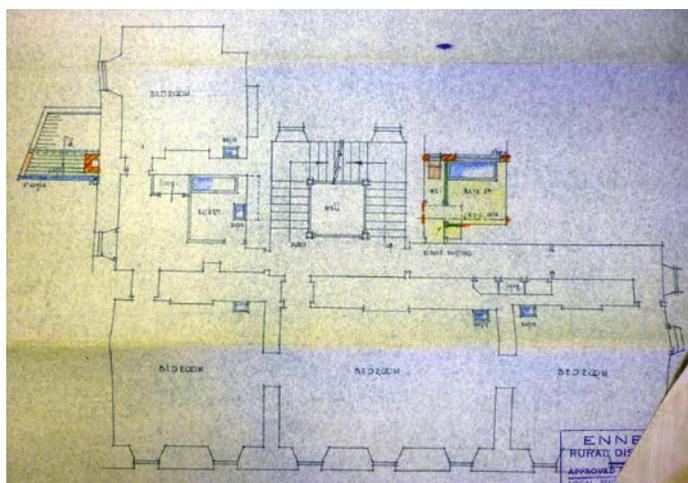
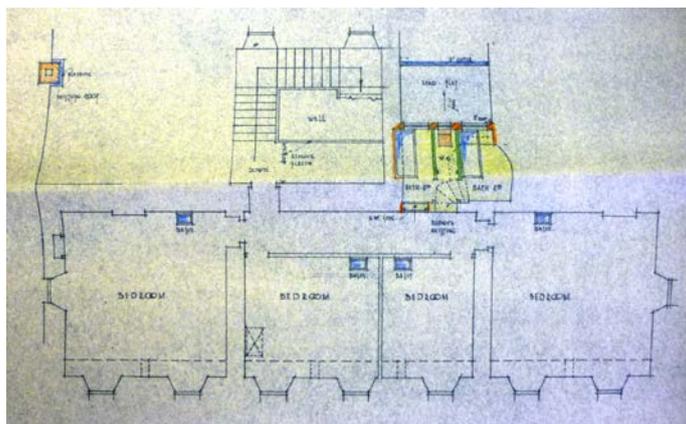
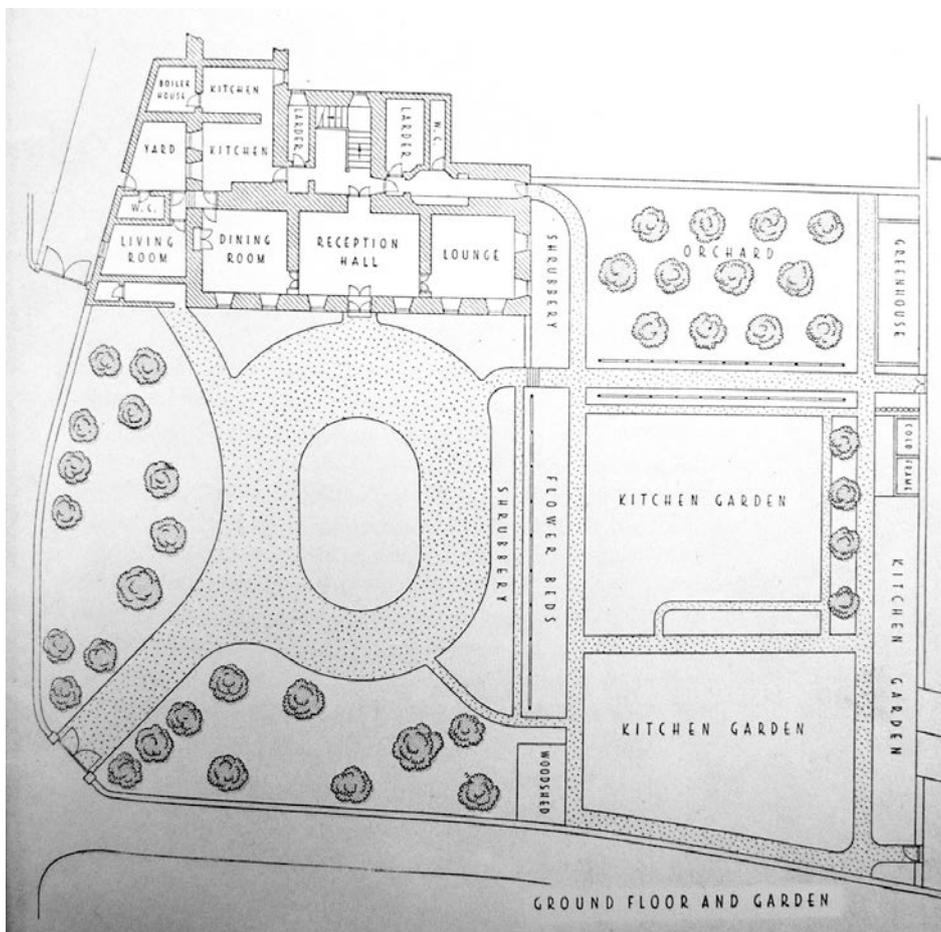


Plate 15: Proposed alterations and additions to the first floor, 1940 (CAC(W) SRDE/3/PLANS1/497 1940)



**Plate 16: Proposed alterations and additions to the second floor, 1940 (CAC(W) SRDE/3/PLANS1/497 1940)**

3.3.15 *The House and Land of Moresby, c1949*: these plans reproduced from *The House and Land of Moresby* (High Duty Alloys Ltd c1949) following its purchase by High Duty Alloys in 1940 (see Section 4.5.6 below) show the layout of the garden and internal arrangement of the Hall (Plate 17, Plate 18, and Plate 19). The alterations and additions proposed in 1940 have been implemented.



**Plate 17: Ground floor and garden plan, c1949 (High Duty Alloys Ltd c1949)**

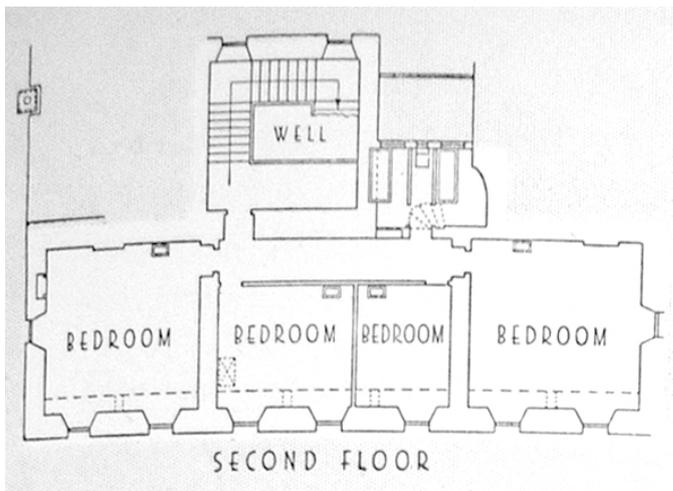
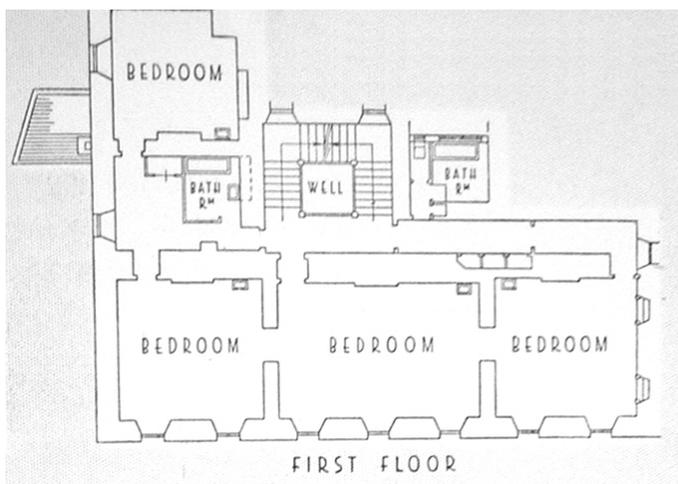


Plate 18 (left): First floor plan, c1949 (High Duty Alloys Ltd c1949)

Plate 19 (right): Second floor plan, c1949 (High Duty Alloys Ltd c1949)

3.3.16 **Photographs, c1949:** various photographs of the Hall were published by High Duty Alloys Ltd c1949 (Plate 20 to Plate 31).



Plate 20: Photograph of the south-east external elevation of the Hall, c1949 (High Duty Alloys Ltd c1949)



Plate 21 (left): Photograph of the entrance hall, c1949 (High Duty Alloys Ltd c1949)



Plate 22 (centre): Another photograph of the entrance hall, c1949 (High Duty Alloys Ltd c1949)



Plate 23 (right): Photograph of the corner of the entrance hall, c1949 (High Duty Alloys Ltd c1949)



**Plate 24 (left):** Photograph of the dining room, c1949 (High Duty Alloys Ltd c1949)



**Plate 25 (right):** Another photograph of the dining room, c1949 (High Duty Alloys Ltd c1949)



**Plate 26 (left):** Photograph of the drawing room, c1949 (High Duty Alloys Ltd c1949)



**Plate 27 (centre):** Another photograph of the drawing room, c1949 (High Duty Alloys Ltd c1949)



**Plate 28 (right):** Photograph of the restored staircase, c1949 (High Duty Alloys Ltd c1949)



**Plate 29 (left):** Photograph of one of the guest rooms, c1949 (High Duty Alloys Ltd c1949)



**Plate 30 (centre):** Photograph of a different one of the guest rooms, c1949 (High Duty Alloys Ltd c1949)



**Plate 31 (right):** Photograph of another one of the guest rooms, c1949 (High Duty Alloys Ltd c1949)

3.3.17 **Photographs, 1960:** amongst material relating to High Duty Alloys are some showing staff in the gardens of Moresby Hall (CAC(W) YDB/63/3/8 1960; the best of these is reproduced as Plate 32). The east side of the Hall is visible in the background, and it is noticeable that the large projecting chimney was not rendered at this time.



**Plate 32 (right): Staff at Moresby Hall in 1960**

3.3.18 **Aerial photographs, 1974:** these distant aerial photographs, taken in August 1974, show the Hall from approximately the north, the south-west and the south (Plate 33, Plate 34 and Plate 35 respectively). They are mostly useful in showing the extent of the buildings associated with the hall at this time, particularly the farm buildings to the north, but they also show nearby elements such as the church and chancel arch of the old church (**Site 6**) and the south edge of the Roman fort (**Site 5**), continuing along the same alignment as the boundary line of the churchyard.



**Plate 33 (left): Aerial photograph of the church and Moresby Hall viewed from the north (Manchester University 1974, NX9821/O)**

**Plate 34 (right): Aerial photograph of the church and Moresby Hall viewed from the south-west (Manchester University 1974, NX9821/P)**



**Plate 35: Aerial photograph of the church and Moresby Hall viewed from the south (Manchester University 1974, NX9821/Q)**

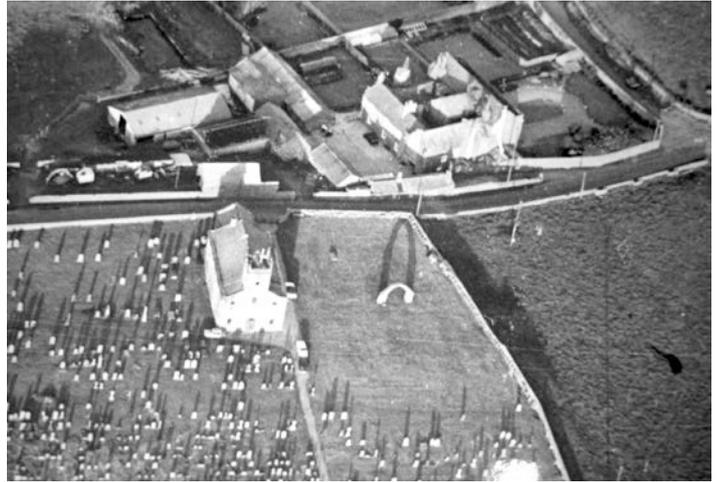
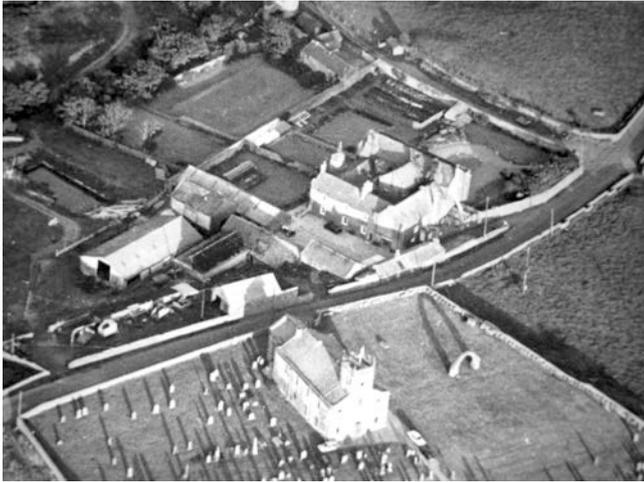
3.3.19 **Aerial photographs, 1976:** four aerial photographs taken in 1976 also show the Hall and nearby buildings, from approximately the south (Plate 36), north-west (Plate 37), west-north-west (Plate 38), and west (Plate 39) in more detail. They are again useful in showing, in particular, the form and extent of the farm buildings to the north.



**Plate 36 (left): Aerial photograph of buildings to the north of Moresby Hall viewed from the south (Manchester University 1976, NX9821/C)**



**Plate 37 (right): Aerial photograph of the church and Moresby Hall from the north-west (Manchester University 1976, NX9821/E)**

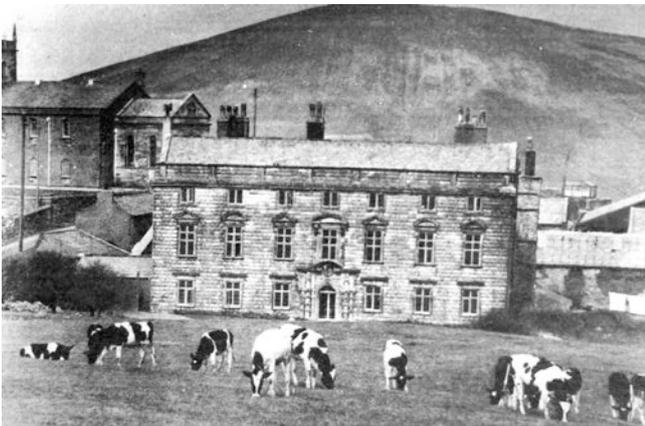


**Plate 38 (left): Aerial photograph of the church and Moresby Hall viewed from west-north-west (Manchester University 1976, NX9821/F)**

**Plate 39 (right): Aerial photograph of the church and Moresby Hall viewed from the west (Manchester University 1976, 4472 NX9821/G)**

3.3.20 **Photograph, 1978:** this photograph of the Hall accompanied an article entitled '*Buried Treasure!*' in the *Evening News and Star* (Carruthers 1978) (Plate 40). The Hall is viewed from the south-east and the church is visible to the rear.

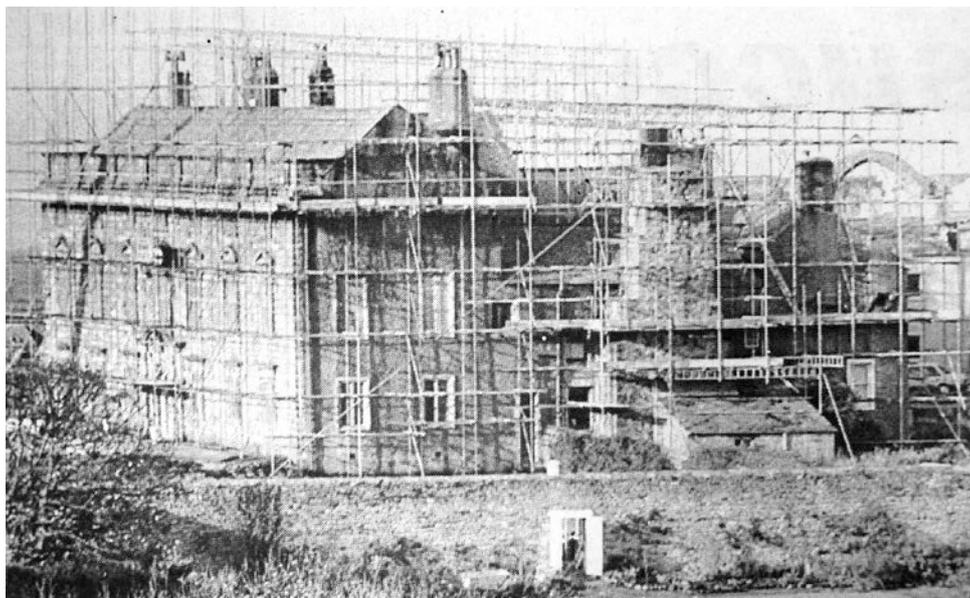
3.3.21 **Aerial photograph, 1986:** this aerial photograph from March 1986 shows Moresby Hall and the church from approximately the north-east (Plate 41). The south-west corner of the Roman fort (**Site 5**) is visible to the top right of shot.



**Plate 40 (left): Photograph of the Hall, 1978 (Carruthers 1978)**

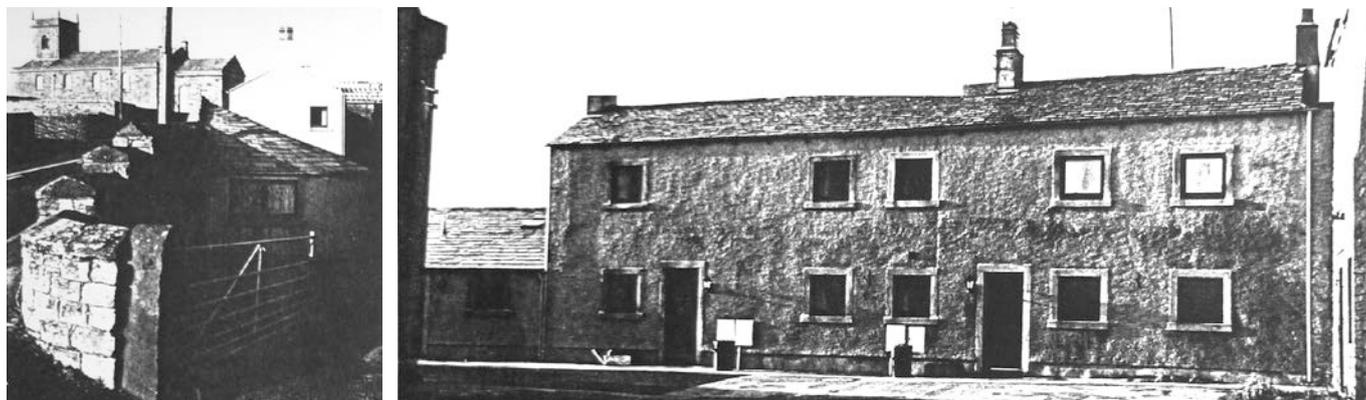
**Plate 41 (right): Aerial photograph of the church and Moresby Hall viewed from the north-east (Cumbria County Council 1986, NX9821/J)**

3.3.22 **Photograph, 1988:** this photograph, published in *The Whitehaven News* in 1988, records when the Hall was being re-roofed (Plate 42). The north- and south-east external elevations are visible behind scaffolding and the remaining church arch (**Site 6**) is visible in the background. It is notable that the large projecting chimney is still un-rendered at this time.



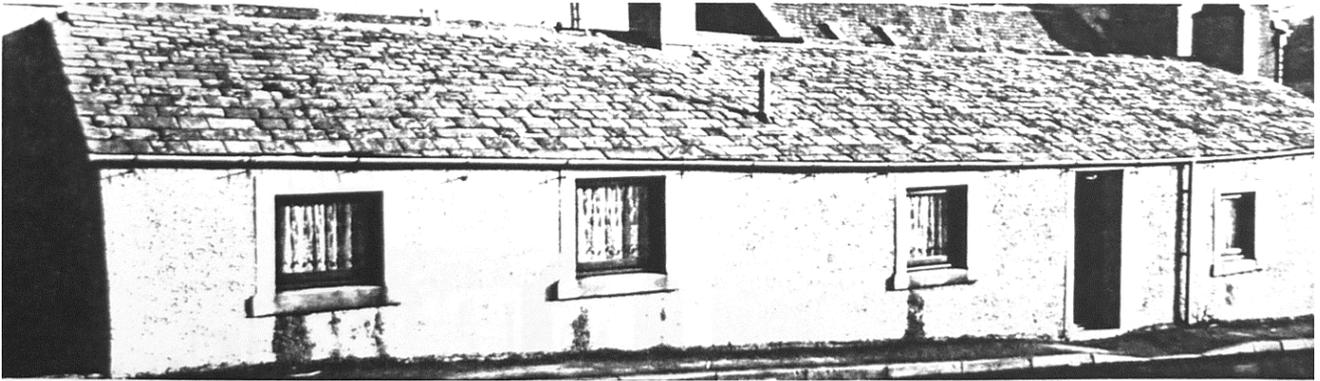
**Plate 42 (right): Photograph of the Hall, 1988 (Anon 1988)**

**3.3.23 Photographs, 1992:** several photographs were included as part of *Correspondence and Papers Concerning Moresby Hall: Objection to Planning Application and Printed Booklets on Moresby Hall* (CAC(W) YDSO/93/2/6/4 1992; Plate 43 to Plate 53). They show the Hall, the church, the remains of the former church (the arch; **Site 6**), stretches of road which pass the site, as well as the various outbuildings to the north and west of the hall. This is particularly useful for the buildings to the north as they show their condition at this time, with most still having at least the remnants of their roofs, although the pictures are not good enough quality to make out many specific detail.



**Plate 43 (left): Photograph of outbuildings to the west of the Hall with the Church in the background, 1992 (CAC(W) YDSO/93/2/6/4 1992)**

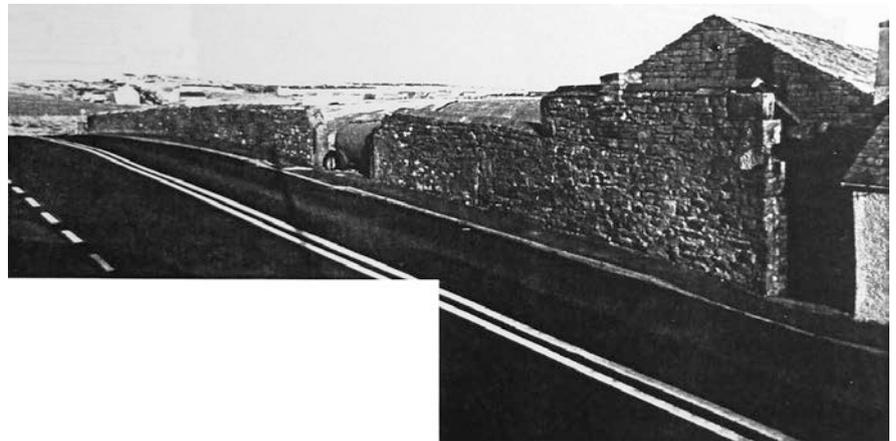
**Plate 44 (right): Photograph of the buildings along the west side of the yard to the north of the hall, 1992 (CAC(W) YDSO/93/2/6/4 1992)**



**Plate 45: Photograph of the outbuildings along the west side of the yard to the north, from the road to the west, 1992 (CAC(W) YDSO/93/2/6/4 1992)**



**Plate 46: Photograph of the Hall and church from the north-east, 1992 (CAC(W) YDSO/93/2/6/4 1992)**



**Plate 47 (left): Photograph of the approach to the church from the south, 1992 (CAC(W) YDSO/93/2/6/4 1992)**

**Plate 48 (right): Photograph of the wall along the road to the west of Moresby Hall, 1992 (CAC(W) YDSO/93/2/6/4 1992)**



**Plate 49: Photograph of derelict buildings to the north of the yard, 1992 (CAC(W) YDSO/93/2/6/4 1992)**



**Plate 50: Photograph of the south-east elevation of the Hall, showing the church and arch (Site 6), 1992 (CAC(W) YDSO/93/2/6/4 1992)**



**Plate 51: Photograph of the Hall and church from the east, 1992 (CAC(W) YDSO/93/2/6/4 1992)**

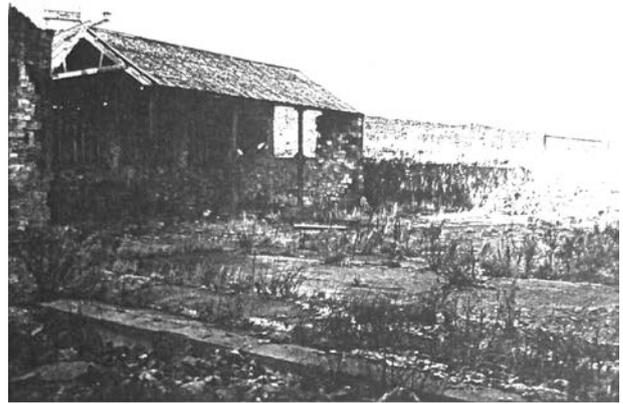
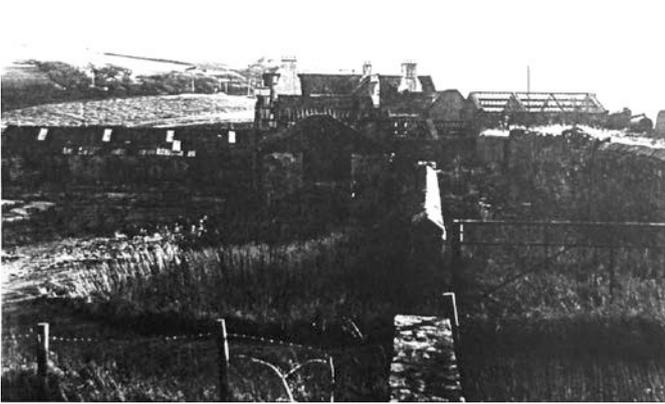


Plate 52 (left): Photograph of derelict buildings to the north of the Hall, 1992 (CAC(W) YDSO/93/2/6/4 1992)

Plate 53 (right): Photograph of Dutch barn to the north-east of the Hall, 1992 (CAC(W) YDSO/93/2/6/4 1992)

3.3.24 **Sales Particulars, 1996 (CAC(W) DH/522/2 c1996)**: the following floor plans are from sales particulars of 1996 (CAC(W) DH/522/2 c1996) (Plate 54 to Plate 56), by which time the Hall had essentially reached its current form although much was clearly unoccupied at this time.

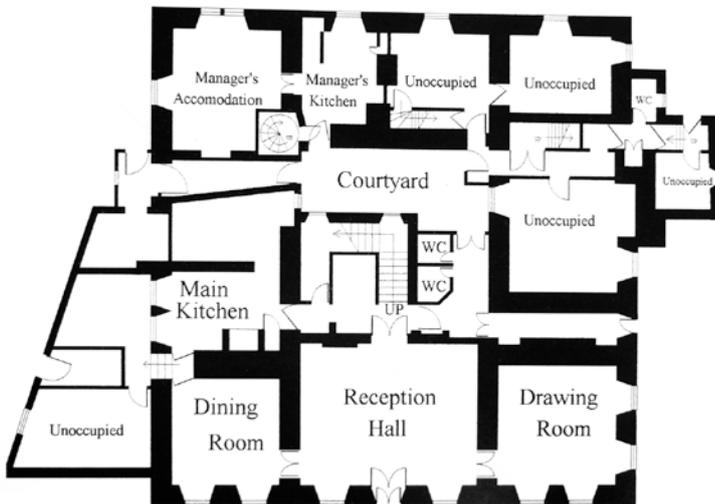


Plate 54 (left): Ground floor plan (CAC(W) DH/522/2 c1996)

Plate 55 (right): First floor plan (CAC(W) DH/522/2 c1996)

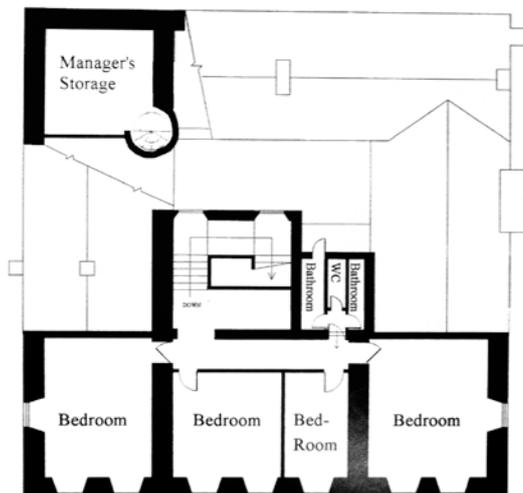
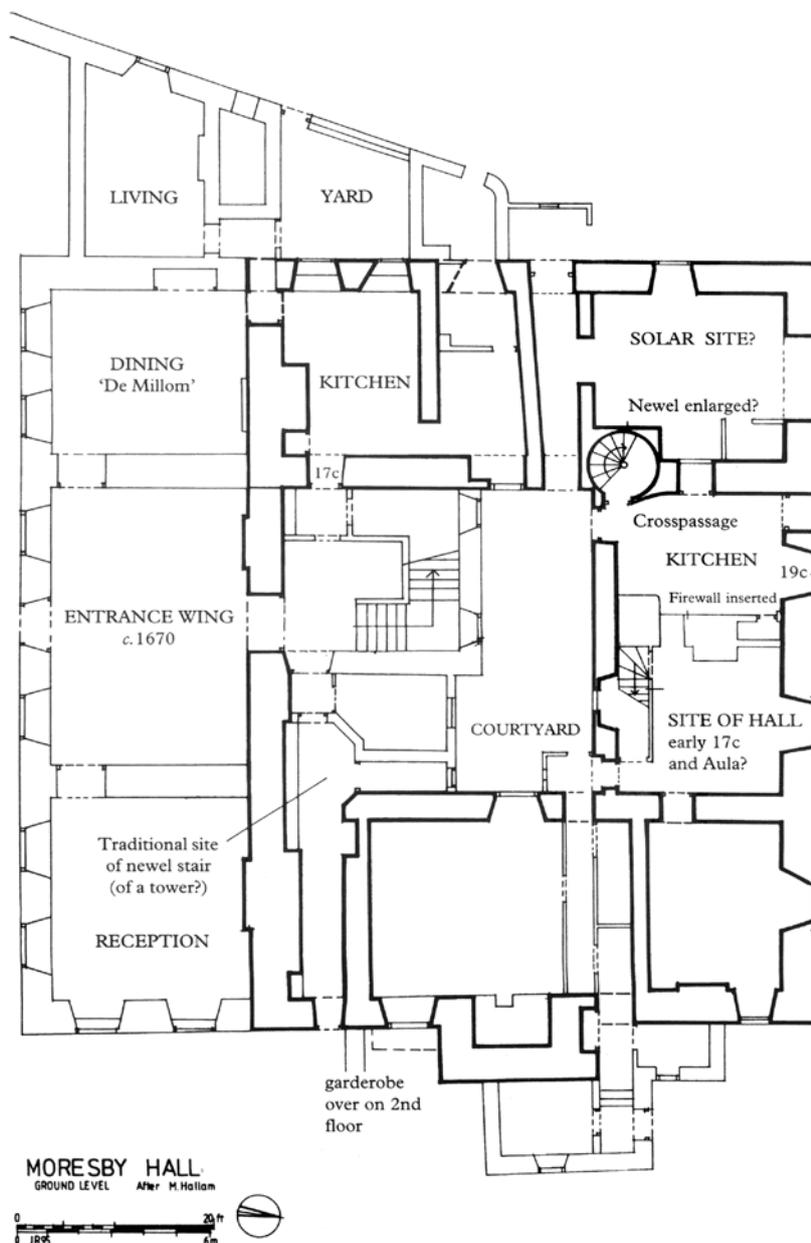


Plate 56: Second floor plan (CAC(W) DH/522/2 c1996)

3.3.25 **Plan showing the historical development of the Hall, 1998:** this ground floor plan shows the historical development of the Hall with approximate dates for the various additions (Perriam and Robinson 1998; Plate 57).



**Plate 57: Plan showing the historical development of the Hall, 1998 (Perriam and Robinson 1998)**

## 3.4 Previous Archaeological Work

3.4.1 Compared to other Roman forts along the west coast of Cumbria, the fort at Moresby has seen relatively little excavation or other work (see Birley 1949, 42). However, it has been recorded by all the major antiquarians since at least the late 16<sup>th</sup> century (*op cit*, 43-44) and was subject to some, largely unpublished, antiquarian excavation in 1859/1860, which determined the location of the main walls, some of the gates, and other internal structures (*op cit*, 50-51 and Birley 1950). However, a considerable amount of Roman material was found prior to this excavation during the rebuilding of the church in 1822 (Birley 1949, 49). Following Birley's summary of work at Moresby there was a limited amount of excavation carried out in May 1951 prior to the enlargement of the churchyard to the north (Swinbank 1952). This revealed the position of the north ditch of the fort and a few finds, but no other structures,

although at a same time reports of 'pillars' found within the area of the fort during grave digging were suggested as evidence for a hypocaust associated with the likely location of the commandant's house (*praetorium*). No further excavation has been carried out at the fort, although a geophysical survey and watching brief was carried out in a field to the south prior to new drainage, which revealed limited evidence for Roman activity, and, perhaps more interesting, a cobbled track running towards Moresby Hall from the south-west, thought to represent the line of the former road (Bennett *et al* 1987). Following this the only archaeological work of any note was a geophysical survey carried out in 2002 of part of the fort, which revealed the outer defences and structures within, as well as the original church (Geoscan Research 2004). More recently a number of archaeological projects have been carried out in advance of developments in the general proximity of the fort and Moresby Hall, but none of these have revealed any significant or particularly relevant remains (Highways Agency 2004; NAA 2006; NPA 2011).

3.4.2 Moresby Hall, by contrast has seen much less archaeological work, indeed no detailed archaeological survey of the standing building has ever been carried out, although there are some detailed considerations of its development (e.g. Perriam and Robinson 1998, 108-109; Ryder 2002). Nevertheless, there has been some previous antiquarian interest in it as burials were found below the floor of the hall, seemingly during a period of restoration, prior to 1860 (Whellan 1860, 420; see *Appendix 2* below). Part of the grounds were included in the same programme of geophysical survey that examined the fort (Geoscan Research 2004), and a feature identified as part of this was examined via a test pit in 2003 as part of the Time Team *Big Dig*, revealing 'a substantial fill of Roman pottery and evidence of burning at about 40cm depth' (*ibid*).

## 3.5 Site Visit

3.5.1 **Introduction:** a site visit was carried out on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2014. This was intended to gain some understanding of the development of the elements of the Moresby Hall complex currently in the ownership of the client, in particular the hall itself, which is the most complex and most substantial single part.

3.5.2 **Site Arrangement and Character:** the elements of Moresby Hall currently in the ownership of the client comprise Moresby Hall itself, which forms a large essentially square block in the centre of the wider complex, but with smaller outbuildings on the west side extending its footprint into a more rectangular form, and a group of farm buildings across the yard to the north, in varying condition (Figure 1). It also includes the garden and associated boundary walls, the former mostly positioned to the south and east, as well as land to the north of the farm buildings.

3.5.3 **The farm buildings:** the buildings to the north of the hall, across the yard, are clearly all agricultural in character. On the west side is a two-storey barn, with a pair of ground floor doorways on the south side, each with a flanking window and a row of ventilation slots at first floor level (Plate 58). The lower part was evidently originally animal housing, with the remains relating to the position of the stalls inside (Plate 59), while the upper floor was presumably a hay loft. Attached to the east of this is what was presumably originally a cart shed or similar, which has now been converted into a domestic dwelling (Plate 60). There is evidence for two wide openings, now blocked up, and gabled dormer windows on the first floor. At the east end is a largely ruinous building with no roof (Plate 61). This perhaps had a wide opening on the ground floor, although the large arch may just be for support, and there are windows on the first floor. The original purpose of this building is not certain, but like the one to the west it probably housed animals on the ground floor with hay lofts above; both may have been stables. To the north of the easternmost building is the remains of a further building, now little more than the remnants of the outer walls and a row of iron columns along the east side (Plate 62). This was clearly open fronted on the east side, and so was perhaps a hay barn or Dutch barn. However, the iron columns have sockets that appear to be for angled braces at the top, suggesting the building perhaps had a porch or similar projecting structure, or that these are reused from elsewhere.



**Plate 58 (left): Front (south) elevation of the west farm building**



**Plate 59 (right): Blocks showing the position of the stall posts in the west farm building**



**Plate 60 (left): Central farm building**



**Plate 61 (right): Eastern farm building**



**Plate 62: North side of the eastern farm building, and iron columns representing remains of building to north**

3.5.4 **The hall:** externally the front (south) part of the hall is finished in the rusticated stonework corresponding with the work thought to have been carried out in the 1670s, with elaborate mullion and transom windows finished with various types of pediment, and with an even more elaborate front door with a broken pediment and flanking pilasters (Plate 63). The east and west side elevations are finished with render, the east with further mullion and transom windows on the south side (although blocked on the first floor; Plate 64), and a more irregular arrangement of windows to the north, but including a further mullion and transom. Towards the centre is a large projecting tiered chimney, with outshuts attached around the base, and at the north end there is the truncated remains of a projecting garderobe, with a presumably inserted window with square-section stone surrounds of 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century style below (Plate 65). The west elevation is also rendered and relatively plain, although with attached single storey outshuts and a variety of windows, including one with a hood mould at the north end (Plate 66). The north elevation is rendered and very plain, with regular rows of windows with square-section surrounds on the ground and first floor (Plate 67) and a large ground floor window at the west end, below a gable, the line of which extends beyond the roof to form a parapet (Plate 68).



Plate 63 (left): Front (south) external elevation



Plate 64 (right): South end of the east external elevation



**Plate 65 (left): North end of the east external elevation**



**Plate 66 (right): West external elevation**



**Plate 67 (left): East end of the north external elevation**



**Plate 68 (right): West end of the north external elevation**

3.5.5 Internally, the south end of the building comprises a hall with flanking reception rooms to the east and west, all with decorative features such as bolection moulded fireplaces, plasterwork and timber details; the fireplaces at least suggestive of a late 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century date (Burton and Porten 2000, 16-17; Alcock and Hall 2002, 56). Beyond these rooms, to the north, is a large staircase with turned balusters, of inverted 'dumb-bell' type (see Pevsner 1967, 164), of probable late 17<sup>th</sup> to early 18<sup>th</sup> date century (Alcock and Hall 2002, 1-3; Plate 69) but very plain square newel posts perhaps more fitting with an early 18<sup>th</sup> century date (Burton 2001, 22-23). The south elevation has mullion and transom windows matching those to the south. The wings to either side of the staircase are clearly earlier. There is a doorway on the west side with a pointed lintel of perhaps late 16<sup>th</sup> or early 17<sup>th</sup> century date (Alcock and Hall 2002, 20), leading to a modern kitchen within which is a blocked mullion window (Plate 70) complete with mason's marks (Plate 71 and Plate 72). To the east the wing is accessed via a pair of opposed doorways, the inner one also with a pointed lintel (Plate 73) and the outer with a chamfered surround and a plank door on long strap hinges (Plate 74), probably of similar date. Beyond these doors, to the east, is a small hall or lobby, with corbelled stone in the ceiling suggestive of a spiral stone staircase having originally been situated in this area (Plate 75), and there is a stone bench along the south side. East of this is a narrow corridor leading to a doorway, the south side of which is stepped on the west and east sides leaving a projecting section in the centre, with scarring in the plaster suggestive of a former fireplace, and now with a cupboard in the alcove to the east. In the ceiling there are iron bars

running across the room (Plate 76), presumably for hanging items from. The rooms behind this, on the east side, are extensively modernised, as are those on the west. The upper floors are generally extensively modernised, with only those to the south retaining many features of interest, including more bolection moulded fireplaces (Plate 77) and panelled doors (Plate 78). In the attic, the roof above the south section comprises a simple tie beam truss (Plate 79), although on the west side it also has a collar (Plate 80).



**Plate 69 (left): Turned balusters in the staircase**



**Plate 70 (right): Blocked mullion window in the west wing behind the south section**



**Plate 71 (left): Mason's mark on the blocked mullion window**



**Plate 72 (right): Mason's mark on the blocked mullion window**



**Plate 73 (left): Doorway with pointed lintel leading east**



**Plate 74 (right): Early plank door with long strap hinges leading east**



**Plate 75 (left): Corbelled remnants of spiral stair in east wing behind south section**



**Plate 76 (right): Iron bars in ceiling of room to east**



**Plate 77 (left): Bolection moulded fireplace on first floor**



**Plate 78 (right): Panelled doorway on first floor**



**Plate 79 (left): Typical roof truss over the southern section of the hall**



**Plate 80 (right): Roof truss with collar on the west side of the south section of the hall**

3.5.6 In the courtyard behind the staircase, however, hood moulded and mullion and transom windows are present to the north (Plate 81), east (Plate 82) and west, on both ground and first floor. These too are perhaps of late medieval to early post-medieval date. There is also a pent roof supported on a row of cast iron columns and a timber superstructure forming a covered walkway (Plate 83), which connects to a corridor running through the width of the building to a doorway on the west side with a beaded stone surround. The north wing of the hall comprises a single long range, the west end accessed by another doorway with a pointed arch (Plate 84). Internally much of this wing is modernised and no features of great interest were visible, however, at the west end there is a spiral stone staircase leading to the upper floors, which seems truncated at the top. On the upper floors there are some features of interest, including blocked and open windows with arched tops, and a fireplace with a pointed stone lintel (Plate 85) and chamfered surround, again probably of late 16<sup>th</sup> to early 17<sup>th</sup> century date. On the top floor, the roof structure is exposed and comprises a simple tie beam truss with collar, supporting the purlins, all of which is hand finished and peg jointed (Plate 86). At the west end of the north elevation there is a slot

cut into the wall, above a chimney breast, which presumably originally housed a beam supporting the floor, and it is apparent that the floor levels have been modified throughout.



**Plate 81 (left): Mullion and transom windows with hood moulds on the north side of the courtyard**



**Plate 82 (right): Windows with hood moulds on the east side of the courtyard**



**Plate 83 (left): Covered walkway in the courtyard**



**Plate 84 (right): Door with pointed lintel leading into the north wing**



**Plate 85 (left): Fireplace at first floor level in the north wing**



**Plate 86 (right): Roof truss in the north wing**

**3.5.7 The gardens and boundary walls:** the garden immediately to the south of the hall mainly comprises a drive with, now somewhat irregular, turning circle. The garden to the east is slightly lower, and is accessed via short flight of steps, and in the north-east corner it becomes a gravel covered parking area. On the south side there is a small stone built garden store with a slate roof (Plate 87), and on the east side there is a modern glazed garden room (Plate 88). The walls (to the west, east and south) are stone and very tall. In terms of features of interest only the south wall really displays any. The former main entrance is apparent in the middle of the south wall as an area of blocked stonework (Plate 89). It is also evident that the wall has been raised in height either side of this and that the west end has been rebuilt, either as a result of the gate being repositioned to its present location, or because the wall is retaining elements of the gable end of the former stable block (Plate 90). The gate piers are constructed from rusticated stonework finished to imitate ashlar v-jointed stone, as per the south façade of the house, capped with damaged hemispheres (Plate 91), and so are presumably of similar date.



**Plate 87 (left): Garden store on the south side of the south garden**



**Plate 88 (right): Modern glazed garden room on the east side of the gardens**



**Plate 89 (left): Blocked gateway in the centre of the south boundary wall**

**Plate 90 (right): Rebuild or remnants of stable block at west end of south boundary wall**



**Plate 91: The gate piers in the south-west corner**

## 4. Site History

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The history of the local landscape is dominated by two significant elements: the Roman fort immediately west of Moresby Hall, and Moresby Hall itself. Evidence for activity from earlier and later periods is present in the wider area, including some locally very significant monuments. In order to place the proposed development site in its historical background and archaeological context a brief discussion of the earlier history of its environs is necessary. Information relating to specific sites recorded during the desk-based assessment and site visit (see *Section 3* above) is included where relevant.

### 4.2 Prehistoric Period (c11,000 BC – 1<sup>st</sup> century AD)

4.2.1 While there is limited evidence for human activity in the county in the period immediately following the last Ice Age, this is typically found in the southernmost part on the north side of Morecambe Bay. Excavations of a small number of cave sites have found the remains of animal species common at the time but now extinct in this country and artefacts of Late Upper Palaeolithic type (Young 2002). No remains of this date are known from the immediate area of the site, although a pair of barbed spear heads made from antler were found at Crosby-on-Eden (Hodgson 1895), which, although undated, may belong to the end of the Palaeolithic or early Mesolithic. The county was clearly more densely inhabited during the following period, the Mesolithic (c8,000 – 4,000 BC), as large numbers of artefacts of this date have been discovered during field walking and eroding from sand dunes along the coast, but these are typically concentrated in the west coast area and on the uplands around the Eden Valley (Cherry and Cherry 2002). More recently a particularly large assemblage has been recovered during excavations, directly on the edge of the River Eden, outside Carlisle (Clark 2010) and field walking has found additional scatters of some significance also in the Eden valley near Penrith (Clarke *et al* 2008). Coastal areas and river valleys are notably places where such material is frequently found in the wider region (Middleton *et al* 1995, 202; Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 151-152; Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 26).

4.2.2 In the following period, the Neolithic (c4,000 – 2,500 BC), large scale monuments such as burial mounds and stone circles begin to appear in the region and one of the most recognisable tool types of this period, the polished stone axe, is found in large numbers across the county, having been manufactured at Langdale in the central Lake District (Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 45). During the Bronze Age (c2,500 – 600 BC) monuments, particularly those thought to be ceremonial in nature, become more common still, and within the study area this may include a possible Bronze Age cairn containing at least one cremation burial in an urn (**Site 10**). It is also likely that settlement sites thought to belong to the Iron Age have their origins in this period, although few have been studied in enough detail to ascertain this with any certainty. Sites of this type, while not present in the study area, are recorded, typically as crop marks revealed in aerial photographs, in the wider area although they are typically undated and little understood. In addition, there is likely to have been a considerable overlap between the end of the Iron Age and the beginning of the Romano-British period; it is evident that in this part of the country, initially at least, the Roman invasion had a minimal impact on the native population in rural areas (Philpott 2006, 73-74).

4.2.3 There are few sites of prehistoric date recorded within the study area and none certainly pre-dating the Bronze Age. The one certain site is a bronze spearhead of Bronze Age date found to the north of the church in 1892 (**Site 4**), although flint artefacts, largely of uncertain date and type but undoubtedly prehistoric, are also known from the area around the church (Anon 1925). In addition, the burials found under the floor of Moresby Hall (**Site 8**) are also recorded in the HER as possibly pre-Roman, i.e. late prehistoric, although there is no specific evidence to support this assertion and they could also be post-Roman.

### 4.3 Romano-British to Early Medieval Period (1<sup>st</sup> century AD – 11<sup>th</sup> century AD)

4.3.1 Moresby Hall is situated immediately adjacent to a Roman fort (**Site 5**), which is located on an area of high ground to the west. It has been identified as a fort named *Gabrosentum* meaning 'goat path'

(Birley 1949, 68; Holder 2004, 63). As already outlined (see *Section 3.4.1* above) the presence of a fort has been known since at least the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, and Birley's summary of research into it until 1949 confirms the view that it was established in or shortly after AD 128, on the basis of an inscription dedicated to Hadrian (Birley 1949, 68). Numerous coin finds from within the area of the fort and the surrounding area indicate that it was occupied into the 4<sup>th</sup> century (*op cit*, 70). The internal details of the fort are still, however, somewhat sketchy, with no detailed excavation ever having taken place, although the general arrangement is known and recent geophysical survey has shown the presence of buildings on the west side (Geoscan Research 2004), perhaps rows of barracks or granaries, and remains of buildings perhaps including the *praetorium* have been revealed during the construction of the present church in 1822 (Birley 1948, 49) (**Site 6**) and later grave digging (Swinbank 1951, 177). The extent of any associated settlement (*vicus*) and other buildings is also somewhat uncertain although patchy remains have been found to the south of the fort (Bennett *et al* 1987), a building 31 feet by 15½ feet was found to the west in 1859 (Birley 1950, 218), and a bath house is thought to have been located to the south-west of the fort (**Site 9**) on the basis of the discovery of roofing tiles and the name 'Sooty Field' recorded in this area (Birley 1949, 71). The fort is thought to be connected to roads of Roman date running to the north and east (**Site 2**), the latter running immediately south of Moresby Hall along the former line of the road prior to the construction of what became the A595, although none of these have been examined in great detail.

4.3.2 Apart from those features already noted, there are a large number of stray finds of Roman date recorded within the study area, ranging from coins (**Sites 11** and **13**), to pottery (**Site 14**), to an altar and sculptured stone (**Site 3**). Many of these are poorly located so can only be taken as generally representative of the area immediately around the site, and most likely relating in some way to the fort and associated settlement. Further afield, three Roman vessels were dug from a railway cutting in the Church Field, Moresby, in February 1879 (HER 6390) to the west of the fort, which might be taken to indicate that a cemetery associated with the fort was located in this area. However, the burials found underneath the floor of Moresby Hall before 1860 could also be Roman in date, as they are similar in description to the late Roman Christian graves recently found at Maryport (Haynes and Wilmott 2012).

4.3.3 The early medieval period is not well represented in the area in terms of physical archaeological remains, which is a common situation throughout the county. It is conceivable that the burials discovered beneath Moresby Hall might be early medieval and therefore actually represent a continuation of settlement in the area after the traditional end of Roman control. The 1810 plan of the Moresby Hall estate (Plate 2) shows the churchyard around the old church as approximately rounded, which is potentially significant as this form is often considered to demonstrate a post-Roman British origin (O'Sullivan 1985, 31-32). The patron saint of the church, St Bridget, who is recorded in a number of documentary sources in the early medieval period (Flanagan 2013, 49-52), is also potentially indicative of an early origin for the site. Also, the location of the church so close to the Roman fort, which is a relatively common occurrence although they were often placed inside forts (Petts 2003, 75-78), is also likely to represent some continuity from the late Roman period into the early medieval. The place-name of Moresby, although containing the Norse element –by meaning farmstead, actually post-dates the Norman conquest as it originates from the Norman French name 'Maurice' (Armstrong *et al* 1950, 421) but shows the extent to which Norse was still an active language in the area, something that is found in a number of –by named settlements in the Carlisle area, all of which have the same construction (Armstrong *et al* 1952, xxxi-xxxii). Other place-names in the area show the varying range of settlers that came into the area during the early medieval period, however, with Anglian and later Norse names particularly noticeable.

## 4.4 Medieval Period (11<sup>th</sup> century AD – 16<sup>th</sup> century AD)

4.4.1 There is relatively little information available relating to the settlement at Moresby in the medieval period, which is first recorded in c1160 AD (Armstrong *et al* 1950, 421). Its history is essentially tied to that of Moresby Hall and the manor of Moresby. This is spelt out in a number of sources, although how reliable some are is debateable and several are no doubt simply repeating earlier sources. The original Maurice, as already mentioned, was probably a Norman, one of several who arrived in what is now North Cumbria, following the taking of Carlisle in 1092 (Armstrong *et al* 1952, xxxi; Whellan 1860, 413). A

number of early sources suggest that 'Moris' was actually Welsh or even British (e.g. Nicholson and Burn 1777, 48), but this is almost certainly incorrect. The earliest successor of the presumed original owner of the manor, whose decedents eventually took the name Moresby, was named Urkman or Ucknard, whose name is preserved in connection with the abbey at Holme Cultram (Nicholson and Burn 1777, 48; Whellan 1860, 413). The Moresby family continued to hold the estate for some time, the male line ending at Sir Christopher Moresby, whose daughter Anne married Sir James Pickering of Killington in Westmorland (Nicholson and Burn 1777, 48). They too had a daughter named Anne, who was heir to both the Moresby and Pickering estates and married three times, the third time to Henry Knevett, and he and Anne were found to be heirs to the manor of Moresby in an inquisition of the 16<sup>th</sup> century (*op cit*, 49). In 1576 the estate was sold, probably by the son of Anne and Henry, to William Fletcher of Cockermouth (Whellan 1860, 418) and it remained in the Fletcher family for some time, well beyond the end of the medieval period.

4.4.2 The actual structure at Moresby Hall is long thought to have medieval origins, and it has been suggested that the extant structure contains one or more pele towers (Pevsner 1967, 164; Robinson 1991, 124; Perriam and Robinson 1998, 108-109). However, more recent consideration has suggested that the earlier elements are actually 16<sup>th</sup> century (Hyde and Pevsner 2010, 531) and that the earlier part of the building represents a '*courtyard house of 16<sup>th</sup> century date, admittedly built with an eye to defence*' (Ryder 2002). It is entirely plausible that a pele tower did exist on the site, indeed the plan from 1751 shows a now lost square block attached to the north-west corner of the main block of the hall that appears to be the correct dimensions for a pele tower (Plate 1).

4.4.3 Other sites of medieval date within the study area include the church, which is first mentioned at Moresby in 1291 (Whellan 1860, 422). The chancel arch (**Site 6**) is all that remains, the rest was pulled down to make room for the present structure built to the north in 1822. A well (**Site 12**) within the Scheduled Area of Moresby fort (**Site 5**) is also thought to be at least medieval in origin.

## 4.5 Post-medieval Period (16<sup>th</sup> century AD – present)

4.5.1 During the post-medieval period the area around Moresby became increasingly industrialised, in part because of the expansion of the coal mines (Fletcher 1878), but also as a result of the increasing influence of the Lowther family, who encouraged the rapid development of Whitehaven from the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards (Collier and Pearson 1991). This in turn led to improvements to the port at Parton, which was partially sponsored by William Fletcher, the owner of Moresby Hall, although opposed by Sir John Lowther, who had both considerable interests in the local coal mines (Fletcher 1878, 272-274). Further north, and outside of the study area, was an extensive colliery and also a large iron foundry at Lowca. The dismantled railway (**Site 1**) is also of post-medieval date, and formed part of an extensive network of railways originally serving the various local industries, of which only the section along the coastline to the west now survives.

4.5.2 **Moresby Hall:** the extent to which Moresby Hall developed and grew in the post-medieval period is relatively well understood, although there are considerable gaps. As already described, it had been acquired by the Fletcher family by the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, at which time it probably comprised a largely 16<sup>th</sup> century courtyard house, although perhaps with earlier elements within it. It is apparent that a substantial programme of rebuilding was carried out in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, evidently before 1671 when Sir Daniel Fleming described how William Fletcher '*hath greatly improved*' the hall (Ferguson 1889, 10). The work that was carried out seems primarily to have comprised the extensive south façade, the work originally having been attributed to Inigo Jones and dated to c1617, the time of his visit (Whellan 1860, 419; Anon 1875, 79). However, more recent consideration has noted the similarity between this façade and work at The Flatt (later re-named Whitehaven Castle), Ribton Hall near Cockermouth, and Drawdykes Castle near Carlisle, all of which were built by William Thackeray (Tyson 1984) in the 1670s, although Edward Addison has also been suggested (Robinson 1991, 124), and he clearly worked in conjunction with Thackeray and some of his associates on a number of notable local buildings (Tyson 1996). A later description, by Thomas Denton, describes how the building was '*re-edified by the present owner of it William Fletcher Esqr, who hath made an uniform & regular front; & by his skilfull contrivance hath made it a very convenient & useful house*' (Winchester and Wane 2003, 107). In addition, it is

important to note Edmund Sandford's account of the area, dated 1675, which describes it as a '*faire house and habitation of one Squire ffletcher*' (although it is suggested that this is Henry Fletcher, who succeeded his brother William; Ferguson 1890, 18). Sandford also stated that the site contained '*a fair castle there for defence of the co[u]ntry in Ancient Times: but now not habitab[ll]e*' (*ibid*), a comment that has been taken as referring to the adjacent Roman fort (Anon 1949, 193). However, the manner in which the plan of 1810 shows only the front (south) section of the house, with only detached walls for the rest, and certain elements within the standing building (see *Section 3.3.3*) perhaps indicates that the earlier part of the building was essentially derelict in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century and perhaps until the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is apparent, however, from later comments that some extensive rebuilding work did take place prior to 1860 (Whellan 1860, 420), although the nature of this is not stated (see *Section 4.5.3* below).

4.5.3 Details relating to the hall in the 18<sup>th</sup> century are seemingly relatively scarce. It passed into the hands of the Brougham family at the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but they in turn sold it to Sir James Lowther of Whitehaven 1737 (Anon 1875, 96). If the building was not somewhat derelict by this time it soon became so: '*The interior was stripped of much of the magic that time and the memory of the past had given it; and the moon shone into galleries and rooms, shorn of their whilom splendour, or which, stained and dilapidated, were hung with cobwebs, among which the bat flitted in the uncertain light, and the owl hooted in its neighbouring nook. The doors hung quivering on their hinges, and, with the broken casements, rattled in the midnight winds that rustled through the open hall. The roof trees sank in, and the chimnies, with the finer portions of the carved work, fell down or were destroyed*' (*op cit*, 97-98). Whether it was at all occupied at this time is uncertain, but the state of dereliction certainly fits with the evidence outlined above, although by the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries it seems to have extended to the whole building. Latterly it was at least partially converted into a farmhouse '*and the proud halls and apartments, which for generations had witnessed many a touching passage of the daily life and social doings of times more joyous in tone, as well as more picturesque in popular manners and costume than the present were filled, each returning season, with the products of the farm*' (*op cit*, 98). Indeed, it was said that one of the tenants, John Munro, used the large fireplace on the east side to stall oxen but that the same fireplace was retained '*in one of the rooms now converted for apartments for the farmer*' (*op cit*, 81). It is apparent much of the hall was given over for use as a farm, but by the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century some restoration took place (*op cit*, 98), although even then '*the interior was so much assailed by the irreverent hand of ill-judged alteration, done in a style in which neoteric meanness of execution contrasts disparagingly even with the primitive rudeness, that almost every mark of its former fitting up was expunged, and so perished many of those illustrative examples of the internal arrangements of the domestic architecture of early days, to which time gives such value, and which imbued the ruinous fabric with the picturesque stamp of antiquity*' (*op cit*, 81). One of the most detailed early descriptions of the house at about this period was made by William Whellan in 1860, and is transcribed in full in *Appendix 2*.

4.5.4 It seems likely that the various people listed as living at Moresby Hall in the mid to late part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century were tenants of the Lowther family, and that the building was clearly sub-divided in some fashion at an early date (by at least 1847, see Table 1 below, and perhaps as early as 1846 when a James Paterson of Moresby Hall died of apoplexy while working in a hay loft; CAC(W) DLEC/CR/11/178/8 1846) to provide both a farm and a house.

Date	Name	Address	Source
1829	Mrs Morland	Moresby Hall	Parson and White 1829, 329
1847	Misses Jane and Hannah Tate	Moresby Hall	Mannix and Whellan 1847, 352
1847	Mr John Turner, farmer	Moresby Hall	Mannix and Whellan 1847, 352
1882	Henry Spencer Esq JP	Moresby Hall	Mannex and Co 1882, 439
1882	John Hunter and Son, farmers	Moresby Hall	Mannex and Co 1882, 439
1914	William Watkyn-Thomas, JP	Moresby Hall	Kelly's Directories Ltd 1914, 225
1914	William Browell, farmer	Moresby Hall	Kelly's Directories Ltd 1914, 225
1921	William Watkyn-Thomas, JP	Moresby Hall	Kelly's Directories Ltd 1921, 221
1925	William Watkyn-Thomas, JP	Moresby Hall	Kelly's Directories Ltd 1925, 225
1925	Henry Harley, farmer	Moresby Hall	Kelly's Directories Ltd 1925, 225
1929	Charles Joshua J Harris	Moresby Hall	Kelly's Directories Ltd 1929, 211
1929	Henry Hartley, farmer	Moresby Hall	Kelly's Directories Ltd 1929, 211
1934	Charles Joshua J Harris	Moresby Hall	Kelly's Directories Ltd 1934, 215
1934	Henry Hartley and Sons, farmers	Moresby Hall	Kelly's Directories Ltd 1934, 215

Date	Name	Address	Source
1938	Charles Joshua J Harris	Moresby Hall	Kelly's Directories Ltd 1938, 219
1938	Henry Hartley and Sons, farmers	Moresby Hall	Kelly's Directories Ltd 1938, 219
1954	Godfrey H Simons	Moresby Hall	County Publicity Limited 1954, 126
1954	Benjamin Hetherington	Moresby Hall Farm	County Publicity Limited 1954, 125

**Table 3: Occupiers of Moresby Hall listed in directories between 1829 and 1954**

4.5.5 Details relating to the occupants throughout the later 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century are generally lacking, with the exception of what is given in the census returns (see *Appendix 3*), which clearly show a distinct division between the farmhouse and the hall from at least 1851 onwards, and that a range of people lived in the latter. Also, references in the census to Moresby Hall Cottage, from 1871 onwards, may relate to the buildings added to the north-west, as shown on the relevant mapping (see *Section 3.3*). Further details are available in a number of sources; the probate of the will of Henry Spencer of Moresby Hall, dated 1882, only lists items of furniture and similar and gives no further information about the building (CAC(W) TDGO/PROBATE/47/21 1882). In 1913 the tenant of the hall, William Watkyn-Thomas, who is described as a mining and civil engineer, asked his solicitors to make representations to the assessment committee of the rating valuation in order to try to get the amount reduced (CAC(W) DBT/26/38 1913). As evidence it was stated that '*Moresby Hall is an old house and requires a good deal of keeping in repair e.g. correspondence between the landlord and tenant shews that the roof had to be attended to, the dining room walls repapered, windows repaired, tiles in the hall repaired, a new door required, kitchen range put right, some ceilings repaired and a damp wall between the hall and dining room attended to. The bells also wanted attention*' (*ibid*). In 1925 another tenancy agreement provides some additional information about the building: Dr CJJ Harris, formerly of Scotch Street, Whitehaven, took on a lease of 21 years at an annual rent of £64 with '*Lord Lonsdale to allow the Tenant up to £100 towards the expenses of re-decorating the interior of the hall at the commencement of the tenancy... [and] to provide and fix a new two-oven range in the kitchen... [and] to have the hot-water cylinder moved to a position agreed between Dr Harris and his Lordship's Agent in a room adjoining the Bathroom and to have a linen cupboard constructed over the cylinder*' (CAC(W) DH/522/15 1925). Further details of alterations carried out in 1940, again relating primarily to functional matters such as the addition of new toilets and a boiler (CAC(W) SRDE/3/PLANS1/497 1940), are presented in *Section 3.3.13*.

4.5.6 It is clear that these alterations saw their origins in a change of ownership in 1927, at which time the deeds show that the hall part of the property was purchased from the Lowther estate by Dr Charles JJ Harris. An associated plan (see Plate 11 and Plate 12) shows that the hall and farm were at this time formally partitioned, although they may have been so before, although it is not clear who owned the farm part. By 1940, however, the hall part was conveyed from Jane Margaret Harris, presumably the widow of Charles, to High Duty Alloys, who went on to use it as a guest house (High Duty Alloys c1949). Apart from the changes of 1940, which they were presumably responsible for, they also made other internal alterations, stating that '*the aged oak of the bannisters and the rafters [sic] of the entrance hall, both were uncovered by us – as were the bare walls of the hall, formerly fake-panelled*' (*ibid*). High Duty Alloys continued to own and make use of the building for some time, eventually acquiring the farm part of the house too, in 1986 according to the deeds schedule, by which time they were known as British Alcan Aluminium. In the 1980s they also undertook some substantial maintenance work on the hall, evidently including re-roofing the main part at least and rendering or re-rendering many of the external elevations (see Plate 42; Anon 1988). In addition internal modernisation such as re-wiring and the installation of a new central heating system and damp proofing (Savilles International 1996). High Duty Alloys and their successor companies retained the ownership Moresby Hall until the 1990s – it was put up for sale in 1994 with an asking price of £275,000 (Anon 1994b). It was subsequently sold, presumably in 1996 (Savilles International 1996) to '*Harry Lingard and his wife Lisa, a former fashion model*' (Bone 1996). They already owned a string of properties in the area including Irton Hall, Gosforth Hall, and the Scawfell Hotel, all of which were operated as hotels or similar. The Lingard family moved to Moresby Hall and used it as a family home, and they had great plans to restore it: '*In a year's time we will be living in a showcase house where everything is in keeping with its age and style*' (*ibid*). However, by 1998 a planning application had been submitted for change of use into offices, the Lingard family were moving

out (Anon 1998), and by at least 1999 it was on the market again, at which point it was acquired by the present owners (Anon 2001), who turned it into a guest house (Anon 2000).

**4.5.7 Myths and Legends:** perhaps unsurprisingly for a building of its age and interest Moresby Hall has acquired a number of myths and legends. It is not clear in many cases where these originate, but one of the most fanciful appears to have been first presented in the anonymous history of the house published in 1875. This recounts how in the vaults of the hall, on a specific day of the year, a magic fountain formed a small lake on which the '*guardian fairy of the House*' would appear in the guise of a swan (Anon 1875, 89). The tradition goes on to state that if an '*heir to that mysterious knowledge left by the Druids*' should come across this scene they would have the power to drain the lake and claim the treasure kept beneath it (*op cit*, 89-90). This early account of the hall also states that there is a tunnel running from the hall to the sea shore '*to which, in times of imminent danger, the family and their followers could resort for security*' (*op cit*, 91-92). Later accounts repeat this story (e.g. Carruthers 1978), while adding that there is also a priest hole, and suggesting that the tunnel in fact connects to the church (Anon 1994a). It seems extremely unlikely that any of these stories have any basis in fact; elements such as a priest hole and a tunnel are possible, however, they are more likely to relate to the misinterpretation of aspects of the complex fabric of the building.

## 5. Discussion

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The discussion of the results of the desk-based assessment is in part intended to determine the archaeological significance and potential of any known remains (above or below ground) and the potential for any as yet unidentified remains being present. The system used to judge the significance of the remains identified within the development area, or those thought to have the potential to be present within the development area, is based on the criteria used to define Scheduled Monuments (DoE 1990, Annex 4; *Appendix 3*). Of the 14 known individual sites of archaeological interest identified within the study area, none are situated within close enough proximity to Moresby Hall to be likely to be affected by any development proposals, although the details of these are, as yet, not determined. However, Moresby Hall is situated in close proximity to a large area of known archaeological interest, the Roman fort of *Gabrosentum* (**Site 5**), and finds of Roman date and burials of unknown date (**Site 8**) have been found beneath Moresby Hall (**Site 7**), so there is clearly potential for further remains of archaeological interest to be discovered.

### 5.2 Significance

5.2.1 Moresby Hall (**Site 7**) is Listed Grade I and so is considered to be of national significance. The outbuildings forming part of its curtilage are similarly important, although the condition of many of the outbuildings is obviously a mitigating factor. The associated land, which is best considered in terms of its archaeological significance and includes the burials discovered beneath the hall (**Site 8**), has been categorised according to the criteria given below as high, medium, or low, and an average of this has been used to produce an overall level of significance for the site (see Table 4 below: H=high, M=medium, L=low).

<i>Period</i>	M
<i>Rarity</i>	M
<i>Documentation</i>	M
<i>Group value</i>	H
<i>Survival/condition</i>	M
<i>Fragility/Vulnerability</i>	M
<i>Diversity</i>	M
<i>Potential</i>	M
<b>Significance</b>	M

**Table 4: Site significance**

### 5.3 Potential for Unknown Archaeological Remains

5.3.1 Details of the archaeological remains present within the study area around Moresby Hall are presented in the results of the desk-based assessment (*Section 3*; *Figure 2*; *Appendix 1*) and the significance of the ground immediately associated with Moresby Hall is discussed above (*Section 5.2*). The potential for as yet unidentified archaeological remains to be present, however, is based on the known occurrence of such remains elsewhere in the study area and local environs (see *Section 4*). Where there are no remains known within the study area the potential is based on the known occurrence within the wider local area. The degree of potential is examined by period and the results are presented in Table 5 below; in each case the level of potential is expressed as low, medium, or high:

Period	Present in study area?	Potential
Late Upper Palaeolithic	No	Low
Mesolithic	No	Medium
Neolithic	No	Low
Bronze Age	Yes	Medium
Iron Age	No	Low
Roman	Yes	High
Early Medieval	No?	Low
Medieval	Yes	High
Post-medieval	Yes	High

**Table 5: Degree of potential for unknown archaeological remains by period**

5.3.2 In consideration of Table 5 it is worth noting that the possibility of finding Mesolithic remains could perhaps be assessed as medium because they are often associated with sites adjacent to watercourses and coastal areas (Middleton *et al* 1995, 202; Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 151-152). Bronze Age artefacts (**Site 4**) and burial sites (**Site 10** and possibly **8**), including a cremation burial (**Site 10**), are recorded within the study area and so the potential for more remains of this date to be revealed is therefore considered at least medium, although the burials at **Site 8** could be Roman or even later in origin.

5.3.3 Sites of Roman, medieval, and post-medieval date, all have examples from within the study area. The likelihood of encountering Roman remains is high due to the proximity of the Roman fort (**Site 5**). Other sites of Roman date include the possible bath house (**Site 9**) and possible road (**Site 2**) and stray finds of this date (**Sites 3, 11, 13** and **14**) are dispersed throughout the area. Moresby Hall (**Site 7**) has medieval origins, although it is not clear how much medieval fabric remains, while the church at Moresby has at least medieval origins (**Site 6**) and the well (**Site 12**) is also likely to be at least medieval but there have been no stray finds of this date within the study area.

## 5.4 Disturbance

5.4.1 The area immediately associated with Moresby Hall has clearly seen some disturbance as a result of periods of landscaping and building associated with the hall. However, it is apparent from the geophysical survey and test pit excavated in 2003 that Roman deposits are likely to have survived on site beneath later ones, although there will undoubtedly have been some disturbance. The area to the north, on the site of the extant but ruinous outbuildings, is perhaps likely to have seen most disturbance, as well as the area to the south-west on the site of the former stable, but in both cases there is still the potential for remains of archaeological interest to be preserved.

## 5.5 Impact

5.5.1 Although no detailed plans are yet available regarding proposed developments any building work on such a site is likely to reveal deposits of archaeological interest. Previous discoveries on the site, such as the burials beneath the hall (**Site 8**) and the results of the 2003 test pit, show that layers of archaeological interest are potentially quite shallow.

## 5.6 Recommendations

5.6.1 It is clear from the preceding sections that there is considerable potential for archaeological remains to be present within the site, in particular those relating to the Roman fort and the medieval and later development of Moresby Hall. It is therefore recommended that any new development of the site that involve below-ground excavation for foundations, services and the like, be suitably archaeologically monitored. The extent of this would depend on the nature of the work, but archaeological evaluation and excavation might be suitable in the case of a substantial amount of construction, with a watching brief in the case of smaller areas.

5.6.2 Developments that substantially affect the standing building may also need more detailed recording or investigation of the standing fabric of the building, although this is something that would, in any case, greatly improve its interpretation and understanding.

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## Appendix 1: Site Gazetteer

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**Site Number:** 1**NGR:** 300700 524100**HER No:** 11612**Sources:** HER; OA North 2004**Designation:** none**Description:** now dismantled east/west course of L and NW Furness Joint Railway, Whitehaven, Cleator and Egremont Branch.

Remains of a sandstone bridge (farmers access below) under the railway (at NX 99630 22421 (Lowca Parish) identified in June 2003). The fabric consists of large cut red sandstone blocks built to a height of 2.5m. Various other bridges along its route.

The line was constructed in 1877 and opened in 1879. It was built as a response to local iron mine owners to increased freight charges on existing lines. It has been surfaced and is currently used as a cycle path (at NY 0097 2408). Single arched bridge at NX 9972 2250 (OA North 2004, 69, 72).

**Period:** post-medieval

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**Site Number:** 2**NGR:** 298300 521100**HER No:** 1008**Sources:** HER; Highways Agency 2004; Margary 1957, 129; Bellhouse 1956; Hindle 1984, 34; CAC(W) YPR/15/104 1838; Donald 1774; Northern Archaeological Associates 2006; OA North 2004**Designation:** none**Description:** possible route of Roman road (running north/south); possible route of a Roman road (running north-east/south-west), built to provide direct access between Papcastle and the coastal fort at Moresby. The first four miles to Bridgefoot only represent its approximate course, but after this it runs in notably straight lengths. From Distington (running on the main road A595 through it) to Moresby Hall. This was seen on the OA North (2004) walkover survey as a flattened area running diagonally down slope just where the A595 becomes embanked. The road was turnpiked by the Whitehaven Turnpike Trust in 1739 in order to serve the hinterland of Whitehaven and Carlisle with the growing mining and sea trade. The tithe map of 1838 shows the A595/Roman road being renewed and a new, short, section of turnpike being constructed that cuts out the turn towards Moresby Hall and continues straight to Whitehaven (OA North 2004, 93).**Period:** Roman

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**Site Number:** 3**NGR:** 298050 521050**HER No:** 1020**Sources:** HER; Birley 1948, 55-60**Designation:** none**Description:** a Roman altar and sculptured stone found when making a railway cutting below the site of the Roman fort of Moresby c1878. The altar is inscribed 'to Jupiter. Great and Good, erected by the Second Cohort of Thracians under the command of Manius Nepos Praefect'. The find spot now covered by railway and road. This area may be the location of the *vicus* to Moresby Roman fort. Finds at Tullie House.**Period:** Roman

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**Site Number:** 4**NGR:** 298260 521050

**HER No:** 1018

**Sources:** HER; Birley 1948, 68; Collingwood 1923, 258

**Designation:** none

**Description:** a bronze spearhead found north of the church in 1892. Flints and an arrowhead (presumably flint) were also apparently found nearby. Spearhead was in the possession of the rector 1924 when it was shown to the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society, but its present whereabouts are unknown.

**Period:** Bronze Age

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**Site Number:** 5

**NGR:** 298180 521000

**HER No:** 1009

**Sources:** HER; Birley 1948; Geoscan Research 2004; OA North 2004, site 60

**Designation:** Scheduled Monument

**Description:** the Roman fort at Moresby, ca 440 ft in length, covers an area of ca 3.5 acres. Building inscription AD128 suggests a Hadrianic foundation date with third/fourth century occupation attested by coins, inscriptions. Pottery finds included Samian, Dr37, Dr18/31 and coarse ware. Nothing pre-Hadrianic or assignable to the fourth century. Roofing tiles from a cement-floored building were found by JB Jackson south of the fort. Several altars, inscribed stones also found. Fort covers commanding views on all sides. Consists of grass covered rampart. South side rises from 1m height at east end to strongly defined south-west corner 4m high. The north side is less well defined, barely discernable at the east end, but 3m high at the north-west corner. Within the churchyard a bank is visible as a slight rise in surface level. West side has well defined corners and is better preserved than other sides (for details see Birley 1948).

Aerial photographs also show ridge and furrow in field, and an apparent bank and ditch across coastal headland, possibly a continuation of hedge bank. See also SMR 1020 (**Site 3**), 1008 (**Site 2**), 1019 (**Site 8**), 1021, and 5630.

According to G Lee, aerial photographs show a platform running east/west, partly overlain by the churchyard, the west end is reasonably clear, though lacking any detail. There is an interesting small rectangular banked depression at NX98372108 about 15 by 10m. The banks are low, but quite thick, perhaps a pond. There is also a small earthwork running north-west from the south-west corner of the fort.

Geophysical survey of the fort and adjacent churchyard found clear evidence of the ramparts, outer ditches within the churchyard, a possible gate to the south, possible evidence of the barracks and bath house, a ditch-like feature representing a possible pre-Roman defensive ditch running under the barracks, and very tenuous hints of an earlier fort (Geoscan Research 2004).

**Period:** Roman

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**Site Number:** 6

**NGR:** 298275 520992

**HER No:** 4472

**Sources:** HER; Birley 1948, 42-72; Collingwood 1923, 258; Whellan 1860, 420; Pevsner 1967, 164; Geoscan Research 2004; OA North 2004, site 24

**Designation:** Listed Building Grade II

**Description:** chancel arch from previous medieval church which was first mentioned in 1291 (Whellan 1860). The rest was pulled down to make room for present structure built 1822 (LB SMR 21497). The old church is shown on an engraving by S Lyons (Birley 1948). Arch probably 13<sup>th</sup> century. Of coursed, squared rubble buttressing pointed arch of two chamfered orders carried on responds with polygonal capitals. Some tombstones fastened to arch.

'In 1822, when the foundations of the new church were dug, a great quantity of stones, flags, etc, was discovered, evidently the remains of a building [part of the Roman fort – SMR 1009; **Site 5**]...' (Rev G Wilkinson, in Birley 1948, 49).

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Geophysical survey in 2002 revealed clear evidence of the foundations for the earlier church and many small ferrous responses thought to relate to burials (Geoscan Research 2004).

**Period:** medieval

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**Site Number:** 7

**NGR:** 298340 520980

**HER No:** 4473

**Sources:** HER; Whellan 1860, 164; Geoscan Research 2004; OA North 2004, site 23; Ryder 2002; Ryder 2004, 13; Robinson 1991; Perriam and Robinson 1998, 109

**Designation:** Listed Building Grade I

**Description:** Moresby Hall – large, Listed Grade I, house which may incorporate a medieval pele tower with spiral staircase, hall annexe with mullioned and transomed windows. This older part is internally divided from the present hall and used as a farmhouse. Façade of present hall ca1690-1700 probably by Thackeray. Symmetrical three-storey, 7-bay front has central studded door in round-headed rusticated surround with Fletcher coat of arms in open segmental pediment. The family name of Moresby occurs throughout the 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century and the family lived at Moresby before the hall was sold to W Fletcher in 1576. Gate piers and entrance walls probably late 17<sup>th</sup> century and also listed (Grade II).

Moresby Hall forms a square block of building around a small L-shaped central courtyard. The south range is a fine three-storey and seven bay block of c1670 (Perriam and Robinson 1998, 109) or c1690-1700 (Pevsner 1967, 164) with a rusticated frontage ‘as if it were in Bohemia’ (*ibid*). The three ranges to the rear are clearly older, although their walls are all now rough cast. Towards the courtyard the north and east ranges have string courses stepped up over ground and first-floor windows, some mullioned and some mullioned and transomed. Externally most of the windows are recent, but the eastern gable of the north range has, to the right of the stack, an odd corbelled projection at attic level that looks as if it might be the remains of a garderobe from a removed second floor. Further south, at the rear of the east range, is a massive projecting stack.

The north range has been identified by Pevsner and others as incorporating a ‘pele tower’; a stone newel stair, at the north-west corner of the courtyard and lit from it by a tiny slit set in the angle of north and west ranges is pointed out as a survival from this. Adjacent to its entry is a cross-wall 1.1 m thick, with a doorway that has a flattened triangular head within a chamfered surround; a door from the stair at first-floor level has a chamfered square head. The remainder of the interior of the house was not seen.

Nothing seen gave any real evidence of a tower. The architectural features seen, including the stair, and the fairly substantial wall thicknesses, would all tally with this being a courtyard house of 16<sup>th</sup> century date, admittedly built with an eye to defence. During later modifications at least the north range would seem to have lost an upper floor. One might envisage that the late 17<sup>th</sup> century front range, attributed to William Thackeray, replaces an earlier wall and gateway (P Ryder 2002; 2004).

Geophysical survey in the grounds in 2002 revealed evidence of modern garden features such as water pipes and pathways, anomalies relating to the tennis court, and the course of a linear ditch-like feature which had been partially excavated as part of Time Team’s The Big Dig revealing Roman pottery in the fill (Geoscan Research 2004).

**Period:** post-medieval

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**Site Number:** 8

**NGR:** 298345 520970

**HER No:** 1019

**Sources:** HER; Whellan 1860, 420; Birley 1948, 52

**Designation:** none

**Description:** alterations to the entry hall at Moresby Hall prior to 1860 revealed ‘several skeletons embedded in the floor’. No artefacts found, but each skeleton was enclosed ‘between 4 stones or slates’. These may belong to a cemetery connected with the Roman fort at Moresby or possibly to an earlier period as Bronze Age finds have been found nearby (see SMR 1018; **Site 4**). Latest information says the

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find occurred beneath the fireplace of the present lounge. The remains were reinterred near the chancel arch of the church.

**Period:** Roman/Bronze Age?

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**Site Number:** 9

**NGR:** 298100 520900

**HER No:** 40786

**Sources:** HER; Birley 1948; OA North 2004, 97, site 69

**Designation:** none

**Description:** Moresby Roman Fort Bath House – a large number of roofing tiles recovered from a hole excavated for the erection of a telegraph pole through the cement floor of a building (possibly a bath house). It was barely a dozen yards from the south rampart of the fort. In the next field the name 'sooty field' suggests the finding of smoke-blackened hypocaust pillars and the existence of a bath house at a greater distance from the fort (Birley 1948; OA North 2004, 97).

**Period:** Roman

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**Site Number:** 10

**NGR:** 298300 520900

**HER No:** 6239

**Sources:** HER; OA North 2004; unreferenced newspaper article

**Designation:**

**Description:** A labourer, when clearing stones from a field, found an earthenware vase resembling a cream pot about 2-3 ft high, 1ft in diameter, containing cremated bones... Curiously marked with waving lines and apparently of fired clay. A ware ca 60 yards in circumference was formerly covered in stones – 6-7—cartloads were removed over the years, indicating a large burial cairn.

**Period:** Prehistoric

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**Site Number:** 11

**NGR:** 298520 520910

**HER No:** 40788

**Sources:** HER; OA North 2004

**Designation:** none

**Description:** A number of coins from Domitian to Constans were found when making the new road near Moresby Hall c1840. The find coincides with the latest phase of turnpiking of the Roman road/A595 [SMR 1008; **Site 2**], shown as being underway on the Moresby Tithe map of 1838. At this time the road diverged with the original route running to Moresby Hall (that had been turnpiked in 1739) and headed as an embankment for a short section towards Whitehaven (OA North 2004, 103).

**Period:** Roman

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**Site Number:** 12

**NGR:** 298070 520890

**HER No:** 4474

**Sources:** HER; Ordnance Survey c1865

**Designation:** none

**Description:** Moresby Hall well – holy well recorded by Ordnance Survey maps, within Scheduled Area of Moresby fort.

**Period:** medieval

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**Site Number:** 13

**NGR:** 298100 520800

**HER No:** 18943

**Sources:** HER; Shotter 1986, 256-7; 1989, 43; OA North 2004, site 28

**Designation:** none

**Description:** three coins were found near Parton, although the exact location is unknown. The first is a silver Constantine I (AD318-9). The obverse reads: IMP CONSTANTINVS MAX AVG, the reverse: VICT LAETAE PRINC PERPASIC. The second is another silver coin from Constantine I, dated AD330-5. The obverse reads: VRBS ROMA, the reverse has: she-wolf and twins TRP. The third is a silver Gratian, dated AD367-75, reading: D N GRATIANVS AVGG AVG (obverse) and GLORIA NOVI SEACVLI SCON (reverse) (Shotter 1986, 256-7).

**Period:** Roman

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**Site Number:** 14

**NGR:** 298300 520800

**HER No:** 13673

**Sources:** Bennett *et al* 1987

**Designation:** none

**Description:** trial trenches in field 3478, the nearest of which lies 100m south of the fort. This was in advance of proposed underdrainage. The trenches revealed ditches and gullies and a small quantity of Roman and later pottery but no structures indicating that the *vicus* extended that far were found.

**Period:** Roman

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## Appendix 2: Whellan's Description of Moresby Hall, 1860

Pages 419-421:

'The antique hall, whose early owners history has thus faithfully limned, is situated to the north of the road leading from Whitehaven to Workington, where it is the chief and most interesting architectural ornament of the district, and, as old Dugdale would say, "for beauty and state much exceedeth any in these parts." It rests upon the eastern slope of what once was the Roman Castrum of Morbium. The front of the mansion is said to have been erected from the designs of Inigo Jones, who was once in the north of England in the train of Anne, consort of James I., on her visit to at Brougham Castle in 1617. This extensive front was probably, therefore, built in the reign of James I. by the second Fletcher, who inherited the manor, on the site of the principal portion of the more ancient hall of the Moresbys; while other parts, which in the thickness of their walls, narrow circular stone stairs, and low wide stone mullioned windows, unveil indications of a greater age, are remnants of the anterior structure. Among these may be noticed, tapering in stages from the ground, an immense buttressed chimney. An old gate of the seventeenth century, whose heavy rustic piers are surmounted by large stone globes which rest on projecting cornices, affords a means of approach into the court before the house. On the western side of this open space, placed after the fashion of similar buildings of the same age, extends a range of ancient stables, now converted into the useful adjuncts of a modern farmery, but whose few decorative traces, as well as utile unsightliness, are in a great measure hidden by folds of mantling ivy. Within the present century, this was quite a wilderness, in which all spoke of dilapidation and neglect. Its green sward was partially overgrown with brambles, or strewn with rubbish and other deformities, while the air of desolation around gave an uncomfortable idea of the habitation to those who passed by. It is now transformed into a smiling pleasance or flower garden, whose fair and scented ornaments blending their sweetest charms of form and fragrance attest the horticultural taste displayed in their careful nurture, whilst cognate dispositions have been made on other sides that relieve the time-worn edifice from the extreme look of forsaken ruin it had at that period recalled.

Turning through the gateway, a hundred paces brings the visitor to the door, whose rich though mutilated appearance causes a vain regret that the heraldic adornments, as well as much of the more fragile and elaborate parts of the sculpture, have been destroyed. The grand front, which in sober dignity faces the south, exhibits an elevation of three stories. Though marred by the plain-looking farm offices that adjoin, it presents a tasteful example of architecture in what is called the Anglo-Italian manner of the seventeenth century, an era especially to be noticed, when great incongruity of style was often produced in connecting buildings that retained much of what is denominated the Gothic manner of an earlier age, with changes newly introduced from more classic lands, and of which corrupt heterogeneous union this mansion endures with but one inferior exception, so unique a specimen in this part of England. Fabricated with what has once been handsome light-coloured sandstone, now tinted by exposure with every imaginable variety of hue, and on which a sharp cutting of the mason's chisel has been abraded by the hand of time, this sumptuous façade is stamped by a certain vigour and breadth, for which character it is indebted, as well to the width of the piers between the windows, which gives it dignity and repose, as to a horizontally rusticated cornice of the Attic order, that accords it much unity of expression, while a boldness, as well as finish of surface is also produced by the smooth intersecting rustic work, with which the whole front beneath the cornice is covered. The windows and doorways, which in the Italian are equivalent to what the orders are in the Temple architecture of antiquity, are predominant features in the composition. There are three windows on each side of the entrance, surrounded by architraves and lintels ornamented with Doric tryglyphs. Seven windows are on the second floor, and an equal number of smaller ones on the upper story. They are all filled with lozenges of plain glass, and are divided into two lights each by upright stone mullions, those on the first and second floors being likewise crossed by transoms at two-thirds of their height. The windows on the second floor are more highly decorated and of loftier proportions than the others. They have enriched elbow architraves set on moulded sills or side dressings, and are alternately capped by triangular and segmented pediments. The pedented head over the centre window is broken at the crown, so as to admit the top of the scutcheon, and being supported on consoles, is, with its heraldic achievements, a more conspicuous feature than the rest. The armorial cognizance of the Fletchers, graven on an ornamental shield, once formed a

suitable and highly characteristic finish over the door; but that perishing evidence of the glory of other times, on whose sculptured blazonry their sons looked as upon lofty and ennobling influences, having become partially defaced by the wasting agencies of atmospheric action, was removed when the last alterations were effected in the house, though a repetition of the same elegant enrichment, smaller and less elegantly adorned, still forms a prominent and interesting fenestral embellishment over the stately centre window on the principal floor. A soft living air is also lent to the chaste outline of the Palladian edifice by luxuriant clusters of sober looking passion flowers, mingled with the waving tendrils of ivy, which, clambering in graceful festoons along the walls, and bowing over the ornate architecture of the door and antique casements, contend, with broad effect of contrasting hues, in brilliant rivalry with red and blue convolvuli, roses, honeysuckle, jasmine, and that ruin-loving plant, whose constancy and

“- simple faith is dear

To roofless tower, and to prostrate shrine,”

The fragrant wallflower, to enliven with riant charm the aspect of the whole building. The demesne around the hall, which formerly abounded in the qualities of the ancient chase; shadowy woods, avenues of stately trees and bright sunlit glades through which the deer browsed and bounded in every direction, and which in 1774 was described by local antiquaries as “large and woody,” has since been enclosed and divided into fields; and the old timber having also fallen, that adjunct to its sylvan magnificence has been but sparingly supplied by a spring of new wood along the river, and in some other sheltered situations. On entering the house admission is obtained into the spacious stone-floored hall, lighted by two windows in front. This apartment at one time contained an ample fire-place, adorned with a mantelpiece of heavy stonework, carved with the arms of the Fletchers. That, likewise, was removed; and, in the progress of such destructive alterations, several skeletons, embedded in the floor, were dug up, which having lain for some time exposed to view, were subsequently re-interred in the adjacent cemetery. Of the history of those to whom such mouldering fragments of humanity belonged no trace has been fallen upon, as neither relic nor legend has found associated with them that three any light upon their story. From the mode of sepulture, however – each being enclosed between four stones or slates – it is probable supposition they were those of some of the primitive British inhabitants, whose earthly existence had terminated ages before even the oldest hall was erected over their unnoticed graves. On each side is a large parlour, in one of which only are traces discernible of its former style or ornamentation. Crossing the hall, an inner one is reached, from whence ascends the spacious staircase leading to the rooms above. On one side of this hall is an approach to the kitchens and domestic offices, and on the opposite a door permits egress into a small irregularly-constructed interior court, which has likewise undergone curtailment of its pristine form and extent, and along two of whose sides are disposed portions of the older buildings. Throughout the seventeenth century the hall continued to be the seat of the chief family of Fletchers, by whom it was kept up with all the dignified respectability of their times. In the commencement of the following age, that branch of the family having died out, it, along with the manor, was sold under a decree of chancery, to John Brougham, Esq., of Scales Hall. The property, nevertheless, was soon destined to fall into the ownership of another, as, about 1717, Mr. Brougham, who shortly before had purchased the estate at Brougham, on which his grand-nephew, the present noble and eminent Lord Brougham and Vaux, has recently erected the mansion which adds another classic as well as architectural charm to the beauties of Westmorland, disposed of Moresby to Sir James Lowther, Baronet, of Whitehaven. Since that period, the hall, demesne lands, and manorial rights have been held as part of the vast possessions of the house of Lowther, whose patrician head has, with appropriateness, been styled “the provincial monarch of unmeasured lands.””

### Appendix 3: Details from the census returns 1841-1901

1841 (HO107/Piece 157/Folio 8 1841)				
Name	Age	Occupation	Address	Place of birth
John Turner	30	Farmer	Moresby Hall	Cumberland
Elizabeth Turner	25		Moresby Hall	Cumberland
Ann Turner	8		Moresby Hall	Cumberland
Hannah Turner	6		Moresby Hall	Ireland
Sarah Turner	4		Moresby Hall	Cumberland
Elizabeth Turner	6 months		Moresby Hall	Cumberland
Henry Stewart	20	Male servant	Moresby Hall	Cumberland
John Postlethwaite	20	Male servant	Moresby Hall	Cumberland
John Crosthwaite	15	Male servant	Moresby Hall	Cumberland
Robert Bush	15	Male servant	Moresby Hall	Cumberland
Mary Thornthwaite	25	Female servant	Moresby Hall	Cumberland
Sarah Gainford	15	Female servant	Moresby Hall	Cumberland
Elizabeth Stamper	30	Female servant	Moresby Hall	Cumberland
Sarah Frears	30	Female servant	Moresby Hall	Cumberland

1851 (HO107/Piece 2436/Folio 137 1851)				
Name	Age	Occupation	Address	Place of birth
Hannah Tate	63	Retired teacher	Moresby Hall	Cumberland, Whitehaven
Sarah Frears	45	Housemaid	Moresby Hall	Cumberland, Lamplugh
Hannah Wilson	31	Cook	Moresby Hall	Cumberland, Distington
John Turner	45	Farmer of 480 acres	Moresby Hall Farm House	Cumberland, Cleator
Elizabeth Turner	40		Moresby Hall Farm House	Cumberland, Frizington
Ann Turner	19		Moresby Hall Farm House	Cumberland, Frizington
Hannah Turner	16		Moresby Hall Farm House	Cumberland, Frizington
Sarah Turner	13	Scholar	Moresby Hall Farm House	Cumberland, Frizington
Joseph Turner	9	Scholar	Moresby Hall Farm House	Cumberland, Moresby
John Turner	6	Scholar	Moresby Hall Farm House	Cumberland, Moresby
James Turner	2	Scholar	Moresby Hall Farm House	Cumberland, Moresby
Jane Kendal	20	House servant	Moresby Hall Farm House	Cumberland, Milham [sic]
Robert Studholm	23	Farm labourer	Moresby Hall Farm House	Cumberland, Abbey Holme
James Green	22	Farm labourer	Moresby Hall Farm House	Cumberland, Broughton
William Wood	19	Farm labourer	Moresby Hall Farm House	Ireland, County Down
William Ball	16	Farm labourer	Moresby Hall Farm House	Ireland, County Down
Jonathan Hodgson	20	Farm labourer	Moresby Hall Farm House	Cumberland, Distington

1861 (RG9/Piece 3945/Folio 70 1861)				
Name	Age	Occupation	Address	Place of birth
Jane Tate	78	Fund holder	Moresby Hall	Cumberland, Whitehaven
Hannah Tate	76	Fund holder	Moresby Hall	Cumberland, Whitehaven
Sarah Frears	56	House servant	Moresby Hall	Cumberland, Lamplugh
Hannah Wilson	41	House servant	Moresby Hall	Cumberland, Distington
Jonathan Fell	22	Farmer of 175 acres	Moresby Hall Farm	Cumberland, Workington
Mary Ann Ray	30	Housekeeper	Moresby Hall Farm	Cumberland, Eaglesfield
Sarah Smyth	16	House servant	Moresby Hall Farm	Cumberland, Mockerkin
Jonathan Dockeray	22	Ploughman	Moresby Hall Farm	Cumberland, Eaglesfield
John Goss	40	Shepherd	Moresby Hal Farm	Westmorland, Kendal
Edward Iron(?)	12	Cow boy	Moresby Hall Farm	Cumberland, Workington

<b>1871 (RG10/Piece 5252/Folio 46 1871)</b>				
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Place of birth</b>
John Hunter	46	Farmer of 330 acres	Moresby Hall	Cumberland, Slenburn
Sarah Hunter	50		Moresby Hall	Cumberland, Hail
William Hunter	15		Moresby Hall	Isle of Man
Jane Hunter	14	Scholar	Moresby Hall	Isle of Man
John Hunter	9	Scholar	Moresby Hall	Cumberland, Cleator
Ester Hunter	5	Scholar	Moresby Hall	Cumberland, Cleator
Tom Hunter	2		Moresby Hall	Cumberland, Moresby
Tom Brocklebank	54	Farm servant	Moresby Hall	Lancashire, Lancaster
William Chester	22	Farm servant	Moresby Hall	Cumberland, Hail
Margaret Hawby	27	General servant domestic	Moresby Hall	Cumberland, Aspatria
Mary Ann Downly	15	General servant domestic	Moresby Hall	Cumberland, Whitehaven
Elizabeth Banks	72	Domestic servant	Moresby Hall	Cumberland, Whitehaven
Sophia A Kirk	66	Domestic servant	Moresby Hall	Cumberland, Whitehaven
John Watson	26	Agricultural labourer	Moresby Hall Cottage	Cumberland, Gosforth
Sarah Watson	29	Agricultural labourer	Moresby Hall Cottage	Cumberland, Distington
Maggy Watson	7	Scholar	Moresby Hall Cottage	Cumberland, Distington
William Watson	2		Moresby Hall Cottage	Cumberland, Distington
John Watson	7 months		Moresby Hall Cottage	Cumberland, Distington

<b>1881 (RG11/Piece 5184/Folio 74 1881)</b>				
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Place of birth</b>
John Hunter	55	Farmer of 180 acres	Moresby Hall Farm	Cumberland, Workington
Sarah Hunter	58		Moresby Hall Farm	Cumberland, Egremont
William Hunter	24	Farmer's son	Moresby Hall Farm	Cumberland, Cleator
Jane Chester	22	Farmer's daughter	Moresby Hall Farm	Cumberland, Cleator
John Hunter	20	Farmer's son	Moresby Hall Farm	Cumberland, Cleator
Ester Hunter	15	Farmer's son	Moresby Hall Farm	Cumberland, Cleator
Tom Dalzell Hunter	11	Scholar	Moresby Hall Farm	Cumberland, Moresby
Isaac Chester	27	Husbandman	Moresby Hall Farm	Cumberland, Calder Bridge
John Wilson	48	Agricultural labourer	Moresby Hall Farm	Ireland, Armagh
James Jones	50	Agricultural labourer	Moresby Hall Farm	Cumberland, Brigham
Sarah Iredale	33	Domestic servant	Moresby Hall Farm	Cumberland, Workington
Henry Spencer	59	JP retired major	Moresby Hall	Cumberland, Whitehaven
Dorothy Anne Spencer	55		Moresby Hall	Cumberland, Whitehaven
Isabella Banks	80	Cook	Moresby Hall	Cumberland, Whitehaven
Jane Strong	21	Cook	Moresby Hall	Cumberland, Keswick
Jane Ann Mason	23	Housemaid	Moresby Hall	Cumberland, Aspatria
William Wood	54	Butler	Moresby Hall	Nottingham
Hannah Wilson	60	Annuitant	Moresby Hall Cottage	Cumberland, Moresby

<b>1891 (RG12/Piece 4312/Folio 131 1891)</b>				
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Place of birth</b>
James Robert Bain	39	Iron master and JP	Moresby Hall	Scotland
Margaret Banner(?) Slater	35	Cook – domestic servant	Moresby Hall	Cumberland, Great Orton
Margaret Calyle	36	Housemaid – domestic servant	Moresby Hall	Scotland
William Hunter	33	Farmer	Moresby Hall Farm	Isle of Man

Jane Hunter	35		Moresby Hall Farm	Cumberland, Brigham
Mary Hunter	7		Moresby Hall Farm	Cumberland, Moresby
Jane Hunter	4		Moresby Hall Farm	Cumberland, Moresby
Richard Tinnion	29	Farm labourer	Moresby Hall Farm	Cumberland, Seaton
James Furness	25	Farm labourer	Moresby Hall Farm	Cumberland, Moresby
William Miller	17	Farm labourer	Moresby Hall Farm	Cumberland, Arlecdon
James Scott	17	Farm labourer	Moresby Hall Farm	Cumberland, Harrington
Nelly Foy	18	Domestic servant	Moresby Hall Farm	Cumberland, Moresby
John Newton	58	Gardener	Moresby Hall Farm Cottage	Cumberland, Whitehaven
Frances Newton	59		Moresby Hall Farm Cottage	Scotland

<b>1901 (RG13/Piece 4890/Folio 94 1901)</b>					
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Address</b>		<b>Place of birth</b>
Elizabeth Ann Smitham	54		Moresby Cottage	Hall	Redruth, Cornwall
Albert Smitham	18	Pit bottom shiftman	Moresby Cottage	Hall	Frizington, Cumberland
Kate Smitham	14	Shop girl (fancy shop)	Moresby Cottage	Hall	Parton, Cumberland
Edward Smitham	26	Coalminer/hewer	Moresby Cottage	Hall	Illorgan, Cornwall
Isabella Smitham	24		Moresby Cottage	Hall	Frizington, Cumberland
Edward J Smitham	2		Moresby Cottage	Hall	Parton, Cumberland
Albert Smitham	1		Moresby Cottage	Hall	Parton, Cumberland
Anthony Birkett	46	Farmer	Moresby Hall Farm		Nethertown, Cumberland
Elizabeth Birkett	49		Moresby Hall Farm		Irton, Cumberland
Robert Birkett	23	Shepherd	Moresby Hall Farm		Gosforth, Cumberland
Isabella Southward	70				Irton, Cumberland
Lizzie Wilson	18		Moresby Hall Farm		Millom, Cumberland
Mary White	22	Dairy maid	Moresby Hall Farm		Matterdale, Cumberland
Mary Harworth	21	General domestic	Moresby Hall Farm		Portinscale, Cumberland
John Dodgson	20	Horseman on farm	Moresby Hall Farm		Gosforth, Cumberland
Fenwick White	17	Cow man & cattle	Moresby Hall Farm		Matterdale, Cumberland
William Hewitt	15	Yard master	Moresby Hall Farm		Cleator, Cumberland
John A Jackson	38	Timber merchant	Moresby Hall		Whitehaven, Cumberland
H Agnes Jackson	35		Moresby Hall		Scotland
Beatrice MN Jackson	5		Moresby Hall		Whitehaven, Cumberland
Beatrice Hill	31	Living on own means	Moresby Hall		Scotland
Helen Brearley	19		Moresby Hall		Manchester, Lancashire
Mary Brocklebank	31	Domestic servant	Moresby Hall		Whitehaven, Cumberland
Hannah Harrison	21	Domestic servant	Moresby Hall		Bootle, Cumberland
Sarah Copeland	16	Domestic servant	Moresby Hall		Whitehaven, Cumberland
Ralph Goldsworthy	27	Gardner	Moresby Cottage	Hall	Scotland
Jane Goldsworthy	31		Moresby Cottage	Hall	Scotland

## Appendix 4: Significance Criteria

After DoE 1990, Annex 4: 'Secretary of State's Criteria for Scheduling Ancient Monuments'

- i) *Period*: all types of monuments that characterise a category or period should be considered for preservation;
- ii) *Rarity*: there are some monument categories which in certain periods are so scarce that all surviving examples which retain some archaeological potential should be preserved. In general, however, a selection must be made which portrays the typical and commonplace as well as the rare. This process should take account of all aspects of the distribution of a particular class of monument, both in a national and regional context;
- iii) *Documentation*: the significance of a monument may be enhanced by the existence of record of previous investigation or, in the case of more recent monuments, by the supporting evidence of contemporary written records;
- iv) *Group Value*: the value of a single monument (such as a field system) may be greatly enhanced by its association with related contemporary monuments (such as a settlement and cemetery) or with monuments of different periods. In some cases, it is preferable to protect the complete group of monuments, including associated and adjacent land, rather than to protect isolated monuments within the group;
- v) *Survival/Condition*: the survival of a monument's archaeological potential both above and below ground is a particularly important consideration and should be assessed in relation to its present condition and surviving features;
- vi) *Fragility/Vulnerability*: highly important archaeological evidence from some field monuments can be destroyed by a single ploughing or unsympathetic treatment; vulnerable monuments of this nature would particularly benefit from the statutory protection which scheduling confers. There are also existing standing structures of particular form or complexity whose value can again be severely reduced by neglect or careless treatment and which are similarly well suited by scheduled monument protection, even if these structures are already listed historic buildings;
- vii) *Diversity*: some monuments may be selected for scheduling because they possess a combination of high quality features, others because of a single important attribute;
- viii) *Potential*: on occasion, the nature of the evidence cannot be specified precisely but it may still be possible to document reasons anticipating its existence and importance and so to demonstrate the justification for scheduling. This is usually confined to sites rather than upstanding monuments.