

BLACK YEATS FARM, CROOKLANDS, NEAR MILNTHORPE, CUMBRIA

Archaeological Building Recording



Client: HJ Robinson and Sons
Planning Ap. Ref.: SL/2006/0534
NGR: SD 54575 83064

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Non-Technical Summary

A planning application was submitted by HJ Robinson and Sons (SL/2006/0534) to convert a disused barn into a residential dwelling at Black Yeats Farm, Crooklands, near Milnthorpe, Cumbria (SD 54575 83064). After a recommendation by Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service, South Lakeland District Council placed a condition on the planning consent requiring a programme of building recording.

A rapid examination of the early maps of the area and documentary sources revealed that there was no evidence for the barn or even the farm until 1829, although this may be because it was not considered significant enough to show on the first detailed maps of the county. The present structure was certainly in existence by 1841, however, although the first map to depict it does not show all of the buildings. By the time the subsequent Ordnance Survey maps were produced it had taken essentially its present form, although with additional outshuts against the north-west end.

The building recording revealed that the structure comprises a bank barn, combining a threshing floor on the upper ground floor, and housing for cattle on the lower ground floor. It may have been extended at the south-east end at an early date, perhaps to provide accommodation for farm workers or for additional storage, and later a two-storey outshut was added to the north-east side to provide additional accommodation for cattle. The construction date of the original building is not certain, and although stop-chamfer decoration more typical of the late 17th century was used throughout on much of the timber this contradicts the map evidence. This is, however, unreliable, and so the earlier date is perhaps more likely.

Acknowledgements

Greenlane Archaeology would like to thank HJ Robinson and Sons for commissioning and supporting the project, and in particular Mr and Mrs Robinson for their help during the fieldwork, and Ted Fletcher of Ted Fletcher Architects Ltd for providing copies of the architect's drawings. Further thanks are also due to the staff of the Cumbria Record Office in Kendal for their help.

The desk-based assessment was carried out by Jo Dawson and Charlotte Shaw, and the building recording was carried out by Daniel Elsworth, who also wrote the report and produced the illustrations. The project was managed by Jo Dawson, who also edited the report.

1. Introduction

Circumstances of the Project

1.1.1 An application (SL/2006/0534) was made by HJ Robinson and Sons to convert a barn at Black Yeats Farm, Crooklands, near Milnthorpe, Cumbria (SD 54575 83064) into two self-contained holiday units. After a recommendation by Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service, South Lakeland District Council placed a condition on the planning consent requiring a programme of building recording. After consultation with the Assistant County Archaeologist at Cumbria County Council the specific requirements of the building recording were confirmed as a Level-2 type investigation (English Heritage 2006). A project design was produced by Greenlane Archaeology (*see accompanying CD*), and following the acceptance of this the recording was undertaken on 12th April 2007.

Location, Geology and Topography

1.2.1 Black Yeats Farm is situated approximately 1km to the east of the village of Crooklands, and 10km south-east of the centre of Kendal (Fig 1). The barn is at the north-west end of a range of early farm buildings, although there are more modern buildings to the north-west and west (Fig 2; Plate 6), and the farm is situated on the south-west side of a low hill, at approximately 77m above sea level (Ordnance Survey 2002). The landscape in this area is characterised by undulating low fells and ridges, although there are numerous open fields and small areas of woodland (Countryside Commission 1998, 64). The solid geology of the area is largely made up of Triassic mudstones with small areas of Penrith Sandstone, although it is close to a large area of Carboniferous Limestone (Moseley 1978, plate 1). This is overlain by glacial drift deposits, mainly boulder clay, which forms a hummocky landscape (Countryside Commission 1998, 66).

2. Methodology

2.1 Desk-Based Assessment

2.1.1 A rapid desk-based assessment was carried out. This principally comprised an examination of early maps of the site, which could demonstrate the basic phasing and development of the building. A number of sources of information were used during the desk-based assessment:

- **Cumbria Record Office, Kendal (CRO(K))**: this was visited in order to examine early maps of the site, and other primary sources;
- **Greenlane Archaeology**: additional secondary sources held in Greenlane Archaeology's library, used to provide information for the site background, were also examined.

2.2 Building Recording

2.2.1 The building recording was carried out to English Heritage Level-2 type standards (English Heritage 2006), and the guidelines of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 2001). This is a largely descriptive investigation, with only a limited level of interpretation of the phasing and use of the buildings, which incorporates evidence compiled during the rapid desk-based assessment. The recording comprised several parts:

- **Written record**: descriptive records of all parts of the building were made using Greenlane Archaeology *pro forma* record sheets;
- **Photographs**: photographs in both 35mm black and white print and colour digital format were taken of the main features of the building, its general surroundings, and any features of architectural or archaeological interest. A selection of the colour digital photographs is included in this report, and the remaining photographs are presented on the accompanying CD;
- **Drawings**: drawings were produced by hand-annotating as existing illustrations of the building drawn by the client's architect, who provided them in hard copy. These comprised:
 - i. plans of all of the main floors, at 1:100;
 - ii. two cross-sections, at 1:100;
 - iii. all external elevations, at 1:100.

2.3 Archive

2.3.1 A comprehensive archive of the project has been produced in accordance with the project design (*see accompanying CD*), and current IFA and English Heritage guidelines (Ferguson and Murray n.d.; English Heritage 1991). The paper and digital archive and a copy of this report will be deposited in the Cumbria Record Office in Kendal on completion of the project. Three copies of this report will be deposited with the Cumbria Historic Environment Record, one with the client and one with the client's architect, and one will be retained by Greenlane Archaeology. In addition, a digital copy will be offered to the NMR and a record of the project will be made on the OASIS scheme.

3. Desk-Based Assessment

3.1 Black Yeats

3.1.1 Very little information was available concerning the owners and occupiers of Black Yeats. A directory of 1829 lists Black Yates as occupied by Nathan Sill, a gentleman (Parson and White 1829, 685). Seven years later, in auction sale poster from 1836, Mrs Hutton is named as the owner or occupier (or very likely both) of the property (CRO(K) WD PP/Box2/26 1836). This sale poster records that the farm is to be the location of a sale of land and buildings from Mr Hutton's estate, although Black Yeats is not itself being auctioned (*ibid*).

3.1.2 For some reason Black Yeats, together with much of Preston Patrick, does not appear to have been subject to tithes, according to the map produced in 1841 (CRO(K) WDRC/8/294 1841). The name William Thompson Esquire is written close to the buildings, but it is not clear if he is the owner or the occupier (*ibid*).

3.1.3 The 1910 Valuation records the owner of the property as Jacob Wakefield of Sedgewick House, and the occupier as WS Tomlinson (CRO(K) WT/DV/2/47 1910).

3.1.4 As is evident, the available documentary evidence does not provide a great deal of information about Black Yeats so it is difficult to discern when it was first established. Records for the neighbouring Elm Tree farm, which were not examined in detail, go back to at least 1738 (CRO(K) WQ/SR/120/6 1738), which might suggest that Black Yeats is of a similar date.

3.2 Map Regression

3.2.1 A number of early maps of the site were examined, and were able to reveal a number of pieces of information.

3.2.2 **Jeffreys 1770:** Black Yeats does not appear to be present on this map, suggesting that it did not exist at this time. However, this plan is not very detailed and not all properties are shown (Hindle 2001), so it is possible that Black Yeats was not considered significant enough to include. The neighbouring farm, Elm Tree, for example, is recorded as existing by this date (see *Section 3.1.4* above), but is not shown on Jeffreys' plan.

3.2.3 **Corn Rent map 1841:** this map shows the edges of two of the buildings, including the barn, at Black Yeats (CRO(K) WDRC/8/294 1841; Plate 1). The information is partial because the farm, and much of the rest of the township, does not appear to have been subject to tithes.

3.2.4 **Ordnance Survey 1859 and 1862:** the first edition 1:2500 scale map was surveyed in 1857 (Plate 2), a year before the same edition of the 1:10,560 scale map (Plate 3). There are noticeable differences between the two, but it is not clear how much of this is due to the simplification of the survey for the 1:10,560 scale map. Both maps name the property as Black Gate rather than Black Yeats, most likely as a result of a misunderstanding by the Ordnance Survey or, because 'yeat' is a form of the local dialect for 'gate' (Rollinson 1997, 192) (which in itself is derived from the Norse word 'gata' meaning road or path (Gambles 1994, 54),) they 'corrected' it or the terms were interchangeable.

3.2.5 **Ordnance Survey 1896:** this map shows the farm buildings, together with their main internal divisions, very clearly (Plate 4). The property is named Black Yeats.

3.2.6 **Ordnance Survey 1919:** this map is, once again, less detailed due to its scale (Plate 5). The layout of the buildings appears to be essentially unchanged, however.

4. Building Recording

4.1 Arrangement and Fabric

4.1.1 The barn is orientated approximately north-west/south-east, with the main entrances on the south-west side. It is three storeys high, although the lower ground floor is only accessible from the south-west side due to the local topography. The north-east side is cut into the slope, and so the lower ground floor is below the ground level on this side, where there is further access to the upper ground floor. Both the north-west and south-east ends have buildings in very close proximity making access difficult, and there is a monopitch outshut attached at the south-east end that was not included as part of the building recording.

4.1.2 The building is principally made from pale grey limestone, which has been rock-face-finished and laid in rough courses. At the base of the wall some larger rounded boulders have been used and there is a plinth approximately 0.08m wide and up to 1m tall running around the main walls. Some of the detail such as quoins and voussoir arched apertures are picked out with dressed yellow gritstone blocks. The main part of the roof is covered with corrugated aluminium sheets, the outshut is finished with grey slate, and the underlying structure is timber.

4.2 External Detail

4.2.1 **South-west elevation:** both the north-west and south-east ends have yellow gritstone quoins and there are various areas of re-pointing across the elevation, which has three rows of through-stones (Fig 3; Plate 7). There is a large doorway on the north-west side, which has a large timber lintel with lots of holes in it and is perhaps a re-used railway sleeper. The north-west side of this door has neatly-dressed quoins in pale yellow sandstone, similar to the yellow gritstone seen elsewhere but finer, and it has a modern plywood door. To the south-east there is a smaller doorway with a voussoir-arch in limestone. There are three ground floor windows to the south-east of this, two of which have voussoir arches and concrete sills and are re-pointed below suggesting that they were perhaps originally doorways. The third has a yellow gritstone lintel and concrete sill and extensive rebuilding around it suggesting it is inserted.

4.2.2 At the south-east end there is a large wagon doorway with a yellow gritstone voussoir arch and quoins on the north-west side only; the door itself is modern plywood. There is patchy render to the south-east where the wall is butted by an adjoining wall forming a flight of steps leading to the neighbouring farm house. On the upper ground floor there is a central loading doorway with a voussoir arch, made of a mix of yellow gritstone and limestone, and a stone sill. To the south-east there is a small window on the same floor with a yellow gritstone arch and a slate sill and a four-light fixed casement. There is a small monopitch outshut attached on the south-east side with a small single-light window (although this was not part of the property being investigated).

4.2.3 **North-west elevation:** this originally formed the gable end of the main part of the building, although the wall height has been reduced to form a shallow-angled mono-pitched roof, which then becomes vertical (Fig 5). On the ground floor there is a concrete block attached to the wall on the south-west side, perhaps the remains of a former wall butting the barn, and there are further patches of render denoting the wall and roof scars of former outshuts. South-west of the centre is a small window formed within a former doorway, the lower part of which has been blocked with stone and the upper part of which has subsequently been partially filled with concrete

blocks. Part of the original voussoir arch is visible above the blocked doorway and a timber sill made of planks is present over the window.

4.2.4 The north-east end is butted by the outshut extension. The upper quoins of the main barn at this point are made of yellow gritstone, while the lower ones are limestone. The outshut is almost entirely covered by render. There are two doorways with stone lintels and large limestone quoins at the north-east corner. The south-western doorway is probably within an originally much larger doorway that has been partially blocked. A single skin of bricks forming the remains of a wall butts against the north-east jamb of this doorway and the end of a beam projects through the wall.

4.2.5 **North-east elevation:** the north-west end is covered by a small monopitch outshut, which has a thick gritty mortar covering almost all of it and the remains of iron guttering (Fig 4; Plate 9). There is a central window at a high level with a stone sill and no lintel. To the north-west is a slightly lower level small doorway with a timber frame, limestone lintel and sill and a concrete step beneath. The tops of three lower level windows are just visible below this, each with a narrow slate lintel and a brick-lined opening allowing light in. The outshut returns at the south-east end where it has a rounded corner, and in the return there is a six-light window with a fixed casement and a large sandstone lintel and narrow sill. To the south-west of this there is a doorway, also with a large sandstone lintel. The wall then returns to the south-east where it forms the main wall of the barn. There is a large wagon doorway with a machine-cut timber lintel made of three pieces of timber bolted together and with a slate drip course above. The door is made of tongue and groove planks and has a concrete step. To the south-east there are two smaller doorways, one above the other, both with timber surrounds and lintels and the lower with a tongue and groove plank door (Plate 8). There are large yellow gritstone quoins on the north-east side only. To the south-east there is a small window with a yellow gritstone voussoir arch, slate sill and two-light fixed casement frame. The south-east end of the wall is finished with large yellow gritstone quoins and there is a modern gate attached.

4.2.4 **South-east elevation:** it was not possible to fully access the south-east elevation because it could only be accessed from the neighbouring property, although it could be viewed from the adjoining field (Fig 5). However, it forms the gable end of the barn and a large part is obscured by an attached outshut. There is an owl hole beneath the apex and two square ventilation slots. An iron downpipe is attached on the north-east side, a television aerial on the south-west side, and there are several through stones across the elevation. The south-east wall of the outshut, and probably the north-east, is built of concrete blocks, while the north-west is stone.

4.3 Internal Detail

4.3.1 **Room 1, Lower Ground Floor:** this has a concrete floor, the north-east side of which is at a slightly higher level, while the south-west side has a grid-pattern impressed into it (Fig 6). The ceiling comprises three beams orientated north-west/south-east; the two on the south-west side are finished with stop-chamfer decoration and possibly re-used (Plate 10). Both have slots for upright timbers with associated lining out marks, and the south-western-most has relict angled slots and various peg holes suggesting it is a re-used cruck blade. The north-eastern-most is a more recent machine-cut timber and supports a rougher piece above. The word 'SLABE' (?) is written on the underside and there are rust marks suggesting it is re-used from some form of machinery or similar. An iron bracket has been attached to the south-east end, which projects through the south-west wall. The beams support numerous joists, the majority of which are hand-finished, and have neat stop chamfer decoration, although some in the north-corner are later insertions. These in turn support a mixture of floorboards and plywood sheets respectively. The beams are

further supported by an iron I-beam girder supported at the south-west end by a cylindrical iron post. The posts appear to be re-used as they have wide flanged tops and unused bolt holes, perhaps suggesting that they are old pipes.

4.3.2 Most of the walls have the remains of a rough whitewash on them and there is a concrete skim across part of the west corner. There is a blocked aperture in the north-east wall and the partially blocked aperture in the north-west wall has a timber lintel as does the doorway to the south-west. The south-east elevation is a modern stud partition wall made up of plywood panels.

4.3.3 **Room 2, Lower Ground Floor:** the floor is concrete, with the central section forming a raised area orientated north-west/south-east leaving channels either side (Fig 6; Plate 11). Some of the floor is gridded, there are scars for stalls on the raised section and there is a slight ramp leading up to a doorway in the east corner. The ceiling is similar to the adjoining Room 1, with two main beams orientated north-west/south-east finished with stop chamfer decoration and with joist holes for upright posts (some or possibly all of which are respected by the chamfering). These support stop-chamfer decorated hand-finished joists and there are additional beams against the north-east side and a hatch accessing the floor above. Again the joists support floorboards of varying sizes and there are iron I-beam girders supported by cylindrical posts orientated north-east/south-west (Plate 12). There has been some replacement of the floor boards and joists in the south corner. Pipes for water and electrical cables are attached throughout and a moveable iron fence incorporating a feed trough has been added on the north-west side of the room. All of the walls have the remains of plaster and/or whitewash, apart from the north-west one, which is a modern stud partition constructed beneath one of the inserted iron beams. The north-east wall has a doorway on the north-west side with a timber frame and machine-cut timber lintel. South-east of this is a shallow alcove left as a result of the blocking of a window with a voussoir limestone arch and a slate sill (Plate 13). The south-east elevation has a doorway on the north-east side with a dressed limestone lintel and a split plank and batten door. There are two ventilation slots to the south west of this with splayed jambs. One has a timber lintel, the other stone.

4.3.4 **Room 3, Lower Ground Floor:** the floor is obscured by straw but is presumably concrete (Fig 6). The ceiling has partially collapsed but there are two large beams orientated north-east/south-west which are finished with a slight chamfer decoration. There is one presumably original hand finished joist but the rest are machine cut, and these support tongue and groove floorboards. The walls are mainly plain, with little evidence for plaster or whitewash except on the north-west side; the south-east elevation has a small alcove only 0.25m wide low in the wall (Plate 17). The wagon doorway to the south-west has a rough timber lintel and the door is held together with neatly stop-chamfered battens and jambs (Plate 17). In the north-west elevation the narrow slot vent is visible and the door on the north-east side has a machine-cut timber lintel and there is possible evidence for rebuilding around the jamb. A plinth is present along the whole of this wall as far as the doorway.

4.3.5 **Room 4, Lower Ground Floor:** the floor is largely obscured but is evidently concrete, is grooved in the central area and forms a channel along the north-east side (Fig 6). There are concrete stalls in the centre forming four bays positioned against a low concrete wall on the south-west side and these have water pipes and troughs attached to them. The ceiling comprises a single north-west/south-east orientated beam of saw-pit-cut timber supporting joists of a similar type, one of which has slots for upright timbers. All of the walls have the remains of render and whitewash. The north-west elevation has two doorways, and there are three windows in the north-east elevation all with a six-light casement, the top three lights of which

tilt, and machine-cut timber lintels. The south-east elevation is plain, although it has a rounded corner and the south-west elevation has a plinth running along the base and the doorway south-east of the centre has a re-used timber lintel with numerous peg holes.

4.3.6 Room 1, Upper Ground Floor and First Floor: the majority of the floor comprises timber floorboards, although these have been replaced by plywood sheets at the north-west end and there is an open access hatch on the north-east side (Fig 7). The room is open to the roof and is supported by four trusses each of a simple tie beam construction with a collar which has an usual angled joint with the principal rafter (Fig 9). There are carpenter's marks visible on the south-east truss in the form of a hammered 'I' and there are three purlins per pitch plus a diagonally set ridge purlin. All of the timber except the ridge purlin has neatly stop-chamfered decoration. The elevations are not finished with whitewash or render. In the south-east elevation there are three blocked square winnowing slots and a small central aperture with a timber lintel and a small opening, presumably an owl-hole, with a timber surround above. The south-west elevation has four blocked square ventilation slots and a central loading doorway with a re-used timber lintel and a tongue and groove plank door supported by chamfered battens. The north-east elevation has a large wagon doorway with a machine cut lintel and double door with a door made of tongue and groove planks and chamfered battens. There are seven or eight square vents along the wall and a small alcove immediately to the north-west side of the wagon doorway. The north-west elevation no longer exists at this level as the wall has been taken down leaving it open to the mono-pitch roof supported by modern timbers.

4.3.7 Room 2, Upper Ground Floor and First Floor: the floor on the south-west part of the room has collapsed and was therefore inaccessible, but the remainder comprises timber floor boards (Fig 7). The ceiling comprises two hand-finished beams orientated north-west/south-east supporting some, presumably original, hand-finished joists although the rest are machine-cut. These in turn support tongue and groove floorboards. The room is divided by the remains of a stud partition wall finished with lathe and plaster and with chamfered studs (Plate 16). The walls are largely finished with plaster and the north-west and south-east are plain, although a small aperture is present on the south-west side of the south-east elevation with a re-used timber lintel, which has been blocked leaving a small alcove. The south-west wall has a window with splayed jambs and a machine cut timber lintel and modern timber sill. There is a beam built into the wall above for the first floor. The north-east elevation has a window with splayed jambs, hand-finished timber lintels and a concrete sill. The first floor could not be accessed but could be partially examined from the lower ground floor. There is no plaster on the walls and the ceiling is open to the roof with three purlins per pitch and a diagonally set ridge purlin (Plate 14). The purlins on the north-east side are all hand-finished and possibly re-used while those on the south-west side are machine cut. There are owl holes in the north-west and south-east elevations below the apex.

4.3.8 Room 3, Upper Ground Floor: the floor is largely obscured but evidently constructed from timber boards (Fig 8). The room is open to the monopitch roof which is supported by two half trusses with a single angled brace (although the north-west truss has an additional angled brace added to this (Fig 9; Plate 15)). There are possible joist holes in the north-western truss's tie beam and there are two purlins in the roof. All of the timbers within the roof structure are machine-cut. The elevations are largely plain: in the north-west the original junction with the barn is visible on the south-west side, now butting against the remodelled roof. In the south-west elevation there is a large opening on the north-west side with a very straight joint on the south-east side perhaps indicating the position of an original opening. The other elevations are finished with plaster. The south-east has a doorway with a timber lintel, while the

north-east has a small doorway with a machine cut timber lintel and a window with splayed jambs.

5. Discussion

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The lack of dating evidence in the historic sources makes it difficult to provide a detailed understanding of the origins of Black Yeats Farm and the barn. The cartographic and documentary sources suggest that the farm did not exist before 1770 and that it was built some time between this date and 1829, while the first evidence for the barn only dates from 1841. However, the building itself has stylistic properties that indicate an earlier origin, and it certainly made use of earlier timber re-used from another building or buildings.

5.2 Phasing

5.2.1 **Phase 1:** the original building was evidently built as bank barn, placed in the typical arrangement along the slope (Brunskill 2002, 108). It would have provided accommodation for cattle on the lower ground floor and had a large threshing floor on the upper (*ibid*). The timber that appears to relate to this phase is finished with a stop chamfer decoration that might be considered typical of the late 17th century (Alcock and Hall 2002, 36-37), which might indicate the date at which the barn was initially constructed. This does potentially contradict the cartographic evidence, however, which suggests it was built between 1770 and 1841 (or possibly 1829), although this is evidently unreliable. The statement that bank barns were unusual prior to about 1730 (Brunskill 2002, 108-109), also cannot be taken as an accurate means of dating, and so, while it is difficult to be certain, it is perhaps reasonable to suggest a construction date at the end of the 17th century or very beginning of the 18th.

5.2.2 **Phase 2:** it is likely, although by no means certain, that the original barn was extended by a single bay at the south-east and possibly the north-west ends. The style of the finish in these areas (particularly the quoins) would suggest that this was done very soon after the initial period of construction. Indeed, the cartographic sources show that it was likely to have been carried out between 1770 and 1841, the same time span during which the barn was first built. The extension at the south-east end appears to have been to provide a carriage house on the lower ground floor and additional storage or possibly workers' accommodation on the upper ground floor and first floors. There is no evidence for domestic features in this area, such as a fireplace, although the lathe and plaster stud partition wall and windows is indicative of some effort being made to make the space habitable. Workers' housing of this type, often known as 'Paddy houses' due to the hiring of seasonal Irish labourers during harvest time, was a common feature of many farm complexes (Lewis and Warhurst 1987, 4). Alternatively, it could have been a granary, as these often have domestic type features and were situated over cartsheds to aid ventilation, although the ground-level access might suggest this is not the case (Brunskill 1978, 80). The purpose of the possible extension at the north-west end is less certain, but it may have been simply to allow greater capacity. It is likely that there was originally a dividing wall between Rooms 1 and 2 on the lower ground floor, pre-dating the present plywood one.

5.2.3 **Phase 3:** sometime before the first Ordnance Survey maps were surveyed (in 1847 and 1848) but possibly after the production of the Corn Rent map (1841), the small outshut was added to the north-west side of the north-east side of the building. This was evidently intended to further increase the capacity for housing cattle, a common development at the time when the growth in population caused by the Industrial Revolution led to an increasing demand for dairy products (Brunskill 1987, 67). The numerous windows present within this part of the building also belong to this

period, as agricultural theory at the time considered them beneficial to the animals (*op cit*, 66). It is likely that the south-eastern-most window in the south-west elevation was also inserted at this time, and that the small outshuts shown at the north-west end on the early maps (Plates 2-5), of which numerous wall scars remain, were built at the same time and probably for a similar purpose.

5.2.4 Phase 4: a number of recent but largely cosmetic alterations were made following the Phase 3 changes, probably during the late 19th and early 20th century, although some of these could have been made at the same time. These include the replacement of some timber, particularly lintels, perhaps during repairs, and also the addition of the iron girders on iron posts to support the lower ground floor. The original stalls in the lower ground floor (Room 2) were also evidently removed and an iron 'fence' added. More significantly, the north-west gable was taken down to the top of the lower ground floor and the roof changed to a monopitch arrangement in this location. The original covering of the main barn (presumably slate) was also removed and replaced with corrugated metal sheets. The outshuts along the north-west edge were probably also demolished at this time, presumably to accommodate the neighbouring modern cow sheds.

5.3 Conclusion

5.3.1 The barn at Black Yeats is an interesting example of a barn bank that has seen several phases of development fitting with the socio-economic necessities of its time. While not particularly remarkable in many aspects, the use of stop chamfer decoration on much of the timber is unusual, and not what might be expected in an agricultural building. It may represent a particularly idiosyncratic and anachronistic style of carpentry, perhaps particular only to one carpenter, or it may be that the timber was re-used, although the correlation between the decoration and the position of joist holes presumed to be for the original joists would suggest this was not the case. Similarly-finished timber was also recorded in a former threshing barn and cow house at Natland, although this was approximately 750m to the north-west of Black Yeats (OA North 2005). However, in this case it was assumed to be a survival from an earlier building (a chapel) that was incorporated into the barn (*op cit*, 16-17). The discoveries at Black Yeats might lead this assumption to be questioned, and might suggest that other examples of barns with similar decoration may yet be discovered in the general area.

5.3.2 The chamfering also makes accurately dating the original barn difficult, although it is likely that the cartographic and documentary sources provide a reasonable guide of between 1770 and the early 19th century. The presence of re-used timber within the building might indicate an earlier structure on the site, but this was common practice from at least the 17th century due to timber shortages (Tyson 2000, 41) and could therefore have been brought some distance to the site.

6. Bibliography

6.1 Primary and Cartographic Sources

* Original not examined

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7. Illustrations

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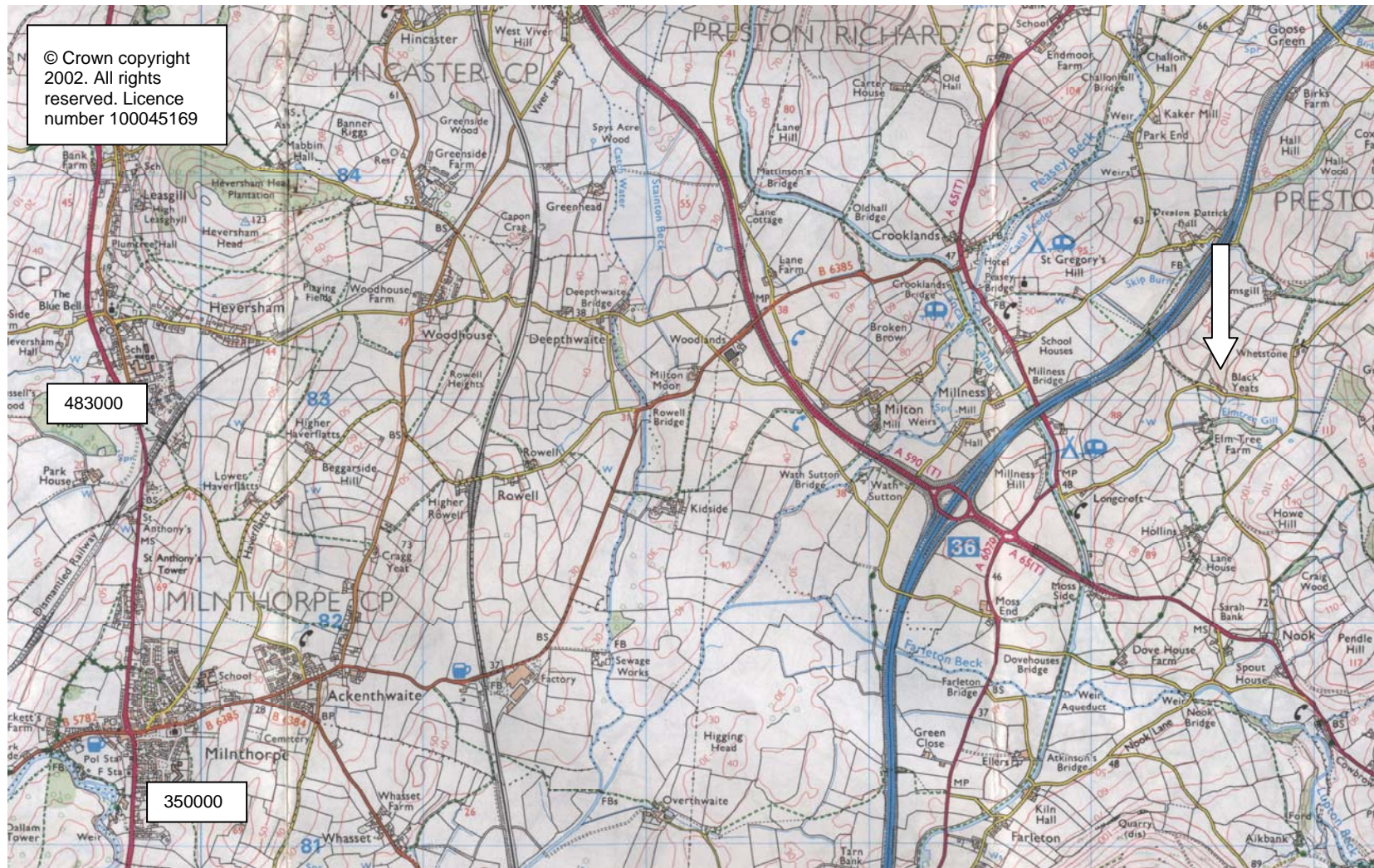


Figure 1: General site location

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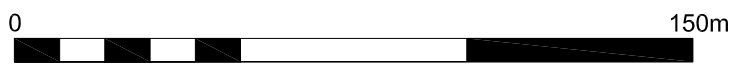
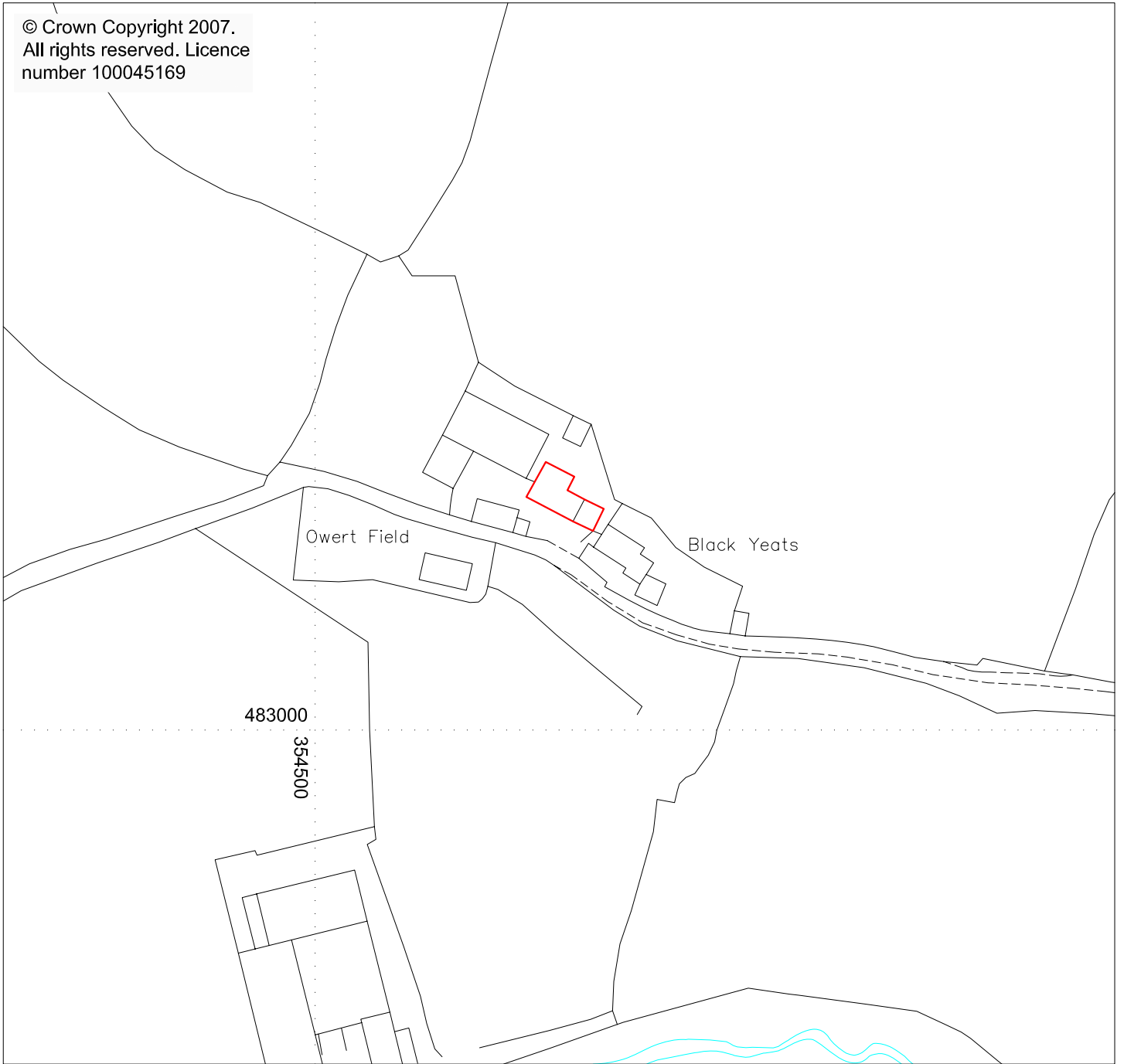
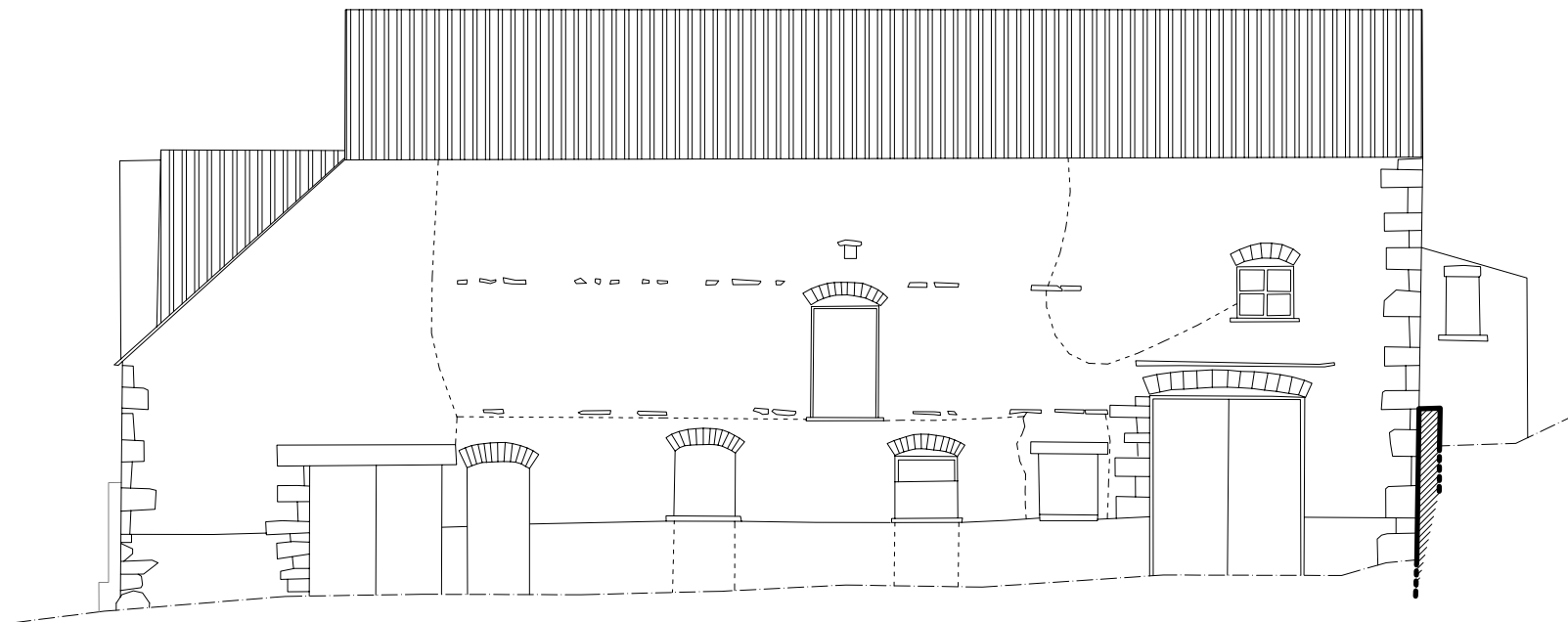





Figure 2: Detailed site location



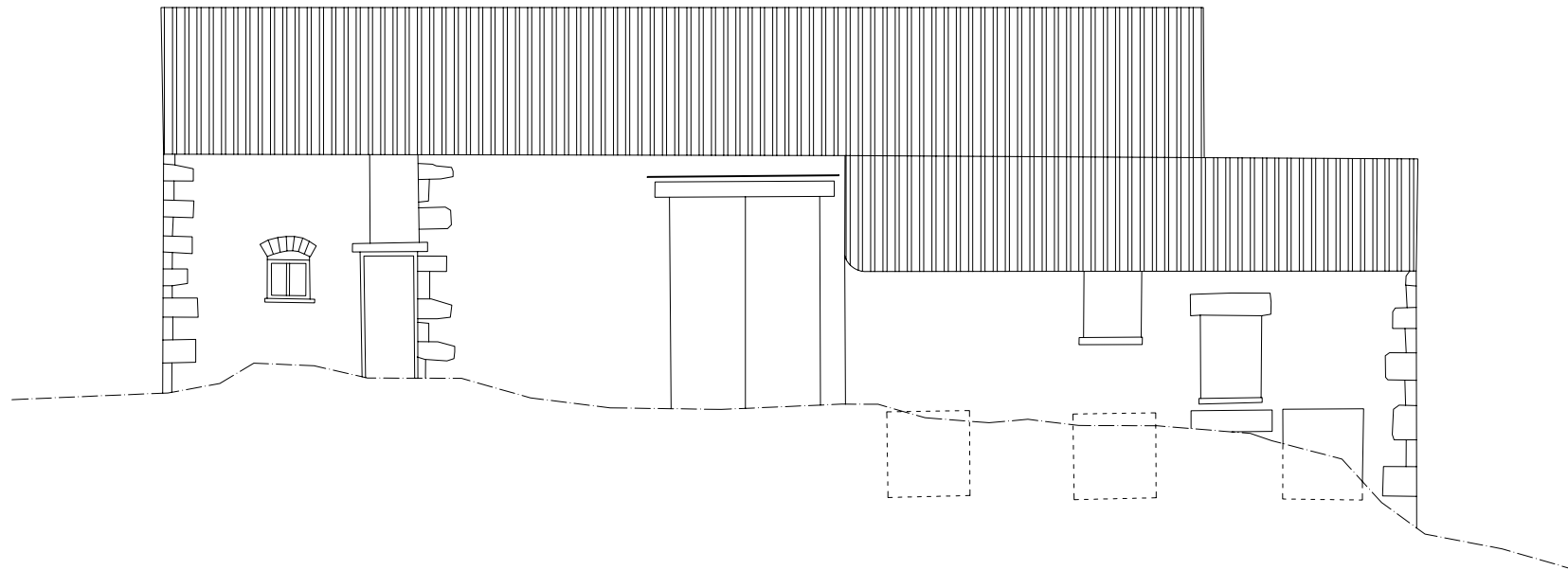
Project:
 Black Yeats Farm, Crooklands,
 near Milnthorpe, Cumbria:
 Archaeological Building
 Recording

Key:  roof
 - - - ground line
 - - - - change in
 render/pointing
 cross-
 sectional
 wall
 concrete

Project Code: G1047
 Site Code: BY07
 Date: April 2007






Figure 3: South-west elevation



Project:
 Black Yeats Farm, Crooklands,
 near Milnthorpe, Cumbria:
 Archaeological Building
 Recording

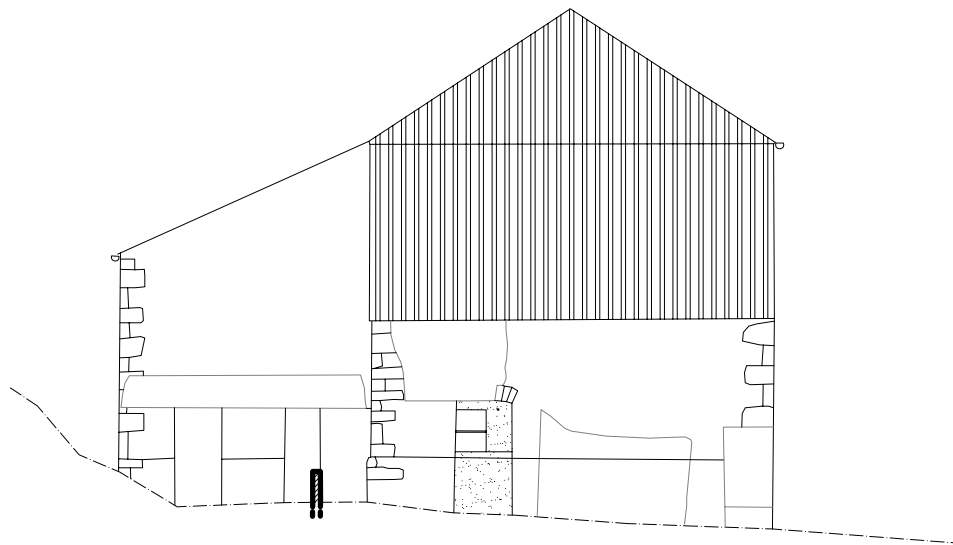
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	roof
	ground line
	projected line

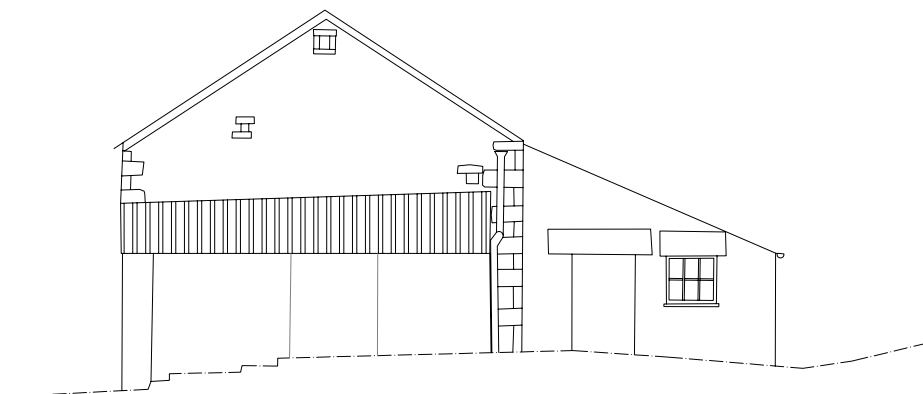
Project Code: G1047
 Site Code: BY07
 Date: April 2007



Figure 4: North-east elevation








North-west elevation



South-east elevation

Project:
Black Yeats Farm, Crooklands,
near Milnthorpe, Cumbria:
Archaeological Building
Recording

Key:

	roof		ground line
	blocking		concrete or render
	cross-sectional wall		

Project Code: G1047
Site Code: BY07
Date: April 2007

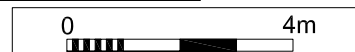


Figure 5: North-west and south-east elevations

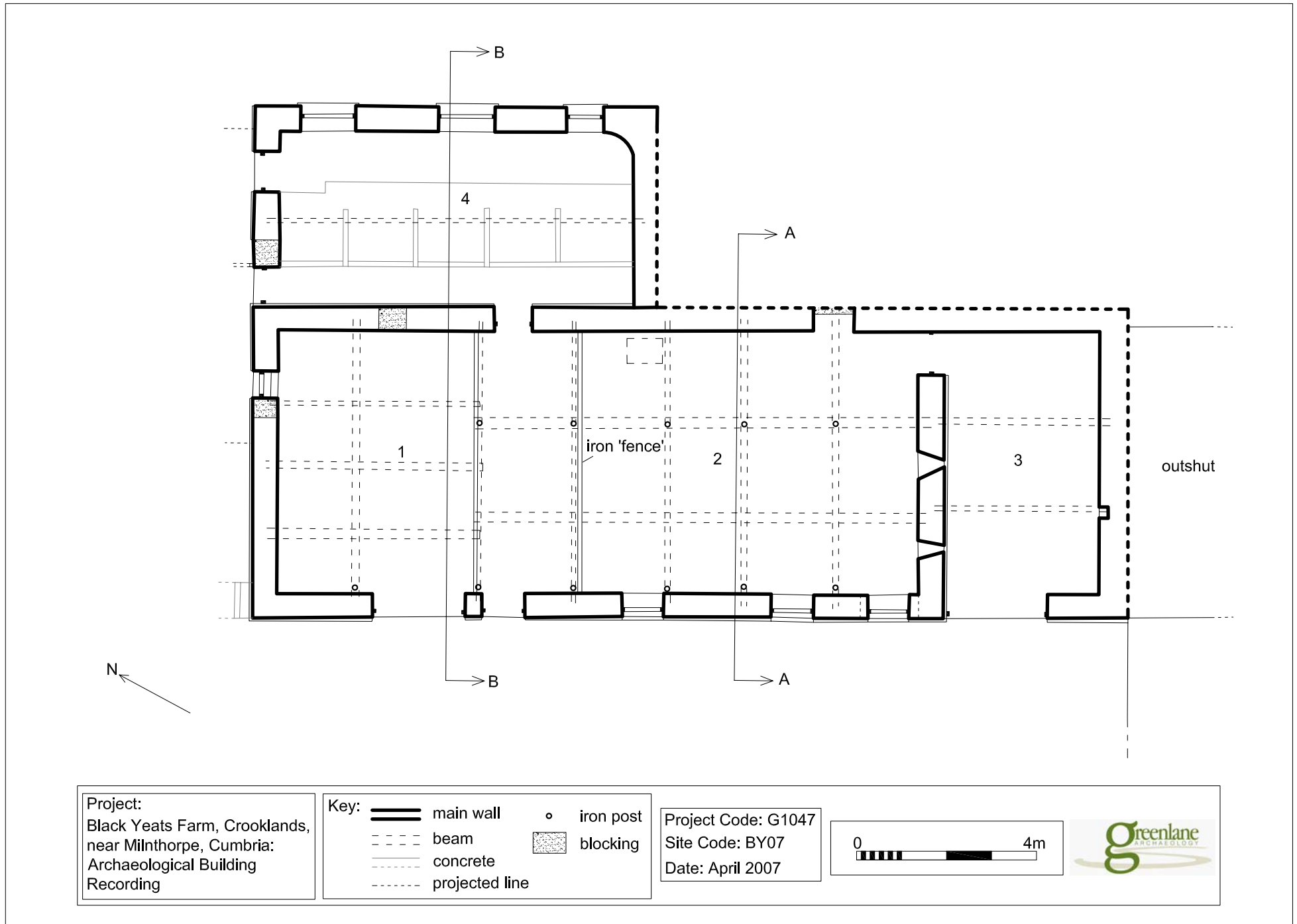


Figure 6: Lower ground floor plan

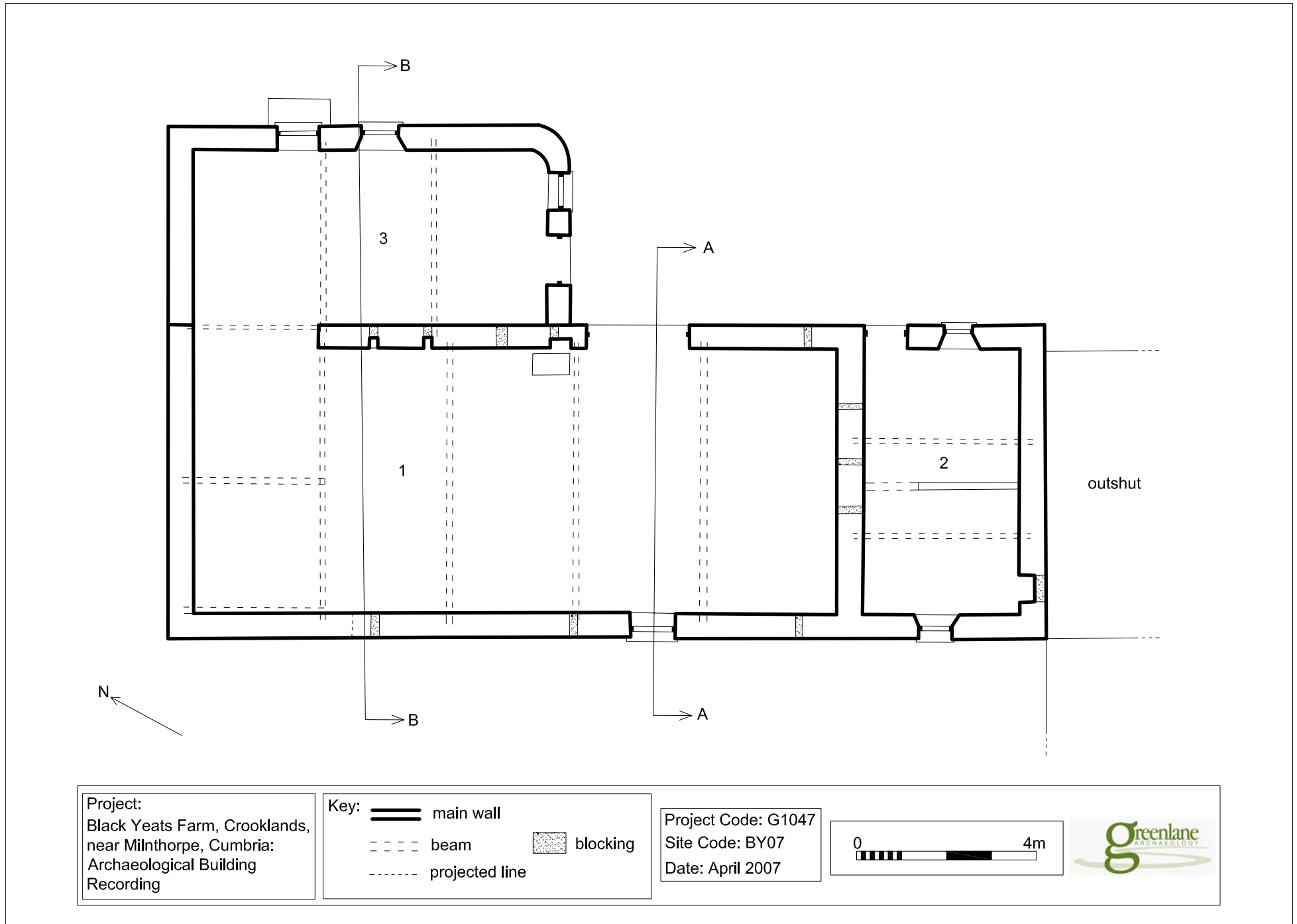
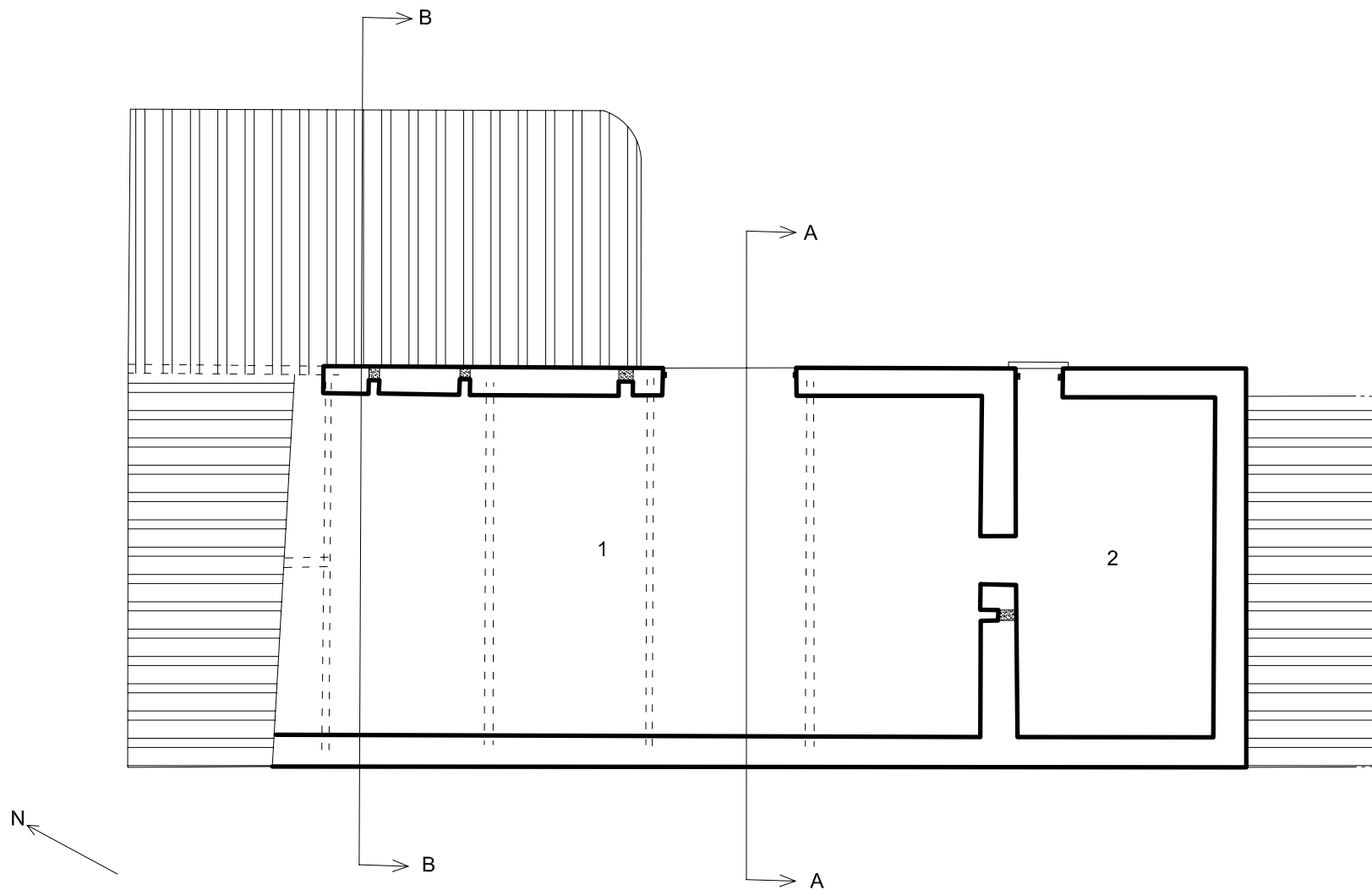





Figure 7: Upper ground floor plan



Project:
 Black Yeats Farm, Crooklands,
 near Milnthorpe, Cumbria:
 Archaeological Building
 Recording

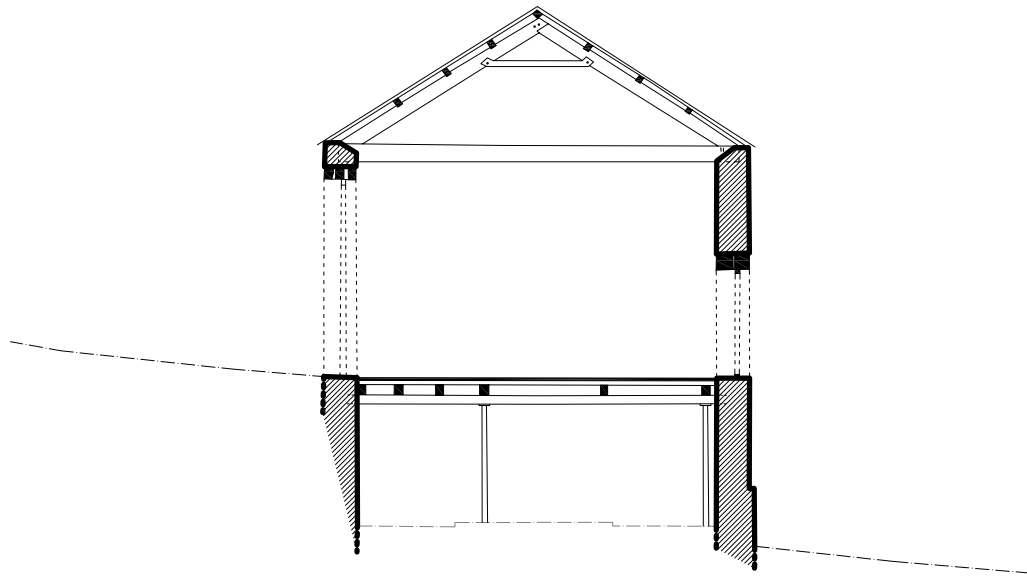
Key:

-  main wall
-  beam
-  roof

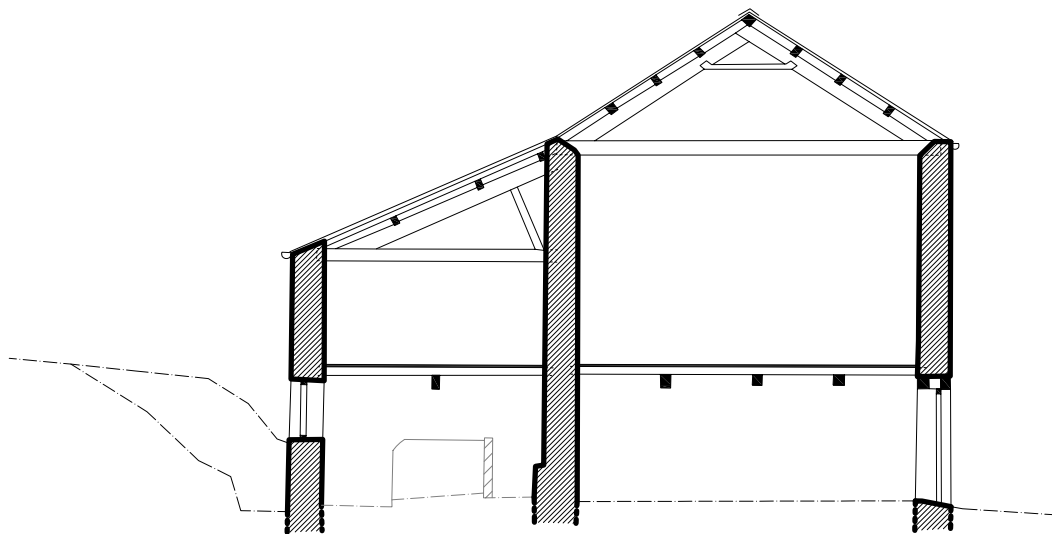
Project Code: G1047
 Site Code: BY07
 Date: April 2007



Figure 8: First floor plan



Section A-A



Section B-B

Project:
 Black Yeats Farm, Crooklands,
 near Milnthorpe, Cumbria:
 Archaeological Building
 Recording

Key: - - - - ground line ——— concrete
 ■ cross-sectional wall ■ cross-sectional timber

Project Code: G1047
 Site Code: BY07
 Date: April 2007

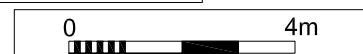


Figure 9: Sections A-A and B-B

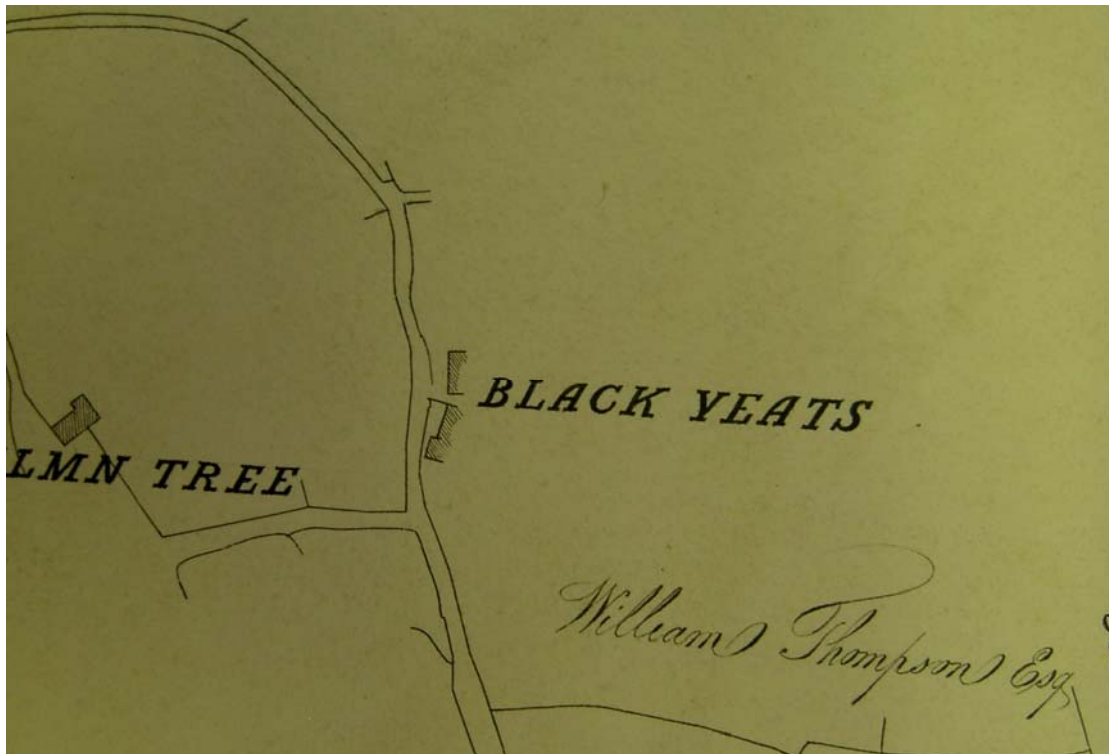


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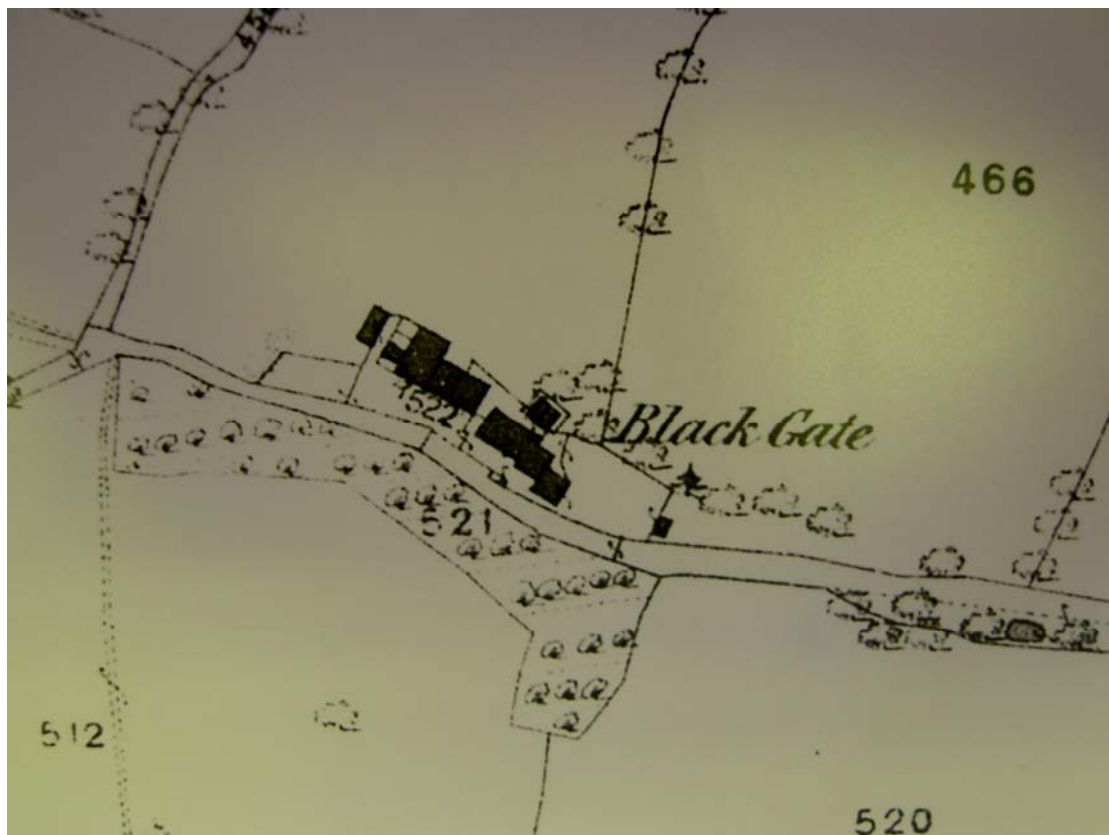


Plate 2: Extract from the Ordnance Survey of 1859



Plate 3: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1862

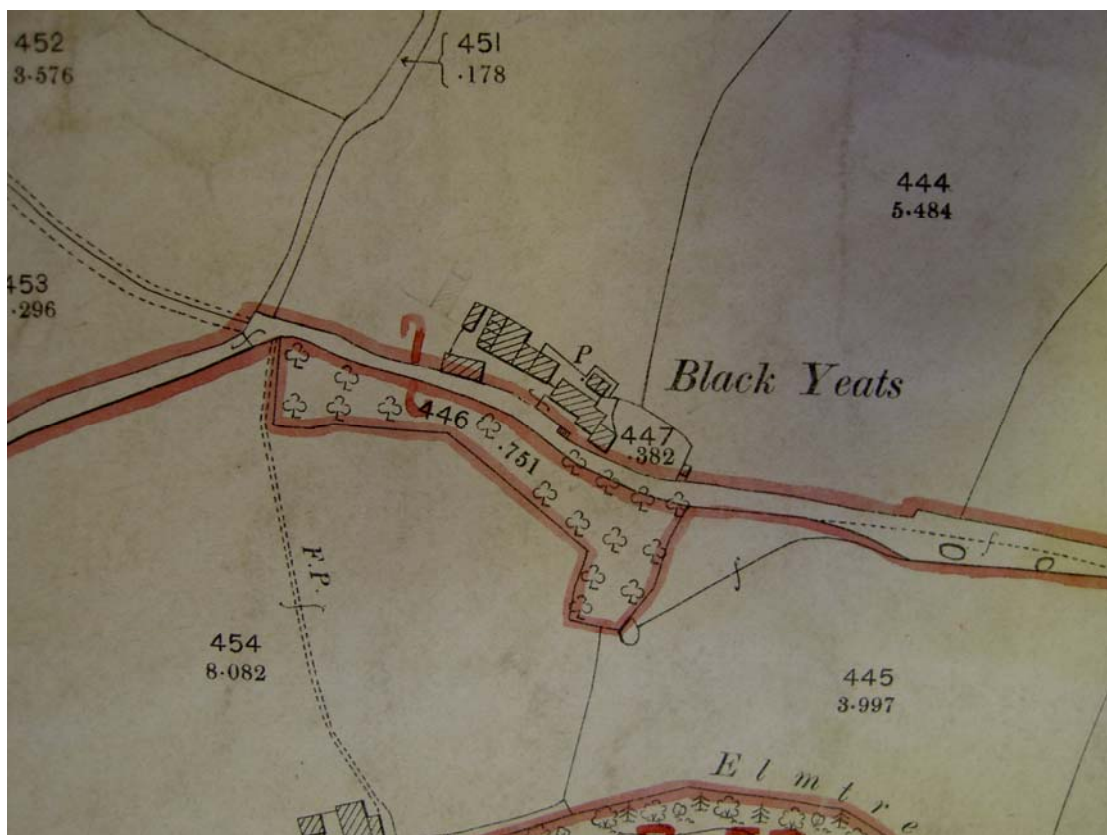


Plate 4: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1896

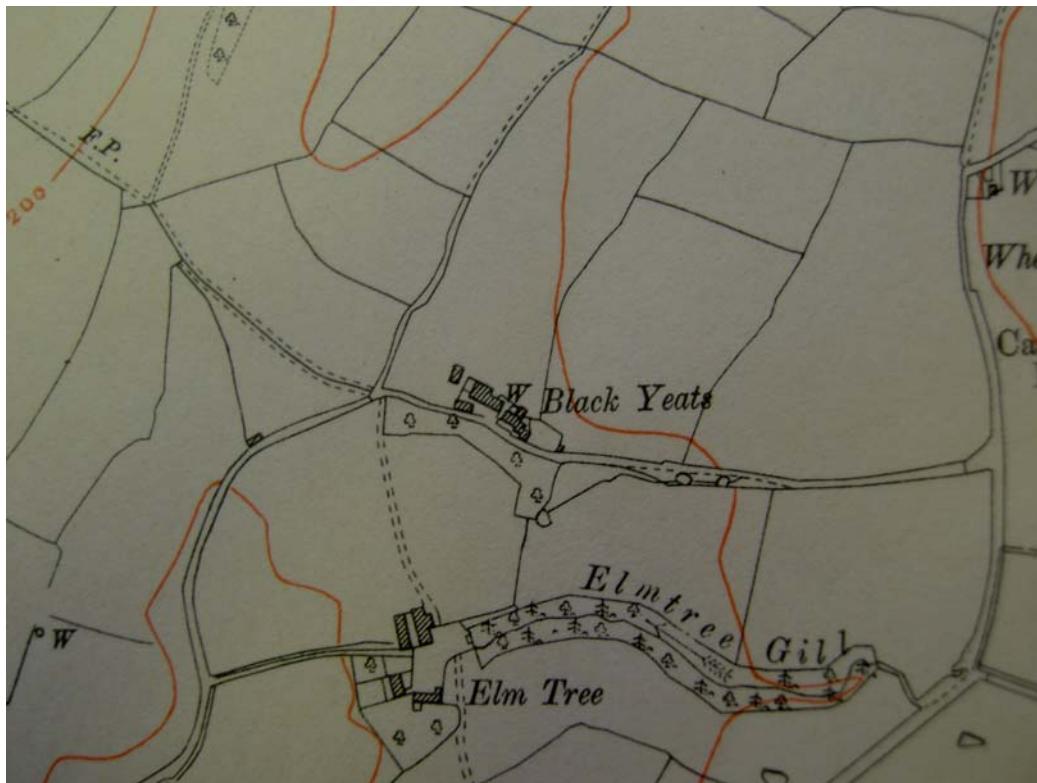


Plate 5: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1919



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