

143 SALTHOUSE ROAD, BARROW-IN-FURNESS, CUMBRIA

Archaeological Building Recording



Client: Anne Martin

Planning ref.: 175/2004/0725

NGR: 321382 468942

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Non Technical Summary

Following a planning application for the development of a former barn at 143 Salthouse Road, Barrow in Furness, Cumbria, an archaeological building survey was requested, which was to comprise an English Heritage level 3-type recording. The barn is Grade II listed and statutorily protected; this building recording is intended to provide a record of the structure prior to its development. The building recording was carried out by Greenlane Archaeology in October 2009.

The hamlet of Salthouse has ancient origins; it was almost certainly established by the monks of Furness Abbey and is recorded from at least the 13th century. Its name suggests it was connected to the production of salt and it is known to have comprised four tenements, the arrangement of which is probably reflected in the organisation of the surviving buildings. The later history of the hamlet was recorded in some detail by WB Kendall, based on his own experiences and the personal recollections of other people dating to the 19th century, so there is therefore a remarkable amount of information available outlining the date at which alterations were made within the hamlet, farm buildings rebuilt and so forth. The house, currently 143 Salthouse Road, was rebuilt in c1800 and the associated barn was built shortly thereafter; cartographic sources demonstrate that it was enlarged to its current extent during the 1840s.

The building recording revealed three basic phases of construction and development of the barn, beginning with its construction, in the early 19th century, as a combination bank barn with a threshing floor on the upper level and cow houses on the lower floor. It was subsequently extended at the north end, between 1842 and 1847 by the addition of a horse engine, which would have powered a threshing machine within the main barn. Minor alterations were probably then carried out throughout the 20th century culminating in the conversion of the lower floor into a cattery in the 1960s or 1970s, which led to the removal of any remaining cattle stalls and related features and the insertion of partition walls to form cat pens.

Acknowledgements

Greenlane Archaeology would like to thank Anne Martin for commissioning the project and for her information and hospitality during the fieldwork. Additional thanks are due to Phillip Spenceley for his help in organising the work. Additional thanks are also due to the staff at the Cumbria Record Office in Barrow-in-Furness (CRO(B)) for their help in accessing the archives.

The desk-based assessment was carried out by Steve Clarke, Sam Whitehead, and Dan Elsworth, and the building recording was undertaken by Dan Elsworth and Tom Mace. The report was written by Steve Clarke, Sam Whitehead, and Dan Elsworth, and the illustrations were produced by Tom Mace. The project was managed by Dan Elsworth, and the report was edited by Dan Elsworth, Tom Mace, and Jo Dawson.

1. Introduction

1.1 Circumstances of the Project

1.1.1 A planning application (Ref. 175/2004/0725) was submitted by Anne Martin (hereafter 'the client') for the conversion of a disused barn at 143 Salthouse Road, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria (NGR 321382 468942). Planning permission was granted by Barrow Borough Council, Condition 9 of which stated that:

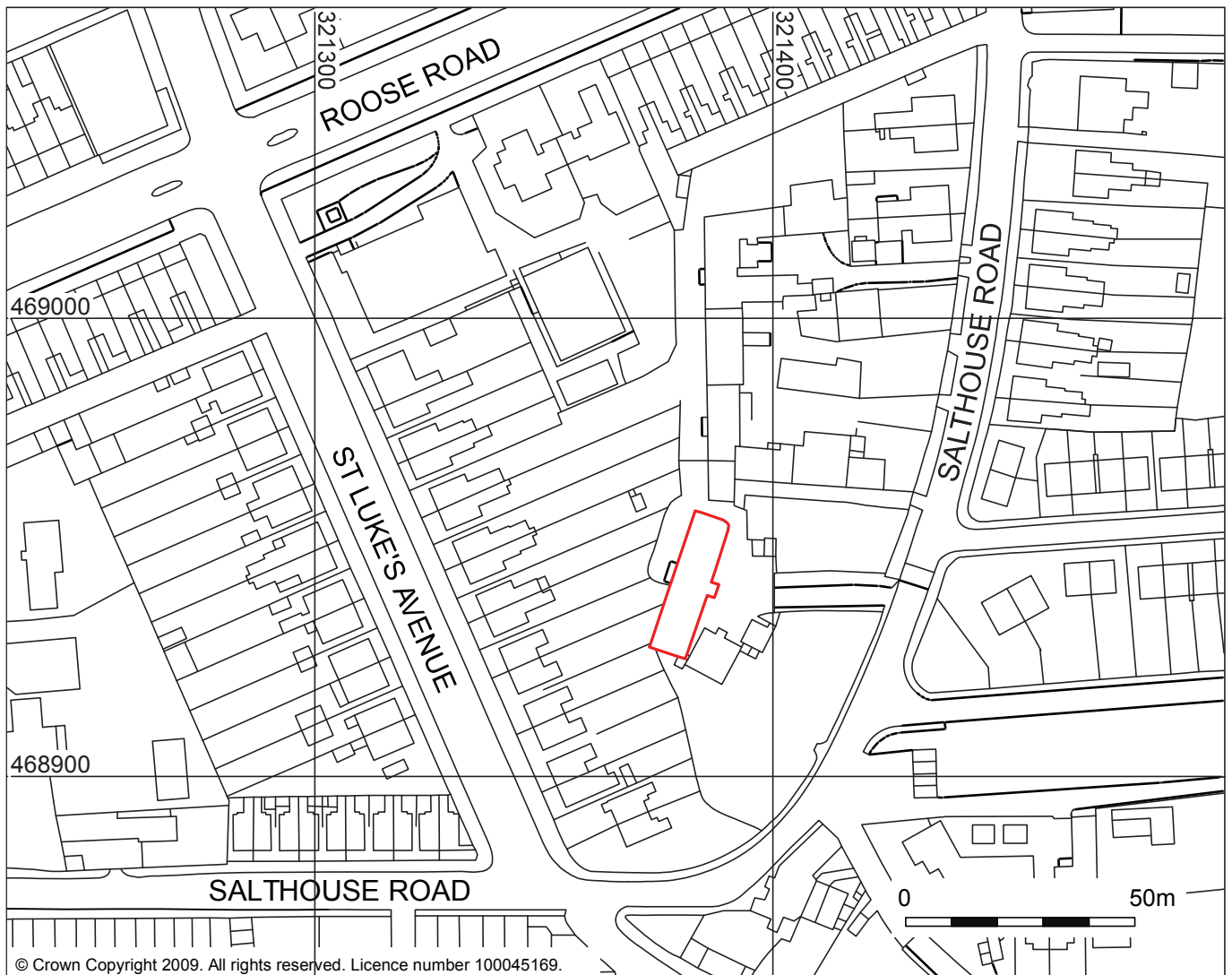
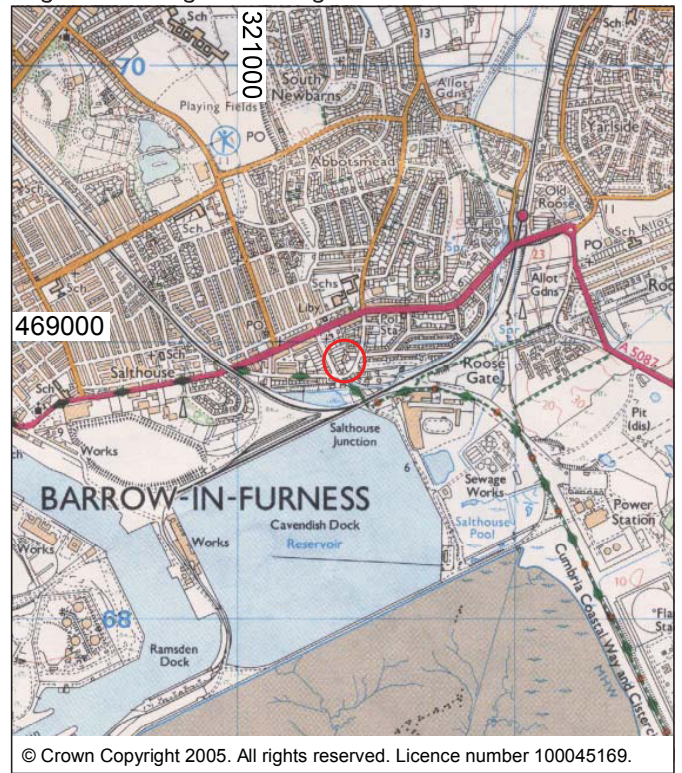
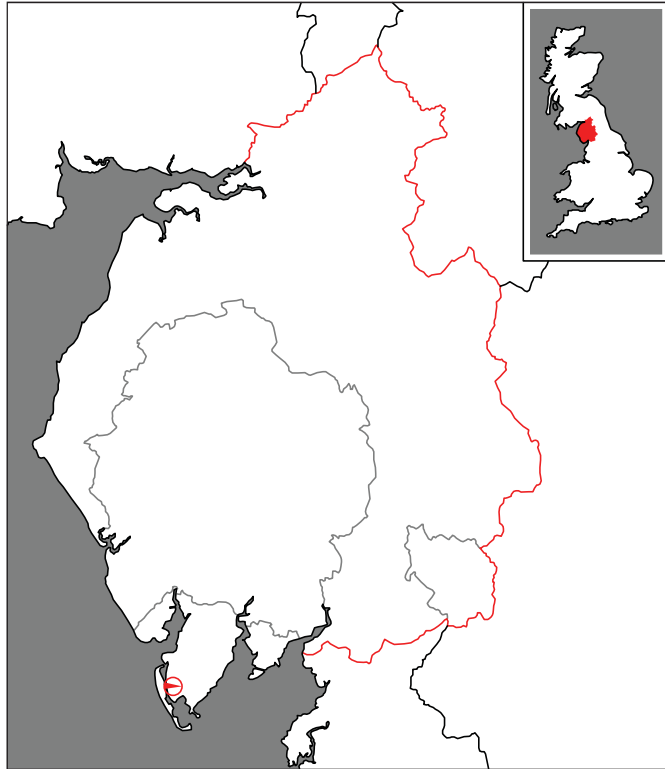
- No development shall commence within the site until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority.
- **Reason:** To afford reasonable opportunity for a record to be made of buildings of architectural and historic interest prior to their alteration as part of the proposed development.

1.1.2 As the building is Grade II Listed, following discussions with the architect John Dryden, and based on his discussions with Charles Wilton, Principal Planning Officer at Barrow Borough Council, it is assumed that the archaeological work is to comprise an archaeological building recording equivalent to an English Heritage Level-3 type survey (English Heritage 2006). Such an investigation is intended to provide a record of the building prior to redevelopment and discuss the significance of the different elements of the site.

1.1.3 In response to this requirement Greenlane Archaeology produced a project design (see *accompanying CD*) and the on-site work was carried out on the 19th October 2009.

1.2 Location, Geology, and Topography

1.2.1 Salthouse is situated approximately 1km south-west of Barrow-in-Furness town centre on the north side of Cavendish Docks on the edge of Walney Channel (Figure 1). Barrow-in-Furness is largely situated on an area of red Sherwood sandstone of St Bees type, but there is a large area of Carboniferous limestone to the north-east (Moseley 1978, plate 1). The overlying drift deposits comprise glacial material such as boulder clay, which forms a hummocky rolling landscape outside of the urban area (Countryside Commission 1998, 27). The site is situated at approximately 7m above sea level.



Client: Anne Martin

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Figure 1: Site Location

2. Methodology

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The building investigation comprised three separate elements intended to provide a suitable record of the structure in line with English Heritage standards (English Heritage 2006) and according to the standards and guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008a). In addition, a rapid desk-based assessment was carried out in accordance with the project design (*see accompanying CD*) and IfA standards and guidance (IfA 2008b) and a suitable archive was compiled to provide a permanent paper record of the project and its results in accordance with IfA and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991; Brown 2007).

2.2 Desk-Based Assessment

2.2.1 The general area around the site, incorporating the majority of the hamlet, was examined in order to identify sites of archaeological interest within the development area. More specifically, details relating to the farm and its immediate surroundings were acquired in order to identify evidence of any associated structures that might have formerly been present. In addition, the results of previous pieces of archaeological and historical research relating to Salthouse were examined to provide relevant background information, as were other secondary sources. Several types of information were consulted in order to compile a history of the site and assess the presence of any known remains of historical or archaeological interest:

- **Cumbria County Record Office, Barrow (CRO(B))**: this was visited in order to examine early maps and plans of the site, original documents relating to properties on the site, and local and regional histories and directories;
- **Barrow Borough Council**: details of a previous planning application relating to the site were obtained from Barrow Borough Council, although the original drawings were not available;
- **Greenlane Archaeology Library**: additional secondary sources were used to provide information for the site background.

2.3 Building Recording

2.3.1 The building recording was carried out to Level-3 type standards (English Heritage 2006). This is essentially a descriptive investigation, but with a more detailed interpretation of the phasing and use of the building, utilising available documentary evidence. 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 colour print and colour digital format were taken of the main features of the building, their general surroundings, and any features of architectural or archaeological interest. A selection of the colour digital photographs are included in this report, and the remainder are presented on the accompanying CD;
- **Drawings**: drawings were produced by hand-annotating 'as existing' illustrations of the building provided by the architect. These comprised:
 - i. plans of all of the main floors, at 1:100;
 - ii. cross-sections, at 1:50;
 - iii. the principal external elevations, at 1:100.

2.4 Archive

2.4.1 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 (Brown 2007; English Heritage

1991). Three copies of this report will be deposited with the Cumbria Historic Environment Record (HER), one with the client, one with Charles Wilton, Principal Planning Officer at Barrow Borough Council, and one will be retained by Greenlane Archaeology. A record of the project, together with a digital copy of the report, will be added to the *Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) scheme.

3. Desk-Based Assessment Results

3.1 Background history

3.1.1 **Introduction:** the original hamlet of Salthouse, which is now effectively contained within the modern town of Barrow-in-Furness, has at least medieval origins. It is also fortunate in having its later history recorded in some detail by a member of a long-standing local family, WB Kendall (Kendall 1948 – the site is the building numbered 2 at ‘Farm A’ on his plan; Plate 1). As only the medieval and post-medieval history of the site is relevant to its understanding, however, only this period of time will be discussed in this section.

3.1.2 **Medieval:** Salthouse is first recorded in 1247 (see below) but WB Kendall suggested that the area to the north was cleared and cultivated by the occupants of Walton during the reign of Edward the Confessor (c1003-1066) (Kendall 1948, 23). The village of Walton subsequently disappeared from the historical record, perhaps during the period of anarchy following the Norman Conquest, and Salthouse presumably became part of the Forest of Furness given by Henry I to his nephew Stephen of Blois and granted to the monks of Savigny at the foundation of Furness Abbey in 1127 (*ibid*). It is, however, first recorded in a Papal Bull of 1247, at which time it is mentioned as a grange of the abbey (*op cit*, 24). The original grange at Salthouse would have probably consisted of four homesteads, each with 280 acres of arable land and meadow, attached to the four customary tenements founded by the Abbey (*op cit*, 22). Approximately 10 acres of this land was the salt marsh to the south of the hamlet district on which the Abbey probably established a saltworks at Mustard Haws (a field within the Salthouse tenements), hence the name of the settlement (these salt pans were apparently still discernable until the construction of the loop line from Salthouse Junction to Parrock Hall was built in 1872; *op cit*, 24).

3.1.3 At the time of the Dissolution in 1537 it is recorded that the annual rent to the Abbey was £5.1s.4d (*ibid*). On the surrender of the abbey in this year its possessions, including Salthouse, passed to the King who annexed to the Duchy of Lancaster in 1540 (*op cit*, 25). Kendall lists the names of the tenants at the time of the Dissolution as Richard Hunter, William Daggar, Matthew Hunter, and James Daggar, although it is not known who owned which property and when the tenancy passed out of these families (*op cit*, 39). At that time Salthouse evidently comprised four farms, each probably corresponding to one of the original four tenements of land in Salthouse (see *Section 3.1.2 above*); two of these tenements were called the ‘Old Tenements’, and the other two the ‘Piper Tenements’ (*op cit*, 27; the latter of which included the buildings now comprising 143 Salthouse road). The Piper tenements were considered by WB Kendall to have been constructed after the saltworks had gone out of use (*ibid*), although he gives no evidence for this. They were supposedly so named on account of a horse dealer who lived in one of the properties who was renowned for playing the bagpipes (*ibid*).

3.1.4 **Post-Medieval:** details regarding the history of Salthouse in the first two centuries following the Dissolution are relatively scarce. In 1680 one of Old Tenement farmhouses was rebuilt, and the other farmhouse was rebuilt in 1689 (*op cit*, 37). There is little other information regarding the site until the 18th and 19th century, although ‘Farm A’ was said to belong to the Rev. John Fell of Conishead in 1734 (*op cit*, 39). In the mid-18th century the Salthouse buildings were described as being in a ruinous state, especially those belonging to the Piper Tenements. There were also water-filled marl-pits in close vicinity to the dwellings which were a constant source of disease (Plate 1; these had been back-filled by the mid-19th century; *op cit*, 37). In 1800 and 1802 the Piper farmhouses were pulled down and rebuilt, and between 1802 and 1827 all four barns were rebuilt, and the old stables replaced with new ones; notably they were constructed with ‘*the first imported foreign timber used in the village [which] was brought from Liverpool by sailing vessel*’ (*ibid*). The shippens were apparently retained but were rendered and re-roofed (*ibid*).

3.1.5 During the later 19th century the town of Barrow-in-Furness grew until it effectively surrounded Salthouse. By 1861 there were 80 houses on former Salthouse land, by 1871 there were 123, and by 1881 there were 297 (*op cit*, 38). Much of the original hamlet came into the ownership of the Kendall family; James Kendall junior of Hallbeck owned ‘Farm A’ from some time in the 18th century and by 1791 he had acquired ‘Farm C’ and thus owned half the hamlet (*op cit*, 40). Another James Kendall

subsequently came to live and farm at Salthouse at Farm A in 1801, following the rebuilding of the house, and on his death Farm C passed to his grandson William Kendall, who remained there until his death in 1872 (*op cit*, 40). After this date much of the land was sold for building and Salthouse became little more than a suburb of the growing town of Barrow-in-Furness (*ibid*). The map evidence (see Section 3.2 below) shows the continuing presence of the Kendall family into the early 20th century. The barn is thought to have been converted for use as a cattery in the 1970s (Anne Martin pers comm.), although a planning application record indicates that this was actually in 1982 (6/82/048/075 1982). A photograph dated 1979 shows that the stairs to the upper doorway on the east side had not been added by this date, and that very basic doors and windows were present throughout (Leach 1979, 30).

3.2 Map Regression

3.2.1 Introduction: the site is situated at the south end of a complex of farm buildings on the west side of Salthouse Road. The earliest maps of the area are typically maps of the entire county and are not detailed enough to provide any useful information; only those maps that are actually of some use in understanding the development of the site are described below.

3.2.2 Kendall's plan of 1799: this plan purports to show the hamlet of Salthouse as it was in 1799 (Plate 1), although it is not clear whether it was based on an actual map or survey (Kendall 1948). It is likely to be derived, like the rest of the associated article, on the first hand accounts of its original author, WB Kendall. Farms A and C belonged to the Old Tenements and B and D belonged to the Piper Tenements. The site is located within Farm A, which is shown to include the house with attached stable to the west, and the barn forming a long linear range orientated north/south to the north-west of these. In addition, there is a building projecting from the east side of the barn described as a shippon. The plan shows the rest of the hamlet and includes a number of features, such as marl pits, which are shown as irregular contoured shapes, mainly situated along the west side of the farms, and several draw wells. This map also shows that the most southern building in Salthouse is no further than 45m from the high tide mark.

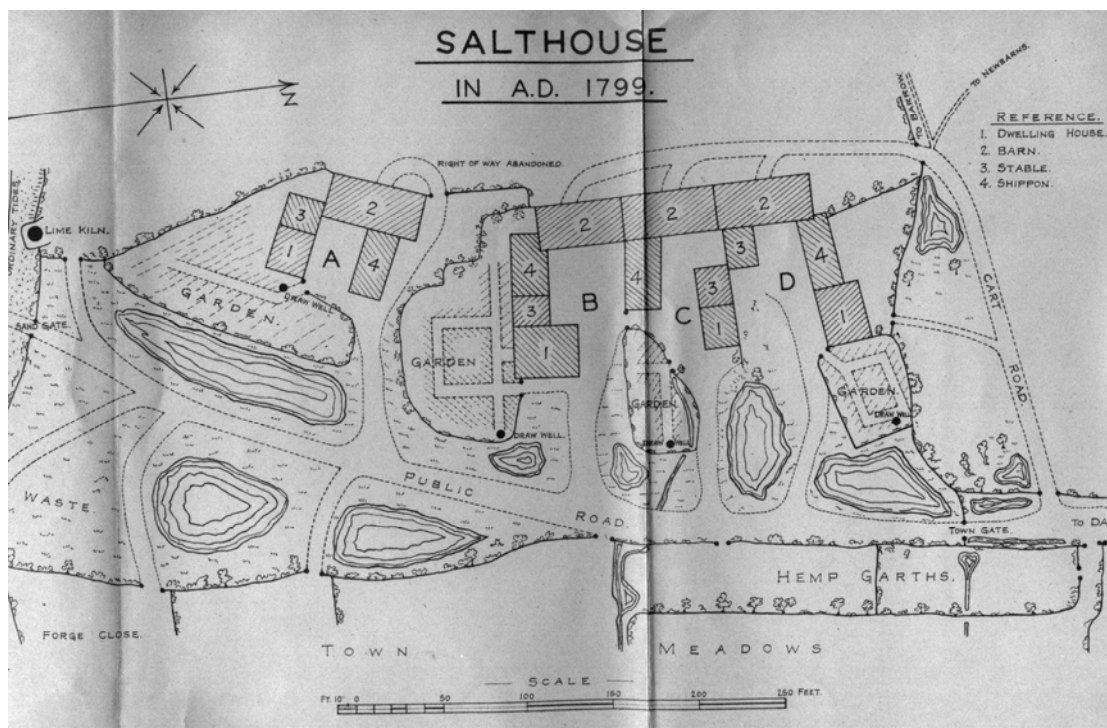


Plate 1: Kendall's plan of 1799

3.2.3 Tithe Map of 1842: this is the first detailed and reliable plan of the area (CRO(B) BPR/1/1/3/2 1842). It clearly shows the farmhouse (Farm A) and the barn, which forms a long linear range to the west of the farmhouse, and an associated outbuilding to the east. There is little further detail, although the rest of Salthouse, which was still an isolated village at this time, is also shown, but it is clear that the site had

reached almost its present form by this date. The accompanying schedule (CRO(B) BPR/1/1/3/1/1 1842) states that the site (labelled plot E198 in Plate 2) is owned and occupied by George Kendall.



Plate 2: Tithe map of 1842

3.2.4 **Ordnance Survey 1851:** this map shows the site much as it was on the tithe map, with the house and outbuilding both situated to the east of the barn, plus another small outbuilding to the north of these (Plate 3). The barn still comprises a long linear block, but it appears to have been lengthened, with the addition of an extension to its north end. Salthouse Road now turns to the west along the timber pond built between the old shore line and the Furness Railway embankment running east from Barrow Island.



Plate 3: Ordnance Survey map of 1851

3.2.5 **Ordnance Survey 1891:** this Ordnance Survey map shows the same features as the earlier one, but in more detail and demonstrates that the barn, and indeed many of the buildings associated with it, had essentially taken on their modern form by this date (Plate 4). The house and outbuildings are clearly

depicted and the extension to the north end of the barn is shown and evidently has a rounded north-east corner. Walney Channel is now even further away with the Cavendish Docks now built, which extended some 500m from the railway embankment. A copy of this map was utilised for the compilation of the 1910 land valuation, which states that the property (labelled 43) was owned by William Kendall and occupied by a Thomas Parker (CRO(B) BT/IR 5/2 1910).



Plate 4: Ordnance Survey map of 1891

3.3 Conclusion

3.3.1 The documentary evidence demonstrates that while Salthouse is of considerable antiquity the surviving buildings at 143 Salthouse Road relate to a period of rebuilding carried out in the early 19th century. Indeed, Salthouse is fortunate in having such a detailed account of its post-medieval and earlier history, which has provided a considerable amount of information about its history and the buildings which comprise it.

3.3.2 It is evident from the cartographic sources that the farm had taken on much of its present form by the mid-19th century and that the one major alteration that is visible, an extension to the north end of the barn, can be closely dated by the maps to between 1842 and 1847.

4. Building Recording

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The barn is situated to the north-west of the house and attached to it by a short section of wall, which extends to the full height of both the house and the barn and forms the south elevation of the latter. The barn comprises a long linear range orientated approximately north/south; the land to the west is higher and the barn is cut into the resulting slope so that access from the west side is to the upper floor level.

4.1.2 The farm is situated at the south end of what was the original hamlet of Salthouse, with the remainder of the original village to the north. This has all been subsequently surrounded by later terraced housing and industrial buildings (Figure 1). Apart from the farmhouse and barn the buildings comprising 143 Salthouse Road also include a former wash house adjacent to the barn (Plate 5 and Plate 6) and a former pig sty or hen house to the north of the wash house.



Plate 5: (left) The location of the barn in relation to the house (from the south-east)

Plate 6: (right) The location of the barn in relation to the house and former wash house (from the east)

4.2 Arrangement and Fabric

4.2.1 The barn is mainly constructed from local red sandstone, typically in un-worked rough blocks with more neatly dressed stone forming details such as the quoins. The main barn also includes a large number of rounded stones of volcanic type, many of which are also not worked or only roughly dressed. The northern extension is constructed from a more mixed range of materials including limestone and slate (typically forming narrow levelling courses) as well as a considerable amount of re-used dressed blocks, mostly red sandstone but also some yellow sandstone and limestone.

4.2.2 The roof is finished with grey slate throughout. Internally the timber supporting the roof is most likely Baltic red pine, while externally there is modern timber forming doors and windows, and their associated surrounds. The main barn extends to two storeys; the upper storey is accessible from the bank to the west. The northern extension is also two storeys high, but stands lower than the barn (Figure 2).

4.3 External Detail

4.3.1 **West elevation:** it was not possible to fully access the south end of this elevation as it was adjoined by a neighbouring garden but it clearly contained many of the features evident elsewhere in the building such as rows of square ventilation slots and through stones. There is a large wagon doorway towards the north end with a neatly finished flat voussoir arch and large quoins, covered by a monopitch slate canopy (Plate 7). The canopy is supported by horizontal beams and a single post on the south

side. To the north of the wagon doorway there is a low level aperture, which is evidently inserted and extends below the ground level on this side. It has a thin iron bar forming its lintel, brick in the jambs, and has been blocked with modern red brick. The extension to the north has a large four-light window with a modern casement. This was evidently originally a large doorway, which has been partially blocked at the bottom and had a large sill inserted to make a window. The rest of the north extension is plain, although a large section is constructed, perhaps rebuilt or repaired, from re-used neatly dressed blocks and some pieces of grey slate (Plate 8). The north-west corner is finished with roughly dressed large quoins.



Plate 7: (left) The wagon doorway in the west elevation

Plate 8: (right) The re-used stonework in the west elevation of the north extension

4.3.2 **North elevation:** the lower part of the original north external elevation of the barn is covered by the gable end of the northern extension (Plate 9). The gable end of the north extension is constructed from a mix of materials, mainly sandstone and limestone blocks and some water worn volcanic pebbles, with levelling courses of slate, and a large area rebuilt in re-used dressed blocks below the apex. The west end is finished with quoins while the east corner is curved. Above this the upper part of the barn's original north elevation is visible; it is finished with neat sandstone coping supported by squared kneelers at each end, with quoins below. There is a square owl hole near the apex, which has been blocked with brick.



Plate 9: The north elevations

4.3.3 **East elevation:** this forms the main front of the barn, with the lower extension at the north end (Plate 10). The lower part of the extension is constructed from a mixture of limestone and sandstone, while the upper part is constructed from a mixture of re-used dressed sandstone blocks. It has a large doorway on its south side with a sliding plank door with a brick-lined channel for housing it on the north side. Above the doorway is a fixed casement three-light window with a timber lintel, and the door is perforated by numerous ventilation holes. There is a window to the north of the doorway which has been blocked with more re-used dressed sandstone, above which is a butt-joint suggesting that the upper part also originally had a window or has been extensively rebuilt.



Plate 10: The east elevation of the north extension

4.3.4 The main barn, which forms the majority of the elevation, has two wide doorways and two pedestrian doorways on the ground floor, with another former doorway having been partially blocked to form a window (Plate 11 and Plate 12). All of these have neatly finished voussoir arches and rougher dressed quoins and house modern timber casements, either hinged or fixed, and doors. In addition, there are two small windows, perhaps inserted, with narrow timber lintels and modern fixed timber casements. A slightly angled plinth runs the full length of the elevation, although it is cut by the doorways, and there is a re-used piece of engaged column(?) built into the wall above the second doorway from the south (Plate 13 and Plate 14). A metal pipe has been inserted through the wall at the far south end, and the concrete used to hold it in place is scored with the date '1966'. The upper floor level has at least one row of square vent slots visible, although many of these have been blocked with brick and so were difficult to identify. There is also at least one row of through stones running across the whole elevation. There is a single doorway on the north side, accessed by a modern flight of timber steps, though it was presumably originally a pitching doorway. It has a neat voussoir arch in the same style as those on the lower floor, although dressed with a scored 'herringbone' finish, which houses a modern metal door.



Plate 11: (left) The north end and centre of the east elevation of the main barn

Plate 12: (right) The south end and centre of the east elevation of the main barn



Plate 13: (left) Doorway on the south side of east elevation with re-used column fragment above

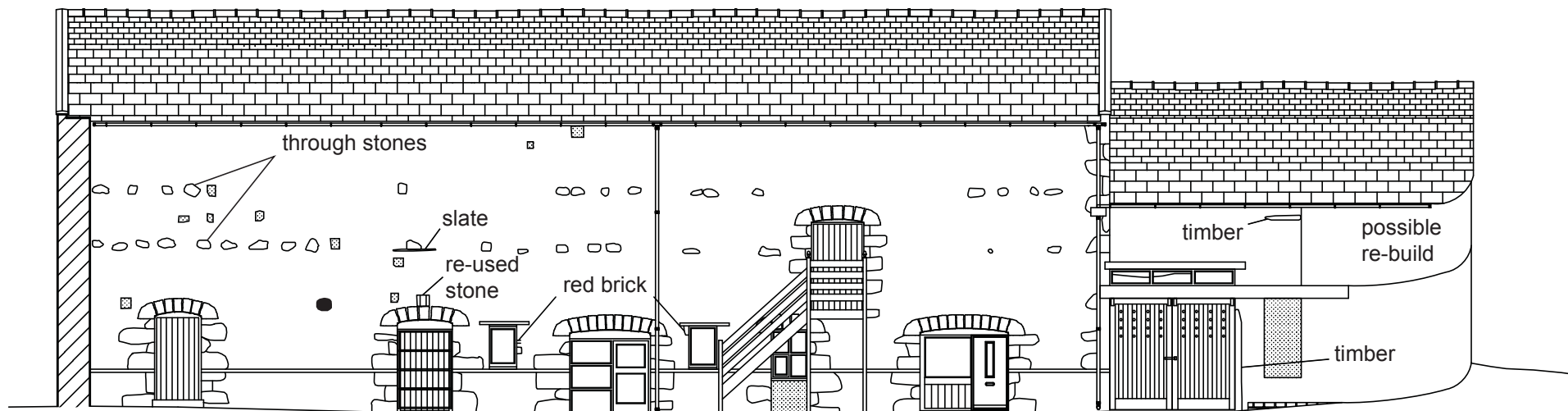
Plate 14: (right) Detail of re-used column fragment

4.3.5 South elevation: this is relatively plain; the upper part has been covered with concrete render, which is scored to give the appearance of ashlar blocks. An owl hole is evident, however, which has been lined with a red earthenware pancheon, which forms a circular opening. The lower part, between 2m and 2.5m above the ground, from west to east, is the original sandstone. There is a small window on the east side with a concrete sill and limestone lintel, which has been blocked internally with concrete blocks, leaving an alcove on the outside. The gable is topped with the same sandstone coping with square kneelers that is present at the north end.

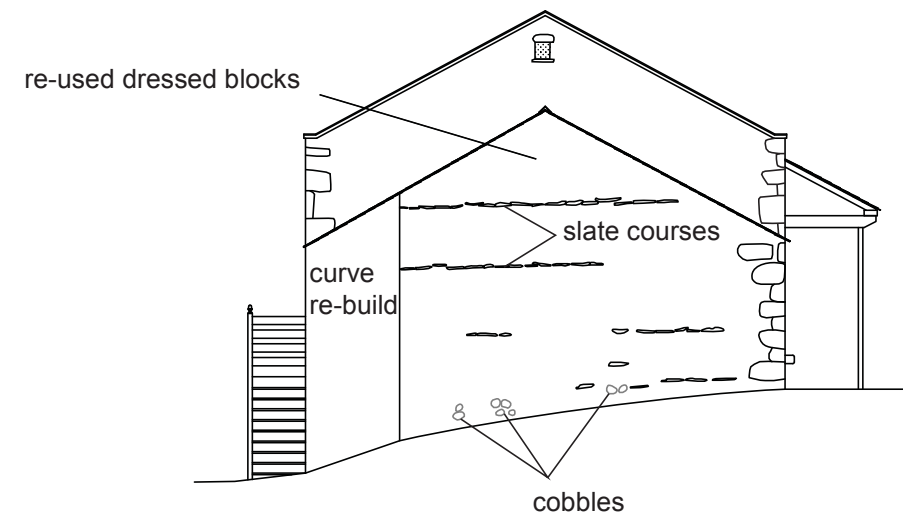


Plate 15: South elevation of barn

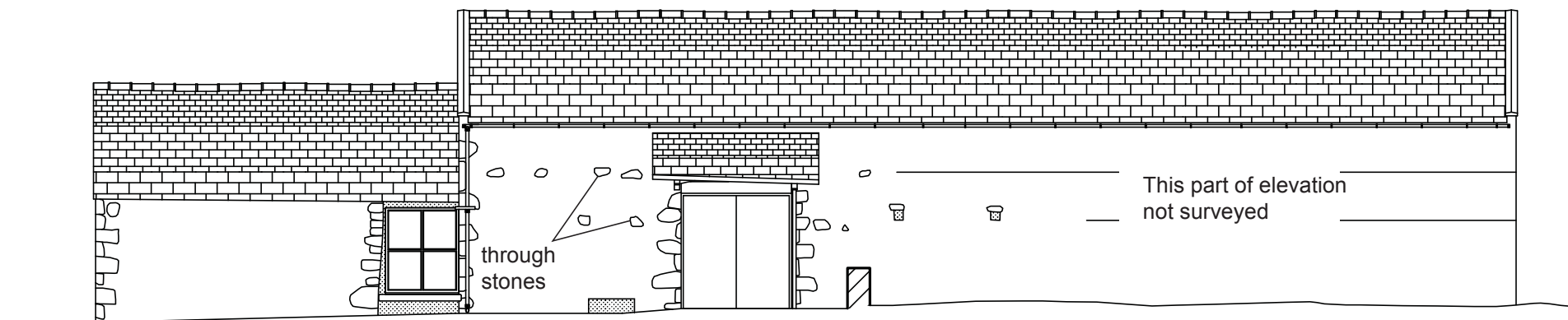
EAST ELEVATION



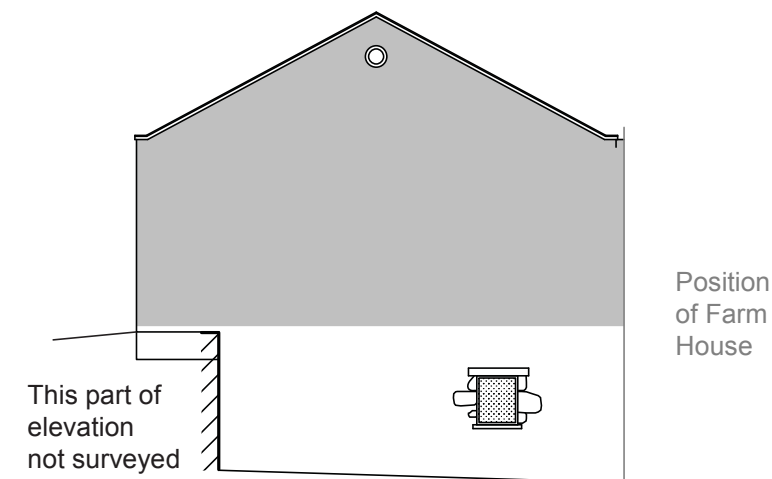
NORTH ELEVATION



WEST ELEVATION



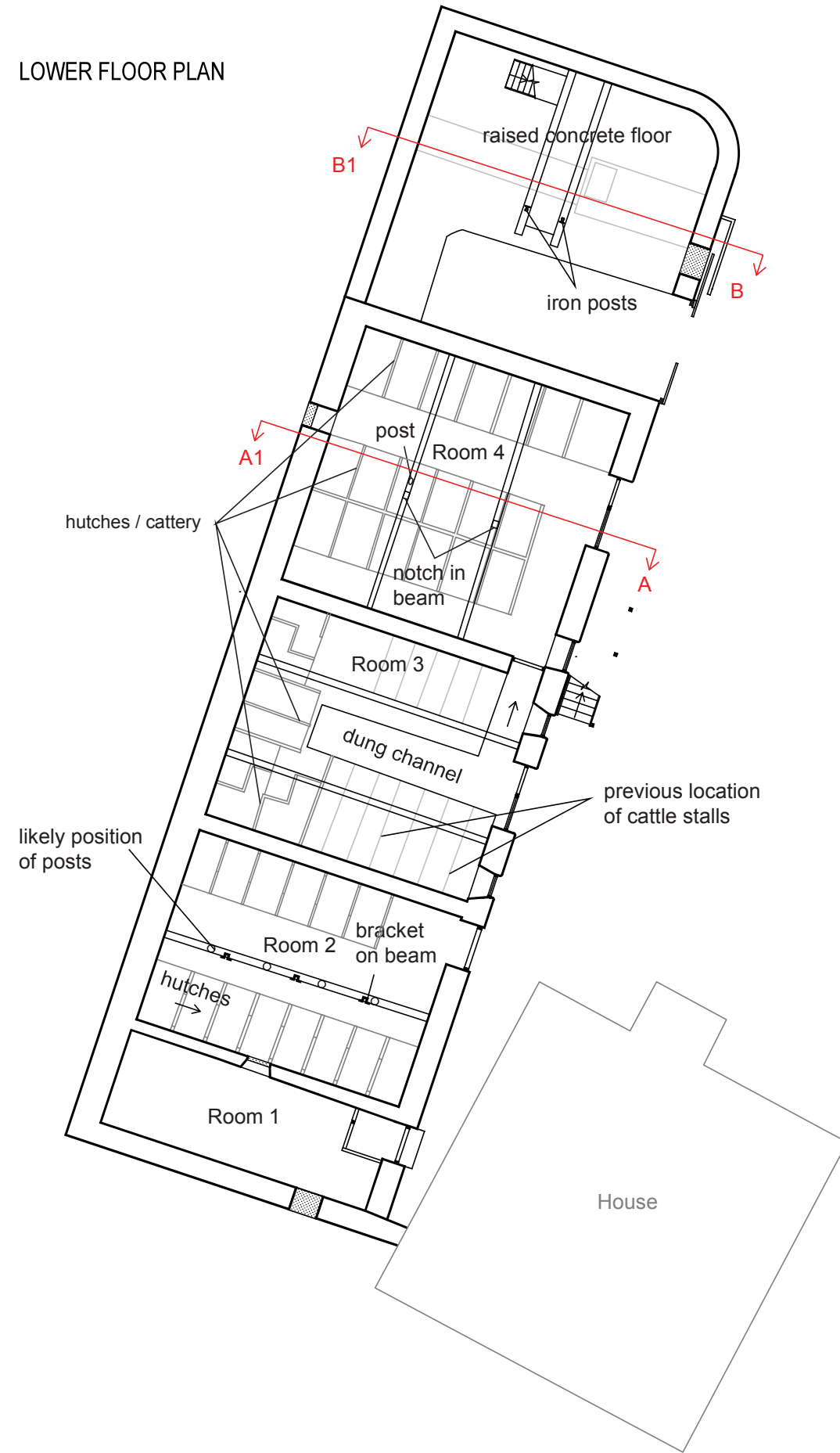
SOUTH ELEVATION



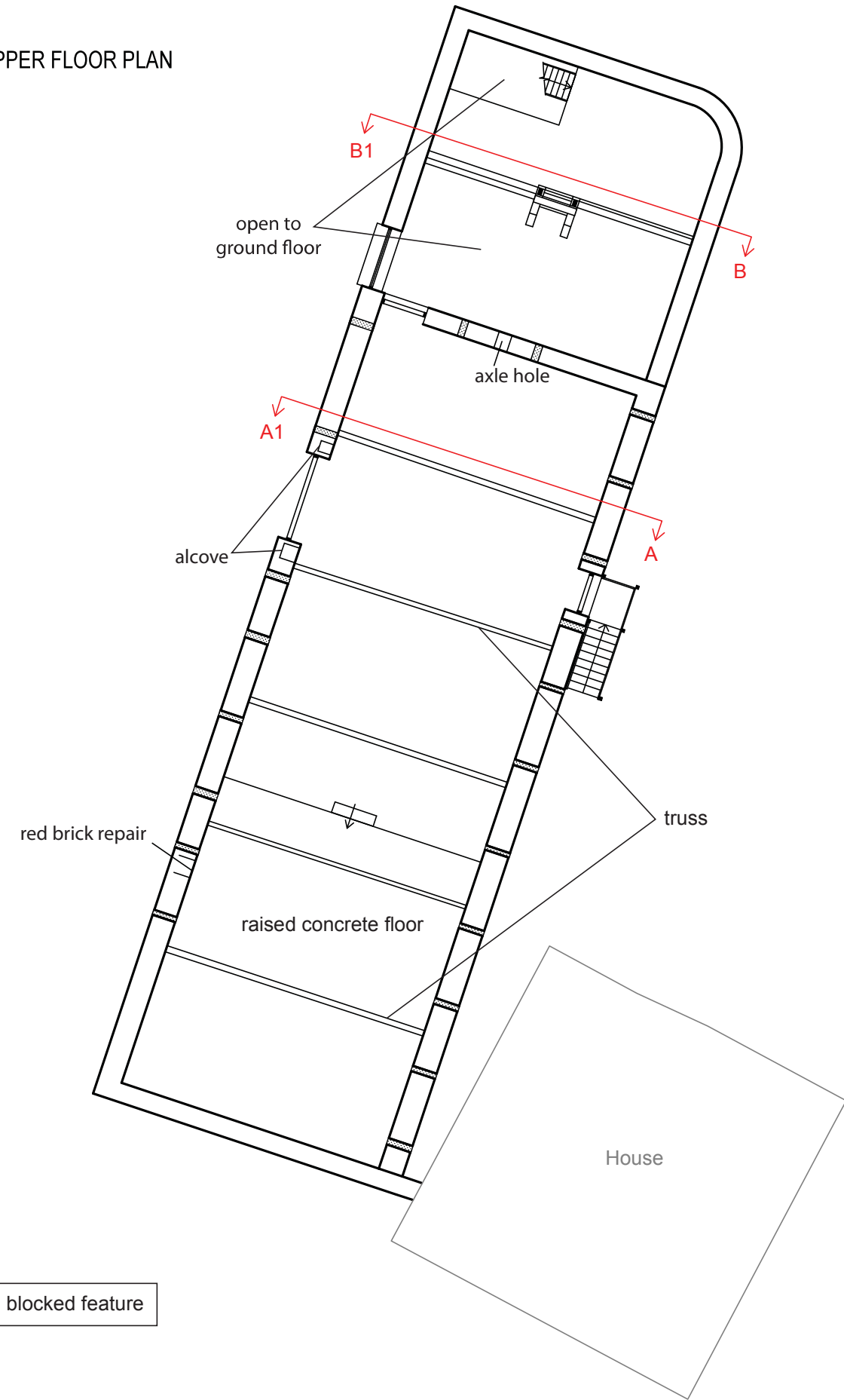
Key: blocked feature cross-sectional wall concrete render

Figure 2: External elevations

LOWER FLOOR PLAN



UPPER FLOOR PLAN



Key: [shaded square] blocked feature

Figure 3: Floor plans

4.4 Internal Detail

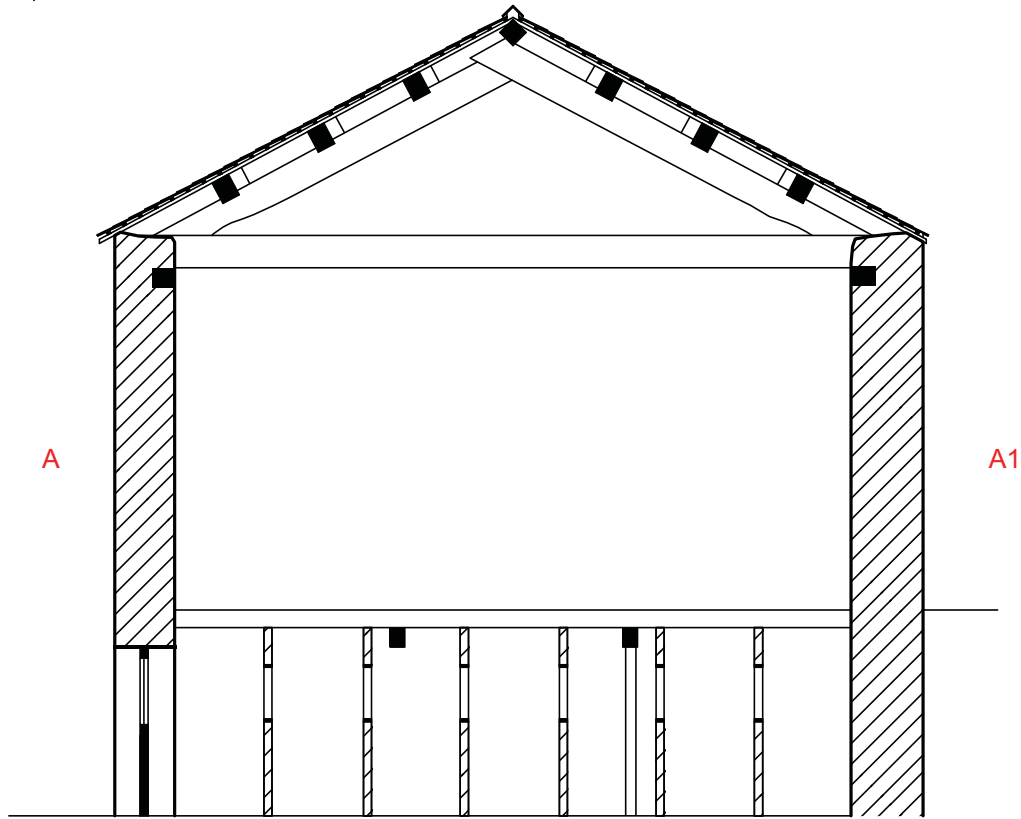
4.4.1 **Upper Floor, Barn:** this comprises a single large room, open to the roof. The walls are all exposed stone, with some patchy plaster, particularly at the north end of the east and west elevations and the north elevation. The floor is finished with sheets of chipboard, and steps up towards the south end. The roof is supported by five tie beam trusses all constructed from a neatly hand-finished and hand-sawn timber with a slight stop chamfer (Plate 16). In each case the principal rafters are joined by a simple lap-joint, the west side resting on the east; these joints are presumably held by pegs but these were not evident, nor were there any other construction marks although there were possible hewing marks on the underside of one of the tie beams. The ends of the tie beams sit on timber plates built into the east and west elevations and there are three purlins per pitch, the ends of which overlap at each truss, and a diagonally-set ridge purlin. The room is illuminated by two small two-light skylights.



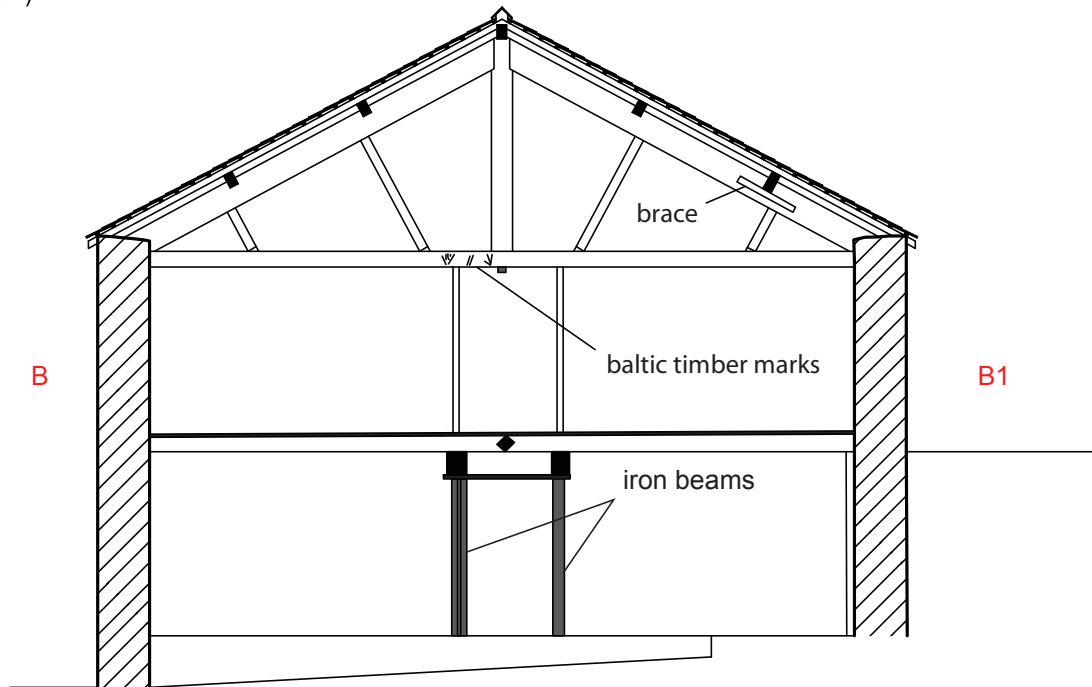
Plate 16: Trusses within the upper floor

4.4.2 The west side of the north elevation has a pedestrian doorway with a thin timber lintel, which, although it has large quoins, appears to be inserted as the east jamb has a noticeably different mortar. There are two rows of square vent slots visible; a lower row of four and a higher row of three. A large piece of evidently re-used timber (perhaps a former cruck blade) is set horizontally into the wall above the lower row of slots, with a smaller piece to the west, and there is a row of through stones below the lower row. There is a square owl hole below the apex, and another square hole at floor level, which evidently formed the access for the drive shaft for a threshing machine (see *Section 4.4.8* below). The east elevation also has two rows of square ventilation slots, and a doorway at the north end with a heavy timber lintel and quoined jambs (Plate 17). The east elevation appears to butt the south elevation. The south elevation has one definite row of ventilation slots at a higher level, plus at least one more below, and a row of through stones. There is an owl hole below the apex, although this is partially obscured by an attached board. The west elevation has some roughly dressed and perhaps re-used stones at the south end, and two rows of ventilation slots and a row of through stones. There is a large wagon doorway at the north end (Plate 18) with large quoins and a timber lintel, which is evidently re-used. Either side of it, a short distance above the floor level, there is a single small alcove.

SOUTH-WEST FACING CROSS-SECTION THROUGH BARN
(Section A - A1)



SOUTH-WEST FACING CROSS-SECTION THROUGH EXTENSION
(Section B - B1)



Key: ■ cross-sectional timber □ cross-sectional wall ■ iron

0 5m

Figure 4: Cross-sections

Client: Anne Martin

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Plate 17: (left) Doorway in the east elevation of the upper room



Plate 18: (right) Wagon doorway in the west elevation of the upper room

4.4.3 **Lower Floor, Barn – Room 1:** this very small room is entirely plain; the walls are all finished with modern unpainted plaster and it has a concrete floor and plasterboard ceiling. The south and west elevations are entirely plain apart from the electrical fittings. The north elevation has what is presumably a blocked doorway towards the centre, with a thin timber surround, which forms an alcove. The east elevation has inserted plasterboard partitions forming a small lobby around the doorway proper; the main doorway has a timber lintel while the inner doorway has a modern panel door. There is a large metal pipe inserted through the wall to the south of the doorway.

4.4.4 **Lower Floor, Barn – Room 2:** this was evidently originally a cow house that was subsequently converted for use as a cattery. It has a painted concrete floor, with a slotted drain on the east side, and a plasterboard ceiling, with a single east/west beam with stop-chamfer decoration denoting the position of original stall posts (four in total) and three looped iron brackets attached, which extend through the ceiling and presumably attach to the floor above in some fashion (Plate 19). The walls all have a modern painted finish. The north and south elevations have had modern partition walls added to form pens for the cattery, each with a window and with a mesh door at the end of the pen (Plate 20). The east elevation has a modern sink attached and a fuse box and there is a doorway on the north side with a rough timber lintel and a plank and batten door.

4.4.5 **Lower Floor, Barn – Room 3:** this room too was evidently originally used as a cow house and subsequently converted for use as a cattery. Similarly, it has a painted concrete floor, which is raised on the north and south sides to form a central dung channel, with a further extension of this running towards a doorway in the north-east corner (into Room 4; Plate 21). The ceiling is finished with plasterboard and has two beams orientated east/west, again finished with chamfered decoration denoting the position of original stall posts. All of the walls have a modern finish; there are inserted partitions forming pens for the cattery against the west wall (Plate 22), and scars for what were evidently originally more of these against the rest of the north and south elevations. The east elevation has two windows with slightly splayed jambs, either side of a large doorway, with a heavy timber lintel, housing a modern door and window. This lintel might have been re-used as it has a stop-chamfer decoration at the south end but not the north.



Plate 19: (left) Beam in the ceiling of Room 2, showing chamfer

Plate 20: (right) General view of Room 2



Plate 21: (left) Channel leading to the doorway in the north-east corner of Room 3

Plate 22: (right) Pens against the west elevation of Room 3

4.4.6 Lower Floor, Barn – Room 4: this has a plain, painted concrete floor. The ceiling is finished with plasterboard and has two beams orientated north/south. These are essentially plain, although they are both slightly chamfered and have a large notch cut out towards the north end; the western beam has a large post supporting it just to the north of this notch (Plate 23). The walls have an entirely modern finish throughout and there are inserted modern partitions across the centre of the room, extending from the west elevation, forming pens (Plate 24). Each wall has a single window and each pen has a mesh door. The north elevation is plain, while the east elevation has a small window and doorway, the latter with a rough timber lintel, and there is a slotted drain in the floor adjacent to it. The south elevation has a doorway towards its east end with an ovolo-moulded surround and modern timber six-panel door. The west elevation has a small high-level window at its north end, with a hinged single-light iron casement (Plate 24).



Plate 23: (left) Empty slot in beam and added post, lower floor Room 4

Plate 24: (right) Pens in lower floor Room 4

4.4.7 Northern extension: an upper floor only really exists on the north side of the room, where it is accessible via a short flight of timber steps. Its floor comprises tongue and groove boards supported by joists orientated east/west and incorporating elements of the timber superstructure relating to a former horse engine (see *Section 4.4.8* below). There is a single king post truss, which is slightly notched to accommodate the principal rafters and bolted to the tie beam (Plate 25). The truss also has two pairs of angled braces and two upright posts butt the base of the tie beam extending from the structure below, and there are Baltic timber marks on the north face of the tie beam. There are two purlins per pitch, all of which are machine cut, and a vertically set ridge purlin. The walls at this level tend to have a patchy plaster remaining. The north elevation is plain. The east elevation has been reduced in thickness above the large doorway and has clearly been rebuilt in this area. The south elevation is formed by what was the original north external elevation of the main barn, and has two visible rows of square ventilation slots, each with two slots, and at floor level in the centre of the elevation there is a square aperture with a large timber sill with sawn off projecting timbers either side. There is a doorway at the west end, which is evidently inserted as the east jamb is clearly rebuilt, which has a thin timber lintel. The west elevation has a large window on the south side, with a timber lintel.



Plate 25: (left) Truss in the north extension

Plate 26: (right) Horse engine structure in the north extension

4.4.8 The ground floor of the north extension has a concrete floor, which is lower in the south-east corner to enable vehicular access. There are apparent scars in the remaining area, perhaps for fixings of some sort although some perhaps just reflect the way in which the floor was laid. The north half of the room has a ceiling formed by the partial floor above and incorporated into the centre of this is a large structure, presumably associated with a former horse engine. This comprises two heavy timber beams orientated north/south, apparently sawn off at the south end (with stubs still *in situ* in the south elevation), which are each supported by a vertical I-beam at the south end, bolted on via L-shaped brackets (Plate 26). The two timber beams each have Baltic timber marks on the underside and there are additional planks and fixings attached to the structure (Plate 27 and Plate 28). All of the walls have the patchy remains of a rough whitewash and there are timber plates forming wall plates beneath the joists and beams of the upper floor throughout. The north elevation is plain. The east elevation has a blocked window on the south side, filled with re-used dressed stone, with some evidence of rebuilding, and a large doorway with three lights over and an iron girder forming its lintel. The south elevation is relatively plain at this level, as is the west elevation although there are two upright timbers attached to the joists against it.



Plate 27: (left) The horse engine structure from below

Plate 28: (right) The horse engine structure from above

5. Discussion

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The building undoubtedly pre-dates 1842 as it is shown on the Tithe Map of that year. Earlier dating evidence is not forthcoming, although the style of the truss might suggest an 18th or early 19th century date (Brunskill 2002, 153). Kendall's plan of 1799 shows that the building was present, but it is not certain how accurate this plan is; his records indicate that this building, along with all of the other barns in Salthouse, was rebuilt between 1802 and 1827. The results of the building recording seem to confirm many of the statements made by WB Kendall, and his detailed history of the hamlet, combined with the available map evidence, allows a relatively detailed development of the building to be presented.

5.2 Development of the building

5.2.1 The building shows clear evidence of three major periods of construction and alteration. Fortunately, at least one of these can be identified in the map regression and the available documentary sources mean that the sequence can be quite closely dated.

5.2.2 **Phase 1:** the barn was originally constructed as a combination bank barn with a threshing floor in the upper level, presumably with associated grain storage, most probably at the slightly raised south end (the owl holes were intended to encourage owls to enter the building to reduce pests). The lower floor would have formed one or more cow houses or shippens most likely with associated loose boxes, calf pens and the like. The documentary evidence suggests that this took place as part of a general period of rebuilding of barns in Salthouse carried out between 1802 and 1827 (Kendall 1948, 38) and the relationship between the house and barn clearly demonstrate that it occurred after the present house was built in 1800 (*op cit*, 36; this contradicts the suggestion in the listing that it is mid-18th century in date – see *Appendix 1*). There is evidence that materials from other buildings, both timber and stone, were re-used in the construction of the barn. This is likely to have come from buildings that previously stood on the same site, although the apparently re-used column fragment could have been taken from Furness Abbey – the quarrying of material from the Abbey following the Dissolution was evidently commonplace in the area, particularly at sites formerly associated with it, and has been identified at several other sites (for example Greenlane Archaeology 2006; 2007a; 2009). The re-use of timber is also thought to have been commonplace in vernacular buildings such as this from at least the 17th century (Tyson 2000).

5.2.3 **Phase 2:** the cartographic evidence shows that the extension to the north end of the barn was added between 1842 and 1847. This evidently formed a horse engine for powering a threshing machine – the horses would have been walked around the interior of the room (hence the rounded corner), turning a mechanism that in turn rotated a large upright drive shaft, which powered an axle that passed through the wall into the upper floor of the barn. (The dating of this addition seems to contradict Kendall's account, which states that a threshing machine was not added to the farm until 1858 (Kendall 1948, 36)). The presence of Baltic timber marks broadly fits the dating of this phase – these were typically used in the late 18th or early 19th century (Greene 1995; 1996), although examples dating from the late 19th century have been recorded locally (Greenlane Archaeology 2007b; 2007c). It is notable that Kendall states that foreign timber was imported from Liverpool in 1800 and 1802 for the rebuilding of two of the farmhouses at Salthouse, including that now forming number 143 Salthouse Road (Kendall 1948, 37), and it is likely that this would have been from the Baltic or North America. It is possible that this structure originally had more open walls with larger gaps intended to provide ventilation as it is apparent that the upper level was built in a very different material to the lower, and there were clearly other alterations. However, the material used perhaps more likely reflects the ad hoc nature in which it was built, combined with later, more cosmetic alterations. It is also conceivable that the apparent alterations to the beams below the threshing floor (Room 4), including the apparent addition of a supporting post, might relate to the alterations of this phase, reflecting a need for increased floor strength due to the use of a large mechanical threshing machine on the floor above.

5.2.4 Other alterations seem likely to have also been carried out during this general period (the mid to late 19th century). The two small windows in the east elevation of the lower floor appear to have been

inserted and their addition would certainly be typical of alterations carried out at that time, when agricultural theorists considered increased illumination and ventilation to be beneficial to the health of the animals (Brunskill 2007, 66-67). Smaller changes were undoubtedly also made at this time, but these are difficult to distinguish in most cases – the window added on the west side of Room 4 was probably inserted at around this time or slightly later.

5.2.5 Phase 3: in the later 20th century the lower floor of the barn was converted into a cattery, which most likely involved the removal of any remaining cattle stalls, and partition walls were added to form pens. This is must have occurred in or after 1982, although the date of 1966 scored into the concrete around a pipe probably inserted as part of this period of alteration perhaps indicates that changes were being made before this date. Activity carried out during this phase probably also included the blocking of several doors, windows, owl holes and ventilation slots, as well as the removal of the majority of the horse engine structure and the conversion of the north extension into a garage. It is apparent that the timber staircase leading to the upper floor doorway in the east elevation were not added until 1979, perhaps leading to the partial blocking of a doorway they crossed in front of, but this change also belongs to this phase.

5.3 Significance and Recommendations

5.3.1 The barn is a good example of a building of its type and date, with many features having remained in good and original condition. The removal of the animal stalls, insertion of cat pens, and general modernisation of the lower floor in the 1960s or 1970s has, however, adversely affected the appearance of these areas and disguised much of its original character. In addition, the loss of the majority of the horse engine structure in the extension to the north is also unfortunate. It seems likely, however, that these alterations were carried out before the barn and house were listed in 1976 (see *Appendix 1*). The building and its associated buildings – the former farmhouse, wash house, and pig sty or hen house, form an attractive and significant part of the former hamlet of Salthouse and the good quality maintenance that they have so far received has ensured that they have remained so.

5.3.2 It is recommended as much of the original appearance as possible be maintained, especially with regard to the east elevation, which forms an attractive façade and is the most visible part of the site. Internally retaining as much original timber as possible, particularly the trusses would be ideal; the remains of the horse engine structure are of interest but are incomplete and evidently damaged. The retention of any elements of this would also be ideal if at all practicable.

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6.3 Planning Applications

6/82/048/075, 1982 *Change of Use of Barn to Premises for Boarding Cats for Mr and Mrs N. Bircher*

Appendix 1: Listed Building Details

From: English Heritage 2007

Images of England Number: 388580

Location: NUMBER 143 WITH ATTACHED BARN, SALTHOUSE ROAD BARROW IN FURNESS, BARROW IN FURNESS, CUMBRIA

Date listed: 06 May 1976

Date of last amendment: 20 December 1993

Grade II

BARROW IN FURNESS SD26NW SALTHOUSE ROAD 708-1/6/124 (North side) 06/05/76 No.143 (Formerly Listed as: SALTHOUSE ROAD No.143 with attached barn) GV II Farmhouse. Probably rebuilt c1800. Scored stucco, graduated slate roof. 2 storeys and attic, 2 bays. Doorway to left of centre has uPVC door in ashlar surround with slab hood on shaped brackets. Projecting stone sills and raised surrounds to uPVC casements. Illegible date plaque above door. Shaped kneelers but copings removed. Yellow brick end stacks. INTERIOR: earlier principal-rafter truss.

Images of England Number: 388581

Location: BARN IMMEDIATELY TO WEST OF NUMBER 143, SALTHOUSE ROAD (north side) BARROW IN FURNESS, BARROW IN FURNESS, CUMBRIA

Date listed: 06 May 1976

Date of last amendment: 20 December 1993

Grade II

BARROW IN FURNESS SD26NW SALTHOUSE ROAD 708-1/6/125 (North side) 06/05/76 Barn immediately to west of No.143 (Formerly Listed as: SALTHOUSE ROAD No.143 with attached barn) GV II Barn now cattery and workshops. Mid C18. Stone rubble with ashlar dressings, graduated slate roof. 2-storey, 6-bay bank barn with lower 2-storey addition at north end. Chamfered plinth, large quoins and projecting throughs. 3 basket-arched doorways to ground floor (central opening now window); similar taking-in door to 1st floor on right; ashlar gable copings. Later addition on right has C20 sliding doors and rounded corner. Rear: waggon entrance with basket arch under slated canopy on wooden brackets. INTERIOR: 5 principal-rafter trusses, triple purlins. Addition to north has incomplete floor framing that suggests position of horse gin.