

PIEL VIEW FARM, BIGGAR VILLAGE, WALNEY, BARROW-IN-FURNESS, CUMBRIA

Archaeological Building Recording



Client: Storey Sharp
Construction

Planning ref.: 142/2006/0010

NGR: 319210 466148

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Non-Technical Summary

A planning application was made for the conversion of a disused barn at Piel View Farm, Biggar Village, Walney, Barrow-in-Furness. An archaeological condition was placed on the application, and following discussions with Charles Wilton, Principal Planning Officer at Barrow Borough Council, and Jeremy Parsons, Historic Environment Officer at Cumbria County Council, this was confirmed as an English Heritage Level 3-type building recording. The work was carried by Greenlane Archaeology in October 2009.

Little is known about the history of the site, although the farm is clearly shown on the tithe map of 1843 at which time it had largely assumed its current form. Biggar Village has at least medieval origins; it is named among the properties of Furness Abbey in 1292, and the name itself appears to contain both Old English and Norse elements. Detailed background history relating to the site was relatively scarce; the first reference to 'Piel View Farm' appears to only be in 1913 and it is not known from what date this name originates, making documentary research difficult.

In total four buildings were recorded, comprising two threshing barns, which may have had associated grain stores, a horse gin, and a shippon. Six phases of enlargement and alteration at the site were revealed, the earliest of which would appear to date from the late 18th century. At this time many farm buildings were being constructed as grain was fetching record prices; the L-shaped plan of farm buildings was common amongst this new wave of building. The phases identified fit well with regional and national trends, illustrating an early focus on arable farming, which was economised in the early part of the 19th century through the addition of a horse gin. A move to dairy farming occurred in the early to mid 20th century, and this may have been in response to enormous increases in output aimed at self-sufficiency during the Second World War.

Acknowledgements

Greenlane Archaeology would like to thank Storey Sharp Construction for commissioning the project and Mark Gadsden of M & P Gadsden for providing copies of the 'as existing' drawings, Charles Wilton, Planning Officer at Barrow Borough Council, for approving the original project design, and the staff of the Cumbria Record Office in Barrow and Lancashire Record Office in Preston for their help with accessing the archives. Further thanks are also due to the current owner of Piel View Farm who provided additional information about the site.

The desk-based assessment was carried out by Steve Clarke and Sam Whitehead, the building recording was carried out by Sam Whitehead and Tom Mace. The report was written by Sam Whitehead and the figures were finalised by Tom Mace. The project was managed by Dan Elsworth, who also edited the report along with Tom Mace and Jo Dawson.

1. Introduction

1.1 Circumstances of the Project

1.1.1 Following an application by Storey Sharp Construction to convert barns to residential accommodation (Ref. 142/2006/0010) at Piel View Farm, Biggar Village, Walney, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria (NGR 319210 466148), a Level 3-type Building Recording (English Heritage 2006) was requested by Charles Wilton, Planning Officer at Barrow Borough Council, following advice from Jeremy Parsons, Historic Environment Officer at Cumbria County Council. A project design was produced by Greenlane Archaeology (see *accompanying CD*) and following its acceptance the recording was undertaken in October 2009.

1.2 Location, Geology, and Topography

1.2.1 Piel View Farm is located at the south-east corner of the village of Biggar, which is just below the midpoint on the east side of Walney Island. The landscape is mainly made up of fields of semi-natural pasture (Countryside Commission 1998, 29) with the central part of the island being built up by the conurbation of Vickerstown, which is essentially an overspill from Barrow-in-Furness on the mainland. The island is essentially a sandbar and Biggar is a mere 5.5m above sea level (Ordnance Survey 2005). The solid geology of the area comprises Triassic Mercian Mudstones with a thick overlay of glacial boulder clays (Moseley 1978, plate 1).

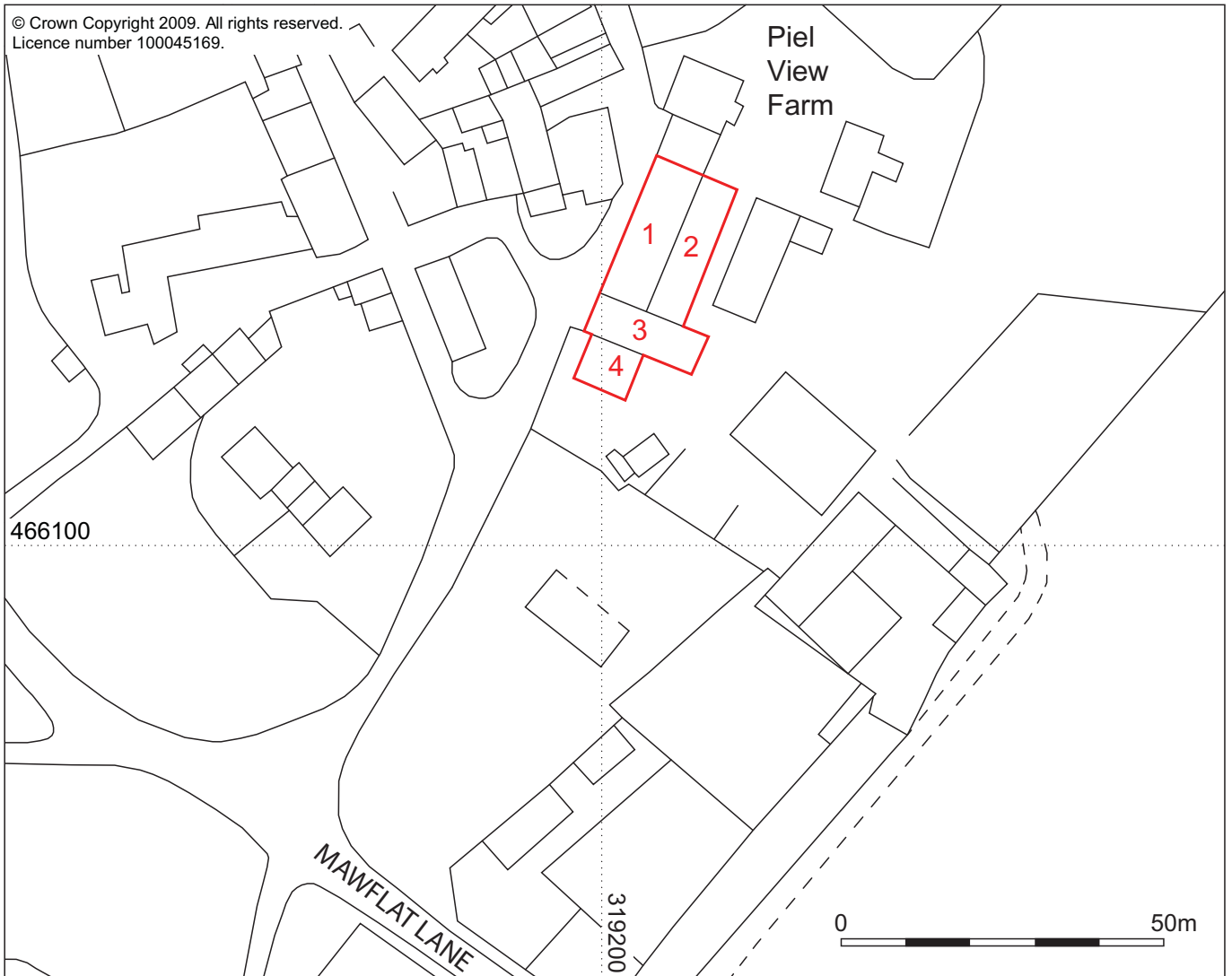
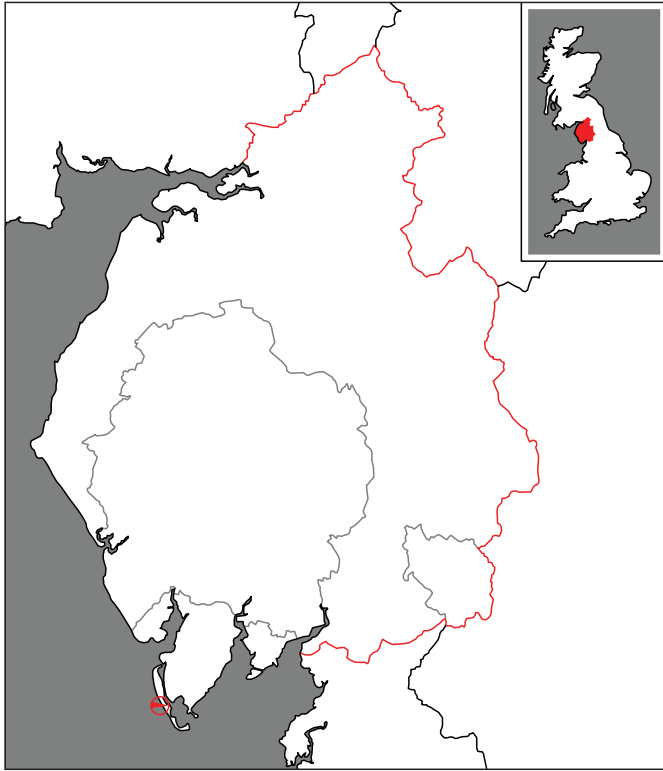


Figure 1: Site location plan, showing building numbers

2. Methodology

2.1 Introduction

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

2.2 Desk-Based Assessment

2.2.1 The rapid desk-based assessment comprised an examination of early maps of the site which could demonstrate the basic phasing and development of the buildings. In addition the Tithe and Ratings Valuation schedules relating to the site were consulted in order to establish who the owners and occupiers of the site had been and so that information about the probable use of the buildings could be gathered. Secondary sources relating to the general history of the local area were also examined to provide a historical context for the results of the investigation:

- **Cumbria Record Office in Barrow-in-Furness (CRO(B))**: this was visited in order to examine early plans of the site, and local and regional histories and directories;
- **Lancashire Record Office in Preston**: as the site was formerly in Lancashire there are relevant records held in the Lancashire Record Office. These were examined in order to provide additional historical information;
- **Greenlane Archaeology library**: additional secondary sources were examined 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 buildings 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 buildings, 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, or producing original drawings on site. These comprised:
 - i. plans of all of the main floors, at 1:100;
 - ii. a cross-section, at 1:50;
 - iii. the principal external elevations, at 1:100.

2.3.2 For ease of description the buildings were numbered from 1 to 4 from west to east and from north to south (see Figure 1 and Figure 3).

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). The paper and digital archive and a copy of this report will be deposited in the Cumbria Record Office in Barrow-in-Furness on completion of the project. One copy of this report will be supplied to Charles Wilton at Barrow Borough Council, one will be deposited with the Cumbria Historic Environment Record, one with the client, and one will be retained by Greenlane Archaeology. In addition, a digital copy will be made on the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) scheme.

3. Desk-Based Assessment

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The background history of the site is intended to help place the results of this investigation in their local context. More specifically, information regarding the development and use of the buildings, where known, is also presented.

3.2 Background History

3.2.1 **Biggar:** the earliest documentary evidence of the village of Biggar dates to 1292 in the *Furness Coucher Book* (Ekwall 1922, 205). The name 'Biggar' is thought to possibly be a combination of the Norse 'bygg' meaning barley, with either of the following; 'ergh' meaning hut or pasture, or 'gara', a triangular piece of land (*ibid*). However, the second element is perhaps more likely to derive from garth meaning enclosure (Melville 1958, 6). During the medieval period Biggar was a grange belonging to Furness Abbey, before becoming Crown property at the time of the Dissolution in 1537 (Barnes 1968, 50). After General Monk helped to bring about the restoration of Charles II he was created Duke of Albemarle and endowed with the lordships of Clitheroe and Furness (Farrer and Brownbill 1914, 299-300). This lordship descended until 1884, eventually passing to the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensbury until 1910, when it was passed to his eldest son the Earl of Dalkeith the Lord of Furness (*ibid*).

3.2.2 The tenants of Biggar, along with those from Northscale and several other villages, were responsible for the upkeep of Biggar Dyke, the coastal defence just northwest of the village; a responsibility that began during the medieval period and continued into the early 19th century (*op cit*, 56). By this time the 16 Biggar tenants were liable for 19 days of maintenance per year (*ibid*). Biggar was latterly known for its peculiar form of internal government – someone from each farmstead was in turn appointed the 'Grave', the headman of the village, responsible for its administration whose deeds were recorded in a Grave Book (Pearson 1896, 74). He in turn was aided by three other men from the village, the 'Pain Lookers', whose primary role was to maintain the '*panes or valves which closed the dykes and goits*' (*ibid*). This undoubtedly has its origins in the original monastic establishment of the village (Barnes 1968, 37), and it remained the case that a resident of each of the original 16 tenements was expected to take their turn (Pearson 1896, 75).

3.2.3 During the later 19th century, following the phenomenal growth of Barrow, common land around Biggar High Bank became used as an informal area for recreation (Marshall 1958, 411). This came to a head in 1878 when attempts were made to establish public access rights to this land, in response to which the 16 tenement holders divided it up between them and enclosed it (Pearson 1911, 195-196). An ensuing riot led to the destruction of these fences and matters were not resolved until the Corporation of Barrow managed to persuade the Biggar tenants to sell the land (*op cit*, 196). The land was subsequently improved, and on Good Friday 1883 20,000 people visited it (Marshall 1958, 412). This was the beginning of a considerable amount of change in Biggar; more land was sold, farms abandoned (Pearson 1896, 197), and the original character of the place was irrevocably changed. However, many of the original buildings remained and a description from 1967 shows how little the village had probably changed over the centuries, and provides some interesting insights into the form of the local architecture:

'Most of the buildings are constructed from boulders from the shore and cemented together.

There appears to be little order, although some awkward corners have been removed and other buildings modernised, but most of them still retain their old beams, some of which came from wrecked vessels. The old bolt holes can be seen in many places.

The oldest dated stone, to my knowledge, on a farm building is 1686 and it would appear that most of the houses were rebuilt in the late 17th and early 18th centuries' (Melville 1967, 6).

3.2.4 **Piel View Farm:** the origins of the farm are uncertain but it is apparently of some antiquity. It is clearly present on the earliest detailed maps of the area (see Section 3.3 below), but as it is not specifically named on these maps it is difficult to be certain how long the present name has been in use.

Indeed, a list of the farms at Biggar written in 1967 includes: Marsh Farm, Town End, Mid Town, The Manor and the Hill (Meville 1967, 6), but not Piel View, so it is possible that it was listed under another name at one time; it is notable that Hill Farm is very close by (see Plate 5). The earliest recorded reference to Piel View Farm seems to be from only 1913, when it is named 'Piel View' (The Barrow News and Mail Limited 1913, 168). Rather confusingly Thomas Mawson, the renowned architect, acquired a 'Piel View Farm' with 42 acres in 1902, to build a park; however, this turned out to not to be in Biggar but the main park in Barrow-in-Furness (Kissack 2006, 21). It is possible that the farm in Biggar acquired this name sometime after the park in Barrow was started, as the buildings there became 'Piel View House' and subsequently housed the park-keeper. Details about the elements making up the farm are also uncertain, apart from the evidence available on maps, especially in the absence of any sales particulars. The tithe schedule only listed the site as 'homestead' (CRO(B) BPR/1/I/3/1/1 1842), and later leases provide similarly scant details (for example CRO(B) BDHJ 71/4/38 1937). At some time before 1910 the farm was bought by Edward Wadham from Messrs Woodburne (CRO(B) BD HJ 71/4/80 1910) for reasons unknown. It is recorded, however, that Wadham was involved in the Biggar High Bank developments (Marshall 1958, 412) and that he was formerly the mineral agent for the Duke of Buccleuch (Anon 1913, 362-363), so his acquisition of land and properties at Biggar may have been connected to this.

3.2.5 **Occupiers:** the earliest occupiers of Piel View Farm, who can be identified with any certainty, were the Woodburn family. The tithe schedule names a Thomas T Woodburn as occupier and he and his descendants are also present in the census between 1841 to 1861 (see *Appendix 1*), although the farm is not specifically named. Thomas Trainer Woodburn was evidently of some importance within Biggar, having held the office of Grave in 1830 and 1831 (Pearson 1911, 192). Subsequent occupiers are more difficult to identify until the site is named in the directories of the 20th century, and a summary of these is given in Table 1 below:

Date	Name	Source
1841	Thomas T Woodburn	HO 107/529/4/14 1841
1842	T Trainer Woodburn	CRO(B) BPR/1/I/3/1/1 1842
1851	Thomas T Woodburn	HO 107/2275/242 1851
1857	Thomas Trainer Woodburn	CRO(B) BDHJ 182/8/3 1857
1861	William Woodburn	RG 9/3169/25 1861
1864	Agnes Woodburn	Kelly and Co 1864
1866	Agnes Woodburne	Mannex and Co 1866
1873	Mrs Agnes Woodburn	Kelly and Co 1873
1913	T Haslam	The Barrow News and Mail Limited 1913, 168
1915	T Haslam	The Barrow News and Mail Limited 1915, 152
1925	H Veal	The Barrow News and Mail Limited 1925, 160
1937	HS Senogles	CRO(B) BDHJ 71/4/38 1937
1958	James Hayton	Armthwaite 1958, 134

Table 1: Recorded occupiers of Piel View Farm

3.3 Map Regression

3.3.1 **Introduction:** a number of early maps of the site were examined and this revealed that three of the four main farm buildings had been present from 1842 at the latest, and that the farm had changed very little since this time.

3.3.2 **Hennet's county plan of 1830:** this is little use due to the small scale and has not been included; a building is shown in the vicinity of Piel View Farm but suitable detail is lacking to associate the two.

3.3.3 **Tithe map 1843:** this map clearly depicts the barn (Plate 1), which appears to have a horse gin on the south-west end (CRO(B) BPR 1/I/3/2 1843). The internal divisions are not shown and it is unclear if there is an associated farmhouse at this time. The schedule lists the property rather unhelpfully as 'homesteads'.

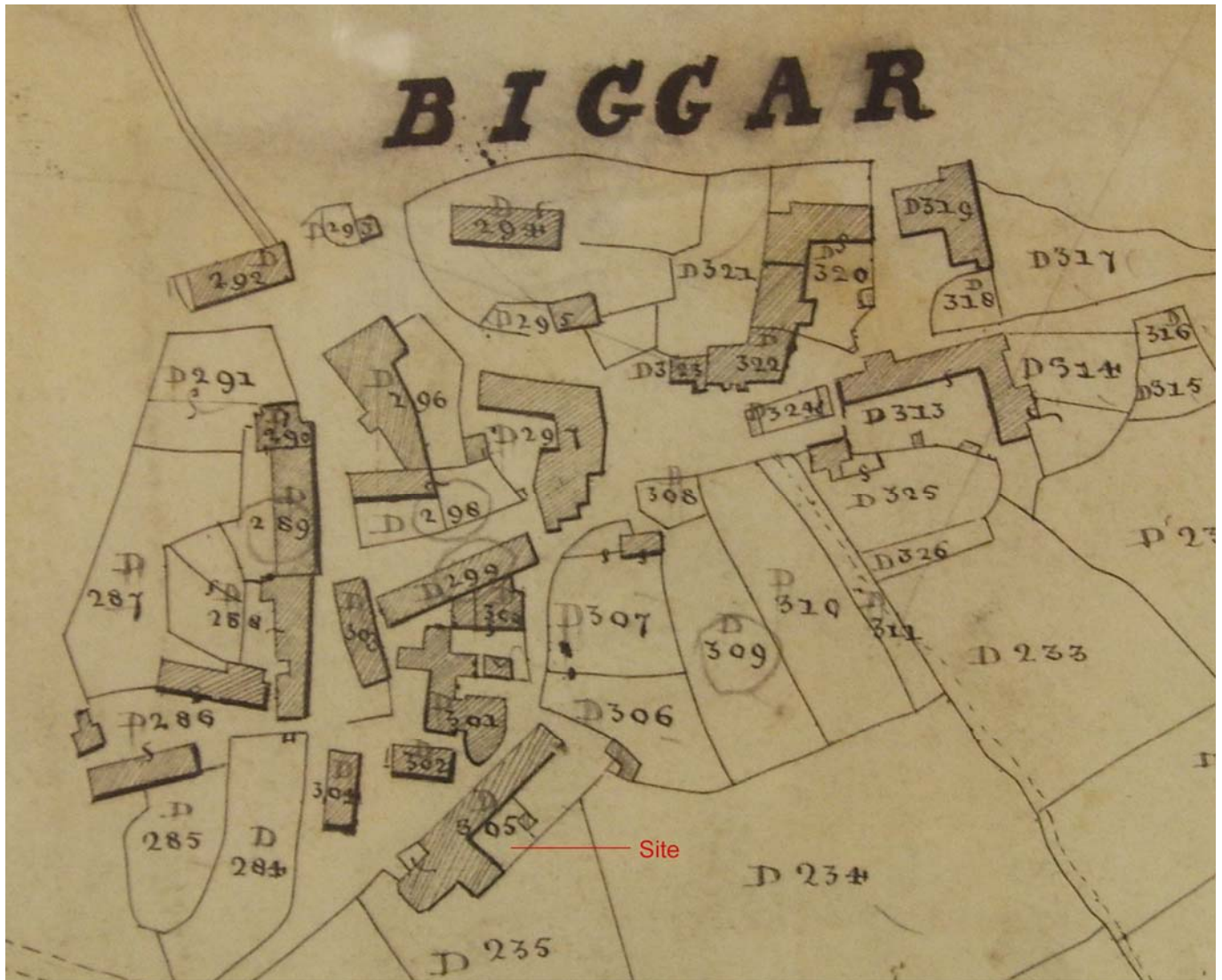


Plate 1: Extract from the Tithe map of 1843. The site is D305 at the south end of the village

3.3.4 **Ordnance Survey 1849**: this map, the first edition 1:10,560 scale, shows much the same information as the slightly earlier tithe map, although in less detail. It additionally labels a pump at the south end of the range of buildings and a bench mark with the height 29.6 feet.

3.3.5 **Ordnance Survey 1891**: this map, the first edition 1:2,500 scale, shows the buildings very clearly, and it is evident that the farmhouse has definitely been added at the north-east end of the range (Plate 2). Another small building has also appeared at the end of Building 3; this building was absent at the time of the building recording.

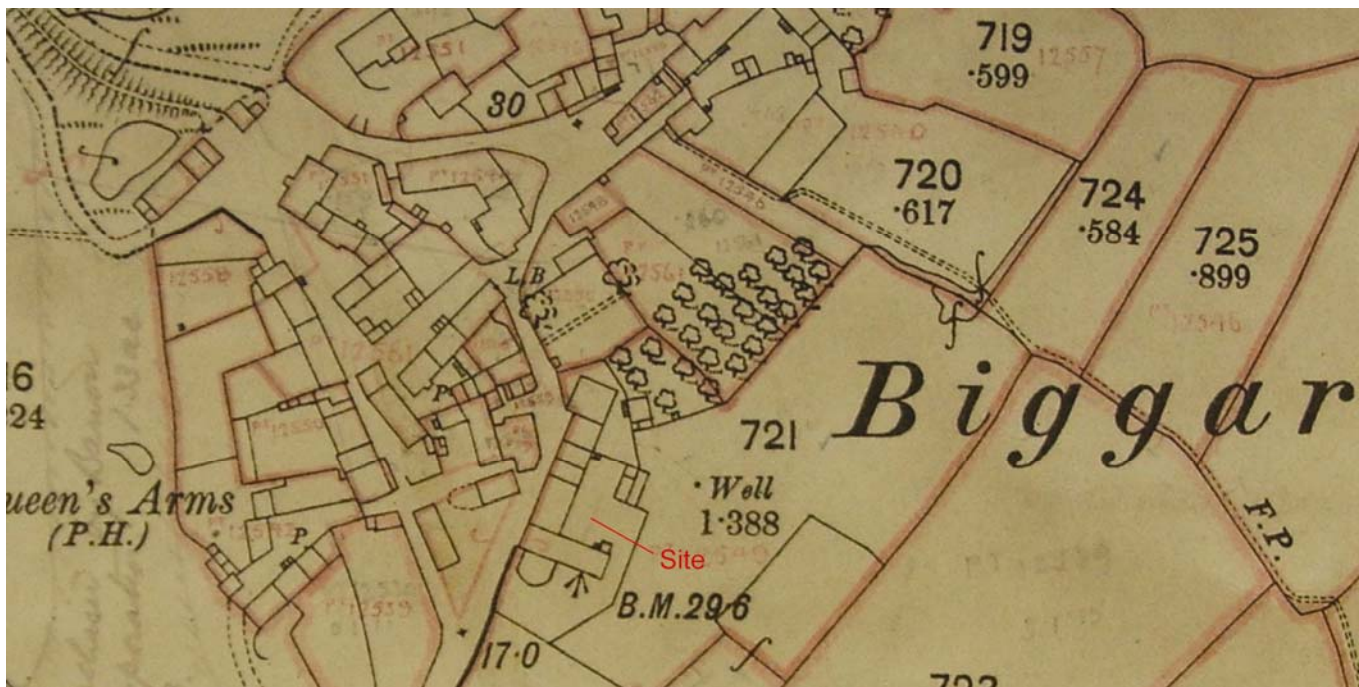


Plate 2: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1891

3.3.6 **Village plan, 1893:** this plan (CRO(B) BD BUC 43/4/8 1893) shows the whole farm in good detail (Plate 3); it is evident from the external steps that the main barn probably has haylofts, and possibly a granary. The gin ring is also clearly depicted as well as various outbuildings.

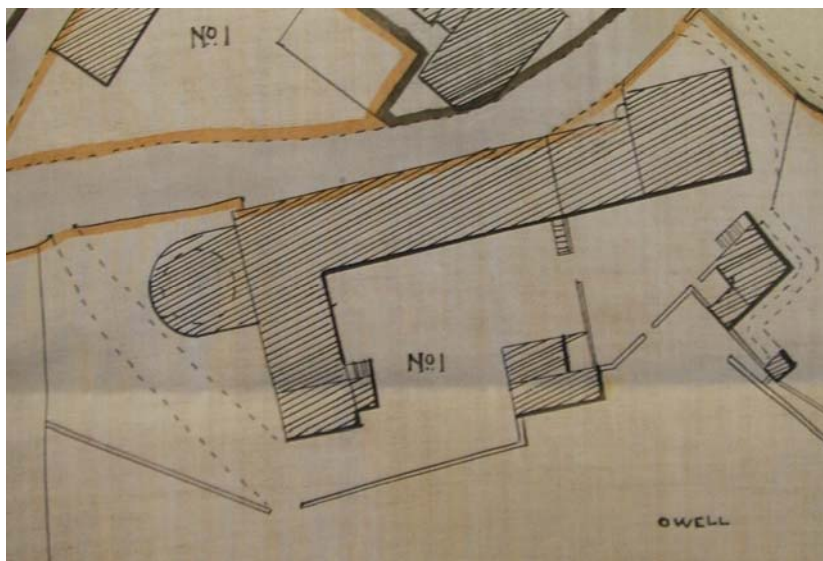


Plate 3: Extract from a Plan of Biggar village of 1893

3.3.7 **Ordnance Survey 1913:** this map shows that the shippon (Building 2) has yet to be built (Plate 4); however, a small addition is shown to the east of the horse gin (Building 4). The steps that access Building 3 also appear to have been removed by this date.



Plate 4: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1913

3.3.8 **Ordnance Survey 1959:** this is the first map available that shows the new shippon (Building 2), although no internal divisions are shown. The shippon (Building 2) was probably added quite a lot earlier than this; it was unfortunate that no Ordnance Survey map from the 1930s was available. This map also illustrates that the horse gin was still rounded at this time, and that the building to the east of Building 3 was still standing (Plate 5).

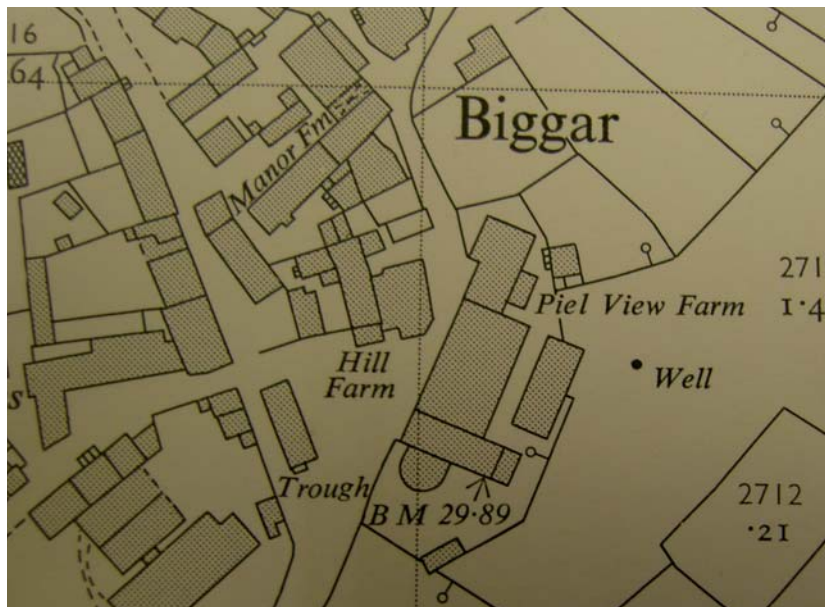


Plate 5: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1959

4. Building Recording

4.1 Arrangement and Fabric

4.1.1 A total of four farm buildings were recorded at Piel View Farm (see Figure 2). The buildings were arranged roughly north/south along a narrow lane located on the south-east side of the village. The buildings were numbered from 1 to 4 from west to east and from north to south for descriptive purposes (see Figure 1 and Figure 3). Building 1 was partitioned to form a small room at its north end (Room 1a), the ceiling for which was provided by a timber half loft. Similarly, Building 3 had a partitioned area to the east, Room 3a. There was a farmyard on the east side of the range, with open land to the east and south sides; the farmhouse and an associated domestic building were located at the north end of the range but were not included in the recording work.

4.1.2 All the buildings were constructed from un-coursed random beach and field cobbles or boulders, which were generally rounded and included slate and granite. These were derived from the boulder clays of the island, which are the product of glacial outwash from the north. The more recent buildings contained some quarried local stone types such as red sandstone, limestone, and slab slate, much of which might have been re-used. Red brick, concrete, and concrete blocks had also been incorporated into more recent alterations. The west external elevation of Building 1 had been coated in roughcast render while the rest of the building was generally bare.

4.2 External Detail

4.2.1 **Introduction:** as the buildings formed a linear range (Figures 2-4) description of the external elevations will begin from the north end of the west elevation and continue anticlockwise. Only Buildings 2 and 3 had external north elevations and will be discussed last; the north external elevation of Building 1 is obscured by the adjacent farmhouse. Where the external elevations of earlier buildings have been obscured and currently form internal aspects of later buildings, the appropriate internal elevation should be consulted (see Section 4.3). The roof structures and materials are also discussed as part of the internal detail (Section 4.3) under the appropriate building number.

4.2.2 **West elevation:** this elevation begins with Room 1a, at the north end of Building 1, which sits between the current farmhouse, to the north, and the range of farm buildings to the south; the change in roof height indicated this junction which was obscured by external render (Figure 2). The two features that pertain to Room 1a are a doorway and a small window at the north end of the elevation (Plate 6). The doorway, which had been left un-rendered, had even-sized, roughly-dressed, red-sandstone quoins and lintel. The jambs and sill of the window were entirely rendered and the aperture had been boarded up within a rudimentary timber frame.

4.2.3 Some distance to the south, and still pertaining to Building 1, there was a second window which had a slate sill below a boarded aperture. Towards the south end of Building 1 was the main wagon doorway to the barn (Plate 7). The doorway housed two rudimentary plank doors which were hung from strap hinges affixed to the underside of a re-used oak lintel. This oak lintel was hidden behind the exterior lintel fashioned from an iron beam, indicating that this doorway had been inserted or raised in height. A patch of render was missing at the upper part of the north jamb, revealing roughly-dressed red sandstone quoins; the upper three were noticeably better dressed, and further suggested the height of the doorway had been raised. In contrast the jamb on the south side of the doorway was largely fashioned from beach cobbles, which were visible only from inside the doorway; the raising of height was facilitated by the addition of four concrete blocks (Plate 21). This wagon doorway was flanked by narrow slot vents that appeared to be original and flared out internally.



Plate 6 (left): West external elevation from the north



Plate 7 (right): West external elevation from the south

4.2.4 The end of the rendered part of this elevation corresponded with the junction of Building 1 and Building 3, although no quoins were evident in this region, which perhaps indicates that the two buildings were contemporary, or that some re-building of this area had been carried out (Plate 8). Building 3 was un-rendered and un-roofed and contained a central doorway, which was blocked, with a square vent slot on either side and a second higher slot evident on the south side. The doorway had an ornate arch (Plate 8) formed by roughly dressed stones under a shallow slate drip hood, the jambs were quoined with some of the more angular beach stones. The doorway was only 1m in height, perhaps suggesting that considerable banking had formed above the original ground level. The quoins at the south end of this building were formed from stout and random beach or field boulders; the top of the wall was horizontal but it seems probable that this originally formed the gable end of Building 3.

4.2.5 The final section of this elevation is that belonging to Building 4 (Plate 9), the former horse gin case, which was set back from the main elevation by about 1m. This elevation contained a higher proportion of locally sourced quarried stone, such as limestone, red sandstone and slate, which had been used between courses. The north half of this elevation was full height and contained what might have been a blocked doorway; it was wider than would have been necessary for a pedestrian, so it was perhaps to provide access for horses, although it might have been an aperture to provide ventilation. This blocked doorway had a roughly-squared oak lintel (Plate 9). The south end of the elevation was mostly open above knee height, with two horizontal planks spanning the gap between the wall at the north end and the vertical timber post which formed the south-west corner of the building.



Plate 8 (left): Junction of Building 1 and Building 3 at the south end of the west elevation



Plate 9 (right): Blocked doorway in Building 4

4.2.6 **South elevation:** the west end of this elevation was formed by Building 4, the horse gin (Plate 10). This side of the building was of modern construction with circular timber posts at each corner and one in the middle; these upright timber posts resembled telegraph poles. The lower half of the elevation was constructed largely from concrete blocks, with some ashlar blocks of red sandstone, as well as brick, forming the east corner; above this section of the wall vertical planks had been affixed to horizontal planks which spanned the gap between the upright posts. The timber was all modern.

4.2.7 East of the horse gin, the remaining part of the elevation, which was formed by Building 3, was set back several metres from the horse gin. There was a large wagon doorway at the west end of Building 3 (see Figure 3); this doorway had clearly been inserted as the blocked original wagon doorway with its neat red sandstone arch was evident just to the west of this doorway (see *Section 4.3.20* for full description). The later doorway was much higher, and had an iron beam lintel over ashlar red sandstone and red brick quoins (Plate 11). To the east of the wagon doorway (Building 3) the wall was very dilapidated and only a small section remained at the east end, where the beach cobble construction was evident as well as large irregularly shaped quoins.



Plate 10 (left): Horse gin (Building 4), viewed from the south-east

Plate 11 (right): East end of the south elevation, Building 3

4.2.8 **East elevation:** the most southerly part of this elevation was the east side of the horse gin, Building 4, which had a large opening at the southern end. This doorway was two and a half metres wide, formed by two upright timber posts braced at the top by the wall plate which extended over the aperture; no quoins were present on the north side. The remaining section of wall clearly butted against the southern side of Building 3, illustrating the phasing of these two buildings (Plate 12). Within this section of wall there was a blocked doorway, 1.25m wide, which corresponded with a doorway on the opposite wall (see *Section 4.2.5*). Red sandstone quoins were present on both sides of the doorway which had been blocked with random cobbles; these were smaller than those generally used in the walling. As with the west elevation of this building it was noticeable that more large red sandstone blocks had been incorporated amongst the cobbles to the south of the doorway.

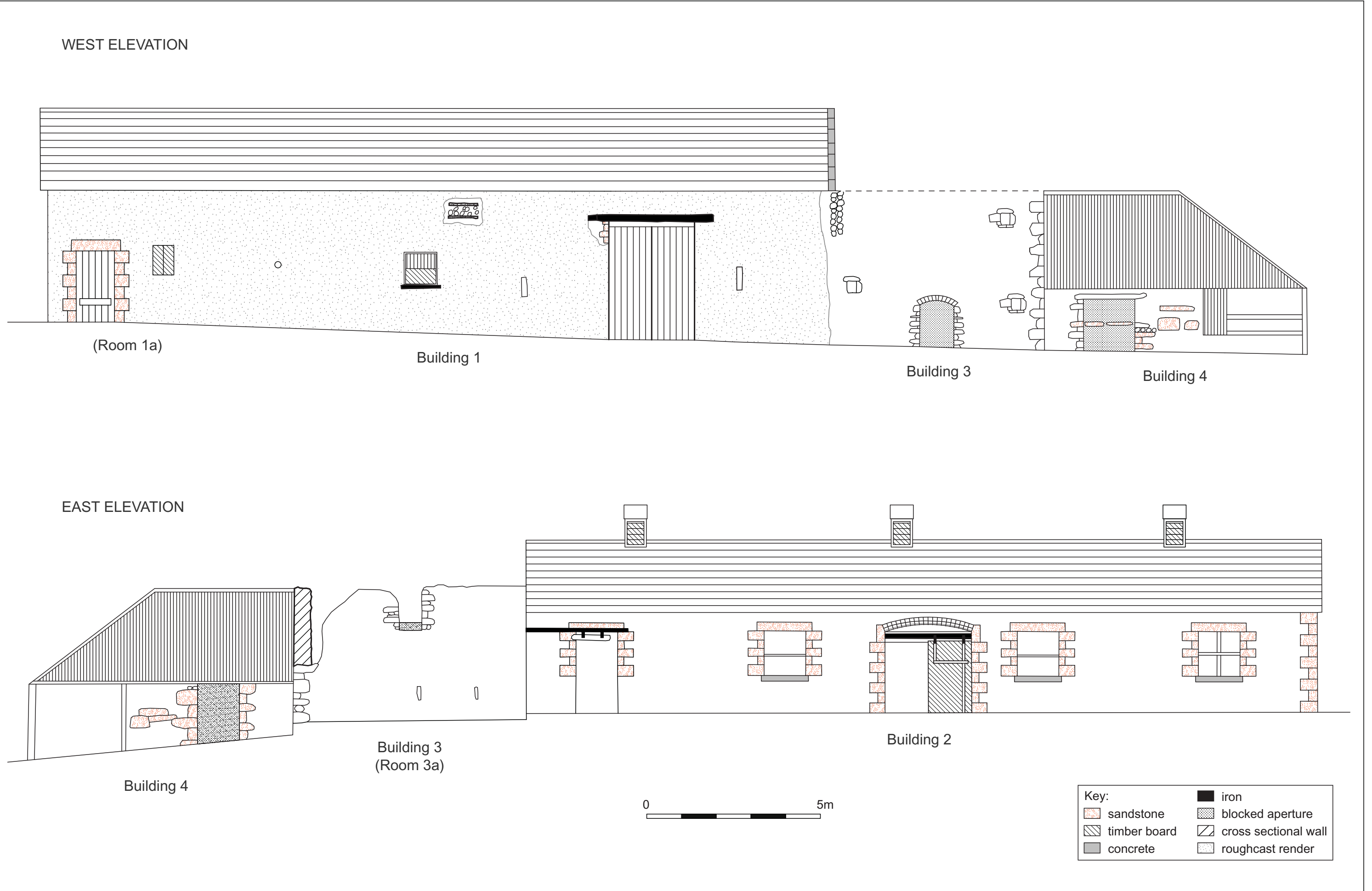


Figure 2: East and west external elevations



Figure 3: Ground floor plan and upper level features

4.2.9 The east elevation of Building 3 was quite plain and showed some vertical loss, as it was presumably a gable end; render had also been added to some of the lower areas which may have obscured some features. The added render and whitewash (Plate 13) related to the fact that this had at one time been an internal elevation of another small building added to the east end of the range between 1843 and 1891 (see Plate 1 and Plate 2), which has been removed. On the lower level of this elevation there were two slot vents which were set beneath stone lintels and had rudimentary quoining; one slot was located centrally, while the second was set towards the north of the elevation. There was possibly a third slot at the south end of the elevation which might have been obscured by external render. The upper part of the elevation contained a centrally-located window which had utilised flattish stones as quoins; the lower part of the aperture had been partially blocked and no sill was evident, and the lintel was also absent because the wall had been truncated.



Plate 12 (left): Blocked door in the east side of Building 4



Plate 13 (right): East elevation, Building 3

4.2.10 The east elevation of Building 2 (Plate 14) was clearly a later phase of development, using concrete sills and very regular red sandstone quoins and lintels which were neatly banded on the inside. Building 2 was originally built as a shippon and had two windows on either side of a central double-width door. The window at the south end of the elevation had recently been converted to a pedestrian doorway; this was evident from the lack of quoins either side of the doorway below the level corresponding to the height of the sill of the other windows. The central doorway also had regular red sandstone quoins which were set under an arch created from a double row of end set bluish grey bricks, the lower row being bull-nosed to create a rounded underside to the arch. The arch was a decorative feature set into the wall above a square-sectioned timber lintel to which a steel bar had been affixed; the plain board door was hung from straps with rollers which slid along the steel bar. The north half of the doorway was hidden behind the sliding door and had been blocked to form a pedestrian doorway, which was presumably done when it ceased to function as a cow house.



Plate 14 (left): East elevation of Building 2



Plate 15 (right): Building 3 viewed from the north

4.2.11 **North elevation:** the east end of Building 3, corresponding internally to Room 3a, had an upper doorway at the east end which was set against the east wall; there were also quoins on the west side that showed it to be an original upper-level door. The doorway housed a basic timber frame under a timber lintel but there was no door left. A small area of blocking in concrete block and red brick at the base of the doorway probably indicates the location of an upper stone step; steps are indicated in this area on the 19th century maps (see Plate 2 and Plate 3), but appear to have been removed by 1913 (Plate 4). This elevation also housed a lower-level doorway at the west end that was flush with the wall that divides Room 3a within Building 3; this doorway had a neat arch of mixed stone that had been whitewashed (Plate 15). The arch was very similar to that in the west elevation of Building 3.

4.2.12 The north gabled-elevation of Building 2 was very plain. There were quoins at the east end of the elevation and a doorway at the west end where this build butted the pre-existing farmhouse. This doorway was probably original and provided access to the north end of the feeding passage of the shippon; it had a concrete lintel and no quoins.

4.3 Internal Detail

4.3.1 **Building 1, north elevation and Room 1a:** this building was undoubtedly part of the original phase of development at this farm, and was a purpose built threshing barn that formed part of a north-south range along with the small domestic building to the north. Room 1a was created by partitioning off 3m of the north end of the barn, the ceiling for which was provided by a timber half loft (Plate 16). Room 1a had an original doorway in the east elevation as well as one to the half loft level; the 1891 Ordnance Survey map seems to indicate that steps led to this upper-level door at that time (Plate 2). The partition at the south side of the room was plain, and constructed from red brick. It is possible that the underside of the half loft was originally open and supported on east-west timbers keyed into the walls; however, the two original doors at the north end of the east elevation suggest there was originally a partition in this area. The west elevation of the room housed a small window and a doorway, both of which had bricks built into their jambs and had probably been inserted later (Plate 17). The north elevation of Building 1 appeared to be entirely plain. The floor of this room had been concreted, whilst the concrete in the main barn had been removed to reveal bare boulder clay.



Plate 16 (left): Partition and half loft, Building 1

Plate 17 (right): Room 1a viewed from the east

4.3.2 **Building 1, east elevation:** there was a blocked original upper-level door at the north end which served the half loft in this area (Plate 18). This must have previously been accessed by a flight of external stone steps, which would have been removed when Building 2 was constructed. The original lower-level door would have accessed the underside of the original half loft and suggests that an earlier partition existed in this area, Room 1a. There were two further pedestrian doorways in this elevation between which was a blocked wagon doorway; the most northerly of the remaining pedestrian doorways was blocked with modern board and was roughly quoined using selected beach cobbles under a re-used oak lintel. The blocked wagon doorway, which was roughly central in the elevation, appeared to have been blocked in two stages, so it would have acted as another pedestrian doorway for some time. The quoins on the north side of the doorway were evident as was the original oak lintel; the southern quoins were obscured by render. Over the south side of the lintel some horizontally set slates projected inwards from the elevation which appeared to correspond with the height of some timbers in the wall to the north. It is possible that these may have been the original truss seatings, and that the barn's roof height has been raised slightly. While this is conjectural, and would mean the trusses have moved their locations slightly, it was certainly noticeable that above this line there was more flat slate built into the wall than at the lower levels. There was a small alcove in the wall to the south of the wagon doorway, which had cobble jambs and a whitewashed timber sill; this was probably a part blocked vent or winnowing slot. The southern pedestrian door had the original cobbled jamb to the north side, while the south side was quoined in quite well finished red sandstone. The lintel over the doorway was stained black and appeared to be more recent than many of the other timbers which suggest that this doorway was remodelled or inserted (Plate 19). The quantity of pedestrian doorways in this elevation is unusual but might be explained by the extra partition indicated on the 1891 Ordnance Survey map (Plate 2), which would have led to the requirement for the second most northerly doorway.

4.3.3 **Building 1, south elevation:** this gable end elevation was very plain and the only definite feature was a blocked owl hole below the roof apex. The owl hole appeared to have a red sandstone lintel (Plate 20) and there is a possibility that this was not an original feature, many of which utilised the more flattened beach cobbles for lintels. Lower down there were three horizontal timbers in the wall evenly spaced across the elevation; it would seem likely that these related to former apertures but unfortunately the render obscured any evidence for this.



Plate 18 (left): Blocked upper-level door to the half loft in the east elevation of Building 1



Plate 19 (right): Altered doorway towards the south end of the east elevation of Building 1



Plate 20 (left): South elevation of Building 1



Plate 21 (right): Re-build of the south side of the wagon doorway in the west elevation of Building 1

4.3.4 **Building 1, west elevation:** there was a winnowing slot towards the south end of this elevation which appeared to be original and had an oak lintel. Just north of this aperture there was a large wagon doorway, the doorway would appear to have been inserted, and raised in height at a later date. The jambs on the south side of the doorway contained limestone and red sandstone, apart from where the doorway had been raised and concrete blocks had been used (Plate 21). The northern jambs were largely weather-worn red sandstone with some slate included; the lintel was re-used oak on the inside and a steel I-beam on the exterior. Just north of the doorway there was a small alcove in the wall at chest height and north of that there was a second winnowing slot that had a whitewashed lintel. In the centre of the elevation there was a blocked wagon door which directly opposed that in the east elevation.

The jambs of the blocked cart door were all constructed from the more elongated of the beach pebbles and the lintel was oak; the usage of pebbles in all the earliest jambs and lintels further suggests that the larger wagon door to the south was inserted later. The top north part of this doorway was left unblocked to create a window which had recently been boarded over. Further to the north, towards the brick partition, there was an old oak timber in the wall that had the appearance of a lintel, again with no obvious function, and adjacent to this to the north there was an area of repair with fresher render.

4.3.5 **Building 1, roof:** there were six trusses in the barn, four softwood king-post types with joggled braces, and two of the original oak tie-beam variety (Plate 22). One truss re-used an earlier timber (Figure 4). The re-used timber was the eastern principal rafter and had the scar of a lap joint on its lower north face; this contained at least one peg hole. This timber also had a stop-chamfered inside edge which distinguished it from the other oak timbers (Plate 23); all the purlins had been replaced and the two original purlin scars were also evident on this and the other earlier principal rafters. The square-cut softwood purlins tended to run two trusses before overlapping; it is probable that these replacement purlins were the same age as the replacement king-post trusses which were very similar to those found in Building 2. The roof was clad in slate which was capped by sandstone ridge tiles; these presumably had been salvaged from the earlier phase of roofing.

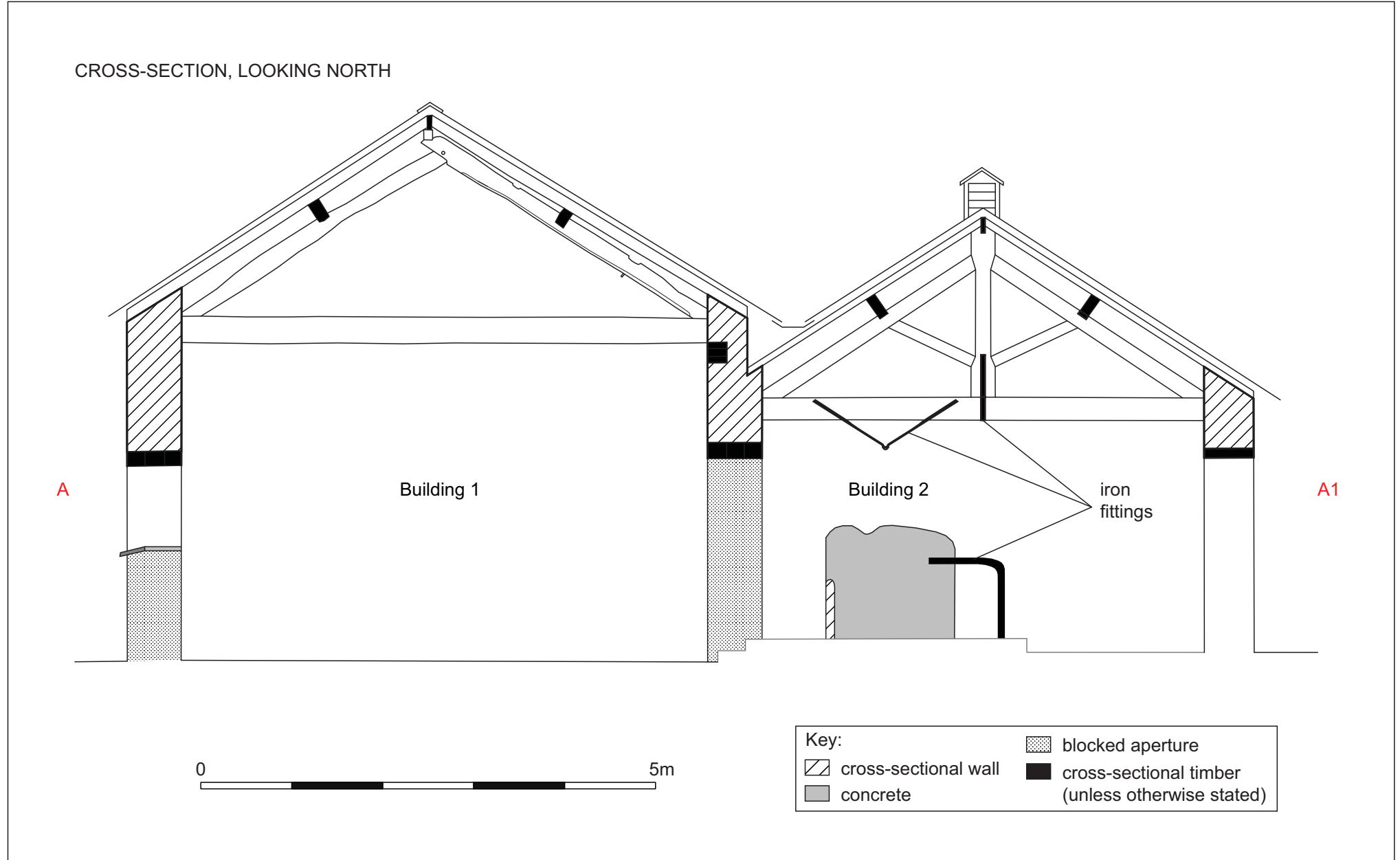


Plate 22 (left): Trusses viewed from the north, Building 1

Plate 23 (right): Fourth truss from the south end of Building 1, showing stop-chamfer

4.3.6 **Building 2:** this purpose built shippon was the latest addition to the farm buildings complex and first appears on the 1959 Ordnance Survey map, surveyed in 1958 (Plate 5). The building was a single room that had the remains of a simple timber partition near the north end, which had probably been added, and it housed eight cattle stalls and the remains of milking equipment were evident. The building was being used as a storeroom and workshop at the time of the building recording (Plate 24).

4.3.7 **Building 2, north elevation:** this gable end elevation was rather plain with a single pedestrian doorway at the west end with a timber lintel and a single frosted upper light. The wall had a concrete skim up to a height of 1.27m suggesting that at some point there was a further cattle stall at this end of the building.



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Figure 4: Cross-section, looking north

4.3.8 **Building 2, east elevation:** this was the inside of the main frontage of the building that accessed the yard area; originally there were two windows to the north and south of the central doorway, but the most southerly window had been converted to a doorway. Some red bricks were visible in the window jambs and the lintels appeared to be square-cut timber, however, very few details of the features were evident due to the whitewashed render that coated this elevation.

4.3.9 **Building 2, south elevation:** this gable end elevation was largely plain except for a pedestrian doorway at the west end which accessed the feeding passage. This elevation was the north exterior side of the pre-existing barn, Building 3; the gable had been formed by adding stonework to the top of that wall. Over the pedestrian doorway there was a large oak lintel that was the remnant of a wagon door that accessed Building 3 from the north; this had been mostly blocked when Building 2 had been added, leaving only the pedestrian access (Plate 25).



Plate 24 (left): Building 2 viewed from the south

Plate 25 (right): Lintel above the blocked wagon door in south elevation of Building 2

4.3.10 **Building 2, west elevation:** this elevation was effectively the east external elevation of Building 1 which had been modified slightly when Building 2 was added. The main modifications involved the blocking of the central wagon door into and out of Building 1 (see *Section 4.3.2*), but whether this had been part blocked by the time Building 2 was added is unknown. The pedestrian doorway at the southern end of the east elevation of Building 1 also had to be raised in height to cope with the difference in floor levels between the two buildings. This doorway was the only access in use between the two buildings at the time of the building recording, since the addition of Building 2 saw most of Building 1's external doorways become obsolete. The elevation had been rendered and whitewashed, and many of Building 1's external features were no longer visible. As the roofline of Building 2 was lower than that of Building 1 modifications also occurred to the pre-existing dividing wall, which had been thinned near its top to allow a wall plate for the timbers of Building 2.

4.3.11 **Building 2, floor and roof:** the shippon had a concrete floor that was typical of this type of building, having a lower dung passage along the east side and a feeding passage at the head end of the stalls along the west side. The concrete in the dung passage had to be crossed by the cattle to reach their stalls and was grooved to prevent them slipping. The stall partitions were formed from cast concrete and iron bars; these tend to appear in the inter-war years as a result of new government hygiene initiatives resulting from the formation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in 1919-1920 (University of Gloucestershire *et al*, 29). Chains attached to the stalls and metal work affixed to the trusses indicated that milking was taking place in this building, and which might have been its main function.

4.3.12 The roof comprised six identical king-post trusses with joggled arches (Figure 4; Plate 24) that supported a single purlin per pitch. All the roof timbers were softwood and appeared to be contemporary. This timberwork supported slates under ceramic bonnet tiles, and there were three timber louvers atop the roof for ventilation.

4.3.13 **Building 3:** this building appeared to have been a second threshing barn, with opposing wagon doorways in the north and south elevations; it even had a partitioned area (Room 3a), like in Building 1, which may have been a grain storage area. The building was in an advanced state of disrepair and it was not possible to enter Room 3a as the roof had collapsed, although certain observations could be made from the exterior. The interior comprised two floors, the upper of which was clearly plastered and whitewashed. The wall at the west end that divided this room from the rest of Building 3 appeared to be contemporary with the north and south walls of that barn suggesting that it was a single phase of building. There was a pedestrian doorway from Building 3 to Room 3a, which is discussed in *Section 4.3.15*. An oak lintel was evident in the eastern elevation, to the south of the upper aperture; it is possible this capped a blocked aperture in this elevation.

4.3.14 **Building 3, north elevation:** It was unfortunate that the original roof had long since been removed and been replaced by a lower mono-pitch arrangement that made the upper parts of this elevation difficult to view. There was a single door in the elevation at ground level, the west jamb of which was formed by the south-east corner of Building 1, and the eastern door jamb had been formed with rough quoins that included limestone and red sandstone (Plate 26). This doorway was the remains of a larger wagon doorway that had been largely blocked, presumably when Building 2 was added to the north side of this building. A photograph taken from above the mono-pitch roofline shows the original lintel of the wagon doorway (Plate 27), and the jambs at the east side of its original extent could be differentiated from the stone used to block the east half. Immediately to the east of the original east side of the blocked door there were two partly blocked square slots that were presumably made redundant by the addition of Building 2 to the north (Plate 26). The area of wall added to this elevation to form the gable end of Building 2 was also evident, along with part of the original wall (Plate 27). The original relict truss to Building 3 was also visible above the mono-pitch roof, along with a hole in the external south elevation of Building 1, which was presumably the location of a second truss (Plate 27). The blocked owl hole evident on the interior of that elevation was not obvious from the outside.



Plate 26 (left): North interior elevation of Building 3 showing the part blocked wagon doorway

Plate 27 (right): South elevations of Buildings 1 and 2; note the relict tie-beam of the former roof

4.3.15 **Building 3, east elevation and access to Room 3a:** this elevation was badly damaged, and evidently comprised at least three separate episodes of building (Plate 28). At the north end was the original beach cobble wall with a doorway into Room 3a, this doorway had been raised in height, and also appeared to have been inserted. There were red sandstone quoins on the north side of the doorway which suggested a slightly later date than the beach cobble walling; the quoins on the south side were

indistinct, although they were quite badly damaged. The ends of a timber lintel were evident among the upper quoins on both sides of the doorway; this lintel had been sawn through and replaced with a second timber lintel some 0.20m higher and at least one red brick had been used to raise the height. Both lintels appeared to be quite recent and were neatly sawn and square in section. The beach cobble wall was missing just to the south of this doorway and a small section of concrete block walling had been added, which attached to the east side of the remodelled wagon door in the south elevation (see *Section 4.2.7*). The east jamb of the wagon door was largely intact and showed red sandstone quoins interspersed with flattish slate pieces that were out of character with the main stonework of this building.

4.3.16 *Building 3, south elevation:* the east end of this elevation was dominated by the inserted wagon door as previously discussed in *Section 4.2.7*; the smaller original wagon door was located immediately to the west. This doorway had been blocked in two phases (Plate 29), the initial downsizing to a pedestrian doorway had been done in stone almost identical to the wall itself, suggesting that this occurred quite early. The second part of the blocking had been done in concrete block and presumably relates to a more recent function of the horse gin (Building 4). The arch over the wagon door was completed in flatter beach cobbles and sat over a substantial squared oak lintel, the east end of which had been damaged. To the west of the doorway there were two square slots in the upper part of the wall, these were the original vents for the barn before the gin case was added. Between these two slots a single larger slot had been inserted at a height of around 1.50m, this slot had a simple timber lintel and sill, and a small internal frame like a window. It seems probable that this purpose built slot was added to facilitate the overhead axel of the threshing machine from the gin case in Building 4, although its off-centre location in the wall seems a little at odds with this suggestion.



Plate 28 (left): Internal wall which separates Room 3a, viewed from the west from inside Building 3

Plate 29 (right): Blocked wagon doorway in the south elevation of Building 3

4.3.17 *Building 3, west elevation:* this elevation contained a blocked central doorway that had a square slot vent on either side; the doorway had a roughly squared oak lintel which was only 1m over the interior floor level. The blocking had been done in beach cobbles and matched the wall so well that it was impossible to see the outline of the doorway. The upper parts of this interior wall had been re-built with concrete blocks, and the original gable end had been removed.

4.3.18 *Building 3, floor and roof:* the original roof had been removed, and only a single tie-beam of a truss remained at the east end which was quite badly degraded due to its exposure to the elements. A hole in the gable end of Building 1 suggested the location of another north/south truss. The current roofing was a temporary mono-pitch arrangement that covered the west end of the building but did not run all the way to the more damaged eastern end. This mono-pitch utilised the flattened top of the west wall and four timbers, inserted into the north and south walls of the building at decreasing heights from west to east. These modern timbers supported corrugated asbestos cement sheets and some clear plastic panels. The floor had been concreted and was noticeably higher than the exterior ground levels to the south and west, which might account for the change in lintel height of the doorway in Room 3a. It is

possible that this floor level changed when Building 2 was added so that access between the two was not stepped; this is possibly also when the doorway in the west side of Building 3 was made redundant.

4.3.19 **Building 4**: this is shown on the Tithe Map produced in 1843, which, along with later maps, strongly suggests that it was a horse gin (see Plates 1-5). At the time of the building recording it had a central north/south timber partition, and the quantity of dung on the floor suggested that it had been used recently as a stable. The building had a basic half loft at the north end, where the roof was highest, and this utilised the single truss that spanned the room from the east to the west. It was evident from the wall junctions, that this building had been added to the south side of the pre-existing barn, Building 3.

4.3.20 **Building 4, north elevation**: this elevation was formed from part of the original south exterior wall of Building 3, and as such contained the features described in *Section 4.3.16*. The only visible feature from this side, however, was the blocked wagon doorway which had a neat red sandstone arch on this side (Plate 30). This arch would be somewhat unusual if this elevation belonged to the first phase of building due to the use of sandstone, it is therefore unfortunate that the external arches of the two wagon doors in Building 1 have been hidden by render which prevents a comparison from being made.

4.3.21 **Building 4, east elevation**: this elevation contained a blocked doorway or window (Plate 31), and the south end of the wall formed the north end of a new, wider entrance. The blocked aperture had red sandstone quoins running down to ground level on the south side, but the quoins only went half way down on the north side. The area that had most obviously been blocked was the upper area, suggesting that most recently it had been a window. Given the height differences in the external and internal floor levels it seems likely that this aperture might have been constructed merely to increase light and ventilation into the building, in order to prevent the horses overheating during their long hours of toil.

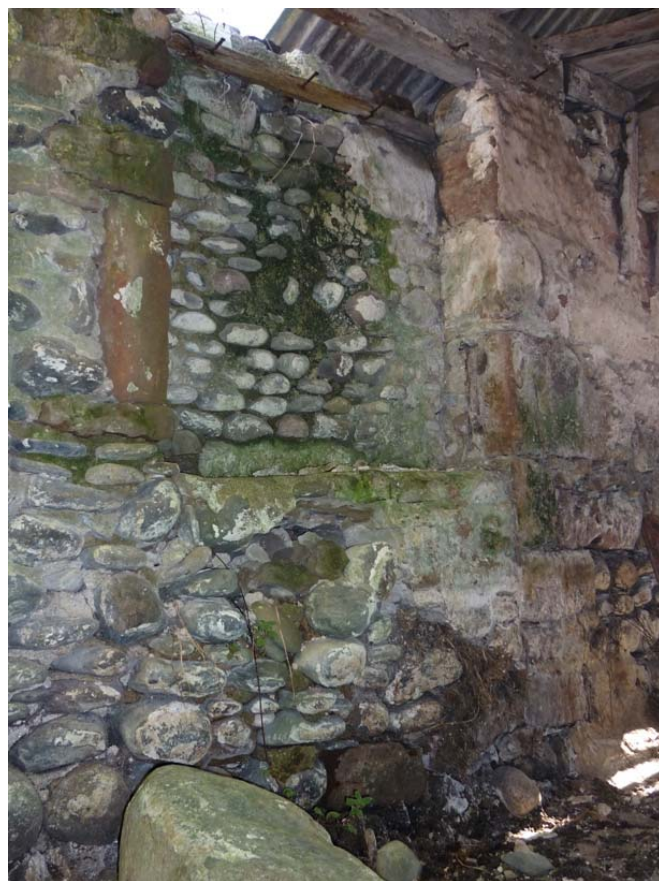


Plate 30 (left): Blocked door in the south elevation of Building 3, viewed from inside Building 4

Plate 31 (right): Blocked window or doorway in the east elevation of Building 4

4.3.22 **Building 4, south elevation**: this elevation comprised a low wall largely constructed from concrete blocks; there was a timber post at each end and one in the middle. The maps indicate that

originally this end of the horse gin would have been rounded, so it is safe to say that it has been remodelled at this end for some reason. Above the level of the low wall was effectively an open area that had been boarded with timber planks and their arrangement still permitted light and ventilated the room.

4.3.23 **Building 4, west elevation:** this elevation was very similar to the opposite elevation, except that there was no entrance at the south end where the original wall was truncated, instead the same low wall as in the south elevation was present. The area above the low wall was not boarded and acted as an unglazed window. The remaining elevation was plain except for a blocked doorway in the centre; this had an oak lintel and was 2m high on the inside, but little over a metre above ground level on the exterior. An entrance way is marked in this area on the 1843 map (Plate 1), but this arrangement appears to have changed by the time the 1891 Ordnance Survey map was produced (Plate 2). It seems likely that this was a doorway to allow horses to access the building, and that when it went out of use a bank was allowed to form on the exterior side of the building. There was some remodelling to the south end of this elevation that involved red brick; as it seems that the south end of this building was originally rounded, the brickwork may be part of this arc or just an attempt to patch up the end of the wall (Plate 32).



Plate 32 (left): Re-build of the west elevation of Building 4



Plate 33 (right): Roof timbers in the former gin case, Building 4

4.3.24 **Building 4, floor and roof:** the floor in this building had evidently truncated the natural ground level to some extent, especially at the north end. This may have been necessary in order to construct a flat floor, or to position the overhead axle at the right level for the associated machinery housed in Building 3 to the north. The floor had been concreted and was rather featureless; however the quantity of dung present did suggest that it had been a stable quite recently. The roof timbers were constructed around an east-west king-post truss that had an enormous oak tie-beam which had evidently been re-used at least once. The truss formed the southern end of the roof's ridgeline that extended northwards to the rear of Building 3; three timbers extended from the top of the truss to each of the three timber posts located in the centre and at the corners of the south elevation. This arrangement formed a hipped roof

that was clad in corrugated asbestos cement. A majority of the timbers utilised in this roof structure were oak and probably dated from the initial construction of the horse gin, sometime before 1843.

5 Discussion

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The map regression illustrates several phases of development at the farm; however, it is unfortunate that no earlier plans of the village are available as most of the buildings had been completed by 1843. This problem was further compounded by the extensive alterations and remodelling that the farm buildings had been subjected to, as well as the use of beach cobbles in the walling, and the render on parts of the west elevation. The variety of stone types seems to increase through time though, and this does help to reconstruct certain key phases within the buildings.

5.2 Phasing

5.2.1 **Phase 1 – pre 1843:** this phase represents the establishment of the farm; the earliest buildings shown by the maps are Building 1, 3, 4, and the small domestic building to the north of the barns, which was not recorded. It was clear that Building 4 had been added to the south side of Building 3, and therefore belongs to Phase 2 (see *Section 5.2.2* below). The main difficulty is in disentangling the relationship between Buildings 1 and 3; it seems most likely that they were contemporary and formed an L-shaped range. The biggest difficulty with this explanation is the presence of the south wall of Building 1, which had an owl hole and yet would have been entirely enclosed within the L-shaped structure. This is also compounded by the removal of the roof structure and part of the walls of Building 3, which makes the reconstruction of the roofing arrangements of these two barns very difficult, and this is further complicated by the re-roofing that Building 1 has undergone. It seems apparent that the wall that forms the north side of Building 3 is of a single construction, which does suggest that the two barns are contemporary. However, possible evidence that this wall has been partly re-built is suggested by alterations to the southern jambs of Building 1's two southernmost doorways, as well as the replacement of the roof trusses at that end of the barn. Perhaps further evidence for the re-building of this wall is suggested by the internal and external timber lintels of the north wagon doorway of Building 3; these seem out of keeping with the stone arches of the obviously original doorways. Trying to determine a date for these structures is also very difficult due to the paucity of original roof timbers, and the usage of beach cobbles for most of the walling and quoins. A further possibility is that the two barns were built at the same time by the same landowner, with the intention of renting them out as separate units; this would explain the dividing wall that is consistently shown on all the Ordnance Survey maps from 1891 to 1959.

5.2.2 **Phase 2 – pre 1843:** this phase is represented by the addition of the horse gin (Building 4) to the south side of Building 3, this put the barn's existing wagon doorway out of use and it was half blocked to form a pedestrian doorway. An axel slot was also inserted into the south wall of Building 3 at this time to provide the power to the threshing machine that would have been housed therein.

5.2.3 **Phase 3 – 1843-1891:** the 1843 tithe map suggests the horses accessed the gin case from the roadway on the west side of the building (Plate 1). It is evident that this arrangement changes by the 1891 Ordnance Survey map and this is probably when this roadside doorway was blocked, possibly along with the doorway from the road into the west end of Building 3. Another change occurring between these two maps is the addition of the small building to the east of Building 3, this building was no longer there at the time of the recording, and maps suggest that it was removed after 1959 (Plate 5).

5.2.4 **Phase 4 – 1891-1913:** during this time the external steps to Room 3a appear to have been removed. It is quite possible that the doorway connecting the east and west sides of Building 3 was added at this time, before being raised in height in Phase 5. It is interesting that the partition in Building 3 is not indicated on any of the maps although an examination of this partition indicated it to be part of the same build as the north elevation. A small addition to the south of Building 3 was added during this time, it had been removed by the time the Ordnance Survey map was produced in 1959. This would ensure

that the inserted wagon doorway in the south side of Building 3 post-dates 1913, the function or nature of this small structure is unknown.

5.2.5 Phase 5 – 1913-1959: the construction of the shippon (Building 2) occurred at some point between the production of the 1913 and 1959 Ordnance Survey maps. This addition indicates a change in focus at the farm from a predominantly agrarian economy to a mixed or even dairy bias. This addition necessitated a number of changes to the existing buildings, some of which might already have been in quite poor condition. The north wagon door of Building 3 was part blocked when the shippon was added to the north side, and the raising of the floor level in the barn presumably occurred at this time. The raising of the floor is indicated by the altered lintel height of the doorway to Room 3a, along with the reduction in the height of the western pedestrian door whose arch is now only around 1m over the floor. It would seem likely that the floor level of Building 3 was changed to avoid a step between this barn and the shippon (Building 2), which was sat on slightly higher ground. The partial blocking of the wagon door in the north side of Building 3 may have coincided with the insertion of the larger doorway in the south elevation, so as to continue to allow vehicles to access and be stored in the barn. At this time the small structure to the south of Building 3 shown on the 1913 Ordnance Survey map would have been removed to facilitate the new doorway. It is probably that at this time the wagon doorway in Building 1 was heightened as both these wagon doorways have the same iron lintels; this is possibly related to the rapid increase in larger modern farming equipment that occurred with the introduction of early tractors in the 1930's (University of Gloucestershire *et al* 2006, 29). Other changes to Building 1 resulting from the addition of the shippon included the raising in height of the south-east pedestrian doorway to cope with the higher floor level of the shippon, and the blocking of the wagon doorways. The east wagon door would have been rendered obsolete by the adjacent shippon (Building 2) and facing door in the west elevation would have become unnecessary because of the inserted and enlarged door to the south. The removal of the exterior steps to the half loft in Building 1 would have occurred at this time, as well as the blocking of the associated upper doorway. It is probable that the roadside doorway and window at the north end of Building 1 were also added around this time to make access easier to Room 1a. It seems apparent that the brick partition separating Room 1a at the north end of Building 1 was also constructed in this phase as the bricks used are identical to those used in the inserted window and door jambs; the partition, along with the shippon to the east, would perhaps necessitate the new window and door to provide some light. The re-roofing of Building 1 is also something that would have occurred at the time the shippon was added; its slightly lower roof made certain changes to the east wall of Building 1 necessary at this time anyway. The king-post trusses of Building 2 are almost identical to those used to re-roof Building 1, and it is only logical to conclude that all this work was carried out at the same time; it is possible that the owl hole was blocked at this point also.

5.2.6 Phase 6 – mid to late 20th century: the re-building of Building 4, the gin case, would appear to have taken place in the mid to late 20th century on the basis that the roof was clad in corrugated asbestos and the walling was completed in concrete blocks. The temporary mono-pitch roof might have been added to Building 3 at this time, as corrugated asbestos was used here also. Other late changes include the removal of the building to the east of Building 3, the changing of the south window in the shippon to a doorway, and the partial blocking of the central doorway of this building; these changes presumably provide an end date for its use as a milking parlour.

5.3 Conclusion

5.3.1 The six phases identified at Piel View Farm reflect the initial construction and subsequent enlargement of the farm, accompanied by the use of new technology, and the change from an agrarian to a more dairy focus, which necessitated the re-working of existing buildings; smaller cosmetic changes also occurred later as the buildings lost their original function. The origins of the name Piel View are unknown, it first appearing in the early 20th century, and as a result identifying any early documentary evidence for the farm was very difficult.

5.3.2 The earliest farm buildings might date from the late 18th century when many new farm buildings were built, and the farming economy went through a period of expansion that lasted beyond the mid 19th century (University of Gloucestershire *et al* 2006, 6). The L-shaped layout of the earliest farm buildings at

the site is also typical of a late 18th century date (*op cit*, 9). During this period farming had to sustain a massive increase in population, especially in urban areas, due to the growth of industry, and as a result more land became available for farming due to better drainage schemes and manuring practices. Many estates bought up areas of land when grain prices rose dramatically from around 1760 onwards; grain prices reached a high point during the Napoleonic Wars between 1794 and 1815, and a much better infrastructure allowed for an increased market area and production became more intensive (*op cit*, 6). The apparent construction of the two original threshing barns as adjacent but individual units to be rented out also illustrates the commercial attitudes of the regions landowners who realised that there was money to be made from this boom.

5.3.3 The development of the farm at Piel View Farm fits very closely with the general trends in farming mentioned, and many other farms studied in this area. Typically a farmhouse with a single threshing barn dating from the late 18th or early 19th century is found, to which a horse gin is often added to increase production and reduce labour costs; the dairy element tends to take over from the late 19th or early 20th century when urbanisation reaches record levels. The dairy element at this farm is probably a slightly later development that relates to a sixty percent increase in productivity that occurred during the Second World War, heralded by the 1937 Agriculture Act that anticipated this need for increased self sustainability (*op cit*, 29).

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Appendix 1: Census information

1841 HO 107/529/4/14

Name	Age	Occupation	Whether born in this county
Thomas T Woodburn	45	Farmer	No
Agnes Woodburn	40		Yes
Hannah Woodburn	20		Yes
Jane Woodburn	20		Yes
William Woodburn	15		Yes
Agnes Woodburn	15		Yes
Elizabeth Woodburn	13		Yes
Mary Woodburn	11		Yes
Ellenor Woodburn	8		Yes
John Woodburn	3		Yes
Thomas Woodburn	11 months		Yes
John Robinson	14		Yes
John Simpson	20		Yes
John Casson	35		Yes

1851 HO 107/2275/242

Name	Age	Occupation	Place of birth
Thomas T Woodburn	55	Farmer 90 Acres	Whitehaven
Agnes Woodburn	53	Farmers wife	Dalton
William Woodburn	27	Farmers son	Biggar
Mary Woodburn	21	Dressmaker	Biggar
Ellinor Woodburn	18	Farmers daughter	Biggar
John Woodburn	13	Scholar	Biggar
Thomas Woodburn	10	Scholar	Biggar
Agnes Benson	2	Grand daughter	Lowick Bridge
Betty Robinson	14	House servant	Kirkby Ireleth
Thomas Fallows	23	Agricultural labourer	Hill, Millom
Robert Turner	17	Agricultural labourer	Dalton
John Marton	14	Agricultural labourer	Kirkby Ireleth

1861 RG 9/3169/25

Name	Age	Occupation	Place of birth
William Woodburn	37	Farmer 100 Acres	Biggar
Ann Woodburn	31		Parish of Lowick
Agnes Woodburn	5	Scholar	Walney
Thomas W Woodburn	4	Scholar	Walney
William Woodburn	1		Walney
Agnes Howson	72	Boarder (mother-in-law)	Parish of Lowick
James Todd	26	Farm servant	Kirkby Ireleth
William Saxon	17	Farm servant	Dalton
George Shaw	13	Farm servant	Kirkby Ireleth