



Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services

**Thorns Farm, Brydekirk, Annan,
Dumfries & Galloway:
Historic Building Recording Works**



**by Rebecca Shaw
28th November 2017**

9 Earl Place
Ranfurly
Bridge of Weir
PA11 3HA

Tel: 01505 612762
Mob: 077861 35432
Email: rebeccashaw@archaeologist.com
Website: www.rebeccashawarchaeologicalservices.co.uk

Contents

1 Introduction	2
2 Background	2
3 Project Works	3
4 Findings: Standing Building Recording	4
5 Conclusions	4
References	10
Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry	26
Contact Details	27

Figures

Fig. 1	Location Map	3
Fig. 2a	Roy's Military Map of Scotland (1747-55)	6
Fig. 2b	1 st Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1862)	6
Fig. 2c	Ordnance Survey Map (1899)	7
Fig. 2d	Ordnance Survey Map (1970)	7
Fig. 2e	Current Ordnance Survey Map (2017)	8
Fig. 2f	Proposed Development Plan	8
Figs. 3a-c	Phasing plans	9
Figs. 4a-18c	Images from photographic Survey	11-25

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Sean McGimpsey for his kind hospitality and assistance during the on-site works.

1 Introduction

This Data Structure Report presents the findings of historic building recording works undertaken at Thorns Farm, Brydekirk, Annan, Dumfries & Galloway (NGR: NY 338157 570224) (Figure 1). The proposed works comprise: erection of dwellinghouse with integral garage and installation of septic tank and soakaway (planning application no 17/1355/FUL) (Figure 2f) and alterations, extension and change of use of agricultural outbuilding to form a dwelling house (planning application no 17/1364/FUL).

As the proposal involves the demolition of the existing dwelling dating from the late 18th or early 19th century (17/1355/FUL) (recorded in Dumfries & Galloway HER MDG27081) the alteration of and extension to a building dating from the late 18th or early 19th century (17/1364/FUL), Dumfries & Galloway Council attached a condition to the issued planning consent requiring archaeological works to be undertaken prior to commencement of demolition works. Dumfries & Galloway Archaeology Service, who advise Dumfries & Galloway Council on archaeological matters provided guidance on the nature of archaeological works required.

The archaeological works consisted of an historic building recording comprising a Basic Survey of the building (as defined in the ALGAO HBR Guidance), including: a fully catalogued photographic record of significant elevations, both internal and external, of the standing buildings and a summary report on the history and architectural phasing of the building.

During discussions with Andrew Nicholson, Dumfries & Galloway Council Archaeologist, it was determined that the interior of the current dwelling (mainly south-eastern range) did not require to be photographed as it was all entirely ‘modern’ and still occupied by the clients.

Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services was appointed to act with regard to the archaeological condition by Aitken Turnbull Architects on behalf of their client.

2 Background

Cartographic

The first sound mapping dates to the mid 18th century (Roy, 1747-55) and depicts a farmstead named as Robothorn, which comprises a least one rectangular structure and two detached square enclosures with a possible further structure with attached enclosure (Figure 2a).

On the first detailed mapping, the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map (1862), the farmstead comprised a detached building (to southwest) and a slightly T-shaped range of buildings which a U-plan courtyard open to the northwest. There are also three enclosures and two smaller detached buildings (Figure 2b).

By the time of the second edition mapping (1899) the south-western range has acquired a circular horse engine (attached to SW); as well a narrow extension to the SE end – a set of external stairs are depicted at the NW end of the structure. The L-shaped building has reduced in length (by one structure) to the NE as well as partially to the SW. A new detached building has been inserted on the open north-western side to form a new range and a new building has been added to the southern corner of the courtyard (Figure 2c). Subsequent mapping (1938-51) shows little or no change from the previous edition with the horse engine still depicted, however, by the late 1950's the horse engine is no longer mapped.

On 1970s mapping a new building (or extension) has been attached to the SW of south-western range and a narrow building has been added to the SW end of the L-shaped building (Figure 2d). On the current Ordnance Survey map (2017) the new building that had been attached to the SW of the south-western range has been removed and the external stairs at the NW end of this range are no longer depicted. The NW end of the L-shaped building has been reduced in length by one structure (Figure 2e).

Ordnance Survey Name Book (1848-58)

The ordnance survey name book records Thorns as 'a large farm house two storeys high with offices attached all in good repair, also a garden [and] small arable farm attached [tenanted] by David Irving'. The property of Co [Colonel] Dirom of Mount Annan.

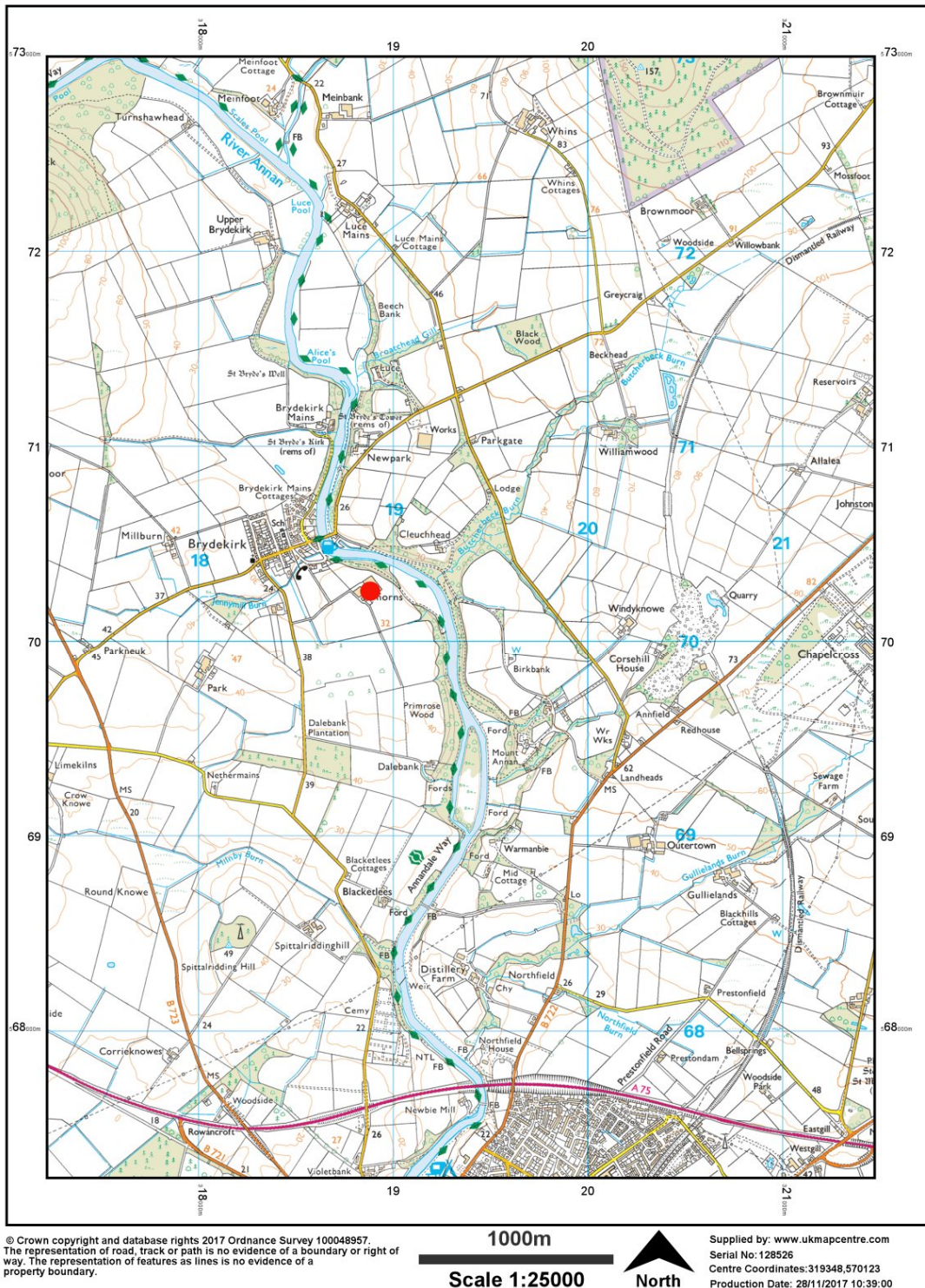


Figure 1 – location map

3 Project Works

The historic building recording works were undertaken on 24th November 2017. All works complied with the Chartered Institute For Archaeology's Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct, and Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statements.

4 Findings:

In general the farmstead of Thorns comprised a range of buildings set around all four sides of a central courtyard (Figure 2e).

North-Western Range

Rectangular stone (rubble) built single storey sub-divided structure, aligned SW / NE with a pitched slate roof (Figures 4a-c) and a central gable (Figures 6a-b). The SW half comprised a concrete floor with a large entrance in the SE (front) elevation and a slightly smaller opposing entrance in the NE elevation (Figures 5b & 6c). Occasional stones were visible protruding from the walls (Figure 7b). The NE half comprised a concrete floor with a doorway in the SE (front) elevation with an opposing infilled (with stone) doorway in the NE elevation (Figures 5a & 5c). There were two shallow channels within the floor, located either side of the doorway and running to either side of the infilled doorway (Figure 18a). The rafters rested on the wallheads (Figures 6a-7b).

North-Eastern Range

Long rectangular single storey structure, aligned NW / SE – the NW half was stone (rubble) built (Figure 8b) with a single pitch corrugated tin roof (sloped down from SE to NE) (Figure 8a) and the SE half (dwelling) comprised a gable at the NW end with a pitched slate roof which ended perpendicular to the south-eastern range (Front Cover). The SW elevation of the NW half was open at the SE end to create a car port – the back (NE) wall of the car port was stone on interior) and pebble dashed on exterior with the side walls formed of concrete block. This elevation also comprised a doorway (quin stones were only visible on the NW of the doorway (Figure 8b) with the SE edge appearing to have been removed to create the car port) and an infilled (with stone) doorway and window (Figures 9a-c). The NW (end) wall comprises a mix of stone and concrete block - visible both internally and externally (Figures 7c & 8a). Concrete blocks also form a pen within the interior and are also visible along the top of both (stone wall) elevations (Figure 18c). The SE half comprised pebble-dashed SW and NE elevations (Figures 17b-c).

South-Western Range

Large rectangular stone (rubble) built gabled structure, aligned NW / SE with a corrugated tin roof and two skylights on each pitch (Figures 10a & 10c). The floor comprised a mix of concrete (SE half) and cobbles (NW half). The NE elevation comprised a large entrance (Figure 12a); an infilled (with stone) opening / entrance? (Figure 13a); a buttress, which has been placed in front of a former doorway (Figure 13c) and two vents (former windows?) (Figures 12c & 13b). Although no longer in place, at some point the structure had an upper floor (hay loft?) – indicated by a doorway and window visible within the upper section of the NW gable (Figure 14a) (infilled with stone on exterior – Figure 12b) as well as beam slots and a general indicative mark roughly half way up the internal elevations (Figures 14a-c). Visible on the SW elevation (externally) are numerous infilled rectangular openings (Figure 10a) on the internal elevation these openings are sometime visible as recesses (either rectangular or slots – Figures 15c). The remains of a slight protrusion on the SW elevation (Figure 15b) indicate where an internal division may have been and further to the southeast are a partially demolished wall (Figure 15a) that appears to have formed a separate annexe to the main structure.

South-Eastern Range

Rectangular pebble-dashed gabled structure (dwelling), aligned NE / SW, with a pitched slate roof and further central gable (Figures 17a-c). The NW elevation has protrusions at either end which create a shallow U-shape building (part of which is SE end of north eastern range) (Figure 17c). The SE elevation has a small porch protruding from the NE half. Located at the SW end of the SE elevation was a lean-to type structure (used as a greenhouse) accessed from a door in the SE. The interior comprised a slabbed & dirt floor with half height stone walls to the SE (front) and SW (side) and corrugated plastic upper walls and single pitched roof (Figures 16a-b). The NW (back) wall was stone built and had a

blocked-in doorway (Figure 16c).

5 Conclusions

A programme of archaeological historic building recording works were undertaken at Thorns Farm, Brydekirk, Annan, Dumfries & Galloway (NGR: NY 338157 570224). The works were required to record the existing structures in their current form prior to demolition and conversion.

The first sound mapping sources indicate that the farmstead of Thorns was originally named Robothorn and comprised at least one (possibly two) rectangular structure and associated enclosures (Figure 2a). The first detailed mapping depicts a slightly T-shaped range of buildings (southeast and northeast ranges) with a further detached building to the southwest (Figure 2b) forming a courtyard arrangement. By circa 1900, the structure forming the NE part of the T range is no longer mapped and there are no remains of this building visible today. Given that the ordnance survey name book records that in the mid nineteenth century (circa 1850) Thorns consisted of 'a large farm house two storeys high with offices attached' it could be muted that this farm house was the structure no longer mapped on circa 1900 mapping. This theory is given credence by the fact that the current dwelling is only one storey with no indication that it has ever been reduced in height. It could also be that this was the original location of the dwelling (rectangular structure) depicted on mind 18th century mapping (Figure 2a).

The external steps depicted on mapping from 1860s until circa 1970, as well as the internal beam slots indicate that the south-western range originally had an upper floor, but mapping as well as visible elements surviving today (in the form of blocked in openings & doorways) suggest that this building has had many uses over the decades. Although the steps are mapped until circa 1970 it is unlikely they were in use until this period – there are however, no signs of the steps today. Although the north-western range is slightly later in date, possibly dating to the last quarter of the nineteenth century, it has more than likely has many functions over the decades. The blocked-in doorway in the NW elevation, which is opposite the existing doorway in the SE elevation, indicates that this may have originally been built as winnowing barn with the opposing doorways creating a through draught.

The infilled window & doorway that were that were noted in the NW half of the SW elevation of the north-eastern range (Figures 9a-c), suggest that this area was originally probably a separate compartment that was accessed from, and overlooked, the courtyard. Mapping indicates that the structure at the very NW end of the north-eastern range was quite narrow and latterly had open pens attached to the SW edge (Figures 2b-c) When this building was removed, it seems a feature (possibly a shoot for unloading feed etc) may have been inserted into the 'new' NW (end wall) – this however, has now been blocked-in (Figures 7c & 8a).

There were no obvious external features visible in the south-eastern range (the current dwelling). The pebble dashed exterior (Figures 17a-c) suggests that the building was probably altered into the current form during the 1970s and although elements of the nineteenth century building may still survive they have been masked and altered by later alterations.



Figure 2a – Roys Military Survey Map of Scotland (1747-55)

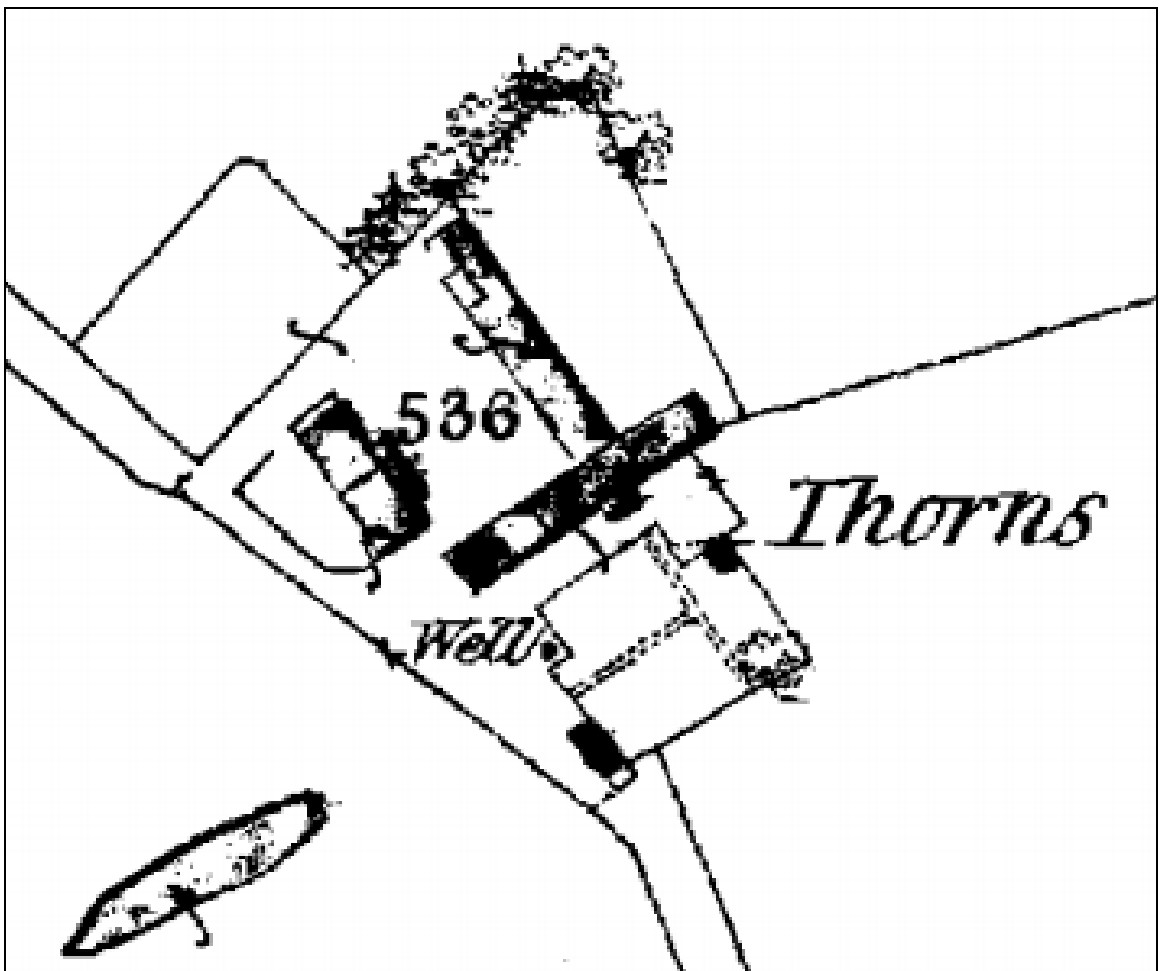


Figure 2b – 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1862) © Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group – not to be reproduced without permission (487713321)

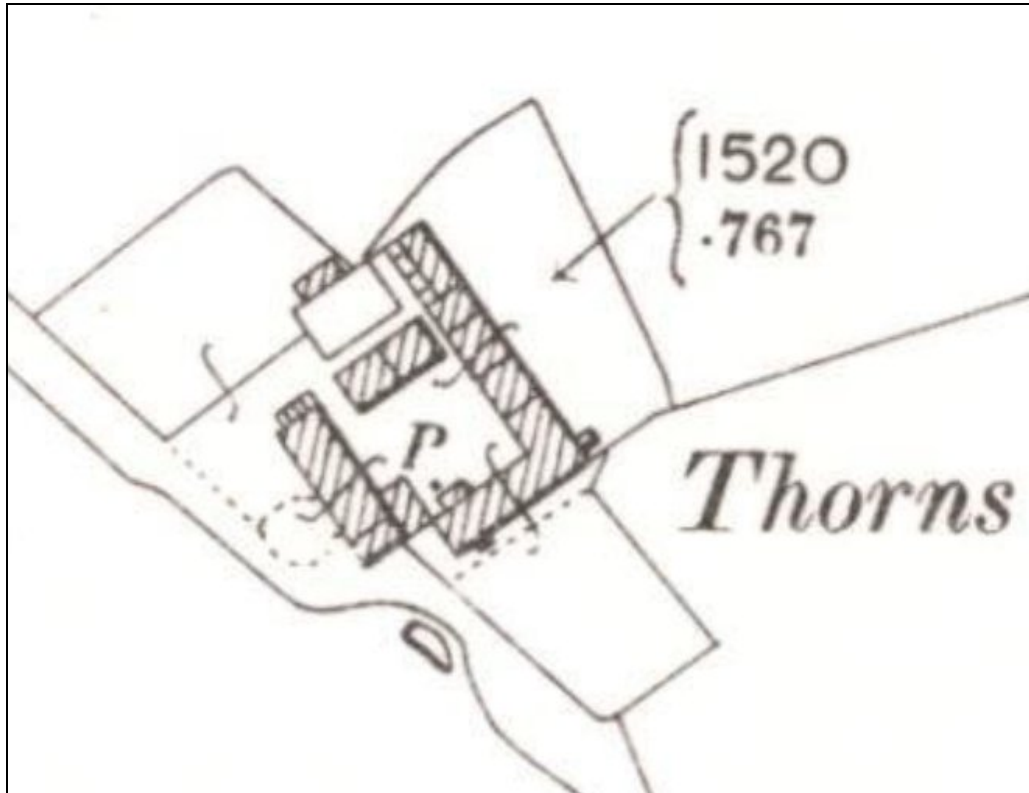


Figure 2c – 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1899) © Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group – not to be reproduced without permission (487713321)

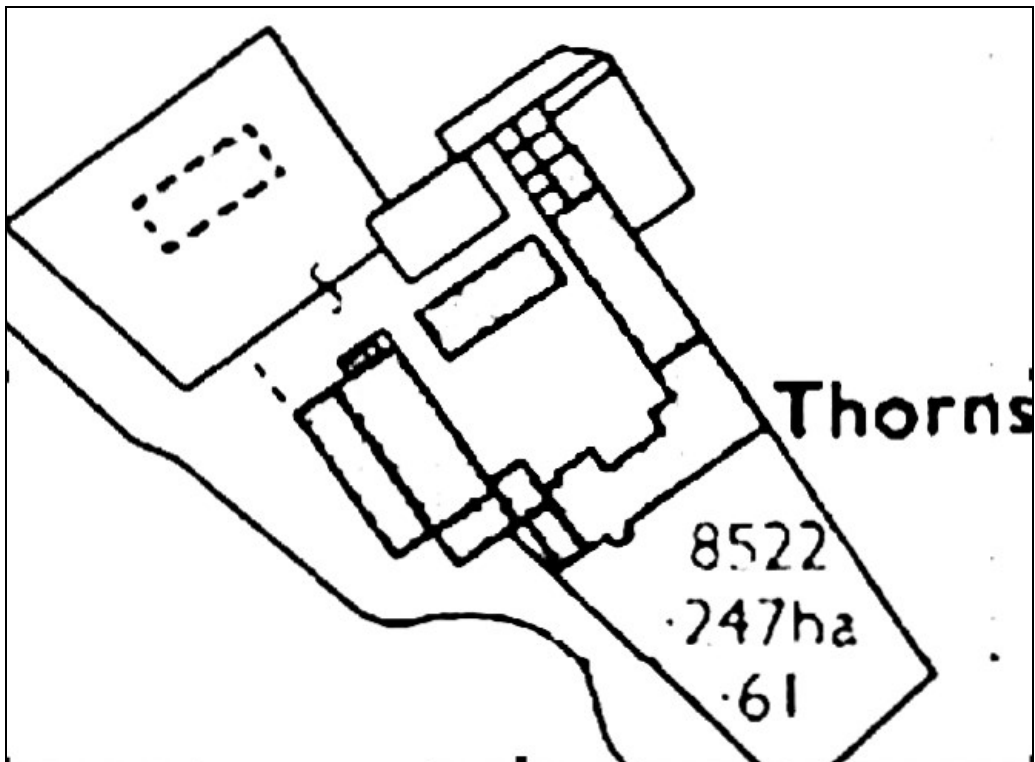


Figure 2d – 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1970) © Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group – not to be reproduced without permission (487713321)

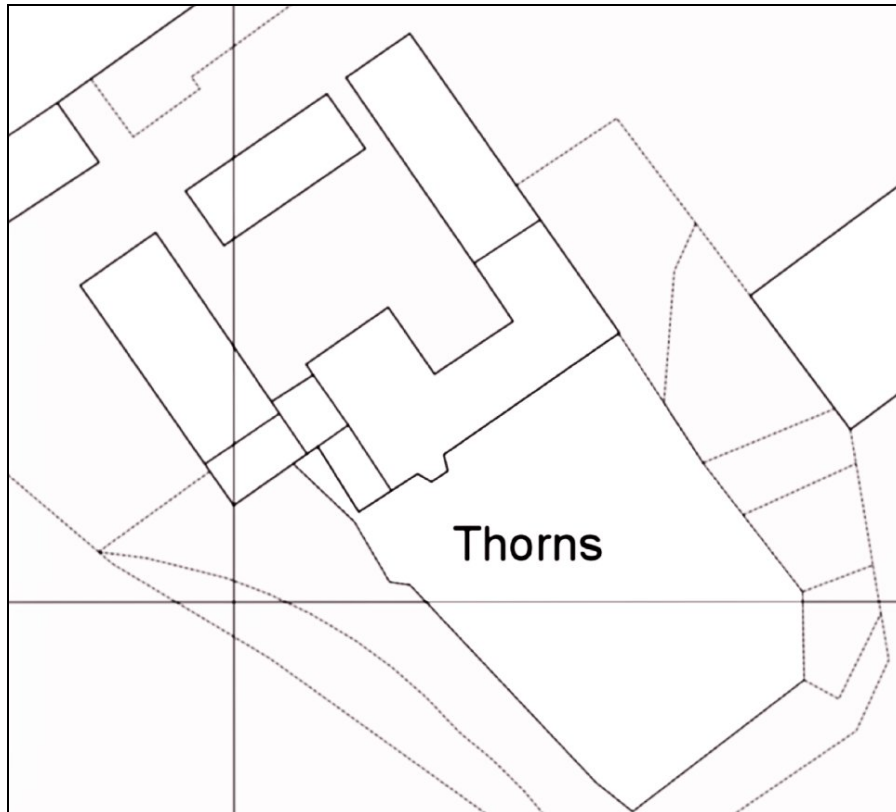


Figure 2e – Current Ordnance Survey Map

© Crown Copyright and database rights 2017 Ordnance Survey 100048957

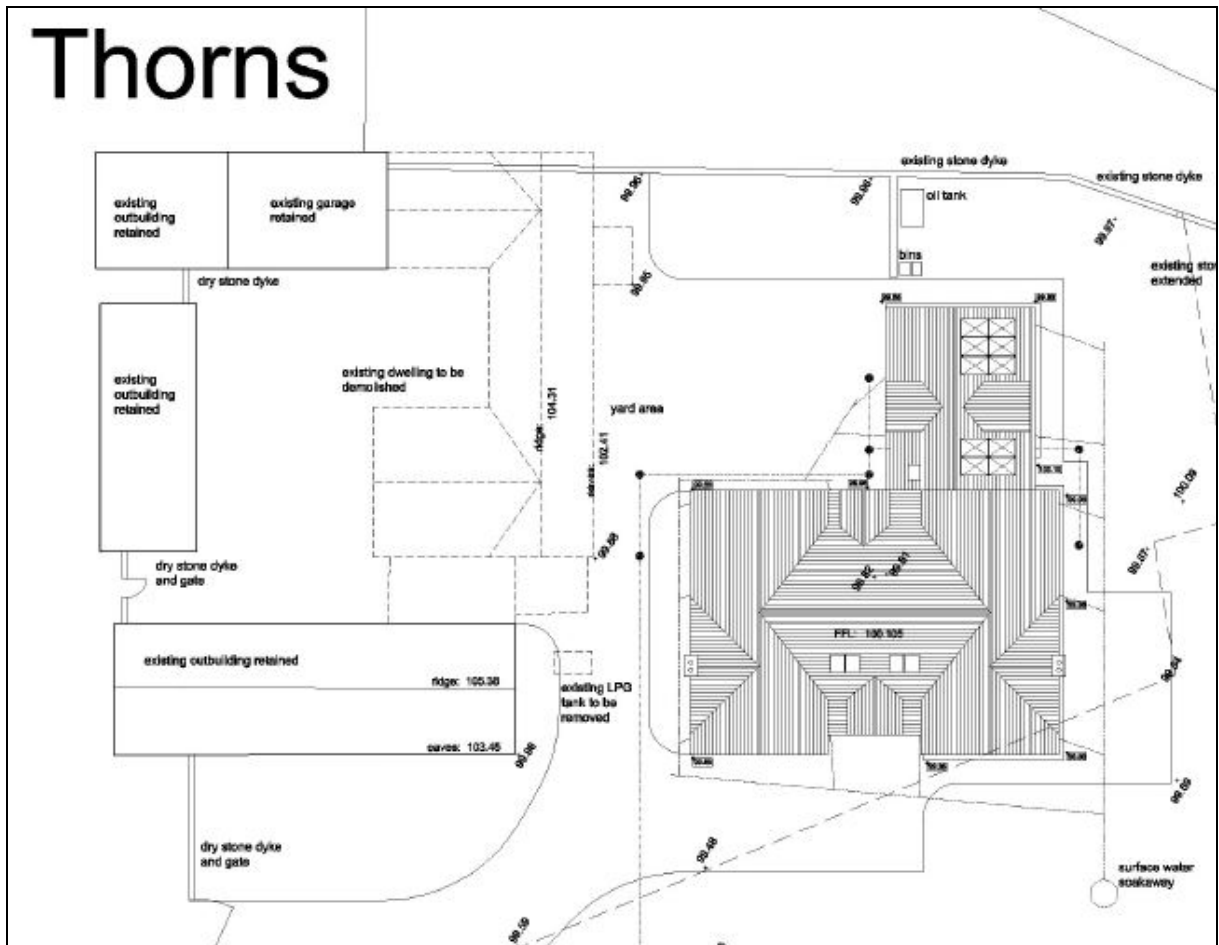


Figure 2f – proposed development

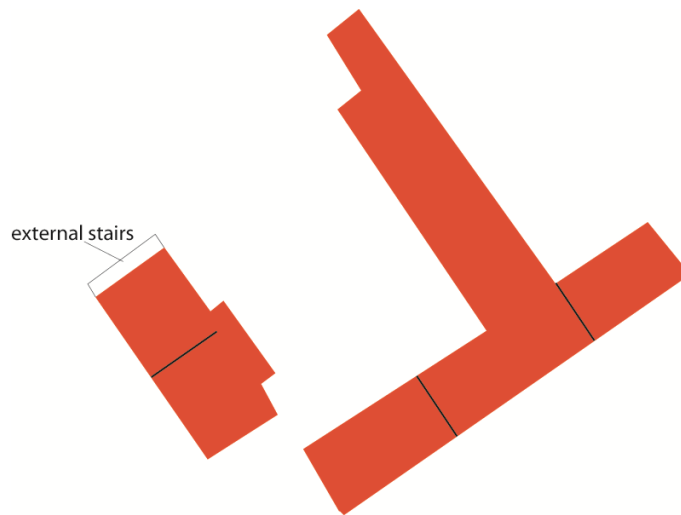


Figure 3a – phase 1 (pre 1860s)

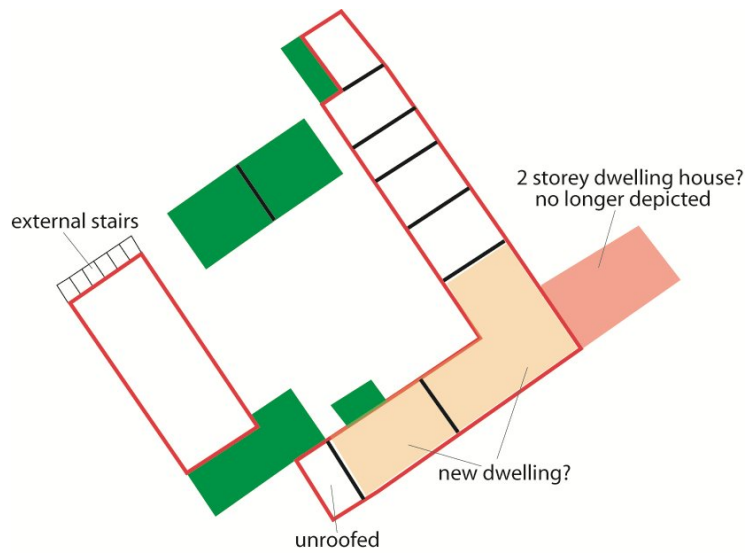


Figure 3a – phase 2 (1860s – circa 1900) (in green)



Figure 3a – phase 3 (1900 - 1970) (in purple)

References

Documentary

Ordnance Survey	1848-59	Ordnance Survey Name Book, Dumfriesshire volume 01 (OS1/10/1/60)
-----------------	---------	------------------------------------------------------------------

Cartographic

Roy	1747-55	Roys Military Survey Map of Scotland
Ordnance Survey	1862	1 st Edition Ordnance Survey, Dumfriesshire
Ordnance Survey	1899	2 nd Edition Ordnance Survey, Dumfriesshire
Ordnance Survey	1970	Ordnance Survey, Dumfriesshire



Figure 4a – SE (front) elevation - north-western range (from SE)



Figure 4b – SW (end) wall - north-western range (from WNW)



Figure 4c – NW (rear) elevation - north-western range (from NNW)



Figure 5a – blocked-in doorway in NW elevation - SW range (from NW)



Figure 5b – entrance in NW elevation - south-western range (from NW)



Figure 5c – blocked-in doorway in NW elevation - SW range (from SSE)



Figure 5d – NE (end) wall - south-western range (from ESE)



Figure 6a – gable in centre - north-western range (from NE)



Figure 6b – gable (in middle) - north-western range (from W)



Figure 6c – entrance at SW end of NW elevation - north-western range (from S)



Figure 7a – large entrance at SW end of SE elevation - north-western range (from N)



Figure 7b – showing stone protrusions in SW (end) wall - north-western range (from NNE)



Figure 7c – showing later blockwork at NW (end) wall - north-eastern range (from SE)



Figure 8a – NW (end) wall - north-eastern range (from NW)



Figure 8b – SW elevation of NW half - north-eastern range (from SW)



Figure 8c – part of NE elevation (NW half) - north-eastern range (from N)



Figure 9a – blocked-in doorway in SW Elevation - NE range (from WSW)



Figure 9b – blocked-in window in SW elevation - NE range (from WSW)



Figure 9c – interior of blocked-in doorway & window in SW elevation - NE range (from NE)



Figure 10a – SE elevation - south-western range (from SW)



Figure 10b – large entrance at SE end of SW elevation - south-western elevation (from SW)



Figure 10c – NE elevation - south-western range (from ENE)



Figure 11a – NW gable - south-western range (from NW)



Figure 11b – SE gable - south-western range (from SSE)



Figure 12a – vent / former window (II) at SE end of NE elevation - SW range (from NE)



Figure 12b – detail of infilled window & doorway in NW gable - SW range (from NW)



Figure 12c – internal view of blocked-in vent / former window (I) at NW end of NE elevation - south-western range (from SW)



Figure 13a – infilled (large) opening & buttress (in front of former doorway) of NE elevation - south-western range (from NE)



Figure 13b – vent / former window at NW end in NE elevation - SW range (from NE)



Figure 13c – buttress in front of former doo in NE elevation - SW range (from NE)



Figure 14a – general of interior - south-western range (from SE)



Figure 14b – detail of infilled openings in SW elevation – SW range (from ESE)



Figure 14c – general of interior - south-western range (from NW)



Figure 15a – partially demolished wall at NE end of interior – SE range (from NE)



Figure 15b – narrow 'buttress' protruding from SE elevation – SE range (from ESE)



Figure 15c – detail of infilled openings within SE elevation - south-eastern range (from ESE)



Figure 16a – SW gable & 'greenhouse' structure at SW end - south-eastern range (from SW)



Figure 16b – 'greenhouse' attached to SW end – SE range (from SE)

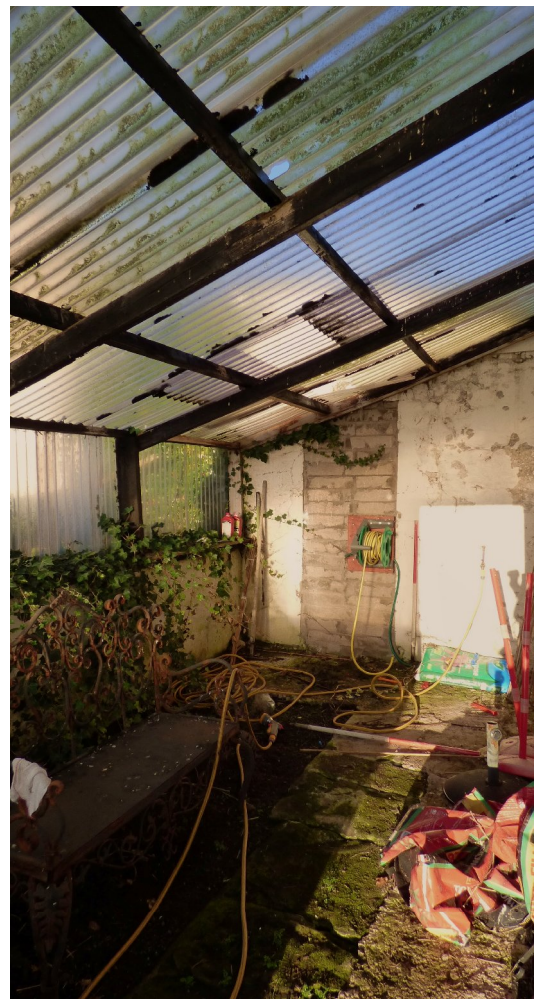


Figure 16c – 'greenhouse' attached to SW end – SE range (from ESE)



Figure 17a – SE elevation - south-eastern range (dwelling) (from SE)



Figure 17b – NE elevation - north-eastern range (dwelling & part of car port) (from ESE)



Figure 17c – NW elevation - south-eastern range (dwelling) (from NW)



Figure 18a – channel (1 of 2) within floor of NE end - north-western range (from SE)



Figure 18b – SW elevation (NW half) - north-eastern range (from SSE)



Figure 18c – general view of interior - north-eastern range (from W)

Appendix 1: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Dumfries & Galloway Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Thorns Farm, Brydekirk
PARISH:	Annan
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Rebecca Shaw
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Standing Building Survey
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Standing Building(s)
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NY 338157 570224
START DATE (this season)	24 th November 2017
END DATE (this season)	24 th November 2017
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
DESCRIPTION:	<p>A programme of archaeological historic building recording works were undertaken at Thorns Farm, Brydekirk, Annan, Dumfries & Galloway. The works were required to record the structure in its current form prior to demolition and conversion works.</p> <p>In general the archaeological works indicated a farmstead which although mapped in the eighteenth century, had no elements of this phase visible. The majority of the recorded buildings appeared to date to the nineteenth century with most of the structures indicated various changes of use over time. However, the existing dwelling in particular appeared to have very features, if any, features pertaining to the nineteenth century phase.</p>
PROJECT CODE:	017026
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Sean McGimpsey
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	9 Earl Place; Ranfurly; Bridge of Weir, PA11 3HA
E MAIL:	rebeccashaw@archaeologist.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended)	Report to Dumfries & Galloway Historic Environment Record and archive to HES Collections

Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services (main office)

9 Earl Place
Ranfurly
Bridge of Weir
Renfrewshire
PA11 3HA

tel: 01505 612762
mob: 07786 135432
email: rebeccashaw@archaeologist.com
website: www.rebeccashawarchaeologicalservices.co.uk

Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services (sub office)

Kirriereoch
Bargrennan
Newton Stewart
Wigtownshire
DG8 6TB