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SUMMARY

The study building had been heavily altered recently. However, it appears to have been a purpose built kitchen constructed during the second half of the nineteenth century. The survey did not elicit any features that could be described as possessing architectural merit.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project origins

English Heritage was consulted by Allerdale Borough Council regarding a planning application for 11 West Street, Wigton; Planning Application No. 2/10/0953 and 2/10/0955.

The scheme has the potential to affect the character and appearance of a building of special architectural and historic interest. The proposal will affect the character and appearance of the buildings and, as a result, a condition has been placed on planning consent requiring a programme of archaeological building recording to be undertaken prior to the development taking place

In order to ascertain the historical and archaeological merits affected by this development, the brief issued by the curatorial authority requires investigation of known historical records through a rapid desk-based assessment and the survival of extant buildings via a programme of building recording equivalent to Level 2 as described by English Heritage *Understanding Historic Buildings A Guide to Good Recording Practice*, 2006.

The desk-based assessment included visits to Carlisle Library and The Cumbria Record Office, Carlisle. The objective of this exercise was to collate sufficient detail to identify the issues and potential for academic research, provide a series of questions for targeted archaeological enquiry and outline, if any, possible mitigation response.



Figure 1. Location of study building (OS copyright licence no. 100044205).

1.2 Proposed development

The works proposed by the development involve the demolition of an original rear addition and the erection of larger, single-storey replacement. The study building, the outrigger belonging to No. 11 West Street has been re-roofed and a modern conservatory lean-to has been added.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Project Design

In response to a request by English Heritage, Gerry Martin Associates Ltd submitted a project design (Written Scheme of Investigation) for the archaeological recording of extant buildings. This document outlined the contractors' professional suitability, a brief historical summary of the study area, general objectives required of the project, the methodology and the resources needed for the successful implementation of this work.

The project design on being accepted by the curatorial body, Gerry Martin Associates Ltd was commissioned to undertake the desk-based assessment and the archaeological survey by the client Mr Geoff Robson.

The following report has been assembled to the relevant standards and protocols of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, combined with accepted best practice and in accordance with the brief prepared by the curatorial authority.

Fieldwork took place on February 7th 2011.

2.2 Desk-based assessment

In accordance with the Design Brief, the desk-based assessment investigated primary and secondary historical sources, maps and other literature in order to set the survey results into their past cultural, historical and topographic context.

The desk-based assessment comprised a search of three archival repositories.

Carlisle Library provided sources for published works including newspaper articles, archaeological and antiquarian reports, photographs and journals.

Cumbria Record Office, Carlisle was sought for details of landowners, occupiers and cartographic evidence.

The Historic Environment Record, online, provided the Sites and Monuments Record describing previous archaeological observations and electronic media showing the spatial distribution of these findings.

2.3 Archive

The archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design and the guidelines set out by English Heritage (1991) and the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994, 2007 and 2008).

The archive will be deposited with an appropriate repository and a copy of the report donated to the County Sites and Monuments Record, as requested by the curatorial authority.

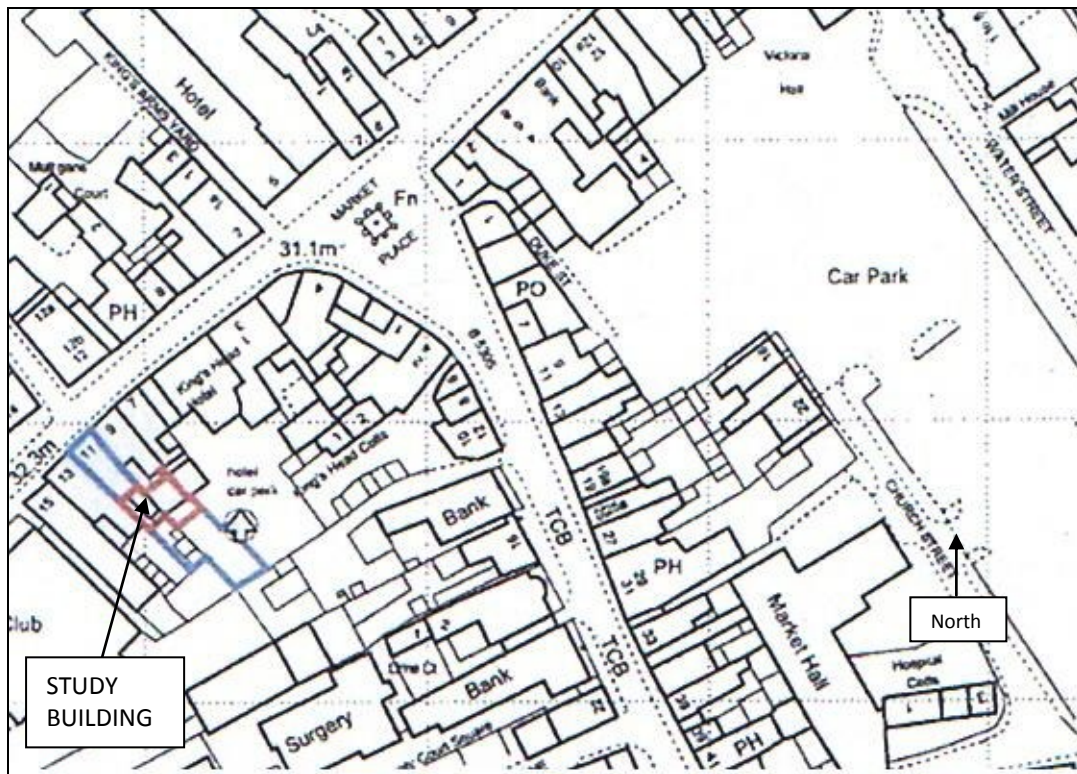


Figure 2. Location of property forming the development

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Location, topography and geology

The study area lies in an established urban area. Reference to the geological map of the area indicates that the underlying geology of the area comprises Permian and Triassic sandstones, overlain by boulder clay and moraine drift deposits.

4 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

4.1 Historical background

No. 11 West Street, Wigton, was built about 1830 by John Barnes as a domestic residence and is noted on the First edition Ordnance Survey of 1868 (figure 3). The property was modernised during the late Victorian period. Construction No. 11 has had a number of uses including being the home of the provincial artist William Henry Hudless, offices of the local Burial Board, a dental practice, and again as a domestic residence from about 1950 onward. It has undergone minimal structural change but has been modernised internally to some degree.

Wigton's position in the centre of the Solway Plain together with the commercial influence of Holm Cultram Abbey fostered a thriving trade in commerce. In 1262, the town acquired the right to hold a weekly market and annual fair.

Wigton's early industries included cotton and linen manufacture, dyeing, printing and tanning. The cloth manufacturers employed many hand-loom weavers who carried out their trade in small weavers' cottages mainly located to the east of the town centre.

Wigton's two becks supplied enough water and power to operate three corn mills, two breweries, a dye works, tannery and saw mill

Industrial prosperity was accompanied by the construction of several elaborate and monumental, red sandstone, urban vernacular Georgian houses (Brunskill 2002, 132), the most famous of which was Highmoor House, built in 1810 by Joseph Hodge, a cotton and linen manufacturer.



Figure 3. Ordnance Survey map of 1868

5 RESULTS

5.1 Methodology

The buildings in the study area were surveyed on February 7th 2011 by Richard Woolley assisted by Carl Savage using a Disto measuring device and hand-held GPS equipment.

The buildings were fully accessible, although natural light was slightly restricted within the study building requiring occasional flash photography.

The survey comprised of scaled photographic recording of the interiors and elevations of all the buildings, with detailed photography of any worthy architectural elements.

Using the architectural plans, notations were undertaken regarding the characteristics of these farm buildings, including metrical data, thresholds, materials and building techniques employed.

The corpus of the following report is formed from these notes and photographs. The following report describes each room within the study building.

5.2 Survey Results; 11 West Street, Wigton

The building that is to be demolished is a red sandstone kitchen outrigger with an adjacent modern sun room. The now open narrow courtyard between the study building and the building at 13 West Street is to be enclosed in order to produce a single, formal structure.

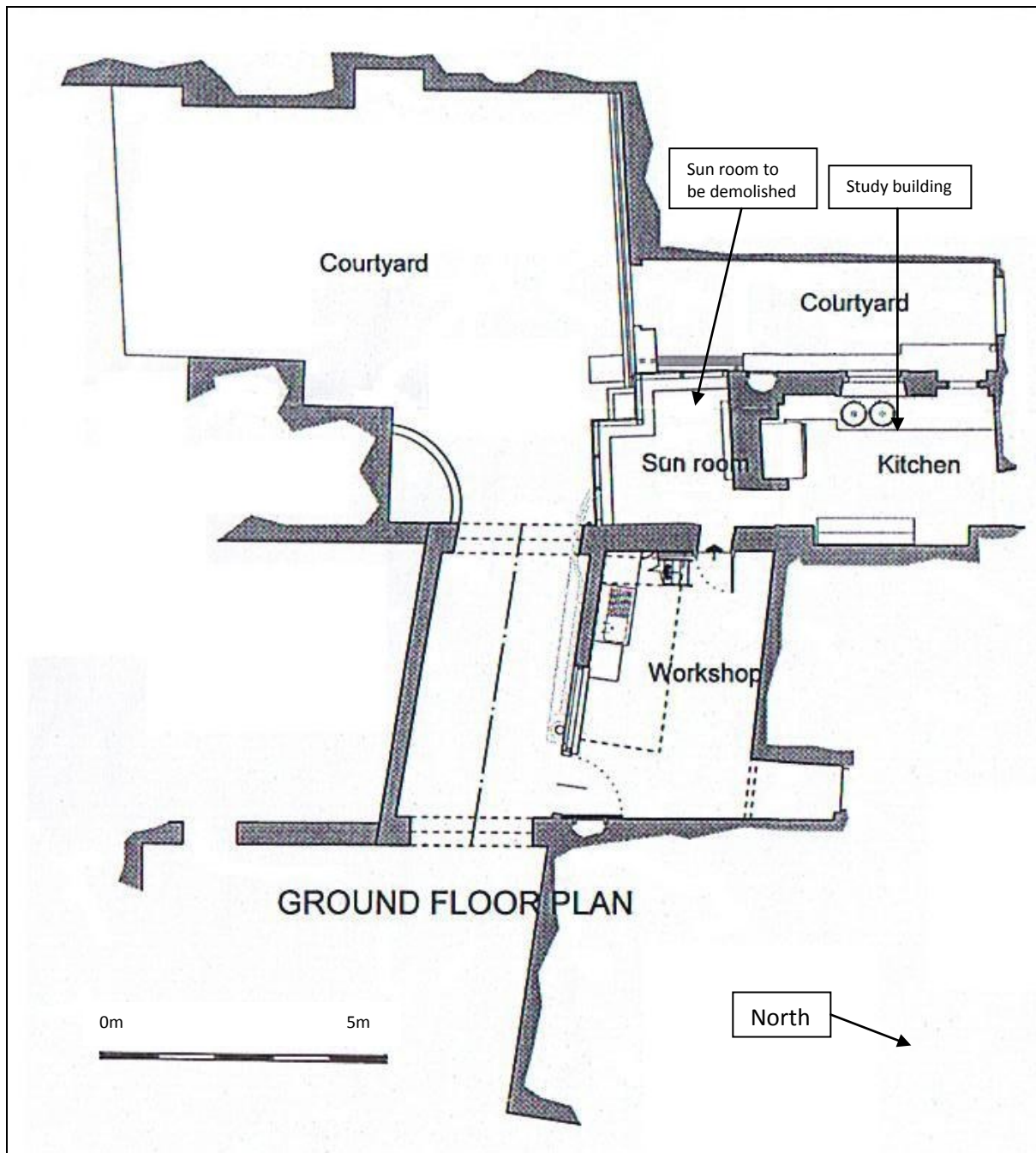


Figure 4. Ground plan of the study building

The rectangular plan study building (figure 4) measured 4.60m x 2.65m and stood 3.90m in height and possessed an internal area measuring 3.70m x 2.30m. Currently the building is used as a kitchen.

The walls for the kitchen outrigger were 0.50m in width, regularly coursed but with a coarse finish and comprised dressed sandstone blocks forming quoins at the interface with the later sun room. The external walls have been finished in cream masonry paint that obscured any putative architectural embellishments. Modern iron guttering framed the elevation.

Within the south-western elevation (figure 5), three features were present;

- A former doorway measuring 2.20m x 1.20m containing a dressed sandstone surround painted black. A timber plywood door (1.90m x 0.88m) was painted grey with a small rectangular window present

- A rectangular plan window (figure 6) measuring 1.39m x 0.93m with a dressed sandstone surround painted black and containing a modern glazed window.
- A rectangular plan external cupboard (figure 7) with timber surround measuring 1.13m x 0.49m bearing a timber, tongue-and-grooved door painted grey with black iron hinges and fixed by two latches

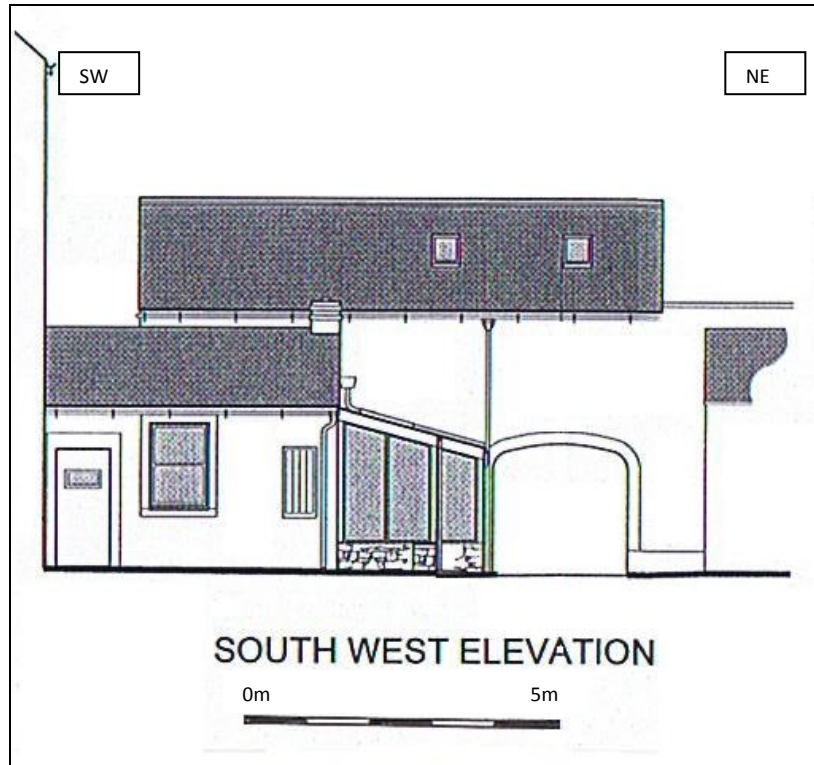


Figure 5. South west elevation of the study building



Figure 6. Window on south east side



Figure 7. Cupboard on south east side



Figure 8. South east elevation of the study building



Figure 9. Elevation at rear of numbers 11 and 13



Figure 10. Interior of the study building (kitchen)

The interior of the kitchen (figure 10) had been tiled recently. Where the range once stood, an Aga was now present framed by a red sandstone surround now painted black. The flue was connected to a brick chimney that could be an original feature. Modern kitchen appliances and fitted cupboards were also represented.

The walls within the kitchen were clad in timber tongue and groove (probably not an original feature) and painted cream (figure 10).

A former slate roof had been removed recently, replaced with a mural depicting the sky (figure 11) although the barrel ceiling was partly maintained.

The doorway visible on the outside had a wooden frame but was blocked (figure 12) by a fitted kitchen unit thereby prohibiting access. A bolt-hole was still visible on the left-hand side of the door.



Figure 11. The sky mural



Figure 12. Filled doorway



Figure 13. Interface between kitchen and sun room

The rectangular plan sun room measured 2.60m x 2.20m and stood 2.60m in height with a slate roof with skylights that dipped to a height of 2.00m.

The structure butted the kitchen and was finished internally in white plaster (figure 13).

The sun room (figure 14) was predominantly glazed with timber window surrounds surmounted on a modern stone dwarf wall and was built around 2003.

The narrow courtyard measured 6.30m x 1.65m and was overlain by square terracotta and grey tiles forming a diamond pattern (figure 15). It remains unknown whether this was an original feature.



Figure 14. The sun room



Figure 15. The courtyard

5.3 Discussion

The outrigger that formed the kitchen and which is due for demolition has been radically altered in the last 25 years by the present occupants. The survey did not recognise any architectural embellishments or features that were particularly diagnostic or unique. Masonry paint on the exterior and timber cladding on the interior would have obscured any such features if they existed.

The study building denotes an extension that had occurred in the later Victorian period. This action was typical of an increasingly prosperous commercial middle class with greater disposable income. Allied to technological improvements in the thermal efficiency of ranges, a division of domestic tasks could be undertaken in specialist rooms and these would include kitchens.

6 ARCHIVE

The archive for this project will be deposited with the appropriate archaeological curator, Tullie House, Carlisle. This archive has been assembled in accordance within the protocols of Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2).

7 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am grateful to Mr Geoff Robson for his assistance with the report and commissioning the work. I would also like to thank Jeremy Parsons for his help and guidance with the archaeological brief and reviewing my provisional draft of this report; the staff of Carlisle Library with my research into the local history of the area and the staff of Cumbria Record Office, Carlisle with the map regression and other documentary research.

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