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SUMMARY

Although all the structures were featured on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map, there were no embellishments or architectural details that were diagnostic of specific functions.

The suite of buildings clearly had an agricultural function but context had been lost through later “improvements” and removal of complimentary structures.

These utilitarian buildings appear to date to the mid-19th century but have little academic merit.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project origins

Cumbria County Council's County Historic Environment Service (CCHES) was consulted by Allerdale District Council regarding a planning application for the demolition of a barn at Holly House, Thursby, near Carlisle; Planning Application No. 2/11/0732.

The study building was located at NY 32568 50100.

The scheme has the potential to affect the character and appearance of a building of special architectural and historic interest. Demolition will affect the character and appearance of the building 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*.

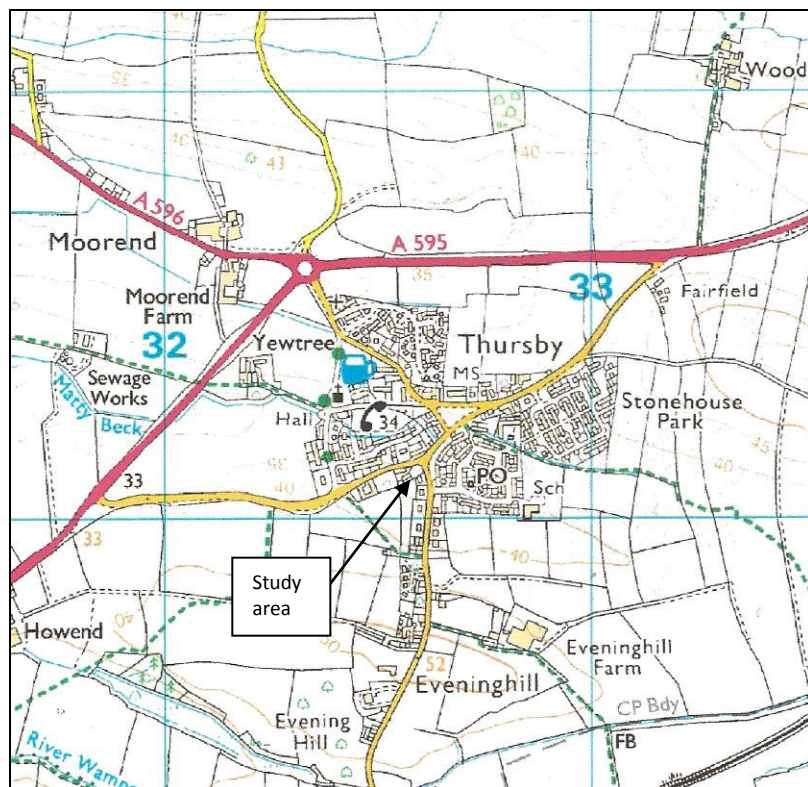


Figure 1. Location of survey. (OS copyright licence no. 100044205).

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

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Project Design

In response to a request by Cumbria County Council's County Historic Environment Service, Gerry Martin Associates Ltd submitted a project design (Written Scheme of Investigation) for the archaeological recording of an extant barn. 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 an archaeological survey by the client Mr William Story.

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 November 20th 2012.

2.2 Desk-based assessment

In accordance with the Design Brief, the rapid 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 reconnaissance and through electronic media showing the spatial distribution of these observations.

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, Tullie House, Carlisle and three copies of the report donated to the County Sites and Monuments Record, as requested by the curatorial authority.

2.4 Walk-over survey

A walkover of the study area on November 20th 2012 did not suggest any upstanding monuments such as derelict buildings, walls or tofts existed.

Former agricultural buildings had been present but removed or considerably altered beyond recognition by a programme of rather eccentric *ad hoc* changes initiated by the former householder between 1976 and 1983. These include the construction of an arch above the lower courses of a former barn as well as internal refurbishment within the study barn.

Stone gate posts and raised terraces indicated past landscaping and an organisation of space that coincided with mid-19th century farm improvements.

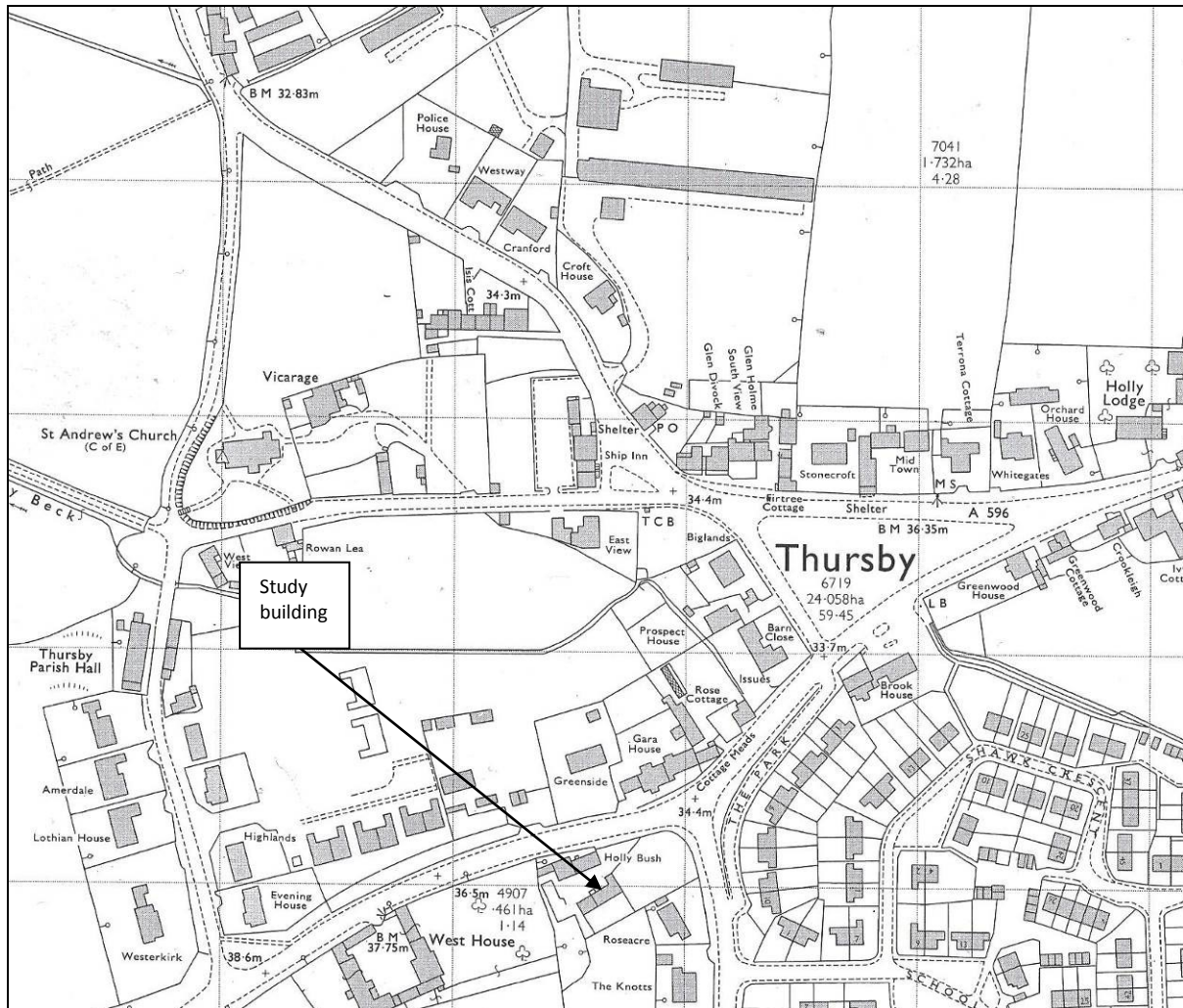


Figure 2. Location of study building

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Location, topography and geology

The study area NY 32568 50100 (figure 4) is situated on the south-eastern side of St Andrews Church Thursby.

Reference to the geological map of the area indicates that the underlying geology of the area consisted of Permian and Triassic sandstones, overlain by pink Boulder Clay and moraine drift deposits of yellow sands, the outwash from glacial activity between 2,000,000 and 10,000 years ago.

Level II Building Survey Holly Bush House, Thursby, Carlisle

During the Roman period, a road linked Carlisle with Papcastle via Old Carlisle (Symonds 2009, 58). This route passed just to the south of the church being an important communication link thereafter, currently the A595.

The Church of St Andrew was founded on a small knoll providing an elevated position above the surrounding flat area overlooking Whinnow Beck to the west and River Wampool further to the south.

4 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

4.1 Historical background

The site is occupied by Holly Bush House and a former agricultural building.

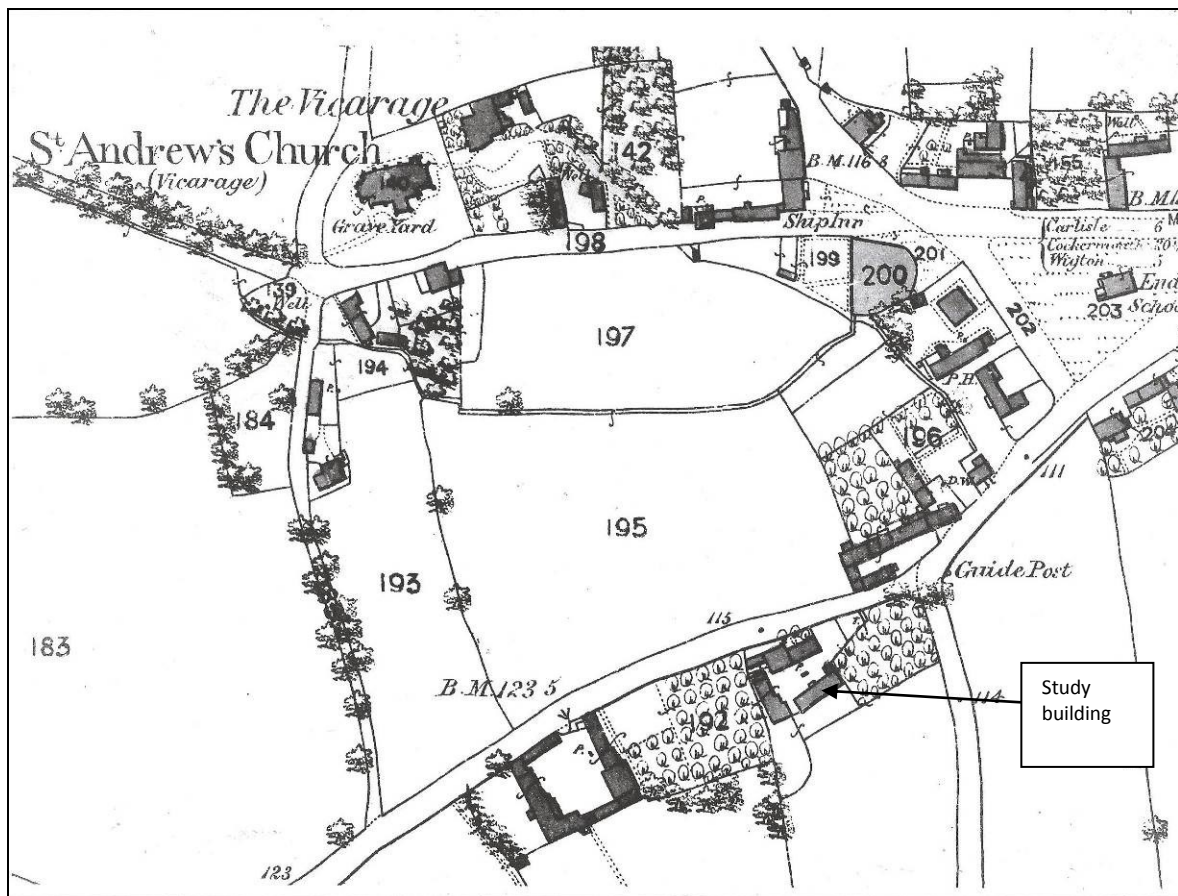


Figure 3. Ordnance Survey First Edition map of 1868

The Historic Environment Record notes few historical sites within Thursby; these assets are summarised below:

- 3775 St Andrews Church
- 18696 Medieval farmstead at Meadowcroft
- 13989 Medieval pottery find spot
- 13990 Medieval pottery find spot
- 19331 Silver coin

The 1774 Donald map indicates scattered houses throughout the village that probably equated to small farms but definition of Holly Bush House was not possible.

The study barn is depicted on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1868 (figure 3) part of a suite of outbuildings that formed an enclosed farm complex.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 Academic merit

Past cultural settlement in Cumbria has been predominantly rural, where agriculture has been the main economic driver and product. Increasingly, those features associated with past farming technique have been lost or converted for domestic use or for local tourism.

A challenge to historians, archaeologists and other researchers is to compile a record of those rural buildings that indicate past agricultural practice and social conditions before their industrial, agricultural and historic context is lost.

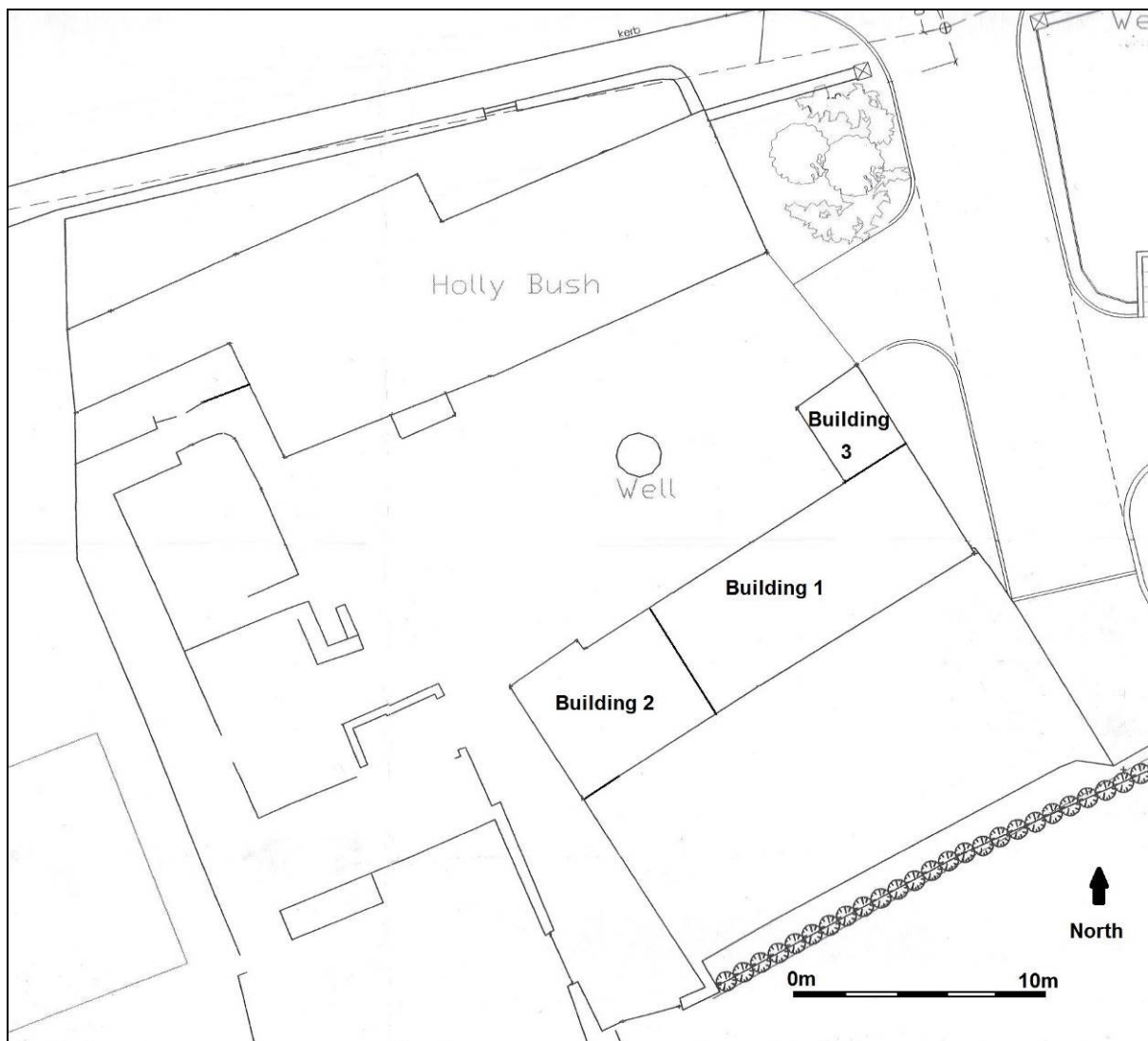


Figure 4. Ground plan of Buildings 1-3

6. RESULTS

6.1 Methodology

The buildings in the study area were surveyed on November 20th 2012 by Gerry Martin using a Disto measuring device and hand-held GPS equipment.

The buildings were fully accessible, although natural light was restricted within the study buildings, 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.

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

The corpus of the report is formed from these notes and photographs. The following report describes each building within the suite of agricultural structures using nomenclature Building 1 to 3 and divided into rooms.

6.2 Survey results; the barn (Building 1)

Located at NY 32568 50100, the principal study building was a single barn divided into two rooms (figure 5). The building comprised of rubble-stone walls, recently repointed, measuring 0.40m in thickness, red sandstone quoins (figure 13) at each corner (blocks approximately 0.50m x 0.30m x 0.25m) thereby producing a ground plan measuring 10.13m x 4.75m and 5.22m in height.

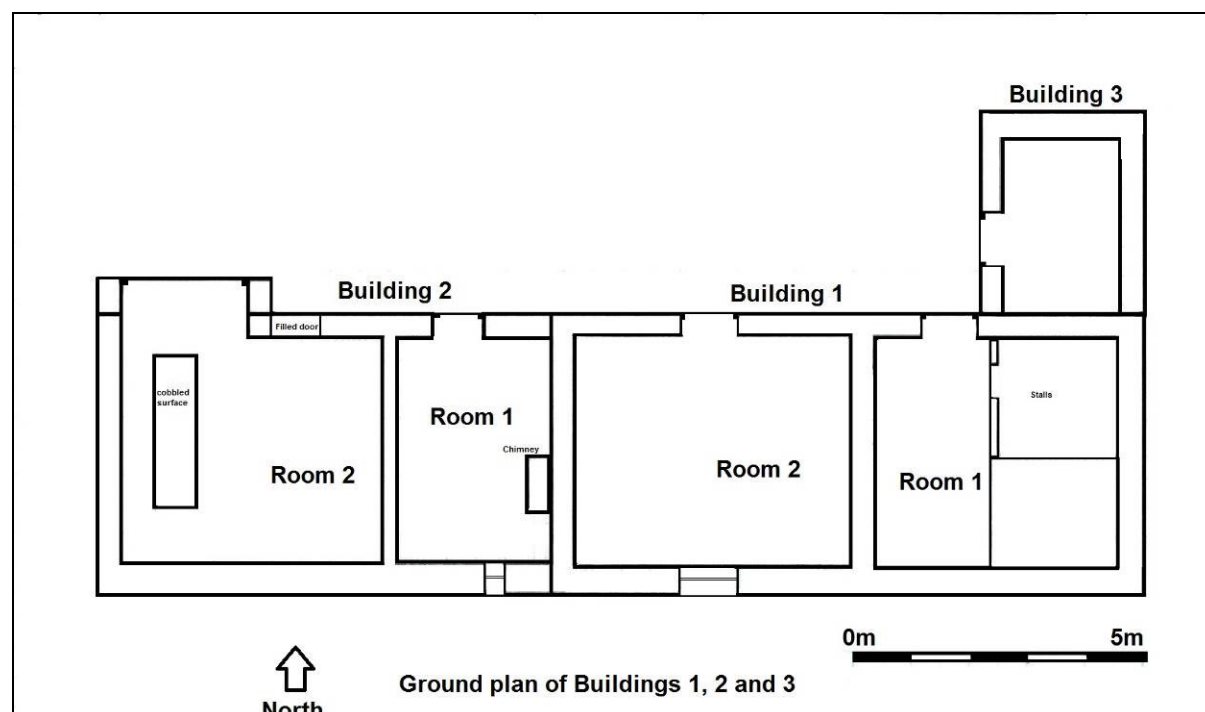


Figure 5. Internal lay-out of Buildings 1-3

The roof was of slate surmounted by a stone ridge (figure 11) with re-used trusses and modern purlins forming the roof structure. A recent skylight had been added on the south side.

There had been an upper storey perhaps serving as a hayloft (figure 6). This comprised two windows opposite each other (figures 7 and 12) measuring 0.78m x 0.70m with both windows 2.20m east of the western party wall. A small tongue and groove door with red sandstone surround formed the ingress to a putative loft (figure 7) and measured 1.40m x 1.00m.

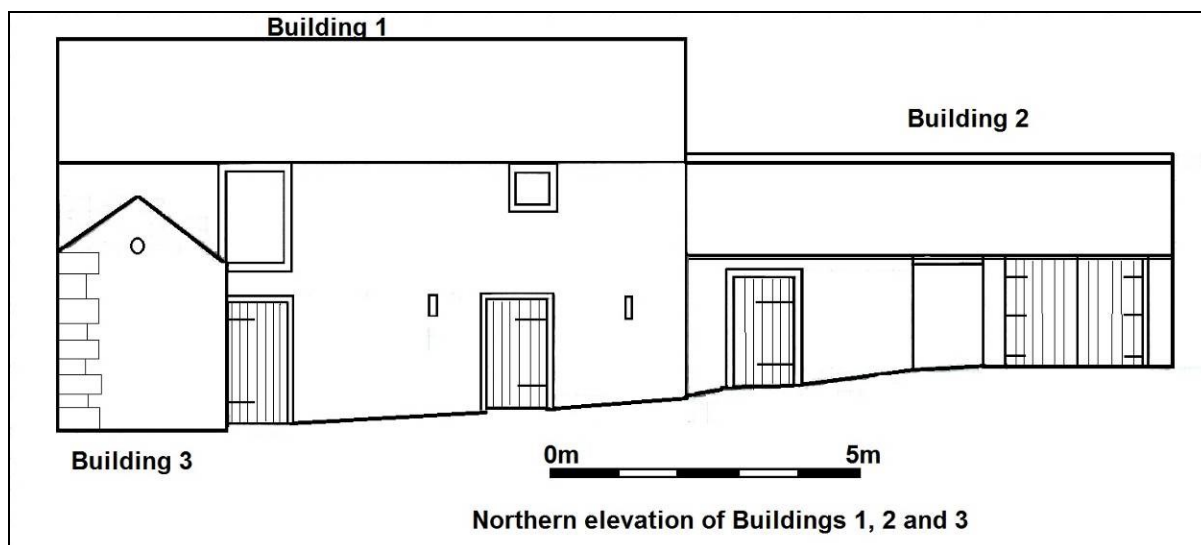


Figure 6. Northern elevation of Buildings 1-3



Figure 7. Northern elevation Building 1

The ground floor possessed two timber tongue and groove doors, both with sandstone jambs. The doors measured 1.90m x 1.00m and accessed Rooms 1 and 2 respectively.

The barn possessed two crudely filled air vents on its northern elevation and a further four partially filled air vents on the southern elevation (figures 8 and 12). The vents were approximately 0.40m in length and 0.10m in width.

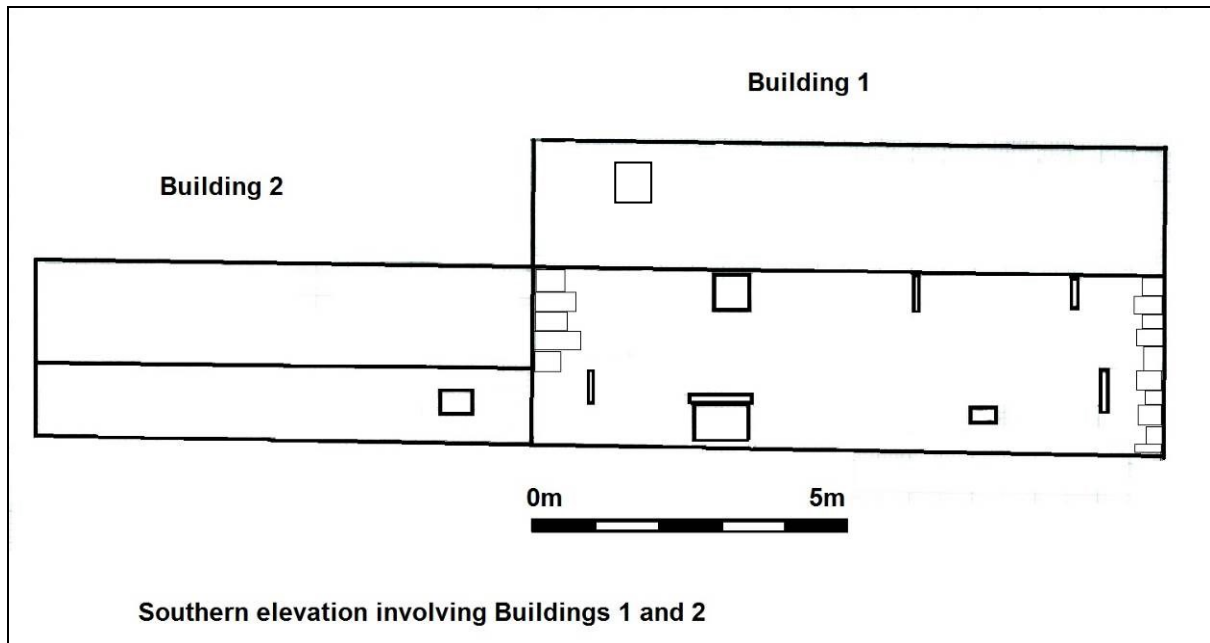


Figure 8. Southern elevation of Buildings 2 and 1

Room 1 possessed an internal area measuring 4.15m x 3.97m comprising randomly coursed rubble stone walls measuring 0.40m in thickness, bonded with yellow, sandy mortar. The interior (figure 9) has been white-washed throughout in order to improve waterproofing and maintain the integrity of the building fabric.

The floor comprised flags with a spatial division that once may have represented stalls for two animals.

A modern mezzanine floor had been added producing a room height for the ground floor of 2.14m from an overall height of 5.22m.



Figure 9. Interior of Room 1, Building 1



Figure 10. Interior of Room 2, Building 1

Room 2 possessed an internal area measuring 4.81m x 3.90m comprising randomly coursed rubble stone walls measuring 0.40m in thickness, bonded with yellow, sandy mortar. The interior (figure 10)

had been partly white-washed throughout in order to improve waterproofing and maintain the integrity of the building fabric. The ceiling was at a height of 2.54m where it formed an attic space.

The floor comprised flagstones and concrete whilst the chimney breast from Building 2 was visible in the western attic wall (figure 13).



Figure 11. Eastern elevation of Building 1



Figure 12. Southern elevation, Building 1

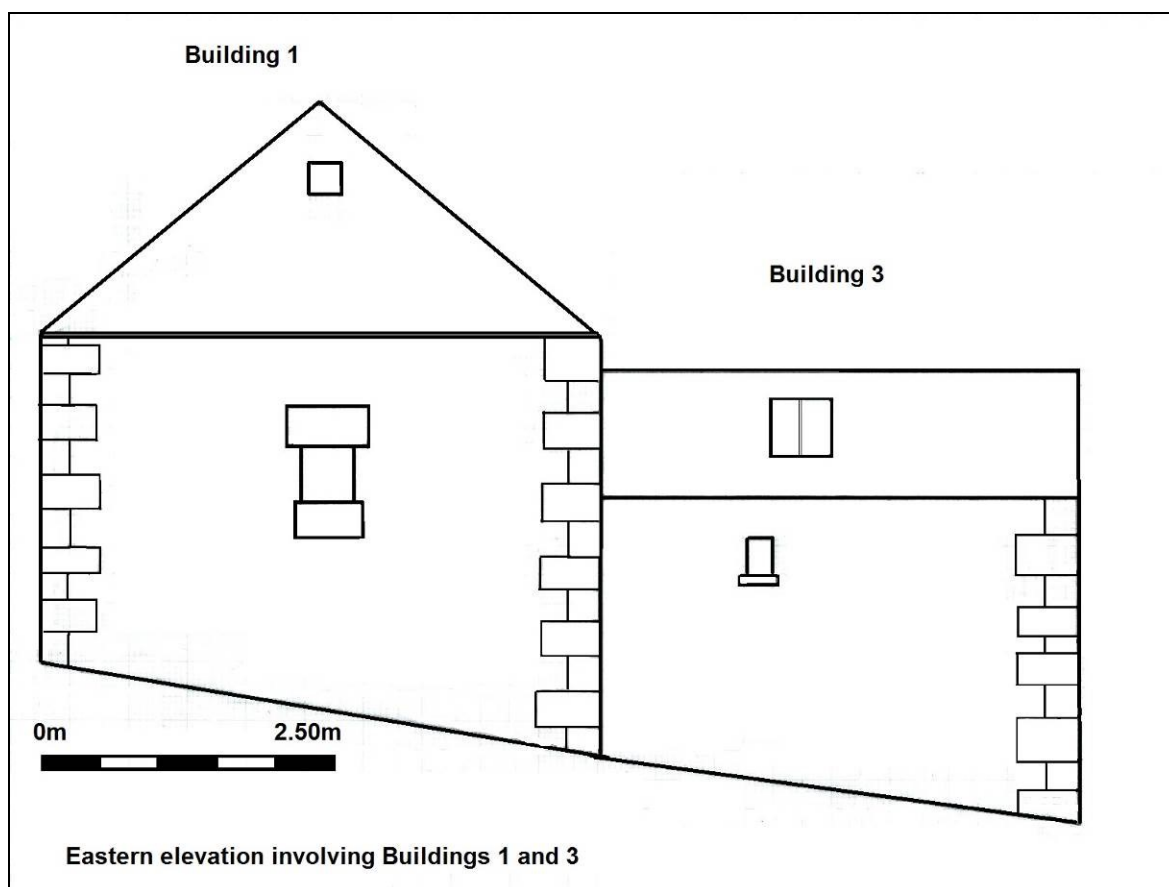


Figure 13. Eastern elevation of Building 1 and 3

The ground floor door 0.92m in width and 1.80m in height lay opposite a small ground floor glazed window (0.91m x 0.59m in size) that possessed an iron grille and concrete surround, pointed to imitate stone.

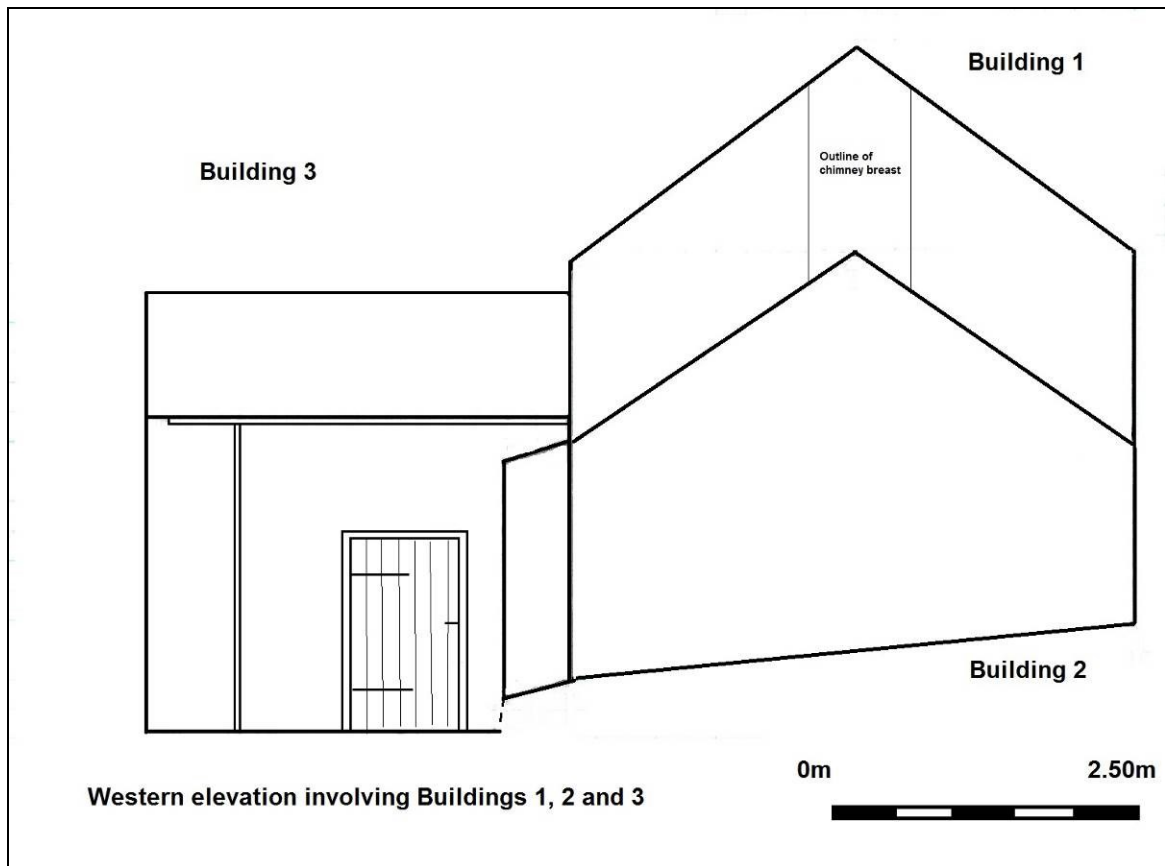


Figure 14. Western elevation, Buildings 1-3



Figure 15. Chimney stack in Building 1



Figure 16. Fireplace, Room 1, Building 2

6.3 Survey results; bothy (Building 2)

Building 2 located at NY 32560 50094 was added to the western end of Building 1, utilising a rubble stone wall on its western side. It measured 7.90m in length and 4.73m in width with a maximum wall height of 2.12m. The walls were 0.38m in thickness.

The western wall had been bolstered by shuttered concrete thereby thickening the wall by 0.05m.

The roof was in a poor state of repair and had begun to sag (figure 19). Constructed from stone shingles surmounted by a stone ridge and standing to a height of 1.60m, the roof was formed from re-used wooden trusses with the rafters and purlins suffering from dry-rot and decay.

The northern elevation (figure 19) possessed originally two doors of which the eastern door is now only extant replete with tongue and groove timber door (0.97m x 1.83m) and crude *ad hoc* jamb. The western door (1.10m x 1.92m) was filled with red sandstone probably as a result of a refurbishment in 1976 that added two brick piers (figure 20) and a set of tongue and groove timber double doors 2.29m in width to form a garage (inscribed on door "G.G.G. 1976" by the former owner).

Room 1 possessed an internal area measuring 4.15m x 3.97m comprising randomly coursed rubble stone walls measuring 0.40m in thickness, bonded with yellow, sandy mortar. The interior has been partly white-washed.

The main feature was a stone-filled hearth and red sandstone chimney breast (figure 15). The fireplace measured 0.80m in width and stood to a height of 1.10m in height whilst the chimney was a further 0.99m in width and 1.65m in height. There was no ornamentation associated with the hearth the feature being purely utilitarian (figure 16).

Room 2 possessed an internal area measuring 4.50m x 3.96m comprising randomly coursed rubble stone walls measuring 0.40m in thickness, bonded with yellow, sandy mortar. The interior had been partly white-washed (figure 17) in order to improve waterproofing and maintain the integrity of the building fabric except on the eastern party wall (figure 18) with Room 1 which was left untouched.

The floor consisted of modern stone setts except for a rectangular area measuring 2.25m x 0.75m formed from rounded cobbles.



Figure 17. Internal area Room 2, Building 2



Figure 18. Sandstone partition wall Building 2



Figure 19. Northern elevation Building 2



Figure 20. Western elevation, Building 2

6.4 Survey results; store (Building 3)

Measuring 3.60m x 2.70m in plan, Building 3 located at NY 32568 50104 was added to the northern side of Building 1 (figure 23). Building 3 was formed from concordant rubble stone courses (0.36m in width), standing to a height of 2.80m with an additional 1.00m to the ridge. Stone red sandstone quoins (blocks approximately 0.50m x 0.32m x 0.24m) were slight architectural embellishments to the northern-eastern corner of the building (figure 21).

The building had not been repointed but repairs appeared to consist of rounded large boulders replacing rough-hewn sandstone blocks (figure 22).



Figure 21. East elevation, Building 3



Figure 22. West elevation, Building 3



Figure 23. North elevation, Building 3



Figure 24. Interior of Building 3

A circular air vent 0.30m in diameter had been added at a later date (figure 23) as had a skylight (figure 21) that was located within a stone shingle roof supported by modern timber joists.

Internally, Building 3 yielded a floor plan measuring 2.00m x 3.32m standing to a height of 3.38m. This single room possessed a concrete floor with a series of joists forming shelves either side of the entrance (figure 24).



Figure 25. Building 3 butting Building 1

6.5 Phasing

The earliest structure was Building 1. Building 2 had a chimney built into the western wall of Building 1 (figure 15) whilst Building 3 butted Building 1, whereby the pitch of the roof obscured a sandstone sill (figure 25).

6.6 Discussion

Buildings 1-3 were all illustrated on the 1868 Ordnance Survey map and it would appear highly probable extant when the survey took place.

Building 1 had little architectural embellishment and was designed purely for an agricultural purpose probably serving as a barn with a hayloft.

The barn was designed for the storage and conversion of grain. The crop was first stored and during the winter winnowed, the threshed grain then transported to a mill or fed to cattle. It appears to belong to a period of investment in farm buildings initiated during the later 18th Century that lasted to about 1880. This period reflected three distinct phases:

- The second half of the 18th Century when demand increased from industrialising communities and transport improvements facilitated long distance trade
- The Napoleonic War 1793-1815, when there was nationally, a large rise in agricultural production and where protectionism maintained high prices
- 1815-1880 when increased mechanisation and scientific methods increased the efficiency of the Cumbrian farm (Brunskill 2002, 27-28)

Development was enhanced by the effects of enclosure that rationalised farm holdings and scientific improvements in farming that lead to greater productivity and efficiency. This evolution was reflected in the farm buildings where basic forms developed into specialised structures, culminating in designs of some ingenuity with architectural pretensions and at a considerable cost (Brunskill 2002, 95).

By the late 19th Century and during the 20th Century, Dutch barns, silage pits and on-site storage made specialised storage buildings superfluous.

The study barn (Building 1) at Holly Bush House probably belongs to the third phase of agricultural improvement (1815-1880) and would have been used for grain storage. Most probably the barn was constructed during the early to mid-19th Century as it is featured on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map.

Subsequently, as agriculture declined in importance, the barn took on other uses, mainly for storage of non-agricultural items and for private use as was the case in this study.

Building 2 appears to have been a bothy as it possessed a fireplace clearly designed for domestic use. Possibly, this facility was for seasonal or temporary workers as there was only a single, small window in the same room.

The change of use for Room 2 into a garage in 1976 meant that much of the original fabric had been lost during refurbishment.

The removal of other buildings that comprised a suite of agricultural structures during the 19th century has meant that its original context has been lost.

Building 3 was a small store or tool shed. It possessed no architectural merit.

7 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).

8 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am grateful to Mr William Story for his assistance and commissioning the work. I would also like to thank Jeremy Parsons for his help and guidance with the archaeological brief; 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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