



BUILDING SURVEY

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TWO SMALL FARM BUILDINGS AT WHAW CHAPEL

ARKENGARTHDALE

**YORKSHIRE DALES
NATIONAL PARK**

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prepared for
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TWO SMALL FARM BUILDINGS AT WHAW CHAPEL, ARKENGARTHDALE: BUILDING SURVEY

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document presents a survey of two small farm buildings at Whaw Chapel, Whaw, Arkengarthdale, in the Yorkshire Dales National Park (NY 983 046; Figure 1). The two buildings lie to the east of the chapel, within a cluster of small animal enclosures.
- 1.2 The survey was undertaken as a condition of planning (R/01/151), as the site lies within the Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Barns and Walls Conservation Area, and the two small buildings will be demolished to allow the construction of a garage.
- 1.3 This report was produced by Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd on behalf of Mr and Mrs Wickham in July 2016.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 The building appraisal entailed a brief survey of the standing remains and a rapid assessment of readily available sources. The following sources were consulted:
 - Ekwall, E (1960) *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*
 - Google Earth (online) <https://earth.google.co.uk>
 - Heritage Gateway (online) <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/>
 - Historic England (2016) *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*
 - Lewis, P (2016) *Heritage Statement*
 - National Library of Scotland (online) <http://maps.nls.uk/os/index.html>
 - Oldmaps online www.old-maps.co.uk
 - Yorkshire Dales National Park (online) 'Out of Oblivion' http://www.outofoblivion.org.uk/dom_arch.asp
- 2.2 The survey comprised a photographic and measured record of the two buildings. Additional details of the construction elements and materials were also noted. Where relevant, measurements are given below (Section 4) in both metric and imperial. The survey was undertaken on 18 July 2016; tall

vegetation surrounding the buildings meant that some of the wall faces were not fully accessible.

3.0 HISTORIC BACKGROUND

- 3.1 There are no known documentary records for the two buildings. A settlement at Whaw was recorded as early as AD1280, the name being derived from Old English *cu-hage*, meaning cattle enclosure (Ekwall 1960, 511). The settlement is likely to have continued as one or two farms throughout the medieval period.
- 3.2 It was probably during the height of the lead-mining industry in the 18th and early 19th centuries that much of the modern hamlet was constructed. An indenture of 1841 relating to Whaw Chapel shows a series of sheepfolds in the area between the chapel and the site of the two buildings (Lewis 2016), although the plan (not reproduced here) does not show any detail beyond these, so it is not known whether the two structures were present at that time.
- 3.3 The earliest cartographical depiction of the two buildings is on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1857 (Figure 3). The small scale used, six inches to the mile, or 1:10,560, means that no detail can be discerned, although most of the extant buildings of the hamlet were represented. To the south-east of the two buildings in 1857 was a barn and range of miners' cottages (Mark Wickham, pers. comm.), while further to the south was a public house called The Rose and Crown.
- 3.4 The Yorkshire Dales Historic Environment Record (HER) discusses the possibility that one of the two farm buildings had been an early 20th-century covered sheep-dip (HER MYD61935), but examination for the preparation of the Heritage Statement (Lewis 2016) found no evidence to support this hypothesis.

4.0 BUILDING SURVEY

- 4.1 The two buildings stood on the south-west (Building 1) and south-east (Building 2) sides of a small enclosure (Figures 2 & 3). There were further paddocks and enclosures to the south and south-west, and an area of common land known as 'the village green' to the north-east. A floor-plan of the two buildings is shown in Figure 4.

Building 1

- 4.2 This was a single celled building with a single-pitch roof sloping to the south-west (Plate 1). Although now partially collapsed, the original structure measured approximately 6.95m (24'9") long, north-west to south-east, by 2.3m (7'6") wide, and had a maximum internal height of 2.1m. The irregularity of the ground to the exterior prevented accurate measurement of the external height.

The surviving walls were constructed of two faces of irregularly coursed cobbles, some roughly shaped, with a rubble core. On the south-western wall, both faces of the central section had been mortared and pointed to provide additional stability (Plate 2). Much of the stone was gritstone, but limestone and sandstone were also present. The north-western end of the building has collapsed in the last decade, revealing that the south-western wall was not bonded into the north-western wall, instead butting against it. This suggests that Building 1 was added to an existing boundary wall.

- 4.3 The north-western end of Building 1 had been fully closed, abutting a boundary wall, while the south-eastern end had been open, possibly gated (although there were no surviving hinges). The line of the south-western wall had been extended by a 1m high enclosure boundary wall, probably with a gate.
- 4.4 The floor of Building 1 comprised 'York Stone' sandstone flags, a typical example measuring 700mm by 600mm by 60mm thick. These were set on a thin screed of mortar, directly over the compacted earth floor. While at the time of the survey most of the flag stones had been lifted up, it could be seen that the entire floor must originally have been flagged. Like the floor, sandstone flags had been used for the roofing, which was supported on simple rafters and battens. The roof had been re-built on several occasions, but it was likely that two of the rafters were original, comprising roughly-dressed timbers (Plate 3), one retaining its natural round shape at the north-eastern end. Later additions comprised pine trunks complete with bark, and modern machined timbers. The battens were similarly a mixture of old, hand-made elements and modern replacements. Most of the roof flags had originally been pinned with wooden pegs, although few were extant.
- 4.5 The only surviving access into Building 1 was a 'sheep creep' set between two external raking buttresses on the south-west elevation (Plate 4). Both the inner faces of the buttresses and sheep creep had been rendered to provide additional waterproofing. The access measured 0.7m wide and 0.9m high on the inner face, although the land surface to the south was some 0.35m lower than the internal floor, resulting in an outer height of 1.25m. The adjacent enclosure here had a sunken appearance, which has been suggested to represent the site of a sheep dip.

Building 2

- 4.6 This was a double celled building with a single-pitch roof sloping to the north-west (Plate 5). Externally the structure measured approximately 5.07m (16'2") long, north-east to south-west, by 3.4m (11'2") wide, and had a maximum external height of 3m. As the ground rose to the north-east, the building was effectively partly sunk into the hillside at its north-east end. The walls were 0.5m to 0.6m thick, constructed of two faces of mortared and pointed, irregularly coursed, roughly shaped blocks (Plate 6), presumably with a rubble core. Externally, the northern corner of Building 2 was cracked, and several stones had fallen out.

- 4.7 The roof of Building 2 was composed of sandstone flags in a diminishing course, and had been re-built using modern, machine cut timbers: two purlins at 1.35m (4'6") centres, supporting rafters at 0.41m (16") centres; and then battens. As with Building 1, most of the roof flags had originally been pinned with wooden pegs, although few were extant. The apex and south-western edge of the roof had 30cm (1') wide coping stones, each up to 0.9m long. As the roof had been rebuilt, it is uncertain whether these were original, and whether they once continued along the north-eastern edge. Coping stones were absent from Building 1.

Room 2A

- 4.8 The south-western room was a small space measuring 2.49m (8') by 1m (3'3") with a window along the south-western wall. The floor was of York Stone flags; the walls were white-washed and the room was open to the roof. While no door survived, the access on the south-eastern elevation occupied the full width of the room to a height of 1.86m (6'1"). A thin stone lintel extended for 0.15m to either side of the doorway, which was accessed via a shallow stone step.
- 4.9 The room was lit by a single, fixed four-paned window (Plate 6) on the south-western wall at a height 1.48m from the floor. On the opposite, internal wall was a recess (Plate 7), located towards the rear of the room some 0.75m off the floor. It measured 0.36m wide, 0.3m high and 0.25m deep, and may have housed a light. At the foot of the rear wall of Room 2A was a 'hatch' leading to the small enclosure at the rear of the building (Plates 8 & 9). In the Heritage Statement (Lewis 2016), this was interpreted as an entrance for livestock; however, its internal measurements, only 0.4m high and 0.48m wide, would preclude any livestock except poultry. The 'hatch' flared to the north-east so that it was 0.15m wider on the outer face of the wall. The top of the hatch was also corbelled outwards so that the outer aperture was higher than the inner; while this was not visible at the time of the survey, it was recorded on a photograph in the Heritage Statement (*ibid.*).
- 4.10 Internally, above and to the south-west of the hatch were the scars of a box-like structure, with a groove in the floor and walls and a plinth on the north-western and south-western walls (Plate 8). This seems likely to have been the supporting box and seat(s) for an ash or earth closet (toilet). The surviving wall above this feature was cracked and beginning to bow outwards, and there was further cracking externally around the window.

Room 2B

- 4.11 The second room was approximately square, with walls averaging 2.48m long. There was no window, the only ventilation being via a small vent in the northern corner, some 1.1m above the floor and measuring approximately 0.2m square. As with Room 2A, the floor was of York Stone flags, the walls were white-washed and the room was open to the roof. There was a single entrance at the southern corner of the room, containing a simple plank door

with six planks, three internal cross braces and one remaining external wrought iron pintle and strap hinge, the lower hinge having been lost due to rotting of the door foot. Again there was a thin stone lintel and shallow stone step.

- 4.9 The only other feature within Room 2B was an elliptical hole, measuring 0.3m by 0.2m, cut through two adjoining roof tiles in the extreme northern corner (and subsequently covered by a thin slate: Plate 10). The walls below this hole were smoke blackened, suggesting that there had been a stove or boiler whose pipe exited through the roof.

5.0 DISCUSSION

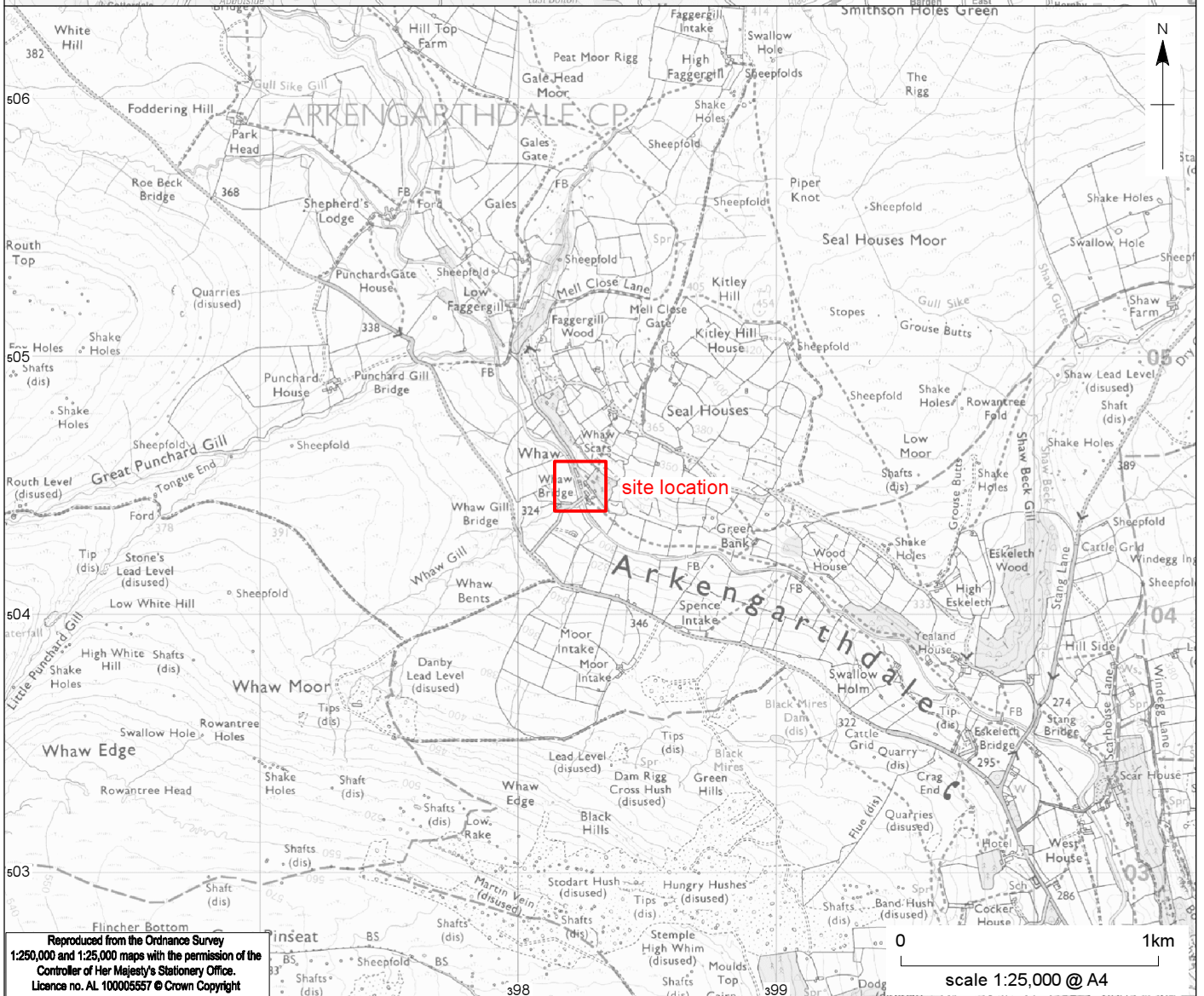
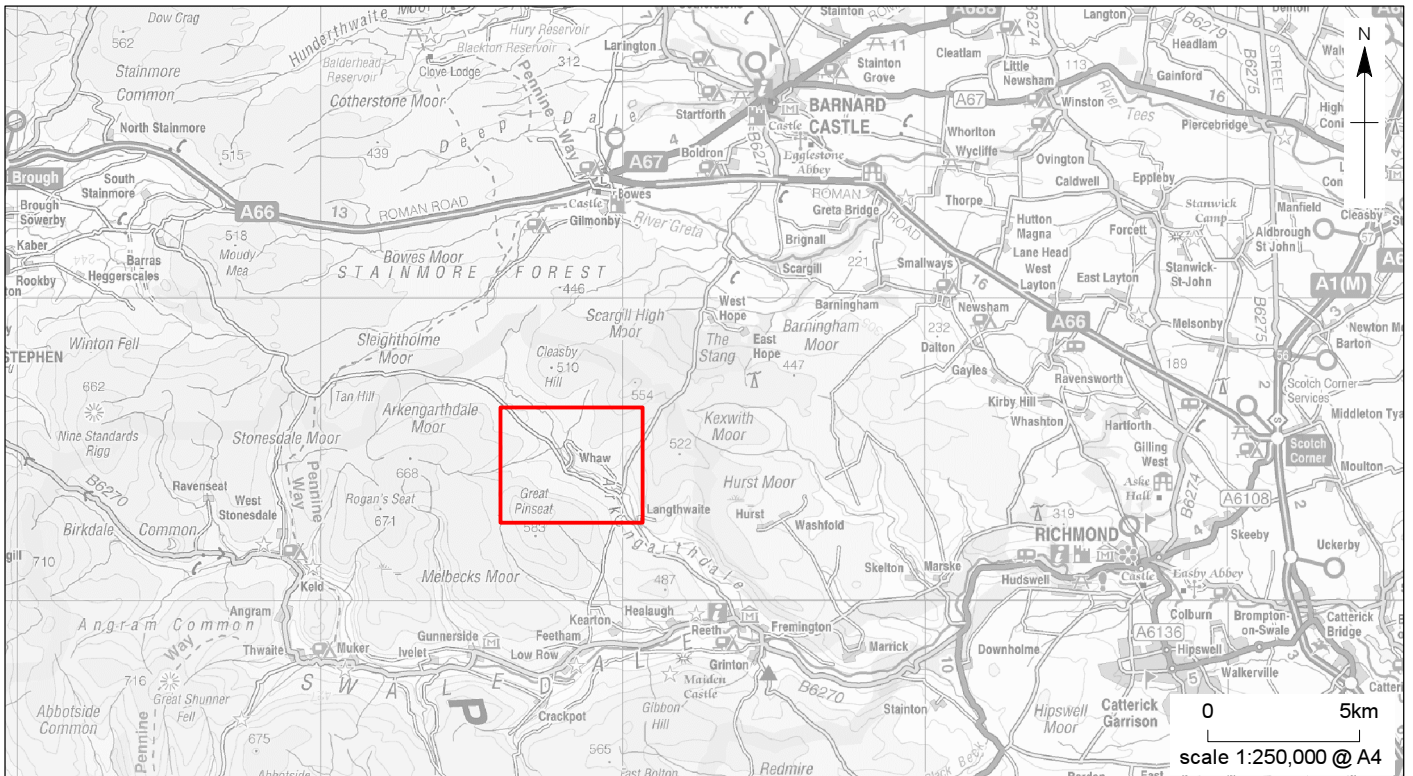
- 5.1 The two buildings are typical of the small agricultural structures found in farmyards throughout the dales. They have seen a number of uses over the last two centuries, and the adjacent farm is no longer active. No elements of the two buildings' construction would be incompatible with an early 19th century date.

Building 1

- 5.2 Building 1 appeared to have been constructed within an existing walled enclosure, utilising two of the drystone walls and adding a third, while the fourth side was open. The central section of the south-western wall of the building had been mortared on both sides, and this section also contained the buttressed sheep creep, and the two earliest roof rafters. To either side of this central section, the walling was of drystone construction and the rafters were modern machine-cut timbers.
- 5.3 This variation in building technique might indicate that a small, almost square building had later been extended for a change of use. The whole structure had been re-roofed at least once, such that the pegs in the individual roof flags were either missing or no longer in contact with the supporting laths.
- 5.4 There had been some speculation that this building was the remains of a covered sheep-dip (Lewis 2016), but the flagged floor with no visible pit, and the small aperture of the sheep-creep, suggests that this was not the case: the latter would have restricted the movement of sheep exiting the building. The presence of a depression within the adjacent yard, thought to be an external sheep dip, suggests that the narrowness of the sheep-creep was intentional, to control the rate at which sheep arrived at the dip.
- 5.5 The walls and roof Building 1 had suffered from several episodes of collapse and were in an unstable condition.

Building 2

- 5.6 This structure was better preserved than Building 1, having been maintained until relatively recently as a store. However, there were several areas of cracking which might eventually lead to the collapse of the building. The walls were fully mortared and pointed, lime-washed internally, and the building had a well-constructed flagstone floor.
- 5.7 In addition to having fully mortared and pointed walls, there were also coping stones on the apex and south-western edge of the roof. This features was absent from Building 1, and also from the terrace of of miners' cottages and barn to the east of the site and an adjacent stone store. However, several other buildings within the hamlet, including the former Rose and Crown public house, and a row of cottages to the south-east, had both coping stones and kneelers.
- 5.8 Of the two rooms within Building 2, Room 2A appears to have housed an earth closet toilet, although the internal structure had been removed. An alternative interpretation was as an animal shed (Lewis 2016), perhaps for chickens. Room 2B, with no windows, may have been a store. At some time a stove or boiler was installed, evinced by the hole in the roof flags for the stovepipe, and sooting of the walls within that part of the room. A small hole at shoulder height may have served as ventilation. This room may therefore have been used at some time as a wash house or for preparing animal feed.

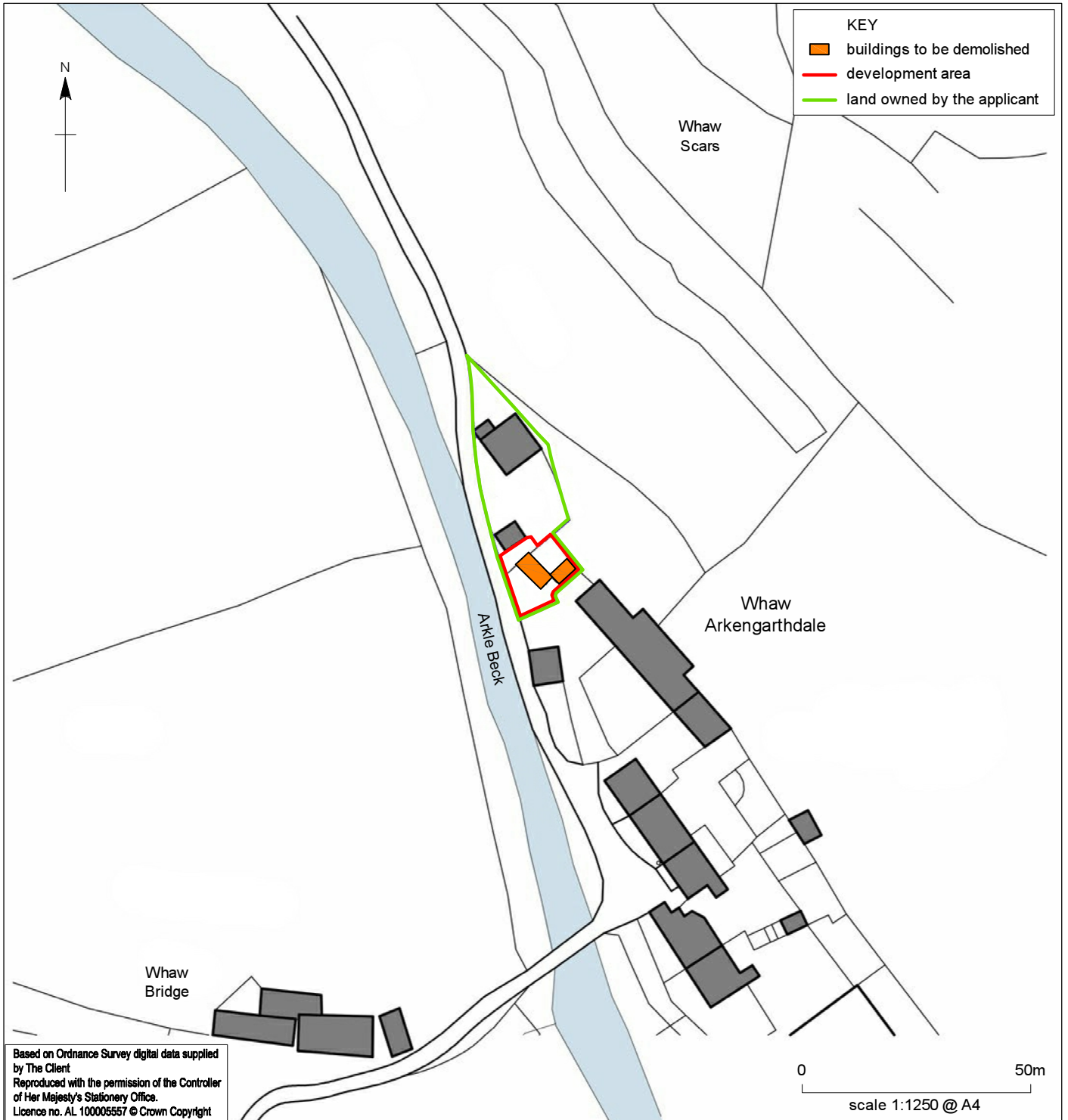


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Whaw Chapel, Arkengarthdale: site location

Figure 1



Whaw Chapel, Arkengarthdale: development site showing the buildings to be demolished

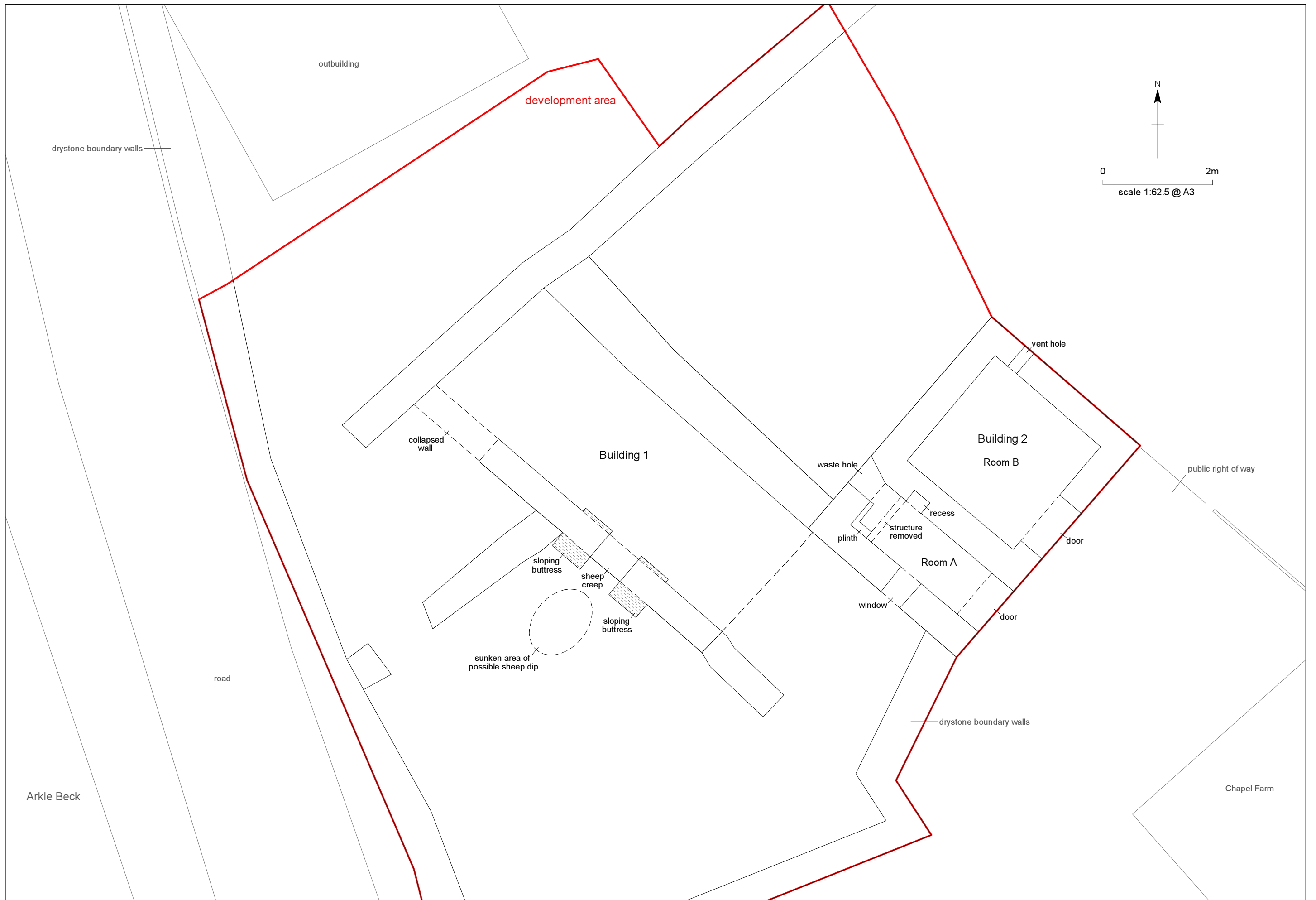
Figure 2



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Whaw Chapel, Arkengarthdale: Ordnance Survey map of 1859 showing the development site

Figure 3





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Whaw Chapel, Arkengarthdale: Building 1 from the south-west Plate 1



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Whaw Chapel, Arkengarthdale: Building 1, pointed section of wall Plate 2



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Whaw Chapel, Arkengarthdale: Building 1, roof joists

Plate 3



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Whaw Chapel, Arkengarthdale: Building 1, sheep creap

Plate 4



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Whaw Chapel, Arkengarthdale: Building 2 from the north-east with Chapel on extreme right



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Whaw Chapel, Arkengarthdale: Building 2 showing window and stonework

Plate 6



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Whaw Chapel, Arkengarthdale: Building 2, recess in Room 2a

Plate 7



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Whaw Chapel, Arkengarthdale: Building 2, location of former structure, Room 2a

Plate 8



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*Whaw Chapel, Arkengarthdale: Building 2, Room 2a
hatch from outside*

Plate 9



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*Whaw Chapel, Arkengarthdale: Building 2, Room 2b,
stove-pipe outlet*

Plate 10