



HISTORIC BUILDING  
RECORDING

Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd

Marwood House  
Harmire Enterprise Park  
Barnard Castle  
Co. Durham  
DL12 8BN

t: 01833 690800

e: [dr@naaheritage.com](mailto:dr@naaheritage.com)

w: [www.naaheritage.com](http://www.naaheritage.com)

WHITE KIRKLEY FARM RANGE,  
FROSTERLEY, COUNTY  
DURHAM

prepared for

Ramshaw Architecture

on behalf of

Mr and Mrs Dobson

Project No.: 2109

Text: Kate Chapman

Illustrations: Kate Chapman, Dawn Knowles and  
Oskar Sveinbjarnarson

NAA 21-86  
May 2022

QUALITY ASSURANCE		
Project Number	2109	
Report Number	21-86	
Manager	Penny Middleton	
Draft	Kate Chapman	
Graphics	Kate Chapman, Dawn Knowles, Oskar Sveinbjarnarson	
Edit	Penny Middleton	
Authorised	Andy Crowson	
<i>Issue 1</i>		22-09-2021
<i>Issue 2: incorporates the results from some additional fieldwork</i>		11-05-2022

## Disclaimer

This document has been prepared in good faith on the basis of information available at the date of publication without any independent verification for the exclusive use and benefit of the named client and for the sole purpose for which it is provided. Northern Archaeological Associates does not guarantee the accuracy, reliability, completeness, or currency of the content of this document nor its usefulness in achieving any purpose. This document is not intended to nor should it be relied upon by any third party. Northern Archaeological Associates accepts no responsibility nor liability should this document be used for any alternative purpose other than for which it is intended nor to any third party. Northern Archaeological Associates will not be liable for any loss, damage, cost, or expense incurred or arising by reason of any person using or relying on information in this document.

Author	Kate Chapman
Photographs	Kate Chapman, Oskar Sveinbjarnarson
Illustrations	Kate Chapman, Dawn Knowles, Oskar Sveinbjarnarson

Client	Ranshaw Architecture
Location	White Kirkley Farm, Frosterley, County Durham, DL13 2SS
Planning authority	Durham County Council
Planning Ref	DM/19/00202/FPA
Grid Ref	NZ 02702 35914
OASIS Ref	northern1-430859
Date of Fieldwork	1st July 2021 and 16th March 2022

# WHITE KIRKLEY FARM RANGE, FROSTERLEY, COUNTY DURHAM

## HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

#### Summary

1.0	Introduction	6
2.0	Methodology	7
3.0	Background Information	8
4.0	Historical Background	10
5.0	Building Survey	17
6.0	Phasing and Discussion	49
7.0	Conclusions and Recommendations	51
8.0	Addendum – Additional graffiti recording	52
	References	58

### FIGURES

Figure 1: site location

Figure 2: plan of the farm range

Figure 3: elevations

Figure 4: photograph location plan

Figure 5: images of the graffiti.

Figure 6: transcription of the graffiti found in the barn

### PLATES

Plate 1: extract from the First Edition six-inch 1857 OS map showing Bishopley Quarry, small 'private' quarries, limekilns and lead shafts. The farm building is outlined in red.

Plate 2: view looking west towards the late 17th-century farmhouse, and associated farmstead at White Kirkley Farm.

Plate 3: extract from the 1839 Wolsingham tithe map showing the location of White Kirkley House. The x marks the field in which the farm range is located. (DDR/EA/TTH/1/262).

Plate 4: extract from the First Edition six-inch OS map, surveyed 1857 and published 1861.

Plate 5: extract from the Second Edition six-inch OS map, surveyed in 1896 and published in 1898.

Plate 6: the hamlet of White Kirkley as it stands today © Image: Google Earth May 2021.

Plate 7: (left) detailed extracts from the First Edition six-inch OS map surveyed in 1857, and published in 1861, and (right) the Second Edition OS map surveyed in 1896 and published in 1898, showing the farm range (circled in red).

Plate 8: (left) extracts from the Third Edition six-inch OS map, published in 1923, and (right) the Third Edition 25-inch OS map, published in 1921.

Plate 9: example of the random rubble coursed walling.

Plate 10: general view of the farm range looking north-east, with the two-storey barn foremost.

Plate 11: south-facing elevation (**1100**) of the barn.

Plate 12: blocked opening **1103** at ground floor level within elevation **1100**.

Plate 13: first-floor window **1102** and pitching hole **1101** within elevation **1100**.

Plate 14: blocked opening **1104** and **1105** at first-floor level within elevation **1100**.

Plate 15: west-facing elevation (**1200**) of the barn.

Plate 16: blocked opening **1201** within elevation **1200**.

Plate 17: the blocked opening **1201**, internally with a wooden lintel, within elevation **1600**.

Plate 18: north-facing elevation (**1300**) of the barn.

Plate 19: first-floor level blocked opening **1301** within elevation **1300**.

Plate 20: east-facing elevation (**1400**) of the barn showing a wall scar **1401** indicating the original height of the byre (image provided by the client).

Plate 21: surviving in situ steel posts and partition.

Plate 22: roof structure within the barn (**1000**).

Plate 23: general view of elevation **1500** showing the current openings (**1101**, **1102**) and the blocked apertures (**1103**, **1104**, **1105**) (the ground-floor blocked opening **1103** is to the left of the ranging rod).

Plate 24: first-floor level blocked opening (**1104**, **1105**) within elevation **1500**. The blocking to the left (**1105**) has been rendered over.

Plate 25: internal elevation **1600** showing the modern inserted door (**1202**) alongside the remains of a chimney (**1602**), a cupboard (**1601**) and a blocked opening (**1201**).

Plate 26: detail showing the alcove (**1601** right) and the remains of the chimney (**1602**) and the brick walling above.

Plate 27: internal elevation **1700** showing blocked opening **1301** and the sawn-off floor joists (**1701**).

Plate 28: west end of elevation **1700** showing the area that has been rendered and partition scar **1702**, along with blocked opening **1301** and sawn-off floor joists **1702**. Cupboard **1601** can just be seen to the left of the photograph.

Plate 29: showing some of the graffiti carved in the render.

Plate 30: internal elevation **1800**.



Plate 31: the top of elevation **1800** showing where it has been increased in height.

Plate 32: the barn (to the left) abutting the end wall of the byre (to the right). Only the top part of the barn wall is keyed into the top of the byre wall, where it has been raised in height.

Plate 33: showing the wall scar at the end of elevation **2400** (to the left) and the start of elevation **1500** (to the right).

Plate 34: south-facing elevation (**2100**) of the byre.

Plate 35: the current windows (**2101**, **2102**) cutting into the blocked openings (**2103**, **2104**) within elevation **2100**.

Plate 36: an example of a hit-and-miss ventilator window from County Durham.

Plate 37: general view of the northern elevation (**2200**) of the byre. Wall scar **1401**, showing the original height of the byre, can also be seen in the gable (**1400**) shared by the byre and barn.

Plate 38: the possible location of blocked opening **2202** within elevation **2200** (external)/**2260** (internal).

Plate 39: entrance (**2201**) into the byre within elevation **2200** (external)/**2260** (internal).

Plate 40: the east-facing elevation (**2300**) of the byre and later lean-to (**3000**).

Plate 41: roof structure within the byre (**2000**).

Plate 42: general view of elevation **2400**.

Plate 43: showing current window opening (**2101**) and blocked window (**2103**) and the level of the blocked holes for floor joists.

Plate 44: stone and brick trough with wooden hayrack above at the east end of elevation **2400**.

Plate 45: internal east-facing elevation **2500**.

Plate 46: showing the holes created to accommodate the purlins.

Plate 47: general view of south-facing elevation **2600**.

Plate 48: general views of the surviving wooden structure.

Plate 49: internal west-facing elevation **2700** showing the remains of a chimney (**2701**).

Plate 50: general view of the lean-to attached to the byre at the eastern end of the range.

Plate 51: east-facing elevation **3300**.

Plate 52: south-facing elevation **3100**.

Plate 53: north-facing elevation **3200**.

Plate 54: A Smith 1948 surrounded by a border.

Plate 55: examples of initials, M. N. (left) and B. C., K. M. (right).

Plate 56: examples of initials, showing a large J. R. with a smaller E. F. to the top right.

Plate 57: the name Michael can be deciphered amongst the graffiti.

# WHITE KIRKLEY FARM RANGE, FROSTERLEY, COUNTY DURHAM

## HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

### *Summary*

*Northern Archaeological Associates (NAA) was commissioned by Ramshaw Architecture on behalf of Mr and Mrs Dobson, the owners, to undertake historic building recording of an agricultural farm range at White Kirkley farm prior to its conversion into a single residential dwelling.*

*This structure is not listed but is considered to be a non-designated heritage asset. The survey was conducted as part of a mitigation programme associated with the structure's change of use and fulfils Condition no. 7 attached to planning consent DM/19/00202/FPA.*

*The farm lies on the south bank of Bollihope Burn, c.1km south of Frosterley and c.25km west of Durham. The farm range is located to the north-east of the main farmyard and to the east of the farmhouse. It comprises three buildings built of random-coursed rubble from locally sourced stone. The two main structures have timber roofs supporting pegged natural-stone slates set in diminishing courses.*

*Although at first glance the farm range seems to comprise a simple sequence incorporating a barn, a byre and a lean-to structure, its evolution is far more complex. The building in the middle of the range – the byre – is the earliest structure, and although not depicted on the 1839 tithe map potentially dates to the 18th or early 19th century. It was probably first built as a cottage to perhaps house local farm- or quarry-workers. Heating was provided by a chimney at first floor-level. Later, a two-storey barn was added to the west, with animal accommodation below and hayloft above. At some point after, the early cottage was reduced in height and converted for use as a byre. The upper floor of the barn was then converted for domestic use, with the addition of a chimney, a lathe and plaster ceiling, and wall cupboard.*

*Graffiti was observed at first-floor level within the barn and additional recording was undertaken to enable its closer examination. Much of the graffiti consisted of names and initials which represent otherwise invisible people, unassociated with the more formal historical records of the farm. However, there were also markings which could be linked to the Robson family who farmed White Kirkley for over 100 years from the late 1840s through to 1968.*

*The lean-to structure at the east end of the range was the last to be added. This was constructed in the late 19th century, probably for the storage of a cart or similar farm machinery.*

*The two main buildings were further adapted to accommodate more modern farming practices. The first floor of the barn was removed, and larger 'cart' doors added to accommodate modern machinery. These doors were reinforced by steel bars and columns.*

*The graffiti present within the barn included several dates, all of which span the 20th century. These dates can be used to suggest that the first floor was removed at some point after 1950 and possibly during the 1960s.*

*This report presents the results of a Level 2 survey. It comprises a written and photographic record suitable to mitigate against the loss of heritage significance arising from the redevelopment of this non-designated heritage asset. It has facilitated a greater understanding of the form, layout and development of the farm range.*

## WHITE KIRKLEY FARM RANGE, FROSTERLEY, COUNTY DURHAM

### HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Northern Archaeological Associates was commissioned by Ramshaw Architecture on behalf of Mr and Mrs Dobson, the owners, to undertake historic building recording of an agricultural farm range associated with White Kirkley Farm, Frosterley, County Durham (NGR. NZ 02702 35914; Fig. 1). This work was completed in response to Condition no. 7 attached to planning consent DM/19/00202/FPA, relating to the change of use of the property to a single residential dwelling.
- 1.2 The property is a stone-built linear farm range, orientated east to west, with staggered roof line. It comprises three parts: a two-storey barn (1000); a single-storey byre (2000)—the roof height of which has been reduced—and a single-bay lean-to structure (3000) with a corrugated catslide roof (Fig. 2). The farm range is not listed but is considered a non-designated heritage asset of local importance and moderate significance in terms of its historic and architectural value (NAA 2021, 3). It also forms part of the setting of the Grade II listed White Kirkley Farm (NHLE: 1277130).
- 1.3 A Historic England Level 2 measured and photographic survey was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) approved in advance by Durham County Council Archaeology Section (DCCAS 2021). This was prepared by NAA with reference to relevant standards and guidance as published by Historic England (2015; 2016), the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2020), and Durham County Council Archaeology Section (DCCAS 2020). This report is considered to constitute an appropriate programme of archaeological work in accordance with paragraphs 197 and 199 of National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPF) (MHCLG 2021).

#### Scope

- 1.4 The Level 2 historic building survey covered all elements of the farm range. A general record was also made of the surrounding enclosure to place the structure within its landscape context, although no field or boundary walls were surveyed.
- 1.5 A detailed record of the main farm complex was not required, but consideration was given to the linear range as part of the wider historic development and significance of the designated farmstead.

## **Aims and objectives**

- 1.6 The primary aim of the work was to provide a Level 2 historic building survey (Historic England 2016) suitable to mitigate against any potential loss of heritage significance arising from the development. A Level 2 survey is categorised as a descriptive record, requiring an inspection of both the exterior and interior of a building and preparation of a written, photographic, and basic drawn record (Historic England 2016, 26).
- 1.7 The objectives of the building survey were to:
- produce a written and photographic record of the linear agricultural range detailing overall form, key structural features and details of fixtures and fittings;
  - prepare, based on the existing drawings, an annotated site plan and long elevations, depicting the location of key features;
  - prepare an illustrated report that discusses the form, use, development and date of the building, to be deposited with the DCC HER;
  - prepare a suitable labelled and catalogued digital photographic record to be archived with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS); and
  - submission of a completed OASIS record.
- 1.8 The research objectives were in accordance with the following areas identified in the North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment (Petts and Gerrard 2006, 89):
- Post-Medieval – PMviii. Industrial intensification 1790–1830;
  - Origin and development of the agrarian economy; and
  - Industry and transport.

## **2.0 METHODOLOGY**

### **Documentary evidence**

- 2.1 A rapid survey of all readily available documentary and cartographic material was made to inform an understanding of the development and history of the building. Readily available online sources were consulted along with historic Ordnance Survey (OS) maps.
- 2.2 The following sources were used to inform this report:
- Durham Record Office (online)

- historic cartographic sources, including OS maps;
- primary source material including census data;
- trade directories;
- historic newspapers, and
- published historical studies.

### **Building recording**

- 2.3 Fieldwork was carried out on 1st July 2021. At the time of survey, the weather was dry and sunny. Full access was gained to both the barn (**1000**) and the byre (**2000**). However, the inside of the lean-to (**3000**) was only inspected from the entrance as the area was being used for the storage of sheets of corrugated asbestos cement roofing. Historic mapping shows the lean-to building was added in the early 20th century and does not markedly contribute to the significance of the building. It is considered that restricted access to this area during the survey did not compromise the comprehensive nature of the historic building record.
- 2.4 Copies of existing architect's drawings were annotated on site. These were checked for basic accuracy and found to have key elements missing. A new measured survey was therefore conducted using a combination of a disto and hand-tape.
- 2.5 A full photographic record of the interior and exterior of the building was conducted. All elevations were photographed as parallel to the buildings as possible to avoid distortion. General shots were taken of the interior, as well as detailed photographs of any internal and external features of note.
- 2.6 Each building was given its own unique identification number (context number): barn **1000**, byre **2000**, lean-to **3000** (Fig. 2). These numbers were then incremented for each building to provide numbers for both internal and external elevations e.g. 1100, 1200, 1300 etc. Each internal room or discrete area of space (Fig. 2) was numbered in a similar fashion.

## **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **Location**

- 3.1 White Kirkley Farm is situated on the south bank of Bollinhope Burn, c.1km south of Frosterley, c.5km south-east of Stanhope, c.5km south-west of Wolsingham, and c.25m west of Durham (Fig. 1).

- 3.2 The linear farm range is located c.0.5km east of the main farm, in the north-east corner of an irregular-shaped field enclosure. This is separated from the farm by the road that leads south to Harehope. The enclosure is bounded to the north by woodland, to the west by the road, and to the south and east by agricultural fields. Access into the site is directly from the road via a gate set immediately before White Kirkley Bridge. This opens onto a well-established track that runs along the southern edge of the enclosure, providing access to the surrounding agricultural fields. The track forms part of the Weardale Way; a public footpath.

### **Geology**

- 3.3 The site lies on the Great Limestone Member. The Limestone is a sedimentary bedrock that was formed during the Carboniferous period. The superficial geology consists of Devensian tills, which are glacial in origin (BGS 2021). It is an area of loamy and clayey soils (Cranfield University 2021).
- 3.4 The buildings are predominantly constructed of local limestone—almost certainly quarried nearby—with a natural limestone slate roof laid in diminishing courses, supported on collared trusses (Sanderson Weatherall 2015). This may be an indication of the early date of these structures. In contrast, many of the other properties in the area have roofs covered in Welsh slate presumably brought in by the Wear Valley Railway.

### **Topography and land use**

- 3.5 The range is located within a dip in the enclosure, on ground that slopes down from west to east. To the south of the building, the enclosure slopes down from south to north, meaning the ground level outside the south-facing elevation is higher than the internal floor level. A level platform must therefore have been dug into the slope prior to the construction of the range. Internally, the floors of the individual components that make up the range are stepped, as is the roofline.
- 3.6 The site lies between the 190m and 200m aOD contours on the modern OS map.
- 3.7 The farm lies within a traditional landscape of mixed agriculture production, where both sheep and cattle are reared. The area is also known for its limestone quarries and lead mines, and numerous ‘old’ lead shafts are depicted to the south and east of the site on historic OS maps (Plate 1). The now-disused Bishopley Quarry is located immediately north of White Kirkley, and the Bishopley Crag Quarries lie to the west. The remains of several small ‘private’ quarries also pepper the landscape. These are frequently

associated with the ruins of former limekilns. The dismantled N.E.R. Bishopley Branch Line ran along the bottom of the valley immediately to the north of the farm range.



*Plate 1: extract from the First Edition six-inch 1857 OS map showing Bishopley Quarry, small 'private' quarries, limekilns and lead shafts. The farm building is outlined in red.*

### Designations

- 3.8 The farm range is not listed but is considered a non-designated heritage asset, and forms part of the setting of the Grade II listed White Kirkley Farmhouse (NHLE: 1277130).
- 3.9 White Kirkley is located within the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Beauty (AONB). An area identified as an 'Area of High Landscape Value' lies a few hundred metres to the north (GSC Grays 2018).

### Previous work

- 3.10 There has been no previous archaeological work carried out in relation to the agricultural building or its immediate surrounds.

## 4.0 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### Foundation of White Kirkley Farm and hamlet

- 4.1 Weardale has a long history of settlement extending back into prehistory. A small Mesolithic 'windbreak' structure was excavated at Bollilhope c.4km to the south-west of



White Kirkley (Petts & Gerrard 2006, 15). During the medieval period, the area was the hunting ground of the Prince Bishops. Villages and hamlets developed across the valley bottom, along the course of the main through-road (now the A689). The closest to the site is Frosterley, c.1 km to the north-east, first mentioned in the Bolden Book in AD1138 (NHLE: 1016466).

- 4.2 The first documentary reference to White Kirkley is the later Hatfield survey of 1382, where it appears as *Whitekirtilland* and *Whitekirtillfield* (Mawer 1920, 214). A kirtle was a garment made of wool or linen, worn extensively during the medieval period. The source of the name is obscure, although the area may have had some association with the production, drying or washing of the garment. There is little evidence to suggest the name derives from the word 'Kirk', meaning church or chapel, which might suggest early settlement in the area.



*Plate 2: view looking west towards the late 17th-century farmhouse, and associated farmstead at White Kirkley Farm.*

- 4.3 The first reference to the farm is the will of Arthur Wall, gentlemen of 'White Kirkly House' in the Parish of Wolsingham, dated the 15 July 1699 (DPRI/3/1699/B121/1-2). The Grade II listed farmhouse has been dated stylistically to a similar period (NHLE: 1277130), suggesting the farm was probably established in the mid- to late 17th century (Plate 2).



*Plate 3: extract from the 1839 Wolsingham tithe map showing the location of White Kirkley House. The x marks the field in which the farm range is located (DDR/EA/TTH/1/262).*

- 4.4 Until the reorganisation of the parishes in 1866, White Kirkley formed part of the ecclesiastical parish of Wolsingham. The 1839 Wolsingham tithe map (DDR/EA/TTH/1/262) is in poor condition. A scan is available from Durham University Special Collections (Plate 3), but on this the field numbers surrounding White Kirkley House are difficult or impossible to read. As a result, even though the field within which the agricultural range is located can be identified, it is not possible to say with any certainty whether it was under the land ownership of White Kirkley Farm at this time, especially given that the fields associated with a particular farmstead did not always immediately surround it.
- 4.5 The White Kirkley farmhouse, together with the attached outbuildings to the west, and associated outbuildings immediately to the south, are the only structures shown on the tithe map. However, although the agricultural range does not appear to have been drawn on the map, its existence at this time cannot be ruled out. The layout of the fields shown on the tithe appear much as they do today.
- 4.6 White Kirkley Farm is recorded as being owned by Thomas Ward in the accompanying tithe apportionment, and tenanted by John Simpson, who farmed 161 acres of mixed grass and arable. Two fields referred to as 'High Quarry Field' and 'Low Quarry Field' indicate limestone quarrying was being conducted in the area. This was most likely

used both as a local building material and burnt in a kiln to produce lime for use as fertiliser.



*Plate 4: extract from the First Edition six-inch OS map, surveyed 1857 and published 1861.*

- 4.7 The First Edition six-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) map, surveyed in 1857 (Plate 4), shows the growth of the hamlet in the second quarter of the 19th century. This was associated with the expansion of Bishopley Quarry to the north and the planned expansion of the Bishopley Crag Quarries to the west. The Bishopley Branch Line of the Wear Valley Railway, which was built to serve the Bishopley Quarries, opened in 1847. The linear farm range, which is the focus of this survey, is depicted for the first time on the 1857 map, as well as the two rows of terraced houses, one on each side of the Harehope road. These are referred to as 'East Row' and 'West Row', or 'Long Row' and 'Short Row' (Mineexploration 2021).

### **The 1871 census**

- 4.8 The census returns for 1871 and 1881 record that the terraced houses were predominately occupied by quarrymen, as well as several lead miners, various farm labourers and a blacksmith. The 1871 census refers to the rows as White Kirkley Cottages. Between the entry for White Kirkley House (the farm) and the Cottages, another property is listed that may relate to the farm range. It was occupied by William Mowbray, a limestone quarryman, his wife and three sons. The youngest two sons also worked in the quarries, but the eldest was not following any employment. The two youngest boys were born in White Kirkley House and the eldest in Bishopley. William

may have been related to the Mowbray family, who purchased the hamlet of White Kirkley in 1862. The Mowbray family were originally of Low Bishopley and appear to have owned large tracts of land within the local area including at Stanhope. Records associated with the family can be traced back to 1680 (Conyers Surtees 1929, 49). The family do not appear in the 1881 census returns.

4.9 The 1871 census returns record White Kirkley House was occupied at the time by John Robson, a farmer of 60 acres originally from Witton-le-Wear. He lived at the farm with his wife, son, two daughters, stepdaughter and a farm servant. Mary, Robson's eldest daughter, was 18 and her place of birth was recorded as 'White Kirkley House'. This suggests that the family were farming here from at least the early 1850s if not the late 1840s. The family continued to farm at White Kirkley through until 1968 when, at the age of 70, John James Robson gave up farming because of ill health and the property was offered for sale at auction. By this point, three successive generations of the Robson family had farmed White Kirkley for over 100 years, practicing a form of mixed agriculture, growing arable crops and rearing sheep and cows.

4.10 Although the farm range has latterly been used by the current owners of White Kirkley Farm, it is not known at what point the farm range became associated with the farm.

#### **Later development**

4.11 The Second Edition six-inch OS map, surveyed in 1896, shows the considerable expansion of the quarries around White Kirkley (Plate 5). However, by the time of the publication of the Third Edition revision in 1923, many of the quarries had fallen out of production. As the quarries closed, many of the quarry men living in White Kirkley left to seek employment elsewhere and, as a result, many of the houses stood empty. By the 1950s, the properties were in such a state of disrepair that an order of closure was pursued and the inhabitants were moved to a new housing estate in Frosterley (Mineexploration 2021).





Plate 5: extract from the Second Edition six-inch OS map, surveyed in 1896 and published in 1898.

- 4.12 The general layout of the hamlet has remained relatively unchanged since the mid-19th century (Plate 6). An exception to this is the construction of further farm buildings to the south of White Kirkley farmhouse and addition of a large agricultural shed to the west. The short terrace 'East Row' to the south of the farm range was demolished and replaced by a new residential dwelling between 1953 and 1978. Many of the properties in West Row are now privately owned and have been modernised.



*Plate 6: the hamlet of White Kirkley as it stands today © Image: Google Earth May 2021.*

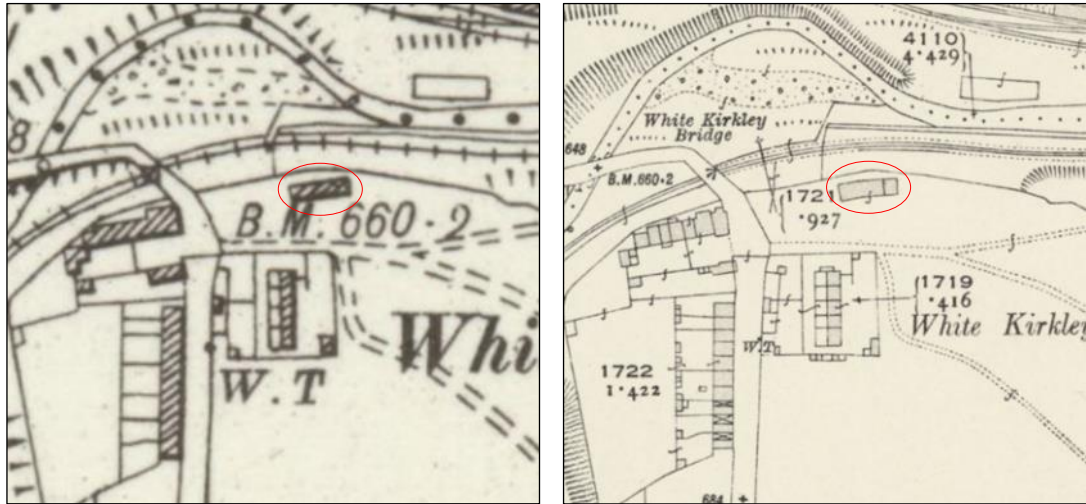
#### **Map regression**

- 4.13 The first clear depiction of the farm range is on the 1857 First Edition OS map, where the two main structures are shown without the eastern lean-to (Plate 7). A small building is also shown in what is now the entrance into the enclosure. However, this had disappeared by the publication of Third Edition map in 1923 (Plate 8).



*Plate 7: (left) detailed extracts from the First Edition six-inch OS map surveyed in 1857, and published in 1861, and (right) the Second Edition OS map surveyed in 1896 and published in 1898, showing the farm range (circled in red).*

- 4.14 The lean-to at the eastern end of the range is first depicted on the 1897 25-inch OS map (not reproduced), which clearly shows the barn, byre and lean-to as three adjoined, but separate buildings. By the publication of the Third Edition 25-inch map (Plate 8), only the lean-to is defined as separate, although the distinctive kink between the barn and the byre can be clearly seen.



*Plate 8: (left) extracts from the Third Edition six-inch OS map, published in 1923, and (right) the Third Edition 25-inch OS map, published in 1921.*

## 5.0 BUILDING SURVEY

### 5.1 Layout and form

- 5.2 The agricultural building consists of three structures: a barn (1000), byre (2000) and a lean-to (3000) (Fig. 2). Together, these elements form a long east–west linear range, with a slight kink where the barn joins the byre.

- 5.3 The barn is two storeys high. The byre was originally two-storeys high but has been reduced to one. The west gable end of the byre forms the east gable of the barn. The lean-to at the eastern end of the range is a single-cell structure with a catslide roof and is built up against the east gable of the byre. Each structure now consists of a single room open to the rafters.

- 5.4 The buildings are all built from local limestone, probably quarried nearby on associated land or acquired from one of the many larger commercial quarries in the immediate vicinity. There is a small amount of brick infilling and detailing. The use of brick in the north-east region dates from the 17th century, with some brick buildings dating from the early to mid-18th century. However, it was most widely used on farmsteads from

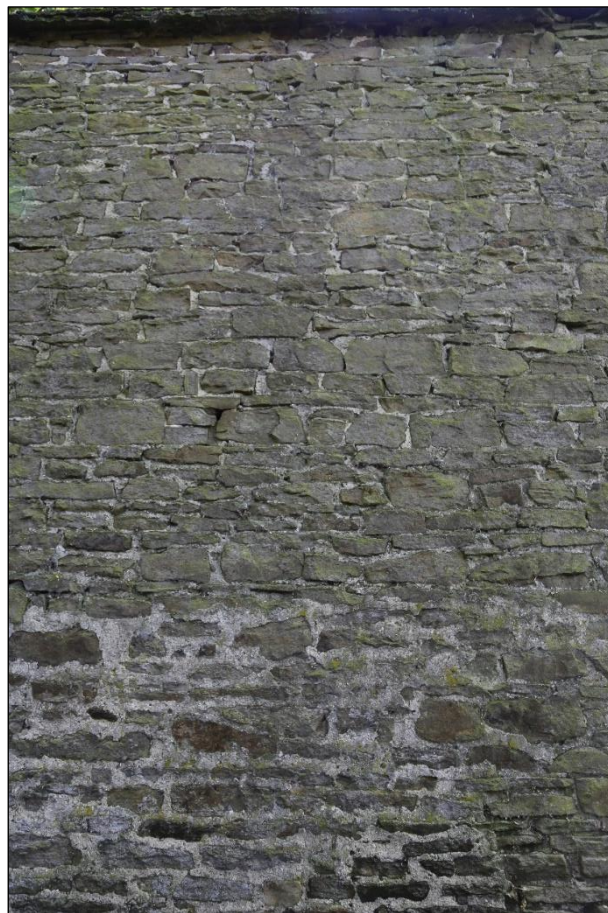


the 19th century (University of Gloucestershire et. al 2006, 21). The roofs of the two main structures (**1000** & **2000**) are of natural limestone slates laid in diminishing courses. These would have been acquired locally.

- 5.5 All the 'original' openings have timber lintels. Many of the modern openings have been reinforced with steel. The present floors are all concrete.

#### **Building 1000 – Barn**

- 5.6 This building is principally orientated east–west and is rectangular in plan. Originally it would have consisted of a ground floor and a first floor, but it is now open to the rafters. It has a single-pitched roof and a brick chimney stack within the west gable.
- 5.7 The barn has been constructed from locally sourced limestone which has been laid in random rubble courses. Courses of larger blocks have been interspersed between the courses of smaller rubble (Plate 9). Larger square stones form corner quoins.



*Plate 9: example of the random rubble coursed walling.*





*Plate 10: general view of the farm range looking north-east, with the two-storey barn foremost.*

*Exterior elevations*

*South-facing elevation (1100)*



*Plate 11: south-facing elevation (1100) of the barn.*



- 5.8 The south-facing elevation features a single door (1101) and window (1102) at first-floor level. There is also evidence of two earlier blocked openings (1104 and 1105) (Plate 11, Fig. 3). At ground-floor level, at the west end of the building, there is a single blocked door opening (1103), set with a sloping wooden lintel (Plate 12).



*Plate 12: blocked opening 1103 at ground-floor level within elevation 1100.*

- 5.9 At the first-floor level, there is a fixed six-paned wooden-framed window at the east end, set with a wooden lintel (1102). Off-centre to the west of the window is a large pitching hole (1101) for loading hay (Plate 13). Part of a wooden frame survives, indicating that this may originally have had a door. The pitching hole shares a long wooden lintel with a blocked opening immediately to the west (1104 and 1105). This was originally one opening, measuring c.1.9m wide, which was blocked in two phases. The east side was first infilled using stone rubble (1105) creating an opening c.1.2m wide. The reduced opening was later blocked with bricks (1104) (Plate 14).





*Plate 13: first-floor window 1102 and pitching hole 1101 within elevation 1100.*



*Plate 14: blocked opening 1104 and 1105 at first-floor level within elevation 1100.*



*West-facing elevation (1200)*



*Plate 15: west-facing elevation (1200) of the barn.*

- 5.10 The gable end elevation has a brick chimney stack projecting from the apex of the roof. There is a large modern opening on the south side (1202) that may be an enlargement of an original door into the barn as there is no further evidence for a large external entrance at ground-floor level. The present door has a steel lintel and frame and a galvanized metal split-door that is hinged to the north and opens outwards. There is a flat concrete platform in front.
- 5.11 Above the door is a small, blocked window (1201) (Plate 15, 16). Evidence from the interior of the building suggests that this had a wooden lintel (Plate 17).



*Plate 16: blocked opening 1201 within elevation 1200.*



*Plate 17: blocked opening 1201, seen internally with a wooden lintel, within elevation 1600.*



*North-facing elevation (1300)*



*Plate 18: north-facing elevation (1300) of the barn.*

- 5.12 The north-facing elevation is relatively plain with only a single blocked opening (1301) at first-floor level at the west end (Plate 19) This appears to be of a similar size to the surviving pitching hole (1101) in the south-facing elevation (1100).



*Plate 19: first-floor level blocked opening 1301, elevation 1300.*

*East-facing elevation (1400)*

- 5.13 The east-facing elevation is only partly visible above the current roof level of the byre (2000). A protruding wall scar (1401) can be seen, which indicates the original height of the byre (Plate 20).





*Plate 20: east-facing elevation (1400) of the barn showing wall scar 1401 indicating the original height of the byre (image provided by the client).*

### ***Interior***

- 5.14 The interior of the barn now consists of a single space open to the rafters. It was originally split into two floors. The barn has been adapted and modified for different uses as the needs of the owners changed. The blocked openings (1103, 1104, 1105, 1201, and 1301) observed on the exterior elevations can all be seen internally.
- 5.15 The ground floor of the barn has been used for storage and as animal accommodation. There are no windows at ground-floor level and surviving evidence only for a single door. It is possible that there may have been an entrance in the west gable, but evidence for this has been lost due the insertion of the modern door (1202).
- 5.16 The floor slopes down towards the byre which is accessed through a modern opening in the barn's east gable (1800, 2500). The floor is concrete. Several modern square steel posts survive in situ at ground-floor level. These would have been used to support metal and wood stall-partitions and gates used to divide up the space internally (Plate 21).





*Plate 21: surviving in situ steel posts and partition.*

- 5.17 The first-floor level appears to have been divided into two rooms. The room at the west end has plastered walls and a lathe and plaster ceiling, along with a fireplace (1602) and possible cupboard (1601) and has clearly been used as some form of accommodation. There is no evidence to suggest that the second room to the east had a ceiling and therefore would have been open to the rafters. The position of the surviving pitching hole suggests that the second room was used for crop storage.



*Plate 22: roof structure within the barn (1000).*

- 5.18 The roof is of timber construction of simple collared trusses with purlins, battens and common rafters (Plate 22). The collared trusses and common rafters are set into the wall plate. The roof is covered with natural limestone slates which are pegged and set in diminishing courses.

***Internal elevations***

*North-facing internal elevation (1500)*



*Plate 23: general view of elevation 1500 showing the current openings (1101, 1102) and the blocked apertures (1103, 1104, 1105) (the ground-floor blocked opening 1103 is to the left of the ranging rod).*

- 5.19 This internal elevation features two phases of blocking at first-floor level (Plate 24). The first phase (1105), to the left, occupies the full depth of the wall and has subsequently been rendered. The second phase (1104) is only one brick deep, forming an alcove. Above this there is evidence for the remains of a lathe and plaster ceiling.
- 5.20 The six-pane window (1102) and pitching hole (1101) have been discussed above (see south-facing exterior elevation 1100, para. 5.9).





*Plate 24: first-floor level blocked opening (1104, 1105) within elevation 1500. The blocking to the left (1105) has been rendered over.*

*East-facing internal elevation (1600)*



*Plate 25: internal elevation 1600 showing the modern inserted door (1202) alongside the remains of a chimney (1602), an alcove or cupboard (1601) and a blocked opening (1201).*

- 5.21 At first-floor level, to the far right of the modern inserted door, is an alcove or cupboard (1601) with evidence of three shelves. This may have been open to the room or enclosed by a door forming a cupboard. Items kept here would have stayed dry as the alcove is positioned directly against the side of a fireplace and chimney (1602) (Plates 25 and 26).
- 5.22 Between the alcove and the end of the modern door are the remains of a brick-built chimney (1602). Much of this has been lost, but enough remains to make some observations. The fireplace and chimney breast are offset to the right of centre. Protruding bricks survive to the same height as the alcove (1601). Several of these are shaped. The wall has been rendered at first-floor level up to this height. Above the render, the inner face of the gable wall is constructed in brick. The chimney stack sits centrally on the apex of the roof; therefore, the chimney structure would have needed to kink to the left in order to join up with the surviving chimney stack. There is no evidence for a second flue, which would have indicated a fireplace on the ground-floor. The chimney may therefore have been offset due to the location of the small-blocked window (1201) to the south.



*Plate 26: detail showing the alcove (1601 right) and the remains of the chimney (1602) and the brick walling above.*



- 5.23 The modern door and the blocked opening above have been discussed in relation to the west-facing exterior elevation (1200) (see para. 5.10 and 5.11).

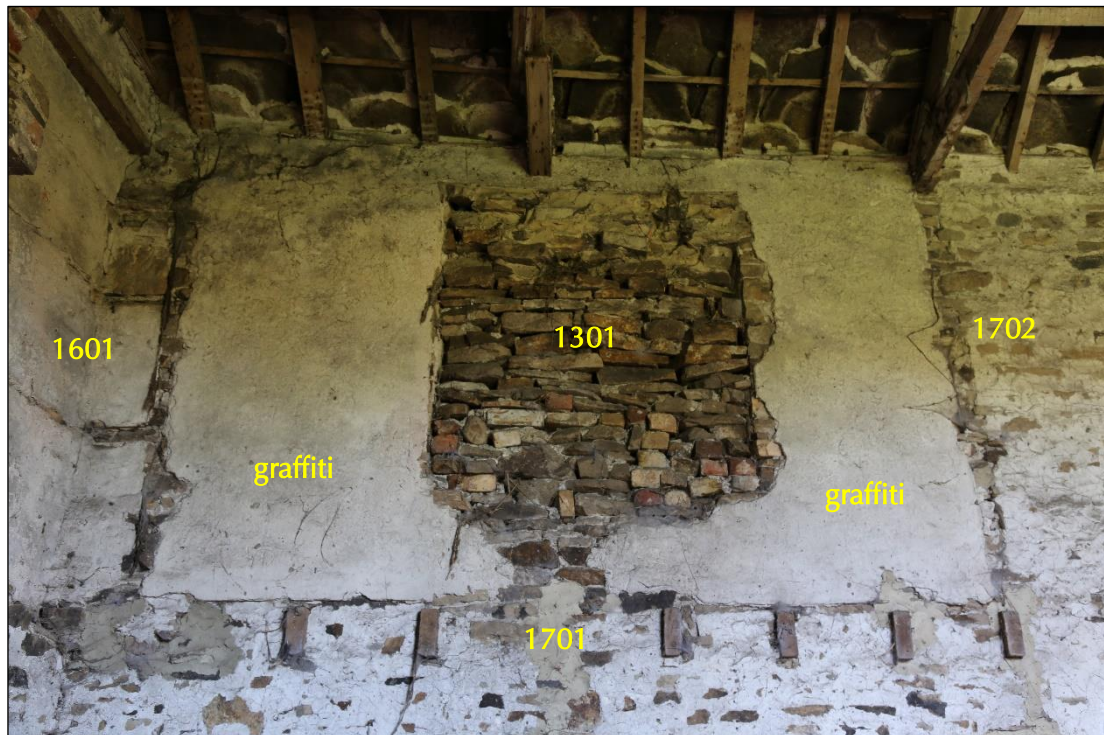


*Plate 27: internal elevation 1700 showing blocked opening 1301 and the sawn-off floor joists (1701).*

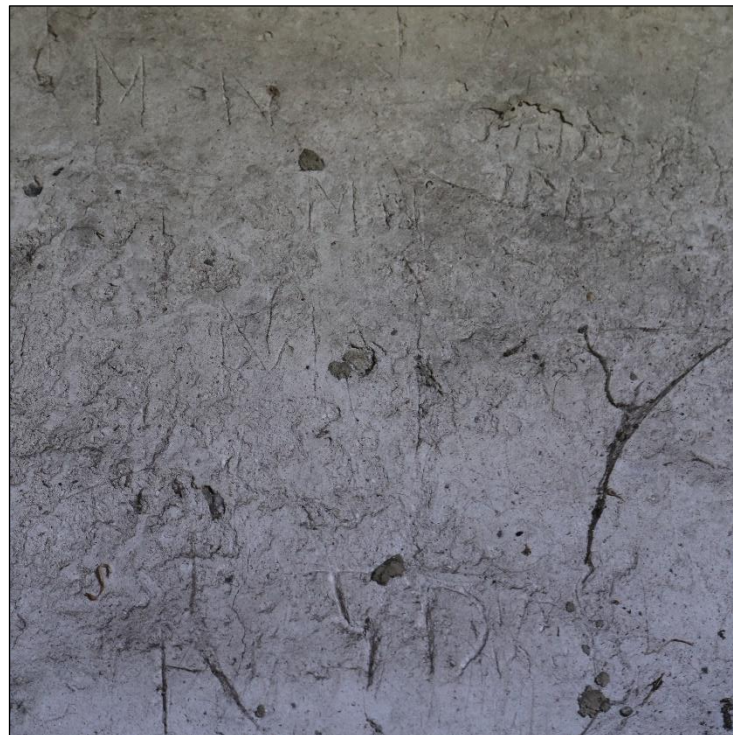
*South-facing internal elevation (1700)*

- 5.24 This elevation contains sawn-off floor joists (1701) indicating the height of the former first floor. There was evidence of 17 joists, set c.2m above the current floor.
- 5.25 The west half of the elevation at first-floor level was rendered. The scar of a partition wall (1702) was visible separating the rendered section from the remaining storage area. This provided further evidence of the division of the first floor into two rooms (Plate 27 and 28).
- 5.26 Evidence of graffiti carved into the render was recorded on either side of blocked opening 1301. This largely comprised groups of initials and some dates (see section 8) (Plates 28 and 29).
- 5.27 Blocked opening 1301 is of a similar size to pitching hole 1101 in the barn and located opposite blocked opening 1104/1105. This may indicate that this area could have been used for threshing and winnowing as the opposing doors would have created a through-draft. A tall open space was required for these processes, which would suggest that this

function ceased when the lathe and plaster ceiling was inserted and the room adapted for more-domestic purposes.



*Plate 28: west end of elevation 1700 showing the area that has been rendered and partition scar 1702, along with blocked opening 1301 and sawn-off floor joists 1702. Cupboard 1601 can just be seen to the left of the photograph.*



*Plate 29: showing some of the graffiti carved in the render.*



*West-facing internal elevation (1800)*



*Plate 30: internal elevation 1800.*

- 5.28 The west-facing internal elevation was originally the end gable wall of the byre (2000), the height of which can be seen as an inverted 'V' (Plates 30 and 31). The height of the byre wall was increased to accommodate the two-storey barn later built up against it. The walls of the barn initially butted up against the byre, forming straight joints. These are keyed-in higher up at the point where the gable was raised in height (Plate 32).
- 5.29 A modern opening has been inserted into the elevation to provide access between the barn and the byre. The ground level slopes down from the barn into the byre suggesting that originally each building had a different floor height. Steel beams, girders and columns have been used to reinforce the modern opening between the two buildings, but it is unknown if this replaced an earlier door. The opening is supported by the external wall to the south. A wall scar at this point marks the end of elevation 2400 and the start of elevation 1500 (Plate 33).





*Plate 31: the top of elevation 1800 showing where it has been increased in height.*



The point above which the barn wall is keyed into the end wall of the byre and the wall is built up.

*Plate 32: the barn (to the left) abutting the end wall of the byre (to the right). Only the top part of the barn wall is keyed into the top of the byre wall, where it has been raised in height.*





*Plate 33: showing the wall scar at the end of elevation 2400 (to the left) and the start of elevation 1500 (to the right).*

### **Building 2000 – Byre**

- 5.30 This is the central building in the range and, based on its relationships with the buildings either side, the oldest.
- 5.31 This building is principally orientated east–west and is rectangular in plan. There is clear evidence that the walls and the roof were originally higher than they are today (Plates 20 and 37). A wall scar (1401), visible protruding from elevation 1400, indicates the byre’s original height. Initially, the byre consisted of a ground and a first floor. However, later the building was reduced in height and today is open to the rafters.

- 5.32 It has a single-pitched roof and the remains of a brick chimney in the east gable. The byre is constructed of locally sourced limestone which has been laid in random rubble courses.

*Exterior elevations*



*Plate 34: south-facing elevation (2100) of the byre.*

*South-facing elevation (2100)*

- 5.33 The south-facing elevation features two window openings (2101 and 2102) and two blocked openings (2103 and 2104). The two blocked openings sit within the lower half of the elevation and would originally have been open down to the exterior ground level. They have wooden lintels and have been blocked with local stone (Plate 34).
- 5.34 The two existing windows (2101 and 2102) were inserted just below the current roof line. This was presumably after the height of the building was reduced and the two original openings blocked. They are equally spaced within the elevation and partly cut into the earlier blocked openings (2103 and 2104), which are offset to the east.
- 5.35 Both 2101 and 2102 have wooden frames. The upper part of each window has three glazed lights, set within a frame that tilts inwards. The lower two thirds of the windows are currently open, partly covered in mesh. They may originally have contained horizontal sliding hit-and-miss ventilators (Plate 36). This form of window achieved wide popularity throughout the North East during the mid- to late 19th century as it



provided a combination of adjustable ventilation and light (University of Gloucestershire *et. al.* 2006, 57). The windows have wooden lintels, and sills that have been made from header bricks laid on edge.



*Plate 35: the current windows (2101, 2102) cutting into the blocked openings (2103, 2104) within elevation 2100.*



*Plate 36: an example of a hit-and-miss ventilator window from County Durham.*



- 5.36 This elevation may originally have been at least another 1m taller. When the walls were reduced in height, the top of the wall was levelled using between one and three courses of brick.

*North-facing elevation (2200)*



*Plate 37: general view of the north-facing elevation (2200) of the byre. Wall scar 1401, showing the original height of the byre, can be seen in the gable (1400) shared by the byre and barn.*

- 5.37 The north-facing elevation features a centrally located modern entrance (2201) and a possible blocked opening (2202) towards the west end. The edges of the possible blocked opening are not as clear as others within the range. Its eastern edge and base are the most discernible (Plate 38).
- 5.38 The modern entrance probably replaced an earlier opening into the byre as there is no evidence of another entrance elsewhere in the building. The doorway has a large wooden lintel. Externally, the sides have been reinforced with steel. Internally, the edges are finished in brick (Plate 39). The replacement of the entrance may have occurred at the same time as the current windows (2101, 2102) were inserted in the opposite, south-facing elevation (2100).



- 5.39 As with the south-facing elevation (2100), the north-facing elevation may also have been at least 1m taller. When the walls were reduced in height to their current level, the top of the wall was levelled using between one and three courses of brick.



*Plate 38: the possible location of blocked opening 2202 within elevation 2200 (external)/2260 (internal).*



*Plate 39: entrance (2201) into the byre within elevation 2200 (external)/2260 (internal).*



*East-facing elevation (2300)*



*Plate 40: the east-facing elevation (2300) of the byre and later lean-to (3000).*

- 5.40 The east gable of the byre was reduced to its current height when the barn was added to the west end. There is a small area of brick walling centrally placed towards the top of the elevation. This may be associated with chimney 2701 that can be seen internally. There are no other features of note. The lower half of the elevation was inspected from within the lean-to structure.

***Interior***

- 5.41 The interior of the byre now consists of a single space open to the rafters. Originally, the building was divided into two levels. Although not as high as the adjoining barn, there would still have been room for a first floor with windows. However, the byre has been adapted and modified for different uses as the needs of the owners changed. The blocked openings (2103, 2104, 2202) observed within the exterior elevations can all be seen internally.
- 5.42 At full height, the original two-storey structure probably provided domestic accommodation and formed a standalone cottage, one room deep. This would account for chimney 2701 in the east gable (2700), suggesting the first floor was heated. Most recently, the building has been used as a byre for animals, indicated by the presence of a hayrack and a trough. The floor is concrete.



- 5.43 The roof is of timber construction of simple collared trusses, with purlins, battens and common rafters (Plate 41). The collars have been attached part way up the rafters, just below the first set of purlins, which differs from the roof structure of the barn. The rafters have been set within the wall plate that has been built-up with bricks following the reduction of the height of the building. The common rafters also sit on top of the wall plate. The roof is covered with natural limestone slates, which are pegged and set in diminishing courses.



*Plate 41: roof structure within the byre (2000).*

### ***Internal elevations***

#### ***North-facing internal elevation (2400)***

- 5.44 The north-facing internal elevation contains two window openings (2101, 2102) and two blocked openings (2103, 2104). Their relationship has been described in detail above (see south-facing exterior elevation 2100, para. 5.33). The internal elevation clearly shows that the floor level within the building was originally lower than the present ground level externally. Internally, the blocked openings sit c.0.75m above the floor, suggesting that they were originally windows (Plate 42).
- 5.45 There is a series of small rectangular holes across the elevation, some of which have been blocked with bricks (Plate 43). These are all on the same level, c.1.75-2.0m above the ground. They are not ventilation holes as they do not pass through the whole width of the wall and therefore probably mark the original location of floor joists. The floor

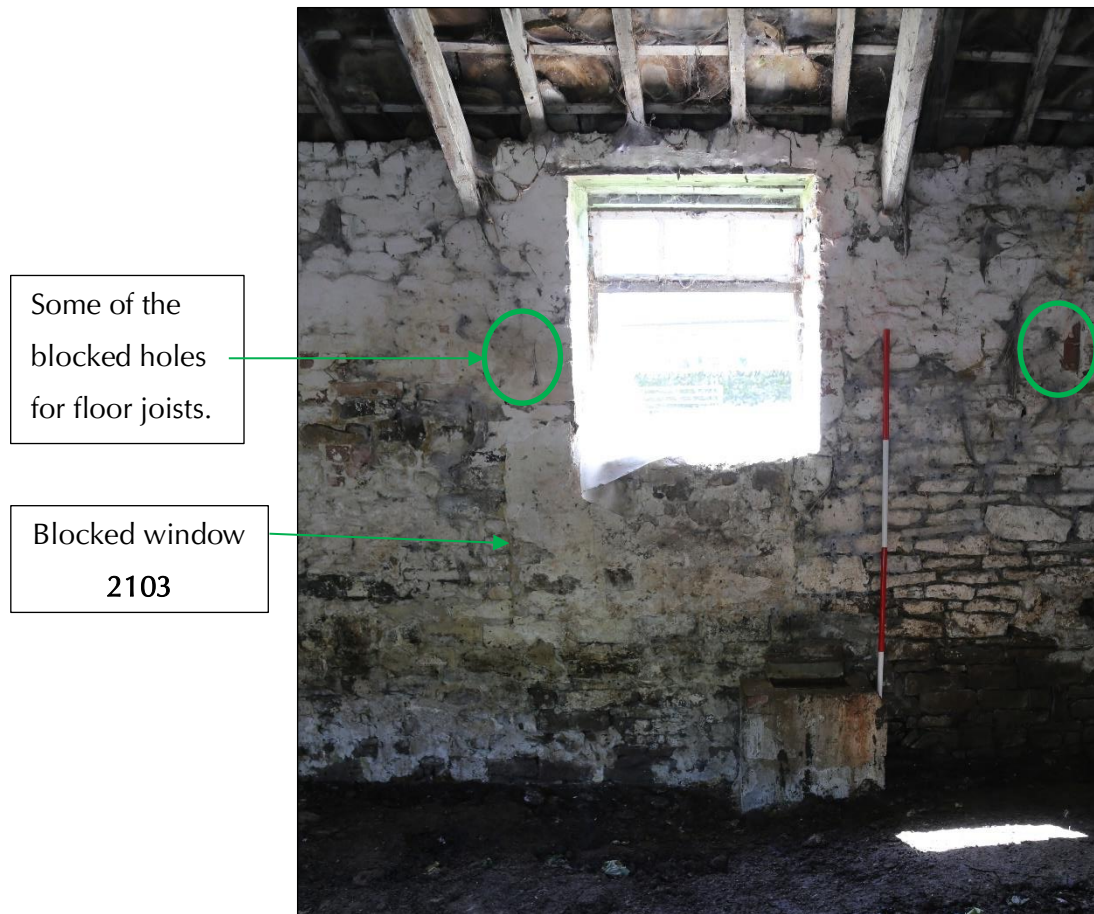
would have been suspended just above the level of the blocked window openings (2103, 2104) and must have been removed prior to the new windows being inserted.



*Plate 42: general view of elevation 2400.*

- 5.46 At the east end of the elevation, a stone and brick trough survives, along with a wooden hayrack attached to the wall, associated with the building's use as a byre (Plate 44).





*Plate 43: showing current window opening (2101) and blocked window (2103) and the level of the blocked holes for floor joists.*



*Plate 44: stone and brick trough with wooden hayrack above at the east end of elevation 2400.*



*East-facing internal elevation (2500)*



*Plate 45: internal east-facing elevation 2500.*

- 5.47 The east-facing internal elevation was originally the gable wall of the byre and survives to its full height above the current roof structure. When the roof was lowered to its present height, holes were made in the wall to accommodate the new purlins (Plate 46). As previously described (see internal west-facing elevation **1800**, para. 5.29), there is a large modern opening that has been inserted into this elevation (Plate 45).



*Plate 46: showing the holes created to accommodate the purlins.*



*South-facing internal elevation (2600)*



*Plate 47: general view of south-facing elevation 2600.*

- 5.48 The south-facing internal elevation is relatively plain, containing the main entrance (2201) into the building and a possible blocked opening (2202). These have previously been described above (see north-facing exterior elevation 2200, para. 5.37).



*Plate 48: general views of the surviving wooden structure.*



- 5.49 At the east end there is a small wooden structure (Plate 48). There were probably several of these spaced evenly along this wall (2600) to support a low wooden trough or hay rack.

*West-facing internal elevation (2700)*

- 5.50 The west-facing internal elevation features the remains of a brick chimney (2701), set to the left of centre. This starts c.1.8m above the floor (Plate 49). The presence of the chimney adds to the theory that the upper floor was used as domestic accommodation. There is no stack visible externally above the roof, which suggests that the chimney went out of use when the roof of the byre was lowered.



*Plate 49: internal west-facing elevation 2700 showing the remains of a chimney (2701).*



**Building 3000 – lean-to**

- 5.51 This is a simple single-cell lean-to structure built against the east end of the byre (2000) (Plate 50). It has a large opening at the east end (Plate 51) and may have been built to accommodate a cart or a similar small piece of agricultural machinery.
- 5.52 As with the other structures it has been built from locally sourced limestone which has been laid in random rubble courses. The two side walls (3100 and 3200) have been keyed into the byre wall at only one point on each side (Plates 52 and 53).
- 5.53 The roof is constructed from corrugated asbestos cement sheets resting on steel purlins supported by the side walls.
- 5.54 There are no features of note internally.



*Plate 50: general view of the lean-to attached to the byre at the eastern end of the range.*





*Plate 51: east-facing elevation 3300.*



*Plate 52: south-facing elevation 3100.*





*Plate 53: north-facing elevation 3200.*

## 6.0 PHASING AND DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Today, the farm range is associated with White Kirkley Farm, which for several centuries has practiced a form of mixed agriculture, growing crops and raising sheep and cattle. This is reflected in the farm range that was surveyed as it stands today, but the survey and the background research has revealed that these buildings also served as domestic accommodation, possibly for quarrymen or farm labourers.

### **Phase 1 – a simple cottage**

- 6.2 Evidence gathered during the building survey indicates that the structure termed ‘the byre’ (2000) was built first and probably took the form of a two-storey cottage that was one room deep. Stylistically, the structure appears to be late 18th- to early 19th-century in date, but for some reason was not depicted on the 1839 Wolsingham tithe map (Ian Forbes *pers. comm.* 04/09/21).
- 6.3 Chimney 2701 indicates that the cottage was heated at least at first floor-level and the original height of the building could have easily accommodated windows at first-floor level, to match those blocked at ground level (2103 and 2104) on the south-facing elevation. However, any evidence for such windows has been lost due to later modifications, specifically the reduction in wall height.



- 6.4 Access into the building could either have been via the west gable end or the north-facing elevation, or both. Clear evidence for either has been lost due to modern alterations.
- 6.5 The cottage may have been occupied by a family working at one of the local quarries, as suggested by the 1871 census data, or alternatively farm labourers. The ground floor could have either been used as part of the living quarters or to accommodate animals. There is no evidence for the presence of a staircase, which suggests that the first floor was accessed via a ladder.

### **Phase 2 – the addition of the barn**

- 6.6 At some point after the cottage was built, the two-storey barn (1000) was added. This was a combination barn where animals were housed on the ground floor and crops were processed on the first floor. It was built against the west end of the byre/cottage and the gable of the earlier building had to be raised to accommodate it.
- 6.7 At ground-floor level, the barn has a single blocked opening (1103), the size of a small door, in the south wall. A modern opening (1202) in the west gable may be a replacement of an earlier larger opening.
- 6.8 The first floor features multiple blocked openings, including three pitching-hole sized openings (1101, 1104 combined with 1105, and 1301). Two of these are roughly opposite each other (1104 combined with 1105, and 1301) at the west end of the north and south walls and may originally have provided a cross-draught for winnowing. The eastern half of the floor was probably used for storage.
- 6.9 Eventually, the two opposing doors were blocked. The first floor was then divided into two rooms with the west end being converted into domestic accommodation and a lath and plaster ceiling was added. There was a brick fireplace and chimney (1602) and an alcove or possible cupboard (1601) within the west gable, along with a window (1201). The walls of this room were rendered or plastered. Initials have been carved into the plaster on the south-facing elevation (1700).

### **Phase 3 – the remodelling of the cottage**

- 6.10 At some point either as the barn was being built or afterwards, the cottage was remodelled. Both structures are roofed using local natural limestone slates laid in diminishing courses. This suggests both pre-date the construction of the two rows of

workers cottages built in White Kirkley in the mid-19th century. The latter feature Welsh slate roofs, transported into the area by rail, following the opening of the Bishopley Branch Line in 1847 (Ian Forbes *pers. comm.* 04/09/21).

- 6.11 The cottage was lowered in height, the floor joists were removed, and two new windows inserted (**2101**, **2102**), replacing the original ones, at a higher level. The original height of the barn is represented by wall scar **1401** above the height of the current roof in the west gable of the byre.
- 6.12 There is no evidence of a chimney stack at the top of the east gable of the cottage, which suggests that it was not intended to be used once the remodelling had been completed. The resulting structure may have served one of two purposes: it was either utilised as a single-storey cottage connected to the barn or, more likely, converted into a byre from this point and the upper floor of the barn converted for domestic use.
- 6.13 Evidence for the use of the building of a byre includes a stone and brick trough with a wooden hayrack above it set against elevation **2400**, and on the opposite elevation (**2600**) there is a wooden structure that may represent the remains of a support for a wooden trough.

#### **Phase 4 – the addition of a lean-to**

- 6.14 Prior to 1896, the lean-to (**3000**) at the east end of the byre was added. This would have provided storage space for a cart or farm machinery.

#### **Phase 5 – modern adaptations**

- 6.15 Most recently, the first floor of the barn was removed, after which two large cart entrances were inserted and reinforced with steel bars and columns—one through the west gable wall of the barn and one through the wall separating the barn from the byre, creating access through both buildings. These openings would have enabled access for larger, more modern farm machinery.

### **7.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 The farm range has evolved and been adapted over a long period of time. It started life as a simple two-storey cottage, possibly to house local farm or quarry workers. It was later expanded to incorporate a barn with hayloft above. This was in turn adapted to provide domestic accommodation above and possibly storage space and/or accommodation for animals below.



- 7.2 This report has examined the history, fabric, and change of use of the farm range at White Kirkley in an effort to understand more about the development and function of the structure. It is considered that this report and accompanying archive provide a comprehensive record of the standing structure suitable to mitigate appropriately against any potential loss of heritage significance arising from the intended building works.
- 7.3 It is recommended that a watching brief might be required during ground reduction works, specifically in the byre, as this may reveal evidence that could help to establish the date of the property.
- 7.4 The graffiti observed at first-floor level inside the barn was photographed from ground-floor level. It is recommended that this graffiti is recorded more extensively. At its most basic level, graffiti conveys the message 'I was here' and establishes the presence of a particular individual or group, in a certain place, at a specific time. Such inscriptions are an integral part of a site's history and should be fully recorded if they are to be removed, as one era's scrawl becomes the next generation's written testimony of 'unheard' voices (Giles & Giles 2010).

## **8.0 ADDENDUM – ADDITIONAL GRAFFITI RECORDING**

- 8.1 Following the initial historic building survey, as recommended, additional recording of the graffiti found in the barn was undertaken on 16th March 2022.

### **Background**

- 8.2 The word graffiti originated in the mid-19th century from the Italian *graffito* meaning to scratch, reflecting the form that most early graffiti would have taken. However, the term covers a wide range of marks which have been applied to surfaces. These marks range from drawings, paintings, stencilling and tags to random meaningless scribbles and lines. Graffiti may be written, painted, scratched, or otherwise applied (Buglass 2016, 3; Historic England 2021, 1).

### **Methodology**

- 8.3 Specialist equipment was used to do the recording. Two light sources were used to create raking light across the surface which helped to enhance the incisions created in the plaster. The area was then photographed using a camera mounted on a pole. The photographs were taken at a set distance and overlapped each other. Further oblique photographs were also acquired.

- 8.4 The resulting photographs were stitched together and an orthomosaic was created using *Agisoft Metashape Professional* photogrammetry software. The orthomosaic was further processed in *Adobe Photoshop* where various filters were applied to enhance the graffiti. Embossing filters with artificial light applied from various directions were found to be the most useful (Figure 5).

### **The Graffiti recording**

- 8.5 The graffiti within the barn was located at first floor level on the south-facing internal elevation (1700), either side of a blocked window (1301) (see sections 5.17-5.27, 6.6-6.9, and plates 27-29).
- 8.6 The graffiti comprises a series of letters, initials, names, and at least five dates from the 20th century, alongside simple incised lines, and curves. The depths of the incisions, their precision and size vary across the plaster (Figures 5 and 6). This indicates that the graffiti has been created in several different ways.
- There are shallow marks which have been scratched using a point such as that of an iron nail.
  - There are incised marks which are more likely to have been created using a knife or a similar blade.
  - There are wider, flatter marks which appear to have been picked or gouged out possibly with the help of a chisel or a punch (Buglass 2016, 5).
- 8.7 Due to the condition of the plaster, there are numerous areas where only partial letters or numbers survive making it difficult to transcribe full names or dates in these locations.

### **Discussion and interpretation**

#### ***Location and positioning***

- 8.8 The positioning and clustering of the graffiti, predominantly on the lower half of the panels either side of the window suggests several things; most of the graffiti could have been created whilst the 'mark-maker' was standing, kneeling or sitting on the former floor; and that the window was unblocked at the time of the graffiti making with the 'mark-makers' selecting areas of good light to work in.



- 8.9 This suggestion is reinforced by one piece of graffiti located above the window, some 2.05m above former floor (Fig. 6-1). At full stretch a tall adult could just about reach, but if the window was unblocked at the time, allowing someone to stand on the window ledge, the distance would be reduced to around 1.6m putting it within reach of children. It is of course possible that an object for someone to stand on was present in the room at the time but if that were the case more graffiti might be expected at higher levels. Unfortunately, it was not possible to decipher the marks, but from its length it looks like it may have been a name.
- 8.10 The 'mark-makers' have mostly taken care not to write over or erase each other's graffiti, but there are areas where this has happened (Fig. 6-2). Some of the inscriptions have been enhanced by a rectangular border, sometimes double lined (Fig. 6-3 to 6-7).
- 8.11 The evidence for a chimney (1602) and fireplace on the adjacent elevation (1600) suggests that the room was occupied at some point during the day. However, graffiti of this nature is generally considered antisocial and is more likely to be undertaken surreptitiously in areas lacking frequent monitoring. The use of this space for creating graffiti implies that at that time it was open for individuals to spend 'down' time - sheltering from the weather, occupying themselves during breaks, or during the evenings. This could possibly suggest a period of low occupancy for the structure.

#### *Dates*

- 8.12 There are five dates that can be discerned from the graffiti. There are three complete dates, A Smith 1948 (Plate 54, Fig. 6-5), B. C. 1948 (Fig. 6-8) and F. C. 1950 (Fig. 6-3), and there are two partial dates, 192? (Fig. 6-7) and 196? (Fig. 6-6). The dates are predominantly found within boxes and associated with names or initials.



*Plate 54: A Smith 1948 surrounded by a border.*

- 8.13 The complete dates suggest that the first floor was removed at some point after 1950. The partial dates could be used to push this date to some point in the 1960s.
- 8.14 White Kirkley farm was put up for auction in 1968, when John James Robson retired at the age of 70. It may therefore have been the new owners who removed the floor and adapted the barn to accommodate more modern machinery.

***Names and initials***

- 8.15 There are a large number of initials and names (both decipherable and indecipherable). Initials include for example M. N. (Plate 55; Fig. 6-9), B. C. (Plate 55; Fig. 6-4 and 6-8), K. M., G. N. (Plate 55; Fig. 6-10) and E. F. (Fig. 6-11). These initials represent people who have not been identified in documents.



*Plate 55: examples of initials, M. N. (left) and B. C., K. M. (right).*

- 8.16 The initials J. R. (Fig. 6-12) can clearly be seen beneath the lower right-hand corner of the window. These are the only initials that could be linked to documented people associated with White Kirkley farm. They might represent one of the Robson family amongst whom there were two John's and a Janet.
- 8.17 The Robson family farmed White Kirkley for over 100 years from the late 1840s through to 1968. The 1871 and 1881 census returns record a John Robson as the household head. The 1901 census shows the farm being run by John's son Robert Robson who had three daughters and a son, including Janet, 8, and John James Robson, 3.



- 8.18 John James Robson went on to take over the running of the farm. He retired at the age of 70 due to ill health at which point the farm was put up for auction (see section 4.9). Growing up on the farm, John would have had ample opportunity to sneak off and illicitly leave his mark.



*Plate 56: examples of initials, showing a large J. R. with a smaller E. F. to the top right.*

- 8.19 If this interpretation is correct these initials also indicate that the range of buildings, if they had not been part of White Kirkley farm from the start, were likely to have been acquired for use by the farm at some point during this 70-year period.
- 8.20 In addition, to the initials J. R. the name Robson also appears to have been carved into the plaster (Fig. 6-13). Elsewhere the name Michael can be deciphered (Plate 57; Fig. 6-14). The name Martin, containing a mixture of both upper case and lowercase letters can also be discerned beneath the bottom left-hand corner of the box containing the name A. Smith (Plate 54; Fig. 6-5).



*Plate 57: the name Michael can be deciphered amongst the graffiti.*

## **Conclusions**

- 8.21 In recent years it has increasingly been recognised that historic graffiti is a valuable resource for study, and of value as part of the history of a building. By studying the graffiti found within the barn at White Kirkley it has been possible to make links with the Robson family who lived on the farm and to suggest a date after which the first floor was removed from the barn.
- 8.22 However, much of the graffiti consists of names and initials which represent otherwise invisible people, unassociated with the more formal historical records of the farm.



## REFERENCES

- Archaeology Data Service/Digital Antiquity (2013) *Guides to Good Practice*. York: Archaeology Data Service, University of York.
- British Geological Survey (BGS) (2021) *Geology of Britain viewer*. [Online] Available at: <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html> (accessed June 2021).
- Buglass, J. (2016) *Recording Historic Graffiti: Advice and Guidance*. Swindon: Historic England. [Online] Available at: <https://pdfslide.net/documents/recording-historic-graffiti-advice-and-guidance-1-recording-historic-graffiti.html> (accessed May 2022).
- Chapman, V. (1984) *Rural Durham. Local History Publications No. 11*. Durham: Durham County Library, Durham County Council.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) (2014) *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- Conyers Surtees, H. (1929) *The History of The Parish of Wolsingham*. G.F. Laybourne.
- Cranfield University (2021) *Soilscapes*. [Online] Available at: <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/> (accessed June 2021).
- Devon Archaeological Society (n.d.) *Devon Historic Graffiti Survey* [Online] Available at: <https://devonhistoricgraffiti.org.uk/> (accessed May 2022).
- Durham County Council Archaeology Section (DCCAS) (2020) *Standards for All Archaeological Work in County Durham and Darlington*. Durham: Durham County Council.
- Frodsham, P. (2014) *Altogether Archaeology Fieldwork Module 4b. St Botolph's Frosterley (Phase 2). Project Design*. North Pennines AONB Partnership [file:///C:/Users/kate.chapman/Downloads/AA%20module%204b%20\(Phase%202\)%20St%20Botolphs%20Frosterley%20PD.pdf](file:///C:/Users/kate.chapman/Downloads/AA%20module%204b%20(Phase%202)%20St%20Botolphs%20Frosterley%20PD.pdf).
- Giles, K. & Giles, M. (2010) Signs of the Times: Nineteenth - Twentieth Century Graffiti in the Farms of the Yorkshire Wolds. In: Oliver, J and Neal, T, (eds.) *Wild Signs: Graffiti in*

*Archaeology and History. Studies in Contemporary and Historical Archaeology.* Oxford: Archaeopress and John and Erica Hedges Ltd. 47–59.

GSC Grays (2018) *Design and Access Statement for Residential Barn Conversion*. Unpublished Report.

Historic England (2015) *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*. Swindon: Historic England.

Historic England (2016) *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*. Swindon: Historic England.

Historic England (2019) *Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets*. Historic England Advice Note 12. [Online] Available at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/statements-heritage-significance-advice-note-12/> (accessed 07/2021).

Historic England (2021) *Graffiti on Historic Buildings; Removal and Prevention*. Swindon: Historic England. [Online] Available at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/graffiti-on-historic-buildings/heag288-graffiti-historic-buildings/> (accessed May 2022).

Mawer, A. (1920) *The Place-names of Northumberland and Durham*. Cambridge University Press.

Mineexploration (2021) *History of White Kirkley & Low Bishopley* [Online] Available at: <https://mineexploration.com/whitekirkley/historyWK.html> (accessed on 07/2021).

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) (2021) *NPPF Planning Practice Guidance: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment*. [Online] Available at: <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk> (accessed on 25/05/2021).

Northern Archaeological Associates (NAA) (2021) *White Kirkley Farm Range, Frosterley, County Durham, Written Scheme of Investigation* Rpt. 21–52.

NPPF Planning Practice Guidance - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/conserving-and-enhancing-the-historic-environment> (accessed on 07/2021).

Petts, D. and Gerrard, C. (2006) *Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment*. Durham County Council.

Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act (1990). [Online] Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/9/contents> (accessed 07/2021).

Sanderson Weatherall (2015) *White Kirkley Farm Cottage Structure Only Building Survey*. Unpublished report Ref. 150677.

Swabey, A. (2012) Chance to explore White Kirkley and back the delights of middle Waredale – Darlington and Stockton Times 2nd November 2012  
<https://www.darlingtonandstocktontimes.co.uk/news/10024381.chance-to-explore-white-kirkley-and-back-the-delights-of-middle-weardale/> (accessed on 07/2021).

University of Gloucestershire, English Heritage and the Countryside Agency (2006) *Historic Farmsteads: Preliminary Character Statement – North-East region* [Online] Available at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/historic-farmsteads-preliminary-character-statement-north-east/> (accessed 07/2021).

## **Durham Special Collections**

DPRI/3/1699/B121/1-2 Will of Arthur Wall, gentlemen of 'White Kirkly House' in the Parish of Wolsingham, dated the 15 July 1699.

## **Cartographic sources**

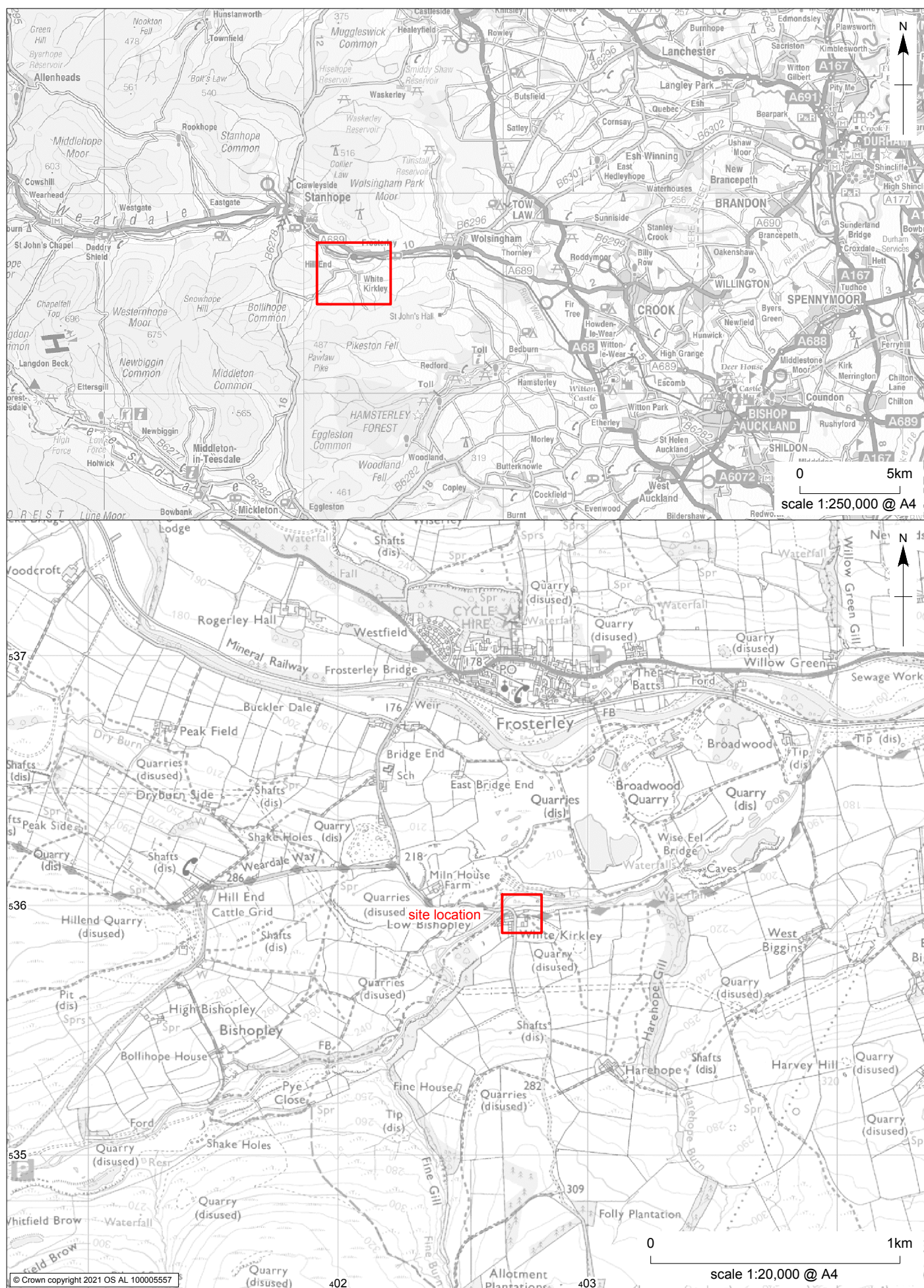
### *Six-inch*

Durham XXXII, Surveyed 1857, Published 1861  
Durham XXXII.NE, Surveyed 1896, Published 1898  
Durham XXXII, Surveyed 1896 to 1920, Published 1923

### *25-inch*

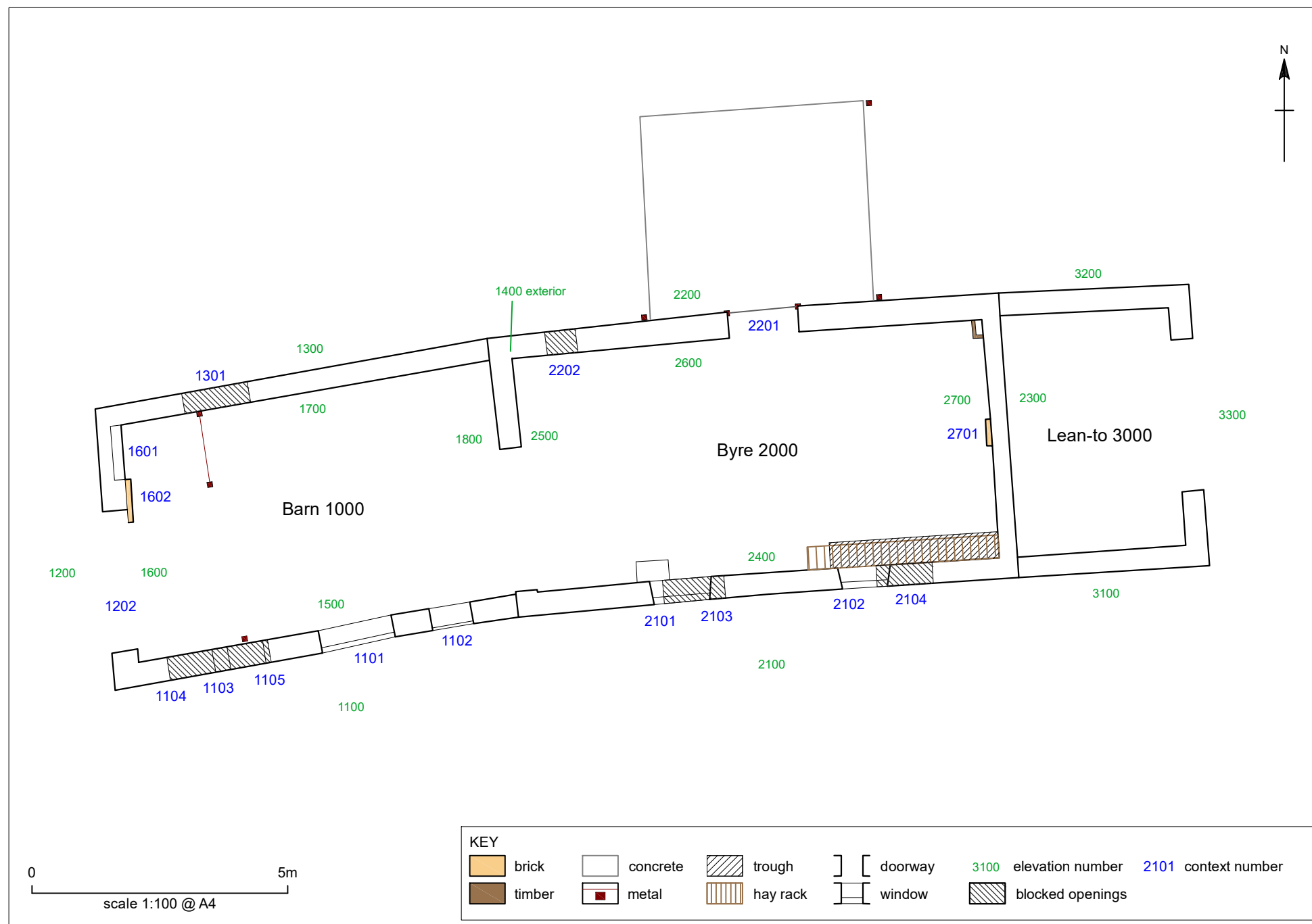
Durham XXXII.3, Surveyed 1896, Published 1897  
Durham XXXII.3, Surveyed 1920, Published 1921



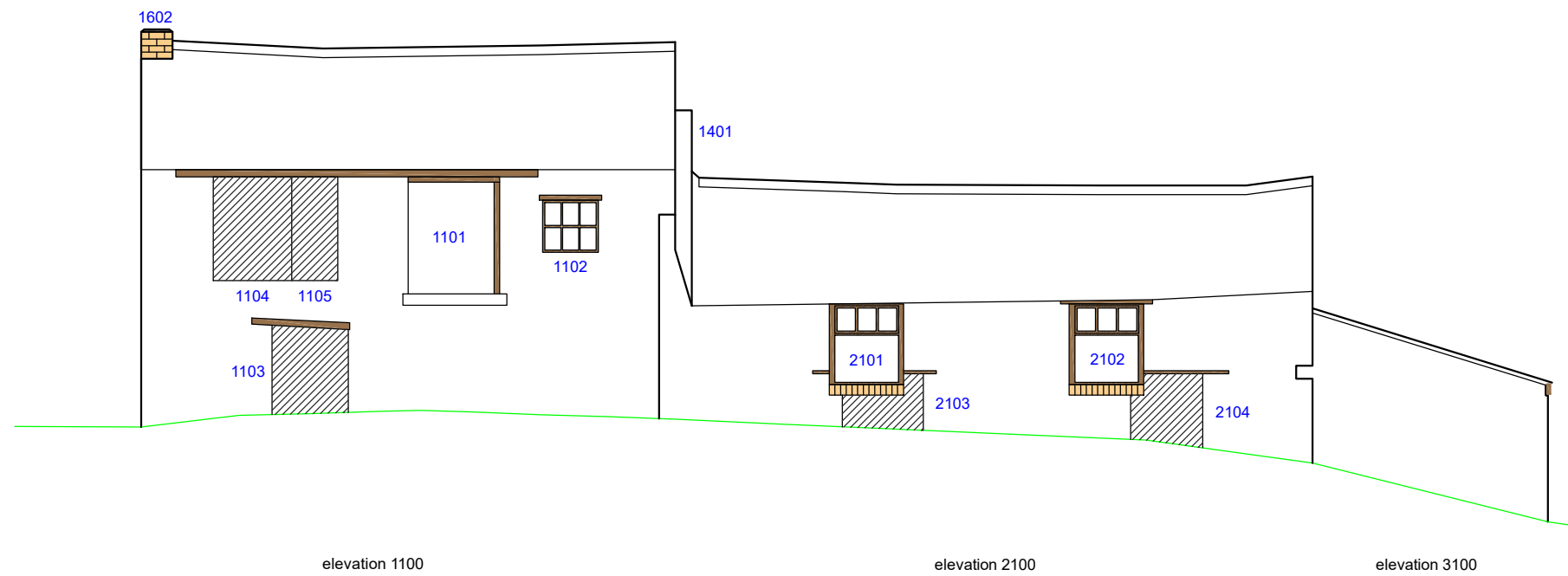


White Kirkley Farm Range, Frosterley: site location

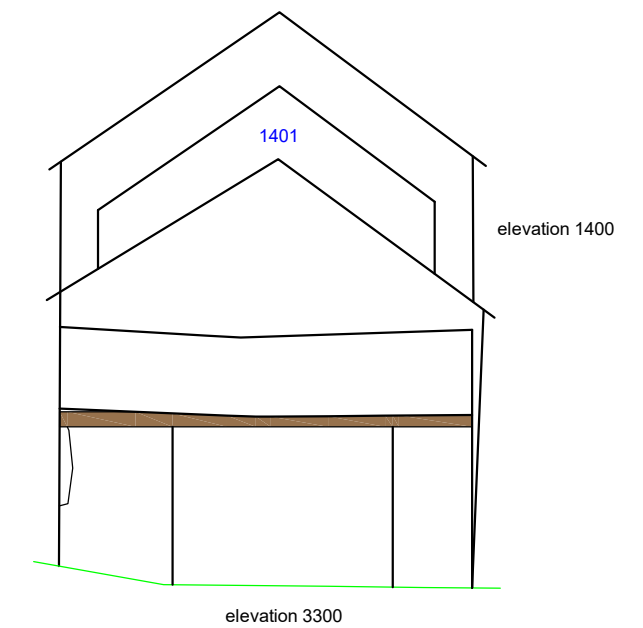
Figure 1



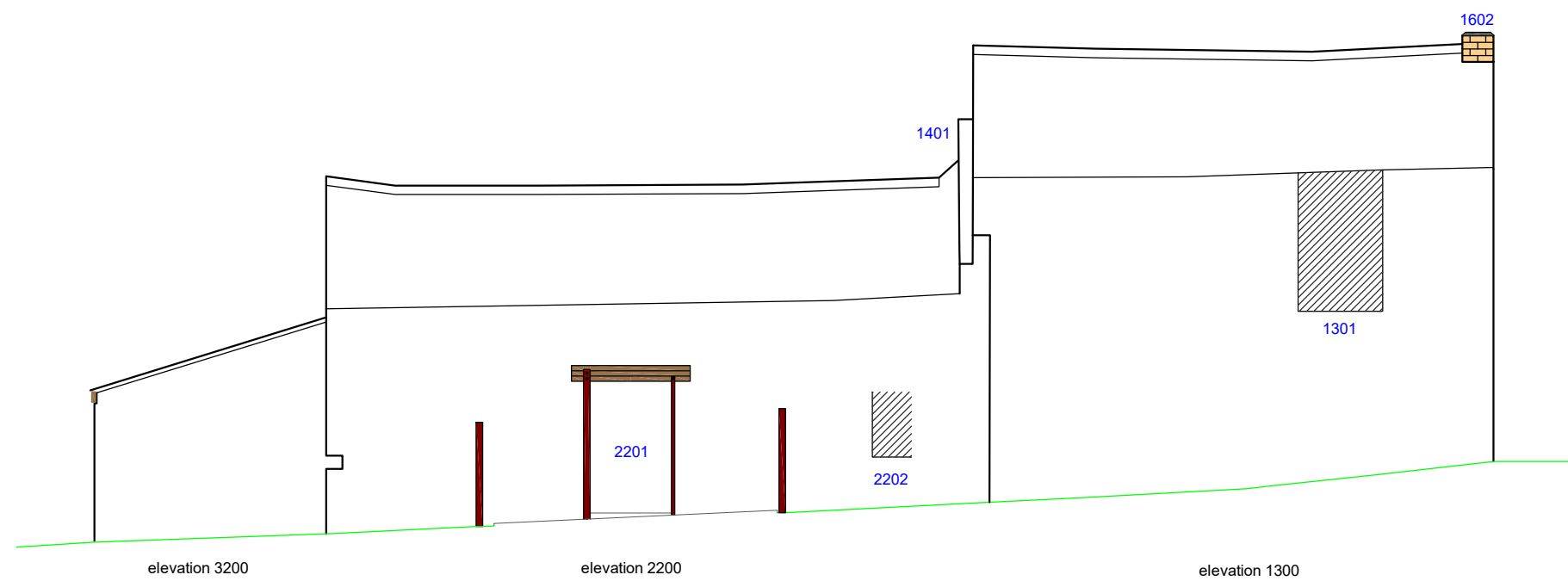
South elevation



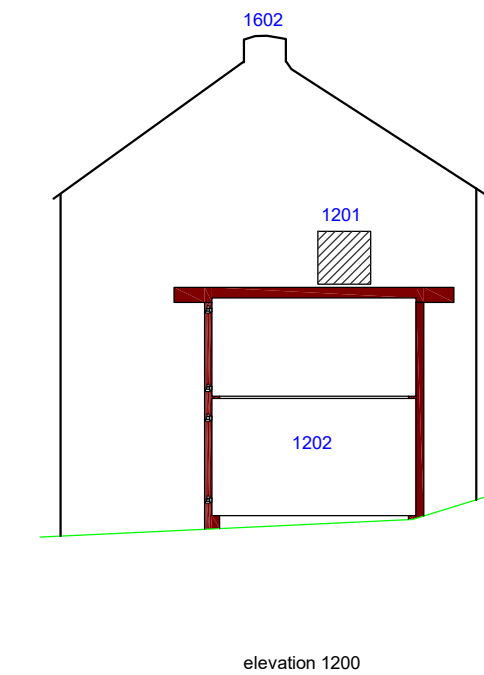
East elevation



North elevation



West elevation



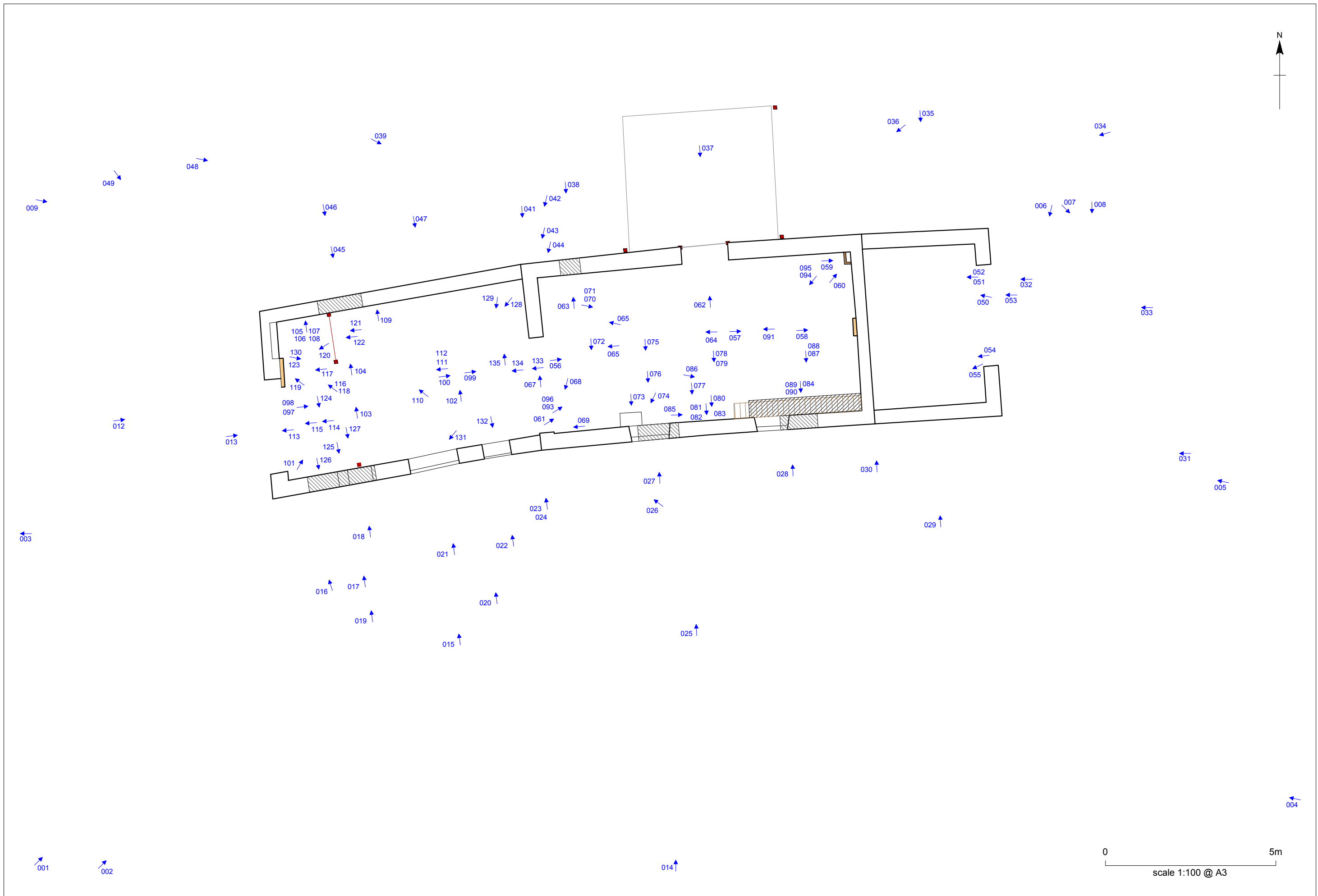
0 5m  
scale 1:100 @ A3

KEY  
timber brick concrete metal blocked openings 1201 context numbers

White Kirkley Farm Range: elevations

Figure 3







Handwritten annotations on the stone wall:

- Top center:  $WIKN = NC$  (with a small 'x' below it)
- Left side:  $M \cdot N$ ,  $MN$ ,  $M+$ ,  $1$ ,  $FDC$ ,  $TA$ ,  $AIF$
- Right side:  $BC$ ,  $GN$ ,  $KM$ ,  $1KLF$ ,  $AS mag H$ ,  $1948$ ,  $ERD$ ,  $SON$ ,  $ABUT$ ,  $R$ ,  $DC$ ,  $1A$ ,  $17$ ,  $194$
- Bottom center:  $JR$ ,  $REF$ ,  $14$ ,  $FT$ ,  $ONE$
- Bottom right:  $1$ ,  $M$ ,  $MOBEL$



