

CRAKE TREES TOWER HOUSE

CROSBY RAVENSWORTH, CUMBRIA

BUILDING RECORDING AND MONITORING

DURING CONSERVATION WORKS



1936



2002



2014

Report prepared for Mr M and Mrs R Tuer, Crake Trees Manor by:

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SUMMARY

A programme of conservation, consolidation and rebuilding works was carried out at the scheduled Crake Trees Tower House (NY 6157 1556), Crosby Ravensworth, Cumbria over 2013 and 2014, subject to scheduled monument consent and funded through a Natural England Higher Level Stewardship Agreement with Mr and Mrs Tuer, owners of the property.

Photogrammetric and rectified photographic survey of the ruins was carried out by Photarc Surveys Ltd. prior to works beginning, and a conservation management plan prepared by Kevin Doonan Architects (KDA 2012) which included an initial structural inventory of the standing remains by Peter Ryder (Ryder 2012) and a topographic review of the environs by Alan Williams (Williams 2012).

By 2012, much of the northern part of the east (front) wall had tumbled leaving considerable portions of the north gable and central cross walls standing but unsupported and in danger of collapse. Preservation of these walls involved the rebuilding of the east wall sufficient to provide secure cross-bracing along with some rebuilding of the cross and gable walls themselves. The rebuild drew on areas of tumbled masonry, lying either within the northern part of the building or externally in a substantial mound against the east wall, all of which had fallen in recent times as shown by the relatively complete building shown in a photograph of 1935.

An archaeological watching brief (by PR and AW) was carried out during consolidation works. This included the recording and cataloguing of masonry recovered from rubble within and outside the building, such as the northern mullion-window in the east wall and the first-floor fireplace which had tumbled from the north gable wall. Consolidation works were also monitored as they progressed, revealing previously hidden features.

The complete survival of the barrel-vaulted basement of the south wing at Crake Trees together with 14th-century features in the basement – the doorway and (re-set) window head – are of considerable importance. The remains of the hall block and solar tower- the northern part of the building - have deteriorated greatly over the last seventy years or so, but retain significant architectural features now that the ruins have been consolidated and the front wall partly rebuilt. There is some evidence to suggest that the original hall was timber framed. What is probably the most notable architectural feature of the ruin, an ogee-arched window head with the Lancaster lion, has now been reinstated. The ruin is a valuable and instructive example of a small sub-medieval manor house, and provides a direct link with the family responsible for the late 16th or early 17th century remodelling.

1. CRAKE TREES TOWER HOUSE (PR AW)

1.1 Location

Ruins of the scheduled (SM22488) and listed Crake Trees stand on rising ground within pastureland on the western side of the Lyvennet Beck at NY 6157 1556, a short distance to the north-west of the present house and its associated farm buildings. The villages of Crosby Ravensworth and Maulds Meaburn lie to south-east and north-east respectively.

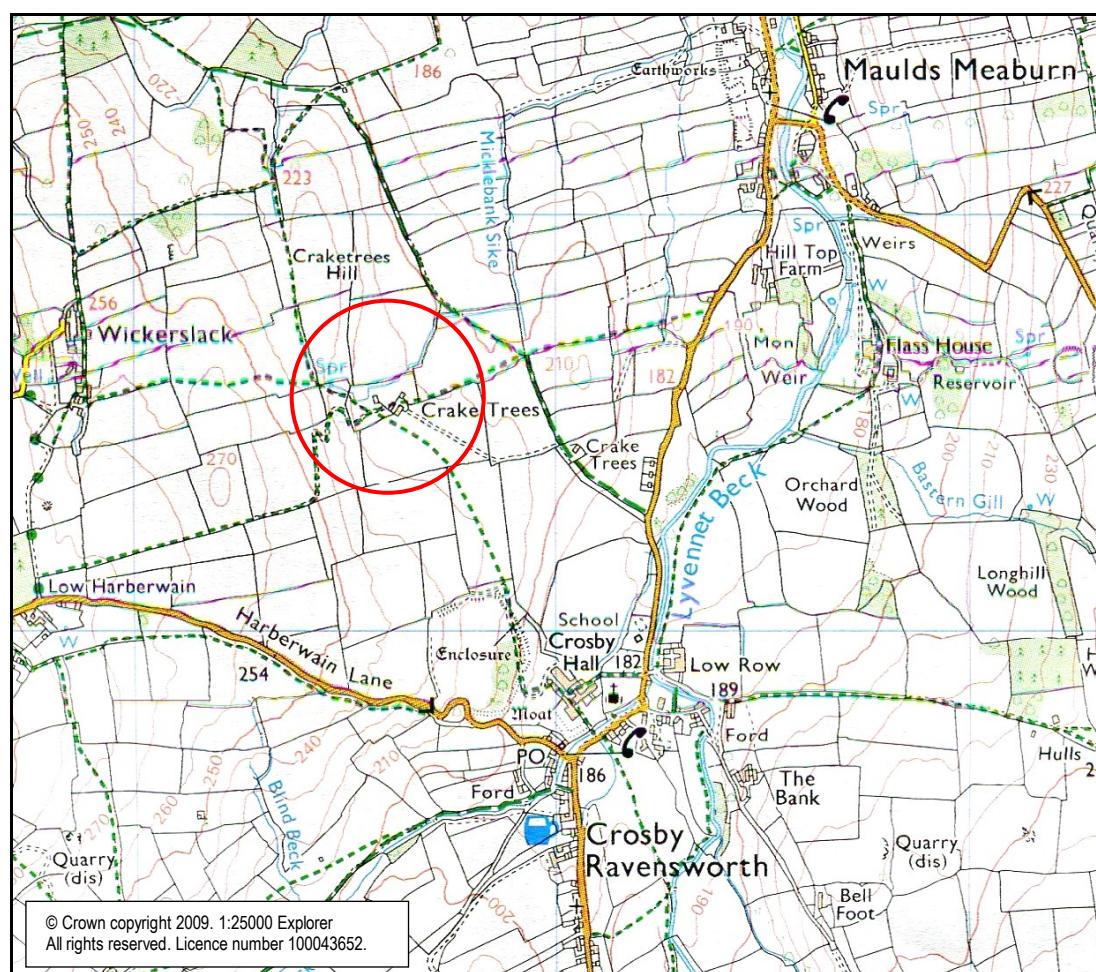


Figure 1: Location of Crake Trees Farm (in red circle) between the villages of Maulds Meaburn and Crosby Ravensworth.

1.2 Layout and Condition in 2012

Crake Trees is set north-north-west to south-south-east, but for ease of description in the following report is considered to run north-south. It consisted of a rectangular block containing the hall/kitchen with a parlour to the north and with a cross wing at the south end. Although the shell of the building remained largely intact up to at least the 1930s, by 2012 it had been reduced, by collapse and possibly some limited demolition, to the vaulted basement of the south cross wing and the ragged remains of the northern parts of the building. A carved

window or door head with the lion of the Lancaster arms carved on it was removed from the house in the 1940s or 1950s and used in the construction of a bridge at Lowfield Farm. It was re-discovered in the 1960s and built into a farm building at Hill Farm in Maulds Meaburn and replaced in its original location during the current project. To the east (front) of the house were the remains of a forecourt or enclosure, now reduced to its footings.



Figure 2: The remains of Crake Trees Tower-House in green tone. The present farmhouse is shown in pink tone (from English Heritage 2000).

1.3 History and Development

Crake Trees, from 'Crow Trees' a spinney of ancient trees which survived into the 19th century, is described and drawn in Bland's 1866 manuscript *Vale of Lyvennet* (MSS Part 1 folio 77-8 in Cumbria Record Office, Kendal as later published in Bland 1910. The property is included in Curwen's gazetteer (1932, 313) and is entered with a short description in the Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England (RCHME) Westmorland Inventory for 1936 (81). The original surveyors notes (held at the National Monuments Record at Swindon) are more informative and extensive, containing a ground plan and three photographs, showing the house as a roofless shell but intact at the time of the survey. It is also described summarily in Pevsner (1967, 244), and noted in Perriam and Robinson (1998, 275). The ruins of the house were surveyed and described by English Heritage in 1999-2000

(EH Building Report NBR No. 991195) alongside survey and analysis of the earthworks. Ryder examined and photographed the house in 2000.



Plate 1: *Crake Trees from the east in 2013.*

The house was probably constructed in the 14th century comprising a hall, solar wing and service block. The original form of the upper floors is uncertain. Additions and demolitions to the structure were carried out over succeeding centuries. Eventually, the property declined in status, from manor house to working farm house. It was abandoned by 1881 and was roofless, although largely intact, in 1935 when it can be seen in RCHME photographs.

From an early date, Crake Trees was a seat of the Lancaster family whose principal residence was Sockbridge Hall. The earliest secure link to the family is a signature made by Ambrose Lancaster at Crake Trees in 1591. The burials of a Thomas Lancaster in 1612 and of his wife Janet in 1620 are entered in the parish register but they appear to have died without issue and there is no later evidence for the family at Crake Trees. In 1638, Sockbridge and probably Crake trees as Lancaster possessions were passed on to the Lowthers of Whitehaven and through them to the Earls of Lonsdale. Bland (1866 MSS) noted that 'some of the Pickerings of Crosby' lived at Crake Trees but that it was in his own time 'in the hands of farmers'. The 1851 census lists Thomas Whitehead and family, and John Fleming, an 80 year old 'beggar agricultural labourer' as occupants. It was still tenanted in the Census of 1871 but no mention is made of it in 1881. Bland's original MSS provides a valuable drawing of the house, seen from the west, when it was still occupied.

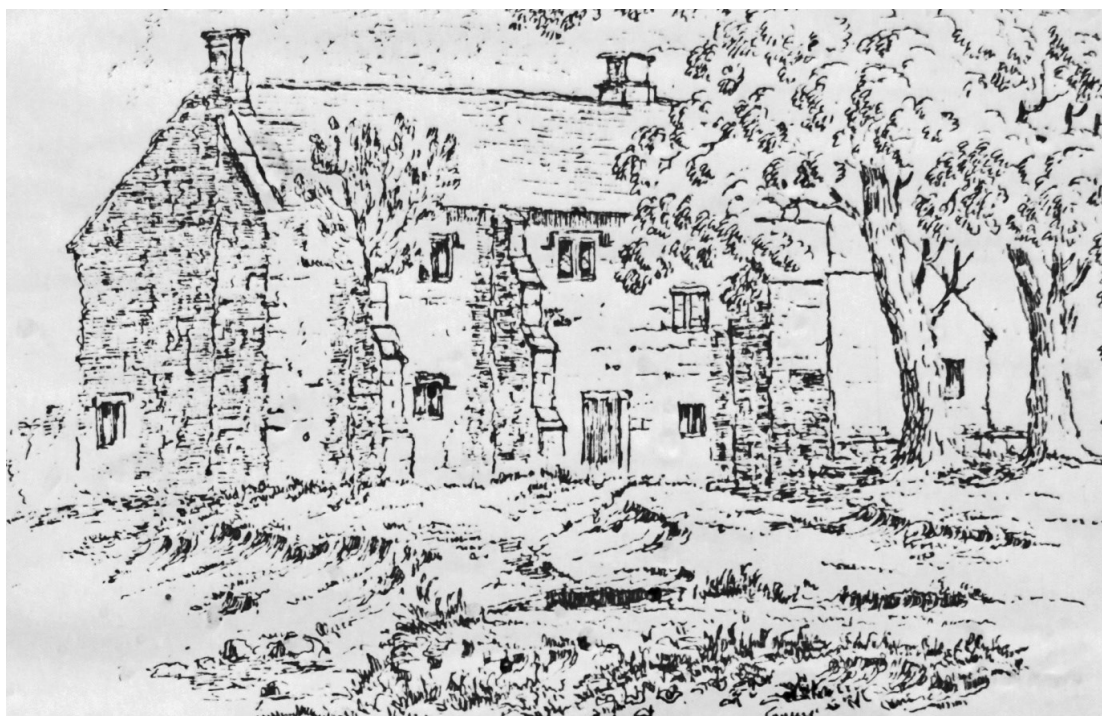


Plate 2: Bland's 1866 sketch, Crake Trees from the north-west.

2. CONSERVING THE BUILDING (PR AW)

2.1 Higher Level Stewardship Agreement

The tower house fell into increasingly poor state and was entered on the English Heritage (now Historic England) Heritage at Risk Register in 2011 and was identified as appropriate for conservation under a Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) Agreement between the owners, Mr M and Mrs R Tuer of Crake Trees Manor, and Natural England.

When first inspected for the current project in 2012, barrel vaulted store-rooms at the south end of the range were the most complete component of the building, surviving up to first floor level. Walls to the north of this block were severely reduced, only a cross-wall and the north gable wall standing to any height, both in very fragile condition.

The resulting programme of conservation consolidation and rebuilding works was carried out at Crake Trees between 2013 and 2014, subject to scheduled monument consent and funded through the HLS Agreement. Photogrammetric and rectified photographic survey of the ruins was carried out by Photarc Surveys Ltd. prior to any works on the property, and a conservation management plan prepared by Kevin Doonan Architects (KDA 2012) which included an initial structural inventory of the standing remains by Peter Ryder (Ryder 2012) and a topographic review of the environs by Alan Williams (Williams 2012).

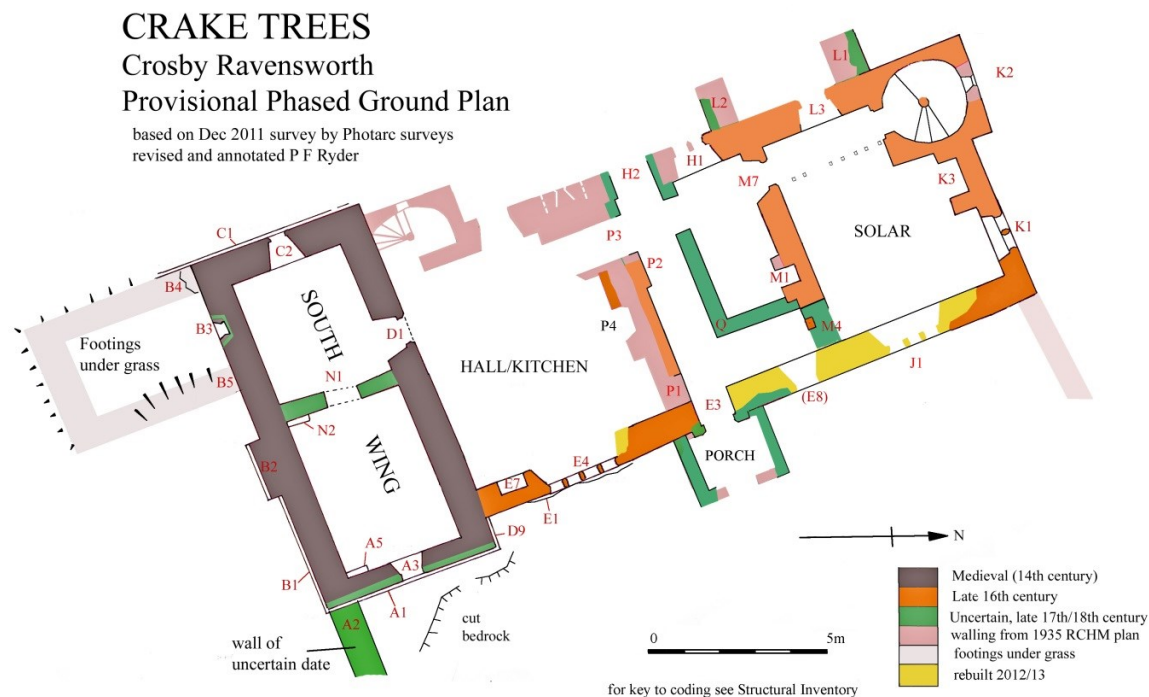


Figure 3: Phase plan of Crake Trees.

2.2 Scope of Consolidation and Rebuilding Works

The scope and extent of conservation works to be carried out at Crake Trees was set out in the document *Specification and Schedule of Works* prepared by KDA in 2012. This included a breakdown of the various inputs required across the site identified by generic task (repointing, deep tamping of existing facework, consolidation of wall heads by hard and soft capping, consolidation of exposed corework, rebuilding with exposed core, building and piecing in new stonework, rebuilding original stonework, removing vegetation, structural stitching, pinning and installing support bars). In addition to generic tasks, a number of more specific and radical works were identified in the schedule.

2.2.1 Barrel-Vaulted Storerooms

The barrel-vaulted block at the south end of the tower house remained largely intact to the level of the first floor. However, it was in a poor and very fragile condition with splaying outer walls, deflection and distortion of the vault and much invasive tree growth. Only substantial remedial work would ensure the survival of the structure. This required the removal of material above the voussoirs of the barrel vault, allowing the grouting and repointing of the vault from above. Completed and consolidated, this facilitated the safe removal of tree growth from the structure. At the same time, retaining bars were run directly above the vault between the outward-leaning north and south walls.

2.2.2 Central and Northern Areas of the Tower House

Structures north of the barrel-vaulted block were in extremely poor repair. The east and west walls had substantially fallen leaving the central cross wall and north-gable wall unsupported and in danger of collapse. These lateral walls had also lost much fabric.

2.2.3 Rebuilding of East Wall The extensively tumbled east (front) wall of the tower house to the north of the barrel-vaulted storerooms was rebuilt to a little under eaves level. This stabilized the largely unattached cross and gable walls without introducing new supporting structures. Standing components of the wall – its lower courses and parts of the jambs of the central front door - along with photographs of the wall from 1935, guided the rebuilding. Piles of rubble fallen subsequently to 1935 lay within and outside the east face of the building. This was re-used during the rebuilding. It contained window jambs, sills and lintels which were replaced in original locations. An heraldic panel, formerly set in the east wall at Crake Trees had been removed since 1935 and built into a farm building in the village of Maulds Meaburn. This was returned to site and re-mounted in its original position.



Plate 3: Crake Trees from the north-west in 2012.

2.2.4 Rebuilding of Cross and Gable Walls Additional rebuilding was carried out at the western end of the north cross-wall to consolidate overhanging masonry and improve its stability. Rebuilding was also required at the stair tower on the north gable wall so that lateral support could be provided to the surviving portions of the outward-leaning west wall. The north cross-wall

incorporates a chimney stack with doors either side of this feature. The doorways were seen in previous surveys of the site but are now obscured by rubble. Sketches of the north gable of the northern wall prepared by Peter Ryder in 2000 prior to the collapse of the area show a window.

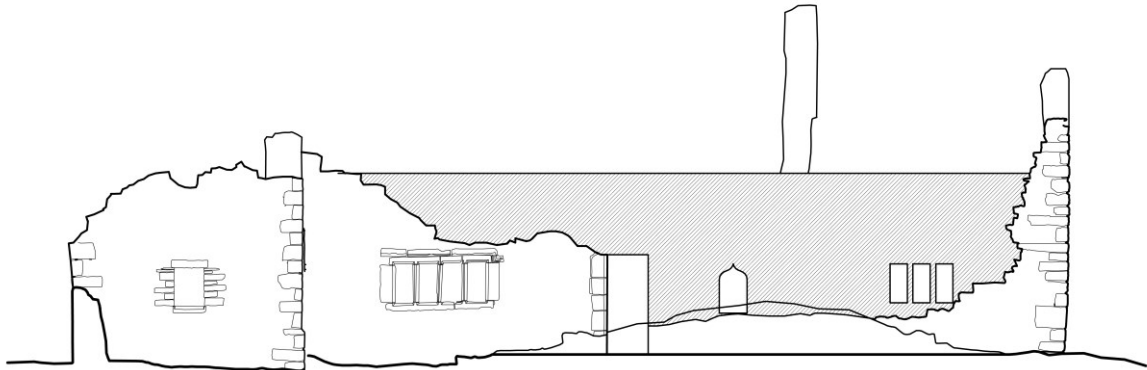


Figure 4: Survival of the east face of the tower house in 2012 with indicative extent of rebuild in grey tone (Drawing prepared by Kevin Doonan Architect).

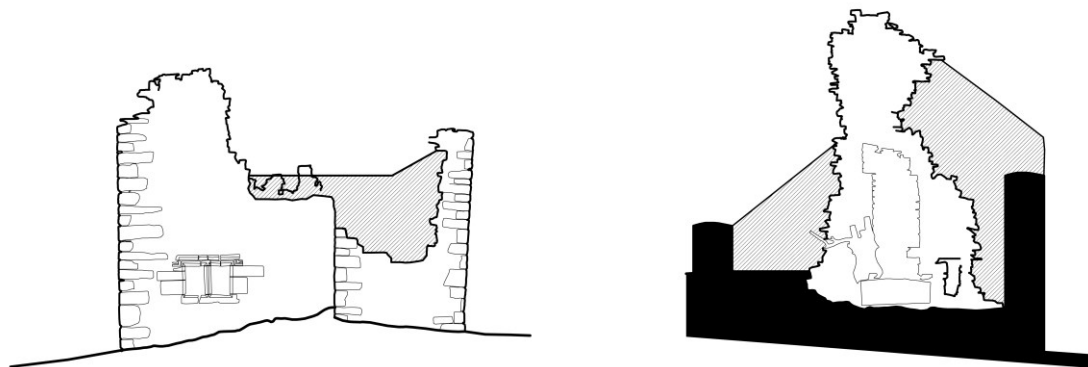


Figure 5: Survival of the north gable wall (left) and south elevation of the northern cross-wall in 2012 showing indicative areas of rebuilding in tone (Drawing prepared by Kevin Doonan Architect).

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL INPUT (PR AW)

Archaeological input during the conservation and rebuilding works was carried out to the terms of a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by Alan Williams and Peter Ryder and incorporated within KDA's specification of works. Letter/number codes used in fabric descriptions in this report are as per Ryder's Inventory (see section 5 of this report).

3.1 Monitoring of Clearance Works

The full extent of clearance of modern rubble within and alongside the manor house by the conservation builders is shown on figure 7. An archaeological watching brief was carried out alongside this work in order to:

- establish the level and nature of features and surfaces below rubble deposits within

and beyond the structure and then prevent encroachment during the clearance into historic floors and walls;

- identify significant pieces of architectural masonry (mullions, sills, jambs etc) and as far as possible, their original location for potential re-incorporation into the structure (this carried out by PR. Recovered masonry is catalogued in section 9 of this report).
- monitor the correct reinstatement of features.



Plate 4: *Peter Ryder recording recovered stonework.*

3.2 Recording Following Clearance Works

Once deposits were cleared, the existing metric survey of the manor house prepared in 2012 by Photarc Ltd. was updated with the recording of newly exposed walls and floor surfaces within the north and central rooms including the cross passage and the southern barrel vault. Archaeological input was limited in this last area as no evidence for any surviving floor surface was uncovered over the vault. Presumably, floor slabs had been removed once the building was abandoned in the early 20th century. As mentioned above, the leaning north-west corner of the standing first-floor wall of the vaulted block fell in 2013. This was rebuilt from the tumbled masonry and rebuilt using fallen masonry as per the original. A photographic record was also made of the completed works.

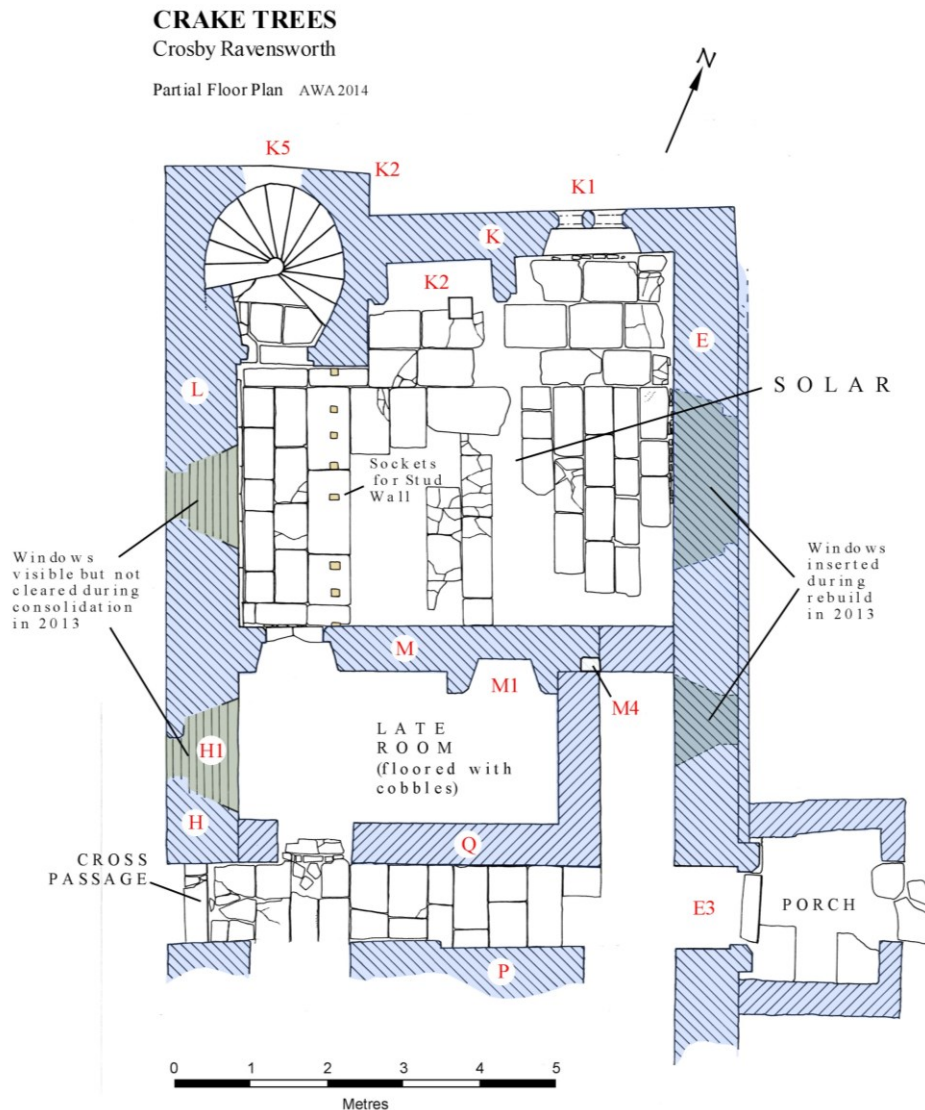


Figure 6: Ground plan of the northern part of Crake Trees (1:100 scale) showing floors revealed in 2013 and feature codes as per Ryder's structural inventory in this report. The level of horizontal section through the building varies to best represent specific features.

4. MONITORING OF CONSOLIDATION AND REBUILDING WORKS (AW)

The appearance of Crake Trees in 2012 prior to conservation can be seen on plate 1. Much of the northern part of the east (front) wall had tumbled leaving considerable portions of the north gable wall (K) and the central cross wall (M) standing but unsupported and in imminent danger of collapse. Preservation of these walls involved the rebuilding of the reduced east wall sufficient to provide secure cross-bracing along with some rebuilding of the cross and gable walls themselves. The rebuild drew on areas of tumbled masonry, lying either within the northern part of the building or externally in a substantial mound against the east wall, all of which had fallen in recent times as shown by the relatively complete building shown in a photograph of 1935.

Monitoring was concerned with recovering worked masonry from the rubble (carried out by PR), such as the northern window in the east wall and the first-floor fireplace (K7) which had tumbled from the north gable wall, and to identify the appropriate level at which to stop excavation, corresponding as closely as possible to ground level seen in the 1935 photograph externally, and at the level of the first identified floor surface internally. Recording involved the preparation of a photographic and a drawn archive.

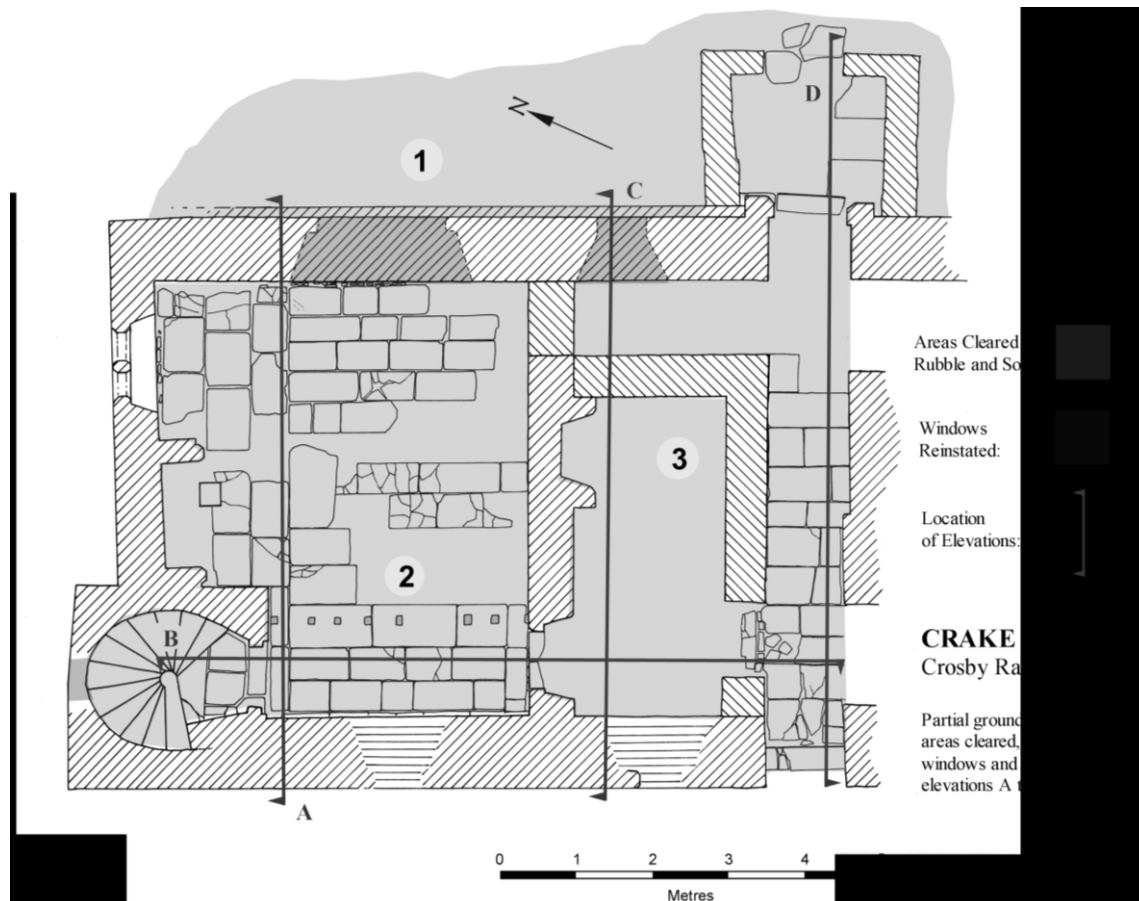


Figure 7: Ground plan of the northern part of Crake Trees showing areas cleared in 2012-3 (pale tone): east of east wall (1), within the north room (2) and in the central block and cross passage (3). Elevations (A, B, C, D) showing fabric revealed during the clearance works are marked by the lines (1:100 scale). Clearance was also carried out over the southern vaulted block.

4.1 Clearance of East Wall (E)

Clearance of rubble deposits along the external face of the east wall (E) by HPR began in winter 2012. This work extended along most of the northern part of the frontage including the footings of the demolished porch. Figure 12 shows the reduction in level, the green line marking the pre-2012 ground surface. As well as much rubble from the wall and core, considerable portions of the four-light window which can be seen in the 1935 photograph were recovered from the debris (plate 10). A square plinth was revealed in-situ along the wall. This will have extended along the full length of the wall but was only cleared to the level of the base of modern tumble. Rebuilding of the work carried on into spring 2012. A number

of window mouldings were not found within the tumble and these were made from new using the recovered pieces as templates.

4.2 Clearance of the North Room

This was carried out from early spring 2013 and was preceded by stabilisation and consolidation of the gable (K) and central cross wall (M) to allow excavation to floor level. A number of features were exposed during the excavation and clearance including a well-preserved newel stair in the north-west turret and the remains of a fireplace (K7) and exposed flue in the north wall. Other features at first-floor level had fallen since 2000 including a fireplace (K7) and a small window light (K6) at attic level above K1 (Ryder, this report).

4.2.1 Sandstone Slab Floor

The floor surface exposed throughout the north room and turret is of pink sandstone slabs. These are almost all rectangular and set without mortar in a regular pattern parallel to the walls (figure 6). The largest slabs are around 1.10m long by 0.6m wide. A number of slabs had been removed prior to the clearance in 2013. The lack of any indication of new flooring material in the gaps suggests that they were removed when the building was abandoned. Given the irregular shape of the small turret, floor slabs here were irregular. A line of sockets had been cut into the slabs between the door into the central room and the door into the turret. These mark the line of a stud partition-wall forming a corridor along the west wall. A wider spacing of sockets 0.9m from the central cross-wall marks the position of a door through the stud wall which would have been about 0.8m wide. No earlier floor level was noted below the sandstone slabs, although inspection was limited.

4.2.2 Stair Turret

In 2012, the stair turret was filled with rubble and survived precariously, with a markedly leaning west wall, badly tumbled north wall and a substantial tree forcing apart the visible portion of the stair. Cleared and stabilized, the structure is impressive with 12 steps of the newel stair surviving - probably to the original full height (Figure 6 and plate 5). The jambs of a window (K2) in the north wall, which had fallen, were restored

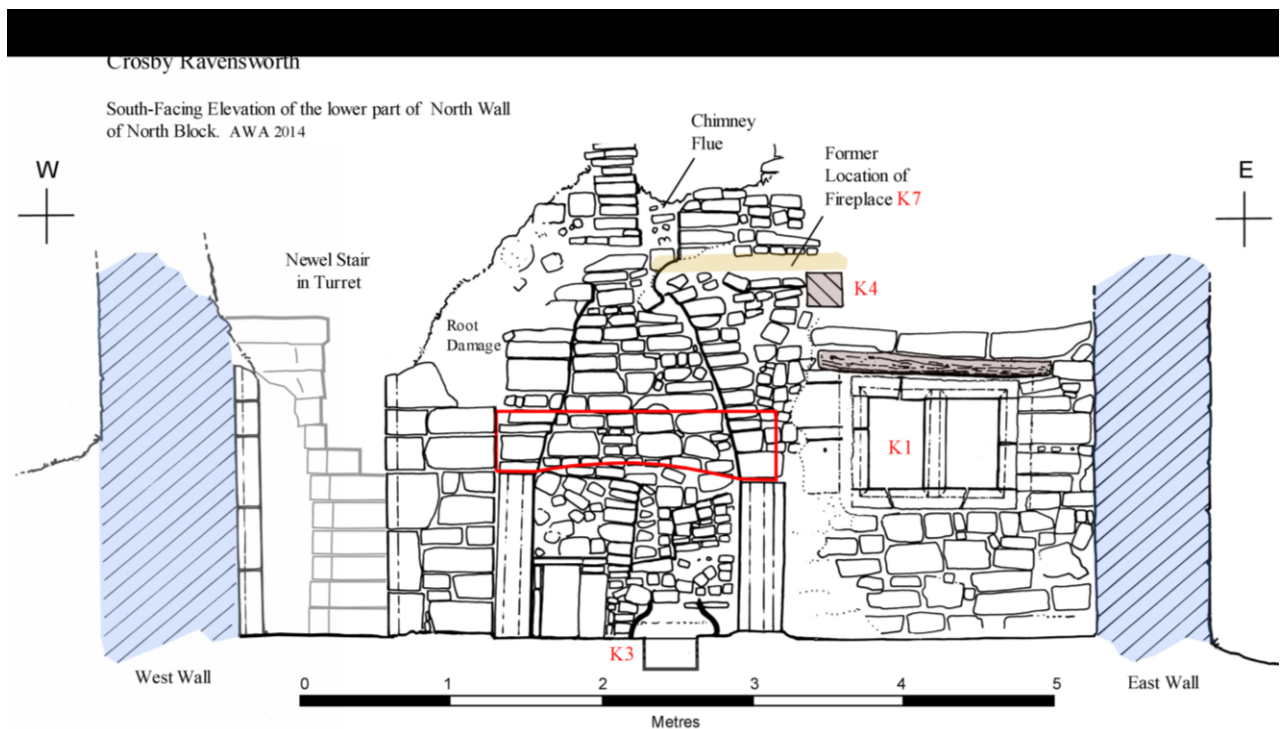


Figure 8: South-facing elevation A (see figure 7) showing internal face of the north gable wall (K) and turret for newel stair. The flue for fireplace K3 was exposed during the clearance works. The position of the lintel, which had fallen, is indicated in red line. (1:50 scale).

4.2.3 Ground-Floor (K3) and First Floor (K7) Fireplaces

A substantial fireplace (K3) lies in the north gable wall of the manor house, offset slightly to the west, tucked in to the angle of the stair turret. In 2012, this was completely obscured with fallen rubble including the mantle (which had broken into four pieces) and the right jamb. Loss of the mantle had pulled away overlying masonry in the gable wall exposing the chimney flue. Above and slightly to the right of the ground floor fireplace was a first-floor fireplace (K7). This had recently tumbled and some, but not all, of the components lay within the rubble below.

The hearth of the ground-floor fireplace (K3) contains parts of a kitchen range. A stone hob at the left of the hearth survives. To the right a feature, probably a grate or box, has been removed. Only curved iron sheets remain beneath the position of the fire, with a small, square ash pit below. Parts of a cast-iron screen was recovered from rubble adjacent to the hearth and, presumably, would have sat in front of the box.

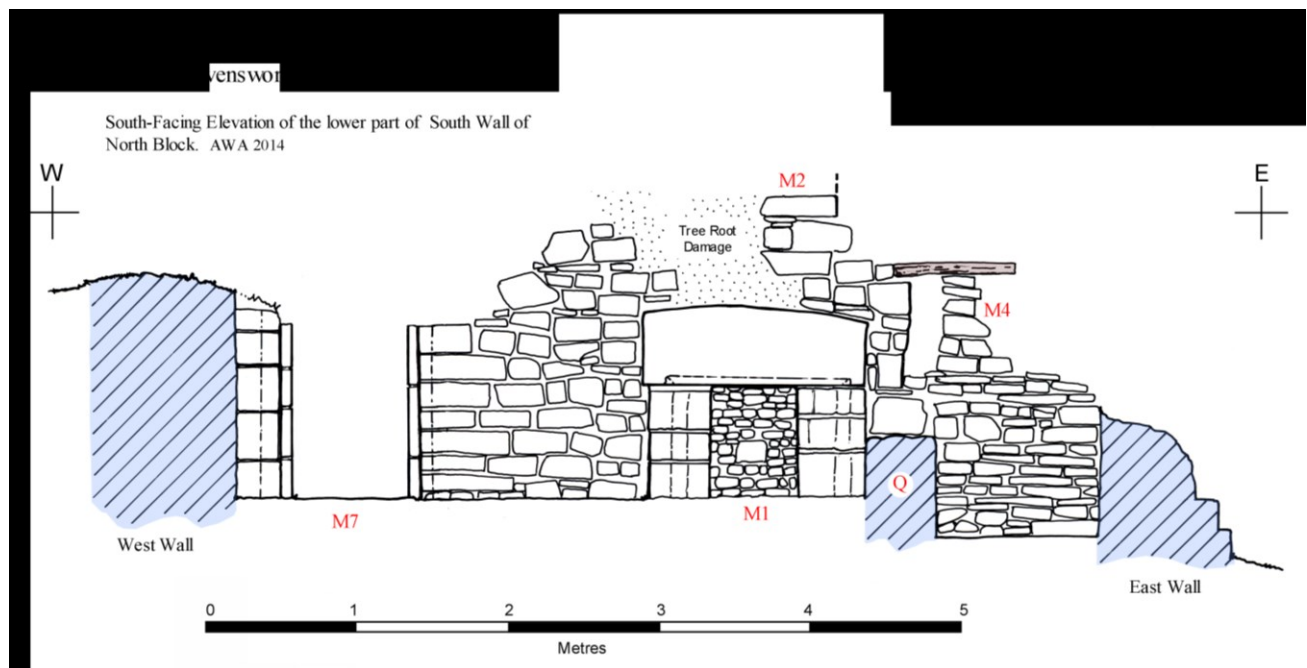


Figure 9: South-facing elevation C of cross wall (M) with fireplace (M1) chimney breast (M2), doorway M7 and feature M4 (1:50 scale).

4.3 Cross Wall M and Clearance to the South

In 2012, cross-wall M survived as an unattached leaf of masonry to near full height towards the ridge but only very partially to east and west where doors through the wall had compromised the structure. Fireplace M1 sits almost centrally in the south face of the wall, with a projecting chimney breast above which merges with the wall face at c3m above the fireplace lintel. A narrow strip of ground c1m wide was to be cleared of rubble and late deposits to the south of the cross wall to allow consolidation of the wall fabric. This was eventually extended to encompass the room defined by dwarf wall Q and as far as the south wall of the cross passage (P). A sandstone slab floor was uncovered in the cross passage extending from wall Q to the west door through wall H. This floor rose slowly to the west across the building and finally stepped up at the entrance through the west wall. The floor respected wall Q. A cobble floor was uncovered within Q. This maintained a level and at the east face of Q was c0.3m higher than the adjacent slab floor in the cross passage. Rubble was cleared from around fireplace (M1) against the south face of the wall. Removal of a tree which had forced the substantial stone lintel out from the wall allowed the full conservation of the feature. There was no evidence to suggest that its jambs (splayed and chamfered) extended below the cobble floor in the room. A much reworked door (M4) to the right of the fireplace was exposed and consolidated although interpretation remains problematic. To stabilize the western end of wall M, new jambs and a lintel were set above the surviving jambs of door M7.

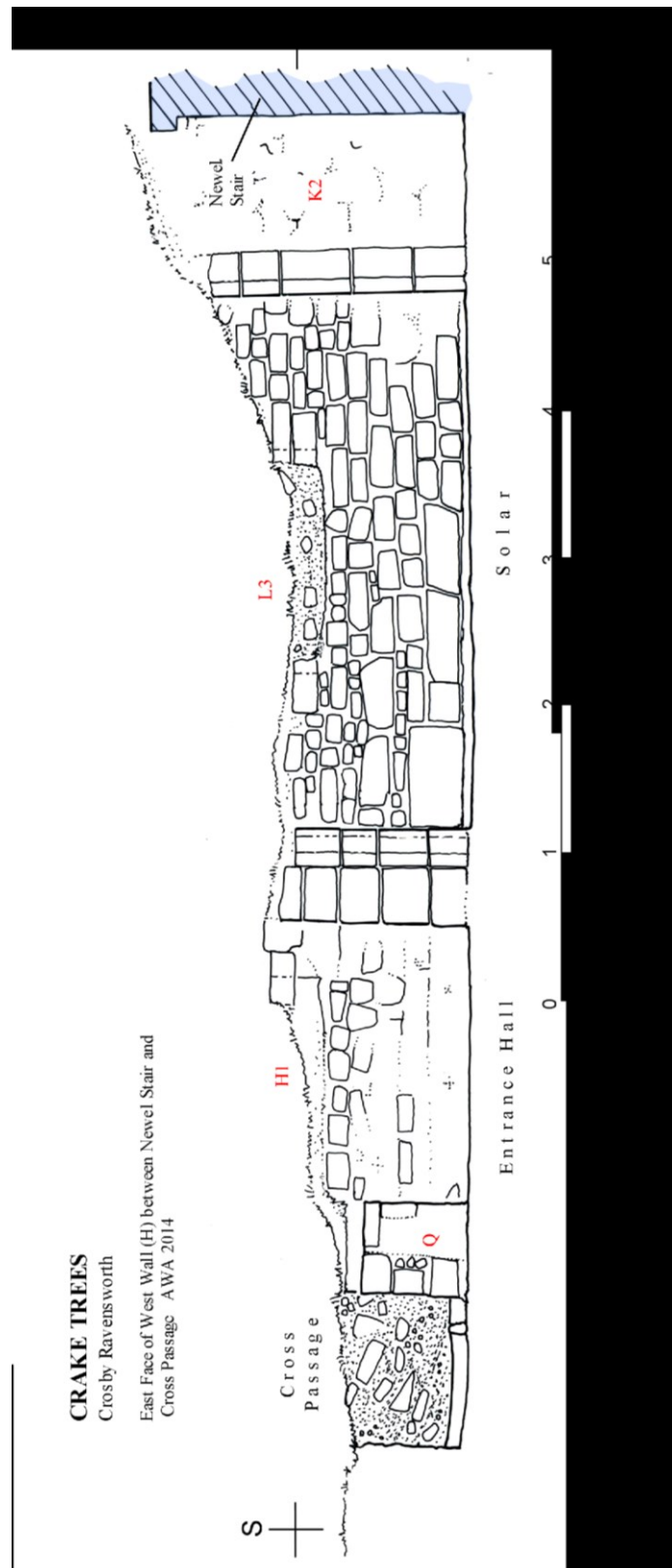


Figure 10: East facing elevation B showing the internal face of the west walls (L and H) of Crake Trees (1:50 scale).

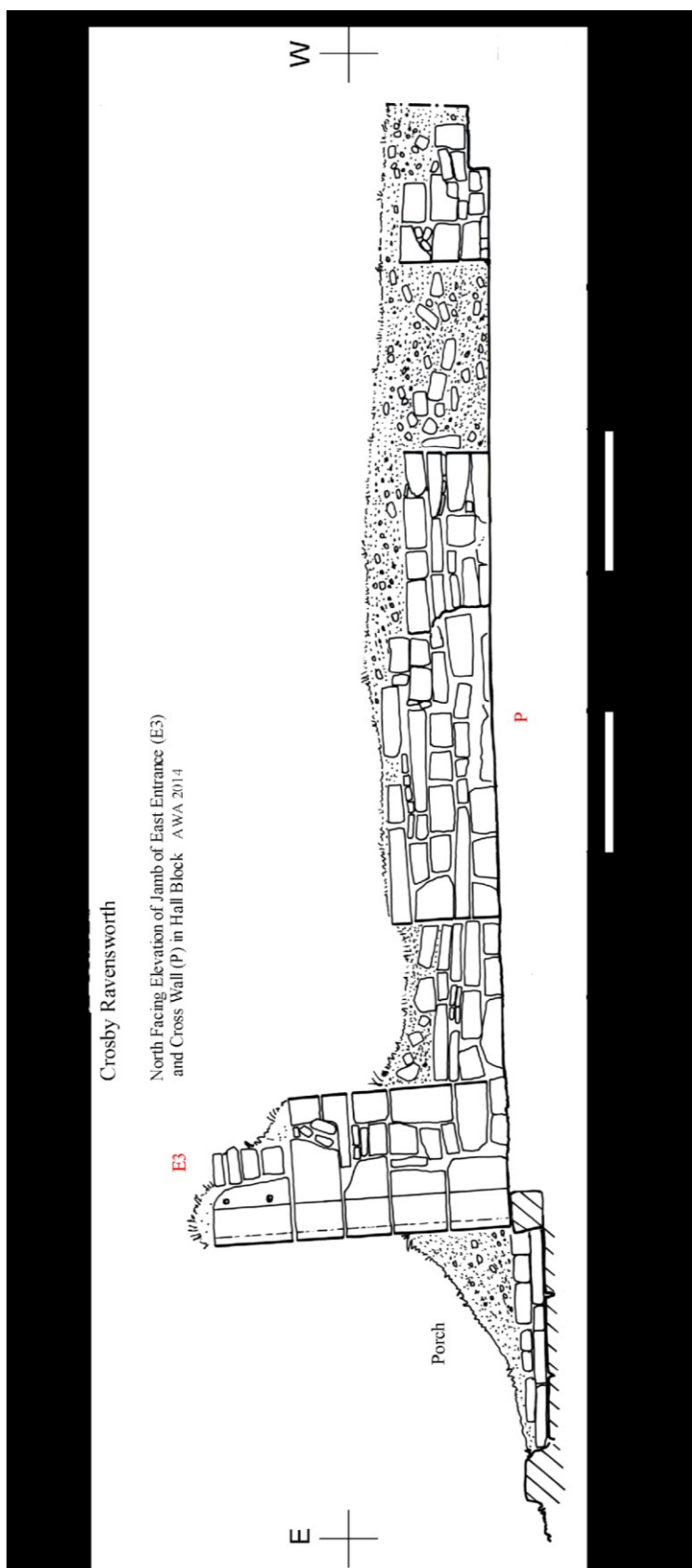


Figure 11: North-facing elevation D showing the south jamb of the east entrance (E3) and wall P with blocked and open entrances (1:50 scale).

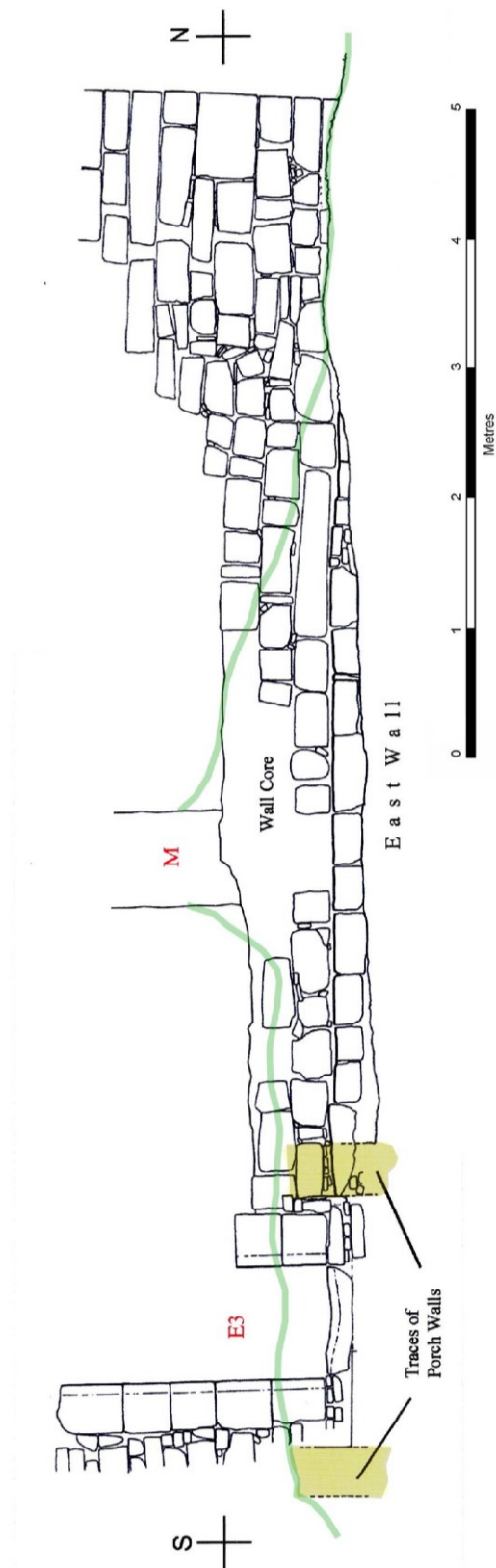


Figure 12: East facing elevation of the east wall of the manor house prior to conservation and rebuilding. The green line shows ground level prior to removal of rubble in 2012 (not to scale).



Plate 5: *The newel stair during consolidation in 2013.*

4.4 Clearance above Barrel-Vaulted Storerooms

The area above the vault was cleared of rubbish and stripped back. No flooring was seen, presumably it had been removed subsequent to 1935 when the building was still roofed.



Plate 6: *Above the vaulted storerooms in 2012. Looking east.*

Deposits over the vault were then stripped back, the vault covered, and a concrete floor set in

place. The north-west corner of the first floor wall over the vault collapsed during works. This was rebuilt from the fallen material using the Photarc elevation drawings to match the fabric.



Plate 7: The vault cleared. Looking south-west.

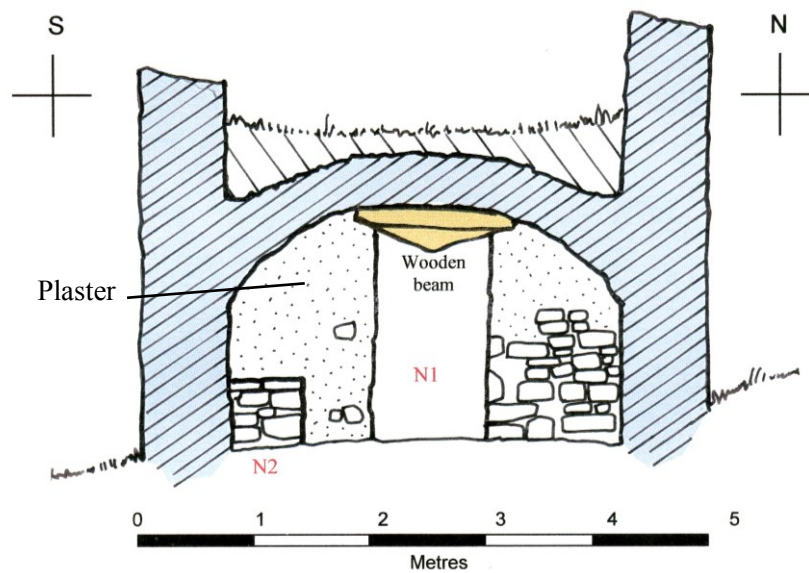


Figure 13: Section through south wing looking west at east face of central cross wall (1:75 scale)

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING (PR)

(Letter/number codes keyed to Photarc elevations in Appendix 2)

Crake Trees has a fairly simple plan, consisting of a rectangular block containing the hall/kitchen and an entrance hall, with a parlour beyond, a porch on the east and a cross-wing at the south end. The following description is presented in the form of a structural inventory. The four walls of the South Wing are coded A-D, the front (east) and back walls of the Hall. Block E and H, and the four walls of the Parlour Block J, K, L and M.

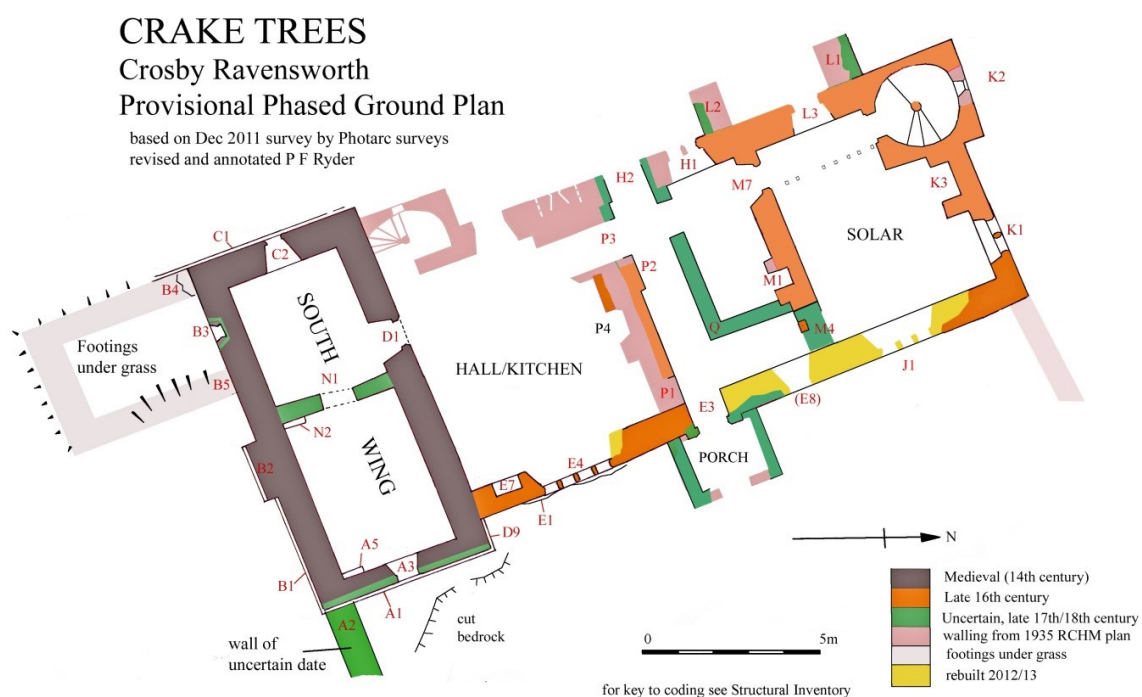


Figure 14: Phased plan of Crake Trees (Codes in red keyed to description).

5.1 The South Wing

The South Wing is rectangular in plan, 10.4m by 5m externally, with walls c 0.9 m thick largely of coursed squared stones of quite substantial size, with roughly-alternating quoins of pink sandstone; the outer face of much of the east end wall has been rebuilt in smaller coursed stone. The north wall stands to c 4.5 m high and the south wall to c 3 m; this reflects the form of the wing before the final ruination of the building, as it had been cut down to carry a monopitch roof.

A The East End

A1 There is a square off-set or plinth c 1 m above the ground, continued as a chamfered

plinth on both returns.

- A2 Attached to the south end of the wall, and concealing the lower part of the south-east quoins, is a wall c 4 m long and 1.5 m high, of thinly-coursed stone, which formerly continued east to form the south side of the entrance court.
- A3 Set centrally is a plain square-headed window; its square-edged lintel is relatively small, and its external jambs are simply quite small walling stones; the chamfered sill looks to be an older feature re-used. Internally the jambs are neatly splayed and of well-cut blocks (those of the north jamb in particular show a fine diagonal tooling). It is probably an original medieval feature but the external opening probably goes with the partial post-medieval re-facing of the wall.
- A4 At the top of the wall, the possible remains of a first-floor window; two blocks of the north jamb seem to be all that remain.
- A5 Adjacent to the internal face of the south end of the wall is a stone support for a stone (?) bench that ran the length of the south side of the eastern ground-floor chamber; the similar support N2 supported its west end.

B The South Wall

- B1 There is a chamfered plinth c 0.6 m above the ground on the eastern section of wall.



Plate 8: Trefoiled ogee arch in the south wall at Crake Trees (B3).

- B2 Set east-of-centre is a buttress-like projection, now rising to a height of c 1.5 m, which has a chamfered plinth set a little higher than B1. Ragged joints on the wall above show that it continued higher (presumably to carry a projecting stack serving a first-floor fireplace) but the walling has been neatly patched.
- B3 Towards the west end of the western section of wall (which does not have any visible

plinth) is a small recess under a trefoiled ogee arch cut into a single large stone (right). It has generally been seen as a re-used window head, although the 2000 English Heritage report interpreted it as the piscina of a vanished timber-framed chapel. However, there is absolutely no evidence of it ever having had a bowl, as one would expect if this were the case.

- B4 At the extreme west end of the wall, four angle quoins survive, but below them are couple of projecting small blocks, and beneath them, at ground level, a larger projecting block with a chamfer on its west face, seen by EH as a plinth to the base of the west wall of the putative chapel.
- B5 A little to the east of B3, a disturbed area between two rough straight joints could indicate a former wall position. Slight earthworks suggest a rectangular structure here 3.75 m wide and projecting 4.9 m to the south.

C The West Wall

- C1 The chamfered plinth, partly buried, continuous with the chamfer on the lowest slab of B4
- C2 A central almost square window to the basement, with an eroded chamfered surround, sockets for two vertical and three? horizontal bars.
- C3 Remains of a first-floor opening, what seems to have been a pitching door, probably of 19th century date. All that is now left on the outer face of the wall is two stones of the south jamb, set square to the wall, without any rebate.

D The North Wall

- D1 Set west-of-centre is a shoulder-arched doorway with chamfered jambs (their lower parts buried); the chamfer on the lintel extends beyond the jambs – is it a re-used piece? Internally the rebated jambs show various small cuts, but no drawbar tunnels; there are hinge pins for a door on the west. The rear arch, which cuts into the vault, is neatly constructed and of two-centred form.
- D2 To the west of the door is an area disturbed by structural movements ; there is no real sign of any returning wall here; the stone wall of the (rebuilt) hall block must have simply butted up against it.
- D3 Towards the east end of the wall there seems to be a straight joint more or less in line with the inner face of the east wall of the hall block. The EH report sees this as the west jamb of a blocked feature, which they interpret as a recess ; a similar open joint just outside the line of the Hall Block wall is seen as the east side of this recess, but this again looks doubtful. There is no sign of any opening on the internal face of the wall).

- D4 A little to the east of doorway D1, c 3 m up, are two very square stones that could be infilled sockets for ceiling joists; they seem the only surviving evidence for the inserted upper floor in the hall block.
- D5 About 2 m east of doorway D1 and higher in the wall is a possible straight joint, perhaps indicating an infilled opening.
- D6 Above doorway D1 is a ragged gap; there was a doorway at first-floor level here, but all its dressing seem to have fallen.
- D7 Towards the west end of the wall is a blocked first-floor doorway, with chamfered jambs and one stone at the top of the west jamb that looks like the beginning of a pointed arch, or alternatively a shouldered head. The rest of the door-head has gone, although one internal lintel survives precariously perched on the rubble infill, which lower down incorporates one big flat upright slab. The section of walling containing this doorway collapsed during conservation works, but has been reconstructed.
- D8 On the internal face of the wall at first floor level (much of which still stands to c 2 m above the first floor), a little to the east of the wide gap D6 there is an infilled vertical slot of uncertain purpose.
- D9 At the east end of the wall, outside the hall wall, a short length of chamfered plinth

5.2 The Hall Block

The EH 2000 account sees the Hall and Parlour Blocks as the product of a remodelling of the house that took place in the later 16th or early 17th century, there having been an earlier timber-framed hall with a service accommodation in a wing or block at its north end; after the remodelling the house was ‘turned round’ and the old Solar Wing at the south end converted to service use, with the Parlour Block forming what they term a ‘solar tower’.

E The East Wall of the Hall Block

Prior to the 2012/3 works only the southern part of this wall survived, only its south end standing to above first-floor level. There are some large squared stones in its lower courses, with smaller rubble higher up. The whole wall has now been rebuilt, up to first-floor level.

- E1 Irregular projecting footings.
- E2 A possible ragged joint in the lower part of the external face of the wall c 0.50 m from its south end.
- E3 The main doorway; four big blocks of its south jamb survived, with a continuous chamfer, set c 15cm forward of the line of the wall face; their extrados was in line with the internal face of the porch, with which it may have been contemporary. Only one block of the north jamb was exposed. This doorway has now been reconstructed, re-using some fallen material – the head and two uppermost stones of the north jamb are however new.

- E4 A four-light mullioned window to the south of the door, that has a hood with turned back ends (the southern terminal has gone), its lower face cut with a pair of hollow chamfers and its upper sloped. Internally the timber lintel, now dropped, has a dovetail housing at its south end and must be a re-used tie-beam.
- E5 Immediately to the north of E4 in the external face of the wall is an upright block in the wall with a vague chamfer on the north, perhaps part of an earlier window.

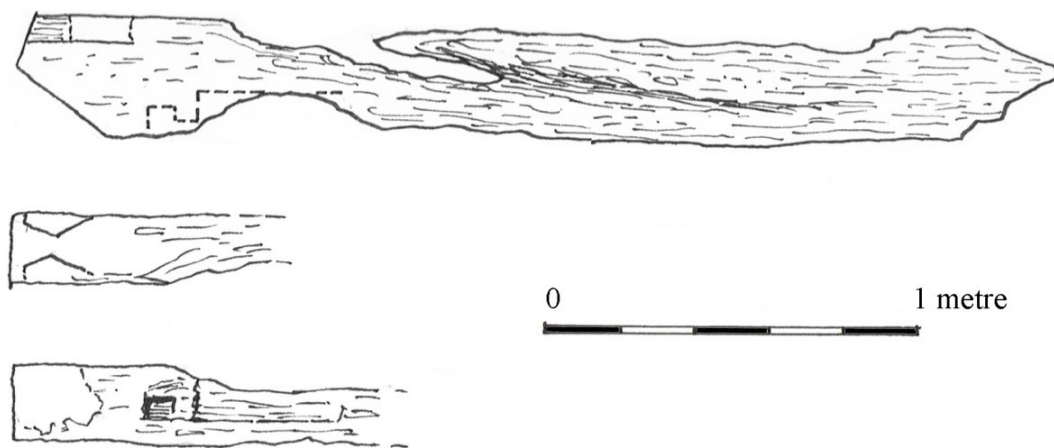


Figure 15: *Timber T1, re-used as the internal lintel of window E4.*

- E6 At the top of the external wall face at its south end, a course of three much larger squared blocks, resting on an elongate block which might be the sill of a window (although there is no window in this position on the 1935 east view, which shows the wall standing to its full height).
- E7 In the internal face of the wall immediately to the south of window E4 is a recess, its back wall still retaining some plaster, under a decayed timber lintel.
- E8 Set in the wall at ground floor level a metre or so to the north of doorway E3 is a small square-headed window with a moulded surround, carried up above the lintel as an ogee arch, framing a recessed panel with a lion carved in relief.
- When sketched c1866 by Bland this opening appears to have been blocked; he describes it as bearing the 'rudely cut and almost obliterated arms of the Lancasters' and describes it as 'in the modern porch' which is puzzling. The window is shown (at a distance) in a RCHME photograph of 1935, but in the late 1960s the head was discovered re-used in a bridge at Low Field farm, and taken to Meaburn Hill Farm at Maulds Meaburn, where it was re-set in the wall of a modern farm building.

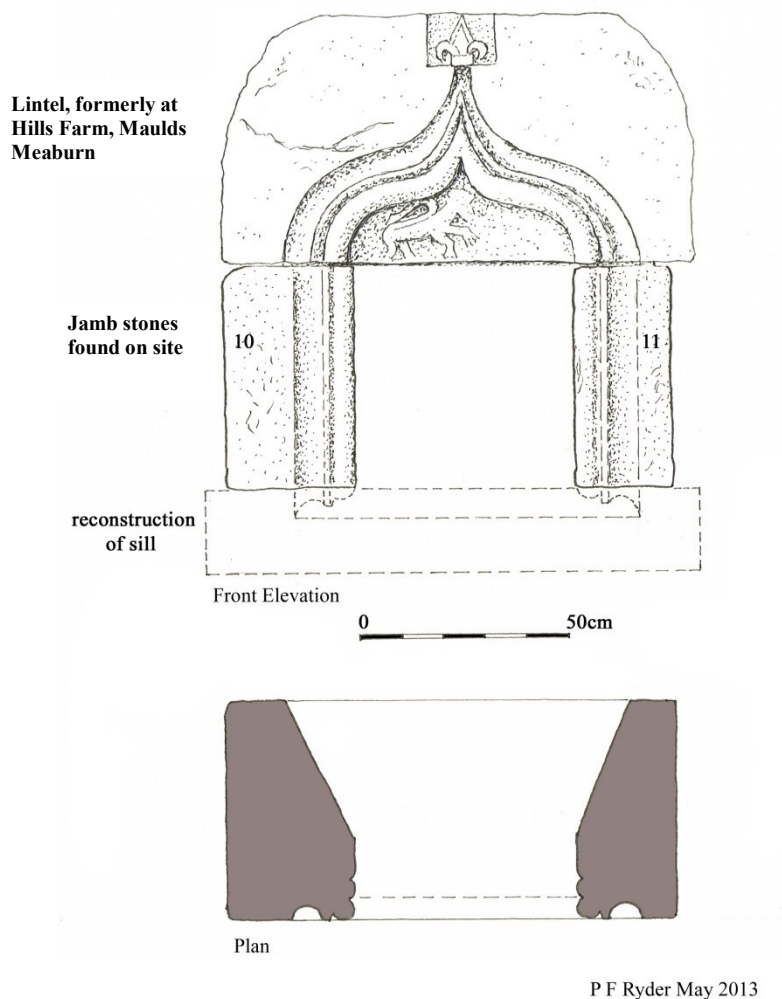


Figure 16: Window E8 Reconstructed.

The EH report states that the arms were cut out (although Bland's drawings show no other armorial motif than the lion on the lintel, which still remains) and the recess converted into a window after Bland drew them, and thus dates the sub-division of the northern part of the Hall Block to after this date, on the grounds that a window would be required at that time to light the passage then formed. However, there are two significant errors in their interpretation. One is that Bland's sketch only shows the lion on the lintel; there is no other heraldic device present. The second is that the feature has clearly always been a window, as the lintel has a cut for glass and two sockets for bars in the usual medieval/post-medieval fashion. The opening looks to have been blocked when he drew it, and must have been reopened (or perhaps the blocking fell out as the house became ruinous).

The carved lintel, considering its ill-treatment in the mid-20th century, survived in remarkably good condition; the jambs on which it was re-set do not appear original;

each seems to be the sill or head of a single-light window with a hollow-chamfered surround. The original jambs, each a single large block continuing the roll-and-hollow mouldings of the lintel, were retrieved when debris was cleared in 2012. The window, with a new sill, has been reinstated as nearly as possible in its correct position in the rebuilt wall.



Plate 9: The extensively rebuilt east wall at Crake Trees with door E3 and window E8 towards the right.

H The West Wall of the Hall Block

Very little of this remains, although it was standing in 1935. The ground is so level here that it suggests that the wall was taken down and its materials removed.

H1 Two-light mullioned window at the north end of the wall, hard up against the North Block. The north jamb and sill remain in situ.

H2 The 2012/3 clearance has exposed the lower jambs of the doorway at the west end of the cross-passage, which are set square to the wall and, despite the evidence of the 1935 plan, show no sign of any rebate, suggesting that the opening may have been post-medieval.

5.3 The Parlour Block

Sometimes referred to as a solar tower, but bearing in mind its relatively late date and the uncertainty as to its overall form, 'parlour block' would seem preferable, this was of two storeys and an attic. Although in its final form (as shown on Bland's 1866 drawing) it had a north-south gabled roof, it may well have originally been carried up as a tower. It had a newel

stair in a turret projecting north from the west end of the north wall, but the relatively thin walls and large windows make it clear that the structure never had any serious defensible intent. The block is built of coursed roughly-squared stone, with substantial alternating quoins, and cut dressings.

J The East Wall

This had mostly fallen, and there are no remains of any architectural features; there were formerly three-light mullioned windows on both ground and first floors. The dressings of at least the lower window (J1) lie amongst the tumbled debris outside the wall.

J1 The ground-floor mullioned window has now been reinstated, reusing a number of old dressings found nearby which may well have come from the original.

K The North Wall

The eastern half of the wall remained to around half height, but in a shattered and precarious condition; a lot of masonry had fallen in the early 2000s. This has now been conserved, and the fallen central section of the north wall of the stair turret has been rebuilt.

K1 In the eastern part of the wall at ground-floor level a two-light mullioned window survives intact; its lights are quite broad, and the moulded hood has the usual turned-back ends. Internally there is a timber lintel.

K2 The western third of the wall is set slightly forward, forming the north side of the stair turret.

K3 On the internal face of the wall the ground-floor fireplace (K3) had collapsed and been buried by fallen masonry. It has now been disinterred and reinstated. The fireplace, its lintel broken into three pieces, was 1.85 m wide and 0.97 m high, and has a very shallow triangular head within a square frame with chamfers above and below, the lintel having three holes for dowels to take a wooden mantelpiece.

K4 Internally, above the west end of the timber inner lintel of K1 was a short timber beam, which carried the hearth and east jamb of the now-fallen first-floor fireplace K7. This has now been replaced with a full-length oak beam spanning the room.

K5 A chamfered single-light window in the stair projection K2, set midway between ground and first-floor levels, in a section of wall which fell in the early 2000s; it has now been reinstated.

K6 A small square-edged window at attic level, more or less directly above K1, now fallen.

K7 Internally, the first-floor fireplace, square-headed and chamfered (like M1) but rather smaller (1.6 m wide). In November 2000 the head and west jamb were still in situ, but the east jamb had fallen. The whole fireplace then collapsed; its dressings were

retrieved and recorded during the 2013/13 works and are now part of the stonework collection on site. There are some remains of the flue (and the flue to K3) behind it.

- K8 Doorway onto the foot of the newel stair, the jambs of which survive to mid-height (buried before the 2012/13 works) and are rebated towards the Solar.

L The West Wall

Now very ruinous. There were formerly two-light mullioned windows to both floors here, and the wall had two buttresses – an early response to structural problems. Some of their footings remain visible

- L1 The northern buttress
- L2 The southern buttress
- L3 Remains of the internal jambs of the ground-floor window

M The South Wall

One lofty crag of the central section of the wall still stands. This was in a very precarious condition, and during the 2012/13 works some additional masonry was built to either side – and the head of doorway M7 reconstructed – to provide structural stability.

- M1 On its south face, a fireplace which served the Entrance Hall. Square-headed with a massive lintel, it had a chamfered surround; its jambs were buried, and the head has been pushed out of position by a tree growing behind it. The tree has been removed and the fireplace reinstated.
- M2 The chimney breast above M1 forms a shallow projection, which rises c 3 m and then steps slightly to the west – presumably so as to come directly beneath the ridge of the roof; it then steps back into the wall.
- M3 Some distance above M2 is a flat projecting slab, which presumably came above the apex of the Hall Block roof.
- M4 To the east of M1 there is an odd opening in the wall, with a timber lintel; its east jamb has now gone, and a precarious column of ragged masonry infill supported the lintel, with a narrow open gap between it and the west jamb. This seems to have been an inserted doorway, probably created when the entrance hall was subdivided late in the use of the house. The blocking has been fully reinstated.
- M5 On the north (internal) face of the wall is a set-back marking the position of the first-floor timbers.
- M6 Higher up the same wall is a shallow projection to accommodate the flue from fireplace M1 in the unheated attic of the block.
- M7 A doorway at the west end of the wall, the entry into the solar, towards which its square-headed chamfered surround (the head and upper jambs, and timber rear lintel,

new in 2012/13) faces.

N Internal Cross wall in the South Wing

This appears to be an insertion and is c 0.40 m thick; the EH account sees it as constructed to divide the wing basement into two service rooms, after the Hall Block and North Block were remodelled in the later 16th or early 17th century.

- N1 Central doorway, without any cut dressings, with timber lintels, now decayed.
- N2 Adjacent to the south end of the east face of the wall is a stone support for a stone (?) bench that ran along the whole length of the south side of the eastern chamber; a similar support (A5) survives at the other end.

P Cross Wall in the Hall Block

Set immediately south of the position of doorway E3, this divided the block into what the EH account terms a hall/kitchen on the south and an entrance hall (cross passage) on the north. The cross passage was cleared down to its floor slabs in 2012/3, exposing the north face of this wall, which survives to a height of 0.75m, and doorway P3 (shown on the 1935 plan) at its west end.

- P1 Blocked doorway at the east end of the wall.
- P2 Projecting section of wall face 1.22 m long 3.2 m from the east end, with doorway P3 to the west.
- P3 Doorway into hall, lower jambs exposed.
- P4 The hall fireplace backed onto the south face of the wall. Some stonework of its back wall is now visible at ground level, but none of its details are known; there may be around a metre of collapse debris here, so sub-surface remains probably survive.

Q Partition wall within the Entrance Hall

This survives to a height of c 0.8 m, but was not exposed at all before the 2012/13 clearance. An L-plan wall, a relatively late insertion, divided off a room containing the parlour doorway M7 and fireplace M1 (although this may have been disused by this time) from an L-plan passage linking doorways E3 and H2 and the inserted doorway M4 on the north.

- Q1 Doorway from passage into room, jambs of plain square section.

6. STRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE HOUSE (PR) (see appendix 1)

The earliest part of the standing building is the South Wing which is clearly medieval although its two principal architectural features, of 14th century character, are somewhat questionable.

The shoulder-arched doorway on the north (D1) has a chamfer that runs the full length of its lintel, beyond the corbels which support it, so could be made up of re-used material. The small arched opening (B3), trefoiled and ogee-arched, in the exterior of the south wall, which the EH report confidently identifies as the piscina of a timber-framed chapel, seems far more likely to be a re-used window head, as it was previously interpreted.



Plate 10: *The house, from the east in 1935 – RCHM(E) photograph (National Monuments Record).*

This range is identified as a solar wing serving a timber-framed hall to the north, of which no above-ground remains survive. Evidence for this is rather tentative. It is assumed that the wing was always a wing, rather than a free-standing structure in its own right, and that the present post-medieval hall block perpetuates an earlier arrangement. That the earlier hall was of timber is suggested by the fact that there is no evidence of any stone building abutting on the wing. That there was a structure of some sort adjoining is indicated by the fact that there is no plinth on the north of the wing, except at its projecting east end. Beryl Lott's studies (Lott 1995; 2002) have suggested that a number of early halls, mostly in Southern Westmorland, were of framed construction, but no actual physical remains of such structures seem to have been identified. This is difficult to prove, although there is occasionally evidence in the form of features such as corbels (that would have carried timber plates) or low roof-lines (surviving on the tower walls) that might imply timber-framed or cruck construction, as at Thistlewood. In Lancashire Radcliffe Tower (Salter 2001, 37) is known to have been attached to a timber-framed hall block demolished c1840; this scenario also occurs in Yorkshire with brick tower solars accompanying former timber halls at Paull Holme and probably also at Riccal Old Rectory.

The EH identification of a timber-framed chapel on the south of the wing is far more

questionable. If the 'piscina' is as claimed, it should have had a bowl – the function of a piscina was to allow the washing of vessels after Mass – and there is absolutely no sign of this. That there was some sort of structure in this position is clear; Bland refers to the 'ground works' of a tower being visible at the south end of the house. What is visible today is a stub of walling continuing south from the south-west angle of the wing, but only for two courses above the plinth, which itself continues south for a metre or so. Footings under grass appear to go on for another 5 m, and then return east for c 3 m. There is no sign on the ground of any east wall – in fact the ground seems to have been cut away from the east, perhaps removing any footings – but on the south face of the wing is possible evidence (B5) of a wall returning south c 4 m from its west end; additionally the chamfered plinth which runs along the eastern half of the wall, and across the shallow projection which is thought to have supported a first-floor stack, is absent.

The EH account interprets the surviving stub of walling as having been a wall rising two courses above the plinth, supporting the sill beam of a framed chapel, although if this were the case it would seem more likely that the sill rested directly upon the ashlar plinth. An alternative reading could be that there was a full-height wall here, but that it was demolished to its lower courses, and then the adjacent section of the angle of the wing rebuilt (If one accepts the window head as just that, then its re-use could imply localised rebuilding or re-facing). Whatever the case, the removed structure seems to have been a north-south rectangle in plan whereas one might expect a chapel to have its longest dimension east-west, and one would certainly expect a chapel to have internal access from the house. A better interpretation of the structure here might be as a small garderobe wing, as would more commonly accompany a solar wing.

So much for the medieval house. It would appear that the remainder of the building, the present hall block and the north block, are basically of a single build, ascribed by EH to the late 16th or early 17th century, from the period of Lancaster ownership. The hall block was clearly of a single storey; a clear change between the larger roughly-squared fabric of the lower walls and the later heightening is still apparent in the remaining section of the east wall, and even more evident on the 1935 RCHM photograph. The one surviving hall window (E4), of four lights, has single-chamfered mullions but a hoodmould with two concave chamfers and turned-back ends. The hall block consisted of a hall/kitchen with its central stack (P4) backing onto an entrance hall on the north set between two opposed doorways, also provided with a fireplace on the north (M1), beside which is a doorway (M7) giving access to the solar tower. On the east of this entrance hall, to the north of the front doorway, was a window (E8), now re-instated, with an ogee-arched panel in its head containing the lion of Lancaster. This has occasioned some confusion. Bland states that 'in the modern porch is a

slab with the rudely cut and almost obliterated carved arms of the Lancasters' but illustrates the opening as described above, which the RCHM survey and photograph clearly show was to the north of the porch. Whilst its ogee form might indicate a properly medieval date (14th century) Gothic motifs like this also returned to popularity in the later 16th and 17th centuries in this area, so there is no need to imply re-use from an earlier phase. Bland's drawing shows the opening as blocked, but by 1935 it was an open window.

At the time that that hall block was rebuilt it would appear that the house was 'turned round', the old solar wing at the south end being relegated to service status, and its successor replacing whatever service provision had previously been present for the medieval house (possibly a detached kitchen). Unusually, this meant that the ground floor room at the north end of the range, the parlour, could not be directly entered from the hall. Access was through the entrance hall (and later by a passage alongside the west wall) and then a lobby within the northern block, with access to the newel stair on the north and a timber partition (evidenced by sockets in the surviving floor slabs) on the east, which had a central doorway into the parlour itself.

It is not clear whether that this northern block was carried up as a two-storeyed wing or as a tower; Bland's 1866 drawing shows a single north-south gabled roof then extending over the heightened hall and the solar block, but its almost square plan and the provision of a projecting turret containing a generous newel stair might imply that a tower was at least intended. The principal chamber (the owner's bed chamber) on the first floor was provided with a handsome fireplace like that in the parlour below. The large windows and comparatively thin walls show that that this block was built without any serious intent as to defensibility, but more likely as a conscious piece of medieval revival and a statement of perceived status (cf Arnside Lodge); an embattled parapet would be the customary on such a structure, and the stair projection may well have been continued up as a turret.

The extinction of the Crake Trees branch of the Lancasters meant that the house was already in decline when the third major remodelling took place, perhaps a century after the previous re-working. This time the hall block was heightened and a new floor inserted over the old open hall, which when built may have been another piece of conscious medievalism and would certainly have been inconvenient and old-fashioned by the later 17th century. The second stair turret (now completely gone), set in the angle of the west wall of the hall and the south wing, was probably added at this time; the EH report suggests that it replaced an earlier stair within the hall block giving access to the first floor of the south wing (Bland's

1866 drawing shows on puzzling feature; a two-light mullion window, adjacent to not within the stair projection which was set mid-height in the wall. Perhaps it lit the previous stair. The

old doorway into the wing was blocked and a new one created further to the east.



Plate 11: Fireplace M1, cleared in 2013. 2m ranging rod.

Bland's drawing shows only two stacks on the ridge, serving the solar and the hall/kitchen, suggesting that fireplace M1 in the old entrance hall was abandoned; this apartment was sub-divided into an L-plan passage (the northern arm leading to a new doorway M4 cut through into the solar) and a smaller room enclosing the original solar doorway M7. The EH report suggests that this change took place at a very late date in the occupancy of the house, on the grounds that they see the opening with the carved lion in its head (as shown on Bland's 1866 drawing) as a blind recess, opened into a window at the time of the sub-division. However, the surviving lintel shows cuts for glass and bars in its soffit as if it was always a window head, so it seems more likely that the sub-division took place at an earlier date, and that the window was simply re-opened rather than created. The porch, which remained complete c1935 but is now no more than footings, may have been an addition of this period as well; the internal doorway (E3), which does survive in part, may be contemporary with it, as, now bereft of the porch walls, it has been left set awkwardly forward of the main wall in an odd raised panel of masonry. Its simple chamfered surround could be of any date up to the beginning of the 18th century. The two big buttresses on the west of the solar tower (L1 and L2) are probably of late 18th or 19th century date and are evidence of the structural problems that long plagued the building.

One last major alteration certainly took place in the late 'agricultural' phase of use, probably in the early 19th century. This is the cutting down of the upper storey of the medieval south wing, with its south wall being lowered to just above first-floor level, to take a monopitch roof with

hipped end. The upper floor of the wing may have served as a hayloft; a new pitching door was crudely punched through the west wall.

7. THE WALLED YARD (PR)

The EH report dealing with the earthwork features around the house identifies the walled yard to the east as of late 18th or early 19th century date; it is described as having entrances to the north-west and south-west, the latter being identifiable by a chamfered stone threshold. This could not be located, but in the centre of the east wall, more or less in line with the entrance to the house, is at least one large flat slab that could indicate a formal entrance here.

Although the walled yard is shown on the first three editions of the Ordnance Survey 25":1 mile map (up to c1914) there now survive only a few metres of upstanding wall, probably a late rebuild, adjoining the south wing; otherwise the walls are reduced to footings, around a metre thick and only occasionally breaking the turf. These footings are virtually all of pink Shap granite, found locally as erratic ice-transported boulders. For such boulders to be readily available suggests an initial stage in the clearance of the area, and it may be worth considering the possibility that the walls, or at least their footings, are considerably earlier than the EH report states. The creation of a forecourt with a central entrance would seem unlikely to take place late in the history of the site, when the house was occupied by tenant farmers.

The courtyard had small buildings on north and south, still extant in the 19th century; the EH report identifies these as a privy and pigsty but their footings, albeit fragmentary, might seem unduly substantial for such humble structures.

8. CONCLUSIONS (PR)

Crake Trees, set within an area of landscape that preserves a wealth of archaeological features and multi-phase earthworks, is not only a picturesque ruin but an instructive example of a small manor house itself showing a multiplicity of phases of medieval and post-medieval work. The building is usually referred to as a 'tower house' (as in the EH 2000 report) but this is misleading; it may have had (in what was probably an early post-medieval phase) a tower-like parlour block, but was never a tower house, which technically is a detached turiform residence (cf the majority of Scottish 16th and 17th century towers). Around sixty medieval towers survive in Cumbria, and the majority of these are tower solars. Some are clearly defensible, but that at Crake Trees is a relatively late example, and with its relatively thin walls and large windows is clearly primarily domestic; it is better described as a Parlour block rather using the medieval term 'Solar'. The earlier south wing has inevitably been

interpreted as the basement of a 'pele tower', but this seems quite unjustified – once again its walls are relatively thin, and the evidence of other Cumbrian houses such as Croglin Old Rectory, and Preston Patrick and Selside Halls, shows that barrel-vaulted basements need not have carried more than a single additional story.

The complete survival of the barrel-vaulted basement of the wing, together with its 14th-century features – the doorway and (re-set) window head – is of considerable importance, as is the evidence which seems to imply that the original hall was timber framed. The remains of the hall block and solar tower, have deteriorated sadly over the last seventy years or so, but retain some significant architectural features (the hall window); now that the ruins have been consolidated and the front wall in part rebuilt, and what is probably the most notable architectural feature of the ruin, the ogee-arched window head with the Lancaster lion, reinstated, the ruin is a valuable and instructive example of a small sub-medieval manor house, and provides a direct link with the family responsible for the late 16th or early 17th century remodelling.

It should be borne in mind that neither the early tenurial or archaeological history of the site is anything like fully understood, and that there may be significant remains that pre-date the present standing structure; there remains a possibility that the Shap Granite footings of the yard walls represent an earlier phase than hitherto considered. Limited excavation, perhaps in conjunction with consolidation works to the standing structure, might throw valuable light here. The standing ruins and surrounding earthworks and landscape need to be seen, and interpreted, as a whole.

9. FINDS (PR AW)

9.1 Architectural Stonework (PR) (see CD Rom for archive photographs of the stones)

These stones were all retrieved during site clearance during the 2012/2013 works. Each was measured and drawn, and photographed. It is understood that the material not used in the restoration work is to be stored/displayed on site. The stones are listed under their location when recorded by the archaeologist, usually where they had been placed by the workmen clearing the site; the two large pallets lay in front of the east elevation of the house.

(a) Stones on Southern Pallet

- (1) Window mullion, rebated both sides, 0.75 x 0.265 x 0.135 m.
- (2) Wedge-shaped block, one smooth face, 0.38 x 0.34 x 0.14 m.
- (3) Section of window jamb, double hollow chamfer, 0.37 x 0.30 x 0.26m.
- (4) Mid-section of window sill with stub for mullion, 0.54 x 0.25 x 0.14m.
- (5) Section of window jamb sim to (3), 0.42 x 0.29 x 0.28m,

- (6) Slightly wedge-shaped block with chamfer, grey sandstone, quite rough 0.43 x 0.31 x 0.15m
- (7) End Section of window sill/head, 0.40 x 0.27 x 0.175m.
- (8) End section of window sill/head, 0.35 x 0.255 x c0.10 m.
- (9) Section of window mullion, rebate one side, groove the other, good mason's mark, 0.43 x 0.255 x 0.145m.

(b) Stones on Northern Pallet

- (10) & (11) The monolithic jambs, each 0.54 m high, of the small opening with an ogee-arched head that was set to the east of the porch; the head had been re-set in the wall of a barn at Hill Farm, Maulds Meaburn; Jambs and head are now re-united and re-set in the wall. They are moulded with an angle roll and a hollow chamfer or casement moulding, with a glass groove (but no rebate) and then an internal splay. To find these jambs intact and in good condition is fortunate, as the head was removed in the 1940s or 1950s to be re-used in a bridge, then rediscovered in the 1960s and taken to its present location. Although small, this is probably the most significant architectural feature of the house and its reinstatement adds materially to the character and value of the ruin.
- (12) Window jamb? Chamfers, with square rebate inside, 0.675 x 0.355 x 0.32m
- (13) Block of whitish stone with chamfer, 0.325 x 0.23 x 0.22m.
- (14) Window jamb? (similar to (12) 0.725 x 0.36 x 0.335m.
- (15) Block of reddish (burned?) sandstone with hollow chamfers above and below, front edge damaged. 0.52 x 0.31 x 0.16m.
- (16) Piece of double-chamfered window jamb, pinkish stone. 0.50 x 0.38 x 0.32m.
- (17) Piece of window mullion, rebated one side, groove the other. 0.32 x 0.255 x 0.14m.
- (18) End section of window sill/head (broken in two) with stub of one mullion. 0.81 x 0.26 x 0.20m.
- (19) End section of window sill/head, 0.265 x 0.245 x 0.125m.
- (20) Section of window jamb, square rebate internally. 0.51 x 0.31 x 0.28m.
- (21) Section of window sill/head with stub of mullion. 0.46 x 0.26 x 0.13m.
- (22) Part of side of fireplace? (similar to (24). 0.75 x 0.43 x 0.37m.

(c) Stones in Parlour

- (23a-c) Head of ground-floor fireplace, in three pieces. Overall 1.85 m x 0.41 x 0.21m. Very shallow triangular head within square frame with chamfers above and below, three holes for dowels to take wooden mantelpiece above.
- (24) East jamb of fireplace, 0.97 x 0.365 x 0.30m.
- (25) Worn block with square rebate, 0.52 x 0.325 x 0.255m.
- (26a-b) Head of first-floor fireplace in two pieces, overall 1.46 x 0.4 x 0.24 m, chamfer below

and to extrados at ends, roughly cut rebate on upper angle.

(d) Stone found lying 7m E of SE corner of Porch

- (27) Section of chamfered and rebated jamb with part of drawbar tunnel or socket, and later metal fitting. Overall 0.50 x 0.35 x 0.28m (placed on north jamb of inner doorway of porch).

(e) Stones found when clearing interior of SE part of Hall

- (28) Section of jamb with two hollow chamfers on one side and one on other, with square-set sockets for iron bars but no groove. Overall 0.48 x 0.42 x 0.21 m.
- (29) Probable section of jamb with hollow chamfer and one bar socket, overall 0.29 x 0.18 x 0.137m.
- (30) Section of jamb with two hollow chamfers and glass groove, damaged. Overall 0.32 x 0.26 x c 0.25m.
- (31) Another section of jamb of similar profile to (30), 0.525 x 0.29 x 0.21 m.
- (32) Section of jamb of similar profile to (28) with traces of glass groove and diagonal bar socket, overall 0.38 x 0.26 x 0.14m.
- (33) Piece of rebated square jamb, overall 0.30 x 0.23 x 0.21m.
- (34) Larger piece of jamb with similar section to (33), pinkish stone, overall 0.48 x 0.32 x 0.22m.



Plate 12: *Stones from a mullion window found in rubble during consolidation at Crake Trees and re-used in the rebuild of the east wall.*

(f) Stones lying on W wall of Hall at junction with Solar Tower

- (35) Small section of mullion (resting on remains of in situ window sill), overall 0.26 x 0.218 x 0.148m, with glass groove in each side.
- (36) Section of jamb, of very yellow stone, with single chamfer and rebate, and fragment of drawbar tunnel or socket, overall 0.34 x 0.325 x 0.185m.
- (37a-c) Mullion in three pieces, overall c 0.75 x 0.26 x 0.147, glass groove on one side, groove cut out to form rebate on the other, damaged.
- (38) Sub-cylindrical stone, 0.18 x 0.148m diameter, clearly from staircase newel.
- (39) Piece of jamb with single chamfer and rebate, and possible fragment of socket, damaged, overall 0.255 x 0.19 x 0.19m.

(g) Stones lying outside E end of S range

- (40) Section of window head with mullion stub, two straight chamfers (presumably to exterior) and a single one to interior, diagonal sockets for central bars to lights, trace of groove behind them. Overall 0.71 x 0.28 x 0.215m.
- (41) End of window sill in brown sandstone, single chamfer to one side, two to other, faint outline for rebate, overall 0.40 x 0.275 x 0.225m.
- (42a-b) Window head or sill in two pieces, similar section to (40) except mullions have broader ends, diagonally-set bar holes, one end much more weathered than other. Overall 1.01 x 0.27 x 0.17 m.

(h) Stones from north-west corner of South Wing (D7)

- (43) From collapsed north-west angle quoins. Reddish sandstone; half the head of a window, of a trefoil-cusped ogee-arched light, with sunk panels in the spandrels. 14th century. Overall 0.445 x 0.305 x 0.16 m

Four stones from the infill of blocked doorway D7, all of red sandstone

- (44) Chamfered and rebated voussoir, overall 0.27 x 0.25 x 0.225 m.
- (45) Chamfered and rebated voussoir, overall 0.26 x 0.235 x 0.215 m.
- (46) Chamfered and rebated voussoir, overall 0.265 x 0.245 x 0.19 m.
- (47) Rebated section of jamb, with hole for some sort of fitting, original; section uncertain, overall 0.30 x 0.23 x 0.21 m.

(i) Lying 2 m north-east of north-east angle of Parlour Block

- (48) Footstone of coped gable, coping chamfered on underside, perhaps post-medieval. Overall 0.68 x 0.42 x 0.29m.

(j) Stones on pallet 3 m west of Parlour Block

- (49) Block of polygonal plan, with a 'rebate' chamfered on both sides, although the splay

beyond inclines in rather than out – a puzzling piece, overall 0.435 x 0.32 x 0.30 m.

Perhaps part of a fireplace?

- (50) Part of a window jamb with glass groove, and broad chamfer on one side, overall 0.75 x 0.43 x 0.35 m.

(k) Stones on a pallet c 12 m west of the west door of the hall block cross passage

- (51) Section of a window (?) jamb with a pair of hollow chamfers on one side and a single chamfer on the other, overall 0.53 x 0.30 x 0.28 m, cf (3), (5), (30), (31), (32).
- (52) Reddened (burned?) block with plain square rebate, overall 0.54 x 0.36 x 0.25 m.

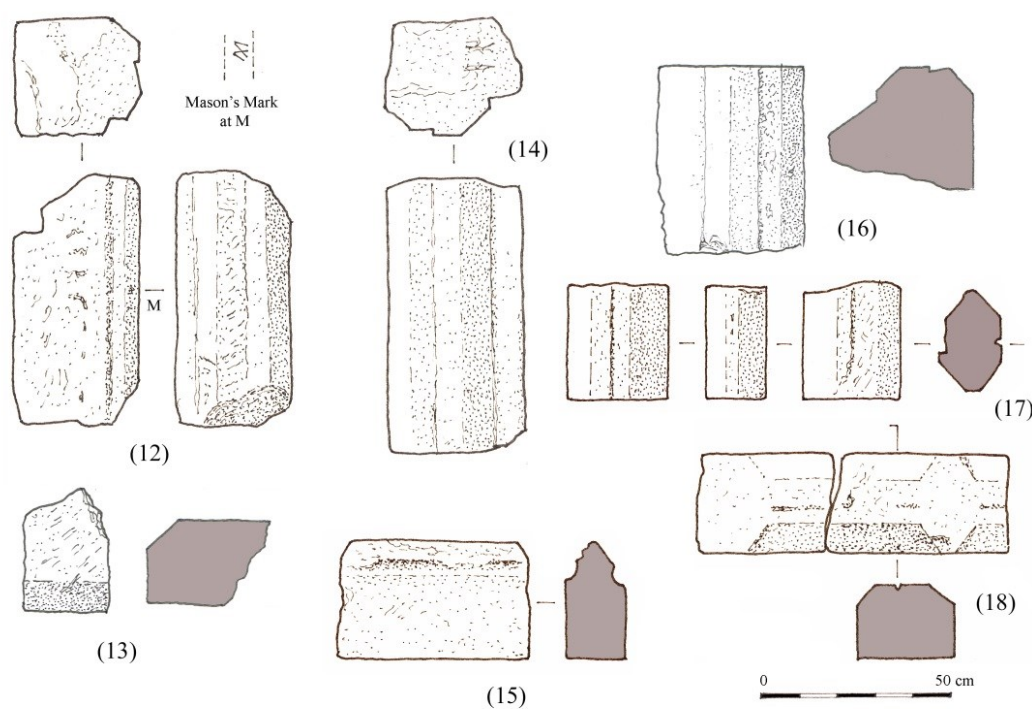


Figure 17: Stonework from Crake Trees.

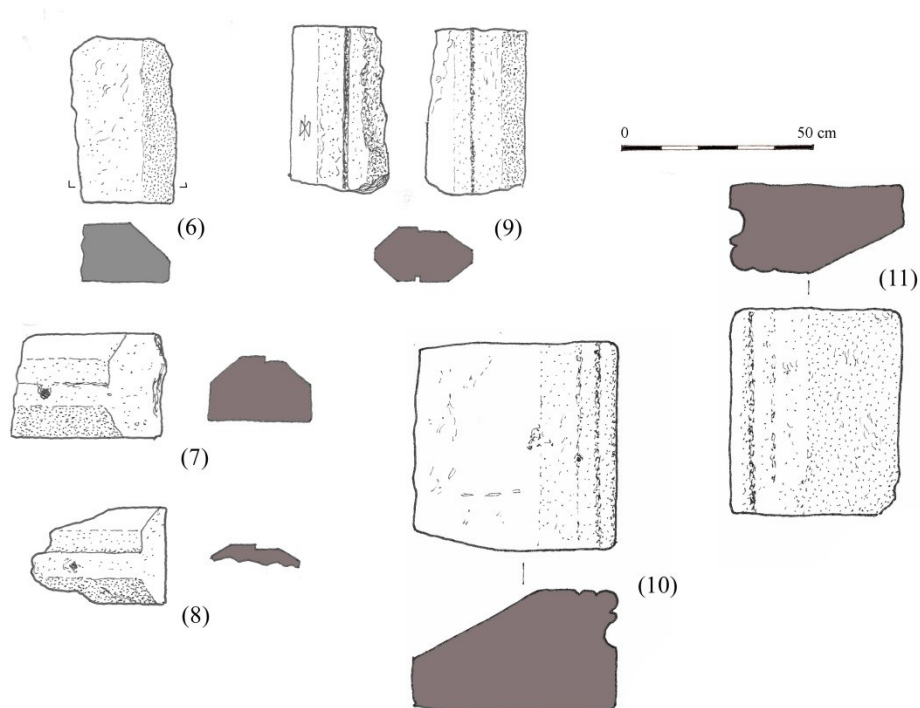


Figure 18: Stonework from Crake Trees.

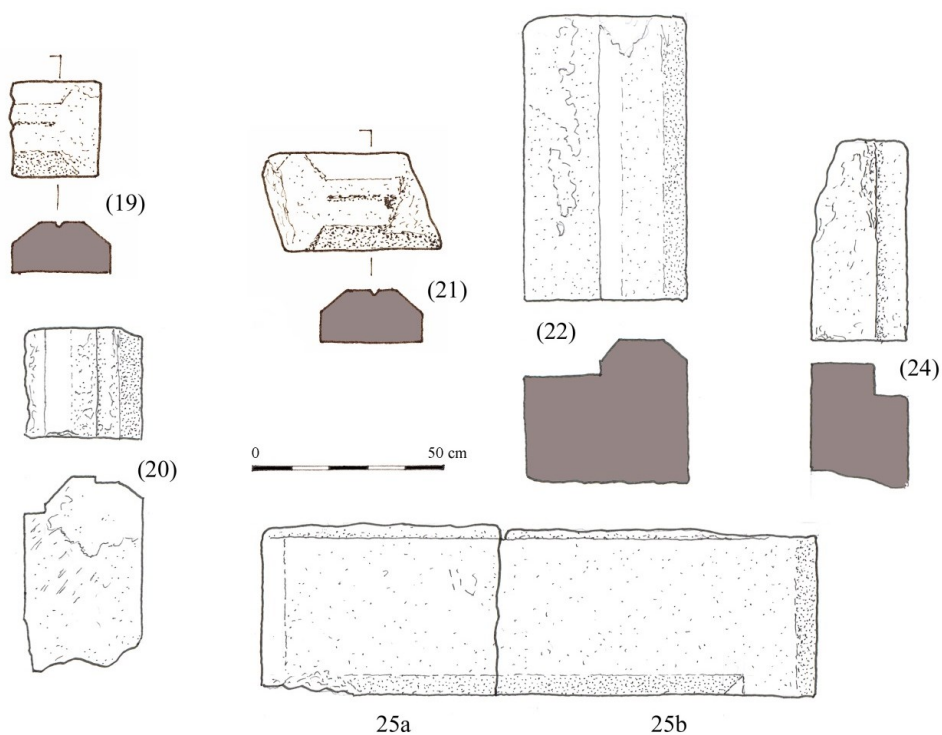


Figure 19: Stonework from Crake Trees

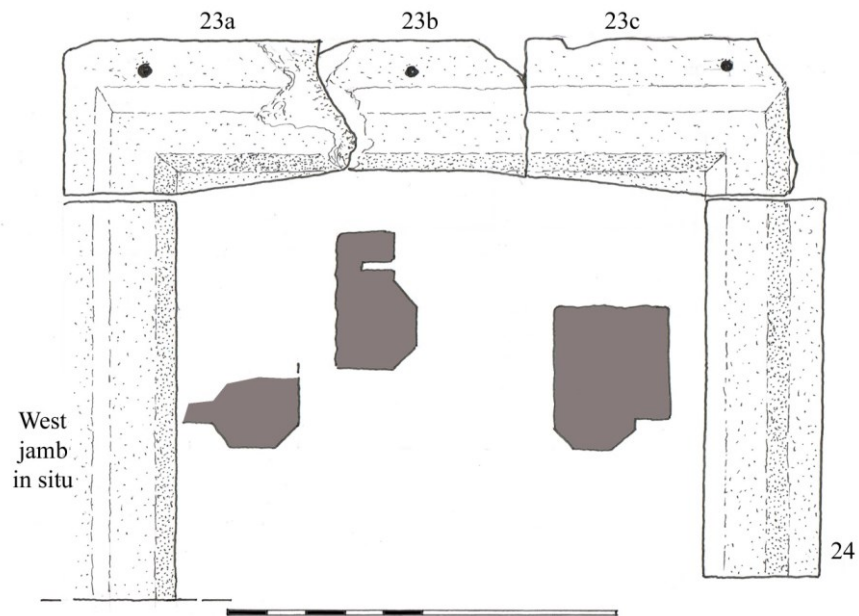


Figure 20: Stonework from Crake Trees.

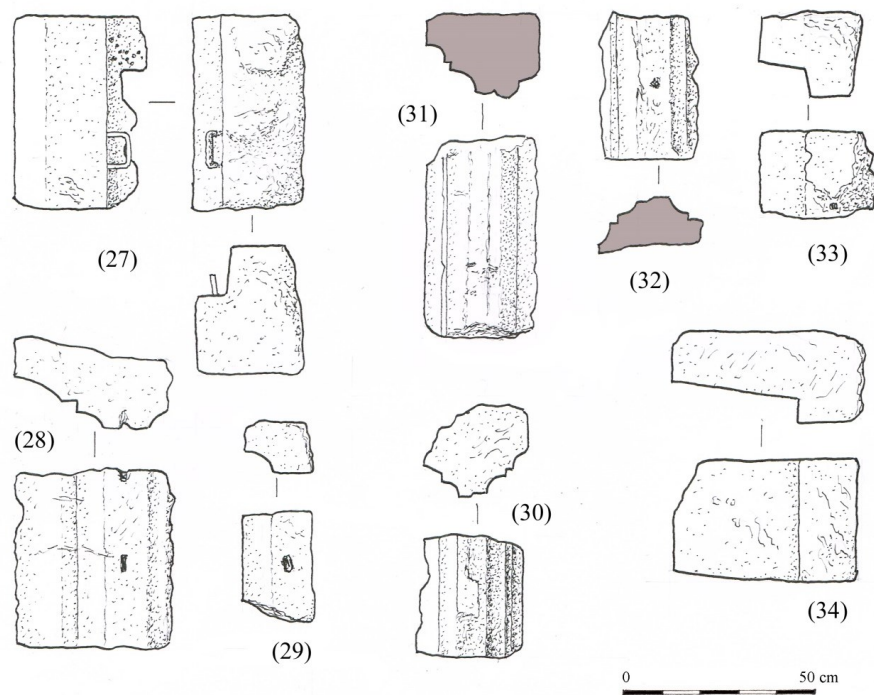


Figure 21: Stonework from Crake Trees

In-situ sill and north jamb of window at N end W wall of Hall

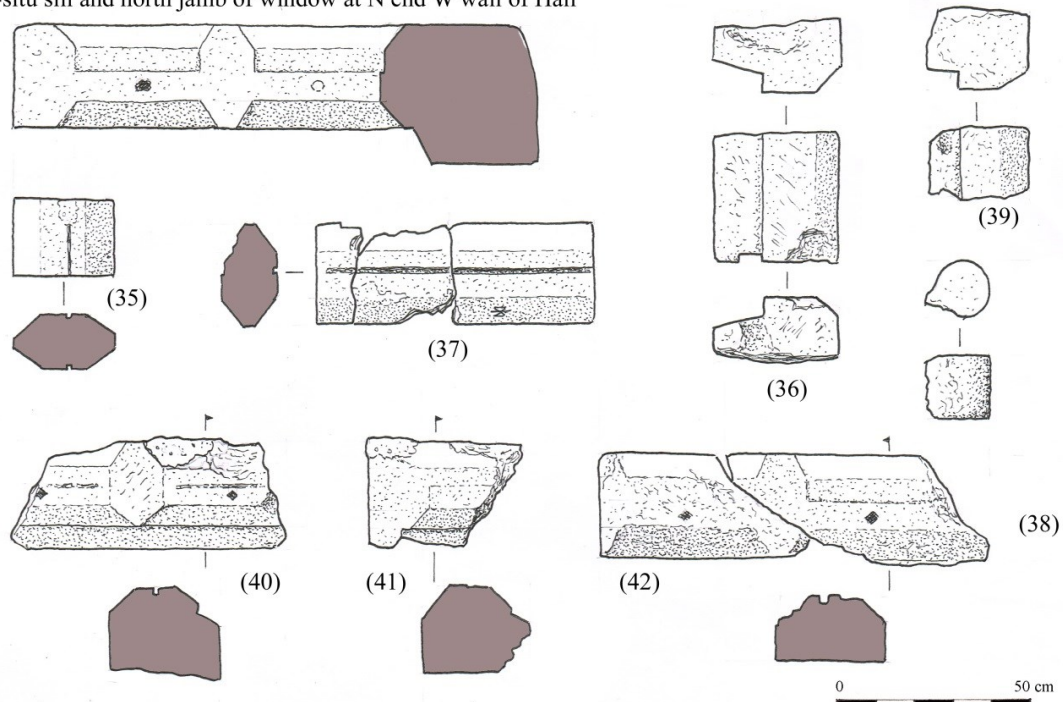


Figure 22: Stonework from Crake Trees.

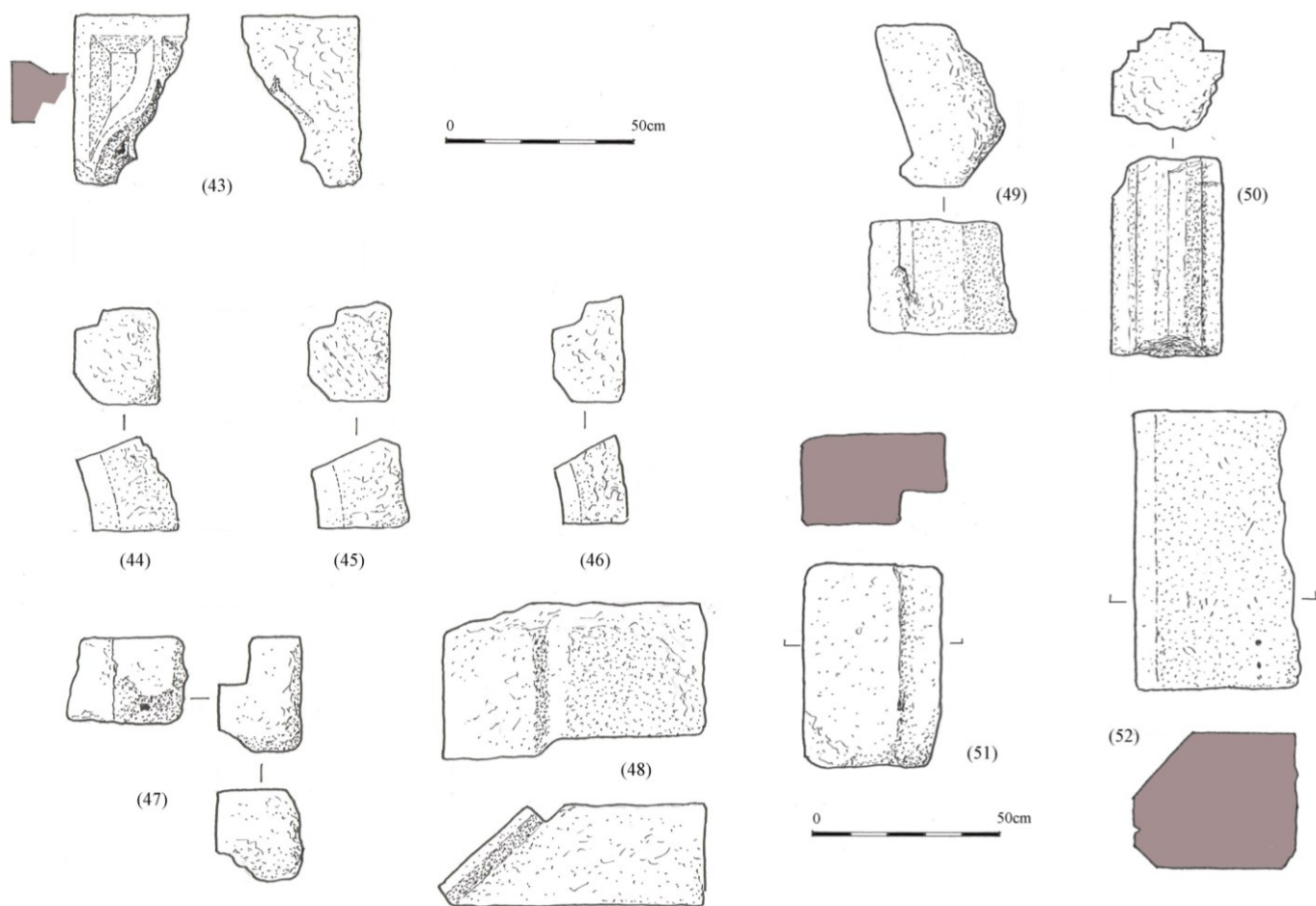


Figure 23: Stonework from Crake Trees.

9.2 Pottery (AW)

Pottery was recovered from excavated deposits of topsoil and rubble, both internal and external. This material was exclusively of 20th century and some possibly mid to late 19th century in date and all domestic wares. Fragments of a stoneware flagon with a slab-seal with the names *T Thornborrow Busells* were recovered from the northern room (plate 13). This may date to as early as the mid C19.



Plate 13: *Remains of stoneware flagon with slab seal stamped T Thornborrow Busells
Probable full profile to right is 1:3 scale*

9.3 Ironwork (AW)

Much ironwork, dumped within the building, was recovered from topsoil and rubble deposits. All was modern. Fireplace K3 in the north wall of the north room retained some C19 ironwork within the hearth along with two decorated lengths of ornamented cast-iron screen (plate 14). A key was recovered from near the east (front) door.



Plate 14: *Cast-iron screen from fireplace K3 (scale 20cms long).*

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Conjectural Restorations of Various Phases in the Development of the House by Peter Ryder

Figure 24



Crake Trees as it may have appeared in the 14th century, with stone solar wing, its timber-framed hall block and (conjectural) detached kitchen.



Crake Trees as it may have appeared after the Lancasters' remodelling in the late 16th or early 17th century, with a new single-storeyed hall block and Parlour carried up into a tower



Crake Trees in its last phase of use the mid-19th century; an upper floor has been added to the hall, and a single roof thrown across this and the Parlour block; the South Wing has been cut down and used as an agricultural building

**Appendix 2: Annotated Elevations for Section 5 (Description of Building). Not to scale
Figures 25 to 31**

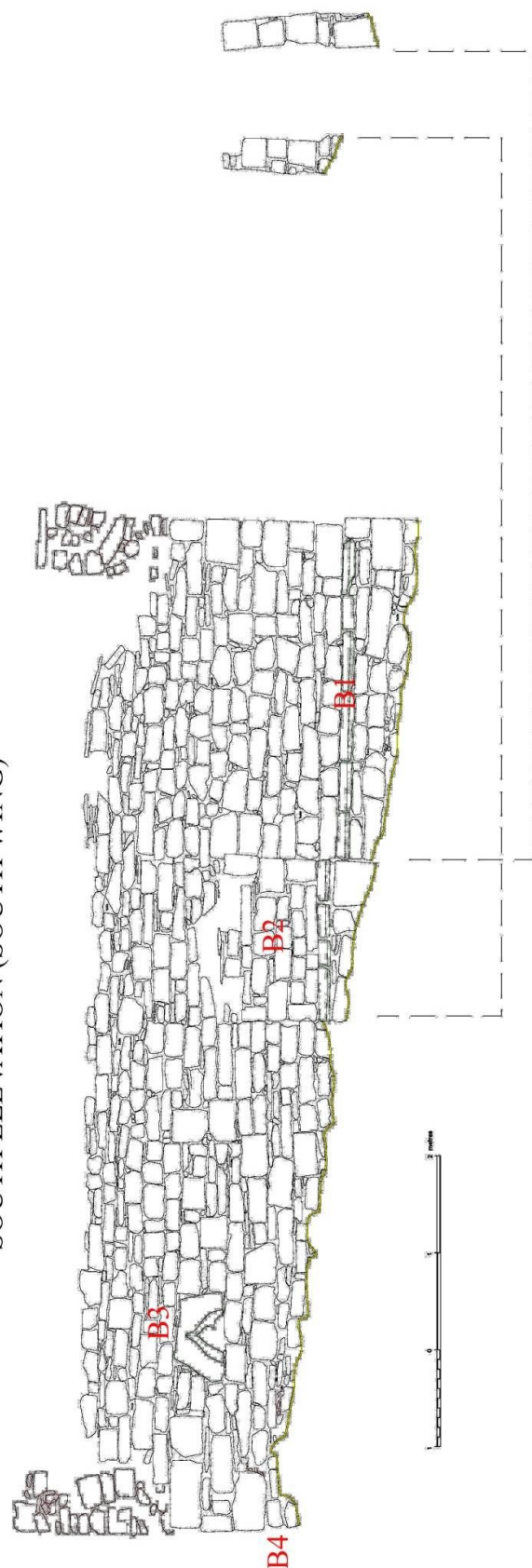
CRAKE TREES

Crosby Ravensworth, Cumbria

Survey by Photarc Surveys for Kevin Doonan Architect Ltd 2011

Annotated P F Ryder 2012

SOUTH ELEVATION (SOUTH WING)



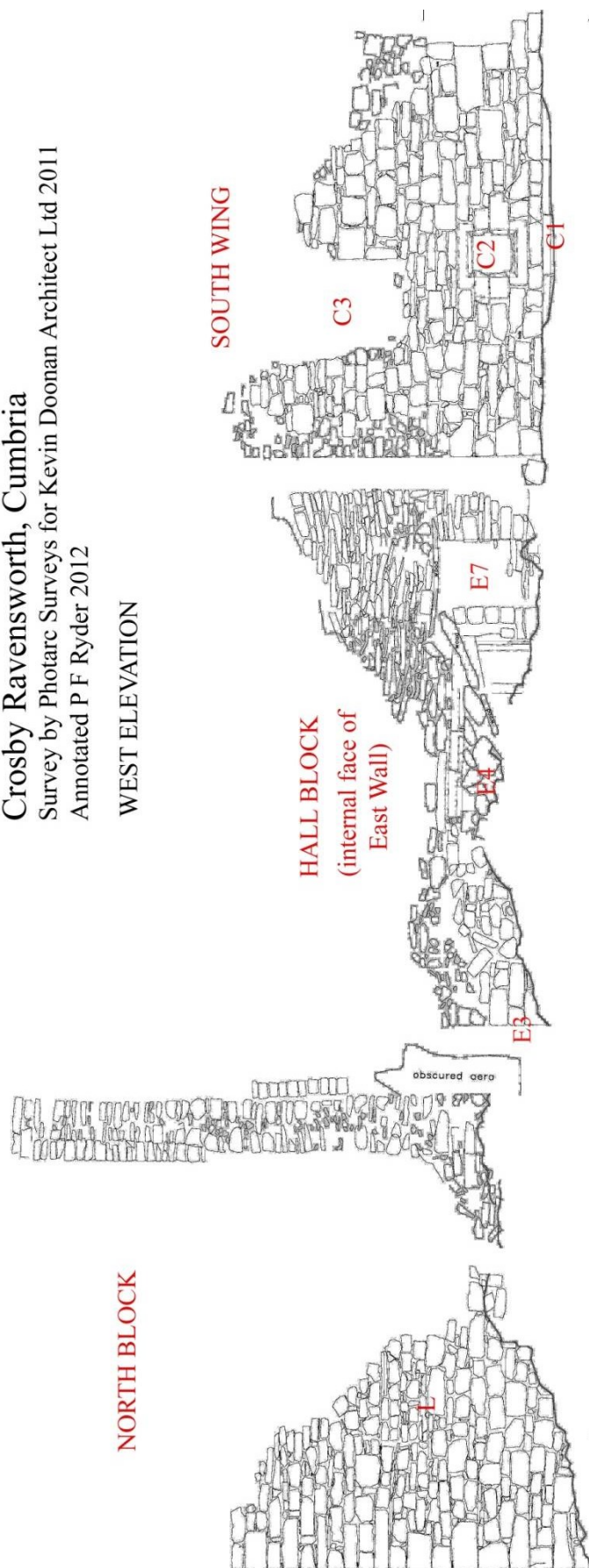
CRAKE TREES

Crosby Ravensworth, Cumbria

Survey by Photarc Surveys for Kevin Doonan Architect Ltd 2011

Annotated P F Ryder 2012

WEST ELEVATION



CRAKE TREES

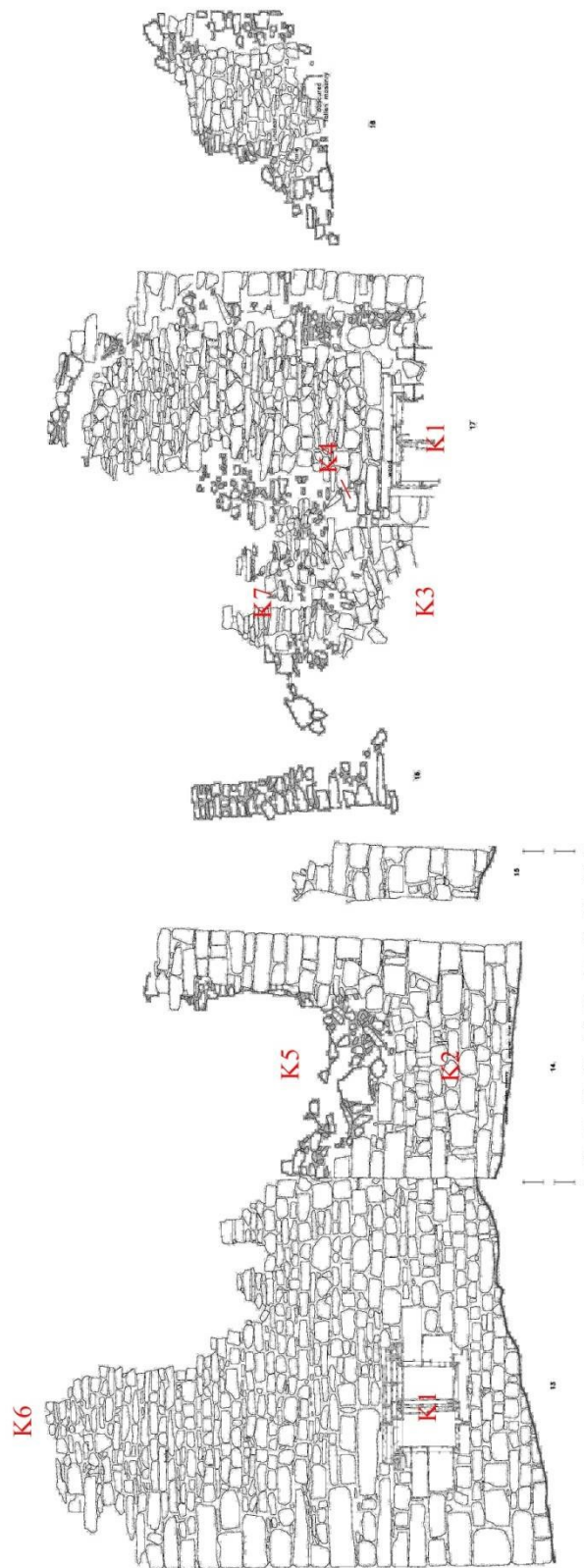
Crosby Ravensworth, Cumbria

Survey by Photarc Surveys for Kevin Doonan Architect Ltd 2011

Annotated P F Ryder 2012

NORTH ELEVATION
(NORTH BLOCK)
INTERIOR

NORTH ELEVATION
(NORTH BLOCK)
EXTERIOR

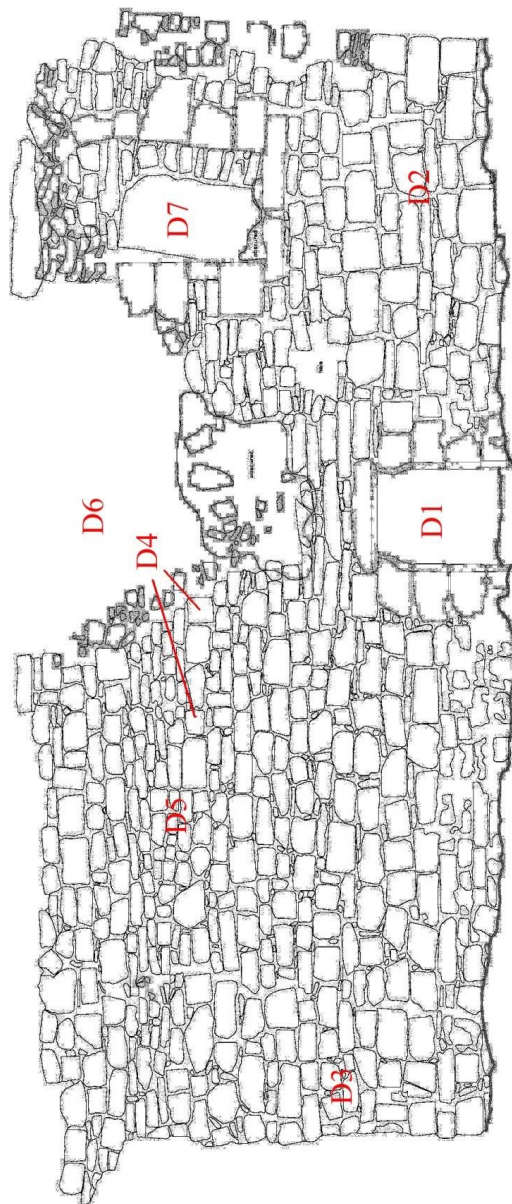


CRAKE TREES

Crosby Ravensworth, Cumbria

Survey by Photarc Surveys for Kevin Doonan Architect Ltd 2011

Annotated P F Ryder 2012



NORTH WALL OF SOUTH WING
EXTERNAL (NORTH) ELEVATION



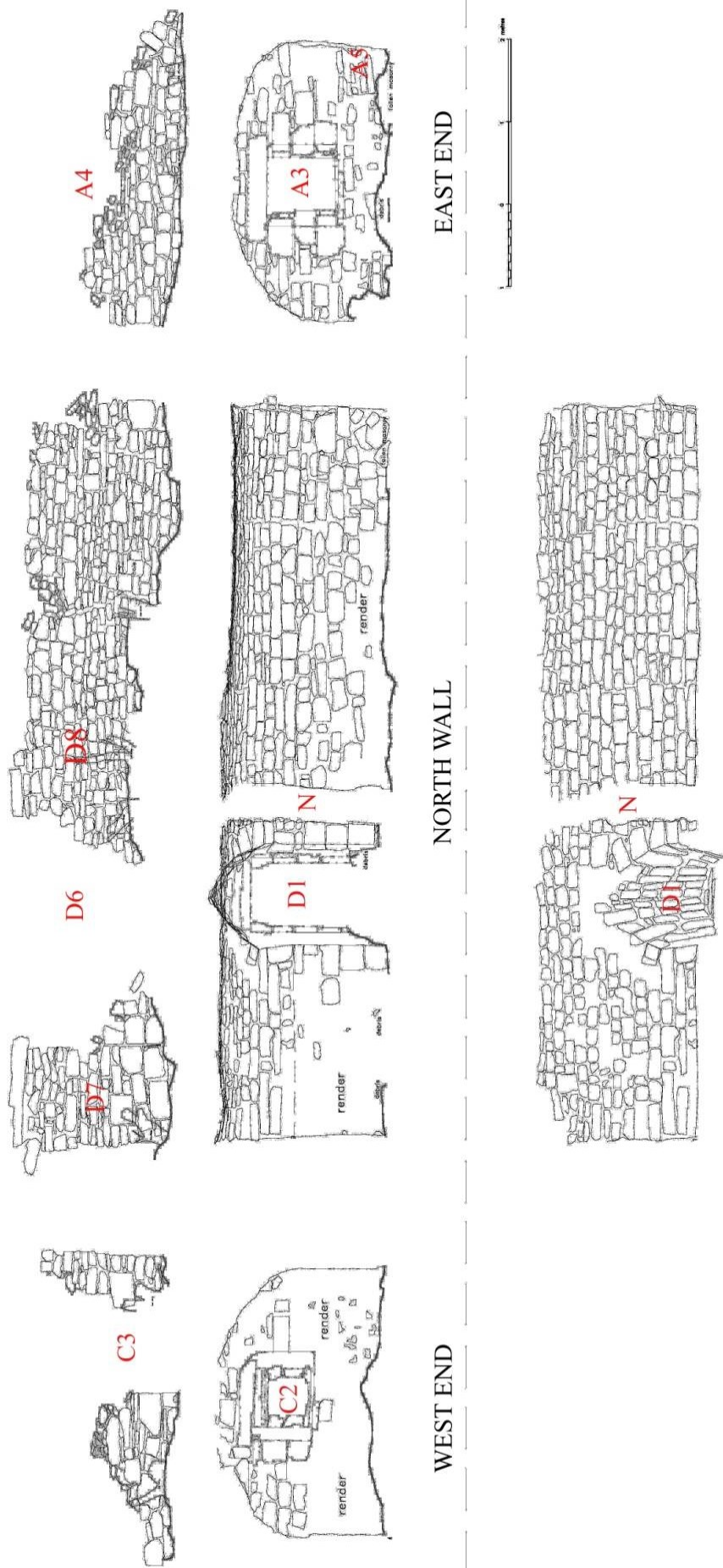
CRAKE TREES

Crosby Ravensworth, Cumbria

Survey by Photarc Surveys for Kevin Doonan Architect Ltd 2011

Annotated P F Ryder 2012

SOUTH WING: INTERNAL ELEVATIONS OF NORTH AND END WALLS



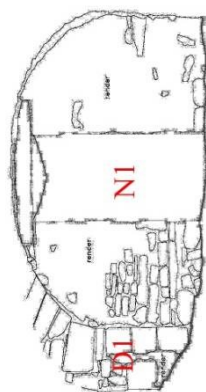
CRAKE TREES

Crosby Ravensworth, Cumbria

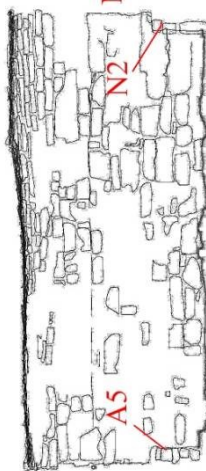
Survey by Photarc Surveys for Kevin Doonan Architect Ltd 2011

Annotated P F Ryder 2012

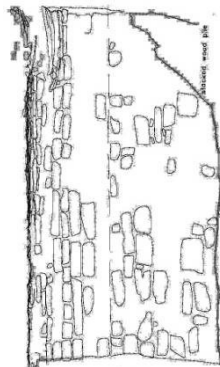
SOUTH WING INTERNAL ELEVATIONS OF SOUTH AND CROSS WALLS



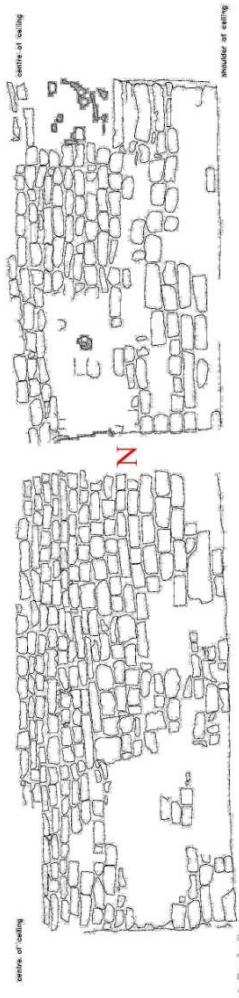
WEST FACE OF CROSS WALL



SOUTH WALL



EAST FACE OF CROSS WALL



VAULT, SOUTH HALF

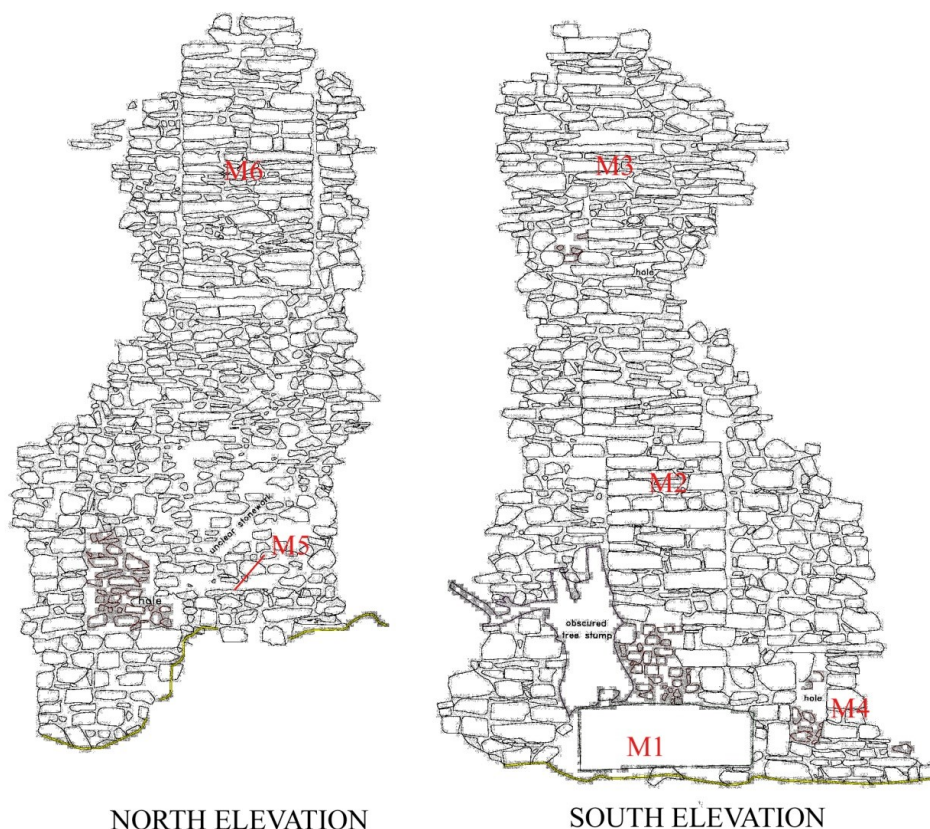


CRAKE TREES

Crosby Ravensworth, Cumbria

Survey by Photarc Surveys for Kevin Doonan Architect Ltd 2011

Annotated P F Ryder 2012



SOUTH WALL OF NORTH BLOCK

Appendix 3: The 1935 RCHM(E) MS description of the house

B.

RECORD CARD FOR SECULAR MONUMENTS.

(N.B.—Detail of special interest is to be entered here, but described fully on a separate card.)

7

1. Name and situation of Monument (with owner's Name and Address). *Crake Trees or Crak Trees c 1000 yards*

NW of the church

2. General appearance: (a) No. of storeys. *Were two*

(b) Building materials.

Stone rubble

(c) Roofs.

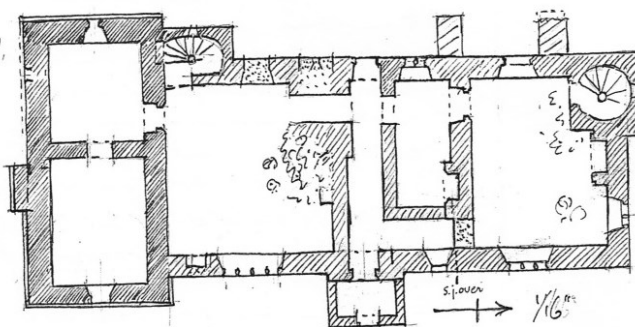
Modern overhanging slated: remainder roofless

3. Historical development (with dates and small sketch plan).

The house appears to have been one of some importance but little is known about its history. Isidore Brown of Reapell, in 1860 described it as a residence of the Lancaster family. It appears to have been ruinous or at least disused as a dwelling, in his time.

(cont. on separate card)

4. Special features (if any).



5. Elevations: (Beginning with the main front, and mentioning, in the following order:—(a) Walls; (b) Gables; (c) Doors; (d) Windows; (e) Chimneys; (f) Rainwater heads and pipes.)

E. front. has a gabled porch in the middle of the main wall the entrance with chamfered door jambs and a modern lintel: 16" x 17". In the main wall S. of the porch is a wide window of four lights.

with chamfered jambs, mullions & head with moulded label. A plastered recess inside, S. of the window suggests a blocked doorway but there is no trace of it outside. The entrance from the porch

has chamfered jambs & straight sided arch of the local type: the wall about this entrance is thicker than the remainder (3'6" as against 2'10"). N. of the porch is a

single light with moulded jambs and an ogee head with a solid tympanum on which is carved a crude lion rampant regardant the apex has a fleur-de-lis: this is probably an early 16c. feature.

Further N. i.e. in the N wing is a three light window of similar detail to the four light window.

The wall above still stands up to the eaves level: over the four light window is a window opening originally of three lights, with double hollow chamfered jambs & lintel: the mullions missing near the N end mid-part and two lights with plain chamfered jambs & lintel the mullion missing, and in the N wing a similar window of three lights, one mullion and part of the lintel missing.

The lower masonry of the middle part is of (mostly) coursed squared stones also all the end of the north block or wing, but the upper half of the middle block is of rubble of thin stones evidently a later heightening as it abuts the N. block with a straight joint. The patch of upper walling between the southernmost window & the S. wing is of rough ashlar evenly coursed & fairly large stones probably reused material in later repairs.

6. Grounds: (a) Gardens; (b) Outbuildings; (c) Statuary, sundials, etc.

The S. wing has been reduced in height and fitted with a kind of hipped pent-roof. It is built of coursed rubble with good dressed quoins, and has a chamfered plinth. A small window in the lower storey of the E front is a modern enlargement of an old piercing.

S. side. This has no pierings to the lower storey (the upper storey now nonexistent on this side) but near the W. end is re-set the trefoiled ogee-head of a 14c. single light. In the E. half is a low projection with a plinth on its S. face. It may have been the base of a chimney stack but if so the main wall above must have been rebuilt as there are no traces of the chimney above the projection.



County.

Chesterland

Parish.

Early Roseworth

Sub-Commission.

Secular

No. of Monument.

7. **Interior :** (Disposition of rooms, if original, giving fittings as they occur (see list), beginning with the ground floor, following with the basement, and working up to the attics; staircases in the same manner.)

Fittings :
(Reminder list)

- (1) Ceilings.
- (2) Cupboards (fixed).
- (3) Doors and Overdoors.
- (4) Fireplaces and Mantel-pieces.
- (5) Glass.
- (6) Paintings.
- (7) Panelling.
- (8) Parquetry and floors.
- (9) Plasterwork on internal walls.
- (10) Roofs and beams (internal).
- (11) Screens.
- (12) Tapestries.
- (13) Miscellaneous (e.g., carving, ironwork, locks, &c.).

Interior: This is much littered up with fallen masonry and in the main block & N wing are two trees (elms?) over 30 ft high. No floors remain but the sawn-off ends of several beams are seen and, excepting for the modern roof over the S. wing, the whole building is roofless.

The single room occupying the original N. wing has N., E. & W. windows and in the N. wall is a projecting chimney breast with a fireplace having projecting chamfered pilaster-jambos and a Tudor arch.

W. of it is a vice choked up with fallen masonry but showing the drum of the upper part, above the remains of its S. side: parts of the jambos of a rebated doorway into it still remain.

Above the fireplace is another to the upper storey, with similar projecting chamfered jambos and a chamfered bressumer: the E jamb which was ~~corbelled~~ carried on corbelling E of the lower fireplace has fallen. In the S. wall at the W. end is an old stone doorway with chamfered jambos and lintel: the walling gapped above the lintel.

The middle room or entrance hall was later divided to form a smaller chamber with passages S. & E. of it. In the N. wall is an old fireplace with chamfered jambos and a massive lintel (1'7" high). No trace left of the upper fireplace but the wall above is practically of its original gabled height and has the remains of a projecting chimney stack in the gable head corbelled out on the S. side. The E. front entrance opens into the passage: it is 3'7" wide but a straight point 1'4" from its N. reveal suggests an earlier and wider doorway there originally.

The S. wing main block has a chimney breast on its N. side but the fireplace is buried beneath a heap of stones piled up in front of it. In the S. wall, West half, is a late 14th or early 15th c. doorway to the S. wing: it has chamfered jambos and a shouldered lintel, and off the S.W. corner is a projecting winding staircase off which there was a pointed doorway to the upper storey of the S. wing (now a recess).

The wall between the main block & the S. wing is nearly of its old gabled height & the other part N. rather less.

The S. wing divided into two chambers by a cross wall retains its original elliptical barrel-vault to the lower storey.

8. **Condition :** S. wing patched up to serve as a loft for farm purposes. Ruinous & choked up with fallen stones. A number of cracks in the remaining walls. The

9. **Visited by** (with dates): J.W. Bloe

10. **Bibliography :** 'The Vale of Gwynedd' edited by F.H. Parker (1904) from MS notes by John Salicrú Bland (c. 1867) of Reazill.

11. **No. of Ordnance Sheet** (6-in.): XIV S.E.

12. **Signature of Investigator.** J.W. Bloe Feb. 11 1935

Crake Trees

History (continued).

It seems to have been one of the usual Westmorland type of late 14th or early 15th c. houses with a semi-defensive vaulted S. wing or tower. From the masonry it is probable that the N. wing was a nearly contemporary solar & that between the two was a one storey hall or main block. It shows signs of having been more or less completely remodelled several times with new window-incrections, fireplaces etc. up to the late 16th century or later. The windows are of several periods.

Presumably the walls began to show signs of weakness long ago, as there are two heavy buttresses on the W. side, of some age.

There is no information as to the time of its abandonment but it may have been over a century ago, and may have served for a time as a farm building for cattle etc. before being allowed to fall to complete ruin. The S. wing has a weatherproof roof over its reduced height so that the upper storey can be used as a loft.

But the only access to its vaulted lower storey is over a heap of fallen masonry inside. Bland states that the 14th. window head is set in the side of a 'farm building'.

Elevations. W. side. The end of the projecting S. wing has an ancient rectangular light to the lower storey and a modern doorway into the loft above. The wall of squared coursed rubble, with a chamfered plinth, and good dressed quoins.

The stair turret in the angle with the main block has a small blocked loop light. The main west wall has a modern doorway with rough jambs opposite the E. entrance and closely next S. of it are the straight jambs of another former opening 4'6" wide without any lintel (remaining) afterwards walled up, and a small window inserted in the blocking; the last also being blocked up later. Next S. a comparatively modern window with a wood lintel.

N. of the doorway is a window to the middle chamber of two lights with chamfered jambs & lintel, and, further north, to the N. room another of two lights with a moulded label: the mullion gone.

Above the last is a gap with the remains of an upper window, and over the middle window is the lower half of a two light upper window with double hollow chamfered jambs. Further S. is another single light with chamfered jambs (lower half only) now blocked.

The wall is mostly of thin rubble. In the N. half are two heavy buttresses of c. 6 ft projection, of probably 18th c. date.

The N. side is (or was) gabled. In the ground storey is a two light window with a moulded label like that in the W. side differing from those in the E. front.

The projecting stair case has a rectangular light.

The walling is mostly of coursed rubble with some repairs of the thin stone rubble at the top.

County.

Parish.

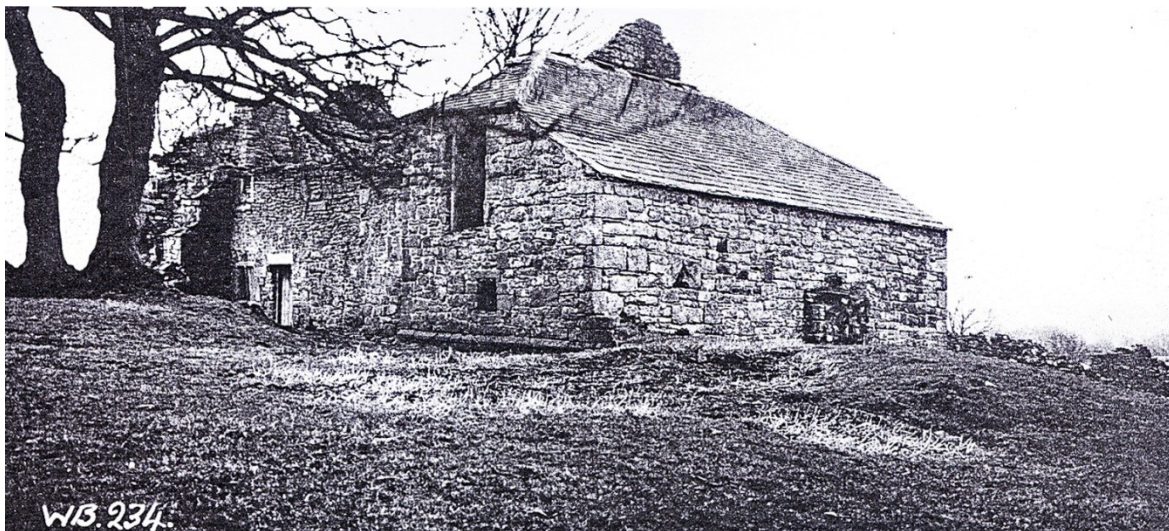
Sub-Commission.

No. of Monument.

RCHM(E) photographs, 1935 (National Monuments Record)



*Plate 15: Looking south-east at the north end of Crake trees RCHME photograph
(National Monuments Record)*



*Plate 16: Looking north-east at the south end of Crake Trees RCHME photograph
(National Monuments Record)*

Appendix 4: Two Timbers from Crake Trees

Two timbers were removed from the ruins of the medieval manor house of Crake Trees during the conservation/reconstruction works of 2013/4 and stored in farm buildings c 500 m to the east of the site. These were recorded on 11 4 2014. Both are probably of oak, and both considerably decayed.

- (1) The end of a substantial first-floor beam from the Parlour; it would seem high likely that this is original to this part of the building. 330 by 20 mm in section, and surviving to a length of 1030 mm, the beam had chamfers 45mm wide on its lower angles with neat stops of a common late medieval/post-medieval form consisting of a concave triangle and a straight step (close to the form often termed a 'lambs' tongue' stop). Into its upper angles were cut housings for a pair of ceiling joists 130 by 90mm – decay meant that only one pair remained, so there was no insufficient evidence to determine joist spacing. One patch of white pigment remained on the soffit of the beam.
- (2) A timber 240 by 135 mm and 1600 mm long, found lying on the site of the hall in the main block of the house. One angle preserved a chamfer 35mm wide, stopped just short of one end; in the broad face adjacent to the chamfer were eroded remains of three sloping housings, such as one might find where rafters rested on a wall plate – which might suggest re-use, as one would not expect to find the external upper angle of a wall-plate with a chamfer. The same face had traces of white coloration around the 'rafter settings' and a clearly demarcated darkened area towards one end, the edge of it falling between a pair of pegholes which did not seem to relate to any mortice. The other face and three other angles of the timber were all badly decayed, so much so that it was impossible to say whether there had been any further chamfers or other structural features. Whilst the timber is probably of late medieval or early post-medieval date, its condition precludes any clear identification of its function.

Peter F Ryder April 2014

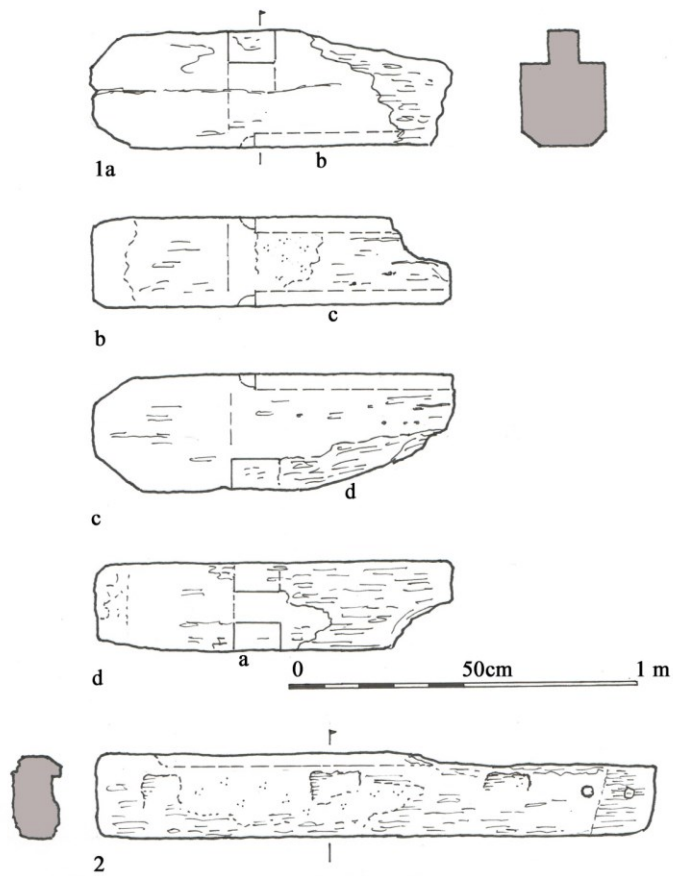


Plate 17: Timber 1 (from first-floor frame in Parlour block)
Scale is 0.5m long.



Plate 18: *Timber 1 (from first-floor frame in Parlour block)*



Plate 19: *Timber 2 (from hall) with detail of darker end section, with pegholes.*

Appendix 5: Photo Catalogue (Archived on CD Rom Disk)

Number	Description
1	Looking north west towards ruins of Craketrees 2012
2	Looking west towards the east front of Crake Trees 2012
3	Looking south east towards south wing of Crake Trees 2012
4	Looking north towards south face of house 2012
5	Trefoil arch head in south wall of south wing 2012
6	Looking south along east wall of house 2012
7	Looking west towards east front of house 2013
8	Looking west towards east front of house 2012
9	Looking north along west wall towards northern newel stair 2012
10	Looking north towards fireplace M1 partially buried in rubble 2012
11	Southern block above vault before clearance works 2012
12	Southern block above vault before clearance works 2012
13	Beginning to clear rubble from north end of east wall 2012
14	North end of east wall cleared of rubble 2012
15	East face cleared of rubble. Looking south 2012
16	Porch on east face exposed 2012
17	East face exposed 2012
18	Peter Ryder recording worked stones exposed from rubble 2012
19	North cross wall scaffolded prior to consolidation and rebuilding 2013
20	Clearance of north room 2013
21	Clearance of face and top of east wall 2013
22	Clearance of east wall and porch 2013
23	Clearance of front door in east wall
24	Clearance of front door
25	Clearance of east wall
26	Northern newel stair cleared of most rubble
27	Northern newel stair partially cleared
28	Looking west at the east front of Crake Trees during conservation works 2013
29	Fireplace in north wall of Crake Trees 2013
30	Fireplace in north wall of Crake Trees 2013
31	Northern newel stair during consolidation 2013
32	Northern newel stair during consolidation 2013
33	Base of north newel stair during consolidation 2013
34	Fireplace in north wall of Crake Trees 2013
35	Hearth of fireplace in north wall of Crake Trees 2013
36	Stones of mullion window recovered from rubble to east of Crake Trees 2013
37	Stones of mullion window 2013
38	Working on east wall looking north 2013
39	Measuring up for new stone jambs on front door 2013
40	Working on east wall 2013
41	Working on east wall 2013
42	Working on east wall 2013
43	Repositioning fallen jamb stone on east door 2013
44	Inside face of east wall before consolidation 2013
45	Mullion window in east wall prior to consolidation 2013
46	Mullion window in east wall during consolidation 2013
47	Mullion window in east wall during consolidation 2013
48	North west-corner of first floor of south building fallen 2013
48A	Tumbled north-west corner of south block

48B	North-west corner of south block rebuilt from tumbled fabric
48C	Rebuilt north-west corner of south block
49	Rebuilt north-west corner of first floor of south building 2013
50	Newel stair and west wall during consolidation 2013
51	Newel stair and west wall during consolidation 2013
52	Recording in north room during clearance 2013
53	Looking north-east towards middle cross wall during consolidation 2013
53A	South wall of room M to right and paved cross passage 2013
54	Looking north towards rebuilt middle cross wall 2013
55	Fireplace M1 cleared and consolidated 2013
56	Fireplace M1 cleared and consolidated 2013
57	Looking north through rebuilt doorway into north room 2013
57A	Cross-passage cleared looking east
57B	Cross-passage cleared looking north-west
57C	Cross passage cleared looking west
58	Looking west in room M towards west wall past doorway into north room 2013
59	West jamb of north newel stair compartment 2013
60	North room looking west 2013
61	Rebuilding mullion window in east wall of north room 2013
62	Looking east. North room cleared and with new ceiling beam 2013
63	Looking north. North room cleared and with new ceiling beam 2013
64	North room cleared and north wall rebuilt. Looking north 2013
65	North room cleared. Looking south 2013
66	Central wall of vaulted south block. Looking east 2013
67	East wall of south vaulted block 2013
68	Top of vault of south block with debris and soil removed 2013
69	Top of vault of south block with new concrete floor 2013
70	North-west corner of top of vault with new concrete floor 2013
71	Rebuilt east front 2013
72	Central area of rebuilt east wall 2013
73	North wall as completed 2013
74	Rebuilt east wall. Central area looking south 2013
75	Aerial view of Crake trees. Looking west 2014
76	Aerial view of Crake Trees. Looking south-west 2014
76A	Aerial view of Crake trees. Looking west 2014
77	Aerial view of Crake trees. Looking south 2014
78	Aerial view of Crake trees. Vertical shot 2014
79	Aerial view of Crake trees. Looking west 2014
80	Key found in rubble at Crake Trees
81	Iron fireplace screen adjacent to fireplace?? In north room
82	Iron fireplace screen adjacent to fireplace?? In north room

In addition to the above photographs, the archive disk also contains images of stonework described and drawn in section 9.1 Architectural Stonework by Peter Ryder.

Unfortunately, due to corruption of a hard drive, a group of digital photographs of the vault top during clearance was lost.