

on behalf of R Stevenson & Sons

Buildings at Whitehouse Farm Bearpark County Durham

archaeological building recording

report 4509 July 2017



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1. Summary

The project

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological recording project conducted in advance of proposed works at Whitehouse farm, Bearpark, Co Durham. A photographic and drawn survey of four farm buildings, using existing architects' plans, has been carried out.
- 1.2 The works were commissioned by R Stevenson & Sons and conducted by Archaeological Services Durham University.

The buildings

1.3 Four old buildings have been examined and recorded. These are the old farmhouse and an adjoining cart shed / granary, a barn and a cow house.

Conclusions

- 1.4 Whitehouse Farm was a monastic farm on Durham Priory's manor of Beaurepaire. The oldest surviving building, the farmhouse, was probably built around 1614. Most of the land around the site remained in agricultural use until the middle of the 19th century. The house appears to have been contiguous with a slightly lower building which survives as the present cart shed. There was a stackyard to the north of these buildings, with a detached barn at its east side. In the later 18th or early 19th century a horse engine was set up in a gin-gang west of the barn. On the south side of the yard there was a stable and a square of open-fronted cattle-sheds.
- 1.5 The house (A) survives as a more or less featureless shell. The eastern building (B), enlarged and altered over time, and the threshing barn (C) also retain few original features. One pier and three holes in the all of the barn are all that remains of the gin-gang. On the south side of the yard, only the outer walls of the square hemmel building (D) survive.

2. Project background

Location (Figures 1 and 2)

Whitehouse Farm lies at the west end of the village of Bearpark, at grid reference NZ 2305 4328. The area containing the existing old buildings covers approximately 0.25ha. The buildings are not listed but are a non-designated heritage asset.

Development proposal

2.2 Planning permission has been given for the redevelopment of the farm steading at Whitehouse Farm, Bearpark; this will comprise demolition of the existing farm buildings and the erection of five houses. The planning reference is DM/15/02819/FPA.

Objective

2.3 The objective of the project was to provide a record of the old farm buildings in their present state. The regional research framework (Petts & Gerrard 2006) contains an agenda for archaeological research in the region, which is incorporated into regional planning policy implementation with respect to archaeology. In this instance, the scheme of works was designed to address agenda item MDi: Later medieval settlement.

Specification summary

2.4 The works have been undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation provided by Archaeological Services Durham University and approved by Durham County Council's Archaeology Section.

Dates

2.5 The buildings were examined on 20th June 2017. This report was prepared for July 2017.

Personnel

2.6 The survey and report preparation work were carried out by Richard Annis and the illustrations were prepared by David Graham.

Archive/OASIS

2.7 The project archive is currently held by Archaeological Services Durham University and will be transferred to the Bowes Museum in due course. Archaeological Services Durham University is registered with the Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS project (OASIS). The OASIS ID number for this project is archaeol3-289351.

Acknowledgements

2.8 We are grateful to John and Robert Stevenson for much useful information about the farm, and for the loan of the map and air photograph that are reproduced as Figures 3 and 4 in this report.

3. Landuse, topography and geology

Landuse

3.1 The site is occupied by the buildings and yards of the farmstead. A portal-frame covered yard at the north-west side of the study area has been partly demolished. A

similar yard at the south-west is still in use, as are two ground-floor rooms in one of the older buildings.

Site and situation

3.2 The steading at Whitehouse Farm stands at about 158m above sea level on top of the ridge between the Browney and Deerness valleys. The village of Bearpark lies to the east and there is open land on the other three sides. The north edge of the village of Ushaw Moor is about 200m south of the farm, on lower ground. The centre of the study area, where the old buildings stand, is generally level; the old hemmel at the south is lower than the other buildings.

Geology and soils

3.3 The bedrock is mudstone, sandstone and siltstone of the Pennine Middle Coal Measures. On this hilltop site the bedrock is close to the surface; in the 19th century, there were quarries immediately north and south and west of Whitehouse Farm. In the fields near the steading there is a covering of glacial till.

4. Historical and archaeological development

- 4.1 An outline history of the site has been set out in a heritage statement prepared in connection with the present planning application (Anon. n.d.), and some of that information is included in the account below.
- 4.2 There is no direct evidence of prehistoric occupation of the site or the immediate area, though the Historic Environment Record notes the discovery of a cup-marked stone. This was donated to the Fulling Mill Museum of Archaeology by Mr John Stevenson in 1986, having been found during farm work about 1.25km north-east of the farm. The stone has 30 cups on one face and up to 20 on the other, and is assumed to have come from a destroyed cairn (Harding 1987).
- 4.3 There is also no evidence of activity or occupation of the area around Whitehouse Farm in the Roman or Anglo-Saxon periods. This lack of positive evidence does not, however, mean that the area was not exploited by people at that time.
- 4.4 The documented history of Bearpark begins in the medieval period, with the establishment of the Priory house and chapel of Beaurepaire. The name Beaurepaire, or 'beautiful retreat', is the origin of the present place name Bearpark. This site was built in the mid-1200s as a summer retreat for the Prior of Durham, the head of the monastic community at what is now Durham Cathedral. Land for this extensive manor was given to the Priory by the Bishop of Durham between 1195 and the early 1300s. The land, enclosed by a park fence and later a wall, contained farms that supplied the monastic community with food, fuel, building materials and livestock, as well as cash from the sale of produce.
- 4.5 The fortunes of Beaurepaire rose and fell with the times. The buildings were badly damaged during the Scottish wars, in 1315 and again in 1346; they were rebuilt by John Fossor, an energetic man who was responsible for many building projects between 1341 and 1374, when he was Prior. At the dissolution of the monasteries in the 1540s, Durham Priory was done away with and the monastic church became Durham Cathedral. As part of the former Priory's possessions, the site at Beaurepaire was taken over by successive Deans of the cathedral, though the

buildings were not always continuously occupied. In the mid-17th century the buildings were badly damaged during the Civil Wars and Beaurepaire has been in ruins since that time. 18th-century engravings show substantially larger sections of masonry than are present today. The site is a scheduled ancient monument.

- 4.6 Whitehouse Farm was one of the monastic farms within the manor or Beaurepaire. Originally worked directly from the Priory, the community's farms were gradually let to others, but they remained part of the monastic estate and provided both produce and income. After the Dissolution, the farm was still tenanted as part of the estate of the Dean and Chapter of the cathedral. Documentary evidence suggest that the old farmhouse still standing at the site was built around 1614. The name was in use in the 16th century, as estate leases prepared between 1545 and 1665 refer to "one [farm] called Whitehouse".
- 4.7 Most of the land around the site remained in agricultural use until the middle of the 19th century. When the first edition Ordnance Survey map was surveyed in 1857, the steading was surrounded by fields. There was a quarry between the yard and the main road and a large block of trees called Whitehouse Wood about 390m east of the steading. Another farmstead, Red House, stood on the road about 190m west of the farm.
- 4.8 In 1872, Bearpark Colliery began work about 0.9km east of the farm. The village of Bearpark owes its present form to the colliery. At the end of the 19th century the only settlement on the present main road was the small hamlet of Auton Stile, about 0.75km east of Whitehouse Farm. By 1919, Woodland, Victor and South View Terraces had been built to the west of the old centre. In the late 1930s more roads and houses were laid out to the north of these rows, extending to the east side of Whitehouse Wood, and the Aged Miners Homes were built close to the south-east corner of the farmstead. It was not until the 1950s that houses were built on the land immediately west of the wood, adjoining the farmyard.

The development of the farmstead

- 4.9 A plan of the farm dating from about 1840 (Figure 3) and the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1857 both show two separate buildings on the north side of the yard. One of these is on the site of the present buildings A and B, shown in Figure 2. The second is the present building C, with a bow-fronted extension on its west side. The shape of this suggests the presence of a horse gin. These two structures are not connected together as B and C are today. The 1840 and 1857 maps both mark a square of sheds on the south side of the yard; this is recognisable as the existing building D. Just to its west, opposite the house, there was a stable. In 1857 there was an active quarry between building D and the road.
- 4.10 The second edition map of 1896 shows some changes to buildings B and C, with the two ranges now joined as they are now. At the east side of the yard, a new building stands on the site of the modern store G. This was a stone cow byre which can be seen in a 1972 air photograph (Figure 4). A large rectangular quarry was in operation just north of the farmstead at that time, and there was another one west of the drive. Both of the southern quarries are marked 'old' on the 1920 third edition map. This is the first to show the existing brick farmhouse, building E, at the west end of the yard. The old buildings are unchanged on the 1939 revision of the map, but an

- open-fronted shed is shown extending north from the west end of the old house, A. This stood within the west side of the present building F.
- 4.11 Although the present brick house was built before 1920, it is understood that the original farmhouse, building A, was last inhabited in the 1940s. The house was examined by an archaeologist, Lloyd Edwards, as part of a project looking at surviving early farm buildings on the old Beaurepaire estate. This study examined the house alongside buildings at Bearpark Hall and Lodge Farms. This paper was published in the Council for British Archaeology Regional Group Three Newsbulletin. (Edwards 1985). Nothing of significance was recorded at Whitehouse Farm.
- 4.12 The 1972 air photograph (Figure 4) shows the cow byre on the site of building G and the stables on the south side of the yard. The byre is a very wide stone building with a pantiled roof with a ridge louvre. The stable is also built of stone, with slate roofs. The large central part has a loft and there are lower sheds at either end.

5. The buildings

- 5.1 The present farmstead consists of an east-west yard with the old buildings to its north and south (Figures 2 and 4). The old house, building A, and the open-fronted building B form a north range (Photographs 1 and 2), with the former threshing barn, building C, running north from its east end (Photographs 3 and 4). A modern portal-frame covered yard G occupies the space north of the old buildings (Photograph 5). When the site was examined, the northern half of this had been dismantled. On the south side of the yard is the disused hemmel, building D (Photograph 6), and at the west end is the 20th-century house, E. Between these, on the site the old stable, there is an open-sided covered yard, building F. Another modern building, H, stands at the north-east corner of the site.
- 5.2 All of the older structures are built of sandstone rubble and have modern roof coverings. The thinly-coursed masonry of the house, building A, is partly hidden by heavy pointing; there is a shallow course of slabs at the foot of the south wall. There are some larger stones in the east face of the former threshing barn (C) and some sizeable quoins in a few places. Apart from two window sills in the south face of the granary (B) there is no dressed stone. No architectural embellishments or inscriptions have been found. Plans and elevations of the old buildings are shown in Figures 5-8.

The old house, building A

5.3 This is a two-storey four-bay building with an asymmetrical façade to the south (Figures 5-7). It has steeply-pitched gables and the roof is covered with corrugated asbestos cement sheets. The steepness of the gable suggests that the house might at one time have been roofed with heather thatch. In the south face, three old windows on the first floor and another on the ground floor have been blocked up (Photographs 7-9). The two surviving windows are small eight-pane fixed lights under timber lintels; both windows are low and wide. Plain plank doors give access to the two ground-floor rooms. The timber lintel of the west door is markedly wider than the present opening. At the east end, the masonry runs into the south face of the cart shed. The only quoins here are in the upper part of the face, above the top of the shed wall. At first-floor level, there is an inserted loading door near the middle

- of the wall. A short straight joint just to the east of this door marks the line of an internal dividing wall.
- The north face of the old house is partly hidden by the frame of the modern covered yard. The masonry here is painted and the lower part of the wall face is roughly rendered. A shallow offset runs across the upper part of the wall face in the east half of the building. There is a blocked door towards the east end and an inserted loading door above, close to line of a former internal wall (Photograph 10). A small hole just west of this door contains one of the timbers that can be seen inside the building. On the ground floor, the entrance to the western room (Photograph 11) is an old plank door with quirked edges to the boards; it was damaged by fire during an arson attack on the farm some years ago (pers. comm. Robert Stevenson). The same fire caused sooting in the upper part of the wall at the west end (Photograph 12). The west gable is quite plain (Photograph 13).
- 5.5 Inside, the ground floor is divided into two rooms. The western, now used as a workshop, has a timber floor and plastered walls. There is a large chimney breast with an iron range at the west end (Photograph 14). The range has a cylindrical oven at the left and a set pot to the right (Photograph 15). Round-fronted ovens are common in Durham and South Northumberland, but almost unknown in other parts of the country (Raistrick & Roberts 1984, 178). The maker's plate above the hearth reads JAMES.GIBSON / BEDLINGTON (Photograph 16). At the east end of the room there are doors to the eastern half of the ground floor and to the yard on the north side (Photograph 17). The inside of the fire-damaged north door shows some wear and tear at the foot; its construction is different from the panelled internal door (Photographs 18 and 19). The exposed machine-sawn joists have the marks of a lath and plaster ceiling (Photograph 20). There are traces of an internal partition near the east end of the room, and the floorboards show that there was formerly a staircase here. This must have been quite steep to fit in the space between the entrance door at the south and the internal door at the north. The mark of the stair is also visible upstairs.
- The eastern room has a stone and earth floor and a chimney breast and range at the south-west corner (Photograph 21). The range is larger than the one in the adjoining room and has a conventional rectangular oven (Photograph 22). The maker's plate reads GEO. FORSTER / DURHAM (Photograph 23). Brickwork filling a gap at the south side of the range show how this late 19th- or early 20th-century range was fitted into the older fireplace. Apart from the range, the room is fairly plain; there is a later door in the end wall, at the north-east corner of the room (Photograph 24). The blocking of the old south window is relatively recent (Photograph 25). The most notable feature is the ceiling, which is carried on heavy old joists (Photograph 26), some of which retain paint and wallpaper.
- 5.7 The first floor of the old house is now a single large room entered by a door in the east gable (Photograph 27). The floor level steps up on the line of the internal wall, which can be seen as a scar in the north and south walls (Photograph 28). There are sizeable timbers at this point on the north side of the room (Photograph 29). Beside the step in the floor, an area of masonry marks the top of the chimney in the eastern room; just to the north, inserted floorboards show where the original internal staircase rose on the north side of the internal wall (Photograph 30). At the west end

- of the room, the old south window is blocked to half the thickness of the wall; beside it, the scar of a chimney breast can be seen (Photograph 31).
- The eastern half of the room is lined with pinkish plaster. There are two old roof trusses here. The present entrance door is in the middle of the gable wall (Photograph 32). Above this door, a vertical line of bricks appears to mark the position of a flue from an inserted chimney on the outside of the building (Photographs 33 and 43). The blocked south window at this end of the building is flush with the inner face and the blocking masonry does not have the pink plaster seen elsewhere on this wall (Photograph 34). In the old roof trusses, the principal rafters are halved at the apex and linked by tie beams laid flat and resting in the head of the walls, with no wall plates (Photograph 35). At half-height, collar beams are rebated and nailed into the west face of the principal rafters. There are two rows of butt purlins secured with pegs. No carpenter's marks were seen on any of the timbers.

The cart shed and granary, building B

- 5.9 This building abuts the ends of the old house and the barn (Figures 5-7). As has been stated above, this was not formerly the case, as the 1857 OS map shows a gap between buildings B and C. It is a plain gabled structure with a roof of ungraduated grey slate. The open south face has a timber lintel carried on cast-iron columns and large rough stone corbels (Photograph 36). This would have provided shelter for carts and farm implements. On the floor above, there are two old blocked windows with slightly-projecting pecked stone sills. The likely location of a third window is occupied by a larger late opening or repair. This is a wide patch of stone and recent mortar, resting on a sill made of a section of railway line (Photograph 37). The east end has been completely rebuilt in concrete blocks, probably in the 1950s (Photograph 38). The present north wall is a littler north of the line of the old house, so this building projects into the covered yard G (Photograph 39).
- 5.10 In the north wall there is a door; above its timber lintel, a patch of brick suggests a repair (Photograph 40). Immediately east the door, a band of masonry stands to over 1m wide and 2m high and projects about 50mm from the face of the wall. This is the inside face of a pier of a horse mill or gin-gang that formerly stood here. The gin abutted the west face of the threshing barn C, described further below. A flight of stone steps at the north-west corner gives access to the first floor At first-floor level there is a window and the door to the granary (Photographs 39 and 41). The width and substantial construction of these steps show that they were used for taking sacks of grain to the first-floor granary for storage.
- Inside the open shed, a 20th-century brick structure fills most of the west end (Photograph 42). Inside this is a projecting brick and stone chimney with no opening on this face; beside it is a door to the east room of the old house (Photograph 43). The doorway is lined with 2½" brick, showing that it is a relatively recent addition to the plan. The wall at the back of the cart shed has a bowed section of masonry, the outer face of the gin-gang pier mentioned above. Later masonry extends east from this to a straight joint that marks the south-west corner of building C (Photograph 44). The stonework of the pier is crude, with a large proportion of cement mortar, contrasting with the wall to its east (Photograph 45). At the east end of this face, the south wall of the former barn is marked by a footing of large boulders and less tidy masonry. There are two blocked breather slits in this wall (Photograph 46).

- 5.12 The former granary on the first floor is a large open space with no sign of bins or internal subdivision. There is a trap door near the middle of the south wall (Photographs 47 and 48). The walls are unplastered and the roof is open to the underside of the slates, which have a torching of pale mortar. As on the ground floor, the east end is entirely rebuilt in concrete. The east end of the north wall is rebuilt in brick, with steps leading into the upper floor of the threshing barn. The bolted roof trusses have raised collars for headroom and no ties.
- 5.13 At the west end, the outline of a narrower and lower building can be seen in the end of the old house (Photograph 49). At the north side of this wall, an additional leaf of masonry shows where building B was widened to meet the adjoining barn C.

The threshing barn, building C

- 5.14 This north-south building has some unusual masonry at the middle of its east face (Figures 5-7). This is coursed rubble with fairly large roughly-squared blocks, unlike the thinly-coursed small stone seen in the other buildings (Photograph 50). At the south end part of the larger fabric has been replaced by the concrete blockwork of building B. At the north, there is a sizeable area of smaller rubble stonework that looks like the material seen elsewhere. The roof is ungraduated slate, like that on building B. The better-quality masonry has evidence of repairs as well as two blocked breather slits (Photograph 51). There is another breather north of the door (Photograph 52). Beyond this, a ragged joint separates the large stonework from the thinly-coursed masonry seen in the other buildings (Photographs 53 and 54).
- 5.15 The north end of the building is made of the usual thin rubble masonry and has a large central door (Photograph 55). Above the timber lintel a blocked loading door can be seen. The gable rises above the level of the roof slates. The west face is partly concealed by the modern shed G (Photograph 56). Two doors with timber lintels flank a blocked door with a flat stone arch (Photograph 57). Rectangular timberlined holes in the southern half of the wall show where the horse gin met the threshing barn (Photograph 58). These are now blocked up, but the northernmost, which is lined with 2½" brick, still contains threaded studs that once retained a bearing (Photograph 59).

The old gin-gang

- 5.16 The gin-gang or horse mill was a means of driving threshers and other agricultural machinery by horsepower. Mechanical separation of grain from cereal crops began in 1786 when the East Lothian engineer Andrew Meikle invented a rotary thresher. The early machines were small, but as the technology was improved larger threshers, powered by horses or by water or wind mills, were adopted. This required the construction of buildings substantial enough to withstand the stresses imposed by fast-moving heavy machinery. In 1841 an iron portable drive for powering threshers was introduced; however, by that time many farmers had invested in horse-wheels, generally known in this region as gin-gangs. Most appear to have been built between 1800 and 1830 (Hutton 1976, 32). After 1851, the introduction of mobile steam-powered threshers made them redundant; steam engines provided more power and the use of a portable engine allowed farmers to do away with large fixed threshers and to gain useful space in the barn.
- 5.17 At Whitehouse Farm, the gin-gang was an open-sided building abutting the west wall of building C. The roof, and the heavy timber frame for the mechanism that it

protected, were carried on substantial stone piers, one of which survives in the wall of building B. At the centre was a vertical shaft to which one or more horses could be harnessed and walked in a circle around the gin-gang. At the top of the shaft, bevel bears transferred the drive to a horizontal shaft, mounted on the bearing in the wall of the barn. Inside, gears took the motion of the shaft to a mechanical thresher. It was usual for the machine to be mounted high up in the barn, so that the threshed grain and straw could be fed by gravity into different areas of the barn. The land beside the gin-gang, now within building G, was used as the stackyard. Unprocessed cereal crops was kept in stacks here after harvest, and then passed into the barn. At other times of the year, the gin-gang could be used to drive smaller machines such as feed choppers or mills. The presence of three separate holes in the west wall of the threshing barn suggests that the machinery was altered at different times. The stresses imposed by the thresher in the upper part of the building may explain the presence of large stonework in the east wall of the barn.

5.18 Inside the barn, the blocked drive-shaft holes can be seen near the top of the wall; the blocked door has a timber lintel on the inside (Photographs 60 and 61). A breather slit, blocked with brick, can also be seen. In the north wall, the blocked loading door is visible but there is no sign of a loft floor (Photograph 62). In the east wall, the large masonry seen outside is not apparent. There are two more breather slits here (Photograph 63) and two more are visible in the south wall (Photograph 64). The present small loft at the south end of the building occupies the site of the horse-powered thresher. No evidence of the old machinery remains here (Photograph 65).

The hemmel, building D

- 5.19 The hemmel today is a plain square covered yard with a modern roof carried on four concrete block gables (Figure 8: Photograph 6). This is an adaptation of the old courtyard building that appears on maps between 1840 and 1939. It appears to have been roofed to create the present covered yard before 1962. Before that there were four open-fronted sheds around a small yard. Cow houses like these were a common feature of north-eastern farmsteads in the first half of the 19th century (Barnwell & Giles 1997, 86). They provided shelter for the cattle and made it easier to collect manure for spreading on the fields. At many farms the hemmel consists of three ranges open to the south. By 1860 covered yards had become more common in many places (Wade Martins 2002, 216). This was because farmers found that cattle fattened more quickly when protected from the weather, and roofs prevented rain from washing nutrients from their valuable manure.
- All that remains of the old building is the outside walls. There is relatively recent repointing around the small door at the east end of the north wall (Photograph 66) and the larger door to the west has one jamb that is lined with 2½" brickwork (Photograph 67). Larger stones in the opposite jamb suggest that this was part of an older, smaller door. Inside, the inner walls have been removed and a concrete feeding passage and trough have been added on the east side (Photograph 68). The outer walls have been raised with colliery brick and concrete blocks and three steel and concrete piers have been built to carry the roof (Photographs 69 and 70).

6. Conclusions

- 6.1 Whitehouse Farm was a monastic farm on Durham Priory's manor of Beaurepaire. The oldest surviving building, the farmhouse, was probably built around 1614. Most of the land around the site remained in agricultural use until the middle of the 19th century. The house appears to have been contiguous with a slightly lower building which survives as the present cart shed. There was a stackyard to the north of these buildings, with a detached barn at its east side. In the later 18th or early 19th century a horse engine was set up in a gin-gang west of the barn. On the south side of the yard there was a stable and a square of open-fronted cattle-sheds.
- 6.2 The house (A) survives as a more or less featureless shell. The eastern building (B), enlarged and altered over time, and the threshing barn (C) also retain few original features. One pier and three holes in the all of the barn are all that remains of the gin-gang. On the south side of the yard, only the outer walls of the square hemmel building (D) survive.

7. Sources

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Appendix: Catalogue of photographs

| No | Subject |
|----------|--|
| 1 | The old house and the granary / cart shed |
| 2 | Buildings A and B seen from the south-east |
| 3 | The rebuilt end of the granary / cart shed B |
| 4 | The north end of the threshing barn |
| 5 | The old buildings and the covered yard G |
| 6 | The north face of the hemmel, building D |
| 7 | South face of the old house; the west end |
| 8 | South face of the old house; the centre |
| 9 | South face of the old house; the east end |
| 10 | North face of the old house; the east end |
| 11 | North face of the old house; the middle |
| 12 | North face of the old house; the west end wall |
| 13 | The west end of the house |
| 14 | The west room on the ground floor of the house |
| 15 | The open iron range |
| 16 | Maker's plate above the hearth |
| 17 | The east end of the west room |
| 18 19 | Detail of the plank door to the yard The internal door |
| 20 | The marks of a lath and plaster ceiling |
| 21 | Low ceiling and old heavy joists in the east room |
| 22 | The kitchen range at the south-west corner |
| 23 | Detail of the maker's plate |
| 24 | A view looking east in the eastern room |
| 25 | The blocked window beside the door |
| 26 | Detail of the old joists |
| 27 | The first floor of the old house |
| 28 | The south wall |
| 29 | The scar of the internal wall |
| 30 | Detail of the step in the floor at the old internal wall |
| 31 | The marks of the demolished chimney breast |
| 32 | Looking east down the length of the first-floor room |
| 33 | This line of brickwork in the east gable |
| 34 | The blocked east window |
| 35 | The two surviving old roof trusses |
| 36 | The south face of the cart shed / granary |
| 37 | Blocked opening at the east end of the granary |
| 38 | The rebuilt east end of building B |
| 39 | The north-west corner of building B |
| 40 | The centre of the north wall |
| 41 | The north wall of building B |
| 42 | Brick building at the west end of the cart shed |
| 43 | The chimney and door inside the brick building |
| 44 | The north wall of the cart shed |
| 45 | Detail of the north wall |
| 46 | The south end of building C |

| No | Subject |
|----|---|
| 47 | The granary in building B |
| 48 | Interior of the granary |
| 49 | The west end of the granary |
| 50 | East face of the threshing barn |
| 51 | The south end of the barn's east face |
| 52 | The west door is set in large masonry |
| 53 | The north end of the east wall |
| 54 | The north-east corner of building B |
| 55 | The north end of the barn |
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| 57 | The blocked door at the middle of the wall |
| 58 | The site of the former gin-gang |
| 59 | Detail of the northern shaft hole |
| 60 | Inside the threshing barn |
| 61 | The blocked east door |
| 62 | The north end of the barn |
| 63 | Two breather slits in the east wall of the barn |
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| 65 | The loft at the south end of building C |
| 66 | Door at the north-west corner of the old hemmel |
| 67 | The large north door to the old hemmel |
| 68 | Looking south-east inside the old hemmel |
| 69 | The south side of the old hemmel |
| 70 | A view looking north-west in the old hemmel |

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Buildings at Whitehouse Farm Bearpark County Durham

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Figure 1: Site location



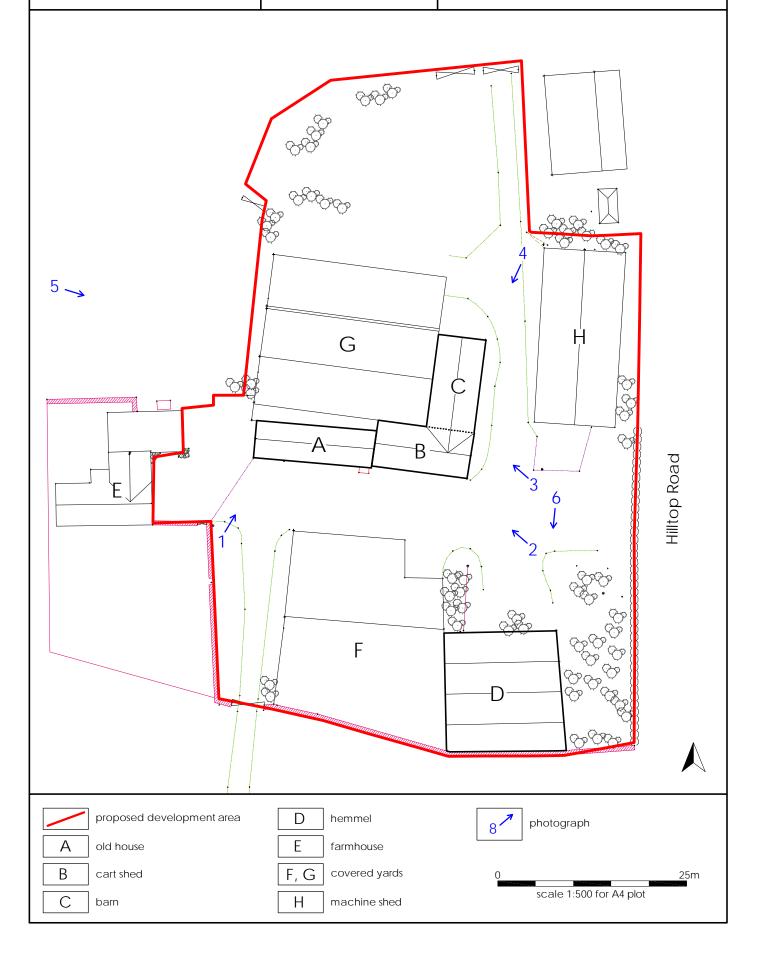
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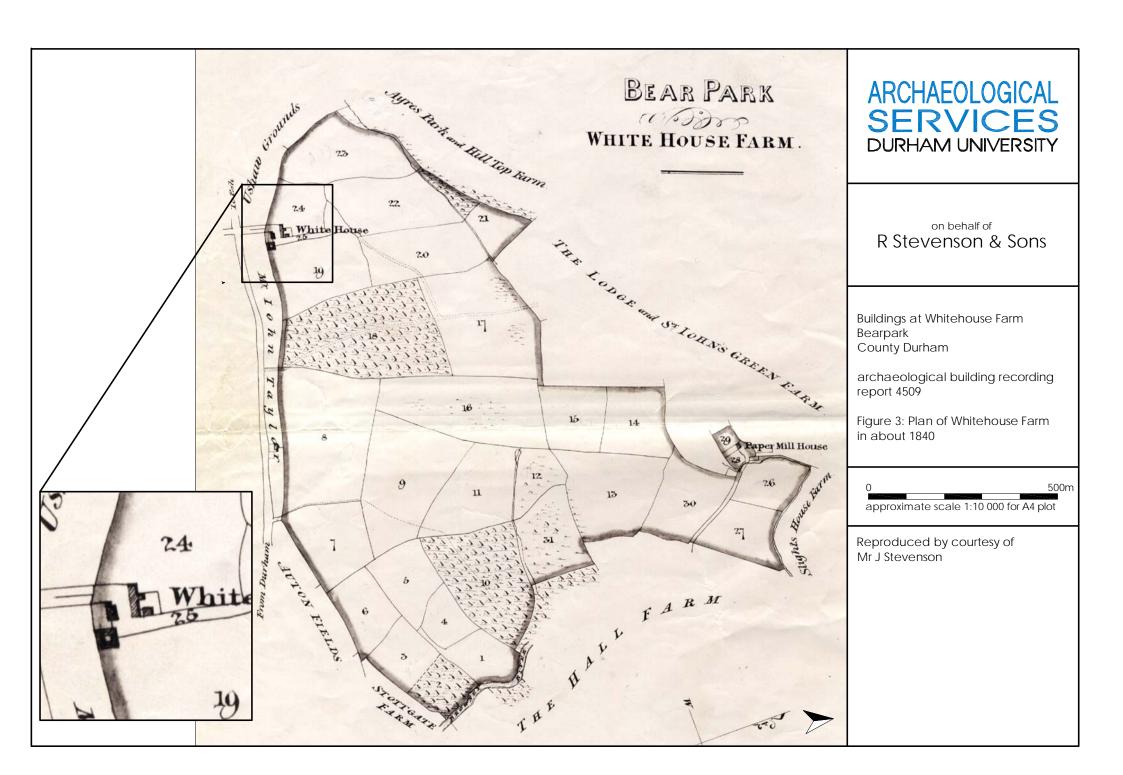
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Figure 2: The site and the buildings







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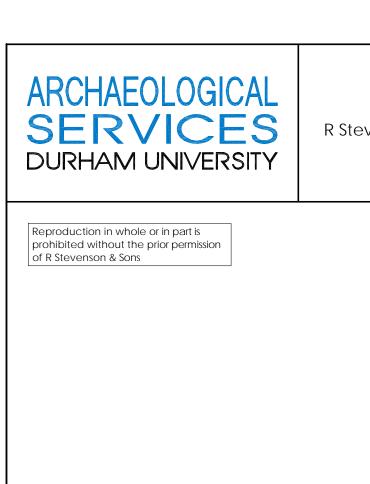
Buildings at Whitehouse Farm Bearpark County Durham

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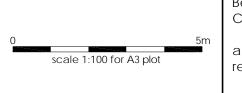
Figure 4: Air photograph of the steading in 1972

not to scale

Reproduced by courtesy of Mr J Stevenson



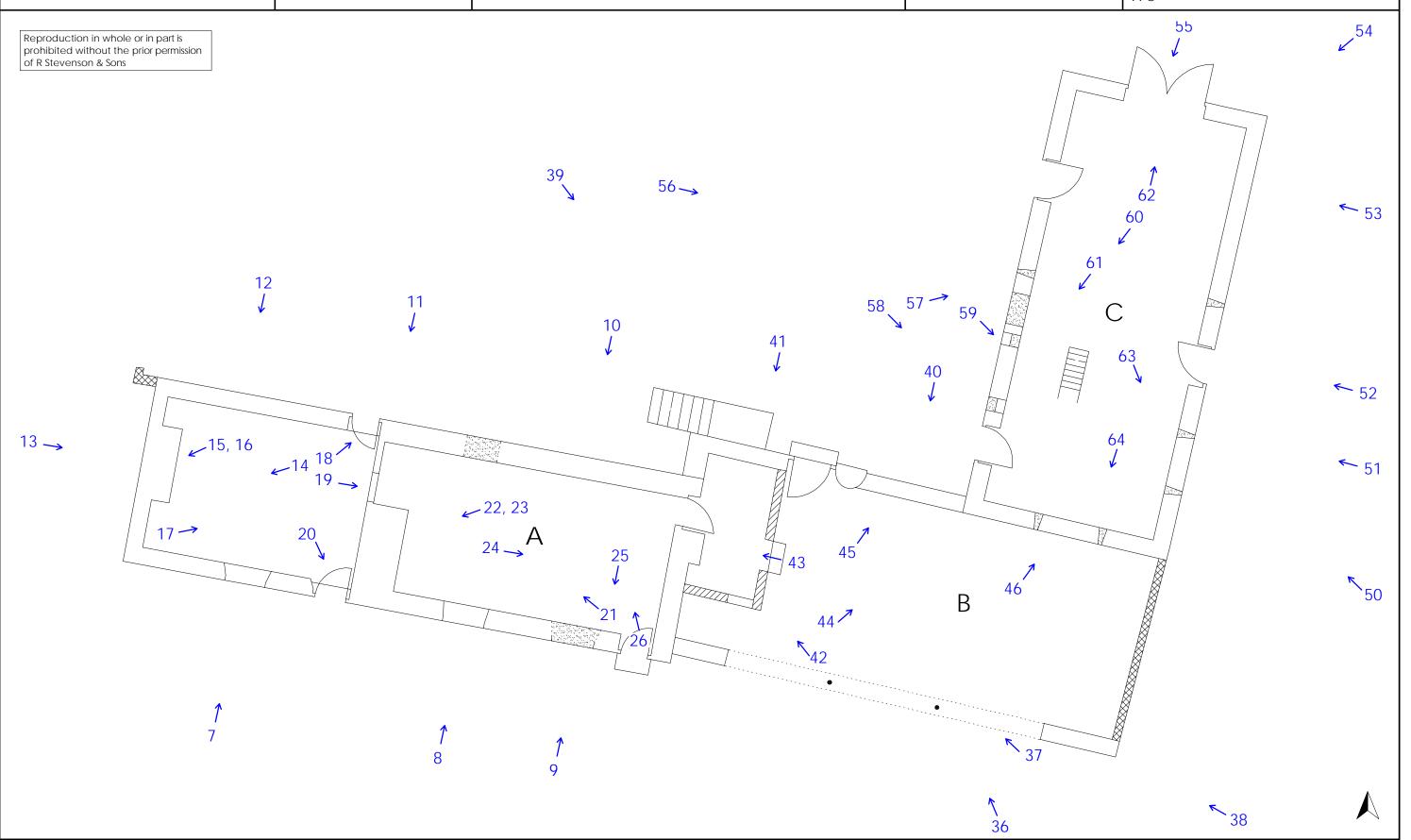
concrete blocks location of photographs on behalf of brick cast iron columns R Stevenson & Sons blocked opening straight joint



Buildings at Whitehouse Farm Bearpark County Durham

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Figure 5: Ground-floor plan of buildings A-C



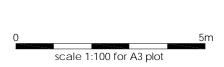


on behalf of R Stevenson & Sons

concrete blocks

blocked opening



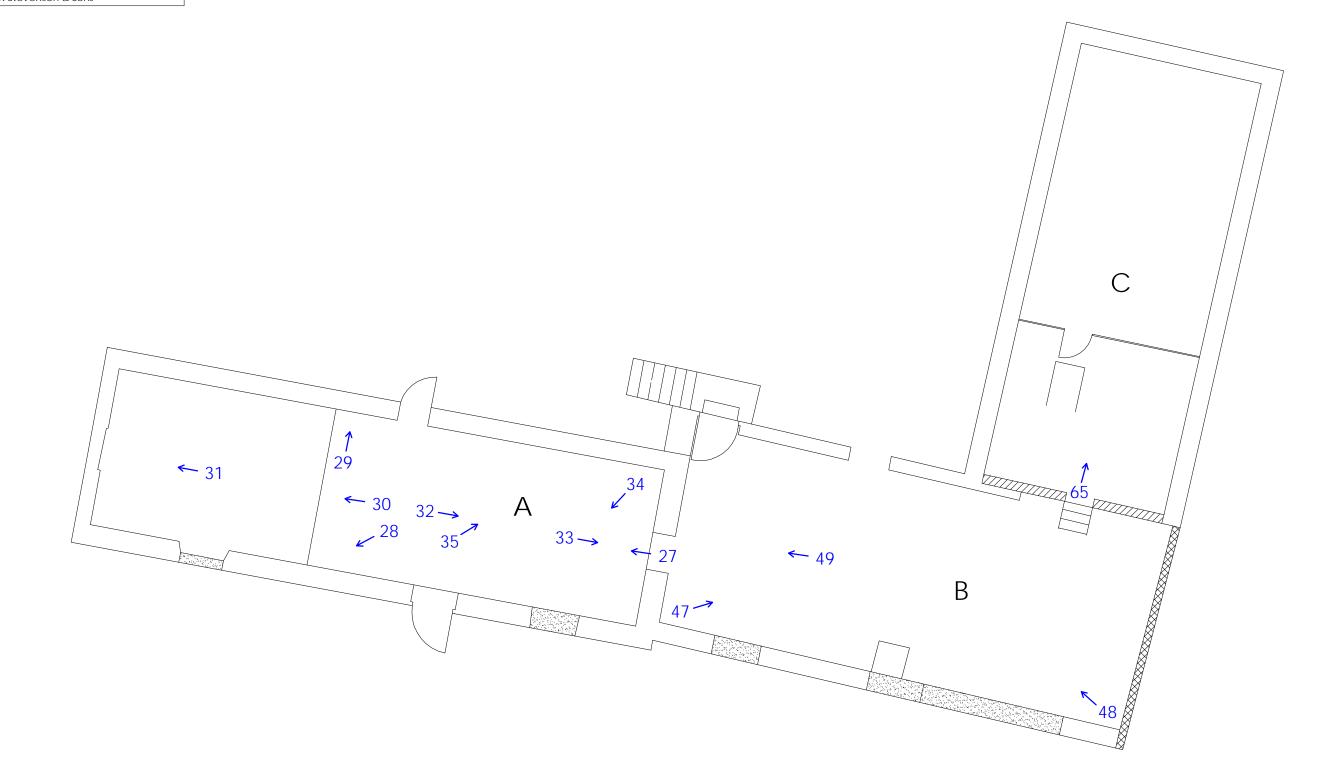


Buildings at Whitehouse Farm Bearpark County Durham

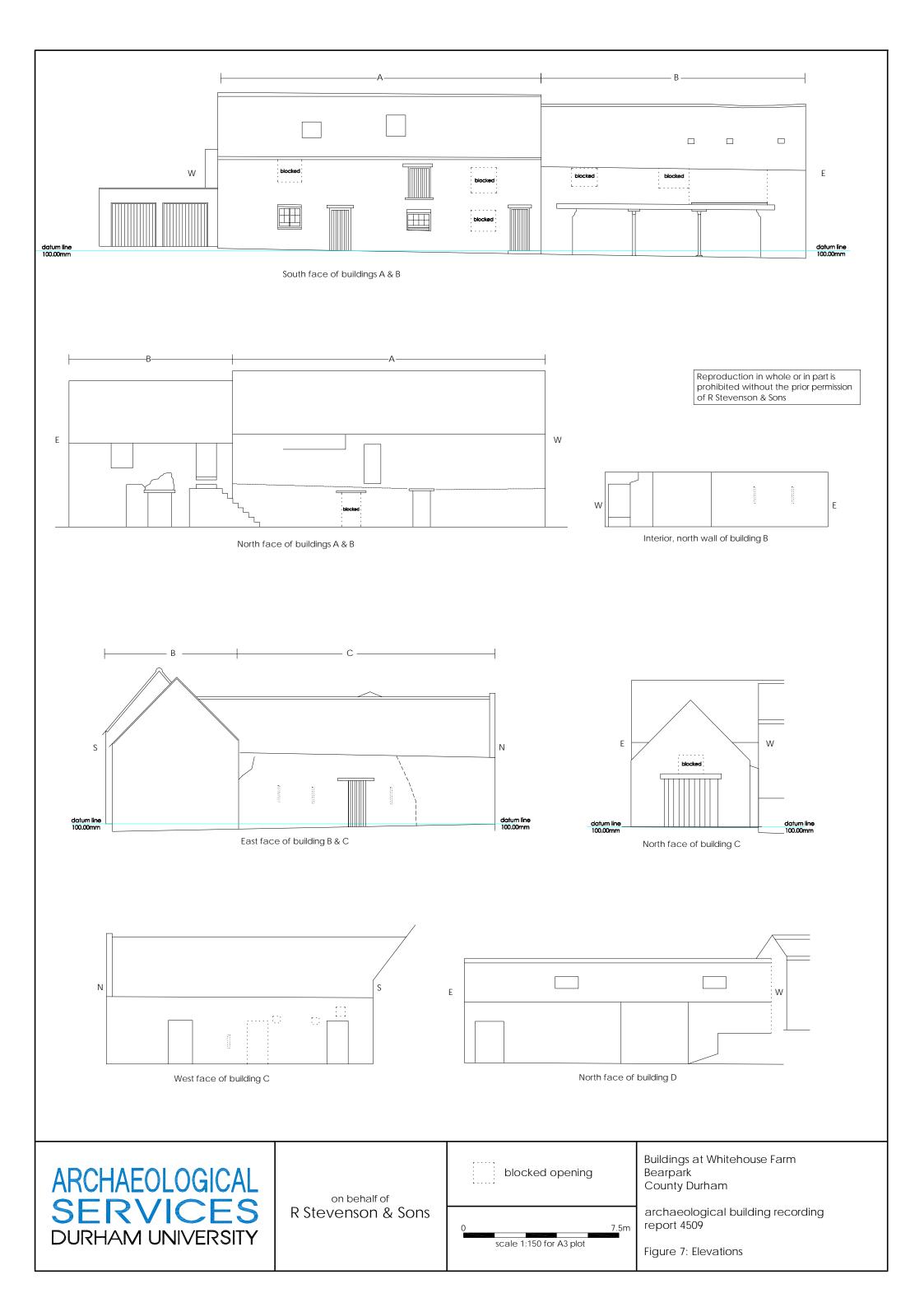
archaeological building recording report 4509

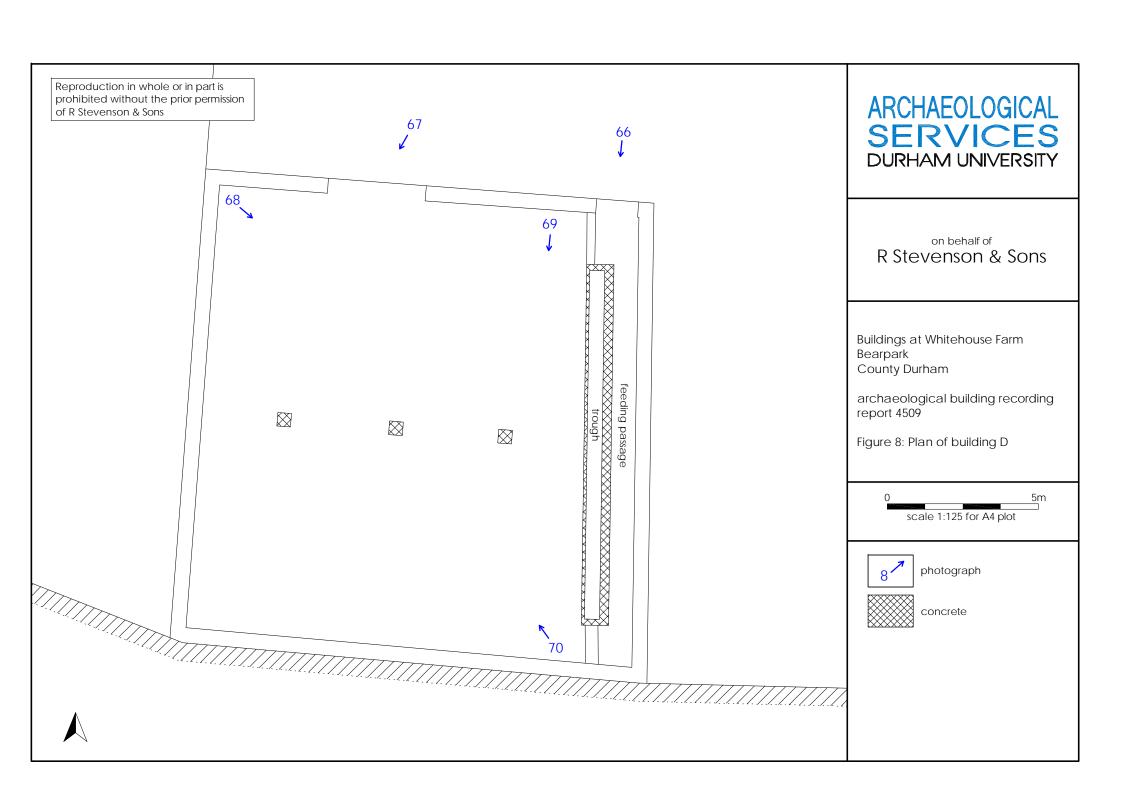
Figure 6: First-floor plan of buildings A-C





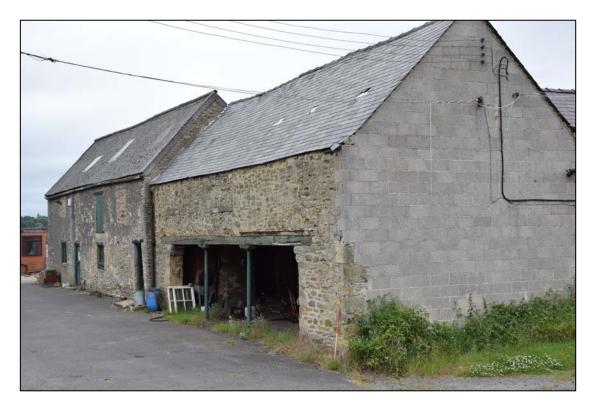








Photograph 1: The old house and the granary / cart shed, buildings A and B, on the north side of the yard. A view looking north-east



Photograph 2: Buildings A and B seen from the south-east



Photograph 3: The rebuilt end of the granary / cart shed B, with the old threshing barn, building C. A view looking north-west



Photograph 4: The north end of the threshing barn and the modern building G that occupies the site of the former stackyard



Photograph 5: The old buildings and the covered yard G, seen from the north-west



Photograph 6: The north face of the hemmel, building D



Photograph 7: South face of the old house; the west end. Although much of the masonry is concealed by mortar, the thinness of the courses can be made out. Note the straight joint, top left, and how the door lintel extends well past the left-hand jamb of the door



Photograph 8: South face of the old house; the centre. The slab course at the foot of the wall shows clearly here. The line of an old window jamb can be seen to the left of the loading door



Photograph 9: South face of the old house; the east end. The appearance of the stonework suggests that the windows were blocked at different times. Note the absence of quoins over most of the junction between the house and the shed to its right



Photograph 10: North face of the old house; the east end, inside building G. The higher floor level in the modern building makes the blocked door (right) look very low. Note the offset in the face left of the first-floor door



Photograph 11: North face of the old house; the middle. The scorched state of the old door at the left can be seen. The dark square at the top of the wall is the end of one of the timbers seen in Photo 29, below

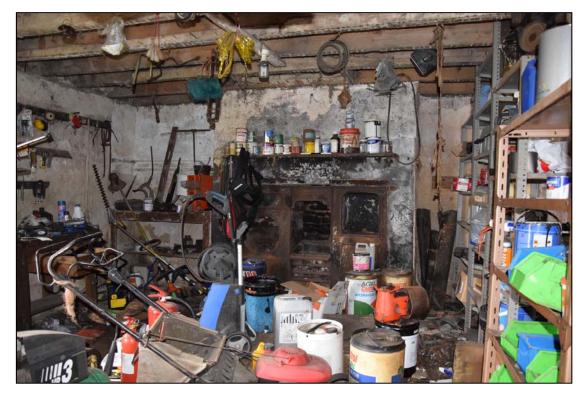


Photograph 12: North face of the old house; the west end. Old angle quoins abut the concrete block wall at the right-hand side. The soot marks are the relic of a fire in the yard, not evidence of flues



Photograph 13 (left): The west end of the house, showing the steep pitch of the roof. The masonry is featureless

Photograph 14 (below): The west room on the ground floor of the house. Now a workshop, this was once a kitchen, as the presence of the old iron range shows





Photograph 15: The open iron range, with its cylindrical oven, is set into the older chamfered stone of surround of the fireplace



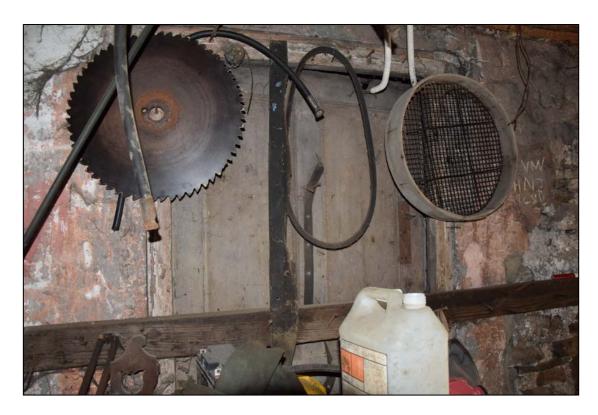
Photograph 16: Maker's plate above the hearth





Photograph 17 (above): The east end of the west room, with doors to the yard (left) and the adjoining room (behind the chest of drawers, centre). The staircase formerly rose steeply across the end wall from right to left, with a timber partition beside it

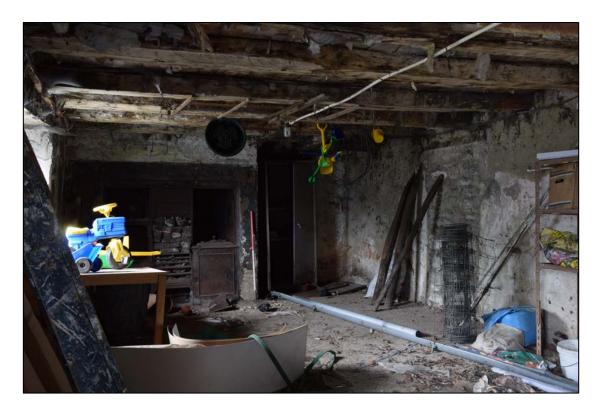
Photograph 18 (left): Detail of the plank door to the yard, shown above



Photograph 19: The internal door has a more domestic panelled construction



Photograph 20: The marks of a lath and plaster ceiling on the joists just inside the door



Photograph 21: The east room has a lower ceiling and old heavy joists. The internal door is hidden by the steel cabinet against the far wall. Note the blocked door at the middle of the right-hand wall, behind the roll of fencing wire



Photograph 22: The kitchen range at the south-west corner of the room. Note the bricks filling a space at the left-hand side of the old fireplace



Photograph 23: Detail of the maker's plate above the blocked hearth



Photograph 24: A view looking east in the eastern room



Photograph 25: The blocked window beside the door, which can just be seen at the left



Photograph 26: Detail of the old joists, seen from the doorway at the east end of the room



Photograph 27: The first floor of the old house is a single room, open to the roof. A view looking west from the granary. Note the step in the floor at the division between the downstairs rooms



Photograph 28: The south wall, showing the loading door, the grey scar of the internal wall and the change in floor level just beyond the old division



Photograph 29 (left): The scar of the internal wall, seen on the north side of the first floor. One of the timbers seen here projects on the other face of the wall (see Photo 11, above)

Photograph 30 (below):
Detail of the step in the floor at the old internal wall. The area of mortar below the step at the left marks the cut-down chimney for the fireplace in the eastern room. The row of short floor boards just above the step fill the gap left by the removal of the old staircase





Photograph 31: The marks of the demolished chimney breast at the west end of the first floor



Photograph 32: Looking east down the length of the first-floor room. Note the pink plaster beyond the line of the internal wall



Photograph 33: This line of brickwork in the east gable may be part of the flue for the chimney seen in Photo 43



Photograph 34: The blocked east window



Photograph 35: The two surviving old roof trusses, showing the pegged purlins and the partially-halved collar joint



Photograph 36: The south face of the cart shed / granary, building B. Note the sills of blocked windows, left and centre, which project slightly from the wall face. A matching window at the right has been replaced by a larger blocked opening



Photograph 37: Detail of the blocked opening at the east end of the granary. The masonry rests on a length of railway line



Photograph 38: The rebuilt east end of building B



Photograph 39: The north-west corner of building B seen from inside the covered yard G



Photograph 40: The centre of the north wall. The projecting masonry between the scale and the door is the inside face of a gin-gang pier



Photograph 41: The north wall of building B, showing the stone stairs seen in Photo 39, the two doors and the window to the granary



Photograph 42: The modern brick building at the west end of the cart shed



Photograph 43: The brick and stone chimney and the door inside the brick building shown in Photo 42. This is the east end of the old house and the west end of the cart shed



Photograph 44: The north wall of the cart shed. The straight joint below a hanging coil of rope, right of the scale, marks the south-west corner of the threshing barn



Photograph 45: Detail of the north wall. The stonework in the curved face of the gin-gang pier beside the door is different from the later wall to its right. The straight joint at the corner of building C is just visible at the right-hand side of this picture



Photograph 46: The south end of building C, inside the cart shed. Note the large rough stones of the footing course



Photograph 47: The granary in building B. A view looking east, towards the rebuilt concrete gable



Photograph 48: Interior of the granary, seen from the south-east corner



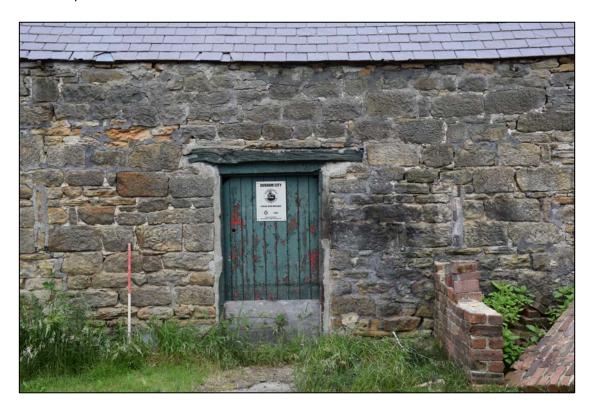
Photograph 49: The west end of the granary. The outline of the gable of an older and lower building can be seen at either side of the door. At the right-hand side, a straight joint shows where the present building was widened



Photograph 50: East face of the threshing barn, building C



Photograph 51: Coursed masonry and large stones in the south end of the barn's east face. Note the pair of blocked breather slits to the left of the scale



Photograph 52: The west door is set in large masonry. The brick piers at the right once supported a diesel tank



Photograph 53: The north end of the east wall, showing the change in the masonry



Photograph 54: The north-east corner of building B. The stonework in the north end is like that of the near end of the north wall, without large coursed blocks



Photograph 55 (left): The north end of the barn, with a blocked loading door above the lintel

Photograph 56 (below): The west face of the barn seen from building G. A view looking east





Photograph 57: The blocked door at the middle of the wall shown above can be seen just left of the concrete column. The horizontal timber links two of three holes in the upper part of the wall here



Photograph 58: A view looking south-east across the site of the former gin-gang. The surviving pier is at the right and two shaft holes near the centre of the picture. There is a third hole immediately above the red door



Photograph 59: Detail of the northern shaft hole, showing the studs for the shaft bearing



Photograph 60: Inside the threshing barn; a view looking south-west. The two doors and the small loft at the south end can be seen



Photograph 61: The blocked east door is at the centre of this view, with the shaft holes above and to the left. A vertical line of bricks just to the right of the band of yellow stones block a breather slit



Photograph 62: The north end of the barn, with the blocked opening above the doors



Photograph 63: Two breather slits in the east wall of the threshing barn, building C



Photograph 64: Blocked breather slits in the south wall



Photograph 65: The loft at the south end of building C, seen from the granary



Photograph 66: This door at the north-west corner of the old hemmel gives access to the feeding passage



Photograph 67: The large north door to the old hemmel. Note the difference between the two jambs of this enlarged opening



Photograph 68: Looking south-east inside the old hemmel. The old stone wall has been raised with brick and blockwork. A concrete trough runs the length of the east wall here



Photograph 69: The south side of the old hemmel. The blockwork piers have steel columns inside them



Photograph 70: A view looking north-west in the old hemmel