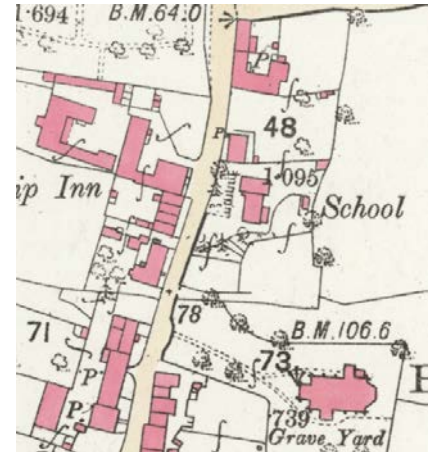


# FORMER SCHOOL ROOM, MAIN STREET, BARDSEA, ULVERSTON, CUMBRIA

Archaeological Building Recording



Client: Mr and Mrs Gorry

NGR: 330080 474616

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December 2022



<b>The Site</b>	
Site Name	Former School Room, Main Street, Bardsea, Ulverston
County	Cumbria
NGR	330080 474616

<b>Client</b>	
Client Name	Mr and Mrs Gorry

<b>Planning</b>	
Previous phase of work?	No
Pre-planning?	No
Planning Application No.	SL/2022/0702
Proposal	Conversion to residential
Condition number	3
Local Planning Authority	South Lakeland District Council
Planning Archaeologist	Jeremy Parsons, Cumbria County Council
Building recording required	Historic England Level 1

<b>Archiving</b>	
Relevant Record Office(s)/Archive Centre(s)	Barrow-in-Furness
Relevant HER	Cumbria County Council

<b>Staffing</b>	
Desk-based assessment	Dan Elsworth and Tom Mace
Building Recording	Dan Elsworth
Report writing	Dan Elsworth
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Illustrations	Tom Mace
Date on site work carried out	9 <sup>th</sup> December 2022

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## Summary

Following the submission of a planning application for the proposed conversion of a former school room, on Main Street, Bardsea, Cumbria, into a domestic dwelling, Greenlane Archaeology was commissioned to carry out an archaeological building recording as a result of a condition on the application. The work was carried out by Greenlane Archaeology in December 2022.

The school room and schoolhouse at Bardsea are known to have been constructed in 1852, replacing an earlier school established in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century that was on the edge of the village. It is recorded as having been extended in 1897 and map evidence shows that this primarily comprised an addition at the southern end. It is not known who the architect for the building was, but it may have been the Webster family, who constructed the nearby church at the same time.

The building recording demonstrated that the original building had been initially enlarged by the addition of an outshut on the east side, before this and the main room was extended to the south. Both internally and externally it retains much of its original form, including an folding partition, although evidence for the extension of the main room is remarkably well hidden.

The building represents an interesting and locally significant structure on account of its architectural style and preservation, although identifying the architect would potentially increase its significance.

## Acknowledgements

Greenlane Archaeology would like to thank Mr and Mrs Gorry for commissioning the project and for providing information about the site. The as existing plans and elevations used for the basis of the figures in this report were produced by Craig and Meyer Architects.

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Circumstances of the Project

1.1.1 The circumstances of the project are set out in the tables on the inside cover of this report.

## 1.2 Location, Geology, and Topography

1.2.1 The village of Bardsea is located on the eastern shore of the Furness Peninsula, facing onto Morecambe Bay, approximately 3km south of Ulverston (Figure 1). The building is situated on the east side of Main Street, which runs through the centre of the village and is at approximately 20m above sea level.

1.2.2 Bardsea is located within the wider Morecambe Bay Limestones area, which is characterised by higher ground dominated by outcropping Carboniferous Limestone and lower valleys covered by glacially derived boulder clay (Countryside Commission 1998, 71-72). The resulting landscape is largely used for grazing animals, with rough pasture bounded by stone walls and hedges a common feature (*ibid*, 73).

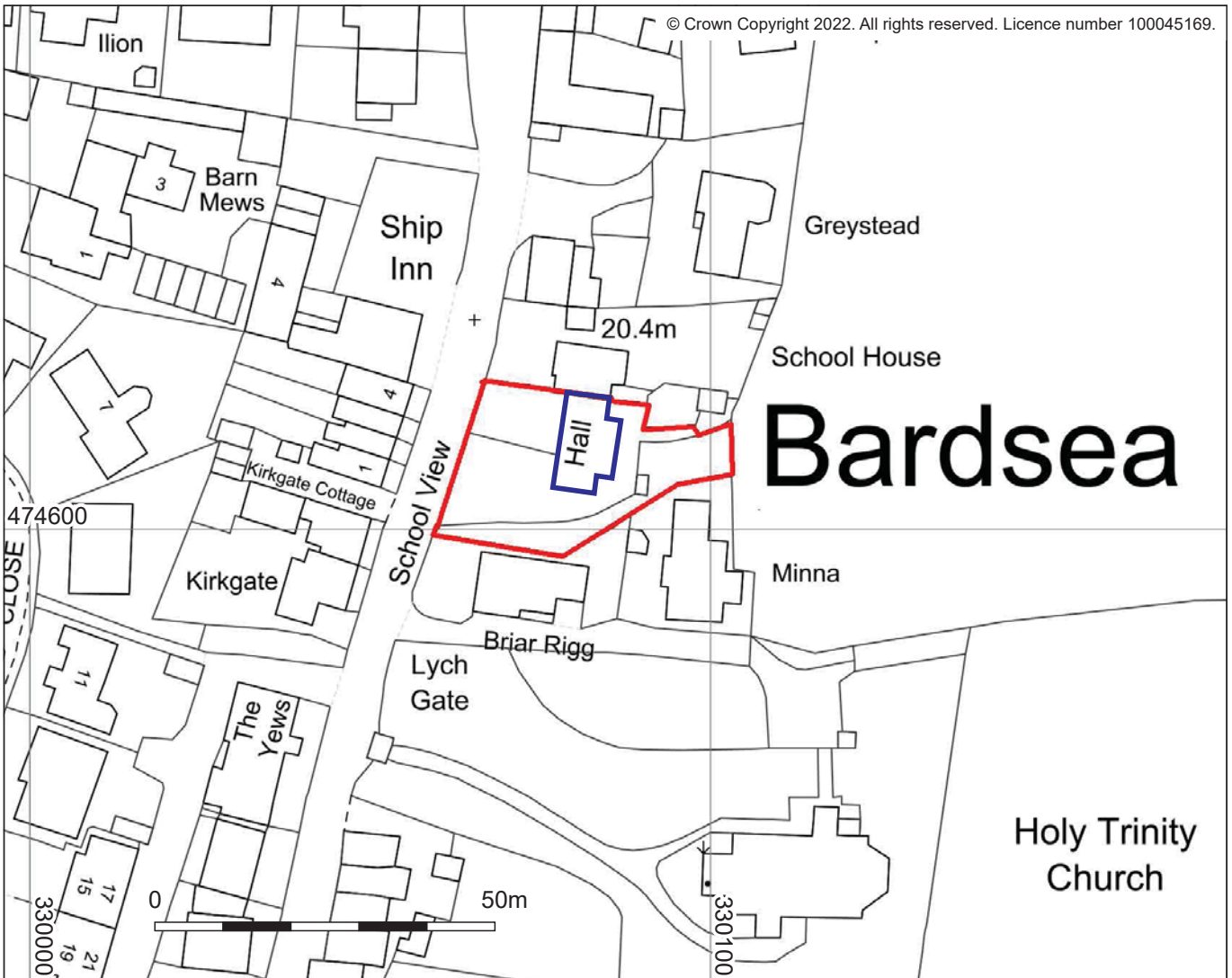
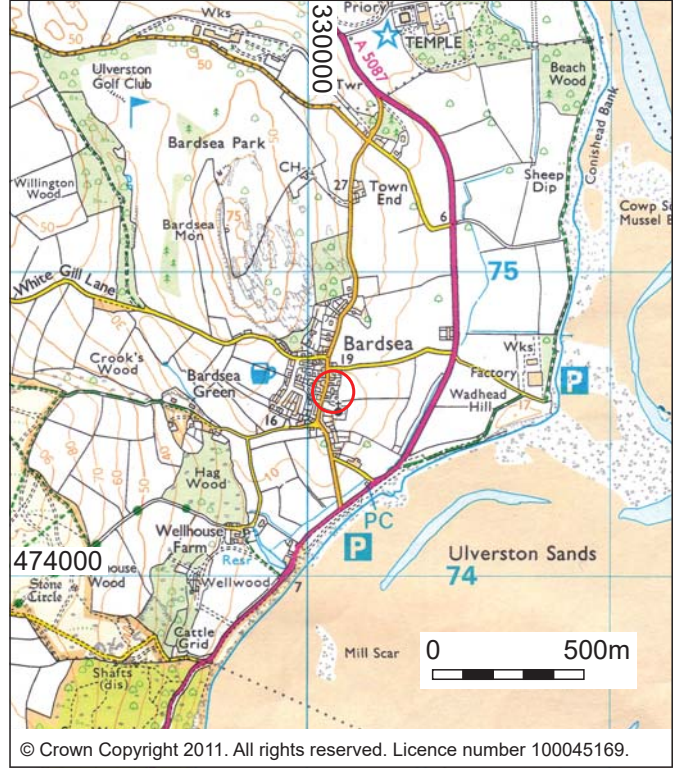
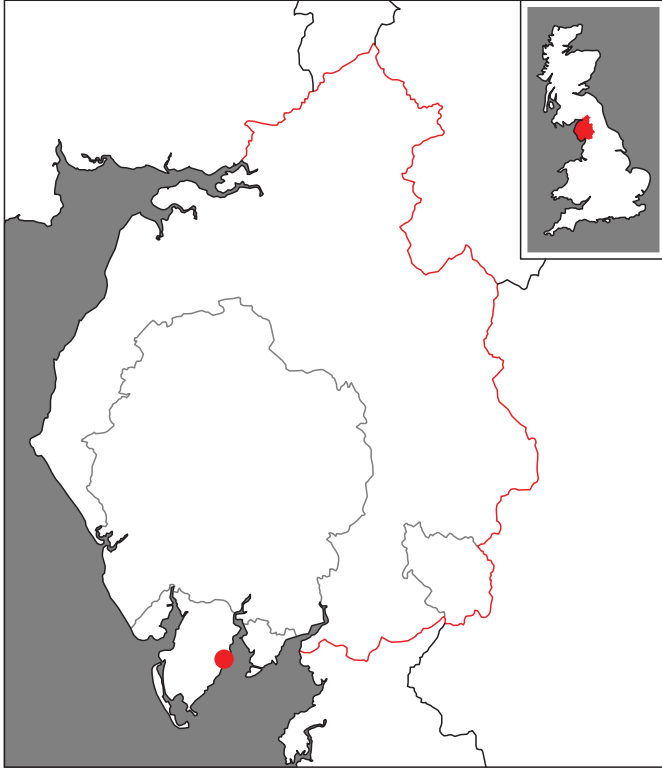


Figure 1: Site location

Client: Mr and Mrs Gorry

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## 2. Methodology

### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological building recording is intended to provide a suitable record of the structure equivalent to Level 1 survey as defined by Historic England (Historic England 2016). The building recording was carried out according to the guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a; 2014b). A suitable archive has also been compiled to provide a permanent paper record of the project and its results, also in accordance with CIfA guidelines (CIfA 2014c).

### 2.2 Desk-Based Assessment

2.2.1 A brief desk-based assessment was carried out in order to provide some background information about the site. The desk-based assessment was carried out in accordance with the guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014b). This principally comprised an examination of early maps of the site and published secondary sources. A number of sources of information were used during the compilation of the desk-based assessment:

- **Record Office/Archive Centre:** the majority of original and secondary sources relating to the site are deposited in the relevant Record Office(s) or Archive Centre(s), as specified in the cover sheet of this report. Original documents were not consulted but reference is made to them where relevant;
- **Online Resources:** where available, mapping such as Ordnance Survey maps and relevant published sources were consulted online;
- **Secondary and primary sources:** a range of published secondary sources was consulted relating to the history of the property. In addition, a number of primary sources, principally old photographs of the building, were provided by the client and have been reproduced in this report;
- **Greenlane Archaeology:** Greenlane Archaeology's office library includes maps, local histories, and unpublished primary and secondary sources. These were consulted where relevant, in order to provide information about the history and archaeology of the site and the general area.

### 2.3 Building Recording

2.3.1 The building recording was carried out to Historic England Level 1 type standards (Historic England 2016), which provides a relatively brief record of the building. The recording comprised the following elements:

- **Written record:** descriptive records of all parts of the building were made using Greenlane Archaeology *pro forma* record sheets;
- **Photographs:** photographs in colour digital format (as both 12meg jpegs and RAW files) were taken of the main features of the building, its general surroundings, and any features of architectural or archaeological interest. A selection of the colour digital photographs is included in this report, and the remaining photographs are in the project archive;
- **Drawings:** 'as existing' architect's drawings were provided by the client. Plans and elevations were printed out at a scale of 1:100 and the cross-section printed at a scale of 1:50 and these were annotated with additional detail on site by hand.

### 2.4 Archive

2.4.1 The archive of the project will be deposited with the relevant Record Office or Archive Centre, as detailed on the cover sheet of this report, together with a copy of the report. The archive has been compiled according to the standards and guidelines of the CIfA guidelines (CIfA 2014b). In addition, details will be submitted to the Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS (OASIS) scheme. This is an internet-based project intended to improve the flow of information between contractors, local authority heritage managers and the general public. A copy of the report will be

provided to the client and a digital copy of the report will be provided for the relevant Historic Environment Record, as detailed on the cover sheet of this report.

### 3. Results

#### 3.1 Map Regression

3.1.1 **Tithe Map, 1849:** this is the earliest detailed map of the area but it shows the site before the school was built. At this time the land was listed as plot 102 and was connected to the adjoining property to the south, plot 100, both of which were owned by 'Thomas Petty, late TRG Braddyll Esquire' (of Conishead Priory) and occupied by Elizabeth Park (Plate 1). Plot 102 is described as 'parrock'.

3.1.2 **Ordnance Survey, 1850:** this is the first Ordnance Survey map at a useful scale, surveyed in 1846-47. It shows a similar arrangement to the earlier tithe map, with the site just open land prior to the building of the school room (Plate 2).



Plate 1 (left): Extract from the tithe map of 1849 showing the location of the site

Plate 2 (right): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1850 showing the location of the site

3.1.3 **Photograph, late 19<sup>th</sup> century:** a photograph exists of the schoolhouse and school room sometime after they were built but before the latter was later extended (Plate 3). Although not dated the map and historical evidence shows that it must post-date 1852 and pre-date the extension of 1897 (see Section 3.2.2 below).

3.1.4 **Ordnance Survey, 1891:** this is the first Ordnance Survey map at this scale and by this time the schoolhouse and school room have both been built. The school room has not reached its full size, but the outshut on the east side has also been constructed by this time, as well as a detached outbuilding to the east (Plate 4).

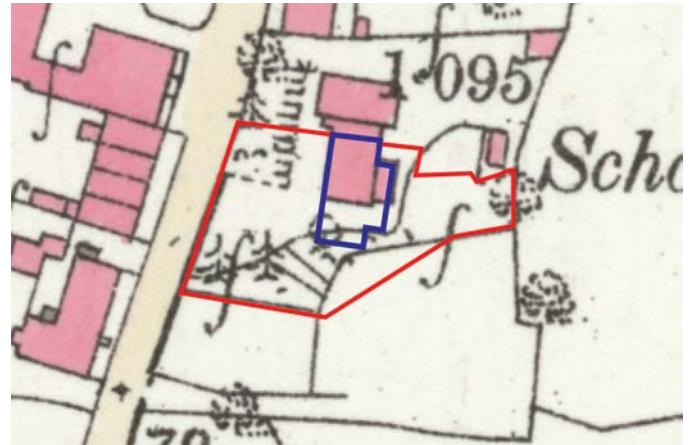


Plate 3 (left): Late 19<sup>th</sup> century photograph of the schoolhouse and school room (provided by Jennifer Foote)

Plate 4 (right): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1891 showing the site

3.1.5 **Photograph, late 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> century:** a second photograph of the building shows it after it was extended in 1897 (Plate 5) and essentially with its current arrangement.

3.1.6 **Ordnance Survey, 1913:** this shows that the school room has been enlarged to the south by this time and a further outbuilding to the east has been constructed (Plate 6).



Plate 5 (left): Late 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> century photograph of the schoolhouse and school room (provided by Jennifer Foote)

Plate 6 (right): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1913 showing the site

3.1.7 **Ordnance Survey, 1939:** this shows essentially the same arrangement at this time, although one of the two outbuildings to the east is no longer present (Plate 7).

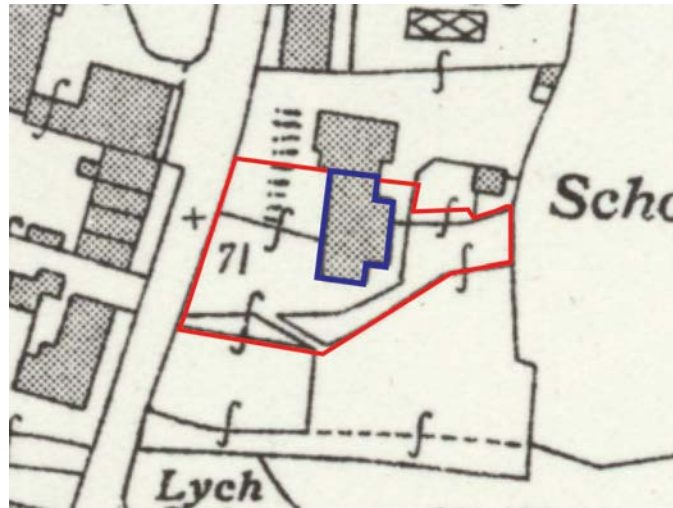


Plate 7: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1939, showing the site

## 3.2 Site History

3.2.1 **Early history:** the tithe map shows that by 1849 the land belonged to Thomas Petty, having previously belonged to TRG Braddyll of Conishead Priory. It was evidently part of an adjoining property to the south at this time and presumably formed part of the ancient properties in Bardsea. An endowed school existed in Bardsea from at least 1781 (Winchester 2016, 301), but this was located at the Green at Bardsea (CAC(B) BDSO 44/2 1779).

3.2.2 **The Schoolhouse and School Room:** the school room formed part of a larger structure with the adjoining schoolhouse to the north, which are recorded in several near contemporary sources as having been constructed in 1852 and 'endowed by the late Colonel Braddyll and the Rev. T.E. Petty' (Mannex 1882, 275; it has been, presumably incorrectly, stated that it was built in 1851; Winchester 2016, 301). It was later extended, in 1897 (Winchester 2016, 301; although tenders for the building work were issued in 1894; Anon 1894) and said to have been attended by 42 children in c1912 (Bulmer c1912, 419). It closed as a school in c1927 (Winchester 2016, 301).

## 4. Building Recording

### 4.1 Arrangement and Fabric

4.1.1 **Arrangement:** the building comprises a simple block orientated north/south; the north end attached to the former schoolhouse (Plate 8). It is essentially of a single storey but with a high roof. The east side is extended by a single-storey monopitch outshut of three rooms and there is a detached outbuilding immediately to the south-east. There is an upper floor dormer window on the east side projecting over the outshut.



**Plate 8 (left): General view of the building, from the south-west**

**Plate 9 (right): Complete ventilator on the north side of the roof, viewed from the south-west**

4.1.2 **Fabric:** externally it is all finished with rock-faced limestone laid in irregular courses but with detailing such as the window and door surrounds in dressed limestone. The roof is grey slate in diminishing courses with stone ridge tiles and two ventilators (the north one complete; Plate 9), plus a small square flue of concrete(?) block on the north end of the east side and a large projecting stone chimney on the west side. Internally, it is all well-finished with well finished timber and plaster with the roof trusses exposed.

### 4.2 External Detail

4.2.1 **West external elevation:** this has a row of three windows each comprising two pairs of mullion casements with two-light upvc casements (Plate 10 and Plate 11). There is a chamfered plinth and projecting stone eaves with a scrolled kneelers at the south end supporting the coping. North of the centre is the projecting tiered chimney with ashlar quoins (Plate 12) and there is a small iron vent on the wall at the south end.



Plate 10 (left): General view of the west external elevation, viewed from the west



Plate 11 (right): The south end of the west external elevation, viewed from the west



Plate 12: Projecting chimney at the north end of the west external elevation, viewed from the south-west



Plate 13: The south external elevation, viewed from the south-west

4.2.2 **South external elevation:** this is the gable end, with the coping across the roof supported on scrolled kneelers and with dressed quoins (Plate 13). The centre is dominated by a large central stepped mullion and transome window of 20 lights with UPVC casements. There is a single iron loop for a flag pole attached above and below the window.

4.2.3 **East external elevation:** this has a projecting section on the south side for perhaps a second tiered chimney, now not extending beyond the eaves, plus a small iron vent on the south side within this (Plate 14). The rest is largely covered by the low outshut, which has a doorway in the south elevation with modern tongue and groove plank door a stone lintel, although this is actually just cladding over an iron I-beam (Plate 15). It has an early iron boot scraper to the east of the door (Plate 16). There are two windows to the north, both single light and modern casements. The lower part below the north one is

infilled. The remains of a gate post is attached to the wall to the north, the north end of the outshut has a two-light hinged UPVC casement (Plate 17), and there is another window in the main elevation to the north with four two-light mullions with UPVC casements (Plate 18). The dormer window over the outshut is of timber construction with diagonal plank cladding in the upper part around a blocked(?) two light window, with an extant eight-light window below with a UPVC casement (Plate 19).



**Plate 14 (left):** The projecting section at the south end of the east external elevation, viewed from the east

**Plate 15 (right):** The south end of the outshut against the east external elevation, viewed from the south



**Plate 16 (left):** The boot scraper against the south side of the outshut against the east external elevation, viewed from west

**Plate 17 (right):** The outshut against the east external elevation, viewed from the south-east

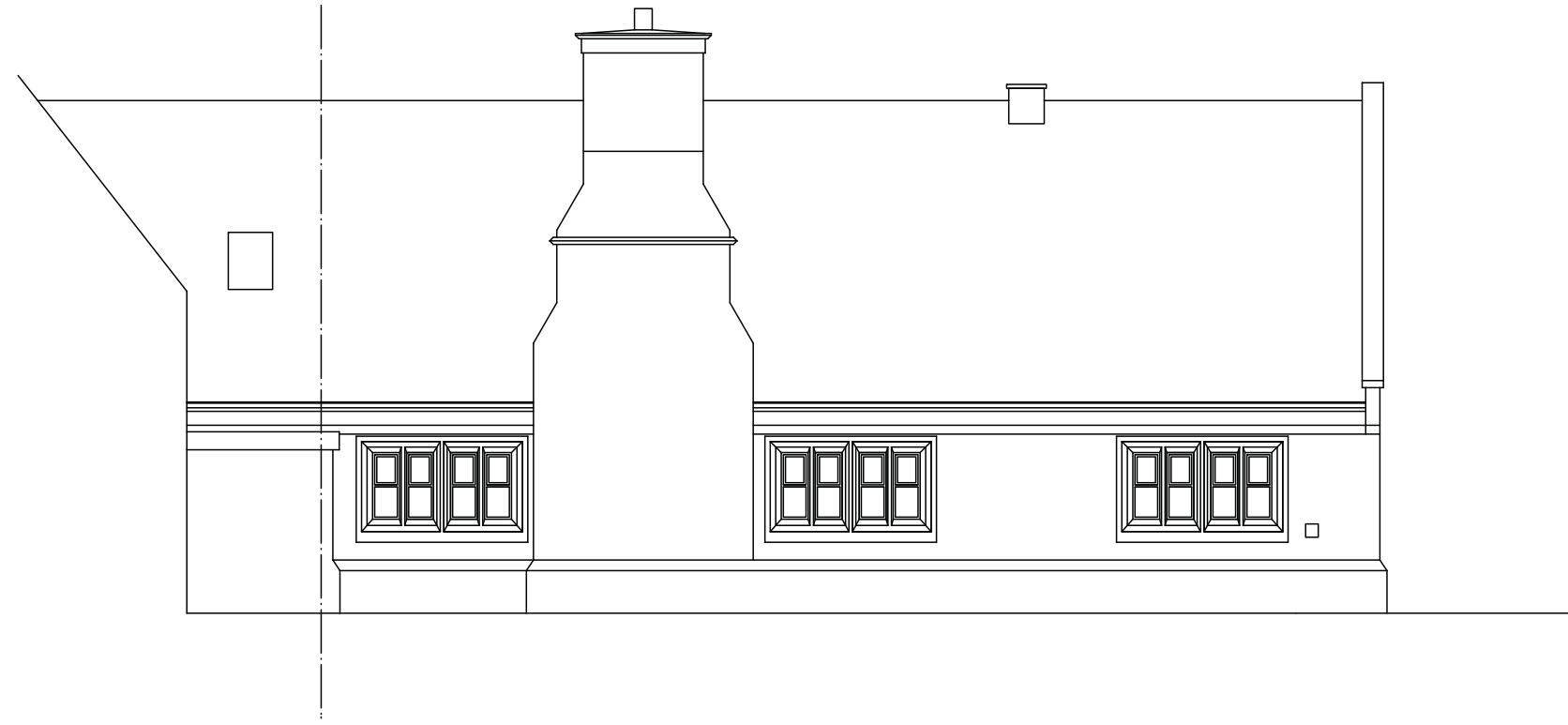




**Plate 18 (left): The windows at the north end of the east external elevation, viewed from the east**

**Plate 19 (right): The dormer window on the east external elevation, viewed from the south-east**

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WEST EXTERNAL ELEVATION



SOUTH EXTERNAL ELEVATION



EAST EXTERNAL ELEVATION

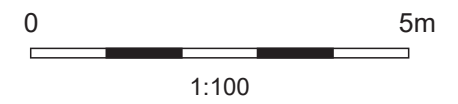


Figure 2: External elevations

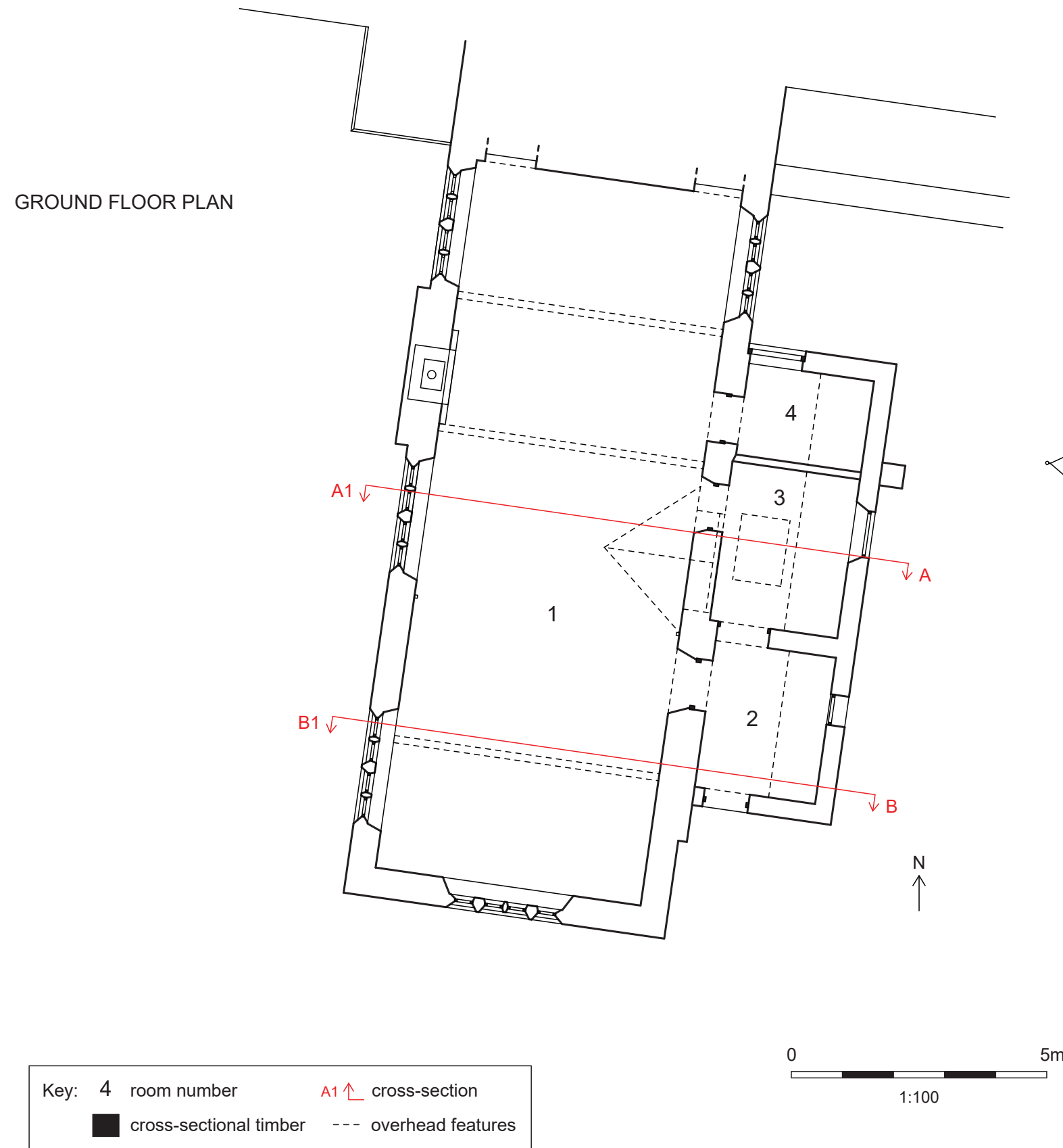
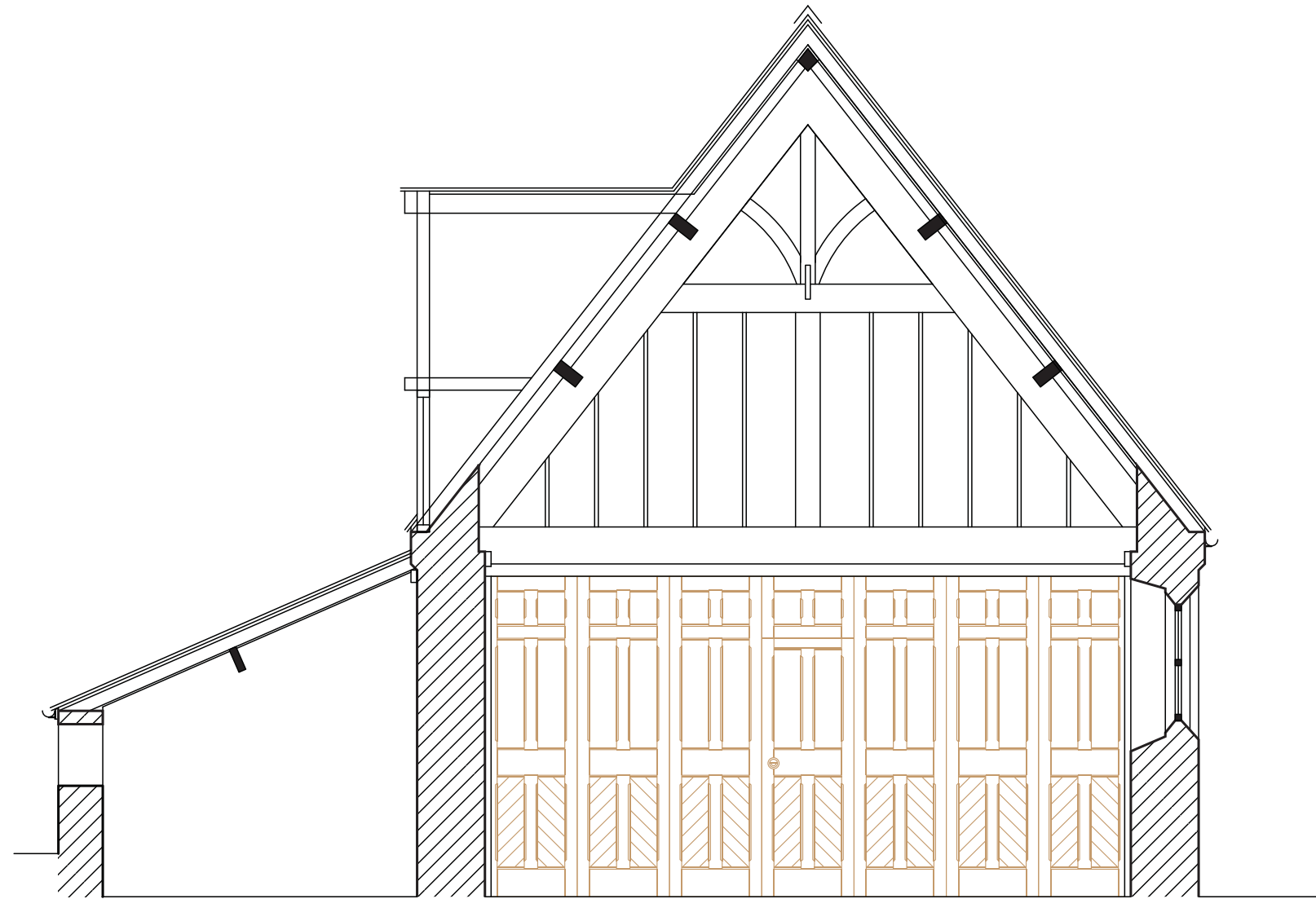


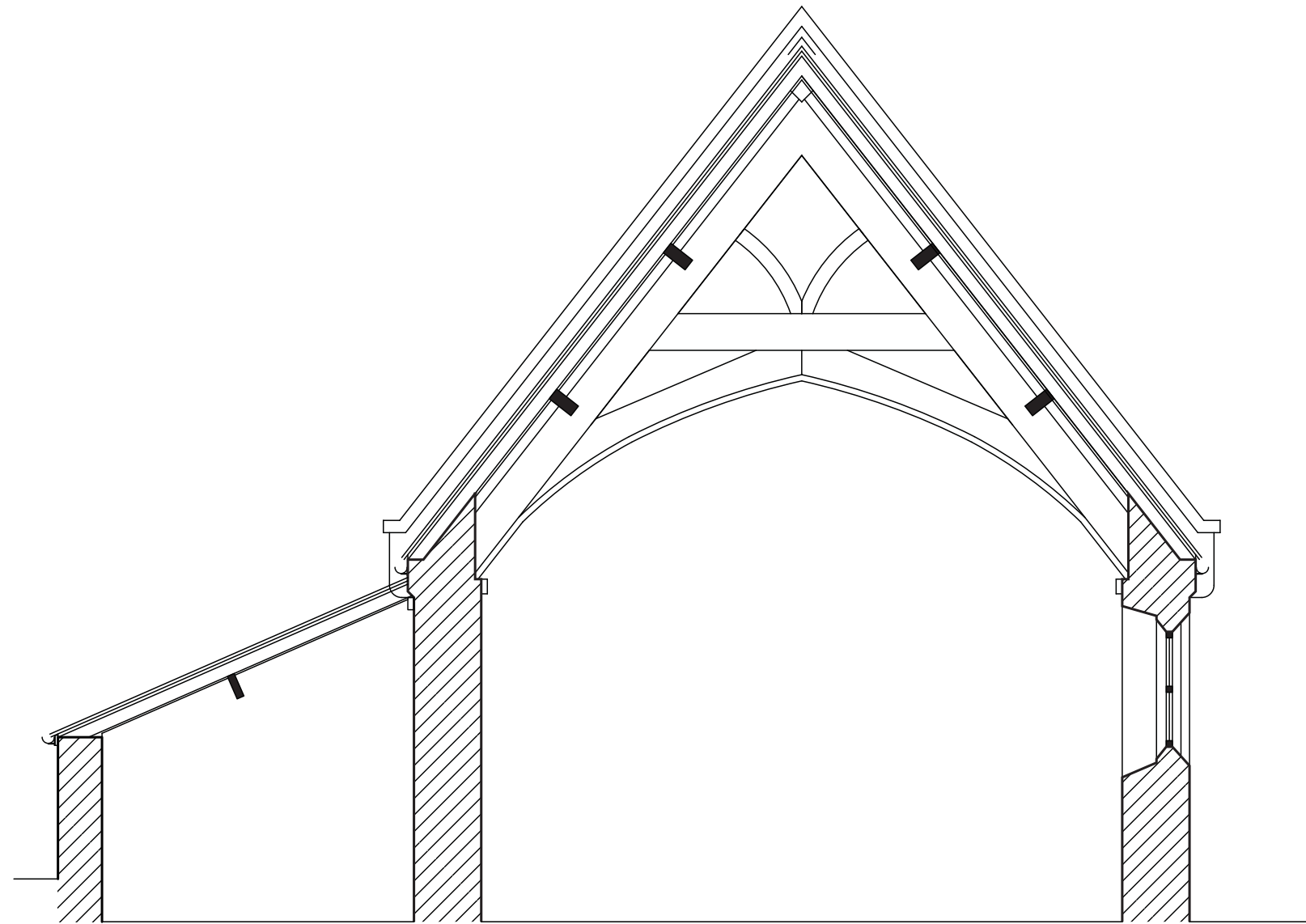
Figure 3: Ground floor plan





CROSS-SECTION A-A1

Key: — partition    ▨ cross-sectional wall    ■ cross-sectional timber

0 2.5m  
1:50



CROSS-SECTION B-B1

Key:  cross-sectional wall  cross-sectional timber

0  2.5m  
1:50

Figure 5: Cross-section B-B1

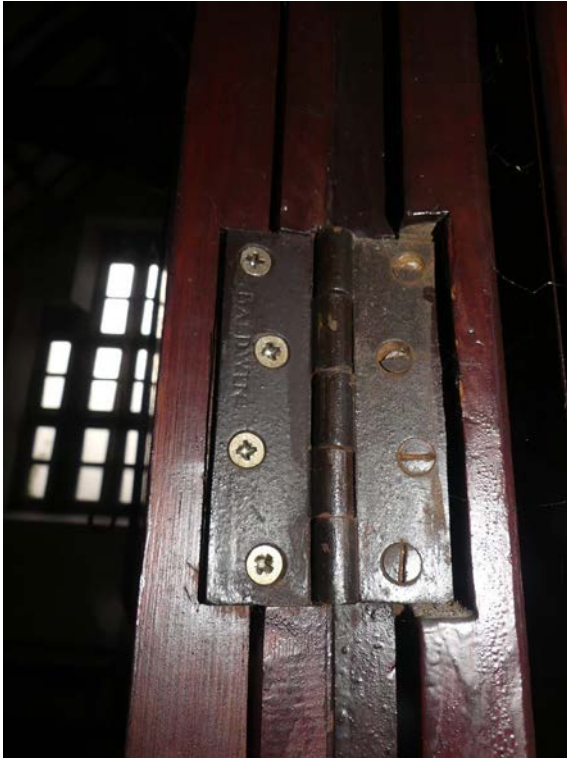
### 4.3 Internal Detail

4.3.1 **Ground Floor Room 1 (G1):** this comprises the main school room. The floor is narrow tongue and groove boards, narrower at the south end beyond an iron guide rail set into the floor for the folding partition. This is constructed from six four-panel sections plus a doorway with two glazed panels (Plate 20 and Plate 21); the hinges are stamped 'BALDWIN' (Plate 22). This is set below a glazed section within one of the trusses, which comprises a tie beam and collar with king post above and curved queen braces, with an iron strap up the centre (Plate 23). There is another truss south and two more to the north, all in the same style with curved brackets below the tie beam (Plate 24). There are two purlins per pitch and a diagonally-set ridge purlin plus all the rafters are exposed and extend as vertical bars on the tops of the east and west walls. The walls are all finished with plaster and paint. The north elevation has a pair of alcoves, one on either side, perhaps originally doorways into the school house, and there is a cupboard set into the west plus other cupboards set against the wall against tongue and groove panelling over the lower part (Plate 25). The east elevation has a window on the north side with a shallow arch and splayed jambs and sill, and south of this are three doorways, the north with a modern plywood door and the other two with original plank doors with stop chamfered diagonal battens and large elaborate handles (Plate 26); the northern of these also has decorative hinges (Plate 27). The dormer window of timber construction rises above the centre of this elevation (Plate 28). The south elevation is plain apart from the tall stepped window, which has splayed jambs (Plate 29). The west elevation has three windows with shallow arched tops and splayed jambs and sills (Plate 30). North of the centre is a fireplace with a dressed limestone surround in a Gothic style with chamfered decoration (Plate 31). The hearth is raised and finished with orange tiles and supports a wood burning stove.



**Plate 20 (left):** The west side of the folding partition in Room G1, viewed from the east

**Plate 21 (right):** The east side of the folding partition in Room G1, viewed from the west



**Plate 22 (left): The marked hinge in the dividing partition Room G1, viewed from the east**



**Plate 23 (right): The top of the dividing partition in Room G1, viewed from the south**



**Plate 24 (left): Trusses at the north end of Room G1, viewed from the south**



**Plate 25 (right): The north end of Room G1, viewed from the south**





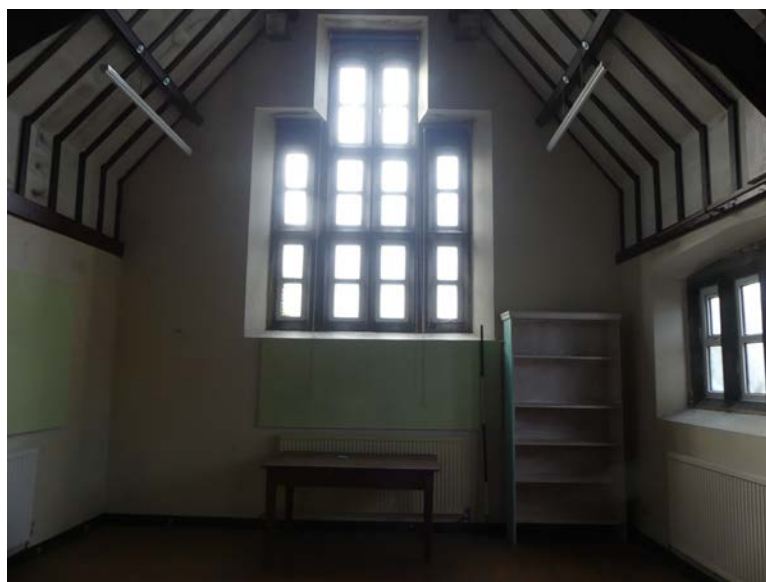
**Plate 26 (left):** Doors in the east elevation of Room G1, viewed from the west



**Plate 27 (right):** Detail of doorway with decorative hinges in the east elevation of Room G1, viewed from the west



**Plate 28 (left):** Dormer window in the centre of the east elevation of Room G1, viewed from the west



**Plate 29 (right):** The south elevation of Room G1, viewed from the north



**Plate 30 (left): The west elevation of Room G1, viewed from north-east**

**Plate 31 (right): The fireplace in the west elevation of Room G1, viewed from the east**

**4.3.2 Ground Floor Room 2 (G2):** this forms a small porch and boiler room. It has a stone flag floor and a monopitch roof with a single purlin north/south. The west wall is exposed stone, with an evident butt joint on the north side (Plate 33), but the rest are plastered. There is a doorway to the south (Plate 32), one to the north and one to the west (Plate 33), all of which have plank and batten doors, the north and west are original. There is a single small window to the east with a UPVC casement.



**Plate 32 (left): Doorway to the south in Room G2, viewed from the north**

**Plate 33 (right): Doorways to the north and west in Room G2, viewed from the south-east**

**4.3.3 Ground Floor Room 3 (G3):** this now comprises a small kitchen with a modern tiled floor and modern finish throughout. The ceiling is monopitch with a single purlin north/south. There are attached kitchen units on all but the west side (Plate 34) and the walls are otherwise plastered except for the west elevation, which is exposed rock-faced stone. There is doorway to the west with a chamfered stone

surround (Plate 35) and another doorway to the south, both of which have original plank and batten doors with stop chamfered decoration. There is a window to the east with a single light UPVC casement.



Plate 34 (left): General view of Room G3 showing the north and east sides, viewed from the south-west

Plate 35 (right): The doorway to the west in Room G3, viewed from the east

4.3.4 **Ground Floor Room 4 (G4):** this forms an accessible toilet, with a tiled floor and walls and monopitch ceiling with a single north/south purlin. There is a window to the north with a two-light UPVC casement and a doorway to the west with a modern panel door (Plate 36).



Plate 36: The north and west sides of Room G4, viewed from the south-east

## 5. Discussion

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The documentary evidence shows that the school room, and schoolhouse, were built in 1852 and enlarged in 1897. The map evidence shows that it was enlarged by the addition of an extension to the south and also that the outshut on the east side was enlarged at the same time. The building recording revealed a number of additional details about the manner in which the building developed.

### 5.2 Phasing

5.2.1 **Phase 1 (1852):** it is apparent that the original school room and schoolhouse to the north were built in 1852. They were constructed in a broadly Gothic style, utilising local limestone, dressed to a high standard, and imitating archaic forms of construction such as mullion windows. The architect is unknown but it is entirely in keeping with the work of the Websters of Kendal, who are known to have constructed the nearby church in Bardsea between 1843 and 1853 (Martin 2004, 137) and they carried out a considerable amount of other work in the area at this time.

5.2.2 **Phase 2 (late 19<sup>th</sup> century):** it is apparent from the building recording that at least the southern end of the outshut on the east side is a later addition. The exposed rock-faced stone in the west side of Rooms G2 and G3 suggests that this was originally external and so this was presumably added after 1852 but before 1889.

5.2.3 **Phase 3 (1897):** the map evidence shows that the structure was extended to the south between 1891 and 1910 and this is evidently the extension recorded elsewhere as taking place in 1897. The outshut to the east was also evidently extended at this time. Remarkably, there is little obvious evidence for this extension within the building itself, with the exception of a butt joint visible in the west wall of Room G2 and the change in the floorboards at the same point. This suggests that the same group of masons/builders were used as originally constructed the building in 1852. The folding partition wall was presumably added in this phase, replacing what had originally been the end wall of the building.

5.2.4 **Phase 4 (20<sup>th</sup> century):** the building has seen some considerable modernisation in recent years, principally including the creation of a kitchen and toilet. In addition, if there had been doorways in the north end of the main school room (G1) connecting with the school house, then these were presumably also blocked at this time.

### 5.3 Significance

5.3.1 The building represents a relatively well-preserved, albeit enlarged and modernised, example of a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century school room. In the absence of any certainty about who the architect was it is difficult to consider how significant it might otherwise be.

### 5.5 Conclusion

5.5.1 The building recording has provided a useful account of the structure as it now is, and allowed the compilation of documentary information relating to its history. The building is an interesting element of Bardsea's history and further research may yet elucidate other elements of its development such as the name of the architect.

## 6. Bibliography

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