

# FORD BYRE, THE SQUARE, CARTMEL, CUMBRIA

## Archaeological Building Recording



Client: Mr and Mrs Mitchell

Planning application ref.:  
SL/2015/0354

NGR: 337871 478745

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August 2015



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## Contents

Non-Technical Summary .....	3
Acknowledgements .....	3
1. Introduction .....	4
2. Methodology .....	6
3. Desk-Based Assessment.....	8
4. Building Recording.....	14
5. Discussion.....	27
6. Bibliography .....	28

## Illustrations

### List of Figures

Figure 1: Site location .....	5
Figure 2: North and east external elevations .....	18
Figure 3: South and west external elevations.....	19
Figure 4: Ground floor plan.....	25
Figure 5: Cross-section A-A1.....	26

### List of Plates

Plate 1 (left): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1851.....	8
Plate 2 (right): Extract from Ffoliott's map of Cartmel from 1854 .....	8
Plate 3 (left): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1890.....	9
Plate 4 (right): A view of the building from 1900 (from Richardson (ed) 1900) .....	9
Plate 5 (left): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1913.....	9
Plate 6: (right): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1933.....	9
Plate 7 (left): North and east external elevations.....	14
Plate 8 (right): Small doorway at the east end of the north external elevation .....	14
Plate 9 (left): Panel door on the north external elevation .....	15
Plate 10 (right): West end of the north external elevation .....	15
Plate 11 (left): West end of the south external elevation .....	16
Plate 12 (right): Central section and east end of the south external elevation .....	16
Plate 13 (left): Wide doorway in the centre of the south external elevation .....	16
Plate 14 (right): The east end of the south external elevation .....	16
Plate 15: West external elevation .....	17
Plate 16 (left): Floor in Room 1 .....	20
Plate 17 (right): Timber plank wall in Room 1.....	20
Plate 18 (left): Half truss in Room 1 .....	21
Plate 19 (right): North internal elevation of Room 1 .....	21
Plate 20: South internal elevation of Room 1 .....	21

Plate 21 (left): Floor of Room 2.....	22
Plate 22 (right): Roof of Room 2 .....	22
Plate 23 (left): North internal elevation of Room 2.....	22
Plate 24 (right): Door to the east side of the north internal elevation of Room 2.....	22
Plate 25 (left): Hinge detail on the door to the east side of the north internal elevation of Room 2 .....	23
Plate 26 (right): East internal elevation of Room 2 .....	23
Plate 27 (left): Detail of the door in the east internal elevation of Room 2 .....	23
Plate 28 (right): South internal elevation of Room 2.....	23
Plate 29 (left): Double plank and batten door on the north side of the west internal elevation of Room 2 .....	24
Plate 30 (right): West internal elevation of Room 2 .....	24
Plate 31: Window at high level in the centre of the west internal elevation of Room 2 .....	24

## Non-Technical Summary

An archaeological building recording was set as a condition on the decision notice following the submission of a planning application for the conversion of the redundant Ford Byre, The Square, Cartmel, into a dwelling. In response to this Greenlane Archaeology produced a project design and the onsite recording was carried out on the 28<sup>th</sup> July 2015.

The site appears to have seen some development before the early 19<sup>th</sup> century as a building apparently on a different footprint is shown on the earliest available mapping, but the extant building does not appear to have been constructed until between 1854 and 1889. It initially formed the east end of a longer east-north-east/west-south-west aligned building, which was foreshortened between 1913 and 1933, the west end of which now forms part of the north boundary wall. No documentary sources were available to elucidate the original purpose of the building.

The building recording demonstrated that the earliest surviving element is the central section and the truncated walls to the west; the fragmentary nature of the remains make assigning a function difficult but it does not appear to have been purely agricultural, nor was it domestic. It perhaps had a more functional use as a small workshop or slaughterhouse. The east end is clearly a later monopitch extension, although the map evidence shows that it too was built between 1854 and 1889. Certain features within it suggest that this addition did serve as a slaughterhouse. During the 20<sup>th</sup> century the building was shortened at the west end and then further parts of the south and west wall were removed leaving the present structure.

The site is of interest because it appears to have been essentially a small scale industrial building, rather than purely agricultural, although if it was a slaughterhouse, which seems likely, then it probably operated in conjunction with a local farm.

## Acknowledgements

Greenlane Archaeology would like to thank Mr and Mrs Mitchell for commissioning the project and for providing access to the building. Further thanks are due to John Coward Architects Limited for providing the 'as existing' survey drawings.

The building recording was carried out by Dan Elsworth, who also wrote this report with assistance from Tom Mace. The illustrations were produced by Tom Mace and the report was edited by Jo Dawson. Dan Elsworth managed the project.

# 1. Introduction

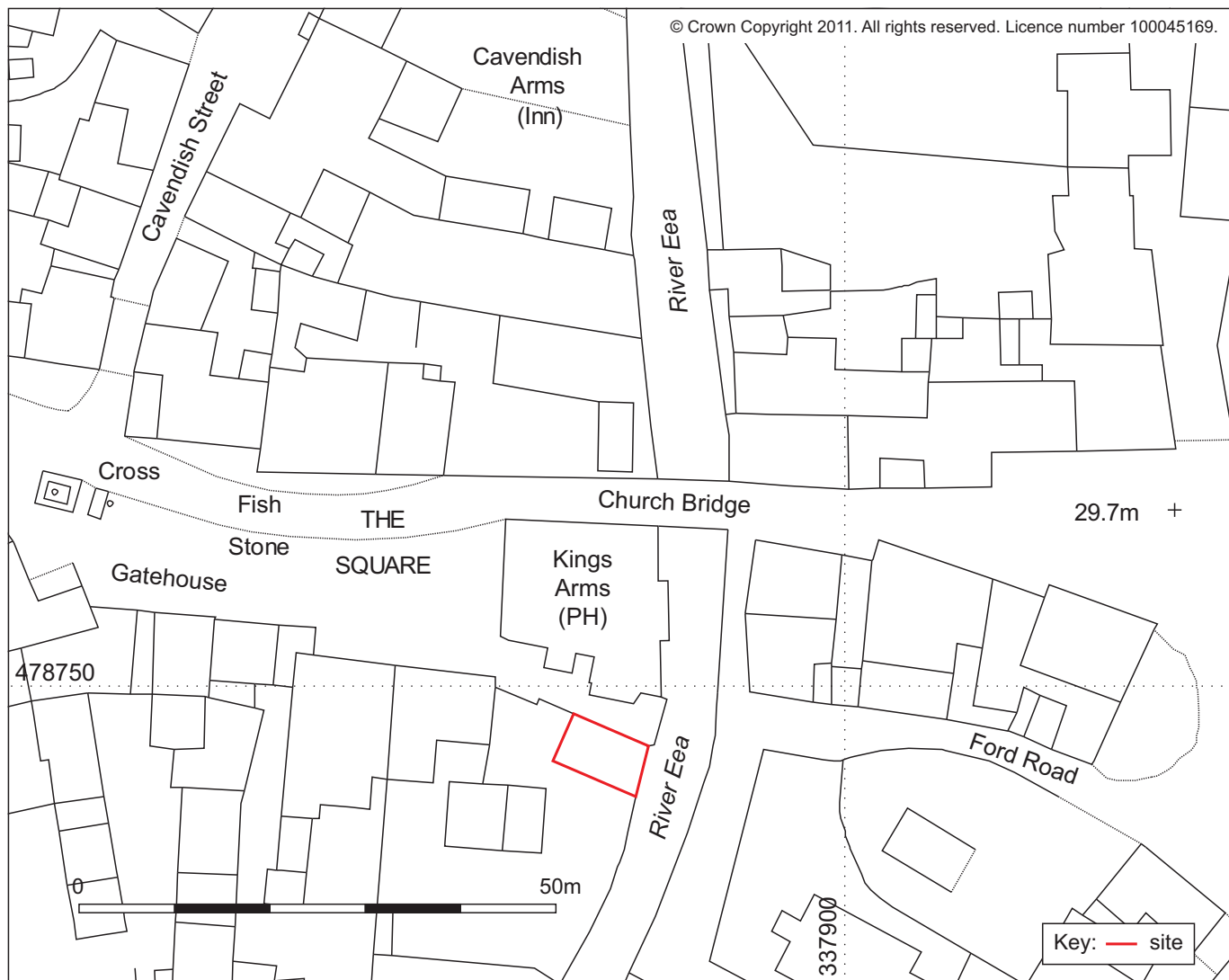
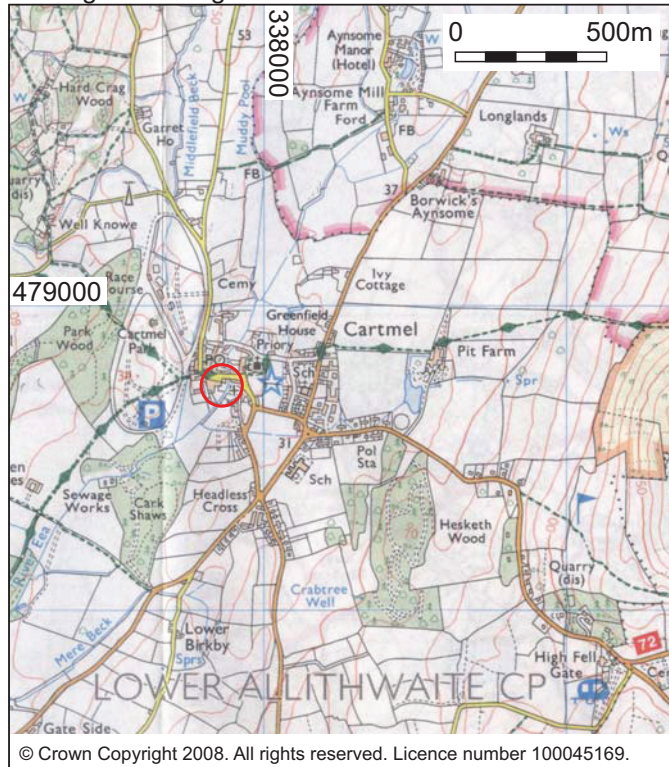
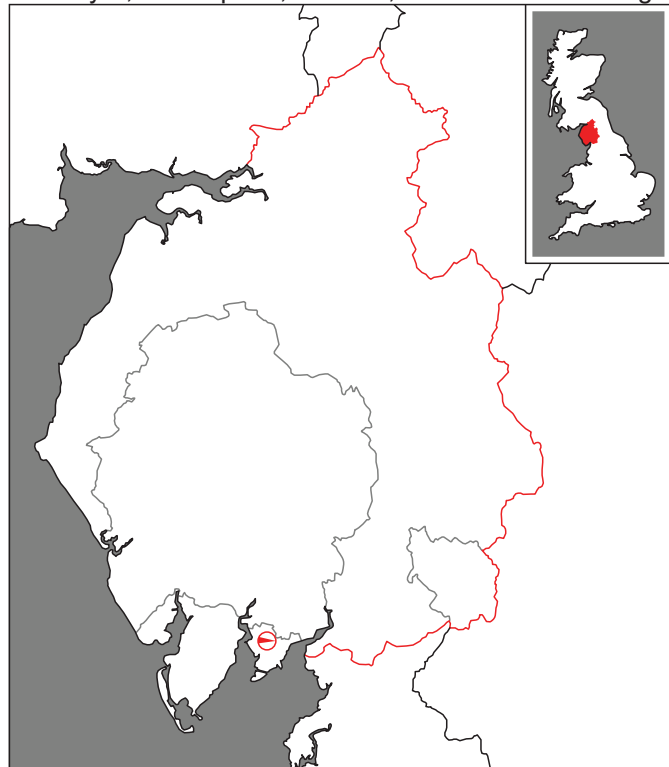
## 1.1 Circumstances of the Project

1.1.1 Following the submission of a planning application (ref. SL/2015/0354) for the conversion of the redundant Ford Byre, The Square, Cartmel, Cumbria (NGR 337871 478745) into a dwelling, a condition (No. 4) requiring an archaeological building recording was placed on the decision notice. Greenlane Archaeology was appointed by Mr and Mrs Mitchell (hereafter 'the client') to carry out the building recording and following the production of a project design, the work was carried out in July and August 2015. The onsite recording was carried out on the 28<sup>th</sup> July 2015.

## 1.2 Location, Geology, and Topography

1.2.1 The site is fairly centrally located within the village of Cartmel, to the south-west of the Priory (Figure 1). The Priory, which is visually prominent in the landscape, formed the hub around which Cartmel developed and the village, which is described as 'exceptional' and 'largely unspoilt', is now protected by Conservation Area status (Countryside Commission 1998, 73). Cartmel is situated approximately 3.5km north-west of Grange-over-Sands to the south side of the South Cumbria Low Fells on the northern side of Morecambe Bay (Countryside Commission 1998, 69; Ordnance Survey 2008).

1.2.2 Cartmel is situated on the junction of a complex series of solid geology comprising Bannisdale Slates of Silurian age and carboniferous limestone, covered by thick glacial debris, including deposits of cobbles, pebbles and sandy material (Mitchell 1990, 43; Moseley 1978, plate 1). The site is located to the west of the River Eea, at approximately 30m above sea level (Ordnance Survey 2008); the underlying solid geology in the catchment area to the west of the River is mainly slate, but to the east the deposits are mostly limestone, and deposits of alluvium (soft peaty and clayey soils) are likely to be present closer to the River (Mitchell 1990, figure 2; 1992, figure 1).



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Figure 1: Site location

## 2. Methodology

### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The building investigation comprised three separate elements intended to provide a suitable record of the structure, in line with English Heritage standards (English Heritage 2006) and the guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a). As part of the project a desk-based assessment was carried out in accordance with the project design and CIfA guidelines (CIfA 2014b) prior to the building recording, and a suitable archive was compiled to provide a permanent record of the project and its results in accordance with English Heritage and CIfA guidelines (English Heritage 1991; Brown 2007).

### 2.2 Desk-Based Assessment

2.2.1 In order to provide some historical context for the building recording a desk-based assessment was carried out, utilising information gathered from the following locations:

- **Cumbria Archive Centre (Barrow-in-Furness) (CAC(B))**: a range of sources was examined in the local archives, primarily maps of the site, but also other primary sources, and published information such as local histories;
- **Greenlane Archaeology library**: much of the historical background is taken from a desk-based assessment carried out for a nearby site at Priory Gardens, Priest Lane, Cartmel (Greenlane Archaeology 2012). Copies of early maps and other relevant secondary sources were also examined in order to provide information about the development of the site.

### 2.3 Building Recording

2.3.1 A programme of archaeological building recording to English Heritage Level 3-type standards was carried out (English Heritage 2006). This provides a detailed record of the building, as well as providing information about its development, form and function, and incorporates the results of the desk-based assessment. It comprised three types of recording:

- **Drawn Record**: annotated plans of all of the principal floors showing the location of the main elements of the building, detailed enough to show any features of particular historical interest, were produced based on the 'as existing' architect's drawings. In addition, a plan showing the location of the building in relation to other nearby buildings, structures and landscape features was produced;
- **Written Record**: descriptive records of the building were made on Greenlane Archaeology standard pro forma record sheets. These records describe the building's form and the location of specific features of historical interest as well as any obvious evidence for phasing. In addition, the landscape and historic setting of the building was described, in particular its relationship with other nearby buildings, streets, settlements and other structures;
- **Photographic Record**: photographs in both 35mm colour print film and colour digital format were taken. These comprised general shots of the whole building and detailed shots of features of specific historical interest. In addition, a record of the associated landscape and nearby buildings was made. A written record was kept of all of the photographs that were taken and digital photographs are used for illustrative purposes within this report.

### 2.4 Archive

2.4.1 A comprehensive archive of the project has been produced in accordance with the project design and current CIfA and English Heritage guidelines (Brown 2007; English Heritage 1991). The paper and digital archive and a copy of this report will be deposited in the Cumbria Archive Centre in Barrow-in-Furness on completion of the project. A paper and digital copy of this report will be provided for the client, and one paper copy will be retained by Greenlane Archaeology. In addition a digital copy of the report will



be provided to the Cumbria Historic Environment Record (HER) in Kendal and a digital record of the project will be made on the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) scheme.

### 3. Desk-Based Assessment

#### 3.1 Map and Image Regression

3.1.1 **Introduction:** early maps of the area tend to be relatively lacking in detail and are certainly not specific enough to be useful in understanding the development of the property. The earliest useful maps are therefore only from the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

3.1.2 **Ordnance Survey, 1851:** the centre of Cartmel is already well-established (Plate 1). A structure is shown approximately in the location of the site on the Ordnance Survey map of 1851, but it is a little unclear how or if this relates to the current buildings on site because of the scale at which this map was produced. The shape and orientation of the building marked at this location (a blocky L-shape) does not match the footprint of the current buildings.

3.1.3 **Ffoliott 1854:** nothing is shown at this location on Ffoliott's map of 1854 (Plate 2).



Plate 1 (left): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1851

Plate 2 (right): Extract from Ffoliott's map of Cartmel from 1854

3.1.4 **Ordnance Survey, 1890:** a long building is clearly marked in the location of the site by 1890 (Plate 3). The building is aligned west-north-west/east-south-east, the east end of which relates to the current building on site. The west end is no longer standing, apart from the north wall.

3.1.5 **Photograph of 1900:** a photograph from the *Cartmel and Lower Holker Almanack of 1900* shows the very east end of the building (Richardson (ed) 1900; Plate 4). Although it does not show any particular detail of note, it is of interest in showing how high the water level of the adjacent beck was at the time!



Plate 3 (left): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1890

Plate 4 (right): A view of the building from 1900 (from Richardson (ed) 1900)

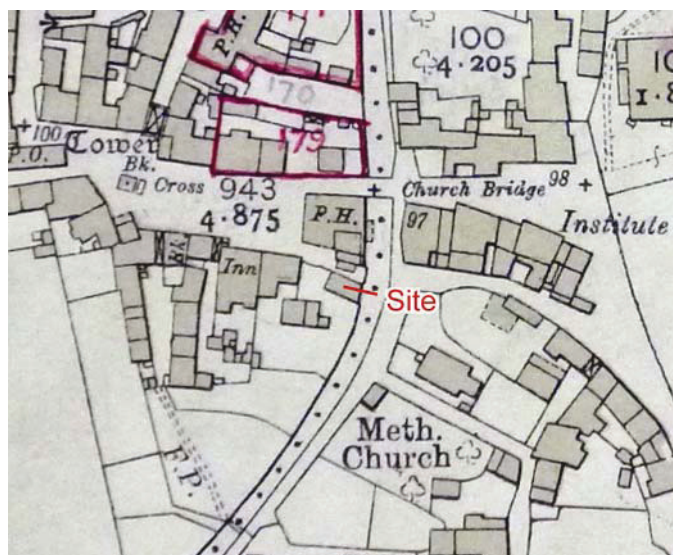


Plate 5 (left): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1913

Plate 6: (right): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1933

3.1.6 **Ordnance Survey, 1913:** the footprint of the building on site is unchanged between 1890 and 1913 (Plate 5; cf. Plate 3).

3.1.7 **Ordnance Survey, 1933:** the building on site has evidently been foreshortened by this date when compared to the previous map (Plate 6; cf. Plate 5). The east end apparently still forms a single block, but is considerable shorter than it was.

## 3.2 Site History

3.2.1 **Prehistoric Period (c11,000 BC – 1<sup>st</sup> century AD):** while there is limited evidence for activity in the county in the period immediately following the last Ice Age, this is typically found in the southernmost part on the north side of Morecambe Bay. Excavations of a small number of cave sites have found artefacts of Late Upper Palaeolithic type and the remains of animal species common at the time but now extinct in this country (Young 2002). The county was also clearly inhabited during the following period, the Mesolithic (c8,000 – 4,000 BC), as large numbers of artefacts of this date have been discovered during field walking and eroding from sand dunes along the coast, but these are typically concentrated in

the west coast area and on the uplands around the Eden Valley (Cherry and Cherry 2002). Slightly closer to the site, however, a large number of finds of this date were discovered during excavations carried out in the 1970s in the park belonging to Levens Hall, and, although largely ignored at the time, they were subsequently published (Cherry and Cherry 2000). In addition, a small amount of Mesolithic material has been found at the north end of Windermere during excavations on the Roman fort site (see for example Finlayson 2004). These discoveries, particularly those at Levens, demonstrate that further remains of similar date are likely to exist in the local area and that river valley, lakesides, and coastal areas are a common place for such remains to be discovered (Middleton *et al* 1995, 202; Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 151-152).

3.2.2 In the following period, the Neolithic (c4,000 – 2,500 BC), large scale monuments such as burial mounds and stone circles begin to appear in the region and one of the most recognisable tool types of this period, the polished stone axe, is found in large numbers across the county, having been manufactured at Langdale (Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 45). During the Bronze Age (c2,500 – 600 BC) monuments, particularly those thought to be ceremonial in nature, become more common still, and it is likely that settlement sites thought to belong to the Iron Age have their origins in this period. These are not well represented in the area around the site, although an enclosure on Hoad Hill near Ulverston perhaps has its origins in this period (Elsworth 2005), as might another one at Skelmore Heads near Urswick, although this was also associated with evidence for activity in the Neolithic (Powell 1963). Stray finds of Bronze Age date are found throughout the county. Sites that can be specifically dated to the Iron Age (c600 BC – 1<sup>st</sup> century AD) are very rare; the enclosures at Ulverston and Urswick may represent hillforts, a typical site of this period, but they have not been dated. Closer to the site, immediately to the east of Cartmel on Hampsfell, a group of over 50 structures identified as hut circles was reported in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century (Rigge 1885); no further details relating to these are known but it is possible that they represent the remains of a later prehistoric settlement or even a hillfort. At Levens, burials radiocarbon dated to the Iron Age have been discovered (OA North 2004), but these remain a rarity both regionally and nationally.

3.2.3 A stone axe hammer was found in Cartmel before 1909 at an unknown location. This is perhaps the same as one said to be at Aynsome, although the find spot of this was also not known (Rigge 1885, 266).

3.2.4 **Romano-British to Early Medieval Period (1<sup>st</sup> century AD – 11<sup>th</sup> century AD):** late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century antiquarians considered a Roman military presence in the Furness area, which, by extension included the Cartmel peninsula, beyond question, but by the 20<sup>th</sup> century there was a complete reversal of opinion (summarised in Elsworth 2007, 31-37). It is evident that in this part of the country, initially at least, the Roman invasion had a minimal impact on the native population in rural areas (Philpott 2006, 73-74), but ultimately the evidence suggests a strong Roman influence or “background” presence throughout the Roman period, which doubtless would have been attractive for its rich iron reserves (Shotter 1995, 74; Elsworth 2007, 37, 41-43). Traditionally, a Roman camp is thought to have been located across the River Eea less than 70m from the current site in an area known as ‘Castle Meadows’ (Stockdale 1872, 253), although at the present time there is scant evidence to support this theory (Castle Meadows is marked some distance to the north on the Ordnance Survey map of 1851, see Plate 1). That said, Stockdale recalls having the suspected *agger* [cambered embankment of a Roman road] of this *castellum* [small fort] pointed out to him by an acquaintance (Stockdale 1872, 253). The site was held to stretch along the side of the River, “*It was then not very traceable, but he said it had been levelled down and much of it taken away*” (*ibid.*). Elsewhere, in Stockdale’s unpublished manuscript notes, it is recalled that an ‘*oblong (parallelogram) mound in the meadows at Cartmel called Castle Meadows exactly in the shape of a Roman Camp – [was] destroyed partly by the encroachment of [the] River – the formation of the present road and chiefly [sic] by Mr Fell when he was building his house [at Fairfield] and improving his meadow*’ (CAC(B) DDHJ/4/2/1/8 1860s-1872). Unfortunately, the location of “Castle Meadows” is now slightly ambiguous; the extent of the Scheduled Monument area would suggest that the fort lay to the west of the River, which corresponds with Stockdale’s recollection, whereas Mitchell identifies the field north of the east end of the Priory wall to The Beck as Castle Meadows (Mitchell 1990, figure 1). The issue is clouded somewhat by Stockdale who implies that both fields may have been called “Castle Meadows” (Stockdale 1872, 253), while the first edition of the Ordnance Survey labels a large general

area much further to the north as 'Castle Meadows' (Ordnance Survey 1851). A later account states that Castle Meadows was "a field on the right hand side of the road which goes up to Green Bank from Cartmel" (Women's Institute Cartmel Branch 1928, 2). Intriguingly this field is said to have been where the bells for the priory were cast; local legend has it that the people of Cartmel put their gold and silver into the melting pot for it (*ibid*) but this is unlikely given that church bells were typically made from copper alloy (77% copper and 23% tin; Jennings 1992, 12).

3.2.5 A coin of Constantine I, Roman Emperor from AD 306-337, was found in Cartmel, but the exact location is unknown. The HER lists it as a silver coin but both references describe it as copper alloy, such as bronze (Shotter 1986, 257; 1989, 43). Various other Roman coins, including three hoards, have been found in or around Cartmel dating from the first to the fourth centuries AD (Shotter 1989) and may point to the contemporary importance of the south Cumbrian coast and its integration into the economics of the Roman north-west, with links to other Roman centres such as Lancaster and Ravenglass (Shotter 1995). Further Roman sites may yet be discovered in the areas of Barrow and Cartmel, but firm evidence for a Roman military presence, however, remains elusive (Shotter 1995, 77; 2004, 67). A recent evaluation at Fairfield (Greenlane Archaeology 2011) recovered three sherds of what may be Roman pottery from a road surface, but these were not dated with certainty and may be medieval.

3.2.6 The *Historia de Sancto Cuthberto* records that "the land which is called Cartmel" and all its British population, which also incidentally suggests a well-established community there, was given to Saint Cuthbert around c688 AD by Ecgfrith, who was King of Northumbria from 670 to 685 (Crowe 1984, 63-65; Dickinson 1991, 9). The Domesday Book of 1086 calls it "*Cherchebi*", deriving from the Old English for church, rather than the Norse form "*kirk*", which implies that a Northumbrian church existed on the site ahead of the Conquest, at which time it belonged to one Duann (Crowe 1984, 61, 65).

3.2.7 **Medieval Period (11<sup>th</sup> century AD – 16<sup>th</sup> century AD):** the earliest forms of the place-name 'Cartmel', which are largely recorded from the 12<sup>th</sup> century onward, probably derive from the Old English "*ceart*" and "*mel*" from the Old Norse word "*mel*" (Crowe 1984, 61) and broadly mean "sand bank by rocky ground" (Dickinson 1991, 9) and may originally have applied to the Grange area (Dickinson 1980, 7). That a parish church existed there is attested in *The Furness Abbey Charters* by 'Willelmus, clericus de Kertmel' c1135 and by 'Uccheman, persona de Chertmel' c1155 (Curwen 1920, 107). By 1168 the parish of Cartmel was a royal estate and in 1186 it was granted to the Marshall family, the Earls of Pembroke, by Henry II (Crowe 1984, 65). Much of the present village of Cartmel lies within the precinct of the Priory, which was founded with the legal permission of the future King John (who was at the time Count of Mortain) between August 1190 and 1196 by William Marshall, a wealthy and important Norman baron and Earl of Pembroke from 1189 to 1219, although the monastery may not have been established until 1202 (Dickinson 1980, 98; 1991, 10-11). The charter endowed the Priory "all my land of Cartmel" and a list of rights and privileges, which unusually included rights to iron mines (Dickinson 1980, 97; 1991, 10-11).

3.2.8 Unfortunately, it is not possible to get a detailed view of the possessions acquired by the Priory due to the loss of its archives, although it evidently received a number of further grants in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century and eventually acquired a number of comparatively large farms (Dickinson 1991, 14-19). Its ecclesiastical wealth was valued at £46. 13s. 4d. in 1291 in the *Taxation of Pope Nicholas* (Dickinson 1980, 15). However, like much of the north of England, it was subject to raids by the Scots throughout the 14<sup>th</sup> century (Dickinson 1991, 29-30); the raids of 1316 and 1322 'wrought immense damage in the area' and on the latter occasion the *Lanercost Chronicle* records that the Scottish raiders "*burnt the lands around the priory... and took away cattle and booty*" (Dickinson 1980, 13). The Priory was also affected by the Black Death, which may explain why, probably like many English monasteries, it is recorded as having fewer brethren than normal in 1381 (Dickinson 1980, 16). The defensive potential of the priory should not be overlooked (Hyde and Pevsner 2010, 268); the main priory gatehouse leading into the precinct was built around this time, between 1330 and 1340, and land surrounding the Priory was also enclosed by a precinct wall during the 14<sup>th</sup> century (Curwen 1920, 111). The gatehouse is the only remaining building associated with Cartmel Priory, although vestiges of other buildings are incorporated in later structures. Elements of the precinct wall evidently survived in reasonable condition into the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Probably the earliest plan showing the presumed and known elements of the priory and its

precinct wall was produced by Ffoliott in 1854. This map seems to have formed the basis for tentatively locating various features associated with the Priory in later accounts (e.g., Dickinson 1981, 83).

3.2.9 In 1390 a papal mandate to the archbishop of York ordered an investigation of the prior of Cartmel, William, accused of simony in admitting canons to profession and of 'too frequent visits to taverns', to the extent that the monastery was falling into disrepair (Dickinson 1980, 13). This may have been the catalyst for a period of reputedly much needed reconstruction and restoration of the Priory, possibly begun in the final years of the 14<sup>th</sup> century (*ibid.*, 19); Hyde and Pevsner state, somewhat enigmatically, that '*something drastic* [emphasis added] made it necessary for the canons to rebuild their monastic precinct on the [north] side' in approximately the mid-15<sup>th</sup> century (Hyde and Pevsner 2010, 267) and the surrounding lofty precinct wall is also suggested to have been largely rebuilt and partly re-sited in the 15<sup>th</sup> century (Dickinson 1980, 18). It has elsewhere been suggested that rebuilding was needed as a result of the devastation wrought by the Scottish raids, which perhaps burnt the Priory buildings to the ground (Curwen 1920, 111-112), or else the relocation of the cloistral buildings became necessary out of consideration for the underlying geological properties of the respective sides of the church (Mitchell 1990, 45-46).

3.2.10 The small field to the north side of Priest Lane (immediately to the north of the Priory Church) is called "farmery" field, which Dickinson interprets as a reference to the old word for infirmary, which in this case would have provided treatment for the sick and infirm brethren (Dickinson 1980, 21; 1991, 109). Another suggestion for the origins of its name is that it derived from being near the Monastic Dairy (Women's Institute Cartmel Branch 1928, 2). In either case, its layout can allegedly be determined from aerial photographs, which show that its main structure, most likely a large hall, with twin aisles and an open area at one end, ran north/south and it had a subsidiary block on its eastern side (Dickinson 1991, 109). The walling of the monastic precinct continues to the east and the area to the north, towards the beck, is low-lying and prone to flooding (Dickinson 1991, 109-110). The land between Farmery field and the beck to the west may have been gardens and orchards with fields to the north (Dickinson 1980, 21). The field immediately to the south-east of Fairfield Lodge formed part of the priory's outer court, which would have housed the agricultural and industrial buildings essential to the priory's economy, which potentially included barns, granaries, brewhouse, bakehouse, guesthouse, woolhouse, swinehouse, stables, mills, dovecots, tannery, and blacksmiths etcetera, and nowadays forms part of the Scheduled Monument area associated with the Priory (Scheduled Monument Number: 34796).

3.2.11 The value of the site of the Priory appears greatly diminished by 1535 when it was valued at £8. 16s. 8d. in a survey of English ecclesiastical revenue, the so-called *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, although it still received rents and similar income estimated at £91. 6s. 3d. net (Dickinson 1980, 15-16). Besides, Frith Hall grange was erected in the 16<sup>th</sup> century on the Leven Estuary where the Priory held fishing rights (Dickinson 1991, 16-17) and the valuation was raised to £212. 12s. 10½d., following protests by the priory that it had been undervalued, perhaps to avoid falling foul of the Act for the Suppression of the smaller English monasteries of 1536 (Curwen 1920, 113-114; Dickinson 1980, 21-22). It was to no avail - this Act began the Dissolution of the monasteries, which, despite violent protest, led to the Priory being dissolved between 1536-7 (Curwen 1920, 114; Wild and Howard-Davis 1999, 31); however, following the unusual decision ordered by Mr. Chancellor of the Duchy that it should 'stand still' as it served a *parochial* as well as monastic purpose, the Priory church was preserved as being the only place of worship available for its parishioners (Curwen 1920, 114; Dickinson 1980, 24). After the Dissolution the Priory's assets became Crown property and ultimately became part of the Holker Hall Estate (Dickinson 1991, 40), some of which now forms part of the Scheduled Monument area associated with the Priory.

3.2.12 The HER records additional medieval sites located nearby, including the cross, obelisk, and fish stones located in the Square some 90m to the south-west of the site and a deer park 100m immediately to the west of the site used to occupy the area of the modern racecourse and Cartmel Park and Cartmel Wood. A set of stocks was located at the main entrance to the churchyard, approximately 120m to the east of the cross, but no trace now remains.

3.2.13 **Post-medieval Period (16<sup>th</sup> century AD – present):** by the early 17<sup>th</sup> century the Preston family then at Holker owned much of the land formerly owned by the Priory and the church was further improved and refurbished under their benefaction (Curwen 1920, 115; Dickinson 1980, 25). Cromwellian soldiers

stayed in the village on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1643, stabling their horses in the church after a minor battle in Furness (Dickinson 1985, 115). In 1660 came the re-establishment of Anglicanism and the church bells were re-cast in 1661 (Dickinson 1980, 25).

3.2.14 A large Bellarmine-type (or *Bartmann*) jug was dug up in the garden of May Cottage, Cartmel, in the early 1960s. Such vessels were imported in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries from the Low Countries and were soon copied by London potters. In the South they were often buried with associated objects to ward off evil spirits, so-called 'witch bottles', but the Cartmel specimen was empty.

3.2.15 A smithy operated near to the current site at the north-east corner of Cavendish Street which can be seen on the 1890 Ordnance Survey map to the south of Wheelhouse Bridge (Plate 2).

3.2.16 **Ford Byre:** it was not possible to identify any specific information about the building. The early maps do not name it or give a function and in the absence of useful sources such as a tithe map or the relevant sections from the 1910 rating valuation for the area it would require a considerable amount of research to elucidate this, other than by relying on the form of the building itself (see *Section 5.1*).

### 3.3 Conclusion

3.3.1 The site was developed by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century if not before; a building is shown in 1851 although it does not apparently correspond to what is there now and the site is shown as empty in 1854, assuming Ffoliot's map is a reliable record. A long building, broadly corresponding to what is now present, is marked at the site in 1890, which was reduced in length between 1913 and 1933 making it closer to its current size. The east end of that building relates to the current structure, while the north wall of the west end of that block now forms part of the site boundary wall.

3.3.2 The purpose of the building is not clear from any of the available documentary sources.

## 4. Building Recording

### 4.1 Arrangement and Fabric

4.1.1 The barn was built from stone, mostly glacial material and slate but limestone was used in detailing. It was mostly lime mortared, but internally there were remnants of lime wash. The roof was grey slate with a sandstone ridge. The timber was mostly machine cut, but the lintels were hand-finished. Internally the floors were a mix of concrete, stone flags and cobbles. Originally it was part of a longer east/west block, but the west side was truncated and the east end has had a monopitch extension added.

### 4.2 External Detail

4.2.1 **North elevation:** the east end has been extended to form a monopitch outshut with a small doorway on the west side (Figure 2; Plate 7). The doorway had a stone lintel and step and a plank door with a hole cut in the middle, which was covered from inside (Plate 8). The end of the main building was finished with roughly dressed limestone quoins. There was a doorway immediately against these with a panel door. The door had raised fields and ovolo-mouldings in beaded surround with a slatted opening over (Plate 9). The door was raised on a step of overgrown material but the opening continued to the ground. There were quoins on the west jamb and it had a dressed limestone lintel. There was a further doorway to the west, which similarly had a quoined surround and a dressed lintel, with a modern timber door (Plate 10). There was a large opening to the west of the second door with a (drilled) limestone lintel and quoined jambs. There were quoins at the west end of what was presumably the north-west corner. The top of the wall at this point was irregular but finished with concrete. The line of the original wall evidently continued in this direction (Figure 4).



Plate 7 (left): North and east external elevations

Plate 8 (right): Small doorway at the east end of the north external elevation





**Plate 9 (left): Panel door on the north external elevation**

**Plate 10 (right): West end of the north external elevation**

4.2.2 **East elevation:** the east elevation was difficult to access as it was against the beck (Figure 4). The lower part was covered by an outshut with a monopitch slate roof (Figure 2). It curved at the north corner but was otherwise plain (Plate 7). Above the roof of the outshut was the gable end of the building, which was also plain, with slate hung over the ends of the purlins.

4.2.3 **South elevation:** the west side had remnants of the section extending to the west, so presumably this was internal originally (Figure 4). All of the material was exposed stone. The west end comprised the quoined jambs of a doorway and there was a large opening to the east of this, with a long limestone lintel, filled with a modern timber panel (Figure 3; Plate 11). There were quoins in the east jamb, shared with jamb of a smaller doorway to the east. The doorway had a concrete lintel and housed a modern plank and batten door (Plate 11). There were some thin through stones in the wall above, which was irregular and topped with concrete at this point. The main part had a wide doorway in the centre with a heavy limestone lintel and dressed quoins (Plate 12 and Plate 13). The door was a sliding plank door with fixed nine-lights. The outshut to the east was an obvious addition but the jamb of the doorway continued into it, so this must have been a rebuilt, although quoins showing the original line of the wall are evident above. The doorway at the east end had quoined jambs, a concrete lintel and a modern timber sheet door (Plate 14).



Plate 11 (left): West end of the south external elevation

Plate 12 (right): Central section and east end of the south external elevation



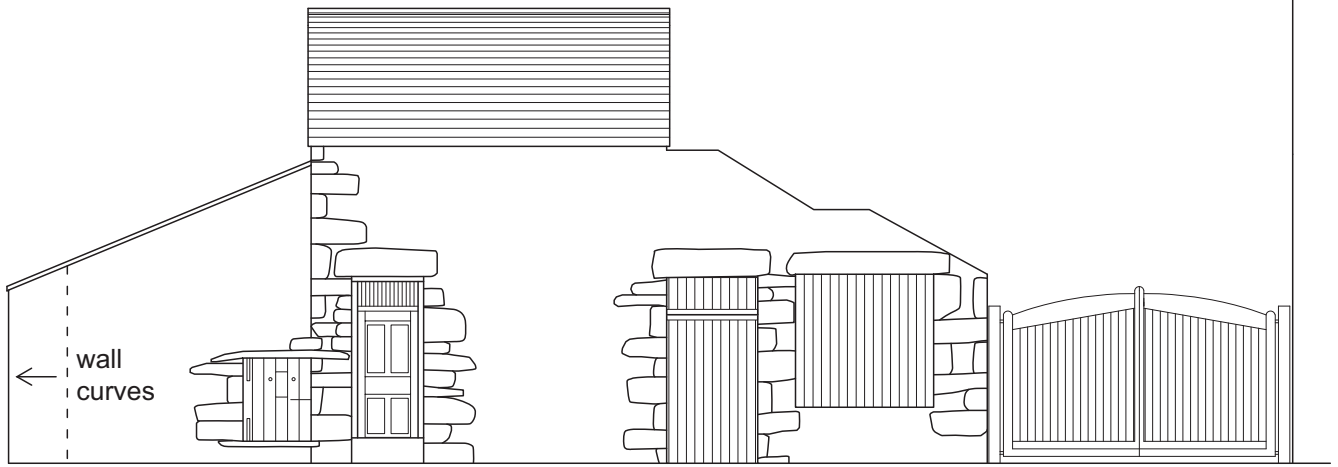
Plate 13 (left): Wide doorway in the centre of the south external elevation

Plate 14 (right): The east end of the south external elevation

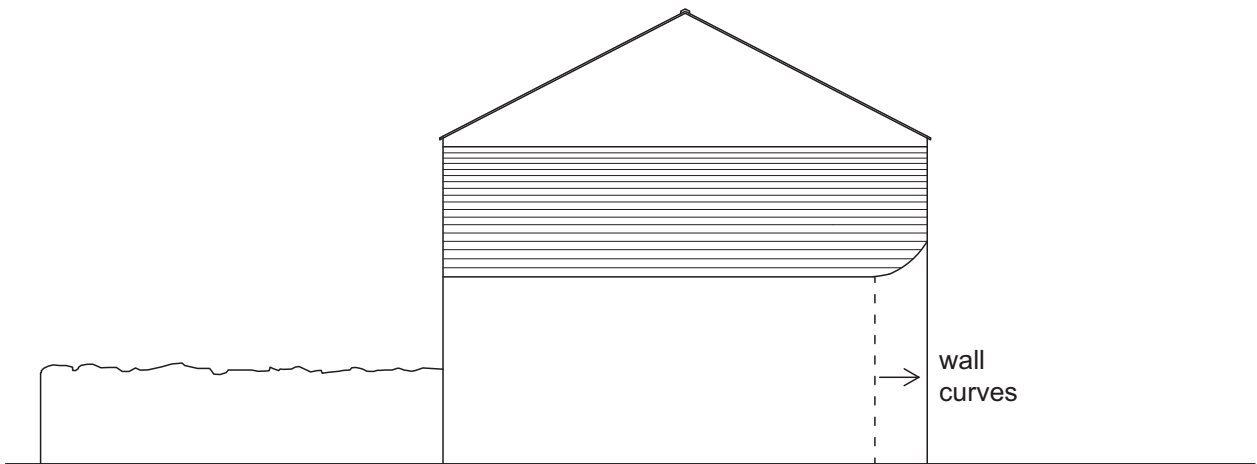
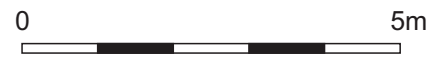
4.2.4 **West elevation:** this formed the gable end, which was relatively plain, with a rough mortar finish (Figure 3; Plate 15). The south corner was rounded. It had a central window at the upper level, which possibly had a filled in section below. The window had a thin slate sill and a fixed six-light casement. There was a doorway to the north, at ground floor level, with a timber double plank and batten door and surround with a run-out stop chamfer. The doorway also had a slate stone threshold and a rough timber lintel. Above this there were some thin through stones.



**Plate 15: West external elevation**



North External Elevation

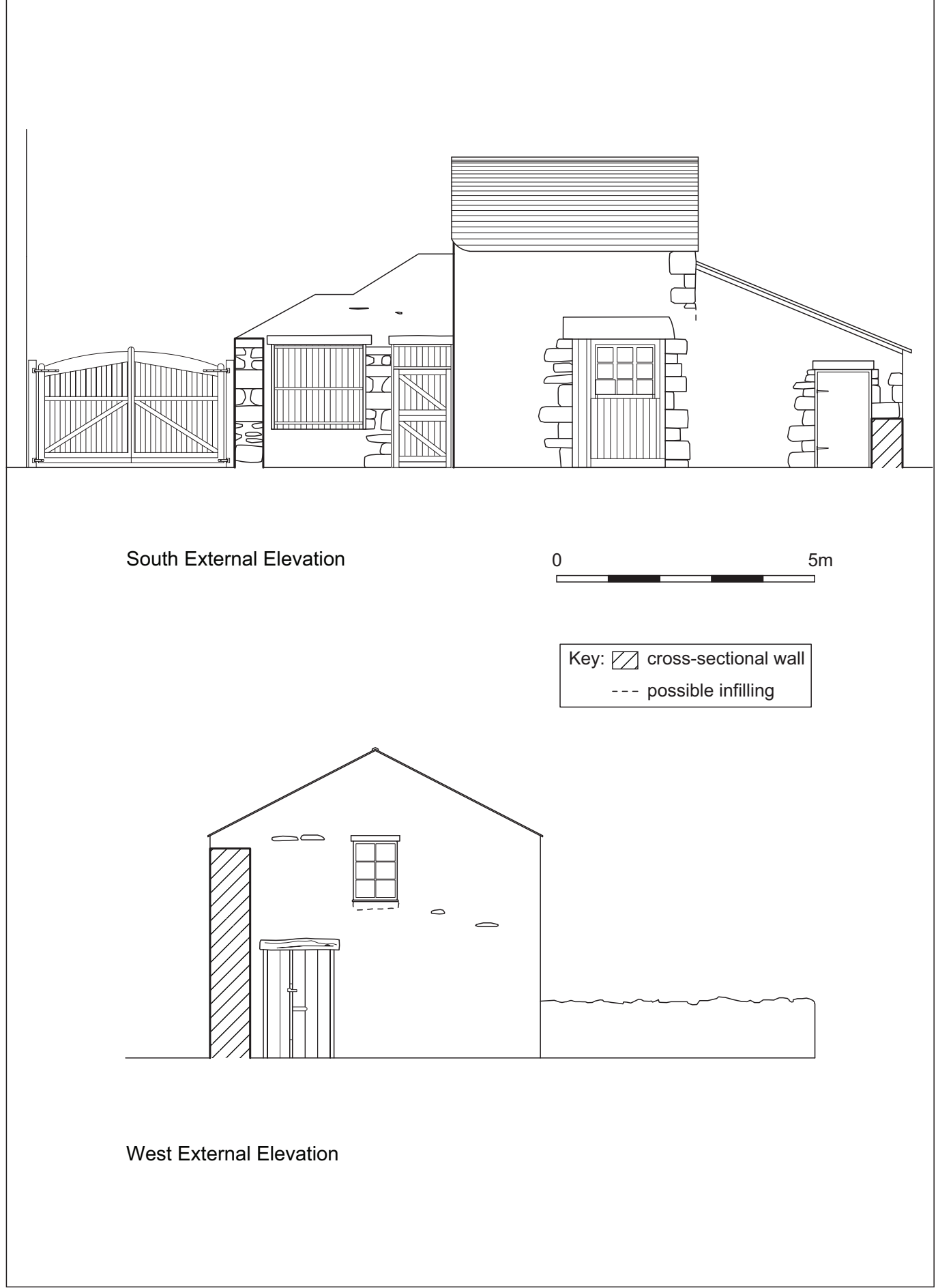


East External Elevation

Figure 2: North and east external elevations

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Figure 3: South and west external elevations

## 4.3 Internal Detail

4.3.1 **East room (Room 1)**: the east room had a cobbled floor, with a lowered channel in the south-east corner, edged with large limestone blocks (Plate 16). The space was subdivided into two unequal rooms (Figure 4) by a timber plank wall, mostly machine-cut, with a tongue and groove plank and batten door on the east side with ovolo-moulded surround (Plate 17). The floor to the north side of the partition was covered in rubbish. The walls were mostly finished with lime wash on to stone on the east, north and south sides, but finished on a layer of plaster on the west. The room was open to the roof, supported by a single machine-cut, half truss, with overlapping timbers bolted together, two proper purlins and a small one against the west elevation (Plate 18). All the timber was machine-cut except one purlin, which was round and had some bark remaining. The north elevation had a low doorway on the west side, with a stone lintel and plank and batten door, originally with an opening in the top, which was now covered by boards (Plate 19). The east corner was rounded into the east elevation, which was otherwise plain. The south elevation had a doorway on the east side with a heavy timber lintel, a modern timber sheet door, and plain surrounds (Plate 20). There was a tether post to the west, with an iron ring. The lime wash was only up to the height of the lower east elevation. The west elevation had a door on the south side of centre, with a heavy hand-finished timber lintel, which may have been reused. It had a machine-finished door surround with a run-out stop chamfer. The north elevation was plain.



Plate 16 (left): Floor in Room 1

Plate 17 (right): Timber plank wall in Room 1



Plate 18 (left): Half truss in Room 1

Plate 19 (right): North internal elevation of Room 1



Plate 20: South internal elevation of Room 1

4.3.1 **West room (Room 2):** this room mostly had a flag floor but had a patch of concrete on the north side against the wall, with two scars for legs of a table/sink/bench, and another area of concrete in the centre (Figure 4; Plate 21). The room was open to the roof and had just two purlins per pitch and a ridge plank (Figure 5) and a lower east/west timber between the walls, possibly an old telegraph pole (Plate 22). The walls all had remnants of lime wash. The north elevation had a doorway on the east side with an overlong rough timber lintel, which was continued by machine-cut batten built into the wall, all of which had iron hooks attached (Plate 23). The door had plain panels, with long hinges (of early 18<sup>th</sup> century date; Alcock and Hall 2002, 25), and an over-light (Plate 24 and Plate 25). It was now covered with modern board and the lower part of the door was also covered by thick lengths of wood. Above the battens are two patches of repair. The east elevation had a rough timber batten built into the wall on the north side with two iron hooks (Plate 26). South of centre was a doorway with a rough timber batten door

and square surround (from this side) (Figure 5; Plate 27). The door was hung from pintles on long hinges. There was a further chamfered batten to the south and a hole at high level (possibly an alcove). The south elevation had a large doorway on the east side, with a rough timber lintel, covered by a sliding door on a metal rail (Plate 28). The door was a 20<sup>th</sup> century plank and batten with nine-lights and a further batten to the west in the wall. The west elevation had a double plank and batten door on the north side on pintels and strap hinges, with an irregular hand-finished timber lintel (possibly a former cruck blade) (Plate 29). There was a long batten in the wall to the south of that, with iron hooks attached and the end of a sawn-off timber below (Plate 30), and a window at high level in the centre, with a six-light fixed casement and concrete lintel (Plate 31).



**Plate 21 (left): Floor of Room 2**

**Plate 22 (right): Roof of Room 2**



**Plate 23 (left): North internal elevation of Room 2**

**Plate 24 (right): Door to the east side of the north internal elevation of Room 2**





**Plate 25 (left): Hinge detail on the door to the east side of the north internal elevation of Room 2**



**Plate 26 (right): East internal elevation of Room 2**



**Plate 27 (left): Detail of the door in the east internal elevation of Room 2**



**Plate 28 (right): South internal elevation of Room 2**

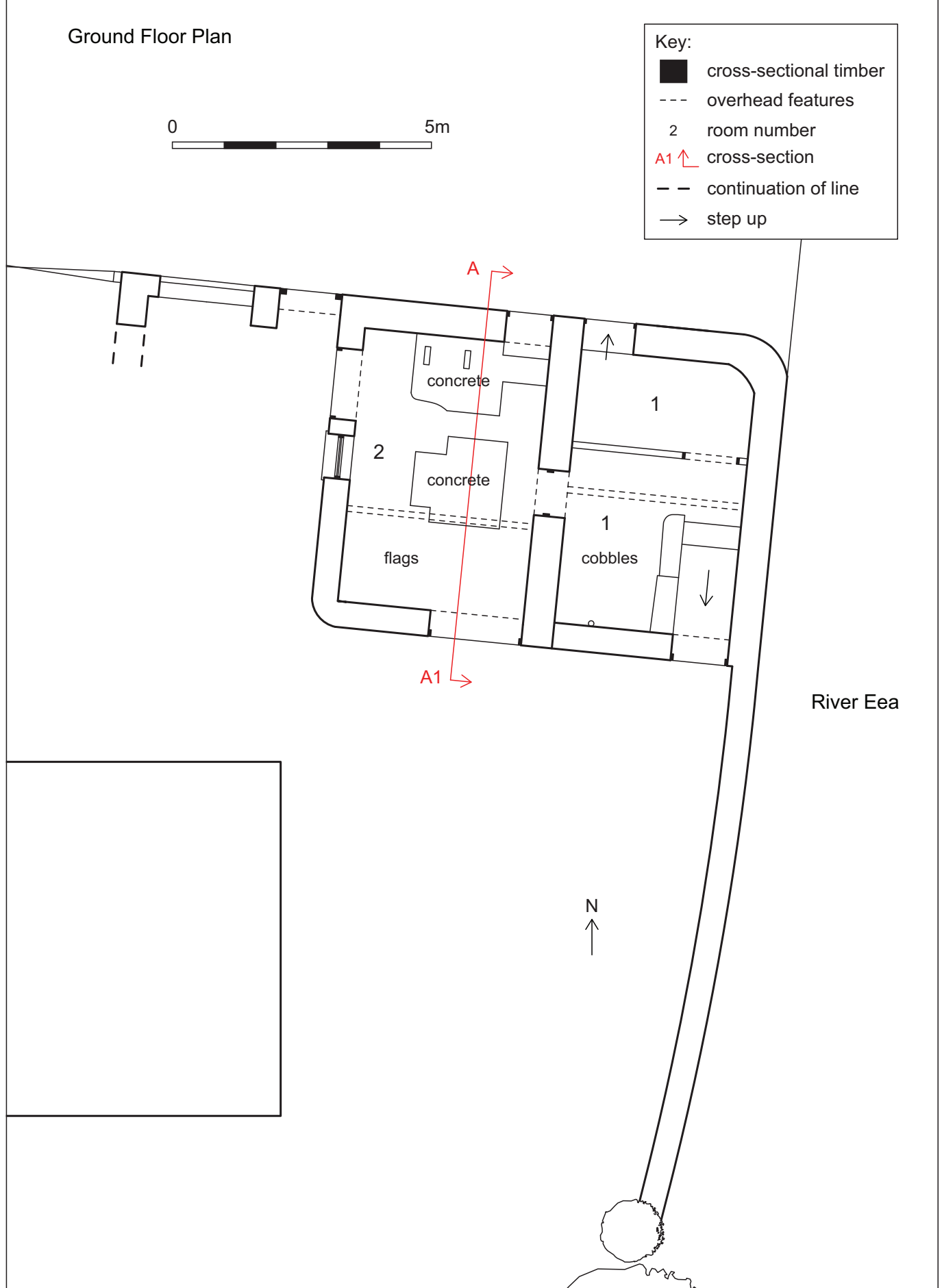


**Plate 29 (left): Double plank and batten door on the north side of the west internal elevation of Room 2**

**Plate 30 (right): West internal elevation of Room 2**



**Plate 31: Window at high level in the centre of the west internal elevation of Room 2**



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**Figure 4: Ground floor plan**

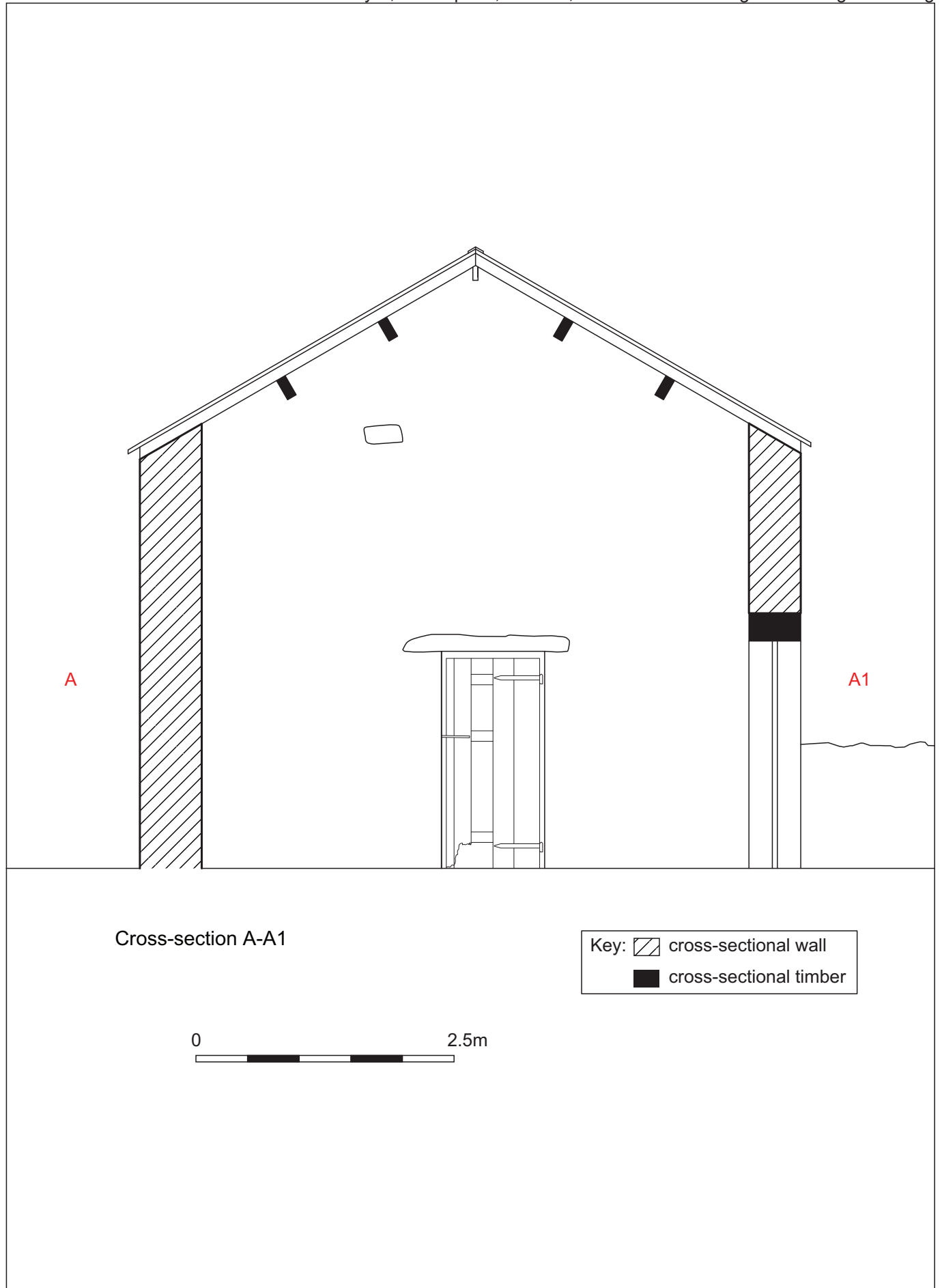


Figure 5: Cross-section A-A1

## 5. Discussion

### 5.1 Phasing

5.1.1 **Introduction:** a comparison of the surviving elements of the building with the map evidence shows that only part of the original structure now survives. This, coupled with the lack of other documentary sources, means that the building recording is necessary to clarify the developmental sequence of Ford Byre as well as provide some information about its function. In total, three main phases of development have been identified:

5.1.2 **Phase 1 (1854-1889):** a building is shown at approximately this location on the Ordnance Survey map of 1851 but nothing is marked there on Ffoliott's map of 1854, after which a building matching the footprint of the current structure is not shown until the Ordnance Survey map of 1890 (surveyed in 1889). Assuming Ffoliott's map is reliable this suggests that the earliest phase of the building was constructed between 1854 and 1889, although it was initially much longer and extended to the west. The earliest surviving element of the building is the main room (Room 2) and the truncated walls to the west, which originally meant that the building extended further in this direction. The purpose of the building at this stage is unclear, and the truncated nature of the surviving remains make this difficult to ascertain. It does not appear to be directly agricultural, that is, it is not apparently a barn, but it is clearly functional rather than domestic. It perhaps formed a workshop or workshops or, based on evidence from the subsequent phases, was a slaughterhouse. What is not evident is whether it had an upper floor. There is no specific evidence for this internally such as joist holes, but the window in the west elevation of Room 2 was clearly originally larger and was perhaps created as a doorway between two rooms at first floor level. The panelled door in the north elevation of Room 2 is of an earlier form, probably mid-18<sup>th</sup> century based on the style of the hinges (Alcock and Hall 2002, 25) but this must have been reused from elsewhere as it is too domestic in character for a building of this form.

5.1.3 **Phase 2 (1854-1889):** it is clear that at an early stage the building was extended with the addition of a monopitch outshut to the east end (forming Room 1), but that this too was completed before 1889. The form of this building, with its small doorway on the north side, ramped area to the south door, dividing timber wall, and tether post, as well as the presence of numerous meat hooks in the adjoining room (Room 2), suggests that by this time, if not earlier, the building was used as a slaughterhouse, but presumably for smaller animals such as sheep or pigs. The form is broadly similar to other recorded examples (eg at Low Hartsop (VAG 2015, 22)) but there are very few other examples to compare it with and such structures are not considered in more wide-ranging works (eg Brunskill 2002). It is possible that the concrete flooring in Room 2 was added during this period to facilitate this function, although it could have been a later development.

5.1.4 **Phase 3 (20<sup>th</sup> century):** the west end of the building, as shown on plan of the site from 1890 onwards, was foreshortened between 1913 and 1933. Sometime after 1933 the building was again reduced with part of the west wall and the south wall of the main block removed leaving the standing sections acting as boundary walls that are now present. The remainder of what was left corresponds to Rooms 1 and 2, whereas all that remains of the west end now forms part of the site boundary wall. As a result of the later reduction in size the opening at first floor present in what is now the west elevation, and was perhaps originally a doorway, was made external and so was converted to a window. Other more minor alterations were also made during this period, such as the blocking up of doorways with modern timber planks.

### 5.2 Conclusion

5.2.1 The building's truncated form and the lack of detailed documentary sources make interpretation difficult. However, it is apparent that it was not a standard agricultural building, nor was it domestic as there is no evidence for fireplaces, and it seems to have originated as a functional structure that was, for at least some of its life, used as a slaughterhouse. Therefore, although not purely agricultural in nature, it is likely to have operated in conjunction with a nearby farm.

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