

# NEWTON MANOR, GOSFORTH, SEASCALE, CUMBRIA

## Archaeological Building Recording



Client: John Coward Architects

NGR: 304922 503947

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## Non-Technical Summary

Following the submission of a planning application for the partial demolition of the derelict remains of Newton Manor, Gosforth, Seascale, Cumbria, Greenlane Archaeology was commissioned to carry out an archaeological building recording, as a result of a condition placed on the proposal by Copeland District Council. This was intended to form a permanent record of the extant remains of the building as well as allow a better understanding of its development. The project was carried out in January 2017.

The cartographic and other evidence demonstrates that the site was formerly known as Low Ling Bank or Low Lingbank, with buildings shown on the site at least as early as 1774. The property was presumably originally a farmhouse, and the earliest reference to it by its current name is only in 1861, at which time it was the home of Anthony Benn Steward, a local magistrate from Whitehaven, who had acquired the manor of Newton and Seascale in 1841. The property descended through his family for the rest of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and much of the 20<sup>th</sup>, although it is not clear how much they lived there during this time, and in 1933 it was evidently available to let. The map evidence shows that the original house was rebuilt or replaced between the 1860s and 1890s with the current building. Plans dated 1907, drawn up by a Whitehaven based architect G Nelson, exist for a large two storey extension, primarily comprising a billiard room, which was added to the north-east side.

The building recording revealed little evidence for any phases of activity predating the construction of the present house in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, although an earlier form of window in the rear elevation may suggest that there is some earlier fabric. The main part of the present building was clearly built in a single phase and contains a number of architecture details reflecting the Gothic revival of the period, although the architect is not known. It was extended 1908 with the addition of a detached block connected by a first floor walkway, which corresponds to the new billiard room designed by G Nelson in 1907. More recent alterations are less apparent, although it is obvious that internally it was extensively modernised and a small timber outshut was also added to the south-east end. The most recent activity has primarily been decay particularly caused by the ingress of water through the roof, which has led to the collapse of many of the internal floors.

While architecturally of interest in its own right the building is not, as far as is known, connected to a well-known architect and is now in a poor condition. It is possible that further investigation of the interior, if this were possible, would add to our understanding of its development.

## Acknowledgements

Greenlane Archaeology would like to thank John Coward Architects for commissioning the project, in particular Mike Darwell for his help during the project. Thanks are also due to Olivia Harker and Andrew Williamson at GVA for their assistance with gaining access to the site, and special thanks are due to Sue Benson at the Cumbria Archive Centre in Barrow-in-Furness for her assistance with obtaining a particular reference.

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

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Circumstances of the Project

1.1.1 Following the submission of a planning application (ref. 4/17/2301/0F1) for the partial demolition of Newton Manor, Gosforth, Seascale, Cumbria (NGR 304922 503947), a condition (No. 3) requiring an archaeological building recording, equivalent to Historic England Level 2/3 (English Heritage 2006), was placed on the decision notice by Copeland Borough Council, following advice from Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service. Greenlane Archaeology were commissioned by John Coward Architects (hereafter 'the client') to carry out a building recording of the site, following on from a previous heritage assessment, which was undertaken in March 2017 (Greenlane Archaeology 2017). The building recording was intended to add information to that already gained from the heritage assessment, and form a permanent archive of the known history of the building.

## 1.2 Location, Geology, and Topography

1.2.1 Newton Manor is approximately 2.6km north-east of the centre of the village of Seascale, which lies on the Irish Sea coast of Cumbria (Figure 1). The site lies at approximately 60m above sea level. It is 1.4km to the east of Sellafield, which is now a nuclear fuel reprocessing and nuclear decommissioning site.

1.2.2 Seascale is within the West Cumbria Coastal Plain, which is characterised by varied open coastline of mudflats, shingle and pebble beaches, lowland river valleys, and gently undulating or flat improved pasture with hedgerows, however, the immediate area is dominated by the former power plant and nuclear reprocessing facilities at Sellafield (Countryside Commission 1998, 25). The solid geology comprises mudstone (Moseley 1978, plate 1), which is overlain by glacially-derived boulder clay with, in places, sand and gravel (Countryside Commission 1998, 27).

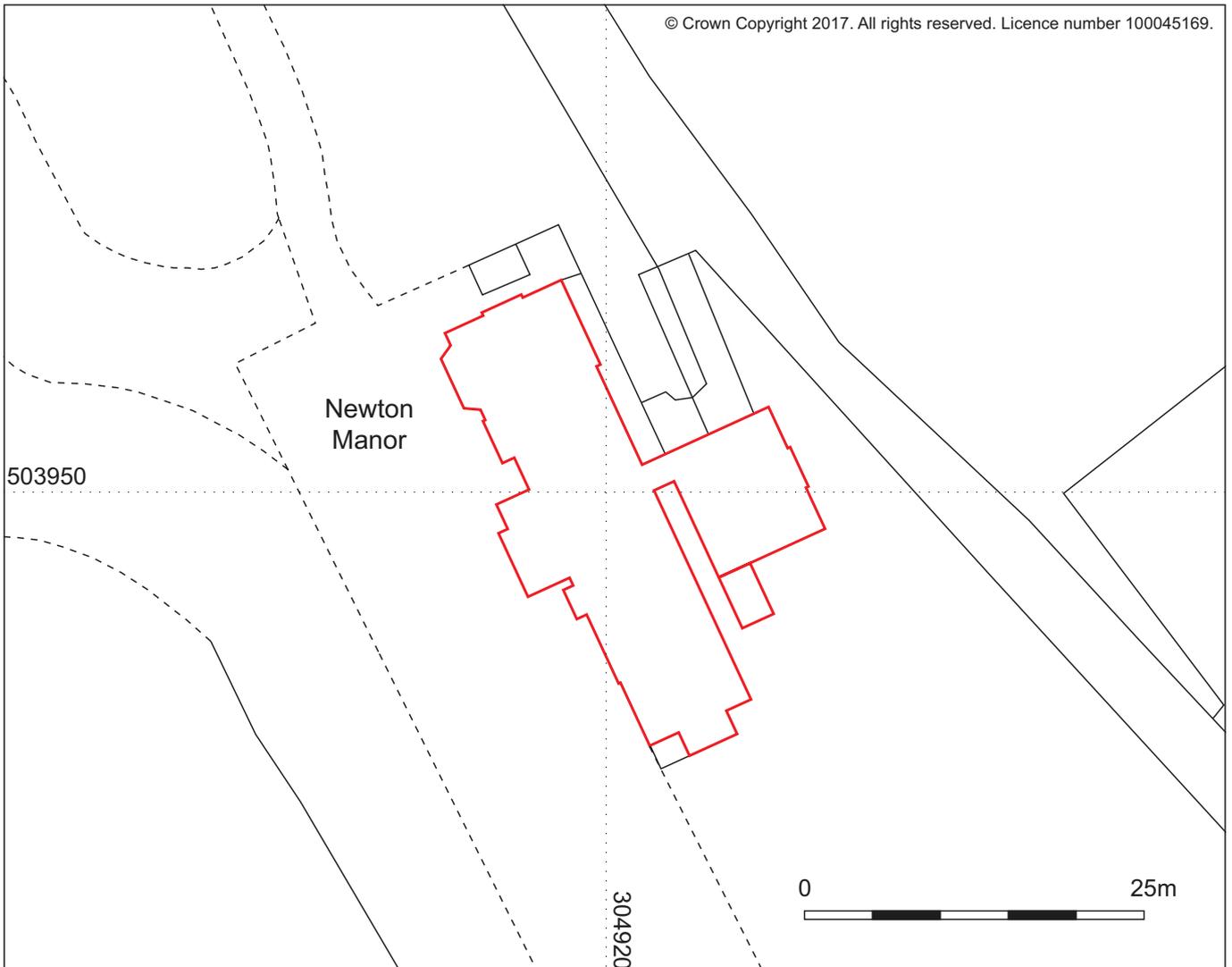
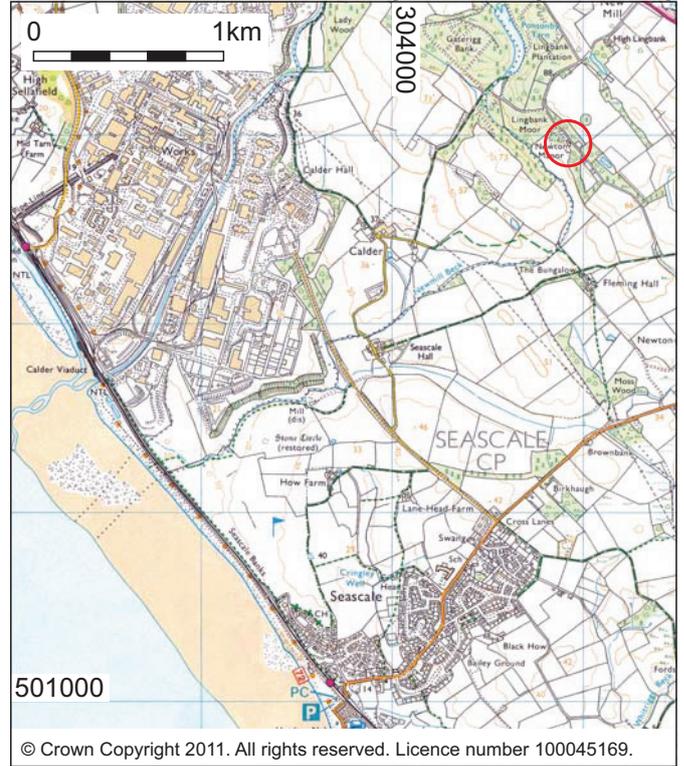
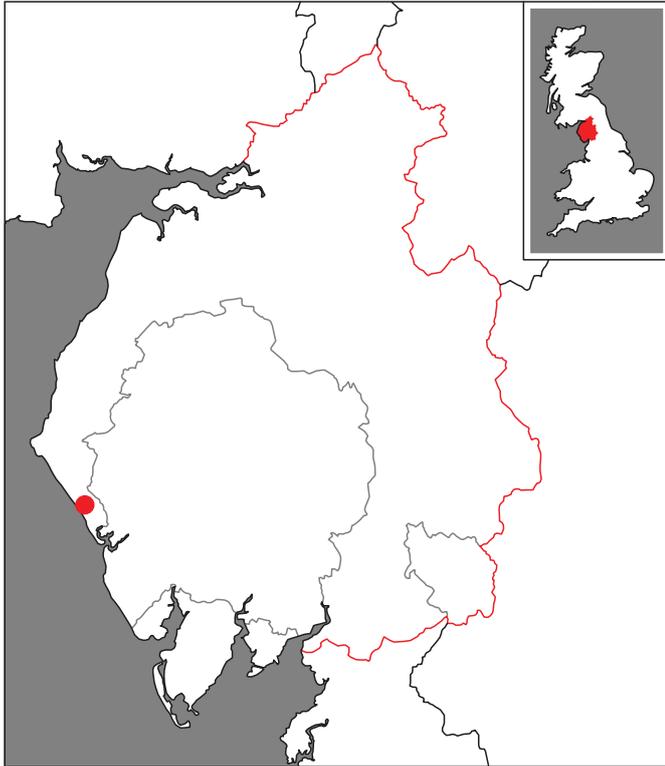


Figure 1: Site location

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## 2. Methodology

### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The building recording is intended to provide a suitable record of the structure in line with Historic England standards (Historic England 2016) and the guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a). A suitable archive has also been compiled to provide a permanent paper record of the project and its results, in accordance with CIfA guidelines (CIfA 2014b).

### 2.2 Desk-Based Assessment

2.2.1 A previous desk-based assessment was carried out for the site as part of the heritage assessment (Greenlane Archaeology 2017), and information from that report is reproduced here to allow interpretation of the building.

### 2.3 Building Recording

2.3.1 The building recording was carried out to English Heritage Level-2/3 type standards (English Heritage 2006), which provides a relatively detailed record of the building, and discusses its development in terms of its historical context. The recording comprised the following elements, although the limited access to the interior, due to the dangerous condition of the building, and around the exterior, due to the dense undergrowth, meant that the degree to which this could be carried out was restricted in some areas:

- **Written record:** descriptive records of all parts of the buildings were made using Greenlane Archaeology *pro forma* record sheets, with the rooms numbered per floor (e.g. **G1** for Ground Floor Room 1, **F1** for First Floor Room 1, etc);
- **Photographs:** photographs in both 35mm colour print and colour digital format 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. In addition, 4K digital video was taken of areas that could not otherwise be safely accessed by a remote camera mounted on a pole, and shots were extracted from this for use in illustrating the report;
- **Drawings:** 'as existing' drawings were provided by the architect. These were printed at a scale of 1:100 and hand annotated with additional detail on site, which was then used in the production of the final drawings. The drawings produced ultimately comprised:
  - i. plan of the ground floor at 1:100 (Figure 2);
  - ii. plan of the first floor at 1:100 (Figure 3);
  - iii. plan of the second floor at 1:100 (Figure 4).

### 2.4 Archive

2.4.1 The archive, comprising the drawn, written, and photographic record of the building, will be deposited with the Cumbria Archive Centre in Whitehaven. The archive has been compiled according to the standards and guidelines of the CIfA guidelines (CIfA 2014b). A copy of this report will be supplied to the client, a digital copy will be supplied to the Cumbria Historic Environment Record (HER), and one will be retained by Greenlane Archaeology. In addition, 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:** although there are early, typically county-wide, maps that include the area, they are generally very small scale. The first useful maps typically appear in the early-19<sup>th</sup> century in the form of enclosure maps and the tithe map, but the relevant enclosure maps (CAC(W) YSPC 12/41 1810; CAC(C) QRE 1/42 1815) do not include the area containing Newton Manor and there is no tithe map for Gosforth parish. As a result, it is primarily maps from the later 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards that are discussed below.

3.1.2 **Donald's Map of Cumberland, 1774:** this map shows that there were buildings at the site, formerly known as Low Ling Bank (Plate 1); however, it lacks sufficient detail to further aid our understanding of their development.



Plate 1: Extract from Donald's map of 1774

3.1.3 **Ordnance Survey 1867:** the 1:10,560 and 1:2,500 maps for the area were probably surveyed and published at approximately the same time, although the 1:2,500 map did not have any date information. Both name it 'Low Lingbank' and show a long rectangular block of buildings aligned north-west/south-east with numerous projecting outshuts, while the more detailed shows that the main building was divided into two sections (Plate 2 and Plate 3).

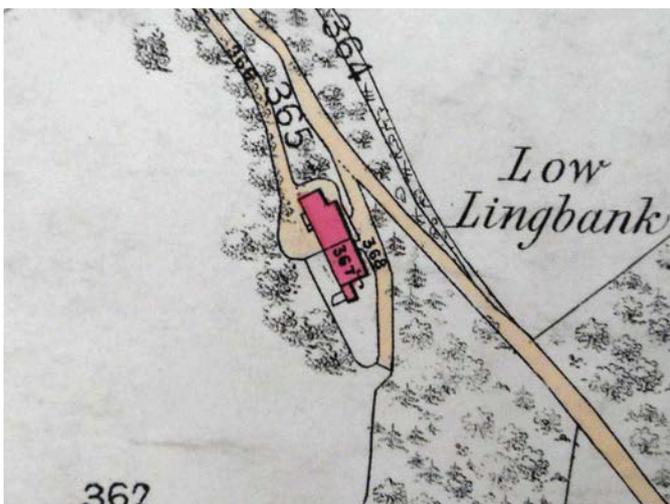
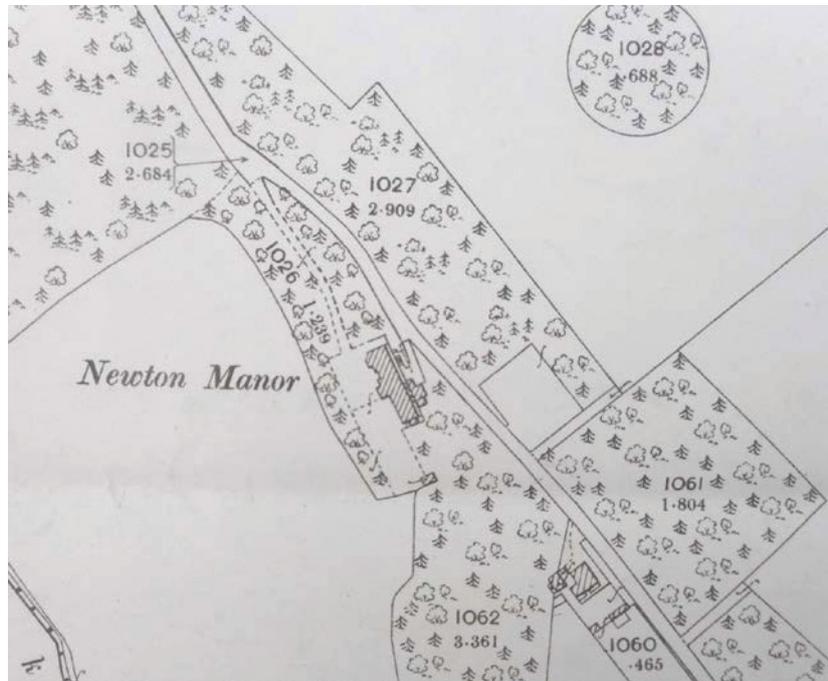


Plate 2 (left): Extract from the 1:2,500 scale Ordnance Survey map of c1867



Plate 3 (right): Extract from the 1:10,560 scale Ordnance Survey map of 1867

3.1.4 **Ordnance Survey 1899:** the arrangement of buildings, tracks, roads, and field boundaries around the site has substantially changed since the 1867 edition of the Ordnance Survey map was produced and the site is named Newton Manor by this point as opposed to Low Lingbank (Plate 4). The bays to the south-west side are now present and the footprint of the building more closely approximates how it is today, certainly on the west side. The gardener's cottage had also been built by this point, which is visible in the lower right hand corner of Plate 4.



**Plate 4: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1899**

3.1.5 **Additions, 1907:** plans were produced in 1907 for W Falcon-Steward by the Whitehaven architect G Nelson to extend the Manor with the addition of a two storey extension to the north-east side, comprising a billiard room on the ground floor and two bedrooms and a bathroom on the first floor (Plate 5 to Plate 8; CAC(W) SRDED/3/1/534 1907).



**Plate 5: Extract from proposed alterations to Newton Manor dated 1907 (CAC(W) SRDED/3/1/534 1907)**

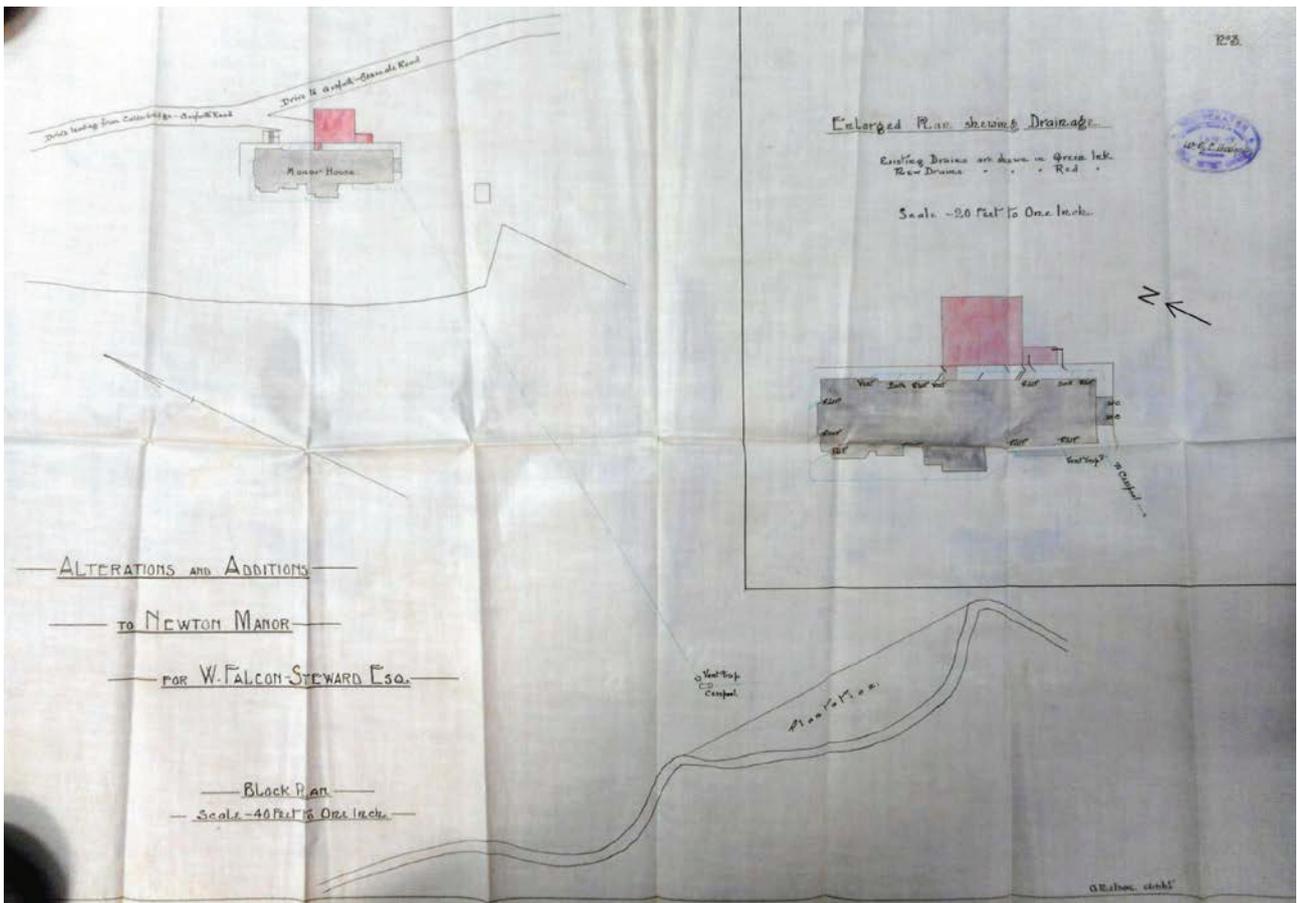


Plate 6: Extract from proposed alterations to Newton Manor dated 1907 (CAC(W) SRDED/3/1/534 1907)

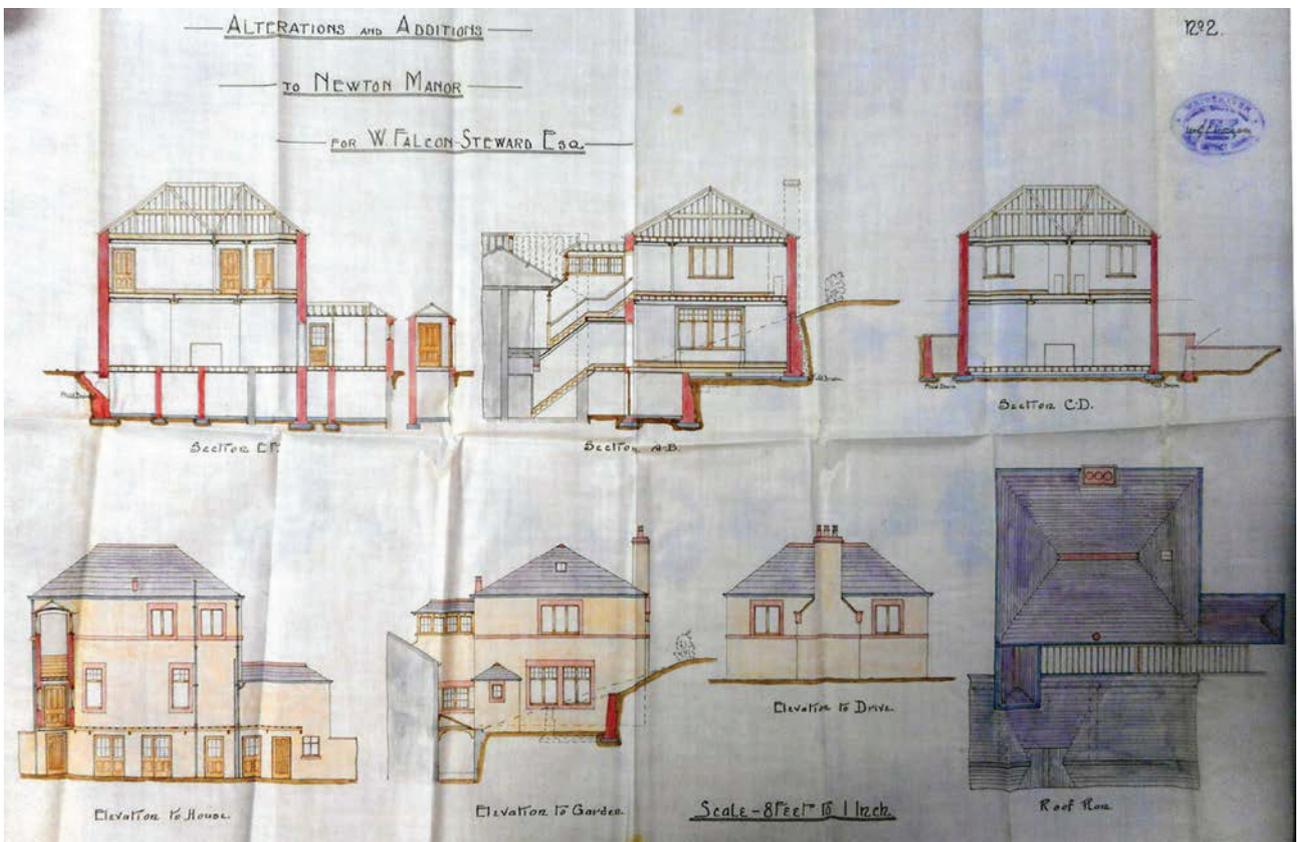


Plate 7: Extract from proposed alterations to Newton Manor dated 1907 (CAC(W) SRDED/3/1/534 1907)

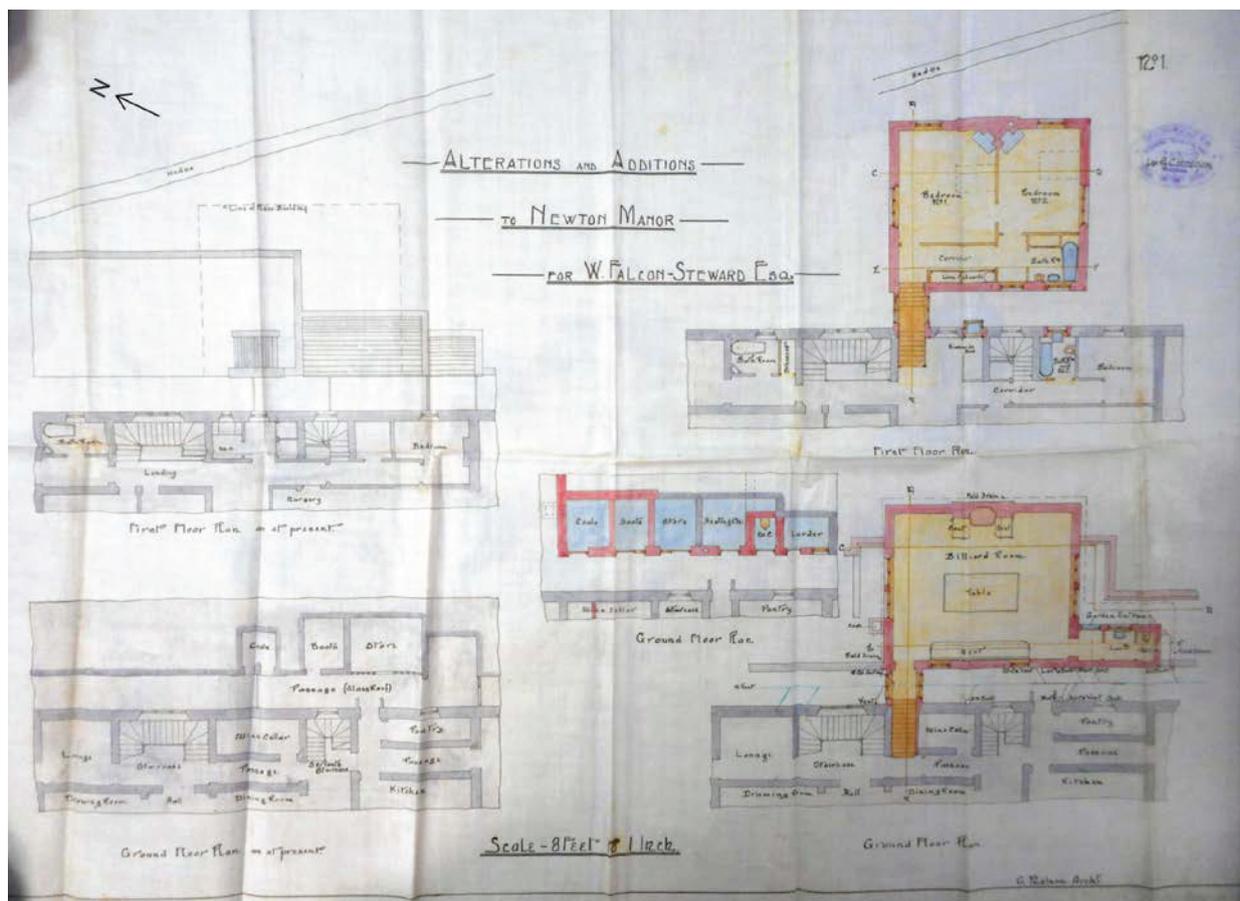


Plate 8: Extract from proposed alterations to Newton Manor dated 1907 (CAC(W) SRDED/3/1/534 1907)

3.1.6 **Plan 1953**: plans for alterations to the gardener’s cottage, dated 1953, seemingly use the Ordnance Survey map from 1899 for the base map (Plate 9; cf. Plate 4) as the alterations to Newton Manor dated 1907 are not shown even though they were apparently completed.

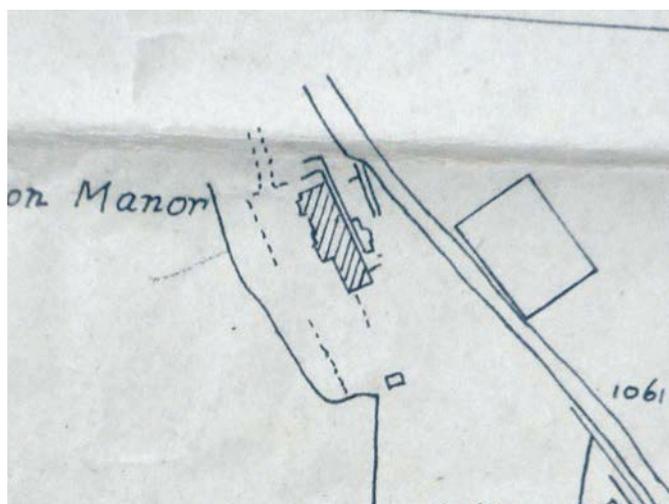
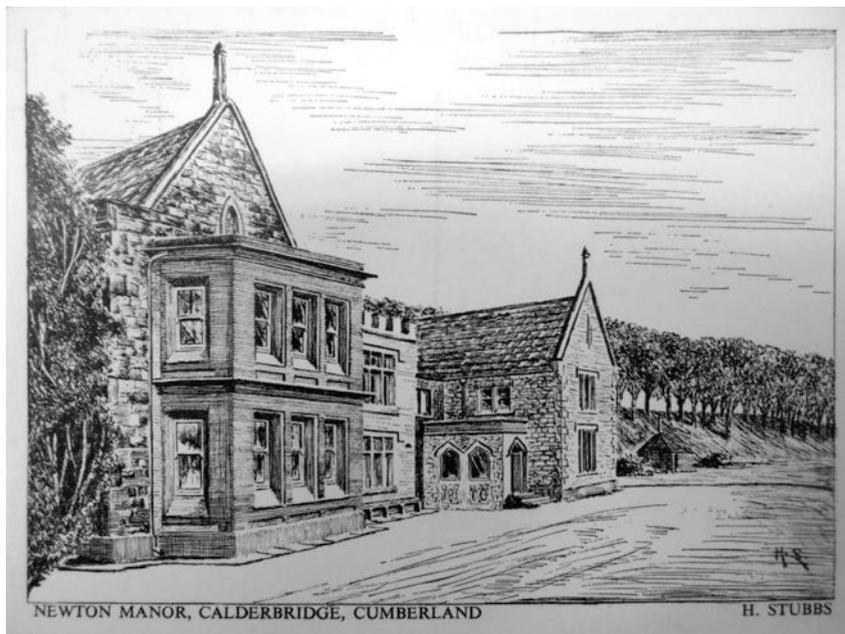


Plate 9: Extract from alterations to the gardener’s cottage (CAC(W) SRDE/3/PLANS2/921 1953)

3.1.7 **Undated postcard**: a drawing of the building reproduced as a postcard is present in the archives (CAC(W) YDLEW/9/2/3 nd). While it is undated it appears to be 20<sup>th</sup> century and shows the front of the building and the grounds.



**Plate 10: Undated view of Newton Manor (CAC(W) YDLEW/9/2/3 nd)**

3.1.8 **Summary:** it is evident from the cartographic sources that the site was formerly known as Low Ling Bank or Low Lingbank and that there were buildings on the site at least as early as 1774 (Plate 1). Low Lingbank is depicted in detail on the Ordnance Survey maps from the 1860s (Plate 2 and Plate 3), however, the current building, known as Newton Manor, replaced these early buildings either in whole or in part by 1899 (Plate 4). The building was substantially enlarged with the addition of a two storey extension to the north-east c1907 (Plate 5).

## 3.2 Site History

3.2.4 **Newton Manor:** the origins of the site are obscure, although it has been suggested that it was originally 'one of the manor houses built and owned by the Senhouse family from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> centuries' (CAC(W) YDLEW/9/2/2 nd) although no further evidence for this could be identified. It has also been stated that the property was built in 1835 by Anthony Benn Steward (Hudleston and Boumphrey 1978, 325), although no evidence to support this is given and on the basis of other information this seems unlikely (particularly because he didn't acquire the manor of Seascale until 1841: see *Section 3.2.6* below), but it could be referring to the house that preceded the current one.

3.2.5 It is apparent from the map evidence (see *Section 3.1* above) that it was originally known as Low Lingbank and appears to have been a farmhouse, based on the entries in the relevant directories (see Table 1). The earliest documentary reference to Low Lingbank is therefore only in 1829, although it is named as such on earlier maps (see *Section 3.1.2* above). The available census data (see *Appendix 1*) provides some further useful information, in demonstrating that in 1841 and 1851 it was occupied by farmers, although not either of those named in the directories, which suggests these were tenants. The lack of a tithe map makes identifying the actual owner at this time difficult. Between 1861 and 1881 it was occupied by Anthony Benn Steward, who is described as a magistrate and originally from Whitehaven, and his household staff; the entry for 1861 is actually the earliest reference to the property as Newton Manor that has been revealed. In 1891, however, it is listed as being occupied by a William B Turner, who is described as a 'mines owner' originally from Grange in Lancashire – presumably Grange-over-Sands, as well as his wife, five children and seven members of household staff. In 1901 it is listed as unoccupied. While this information is relatively limited in terms of what it says about the actual building it suggests that it saw some form of enlargement between 1881 and 1891, which fits with the map evidence.

Date	Address	Owner/Occupier	Source
1829	Low Lingbank	Anthony Sharp, farmer	Parson and White 1829, 211
1847	Lowling Bank ( <i>sic</i> )	Isaac Mossop, farmer	Mannix and Whellan 1847, 333
1871	Newton Manor	Anthony Benn Steward	CAC(W) LDLEW/9/2/3 nd
1879	Newton Manor	Anthony Benn Steward	Slater 1879, 98
1882	Newton Manor	Anthony Benn Steward	CAC(C) PROB/1882/W60 1882
1883	Newton Manor	Rev Robert Steward Falcon	Bulmer and Co 1883, 131
1888	Newton Manor	Robert Steward Falcon	CAC(C) PROB/1888/W238 1888
1901	Newton Manor	Mrs Falcon	Bulmer and Co 1901, 565
1903	Newton Man	William Watts Curwen Falcon Steward	CAC(W) S/Stan 3/196 1903
1907	Newton Manor	W Falcon Steward	CAC(W) SRDED/3/1/534 1907
1911	Newton Manor	William Watts Curwen Falcon Steward	CAC(C) PROB/1911/A200 1911
1953	Newton Manor	Falcon-Steward Trustees	CAC(W) SRDE/3/Plans 2/921 1953

**Table 1: Recorded Owners and Occupiers of Low Lingbank/Newton Manor**

3.2.6 There is limited information about the ownership. As already noted the lack of a title map makes establishing this difficult in the earlier 19<sup>th</sup> century. However, a series of wills and other information demonstrates that it was in the ownership of the Steward family and their descendants over a period. The earliest member of the family connected to Newton Manor was Anthony Benn Steward (1805-1881), the son of John Steward of Hensingham, who married Margaret Cecilia, the daughter of Anthony Benn of Hensingham House (Hudleston and Boumphrey 1978, 325; see also CAC(W) YDLEW 9/2/3 nd). Anthony Benn Steward purchased the manor of Seascale in 1841 after the death of Sir Humphrey le Fleming Senhouse (Hudleston and Boumphrey 1978, 325), at which point he perhaps came to own the property then known as Low Lingbank. He was a JP and High Sheriff of Cumberland in 1858 (*ibid*). In his will, proved in 1882, he left the property to his nephew Rev Robert Steward Falcon, who was to take the arms of Steward on possession (CAC(C) PROB/1882/W60 1882), which he did in 1883 (Hudleston and Boumphrey 1978, 325). However, he died in 1888 (CAC(C) PROB/1888/W238 1888) and was in turn succeeded by his wife Margaret and then his nephew William Watts Curwen Falcon (1851-1911), who also took the name Steward (Hudleston and Boumphrey 1978, 325). He died intestate (CAC(C) PROB/1911/A200 1911) the property passing to his only son Commander Hugh William Falcon-Steward (Hudleston and Boumphrey 1978, 325). Hugh (1907-1987) had a distinguished career in the Royal Navy, including throughout the Second World War, and married Margaret Capper in 1932 (Unithistories 2016).

3.2.7 It is apparent that he did not live at the house throughout all of this period as in 1933, shortly after his marriage, it was evidently available to let (CAC(B) BDB 47/1/9/2/234 1933-1940). One of the people who looked at it as a possible residence was Colonel A Hibberts, who is described as the general manager of the Millom Iron Company. He clearly did not go on to occupy Newton Manor, instead taking a house known as 'The Oaks' near Millom, but the correspondence at this time provides some useful detail of Newton Manor. It is described as '*modern and stone built... approached by a beautiful drive about three quarters of a mile in length with a good entrance lodge*' (*ibid*). These documents also contain descriptions of all of the main rooms, grounds, and associated elements:

*'Ground floor (heated throughout by radiators). Oak panelled Entrance Hall with vestibule. Dining Room 24 x 14 ft with serving door. Drawing Room 30 x 19ft. Smoke Room 16 x 15ft. Billiard Room 30 x 26ft reached by a few stairs and heated by radiators. Has lavatory with hot and cold water adjoining and a separate door to the grounds. Large light kitchen with modern range. Servants' sitting room, Scullery, Larder, Pantry, Good Cellars and useful and convenient out offices reached by a covered way.*

*The second floor is reached by an oak panelled staircase; has twelve bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, with hot and cold water, W.C. and Housemaids closet. There is a secondary stair case leading to the Servants' Bedrooms. Electric lighting throughout. Water supply from rural district council main. Drainage to own cesspool in good order. Telephone.*

*The grounds include walled flower garden with small green-house double tennis court (40 yards square). Kitchen garden and well stocked orchard. Good gardeners cottage with laundry attached, potting shed*

*&c. The stables comprise three stalls, three large boxes, double coach house and harness room. Garage with pit and good cottage for coachman. Between 8/9000 acres of shooting surrounding the house' (ibid).*

3.2.8 It is not clear at what point the building went out of use, although this was presumably a result of the construction of the nearby nuclear power station. It was evidently used much less by the Steward family from at least 1901 onward, although they did make a substantial addition in 1907 (see *Section 3.1.5* above).

## 4. Building Recording

### 4.1 Arrangement and Fabric

4.1.1 The main part of the building comprises an essentially linear range orientated approximately north-west/south-east, although the south-west side has numerous projecting elements. To the north-east is a detached essentially rectangular block connected to the main part by an enclosed walkway at first floor level. Both buildings are two storey, although the detached block is built into the slope allowing what is essentially a basement level, corresponding with the ground floor of the main house. Where visible the entire structure is at least finished with dressed red sandstone, with dressed blocks in neat courses for the majority and finely dressed details such as window and door surrounds and quoins, although the south-east end of the front elevation, the rear (north-east) elevation and all of the elevations of the detached block are finished with smooth render scored to give the appearance of ashlar blocks. The roofs, where they survive, are grey slate finished with sandstone ridge tiles and occasional octagonal stone finials; the roof of the detached block is hipped. The chimney stacks are typically constructed from dressed stone with tall ceramic chimney pots that are octagonal in plan. The rainwater goods are iron throughout. The interior was not accessible due to the poor condition of the building (and it was also difficult to access elements of the exterior for the same reason and because of thick undergrowth in some areas) but it was evidently extensively modernised with some good quality timberwork surviving in the entrance hall in the form of the main staircase.

### 4.2 External Detail

4.2.1 **Main block – north-west external elevation:** this comprises a large gable at the end of the building (Plate 11). It has a central projecting chimney breast with four octagonal ceramic pots on top of a moulded coping, two angled steps on the sides, and a blank heraldic shield in the centre. There are two windows on either side on both ground and first floor, the first floor ones with surviving two-light sliding sash casements, the ground floor ones covered by boards and metal bars, and all in dressed stone surrounds. There is also an angled plinth at the base and dressed quoins at the corners.



Plate 11: The north-west external elevation, viewed from the west

**4.2.2 Main block – south-west external elevation:** this comprises the front of the building and formed a single long elevation punctuated by several returns. The north-west end formed a gabled topped with an octagonal finial and with a moulded coping (Plate 12). At the top was a small pointed arched opening in a dressed surround, now blocked but presumably designed as such. The bulk of the rest of the elevation is filled by a large projecting bay window extending over two floors with a cavetto moulded entablature. Each floor has three central windows divided by stone mullions and a window in each side, on the first floor these have two-light sliding sash casements with horns but on the ground floor they are covered by boards and metal bars. Below each row of windows are open recessed panels. To the south-east of the bay window is a square projecting section forming a sham turret, topped with a dressed battlement on top with a moulded band below (Plate 13). This too has a window on ground and first floor, both of mullion and transom form with a moulded hood mould over. The first floor glazing within this comprises fixed two and four-light casements, while the ground floor is covered by boards and metal bars. This also a projecting stone ‘bench’ along the base, supported on short square pillars. The return on the south-east side has a window on the first floor with a transom housing two four-light casements with a drip mould over. There is a further drip mould below but this does not apparently correspond to another window.



**Plate 12 (left):** The north-west end of the south-west external elevation, viewed from the south-west

**Plate 13 (right):** The ‘turret’ on the north-west end of the south-west external elevation, viewed from the south-west

4.2.3 To the south-east of the 'turret' there are a further two windows divided by a stone mullion and covered with boards and bars. Above is a coat of arms carved in relief and set within a rectangular panel (Plate 14). To the south-east of this, at first floor level, is a further window of two parts divided by a stone mullion, now missing its casements, with slightly projecting dressed jambs and in the return to the south-west at the same level there is another window of the same type with two-light sliding sash casements with horns remaining. Below is a single storey porch with a flat roof (now missing) with moulded coping along the top including a deep entablature (Plate 15). There are two openings in the north-west side with moulded arched tops and divided by a stone mullion and sat on a rail with a perforated stone balustrade below. There is a doorway in the south-west side with a similar moulded arched top and the remains of a panelled door. Beyond the porch the elevation forms another large gable topped with a moulded cornice and octagonal finial (Plate 16). At first floor level there is a mullion and transom window housing three two-light sliding sash casements with a drip mould over. At ground floor level there is a similar, but larger, window with a drip mould, but it is covered by boards and metal bars.



**Plate 14 (left): The coat of arms in the south-west external elevation, viewed from the south-west**

**Plate 15 (right): The porch near the centre of the south-west external elevation, viewed from the south-west**



**Plate 16 (left): The projecting gable at the centre of the south-west external elevation, viewed from the west**

**Plate 17 (right): The gallery forming part of the south-west external elevation, viewed from the south-west**

4.2.4 The return beyond this gable has another first floor window comprising two two-light sliding sash casements with horns divided by a stone mullion. There is another, taller, window on the ground floor too divided by a transom into two parts but obscured by boards and metal bars. Beyond this the rest of the elevation is essentially on a single line, although there is a slight step back toward the south-east end and it all has a slight chamfered plinth at the base. Just beyond the return to the north-west there is a window on the ground floor divided by a central mullion but otherwise covered by boards and bars. Above it is a projecting timber gallery supported by brackets set on stone corbels (Plate 17). It is constructed from tongue and groove planks set diagonally between stop chamfered posts and rails with the top part comprising a long timber mullion and transom window of three and four fixed lights, extending around the north-west and south-east sides. South-east of this is a ground floor window with three mullions, covered by boards and metal bars, above which is a similar but slightly smaller window divided by three mullions and housing three two-light sliding sash casements with horns (Plate 18). The step in the wall line to the south-east of these is finished with quoins, with a kneeler at the top at the end of the coping of the gable. Beyond this there are two further windows, one on each floor, both with the mullions and the first floor one with surviving two-light sliding sash casements with horns (Plate 19). The south corner is finished with dressed quoins topped with a kneeler supporting the end of the coping of the south-east gable and extended by a low attached monopitch outshut constructed from timber planks and with a simple door and single-light window.



**Plate 18 (left):** The south-east end of the south-west external elevation, viewed from the south-west

**Plate 19 (right):** The far south-west end of the south-west external elevation, viewed from the south-west

4.2.5 **Main block – south-east external elevation:** this forms a gable end, with a slightly taller gable projecting above it to the north-west, both of which are finished with render scored to give the appearance of ashlar blocks (Plate 20). The lower part is obscured by an attached timber monopitch outshut on the south-west side with a corrugated metal roof, although within this the original wall comes to a plinth as per the south-west elevation. To the north-east is a taller monopitch outshut with a slate roof, finished with smooth render but with dressed quoins at the corners. It has a small window in the south-west return. The main elevation is essentially plain but with a moulded coping extending into kneelers at either end with scrolled details and quoins below on the south-west side only. In the centre of the gable is a circular opening with a dressed stone surround. The gable projecting above it has similar kneelers and a moulded coping and is topped by a chimney of ashlar stone supporting six ceramic octagonal-section chimneys, four of which are in the same style.



**Plate 20:** The south-east external elevation, viewed from the west

**4.2.6 Main block – north-east external elevation:** this was difficult to fully access, especially the central part. The south-east end is rendered and scored to make an ashlar block effect and extended by the rendered monopitch outshut on the, which has a single doorway with square dressed stone surrounds and a plank and batten door with strap hinges with a single light covered by mesh (Plate 21). To the north-west the main part of the elevation has a window on the ground and first floors, the former covered by boards and metal bars, the latter with two-light fixed casements and both in rebated plain dressed stone square surrounds (Plate 22). To the north-west are two further ground floor and three further first floor windows, the first floor ones with six-light sliding sash casements. Between the ground floor windows is a doorway with a projecting porch constructed from solid stone slabs and with a flat canopy with some moulding. North-west of the centre, at first floor level, is a projecting timber gallery, similar in style to that to the south-west but smaller. North-east of this is a return at first floor level forming a walkway connecting to the detached building to the north-east. This has a long window at first floor level with two nine-light casements and a roof light above with four six-light casements below a hipped roof. Below this walkway is a doorway and the remains of associated timber infilling. Beyond the walkway is a first floor mullion and transom window with six openings housing two and three light casements. North-west of this are a further two windows, one on each floor. The ground floor example with two lights in a plain stone surround covered by boards and metal bars, the first floor a 12-light sliding sash casement with no horns (Plate 23). Low to the north-west is a lead hopper built into a hole in the wall (Plate 24), immediately before a step in the wall where it forms a large gable. This has two first floor windows, one on either side, both with two-light sliding sash casements with horns in dressed stone surrounds (Plate 25). At the top in the centre of the gable is a raised cross-shaped decoration in the form of blank arrow slots or gun loops and the top is finished with an octagonal finial and moulded coping, with quoins at the north-west end proper.



**Plate 21 (left):** The outshut at the south-east end of the north-east external elevation, viewed from the north-east

**Plate 22 (right):** The south-east end of the north-east external elevation, viewed from the east



**Plate 23 (left): Windows in the north-east external elevation north-west of the return connecting to the detached building, viewed from the north-east**

**Plate 24 (right): Lead hopper at the north-west end of the north-east external elevation, viewed from the north-east**



**Plate 25: The north-west end of the north-east external elevation, viewed from the east**

**4.2.7 Detached block – north-west external elevation:** this is finished with render as per the rest of this block, scored to give the appearance of ashlar blocks and with a square stone string course midway along. There is a large window on the lower floor with a central square stone mullion and square surround but the window is blocked with boards and bars (Plate 26). On the upper floor there is a further window also with square surrounds and utilising the string course for its sill and with three eight-light hinged timber casements. The whole elevation is extended to the south-west into a first floor walkway bridging over the passage running along the north-east side of the main building and connecting to it at first floor level. This contains a further window in the lower floor with a pair of nine-light casements and a raised rooflight above comprised of four six-light casements (Plate 27). There are numerous ceramic vents across the main part of the elevation.



**Plate 26 (left):** The main part of the north-west external elevation of the detached block, viewed from the north-west



**Plate 27 (right):** The extension of the north-west external elevation of the detached block joining the main building, viewed from the north

**4.2.8 Detached block – south-west external elevation:** this was difficult to view due to access to the passageway being obstructed. The upper two floors each had two windows. The lower part, where it was built into the slope, had a row of six doorways all with panel doors and plain door surrounds and there were numerous ceramic vents (Plate 28).



**Plate 28: Doorways in the lower part of the south-west external elevation of the detached block, viewed from the north-west**

4.2.9 **Detached block – south-east external elevation:** the south corner of this is covered by the end of a small outshut, which is plain render with single small window covered by boards and a hipped roof (Plate 29). The main elevation beyond this also has a hipped roof and is finished with render with a square stone string course across the centre. There is a large window at what is ground floor level in this building with a central square stone mullion and surround, the casement covered by boards and bars. On the floor above is a further slightly narrower window, the sill of which is formed from the string course and which also has a square stone surround and houses a pair of hinged timber eight-light casements. At the base of the elevation is a datestone inscribed ‘M.V.F.S. H.W.F.S. FEBRUARY 1908’ (Plate 30), and there are also two ceramic vents to the north-east with pointed Gothic openings.



**Plate 29 (left): The south-east external elevation of the detached block, viewed from the south-east**

**Plate 30 (right): The datestone in the south-east external elevation of the detached block, viewed from the south-east**

4.2.10 **Detached block – north-east external elevation:** the south-east end of this is extended by the lower outshut, which has a small window on the south-east side with square surrounds that is covered by boards and bars, with a doorway to the north-west also similarly covered although the door is panelled. There is also a ceramic vent like that in the south-east elevation. The main elevation, to the north-west, has a window on either end, with the same string course forming the sill and with plain stone surrounds and covered by boards and bars (Plate 31). In the centre is a projecting chimney stack, the string course continuing round it and with moulded copings with kneelers on the angled base tier (Plate 32). The top of the stack has further moulded copings and supports three round ceramic pots.



**Plate 31 (left):** The north-east external elevation of the detached building, viewed from the south-east

**Plate 32 (right):** The chimney forming part of the north-east external elevation of the detached building, viewed from the south-east

4.2.11 **Other external detail:** where the main part of the building is built into the slope on the north-east side there is a passageway built alongside, and this is also the case along the south-east side of the detached block and there is also a lowered section along the north-west side of the detached block (Plate 26). There is also a staircase connecting the main building, via the passageway along the north-east side, to the detached building. This effectively forms part of the walls of the passageway and comprises a single section returning on itself topped with iron railings (Plate 33).



Plate 33: Staircase connecting the two buildings, viewed from the south

### 4.3 Internal Detail

4.3.1 **Introduction:** only a limited amount of the internal space could be viewed due to the poor condition of the building and this was mainly carried out through the use of a remote camera looking through the upper level windows. There were some exceptions, primarily the outshot at the south-east end, but these provided very limited visibility or additional information.

4.3.2 **Ground floor, Room 1 (G1):** the floor is entirely covered in debris and the ceiling collapsed. The walls are finished with plaster and paint and with traces of a cornice (Plate 34). The north-west elevation has an evident alcove with shelves incorporated into what was a window externally but there was no evidence for a fireplace on this floor. There is a doorway in the south-east elevation and window to the south-west.



Plate 34: The interior of Room G1, viewed from the south-west

4.3.3 **Ground floor, Room 4:** this was generally too dark to see anything in detail but the staircase on the north-east side is clearly timber and decorated in an elaborate Gothic style with pointed arches formed in the balustrade.

4.3.4 **Ground floor, Room 5:** the floor is covered by rubble and the ceiling collapsed. The walls are bare dressed stone with the main entrance, to the north-east, decorated with stop chamfered surrounds.

4.3.5 **Ground floor, Room 6:** this was difficult to view and largely obscured by rubble. The walls are finished with plaster and wall paper with a moulded dado rail. There is a possible fireplace to the north-west and a large fitted cupboard to the north-east set within a wide alcove (Plate 35).



**Plate 35: The interior of Room G6, viewed from the south-west**

4.3.6 **Ground floor, Room 20:** this is the interior of the larger outshut on the south-east end of the building. The floor is obscured by debris and it is open to the roof, which is supported in machine cut purlins. All of the walls are finished with thick limewash and essentially plain, with the exception of the south-west, which has a small window at high level.

4.3.7 **First floor Room 1:** this was clearly originally several rooms but the internal partitions have now collapsed with the floor. The ceiling is plaster but not apparently with any surviving cornice. The walls are finished with plaster and wall paper and there are windows to the north-west and north-east with two-light sliding sash casements and an opening for a fireplace to the north-west, although the fireplace itself has been removed (Plate 36).



**Plate 36: The interior of Room F1, viewed from the south-west**

4.3.8 **First Floor, Room 2:** the walls were finished with plaster and wall paper and there were the remains of a fireplace in the north-west elevation but this was heavily overgrown. The south-east side has a return on the south-west side forming a large recess and there is a six panel door to the north-east.

4.3.9 **First Floor, Room 3:** this comprises a small bathroom off the north-east end of an internal corridor, the only notable feature of which was a six panel door to the south-west.

4.3.10 **First Floor, Room 5:** this has a timber board floor still intact and the walls were finished with plaster and paint and a tall skirting board (Plate 37).



**Plate 37: The interior of Room F5, viewed from the south-west**

4.3.11 **First Floor, Room 13:** this has a painted concrete floor and plaster ceiling, with a small hatch into the roof space. The walls are finished with plaster and paint and there is a doorway to the north-west with a six-panel door (Plate 38).



**Plate 38 (left): Doorway in Room F13, viewed from the north-east**

**Plate 39 (right): Interior of Room S2, viewed from the north-west**

4.3.12 **Second Floor, Room 1:** this has a timber board floor and the walls are finished with plaster and paint. The doorways have relatively plain surrounds (Plate 39).



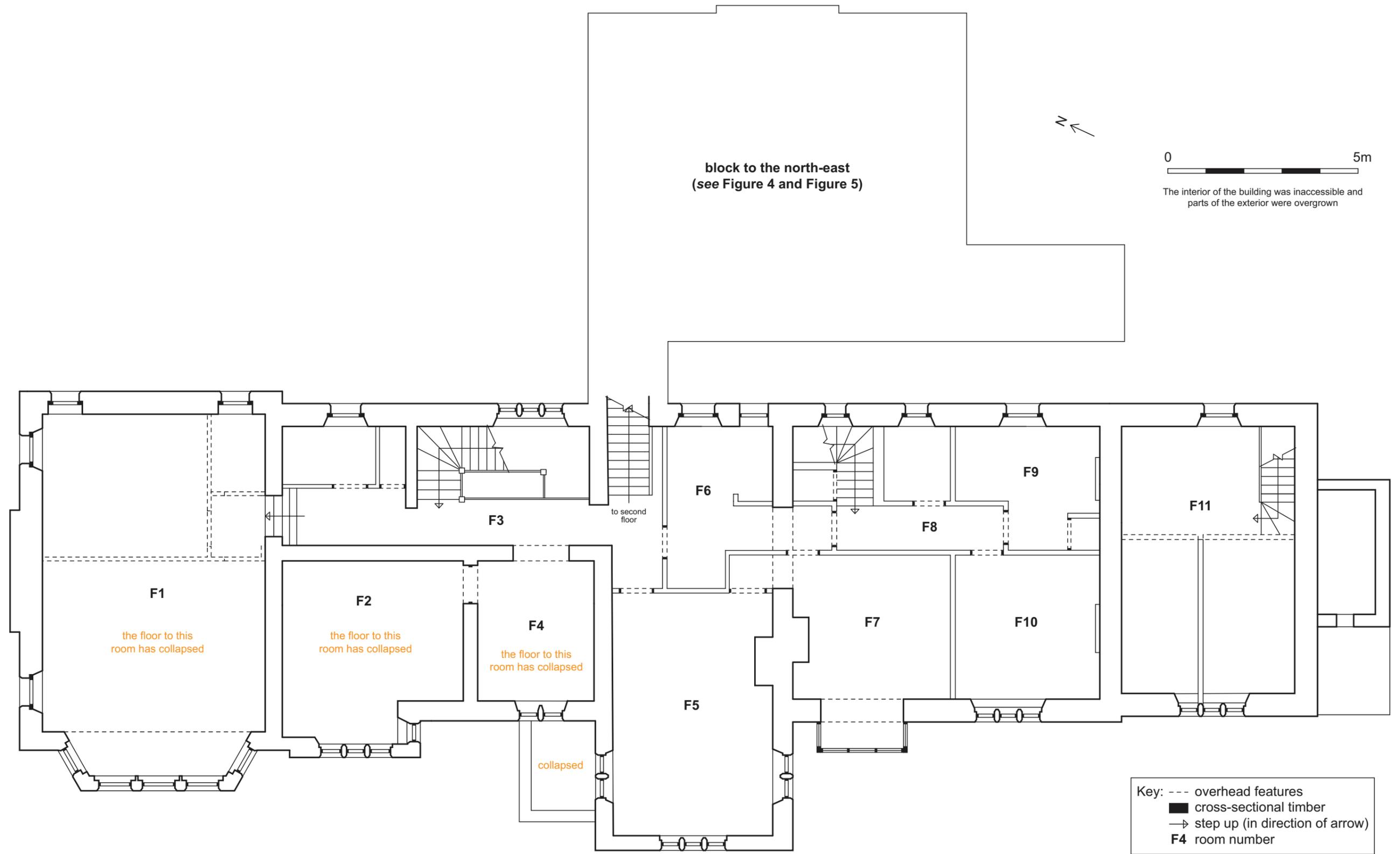
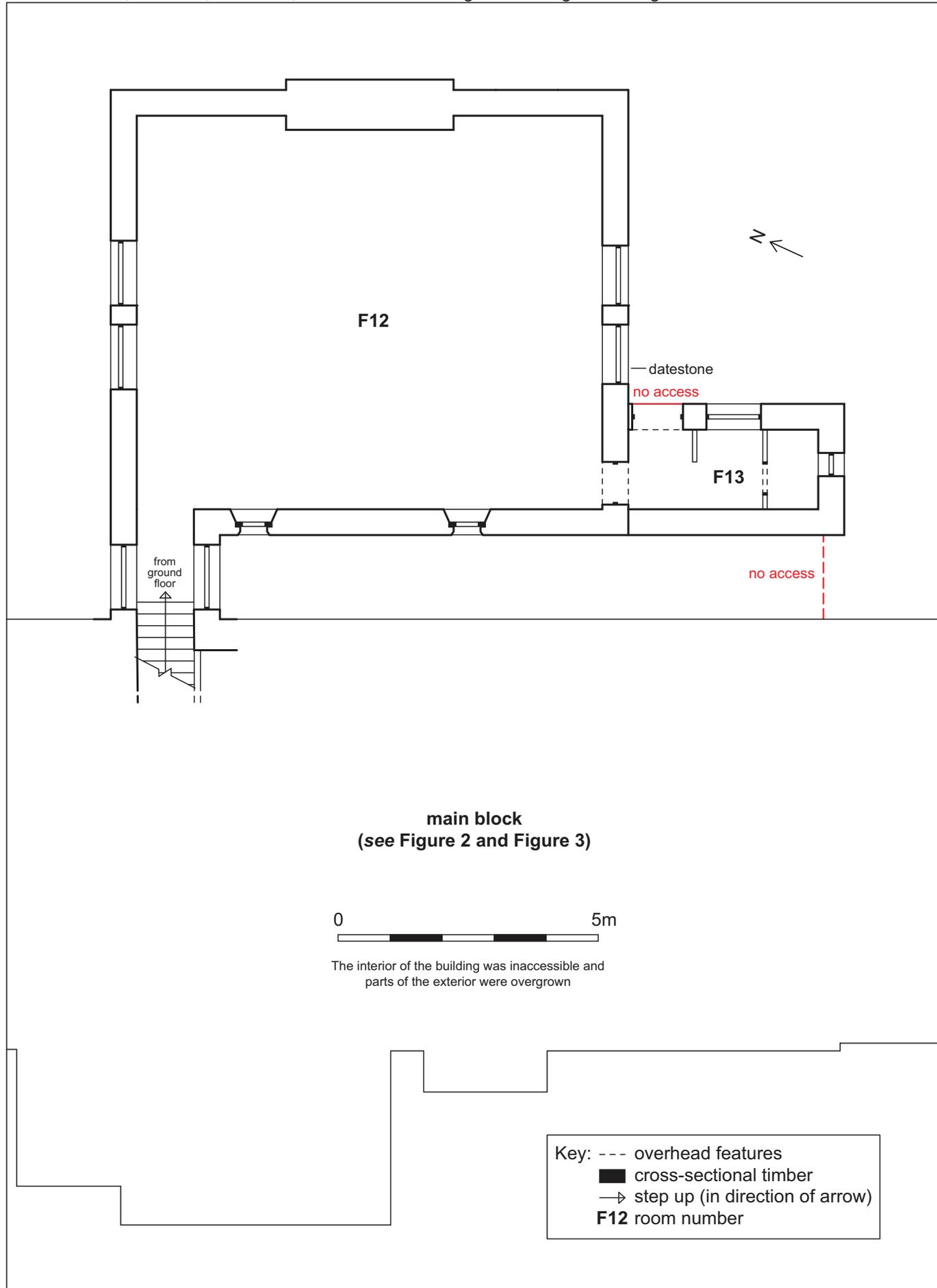
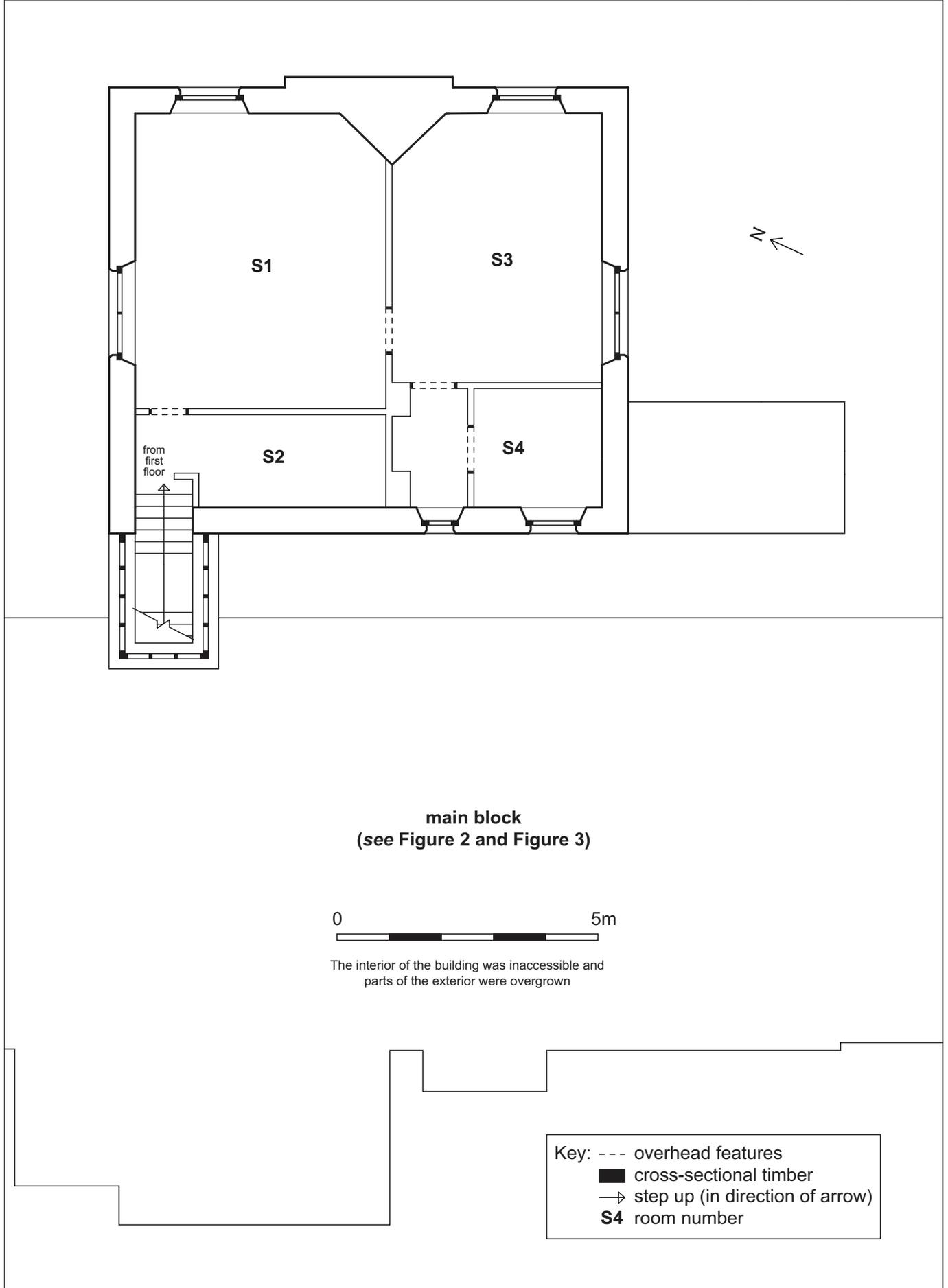


Figure 3: First floor plan of the main block



**Figure 4: First floor plan of detached block to the north-east**



**Figure 5: Second floor plan of the detached block to the north-east**

## 5. Discussion

### 5.1 Phasing

5.1.1 **Introduction:** the limited access to the interior of the building means that the interpretation of its development is generally difficult, especially in terms of establishing whether or not there is any fabric relating to the building(s) that stood on the site prior to the construction of the current mansion. However, the documentary evidence does allow a reasonably detailed understanding of the four phases that can be identified to be presented.

5.1.2 **Phase 1 (pre-1867):** the map evidence shows that there was an earlier building on the site on a similar footprint to the present one; the origin of this is uncertain as it has been suggested that the site was occupied as early as the 16<sup>th</sup> century but also that a house was built there in 1835. What is unclear is how much, if any, of this was incorporated into the extant structure. There was no evidence that this was particularly extensive; however, the single 12-light sash window without horns in the north-east elevation is somewhat anomalous when compared to the rest of the casements. The form, and in particular the lack of horns, would suggest a date before the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century; horns were introduced from about 1840 to provide additional support when thicker and larger glazing began to be used more widely (Wedd 1999, 2).

5.1.3 **Phase 2 (c1867-c1899):** the exact date at which the current house was built is not known as there are no known architect's plans or other records. However, the map evidence clearly shows that it was constructed between c1867 and c1899, which is the period at which it was occupied by the Stewards and their heirs. Since they were not granted a coat of arms until 1883 (Hudleston and Boumphrey 1978, 325) it seems unlikely that the house will be any earlier than this date. The form of the house, as built, clearly owed a great deal to popular contemporary architectural styles (see Hyde and Pevsner 2010, 58-68), in particular the Gothic revival, as demonstrated through the numerous *faux*-medieval elements such as the arched openings, false 'arrow-slit', and 'turret'.

5.1.4 **Phase 3 (1908):** the documentary evidence clearly shows that the extension to the north-east of the main building, in the form of a detached block, evidently primarily comprising a large billiard room, was designed in 1907. The datestone revealed on site shows that it was constructed or perhaps completed in February 1908. However, it is not clear who the initials on the datestone refer too. By 1908 the estate was still apparently in the ownership of William Watts Curwen Falcon-Steward, who died in 1911. His son, Hugh William Falcon-Steward, has initials that match one set on the datestone but he was apparently only born in 1907. However, he had a sister, Mary Violet Falcon-Steward, born in 1904 ([https://www.myheritage.com/names/mary\\_falcon](https://www.myheritage.com/names/mary_falcon)), so it is conceivable, since they are the best match, that the datestone was placed in honour of the children of William Watts Curwen Falcon-Steward.

5.1.5 **Phase 4 (late 20<sup>th</sup> century):** later alterations to the building are not especially obvious, although the timber shed on the south-east end was clearly added relatively recently and internally the whole building has been extensively modernised. This seems to have led to the loss of many decorative features such as the fireplaces, although it is clear that in many cases these were removed after the building became disused. The most significant aspect of this phase is the general decay of the building, most probably over the last few years, primarily caused by the ingress of water and resulting collapse of the internal floors.

### 5.2 Significance

5.2.1 With the identity of the original architect of the building unknown it is difficult to assess the significance of the building, although it was clearly architecturally impressive and relatively elaborate when first constructed. By contrast, the architect of the addition of 1907/8 is recorded in the accompanying documents as G Nelson of Whitehaven, but little is known about him. A George Nelson is recorded working primarily in Carlisle in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century but he seems to have been a sculptor rather than an architect (Hyde and Pevsner 2010, 59). Nevertheless, the building still retains some local significance due to its connection with the Steward and Falcon-Steward families, who were initially important as local magistrates and later due to their military connections.

5.2.2 At present the understanding of the building and therefore the interpretation of its significance is hampered by the lack of access to the interior. It is conceivable that were investigation possible inside the building then a more refined understanding of its development would be possible.

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## Appendix 1: Census Details

1841 Census (HO 107/Piece 156/Folio 9/Page 3)				
Name	Age	Occupation	Address	Place of Birth
Joseph Dixon	25	Farmer	Low Ling Bank	Cumberland
Anne Dixon	25		Low Ling Bank	Cumberland
Henry Dixon	1		Low Ling Bank	Cumberland
Eleanor Poole	60	Independent	Low Ling Bank	Cumberland
Isaac Robinson	15	Male servant	Low Ling Bank	Cumberland
Ester Hellon	15	Female servant	Low Ling Bank	Cumberland

1851 Census (HO 107/Piece 2437/Folio 590/Page 15)				
Name	Age	Occupation	Address	Place of Birth
John Irwin	53	Farmer of 90 acres	Low Ling Bank	Cumberland, Wigton
Isabella Irwin	48		Low Ling Bank	Cumberland, Haile
Elizabeth Irwin	17	Dressmaker	Low Ling Bank	Cumberland, St Bridgets
Joseph Irwin	14	Farmer's son	Low Ling Bank	Cumberland, St Bridgets
Ann Irwin	11	Scholar	Low Ling Bank	Cumberland, St Bridgets
Mary Irwin	76	Formerly house keeper	Low Ling Bank	Cumberland, Egremont

1861 Census (RG 9/Piece 3951/Folio 76/Page 8)				
Name	Age	Occupation	Address	Place of Birth
Anthony B Steward	55	Magistrate	Newton Manor	Cumberland, Whitehaven
Margaret Swainson	45	Housekeeper	Newton Manor	Lancashire, Cartmel
Joseph Campbell	25	House servant	Newton Manor	Dumfries, Scotland
Ruth Robinson	24	House maid	Newton Manor	Cumberland, Gosforth

1871 Census (RG 10/Piece 526/Folio 55/Page 7-8)				
Name	Age	Occupation	Address	Place of Birth
Anthony Benn Steward	65	Magistrate land owner	Newton Manor	Cumberland, Whitehaven
Andrew Smith	62	Butler domestic servant	Newton Manor	Roxburghshire, Rosley Hill
Jane Wright	36	Cook domestic servant	Newton Manor	Hesket in the Forst, Scotland (sic)
Elizabeth Smith	28	House servant domestic	Newton Manor	Croscanonby

1881 Census (RG 11/Piece 5194/Folio 72/Page 16)				
Name	Age	Occupation	Address	Place of Birth
Anthony B Steward	75	Magistrate county	Newton Manor	Cumberland, Whitehaven
Andrew Smith	72	Butler domestic servant	Newton Manor	Scotland, Roxburghshire
David Jackson	57	Coachman	Newton Manor	Cumberland, Ulpha
Margaret Swainson	64	Housekeeper	Newton Manor	Lancashire, Cartmel

1891 Census (RG 12/Piece 4319/Folio 128/Page 17)				
Name	Age	Occupation	Address	Place of Birth
William B Turner	50	J.P. D.L. Mines owner	Newton Manor	Lancashire, Grange
Addy Turner	45		Newton Manor	Cheshire (sic), Egremont
Nathalie A Turner	22		Newton Manor	Lancashire, Ulverstone (sic)
Hilda Turner	20		Newton Manor	Lancashire, Ulverstone (sic)
Ernest(?) Turner	19	Scholar	Newton Manor	Lancashire, Ulverstone (sic)
Charles Turner	17	Scholar	Newton Manor	Cumberland, Sella Park
Nora Turner	15	Scholar	Newton Manor	Cumberland, Sella Park
Margaret K Auriel(?)	39	Domestic servant (cook)	Newton Manor	Durham, Byers Green

Mary A Macdonald	34	Domestic servant (maid)	Newton Manor	Scotland
Hannah Gunson	34	Domestic servant (housemaid)	Newton Manor	Cumberland, Egremont
Margaret Hoff	24	Domestic servant (housemaid)	Newton Manor	Cumberland, Houghton(?)
Lilian Newton	22	Domestic servant (kitchenmaid)	Newton Manor	Cumberland, Cockermouth
Margaret Tremine	19	Domestic servant (maid)	Newton Manor	Scotland
Alfred Williamson	17	Domestic servant (footman)	Newton Manor	Lancashire, Liverpool