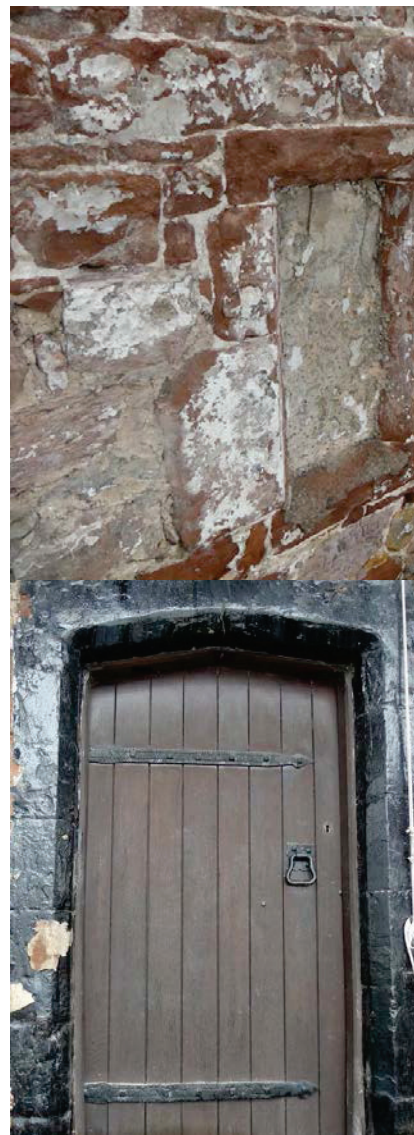


THE MOOT HALL, APPLEBY-IN-WESTMORLAND, CUMBRIA

Archaeological Building Recording



Client: Appleby Town Council

NGR 368352 520347

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November 2021



The Site	
Site Name	The Moot Hall, Appleby-in-Westmorland
County	Cumbria
NGR	368352 520347
Listing Status, Level, and number	Listed Grade II, No. 1145607
Brief description of building/buildings to be recorded	External elevations of moot hall following the removal of render

Client	
Client Name	Appleby Town Council
Client's architect	Crosby Granger
'As existing' drawings available?	Yes

Planning	
Pre-planning?	No
Planning application ref.	21/0393
Plans (e.g. conversion, extension, demolition)	Renovation of building including removal of external render and re-rendering in lime render
Condition No.	None, requested by Historic England
Local Planning Authority	Eden District Council
Planning Archaeologist	Jeremy Parsons, Cumbria County Council
Level of Building Recording required	Historic England Level 2/3

Archiving	
Relevant Record Office(s)/Archive Centre(s)	Kendal
Relevant HER	Cumbria

Staffing	
Desk-based assessment	Dan Elsworth
Building recording	Dan Elsworth Tom Mace
Report writing	Dan Elsworth
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Date on site work carried out	04/10/2021

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Plate 40: High-level windows in the cells at Millom police station (after Greenlane Archaeology 2013)26

Summary

Following the removal of the external render from the Moot Hall, Appleby-in-Westmorland, Cumbria, during a programme of renovation, Greenlane Archaeology was commissioned to carry out a building recording to record a range of features of interest that had been revealed. This followed on from an extensive investigation into the history of the building and dendrochronological investigation carried out in 2018.

The Moot Hall is considered to have been built at the end of the 16th century, possibly in 1596, as per a datestone in the south-east elevation, which is partially confirmed by the recent dendrochronological dating. The documentary sources mention some new building in the early 17th century, perhaps the raising of the roof to its current position, as evident within the roof space and in the apparent repositioning of the original roof timbers. Later accounts described regular repairs and in 1800 a new extension to the north-west is recorded. By this time the lower level was clearly being used for shops, and a dwelling was included in the extension, and both of these elements can be traced in the census and local directories. A single reference to a 'blackhole' in 1847 suggests that part of it might have been used as a jail. There are less alterations recorded in the late 19th and 20th century, although the current arrangement of shop fronts was probably created at that time. The current staircase to the first-floor door in the south-east end was added in 1933 and a single-storey extension was added to the north-west end in 1970.

The building recording revealed a number of features of interest, including blocked mullion windows in the south-east and south-west elevations, evidence that many of the tall regular windows were inserted, a former gable in the south-east elevation, a row of former doorways (now windows) in the south-west, and a blocked doorway and row of small high-level windows at the north-west end of the south-west elevation.

Interpreting these features is difficult given the long life of the building but it is likely that the original gable represents the form of the late 16th century building, which was raised to its current height in the early 17th century. The north-western extension seems earlier than the suggested date of 1800; it is evidently shown on a plan of Appleby dated 1754, with a doorway depicted matching the blocked one revealed, and the form of the v-jointed quoins at this end is also fitting for an 18th century date. It is suggested that the row of small high-level windows correspond to a former jail, the 'blackhole' recorded in 1847, and that part of the north-west end was used for this prior to the construction of the Shire Hall and new jail in Appleby in the 1770s. Later alterations are less substantial.

The building recording has shown further how complex the building is, as might be expected after over 400 years of continuous use. The evidence for a jail or lockup is particularly significant.

Acknowledgements

Greenlane Archaeology would like to thank Appleby Town Council for commissioning the project. Thanks are due to Crosby Granger Architects, in particular Andrew Bodenham and Chloe Granger for their information about the site. Special thanks are due to Gary Badby and colleagues at Aura Heritage Ltd for their assistance on site.

1. Introduction

1.1 Circumstances of the Project

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

1.2 Location, Geology, and Topography

1.2.1 The site is located in the centre of Appleby, at the north end of the middle of Boroughgate. (Figure 1; Ordnance Survey 2015). It is approximately 130m above sea level (*ibid*).

1.2.2 The underlying solid geology comprises Sherwood sandstone of the Triassic period (Moseley 1978, plate 1), and this is overlain by glacially derived boulder clay (Countryside Commission 1998, 40). The topography of the site is essentially urban, as it is located in the centre of the town.

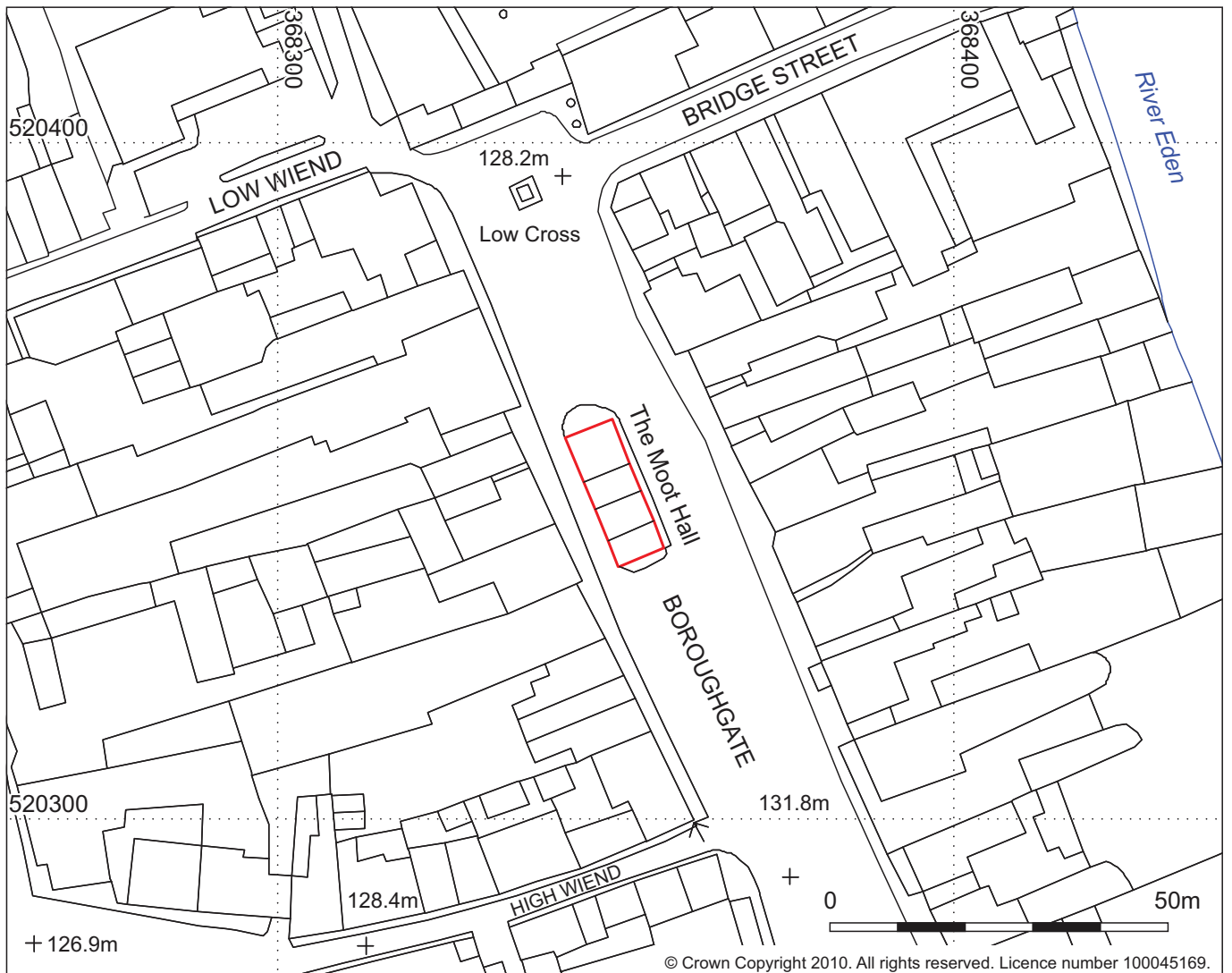
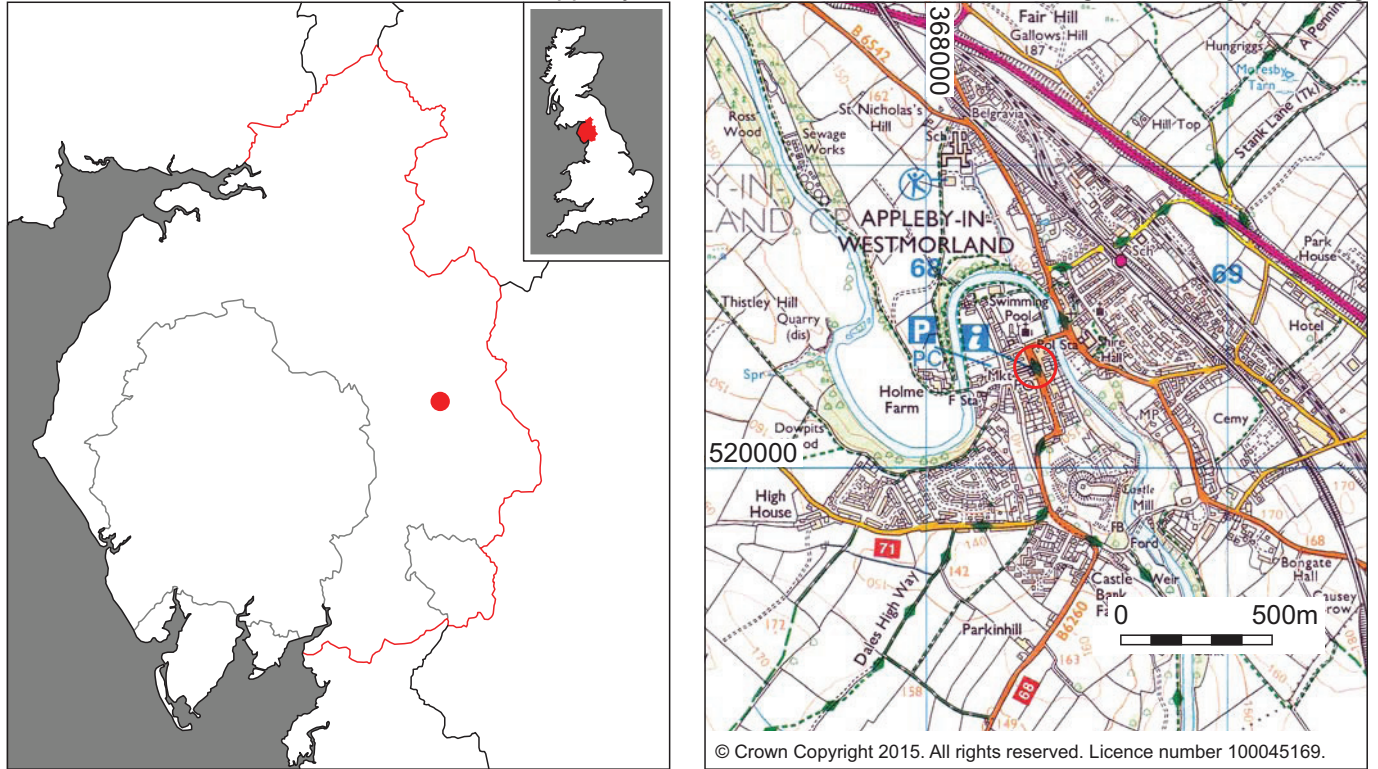


Figure 1: Site location

Client: Appleby Town Council

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2. Methodology

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological building recording is intended to provide a suitable record of the exterior elevations of the structure equivalent to Level 2/3 survey, as defined by Historic England (Historic England 2016), following the removal of the external render. The building recording was carried out according to the guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a; 2014b). A suitable archive has also been compiled to provide a permanent paper record of the project and its results, also in accordance with CIfA guidelines (CIfA 2014c).

2.2 Desk-Based Assessment

2.2.1 The background information has been taken from an earlier assessment report for the building (Barter and Elsworth 2018). The desk-based assessment element of this was carried out in accordance with the guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014b). This comprised an examination of early maps of the site, documentary records held in the archives, and published secondary sources. A number of sources of information were used during the compilation of the desk-based assessment:

- **Record Office/Archive Centre:** the majority of original and secondary sources relating to the site are deposited in the relevant Record Office(s) or Archive Centre(s), as specified in the cover sheet of this report. Of principal importance are early maps of the site, but also original documentary sources such as town council records, minute books and accounts. These were examined in order to establish the development of the site, date of any structures present within it, and details of land use, in order to set the site in its historical, archaeological, and regional context. In addition, any details of the site's owners and occupiers were acquired where available;
- **Online Resources:** where available, mapping such as Ordnance Survey maps and tithe maps were consulted online;
- **Greenlane Archaeology:** Greenlane Archaeology's office library includes maps, local histories, and unpublished primary and secondary sources. These were consulted where relevant, in order to provide information about the history and archaeology of the site and the general area.

2.3 Building Recording

2.3.1 The building recording was carried out to Historic England Level 2/3 type standards (Historic England 2016), which provides a relatively detailed record of the building. The recording comprised the following elements:

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

2.4 Archive

2.4.1 The archive, comprising the drawn, written, and photographic record of the building, will be deposited with the relevant Record Office or Archive Centre, as detailed on the cover sheet of this report, together with a copy of the report. The archive has been compiled according to the standards and guidelines of the CIfA guidelines (CIfA 2014c). In addition, details will be submitted to the Online Access

to the Index of archaeological investigations (OASIS) scheme. This is an internet-based project intended to improve the flow of information between contractors, local authority heritage managers and the general public. A copy of the report will be provided to the client and a digital copy of the report will be provided for the relevant Historic Environment Record, as detailed on the cover sheet of this report.

3. Desk-Based Assessment

3.1 Site History

3.1.1 **Introduction:** the following site history is summarised from Barter and Elsworth (2018).

3.1.2 The Moot Hall is thought to have been constructed in about 1596, on the basis of a datestone of 1596 in the south-east gable (although this was apparently moved to its present location from another location) and recent dendrochronological dating of timbers from AD 1571-1596 (Arnold *et al* 2018). Evidence from within the building shows that the original structure was raised in height sometime after this and the timber from the original trusses reused. Documentary records refer to the construction of a 'newbuilding' in 1687 and it is possible that this is a reference to the structure being raised in height. From the 18th century it is apparent from various sources that the lower floor of the Moot Hall was used for commercial activity, with a range of shops occupying the space. However, from the late 18th century and into the 19th there were repeated claims that the building was inconvenient due to its position in the street, and with the building of a new shire hall in 1773 the assizes were no longer held at the Moot Hall, making its usefulness even more doubtful. Despite this, the Moot Hall survived.

3.1.3 In 1800 it was decided to construct a '*new building at the north end of the Moot Hall*', which was to include a dwelling house, space for the public weights and scales, and a granary. This was evidently constructed but the future of the building was still uncertain and by 1815 it was being described as '*dilapidated*' and the building is referred to as including a 'blackhole', i.e. a gaol, on the tithe apportionment of 1847. Records of repairs continue throughout the 19th century and details of the occupiers of the cottage can be identified through the census returns and the shop owners are recorded in local directories into the early 20th century. Various phases of alteration were made to the stairs accessing the first-floor doorway in the south-east end of the building, the latest being in 1933. During the 20th century alterations were more minor, and included the addition of toilets and a shelter at the north-west end, although the latter was subsequently replaced by a ground floor extension in 1970.

4. Building Recording

4.1 Arrangement and Fabric

4.1.1 **Fabric:** the exterior of the building is constructed primarily from local red sandstone, although other stone types, mostly volcanic, are also present. Detailing is also occasionally in red sandstone but also render and repairs and alterations have also been made in concrete. Timber has been used for lintels and details such as the shop fronts, doors and windows, and the north-west end has been extended at ground floor level with an addition of concrete block construction.

4.1.2 **Arrangement:** the building comprises a single block orientated approximately north-west/south-east, with the front onto the main street (Boroughgate). It is mostly two storey, the north-western two bays comprising an early extension at this level, which is further extended at ground floor level only to the north-west.

4.2 External Detail

4.2.1 **North-west external elevation:** this forms a hipped gable; the top of the wall has no obvious features of interest, although there is a distinct line of different material, a pale-yellow sandstone, c3m long at the top but this doesn't appear to be related to any obvious change in build or opening (Plate 1). Below this are two tall windows at first floor level. Both with very evident rebuild in the jambs suggesting they are inserted, including some dressed reused pieces, perhaps parts of a former lintel (Plate 2). There is also a small blocked hole filled with hand-made brick below the north-east window, and a butt joint line between the two (Plate 3), which seems to form part of a larger area of rebuild or alteration extending to the south-west. A further possible small opening blocked with brick is also present to the south-west (Plate 4) and the ends of the elevation are finished with v-jointed ashlar quoins. The ground floor level below this is covered by the later addition.



Plate 1 (left): Different build at the top of the north-west elevation, viewed from the north

Plate 2 (right): The north-east window at first floor level in the north-west elevation, viewed from the north



Plate 3 (left): Butt joint between the two first floor windows in the north-west elevation, viewed from the north-west

Plate 4 (right): Rebuild around the south-west window and blocked opening on the south-west side of the north-west elevation, viewed from the north-west

4.2.2 North-east external elevation: at the top of the wall this has no obvious features but all of the windows evidently have timber lintels, which have been clad with thin pieces of stone, in some cases pieces of yellow sandstone flagstone (Plate 5 and Plate 6). At first floor level there is some evidence for rebuilding around the jambs of the two north-westernmost windows and the central one (Plate 7 and Plate 8). In addition, the quoins where of the early extension at the north-west end are evident and form the south-east jamb of the second window from the north-west end. The north-west end is finished with v-jointed ashlar quoins. At ground floor level the modern single-storey extension at the north-west end is very obvious and constructed from concrete blocks (Plate 9). Immediately to the south-east of these are three shop windows with decorative timber surrounds, the central one with concrete blocks filling the space below, suggesting it was originally a doorway, the other two with holes for early vents (Plate 10). The south-eastern is set against the quoins of the original end of the building where the early extension was added (Plate 11). There are two further shop windows to the south-east, each with a doorway on the south-east side and again with decorative moulding (Plate 12), and a further doorway to the south-east with a very worn chamfered quoined surround (Plate 13). There is a further shop window to the south-east and roughly dressed quoins at the south-east end (Plate 14).



Plate 5 (left): Window tops showing clad lintels at the top of the north-east elevation, viewed from the north
Plate 6 (right): Window tops showing clad lintels at the top of the north-east elevation, viewed from the north



Plate 7 (left): The north-west window at first floor in the north-east elevation, viewed from the east

Plate 8 (right): The window south-east of the north-west window in the north-east elevation, viewed from the east



Plate 9 (left): The modern ground floor extension to the north-east end of the building, viewed from the north



Plate 10 (right): The shop windows at the north-west end of the ground floor of the north-east elevation, viewed from the north



Plate 11 (left): Quoins at junction of early extension in north-east elevation, viewed from the north

Plate 12 (right): The central shop windows in the north-east elevation, viewed from the north



Plate 13 (left): The chamfered doorway in the north-east elevation, viewed from the north-east

Plate 14 (right): The quoins at the south-east end of the north-east elevation, viewed from the north

4.2.3 South-east external elevation: this comprises the gable end of the building, the central part of which is evidently a different build, being of much rougher material in more random courses and generally paler stone, including more rounded volcanic types. This clearly represents the height of the original gable, which was raised to its current position using the red sandstone seen elsewhere (Plate 15, Plate 17 and Plate 18). The bellcote above is attached to the raised section; some brick has been incorporated against the south-west support (Plate 16). There is apparently a flue in the wall at the east corner and large rough quoins at either side (Plate 19 and Plate 20). In the centre of the elevation, within the original gable is a two-light mullion window blocked with dressed blocks of stone (Plate 21). The jambs are square but chamfered and the sill incorporates the datestone (Plate 22), and the central mullion sits on top of this. This window sits directly above the doorway at first floor, which is accessed by an external staircase. The jambs of this doorway are constructed from large rough ashlar quoins that are chamfered and the door is of plank and batten construction on strap hinges (Plate 22). The ground floor level is mostly obscured by the curved structure associated with the raised staircase, which is rendered but an access hatch in the floor shows that it is constructed from machine made brick. A brass plaque attached to the wall reads: "THIS TABLET COMMEMORATES THE GIFT OF WILLIAM HEWITSON ESQUIRE BORN IN APPLEBY 1853 DIED 15TH JULY 1927. AN HONORARY FREEMAN OF THIS BOROUGH AND TOWN CLERK THEREOF FROM 1885 TO 1925. THROUGH WHOSE GENEROSITY THIS ENTRANCE TO THE MOOT HALL WAS ERECTED A.D. 1933".



Plate 15 (left): The original gable showing in the south-east elevation, viewed from the south

Plate 16 (right): Top of the south-east elevation gable and the bellcote supports, viewed from the south-west



Plate 17 (left): The south-west side of the original gable showing in the south-east elevation, viewed from the east



Plate 18 (right): The line of the raised gable in the south-east elevation, viewed from the east



Plate 19 (left): The quoins on the north-east side of the south-east elevation, viewed from the south-east



Plate 20 (right): The quoins on the south-west side of the south-east elevation, viewed from the south



Plate 21 (left): Blocked mullion window in the centre of the south-east elevation, viewed from the south-east

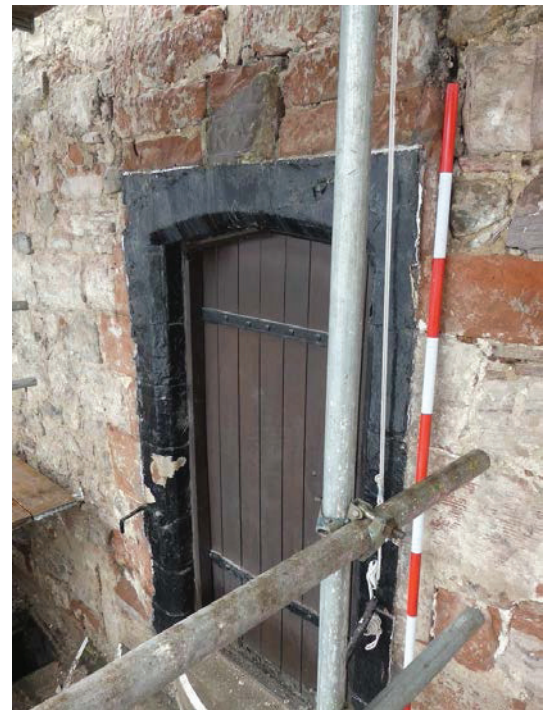


Plate 22 (right): First floor doorway in the south-east elevation, viewed from the east

4.2.4 **South-west external elevation:** the upper level of this has evident rebuild in the jambs of the south-easternmost window (Plate 23) but not the north-west and the junction for the extension to the north-west is very evident as a row of rough quoins as well as a tall blocked opening to the north-west of this. The rough quoins are exposed at the south-east end (Plate 24) and the v-jointed ashlar ones at the north-west (Plate 25). At first floor level near the centre, is a mullion window of two lights with broad chamfered mullion, both parts of which are blocked, although the north-west was left as an alcove while the south-east was flush with the wall (Plate 26 and Plate 27). To the north-west is a small window with a wide concrete band surround (Plate 28) and the window to the north-west of that has a concrete lintel with chamfered jambs with concrete over, the small blocked aperture above continuing down to the lintel (Plate 29). At ground floor level there are two small windows on the south-east side, both of which were evidently originally doorways, now with concrete lintels and chamfered quoined jambs (Plate 30 and Plate 31). The doorway to the north-west of this has similar surrounds and a pointed arch lintel, above which is a small opening blocked with stone (Plate 32 and Plate 33). North-west of this is a shop window with a bow window with a timber lintel; this also originally extended to the ground and was presumably another doorway (Plate 34). A pipe is set into the wall to the north-west of this beyond which is another early doorway with chamfered quoined jambs but a flat stone lintel (Plate 35). There is another tall window to the north-west of this with a timber lintel. Immediately against the junction with the early extension is a blocked doorway filled with very neatly coursed stone and with dressed quoins on the north-west side but no lintel (Plate 36). This is probably because the top of this doorway has been cut through by a window extending across the ground and first floor (presumably relating to the position of a staircase internally) (Plate 37). There is a further extant window to the north-west with rebuild in brick in the south-east jamb and further rebuild to the north-west. This has cut through a row of small apertures formed by dressed stone lintels, mullions and jambs, now blocked with concrete block (Plate 38 and Plate 39). There is lots of reused dressed stone in the area immediately above this. The excavation of the trench along this side of the building revealed a projecting plinth forming the foundations below the current ground level (Plate 39).



Plate 23 (left): First floor window on the south-east side of the south-west elevation showing rebuild around the jambs, viewed from the west



Plate 24 (right): Quoins at the south-east side of the south-west elevation, viewed from the west



Plate 25 (left): V-jointed quins on the north-west side of the south-east elevation, viewed from the south



Plate 26 (right): The blocked mullion window at first floor level in the south-east elevation, viewed from the west



Plate 27: The blocked mullion window at first floor level in the south-east elevation, viewed from the south



Plate 28 (left): First floor window with concrete band in the south-west elevation, viewed from the south



Plate 29 (right): North-west window at first floor level in the south-west elevation, viewed from the south

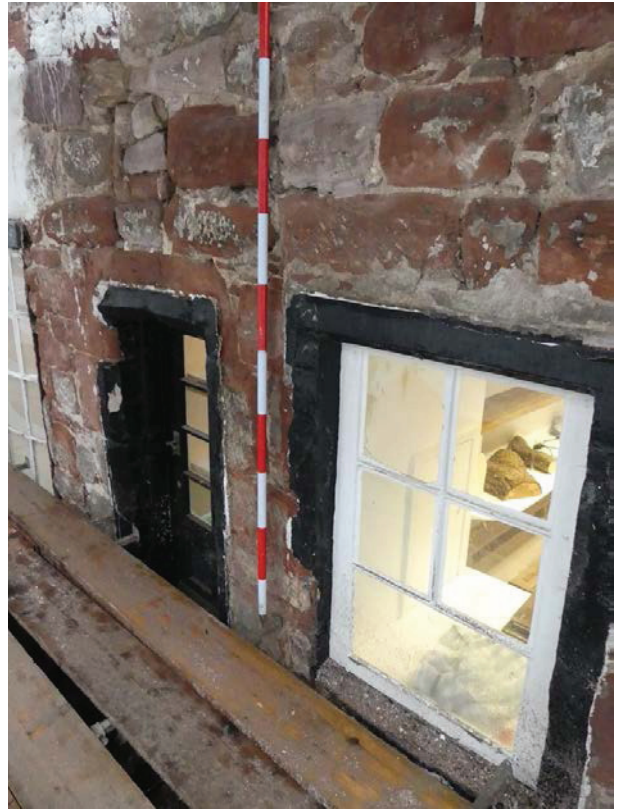


Plate 30 (left): South-east window at ground floor level in the south-west elevation, viewed from the south

Plate 31 (right): South-east ground floor window and doorway in the south-west elevation, from the south



Plate 32 (left): South-east doorway in the south-west elevation, viewed from the west

Plate 33 (right): Blocked opening above the south-east doorway in the south-west elevation, viewed from the west



Plate 34 (left): Bow shop window in the south-west elevation, viewed from the south



Plate 35 (right): North-west doorway in the south-west elevation, viewed from the south



Plate 36 (left): Blocked doorway at the north-west end of the south-west elevation, viewed from the west



Plate 37 (right): Window at the north-west end of the ground floor of the south-west elevation, viewed from the south



Plate 38 (left): Blocked apertures at the north-west end of the ground floor of the south-west elevation, viewed from the south

Plate 39 (right): Blocked apertures at the north-west end of the ground floor of the south-west elevation, viewed from the west

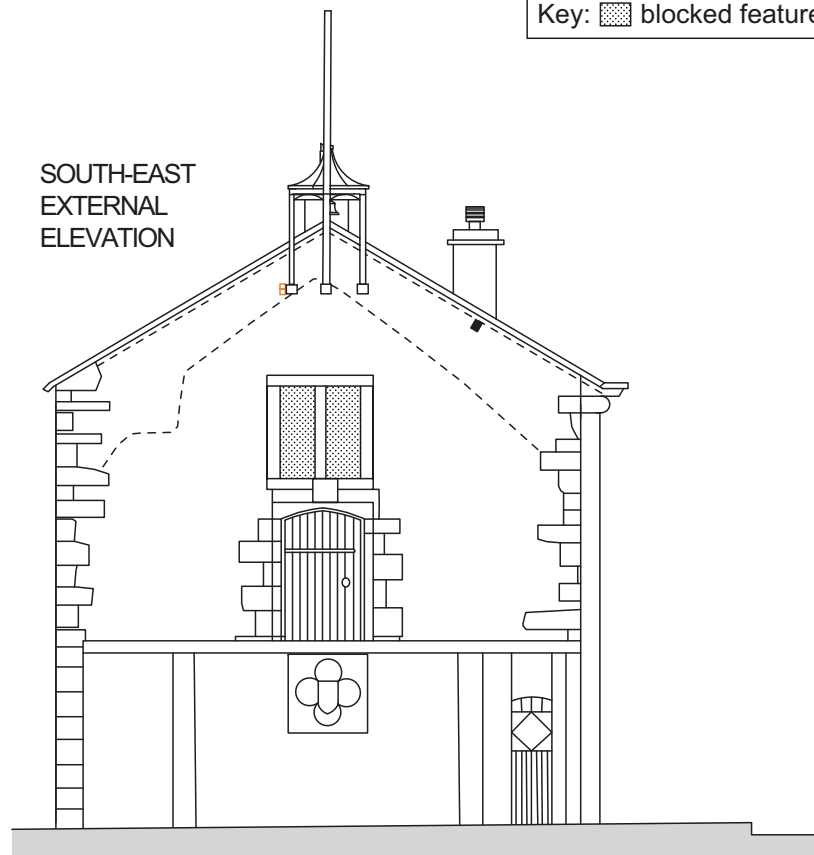
Based on elevations produced by Blackett-Ord Conservation Architecture



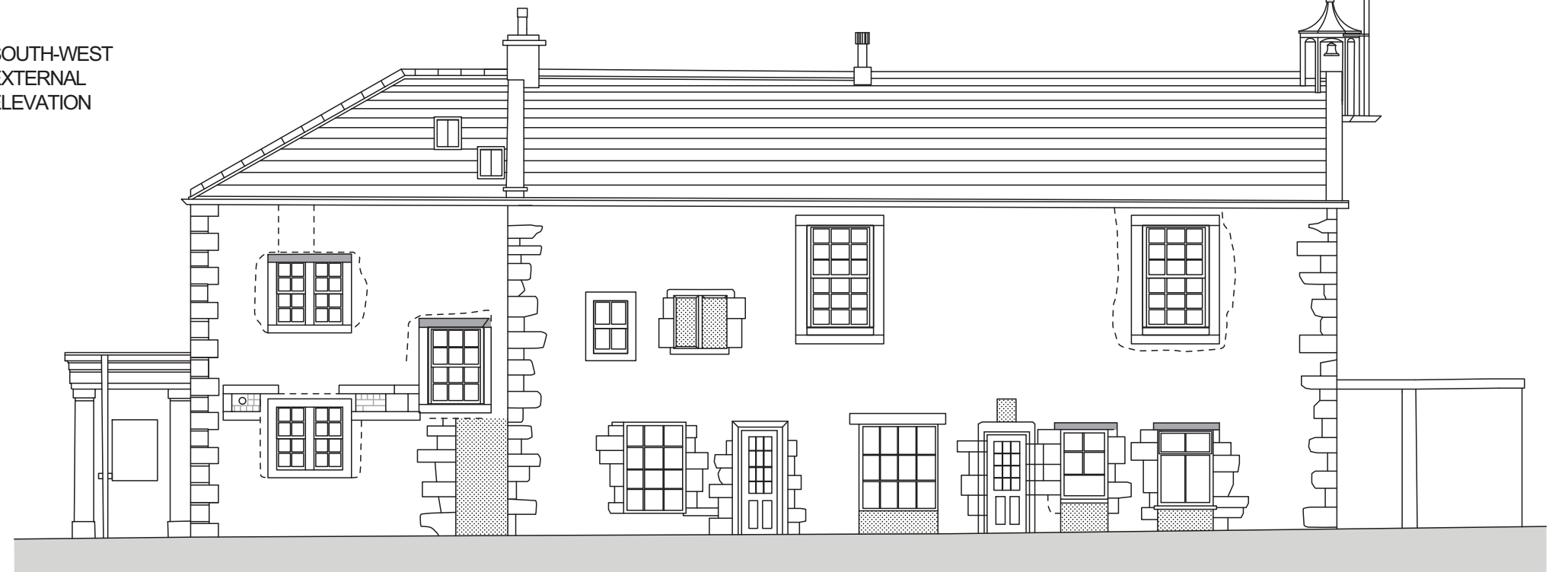
NORTH-EAST
EXTERNAL
ELEVATION



SOUTH-EAST
EXTERNAL
ELEVATION



SOUTH-WEST
EXTERNAL
ELEVATION



Key:  blocked feature  cross-sectional timber  red brick  concrete  edge uncertain  grey brick

0 5m

Figure 2: External elevations

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5. Discussion

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The building recording recorded a number of features of interest exposed following the removal of the external render and while some of these are difficult to interpret, others provide clear evidence for phases of use and development of the building. Some of this can be interpreted further through a consideration of the documentary evidence and this has allowed five phases to be determined.

5.2 Phasing

5.2.1 **Phase 1 (late 16th century):** it is apparent from various sources that the Moot Hall was in existence from the end of the 16th century, probably 1596, although there is some uncertainty about this. Elements of this original fabric were evident within the building in the form of the lower gable at the south-east end. The blocked mullion window within this elevation probably also dates to this period, as does the doorway immediately below it. The datestone, however, seems a little oddly positioned – forming part of the sill of this window and supporting the central mullion, which indicates that it was indeed moved to this position after the window had gone out of use – it is notable that the blocked opening above the extant doorway in the south-west elevation is essentially the correct size to house this stone and it is interesting to speculate that this is where it was originally located prior to one of the later phases of alteration. The blocked mullion window in the south-west elevation probably also belongs to this phase, as do the doorways with the chamfered surrounds – one in the north-east elevation and at least three in the south-west, which indicates that access to the lower floor was primarily on this side at this time.

5.2.2 **Phase 2 (17th century):** the south-east gable shows that the building was raised in height, probably in the 17th century on the basis of some documentary evidence and a single dendrochronological date of this period. As had already been observed, the original roof timbers of late 16th century date were reused in their current positions, presumably at this time. The north-east and south-west elevations did not show the same line of rebuilding, but this was perhaps due to less difference in the materials used and the position of the scaffolding.

5.2.3 **Phase 3 (early 18th century):** it is apparent that several of the tall Georgian-style windows in the north-west, north-east and south-west elevations were inserted or involved some remodelling of the existing fabric in order to accommodate them. These were presumably added through the Phase 2 fabric, to provide more uniform and symmetrical elevations, particularly the principal front ones to the north-west and north-east. This is likely to have resulted in the blocking of the earlier mullion windows; the datestone of 1596 was presumably moved to its current location at this time or later as its position in the window mullion would otherwise have presumably been structurally unsafe. It also seems likely that the northern extension, generally thought to have been built in c1800, was actually constructed at this time. A section corresponding to it is clearly shown on a plan of Appleby dated 1754 (CAC(K) WDHOTH/2/33/42 Box 33 1754) and this has a doorway on the south-west side corresponding to the blocked one visible where the render has been removed (Plate 36). The v-jointed ashlar quoins at the north-west end are easily in keeping with an 18th century date. What is particularly interesting is the, subsequently truncated, group of small windows immediately to the north-west of this blocked doorway, which were evidently constructed with very finely dressed ashlar stone. The purpose of these is unclear but they are reminiscent of the type of small high-level windows (intended to allow some light and ventilation but too small to escape through) used in lockups and gaols from this period onwards (Brodie *et al* 2002); a very similar example was recorded in a much later group of cells attached to the former police station and courthouse at Millom (Plate 40). During the early 18th century very few new jails were built, despite the passing of an act in 1698 granting JPs the power to do so, and most continued to be housed inside other buildings (*op cit*, 21). In many cases these were located in the marketplace, sometimes in purpose-built structures, but in Scotland they were '*frequently housed in the tollhouse or townhouse*' (*op cit*, 22). This would explain the reference to a 'blackhole', albeit in 1847, and would also fit that such an addition was made prior to the construction of the shire hall and jail in Appleby in the 1770s. During the Jacobite Rebellion of 1715 it is also recorded that '*Mr Baines, bailiff to Lord Wharton, was*

confined to the Moot Hall by the Jacobite forces (Curwen 1932, 32), which might even suggest that a jail existed by that time. The references to a new addition in 1800 are perhaps, therefore, to this section being remodelled after the jail went out of use, rather than a genuinely newly build.



Plate 40: High-level windows in the cells at Millom police station (after Greenlane Archaeology 2013)

5.2.4 Phase 4 (19th century): later modifications to the building observed during the recording seem primarily to relate to its use as shops during the 19th century and into the early 20th. This undoubtedly resulted in the creation of the large shop front windows in the north-east elevation, which each had their own doorway and so the doorways to the south-west probably went out of use at this time. Additional windows were also evidently added, in the case of those in the south-west elevation these cut through Phase 3 features, with the window cutting through the blocked doorway evidently to illuminate a staircase.

5.2.5 Phase 5 (20th century): no additional features of significance were revealed relating to this period, the most substantial external changes being the addition of the current staircase at the south-east end in 1933 and the single-storey extension at the north-west end in 1970. Elsewhere minor changes such as the blocking of small apertures, perhaps originally for pipes and vents, and the replacement of lintels in concrete, were made. The blocking in concrete block of below the central part of the north-western shop window in the north-east elevation perhaps suggests that this was originally a doorway.

5.3 Significance

5.3.1 The project was able to record a number of features of interest within the building and further enhance the understanding of its development, although uncertainty still remains about several areas. The most significant discoveries include the blocked mullion windows in the south-east and south-west elevations, the original doorways now converted to windows in the south-west elevation, and the blocked doorway and high-level windows in the south-west elevation of the extension to the north-west. These demonstrate the complex manner in which the building has developed in over 400 years of continuous use. The interpretation of the high-level windows as relating to a lockup or cells is of particular interest as the evidence for this having occurred is quite limited and this use may have been for only a short time at the beginning of the 18th century.

6. Bibliography

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