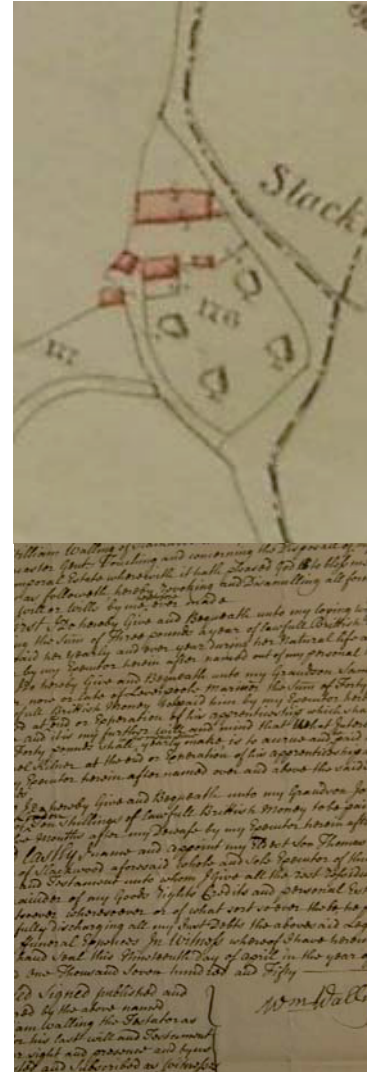


# SLACKWOOD FARM, SILVERDALE, LANCASHIRE

## Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment



Client: Adrian Waddingham

Planning ref.:  
09/00367/CU, 09/00368/LB

NGR: SD 47444 74589

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## Non-Technical Summary

Prior to the submission of a planning application to convert a former barn and renovate the farmhouse at Slackwood Farm, Silverdale, Lancashire, an archaeological investigation was carried out following a request by Doug Moir, Planning Officer (Archaeology) at Lancashire County Council. As the Farmhouse is Grade II\* listed, and the barn is within its curtilage, this was to comprise an English Heritage Level 2/3 and 3 type recording of the buildings to be effected in order to provide a permanent record of the structures, provide information about their historical development, and to assess the significance of the surviving fabric. This report contains the results of the desk-based assessment for the site, carried out prior to the first element of the building recording, which will be reported separately. The work was carried out by Greenlane Archaeology between March and October 2009.

There are numerous pieces of historical and documentary evidence concerning the site of Slackwood Farm, but detailed information is surprisingly sparse. However, this study has revealed that some or all the current farmstead was constructed early eighteenth century, when an earlier house was replaced. The earliest recorded occupiers, recorded from at least 1632, are the Walling family who were clearly of some importance in the local area, were almost certainly the original owners, and were responsible for the early 18<sup>th</sup> century rebuilding. They probably held and occupied the site until the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but by the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century it had been acquired by the Leighton Hall estate, who continued to own it until 2009. There are few details about the physical development of the buildings; the available maps only show that the house and barn were present by at least the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, although there are some discrepancies in the details they depict, and there were additional outbuildings that have subsequently been removed. The most significant proposed period of alterations was actually in 1977, when plans were drawn up to divide the house into two dwellings, but these apparently never came to fruition.

The buildings at Slackwood Farm represent a historically and architecturally interesting group, especially the farmhouse, although the sparse nature of the available sources and lack of specific detail about the buildings makes interpretation difficult. This is something that will hopefully be more fully resolved by the completion of the subsequent building recordings.

## Acknowledgements

Greenlane Archaeology would like to thank Adrian Waddingham for commissioning the project and also providing access to the deeds and information about the site and Elaine Blackett-Ord (Blackett-Ord Conservation Architecture) for providing as existing drawings of the site and further information. Additional thanks are due to the staff of Lancashire Record Office in Preston for help with accessing their archives. Further thanks are also due to Doug Moir, Planning Officer (Archaeology) Lancashire County Council, for approving the project design, and Richard Reynolds at Leighton Hall for additional information and access to his archives.

The desk-based assessment was carried out by Steve Clarke and Dan Elsworth who also wrote the report. It was edited by Dan Elsworth, Tom Mace, and Jo Dawson, and Dan Elsworth managed the project.

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Circumstances of the Project

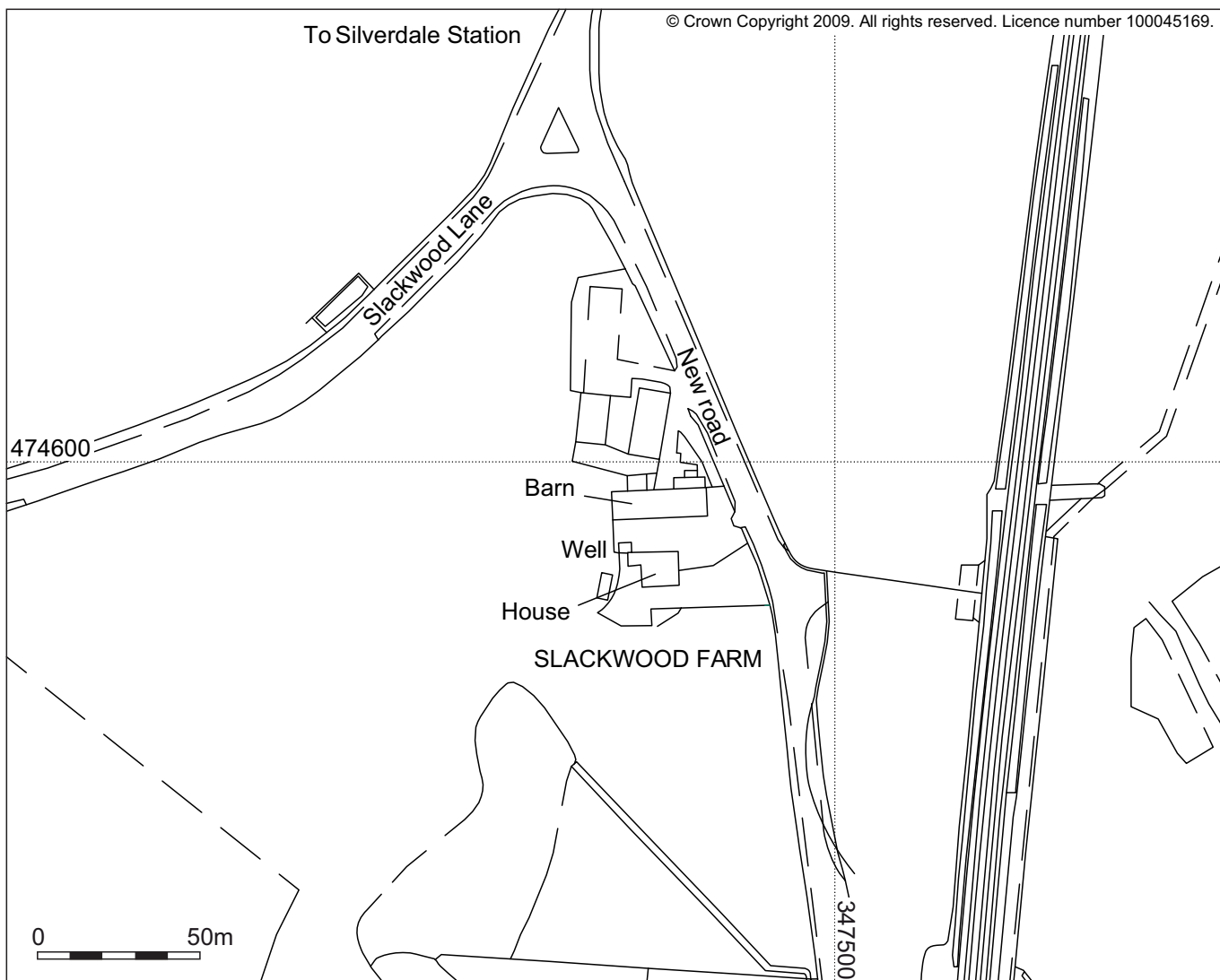
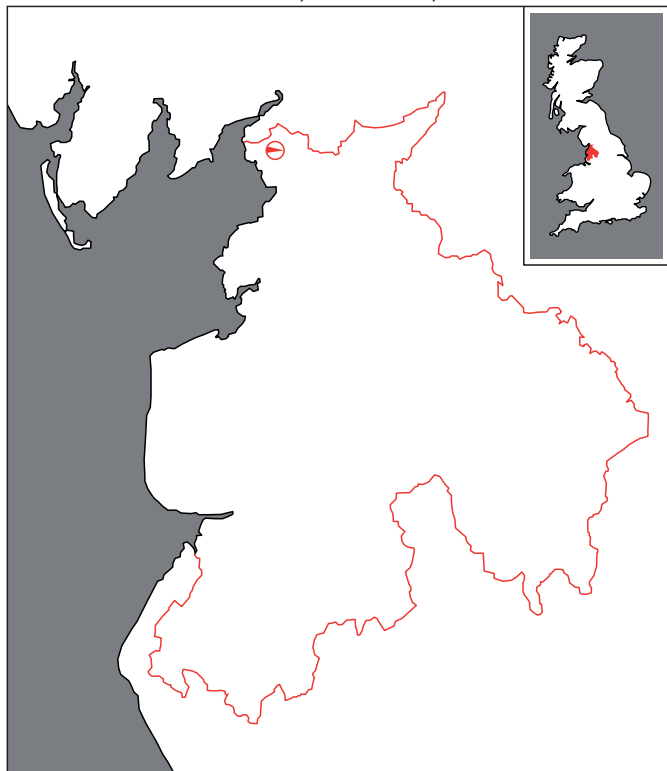
1.1.1 Prior to the submission of a planning application by Blakett-Ord Conservation Architecture on behalf of Adrian Waddingham (hereafter 'the client') for the renovation of the Grade II\* Listed farmhouse and former barn Slackwood Farm, New Road, Silverdale, Lancashire (NGR SD 47444 74589), a programme of archaeological recording was requested by Lancashire County Council. After consultation with Doug Moir, Planning Officer (Archaeology), Lancashire County Council, this was confirmed as an English Heritage Level 3 type recording (English Heritage 2006) for the barn, although it is anticipated that other recording work will be carried out on the house subsequent to this equivalent to a level 2/3 type recording. After consultation with the architect it was agreed that a separate desk-based assessment report that would provide information relevant to the whole site should be produced; this report comprises the results of that assessment. A project design was produced by (Greenlane Archaeology 2009, *see accompanying CD*) outlining the manner in which the work would be undertaken.

## 1.2 Location, Geology, and Topography

1.2.1 Slackwood Farm is situated just inside the parish of Warton on the west edge of Leighton Moss. The Lancaster-Barrow railway line runs just to the west of the site. Approximately 1km north-west is the hamlet of Silverdale Green; Slackwood Farm is within the Arnsdale-Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which is part of the Morecambe Bay Limestones area (Countryside Commission 1998, 69; Figure 1).

1.2.2 The underlying solid geology is dominated by carboniferous limestone (Moseley 1978, plate 1). The solid geology is overlain by glacially derived boulder clay (Countryside Commission 1998, 72).

1.2.3 Although the area generally consists of undulating coastal pasture, to the west of the site is woodland, and to the east is moss land (*op cit*, 71). The site lies approximately 15m above sea level (Ordnance Survey 2002).



Client: Adrian Waddingham

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Figure 1: Site location

## 2. Methodology

### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 This desk-based assessment was carried out in accordance with the project design (see *accompanying CD*) and the guidelines of the Institute of Archaeologists (IfA 2008) prior to the building recording. A suitable archive was compiled to provide a permanent paper record of the project and its results in accordance with English Heritage and IfA guidelines (English Heritage 1991; Brown 2007).

### 2.2 Desk-Based Assessment

2.2.1 A desk-based assessment was carried out in accordance with the guidelines of the Institute of Archaeologists (IfA 2008). It principally comprised an examination of early maps of the site, primary records, and published secondary sources. A number of sources of information were used during the desk-based assessment:

- **Lancashire Office, Preston (LRO):** this was visited in order to examine early maps and plans of the site;
- **Leighton Hall:** documents were examined, specifically an estate map dated 1857, and anecdotal information was obtained from Richard Reynolds;
- **The Client:** the deeds were made available by the client and information was provided from a meeting with Barbara Ainsworth, who had formerly been resident at the house;
- **Planning Applications:** information contained in previous planning applications for the property was obtained from the planning office in Lancaster;
- **Greenlane Archaeology library:** additional secondary sources were used to provide information for the site background.

### 2.3 Archive

2.3.1 A comprehensive archive of the project has been produced in accordance with the project design (see *accompanying CD*), and current IfA 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 Lancashire Record Office in Preston on completion of the project. A copy of this report will be deposited with the client, one with the client's architect, and one will be retained by Greenlane Archaeology. In addition a record of the project will be made on the OASIS scheme.



## 3. Desk-Based Assessment

### 3.1 Background History

3.1.1 **Introduction:** Slackwood Farm has been in existence since at least the 17<sup>th</sup> century but in order to place it in its historical background a brief discussion of the earlier history of the site and general area is included in the sections below.

3.1.2 **Early History:** there is evidence that the Warton area has been inhabited since at least the Mesolithic period, with worked timber and flint artefacts found at Storrs Moss (Powell *et al* 1971). Weapons and pottery dating back to the Bronze Age were found at the Dog Holes on Warton Crag, and there are the remains of an Iron Age hill fort on the summit of Warton Crag (Peter 1985, 1). There is very little evidence to suggest that the Romans settled in the area, however (*ibid*). The name Slackwood itself has Scandinavian roots; the prefix 'slack' derives from a word meaning a fall in the ground or low-lying hollow (Sephton 1913, 143).

3.1.3 **Medieval:** before the Norman Conquest the various manors within the parish limits were in three different lordships; afterwards they were given to the Lancaster family, Lords of Kendal, and the formation of Warton as a parish may be due to this grant (Farrer and Brownbill 1914, 151). Its history has been that of a retired country district, broken unpleasantly by devastating raids such as that by the Scots in 1322. The Pilgrimage of Grace in 1536 probably affected the people from their vicinity to Kendal, but there does not seem to be any evidence of the king's anger being visited on Warton (*ibid*).

3.1.4 **Post-Medieval:** Warton in Lindeth is a minor manor of uncertain origin; in the 18<sup>th</sup> century it was held by the family of Brockholes of Claughton (*op cit*, 163). It was sold in 1825 by Thomas Fitzherbert-Brockholes to John Bolden who held the manor of Warton, and has since descended like the superior manor (*ibid*). Slackwood Farm was part of this minor manor, being known as Slackwood in Lindeth during the 18<sup>th</sup> century (LRO DDC 105 1742). It was around this time that the owners of Leighton Hall constructed the first embankment across the Leighton Moss, between Slackwood Farm and Moss House Farm, to keep out the sea and control the water level in the Moss (Peter 1994, 71). This initial attempt to reclaim land was quite basic and constructed from earth and stone with a sluice and wind-powered pump to manage the incoming tide rather than stop it (*ibid*). Little of it now survives and it was superseded by a later and more ambitious attempt started in 1830 utilising a steam-powered pump (*ibid*).

### 3.2 Owners and Occupiers of Slackwood Farm

3.2.1 **Owners:** details of the early owners are very scarce; the deeds, the primary source of this kind of information, unfortunately do not provide any details prior to 1917. It is likely that the earliest named occupiers, the Walling family, were also the owners, especially as William Walling was said to have rebuilt the house in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century (see *Section 3.2.2* below), but this is by no means certain – they are mentioned in connection with the property from as early as 1632 and most probably owned it from at least this date. The earliest owner recorded with any certainty is a Howard Thomas Nelson, who is listed in the tithe schedule of 1848 (LRO DRB 1/195 1848). An estate map held at Leighton Hall (Leighton Hall Archive 1857) shows that it had become part of their estate between 1848 and 1857. The deeds indicate that the Slackwood was held by the Gillow and Reynolds of Leighton Hall until the recent sale to the client in February 2009, during which time it evidently was mortgaged at least once and held in trust for a considerable period of time during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

3.2.2 **Occupiers:** the earliest documentary evidence to identify the occupiers of Slackwood is from 1632 when the burial of Jennet Walling '*of the Slack Wood*' is recorded in the parish registers for Warton (Lancashire Online Parish Clerks n.d.). This is presumably the same Jennet Walling whose will of that year left 40s to her servant Issabel Cornthwaite (Mourholme Local History Society 1998, 110). It is evident from other entries in the parish registers that a number of other families were also connected to the property during the later 17<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, although the Wallings predominate throughout the early part of that period. A summary of this information is present in Table 1 below (there are undoubtedly other entries that relate to Slackwood but only those in which the property is specifically named have been included). It would appear that at times more than one family was resident at

Slackwood but there is in general a clear transition of occupancy from the Walling family to the Huttons by the 1770s, with perhaps one family in between for a short time. The Huttons seem to have remained until at least 1845, although they are not apparently named as resident in the census of 1841 (HO107/Piece 531/Folio 7/Page 7 1841; see *Appendix 2*).

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1632	Burial of Jennet Walling, widow
1696	Burial of Thomas Walling
1702/3	Baptism of Thomas, son of William and Eliner Walling
1711	Baptism of William, son of William Walling
1719	Baptism of Thomas, son of William and Martha Walling
1723/4	Burial of Agnes Walling, widow
1742/3	Marriage of Thomas Walling and Mary Hest
1750	Burial of William Walling
1753	Burial of Alice Walling, widow
1762	Burial of Thomas Walling
1771	Baptism of John, son of Thomas and Jennet Jackson
1772	Burial of Ruth Gillar, a child
1776	Baptism of William, son of John and Ann Hutton
1778	Baptism of Mary, daughter of John and Anne Hutton
1780	Baptism of Richard, son of George and Rebeccah Nelson
1782	Baptism of Aggy, daughter of John and Ann (formerly Walling) Lawrence
1784	Baptism of John, son of John and Ann Hutton
1786	Baptism of Margaret, daughter of John and Ann Hutton
1787	Burial of John Jackson – drowned
1791	Baptism of Barbara, daughter of William and Nancy Hutton
1794	Baptism of Rebeccah, daughter of John and Ann Hutton
1794	Baptism of Richard, son of William and Nancy Hutton
1796	Burial of Alice, daughter of John and Ann Hutton
1797	Baptism of Daniel, son of William and Nancy Hutton
1798	Baptism of Charlotte, daughter of John and Ann Hutton
1800	Burial of William, son of John and Ann Hutton
1804	Burial of John Armer
1805	Burial of John Hutton
1822	Baptism of Mary, daughter of Robert and Rebecca (formerly Hutton) Beetham
1833	Burial of Ann Hutton, widow
1845	Burial of Mary Hutton

**Table 1: Parish register entries relating to Slackwood (from Lancashire Online Parish Clerks n.d.)**

3.2.3 In c1707 it is reported that damage was done by travellers to the property of William Walling at Slack-wood although the nature of this is not clear (LRO QSP/954/6 c1707). John Lucas, writing in his *History of Warton Parish*, compiled between 1710 and 1740, states that:

*'William Walling, Gent; whose estate is contiguous... [with Flegarth, and] ...bears the Name of Slack-wood... has pull'd down the Old Habitation of his ancestors, and built a neat House on the same Ground'* (Ford and Fuller-Maitland 1931, 49).

3.2.4 Lucas goes on to say that William Walling was the Chief Constable of the Hundred in c1700 (*ibid*), and he was clearly a man of some importance in the local area. His will, dated 1754, describes him as a 'gentleman' (LRO WRW/R496b/100 1754), although in a document of 1742 he is referred to as a 'yeoman' (LRO DDC 105 1742). His estate was passed to his son, Thomas, who seems to have acquired additional property in the area in 1742 (*ibid*) and 1759 (LRO DDC 115 1759). He appears to have died in 1763 leaving his estate to his brother William, residing in London, and a Henry Wilson of Over Kellet (LRO WRW/R500/23 1763). Details (dated 1769) added to a document dated 1759 confirm that Thomas was deceased and mention his only daughter Mary Walling, who appears to be married to a Richard Salisbury by 1769 (LRO DDC 115 1759). It is not clear at what point the Walling family's connection with the property ended, although it may have been following Mary's remarriage or its passing to Thomas's brother. The 1848 tithe schedule (LRO DRB 1/195 1848) lists the occupier as a Thomas Parkinson, and a long list of other families are named as at least occupiers following the Wallings, not least the Huttons (see Table 1 above). A will of 1787 states that John Jackson, a weaver and resident of Slackwood, died intestate (LRO WRW/R505/35 1787); it is recorded in the parish registers that he drowned (see Table 1) but it is not clear what his connection with the property was.

3.2.5 During the 19<sup>th</sup> century the census provides the most detailed account of the occupiers; the full details are presented in *Appendix 2*, and are summarised as follows. The 1841 census does not identify the property by name but by 1851 it is recorded that William Croft and his wife occupy Slackwood, though it is unclear whether they are owners or tenants. The family is still resident in 1861; by 1871 they have seven children, and they are still recorded as running the farm in the 1881 census. The census for 1891 shows that the farm is now occupied by John Longmire and his family; he is still resident in the 1901 census. Kelly's Directory lists Longmire as still being resident at Slackwood in 1913 (Kelly 1913, 976). By 1918 Samuel Hodgkinson is resident at the farm (Kelly 1918, 905), and he is there until at least 1924 (Kelly 1924, 994).

3.2.6 Slackwood was occupied by a number of other tenants while owned by Leighton Hall, including Douglas Fishwick, who was at Slackwood from at least 1952 and was preceded at the site by his father. Douglas and his wife, Barbara, were married in 1952 and remained at Slackwood until his death in 1976. Barbara's recollections of Slackwood are presented in *Appendix 3*; they reveal that although some additions were certainly made while she was resident, they were largely minor and comprised the addition of outshuts for storing milk, including the one on the north side of the barn, and the like. The farm was evidently still quite basic at this time, however, as it had no mains electricity or a proper bathroom, and there was an external wash house and Lister engine providing power. Many of these alterations were made during the ownership of Leighton Hall, which also oversaw the addition of the silage clamp on the north side of the barn, and the creation of the engine house and milking parlour (Richard Reynolds pers comm.) Two cowhouses were also added to the north of the barn, and from 1977 onwards a falconer was housed at the site who kept his birds in the small building adjacent to the north-west corner of the house (Richard Reynolds pers comm.). A photograph dated c1945 showing the west end of the north elevation of the barn provides some detail of the building at this time (Plate 1) – it demonstrates that the lean-to outshut against the west elevation was present by this date and that the concrete block addition to the west end of the north elevation had yet to be built, which corresponds with the anecdotal evidence that this cannot have been built before 1952 (see *Appendix 3*). There also appears to be a smaller, perhaps timber, structure in its place.



**Plate 1: Part of a photograph dated c1945 showing the west end of the north elevation of the barn (after Wood 1946)**

3.2.7 Following the death of Douglas Fishwick a planning application was submitted in 1977 with the intention to divide the house into two dwellings but apparently this was never carried out (see *Section 3.4* below). More recently Slackwood was left vacant and has become derelict; in 2005 proposals were made for the Arnside and Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to make use of the building in order to provide new office space, educational facilities, and craft workshops (Arnside and Silverdale AONB 2006, 2007). This, however, never occurred (Arnside and Silverdale AONB 2007) and by at least 2009 the site was placed on the *Buildings at Risk Register* (English Heritage 2009).

### 3.3 Map Regression

3.3.1 **Hennet 1830:** although Hennet's map is not very detailed (Plate 2) it does name the site and shows two buildings, which might correspond to the farmhouse and the barn to the north. A further building is shown to the south-east and there are what appear to be access tracks from the north-west and south.



**Plate 2 (left): Extract from Hennet's map of 1830**



**Plate 3 (right): Extract from the Tithe map of 1846**

3.3.2 **Tithe map of 1846:** the tithe map (LRO DRB/1/195 1846) shows the positions of the farmhouse and outbuildings in detail (Plate 3). It also shows additional features for the first time, such as associated outbuildings to the east and west of the house, an area of woodland (perhaps the orchard listed in the accompanying schedule (LRO DRB/1/195 1848)) to the south, and a lane providing access to the south, which is only hinted at on Hennet's plan. Curiously the barn and house appear strangely proportioned compared to their present arrangement. The barn seems much wider on this map and the house

appears to be rectangular in plan rather than square as it is now. It is not certain if this is an accurate representation, however.

**3.3.3 Ordnance Survey 1848:** this is the first Ordnance Survey map and, although its scale means that Slackwood is very small, it clearly shows the house (with what is presumably a garden attached) and barn, plus a small outbuilding to the east of the house and what might be another to the west (Plate 4). It is notable that, in comparison to the slightly earlier Tithe Map, the barn and house appear to have taken on their present proportions – that is the barn seems much thinner compared to the house, and the house is more square in plan. There also appears to have been some reorganisation of the outbuildings to the west shown on the Tithe Map – one appears to now be roofless, while the other seems to have become incorporated into the adjoining field boundary.

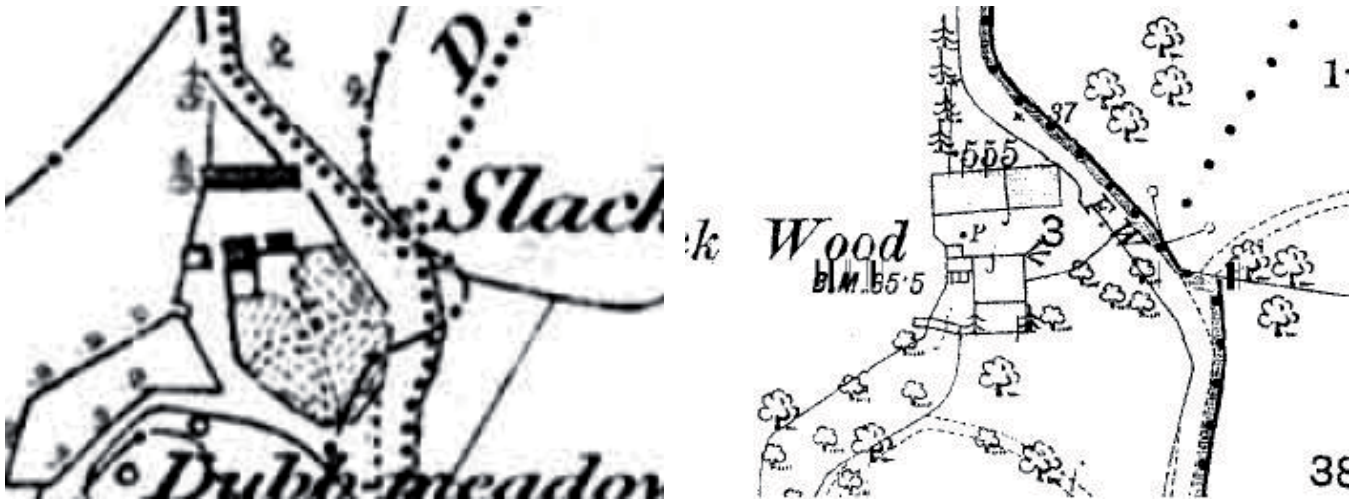


Plate 4 (left): Ordnance Survey map of 1848

Plate 5 (right): Ordnance Survey map of 1891

**3.3.4 Leighton Hall Archives Estate Map 1857:** this map clearly includes Slackwood Farm within the estates held by Leighton Hall, demonstrating that they owned it by this date (see Section 3.2.1 above). The map is relatively detailed, but shows the buildings in much the same way as they appear on the Tithe Map; indeed, they are so similar that the estate plan may in fact be partially if not completely based on it. As a result the house appears quite narrow while the barn appears very wide, unlike the way in which they are depicted on the first Ordnance Survey map (Plate 4).

**3.3.5 Ordnance Survey 1891:** this is the earliest map to show the site in great detail. The house and barn are depicted clearly and there is even an internal division shown within the barn (Plate 5). The house is clearly square in plan and the barn is rectangular - the outshut at its west end is not evident but it may have simply not been depicted.

## 3.4 Planning Applications

**3.4.1** Only a single planning application is lodged in the records held by Lancashire County Council, from 1977. This is for a proposal to divide the farmhouse into two separate dwellings in order to house employees of the Leighton Hall estate (Ref. 1/77/520 LB 1977). This would have led to the blocking of the doorways connecting the two halves (north and south), the insertion of a new staircase in the south half, and the addition of a new staircase in the southern half, but in the event these alterations do not seem to have been carried out.

## 4. Discussion and Conclusions

### 4.1 Discussion

4.1.1 Documentary evidence indicates that the farmstead has been in existence from at least the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, and that the farmhouse was probably rebuilt to replace an earlier building in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. This would seem to contradict the Listed Building entry, which suggests that the farmhouse dates from the late 17<sup>th</sup> century (see *Appendix 1*), although Lucas's suggestion that an earlier house was entirely replaced by the present one in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century should be treated with some caution as it could in fact have simply been extensively remodelled. It is evident that the earliest family associated with it, the Wallings, were extremely important in the area, but the origins of the farm prior to their ownership are unknown. By the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century it had been acquired by Leighton Hall and added to their vast estate. There are few recorded details of any substantial changes made to the buildings at Slackwood; plans drawn up in 1977 to convert the house to two dwellings never seem to have come to fruition and there are no available records of other alterations to either the barn or the house apart from a few additions made in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### 4.2 Conclusion

4.2.1 The historical record of Slackwood, although lacking in information in many areas, reveals it as a significant and ancient site in the local area. Its connections with the Walling family, who were clearly of some importance in the locality, and then Leighton Hall, again an important local power, are of interest in their own right. Where the documentary record is lacking is in providing detailed information about what is clearly an important group of buildings; there are apparently no original accounts of repairs or modifications, nor detailed accounts of their uses. While this is unfortunate it is likely that the physical investigation of the barn and house will help to shed light on some of these areas (Greenlane Archaeology 2009).

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### 5.3 Planning Applications

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## Appendix 1: Listed Building Details

After: English Heritage 2007

IoE Number: 181956

Location: SLACKWOOD FARMHOUSE, NEW ROAD, SILVERDALE, LANCASTER, LANCASHIRE

Date listed: 02 May 1968

Date of last amendment: 02 May 1968

Grade II\*

House, late C17th. Rendered rubble with slate roof. Deep double-pile plan of unusually early date, with gable stacks. 2 storeys with attics. South wall altered in C19th, of 2 bays with windows having wooden mullions and transoms and a central doorway with plain reveals. East gable faces road, with a ground floor window having plain reveals, a 3-light rebated and chamfered mullioned window on the 1st floor, and a similar 2-light window to the attic. Also lighting the attic is a horizontal sliding sash with glazing bars and plain reveals. West gable has a 1-light chamfered window on the ground floor, a window with plain reveals to the 1st floor and 2 2-light rebated and chamfered attic windows. High up under the eaves is a blocked ?-light chamfered window. North wall retains its rebated and chamfered mullioned windows, with one of 2 lights to the left, one of 3 lights to the right and a later window with plain reveals between, with a coal hole to the cellar having chamfered sides. On the 1st floor there is a 3-light window at the right-hand side with 2 3-light windows in the centre, one above the other, lighting the stairs. Gables have copings and kneelers.

## Appendix 2: Occupants of Slackwood Farm 1841 - 1901

<b>1851 Census HO107/Piece 2273/Folio 261/Page 9</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Occupation</b>
William Croft	27	Farmer of 115 acres
Diniah Croft	25	
John Clement	16	Farm servant
William Whalley	15	Farm servant
Ellen Clement	15	House servant
<b>1861 Census RG9/Piece 3164/Folio 62/Page 12</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Occupation</b>
William Croft	36	Farmer of 52 acres employing one man
Diniah Croft	35	
Betty Croft	9	
Mary Croft	7	
Diniah Croft	5	
Margret Croft	4	
Jane Croft	3	
John Edmondson	18	Farm servant
Emma Stainton	15	House servant
<b>1871 Census RG10/Piece 4233/Folio 61/Page 14-15</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Occupation</b>
William Croft	47	Farmer of 110 acres, one labourer
Diniah Croft	45	
Betty Croft	19	Dress maker
Diniah Croft	16	Farmers daughter
Margret Croft	14	Scholar
Jane Croft	13	Scholar
William Croft	8	Scholar
George Henry Croft	5	Scholar
<b>1881 Census RG11/Piece 4270/Folio 8/Page 9</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Occupation</b>
William Croft	57	Farmer of 100 acres
Diniah Croft	55	" wife
Margret Croft	24	" daughter
William Croft	19	Farmers son
George H Croft	15	" son
<b>1891 Census RG12/Piece 3469/Folio 133/Page 15</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Occupation</b>
Thomas Wilson	37	Farmer and Auctioneer
Mary J. Wilson	31	
Thomas M Wilson	7 mths	
Ann Ireland	72	Living on her own means
Robert W Ireland	15	Farm servant
William Hayton	22	Agricultural servant
Alice Walker	17	Domestic servant
<b>1901 Census RG13/Piece 3994/Folio 93/Page 15</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Occupation</b>
John Longmire	70	Farmer
Mary Longmire	58	
John James Longmire	18	Farmer's son
Mary A Williamson	32	Farm labourer
Thomas Pickthall	18	Caretaker

## **Appendix 3: Account of a Meeting at Slackwood with Barbara (Fishwick) Ainsworth and her Daughter Sue Goodall, 15<sup>th</sup> August 2009, by Adrian Waddingham**

Barbara lived at Slackwood after her marriage to Douglas Fishwick in 1952. Sue is one of Barbara's children and she grew up in the house. Barbara left Slackwood in 1976 when her husband died (Douglas had lived in the house before his marriage. His father was I think a previous tenant farmer).

There was no electricity when she moved in - other than an old Lister engine in the 'provy' house (provender store). That engine still exists - they know where it is. The barn walls on the north side of the farmyard were whitewashed to a height of about two metres. Barbara remembers the annual spring chore of cleaning out the shippens, and whitewashing them. Lighting was with oil lamps. She remembers trips out onto the moss for reeds to serve as bedding for the animals.

The lean-to at the west end of the barn was built early in her time. One of the photos she lent to us shows that there was a wooden shed there before then, so that lean-to is probably only about 50 years old. Next to the shippen was the bulk tank room for the milk. They used 12 gallon churns, and there was a trolley for taking them to the stand by the gate at the road. All the farmyard doors were painted light blue - the old Leighton Hall colour: 'Mrs Reynolds used to supply it to us'. Leighton Hall no longer uses this blue for their estate property. The shippens in the barn were where the milking took place - all by hand, of course. Barbara thought milking stopped in 1976 when she left and all the equipment was sold off. However, we know from Leighton Hall that there was a milking partnership between the estate and Chris Alty of Moss House Farm, but that was based at Slackwood for only a couple of years (and we know that milking then was done electrically). The rooms below the barn at the east end were used for young stock.

The farm yard was cobbled and Barbara believes that it is still there under the concrete. She said that passing concrete lorries would offer them 'leftovers' and that the yard was concreted in sections. There was a pump at the east end of the yard - over the effluent tank - but no trace of this remains. The water pump above the well still remains in the yard, but Barbara says that she never used it.

The stone building (the 'bothy') by the farmhouse door was a wash house and had a boiler with a flue. It was also used as a store for the milk bottles (they ran their own milk round).

We took Barbara and Sue around the house. They had a 'back kitchen' in the lean-to. They had a Rayburn stove in the fireplace in the main kitchen. There was a passage from the front door to the hall in their day, and the main sitting room had a wooden floor laid on top of the stone floor. The beams were boxed in. There was a door from the hall (now the main room) into the dining room with the deep recess on the hall side. Mrs Reynolds changed the fireplace in the main room a couple of times. The pantry had the stone shelving all around the room in their day. There was gauze on the windows to stop flies getting in. The cellar was used for coal.

The bathroom was put in by them. Before that the room had been Sue's bedroom. The children however used to get banished to the second floor whenever there were paying bed and breakfast guests. The children hated the 'scary rooms' on the third floor and never went there. Except of course when playing hide and seek. Curiously neither of the two bedrooms on the south side had ceilings in their day - both were open to the rafters.

Barbara remembers doing the decorating herself. She used to take the kitchen table upstairs - it was on wheels and she stood on it to paint the bedroom ceilings. She declined the offer to come back and do it again.

There was a stone built pig sty and hen house on the concrete base to the south of the farm, but this has now gone. The stone building (aviary) to the west of the house was not there in their time. Leighton Hall confirms that it was built by the following tenant. Barbara was grieved at the state of the garden. It had been her pride and joy.

Her son Douglas (living in Silverdale) has a watercolour painting of the farm that belonged to his father. Sue has a copy of this painting. It is very interesting but there is quite a lot of artistic licence.