

**BLEATARN PARK,
IRTHINGTON,
CARLISLE,
CUMBRIA**



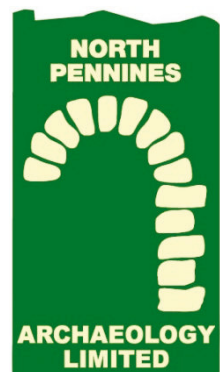
HISTORIC BUILDING SURVEY

CP. No: 1401/11

25/07/2011

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Quality Assurance

This report covers works as outlined in the brief for the above-named project as issued by the relevant authority, and as outlined in the agreed programme of works. Any deviation to the programme of works has been agreed by all parties. The works have been carried out according to the guidelines set out in the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Standards, Policy Statements and Codes of Conduct. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance set out by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd on the preparation of reports.

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SUMMARY

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd were commissioned by Green Design Group, on behalf of their clients Mr and Mrs Jordan, to undertake an historic building survey at Bleatarn Park, Irthington, Carlisle, Cumbria (NGR NY 4675 6108), prior to the conversion of a redundant agricultural building to holiday accommodation (Planning Application No. 10/0849).

The archaeological work was required as the building is of some historic interest, having been constructed in the early 20th century as an agricultural structure. The former farmhouse at Bleatarn Park is Grade II listed, and is believed to probably be early 17th century to the rear with a late 17th century façade facing the courtyard.

Prior to the historic building survey, a rapid desk-based assessment was undertaken in order to place the site of Bleatarn Park into its historical context. This assessment involved the examination of all pertinent documents and cartographic sources held in the local studies section at Carlisle Library, and the consultation of the Historic Environment Record (HER) for Cumbria based in Kendal. The HER includes the locations and settings of Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Parks and Gardens and other, non-designated archaeological remains. In addition, a number of published sources were consulted to provide background information, including the Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society.

The research has shown that the small settlement of Bleatarn is located between the projected course of Hadrian's Wall to the north and the line of the *Vallum* to the south. There is also possible evidence that a quarry at Bleatarn was being utilised during the Roman period, although this has not been substantiated. There is some evidence for early medieval and medieval activity in the area around Bleatarn from the place name itself, and the former existence of a tarn immediately to the north of the settlement, and the presence of the Bishop's or Barras Dyke to the west believed to date from the late 13th century onwards.

The house at Bleatarn Park is noted to have within its fabric, or constructed on the site of, a stone house or pele tower '*the residence of the Hetherington family*' of early 17th century date. It may be the '*Highstonehouse at Bleterne*' referred to in the 1603 Survey of the Barony of Gilsland. The Listed Building description for the house notes that the house is probably early 17th century with a late 17th century façade.

Cartographic evidence and sales particulars show that the survey building was constructed at some point between 1901 and 1919, to the south side of the existing agricultural structures and house.

The historic building survey has revealed that the structure proposed for conversion to holiday accommodation is a well-built two-storey agricultural building, possibly

constructed as a threshing barn, for the mechanised processing of arable crops, with a small byre with hayloft above to its north end. Of particular interest in this building is the apparent mock blocked doorway in the west elevation, which may have been inserted by the builder to give a sense of antiquity to the building.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Peter Mitchell of Green Design Group, for commissioning the project on behalf of their clients, Mr and Mrs Jordan. North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would also like to thank Stephen White, Carlisle Library Local Studies and Jo Mackintosh, Historic Environment Record Officer, and Jeremy Parsons, Historic Environment Officer, Cumbria County Council.

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would also like to extend their thanks to Mrs Jordan for her assistance on site.

The rapid desk-based assessment and historic building survey was undertaken by Fiona Wooler, who wrote and illustrated the report. The project was managed by Martin Railton, Project Manager for North Pennines Archaeology Ltd.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 North Pennines Archaeology Ltd were commissioned by Green Design Group, on behalf of their clients Mr and Mrs Jordan, to undertake an historic building survey at Bleatarn Park, Irthington, Carlisle, Cumbria (NGR NY 4675 6108; Figure 1), prior to the conversion of a redundant farm building into six holiday units (Planning Application No. 10/0849).
- 1.2 The farmhouse at Bleatarn Park is Grade II listed. The building proposed for conversion dates to the early 20th century and is therefore of some historical significance. As a result Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service has requested that an archaeological building survey, corresponding to an English Heritage Level 1 survey (English Heritage 2006), be undertaken prior to the commencement of building works. This phase of the works was consistent with the specification provided by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (Railton 2011) and generally accepted best practice.
- 1.3 The site lies within a zone of archaeological sensitivity between the Hadrian's Wall Scheduled Monument and *Vallum*, considered to be the most complex and well-preserved of the frontiers of the Roman Empire. A new drainage trench associated with the proposed conversion to holiday accommodation is to be cut across the area of the *Vallum*, immediately south of the present farm buildings, which is a Scheduled Monument (SM 26086). As a consequence, Mike Collins, Historic Environment Advisory Archaeologist (Hadrian's Wall), has requested that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during the excavation of trenches. The results of this phase of the work will be provided in a separate report (NPA *forthcoming*).

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 A project design was submitted by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd in response to a request by Green Design Group, on behalf of their clients, Mr and Mrs Jordan, for an historic building survey of a redundant farm building at Bleatarn Park (Railton 2011). The project design were adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 RAPID DESK BASED ASSESSMENT

- 2.2.1 The rapid desk-based assessment involved the consultation of the County Historic Environment Record maintained by Cumbria County Council at Kendal in the first instance. This included the collection of all available information held within the HER database, in order to achieve a full understanding of the nature of the existing resource regarding the geographical, topographical, archaeological and historical context of the site. Aerial photographs for the area will be examined in order to gain an adequate understanding of the context of the archaeological fieldwork.
- 2.2.2 Following this the local studies section of Carlisle Library were consulted in order to study maps and documents relevant to the study area. Several secondary sources and journals, such as the Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society, were also consulted.
- 2.2.3 The rapid desk-based assessment was undertaken in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (IfA 2008a).

2.3 THE HISTORIC BUILDING SURVEY

- 2.3.1 The purpose of the historic building survey was to produce a record of the existing building prior to its conversion, including any architectural detail and any archaeological evidence for the buildings' origins and development.
- 2.3.2 The historic building survey corresponds to an English Heritage Level 1 Survey (English Heritage 2006, 14), as requested by Jeremy Parsons, Historic Environment Officer, Cumbria County Council. The work was also consistent with the recommendations of the Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures* (IfA 2008b).

- 2.3.3 The building survey comprises an internal and external observation of the building, and the production of a written and photographic record. Photographs were taken using digital photography and monochrome print film. The photographs were taken of all external elevations and internal spaces to show structural and architectural detail, and to show the building in its wider context. All photographs included a graduated scale.
- 2.3.4 The results of the rapid desk-based research and the historic building survey have been used to provide an account of the buildings' origins, development and use.

2.4 THE ARCHIVE

- 2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the specification, and in line with current UKIC (1990) and English Heritage Guidelines (1991) and according to the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2007). The archive will be deposited within an appropriate repository, with copies of the report sent to the County Historic Environment Record at Kendal where viewing will be made available upon request. The archive for the historic building survey will be incorporated with the archive generated from the archaeological watching brief. The archive from both phases of work (the historic building survey and the watching brief) can be accessed under the unique project identifier NPA11, CP 1398/11 and 1401/11.
- 2.4.2 North Pennines Archaeology Ltd and Cumbria County Council, support the **Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS)** project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by North Pennines Archaeology, as a part of this national project.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION AND GEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

- 3.1.1 Bleatarn Park is located in the small hamlet of Bleatarn, which is situated approximately 10km to the east of the city of Carlisle, and 3km west of the village of Irthington (centred on National Grid Reference NY 4675 6108) (Figure 1). Carlisle Airport is located less than 1km to the south-west of the site. Bleatarn is situated immediately to the south of the line of Hadrian's Wall, and the buildings are located on the projected line of the Vallum. The building which is the subject of the present proposed development is located to the south of the house and earlier farm buildings (Figure 2).
- 3.1.2 Bleatarn is located in an area characterised by the Countryside Commission as the 'Solway Basin', which is a broad, lowland plain landscape fringed by the low, rugged, relatively remote coastline of the Solway Firth and the Irish Sea. It is framed by the Cumbria High Fells to the south, the hills of the Scottish Borders to the north and the Border Moors and Forests to the north east. The Solway Basin is underlain mainly by mudstones and sandstones of Permo-Triassic (New Red Sandstone). The most important sandstone formation, the St Bees Sandstone, has been much quarried for use as building stone. Erosion of the comparatively weak Permo-Triassic and Jurassic rocks reduced much of the Solway Basin to an area of low relief prior to the onset of the last glaciations. During this period thick ice-sheets crossed the area from Scotland and the Lake District. These carried with them vast quantities of rock debris which was deposited as boulder clay (till), both beneath the ice and from within it as it melted. The surface of boulder clay is locally moulded into drumlins (Countryside Commission 1998, 19-20).

3.2 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- 3.2.1 *Introduction:* this historical background is compiled mostly from secondary sources, and is intended only as a brief summary of historical developments specific to the study area.
- 3.2.2 *Place Name Evidence:* the place name 'Bleatarn' is believed to be derived from the Old Norse¹ words *bla* and *tjorn*, meaning 'dark or small lake' (or tarn) (Lee 1998, 10). The earliest recorded reference to Bleatarn as a place name is in around the year 1240, when it is referred to in documents as *Blaterne*. In

¹ Old Norse – This was the language spoken by Norwegians who colonised Iceland, Ireland, the Isle of Man, the Hebrides and north west England from the 9th to the 12th centuries (Source: Lee 1996)

1589 it is recorded as *Bletterne*, in 1596 as *Bletteren*, in 1600 as *Blaytarne*, *Blaitorn* in 1618, and by 1708 as *Bleatarn* (Armstrong *et al* 1950, 92).

- 3.2.3 Hadrian's Wall marks one of the frontiers of the Roman Empire. The international importance of the surviving remains has been recognised through designation as a World Heritage Site. The military importance of the Tyne-Solway route across was recognised by the Romans during their early campaigns through northern England and into Scotland in the second half of the first century AD. At this time a military road, the Stanegate, was constructed along with a series of forts. Subsequently, the Romans largely withdrew from Scotland and there is evidence that the Tyne-Solway route was being recognised as a frontier by the start of the second century AD. This position was consolidated in the early second century by the construction of a substantial frontier work, Hadrian's Wall, under the orders of the Emperor Hadrian.
- 3.2.4 Stretching over 70 miles from coast to coast, Hadrian's Wall was a continuous barrier built of stone in the east, and initially, of turf in the west. The stone wall was originally designed to be two Roman feet wide and sections of this with was termed 'broad wall'. A change of plan shortly after construction began led to a reduction in the width of the wall to eight Roman feet, such sections are termed 'narrow wall'. For most of its length a substantial ditch on the northern side provided additional defence.
- 3.2.5 As originally planned, and apart from whatever space there was in the milecastles, provision for the accommodation of garrison troops manning the Wall was left with the line of forts which already lay along the Stanegate. At some point a fundamental change of plan took place and forts were constructed along the line of the Wall itself. There are now known to have been 16 forts either attached to the Wall or in close association with it. At this stage another linear element, the *Vallum*, was also added to the defensive system to the south of the Wall. This was a broad flat-bottomed ditch flanked by a pair of linear banks. It shadows the course of the Wall for almost all its length, sometimes lying very close to it, but sometimes up to 1km away from it. The *Vallum's* main function was to act as a barrier to restrict access to the Wall from the south. It also had a function in linking the forts along the Wall with a method of lateral communication (SM No. 26086).
- 3.2.6 *Scheduled Ancient Monument (No. 26086)*: the groundworks are located within this Scheduled Ancient Monument, which includes the section of Hadrian's Wall *Vallum* and its associated features between the road to Laversdale at Old Wall in the east and the west side of Baron's Dike in the west. The *Vallum* survives as a buried feature throughout most of this section. Its

course is recognisable on the ground as slight depressions in fields and as distinct depressions in hedgelines which cross its course in the eastern half of this section. East of Baron's Dike the *Vallum* survives as a slight earthwork visible as four parallel flat topped mounds, 0.7m high. Excavations at Bleatarn by Haverfield in 1894-95 recovered remains of the *Vallum*; this area is now partly built over. Archaeological remains have not been confirmed to survive below the modern buildings; consequently the ground beneath the buildings is not included in the scheduling. The excavations at Bleatarn also suggested the existence of quarries here, possibly of Roman date, but the confusing nature of the reports questions the reliability of such an assertion (SM No. 26086).

3.2.7 As well as the line of Hadrian's Wall and the *Vallum*, there are other archaeological features relating to the Roman period within close proximity to Bleatarn Park that are recorded in the county Historic Environment Record (HER), a database of known historical or archaeological features which is maintained by Cumbria County Council:

- *Architectural Find, Bleatarn (HER No. 235)*: two inscribed Roman stones were found at Bleatarn in 1599 and 1794, although they are both now lost.
- *Highfield Moor Sub-rectangular Enclosure, Irthington (HER No. 209)*: aerial photographs have revealed a sub-rectangular enclosure with a definite gap in the south-east side, c.70m x 80m. There appears to be a break in the north-west corner. No clear internal detail. This site is located in the field between Bleatarn Park and Highfieldmoor to the north-west, very close to Hadrian's Wall and therefore may represent a temporary Roman camp or Romano-British settlement site. No surface traces are visible in the field, which has been ploughed. A linear ditch of unknown date, 170m long, running south from the south-eastern corner of the enclosure may be a former field boundary (see also HER No. 6102).
- *Bleatarn Roman Quarry (HER No. 219)*: excavations at Bleatarn in 1894-95 proved it to be the site of a quarry for stone used in the building of Hadrian's Wall. Stone bearing clear tool marks were found and 'investigation showed that a large part of the field had been worked for stone'. Quarrying of apparently Roman origin, although there is evidence on the ground that suggests post-Roman activity too
- *Hadrian's Wall and Vallum* is recorded in the HER as No. 5782.

3.2.8 In his 1923 *Inventory of the Ancient Monuments of Cumberland*, W G Collingwood noted that in Irthington parish, as well as the Roman Wall and *Vallum*, there was a milecastle at Bleatarn and a Roman quarry; Watchcross

'Steadfolds' fort; the Roman road (the Stanegate); and several inscribed stones found at Newtown, Whiteflat, Beck, Irthington Bridge, Old Wall, Bleatarn and High Stead (Collingwood 1923, 209).

- 3.2.9 There is some evidence for activity around the area of Bleatarn in the medieval period (c.1066-1540AD). Located to the north-west of the present settlement is the site of the *Bishop's Dyke* or *Barras Dyke*, which runs from Hadrian's Wall to the River Irthing. The Bishop of Carlisle was noted to have received permission to impark from 1295 onwards. The dyke is believed to have been a boundary between the barony of Gilsland and the Bishops manor of Crosby. It consists of a double rampart with intervening space of about 10ft. The design of the ditch may have been suggested by the *Vallum* which it strongly resembles (HER No. 210). Writing in 1913, Curwen included a reference to the Bishop's Dyke in his publication *'The Castles and Fortified Towers of Cumberland, Westmorland and Lancashire, North-of-the-Sands'*. He noted that: *'Although this dyke formed the boundary between the Bishop's manor of Crosby and the Barony of Gilsland, it none the less protected the vulnerable east side of Linstock against such Scots as chose, for their incursions, the open country over the wild mosses of Bewcastle. It runs in a southerly direction for a distance of two miles, from the Roman Wall near Bleatarn to Newby'* (Curwen 1913, 195).
- 3.2.9 The earliest phase of the house at Bleatarn Park has been suggested to date to the 16th century, in the form of bastle foundations under the later house. A description of the Roman Wall in 1599 noted: *'thence it goeth to Blaytarne..wher I found this inscription in faire letters...'CIPRISC'...laitelie digged up and put in a house newlie buylded'*. In the 1603 survey of the Barony of Gilsland, reference was made to: *'The Highhouse, Bleterne. Jo: Hitherton a tenement and yard called the Highstonehouse at Bletern.'* (Perriam and Robinson 1998, 136). It is, of course, not possible to say with any certainty that this property is actually Bleatarn Park, as there are presently two further house sites in Bleatarn (Bleatarn Farm and Bleatarn Croft).
- 3.2.10 The present house at Bleatarn Park, as already noted, is Grade II listed. The listed building description reads: *'Farmhouse, probably early 17th century to rear, with late 17th century façade, for the Hetherington family. Rendered walls, stone dressings and quoins; graduated green slate roof with coped gables and kneelers to rear, brick chimney stacks, two and a half storeys, five bays. Entrance has moulded architrave and entablature, with segmental pediment and 19th century plank door. Small Yorkshire sash windows with glazing bars have chamfered stone surrounds. Cornice incorporates lintel of now filled attic windows; side windows show remains of mullion. Earlier two storey house is incorporated to rear under common roof of steep pitch. Whitewashed sandstone rubble walls with battered plinth, probably of stone from the nearby Roman Wall. Three small original window*

openings, one with Yorkshire sash and glazing bars, the others are ordinary sashes with glazing bars, all with chamfered surrounds; other windows are 20th century in 19th century openings. Wash house extension under common roof to left has casement window with glazing bars, with the sill a re-used lintel initialed H.W. (Hetherington) and illegible early 17th century date, with other illegible initials. This is perhaps the Highstonehouse at Bletern, referred to in Lord William Howard's Survey taken in 1603 (edited by T H B Graham, 1934, page 27)'.

- 3.2.11 Carlisle Library houses Sales Particulars relating to the proposed sale of two farms at Bleatarn, the properties now known as Bleatarn Park and Bleatarn Croft dating to 1919. Lot 1 relates to Bleatarn Park, which was described as: 'A well-known farm with good dwelling house and capital range of convenient farm buildings, consisting of a large threshing barn, another barn, corn house, byre accommodation for tying up 31 head of cattle, stable for 6, several loose boxes (including calf boxes), cake and meal house, turnip house, potato house, trap house, implement house, piggeries, pot house, hen house, extensive lofting etc..the above, together with the productive arable, meadow and pasture land, comprises an area of 178 acres, 2 roods and 11 perches'. The farm was noted to be in the occupation of Mr John T Fisher as yearly tenant, who was under notice to 'quit [the farm] at Candlemas next, owing to the property coming into the market'. The plan supplied with the Sales Particulars shows that the survey building was in existence in 1919. The property now known as Bleatarn Croft was also included in the sale, noted to have been in the occupancy of George Routledge at this date. Although not included in the sale in 1919, Bleatarn Farm was noted on the accompanying plan to have been occupied by Thomas Stanwix at this date (Carlisle Library Ref: 2B9 IRT 9).
- 3.2.12 Several 19th and 20th century trade directories, and census returns were sampled for any entries relating to Bleatarn, in an attempt to provide some information on who may have lived at Bleatarn Park during these periods. The following table lists the entries found:

Source: Trade Directory or Census Returns	Entry
History, Directory and Gazetteer of Cumberland and Westmorland 1829, Wm Parson and Wm White	<p><i>'Irthington parish is intersected by the great Roman wall and by the military road, from Newcastle to Carlisle. In Newby township is situated Watchcross, the Aballaba of the Romans. The soil is various, but is generally favourable for the growth of rye, turnips, and potatoes, being for the most part light and sandy, or a mixture of moss and loam'.</i></p> <p>Listed under Irthington Parish, Laversdale Township:</p>

Source: Trade Directory or Census Returns	Entry
	Thos Cowle, farmer, Bleatarn Isaac Hall, farmer, Bleatarn Elizabeth Howe, farmer, Bleatarn
History, Gazetteer and Directory of Cumberland, 1847, Mannix and Whellan	William Elwood, <i>Blethern</i> James Huddart, <i>Blethern</i> John Lamb, <i>Blethern</i>
Post Office Directory of Westmorland and Cumberland, Kelly & Co. 1858	George Hewitt, farmer, Bleatarn John Lamb, farmer, Bleatarn Thomas Storey, farmer, Bleatarn
Slater's Directory of Cumberland 1876	George Hewitt, farmer, Bleatarn Thomas Stanwix, farmer, Bleatarn Ruth Storey, farmer, Bleatarn
History, Topography and Directory of Cumberland, 1901, T Bulmer & Co.	George James Routledge, farmer, Bleatarn Thomas Stanwix, yeoman, Bleatarn Joshua Wannop, farmer, Bleatarn
1901 Census Returns	Lists three separate families at Bleatarn: Thomas Stanwix, aged 76, farmer yeoman, born at Wigton + William (son), his wife Mary, and three servants: Thomas Scott (ploughman), Thomas Watson (cattleman) and Margaret Burrow (general servant, domestic) George Routledge, aged 38, farmer, born at Crosby on Eden + his wife Margaret, 4 children, John Latimer (horseman) and Mary Irving (general servant, domestic) Joshua Wannop, aged 65, farmer, born at Irthington + his wife Mary, 5 grown-up children, Thomas Batey (servant) and John Delaney (servant)
Kelly's Directory of Cumberland and Westmorland 1910	John T Fisher, farmer, Bleatarn Thomas Stanwix, farmer, Bleatarn
Kelly's Directory of Cumberland 1925	Messrs Fisher, farmers, Bleatarn William Stanwix, yeoman, Bleatarn

Source: Trade Directory or Census Returns	Entry
Kelly's Directory of Cumberland and Westmorland 1934	Mrs Isabella Fisher, farmer, Bleatarn Wm Stanwix, yeoman, Bleatarn
Kelly's Cumberland Directory 1938	Messrs Fisher, farmers, Bleatarn [listed as a farm over 150 acres] Wm Miller, farmer, Bleatarn Rt and Wm Routledge, farmers, Bleatarn croft

3.3 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

3.3.1 The HER contains information on previous archaeological work which has been undertaken in the area around Bleatarn. The following scheme of work has been conducted within close proximity to the site of Bleatarn Park:

- Bleatarn, Irthington*: in 1894-95 excavations were undertaken to the west of the settlement at Bleatarn, immediately to the east of the Bishop's or Baron's Dyke, as well as a small trench excavated across the line of the Wall and a cutting made in the 'Bleatarn mound'. The excavations revealed the subsoil which consisted of three layers, glacial in origin; on the top, glacial loam and red sand; below that a compact rubble of angular sandstone fragments, and at the bottom large blocks of the same red sandstone bedded into the sand. The *Vallum* appeared to have run along the edge of a quarried area. The *Vallum* ditch, filled with peat and grey sand, descended with much abruptness into the subsoil, but its mounds have been ploughed down beyond recognition. It was noted that the subsoil had been broken in places in the search for the stone, and a nearly level surface of rock was uncovered with recognisable pick marks, identified by an experienced quarryman. The relation of this quarry to the *Vallum* could not be fixed. A trench excavated across a ridge to the north side of the site of Blea Tarn, along which the Roman Wall ran revealed the core of the Wall in-situ and red sandstone debris. To the south of the site of Blea Tarn, and in a field just to the west of Bleatarn Park, a mound was cut into form the north side. In the centre of the mound, 3ft below the surface, fragments of glazed pottery and the bowl of a 'fairy-pipe' of 17th and 18th century date were revealed. The excavation report noted that: *'according to old residents, Squire William Richardson, nick-named the Nabob, had here a sort of 'Belvedere' to enjoy the view, and it is quite possible that he piled up the mound in order to set his*

summerhouse thereon'. It was noted that this summerhouse may have been constructed at the end of the 18th century (Haverfield 1897).

- *Bleatarn Farm near Irthington, Carlisle: Watching Brief*: Headland Archaeology Ltd undertook a watching brief in 2009 during groundworks associated with the construction of a new agricultural shed to the east of Bleatarn Farm, in an area between Hadrian's Wall and the *Vallum*. An area 49m by 19m wide was stripped of topsoil prior to backfilling with hardcore. The foundations of the new building consisted of excavated pits for stanchions, 1.2m wide and 0.70m deep. The groundworks revealed the natural subsoil exposed over the eastern part of the site, which consisted of a yellowish-brown clayey till. This was cut by a series of furrows, orientated east to west, spaced 5-6m apart. The furrows were poorly defined and of variable width, and contained a reddish-brown sandy silt deposit. Apart from the ridge and furrow, no features or deposits of archaeological significance were encountered during the groundworks. The straight and parallel arrangement of the ridge and furrow system (as opposed to a curved or 'S' shaped arrangement) suggests that they are of 19th century date although there was no dating evidence revealed during the groundworks (HER Report Ref: 1/09/2093).

3.4 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

- 3.4.1 Several historic maps were consulted at the local studies section of Carlisle Library, to assess what topographical features have been noted in the area around the groundworks in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.
- 3.4.2 *Hodskinson and Donald's Map of Cumberland 1774 (Figure 3)*: although this map is at a small scale, and provides little in the way of detail with regards to the topography of the area around Bleatarn, it does indicate that there were buildings at '*Bleatern*' at the end of the 18th century, although the exact location of these buildings is unclear from this source. The line of Hadrian's Wall is shown, but is labelled '*Picts Wall*'. A Roman camp is clearly marked to the south-east of Bleatarn, presumably representing the site at Watchclose.
- 3.4.3 *First Edition Ordnance Survey Map c.1865 (25" to 1 mile scale) (Figure 4)*: this was the first readily-available map consulted to show the buildings at Bleatarn, as well as the area of water '*Blea Tarn*'. The dashed lines to the north of the settlement represent the line of Hadrian's Wall, whilst the lines to the south represent the course of the *Vallum*. The buildings appear to suggest three separate courtyard farmsteads, with Bleatarn Park being the

most westerly. The building that is the subject of the present survey is not shown on this map indicating that it had not been constructed at this date.

- 3.4.4 *Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1901 (25" to 1 mile scale) (Figure 5):* by 1901 there appears to have been little change in the form of the buildings at Bleatarn Park, apart from the removal of a stand-alone structure in the farmyard. 'Blea Tarn' is no longer annotated, suggesting it may have been infilled. The survey building has still not been constructed by this date.
- 3.4.5 *Third Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1926 (25" to 1 mile scale) (Figure 6):* by the date of publication of this edition, the survey building has been constructed as it is clearly shown orientated north to south, to the south side of the earlier buildings, with its eastern side in the location of a former boundary wall or fence. A small structure is shown against its western elevation. The courses of Hadrian's Wall and the *Vallum* are both labelled on this map, the *Vallum* being shown to run through the location of the survey building and to the south of it.



Plate 1: Main (south) elevation of the house at Bleatarn Park

4 HISTORIC BUILDING SURVEY

4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 The Level 1 historic building survey was undertaken by Fiona Wooler on the 15th July 2011. At the time of the survey the building was not in use, and work had commenced on removing the concrete floor of the north end of the structure (the former byre).

4.2 BUILDING EXTERIOR

- 4.2.1 The survey building is orientated north to south, and is located to the south side of the Grade II listed former farmhouse (the present dwelling), with farm buildings to its north, west and east sides (Figure 2 and Plates 2 and 3).
- 4.2.2 This is a brick-built structure, two storeys in height, which measures approximately 22.5 metres in length by 8.4 metres wide. The manufactured (as compared to handmade) bricks are laid in English Garden Wall Bond, being five courses of stretchers (the long edge of the brick) to one course of headers (the short end of the brick). The roof is hipped and is laid in Welsh slate with a single skylight in the north facing slope which would have lit a first floor hayloft.
- 4.2.3 The south elevation of the survey building has a large opening with sliding doors which presumably would have allowed machinery or tractors to enter the building either for storage or for undertaking processes within the structure (Plate 4). Set over the head of this opening is an arched feature in the brickwork which provides a hint of architectural detail to the building. Over this, there are two vertical ventilation slits (Plate 5). At the base of this elevation, to either side of the large doorway, are areas where handmade brick has seemingly been inserted to infill former openings. This area of different brickwork is set below a line of headers which have been placed on edge to the left-hand side of the opening (Plate 6).
- 4.2.4 The east elevation of the survey building faces towards some other brick-built farm buildings. This elevation is of interest as it incorporates roughly coursed sandstone masonry towards its base, which may have been part of a former boundary wall which has been utilised in the brick building (Plates 7 to 9). This former field boundary appears to be shown on the First and Second Ordnance Survey mapping (see Figures 4 and 5).
- 4.2.5 At the north end of the east elevation there is a diagonal line on the masonry which betrays the location of a former lean-to against this area and the south elevation of the stone-built structure to the north (Plate 10).

- 4.2.6 The east elevation has a doorway and window to its north end, which served the former byre (cowhouse) located at ground floor level in this building, and a first floor pitching door which would have been used to transfer hay to the loft over the byre (Plates 7, 9 and 11). All of these openings have well-dressed sandstone sills and lintels. The lower part of the jambs of the doorway to the byre has alternating blocks of sandstone; it is not known if these are the remains of a doorway which was located in this area in the former boundary wall, or if the jambs were deliberately made of masonry in this area to match the stonework of the earlier wall (Plate 9). To either side of the pitching door there are vertical ventilation slits, reminiscent of similar vents found in traditional farm buildings, but in this case the vents themselves are not splayed inwards (i.e. the width is the same through the brickwork of the building, rather than widening internally as is generally the case in stone farm buildings).
- 4.2.7 Approximately central to the east elevation there is a further large opening with sliding metal doors and timber lintel, with an arched head set over as noted in the east elevation. A further four ventilation slits exist, one to the north side and three to the south side of this large doorway (Plate 7). The brickwork of the south corner of this elevation was noted to be rounded at the upper level, except where there has been some disturbance in the brickwork (Plate 12). Rounded corners such as this are common in farm buildings to prevent animals, humans and carts from catching against any sharp edges, but they also provide a touch of architectural detail.
- 4.2.8 The west elevation faces towards the former pig sties and an area of lawned garden (Plate 13). At the upper level this elevation are seven regularly-spaced vertical ventilation slits. At ground floor level there is a seemingly blocked doorway to the south end of the elevation, as suggested by the presence of a masonry lintel and two vertical breaks in the brickwork (Plate 14). Internally, however there is no evidence that a doorway was present in this location, and externally the infilled brickwork is the same as that of the rest of the elevation, and it has been considered if this was simply a feature included in the building to give the illusion that the building was older than it actually was.
- 4.2.9 Towards the north end of the west elevation there are two operating doorways, one would have provided access into the main body of the building, the 'barn', whilst the northernmost provided access to the byre, with windows to either side. All of these openings have masonry lintels, with the windows having masonry sills (Plate 15).
- 4.2.10 The north elevation of the survey building faces towards the house, and to its east side there is an earlier stone built agricultural structure (Plate 16).

This elevation has two vertical ventilation slits at the upper level, and at the lower level there are six round ceramic pipes which have been set into the brickwork to provide ventilation for the ground floor byre (Plates 16 and 17). To the eastern side of this elevation is a blocked doorway with masonry lintel, which was noted to be visible internally, i.e. not a mock blocked doorway as noted in the west elevation (Plate 18).

- 4.2.11 Internally, the survey building is divided into two spaces at ground floor level by a brick cross wall (Figure 8 and Plate 19). The majority of the internal space is open to the roof and undivided, suggesting that it may have been used for storing machinery or for undertaking some form of mechanical process. The brick wall which divides the main space from the byre to the north has the remains of drive wheels and an axle, suggesting that some form of mechanisation was housed in this building (Plate 20). The internal brick wall has a blocked doorway which would have provided access into the byre (Plate 21).
- 4.2.12 The roof structure of the survey building is constructed from six trusses consisting of machine-sawn king posts and struts and metal fittings, with the ends of the tie beams and principal rafters fixed into the brick walls, rather than resting on top. Carved into the ends of the tie beams and principal rafters are assembly marks (Plates 22 and 23).
- 4.2.13 At the time of survey, work had commenced on stripping out the northern ground floor room of the building. Enough remained however to note that this had formerly been a byre as suggested by the presence of ceramic troughs along the north and south walls, and the scarring for former stall divisions (Plates 24 and 25). Evidence for a former first floor over the byre is shown by the line of redundant joist holes, and the way in which the limewash and plaster stops half way up the wall (Plate 25). Two large steel girders which run across the width of this space would have supported the former first floor, which is likely to have been used for storing hay or straw (Plate 16).
- 4.2.14 The majority of the concrete floor of the byre had been removed by the time of survey, to reveal what appeared to be a bedding layer of loose sand with fragments of brick and sandstone. The central concrete manure passage was, however, still *in-situ*, showing that the byre was divided into two areas either side of this passage which would have been used to remove the manure and urine produced by the cows when they were housed in the byre during the winter months (Plate 27).



Plate 2: View looking north showing the survey building to right of photograph with the house behind



Plate 3: View looking north showing the survey building with further agricultural structures to each side



Plate 4: South elevation of survey building (Scale = 2m)



Plate 5: Detail of arched head over large doorway and two ventilation slits, south elevation



Plate 6: Base of south elevation showing a patch of handmade brickwork (Scale = 2m)



Plate 7: View looking south-west showing the east elevation with its lower courses of sandstone masonry (Scale = 2m)



Plate 8: View looking north showing the east elevation



Plate 9: Part of the east elevation showing the sandstone masonry of the lower courses



Plate 10: Scar line of a former monopitch roof for a small lean-to building, east elevation



Plate 11: Detail of first floor pitching door, east elevation of survey building



Plate 12: Detail of the rounded edge of the brickwork, south-east corner



Plate 13: West elevation of the survey building



Plate 14: Detail of 'blocked doorway', west elevation (Scale = 2m)



Plate 15: North end of the west elevation (Scale = 2m)



*Plate 16: View looking south showing the north elevation of the survey building
(Scale = 2m)*



Plate 17: Detail of the some of the ceramic pipe ventilation holes, north elevation



Plate 18: Detail of blocked doorway, north elevation (Scale = 2m)



Plate 19: View looking north showing the interior of the survey building



Plate 20: Detail of drive wheels and axle, internal brick wall



Plate 21: Detail of blocked doorway in the internal brick cross wall (Scale = 2m)



Plate 22: Detail of roof structure



Plate 23: Detail of the end of a tie beam and principal rafter fixed into the brick wall, and an assembly mark 'I I'



Plate 24: Ceramic troughs against the north wall of the former byre (Scale = 2m)



Plate 25: View looking north showing the scarring for former stall divisions in byre (Scale = 2m)



Plate 26: View looking west showing the two large iron girders which formerly supported the floor over the byre



Plate 27: View looking west showing the centrally-placed manure channel in the byre

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The rapid desk-based assessment undertaken prior to the historic building survey indicates that the small settlement of Bleatarn is situated between the projected course of Hadrian's Wall to the north, and the course of the associated *Vallum* to the south. Excavations at the end of the 19th century have suggested that there was a quarry at Bleatarn which may have been utilised in the Roman period for obtaining stone for the construction of the Wall, although this could not be substantiated. There is some evidence for early medieval and medieval activity in the area around Bleatarn from the place name itself, and the former existence of a tarn immediately to the north of the settlement, and the presence of the Bishop's or Barras Dyke to the west believed to date from the late 13th century onwards.
- 5.2 The house at Bleatarn Park is noted to have within its fabric, or constructed on the site of, a stone house or pele tower '*the residence of the Hetherington family*' of early 17th century date. It may be the '*Highstonehouse at Bleterne*' referred to in the 1603 Survey of the Barony of Gilsland (Perriam and Robinson 1998, 136). The Listed Building description for the house notes that the house is probably early 17th century with a late 17th century façade.
- 5.3 Excavations in 1894-95 to the west of Bleatarn Park, over a prominent mound, have suggested that this may have been the site of a summerhouse, constructed to enjoy the view to the north. The excavations revealed fragments of glazed pottery of probable 18th century date, and the bowl of a 'fairy-pipe' similar to examples used in the 17th and 18th centuries.
- 5.4 Cartographic evidence and sales particulars show that the survey building was constructed at some point between 1901 and 1919, to the south side of the existing agricultural structures and house.
- 5.5 The historic building survey has revealed that the structure proposed for conversion to holiday accommodation is a well-built two-storey agricultural building, possibly constructed as a threshing barn, for the mechanised processing of arable crops, with a small byre with hayloft above to its north end. Of particular interest in this building is the apparent mock blocked doorway in the west elevation, which may have been inserted by the builder to give a sense of antiquity to the building, despite being included in a structure which was manufactured of mechanically produced brick and machine-sawn timbers.
- 5.6 The survey building is clearly late in date compared to some of the surviving buildings on the farmstead. It must be noted that some of the buildings shown on historical mapping have since been demolished, in

particular to the east side of the house, and as a consequence not all of the 19th century buildings survive. The building which is proposed for conversion to holiday accommodation should not be seen in isolation, but as part of an organised farmstead, despite being relatively late in date.

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APPENDIX: FIGURES



North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
2011

PROJECT: Bleatarn Park, Irthington, Carlisle
SCALE: 1:100,000 at A4
REPORT No: CP1401
CLIENT Mr and Mrs Jordan
DRAWN BY: MDR
DATE: July 2011
FIGURE: 1

KEY:

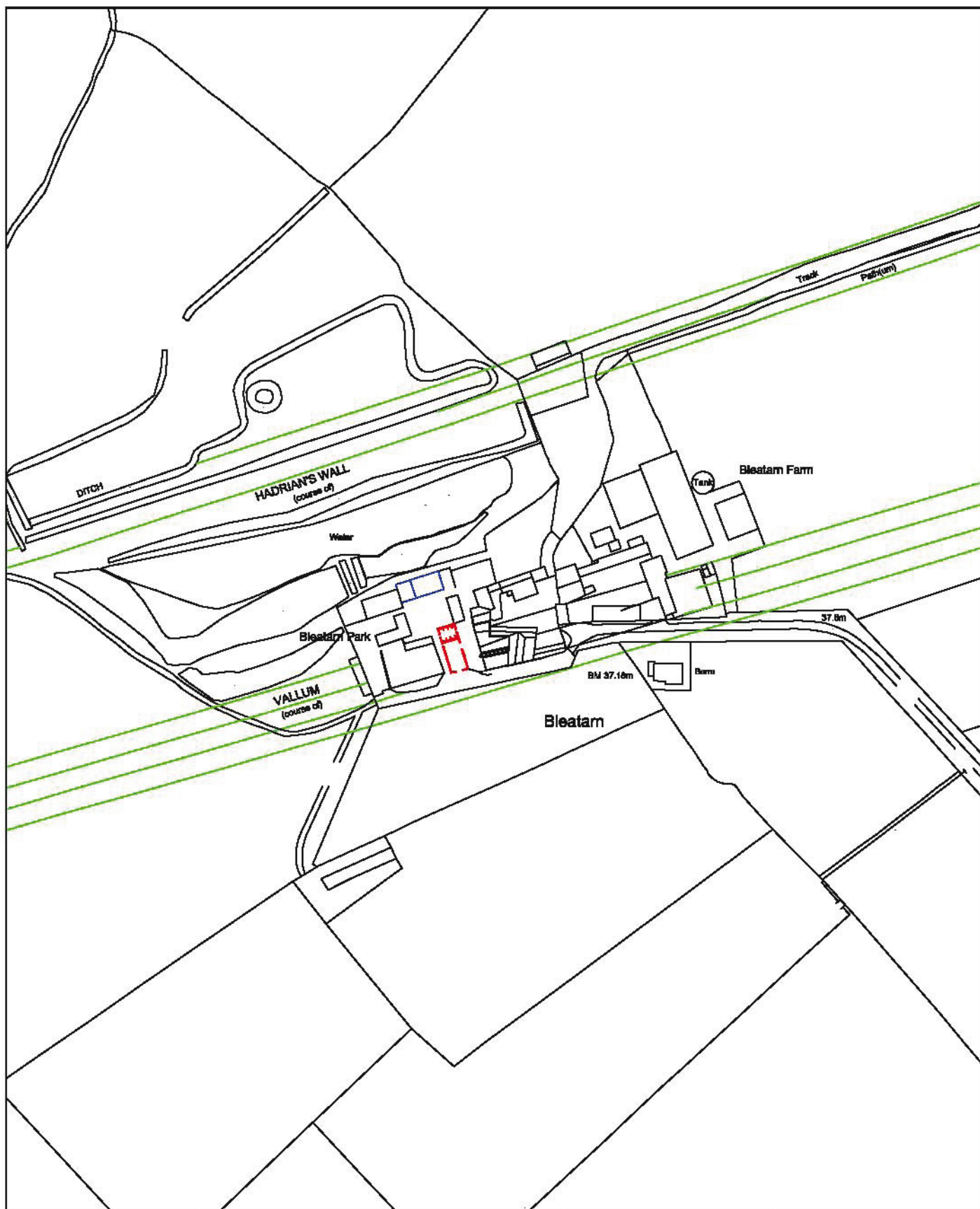


site location



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Figure 1 : Site location



North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
2011

PROJECT: Bleatarn Park, Irthington, Carlisle
SCALE: 1:2500 at A4
REPORT No: CP1401/11
CLIENT: Mr and Mrs Jordan
DRAWN BY: FW
DATE: July 2011
FIGURE: 2

KEY:

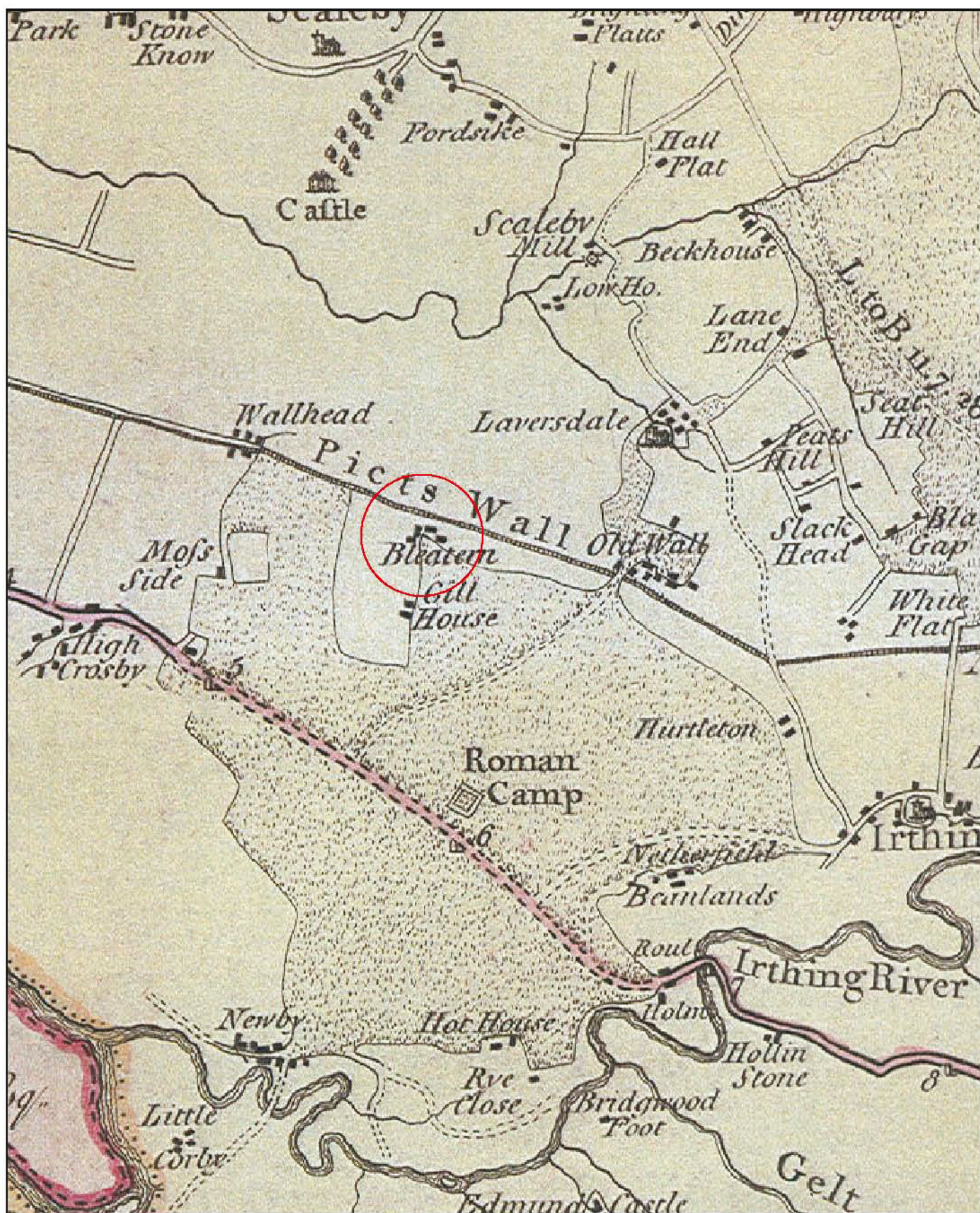


Survey Building
House
Projected Line
of Hadrian's
Wall and the
Vallum



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Figure 2: Detailed Site Location



North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
2011

PROJECT: Bleatarn Park, Irthington, Carlisle
SCALE: Not to Scale
REPORT No: 1401/11
CLIENT: Mr and Mrs Jordan
DRAWN BY: FW
DATE: July 2011
FIGURE: 3

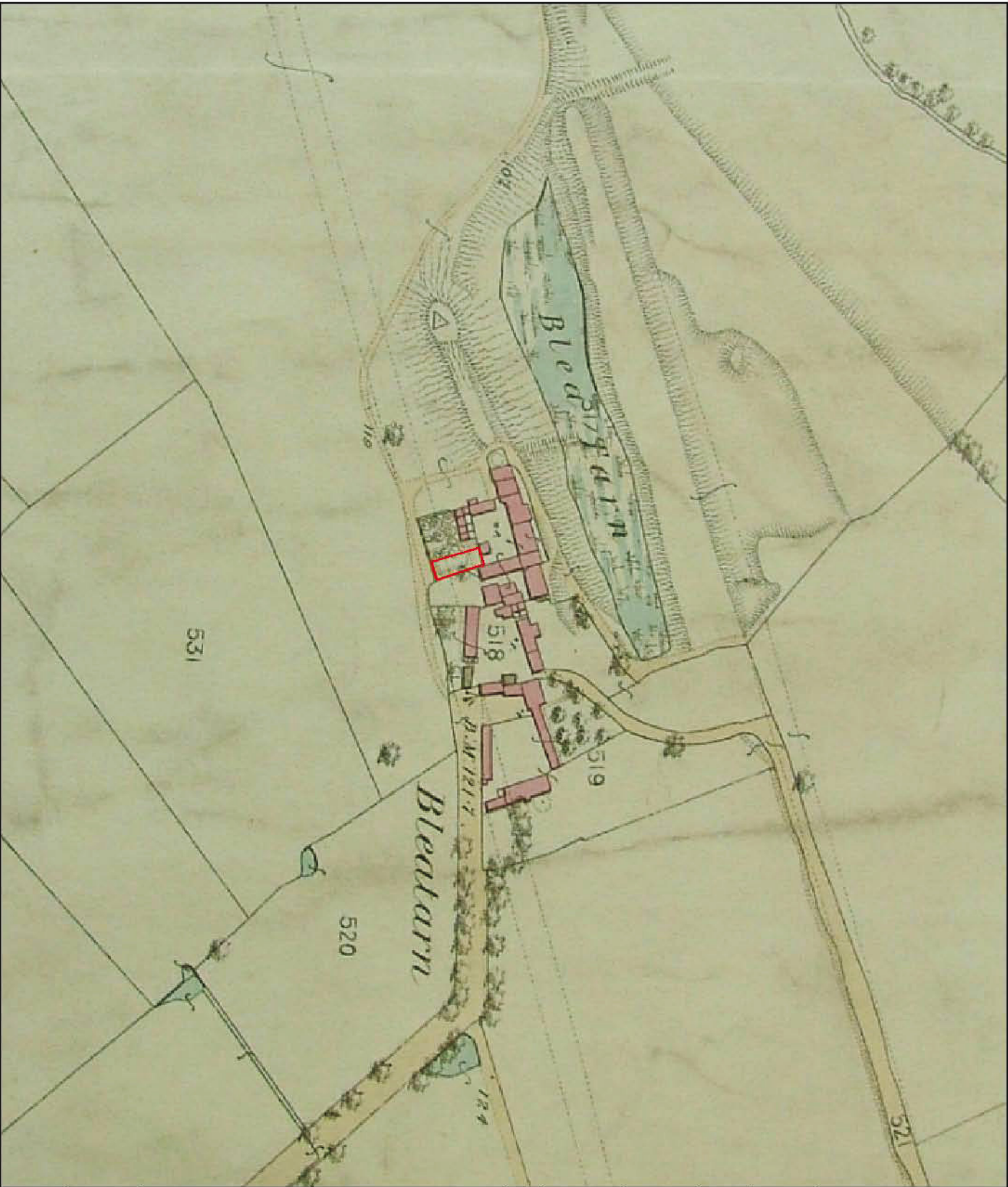
KEY:



Site Location



Figure 3: Extract from Hodkinson and Donald's Map of Cumberland 1774



North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
2011
Bleatarn Park, Irthington, Carlisle

CLIENT:

Mr and Mrs Jordan

SCALE: 1:2500 at A4

DRAWN BY: FW

DATE: July 2011

KEY:



Location of
Survey Building



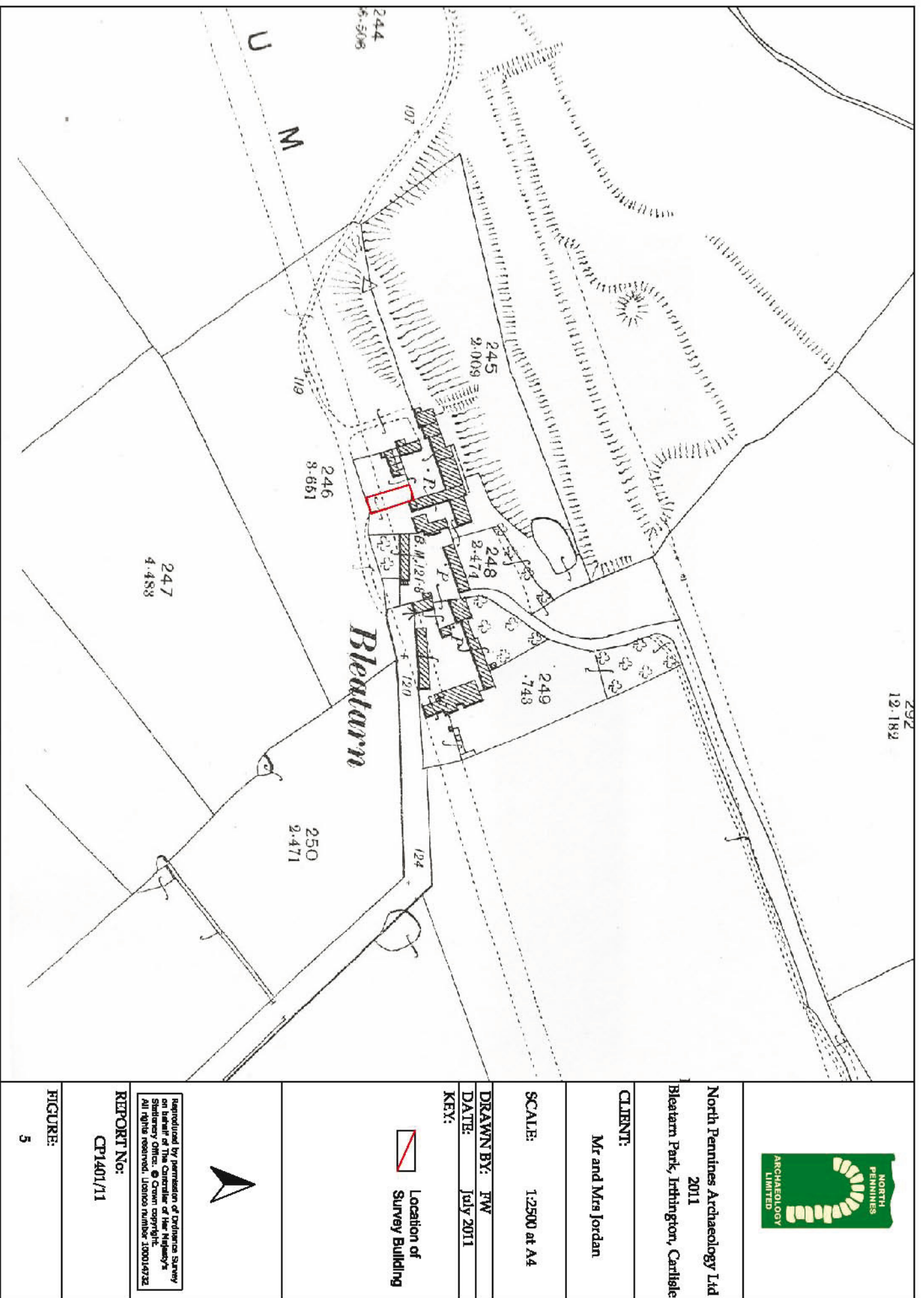
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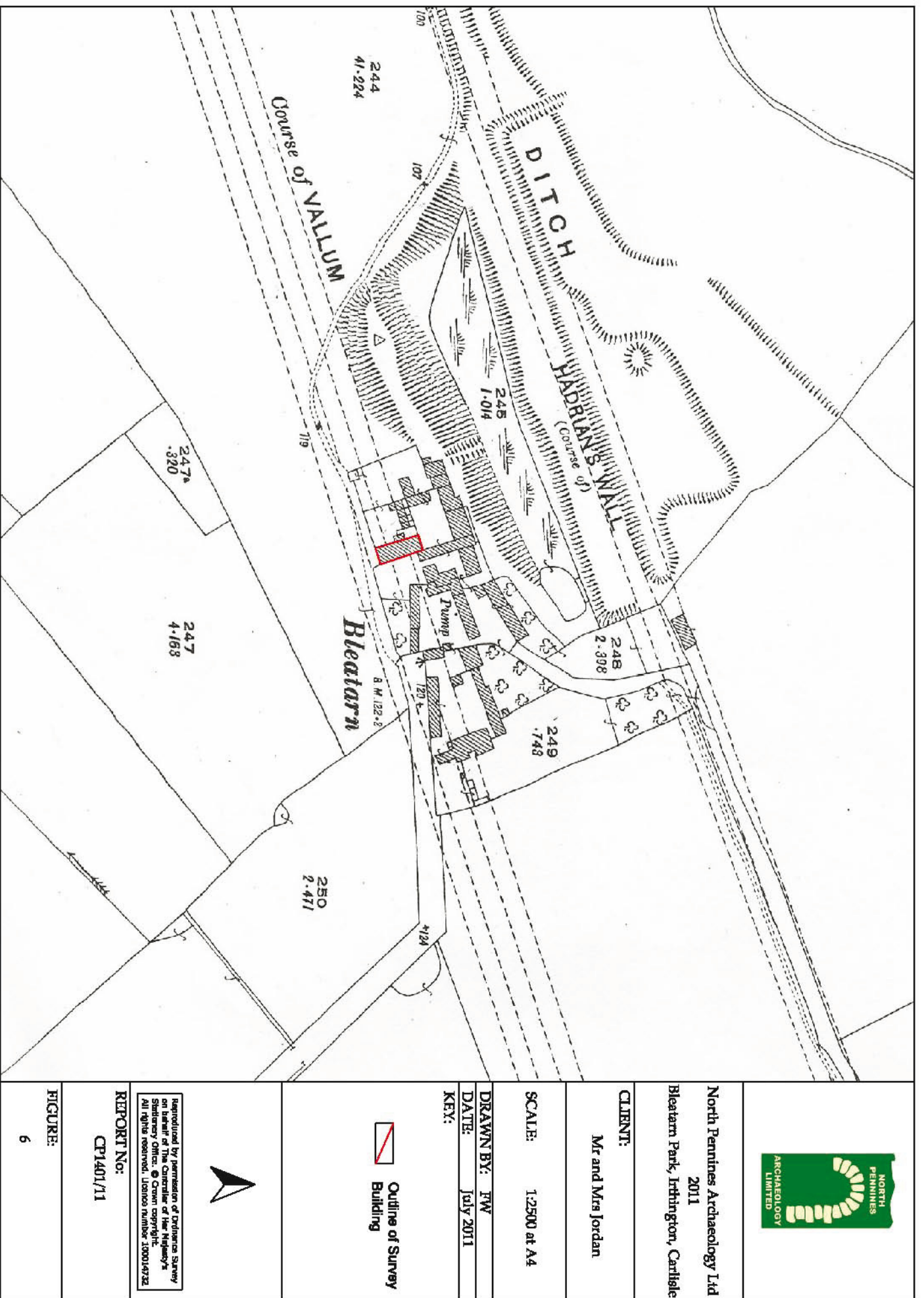
CP1401/11

FIGURE:

4

Figure 4: First Edition Ordnance Survey Map c.1865 (25" to 1 mile scale)





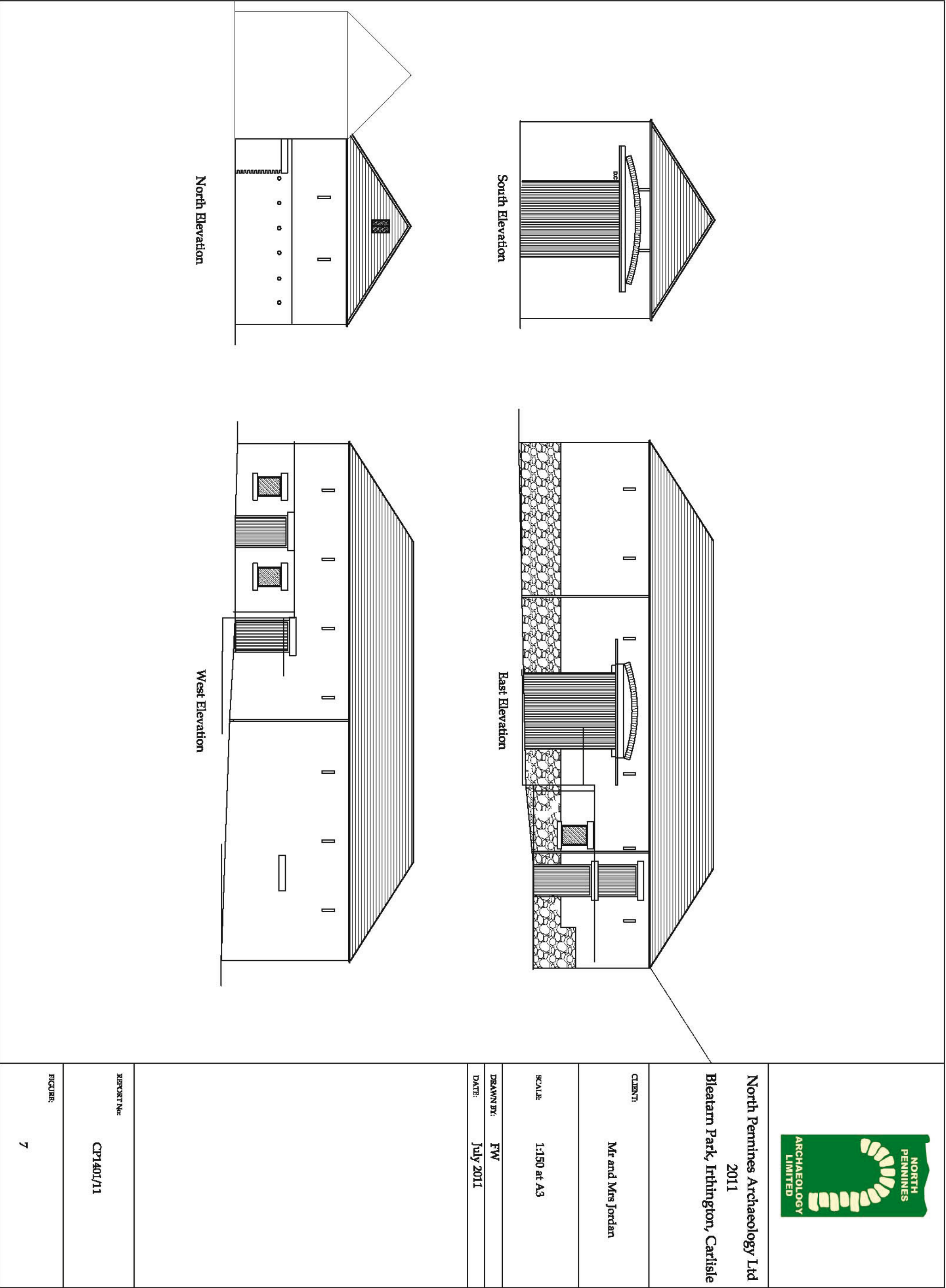
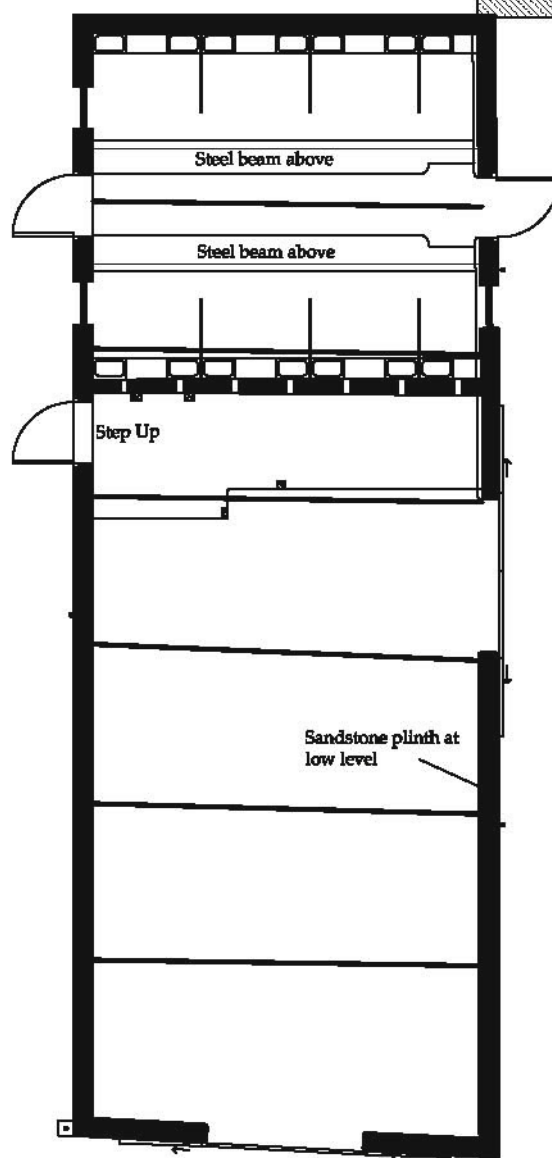


Figure 7: Elevations of Survey Building



North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
2011

PROJECT: Bleatarn Park, Irthington, Carlisle
SCALE: 1:150 at A4
REPORT No: CP1401/11
CLIENT Mr and Mrs Jordan
DRAWN BY: FW
DATE: Date as report
FIGURE: 8



Figure 8: Ground Plan of Survey Building