

---

# North Pennines Archaeology

---

Client Report No. 307/06

August 2006

## **METRIC BUILDING SURVEY OF BLENCOW HALL, PENRITH, CUMBRIA**

on behalf of

**GRAHAM K NORMAN  
(ARCHITECT) LTD**

NGR NY450326



Martin Railton BA Hons, MA  
North Pennines Archaeology Ltd  
Nenthead Mines Heritage Centre  
Nenthead  
Alston  
Cumbria CA9 3PD  
Tel: (01434) 382045  
Fax: (01434) 382294  
Mobile: 07867786404  
Email: [m.railton@nparchaeology.co.uk](mailto:m.railton@nparchaeology.co.uk)



North Pennines Archaeology Ltd is a wholly owned company of North Pennines Heritage Trust

Company Registration No. 4847034

VAT Registration No. 817 2284 31

## CONTENTS

	Page
List of Plates .....	ii
List of Figures .....	ii
Non-Technical Summary .....	iii
<b>1 INTRODUCTION (FIGURES 1 &amp; 2) .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2 METHODOLOGY .....</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1 Standards and Scale.....	2
2.2 Station Establishment.....	2
2.3 Survey Methods.....	2
2.4 Data Processing .....	2
2.5 Presentation .....	3
2.6 Project Archive.....	3
<b>3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4 THE METRIC SURVEY .....</b>	<b>5</b>
4.1 Building Plans (Figures 3 & 4).....	5
4.2 Outline Elevations (Figures 5, 6, 7 & 10) .....	6
4.3 The Hall Block .....	6
4.4 The North Tower .....	7
4.5 The South Tower .....	8
4.6 The West Range .....	9
4.7 The Chapel .....	9
4.8 Detailed Elevations (Figures 8 & 9).....	10
4.9 North Tower and South Tower.....	10
<b>5 CONCLUSIONS.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>7 BIBLIOGRAPHY .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>APPENDIX I – SURVEY STATIONS .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>APPENDIX II – DRAWING INDEX .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>APPENDIX III – ILLUSTRATIONS.....</b>	<b>14</b>

## LIST OF PLATES

Plate 1: The Hall Block from the northwest .....	Page 6
Plate 2: The North Tower and chimneystack.....	Page 7
Plate 3: The South Tower and West Range .....	Page 9
Plate 4: The Chapel from the northwest .....	Page 10

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Site location .....	Appendix 3
Figure 2: Site layout showing survey station locations.....	Appendix 3
Figure 3: Ground floor plan .....	Appendix 3
Figure 4: First floor plan .....	Appendix 3
Figure 5: Elevations of the Hall Block, North Tower and South Tower .....	Appendix 3
Figure 6: Elevations of West Range and South Tower .....	Appendix 3
Figure 7: Internal elevations of the North Tower .....	Appendix 3
Figure 8: Detailed elevations of the North Tower and South Tower .....	Appendix 3
Figure 9: Detailed internal elevations of the South Tower .....	Appendix 3
Figure 10: Elevations of the Chapel .....	Appendix 3

## SUMMARY

Between May and August 2006, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. undertook a metric survey of buildings at Blencow Hall, Penrith, Cumbria, at the request of the client, Graham K Norman (Architect) Ltd. This work was undertaken in advance of a proposed development of the site, which includes alterations to the existing buildings.

Blencow Hall is a Grade I listed building, which is believed to have originated as a late 15<sup>th</sup> century manor house. The metric survey was undertaken in order to produce a large-scale plan and outline elevations of the existing Hall, North and South Towers, West Range and Chapel. In addition to this survey, detailed stone-by-stone recording was undertaken of parts of North Tower and South Tower.

The survey has provided an accurate record of the form and layout of the buildings, including structural details and the visible remains of earlier features. Detailed analysis of the history and structure of Blencow Hall has already been undertaken, and the findings are integrated into this report.

It is likely that additional structural and archaeological evidence will be revealed by the proposed development, which could shed light on the past history, and development of the buildings. It is therefore recommended that archaeological monitoring be undertaken during any future alteration work to the fabric of the existing buildings.

A series of individual carved stops decorate the hoodmoulds of some of the windows, which are worthy of additional recording in the form of a simple photographic survey.

## **1 INTRODUCTION (*Figures 1 & 2*)**

- 1.1 Between April and August 2006, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd, commissioned by Graham K Norman (Architect) Ltd, undertook a metric survey of buildings at Blencow Hall, Penrith, Cumbria. This was in advance of a proposed development at the site, involving the conversion of some of the buildings, and changes to land use in the vicinity of the Hall.
- 1.2 The site is 0.5km to the southwest of the hamlet of Little Blencow (NGR NY 450326), in the Parish of Greystoke, and is located on the north side of a minor road between Little Blencow and Greystoke. Blencow Hall occupies an area of land on the north side of the River Petterill, which slopes gently downhill to the east. Elevations range between 195.5 and 190.5m OD. The solid geology of the area comprises sandstone, overlain by deposits of glacial boulder clay.
- 1.3 Blencow Hall consists of a central Hall, with adjoining North Tower, South Tower, and West Range forming an overall L-shaped plan. The buildings are arranged around a courtyard, with an outbuilding, known as the Chapel, at the northwest corner. At present, only the Hall Block and West Range are habitable. Blencow Hall Farm is located on the west side of the site but was not included in the survey.
- 1.4 The objective of the survey was to produce a large-scale plan and outline elevations of the main buildings at Blencow Hall, as no accurate modern record existed. In addition to the outline survey, more detailed, stone-by-stone recording was undertaken of parts of the South Tower and part of the North Tower, at the request of the client.
- 1.5 The analysis of the history and structure of Blencow Hall has been undertaken, and is presented in a separate report (Ryder 2006). Some of the findings are included here, however readers are directed to this report for interpretive discussions and full analysis of the history of the buildings.
- 1.6 The survey was conducted by Martin Railton (Project Officer), with the help of Marta Kwasnicca, Kevin Mounsey, Martin Sowerby and Matthew Town, between 24<sup>th</sup> April and 7<sup>th</sup> August 2006. This report was prepared and illustrated by Martin Railton between 14<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> August 2006.

## **2 METHODOLOGY**

### *2.1 Standards and Scale*

2.1.1 The survey was conducted in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (Riley & Wilson-North 2001), and the recommendations of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 2001). The level of recording corresponds to a RCHME Level 3 survey (RCHME 1991).

2.1.2 A nominal scale of 1:100 was adopted for the survey. This scale was considered most appropriate for showing outline building detail clearly and accurately. At this scale measurement inaccuracies of 1cm would be represented as a deviation of 0.01mm on the plot, invisible to the eye.

### *2.2 Station Establishment*

2.2.1 Primary survey control was established by closed loop traverse, using the three-tripod method (Uren and Price 1994, 231). Eleven primary survey stations were established outside of the buildings by this method and marked with permanent survey markers (Appendix I). The stations were positioned so that the exterior building plan and main exterior elevations could be surveyed from these locations (shown in Figure 2). The survey stations were tied in to known mapped Ordnance Survey points so that three-dimensional coordinates could be calculated for each station.

2.2.2 Twenty-eight secondary survey stations were established inside the buildings by closed link traverse (Uren and Price 1994, 226), to enable the survey of individual rooms and interior elevations.

### *2.3 Survey Methods*

2.3.1 Survey was conducted using a Trimble 3605 Reflectorless Total Station. This instrument has an angular measuring precision of 5", well within the required tolerances for a 1:100 scale survey. The principal plan components of the buildings were established by standard EDM measurement using a detail pole mounted prism. Elevation details were recorded using the reflectorless mode. Measurements were stored directly within the instrument's internal memory.

2.3.2 Detailed stone-by-stone recording was achieved using rectified photography. Fixed targets were used to create a series of control points on selected building elevations. These were surveyed using the Trimble 3605 Reflectorless Total Station and formed a framework for rectifying digital photographs of the building. Photographs were taken with a Fujifilm FinePix 6900 digital camera.

### *2.4 Data processing*

2.4.1 Survey data was downloaded onto a laptop computer for initial data processing using Terramodel 10.3 software. The data was subsequently exported as .DWG files in order to produce plan and elevation drawings in AutoCad 2004. Each plan component and elevation of the building complex was drawn in its correct space relative to other components and the control survey framework.

2.4.2 Digital photographs were rectified using Monobild software and saved as .BMP files. These were subsequently digitised using AutoCAD 2004.

2.4.3 The original drawings were three-dimensional and life-size, suitable for display and measurement up to a scale of 1:100. These were created to be displayed in plan view, although they may be viewed from any angle. At the request of the client, the original three-dimensional drawings were converted into two-dimensional .DXB models, in order to facilitate subsequent drafting operations.

## 2.5 *Presentation*

2.5.1 The plan and elevation drawings were produced as A1 plots at a scale of 1:100. Internal elevations of the North Tower and South Tower were plotted at 1:50 as these contained a large amount of detail. The drawings were provided to the client in stages, as the surveys were completed. An index of these drawings is included in Appendix II.

2.5.2 Drafting was undertaken using AutoCad 2004 software in accordance with RCHME guidelines (RCHME 1991). Separate elements of the work were produced on separate AutoCAD layers, and appropriate line weights chosen for each layer.

2.5.3 The figures included with this report are provided for illustrative purposes only and are not intended to replace the original plots. Figures 3-9 were scaled down from the original drawings to fit onto A3. The illustrations are included in Appendix III.

## 2.6 *Project Archive*

2.6.1 One copy of the report will be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record, where viewing will be available on request. The project is also registered with the Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS (OASIS).

## **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

3.1 Blencow Hall is a Grade I listed building and is believed to have originated as a late 15<sup>th</sup> century manor house, which was later remodelled in several phases under Sir Henry Blencow in the 16<sup>th</sup> and early 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. An inscribed lintel over the front door provides a date of c.1590 for one phase of this building work.

3.2 Structural analysis of the buildings suggests that the earliest surviving parts are contained within the present Hall Block and West Range, although both have been substantially altered. The northwest elevation of the Hall Block contains heavy and irregularly coursed masonry of probable late medieval or 16<sup>th</sup> century date, and two original window openings (Ryder 2006, 11). A massive chimneystack survives on the east side of this hall and is presumed to be part of the original building, although the southeast hall wall is a later rebuild. The remains of the original Hall wall and second chimneystack can be seen at the southern end of the Hall Block, incorporated into the South Tower. Another chimneystack survives at the east end of the West Range, and contains the remains of an oven and fireplace. This evidence suggests that two buildings originally occupied the site, and that the West Range may have originally served a domestic function.

- 3.3 Changes to the buildings by Henry Blencow included the remodelling of the Hall Block *c.*1590. The inscribed lintel over the front door, mullioned windows, and hoodmoulds with carved stops are his work. The carved stops are one of the most interesting features of the buildings and several bear his initials, 'HB'. The North Tower was constructed around this time and incorporated the chimneystack on the east side of the Hall. This was a three-storey building, with access by a newel stair in the south corner. The roof originally had a parapet and stair turret, both of which have since largely disappeared.
- 3.4 It has been suggested that the South Tower was built slightly later, in *c.*1620 and that the West Range was also remodelled around this time, including the creation of the gateway passage (Ryder 2006, 11). The South Tower was also a three-storey building, with access via a central straight stair, although none of the original floors survive. This tower also has a parapet and was built in a similar style to the North Tower.
- 3.5 At some point in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century the northeast wall of the Hall Block was rebuilt inside the original wall line, incorporating some of the earlier windows. The main door also appears to have been moved to its present position at this time. The erection of a buttress on the south side of the West Range may date to this period, in response to subsidence in that area.
- 3.6 The date of the outbuilding known as the Chapel is uncertain, and the present structure is much reduced in size from the original plan. The western section of the building was demolished in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The southeast-facing elevation contains a Gothic window. The sill and lintel of the northeast window are made of reused stone from an earlier window. It is likely that the Chapel was constructed using stone from an earlier building, but it is not clear whether that building stood in the same location or elsewhere at Blencow Hall.
- 3.7 During the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries a number of minor alterations were made to the buildings. An outbuilding/store was added on the west side of the North Tower, and a porch was constructed in the space between the Hall Block and the western chimneystack. A door and window were added on the northwest side of the North Tower at ground level and are dated 1818. The original courtyard entrance into the North Tower has been blocked by a ladder stair, which provides access to the first floor level. The most recent use of this building has been to house cattle, and a sloping corrugated iron roof has consequently been added at second floor level to make it weather poof.



## 4 THE METRIC SURVEY

### 4.1 *Building Plans (Figures 3 & 4)*

- 4.1.1 The Blencow Hall buildings were surveyed at ground floor and first floor levels. However it should be noted that the actual floor levels vary between the Hall Block, North Tower, South Tower and West Range (see Sections A-A1 and C-C1). Each room was surveyed independently, but was located in relation to the overall plan using the network of survey stations. Minor plan detail, including doorframes, windows and stairs, was measured by hand and added to the survey plans as required. The locations of sections are indicated on the plans, and are included with the building elevations drawings.
- 4.1.2 The ground floor plan (Figure 3) provides an accurate record of the overall layout of Blencow Hall including the courtyard, Chapel and outbuildings. The second floor plan (Figure 4) shows the Hall Block, North Tower, South Tower and West Range only. No floors survive within the towers apart from the first floor of the North Tower.
- 4.1.3 The Hall Block comprises an entrance hall, drawing room, dining room and kitchen at ground floor level. The main entrance is from the courtyard and leads directly to the entrance hall and stair to the first floor. A second entrance is located on the east side of the building, via the rear porch. An odd-shaped cupboard on the east wall of the drawing room is actually part of a window, which was blocked when the porch was constructed. A second cupboard on the south side of the drawing room was once a doorway into the entrance hall. The dining room contains a trap door leading to a 2.75m-square cellar, the west side of which has been blocked by the present Hall Block wall. The kitchen has a boarded up fireplace, which hides a cast iron range, and an earlier open fireplace. A cupboard to the west of the fireplace was probably once an entrance lobby.
- 4.1.4 The eastern entrance into the North Tower contains a newel stair, which provides access to the first floor, second floor and roof. The entrance passage has been blocked at its western end, but originally provided access into the North Tower and the Hall. The doorway into the Hall was blocked by the construction of the present eastern Hall Block wall and fireplace, suggesting that there has not been any access between the North Tower and the present Hall Block since this wall was built. A stub of wall on the south side of the North Tower indicates that the room was once divided in two.
- 4.1.5 An external section of wall on the north side of the South Tower is part of the original eastern wall of the Hall Block, and now acts as a buttress. The chimneystack on the south side of the North Tower, which forms the eastern wall of the Hall lobby, also belonged to this building.
- 4.1.6 The South Tower is subdivided by a straight stair, which once provided access to the first and second floors. The south end of this stair has recently been blocked by a section of wall and rubble. A passage on the west side of the South Tower leads into the West Range and the Old Kitchen. This room contains a large open fireplace and the remains of an oven. The remainder of the West Range is subdivided into a utility room, store and workshop.

4.1.7 The first floor landing of the Hall Block gives access to three bedrooms and a bathroom. The northernmost bedroom has a recess in the north corner, which may have been a *garderobe*. A bridge gives access to the West Range at the southwest corner of the Hall Block. This is subdivided into three large bedrooms. An external stair provides access into the central bedroom.

4.1.8 The first floor of the North Tower must have once been subdivided as it contains two fireplaces (one now blocked up). Another possible *garderobe* is located at the north corner of this tower, lit by a slit window. This space could not be surveyed accurately as the floor is now unsafe, but it is shown in plan as a dashed line. In the South Tower the first floor stair is narrower than the lower flight, as it has a fireplace in the stair wall on the east side. There is an irregular blocked opening in the northern wall of this tower, but its purpose is unclear.

#### 4.2 *Outline Elevations (Figures 5, 6, 7 & 10)*

4.2.1 All building elevations (with the exception of the outbuilding/store) were surveyed using a Total Station in reflectorless mode. Each elevation was surveyed separately, taking readings directly from the stonework. The outline survey recorded overall building outlines, openings, structural detail, wall scars, locations of decorative carvings and visible historic features contained within the fabric of the buildings. A datum line of 195m OD is shown on all of the elevation drawings.

#### 4.3 *The Hall Block*

4.3.1 The Hall Block, flanked by the North Tower and South Tower, is illustrated in Figure 5. The entrance to the Hall is located centrally on the northwest wall, and has a moulded square frame with an inscription in Latin on the lintel, translated as “*Live still to die, that you may by death purchase eternal life*” (Curwen 1907). The inscription is dated ‘1590’ and bears the name of Henry Blencow. Above this is a panel containing three shields, which are believed to bear the arms of Crackenthorpe, Curwen and Blencow (now blank).



Plate 1: The Hall Block from the northwest

- 4.3.2 Both walls of the Hall Block contain mullioned windows, decorated by hoodmoulds with carved stops, which vary in design from window to window. These are attributed to Henry Blencow, and some bear the initials 'HB'. The northwest wall also contains a number of earlier features, including simple square-headed windows (one blocked) and a relieving arch, which marks the probable location of an earlier opening. There are also a number of breaks in masonry in this wall, marking episodes of rebuilding.
- 4.3.3 A section through the Hall Block and both towers is illustrated in Figure 5, Section A-A1. Section B-B1 shows a section through the Hall Block and cellar, which measures 2.75m by 2.75m and is 1.9m deep. The cellar is reached through a trap door in the Dining Room and is lit by a small window on the southeast side, which is located just below the present ground level.

#### 4.4 *The North Tower*

- 4.4.1 Four outline elevation drawings of the North Tower are shown in Figure 5. Most of the parapet has been lost from this tower except on the southwest side. The southeast wall contains the chimneystack from the earlier Hall, which acts as a buttress to the tower. An entrance to the tower is located on the southeast side next to the newel stair. A rough opening in the wall here may have originally been a window, but no window dressings survive. Two blocked mullioned windows are located on this side of the tower, both with hoodmoulds and decorative carved stops. The lower window has a relieving arch above. A number of smaller, square-headed windows are positioned in this wall, lighting the stair and the ground floor room.



Plate 2: The North Tower and chimneystack, looking north

- 4.4.2 The northeast wall contains two early mullioned windows, both with hoodmoulds and stops carved with human faces. A ground-floor doorway and window are later additions, and the window bears the date '1818' with the initials 'MH'. This window mimics the earlier mullioned windows, and bears a simpler hoodmould with plain

stops. A central break in the wall, and internal recess at second-floor level, may mark the location of a former window. There is a hole in this wall for a drain spout, which is associated with a modern corrugated iron roof, shown in Section A-A1.

- 4.4.3 The northwest-facing elevation is partly obscured by an outbuilding/store. This side of the building has two mullioned windows both of which are partially blocked, and a simpler square-headed window at ground level. The first floor mullioned window has a relieving arch above. An adjacent slit window provides light to an internal recess.
- 4.4.4 An offset at the west end of the southwest wall suggests that the tower may have been remodelled at some point in the past. An entrance to the tower is located at its western corner, with a square window above. A small recess in the southwest wall provides light to a window in the Hall Block northwest wall. On the west side of the Hall Block, a porch has been built into the space between the earlier Hall chimneystack and the present Hall wall. Above the porch roof, a window provides light to the newel stair.
- 4.4.5 The outline elevations of the North Tower interior are shown in Figure 7. Only the first floor survives in tact. A sloping corrugated iron roof has been inserted to make the building weather proof. At ground floor level a recessed window and entrance doorway are located on the northeast side. The two original entrances are now blocked. A stub of wall and wall scar on the southwest side indicate that this room was once subdivided.
- 4.4.6 At the first floor level, the presence of two fireplaces suggests that this room was also once subdivided. An entrance from the newel stair is located at the southern corner of the room. In the northern corner is the entrance to a recess with missing lintel. A row of joist sockets indicates the location of the second floor (now missing). Access to this floor was also from the newel stair. This floor also had two fireplaces and was presumably subdivided.
- 4.4.7 The roof of the North Tower once had a turret at the southern corner. A stair on the southwest wall would have originally given access to the turret, but is now redundant. Beneath this stair is a blocked slit window.

#### 4.5 *The South Tower*

- 4.5.1 The southeast wall of the South Tower is rent to its full height at the centre (Figure 5). Traces of two mullioned windows can be seen either side of this rent, at the ground floor and first floor levels. A sundial is carved into the north side of the lower window. A square-headed window is situated on the south side of this wall at the second floor level. The consequences of the rent, and subsidence on the south side of the tower can be seen in the northwest-facing elevation, which shows that the southern extension of the South Tower is leaning outwards significantly.
- 4.5.2 The northwest wall of the South Tower adjoins the West Range. Above the roof of this range, an earlier roofline, and traces of a chimneystack can be seen (Figure 5). Another chimneystack is clearly visible in the northeast wall of the South Tower (Figure 6) and was part of the earlier Hall. A section of wall, also from this earlier building, abuts the South Tower on the northeast side. Above this is an irregular opening, which has been roughly in-filled. Two small square windows are located at the second floor level either side of the chimneystack. An entrance to the South Tower is located at its eastern corner at ground floor level.

- 4.5.3 The southwest elevation of the South Tower includes is illustrated in Figure 6. Two mullioned windows with hoodmoulds and carved stops are at situated at first floor level, and the third at ground floor level is blocked up. To the east of this window is another carved sundial. Seven other square-headed windows, of various sizes, are located on the southwest side of the South Tower. Between this tower and the West Range is a sloping line of slates, which marks a former roofline. Below is a relieving arch, partly obscured by a stone buttress, which is the probable location of a former oven.



Plate 3: The South Tower and West Range, looking east

#### 4.6 *The West Range*

- 4.6.1 The outline elevations of the West Range are illustrated in Figure 6. The gateway passage has a segmented arch and provides access to the courtyard. Above the passage is a blocked opening below a window, which may once have formed a doorway. To the east is a mullioned window with hoodmould and carved stops bearing the initials 'H B'. Six other chamfered square windows are located in the southwest wall of this building.
- 4.6.2 The northeast side of the West Range has a first floor doorway, which is reached by an external stair. Beneath is a square opening, which leads to a possible former kennel. Four doorways on the ground floor provide access to four separate rooms, shown in Section C-C1. The doorway to the east of the entrance passage bears the initials 'H B'. Five chamfered square windows are situated in this wall. The window at the west end of the building was obscured vegetation and could not be surveyed. The northwest end wall of the West Range contains a single square window on the ground floor level. Two of the cornerstones of this building project into the adjacent courtyard wall on the north side.

#### 4.7 *The Chapel*

- 4.7.1 The Chapel elevations are shown in Figure 10. The southeast wall, which faces the courtyard, contains a two-cantered window with Y-tracery. The northeast wall has been reduced in size, but footings of the former building can be traced in the adjoining stonewall. The northeast wall contains a square chamfered window, which is made from reused stone. The open entrance to this building is on the northwest side.



Plate 4: The Chapel from the northwest

#### 4.8 *Detailed Elevations (Figures 8 & 9)*

4.8.1 Detailed recording was undertaken of parts of the South Tower exterior, four interior elevations of the South Tower, and part of the North Tower, using rectified photography. The resulting elevation drawings provide a stone-by-stone building record, which illustrates all major elements of the buildings, with the exception of decorative detailing. The interior elevation drawings also show areas of surviving plasterwork.

#### 4.9 *North Tower and South Tower*

4.9.1 The detailed external elevations are shown in Figure 8, and illustrate the southwest-facing and southeast-facing elevations of the South Tower, part of the northeast-facing elevation of the South Tower and part of the southwest-facing elevation of the North Tower. Parts of the southeast wall of the South Tower were obscured by vegetation and could not be surveyed by this method.

4.3.1 The interior four walls of the South Tower are illustrated in Figure 9. The northeast-facing elevation shows the surviving plasterwork on this wall, which is preserved to the greatest extent at second floor level. No interior floors now survive, however a series of joist sockets on the southeast wall indicate the height of the first floor level. A stone corbel on this wall would have supported the roof.

4.3.2 The southwest-facing elevation shows two fireplaces at ground floor and second floor levels, with a chimneystack above. A straight stair is attached to this wall with a newel stair above it, providing access to the roof level. A bridge connects the Hall Block with the West Range.

4.3.3 The southeast-facing elevation shows the chimneystack of an earlier building, which has been incorporated into the West Range. At the base of this stack is a segmental arch, which may be the remains of an oven. The southeast-facing wall of the southern extension of this tower is also shown in this elevation.

## **5 CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 The metric survey has provided the first accurate record of the form and layout of the buildings at Blencow Hall. The plan and section drawings have made it possible to relate separate elements of the buildings to one another, whilst the elevation drawings have provided a record of structural detail, and the visible remains of earlier features. The stone-by stone survey has provided a more detailed record of the fabric of parts of the North Tower and South Tower, suitable for informing future conservation work.
- 5.2 The buildings at Blencow Hall are the result of a complex sequence of building and remodelling which is only partly understood. It is likely that additional structural and archaeological evidence will be revealed by the proposed development, which could shed light on the past history, and development of the buildings. It is therefore recommended that archaeological monitoring be undertaken during any future alteration work to the buildings.
- 5.3 A number of decorative carvings have been identified, which are worthy of additional recording. These include a series of carved stops, which decorate the hoodmoulds of the mullioned windows. It is suggested that these are subject to a simple photographic survey, and that their locations are cross-referenced to the elevation drawings. This would provide a valuable reference for future conservation work and research.

## **6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

North Pennines Archaeology is grateful to the owners and staff of Blencow Hall for facilitating the building survey.

## **7 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Curwen, J F, 1907 Blencow Hall, *Trans Cumberland Westmorland Arch Antiq Soc New Series* VII, 120-127

Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2001 *Standards and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures*, IFA, Birmingham

RCHME, 1991 *Recording Historic Buildings: A descriptive specification*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, London

Riley and Wilson-North, 2001 *Metric Survey Specifications for English Heritage*, English Heritage

Ryder, P F, 2006 *Blencow Hall, Cumbria: An Historical and Structural Assessment*, Unpublished

Uren, J, and Price, WF 1994 *Surveying for Engineers*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Macmillan, London



## APPENDIX I – SURVEY STATIONS

Station No	Easting	Northing	Height (m OD)
1	344991.041	532590.517	193.373
2	344988.584	532627.402	195.199
3	344990.816	532605.570	194.584
4	345005.976	532610.849	193.274
5	345007.651	532573.460	192.159
6	345029.998	532590.756	191.500
7	345033.270	532598.933	192.015
8	345037.532	532610.546	192.178
9	344998.810	532626.051	194.164
10	345021.263	532627.790	195.569
11	345035.819	532624.083	192.539

## APPENDIX II – DRAWING INDEX

Drawing No	Title	Scale	Details
1	Ground Floor Plan	1:100	hall, towers, west range, chapel
2	First Floor Plan	1:100	hall, towers, west range, chapel
3	South Tower Elevations	1:100	outline elevations and section
4	North Tower Elevations	1:100	outline elevations and section
5	Hall Block Elevations	1:100	outline elevations and sections
6	North Tower Roof Plan	1:100	roof plan of North Tower
7	Detailed External Elevations	1:100	detailed elevations of south tower and part elevation of north tower
8	South Tower Detailed Internal Elevations	1:50	detailed elevations of the four internal walls
9	South Tower 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Plan	1:100	second floor plan of South Tower
10	South Tower Roof Plan	1:100	roof plan of South Tower
11	North Tower Internal Elevations	1:50	outline internal elevations
12	West Range Elevations	1:100	outline external elevations
13	Chapel Elevations	1:100	outline external elevations

## **APPENDIX III – ILLUSTRATIONS**