

# **NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**

**Client Report No. CP/793/08**



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01 April 2016



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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In September 2008, North Pennines Archaeology Limited were commissioned by Mr P Hart to undertake a photographic survey before, during and after the construction of a single-storey extension against the west elevation of Aughton Old Hall, Aughton, Ormskirk (SD 391 055) (Planning Application Ref: 2008/0578/FUL). Aughton Old Hall is a Grade II Listed Building dating from the 15<sup>th</sup> century and altered in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The building is located in the St Michael's Conservation Area, to the north of the church.

The area that will be affected by the proposed development is part of the west elevation, where a single-storey lean-to is presently located (Plates 1 & 2). This lean-to is brick-built with a slate roof and presently contains two large windows, although these are a modern insertion. The proposed development will involve the removal of part of the external wall to create a doorway; however the remainder of the brick wall will remain in-situ. Although the existing roof of the lean-to is to be moved to make way for the roof for the extension, the roof timbers are to be retained as an internal feature.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Mr and Mrs P Hart for commissioning the project and for their assistance during the fieldwork.

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would also like to extend their thanks to staff at Lancashire Record Office in Preston and Ken Davies, Planning Officer (HER), Lancashire County Council.

The photographic survey was undertaken by Fiona Wooler. The report was written by Fiona Wooler. The project was managed by Matt Town, Project Manager for NPA Ltd. Megan Stoakley, WAA Finds Officer, carried out the final edits.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In September 2008, North Pennines Archaeology Limited were commissioned by Mr P Hart to undertake a photographic survey before, during and after the construction of a single-storey extension against the west elevation of Aughton Old Hall, Aughton, Ormskirk (SD 391 055) (Planning Application Ref: 2008/0578/FUL). Aughton Old Hall is a Grade II Listed Building dating from the 15<sup>th</sup> century and altered in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The building is located in the St Michael's Conservation Area, to the north of the church.
- 1.1.2 Aughton Old Hall is recorded on the Lancashire County Council HER under SMR No: PRN796-MLA796. The HER entry refers to a possible pele tower shown on a map dating to c.1590.
- 1.1.3 The photographic survey was undertaken at the request of the Conservation Officer for Lancashire County Council, who placed a condition on the planning application for the photographic survey to be carried out prior to the commencement of building works.
- 1.1.3 The survey was carried out on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2008 by Fiona Wooler.

### 1.2 SITE LOCATION

- 1.2.1 The village of Aughton is located approximately 4km to the south-west of Ormskirk, in West Lancashire (Figure 1). To the east of the village is the main railway line from Preston to Liverpool and to the west is the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. Immediately to the west of Aughton Old Hall is the modern A59 trunk road (Northway) from Ormskirk to Liverpool.
- 1.2.2 Aughton Old Hall is situated to the north of St Michael's Church, on the west side of St Michael Road. The property is set back from the roadside with car parking to the front, and garden to the north, west and south. The nearest residential properties are Orchard House to the west, and The Bungalow to the north. The Stanley Arms public house is located to the south of Aughton Old Hall.

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## 2. METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY

2.1.1 The survey consists of two basic elements:

- a written account, which includes information derived from documentary research,
- a photographic record.

### 2.2 THE WRITTEN ACCOUNT

2.2.1 The written account is included in this document together with a selection of photographs, plans and appendix of documentary information.

### 2.3 THE PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

2.3.1 The photographic archive consists of the following:

- a series of 35mm black and white prints showing general views of the exterior of the building and its setting,
- a series of digital views of the exterior of the building, the interior of the building and specific internal details (e.g. fixtures and fittings) included within this report for illustrative purposes.

### 2.4 PROJECT ARCHIVE

2.4.1 The full archive of the photographic survey has been produced to a professional standard in accordance with the recommendations in *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation*<sup>1</sup>. The archive will be deposited within Lancashire Archives and a copy of the report given to the County Historic Environment Record in Lancashire, where viewing will be available on request. The project has the unique OASIS reference number **northpen3-246911**.

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<sup>1</sup> Brown, D.H, 2007

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### 3. PREVIOUS WORK

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- 3.1 During renovation work to the property in the 1970s, an investigation was undertaken by Liverpool Polytechnic, Department of Architecture, and it is reported that evidence was found of a Saxon hearth beneath the present kitchen floor. No further details are available in the HER entry.
- 3.2 In 2004, Aughton Old Hall was the subject of a building survey and documentary search, undertaken by Garry Miller for the then owners, Mr and Mrs Wright<sup>2</sup>. A copy of this report was provided by Mr Hart, and a section of the report is also held in the HER, maintained by Lancashire County Council. The building survey suggested eight main construction phases:
- Phase One: The Medieval Period – Several generations of buildings, probably cruck-framed, *may* have stood on the site along with a possible stone tower,
  - Phase Two: Early 16<sup>th</sup> century, *c.*1520, the open hall was constructed,
  - Phase Three: Later 16<sup>th</sup> century, the present service wing (cross-wing) was added,
  - Phase Four: Later 16<sup>th</sup> century, possibly before 1594, a stack was inserted into the hall,
  - Phase Five: Early 17<sup>th</sup> century, before 1626, a floor was inserted in the open hall,
  - Phase Six: Late 17<sup>th</sup> century, probably after 1682, the former upper wing (north end of the house) was removed,
  - Phase Seven: Late 17<sup>th</sup> to early 18<sup>th</sup> century, the hall range was clad in brick along with the upper floor of the service wing and rear wing (north-west extension),
  - Phase Eight: 19<sup>th</sup> century, the brick of the north-west extension was replaced.

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<sup>2</sup> Miller, G, 2004



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## 4. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

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- 4.1 A settlement at Aughton is referred to in the Domesday Survey of 1084, when it is referred to as *Acheton*. In the following centuries the village has been variously named as *Acton* (1235), *Hacton* (occasionally), *Aghton* (1330 and common to the 16<sup>th</sup> century), *Aighton* and *Auton* also occur. *Aughton* appears in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The local pronunciation is *Aff'n*<sup>3</sup>. Aughton was listed in the Domesday Book as a place where *'there was land under such cultivation or occupation as to render it rateable'*<sup>4</sup>.
- 4.2 There appears to have been a settlement of some form prior to the compilation of the Domesday Survey in 1084. A fragment of a Saxon cross is located within St Michael's Church<sup>5</sup>, and prior to the Norman Conquest (1066), Aughton or *Acheton* (a manor) and *Literland* were held by Uctred, a Saxon thane<sup>6</sup>.
- 4.3 Aughton Old Hall is the ancient residence of the *de Actons* or *de Aughtons*, and is believed to have been in existence in 1400<sup>7</sup>. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the hall is believed to have been owned by the Starkey family, who may have constructed the earliest phase of the building.
- 4.4 The will of John Starkie, proved in 1527, includes the desire for him to have been buried before the altar of St Nicholas in Aughton Church. In 1545, his son, another John, conveyed to trustees his manor and estate in Aughton. He died before 1569, when his son and heir Henry was in possession<sup>8</sup>. The will of Henry Starkie, described by Newstead as a 'gent', was proved on the 25<sup>th</sup> January 1593. In his will he *'desires to be buried in the church "in that place whear myne ancestors have beene buried theare"*. By *"that place"* he would naturally refer to the burial place of his ancestor John Starkye who had ordered by his will (proved 16<sup>th</sup> Sept 1527) that he should be buried *"in Aughton Church before the altar of St Nicholas"* and also left 6s 8d for the reparation of the church. This altar may have been an endowed chantry; but, as there appears to be no record of a any chantry at Aughton, 1545, in all probability the endowment was, like hundreds of others during the time of the Reformation, misappropriated. The identity of the site of the altar has also been entirely lost. The family of Starkye, or Starkey, would seem to have resided in, or owned the old hall<sup>9</sup>.
- 4.5 The HER entry for Aughton Old Hall refers to a map of c.1590, which appears to show a more extensive house with a possible pele tower at its southern end.
- 4.6 According to Newstead, *'In a Deed dated "14<sup>th</sup> Sept in the year of our lord according to the computation of the Church of England 1681"*, John Starkey covenants to sell to Roger Bostock of Ormskirk *"That capitall messuage mansion or manor house situate, standing and being in the parish of Aughton, near the parochiall church, commonly called and known by the name of the Hall of Aughton, also meadows etc known as Rye*

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<sup>3</sup> VCH 1907, Page 284

<sup>4</sup> Fishwick, H, 1894, Page 53

<sup>5</sup> North West Civic Trust 1989, Page 141

<sup>6</sup> Baines, E, 1870, Page 400

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid*, Page 4

<sup>8</sup> VHC 1907, Page 296

<sup>9</sup> Newstead, G.C, 1893, Page 81

- Hey and Wrangling Croft etc in all about 8 acres of land*<sup>10</sup>. The field name Rye Hey is also referred to on the 1848 Tithe Map and Schedule for Aughton, listed along with other fields associated with the farm of Aughton Old Hall, therefore it appears that this 17<sup>th</sup> century Deed does refer to Aughton Old Hall.
- 4.7 During the Civil War in 1644, Ormskirk was named as one of the strongholds of the Royalist party in Lancashire. After the battle of Marston Moor, fought on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1644 and won by the Parliamentarian forces, 4000 soldiers returned to begin a second siege of Lathom House. Their headquarters were at Ormskirk; however a large number camped on Aughton Moss, near the mill. Newstead noted the name 'Trenchfield House', located on the site, was as a reference to this period of history<sup>11</sup>. In 1870, the earthworks from these entrenchments were still visible on Aughton Moss, although ploughing appears to have been having a detrimental effect on them by this date<sup>12</sup>.
- 4.8 A John Mercer is recorded as being a constable in 1713, residing at 'Hall of Aughton'. He appears to have died in 1727, also recorded as being of Aughton Hall<sup>13</sup>. There is, however, an Aughton New Hall, which was constructed in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and which was the property of Colonel Plumbe Tempest in 1870<sup>14</sup>. It is therefore necessary to be cautious with regard to the name 'Aughton Hall'.
- 4.9 Yates' map of Lancashire dating to 1786 shows the village of Aughton with a drawing of the church. To the north of the church, two properties appear to be shown, one of which is presumably Aughton Old Hall. Town Green, Moor Hall, Aughton Moss and Hall Welch are annotated, and several windmills are shown in various locations around the village.
- 4.10 Aughton Old Hall was the property of the Stanley family of Hooton (who also owned Moor Hall) up until 1840, after which it was sold to Mr Gaskell of Wigan. A Henry Gaskell is named as the landowner of the house, farm buildings (located to the north) and land on the 1848 Tithe Map and Schedule, with James Hodge listed as occupier. At this date the farm consisted of c.90 acres of land, made up of fields of mixed use, i.e. pasture, meadow and arable. The land associated with the farm was located to the west and north-west of the farm buildings and Aughton Old Hall. The Tithe Map of 1848 shows the property annotated as 'Old Hall'. Two small buildings are shown to the north of the house, with a further small building to the west. A building is shown immediately to the north of the church, which is marked on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (6" scale) of 1849 as 'old church house', with the road through the village labelled as 'Liverpool and Preston Trust'.
- 4.11 The 25" scale version of the First Edition Ordnance Survey map, published in 1893, clearly shows the buildings in the village of Aughton at this date. 'Old Hall' is labelled along with the Stanley Arms Public House, which has a bowling green. The farm buildings are shown to the north of Aughton Old Hall connected to it by a track way. The gardens associated with Aughton Old Hall are more extensive at this date, located

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<sup>10</sup>*Ibid*, Page 87

<sup>11</sup> Newstead, G.C, 1893, Page 13

<sup>12</sup> Baines, E, 1870, Page 404

<sup>13</sup> Newstead, G.C, 1893, Pages 87 and 141

<sup>14</sup> Baines, E, 1870, Page 404

to the west and north. Two parallel lines drawn in pencil on this map are a later addition and appear to represent the proposed line of the modern trunk road (A59).

- 4.12 In 1870, Aughton Old Hall belonged to Edgar Musgrove, Esq., J.P of West Tower, Aughton, and occupied by a tenant farmer. The Rothwell family came to Aughton Old Hall in the 1920s, and continued to farm there until the 1960s. From 1964, Aughton Old Hall was occupied by the Wright family from whom the property was bought approximately 15 months ago by Mr Hart.
- 4.13 Pevnsner includes a description of Aughton Old Hall in this series *The Buildings of England*. He describes the property as '*a little house carefully restored to reveal an early 16<sup>th</sup> century hall and a slightly later cross-wing. Walls are largely of early 18<sup>th</sup> century brick but stone (mainly dressed) is used for the plinth, quoins, the right end wall, and the lower walls of the rear of the cross-wing and another gabled extension on that side*'<sup>15</sup>.

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<sup>15</sup> Pollard, R and Pevsner, N, 2006, Page 145

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## 5. RESULTS

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### 5.1 INTRODUCTION

- 5.1.1 Aughton Old Hall was photographed on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2008, prior to any building works taking place. The house was occupied at the time of survey; consequently it was not possible to undertake an extensive appraisal of the property. The proposed single-storey extension it to be constructed against the west elevation of the property, consequently it will be unseen from the road.
- 5.1.2 The house consists of a range orientated north-south, with a cross-wing against the south elevation, and an extension against the west elevation, at the northern end. The property is now of two-storeys throughout, and has a slate roof.
- 5.1.3 Aughton Old Hall is located within an enclosure, consisting of a stone wall along its eastern and part of the southern boundary, and modern fences to part of the south, west and north (Plate 1). The property is set back from the road, which was originally the main route from Ormskirk to Liverpool. The main entrance to the house is situated within the eastern elevation which faces the road. An area of gravel and paving stones to the front provides car parking, with a single-storey garage located to the north of the house.

### 5.2 THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY

- 5.2.1 The east elevation faces the road and contains the main, formal entrance into the building (Plate 2). To the left of the present doorway are vertical timbers, with a horizontal timber between, carved into a depressed pointed arch, making up the lintel. Above the lintel is an inserted horizontally sliding sash window of 12-panes, which now lights the staircase. Brunskill notes that horizontal sashes such as this, which he refers to as 'Yorkshire' sashes, belong to the sub-medieval phase, i.e. from around the 17<sup>th</sup> century and lasting into the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century<sup>16</sup>. Set horizontally above this window is a further timber, still retaining wooden pegs, which may have been the original wall plate of the earliest phase of the building (Plate 3). The regularly-spaced surviving wooden pegs may provide some evidence that the space within each square panel created by the vertical and horizontal timbers was filled with close studding, i.e. vertical pieces of wood (stud), with a space between each stud being approximately equal to the width of the stud itself<sup>17</sup>.
- 5.2.2 This elevation is constructed of hand-made brick, which appears to be laid in English Garden Wall Bond, i.e. the use of more than one course of stretchers (long edge of the brick) between two sets of headers (short end of the brick). The brickwork is laid on a plinth constructed from two courses of dressed, squared masonry. To the right of the main present doorway is a modern window which appears to replace an earlier, slightly larger window with lintel, as shown by vertical breaks in the brickwork to the left-hand side and above (Plate 2). At first floor level, and now lighting the landing, is

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<sup>16</sup> Brunskill, R.W, 2000, Page 134

<sup>17</sup> Alcock, N.W, *et al*, 1996, Pages G18 and F23

an inserted window located just below the eaves, and immediately to the right of the horizontal timber. A vertical line in the brickwork to the north end of this elevation, also at first floor level (in line with the horizontal sliding sash window) suggests there was formerly a window in this location. The northern end of this elevation has alternating blocks of masonry as quoins.

- 5.2.3 The hand-made bricks and masonry used within this elevation appears to be a replacement for sections of the original timber-framing and close-studding of the earlier hall. Brick was generally introduced to domestic architecture through brick fireplaces and chimneystacks in the late 16<sup>th</sup> and throughout the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Its use became more fashionable in the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century and was often used in places where perfectly adequate stone was available. By the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century it could compete on price with both timber building and stone<sup>18</sup>.
- 5.2.4 The north facing elevation of the cross-wing is constructed of a mix of coursed masonry and brickwork, the stone making up the lower half of the wall, and the quoins which extend to the eaves (Plate 4). At the junction of this elevation and the east elevation of the hall, there is a vertical line defined by brickwork laid in alternating courses of stretchers and two headers. To the right of this vertical line, are masonry quoins, which generally would suggest the corner of a wall. It is, however, possible that the thin line of brickwork may have replaced a former vertical timber, which the quoins had previously abutted. At the top of this elevation, a section of the wall has been covered in cement with incised straight lines, creating a mock masonry appearance. It is not known if this is the remains of a wall coating that covered the whole elevation; this appears unlikely, however, due to the straight line at its base (Plate 4).
- 5.2.5 The east elevation of the cross-wing has a window at ground floor and first floor level (Plate 5). As with the north elevation of this range, the elevation is constructed from a mixture of masonry and brickwork. In the centre of the elevation is a brick-built chimney stack which projects out from the wall, the bricks being laid in stretcher bond. The plinth at the base of the wall projects slightly outwards from the rest of the wall (Plate 6).
- 5.2.6 The south elevation of the cross-wing faces the entranceway to the property to the west (Orchard House) (Plate 7). This elevation is also constructed of a mix of masonry and brickwork, with the masonry making up the lower half of the wall. It was noted that some of the masonry blocks are larger than seen in other parts of the building, and it needs to be considered that some of this stonework may have come from an earlier structure on, or close to, the site. There is single window at ground level, and two windows at first floor level. No particular form of bond appears to have been used for the brickwork, in some cases there are two or even three rows of headers together. This lack of regular bonding may be due to the fact that the brick is not structural, and not bearing any weight (Plate 8). Both the brickwork and the masonry have been pointed with cement in recent years; the building may benefit from this being removed and replaced by traditional lime mortar.
- 5.2.7 The west elevation of the cross-wing faces into the garden. This is also a mixture of coursed masonry, at the base of the wall set on a slight plinth, and brickwork above up

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<sup>18</sup> Brunskill, R.W, 2000, Page 186

to the apex of the gable (Plate 9). At ground floor level, there are modern French doors with slightly arch brick head, and at first floor level a window with concrete lintel. The south end of this gable has alternating quoins running the entire height, whilst the opposite corner is of brick, although part of it is obscured by the later single-storey lean-to. Set within the masonry quoins, at first floor level, are two backward S-shaped iron tie plates (10). Iron tie rods were threaded through buildings, and terminated at tie plates on the outside of opposing walls. When tightened, they prevented walls from bellying out<sup>19</sup>. Due to the location of these two tie-plates (i.e. together and to one side of a gable), and the fact that there are no examples on the opposite gable end, it is likely that these tie-plates have been reused here for decoration rather than structural purposes.

- 5.2.8 Against the west elevation of the hall range is a single-storey brick-built lean-to with pitched roof, the top of which runs beneath the base of a horizontal sliding sash window, similar to that observed on the east elevation (Plate 11). There are two large windows which light the present kitchen; one is a square fixed frame, with 30 small panes, whilst the other is a rectangular three-light casement with 45 panes (Plate 12). Both of these windows appear to be fairly modern. This lean-to is the location for the proposed construction of the single-storey extension. The existing roof covering of the lean-to is to be removed; however the existing timbers will remain as an internal feature. One of the windows in the lean-to will be removed to create a doorway into the new extension from the present kitchen.
- 5.2.9 The north-western extension is orientated, like the cross-wing, east-west, and projects from the main hall range at the northern end of the west elevation. This part of the house also displays a mix of construction material. The south facing elevation of this extension consists of roughly coursed masonry at the base of the wall, with brick above laid in English Garden Wall Bond, in this case roughly five courses of stretchers to one of headers. As with the rest of the property, the roof is laid in Welsh slate, and there are two brick-built chimneys located along the ridge line (Plate 13). At ground level the location of a former window can be noted within the stonework, now filled in with brick (Plate 14).
- 5.2.10 The west elevation of this extension is also of partly coursed masonry, and partly brick construction. The northern corner does not have stone quoins, and is instead made-up of brick. There was no evidence for any former windows or doorways in this elevation, although the wall could not be thoroughly examined due to foliage (Plate 15).
- 5.2.11 The north elevations of both the former hall and the north-west extension, provide evidence for different construction phases (Plate 16). The north elevation of the extension is constructed entirely of brick, some of which appears to be relatively modern as it is more regular, laid in English Garden Wall Bond (Plate 17). There is a vertical construction break at the point where this extension and the hall range meet, suggesting two building phases.
- 5.2.12 The north elevation of the hall range is constructed, unlike any other part of the property, of quite substantial blocks of masonry, apart from the aides of the gable which show that the roof line has been heightened at some point (Plate 18). Prior to this heightening the pitch of the roof was much steeper which may hint at the original

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<sup>19</sup> Brunskill, R.W, 1990, Page 110

roof covering (relating to the stone gabled building) being of a different material, possibly thatch. At first floor level there is a small stone-mullioned window, with fixed panes, which is typical of the 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century.



**Plate 1** – Aughton Old Hall as seen from the road to the east

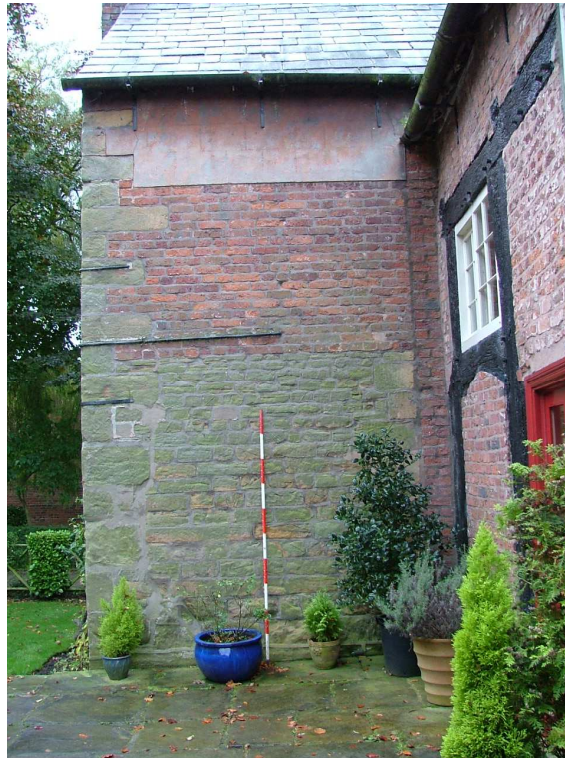


**Plate 2** – East elevation of main range of house (Scale = 2m)



**Plate 3** – Original doorway in east elevation showing depressed arch lintel, window above and projecting wooden pegs (Scale = 2m)





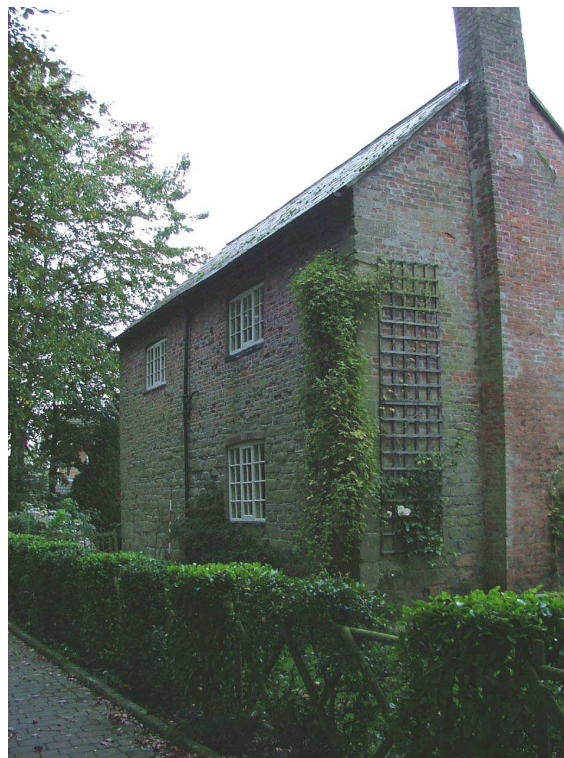
**Plate 4** – North elevation of cross-wing showing the mix of masonry and brickwork. Note the vertical line in the brickwork close to the junction with the hall (Scale = 2m)



**Plate 5** – East elevation of cross-wing showing the external chimney stack (Scale = 2m)



**Plate 6** – Detail of plinth, east elevation of cross-wing (Scale is in 20cm graduations)



**Plate 7** – South elevation of cross-wing as seen from the entranceway to Orchard House



**Plate 8** – Detail of the masonry and brickwork, south elevation of cross-wing



**Plate 9** – West elevation of cross-wing (Scale = 2m)



**Plate 10** – Detail of the two backward S-shaped tie-plates, west elevation of cross-wing



**Plate 11** – West elevation showing the single-storey lean-to (Scale = 2m)



**Plate 12** – Single-storey lean-to, west elevation (Scale = 2m)



**Plate 13** – South elevation of north-west extension showing blocked window at ground floor level (Scale = 2m)



**Plate 14** – Detail of blocked window, south elevation of north-west extension (Scale = 2m)



**Plate 15** – West elevation of north-west extension (Scale = 2m)



**Plate 16** – North elevation of Aughton Old Hall



**Plate 17** – North elevation of north-west extension (Scale = 2m)



**Plate 18** – North elevation of hall range (Scale = 2m)

### 5.3 THE HOUSE INTERIOR

- 5.3.1 The interior of the house was examined and any relevant features were photographed by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Hart. There are a number of features exposed which are worthy of note.
- 5.3.2 Upon entering the property through the main door in the east elevation, a hallway provides access to the present kitchen to the right, and the staircase and living room to the left. Immediately opposite the doorway is a substantial masonry wall constructed of large rectangular blocks of coursed stone (Plate 19). It would appear that this wall forms part of a large central chimney stack, presumably as a later insertion to the original hall. In the living room, located at ground floor level in the cross-wing, is a large fireplace with segmental-arch head, noted by Pevsner to be 17<sup>th</sup> century in date<sup>20</sup> (Plate 20).
- 5.3.3 There was no evidence for the fireplace which served the chimney on the east elevation of the cross-wing (Plate 5). It has presumably been blocked-up and is now hidden behind internal wall covering in the living room. The living room contains several projecting sections of wall, which may relate to a former cross-passage (Plate 21). This may indicate that the cross-wing was at one time a service wing, and that the large fireplace was the former kitchen.
- 5.3.4 In the opposite side of the large stone chimney stack is the location of another large fireplace, which is now filled with a 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century range (Plate 22). The range has a maker's plaque with the name 'J Ball & Co, Ormskirk'. To the left of this

<sup>20</sup> Pollard, R and Pevsner, N, 2006, Page 2006



- range is a wooden partition, sometimes referred to as a 'heck' which provided some protection against draughts. The partition has a seat or 'settle' which faces the fireplace (Plate 23).
- 5.3.5 The area which will be affected by the proposed construction of the single-storey extension is the west side of the kitchen (Plate 24). The small lean-to provides access to a small room in the west side of the large chimney stack, and to the ground floor room of the north-west extension (Plate 25). In the small room to the west of the large chimney stack, now used as an office, is an exposed vertical timber post (Plate 26). This timber may have formed part of the original screens passage for the hall; a carved notch may provide evidence for a former horizontal timber, although it is also possible that this post has been reused.
- 5.3.6 The ground floor of the north-west extension is now used as a utility room, but appears from hooks remaining *in-situ* in the ceiling, that this was used as some point as a dairy, or pantry, for storing foodstuffs (Plate 27).
- 5.3.7 The dog-leg staircase to the first floor is located immediately behind the former entrance set within the timbers in the east elevation (Plate 3). According to Cunnington, dog-leg staircases became common in houses from the 17<sup>th</sup> century<sup>21</sup>, although this example does not necessarily date to that period. It would seem, however, that the staircase to the first floor has been in this location since the large chimney stack was inserted and the first floor was created.
- 5.3.8 At first floor level, some of the timbers for the original hall remain *in-situ*. Sections of the vertical posts, former principal rafters and tie-beams are exposed at the landing, showing the pitch of the roof for the earlier building. Redundant notches for former treenched purlins are visible on the upper edge of the rafter, and peg holes and a redundant mortice hole suggest that there were formerly arch-braces which ran from the vertical post to the base of the tie-beam (Plates 28 and 29).
- 5.3.9 In the small room which is now used as a bathroom the top of the large chimney stack is visible, and was noted to have been built around the pre-existing roof truss (Plate 30). The western side of one of the original roof trusses is exposed in the bathroom (Plate 31). The underside of the tie-beam of this roof truss was noted to have moulding which suggests that this was meant to be seen when the building was an open hall. The location of this truss, in line with the original entrance, suggests that this may have been a 'spere' truss, i.e. a truss at the lower end of the hall which divided the cross-entry from the hall proper<sup>22</sup>.
- 5.3.10 In the bedroom located on the opposite side of the chimney stack, it was possible to note two phases of framing (Plate 33). The visible remains of the truss to the rear, with slightly curved tie-beam and raking struts, appears to belong to the earlier hall, and has rubble infill relating to the inserted chimney stack. The framing to the front, with its rectangular panels and braces, shows that the cross-wing is of timber-frame construction. The difference in height between these two separate timber frame phases, suggests that one was in existence, presumably the main hall, prior to the construction

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<sup>21</sup> Cunnington, P, 2002, Page 176

<sup>22</sup> Alcock, N.W *et al*, 1996, Page G17

of the cross-wing. The eastern end of the cross-wing timber framing contains a nice example of a scarf joint (Plate 34).

- 5.3.11 The wall that divides the two bedrooms at first floor level in the cross-wing also displays evidence for timber-frame construction, with a vertical wall post and curved angle brace now exposed (Plate 35). The doorway from the landing into the western bedroom in the cross-wing has truncated a former curved angle brace (Plate 35). This suggests that when the cross-wing was constructed, it was open to the roof with no first floor, or the first floor itself was open to the roof.
- 5.3.12 At the northern end of the property, at first floor level, there is a further bedroom above what is now the kitchen. In the south wall of this bedroom, the base of a king-post roof truss is visible (Plate 37). The edges of the tie-beam of this roof truss are chamfered and wooden pegs are visible at the base of the king-post. A triangular-shaped scorch mark on the timber appears to have been created by a candle (Plate 38).



**Plate 19** – Internal wall defining the west side of the hallway, constructed from large rectangular blocks of masonry (Scale = 2m)



**Plate 20** – Large 17<sup>th</sup> century fireplace, living room in cross-wing (Scale = 2m)



**Plate 21** – View looking east of the remains of a possible former cross-passage, living room, cross wing (Scale = 2m)



**Plate 22** – Range set in former fireplace, kitchen



**Plate 23** – Wooden seat, or 'settle', kitchen



**Plate 24** – Internal view of lean-to against west elevation (Scale = 2m)



**Plate 25** – Door to ground floor of north-west extension, as seen from the lean-to against west elevation (Scale = 2m)



**Plate 26** – Vertical timber with carved notch in office, ground floor



**Plate 27** – Ceiling of former dairy or pantry, ground floor of north-west extension



**Plate 28** – Exposed timbers of former roof structure, first floor landing (Scale is in 20cm graduations)



**Plate 29** – Exposed timbers for former roof structure showing redundant peg holes and mortice



**Plate 30** – Stonework of top of chimney stack built around pre-existing roof truss (Scale = 1m)



**Plate 31** – Western side of former roof truss showing notch for former purlin in outer edge of rafter, bathroom





**Plate 32** – Detail of decorative moulding on possible ‘spere truss’



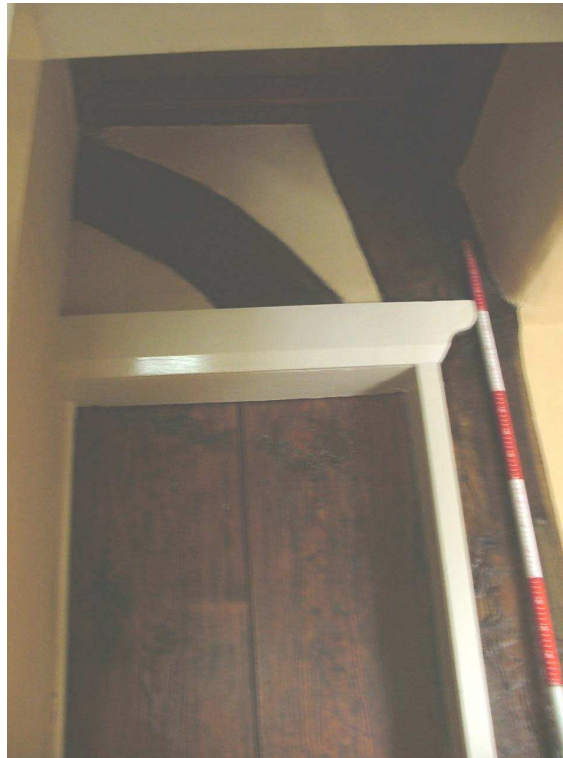
**Plate 33** – Two separate phases of framing, north wall of bedroom in cross-wing. The truss behind appears to belong to the earlier hall (Scale = 2m)



**Plate 34** – Detail of scarf joint, east end of cross-wing timber frame, first floor bedroom



**Plate 35** – Wall dividing the two bedrooms in the cross-wing (Scale = 2m)



**Plate 36** – Doorway to bedroom in cross-wing has cut through a curved arch brace



**Plate 37** – Bedroom over the present kitchen showing exposed roof truss to left and curved ceiling (view looking west into the first floor of north-west extension)



**Plate 38** – Base of king-post roof truss in north bedroom showing chamfered edges of tie-beam, peg holes and possible burning from a candle

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## 6. CONCLUSION

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- 6.1 In September 2008, North Pennines Archaeology Limited were commissioned by Mr P Hart to undertake a photographic survey before, during and after the construction of a single-storey extension against the west elevation of Aughton Old Hall, Aughton, Ormskirk.
- 6.2 Aughton Old Hall is the ancient residence of the *de Actons* or *de Aughtons*, and is believed to have been in existence in 1400<sup>23</sup>. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the hall is believed to have been owned by the Starkey family, who may have constructed the earliest phase of the building. Aughton Old Hall is a Grade II Listed Building dating from the 15<sup>th</sup> century and altered in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- 6.3 The area that will be affected by the proposed development is part of the west elevation, where a single-storey lean-to is presently located (Plates 1 & 2). This lean-to is brick-built with a slate roof and presently contains two large windows, although these are a modern insertion. The proposed development will involve the removal of part of the external wall to create a doorway; however the remainder of the brick wall will remain in-situ. Although the existing roof of the lean-to is to be moved to make way for the roof for the extension, the roof timbers are to be retained as an internal feature.
- 6.4 The Yorkshire sash window at first floor level will remain unaffected by the roof of the new extension. The new extension will be constructed against the south elevation of the present north-west two-storey extension of the house.
- 6.5 Plate 3 shows the south elevation, with a blocked-up window prior to the commencement of the building works. This area of wall will be exposed within the new extension.

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<sup>23</sup> *Ibid*, Page 4

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## 7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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## APPENDIX 1: PRIMARY SOURCES

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History, Directory and Gazetteer of the County Palatine of Lancaster, Volume II, E Baines, 1825

Page 697

*'Aughton is a village, township and parish (without any dependant township) in the hundred of West Derby, in the deanery of Warrington and archdeaconry of Chester; 2 miles SSW of Ormskirk. In 1801, the aggregate amount of the population of this parish was 987; in 1811 it amounted to 1032; and in 1821 to 1279 persons consisting of 238 families of whom 135 are chiefly employed in agriculture, 50 in trade, manufactures or handicrafts; and the remaining 53 are either engaged in professional pursuits or unemployed'.*

[Aughton Old Hall is not named in the directory]

Slater's Lancashire Directory 1869

Aughton is listed under Ormskirk, page 562:

*'Aughton is a township and parish adjoining Ormskirk (its post town) and separated from it by a small brook. The Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway passes through the township, and there is a station at Town Green. The church is dedicated to St Michael. The living is a rectory in the gift of Col. Plume Tempest. There are two Roman Catholic chapels, a Roman Catholic school and a parochial school. There are also almshouses for the deserving poor, founded and endowed by the late Rev. G Vanburgh. Population of the parish in 1861, 1870. Acreage 4462'.*

[Aughton Old Hall or Aughton Hall are not named in the directory]

Gleanings towards the Annals of Aughton, G Coulthard Newstead, 1893

Page 1

*'The particulars of the boundary of these two manors [Up Litherland in Aughton] present great difficulty in solution. According to the Domesday Survey of the land between the River Mersey and Ribble, we find Uctred, a Saxon thane, held Acketon (Aughton), that was a carucate of land – worth 32 pence. He also held Liderlat, which also contained a carucate of the same value'.*

Page 13

*'1644 – During the Civil War, Ormskirk must be named as one of the strongholds of the Royalist party in Lancashire. After the famous battle of Marston Moor, which was fought 2 July 1644 in which the Parliamentary forces were victorious, 4000 of their troops returned to begin the second siege of Lathom House. They took up their headquarters at Ormskirk, although a large number encamped on Aughton Moss, near the mill. Trenchfield House, on the site of this encampment, still commemorates and retains the same. Some time ago the trench field itself was divided in two, and in the section next the outbuildings traces may still be observed'.*

Page 22

*'1725 – Halls [at Aughton]: Aughton Hall and Moor Hall'* [No mention of Aughton Old Hall, it may be that 'Aughton Hall' refers to the new hall, and that Aughton Old Hall is not mentioned as its status may have been downgraded by this point]

Page 23

*'1811 – Population 1032, 191 inhabited houses, 198 families, 116 of which were employed in agriculture'*.

*'1813 – An act for enclosing lands in the Township of Aughton in the Parish of Aughton in the County Palatine of Lancashire'*.

*'1821 – Population 1279'*.

Page 25

*'1849 – Opening of the Liverpool and Ormskirk Railway'*.

Page 26

*'1851 – Population 1655, inhabited houses 296'*.

Page 27

*'1854 – Gas first introduced into Aughton'*.

Page 28

*'1861 – Population 1869, inhabited houses 360'*.

Page 31

*'1871 – Population 2594, inhabited houses 510'*.

Page 35

*'1881 – Population 3145, inhabited houses 628'*.

Page 39

*'1891 – Population 3456, inhabited houses 684, uninhabited houses 54'*.

Page 81

*1593 – Burial of Izabel uxor, Henrie Starkye.*

*'The will of Henrie Starkye of Aughton, gent, was proved on the 25<sup>th</sup> January 1593 in which he desires to be buried in the church "in that place wher myne ancestors have beene buried theare". By "that place" he would naturally refer to the burial place of his ancestor John Starkye who had ordered by his will (proved 16<sup>th</sup> Sept 1527) that he should be buried 'in Aughton Church before the altar of St Nicholas' and also left 6s 8d for the reparation of the church. This altar may have been an endowed chantry; but, as there appears to be no record of a any chantry at Aughton, 1545, in all probability the endowment was, like hundreds of others during the time of the Reformation, misappropriated. The identity of the site of the altar has also been entirely lost. The family of Starkye, or Starkey, would seem to have resided in, or owned the old hall; for in 1681, one John Starkey sold it to Roger Bostock of Ormskirk'*.

Page 87



*'1727 – Burial of John Mercer of Aughton Hall September 6<sup>th</sup>'.*

*'Aughton Hall or the Old Hall was the ancient seat of the De Actons, or De Aughtons, and according to Baines, was in existence in the year 1400. In a Deed dated "14<sup>th</sup> Sept in the year of our lord according to the computation of the Church of England 1681", John Starkey covenants to sell to Roger Bostock of Ormskirk "That capitall messuage mansion or manor house situate, standing and being in the parish of Aughton, near the parochiall church, commonly called and known by the name of the Hall of Aughton, also meadows etc known as Rye Hey and Wrangling Croft etc in all about 8 acres of land'.*

*'In 1717 Samuel Buck, Rochdale, devised this estate to his daughter, wife of Thomas Hesketh (the 4<sup>th</sup> decent from Bartholomew Hesketh) for her life, and her issue by any future husband; it being his intention and wish to exclude her then husband and her two sons from all interests in the estate'.*

*'Previous to 1840, it was the property of T S M Stanley Esq. at whose sale Mr Gaskell of Wigan purchased it. The late Edgar Musgrove Esq. bought it in 1857 and the present owner [in 1893] is Thomas Seddon Esq.'*

Page 88

*'1728 – Burial of Mrs Alice Badeleye from ye hall, 10<sup>th</sup> October'.*

Page 141

*'The Roll of Aughton Constables is preserved, with few exceptions, since 1670' [There is an entry of 1717 for a John Mercer, Hall of Aughton].*

*Old Halls in Lancashire and Cheshire, H Taylor 1884*

Does not include Aughton Old Hall of New Hall

*The Treasures of Lancashire, North West Civic Trust, 1989*

Page 141

*'Lying between Lydiate and Ormskirk is the parish of Aughton, comprising the original village of Aughton itself together with later residential areas which grew up close to the railway stations at Town Green and Aughton Park. A wedge of open farmland separates the ancient and modern parts of the parish. So much of Aughton remains as pleasant countryside with dairying, arable farming and market gardening, important features of the area as a whole. The undulating nature of the countryside offers attractive views of both the Pennines to the east and the Lancashire coast to the west'.*

*'The most important building in Aughton is St Michael's Church which displays a slender 14<sup>th</sup> century spire rising from the octagonal upper storey of an otherwise square tower. The tower itself is unusual in that it sits between the nave and a side chancel on small Gothic arches. The main structure of the church dates from the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, but there is also a doorway blocked by a massive old buttress which has been preserved from the original Norman church occupying the same site. Part of a Saxon cross is also preserved within the church, as is an old stone coffin beneath the tower and a font which has been in use for over 500 years. There are*

*several 17<sup>th</sup> century memorial brasses on the walls, including a rhyming one which states that the ancestors of the Mossock family have been buried here 'above 380 years' whilst in the churchyard is a sundial dating from 1756'.*

A search of the National Archives Website revealed that the following documents are held at Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Archive Service, William Salt Library, which may prove useful for future research into the village of Aughton, and Aughton Old Hall itself

**Contents:**

Materials for the History of Aughton, co. Lancs.

Manuscript notebook (19<sup>th</sup> century) containing notes on aspects of Aughton's history including the following subjects:

*Descent of the manor*

*Population*

*Assessment for window tax, 1779*

*Aughton Old Hall, New Hall and Little Hall*

*Moor Hall and Gerard's Hall*

*List of lanes, houses and farms in the parish*

*Papist recusants*

*Druicidical remains*

*Poor rates and tithes*

*Patrons and rectors of the parish*

*Local Acts of Parliament*

*Catholic chapel*

*Military occupation [Civil War]*

*Watercolour, 1850.*

*Aughton school, traditions and customs*

*Pedigrees - Stanley of Moor Hall*

*Formby of Formby*

*Hesketh of Aughton*

*Scarisbrick of Moor Hall*

*Gerard of Gerard Hall*

*Biographies of Rev. Robert Hindley and Rev. Geo. Vanbrugh*

*Printed copy of tithe apportionment (award only)*

*Sketch of Aughton church, 1820, interior and exterior 1836*

*Sketches of arms in parish church*

*Catalogue of library at Aughton school, established 1846*

*Account of descent of the manor of Up-Litherland and sketch of manor house, 1846*

Source: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/records.aspx?cat=170-200&cid=1&kw=aughton#1> (Accessed 15/10/2008)