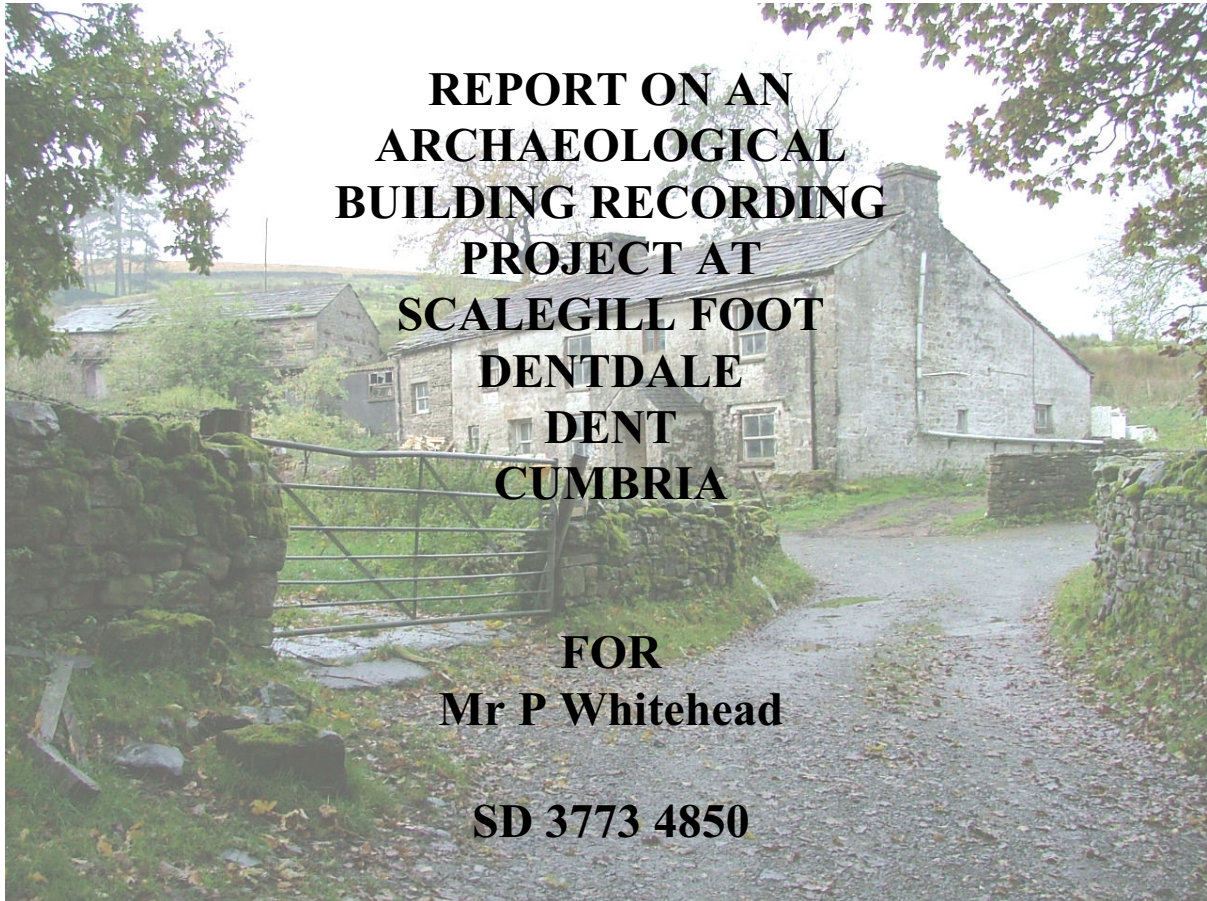


# **NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**

**Client Report No. CP/571/07**



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16 November 2007



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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In September 2007, North Pennines Archaeology Limited were commissioned by Mr Peter Whitehead to undertake an archaeological building survey of a derelict farmhouse at Scalegill Foot, Dentdale, Cumbria.

The building survey revealed that the former farmhouse consisted of several different phases of construction, the earliest of which would appear to have been a two-unit house, one room deep with a possible byre/stable to one end. The plan form of the house and the presence of remaining stone mullioned windows with drip moulds suggest a 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century date for this earliest part of the property. At some point, possibly in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, an extension, or outshut was added to the rear of the property to house a staircase and provide space for a scullery and dairy/pantry. Further additions were made to the western side of the property during the following century and cartographic evidence suggests that the house took the plan form that is present today by the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Mr Peter Whitehead for commissioning the project, and for his assistance throughout the fieldwork. We would also like to thank David Boulton for allowing his documentary research on Dee Side House and Scalegill Foot to be cited within the report.

The building survey was undertaken by Fiona Wooler and Claire Mason. The report was written by Fiona Wooler. The project was managed by Matthew Town, Senior Project Officer for NPA Ltd. The report was edited by Matthew Town.



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In September 2007, North Pennines Archaeology Limited were commissioned by Mr Peter Whitehead to undertake an archaeological building recording project of a redundant farmhouse at Scalegill Foot, Dentdale, Dent, Cumbria (SD 3773 4850) (Figure 1) prior to the proposed renovation of the property.
- 1.1.2 Scalegill Foot is a listed Grade II building, which is referred to in the Listed Building Record as ‘Dee Side Farmhouse’, and is believed to be early 18<sup>th</sup> century in date (Plate 1).
- 1.1.3 A ‘Level 2’ Building Survey was carried out as described in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*<sup>1</sup>. Fiona Wooler and Claire Mason undertook the survey on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2007.
- 1.1.4 For ease of reference, the various rooms referred to within the property are numbered on Figure 3. The main, possible phases of construction are coloured on the same plan (Figure 3).



**Plate 1** – Scalegill Foot as seen from the east

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<sup>1</sup> *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*, 2006, English Heritage



**Figure 1 – Site Location**

Reproduced from Landranger ® 1:50 000 scale by permissions of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright (1997). All rights reserved. Licence number 100014732

## 1.2 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 1.2.1 Scalegill Foot is located in Dentdale, a valley in the south-eastern corner of Cumbria, and within the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The site is located approximately 7 kilometres from the historic and picturesque village of Dent, and approximately 2 kilometres south of the hamlet of Cowgill (Figure 1).
- 1.2.2 The ground level rises sharply to the east of Scalegill Foot, with Wold Fell dominating the landscape at a height of 557m above sea level. To the west the ground level rises more gently to a height of 636m above sea level at the top of Whernside. The steep slopes of the surrounding fells historically dictated the form of agriculture undertaken in the valley, with sheep farming dominating the agricultural economy.
- 1.2.3 The Carlisle to Settle Railway runs north-south immediately to the east of Scalegill Foot, along the edge of Wold Fell, with viaducts at Artengill and Dent Head (Figure 1).
- 1.2.4 Scalegill Foot is situated on the western bank of the River Dee, with two other properties in close proximity; Dee Side House, a former shooting lodge constructed at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the east, and Mount Pleasant, also constructed in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, which is located on higher ground to the south and overlooks Scalegill Foot and Dee Side House. Scale Gill, a small beck, flows immediately to the south of Scalegill Foot into the River Dee.
- 1.2.5 The geology of the area around Scalegill Foot consists mainly of limestone, Millstone Grit and other Carboniferous sandstones<sup>2</sup>. There are several redundant lime kilns and quarries in the vicinity of Scalegill Foot which are recorded on Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Record (HER); Long Slack, Wold Fell (HER 18783), Wold Fell (HER 18729), Blea Gill Quarry (HER 18779), Stonehouse coal pits and lime kiln (HER's 18773 and 5024) and Howgill quarry and lime kiln (HER 18764). Small open cast coal mines existed in Dentdale historically and the road from Dent Station to Garsdale is known locally as the Coal Road. At Stonehouse, Dent Marble, also known as 'black marble' was quarried and processed and was highly desirable in Victorian England due to its unusual colour and wealth of minerals<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> British Geological Survey, 2001

<sup>3</sup> Dentdale Guide, Undated



**Plate 2** – Dee Side House and outbuildings, located immediately to the east of Scalegill Foot



**Plate 3** – North elevation of house with Mount Pleasant visible on elevated position in background

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## 2. METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 THE BUILDING SURVEY

2.1.1 The survey consists of two basic elements:

- a written account, which includes information derived from previous 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, and appendix of documentary information.

### 2.3 THE PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

2.3.1 The photographic archive consists of the following:

- a series of 35mm colour slides showing general views of the exterior of the buildings and their setting.
- a series of digital views of the exterior of the building, the interior of the building and specific internal details (e.g. roof structure) supplied on CD-Rom.

### 2.4 PROJECT ARCHIVE

2.4.1 The full archive of the Level 2 building survey has been produced to a professional standard in accordance with the current English Heritage guidelines set out in the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (MAP 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 1991). The archive will be deposited within the County Record Office and a copy of the report given to the County Historic Environment Record, where viewing will be available on request.

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### **3. PREVIOUS WORK**

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- 3.1 No previous archaeological work appears to have been undertaken on the site.

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## 4. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

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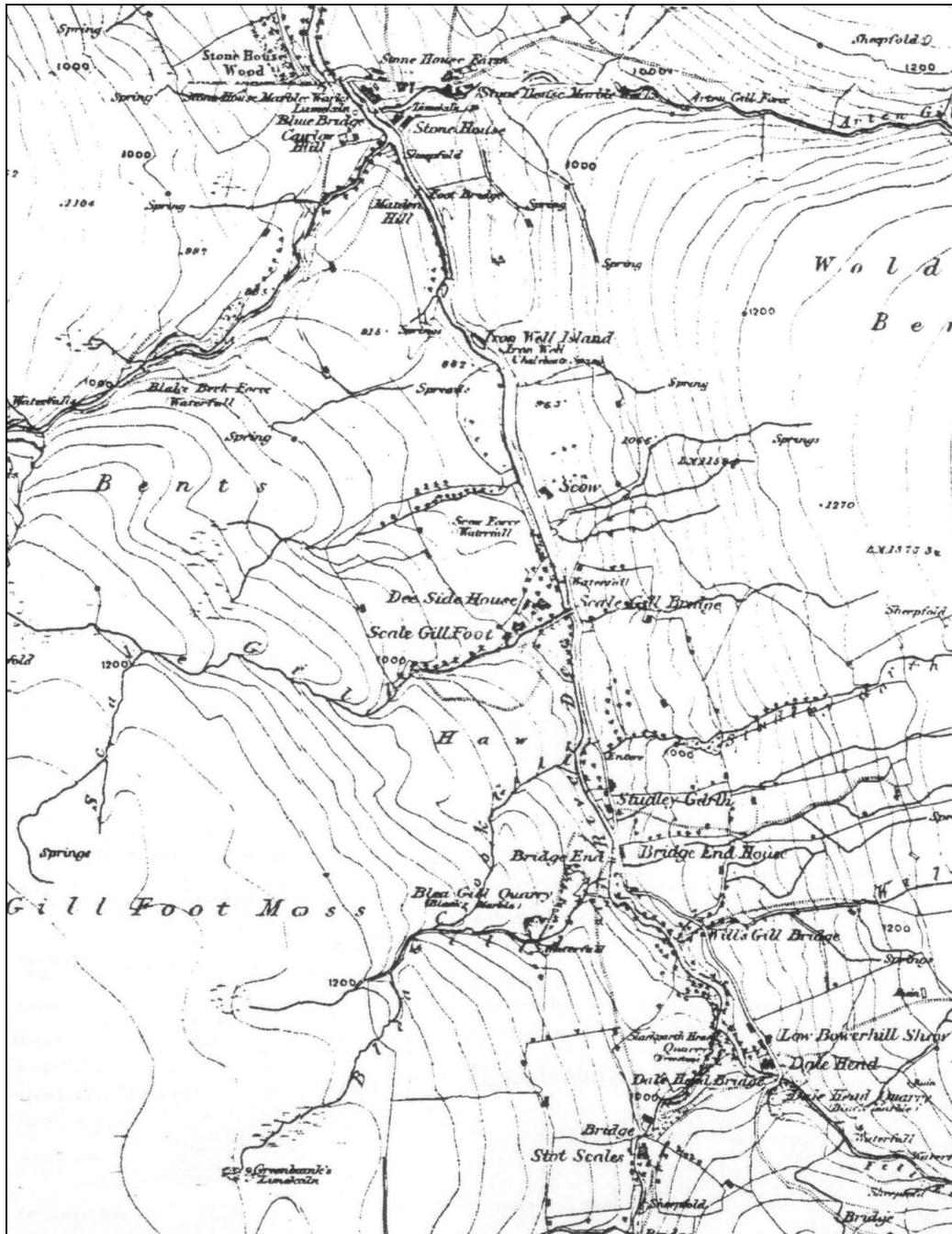
- 4.1 The history of Dee Side House and Scalegill Foot was researched by David Boulton, the result of which culminated in a document entitled *'Deeside – A History'*<sup>4</sup> for Mr Whitehead. Extracts from this document are reproduced here to place Scalegill Foot within its historical context.
- 4.2 It would appear from parish registers, wills and conveyances, that Scalegill Foot was also known as *Warescale*, for example in the Dent Parish and Quaker Register entries and wills from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, a John Burton is listed as being from *Ware Scaile alias Scail-gill-foot* in 1709.
- 4.3 The first mention of *Warescale* in documents appears to have been in c.1540 when it is listed in manorial records. Scalegill Foot is named in parish registers from the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, when the family at the property was the Masons then the Burtons.
- 4.4 In 1824 Robert Elam is known to have bought Scalegill Foot, which consisted of *'dwellinghouse with the barns, stables, turf house and other buildings..[and] the site of another messuage, cottage or dwellinghouse then fallen down and in a decayed state'*. The second *decayed* building may have been on the site of the first Dee Side House (incorporated within the present building?), as John Elam, son of Robert, is listed as living at Dee Side in 1836.
- 4.5 The 1841 Census returns list two households at Scalegill Foot, the Lamberts and the Swithenbanks, Dee Side is not named, and another house is listed as *'uninhabited'*. Considering that there would appear to have been only two properties on the site at this date, Scalegill Foot and Dee Side House as shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1853 (Figure 2), then it would appear that one was uninhabited (possibly Dee Side) and that there were two families living in Scalegill Foot.
- 4.6 John Elam sold all his 16 Dent properties in 1847 to Alderman William Thompson of Underley Hall, Kirkby Lonsdale. Following Thompson's death in 1854 they passed to his grandson Lord Kenlis and then to Lady Bentinck. The estate remained in the Bentick family until 1939; it then changed hands several times until the farms, including Scalegill Foot, were sold in lots at auction in 1951. Dee Side has been used as a Youth Hostel since 1950 and is now holiday accommodation.
- 4.7 At the time of the auction in 1951, Scalegill Foot was occupied by the Lamberts, the family which had resided at the property for over 110 years.
- 4.8 In 1970 Scalegill Foot was purchased by John Smeaton Community School in Leeds to be used as a base for residential trips to the area to undertake activities such as fell walking and field studies. Following the purchase of the property the school carried out rudimentary refurbishment which included putting in a septic tank, dormitory partitioning and the installation of an oil-fired central heating system. In 1986 a food poisoning incident highlighted inadequate standards, including an impure water supply, and environmental health regulations required substantial refurbishment<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> Boulton, D, 2007

<sup>5</sup> Scalegill Foot Education Centre, Dentdale – The Residential Experience, 1998

- 4.9 By 1998, the refurbishment had still not been undertaken due to lack of funds despite a fund raising campaign and winning a £50,000 bid from the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Fund<sup>6</sup>.
- 4.10 Scalegill Foot was put up for sale by Public Auction in August 2007.



**Figure 2** – First Edition Ordnance Survey map 1853 (6" to 1 mile)

<sup>6</sup> Scalegill Foot Update, December 1998



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## 5. RESULTS

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### 5.1 SCALEGILL FOOT - EXTERIOR

- 5.1.1 Scalegill Foot is a former farmhouse constructed of solid rubble masonry from locally quarried stone in the traditional manner. It is of two storeys to the main elevation (south) with an outshut to the rear (Plate 4). The whole roof, apart from over the porch on the south elevation, which is of Welsh slate, is laid in large sandstone slates, also quarried locally. The south and east elevations have been rendered and white-washed, interestingly these are the elevations which can be seen from the road, whilst the north elevation which faces away from the road, is mainly exposed masonry (Plate 3). There are two masonry chimneys, one on the eastern gable end and the other located approximately mid-way along the ridge line (Plate 4).
- 5.1.2 The main south elevation has a gabled porch also constructed of rubble masonry (Plate 4). Either side of this porch are two ground floor windows, presently 4-pane top-hung casements, which have been inserted into two earlier mullioned windows with lintels, jambs and hoodmoulds (Plates 5 and 6). Mullioned windows such as these originated in the medieval period but they continued at vernacular levels until the 18<sup>th</sup> century, after which square windows became popular<sup>7</sup>. The stone mullions at Scalegill Foot were diamond-shaped, however only the tops of the mullions survive. Hoodmoulds (sometimes referred to as drip stones) were used to throw water away from the windows; to be purely functional they only really needed to be a horizontal band of stone above the lintel; however they were often used to provide architectural detail to a building, as is the case with the right-hand window at Scalegill Foot (Plate 5). Glazing became common in small houses around the late 17<sup>th</sup> century; to accommodate wrought iron lattices and casements, the mullions and jambs were rebated<sup>8</sup>. Due to the presence of the later windows it was not possible to observe if the mullions and jambs at Scalegill Foot contained these rebates.
- 5.1.3 Also along the south elevation of the farmhouse are a further two 4-pane windows, and a small 2-pane window at ground level (Plate 4). The third window to the left of the porch may have been a doorway at some point (although it may not be original) as vertical breaks below the window indicated the base has been blocked-up (Plate 7). At first floor level, there are four windows, two of which are 4-pane similar to those at ground floor level, a small 2-light chamfered mullioned window above the porch which is flush with the main wall (Plate 8), and a 2-light window at the western end (Plate 4).
- 5.1.4 The western end of the house is an addition which has clearly been constructed after the rest of the property as shown by a vertical construction break (Plate 9). It is interesting to note that this part of the house has not been rendered or white-washed; this was not uncommon, certainly in the Lake District, where the outside walls of attached farm buildings such as a small byre with loft above, were not treated in the same way as the house<sup>9</sup>, suggesting the need to distinguish the two to visitors or

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<sup>7</sup> Brunskill, R.W, 2000, Pages 132 and 134

<sup>8</sup> Brunskill, R.W, 2002, Page 173

<sup>9</sup> Denyer, S, 1991, Page 67

passers-by.



**Plate 4** – South and east elevations of Scalegill Foot



**Plate 5** – Ground floor window to right of porch on south elevation, showing earlier 3-light mullioned window and hoodmould (Scale = 2m)



**Plate 6** – Ground floor window to left of porch on south elevation showing earlier 3-light mullioned window and hoodmould (Scale = 2m)



**Plate 7** – Window, south elevation, was possible former doorway (Scale = 2m)



**Plate 8** – Two-light, chamfered mullion window, first floor, south elevation



**Plate 9** – West end of house, south elevation

- 5.1.5 The east elevation of the property provides evidence for the addition of the outshut to the rear, as a vertical construction break could be observed between the main body of the house and the outshut. A slight change in the roof at this point also suggests that the outshut is a later addition (Plate 10). There is a small window in this elevation, which may be a modern insertion and relate to the use of the property as an outward bound centre, and in the outshut is a further small window (Plate 10).
- 5.1.6 The north elevation consists largely of the outshut which has been added to the main body of the house (Figure 3), a further small outshut to the west of that (shown as No.6 on Figure 3), and the addition at the western end which may originally have been for agricultural use or storage (Figure 3 and Plate 14). Changes in the roof could easily be observed from the north, which may provide further evidence for the outshut being a later addition (Plate 11). Along the north elevation of the outshut is a doorway and two 6-pane windows. Outshuts were generally added to earlier houses, or were included on new builds, between 1730 and 1820 (this is based on dated houses in Cumbria<sup>10</sup>). In many cases the addition of the outshut to the rear of the house was to accommodate a dog-leg staircase to replace a ladder or narrow flight of steps located beside one of the fireplaces to the first floor, or indeed an external staircase. The space either side of the new staircase was used to accommodate a dairy and scullery and over time, in some cases, first floors were inserted over the dairy and scullery to create small upper rooms within the roof space.



**Plate 10** – East elevation showing main body of house to left, and addition of outshut to right. The vertical construction break between the two is just to the left of the ranging pole

<sup>10</sup> Brunskill, R.W, 2002, Page 77



**Plate 11** – North elevation of outshut

- 5.1.7 In the west facing elevation of the outshut, two blocked apertures were observed; one of these may be a former ground floor window, whilst the higher feature may be modern, possibly relating to the central heating system (Plate 12).
- 5.1.8 To the west of the main outshut is another addition that has a window at ground and first floor level (Plate 13). At the western end of the north elevation is a doorway into a small room (Plate 14 and shown as No.8 on Figure 3). This room still has the remains of limewash on its interior walls which may suggest it has been used to house animal, as limewash was a common traditional wall covering and disinfectant; it is also possible that this room may have been used to house fuel, and may have been the turf house referred to in 1824 (See 4.4 above).
- 5.1.9 In the western gable end of the property there is a doorway with adjoining window, above which is a blocked-up first floor window (Plate 15). It is possible that this addition to the western end of the property was to house animals, with a hayloft above (the blocked upper window may have been a pitching door for transferring hay, straw etc into the loft). According to Denyer some houses within the Lake District have small byres (cowhouses) attached to one end with a loft over, and that their entrances are quite separate from that of the main house<sup>11</sup>.
- 5.1.10 As already noted above, there are two chimney stacks constructed of rubble masonry, one on the eastern gable end and the other approximately mid-way along the ridge. This second chimney half way along the ridge may be the location for the original western wall of the earliest house on the site; this will be discussed further in the

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<sup>11</sup> Denyer, S, 1991, Page 67

Conclusion. The chimney stacks have a degree of architectural detail as there is a projection of stone around their outer edges, close to the tops, and on the eastern-most, there is a raised section at the base which is not flush with the roof proper (Plates 17 and 18). This feature presumably was intended to keep water away from the bottom of the chimney and prevent it penetrating the roof.



**Plate 12** – Possible blocked window and modern blocked feature? West elevation of outshut to the rear of the house



**Plate 13** – North elevation of small outshut, rear of house (Scale = 2m)



**Plate 14** – North elevation, western end showing door to possible turf house?





**Plate 15** – West elevation showing doorway, window and first floor window now blocked  
(Scale = 2m)



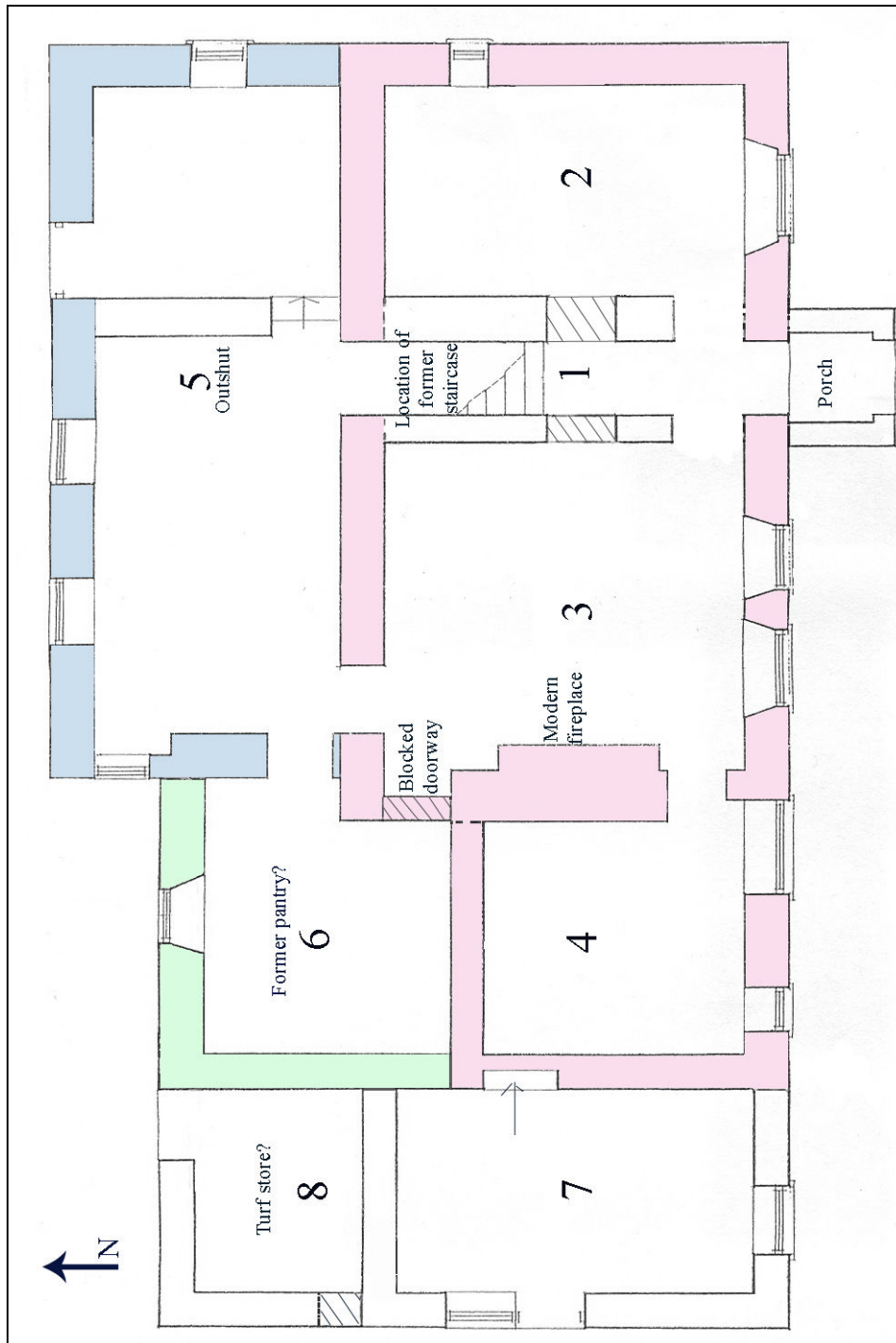
**Plate 16** – West elevation, blocked aperture in outshut (Scale =2m)



**Plate 17** – Detail of chimney on eastern gable end



**Plate 18** – Detail of chimney stack, mid-way along ridge showing modern mortar at base



**Figure 3** – Ground Plan (data captured at 1:100). Pink represents the earliest house, blue is the addition of the outshut and green is a further addition. The western section of the house (Rooms 7 and 8) is a later addition again

## 5.2 SCALEGILL FOOT - INTERIOR

- 5.2.1 The interior of the property could be accessed via the doorway in the outshut (north elevation), or by the doorway in the western elevation (Figure 3). The various rooms which make up the ground floor are numbered 1 to 8 on Figure 3.
- 5.2.2 At the time of survey the property was divided into 8 rooms on the ground floor (see Figure 3). The porch way in the south elevation leads into a stairwell although the staircase has been removed. This stairwell (1) is unlikely to have been an original feature, although the right-hand wall may be original due to its thickness (c.0.60m). The room on the right-hand side of the stairwell (2) appears to have more latterly been used for accommodation with a modern stud wall creating a partition (possibly for a bathroom). There was no evidence for the fireplace in the eastern wall which served the chimney on the gable end. Either side of the stairwell were two former doorways which appear to have been blocked-up fairly recently; in their place, two doorways have been inserted from the hallway close to the main entrance in the south elevation.
- 5.2.3 From the hallway looking up to first floor level, where the landing for the staircase would have been, it was possible to observe a blocked doorway (Plate 19). This doorway obviously provided access to the first floor at one time, although there are a number of different periods when it could have been inserted. It is possible that the earliest part of the house was a two-unit dwelling, one room deep, with two separate rooms at ground level, divided by either a stone or timber partition. In the earlier examples a steep ladder-type staircase provided access to the first floor, or a stone spiral staircase could have been located beside one of the fireplaces. In later examples a staircase was housed in a projection at the rear of the property, where it did not intrude on any internal space<sup>12</sup>. It is equally possible that this first floor doorway was inserted when the outshut was added to the north wall, as outshuts were generally constructed to house a staircase and provide extra space for service rooms such as the scullery and dairy (or buttery/pantry).
- 5.2.4 The room to the left of the main entrance (Room 3) contains a modern stone-built fireplace with niches (Plates 20 and 21). To the right of this fireplace is a blocked doorway (Figure 3), which, if this was the earliest western gable would have provided access from the house to outside, possibly towards farm buildings and the privy which would have been hidden from view behind the house.
- 5.2.5 A doorway to the left of the fireplace provides access to another room with two windows (Room 4). One of these windows is that noted on the south elevation which may have been a doorway at some point (See 5.1.3 and Plate 7). It is possible that this room formed part of the original house as no vertical construction break was observed externally to suggest that this part of the building was constructed before or after the main body of the house. It may have been the original byre or stable with no access from the main house, but from the former doorway in the south elevation.

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<sup>12</sup> Brunskill, R.W, 2000b, Page 74



**Plate 19** – Blocked-up first floor doorway as seen from bottom of stairwell looking north



**Plate 20** – Modern fireplace, Room 3, ground floor, with blocked doorway to right of ranging pole



**Plate 21** – Blocked doorway, beside fireplace in ground floor room (3) (Scale = 2m)

- 5.2.6 To the rear (north) of the main body of the house is an outshut which measures approximately 4.00 metres in width by approximately 10.20 metres in length, slightly less than the main section of the house (Figure 3). It has already been mentioned that outshuts were generally added to an earlier property to house a staircase and provide space for a scullery, brewhouse or dairy (buttery/pantry). The internal wall that now exists within the outshut, which divided what was the kitchen and the dining room for the outward bound centre, is presumably a modern insertion (Figure 3). There is a ceiling to this outshut so it was not possible to note the upper section of the wall of the earlier house, to observe any blocked windows or doorways. The space over the outshut was not sufficient to provide rooms within the roof space; a common feature of outshuts, where the height has allowed, is to use this space for bedrooms or to accommodate a later bathroom.
- 5.2.7 To the west of the outshut is a room accessed from Room 5 which is reminiscent of a pantry or larder. Pantries (sometimes referred to as a dairy or buttery, although these could be separate rooms) were used for storing foodstuffs and generally had low small windows to prevent too much sunlight entering the room and spoiling the milk, meat etc (windows are often in north wall, as is the case here). Stone shelves supported on brick or stone piers is also a common feature of pantries but if this particular room has been used as such then there was no evidence for these shelves at the time of survey. What was unusual about this room was the number of large niches in the walls (Plate 22), although it is not known what period in the house's history these belong to. This room has more latterly been used to house the boiler for the outward bound centre.



**Plate 22** – Interior of former pantry(?) (Scale = 1m)



**Plate 23** – West and south elevations, view showing the increased height of the western end of the property compared to the rest (Scale = 2m)

- 5.2.8 Room 7 is located within the addition at the western end of the property and could be accessed from the doorway in the western external elevation (Figure 3). It has already been noted that this addition is later than the rest of the property and may have originally been used as a byre or stable with loft above. Internally this room has a doorway in its eastern wall, which provides access up some steps (*c.*0.57m in height) to the first floor of the property; this is due to the increase in the external ground level (See Plate 23). Due to the interior walls of this room still being covered in plaster it was not possible to note any blocked windows or doorways. The room immediately to the north of Room 7 (Figure 3) is the possible turf store or animal pen referred to in 5.1.8 (Room 8 on Figure 3).
- 5.2.9 The first floor of the property could only be accessed via Room 7 as described above due to the removal of the staircase in the main body of the house. At first floor level the house consists of only four rooms as the roof space over the outshut (5) was not sufficient to provide accommodation; the available rooms are over Room No's 2, 3, 4 and 6 on the ground floor (Figure 3).
- 5.2.10 It was noticeable on the first floor that the levels of the various rooms differed, for example the room over (6) was lower than the room over (4), and the central bedroom over (3) was higher than that over (2) by *c.*0.30 metres. Changes in floor level are often indicative of additions to an earlier building or the insertion of a staircase<sup>13</sup>. What is interesting, however, is that the floor level of the central bedroom over (3) is higher than that over (2) considering that the two rooms appear to be contemporary (Plate 24). There are two doorways to the former bedroom over (2), both of which have stone flags for lintels (Plates 24 and 25).
- 5.2.11 The chimney breast remains at first floor level for the fireplace in Room 3 below (Plate 26), however that for the former eastern fireplace has been removed. A single through-stone was visible in the south and north walls of the main body of the house at first floor level (Plates 27 and 28). Through-stones are a common feature of areas such as the Yorkshire Dales and the Lake District, in both houses and farm buildings; they were inserted into walls to bind the inner and outer stone together and they project beyond the rest of the wall as this meant the stones did not have to be cut to fit the width<sup>14</sup>. Often they are randomly set into the wall, but in some buildings they are used to provide a degree of architectural detail.
- 5.2.12 Supporting the roof is a stone gable wall, which divides the stairwell (1) from Room 2, and may be an original feature, and a hand-cut oak roof truss with struts, and oak purlins support the rest of the roof (Plate 29).

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<sup>13</sup> Brunskill, R.W, 2000b, Page 82

<sup>14</sup> Penoyre, J & Penoyre, J, 1978, Page 131





**Plate 24** – Doorway between rooms over (2) and (3), first floor



**Plate 25** – Doorway between room over (2) and top of stairwell (1) (Scale = 2m)



**Plate 26** – Chimney breast, first floor over Room (3), view looking west



**Plate 27** – Windows and through-stone in south elevation, first floor



**Plate 28** – First floor, view of through-stone and end of roof truss, north wall



**Plate 29** – Roof truss, first floor room over (3)

### 5.3 ASSOCIATED BUILDINGS

- 5.3.1 Located to the western side of the house are several related buildings in various states of repair, all of which were constructed by the publication of the 1909 Ordnance Survey map (25" to 1 mile) (Figures 5 in Appendix).
- 5.3.2 To the north-west of the house is what appears to be a cart shed or store with privy adjoining. These buildings are not shown on the 1894 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 4), therefore they must have been constructed later. As with the house, they are constructed of roughly coursed local stone, and the cart shed/store has a Welsh slate roof (Plates 30 and 31). The privy was constructed prior to the shed as the pitched roof of the privy can be seen within the eastern wall of the shed. A small iron window frame with timber lintel in the eastern wall of the privy remains *in-situ* (Plate 32).
- 5.3.3 Immediately to the west of the house is a small building also constructed of local stone with alternating long and short quoins (Plate 33). At the time of survey this building was roofless, although some rafters remain to show it had a pitched roof of Welsh slate, and some of the walls had collapsed. In the eastern elevation there was a small window and a doorway (Plate 33). The original function of this building is unclear; it could have served as a stable or byre, or simply as a store.
- 5.3.4 To the south-west of the house is a large agricultural building orientated roughly north-south (Figure 4 in Appendix). As with all the other buildings relating to Scalegill Foot, this is also constructed of local stone, in this case it is coursed, with quoins and dressed stonework for the lintels of the windows and doors, and sandstone slates for the roof. Regular, rather than random, lines of projecting through-stones provide architectural detail to the structure (Plates 34 and 35). An addition to the main building is located on its western elevation (constructed between 1894 and 1909 – See Figures 4 and 5), which was possibly used as a loose box or store. A gate to the north of these farm buildings provides access from the enclosure within which these buildings are set to the fell side above.
- 5.3.5 To the south of the house and farm buildings, located beside the beck, are a couple of stone-walled enclosures which may have been used for housing some sheep during harsher weather or for containing the sheep prior to dipping etc. Modern sheep pens remain at the entrance to both Scalegill Foot and Dee Side House indicating that sheep have until fairly recently, if not still, remain an important part of the economy of the area.



**Plate 30** – South facing elevation of cart shed/store with privy to right of photograph (Scale = 2m)



**Plate 31** – Remains of privy to right of cart shed/store



**Plate 32** – Eastern wall of privy showing iron window frame and timber lintel (Scale = 1m)



**Plate 33** – Building to west of house, east and north elevations



**Plate 34** – Northern end of farm building to south-west of house



**Plate 35** – Farm buildings to the south-west of the farmhouse as seen from the higher ground to the west

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## 6. CONCLUSION

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- 6.1 The archaeological building survey of the former farmhouse of Scalegill Foot is intended to provide the archaeological evidence for how the building was used and how it developed over the centuries. The archaeological evidence can then, in some cases, compliment any documentary research undertaken to provide as detailed history as possible of a building or site. The archaeological evidence can often not be fully explored due to the presence of additions, internal wall plaster and external render. Because some of the internal walls were still plastered, and external render remained on some of the walls, it was not possible to note features such as blocked windows or doorways, or indeed construction breaks, which may remain concealed. Consequently, the development of the house can only be conjectured based on the available evidence at the time of survey.
- 6.2 The geology of an area plays a fundamental part in determining what kind of vegetation flourishes, whether it is forested or barren, and how many people the land will support. It also provides the materials for houses and other buildings and is the main factor in establishing regional building styles<sup>15</sup>. Traditional houses such as Scalegill Foot are a product of this local geology, with its builders using available sandstones and limestone in its construction and continued alteration to adapt to changing needs and, in some cases, fashions.
- 6.3 From the documentary research undertaken by David Boulton it would appear that there has been a building on the site since *c.* 1540 when a tenement called *Warskayle* is referred to in a document from that date. The earliest reference to Scalegill Foot is in the 17<sup>th</sup> century when, for example, the baptism of Richard, son of George Mason of *Scalegillfoote* is mentioned in Dent Parish Register dating to 20<sup>th</sup> April 1651<sup>16</sup>.
- 6.4 From observing the physical fabric of the building it is possible to suggest that the earliest part of the house consisted of a two-unit dwelling, i.e. two rooms, one room deep, at ground level one of these rooms being the general living room, sometimes referred to as the house, the firehouse, the kitchen etc, in which the principal or only hearth was located for cooking, and the parlour, often a smaller room, which was the principal bedroom. A simple ladder or spiral staircase tucked against the fireplace may have provided access to the first floor space which was generally a continuous loft but which could have been divided into separate chambers of bedrooms<sup>17</sup>. The original door may have been that in the western gable end, now blocked as seen beside the modern fireplace in Room 3. This was a common feature of the two-unit house and a timber partition often separated this doorway from the fireplace to prevent draughts coming in. The insertion of a porch in the main elevation to create a 'front door' that opened into the main living room was a later feature, after which the earlier door became the 'back door'. The two-unit house, the basic plan of which had many variations, was generally constructed between around 1650 and 1810, and was in widespread use in the south of Cumbria<sup>18</sup>. The addition of a further room to this basic plan (Room 4) may be such a variation; no vertical construction break was observed

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<sup>15</sup> Penoyre, J & Penoyre, J, 1978, Page 20

<sup>16</sup> Boulton, D, 2007, Page 9

<sup>17</sup> Brunskill, R.W, 2002, Page 65

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid*, Page 67



externally to suggest that this was a later addition, therefore it may have been either an additional room or a byre/stable with loft above accessed separately via the former doorway in the south elevation. The removal of some of the external render in the future may provide a clearer picture.

- 6.5 The remains of the stone mullioned window and hoodmoulds also suggest a 17th century or early 18<sup>th</sup> century date for the earliest part of the house. In vernacular buildings these types of windows continued to be used almost until the 18<sup>th</sup> century<sup>19</sup>.
- 6.6 The addition of the outshut to the rear of the property to provide space for a dog-leg staircase and for a scullery, pantry etc could have occurred at some point in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. According to Brunskill, the general time-scale of use was between 1730 and 1820<sup>20</sup>. The blocked first floor doorway at the top of the stairwell provides possible archaeological evidence for a staircase being inserted within the outshut.
- 6.7 There is no reason to doubt the Listed Building Record which suggests an early 18<sup>th</sup> century date for the earliest part of the house. Documentary and archaeological evidence does appear to support this approximate date. It has to be remembered, however, that although it may be possible to observe some certain plan forms for houses over the centuries, variations do occur and these may depend on topography, available materials or individual needs. Without a date stone, and reliable documentary sources, it can be very difficult to provide anything other than a broad date range for a particular property at a vernacular level.

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<sup>19</sup> Brunskill, R.W, 2000a, Page 132

<sup>20</sup> Brunskill, R.W, 2002, Page 77

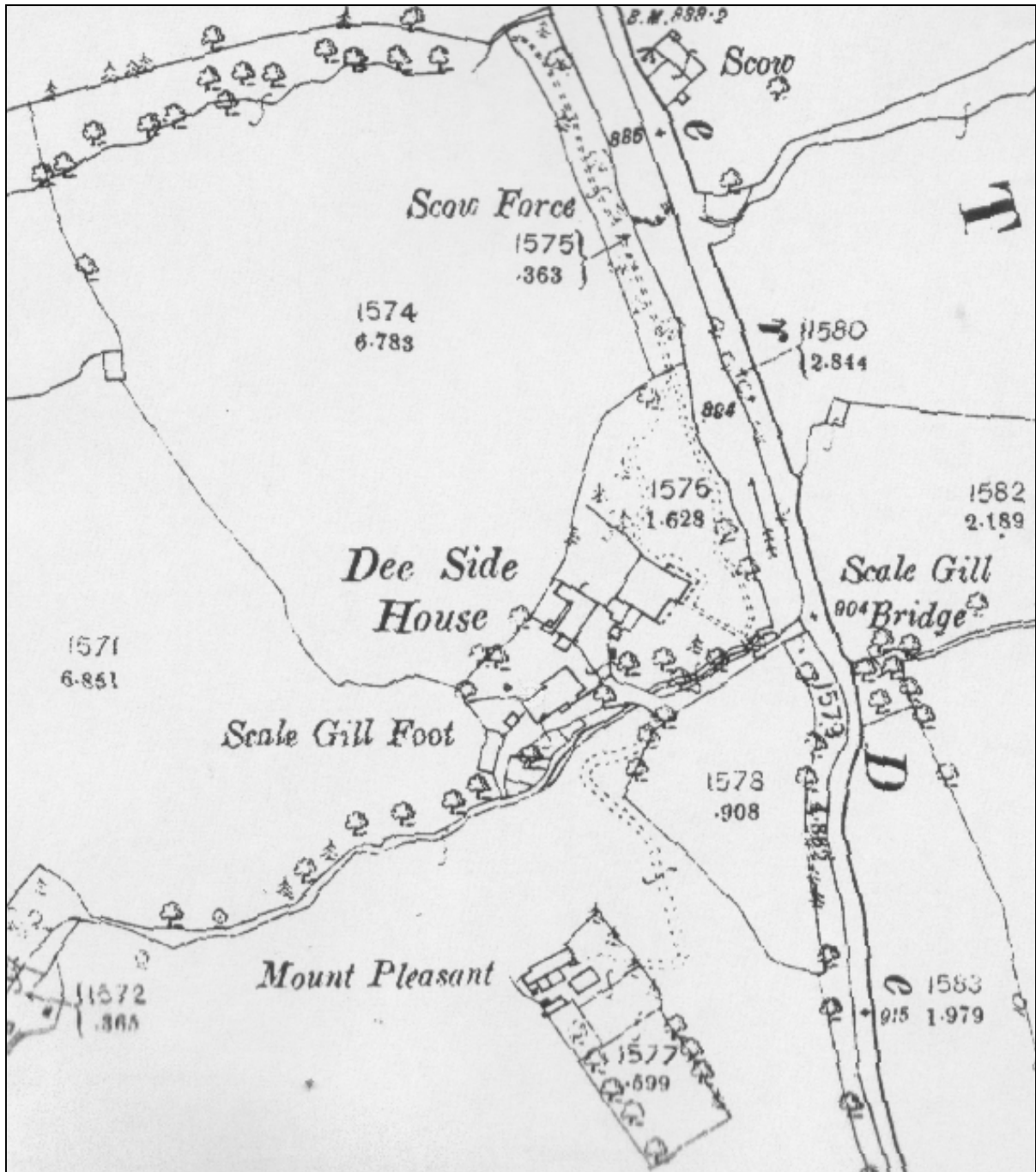
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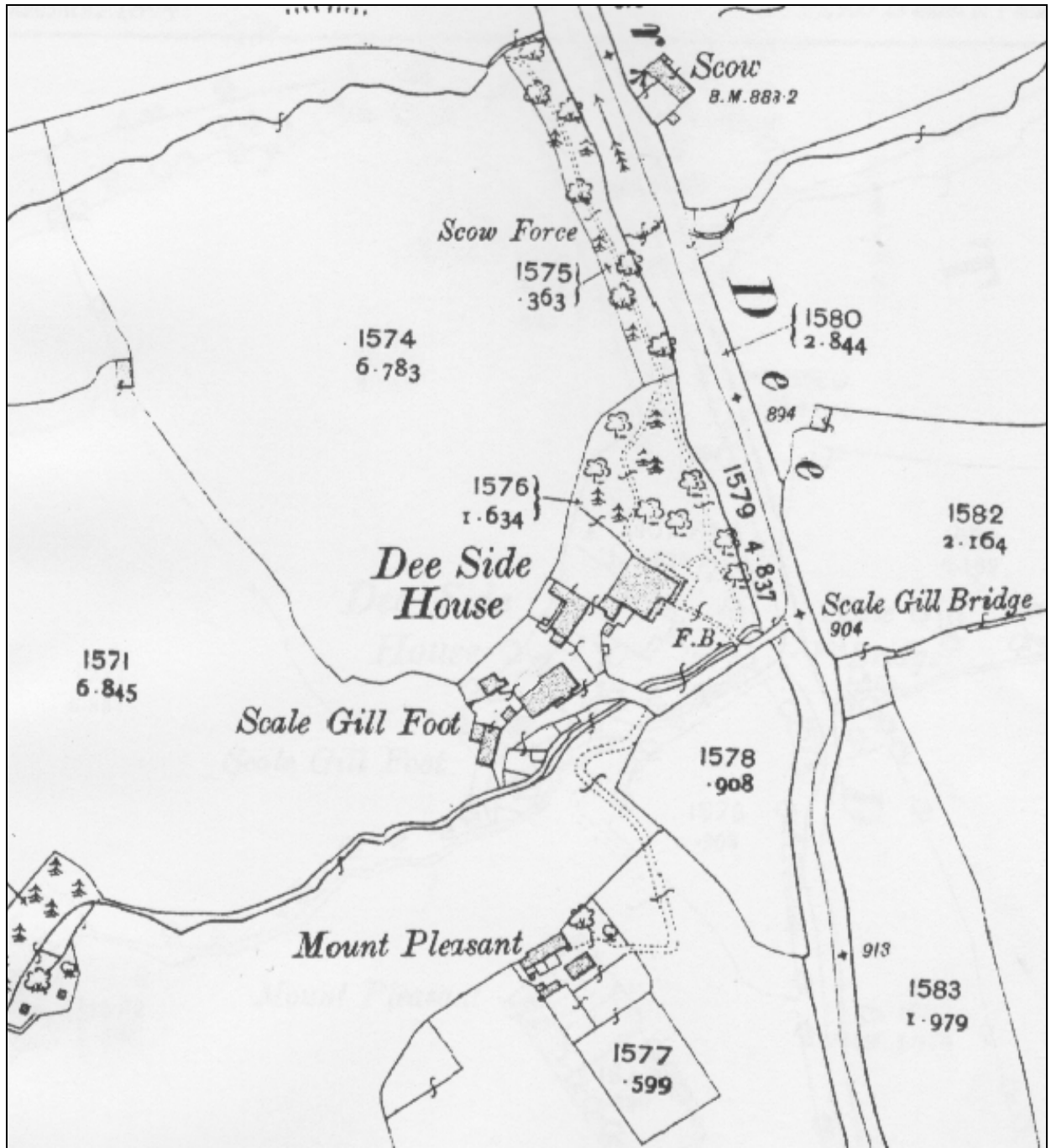
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## 8. APPENDIX



**Figure 4** – 1894 Ordnance Survey Map showing house and farm buildings at Scalegill Foot and Dee Side House (Scale = 25" to 1 mile)



**Figure 5** – 1909 Ordnance Survey map showing additional buildings at Scalegill Foot (Scale = 25" to 1 mile)