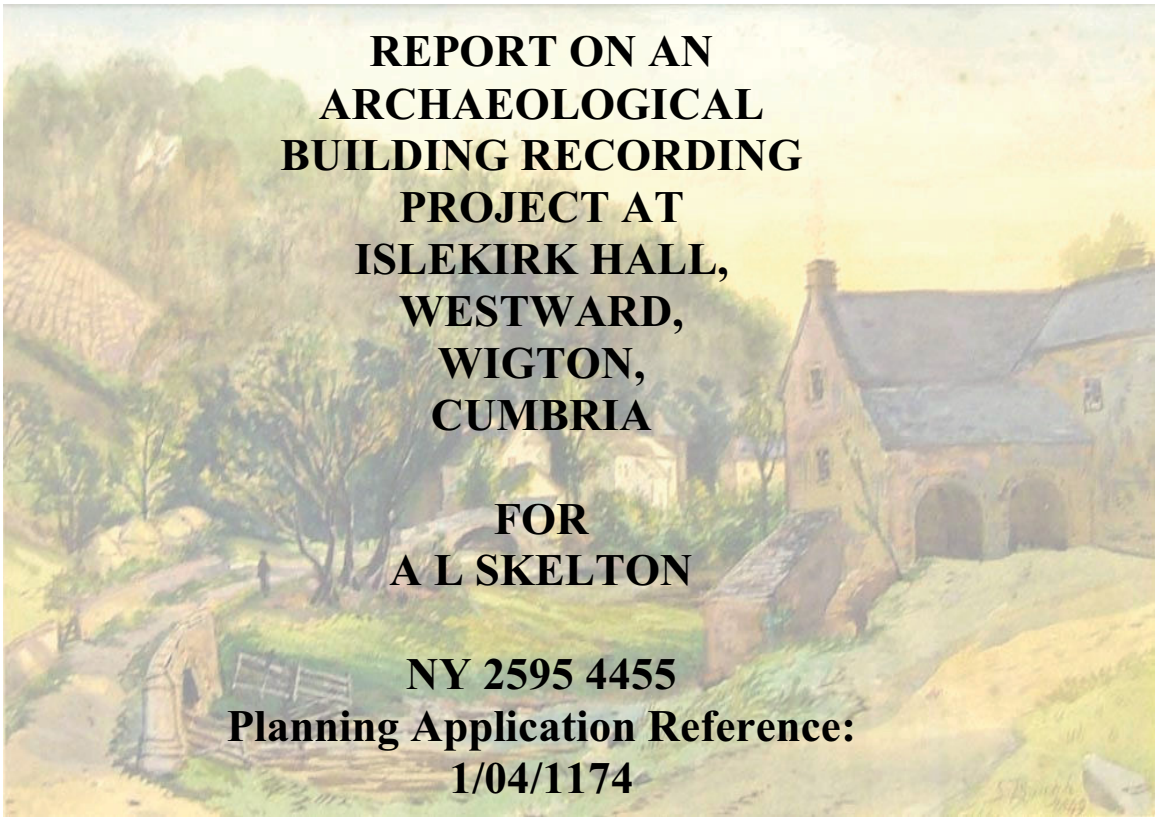
NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Client Report No. 232/05



REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING PROJECT AT ISLEKIRK HALL, WESTWARD, WIGTON, CUMBRIA

FOR
A L SKELTON

NY 2595 4455
Planning Application Reference: 1/04/1174

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The report was written by Fiona Wooler BA, MA and edited by Juliet Reeves BA. The watching brief was undertaken by Nicola Gaskell. Overall responsibility for the project rested with Frank Giecco BA, Dip Arch, Technical Director for North Pennines Archaeology.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In July 2005, North Pennines Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Mr A Skelton to undertake an archaeological building recording project and an archaeological watching brief at Islekirk Hall, Westward, Wigton (NGR NY 2595 4455). The work was to be carried out prior to the conversion of the farm buildings and water mill to six dwellings (Planning Application Reference No.1/04/1174).

1.2 Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service produced a brief for an archaeological building recording project, which was to be undertaken prior to the commencement of building work. A 'Level 2' Building Survey was carried out on the farm buildings and a 'Level 3' Building survey was carried out on the remains of Islekirk Mill, as specified in *Recording Historic Buildings: A Descriptive Specification*[1]. A photographic record of the Packhorse Bridge and the Mill Bridge was also requested by Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service[2].

1.3 The site has been the subject of an archaeological assessment, which included the historical context of the site[3], however, a small amount of documentary research has since been undertaken to provide names of those who lived and worked at Islekirk Hall.

1.4 The building survey involves two elements, firstly the farm buildings which are recorded on the County Historic Environment Record (Ref No. 40256), and are thought to date from the 18th and 19th centuries. The second element is the water mill which is recorded on the County Historic Environment Record (Ref No. 10284), it is thought to date to the mid 18th century and contains surviving features of archaeological and architectural interest including an intact corn-drying kiln. The farm buildings and water mill are present on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1867 (figure 1) and Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1900 (figure 2).

1.5 An archaeological watching brief was also maintained during the excavation of service trenches on the site in May 2006. The findings of this programme of archaeological work is discussed in the appendix.

[1] Recording Historic Buildings: A Descriptive Specification, RCHME, Third Edition, 1996, Swindon
[2] Parsons, J, 2005
[3] Ryder, P F, 2002

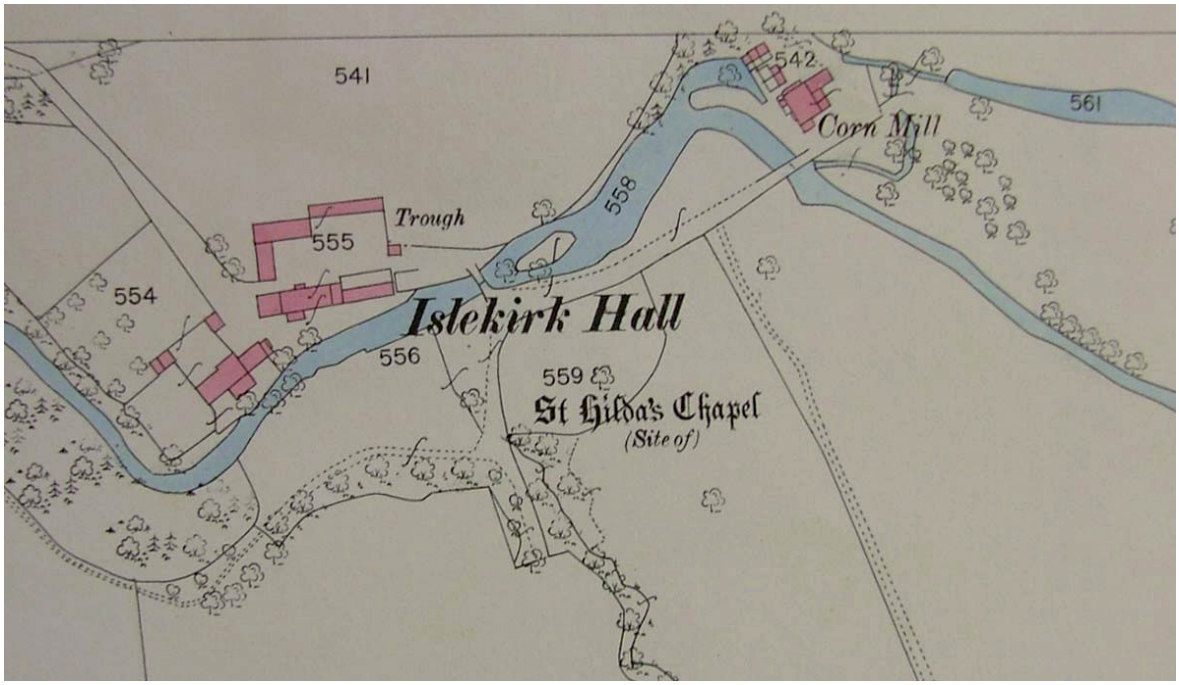

Figure 1 – First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1867

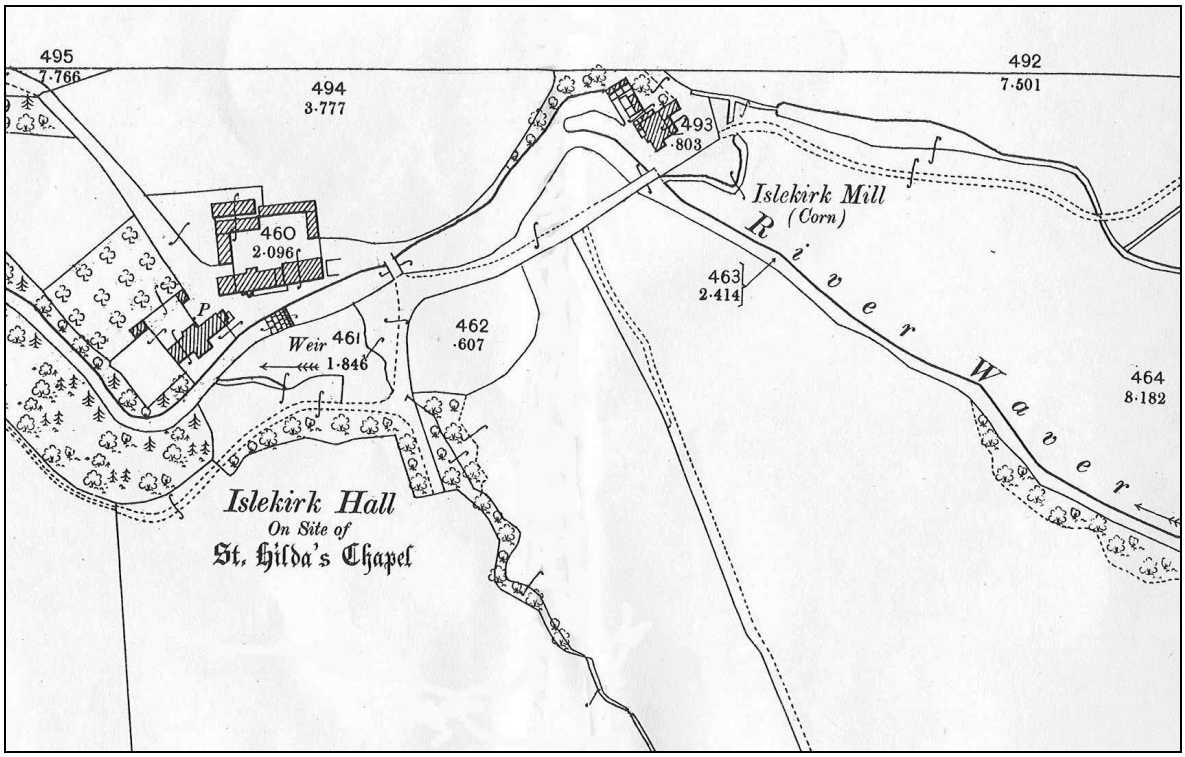

Figure 2 – Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1900

2 SITE LOCATION

2.1 Islekirk Hall is located approximately four kilometres south of the market town of Wigton, nestled in a secluded valley through which the River Waver runs (figure 3). The farm is situated at a height of *c.*90 metres above mean sea level, in an area of mainly pastoral land. The main A595 road is located approximately one and a half kilometres to the north of the farm.

2.2 Approximately two kilometres directly north of Islekirk Hall is the Roman fort at Old Carlisle, with the route of the A595 being one of the main Roman roads from Carlisle to the west coast of Cumbria. The listed building record for the Grade II* house notes that some stonework in the property displays signs of diamond broaching, suggesting that the stones came from the Roman fort (Ref No.22348).

2.3 Just over a kilometre to the north-east of Islekirk Hall is St Hilda's Church at Westward, built *c.*1828. It is within this church that there is a brass commemorating Richard Barwise of Islekirk Hall who died in 1648 (See Historical Context and Appendix).

Plate 1 – The farm buildings and house beyond, Islekirk Hall, as seen from the north-east

Figure 3 – Site Location

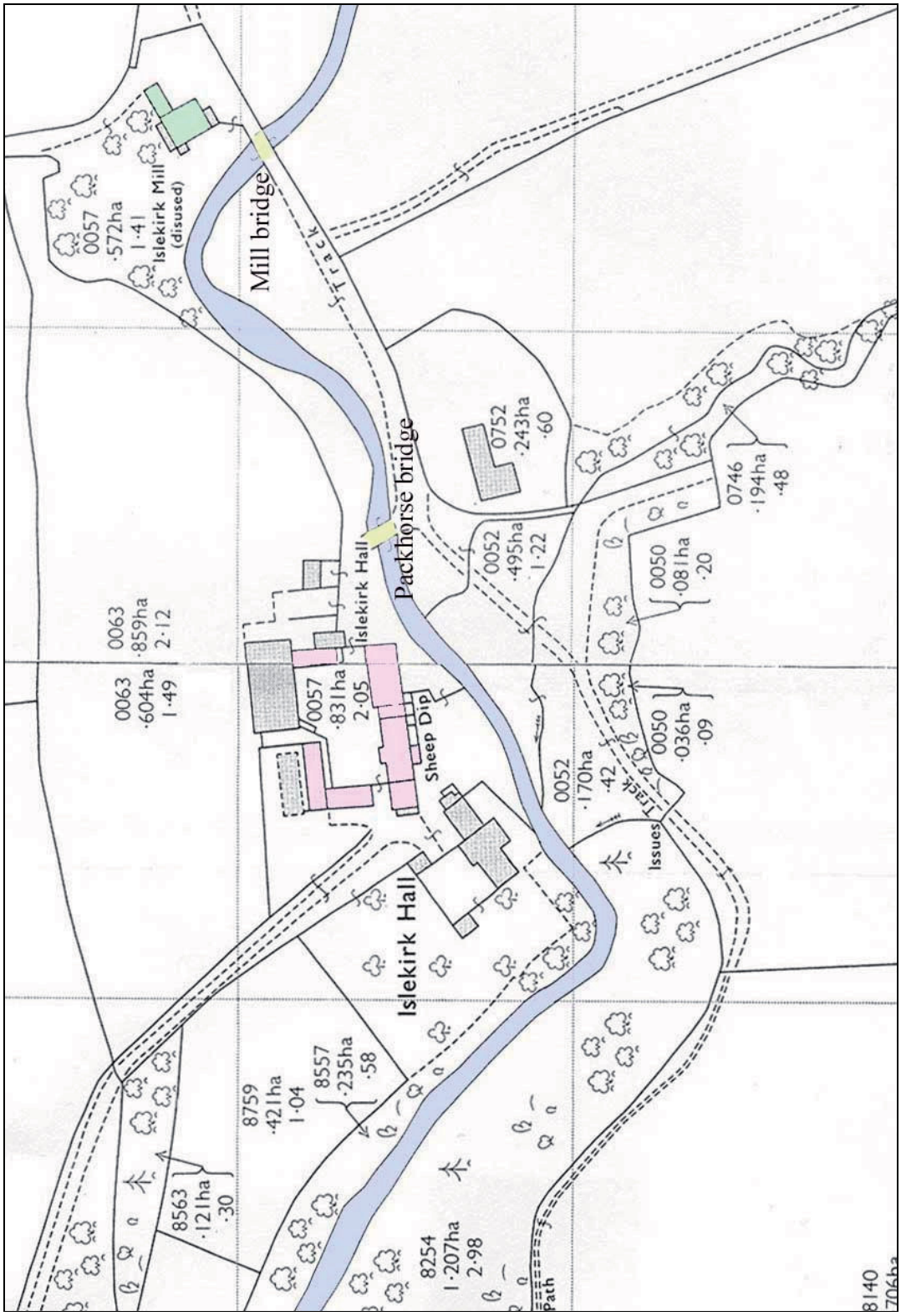

Figure 4 – Site plan (based on the 1:2500 scale OS map 1971)
The farm buildings that are the subject of the survey are coloured pink; the mill buildings are coloured green and the bridges are shown yellow

3 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 The Building Survey

3.1.1 The survey consists of three basic elements:

- a written account, which includes information derived from documentary research,
- a measured survey with accompanying architects drawings,
- a photographic record.

3.2 The Written Account

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

3.3 The Photographic Record

3.3.1 The photographic archive consists of the following:

- a series of 35mm black and white prints, which included general views of the exterior of the buildings, elevations and part elevations, along with specific external details (e.g. doorways), and views of the two bridges,
- a series of 35mm colour prints showing general views of the exterior of the buildings and their setting,
- a series of 35mm colour slides showing general views of the buildings and the bridges,
- A series of digital views of the exterior of the buildings, the interior of the buildings and specific internal details (e.g. roof structure) supplied on CD-Rom.

3.4 Project Archive

3.4.1 The full archive of the desk-based assessment and Level 2 and 3 building surveys have been produced to a professional standard in accordance with the current English Heritage guidelines set out in the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (MAP 2nd 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.

4 PREVIOUS WORK

4.1 No previous archaeological work has been undertaken on the site apart from the archaeological assessment completed by Peter Ryder in 2002.

5 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

5.1 The earliest reference to Islekirk appears to have been in 1215 when the hermitage of St Hilda in Inglewood Forest *'with the clearing that Roger Goki, late hermit, held there'*[4] was granted to the Cistercian Holme Cultram Abbey by King John. The monks of Holm Cultram are believed to have *'erected a chapel in the neighbourhood of the hermitage, which chapel in process of time obtained the rights and privileges of a parish church. This was probably the original parish church of Westward'*[5].

5.2 In 1192 Roger Goki was fined for building a mill without permission; this mill may have been at Islekirk[6]. According to directory evidence, the name *Ilekirk,* a contraction of *Hilda's Kirk,* indicated the spot where '*Roger the recluse shut himself out from the world and its gaieties, and sought retirement in the midst of the forest'*[7].

5.3 In 1529 *Hildkirk Grange,* which was in the possession of Holme Cultram, was tenanted by Richard Barwys (1467 – *c.*1544)[8]. The chapel associated with the hermitage appears to have passed into parochial [parish] use, and may be that referred to in Elizabethan documents as *St Ellen the Old,* a name that survived in the place name *Ilekirk* for *Hilde Kirk*[9]. Around this date there were five farms at *Ilekirk,* all copyhold, which were occupied by Richard Barwise, John Barwise, Adam Askew, Richard Millar and John Plumber; Richard Barwise being at Ilekirk Grange, later called Hall[10].

5.4 In 1543, after the Dissolution of the monasteries, Henry VIII granted the hermitage of *Hildkirk* or *Ilekirk* with all the land (which had formerly belonged to the monastery of Holme Cultram), to Thomas Dalston who was granted a licence the following year to convey *'the capital messuage of Hildkyrk Grange with four messuages and tenements in the tenure of John Barwis and others to Anthony Barwys'.* Richard Barwis V had previously been a tenant of Ilekirk on a copyhold basis, now Anthony had become the owner holding it directly of the king[11].

5.5 The *'grange of Ilekirk with land and a water-mill'* are included in the possessions of Richard Barwis of Ilekirk at the Inquisition post mortem held at Carlisle on 13th April 1599[12].

[4] Grainger, F & Collingwood, W.G, 1929, Page 76
[5] Kuper, M.E, 1899, Page 259
[6] Ryder, P.F, 2002, Page 1
[7] T Bulmer & Co, 1901, Page 506
[8] Swift, Rev.F.B, 1950, Page 135
[9] Collingwood, W.G & Rogers, J, 1898-99, Page 288
[10] Swift, Rev F.B, 1950, Page 141
[11] *Ibid,* Page 143
[12] Swift, Rev F.B, 1950, Page 147

5.6 An estate deed dating to 1647 refers to the water corn mill called *'Hyldkirke Milne'*[13].

5.7 In the 1600's, Islekirk Hall was the residence of 'Great Richard Barwise', who died in 1648. He is described in various histories as a man of 'colossal stature and amazing strength', and there is a brass from his tomb in Westward Church (See Appendix for further description of Richard Barwise' strength and a copy of the brass at Westward Church). Richard Barwise was MP for Carlisle 1627-48, Sheriff in 1634 and first mayor of Carlisle in 1637.

5.8 Following the death of Richard Barwise, the Islekirk Estate appears to have passed to his daughters, Ann and Frances. Ann was married to John Featherstonehalgh of the City of Carlisle; Frances was married to William Kirkby of Ashcock, Lancashire. Consequently, the names Featherstonehalgh and Kirkby crop up in documents from the early 18th century relating to Islekirk Hall. A Conveyance of 1716 mentions members of the Anderson family (part of the Featherstonehalgh family) selling their half of the Islekirk Estate to William Kirkby, namely *'half the mansion (called Ilekirke, alias Islekirke alias Hilderkirke-Grainge) and its lands, the water corn mill there, the houses, demesne lands, meadows, pastures thereof in Westward and Holm Cultram; together with all and singular tofts, buildings, lands, woods, sheep walks, ways..'*[14].

5.9 The year 1719 records a mortgage for £600 between Lancelot Emerson of Threapland, yeoman, and John Hamilton of Whitehaven, seaman. The freehold house and land called *'Ilekirk alias Islekirk alias Hilderkirke Grainge, in the parishes of Westward, Bolton and Holm Cultram, with the water corne millne and kill* [kiln] *for the drieing and grinding of corne and graine, with all multure and services due; together with all houses, buildings..orchards, garths, gardens, lands common of pasture and turbary, mines..'*[15].

5.10 The dove houses are mentioned in a lease of 1723 between Lancelot Emerson of Ilekirk, Westward, mason and John Hamilton of Whitehaven, mariner.

5.11 In 1740, Daniel Postlethwaite (late of Ribton Hall) is described as being resident at Islekirk Hall. An Agreement of 13th March 1740 notes how 30 acres of former common land had been improved and is described as 'leasehold improvement', adjoining Islekirk demesne. This document states that Daniel Postlethwaite had agreed to partition the estate and sell half of it to Joseph Lucock[16].

[13] Ryder, P.F, 2002, Page 1
[14] CRO Ref No. D AY 4/6 (Aglionby Family records)
[15] CRO Ref No. D AY 4/19
[16] CRO Ref No. D AY 4/28

5.12 A further Agreement of 1742 gives a nice description of the buildings on the Islekirk Estate: *'To Daniel Postlethwaite, the two kitchens and lofts above the same, being the north angle of the mansion called Islekirk Hall, also the parlour and loft above it at the sun end of the said North Angle and West End of the East Angle, all the stable and Gatehouse and one half of the Byar or Cowhouse from the north side of the Great Barn to be sett off at the North End, and three lengths of timber or roomsteeds at the East End of the said Great Barn (being on the North Side of the Beck) and all the Thatch'd Barn on the South Side of the said Beck'. Also divides the Orchard; the Wheat Close; and the fields (named here) for which they have drawn lots; locations stated; these fields include 'the two hop garths', 'Hunter Buss', 'The Park', 'The West Intack', 'The Bellows', 'Goosehalls', 'Dicky Field', 'The Flatt', the West Intack abuts on the 'road that leads from Islekirk Hall to Wigton', defines and apportions the hedges or fences to be made to effect this partition, and agrees 'that the Way from Islekirk Hall leading directly through the West Intack to Wigton shall be laned out seven yards wide; that the way from the said hall through the Flatt and Hunter buss to Goosehills shall be laned out four yards wide', and repaired by the two parties jointly, and each shall hedge their respective lengths'.*[17]

5.13 A lease and release dating to 9/10th March 1746 refers to the *'newly erected watermill'*[18].

5.14 A lease for nine years dated 12th November 1804 between Joseph Lucock of Lorton Hall Esq and Jane McKnight of Islekirk, widow, and her sons William and Francis thereof, yeomen, and Thomas McKnight of Upperby Mill, miller *'house, land and farm called Islekirk Hall (200 acres), late in possessions of William McKnight deceased, also Islekirk Mill (comprising one water corn mill and kiln, 'Barley or Shilling Mill', and wheat mill) and all its fittings'*[19].

5.15 The mill and house are shown on the Hodskinson and Donald map of 1774 (surveyed 1770) (figure 5). These buildings are also both represented on the Bolton's Enclosure map of 1781 (figure 6), interestingly this map only shows one bridge (Packhorse Bridge).

5.16 The painter Samuel Bough obviously visited the site at Islekirk in the 19th century. Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery have one of his paintings in their collection, showing the mill with the farm buildings and hall in the distance (figure 7). At Carlisle Library there is, what appears to be, a preliminary drawing by Sam Bough of the same view, but which shows more detail of the house and farm buildings. This illustration (figure 8) shows the large barn unpainted, not as the white-washed building depicted on his final work.

[17] CRO Ref No. D AY 4/31
[18] CRO Ref No. D AY 4/33
[19] CRO Ref No. D AY 4/40

Figure 5 – Hodskinson and Donald map of 1774

Figure 6 – Bolton's Enclosure map 1781

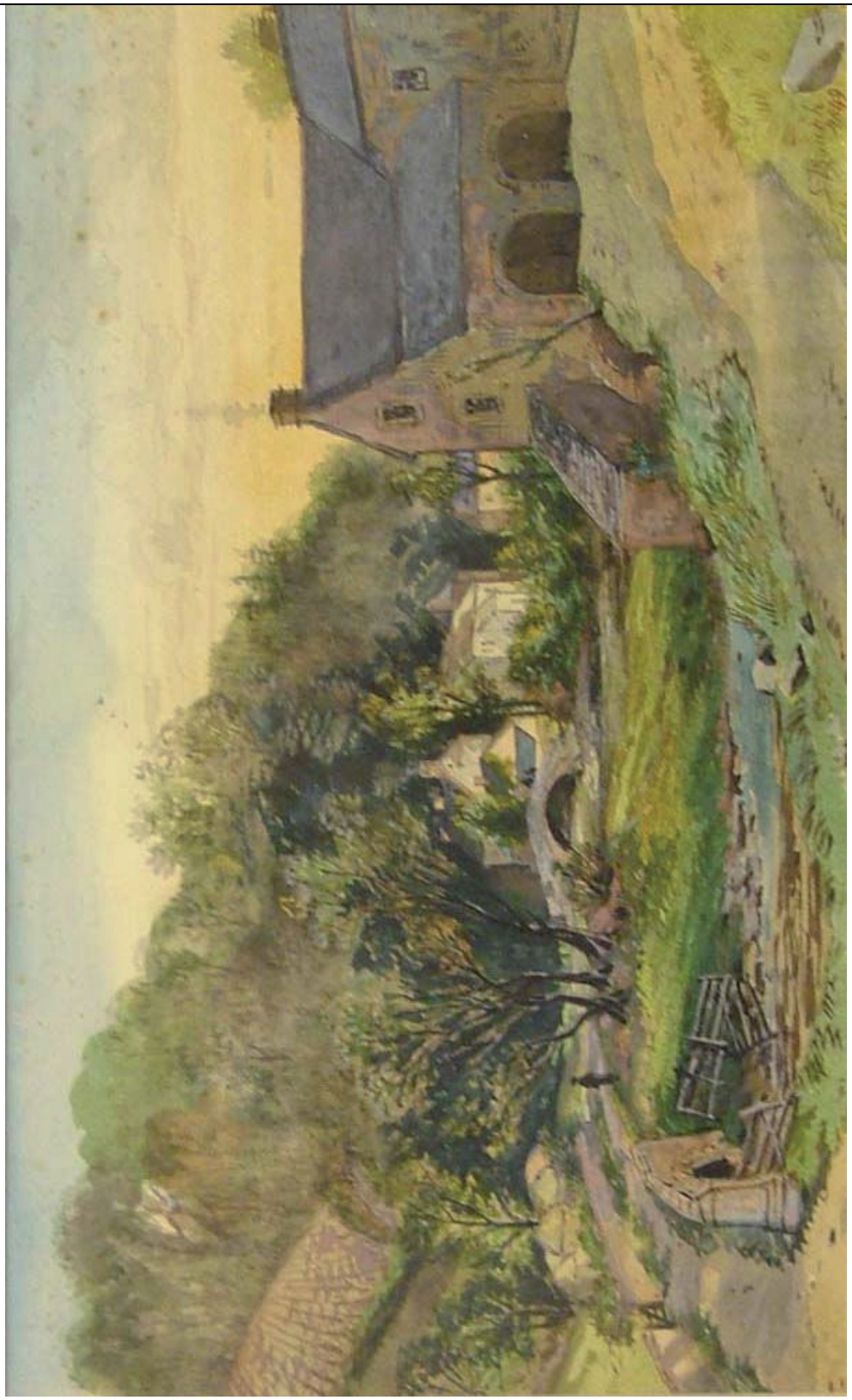

Figure 7 – Sam Bough's painting of Islekirk Hall and Mill, 1849
(Courtesy of Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery)

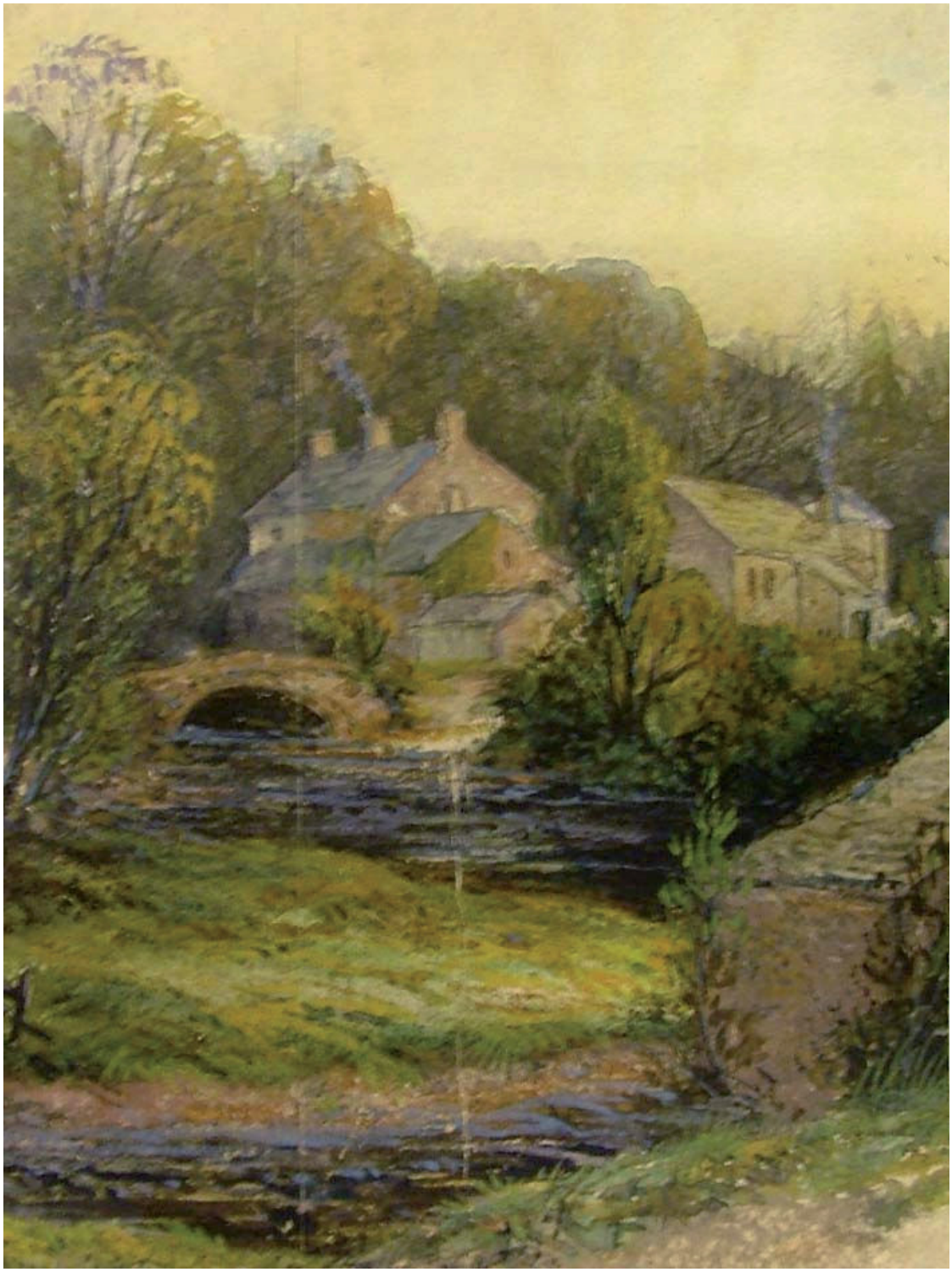

Figure 8 – Sam Bough *c.*1849, preliminary illustration? Shows part of mill to right, Packhorse Bridge (with parapet), house, barn with dovecote behind
(Courtesy of Carlisle Library,included in a collection of illustrations compiled by T Parsable-Dawson *c.*1950)

6 RESULTS

6.1 For ease of reference the farm buildings are referred to as A – F, as used by Peter Ryder in his archaeological assessment (2002).

6.2 The Farm Buildings

6.2.1 The farm buildings that are the subject of the Level 2 Building Survey are arranged around a courtyard, and are situated just to the north-east of Islekirk Hall (figures 4 and 9). The River Waver flows east-west just to the south of the large barn (A). Access to the farm buildings is through a gateway between B and D; access to the bridges and mill is through a gateway between the eastern end of C and F (figure 9).

6.3 The Large Barn 'A' - Exterior

6.3.1 The two-storey large barn measures *c.*24.20 metres in length by *c.*7.40 metres wide externally and is constructed of coursed red sandstone masonry. The north facing side of roof is of Welsh slate, although there are three courses of sandstone tiles at eaves level above the large double doorway porch (plate 2). The south facing side of the roof is laid in sandstone tiles, showing that at one time the whole roof may have been covered in these heavy stone tiles, similar to a recently recorded farm building at Brackenthwaite, built in 1859[20]. According to Whellan writing in 1860, in Westward Parish the Shawk [Chalk?] and Howrigg quarries *'have long been noted for the production of red and white freestone* [sandstone]*, slate, flags etc esteemed the best in Cumberland'*[21].

6.3.2 The northern elevation, which faces into the courtyard, has a fairly central large double doorway with projecting porch, with a re-used timber as a lintel (figure 10). The door jambs of this entrance are rebated internally, therefore the double doors opened inwards. To either side of this porched entrance there is a further cart doorway with alternating block jambs and arched heads of dressed voussoirs. Both of these cart doorways are rebated externally, therefore the doors could only open outwards. To the east of the large, almost central, doorway is a stable door again with alternating blocks of masonry making up the jambs. A single rectangular piece of sandstone has been used for the lintel, with a further dressed block two courses above (plate 3). Ryder refers to this as a 'supra-lintel' (i.e. an elongate block)[22], although what the function of this piece of stonework is remains unclear. Also along this elevation are two windows, one to the stable or loose box, and the other to the west of the large doorway (figure 10). The surrounds of these windows are of four dressed pieces of sandstone. The sill of the western ground floor window has been partly cut away.

[20] Wooler, F, 2005a
[21] Whellan, W, 1860 Page 262
[22] Ryder, P.F, 2002, Page 2

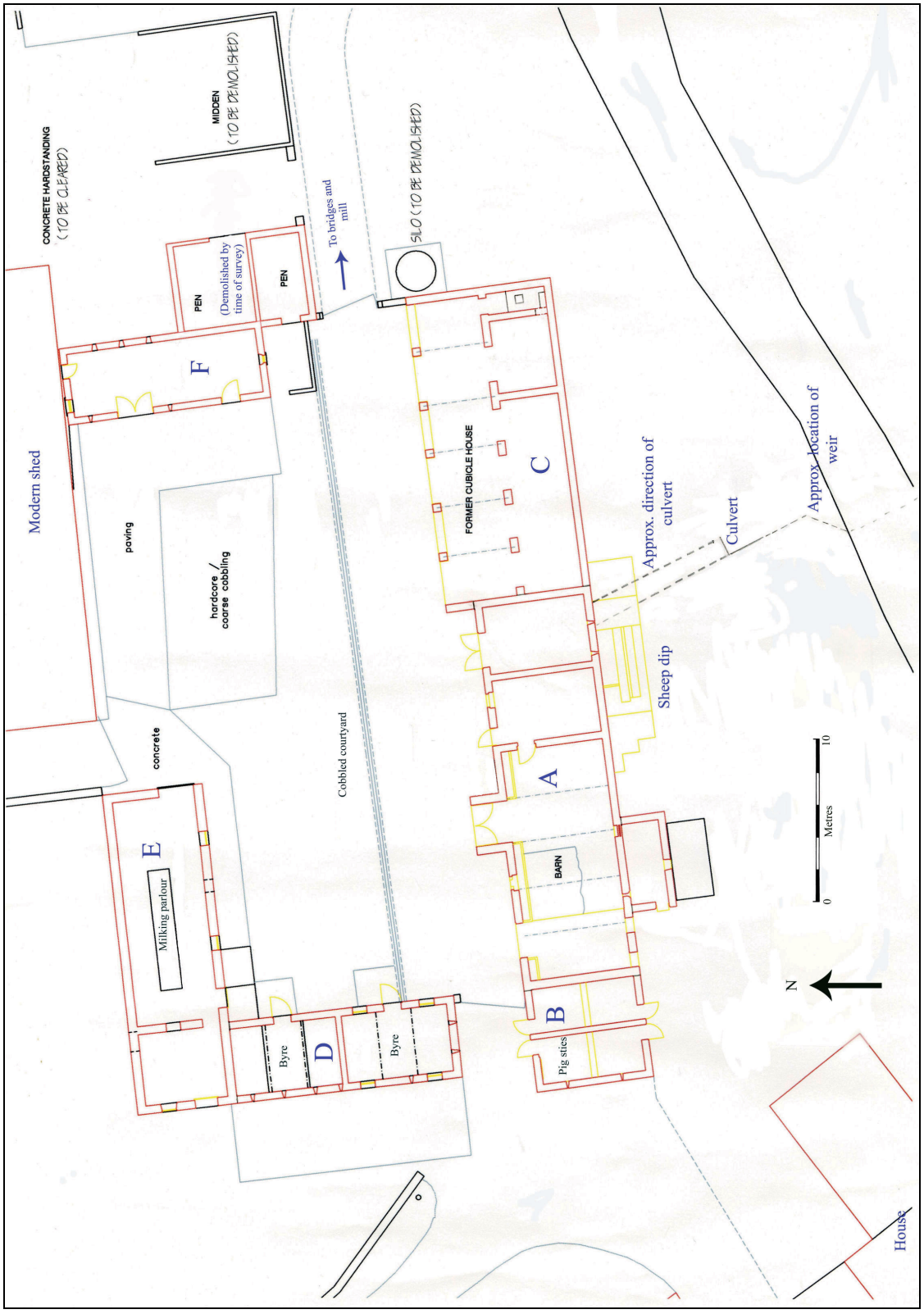

Figure 9 – Plan of farm buildings (Data captured at 1:200)

Plate 2 – North facing elevation of the large barn ‘A’

Plate 3 – Eastern end of the large barn ‘A’, northern elevation

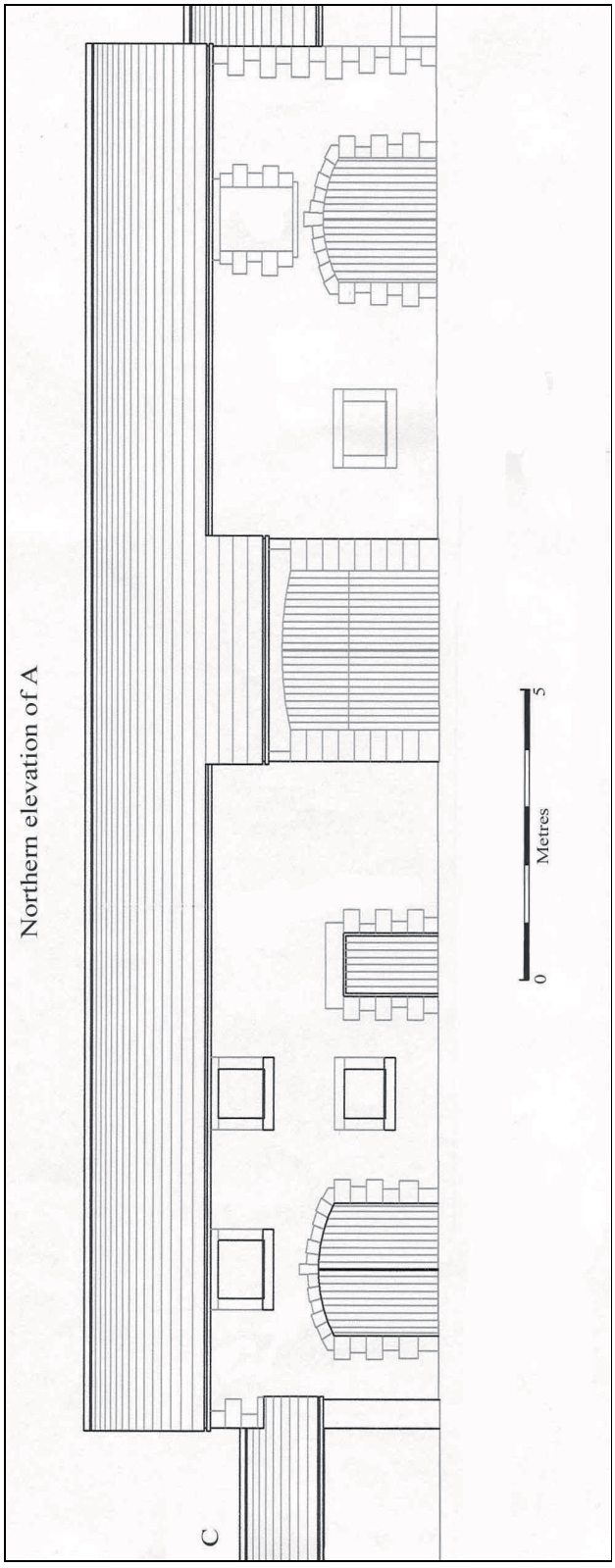

Figure 10 – Northern elevation of 'A'

Plate 4 – South facing elevation of the large barn 'A' showing roof of sandstone tiles

6.3.3 At first floor level along the northern elevation there is a pitching doorway at the western end, used for transferring hay, straw or grain to the first floor loft (plate 3). To the eastern end of the elevation there are two further windows which provide light for a room above the stable and cart shed.

6.3.4 The southern elevation of 'A' (plate 4 and Figure 11) has two original doorways towards its western end that have subsequently been partly bricked-up to create windows (plate 5). At the eastern end of this elevation, at ground floor level, are two ventilation slits. At first floor level, there are two windows, corresponding to those on the northern elevation providing light for the possible granary, and a further window at the western end, as well as four ventilation slits (figure 11). Parallel to this elevation is a double-channelled sheep dip, which will be referred to below (figure 9).

6.3.5 Towards the western end of this side of the barn is a gabled structure measuring *c.*6.0 metres by *c.*2.80 metres externally (figure 11 and plate 6). This building was obviously built after the large barn as shown by the construction breaks. It is a single-storey structure of coursed red sandstone masonry, with the door jambs consisting of alternating blocks. The jambs are rebated externally. The roof is of Welsh slate with sandstone ridge tiles. There is a window in the southern elevation, however it was not possible to photograph this elevation due to the large container against the wall. The window is shown on figure 11. There is a blocked hole just to the left of the doorway (plate 6).

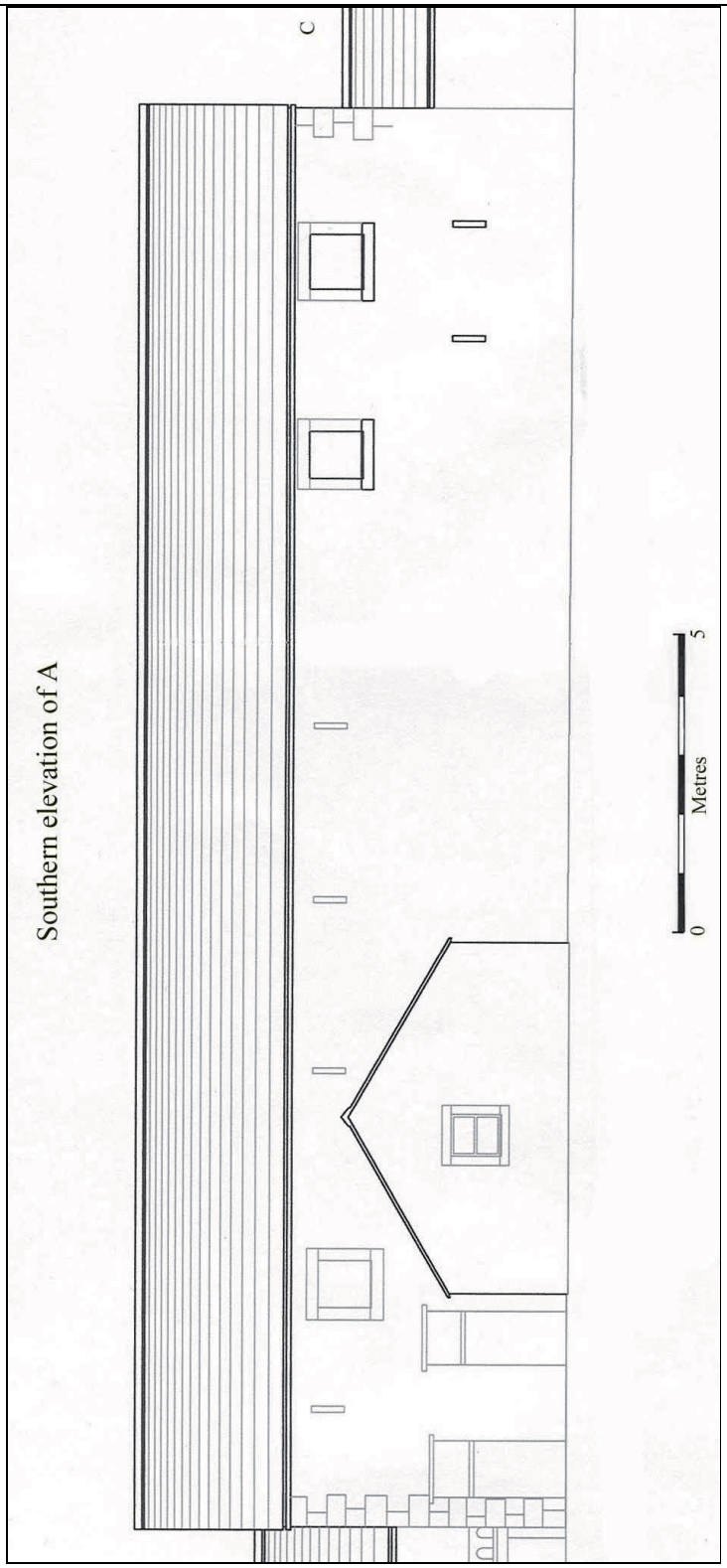

Figure 11 – Southern elevation of 'A'

Plate 5 – Two doorways at western end of 'A' (south elevation), bricked-up to create windows

Plate 6 – Gabled structure against the southern elevation of 'A'

6.4 The Large Barn 'A' - Interior

6.4.1 Internally, 'A' is divided into two towards the eastern end by a full height transverse wall, which creates a threshing barn to the western side and a stable and cart shed with loft above to the eastern end (figure 12). The threshing barn is of five bays, with four machine sawn king post roof trusses with struts rising from the base of the king-post to the rafters (plate 7). There are two rows of trenched purlins on either side of the roof, of which some of the timbers have been re-used.

6.4.2 At the western end of the threshing barn, there has obviously been a timber partition at some time, which originally created a separate cart shed with loft above. The cement lines and joist holes for this room are visible on Plate 7.

6.4.3 Within the masonry cross wall that separates the threshing barn and the stable are two doorways, one at ground level, which gives access to the stable, and one at first floor level which gives access to a three-bay granary with white-washed walls. Granaries were used for storing grain, and required clean and dry conditions, as well as some protection from vermin[23]. They are generally situated at first floor level, above either the cart shed or stable, although at Islekirk Hall, the granary is above both. One feature of granaries appears to be the domestic-style windows, indicating that light was required and that storage space against the walls was not as important as would be needed in a hayloft.

6.4.4 A first-floor granary complete with drying kiln was recently recorded at Hall Farm, Morland, complete with domestic-style windows and white-washed walls[24]. Often granaries were accessed via external stairs, as was the case at Beech House, Cumwhinton[25] and Buskrigg, Busk, Renwick[26], however at Islekirk Hall, the granary was originally accessed via a staircase (possibly wooden) from the interior of the threshing barn as shown by the scarring of the steps on the northern internal wall.

6.4.5 The floor of the threshing barn is sandstone flagged, although the western end (where there was at one time a separate room) is concreted. Modern feeding troughs are located along the northern wall.

[23] Brunskill, R.W, 1999, Page 89
[24] Wooler, F and Jones, C, 2004
[25] Cracknell, P.M, 2004
[26] Wooler, F, 2005b

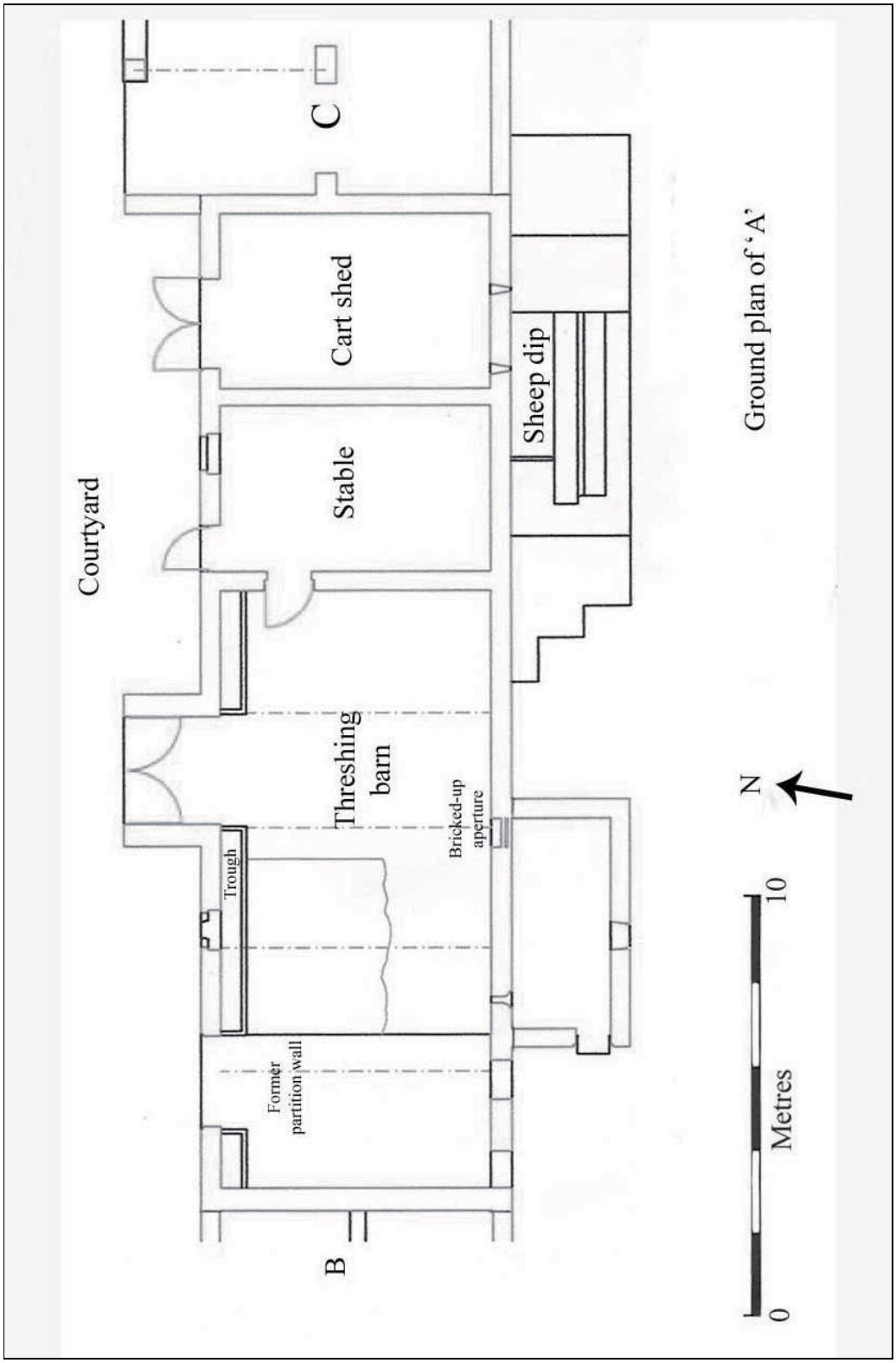

Figure 12 – Ground plan of 'A'

Plate 7 – Interior of 'A' looking west

Plate 8 – Southern interior wall of 'A' showing features related to threshing cereals

6.4.5 Along the southern interior wall there are a series of features which are presumably related to a threshing machine (plate 8). There is a blocked aperture measuring *c.*45cm square at a height of *c.*1.70 metres from ground level (plate 9). This aperture is very similar to that observed at Hembles Gate, Brampton[27], where water-power was utilised for threshing cereals. It is certainly located at the same height from the ground, and the dimensions of the blocked-up hole are the same.

6.4.6 There are, however, some anomalies in establishing whether Islekirk Hall used water-power. Firstly, at the other side of this wall is the gabled structure referred to in 6.3.5, which would have been too small to accommodate a water wheel, unless it was constructed much later after water-power had given over to a more modern power source. Secondly, there is no evidence for any scarring from the water-wheel against the southern exterior wall, although no scarring was observed at Hembles Gate, and may be due to the intermittent use of the wheel, compared to a more constant use as seen in corn mills. And thirdly, there is no cartographic evidence to suggest that a mill race ran to a water-wheel against the barn (the weir shown on the Second Edition OS map appears to relate to the sheep dip – figure 2).

6.4.7 The presence of a water-wheel cannot, however, be totally discounted. A change in power source could have taken place some time prior to the publishing of the First Edition OS map (figure 1) of 1867. Portable steam-engines were available from around the mid-19th century[28], allowing contractors to travel from farm to farm to undertake the threshing process. Secondly, it is possible that the sheep dips (purpose-built sheep dips were introduced towards the end of the 19th century) utilised a pre-existing channel. A culvert was observed running underneath the gabled structure on the southern elevation of 'A'; this may also have been related to a mill race (plate 10).

6.4.8 A further aperture, complete with iron housing, was observed at a lower level to that described above (plate 9). The housing within the aperture would appear to have held, at one time, a horizontal axle, which may have been driven by an oil or diesel engine located within the gabled structure behind the barn.

6.4.9 There is a bricked-up doorway in the southern wall, roughly opposing the large doorway into the barn (plate 8 and figure 12). It is much smaller than the other doorways observed on the farm, measuring *c.*0.60 metres wide and *c.*1.70 metres high. The other side of this doorway was observed within the interior of the building on the southern elevation of the barn.

[27] Wooler, F, 2004
[28] Weller, J, 1982, Page 148

Plate 9 – Blocked aperture (left hand side) and lower hole for drive shaft?

Plate 10 – Eastern elevation of building on S elevation of 'A', a culvert was observed running beneath this structure, parallel to the wall of the barn

Plate 11 – Housing for a drive shaft for an oil or diesel engine used to power thresher? (Cat included for scale), as seen from the gable structure behind 'A'

6.5 The Pigsties – 'B'
See figure 9 and plates 12 and 13

6.5.1 The pigsties are located within a single-storey structure attached to the western end of 'A'. This building is constructed of squared, roughly coursed red sandstone, with alternating blocks for the quoins and measures the same width as the barn, *c.*7.40 metres, by *c.*6.20 metres in length. The roof is of sandstone flags. On the northern elevation there is a pair of centrally placed boarded doors with single upright blocks making up the jambs and lintels. Either side of these doors are low-level apertures with sandstone lintels, all of which would originally have had wooden doors and stone troughs used for feeding the pigs.

6.5.2 Pigs have always played an important part in the rural domestic economy, but until recently, they have been only a minor part in an agricultural economy. Pigs, however, would have been a useful animal to have on the farmstead as they produce large litters, they quickly put on weight and they require relatively little attention[29]. The southern elevation also has a pair of centrally placed doors, with low level hatches either side (plate 13). Above each of the feeding hatches on

[29] Brunskill, R.W, 1999, Page 77

this elevation there are four round-arched nesting boxes which have been cut into large sandstone blocks with a projecting sill. Above each of the doorways on this elevation are rectangular openings at eaves level. These openings and the arched apertures would have been for poultry, and it is a common feature to find accommodation for pigs and poultry together.

Plate 12 – Northern elevation of pigsties 'B'

Plate 13 – Southern elevation of pigsties 'B'

6.5.2 Internally the pigsties are divided into two by a full-height transverse wall, with a further sub-division of the long axis by a two metre high wall, creating four pens (figure 9).

6.6 The Shelter Shed – 'C'
See figures 9, 13 and 14

6.6.1 The single-storey shelter shed is attached to the eastern end of the barn and consists of two construction phases. The earlier build measures *c.*19.40 metres in length by *c.*4.40 metres in width and is constructed of coursed, roughly squared masonry with a Welsh slate roof. This original structure consisted of four open bays, a further enclosed bay (separated from the other four bays by a masonry transverse wall) to the east and a small room at the eastern end (figure 13). The five 'cart sheds' are fronted to the north by a masonry arcade of five elliptical arches constructed of brick with a masonry keystone (plate 14).

6.6.2 The small room at the eastern end of this range is accessed through a doorway with a nicely carved, slightly arched and chamfered, door lintel and door jambs that are rebated externally (plate 15). The interior of this room is unusual as there is a raised platform with two recesses, the central of which measures *c.*45cm square (figure 13). The function of this room is unclear, Mr Skelton mentioned that he was told that it was for the collection of bull's urine, but so far it has not been possible to confirm this in the literature. There are two holes in the wall that separate this room from the cart shed. The roof trusses of machine sawn timber consist of principal rafters and tie beams, with through purlins. There are assembly marks in Roman numerals visible on several of the trusses. The southern elevation of this range is featureless.

Plate 14 – View looking west showing arched doorways to cart sheds of 'C'

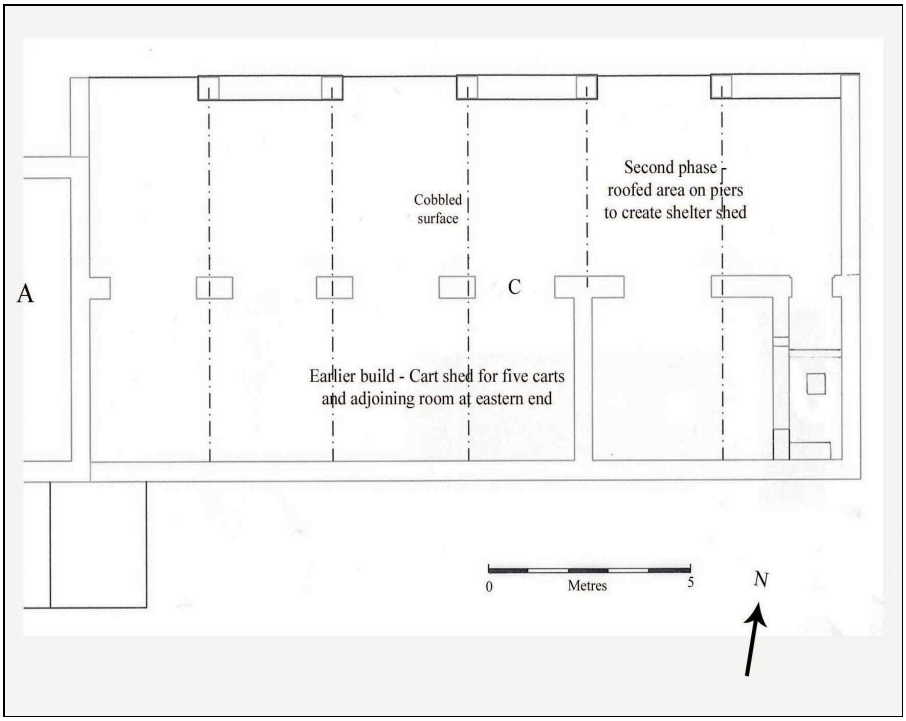

Figure 13 – Ground plan of 'C'

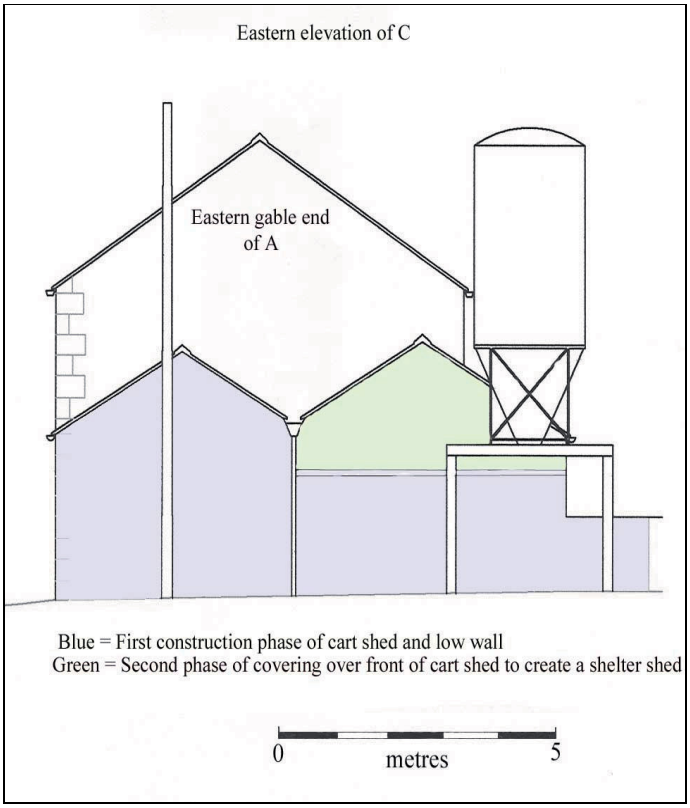

Figure 14 – Eastern elevation of 'C', showing two construction phases

Plate 15 – Doorway and raised platform with recesses, eastern end of 'C'

6.6.3 The second phase of construction was the addition of a masonry wall with brick piers to support a further gabled roof; this created a shelter shed for cattle (figure 14 and plate 16). Like the earlier range, this addition has a Welsh slate roof with ceramic ridge tiles, and in fact, the two roofs appear to be contemporary and therefore the roof of the earlier range may have been re-done when the shelter shed was added. The top of the masonry wall facing the courtyard has flat slab sandstone coping on which the brick piers have been constructed.

Plate 16 – Shelter shed added to northern elevation, 'C'

6.6.4 What is interesting about Building 'C' is that if water-power was being utilised to drive a threshing machine, then there is a similarity between Islekirk Hall and Hembles Gate, Brampton, in that both farms had five cart sheds; a feature which was also noted at Townhead Farm, Scotby[30], where a gin-case was used to thresh cereals. It may be possible to tentatively suggest that farms that utilised water or horse power to thresh corn, rather than using hand-driven threshers or hand-flail may have been doing so for other farms in the locality; hence the need for several cart sheds on the farm.

6.7 Building 'D' – The West Range

See Figures 9, 15 and 16

6.7.1 Building 'D' (plate 17) is of two-storeys and is located on the western side of the courtyard, orientated north-south, with the northern end abutting the western end of the earlier range 'E'. It measures *c.*14.40 metres by *c.*5.10 metres externally and is constructed of roughly coursed and roughly squared red sandstone masonry. The roof is of Cumbrian slate laid to diminishing courses with sandstone ridge tiles. At ground level on the western elevation there are two fairly modern byre windows and ventilation slits; at first floor level of this elevation there are five oval 'oculi' carved from rectangular pieces of red sandstone. On the eastern elevation there are four of these 'oculi'; each pair being either side of two pitching doors (plate 18) at first floor level. At ground level there are two doorways, one of which has a window either side that are similar to those on the western elevation.

6.7.2 At the south-east corner of this building is a surviving post for the gate into the yard from the house and road. The corresponding post, which should have originally been located approximately at the point where the pigsties 'B' and the barn 'A' meet, has gone.

6.8 Building 'D' – Interior

6.8.1 Internally, Building 'D' is split into two byres by a cross wall at ground level with an undivided hayloft occupying the entire length of the first floor. The southern of the two byres has a concrete floor with a central manure passage; concrete stall dividers (one either side) allowed accommodation for a maximum of eight cows. The ceramic feeding troughs and iron tethering bars remain *in-situ* (plate 19). The northern byre also has a concrete floor, however the stall dividers or 'scale boards' are of sandstone flags and timber; a rare survival in modern farmsteads (plate 20). This byre would also have provided accommodation for a maximum of eight cows as it is split into four double stalls. The walls have been whitewashed. In the western wall of this byre there is a niche which presumably was used to either house a candle or oil light, or medicines for the animals.

[30] Cracknell, P.M, 2005

6.8.2 The hayloft could only be accessed via a ladder to one of the pitching doors in the eastern elevation (there was no evidence for an internal staircase). As the floor was precarious it was not possible to examine all the roof trusses, however, it was possible to observe that there were four machine sawn trusses consisting of principal rafters and tie-beams, creating five bays. There is one row of trenched purlins either side.

Plate 17 – Western elevation of 'D'

Plate 18 – Eastern elevation of 'D'

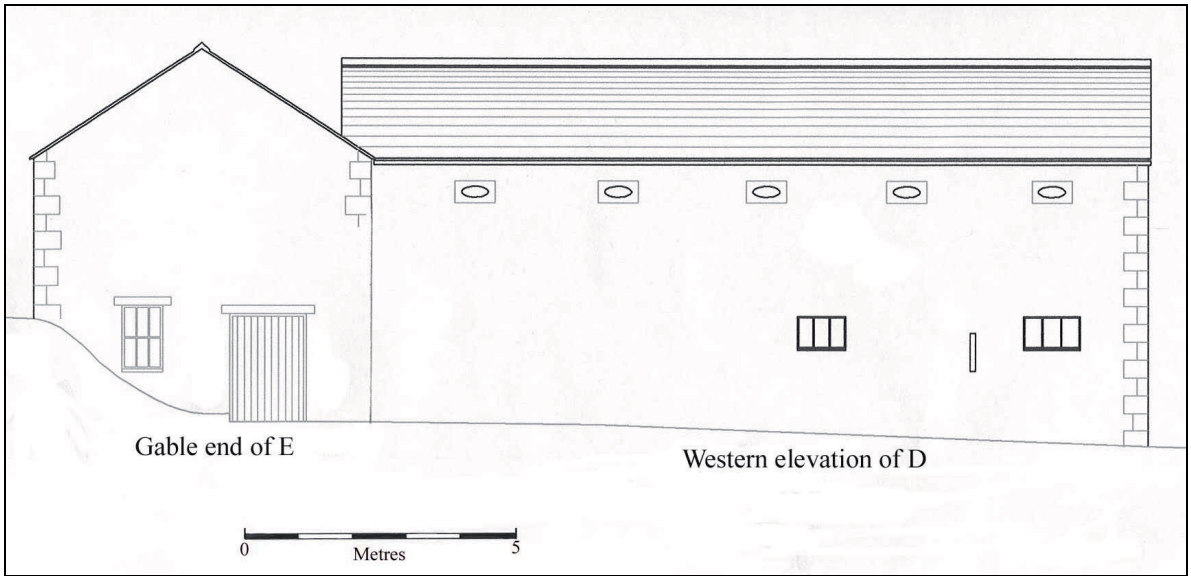

Figure 15 – Western elevation of 'D' showing relationship to 'E'

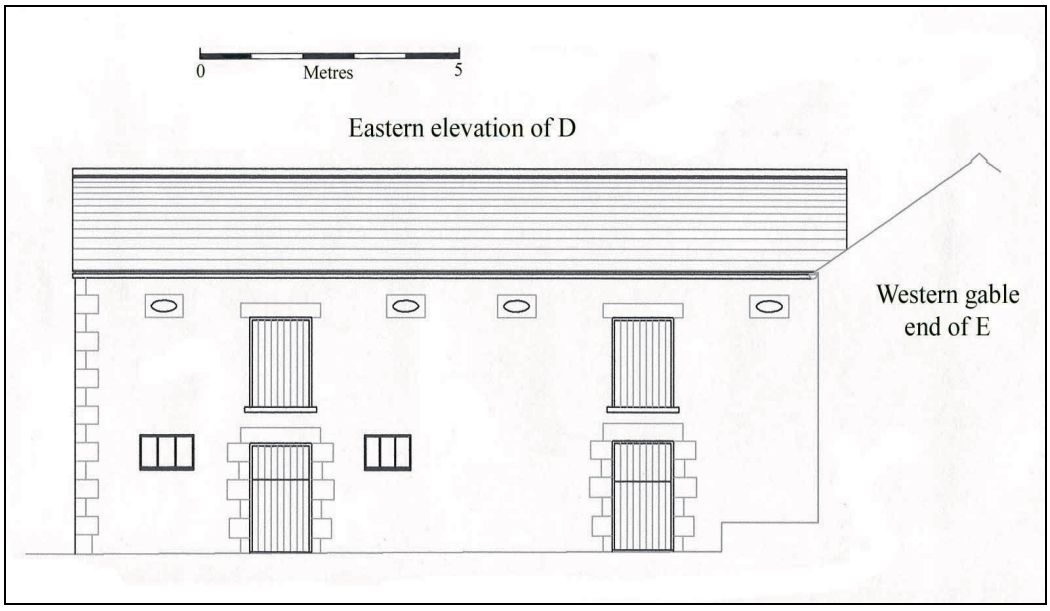

Figure 16 – Eastern elevation of 'D'

Plate 19 – Interior of the southern byre in Building 'D'

Plate 20 – Interior of northern byre in Building 'D'

6.9 Building E – The North Range

See figure 9

6.9.1 This building is aligned roughly east-west and is situated at the northern side of the courtyard (figure 9). At the western end of this range, and built at a right-angle to it, is Building D. It was possible to observe the construction break between these two buildings on the western elevation indicating that they were not built at the same time; the roof of 'D' also shows that Building 'D' was constructed after 'E' (figure 15).

6.9.2 The building measures *c.*21 metres in length by *c.*6.25 metres wide externally and is constructed of roughly coursed and roughly squared red and yellow sandstone masonry with some granite. The quoins are of alternating blocks of red sandstone (plate 21). The northern side of the roof is covered in profile sheeting, whilst the southern side is of Cumbrian slate. This building has perhaps been altered more than any of the others on the site, reflecting its more recent function as a milking parlour.

6.9.3 At the western end of the southern elevation, there is an entrance with sliding door. This doorway appears to have been heightened as shown by the change in masonry where a lintel may originally have been (plate 22). Some of the alternating blocks remain which would have made up the jambs for the original doorway. The heightening of the doorway appears to relate to the concrete ramp leading up to it. At the eastern end of this elevation there is a further doorway with a red sandstone lintel and alternating block jambs, which has subsequently been converted into a window, possibly some time in the 20th century. Also along this elevation are an inserted window (which does not appear to be original) and a pitching door at first floor level (plate 21).

6.9.3 The northern elevation of Building E has a pitching door, with jambs that are rebated externally, and three ventilation slits, all at first floor level (plate 23). Towards the eastern end of this elevation there is a small aperture which is blocked internally.

6.9.4 Both the eastern and western gable ends have had modern doorways inserted that have obliterated any earlier entrances or windows. The western gable end has a door and window at ground level, both with concrete lintels (plate 24). The eastern gable end has had a large doorway with sliding door inserted, with a possible blocked window to the right; there are two ventilation slits at first floor level (plate 25).

Plate 21 – Southern elevation of Building 'E'

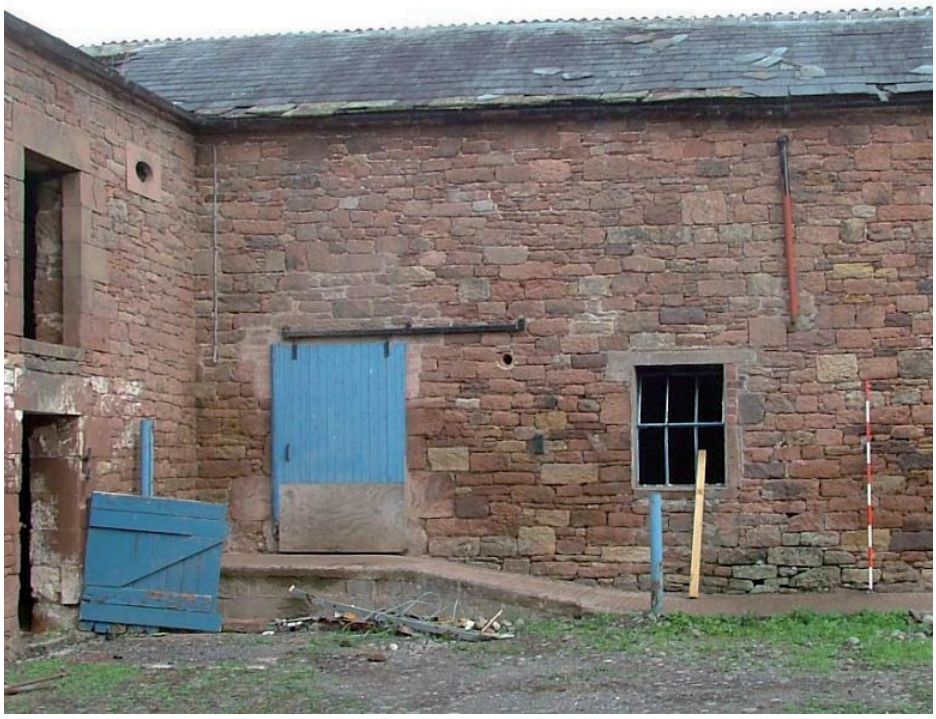

Plate 22 – Heightened doorway, southern elevation of 'E'

Plate 23 – Northern elevation of 'E'

Plate 24 – Western gable end of 'E'

Plate 25 – Eastern gable end of 'E'

6.10 Building E - Interior

6.10.1 Internally this building has been completely modernised to accommodate a milking parlour complete with pit, and a concrete block partition wall, presumably providing accommodation for the dairy at the western end. The walls at ground floor level have been heavily rendered and the floor and pit is of concrete (plate 26). The ceiling timbers are machine sawn and modern, and it appears that the floor level has been raised when the parlour was modernised.

Plate 26 – Interior of 'E', showing pit for milking parlour and modern ceiling

6.10.2 The upper floor of Building E is undivided and was presumably used as a storage loft for hay or straw. There are five principal rafter and tie-beam roof trusses, creating six bays. The timbers for the roof are generally of a poorer quality than those observed in the other farm buildings, some appear to have been hand cut rather than machine sawn, and therefore may be older, or the timbers have been re-used from an earlier building (plate 27). There are two rows of purlins to either side.

Plate 27 – Roof detail, Building 'E'

6.11 Building 'F' – The East Range
See figure 9

6.11.1 This two-storey structure measures *c.*12.70 metres by *c.*4.70 metres externally and is constructed of roughly coursed and squared sandstone masonry with tooled quoins. The roof is of modern metal profile sheeting (plate 28). It is located at the north-eastern side of the courtyard and unlike the rest of the cobbled ground surface, there is paving to the front of the western elevation. Along the western elevation (figure 17), facing the courtyard, there is an elliptical-arched cart entrance (plate 28); the head being made up of 13 voussoirs including the keystone. Either side of this entrance are two small ventilation slits. To the southern end of this elevation there is a doorway with alternating blocks making up the jambs. Both doorways on this elevation are rebated externally, indicating that the doors opened outwards. At first floor level there are six ventilation slits and, just below eaves level, a series of seven smaller holes. A small brick-built pen is not shown on the architects drawing of this elevation (figure 17), although it is visible on Plate 29.

6.11.2 The southern elevation of Building F has a window at ground floor level, with stone surround, two ventilation slits at the upper level and a small hole, similar to those observed below eaves level on the western elevation, near the apex of the gable end; this appears too small to be an owl hole (plate 29).

Plate 28 – Western elevation of 'F'

Plate 29 – Southern elevation of 'F'

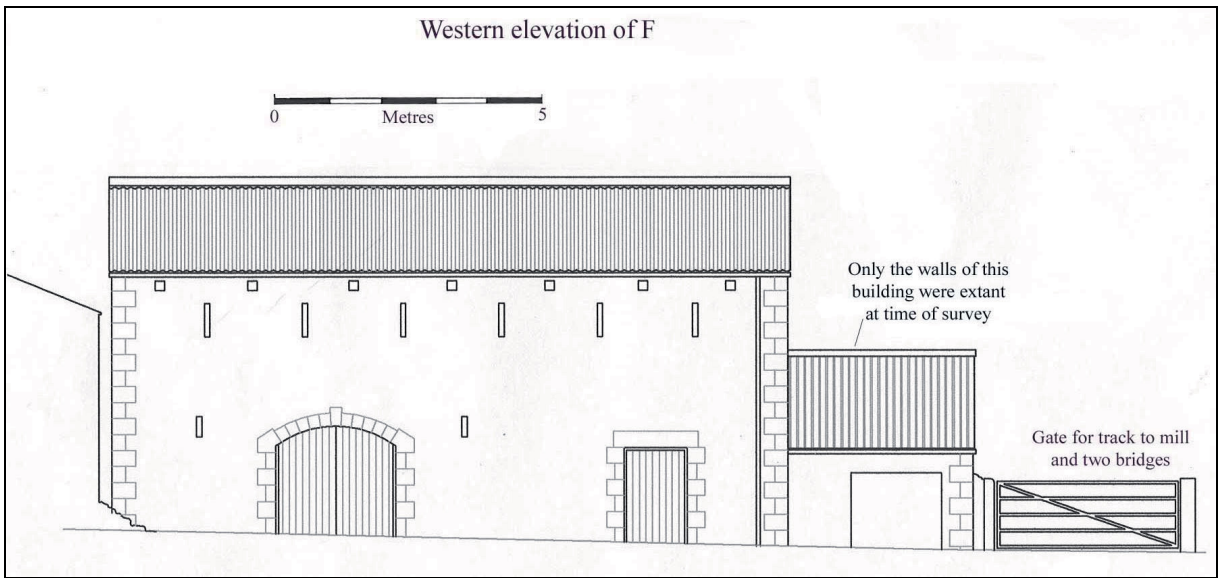

Figure 17 – Western elevation of Building 'F'

6.11.3 The eastern elevation of Building 'F' has six small ventilation slits at ground floor level and at first floor level there are four longer ventilation slits, two either side of a pitching door (plate 30). To the south-east corner of this building there was a single-storey masonry building with two surviving masonry piers for supporting the roof. The roof was no longer extant at the time of survey.

6.11.4 The northern gable end is hidden behind a modern, large, concrete block shed, although it was just possible to observe that there appears to be some evidence for part of this elevation surviving from an earlier structure. There is a doorway and window in this elevation at ground floor level and there appeared to be some differences in stonework, certainly at the north-east corner of the building. It was easier to observe these anomalies from the interior of the building and this will be referred to below.

6.12 Building 'F' - Interior

6.12.1 Internally, Building 'F' has had a floor for an upper storey and a transverse ground floor wall removed, therefore the entire length and height of the building was open with no divisions (plate 31). The walls of the ground level have been lime-washed suggesting that animals were housed in at least part of this building. Lime-wash was a common wall coating on Cumbrian vernacular buildings including farmsteads, both externally and internally; it acted as a disinfectant as well as absorbing moisture, but it allowed the walls, whether stone or clay, to breathe[31].

[31] Jennings, N, 2003, Page 148

Plate 30 – Eastern elevation of 'F'

Plate 31 – Interior of 'F', looking north

6.12.2 The building is divided into five bays by four modern roof trusses of machine sawn timber. The floor is of concrete and there is a feeding trough against the western wall, also constructed of concrete.

6.12.3 At the northern end of this building is the doorway and window referred to in 6.11.4. The door jambs are constructed of a single upright piece of sandstone on the western side and two upright pieces to the eastern. The jambs are rebated internally, although if this is a surviving doorway from an earlier building, then the door may have originally opened outwards. The First Edition Ordnance Survey map does not show Building F (figure 1), however there is a range, which has obviously now gone, aligned roughly east-west to the north of (and at a right angle to) Building F. This doorway (and possibly the window) may be surviving features of this earlier range. There is a step at the base of this doorway.

Plate 32 – Doorway and window in northern gable end of Building 'F'

6.13 The Sheep Dip

6.13.1 The sheep dip is situated at the rear (southern elevation) of Building A (figure 9). It consists of two parallel channels lined with red sandstone slabs, each channel measuring *c.*0.50 metres in width by *c.*4.50 metres in length (figure 18 and plate 33). At the eastern end of the sheep dip is a tap and a circular hole cut into a piece of sandstone (plate 34); the stop tap for the water supply was observed in the base of a metal milk churn that had been placed within the ground just to the south-east of the dip. Steps into the channels were also observed at the eastern end of the sheep dip, possibly suggesting that the sheep were placed into the dip at the western end and could exit the dip up the steps at the eastern end.

6.13.2 Approximately eight metres to the south-east of the sheep dip there is a culvert measuring *c.*1 metre wide. This culvert is part of a fairly elaborate and well constructed structure which appears to be the remains of the weir that is shown on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1900 (figure 2). As the weir is not shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1867 (figure 1), it would appear that the weir and culvert are related to the sheep dip (which were introduced towards the end of 19th century) as a way of controlling water for use in the dip. The sheep dip and remains of the associated weir and culvert are a rare survival; consequently they have been recorded for future reference (further photographs are on CD-Rom).

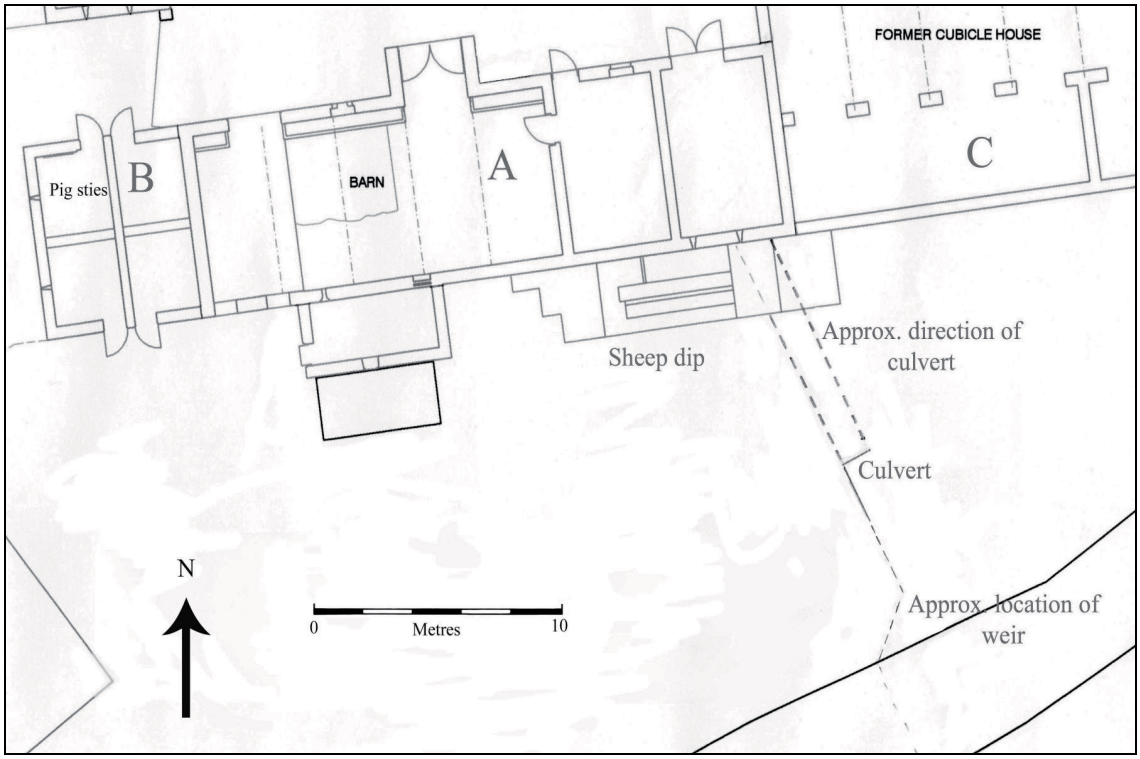

Figure 18 – Ground plan showing location of the sheep dip, approximate direction of the culvert and the approximate location of the weir

Plate 33 – The sheep dip located to the rear of Building 'A' (view looking east), showing one of the two channels, the other is capped in sandstone slabs

Plate 34 – Tap and circular hole, eastern end of sheep dip (Scale measures 500mm)

Plate 35 – Culvert with iron grill (to the right of ranging pole) and remains of the weir for the sheep dip

6.14 Graffiti

6.14.1 Like many farmsteads, there were several pieces of graffiti observed at Islekirk Hall inscribed into door jambs. Carved into one of the blocks making up the door jambs for the western cart shed doorway of Building A were the initials and date (plate 36): -

T. C?
H. Y? .M.
W.
C?

1924

And carved into the door jamb of the southern pitching door of Building E, were the initials (plate 37): -

C. L

Plate 36 – Graffito in doorjamb of cart shed doorway, 'A'

Plate 37 – Graffito in door jamb of southern pitching door, 'E'

6.15 Islekirk Mill (See plate 38 and figure 19)

6.15.1 The remains of Islekirk Corn Mill are situated approximately 160 metres to the north-east of the farm buildings, on the same side of the river (the north side), although the access road to the mill from the farm crosses the Packhorse Bridge and then crosses the river again at the Mill Bridge (figure 4). At the time of Peter Ryder's assessment in 2002, the mill was covered in ivy and there were mature trees growing within the mill interior[32], however at the time of the present survey, the mill had been completely cleaned out internally and the exterior walls had been stripped of any foliage by Mr Skelton. During the storms in January 2005, the western elevation of the mill had suffered some damage, with a section of wall between a first floor and a ground floor window having collapsed (plate 38).

6.15.2 The mill is constructed of roughly coursed and squared red sandstone masonry with tooled quoins and dressings. There appears to be two construction phases to the main mill building; a two-storey rectangular gabled structure which is aligned roughly north-south, measuring *c.*12 metres by *c.*9.20 metres wide with a wall thickness of *c.*0.60 metres, and a rear wing that measures *c.*9.60 metres by *c.*4.60 metres at first floor level, and which is aligned roughly east-west to the northern end of the main mill building (plate 38 and figure 4). The mill was roofless at the time of survey, although the sandstone wall plate on which the roof timbers were supported was still *in-situ*. Fragments of slate within the mill interior suggest that the roof had once been laid in Welsh slate, although the recovered slate could be the remains of a floor for the corn drying kiln.

Plate 38 – Islekirk Mill as seen from the north-west

[32] Ryder, P.F, 2002, Page 6

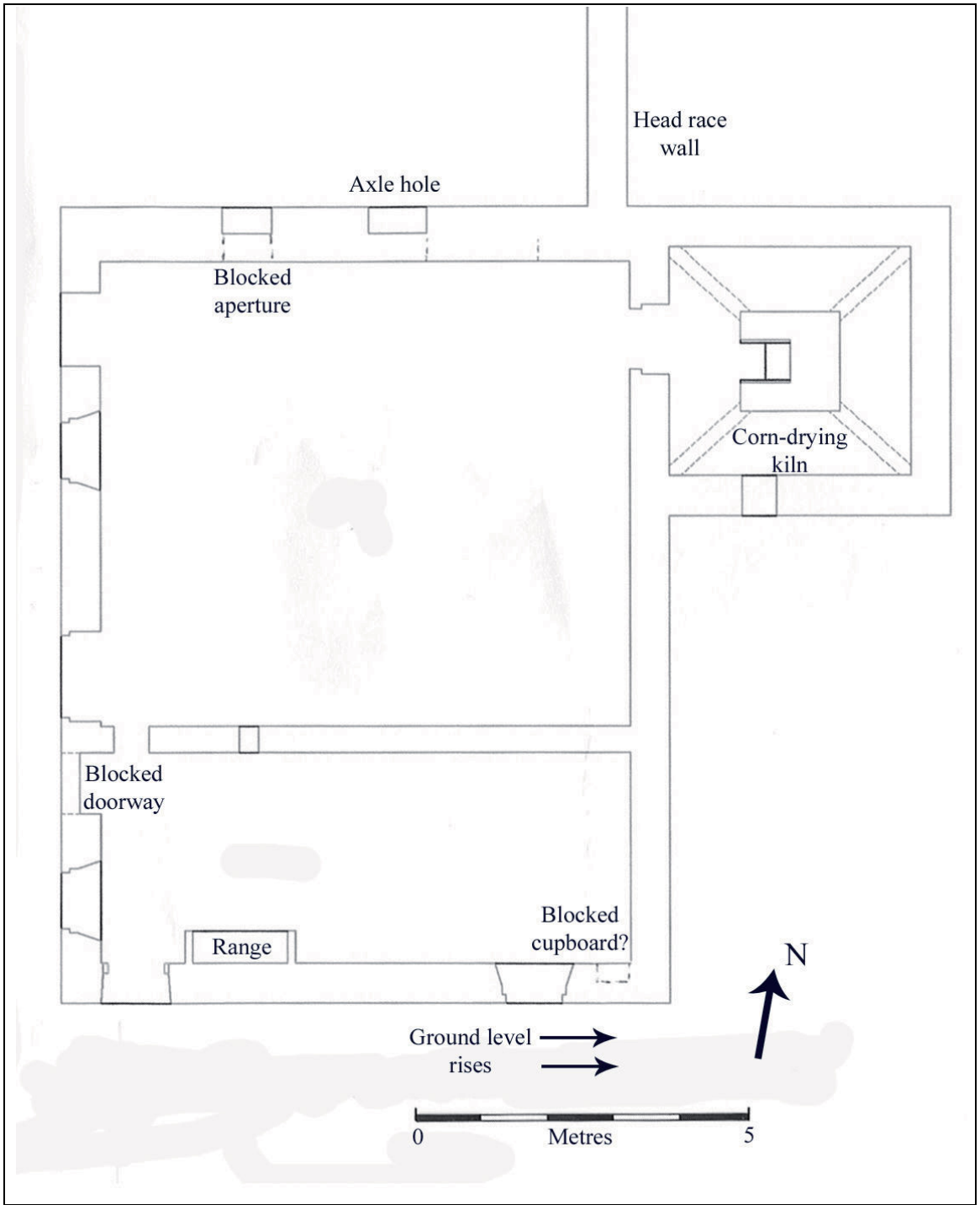

Figure 19 – Ground plan of Islekirk water-mill

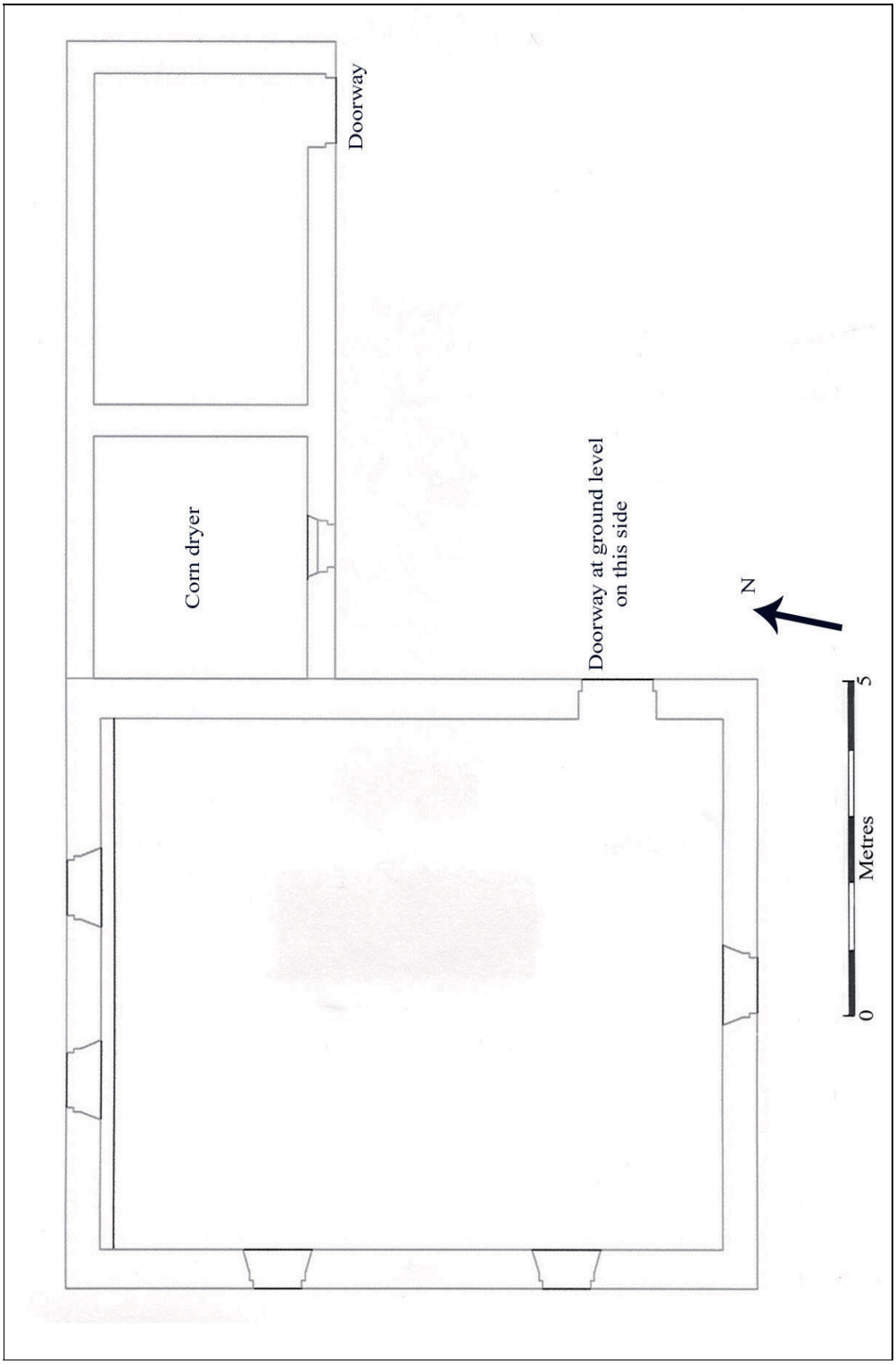

Figure 20 – First floor plan of Islekirk water-mill

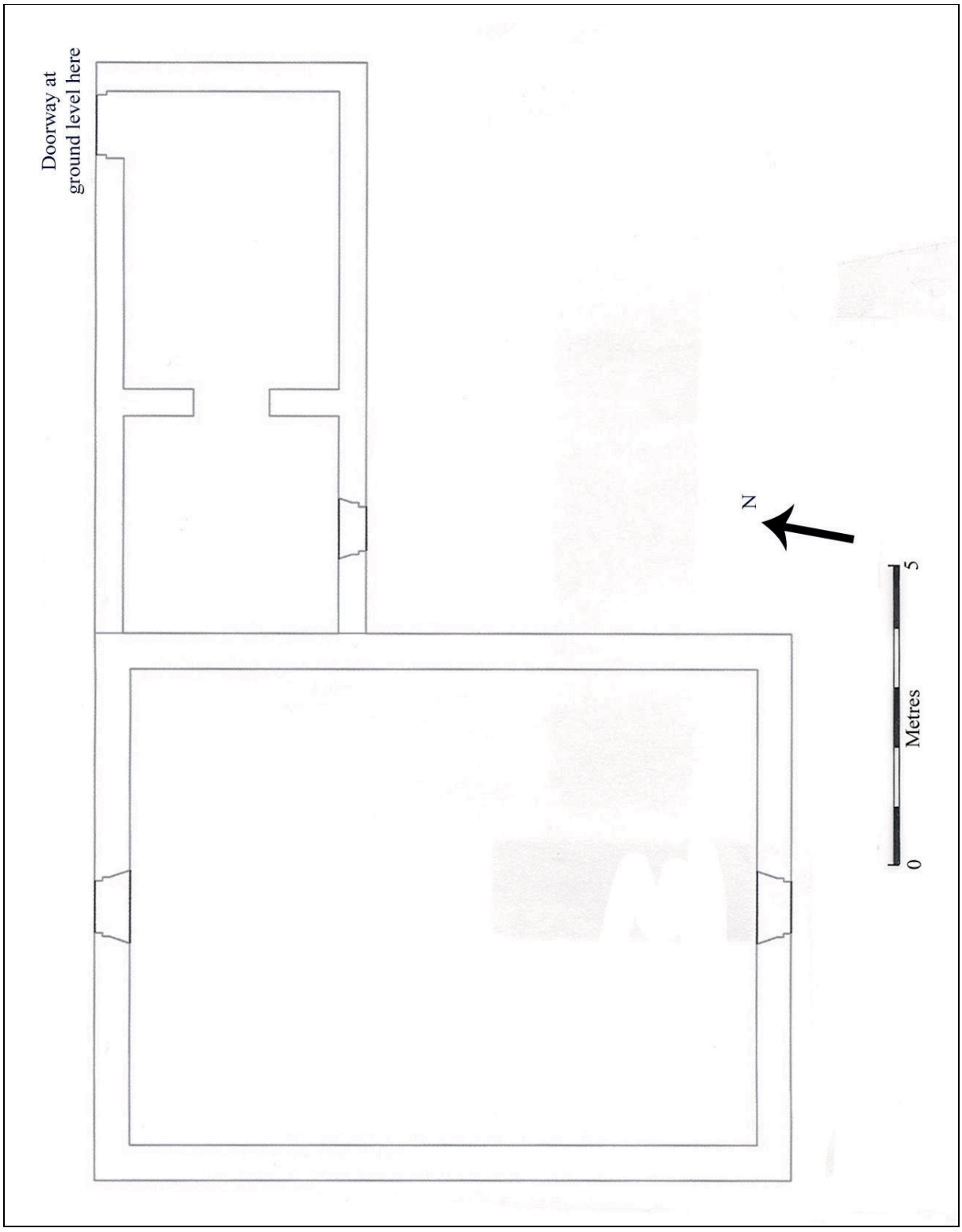

Figure 21 – Second floor plan of Islekirk water-mill

6.15.2 The main rectangular block of the mill building is of two storeys (plate 39), although like most corn mills, the roof space appears to have been utilised as shown by the windows close to the roof apex's in the north and south gable ends. According to Brunskill, the topmost level of water-powered corn mills was used for storage, for example of the grain to be ground[33]. The western elevation, which faces the River Waver, has a central doorway, with a shorter and thinner doorway (now blocked) immediately to the right (plate 40 and figure 22). These two doorways appear to be contemporary as shown by the lintel of the smaller door forming the uppermost jamb of the larger doorway. The sandstone step of the larger doorway is heavily worn. Up until January 2005, there was a further doorway towards the northern end of this elevation; however storm damage has caused a section of the wall to collapse and only the straight line of the door frame can be seen to the left of the damaged window surround on Plate 39. Peter Ryder's observations of this aperture in 2002 were *'At the north end is a rather strange* [word missing], *its left jamb is of neatly-cut blocks coursed in and surely contemporary with the adjacent angle quoins, but the right* [jamb] *is simply roughly cut into the wall masonry; the lintel is timber, a patch of infill above'*[34] There are two windows at ground floor and first floor levels, all have stone surrounds of red sandstone. The sandstone wall plate is also visible on Plate 39.

Plate 39 – Western elevation of the mill

[33] Brunskill, R.W, 2002, Page 119
[34] Ryder, P.F, 2002, Page 6

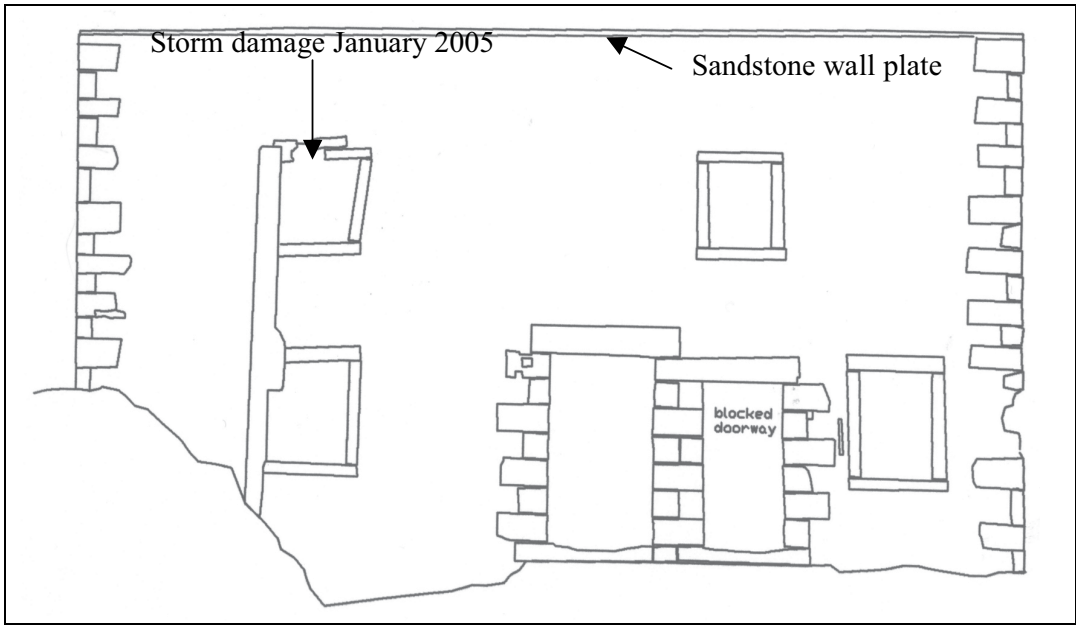

Figure 22- Western Elevation of mill Scale (1:80)

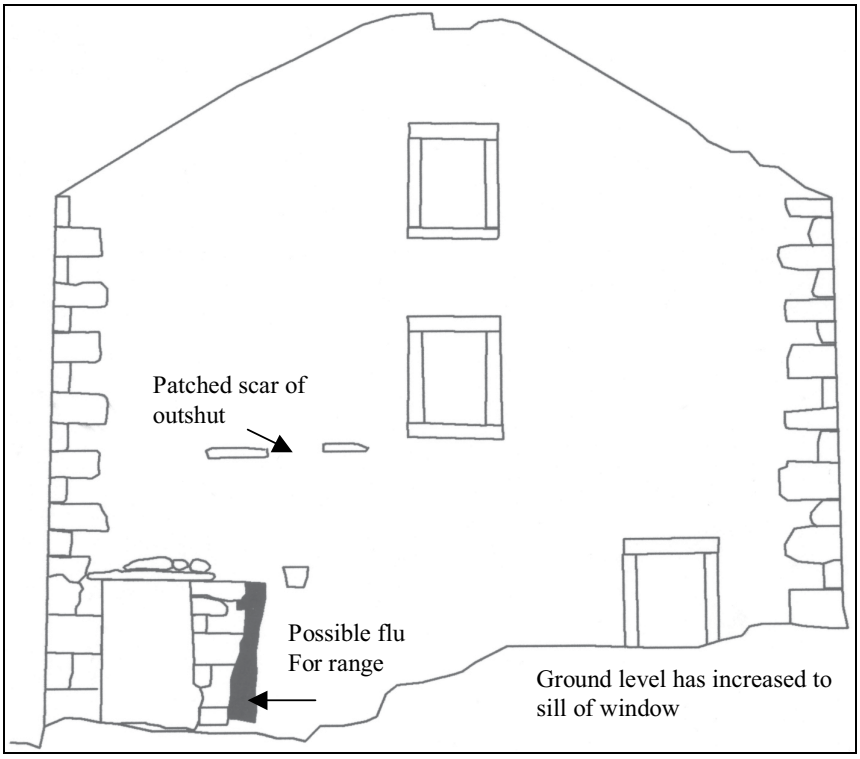

Figure 23- Southern elevation of mill (Scale 1:80)

Plate 40 – Doorways in the western elevation of the mill

6.15.3 On the southern elevation (figure 23), there is a doorway and window at ground level, and a central window at first floor and second floor level. All the window surrounds are made up of four single pieces of red sandstone. The doorway surround, unlike all the other exterior doorways, does not have blocks of sandstone making up the jambs and lintel and the edges of the doorway show signs of having been plastered, with laths and plaster still extant on the underside of the door head, below the timber lintel. The reason for this rather crude door surround may be that originally there was an outshut against the southern elevation; therefore this doorway would have been internal.

6.15.4 The First Edition and Second Edition Ordnance Survey maps of 1867 (figure 1) and 1900 (figure 2), both show a smaller building against the southern elevation, but Sam Bough's painting of 1849 (figure 7) gives a better idea of what this building looked like. The scarring for the pitched roof of this outshut is just visible on Plate 41, to the left of, and just below, the sill of the first floor window. Just to the right of the doorway is a vertical 'channel', which in some areas has been bricked up. This may relate to the range which is situated on the other side of this wall. The ground level at this side of the mill building appears to have risen, as the ground now obscures the sill of the ground floor window (plate 41).

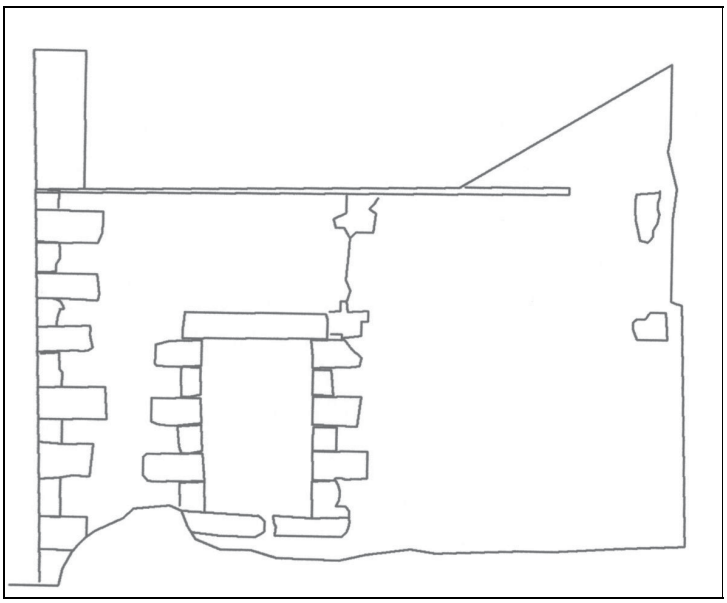

Figure 24- Eastern elevation of main mill building (Scale 1:80)

Plate 41 – Southern elevation of main mill building

6.15.5 The eastern elevation (plate 42 and figure 24) of the main section of the mill can only be observed externally at the southern end of the building as the remainder is hidden behind the later addition that runs at a right angle to the main structure. Towards the southern end is a doorway with alternating blocks making up the jambs and a large sandstone lintel, now cracked in two. This doorway would have given access to the first floor of the mill as the building has been constructed into a bank.

6.15.6 There is a single step to the doorway, which shows scratch marks that were presumably made by trolleys or barrows that moved the grain to and from the building. To the right of the doorway, several holes were observed in the wall. These would appear to correspond to the timbers for another outshut, which is again shown on Sam Bough's painting (figure 7), complete with two arched entrances. Therefore it can be suggested that this outshut was a cart shed. There was no evidence for this structure visible on the ground.

Plate 42 – Eastern elevation of main mill building, with the additional building to the right of photograph

6.15.5 The northern elevation (figure 25) of the main mill building is perhaps the most interesting as it was at this side of the mill that the water-wheel was located. The bottom 16 courses of the main building are of dressed red sandstone ashlar, which presumably provided a flatter surface against which to have a water-wheel. The scarring of a gabled roof, the rafter holes in the wall and the limewashed wall, provide

evidence for the former wheel-house that would have protected the water-wheel from frost, prevented the wheel from warping and allowed grease to remain on the bearings longer[35] (plate 43). The axle hole for the water wheel remains, partly blocked (plate 44), and now almost at ground level, highlighting that there appears to have been a programme of land-moving undertaken in this area, as well as the complete removal of the wheel-pit and structures to the north of the mill that are shown on both the First and Second Edition Ordnance Survey maps (figures 1 and 2).

6.15.6 The axle-hole measures *c.*90cm wide by *c.*120cm high. The scarring from the water-wheel is visible just below a further aperture to the right of the axle hole (plate 45). The scarring together with the location of the axle hole allowed an estimate of the wheel diameter to be *c.*4.60 metres (approximately 15ft – which fits in with Davies-Shiel's average corn mill wheel size for north Cumbria of 14ft[36]). According to Peter Ryder, the water-wheel had been of the 'high breast undershot' type[37]; this was a common type of wheel in Cumbria and it worked well when there was a retaining pond that dropped rapidly in height as it emptied[38].

6.15.7 Cartographic evidence shows that there was a retaining pond just to the east of the mill (figure 1). All that remains of the head race which channelled the water to the wheel is a section of wall at a right angle to the main mill wall, complete with a small exit channel (plate 46). There are two windows at first floor level and a single, central window at second floor level on this elevation, all with stone surrounds. The left-hand window at first floor level still retains much of it sixteen-pane casement (plate 43).

[35] Davies-Shiel, M, 1978, Page 61
[36] Davies-Shiel, M, 1978, Page 39
[37] Ryder, P.F, 2002, Page 7
[38] Davies-Shiel, M, 1978, Page 29

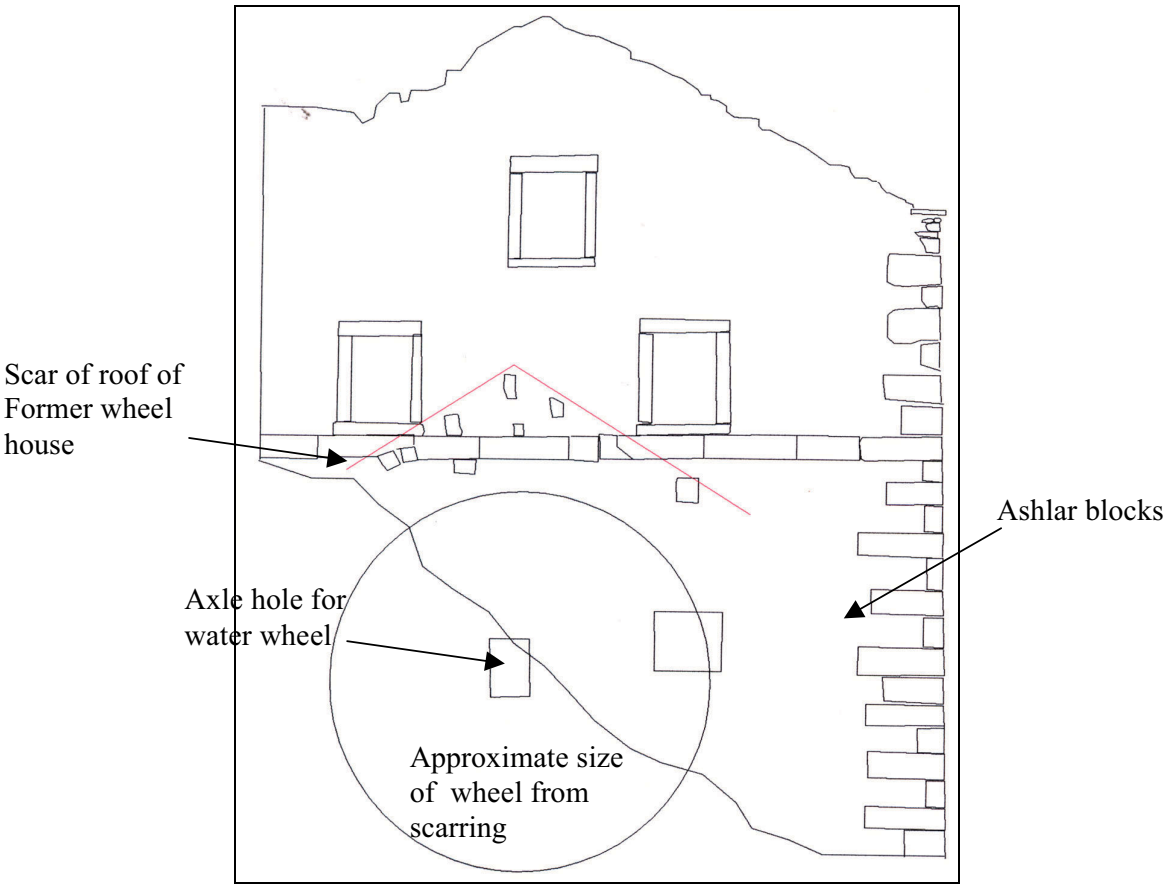

Figure 25- Northern elevation of main mill building (Scale 1:80)

Plate 43 – Northern elevation showing the location of the former wheel-house

Plate 44 – Former axle hole (now partly blocked) for water-wheel

Plate 45 – Northern elevation. The scarring of the water-wheel is visible just to the left of the ranging pole

Plate 46 – The remains of the Head Race complete with an exit hole for water

6.15.6 The mill race for the water-wheel began approximately 600 metres to the south-east of the mill (figure 26), where it diverts from the River Waver before a slight bend, this allowed for the water to naturally channel into the race[39]. The mill race flows along fairly flat ground to a retaining pond to the east of the mill itself. According to Mike Davies Shiel, head races also obtained water from the soil, prior to the general practice of installing field drainage by the mid-19th century (pers.comm. M Davies-Shiel).

[39] Davies-Shiel, M, 1978, Page 19

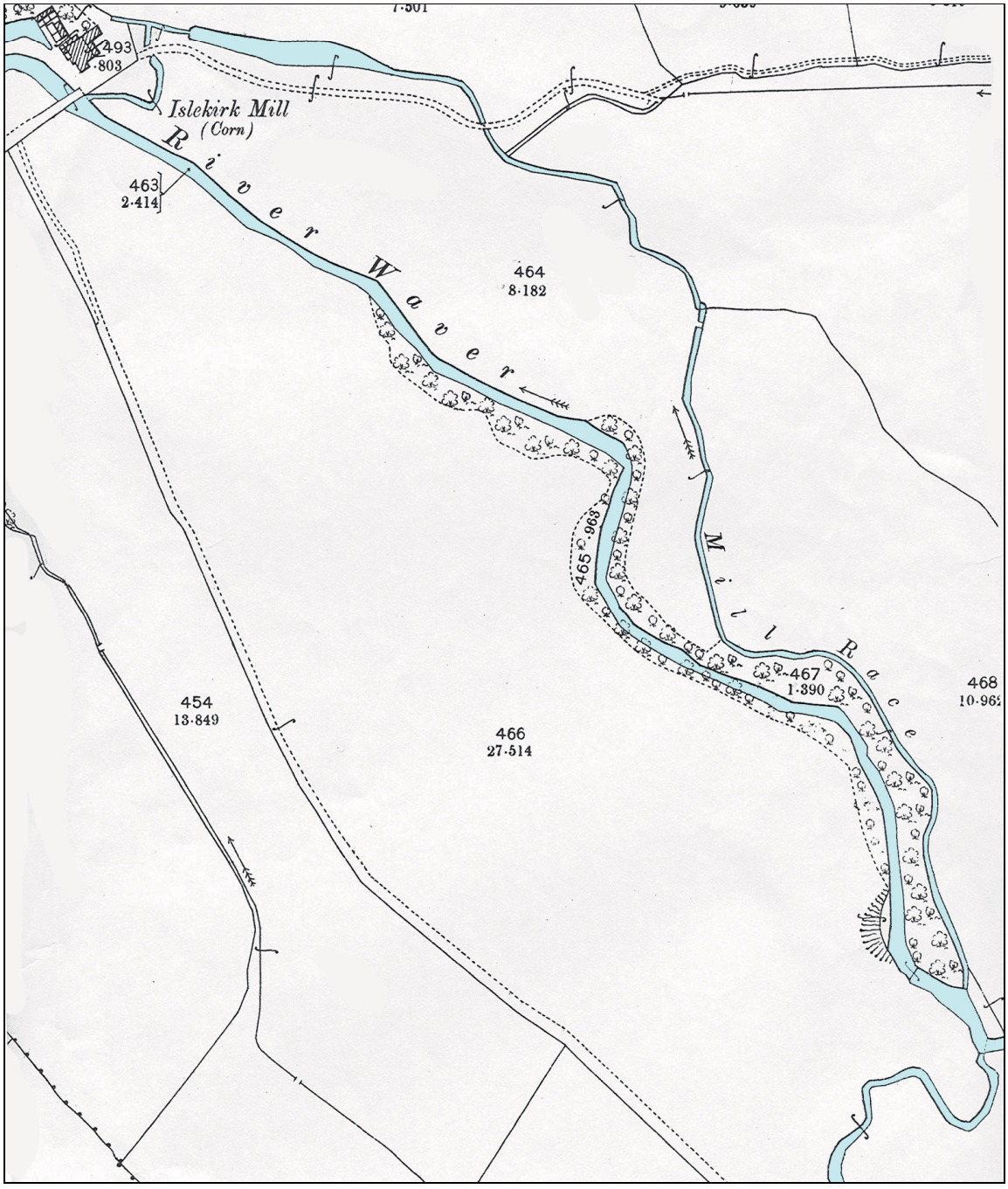

Figure 26 - Map showing the direction and location of the mill race (Taken from the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1900 (25" to 1 mile))

6.15.7 The evidence for the different construction phases between the main mill building and the gabled addition at the north-eastern side can be clearly seen from the north-west (plate 47 and figure 27). Here, the stonework of the addition can clearly be seen abutting the quoins of the larger section of the mill, as well as built onto part of the gable end. This addition to the main mill building is rectangular in plan but because the mill has been built into a steep bank, the ground level (which only consists of the base of the corn dryer) and the upper levels differ in length. Along the northern elevation of this building is a doorway which, due to the steep bank, would have originally given access to the upper floor, there is a window with stone surround, and a further window (now blocked) just above the course of ashlar which continues from the main mill building (plate 48). The gabled eastern elevation of this wing is featureless (plate 49).

Plate 47 – Northern elevation of mill showing construction break between the mail mill and the addition

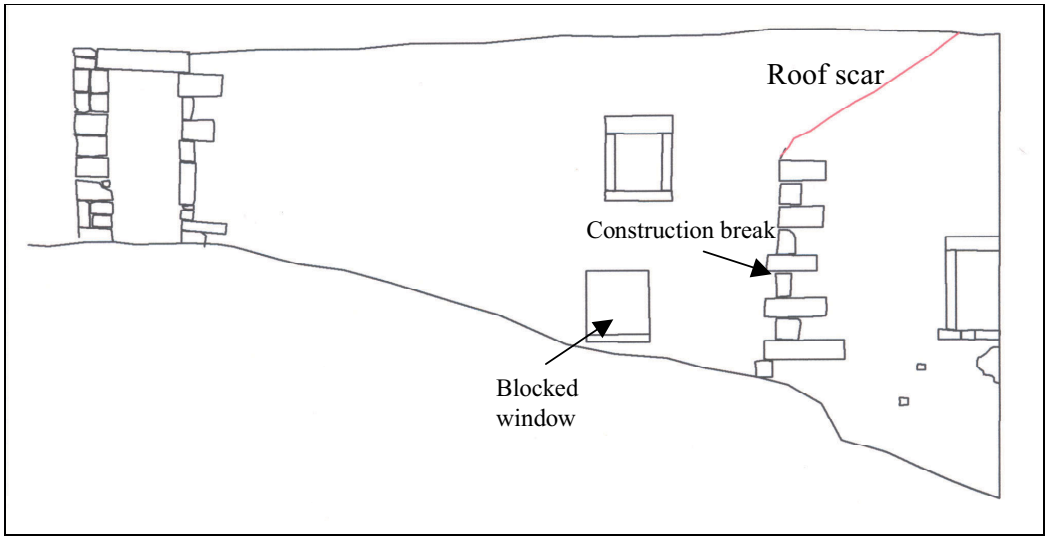

Figure 27-Northern elevation of rear wing

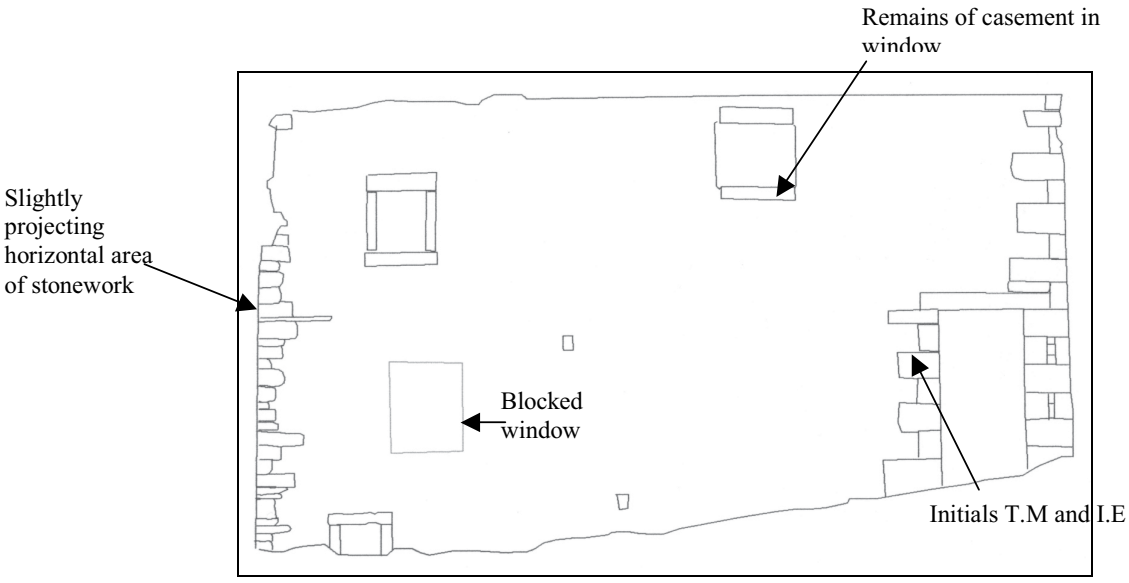

Figure 28-Southern elevation of the rear wing

Plate 48 – Northern elevation of rear wing showing doorway and window at the upper level, with a blocked window just visible to the bottom right of photograph

Plate 49 – Eastern elevation of rear wing showing how the building has been built into the bank

6.15.8 The south facing elevation of the rear wing has a variety of features (figure 28). At the base of the elevation, at the western end, there is a small window which provided light for the base of the corn dryer (plate 50). Just to the east, and slightly above this window, is a blocked window which still retains its sill but the jambs and lintel has now gone. To the eastern end of this elevation is a doorway with dressed blocks of sandstone making up the jambs and lintel, into one of these blocks are the initials 'TM' and 'IE', these will be referred to below.

6.15.9 At the upper level, there are two further windows; the western window has a stone surround and would have provided light for the upper level of the corn dryer. The eastern window has only a sandstone sill and lintel, the jambs being of timber, with some of the window frame still extant. At the western end of this elevation, just above the blocked window, there is a curious difference in the stonework, with a horizontal section of the wall projecting slightly further outwards to the wall below it (plate 51). It is difficult to ascertain as to whether this is due to part of an older structure being incorporated into the building, or whether it is due to the wall moving slightly, as it was observed at the time of survey how the wall was bowed outwards.

6.15.10 What is slightly curious about the addition of the rear wing is, firstly, the western gable end of this structure which was built onto the eastern wall of the main mill building (plate 50). The gable end is wider than the rear wing itself, leaving a fairly shallow pitch for the roof. And secondly, the blocked windows on the southern and northern elevations (plates 50 and 47), and the blocked doorway which was observed in the eastern interior wall of the main mill building (plate 54). It seems as though during construction it was realised that the windows and door were in the wrong positions in relation to the corn-dryer and were consequently blocked-up and inserted at a higher level.

Plate 50 – South facing elevation of rear wing (eastern side) of mill

Plate 51 – Western end of south facing elevation of rear wing showing window to corn dryer, blocked and upper windows and difference in stonework

6.16 Islekirk Mill – Interior
See figures 19 -21

6.16.1 The interior of the main mill building could be accessed via the doorways in the southern or western elevations. At ground level, the main body of the mill is divided into two sections (figure 19). The southern end contains a range with a nicely dressed sandstone surround, a blocked cupboard and scarring on the wall where shelving was once present (plate 52). There is a doorway in the partition wall, however, as it only measures *c.*0.50 metres wide, it is not the usual width for a standard doorway (which appear to measure around one metre), and therefore may not be an original feature.

6.16.2 The blocked external doorway, which was observed on the western elevation, still retains its timber lintel (plate 53). Within the partition wall is a square aperture with a wooden lining that measures *c.*30cm square. The northern end of the ground floor is where the machinery and gearing for grinding the corn would have been located. There were various features in the northern and eastern walls observed which presumably related to some of the machinery. Along the eastern wall is a doorway which provided access to the base of the corn dryer and several wooden lined apertures in the wall. At first floor level there is a blocked doorway, with a further doorway above which would have given access to the drying floor of the kiln (plate 54).

Plate 52 – Range and scarring for shelves, ground floor interior of mill

Plate 53 – Blocked doorway and window, western wall of main mill building

Plate 54 – Eastern wall of main mill building showing various features

6.16.3 Along the northern interior wall there is a section of wall which has been rebuilt in brick; the axle hole for the water-wheel would be located behind this section of wall, although its exact position was not discernible. The lower part of this wall projects slightly, this would have provided some support for the first floor. As there was no evidence for a staircase, it is likely that access to the first floor from within the mill interior would have been via ladder, as well as via the external doorway on the eastern wall of the main mill building. Holes within the walls at second floor level provide evidence for a further floor in the loft space (plate 57). Lying on the ground in this section of the mill were two French Burr millstones and various other fixtures, these will be referred to below.

Plate 55 – Northern interior wall of main mill building

Plate 56 – Southern gable end of the main mill building showing locations of two former floors

6.17 The Corn-Drying Kiln
See figure 19

6.17.1 Corn-drying kilns incorporated within the main mill building became usual during the 19th century, prior to that they were usually located away from the mill due to the risk of fire[40]. The Cumbrian climate made the drying of damp grain an important pre-milling operation, as wet grain would have clogged the milling surfaces and sieves[41]. Corn-drying kilns basically consisted of an inverted square hollow cone set within a two-storied building so that the top of the cone became the supporting base for the drying floor[42].

6.17.2 The corn-dryer at Islekirk Hall watermill is located on the eastern side of the main mill building, the base of the kiln, which consists of the furnace, can be accessed via a doorway in the eastern ground floor wall. The base of the kiln, which measures *c.*1.50 metres square, is situated in a room that measures *c.*3.60 metres square internally (figure 19). The kiln base is constructed of sandstone masonry, except for the brick-built front section which contains the stoke hole (plate 57). From this square base springs the brick half arches which would have carried the heat up to the drying floor above (plate 58). Around this base is an

[40] Davies-Shiel, M, 1978, Page 66
[41] Watts, M, 1998, Page 15
[42] Davies-Shiel, M, 1978, Page 66

access walkway. The stoke hole itself is set within a recess in the base, which has an arched head. The iron door for the kiln was still extant at the time of survey (plate 57). Charcoal would have been used to heat the kiln, meaning that there was no need for a chimney, therefore when the roof was still in place there would only have been a ventilation louvre on the ridge line.

6.17.3 The drying floor of the kiln could not be properly observed due to the precarious state of the gable walls between the main mill and the dividing gable wall within the rear wing. Through a crack in the eastern wall of the kiln it was, however, possible to observe the iron bars that made up the drying kiln floor on which slate or iron plates would have been laid, on top of which the grain would have been spread. One iron plate was observed within the mill interior, a photograph of which is included on the CD-Rom.

6.17.4 The corn-drying kiln at Islekirk Hall is comparable to that at Lessonhall Corn Mill which is located approximately 6.5 kilometres to the north-west, and was surveyed in 2002 and 2005[43]. The size and construction of the kiln, including the size of brick used, is the same at both sites, as is the orientation and location of the kiln in relation to the mill buildings.

Plate 57 – Base of corn-drying kiln as seen from the main mill building

[43] Wooler, F, 2005c

Plate 58 – Detail of the brick heat-spreading half arches of drying kiln

6.18 The Rear Wing Interior
See figures 19 – 21

6.18.1 The rear wing of the mill is divided internally by a transverse gabled wall. The western side of this wall is taken up be the corn-drying kiln, whilst the eastern side contained two rooms, one at ground level which would have been accessed through the doorway on the south facing elevation (plate 50) and an upper floor which would have been accessed through the doorway on the north facing elevation (plate 48). There is an internal doorway in the dividing gable at the upper level, which would have provided access from the upper eastern room to the kiln drying floor (figure 21).

6.19 The Millstones

6.19.1 Within the mill interior there were two French Burr millstones lying on the ground close to the entrance to the corn-dryer (plate 59). French Burr is a quartz-like stone that is found in the Paris basin, and it was regarded as being the best stone for wheat milling and white flour production[44]. As the stone was not found large enough to cut a single piece, segmental blocks were cut and stuck together with cement; these were held together with heated wrought-iron bands around the circumference[45].

Plate 59 – One of the two French Burr millstones at Islekirk Hall

6.19.2 A red sandstone millstone was located beside Building D of the farm buildings (plate 60).

[44] Watts, M, 1998, Page 20
[45] Davies-Shield, M, 1978, Page 87

Plate 60 – Masonry runner-stone

6.20 Fixtures and Fittings

6.20.1 There were several pieces of fixtures and fittings observed within the mill interior and these have been included on the CD-Rom. Of particular interest was a single iron plate which presumably was one of many that made up the kiln drying floor (plate 61).

Plate 61 – Iron plate from the mill interior (Scale measures 500mm)

6.21 Graffiti

See plates 62 – 64

6.21.1 Like the farm buildings, there were several sets of initials observed that had been carved into door jambs. Perhaps the clearest was the two sets on initials on one of the door jambs in the south facing elevation of the rear wing (plate 62).

Plate 62 – South facing elevation of the rear wing – initials 'TM' and 'IE'

Plate 63a and b – Doorjamb, western elevation, facing river – initials 'IE' and 'JP'

Plate 64 – Doorjamb, eastern elevation of mill – initials 'JP' and 'D'

6.22 Mill – Ancillary Buildings

6.22.1 Both the First and Second Edition Ordnance Survey maps of 1867 and 1900 (figures 1, 2 and 29) show several small structures to the north-west of the main mill building. These buildings and associated pens or yards have been totally obliterated by land-moving works, as have any sign of the pool into which the tail race flowed. These buildings may have housed a small amount of animals which were kept by the miller, for example, a couple of cows, pigs and poultry. They may then relate to periods when the miller was not also the farmer, such as in 1824 when John Barnfather was the farmer at Islekirk Hall, while John Matthews was the miller (See table in Appendix).

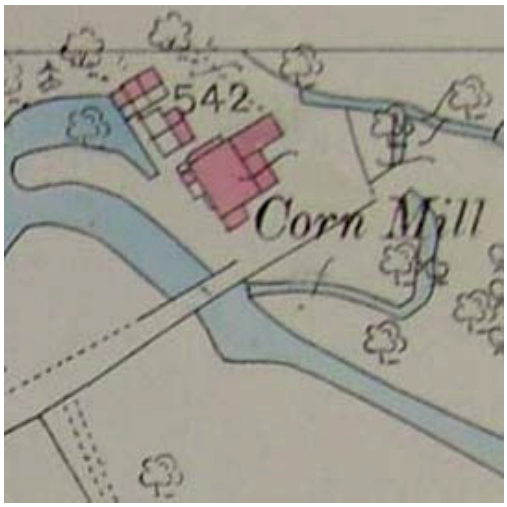

Figure 29 – First Edition OS map of 1867 showing buildings to the north-west of the mill

6.23 The Mill Bridges

See plates 65 and 66

6.23.1 As part of the brief issued by the County Historic Environment Service[46], the two bridges were the subject of a photographic survey. They have already been described in Peter Ryder's report, but to provide a comprehensive survey of the whole site, his observations are reproduced here: -

'The Packhorse Bridge – This has a simple segmental arch of around 7 metre span; from beneath it is very obvious that it has been built in two sections. The original bridge is c.2.70 metres wide, but it was later widened in an upstream direction by a further 1.2 metres. The soffits of both parts are in very similar stone, elongate blocks with a rough diagonal 'pecked' tooling being used, with rather larger blocks used in the abutments. Each face of the bridge has a ring of voussoirs within a slightly-projecting arch ring of thin slabs; no masonry survives above this, the top of the bridge being thoroughly grassed over, with no remains of any parapet, if one ever existed. The voussoirs on the downstream (west) side of the bridge, i.e. of the original part, have a simple 'pecked' tooling whereas those of the extension have their faces deliberately left rough, almost 'rock-faced' in the manner of those of the later Mill bridge'.

'The widened section of the bridge has now broken away from the original and is leaning in an alarming manner (the displacement at the apex of the arch is c.0.20 metres); the south abutment has been crudely buttressed in brick to counter this movement, but is in poor condition'.

'The original bridge has little in the way of dateable features; packhorse bridges of this type are often ascribed to the later 17th or 18th century, and that would seem a reasonable guess here. The OS map evidence indicated that the bridge was widened between 1867 and 1900 [See figures 1 and 2]*; the 'rock-faced' voussoirs are of typical Victorian character'.*

'The Mill Bridge – This has a segmental arch, with a keystone, springing from an impost band, with the voussoirs and the masonry in the spandrels of the arch having a rusticated and rock-faced finish. The abutments have retaining walls of battered section, of squared and coursed sandstone, the courses varying in height; the parapets have a heavy coping, chamfered on its upper angles, and end in large steeply-inclined ashlar blocks. The soffit of the arch and the faces of the abutments have masonry with a fairly rough tooling'.

6.23.2 Sam Bough's painting of 1849 (figure 7) shows both of the bridges, of particular interest is that the Mill Bridge, which looks typically Victorian, is shown as it exists today.

[46] Parsons, J, 2005

Plate 65 – View of the Packhorse Bridge looking west towards the farm buildings

Plate 66 – The Mill Bridge looking north, with the mill to the right of photograph

6.24 Islekirk Hall – The House
See plates 68 and 69

6.24.1 Although the house does not form part of the present survey, it is still an integral part of the farm complex and parts of the building are the earliest structures on the site. The house is Grade II* listed (listed in 1967) and is recorded on the County HER Ref No.22348: -

'House. Mid 16th century with late 17th century and 19th century alterations. Red sandstone rubble and dressed stone on chamfered plinth. Graduated greenslate roof with stone chimney stacks. Extension of coursed red sandstone rubble under Welsh slate roof with brick chimney stacks. Two storeys, seven bays, with lower two-bay extension to left. Two top-glazed panelled doors in 19th century painted stone surrounds. Sash windows, those on both floors in three left bays in painted architrave with cross-mullion removed; those to right in painted stone surrounds; two upper floor painted false windows. End wall to left has a three-light mullioned window with round-headed lights, partly blocked by the extension. Extension has plank door in alternate-block surround. Sash windows with glazing bars in painted stone surrounds. Rear wall of house was the original front. Two stones with diamond broaching suggest that these and other stones come from the Roman fort at Old Carlisle nearby. Tenanted by the Barwis family as early as 1529 and was granted to them in 1544, remaining in that family until 1708'.

Plate 67 – Islekirk Hall as seen from northern approach road

Plate 68 – Islekirk Hall as seen from the farm buildings, looking west

6.24.2 To the front of the house (northern side) are, what Ryder describes as *'two pavilions-cum-dovecotes'*[47] (plate 67). Originally, these structures had hipped roofs as shown in a poor-quality photograph of *c.*1928 (plate 70), however by 1985, these roofs has been replaced by the monopitch roofs seen today (plate 71).

[47] Ryder, P.F, 2002, Page 8

Plate 69 - Photograph of *c.*1928 showing house and dovecotes with original roofs (CRO Ref No. DX 483/3/9)

Plate 70 - Photograph of Islekirk Hall *c.*1985 (CRO Ref No. DX 483/3/9)

7 CONCLUSION

7.1 The site of Islekirk Hall has been well documented since at least the late 12th century, when Roger Goki, the recluse is believed to have inhabited the site. The site appears to have been continually occupied since that date, with the erection of the chapel of St Hilda in the early 13th century, the exact location of which is not known: the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (figure 1) shows it as being south of the River Waver, while the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map (figure 2) labels Islekirk Hall as being on the site of the chapel. After the Dissolution of the monasteries the site passed into the hands of Thomas Dalston and then to the Barwise family, who may be credited with the erection of the house that stands today.

7.2 The farm buildings that stand today are difficult to date, like many traditional farm buildings, as there does not appear to be any documentary evidence for a construction period. It is likely that there have been agricultural buildings on this site as long as there has been a house and a watermill, but the form that they took may have been more haphazard. An Agreement of 1742 mentions a 'Great Barn' and a 'Thatched Barn', which stood on the south side of the river, possibly where the Dutch barn stands today (See 5.12), however it is possible that the present buildings may relate to the enclosure of land in the Wigton area at the end of the 18th and early 19th centuries. Writing in 1845, John Watson mentions how his father, who lived and farmed at Bolton Park just to the south of Islekirk Hall, reclaimed and brought into profitable cultivation upwards of 2800 acres of land during the early part of the 19th century[48].

7.3 The Enclosure maps for Bolton's (1781 – Figure 6) and Westward (1822 – see Appendix) show that previously common or waste land was being taken into cultivation at the end of the 18th and beginning of the 19th centuries. This enclosure of land, along with other factors such as a decline in Border warfare, rising population levels particularly in places such as Carlisle and increased scientific knowledge, required farmers to be more efficient and many new farms were established or existing ones were remodelled[49]. It is therefore possible that the farm buildings that exist at Islekirk today may date to this period (apart from Building F which was constructed sometime between 1867 and 1900 – see figures 1 and 2).

7.4 There are documents at Carlisle Record Office relating to Islekirk Hall in the Aglionby family collection, however permission was required for the documents to be consulted for commercial purposes and no response was received to a request to view them. It is possible therefore that there is some indication within these records for a date of remodelling (CRO Ref D AY).

[48] Watson, J, 1845, Page 81
[49] Brunskill, R.W, 1999, Page 26

7.5 As with the farm buildings, it would appear that there has been a watermill on the site for centuries. In the year 1192 Roger Goki was fined for building a mill without permission (see 5.2 above), as Roger Goki is attributed to the Islekirk site it is possible that this mill was located where the remains of the more recent corn mill stands today. Like farm buildings it is likely that the watermill has undergone several periods of rebuilding or remodelling. Documents refer to a *'newly erected watermill'* in 1746 (see 5.13 above), and Peter Ryder believes that it is from this date that the standing mill buildings belong[50]. In the absence of documentary evidence it is, however, possible to suggest that the mill was rebuilt again perhaps some 50 years later. Prior to the 19th century, it was common practice to have the drying kiln separate from the mill building partly due to the risk of fire to the mill itself [51].

7.6 From the 19th century, corn-drying kilns were incorporated within the mill buildings themselves, at Lessonhall the watermill appears to have been completely rebuilt in 1834 when, what appeared to be an external corn-dryer, was replaced by an internal structure, perhaps due to the risk of fire from a south-westerly wind[52]. Davies-Shiel notes that many manorial or large corn mills were rebuilt during the early 19th century, shortly after the main period of field enclosures were completed[53], therefore the watermill may have been rebuilt at a similar time as the farm buildings (late 18th or early 19th century). A further hint at an early 19th century date of construction may be the pitch of the roofs. Davies-Shiel notes that mill buildings of the late 18th century tended to be between 25-30º, whereas roofs of the early 19th century tended to be around 40º pitch, this was related to the types of roofing materials used[54]. The gable ends at Islekirk Hall watermill can be estimated to be around 35º.

7.7 The mill appears to have ceased to function around the start of the 1900s. Trade directory entries from 1900 onwards make no mention of a mill or miller at Islekirk Hall (see Appendix).

[50] Ryder, P.F, 2002, Page 10
[51] Davies-Shiel, M, 1978, Page 66
[52] Wooler, F, 2005c, Page 14
[53] Davies-Shiel, M, 1978, Page 60
[54] *Ibid,* Page 42

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9 APPENDIX

CRO = Carlisle Record Office

TRADE DIRECTORIES AND HISTORIES

A History, Gazetteer and Directory of Cumberland, Westmorland and Lancashire – Parson and White 1829

Westward parish
'Isle Kirk Hall, now a farm-house, stands about one mile west of the church, and is so called from its being the site of an hermitage or religious house, which was dedicated to St Hilda, and granted by King John to the abbey of Holme Cultram. The estate, which comprises a farm and a corn-mill, was granted after the dissolution by Henry VIII to Thomas Dalston, who sold it to Anthony Barwise, so that it was afterwards the property and seat of the Great Richard Barwise, of gigantic stature, who, it is said used to display his amazing strength by walking about the hall-yard, holding, with outstretched arms, his wife seated in a chair in one hand, and a stone of prodigious size in the other. Tradition also says, he once performed this Herculean task at Carlisle where he majestically walked along Eden Bridge, with his fair spouse, seated in his hand, and elevated over the battlements. Barwise's stone is still to be seen at Islekirk, but though it is asserted that he could throw it with ease the length of the court-yard, there are but few men in this degenerate age, who can raise it from the ground'.

'Stoneraise, a division containing the parish church and the hamlets of Church Hill, Red Dial and Isle Kirk, with some dispersed dwellings, and the Roman station called Old Carlisle'.

Thomas Idle, corn mill, Isle Kirk
John Gunson, farmer, Isle Kirk hall [not listed as a yeoman]

Mannix and Whellan 1847 Cumberland Directory

'This division [Stoneraise]*, though having no village of its own name, is the largest and most fertile in the parish, comprising 3484 acres of rich freehold land, rated at £4412 15s; a great part of which belongs to resident yeomen. The principal landowners of the township are general Wyndham, Miss Matthews, Robert Jefferson, Joshua Rigg M D, John Stead, Sir Henry Fletcher, Bart., F L B Dykes Esq, and Mr John Barns. At the Red Dial Inn, 1½ miles south of Wigton, are held the manor courts; and here the magistrates meet monthly for the appointment of surveyors of highways, overseers of the poor, the granting of licences to publicans and the transaction of other business connected with the ward. Fairs are held at Red Dial hamlet annually, on the 1st of August, for sheep and wool and wool; and on the 21st of September for sheep only'.*

'Islekirk Hall – now a farm house in a deep valley, near a small rivulet, about one mile west of the church and three miles south of Wigton, is also in this division [Stoneraise] *and is said to be a corruption of St Hilda's Kirk from an hermitage or*

religious house, which stood here dedicated to that saint; but how it was endowed, or by whom founded, there is no evidence to show. That it existed, and was of some importance, in the 12th century, appears from its being granted by King John to the abbey of Holme Cultram, and from the veneration 'paid to it by the monks in founding there a chapel or oratory, which in course of time obtained parochial rights, though surrounded by a forest, which, in its original nature, was extra parochial'. After the dissolution of the religious houses, the lands and tenements here, which belonged to Abbey Holme, were granted by Henry VIII to Thomas Dalston'.

Mentions that Richard Barwise died on February 13th 1648 at the age of 47.

No mention of Isle Kirk Hall, there is a Francis Richardson listed as being a farmer and corn miller at 'Intack hall', which may actually be Islekirk Hall [see 1861 directory]
Henry Wood is listed as farmer at Intack

History and Topography of Cumberland and Westmorland – W Whellan 1860

Westward parish:
'The parish of Westward is bounded on the north by Thursby, on the west of Wigton, on the south by Bolton and Caldbeck, and on the east by Sebergham and Dalston. The soil, which is in a high state of cultivation, consists chiefly of a strong fertile clay, with a portion of sand, and produces excellent crops of wheat, oats, etc, except towards the south and south-east parts, where it is rather cold and wet. The higher grounds abound with limestone; and the Shawk and How Rigg quarries have long been noted for the production of red and white freestone [sandstone]*, slate, flags, etc, esteemed the best in Cumberland. In the parish are also several seams of cannel and other coal. Westward contains the townships of Stoneraise, Woodside, Rosley and Brocklebank, whose united area is 13,120 acres. Wigton is the market usually attended'.*
'About the latter end of the seventeenth century, the last of the Barwis family left two daughters, co-heiresses, the elder of whom married Major Featherstonehaugh, and died without issue; the younger married Mr Kirkby of a Lancashire family, and sold Ilekirk to Lancelot Emerson, from whom or from his daughter, it came to the Postlethwaites and Sleet families, and from them by purchase to Joshua Lucock, Esq., of Cockermouth; and is now the property of Charles Featherstonehaugh, Esq'.
'Ilekirk Hall, now a farmhouse, is situated in a deep valley near a small stream, about a mile west of the church'.

Directory and Gazetteer of Cumberland 1861

Francis Richardson, miller and farmer, Isle Kirk hall

Slater's Directory of Cumberland, Durham, Northumberland and Westmorland 1884

Andrew Holliday, miller and farmer, Islekirk hall

Kelly's Directory of Cumberland and Westmorland 1897

Benjamin Cornthwaite, farmer, Isle Kirk hall, Stoneraise
John Little, farmer, Intake, Stoneraise
Andrew J Porteous, miller, Cowlaw, Stoneraise
[No mention of mill or miller at Isle Kirk – possibly miller listed at Cowlaw could be the Islekirk mill?]

History, Topography and Directory of Cumberland – T Bulmer & Co 1901

'The name of Ilekirk, a contraction of Hilda's Kirk, indicates the spot where Roger, the recluse, shut himself out from the world and its gaieties and sought retirement in the midst of the forest. Beyond the name, we know nothing of the hermit, he time he lived, nor by whom the little cell was endowed'.

Mrs Alice Elizabeth Cornthwaite, farmer, Islekirk hall

No mention of the mill in this directory

Kelly's' Directory of Cumberland 1910

Thomas Cornthwaite, farmer, Isle Kirk hall, Stoneraise

[No millers listed]

Kelly's' Directory of Cumberland and Westmorland 1914

Thomas Cornthwaite, farmer, Isle Kirk hall, Stoneraise

No mill or miller listed at Isle Kirk or Intack

Kelly's Directory of Cumberland and Westmorland 1929

Thomas Cornthwaite, farmer, Islekirk hall, Stoneraise
[Not listed as a farm over 150 acres and no mention of a mill or miller]

Kelly's' Directory of Cumberland and Westmorland 1934

Wm Cornthwaite, farmer, Isle Kirk hall, Stoneraise
[Not listed as a farm over 150 acres and no mention of a mill or miller]

Kelly's' Directory of Cumberland and Westmorland 1938

Westward parish:
'Isle kirk Hall, about 1 mile west of the church, and now a farmhouse known as Islekirk, was once the hermitage or religious house, dedicated to St Hilda, and granted by King John to the abbey of Holme Cultrum. Here are excellent quarries of

red sandstone and slate; the higher grounds abound with limestone. Several seams of coal exist and there are traces of iron ore'.
'The soil, which is in a high state of cultivation consists chiefly of a strong fertile clay, with a portion of sand in Woodside quarter, and produces excellent crops of wheat , oats etc. The subsoil is clay'.

Wm Cornthwaite, farmer, Isle-kirk [Islekirk not listed as farm over 150 acres]
Jsph Little, farmer, Intack

MAPS

Hodgkinson and Donald map of 1774:
Shows house and mill with the name Lucock Esq (Figure 5)

Bolton's Enclosure map of 1781:
Islekirk is shown as a house and mill, in representative form only, and does not show the plan of the house or farm buildings. This does indicate however, that there was a mill at the site in 1781.

Westward Enclosure map of 1822 (CRO ref QRE/1/107):
Islekirk Hall is just off this map and there is no Tithe map of Westward parish

Bolton's – Highside and Lowside Tithe maps (CRO ref DRC 8/19 & 20):
Islekirk is just off the Highside map.

PUBLICATIONS

A Perambulation of Cumberland 1687 – 1688, Thomas Denton, The Publications of the Surtees Society Volume 207 and The Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society Record Series Volume XVI, 2003

Westward parish
'Stonerayes is the last quarter which lyes more westwardly upon the River Wysa, beginning at Highmoor and so on to Loanthwaite, Reddyall [Red Dial?]*, the Myre (where Sir Joseph Williamson was born), Stone-rayes, where one Thomas Grainger hath an estate in that parish worth 80li a year. Then this quarter runs up Wysa by the church of Westward and to High-hall, a farm of the duke's and a miln belonging to it, worth 40li a year. And from thence down Crummock beck to Hildkirk, the seat of Richard Barwis Esqr* [Richard Barwise (1644-1699) was the last in the male line of the Barwis family to own Islekirk]*, which was formerly a cell belonging to Holm Cultram Abbey, worth 80li a year, where there is a miln* [mill] *worth 8l a yeare. Then this quarter takes in the circumference of Harethwaite Common, where there is a famous horse course, as also upon Woodcock-hill in Woodside quarter. Thomas Reed hath customary lands on the northside of Hairthwaite and elsewhere in this parish worth 80li a year'.*
'It is observable that there is not an house in all this parish but the foredoor lyes open to some of the common. In this parish are 100 messuages; 50 tofts; 2 milns; 50 gardens; 1000 acres of land; 1000 acres of meadow; 500 acres of pasture and 1000 acres of wood. Inhabitants: 610'.

Old Manorial Halls of Cumberland and Westmorland – M W Taylor, 1892

No mention of Islekirk Hall

Registers and Records of Holm Cultram – F Grainger and W G Collingwood, 1929, Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society Record Series Vol.VII

Page 76
'*King John grants to Holm-Cultram the hermitage of St Hylda in his forest of Englewode with the clearing which Roger Goki, late hermit, held there. They may cultivate it or hold it in pasture as they please. He agrees to their having a vaccary there for 40 cows, with pasture in the forest and with calves up to two years old, and as many horses and oxen as are needed for the cultivation of the land. They are to be quit of escape and reception of foresters except at their own free will. Roger Goki was in 1192 fined 10s for 'waste' by making a mill where he ought not to have made it. He paid 17d and was forgiven the rest by the king's brief'.* (1215)

Page 133
'Adam de Kendal 1215-23; of whom the legend is told, in Fordun's Scotichronicon, that he spent the money of the abbey in bribes to get himself elected bishop of Carlisle, and being deposed, with his cellarer, on this charge by the Superior-general of the Order of Citeaux, he resided at Islekirk, formerly the hermitage of Roger Goki but in 1215 acquired by Holm abbey'.

The Buildings of England – Cumberland and Westmorland, Nikolaus Pevsner, 2002, Yale University Press

In Wigton section, Pevsner includes a brief note on Islekirk:
'Islekirk Hall, 2½ miles south of Wigton. The house has some mullioned windows with arched lights'.

The Medieval Fortified Buildings of Cumbria – J Robinson and D Perriam, 1988, Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society Extra Series 33

Islekirk Hall – Allerdale
'Supposed tower and 16th century hall, formerly the site of a monastic grange'.

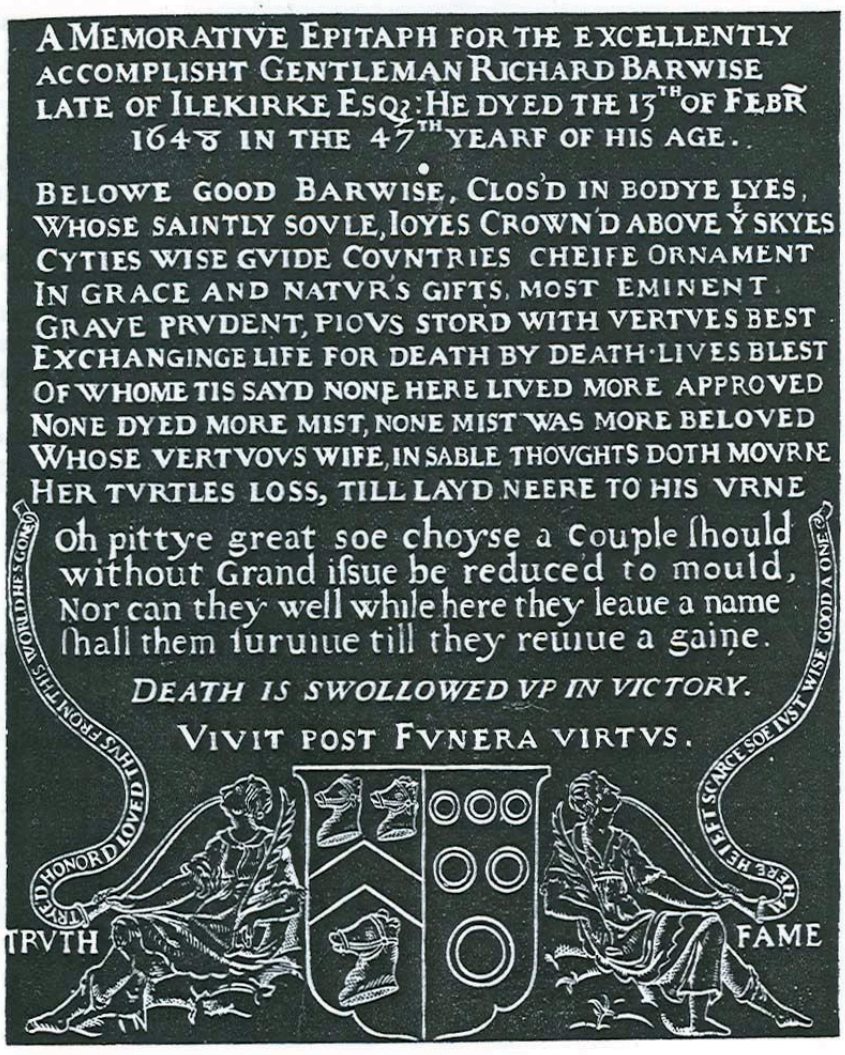
CWAAS, Second Series, li, 136: -
'The Rev Swift on 'Barwis of Cumberland', quotes an unpublished ballad about Great Richard Barwis 'Islekirk alone, that luckless raid was sav'd, The stalwart Barwise, Scotsman seldom brav'd, The prowess of that chief preserved his halls, All fear'd its power and shuned the hero's walls…At festive meetings, held at Islekirk's tower, When bands muster'd for the social hour…'.

(CWAAS = Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society Transactions)

Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society

First Series, Volume X, 1889
'Field name survivals in Dalston', page 259
'We are informed that King John granted the hermitage of St Hilda, situated at Ilekirk in the parish of Westward, to the monastery of Holm Cultram, and that the monks of that house erected a chapel in the neighbourhood of the hermitage which chapel in process of time, obtained the rights and privileges of a parish church. This was probably the original parish church of Westward'.

First Series, Volume XIII, 1894-95
'Brasses in the Diocese of Carlisle'
Describes and reproduces the brass which is on the west wall of Westward Church dedicated to Richard Barwise: -



Second Series, Volume L, 1950
'Barwis of Cumberland – Part I' Rev F B Swift
'Richard Barwys of Ilekirk V, born 1467, died about 1544. The son of Richard Barwys IV, he was the first of the family to settle at Ilekirk (Hildkirk) Grange, then in the manor of Holme Cultram and formerly the hermitage of St Hilda belonging to the monastery of that name. A rental of the manor made some time between 1520 and 1535 shows that Richard Barwys was settled at Ilekirk before the dissolution of the monastery in 1538, for it gives one of the pledges of the tenancy of Stephen Barwis of New Cowper as 'Ric Barwysse de Hyldkyrke'. The Cockermouth Castle records mention him as 'of Hildkirk' as early as 1529. At this time there were five farms at Ilekirk, all copyhold, and a rental and survey made at the time of the dissolution gives them as being in the occupation of: -
Richard Barwise, yearly rent £6. 1s. 4d
John Barwise, yearly rent £6. 16s.0d
Adam Askew, yearly rent £6. 6s. 8d
Richard Millar, yearly rent £6. 4s. 0d
John Plumber, yearly rent £6. 3s. 4d
That of course, occupied by Richard Barwys was Ilekirk Grande, later called Hall.

Anthony Barwis of Ilekirk I, died about 1578. From the family history point of view the most noteworthy event in Anthony's life took place in 1544. In the previous year Henry VIII granted to Thomas Dalston all the land etc in Hildkyrk comprising the messuages and tenements in the tenure of Richard Barwise and others which formerly belonged to the monastery of Holme Cultram. On 20th May 1544 the king granted a licence to Thomas Dalston to convey the capital messuage of Hildkyrk Grange with four messuages and tenements in the tenure of John Barwis and others to Anthony Barwys. Richard Barwis V had been a tenant of Ilekirk on a copyhold basis, Anthony now becomes the owner holding it directly of the king. The grange was to remain in the possession of the family until the end of the seventeenth century'.

Second Series, Volume LI, 1951
'Barwis of Cumberland – Part II' Rev F B Swift

A Narrative of the Siege of Carlisle in 1644 and 1645 – Isaac Tullie, First published by Samuel Jefferson of Carlisle in 1840, Republished in facsimile by Michael Moon's Bookshop, Whitehaven in 1988

Page 1
'John Barwise, and his sonne, Michael Studholme, etc, who shortly after prevailed with Richard Barwise, a Burgess in Parliament for Carlisle, to solicit David Leslie to draw his hors into Cumberland, to subdue the Gentrie and to set beggars on hors-back; this he effected in 1644. Leslie marched with about 800 hors as farr as Salkeld without opposition; but when he came to passe the ford of Eden, which was not very shallow, he found the other side manned with regiments of hors and foot, which the Gentrie of Cumberland and Westmorland had raised to oppose him; which so appalled him, yet he refused to march on, and fell arailing at Barwise, who had perswaded him yet he should meet with no enemies'.

Evening News and Star 30th July 1982 (Microfilm at Carlisle Library)

'The Daring Deeds of Mighty Great Richard' by Frank Carruthers

An article on Richard Barwise (born in 1601) and the folklore surrounding his 'prodigious size and fabled feats of strength'. Mentions that Richard Barwise inherited the estate at Islekirk (which had been founded by his great-grandfather) when he was fifteen, and later married Frances Musgrave of Hayton Castle. He is noted as having been Mayor of Carlisle three times, a Member of Parliament for Carlisle for over 20 years, and Sheriff of Cumberland.
The article also mentions a painting which used to be housed at Dovenby Hall, preserved by the Dykes family, of Barwise carrying his wife across the Eden bridges at Carlisle.
Two large carved stone balls, presumably from the courtyard gates, are fabled as having been used as bowling balls by Richard.

CENSUS RETURNS

1881 – Westward, Islekirk Hall (1 house)
[Where there is a ? indicates that the writing was either illegible or the entry has been written over]

Name	Position in family	Marital status	Age	Occupation	Where born
Andrew Holliday	Head		?	Joint farmers of 288A? Employing local methodist preachers	Sebergham
John Holliday	Son	Married	29	As above	Addingham
Barbara Holliday	Sons wife	Married	31	Farmers wife	Cumrew
Eleanor Holliday	Daughter?		23	Farmers daughter (Andrews?)	Addingham
Thomas Holliday	Grandson		4	Farmers son	Westward
? Holliday	Grandson		3	Farmers son	Westward
John Thorburn	Servant		31	Farm servant	Sebergham
John Scott	Servant		18?	Farm servant	Hesket
Isaac Egglestone	Servant		17?	Farm servant	Upperby
David Johnston	Servant		17	Farm servant	Scotland
Francis McCoo?	Servant		?	Farm servant	Ireland
Mary Reed	Servant		19	Farm servant	Westward

1891 – Westward, Islekirk Hall (1 house)

Name	Position in family	Marital status	Age	Occupation	Where born
Robert Gordon	Head	Married	54	Servant	Scotland
Sarah Gordon	Wife	Married	50		"
Walter Gordon	Son		22		"
James Gordon	Son		15		Cumberland (St Cuthbert's)
Robert Gordon	Son		8		Scotland
John Irving	Boarder		18		Castle Sowerby
William Lambie?	Boarder		26	Shepherd	Scotland
Cowslaw					
Andrew J Porteus	Head		38	Corn miller	Scotland
Agnes Porteus	Wife		39		Scotland
Mary Porteus	Daughter		15		Ireby
Maggie Porteus	Daughter		5		Westward

1901 – Westward, Islekirk Hall

Name	Position in family	Marital status	Age	Occupation	Where born
Alice Cornthwaite	Head	Widowed	51	Farmer	Undermill? Westmorland
Mary Cornthwaite	Daughter	Single	30		Old Hutton
Frances Alice Cornthwaite	Daughter	Single	25		Preston
Jane Cornthwaite	Daughter	S	18		Preston
Beatrice Cornthwaite	Daughter	S	13		Killington
Thomas Cornthwaite	Son	S	28	Worker	Killington
John Fleming? Cornthwaite	Son	S	23	Worker	Kinnington
Isabell Cornthwaite	Daughter	S	7		Westward
Thomas Hayton	Servant		28	Houseman on farm	Embleton
Robert Harkness?	Servant		18	"	Fletchertown
William Yeomans?	Servant		20	Cattle man	Wigton
William Henry Cornthwaite	Son		15		Westmorland

Westward Parish – Bishop's Transcripts 1664 – 1837 compiled by H J Shrewsbury 1989 – List of all entries that mention Islekirk (CRO

	Year	Date	Person
Burial	1669	1st April	Mrs Francis Barwis of Isle-kirk
Burial	1699	6th Oct	Mr Richard Barwis of Ilekirke
Burial	1758	23rd Sept	Joseph Wood of Henry of Isle kirk
Christening	1759	25th Aug	Joseph Hutherd of Richard of Islekirk
Christening	1770	25th Jan	Jane Hewit d. Provest of Ilekirk, mason
Marriage	1778	12th Nov	William McKnight, widower of Islekirk in Westward 33 years old and Jane Pearson, singlewoman, of this parish, 30yrs
Christening	1779	10th June	William McKnight son of William, miller of Islekirk and Jane hw, born 15th Jan
Christening	1780	17th May	Francis McKnight son of William, miller and Jane, hw of Ilekirk, born 23rd April
Christening	1780	14th Dec	Joseph Faulder son of Richard, labourer and Ann hw of Ilekirk, born 15th Oct
Christening	1781	8th Nov	John McKnight son of William, miller and Jane hw of Ilekirk, born 5 Sept
Christening	1784	7th Jan	Joseph McKnight son of William, miller and Jane hw of Ilekirk, born 14th Dec [dies in 1787 see below]
Christening	1785	25th Oct	Elizabeth McNight dau. of William, miller and Jane hw of Kelkirk, born 9th Oct
Burial	1787	17th Jul	Joseph McNight son of William and Jane of Ilekirk age 3yrs
Christening	1787	27th Oct	Mary McNight dau. of William of Ilekirk, miller and Jane hw (late Pearson)
Baptism	1791	2nd Sept	Sarah McKnight dau. of William of Ilekirk, miller and Jane hw (late Pearson) born the same day
Baptism	1793	9th Jan	Jane McNaught [should be McKnight?] dau. of William, miller of Ilekirk and Jane hw (Pearson) born 27th April
Burial	1801	27th Jan	Elizabeth Pearson of Ilekirk, widow age 75
Burial	1804	18th Sept	William McKnight of Ilekirk, farmer and householder age 73 yrs
Baptism	1809	15th Oct	William McKnight son of Francis, farmer of Islekirk and Jane (Tiffin) hw, born 19th Sept
Burial	1817	6th Dec	John Brown of Isle-kirk, late of Dalston, from Man age 74 yrs
Burial	1818	7th Jan	Ann Henderson of Islekirk age 77
Burial	1818	20th Feb	Joseph Egglestone of Islekirk, a poor man age 73
Burial	1818	15th Mar	John Millar of Islekirk, a poor boy age 1
Baptism	1822	13th Oct	Ann Matthews dau of John & Ann of Ile-kirk, hbman
Baptism	1824	25th Apr	Mary Ann dau. of John & Ann Barnfather of

			Islekirk, hbman
Baptism	1824	19th Jul	James Matthews son of John & Elizabeth of Islekirk, miller
Baptism	1826	27th Aug	Jane Blackburn d. of William & Mary of Islekirk, hbman
Baptism	1827	25th May	Jane Gunson dau. of John & Sarah of Islekirk, farmer
Baptism	1829	27th Sept	John Gunson son of John & Sarah of Islekirk, farmer
Baptism	1830	8th Aug	Deborah Harrison dau. of Thomas & Jane of Islekirk, hbman
Baptism	1833	5th May	Martha Benson dau. of Thomas & Ann of Islekirk, miller
Baptism	1835	29th Mar	Thomas son of Thomas and Ann Benson, Islekirk, miller
Baptism	1836	26th June	Margaret dau of John and Ann Matthews, Islekirk Mill, miller

List of occupants of the farm and the mill at Islekirk Hall, where the occupations of 'farmer' or 'miller' is mentioned. Information derived from parish records, census returns and directory evidence.

Date	Farm	Mill
1779		William McKnight
1781		William McKnight
1793		William McKnight
1804	William McKnight	
1809	Francis McKnight	
1817	John Brown	
1818	Ann Henderson Joseph Egglestone John Millar	
1822	John Matthews	
1824	John Barnfather	John Matthews
1826	William Blackburn	
1827	John Gunson	
1829	John Gunson	Thomas Idle
1830	Thomas Harrison	
1833		Thomas Benson
1835		Thomas Benson
1836		John Matthews
1847	Francis Richardson	Francis Richardson
1861	Francis Richardson	Francis Richardson
1881	Andrew Holliday	
1884	Andrew Holliday	Andrew Holliday
1891	Robert Gordon	Andrew J Porteous (miller at Cowslaw)
1897	Benjamin Cornthwaite	Andrew J Porteous (miller at Cowslaw)? Actually Islekirk?
1901	Mrs Alice Elizabeth Cornthwaite	
1910	Thomas Cornthwaite	
1914	Thomas Cornthwaite	
1929	Thomas Cornthwaite	
1934	William Cornthwaite	
1938	William Cornthwaite	

10 APPENDIX 2 WATCHING BRIEF

In total two trenches were excavated, Trench 1 was located running through the courtyard of Islekirk Hall and through the central barn range and Trench 2 was located next to the former corn mill.

Trench 1

Trench 1 was approximately 110m long, 0.90m deep on average and was orientated east-west. The eastern end of the trench was located approximately 12m to the north of the River Waver. The start point for this trench connected to an existing water pipe. This area of ground was heavily disturbed in 1993 when a farm building to the north was erected. The trench was positioned to limit disturbance and reutilised several pre-existing utilities trenches. In total the trench was excavated in two different phases using two different bucket sizes. Phase 1 consisted of the trench being excavated to a depth of 0.90m by 0.60m wide up to the gateposts, which mark the entrance to the main courtyard area, a distance of approximately 33m. Most of the ground in this area is made ground consisting of loose sandy silt mixed with building/demolition rubble. In phase 2 the trench was 0.90m wide and 0.90m deep and was located inside the yard of the Hall, where again, most of the ground was made ground. A layer of medium sized stones were removed from the surface of the courtyard, these were laid on a thin layer of sand, which was only visible in some sections, this sat on top of a silty clay mix. No significant archaeological remains were observed in the trench.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was approximately 57m in length and 1.30m wide, and was orientated in a north-west, south-east direction. The north-west end of the trench runs 7m down a steep incline of a bank, before levelling out onto a flat area of ground directly in front of the main mill building. The topsoil overlaid a layer of pinkish brown clay which contained frequent medium sized stone inclusions. This flat area of land, at the bottom of the bank consisted of a loose sandy topsoil, which overlay a layer of compacted sand mixed with building/demolition rubble, which is believed to have been deposited by the previous landowner.

Approximately 2m from the south-east corner of the trench rubble spread was uncovered. It comprised of a 2m wide compacted but brittle layer of mortar, small sharp stones and several medium sized red sandstone fragments. This was investigated by manual cleaning, followed by a photographic record. Several sherds of late 20th century ceramics were recovered from the feature, indicating that this layer of rubble is modern. Due to the limit of excavation being only 1m deep, the natural soil horizon was not seen. No significant archaeological remains were observed in the trench.

The watching brief revealed that there is no clear evidence of any archaeological features within Trenches 1 and 2. The ground around Islekirk Hall and the former corn mill appears to be post medieval made ground, at least to a depth of 1m, therefore any archaeological remains, remain either undisturbed or have been truncated by later activities.