# HIGH AKETON FARM, FLETCHERTOWN, WIGTON, CUMBRIA



Building Recording Project CP. No: 1168/10

DATE: 26/04/2010

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#### Quality Assurance

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

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# **CONTENTS**

CIIM	MARY	Q
ACK	KNOWLEDGEMENTS	10
1 IN	TRODUCTION	11
1.1	Circumstances of the Project	11
2 ME	ETHODOLOGY	12
2.1	Introduction	12
2.2	Rapid Desk-Based Assessment	
2.3	Building Survey	
2.4		
3 BA	CKGROUND	14
3.1	Site Location	
3.2	Historical Background	
4 BU	ILDING SURVEY RESULTS	
4.1	Introduction	
4.2	Exterior	
4.3	Interior	39
4.4	The Barn	44
4.5	The Farmhouse	45
4.6	Building A	45
4.7	Building B	46
4.8	Building C	46
5 CO	ONCLUSION	57
6 BIE	BLIOGRAPHY	59
6.1	Maps	
6.2	Publications	
		61

## **ILLUSTRATIONS**

## FIGURES (APPENDIX)

FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION

FIGURE 2: SITE PLAN

FIGURE 3: EXTRACT FROM HODSKINSON AND DONALD'S MAP OF CUMBERLAND 1774

FIGURE 4: EXTRACT FROM GREENWOOD'S MAP OF CUMBERLAND 1823

FIGURE 5: UNDATED (EARLY 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY) MAP OF CROOKDAKE ESTATE

FIGURE 6: FIRST EDITION ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP, SURVEYED 1863-65 (6" TO 1 MILE SCALE)

FIGURE 7: FIRST EDITION ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP 1863 (25" TO 1 MILE SCALE)

FIGURE 8: SECOND EDITION ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP 1900 (25" TO 1 MILE SCALE)

FIGURE 9: 1906 MAP OF CROOKDAKE MANOR

FIGURE 10: MAP OF SOLD ESTATES C1921

FIGURE 11: THIRD EDITION ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP 1925 (25" TO 1 MILE SCALE)

FIGURE 12: ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP 1972 (1:2500 SCALE)

FIGURE 13: ELEVATIONS

FIGURE 14: GROUND FLOOR PLAN

## **PLATES**

PLATE 1: ENGRAVING OF THE CROSS HEAD AT HIGH AKETON FARM (CALVERLEY 1893)2
Plate 2: Photograph of the cross head in-situ at High Aketon Farm, c.1893 (Calverle 1899)
PLATE 3: VIEW LOOKING NORTH-WEST SHOWING THE EAST ELEVATION (SCALE = 2M)
PLATE 4: DETAIL OF THE VERTICAL CONSTRUCTION BREAK IN THE EAST ELEVATION SHOWING TH WELL DRESSED QUOINS OF THE ADDITION TO THE SOUTH (SCALE = 2M)
PLATE 5: DETAIL OF THE ALTERNATING QUOINS CONSISTING OF WELL-DRESSED MASONRY BLOCK OF SANDSTONE AT THE CORNER OF THE EAST AND SOUTH ELEVATIONS
PLATE 6: DETAIL OF THE QUOINS AT THE CORNER OF THE EAST AND NORTH ELEVATIONS
PLATE 7: EAST ELEVATION SHOWING THE TWO INSERTED DOORWAYS (SCALE = 2M)
PLATE 8: DETAIL OF VERTICAL BREAK IN THE MASONRY OF THE EAST ELEVATION TO THE NORTH O THE INSERTED DOORWAY (SCALE = 2M)
<b>PLATE 9:</b> DETAIL OF THE $10^{\text{th}}$ OR $11^{\text{th}}$ CENTURY CROSS HEAD BUILT INTO THE EAST ELEVATION $3$
PLATE 10: VIEW LOOKING SOUTH SHOWING THE EAST ELEVATION
PLATE 11: DETAIL OF TWO CAST IRON DECORATIVE 'AIR BRICKS'
PLATE 12: VIEW LOOKING SOUTH SHOWING THE NORTH GABLE, WITH THE BARN TO THE RIGHT O PHOTOGRAPH (SCALE = 2m)
PLATE 13: DETAIL OF THE FIRST FLOOR DOORWAY IN THE NORTH ELEVATION
PLATE 14: VIEW LOOKING SOUTH-EAST SHOWING THE NORTH GABLE AND THE WEST ELEVATION (SCALE = 2M)
PLATE 15: WEST ELEVATION SHOWING ALTERNATING QUOINS (SCALE = 2M)
PLATE 16: DETAIL OF THE VOUSSOIRS OVER THE CART SHED DOOR, WEST ELEVATION
PLATE 17: DOORWAY WITH PITCHING HOLE ABOVE, WEST ELEVATION (SCALE = 2M)
PLATE 18: DETAIL OF THE LINTEL OVER THE DOORWAY IN THE WEST ELEVATION
PLATE 19: WEST ELEVATION SHOWING AREA OF BRICKWORK ABOVE THE GROUND FLOOR WINDOW 38
PLATE 20: INTERIOR OF THE POSSIBLE FORMER CART SHED, NORTH ROOM (SCALE = 2M)4

PLATE 21: INTERIOR OF POSSIBLE FORMER CART SHED IN USED AS A WORKSHOP, NORTH ROOM (SCALE = 2M)
PLATE 22: INTERIOR OF SOUTH ROOM IN USE AS A WORKSHOP SHOWING TIMBER VERTICAL POST (SCALE = 2M)
PLATE 23: INTERIOR OF SOUTH ROOM SHOWING THE CONCRETE FEEDING TROUGH ALONG THE EAST WALL (SCALE = 2M)
PLATE 24: VIEW LOOKING NORTH FROM THE EAST END OF THE BARN SHOWING THE ROOF STRUCTURE OF THE SURVEY BUILDING
<b>PLATE 25:</b> DETAIL OF THE ROOF STRUCTURE AT THE $90^\circ$ ANGLE BETWEEN THE SURVEY BUILDING AND THE BARN43
PLATE 26: MASONRY WALL WHICH SEPARATES THE EAST END OF THE BARN FROM THE SURVEY BUILDING AT GROUND FLOOR LEVEL, SHOWING TWO BLOCKED DOORWAYS TO LEFT OF PHOTOGRAPH
Plate 27: North elevation of the barn
Plate 28: Main doorway into barn, north elevation (Scale = 2m)
<b>PLATE 29:</b> Western end of the barn adjoining the house, north elevation (Scale = $2$ m) $48$
PLATE 30: PART OF THE SOUTH ELEVATION OF THE BARN, SHOWING TWO SMALL WINDOWS (SCALE 2M)
Plate 31: Date stone 'Sr I B 167?1', south elevation of the barn
Plate 32: View looking east showing the roof structure of the barn at High Aketon Farm
PLATE 33: VIEW LOOKING WEST SHOWING THE INTERIOR OF THE BARN
Plate 34: View looking north showing the farmhouse to the west side of the barn and Building A50
Plate 35: South elevation of the farmhouse
<b>PLATE 36:</b> NORTH ELEVATION OF THE FARMHOUSE LOCATED AT THE WEST END OF THE BARN $51$
Plate 37: East elevation of Building A (Scale = 2m)
Plate 38: South elevation of Building A (Scale = 2m)
PLATE 39: DETAIL OF ONE OF THE BLOCKED ARCHED DOORWAYS WITH INSERTED WINDOW, SOUTH ELEVATION OF BUILDING A (SCALE = 2M)

PLATE 40: WEST ELEVATION OF BUILDING A (SCALE = 2M)	53
PLATE 41: DETAIL OF WOODEN STAIRCASE TO FIRST FLOOR OF BUILDING A (SCALE = 2M)	54
PLATE 42: INTERIOR OF BUILDING A, 'W TYSON' INSCRIBED ON ONE OF THE FLOOR JOISTS	54
Plate 43: View looking north-west showing the east and south elevations of Buii	
PLATE 44: VIEW LOOKING NORTH-EAST SHOWING THE SOUTH ELEVATION OF BUILDING B	55
Plate 45: View looking west showing Building C (Scale = 2m)	56

## **SUMMARY**

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (NPAL) were invited by John Wells of Nether Row Construction Consultants, on behalf of his client, Mr W Miller, to undertake an archaeological building recording project of a traditional farm building at High Aketon Farm, Fletchertown, Wigton, Cumbria (NY 3208 5438) prior to consolidation works as part of a Higher Level Stewardship scheme.

The farm building forms part of a group of Grade II listed buildings at High Aketon Farm that includes the farmhouse and adjoining barn, which contains a date stone and initials 'S I B 167?1'. The building is also included in the County Historic Environment Record (HER) due to the presence of a reused 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> century Anglo-Scandinavian cross head, which has been built into the east elevation (HER No. 676).

Prior to the archaeological building recording project, a rapid desk-based assessment was undertaken in order to place High Aketon Farm into its historical, topographical and archaeological context. This assessment revealed that the farm formed part of the Ballantyne Dykes family Crookdake estate until the 1920s when it was purchased by the then tenant, Wm Miller for £3000. The earliest reference to High Aketon as a place name is in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, and the farm is noted to have a date stone of *167?1* built into the farm buildings. Cartographic evidence suggests that the farm was in existence in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, and by the 1860s it had effectively reached its present form.

The archaeological building survey revealed that the building that is the subject of the present recording project is a stone-built two-storey agricultural structure, which forms the eastern boundary of a courtyard arrangement of farm buildings at High Aketon Farm.

The fabric of the building reveals that the structure has been extended to the south at some point between 1863 and 1900 as shown on historical mapping. The masonry also displays evidence for several episodes of rebuilding and repair. In the east elevation two doorways have been inserted in the 20th century. These alterations and modifications are not unusual in traditional farm buildings; they have been adapted to accommodate changing uses and requirements.

The original features in the building, such as the arched doorway in the west elevation, suggest that the original function of this building may have been as a cart shed and byre or stable on the ground floor, with a possible granary or hayloft above. Cartographic evidence suggests that this building may not originally have been a continuation of the barn, which is located at a right-angle to the survey structure; consequently this building may have stood alone. There was no architectural detail observed within the building to aid in dating, however the Anglo-Saxon cross head, which is built into the east elevation, has been suggested to have been removed from Bromfield Church in the 18th century.

The building should not be seen in isolation, it forms part of an organised farmstead on which each building originally had a specific function. Along with the barn, and adjoining farmhouse, the survey building appears to have formed part of the earliest standing structures on the farm.

Of all the traditional stone-built farm buildings at High Aketon Farm, the survey building is the one structure which displays evidence of rebuilding and repair, and it continues to be in need of remedial works.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would like to offer thanks to John Wells of Nether Row Construction Consultants for commissioning the project on behalf of his client, Mr W Miller. NPA Ltd would also like to thank Mr William Miller for his assistance during the fieldwork.

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would also like to extend their thanks to staff at Carlisle Record Office; Stephen White, Local Studies, Carlisle Library and Jo Mackintosh, Historic Environment Record Officer, Cumbria County Council.

The rapid desk-based assessment and building survey was undertaken by Fiona Wooler. The report was written, and the drawings were produced, by Fiona Wooler. The project was managed by Frank Giecco, Technical Director for NPA Ltd, who also edited the report.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (NPAL) were invited by John Wells, Nether Row Construction Consultants, on behalf of his client, Mr W Miller, to undertake an archaeological building survey of a traditional farm building at High Aketon Farm prior to proposed consolidation works as part of a Higher Level Stewardship scheme.
- 1.1.2 The building forms part of a group of Grade II listed buildings on the farm that includes the farmhouse and the adjoining barn, which has a date stone and initials 'S I B 167?'. The listed building description of the site reads: High Aikton Farmhouse and adjoining barns. Dated over barn doorway S.I.B. 167 (last numeral weathered away). Roughcast walls, under graduated greenslate roof with coped gables and kneelers to left; brick chimney stacks. Barns of red sandstone rubble under greenslate roof, 2 storeys, 4 bays with L-shaped barn to right. 20th century door and sash windows in lean-to porch. Sash windows in painted stone surrounds, those on upper floor with 16 panes. Barn has a plank door in alternate-block surround, with dated lintel. Slit vents on 2 levels. Extension to right has a wheel-head Saxon cross built into the side wall. 19th century frontright-angled extension is not of interest'. The farm building is also recorded on the County Historic Environment Record, a database of known archaeological and historical sites maintained by Cumbria County Council at Kendal, due to the presence of the 10th or 11th century Anglo-Scandinavian cross head in the east elevation of the survey building (HER No. 676).
- 1.1.3 As a consequence of the historical nature of the building, a Level 2 building survey, as defined by English Heritage<sup>1</sup>, was undertaken in order to record the existing fabric and to inform future consolidation work.
- 1.1.4 The archaeological building recording project was undertaken by Fiona Wooler on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2010.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> English Heritage, 2006

## 2 METHODOLOGY

#### 2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological building recording project comprised an analysis of the form of the building, construction, origins, development and use, based on an assessment of historical records and direct recording of the structure.
- 2.1.2 The building recording project corresponds to an English Heritage Level 2 survey, which is defined as:

'Level 2 – a descriptive record. Both exterior and interiors will be viewed, described and photographed. The record will present conclusions regarding the building's development and use. A plan and other drawings may be made but the drawn record will normally not be comprehensive'.

#### 2.2 RAPID DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

- 2.2.1 A rapid desk-based assessment of existing records relating to the area around High Aketon Farm, as well as of the farm itself, was undertaken prior to the building survey in order to set the results of the project into its archaeological and historical context. The assessment included the consultation of primary and secondary sources held by Carlisle Record Office, and the local studies collection at Carlisle Library.
- 2.2.2 The rapid desk-based assessment was undertaken in accordance with the guidelines of the Institute for Archaeologists<sup>3</sup>.

#### 2.3 BUILDING SURVEY

- 2.3.1 Following the completion of the rapid desk-based assessment, a survey of the buildings as existing was undertaken in order to gain an adequate understanding of the structure, and to identify the origins, main phases of development and use of the building.
- 2.3.2 The survey comprised an internal and external examination of the building, and an assessment of its relationship to nearby features and structures. This included noting details of construction, structural phasing, changes in building material, and evidence of fixtures and fittings. This process included the analysis of phasing, proportion, and location of historic features, such as existing windows with doors and blocked openings, as well as later alterations and additions to the building.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> English Heritage, 2006, Page 14

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> IfA, 2008a

- 2.3.3 A photographic survey of the interior and exterior of the building was undertaken, to show not only the building's appearance but also to record the evidence on which the analysis of its historic development is based. Detailed photographs of features of architectural or archaeological significance, and photographs of the building in its landscape context were taken.
- 2.3.4 The results of the building survey have been combined with the findings of the rapid desk-based assessment in this report, in order to provide a narrative on the origins, form, use and development of the building.
- 2.3.5 In summary, the main objectives of the building survey were:
  - to produce a detailed record of the existing form, fabric, function and development of the building, including details of its construction,
  - to identify the presence/absence, nature, extent and condition of historic and architectural features and to record these where they are observed,
  - to accurately locate these features on existing architects plans and elevations of the building,
  - to produce a photographic record of the building and associated structures.
- 2.3.6 The building survey was undertaken following the requirements of a Level 2 building survey as defined by English Heritage<sup>4</sup> and according to the standard and guidance set out by the Institute for Archaeologists<sup>5</sup>.

#### 2.4 THE ARCHIVE

- 2.4.1 A final bound copy of the report will be deposited with the Cumbria Historic Environment Record (HER), where viewing will be available on request.
- 2.4.2 North Pennines Archaeology and Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service support the Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an online index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature created as a result of developer-funded archaeological fieldwork. As a result, details of the results of this study will be made available by North Pennines Archaeology, as a part of this national project. This project has the unique identifier of **northpen-75944**.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> English Heritage, 2006

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> IfA, 2008b

## 3 BACKGROUND

#### 3.1 SITE LOCATION

- 3.1.1 High Aketon Farm is located approximately 1.5km to the north of Mealsgate and the A595 trunk road, and *c*.5km to the south-west of Wigton, at a height of *c*.90 metres above sea level. This is an isolated farmstead accessed by a track from the Fletchertown to New Mill road (Figure 1).
- 3.1.2 The farmstead is located on high ground which commands fine views to the north towards the Solway Firth and Scotland beyond, and to the south towards the northern fells of the Lake District. The ground level drops away to the east of the farm into the valley of the Crummock Beck, which was utilised historically by Crookdale Mill.
- 3.1.3 The building which is the subject of the present archaeological work is located to the east side of the farmstead, orientated north to south, at a right angle to the barn and farmhouse. This building forms part of the east side of the farmyard which is defined to the north by further stone-built agricultural structures (Figure 2). Modern farm sheds are located to the east and north sides of the building.
- 3.1.4 High Aketon Farm is a working beef, sheep and arable farm of approximately 200 acres, with a further 100 acres located away from the farmstead.

#### 3.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.2.1 According to the Place Name Society, the earliest known reference to High and Low Aketon in Bromfield parish is in a document dated 1578, when they are referred to as 'Acton heale' and 'Acton heade'. The earliest recorded reference to Bromfield, the parish in which High Aketon Farm is located, was c.1125. The place name 'Bromfield' is believed to have derived from Brūnfeld, meaning 'brown open land'. Crookdake is referred to as Crokydayk in 1231, and apparently means 'crooked oak'6, although the element Crook may have derived from the Old Norse<sup>7</sup> word krokr meaning 'bend', or the Celtic8 word cruc meaning 'hill'9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Armstrong et al, 1943-44, Pages 272 and 273

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Old Norse – The language spoken by Norwegians who colonised Iceland, Ireland, the Isle of Man, the Hebrides and north west England from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> centuries (Source: Lee 1998)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Celtic – Brythonic Celtic spoken by the Britons of Cumbria (Source: Lee 1998)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Lee, J, 1998, Page 23

- 3.2.2 Historically, High Aketon appears to have been located within Bromfield parish, and within Crookdale township or manor. Writing at the end of the 17th century Thomas Denton states that Crookdake was the manor of Sir John Ballantine (1632-1705) who settled at Crookdake Hall in 1663. On describing Sir Ballantine's property at Crookdake, Denton noted: 'Sir John Ballantine hath made Crookdake an easy and convenient seat, by his alterations of the rooms in the house and additions of a malthouse, dovecot, stable, barn and other outhouses, and by his severall plantations in orchyards and gardens. In his orchyard next the house he hath a terras walk, which gives hime the benefit of a prospect into six or seven counties in Scotland'. Denton does not refer to High Aketon in his description although he did note that the *demesn*, i.e. the land attached to the manor, was located around his house of Crookdake Hall, and that his tenants rents, fines, duties, boons and services were worth 200li a year, his water mill was worth 10li a year, and his dovecot was worth  $5li^{10}$ . The relevance of this information to the present survey is that it indicates that Sir John Ballantine was influential in the area at the end of the 17th century, and it may be his initials that are carved with the date 167?[1] above the barn door at High Aketon Farm (see Plate 31), suggesting that this may have been one of his tenant farms.
- 3.2.3 The earliest map consulted as part of the rapid desk-based assessment was Hodskinson and Donald's map of Cumberland which was surveyed in 1770 and published in 1774. This map, although at a small scale, labels 'High Aketons', with what appears to be one building shown, although it is necessary to be cautious with regards individual properties on this map. A further property is shown to the west of High Aketons, although it is not annotated; this may represent Firs. Both High Aketons, and what may be Firs, appear to be located on the boundary of land which is labelled as under the ownership of *L Ballentine Dykes Esq*, shown just to the south of Crookdake Hall. A circular symbol representing the site of a water mill, along with the label 'Mill' is shown on the beck to the north of High Aketon, this is presumably Crookdale Mill. At this date Fletchertown did not exist, although the present road from Mealsgate towards High Aketon appears to be partly shown passing Priest Croft (Figure 3).
- 3.2.4 Greenwood's map of Cumberland dating to 1823 provides more detail on the roads in the area around High Aketon, although it does not annotate the farm as such, instead simply showing its location with the representation of buildings between Mealsgate and Crookdake (Figure 4).
- 3.2.5 Within a collection of records relating to the Ballantyne Dykes family of Dovenby Hall is a map which, although undated, is believed to date to the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Winchester, A.J.L, 2003, Pages 188-189

early 19th century. This map shows the extent of Crookdake Manor at this time, clearly annotating Crookdake Hall, Firs, 'High Aikton', and a property labelled as 'Grime Gate' shown to have been located close to the present junction of the road from Mealsgate to New Mill, and the access road to Firs (Figure 5). 'Grime Gate' does not now appear to exist, and it is not shown on Ordnance Survey mapping from the 1860s onwards. As far as the buildings at High Aketon Farm are concerned, this apparent early 19th century map appears to show a roughly linear arrangement with an extension in a northerly direction at its eastern end; this may represent the present farmhouse, barn, and the building which is the subject of the current survey.

- 3.2.6 Writing at the end of the 18th century, Hutchinson described the manor of Crookdake: 'Crookdake may have first got its name, either from some remarkable crooked dyke, or, as dykes inclosing lands are of no great antiquity, from some no less remarkable crooked aik or oak. It was for a long time the seat of a younger branch of the Musgraves of Musgrave and Eden-hall. Among the knights' fees in the 35th [year] of King Henry Viii, it is found that Cuthbert Musgrave, son of Mungo, held the manor and hamlet of Crookdale. This family of Musgrave's also, like most others, at length ended in daughters. Anne, the eldest daughter of William Musgrave having married a Sir John Ballantine, who was born at Carros in Clydesdale, and bred a physician, Crookdake became the property of Ballantines. In this family it continued for three or four generations, when they also ended in daughters. The present owner, the eldest of two daughters of the late John Ballantine married Lawson Dykes Esq, a younger son of the family of Dykes of Warthole, or Wardell, who in 1773 had a licence from the crown to assume the surname, and bear the arms of Ballantine. The mansion house which appears to have once been considerable, is now gone much to decay and converted into a farmhouse'. On describing the agriculture in Bromfield parish during this period, Hutchinson noted that the land was well suited for arable, and that rents were chiefly paid from the sale of corn, butter and hams. About three quarters of the improved land in the parish was, at the end of the 18th century, arable<sup>11</sup>.
- 3.2.7 The First Edition Ordnance Survey maps, produced from the 1860s, are the earliest cartographic sources to provide accurate information on the form of the buildings at High Aketon Farm. The small-scale version, which was surveyed in 1863-65 and published in 1868, shows High Aketon as an isolated farmstead to the north of Mealsgate and Allhallows, and to the south of Crookdale Mill. The Wigton branch of a railway line is clearly visible to the north of Mealsgate, along with 'Mealsgate Station', and a colliery and old coal shafts are annotated at Priestcroft. The present

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Hutchinson, W, 1794-1797, Page 320

settlement of Fletchertown did not exist at this date, although a National School is shown at the junction of the four roads. The buildings at High Aketon Farm appear to essentially be what stands presently, occupying nearly all four sides of a central farmyard, with a wood located immediately to the south, and a pond and possible orchard to the north (Figure 6).

- 3.2.8 The larger version of the First Edition Ordnance Survey map, surveyed in 1863, provides a clearer picture of buildings at High Aketon Farm at this date. The building which is the subject of the present survey is visible to the east of the farmstead, orientated north to south, with what appears to be either a small structure against its north elevation, or possibly external stairs characteristic of a granary. At Carlisle Record Office, there is a Schedule that accompanies this map which lists the plot numbers and provides information on the state of agriculture of each of the fields. For example Plot 605 to the north of the farm was under arable at this date (8.496 acres), Plot 611 (arable, 10.380 acres), Plot 545 (wood), Plot 546 (arable, 14.221 acres), and Plot 601 (pasture, 13.253 acres)<sup>12</sup>. Although it was not possible to note from this map which fields were attached to High Aketon Farm at this date, those fields within close proximity of the farmstead appear to have been predominantly arable, providing information on this historical economy of the farm (Figure 7).
- 3.2.9 In 1860, Whellan noted that there is 'a very ancient cross in the churchyard' at St Mungo's Church, Bromfield<sup>13</sup>. It is not known if Whellan was referring to an Anglo-Saxon cross, or a later medieval example, however there are several fragments of stone sculpture in and around Bromfield Church which date to the 10 and 11th centuries. A piece of a cross head and shaft was found in 1888 beneath a stone platform in the churchyard which served as a base of a later medieval cross, and within the church porch there are further sections of a cross shaft, which compare with examples known from Aspatria and Rockcliffe<sup>14</sup>. The cross head which is built into the east wall of the farm buildings at High Aketon Farm was observed in 1892 by Rev. Richard Taylor, Vicar of Bromfield, when he was passing through the farmyard. At the time of reporting this find in 1893, it was noted that High Aketon Farm, along with Crookdake Hall, belonged to Mr Dykes of Dovenby Hall, and it was suggested that the cross head had been taken from the north transept (known as Crookdale Chapel) of Bromfield Church along with other masonry to be used for repairs to the farm buildings in the 18th century. It was noted that there was the possibility that

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Clark, G, Undated

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Whellan, W, 1860, Page 212

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Bailey, R.N, and Cramp, R, 1988, Page 80

- Crookdake Chapel was in ruins at this date, and that this was the reason the masonry was removed for reuse elsewhere<sup>15</sup>. The cross head at High Aketon Farm is believed to date to the 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> century<sup>16</sup>. Plates 1 and 2 are reproductions of an engraving of the cross head at High Aketon Farm by Rev. Calverley, and a photograph taken *in-situ c.*1893.
- 3.2.10 The Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1900 shows very little change in the form of the buildings at High Aketon Farm apart from an addition to the south end of the survey building, which meant it was now in line with the south elevation of the barn and house. A small building has been constructed against this south facing wall (Figure 8).
- 3.2.11 In the collection of records relating to the Ballantyne Dykes family housed at Carlisle Record Office, there is a letter dated October 1893 from Dovenby Hall Estate Office to an unknown recipient which refers to High Aketon Farm: 'William Miller now offers £145 and undertakes to put a son into the house as soon as he is old enough, but as the lad is only 17, I have grave doubts in entrusting him with this place. One of Ellwood's daughters is to be married and his son-in-law is wanting a farm and I am doing all I can to induce him to take High Aikton as I am sure that you would wish that an old and satisfactory connection of the estate should be continued as long as possible'17.
- 3.2.12 In a further bundle of documents is an Abstract of Title dated 11th December 1906: 'Abstract of Title of Frescherville Hubert Ballantine Dykes to High Aikton Farm in the parish of Bromfield and Bolton'. Reference is made to Wm Miller as tenant, and that the farm consisted of the following OS plot no's [as taken from the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1900]: 49 (pt) Waverton, 842 High Bolton, and 450, 451, 452, 453, 455, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586 (pt), 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593 and 594 Bromfield¹8. A map of the same date shows the extent of Crookdake Manor, which included High Aikton Farm, the property of Mrs A E B Dykes of The Red House, Keswick (Figure 9).
- 3.2.13 It would appear that by 1920, High Aketon Farm along with other properties was to be sold. The Ballantyne Dykes records contain a draft 'Conveyance of an estate called High Aikton situate in the parishes of Bromfield, Boltons and Waverton in the County of Cumberland, Consideration £3000. 'The First Schedule hereinbefore referred to All that estate situate in the parishes of Bromfield, Boltons and Waverton in the County of Cumberland called or known by the name 'High Aikton' and consisting of a messuage or dwelling house, yard, farm buildings, garden, orchard and several closes or parcels or land, the whole

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Calverley, W.S, Rev, 1893, Pages 461-462 and Calverley, W.S, Rev, 1899, Page 86

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Bailey, R.N, and Cramp, R, 1988, Page 81

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Carlisle Record Office Ref: D/BD/4/92/1-3

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Carlisle Record Office Ref: D/BD/1/74

containing by OS measurements 185a 2r 25p or thereabouts and now in the occupation of the purchaser and which said messuage or dwelling house, yard, farm buildings, garden, orchard and closes of land are hereunder more particularly described by the respective Ordnance numbers, names and areas:

OS Plot No.	Name or Description	Area (Acre, Rood and Perch)
450	Calf Close	9a 0r 37p
451	Lang Dale	8a 2r 33p
452	Garths	1a 0r 13p
453	Lane	0a 3r 4p
455	[not given]	2a 2r 36p
578	[not given]	15a 1r 25p
579	[not given]	13a 1r 0p
580	Rough Land	14a 0r 35p
581	Wood	1a 2r 6p
582	Homestead	1a 1r 31p
583	Croft	3a 1r 39p
584	Good Lang Dale	8a 1r 6p
585	Good Lang Dale	8a 0r 29p
586	Crummock Banks	1a 0r 1p
587	Rough Close	11a 1r 37p
588	[not given]	7a 0r 0p
589	Quarry Close	6a 1r 38p
590	Road	0a 2r 9p
591	[not given]	10a 1r 21p
592	[not given]	10a 2r 3p
593	[not given]	10a 3r 24p
594	[not given]	16a 0r 28p
(all above in Bromfield Parish)	Total in Bromfield Parish	176a 3r 15p
842 (Boltons)	-	1a 2r 12p
49 (Waverton)	Crummock Banks	7a 0r 38p
	Total Acreage	185a 2r 25p

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- 3.2.14 The High Aketon estate would appear to have been sold to its occupier, Wm Miller, for a sum of £3000<sup>19</sup>. A map of the area around High Aketon shows the extent of the farm at the point of sale coloured yellow, with the annotation 'Sold to Wm Miller as from 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 1920'. The Crookdake Hall estate appears to have been sold to a Robert Armstrong in 1921 (Figure 10).
- 3.2.15 By 1925 the buildings which made up the north side of the farmstead have been extended, and a new structure has been erected to the south side of the existing farm buildings. The site of the cross head is annotated on this map (Figure 11).
- 3.2.16 Figure 12 shows the form of the farmstead in 1972 with very little changed apart from the construction of a building to the north-west side of the site, and a small structure to the south, on the edge of the wood.
- 3.2.17 As part of the rapid desk-based assessment, various trade directories dating to the 19th and 20th centuries were sampled for any reference to High Aketon Farm, and Census Returns<sup>20</sup> for several decades in the 19th century were also examined for any information on the occupants of the farm. Where there are '?' within the tables for the Census Returns, denotes where the entry could not be clearly read. The relevant entries noted from these two sources are provided in the tables below:

Trade Directory	Entry
History, Directory and Gazetteer of Cumberland and Westmorland, Parson and White, 1829	Many of the farmers listed at Crookdake have no farm name attributed to them, these include:
	John Asbridge, yeoman
	Joseph Barnes
	Wilson Briggs, yeoman
	Michael Brough
	Jospeh Brough, Crookdake Hall
	Thomas Brown
	Henry Clark, Low Row, yeoman
	Joseph Huddart
	Joseph Miller
	John Pattinson
	Hugh Peel, yeoman
	John Skelton, Sandraw, yeoman
	John Smallwood, yeoman

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Carlisle Record Office Ref: D/BD/4/13

1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> The Census Returns were consulted on microfiche at Carlisle Library

Trade Directory	Entry
	John Stamper, yeoman
	John Thomlinson
	Joseph Waite
	John White
Post Office Directory of Westmoreland and Cumberland 1858	No reference to High Aketon. There is an entry for John Beckton, who is listed in the Census Returns at High Aketon
	'Crookdake is a scattered hamlet, 2 miles SE from the church, 1 from Leegate, and 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ west from Wigton. General Wyndham is the principal landowner, Mrs Dykes is owner of the manor'
History and Directory of West Cumberland, T Bulmer & Co 1883	Lewis Twentyman, High Aikton, farmer [listed under Bromfield Parish]
	'The soil of the parish is varied, but fertile, and the pasturage rich. A considerable number of the people are employed in agriculture'
T Bulmer & Co 1901 History, Topography and Directory of Cumberland	'Fletchertown, a colliery village containing over 400 inhabitants has recently sprung into existence'.
	John Thorburn, yeoman, High Aketon
Kelly's Cumberland Directory 1914	'Fletchertown [Allhallows parish], close to Mealsgate Station consists principally of cottages for the men employed in the colliery. Here is a Wesleyan Chapel, erected 1895, and a Primitive Methodist Chapel'
	A William Miller is listed as a farmer in Bromfield Parish, but no farm name attributed to him
Kelly's Directory of Cumberland and Westmorland 1921	William Miller, farmer [no farm name attributed]
Kelly's Directory of Cumberland 1929	'Crookdake Hall is an ancient Border stronghold, now used as a farmhouse; in the time of Edward I it was the residence of Adam de Crookdake who died in 1304, as appears from the inscription on his tomb in the Crookdake Chapel in Bromfield Church'
	Wm Miller, farmer [farm over 150 acres], no farm name attributed
Kelly's Directory of Cumberland and Westmorland 1934	Several farmers are listed at Crookdake in Bromfield Parish, some have no farm

FOR THE USE OF MR W MILLER - 21 -

Trade Directory	Entry	
	name attributed for example:	
	Jas Armstrong, Crookdake Hall (over 150 acres)	
	Maurice Asbridge, Crookdake	
	Jn Armstrong, Crookdake	
	Nancy and David Benson, Crookdake	
	Jsph Brough, Crookdake	
	Jsph Liddle, Crookdake	
	Wm Miller [no farm name given, listed as farm over 150 acres]	
	Milton Pearson [no farm name given]	
Cumberland Directory 1954	Joseph Miller, farmer, High Aketon [listed under Waverton]	

# 1851 Census Return for High Aketon:

Name	Position in family	Age	Occupation	Where born
John ?Beckton	Head	41	Farmer	Warwick, Cumberland
Ann	Wife	?		Aglionby
Isaac	Son	14	Scholar	Aglionby
Jane	Daughter	6?	Scholar	Aglionby
Mary Ann	Daughter	2		Aglionby
John	Son	11mths		Bromfield
Ann Dixon	Niece	12	Farmers niece	Aglionby
James Bell	Servant	27	Farm labourer	Stanwix
William Dixon	Servant	20	Farm labourer	Arthuret
Mary Graham	Servant	25	House servant	Unthank

FOR THE USE OF MR W MILLER -22 -

# 1861 Census Return for High Aketon:

Name	Position in family	Age	Occupation	Where born
Isaac Beckton	Head	24	Farmer of 170 acres employing 4 labourers	Warwick, Cumberland
Mary Ann	Sister	12	Scholar	Warwick
John	Brother	10	Scholar	Bromfield
Margaret	Sister	8		Bromfield
Elizabeth	Sister	8		Bromfield
Dixon?	Brother	6		Bromfield
Annie	Sister	4		Bromfield
Thomas	Brother	1		Bromfield
Ann Hetherington	Cousin	29	House servant	Holme Cultram
Susannah Graham	Servant	17	House servant	Scotland
William Rudd	Servant	25	Ploughman	Bolton
William Thornbarrow?	Servant	20	Ploughman	Orton

# 1871 Census Return for High Aketon:

Name	Position in family	Age	Occupation	Where born
Joseph Miller	Head	39	Farmer of 145 acres employing 2 men and 1 boy	Bromfield
Sarah	Wife	50	Farmers wife	Bromfield
John Little	Servant	21	Farm servant (domestic)	Bolton
John Huddart	Servant	23	Farm servant (domestic)	Bromfield
John Borrowdale	Servant	13	Farm servant (domestic)	Bolton

FOR THE USE OF MR W MILLER - 23 -

# 1881 Census Return for High Aketon:

Name	Position in family	Age	Occupation	Where born
	Tullilly			
Joseph Miller	Head	47	Farmer of 230	Allhallows
			acres	
Sarah	Wife	58	Farmers wife	Allhallows
Joseph	Servant	24	Domestic	Westward
Yeomans			servant	
Stephen Stagg	Servant	22	Domestic	Sandal
			servant	Bolton
Joseph	Servant	14	Domestic	Blennerhasset
Hodgson			servant	
Ruth Thirlwell	Servant	14	Domestic	Dearham
			servant	

# 1891 Census Return for High Aketon [taken from Rumney 2002]:

Name	Position in family	Age	Occupation	Where born
Lewis Twentyman	Head	68	Farmer	Keswick
Jane	Daughter	37	Farmers daughter	Dalston
Lewis	Son	33	Farmers son	Morland
Sarah	Grand daughter	15mths		Bromfield
James Mowess?	Servant	18	Labourer (Agricultural)	Cockermouth
Elizabeth Ann Dues	Servant	19	Domestic servant	Carlisle

# 1901 Census Return for High Aketon:

Name	Position in family	Age	Occupation	Where born
John Thorburn	Head	37	Farmer	Thursby
Betsy?	Wife	37		Wigton
William	Son	6		Bromfield
Mary	Daughter	4		Bromfield
John Peel	Father in	82	Retired	Caldbeck

For the use of Mr W Miller - 24 -

	Law		ordinary agricultural labourer	
John Peel	Servant	53	Ordinary agricultural labourer	Wigton
Elizabeth Pape?	Servant	21	General Servant Domestic	Flimby
William Blair	Servant	19	Horseman on farm	Bolton
Robert Blamire	Servant	22	Horseman on farm	Dalston

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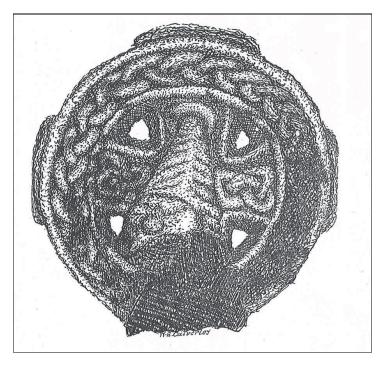


Plate 1: Engraving of the cross head at High Aketon Farm (Calverley 1893)



**Plate 2:** Photograph of the cross head in-situ at High Aketon Farm, c.1893 (Calverley 1899)

FOR THE USE OF MR W MILLER - 26 -

## 4 BUILDING SURVEY RESULTS

#### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 At the time of survey the building which is the subject of the present recording project was in use as workshops at ground floor level. The first floor was not in use due to the precarious state of the north gable. Consequently, it was not possible to access the first floor of the building as part of the archaeological building recording. A grain silo located immediately to the south of the building also prevented a thorough examination of the south elevation.
- 4.1.3 Although the present archaeological building recording project is only concerned with one building, the other structures on the site will be briefly referred to here as none of the buildings on the farmstead should be seen in isolation, but as part of an organised farm, each having a specific original function.
- 4.1.2 Architect's drawings of the elevations and ground floor plan of the survey building are reproduced as Figures 13 and 14.

#### 4.2 EXTERIOR

- 4.2.1 The building is largely constructed of roughly coursed red sandstone, although there are areas where the building has clearly been altered due to differences in the masonry, which will be discussed below. The roof is laid in diminishing courses of Cumbrian slate, although the west facing roof slope has five courses of sandstone tiles at eaves level. The ridge tiles are constructed of sandstone.
- 4.2.2 The east elevation faces the access track into the farmyard (Plate 3). This wall is largely constructed of roughly coursed red sandstone, although it is clear that there are different phases of construction within the fabric as shown by vertical breaks in the masonry. Towards the south end of the elevation are the remains of alternating quoins which suggests that originally this building was shorter in length and did not extend as far as the south elevation of the barn and house (Plate 4). This is confirmed on historical mapping, with the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1863 showing this building not extending as far southwards as the barn and house (Figure 7). By the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1900 (Figure 8), the south elevations are all in line, indicating that modifications were made to the building at some point between 1863 and 1900. The modifications which were undertaken during this period consisted of an

extension of the building in a southerly direction (involving the removal of the original south gable), and reconstruction of the south elevation in line with the barn and house. The quoins of this extension are well defined, quite different from those of the north elevation (compare Plates 5 and 6). The alterations to the building in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century also appear to have included heightening or rebuilding of the upper part of the walls. This is shown on Plate 4 where the upper section of the wall, which includes five short ventilation slits at eaves level, is of the same build as the extension southwards already noted.

- 4.2.3 There are two inserted doorways in the east elevation, as shown by the fact that the smaller door in located in the extension and the larger by the use of modern bricks around the aperture (Plates 4 and 7). To the north of this large doorway is a further vertical break in the masonry suggesting there may have been an earlier large aperture prior to the insertion of the present opening. There are the some blocks of masonry surviving which may be the remains of a door jamb (Plate 8).
- 4.2.4 Located between the large doorway and the north end of the east elevation is the Anglo-Saxon cross head which has been noted above, and shown on Plates 1 and 2 (Plate 9). The cross head appears to have relatively modern cement mortar below it, suggesting that at some point this section of wall may have been rebuilt or repointed. The cross head itself has clearly suffered from weathering; the difference in the visible decoration between the present and the photograph taken in the 1890s is marked (compare Plates 2 and 9).
- 4.2.5 The northern end of the east elevation appears to have had some rebuilding as suggested by changes in the masonry. Midway along this elevation are two decorative cast iron 'air bricks', possibly late 19<sup>th</sup> century in date, inserted into the masonry (Plate 11).
- 4.2.6 The north elevation is gabled and is relatively featureless apart from a first floor doorway. This doorway may have either been utilised for transferring hay or straw into the first floor loft, i.e. a pitching door, or there may have been an external stone staircase to this door, of which there is now no evidence. The Second and Third Edition Ordnance Survey maps appear to show a small building or possibly an external stair against this elevation (see Figures 8 and 11). If there was an external stair to this doorway, then it is possible that the upper floor may have been used as a granary originally for the storage of processed cereal crops.
- 4.2.7 The first floor door in this elevation has alternating blocks of masonry making up the jambs, and a single block of dressed sandstone for the lintel. The masonry of the door surround has an inner chamfer, and the doorway

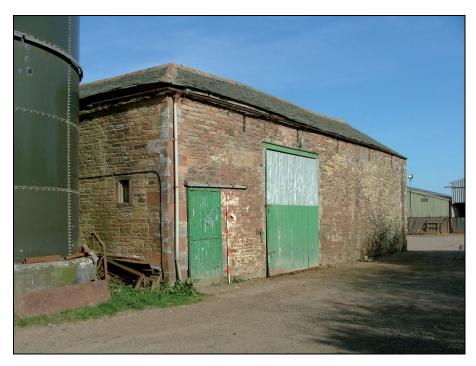
is rebated internally, indicating that the door itself open inwards (Plate 13). From a structural point of view, this elevation is bulging outwards and is in need of urgent repair.

- 4.2.8 The west elevation faces into the farmyard (Plate 14). The quoins at the corner of the north and west elevations consist of alternating long and short blocks of square masonry, which are more regular than those of the corner of the north and east elevations (Plate 15). This elevation has a large doorway at ground level with a shallow arched head consisting of 13 sandstone voussoirs, alternating blocks of masonry for the jambs and an outer rebate indicating that the original doors opened outwards (Plate 16). The central voussoirs are falling away, and are in urgent need of consolidation (Plate 17). This large doorway is characteristic of a cart shed; the original double doors would have opened outwards to allow them to be closed when the cart was inside. According to Brunskill, cart sheds were often associated with granaries, a common arrangement where the granary (for the storage of processed grain) needed to be raised from the ground to allow for ventilation, to prevent vermin, and as a means of security, allowing the ground floor below to be utilised for housing the cart<sup>21</sup>.
- 4.2.9 Above the large doorway are three short ventilation slits located just below the eaves, as already noted in the east elevation (Plate 14). To the south of the large door at ground floor level is a further doorway which provides access into a separate room. The surround for this doorway consists of blocks of masonry for the jambs, some of which have an inner chamfer, but not all, and a single block of tooled masonry for the lintel, which unlike the doorway in the north elevation, does not have an inner chamfer, possibly suggesting reuse or rebuilding (Plates 17 and 18). Above this doorway is a pitching hole with stone surround, and a door which opens outwards. Pitching holes were used for transferring hay or straw to a first floor loft, located over a byre or stable. The presence of hay and/or straw over the rooms which housed animals provided insulation during the winter months. From the mid-19th century agricultural theorists deplored the use of the hayloft. They believed that light and ventilation were good for cattle and rather than have the cows wallowing in the dusty fog of the old cowhouse, they should be more hygienically accommodated in airy cow-hoses, or byres, which were lit by roof lights as well as by windows in the walls. By the late 19th century hay, though still important, was only part of the winter diet, and was increasingly stored in thatched stacks or in specially designed hay barns<sup>22</sup>.

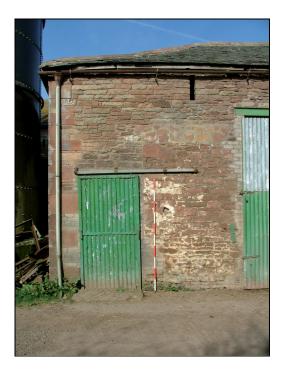
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Brunskill, R.W, 1999, Page 90

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Ibid, Page 66

4.2.10 To the south of the ground floor doorway in the west elevation is a window, which may be a later insertion, although this was difficult to assess due to the presence of a silo against the north elevation of the barn. Above this window it was possible to note that parts of this elevation have been rebuilt or repaired, as shown by the presence of brickwork within the fabric (Plate 19).



*Plate 3: View looking north-west showing the east elevation (Scale = 2m)* 



**Plate 4:** Detail of the vertical construction break in the east elevation showing the well dressed quoins of the addition to the south (Scale = 2m)



**Plate 5:** Detail of the alternating quoins consisting of well-dressed masonry blocks of sandstone at the corner of the east and south elevations

FOR THE USE OF MR W MILLER - 31 -

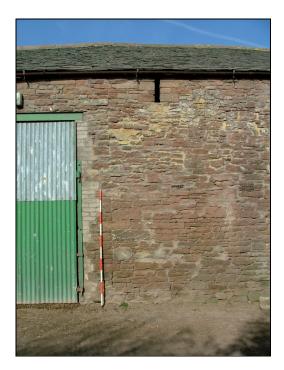


Plate 6: Detail of the quoins at the corner of the east and north elevations



*Plate 7:* East elevation showing the two inserted doorways (Scale = 2m)

FOR THE USE OF MR W MILLER - 32 -



**Plate 8:** Detail of vertical break in the masonry of the east elevation to the north of the inserted doorway (Scale = 2m)



Plate 9: Detail of the 10th or 11th century cross head built into the east elevation

FOR THE USE OF MR W MILLER - 33 -

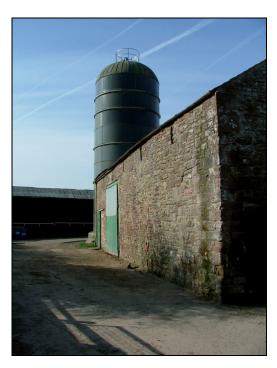


Plate 10: View looking south showing the east elevation



Plate 11: Detail of two cast iron decorative 'air bricks'

FOR THE USE OF MR W MILLER - 34 -



**Plate 12:** View looking south showing the north gable, with the barn to the right of photograph (Scale = 2m)

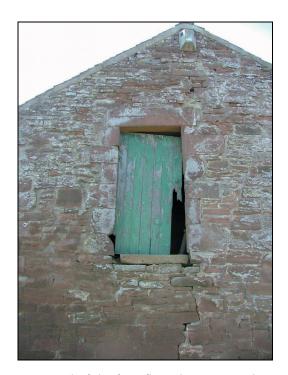


Plate 13: Detail of the first floor doorway in the north elevation

FOR THE USE OF MR W MILLER - 35 -



**Plate 14:** View looking south-east showing the north gable and the west elevation (Scale = 2m)



*Plate 15:* West elevation showing alternating quoins (Scale = 2m)

FOR THE USE OF MR W MILLER - 36 -

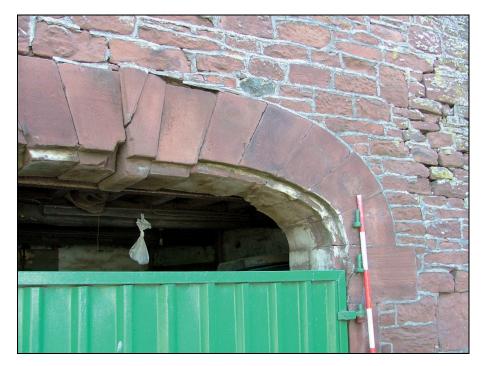
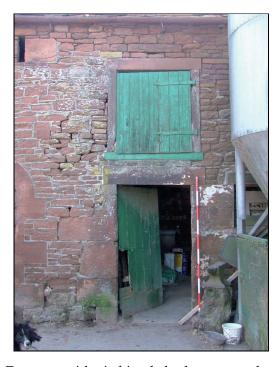


Plate 16: Detail of the voussoirs over the cart shed door, west elevation

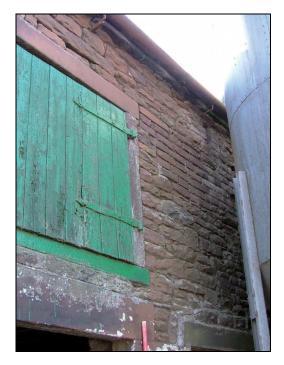


**Plate 17:** Doorway with pitching hole above, west elevation (Scale = 2m)

FOR THE USE OF MR W MILLER - 37 -



Plate 18: Detail of the lintel over the doorway in the west elevation



**Plate 19:** West elevation showing area of brickwork above the ground floor window

FOR THE USE OF MR W MILLER - 38 -

## 4.3 INTERIOR

- 4.3.1 The interior of the building is divided into two at ground floor level, each room accessed via the doorways in the west elevation. The southern end of the building could be accessed via either of the two doors in the east elevation, which provided access into the eastern end of the barn which forms the south end of the survey building (Figure 14).
- 4.3.2 The northern ground floor room was accessed via the large double doorway in the west elevation, already suggested to have been the original cart shed (see Plate 15). At the time of survey this room was in use as a workshop and storage area, consequently it was not possible to thoroughly examine all the internal walls (Plates 20 and 21). The floor of this space is laid in sandstone flagstones, and the walls are white washed. In the south wall there is a bricked-up area which may have been a former doorway between the cart shed and possible stable or byre to the south.
- 4.3.3 The room to the south side of the possible former cart shed was accessed via the smaller doorway in the west elevation (see Plate 17). As with the room already described, this internal space was in use as a workshop and consequently the internal walls could not be thoroughly assessed (Plates 22 and 23). The floor is of concrete, and what is visible of the walls, displays evidence of having been limewashed. Located central to this space is a vertical timber square post with chamfered edges (Plate 22). This is characteristic of part of a stall division, which would have divided part of the room into two for housing either cows or horses. Along the east wall is a concrete feature, with semi-circular ceramic troughs set into the top, presumably used as a feeding or water trough for cows or horses (Plate 23).
- 4.3.4 In the south wall of this former byre or stable is a blocked doorway which was difficult to discern due to the presence of a workbench and shelving, but this would have provided access into the east end of the barn.
- 4.3.5 As already noted, the first floor could not be safely accessed due to the precarious state of the north gable. It was possible, however, to note the upper level from the east end of the barn. The roof structure over this space is constructed of three sets of trusses consisting of principal rafters and collars, and two rows of purlins either side. The timber of the roof structure appears to be machine-sawn, rather than hand-cut, and is held together with iron bolts. As it has already been noted that the building was extended southwards to align with the south elevation of the barn and house in the second half of the 19th century, as well as the roof possibly heightened, the roof structure itself would have had to be replaced to fit in with these alterations. It is therefore tentatively suggested that the present

- roof structure dates to these modifications which occurred at some point between 1863 and 1900.
- 4.3.6 It was not possible to note if the internal walls of the first floor of the building retained any evidence for plaster, which may have been an indication that this space had been used as a granary at some point. The wall which separates the east end of the barn from the possible former byre or stable to the north could also not be thoroughly assessed due to the barn being used for housing cattle at the time of survey. It was possible, however, to note that part of the wall retained plasterwork, and the blocked doorway into the former byre/stable, with a further blocked door in the north elevation of the barn (Plate 26).



*Plate* 20: *Interior of the possible former cart shed, north room (Scale = 2m)* 



**Plate 21:** Interior of possible former cart shed in used as a workshop, north room (Scale = 2m)

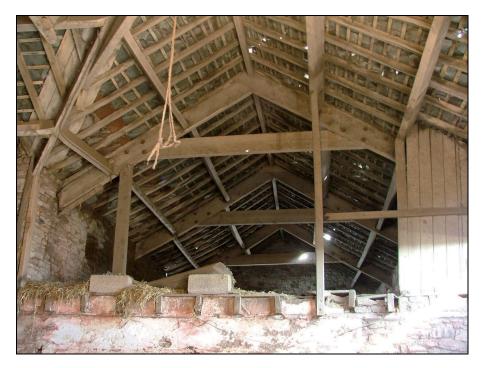


**Plate 22:** Interior of south room in use as a workshop showing timber vertical post (Scale = 2m)

FOR THE USE OF MR W MILLER - 41 -



**Plate 23:** Interior of south room showing the concrete feeding trough along the east wall (Scale = 2m)

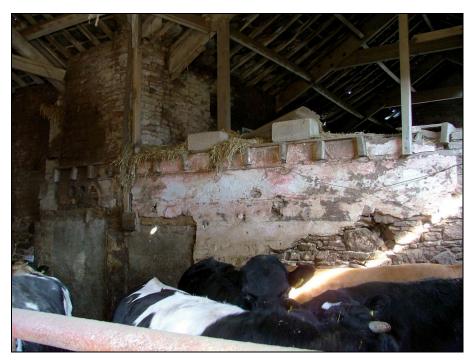


**Plate 24:** View looking north from the east end of the barn showing the roof structure of the survey building

FOR THE USE OF MR W MILLER - 42 -



**Plate 25:** Detail of the roof structure at the 90° angle between the survey building and the barn



**Plate 26:** Masonry wall which separates the east end of the barn from the survey building at ground floor level, showing two blocked doorways to left of photograph

FOR THE USE OF MR W MILLER - 43 -

## 4.4 THE BARN

- 4.4.1 Although it does not form part of the present survey, the barn, along with other buildings on the site, will be briefly referred to here as none of the structures on the farmstead should be seen in isolation. Each of the buildings served a specific function, not just originally but over time, and consequently each should be considered in relation to the other buildings.
- 4.4.2 The barn is orientated east to west, between the farmhouse and the survey building (Figure 2). This building is constructed of uncoursed rubble sandstone, with a roof laid in diminishing courses of slate and sandstone ridge tiles. Central to the north elevation is a large doorway with projecting porch, characteristic of a threshing barn (Plates 27 and 28). The large doorway allowed plenty of light to penetrate the internal space, in particular during the winter months when the hand-flail threshing of the cereal crop would have been undertaken. It may be no coincidence that this large doorway is located in the north elevation, to maximise the amount of natural light, as is seen in modern north-lit factory buildings. Towards the western end of the barn is a doorway, a further doorway now blocked, and a blocked window, with a pitching hole at first floor level (Plate 29). It is noticeable that the roofline of the barn is not a continuation of the house, which may have indicated that the two are contemporary. No vertical construction break was noted between the house and the farm buildings, which suggests that the two were constructed at the same time, therefore the change in roof pitch may have been due to the modifications undertaken in the second half of the 19th century to the farm buildings, or alterations to the house at some stage.
- 4.4.3 The south elevation of the barn is largely obscured by a later building which will be referred to below; however it was possible to note the location of the date stone referred to in the listed building description (see 1.1.2 above). The date stone is located over a doorway into the barn from the garden area located to the south. The doorway is hidden from view behind foliage. The inscription reads 'Sr I [possibly actually a J] B 167?1' (Plate 31). It is necessary to be cautious with regards to the presence of date stones in buildings. This inscription does not necessarily provide a date for the construction of this barn, as stones such as these can be reused and built into later structures. It does appear however, to refer to Sir John Ballantine who is recorded as having lived at Crookdake Hall in the latter half of the 17th century.
- 4.4.4 The interior of the barn was in use as a cowhouse at the time of survey, however originally it would appear to have been used a barn for the processing and storage of cereal crops with a byre or stable with hayloft above at the western end as suggested by the doorways in the north

elevation. There are no internal partitions for the former byre or stable surviving within the barn interior, therefore the space was open to the roof and undivided (Plates 32 and 33). The roof structure consists of five trusses of principal rafters and tie beams, which rest on top of the walls, and two rows of purlins either side. Short ventilation slits exist close to the eaves along both the north and south elevations, and at least one ventilation slit was noted at ground floor level in the south wall which is now obscured by the building constructed against this elevation, indicating that the barn was in existence prior to this building (Building A, see Figure 2).

## 4.5 THE FARMHOUSE

4.4.1 The farmhouse is located at the western end of the barn and is the first building on the site to be seen from the access road to the farm (Plate 34). The listed building description does not provide a date of construction for the house, or indeed for any of the farm buildings, and the construction of later additions and the application of render, in particular to the south elevation, prevents any original features which may have provided evidence for its construction date to be observed. It is interesting to note however, that the low first floor windows visible in the south elevation could suggest a 17th or 18th century date for the property, as similar examples are provided by Brunskill<sup>23</sup>. This would certainly fit in with the date stone of 167?1 located in the barn wall.

## 4.6 BUILDING A

- 4.6.1 Building A is located against the south elevation of the barn, and appears to have been constructed after the barn but is seemingly shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1863 (Figures 2 and 7). This is a two-storey building constructed of snecked<sup>24</sup> masonry, with well-dressed alternating quoins (Plates 37-39). The gabled roof is laid in diminishing courses of slate.
- 4.6.2 This is an unusual building, as it has four doorways with arched heads at ground floor level, one in the east elevation, two in the south elevation (one now blocked and a window inserted), and one in the west elevation (now blocked) (Plates 37-40). These doorways do not appear wide enough to accommodate carts, although smaller hand carts may have been used, and the amount that exist seems excessive for purely human access. The windows at first floor level are characteristic of a 19th century granary;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Brunskill, R.W, 2002, Pages 64 to 73

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Snecked walling = where a regular course of masonry is interrupted at intervals (Source: Brunskill 2000)

- although it is possible they lit a bothy for farm workers (although there was no evidence for a fireplace internally).
- 4.6.3 Internally, there is a doorway between this building and the barn at ground floor level, which may suggest a relationship connected with the processing of cereal crops. There is a wooden staircase which provides access to the first floor of this building (Plate 41). The name 'W TYSON' was noted to have been inscribed into one of the floor joists in this building (Plate 42).

#### 4.7 BUILDING B

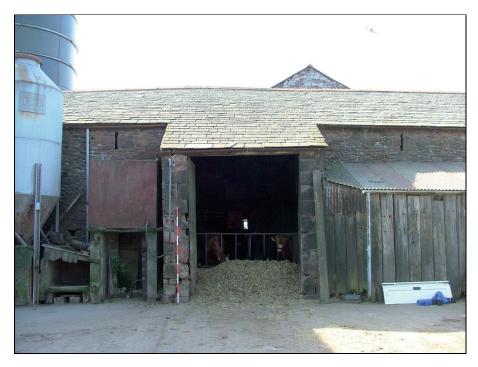
4.7.1 Building B is located to the north side of the farmstead, forming the northern boundary of the farmyard (Figure 2). This is a two-storey building constructed of snecked red sandstone (Plates 43 and 44). Historical mapping suggests that this building is shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1863 (Figure 7), but was extended by the publication of the Third Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1925 (Figure 11). There was a slight difference noted in the masonry of the south elevation of this building, suggestive of it having been extended as well as a difference in window heights, although features such as the short ventilation slits located just below the eaves are identical in form to those of the earlier building (Plate 44).

## 4.8 BUILDING C

4.8.1 Building C forms the western boundary of the farmyard, orientated north to south between the farmhouse and Building B (Figure 2 and Plate 45). It was not possible to note the construction material for this building due to the external render. A building is shown in this location on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1863 (Figure 7) although it is not known if this is the building which stands today. The form of the windows suggests this may be a later structure.



Plate 27: North elevation of the barn



**Plate 28:** Main doorway into barn, north elevation (Scale = 2m)

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**Plate 29:** Western end of the barn adjoining the house, north elevation (Scale = 2m)



**Plate 30:** Part of the south elevation of the barn, showing two small windows (Scale = 2m)

FOR THE USE OF MR W MILLER - 48 -

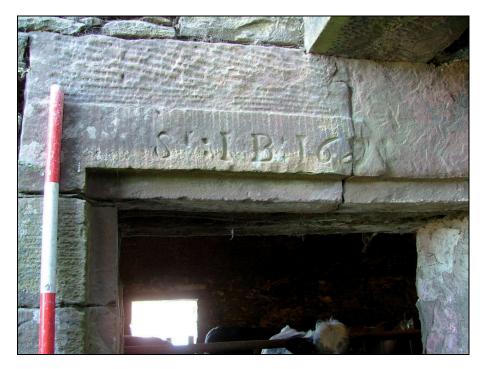


Plate 31: Date stone 'Sr I B 167?1', south elevation of the barn



**Plate 32:** View looking east showing the roof structure of the barn at High Aketon Farm

FOR THE USE OF MR W MILLER - 49 -



Plate 33: View looking west showing the interior of the barn



 ${\it Plate~34:}\ {\it View~looking~north~showing~the~farmhouse~to~the~west~side~of~the~barn~and~Building~A}$ 

FOR THE USE OF MR W MILLER - 50 -



Plate 35: South elevation of the farmhouse



Plate 36: North elevation of the farmhouse located at the west end of the barn

FOR THE USE OF MR W MILLER - 51 -



*Plate* 37: *East elevation of Building A (Scale = 2m)* 



**Plate 38:** South elevation of Building A (Scale = 2m)

FOR THE USE OF MR W MILLER - 52 -

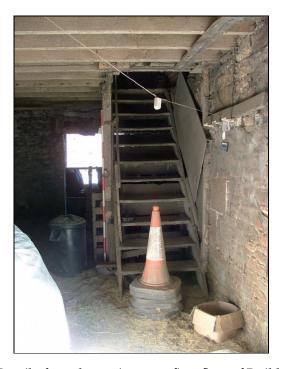


**Plate 39:** Detail of one of the blocked arched doorways with inserted window, south elevation of Building A (Scale = 2m)



**Plate 40:** West elevation of Building A (Scale = 2m)

FOR THE USE OF MR W MILLER - 53 -



*Plate 41:* Detail of wooden staircase to first floor of Building A (Scale = 2m)



Plate 42: Interior of Building A, 'W TYSON' inscribed on one of the floor joists

FOR THE USE OF MR W MILLER - 54 -



**Plate 43:** View looking north-west showing the east and south elevations of Building B



Plate 44: View looking north-east showing the south elevation of Building B

FOR THE USE OF MR W MILLER - 55 -



**Plate 45:** View looking west showing Building C (Scale = 2m)

# **5 CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 Prior to the archaeological building recording project, a rapid desk-based assessment was undertaken in order to place High Aketon Farm into its historical, topographical and archaeological context. This assessment revealed that the farm formed part of the Ballantyne Dykes family Crookdake estate until the 1920s when it was purchased by the then tenant, Wm Miller for £3000. The earliest reference to High Aketon as a place name is in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, and the farm is noted to have a date stone of 167?1 built into the farm buildings. Cartographic evidence suggests that the farm was in existence in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, and by the 1860s it had effectively reached its present form.
- 5.2 The archaeological building survey revealed that the building that is the subject of the present recording project is a stone-built, two-storey agricultural structure, which forms the eastern boundary of a courtyard arrangement of farm buildings at High Aketon Farm.
- An examination of the fabric of the building revealed that the structure has been extended to the south at some point between 1863 and 1900 as shown on historical mapping. The masonry also displays evidence for several episodes of rebuilding and repair. In the east elevation two doorways have been inserted in the 20th century. These alterations and modifications are not unusual in traditional farm buildings; they have been adapted to accommodate changing uses and requirements.
- The original features in the building, such as the arched doorway in the west elevation, suggest that the original function of this building may have been as a cart shed and byre or stable on the ground floor, with a possible granary or hayloft above. Cartographic evidence suggests that this building may not originally have been a continuation of the barn, which is located at a right-angle to the survey structure; consequently this building may have stood alone. There was no architectural detail observed within the building to aid in dating, however the Anglo-Saxon cross head, which is built into the east elevation, has been suggested to have been removed from Bromfield Church in the 18th century.
- 5.5 This possible granary may have the predecessor of Building A located against the south elevation, which also has characteristics of a granary, in particular its first floor windows. Building A is an interesting building in itself; the four arched doorways at ground floor level are quite unusual. Although they no doubt had practical functions, they provide architectural detail to the structure which can be clearly seen when approaching from the farm track.

- The survey building should not be seen in isolation; it forms part of an organised farmstead on which each building originally had a specific function. Along with the barn, and adjoining farmhouse, the survey building appears to have formed part of the earliest standing structures on the farm.
- 5.7 Buildings A and C appear to have been in existence by the publication of the First Edition Ordnance Survey map in the 1860s. They may have represented an increase in arable production and cattle herd in a period of the mechanisation of the farmstead, awareness of scientific principles in relation of animal husbandry, and land management, and the need to feed increasing population levels in general.
- Of all the traditional stone-built farm buildings at High Aketon Farm, the survey building is the one structure which displays evidence of rebuilding and repair, and it continues to be in need of remedial works. The Anglo-Saxon cross head in the east elevation is also weathering away, and it is hoped that some form of conservation work can be undertaken to retain its detail.

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1906 Map of Crookdake Manor (Carlisle Record Office Ref: D/BD/11/3.1)

c1921 Map showing Estate Sales (Carlisle Record Office Ref: D/BD/4/13)

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# APPENDIX: FIGURES

FOR THE USE OF MR W MILLER

For the use of  $M \bar{r} \, W \, Miller$ 

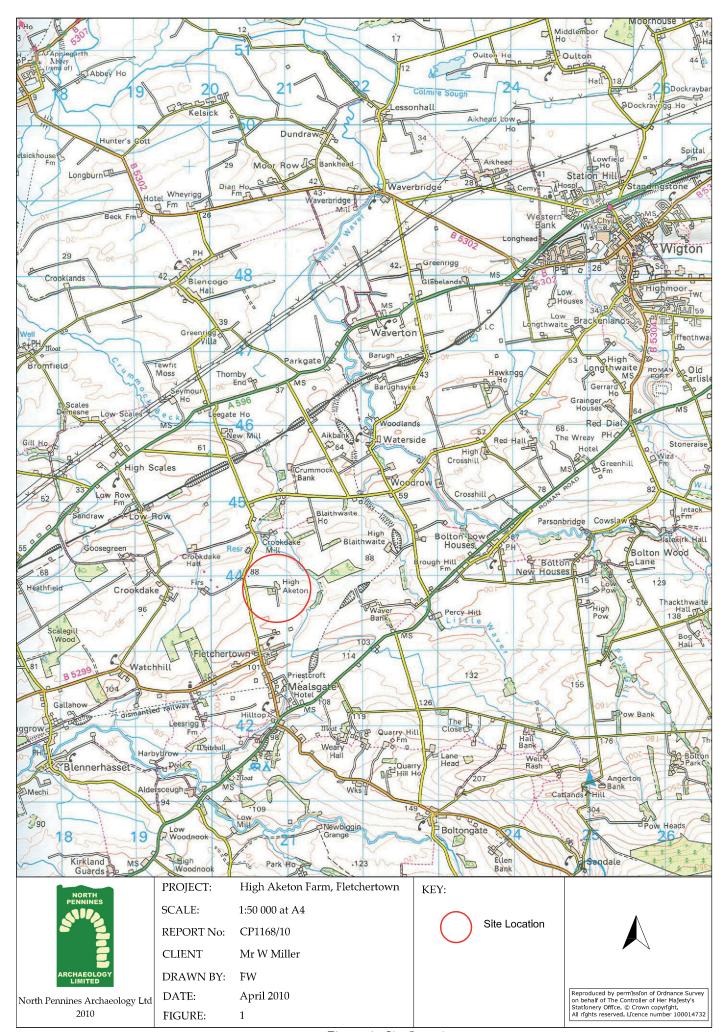


Figure 1: Site Location

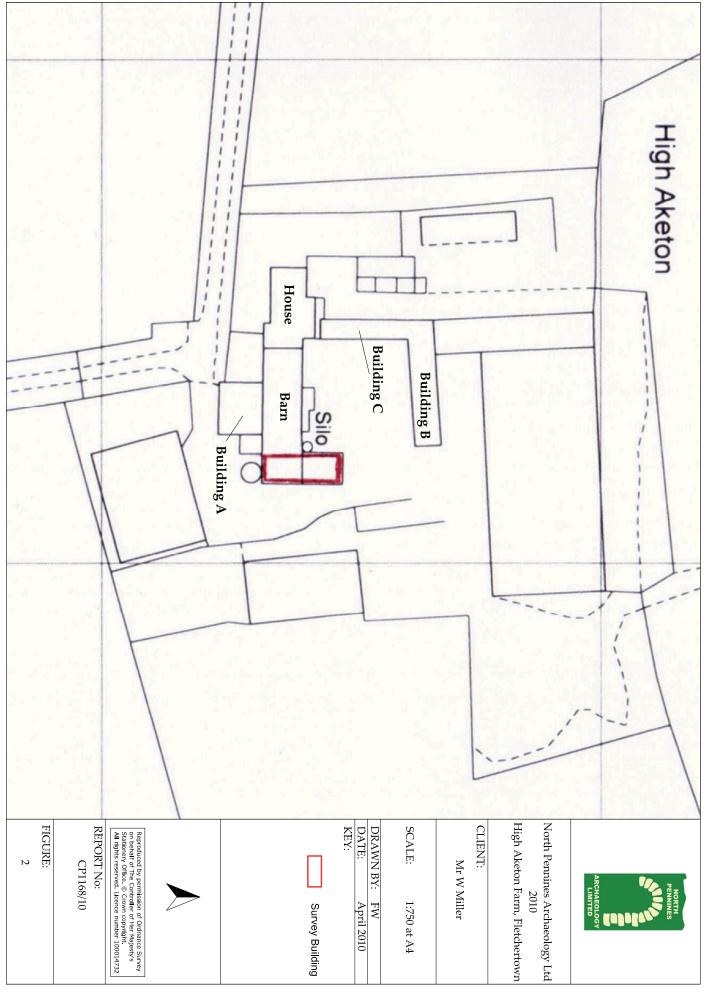


Figure 2 : Site Plan

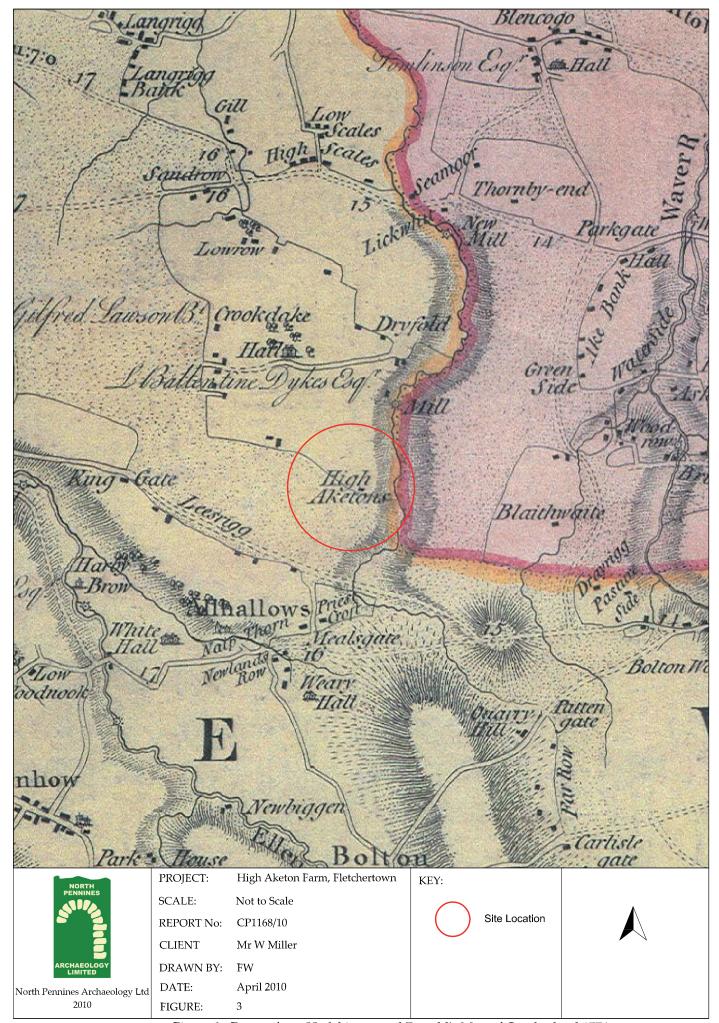


Figure 3: Extract from Hodskinson and Donald's Map of Cumberland 1774

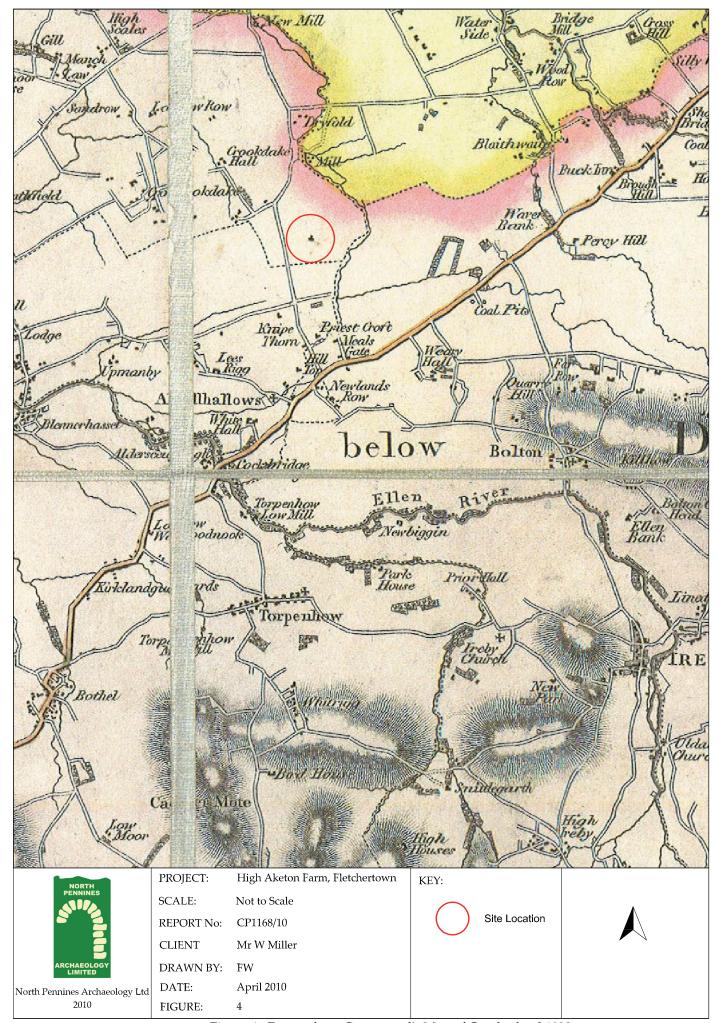


Figure 4: Extract from Greenwood's Map of Cumberland 1823



Figure 5 : Undated (early 19th century) Map of Crookdake Estate

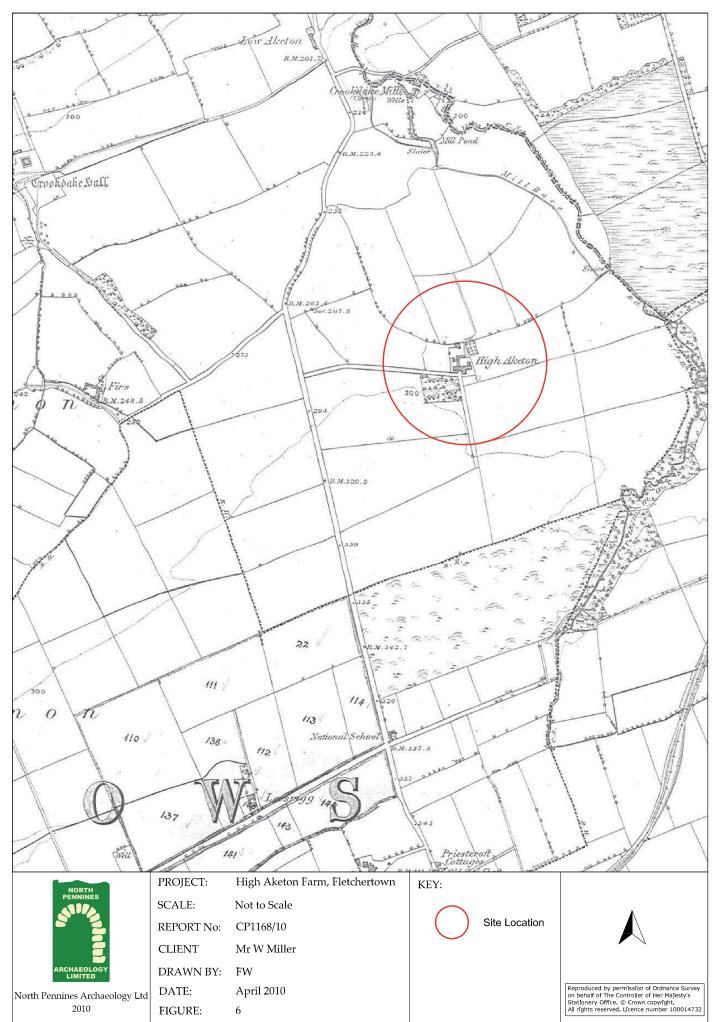


Figure 6: First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, Surveyed 1863-65 (6" to 1 mile scale)

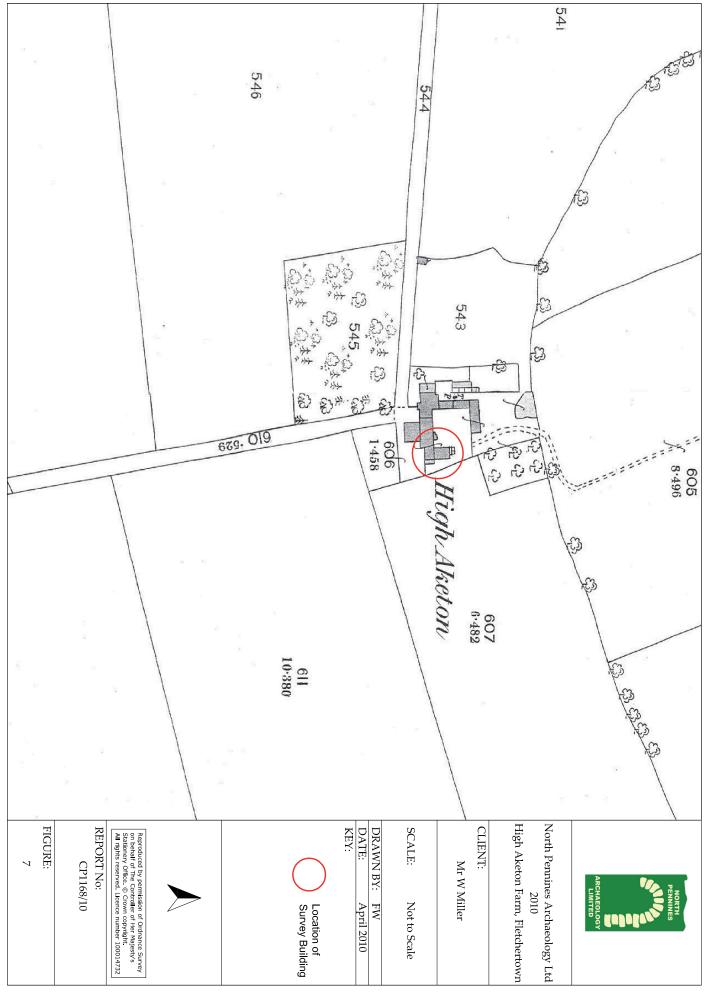


Figure 7: First Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1863 (25" to 1 mile scale)

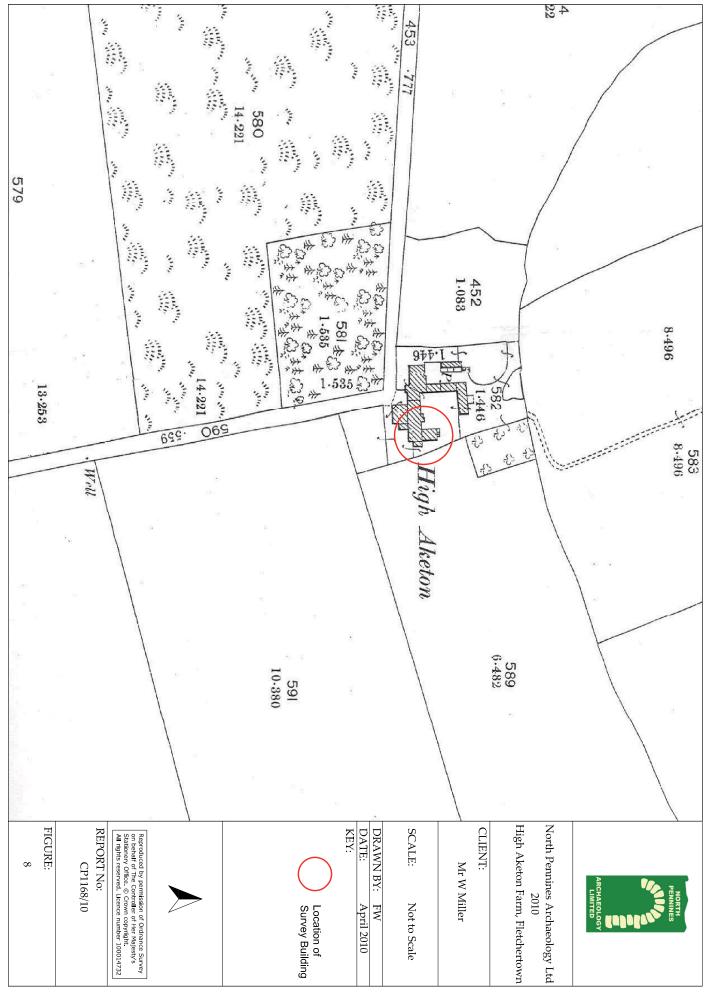


Figure 8 : Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1900 (25" to 1 mile scale)

Figure 9: 1906 Map of Crookdake Estate

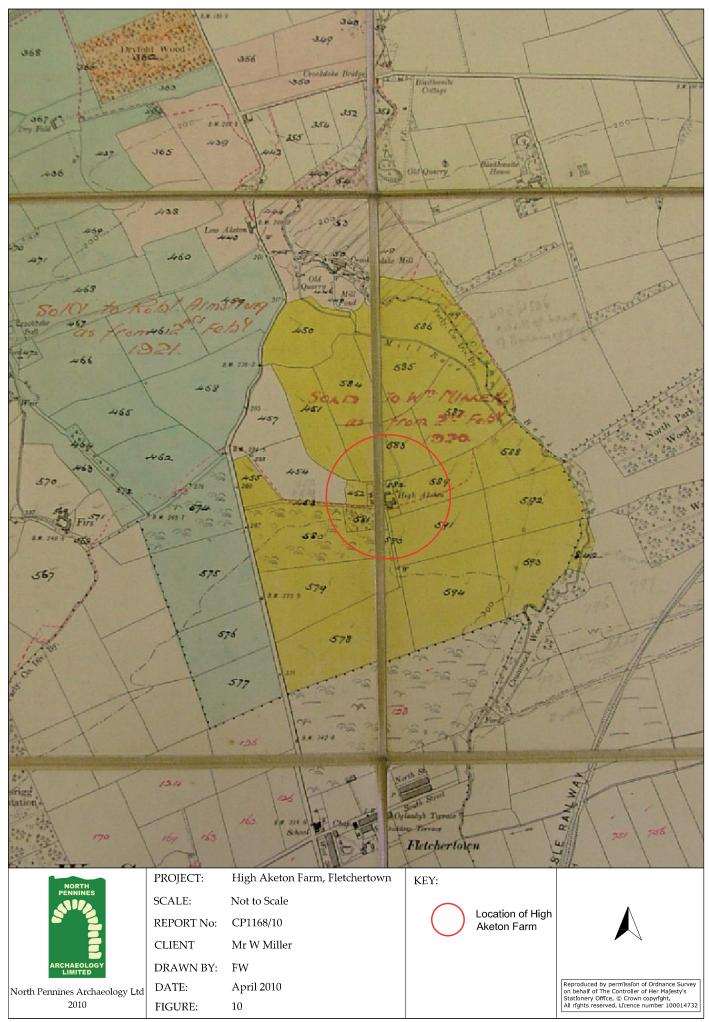


Figure 10: Map of Sold Estates c1921

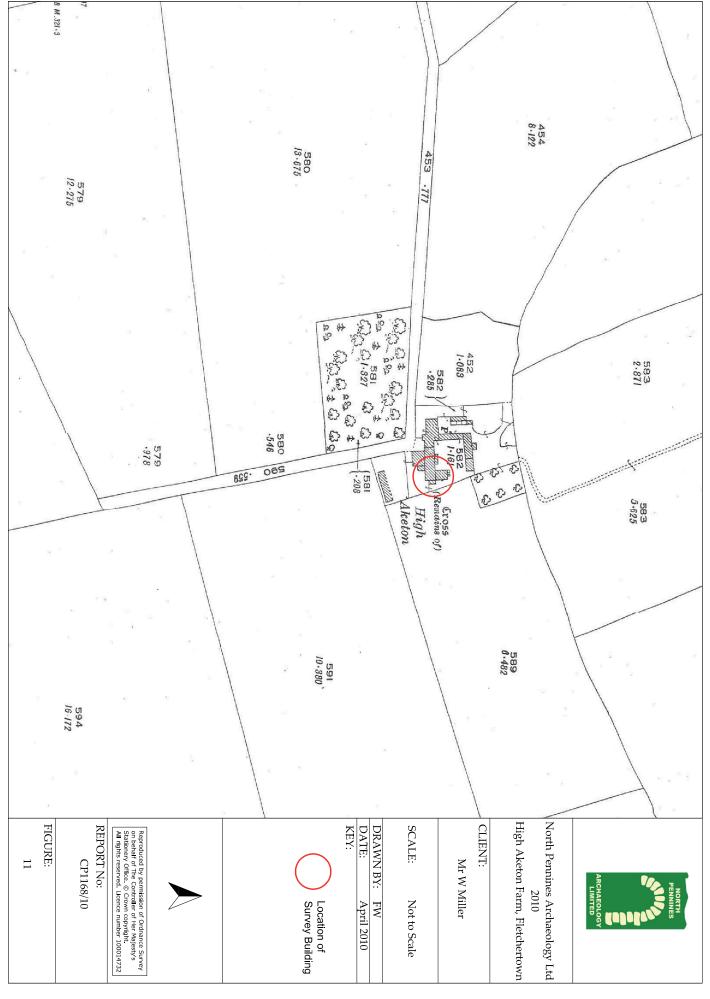


Figure 11: Third Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1925 (25" to 1 mile scale)

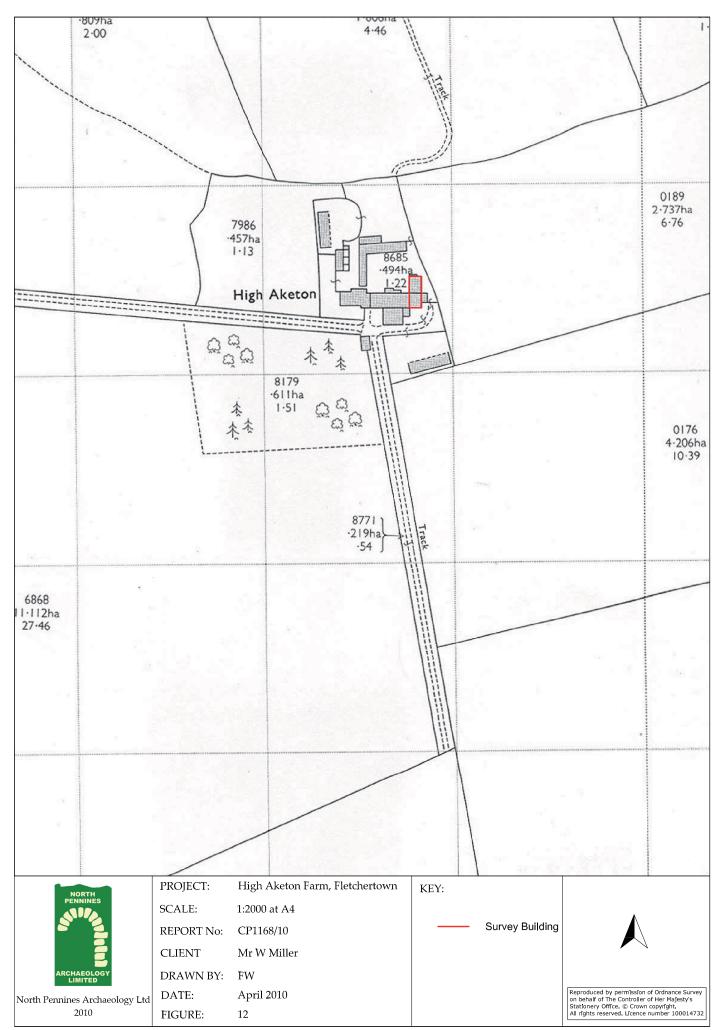


Figure 12: Ordnance Survey Map 1972 (1:2500 scale)

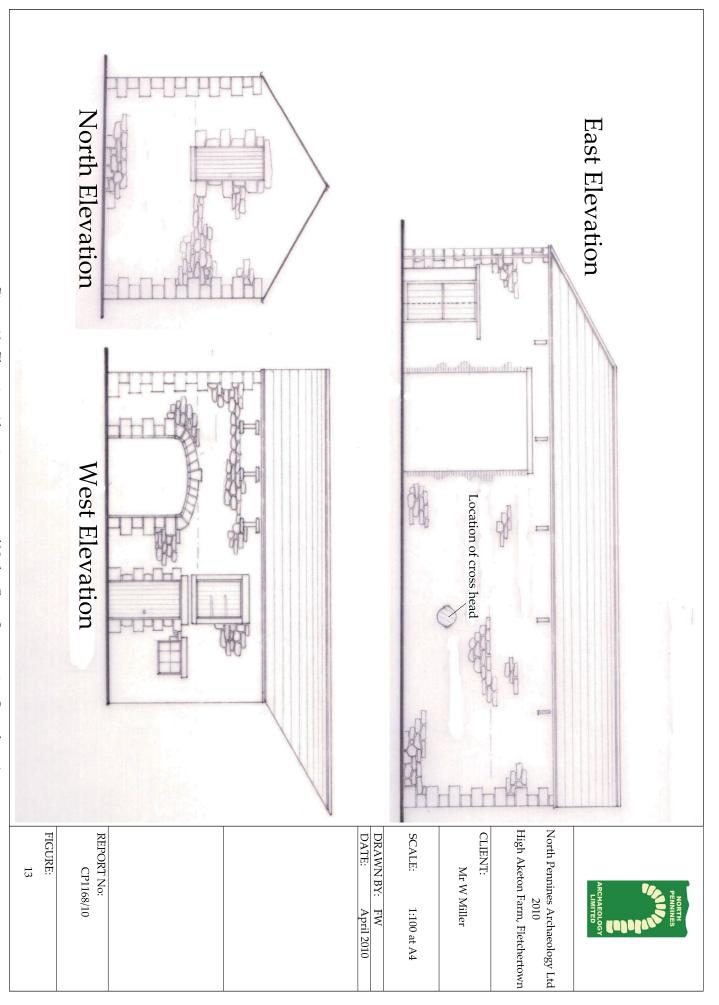


Figure 13: Elevations (drawings courtesy of Nether Row Construction Consultants)

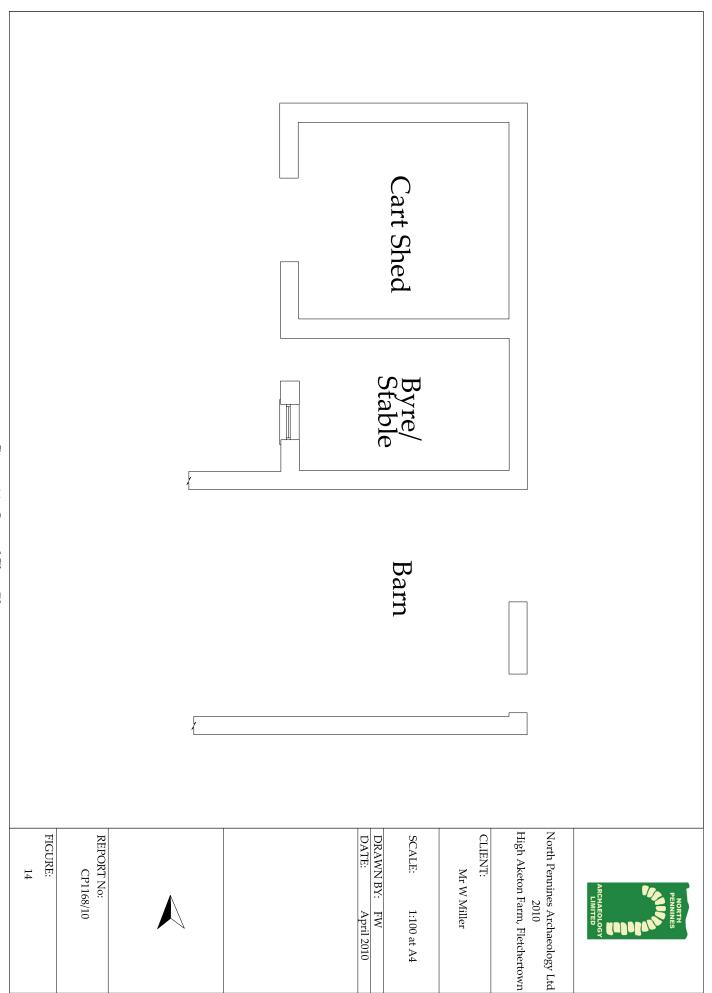


Figure 14 : Ground Floor Plan