

Client Report No. CP/191/05

**REPORT FOR AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
BUILDING RECORDING
PROJECT AT
BRACKENTHWAITE,
WIGTON,
CUMBRIA**

**FOR
Mr & Mrs Thomas**

**NY 6096 4213
Planning Application Reference:
3/04/0745**

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18th February 2005



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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February 2005, North Pennines Archaeology Limited was commissioned by GR Architects to undertake a building survey of redundant barns at Brackenthwaite Farmhouse, Brackenthwaite, Wigton (NGR NY 2914 4637). The work was carried out on behalf of Mr and Mrs Thomas, prior to the conversion of the buildings to living accommodation (Planning application No. 2/04/1530).
- 1.2 Cumbria County Council Archaeology Service produced a brief for a building recording project, which was to be undertaken prior to the commencement of building work. A 'Level 3' Building Survey was carried out as specified in *Recording Historic Buildings: A Descriptive Specification*¹
- 1.3 The barns at Brackenthwaite Farmhouse are considered to be of archaeological, architectural and historic interest and, along with the 18th century farmhouse, are grade II listed. They are recorded on the Historic Environment Record Ref. No. 22362. The farmhouse does not form part of the present survey.
- 1.4 The survey is concerned with two buildings (referred to as A and B in the report), 'A' is attached to the farmhouse and is 'L' shaped in plan. Barn 'B' bears a date stone of 1859 and is a long range parallel to the farmhouse (Figure 1). The proposed conversion affects all of 'A', but only the southern end of 'B', however, photographs and observations were made of all of that range.
- 1.5 The farmhouse and Range A are visible on the Enclosure Map of 1822 (Figure 2) (See Appendix for notes on tenants and landowners in vicinity of Brackenthwaite Farm). Range B and additional outbuildings are visible on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1865 (figure 3).
- 1.6 The survey was carried out in February 2005 by Fiona Wooler BA (Hons), PIFA and Joanne Beaty BA (Hons).

¹ Recording Historic Buildings: A Descriptive Specification, RCHME, Third Edition, 1996, Swindon

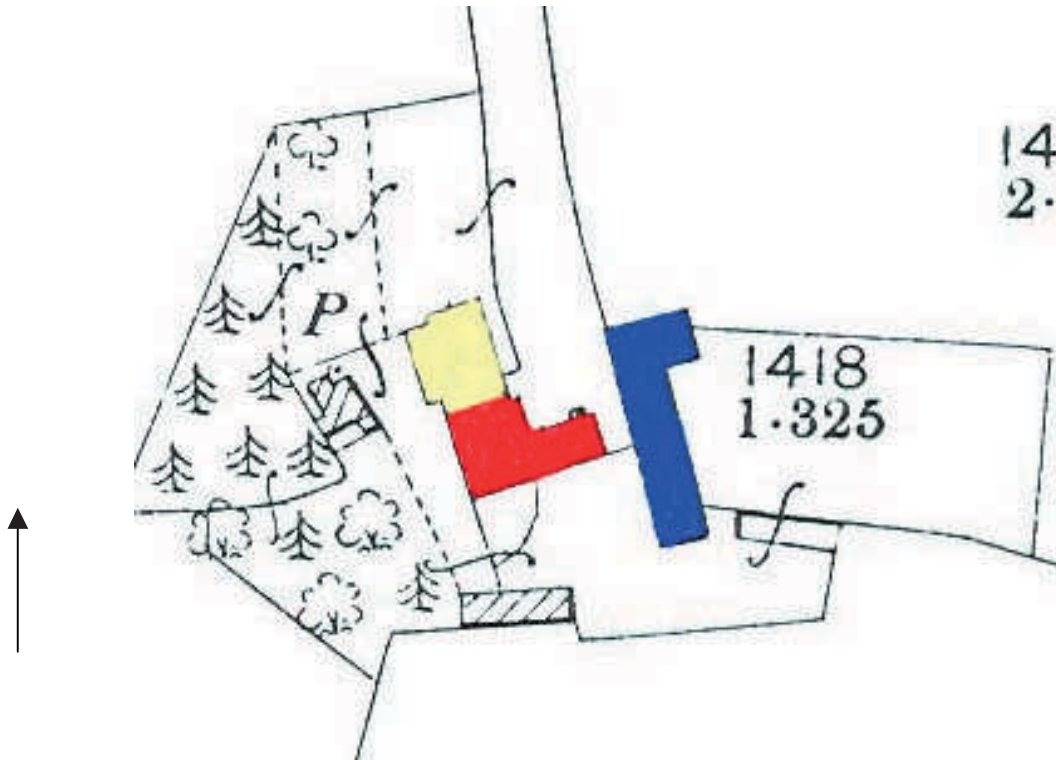


Figure 1 – Site plan. The farmhouse is shown yellow, Range A is shown red and Range B is shown blue (Plan based on Second Edition OS map of 1900, 24 inch to mile)



Figure 2 – 1822 Enclosure Map (Ref No. QRE1/107 – CRO)

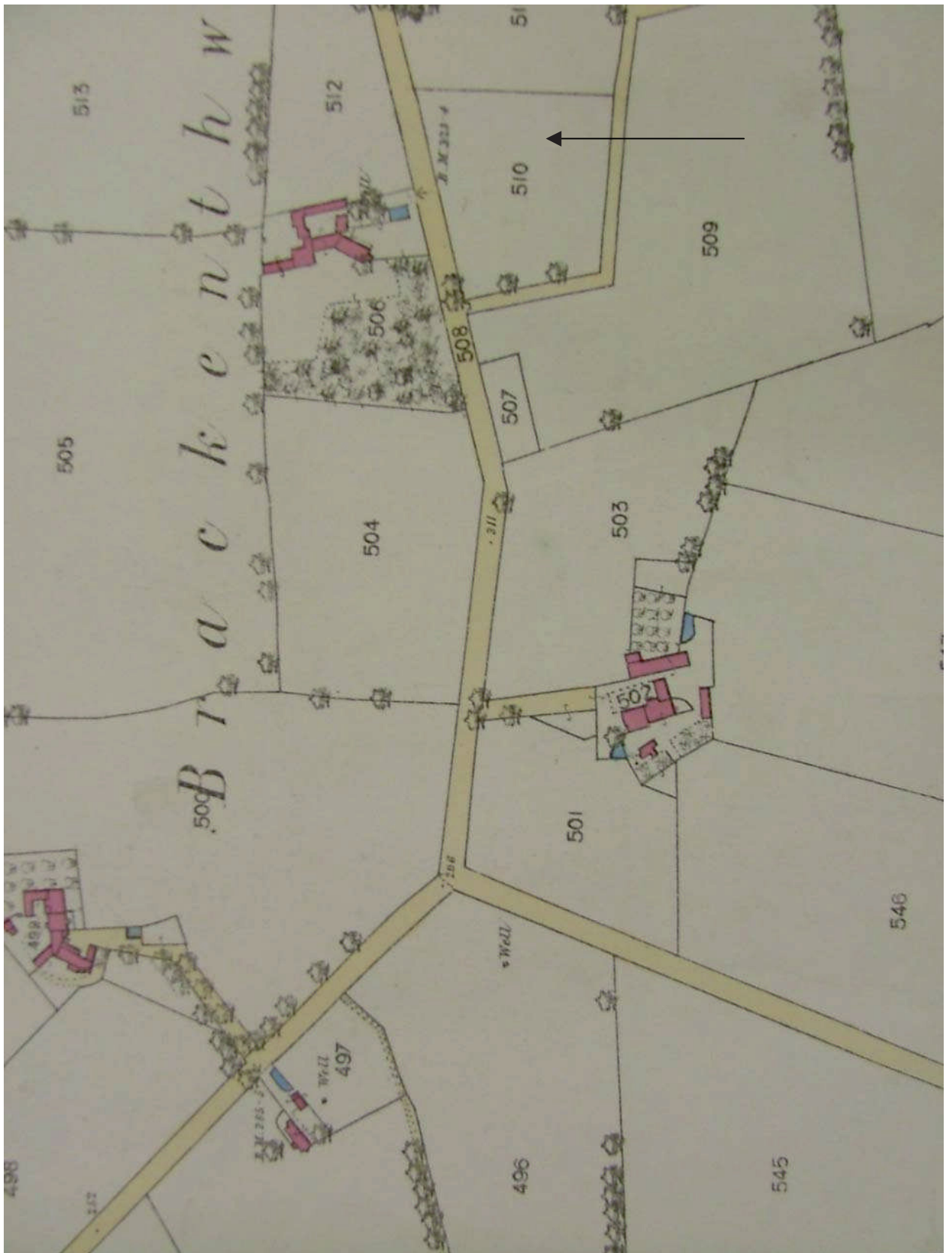


Figure 3 – First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1865 (Scale 25 inches to 1 mile)

2. SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 Brackenthwaite Farm (plate 1) is located approximately 4 kilometres south-east of the town of Wigton, just off the main A595 route from Carlisle to Workington (figure 4).
- 2.2 The farm is situated at a height of *c.*90 metres above mean sea level, in an area of mainly pastoral land. Less than 0.5 kilometres to the south of the farm runs the Speet Gill.
- 2.3 Three kilometres to the west of Brackenthwaite 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. Two and a half kilometres to the north-west of Brackenthwaite Farm, is The Height, where Parson and White² note there are *'many vestiges of encampments where may be traced several extensive trenches, some of a square and others of a circular form, but they as well as some others have been levelled since the enclosure of the common lands, and large quantities of stone removed from their sites'*.



Plate 1 – Brackenthwaite Farm as seen from the road, looking south

- 2.4 Within the vicinity of Brackenthwaite Farm, there were several quarries, at Howrigg to the north-west, and at 'Shawk', which may refer to an area around Chalkside. According to Whellan writing in 1860³, these quarries had long been noted for the production of red and white sandstone, flags and slates *'esteemed the best in Cumberland'*. Therefore it would seem there was no shortage of building material in the area.

² Parson and White, 1829, See Appendix

³ Whellan, 1860, See Appendix

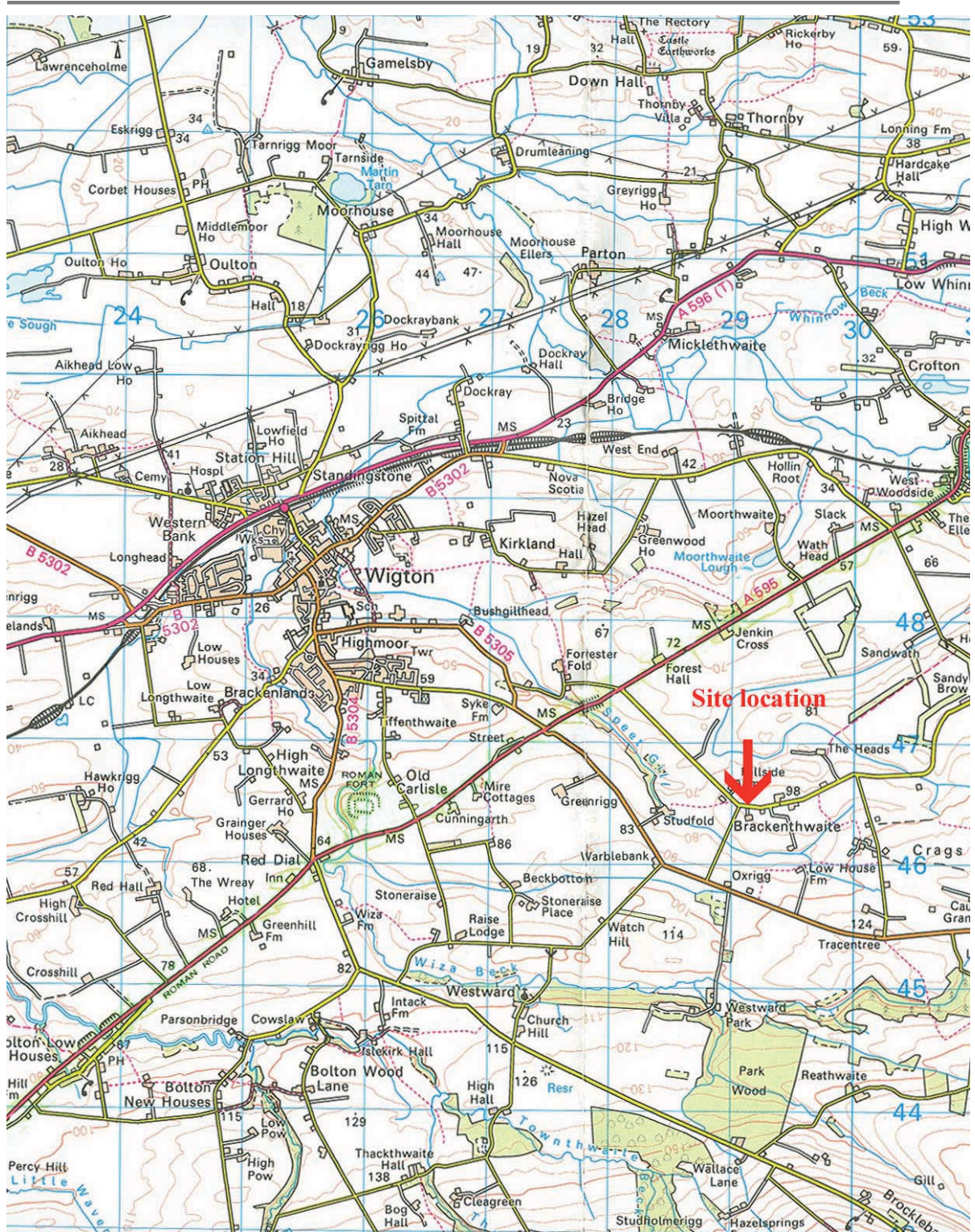


Figure 4 – Site Location

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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);
- a series of 35mm colour prints showing general views of the exterior of the buildings and their setting;
- 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 3 building survey has been produced to a professional standard in accordance with the current English Heritage guidelines set out in the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (MAP 2nd Edition 1991). The archive will be deposited within the County Record Office and a copy of the report given to the County Sites and Monuments Record, where viewing will be available on request.

4. PREVIOUS WORK

4.1 No previous archaeological work has been undertaken on the site.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Barn A

5.1.1 Barn A is L-shaped in plan and adjoins the southern gable end of the farmhouse (figures 5, 6, 7 and 8). It measures *c.*16 metres in length along the external south facing elevation, and *c.*5.25 metres in width.

5.1.2 The two-storey barn is constructed of coursed and uncoursed red and yellow sandstone, with a roof of Welsh slate over the long axis (east-west) and the western side of the short axis, and of sandstone tilestones over the eastern facing side (over large doorway) (plate 2). The sandstone ridge tiles are of triangular section. The window surrounds, door jambs and lintels are of dressed sandstone.



Plate 2 – East facing elevation of Barn A, showing sandstone tiled roof

5.1.3 The northern end of the barn, adjoining the house, has been converted to form part of the dwelling. A doorway has been inserted with a re-used false four-centred arch⁴ lintel bearing the inscription: -

I
I M
1667

5.1.4 Situated on the north facing external wall of Barn A is a red sandstone mounting block (figure 5), used for mounting horses.

⁴ Brunskill, R.W., 2000, Page 141

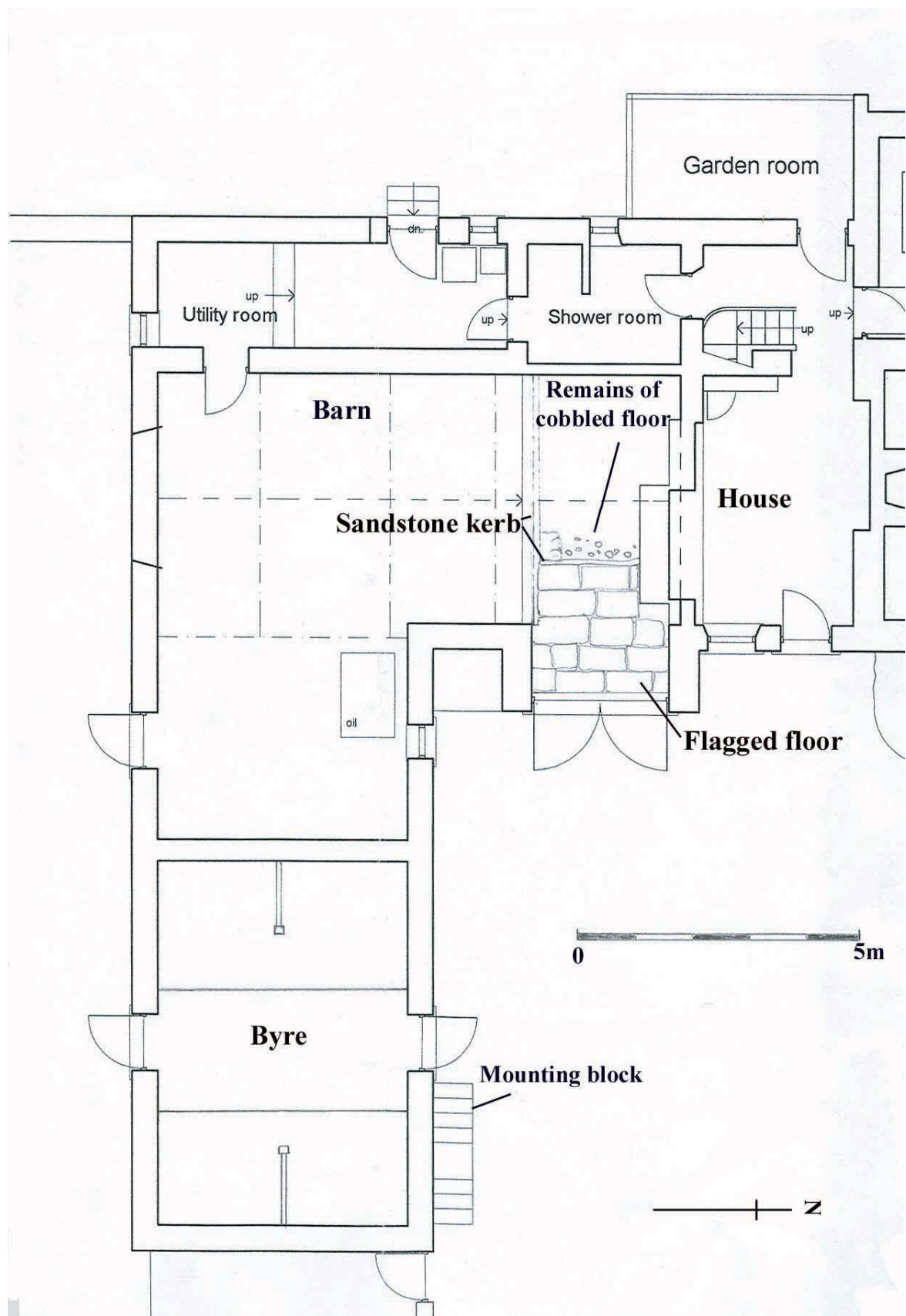


Figure 5 – Ground floor plan of Barn A



Figure 6 – East facing elevation of Barn A and House

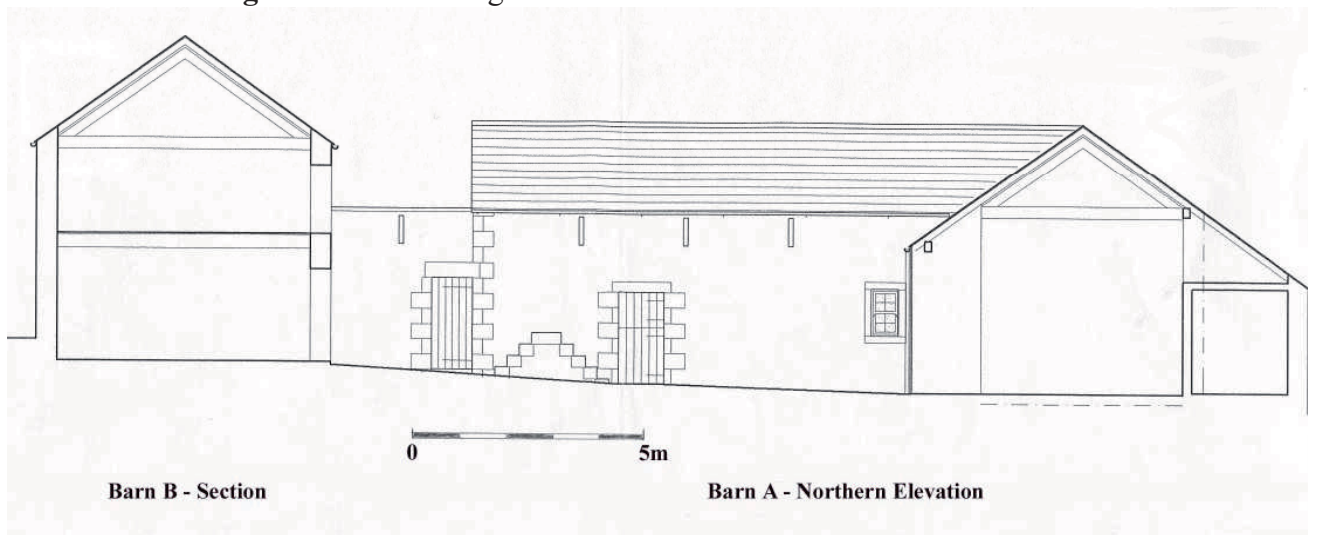


Figure 7 – North facing elevation of Barn A

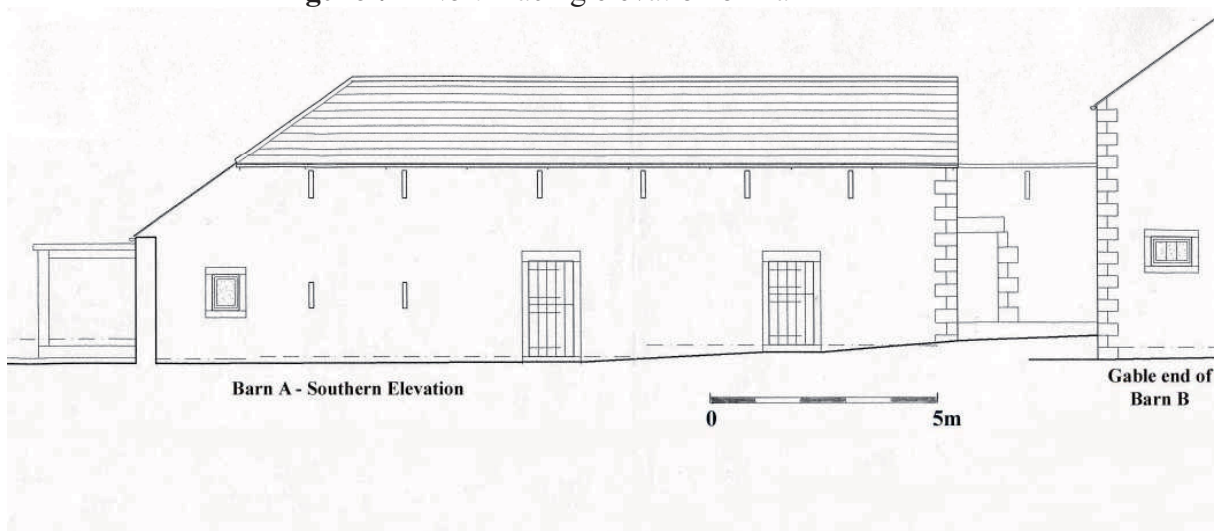


Figure 8 – South facing elevation of Barn A

5.1.5 The western elevation of Barn A has an outshut, which is contemporary with the rest of the structure. Currently it is used as a utility room and links to the house (figures 5 and 9 and plate 3),

however, it is difficult to assess the original function of this part of the barn, because as mentioned, it has been incorporated into the dwelling.



Figure 9 – West facing elevation of Barn A and Farmhouse



Plate 3 – South facing elevation of Barn A, showing outshut on western elevation is contemporary with the rest of the building

- 5.1.6 Along the southern elevation, below the eaves, are ventilation slits, with a further two at ground level (figure 8), and along the north facing elevation, there are three of these vents (figure 7). Interestingly, when the wall was inserted that joins Barn A and Barn B, a ventilation slit was added. This appears to have been more for decorative purposes

than functional, as this is simply a wall that separates the courtyard from the rear of the farm.

- 5.1.7 Internally, Barn A consists of two elements. At the eastern end of the building, there is a byre (figure 5 and plate 4), which may originally have been a stable, as the mounting block is situated just outside its door. This part of the barn is accessed via doorways on the north and south elevations. The byre has a concrete floor with a central manure passage. There are two timber scale boards that divide the space on either side of the manure passage, these divisions show that there would have been accommodation for a maximum of eight cows at any one time (two to each stall). The walls are plastered up to a height of *c.*1.40 metres from the base of the manure channel, the plaster and the remaining wall have been limewashed, a common wall coating in Cumbria which acts as a disinfectant. The height of the ceiling is quite low (at *c.*2.35 metres from the base of the manure channel) and is another characteristic of byres, this meant that with minimal ventilation and when hay was stored in the loft above, the byre would be well insulated. Byres, or cowhouses, were used for accommodating dairy cows or oxen at milking time or during the winter months. Generally, byres did not have windows (as is the case here), and any light or ventilation would have come from opening the upper half of the split door⁵.



Plate 4 – North facing elevation of Barn A showing doorway to byre

- 5.1.8 The remainder of Barn A would have been used for the processing and storage of crops. In the western elevation of the building there is a large doorway with a projecting porch (plate 2), this would have given access to the threshing floor of the barn. The large doorway would have provided light and ventilation for the process of threshing, which involved the beating of sheaves of corn with a hand-flail to separate the

⁵ Brunskill, R.W., 2002, Page 96

grain from the stalk. The threshing area would need to have been open to the roof to allow for the swing of the flail, and there is no evidence at Brackenthwaite Farm that there has been an upper floor over the area inside the large doorway.

- 5.1.9 The porch over the doorway would have provided protection from the rain, as threshing was undertaken during the winter months to provide grain for milling and/or to be fed to the cattle and horses⁶. Just inside the large doors, the floor is laid in sandstone flags (figure 5), this would have given a suitable surface for the threshing process. The threshing floor at Brackenthwaite Farm does not appear to have been very large, as a sandstone kerb separates it from the remains of a cobbled floor (although sandstone flags may have originally been laid on top of a cobbled surface). The threshing area appears to only amount to a square measuring *c.*2.30 by *c.*2.30 metres (*c.*7ft 6 inches square) (Plate 5), however, that is assuming that the cobbled area was not also used in the process. It is not unknown for a threshing floor to be of cobbles⁷, although it has not been observed before by the current surveyor.



Plate 5 – Sandstone threshing floor (Scale measures 50cm)

- 5.1.10 Either side of the large doorway would have been storage areas for the unprocessed and processed crops, although the right-hand side of the doorway has since been converted to part of the dwelling. Due to the western elevation of the barn being incorporated into the house, it was not possible to observe if there had been an opposing winnowing door to the main large doorway. Not all barns appear to have a winnowing door, as often this process of using a through draught or the wind to blow the dust and chaff from the grain was undertaken outside.

⁶ Brunskill, R.W., 2002, Page 96

⁷ Lake, J., 1989, Page 21

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- 5.1.11 At first floor level, there are two areas of Barn A that have been used for the storage of hay and possibly grain. There is a hayloft above the byre, which would have provided insulation for the animals below in the winter, and at the western corner (figure 10). The heights of these two haylofts differs in that the loft above the byre is 2.76 metres from ground level, whereas the loft in the 90° angle of the barn is only 2.10 metres from ground level.
- 5.1.12 The roof structure of Barn A consists of three principal rafter and tie beam trusses (giving four bays) with two rows of purlins, to the eastern end of the structure. At the 90° turn, there is a nice machine-sawn king post, with decorative carved sides (plate 6). The tie-beam for the king post is hand cut as facets are visible, although the rafters are machine-cut. King posts have been used in roof structures for centuries, however, in farm buildings they became popular from around the 1730s, when F Price illustrated the standard king post roof in his book 'The English Carpenter'⁸. They continued to be used into the nineteenth century, and appear to have been particularly suitable for dealing with 90° angles in a roof, as is the case at Brackenthwaite Farm. Similar, albeit more elaborate, king posts were observed at Pinquay's Farm, Raughton, near Dalston in a barn with a date stone of 1756, also used at angles⁹.
- 5.1.13 North of the king post there are a further two roof trusses, each of these have assembly, or carpenters, marks, one bearing the mark 'I' and the other (the truss in the wall that divides the barn from the southern end of the house) bears the mark 'III' (plate 7).
- 5.1.14 In the eastern gable end of Barn A there is a pitching door, which would have been used for transferring hay, straw or grain from carts to the loft, or vice versa.

⁸ Lake, J., 1989, Page 53

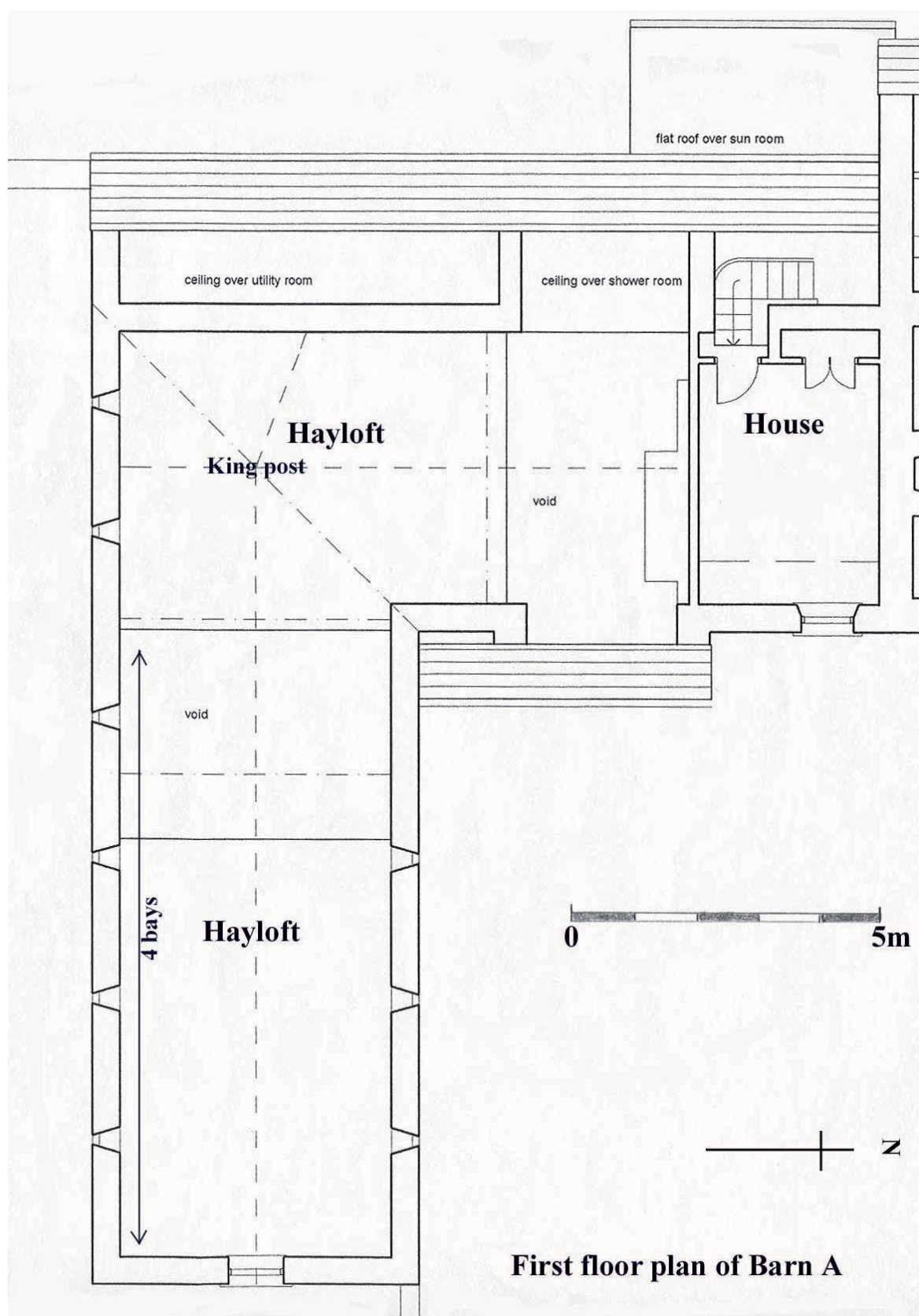
⁹ Cracknell, P.M., and Wooler, F., 2003



Plate 6 – King post, Barn A



Plate 7 – Assembly marks in roof truss set into wall that divides the barn from the southern end of the house



First floor plan of Barn A

Figure 10 – First floor plan of Barn A

5.2 Barn B (Figures 11 and 12)

- 5.2.1 Barn B is a long two-storey range of single-phase construction measuring *c.*27.60 metres in length by *c.*6.50 metres wide at its southern end. It is constructed of coursed and uncoursed red and yellow sandstone squared masonry with alternating long and short sandstone quoins and door jambs. All of the windows have plain sandstone surrounds except for the small windows of the larger byre, which have bricks making up the lintels.
- 5.2.2 The roof is laid totally in sandstone tilestones and ridge tiles, Tiles made from sandstone, as a roofing material, were used extensively in the vicinity of the Eden Valley where the stone split easily¹⁰. It is quite surprising to see a roof over a building bearing a date stone of 1859 laid in sandstone tiles, as it would be expected that with the expansion of the railways, Welsh slate would have been a cheaper option, however, Brunskill notes that local roofing materials may well have been plentiful and that Welsh slate did not necessarily become competitive until as late as the 1880s¹¹.
- 5.2.3 At the northern end of the range, on the eastern elevation, there is an open-fronted outshut or lean-to (figure 12), which is contemporary with the rest of the building. This may have been used as a shelter shed for oxen or cows. Set into the wall of the barn but under the roof of the shelter, are three pieces of vertical sandstone, behind the middle piece there is a gap, and therefore it is possible that this was used for tethering an animal(s), as the gap would have allowed for a rope to be tied to the central vertical piece (plate 8).



Plate 8 – Possible tethering bar for shelter shed

¹⁰ Brunskill, R.W., 2002, Page 162

¹¹ *Ibid*, Page 164

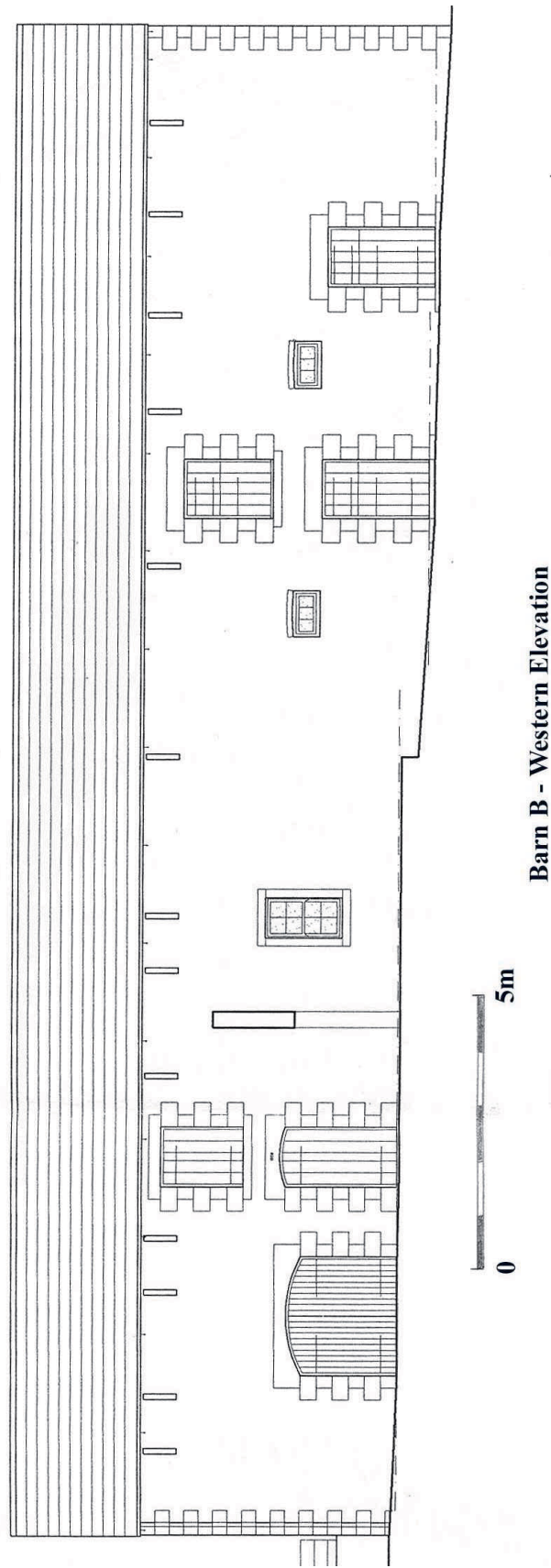


Figure 11 – Western elevation of Barn B

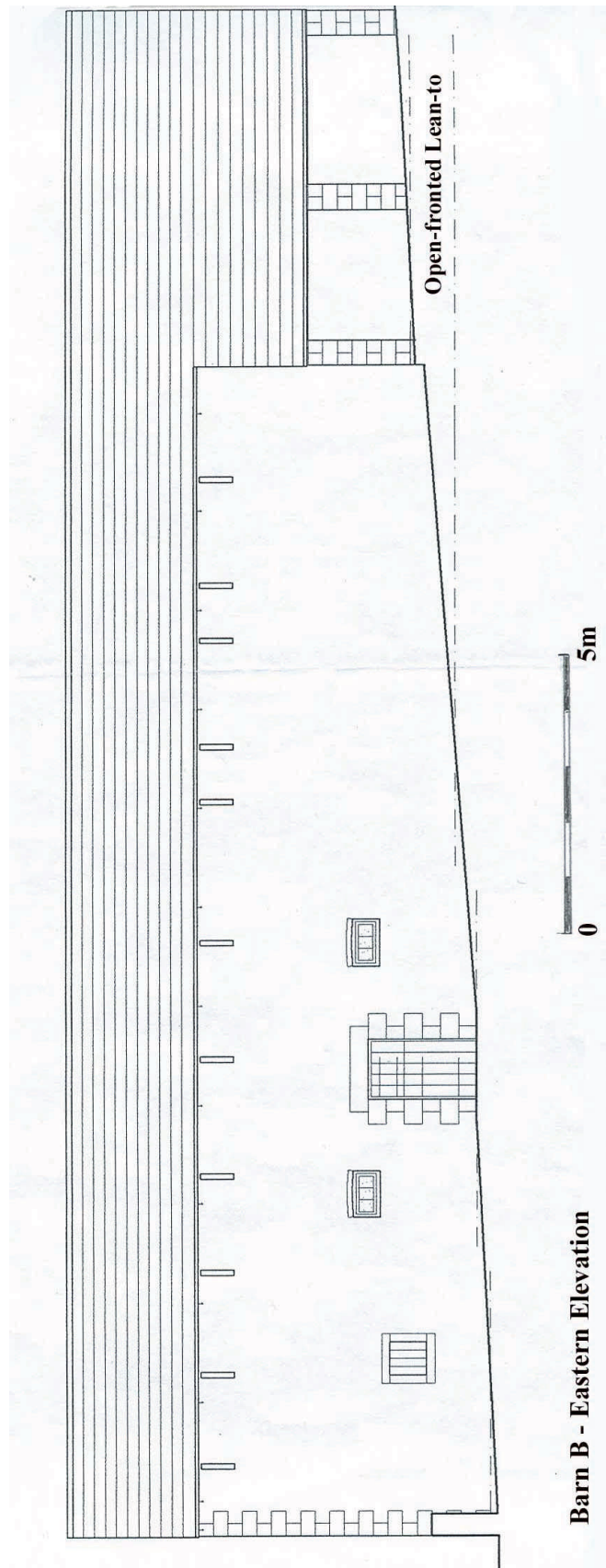


Figure 12 – Eastern elevation of Barn B

5.2.4 Ventilation slits are located all along the western and eastern elevations, just below eaves level (figures 11 and 12). There are a

further four in the northern gable end, two for the ground level and two at first floor level. There are no ventilation slits in the southern gable ends.

- 5.2.5 On each gable end, near the apex of the roof, are circular owl holes. On the northern gable end there is a weather vane.
- 5.2.6 Internally, at ground floor level, Barn B is split up into four different rooms (figure 13). At the southern end of the structure there are two byres, the smallest has a single doorway that leads into an enclosed area at the rear of the farm, while the larger byre has two doorways, one also leading into the enclosed area, and the other into the field at the eastern side of the building. Both of the byres have concrete floors and stalls, and the walls have been plastered to a height of *c.*1.40 metres from the ground with the remainder of the walls being limewashed to ceiling height (plate 9). Beside the western doorways of both byres, there are niches set into the internal walls (plate 9), these may have been used to hold a candle or lantern, medicines for the animals, or if horses were housed in these rooms at one time, grooming equipment¹².
- 5.2.7 Set into the west and east walls of both byres, there are square blocks of projecting masonry with pieces of timber attached by iron bolts (plate 10). There are two in the smaller byre and four in the larger byre. The function of these blocks is unclear, they do not necessarily relate to the current stall layout; therefore they may have been connected with the original stalls, and may possibly have been used for tethering. Iron tethering bars and ceramic water troughs are *in-situ* in both byres. The ceiling height of these two rooms differs from that of the byre in Barn A. Here, the height from ground level to the floor above is *c.*2.66 metres, compared to *c.*2.35 metres in Barn A, this may be a reflection of the move away from dank, ill-lit and poorly ventilated cow houses throughout the nineteenth century, when knowledge in animal welfare and husbandry became more scientific. One of the timbers of the ceiling in the larger byre has incised marks, these may relate to importing of the softwood from the continent.

¹² Brunskill, R.W., 1999, Page 77

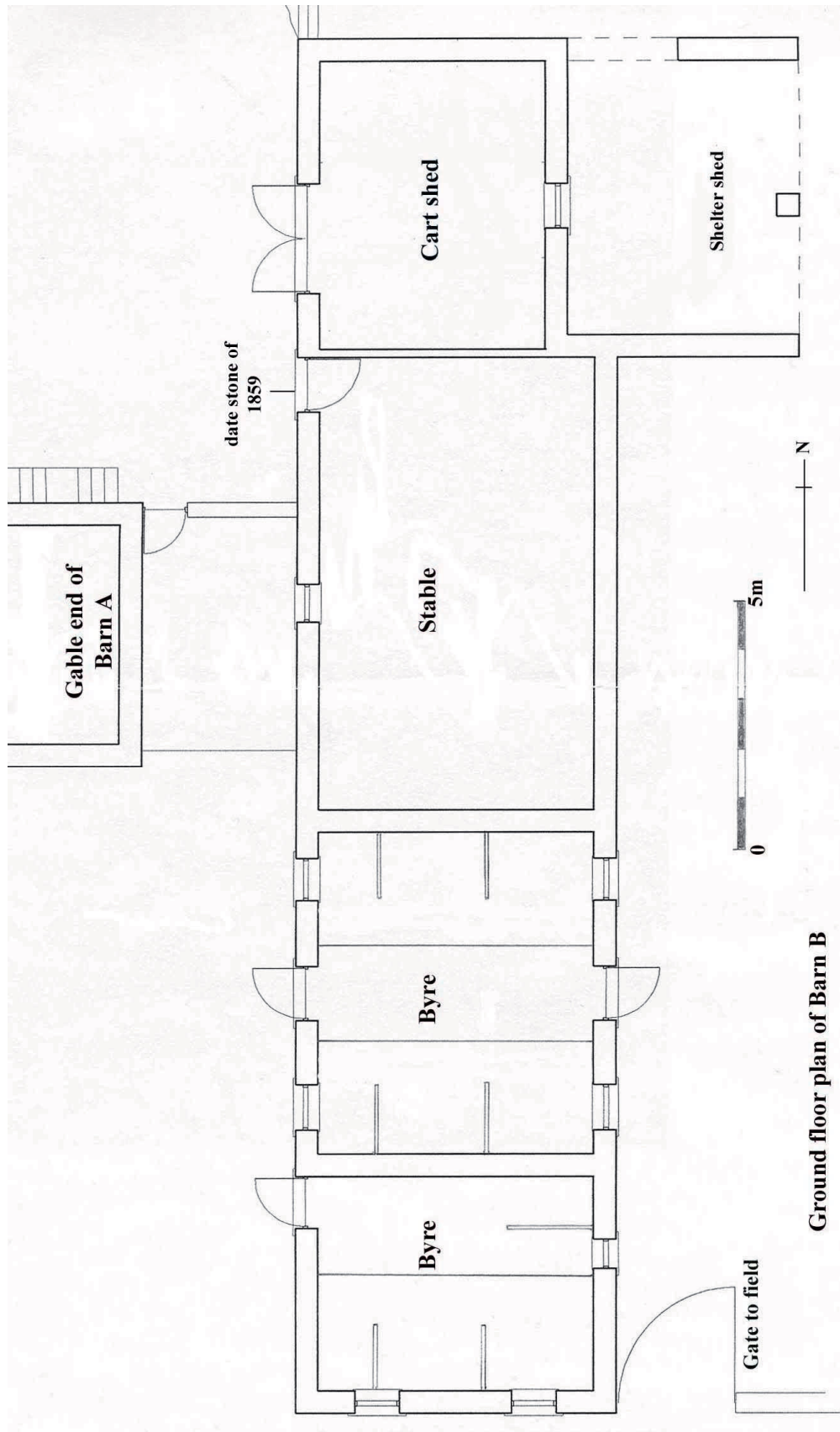


Figure 13 – Ground floor plan of Barn B



Plate 9 – Interior of small byre (Barn B)



Plate 10 – Projecting stone blocks with wood attached, byres Barn B



Plate 11 – Date stone of 1859 above stable doorway of Barn B



Plate 12 – Interior of stable, Barn B

5.2.7

To the north of the two byres is a stable with a single entrance into the courtyard. Above the stable doorway is a date stone of 1859 (plate 11). The interior of the stable measures *c.*9.0 metres by *c.*5.5 metres. Along the western interior wall are wooden pegs and poles projecting from the wall to hold harnesses and tack for the horses (plate 12). The stable appears to have been more recently used for housing cattle as there are two concrete stall divisions, with concrete floors, along the eastern wall. In both the north and south walls of the stable, there are from ground level upwards, five and six courses respectively of well-dressed sandstone blocks, which do not extend the full width of the wall (plate 13). The reason for this is unclear; it is possible that it is unused

stonework from the construction of the range. Attached to the north wall is a wooden ladder that gives access to the hayloft above (plate 13).



Plate 13 – Stable, dressed masonry blocks in north wall

- 5.2.8 At the northern end of Barn B is a cartshed, which measures *c.*5.70 metres in length by *c.*4.50 metre wide. It is accessed through double doors from the courtyard. There is a window in the east wall.
- 5.2.9 The first floor of Barn B only appears to be accessed via the ladder in the stable as described in 5.2.7. The hayloft is divided near the centre of the range by a stone gable wall with a doorway (figure 14). There are two pitching doors in the western elevation, which would have allowed for hay to be transferred into the loft from carts outside.

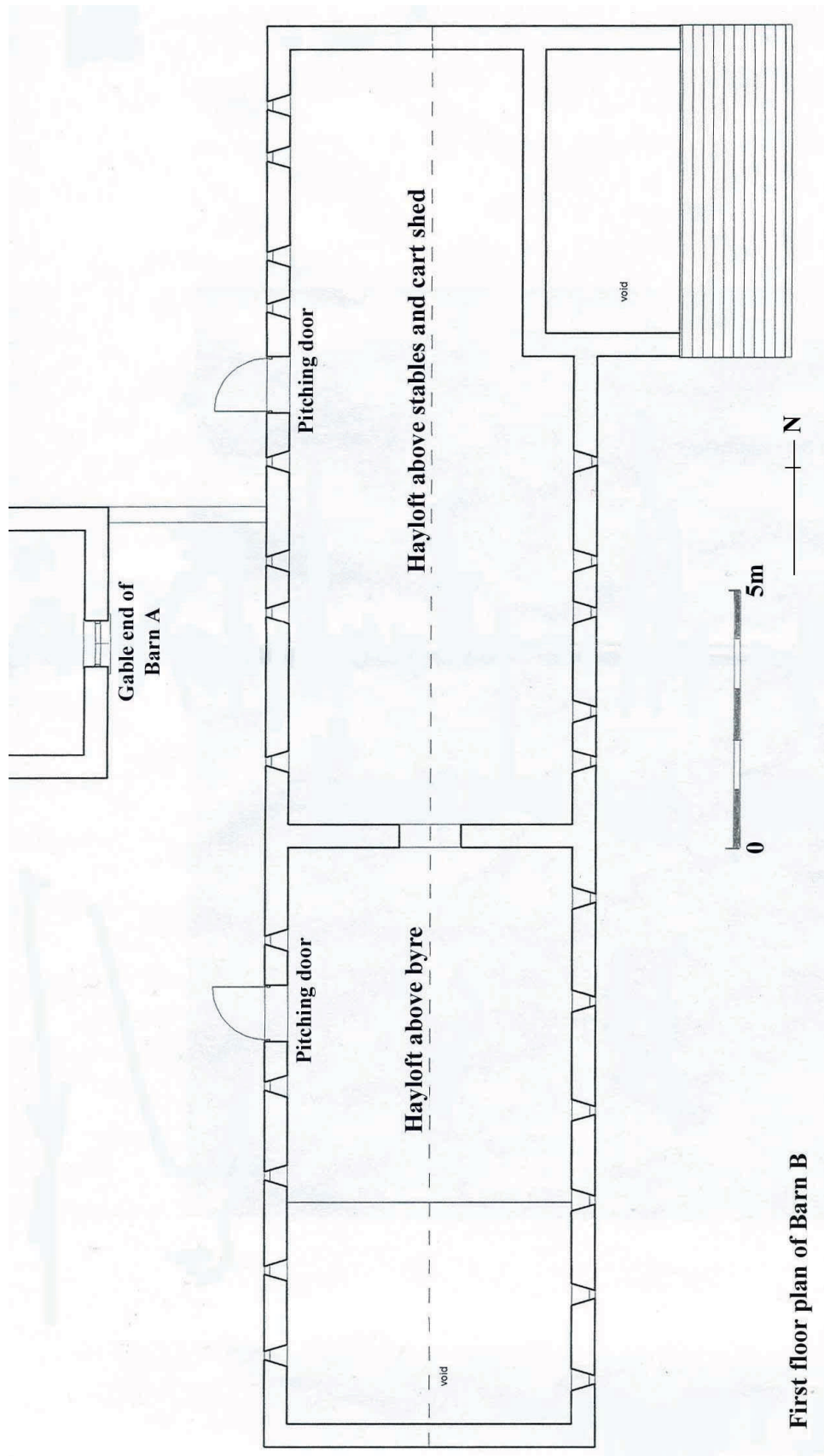


Figure 14 – First floor plan of Barn B

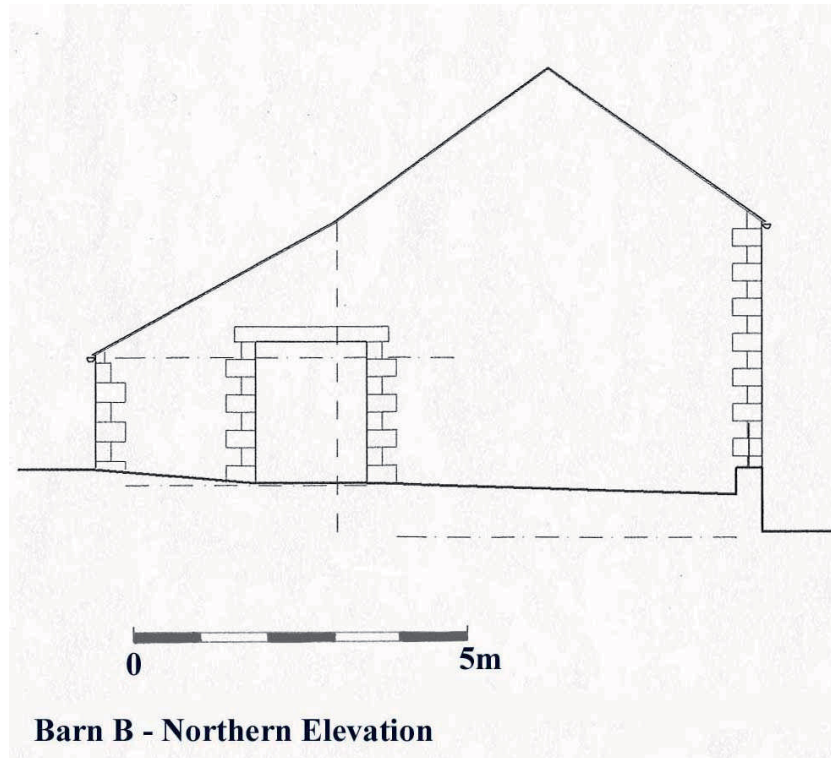


Figure 15 – North elevation of Barn B

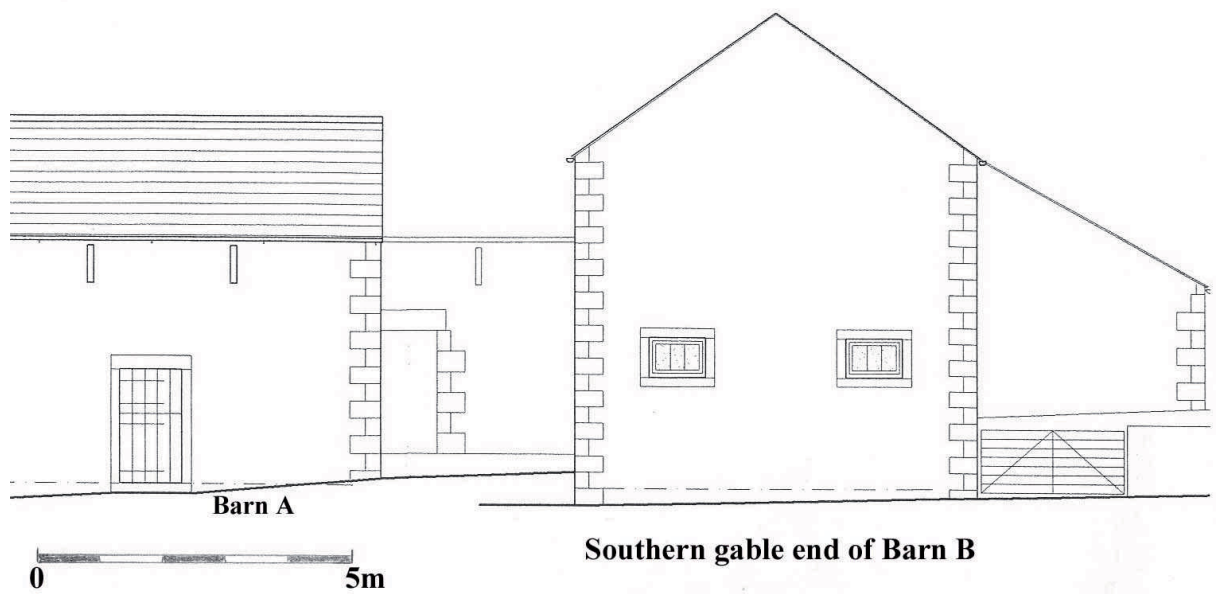


Figure 16 – South elevation of Barn B

5.3 The Farmhouse

5.3.1 Despite not being part of the present survey, the house at Brackenthwaite Farm, as with any other farm, is an integral part of the farmstead, and is worthy of note.

5.3.2 The farmhouse is aligned north-south, with Barn A attached to its southern gable end. The garden is to the north and western sides of the house. The main doorway to the farmhouse faces into the cobbled courtyard (plate 14).



Plate 14 – Brackenthwaite Farmhouse

5.3.3 The listed building record describes the house as *'Early 18th century, painted roughcast walls with eaves cornice and painted V-jointed quoins, Welsh slate roof with [three] bottom courses of sandstone slates; coped gables and kneelers, and cement rendered chimney stacks. 20th century panelled door in shouldered bolection architrave with panel frieze under console bracketed cornice. Sash windows with glazing bars in painted stone architraves. Former barn to left has 20th century doors and windows in painted stone surrounds, door with reused Tudor-arched lintel dated and inscribed I & MI 1667'*.

5.3.4 The house is a single-pile (one room deep), two-storey structure, with an outshut added to the rear to provide accommodation for a scullery and dairy with bedrooms above (figure 17).

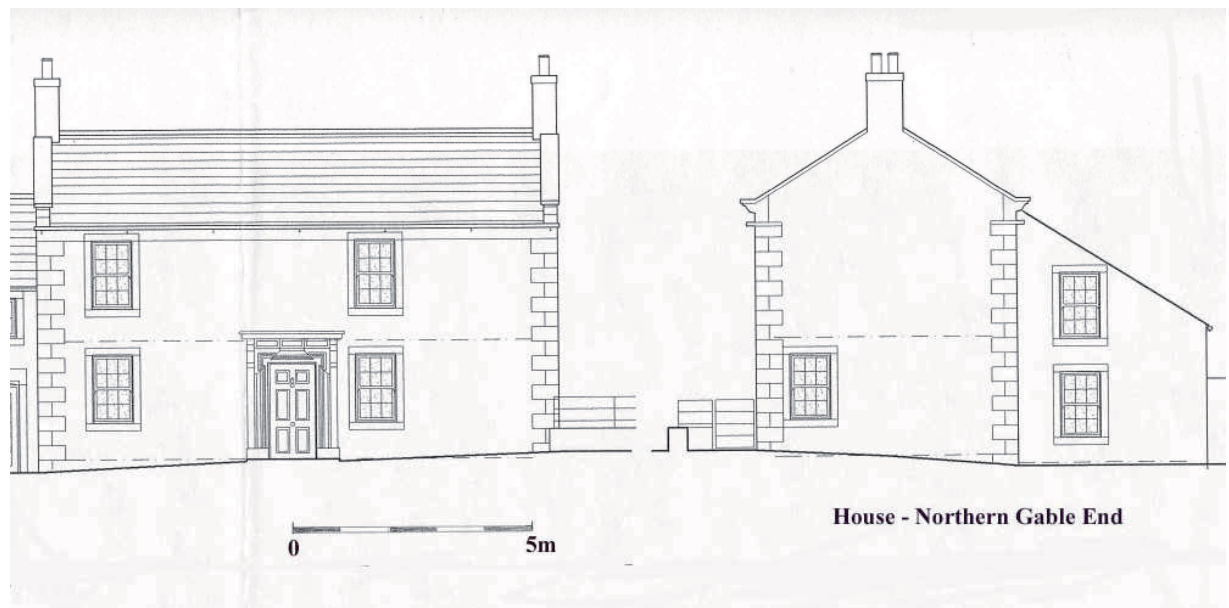


Figure 17 – East and north facing elevations of the farmhouse

5.3.5 The presence of the reused lintel bearing the date 1667, suggests that there was an earlier farmhouse, and possibly farm buildings, on the site.

5.4 Additional outbuilding

5.4.1 To the south of the farm buildings, there is a single storey byre or stable (See photograph on CD-Rom). This building does not form part of the present survey; however, it is to be retained as it is situated within the curtilage of the farmstead.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The earliest buildings on the site are the farmhouse with adjoining L-shaped barn and byre; these appear to be those shown on the Enclosure map of 1822 (figure 2) and are likely to be of early to mid 18th century date. These would presumably have been sufficient for a farmer operating at a subsistence level, farming on open fields and wasteland¹³.
- 6.2 By the middle of the 19th century, these buildings do not appear to have been able to cope with the demands of enclosure, which was beginning to happen in the area around Brackenthwaite in the 1820s, as shown by the Enclosure map (In the thirty years after the Napoleonic Wars, 2800 acres was bought into profitable cultivation around Wigton¹⁴). By 1859, the large range referred to in this report as Barn B, was constructed. This provided accommodation for more livestock, specifically cows and horses. This range would also have housed a cart, and provided increased storage space for hay, straw and possibly grain.

¹³ In the 1790's, nearly 60% of the land in Cumberland was described as waste (which included greens and common to huge areas of heath, moor, mountain and fen). See Wade-Martins, S., 2004, Page 41

¹⁴ *Ibid*, Page 63

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8. APPENDIX

CRO = Carlisle Record Office

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

Westward

'Westward is next unto Caldbeck towards the north, lying in a valley under Brockelbanke fell and Warnell Fell, from both which it is partly severed. This place at the conquest was forest ground of Allerdale, and was granted to King Henry II by Alane, the second lord thereof. It did anciently belong to and was part of the barony of Wigton, until it was regranted by King Henry III to the Multons and since then the lords of Northumberland have made great improvement of the forest grounds and parks there, by converting the parks into demesne lands and the other forest grounds (which were fertile, and free from wood) into tenancies. And when the place (by these improvements) began to be inhabited, there was a parochiall chappell erected by the monks of Holm Cultrum not far from Hylekitk, where they had a chantry; they then had also the rectory of Wigton. And since the fall of the abbay, Westward chappell was made a church parochiall, the advowson thereof being then granted to the Dean and Chapter of Carlisle, who now let the great Tythes to Sir Christopher Musgrave, and are worth 100li a year. The small dues and tythes belonging to the vicar being not worth above 16li a year, or 20li at the most'.

Rosley Quarter of Westward Parish

'Roseley quarter lyes next to Brokelbank northward, mile lower upon Shalk and is divided from the first quarter by Wysa which runs through the park, which is farmed out for 50li a year. Upon Roseley hill (at the northwest-end of the town), the duke of Sommerset (in his ladye's right) holds a fair here, for horses, cattles, sheep and other goods every Whitsun Munday and every fortnight after till Martinmas. Here is also sold the best houswife's linen cloath, at very moderate rates. This is the best fair for Irish and Scotch horses, and for cattle and sheep, in all the north, the tolls and profits of this fair being worth 12li a year'.

'To Roseley quarter is adjoined Brackenthwaite, the Height and Woodcock hill. Mr Brisco hath an enclosure adjoining to Breconthwait worth 40li a year. All the lands in this second quarter are tenant rights'.

History and Antiquities of the County of Cumberland – W Hutchinson 1794

The Parish of Westward

*'Extent – From E to W four miles and a half; from N to S four miles and a half'
'Soil and produce – About four-fifths of this parish consists of common lands: the soil is reddish; in general a mixture of clay and sand, and fertile in the production of grass, and every kind of grain; the south and south-east parts are wetter and colder, and the west parts in general driest. Not many turnips are raised here. They fallow for wheat; after which they sow it with barley, and often with clover and hay feeds; and, after laying a year or two, is ploughed out for oats: but few farmers in the parish or neighbourhood observe, or put in, a regular succession of crops'.*

'Farms and rent – Farms are from 100l. per annum to 15l. but mostly about 30l. Rent about Rosley 30s per acre; in the south part of the parish 15s; towards Thursby 21s; and near Wigton higher'.

'Sheep and cattle – In this parish about 4000 sheep are kept; three years ago there were a great many more, but the wet seasons have caused them to die in the rot, great part of the common being naturally wet. About six fleeces will weigh a stone, which sells for 8s 9d; weathers, three years old, 10s and 10s 6d. On this common, for the greatest part of the year, graze about 500 little galloways, most of them bred in the parish, but part bought; and about the same number of small Scotch black cattle are grazed. The general size of work horses is fourteen hands and a half. Cows etc bred here, when fat, weigh about seven stone per quarter'.

'Quarries – In the brook Shawk are excellent red sandstone quarries for stone, flags, slate etc. These stones are esteemed the best in Cumberland, being pretty soft to work, compact and wear well, and admit the finest polish'.

'Tithes – All taken in kind'.

'Tenure – Customary, arbitrary fines on death of lord and tenant'.

'Aspect, Wood and General Appearance – This parish is unlevel, but not remarkably hilly. The lands in general have an inclination to the north. Here is a wood called Westward Park, consisting of several hundreds of acres, belonging to the Earl of Egremont, who is also lord of the manor of Westward. The inclosed land does not lay in regular villages, but interspersed here and there in one, two, or three tenements together, upon the border of the common, so that the tenants have their grounds very compact and commonage very convenient for their cattle. The common land is mostly green, and produces good herbage; Rosley-Hill is a piece of fertile green common, from which one has a very extensive prospect to the north, east and west. On this hill are held the noted markets, or fairs, every fortnight between Whitsuntide and Martinmas: the three first days are the most noted for numbers of cattle etc, shown here; perhaps 2000 head of black cattle and 500 horses in one day'.

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

Westward Parish

'Is about 4 ½ miles in length and breadth, and is bounded on the east, north and west by Cumberland Ward, and on the south by Caldbeck, Bolton and All-Hallows parishes, having, on its eastern limits, the stream which forms the Wampool river, and on its southern boundary the brooks that give rise to the Waver. The soil is a reddish mixture of clay and sand, and is fertile in the production of grass and grain. Here are excellent quarries of red free-stone [sandstone] and slate. The higher grounds abound with limestone, and there are also several seams of cannel and other coal in the parish, which also contains a wood of several hundred acres, called Westward Park, belonging to the Earl of Egremont, who is lord of the manor, which comprises the whole parish, and is divided into three townships, of which the following forms an enumeration, with the returns of the number of inhabitants in 1801, 1811, and 1821, and the estimated annual value of the lands and buildings in 1826': -

Brocklebank and Stoneraise Township: -

Population in 1801 – 434

Population in 1811 – 475

Population in 1821 – 108 Houses, 110 Families, 621 Persons

Annual Value £4809

Rosley [in which Brackenthwaite is situated] and Woodside Townships: -

Population in 1801 – 484

Population in 1811 – 527

Population in 1821 – 113 Houses, 109 Families, 666 Persons

Annual Value £2060

‘The Manor of Westward was anciently a part of the great Forest of Inglewood, and was so called owing to its being the western ward of the forester’s charge. It was first annexed to Inglewood by Henry II, who received a grant of it from the second lord of Allerdale; but Edward III granted it out from the crown in 1344, to Thomas Lucy, from whose descendants it passed to the Percy’s, and from them to the Earl of Egremont’.

‘Old Carlisle, about 1 ½ miles north of the church, and the same distance south of Wigton, is the site of an extensive Roman station, in the line of a Roman road that leads from the city of Carlisle to Ellenborough. The foundations of innumerable buildings are scattered over many acres, as well within the vallum as on every hand without, except to the westward, where the ground descends precipitately to the Wiza rivulet’.

‘There are also in the parish many vestiges of encampments, particularly near the place called The Heights, where may be traced several extensive trenches, some of a square and others of a circular form, but they as well as some others have been levelled since the enclosure of the common lands, and large quantities of stone removed from their sites. Hutchinson says ‘on the level green, a little below the station, foot races are still kept up, and the distances are denoted by hillocks, on one of which a post is now fixed. We conceive in this race is preserved a Roman custom, and the ancient goals are pointed out by the hillocks; which are apparently artificial, but too small to be tumuli’.

‘Isle Kirk Hall, now a farmhouse, 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 Holm 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’.

‘Clea Hall is also a farm-house, and belongs with the estate to Sir Henry Fletcher, whose grandfather resided here, and was long a representative in Parliament for Cumberland’.

‘Brackenthwaite, a hamlet in Rosley township, 2 ½ miles SE by E of Wigton, and ½ mile ENE of Craggs School’.

Farmers listed at Brackenthwaite (those marked * are yeomen): -

George Bewley*

John Pearson*

William Graham
George Hardon
John Harrison
Wilfred Hayton*

Joseph Hodgson
Thomas Rayson
Thomas Hayton*

Cumberland Directory – Mannix and Whellan 1847

‘The hamlets of Brackenthwaite and Craggs, the former 2 ½ and the latter 3 miles SE of Wigton, are also in Rosley quarter, which contains 2845 acres of freehold land, rated to the poor, in 1847, at £2851. 10s., belonging to Sir Wastel Brisco, General Wyndham, the heiress of the late Sir P Musgrave, Henry A Lea, Esq., Mr Richardson, Mr Bewley, and several resident yeomen. In the village of Rosley is a neat dwelling, the residence and property of Mr Joseph Rook, who also owns the Heights, an estate in Woodside quarter. Population of Rosley, 279’.

Farmers listed at Brackenthwaite (those marked * are yeomen): -

Wm Bell, farmer and game keeper to Gen. Wyndham*
Barbara Goodfellow*
Jph Hodgson, farmer and tile maker and perpetual overseer*
John and Wm Pearson*
Joseph Rook*
George Wilson*

The History and Topography of the Counties of Cumberland and Westmorland – Whellan 1860

‘The parish of Westward is bounded on the north by Thursby, on the west by 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’.

‘Wigton is the market attended’.

Slater’s Directory of Cumberland 1876

Farmers listed at Brackenthwaite: -

Bewley and Jefferson
Joseph Elliott
John Hetherington
Thomas Hodgson
William Hodgson
Daniel Pearson
William Pearson
Robert Stubbs
John W Thompson

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

Farmers listed at Brackenthwaite: -

Thomas Atkinson
 Thomas Hodgson (yeoman)
 John Hodgson
 Thomas and Joseph Mattinson
 John Pearson (yeoman)
 Richard Turnbull (and market gardener)

Kelly's Cumberland Directory 1914

Farmers listed at Brackenthwaite (under Rosley): -

Rbt Black	John Pearson (yeoman)
John Hodgson (yeoman)	Jas Potts
Geo Marrs	

Kelly's Directory of Cumberland 1925

Farmers listed at Brackenthwaite (under Rosley): -

Wm Dand	Mrs Esther Richardson
Joseph Henderson	Jn Turnbull
Wm Pearson	

Kelly's Directory of Cumberland 1938

'The soil for the most part is of fertile nature with a mixture of sand in the Woodside district; subsoil, clay. The chief crops are oats and green crops. The population [of Rosley area] in 1931 was 490'.

Farmers listed at Brackenthwaite: -

Wm Dand	Wm Wood, Smallholder
Jnth Dixon	Thos Graham
Geo Richardson	

Cumberland Directory 1954

List of those resident at Brackenthwaite (not just farmers): -

William Dand	Thomas Dixon, Low House
Joseph H Forster, Manor House	Sydney Hindson, Hillside Farm
Richard Littleton, Brackenthwaite	Robert J Marrs, Highhouse Farm
John W Marshall, The Heads	J Martin, Low House
G Richardson, Highhouse Farm	Christopher Todhunter, The Gardens
T W Wilkinson, High Brackenthwaite	

Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society – First, Second and Third Series

No references to the settlement of Brackenthwaite or Brackenthwaite Farm

Enclosure Map of 1822 – Westward (CRO Ref. No. QREI/107)

Enclosure maps were produced from c.1770 as land that had previously been waste or common was taken into cultivation. These maps show land that is to be enclosed and the accompanying awards record how much of the land was allotted and to whom.

The area of land north of Brackenthwaite Farm, shown on Figure 2, is under the name of William Gate, and is an area of 5 acres, 2 roods, 0 perches.

Others listed in the awards that accompany the Enclosure Map, residing at Brackenthwaite: -

Thomas Elliott and Elizabeth the wife of Isaac Westmorland his trustee
'A messuage tenement and sands at or near Brackenthwaite'
Quantities of land – 13 acres, 2 roods and 35 perches

Wilfred Gate
'Messuages, tenements and sands at Brackenthwaite and Gill Head'
53 acres, 3 roods and 36 perches

Wilfred Hayton
'A messuage tenement and sands at Brackenthwaite and Rosley Craggs'
32 acres, 0 roods and 18 perches

Isaac Pattinson
'A messuage, tenement and sands at Brackenthwaite'
9 acres, 1 rood and 25 perches

Peter Pearson
'A messuage, tenement and sands at Brackenthwaite'
48 acres, 2 roods and 5 perches
John Bell the younger
'A tenement and sands situate at Brackenthwaite'
7 acres, 1 rood and 12 perches

George Bewley
'A messuage, tenement and sands at Brackenthwaite'
30 acres, 2 roods and 30 perches

Tithe maps were produced following the tithe Commutation Act of 1836, and they give details that include ownership, occupation, acreage, field names and state of cultivation. They are useful in informing who resided at a particular property, especially when the directories of the time often don't attribute people to particular farmsteads, as is the case for Brackenthwaite. Sadly, not every parish was the subject of a tithe map, and that is the case for Westward parish

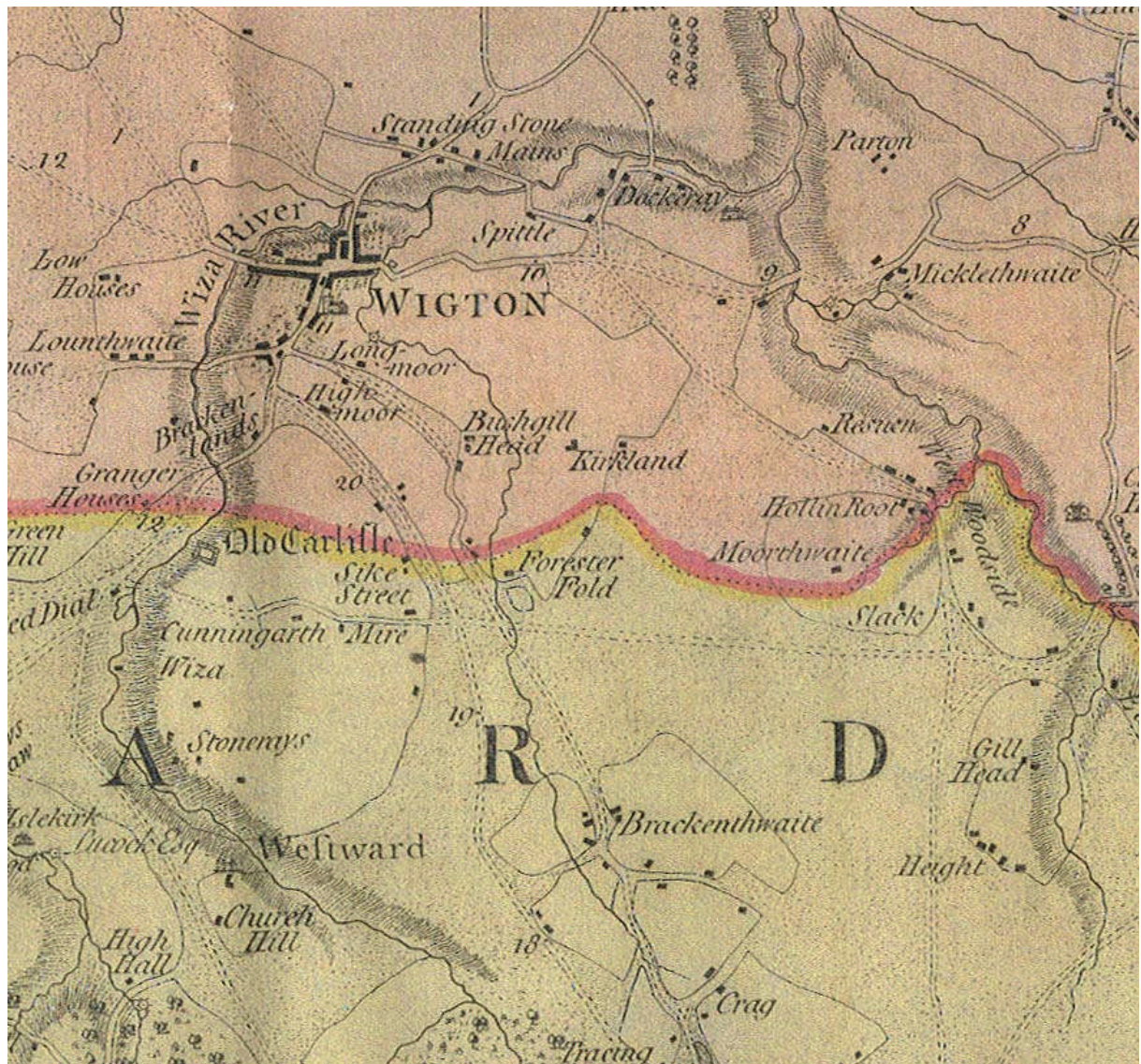


Figure 18 – Hodkinson and Donald’s map of 1774, showing the settlement of Brackenthwaite

1891 Census for Brackenthwaite

As with the trade directories, the census does not name every individual farm and simply lists some families under ‘Brackenthwaite’, therefore it has not been possible to attribute a particular family to Brackenthwaite Farm, however, those listed as residing in the settlement (where house or farm names are not given) are listed below:-

Name	Position in family	Marital status	Age	Occupation	Where born
Thomas Hodgson	Head	Married	66	Farmer	Westward
Jane “	Wife	M	64		Holme Cultram
Elizabeth “	Daughter	Single	32		Westward

John “	Son	S	31		Westward
Mary Jane “	Daughter	S	28		Westward
Mary Blaines	Visitor	S	69		Holme Cultram
Thomas Mattinson	Head	Single	28	Farmer	Westward
Joseph “	Brother	S	26		Westward
Hannah “	Sister	S	30		Orton
Thomas “	Servant	S	18	Servant	Holme Cultram
Margaret Thompson	Head	Widow	46		Westward
Mary Jane “	Daughter	Single	19		“
Alice? “	Daughter	S	17		“
William “	Son	S	15		“
Maggie ?	Servant		12		“
Richard Turnbull	Head	Married	30	Farmer	Kirklington
Jane “	Wife	M	32		Rosley
George “	Son				Rosley
John Little	Servant	Single	20	Servant	Bothel
? Bell	Head	Single	36	Gardener	Brackenthwaite
Thomas “	Brother	S	28	“	“
George “	Brother	S	27	“	“
Hannah “	Sister	S	27?		“

1901 Census

As with the 1891 census, the list below is of those people resident at Brackenthwaite, but where no farm or house name is given. Houses or farms that are named include Tracentree, Craggs, Brackenthwaite Low House and The Heads, these are not included in the list below.

Name	Position in family	Marital status	Age	Occupation	Where born
Thomas Atkinson	Head	Married	71	Farmer	Kirklington
Anne “	Wife	M	69		Lanercost
Richard Turnbull	Head		40	Farmer	Kirklington

Jane “	Wife		42		Westward
George “	Son		11		Rosley
Lizzie	Daughter		8		“
Richard	Son		7		“
Joseph William	Son		4		Rosley
John Victor	Son		3		“
Charles Chisholm	Servant	Single	32	General farm labourer	Scotland, Canonbie
Thomas Mattinson	Head	Single	38	Farmer	Ling, Sebergham
Joseph “	Brother	Married	36	Farmer	“
Margaret Dowthwaite	Servant	S	33	General servant (domestic)	Rosley
Robert Nicholson	Servant	S	15	Yardman	Longtown
Jospeh Shadwick	Head	S	31	Farmer	Wigton
Martha “	Cousin	S	45	Housekeeper	“
Gibson Grainger	Head	Married	76	Retired farmer	Cumwhitton
Sarah Jane “	Wife	M	68		Bolton, Boghall?
Jane “	Daughter	S	39	Dressmaker	Bolton
Fanny “	Daughter	S	26	Worker	Caldbeck, Todcrofts
Edith Mary Blamire	G Daughter		4		Kirkandrews on Eden
John Pearson	Head	Married	64	Farmer	Westward
Jane Anne “	Wife	M	54		Castle Sowerby
William “	Son	Single	20	Farmers son and road surveyor	Westward
Maria “	Daughter	Single	19		“
Sarah James	Visitor	S	68	Retired housekeeper	“
Thomas Clark	Servant	S	23	Horse man on farm	Westnewton