
NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Project Designs and Client Reports No. CP/107/04

**REPORT ON
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
BUILDING RECORDING PROJECT
AT WESTLANDS FARM
CROSBY
MARYPORT
CUMBRIA**

**FOR
MR W J REAY**

**NGR NY 07380 38445
Planning Application No. 2/04/1214**

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In January 2005, North Pennines Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Mr W Reay to undertake a building survey of a bank barn and stable block at Westlands Farm, Crosby, Cumbria (NGR NY 0733 3843) The work was carried out on behalf of Mr W J Reay, prior to the conversion of the buildings to two dwellings (Planning application No. 2/04/1214).
- 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 2' Building Survey was carried out as specified in *Recording Historic Buildings: A Descriptive Specification*¹.
- 1.3 The bank barn and stable block (two separate structures) at Westlands Farm, Crosby, are regarded as being of archaeological significance, and are listed Grade II as buildings of special architectural and historic interest. They are recorded on the County Sites and Monuments Record (Reference 22659). The bank barn is present on the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1865 (Figure 1). The stable block is present on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1900 (Figure 2). Also visible on the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1865 (Figure 1), are three rectangular buildings to the west of the farmhouse and bank barn. These buildings were in existence in 1844 as shown on the Tithe Map of that date (Figure 3), one of the buildings is listed as a house. These structures were demolished in the last forty years to be replaced by a large, modern building, which has subsequently also been demolished; it was this area of the farmstead that was the subject of an evaluation by NPA Ltd in April 2004².
- 1.4 The farmhouse at Westlands Farm (Plate 2) is of Anglo-Baroque style and dates to the late 17th or early 18th century. This period of English architecture was concerned with symmetry and a sense of mass. The typical large house of this period was a double-pile, which were two storeys in height, two rooms deep and with a symmetrical front elevation³. The farmhouse at Westlands has, above its front door facing the road, an inscription of '1715 IE', and another above an internal doorway (now internal due to the addition of an outshut to the rear of the house) bearing the inscription '1697'. Both of these date stones are consistent with the architectural style of the farmhouse.
- 1.5 Westlands Farm ceased to function as a dairy farm in 2001.

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

² Jones, C.J., 2004

³ Brunskill, R W, 2002, Page 58

1.6 The survey was carried out in January 2005 by Fiona Wooler BA, PIFA and Joanne Beaty BA.

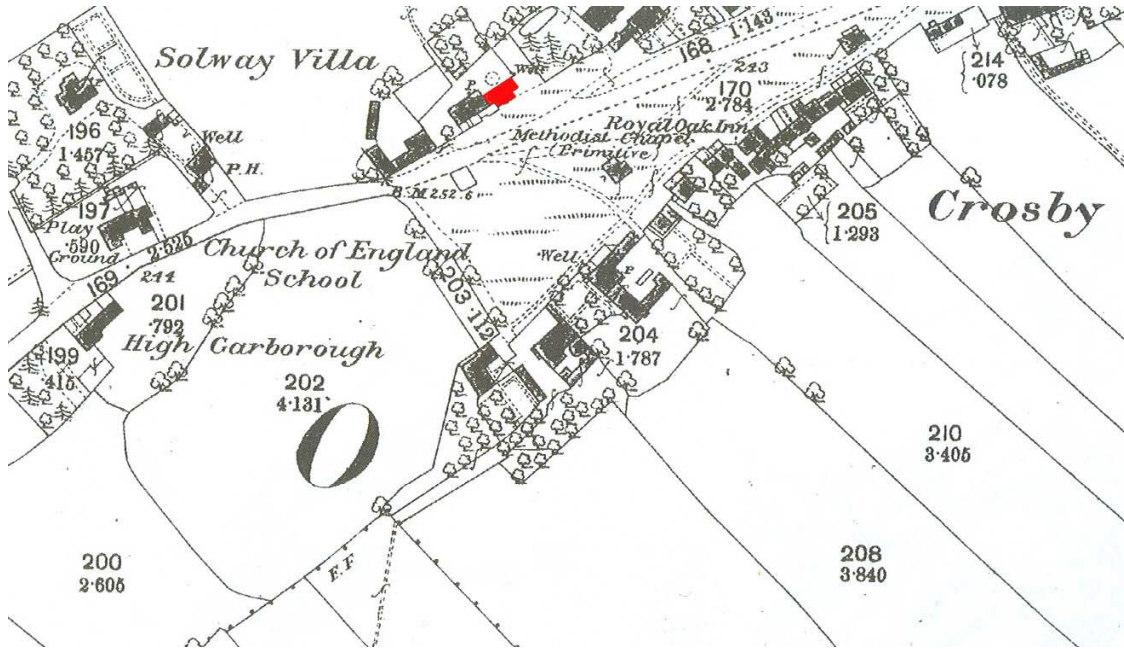


Figure 1 – First Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1865, Scale 1:10,560. The bank barn is shown in red.

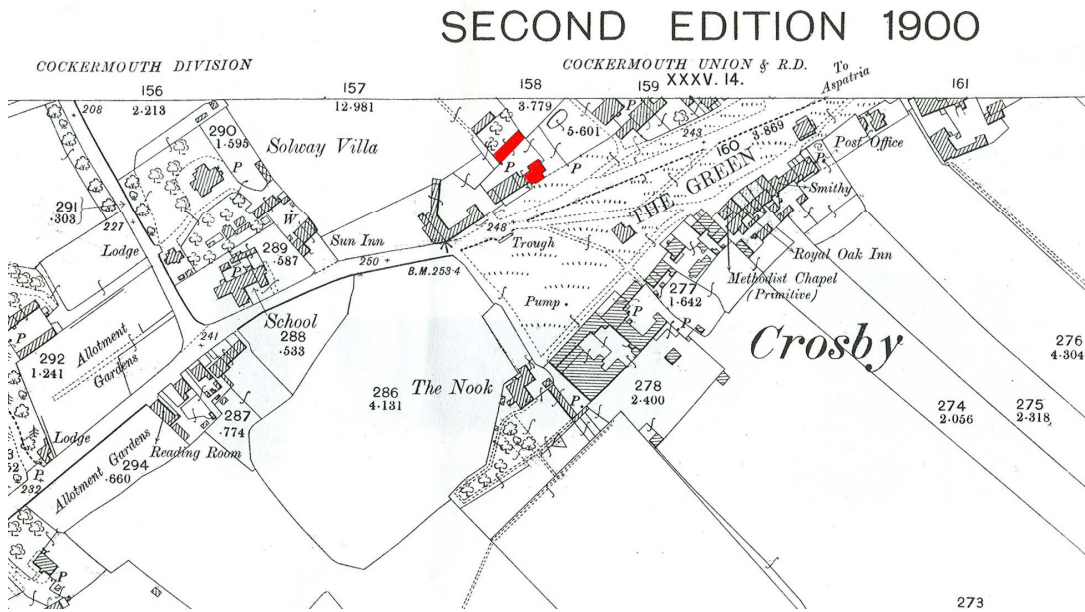


Figure 2 – Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1900, Scale 1:10,560. Both the bank barn and stable block are shown in red.



Figure 3 – Tithe Map of 1844 showing buildings at Westlands Farm

2 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 Westlands Farm (Plates 1 and 2) is located on the north side of the village of Crosby (Figure 4), adjacent to the main A596 Wigton-Workington road, approximately 4 kilometres east of Maryport.
- 2.2 The village of Crosby in the Parish of Crosscanonby is approximately 1 kilometre north of the River Ellen, and 2 kilometres south of the Cumbrian coastline.
- 2.3 Westlands Farm is situated at a height of *c.*75 metres above mean sea level. To the north of the farm the land falls away towards Crosscanonby and consequently the farm commands fine views of the Solway Firth and Scotland to the north. The farmhouse and bank barn are fronted to the south by part of Crosby Village Green.
- 2.4 Crosby contains two Grade II Listed Buildings, Hill Farmhouse (including specially listed wall and gate) and Westlands Farmhouse and adjoining barn. Approximately 0.5 km to the west is the Grade II Listed Birkby Lodge, a late 18th century house, and 0.75 km to the north there are three Grade II Listed Buildings and one Grade I (the Church of St John) at Crosscanonby.



Plate 1 – Westlands Farm, Crosby, Maryport



Plate 2 – The Farmhouse, Westlands Farm, Crosby, Maryport

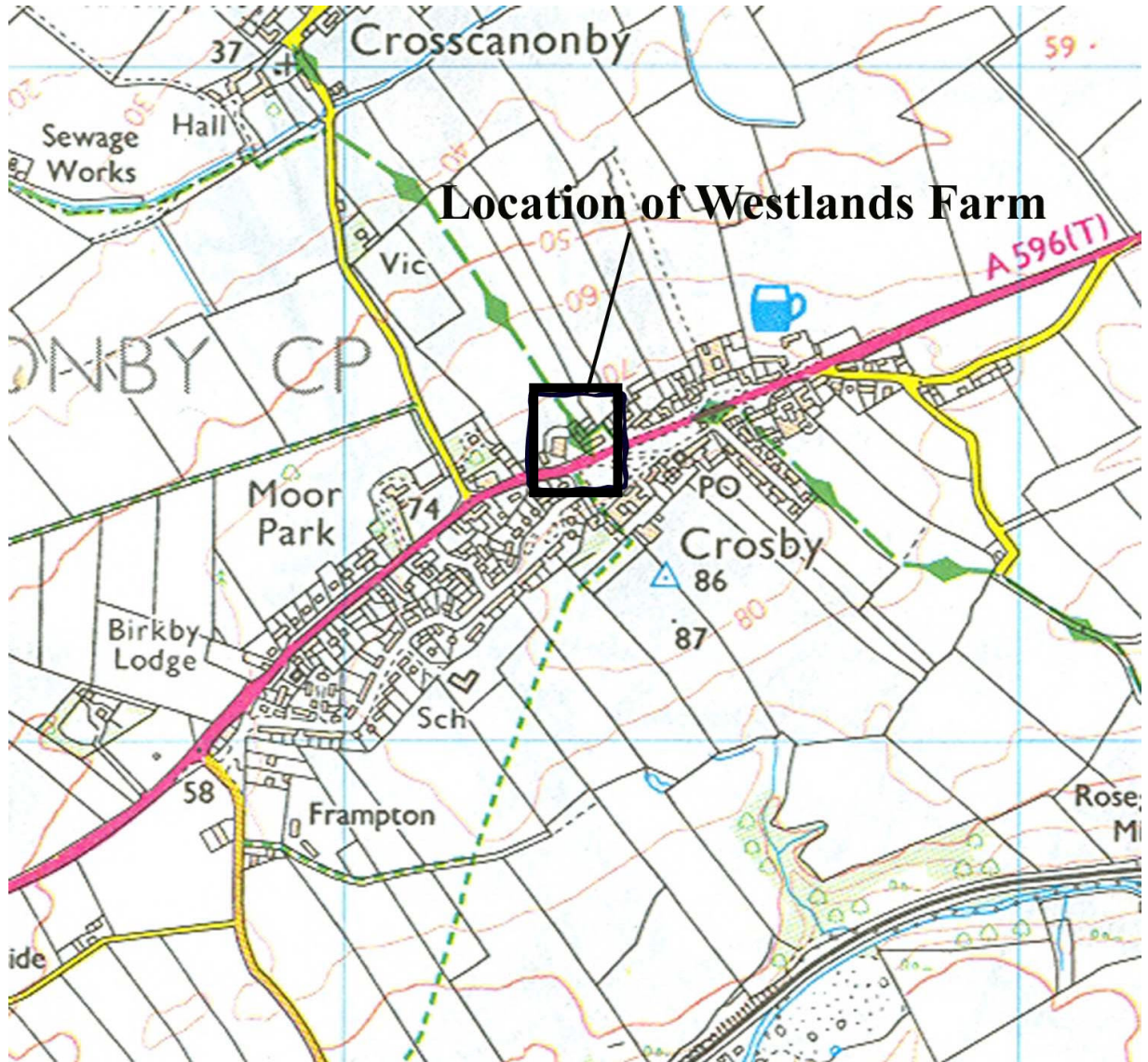


Figure 4 – Site Location

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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 2 building survey has been produced to a professional standard in accordance with the current English Heritage guidelines set out in the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (MAP 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 In April 2004, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd, on land to the west of the farmhouse, on the site of a demolished modern agricultural building⁴. The evaluation revealed few significant archaeological features and no significant traces of medieval settlement could be identified.

⁴ Jones, C.J., 2004

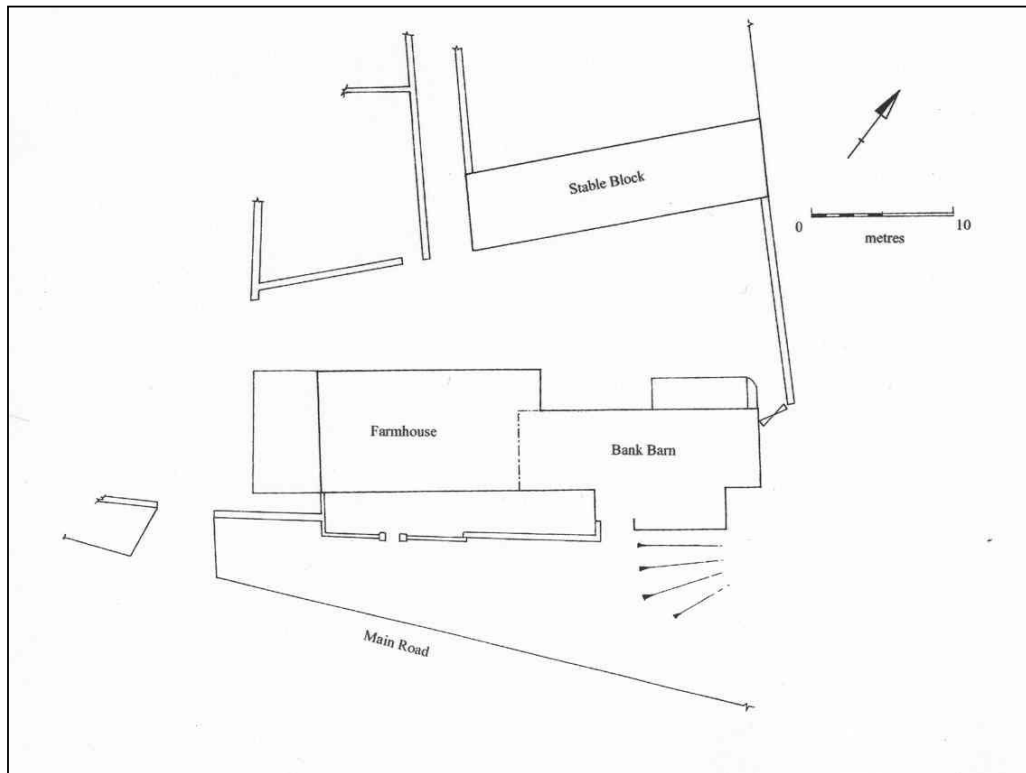


Figure 5 – Plan of the existing buildings of Westlands Farm, Crosby, Maryport.
Scale: 1:500

5. RESULTS

5.1 Both elements of the building survey, the bank barn and the stable block (Figure 5), were only part of a much larger farmstead that existed up until at least forty years ago. The range of buildings to the west of the farmhouse, that has since been demolished, would have been an integral part of the working farm throughout the 19th and 20th centuries.

5.2 The Bank Barn (Plate 1 and Figures 7,8)

5.2.1 Bank barns⁵, as their name suggests, are barns built on a natural or artificial slope, allowing access to the upper floor for laden carts from a field or road, the ground floor being accessed from the farmyard or field on the opposite side of the building (See Figure 6).

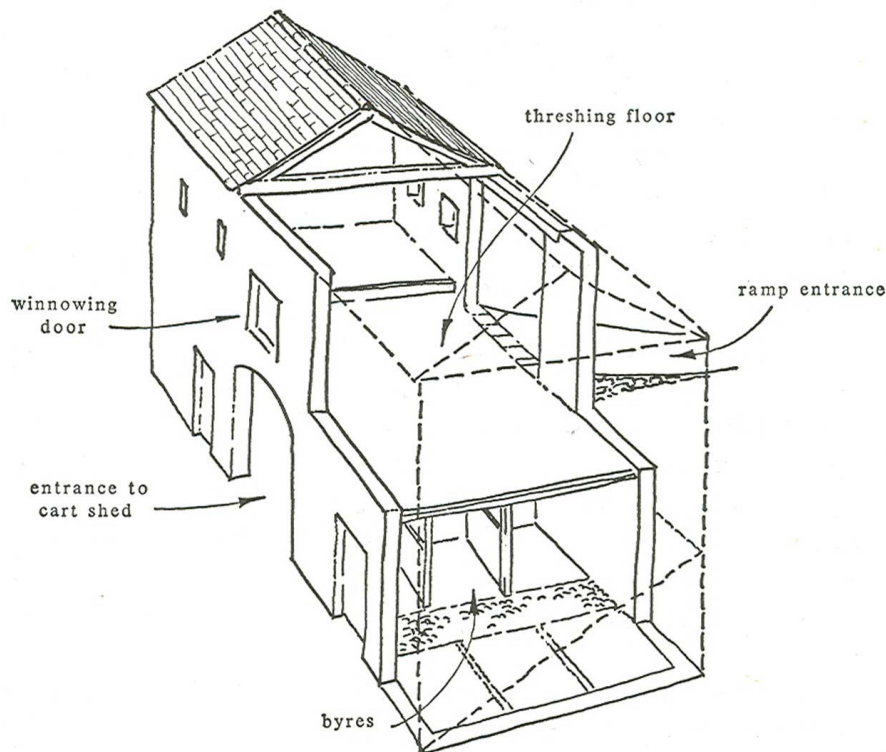


Figure 6 – Sketch of a bank barn where the building is constructed along the contours⁶

5.2.2 The bank barn, which adjoins the farmhouse, measures *c.*17.50 metres in length and *c.*8.70 metres at its widest point. It is constructed of uncoursed red sandstone rubble masonry with a roof of slate and sandstone ridge tiles. The north-eastern gable end has coping stones terminating in square kneelers (Plate 3). The remains of the exterior coating of limewash can clearly be seen on all elevations.

⁵ For an example of another recently recorded True Bank Barn See Walsh, D, 2003

⁶ Taken from Rollinson, 1974, Page 32



Plate 3 – North-east elevation of the bank barn, showing the coping stones and kneelers on the gable

- 5.2.3 In the south-east facing elevation there is a large gabled doorway projecting from the barn (Plate 4). The quoins to the left of the doorway consist of blocks of well dressed sandstone masonry. Above the doorway, bricks have been used to construct the gable. The top of the gable has, like the north-eastern elevation, coping stones terminating in kneelers. This doorway would have allowed for the access of laden carts from the road, carrying cereals to be threshed in the barn.
- 5.2.4 To the right of this large doorway is a outshut (a ‘lean-to’) (Plate 1), which is of two storeys. The upper storey is accessed from inside the upper level of the barn, and the lower level accessed through a large doorway at ground level on the north-eastern elevation (Plate 5). The ground level of this outshut could have been used for either storing a cart, implements or fodder. The roof of the outshut is covered in Cumbrian slate compared to the Welsh slate of the main barn. This outshut appears to be contemporary with the main barn, despite the fact that it obscures ventilation slits and a possible blocked window at ground level (See 5.4.2 below). The cornice on the barn, located at eaves level (just below the roof) matches that on the outshut (Plate 6).



Plate 4 – Large doorway in south-east facing elevation of bank barn



Plate 5 – North-east facing elevation of bank barn showing large doorway and upper window of outshut



Plate 6 – Cornice of outshut (below slates), SE facing elevation of bank barn

- 5.2.5 The north-east elevation of the bank barn (Plate 3) has five rows of ventilation slits, consisting of one close to the apex of the roof, the second row down contains two, the third and fourth rows down each have three, and the fifth has two. Ventilation slits are common in stone-built barns, although square or triangular holes are also used. They allow air to circulate within the building, and are often related to the unpleasant process of threshing of corn using a hand-flail (Plate 7).



Plate 7 – Farmer with a hand flail, used for beating the corn to separate the grain from the stalk⁷

- 5.2.6 At ground level on the north-east elevation is a doorway giving access to a loose box or stable.

⁷ Taken from Rollinson, 1974, Plate 78

- 5.2.7 The north-west elevation faces into the courtyard, with the stable block located opposite (Figure 5). At ground level, there are three doorways visible (Plate 8), a further doorway has been blocked-up and is hidden behind the later brick-built 'lean-to' (See 5.4.1). The blocked-up doorway originally gave access to the loose box or stable, described in 5.2.6, from the courtyard. Two of the doorways visible in plate 8, give access to byres for cattle, the middle doorway (with the arched head) would have originally led into a cart shed, although it has been blocked-in slightly on each side. Each of these doorways leads into rooms with low ceilings of *c.*2.0 metres in height, and this is characteristic of housing for cows in a bank barn⁸. The cartshed in a bank barn is generally located beneath the threshing floor of the upper level, and this is certainly the case at Westlands Farm⁹.



Plate 8 – North-west elevation of bank barn

- 5.2.8 The doorway above the cartshed entrance, at the upper level (Plate 8), is known as a 'Winnowing Door', and these domestic-sized doorways were used to provide a through draught for the process of winnowing the cereals after they have been threshed on the floor of the upper storey. 'Winnowing' was the process of separating the lighter chaff of the cereals from the heavier kernels, and was generally undertaken within barns, with the large double doors and smaller winnowing door being opened to provide the through draught to blow away the chaff¹⁰.

⁸ Brunskill, R.W., 2002, Page 106

⁹ *Ibid*, Page 105

¹⁰ Denyer, S., 1991, Page 117

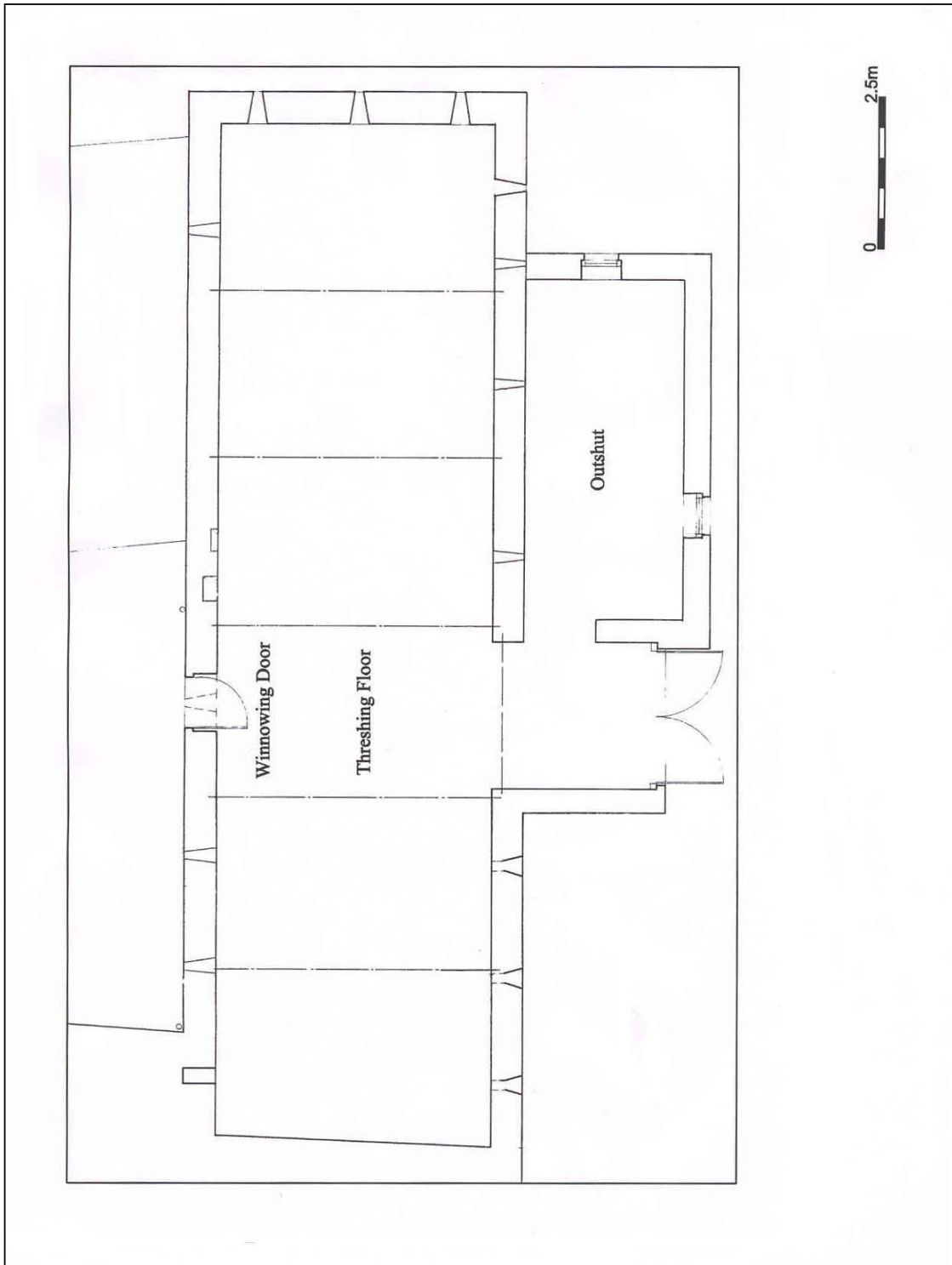


Figure 7 – Plan of Upper Level of Bank Barn. Scale: 1:100

5.3 The Bank Barn – Upper Level Interior (Figure 12)

- 5.3.1 The upper level of the bank barn is accessed through the large double doors on the south-east facing elevation. The floor of the barn at the doorway is of sandstone flags, but this gives way to large oak timbers, measuring *c.*2.50 metres, laid lengthways, these extend from the entrance across the whole width of the barn to the winnowing door (Plate 9).



Plate 9 – Interior of bank barn, upper level, showing winnowing door and large timbers for the threshing floor

- 5.3.2 Either side of the threshing floor are floor boarded storage areas. To the right of the winnowing door (Plate 9), set in the floor is a trap door; this would have been used to transfer straw to the animals below¹¹. Above the trap door, set into the wall, are two niches (Plate 10), possibly used to house essentials such as drink and food for when the threshing process was being undertaken. To the right of these niches there is a length of timber set horizontally into the wall, with another niche set into the wall above (Plate 11). Its position directly above the trapdoor suggests it may be connected to that, as the trapdoor opens upwards towards the wall, hence the timber could have been used to secure the open door to the wall.

¹¹ Brunskill, R.W., 2002, Page 105



Plate 10 – Niches in the NW elevation of the bank barn



Plate 11 – Timber and niche in wall directly above the trapdoor

5.3.3

The interior of the bank barn is of six bays, the five roof trusses consist of principal rafters and tie beams of hand cut timber. Assembly (or carpenters marks) are visible on four of the roof trusses, displaying the Roman numerals I, II, III and then (interestingly) a '4', this is the first time that a number rather than its Roman numeral equivalent (IV) has been observed by the surveyor. The Roman numerals 'III' are inscribed into the two purlins that make up the porch way.

- 5.3.4 The Spearhead strap hinges on the interior of the winnowing door (Plate 12) could date to the late 17th or early 18th century¹², although it is likely that these styles were in existence for a long period of time.



Plate 12 – Spearhead strap hinges, winnowing door of bank barn

5.4 **The Bank Barn – Lower Level Interior (Figure 8)**

- 5.4.1 The lower level of the bank barn is split into four sections. At the north-eastern end of the building there is a loose box, which is accessed through a doorway in the gable end. A further doorway originally gave access into this room from the courtyard, but has subsequently been blocked-up and hidden by the brick-built lean-to. This room has the remains of a cobbled floor and fixed to the NE gable end is a wooden hay rack still *in-situ*. The ceiling is *c.*2.50 metres in height above the level of the floor.
- 5.4.2 Next to the loose box is a cowhouse or stable, which has a lower ceiling to that of the loosebox at *c.*2.0 metres in height. The trapdoor set into the floor of the upper level, is visible in the ceiling of this room. In the south-west wall of this room are two bricked-in apertures that measure 28cm square (Plate 13). These apertures are in the wall between the cowhouse or stable and the cartshed, and may have been used as feeding holes, for observation of animals or to provide extra ventilation. Within the south-east wall of this room is a blocked up ‘window’, visible within the outshut described in 5.2.4 above.

¹² Alcock, N.W., and Hall, L, 2002, Page 22

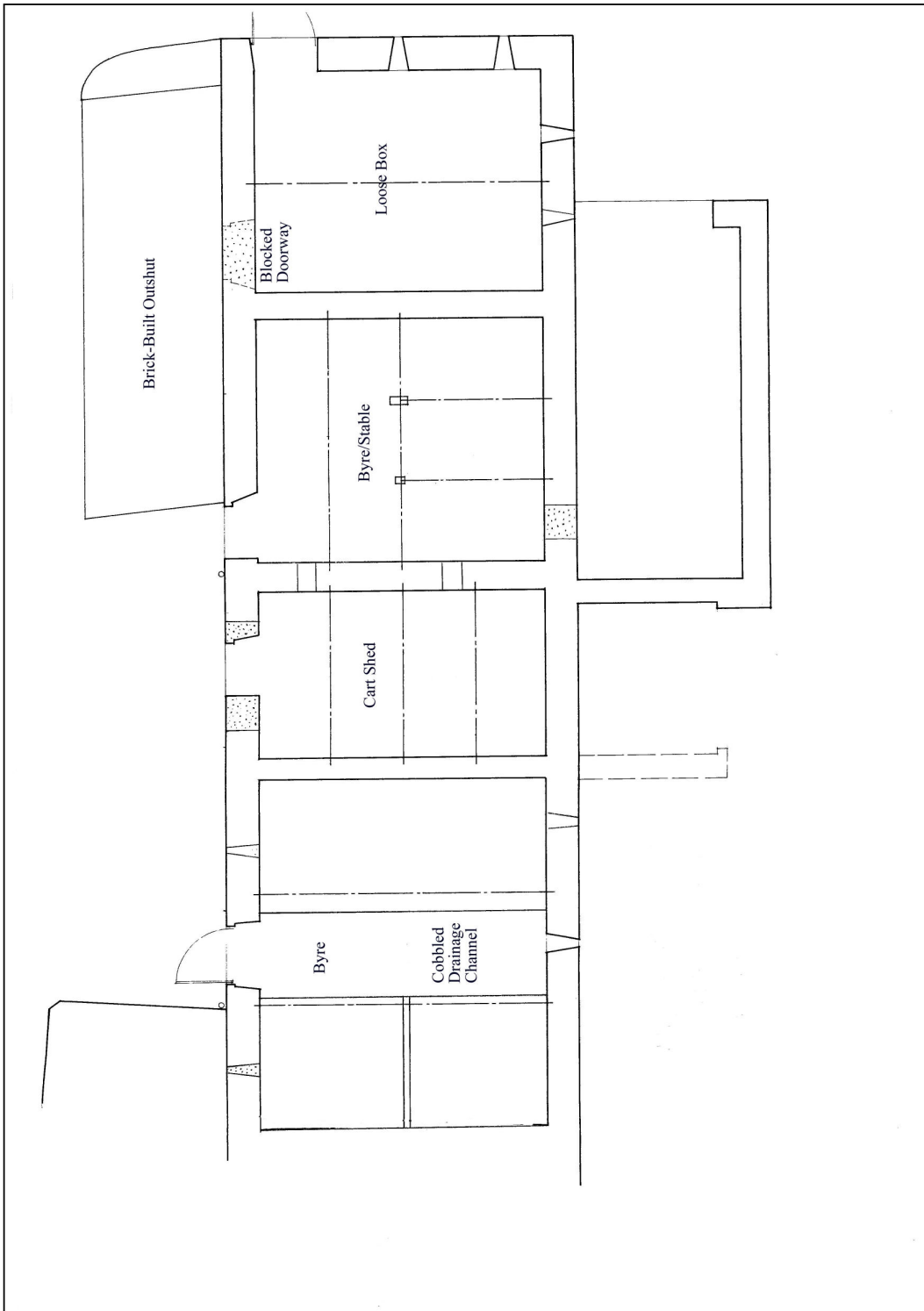


Figure 8 – Plan of Lower Level of Bank Barn. Scale: 1:100



Plate 13 – One of the two blocked-up apertures, lower level of bank barn

- 5.4.3 At the centre of the bank barn at ground level, and beneath the threshing floor of the upper level, is the cartshed. Originally this was accessed through an arched doorway (Plate 8) that measured 1.77 metres (5ft 10”), but both sides of the doorway have subsequently been filled in to create a domestic sized doorway measuring 0.90 metres (3ft). As with the rooms either side of the cartshed, the ceiling is low at c.2.0 metres.
- 5.4.4 At the south-western end of the bank barn is a byre accessed through a doorway that leads into the courtyard. The byre (or cowhouse) has a cobbled central feeding and manure channel, originally with stalls either side. The presence of one stall division still *in-situ*, suggests that there was room for four cows. This stall division is constructed of hand-cut timber and two large red sandstone flags (Plate 14). The floor of the stalls is also cobbled, but separated from the central channel by kerbs of sandstone. A blocked-up ventilation slit to the right of the entrance, indicates that the small outshut of the house, with the filled-in doorway, is a later addition (Plate 15).



Plate 14 – Timber and sandstone stall division in byre



Plate 15 – Outshut of house with blocked-up doorway

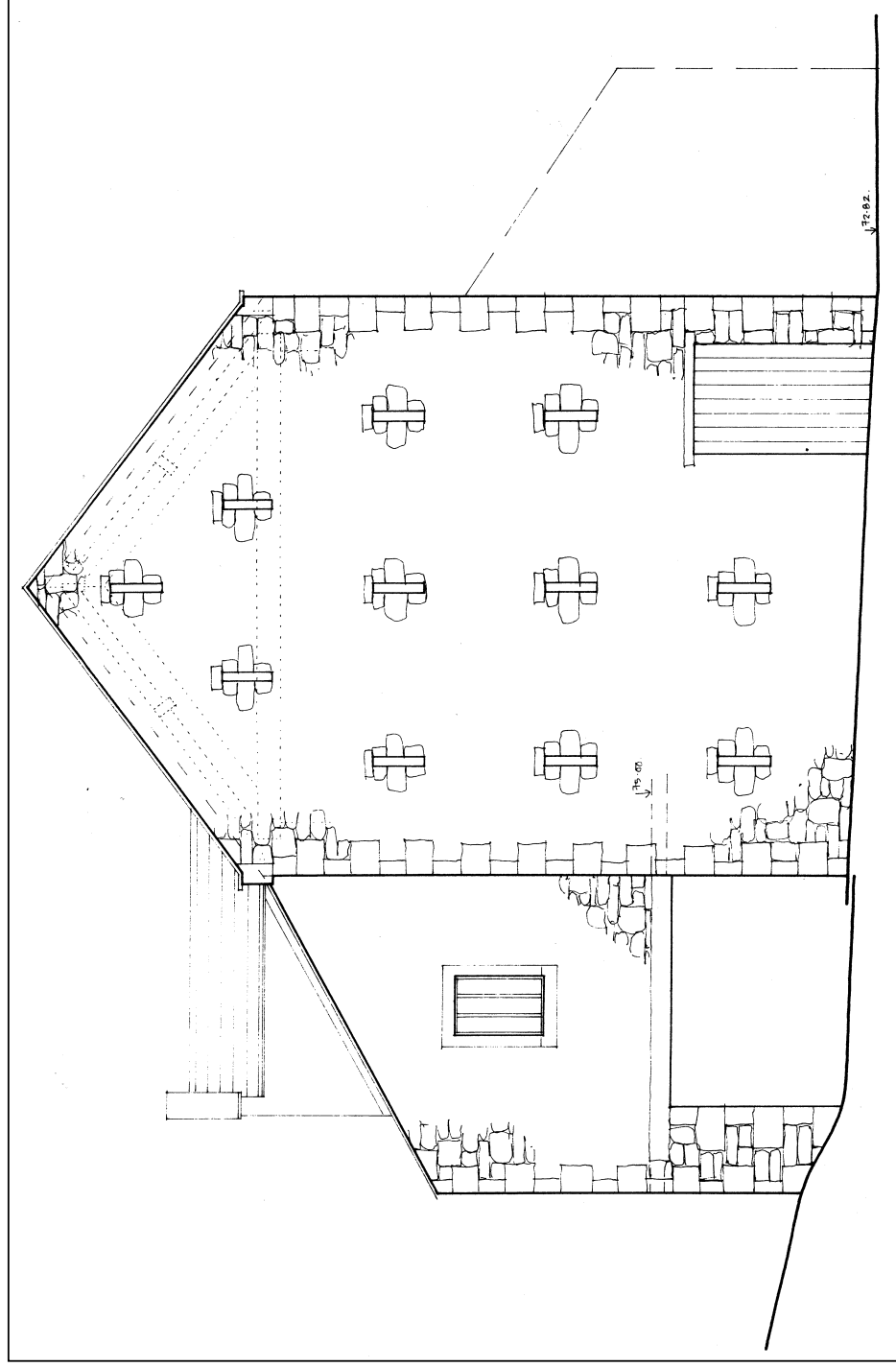


Figure 9 - NE Elevation of Barn. Scale: 1:75

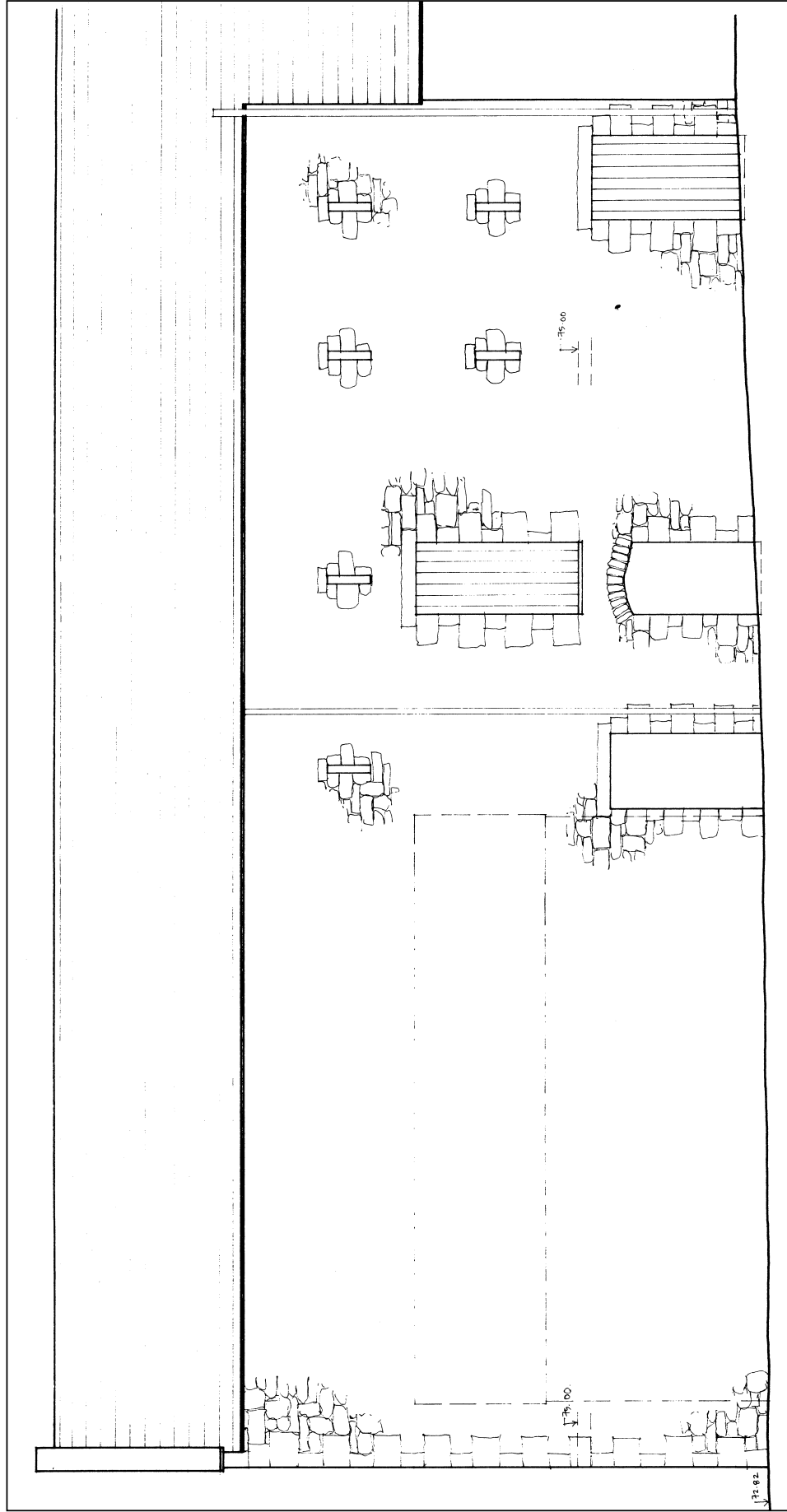


Figure 10 – NW Elevation of Barn. Scale: 1:75

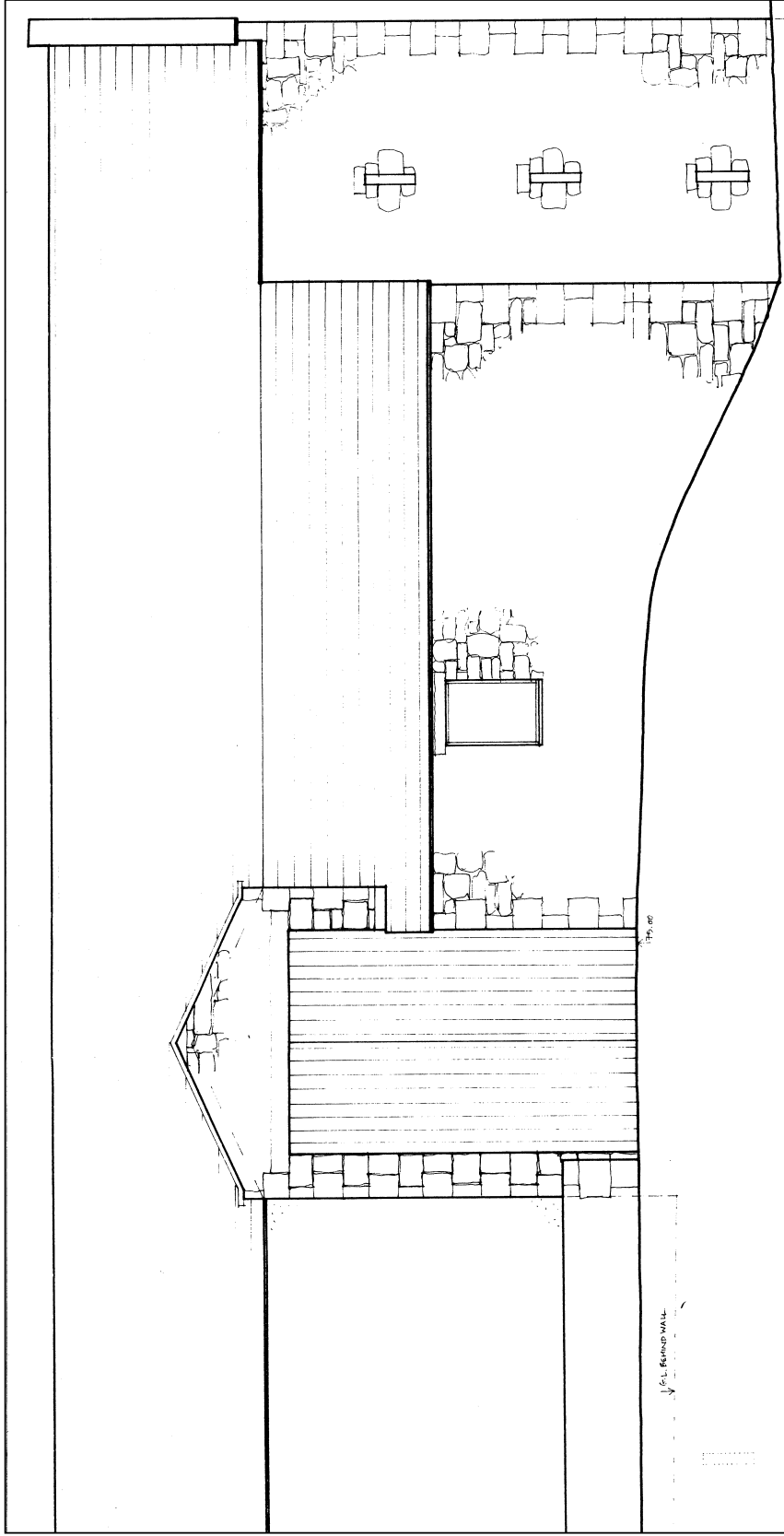


Figure 11 – SE Elevation of Barn. Scale: 1:75

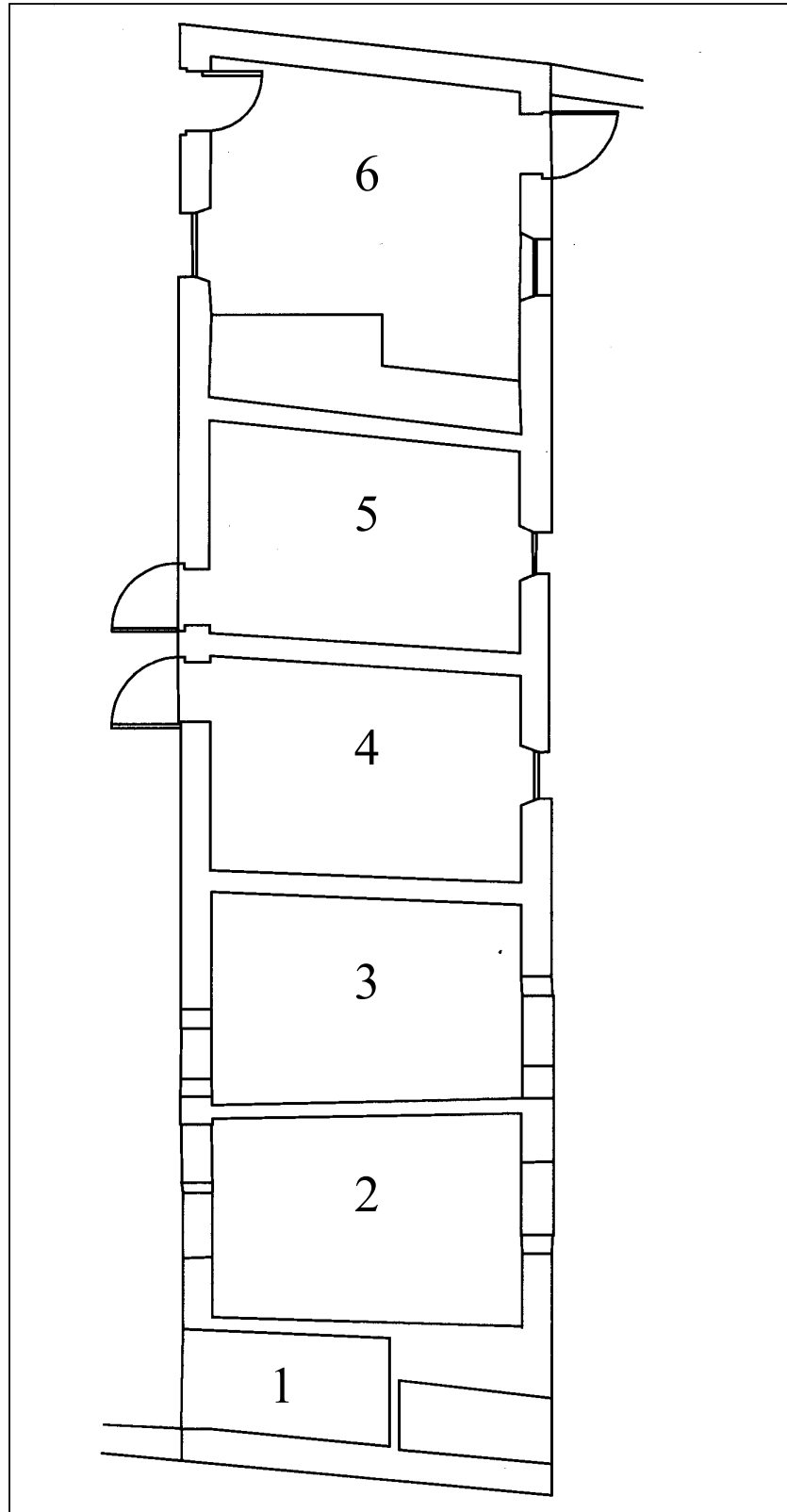


Figure 12 – Plan of Stable Block. Scale: 1:100

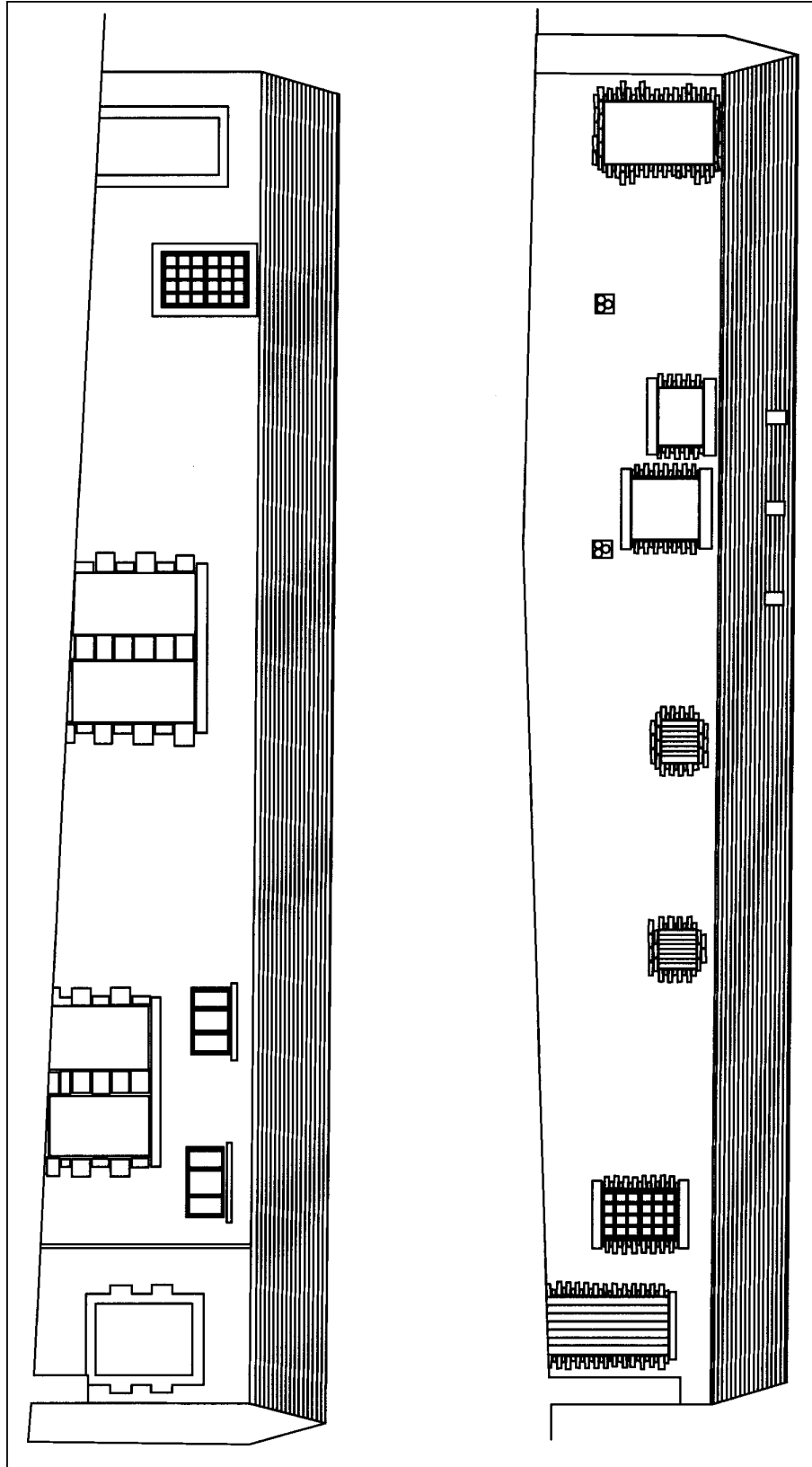


Figure 13 – (Above) NW Elevation of Stable Block (Below) SE Elevation. Scale: 1:100

5.5 The Stable Block (Figure 9,10 and Plates 16 to 21)

- 5.5.1 The stable block is located on the opposite side of the courtyard to the bank barn. Map evidence indicates that this building was constructed between 1865 (as it is not present on the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map of that date - Figure 1) and 1900 (Figure 2).
- 5.5.2 The stable block measures *c.*21 metres by *c.*5.5 metres and is constructed of coursed and some uncoursed red sandstone squared and dressed masonry. The single storey structure has a roof of Welsh slate with sandstone ridge tiles. The door jambs and window surrounds are of well-dressed sandstone. Set into the NW facing elevation, there are two sets of three ceramic pipes (Plate 21), in a triangular form, presumably used for ventilation.
- 5.5.3 Internally, the stable block is divided into six sections, each occupying the depth of the building, for ease of identification the rooms are numbered 1 – 6 on Figure 9.



Plate 16 – NE end of stable block, facing into courtyard



Plate 17 – Mid-section of stable block, facing courtyard



Plate 18 – SW end of stable block, facing courtyard



Plate 19 – Southern end of NW facing elevation of stable block



Plate 20 – Mid-section of NW facing elevation of stable block



Plate 21 – Northern end of NW facing elevation of stable block

5.6 The Stable Block – Interior (Figure 9)

- 5.6.1 At the northern end of the range is a section of the building that measures *c.*1.50 metres wide (1). On both the SE and NW facing elevations, there are doorways (Plates 16 and 22), although the stonework around that on the NW elevation and the filling-in of the base of the doorway on the SE elevation, suggests that at one time this may have been an access way between the courtyard and the enclosure behind the stable block. The doorway on the NW elevation has been blocked-up
- 5.6.2 Rooms (2) and (3) are accessed separately from the courtyard. Both of these stables have low ceilings of less than 2 metres in height, to accommodate a hay loft above. Originally, the floors of these stables would have been of sandstone flags, although some of these are now missing. Wooden hay racks are still *in-situ* in each (Plate 22).
- 5.6.3 An internal gable wall separates rooms (2) and (3) from (4).
- 5.6.4 Stables (4) and (5) are open to the roof. The floors of each of these are of rectangular cobbles, with a hay rack still *in-situ* in (4). Each of these stables has a high window in the NW facing elevation (Plate 19).
- 5.6.5 At the southern end of the range is a room (6) separated from (5) by a gable wall. This room was obviously designed for human habitation. On opposing walls there are doorways, one giving access from the courtyard and the other leading out into the enclosure behind. There is a 20 pane fixed window in the SE facing elevation, and a 12 pane sash window in the NW facing elevation (Plates 18 and 19). On the northern wall of this room, there is a chimney breast and possible ovens or kilns (the chimney itself is no longer extant). Due to obstructions it was not possible to observe the fireplace (Plate 23). However, the arrangement seems excessive to just be a fireplace for a bothy. It is possible that this may have been a smithy, although until the whole arrangement can be observed it is difficult to assess.



Plate 22 – Room (3) in stable block, showing the low ceiling and hay rack



Plate 23 – Chimney breast in Room (6), stable block

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The bank barn at Westlands Farm is fairly typical of a ‘true’ bank barn, i.e. it is sited with its length along the contours (a variant bank barn is sited across the contours), and it combines a conventional threshing barn at an upper level with a cowhouse, stable and cartshed at a lower level¹³. Bank barns are numerous in Cumbria with around 1,000 examples known and they are mainly located in the west, south-west and on the eastern fells. These particular types of agricultural buildings were constructed over a wide time-scale of between the end of the 17th century until the beginning of the 20th century, with most examples being built between c.1730 to 1850¹⁴.
- 6.2 The bank barn represents a period in British agriculture when arable production was very important. The Tithe Map Award of 1844 shows that out of 19 fields, 17 were for arable production at the time of survey at Westlands Farm. The most common cereals grown were oats and barley, wheat was only just becoming widespread at the end of the 18th century¹⁵. The largest area of the bank barn, the upper level, was given over to the processing of these cereals, where they were threshed, winnowed and stored, the straw from which was used for bedding the animals.
- 6.3 It was not possible to assess the relationship between the bank barn and the farmhouse, due to external render on the front elevation of the farmhouse, and the addition of the outshuts to the rear. There is, however, a section of the modern farmhouse, between the bank barn and the double-pile house that shares the same ridge line as that of the bank barn (Plate 2). It is possible that prior to the early 18th century farmhouse being constructed, there was a longhouse arrangement where space for humans was at one end of a building, and space for animals at the other, with a cross-passage between. The bank barn, however, may belong to the period of rebuilding when the large farmhouse was constructed, in which case it could be an early example. Sadly, without the availability of documentary evidence, it is difficult to date such structures.
- 6.4 Interestingly, the presence of two datestones at Westlands Farm, one of 1697 to the rear, and the other of 1715 to the front, is very similar to Low Green Farm, Gilcruix¹⁶, where a datestone of 1675 is located to the rear entrance and a dated lintel of 1711 to the front. A date of 1687 was also observed at Bankend Farm, Ennerdale Bridge¹⁷, within the rear doorway, in both the latter cases the interpretation was that these were reused datestones in the rear entrances, although these would suggest two phases of rebuilding within short periods of time. It would be interesting to see if future recording projects record similar occurrences.

¹³ Brunskill, R.W., 2002, Page 105

¹⁴ *Ibid*, Page 108

¹⁵ Bailey, J., and Culley, G, 1805, Page 220

¹⁶ Wooler, F., 2004

¹⁷ Walsh, D., 2003

- 6.5 The stable block appears to have been constructed between 1865 and 1900. Horses were incredibly important on farms prior to mechanisation, especially from around 1800 with the introduction of horse-driven threshing machines, harrows, rollers, reapers etc, and by 1911, 937,000 horses worked on British farms¹⁸. The number of horses on a farm depended on the farm size and topography, but an approximate figure of one horse to twenty acres is often quoted¹⁹. There is no evidence in the directories sampled (See Appendix) to suggest that Westlands Farm was over 150 acres (may have been closer to 100 acres), therefore the four stables in the stable block would be consistent with that approximate figure.

¹⁸ Lake, J., 1989, Page 29

¹⁹ *Ibid*, Page 30

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8 APPENDIX

CRO = Carlisle Record Office

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

'Crosby, or Cross-Canonby, stands a mile northwest from Alwarby [Allerby], on the top of a hill near the sea, and was the demesn of Allerdale until Alane son of Waldeof (having issue only Waldeof, who died in the lifetime of his father) he gave his son's body to the priory of Carlisle, and this parish with the patronage [of] the church, which was since granted by [blank], pryor of that church, unto [blank], bishop of Carlisle'.

The History of the County of Cumberland – William Hutchinson – Volume I, 1794-1797

Crosby in the parish of Cross-Canonby

'In this parish are two distinct manors, the manor of Crosby or Cross-Canonby and that of Birkby'.

'Both these manors appertained to the barony of Allerdale, the manor of Crosby, or Cross-Canonby, was never severed till the reign of King Edward VIII [should be Henry VIII?] being part of the possessions of the Lucies, which the sixth Earl of Northumberland transferred to the Crown. In the 37th year of that reign it was granted out and passed through many purchasers, till at length it came to the family of Porters of Weary-Hall, and by great great grandson of the purchaser of that name, sold out to the tenants of the manor'.

'This parish is of a triangular figure, and contains about four square miles. Between Birkby and Crosby there is a small common of good land, mainly depastured with black cattle'.

'Soil and produce – The soil in general is a light loam or gravel, and produces early crops (particularly near the river) of wheat, barley, oats etc. with some few turnips. Towards Maryport the land is very fertile, and chiefly kept in meadows or pastures'.

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

Cross Canonby Parish – *'Is bounded on the south by the river Ellen, on the wet and north by the sea and on the east by Allerby. It occupies a triangular area, comprising about four square miles of fertile land, with a light loamy or gravelly soil, which produces early crops. Both coal and freestone are found here, and in a quarry of the latter, implements were found some years ago, supposed to be o Roman workmanship, so that it is probable that stone was got here to construct the station at Ellenborough'.*

Lists population of Crosby in 1801 as 193; 1811, 207 and in 1821, 41 houses, 43 families and 200 persons.

Farmers listed at Crosby, those marked * are yeomen: -

James Atkinson	Joseph Crosby
Robert Crosby	William Elliot

Thomas Harrison*	Sarah McCubbin
Stephen Moore*	John Reay
John Shilton*	Brown Walker
Edward Reay, Blacksmith	

Cumberland Directory – Mannix and Whellan 1847

Gives population of the village as 272 in 1841.

Lists farmers at Crosby as: -

John Brown	Wm Elliot
Rbt Gillbanks	John Forsyke (and stonemason)
Daniel Hetherington	John Hayton
Wm Mirehouse	Rbt Nicholson
Edw Reay (yeoman)	John Reay
John Revell (yeo)	Thos Revell (yeo)
Joseph Rennicks	Wm Smith
Brown Walker	
Edward Reay, blacksmith and shopkeeper	

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

'This township [Crosby] comprises 1041 statute acres, its rateable value is £2168 7s 6 1/2 d. In 1801, the number of inhabitants was 193; in 1811, 207; in 1821, 200; in 1831, 197; in 1841, 272; and in 1851, 273, who are chiefly collected in the village of Crosby, the only village or hamlet in the township. Agriculture and coal mining is the occupation of the inhabitants, a colliery having been opened here in 1856 by Messrs Cooke, Nicholson & Co. The mine has one shaft seventy fathoms in perpendicular depth. The seam working at present is the 'Ten Quarters Seam', which is seven and a half feet thick; the number of hands employed is upwards of 100. Cockermouth and Maryport are the markets attended. In the reign of Henry VIII the manorial rights belonged to the earls of Northumberland and afterwards were in the hands of the Porter's of Weary Hall, by whom they were sold to the different owners of the land, amongst whom were the family of Osmotherley. William Osmotherley was twice high sheriff, and also MP for the County in the reign of the unfortunate Richard II. This old family has long since been extinct. One of the daughters married into the family of the Jackson's of Crosby, which also ended in daughters, the last having married into the Reay family of the Gill, the present John Reay Esq. being now owner of the estate. This family also intermarried with the Law's, the ancestors of the earls of Ellenborough, the first of whom took his title from Ellenborough, which adjoins the parish'.

'The landowners are Henry Richmond Esq., John Reay Esq., John Richmond Esq., Edward B Steel Esq., and William Swinburn Esq. Each proprietor claims the manorial rights of his own land; the tenure here is freehold. The enclosure of the commons took place in 1853, when there were two acres, which are subject to a rent charge of 20s. allotted to the guardians of the poor of the township. The tithes for Crosby township amount to £153 18s'.

'The village of Crosby occupies a pleasant situation three miles W-N-W of Maryport.

Solway Villa, the seat of John Curry Esq, situated close to the village, is a neat modern building erected in 1853'.

Slater's Directory of Cumberland 1876

Farmers listed at Crosby: -

Thomas Bailey	Thompson Calvert
Robert Fearon	George Greggings
Jordan Mitchelson	John Mitchinsn
William Scott	Daniel Steele

Calvert Thompson

[No farm names given in this directory]

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

'Crosby – This township comprises 1041 acres, inhabited by nearly 1000 people. Agriculture and mining are the principal occupations of the inhabitants'.

'The Manor of Crosby formerly belonged to the Earls of Northumberland; it afterwards came to the Porter's of Weary Hall, one of whom sold the manorial privileges to the landowners, the chief of whom is R B Brockbank Esq. A branch of the Osmotherleys were located here, one of whom, William was twice High Sheriff and also MP for the County, in the reign of the unfortunate Richard II. The family name has long been extinct, but their descendants through the female line, are still found in the Reay's and the Law's, one of whom became the first Earl of Ellenborough'.

'The termination of the names Crosby and Birkby, point them out as having been two of the early Danish settlements in this county; the villages founded by the Danes have generally the terminal by, a Scandinavian word signifying dwelling, and therefore town; hence Crosby, the dwelling near the cross; and Birkby, the town among the beech trees'.

Farmers listed in Crosby township: -

William Blamire	John Dow
Robert Fearon, Crosby farm	John Henderson
John Robinson, Beech Close	
Mark Sanderson & Sons	
Thomas Maxwell (and miller), Rose Gill mill	
John Smith, Reay farm	

Kelly's Directory of Cumberland 1925

'Crosscanonby – The parish comprises Crosscanonby, Crosby and Birkby. The soil is of a dry gravelly nature, on red sandstone. The chief crops are oats, wheat, barley and turnips. Population in 1921, 927'.

'Crosby is a very neat village, 3 miles N E from Maryport and within a mile of the Solway Firth. The trustees of the late Richard B Brockbank are the chief landowners'.

Farmers listed in Crosby: -

Robert Armstrong, Farmer
Andrew Bell, Farmer, Eastlands
Robert Ellwood, Farmer, Hill Farm
Thomas Hope, Farmer
Joseph Jackson and Sons, Farmers, Crosby House Farm
John William Robinson, Farmer
William Robson, Farmer

Kelly's Directory of Cumberland and Westmorland 1934

Farmers listed at Crosby: -

Jn Brown Biggar, Beech Close
Anthony Dalzell, Poultry farmer
Robert Ellwood, Hill Farm
Jn Jas Hope
Thomas and Josph Jackson, Crossby House Farm
Jn Mackereth, Sawrey Ground Farm
John William Robinson. Jn Jsph Shepherd, Eastlands

Kelly's Directory of Cumberland and Westmorland 1938

Farmers listed at Crosby: -

Rt Armstrong
Jn Brown Biggar, Beech Close
Anthony Dalzell, Poultry farmer
Jacob Lee Ellwood, Hill Farm [over 150 acres]
Thos and Jsph Jackson, Crossby House Farm
Jn Mackereth, Sawrey Ground Farm
Norman Murray, Eastlands
Wm Ostle
John William Robinson

The Place Names of Cumbria – Joan Lee 1998 Cumbria Heritage Services

‘Crosby – Hamlet by the cross (probably not religious, more a landmark or guide post), from Old Norse *kross* and Old Norse *byr*’.

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

Very little relating to the Village of Crosby, certainly nothing of relevance to Westlands Farm or agriculture in the vicinity.

1844 Tithe Map and Award for the Manor of Crosby (CRO - DRC/8/52)

Plot No.46 – Location of Westlands Farmhouse and Bank Barn: -

Owner – John Reay

Occupier – John Brown

Plot No.47 – Stack Garth [where stacks of cereals were kept]

As above for owner and occupier

Plot No.44 – Described as House etc - As above for owner and occupier



Figure 14 - 1844 Tithe Map for the Manor of Crosby (CRO – DRC/8/52)

Reay, Edward	.....	.....	58	Croft ..	.....	Arable	5	0	28	1	6
	.....	John Reay	57	Coulterlands ..	.....	Arable	3	0	30	0	12
	.....	.....	136	Far Hoboro ..	.....	Arable	4	0	0	0	9
	.....	Himself and others	220	Houses, &c. ....	.....	.....	0	1	27	0	0
	.....	.....	200	Garden .....	.....	.....	0	1	2	0	0
	.....	.....	261	Smithy .....	.....	.....	0	0	4	0	0
	.....	.....			.....	.....	13	0	11	2	9
Reay, John	.....	.....	46	House, &c. ....	.....	.....	0	1	18	0	0
	.....	John Brown	49	East Croft .....	.....	Arable	3	1	0	0	16
	.....	.....	48	Middle Croft .....	.....	Arable	4	1	34	1	2
	.....	.....	43	West Croft .....	.....	Arable	5	2	26	1	6
	.....	.....	47	Stack Garth .....	.....	.....	0	0	32	0	0
	.....	.....	271	Clotho Green .....	.....	Arable	3	3	20	0	17
	.....	.....	270	Slip .....	.....	Arable	0	0	26	0	0
	.....	.....	172	Hoboro .....	.....	Arable	3	3	15	0	10
	.....	.....	169	West Hoboro .....	.....	Arable	6	0	13	0	15
	.....	.....	170	Middle Hoboro .....	.....	Arable	4	2	26	0	11
	.....	.....	171	East Hoboro .....	.....	Arable	4	3	31	0	12
	.....	.....	67	Law Close .....	.....	Arable	5	2	32	1	1
	.....	.....	102	Near East Field .....	.....	Arable	7	3	0	1	6
	.....	.....	103	Far East Field .....	.....	Arable	7	3	2	1	6
	.....	.....	104	Dale Bottom .....	.....	Pasture	4	0	7	0	11
	.....	.....	37	Waitlands .....	.....	Arable	6	3	17	1	4
	.....	.....	1	Barney Gill .....	.....	Arable	6	3	0	1	2
	.....	.....	2	Far West Field .....	.....	Arable	13	2	15	2	9
	.....	.....	4	Near West Field .....	.....	Arable	6	2	15	1	3
	.....	.....	3	Sandholm .....	.....	Arable	9	2	22	1	13
	.....	.....	26	Tree Ping .....	.....	Meadow	0	2	29	0	0
	.....	.....	44	House, &c. ....	.....	.....	0	0	22	0	0
	.....	.....			.....	.....	106	2	2	18	11

Figure 15 - 1844 Tithe Map Award for the Manor of Crosby, showing property and land owned by John Reay (CRO – DRC/8/52)