

Swift Mews Strand Road Carlisle, Cumbria

Standing Building Survey Report No. 3053

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1. INTRODUCTION

A Level 2 standing building survey was undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) on behalf of Carlisle College at Swift Mews, Strand Road, Carlisle (Fig. 1, centred on SD 4039 5609) in July 2013. The work was carried out in line with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) approved by Jeremy Parsons at CCCHES. The work was commissioned by Carlisle College and follows on from a desk-based assessment (Kirby 2013).

1.2 Site Description

Swift Mews comprises a collection of derelict buildings whose principal elevations face onto Strand Road. The building complex includes a former Italianate-style army drill hall and the adjoining two-storey Swift Mews. To the rear of these two buildings a set of buildings form an inner courtyard. A larger brick-built structure was formerly used as a sports centre. The brick-fronted former drill hall will be retained whilst those that adjoin it are to be demolished.

2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the programmes of archaeological works were:

- To carry out a rapid desk-based assessment and place Swift Mews in its historical context and to provide details, where known, on the buildings architects, builders, patrons and owners.
- To produce a Level 2 standing building record of Swift Mews prior to its partial demolition.
- To produce a Historic Building Survey report outlining the results of the work.

3. METHODS AND STANDARDS

All work was conducted in accordance with relevant IfA Standards and Guidance documents.

3.2 Desk-based Assessment

A desk-based assessment was carried out to collate relevant information on the historic significance of Swift Mews, including historical detail gathered by Kirby (2013). Sources consulted included:

- The First Edition Ordnance Survey 6" map and subsequent editions, together with any other readily available cartographic information housed in the Carlisle County Records Office
- The Carlisle Post Office Directories, to seek information on the social history of the building complex, including occupants.
- Other on-line bibliographic information, including historical photographs.

3.3 Standing Building Recording

Survey work was conducted to the standard required by *Descriptive Specification for Recording Historic Buildings* (English Heritage 2006) for a Level 2 building survey. This level of survey is descriptive and both the exterior and limited interiors of the buildings were examined and photographed. CFA standard building survey sheets were completed where applicable.

Metric survey

Internal room measurements were obtained using a hand-held Leica distometer.

Photographic Survey

CFA used a digital Nikon D300 to take high-resolution digital photographs of building elevations, contextual details, structures and specific internal architectural features..

Building Plans and elevations

The client's plans and elevation drawings have been annotated as appropriate with sufficient architectural detail where required to support the descriptive narrative.

Survey Constraints

Demolition of existing buildings to the rear of Swift Mews was on-going at the time of the survey and the derelict condition allowed only partial access into the former Drill Hall. Photography was hampered by access constraints and the amount of debris that occupied the interior of the buildings.

4. DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT RESULTS

4.1 General

The proposed development area lies outside the medieval town walls and away from the core area of the Roman civilian settlement. A late Victorian mews within the proposed development area, which has a date stone of 1873, adjoins an army drill-hall. The mews was built for the nearby Carlisle Swifts Racecourse and was used for stabling horses until 1904, when the racecourse moved to another location. During the First World War, it was used for housing army officers associated with the adjoining drill hall and following the war it was again used for the stabling of horses, later becoming part of a riding school.

The mews is recorded on Pastscape, but has no statutory designation. An application was made to have the mews listed in October 2010 but the application was turned down because the mews were deemed not to be of sufficient architectural merit.

4.2 Historic Maps

Non-Ordnance Survey Maps

The pre 19th-century maps are small scale and schematic, but they depict the proposed development area as open countryside lying outside the city limits. On Smith's map of 1746, an area to the south of the River Eden immediately to the northeast of the proposed development area is annotated 'The Swifts or City Horse Course' and a starting post is depicted. A bowling green and a garden are also depicted situated to the west of the area. Woods' map of 1821 shows a structure annotated 'Sheep House', to the north-east of the proposed development area. Arthur's Plan of Carlisle (1880, Fig 2a) shows the development area within a block-layout format with Swifts Lane fronting what is now Strand Road. A courtyard is depicted in the middle of the block layout and numbered as 21.

Ordnance Survey 1865 6" to the mile (Fig 2b)

On this map, the proposed development area is depicted with a structure cutting across the north-east corner and several garden plots extending into it, but otherwise it is an open space within an area of development. What is now Strand Road is annotated 'Swifts Row' and extends beyond the confines of the development area.

Ordnance Survey 1901 25" to the mile

This map is the first to depict the current layout of buildings within the proposed development area. The large building dominating the central and southern end of the area is annotated 'Drill Hall'. Along the western side of the building complex there are three additional extensions that are no longer present, one of which appears to extend out with the proposed development area onto what is now the A7. Compton Street on the east side of the development area has now been constructed with a building at the northern end annotated 'Mission Hall'. The street immediately to the north is still annotated Swifts Lane, but becomes Strand Road to the east of Compton Street.

Ordnance Survey 1925 – 1972 25" to the mile

Maps dated 1925 and 1938 show only very minor changes within the surrounding area, with another drill hall constructed to the west of the proposed development area. However, by the late 1960s there are some considerable changes with the construction of the A7 Georgian Way. All of the buildings immediately to the west of Swift Mews have been removed, along with a large part of Burlington Place, which has now been renamed Victoria Place. There have also been considerable changes to the east of Compton Street, with the open area now being occupied by the college buildings. The road immediately to the north of the proposed development area is now annotated 'Strand Road'.

4.3 Historic Environment Record

The Cumbria Environment Record records Strand Road Drill Hall (HER No. 43793) located within the proposed development area, but makes no mention of the mews

building. It records that the drill hall opened in 1874 for the Carlisle Rifle Volunteers, and that during the First World War it served as an annexe to the country's second largest munitions works at Eastriggs, north of Carlisle. A special brochure commemorating King George V's visit to the building in 1917 describes it as the East Cumberland National Shell Factory (1915-1919). The building has also served as a roller-skating rink, a dance hall, a territorial centre and a sports hall. An application was made to have this building listed, but this was declined in 2012.

4.4 Post Office Directories

Examination of the Carlisle Post Office directories for Swift Mews between 1873 and 1934 confirms that the buildings were used by a joiner and building contractor and a horse dealer (Table 1). The drill hall is listed in 1873 as the headquarters of the 2nd Cumberland Artillery Volunteers, and the 1st Cumberland (Carlisle) Rifle Volunteers. By 1914 the 4th Cumberland and Westmorland Battalion: The Border Regiment was occupying the army drill hall.

Table 1: List of occupants and trades by year for Swift Mews.

Date	Place	Person	Occupation
1873	HQ 2 nd Cumberland Artillery Volunteers		
		Black, George	Joiner
1884-5	Armstrong, C&J: joiners, builders and contractors yard.	Creighton, Thomas	Foreman
	Drill Hall, 1 st Cumberland (Carlisle) Rifle Volunteers	Russell, Sergeant Major Charles	
		Atkinson, John	Compositor
		Boustead John	
		Mitchell, Stewart	Horse Dealer
	Mitchell's Horse Repository	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
		Haley, Thomas	Porter and Groom
	Maxwell and Son: bacon curers, stables		
	Armstrong, C&J: joiners, builders and contractors yard.		
	2 nd Cumberland (Carlisle) Artillery Volunteer Drill Shed		
	Rope and twine manufacturing works	Lystor, William	
1914		Forster, Arthur	Horse Dealer
	4 (Cumberland and Westmorland) Territorial Forces Battalion Border Regiment, A&B Companies (Drill Hall)		
		Mullholland, William	Horse Breaker
1925		Forster, Arthur	Horse Dealer
	Territorial Army, 4 th (Cumberland and Westmorland) Battalion, The Border Regiment	Coy, A.	
	Mullholland Bros.	Mullholland, Charles and Joseph	Horse Breakers
1934		Forster, Arthur	Horse Dealer
	Territorial Army, 4 th (Cumberland and Westmorland) Battalion, The Border Regiment (Coy, A.)		
	Mullholland Bros.	Mullholland, Charles and Joseph	Horse Dealers

4.5 Historical Photographs

A historical photograph dated to 1906 and annotated Carlisle Music Festival (Plate 1) shows the interior of a large iron roofed shed ((Building 5 in the building survey results). The building was later used as the East Cumberland National Shell Factory (1915-1919). Plate 2 shows the mainly female munitions workforce in a formal pose outside the main (north) entrance of the drill hall. Plates 3-4 show the workers on the factory floor.

5. BUILDING SURVEY RESULTS

5.1 General

The following narrative describes the external elevations. The principal elevations described are shown on the general site block-layout plan (Fig 1) and are labelled Buildings 1-6. Building elevations A-C are reproduced as Figs 3a-c. Selected plates at the rear of the report also show the details of the rest of the complex.

5.2 Building Layout

Fig 1 shows the block-layout of the buildings complex at Swift Mews and includes the following:

- Building 1 a brick-built flat-roofed workshop/garage
- Building 2 the former Drill Hall fronting Strand Road
- Building 3 the Swift Mews main building fronting Strand Road
- Building 4 a linear range of former industrial buildings forming the mews courtyard
- Building 5 a large brick-built former munitions factory and later sports hall
- Building 6 ancillary buildings

5.3 Buildings 1-3, North-facing Elevation

The north-facing elevation fronting Strand Road measures approximately 42 long and includes the elevations of Buildings 1-3.

Building 1: Workshop/garage (Fig 3a, Plate 5)

Building 1 has a plain brick-built facade (English Garden bond 3:1), 8m wide and c.7m high with three blind rectangular windows with raised margins. The building adjoins the main gable of the drill hall.

Building 2: former Drill Hall (Fig 3a, Plates 5, 6)

Building 2 is a brick-built (English Garden bond 3:1) Italianate-style building with a combined length of 24m. A two-storey block with a pitched slate roof lies to the east of a central main three-storey pediment block. At the east end bays (a-b) are non-symmetrical with the ground floor door and window being off-line with the first floor windows. The adjoining block with bays (c-e) are symmetrical. The westernmost,

gable block with bays (f-g) has a ground floor window and doorway with brick segmented flat arches detailed in polychrome brickwork. The full elevation incorporates five polychrome string-courses. The first floor windows have polychrome arches and sandstone sills; features that are echoed throughout all four blocks on the elevation. A dental cornice below the eaves is also present throughout the rest of the building.

The three-storey pedimented central block has a large cream-painted brick-built arched entrance. The first floor window is elongated and round-arched. The third floor windows are sash and case, 2 over 2 with top round panes. The windows are set within a square panel, highlighted with grey brick and crossed by two polychrome string courses. The pediment has a triangular herring-bone panel with sandstone ridge copings. The slate roof is pitched. A flagpole is held in place with an iron bracket.

Building 3, Swift Mews (Plate 7)

Building 3 is brick-built and two storeys with six openings on the ground floor and four at the first floor. The windows all have flat arch lintels whilst the two doors on the ground floor have round arches. A large central bay opening with brick gate piers forms the main access passage to the rear of the property. Swift Mews is painted on a steel beam that spans the top of the opening. On the west side of the passage is a large pair of sliding doors surmounted by a large steel I-beam which is in turn surmounted by a blocked opening below another beam. A single brick dog-tooth string course runs across the middle of the elevation and as a cornice below the pitched slate roof. A plaque on the north-facing elevation is dated to 1876 and has the initials F.P.D.

5.4 Buildings 1-3, South-facing Elevations

Building 1 Workshop/garage

The south-facing elevation of Building 1 has two bay openings below a featureless brick wall. Its east-facing elevation incorporates three blind windows. The interior is open plan and is largely featureless. Six six-paned windows are present. The building was also lit by modern fluorescent lighting.

Building 2 Former Drill Hall (Plate 10)

Two outshot brick-built buildings with single-pitched roofs had been almost entirely demolished at the time of the survey, but their profile could be seen built against the south-facing rear wall of the former drill hall. Doorways at ground and first floor levels connected this structure with the main block of the drill hall. The interior south-facing walls of the demolished buildings were covered with white-painted plaster. Wooden floors and wooden door surrounds were present.

Towards the west end of the south elevation of the drill hall is a third brick-built outshot building (Fig 3c) with a pitched slate roof. A passage with a lean-to roof ran southwards off the ground floor. There were two windows on the ground floor with a staircase window midway, and single window on the first floor. All were sash-and-case 2 over 2.

Building 3, Swift Mews

The rear south-facing elevation (Plate 12) is plain brick with a ground floor doorway and two windows on the ground floor and two windows above that are all sash-and-case 6 over 6 and surmounted by segmented flat arches. A doorway is also present on its gable within the passageway. Running above the passageway was a brick-built gantry with a single south-facing window.

5.5 Buildings 4 to 7

Building 4, Mews workshops (Plate 13)

Building 4 was a rectilinear range of five two storey workshops, 27m long, trending north to south with a curving return joining the east elevation of Building 5. The workshops had a pitched slate roof resting on king-post trusses. The ground floor windows ah sandstone lintels and faced into the courtyard. The doors were wide (c.1.5m by 2m) with sandstone lintels. The first floor walls were clad with tongue-and-grooved clad walls with large windows inserted. This arrangement was carried on throughout the length of the building and provided natural light into the loft space. No fenestration was present on the rear east-facing elevation and the walls were plain brick with square panels.

Building 5, former munitions factory (Plates 14-15)

Building 5 was partially demolished prior to the survey. The building was by far the largest structure on the site and measured 40m long and 17m wide (Fig 1). It was accessed through the main ground floor arched entrance in Building 2. The brick-built structure was buttressed internally on its flanking walls in order to carry the roof structure which is classified as having a Pratt-type or N-type arrangement (Peter Elliot pers comm) of alternating diagonal struts and vertical ties. The central queen-post struts had an X-braced rectangular bay with a cast-iron boss with an ornamental rose at its centre (Plate 15). Above the bay was a central clerestory ridge light that provided top lighting over the factory floor. The south gable had two openings close to the apex of the roof and a doorway and window at the ground floor. The roof dates the building to post-1850 when this form of roof configuration was widely adopted for use in railway stations both in the United Kingdom and in France and Germany (Holzer 2010).

Plate 1 shows the building in 1906 when it was used as a music hall. Plates 3-4 show the building when it served as the East Cumberland National Shell Factory between 1915 and 1919. Cast-iron columns, which were introduced to carry the line-shafts along the interior of the building, were later removed when the building reverted to a large open plan building for recreational use as a sports centre. The building was last used by Carlisle College as a training centre.

Building 6, industrial building (Plate 16)

Building 6 was trapezoidal in plan and was built against the east-facing elevation of Building 5. The external east-facing elevation had seven bays with blind-barred square-headed windows and doors set within a plain brick facade. The building had a flat roof.

Building 7, industrial building (Plate 17)

Building 7 was trapezoidal in plan and brick-built, sited against the west-facing elevation of Building 5. The building had a pitched slate roof with a chimney. No interior access was available and the presence of a formal access to Building 5 could not be tested. However, given the close relationship of the two buildings, it is suggested that such an access must have been present and that Building 7 may have originally have been a boiler house.

5.6 Interior Observations from the ground floor of Building 2

Owing to the dilapidated state of Building 2, the former drill hall, limited access could be gained only to eight ground floor areas within the building. Table 2 summarises the results of the inspection of those areas.

Table 2: Building 2: interior ground floor descriptions

Room	Dimensions	Summary description	Shot Nos.
number	(m)		
1	4.4 x 3.9	Reception area: Modern lined clad walls with double-leaved	58, 67
		door and window lights over. This room occupied the formal	
		arch leading through the main drill hall's formal entrance	
		with rear doors to Building 3.	
2	3 x 2.3	Hall to staircase lit by window on south wall. Doorway to	60-61
		Room 5 on east wall. Door with semi-circular hall light	
		leading onto Strand Road.	
3	2.3 x 3.2	Office with two alcoves on either side of the chimneybreast.	62-63
		Gas fire. Lit on south wall by sash-and-case window. Exit	
		door in SE corner.	
4	1.1 x 0.9	Plank-lined cupboard under the stairs.	63
5	4.4 x 3.3	Front office with modern fittings lit by a single window on	65-66
		the south-facing elevation.	
6	5 x 2.06	Front office with modern wall linings, round-headed	68-70
		window on south-facing elevation. Tiled 1960s fireplace.	
		Hall leading off.	
7	4.3 x 4m	Front office with lilac plank-built door and skirtings. Black	71-72
		cast-iron horse-shoe shaped fireplace (Period late 19 th	
		century) set within a wooden mantelpiece.	
8	3.2 x 1.9	Passage to a toilet and to the rear of the building	73

6. DISCUSSION

Building 1 was of little architectural interest and was typical of a workshop or garage with featureless elevations with boarded rectangular windows and two bay openings on its south elevation.

Building 2 had an ornate street-front elevation built on Italianate stylistics with a central three storey pediment building flanked by blocks on either side. The polychrome string-courses contrast sharply with the plain brickwork on the facade. Limited access into the interior of the building confirmed that little survived of its original 19th century fixtures, all areas having been converted for office use in the late 20th century. The building has had an interesting history, having been under military control by various regiments between 1873 and 1934. It was probably due to its military ownership that Building 5 was established as a munitions factory.

Buildings 3 and 4 appear to predate Building 2. The street front of Buildings 3 and 4 is utilitarian, with an industrial character. Some of the buildings were probably stables with loft space for feed storage and accommodation above; the Post Office directories indicate that some of the rooms were certainly used as joinery workshops and horse trading.

Building 5 had a width of 17m that had to be spanned by a single large roof. Iron-framed roofs of the type employed for Building 5 emerged in continental Europe (Holzer 2010) and were derived from the Polonceau roof invented in the early 19th century. The roof was furnished with clearstory roof lights allowing natural light to enter the building, making it very suitable for munitions manufacturing alongside gas lighting. For the munitions work the interior of the building was modified with the installation of cast-iron columns, much the same as in contemporary textile mills that carried belt-driven line-shafts and in the case of Building 5, to power lathes and stamping machinery.

Buildings 6 and 7 were difficult to interpret with certainty, as their interiors were not able to be seen. However, it seems probable that both building were associated with Building 5. Building 6 has barred windows on all floors and is most likely to have functioned as a warehouse, whilst Building 7 may have been a boiler house associated with Building 5.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

No further work is required prior to the rest of the buildings before they are demolished but the decision lies with Carlisle City Council.

An entry onto the on-line Oasis database will be sufficient to disseminate the results of the work. In line with the WSI, hard and digital copies of the report will be lodged with the HER Sites and Monuments Record.

8. REFERENCES

Bibliograophic

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- Kelly Directories Ltd. 1925. *Directory of Cumberland and Westmorland*, p.98. 186 The Strand, London.
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Cartographic

Arthur 1880 *Plan of Carlisle*, 1880 Survey
Ordnance Survey 1865 *Carlisle* Sheet 23 6" to the mile
Ordnance Survey 1901 *Carlisle* Sheet 23 25" to the mile
Ordnance Survey 1925 *Carlisle* Sheet 23 25" to the mile
Ordnance Survey 1938 *Carlisle* Sheet 23 25" to the mile
Ordnance Survey 1968 *Carlisle* Sheet 23 25" to the mile
Ordnance Survey 1972 *Carlisle* Sheet 23 25" to the mile

On-line Resources

Access to Archives http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk Cumbria image Bank http://cumbriaimagebank.org.uk/historicalmaps, Heritage Gateway; http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk

APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

No.	Description	Taken From
1	North façade, east end	N
2	North façade, east end	N
3	Detail of tower on North façade	N
4	North façade, west end	N
5	North façade, west end	N
6	Detail of door and decorative brickwork (N)	N
7	Oblique of North façade, east end	NW
8	Oblique of North façade, west end	NE
9	Detail of roof brickwork	N
10	Swift Mews façade	N
11	Swift Mews date stone (better photo on small	N
	camera)	
12	Detail of brickwork on west end of SM	N
13	Detail of brickwork on east façade of SM	NE
14	Detail of brickwork on east façade of SM, detail	NE
15	West façade oblique	SW
16	South façade, west end	S
17	South façade, west end, oblique	SE
18	South façade, west interior	SE
19	South façade showing fitting	S
20	South façade, chimney detail (better photo on	S
	small camera)	
21	South façade	S
22	South façade	S
23	South façade showing blocked in feature	SE
24	South façade detail of blocked in feature	SE
25	South façade	S
26	South façade, east end	S
27	South façade, east end, first floor and chimney	S
20	detail	an a
28	South façade, oblique from SE	SE
29	South façade, SW entrance	S
30	East façade of SM	E
31	East façade of SM, oblique	N
32	East façade of SM	<u>E</u>
33	East façade of SM	<u>E</u>
34	East façade of SM	<u>E</u>
35	East façade of SM	E
36	East façade, north facing corner of SM	N
37	Wooden frame on shed of SM	S
38	South façade with ranging rod, oblique	S
39	South façade with ranging rod	S
40	East façade of SM with ranging rod	NW
41	South façade with ranging rod	S
42	Garage under demolition with ranging rod	N

No.	Description	Taken From
43	Detail of rose in garage roof with ranging rod	NE
44	South façade with ranging rod, oblique	S
45	South façade with ranging rod, oblique	SW
46	West façade with ranging rod	SW
47	North façade with ranging rod, west end	NW
48	North façade with ranging rod, east end	NE
49	North façade with ranging rod, tower, oblique	NE
50	North façade with ranging rod, tower	N
51	North façade with ranging rod, tower, decorative	N
	brick detail (better photo on small camera)	
52	North façade of SM with ranging rod	N
53	Corner of East and North façade of SM with	NE
	ranging rod	
54	East façade of SM with ranging rod	SE
55	South façade of SM with ranging rod	SE
56	South façade of SM with ranging rod	SW
57	South façade of site from road, with ranging rod	SW
58	Room 1 with ranging rod	S
59	Room 2 looking towards the stairs, with ranging	N
	rod	
60	Room 2 looking towards the door, with ranging	S
	rod	
61	Room 3 with ranging rod	NW
62	Room 3 with ranging rod	S
63	Room 4 (cupboard under the stairs), with ranging	E
	rod	
64	Room 3 towards the alcove and fireplace, with	SW
	ranging rod	
65	Room 5 (to dark to enter), with ranging rod	SW
66	Room 5 window detail, with ranging rod	SW
67	Room 1 with ranging rod	N
68	Room 6 with ranging rod	S
69	Room 6 with ranging rod	N
70	Room 7 with ranging rod	SE
71	Room 7 with ranging rod	NW
72	Room 7 partially exposed fireplace, with ranging	Е
	rod	
73	Room 8 (restricted access)	S





Fig. 2a - 1865 6 inch OS map

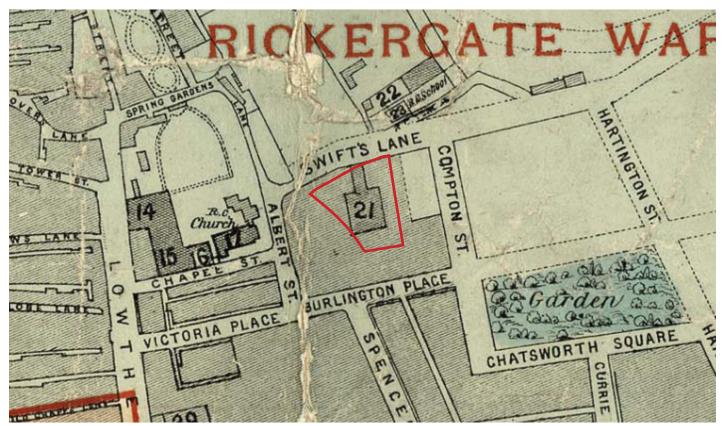
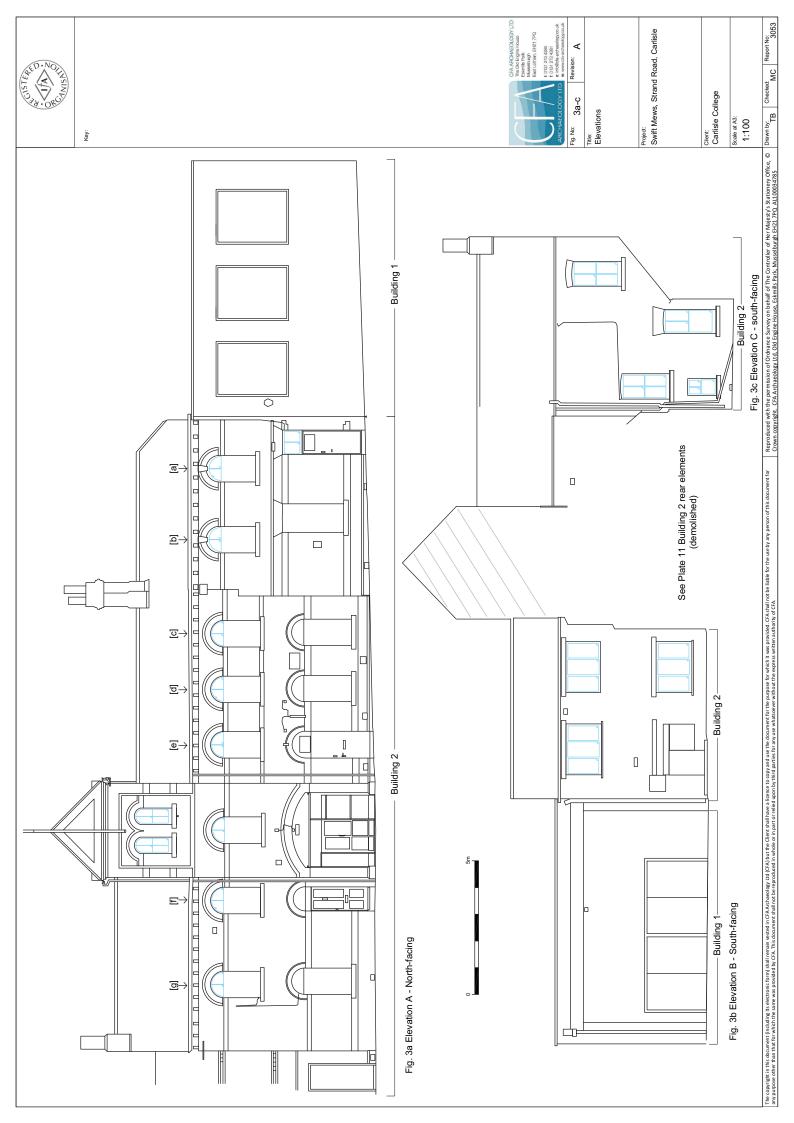
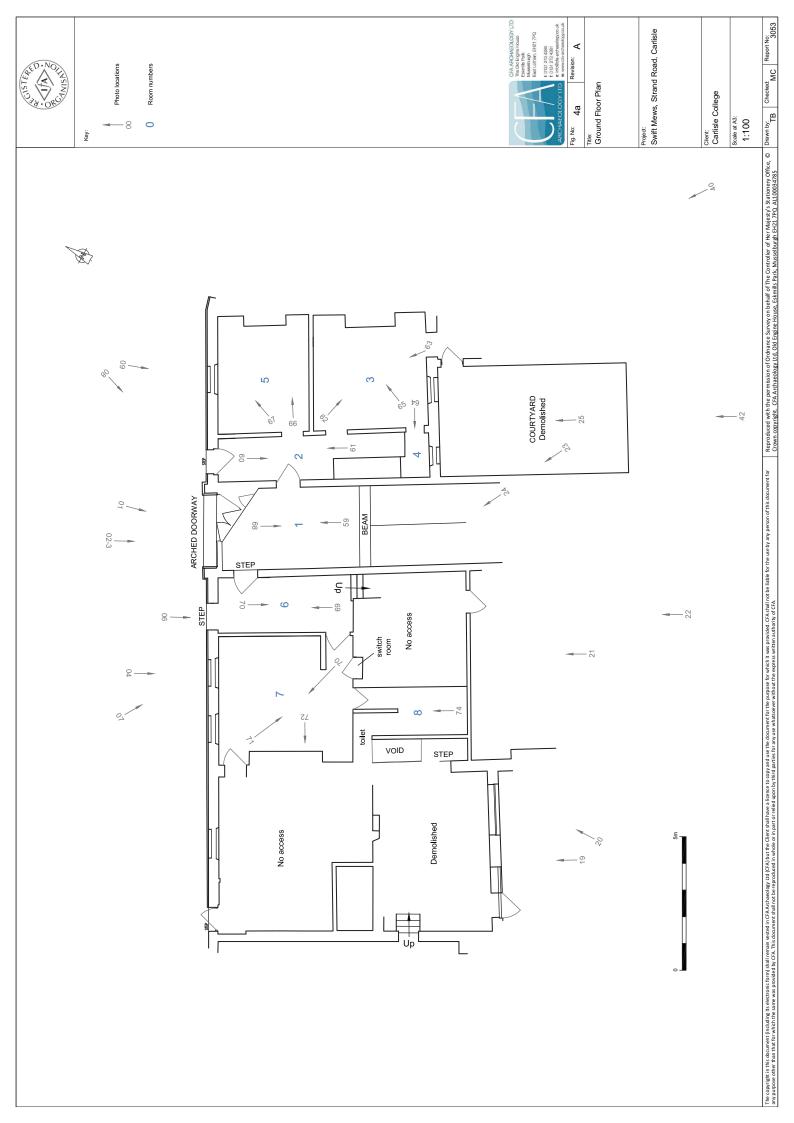


Fig. 2b - Arthur's Plan of Carlisle, 1880

Fig. No:	Fig. No: 2a-b		2a-b Revision: A Project: Swift Mews, Strand Road, Carlisle		COISTER.	CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmills Park, Musselburgh
Drawn by:	Checked:	Report No:	Client:		East Lothian, Eh21 7PQ	
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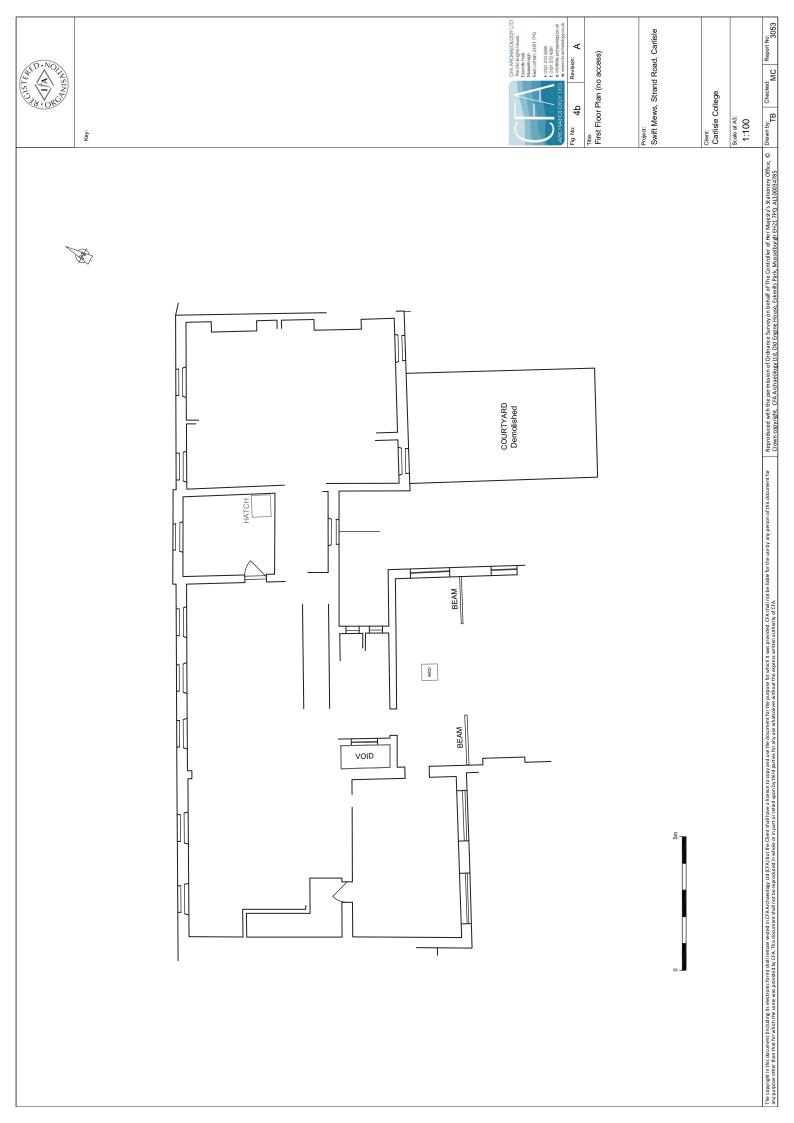




Plate 1 - Historical Photograph 1906 of a music festival held in Building 5



Plate 2 - Historical Photograph (1915-1919) of munitions workers outside the drill hall gate

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Plate 3 - Munitions workers on the factory floor of Building 5



Plate 4 - Munitions workers on the factory floor with line-shafts suspended by columns gate

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Plate 5 - West end of the north-facing elevation showing workshop (Buildings 1 and 2)



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Plate 7 - East end of the north-facing elevation showing the Swift Mews (Building 3)



Plate 8 - East gable and walls of the Swift Mews courtyard (Building 4)

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Plate 9 - South-facing elevation of the workshop/garage (Building 1)



Plate 10 - South-facing elevation showing the remains of a demolished (rear blocks of Building 2)

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Plate 11 -South-facing elevation of Building 2, passage and adjoining structures



Plate 12 - South-facing elevation of the Swift Mews (Building 3)

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Plate 13 - One of the mews courtyard buildings with king-post roof truss exposed (Building 4)



Plate 14 - Building 5 partly demolished showing Prat-type angle-iron roof and clearstory

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Plate 15 - The central boss from Building 5 within the X-frame showing rose embellishment



Plate 16 - East-facing elevation of Building 6 with barred windows and flat roof

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Plate 17 - South-facing gable of Building 7 adjoining Building 5

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