

BARN AND ASSOCIATED BUILDINGS, LOW ASKEW FARM,
CROPTON, PICKERING, NORTH YORKSHIRE

ARCHITECTURAL AND
WILDLIFE SURVEY



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In February 2010, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by Mr Dawson-Brown, through the project architect Peter Gaze Pace, to provide an input into a management plan for a barn and associated farm buildings at Low Askew Farm, Cropton, near Pickering, North Yorkshire (NGR SE 7440 8975); the buildings comprised a mill range, a granary/cart shed range, a former byre (now stable), a 'dairy parlour' and an outlying fieldhouse. The project, which involved an architectural and wildlife survey of these five buildings, was required to inform the restoration of the buildings as part of a Higher Level Stewardship Scheme Agreement with Natural England.

Detailed previous study has allowed an early history of Low Askew to be outlined with some certainty. It would appear that in the early medieval period, Low Askew formed part of a more extensive area of oak woodland, and this remained a valuable commodity into the 18th century. There may have been a corn mill at Low Askew as early as the 12th century, in the possession of St Mary's Abbey in York, associated with the settlement of Spaunton, with a number of known medieval routes also converging on the Low Askew area. The mill may have become disused in the later medieval period, although demesne enclosures and pasture remained. The farm, along with the Middle Askew and High Askew complexes to the north, seems to be a post-Dissolution creation following the break-up of the monastic estate. Despite the difficulty of disentangling the three Askews in some early post-medieval documents, Low Askew Farm may have been present as early as 1663 and was certainly in place by 1715. At or around this time, the farm had a mixed arable, sheep and dairy agricultural regime, forming about the largest farm in the Manor of Spaunton, with weaving also taking place at Low Askew.

No post-medieval documentation prior to the early 19th century mentions a mill at Low Askew, and little structural evidence was uncovered during the survey work for any early post-medieval activity. The cultivation at Low Askew, as evidenced by early 18th documentation, indicates that during this period the farm would have required buildings for the processing and storage of arable crops, the accommodation of horses and cattle, and also a farmhouse within which there was a space given over to weaving. Masonry noted in two of the farm buildings recorded as part of the survey might form a remnant of earlier farm buildings, although there is no clear evidence to suggest what date they may have been. A barn mill appears to have been built in c.1830, forming part of wider changes undertaken at the farm complex during the early 19th century which are representative of regional trends. An outlying fieldhouse is probably also early 19th century in date, and this forms a relatively well preserved example of a regionally uncommon agricultural building, made more unusual in that it appears to have been planned as part of a larger complex that never developed.

The farm complex continued to develop after the mid 19th century, with all the surveyed buildings having been altered during the 20th century. Latterly, the barn mill was used to drive a generator and it finally ceased working in the period c.1948-50.

Daytime internal and external, and nocturnal, bat surveys, were undertaken of the five buildings, as well as a barn owl survey. Several bat roosts were identified in the granary/cart shed range, in the roof of the mill range and in the stable / byre building, with considerable nocturnal activity around the farmhouse. Barn owls were also successfully breeding in the isolated fieldhouse, although there were no bats roosting here. It is therefore recommended that appropriate precautionary mitigation measures be undertaken to ensure that the status of the local population of bats and barn owls is maintained prior to, during and after any proposed repair works.

1 INTRODUCTION

Reasons and Circumstances for the Project

- 1.1 In February 2010, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by Mr Dawson-Brown, through the project architect Peter Gaze Pace, to provide an input into a management plan for a barn and associated farm buildings at Low Askew Farm, Cropton, near Pickering, North Yorkshire (NGR SE 7440 8975 centred).
- 1.2 The project, which involved an architectural and wildlife survey of the farm buildings, was required to inform their restoration as part of a Higher Level Stewardship Scheme Agreement with Natural England. The scope of the recording work was defined by a brief prepared by Dr Margaret Nieke, Yorkshire and the Humber Historic Environment Advisor to Natural England (see Appendix 3), and this was supplemented by an EDAS methods statement (see Appendix 4). The architectural and ecological recording work was funded by Mr Dawson-Brown (owner) and Natural England.

Site Location and Description

- 1.3 The former watermill and associated buildings form part of the larger farm complex of Low Askew Farm, located c.1.5km to the north-west of the village of Cropton, near Pickering, North Yorkshire (NGR SE 7440 8975) (see figure 1). The farm complex lies on the north side of the Lastingham Beck, just to the west of its confluence with the Ings Beck, within a relatively level area of ground on the west side of the valley of the River Seven; the farm is set at an elevation of c.68m AOD (see figure 2). The ground level rises steeply to the east, north and west. An outbuilding also included in the survey work lies c.450m to the north-west of the farm, in an isolated position on rising ground at an elevation of c.91m. The farm complex is accessed from the unclassified road between Cropton and Lastingham. None of the surveyed buildings are listed, and the site lies within the North York Moors National Park.
- 1.4 The farm has been the subject of some previous work, largely as part of wider studies relating to aspects of regional history. The three farmhouses on Askew Ridge, including Low Askew, were visited during 1977 by the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Vernacular Buildings Study Group (NYCVBSG 1977); the information from this and a wide range of other recording work was incorporated in Harrison and Hutton (1984). A brief description of the farm, together with valuable transcriptions of early documentation, was made by Ian Pattison of the former RCHME in 1982 (Pattison 1982), and a subsequent study of houses of the North York Moors (RCHME 1987) provides much useful contextual information. The mill element of the farm was described by John Harrison as part of his seminal work on milling in north-east Yorkshire, again with valuable transcriptions of early documentation (Harrison 2001), while the complex medieval tenurial and economic arrangements surrounding Low Askew were discussed as part of Allison's excellent history of Appleton Le Moors (Allison 2003). Despite these previous works, it is believed that the current project is the first to produce detailed studies of the farm buildings accompanied by measured drawings.
- 1.5 At the time of the survey (April 2010), the buildings within the farm itself were in reasonable structural condition, but the preservation of the outlying building to the north was poorer, particularly the roof structure. The farm buildings were used for

low level storage at the time of the survey, with the outlying building being empty and disused.

Aims and Objectives

- 1.6 The primary aim of the architectural survey work was to provide a photographic, drawn and written record of the barn and adjacent structures, while the bat and barn owl surveys were to identify the presence of any of the protected species in the buildings. The survey results would then help to inform the preparation of a management plan for a proposed restoration project, and would make appropriate recommendations for any mitigation work as part of the proposed restoration work.

Survey Methodologies

- 1.7 As noted above, the scope of the architectural and ecological survey work was defined by a Natural England brief and an EDAS methods statement (see Appendices 3 and 4).

Building Recording

- 1.8 The building recording comprised four main elements, namely documentary research, and drawn, photographic and written recording. Together, the four elements equate to a Level 2 visual and descriptive record as defined by English Heritage (2006a, 13-14). The on-site drawn and photographic recording was undertaken on 9th, 19th and 22nd April 2010.
- 1.9 As has already been stated, the Low Askew Farm has been the subject of varying degrees of previous study, and the information gathered during these previous studies has been incorporated into this report. Some limited research at the North Yorkshire County Record Office (NYCRO) was also undertaken. Other relevant contemporary and later secondary sources have also been used. A full list of sources consulted is given in the bibliography (Chapter 7) below.
- 1.10 The drawn record comprised a ground floor plan of the former watermill and attached structures (now known as the workshop) forming the south side of the farm complex, a ground floor plan of a granary and cart shed range on the north side of the farm, a ground floor plan of another more modern building in the south-west corner of the complex (described as a 'dairy parlour' in the project brief), and a ground plan of the outlying fieldhouse to the north-east (known as the 'Red Barn'), all at a scale of 1:50 (see figures 2 and 3). In addition, cross-sections through the former watermill, the granary range and the fieldhouse were also produced at 1:50 scale to show typical roof-truss construction. At a later date, a former byre (now a stable) lying on the west side of the farm complex was included within the proposed restoration scheme, and so the ground floor of this was also planned at 1:50 scale. The plans shows all significant detail such as inserted or blocked openings, original fixtures and fittings, and details of items relating to original and subsequent uses. Detailed inspections were undertaken behind and around any stored material to ensure that all relevant features were noted. The information for the drawn record was captured using both traditional hand-held and also remote measurement techniques. Final inked drawings were then produced by hand to publication standard, and are presented as reduced versions of the full sized field drawings using conventions established by English Heritage (2006a, 18-37).

- 1.11 The photographic record was achieved using a digital camera. Once again, English Heritage guidelines were followed (English Heritage 2006a, 10-13). Subject to access, all photographs contain a graduated scale, and artificial lighting was used where necessary, in the form of electronic flash. A total of 166 colour digital shots were taken and printed to a size of 6" x 4". The photographic record (see Appendix 1) includes a register detailing the location and direction of each shot, a figure showing the position and direction of each shot, and thumbnails of the photographs; selected larger prints accompany the main text of the report. A full set of photographic prints has been included with the project archive (see below).

Wildlife Survey

- 1.12 The wildlife survey involved inspecting the five farm buildings, including the isolated fieldhouse, for bats and barn owls, as well as undertaking a walkover of the site and its immediate surroundings.
- 1.13 Daytime external and internal inspections for bats were undertaken on 29th March and 16th June 2010. In March, bats may still be using their winter hibernation roosts while in June they will have moved to their summer roost(s), some of which will be maternity (breeding) roosts. Evidence for bats includes their physical presence in small cracks within the fabric of the buildings, staining with oil from bat fur, and scratching and droppings. Each part of the five buildings was systematically searched; accessible cracks were examined with the use of a Clulite Lamp (1,000,000 candle power) while ladders were used to access the various crevices between the walls as well as parts of the first floors and pitched roofs. An evening nocturnal emergence bat survey was undertaken on 16th June 2010. A total of eight observers were utilised either side of sunset, using frequency division and heterodyne bat detectors and digital recorders.
- 1.14 The five buildings were also searched for barn owls, barn owl droppings, pellets, feathers and/or nest debris as evidence of day-time roosts and/or nesting sites, on 29th March 2010. On 16th June 2010 a barn owl box within the fieldhouse was checked for barn owl chicks.

Report and Archive

- 1.15 This report forms a detailed written record of the buildings, prepared from the sources of information set out above and cross referenced to the drawn and photographic record. It describes the surviving structures, and analyses their form, function, history and sequence of development, as far as is possible using the previously gathered information. The buildings are also placed within their historical, social and industrial context, where possible using the available documentary and secondary evidence. The detailed written record includes a Statement of Significance, which assesses the structures from both a local and regional perspective, and comments on the contribution of the buildings to the local landscape character, public amenity and biodiversity. This report also includes a summary of the results from the wildlife survey, while the full unedited Bat and Barn Owl Report (Holloway 2010) appears as Appendix 2.
- 1.16 The full archive, comprising paper, magnetic and plastic media, relating to the project has been ordered and indexed according to the standards set by the National Archaeological Record (EDAS site code LAF 10). It was deposited with the North York Moors National Park Authority on the completion of the project.

2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Introduction

- 2.1 The buildings forming the subject of this report, and the farm complex in general, lie within a rich archaeological landscape dating from the prehistoric periods; indeed there are several potential Bronze Age barrows in the vicinity of Low Askew and flints are regularly ploughed up in the nearby fields (Mrs Dawson-Brown, *pers. comm.*). However, the main periods of interest relating to the farm date to the medieval and post-medieval periods, and so these form the subject of the following discussion. As has already been noted in Chapter 1 above, some of the farm buildings have been subject to varying degrees of previous study, and this information is also included below.

The Medieval Period

- 2.2 Low Askew is the southernmost of three farms to bear the Askew name, the other two being Middle Askew and High Askew which lie to the north on Askew Ridge, both now demolished; the present High Askew complex lies between the two and is a post-1855 creation. Through a painstaking and thoughtful consideration of the scant contemporary documentation and surviving landscape elements, Allison (2003) has made many plausible suggestions on the development of these three farms, and the following section draws very heavily from her account.
- 2.3 According to Gelling (1984, 209), the second element of the name 'Askew' derives from the Old Norse *skógr* or 'wood', having a similar meaning to the Old English *scaga*. Although the word survived into Middle English, early recorded settlements containing the element *skógr* are likely to be Old Norse in origin. The first element of 'Askew' is a tree-name, according to Gelling referring to ash; Gelling further speculates that the Old Norse *skógr* may have been considered especially appropriate for a single-species wood. However, Allison (2003, 45, 74 & 210) notes that the earliest known form of the name is 'Aske' which occurs in 1585, and that this probably derives from the Old Norse *ac/skogr* meaning 'oak wood'. She also points out that in the 1552 Survey of the Woods of the Manor of Spaunton, the area above what is now known as High Askew formed Spyres Wood, an oak wood of 50 acres, the largest and most valuable in the survey. Indeed, oak woodland remained a valuable local commodity well into the 18th century (see below).
- 2.4 The mid 19th century tithe maps and the 1856 Ordnance Survey 6" map (sheet 74) depict the complicated pattern of landholding around the Low Askew area (then named as 'Lower Askew'). While Lower Askew forms part of Spaunton township, Middle Askew is a detached part of Appleton Le Moors township and High Askew is a detached part of Lastingham township; a small area to the north of Low Askew is also given as 'Spaunton detached'. These detached parts may have originated as medieval assarts and intakes which were located at a distance from the core of the townships, and were perhaps created and then divided among the townships making up a manor (Allison 2003, 203 & 212). Other work on detached areas along the North / West Yorkshire boundary near Tadcaster found there to be a relation between the distribution of townships with detached parts and villages recorded in the Domesday Book. It was suggested that within some areas, such as those where limestone formed the underlying geology, soils were easily worked, encouraging early arable use, but a lack of surface water may have discouraged the creation of nucleated villages, resulting in many small, discrete settlements; these eventually came to form townships at a later date on a nearest neighbour basis, influenced also by tenurial and economic factors (Ecclestone 1993, 75-84).

Many of the detached parts of townships shown on the mid 19th century Ordnance Survey 6" to 1 mile maps can be demonstrated to have been in existence as least as early as the 13th century, and their boundaries have changed little since (Moorhouse 1981, 272).

- 2.5 Allison (2003, 212-213) suggest that Low Askew may have been the site of a 12th century corn mill, as in either c.1130 or c.1165 the Charter of St Mary's Abbey in York makes reference to the watermill of Spaunton on the Seven. A later reference to the mill dates to between 1197-1239, when Robert, the Abbot of St Mary's, leased 'our mill of Spaunton' to Henry the Miller for 20 years. The exact location of this mill is uncertain, but there are good reasons for believing that it may have been somewhere near Low Askew. Spaunton is a 'dry' village, high in the limestone hills and away from any water. The boundary of the north-east part of Spaunton township is very curious, with a spit of land extending east through Hagg Wood and around Burke Head, to encompass Low Askew and a strip of closes which run to the north along the west bank of the River Seven. This arrangement may reflect the need of the dry village to have a suitable location for a watermill, either on the Lastingham / Ings Beck or the Seven, as was also previously suggested by Harrison (2001, 216). The fact that roads, two bridges and footpaths converge in the area of the present Low Askew farm might also be significant in terms of an early mill being located here. Several of the roads leading out to the north and north-east of Appleton Le Moors can be shown to be medieval routes; for example, the trackway shown as a footpath in 1856 leading to Low Askew from the south, on the same north-south alignment as Bents Lane, is described as early as 1550 as 'Appleton Way leading to same moors' (Allison 2003, 87-88 & 211-214).
- 2.6 The fact that there is no mention of a mill in the 1539 Dissolution Survey for Spaunton suggest that it might have become disused in the later medieval period. However, there is other good evidence for late medieval activity around Low Askew. The same Dissolution Survey refers to two farms in Spaunton township; one held by John Bewes comprising one messuage, four gardens and 42 acres of arable, and the other held by Robert Taylor comprising one messuage and 37 acres - Allison suggests that either one of these might refer to Low Askew. Alternatively, the farm, along with the other two Askews, might have been a post-Dissolution creation following the break-up of the monastic estate. In 1550, there is a reference to a Spaunton pasture at Low Askew, and the presence of this pasture might be implied by other documentation as early as 1339. There are also references to pigs straying into the Beckhousings area (south-east of Low Askew) from the Manor of Spaunton, implying that rights of pannage (the pasture of pigs in woodland) were being exercised in the Low Askew area. In 1564, the Manor of Spaunton was sold to John Bonnell; only four closes are mentioned specifically by name, and of these, three are close to Low Askew. It is not clear why they are singled out for mention, but they may have been an anomaly, perhaps remnants of manorial demesne land, forming demesne enclosures along with the Spaunton pasture at Low Askew, but with no actual farm (Allison 2003, 213-217).

The Post-Medieval Period

The 17th and 18th centuries

- 2.7 Allison notes that there is some difficulty is being able to sometimes distinguish between the three different Askews in the early post-medieval period. The earliest mention of a farm at High Askew may be in 1600, at Middle Askew in 1624 and at Low Askew in 1663, in John Hobson of Ascue's will (Allison 2003, 218). When the

sites of High and Middle Askew were visited in the 1977, a number of observations were made. The existing High Askew farmhouse was said to be built in a Georgian style after 1856, but it was suggested that the earlier house to the north had been cruck-framed because of the number of parts of cruck blades, collars and other timbers which had been re-used in surrounding buildings. Middle Askew was ruinous by 1977, although surviving footings suggested a house c.45 feet long by 20 feet wide, possibly with a cross-passage (NYCVBSG 1977).

2.8 The first full 'terrier' or survey for the Parish of Lasingham dates to 1715 and mentions all three farms, with no suggestion that they were recent creations. What is unusual is that the three Askew farms are always mentioned separately in the terriers, and that they are the only farms in the terriers to be singled out, although it is not certain why this should have been so (Allison 2003, 218-219). On the 1715 terrier, Robert Hutton was the tenant farmer at Low Askew. He left a will with total value of £168 in 1721, making him a well-to-do man for the period and area. Most of the value was in farming, with four oxen, six cows, 100 ewes, 100 hogs (young sheep) and horses suggesting a mixed farm of arable, sheep and dairy. Weaving was also a source of income - a loom, wool and cloth, valued at £12, was listed in the chamber and 'in the shop'. Comprising some 139 acres, Low Askew was then about the largest farm in the Manor of Spaunton, but Hutton described himself in his will as a weaver rather than a farmer (Allison 2003, 219).

2.9 Pattison's notes (1982) include transcripts of two documents relating to John Bayley of Pickering, a yeoman. By the terms of his will, dated 4th March 1739, he bequeathed the following:

"(to his) wife Elizabeth 2 closes in Askew Lasingham bought of William Bayley called Bent Close & Lime Kiln Close abutting on the Common Lane on the west, on the premises of Mr Hobson & W Bayley on the east & Lasingham Field on the south. If when John Bayley son of William is 21 he wants to buy them my wife to sell him them for £80. She is not to cut down the oak wood growing on same without consent of trustees & all my house and lands at Aiskew for life.

After her death or remortgage to John Bayley second son of William Bayley of Hutton paying £5 each to his brother William & sisters Elizabeth, Dorothy & Mary when he is 21. If my wife dies or Mary first then all to brother in law James Rod in trust for John.

My wife to bequeath after her death or mortgage £100 to James son of James Rod my brother in law & £15 each to William Elizabeth Dorothy & Mary Bayley when 21 and £40 to Mary & Sarah Rod ds of James & £10 each to son & daughter of Francis Bayley of Whitby & £10 each to Edward & Ann Simpkin. None of these to be paid till 6 months after wife's death.

Residue to wife Elizabeth sole executive (signed Ann Michelson, Har. Michelson, Esther Hodgson".

2.10 The second transcript is an extract from an inventory, signed 23rd June 1741:

"Purse & apparel - £10

Forehouse *a long table frame & form - 12s*

an old oak cupboard 3 brass pots 1 iron pot an iron kettle & other implements - £1/10s

6 chairs 6s 8 pewter dishes 1/10/- - £1/16s

A dozen pewter plates 12s 2 pewter tankards 2s - 14s

3 brass pans, 2 brass kettles a warming pan and other brass implements - £1

Chamber *1 bed, bedstead bedding & hangings thereto belonging - £2*

2 oak chests a press 3 chairs & other implements - 18s

1 feather bed hangings & bedding thereto belonging - £3

Other chamber 1 bed bedstead hangings & bedding thereto belonging - £1/10s
2 oak chests 2 desks & linen therein - £2
Debts owed to the testator as appears by securities - £5/0
[signed] Thomas Michelson, Francis Hodgson, Joseph Boyes, Har. Michelson
Execution to Elizabeth Bayley widow (signed) 23 June 1741
Thomas Atkinson of Hartoft yeoman in land for £1000”.

- 2.11 The fields noted in John Bayley’s will of 1739 also occur slightly later in a mortgage between Thomas Ayson of Cawthorne, yeoman, and Jane Tate, late of Muston, dated 17 May 1769. The property described in the mortgage includes “(a) messuage at Askew, in Appleton in the Moors, Lastingham Parish, and two closes belonging, abutting west on Common Lane” (Pattison 1982).
- 2.12 Given that the messuage is described as being at Askew in Appleton Le Moor, the Bayley documentation must refer to Middle Askew, rather than Low Askew; furthermore, Allison records that Thomas Ayson bought Middle Askew in 1769 (Allison 2003, 220). In 1737, Richard Hobson Esq of Kirbymoorside owned Low Askew; it was sold out of the family in 1739, but remained in the tenure of John Baker (Allison 2003, 218-219). An advertisement in the *York Courant* of 25th February 1799 for the sale at William Kendall’s inn at Kirbymoorside of the freehold estate called Askey Farm, comprising 132 acres in Spaunton and Lastingham and five acres in Wood Appleton, is perhaps more likely to be Lower Askew. It was noted that there was a good limestone quarry on the estate (Pattison 1982), and Allison (2003, 203) notes that in late 18th century, an M Harrison owned a quarry in Middle Askew and also a limestone quarry in Appleton. Neither this advertisement, nor any of the other 18th century documents, appear to mention a mill.

The 19th and 20th centuries

- 2.13 On 8th May 1800, an agreement was drawn up between William Wallbanke Esq of Sowerby and John Wood of Beck House in Middleton, yeoman, for the purchase of a messuage and its lands called Askew Farm, Lastingham, in the occupation of Miles Jackson. Thirteen years later, in December 1814, presumably following the death of the first John Wood, a subsequent agreement was made between John Wood of Askew, Lastingham and other heirs of John Wood of Beck House, Cropton, yeoman, and John Atkinson of Appleton, yeoman, “for the messuage, farmhouse, outhouses, lands belonging called Askew in Lastingham, late occupation of Miles Jackson, now of John Wood” (Pattison 1982). The 1841 census records a John Wood, aged 30 and described as a farmer, living at Low Askew, with Richard Plummer (a 35 year old agricultural labourer), two male servants (Thomas Leigh aged 20 and John Easterby aged 15), and two female servants (Elizabeth Ellerker aged 25 and Jane Spencley aged 20); presumably the male servants were farm workers (NA HO 107/1263/18 p1).
- 2.14 According to oral evidence from W Featherstone of Lastingham, recorded in 1976 by John Harrison, a barn mill was built at Low Askew in the 19th century by Mr Gill of Sutheron Lodge (Harrison 2001, 216). This may have taken place around 1830, as the *Yorkshire Gazette* of 29th July 1837 carried the following notice:
“To be sold by auction. A Water Corn Mill with one pair of Blue Stones, one pair of Grey ditto, Barley Mill and Dressing Mill, situate at Lastingham in the county of York. The mill is almost entirely new, and is built of the best stone and cemented. It is well watered and the dams are new.” (Harrison 2001, 216).
The description of the mill being ‘almost entirely new’ is interesting, and might infer that a pre-existing structure was incorporated into the new mill. Similarly, the fact

that the dams were described as 'new' might indicate that there was no such pre-existing, or that older such features had been rebuilt.

- 2.15 Low Askew is shown in some detail on the 1849 tithe map (NYCRO PR/LAS/3/3/6) (see figure 4). A weir is indicated across the Lastingham Beck, positioned just before the road bridge (Askew Bridge). The farm complex consist of a group of six buildings grouped loosely around a central yard. There is a rectangular north-south aligned building on the west side, another long narrow rectangular building on an east-west alignment on the north side with a shorter rectangular building to its south. The mill lies on the south side of the yard, as a rectangular almost east-west structure with a projection on the east side. The farmhouse stands to the east of the yard, with a small structure to its west and three further smaller buildings to the north-east. The accompanying apportionment notes that the field to the south of the mill is called 'Stack Yard' (no. 277), the field to the south of the house is 'Garden' (no. 279), and the main complex is 'House and Premises' (no 281), owned and occupied by John Wood.
- 2.16 Low Askew is named as 'Lower Askew' on the 1856 Ordnance Survey 6" map (see figure 5). In comparison with the earlier 1849 tithe map, a triangular mill pond has been constructed, and a 'Mill Dam' is shown with a sluice marked on the southern side. The beck exits from the pond at the sluice and then continues along the southern side of the farm complex, under 'Askew Bridge'. The farm complex itself consist of a group of five main buildings grouped loosely around a central yard. As in 1849, there is the rectangular north-south building on the west side and the longer east-west building on the north side, although now only a thick black line to its south, perhaps a thick retaining wall, compared to the building on the earlier map. The mill appears more substantial and on more of an east-west alignment, with a projection to the south side. The farmhouse to the north-east is also more squat, and has a truncated L-shape, with an angled structure at its south-west corner.
- 2.17 The Wood family remained as either owners or occupants throughout the 19th century. For example, the 1851 census records that 'Low Askew House' was occupied by another John Wood, who was aged 40 and described as a 'yeoman of 100 acres and employing five labourers' - he lived there with Elizabeth his wife, his four sons (John, William, Christopher and David, all under nine), George Gill (a shepherd aged 20), George Hugill (a waggoner aged 23), James Hayes (an agricultural labourer aged 14), Martha Jackson (a 20 year old dairy maid) and Hannah Lowther (a 15 year old kitchen girl) (NA HO 107/2373 p1). John Wood's son, also called John, had taken over by the time of the 1871 census, when he was described as a 'farmer of 180 acres employing four men and two boys'; he lived at Low Askew with his wife Mary Ann (aged 24), his son John (1 year old), and four farm servants and two domestic servants (NA RG 10/4840 p6).
- 2.18 By the time of the 1881 census, John and Mary Ann had had four other children, and they employed four male 'indoor' farm servants and two young female domestic servants (NA RG 11/4827 p1). In 1889, a Robinson Wood, farmer, is listed at Askew Farm (Kelly & Co 1889, 125) and in 1897 William Wood appears at the same location (Kelly & Co 1897, 149); neither appears under the list of millers given in the trade sections of the same directories. This again is confirmed by the census data. In 1891 Robinson Wood and his wife were at the farm with their six children (all under 12), Isabel Hoggard (an 18 year old governess and domestic servant), another domestic servant, Francis Fletcher (a farm servant) and a visitor, Matthew Buckingham (NA RG 12/3988, p1). In 1901 the farm was occupied by

William Wood, his wife and son, a foreman and a waggoner, a domestic servant and a nursemaid (NA RG 13/4553 p2).

- 2.19 In 1928, it was noted by Mitford Abraham that at Low Askew mill there was a “... *threshing machine worked by the wheel, also one pair of grey stones. Pair of old German blue stones against wall of wheel house*” (Harrison 2001, 216). In the first half of the 20th century, the mill’s waterwheel was of wood and iron construction, roughly 14 feet in diameter and three feet wide, and housed in an outshot to the barn. It drove one set of stones, a thresher and a straw chopper via a ring gear and a hexagonal section upright shaft. Latterly, the waterwheel was used to drive a generator. In 1937, Thomas Smith was the farmer at Low Askew Farm (Kelly & Co 1937, 155). The mill ceased working in the period c.1948-1950, and the machinery was removed in 1962 (Harrison 2001, 216; Pattison 1982).

3 ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTIONS

Introduction

- 3.1 The buildings are described below in a logical sequence. The plan form, structure and architectural detailing of each building is described first, followed by the external elevations and a circulation description of the interior, from the lowest to the uppermost floor level. Reference should also be made to the ground floor plans and plates, and the photographic record which appears as Appendix 1; photographs are referenced in the following text in bold type and square brackets, the numbers before the stroke representing the film number and the number after indicating the frame e.g. [2/32].
- 3.2 Some of the buildings within the complex are set on either very slight north-west/south-east or north-east/south-west alignments, but for ease of description, they are considered to be aligned either east-west or north-south. Unless otherwise noted, the terms used to describe surviving timber-framing and roof structures are taken from Alcock *et al* (1996) and Campbell (2000). Where possible, specific architectural terms used in the text are as defined by Curl (1977). Finally, in the following text, 'modern' is used to denote features or phasing dating to after c.1945.

The Mill Range (see figure 6)

Plan form, structure and materials

- 3.3 The mill range forms the southern range of the recorded buildings, standing on the south side of the farm complex (see figure 3). The north-east corner of the range is butted by the tall boundary wall forming one side of a rectangular single-storey 19th century structure set on a north-east/south-west alignment, which runs as far as the farmhouse. As noted above, the mill range is shown on the 1849 tithe map and the Ordnance Survey 1856 6" map but with slightly different configurations (see figures 4 and 5); the tithe map depicts a small extension to the north-west corner while the Ordnance Survey map shows the building wider and with an extension to the south. In some cases, it is difficult to see whether these are genuine discrepancies, or whether they result from cartographic inaccuracies.
- 3.4 The mill range is rectangular in plan, with maximum external dimensions of 26.50m east-west by an average of 6.50m north-south; at the east end of the range, including an outshot, the building measures 9.60m north-south. The range clearly developed in a number of different phases and the earliest part at the eastern end, which once housed the mill, has maximum external dimensions of 12.60m east-west by 9.60m north-south. Although at a glance it appears to have a regular, rectangular ground plan, with a projecting outshot to the centre of the south wall, the detailed measured survey revealed a number of slight irregularities, principally that parts of the north and south walls are not quite parallel. The east and central parts of the mill range are of two storeys, with a pitched, pantiled roof. Internally, the building has a maximum total height of 6.90m from ground floor level to the underside of the roof ridge. The west part is of a single storey only, also with a pantiled roof but set at a steeper pitch than the other parts of the range.
- 3.5 The mill range has load-bearing external walls, of slightly varying width; to the eastern part, they are on average 0.55m wide, to the centre part they are 0.45m wide and to the western part they are 0.40m wide. The external walls of the eastern and central parts are built largely of coursed squared limestone and

sandstone set with lime mortar. The sandstone quoins and some lintels have prominent herringbone or diagonal tooling, while there are moulded kneelers and dressed flat coping to the gables. As might be expected, there are some variations as to the detailed form of the masonry within the elevations, and these are discussed more fully in the elevation descriptions below. The external and internal walls of the western part of the mill range are faced with roughly coursed and squared stone, set with a thickly applied cement mortar, but are of machine-made brick internally. The majority of the range is floored with concrete, with only the easternmost bay of the eastern part retaining an earlier flagstone floor. The roof trusses may be of hardwood but could be large scantling softwood. No incised or surface numbering or assembly marks were visible on the roof trusses from ground level.

External elevations

- 3.6 The external elevations of the mill range are described below, starting with the earliest, eastern part.
- 3.7 The east gable of the eastern part faces east onto the garden to the rear (south) of the farmhouse [1/79 and 1/85] (see plate 1). It is of two storeys, built of well coursed and squared limestone and sandstone laid to a slightly watershot profile, and rises from a narrow plinth, projecting some 0.08m beyond the wall face above [1/80] (see plate 3). The plinth is concealed by the rising external ground level to the northern half of the gable, but it carries around the south-east corner to continue along the base of the south elevation. The gable contains four slit breathers, two to the ground floor and two to the first floor, approximately vertically aligned. The upper part of the gable is supported by moulded kneelers and has flat dressed coping.
- 3.8 The south elevation of the eastern part has a centrally placed outshot, which is shown on the 1857 Ordnance Survey 6" map (see figure 5). To the east of the outshot, the elevation is built of roughly coursed and squared stone rubble, much less neatly constructed than that to the east gable. The elevation here contains two vertically aligned slit breathers, one each at ground and first floor levels [1/83], and it rises from the same narrow projecting plinth as the east gable. The plinth drops vertically for 2.60m and then steps outward again, before dropping a further 1.05m. The plinth forms the south side of the waterwheel's tailrace. This has been extensively altered, with a modern stepped base being constructed and railings erected around the open tailrace [1/84]. It is believed that prior to these alterations, the base of the tailrace was level (Mr Dawson-Brown, *pers. comm.*). A flat-headed opening at the base of the east wall took water from the open tailrace into a large culvert. This runs beneath the garden area to the south of the farmhouse, eventually emerging into an open leat some distance to the south-east which drains into the Lavington Beck just before its confluence with the River Seven.
- 3.9 The narrow plinth continues around the base of the east gable of the outshot, where it contains a low opening draining a concrete pipe [1/82]; this is again a modern introduction. Above the plinth, the gable is built of the same roughly coursed and squared stone rubble as the main wall to the east, with which it appears to be contemporary. The large tooled quoins at the south-east corner rise to only approximately half the height of the elevation, while there is a small recess or socket to the upper part [1/81] (see plate 4). The south elevation of the outshot is dominated by a doorway housing a pair of tall inserted sheet-metal doors, painted black [1/103]. It is butted by a curvilinear garden wall to the east of the doorway, while the wall to either side of the doorway rises from a narrow plinth.

This plinth is absent from the west gable of the outshot, although there is a blocked opening with a tooled stone lintel to the base [1/102]. As with the east gable, the tooled quoins at the south-west corner do not rise the full height of the elevation, but are visible only as far as an earlier roof line incorporated into the gable [1/101]; the earlier roof line is set on the same pitch as the main building, effectively forming a cat slide roof. The roof pitch must have been altered when the doors to the south elevation of the outshot was inserted. The masonry of the west gable is markedly better coursed and squared than that of the east gable, and appears to be contemporary with that of the part of the south elevation to the west of the outshot, which contains no visible features of interest [1/100]. The former west gable of the earlier eastern part of the mill range is now hidden by the central part and is described under the circulation description below.

- 3.10 The north elevation of the eastern part is built of coursed squared stone and has a central doorway with a tooled stone lintel and a plank and batten stable-type door (see plate 2). To the east of the doorway, there are two blocked slit breathers to the ground floor and to the west, a second blocked doorway of similar dimensions and with a similar lintel. A blocked window is visible to the eastern end of the first floor [1/88 and 1/91 to 1/93].
- 3.11 The north and south elevations of the central part of the mill range [1/94 and 1/95] clearly butt those of the eastern part, although the central part was itself present by 1849 and 1857. Both elevations are built of coursed squared stone laid to a slightly watershot profile, with herringbone or diagonal tooling to quoins and lintels. Both walls are largely blank, having only doorways at the western end of the ground floor, which are opposed in plan. Both these doorways are fitted with plank and batten doors hung on long strap hinges with forked expanded-ends. In addition, there is a pitching hole to the centre first floor of the south elevation, fitted with a pair of doors with similar fittings to those on the ground floor [1/98 and 1/99]. The former west gable of the central part is largely obscured by the western part. It has similar moulded kneelers and gable coping to the east gable of the eastern part.
- 3.12 The western part of the mill range [1/96] butts the central part, and is not shown in 1857 although a small extension from the north-west corner is shown on the 1849 tithe map; it appears to be a modern addition, or at least extensively rebuilt in the recent past. There are modern three light timber casement windows to the centre of the north and south elevations [1/97]. Each light has eight-panes, and they are arranged to resemble a horizontal sliding-sash, although only the central light opens. The west gable has a wide central opening with a steel lintel and a small vent over. This opening has either been slightly narrowed, or has replaced a pair of smaller earlier openings, as blocking is visible to either end.

Circulation

The eastern part

- 3.13 At the time of the survey, the principal access to the interior of the eastern part of the mill range was through the centrally placed doorway in the north elevation. The eastern part is floored with concrete, apart from the easternmost bay, which retains an earlier flagstone floor. The interior was open from floor to the underside of the roof ridge.
- 3.14 The internal walls have been subject to some alteration and repair during the lifetime of the building, and were also heavily rendered and white-washed at the

time of the survey, perhaps obscuring some structural evidence. The masonry of the walls generally appears far less well coursed and squared than to the interior. Commencing with the north internal wall [1/107], the same blocked first floor window is visible as can be seen to the exterior, although there is no clear evidence for the former presence of a first floor. To the immediate east of the ground floor doorway, a small splayed recess is set at chest height. There are few visible features to the west of the doorway, due to the presence of thick render here. A c.2m long piece of stone, set c.2.50m above ground floor level, projects shallowly from the north wall to the immediate west of the doorway.

- 3.15 The east internal wall [1/106] is largely blank, and the blocked slit breathers are difficult to see through the render and white-wash. There is a slightly projecting piece of stone to the north of centre, of similar size and at a similar height to that described above lower down within the north wall. There are also timbers set into the wall at the base of the roof apex [1/108]. The south internal wall opens into the outshot on the south side of this part of the building, and the main features of interest are all located within the outshot; the angles of the south internal wall and the outshot walls both appear to be properly quoined. At the south-east angle, the wall face has been cut back to create a shallow linear recess with a curving rear and a wooden lintel [1/112 and 1/113]; a stone projects from the base of the angle below the recess. At the south-west angle, at a high level, there is shallow square recess or socket [1/118], whilst in the west internal wall of the outshot, a low blocked opening with a wooden lintel is visible [1/114 and 1/115]. The main west internal wall of the eastern part of the mill range is largely covered with render, thus obscuring any detail [1/117]. This was formerly the west gable of the earliest part of the mill range, and at first floor level, above the render, a blocked off-centre window survives with a wooden lintel and sill. There is also a timber set into the wall at the base of the south side of the roof apex.
- 3.16 The interior of the eastern part is crossed by three roof trusses [1/108 and 1/109], either of hardwood or possibly large scantling softwood, all of the same form and set at approximately equal centres. Each truss comprises a tie-beam and principal rafters; there are no wall plates, the ends of the tie-beams sit on short timbers which rest directly on the wall. Each principal supports a pair of staggered purlins with tusked through-tenons; the common rafters are modern softwood replacements. The trusses are of pegged construction throughout, the pegs being driven from the east face; the principals are halved and pegged at the apex, where there is a modern softwood plank ridge piece. No incised or written assembly or numbering marks were noted on any of the trusses. However, the east face of the tie-beam of the central truss does retain some faint incised marks [1/110]. These are in the form of a row of characters, some simple slashes, others more complex. They are characteristic of the 'Baltic timber marks', relating to the export of softwood from the Baltic into Britain through ports such as Hull. The marks appear to have been made after the tree had been squared but before they were quartered or otherwise divided, as some characters are slightly truncated to the top. These marks are generally thought to have been put onto the timber in Baltic ports by timber merchants there, and may denote the merchant, the port from which they timber was shipped and/or other information, and their presence supports the suggestion that the trusses are of softwood rather than hardwood. The south end of the same truss is bolted to a timber beam running across the opening into the outshot. There are two small pieces of timber nailed to the south face of the beam where it supports the truss end, and a shallow recess or cut-out to the soffit in the same position [1/111].

The central part

- 3.17 The main access to the central part of the mill range was through the doorway towards the west end of the north wall. The interior is floored with concrete throughout, and was used to store farm machinery at the time of the survey. The interior was open from floor to the underside of the roof ridge.
- 3.18 The north and south internal walls were heavily rendered and had been thickly repointed, perhaps obscuring some structural evidence. The masonry of the walls is generally roughly coursed and squared, although that of the east wall is much more neatly laid, as this was formerly the external face of the west gable of the range's western part [1/119]. Commencing with this east wall, there is a blocked doorway with a wooden lintel at the south end of the ground floor, and a first floor window above - this window was blocked in two stages; it was first reduced in width by stone blocking to the north side, and then subsequently filled with modern blockwork.
- 3.19 The only feature of interest to the internal north and south walls that cannot be seen externally is a row of sawn-off joists to the westernmost bay [1/121], set at the same height as the tie-beams of the roof trusses. Their presence, together with a series of blocked openings to the apex of the west internal wall [1/122 and 1/123], indicates that there was once a timber pigeon-loft here. The lower level of the west wall has been much disturbed by the insertion of a very wide opening with a steel lintel.
- 3.20 The interior of the central part is crossed by two softwood roof trusses, both of the same form and set at approximately equal centres [1/120]. Each truss is of king-post form and comprises a tie-beam supporting a king-post with a raised notched and splayed head, a plank ridge piece and sloping joggles to the foot for the raking struts to the principal rafters. Each principal supports a pair of slightly trenched purlins. The common rafters over the principals are of interrupted form and laid directly upon the principals between the purlins. The roof is boarded over the common rafters. The trusses are of bolted or nailed construction throughout. No incised or written assembly or numbering marks were noted on any of the trusses. There are no wall plates, the ends of the tie-beams being set directly into the north and south internal walls.

The western part

- 3.21 The main access to the western part of the mill range was through the inserted opening in the west wall of the central part. The interior of the west part is floored with concrete throughout, and was being used to store farm machinery at the time of the survey. The interior was open from floor to the underside of the roof ridge.
- 3.22 With the exception of the east wall, which was formerly the external west gable of the central part of the range [1/124], the internal walls are of buff machine-made bricks laid in stretcher bond and set with a cement mortar [1/125]. The rear lintels to the windows in the north and south walls are of concrete, and the opening in the west wall has a steel joist as a lintel. The softwood common rafter roof is supported by a pair of purlins set directly into the east and west walls.

The Granary/Cart shed Range (see figure 7)

Plan form, structure and materials

- 3.23 The granary/cart shed range forms the northern range of the recorded buildings, standing on the north side of the farm complex, with the north wall facing directly onto the road leading to Seven Bridge to the east (see figure 3). The range is sub-rectangular in plan, with maximum external dimensions of 30.40m east-west by an average of 5.80m north-south. It appears to have developed in two main phases, with the two cells of the western half apparently being the earliest, although the range had already achieved its existing length by 1849 (see figure 4); the eastern half comprises two smaller cells and an open ended cart shed. The range is of two storeys throughout, with a pitched, pantiled roof. Internally, the building has a maximum total height of 6.60m from ground floor level to the underside of the roof ridge.
- 3.24 The range has load-bearing external walls, of slightly varying width; the walls to the earlier, western, part are on average 0.50m wide at ground floor level, while they are slightly narrower to the eastern part at 0.45m. All the external walls are built of coursed squared limestone and sandstone, rough-faced to the western part but smoother to the eastern part and laid to a slightly watershot profile; both parts are pointed with a cream lime mortar. The sandstone quoins and some lintels have prominent herringbone or diagonal tooling [1/17] while there are moulded kneelers of similar form and dressed flat coping to both gables. Internally, there are two storeys, a relatively low ground floor (average height 2.60m) and a taller first floor, open to the roof ridge. The majority of the range is floored with concrete, with flagstones surviving in only a few places. The roof trusses are of softwood. No incised or surface numbering or assembly marks were visible on the roof trusses.

External elevations

- 3.25 The description of the external elevations of the granary/cart shed range start with the west gable, which faces onto the lane leading from Seven Bridge to Low Askew. This gable is of two storeys and built of well coursed and squared limestone and sandstone [1/15]. The ground floor stone is rough-faced, while that above has a much smoother finish, although there is no discernible break in the quoins to the north-west and south-west corners. The ground floor is butted by a flight of stone steps leading to a centrally placed first floor doorway. A blocked slit breather is visible to the north of the steps at ground floor level. The first floor doorway retains a plank and batten door, and the same long strap hinges with forked expanded-ends as described within the mill range (see above). The upper part of the gable is supported by moulded kneelers and has flat dressed coping [1/16].
- 3.26 As has been noted above, this range developed in two main phases, and this is apparent in the masonry of the north elevation [1/18] (see plate 5). To a height of c.2.50m above ground level, the western half is built of coursed squared rough-faced limestone and sandstone, with more smoothly dressed stone over which also forms the remainder of the elevation [1/19]. The western half contains a single blocked slit breather towards the western end, and an inserted half-height opening or hatch to the eastern end, fitted with a plank and batten door supported on long spearhead strap hinges [1/20]. The staggered joint with the eastern part lies immediately to the east of the opening. The eastern end of the elevation is obscured by ivy [1/21], and is butted by low walls which define a small roadside enclosure to the north of uncertain purpose.

- 3.27 To the east of this roadside enclosure, the north elevation rises from a narrow plinth, stepping out some 0.10m from the wall face above. The plinth continues around the north-east corner of the range to the east gable. The east gable is of two storeys and built of well coursed and squared limestone and sandstone, apparently of a single phase, although the courses within the gable apex are generally much shallower than those below [1/22 and 1/38]. A flight of stone steps incorporates a dog kennel beneath their north end [1/39], now obscured by a wooden shed. They lead to a first floor doorway fitted with a plank and batten door retaining the same fittings as noted elsewhere within the range. The upper part of the gable is supported by moulded kneelers and has flat dressed coping.
- 3.28 The south elevation, like the north elevation, preserves evidence for two phases of development. The western half is built of rough-faced coursed squared limestone and sandstone, which rises to eaves level, unlike the surviving section to the north elevation. The western half of the elevation contains two ground floor doorways, one to each cell, each flanked by simple vented windows fitted with wooden slats [1/49, 1/51, 1/53, 1/54 and 1/60] (see plates 6 and 8). Each doorway has a first floor pitching hole positioned above it [1/52]. All the doorways and openings are fitted with the same style of door as noted elsewhere within the range. There are two further doorways to the eastern half of the south elevation, the western one flanked by a window and the other with a window above to the first floor [1/49 and 1/50]. The window frame and the door are both modern, and the earlier fittings would no doubt have been the same as those surviving elsewhere within the range. A narrow plinth, like that to the east gable, survives intermittently along the base of this part of the south elevation; it is broken by some doorway openings, but continues across others.
- 3.29 The east end of the elevation is formed by a three bay cart shed. Each bay has a segmental semi-circular headed cart opening, standing c.2.30m high in the centre, built from sandstone voussoirs with both herringbone and margin tooling [1/40, 1/41 and 1/44] (see plate 7). The cart entrances are separated from one another by monolithic sandstone piers, stop-chamfered to the arrises, and again with prominent diagonal tooling marks [1/42 and 1/43]. Some of the inner faces of the piers retain gouged marks where carts have rubbed against them, and there are pintles to the south faces on which doors were originally hung; shallow rectangular marks above may have been caused by the doors opening and closing. There are also two windows to the first floor over the cart entrances.

Circulation: ground floor

- 3.30 Described from east to west, the ground floor of the granary/cart shed range comprises the three bay cart shed, two smaller cells and then two larger cells. The cart shed is floored with concrete, apart from a small area of flagstones to the north-west corner [1/48], one of which has a small circular hole cut into the surface. The internal walls of the cart shed are of stone rubble, which has been thickly repointed. There are small square recesses, all set c.1m above ground level, at various positions in the east (one), north (three) and south (one) walls [1/45 to 1/47]. The timber ceiling joists are now supported on rolled I-section steel beams, set into the south wall above the cart entrance piers [1/45 and 1/46]. Moving to the west, the two smaller cells are plain, with few visible features of interest, and whitewashed internal walls. There is a small blocked recess in the north wall of the east cell; the west cell contained a large amount of stored material at the time of survey [1/126]. In both cells, the timber ceiling joists are supported by east-west

aligned rolled I-section steel beams; the beam to the west cell has 'ZBLI SWL 2 1/2 tonnes' painted on one side.

- 3.31 The largest ground floor cell, to the west of the smaller cells, is entered through the centrally placed doorway in the south wall. This opens into a narrow east-west passage running along the south side of the cell [1/55]. This passage has been created by the insertion of modern stable partitioning but appears to preserve a historic arrangement, as it is floored by flagstones forming an east-west aligned surface c.1.80m in width. There is a blocked opening at the east end of the north wall, set approximately opposite the small opening with the door visible here externally, and possibly a second blocked opening at the south end of the west wall [1/59]. There are five blocked traps in the ceiling over the north side of the cell [1/57], and a sixth over the south-east corner. Two curved timber tack pegs survive to the west end of the south wall [1/58].
- 3.32 The westernmost cell of the ground floor also has a passage along the south side created by modern stable partitioning, but contains few visible features of historic interest [1/61 and 1/62]. There is a blocked opening in the north wall set approximately opposite the blocked slit breather which is visible externally.

Circulation: first floor

- 3.33 The first floor of the range is accessed via the external stone steps at either end. The first floor is divided up into four cells, with divisions corresponding to those present on the ground floor; the equivalent space to the two small ground floor cells is formed by a single cell on the first floor. There was no requirement to produce a plan of the first floor as part of the recording work, and so the photograph location points are shown on a sketched floor plan. Commencing at the west end, the westernmost cell has plastered walls and, like the rest of the first floor, is floored with narrow east-west aligned softwood boards [1/64 and 1/66]. There is some surviving early 20th century graffiti to the walls [1/67], but this is now very difficult to read. The interior is crossed by a single softwood roof truss, of identical form to all others surviving on the first floor. It comprises two principal rafters with a low collar bolted to their west side. Each principal supports a pair of staggered butt purlins with through tenons. The principals are halved and nailed at the apex, where there is a plank ridge piece, and boarding survives over the common rafters. There is no wall plate, the ends of the principals being set directly into the walls. No incised or written assembly or numbering marks were noted on this or any other of the trusses. There are no wall plates, the ends of the tie-beams being set directly into the north and south internal walls.
- 3.34 A doorway in the east wall, fitted with a plank and batten door of the same design as those surviving to the exterior of the building, leads through into the next cell to the east. This is of very similar appearance to the westernmost cell, as is the third cell from the west [1/68 and 1/69]. Both cells are plastered/whitewashed internally and are crossed by roof trusses identical to that described above. The doorway between the second and third cells from the west end [1/71] retains a door with a handle that appears older than the door itself, and so may be re-used here [1/73] (see plate 9). The third cell from the west end was once used by children, and there is a modern painting on a shooting theme to the south wall [1/70]. The easternmost cell of the first floor [1/74] retains similar paintings to the north and south walls, depicting chickens, farmyard and hunting themes [1/75 to 1/78] (see plate 10).

The Byre or Cow House (see figure 8)

Plan form, structure and materials

- 3.35 The byre or cow house forms the western range of the recorded buildings, standing on the west side of the farm complex, with the west wall facing directly onto the road leading northwards towards Lastingham (Birk Head Lane) (see figure 3). The structure is rectangular in plan, with maximum external dimensions of 15.65m east-west by 5.65m north-south. A building of approximately the same size, but perhaps slightly wider, is shown in this position in both 1849 and 1856 (see figures 4 and 5). The north-east corner of the byre is butted by the building immediately to the east. The byre is of a single storey, with a pitched pantiled roof. Internally, the building has a maximum total height of c.4m from ground floor level to the underside of the roof ridge. It would have been constructed as a purpose-built cow house, but has been converted into a stable.
- 3.36 The range has load-bearing external walls, with an average width of 0.45m. All external walls are built of coursed squared limestone and sandstone set with a lime mortar, although there is some local variation, and it is possible that the west elevation incorporates an earlier feature such as a former boundary wall. The quoins and some lintels have prominent herringbone or diagonal tooling, while there are moulded kneelers and dressed flat coping to both gables, similar to those of the granary/cart shed and mill ranges. The byre is floored with concrete throughout. The roof trusses are of softwood, but retain no visible incised or surface numbering or assembly marks.

External elevations

- 3.37 The external elevations of the byre are described below, starting with the south gable. The gable is of a single storey and built of coursed squared limestone and sandstone [1/23]. There is a blocked doorway with a stone lintel to the east end of the gable. The upper part of the gable is supported by moulded sandstone kneelers and has flat dressed coping [1/12]. The west elevation faces onto the lane [1/11]. The lower c.0.90m of this wall resembles the rough-faced masonry used in the earlier western part of the granary/cart shed range, and might be a remnant of an earlier feature such as a boundary wall. There is a blocked window towards the north end of the west elevation, adjacent to an inserted window fitted with modern glazing [1/13], and a group of five equally-spaced pipe vents just below eaves level (see plate 11).
- 3.38 The north gable contains a pair of doorways [1/14], both modern insertions, and it is not known if these removed any earlier features. The upper part of the gable is supported by moulded kneelers and has flat dressed coping. The east elevation, now shaded by a more recent steel-framed shed, contains four doorways fitted with stable-type doors [1/30 and 1/31] (see plate 12). They may all be later insertions, with the exception of the northernmost doorway, which has been reduced in width at some point.

Circulation

- 3.39 The ground floor of the byre now comprises four cells of approximately equal size, converted into stables. However, structural evidence indicates that originally there were only two cells, the south cell being three times the length of the northern, and that they were separated by a stone wall. The larger south cell was then subdivided into three using blockwork partitions at the same time as three doorways

were inserted into the east wall. All parts of the byre are floored with concrete, and the internal walls are of thickly whitewashed sandstone and limestone rubble [1/32].

- 3.40 The larger south cell was originally divided into three bays by two roof trusses, set on the same lines as the modern blockwork partitions below them. The trusses are both of the same king-post form [1/33], comprising a tie-beam supporting a king-post with a raised notched and splayed head, a plank ridge piece and raking struts to the principal rafters. Each principal supports a pair of staggered purlins, and there are laths above the common rafters [1/34]. The trusses are of bolted or nailed construction throughout, and are similar to those surviving within the central part of the mill range. No incised or written assembly or numbering marks were noted on any of the trusses. There appear to be no wall plates, the ends of the tie-beams being set directly onto the east and west internal walls. The stone wall at the former north end of the larger south cell has a blocked doorway at its east end [1/35]. The former north cell [1/36] has been sub-divided by modern partitions built of machine-made bricks laid in stretcher bond. It contains no visible features of historic interest, although a number of old implements and tools hang on the back of an internal doorway [1/37].

The Dairy Parlour (see figure 8)

Plan form, structure and materials

- 3.41 The building described in the project brief as a 'dairy parlour' stands in the south-west corner of the farm complex (see figure 3). It is not depicted on the 1849 tithe map or the Ordnance Survey 1856 map (see figures 4 and 5); the tithe map shows an angled wall line in this position. The building was formerly a milking parlour/lambing shed. The structure is rectangular in plan, with maximum external dimensions of 9.65m north-south by 5.60m east-west, and of a single storey, with a pitched roof of corrugated sheeting. Internally, the building has a maximum total height of c.3.50m from ground floor level to the underside of the roof ridge.
- 3.42 The building has load-bearing external walls, with an average width of 0.25m. All the external walls are faced with roughly coursed and squared limestone and sandstone set with a cement mortar, but are of whitewashed machine-made brick to the interior. The building is floored with concrete throughout. The roof trusses are of softwood, but retain no visible incised or surface numbering or assembly marks.

External elevations

- 3.43 The north gable [1/24] contains a central doorway, which has been narrowed in the past. The east elevation [1/25] has two windows fitted with modern glazing, while the south gable [1/26] has a single window that has been created by blocking a central doorway. The west elevation, facing onto the road (Birk Head Lane), also contains two windows with modern glazing [1/9 and 1/10] (see plate 13).

Circulation

- 3.44 The only access to the interior is through the doorway in the north gable. The interior is very plain [1/27]; a counter across the south side was built to serve visitors when the gardens of the farmhouse were opened to the public (Mr Dawson-Brown, *pers. comm.*). The interior is crossed by a single softwood king-strut roof post. There are raking struts from the king-strut to the principals and

each principal supports a number of longitudinal angle-steel purlins to which the corrugated sheeting of the roof is secured. All joints are secured using either dowels or bolts, and there is a three-way strap to the head of the king-strut. A softwood ceiling structure runs north and south of the truss [1/28 and 1/29].

Setting and Other Buildings of the Farm Complex

- 3.45 Although no study of the other buildings within the farm complex was required as part of the project, or any assessment of its landscape setting, a brief description of both is given in order to place the recorded buildings within their proper structural and landscape contexts, and to better understand their development.
- 3.46 As has been noted above, Low Askew Farm lies on the north side of the Lavington Beck, within a relatively level area of ground on the western side of the valley of the River Seven. The ground level rises steeply to the east, north and west, and the surrounding area is partly wooded. The mill pond lies to the west of the farm complex, and is shown on the 1857 Ordnance Survey 6" map and named as the 'Mill Dam', with a sluice positioned on the southern side (see figure 5). It is not shown on the earlier 1849 tithe map, although a weir across the beck is depicted (see figure 4).
- 3.47 The pond itself survives as a sub-triangular depression in a pasture field to the west of the farm complex, and on the west and north side of Birk Head Lane, measuring c.15m across and up to 1m in depth [1/128] (see plate 19). The Lavington Beck runs directly into the mill pond, in contrast to the usual arrangement of a leat taking water off a beck; this ensured that the pond did not overflow in times of flood. The sluice marked in 1857 survives towards the east end of the mill dam [1/4 and 1/7]; the sluice mechanism has been removed, although the groove where the gate rose and fell remains [1/5]. The section of mill dam to the north of the sluice is built of large well coursed and squared limestone and sandstone, largely unmortared, and with diagonal tooling marks [1/3]. The rear (north) face of the mill dam to the west, and the surviving revetment wall to the north side of the mill pond [1/1] are largely of limestone/sandstone rubble and have been recently repointed. The front (south) face of the mill dam is stepped [1/8]. The sluice marked in 1857 forms the bypass for the pond, and would have been opened to allow the beck to flow through when water was not required to power the wheel; when water levels were high, the pond would have overflowed over the stepped south face of the dam, which formed a weir.
- 3.48 There is a second sluice positioned at the north-east corner of the pond [1/2, 1/6 and 1/128], which would have controlled the flow of water into the waterwheel's headrace. The face of the sluice is slightly recessed in plan, and is built of squared coursed sandstone with diagonal tooling marks. There are a number of sawn-off bolts to the upper surface, which would have secured the mechanism for lowering and raising the sluice gate. The actual inlet for the headrace cannot now be seen, and it must lie below the current ground level forming the base of the pond. It is assumed that the headrace was culverted in part, as no trace of its course is visible above ground level, nor is there any surviving structural evidence for a raised launder. The implications of this are discussed more fully in the Discussion and Conclusions (Chapter 6) below. Although almost no trace of the mill's machinery remains, the pair of German blue stones noted in 1837 and 1928 have been set into a landscaped area on the east side of the farmhouse [1/86 and 1/87]. The area around Askew Bridge [1/105] was also examined for any structural evidence relating to the operation of the mill but, although there are extensive ruinous revetment walls to the south bank here [1/104], none was found.

- 3.49 Regarding the other farm buildings, the farm house lies on the eastern side of the farm complex (see figure 3), and now has landscaped gardens to the south-east running down towards the Lavington Beck. The house was described as being of two and a half storeys and probable central entry, with a two storey rear wing that was two rooms wide; the western part of the wing was slated rather than pantiled and so thought to be a later addition (Pattison 1982). Within the central part of the farm complex, the east side of the byre is obscured by a later shed and a second single storey rectangular building further to the east [1/90]. The covered yard may itself once have comprised two parallel ranges, but it was perhaps raised to its current height when the existing internal steel-frame was inserted. Neither structure is shown in 1856, and both are built of coursed squared sandstone with herringbone tooling to quoins and lintels. The single storey building to the east retains moulded kneelers similar to those seen around the farm complex [1/89], while the doors, vented windows and other fittings are also similar to those found in the granary/cart shed range, for example (see plate 18).

The Fieldhouse (see figures 9 and 10)

Plan form, structure and materials

- 3.50 As has been noted above, the fieldhouse lies c.450m to the north-west of the farm, in an isolated position on rising ground at an elevation of c.91m, a short distance to the north of the unclassified road running between Low Askew and Lavington Beck (see figure 2). At the time of the survey, the fieldhouse was set within a pasture field, close to the eastern edge of the steep-sided valley of the Lavington Beck. The building had attained its existing plan by 1856, when a small walled enclosure is shown between it and the road. Although the fieldhouse was in Lavington township (as opposed to the mill which was in Spaunton township), it is not known to which landholding it belonged during the 19th century, although the very regular field boundaries adjacent suggests that they are late 18th or early 19th century enclosures. The adjacent Wellington Wood contains a small pond, which might have been used as a sheepwash, and there is an associated drover's lane, both of which might have been connected with the fieldhouse (Mrs Dawson-Brown, *pers. comm.*).
- 3.51 The fieldhouse itself is L-shaped in plan, comprising a main building and an abutting south range [2/126] (see plate 14). The main building has maximum external dimensions of 7.40m east-west by 5.60m north-south, while the south range measures 5.75m north-south by 4.00m east-west. The main building is of two storeys and the south range a single storey; both have pitched pantiled roofs. Internally, the main building has a maximum total height of 6.10m from ground floor level to the underside of the roof ridge.
- 3.52 The main building has load-bearing external walls with an average width of 0.50m, while those of the south range are slightly narrower. All the external walls are built of rough-faced coursed squared limestone and sandstone, laid to a watershot profile, the only exceptions being the south gable of the south range and the west gable of the main building, which are of rubble, although all are set with the same cream lime mortar [2/127]. Some quoins and lintels have prominent herringbone or diagonal tooling, while there are moulded kneelers with a concave profile to the east gable of the main building only. The majority of the main building and south range were floored with dirt at the time of the survey, although the north cell of the latter retained some parts of a cobble floor. The roof trusses are apparently a mixture of hardwood and softwood, with some surviving incised assembly marks.

External elevations

- 3.53 The external elevations of the fieldhouse are described below, starting with the main building. The east gable is of two storeys and built of rough-faced coursed squared limestone and sandstone [2/136] (see plate 17). At the very south end, a slight plinth is visible to the base, projecting c.0.05m beyond the wall face above. At first floor level, there is a pitching hole with a stone lintel and sill, retaining a plank and batten door hung on round-ended strap hinges. The north elevation [2/142] is built of very similar stone but is largely featureless, with the exception of an empty window to the west end of the first floor. The west gable is built of sandstone rubble [2/137], and a slightly projecting plinth is visible at the base of the southern half of the wall (see plate 15). There is a fireplace to the centre of the ground floor with a substantial, and cracked, stone lintel [2/139]; by looking up the fireplace, it can be seen that there is a properly constructed flue rising the full height of the gable. At the south end, at first floor level, is a doorway with stone lintel and sill, blocked with buff handmade bricks [2/140]. The south elevation is again built of rough-faced coursed squared limestone and sandstone [2/128], rising from a slightly projecting plinth which continues on the east side of a ground floor doorway, which has a tooled stone lintel and jambs [2/129]. The doorway retains a plank and batten stable door [2/153], hung on strap hinges with rounded or expanded ends [2/154] (see plate 16). The upper part of the door has a simple wrought-iron hook and latch [2/162] while the lower part preserves a simple rectangular section sliding bolt [2/163 and 2/164].
- 3.54 The west elevation of the south range contains two doorways [2/130], giving access to the two interior cells; narrow drains pass through the base of the elevation close to the south side of each doorway. The northern doorway has monolithic tooled stone jambs and a lintel. The jambs are rebated to the external (west) side, to allow the plank and batten door to close. The door is constructed from two wide vertical planks either side of a narrower central plank, with three wide horizontal battens to the rear [2/132] (see figure 10). At a later date, another piece of wood has been fixed above the lower batten, probably as a result of the latter having a hole cut through it to allow passage for a cat or small dog to catch vermin. The door is hung on spearhead strap hinges and to the front the vertical boards are beaded to resemble nine pieces of timber of equal width [2/144]. The southern doorway has similar rebated stone jambs [2/145], although the stone lintel has been replaced with a timber [2/131]. This door is also of plank and batten construction, although, unlike the north door, it has diagonal cross-pieces running between the horizontal battens to the rear [2/143]. The door is hung on strap hinges; the upper hinge is round-ended, but the lower hinge has been re-used, with the original base-plate nailed to the door and the head bent around the pintle. The doorway retains a simple hook and eye latch [2/171]. The principal feature of interest to the otherwise blank south gable is that alternate courses of the east and west elevations project beyond the wall face, in the form of tusked quoins, indicating that there was once a desire to extend the range further southward [2/133 and 2/134]. The east elevation is blank [2/135] (see plate 17).

Circulation

The main building

- 3.55 The only access to the interior of the main building is through the doorway in the south elevation. The interior was floored with bare earth at the time of the survey, and there was no clear indication of any early flagged or cobbled floor surface. The internal walls are of roughly coursed stone rubble, thickly repointed and also

rendered to the ground floor. The interior of the building was open to the roof ridge. There are several bolts to the east wall, and a bracket over, set 2.20m above ground level, as well as projecting stones to some of the other internal walls, but no clear structural evidence for a former first floor survives.

3.56 To the east gable [2/157], the same high level pitching hole is visible as described to the exterior. It has a wooden lintel, and there are timbers set into the wall at the base of the roof apex to either side of the opening, as was the case in the eastern part of the mill range in the farm complex (see above). The south wall [2/156] has a modern barn owl box affixed to it above the door, and there is a collapsing wooden hay rack to the north wall [2/158]. The rack is placed across a shallow rectangular recess with a stone lintel. Like the other internal walls, the west wall is rendered to ground level [2/155]. There is a small central recess to the first floor, and two additional recesses set at approximately the same height as the timber lintel of the first floor blocked doorway.

3.57 The internal walls of the main building retain relatively large amounts of historic graffiti, mostly dating to the first half of the 20th century and made by people sheltering in the fieldhouse. Significantly, there is very little on the north and east walls, apart from a drawing of a semi-naked lady [2/166], perhaps indicating that there were still fittings against these areas up until the 1940s. On the west wall, the earliest graffiti is probably pencilled and scratched tally marks, with some illegible names that have 'Lastingham' written beneath them. In the centre of the west wall is written:

"St Peters School Scout Camp (HSL) wrote this when resting down ___ (1930?)
July 29th

GR W R Barton (gr?)
SKD Hill J Harrison
RED C G Thomas
G Ford Esq
M Grainger K (-) Scoutmaster
A Cock (in a later hand)

M & A Proctor –Hill
Monday Aug 15th 1927
Wet Day

Never trouble trouble
till trouble troubles you
it only doubles trouble
And troubles others too

Good Friday
April 2nd 1929
Wet day
Raining like –

ST ALBANS BOYS CAMP REV R P Fallows M.A Slept here" [2/165].

3.56 On the south wall is written:

"Take a seat
And have a shit
Toss yourself off
And make it spit
It is no use standing on the seat
1945

T H 1947
SHEPERD

March 11th 1928 Snow storm

April 1928 Snow storm

June 21st 1855

(An illegible list of names) 1946 Lastingham

G (-) September 1943

St Albans 1943

When the golden sun is setting
And your thoughts and cares are (-)
(-) others you are thinking
(illegible) J E Lythe

A musical score – W Hobson Oct 24th”.

- 3.58 The interior is crossed by two roof trusses, both of similar form [2/159 to 2/161], and apparently a mixture of hardwood and softwood. The trusses comprise principal rafters, which may be hardwood, lapped and pegged at the apex but with no ridge-piece. The principals appear to rest upon a wall-plate, but this was not clearly visible from ground level. Each principal supports a pair of staggered purlins with through tenons; the purlins have stop-chamfered soffits and support the common rafters, which have laths above them and beneath the pantiles. Softwood scissor braces, apparently later insertions, run between the principals. The lower ends of the braces are bolted to the west face of the principals, and they are also bolted where they cross in the centre, but the upper ends are tenoned and pegged to the principals. This might be explained by the braces having replaced a raised collar, with the collar mortices being re-used for the upper end of the braces. In both trusses, all pegs are driven from the west face. The trusses have incised assembly marks in the form of Roman numerals. On both trusses, there is a 'I' and a 'II' to the west face, at the joints of the principals and the upper ends of the braces. To the east faces, there is a 'VII' and 'VIII' to the south principal of the west truss where it supports the purlins, and a 'XIII' to the east face of the north principal of the east truss in a similar position. There is no evidence for re-use of any of the roof timbers, and so it may be that the discontinuous sequence of numbering is of two phases, the lower numbers relating to the (inserted?) scissor braces and the higher numbers to the original purlins.

The south range

- 3.59 The access to the interior of the south range is through the doorways in the west elevation. The range is divided into two cells of equal size internally. The north cell [2/150] retains the remains of a cobbled floor surface, with a kerb along the west side [2/152]. There is a hay rack to the south wall, partly obscuring a small recess with a stone lintel and similar blocked feature, set at a slightly lower height, to the east [2/151]. The south cell was partly debris-filled at the time of survey, obscuring any original floor surfacing. There is a pair of tethering posts [2/147], set at the north-east [2/149 and 2/169] and south-east corners [2/146, 2/148 and 2/170]. Both posts are c.1.30m in height, round-section to the main part but tapered to the head. They are not vertical but slightly inclined, so that the feet are set out from the adjacent wall face (see figure 10). Each post has two pegs driven through the head and foot; the head peg secures it to a small timber in the adjacent wall face. Below this timber, there is also a second longer horizontal timber, which secures a wrought-iron band around the post below the peg. The horizontal wall timber to the south-east post has an inclined piece of wood nailed to the east end, presumably once supporting a rack or other feeding apparatus.

4 WILDLIFE SURVEY

Introduction

- 4.1 As noted in Chapter 1 above, the wildlife surveys comprised a daytime external and internal inspection, and an evening nocturnal emergence survey, for bats and a barn owl survey. The resulting Bat and Barn Owl Report (Holloway 2010) appears as Appendix 2, while the following text provides a summary of the findings. It should be noted that the wildlife survey report identifies the range on the west side of the farm complex as a stable (it's most recent usage), whereas it is referred to in the architectural survey above as a byre; the architectural nomenclature for the recorded buildings is retained here for consistency.
- 4.2 All species of bats are protected under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994. Under this legislation, it is an offence for any person to:
- intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bat;
 - intentionally disturb any wild bat while it is occupying a structure or place that it uses for shelter or protection;
 - intentionally damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place that a wild bat uses for shelter or protection;
 - be in possession or control of any live or dead wild bat, or any part of, or anything derived from a wild bat; or
 - sell, offer or expose for sale, or possess or transport for the purpose of sale, any live or dead wild bat, or any part of, or anything derived from a wild bat.
- 4.3 The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 amends the above Wildlife and Countryside Act to also make it an offence to intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct a place that bats use for shelter or protection.
- 4.4 Within the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), barn owls are listed on Schedule 1. Under this legislation it is an offence for any person to:
- intentionally kill, injure or take any wild barn owl;
 - intentionally take, damage or destroy any wild barn owl nest whilst in use or being 'built';
 - intentionally take or destroy a wild barn owl egg;
 - have in one's possession or control a wild barn owl (dead or alive), or egg, (unless one can show that it was obtained legally);
 - intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild barn owl whilst 'building' a nest or whilst in, on, or near a nest containing eggs or young; and
 - intentionally or recklessly disturb any dependent young of wild barn owls.
- 4.5 The bat and barn owl surveys were therefore undertaken to identify any of these protected species, to have an input into the management plan, and to make appropriate recommendations for any mitigation work as part of the proposed restoration of the buildings.

Survey Results

Status of bat species and barn owls in the local/regional area

- 4.6 A total of 26 records for bat species within a 2km radius of Low Askew Farm, Cropton, were held by the North Yorkshire Bat Group (NYBG) and North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre (NEYEDC). These species include Common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, Soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*,

Noctule *Nyctalus noctula*, Brown long-eared bats *Plecotus auritus* and Whiskered bats *Myotis mystacinus*, as well as several unknown species (see Tables 1 and 2 of Appendix 2). However, there were no records of bats within Low Askew Farm or any of the other associated buildings.

- 4.7 There are no records of barn owls in the buildings associated with the main house at Low Askew Farm. However, a barn owl box had been fixed to the wall above the main door of the fieldhouse in 2002 by the Barn Owl Conservation Network (BOCN). Records kept by the local BOCN organiser indicated that barn owls may have possibly bred in this building prior to 2002, and that between 2002 and 2009 a total of 24 barn owls were fledged within the barn owl box. Finally, two further barn owl boxes were recorded on trees within the vicinity of the fieldhouse, and these had been recently erected in January/February 2010 (Mr Dawson-Brown, *pers. comm.*).

Summary habitat description and biodiversity significance

- 4.8 Low Askew Farm lies within the North York Moors National Park and there are also three statutory Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), of national conservation importance, within a 2km radius of the farm. One of these, the North York Moors SSSI has been further designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Area (SPA). Birk Head and Scarth Wood, the northern tip of which is within 200m to the west-south-west of the granary at Low Askew Farm is a lowland beech and mixed conifer woodland (not yew as stated in Holloway 2010), planted on an ancient woodland site. Similarly, Hagg Wood is another lowland beech and mixed conifer woodland, also planted on an ancient woodland site, further to the west of Low Askew Farm.
- 4.9 Low Askew Farm itself is located within a mixture of sheep and cattle grazed pastures, and arable fields, some of which are bordered by hedgerows. In addition, the Lavington Beck flows in an easterly direction, past the southern edge of Low Askew Farm, towards the River Seven, and both streams are also fringed with tall trees.
- 4.10 The biodiversity significance of Low Askew Farm and its associated buildings lies in the fact that such buildings are occasionally used for breeding or sheltering purposes by bats and/or barn owls, both of which are protected species of high nature conservation importance. Barn owls need a level area on which to lay their eggs and typical nest places within buildings such as those found at Low Askew Farm are on small level areas at the tops of walls, wall cavities, lofts or attic floors or specific, internally located, barn owl boxes. In addition, some of the short-cropped grassland areas in the locality are likely to provide shelter for small mammals, and thus food for these birds. Evidence from this survey indicated that barn owls were successfully breeding within the barn owl box at the fieldhouse, to the north-west of Low Askew Farm.
- 4.11 Bats, on the other hand, may roost within small cracks between the external or internal brick/stone walls, at the junctions between window and door lintels and fascia boards and adjacent walls and/or between the overlapping timbers of roofs. Also, the nearby woody copses, individual mature trees and hedges, together with Lavington Beck and the River Seven (with likely good populations of freshwater invertebrates), are all host to numerous insects. These habitats therefore provide an important food source for bats. Evidence from this survey indicated that large colonies of both Common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and Soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* bats were breeding within the main house at Low Askew Farm. In addition, small numbers of Common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*,

Soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* and Brown Long-eared bats *Plecotus auritus* were recorded roosting in the summer within the Granary, the Mill and the Stable Block. Finally, several Pipistrelle bats *Pipistrellus spp.* were also recorded roosting between the fascia board and adjacent wall of the Granary in late winter/early Spring.

Bat survey - daytime inspections

The granary/cart shed range

- 4.12 Occasional gaps and spaces suitable for bat entry into potential roosts were noted in several places on the external elevations of this range, for example where mortar pointing had fallen out, between the fascia boards and roof eaves, between coping stones and between the roof pantiles. In the western half of the south elevation, a total of 26 bats, preliminarily identified as Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus spp.* bats, were recorded on 29th March 2010; this part of the elevation was sheltered by the stable block and adjacent farm buildings to the south. However, most of these bats had gone on the second inspection (16th June 2010), when only two were recorded in crevices between the fascia board and wall face. No bats were recorded on the north, west or east elevations.
- 4.13 Internally, 50 bat droppings were recorded on the floor in the north-west corner of the ground floor of the cart shed, with 40 more scattered elsewhere in this area. Two other bat droppings were recorded on the furniture stored in the cell immediately to the west of the cart shed. At first floor level, numerous bat droppings were recorded in each of the four rooms, as well as tortoiseshell and peacock butterfly wings which are possibly indicative of foraging Brown Long-eared bats *Plecotus auritus*.

The mill range

- 4.14 Once again, occasional crevices suitable for bat entry into potential bat roosts were recorded within the walls, as well as amongst the coping stones and between the overlapping pantiles of the roof, although no signs of bats were noted in any of the gaps that were available for inspection. However, over 100 bat droppings, preliminarily identified as Brown Long-eared *Plecotus auritus* bat droppings, were recorded on the floor of the western half of this building. A single Brown Long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus* was also recorded roosting in the roof rafters at the junction between the mill and the adjacent single-storey building to the west on 16th June 2010. In addition, six bat droppings were recorded on the window sill of the adjacent single storey building.

The byre (or stable block)

- 4.15 Similar to the other buildings described above, crevices suitable for roosting bats in this building occurred between the overlapping pantiles of the roof and amongst the gable coping stones. In addition, alternate roof ridge tiles were 'raised', leaving relatively large gaps for bat access into the small voids that occurred between the pantiles and underlying laths.
- 4.16 A single bat, preliminarily identified as a Pipistrelle bat *Pipistrellus spp.*, was recorded in one of the crevices between the door frame and wall of the stable box at the southern end of the building on 29th March 2010, together with several bat droppings on the internal walls and occasional butterfly wings. The subsequent inspection on 16th June revealed 20 fresh bat droppings over the floor. Other bat

droppings, including a cluster of 100 preliminarily identified as Brown Long-eared *Plecotus auritus* bat droppings, were recorded on the floor of the adjacent stable box. The next stable box to the north also had 25 small bat droppings on the floor.

The dairy parlour

- 4.17 Although there was one crack within the stonework on the east elevation suitable for bat entry, no bat signs were evident. The roof vents along the apex of the pitched roof could not be inspected at close quarters.

The fieldhouse

- 4.18 Several crevices suitable for bat entry into potential bat roosts were evident between the wooden lintels above the windows and adjacent stone walls, but no signs of bats were recorded here, or in the roof structure.

Bat survey - nocturnal emergence survey

- 4.19 A total of 216 bats were recorded emerging from several locations on the main farm house. These were a mixture of both Common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and Soprano Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* bats, and the indication was that this is an important maternity roost for both species.

- 4.20 Details of the results of the nocturnal emergence survey are given in Table 4 of Appendix 2. In summary, a total of 20 bats were recorded emerging from various locations in the granary/cart shed range, comprising Soprano Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*, Common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and Brown Long-eared bats *Plecotus auritus*. The echo-locations of Brown Long-eared bats were also recorded within the horse box at the south end of the stables, and two individuals were subsequently seen and heard feeding. An additional Common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* bat appeared to emerge from the ridge at the west end of the mill range. No bats were observed emerging from either the dairy parlour or the fieldhouse.

- 4.21 Other bats were seen in the vicinity. The first seven Pipistrelle spp. bats seen by a surveyor stationed in the lane opposite the fieldhouse were all flying in a south to north direction. They were probably all commuting/feeding along the tree-fringed Lavington Beck, flying northwards towards Wellington Bridge and the broadleaved woodland further north. The indication was that these bats had all emerged from a roost further south, perhaps from the main farm house. Similarly, most of the bats seen/heard by a surveyor stationed along the western edge of the farm complex were commuting Common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* bats. Generally, bats seen (and heard) foraging in the vicinity of the buildings were Common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, with frequent Soprano Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* bats. Other, more occasional bats heard in the vicinity of the buildings were *Myotis* spp. and Brown Long-eared bats *Plecotus auritus*.

Barn Owl survey

- 4.22 No signs of barn owls were recorded in any of the four buildings that were inspected within the farm complex. However, well over 100 barn owl pellets were counted on the floor of the main building at the fieldhouse, as well as an enormous pile of old barn owl pellets, partly trampled; the walls were also covered with whitewash from barn owl droppings. One barn owl pellet was recorded in the north-east corner of the floor within the south range.

- 4.23 As previously mentioned, a barn owl box had been fixed to the wall above the south door of the main building of the fieldhouse. When this was checked on 16th June, four barn owl chicks were recorded; the chicks were thought to be between two and three weeks old, and were quickly weighed for scientific records before being put back into the box.
- 4.24 During the nocturnal bat survey, a recorder was positioned in the lane opposite the fieldhouse. A barn owl with a catch was observed returning to, and then leaving, the main building via the unglazed window in the north elevation.

Other fauna

- 4.25 Other fauna observed within the fieldhouse were several feral pigeons together with many piles of pigeon droppings on the floor and internal stonework. Broken white egg shells (pigeon) were noted in the north-eastern corner indicating that these birds also breed at this location. Finally, rat droppings were also noted on the south-east corner of the floor in the fieldhouse's south range.

Interpretation / Evaluation of Survey Results

Presence / absence of bats

- 4.26 A large mixed maternity roost of Common and Soprano Pipistrelle bats (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and *P. pygmaeus*) was recorded in the eaves of the farm house, while a total of 233 bats were counted on the nocturnal exit survey.
- 4.27 In the Granary/cart shed range, several small, early spring, roosts of Pipistrelle bats *Pipistrellus spp.* occurred in crevices between the fascia board and stone wall of the south elevation, and a total of 24 bats were counted in these crevices on 29th March 2010. In addition, a single Pipistrelle bat was recorded in the stone wall of the south elevation at this time, together with another single Pipistrelle between the wall plate and stone wall. Further temporary, summer, roosts of both Common and Soprano Pipistrelle bats (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and *P. pygmaeus*) were recorded in the south-facing pitch of the granary roof. A total of 16 bats were counted on the nocturnal exit survey on 16th June 2010. Finally, a further four Brown Long-eared bats (*Plecotus auritus*) were recorded emerging from the cart shed on the nocturnal exit survey of 16th June 2010.
- 4.28 Evidence from the daytime surveys indicated the presence of a Brown Long-eared *Plecotus auritus* summer bat roost in the roof of the mill. This was confirmed by the record of a single Brown Long-eared bat roosting in the roof rafters at the junction between the mill and the adjacent single-storey building to the west on 16th June 2010. In addition, over 100 fresh bat droppings were recorded on the mill floor at this time. One Common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* bat appeared to emerge from under the ridge tiles of the mill roof on the nocturnal exit survey, which is indicative of a temporary summer roost for this species at this location.
- 4.29 A small, early spring, roost of a single Pipistrelle bat was recorded in one of the crevices between the door frame and wall of the cell or box at the southern end of the stable building on 29th March 2010. Bat droppings and the presence of other crevices within the door frames of this and other cells in this building that were also potentially suitable as bat roosts indicate that several such roosts may occur. Bat droppings were also noted on the floor of all three stable boxes. A small summer bat roost of Brown Long-eared *Plecotus auritus* bats was recorded in the tile/lath void near the apex of the northern, internal, wall of the second, or 'middle', stable box. Two Brown Long-eared bats were also recorded emerging and feeding from

this location during the nocturnal survey, and over 100 droppings were counted on the floor below this location.

- 4.30 No bats were recorded at the fieldhouse.

Site status assessment for bats

- 4.31 The granary range, the mill range and the byre (stables), which are all proposed for repair works, support several non-maternity, summer, and early spring, roosting sites for a number of bats. These include Common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, Soprano Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* and Brown Long-eared *Plecotus auritus* bats and the buildings are therefore considered to be of at least local conservation significance.

Barn owls

- 4.32 Evidence from the survey indicates that barn owls are successfully breeding within the fieldhouse. Pre-existing records show that these birds have successfully bred at this location for at least the past eight years and, more than likely, for a much longer period. This building is therefore considered to be of at least local conservation significance.

Impact Assessment and Mitigation

Short-term impacts: disturbance to bats and barn owls

- 4.33 In the absence of mitigation, short term impacts to the bats and barns caused by any proposed repair works at a vulnerable time of year would result in the damage and loss of roosts, and/or disturbance and possible direct harm to the bats and/or barn owl chicks. The impact on bats and barn owls at a local scale could be moderately high. Even with mitigation (see below), an increase in traffic, people, noise and light that would occur on site may be damaging, although delaying the work until a less sensitive time of year would avoid disturbing non-maternity and hibernating bats, and breeding barn owls.

Long-term impacts: bat roost modification and bat roost loss

- 4.34 Any proposed repair works could result in irreversible changes to the site layout and local environment for bats, for example through repairs to the roof structures, masonry, and fabric, and repairs/renewals of windows and lights. Such repairs could remove the existing entrance/exit bat openings, and this may well change existing flight paths and access routes into and out of the buildings. Other factors such as the local air flow, ventilation, temperature and humidity surrounding the existing non-maternity summer and spring roosts (as well as other potential roost spaces within the roofs), may also be subject to change. In the absence of mitigation, it is therefore concluded that the full repair of the roofs would be likely to result in the loss of most of the existing bat roosts.

Mitigation measures

- 4.35 A series of mitigation measures are therefore recommended in the Bat and Barn Owl Report (see Appendix 2). These measures would depend on the scale and scope of any repair/renovation works, but for the bats they may include the installation of bat boxes, the careful timing of any works to avoid the bat breeding and hibernating seasons (i.e. no works to be undertaken between November and

February inclusive, and mid-May to August inclusive), the use of bat-sensitive material in the repairs, the recreation of bat roosts, and the retention/provision of various bat access routes and gaps in the repaired structures. For the barn owls at the fieldhouse, mitigation measures should include the careful timing of any works to avoid the bird's main nesting season (i.e. no works between March to August inclusive), the creation of a temporary 'sanctuary' area, the retention of barn owl access routes, and the creation of ledges for breeding purposes. Further details are contained in Appendix 2.

- 4.36 It is further noted that any proposed repair/renovation works are likely to result in the alteration and/or destruction of some summer bat roost sites within the Low Askew farm complex, and so there would be a legal requirement to apply for a Bat Licence from Natural England to cover the proposed works. The Licence would require the adoption of a mitigation strategy aimed at ensuring there was no net loss of the existing bat roost capacity at the site. Such a license is not required for any works at the fieldhouse.

5 ARCHITECTURAL DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The Farm Complex

- 5.1 Detailed and thoughtful study by Allison (2003) has allowed an early history of Low Askew to be suggested with some confidence. It would appear that in the early medieval period, Low Askew formed part of a more extensive area of oak woodland, and this remained a valuable commodity locally into the 18th century. There may have been a corn mill at Low Askew as early as the 12th century, in the possession of St Mary's Abbey in York and associated with the settlement of Spaunton, and a number of known medieval routes also converge on the Low Askew area. The mill may have become disused in the later medieval period, although demesne enclosures and pasture remained at Low Askew. The farm, along with Middle and High Askew to the north, may be a post-Dissolution creation following the break-up of the monastic estate. Despite the difficulty of disentangling the three Askews in some early post-medieval documents, Low Askew Farm may have been present as early as 1663 and was certainly in place by 1715. At or around this time, the farm had a mixed arable, sheep and dairy regime, with some weaving, and it formed the largest farm in the manor of Spaunton.
- 5.2 No post-medieval documentation prior to the early 19th century mentions a mill at Low Askew, and little structural evidence was uncovered during the survey work for any early post-medieval activity. The agricultural regime at Low Askew, as evidenced by early 18th documentation, indicates that during this period the farm would have required buildings for the processing and storage of arable crops, the accommodation of horses and cattle, and also a farmhouse within which there was a space given over to weaving. The rough-faced coursed squared stone noted in the western half of the granary/cartshed range, and in the west elevation of the byre, is perhaps the remnants of some of these earlier buildings, although there is no clear evidence to suggest what date they might be. The surviving historic fittings in the earlier, western half of the granary/cartshed range almost certainly relate to its use after the range had been modified (see below), and do not relate to an earlier usage. Given that the mill at Low Askew was described as 'almost entirely new' when put up for sale at auction in 1837, this might be thought to infer that the mill building also made use of some part of an earlier structure. It could be argued that the differences in masonry in the eastern part of the mill range, the presence of slit breathers, and an interpretation of the outshot as being a possible former projecting cart entry bay, are evidence that an earlier structure such as a large barn was converted into the mill, but the evidence remains tenuous. Indeed, the provision of doors large enough to accommodate a laden cart is rare regionally, where the distinguishing feature of barns is the smallness of their doors, although some examples with original large doors do exist, such as at Denham Grange in Thornton Dale (RCHME 1987, 167).
- 5.3 Documentary evidence suggests that the mill, housed in the eastern part of the mill range, may have been erected around c.1830; according to oral evidence, this was done by a Mr Gill of Sutherland Lodge but it has not been possible to discover any more information relating to this individual. By 1837, the mill contained one pair of grey stones, one pair of blue stones, a barley mill and a dressing mill. The use of blue stones, sourced from Germany, became relatively common in North Yorkshire during the 18th century, and may be associated with the increased cultivation of rye and an increased demand for rye and wheat flour (Harrison 2001, 65- 67 & 281).

- 5.4 It is likely that the mill at Low Askew was laid out and provided with gearing and machinery similar to that found within late 18th and early 19th century 'improved' water mills in the region (Harrison 2001, 86-108), but later alterations have unfortunately removed almost all traces of this. A 20th century reference to ring-gearing at Low Askew (Harrison 2001, 216) is interesting. Ring gearing, where a cast-iron ring gear bolted onto the waterwheel replaced the traditional pit-wheel in the mill's gear train, appears to have been introduced into the region's water mills in the early 19th century. Harrison (2001, 105-108) gives a list of early ring gear mills in north-east Yorkshire covering the period 1792 to 1838; if Low Askew mill was built in c.1830, and the ring gear was fitted from the start, then it could form part of this group. Levelling with a dumpy level during the survey work established that the visible base of the headrace sluice in the mill pond lies at 68.90m AOD, and that the internal ground floor of the eastern part of the mill range lies at 69.47m AOD. The lowest visible part of the floor of the tailrace is set at c.3.50m lower than the internal floor (at 65.97m AOD), and so there may have been a fall of around 3m from the mill pond to the base of the wheel pit. Given that the waterwheel is known to have been c.14 feet or 4.25m in diameter, and that the blocked opening in the west wall of the outshot almost certainly marks the point where a launder carried water to the wheel, it seems unlikely that the wheel was overshot, but rather breastshot. It is assumed that water is carried from the mill pond to the mill largely through an underground culvert, which then emerged into an overground launder shortly before entering the mill. There must also have been an internal first floor in at least part of the mill, although clear structural remnants of this are lacking.
- 5.5 The mill at Low Askew forms an example of what is known as a 'barn mill', i.e. a building that combined the functions of a mill with the storage capacity of a barn and the ability to process the feedstuffs required on a farm. Barn mills are not restricted to North Yorkshire, but are also found on larger farms in Northumberland and Cornwall where they are commonly associated with mechanised threshing (Barnwell & Giles 1997, 80-81 & 108). The mill probably only ever served Low Askew Farm and the RCHME describe the farm as 'clearly the dominant element' (RCHME 1987, 190), although it not impossible that other local landholders may have brought small amounts of grain to be processed on a fee or payment-in-kind basis. Allison (2003, 192-193) describes the working of a farm mill at Appleton le Moors, which may reflect the practices undertaken at Low Askew; at Appleton, the mill was worked at night after daytime farming tasks had been completed.
- 5.6 The central part of the Low Askew mill range is clearly later than the mill itself, although probably not significantly later, as it was in place by 1849. If the mill had replaced an earlier barn, and was not initially driving a threshing machine, then the central part of the range could have been built to perform some of the functions of a barn; the opposed doorways at the western end might have formed a threshing floor, as the RCHME (1987, 167) note that barns in the region sometimes had opposed doors very close to the end rather than centrally-placed as might be expected. The central part of the range almost certainly also had a first floor to at least part, and was provided with a pigeon loft at a high level towards the west end. The western end of the range is a modern creation, as is the 'dairy parlour' to its west.
- 5.7 Turning to the other buildings within the farm complex, the granary/cart shed range appears to have assumed its present extent by 1849. A building is also shown to the south in 1849 but the thick black line shown in 1856 may be a retaining wall, as the existing ground floor is set 0.80m higher than that of the mill range. The arrangement of spaces within the granary/cart shed range is fairly typical of the region (RCHME 1987, 174-176), with first floor granaries located over the cart

shed and other ground floor cells. The two westernmost ground floor cells formed purpose-built stabling, with the traps over the north side of the larger cell being part of a drop-feed system; the horses' feedstuffs would have been stored on the floor above. The smaller cells to the east, adjacent to the cart shed, would have been used as loose boxes. The position of a dog kennel beneath an external flight of steps, as at the east end of the range, is also a typical feature of the region (RCHME 1987, 187). Although the byre/cattle house on the west side of the farm complex appears slightly narrower than the building shown here in 1856, it is shown in 1849, as it is again is typical of what might be expected (RCHME 1987, 179). The small angled single-storey building between the farmhouse and the eastern end of the mill range, also present by 1849, might have originated as a gig or trap house for the carriage used by the farmer and his family (RCHME 1987, 179).

- 5.8 The combined evidence suggests that in the early 19th century, a barn mill was erected at Low Askew Farm, and given the similarity of materials and detailing, it seems likely that the granary/cart shed range and the byre were built during the same period, partly replacing earlier structures. It may be that the farmhouse was also modified or enlarged in the early 19th century, although further survey would be needed to confirm this. Such changes to the farm and buildings during the early 19th century are representative of what has been noted regionally (RCHME 1987, 152); for example, the increased stable accommodation on the ground floor of the granary/cart shed range might be associated with an apparent increase in the use of horse power between c.1825-1850, when oxen were being replaced as draught animals (RCHME 1987, 180-181).
- 5.9 Low Askew Farm evidently continue to develop after 1856, with the former open yard shown at that date to be crossed by drains being both covered over and built on. It is possible that the existing building to the east of the steel-framed shed was built soon after 1856, as the detailing is again very similar to some of the other farm buildings. The steel-framed shed may have originated as a covered yard, perhaps originally spanned by timber trusses; the fully covered yard was becoming popular over much of England by the 1880s (Barnwell & Giles 1997, 57) and in North Yorkshire, for example, the Birdsall Estate covered over the fold yards of its estate farms between the late 19th century and 1911 (Richardson & Dennison 2010). The farm complex would have been modified throughout the 20th century, and by 1928 the mill was driving only one set of stones, the German blue stones having been removed, although it was also then powering a threshing machine. Latterly, the mill was used to drive a generator and finally ceased working in the period c.1948-50.

The Fieldhouse

- 5.10 In many ways, the fieldhouse is the most interesting building recorded as part of the survey work. Fieldhouses are uncommon, and generally comprise small isolated buildings away from a farmstead built on the sloping sides of dales which penetrate moorland. They normally have two compartments for a haystore and a byre, sometimes separated only by a timber partition, and sometimes with a loft over the byre (RCHME 1987, 172-173). Without further research, it has not been possible to establish which landholding the fieldhouse belonged to, which may allow it to be dated more closely. It probably dates to the earlier 19th century and was certainly present in its existing form by 1856; some of the graffiti recorded by the survey dates to the previous year, i.e. 1855.

- 5.11 The fieldhouse is most likely to have taken the form of a byre at the east end of the ground floor, with a loft over; the form of the braces to the roof trusses (and the raised collar that they perhaps replaced) indicates a need for raised headroom to make movement easier at an upper level. The fieldhouse is more unusual in the fact that it appears to have been planned as part of a larger complex which never developed; such complexes are sometimes termed 'outfarms' and they typically comprised a yard fully or partly enclosed by buildings (English Heritage 2006b, 71). The south range was a later addition, but still present by 1856, and comprises two loose boxes. The north cell has a cobbled floor, with a drain along the west side, while the south cell has tethering for two beasts against the east wall. It was intended to extend the south range further to the south, but this was apparently never done, while the fireplace at the base of the west gable demonstrates that a heated, perhaps domestic, extension was planned here; the blocked first floor doorway would have linked the first floor of this planned extension to the upper level of the fieldhouse. In this regard, the complex may have been intended to follow a developmental pattern sometimes seen in field barns, where they were became small 'outfarms', virtually a complete farmstead but without a proper farmhouse (RCHME 1987, 173). Many of the surviving fittings in the fieldhouse and south range appear to be of an early date and contemporary with the building, including the door to the fieldhouse, the door to the north cell of the south range and the tethering posts in the south cell of the south range.

6 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

- 6.1 The Natural England project brief (see Appendix 3) also required the preparation of a Statement of Significance, which would ‘assess the structure [of the recorded buildings] from both a local and regional perspective, and a comment on the contribution of the building to the local landscape character, public amenity and biodiversity’.
- 6.2 When assessing the significance of the recorded buildings, it is of course impossible (and would be gravely mistaken) to not consider them as part of the wider local and regional landscape. Detailed previous study has established the layout and organisation of the medieval tenurial and agricultural landscape of which Low Askew forms part, and has led to the plausible suggestion that a 12th century corn mill, in the possession of St Mary’s Abbey and associated with the manor of Spaunton, was present on or near the site of the present farm. This mill may have become disused in the later medieval period, while Low Askew Farm, together with Middle and High Askew to the north, may be post-Dissolution creations following the break-up of the monastic estate. Low Askew Farm may have been present as early as 1663 and was certainly in place by 1715. At or around this time, the farm had a mixed arable, sheep and dairy regime, with some weaving, and it formed the largest farm in the manor.
- 6.3 Little or nothing of the pre-1800 farm survives at Low Askew, apart perhaps from some parts of earlier structures incorporated into the existing buildings. The surviving buildings, including the farmhouse, form a good example of a farm complex that was modified during the early 19th century in line with changing agricultural practices. Farms with barn mills are less common than those without them, and the barn mill at Low Askew may have formed one of a group of early ring gear mills in north-east Yorkshire. Unfortunately, almost all evidence for the internal organisation of the mill has been removed by later modifications, although the mill pond and dam themselves are relatively well preserved. The other farm buildings preserve slightly more evidence as to their former usage, including fittings such as the doors with the long strap hinges with expanded ends that survive in several different places. The fieldhouse is a relatively well preserved, but deteriorating, example of a regionally uncommon agricultural building, and is more unusual in that it appears to have been planned to be part of a larger complex that never developed. The fieldhouse retains a number of fittings, principally doors and tethering posts, which may well be contemporary with its construction.
- 6.4 In terms of their contribution to the local landscape character, the granary/cart shed range and the byre at Low Askew Farm, and the fieldhouse to the north-west, are both visible from public highways, although there is no public access to them. Both are placed within highly attractive landscape settings within a partly wooded valley.

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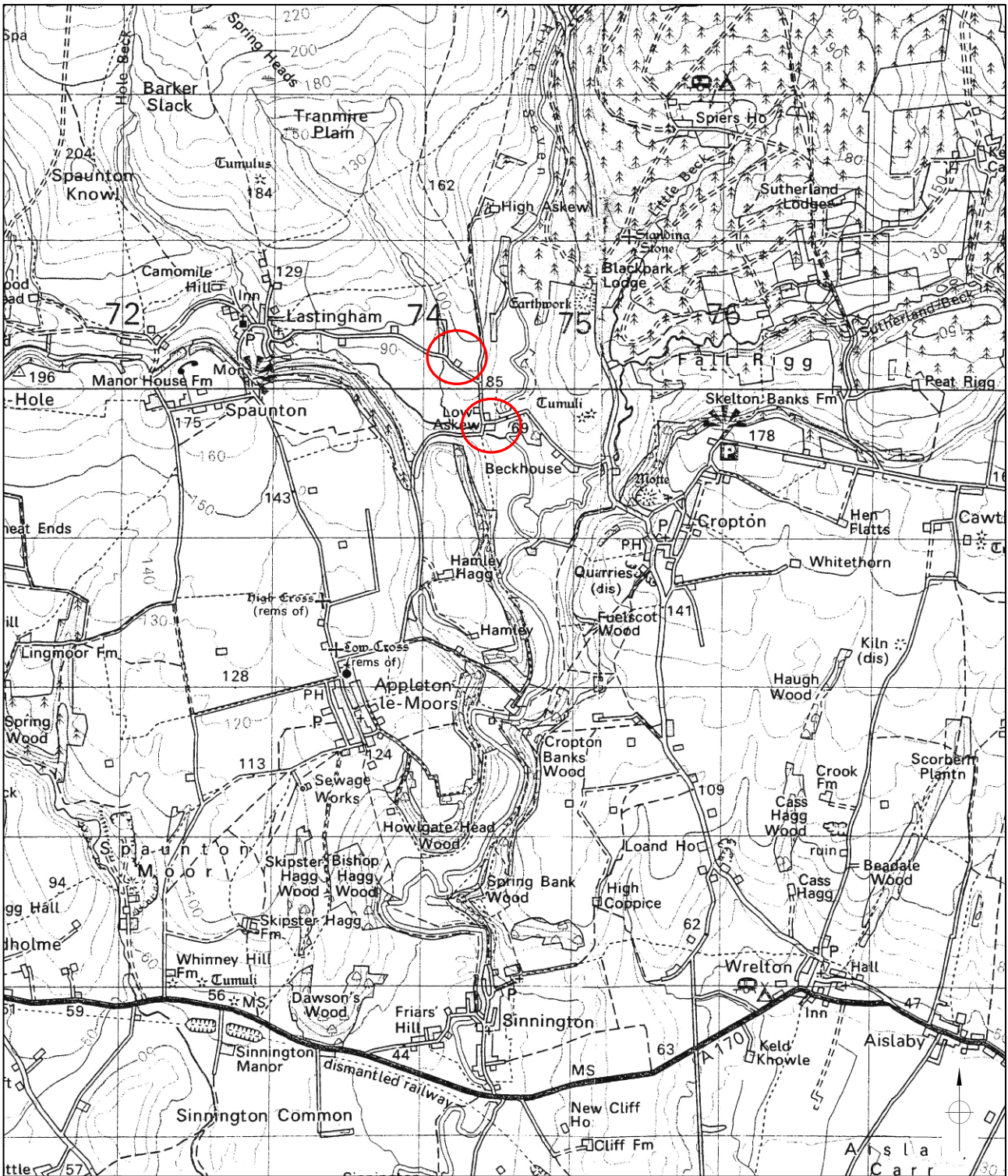
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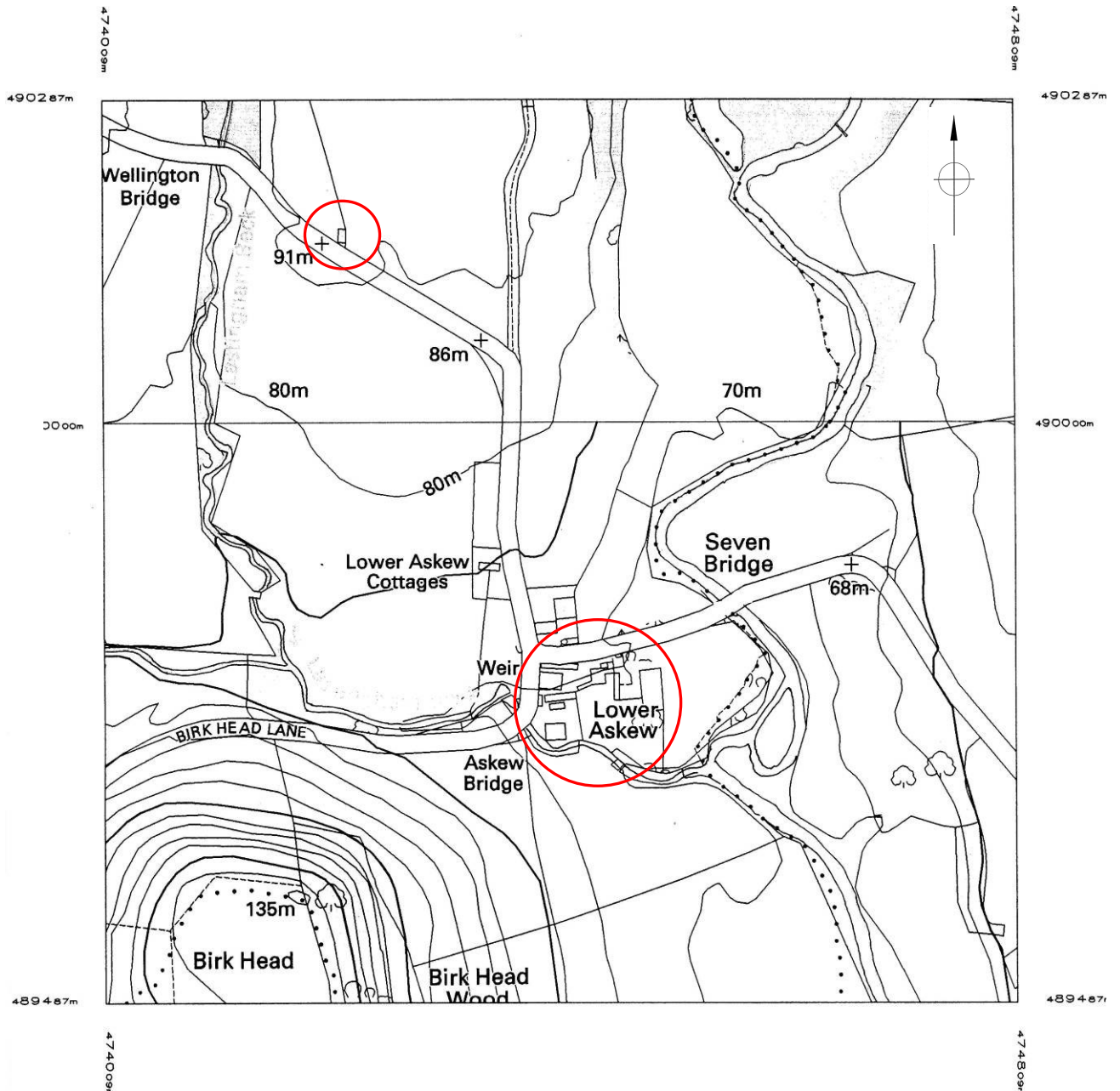
8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 The architectural and wildlife survey at Low Askew Farm was commissioned by the owner, Mr M Dawson-Brown, through the project architect Peter Gaze Pace, and was funded by Natural England and Mr Dawson-Brown. EDAS would like to thank Mr Dawson-Brown, Peter Pace and Dr Margaret Nieke of Natural England for their assistance and co-operation in carrying out the survey work.
- 8.2 The architectural survey was undertaken by Shaun Richardson assisted by Richard Lamb; Shaun Richardson produced the site archive and a draft report. The wildlife survey was undertaken by Dr Madeline Holloway of Ecological Information Network Consultants (EINC), and she also produced the stand-alone wildlife report. Mr and Mrs Dawson-Brown kindly provided comments on a draft report. The final report was produced and edited by Ed Dennison of EDAS, with whom the responsibility for any errors remains.



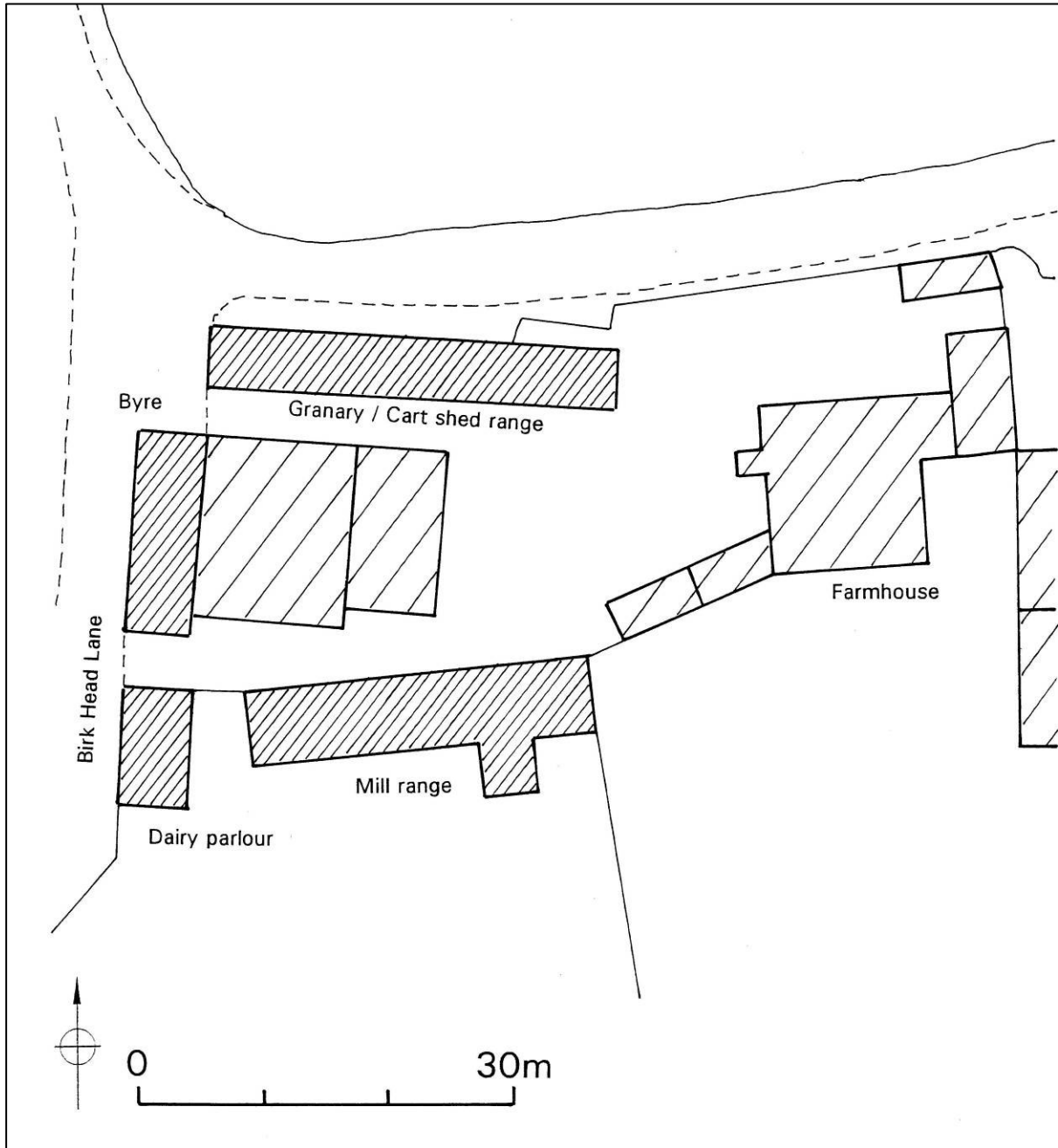
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TITLE		GENERAL LOCATION	
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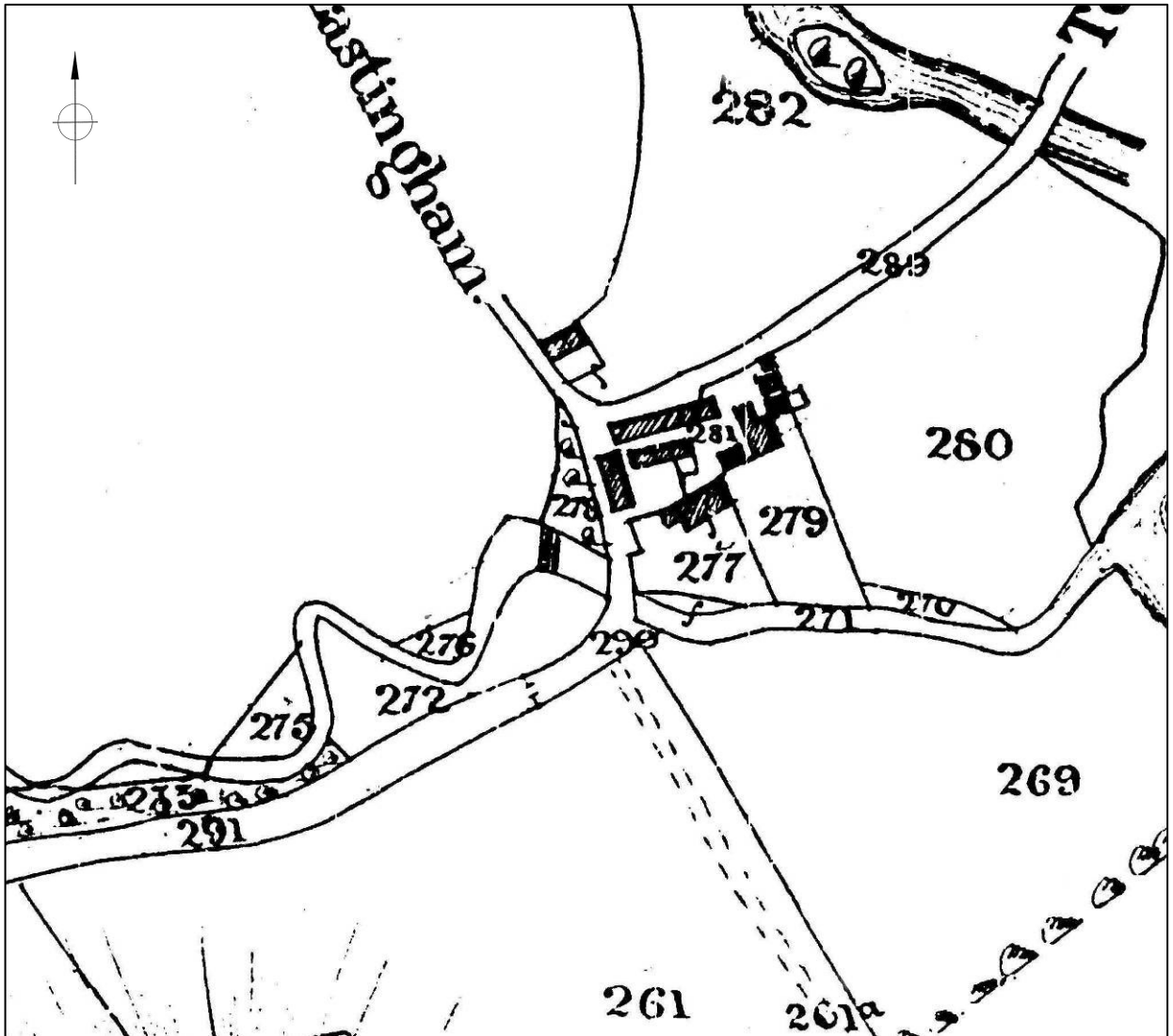


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TITLE		DETAILED LOCATION	
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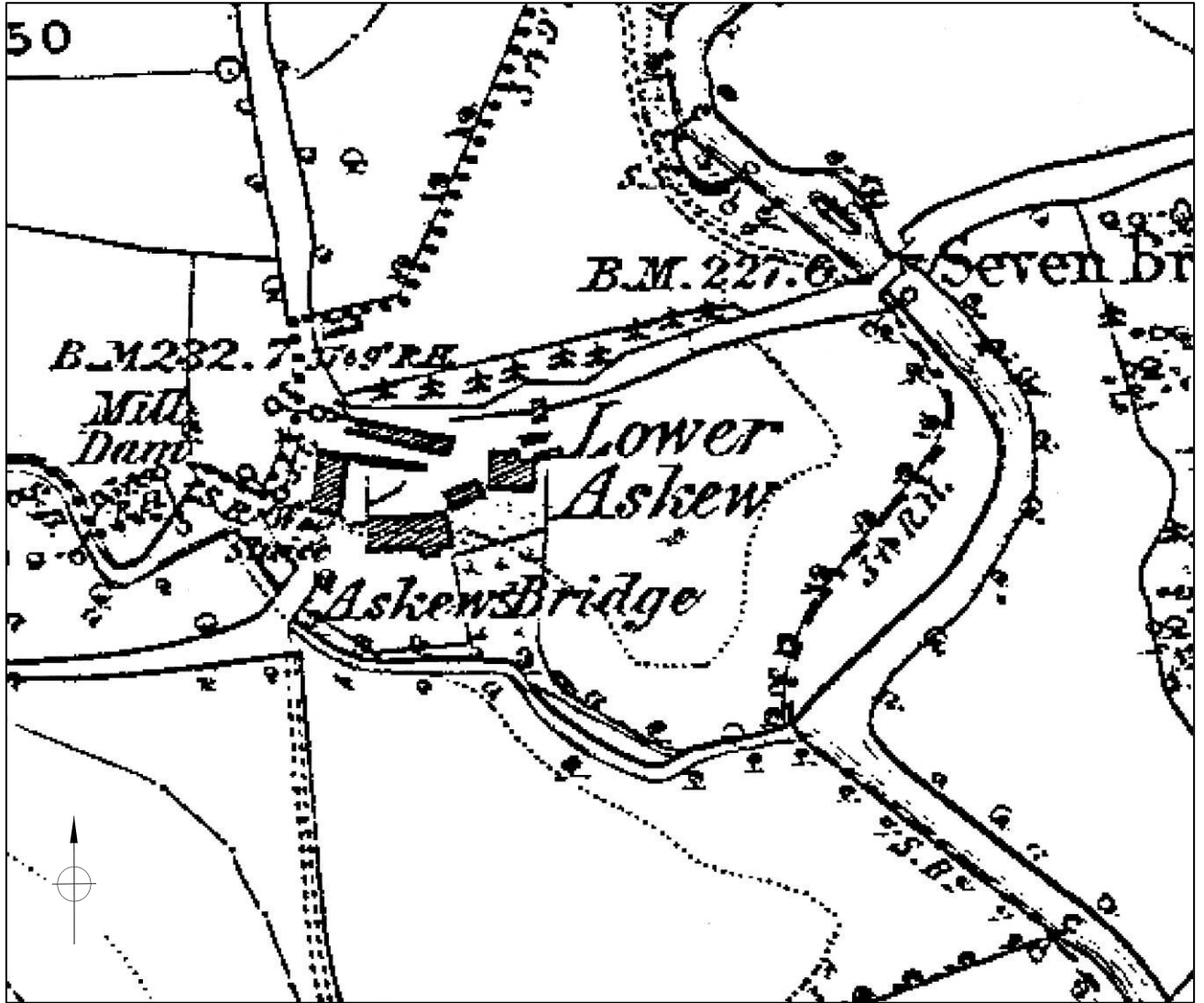


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TITLE		RECORDED BUILDINGS	
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	NOV 2011
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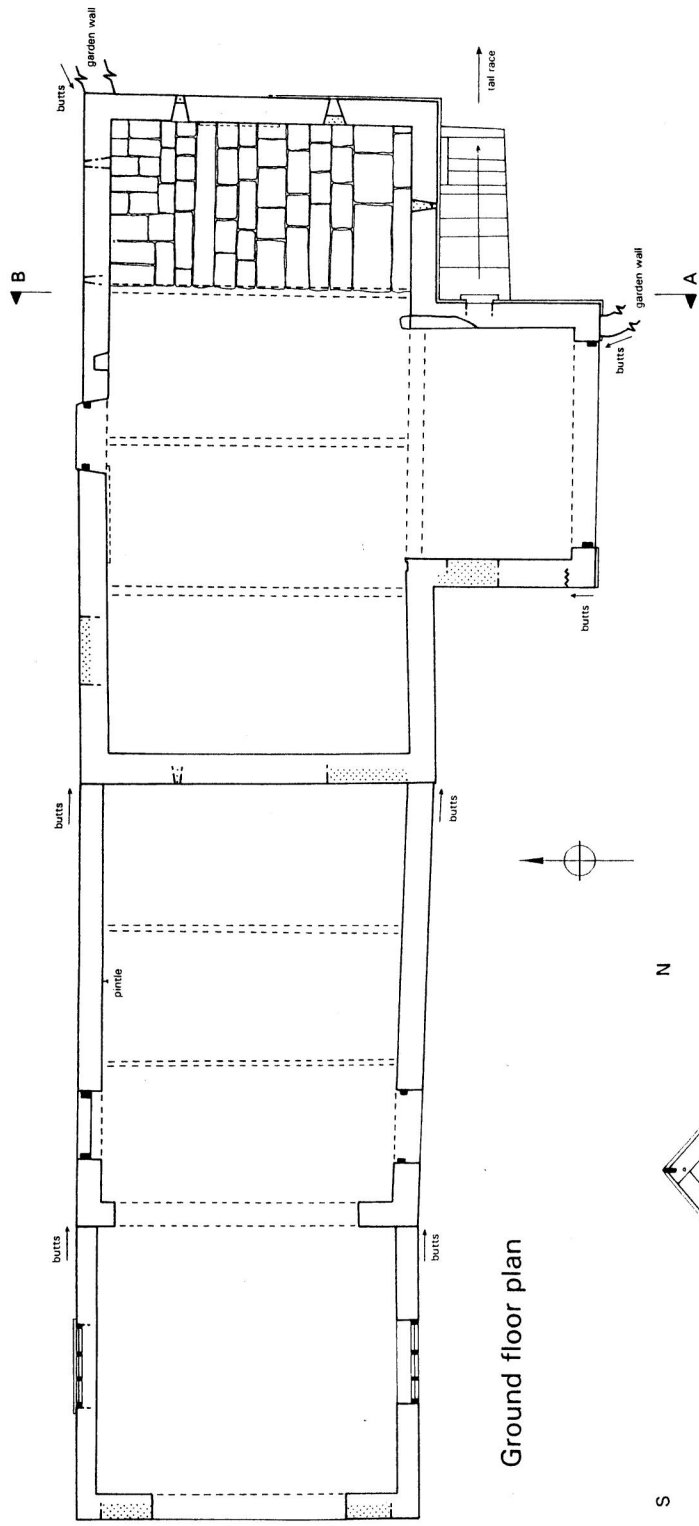
Source: 1849 Spaunton tithe map
(NYCRO PR/LAS/3/3/6).

PROJECT		LOW ASKEW FARM	
TITLE		1849 TITHE MAP	
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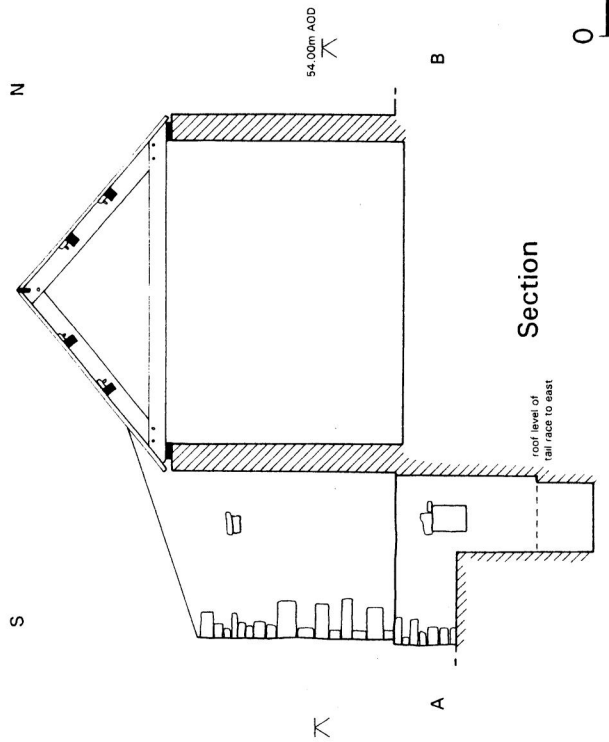


Source: Ordnance Survey 1856 6" map sheet 74 (surveyed 1848-53).

PROJECT		LOW ASKEW FARM	
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Ground floor plan



Section

BLOCKING

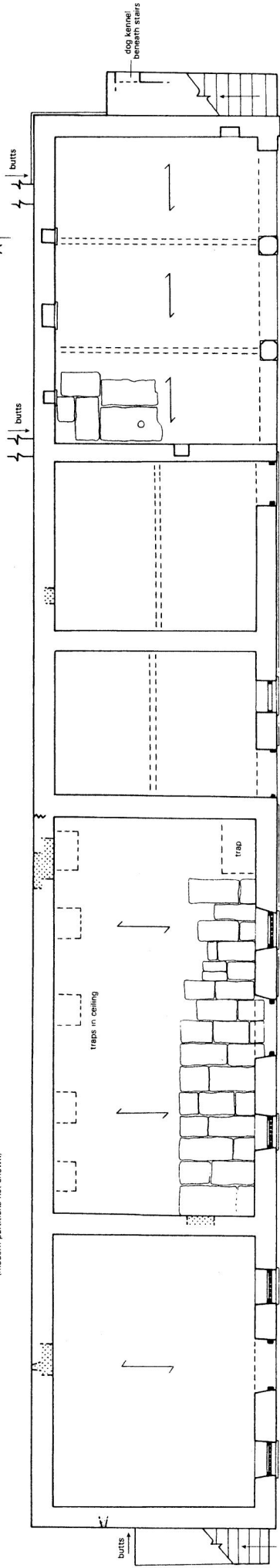


PROJECT	LOW ASKEW FARM
TITLE	MILL RANGE
SCALE	AS SHOWN
DATE	NOV 2011
FIGURE	6

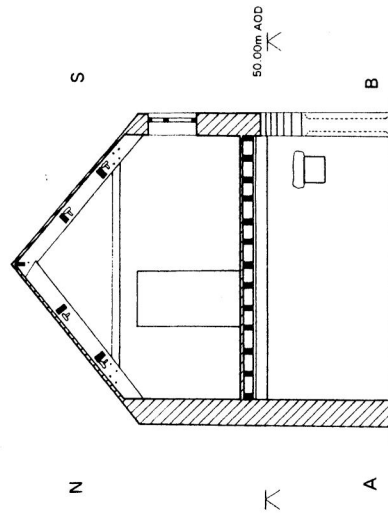
Stables
(modern partitions not shown)

Loose boxes

Cart shed



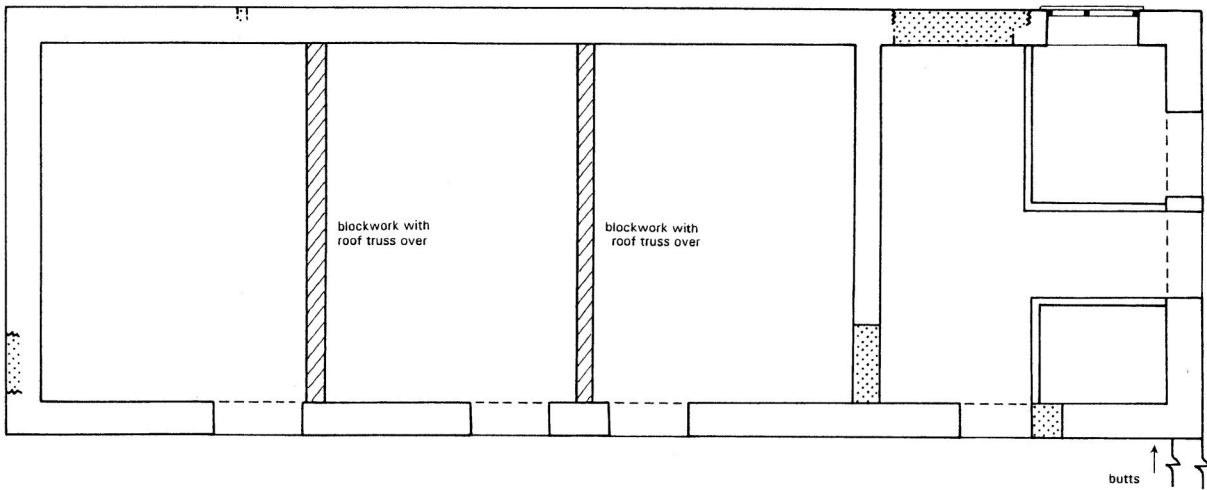
Ground floor plan



Section

PROJECT	LOW ASKEW FARM
TITLE	GRANARY / CART SHED RANGE
SCALE	AS SHOWN
DATE	NOV 2011
FIGURE	7

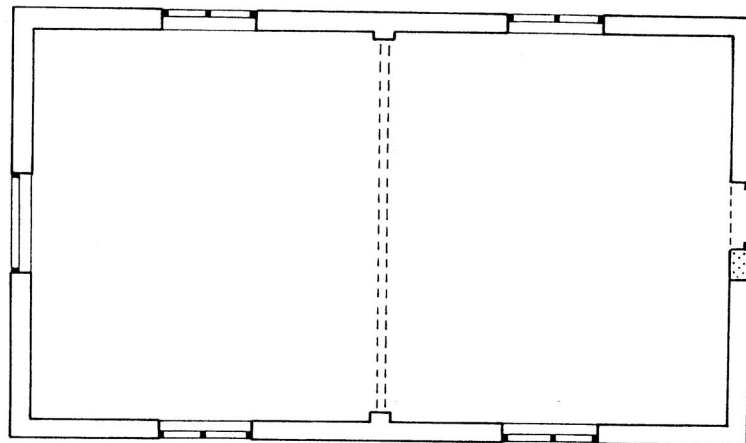




Byre

 BLOCKING

0  5m

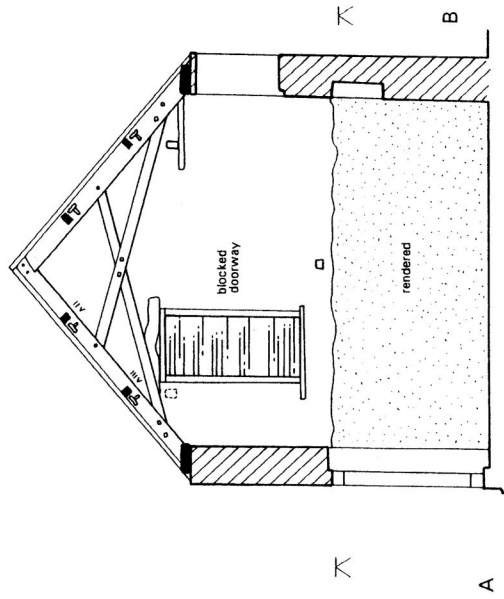
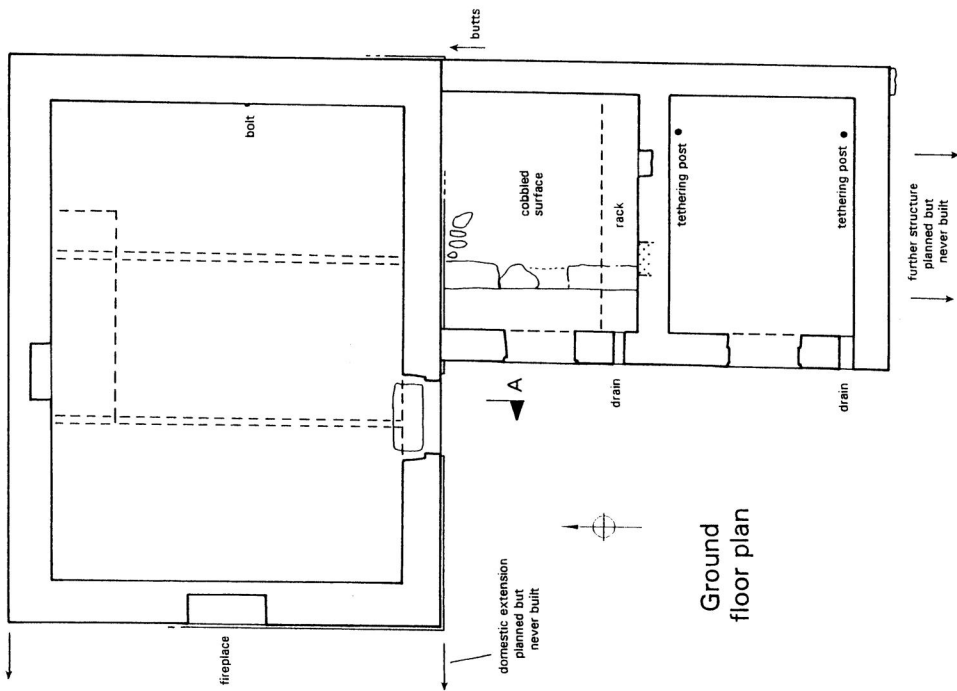


Dairy parlour

 BLOCKING

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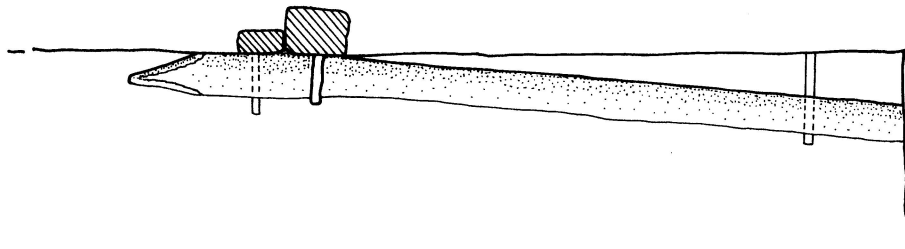
PROJECT		LOW ASKEW FARM	
TITLE		BYRE AND DAIRY PARLOUR	
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	NOV 2011
EDAS		FIGURE	8



Section

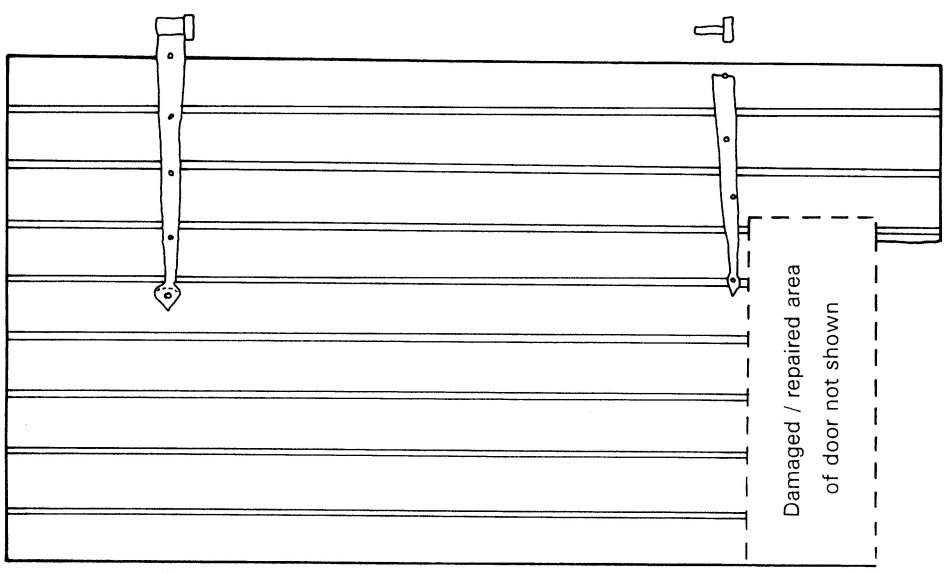


PROJECT	LOW ASKEW FARM		
TITLE	FIELDHOUSE		
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	NOV 2011
	EDAS	FIGURE	9



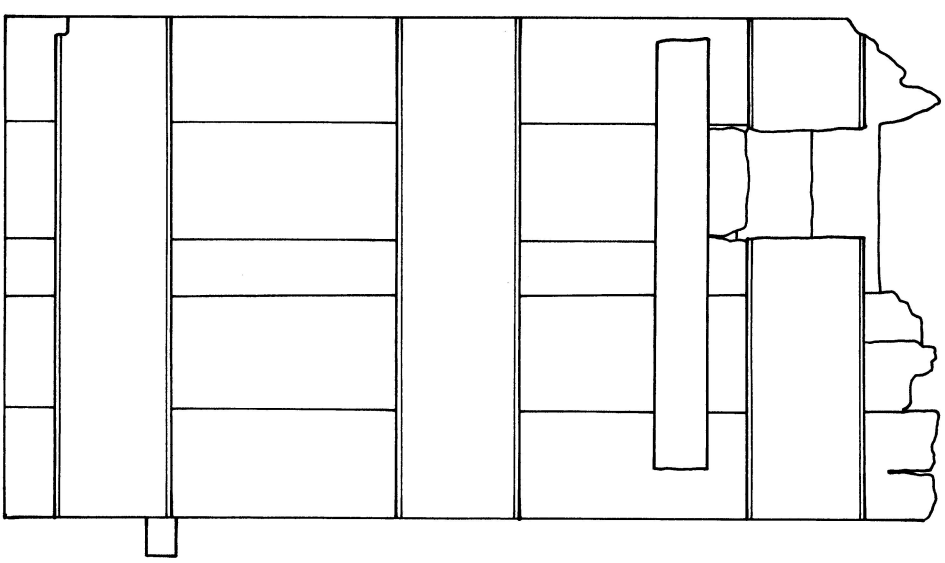
Tethering post in south-east corner of south cell

Front



Damaged / repaired area of door not shown

Rear



Door to north cell



PROJECT	LOW ASKEW FARM		
TITLE	FIELDHOUSE: SOUTH RANGE		
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	NOV 2011
	EDAS	FIGURE	10



Plate 1: East end of mill range and outshot, looking NW (photo 1/85).



Plate 2: North elevation of east part of mill range, looking SW (photo 1/91).



Plate 3: Plinth to east gable of mill range, looking SW (photo 1/80).



Plate 4: East elevation of outshot, looking W (photo 1/81).



Plate 5: North elevation and west gable of granary and cart shed range, looking SE (photo1/18).



Plate 6: South elevation of granary/stables, looking NW (photo 1/49).



Plate 7: South elevation of cart shed, looking NW (photo 1/40).



Plate 8: Open ventilated window in south elevation of stables, looking N (photo 1/54).



Plate 9: West doorway in first floor east cell, granary/cart shed range, looking W (photo 1/71).



Plate 10: Painting on south wall of first floor east cell, granary/cart shed range, looking S (photo 1/77).



Plate 11: North gable and west elevation of byre/cow house, looking SE (photo 1/13).



Plate 12: East elevation of byre/cow house, looking NW (photo 1/31).



Plate 13: South gable and west elevation of dairy parlour, looking NE (1/09).



Plate 14: General view of fieldhouse, looking NE (photo 2/126).



Plate 15: West gable of fieldhouse,
looking E (photo 2/137).

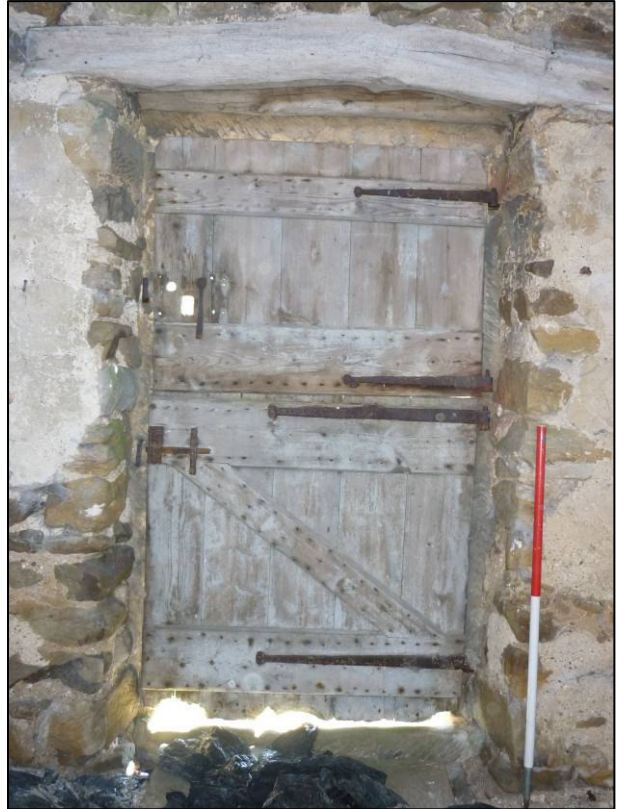


Plate 16: Rear of door in south elevation of
fieldhouse, looking S (photo 2/154).



Plate 17: East elevation of fieldhouse, looking W (photo 2/135).



Plate 18: Farm building between mill range and granary/cart shed range, looking W (photo 1/89).



Plate 19: Mill pond, looking SE (photo 1/128).