

Bridge End Farm

Slaidburn

Clitheroe

Historic Building Report: Analysis and Interpretation



J. Deadman Historic Buildings Survey and Research

On behalf of

Mr. A Shorten

2025

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Thanks also to Trevor Todd of TT ARCHITECTURAL SERVICE for the plans, elevation drawings and the front page illustration he kindly let me annotate.

1.0 SUMMARY

Bridge End Farm, one of several dispersed steadings, is located approx. 1.5 miles to the north west of Slaidburn on the east side of Lanshaw brook. (NGR SD 70308 53609). It lies close to the former salt road which passes over Salter fell from Bowland into Lancashire and the Lune valley. Today, this section of the road is known as Wood House Lane (formerly Cross Lane), from which the farm is accessed at point known as Cross Gates.

The house is a listed building (List entry 1072231) comprising two storeys, with attic and basement. Adjoining, to form a linear range, is a cart house and barn. The house is fronted by a garden; the barn and cart house by a small yard with two single storey structures forming the southern curtilage. The track which serves the farm is located immediately south of the buildings, which at the time of the 1847/50 OS map terminated at a field boundary 150 yards to the east of the farmhouse. Hard standing to the east was the location of a former orchard/shelter bed.

In the early 20th century Bridge End was run as a small dairy farm (ref 1939 census) Today the farmhouse stands unoccupied, and the agricultural buildings now used for storage and stabling

2.0 INTRODUCTION

This report was created in response for an historic building survey of Bridge End farm to accompany a planning occupation for proposal (Quote) ‘to extend residential accommodation to farmhouse by partial change of use of attached agricultural building.’ (planning ref. 3/2024/0904)

The building is listed grade 11, National Heritage List no. 1131407, and as such the recording was carried out by the author to level 3 as detailed in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (Historic England, 2016).

Survey and report were commissioned by Mr. A. Shorten and realised by Jennifer Deadman of *Historic Buildings Survey and Research*, January 2025

3.0 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims:

The objective is to identify, record and interpret any features of architectural/historical interest or significance surviving within the fabric of the historic building which aid towards a greater understanding of its development and evolution.

The report aims to:

- Inform on the evolution of the structure as a standing building and its setting in both the immediate and wider landscape.
- Aid in the process of informed decision making with regard to alterations to be made during re-development works.

3.2 Methodology:

Due to the complexity of the phasing of the building the recording has been carried out by the author to level 3 as detailed in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (Historic England, 2016). Also as in *NYM Standards and Guidance for Historic Building recording*.

The specific recording methodologies are:

3.21 The drawn record:

- Site plan to scale at 1:100
- Scaled plans of the standing structure at 1:50 or 1:20 where deemed necessary for clarity of detail. To include location of associated boundaries, enclosures, yards, water courses, public rights of way etc.
- Scaled sections and elevations at 1:50

The detail of the drawn records will conform to level 3 as outlined above.

3.22 The photographic record:

In accordance with HE guidelines the building will be recorded digitally at a resolution of 14 mega pixels and reproduced at a minimum of 300dpi.

To comprise:

- The building in its wider landscape setting.
- A series of general views of external elevations.
- Internal detail.
- Roof detail.
- Significant architectural details e.g. blocked or altered openings, fixtures and fittings, decorative details, makers' plates.
- A plan with photographic reference points.
- Inclusion of ranging poles where deemed necessary.

3.23 The written record:

- Description of location, topography, and geology.
- General historical overview.

- Discussion of the evolution of the structure within the complex and wider built and historic landscape.
- Discussion of historical issues, economic, climatic, political, which may have impacted on the design and development and ultimate decline of the now redundant buildings.
- Analysis and interpretation of the building fabric.

3.24 Archival Deposition:

- Digital copies of the report in PDF/A format to OASIS. Jpeg files to A.D.S.

4.0 BRIDGE END FARM: LOCATION

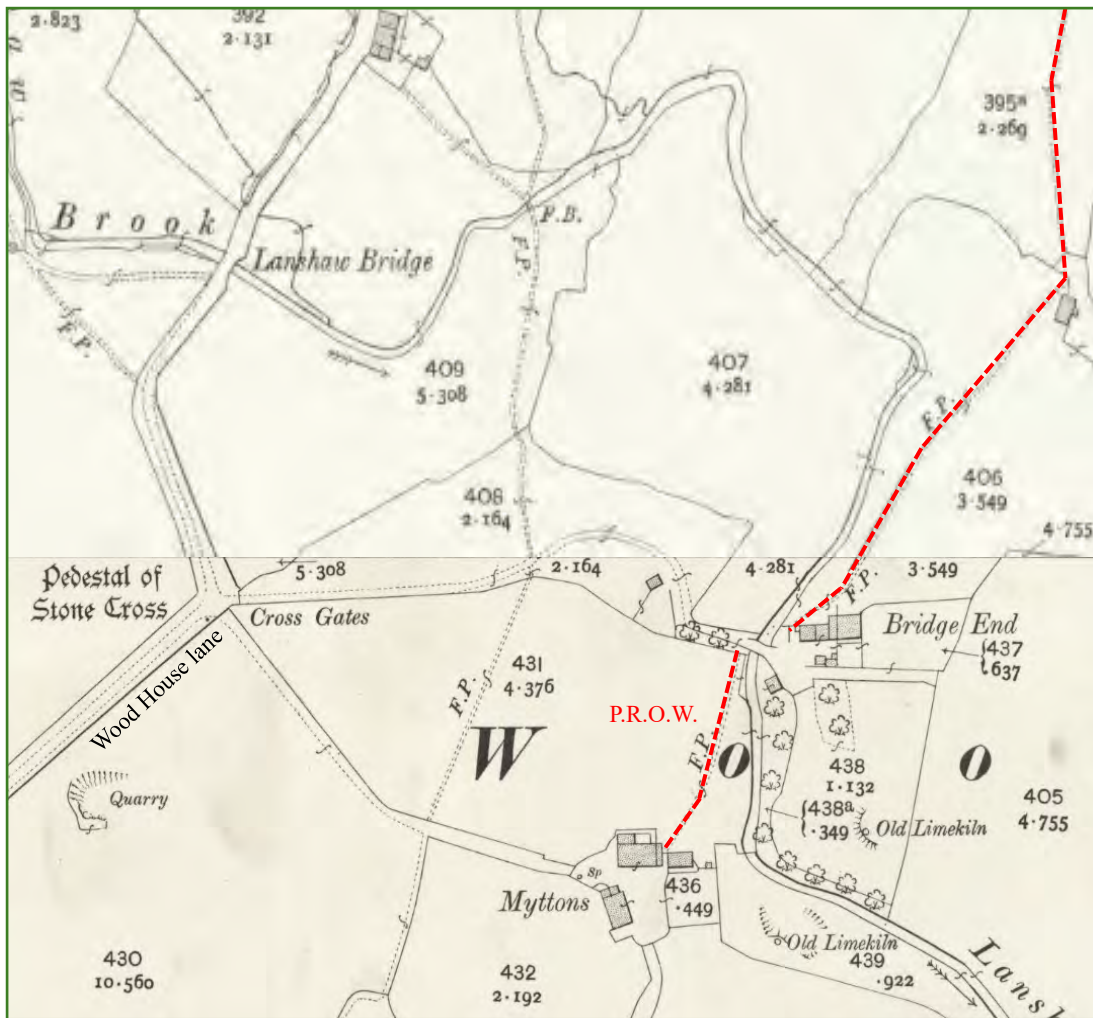
Bridge End Farm, (NGR SD 70308 53609), lies in the civil parish of Slaidburn, in the Ribble Valley district of Lancashire. It is located approx.1.5 miles to the north west of Slaidburn, on the east side of Lanshaw brook which converges with Croasdale Brook to flow in a southerly direction through Slaidburn village. It is one of several outlying holdings, the nearest, ‘Myttons,’ located 150 yards to the south west..



Fig. 1

It is approached from Wood House Lane down a 300 yard track known as Cross Gates (track) which today terminates 100 yards east of the farmhouse,

A public right of way, aligned north south, lies immediately to the west of the farm. Both front and rear of the buildings are visible from the footpath.



Line of footpath in relation to proximity of farm buildings

Plate 1



5.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 Geology

The underlying solid geology of the area consists of Carboniferous limestone of which there are locally important outcrops. The overlying drift geology comprises slightly calcareous glacial till. The widespread availability of durable building stone led to the development of quarrying throughout central and eastern Lancashire. The limestone is used in buildings either roughly dressed into blocks or as random rubble, often rendered over.¹ Limestone quarries and kilns are found in close proximity to Bridge End Farm as depicted on the OS map of 1893/4.

OS map 6 inch: 1 mile. Surveyed 1847, published 1850

Fig. 3



5.2 Topography and Land-use

Bridge End Farm is located at an elevation of *c.* 170m OD, close to Lanshaw Brook. Its buildings are terraced into sloping ground rising west to east, and surrounded by fertile pastoral grasslands. The undulating countryside rises sharply to the north and west, to the upland massif of the Forest of Bowland, and less steeply to the south towards Easington Fell. Watercourses are tree lined and the small irregularly shaped fields, suggestive of piecemeal enclosure, are bounded by dry stone walls interspersed with trees.

The soils create land suitable for dairying, stock rearing and forestry

Bridge End viewed through trees toward fells lying east of the river Hodder.

Plate 2



View to the south towards Dunsop Fell

Plate 3



View south east over undulating countryside

Plate 4



View north up Langshaw beck, with Bridge End Farm buildings to the right

Plate 5



6.0 HISTORIC LANDSCAPE: OVERVIEW

Prehistoric era:

Although nothing from the prehistoric era has been identified in the immediate vicinity of the study area, there is clear evidence of activity during the prehistoric period further to the south-west, where several enclosures have been recorded in the Dunnaw area, approximately .75 mile south of Slaidburn.

At Bowgrave meadow, Slaidburn, excavation of a mound of cobbles and associated finds were suggestive of a burial cairn. ²

In addition, further south, near Chipping, the site of the Bleasdale circle, dating to c 2200 BC, indicates further prehistoric activity in the surrounding area. ³

Iron Age period.:

By the later Iron Age, the Brigantes tribe controlled a large section of northern England, although no sites attributed to this period are known in the general area.⁴ However, hillforts dating to the later prehistoric period are known further afield at Portfield, near Whalley ⁵ and at Ingleborough.⁶

Of possible Iron Age/ Roman origin, a salt road passes over Salter Fell from Bowland into Lancashire and the Lune Valley. Wood House Lane, located 300 yards from Bridge End Farm, follows the line of the old road.⁷

Mediaeval Period:

In the Slaidburn area, activity in the early medieval period from the end of Roman rule to the Norman conquest is distinctly under represented.⁸

However, located on Wood House Lane, formerly Cross Lane, and close to the entrance to the farm track to Bridge End, is the base of a cross (NGR: SD7003953609), of suggested medieval origin. There is only one surviving complete cross and base, and that located at the other end of the salt road south of Hornby. ⁹



Base of cross

H.E. ID 1163860

Plate 6

Evidence for medieval plowing is found in areas of ridge and furrow and hillside lynchets adjacent to Wood House Lane, as identified by topographic survey, ref. Oxford Archaeology North (2010). ¹⁰ Bridge End Farm lies outside the O.A.N remit, but the abundance of ridge and furrow close by would suggest an area of mixed farming, locally, during the mediaeval period.

Post Mediaeval period:

The Manor of Slaidburn consisted of four townships and two independent hamlets, Slaidburn, High Field and Slaidburn Wood House, the latter where Bridge End Farm would later be built. Each settlement had its own area of common land, progressively enclosed in the late 16th and early 17th centuries. By the 19th century the partitioned lands were further subdivided.¹¹ The agricultural nature of the landscape during the nineteenth century is attested to by the Newton and Slaidburn tithe maps of 1838 and 1869 respectively, which recorded a mix of pasture, meadows, and arable land.

Early Modern period:

The industrial revolution had only a limited impact on the area which remained essentially rural in character and economy. However, flax processing is known to have been carried out in the Newton area, two miles to the south west.¹² Also, as evidenced from surviving remains, maps and documentary sources, there was a thriving local limestone industry. Limestone was quarried either for use as a building material or to produce lime - a binder for mortars, plasters, renders, and flooring. By the 16th century the use of lime as an agricultural fertiliser became increasingly popular. Food production levels were greatly improved by crop rotation, the spreading of manure (both human and animal) and liming.

As evidenced on 19th century OS maps limestone quarries and kilns were found in abundance in the fields around Bridge End and its neighbour, Myttons, conveniently providing stone for building construction.

The kilns were possibly disused by the end of the 19th century as evidenced on the 1893/4 OS map, where they are described simply as ‘*Old Limekilns*’

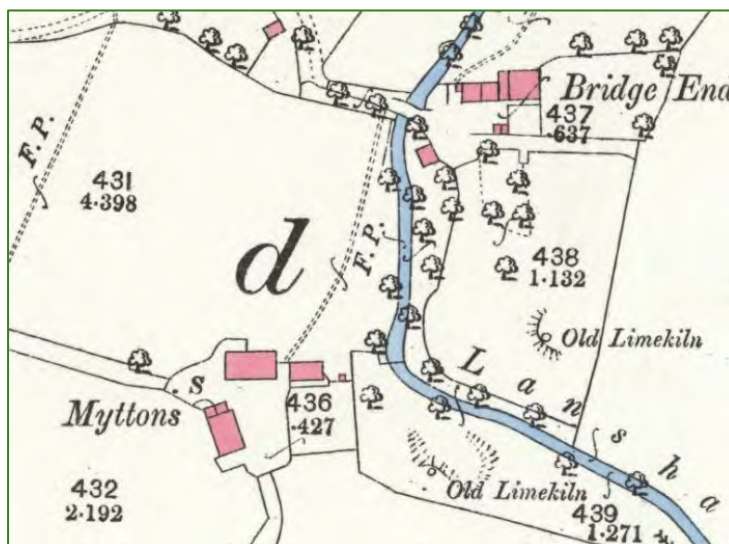
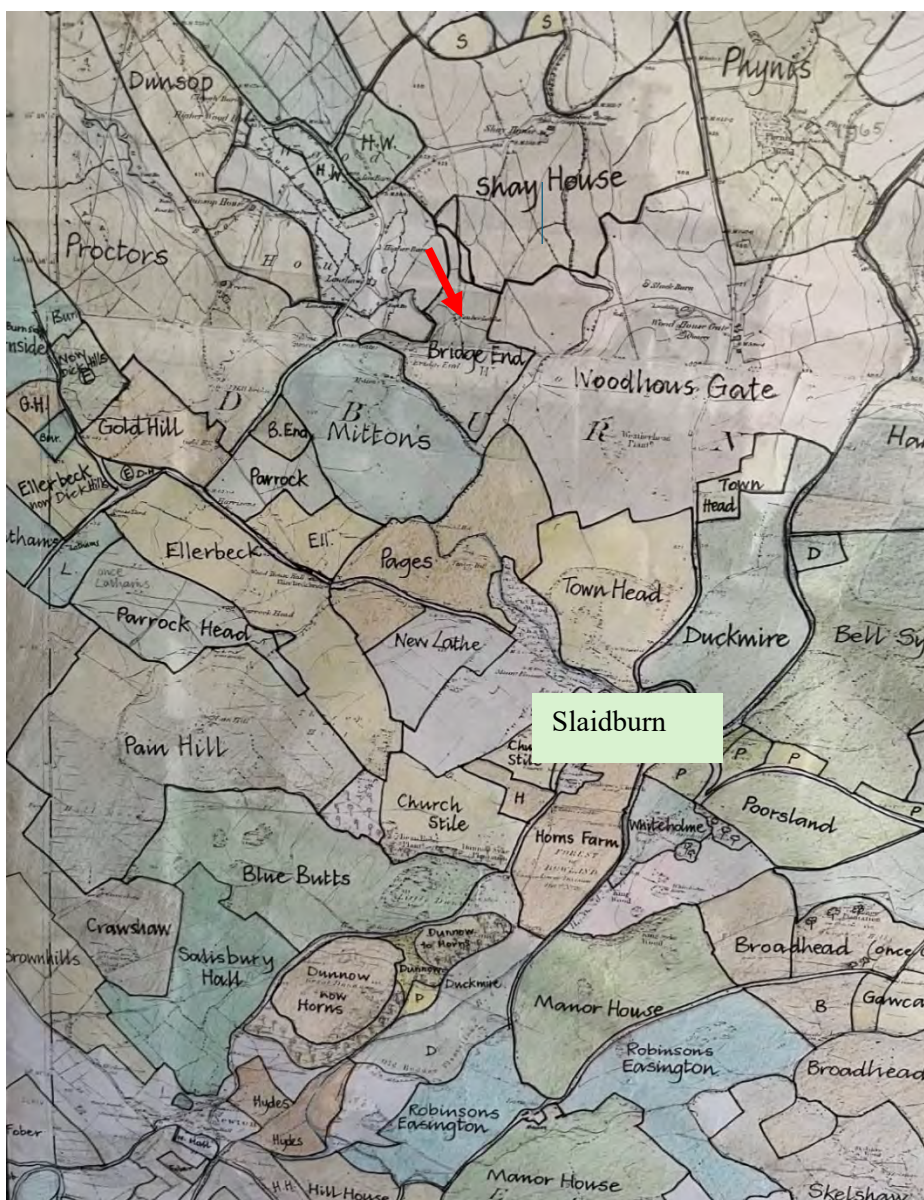


Fig. 4

OS map 25 inch: 1 mile.
Surveyed 1893, published 1894

7.0 BRIDGE END FARM: HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Seemingly never a large farm, the 19th century census returns indicates Bridge End was a holding of between 21 and 25 acres. The map on the following page, on view at Slaidburn archives, defines the numerous holdings located within a 2 mile radius of Slaidburn in 2000.¹³ Bridge End, then comprising 31 acres, was by no means the smallest.



Map 2000.
Courtesy of
Slaidburn Archives

Fig. 5

Earliest retrieved records

The death of a Mary Thornber aged 84, at Bridge End in 1821, is recorded in the Slaidburn parish register. Formerly, she and her husband, Ralph, had lived at Mittons/ Myttons, the nearest neighbouring farm, located close by on the other side of Lanshaw beck. Presumably, at some point after his death in 1792, she moved to Bridge End, whether to the farm as it stands today, or to a dwelling, either cottage or former farmhouse, located close by on Bridge End land, is unknown.

Unusually, the farm does not appear to have been held by the King -Wilkinson estate, who by 1927 owned almost all the houses and cottages in Slaidburn village and 40 neighbouring farms spread over 6,000 acres. Neither is it listed in the sale catalogue of 1927 when large parts of the outlying estate were disposed of. ¹⁴

Investigation has shown that between 1844 and the mid-20th century, Bridge End passed through four different ownerships, and a total of seven tenant farmers.

The first traceable owner is recorded on the tithe apportionment of 1844 where a Thomas Hargreaves is listed as landowner.¹⁵ According to the census returns of 1851 and 61 he lived at Bridge End with his brother John. He is simply described as ‘ landed proprietor’, and his brother, John ‘farmer of 21 acres.’¹⁶

At the time of the tithe map of 1844 the holding comprised a good mix of arable, meadow and pasture. As well as the house, outbuildings and fold yard, two cottages are also listed.

Fig. 6

House Outbds. Fold and Plantation	Pasture &c.	1	3	13
Limekiln Field and Rookery				
Cottage and Plant.		1	1	14
Cottage and Garden	Arable	"	1	15

Headings		A.	R.	P
Great Meadow	Pasture	4	2	31
Potatoe Garth	Meadow	9	1	3
North Side	Arable		2	35
Fober Croft & Barn	Pasture	3	1	35
Burbles	Meadow	3	1	31
Langcliffe	Pasture	2	1	25
Green	do	2	3	9
Copy	do	1	2	16
	Arable	6	2	3
		37	1	30

The mention of a cowman, John Clarkson, in the 1901 census, would suggest that by the turn of the century the farm ran enough cattle to require extra help.

The Valuation Office Survey, 1910-1915,¹⁷ describes the then 37 acre holding in some detail, and not in a particularly favourable light. The land is described as of ‘fair quality’ but the buildings, including the farmhouse, are noted as being in a ‘poor condition’. The exception was the field laithe, known as ‘Fouber’, comprising hay barn and shippon for 5 beasts, noted as being in a ‘fair condition’. The tenant, not the owner, was responsible for repairs.

The buildings are briefly listed as follows:

‘House: 2 attics, underdrawn, with parlour, dining room, kitchen, pantry and cellar; (bedrooms omitted) cart house ; barn with stable for 2; shippon for 6; pig sty’.

The survey also describes ‘part of the old house’ as being in ‘bad condition/ruinous.’ This structure, located to the south west of the main range, is arguably the home of Mary Thornber. Noted on historic maps, it was demolished during the latter half of the 20th century.

The Land Register for 1939 lists a Mrs Smithson as owner, with Edward Slinger, dairy farmer, as tenant. This is corroborated by details from the National Farm Survey of England and Wales 1941 to 1943,¹⁸ where Mr. Slinger is listed as having 14 head of cattle.

As a matter of interest, he also had 41 sheep, 70 hens, 7 ducks, 1 pig and a goat. A mixed farm, he also grew oats and kale on 4.5 acres of land; the rest, at the time totalling 37 acres, was laid to permanent grass and meadow.

There was no electricity and water was from a well.

The condition of farmhouse and buildings is listed as '*bad*', field drainage '*bad*', and farm roads '*fair*'. Condition of arable land and pasture, '*fair*'.

It is evident from the reports that life was a struggle. The land was classed as being of a fair quality, but the drainage was poor. Throughout the early part of the 20th century, the buildings are described as being in a bad or poor condition, perhaps not surprising as the tenant was responsible for building maintenance, not easy on income from a smallholding.

By the mid-20th century, (pers. comm.), it would appear Edward Slinger bought the farm. The concrete stall fittings in the byre were probably introduced after the Brambell report (1965), and the resultant Animal Welfare Act (1968).¹⁹

The agricultural buildings and farmhouse have stood empty for approximately 40 years.

Map Regression

The first known map to have documented Bridge End Farm is the tithe map of 1844. It depicts the range of buildings, to include farmhouse, with a small yard to the south, as seen today. On the south curtilage of the yard is a small structure, and to the east the farmhouse garden. Further east is an enclosed area, arguably an orchard, but deemed an enclosed '*plantation*', on the tithe map.

South west is a building, referred to on the tithe map apportionment as '*cottage and plantation*', and to the south east of the latter, a small enclosure set within a larger field, again described as a '*plantation*'.



Tithe map 1844

Fig. 7

The first edition O.S. map, surveyed in 1847, presents a rather simplistic view of the buildings. The individual structures within the range are not delineated as on later maps. Again the enclosure is depicted to the east although the regular line of trees are suggestive of an orchard. A garden fronts the farmhouse to the south.

The cottage is marked, as is the plantation to the south east, defined in part by a simple line.



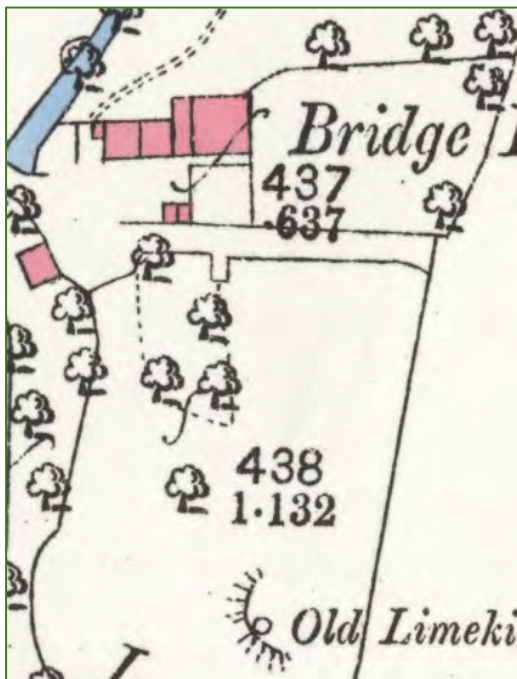
*OS map 6 inches:1 mile.
Surveyed 1847,
published 1847*

Fig. 8



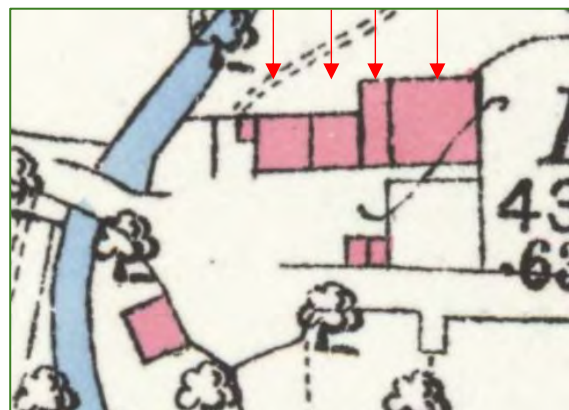
The OS map of 1893 depicts the farm complex in greater detail. Here the subdivisions within the range are clearly defined, and depict the plan form evident today. The small structure adjoining the range to the west, today no longer exists, although evidence for it is clearly visible against the gable end of the barn. Two small buildings are located on the south curtilage of the yard. The enclosure to the east is delineated by trees, and may have ceased to function as an orchard/plantation.

The cottage is still extant at this date. The former enclosure to the south east of the latter, is depicted with an access point from the track.



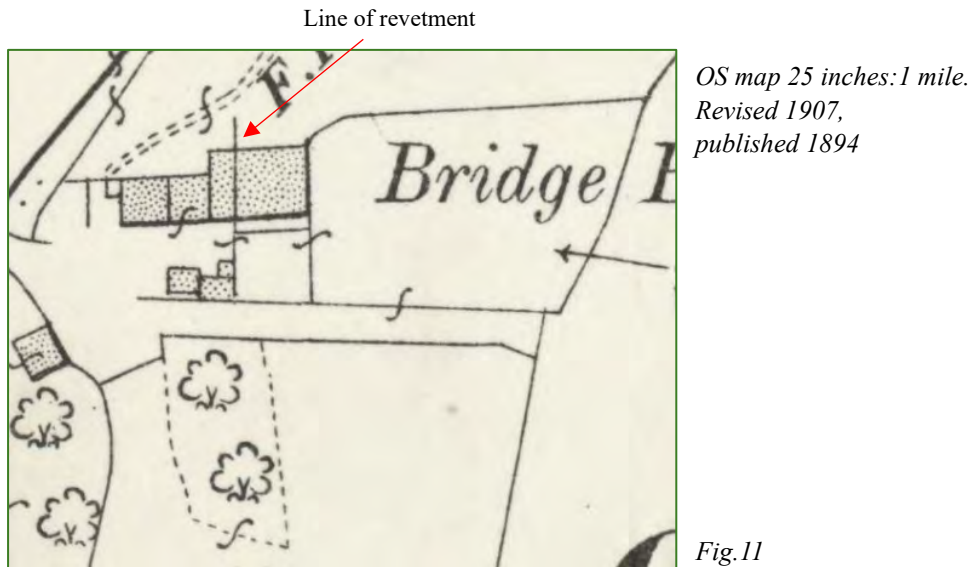
*OS map 25 inches:1 mile.
Surveyed 1893,
published 1894*

Figs. 9, 10
Hay mew Trap Byre house House



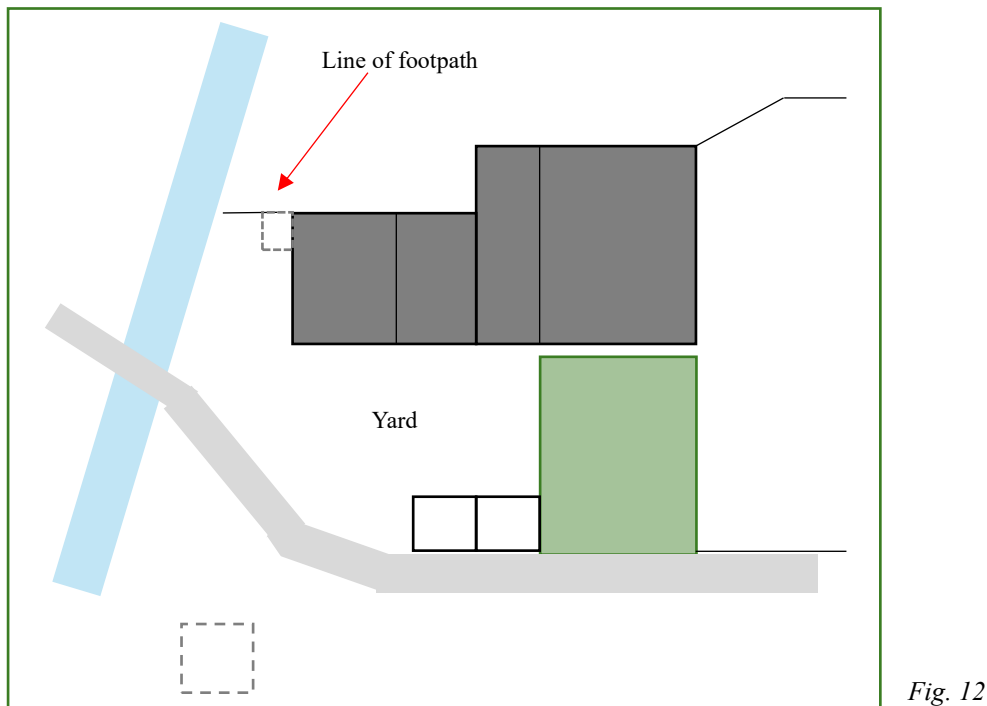
By 1907, (ref. map below), little has changed. A revetment is depicted between farmhouse and trap house, which defines the lower and upper levels of the site.

The two structures set against the roadside are now three, and the small building adjoining the west gable of the barn has lost its roof .



2025. The cottage is gone as is the small structure adjoining the barn

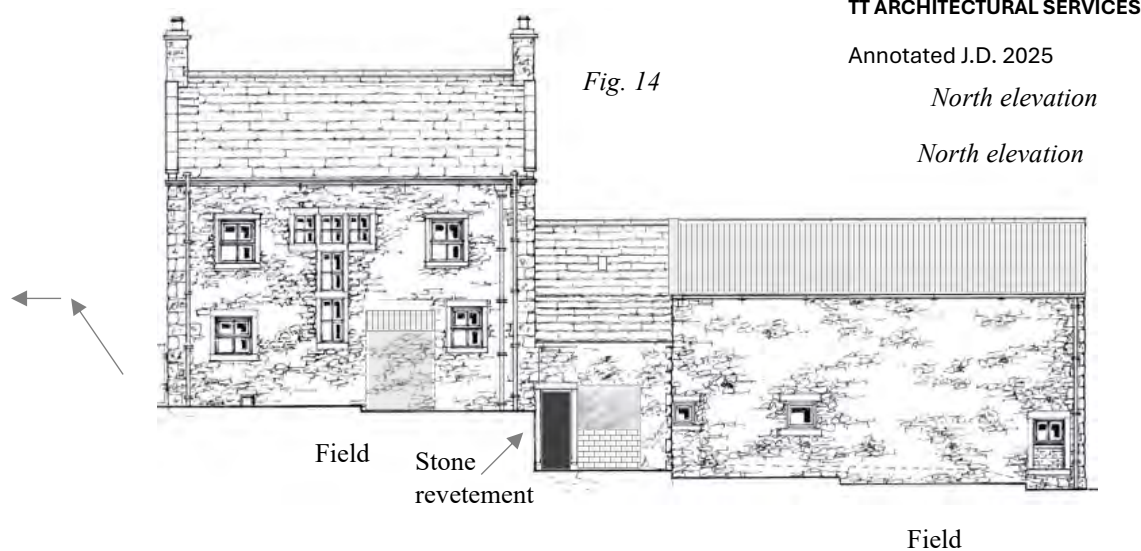
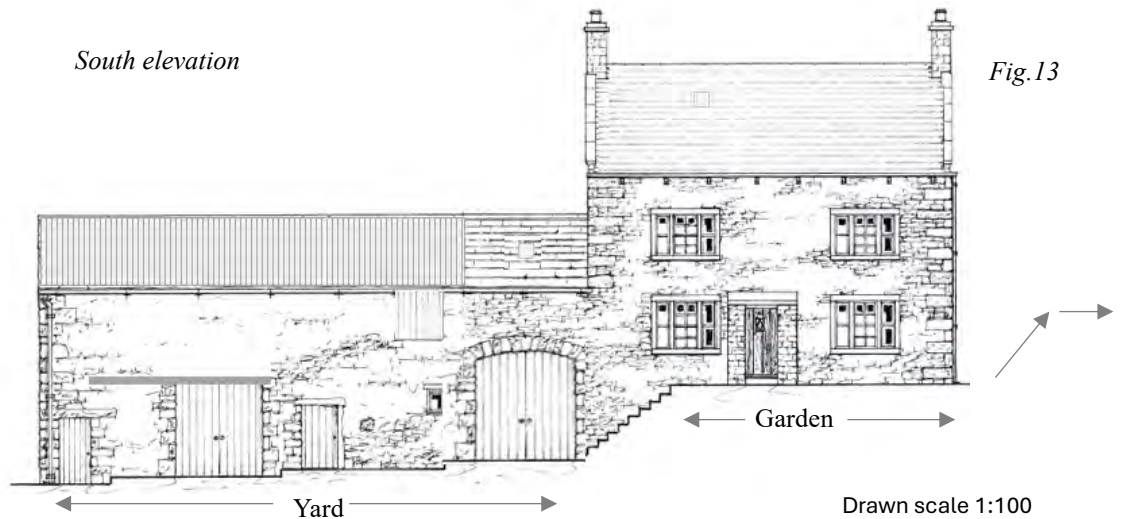
Architect's site plan annotated J.D. (Not to scale)



8.0 BRIDGE END FARM: SITE

The site has been engineered into the hillside and sits on three levels. This is best demonstrated by elevation drawings of the front and rear of the ranges.

The lower terrace comprises yard and agricultural buildings, with stone steps leading up to the middle terrace and farmhouse. The orchard/plantation on the upper level was formally accessed by a further flight of steps which has been removed.



House and garden viewed from the east. The yard and agricultural buildings lie below

Plate 7



Site viewed from the west looking on to the higher terrace, former site of plantation / orchard.



Plate 9

9.0 FARMHOUSE: ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

9.1 Exterior

The farmhouse conforms to a plan form which grew to prominence in the 18th century, when symmetry became de rigueur, both internally and externally, in terms of room layout and size, stair location, fenestration, etc. Fire places were always located against the gable ends, with end stacks a stylistically dateable feature of the period. Working rooms, e.g. kitchen, dairy, pantry etc., were located at the back of the house, as was the staircase. The latter was frequently centrally set to provide easy and direct access to rooms at all levels.

If money was available houses were designed to impress, and the farmhouse at Bridge End, although set on a small, isolated steading, was no exception.

The front elevation facing onto the track presents the ‘polite’ face of the building, comprising squared and coursed stone with long and short corner sandstone quoins, leaving the side and rear elevations with a rougher finish of loosely coursed rubble stone.

The chimneys are of plain sandstone with simple cornice and clay pots. Originally, lead-lined timber gutters would have sat upon the shaped stone corbels but the former have been replaced with half-round cast iron gutters on spits in late 19th century style.

The front slope of the house is finished with regular coursed Welsh slate with sandstone ridge and end copings terminating in kneelers. The rear slope retains the original sandstone flags laid in diminishing courses.

The kneelers are difficult to see due to scaffolding, but they are of a design common to 18th and early 19th century buildings. The profile comprises a small lip, below which is a convex curve, followed by a second small lip, and a concave curve. As the 19th century progressed the profile of kneelers became increasingly simplistic in design.

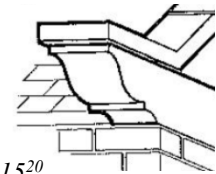


Fig. 15²⁰

On the front elevation windows on both floors are symmetrically set one above the other and identical in size and form. The tripartite design, with a central sliding sash and fixed side casements, are common throughout the Pennines and Westmorland.²¹ The stone mullions are flat on both inner and outer face, suggesting a late 18th/early 19th century date. As a rule of thumb, the 17th century saw mullions chamfered on both faces to create distinctive diamond shaped profile, whilst early 18th century mullions were chamfered on the inner face and flat on the outer.

The front porch is a later addition and has a flat concrete roof and random rubble walls.

House viewed from the south with path, now laid to concrete, leading directly to the front door. The garden wall is of random rubble construction with large triangular copings.



Plate 10



Porch

There is no evidence for an earlier porch set behind the present 20th century construction.

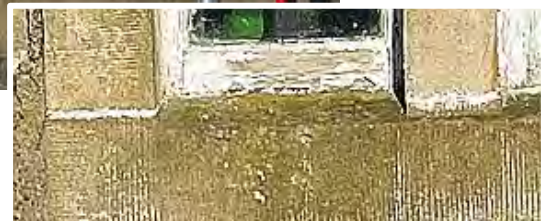
However, the door is original, and comprises four wooden boards painted white with batons covering the joints. (Discussed further on page 26)

Plate 11

The identical tripartite windows on the front elevation comprise monolithic jambs, lintels, cills and mullions, set flush with the wall. The milled face is a typical masonry finish. By the late 18th and into the 19th century the milling was machine tooled as seen here.



Plate 12



Milled face. Plate 13



East gable. Note remains of 20th century cement render.

Below left: Detail of random rubble walling

Below right: Long and short well defined corner quoins. Note pintle for former side gate.

Plates 14, 15, 16



Chimney pots set above stone cornice

Attic window and section of stone copings



Plate 17



Plate 18

The rear elevation is accessed by a path, which ran along the east elevation, closed off at either end by small pedestrian gates, now lost. Possibly, the path was formerly flagged.



*View north.
Access point to rear of
property*

Plate 19

The corner quoins are not as finely defined as on the front elevation. The fenestration has a degree of symmetry but is mainly notable for the large stair window which extends from ground floor to the half landing below the attic.

Rear elevation. Fine windows set in random rubble walling

Plate 20



The two upper windows comprise vertical sliding sashes with four lights. The frames to both pantry window, ground floor left, and kitchen window, ground floor right, have been replaced in the 20th century. A small cellar window/light is visible below the pantry at ground level. All, apart from the cellar light, retain the original monolithic cills, lintels and jambs.

Access to the rear of the building was originally from the kitchen. At some point during the 20th century (post 1907, ref OS map of the that date), a rear porch was added, with an external door on its east side. A small window was later inserted with brick edging set into the random rubble construction.

9.2 Interior: Ground floor

9.2.1 Housebody and parlour

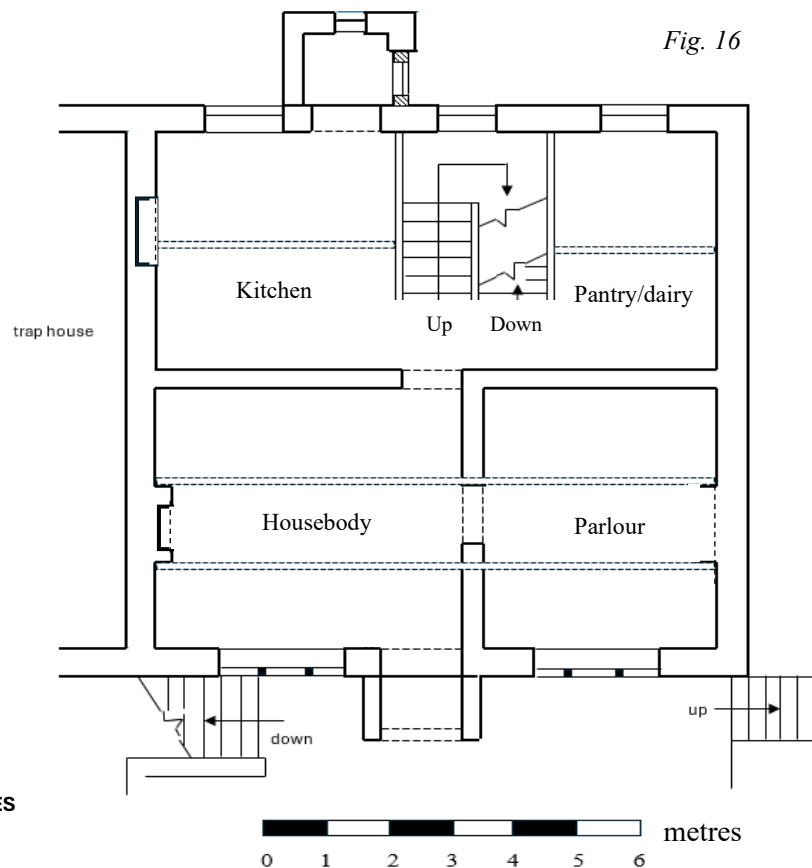
The ground floor comprises four rooms with a turned stair rising through the rear of the building to attic level.

The front entry led directly into the main living area, often termed the housebody, from which the parlour was accessed through a central cross wall. Both rooms were lit by large tripartite windows with window seats, (plate 23) and heated by opposed fireplaces set against the gable walls. The original fireplace and surround in the housebody has been retained (plate 25) Standing at nearly two metres in height it is built of stone, the heavy upper section, with gently cambered arched opening, rests on stone supports which curve outwards at the upper end to provide added support. The mantelpiece, also of stone, is chamfered outwards to create a wide shelf. The style is seen frequently in late 18th/early 19th vernacular buildings across the north of England

The fireplace in the parlour, formerly with a ‘60s’ surround, (*pers.comm.*) has been removed. A chamfered length of stone remains in situ above the opening which probably acted as a relieving arch over the original fireplace. Its design would suggest it came from an earlier building. (plate 28)

Ground floor plan

Fig. 16



Drawn scale 1:100

TT ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES

Annotated J.D. 2025

View from front door, looking through the housebody and beyond to stair case. Doorway to parlour to right.



Plate 21

View from housebody through to parlour and fireplace. Note flagged floor



Plate 22

Below: Window in parlour with wooden widow sweat in situ. Dolly blue paint visible on area of remaining plaster in window reveal.

Right: Detail of window with box on inner face containing cord and weight for sash.

Plates 23, 24



Housebody fireplace



Plate 25

Parlour fireplace viewed from housebody

Plate 26



Fireplace detail

Plate 27



Detail of relieving arch

Plate 28

Spine beams are located either side of the fireplaces in the housebody and parlour. They are plain with neither chamfer or stop. The underdrawn ceilings have been removed exposing 10 x 7.5 cm joists set 40cm apart. Joists and spine beams appear to be of the same phase. The softwood floorboards visible above are 25cm wide and are not tongue and grooved.



Plate 29



*Joist with possible Baltic timber marks.
18th/19th century*

Plate 30



Plate 31

Both rooms still retain their original flagged floors, which extend into the rear of the building, where the former kitchen and pantry/dairy are located.

With the exception of the front door, all others have been removed, including the frames. The present owner states they were c1960 in design. The front door is original and comprises four panels, - each 23 cm wide - backed by three wooden battens and set in a beaded wooden frame. Between the top and middle batten is a centrally placed decorative wooden panel, carved in relief.

Plate 32



Plate 33



The latch and lock are not original, but replace earlier fittings. The latch is blacksmith made and probably dates to the 19th century. The lock has replaced a much larger one as evidenced by the seating seen behind it. (Indicated by arrows)

The inset panel is beautifully worked and may be of 17th century origin.

Plate 34

9.22 Kitchen

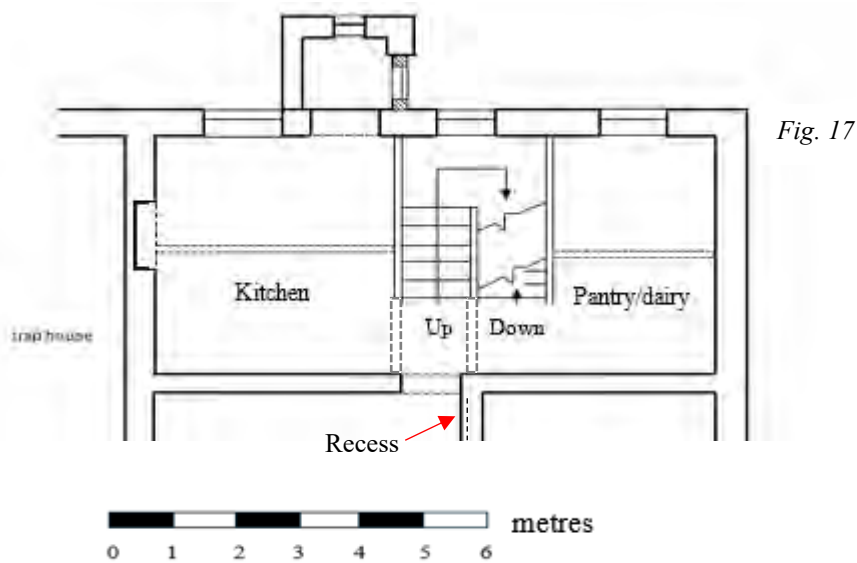


Fig. 17

The kitchen is located behind the housebody and accessed off a small lobby area at the bottom of the stairs. The cross wall is recessed 10 cm at the access point between housebody and lobby, suggesting the door opened into the housebody, the recess allowing for the door to be opened flush with the wall. This design feature is frequently seen in cattle byres to allow ingress and egress of cattle without injury. It is not unknown in domestic buildings.

Stair well viewed from the housebody. Kitchen to left.

View to front showing door recess.



Plate 35



Plate 36

The main feature of the kitchen would have been the fireplace. The original appears to have been removed. 20th century quarry tiles suggest a later insertion, also removed. An iron bar has been used latterly as the supporting lintel.

Kitchen fireplace.



The underdrawn ceiling has been removed to reveal a single spine beam and joists, identical to elsewhere.

The floor is of concrete with evidence for a red painted surface. It is possible the flags may remain beneath.

Plate 37

The room is lit from the north by a window with original monolithic jambs, but a new frame. The area below has been rebuilt in 20th century brick. With the render removed, a large wooden relieving beam has been exposed above the window.

The original rear entry lies adjacent, and has retained its original monolithic jambs and lintel and evidences a very worn stone threshold. It now accesses a small storage space - once a stone porch with an external door to the east, now blocked.

Plate 38



Former rear entry.

Plate 39



9.23 **Pantry/dairy**

The pantry/dairy is accessed off the lobby to the right. The floor has been removed so it can only be viewed from the cellar below. Joist holes indicate the floor height. However, joist holes on all four walls suggest the floor structure has failed at some point in the past and possibly a second time in the more recent times.

A length of timber extending into the room at window height could be construed as a support for shelving which may have run along the wall. An empty mortice is evident on the right hand side of the window which also may have served as a shelf support.

The pantry window has modern fenestration but has retained its original wooden lintel.

View from cellar



Plate 40

Pantry window with heavy wooden lintel



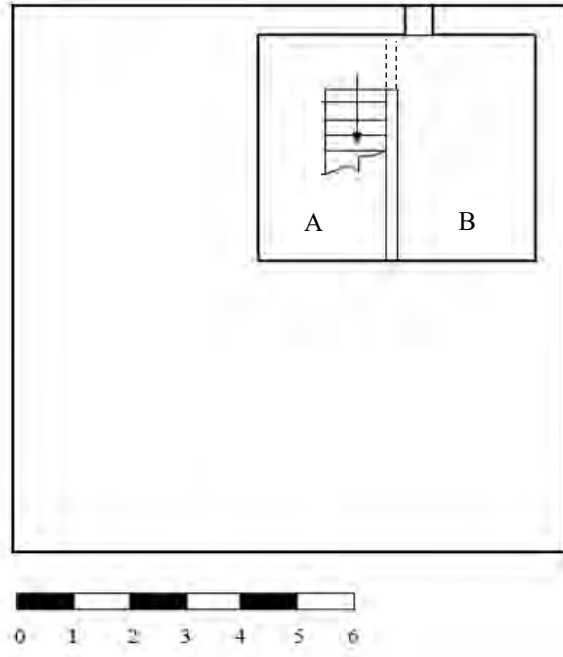
Plate 41

9.3 Cellar

The cellar lies directly below the pantry, and is accessed by stone steps. Room 'A' is flagged with a raised stone plinth, 40cm in height (max.), and 50cm wide. Similar features have been noted in cellars where the plinth supports a run of stone slabs used for off ground storage. It would appear in this case that the plinth has been reduced and the stone slabs removed.

Access to 'B' was formerly through a door, now missing. The floor is flagged and a small window at ceiling height is the only source of light.

Fig. 18



Room 'A'

Plate 42



Plate 43

Room 'B'

Plate 44



9.4 First floor

From the ground floor a flight of stairs dog legs through a series of landings and half landings to the attic, each level ingeniously lit by the stair window.

The component parts of the staircase up to the first floor are of the simplest form and comprise square and capped newel posts with square spindles. The banisters are also square in profile. The spindles appear to have been boarded over in the past as can be seen at the top of the stairs where three boards remain.*



View down from first floor to half landing below and up to half landing above.

Plate 45

Another short flight to the first floor landing provides access to four upper rooms. Those to the front of the house are served by tripartite windows with window seats, and by small fireplaces with stone lintels. Originally the lintels would have been plastered over. Neither fixtures nor fittings relating to the fireplaces remain.

The floorboards are intact throughout (25cm wide; no tongue and groove.) The dimensions of spine beams and joists are identical to elsewhere.



Front room west

Plate 46

Fireplace detail with heavy stone lintel.



Plate 47

Located at the back of the building, two smaller, unheated north facing rooms are lit primarily by vertical sliding sash windows on the north elevation. Interestingly, and unusually, the upper section of the stair wall has been opened up in both rooms to shed borrowed light from the three lights of the top section of the stair window, set under the eaves on the half landing

Here, in the west room, the doorway to the first floor landing, can be seen, and also the cutaway section of the stair wall which is also chamfered back to maximize the amount of borrowed light thrown into the room.

As a small matter of interest, note the 'dolly blue' painted on the wall, commonly used to colour whitewash in the late 19th century.

Plate 48





Rear room west with borrowed light from the stair window

Plate 49

Below left is the view through the stair wall to the half landing. To the right, is the view from the half landing to the back room west. The cutaway section of the wall also extends up into the attic, lighting the latter at floor level.

Plate 50



Plate 51



The stair window has a heavy wooden lintel which stretches the width of the half landing. Visible above, a section of stone walling has been introduced to give a feeling of height to the landing space. The upright struts with evidence for horizontal laths, suggest a former plastered finish to the random rubble wall behind.

The rafters and battens in the attic space, and visible here behind the wall, appear to be relatively modern, and may suggest that both the attic and half landing ceiling were underdrawn against an earlier roof structure. Certainly the survey of 1911 describes the attics as 'under drawn'. (ref page 12)

Three light window on half landing

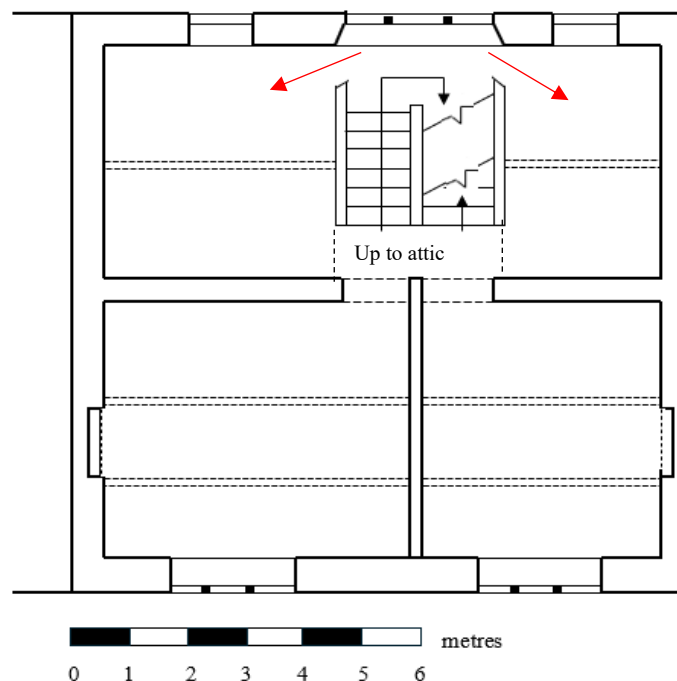
Rafters behind wall.

Plate 52



Below: First floor plan showing front and rear rooms, with detail of the half landing to the attic, and the three light window set under the eaves. Arrows indicate the direction of borrowed light.

First floor plan



9.5 Attic

Up from the final half landing a boxed in door to the attic has been retained, as has some boarding designed to create an enclosed stairwell. The boards are narrow in width, with beaded edges, and are stylistically datable to the late 19th/early 20th century. Note the minimalistic design of the balustrade at this level; square newel posts with no spindles

Attic door viewed from the half landing.

Enclosed stairwell viewed from the attic landing



Plate 53



Plate 54

Inner and outer faces of the door



Plate 55

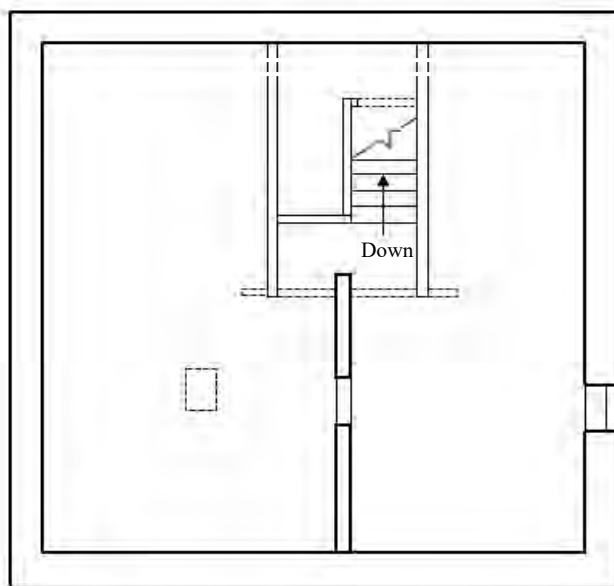


Plate 56

The attic is divided into two rooms by a random rubble built cross wall. The western room has a sky light, and the eastern, a boarded window in the east gable. A window sized aperture in the cross wall allows light to pass from one room to the other.

The entry points to each room are located either side of the cross wall. The doors and frames are missing, but the associated heavy wooden lintels remain in situ . There is no fill above the lintels which may suggest there was an opening above each door to maximise available borrowed light.

There are four evenly spaced joists either side of the ridge; none appears to be re used. Rafters and battens appear to be relatively modern. There is no evidence for an underdrawn ceiling, relating to the present roof structure, but as mentioned before, an earlier roof may have been underdrawn. Boards, as elsewhere, are wide and straight edged.



Attic plan

Fig. 20



Room east with small window, previously boarded. The frame, battens, one board and hinges remain.

Plates 57 and 58



*Room west. Cross wall with aperture.
Roof light on south slope.*



Plate 59

*Location of former doorway into west room
with lintel over, and open space above*

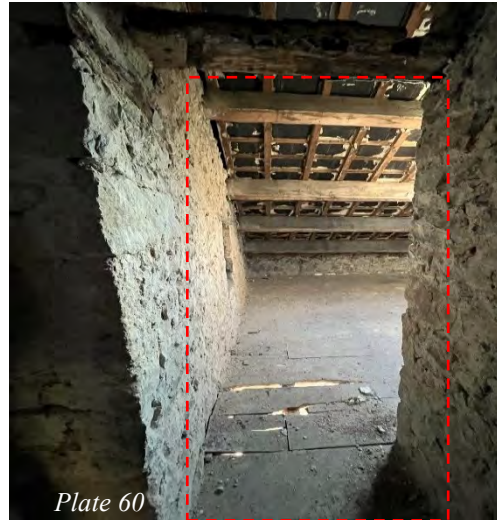


Plate 60

10.00 BARN: ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

10.1 Exterior

The barn is located at the western end of the range, and, as will be discussed, began life as free standing unit, comprising, from west to east, the standard arrangement of full height hay mew, cart bay and lofted byre.

Walls are of rubblestone terminating in alternate long and short corner quoins. A harled lime mortar finish, often termed ‘slobbered’ render, is still visible in places. Openings are for the most part similarly dressed with long and short quoins and with the exception of the cart entry, have simple stone lintels. Later repairs and replacements are evidenced by the use of monolithic jambs and cills, stylistically 19th century in date, and by 20th century brick reveals.

The original flagged roof is lost and has been replaced with corrugated mineral cement sheets with two lights on the rear elevation. Rainwater goods comprise 19th century cast iron down pipes to front and rear elevations.

South elevation



Plate 61

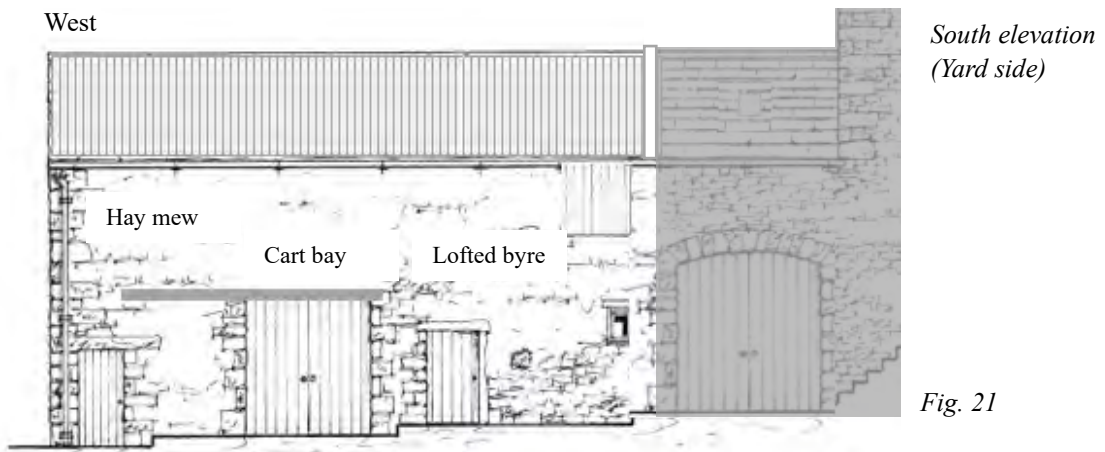


Fig. 21

Working from the west end of the building is first, the pedestrian entry into the hay mew from the yard. It has a plain stone lintel, long and short quoins, and a stone threshold.

Second: The arched entry to the cart bay which comprises a run of voussoirs with a reused timber inner lintel. The reveals are edged with long and short quoins, stylistically 18th century in date. The original double doors were replaced by a sliding door in the 20th century

Plate 62



Plate 63



Beyond, is the byre entry, a plank door with standard 19th/20th century ironmongery. Note the reveal to right is a later replacement, the original possibly having suffered from cattle damage.

Plates 64,65



Below, the red broken line denotes the end of the barn, where the random rubble of the barn meets the coursed and squared stone of the cart house to which it adjoins.



At the lower level is a small opening, too high at 140cm for a muck hole, but possibly designed/inserted to light the head end of the byre. It has a modern wooden lintel.

At the upper level is a forking hole from where hay could be offloaded from a cart onto the loft above the byre.

It is not an original feature, exhibiting simple monolithic jambs, possibly of concrete. It has a plank door.

Plate 66

East gable

The east elevation of the barn is only visible from inside the cart house where its rubblestone construction is clearly evident.

High in the eaves is a forking hole, with long and short quoins framing the reveal. It would have served as the original pitching eye when the barn was a free standing structure. Hay could be forked from the top of a highly laden cart directly onto the loft over the byre.

The adjoining cart house has a large arched entry, but not of a height which could accommodate a highly stacked cart. Presumably the forking hole on the south elevation of the barn was introduced at a later date allowing a cart to be stacked high and emptied from the yard and not from the narrow confines of the cart house.



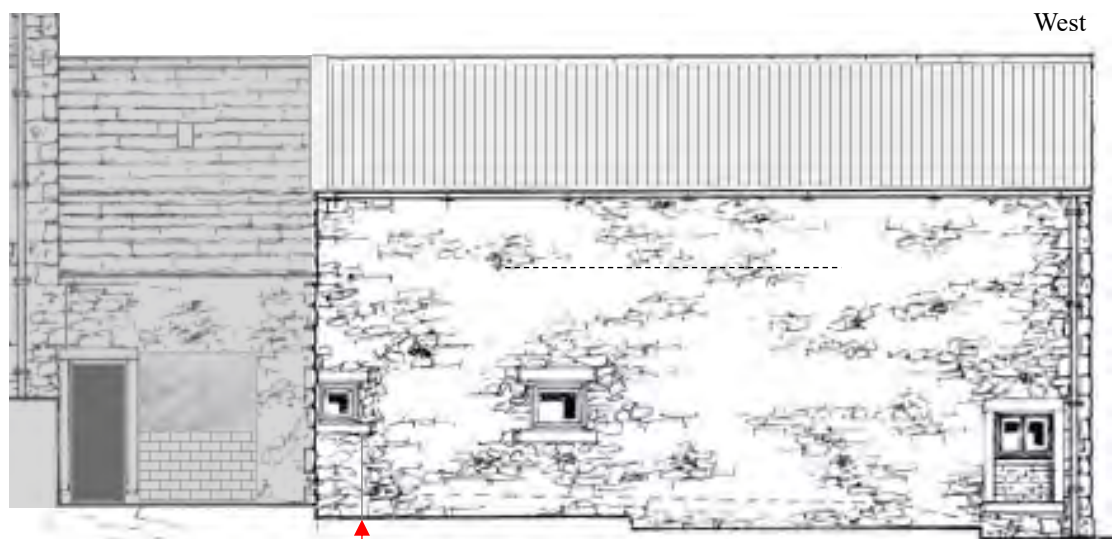
Plate 67

North elevation

Unlike the south elevation, the rear, exposed, field side elevation presents an uncompromising face to the north, broken only by occasional openings, all of which appear to have been altered.

A line of narrow masonry is visible along part of its length, which could be interpreted as an indicative of a lower roof line. Equally it may simply represent a levelling line in the masonry.

Plates 68, 69



Straight joint ?

Window, possible site of earlier muck hole

Window, with monolithic jambs, lintel and cill

Working from west to east is first, a large window with monolithic sandstone jambs, lintel and cill. Although stylistically 19th century in design it is remarkably unweathered considering its north facing location. It has been reduced in size with brick blocking. Although a doorway is frequently found in this location in a hay mew, there is no evidence for straight joints below the window to indicate the location of a former entry. Either the window was a later insertion or simply replaced a smaller aperture.

Adjacent to the window and close to the edge of the building is a good example of cast iron drain pipe with fittings.



Plate 70



Plate 71

A window located further east, now lighting the foot of the byre, is clearly an insertion, as evidenced by the brick surround. However it occupies the space at the foot of the byre where a small muck hole was traditionally located.

Tucked in beside the cart shed is, perhaps disputably, a former pedestrian entry, later blocked to form a window, in turn also blocked.

Plate 72



Plate

Plate 73



Query straight joint

West gable



Plate 74

Visible to the north is an area of clean stone where formerly a small single storey building adjoined the barn. It was roofless by 1907 (Ref OS map) Centrally placed on the west gable is an inserted window, sporting monolithic jambs, cill and lintel, now partially blocked.

10.2 Barn Interior

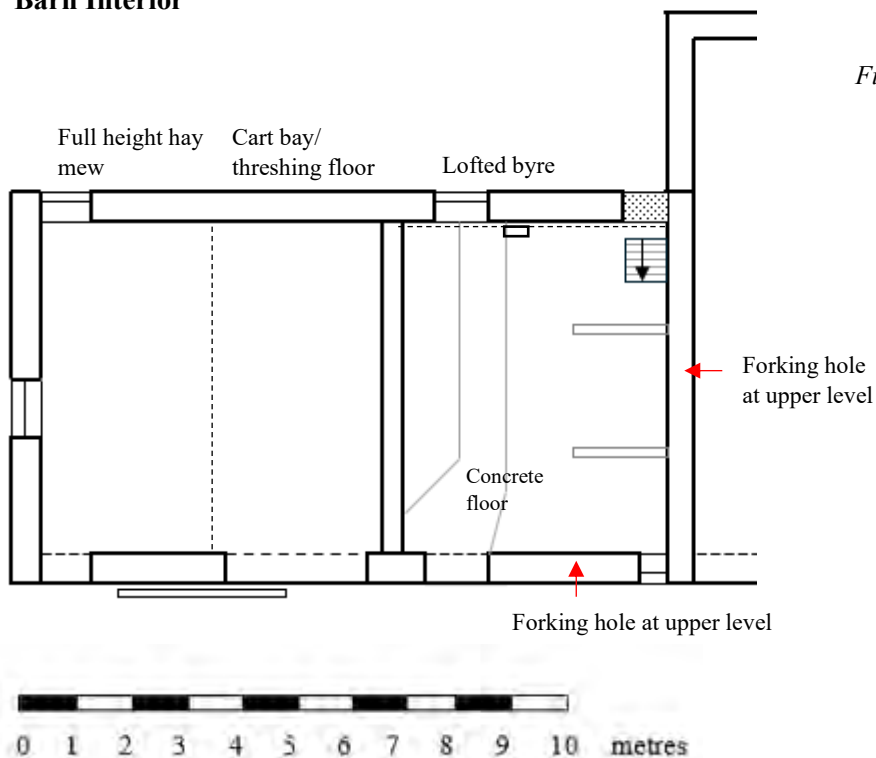


Fig. 23

The barn is of a plan form seen throughout the north of England from the 17th through to the 19th centuries, with full height hay mew, cart bay, and lofted byre. Sadly no original fixtures or fittings remain, although its layout is easily interpreted.

Full height hay mew

Traditionally the mew was used for hay storage, was open to the rafters and generally had an earth floor. The demarcation line between mew and cart bay was frequently little more than a line of stones a few centimetres high, set on edge, which served to protect the edge of the flagged cart bay floor.

Cart bay

The cart bay, also open to the rafters, traditionally had opposed entries, with one set of double doors higher than the other to allow a full laden cart in, and an empty one out. The through draft between opposed doors also allowed for use as a threshing if required. However, this was not always the case. The rear entry was often a single door, large enough to allow ingress and egress of horse and man. Others had no opposed doors, as in the case of Bridge End.

Today neither cart bay nor hay mew serves its original function, and the areas, now combined, form a large open space used for stabling. Cement render visible up to a height of 1.5 metres suggests that cattle were housed in the mew, when mid-century legislation required a clean environment re. animal welfare. Earlier, according to the 1911 survey, horses were stabled here.

The original floor remains unseen, and is presently covered with a form of non-slip matting.



Former mew and cart bay viewed from the pedestrian entry on the yard elevation.

To the right is the stone cross wall which separates the byre from the rest of the building. The open space above is the hay loft.

Plate 75



View looking towards the loft over the byre.

The three trusses, all of different construction are described further on page 45

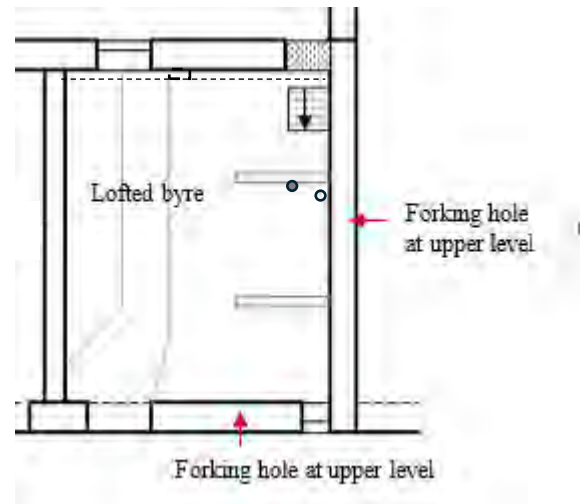
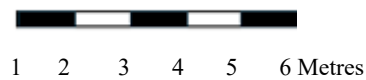
Plate 76

Lofted byre

The byre accommodated six cattle according to the 1911 survey. All original fittings were removed by the mid-20th century, and replaced with concrete stalls, cement rendered walls and a concrete floor.

There is no access through the cross wall to the cart bay and mew

Fig. 24



Today the byre is used for general storage, but the concrete stall partitions and the supporting metal end poles secured to the joists, are still in situ, as are the metal water holders serving each stall.

Modern open tread wooden steps lead up the open fronted loft, which is supported on heavy modern joists. The side trimmer, north, rests on a squared stone corbel, as it would have done originally. Historically, access to the loft was often via a Jacob's ladder.

The window to the north, is a later insertion, and as discussed on page 41, may be the location of an earlier muck hole. Also as described on page 41, the small blocked opening in the corner, is arguably the site of a pedestrian door reduced to a window.

The original loft floor has been replaced with chip board.



View across byre from cattle entry

Plate 77

Concrete stall with steel end poles, tethering bars, and water holders.



Plate 78

Trimmer beam lodged on stone corbel



Plate 79

The roof support, set under a modern cement sheeting, and best viewed from the loft, comprises three trusses all of a different construction.

The truss in the foreground is classed as a principal rafter truss with collar and struts, although it is now missing a strut. It is numbered 11, suggesting it is not in its original position. Its location at the end of a run of three trusses should number 1 or 111.

Roof trusses viewed from the east

Plate 80



The roman numeral, 11, is neatly chiselled into the wood, suggesting it is 17th or 18th century in date. A shallower, less precise mark as created by a rase knife, would suggest an earlier 16th century date.



Plate 81

The central principal rafter truss, with collar and stub tenon, is a more modern construction, with component parts nailed together.

The third truss is of king post construction, with curved principals set into the head of the post and secured with wooden pegs. The king post itself is pegged to the tie beam. Two struts, one of which is missing, rise from post to principal rafters. It is too abraded to reveal any numbering.

That the two end trusses are different in construction, may suggest either that one or the other came from elsewhere, or, alternatively, considering the span of both matches the width of the barn, that one came from an earlier incarnation of the building.

Second and third roof trusses viewed from the east

Plate 82



Head of king post with slightly cambered principal rafters

Plate 83



11.0 CART HOUSE: ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

11.1 Exterior

The cart house is sandwiched between barn and house, and is coeval with the latter, although located at the lower yard level. An examination of the fabric indicates there is no break in the coursing between farmhouse and cart house. Its front elevation is of squared and coursed stone identical to that of the house, - very unlike the rubblestone of the barn.

It extends to the full depth of the farmhouse, but with a roof level at barn height.

Roof cover, north and south, is of stone slate set in diminishing courses.

It is accessed from the front of the house by a set of stone steps. To the rear, a stone revetment set into the hillside marks the fall in land between house and cart shed. Immediately adjacent to the revetment is the rear access to the cart shed.

Below left: Entry to cart shed viewed from across the fold. yard. To right: Squared and coursed masonry of the cart house, with harled random rubble of the barn to left



Plate 84



Plate 85

Stone steps leading up to farmhouse and garden on the middle level.

Plate 86



Rear, with banking and revetted wall designed to accommodate the fall of the land. Rubblestone to rear elevation as farmhouse, with long and short corner quoins

Plates 87, 88



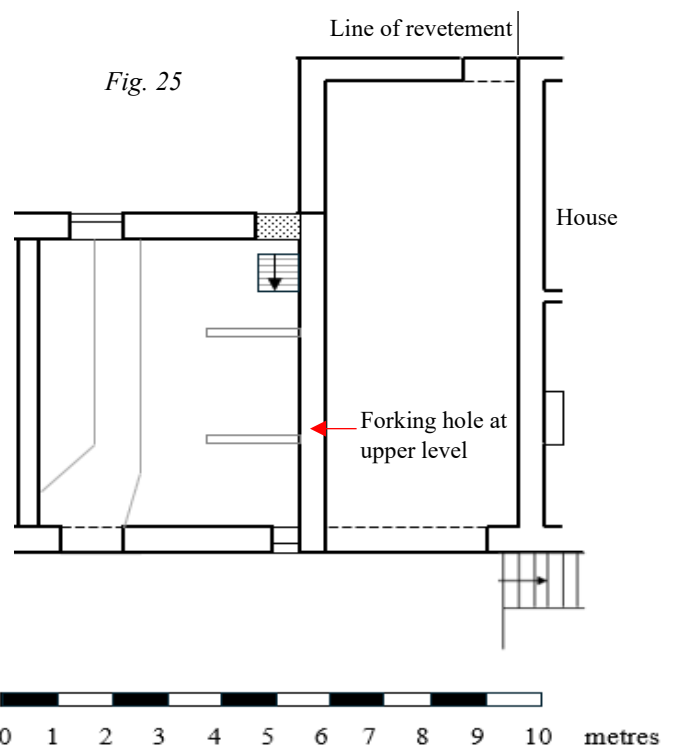
11.2 Interior

The interior, reflecting the height of the barn and the depth of the house, results in a rather awkward, but very high, narrow space, with a long cat slide roof to the rear. It is open to the rafters and bears no evidence for being lofted over. It is lit by a small light on the rear slope of the roof. The floor is cobbled and laid north south.

Never designed as animal housing, it has always served as a cart house and possibly as a workshop or store.



Plate 89



With the exception of a small, plank-lined cupboard with double doors located to the west, the walls are devoid of features.

Cupboard

Plate 90



Cobble floor

Plate 91



12.0 Fold yard and associated buildings

Although the fold yard and associated buildings are outside the remit of this survey, they are discussed below to complement the known history of the site. Also they are structures which lie within the curtilage of the listed farmhouse

Yard viewed from the west

Plate 92



The yard has partially been laid to concrete although cobbles are visible, laid east west, and may well extend underneath the modern cover.



Plate 93

Two single storey buildings form the southern curtilage of the yard, the rear elevations set hard against the track.



Plate 94

Byre and pig sty viewed from the track side

Plate 95



The building set against the garden wall is a small byre comprising two cattle stalls, possibly to house either calves or sick animals. The cement render walls and a stall divider of concrete suggests this was used as such, certainly during the 20th century.

The second has a cobbled floor and may have served as a pigsty. The rear wall of this unit has three recesses reminiscent of hen holes. It may have been lofted originally..

The National Farm Survey 1941-3 refers to poultry, a pig and a goat, yard stock common to all farmsteads in the 18th 19th and early 20th centuries.

13.0 CONCLUSION

Bridge End farm was a smallholding of only 37 acres at the time of the tithe apportionment of 1844. By 1861, ref census returns, it had dropped to 21 acres, before rising back to 37 acres by the middle of the 20th century.

It was described in 1844 as comprising 'House, Outbuildings, Fold yard and Plantation, two Cottages and a Field barn with croft known as *Fober*'. The site layout evident today is consistent with that shown on historic maps, with house and main working buildings forming a modest range fronted by a small yard, and in the case of the house, a garden. One 'cottage' was located to the south east of the yard, the other close to the track end on Wood House Lane. Neither exists today.

However at some point predating known historic maps, the arrangement would appear to have been different. Evidence would suggest that the barn was a free standing entity before the house and cart house were built in the late 18th or early 19th century.

The possibility must be considered that the domestic building located to the south of the barn may have constituted the main dwelling, perhaps demoted to 'cottage' when the new house and cart house were built. Alternatively, the present farmhouse may have replaced an older residence on a similar footprint. It must be noted, however, that although there is evidence for the reuse of old timber to create door lintels, there is no older masonry eg stone mullioned windows, or parts thereof, incorporated in the present house as is sometimes the case.

Possibly originating as a loose arrangement of buildings down by the beck, the site appears to have been redesigned, in the late 18th/early 19th century, with the landowner of the time making a considered decision to landscape the ground over three terraces to comfortably accommodate house and buildings on land which rose moderately steeply from west to east.

The working buildings and yard were set on the lowest level, adjacent to the beck, the house and garden on the middle terrace, and an orchard or shelter bed of trees, on the upper level. The main buildings faced south with their backs to rising ground to the north. The yard and lesser buildings which form the yard's south curtilage were sheltered by the high revetted garden wall to the east, and to the south by the track, behind which yard and smaller structures were hunkered down.

It is interesting to note that the property was not held by the main landowners, the King-Wilkinson family at this period, but according to the census returns of 1851 and 61, by a Thomas Hargreaves, classed as 'landed proprietor' living at Bridge End with his brother John, 'a farmer of 21 acres'. It is possible that either he, or his family, had seen the holding as an investment opportunity, and earlier in the century set about remodelling the site. It is a matter of conjecture

as to whether the house was constructed to portray a degree of 'gentility' in order to attract a better class of tenant, or simply a family of middling means endeavouring to establish itself.

Its symmetry of design is of the period when thought was given to simplicity and functionality combined with an aesthetic consideration of presentation. Uniformity in design resulted in well-proportioned, functional structures, which were aesthetically pleasing to the eye, both inside and out.

The farmhouse at Bridge End meets all these criteria. Most notably, the design of the stair well which facilitates the management of borrowed light via the stair window - not only to landings and half landings - but also serves to illuminate the rear rooms at both first floor and attic, is a clever concept. The design of the stair window is both functional and aesthetically very pleasing.

The building has been stripped down to its bare bones to reveal its symmetry of design, but unfortunately, in the process, has lost the finer details which would have put flesh on those bones.

It is described variously in the 1911 and 1939 surveys as being in a poor state of repair, possibly due to the fact that the tenant was responsible for the upkeep. A hundred year period saw four owners and six tenants, and it is quite reasonable to assume that over time it became more and more unmanageable, and by the turn of the century required serious repair.

A large house, it followed the standard arrangement which saw service end and stairs located to the rear at ground floor level, with 'reception' rooms to the front. On the first floor were four large rooms, two of which were heated, and an attic space, formerly ceiled over, to provide two further serviceable rooms. This might have suited Thomas Hargreaves and his brother John and family but for future tenants, none of whom, according to the census returns, had large families, it appears to have been something of a burden. By the 20th century it had become seriously neglected.

2025

Apart from two walls at first floor level all have been stripped of plaster, and ceilings removed throughout. Any cornicing detail or skirting boards have been lost.

The front door is original. All others, apart from an early 20th century door to the attic, have been removed, including frames. The present owner states that they were all 'of a 60's design'. All fireplaces with the exception of that in the housebody are missing.

The pantry floor has been dismantled and the shelving lost. The removal of plaster throughout has eliminated all evidence of fixtures and fittings.

Windows are as described in the body of the text. All follow the original design, although those on the ground floor on the rear elevation have been unsympathetically glazed.

Floors still retain wide square edged boards, whilst others at ground floor level, the original flags.

The stair well at attic level has been boxed in with narrow boards, possibly in the early 20th century. The staircase, with stick balusters and plain newel posts, may be original.

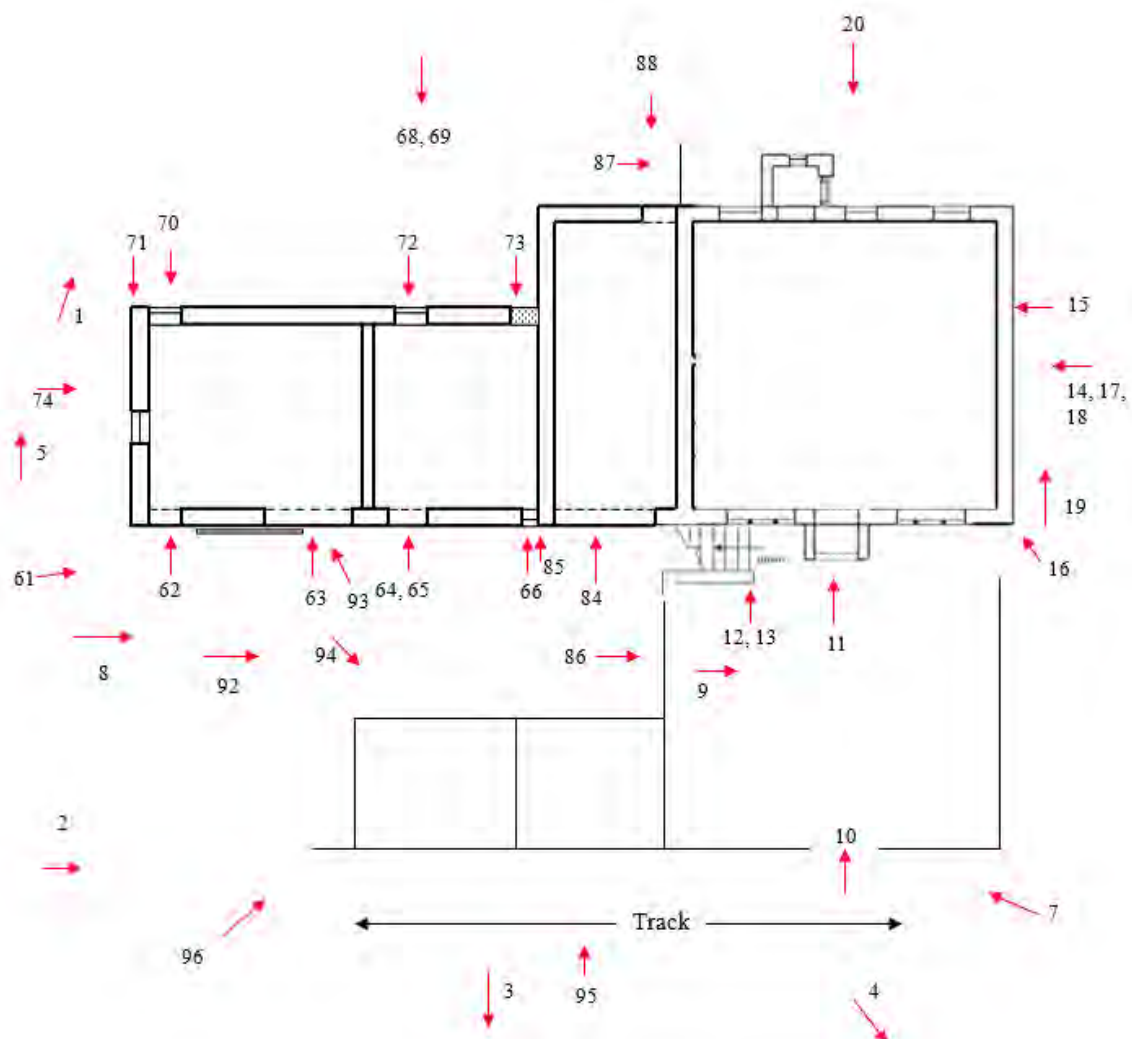
Externally the stone steps accessing the former orchard/ shelter bed, have been removed.

In conclusion, it is clear the building has suffered over the years due to lack of repairs and maintenance, possibly due to the cost of upkeep. Observation would suggest that the post war period generally saw an upsurge in attempts at modernisation, with traditional, but outmoded fixtures and fittings supplanted by more convenient, cleaner and more easy to use options. Caught up in this spirit of ‘renewal’, it could be suggested that at Bridge End original doors and fireplaces were already lost by the mid-20th century.

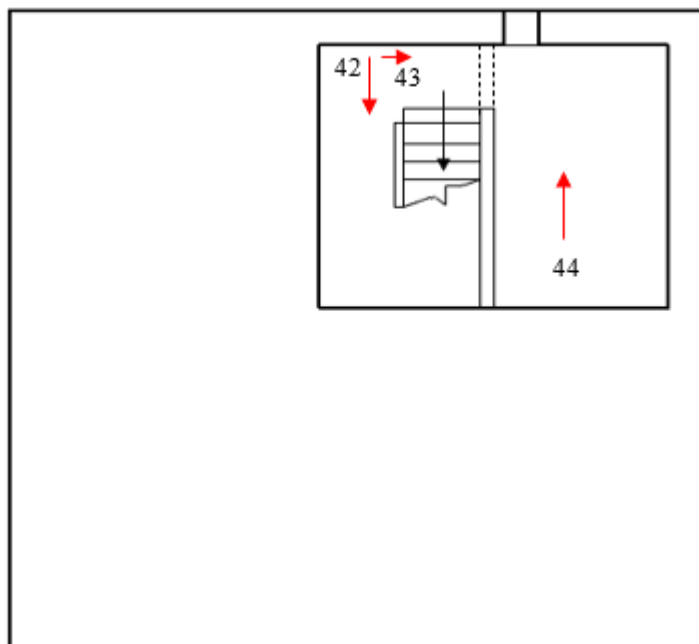
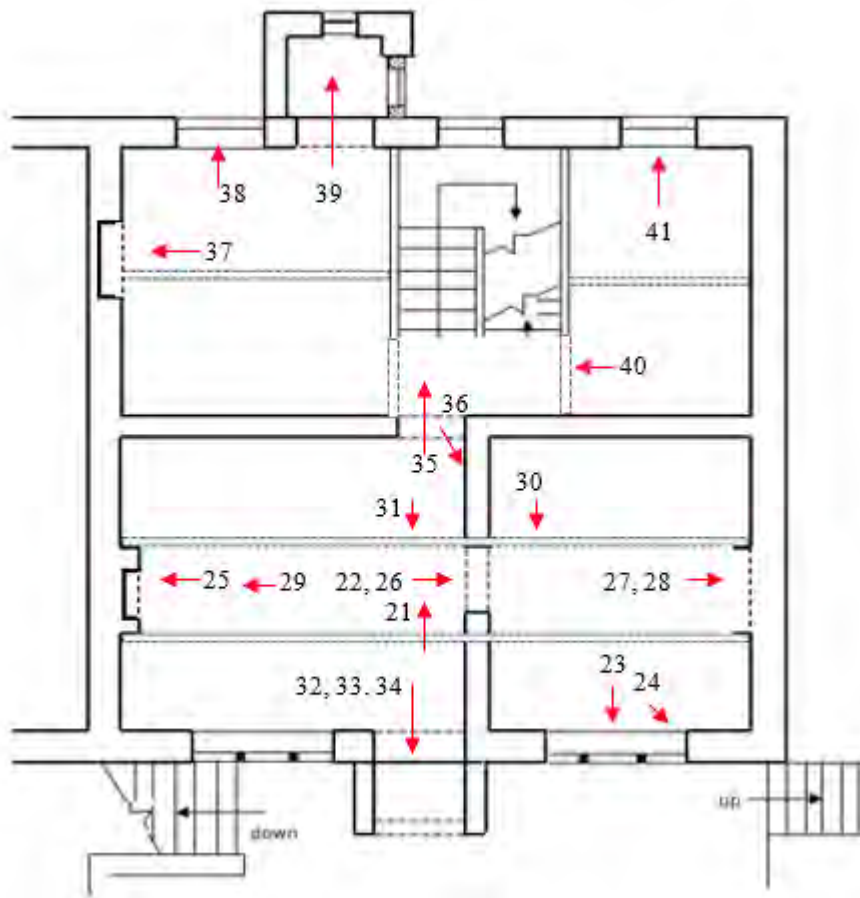
However the basic building blocks are sound and the historical integrity not completely compromised.

14.0 PHOTOGRAPHIC REFERENCE POINTS

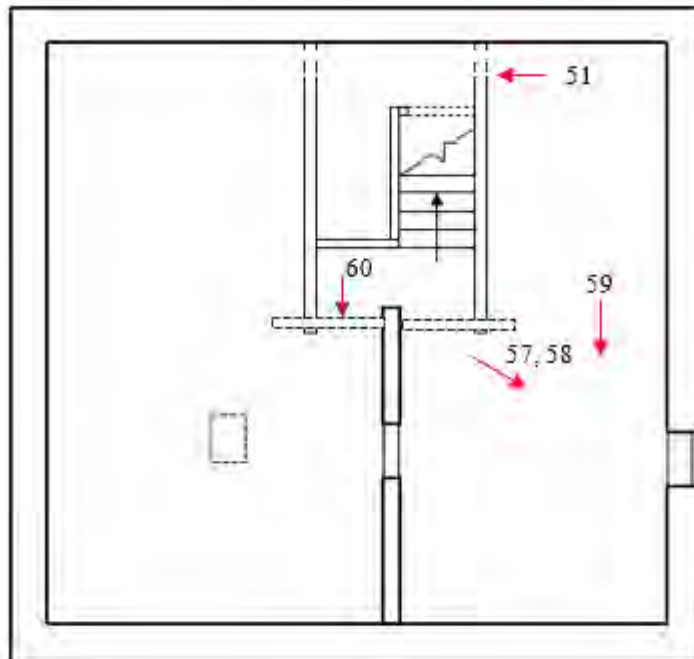
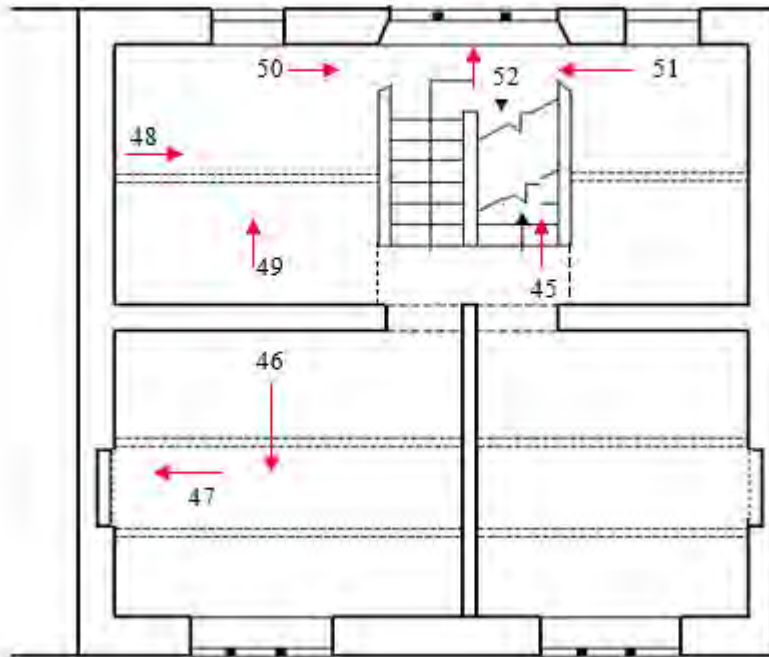
Exterior: House and outbuildings



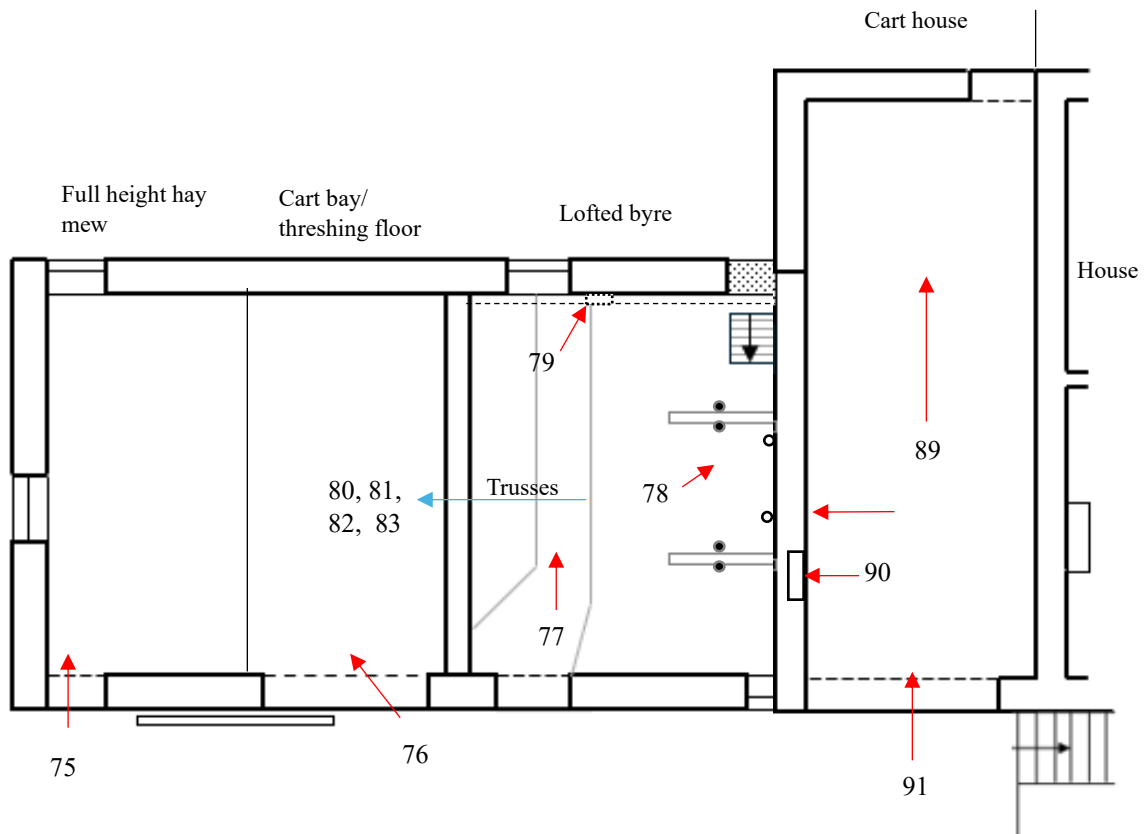
Interior: Ground floor and cellar



Interior: First floor and attic



Interior: Barn and cart house



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