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Project Code: KKM03

Kelton Mill Kennels, Threave : Historic Buildings Recording.

Andrew Dutton

HISTORIC BUILDINGS RECORDING

KELTON MILL KENNELS

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET (KKM 03)

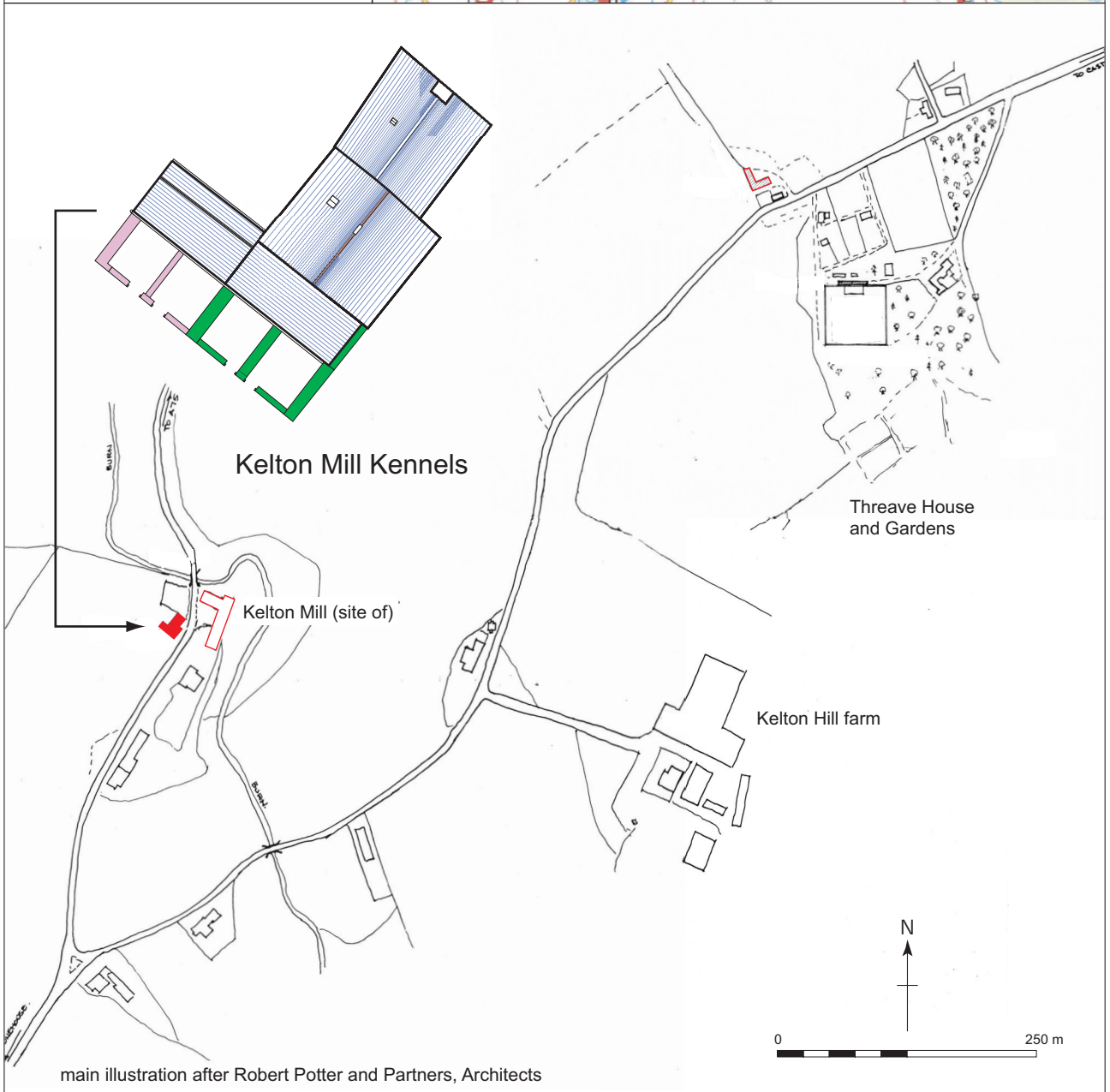
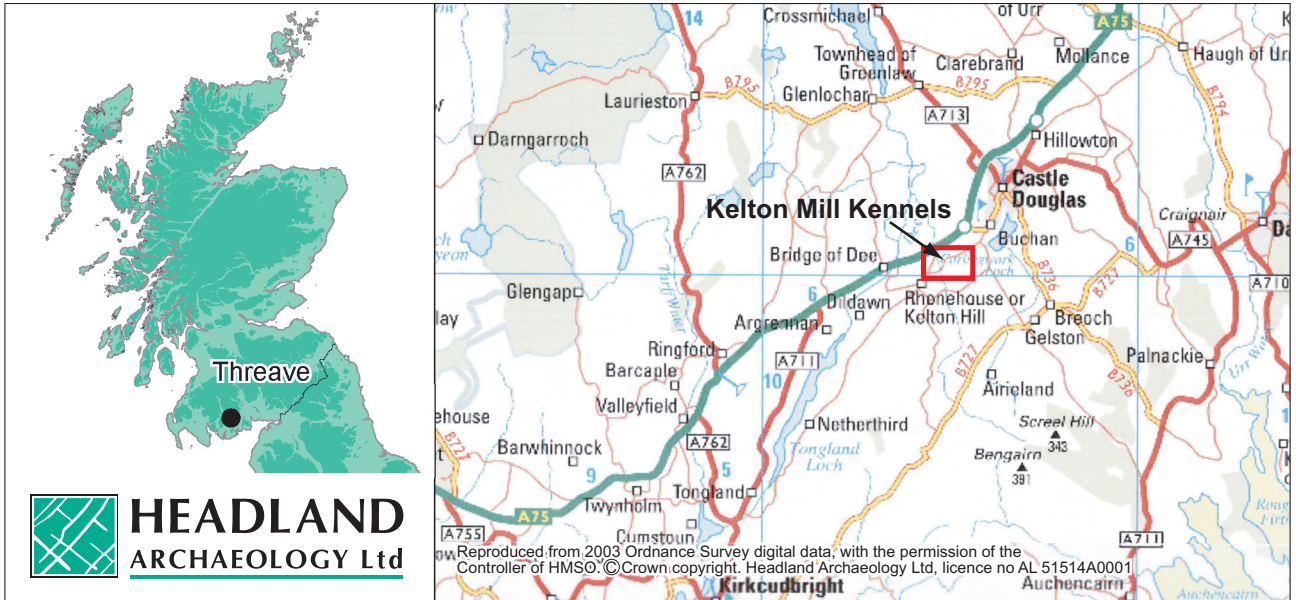
<i>Client</i>	National Trust for Scotland
<i>National Grid Reference</i>	NX 74535 60308
<i>Project Manager</i>	Tim Holden
<i>Text</i>	Andrew Dutton
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<i>Survey Team</i>	Andrew Dutton Ross Murray
<i>Schedule</i>	
<i>Fieldwork</i>	5 th January – 9 th January 2004
<i>Report</i>	February 2004

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Kelton Mill Kennels, Threave : Figure 1. - site location.

Summary

This report seeks to record and examine the configuration and structural development of a multi-phase subsidiary building known as The Kennels, associated with and adjacent to the former Kelton Mill within the Threave Estate, Galloway. The structure and the area are regarded as being of archaeological and historical significance. The National Trust for Scotland intends to carry out targeted remedial work on the structure as part of an ongoing policy to conserve significant buildings that survive within the Threave historic landscape. Accordingly a programme of limited archaeological recording was undertaken to enable an adequate level of structural information to be recovered prior to scheduled repair work and to assist in the interpretation and future management of the building.

The complex comprises four interdependent structures each representing a major phase of construction. A number of other structural changes were recorded during the course of the building survey although on the present available evidence a chronology of events is necessarily speculative.

The surviving remains are that of a two-storey, split level structure built against a natural slope. On the southwest side a series of four kennel enclosures have been added at ground level. On the opposite side a smaller one and a half storey structure has been appended on a similar alignment. The remains are semi-derelict although the central building has been recently re-roofed.

1. Introduction

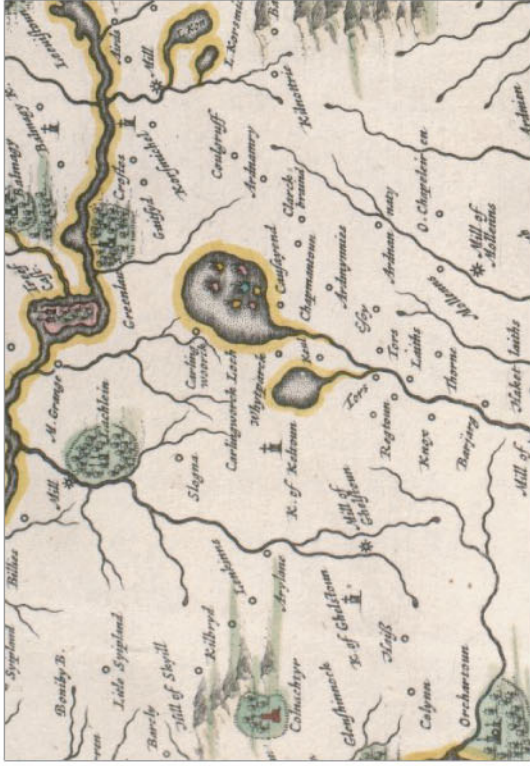
The works described here were commissioned and funded by the National Trust for Scotland to enable Headland Archaeology to undertake archaeological recording works – (Historic Building Survey **Level 2** RCHME 1996) - The objective of the proposed archaeological work was to provide a record of the buildings to inform on relevant aspects of construction and original materials used in their construction and further enhance the understanding of the building. All archaeological work conformed to a submitted Written Scheme of Works approved by the National Trust for Scotland.

2. Methodology

The structure was investigated by two members of Headland Staff between Monday January 5th and Friday January 9th 2004. Recording comprised annotation and amendments to existing architect's plans at scale 1:50 supplemented by a limited written description of particular features of merit. Existing architect's plans and elevations were checked to ensure their suitability and these were subsequently enhanced with structural detail. Two sections through the building were produced to illustrate the varying arrangement of the roof assembly, openings and other features. In addition a full record of the existing roof plan was made to identify individual timbers. Additional survey data was obtained through a combination of hand and electronic (REDM and Disto) measurement. The survey was supplemented by a cross-referenced digital and colour slide photographic record.

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

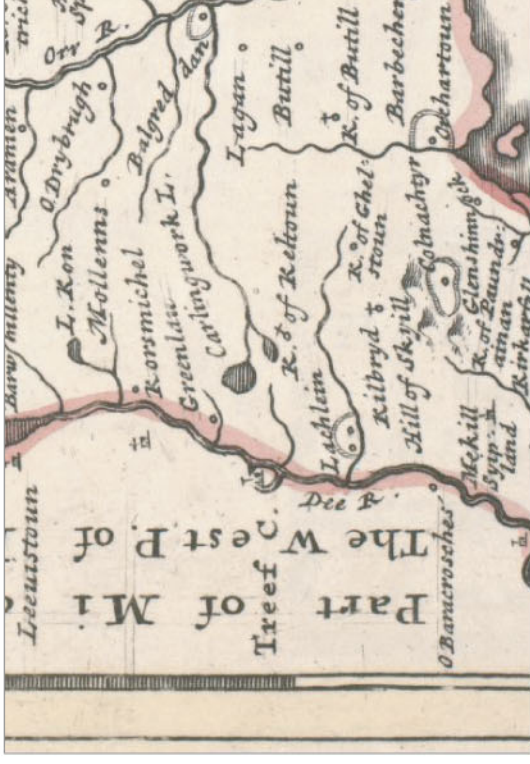
Kelton Mill Kennels are located on the west side of the modern road opposite the former Kelton Mill at NX 74535 60308. (Figure 1) The Mill is a two and three storey L-plan structure formerly accommodating a grain dryer and the present structure is dated to the early part of the 19th century. The Kennels are so called because of the four purpose-built kennels and runs that are appended to the south side of an existing structure on the site. The structures are bi-level and situated on the west side of the modern road.



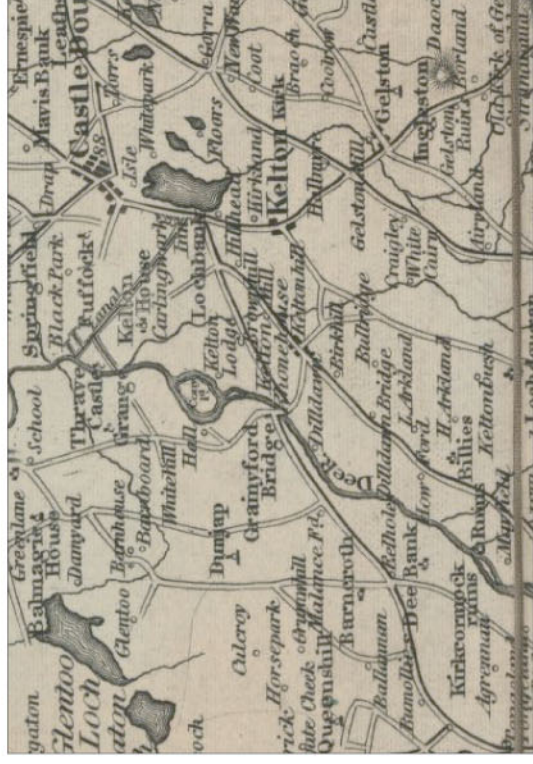
Blau 1673



Thomson 1821



Moll 1732



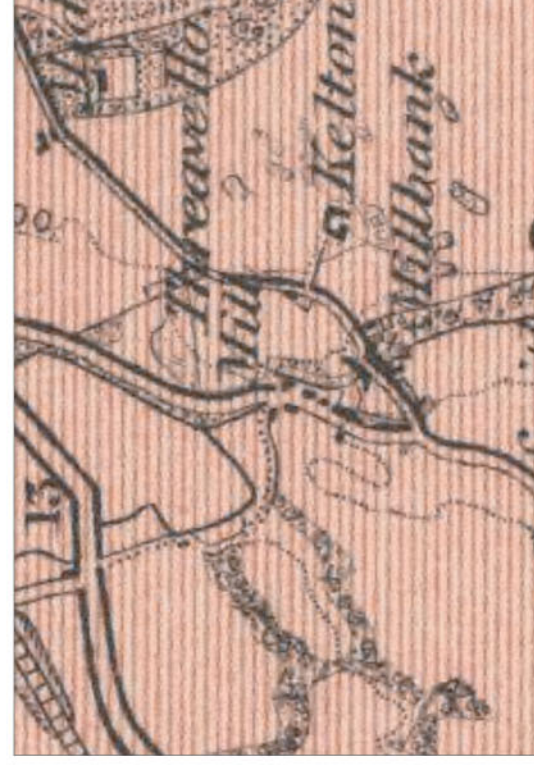
Ainslie 1821



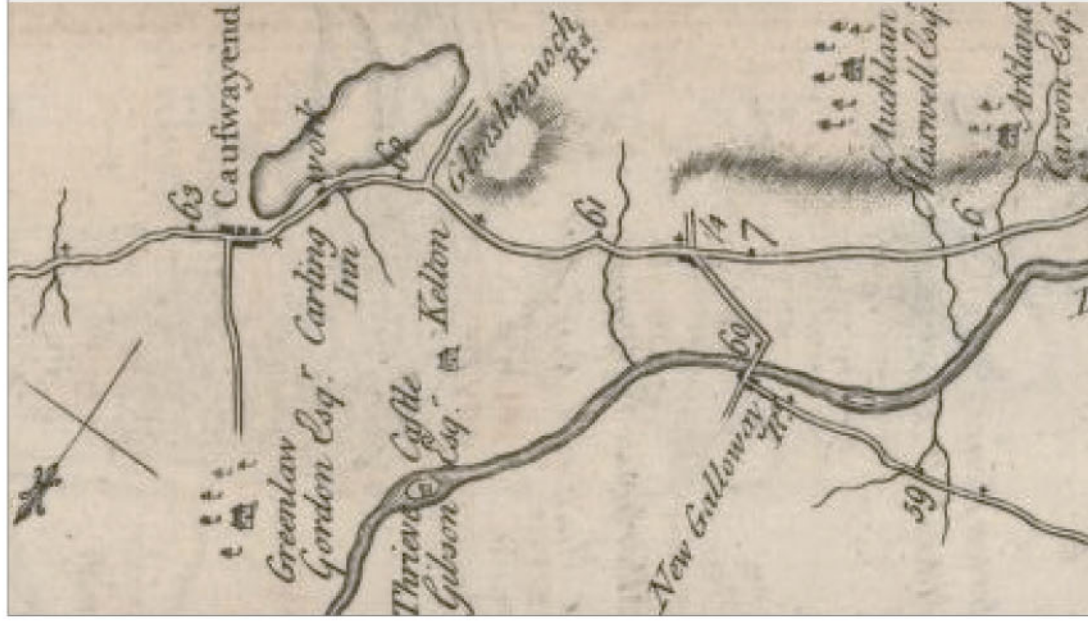
Ainslie 1821



OS 1st Edition 1853



OS 1898 1 inch



Skinner 1776

Kelton is first recorded as *Cheleton* in the late 12th century and is an Anglian name combining Scandinavian *celf* and Anglo-Saxon *tun* – hence Celf-tun or calf -enclosure (Brook 1991, Dorward 1995). The name was subsequently applied to the medieval church and parish as well as a number of more discrete houses or granges within the estate. Threave, formerly recorded as Trief in 1442 (from Welsh - *Y Dref* – homestead, or township) was one such grange and latterly a separate estate.

Early cartographic references (*Figure 2*) to Kelton Kirk appear on Blaeu's map of 1673 a motif repeated by Moll in 1732. Skinner and Taylor's road map appears to locate Kelton Lodge in 1776 and a mill, Kelton Mill, is shown for the first by Ainslie in 1797 although it is unclear which of the structures indicated may be the mill or indeed on which side of the river it might have stood. However two structures are shown on the left bank and west of the road and it is possible that these are those shown on the First Edition Ordnance Map pertaining to the flax mill and the barn on the Kennel's site. Thomson's map of 1821 appears to show the location of a single building on the west bank of the river above the road but no structures on the opposite side.

4.0 Results

4.1 Structural components

The existing complex can be divided into four principal parts, the central of these is Building **A**, being two-storied and rectangular in plan. Building **B** abuts the north side of Building **A** and is a 1½ storey structure comprising a ground floor and loft. Both roof spaces are composed of simple A-frame trusses (*Figure 3*). The four kennels, Buildings **C** and **D**, form the south side of the complex; they are of two distinct phases of construction, Building **C** being the earlier abutting the south side of Building **B** under a lean-to roof with a further two added under separate roof (*Figure 4*).

4.2 Materials

True to the local building tradition Buildings **A** and **B** are built of rubble masonry, brought to level and, bonded with a lime mortar. Out and in-bond rubble squared quoins define building corners and some doorways; the remainder of openings have rubble margins and stone lintels are common throughout.

A part of the kennels, Building **D** was the only place where any dressed sandstone blocks were used; these are copestones overlying cement bonded brick walls. Brick is also used extensively in the later phase kennel Building **D**.

All exterior and most interior walls are lime-washed (*i.e. Plates 5 and 7*); Lime-wash on exterior surfaces shows differential survival and is completely absent across some interior locations (see below). In some places the lime-wash may conceal evidence of later plaster pointing.

Although each of the roofs is slated there is variation between the colour and therefore the likely source of material between Buildings **A**, **C** and **D** and that of Building **B**. The former are covered by a uniform dark blue slate whereas the latter is covered with a predominantly purple slate. The slates are single nailed to the underlying sarking and laid in diminishing courses. The slates appear to be of Lake District or possibly Scottish type (Hume 1976, Naismith 1989). Buildings **A** and **D** are capped with sandstone ridge tiles whereas Building **B** has ceramic ones (*Plates 1 and 2*).

Within Buildings **A** and **B** the floor surfaces at ground level in Rooms 1 and 3 respectively, consisted of cobble and brick. Cobbles were present within the areas subdivided by stalls or trevises. Outside of

the stalls are cobbled areas and in the case of Building A drainage channels were edged with brick (*Plate 7*).

The original upper floor of Building A, Room 2 was of single planks laid across floor joists inserted into the walls. The existing floorboards are very rotten and supplemental timbers have been laid in places in order to make it safe. The surviving floor is now reinforced from below by rough timbers supporting planking beneath the joists (*Plates 7 and 8*).

Building B has a floor laid directly onto the tie beams of the A-frame trusses. This upper floor is in fact a loft originally accessed by ladder from within (*Figure 3, Plates 12 and 13*).

All existing doors are of wood; these are probably original and are simple board type, framed-and-lined with a protecting verge along the bottom. The width of the boards suggests a nineteenth century date (Fenton and Walker 1981).

4.3 Construction

Building A (*Figure 4*)

Structurally Building A is the only true two storey building within the complex; the ground floor Room 1, is accessed via a doorway on the west side in which there is also a splayed window. The door has a decorative light constructed in its upper part and the window is unglazed with vertical slats. There are no openings in the upper floor elevation (*Plate 5*).

Internally the space is divided up into four stalls defined by wooden trevises of an apparently single pattern. The spaces are further defined by the cobble and brick floor surfaces and the T-shape floor drain; cobbles are confined to within the stalls (*Plate 7*).

In the east internal wall traces of a blocked opening can be seen; it has ill defined rubble margins and there is no evidence of a lintel or sill. Given its location in the centre of a side wall it is very unlikely to be a fireplace. Given that the modern ground surface is at first floor level the true purpose of this feature remains enigmatic.

Modern additions are the provision of rough lumber supports for the floor joists of Room 2 above.

The upper floor of Building A, Room 2, is entered through a doorway at modern road level on the east side with a blocked window opening in the same elevation (*Plate 1*). Internally the space is open to the rafters.

There is good evidence for coursing within the masonry here due to the limewash having been largely removed and the pointing subsequently raked out. Particularly noticeable is the difference between coursing at the continuous wall head level and that of the south gable (*Plate 10*). The lack of surviving limewash may in part be due to weathering from when the roof was previously derelict.

The present roof construction is not original the whole having been re-roofed recently. It is of typical A-frame type consistent with the original fabric of the building but of entirely new materials utilising the original wall head (*Plate 9*). There is a ceramic roof vent central to the ridge and a two pane single light in the west side of the slated roof.

The poor condition of the floor boards is also likely to be due to water introduced via a previously leaking roof.

Building B (*Figure 4*)

Building **B** is not an independent structure and abuts the north side of Building **A**, although there is no inter-access between them (*Plate 2*). The unequal configuration of Buildings **A** and **B** in plan may be due to the presence of the underlying bedrock; bedrock is present immediately under the north wall of Building **B**, Room 3, and seems to directly underlie the made floor surfaces on that side.

Building **B** is entered by a single doorway at the north-west corner although no original door or frame survives (*Plate 3*). There is a single splayed window opening in the north wall.

The existing floor space is subdivided into two stalls, like those in Building **A** defined by trevices and cobbling, along the south wall. The north part of the room is, at least at present, an open space. The floor, where it survives, is composed of brick and quarry tile. The quarry tile appears to be a later repair to an already damaged surface but is confined to the east side of the room.

Building **B** is peculiar in that it has a chimney gable at the north end. The chimney stack is now missing but evidence for a hearth may be seen within the masonry. A small flue is visible in the lower wall face within a triangular archway flush with the wall face.

The loft, Room 4, is accessed via an open trap adjacent to the window, originally by ladder (*Plate 12*). The loft floor is laid directly onto the tie beams of the A-frame trusses but has an additional single course of angled planking spanning floorboards to sarking, thus effectively creating a distinct compartment within the loft space. The east side of the loft floor incorporates a wooden chute constructed between two of the trusses (*Plate 13*). The chute angles toward the face where it terminates. There is some evidence in the external wall face to suggest that the chute originally extended beyond its present limits.

The internal gables of the loft space are completely free of lime-wash and the original rubble masonry can be seen. Clearly lime-wash was never applied here (*Plate 14*).

The variation in floor level between Buildings **A** and **B** is probably due simply to the relative proximity of the underlying bedrock.

Building C (*Figure 4*)

Building **C** appears to be butted against the south side of Building **A**. In plan it is of similar overall dimension to Building **A**, with which it may be directly contemporary. Building **C** comprises two kennels fronted by open runs. The masonry is coursed rubble; walls sub-dividing the kennel and run compartments are butted. The front walls are of brick; front walls and dividing walls are surmounted by spiked iron railings. Entry is by way of an iron gate.

The kennels are covered by a single pitch slate roof composed of sarking overlying single rafters. The rafters are attached to a weather board bonded into the gable wall face of Building **A**.

Building D (*Figure 4*)

Building **D** is effectively a westward extension of Building **C**. It consists of an additional two kennels and runs that in plan closely resemble those to which they are appended. The most distinctive features however are the prevalence of brick used in its construction and the necessity to provide an independent twin-pitched roof for the kennels. The roof comprises two common rafters of unequal length with a collar beam mounted directly onto the wall head. Above, sarking and slates are attached directly.

Other features peculiar to Building **D** are the sandstone coping stones above the front brick wall and the looped railings (*Plate 16*).

Existing floor surfaces throughout the kennel runs are of concrete; within the kennels themselves floors are of laid bricks with repairs of dressed cobblestone.

The remnants of roofing felt lining the rafters in some of the kennels suggest that they were in use until quite recently.

5. Phasing and Discussion (*Figure 4*)

The survey was able to identify four major phases of construction within which other minor changes seem to have occurred. However, on the present evidence it is not possible to offer a definitive chronology of events. A probable sequence is offered on the based on the available evidence.

Building **A** can confidently be described as the earliest structure on the site but it is less easy to sequence the next phase of development. As suggested above Buildings **A** and **C** form a relatively uniform rectangular ground plan and share the same level ground. Building **B**, was latterly a byre but whatever its original function would probably have been located to the south of Building **A** had that ground been available (*Figure 4*). The fact that Building **B** does not conform to the same regular plan as Building **A** might indicate that its final form was constrained by the underlying bedrock and that its location in close proximity to Kelton Mill is of some significance.

The ground floors of Buildings **A** and **B**, Rooms 1 and 3 respectively, have been used as byres, the height of the surviving trevices suggests that they were for cattle and not horses. The similarity of the floor materials - cobble and brick – suggests that they may be contemporary surfaces. The bricks are of late, 20th century type.

The loft, Room 4 Building **B**, was perhaps a grain store with access to the chute through the wall face, subsequently blocked (*Plate 13*). If this were so then an earlier ground surface or passage may exist below that of the modern ground surface. Similarly the blocking seen in the east wall of Room 1 Building **A** may once have provided some form of access to the of the building exterior. Correspondingly, entry into Room 2 at the existing ground level may not be an original feature of the building.

The north gable of Building **B** contains the only evidence of there having been a hearth in any of the buildings; the location of an opening for a narrow flue in the north wall suggests an original corner location (*Plate 11*). No hearth survives but it seems improbable that the original purpose of Building **B**, provided with a chimney and hearth is conducive to its latter use as a byre. The chimney is now missing and it may have been demolished when the hearth was no longer in use.

In many circumstances the presence of a hearth may be indicative of a dwelling, but as Building **B** is demonstrably later than Building **A** this seems unlikely. The narrow angled flue, an indicator of strong drafting, may indicate the former presence of a small forge. Given the fire risk such a function is not easily reconciled with the loft space above and so these features are unlikely to be contemporary.

The kennels, Building **C**, appear to have been an intentionally well-integrated part of the building complex and the extension, Building **D**, imitates the appearance of the former. Two brick types can be seen in the construction of the kennels. A coarse brown brick fronts the older Building **C** whereas finer red clay bricks have been used in Building **D** (*Plate 16*). No formal study of the kennels history has been undertaken but they may have once housed hunting dogs.

Although it is clear that the function of the two principal Buildings **A** and **B** has varied since their construction no associative research has been possible within the scope of the present work.

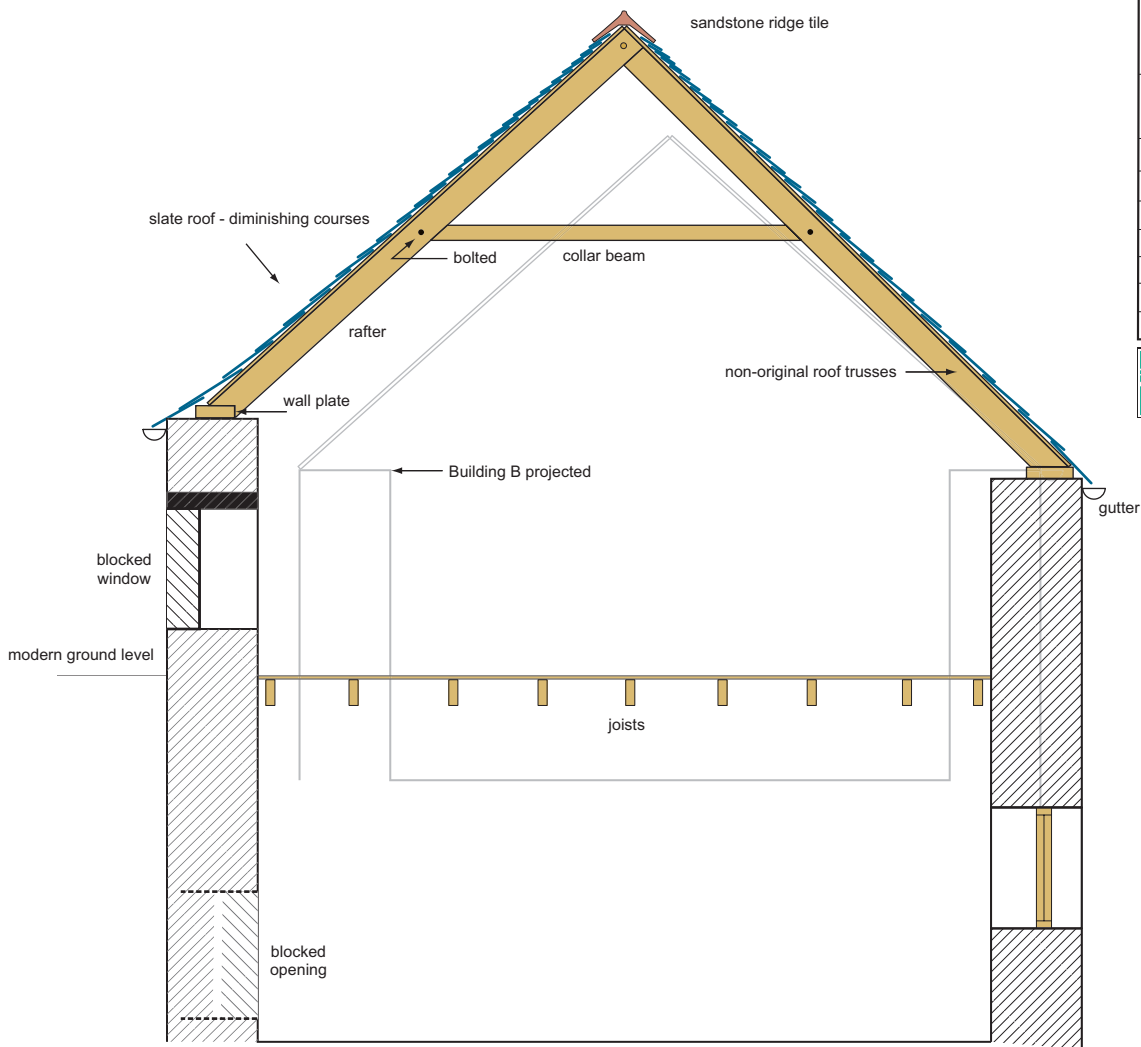
Interestingly, a *Flax Mill* is recorded at approximately the location of the buildings that are the subject of this report on the 1853 Ordnance Map although the annotation probably refers to another building, since demolished, shown close by the river just to the north. It is more likely that the core of the existing buildings is that of a barn or loft-byre.

6. Recommendations

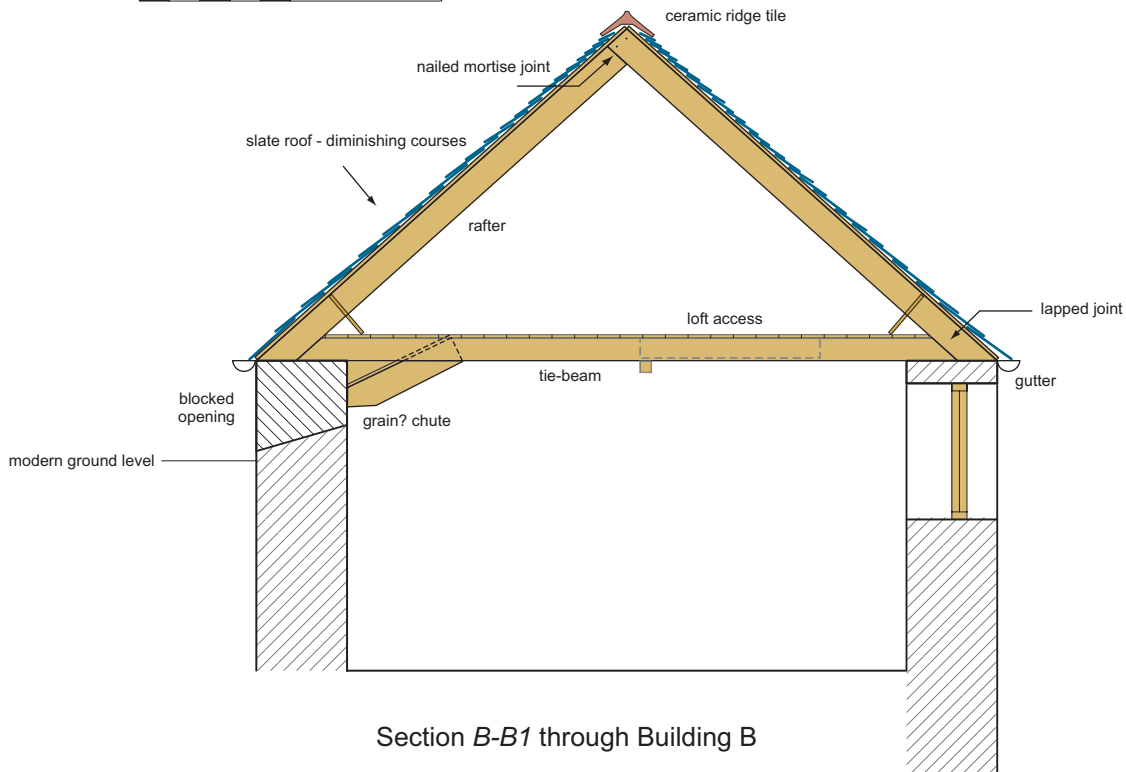
Further documentary research may be able to provide a historical precedent to better explain the physical changes evidenced within principal Buildings **A** and **B**.

Any ground works around the east and north sides of Buildings **A** and **B** would provide the potential to establish the depth of the outer wall faces and any earlier or contemporary ground surfaces.

Project	
Kelton Mill Kennels, Threave NTS Gardens & Estate	
Drawing Title	
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Drawing Number KMM03_3v0	
Scale	as indicated
Date	Jan 2004
Project Code	KKM03
Paper Size	A4
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Revisions	



Section A-A1 through Building A



Section B-B1 through Building B

Project
 Kelton Mill Kennels, Threave
 NTS Gardens & Estate

Drawing Title
 Plans and phasing : Bldgs A & B
 Sections Bldgs C & D

Drawing Number
 KMM03_4v2

Scale
 as indicated

Date
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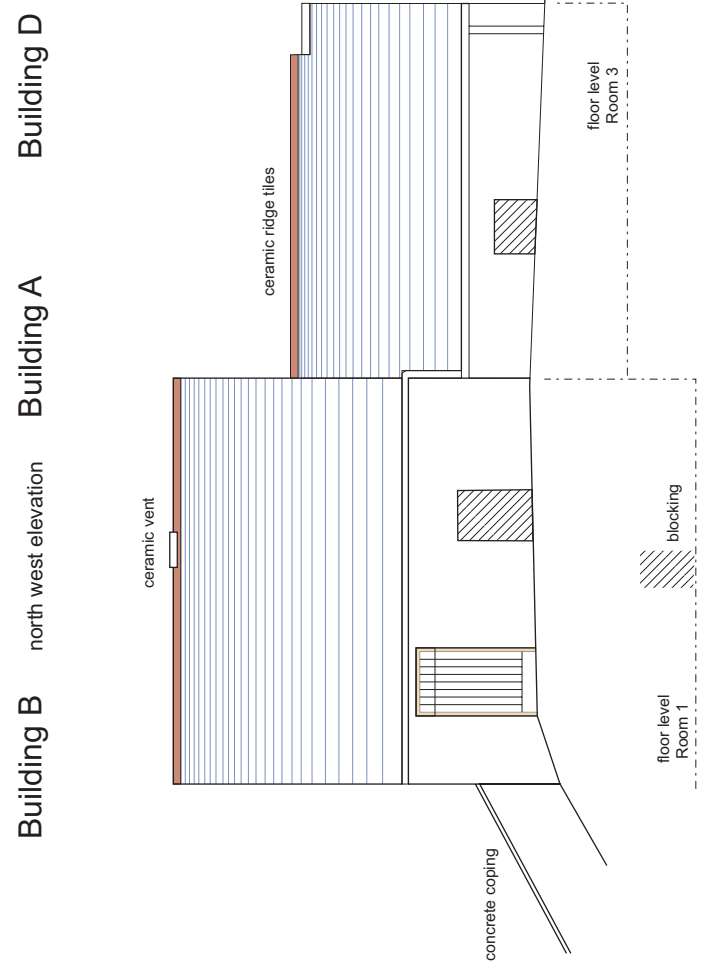
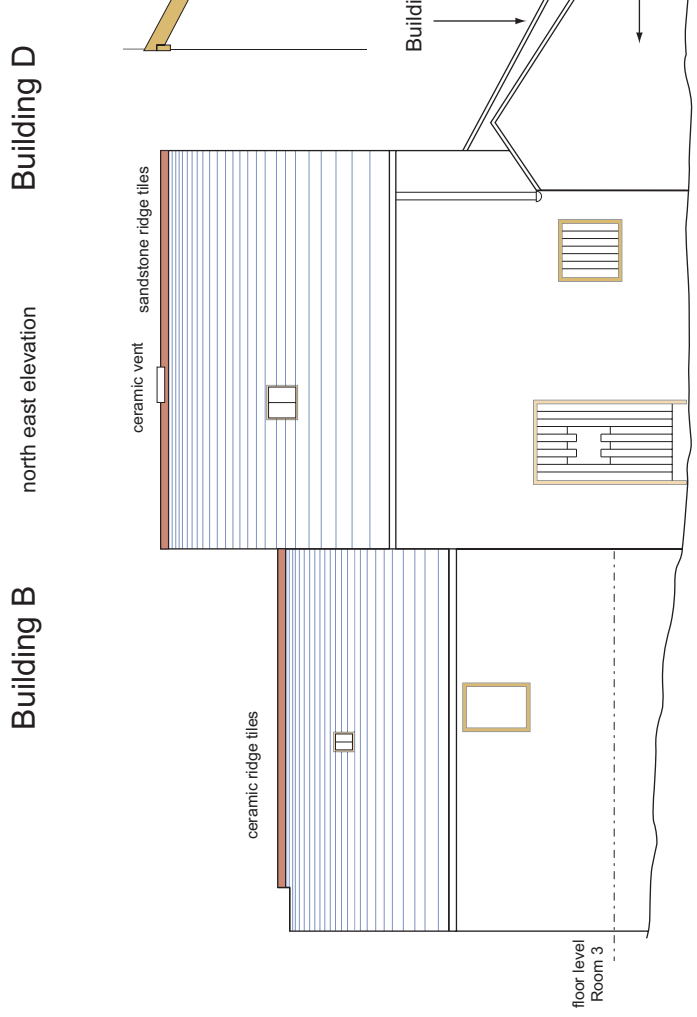
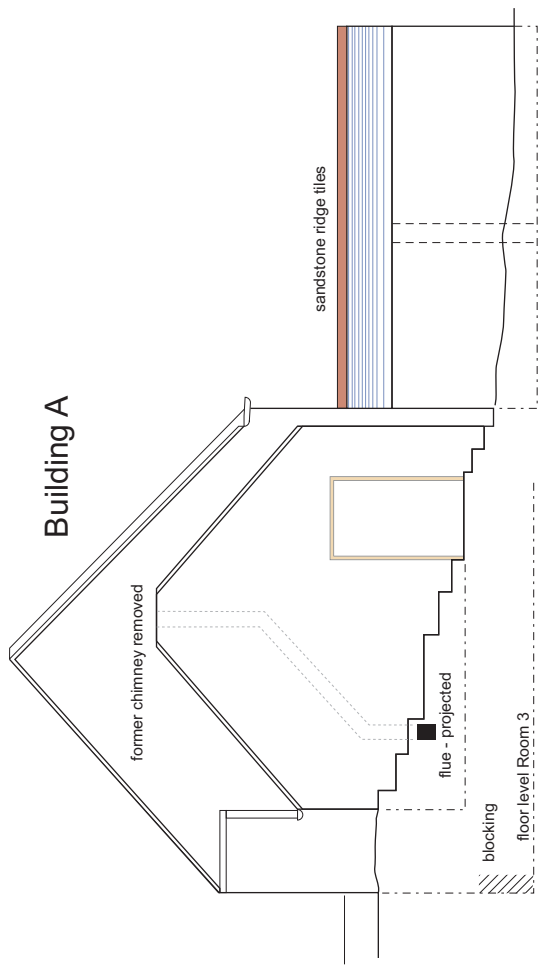
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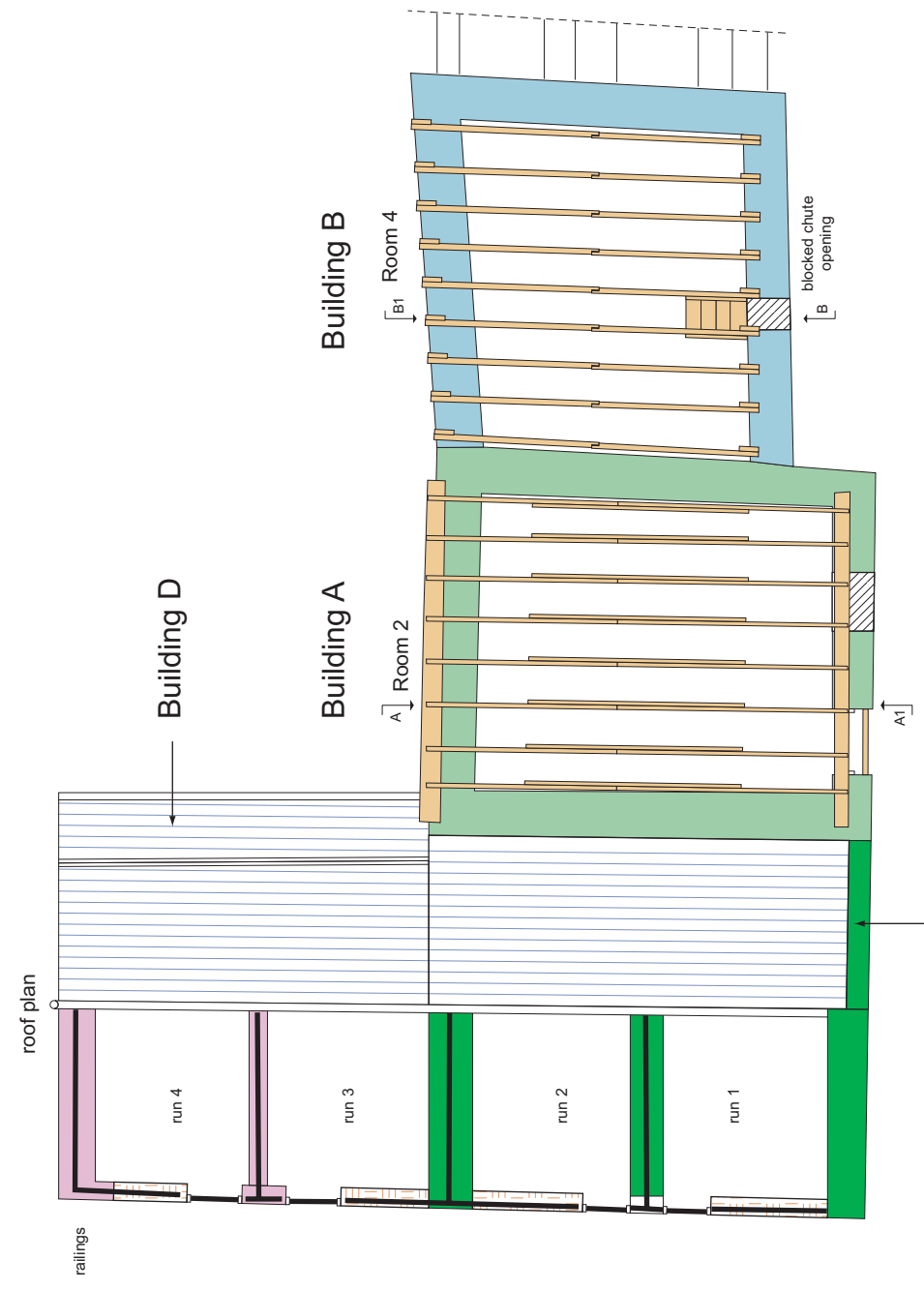
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 Drawn by RM_LAD

Revisions

HEADLAND
 ARCHAEOLOGY Ltd



Building A south east elevation Building B



- Phase 1 - late 18th - early 19th century
- Phase 2 - early 19th century
- Phase 3 - early - mid 19th century
- Phase 4 - 20th century
- brick
- cobble
- blocking





Plate 1 : Building A - Room 2. South exterior elevation showing doorway and blocked window. The building has been recently re-roofed. The modern ground surface may be higher than contemporary with the building.



Plate 2 : Building B loft, Room 4. South exterior elevation. Blocking for chute is central and partly obscured by modern ground surface. Compare colour of tiles with those of Building A.



Plate 3 : Buildings A and B. East exterior elevation shows doorway and level courses in gable masonry. The chimney stack is missing and the flue has been sealed.



Plate 4 : Building B Room 3. North exterior elevation showing window. Kelton Mill is to the rear.



Plate 5 : Building A. North exterior elevation showing doorway, original door and window. Building D is shown part butted on the right.



Plate 6 : Building A. West exterior elevation, gable (Room 2) above Building C the earlier kennels. The single-pitch roof is part bonded with the wall and sealed with flashing.

7. References

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- | | |
|------|---|
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| 1732 | Moll, H. <i>The East Part of Galloway : being Part of the Shire of Kircudbright</i> |
| 1744 | Roy, W. <i>Military Survey of Scotland</i> |
| 1776 | Taylor, G & Skinner, A. <i>The Road from PortPatrick to Dumfries, Annan and Longtown. Plate 43 in Survey and Maps of the Roads of North Britain or Scotland</i> |
| 1794 | Ainslie, J. <i>The Stewartry of Kircudbright</i> . |
| 1821 | Ainslie, J. <i>Map of South part of Scotland</i> |
| 1822 | Thomson, J. <i>Kircudbright-Shire</i> . |
| 1854 | Ordnance Survey Sheet 5 <i>Kircudbright</i> 1:1056 (Surveyed 1852) |
| 1896 | Ordnance Survey One-inch 2nd edition. Sheet 92. <i>Kircudbright New Series III.2</i> 1:2500 (Resurveyed 1894) |

8. Acknowledgements

Fieldwork was carried out by Andrew Dutton and Ross Murray, who prepared the draft figures and the Photographic Register for the report, and the project was managed by Dr Tim Holden. The project was curated by the National Trust for Scotland.



Plate 7 : Building A, Room 1. South interior elevation showing cobble and brick floor and blocked opening. Note the rough timbers, which are recent additions, supporting the joists of the upper floor.



Plate 8 : Building A, Room 1. South interior elevation showing doorway and blocked window. The original floorboards are rotten and in a dangerous state. The roof construction is a modern replacement.



Plate 9 : Building A Room 2. View of modern roof trusses and sarking showing bolted together collar beams and rafters.

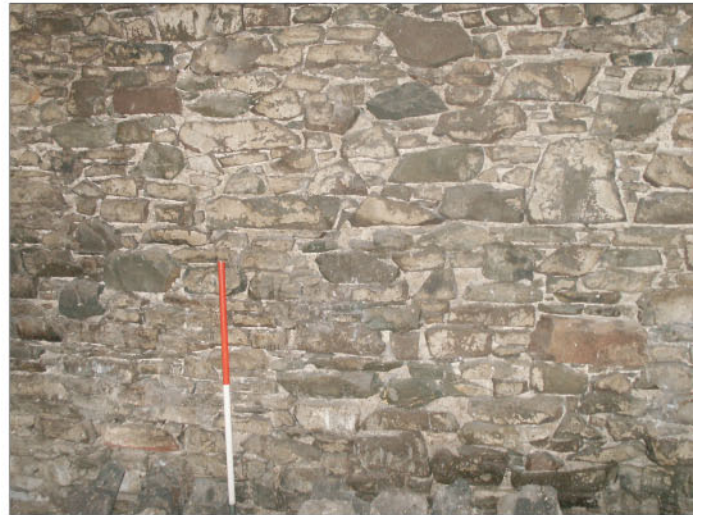


Plate 10 : Building A, Room 2. West interior elevation. Note the set course at wall head height and the raked out pointing.



Plate 11 : Building B, Room 3. East interior elevation. The chimney flue. Note triangular arch and narrow opening.



Plate 12 : Building B, Room 3. Location of trap access to loft space, Room 4. Note sawn floorboards and batten to support ladder.



Plate 13 : Building B loft, Room 4. South interior elevation. Detail of chute. Floorboards directly overlie tie-beam of trusses. Note angled plank between floor and sarking in eaves space.



Plate 14 : Building B, Room 4. East interior elevation. The loft space appears never to have been lime washed. The roof trusses and sarking are original.



Plate 15 : Building D. North exterior elevation. The loop-headed railings are set into bricks over a concrete coping.



Plate 16 : Buildings C and D. The kennels, west exterior elevations. Note the contrast between the two types of railings and the different brick types between the two phases of construction.



Plate 17 : Building D, Kennel 4. Interior. Detail of wooden 'cots'.



Plate 18 : Building D, Kennel 4. Interior. Detail of twin-pitch roof construction.

9. Appendix 1 - Photographic catalogue : Digital and 35mm colour slide

- | | | |
|-----|--|---|
| 1. | Building B Room 3 Byre | North interior elevation (left) |
| 2. | Building B Room 3 Byre | North interior elevation (right) |
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| 20. | Building A Room 1 Byre | Detailed view of stall D showing timber construction |
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| 23. | Building A Room 2 Store | South interior elevation – doorway and blocked window |
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33. Building B South exterior elevation – detail of blocked chute access
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47. Building A West exterior elevation – gable above kennels
48. Building C South exterior elevation – kennels
49. Building A Room 2 Store Exterior – detail of roof vent
50. Building A South exterior elevation – detail of blocked window (Room 2)

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