

**Alison Armstrong Collection – Cataloguing Sheet**

Title	<b>Lower Winskill Wallet</b>					
Storage location	<b>Ingleborough Community Centre, Alison Armstrong Collection, Box 1</b>					
About this record	<b>Image reference</b>		<b>Description</b>			
	LW1 a-b		Lower Winskill Farm history; T Lord 1999			
	LW2 a-k		Lower Winskill Farm; building report 2002			
	LW3 a-n		Lower Winskill Barn; plans and drawings			
	LW4 a-d		Lower Winskill Farm; plans and drawings (part copyright)			
Creator	<b>Alison Armstrong</b>					
Contributor	Name <b>David Johnson</b>			Contact <b>IAG</b>		
Date of creation						
Date of coverage						
Place	<b>Lower Winskill</b>					
Exact location	<b>Lower Winskill Farm</b>					
Format (original)	Audio	* Document	* Drawing	Family tree	Inventory	Mag. cutting
	Map	News. cutting	Photo	Transcript	Will	
Copyright holder	<b>Alison Armstrong</b>					
Media (electronic copy)	* Image (jpg or png)	Audio (mp3 only)	Video (from YouTube)	Document (doc, docx or pdf)		
Key word(s)	<b>Vernacular buildings, Architecture</b>					
Data entry by	<b>M. Slater</b>					



*tongue fern* are common. There are also plants of rocky habitats such as *wall lettuce*, *wall-rue* and *maidenhair spleenwort*.

About 9 acres of limestone grassland are managed in a *Countryside Stewardship Scheme* agreement. They have a splendid display in spring of *early purple orchid* and *cowslips*.

#### **Meadow**

The small dry stone walled meadows at Winkill are important for landscape and wildlife conservation. The oldest meadows at Winkill are at least 400 years old. Traditional hay meadows provide some of the most diverse biological communities in Britain, not only in terms of plant species but also of invertebrates. These in turn support a number of increasingly uncommon mammals and birds.

The Yorkshire Dales are one of the last strongholds of flower rich upland hay meadows. Traditionally the grass fodder crop from upland meadows was field dried hay. In the spring ewes with lambs at foot grazed in the meadows until mid-May when they were moved onto the pastures. The meadows were shut up until the grass crop was cut and made into hay in July. After the cattle grazed the any uncut edges and the aftermaths, *piking*, the meadows were shut up again and the regrowth, *fog*, provided valuable autumn grazing. Nutrients removed in the hay crop were returned by spreading manure from cattle housed indoors over winter.

Although the main fodder crop from the meadows at Winkill is now silage rather than hay, important aspects of the traditional management system are retained. The continued use of farmyard manure ensures that nutrients are released fairly slowly and sustains the fertility of the soil without allowing the competitive, more vigorous grasses to take advantage. This helps maintain the floristic diversity of the sward. Cutting the grass in July allows wildflower species to set seed and gives ground nesting birds the chance to fledge.

#### **Dry stone wall restoration**

A major programme of dry stone wall restoration is in progress partly funded by the *Countryside Stewardship Scheme*. In the course of this work a number of early and now obsolete walling techniques have been recognised.

LW1b

Box 1 Lower Winskill  
LW2 a to k

*Panel NW02*

Box 1  
LW 2  
a-k

<p>North Yorkshire (West Riding) Modern County (Historic County)</p>	<p>Langcliffe <small>(Parish or township)</small></p>	<p>Lower Winskill Farm <small>(map reference)</small></p> <p>SD 827664 <small>(map reference)</small></p>
	<p>Mr. Tom Lord <small>(Owner/occupier)</small> Lower Winskill Farm, Langcliffe, Settle, North Yorkshire <small>(address)</small></p>	<p>BD24 9PZ <small>(postcode)</small></p>
	<p>Grade II Listed building</p>	
Date of Record:		November 2000 / Spring 2002
Names of Recorders:		Alison Armstrong and Arnold Pacey
Changes since original survey:		Cleaning with high-pressure hoses since the first visit removed some pointing in the back wall and revealed extra detail of floor surfaces.
<hr/>		
DESCRIPTION		
1. Building type:	Linear farmstead, comprising former house and farm buildings in one long range.	
2. Materials:	Carboniferous limestone rubble, with some window mullions and jambs in sandstone / gritstone. Some slabs of Silurian "slate" used as lintels, in floors and formerly in boskins. Wooden mullions in one window. Oak trusses. Baltic timber for 1866 re-roofing of barn.	
3. Exterior detail:	<p>The former house is in the centre of the range with windows of varying sizes, two with well-out mullions, others with monolithic stone jambs, and evidence of much alteration. One of the mullioned windows has lost a jamb to some irregular nineteenth-century masonry, and the other has been moved fairly recently. The barn at the east end has a projecting porch to its cart entrance, and both porch and barn appear to have seen several changes with regard to roof height. The east gable shows evidence of earlier roof-lines. The barn at the west end is almost hidden by a large shippon built along its front wall, reducing a former cart entrance to a metre-wide doorway. An irregular plinth, interrupted by later alterations, is to be seen at the base of the front wall of the house.</p> <p>At the back, on the north elevation, plinths can also be seen, but apparently running through from the house into the barn at the east end, as if the house and barn were originally of a single build. A complex of joints higher up the back wall shows that later, the house was raised to its present height while the barn retained an earlier form with low eaves. Then later still, the barn roof was raised until its eaves were somewhat higher than the roof of the house.</p>	
4. Interior detail:	Several interior features are of exceptional and remarkable interest:	
	<p>a) Inside the barn at the west end of the range, the walls are of regular masonry, and the truss of Baltic timber dates from 1866. However, there is an area of <u>stone paving</u> in which pieces of limestone of irregular shape have been carefully fitted together (with some Silurian "slate" also).</p>	

LW2a

This surface contrasts sharply with the more regular sandstone paving in the east barn, and appears to be earlier. It is too rough to be a threshing floor, but may remain from an earlier phase in the history of the building when it could have been the floor of a cross passage or hearth passage.

b) The next bay to the east comprises the housebody of the former house, and the chamber above the housebody. The housebody was turned into a shippon at some time in the nineteenth century, and has since been modernised for use as a toilet block, but it retains part of a "beehive" bread oven, now seen in section.

c) In the chamber above the housebody, it is clear that there was a smokehood above the former bread oven and its associated hearth. The original stairs are believed to have been located around and above the oven, behind the smokehood, and there is a small window in the back wall to light them. The chamber is remarkable for the fact that large areas of wall retain the original lime plaster, which outlines the shape of the smokehood, the interior of which was not plastered. Inscribed on the plaster are numerous circles. These are not ritual protection marks (apotropaic marks), but seem more like the practice drawings and doodles of the carpenters who are believed to have lived here c.1674-1700. A single roof truss spans this room with the tie-beam below head height. It is a mortised-apex truss with a collar and struts, with extra members added as the apex has deteriorated, joints are numbered with roman numerals on one side, and dots on the other.

d) The next bay had a parlour on the ground floor, later converted for use as a stable, and the chamber above this also retains some early plaster with inscribed circles. A small rear window has a single wooden mullion and originally had three such mullions, giving it four narrow lights.

e) The barn at the east end of the range has two roof trusses constructed mainly from re-used cruck timbers, and some purlins from a cruck building are also present. The former cruck blades are of high quality, probably from a house rather than a barn, and may well have been salvaged when the dwelling in this range was rebuilt. The trusses are also of interest for a number of snapped chalk lines in red ochre marked on them by the carpenters during construction. The clearest of the chalk lines are on the soffit of one of the principals and were used to ensure that chamfers were cut to even width.

f) Also in the east barn, the shippon has a floor paved mainly with sandstone in which there is clear evidence of alterations to create longer stalls able to accommodate larger cattle, perhaps of an improved breed. The original stalls were apparently formed using Silurian "slate" slabs to make boskins, and some of these are now incorporated in the paving. The remains of a timber skelbuse survive, but the boskins have gone.

#### 5. Plan-type.

The house itself was typical of many Craven farmhouses in having two rooms on each floor with just one roof truss, situated where it could support the ridge of the roof close to the smoke-hood. The location of the original entrance is not clear, but the house could have been of end-lobby entry plan. There have always been farm buildings attached, and the present linear building could have evolved from some form of long-house plan.

#### 6. Identifying the oldest part of the building

Much of the plinth of the building and some lengths of the north wall seem much older than the rest of the fabric, as does the rough limestone floor in the west barn. It is likely that these parts of the building form part of the structure that is known to have existed c.1590.

#### 7. Major extensions or alterations:

The house was rebuilt c.1700, and the barns later in the 18th century. Some alterations to the barns may follow changes resulting from the enclosure of Winskill Common under an Enclosure Act of 1769.

LW2b

The shippon attached to the front of the west barn is a replacement (in 1866?) of a smaller shippon in the same position.

#### SETTING

##### 8. Orientation and location

The former house faces south. The hamlet of Winskill is located on remarkably high ground (around 310 metres above sea level), on the edge of a tract of moorland between the upper Ribble valley and Malham. To the west of the hamlet, the ground falls away abruptly to the floor of the valley in a limestone cliff known as Stainforth Scar. Winskill is in the township of Langcliffe and in the historic parish of Giggleswick.

##### 9. Relationships to other buildings

Before the dissolution, Winskill was a livestock farm belonging to Salley (Sawley) Abbey. Foundations for a long, narrow building used in the monastic period appear to lie to the west of the present range. In 1591 Winskill comprised four farms, two of them 400m to the east at Higher Winskill. The Lower Winskill buildings described here contained one of two farmhouses, the other being 20m to the south, across the farmyard. The latter was rebuilt in the nineteenth century and is now the farmhouse.

#### OTHER INFORMATION

##### 10. Datestone, inscriptions, graffiti

Grffiti in the room above the housebody include circles scribed in the plasterwork and some twentieth-century names on the roof truss. In the other farmhouse, across the farmyard, is a door-lintel, elaborately carved like many in the Settle area, and inscribed: NB CB 1674. The first initials are those of Nicholas Bullock.

##### 11. Oral information

Tom Lord, the owner, has explained much about the history of the farm, and about the infield vs. outfield farming system practised here. The infield was enclosed by a 'head dyke' or wall during the period of monastic ownership, and the area enclosed was subdivided into smaller fields at various later dates. Existing dry-stone walls are of two main types, of which the first can be shown to be earlier:

- wide-top walls (with the top the same width as the base)
- narrow top walls (battered from a wide base).

##### 12. Documentary information

The following sources have been used:

- a) Tom Lord's notes on the history of the farm, which draw on information from his deeds;
- b) Hearth Tax Returns, 1672, and Giggleswick Parish Registers;
- c) The Craven Loan Book of 1522 and other tax lists published in 'Early Tudor Craven', ed. R.W. Hoyle, *YAS Record Series*, vol. CXLV, 1985.

The Loan Book of 1522 contains the earliest valuation of the property:

"James Foster [tenant] to th[e] abbot of Salley, 15"  
"Eliys Foster [tenant] to the seid Abbot, 10s"

When Winskill was divided into four farms, Fosters tenanted all of them till after 1600. The death of Thomas Foster the elder in the 1650s led to sale of both the Lower Winskill farms as freehold property:

- a) the smaller farm, and the house reported on here, to Alice Clapham, widow, who married Thomas Armitstead in 1656; the property was then in his name.

LW2c

b) the larger farm, and the house across the farmyard, was sold to Nicholas Bullough or Bullock in 1662.

The Hearth Tax returns for 1672 (as published by Ripon Historical Society) contain the following entries for the township of Langcliffe:

Thomas Armitstead 1 hearth  
Thomas Clapham 2 hearths [at Higher Winskill]

Nicholas Bullock is not recorded, perhaps because his carpenter's practice had taken him to Long Preston, which is where he seems to have paid the tax. There are also no Fosters in the Hearth Tax list.

Nicholas Bullock may have died within a decade or so of completing his house at Lower Winskill in 1674, and the parish register records Thomas Bullock here in 1691/2 when a daughter Anna was born.

The Bullocks and the Armitsteads sold out soon after 1700, the purchasers preferring to let the farms to tenants rather than living here themselves, and in 1739, the farms were amalgamated to form a larger holding. There is then a gap in detailed documentation, but it would be reasonable to guess that significant changes in local farming occurred following the Enclosure Act of 1789, under which stinted pastures in Langcliffe, including Winskill Common, were enclosed and divided.

Following this, there must then have been changes in livestock management and stock numbers would have increased. If more cattle were kept over winter, this would have led to a need for more fodder storage in the barns, with larger shippens to house cattle over winter. The stone barn at the east end of the building was probably reconstructed with a higher roof at this time to enable more hay to be stored, though it seems from the available stalls that no more than 12 cows could have been over-wintered. In the early 1900s (according to Tom Lord's estimates), there could have been as much as 15 acres of meadow cut for hay. It seems that on average, over an acre (0.4 ha) of meadow was needed to keep one cow over winter (Tom Lord again), and well over 20 cubic metres of hay storage capacity was needed in the barns (Armstrong and Pacey estimates). It seems, then, that the sizes of buildings were well matched to productivity of the farm at the time.

Little more is known about the farm until the landlord went bankrupt in 1860 and the combined farm was sold, most of it being purchased by Anthony Stackhouse, whose family had been living at Higher Winskill since about 1700. Stackhouse made a number of alterations in the 1860s, including rebuilding the larger farmhouse, re-roofing the west barn and building the large shippen in front of it.

There is nothing in the documentary record to date other features in the range of farm buildings, although it is assumed that the former house within that range was built while there were still carpenters at Lower Winskill, and perhaps in the time of Thomas Bullock.

13. Plans, etc., annexed

✓ map of site	✓ sections
✓ ground floor plan	✓ elevations
✓ first floor plan	✓ detail drawings
analytical plan	photographs
copies of documents etc.	

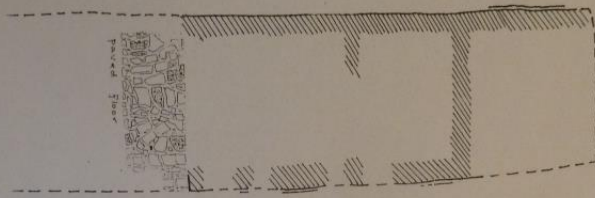
LW2d



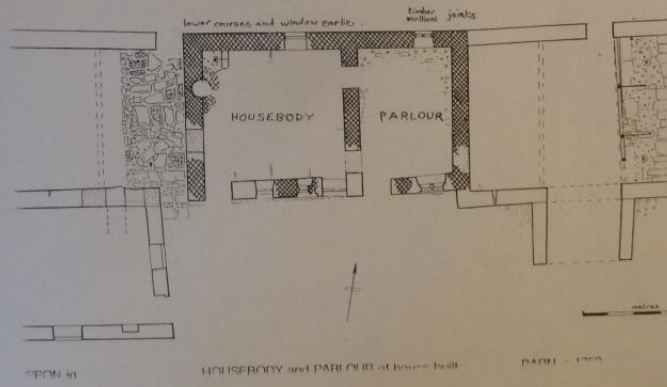
LOWER WINSKILL FARM BUILDINGS

PLAN showing foundations and floor apparently surviving from the sixteenth-century house, compared with the EXISTING GROUND PLAN: walls surviving from the reconstruction of c.1700 or just before are cross-hatched.

(NB These plans are to a smaller scale than others in this report.)



EXISTING PLAN

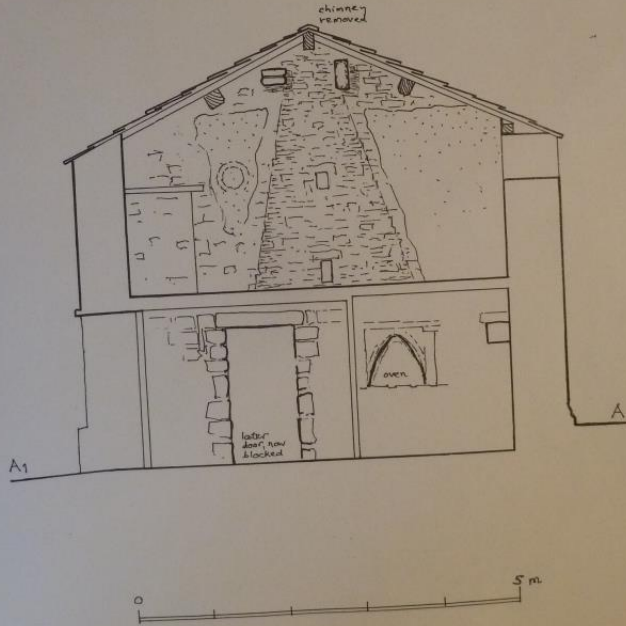


LW2 g

LOWER WINSKILL  
Section A1-A

The shape of the former smoke-hood is outlined by smoke blackening, and by areas of surviving plaster (on which one of the graffiti circle patterns is seen). At the top of the smoke-hood are projecting stones to carry the chimney. The outline of a former bread-oven can be seen below.

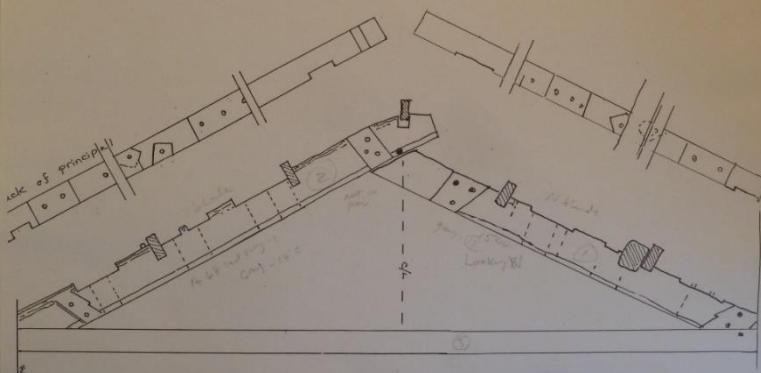
The two doorways which penetrate this wall, and the two square holes in the centre of the smoke-hood area, date from the time when the housebody was converted for use as a shippon, and the upper floor was used as a hay-loft. Thus the two holes are for ventilation, and the low blocked door on the first floor was for forking hay down to the shippon attached to the west barn.



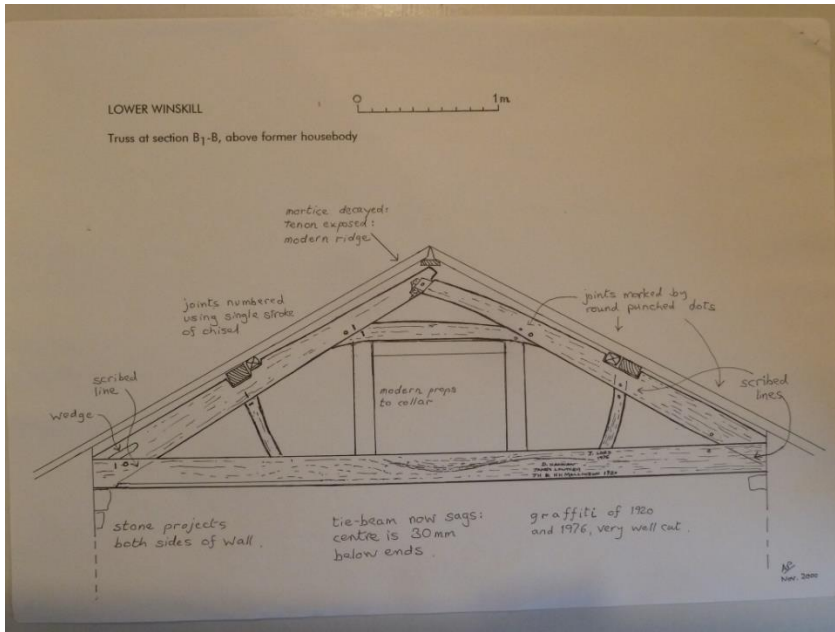
LW2 h

LOWER WINSKILL

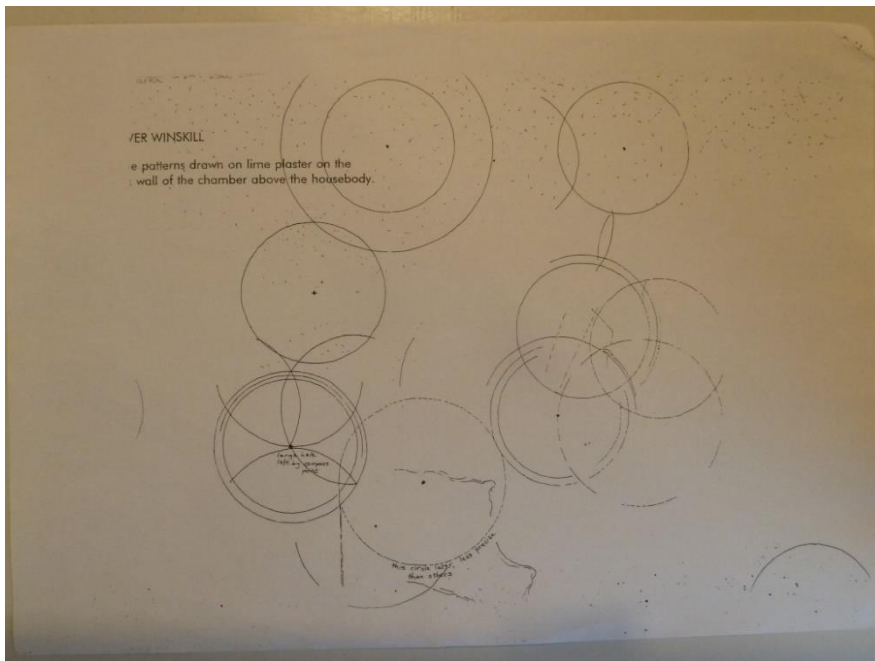
Truss of section C1-C, in the east barn, showing principals with halvings remaining from their former use as cruck blades. The backs of the principals show where wind-braces in the cruck structure were fixed. The soffits of the principals (not shown) are marked with red chalk lines used by the carpenter when adapting them for re-use in the present truss. All purlins but one (hatched) are plank-like members, the exception being another re-used piece from a cruck structure.



LW2 i

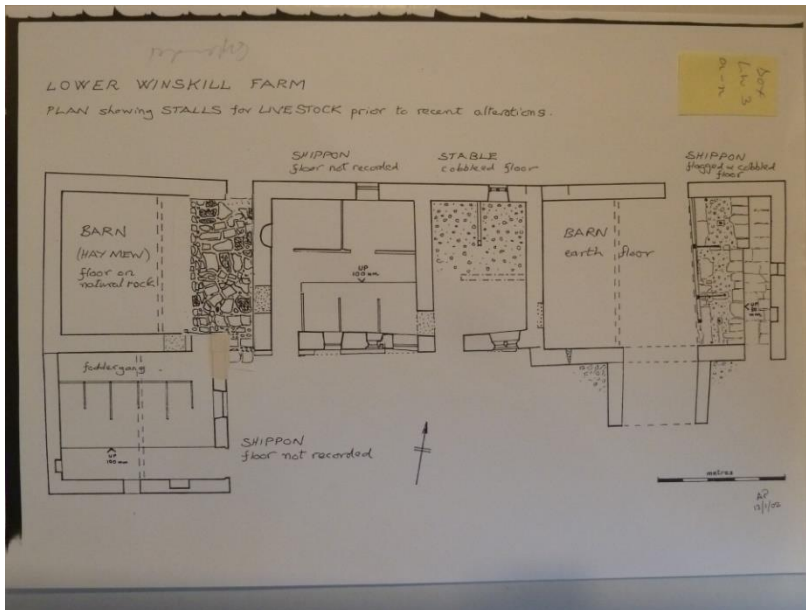


LW2 j

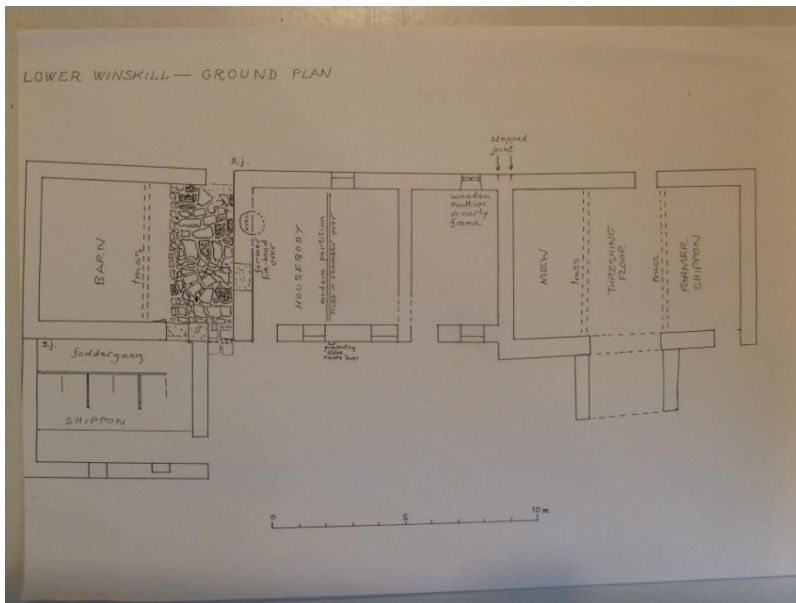


LW2 k

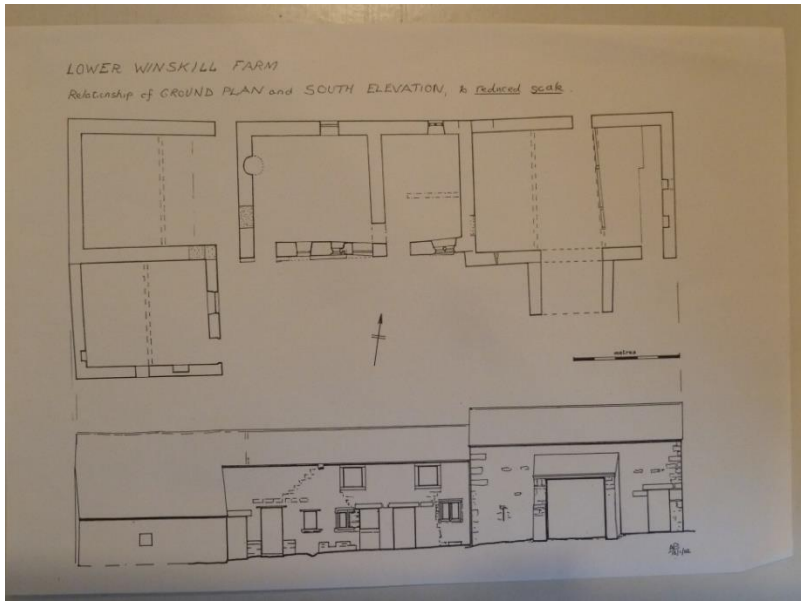
Box 1 Lower Winskill  
LW3 a to n



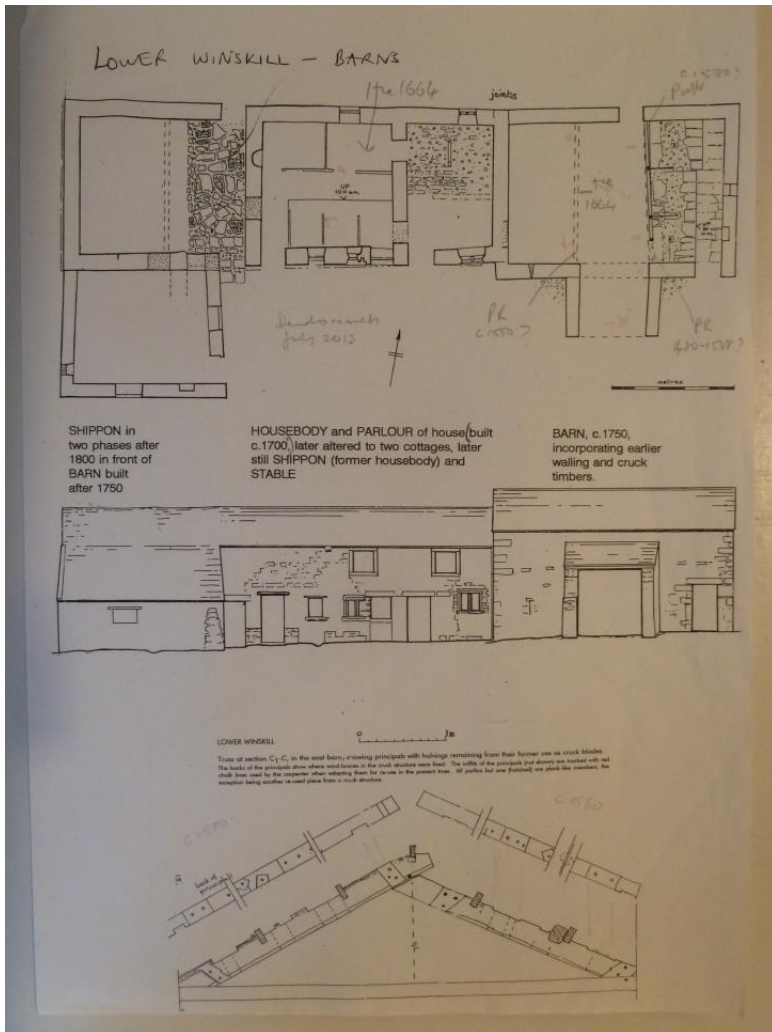
LW3 a



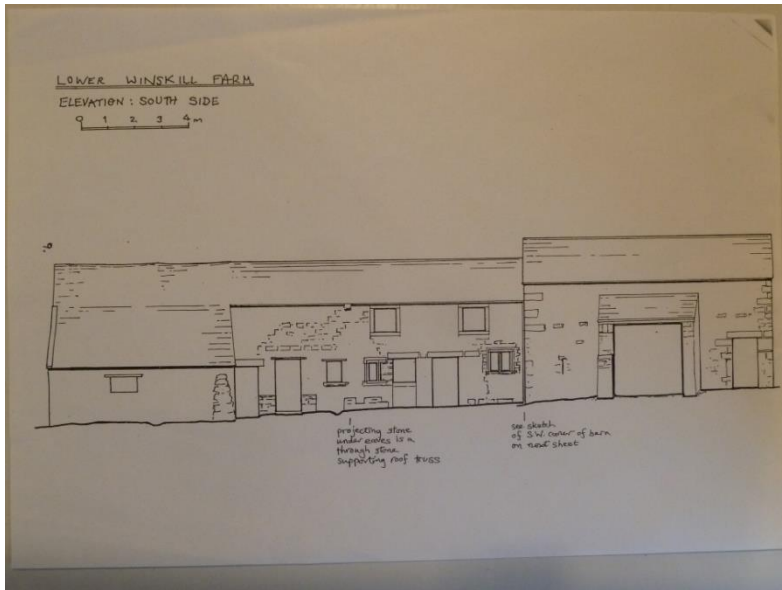
LW3 b



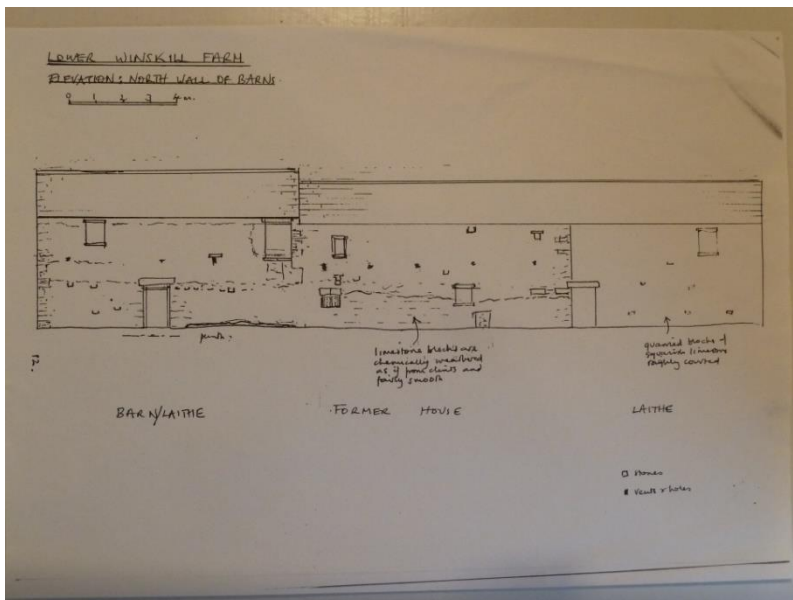
LW3 c



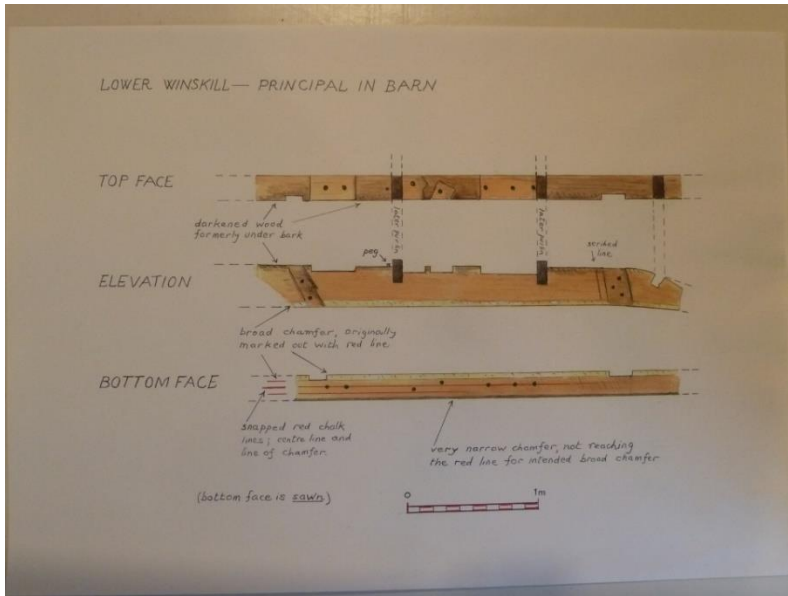
LW3 d



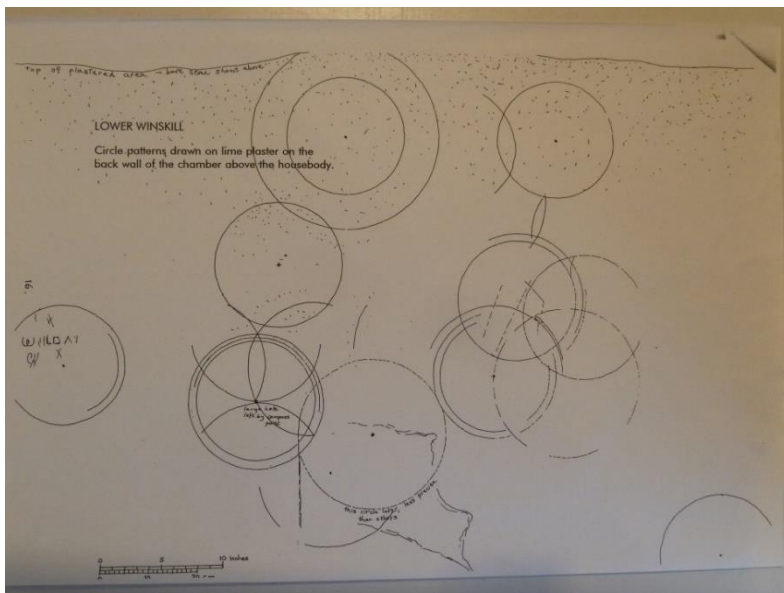
LW3 e



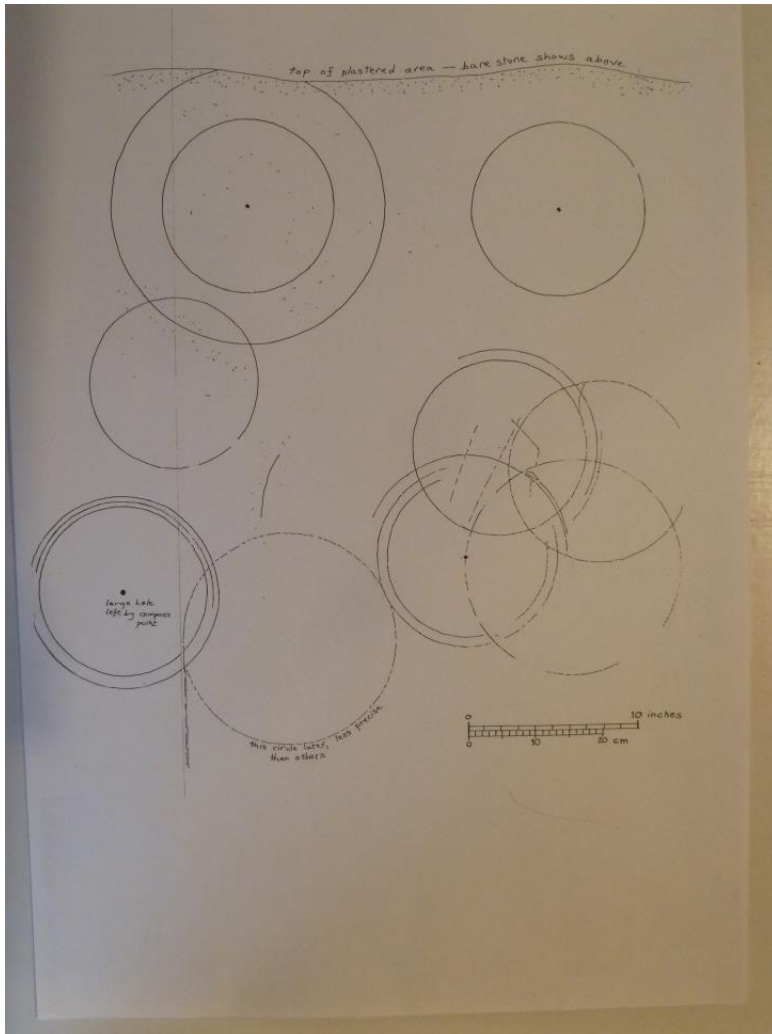
LW3 f



LW3 g

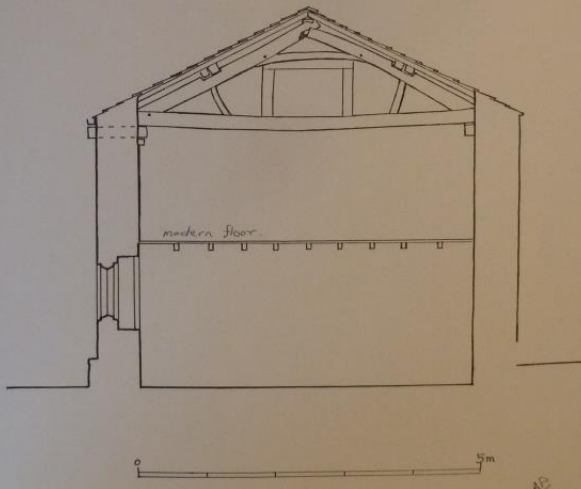


LW3 h



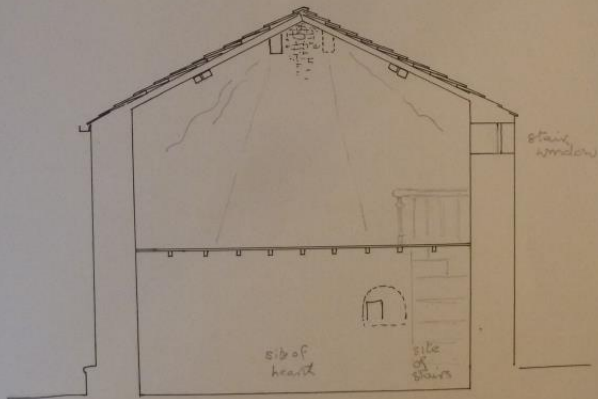
LW3 i

BUILDINGS AT  
LOWER WINSKILL FARM  
SECTION through former housebody  
showing roof  
truss and early mullioned window.



LW3 j

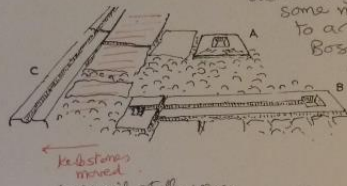
inside housebody looking at wall  
formerly with firehood against it.  
Net measured - not well observed



LW3 k

### INTERPRETATION

The area of flooring marked in red struck me as secondary, i.e. the kerbstones (c) were moved about a foot to the west and some new flooring was made to accommodate longer cows. Baskins or skelbuse made of Shupian(?) slate were replaced by timber, with some slate reused in floor.



(original stalls very short - for keeping a small breed - or young animals??)

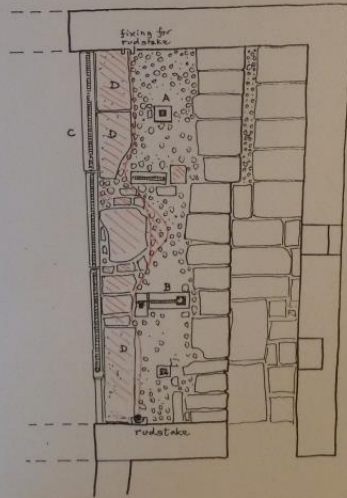
#### STONE FLOOR IN WESTERN SHIPPON

A Stone cut to take foot of post (see also perspective, top)

B Grooved stone to hold slate baskin

C Long stones applied to take slate skelbuse (see also perspective)

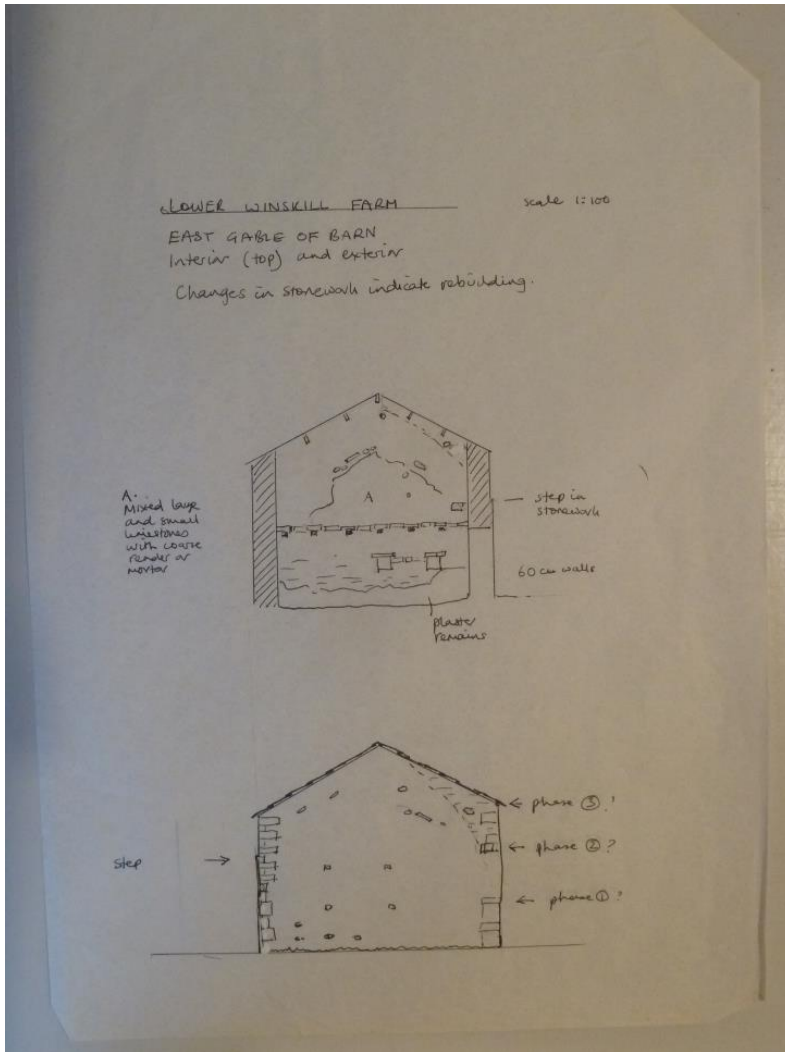
D "Slate" slabs, re-used from former slate baskins? (other flags are sandstone)



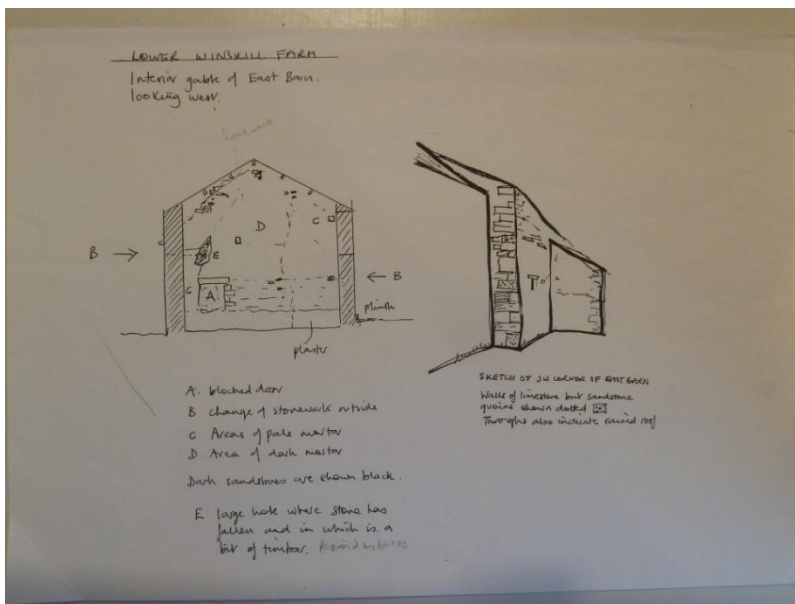
0 1m 2m

AP 13/1/72

LW3 1

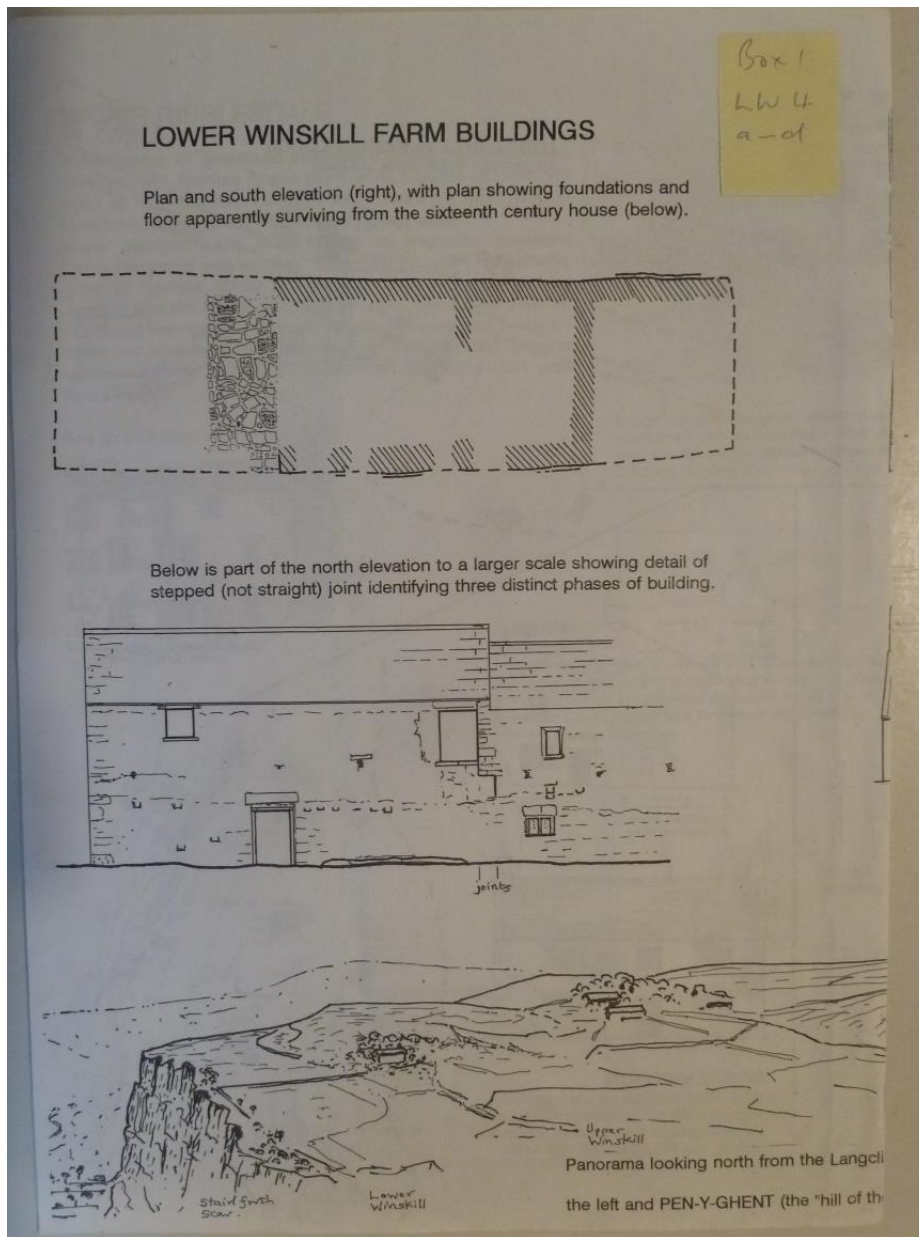


LW3 m

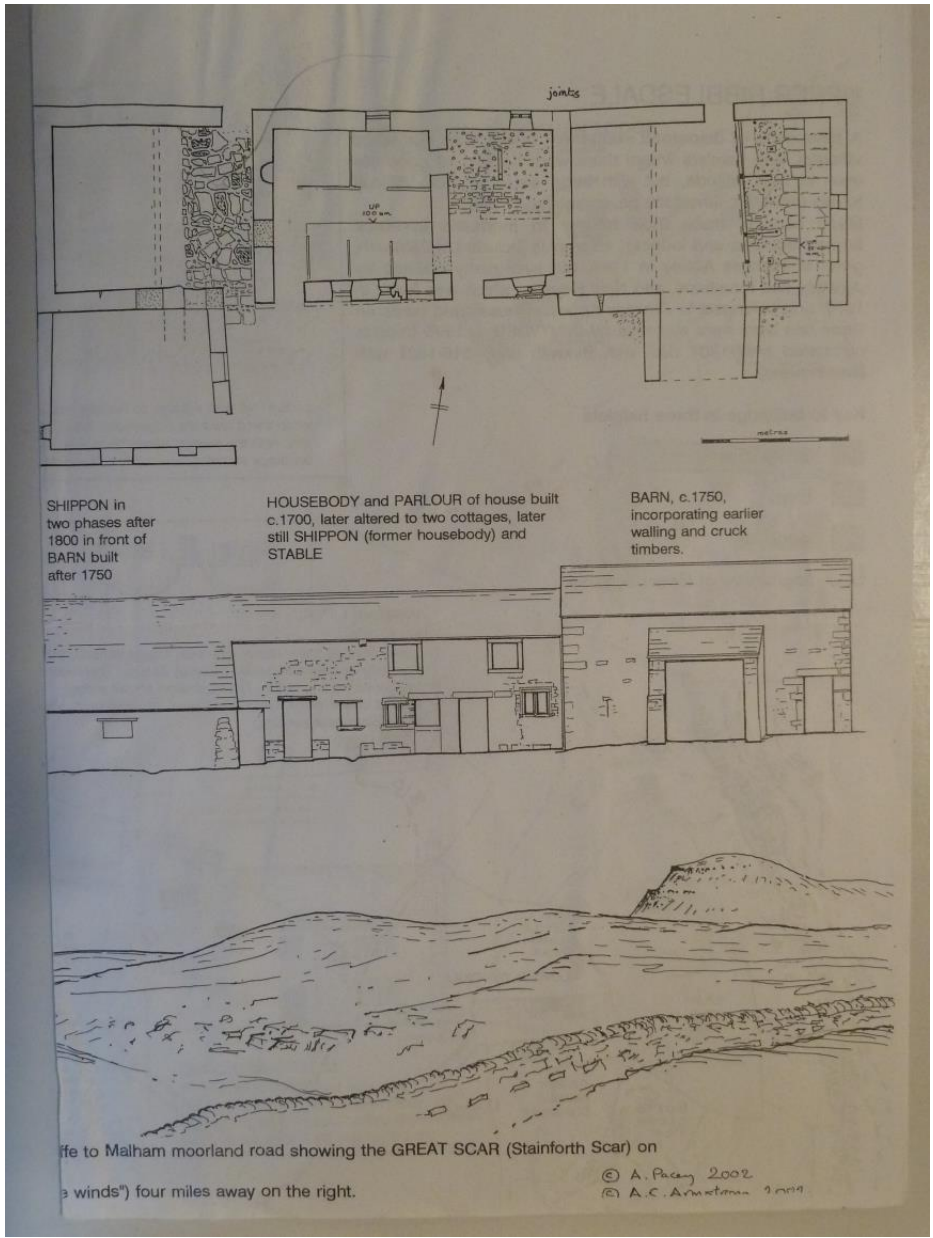


LW3 n

Box 1 Lower Winskill  
LW4 a to d



LW4 a



SHIPPON in two phases after 1800 in front of BARN built after 1750

HOUSEBODY and PARLOUR of house built c.1700, later altered to two cottages, later still SHIPPON (former housebody) and STABLE

BARN, c.1750, incorporating earlier walling and cruck timbers.

View to Malham moorland road showing the GREAT SCAR (Stainforth Scar) on the "winds" four miles away on the right.

© A. Pacey 2002  
 © A.C. Armstrong 2009





LW4 b

## UPPER RIBBLESDALE

A landscape of dispersed settlement rather than nucleated villages, with hamlets where there were pockets of good soil even at high altitude, but with large areas of more difficult terrain (drumlins, limestone pavements and scars).

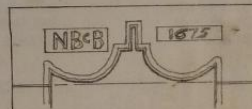
Many hamlets trace their history to monastic livestock farms (vaccaries and lodges). Examples include Low Birkwith, given to Furness Abbey in 1189, but later partly claimed by Jervaulx and Fountains, and New Houses, which was "new" in 1378, and belonged to Jervaulx Abbey. Houses and barns on these two sites were recorded by the YVBSG in 1995 (reports numbered 1497-1501 deal with Birkwith and 1516-1521 with New Houses).

### Key to buildings in three hamlets

-  farmhouses
-  barns
-  piggeries
-  foundations of former buildings

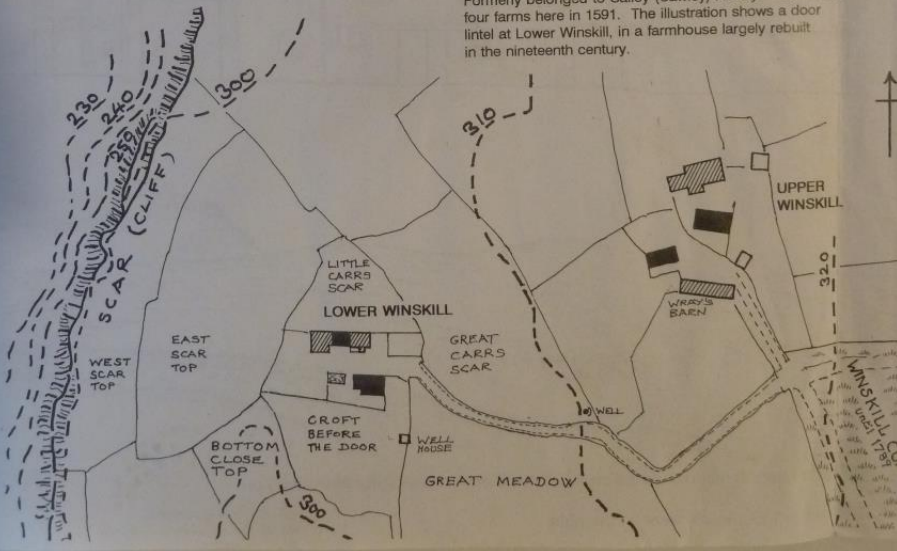


Lodge Hall was a lodge of Furness Abbey until 1516 when there were six households here. Now there is one, with the several barns, ruins, and foundations buildings showing how it has contracted.

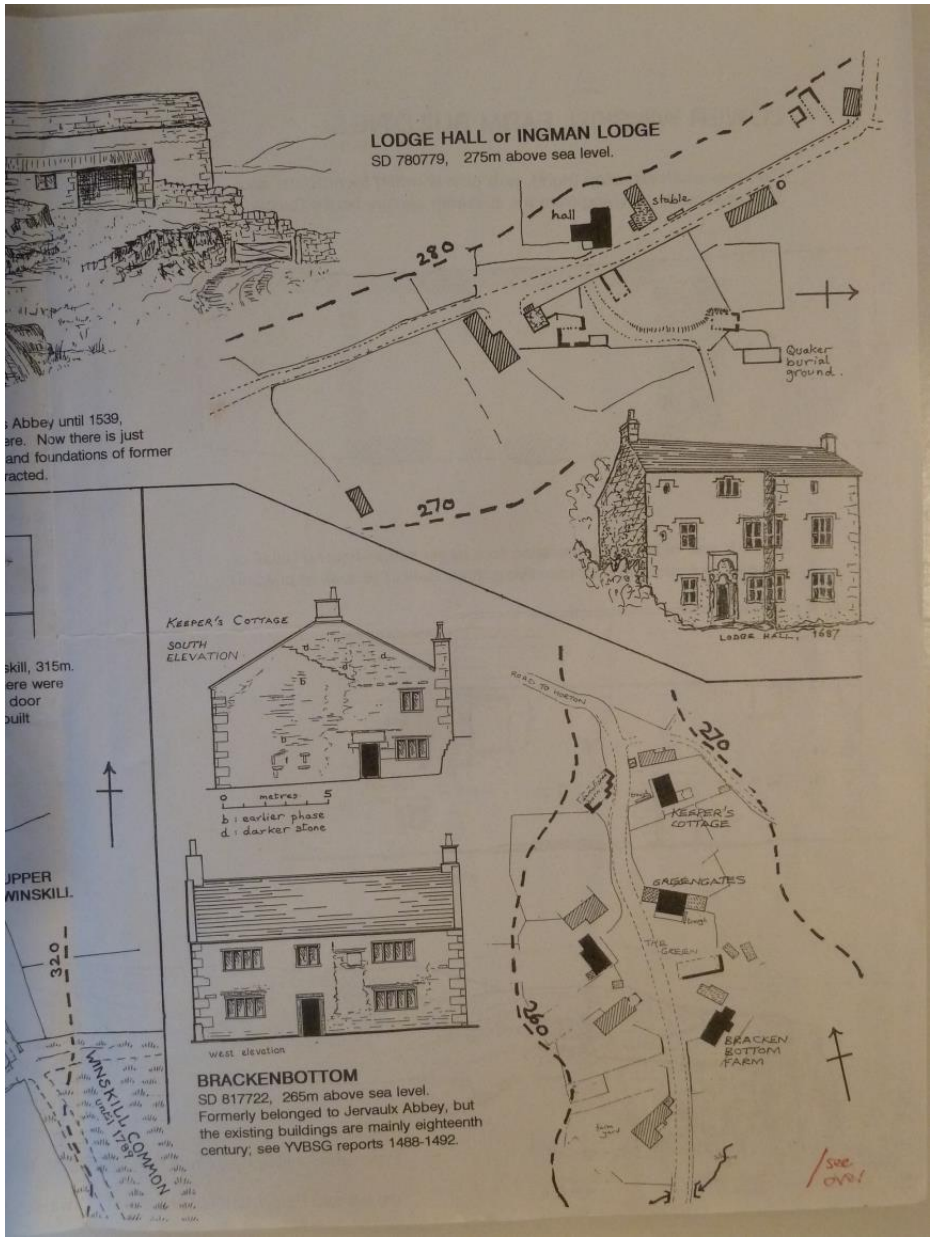


### WINSKILL

SD 827665,  
Lower Winskill 305m above sea level, Upper Winskill, 315m.  
Formerly belonged to Salley (Sawley) Abbey. There were four farms here in 1591. The illustration shows a door lintel at Lower Winskill, in a farmhouse largely rebuilt in the nineteenth century.



LW4 c



LW4 d