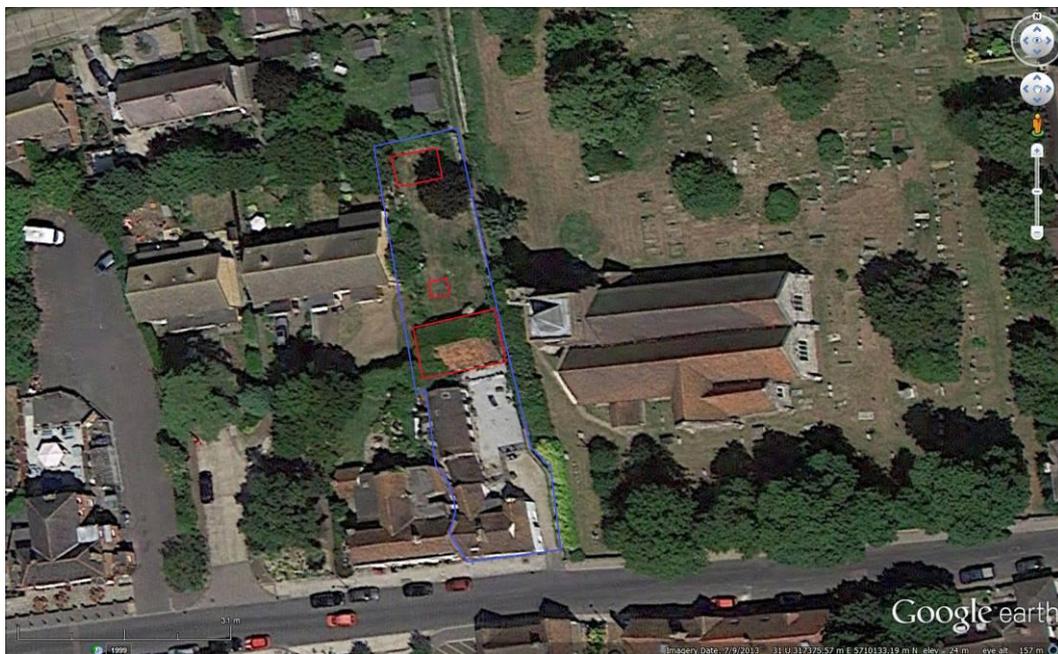


6 High Road, Orsett, Essex. RM16 3ER.  
Watching Brief on house foundations on the garden plot. Recorded March 26 2014.



6 High Road, Orsett borders the west side of St Giles church in Orsett.



Boundary of the site (blue) and the areas of excavation recorded (in red).

### Location

6 High Road, Orsett is adjacent to St Giles Church in Orsett, Essex RM16 3ER. It sits north of the B188. The property is bounded by the buildings and by solidly built walls.  
OS Grid Reference: TQ6440981946.



**ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD  
ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY  
SUMMARY SHEET**

Site name/Address: 6 High Road, Orsett, Essex. RM16 3ER.	
Parish: Orsett	District: Thurrock
NGR: TQ6440981946.	Site Code: THOR14
Type of Work: Watching Brief	Site Director/Team: Barry Hillman-Crouch
Date of Work: 26 03 2014.	Size of Area Investigated: 20x100m
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: N/A	Funding source: Owner
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related EHER Nos:
Final Report: 6 High Road, Orsett, Essex. Watching Brief on house foundations on the garden plot. Recorded March 26 2014. Barry J Hillman-Crouch MStPA DipFA BSc HND.	
Periods Represented: LC19th - C20th	
<p><b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b></p> <p>The footprint of a demolished implement shed was recorded along with a foundation for a shed, a soakaway pit and test pits against the boundary walls.</p> <p>No archaeological features or finds were discovered. A number of well preserved bottles from the 1920's and 30's were found buried in a flowerbed and graffiti carved into the building walls indicated that a phase of alterations were undertaken in 1928.</p> <p>The church boundary wall was noted to have been built from rubble and flint from the church rebuilt in the C19th and the section against the implement shed was built of London Stock brick while the building was in position.</p> <p>The site was used as a public house from at least 1823 until 1899.</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports:	
Author of Summary: Barry J Hillman-Crouch MStPA DipFA BSc HND.	Date of Summary: 13 03 2014

**Listing.**



© Mr Mike Hurst

IoE Number: 119710. Location: 6 HIGH ROAD (north side),ORSETT, THURROCK, ESSEX

Photographer: Mr Mike Hurst .Date Photographed: 15 April 2004

Date listed:10 November 1981. Date of last amendment: 10 November 1981

Grade II.

1. HIGH ROAD

5221 Orsett

(north side)

No 6

TQ 68 SW 5/50

II GV

2.

C17 or earlier house, timber-framed and painted brick, with red plain tile roof hipped at east end. Two storeys. Two window range, 3 light C19 casements. Gabled dormer. Grey gault brick chimney stack.

(RCHM 5).

Listing NGR: TQ6440981946

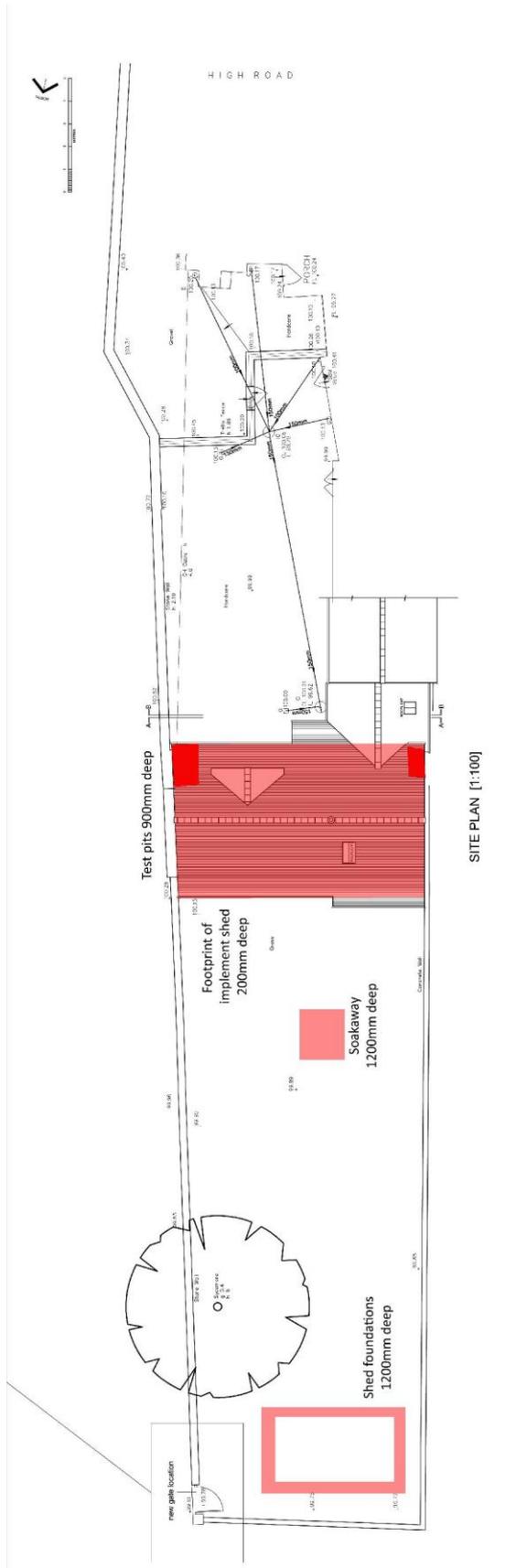
**General Description**

The site is occupied partly by the multi-phase timber-framed house and rear extensions that was formerly the Crown public house. Historic mapping indicates the house may have been in position on the 1777 Chapman and Andre map. The excavation site is beneath the plan of a rear building known as the implement shed but used as a garage and store. The building was removed before the excavations began, leaving only the footings and concrete floor. Mapping shows that the implement shed was not erected until after 1864 and before 1895.

To the north of the building is a featureless garden bound on all sides by solid walls. The boundary wall with the church is made of reclaimed stone and flint from the church. The other walls are shuttered concrete from between 1920 and 1960.



Barry Hillman-Crouch  
Design & Recording Services



Location of Excavations superimposed on the proposed building footprint.



General view of the site looking N.



Mobile phone photograph of the implement shed before its demolition. (Owner, Feb 2014).



General view of the site looking S from the end of the garden. Shed foundation slots.



Pit dug for soakaway. Looking S.

### **Aim and Scope of the Excavation**

The aim of the project was to record any historical or archaeological features that were uncovered during the demolition of the floor levels of the implement shed. At the same time the opportunity was taken to examine other test pits, a soakaway pit and foundation slots for a garden shed.

## Excavation Methodology and Timescale



Page | 7

Removing the flowerbed on the west side of the site. The test pit is for building regulations.

The test pits, foundation slots and soakaway were dug by machine the day before the Watching Brief. The building foundations and concrete floors were removed by machine under supervision of the archaeologist and all features photographed and measured. The Watching Brief was undertaken by the author on Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2014.



Removing the concrete floor of the former implement shed. Looking NW.



Test pit dug against the eastern perimeter wall for building regulations.

### **Excavation Sequence**

The shed foundations, soakaway and test pits were dug by machine in one operation. The stratification was identical in the soakaway and foundations slots. These were cut in the garden which would previously have been a paddock. There were a number of horseshoes hung around the walls garden that attest to the former presence of horses.

The present surface level (PSL) 01 (Benchmark 100.00m above sea level) is a layer of loam rich black sandy clay soil, up to 300mm deep, derived from the layer below and built up over the years by animal defecation and soil improvement to the garden. This sits directly on top of the Bagshot Pebble Bed 02, a layer of fine loamy black sandy clay rich in rounded pebbles and is a geological formation recognised in the south of the county. The depth varied between 500mm and 1200mm. Below this is a layer of mixed chalky boulder clays and London clays that form the geological sub-strata.



An internal wall and brick sump revealed under the concrete floor. Looking NW.

### **The Footprint of the Implement Shed.**

The same stratigraphic sequence applied to the footprint of the building. There was a 200mm layer of gravel hoggin laid on the Bagshot pebble bed layer and a layer of black garden soil had accumulated over this before a crazy paving and cobbled floor was laid down. Later this was washed over with a 20-50mm layer of concrete.

Around the perimeter of the building was a concrete plinth and it is apparent that the timber-framed building was raised onto the plinth and concrete and brick pillars used to reinforce the front of the building. The hoggin was then poured in to level the floor.

In the floor plan of the building, beneath the paving was a brick sump built of London Brick Company stamped Fletton bricks. Too small to be an inspection pit it must have been a drain. There was also an internal division built of the same type of bricks. These bricks became commonplace in the early 1920's and it seems likely the building was renovated in this era.

The adjacent brick wall of the kitchen has much modern graffiti but of interest is the correctly patinated HGK 1928 suggesting a series of works to the house then. The LBC bricks and the glass bottles found in the flowerbed are of this period. The dense concrete plinth is also characteristic of this era.



Graffiti suggesting a phase of works in 1928.



Looking E across the site. Note the unpointed brick wall.

It was noted that the perimeter wall has a section of unpointed London Stock brickwork where the wall was built against the eastern end of the implement shed.

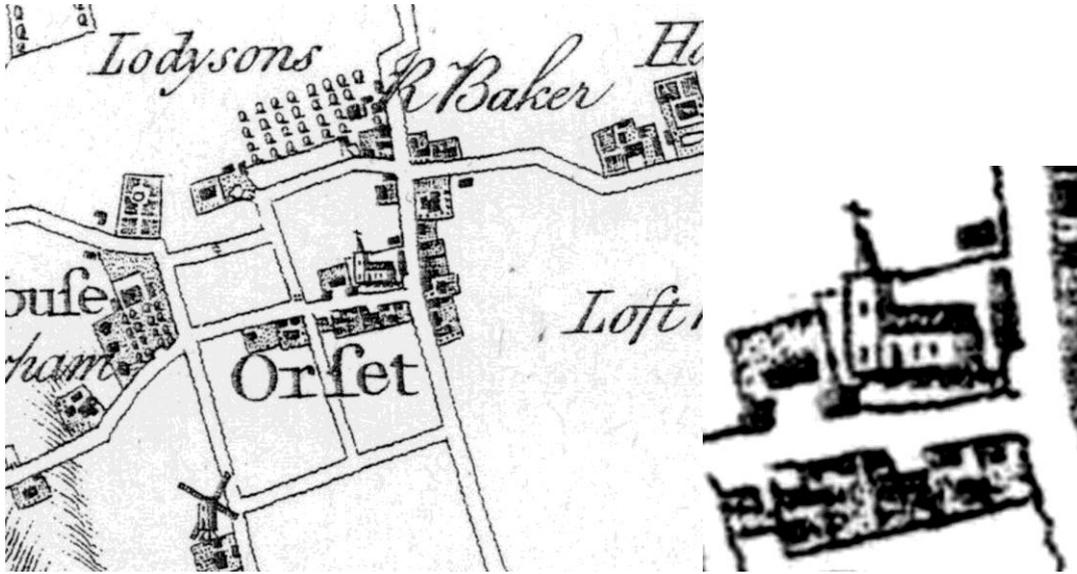
## Finds

The site was bereft of archaeological finds. There were no traces of pottery, tile or brick fragments, coins or any other dateable objects. One piece of butchered Bos tibia bone was recovered but as it was still fatty it was discarded as recent.



EC19th bottles and jars thrown down the side of the implement shed.

A good collection of complete bottles and jars was recovered from the flower bed sandwiched between the implement shed floor and the shuttered concrete wall. It seems the gap was a tempting place to throw glass away. These were all EC20th in style with some more obviously Art Deco and of the 1920's and 1930's. Some recognisable brands were Brylcreem and Vaseline.



1777 Chapman and Andre's map of Essex.

Chapman and Andre's map shows a building that might correspond with the house.



1843 Tithe Award Map. ERO D/CT264A

The Tithe Map of 1843 shows the house in a similar layout to today. It is clear however that the implement shed was not in position then. There is no copy of the Tithe Award to give further details on the plot.



1867 Ordnance Survey First Edition.

By 1867 there has been an alteration to the site boundary with the churchyard to allow access from the high road. By then it was noted as the Crown Inn. There is a building half the width of the implement shed that lines the boundary.

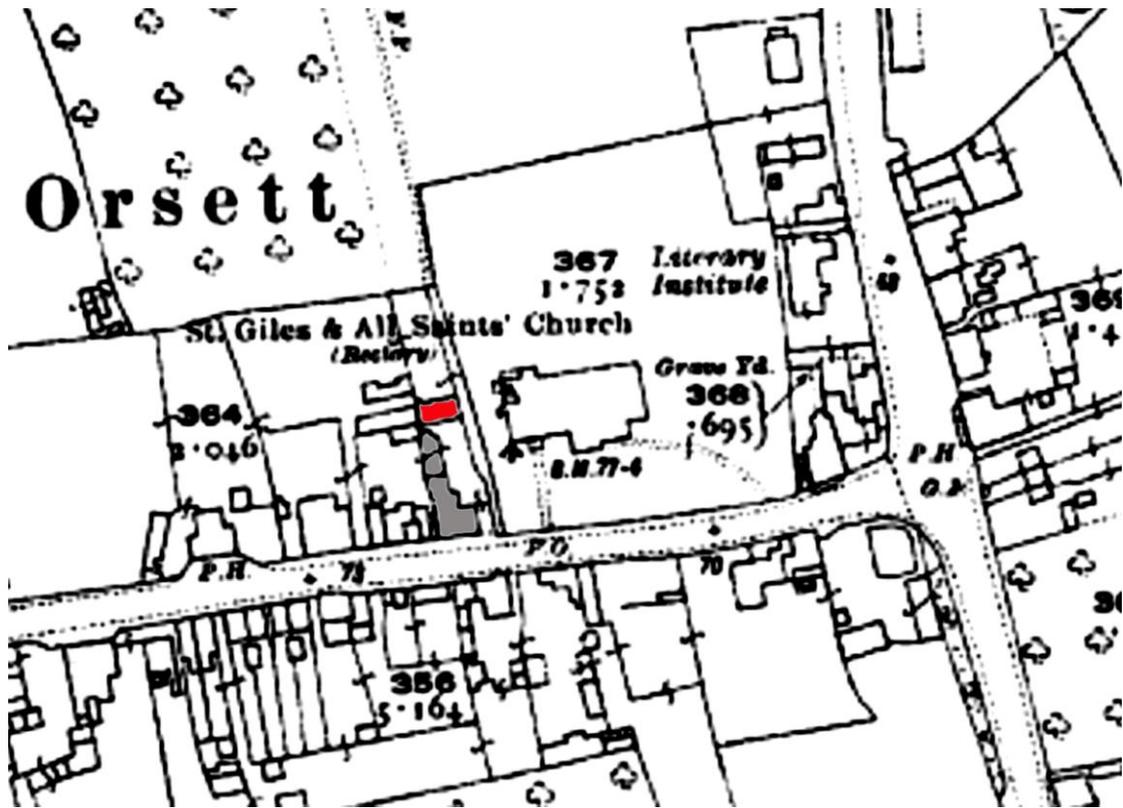


1895 Ordnance Survey

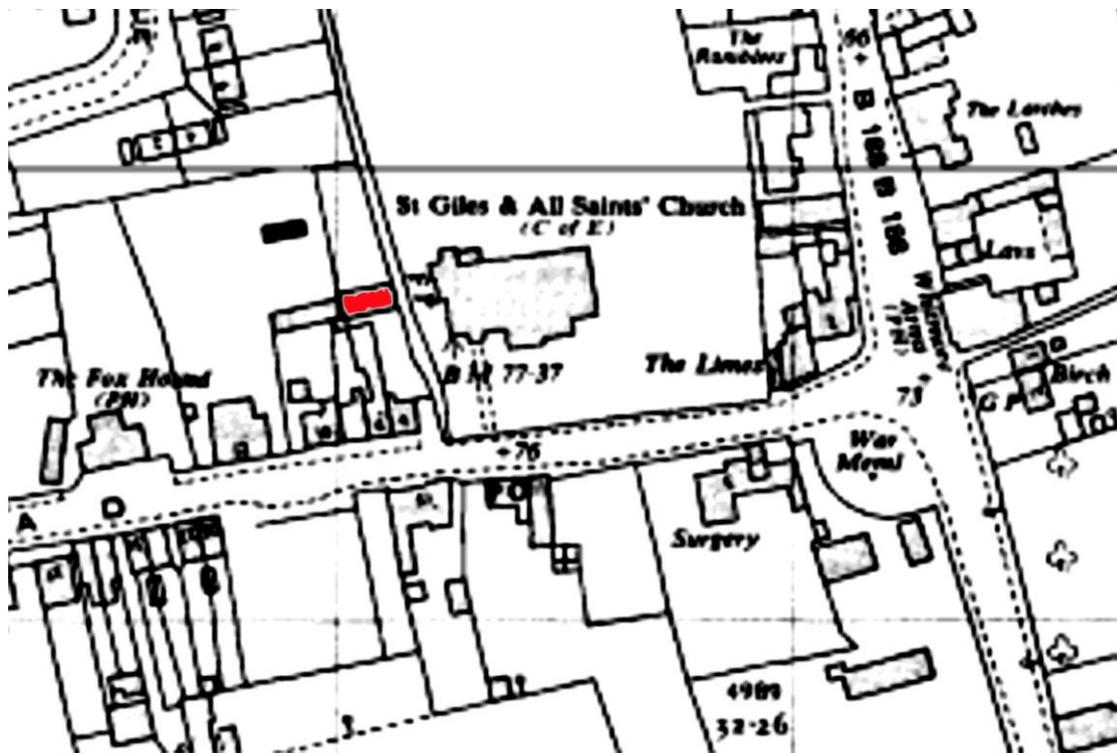
By 1895 a building of the same footprint as the implement shed has appeared.



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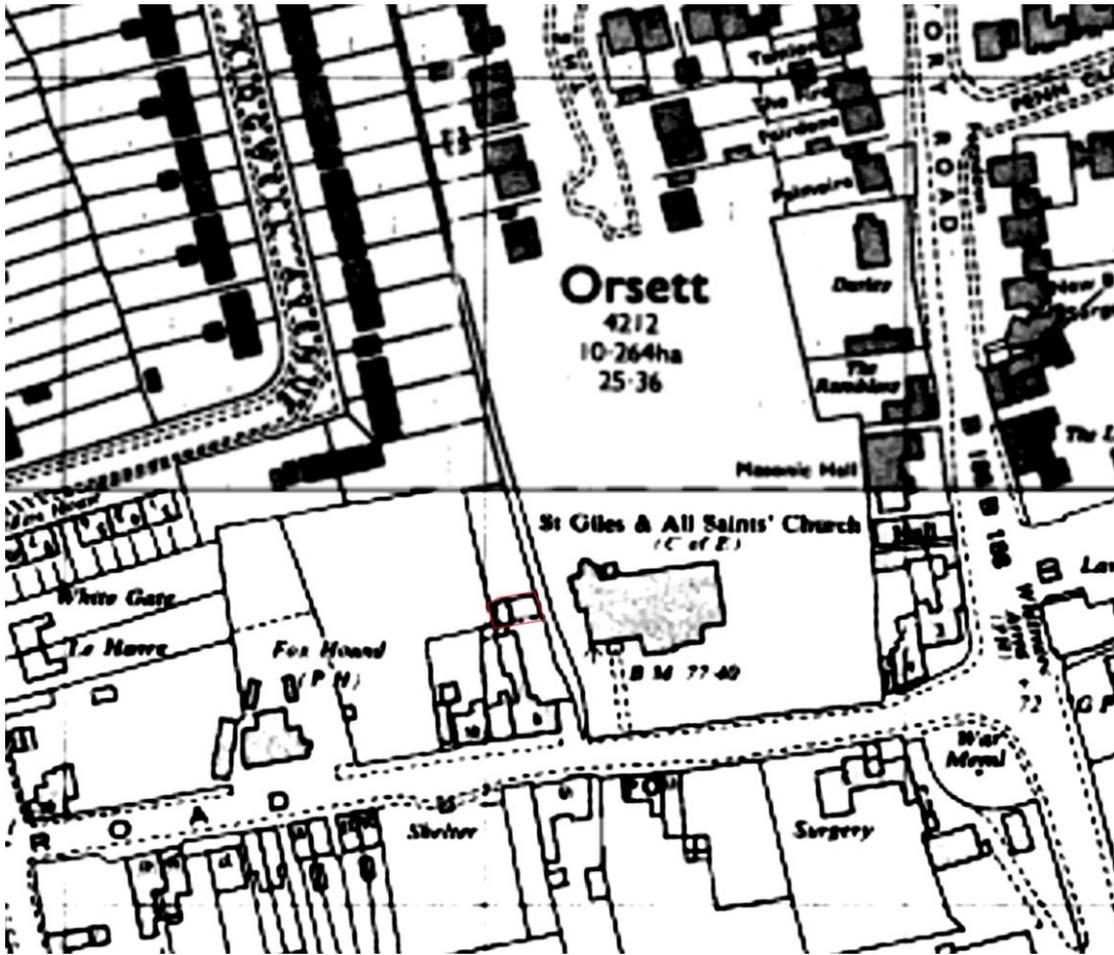
1920 Ordnance Survey



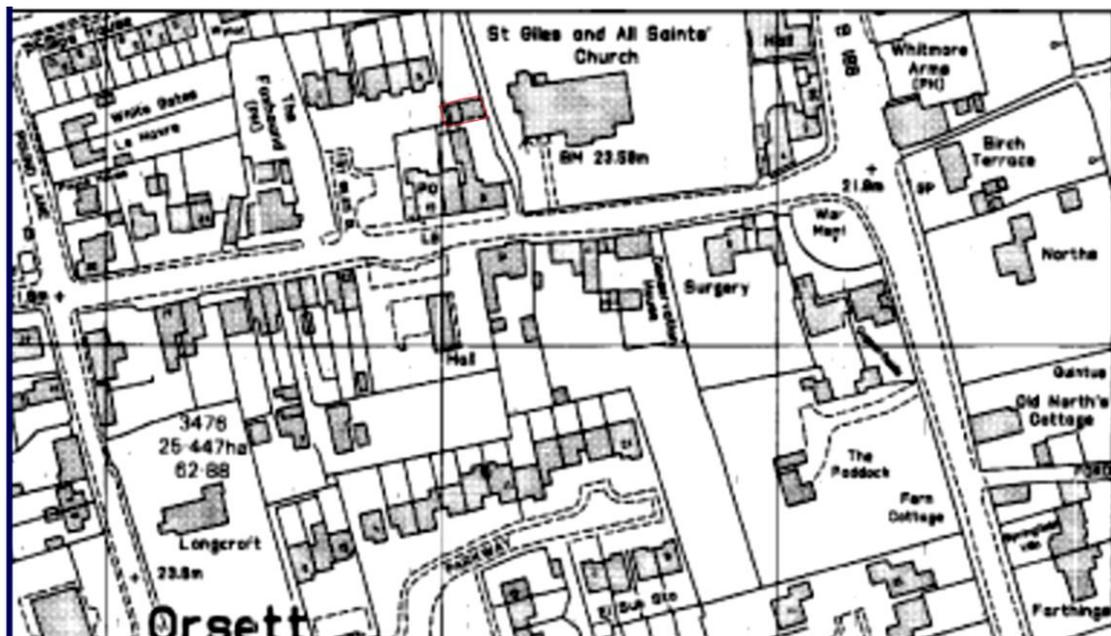
1960 Ordnance Survey



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1966-70 Ordnance Survey



1988 Ordnance Survey

## Discussion

The implement shed was erected between 1864 and 1895. It then was subjected to a number of repairs, particularly in the EC20th. The floor was paved and cobbled and the building raised on a ring beam of concrete. The floor was later concreted over.

The removal of the building revealed no traces of any other buildings and it was noted that the ground level had been scoured away to form the current drive. The earlier C19th buildings were probably groundfast timber-frames.

It was unusual that there were absolutely no archaeological finds before the EC20th. The collection of EC20th glass bottle and jars represents the only sign of human activity. There were two pet graves but these dated to 1966 and 1982.

The topsoil of the garden and the floor of the building lay on top of the Bagshot pebble bed geological formation. This is very difficult to dig into by hand and may account for no waste pits in the garden area.

The site was used as the Crown public house from at least 1823 until 1899 (Appendix 1).

## Significance

The site is only significant for the present standing buildings.

## Acknowledgements

I am indebted to Mr John Talbot, the present owner for engaging me to record the works. I also thank Richard Havis of Essex County Council for his involvement in the project.

## Bibliography

Lucy G. An Introduction to the Geology and Fossils of Essex. 2003.

<http://www.essexfieldclub.org.uk/portal/p/Geology+of+Essex>

<http://pubshistory.com/EssexPubs/indexlan.shtml>

## Appendix 1.

Year/Publican or other Resident/Relationship to Head and or Occupation/Age/Where Born/Source.

1823/James Fletcher/./././ERO \*\*\* [Tenant at will £20 per annum]  
1828-9/Joseph Fletcher/./././Pigot's  
1832-3/Joseph Fletcher/./././Pigot's  
1839/Mary Fletcher/./././Pigot's

1841/Mary Fletcher/Victualler/55/Essex/Census \*\*  
1841/Eleanor Fletcher/./21/Essex/Census  
1841/Samuel Fletcher/Hair Dresser/16/Essex/Census  
1841/Fanny Fletcher/./11/Essex/Census  
1841/James Sackett/Bricklayers Labourer/38/Essex/Census  
1841/Henry Snell/Agr Labourer/27/Essex/Census

1845/Mrs. Fletcher/./././Post Office

1848/Mary Fletcher/Victualler/././White's

1851/Mrs. Mary Fletcher/./././Post Office

1851/Mary Fletcher/widow, innkeeper/66/North Ockendon, Essex/Census \*\*\*  
1851/Ellina Snell/widow, daughter/30/Orsett, Essex/Census \*\*\*  
1851/Samuel Fletcher/son, hairdresser/25/Orsett, Essex/Census \*\*\*  
1851/Fanny Fletcher/daughter/21/Orsett, Essex/Census \*\*\*  
1851/Jane Fletcher/daughter/19/Orsett, Essex/Census \*\*\*  
1851/James Arnold/grandson, errand boy/14/Orsett, Essex/Census \*\*\*  
1851/Mary Snell/granddaughter, scholar/07/Orsett, Essex/Census \*\*\*  
1851/Charles Carr/lodger, sawyer/56/Oxfordshire/Census \*\*\*

1852/Mrs. M. Fletcher/./././Kelly's\*  
1855/Mrs. M. Fletcher/./././Kelly's\*

1862/Thomas Wright/./././Post Office

1867/William Robert Holley/Tailor/././Post Office

1870/George Kittle/./././Kelly's

1871/George Kittle/./././Post Office

1874/Joseph Roast/./././Kelly's

1878/Mrs. Joseph Roast/./././Kelly's

1881/Robert Harding/Licensed Victualler/31/Loley, Berkshire/Census  
1881/Emma Harding/Wife/32/Lea Bridge, Middlesex/Census  
1881/Edith Harding/Daughter/6/Bromley, Middlesex/Census  
1881/Jesse Murrell/Lodger, Farm Labourer/70/Orsett, Essex/Census

1882/Robert Harding/./././Kelly's  
1886/Robert Harding/./././Kelly's  
1890/Robert Harding/./././Kelly's  
1894/Robert Harding/./././Kelly's  
1895/Robert Harding/./././Kelly's  
1898/Robert Harding/./././Kelly's  
1899/Robert Harding/./././Kelly's