

SLACK HOUSE COTTAGES, ST HELENS ROAD, ORMSKIRK, LANCASHIRE

Archaeological Building Recording



Client: David Oldham

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Non-Technical Summary

Following the submission of an application for the demolition of Slack House Cottages and The Hawthorns, St Helens Road, Ormskirk, Lancashire, a request was made by Lancashire County Council that Slack House Cottages be first subject to an archaeological building recording. Following the provision by Greenlane Archaeology of a project design for this the work on site was carried out in October 2015. The building had been subject to an earlier Heritage Assessment, but this was limited in scope and had not involved examining it in great detail, although it concluded that the bulk of the present building was constructed in the late 19th century, primarily on the basis of the map evidence. The only available census information that could be connected to the property with certainty shows that part of the building was occupied by a coal miner in 1911, while the 1891 census perhaps also shows that much of the building was occupied by coal miners at an earlier date too.

Slack House Cottages comprise a single row of properties, originally three, then four cottages, but more recently partially knocked-through to form a smaller number of larger dwellings. Their origin is uncertain; they are assumed to have served as agricultural workers housing but the lack of useful documentary sources makes it difficult to ascertain who lived in them before the end of the 19th century. The available mapping shows that they were certainly in existence by the 1840s and possibly as early as 1830, and that they had been enlarged by the 1890s.

The building recording revealed that structure actually contained a core of surviving early or mid-19th century fabric, relating to three phases of construction and extension. These phases suggest that the original building comprised three small cottages, the upper floors of which were perhaps accessed by ladders, which were later extended by the addition of a fourth cottage and then enlarged and modernised. Later alterations were more minor, although during the late 20th century more substantial changes led to the loss of several elements of the original fabric, as well as changing the arrangement of the original structure to make a smaller number of larger properties, although it is not clear how many were actually occupied.

The project allowed a relatively rare investigation of a property of this type, which in many aspects compares well to other agricultural workers housing, although the individual cottages are relatively large commodious.

Acknowledgements

Greenlane Archaeology would like to thank David Oldham, Director of Capital Developments at Edge Hill University, for commissioning the project. Further thanks are also due to the client's agent, Graham Love of Janet Dixon Town Planning, for his assistance and information about the property, and the staff of the Lancashire Archives in Preston for their help with accessing the archive information.

The desk-based assessment and building recording were carried out by Dan Elsworth and Tom Mace, the latter of whom also produced the illustrations. The report was edited by Jo Dawson and the project was managed by Dan Elsworth.

1. Introduction

1.1 Circumstances of the Project

1.1.1 Following the submission of an application (ref. 2015/0702/PND) for the demolition of Slack House Cottages and The Hawthorns, St Helens Road, Ormskirk, Lancashire (NGR 342255 407145), a request was made by Peter Iles from the Specialist Advisory Service at Lancashire County Council (LCC) that Slack House Cottages be first subject to an archaeological building recording and then, following demolition to footings level, the site investigated by the excavation of an archaeological evaluation trench across the footprint of the building. Greenlane Archaeology was appointed by David Oldham, Director of Capital Developments at Edge Hill University (hereafter 'the client'), via his agent Graham Love of Janet Dixon Town Planning, to carry out the archaeological building recording and evaluation. In response to this Greenlane Archaeology produced a project design for the work (*Appendix 1*), which was carried out in October 2015. This report contains the results of the archaeological building recording only; the results of the evaluation will be detailed in a separate report following the completion of that element of the work.

1.1.2 The site has been subject to an earlier heritage assessment (Miller 2015), which revealed that the cottages assumed their present form in the late 19th century, although they were built on the site of an earlier structure. It is possible that the site had its origins as earlier 'squatter's cottages' (Iles 2015), something that could only be demonstrated through archaeological investigation of below-ground deposits.

1.2 Location, Geology, and Topography

1.2.1 The site is located approximately 1km south-east of the centre Ormskirk on St Helens Road and now situated on the edge of the grounds of Edge Hill University (Ordnance Survey 2015; Figure 1). The site is approximately 60m above sea level (Ordnance Survey 2015).

1.2.2 The underlying solid geology of the region comprises Permo-Triassic red mudstones, siltstones and sandstones but these are typically covered by a thick layer of glacially-derived boulder clay (Countryside Commission 1998, 87). The topography of the local area is, in the more rural parts, typically comprising pasture for livestock enclosed by hedgerows but also areas of vegetable and cereal crops, with smaller irregular areas of woodland and numerous ponds (*op cit*, 89).

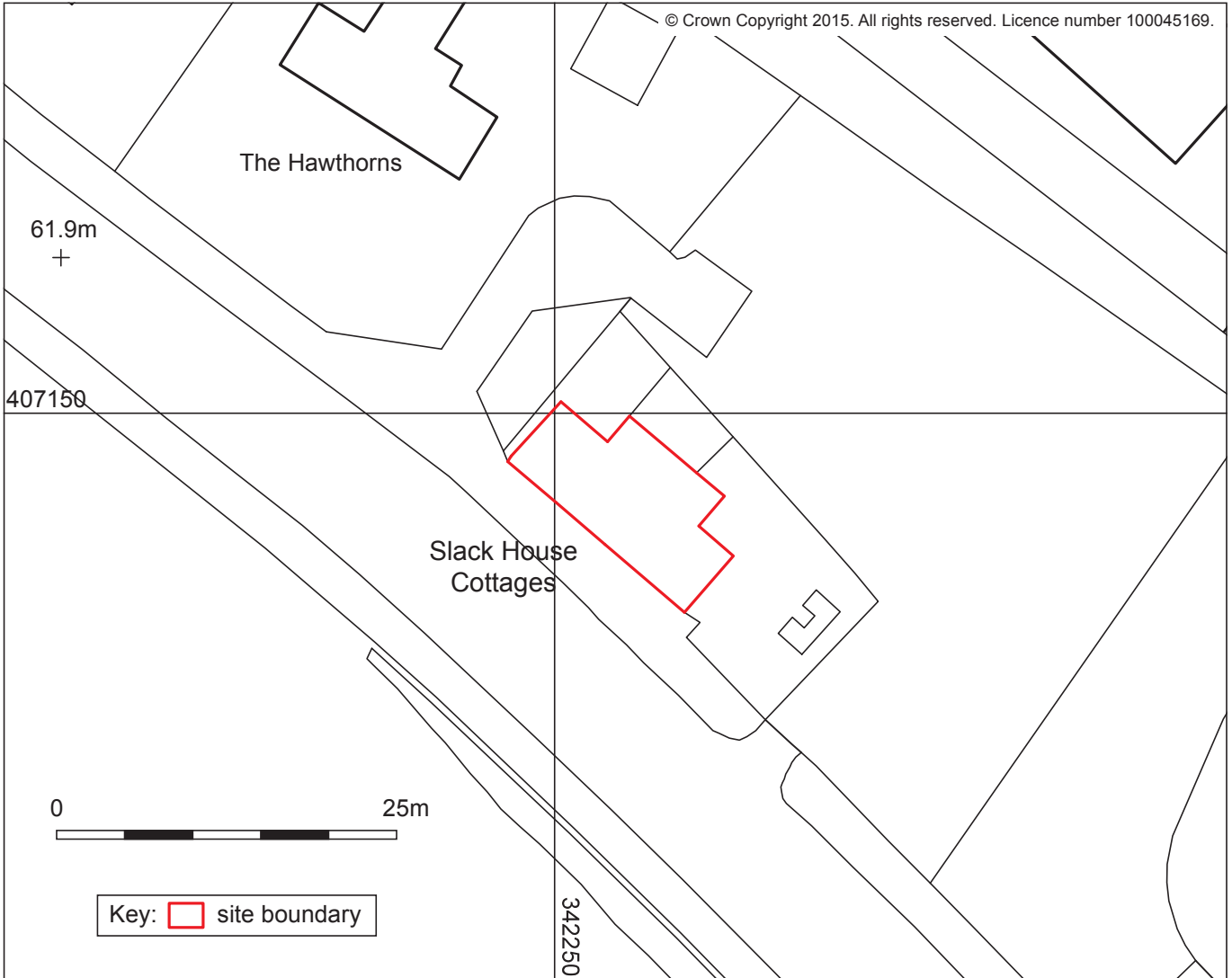
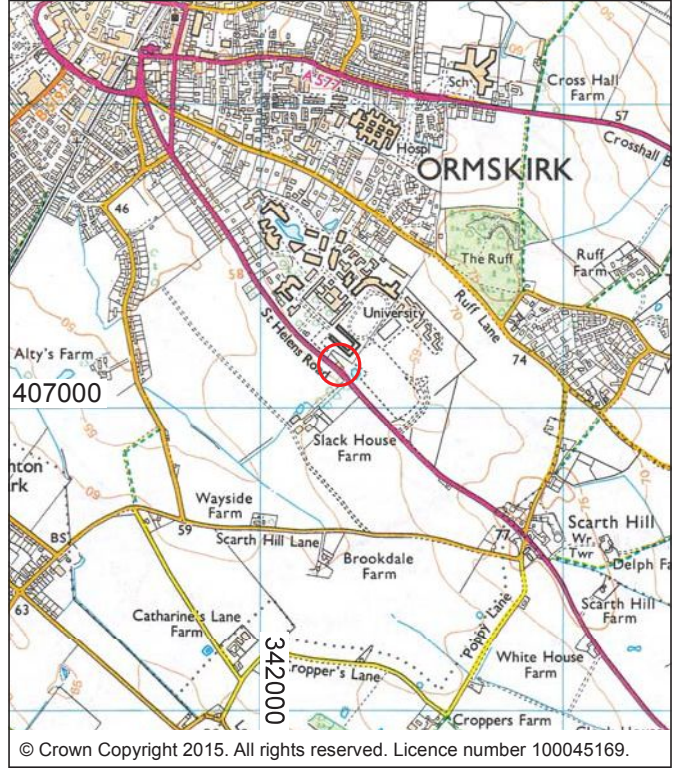
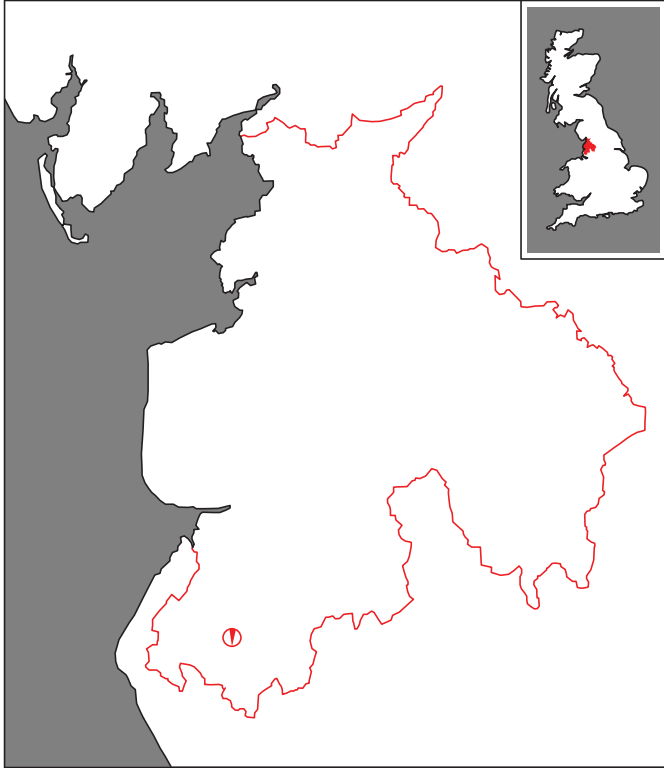


Figure 1: Site location

Client: David Oldham

2. Methodology

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The building investigation comprised two separate elements intended to provide a suitable record of the structures in line with English Heritage standards (English Heritage 2006) and the guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a; 2014b). A suitable archive has been compiled to provide a permanent paper record of the project and its results in accordance with English Heritage and CIfA guidelines (English Heritage 1991; Brown 2007).

2.2 Desk-Based Assessment

2.2.1 The site has been subject to an earlier heritage assessment (Miller 2015) but additional research was also carried out, most notably the tithe map for the area was examined, which was not consulted as part of the earlier heritage assessment. Further desk-based assessment of the site was carried out in accordance with the guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a). This principally comprised an examination of early maps of the site and published secondary sources. A number of sources of information were used during the compilation of the desk-based assessment:

- **Lancashire Record Office, Preston (LRO):** this was visited primarily in order to examine early maps of the site, but other sources such as the census, directories, and local histories, were also consulted;
- **Greenlane Archaeology:** additional primary and secondary sources held in Greenlane Archaeology's library were also examined to provide information for the site background and map regression.

2.3 Building Recording

2.3.1 The building recording was carried out to English Heritage Level-2/3 type standards (English Heritage 2006), which is a moderate level of investigation intended to record the form, function and phasing of the building, incorporating the results of the desk-based assessment, in order to aid the interpretation of its development. The recording comprised the following elements:

- **Written record:** descriptive records of all parts of the building were made using Greenlane Archaeology *pro forma* record sheets;
- **Photographs:** photographs in colour digital format, as both 12MB RAW files and jpegs, were taken of the main features of the building, its general surroundings, and any features of architectural or archaeological interest (see *Appendix 2*). A selection of the colour digital photographs is included in this report, and the remaining photographs are in the project archive;
- **Drawings:** drawings were produced by hand measured survey and ultimately comprised:
 - i. external elevations at a scale of 1:100;
 - ii. floor plans at a scale of 1:100.

2.4 Archive

2.4.1 The archive, comprising the drawn, written, and photographic record of the buildings (see *Appendix 3*) will be deposited with the Lancashire Record Office in Preston. The archive has been compiled according to the standards and guidelines of the CIfA and English Heritage guidelines (Brown 2007; English Heritage 1991). A copy of this report will be supplied to the client, a digital copy will be supplied to the Lancashire County Council Archaeological Service, and one will be retained by Greenlane Archaeology. In addition, a digital record of the project will be made on the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) scheme.

3. Desk-Based Assessment

3.1 Map and Image Regression

3.1.1 **Introduction:** early maps of the area tend to be relatively lacking in detail and are not included in this section as they are not detailed enough to be useful in understanding the development of the property. The more reliable of these early examples (e.g. Yates 1786; Greenwood 1818) do not show a building at the site, while Hennet's map of 1830 does, although only as a single rectangle with no other information. The most useful maps date from the mid-19th century onwards.

3.1.2 **Tithe Map 1845:** this map (LRO DRL 1/58 1845a) shows that a building on the north side St Helen's Road, which corresponds well to the later maps and must therefore indicate that the cottages had been constructed by this date (Plate 1). Although the scale makes a detailed interpretation difficult the building evidently comprised a single linear block with projecting outshuts off the north-east side, while the north-west end is clearly wider than the rest. There are also smaller detached outbuildings to the north-west, presumably outside toilets.

3.1.3 **Ordnance Survey 1849:** the first edition Ordnance Survey map, which was surveyed in 1845-1846, is at a scale of 1:10,560 and as such lacks detail (Plate 2). However, the building shown at the location of Slack House Cottages corresponds broadly with that depicted on the tithe map.

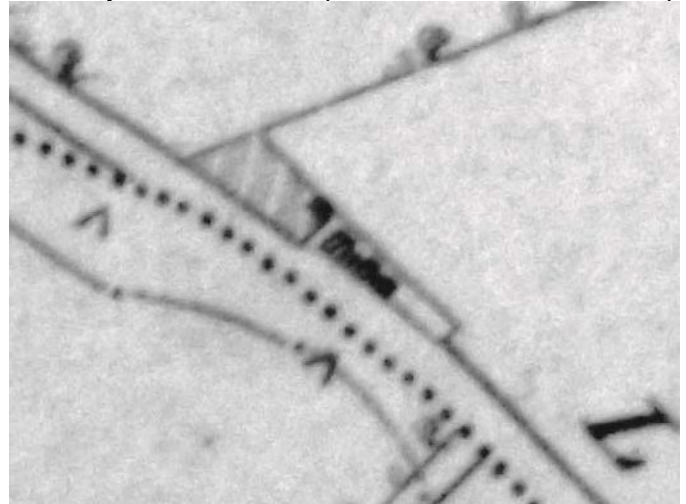
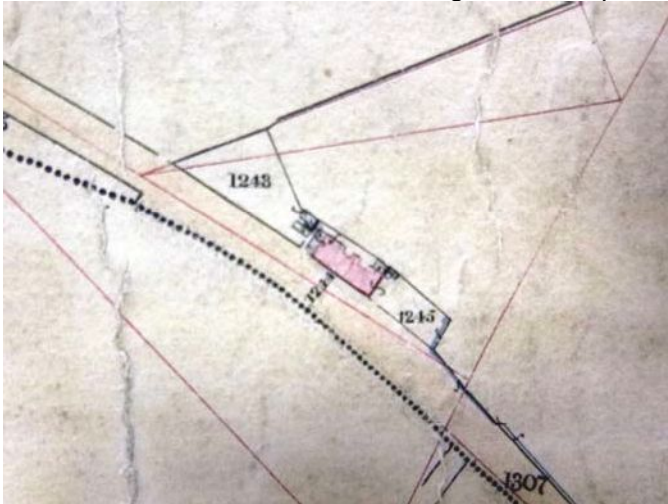


Plate 1 (left): Extract from the Tithe Map of 1845

Plate 2 (right): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1849

3.1.4 **Ordnance Survey 1893:** this is the first 1:2,500 scale plan to depict the site, and is therefore considerably more detailed than its predecessors. It is difficult to overlay this map onto the earlier maps due to various differences in the footprint of the building and changes to the nearby field boundaries. The building has evidently been modified since the production of the earlier map but it still comprises the same linear block on the same orientation and even has a similar block of detached outbuildings to the north-west, although another detached block has also appeared to the south-east (Plate 3; cf. Plate 1).

3.1.5 **Ordnance Survey 1908:** this shows essentially the same information as the previous map, although it is noticeable that the two wells shown on the previous plan are no longer marked (Plate 4; cf. Plate 3).



Plate 3 (left): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1893

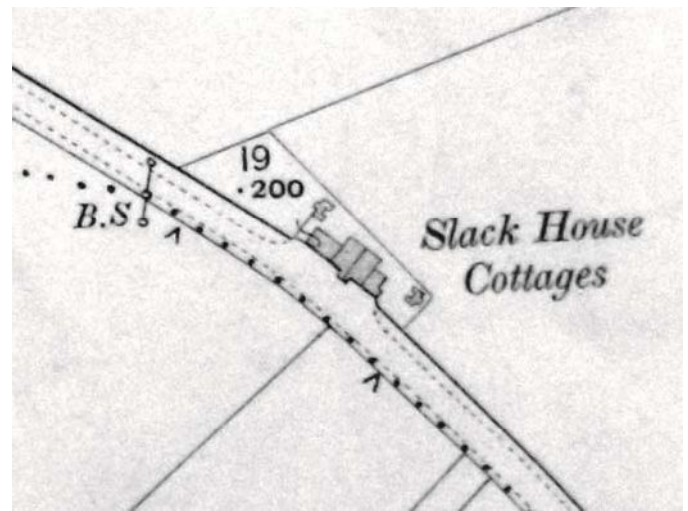


Plate 4 (right): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1908

3.1.6 **Ordnance Survey 1927:** this shows essentially the same information as the previous map, although an addition has been made to the rear of the cottage at the west end of the row (Plate 5).

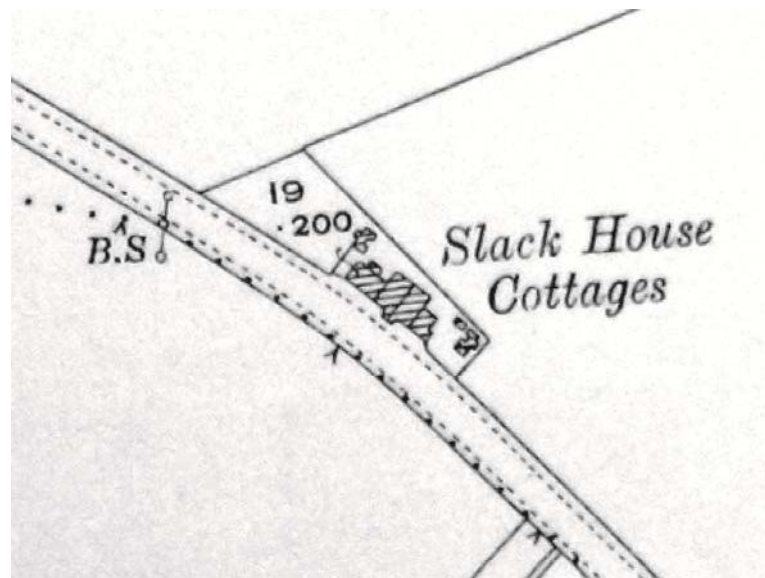


Plate 5: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1927

3.2 Site History

3.2.1 **Slack House Cottages:** the apportionment accompanying the tithe map of 1845 records plot 1245, which seems to comprise the whole of the main part of the building (coloured pink), as '2 cottages and gardens' occupied by John Levesley and Henry Snipe and owned by William and James Parr although clearly only as lessees, seemingly from the Earl of Derby (LRO DRL 1/58 1845b). The outbuildings to the north-west seem to form part of plot 1243, which also has William and James as lessees but is said to be unoccupied and has no description (*ibid*). Confusingly plot 1244 is one of a number of plots described as 'cottages and gardens' but given no other information (*ibid*). This is perhaps a mistake made during the compilation of the tithes.

3.2.2 Other documentary records relating to Slack House Cottages are very scarce as it is not apparently listed by name in the directories and the census for the area is broken down largely by street name and it is not known what number the cottages had at that time. The 1891 census does, however, list a group of four properties just before 'Slack Farm' (presumably meaning Slack House Farm), which

could be referring to Slack House Cottages, but they are said to be on Wigan Road, which is some distance away, although it is conceivable that the census enumerator made a mistake. The people listed include two coal miners, a wheelright, and two sisters living by independent means (RG12/3044/Folio 106 1891). The 1911 census, by contrast, has one household certainly listed at Slackhouse Cottages, which comprises Thomas Horner, described as a 'colliery dataller', his wife, and two children (RG14/22821/0695/Folio 3 1911). A 'colliery dataller' is someone who carried out labouring jobs at a colliery on a day rate (Genuki nd). It is unclear why no other households are listed at Slack House Cottages in this census. It is possible that the building was becoming gradually disused during this period, and with the development of Edge Hill College, which was founded in 1885 in Liverpool (Montgomery 1997) but moved to its current site in the 1930s, with the foundation laid in 1931 (Woodhead and Chapman 2006, 69), this may have increased. The assumption, based on the name of the property, is that the cottages were built for farm labourers (Iles 2015), presumably working at or for the nearby Slack House Farm, hence the name, but the available census returns seem to suggest that this is not the case and that, by the late 19th century at least, they were occupied by coal miners.

3.3 Conclusion

3.3.1 The site clearly saw development prior to 1845 as buildings are shown at that location on the tithe map of that date. Nearby field boundaries and the footprint of the buildings on site had changed substantially by the time of the first 1:2,500 scale Ordnance Survey map, which was surveyed in 1891. The arrangement of buildings on site remained essentially unchanged after that date, although a small addition was built to the rear of the west end of the row of houses between 1908 and 1927.

4. Building Recording

4.1 Arrangement and Fabric

4.1.1 The building comprises an essentially linear range orientated approximately north-west/south-east with the front facing to the south-west onto St Helens Road (Plate 6), although the projection from the north-east side makes it closer to a truncated T-shape. The building is two storeys throughout, with a small attic space over the central part and rear extension. The roof is finished with grey slate with ceramic bonnet ridge tiles, and there are two square-section brick chimney stacks projecting through the roof of the main section, each of tiered construction, although the north-west is largely rebuilt. The lower part of the north-west stack and the entire south-east stack is constructed from dark orangey-red handmade bricks, while the upper part of the north-west stack is constructed from modern dark red bricks. Both stacks have ceramic pots; four on the north-west and two on the south-east, mostly of relatively early crenulated types and square in plan, but two on the north-west stack are circular in plan. Externally the build is largely in buff gristone laid in random courses, with rough quoins at the corners and dressed stone of the same type used in sills and lintels. Elsewhere there is evidence for building in brick, of both handmade and machine made types, especially evident internally. However, the projecting central block to the rear (north-east) is finished externally with smooth concrete render. There are monopitch timber porches with slate roofs projecting from the front (south-west) and south-east elevations. Internally the structural timber, where visible, is machine cut, although some rougher timber is evident in some of the purlins.



Plate 6: General view of the Slack House Cottages from St Helens Road

4.2 External Detail

4.2.1 **North-east elevation:** this forms the rear elevation, facing onto what was presumably originally a garden. The north-west end is of stone construction, with quoins at the north-west end and two windows on the ground floor (Plate 7). These are both blocked with handmade orangey-red brick filling the north-west and stone filling the south-east, with additional brick incorporated into the jambs, perhaps replacing large quoins (Plate 8). Both windows have round and thin stone quoins and the north-west has a similar lintel. At first floor level there is another window, which is relatively wide and has a dressed stone sill and timber lintel at eaves level. It is covered by a board and has quoins in the jambs with rock-faced finish and dressed bands along the edges. The ends of the purlins project along the roof line and there is a band of concrete skim between these. After the return for the projecting central section the elevation forms a gable, finished with smooth concrete render (Plate 9), although where this has come away it is evidently brick (possibly hand made) below. There are three ground floor windows with dressed sloping

stone sills, two of which are boarded up, while the third has a four-light hinged timber casement. A plastic vent and ceramic ventilation brick are inserted through the wall at ground floor level. At first floor level there are two more windows in the same style, also boarded up. The south-east end, after the return of the projecting section, is constructed from machine-made brick laid in English garden wall bond at a ratio of four rows of stretchers to one row of headers (Plate 10). The elevation is essentially plain, although there are quoins at the south-east end.



Plate 7: The north-west end of the north-east external elevation, viewed from the north



Plate 8: The blocked windows in the north-west end of the north-east external elevation, viewed from the north



Plate 9 (left): The central part of the north-east external elevation, viewed from the north



Plate 10 (right): The south-east end of the north-east external elevation, viewed from the east

4.2.2 **South-east elevation:** this comprises the irregular gable end of the building, and the side of the projecting extension to the rear (Plate 11). The lower part on the south-west side is covered by a monopitch timber outshut sat on a dressed stone plinth, clad with timber sheets and with a central window (covered by a board) and slate roof. The north-east return of the outshut to the north-west contains a doorway with a plank and batten door below the tongue and groove plank construction of the wall of the outshut. The main elevation beyond this is of stone construction, with a single ground floor window on the north-east side, covered by board, with a sloping dressed stone sill and heavy dressed stone sill. There is a further window, of similar size and form, but slightly narrower, on the first floor. There are quoins at the north-east end and attached iron waste water pipes and a television aerial. The extension to the north-east is finished with smooth concrete render, hiding any detail, but there is a doorway with a plank and batten door, a stone step up from the external ground level, and an *ad hoc* canopy above formed by iron brackets covered with metal sheeting. To the north-east there is also a ceramic ventilation brick inserted into the wall with a projecting slate lintel above. The roof above this section is appears to have been replaced as the ridge tiles are notably newer or at least of a different form, although the ends of the purlins project below the roof line as elsewhere.



Plate 11: The south-east external elevation, viewed from the east

4.2.3 **South-west elevation:** this comprises the main front elevation of the building and is all of stone construction, with the exception of the monopitch porches, one of which extends the north-east end and comprises just timber sheeting over the frame, which is sat on a dressed stone plinth. The south-east end of the stone section is clearly an extension, butting onto the main part, with quoins at the end and a doorway with a rough stone lintel blocked with stone at the junction with the main section (Plate 12). There is a window on the first floor with a dressed stone sill and small quoins, the lintel extending beyond the line of the roof which the purlins project beyond, although they are largely hidden by a barge board. The main part of the elevation has four relatively regularly spaced windows on the ground floor, matched by similarly-positioned and similarly-sized windows on the first floor (Plate 13). All have the same type of dressed stone sills and heavy stone lintels seen elsewhere in the building, with small dressed quoins. Near the centre of the ground floor is a pair of doorways, each also with small quoins and heavy stone lintels and beaded plank and batten doors. These are enclosed by a monopitch porch of timber construction, although with a slate roof, comprising upright posts with angled braces between rails, the bottom one sat on a dressed stone plinth, with a hand rail mid way supported by a row of narrow stop-chamfered square-section spindles (Plate 14). This hand rail also extends to the wall to the north-east where it divides the access to the two doorways. The floor of the porch is finished with red and black quarry tiles laid in a diagonally-set chequer-board pattern and each has a stone step up from the pavement.



Plate 12 (left): The south-east end of the south-west external elevation showing the later addition, viewed from the south-west



Plate 13 (right): General view of the south-west external elevation, viewed from the west



Plate 14: The porch attached to the centre of the south-west external elevation, viewed from the west

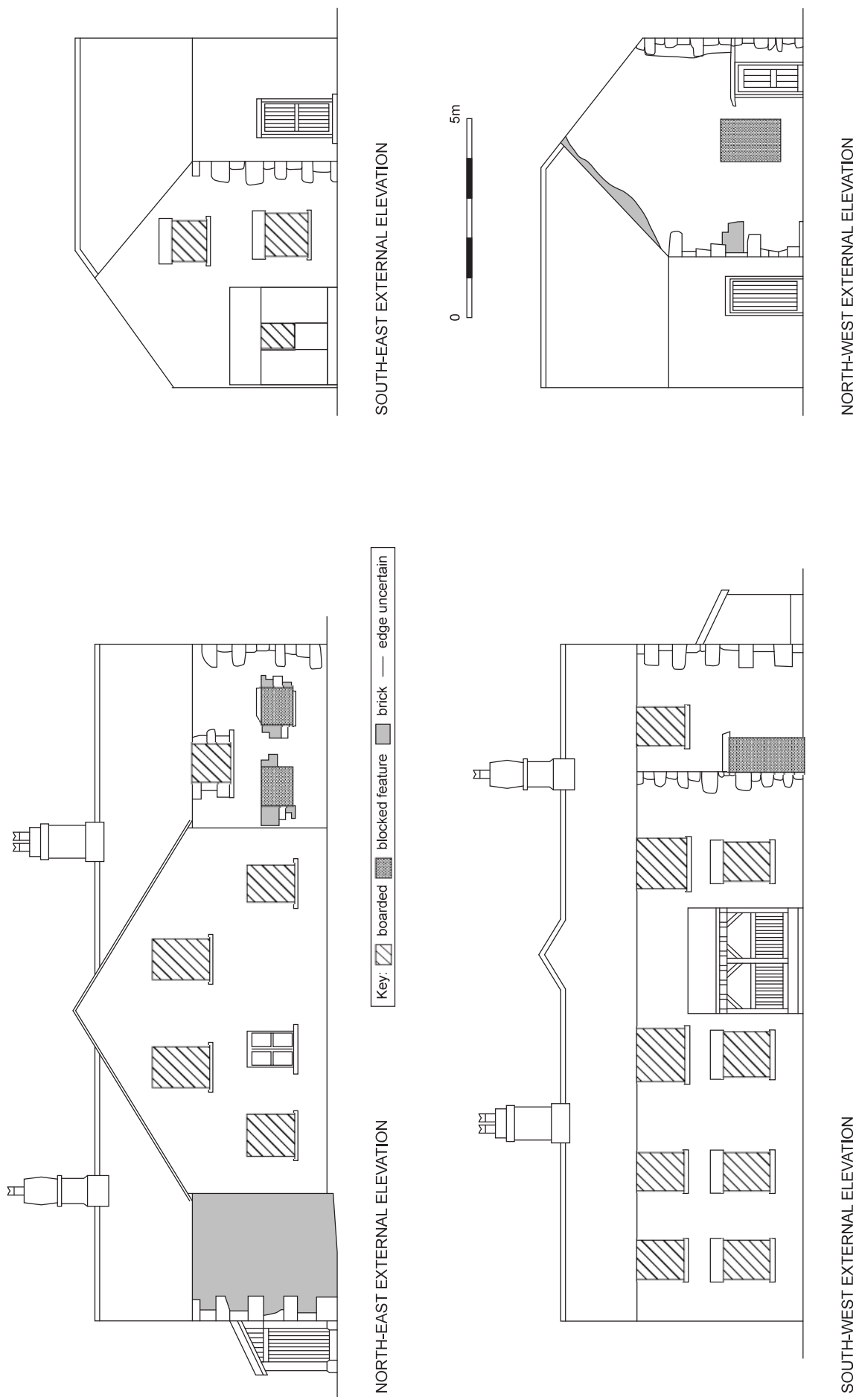
4.2.4 **North-west elevation:** the south-west end of this forms an irregular gable constructed of stone, with some evident rebuilding below the roof line on the north-east side comprising rough brick and concrete sheeting (Plate 15). There is also a possible rebuild line high on the south-west side, perhaps suggesting that the stone finish is just a skim over an earlier brick surface, as suggested elsewhere (see below). There is a tall opening in the centre, blocked with stone and now with no lintel, and to the south-west there is a doorway with a rough and over-long stone lintel and some brick visible in the jamb (Plate 16), again suggesting the stonework is just cladding. The south-west end is finished with quoins, although these are not as neat as elsewhere. After the return to the south-east the projection extension to the north-east is finished with smooth concrete render and largely featureless, although it has a doorway

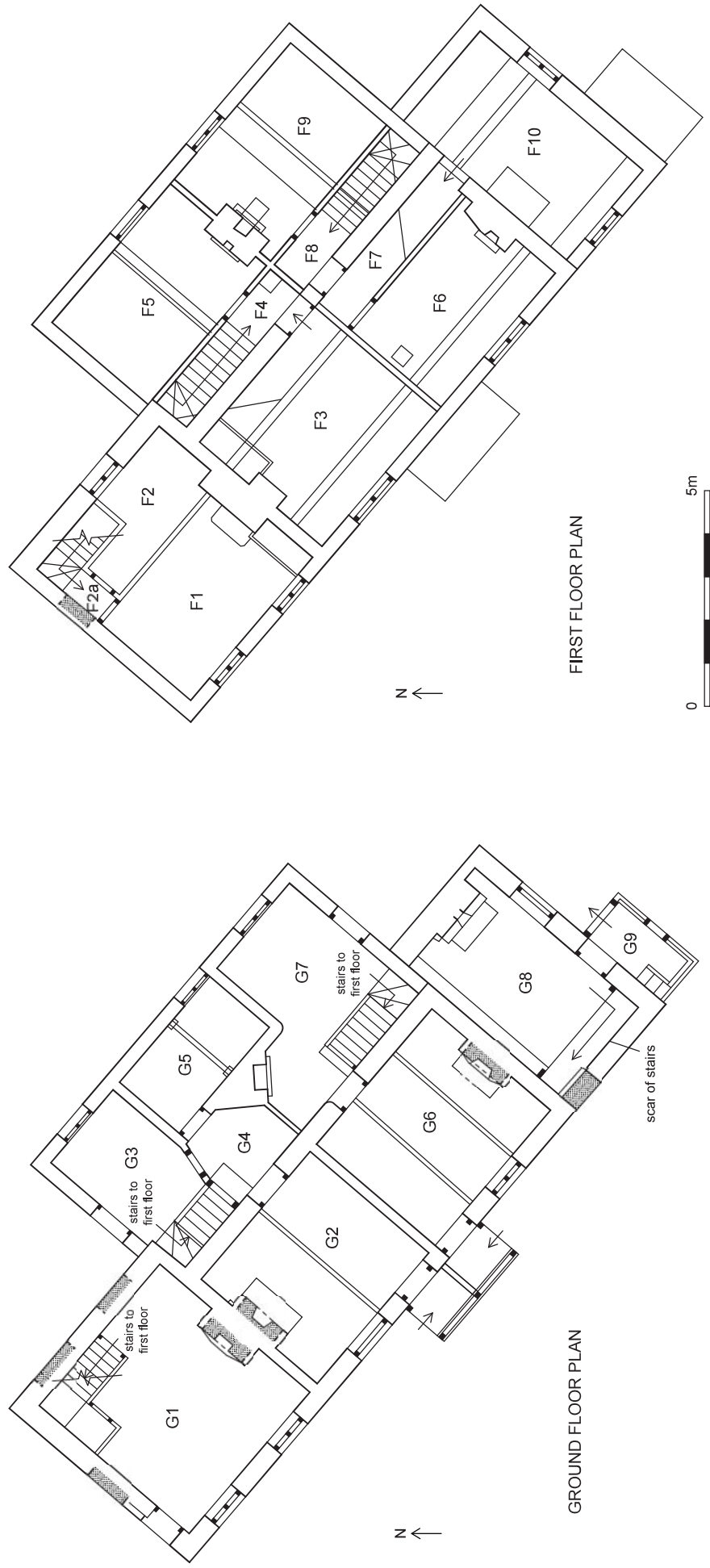
on the south-west side with a plank and batten door, there is an attached light to the north-east of this, and the ends of the purlins project below the roof line.



Plate 15 (left): General view of the north-west external elevation, viewed from the north-west

Plate 16 (right): Brick exposed in the jamb of the doorway on the south-west side of the north-west external elevation, viewed from the north-west





Key: cross-sectional timber blocked feature overhead features step(s) up in the direction of the arrow

Figure 3: Floor plans

4.3 Internal Detail

4.3.1 **Ground floor Room 1:** this most recently comprised a living room, and has an exposed concrete floor and flat lath and plaster ceiling finished with flock wallpaper. The walls are finished with plaster and paint and the remains of flock wallpaper and there is a plain low skirting board throughout. The stairs to the first floor are set against the north-east elevation (Plate 17) and run up towards the north corner and there is large cupboard against these and the north-west wall. The north-west side of the north-east elevation is covered by the stairs, which are boxed in with timber constructed from wide planks, with the cupboard extending beneath the stairs at the north-west end (Plate 17). The underside is whitewashed and has applied plywood or hardboard cladding the walls and chipboard shelves. The return in the centre of the elevation has a doorway to the stairs with a plain four panel door (Plate 18); inside the stairs the skirting board is ogee moulded. The rest of the north-east elevation is plain. The south-east elevation is mostly plain although there is a chimney breast in the centre (Plate 19) with a mid-20th century tiled surround, now removed and lying loose on the floor. Behind this what was presumably the original wider opening of the fireplace, which is filled with buff coloured brick. The south-west elevation is essentially plain, apart from two windows with thin timber sills, square jambs, and timber four-light hinged casements of probable early 20th century date (Plate 19). The north-west elevation is also plain, apart a doorway on the south-west side with a plain four-panel door in a wide moulded surround. In addition, the cupboard at the north-east end is constructed from large beaded planks and has a plank and batten door on the north-east side on strap hinges with rounded ends (Plate 22).



Plate 17 (left): The north-east internal elevation, Room G1, viewed from the south-west

Plate 18 (right): The panelled door to the stairs, Room G1, viewed from the south-east



Plate 19 (left): The south-east elevation, Room G1, viewed from the north-west
Plate 20 (right): The south-west elevation, Room G1, viewed from the north-east



Plate 21 (left): The north-west elevation, Room G1, viewed from the south-east

Plate 22 (right): The plank and batten door to the cupboard, Room G1, viewed from the south-east

4.3.2 **Ground floor Room 2:** this too was most recently a living room. The floor is concrete, finished with carpet and the ceiling is lath and plaster, finished with flock wallpaper, with a single beam finished with plaster orientated north-east/south-west. The walls too are finished with painted flock wallpaper over plaster, with a plain shallow skirting board throughout. The north-east elevation is plain but with a doorway on the south-east side with a plain modern panel door in a moulded surround (Plate 23). The south-east elevation is plain. The south-west elevation has a doorway on the south-east, which is of plank and batten construction but backed with three panels on the internal side (Plate 24). There is a window to the north-west of this with a thin timber sill, now removed and lying loose on the floor, and a

four-light hinged timber casement of probable early 20th century date. There is a box fixed to the wall at the north-west end that originally housed the fuse box. The north-west elevation is essentially plain apart for central chimneybreast, the mid-20th century tile surround now lying loose on the floor and the original opening blocked with buff coloured brick with elements of the earlier stone surround just visible at either side (Plate 25).



Plate 23 (left): Doorway in the north-east elevation, Room G2, viewed from the south-west



Plate 24 (right): South-west elevation, Room G2, viewed from the north-east



Plate 25: Fireplace in the north-west elevation, Room G2, viewed from the south-east

4.3.3 **Ground floor Room 3:** this was most recently a kitchen. The floor is finished with lino, probably over quarry tiles and then concrete. The ceiling is painted plaster and the walls are finished with plaster

and painted flock wallpaper. The stairs to the first floor extend up on the south-west side and are of timber construction finished with carpet. The lower part of the north-east elevation is covered with mid to late-20th century kitchen units and a sink but in the centre there is a window with a four-light hinged timber casement of probable early 20th century date (Plate 26). There are boxed pipes to the north-west of this and an electric vent to the south-east. The south-east elevation has an attached shelf, more kitchen units attached (Plate 26), and a doorway at the south-west end at a slight step in the wall, perhaps denoting the position of the original doorway. The door has four plain panels in a plain surround and is probably late 20th century in date (Plate 27). The lower part of the south-west elevation is boarded below the stairs with part of run of plain square-section balusters sat on a rail on top, the rest of which are presumably missing. The main wall behind the stairs is plain apart for an attached modern hand rail. The north-west elevation has a step on the south-west side at the stairs and a doorway near the centre, which is of plank and batten construction but is backed with plain panels internally (Plate 28). The wall is partially tiled in the north corner.



Plate 26 (left): The north-east and south-east elevations, Room G3, viewed from the south-west

Plate 27 (right): The south-east and south-west elevations, Room G3, viewed from the north



Plate 28: The door in the north-west elevation, Room G3, viewed from the south-east

4.3.4 **Ground floor Room 4:** this is at present a small hall or lobby. The floor is finished with carpet laid over concrete. The ceiling is flat plaster and the walls are finished with plaster and painted flock wallpaper and there is a painted on skirting rather than a real one. The north-east elevation has a doorway with a

plain modern door in plain surrounds, and the wall is angled to the south-east side of this, where there was presumably originally a fireplace (as per Room G7) into the east corner (Plate 29). The south-east elevation is plain, with modern attached timber shelves. The south-west elevation is plain apart from a doorway with a plain surround and plain panel door. The north-west elevation has a cupboard under the stairs on the south-west side with a beaded plank and batten door on plain long strap hinges in a beaded surround (Plate 30). The underside of the timber stairs is painted white. To the north-east is a doorway with a plain surround and late 20th century four panel door (Plate 31).



Plate 29 (left): North-east elevation, Room G4, viewed from the south-west

Plate 30 (right): Door to the cupboard under the stairs, north-west elevation Room G4, viewed from the south-east



Plate 31: Door at the north-east end of the north-west elevation, Room G4, viewed from the south

4.3.5 **Ground floor Room 5:** this was most recently a bathroom. The floor is finished with carpet over concrete, the ceiling is plaster with a single beam orientated north-east/south-west supported on projecting corbels set in the wall at either end. The walls are finished with a mixture of paint, flock wallpaper and tiles and a plain skirting board. The north-east elevation has an attached sink and toilet on the north-west side, with a window to the south-east with a four-light hinged timber casement with a beaded surround, of probable early 20th century date. The south-east elevation is plain, and tiled. The south-west elevation is also plain, the lower part is tiled up to a doorway, which has a plain surround and plain panel door. The north-west elevation is plain.



Plate 32 (left): Beam and corbels supporting the ceiling of Room G5, viewed from the west



Plate 33 (right): Window in the north-east elevation, Room G5, viewed from the west

4.3.6 **Ground floor Room 6:** this was most recently a living room. The floor is finished with carpet over concrete and the ceiling comprises boards finished with flock wallpaper with two beams orientated north-east/south-west finished in the same fashion (Plate 34). The north-east elevation is plain apart from a doorway on the north-west side with a four-panel door in a moulded surround (Plate 35). The south-east elevation has a central projecting chimney breast; the mid-20th century tiled fire surround is now lying loose and the opening behind it is filled with buff coloured brick (Plate 36). There is boxing to the south-west housing piping. The south-west elevation is mostly plain with a window in the centre with a two-light hinged and locking UPVC casement, with applied bars to make it four lights and a thin timber sill, now removed (Plate 37). To the north-west is a doorway, which is of plank and batten construction but internally has been backed with boards to form three panels. The north-west elevation is plain.



Plate 34 (left): Beams supporting the ceiling, Room G6, viewed from the north

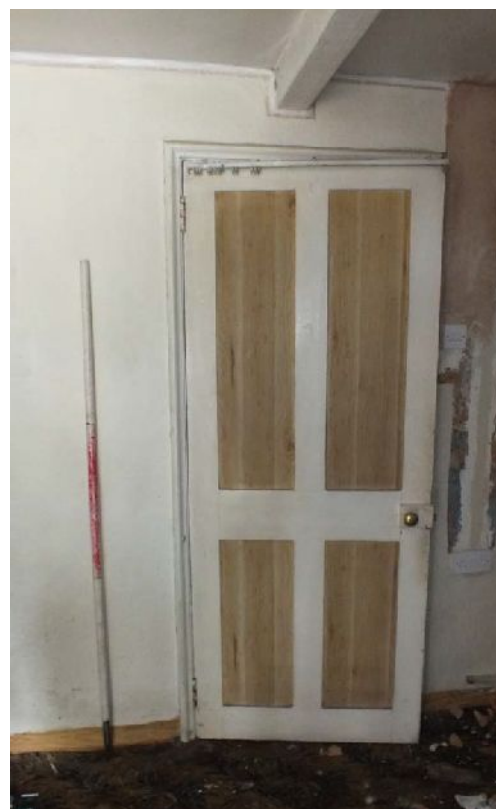


Plate 35 (right): Door in the north-east elevation, Room G6, viewed from the south-west



Plate 36 (left): South-east elevation, Room G6, viewed from the north-west



Plate 37 (right): South-west elevation, Room G6, viewed from the north-east

4.3.7 **Ground floor Room 7:** this was most recently a kitchen, and comprises a relatively irregular, almost L-shaped, room with a flight of stairs against the south-west elevation. The floor is polished concrete finished with lino, the flat plaster ceiling is painted, and the walls are plaster finished with paint and a low plain skirting board. The north-east elevation returns from an angled section of wall (described as part of the north-west elevation below) round a rounded corner with relatively early shelves on plain timber brackets attached. The north-east elevation has mid-20th century kitchen units attached with tiled splash backs, but also includes a window with a two-light UPVC hinged and locking casement with added bars to make four lights, the jambs, sill, and lintels of which are rounded (Plate 38). There are timber battens below this and along the south-east jamb then along the top of the wall to which water pipes are attached. The south-east elevation has the timber batten running along the top and a central doorway with a plank and batten door backed with boards to form two panels (Plate 39). The south-west elevation

is open to the flight of stair on the south-east side where there is a beaded skirting board and the timber stairs are finished with carpet. The site of the stairs is finished with plain timber panelling, the lower part of which is clearly earlier and topped with a beaded edge, while the balusters on top are a mixture of original and modern but all square section, with a modern and very plain hand rail and newel post (Plate 40). The return at the north-west end includes a doorway into the cupboard beneath the stairs, which has a beaded surround and plank and batten door on short hinges, although the scars for earlier longer hinges are visible (Plate 40). Inside the cupboard the timber structure of the stairs is painted white. The north-west end of the south-west elevation has a doorway with a chamfered surround and four panel door. The north-west elevation is plain up to an angled section. This includes a fireplace, which until recently was covered with timber sheeting and wallpaper, the timber apparently re-used, perhaps from a piece of furniture and decorated with a Greek key pattern. The fireplace comprises a plain stone surround and stone mantle, broken on the east side, with an iron hob grate insert and brick back, with a low brick arch just visible behind the surround (Plate 42).



Plate 38 (left): North-east elevation, Room G7, viewed from the south-west

Plate 39 (right): South-east elevation, Room G7, viewed from the north-west



Plate 40 (left): South-west elevation, Room G7, viewed from the north-east

Plate 41 (right): Door to the cupboard under the stairs, Room G7, viewed from the north-west



Plate 42: Fireplace in the north-west elevation, Room G7, viewed from the south

4.3.8 Ground floor Room 8: this most recently seems to have formed a store. The floor is concrete, finished with the remnants of lino. The ceiling is timber boards painted and fixed to the joists, some of which are exposed at the south-west end and are machine cut with tongue and groove floor boards on top (Plate 45). The walls are generally finished with rough plaster and paint. The north-east elevation has a projecting chimney breast on the south-east side, with a deeper recess on the south-east side. The fireplace has a tiled mid-20th century surround still *in situ* (Plate 43). The south-east elevation has a window on the north-east side with a UPVC hinged and locking two-light casement with attached bars to give the appearance of four lights and a timber sill, with an attached timber shelf on brackets below (Plate 44). To the south-west is a doorway with a plank and batten door and plain surround. The scar of a former staircase, running against the south-west elevation, is evident in the south corner, with an upright batten attached to the wall probably forming part of it. The south-west elevation is dominated by the scar of the former staircase running across it and there is an evident butt joint on the north-west side representing the blocked doorway visible externally, which has a low stone step at its base (Plate 45). The north-west elevation also has elements relating to the former staircase on the south-west side, including a horizontal batten and an upright post (Plate 46), as well as a large area of timber of boxing below the ceiling. At the north-east end the plaster has been partially removed revealing the butt joint between the earlier projecting section of the building and the extension containing Room G8 (and Room F9) (Plate 47).

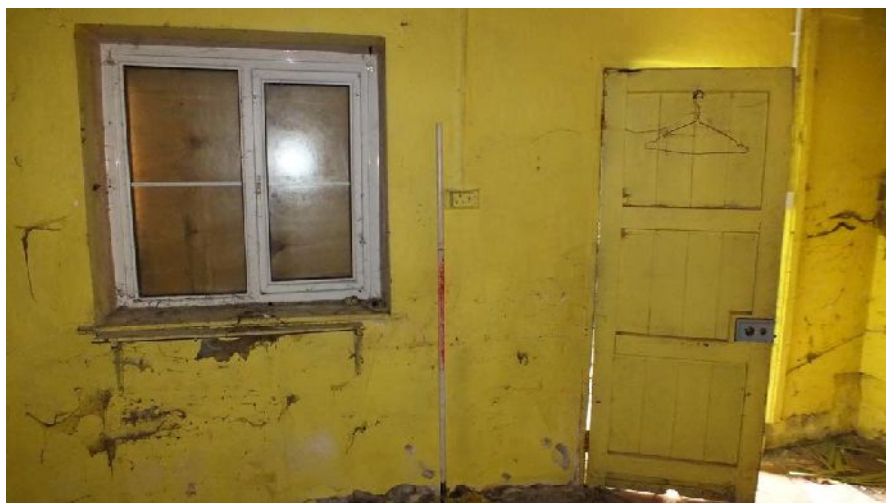


Plate 43 (left): The north-east elevation, Room G8, viewed from the south-west

Plate 44 (right): The south-east elevation, Room G8, viewed from the north-west



Plate 45 (left): The south-west elevation, Room G8, viewed from the north-east



Plate 46 (right): The south-west end of the north-west elevation, Room G8, viewed from the east



Plate 47: The junction at the north-east end of the north-west elevation, Room G8, viewed from the south-east

4.3.9 Ground floor Room 9: this comprises the interior of the small monopitch porch extending from the south-east end of the building. It has a concrete floor finished with the remains of vinyl floor covering and the walls are all painted timber, apart from the north-west, which is stone. It is open to the roof, which is supported by five purlins and a beam set against the north-west elevation and supported on two iron brackets (Plate 48). The purlins run over the top of the south-west wall and all of the timber is machine cut. There is a ceramic Belfast-type sink in the west corner sat on two brick pillars. The north-east elevation is essentially just a doorway, although the north-west side extends into the thickness of the wall through the doorway to the north-west. The doorway has a plank and batten door on strap hinges, with a stone step below (Plate 49). The south-east elevation is constructed from tongue and groove planks set between upright beaded battens in three sections. In the north-east and south-west of these the planks are set diagonally, while in the centre they are vertical and incorporate a window with a fixed two-light timber casement (Plate 50). The timber walling sits on a dressed chamfered stone plinth. The south-west elevation is plain and also plank and batten construction. The north-west elevation is the original external wall of the main building and constructed from stone finished with rough plaster and paint. There is a doorway on the north-east side with a dressed stone lintel and a plank and batten door in a beaded surround (Plate 51).



Plate 48 (left): Bracket supporting the beam against the north-west elevation, Room G9, viewed from the north-east



Plate 49 (right): Door to the north-east, Room G9, viewed from the south-west



Plate 50 (left): North-east side of the south-east elevation, Room G9, viewed from the north-west

Plate 51 (right): Door in the north-west elevation, Room G9, viewed from the south-east

4.3.10 **First floor Room 1:** this was most recently a bedroom. The floor is timber boards orientated north-east/south-west, finished with the remnants of carpet. The ceiling is plaster finished with paint and sloping down on the south-west side, and the walls are finished with plaster and paint and there is a plain skirting board throughout. The north-east elevation is mostly plain but has a doorway in the north-west side with a beaded plank and batten door in a moulded surround (Plate 52). The south-east elevation has a chimney breast on the north-east side, with a vent brick denoting the original presence of a fireplace, which is otherwise blocked, although the hearth stone is present in the floor in front (Plate 53). The recess to the south-west of the fireplace contains an airing cupboard constructed from modern timber and housing both hot and cold water tanks. The south-west elevation has two windows, each with timber sills (now removed) and four-light hinged timber casements of probable early 20th century type (Plate 54). The north-west elevation is plain.



Plate 52(left): Door in the north-east elevation, Room F1, viewed from the south-west



Plate 53 (right): South-east elevation, Room F1, viewed from the north-west



Plate 54: South-west elevation, Room F1, viewed from the west

4.3.11 First floor Room 2: this was most recently a bathroom, which connects to a small landing at the top of the stairs down to the ground floor. The floor is timber boards orientated north-east/south-west finished with carpet, while the ceiling is plaster, sloping down to the north-east and with a single purlin orientated north-west/south-east on the south-west side, which is finished with plaster and paint. The walls are finished with plaster and paint and there are some areas that are tiled. The north-east elevation returns out on the north-west side where there is a partition around the stairs, and the return to the north-west has a toilet attached. The main part of the elevation has a window with a two-light timber casement with a hinged opening (Plate 55). There is a bath against it at the south-east end, with tiles forming a splash back at this point. The south-east elevation has the bath set against most of its length, and tiles attached to the wall along the edge of this. The south corner steps out for the chimney breast, which forms a step in both the south-east and south-west elevations (Plate 56). There is a sink attached to the

south-west elevation beyond this with a tiled splash back. The north-west elevation is essentially just a doorway, with a beaded plank and batten door in a moulded surround (Plate 57). The adjoining landing also has timber stairs finished with carpet and the roof continues the slope of Room F2 and shares the same purlin. The space is essentially plain, with doorways with plank and batten doors to the south-west and south-east. The north-west elevation has a blocked opening, presumably just an alcove, on the south-west side, evident as a mark in the plaster (Plate 58).



Plate 55 (left): North-east elevation, Room F2, viewed from the south

Plate 56 (right): South-east elevation, Room F2, viewed from the north-west



Plate 57 (left): Door in the north-west elevation, Room F2, viewed from the south-east

Plate 58 (right): Blocked alcove in the north-west elevation of the landing adjoining Room F2, viewed from the south-east

4.3.12 **First floor Room 3:** this was most recently a bedroom, and has a timber board floor finished with carpet and a plaster ceiling, finished with flock wallpaper, sloping down to the south-west and with two purlins exposed, which are painted but appear to be hand-finished timber; in addition the ceiling in the north corner is apparently hipped (Plate 59). The walls are finished with plaster and flock wallpaper or paint and there is a plain skirting board throughout. The north-east elevation is mostly plain, although there is a doorway on the south-east side with a moulded surround and plank and batten door (Plate 60). The south-east elevation is plain. The south-west elevation is largely plain, although there is a window on

the north-west side with a timber sill, now removed, and a four-light hinged timber casement of probable early 20th century date (Plate 61). The north-west elevation has a projecting central chimney breast with no surviving fireplace and a corbel projecting near the top. The recess to the north-east is filled with an airing cupboard of simple timber construction containing both hot and cold water tanks (Plate 62).



Plate 59 (left): Purlin and hipped ceiling, north-east side of Room F3, viewed from the south



Plate 60 (right): Door in the north-east elevation, Room F3, viewed from the south-west



Plate 61 (left): Window in the south-west elevation Room F3, viewed from the north-east



Plate 62 (right): Chimney breast and cupboard, north-west elevation, Room F3, viewed from the south-east

4.3.13 First floor Room 4: this comprises a staircase leading down to the ground floor and a short corridor linking Rooms F3 and F5 to it and to each other. The floor is timber boards finished with carpet, with the steps leading down on the north-west side (Plate 64), and the plaster ceiling slopes down to the north-west and has two exposed purlins, one angled to follow the slope of the roof (Plate 64), as well as an attic access hatch in the flat section on the south-east side. The walls are finished with plaster and flock wallpaper or paint. The north-east elevation is open at the bottom where the stairs pass through although there is a small number of square section balusters at the top partially boxed in. At the top of the stairs there is a doorway with a moulded surround and plank and batten door (Plate 63) and the wall is clearly a stud partition. The south-east elevation is plain. The south-west elevation has a similar door to

that to the north-east, with a step down into Room F3, and the wall is solid masonry and relatively thick. The north-west elevation is plain, with boxed horizontal pipes above the stairs (Plate 64).



Plate 63 (left): Door to the north-east, Room F4, viewed from the south

Plate 64 (right): North-west elevation and stairs, Room F4, viewed from the south-east

4.3.14 **First floor Room 5:** this most recently comprised a bedroom. It has a timber floor finished with carpet and a plaster ceiling, sloping down to the north-west with a single beam orientated north-east/south-west finished with plaster and paint. The walls are finished with plaster and flock wallpaper and paint and there is a low plain skirting board throughout. The north-east elevation is plain apart from a window on the south-east side with a two-light top opening hinged timber casement in a moulded surround (Plate 65). The south-east elevation has a modern shelf on the north-east side and a central chimney breast. The fireplace has a plain stone surround and timber mantle piece with an iron hob grate insert and brick backing the flue and low brick arch just visible behind the stone surround (Plate 66). The grate is decorated with moulded floral patterns and until recently was boxed in and hidden. The south-west elevation is plain apart from a doorway on the south-east side, which has a moulded surround and plank and batten door (Plate 67). The north-west elevation is very low due to the slope of the roof, and a hole in the ceiling shows that the joists are machine cut.

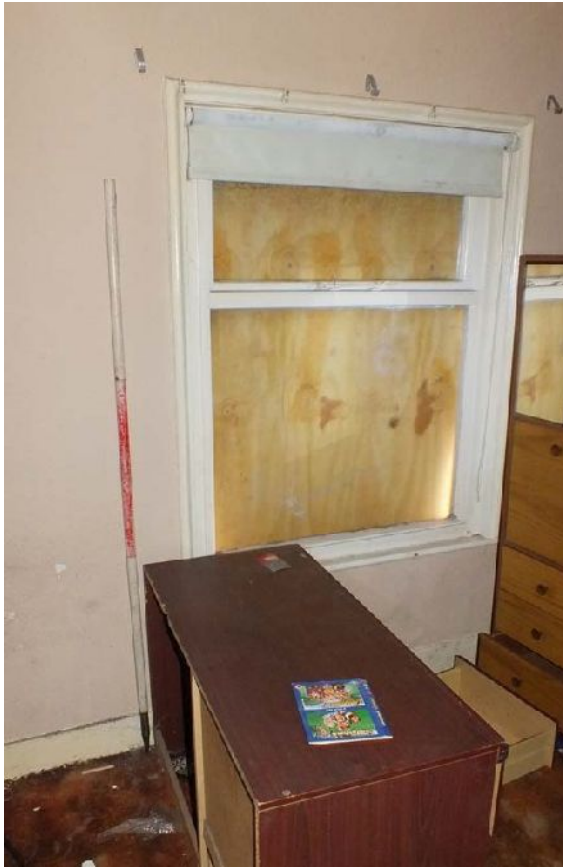


Plate 65 (left): Window in the north-east elevation, Room F5, viewed from the west



Plate 66 (right): Fireplace in the south-east elevation, Room F5, viewed from the north-west



Plate 67: Door in the south-west elevation, Room F5, viewed from the north-east

4.3.15 First floor Room 6: this was most recently a bedroom. The floor is timber boards orientated north-east/south-east finished with carpet. The ceiling is plaster, sloping down to the south-west with a single purlin orientated north-west/south-east and an attic access hatch on the north-west side. The walls are finished with plaster and flock wallpaper and there is a plain skirting board throughout. The north-east elevation is essentially plain, with a doorway on the north-west side with a modern panel door in a plain surround. The south-east elevation has a projecting chimney breast on the north-east side, which tapers at the top and has a projecting corbel at ceiling level. The fireplace has an iron surround incorporating a grate and mantle piece, and has some minor moulded floral and bead decoration. The south-west elevation has a single window with a timber sill, now removed, and a two-light hinged and locking UPVC casement with applied bars to give the appearance of four lights. The north-west elevation is plain, with a missing patch of plaster showing the brickwork beneath.



Plate 68 (left): Door in the north-east elevation, Room F6, viewed from the south-west



Plate 69 (right): South-east elevation, Room F6, viewed from the north-west



Plate 70: Window in the south-west elevation, Room F6, viewed from the north

4.3.16 **First floor Room 7:** this comprises a long corridor orientated north-west/south-east connecting the various rooms at this end of the building to the stairs to the ground floor. The floor comprises timber boards orientated north-east/south-west with an obvious junction on the south-west side. The ceiling is plaster and mostly sloping down to the north-east but with an angle mid way along matching the roof line of the projecting section to the rear (Plate 71). The walls are finished with plaster and textured wallpaper. The north-east elevation has a doorway on the north-west side with a plank and batten door, a moulded surround, and a slight step up through what is evidently a solid masonry wall. The south-east elevation is essentially just a doorway, with a modern panel door and no surround as such, stepping down into room F9 beyond. There is a step in the wall on the south-west side, perhaps just boxing for pipes, and the south-west elevation is essentially plain apart from a doorway at the north-west end with a plain modern panel door and plain surround (Plate 72). The north-west elevation is also plain.



Plate 71 (left): General view of Room F7, viewed from the north-west

Plate 72 (right): Doorway in the south-west elevation, Room F7, viewed from the north-east

4.3.17 **First floor Room 8:** this room comprises the stairs and landing. The floor has carpet covering north-east/south-west aligned floorboards. The ceiling is plastered and slopes down to the south-east with two purlins, one following the angle of the roof to the north-east. The timber purlins are painted and the walls are plastered and painted and there is plain skirting throughout. The stairs down to the south-east are timber and there is a hand rail along the south-west side and square balusters below the handrail to the north-east (Plate 73). The north-east elevation has a doorway on the north-west side with a moulded surround and a plank and batten door (Plate 74). The south-east elevation is plain as is the south-west elevation apart from a doorway at the north-west end which has a moulded and chamfered surround but no door. There is a slight step down through the door to the corridor (room F7). The north-west elevation is also plain.



Plate 73 (left): Stair, Room F8, viewed from the north-west

Plate 74 (right): Doorway in north-east elevation, Room F8, viewed from the west

4.3.18 **First floor Room 9:** this room was a bedroom. The north-east/south-west floorboards are carpeted over and the ceiling is plastered and painted. The walls are finished with textured wallpaper and plain skirting. The ceiling slopes down to the south-east (Plate 75) and there is a single north-east/south-west aligned purlin close to the centre and a hatch to the attic on the north-west side of the room (Plate 78). The north-east elevation has a tall, UPVC, four-light, hinged (and locking) casement window on the north-west side with applied bars to create six-lights (Plate 76). The south-east elevation is plain and very low due to the sloping roof (Plate 75). The south-west elevation has a doorway on the north-west side with a plank and batten door and moulded surround (Plate 77). The north-west elevation has a projecting chimneybreast with fireplace and stone surround (Plate 78). The fireplace has a timber mantel with a plain iron insert with a rounded top (Plate 79).



Plate 75 (left): The south-east end of the north-east and the north-east end of the south-east elevation of Room F9, viewed from the west

Plate 76 (right): Window in the north-east elevation, Room F9, viewed from the south



Plate 77 (left): Doorway in south-west elevation, Room F9, viewed from the north-east

Plate 78 (centre): Projecting chimneybreast, Room F9, viewed from the south-east

Plate 79 (right): Detail of the fireplace, Room F9, viewed from the south-east

4.3.19 **First floor Room 10:** this was the bathroom. It has carpet covering north-west/south-east aligned boards and the bath is in the south corner (Plate 80). It has a timber airing cupboard housing a water

tank and hot water tank to the north-west (Plate 81). The north-east side is partitioned off by a piece of timber board attached to a rail fixed to the ceiling (Plate 82). The ceiling is plastered and painted and slopes down to the north-east and south-west with a large purlin on the north-east side covered by wallpaper. The walls are finished with plaster and painted and there are some tiled areas and plain skirting. The north-east elevation is plain. The south-east elevation has a window on the north-east side with a timber sill and UPVC hinged casement and locking two-light window with attached bands to make four-lights (Plate 83). The toilet and sink are to the south-west and the sink has tiled splashback. The south-west elevation has a window with a timber sill, UPVC casement, hinged and locking, two-lights with applied bands to make four (Plate 80). The north-west elevation is mostly plain but is obscured by the attached airing cupboard (Plate 81). There is a step up to room F7 through the doorway to the north-east side, which has a modern surround and a modern panel door.



Plate 80 (left): General view of Room F10, viewed from the north-east

Plate 81 (right): General view of Room F10, viewed from the east



Plate 82 (left): General view of Room F10, viewed from the south-west

Plate 83 (right): General view of Room F10, viewed from the north

4.3.20 **Attic over F4 and F5:** all the timber of the roof is machine cut and the roof, although it is only supported by rafters, while there are multiple joists supporting the ceilings. The north-east elevation is constructed from buff coloured brick laid in somewhat irregular courses. The south-west elevation is stone and truncated at the top where it meets the roof. There is a brick stack in the centre, apparently square in plan and constructed from handmade brick, which presumably served the fireplaces within the projecting rear section.

4.3.21 **Attic over F6 and F7:** the handmade brick dividing wall to the north-west is not full height so access is in theory possible to the space above room F3 (Plate 84). The stone wall to the north-east is truncated at the roofline. The wall to the south-east is stone but the flue is handmade brick (Plate 85). The roof timbers, just purlins and rafters but no trusses, are all machine cut.



Plate 84 (left): General view of the roof space above Room F6, viewed from the south-west

Plate 85 (right): General view of the roof space above Room F6, viewed from the north-west

4.3.22 **Attic over F8 and F9:** the stack/flue to the north-west is brick and is truncated by the roof. The north-east wall is handmade brick and the south-west wall is truncated at the roofline.

5. Discussion

5.1 Phasing

5.1.1 **Introduction:** the building clearly retains much of its original fabric but has also undergone a number of alterations and modifications. In total, five phases of development were identified.

5.1.2 **Phase 1 (early 19th century):** it is apparent that the earliest phase of the building comprised a single linear block, the north-west end of which was wider than the rest, probably forming three dwellings – the north-west one corresponding with Rooms G1, F1 and F2, the central corresponding with Rooms G2 and F3, and the south-east corresponding with Room G6, F6 and F7. It is not clear where the access between floors was at this stage within the central and south-east dwelling; it is likely that the evidence for this has been lost due to the floorboards being replaced in a subsequent phase or phases, although in such small cottages it is also conceivable that the upper floors were accessed by ladders (see *Section 5.2.1* below). Most details from this phase have now been lost, although the door to the cupboard under the stairs in Room G1 may be original as the hinge type would certainly be fitting for this date, and some of the moulded door surrounds and doors might also be original. However, the fact that the associated staircase apparently led to the blocking of one or even two windows in the north-east elevation would seem to suggest that they were not originally in this position, and again the upper floor could have been accessed via a ladder. This phase of the building was clearly constructed by the time the tithe map and first Ordnance Survey map were surveyed in the 1840s, and on the basis of Hennet's map of 1830 it is likely that at least this phase was constructed by 1830. The external finish of this phase is also uncertain; as stated in the previous Heritage Assessment report the current 'crazy-paved' stonework would be typical of a later 19th century date (Miller 2015, 12) and evidence from the building recording suggests this is perhaps just an applied layer over earlier brickwork. A brick construction and external finish would certainly be more in keeping with buildings in the local area.

5.1.3 **Phase 2 (early 19th century):** the south-east end of the building was extended by a further cottage (corresponding to Rooms G8 and F10), again slightly wider than the central section, and apparently containing an internal staircase, unlike the early phase. Strangely, this ran across an external doorway to the south-west, which must have passed beneath the stairs but this addition also had a second external doorway to the south-east. This building was very small, with only seemingly a single room on each floor, but it was clearly domestic as it had windows matching the size of those elsewhere in the building, and a fireplace on the north-east side of Room G8.

5.1.4 **Phase 3 (mid-19th century):** the large projecting extension to the north-east that added a considerable number of rooms (G3-G5, G7, F4-F5, and F8-F9) over two floors was clearly also added at a relatively early date. It is not shown on the mapping until 1893 so must have been built between the 1840s and 1891, but the style of the fireplaces within this section (in Rooms G7, F5, and F9), all of which have hob grates, would suggest a date at the earlier end of this range (Burton and Porten 2000) for the construction of this phase. The purpose of this addition was presumably to provide additional service rooms on the ground floor such as a kitchen, and bedrooms on the first, and required the insertion of new doorways from the front section on the first floor at least. It seems likely that what is now Room G5 was originally sub-divided into two smaller rooms, perhaps internal privies, replacing what are likely to be earlier ones shown attached to the back of the building on the tithe map (Plate 1) with one accessed from what is now Room G7. There was also presumably originally a fireplace in the angled wall in Room G4 matching that in G7. Why only the central two cottages of what by this time was a row of four were modified in this way is unknown. In addition, it is conceivable that during this period the staircase in the north-west cottage was also added, leading to the blocking of the windows in the north-east elevation, although this assumes that there had been no staircase before this.

5.1.5 **Phase 4 (late 19th – early 20th century):** while there were no further large additions to the building during this period, the porches at the south-east end and front (south-west) elevation had clearly been added by the time the Ordnance Survey map of 1893 had been surveyed and architecturally they are fitting with a later 19th or early 20th century date, although in the former case the current examples would have to have replaced earlier ones. The iron fire surround and grate in Room F6 is also likely to have been added during this phase, based on its form, some or all of the tongue and groove floorboards

were also potentially added, and it is apparent that all of the remaining windows were given new timber hinged casements during this period, several of which survive.

5.1.6 Phase 5 (late 20th century): it is apparent that the building underwent some modification associated with modernisation in the 20th century, the bulk of which is likely to be late 20th century. This was a general period of decay, with many original features such as doors and their surrounds and fireplaces being removed, replaced, or covered. More significantly, the chimney that must have served the projecting wing to the north-east added in Phase 3 was removed, and the south-east chimney on the main part of the building was rebuilt. Internally several windows were replaced with UPVC casements and some floors may have been re-laid, particularly where the internal space was re-organised. This primarily consisted of the removal of the stairs from the south-east cottage and blocking of the doorway to the south-west, knocking through on the first floor into Room F10 and creation of a new linking corridor to it (Room F7). Elsewhere a probable dividing wall in Room G5 was removed to create the current bathroom.

5.2 Conclusion

5.2.1 The recording of Slack House Cottages represents a relatively rare opportunity to record a group of relatively low-status workers housing in rural Lancashire, although there are many uncertainties about the date of their construction, who they were constructed for and by whom, which the available documentary sources have not been able to answer. Comparison with other buildings of the type in Lancashire that have been recorded in similar detail is difficult, but examples of so called 'paddy houses' – farm worker's accommodation constructed on the end of a barn, which became common during the 1840s when seasonal Irish workers were regularly employed in Lancashire and the North West, have some similarities (see Lewis and Warhust 1987; LUAU 2001). Not least of these similarities is the lack of staircases in such buildings, which were typically relatively small and basic. However, other examples, known as 'shants' were sometimes single story (see Trippier 2013), while such accommodation is elsewhere found in basements and was often not heated (Pollard *et al* 2006, 46); by comparison Slack House Cottages are relatively commodious. It is conceivable that the building was constructed by the Earls of Derby as this was their land, which might explain the relatively high standard of construction, but further research into the Derby family papers would be necessary to demonstrate this.

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Appendix 1: Project Design

SLACK HOUSE COTTAGES, ST HELENS ROAD, ORMSKIRK, LANCASHIRE

Archaeological Building Recording and Evaluation Project Design



Client: David Oldham

NGR: 342255 407145

Planning application ref.: 2015/0702/PND

September 2015

Client: David Oldham

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1. Introduction

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Following the submission of a pre-determination application (ref. 2015/0702/PND) regarding the demolition of Slack House Cottages and The Hawthorns, St Helens Road, Ormskirk, Lancashire (NGR 342255 407145), a request was made by Peter Iles from the Specialist Advisory Service at Lancashire County Council (LCC) that Slack House Cottages be first subject to an archaeological building recording and then, following demolition to footings level, the site investigated by the excavation of an archaeological evaluation trench across the footprint of the building. Greenlane Archaeology was appointed by David Oldham, Director of Capital Developments at Edge Hill University (hereafter 'the client'), via his agent Graham Love of Janet Dixon Town Planning, to carry out the archaeological building recording and evaluation and this project design was produced in response.

1.1.2 The site has been subject to an earlier heritage assessment (Miller 2015), which revealed that the cottages assumed their present form in the late 19th century, although they were built on the site of an earlier structure. It is possible that the site had its origins as earlier 'squatter's cottages' (Iles 2015), something that could only be demonstrated through archaeological investigation of below-ground deposits.

1.2 Greenlane Archaeology

1.2.1 Greenlane Archaeology is a private limited company based in Ulverston, Cumbria, and was established in 2005 (Company No. 05580819). Its directors, Jo Dawson and Daniel Elsworth, have a combined total of over 20 years continuous professional experience working in commercial archaeology, principally in the north of England and Scotland. Greenlane Archaeology is committed to a high standard of work, and abides by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) Code of Conduct. The desk-based assessment, building recording, and evaluation will be carried out according to the Standards and Guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a; 2014b; 2014c).

1.3 Project Staffing

1.3.1 The project will be managed by **Dan Elsworth (MA (Hons)), ACIfA**, who will also supervise the building recording and evaluation with appropriately experienced assistance. Daniel graduated from the University of Edinburgh in 1998 with an honours degree in Archaeology, and began working for the Lancaster University Archaeological Unit, which became Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) in 2001. Daniel ultimately became a project officer, and for over six and a half years worked on excavations and surveys, building investigations, desk-based assessments, and conservation and management plans. These have principally taken place in the North West, and Daniel has a particular interest in the archaeology of the area. He has managed a large number of recent projects in the North of England, primarily Cumbria and Lancashire, including several archaeological building recordings, ranging from small-scale domestic properties to large industrial complexes. He has also managed numerous archaeological evaluations and excavations over the last 10 years, including large industrial complexes, medieval urban areas, and prehistoric cremation burials.

1.3.2 All artefacts will be processed by staff at Greenlane Archaeology, and it is envisaged that they will initially be assessed by Jo Dawson, who will fully assess any of post-medieval date; medieval pottery will be assessed by Tom Mace. Other types of finds will be assessed by specialist sub-contractors as appropriate, for example Roman pottery would be examined by Ruth Leary, and animal bones by Jane Richardson at Archaeological Services West Yorkshire Archive Services (ASWYAS).

1.3.3 Environmental samples, and faunal or human remains will be processed by Greenlane Archaeology. It is envisaged that the flots from any environmental samples would be assessed by staff at Headland Archaeology, Other remains, such as industrial material, will be assessed by specialist sub-contractors as appropriate and the Specialist Advisory Service at LCC will be informed and their approval will be sought for these arrangements.

2. Objectives

2.1 Desk-Based Assessment

2.1.1 To examine early maps of the site and any other relevant primary and secondary sources in order to better understand the dating and development of the building, and set it in its historic context. Specifically, in this case, to expand on the work of the previous heritage assessment in order to establish evidence for the site pre-dating the 19th century.

2.2 Archaeological Building Recording

2.2.1 To undertake a programme of archaeological building recording of the building to a Level 2/3-type standard (English Heritage 2006). This will provide a relatively detailed record of the building, as well as providing information about its development, form and function.

2.3 Archaeological Evaluation

2.3.1 To excavate a single trench across the footprint of the building following demolition to foundation level, in order to presence of any archaeological deposits, features, and structures on the site and establish their form, function, and date where possible.

2.4 Report

2.4.1 To produce a report detailing the results of the building recording and evaluation, which will outline the character, form and development of the historic fabric of the building and the results of the evaluation, while incorporating the results of the desk-based assessment.

2.5 Archive

2.5.1 Produce a full archive of the results of the project.

3. Methodology

3.1 Desk-based Assessment

3.1.1 A rapid examination of easily available sources, particularly maps, relating to the site will be carried out. These will include:

- **Lancashire Record Office:** the majority of original and secondary sources relating to the site are deposited in the Lancashire Record Office in Preston. Of principal importance are early maps of the site, particularly Ordnance Survey maps but also the Tithe Map, but other primary sources such as the census, taxation records, parish registers, wills, deeds and other documents will also be consulted. These will be examined in order to establish the date of the building, any periods of alteration, and, where possible, its function in order to set it in its historic context. In addition, any details of the building's architect(s), patrons and owners will be acquired where available;
- **Greenlane Archaeology:** a number of copies of maps and local histories are held by Greenlane Archaeology. These will be consulted in order to provide information about the date of the building, and any obvious phases of alteration.

3.2 Archaeological Building Recording

3.2.1 A programme of archaeological building recording to English Heritage Level 2/3-type standards is required (English Heritage 2006). This is a moderate level of investigation intended to record the form, function and phasing of the building, incorporating the results of the desk-based assessment, in order to aid the interpretation of its development. It will comprise three types of recording:

- **Drawn Record:** plans of all of the principal floors will be produced, indicating alterations to the building and the location of each photographed feature of architectural or historic interest. These will be compiled either through hand measured survey techniques or through the use of a total station coupled to a portable computer running AutoCAD. These are then drawn up to produce the final illustrations. In addition, a plan showing the location of the building in relation to other nearby buildings, structures and landscape features will also be produced, and elevations and cross-sections will be produced where these can reveal specific information about the phasing and development of the building;
- **Written Record:** descriptive records of all elements of the building will be made on Greenlane Archaeology standard *pro forma* record sheets. These records will describe the building's plan, form, function, age, and construction materials. They will then be used to provide an account of the development of the building. In addition, the landscape and historic setting of the building will be described, in particular its relationship with other nearby buildings, streets, settlements and other structures;

- **Photographic Record:** photographs in colour digital format (RAW files at 12meg resolution) will be taken. These will cover both general and detailed shots of the external elevations, individual rooms and circulation areas, but also scaled photographs of specific features of architectural or archaeological interest. In addition, a record of the associated landscape and nearby buildings will also be made. Digital photographs will also be used for illustrative purposes within the report, and a written record will be kept of all of the photographs that are taken.

3.3 Archaeological Evaluation

3.3.1 The evaluation methodology, which is based on Greenlane Archaeology's excavation manual (Greenlane Archaeology 2007), will be as follows:

- The trench will be excavated with regard to the position of any known constraints, focussing on the areas of high archaeological interest or potential, and avoiding areas which are likely to have been severely damaged or truncated by later activity, unless they are considered to have a high potential;
- The overburden, which is unlikely to be of any archaeological significance, will be removed by machine under the supervision of an archaeologist until the first deposit beneath it is reached;
- All deposits below the overburden will be examined by hand in a stratigraphic manner, using shovels, mattocks, or trowels as appropriate for the scale. Deposits will only be sampled, rather than completely removed, below the first identified level of archaeological interest, unless specified by the Specialist Advisory Service at LCC, with the intension of preserving as much *in situ* as possible;
- The position of any features, such as ditches, pits, or walls, will be recorded and where necessary these will be investigated in order to establish their full extent, date, and relationship to any other features. Negative features such as ditches or pits will be examined by sample excavation, typically half of a pit or similar feature and approximately 10% of a linear feature;
- All recording of features will include hand-drawn plans and sections, typically at a scale of 1:20 and 1:10, respectively, and photographs in colour digital format (RAW files at 12meg resolution);
- All deposits, trenches, drawings and photographs will be recorded on Greenlane Archaeology *pro forma* record sheets;
- All finds will be recovered during the evaluation for further assessment as far as is practically and safely possible. Should significant quantities of finds be encountered an appropriate sampling strategy will be devised;
- All faunal remains will also be recovered by hand during the evaluation, but where it is considered likely that there is potential for the bones of fish or small mammals to be present appropriate volumes of samples will be taken for sieving;
- Deposits that are considered likely to have, for example, preserved environmental remains, industrial residues, and/or material suitable for scientific dating will be sampled. Bulk samples of between 20 and 60 litres in volume (or 100% of smaller features), depending on the size and potential of the deposit, will be collected from stratified undisturbed deposits and will particularly target negative features (e.g. gullies, pits and ditches) and occupation deposits such as hearths and floors. An assessment of the environmental potential of the site will be undertaken through the examination of samples of suitable deposits by specialist sub-contractors (see *Section 1.3.3* above), who will examine the potential for further analysis. All samples will be processed using methods appropriate to the preservation conditions and the remains present;
- Any human remains discovered during the evaluation will be left *in situ*, and, if possible, covered. The Specialist Advisory Service at Lancashire County Council will be immediately informed as will the local coroner. Should it be considered necessary to remove the remains this will be carried out under the guidance of the local coroner, and a licence sought from the Home Office, under Section 25 of the Burial Act of 1857, should this be considered necessary;
- Any objects defined as 'treasure' by the Treasure Act of 1996 (HMSO 1996) will be immediately reported to the local coroner and securely stored off-site, or covered and protected on site if immediate removal is not possible;
- The evaluation trench will be backfilled following excavation although it is not envisaged that any further reinstatement to its original condition will be carried out.

3.3.2 Should any significant archaeological deposits be encountered during the evaluation these will immediately be brought to the attention of the Specialist Advisory Service at LCC so that the need for further work can be confirmed. Any additional work will be carried out following discussion with the Specialist Advisory Service and subject to a new project design, and the ensuing costs will be agreed with the client.

3.4 Report

3.4.1 The results of the building investigation and evaluation will be compiled into a report, which will provide a summary and details of any sources consulted. It will include the following sections:

- A front cover including the appropriate national grid reference (NGR);
- A concise non-technical summary of results, including the date the project was undertaken and by whom;
- Acknowledgements;
- Project Background;
- Methodology, including a description of the work undertaken;
- Results of the desk-based assessment;
- Results of the building recording;
- Results of the evaluation, including finds and samples;
- Discussion of the results including phasing information;
- Bibliography;
- Illustrations at appropriate scales including:
 - a site location plan related to the national grid;
 - a plan showing the location of the building and evaluation trench in relation to nearby structures and the local landscape;
 - plans of all of the principal floors of the building showing the location of each photographed feature of architectural or archaeological interest;
 - elevations of the building, where these have been produced;
 - a cross-section or cross-sections showing as a minimum the roof structure;
 - plans and sections of any features discovered during the evaluation;
 - photographs of the building, features of architectural/historic interest and its landscape, accompanied by appropriate descriptions and photographs of features encountered during the evaluation and general shots of the evaluation trench ;
 - copies of selected historic maps and plans of the building.

3.5 Archive

3.5.1 The archive, comprising the drawn, written, and photographic record of the building and of the evaluation trench, formed during the project, will be stored by Greenlane Archaeology until it is completed. Upon completion it will be deposited with the Lancashire Record Office in Preston, together with a copy of the report. The archive will be compiled according to the standards and guidelines of the ClfA (Brown 2007), and in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). In addition details will be submitted to the Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigationS (OASIS) scheme. This is an internet-based project intended to improve the flow of information between contractors, local authority heritage managers and the general public.

3.5.2 A paper and digital copy of the report will be provided to the client and a digital copy of the report will be provided to the Historic Environment Officer at Lancashire County Council. In addition, Greenlane Archaeology Ltd will retain one copy.

4. Work timetable

4.1 Greenlane Archaeology will be available to commence the project from **5th October 2015**, or at another date convenient to the client. It is envisaged that the elements of the project will be carried out in the following order:

- **Task 1:** desk-based assessment;
- **Task 2:** on-site archaeological building recording;
- **Task 3:** archaeological evaluation;
- **Task 4:** processing and assessment of finds and samples;
- **Task 5:** production of draft report including illustrations;
- **Task 6:** feedback on draft report, editing and production of final report;
- **Task 7:** finalisation and deposition of archive.

5. Other matters

5.1 Access and clearance

5.1.1 Access to the site will be organised through co-ordination with the client and/or their agent(s). In addition, the building will be cleared by the client in order to allow internal photographs to be taken without obstructions. Please note that while the building does not need to be fully cleared before the work is carried out but Greenlane Archaeology reserves the right to increase the price if the building is not accessible enough to carry out the recording, and further visits therefore have to be arranged in order to complete it. This also applies if the exterior is not accessible or obstructed to the extent that it prevents the building recording taking place as required.

5.2 Health and Safety

5.2.1 Greenlane Archaeology carries out risk assessments for all of its projects and abides by its internal health and safety policy and relevant legislation. Health and safety is always the foremost consideration in any decision-making process.

5.3 Insurance

5.3.1 Greenlane Archaeology has professional indemnity insurance to the value of **£1,000,000**. Details of this can be supplied if requested.

5.4 Environmental and Ethical Policy

5.4.1 Greenlane Archaeology has a strong commitment to environmentally and ethically sound working practices. Its office is supplied with 100% renewable energy by Good Energy, uses ethical telephone and internet services supplied by the Phone Co-op. In addition, the company uses the services of The Co-operative Bank for ethical banking, Naturesave for environmentally-conscious insurance, and utilises public transport wherever possible. Greenlane Archaeology is also committed to using local businesses for services and materials, thus benefiting the local economy, reducing unnecessary transportation, and improving the sustainability of small and rural businesses.

6. Bibliography

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Client: David Oldham

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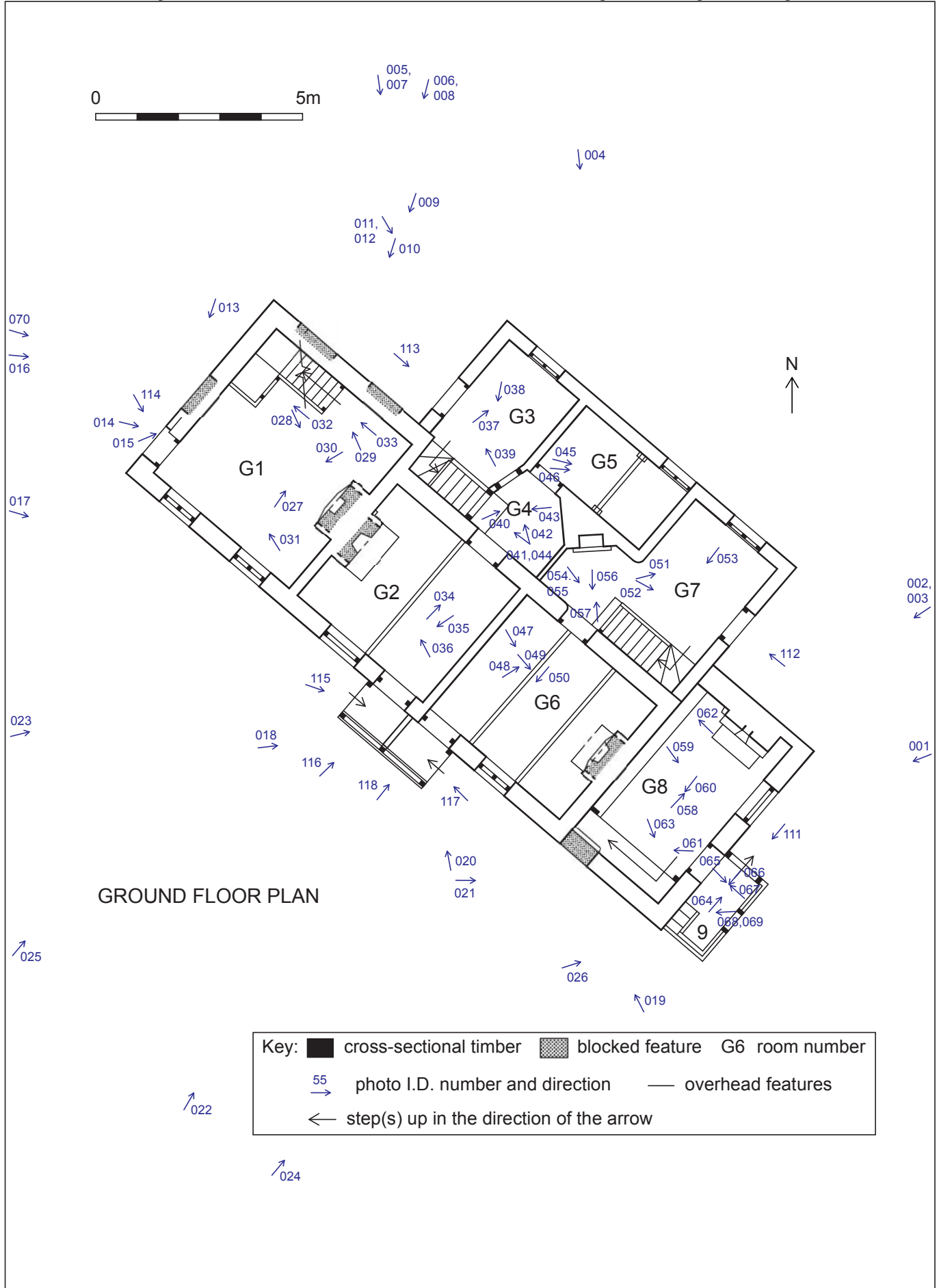
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Appendix 2: Photographic Register

Photo ID No.	Location	Description	Colour digital
001	Exterior	South-east external elevation	01-001
002	Exterior	South-east external elevation: north-east end	01-002
003	Exterior	North-east external elevation: south-east end	01-003
004	Exterior	North-east external elevation: centre	01-004
005	Exterior	North-east external elevation: north-east end	01-005
006	Exterior	North-east external elevation: north-east end	01-006
007	Exterior	North-east external elevation: centre and north-east end	01-007
008	Exterior	North-east external elevation: north-east end	01-008
009	Exterior	North-east external elevation: north-east end	01-009
010	Exterior	North-east external elevation: north-east end, windows	01-010
011	Exterior	North-west external elevation: north-east section	01-011
012	Exterior	North-west external elevation: north-east section	01-012
013	Exterior	North-west external elevation: blocked opening	01-013
014	Exterior	North-west external elevation: door detail	01-014
015	Exterior	North-west external elevation: door detail	01-015
016	Exterior	North-west external elevation: gable	01-016
017	Exterior	South-west external elevation	01-017
018	Exterior	South-west external elevation: porch	01-018
019	Exterior	South-west external elevation	01-019
020	Exterior	South-west external elevation: porch	01-020
021	Exterior	South-west external elevation: south-east end	01-021
022	Exterior	South-west external elevation: general	01-022
023	Exterior	South-west external elevation: general	01-023
024	Exterior	South-west external elevation: south-east end	01-024
025	Exterior	South-west external elevation: north-west chimney	01-025
026	Exterior	South-west external elevation: outshut at south-east end	01-026
027	G1	North-east elevation	01-027
028	G1	South-east elevation	01-028
029	G1	Door to stairs to north-west	01-029
030	G1	South-west elevation	01-030
031	G1	North-west elevation	01-031
032	G1	North-west elevation: cupboard door	01-032
033	G1	Up stairs to north-west	01-033
034	G2	North-east elevation door	01-034
035	G2	South-west elevation	01-035
036	G2	North-west elevation	01-036
037	G3	North-east elevation	01-037
038	G3	South-east and south-west elevation	01-038
039	G3	North-west elevation: door	01-039
040	G4	North-east elevation: door	01-040
041	G4	North-west elevation: door to cupboard	01-041
042	G4	North-west elevation: door	01-042
043	G4	Cupboard door	01-043
044	G4	Under stairs	01-044
045	G5	Beam	01-045
046	G5	West corner: window	01-046
047	G6	Ceiling beams	01-047
048	G6	North-east elevation door	01-048
049	G6	South-east elevation	01-049
050	G6	South-west elevation	01-050
051	G7	North-east elevation	01-051
052	G7	South-east elevation	01-052
053	G7	South-west elevation	01-053
054	G7	South-east elevation: door	01-054
055	G7	South-east elevation: space under stairs	01-055
056	G7	South-east elevation: door	01-056
057	G7	North-west elevation: fireplace	01-057
058	G8	North-east elevation	01-058
059	G8	South-east elevation: door and window	01-059

Photo ID No.	Location	Description	Colour digital
060	G8	South-west elevation	01-060
061	G8	West corner: former stairs	01-061
062	G8	North-west elevation: joint at north-east end	01-062
063	G8	South-east elevation: stair detail	01-063
064	G9	North-east elevation: door	01-064
065	G9	South-east elevation: north-east side	01-065
066	G9	South-west elevation	01-066
067	G9	North-west elevation: door	01-067
068	G9	North-west elevation: door bracket	01-068
069	G9	North-west elevation: door bracket	01-069
070	Exterior	North-west external elevation	01-070
071	F3	North-east elevation: door	01-071
072	F3	Purlins	01-072
073	F3	South-west elevation: window	01-073
074	F3	North-west elevation	01-074
075	F4	Door to north-east	01-075
076	F4	North-west side: down stairs	01-076
077	F5	North-east elevation: window	01-077
078	F5	South-east elevation	01-078
079	F5	South-east elevation: fireplace	01-079
080	F5	South-west elevation: door	01-080
081	F9	North-west elevation: fireplace	01-081
082	F9	North-west elevation: fireplace	01-082
083	F6	South-east elevation: fireplace	01-083
084	F6	South-east elevation: fireplace	01-084
085	F1	North-east elevation: door	01-085
086	F1	South-east elevation	01-086
087	F1	South-east elevation: hearth	01-087
088	F1	South-west elevation	01-088
089	F2	North-east elevation: window	01-089
090	F2	South-east elevation	01-090
091	F2	North-west elevation: door	01-091
092	F2a	North-west elevation: blocked alcove	01-092
093	F6	North-east elevation: door	01-093
094	F6	South-west elevation: window	01-094
095	F7	North-east elevation: door	01-095
096	F7	South-east elevation and ceiling	01-096
097	F7	South-west elevation: door	01-097
098	F8	North-east elevation: door	01-098
099	F8	South-east end	01-099
100	F9	South-west elevation: door	01-100
101	F9	North-east elevation: window	01-101
102	F9	South-east elevation and ceiling	01-102
103	F9	South-west elevation: door	01-103
104	F9	North-west elevation: fireplace	01-104
105	F10	North-east elevation: partition	01-105
106	F10	South-east elevation	01-106
107	F10	South-west elevation	01-107
108	F10	North-west elevation	01-108
109	Attic	Over F6, south-east end	01-109
110	Attic	Over F6, north-east end	01-110
111	Exterior	Outshut door: detail	01-111
112	Exterior	Door to south-east: detail	01-112
113	Exterior	Door to north-west: detail	01-113
114	Exterior	Door to north-west: detail	01-114
115	Exterior	Porch detail	01-115
116	Exterior	Porch door: north-west side	01-116
117	Exterior	Porch detail	01-117
118	Exterior	Porch door: south-east side	01-118



Client: David Oldham

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Figure 4: Ground floor plan, showing the location and direction of photographs taken on site

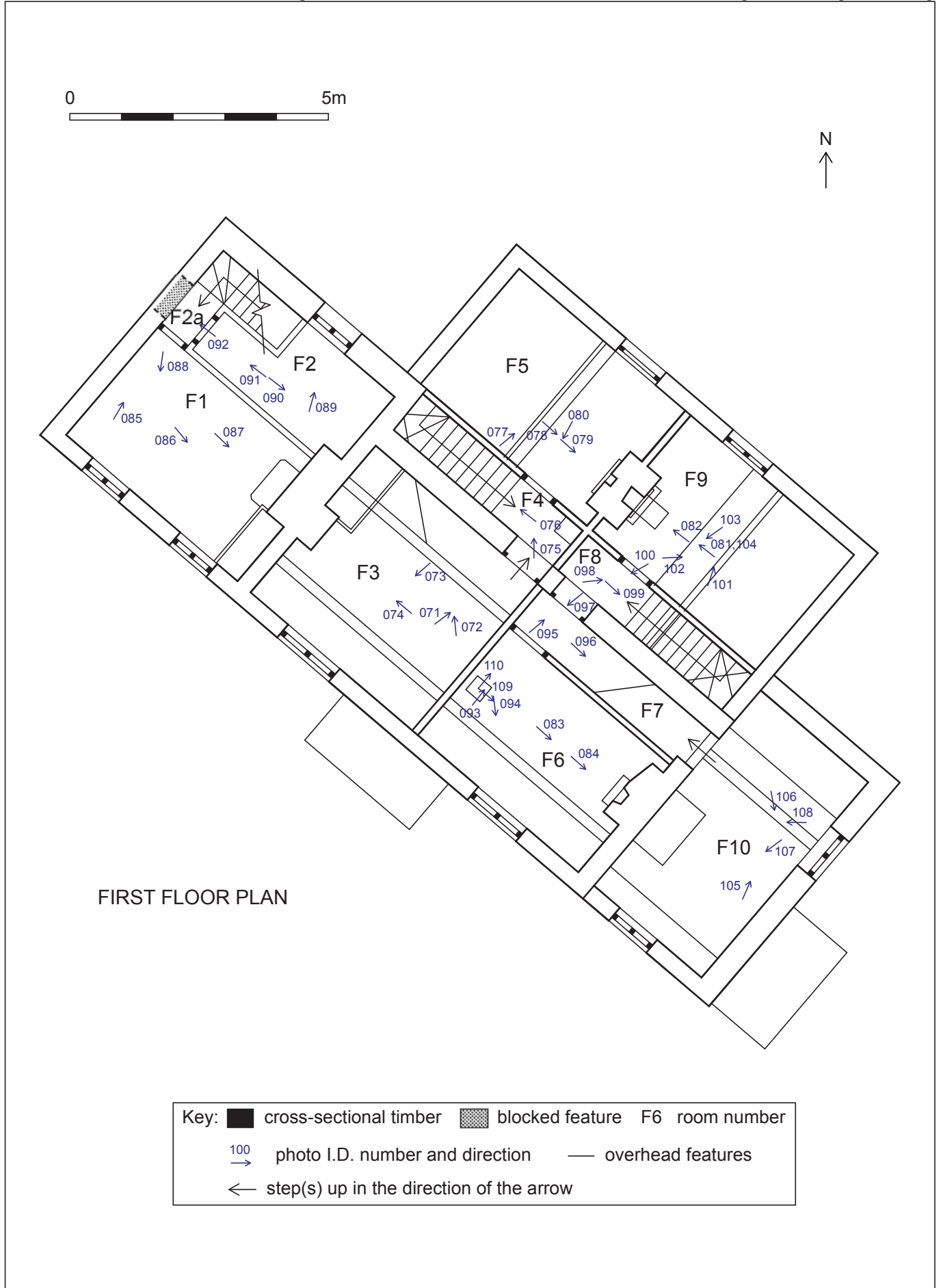


Figure 5: First floor plan, showing the location and direction of photographs taken on site

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Appendix 3: Archive Index

Project name:	Slack House Cottages, St Helens Road, Ormskirk, Lancashire: Archaeological Building Recording		
Project Code:	G1300	Site Code:	SH15
Description	Material	Size	Quantity
Report	Paper, comb-bound	A4, with A3 foldouts	32 sheets, single- and double-sided
Building investigation fabric record sheet	Paper	A4	1 sheet, double-sided
Building investigation elevation record sheet	Paper	A4	4 sheets, double-sided
Building investigation room description record sheet	Paper	A4	21 sheets, double-sided
Photo record sheet	Paper	A4	2 sheets, single-sided
Drawing index	Paper	A4	1 sheet, single-sided
Drawings	Drafting film	29 x 32cm	3 sheets, single-sided
Digital archive index	Paper	A4	1 sheet, single-sided
Digital archive	DVD	-	1