

ELLEL HOUSE, CHAPEL LANE, GALGATE, LANCASHIRE

Archaeological Building Recording



Client: Ellel Healthcare Ltd
NGR: 348555 455805

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Non-Technical Summary

Prior to the submission of a planning application to renovate and extend Ellel House, Galgate, Lancashire, a programme of archaeological building recording was undertaken by Greenlane Archaeology. The property is Grade II Listed and as the renovation and extension would result in some alteration to the existing historic fabric the Conservation Officer at Lancaster City Council recommended that the recording be undertaken in order to provide information to accompany and support the proposed application. Following further consultation with the Planning Advisor (Archaeology) at Lancashire County Council, this was confirmed as an English Heritage Level 3-type recording.

Galgate is situated to the south of Lancaster, and Ellel House is on the edge of the village between it and the smaller, but earlier, hamlet of Ellel. There is evidence for activity from the early prehistoric period in the local area, and a large enclosure of Iron Age or Romano-British date was recently excavated nearby. A large quantity of medieval pottery was also discovered during excavations across the road from the site in 1998 and there is evidence that elements of the local field system might be of medieval origin. Ellel House itself has always been closely associated with the nearby silk mill, which was established in 1792, but its exact origins are unclear. It was certainly being occupied by the owners and managers of the silk mill during the late 19th and early 20th century, before being converted into student accommodation and a nursing home.

The building recording revealed five clear phases of development of the site, although the first of these was unlikely to be genuine and is based on doubtful documentary sources. The main part of the building was almost certainly built in the early 19th century, perhaps between 1800 and 1820, and took on much of its present form at that time. It was subsequently extended with an addition to the service wing, again in the first half of the 19th century, and further smaller additions in the form of outshuts and porches were added by the end of the 19th century. In the later 20th century it was subject to several changes of use and a large number of unsympathetic alterations were made including the insertion of partition walls and new doorways and the removal of numerous features, particularly the fireplaces.

While an architecturally interesting building in its own right Ellel House is perhaps more significant as part of a wider landscape of structures associated with the silk mill, although all of these have since been put to other uses. Its poor condition and vulnerable situation makes any proposals to re-use it a valuable means to prevent further decline and help restore the appearance of at least part of the larger site. It is recommended that every effort be made to preserve those original features that remain and where possible remove the most obtrusive modern additions.

Acknowledgements

Greenlane Archaeology would like to thank John Gallagher of Ellel Healthcare Ltd for commissioning and supporting the project. Further thanks are due to Tony Hills of Damson Design for providing copies of 'as existing' drawings of the building, which were produced by Survey and Engineering Projects Ltd, and to Stephen Gardner, Conservation Officer at Lancaster City Council, and Doug Moir, Planning Officer (Archaeology) at Lancashire County Council, for their comments and information. In addition, thanks are also due to the staff of the Lancashire Record Office in Preston, and the staff at Lancaster Library Local Studies for their help, and to the staff at Lancaster City Council Planning Advice Team for information regarding previous planning applications. In addition, thanks are due to Mike Fisher at Fisher Wrathall Estate Agents, and Mark Burrow and others at Blackhurst Swainson Goodier Solicitors for their help in providing access to the building and the deeds respectively.

The desk-based assessment was carried out by Daniel Elsworth, and the building recording was carried out by Sam Whitehead and Steve Clarke, and all three also produced the report and illustrations. The project was managed by Jo Dawson, who also edited the report.

1. Introduction

1.1 Circumstances of the Project

1.1.1 In advance of the submission of a planning application by Ellel Healthcare Ltd (hereafter 'the client') for the creation of a nursing home at Ellel House, Chapel Lane, Galgate, Lancashire (NGR 348555 455805), an archaeological recording of the building was recommended by Stephen Gardner, the Conservation Officer at Lancaster City Council. Following additional discussions with Doug Moir, Planning Officer (Archaeology) at Lancashire County Council, this was confirmed as an English Heritage Level 3-type survey (English Heritage 2006).

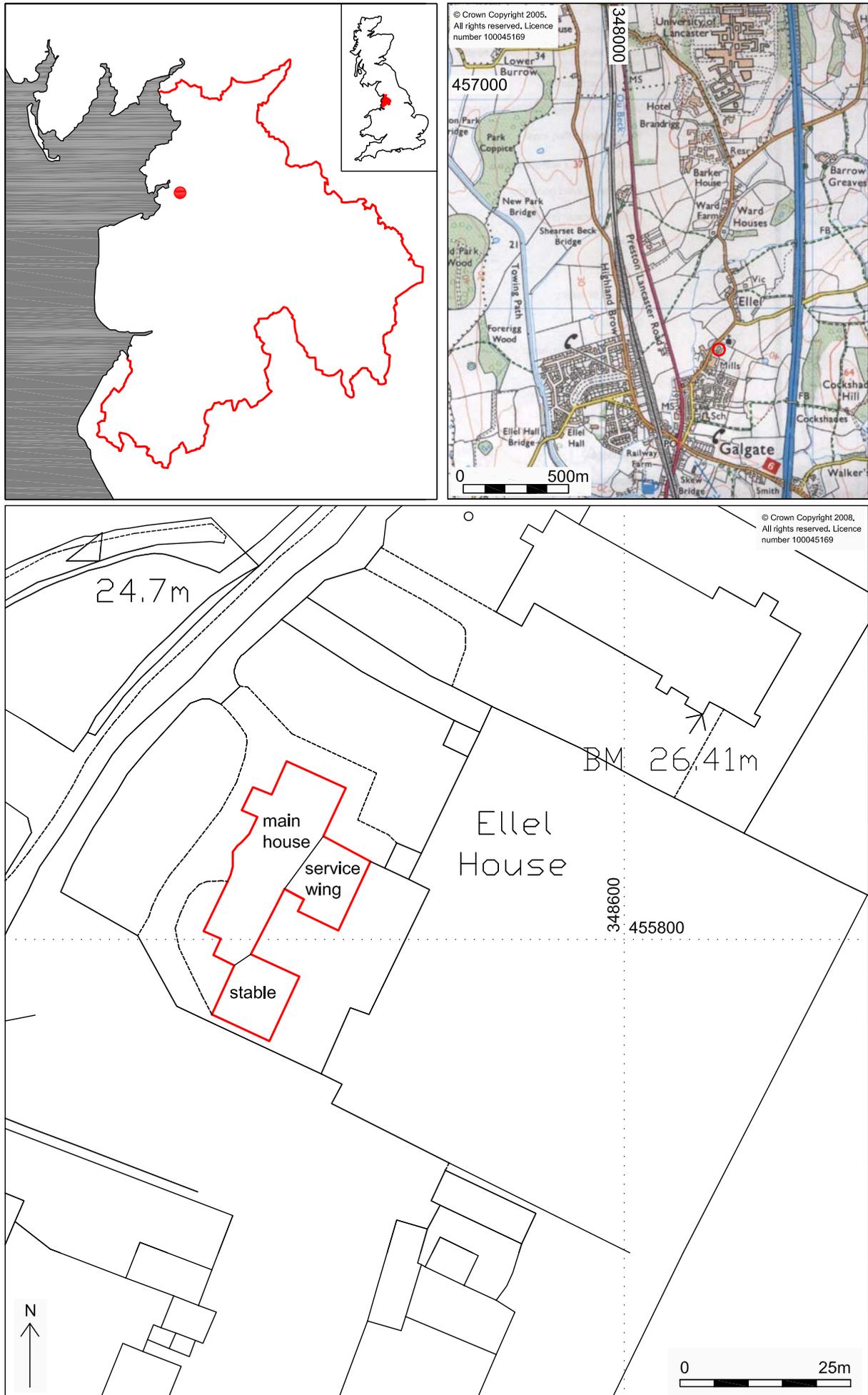
1.1.2 Ellel House is Grade II Listed and thought to be of early 19th century origin (English Heritage 2001; *Appendix 1*).

1.1.3 Greenlane Archaeology produced a project design (*see accompanying CD*), which was approved by Doug Moir. The on-site recording was undertaken between 29th May and 2nd June 2008, following the completion of the first stage of the desk-based assessment.

1.2 Location, Geology and Topography

1.2.1 Ellel House is situated on the north-east edge of the village of Galgate, between it and the village of Ellel, on Chapel Road (Fig 1). It is approximately 6km south of the centre of Lancaster, and at a height of approximately 25m above sea level (Ordnance Survey 2005; Fig 1).

1.2.2 The underlying solid geology is dominated by Millstone Grit sandstones of the Upper Carboniferous (Ede and Darlington 2002, 5), although as the landscape flattens out towards the coast this is generally covered by thick deposits of glacial till, which forms an extensive drumlin field closer to the coast (Countryside Commission 1998, 83). The landscape is typically made up of undulating pasture with occasional steeply sloping wooded escarpments (*op cit*, 82).



2. Methodology

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The architectural investigation comprised three separate elements intended to provide a suitable record of the structure, in line with English Heritage standards (English Heritage 2006) and the guidelines of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 2001a; 2001b). In addition a desk-based assessment was carried out in accordance with the project design (*see accompanying CD*), and a suitable archive was compiled to provide a permanent paper record of the project and its results in accordance with English Heritage and IFA guidelines (English Heritage 1991; Brown 2007).

2.2 Desk-Based Assessment

2.2.1 The desk-based assessment principally comprised an examination of early maps of the site, which could demonstrate the basic phasing and development of the building, as well as other documentary sources. A number of sources of information were utilised:

- **Lancashire Record Office, Preston (CRO(P))**: this was visited in order to examine early maps of the site, and other primary and secondary sources;
- **Deeds**: the deeds to the property held by the client's solicitors Blackhurst Swainson Goodier were examined in their office in Lancaster. These provided information about the most recent developments of the building and its transfer of ownership during the 20th century;
- **Lancaster Library, Local Studies Collection**: a number of secondary sources relating to the site and the general history of the area were consulted;
- **Lancaster City Council, Planning Department**: details of previous planning applications relating to the building were examined in order to provide information about the phasing of the building and the period in which certain elements had been constructed;
- **Greenlane Archaeology**: additional secondary sources held in Greenlane Archaeology's library and the personal libraries of members of staff, used to provide information for the site background, were also examined.

2.3 Building Recording

2.3.1 The building recording was carried out to English Heritage Level-3 type standards (English Heritage 2006). This is a largely descriptive investigation, but with a more detailed level of interpretation of the phasing and use of the building, which incorporates evidence compiled during the desk-based assessment. The recording comprised several parts:

- **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, black and white 35mm print, and colour slide, were taken of the main features of the building, its general surroundings, and any features of architectural or archaeological interest. A selection of the colour digital photographs is included in this report, and many of the remaining photographs are presented on the accompanying CD;

- **Drawings:** drawings were produced by hand-annotating 'as existing' illustrations of the building supplied by the client's architect in digital format at a scale of 1:1. These comprised:
 - i. 'as existing' ground and first floor plans, at 1:100;
 - ii. 'as existing' elevations of all external aspects, at 1:100;
 - iii. cross-sections of each accessible truss type were also produced at a scale of 1:50.

2.3.2 As many of the roof space areas were only accessible through small and awkwardly positioned hatches it was not possible to access the entire area. The level of investigation within each roof space is therefore quite variable.

2.4 Archive

2.4.1 A comprehensive archive of the project has been produced in accordance with the project design (see *accompanying CD*), and current IFA and English Heritage guidelines (Brown 2007; English Heritage 1991). The paper and digital archive will be deposited in the Lancashire Record Office in Preston on completion of the project. One copy of this report will be deposited with the client and one with the client's agent, and one will be retained by Greenlane Archaeology. In addition, digital copies will be offered to the Lancashire Historic Environment Record and the OASIS scheme, together with a record of the project details.

3. Desk-Based Assessment

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 As outlined in the methodology, the desk-based assessment included an examination of a number of sources, with the intention of providing a relatively comprehensive historical background to the site, and evidence for the manner in which the building has developed through time. The results are divided into three sections based on the types of evidence and information that they can provide:

- A history of the site from the earliest references through to the present day, including Ellel, the silk mill and Ellel House itself, placing the property in its context but also providing specific information about the building where possible;
- A map and image regression, concentrating on the physical development of the structure through time;
- Information relating to any previous planning applications so that recorded modern alterations can be easily identified.

3.1.2 Lengthy sections of information, which are relevant but would break up the text or that are only partially relevant, have been included as appendices, and are appropriately referenced within the text.

3.2 Historical and Archaeological Background

3.2.1 **Early Archaeological and Historical Evidence:** there is archaeological evidence for activity in the region around Galgate for several thousand years, with flint artefacts having been found in an allotment adjacent to the railway to the south-west of Ellel House (Turner 1978). These were considered possibly Bronze Age in date, although they could equally be Mesolithic (Elsworth 1998). There are few Roman remains from the general area, although Galgate is situated on the line of the Roman road heading north to Lancaster and recently an Iron Age type site comprising two hut circles and an outer enclosure ditch was excavated at Barker House Farm to the north, which was dated to the 1st to 3rd century AD (Philpott 2006, 75). A considerable quantity of remains from the medieval period have been discovered in the area, including a pottery kiln or kilns near to Ellel (White 1993), and an excavation across the road from the site close to the River Conder discovered a metalled surface associated with over 300 fragments of medieval pottery (Drury 1998). The early maps of the area, particularly that of 1769 (LRO DDM 14/28 1769; Plate 1), show a row of narrow fields associated with individual properties running east from Chapel Lane, which have the appearance of medieval plots. The fact that several are named 'croft' perhaps further indicates that this is the case.

3.2.2 **Galgate Silk Mill and Ellel House:** the history of the Galgate Silk Mill is not documented in great detail, although there have been a number of brief articles and company histories (Anon 1934; 1937; 1942), original documents (LLLS MS 7994 c1859-1971), other accounts of its development (Roskell 2007, 30-33), and a study of its architecture (Beeden 1991), and these have all been utilised in compiling the development of the site outlined below. The silk mill was established in 1792 when a partnership comprising John Armstrong, James Noble, and William Thompson, having acquired a water powered corn mill in Galgate, converted it to spin 2lb 5oz of silk waste they had purchased from a passing trader. In doing so they established the world's first water powered silk spinning mill, which remained in operation until 1971. In 1807 James Noble sold his share in the business to Alexander and Richard Merswick, but John Armstrong later acquired the entire business and he and his son

remained the sole proprietors until 1858 (during which time they massively enlarged it with the construction new buildings in 1851 (Anon 1851, 5)), when it passed to his brother Richard, who held it until 1867, although it was apparently put up for sale in 1858 (Anon 1858, 1). His executors, John Hall and William Satterthwaite, continued the business for a couple of years until it was acquired by Messrs William Thompson and Co in 1869. It continued to bear their name into the 20th century, although it was purchased by E and W Armitage in 1918, a Mr Armitage having previously been the mill manager.

3.2.3 Ellel House has a long association with the Galgate silk mill, and although it is likely that it was originally built for the use of the mill owners there is little evidence to suggest when. It has been suggested that the building pre-dates the silk mill, the evidence being that *'there are pictures of the mill when it was used... for grain and the house was there then'* (Cooper 1981, 8), but it has not been possible to corroborate this. The map evidence, however, shows that it was certainly built between 1769 and 1839 (see *Section 3.3* below), which fits closely with the establishment of the silk mill in 1792. Previous research into the history of the mill has only briefly examined Ellel House, although correspondence from 1967 between David Clark and Mr Armitage indicate that some investigation had been made as it is stated that the voters list for 1834 records William Thompson, perhaps the same one who had previously part-owned the mill, as owner of the house (LLLS MS 7994 c1859-1971). The schedule accompanying the map of 1839 (see *Section 3.3.3* below) also states that the house was owned and occupied by William Thompson and comprised *'An Estate or farm consisting of a Dwelling House sundry outbuildings ochd Garden and several closes or parcels of land'* (LRO AT/1 1839). Although it was not possible to examine the Tithe Map, due to it being too fragile, the schedule, dated 1844, lists a Robert Baines Armstrong as owner and occupier of the *'silk factory'* at Galgate as well as several other properties, including a house with outbuildings, pleasure ground and garden (LRO DRB 1/73 1844). Although it is not possible to locate this property it seems likely that it is referring to Ellel House. Sales particulars from 1858 mention a *'manager's house'* amongst the property (Anon 1858, 1), which is likely to be Ellel House, and again in 1859 include a *'manager's Dwelling House of two storeys'* (LLLS MS 7994 c1859-1971).

3.2.4 An examination of the available deeds only provided information from as early as 1858, although this adds little beyond confirming the owners as William Thompson and Co. By the early 20th century slightly more detail is available as the property is described as having a *'store room four store stable and loft above'* along with other outbuildings. The deeds also show that William Thompson and Co owned the property from at least 1869 until 1972, at which time it was conveyed to Norman Theobald. At this time it is referred to as comprising the house and *'cottage garage'* with outbuildings. The owners after this date appear to be known collectively as Jagan Investments and they conveyed Ellel House to Sallie B Bundy in 1981, at which time she converted it into a retirement home (Cooper 1981, 8). By 1993 it was owned by Sallie B Cumsty (presumably the previous owner having now married) and Thomas Ian Cumsty, but throughout this time there is little additional information about the property in the deeds, although several planning applications were made (see *Section 3.4* below).

3.2.5 **The Census:** the historical connections between the silk mill and Ellel House are further enhanced by the details of its occupiers contained in the available censuses. A full list of occupiers is provided in *Appendix 1*. The 1851 census lists the property as Ellel Cottage and being occupied by one Robert Parkinson, a landed gentleman, and his servants. The census of 1861 refers to three Ellel cottages and they are all occupied by workers in the silk spinning industry. Unfortunately it is not possible to know which buildings are being referred to, but one of the cottages is

occupied by a silk buyer and seller who employed a servant, so this is likely to be Ellel House. The census of 1871 refers to Ellel Cottage twice, one occupier being James Robinson, Secretary Sub-manager, Director of mill, Thompson & Co Ltd Silk spinners, employer of 207 hands. The second cottage is occupied by a housekeeper. James Robinson still occupied the cottage at the time of the 1881 census, and there was a housekeeper in the second property. In 1891 the census shows that Ellel Cottage is still mentioned twice, the occupier now being George Satterthwaite, whose occupation is listed as silk spinner. Apart from his wife and children the other occupiers are a housemaid, cook, and governess, which suggests that the cottage was still the home of the manager for the silk mill. George Satterthwaite was still the occupier at the time of the 1901 census; though the property is now called Ellel House and a second property is not mentioned.

3.2.6 Directories: the available directories give a succession of occupiers of Ellel House and in some cases their occupations. It is evident that many were directly associated with the silk mill, generally as managers (see Table 1 below). Although the details in many cases do not state the occupation it is apparent that most if not all of the occupiers were connected to the silk mill; James Robinson was the Managing Director (Roskell 2007, 37).

| Date | Name | Address | Occupation | Source |
|------|-------------------------|---------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1851 | Robert Parkinson | Ellel Cottage | Not given | Mannex and Co 1851, 524 |
| 1866 | William Parkinson | Not given | Manager at Messrs Thompson's silk mill | Mannex and Co 1866, 584 |
| 1879 | James Robinson Esq | Ellel Cottage | Not given | Slater 1879, 254 |
| 1881 | James Robinson | Ellel Cottage | Salesman & sec. | Mannex and Co 1881, 178 |
| 1885 | James Robinson Esq | Ellel Cottage | Not given | Slater 1885, 268 |
| 1898 | George Satterthwaite | Ellel House | Not given | Slater's Directory Limited 1898, 426 |
| 1901 | George Satterthwaite | Ellel House | Not given | Kelly's Directories Limited 1901, 463 |
| 1905 | George Satterthwaite | Ellel House | Not given | Kelly's Directories Limited 1905, 472 |
| 1913 | George Satterthwaite JP | Ellel House | Not given | Kelly's Directories Limited 1913, 489 |

Table 1: Occupiers of Ellel House recorded in directories

3.3 Map and Image Regression

3.3.1 Introduction: a number of early images of the property, or the site of it, are available, ranging in date from the late 18th to the early 20th century, and these provide a reasonably detailed record of the physical development of the property. These are discussed in chronological order below.

3.3.2 Map of Ellel, 1769 (LRO DDM 14/28 1769): this is an early but remarkably detailed map of the Manor of Ellel, and shows many of the fields in the vicinity of the site with field names (LRO DDM 14/28 1769). The plot of land containing Ellel House is empty and named 'Mill Field'; it is numbered 33 (Plate 1) but there is no accompanying schedule.

3.3.3 Map of Cockerham, 1839 (LRO AT/1 1839) this is a version of the tithe map (the original of which was too fragile to produce, although the apportionment was available). It is the first plan to show a building on the site of Ellel House, although it is not detailed and the structure appears as a simple rectangle with what are

probably associated garden walls (Plate 2). The attached schedule states that Plot 133 is owned and occupied by William Thompson Esq, and it is described as 'An Estate or farm consisting of a Dwelling House sundry outbuildings ochd Garden and several closes or parcels of land' (see Section 3.2.3 above).



Plate 1: (left) Plan of 1769 (LRO DDM 14/28 1769); Ellel House is situated in 'Mill Field'

Plate 2: (right) Plan of 1839 (LRO AT/1 1839); Ellel House is the small building situated in plot number 133

3.3.4 **Ordnance Survey, 1847:** this is the earliest map that clearly shows Ellel House, although at this time it is named 'Ellel Cottage' (Plate 3). Its plan is already quite like that of the present building, although it is considerably lacking in detail. It is evident that it has associated grounds, and a curving drive, and the silk mill is still evident on the other side of the road.



Plate 3: Ordnance Survey Map, 1847

Plate 4: Conveyance plan of 1873 (LLLS MS 7991 1873)

3.3.5 **Engraving, post-1851:** an early engraving of the site is reproduced in a later company history (Anon 1937; and subsequently in Roskell 2007, 30; Plate 5). This is presumably post-1851 as the large extension added in that year is visible. Although it is not certain which direction this is viewing the site from, it would appear to be from the west, across Chapel Lane, in which case a small part of the north-east end of Ellel House is visible to the left of the group of buildings. This image provides a

limited amount of information, however, as it only shows the house as a two storey structure with little detail.

3.3.6 **Conveyance Plan, 1873 (LLLS MS 7991 1873)**: a plan accompanying a conveyance of this year shows land to the rear of the property and includes Ellel House, with the silk mill to the south, although there is little additional detail. The building is, however, clearly shown as a roughly rectangular block with two extensions to the rear (Plate 4).

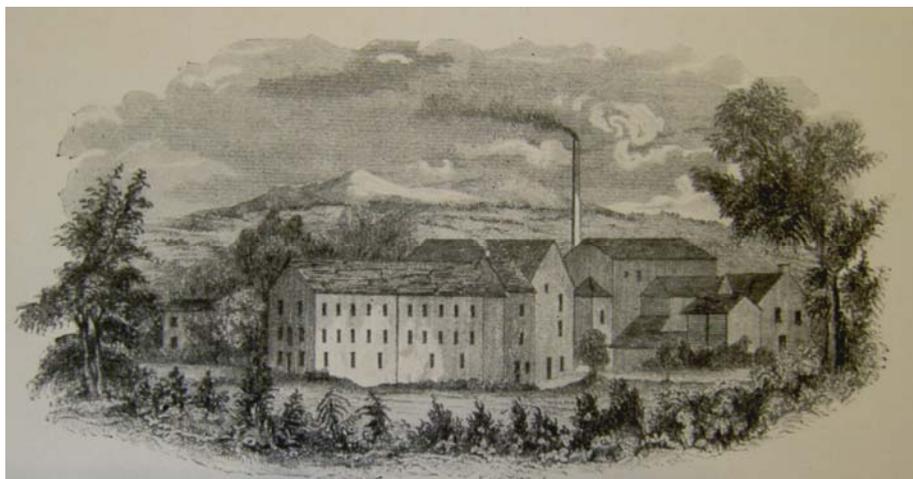


Plate 5: Early view of the silk mills, with the edge of Ellel House possibly visible on the left (from Anon 1937)

3.3.7 **Ordnance Survey, 1891**: the outward appearance of Ellel House (named Ellel Cottage on the map) seems to have changed little since the 1873 map, though the buildings around it have (Plate 6). The map clearly shows the new mill to the south of the house and the latter is considerably enlarged compared to its depiction in 1873, and some additional outbuildings are shown. In addition, a new mill pond has been constructed between the mill and Ellel House, with a second pond across the road opposite to the house.

3.3.8 **Ordnance Survey, 1912**: this is essentially the same as the previous map, although some additions have been made in the form of small extensions to the outshuts and further small structures within the grounds (Plate 7).



Plate 6: (left) Ordnance Survey Map, 1891

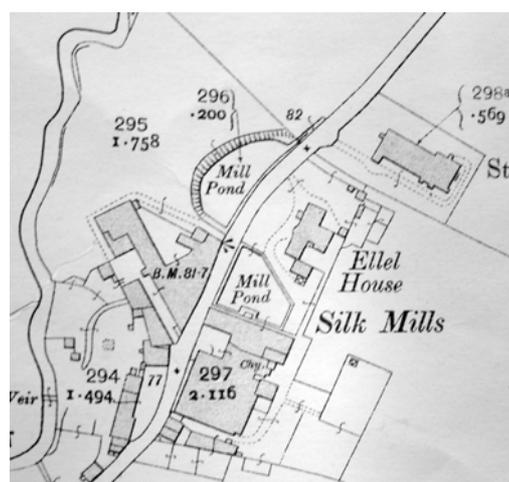


Plate 7: (right) Ordnance Survey Map, 1912

3.3.9 **Undated photographs, late 19th – early 20th century:** two photographs of Ellel House are reproduced in Roskell (2007, 37; Plates 8 and 9). These show the house much as it appears at present, although the front is obscured by climbing plants and awnings (Plate 9).

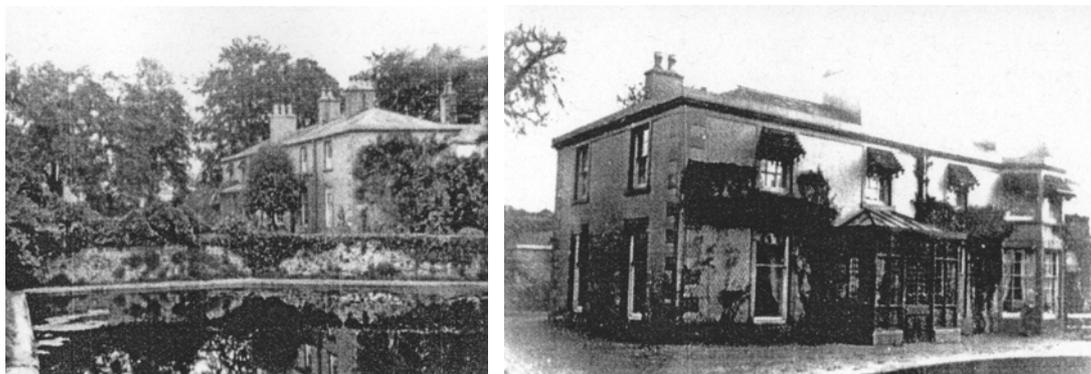


Plate 8: (left) Undated view of Ellel House from the south-west across the mill pond (from Roskell 2007, 37)

Plate 9: (right) Undated view of Ellel House from the north-west (from Roskell 2007, 37)

3.4 Planning Applications

3.4.1 **Introduction:** several planning applications for alterations to Ellel House have been submitted in the past 35 years, some of which were quite extensive. It is not clear in many cases, however, whether they were actually carried out. Copies of the proposed and as existing plans for each of these applications, where available, are included in *Appendix 4*.

3.4.2 **Change of use of Private Dwellinghouse into Private Hotel with Restaurant, 1973:** the details of this proposal (Ref. 2/4/6558) were only available with the deeds and no plans showing the extent of what was proposed were available.

3.4.3 **Change of use of House and Adjoining Cottage into 2 Office Units, 1974:** the details of this proposal (Ref. 1/74/515) were only available with the deeds and no plans showing the extent of what was proposed were available.

3.4.4 **Construction of Vehicular and Pedestrian Access to Cottage, 1975:** the details of application (Ref. 1/75/213) were only available with the deeds and no plans showing the extent of what was proposed were available.

3.4.5 **Conversion of House and Cottage into Two Flats and 9 Bed-Sitters, 1975:** again, the details of this application (Ref. 1/75/1061 LB) were only available with the deeds and no plans showing the extent of what was proposed were available.

3.4.6 **Conversion of House and Cottage into 13 Bedsitters, 1976:** in 1976, an application (76/81/LB) was submitted to convert the house to contain 13 bedsits for use by students of Lancaster University. The 'as existing' plans of 1976 show that the property consisted of two separate living areas. The south wing was a small living quarters of two living rooms and two bedrooms with a small bathroom on the first floor and a kitchen outshut at the back. The main living space consisted of three large living rooms with cloakroom and hall, to the rear was a large kitchen and pantry. The first floor consisted of five bedrooms with a corridor to a store room and bathroom at the rear. There was also a bathroom and toilet between on the south side of the first floor. At the south-east corner of the site was a two-storey garage with boiler room, a pantry in the north-west corner could be accessed from the

kitchen of the south wing. The proposed plan shows the living rooms and bedrooms converted to bedsitting rooms as well as the large kitchen of the north wing. Both of the pantries are to be converted to toilets and shower units, as well as the cloakroom. The WC on the first floor of the north wing is to be converted into a corridor to allow access to a fire escape. There were no plans proposed for the garage.

3.4.7 Conversion of Garage and Store to Dwelling for Wardens, 1977: in 1977 plans (77/8/LB) were proposed for the garage to be converted to a warden's quarters. The existing plans show that the ground floor was a single room with a fireplace on the south wall. The first floor was partitioned in two with a stud wall, and the floor had a large opening in the north-west corner. On the ground floor the proposed plans were to partition the space with a bedroom on the north side. On the south side of the partition was to be a hall and stairs to the first floor. Behind the stairs was to be a small shower room with toilet, behind this there was to be a small dining area and kitchen, which extended through the west wall into the old boiler room. The first floor was to have a new timber floor installed and the walls plastered, with the partition removed to create a single room. This application was successful.

3.4.8 Conversion of Student Flats, Bed-sitters to Hotel and Restaurant, 1979: in 1979 a planning application (79/00905/LB) was put forward to convert Ellel House from bedsitting rooms to a hotel and restaurant with accommodation for the owners. On the ground floor these plans showed the north wing being converted to the hotel and restaurant, the main rooms at the front being converted to a dining room and reception, and the rear bedsitting room converted to ladies and gents toilets. The bedsit to the rear was to be converted back to a kitchen, and the adjoining toilets to be replaced with an access lobby for staff. The first floor of the north wing was to be converted back to bedrooms, similar to what it was before the conversion to bedsitters. The shower rooms were to be converted back to bathrooms with toilets and the fire-escape retained. The south wing, which is to be the owner's residence, was to be reverted back to how it was before the conversion to bedsitters. Part of the application also included plans for additional parking in the paddock, which were not passed; there were no plans proposed for the garage. These plans never passed proposal stage.

3.4.9 Change of Use from Dwellinghouse to Old Peoples Home, 1980: this application (80/01517/LB) for a change of use from student bedsits to a nursing home was successful; the warden's quarters were retained for this use for the nursing home.

3.4.10 Erection of 19 Bedroom Nursing Home Extension, 1988: these plans (88/0240/LB) of the ground floor show proposals for a large extension to be added to the rear of the building. The part of the plan showing the original building is not very detailed, but does show the ladies and gents toilets at the rear of the north wing converted to a dining room, and the kitchen being partitioned to two-thirds its size. This plan also shows a doorway created between the north and south wings, probably created when the house became a nursing home in 1980. The extension to the rear would have housed staff rooms, lockers, stores, and laundry, with a new glazed corridor running down the north side of the building. These plans never passed proposal stage.

3.5 Discussion

3.5.1 Ellel House appears to be connected with the Galgate Silk Mills from an early date, and, although it cannot be conclusively stated, was almost certainly built for the use of the mill owners; it was certainly subsequently used by the mill managers. Remarkably, given the historical significance of the silk mill in Galgate, there is a

limited amount of published information about the site, and this has hampered attempts to provide a detailed historical background to the site. Cartographic and documentary sources are only able to demonstrate that the building, or a building on the site, was in existence by the 1830s. Whether its construction reflects the level of prosperity achieved by the mill owners is not certain, but the mill was arguably at its most successful at this time, successful enough to require a large addition to be built in 1851.

3.5.2 The change in name of the building from Ellel Cottage to Ellel House seems to have taken place in the late 19th century, and although this might be taken to be an indication of a physical alteration to the property, it is equally likely to reflect changing fashions. The term 'cottage' was often applied to relatively large private houses, almost in an ironic sense, fitting with the Romantic attitudes of the late 18th and early 19th century. Indeed a whole style of building, the cottage orné, developed, which was described in 1832 in the following manner:

'It is not for the habitation of the laborious, but of the affluent, of the man of study, of science, or of leisure... a mere cottage would be incongruous with the nature of its occupancy' (Papworth 1832, 25).

Ellel House is perhaps too large and not decorative enough to have been a true cottage orné but it is certainly in keeping with the idea.

3.5.2 The building appears to have taken much of its present form by the middle of the 19th century, and in the late 19th and perhaps early 20th only minor additions were made. During the late 20th century however, repeated changes of use have caused considerable damage to the original fabric, and it seems likely that much was lost during this time. Part of the property was still named 'cottage' as late as the 1970s, but this seems likely to be due to its use as accommodation for domestic servants and the governess, and the physical separation that accompanied this, rather than any distinct difference in the phasing or development of the building.

3.5.3 It is also notable that there is also a good deal of evidence for activity in the vicinity of the site since the prehistoric period. A considerable amount of medieval material was discovered during excavations carried out on the opposite side of Chapel Lane, and arrangements of the fields, including that containing Ellel House, and the apparent use of the name 'croft' in association with them, might suggest further medieval occupation is likely in close proximity to the site.



Figure 2a: External elevations

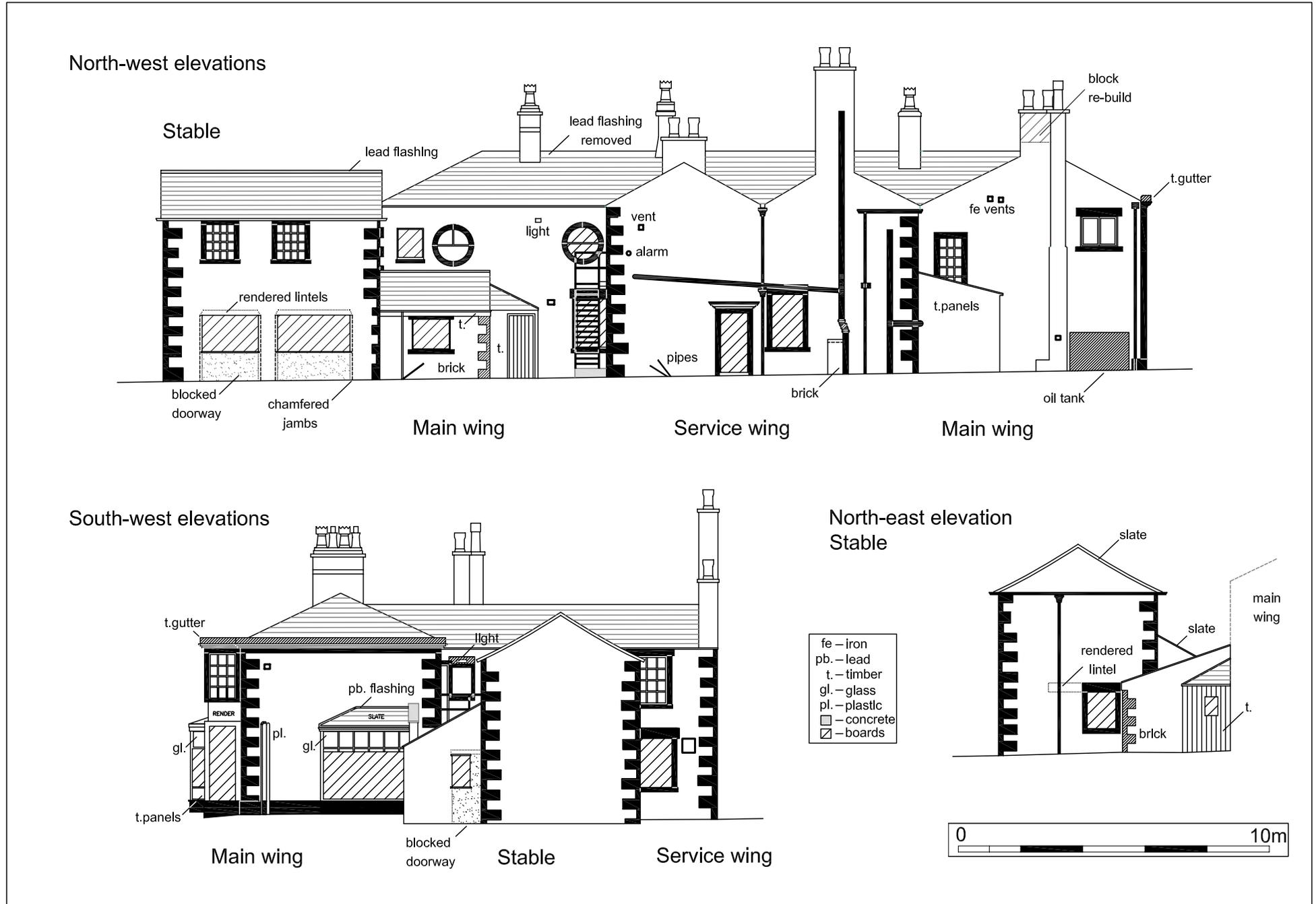


Figure 2b: External elevations

4. Building Recording

4.1 Arrangement and Fabric (Fig 1)

4.1.1 The building recording of Ellel House examined three main elements; the main two storey six bay north-east/south-west orientated range that was originally divided into two separate halves, a service wing that projected from approximately the centre of the rear of this, and a converted stable located just to the south of the main range. There was also a glazed timber porch on the front and south-west elevations of the main wing, and two single storey outshuts to the north-west and north-east of the coach house that linked this building to the main house. There was also a separate small mono-pitched washhouse with attached outhouse to the rear of the property constructed from a combination of brick and stone. The construction of the main building and coach house utilised pale yellow sandy gritstone rubble that had been stuccoed or rendered and painted white; scoring of the stucco to create an ashlar block effect was only evident on parts of the front elevations. The quoins and surrounds were plain but well finished stone of the same provenance and painted black. The roof of the main wing was hipped and the service wing and coach house were both gabled; all were finished with slate with ceramic bonnet ridge tiles or lead flashing. There were four chimneys servicing the main wing and two for the service wing, each with between two and four pots.

4.2 External Detail (Figs 2a and 2b)



Plate 10: (left) North-west elevation from the north



Plate 11: (right) North-west elevation from the west

4.2.1 **Main wing, North-west elevation:** this elevation comprised six bays with a canted bay window just off centre, and a blocked doorway immediately to the south-west. The main entrance to the building was situated towards the north-east end and had an attached glazed timber porch (Plate 10). A black painted stone plinth ran along the building at ground level and there was an eaves band of identical design running along the roofline; the quoins of this elevation were well finished and projected slightly from the wall, to the same extent as the plinth, surrounds, and eaves band. The eaves band supported a stone cornice, which in turn supported the gutter. The canted bay window (Plate 11) rose to the height of the roofline and had square-cut black painted stone surrounds. All three faces of the bay had 12-light sliding sash windows whose casements and frames were painted white. All three aspects of the porch had a row of coloured leaded lights under the hipped slate tile roof; the lower main lights had been boarded over and were set on a black painted stone plinth. The doorway within had the same black stone surround as the flanking

windows, which approached the ceiling height of the porch and held a substantial white painted panelled door set below a two-light overlight with side and central bars. The entrance was flanked by full height windows that were boarded over and set beneath shorter 12-light sash windows that utilised the eaves band for lintels. On the south-west side of the bay window were two more pairs of windows in the same configuration (Plate 11) and there was an upper window over the doorway. Immediately adjacent to the south-west side of the bay window was a blocked doorway. Apart from being painted white the jambs and lintel appeared to be of a very similar in design to those of the windows. Above the eaves band and cornice was a square section timber gutter that was drained by two downpipes both of which were cast iron and square in section.



Plate 12: (left) North-east elevation of main wing

Plate 13: (right) North-east elevation of rear/service/southeast wing

4.2.2 North-east elevation: the north-east elevation of the main wing was finished in the same style as the front of the building and had two tall windows on the ground floor and two shorter ones on the first floor (Plate 12). There was a cast iron drainpipe at the north-west end and a narrow channel along the base which relates to the external wall of the cellar.

4.2.3 North-east elevation of the rear/service wing: the elevations of this wing were less well rendered than the main wing, and the rubble courses were more evident (Plate 13). Once again the quoining and window surrounds were black painted, however the quoining was not as well finished as those on the main wing and were flush with the wall. There were two 12-light sash windows on each floor, those on the ground floor were boarded over and unequally distributed along the elevation. A timber framed plywood outshut had been added to this elevation between the two ground floor windows, which appeared to form a porch over an original doorway. The outshut was unglazed at the time of recording and had a basic slate tiled roof. Adjacent to the north-west edge of the outshut there was a shaft which appeared to lead to a doorway into the cellar, however it was very narrow and somewhat choked with rubbish. It is likely that this entrance to the cellar would have been for the servants' access as the main cellar entrance was in the hall of main wing (see Section 4.4.1 below).

4.2.4 South-east elevation, main wing: this elevation incorporated the south-east end of the service wing which was located centrally, and like the service wing displayed the same lightly rendered white painted finish. To the south-west of the service wing the main elevation had a small single storey brick outshut at the south-west end, which obscured an original window. There was a corresponding square window on the upper floor that had a black painted sill but no painted jambs or lintel, suggesting that it may have been an addition. Immediately to the north-east of this window was one of a pair of round windows or oculi, each of which had a four piece

black painted stone surround, a timber frame, and three lights, the upper semi-circular pane being divided vertically (Plate 14). Running up to the first floor of the service wing was a black painted iron fire escape that partially obscured a second much larger ground floor window. Once again this window had a black painted stone surround and was boarded up externally; to the south-west of it there was a small grill vent in the wall at a height of about 2m. North-west of the service wing the rear elevation was gabled rather than hipped as it was at the front of the building. Immediately to the north-east of the service wing there was a boarded up door below a tall 18-pane landing light (Plate 13); both had black painted stone surrounds. Between these two apertures there was a plain, flat, stone projection that acted both as rudimentary porch and sill. A second window was located towards the north-east end of the elevation on the upper floor; this had a black painted lintel only and a more modern two-light casement. In the centre of this elevation a chimney breast had been added, which connected to a brick lined vent shaft into the basement. There was also a metal oil tank and pre-fabricated coal bunker close to this part of the elevation.



Plate 14: (left) South-east elevation of main wing and north-east elevation of stable block

Plate 15: (right) South-east elevation of service wing

4.2.5 South-east elevation, service wing: the south-east elevation of the service wing formed an M-shaped double gable, each gable end having a chimney. There was a doorway just to the south-west of the centre with a moulded entablature above, black painted stone jambs and lintel, and a stone step. To the north-east of the door was a large boarded up window (Plate 15) with black painted stone surrounds, which would have lit the northern of the two halves of this wing. A central metal downpipe between window and door divided the two halves of this wing, behind which two or three quoins could be distinguished under the white paint and thin render.

4.2.6 Outshut on south-east elevation of main wing: this outshut had been added to the rear of the main building and the north-west side of the coach house, connecting the two buildings together. Constructed from white painted brick it had a slated monopitch roof and a central window with black painted stone lintel and sill. The east corner was painted to emulate the quoin stones of the main building (Plate 14). At the junction of the north-east elevation of the outshut and the main building there was a further small porch constructed from timber with a slate roof.

4.2.7 South-west elevation main wing: the south-west elevation of the main wing was plain except for a timber and glass porch over a doorway (Plate 16). The porch was very similar to that on the main entrance (see *Section 4.2.1*) with an upper row of small square leaded lights and a slate roof. The lower windows were boarded up and as the door from inside the main house was sealed it was not possible to gain access to the interior. This porch was evidently a later addition and must have post-

dated the extension to the coach house which it butted to the south-east. As with the north-east gable the tiled roof of the house was hipped and had a black painted timber gutter.



Plate 16: (left) South-west elevation of main wing and north-west and south-west elevations of the stable block

Plate 17: (right) South-west elevation of south-east wing

4.2.8 **South-west elevation service wing:** towards the north-west end of this elevation there was a small recess in the walling into which fitted the metal landing of the fire-escape door on the first floor (Plate 17). The metal stairs attached to this landing were affixed to this elevation. There were no other doors but there were three windows on each floor. On the upper floor there was a boarded up window adjacent to the recess in the wall for the fire escape with black painted stone surrounds. To the south-east of this window there was a pair of larger 12-light sliding sash windows that were as those found in the front of the building. The windows on the ground floor also had stone surrounds and were all of different sizes. The largest window was at the south-east end of the elevation; there were iron shutter fixings attached to the wall on either side of the window and a modern extraction vent was located just to the south-east. On the ground floor under the staircase there was a tall window, boarded up, with stone jambs, lintel, and sill. There was a smaller central window next to this also with black painted stone surrounds.



Plate 18: (left) South-east elevation of stable block

Plate 19: (right) South-west elevation of stable block

4.2.9 **Stable block, north-west elevation:** the lower part of this elevation comprised the single storey slate roofed extension/outshut, which had two boarded up windows with black painted stone sills (Plate 16). The window to the south-west was arched and appeared to be inserted into a partially blocked doorway. There were clear vertical lines beneath the jambs of the window and within these an absence of the scored ashlar effect in the mortar. Part of this elevation had been obscured by the

addition of the porch at the north-west end linking this building to the main house. Whether access between the two was ever possible is unknown as access could not be gained to the porched area, however the plans suggest that there may have been a blocked door or window in this area. The remaining and original part of the elevation above the extension to the coach house was plain.

4.2.10 **Stable block, north-east elevation:** this gabled elevation was partly obscured by the outshut described *Section 4.2.6* but was plain except for a ground floor window (Plate 14) that had black painted stone surrounds in keeping with the main building.

4.2.11 **Stable block, south-east elevation:** on the upper floor there were two modern 16-light fixed casements with top hung ventilators (Plate 18). There were two large rectangular windows symmetrically placed on the ground floor that had been boarded up; the jambs of these windows were chamfered but there was no evidence of stone lintels or sills. It seems likely that these windows were originally the coach house doors that had been partially blocked, and originally represented the main entrance into this building. The quoins on the lower right side of this elevation were narrower than those above the window height further suggesting alterations in this area. There was also a cobbled area in front of this elevation that had a central drain.

4.2.12 **Stable block, south-west elevation:** this gabled elevation clearly illustrates the addition of the monopitched outshut to the original form of the stable (Plate 19). The main part of the elevation was entirely plain, however there was a boarded up window in the extension. This window had been inserted into a blocked doorway, the white painted lintel of which extended across to the original stable block structure.



Plate 20: North-west elevation of outhouse

4.4.13 **Outbuilding:** this was to the east of the service wing of the main building. The north-east and north-west elevations were built of brick, and the south-east and south-west elevations built of stone (Plate 20). All the elevations were white painted. The north-west elevation had a window with timber lintel and a white plastic fixed casement with a top hung ventilator. There was a doorway at the south-west end with a modern timber plank and ledge door painted black. The south-east elevation was formed by a stone boundary wall, which continued to the north-east beyond the building. The north-east elevation had an additional small outhouse attached at the south-east end. This outhouse also utilised the stone boundary wall for its south-east wall; the remaining walls were built of brick. The roof of the outbuilding was mono-pitched and slate, and sloped down to the pre-existing garden wall. The outhouse roof was corrugated iron and again sloped down to the garden wall.

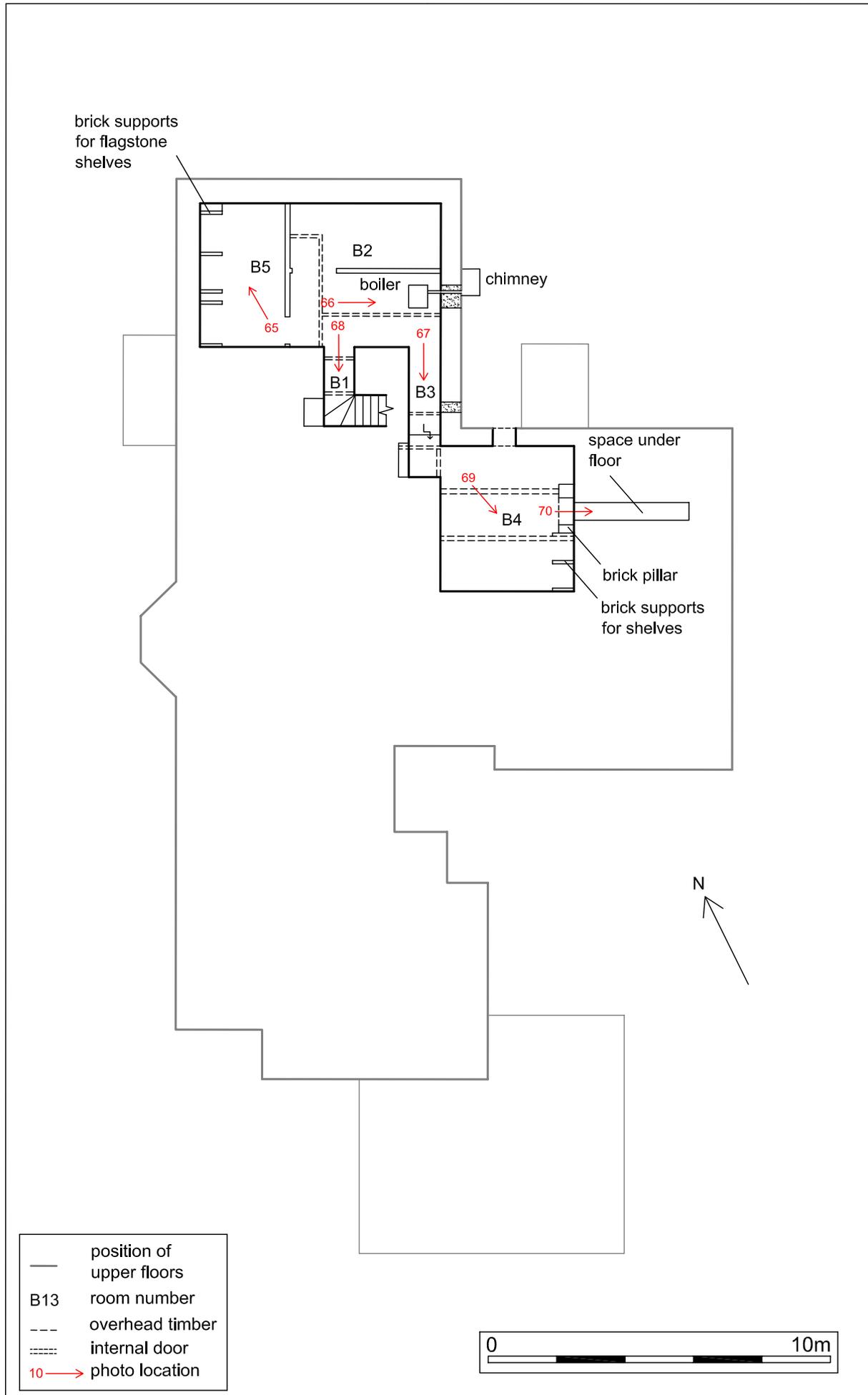


Figure 3: Cellar plan

4.3 Internal Detail – Cellar (Fig 3)

4.3.1 **Introduction:** the cellar was located at the north-east end of the main wing and also extended under the south-east wing. The main entrance was via a stairway from the rear entrance hall under the stairs. All the external walls were rendered and white painted stone, the floor was concrete. The ceiling had been clad with fibreboard.

4.3.2 **Room B1:** the stairs down to the cellar were constructed from concrete suggesting they are a later replacement (Plate 21), and the doorway at the base of the stairs had a modern timber frame and door.

4.3.3 **Room B2:** the north-east elevation was a continuation of the external stone wall and had been recently rendered. The south-east elevation, which had remnants of whitewash and paint, had a bricked up aperture which acted as a vent for the boiler through to the stack on the outside. The south-west elevation, which had been rendered with cement, had a doorway to the stairway (B1) and an entrance to the passage (Room B3) leading to Room B4. The north-west elevation was a brick partition wall of single stretcher construction rendered with cement. At the south-west end there was a doorway with a modern timber door frame but no door. Running through the middle of the room north-west to south-east there was a stud wall partition that had plaster boards on one side.



Plate 21: (left) Basement stairway (Room B1)

Plate 22: (right) Passage between cellars (Room B3)

4.3.4 **Room B3:** this passageway, which led from Room B2 to Room B4, was orientated north-east/south-west. The south-east elevation had a rectangular aperture close to the ceiling at the south-west end, this had been blocked with modern grey brick (this is just visible Plate 22). There was a step up in the concrete floor at the north-east end of the passage.

4.3.5 **Room B4:** in the centre of the north-east wall there was a doorway, which corresponded to that at the base of the external shaft (*Section 4.2.3*). The door comprised timber batten and ledge within a timber frame. On the south-east elevation there was a small aperture with a timber frame and door which gave access to a narrow space under the floor of the south-east/service wing (Plate 23). On the south-west side of the aperture there was timber shelving on brick supports. Access to the passage (Room B3) was at the north-west end of the north-east elevation.

4.3.6 **Room B5:** this room was situated on the north-west side of room B2. The north-east and south-west elevations were whitewashed. The south-east elevation formed the brick partition to Room B3 and was cement rendered. The north-west elevation had a shelf running the length of the wall (Plate 24) which was approximately 0.5m deep and 0.7m high and constructed from of four stone flags supported on brick columns, two of which were constructed from yellow firebricks.



Plate 23: (left) Hatch in Room B4



Plate 24: (right) Flag shelving on brick pillars in Room B5

4.4 Internal Detail – Ground Floor (Fig 4)

4.4.1 **Room G1a:** the elevations of this room had moulded timber skirting, window surrounds, dado rails, and panels; except for the south-east elevation, which was an inserted partition. The mouldings were largely variations of the *cyma recta* form. The floor was clad with modern blue carpet and the ceiling was plastered and had an ornate cornice running round the original elevations. There were tall windows in the north-east and north-west elevations which extended down from the cornice to a shelf approximately 0.30m above the floor, under which were radiator boxes with ornately perforated wooden grills. Both windows were fire damaged but the remains of an ornate pelmet (Plate 25) were still apparent suggesting that they once had curtains. The windows both had internal green painted timber shutters that were hinged and horizontally divided enabling the upper or lower part of the window to be shuttered independently. The north-west and north-east elevations had ornate metal grill vents which were located close to the ceiling below the cornice. The doorway in the south-west elevation was white painted and had six panels with moulded surrounds suggesting that it was probably original (Plate 26). It had a modern alloy plate with the letter 'A' affixed to its exterior side, along with a Yale lock and an ornate original brass fingerplate (Plate 27).

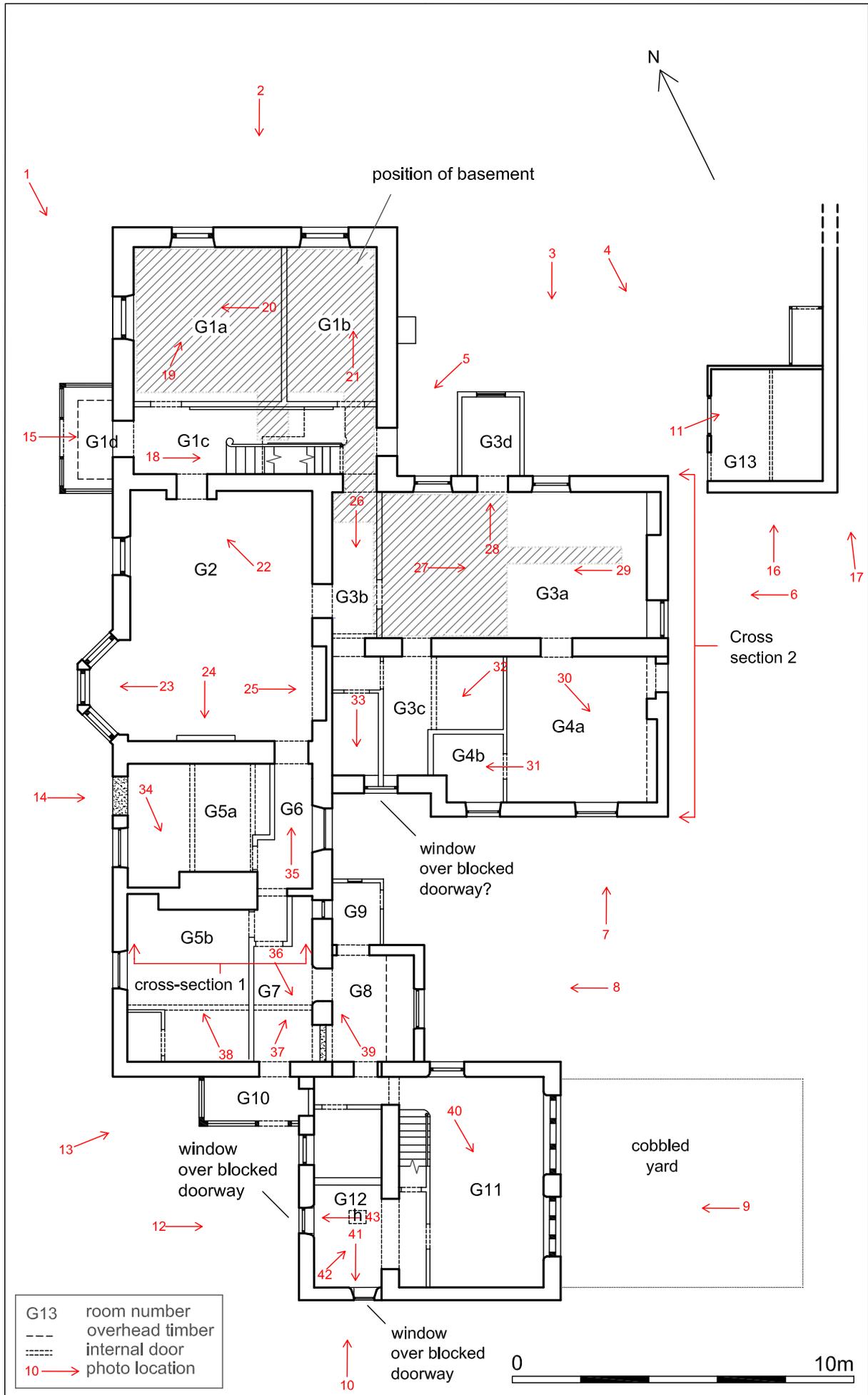


Figure 4: Ground floor plan



Plate 25: (left) Panelling on north-west elevation of Room G1a

Plate 26: (centre) Door and surround, Room G1a

Plate 27: (right) Detail of fingerplate, Room G1a

4.4.2 **Room G1b:** this room was originally the south-eastern half of a large room comprising G1a and G1b, and the same mouldings and panelling were present on all but the north-west (partition) elevation. The north-east elevation had a window identical to that in the same elevation of Room G1a. The access doorway from the hall had a modern white-painted plain door and surround, which was evidently a recent insertion. There was a small sink in the east corner, which was also a modern addition and the former fireplace in the south-east elevation had been blocked.

4.4.3 **Room G1c:** this room formed the hallway, and was located towards the north-east end of the house. The north-east elevation was wallpapered between the beaded skirting board and moulded cornice, and there was a modern timber handrail between the two doorways of rooms G1a and G1b. The south-east elevation had a central doorway, which was positioned within a tall former window visible externally. The doorway had a modern single panel fire door and frame with a plain surround. The staircase was located along the south-west elevation towards the rear of the main wing. Behind the stairs there was a doorway to the service passage that linked the service wing to the main house. A timber panel door under the rear of the stairs led down to the cellars, this stairway was panelled off from the hallway with moulded white painted boards. The staircase rose to a landing at the south-east end and was constructed in a late Georgian style with white-painted square section balusters supporting a varnished hardwood timber hand rail ending with a twist at the bottom step (Plate 28). A second modern timber handrail was attached to the opposing wall. To the front of the stairs there was a doorway in the south-west elevation leading to the large dining or reception room, G2 (Plate 29). The jambs of this doorway were timber panelled in the same style as the door and were extremely deep, apparently having been inserted through what was a chimney breast. The main entrance, located to the north-west of the stairs held a wide six-panelled door with a decorative over-light with side and central bars (Plate 29). The ceiling was the original lath and plaster with a moulded cornice and boss with a modern chandelier style light fitting. The ceiling had a slight downward curve at the south-east end of the hall and the floor was laid with modern carpet.



Plate 28: (left) Staircase, south-east end of Room G1c

Plate 29: (right) Front doorway, north-west end of Room G1c

4.4.4 **Room G2:** all the elevations in this large reception or dining room were wallpapered and painted blue between the white painted moulded skirting board and cornice. The north-east elevation housed the deep doorway from the entrance hall (Plate 30), the jambs and underside of which were panelled in what appeared to be the original style. However, the width of the doorway and its location suggest it has been inserted through a fireplace, although if this door had been inserted it is difficult to imagine where the original entrance to this part of the main wing would have been located. There was a doorway in the south-east elevation, which gave access from the service corridor and rear wing where the kitchens were probably located, which suggests that this room would originally have been the main dining room. The door itself appeared to be original and in keeping with others in this part of the house but had been covered in thin white-painted board to convert it into a fire door. To the south-west of the doorway there was a large shallow-arched recess (Plate 31). The arch had a white-painted moulded plaster architrave resting on acanthus leaf corbels with a moulded rail running around the recess. Installed within the recess there was a modern radiator. The south-west elevation had a doorway at the south-east end and a central fireplace. The doorway led to a hallway (Room G6) and had a six panelled door and moulded door surround that was identical to that in the opposing elevation. This doorway was probably inserted as it joined the two halves of the main wing, perhaps this was done at the time the exterior entrance to the south-west part of this wing was blocked on the north-west elevation. The fireplace was a 20th century replacement, with a tiled hearth and a modern fibreboard surround in a faux Georgian style. The north-west elevation housed the canted bay window, which comprised three sets of 15-light sliding sash windows that extended to ceiling height from a window sill 0.35m above the floor level (Plate 32). The white-painted timber casements were decoratively beaded and had glazing bars. The plaster ceiling was clad with plasterboard and white-painted, the floor was carpeted with modern fabric.



Plate 30: (left) Doorway in northeast elevation of Room G2

Plate 31: (right) Arched recess in south-east elevation in Room G2

4.4.5 **Room G3a:** all elevations in this room were wallpapered, and had beaded skirting boards. On the north-east elevation there was a pair of windows with timber 12-light sliding sash casements, timber frames and sills; the jambs and lintels had plain timber fascias. Both of these windows had modern curtains and rails. Between the two windows there was a doorway that led into outshut G3d, which contained shelving and appeared to have been used for storage. The doorway to this outshut had plain stained timber surrounds on the interior, the door itself was a simple plank and batten design that was white painted. It would appear that this doorway was original, given that the rear door to the hallway/service corridor (G1c) was a replacement for a window, and that the simple outshut would have probably replaced an earlier porch. At the south-west end of the south-east elevation there was a 12-light sliding sash window, similar but smaller than the two present in the north-east elevation. Beneath this window, built into the window recess, was a timber five drawer unit, probably original. At the north-east end of the elevation there was a full height timber cupboard built into a recess in the wall, which may also have been original (Plate 33); there was no evidence on the exterior that this had replaced a blocked window. The recesses in this elevation were caused by the projecting central chimney breast, the fireplace in which had been blocked and was no longer evident. The south-west elevation housed two doorways; the doorway at the south-east led to the kitchen proper (G4a) and the doorway at the north-west of this elevation to bathroom and toilets (G3c). The door separating G3a and G3c was a modern stained timber laminate type, as was the door in the north-west elevation that led into the service corridor (G3b) that effectively separated the two wings of the house. To the north-east of the door to the service corridor there was a simple dado rail and a scar in the wallpapering. This scar, in combination with the lack of skirting in this area, indicates the removal of another large cupboard or shelving to mirror that found on the opposing elevation. The floor was laid with quarry tiles and the ceiling had been replaced with plasterboard and skimmed.



Plate 32: (left) Bay window in north-west elevation of Room G2

Plate 33: (right) South-east elevation of Room G3a

4.4.6 **Room G3b:** this was the narrow service corridor that separated the main wing from the service wing to the rear (Plate 34). All elevations were clad with painted woodchip wallpaper and had beaded skirting boards, the floor was carpeted and the ceiling was plastered, with a white moulded plaster cornice. The north-east elevation led to the rear of the main entrance hall (G1c), behind the stairs. A doorway with a modern timber frame and surround separated these two areas, a similar door and surround led into the service wing on the south-east elevation. The south-west end of the corridor led past the central division of the service wing and would have allowed access into the southern half of this wing, into what is now the bathroom (G3c). The only access into the main wing from this corridor was via the north-west elevation which led into the dining room (G2; see *Section 4.4.4*).



Plate 34: (left) Corridor G3b, from the north-east

Plate 35: (right) South-west elevation of Room G3c showing interrupted window

4.4.7 **Room G3c:** this room had been partitioned into two toilets and a bathroom by a modern stud partition wall running north-east/south-west. The north-east elevation had a doorway to Room G3a at the north-west end, which had a modern door and surround. The south-west elevation was an external wall with a modern 12-light sash window (Plate 35), which was possibly inserted into a blocked doorway. The floors of the bathroom and toilets were tiled, as were the walls to a height of 1.50m, the remainder being wallpapered. All the cubicles had modern doors and surrounds. A

beam ran north-east/south-west across the ceiling. On the south-east side the ceiling was original, being plastered, and had a blocked hatch. The ceiling on the north-west side of the beam had been clad with plasterboard.

4.4.8 **Room G3d – outshut:** this room abutted the north-east elevation of the service wing and was accessible from Room G3a. This outshut was constructed from a timber frame with a plywood fascia and was unlined internally. There was a single light window in the north-east elevation. The sloping roof was tiled but unlined internally and the floor was concrete.

4.4.9 **Room G4a:** this room was situated in the southern half of the service wing and was accessed from Room G3a as well as an original external doorway on the south-east elevation. The walls and floor were clad with modern tiles, and it had recently been used as a kitchen (Plate 36). Modern kitchen units were located in the south corner of the room and set below a modern plastic double-glazed two light window in the south-west elevation. Between the units and the doorway on the south-east elevation a chimney breast was evident although the fireplace had been blocked and tiled over. A door to a larder (G4b) was located in the south-west end of the north-west partition wall. The ceiling of this room had been plastered.



Plate 36: (left) South corner of Room G4a

Plate 37: (right) Larder G4b looking west

4.4.10 **Room G4b:** this room was accessed from Room G4a and appeared to have been a larder attached to the main food preparation area. All elevations were plastered and had been painted white. The north-east, north-west, and south-east elevations were modern stud walls with a modern door and surround in the south-east elevation. The south-west elevation was the external wall that housed an early timber four-light window and fitted timber shelves (Plate 37). The ceiling was plastered and the floor was laid with quarry tiles.

4.4.11 **Room G5a:** this room formed part of the southern half of the main wing and may have originally been the reception/living room for the servants of the household; the documentary sources show that there was originally no access between the two halves of the main wing although the room was most recently accessed from the rear corridor (G6). All elevations were wallpapered between the moulded and white painted skirting boards and picture rails, above which they were painted white in keeping with the plastered ceiling. The north-east elevation had been divided near the south-east end where a partition wall had been inserted to form corridor G6. The partition wall forming the south-east elevation had a doorway at its south-west end and made use of the original north-east/south-west beam line. The south-west elevation featured a central chimney breast in front of which a modern radiator with a perforated timber cover had been positioned suggesting that the original fireplace had been blocked. To the north-west of this chimney breast there was a small

modern hand basin (Plate 38). The north-west elevation was the external wall with a tall 15-light timber sash window (Plate 39) to which a modern curtain rail and curtains had been added. There was no sign of the blocked door to the north-east of this window evident externally, which would have been the main access point for this part of the wing before the creation of corridor (G6) leading from the north half of the main wing. Two beams were visible in the ceiling which both had decorative beaded edging (Plate 40), and the floor was covered with modern carpet.



Plate 38: (left) Chimneybreast in south-west elevation of Room G5a

Plate 39: (right) Window in north-west elevation G5a immediately left of the blocked doorway evident on the exterior elevation



Plate 40: (left) Beams in ceiling of Room G5a

Plate 41: (right) Chimneybreast in north-east elevation of Room G5b

4.4.12 **Room G5b:** this room was probably the second living/reception room for the servants' part of the main wing. All the walls had woodchip wallpaper, skirting boards, and there were scars from a removed picture rail. There was a large chimney breast on the north-east elevation that corresponded with that in room G5a (Plate 41), and a modern radiator was fixed to the wall where the fireplace would have been. The south-east elevation was formed by a partition wall that originally separated this room from the stairway/hall which became now corridor G7. The south-west elevation was the external wall and had a small stud wall cubicle at the north-west end housing a toilet and hand basin. The interior of this cubicle was wallpapered and the floor was tiled. The north-west elevation had a window of the same design as that in room G5a. The ceiling was plastered and the floor carpeted.

4.4.13 **Room G6:** this room was a small passageway in the south-west wing. All the elevations except the north-west stud wall had painted woodchip wallpaper, picture rails, and early beaded skirting board. The doorway to room G2 was at the north end of this passage. The south-east elevation was the external wall and had a large window with splayed jambs and a modern nine-light timber casement frame. The jambs and lintel had an earlier timber fascia. The south-west elevation is an original interior wall with a doorway to passageway G7. An early doorframe was evident but there was no door. The ceiling was plastered and the wall was clad with painted woodchip paper. The floor sloped down from the north-east end and was carpeted.

4.4.14 **Room G7:** the walls were plastered and painted yellow, and the beaded skirting boards, door frames, and other timbers were finished with green paint (Plate 42) The north-east end had a small partition that separated this space from G6 and the doorway into room G5b, which seemed to be a recent alteration and related to the change in function of this room into a kitchen. The south-east elevation was an external wall that had a central doorway to the kitchen extension, Room G8. This doorway, which had chamfered jambs, had a modern varnished six-panel timber door and surround and was a later addition. At the south-west end of the wall was the earlier or original doorway which had a chamfered jamb at the north-east and had been partially blocked with plasterboard creating a recess. At the north-east end of this elevation there was a small single-light window. The south-west elevation was an external wall and housed a doorway that led to porch G10, the door was painted green and held two frosted glass lights. The room had parquet flooring and the ceiling was finished in artex. A timber beam with rounded corners ran north-west/south-east from Room G5b.



Plate 42: (left) North-east elevation of Room G7

Plate 43: (right) North-west elevation of Room G8

4.4.15 **Room G8:** this room was an extension to the rear of the main wing. The walls were plastered and painted except for the north-west elevation that was plain stonework (Plate 43). The north-east elevation had a wide external doorway with a white-painted timber batten door and plain frame, this door led to the later porch (G9). There were sinks along the south-east elevation which were set below a window in the brick built wall which was otherwise plain. The south-west elevation had a doorway to the vestibule of the stable block extension (G12), which was formed from two square stone columns supporting a stone lintel. The north-west elevation contained two doorways. Both doorways are probably original and have substantial stone lintels and surrounds. The ceiling of the room was finished with

artex and followed the mono-pitch slope of the roof, while the floor was laid with quarry tiles.

4.4.16 **Room G9:** this was a small timber porch abutting the north-east end of the kitchen extension (G8). The north-east and south-west elevations were timber frame and board construction and were unlined internally, as was the slate roof. The doorway was in the south-east elevation and there was a small window in the north-east elevation. The south-west elevation was formed by the brickwork and doorway of extension G8, the north-west elevation comprised the stonework and window of the rear of the main wing. The floor consisted of concrete.

4.4.17 **Room G10:** this was a timber framed porch that abutted the south-west elevation of the house and the north-west elevation of the coach house extension, (G12). The two masonry elevations both comprised a brick wall that comprised a stretcher bond to a height of 0.50m, above this they were timber panelled and glazed. The construction was identical to the porch on the front of the house, (see *Sections 4.2.1 and 4.2.7*). Unfortunately access could not be gained to this room so the interior was not recorded.

4.4.18 **Room G11:** this room was the former coach house and could only be accessed from extension G8. All the elevations were plastered and painted and had plain modern skirting boards. The north-east elevation had a window with chamfered jambs and a 16-light timber sash casement with a modern varnished timber sill. The south-east elevation had two large modern windows; the south-west aperture containing a side hung casement either side of a fixed casement with a top hung ventilator. The window to the north-east had two central fixed casements with top hung ventilators flanked by single side hung casements. All casements were white painted, held eight lights and had alloy casement stays (Plate 44). The jambs of both windows were chamfered and extended to the ground, further suggesting that they were the original coach doorways that had been blocked. The plain, modern staircase to the first floor was located along the north-west elevation, rising from the north-east to the south-west; the underside of the stairs were obscured from this room by an added stud wall that followed the line of the stairs to the south-west elevation. The south-west elevation was plain except for a modern gas or electric fire that was located centrally. Behind the staircase and associated partition wall there was a wide arched doorway (Plate 45) in the north-west elevation proper which had no door.



Plate 44: (left) Windows in south-east elevation of Room G11

Plate 45: (right) Wide arched doorway in north-west elevation, Room G11

4.4.19 **Room G12:** this room was an extension to the north-west elevation of the stable block, all the walls were plastered and painted crimson and the ceiling was skimmed plasterboard. The room had a central partition, to the north of which there

was a bathroom and to the south an empty room. The partition wall of the southern room was blank and the south-east elevation housed the inserted arched doorway but was otherwise plain. The south-west elevation housed modern four-light fixed casement window with a two-light top hung ventilator above, which was contemporary with those in G11. The jambs of this window were chamfered (Plate 46), there was a modern stained timber sill and curtain rail, and it was evident from the exterior that this window had been inserted into a blocked doorway. The window in the north-west elevation had also apparently been inserted into a blocked door, and had chamfered jambs, a modern timber sill and curtain rail as well as a rounded arch (Plate 47). The elevations in this part of G12 were otherwise plain and the floor was carpeted. To the north of the partition there was a bathroom with a toilet and hand basin, the floor was tiled.



Plate 46: (left) Converted doorway in the south-west elevation of Room G12

Plate 47: (right) Probable converted doorway in the north-west elevation of Room G12

4.4.20 **Outbuilding G13:** this single room building was the former washhouse and had retained the function of utility room when recorded; containing a washing machine. The interior elevations were tiled to a height of approximately 1.5m with the remainder being plastered (Plate 48). The south-east elevation had worktops attached and the north-west elevation had a central window and door to the south. The roof sloped and the single central north-east/south-west beam was exposed. The floor was concrete and the adjacent brick built outshut housed a toilet.



Plate 48: Internal detail, outbuilding G13

4.5 Internal Detail – First Floor (Fig 5)

4.5.1 **Stairwell and landing F1:** the walls were papered and had beaded skirting board. On the south-east elevation of the landing there was a tall stair-light rising from floor level that had splayed jambs and was boarded on the inside. The ceiling was plastered with beaded cornices and sloped down from the north-west and north-east reflecting the gabled rear arrangement of the hipped roof. The floor was carpeted and the banister (see *Section 4.4.3*) continued to the first floor.

4.5.2 **Room F2:** the north-east elevation was a modern stud wall partition that had divided the early room into two smaller bedrooms; it had a modern radiator attached. The south-east elevation had a doorway to the landing (Room F1) with an original frame and surround, the panelling of the door was obscured by a thin fire retardant panel cover. The south-west elevation accommodated a modern radiator and hand basin attached. The window recess in the north-west elevation was down to floor level and had the original timber 12-light sash casement and sill. The jambs were splayed and had a plain timber fascia and moulded surround.

4.5.3 **Room F3:** this room was essentially a continuation of F2, the doorway was in the south-east elevation, there was a modern sink in the north corner and a radiator against the south-east partition wall. The window in the north-east elevation was recessed to floor level and had panelled jambs (Plate 49); the window in the north-west elevation was identical to that in F2. The bases of the truss and timbers supporting the roof structure projected through the ceiling (Plate 49).

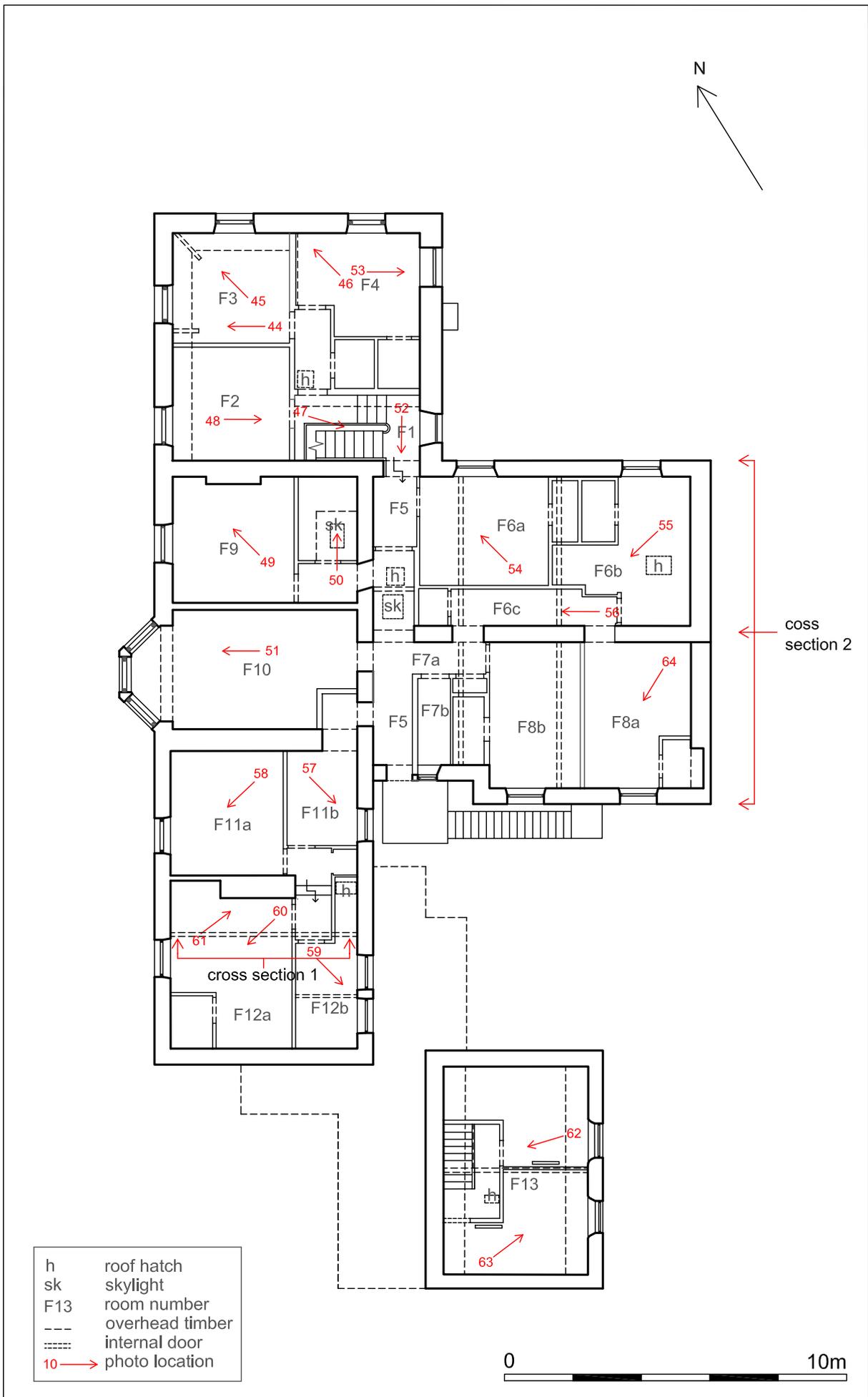


Figure 5: First floor plan



Plate 49: Composite view showing truss and timber of hipped roof in Room F3

4.5.4 **Room F4:** all the elevations in this room were wallpapered, had picture rails and beaded skirting boards. The north-east elevation had a window with panelled jambs as per Room F3. The south-east elevation had a smaller window with plain surround and jambs, and a timber sill. The south-west elevation was a partition separating off two small cubicles with toilets, and a small access from the landing. The painted plaster ceiling had a slight down-slope at the north-east end due to the hipped roof, and a principal rafter from this end of the roof to the truss visible in Room F3 (Plate 49) was evident in the north corner of the room.

4.5.5 **Room F5:** this corridor allows access to the main rooms of the house that are situated above the service wing and at the north end of the main wing. From the north-east end this passageway was accessed from the landing up three steps and through a modern fire door. A doorway on the left through a stud wall led into bedroom F6a, and an inserted doorway with angled jambs on the right to the south-west of a radiator accessed the vestibule of bedroom and bathroom F9 through the rear stone wall of the main wing. Close to the door to Room F9 there was an access hatch in the roof and just south-west of this a skylight (Plate 50). There were two north-west/south-east beams either side of the skylight, supporting lath and plaster that formed the well for the modern double-glazed horizontal light. Progressing south-westwards past the central division of the service wing there were doors to rooms F10 and F11b at the front of the house and access to adjoining passageway F7a towards the rear of the property.

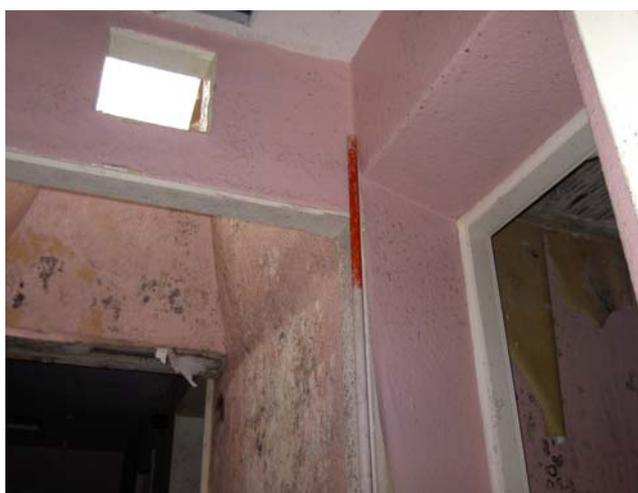


Plate 50: Skylight in passage F5 from the north-east showing doorway to F9

4.5.6 **Room F6a:** this room was located in the south-east wing of the building and accessed from passage F5. All the elevations were finished with woodchip wallpaper

and had modern plain skirting boards. The north-east elevation was the external wall with a window of the same type as those in Room F2. The south-east elevation was a partition wall with a doorway to a small stud wall cubicle with WC and hand basin. The south-west and north-west elevations were also partition walls. There was a modern radiator attached. The ceiling was plastered and the floor was laid with carpet.

4.5.7 **Room F6b:** this room was at the north end of the south-east wing and could only be accessed via corridors F5, F7a, and F6c. All elevations had woodchip wallpaper and modern plain skirting board. The north-east elevation was an external wall and had a window of the same type as Room F6a. The south-east elevation was also an external wall that had a modern radiator attached, presumably in front of the blocked original fireplace. The south-west elevation was the original dividing wall of this wing that supported the twin pitch roof arrangement. The north-west part of this elevation had been partitioned off to form a corridor that facilitated access to F8a (Plate 51). In the north corner of the room there was a toilet cubicle, which was adjacent to that cubicle in Room 6a. The ceiling was plastered and covered in woodchip paper; an access hatch was located centrally at the south-west end of the room.

4.5.8 **Corridor F6c:** this comprised a long corridor running north-west/south-east, which had been made necessary by the more recent partitioning off that had occurred as the larger rooms were divided to create individual bedsits within the building (Plate 52). All the elevations were finished with woodchip wallpaper and had a modern beaded skirting board. The passage was created by partitions around the north-east side of the existing north-east stone central dividing wall. The south-east elevation was taken up by the modern door and surround allowing access to F6b. The stone south-west elevation has had two doors inserted to access the rooms on its south side, F8a and b, both these doors are unsurprisingly modern. At the north-west end of this passage there was an airing cupboard that filled the end. This had timber shelving and pipes for a hot water boiler. The ceiling of the corridor was plastered and had been finished with woodchip wallpaper, while the floor was carpeted.



Plate 51: (left) Partition in Room F6b

Plate 52: (right) Corridor F6c from the south-east

4.5.9 **Passage F7a:** this room was a small corridor whose early function was to access the rear room in the south of the south-east wing, this function has now been taken over by corridor F6c, making F7a somewhat unnecessary. At the south-west

end of this passage there was a doorway to Room F8b, to the left of which the inserted doorway through the central dividing wall leading to Corridor F6b and to the right doorways accessing the Toilet Cubicle F7b and a small cupboard with a modern timber door.

4.5.10 **Toilet F7b:** all walls of this cubicle were partitions, except the south-west, which housed a window. This had six-lights, and was originally one of a pair, the other having been replaced by a fire escape door. The cubicle contained a toilet, the walls were finished with wallpaper and the floor and skirting were tiled.

4.5.11 **Room F8a:** this room occupied the southern corner of the south-east wing and could only be accessed through an inserted doorway in Corridor F6c. Originally F8a and F8b would have been a single room but they have been partitioned. All elevations of this room were finished with wallpaper and had a beaded skirting. The north-east elevation housed the inserted doorway to Corridor F6c, which had a modern surround. The south-east elevation was the external wall, which had a modern radiator attached, presumably in front of the blocked original fireplace. The south-west elevation housed a centrally positioned original window with a 12-light sash timber frame and sill with plain white painted timber jambs and lintel. There was a toilet cubicle in the southern corner, which housed a WC and washbasin. The interior of this plasterboard cubicle had been wallpapered and the carpeted floor and moulded skirting appeared modern.

4.5.12 **Room F8b:** this was originally the north-west half of a single room that had recently been sub-divided. The south-west and north-east elevations were original walls, those to the south-east and north-west were partitions. The room was accessed from Passage F7a and a door in the north-west elevation accessed a cubicle with a toilet and hand basin. A window in the south-west elevation was identical to that in F8, and a radiator hung at the south-west end of the modern papered north-west partition wall.

4.5.13 **Room F9:** this room was in the main wing of the house and positioned above the main dining room G2, once again it appeared to be an example of a large early room that had been sub-divided (now forming F9 and F10). The room was accessed through the angled doorway (see *Section 4.5.5*), which was almost certainly not original and had no timber surround or door. This doorway was presumably created after the bathroom and skylight were added to the north-east corner of F9, and the room was partitioned down the middle. A secondary perpendicular partition separated the bathroom area from the main part of the room. The bathroom was wallpapered and tiled around the bath, there was a high level shelf on all sides except for the south-west entrance way. The south-west elevation was a stud wall with plywood panelling on the external side, the modern door was centrally positioned and below a five light window. The ceiling was open to the roof where there was a skylight (Plate 53). To the south-west of the bathroom there was a short passage leading to the main part of Room F9. The north-east elevation of this room had a central chimneybreast with a blocked fireplace that corresponded with the doorway between the hall and main dining room on the floor below. To the north-west of the chimney a cupboard had been fitted into the recess, which comprised two sets of white-painted panel doors which appeared to respect the position of a modern looking hand basin on the north-west elevation (Plate 54). The cupboard also appeared to have been built over the white-painted skirting boards and so cannot have been an original feature. The south-east and south-west elevations were papered plaster partition walls, the north-west elevation housed the boarded window (evident in Plate 54), to whose plain white-painted lintel a modern curtain rail had been affixed. The ceiling of this room was plastered and papered and the floor carpeted.



Plate 53: (left) Skylight in the bathroom of Room F9



Plate 54: (right) Built-in cupboard in corner of Room F9

4.5.13 **Room F10:** this front room included the canted bay window and was accessed from what appeared to be its original doorway off Corridor F5. All the elevations were original and stone built except for the plaster partition wall at the north-east; each was papered and had tall, white-painted, beaded skirting boards. The surround of the bay window was plain board, including the jambs, lintel, and the area below where a window seat or shelf might have been expected (Plate 55). It is probable that there was a blocked fireplace in the centre of the south-west elevation where a radiator was affixed to the wall; a fireplace was located in this position on the ground floor. There were two further doors in the south corner of the room, both of which had been boxed off from the room by a small plastered partition. The sole function of these two doors appeared to be to allow access from Corridor F5 into the south-west part of the main wing; that part which would have probably been used as the servants' quarters. The ceiling was plastered and painted and the walls were papered but lacked cornices or other decoration.



Plate 55: (left) North-west elevation of Room F10



Plate 56: (right) North-west elevation of Room F11a

4.5.14 **Room F11a:** this room was located at the front of the house and was probably originally a bedroom for one of the domestic staff. It was accessed from the Hallway F11b. All elevations were original, with the possible exception of the lath and plaster south-east elevation, and were papered and had picture rails. There was a radiator located centrally on the south-west elevation, which was probably a replacement for a blocked fireplace. The north-west elevation housed a 12-light sliding sash window with white painted jambs, lintel, and sill that had simple beading on their outer edges (Plate 56). The elevations were plastered and papered; the carpeting had been removed from the floor to reveal the timber boards.

4.5.15 **Room F11b:** this small hallway gave access to the south-west part of the main wing from Corridor F5. All elevations had woodchip wallpaper and beaded skirting boards. The north-east elevation was an original internal wall with an inserted doorway leading through the corner of Room F10 into the main corridor (F5). The south-east elevation had a square window with plain timber surround; the jambs and lintel were splayed. The window frame was timber and the circular three-pane light was divided horizontally, the upper pane being further sub-divided vertically (Plate 57). On the south side of the window was a small walk-in cupboard with shelves, this narrowed the passage and the remaining south-east elevation was formed by a modern partition of uncertain function. At the south-west end of the passage there was a doorway to Room F12b; doorways to Rooms F12a and F11a were located on the north-west elevation and appeared to be in their original positions. The ceiling of this hallway had been papered with woodchip and painted, and the floor was carpeted.



Plate 57: (left) Oculus, hallway F11b

Plate 58: (right) Chimneybreast, Room F12a

4.5.16 **Room F12a:** this room was located at the front of the main wing and was the most south-westerly room, it was probably the principal staff bedroom and was next to F11a. All elevations were wallpapered and had picture rails and beaded skirting boards. The north-east elevation had a chimneybreast shared with F11a, the fireplace of which had been blocked and replaced by a radiator (Plate 58). The south-east elevation was a partition wall that would have separated the room from the original stairway and landing, the door to the room was at the north-east end and it was probable that that was its original location. The north-west elevation housed a central window that matched the one in F11a. The ceiling was plastered and papered and the floor was carpeted. In the west corner there was a cubicle, formed by stud

walls, containing a toilet and hand basin (Plate 59). The door to this cubicle was modern and the interior had been wallpapered, had a picture rail and skirting boards, and the floor was carpeted.



Plate 59: (left) Cubicle in south-west corner of Room F12a

Plate 60: (right) Room F12b, windows in south-east elevation

4.5.17 Room F12b: the south-east elevation was the rear exterior wall of the main wing and had two windows, the oculus to the north-east matched the one in Hallway F11b (*Section 4.5.15*), and there was a more conventional square window to the south-east (Plate 60). The south-west and north-west elevations were plain and papered with modern plain skirting, the floor was carpeted. The ceiling was plasterboard and there was a beam running north-west/south-east.

4.5.18 Rooms F13: this room had a recent partition to create two living quarters on the first floor of the stable block. The partition round the stairway also appeared to be modern (Plate 61), suggesting that this block had been heavily altered in recent times. The flooring of the south-western room was modern boarding indicating that this floor might have altered along with the addition of the stairs. The two windows in the south-east elevation had modern casements with top hung ventilators (Plate 62). A single central truss was visible over the stairway and the central partition.



Plate 61: (left) Landing partition, north-west of Room F13 looking north-west

Plate 62: (right) Room F13, south-west window and inserted partition

4.6 Internal Detail – Roof spaces (Fig 6)

4.6.1 Introduction: there was considerable difficulty in accessing the roof spaces within this building and only a single point of access could be managed within the

main wing for health and safety reasons. This was unfortunate as solid walls were apparently utilised in place of trusses in places and this meant that a single access point did not allow the entire roof space to be viewed. The service wing to the south-east of the main wing had a double pitch arrangement with a central dividing wall separating the two halves of this wing. Similar access problems meant that only the north-west side of this roof could be recorded, however it is likely that the halves would have a similar if not identical construction. The roof space over the coach house could not be accessed but appeared to consist of two gable ends and a central truss.

4.6.2 Roof space over main wing: only the space above Room F12b was accessible within the main wing, this enabled the recording of the building's south-western truss (Plate 63) and elements of the walls. The truss was a basic king-post type, splayed at the top to meet the principal rafters and at the base as if to house angled braces, although there were no evident signs of these having existed. Carpenters' marks in the form of chiselled Roman numerals were present: II at the junction between the king post and the tie beam and III at the junction between the principal rafter and the tie beam on the south-east side. There was a single purlin per pitch, and all of the timber was apparently sawn. Only the north-east and south-west elevations were visible; the south-west being plain masonry (Plate 64) with thick mortar and the north-east being filled by a chimney stack built of hand-made mid reddish orange bricks (Plate 63).

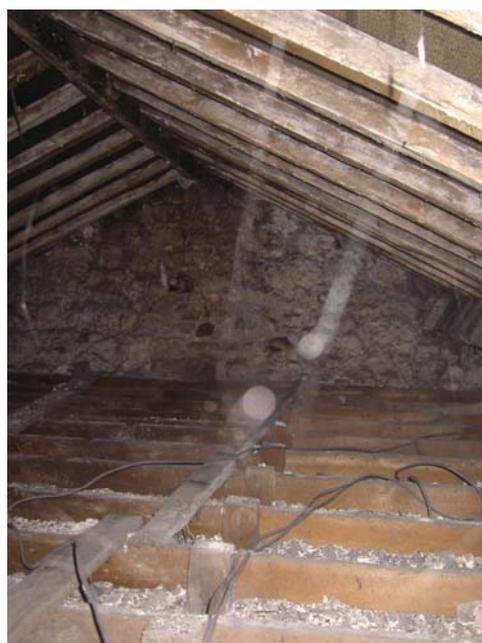


Plate 63: (left) King-post truss above Room F12b showing brick chimney stack to north-east

Plate 64: (right) General view of the south-west end of roof space over Room F12b

4.6.3 Roof space over south-east wing: only the space above the north-east half of this wing was accessible. The roof structure was very basic, comprising only a simple post, effectively a king post, beneath the ridge purlin and additional smaller vertical posts, one on each side (Plate 65). There was a single purlin per pitch, but the roof had apparently been raised slightly in height and extra purlins bolted to the originals as a result. The south-east elevation was plain masonry, apart from a stone corbel projecting from it supporting the ridge purlin. The north-west elevation had a small aperture connecting to the roof space of the main wing with a timber lintel, although this could not be accessed as it was blocked by a recessed skylight beyond

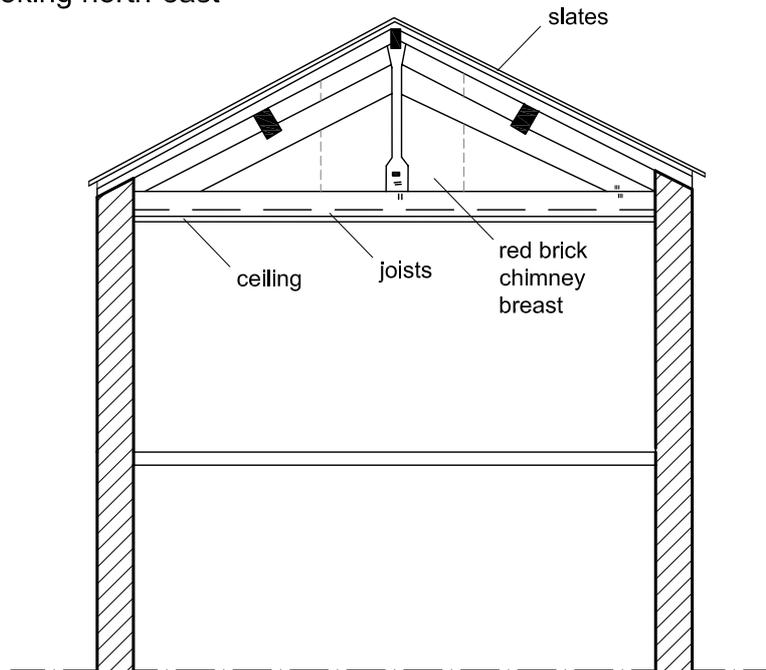
(Plate 66). Again the timber was evidently sawn and there were Baltic timber marks in the form of simple scored lines across one of the purlins.



Plate 65: (left) General view of roof space above the south-east wing

Plate 66 (right) Opening connecting the south-east wing to the main part of the house in the north-west elevation

Cross section 1
Main wing, looking north-east



Cross section 2
Service wing, looking north-west

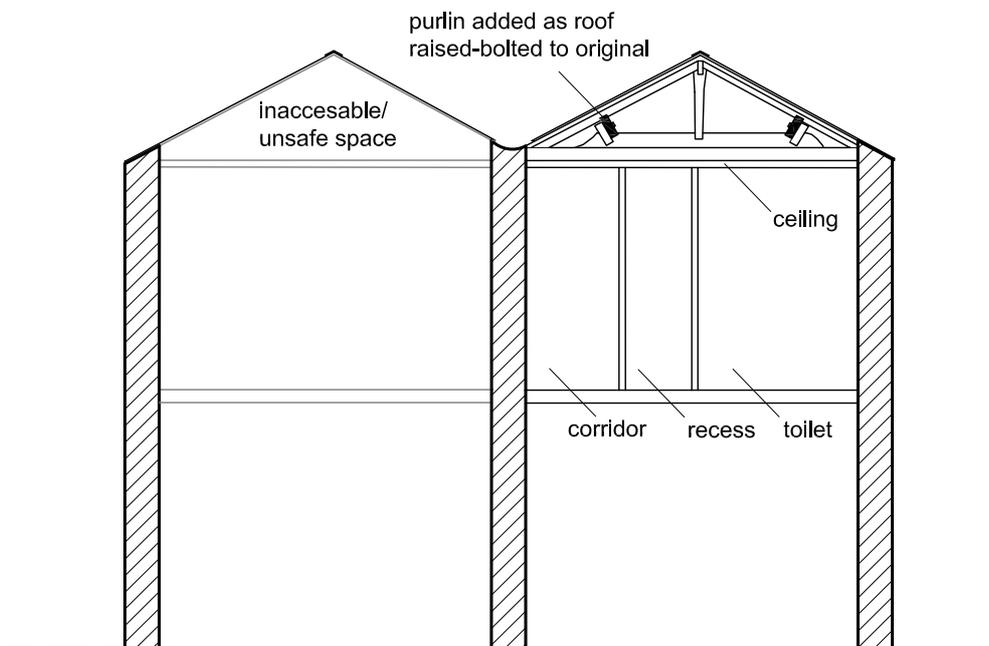


Figure 6: Cross sections

5. Discussion

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The extensive modernisation of the building and numerous changes of use in the last 30 years have obscured much of the original fabric and this, coupled with the fact that the wall finishes have obscured many of the relationships between the different parts of the building, makes detailed interpretation difficult. Similarly, the documentary sources provide only a limited amount of useful information in terms of the physical development of the structure, especially as it was evidently built between the dates of the two earliest maps, and had taken on much of its present form before the first detailed maps. The recent planning applications give a detailed account of several of the changes that were made, and they also give some idea of the original arrangement of the building.

5.2 Phases (Fig 7)

5.2.1 **Phase 1:** there is some evidence in the documentary and cartographic sources that at least part of Ellel House was in existence from as early as the 18th century; it appears that the plan of 1839 shows a simple rectangular building and there is reference to an illustration of the site before the establishment of the silk mill, which shows the house. However, the 1839 plan is extremely vague and lacking in detail, and the evidence in the early illustration cannot be verified. More importantly, there is no real evidence from within the building itself for such an early building and it seems most likely that the earliest elements of the site are represented by Phase 2. It could be suggested the south-east part of the main wing, which is referred to as the cottage as late as the 1970s, might have formed an earlier dwelling as it was originally entirely isolated from the main house, and even had its own staircase to provide access to the upper floors. However, the evidence from within this part of the building such as the style of truss and use of brick suggests it is most likely to be contemporary with the rest of Phase 2. The physical and named separation is more likely because this part was used exclusively to house servants, perhaps the main housekeeper or governess; it is notable that the census details list several households at Ellel House, and at several periods a housekeeper is specifically named in one of these. The references to a cottage may indeed be deliberately misleading (see *Section 3.5.2*).

5.2.2 **Phase 2:** the main house was certainly built by the early 19th century, as shown by the documentary and cartographic sources. What little survives of the original decorative scheme also fits with this date, although it is only really the main staircase that is reliably dateable and is likely to be of the period between 1800 and 1820 (Burton 2001, 42-43). The presence of Baltic timber marks within elements of the building belonging to this phase is also a likely indicator of an early 19th century date (Greene 1995), although such marks are found on earlier timber (Greene 1996) and have been observed in buildings dated as late as c1900 (Greenlane Archaeology 2007). This building probably incorporated all of the cellars and at least the north-eastern half of the rear wing, which would undoubtedly have formed the kitchens. The apparently inserted doorway through a fireplace leading to the main reception room (G2) is perhaps misleading as stylistically the door and surrounds match the rest of the building, and the apparent chimneybreast may have been intended to support the fireplace on the upper floor. This phase might also have included the stable block, which probably also acted as a coach house, although this could have been added in Phase 2. As already mentioned, the 'cottage' at the south-west end was originally not able to access the house directly, suggesting it provided

accommodation for some or all of the servants. It is apparent from the plans from the 1970s that it originally had its own staircase to the first floor. T

5.2.3 **Phase 3:** although it is difficult to be certain, it appears that the rear service wing was enlarged with the addition of the southern half. The row of quoins in the south-east elevation does indicate that this was originally the corner of the building, and the curious kink in the north-west end of the south-west wall seems to have been deliberate and intended to avoid blocking a window in the main wing. This addition was almost certainly also made in the early part of the 19th century as it appears to be present on the Ordnance Survey map of 1847.

5.2.4 **Phase 4:** during the later 19th century a number of minor additions were probably made, such as the porches, small outshuts, and the monopitch extension to the stables. These are generally evident on the Ordnance Survey map of 1890, and must therefore have been completed by that date. It is possible that some internal reorganisation also took place at this time, such as the addition of partitions, but the extensive modifications of Phase 5 make this extremely difficult to assess.

5.2.5 **Phase 5:** in the late 20th century several extensive programmes of alteration were carried out, largely comprising the addition of internal partitions, insertion of new doorways, and removal of original features considered unnecessary such as the fireplaces. In addition the stairs in the 'cottage' were removed and access created between this part of the building and the main wing, and the stables, which had become a garage by this period, were also converted to form accommodation and directly connected to the main building. A flight of steps for a fire escape was also added to the south-east wing. All of these alterations relate to recorded changes of use in the 1970s and 1980s, principally the creation of bedsits for student accommodation, the creation of a hotel and restaurant (although it is not clear if this ever took place), and the creation of a nursing/retirement home.

5.3 Significance

5.3.1 Ellel House represents an interesting example of a late Georgian gentleman's house, built, not for a member of the local gentry, but for a mill owner or manager. It is perhaps because of this, or equally because of the tastes of the period, that it is arguably not as grand or opulent as might be expected. This appearance is, in part however, created by the extensive damage that has been done to the fabric of the building, especially internally, in the last 35 years. This has not only heavily modified the arrangement of the rooms but has also led to the loss of decorative elements such as original doors and fireplaces; this despite the building being Grade II Listed since 1968 (see *Appendix 1*). Externally, by contrast, the building has survived remarkably intact, although it is now suffering the effects of gradual deterioration. The building seems likely to have been built in the early 19th century, at a time when the silk mill was at its peak and immediately prior to the construction of a large addition to the mill in 1851. Indeed, it is possible that the construction of this led to a change in occupiers at Ellel House as the census shows that after 1851 it was occupied by the mill manager and other employees, having previously been the home of the mill owners (see *Section 3.2.3*). It is perhaps notable that in 1851 it was the home of a Robert Parkinson, landed proprietor (*Appendix 3*), who seemingly has no connection to the mill, and was perhaps renting it from the owners prior to or during the construction of the new mill building. In many ways, it is Ellel House's position within a wider landscape associated with the silk mill that is most significant; a landscape that is understudied yet historically important and facing gradual deterioration. Any proposals that maintain and/or restore the condition of Ellel House will also be of benefit to the wider environs.

5.4 Recommendations

5.4.1 Every effort should be made to preserve those original features that remain within the building. These include many of the sliding sash windows, which internally retain their surrounds (although some have been damaged by fire), and shutters, several doors, the main staircase, and numerous areas of skirting, cornices, and other applied moulded decoration.

5.4.2 The removal of modern intrusions would be of some benefit to the building, assuming it did not cause more damage, and was required during the redevelopment of the property. Leaving existing partition walls *in situ* were they could be re-used would perhaps be preferable to taking them out and adding new ones.

5.4.3 The construction of a new extension would need to be done with considerable care so as to avoid clashing with the original fabric, damaging it, or disrupting its setting. It would be particularly important to avoid upsetting the symmetry of the front elevation by having an extension that was wider than the main building.

5.4.4 In view of the relatively high potential for discovering below-ground remains of some archaeological interest (see *Section 3.2.1*) some form of further assessment might be considered necessary prior to any new construction at the site.

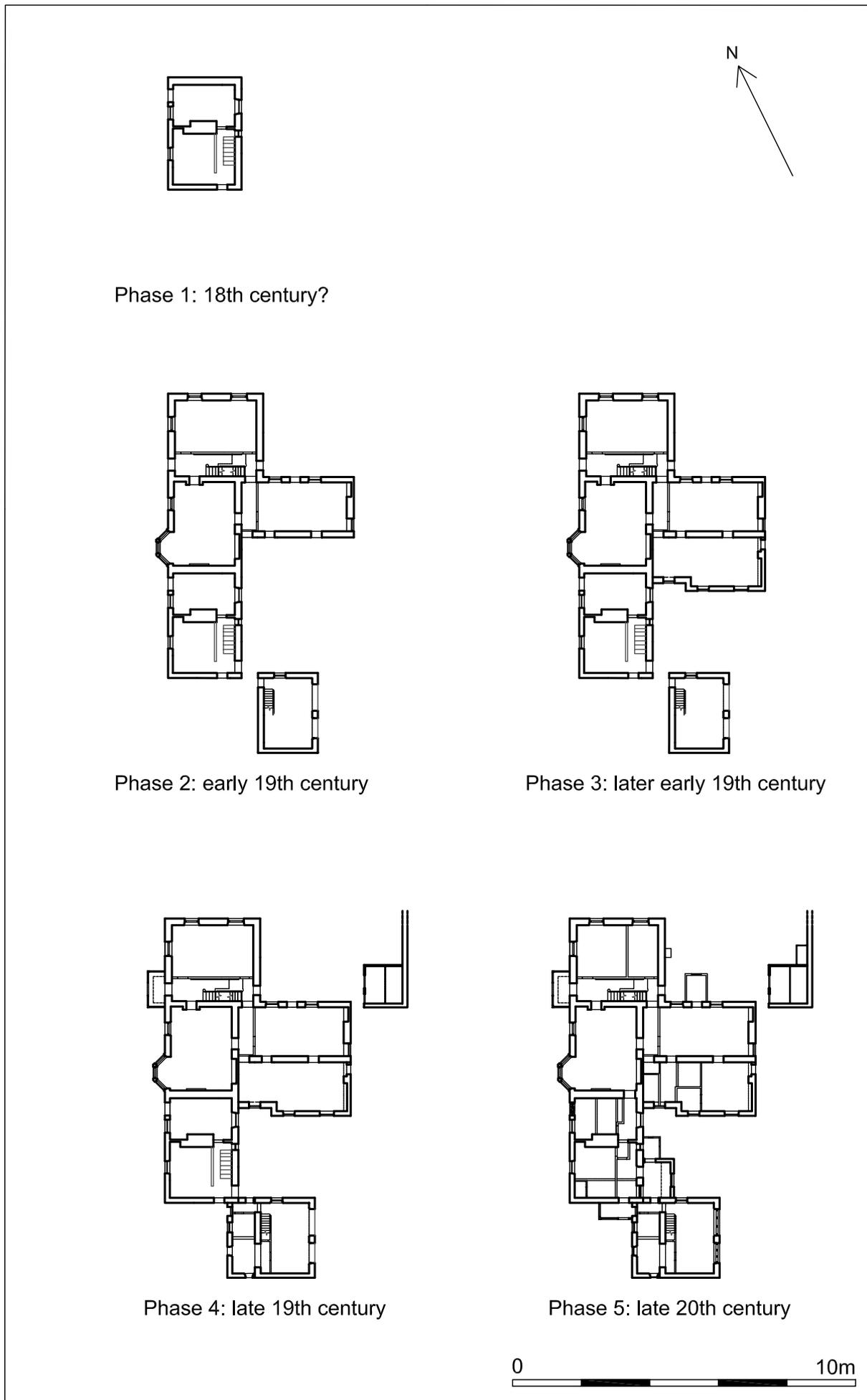


Figure 7: Phase plan (ground floor)

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Appendix 1: Listed Building Information

(from English Heritage 2001)

Date Listed: 2nd May 1968

Grade: II

Description:

House, early-to-mid C19th. Stuccoed rubble with hipped slate roof. 2 storeys, 6 bays, with projecting quoins, eaves band, and cornice. Windows sashed with glazing bars and plain stone surrounds, except for the left-hand one on the ground floor which is sashed with no glazing bars. The 4th bay has a 2-storey canted bay window, with a blocked door with plain stone surround to its right. The main door, in the 2nd bay, has a similar surround within a glazed porch. Chimneys to right of porch, to right of bay window, and to left of 6th bay.

Appendix 2: Photographic Register

| Photo ID No. | Area | Description | Black and white | Colour slide | Colour digital |
|--------------|----------|--|-----------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1 | NW elev. | General shot | 1:10-11 | 2:1-2 | 3:1 |
| 2 | NE elev. | General shot | 5:1-2 | 4:1-2 | 3:22 |
| 3 | NE elev. | General shot south-east wing | 1:35-36 | 2:25-26 | 3:19-20 |
| 4 | Outhouse | NE elevation | 10:15-16 | 9:15-16 | 3:107 |
| 5 | SE elev. | Door and stair light | 1:37-38 | 2:27-28 | 3:21 |
| 6 | SE elev. | General shot south-east wing | 1:33-34 | 2:23-24 | 3:16 |
| 7 | SW elev. | General shot south-east wing | 1:29-30 | 2:19-20 | 3:11 |
| 8 | SE elev. | General shot south-west end | 1:25-26 | 2:15-16 | 3:9 |
| 9 | SE elev. | Stable block | 1:23-24 | 2:13-14 | 3:7 |
| 10 | SW elev. | General shot | 1:21-22 | 2:11-12 | 3:6 |
| 11 | Outhouse | General view of interior from west | | | 3:112 |
| 12 | NW elev. | Close up of windows in stable block | 1:19-20 | 2:9-10 | 3:5 |
| 13 | NW elev. | Porch at SW end of house | 1:17-18 | 2:7-8 | 3:4 |
| 14 | NW elev. | Blocked door adjacent to bay window | 1:15-16 | 2:5-6 | 3:3 |
| 15 | NW elev. | Close up of porch to main entrance | 1:2-3 | 2:3-4 | 3:2 |
| 16 | Outhouse | SW elevation | 10:17-18 | 9:17-18 | 3:108 |
| 17 | Outhouse | SW elevation and adjoining shed | | | 3:109 |
| 18 | G1c | Staircase and hall | 5:9-10 | 6:9-10 | 3:32 |
| 19 | G1a | NE elevation of room | 5:4-5 | 2:4-5 | 3:24 |
| 20 | G1a | NW elevation of room | 5:2-3 | 4:2-3 | 3:23 |
| 21 | G1b | NE elevation of room | 5:11-12 | 6:11-12 | 3:37 |
| 22 | G2 | Panelled doorway in NE elevation | 5:13-14 | 6:13-14 | 3:38 |
| 23 | G2 | Bay window in NW elevation | 5:15-16 | 6:15-16 | 3:39 |
| 24 | G2 | Fire place in SW elevation | 5:17-18 | 6:17-18 | 3:40 |
| 25 | G2 | Arched recess in SE elevation | 5:19-20 | 6:19-20 | 3:41 |
| 26 | G3b | General shot from NE | 5:23-24 | 6:23-24 | 3:50: |
| 27 | G3a | General shot from NW | 5:21-22 | 5:21-22 | 3:44 |
| 28 | G3a | General shot from SW | | | 3:45 |
| 29 | G3a | General shot from SE | | | 3:46 |
| 30 | G4a | General shot from N | | | 3:47 |
| 31 | G4b | General shot from SE | | | 3:48-49 |
| 32 | G3c | General shot of room | | | 3:51 |
| 33 | G3c | Window at SW end | | | 3: 52-53 |
| 34 | G5a | Shots of fireplace and beams | 5:25-27 | 6:25-27 | 3:54-56 |
| 35 | G6 | General shot from SW | 5:28-29 | 6:28-29 | 3:57 |
| 36 | G7 | Beam and doorway | | | 3:61 |
| 37 | G7 | Partition and doorway | | | 3:60 |
| 38 | G5b | Chimney breast and window | 5:28-29 | 6:28-29 | 3:58-59 |
| 39 | G8 | Blocked door on NW elevation | 5:30-31 | 6:30-31 | 3:62 |
| 40 | G11 | Windows in blocked doors, SE elevation | 5:32-33 | 6:32-33 | 3:63 |
| 41 | G12 | Window in SW elevation | | | 3:64 |
| 42 | G12 | Archway in SE elevation | | | 3:66 |
| 43 | G12 | Window in NW elevation | | | 3:65 |
| 44 | F3 | General shot NW elevation | 8:4 | 7:4 | 3:69 |
| 45 | F3 | Elevation with beam in NW corner | 8:3 | 7:3 | 3:70 |
| 46 | F4 | Elevation with beam in N corner | 8:6 | 7:6 | 3:71 |
| 47 | F1 | General shot of stairs and landing | | | 3:73 |
| 48 | F2 | Doorway in SE elevation | | | 3:68 |
| 49 | F9 | General shot of room | 8:13-14 | 7:13-14 | 3:81 |
| 50 | F9 | General shot of bathroom | | | 3:80 |
| 51 | F10 | SE elevation with bay window | 8:21-22 | 7:21-22 | 3:89 |
| 52 | F5 | General shot of corridor | | | 3:74 |
| 53 | F4 | Window in SE elevation | | | 3:72 |
| 54 | F6a | General shot of room from south | 8:9-10 | 7:9-10 | 3:75 |
| 55 | F6b | General shot of room from east | 8:19-20 | 7:19-20 | 3:83 |
| 56 | F6c | General shot of room from southeast | | | 3:88 |
| 57 | F11b | Occulus window in SE elevation | 8:23-24 | 7:23-24 | 3:90 |
| 58 | F11a | General shot of room from east | 8:25-26 | 7:25-26 | 3:91 |
| 59 | F12b | General shot of room from north | 8:29-38 | 7:29-30 | 3:93 |

Client: Ellel Healthcare Ltd

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| Photo ID No. | Area | Description | Black and white | Colour slide | Colour digital |
|---------------------|-------------|---|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 60 | F12a | General shot of room from east | 8:27-28 | 7:27-28 | 3:92 |
| 61 | F12a | General shot of room from west | 8:31-32 | 7:31-32 | 3:94 |
| 62 | F13 | General shot of room from west | | | 3:95 |
| 63 | F13 | General shot of room from southeast | | | 3:96 |
| 64 | F8a | General shot of room from east | 8:19-20 | 7:19-20 | 3:97 |
| 65 | B5 | General shot of room from south | 10:9-10 | 9:9-10 | 3:102 |
| 66 | B2 | General shot of room from northwest | 10:3-4 | 9:3-4 | 3:98 |
| 67 | B3 | General shot of corridor from northeast | 10:5-6 | 9:5-6 | 3:99 |
| 68 | B1 | Shot of stairs to ground floor | 10:1-2 | 9:1-2 | 3:97 |
| 69 | B4 | NW elevation | 10:7-8 | 9:7-8 | 3:99 |
| 70 | B4 | Space beneath floor | 10:9-10 | 9: 9-10 | 3: 100 |

Appendix 3: Census Details

| Name | Age | Occupation |
|---|-----|-------------------|
| 1851 Census (HO107/Piece 2271/Folio 141/Page 18) | | |
| Ellel Cottage | | |
| Robert Parkinson | 26 | Landed proprietor |
| Margaret Parkinson | 24 | |
| Ann Irvin | 26 | House servant |
| Jane Smith | 22 | House servant |
| James Park | 27 | Groom |

| Name | Age | Occupation |
|--|-----|---------------------------------------|
| 1861 Census (RG9/Piece 3154/Folio 127/Page 8) | | |
| Ellel Cottage | | |
| James Hayes | 29 | Silk Spinner |
| Ann Hayes | 29 | |
| Alice Hayes | 3 | |
| Mary Hayes | 1 | |
| Ellel Cottage (2nd property) Main property ? | | |
| James Robinson | 25 | Silk waste buyer and spun silk seller |
| Elizabeth Bradley. Robinson | 27 | |
| Mary Jane Longbottom | 11 | Scholar |
| Jane Lucas | 23 | House servant |
| Ellel Cottage (3rd property) | | |
| Robert Threlfall | 40 | Silk dresser |
| Ellen Threlfall | 38 | |
| Thomas Threlfall | 11 | Cotton dipper |
| Ellen Threlfall | 10 | Scholar |
| Robert Threlfall | 8 | Scholar |
| Henry Threlfall | 4 | |
| Thomas Threlfall | 43 | Silk spinner |

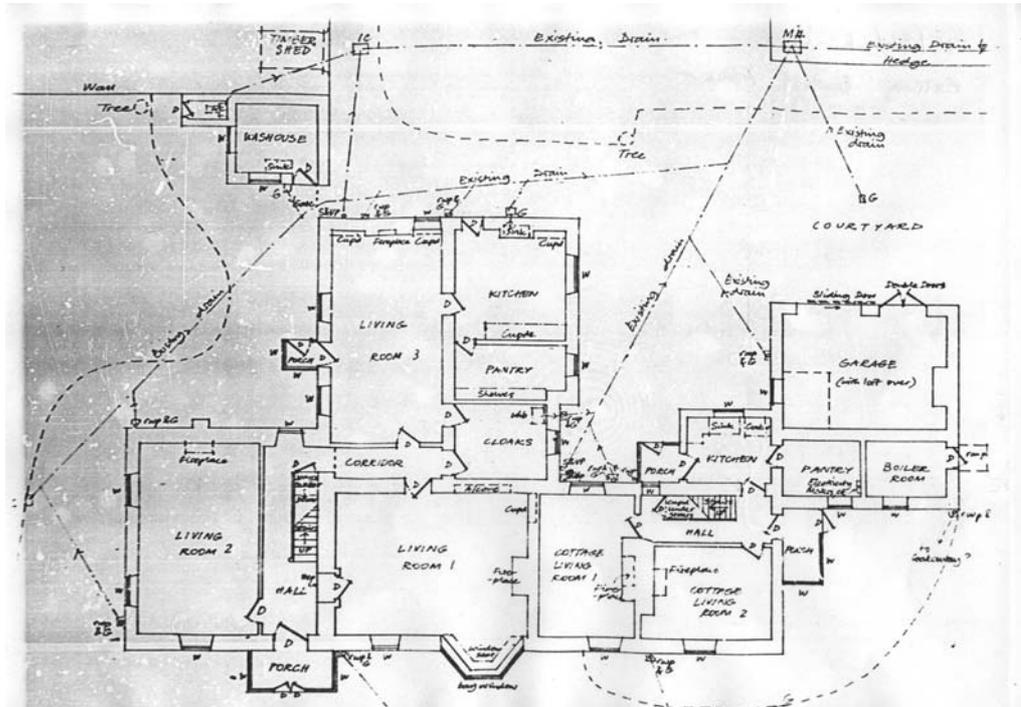
| Name | Age | Occupation |
|--|-----|---|
| 1871 Census (RG10/Piece 4428/Folio 113/Page 10) | | |
| Ellel Cottage | | |
| James Robinson | 35 | Secretary sub-manager, Director of mill, Thompson & Co. Ltd. Silk spinners. Employer of 207 hands |
| Elizabeth B. Robinson | 37 | |
| Sam B. Robinson | 10 | Scholar |
| Fredric J. Robinson | 9 | Scholar |
| John R. Robinson | 6 | Scholar |
| George E. Robinson | 4 | Scholar |
| Lucy Warris | 26 | Governess |
| Jane Leah Ledger | 17 | Housemaid |
| Galgate (2nd property) | | |
| Agnes Burton | 32 | Housekeeper |
| Elizabeth Agnes Knowles | 10 | Scholar |

| Name | Age | Occupation |
|---|-----|--------------|
| 1881 Census (RG11/Piece 4261/Folio 116/Page 8) | | |
| Ellel Cottage | | |
| James Robinson | 45 | Silk spinner |
| Elizabeth B. Robinson | 47 | |
| Charles M. Robinson | 9 | Scholar |
| Helena G.M. Robinson | 7 | Scholar |
| Katherine E Newton | 31 | Governess |
| Margaret Mattinson | 28 | Cook |
| Jane Bell | 19 | Housemaid |
| Ellel Cottage (2nd property) | | |
| Ellen Talbot | 65 | Housekeeper |

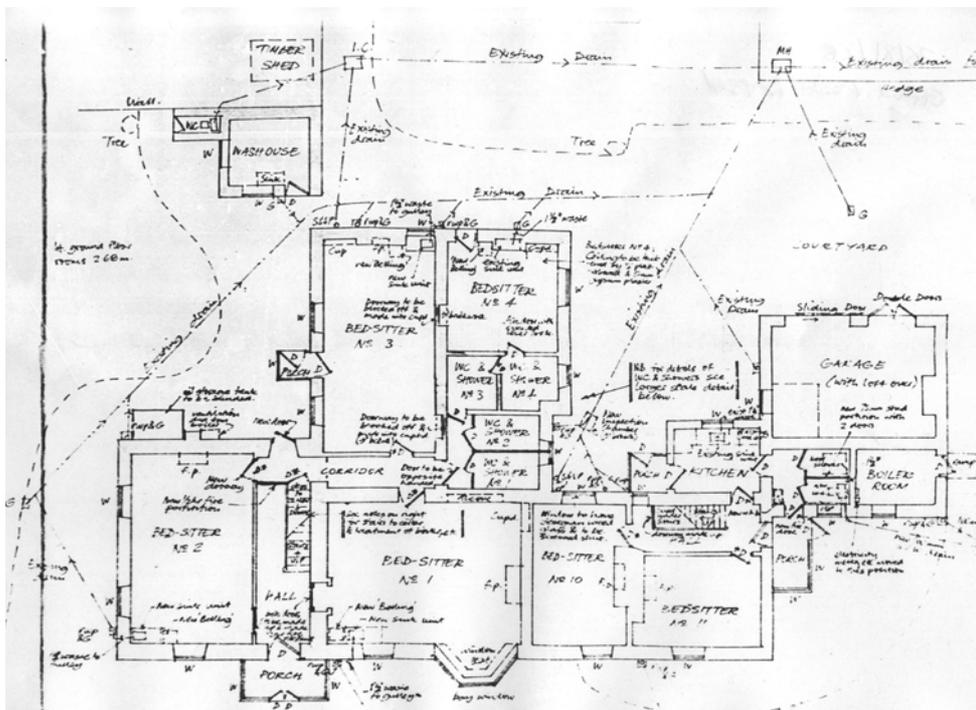
| Name | Age | Occupation |
|---|-----|---------------|
| 1891 Census (RG12/Piece 3462/Folio 105/Page 6) | | |
| Ellel House | | |
| George Satterthwaite | 43 | Silk spinner |
| Emily Satterthwaite | 42 | |
| Mabel Grace Satterthwaite | 10 | Scholar |
| Henrietta L. Menges | 20 | Governess |
| Martha Sarginson | 22 | Housemaid |
| Annie Robinson | | Domestic cook |
| Ellel House (2nd property) | | |
| Ann Cartwright | 66 | Housekeeper |

| Name | Age | Occupation |
|---|-----|---------------|
| 1901 Census (RG13/Piece 3984/Folio 104/ Page 8) | | |
| Ellel House | | |
| George Satterthwaite | 53 | Silk spinner |
| Emily Satterthwaite | 52 | |
| Mabel Grace Satterthwaite | 20 | |
| Nancy Jolley | 26 | Domestic cook |
| Emily A. ? | 21 | Housemaid |

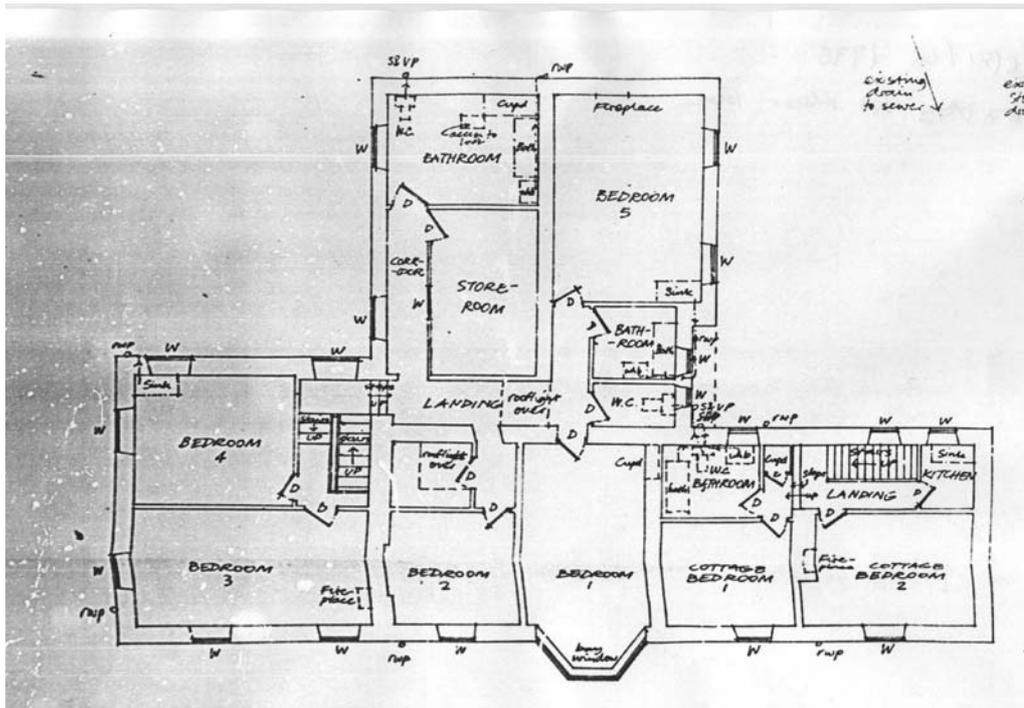
Appendix 4: Plans from previous planning applications



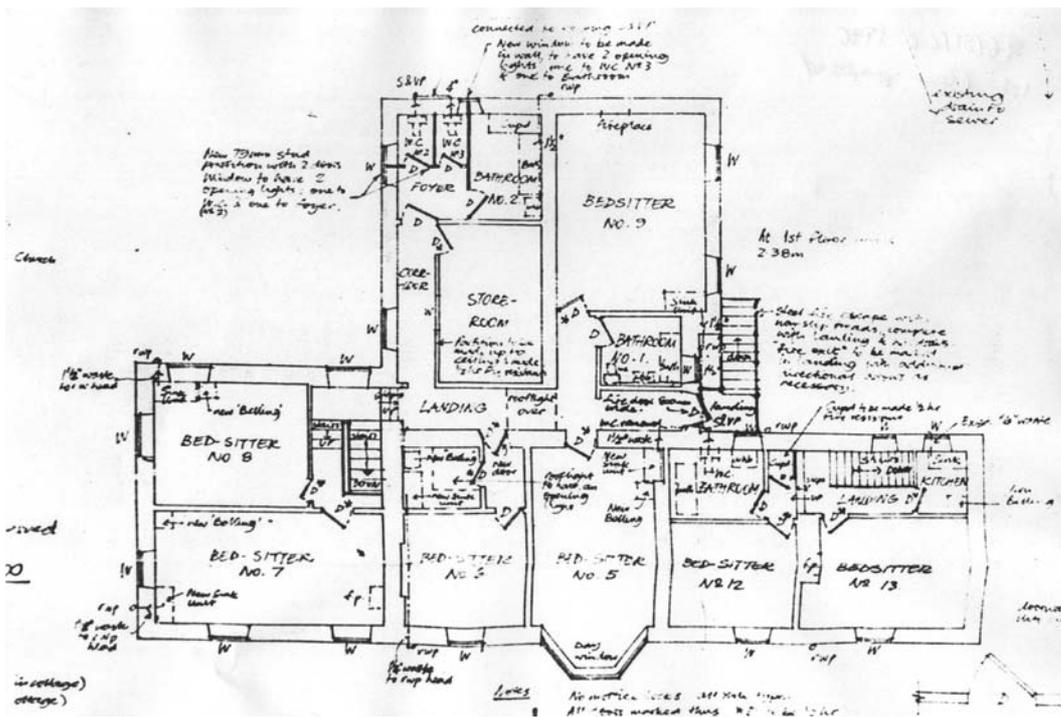
'As existing' ground floor plan from 1976 (76/81/LB)



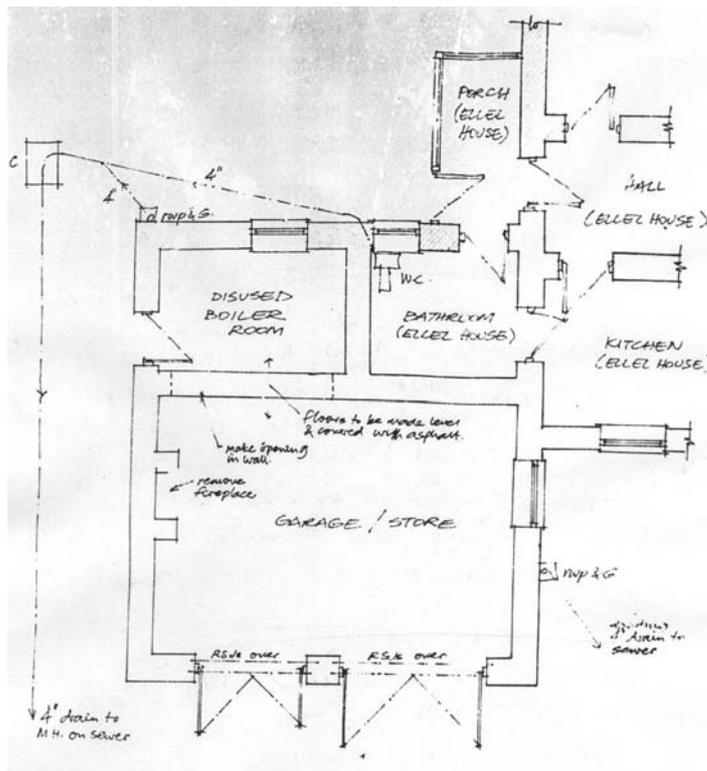
Proposed ground floor plan from 1976 (76/81/LB)



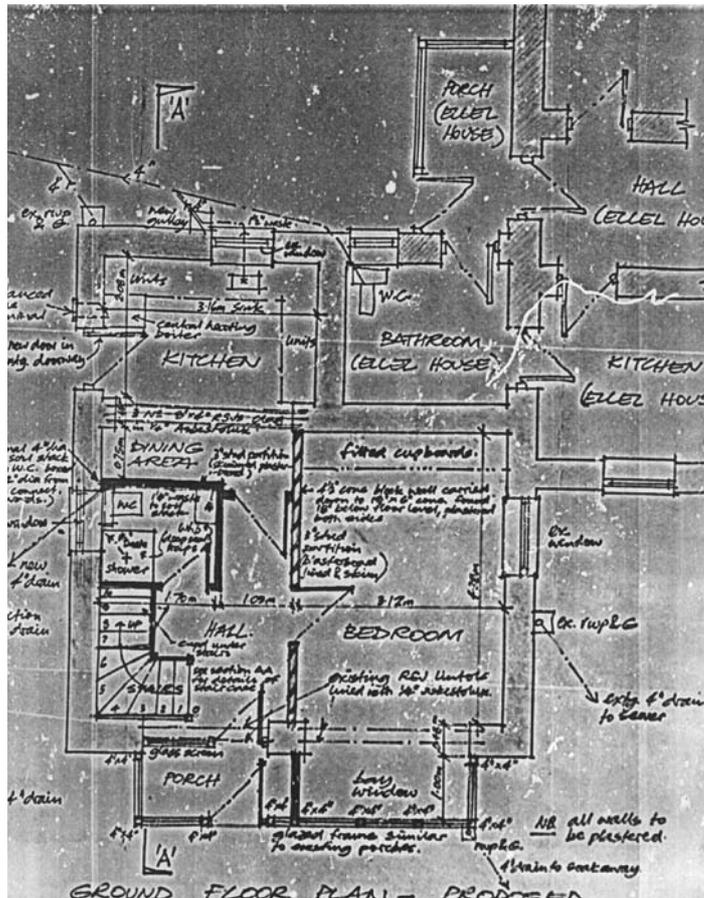
'As existing' first floor plan from 1976 (76/81/LB)



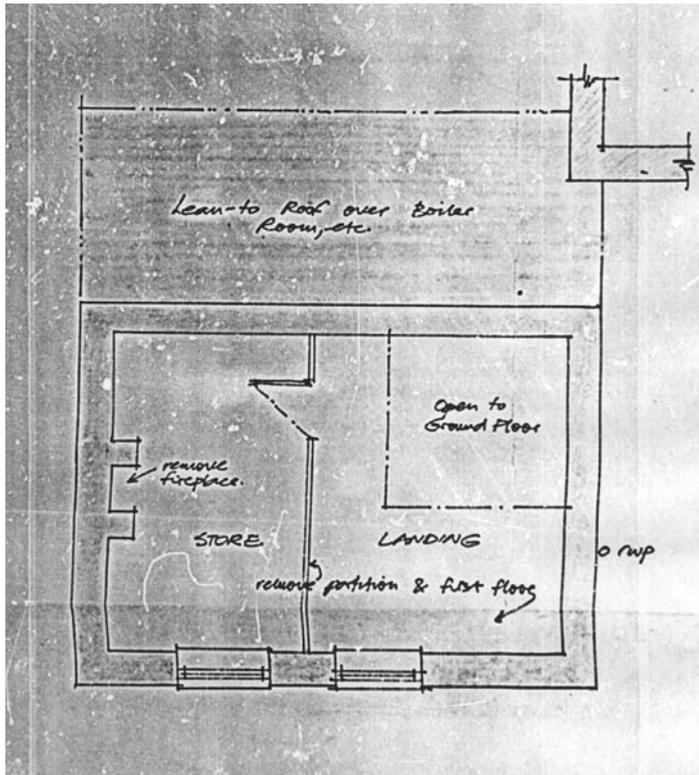
Proposed first floor plan from 1976 (76/81/LB)



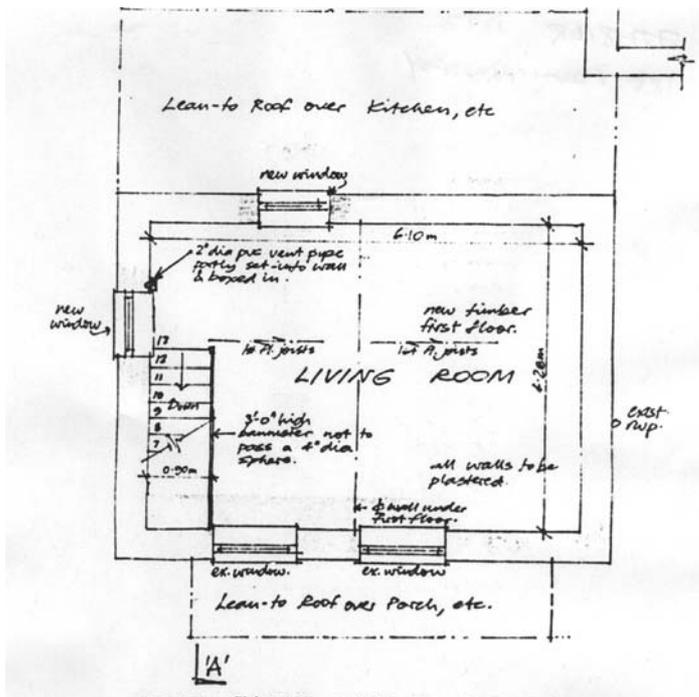
'As existing' ground floor plan of garage from 1977 (77/8/LB)



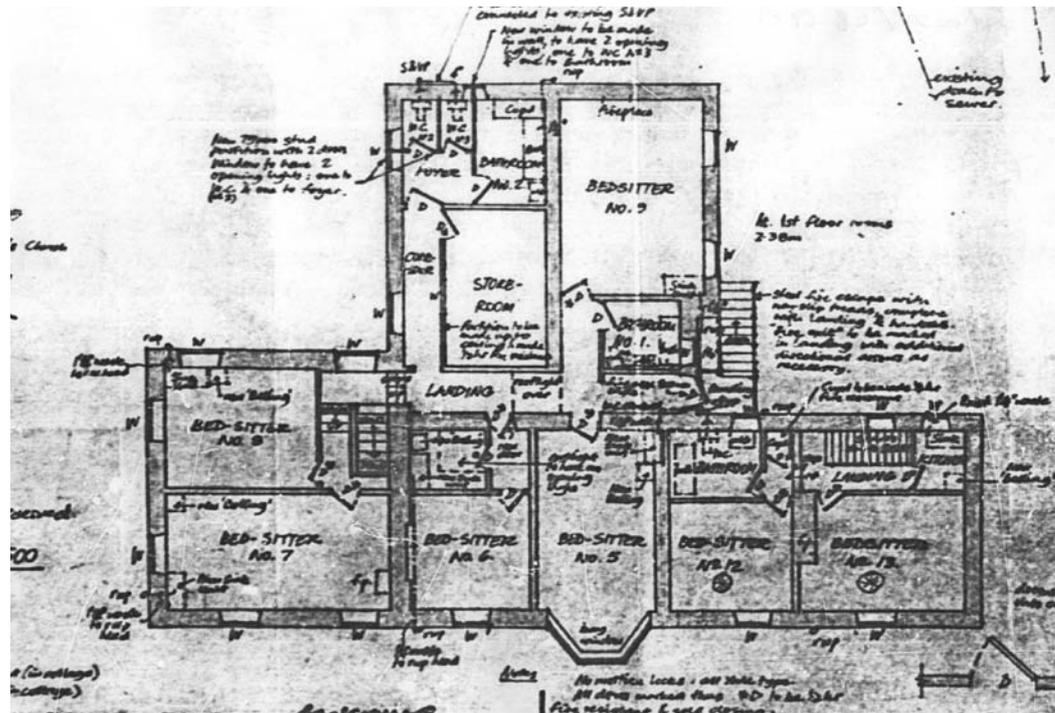
Proposed ground floor plan of garage from 1977 (77/8/LB)



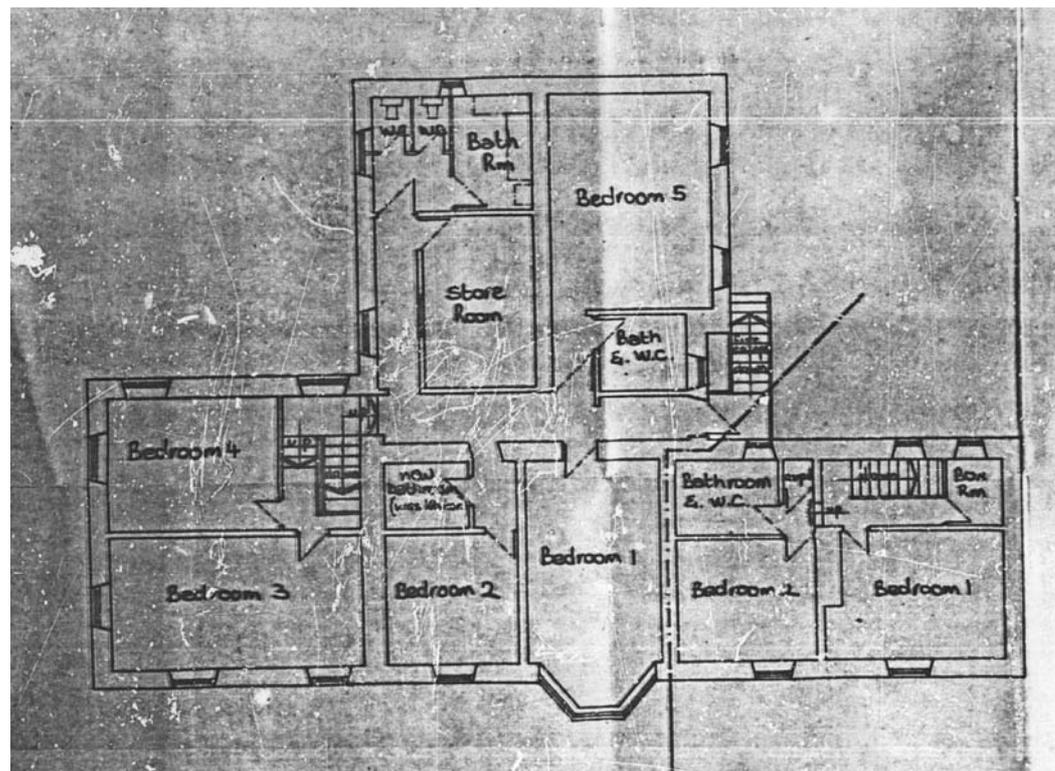
'As existing' first floor plan of garage from 1977 (77/8/LB)



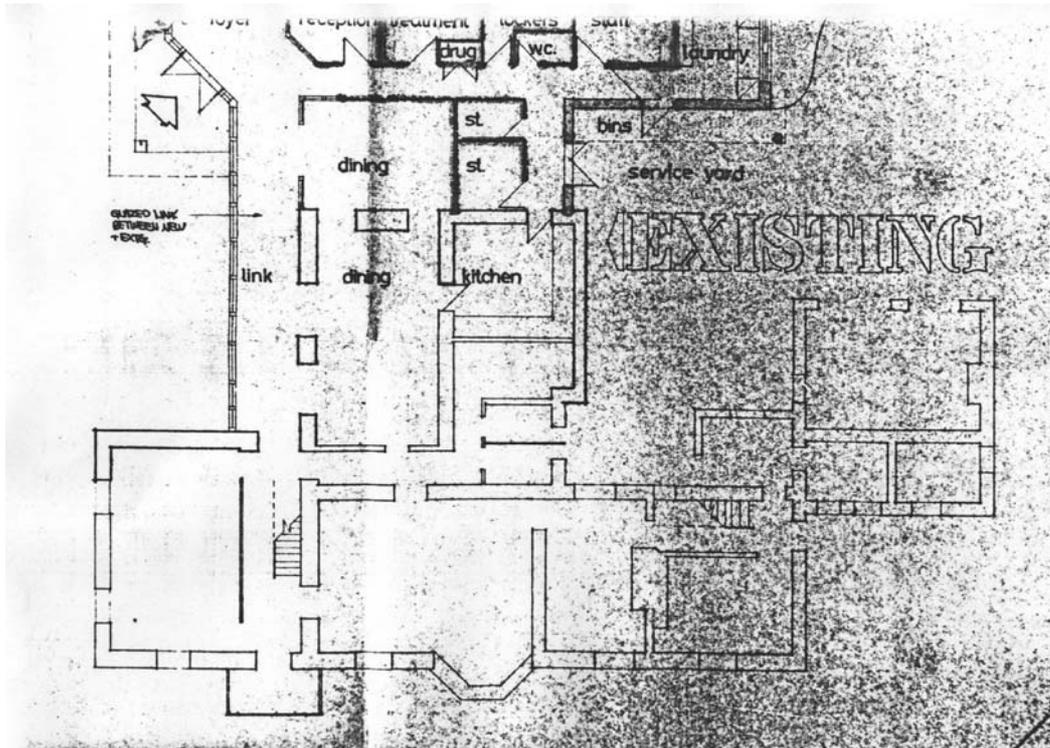
Proposed first floor plan of garage from 1977 (77/8/LB)



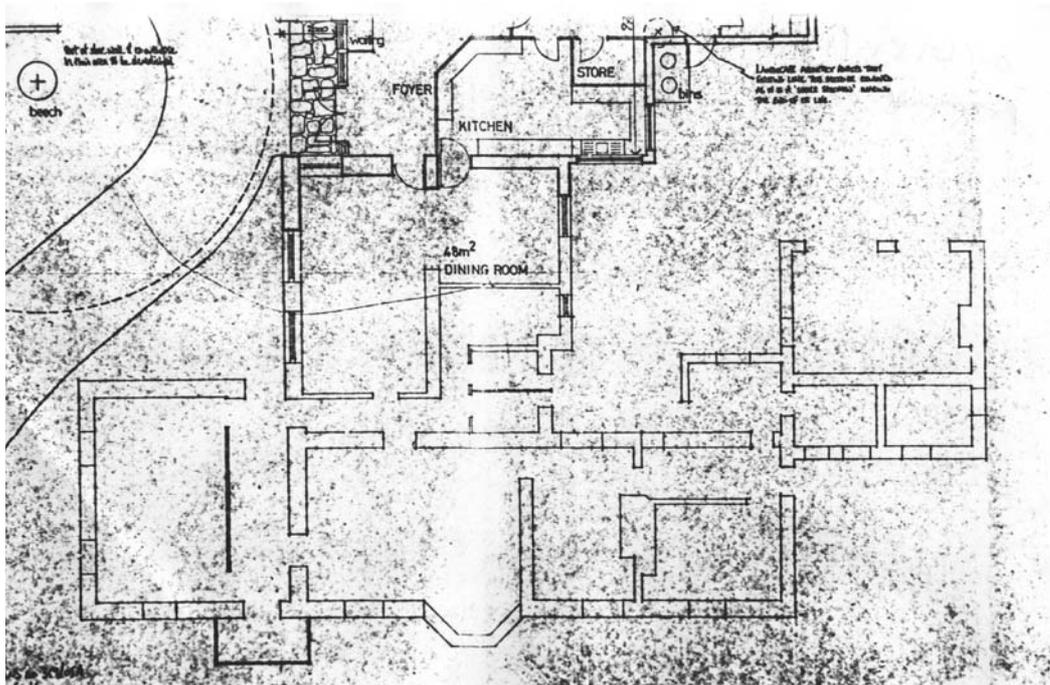
'As existing' first floor plan from 1979 (79/00905/LB)



Proposed first floor plan from 1979 (79/00905/LB)



'As existing' ground floor plan from 1988 (88/0239; 88/0239; 88/0240/LB; 88/1053)



Proposed ground floor plan from 1988 (88/0239; 88/0239; 88/0240/LB; 88/1053)