

# OUTBUILDING AT MANOR HOUSE, NORTON DISNEY, LINCOLNSHIRE

## PHOTOGRAPHIC BUILDING SURVEY

Site Code: - MFND 08

LCCM acc. no.: 2008.85

Planning refs.: N/47/0860/06 & LB/2060

NGR: SK 8888 5903

PCA job no.: 08-468

Report prepared for Heronswood Design Limited  
by

S. A. Savage

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Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)  
47, Manor Road  
Saxilby  
Lincoln  
LN1 2HX  
Tel. 01522 703 800  
Fax 01522 703 656  
e-mail [info@pre-construct.co.uk](mailto:info@pre-construct.co.uk)

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### Summary

- A programme of building survey was undertaken on a single outbuilding at Manor House, Norton Disney, for Heronswood Design Ltd.
- Documentary research into the Manor House, Norton Disney attests to its having been built in 1625 by William Disney.
- The outbuilding which is the subject of this survey has been heavily altered and rebuilt, and now retains little of its original fabric. The earliest cartographic source, the 6" OS map of 1886, shows this building as already in existence, attached to the east wing of the house.
- Comparisons with the surviving original fabric of this structure show no correlation between this and the extant building phases of the house, or the surviving fabric of the farm buildings.
- The most recent alterations, which appear to date to 1971, have converted it into a free-standing structure functioning as animal accommodation, divorced from the house to which it was originally attached.



**Fig. 1:** Location map at scale 1: 25 000. The development site is marked in red.  
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### 1.0 Introduction

Planning permission and Listed Buildings consent have been given for 'extension to house and outbuildings, plus triple stable block and realignment of driveway and associated landscaping, plus demolition of two outbuildings' at the Manor House, Norton Disney. The redevelopment of the site will involve the demolition of a former stable/outbuilding lying to the east, but within the curtilage of the Listed Building. Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) has been commissioned by Heronswood Design Ltd to undertake a scheme of building recording to mitigate the impact of the development.

This approach complies with the recommendations of *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: Planning and the Historic Environment*. Dept. of Environment (1991), *Recording Historic Buildings. A Descriptive Specification (3rd Edition)*, RCHME (1996), *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures*, IFA (1996), and the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice*. (Lincolnshire County Council, 1998).

Copies of this report will be deposited with the client, the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record and Lincolnshire County Council. Reports will also be deposited at The Collection, Lincoln, along with an ordered project archive for long-term storage and curation.

### 2.0 Site location and description (figs. 1 and 2)

The Manor House is located on the south side of Main Street, in the traditional centre of Norton Disney, which lies 14.5km southwest of Lincoln, within the administrative area of North Kesteven.

The building is Grade II listed as the Manor House, and has had an initial appraisal undertaken by the Historic Buildings Consultant for North Kesteven District Council. The listing describes the existing building as dating to the 18th century with 19th century alterations, but the initial appraisal identified a date stone of 1625, which has raised the possibility that the building may date to the 17th century.

National Grid Reference: SK 8888 5903.

### 3.0 Planning background

Planning permission and Listed Building consent have been given for an extension to the house and outbuildings, and the replacement of two outbuildings with a new stable block (planning refs. N/47/0860/06 & LB/2060).

The Historic Environment Officer for North Kesteven District Council has recommended a scheme of Archaeological Building Recording to define and evaluate the historical and architectural significance of this building, establishing its phases of development with associated functions in order to preserve it by record prior to demolition and the consequent loss of historic fabric and/or integrity.



#### 4.0 Archaeological and historical background

Norton Disney is first mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086AD, where it appears as the Old English *Nortune*, 'the northern farmstead or village'. This identification probably derives from Norton's position to the north of Stapleford. The second element of the place-name is more recent: the village lies within an estate held by the *de Isigny* family, originally from Isigny in Normandy, whose name became anglicised to D'Iseney and eventually to Disney (Cameron, 1998, p. 93).

The oldest surviving fabric in the parish church, dedicated to St Peter, is an Early English tower and north arcade; the building is heavily altered, with 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century additions (Pevsner and Harris, 1989, p.590).

#### 4.1 Documentary Evidence

The Lincolnshire Archives Office does not hold an enclosure award for Norton Disney: as a single estate, it is likely that it was privately enclosed before the Parliamentary Enclosures took place. The parish was assessed for tithes in 1839, but the tithe award plan does not include Manor Farm: it extends no farther to the south than the north side of Main Street. The tithe award itself is extremely short, with a single main landowner – 'the Trustees, under the will of the late Sir Thomas Clarges, Baronet' – holding all but five parcels of the land depicted.

In 1893, a brief history of the parish was published by the Rev. George Roberts, the vicar of Norton Disney from 1852 to 1898 (although the book itself is credited only to '*A Country Vicar*'). According to the Rev. Roberts, the earliest documentary evidence of the family of D'Iseney holding the manor of Norton Disney is in the Inquisitions of Feudal Tenures for the reign of Henry III (1216-72), referring to William D'Iseney holding one knight's fee in Norton (Roberts, p. 34). Roberts' history states that the site of the medieval manor house could be seen as a moated earthwork, although no standing masonry remained, and that he did not know whether this site directly pre-dated the current Manor Farm House, or whether there was an intervening phase in the late medieval period. The current building – as Roberts saw it – had a stone date-tablet in the north gable end, reading 'W. D., AD 1625' and depicted by him as:

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{A. D.} \\ \text{W} \quad \text{D} \\ \hline 1625 \end{array}$$

This was assumed to refer to a later William Disney, who was lord of the manor of Norton Disney at the time, and was named as the builder of the manor house by local tradition. William's son, Molineux, sold the Norton Disney manor to Christopher Monk, Duke of Albemarle, in 1674: local rumours that the estate was lost or confiscated during the Civil War, claiming as evidence the defacing of a family memorial brass, from which the names of Richard Disney's seven sons have been cut, are completely unfounded (the defaced brass may be seen in Norton Disney church, but the act appears to have taken place four generations previously, and to have stemmed from a family dispute about Richard's will). Molineux Disney died childless, and on the death of his widow in 1734, the estate passed to Sir Walter Clarges, Baronet: the estate remained in the possession of this family until c. 1830, but no members of the family are buried in Norton Disney, and Roberts was certain that they never occupied the house.

Following the death of the last, unmarried baronet in c. 1830 (the 'late Sir Thomas Clarges' whose name appears on the tithe award), the estate passed briefly to General Richard Goddard Hare (one of the trustees named in the tithe award) and on his death, to the Jervis family, Viscounts St. Vincent. At the time that Roberts compiled his history, the Viscount St. Vincent then holding the estate was the second of his line to do so, succeeding his brother (who had been killed in action in the Sudan) in 1885, and had re-established residency at Norton Disney (Roberts, pp. 56-84).

The Rev. Roberts recorded no details of the manor house other than the date stone, but his description of the previous vicarage may give some general idea of local construction techniques prior to the Industrial Revolution: '*The old Vicarage, or Manse... was composed chiefly of rubble, with upright oak posts let into the ground on a level with the outer walls, and covered in with thatch a yard thick. At one end, similarly constructed, was a long barn in which tithes, when paid in kind, were wont to be stowed. Being ill-suited to the conveniency [sic] of modern times, the whole was pulled down by the compiler of these Notes in 1852, and more suitable offices raised on the site*' (*ibid.*).

White's Gazetteer of Lincolnshire for 1856 states that Norton Disney was '*...mostly the property of Sir Richard G. Hare Clarges, Bar<sup>t</sup>, the lord of the manor*': this is the tithe award trustee mentioned above, who, according to the Rev. Roberts, changed his name to Clarges when he inherited the manor. The gazetteer further states that '*The Church (St. Peter) was appropriated to Sempringham Priory, and is a large structure, containing several ancient monuments of the Disney family, who were formerly seated here, in a moated mansion, which stood near the present manor house, now occupied by a farmer, and supposed to be built out of its ruins*' (White, p. 339). The farmer occupying the Manor House is not named in this edition. The proximity of the current Manor Farm to the site of the medieval manor is noted in the recent gazetteer of Lincolnshire, Arthur Mee's '*The King's England*', but no earthworks were visible by the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, as Mee states that '*Nothing of their [the Disneys'] castle remains (it stood in a field west of the church), or of the manor house built from its ruins in the 17<sup>th</sup> century*' (Mee, 1970, p. 291).

Later editions of White's Gazetteer list the tenants of 'Manor House' among the farmers in its business directory. In 1872, the occupant was 'William Rogers, farmer' (White, 1872, p. 612); he was still resident ten years later, but now listed as 'William Rogers, farmer and grazier', indicating that cattle raising formed a large part of the farm's business at the time. In this edition, Viscount St. Vincent is listed as the landowner, but does not appear as a resident (White, 1882, p. 619). By the time of the 1892 edition, the Viscount St. Vincent mentioned in Roberts' history had inherited the manor, and is listed both as landowner and as the resident of 'The Hall'. Presumably, the new lord of the manor did not wish to re-occupy an outdated manor house that had been let to tenant farmers for a hundred and fifty years, and had a new hall built for his own residence (Norton Disney Hall lies outside the area of the map extracts reproduced in this report, on the western side of Norton Big Wood.) The tenant of 'Manor House' is listed in this edition as Henry Martin, farmer and grazier: at this time, there were no other farmers called Martin in Norton Disney (White, 1892, p. 702).

The 1<sup>st</sup> edition 6" Ordnance Survey map of 1886-91 (fig. 3) shows the Manor House as a U-shaped range with two blocks of detached outbuildings, positioned midway between the village core and the church



and vicarage. The earthworks of the previous manor house site, although described by the Rev. Roberts at about this time, have not been surveyed, indicating that they must already have been eroded or ploughed into insignificance. The Lincolnshire Archives Office holds an estate plan dating from 1897, which uses the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map as a base plan, on which land ownership and tenancy are depicted by colour-coded overpainting. On this plan, the Manor House, together with all the fields to the south of the house plots adjoining the south side of Main Street and two large blocks of land to the north and east of the village, are depicted as the landholdings of H. and F. Martin: H. Martin is presumably the Henry Martin listed in the 1892 gazetteer.

The Manor Farm was extended at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century: the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 6" Ordnance Survey map of 1905 shows the western side of the earlier U-shaped range filled in, to enclose a rectangular courtyard, while the western block of outbuildings also appears to have been altered. The building that is the subject of this report is shown on all of the Ordnance Survey maps: it forms the eastern, narrowest, part of the southern, L-shaped block of buildings representing the house.

The Manor House or Manor Farm is never mentioned by name in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century Kelly's Directories held by the Lincoln Local Studies Library, but its history can nonetheless be traced. In the 1896 edition, Henry Martin and John Martin appear as farmers, but no F. Martin is listed (Kelly, 1896, p. 460). It seems most likely that Henry Martin had two sons, and that John Martin had set up as a farmer in his own right, while Fred remained in partnership with his father at the Manor House, which he subsequently inherited. Henry Martin has disappeared from the business register by 1905, and both Fred and John Martin are now listed as farmers in this and the subsequent edition of the directory (Kelly, 1905, p. 460 and 1909, pp. 462-3).

The Lincolnshire Archives Office holds a series of working plans drawn up in or shortly after 1910 as valuations for the Land Tax. This was more correctly known as the Increment Value Tax, and was a tax on the increase in the value of private land resulting from publicly funded developments such as roads and services. The base valuation was taken on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1909, although the valuation process itself went on until 1915 – an estate would then be re-valued on any occasion when it changed ownership, and the difference would be taxed. Valuation books and field books were kept, and working plans and record plans drawn up on specially printed copies of the 25" Ordnance Survey maps. An extract from a working plan, based on the 25" OS map of 1905, is reproduced as figure 4. The plan has been annotated in pencil by the surveyor: the farm buildings are labelled with a series of letters, but the key to this labelling is not with the map, and the buildings can no longer be identified. The Manor House buildings can be seen in more detail on this map: these buildings form an L-shaped block on the southern and eastern sides of the rectangular courtyard. The new west range of farm buildings is shown as being open-fronted to the east (crew yard) and probably represents new shelters for cattle, while an area filling in the north side of the yard probably represents a covered part of the crew yard.

The 1910 Land Tax valuation book records the Manor Farm and its lands as occupied by Fred Martin: again, there is no detailed description beyond 'House and buildings' and 'Land'. The following entry is for John Martin, who is also listed as having a house with buildings and land in Norton Disney, indicating that Fred Martin was the sole tenant of Manor Farm.

From the 1919 edition onwards, the Kelly's Directories place a distinguishing mark against farms of 150 acres or greater. Fred Martin's land is one of several farms so marked in the 1919 edition; John Martin's is not, although he continues to be listed as a farmer until the 1926 edition. The names of some farms are given in this edition, but there is no Manor House or Manor Farm in the listings, although it can still be identified, as Fred Martin is still farming more than 150 acres (Kelly, 1919, p. 451 and 1926, p. 485). Fred Martin continues to be listed until 1933, when 'Mrs. Martin' appears with a farm of more than 150 acres: this is presumably Fred's widow (Kelly, 1933, p. 442). Manor Farm must have been sold on not long afterwards, as there is no farmer by the name of Martin in Norton Disney in the directory of 1937, the most recent held by the Local Studies Library. Manor Farm is not among the farms named in this edition, but it can tentatively be identified, as there is only one un-named farm of more than 150 acres, which is in the possession of 'Haywood & Stones' (Kelly, 1937, p. 449). This seems likely to be a company, as full Christian names are always given in this directory where individuals are listed, but no agricultural company of this name could be traced.

## 5.0 Methodology

The primary photographic fabric record was undertaken by the author on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2008. Photography was undertaken in 35mm monochrome (using Ilford FP4 plus ISO125 filmstock) for archival purposes supplemented with digital colour photography (using a 10.4 Mpixel format). It included general shots of the site and detailed photography of room arrangement; main elevations and constructional details such as window openings, and fixtures and fittings, such as doors and window fenestration.

Weather conditions on the day began bright, but became overcast with occasional light showers, which necessitated the use of flash in all interior situations.

The photography was complemented by detailed written descriptions of all of the structure, including room records, brickwork records and measured sketches.



**Figure 2:** Plan of the development area at scale 1:500. The building which is the subject of this survey is highlighted in red.



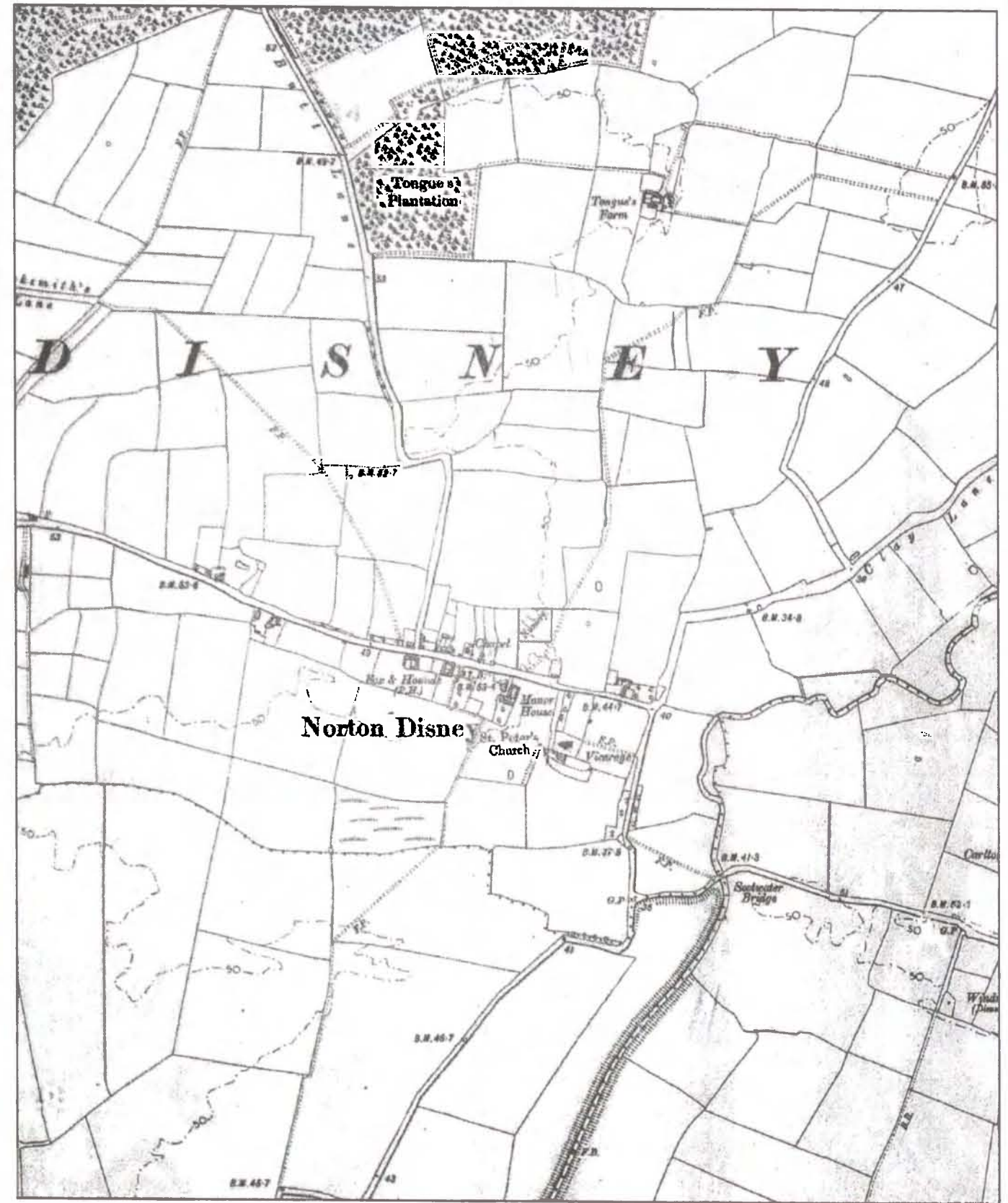
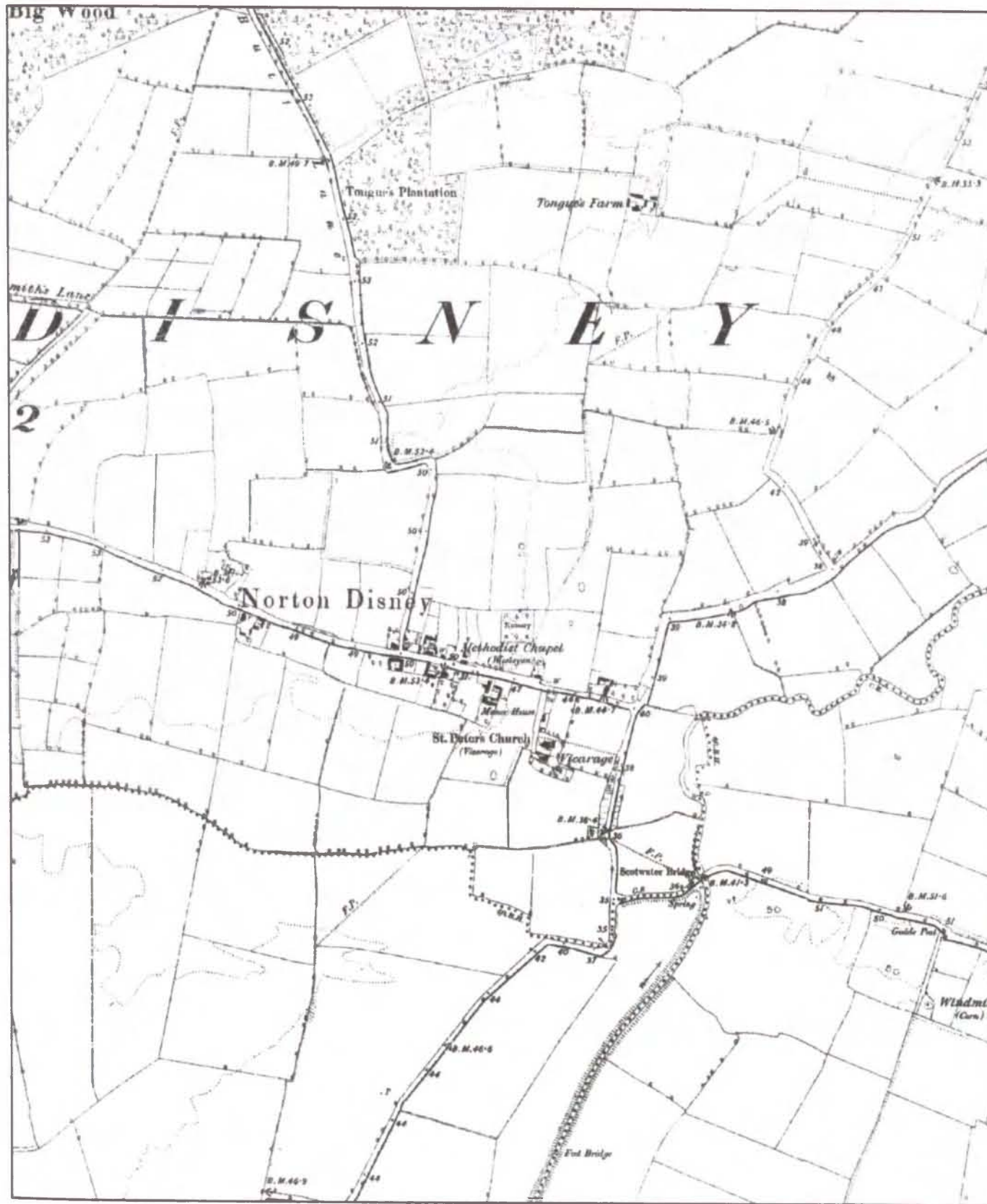


Figure 3: Extracts from the Ordnance Survey maps of 1886-91 (left) and 1905 (above). 'Manor House' is clearly labelled on both maps. Not to scale.



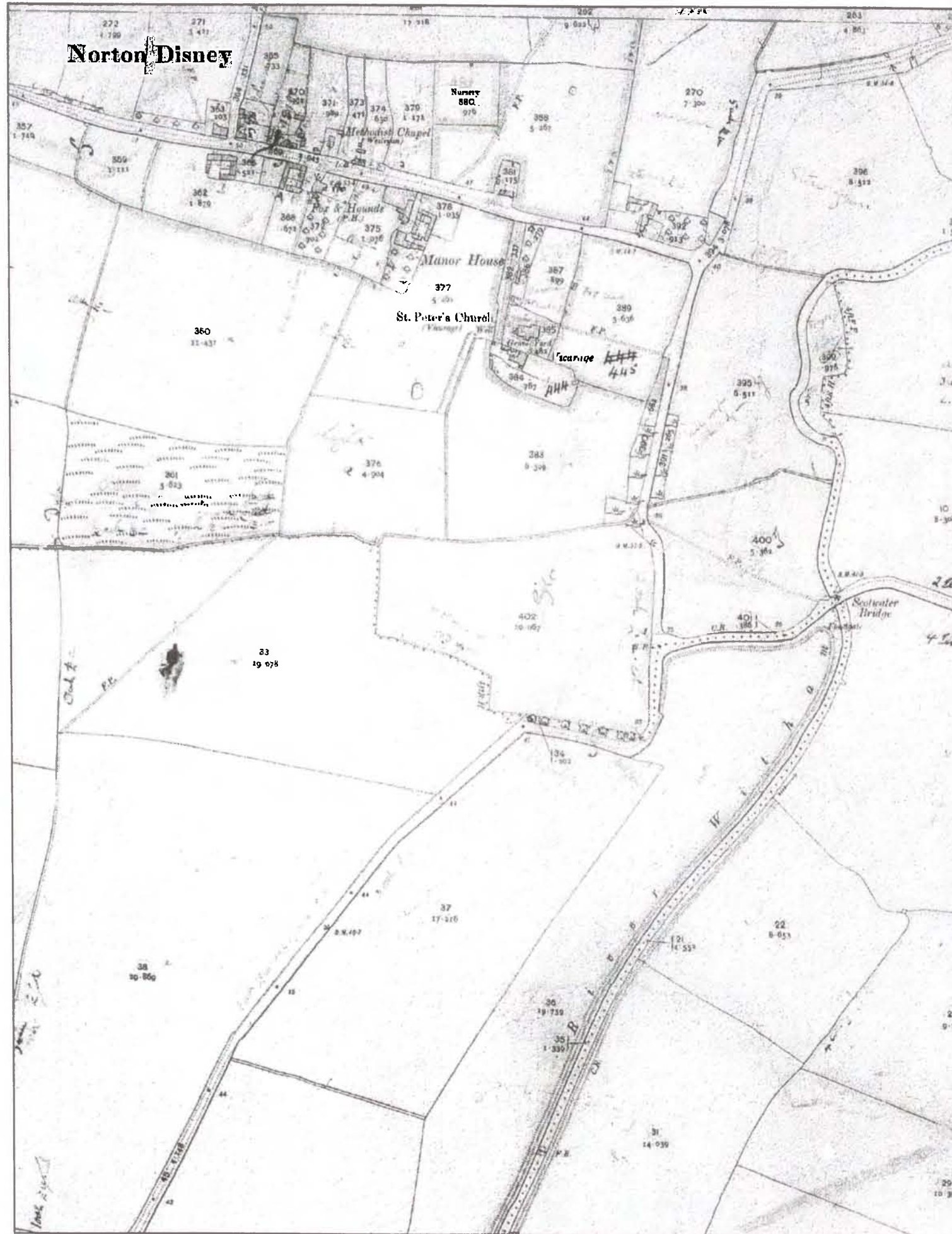
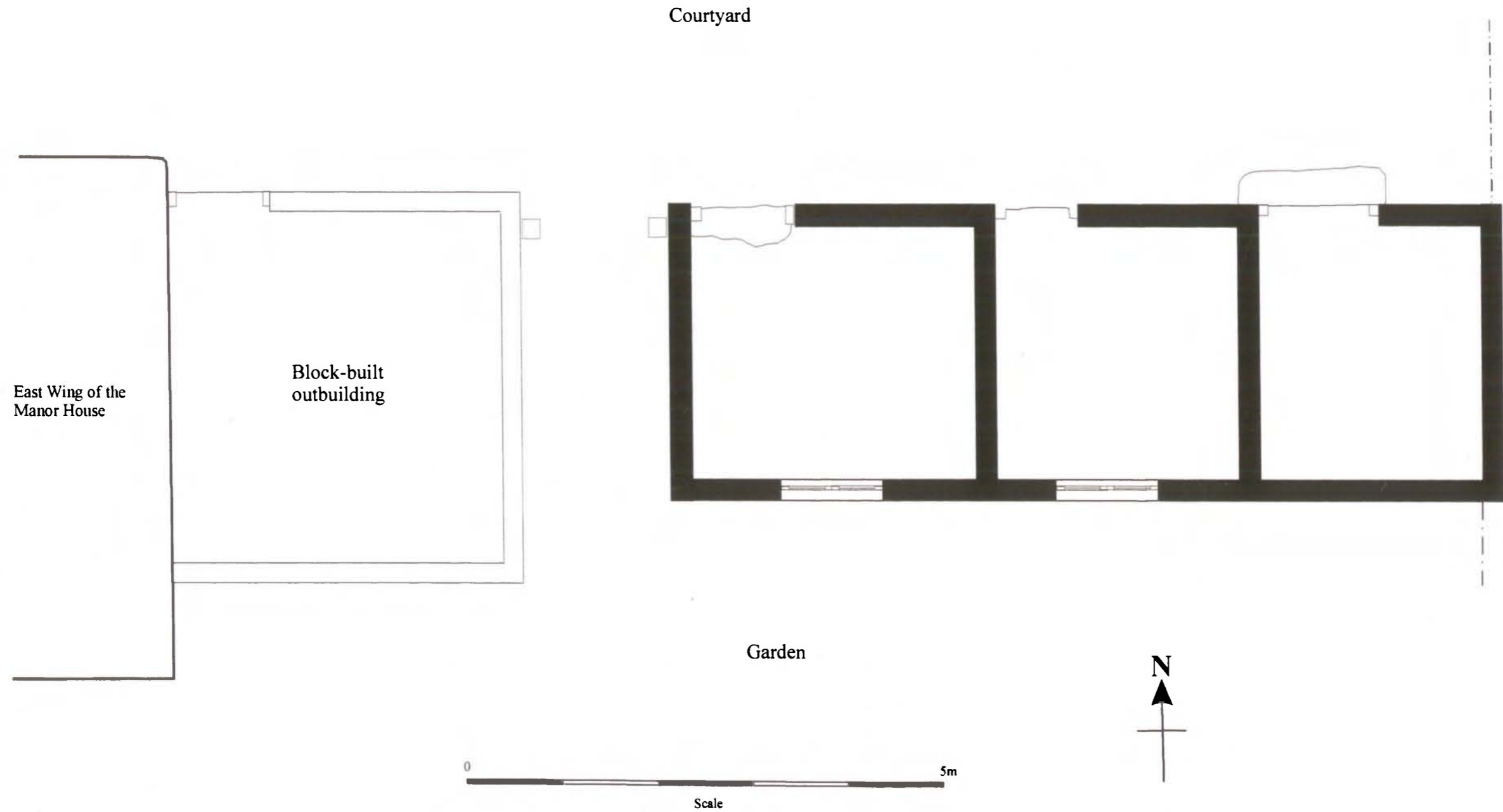


Figure 4: Extract from the 1910 Land Tax surveyors' working plan, hand drawn on a copy of the 1905 revision 25" Ordnance Survey map. Not to scale.



**Figure 5:** Plan of the outbuildings to the east of the Manor House. Scale 1:50. The building which is the subject of this report is shown solid.



## 6.0 Primary Photographic Fabric Record

### General Site Arrangement

The structure which is the subject of this Building Survey was located to the east of the Manor House; on the building line of the east wing of the Manor House, but separated from it by a path linking the yard to the garden. A small building constructed against the east wall of the Manor House occupied the intervening space – this was a single-storey concrete block-built structure with a single-pitched roof of corrugated asbestos cement sheeting, with a single north-facing door.

These buildings, with the east wing of the house, including a brick-built extension to the original east wing, formed the south side of a yard area, separating the house from its farm buildings to the north.

A vegetable garden, with a greenhouse in its northeastern corner, occupied the area to the south of the building. The east gable formed part of the boundary of the property with a large paddock to the east.





**Site Setting**

On the first edition OS map of 1886, the north side of Main Street was occupied by several street-front properties on large separate plots, whereas the south side had several farms, and a public house, generally set back from the street front. The church and vicarage were located on the east side of the settlement and even further to the south, with a separate access linking them to Main Street. Much of the modern street frontage is occupied by single-storey dwellings set to the rear of their plots. The Manor House was located on the south side of Main Street, set back from the road, with its associated farm buildings occupying the intervening area. The farm buildings have now been converted into dwellings, and are in separate ownership. The Manor House has an uninterrupted view of the church, across an open field.

The Manor House is listed Grade II as *'Early C18 with minor C19 alterations. Coursed rubble and brick with ashlar dressings. Plain tile roof with 2 brick gable stacks, ashlar coped gables with kneelers. Ashlar first floor band and quoins. 2 storey, 3 bay. Brick front wall has central doorway with C19 half glazed door with tall overlight flanked by single C19 wooden cross casements with ashlar lintels, above 3 similar windows with segment heads. Deep cat-slide roof to rear.'* (English Heritage, at [www.imagesofengland.org.uk](http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk), IoE no. 192426)





**Exterior**

The outbuilding that is the subject of this survey was rectangular in plan, on an east-west alignment, and constructed of a mixture of brick and concrete blocks.

It had a pitched roof, of pantiles with half-round ridge tiles, over roofing felt.

**North Elevation**

On the north side, the eastern third of the building was constructed of brick in 3-course English Garden Wall Bond (EGW) – having three courses of stretchers to each course of headers (brick size:  $8\frac{5}{8}$  - 9" x  $4\frac{1}{4}$ " x  $2\frac{3}{8}$  -  $2\frac{1}{2}$ ", 3 courses =  $8\frac{1}{2}$ "). The brick coursing was irregular in two ways: the number of stretcher courses to header courses was not always three, and the header courses were often not continuous, sometimes comprising pairs of headers alternating with pairs of stretchers.

The western two-thirds of the north elevation were constructed of concrete blocks (block size:  $17\frac{3}{4}$ " x  $8\frac{3}{4}$ " x  $8\frac{1}{2}$ ", 3 courses =  $27\frac{1}{4}$ "), in stretcher bond. This had a modern brick foundation, of which one course was visible, and the space between the blockwork and the wall plate was made up with brick: a single stretcher course in the central panel and two header courses on the west side. Three door openings were present here, approximately evenly spaced; they differed in size, with the eastern opening wider than the others. The eastern and western door openings had doors; no door or doorframe was present in the central opening. All three openings had a timber lintel, let in immediately below the wall-plate.



The height of the eaves on the north side was between 1.45m and 1.52m.

The western gable was constructed of the same concrete blocks as the north side with a modern cement verge. All of the blockwork on the north and west sides of the building was painted cream.





### South Elevation

The south elevation of the building was of the same two building phases as the north. The eastern part of this wall was constructed of the same 9" thick brickwork as that discussed above on the north side, in a similar irregular 3-course EGW bond. This part of the south wall had an eaves cornice comprising a single course of projecting stretchers. The western part of this wall was of modern concrete blocks, the same as those discussed above, here unpainted. The two building phases met below the eastern window, where the blocks were roughly keyed into the brickwork, using 3" bricks and brick fragments to make up for the irregularities in the coursing (see also plate 40). The windows clearly belong to the more modern building phase.

### East Elevation

The eastern gable wall was constructed in brick, and was of the earlier building phase. No joints were present within the brick-built phase of the building, making all of this phase contiguous. It has, however, been re-pointed with a cement mortar, and a date - 1971- inscribed into the cement of the east gable verge appears to indicate when the roof was re-covered, if not the date of the block-built alterations to the building.



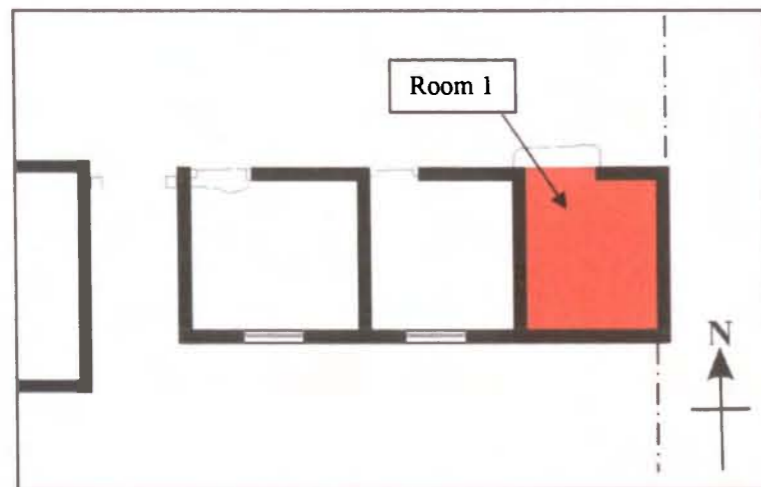
**Interior**

The building was divided into three rooms by concrete block partitions. These partitions clearly acted to produce stalls or loose boxes for livestock. They were of five courses of concrete blocks, 43" in height, with a rounded cement coping. Above the partition between Rooms 1 and 2, three 4½" x 1½" horizontal timbers continued the partition to ceiling height. The building was in use as a 'garden store' at the time of the survey, and the description of the interior is here divided into the same rooms, as its most recent use dictated.

**Room 1**

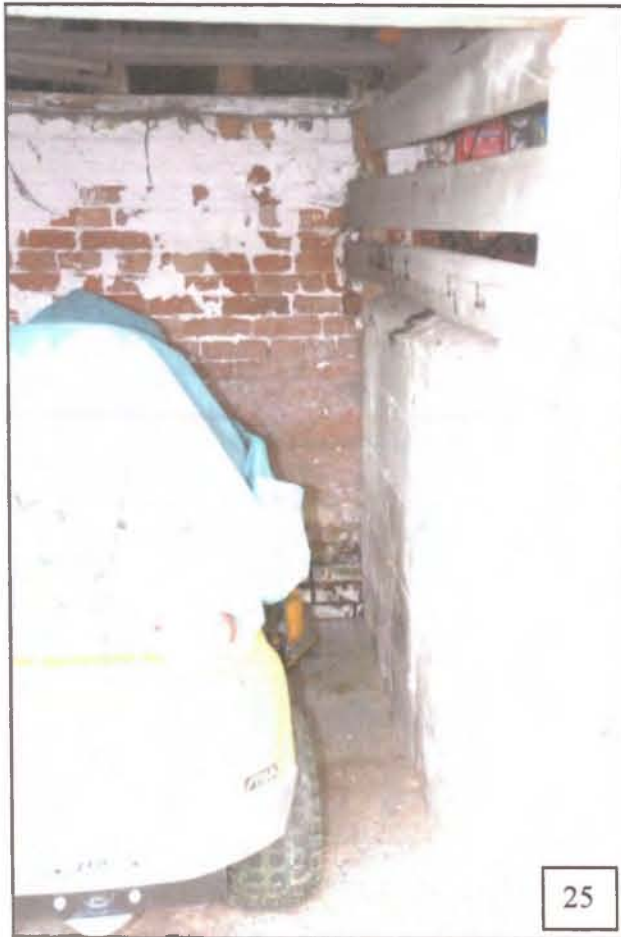
Apart from the concrete block western partition, the other walls of Room 1 walls were of 9" thick brickwork, reflecting the bond seen outside. All of the walls were whitewashed, the lower 4ft of which was heavily worn.

From four courses above the wall plate, the east gable wall was of 4½" thick brickwork, in stretcher bond. A brick was left out (or removed) at the apex of the gable for ventilation.



The roof was of collar rafter construction: the wall plates and collars were all of pit-sawn half or quarter-roundwood lengths; the tie-beams were mostly roundwood, one or two of which were axe-trimmed, probably when felled. The rafters were of pit-sawn ½ or ¼ -roundwood, 2½" - 5" in size, while the heavier timbers were 5-6" in size. The wall plates were employed flat side up. The roof had clenched through purlins, of a similar size, and these overlapped, rather than being jointed. At the apex of the roof, a ridgeboard ran the length of the building, which was again converted from roundwood, sawn on two sides to make a plank. There were five later ridge collars, of sawn 5" planks.





The floor of Room 1 was of poured concrete: this was heavily worn in places, and 2½" in thickness. A more modern concrete ramp led from the door.

The door opening itself has clearly been broken through: it seems likely that the building was open-fronted originally. The brick-built part of the structure had a clear, straight vertical joint with the block-built part, 9" to the west of the present opening.

The door of was of framed, ledged and diagonally braced (chamfered timbers) 5½" tongue and grooved plank construction. This was probably a re-used lower stable door, now re-hung approximately 1ft off the ground.



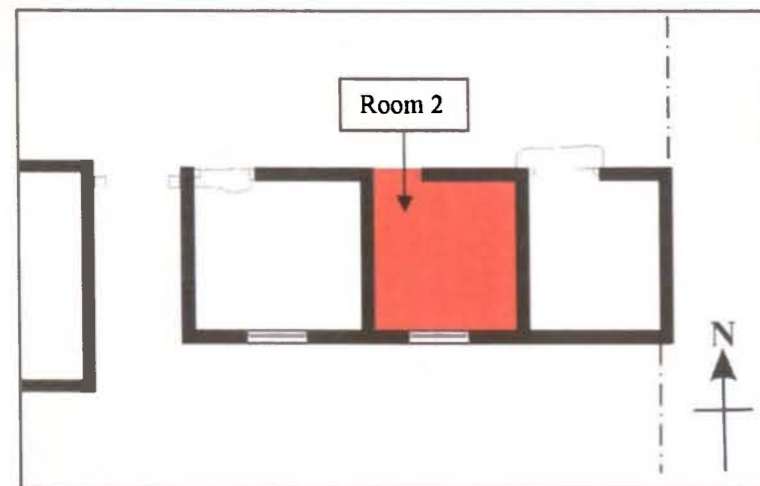
**Room 2**

Room 2 was generally of concrete block construction. In the south wall, the brickwork changed to blocks approximately half-way below the window.

The concrete-block partition wall dividing this room from Room 3 on the west side was similar to that on the east side, dividing it from Room 1 (see Room 1), but no timber partition was present above it. All of the block-built walls here were whitewashed. The remains of modern Dexion shelving were present on the north wall, along with a modern re-used kitchen surface used as a bench on the east side, attesting to the building's most recent use as a garden store.

The roof, as described in Room 1, continued through this room and was of exactly similar construction to Room 1. A completely roundwood 6" diameter tie-beam was present on the east side, just west of the timber partition from Room 1.

The floor was of poured concrete throughout, 2½" in thickness.



This room had no exterior door, and even a frame was no longer present in the opening in the block-built north wall. However, rectangular gaps at each side of the concrete threshold to this room attest to a doorframe having been present when the floor was poured.

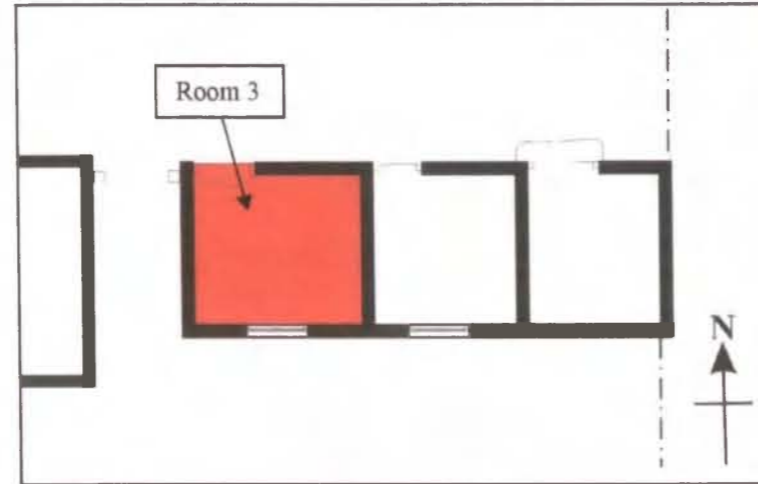
A window of two top-hung casements was present in a 43" wide and 16" high opening in the south wall, let in immediately below the wall plate. The casements had 2½" beaded-edged frames, which were clearly reused, and had been turned through 90° from their original orientation when they were positioned. They were hung from a timber lintel, but the timber 'sill' simply acted as a stop on the inside: on the exterior, a cement sill was present, sloping to the exterior face.



**Room 3**

The walls of Room 3 were constructed entirely of concrete blocks in stretcher bond. The north wall had two courses of brick headers making up the space between the blocks and wall plate (brick size: 9" x 4½" x 3"). As in the other rooms, all of the walls were whitewashed.

The roof, of identical construction to that described previously, continued here; however, it is uncertain if the roof has been reconstructed at this end. The west (block-built) gable had 4 ½" x 3" supports for the shortened purlins, in modern circular-sawn timber, and the west tie-beam was also of circular-sawn wood. A roundwood tie-beam was present just inside the east partition wall.



The floor was of poured concrete throughout, 2 ½" in thickness. The floor was ramped down inside doorway – this being a more recent patch, with an inscription – 'WILLIAM + Freddie'.

The window in the south wall was virtually identical to that of Room 2, but 1" narrower.

The door of Room 3 was a 3-ledged (chamfered timbers), 5" beaded tongue and grooved plank lower stable door. Its frame was of 4 ½" x 3" chamfered timber. The post on the east side of the doorframe appears have been re-used; it had three 3 ½" x 1 ¾" mortices in its upper half.



**Interpretation**

The structure itself is clearly of two phases – approximately a third of the structure, as it now stands, is built of brick, which constitutes the earlier phase of the building. The timber structure of the roof also appears mostly original. This represents the eastern part of a building shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1886, attached to the east wing of the house.

The western two-thirds of the building are completely constructed in concrete block, and the roof has been re-covered – this involved at least the removal of the original pantiles, to allow roofing felt to be added below them, and may have entailed the re-assembly of the western part of the timber structure of the roof. A date inscribed in the eastern gable verge attributes this alteration to 1971.

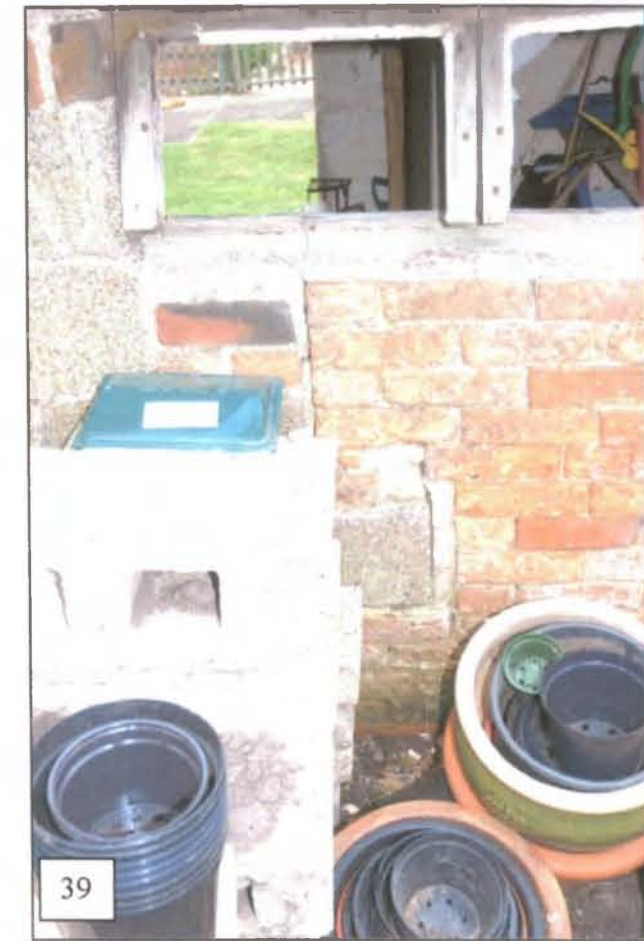


Dating the original construction of this building therefore presents several problems.

The 1971 alterations have shortened the building considerably and the construction of a new building between this and the house has removed any relationship which may have been visible here.

The construction materials and bonding employed in the construction of this building differ from that of any part of the Manor House itself, and, in fact, are not comparable with any of the other brick structures now extant on the site.

Little of the original fabric of the farm buildings survives, as their conversion into separate dwellings has meant that they have been mostly demolished and rebuilt in reclaimed materials. The farm building closest to this one has also been demolished; its location is now only marked by its (probably later) concrete floor, which survives as part of the surface of the courtyard area to the north of the east wing of the house (plate 42). The southern part of the western range of the farm buildings does survive (also visible on plate 42), but cartographic evidence has shown that this was constructed between 1886 and 1904. The barn further to the west (opposite the north gable of the house) appears on the first edition OS map, but the bricks from which it is constructed most closely resemble those employed in the west elevation of the house, suggesting that it belongs to an earlier phase of the farm buildings.





## 7.0 Discussion and Conclusions

Documentary research into the Manor House, Norton Disney attests to its having been built in 1625 by William Disney, as a new family seat to replace a nearby moated structure, no longer extant, which the family had occupied from the reign of Henry III.

A seventeenth century date for the construction of a house on this site is attested by a date stone in the north gable of the present structure. However, the house appears to be of 18<sup>th</sup> century construction, judging by the formal western elevation, and by its listing description. A later date for the present building is also supported by Arthur Mee who states '*Nothing of their [the Disneys'] castle remains... or of the manor house built from its ruins in the 17<sup>th</sup> century*' (Mee, 1970, p. 291). The date stone may well have been rescued and placed in its present location during an eighteenth century remodelling of the house: it has been placed on the north side of the structure (protected from the sun and prevailing wind); it appears more worn than the surrounding masonry, and has been recessed into it.

The outbuilding which is the subject of this survey has been heavily altered and rebuilt, and now retains little of its original fabric. The earliest cartographic source, the 6" OS map of 1886, shows this building as already in existence, attached to the east wing of the house.

Comparisons with the surviving original fabric of this structure show no correlation between this and the extant building phases of the house, or the surviving fabric of the farm buildings.

It seems likely, because of its position, that this building originally served the house as an outbuilding, most likely as a storage structure. The farm buildings to the north occupy a lower terrace that separates them, at least by a change in level, from the domestic range. It is possible that it served as a stable for domestic ponies (the height of the eaves seems too low for larger animals), although no direct evidence survives to support this conjecture.

The most recent alterations, which appear to date to 1971, have converted it into a free-standing structure functioning as animal accommodation (possibly as a stable), divorced from the house to which it was originally attached.

## 8.0 Archive

A copy of this report will be placed with the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record, a publicly accessible resource, and will form a long-term record of the building's history. The archive will be placed with the Lincoln City and County Museums Service at The Collection, Lincoln.

The archive will comprise the following:

2no Monochrome films, totalling 49 exposures  
1 file of digital images, totalling 49 images  
with accompanying index sheets and plans  
showing the position and direction of photos

1no General Account Sheets

2no Brickwork Recording Forms  
3no Room-Based Recording Forms  
1no A3 Drawing sheet comprising a drawn  
plan with accompanying index sheet

This Report

## 9.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank Heronswood Design Ltd. for this commission and Mr John Walker for his co-operation during the photographic survey.

## 10.0 References

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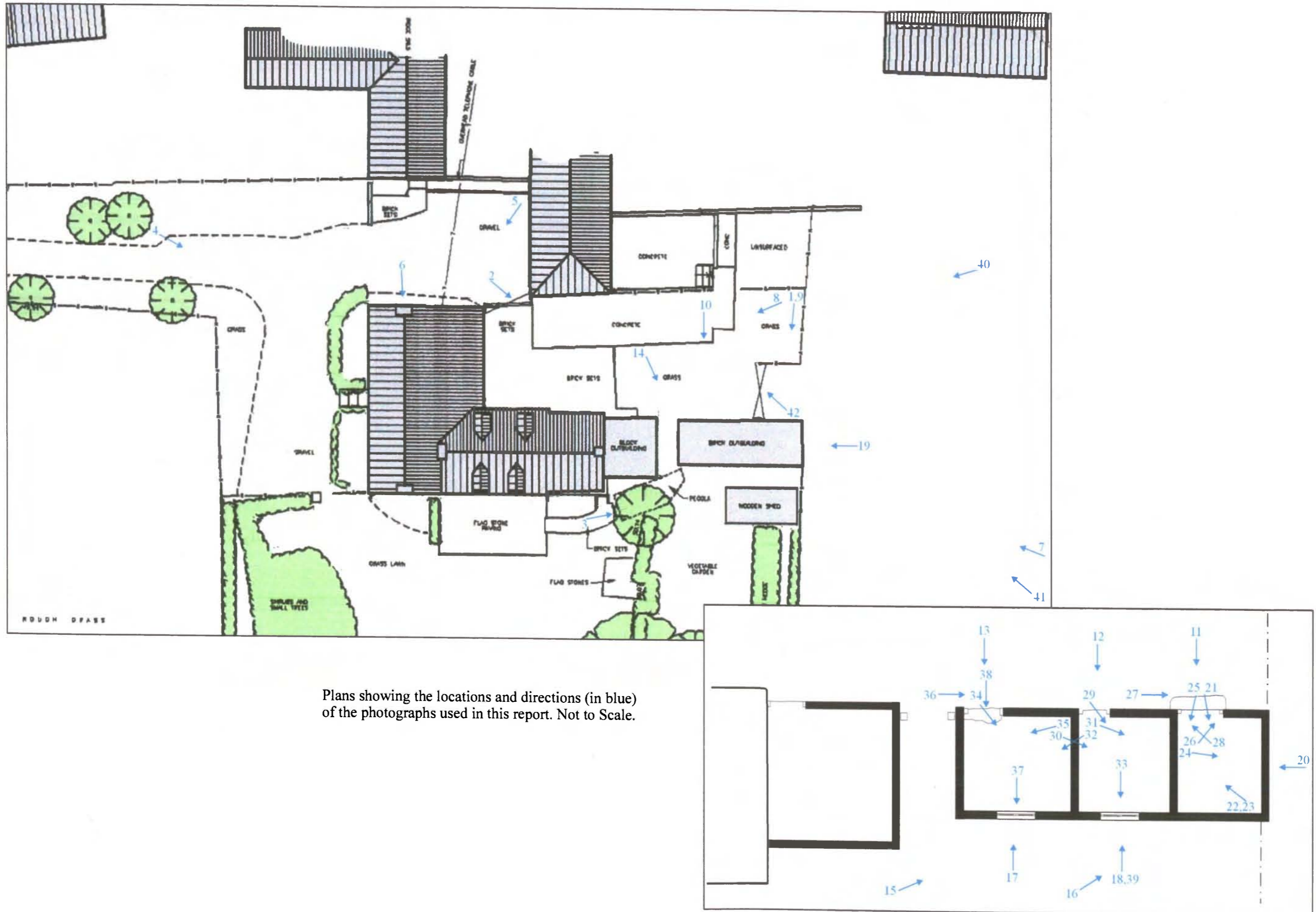
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Appendix 1: Location of Photographs



Plans showing the locations and directions (in blue) of the photographs used in this report. Not to Scale.



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**Front Cover:** The outbuilding at the Manor House, Norton Disney, the subject of this report, looking south.

**Back Cover:** The Manor House itself, looking east.