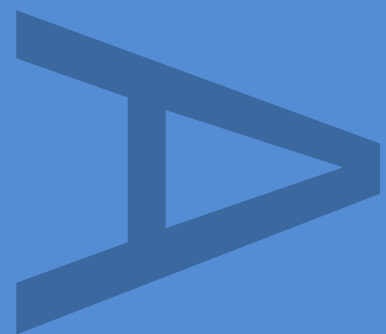


**HISTORIC BUILDING
RECORDING OF
SCOCLES MANOR COURT,
SCOCLES ROAD,
MINSTER-ON-SEA,
KENT
ME12 3RU**

SITE CODE: KSCM16

PCA REPORT NO. R12427

APRIL 2016



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

**Historic Building Recording of Scocles Manor Court, Scocles Road, Minster-On-Sea,
Kent ME12 3RU**

Report by Adam Garwood and Guy Thompson

Site Code: KSCM16

Project Manager: Charlotte Matthews

Client: Indo-Celtic Ltd

Central Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference: TQ 95015 71958

Contractor:

**Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Unit 54, Brockley Cross Business Centre
96 Endwell Road, Brockley
London SE4 2PD**

Tel: 020 7732 3925

Fax: 020 7732 7896

Email: cmatthews@pre-construct.com

Web: www.pre-construct.com

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PCA Report No. R12427

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

SCOCLES MANOR COURT,
SCOCLES ROAD,
MINSTER-ON-SEA,
KENT
ME12 3RU

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited	
Project Number	K4439
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	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Adam Garwood		04/04/16
Graphics Prepared by:	Hayley Baxter		04/04/16
Graphics Checked by:	Josephine Brown	<i>Josephine Brown</i>	04/04/16
Project Manager Sign-off:	Charlotte Matthews	<i>Charlotte Matthews</i>	04/04/16

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Unit 54
Brockley Cross Business Centre
96 Endwell Road
London
SE4 2PD

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1 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Indo-Celtic Ltd to undertake historic building recording before and during alterations to the Grade II Listed Scocles Manor Court, Scocles Road, Minster-on-Sea, Kent. The listing description for this former farmhouse reads: 'Early C18. 2 storeys and attic in red brick with hipped tile roof with 2 hipped dormers with hung sashes'. The recording was undertaken in response to a planning condition for 'alterations and refurbishment of Scocles Court'.
- 1.2 The building recording and documentary research established that the history of this former farmhouse can be traced back to the 16th century. In 1538 Henry VIII granted the dissolved monastery of St Sexburga and the manor of Minster to Sir Thomas Cheney. Over the course of the next two decades Cheney acquired a number of nearby manors, including the manor of Scocles. Following the death of Sir Thomas Cheney, his son Henry, disposed of his Kentish estates and in 1576, conveyed "the scite of the Mannor of Scockles and Lands in Minster" to Robert and William Allen. A c.1572 map of the Isle of Sheppey depicts the farmhouse at "Scokells" with (stylistically) a pitched roof and chimneystack at the rear of the property.
- 1.3 The manor of Scocles appears to have remained in the possession of the Allen family until the early 17th century. In 1642 the estate was one of a number of properties acquired by the Governors of the Chest for sick and maimed seamen at Chatham in order to supplement the income of the charity. The Governors continued the practice of letting the estate to tenants. The estate was leased to Henry Garrett from 1702. As a condition of his lease, Garrett covenanted "to find Workmanship for the repairing of the Farm", suggesting that he agreed to rebuild the farmhouse. Given that the house is dated on stylistic grounds to the early 18th century, it is likely that the present Scocles Court Manor was rebuilt by Garrett during the period 1702-1714.
- 1.4 The external brickwork of the house is early 18th century, however a number of architectural features hint at an earlier date. The plan form of half of the house resembles a late 16th/17th century two cell lobby entry plan, with a central stack, a newel stair to the rear with a lobby entry. The present first floor structure in this part of the house is also late 16th/17th century in appearance. It is possible that the building was entirely rebuilt in the early 18th century and its use as a rural farmhouse and its relative isolation on Sheppey may have had a bearing on its architecture with its archaic features. Alternatively, the early 18th century brickwork in its external elevations possibly encases the remains of a late 16th/17th century lobby entry building.
- 1.5 It is clear that the early 18th century rebuilding was considerable and to the extent that most of the historic fabric of the building (as it stands today) dates to this rebuilding event. These works involved the complete rebuilding of the main elevations in Flemish brickwork and the addition of a new (the present) 'hipped' roof structure. It was built as a joggled purlin roof, a type which becomes more widely used during the 17th and 18th centuries, particularly as its strong construction allows the roof space to be utilised as attic rooms. This was the case at Scocles, which incorporated attic rooms, lit by dormer windows (in their present locations) and heated by a single fireplace, from the outset.
- 1.6 Whilst almost all of the historic plasterwork to the walls and ceilings has been lost along with details of cornices, some historic plaster, dado rails and skirting boards did remain. They appear to be late 18th/early 19th century in date. Despite the removal of historic decoration, notable historic fittings and fixtures did remain with a particularly good survival of early doors many still retaining their early wrought iron strap hinges.
- 1.7 The house remained in the possession of the Governors of the Chest through the 18th and into the 19th century. In 1842, it was owned by Colonel William Baldock and tenanted by William Coveney, a farm bailiff and sheep farmer. It remained in use as a farm during the 19th and early 20th century. Between the mid-1930s and the early 1960s, Scocles Farm (farm buildings to the south) and Scocles Court became two separate properties and the latter was used as a private house.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

2.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (hereafter PCA) was commissioned by Indo-Celtic Ltd to undertake a programme of historic building recording prior to and during proposed alterations and renovation of the Grade II Listed Scocles Manor Court, Scocles Road, Minster-on-Sea, Kent (**Figures 1 and 2**). The buildings at Scocles Manor Court do not lie within a conservation area.

2.1.2 The statutory description for Scocles Manor Court, a former farmhouse reads:

'Early C18. 2 storeys and attic in red brick with hipped tile roof with 2 hipped dormers with hung sashes and glazing bars. 3 windows, the centre blocked, hung sashes with glazing bars. 2 windows to ground floor. Imported Roman Ionic columned porch with cornice but no entablature. Door of 6 panels, 2 glazed. Mounting block adjoining the garden wall'.

2.1.3 The historic building recording was undertaken at the request of Simon Mason, Principal Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council, in connection with conditions attached to Listed Building Consent (15/508296/LBC) and Planning Permission (15/508295/FUL) for 'alterations and refurbishment of 'Scocles Court'. The works to include the removal of the non-original column porch, the reconstruction of the existing chimneystack, the refurbishment of the existing external windows and doors, and the addition of one dormer window, together with associated minor works. Repairs to the existing log store and boiler room roof'.

2.1.4 Planning condition (6) attached to planning permission 15/508295/FUL reads:

'No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded and to ensure that such matters are agreed prior to the commencement of development'

2.2 Site Location and Description

2.2.1 Scocles Manor Court (formerly the farmhouse to Scocles Farm) historically lay in a relatively isolated rural location at a distance to the south of the historic core of Minster-on-Sea and adjacent (west) of Scocles Road. Presently the site lies on the edge of a large modern housing development, which encroaches upon it and the adjoining derelict farm buildings of Scocles Farm, on three sides. The former farmhouse (Scocles Manor Court), a small outbuilding, historically used as a farm building, and a modern stable building, lie within the site boundary (shown in red in **Figure 2**). They are situated to the south of a large disused grazing paddock (shown in blue), which has been granted planning permission for 14 new dwellings (ref: SW/12/11720). The house also lies immediately south-west of large pond feature, excavated alongside the Scocles Road boundary. The house is set back from the Scocles Road frontage and approached via a formal driveway.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 National legislation and guidance relating to the protection of historic buildings and structures within planning regulations is defined by the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. In addition, local planning authorities are responsible for the protection of the historic environment within the planning system and policies for the historic environment are included in relevant regional and local plans.

3.2 Legislation and Planning Guidance

3.2.1 Statutory protection for historically important buildings and structures is derived from the Planning (Listed and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. Guidance on the approach of the planning authorities to development and historic buildings, conservation areas, historic parks and gardens and other elements of the historic environment is provided by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which was adopted on 27 March 2012.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Aims and Objectives

4.1.1 The aim of the historic building recording was to produce a permanent record of the historic fabric proposed for removal or alteration, in its present condition prior to and during the proposed works. The results of this survey work will form part of an ordered archive and report that will mitigate the loss, through 'preservation by record' of historic fabric, which may be affected by the proposed scheme.

4.2 On-Site Recording

4.2.1 The historic building survey was carried out on 8th and 10th March 2016 by an historic buildings archaeologist (the author). Scaled drawings provided by the Client were used as base drawings to which historic detail was added. A photographic survey including high quality digital images was undertaken recording the buildings setting, external elevations, interior decorative treatments and historic fabric. A selection of these photographs have been included in this report as **Plates 1 to 50** and **Figures 2, 10 to 13** show the location and direction of the plates.

4.2.2 The historic building recording was undertaken in accordance with an English Heritage Level 3 survey as set out in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (English Heritage, 2006).

4.3 Project Archive

4.3.1 A full and ordered archive including any written, drawn, survey and photographic records will be completed in accordance with guidelines defined in ClfA (2014); Taylor and Brown (2009) and UKIC and ADS guidelines for the preparation of archaeological archives for long term storage. The archive will be provisionally stored in Pre-Construct Archaeology's London Office in Brockley before being transferred to the Kent History and Library Centre.

4.4 Guidance

4.4.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with standards set out in:

- ClfA (2014) *Standards and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures*
- English Heritage (now Historic England) (2005) *The Presentation of Historic Building Survey in CAD*
- English Heritage (now Historic England) (2006) *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice*

5 HISTORIC BACKGROUND

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 There is very little published material regarding the history of Scocles Court, other than a brief reference in Edward Hasted's *History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent*, which states that at the time of writing (1798) "lands...called Scockles, containing by estimation three hundred and forty acres" were in the possession of the Governors of the Chest for sick and maimed seamen at Chatham (Hasted, 1798: 216-229). Otherwise known as the Chatham Chest, this institution was a charitable fund established in 1590 in order to provide pensions to disabled or wounded sailors and dockyard workers or their widows (Cock & Roger, 2008: 219). The scheme was financed by monthly contributions of 6d deducted from members' pay, although from the late 17th century it became increasingly reliant upon central government for funding. During the first half century or so of its existence the Chest invested a proportion of its income in property, acquiring a number of estates in Kent and Essex, which were farmed out to tenants. Though originally based at Chatham, the Chest was eventually merged with Greenwich Hospital in the early 19th century. Fortunately a significant proportion of the records of the Chatham Chest survived the merger, enabling the history of Scocles Court to be reconstructed for the period after the mid-1540s.

5.2 The history of Scocles Manor, c.1545-c.1614

5.2.1 In 1538 Henry VIII granted the site of the dissolved monastery of St Sexburga and the manor of Minster to Sir Thomas Cheney (c.1482-1558), Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports and Treasurer of the Household (Hasted, 1798: 216-229). As well as his courtly connections, Cheney was a local man, the son of William Cheney of Shurland Hall, Eastchurch, Constable of Queenborough Castle, who had previously inherited his father's estates (History of Parliament Online, URL:<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/cheyne-sir-thomas-148287-1558>). Over the course of the next two decades Cheney set about consolidating his estates in Sheppey, acquiring a number of nearby manors including Dandele (1550), Newhall alias Borstal (1554) and Calehill (1556). In 1547 William Berry/Bury, then lord of the manor of Calehill, sold an estate comprising lands in Eastchurch and Minster to Cheney (TNA ADM 82/129). Documentary evidence suggests that the manor of Scocles was either included in the latter sale or was conveyed with Calehill to Cheney in 1556.

5.2.2 Following the death of Sir Thomas Cheney in December 1558 his Kentish estates descended to his only son Henry (1540-1587), who subsequently inherited his mother's estates in Bedfordshire on her death in 1562 (History of Parliament Online, URL: <http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/cheyney-%28cheyne%29-henry-1540-87>). In contrast to his father, who had assiduously built up his estates over several decades, Henry was profligate with his inheritance, which he used to fund a lavish lifestyle and the cost of building a mansion at Toddington, Bedfordshire, at which he entertained Elizabeth I and her court on two occasions. Henry was a relentless social climber, acquiring a knighthood shortly after the Queen's first visit to Toddington in 1563 and a peerage after her second in 1576, when he was created Lord Cheney of Toddington. The cost of Henry's extravagance was met by the sale of his father's Kentish estates, which started in 1564. Two years later he alienated part of his estate in Minster to Robert and William Allen (TNA ADM 82/129). In 1576 Lord Cheney conveyed "the scite of the Mannor of Scockles and Lands in Minster" to Robert and William Allen for £1,300 (*ibid*).

5.2.3 Around the same time that Cheney sold Scocles to the Allens, he exchanged the fee of the manor of Calehill with Queen Elizabeth (Hasted, 1798: *ibid*). The fee remained in the possession of the Crown until 1605, when James I granted both it and the manor of Middleton, also known as Milton near Sittingbourne, to Philip Herbert, subsequently Lord Herbert of Shurland and Earl of Montgomery. A copy of a court roll dated 1639 states that Scocles was believed to have been held of the manor of Milton, suggesting that its title may have descended with Calehill (TNA ADM 82/129).

5.2.4 A nautical map of the Isle of Sheppey produced during the reign of Elizabeth I contains a stylised depiction of Scocles as it appeared in the early 1570s (TNA MPF 1/240; **Figure 3**). The property was identified as “Scokells L: Ch:” the latter almost certainly being a reference to its then owner, Lord Cheney. The map depicted the property as a farmhouse, with (stylistically) a pitched roof and chimneystack at the rear of the property.

5.2.5 The manor of Scocles appears to have remained in the possession of the Allen family until the early 17th century. In 1590 William Allen released all of his right to his lands in Minster to Robert, who settled the property upon his feoffee Nicholas Allen in July 1606 (TNA ADM 82/129). According to the records of the Governors of the Chest, probate was granted on Robert Allen’s will in 1614, although no trace of the latter document could be found at The National Archives. Similarly no trace of a will belonging to Nicholas Allen could be found, and it is possible that the latter was a minor at the time of Robert Allen’s death.

5.3 The history of Scocles Manor, c.1614-c.1713

5.3.1 Following the death of Robert Allen the estate appears to have ended up in the hands of the Court of Wards and Liveries, the body that took on the responsibility for orphaned heirs in cases where their fathers had been tenants-in-chief of the Crown. The sale of wardships was a lucrative resource for the Crown, which usually sold them to the highest bidder. In 1614 a special livery was granted to Ralph Livesey for lands in Minster, which appear to have included the manor of Scocles (*ibid*). Three years later the same court issued a decree on the part of Ralph Livesey relating to lands in Minster. It is likely that Livesey was a relative, possibly a brother, of Gabriel Livesey, of Hollingbourne, who acquired the neighbouring manor of Minster in 1618 (Hasted, 1798: *ibid*). In 1641 a general livery was granted to Allen Livesey (presumably the heir of Ralph Livesey) of “the Mannor of Scockles and Lands in Minster” (TNA ADM 82/129). Around the same time, Livesey and John Orwell assigned an annuity out of the estate worth £80 per annum to Philip Ward and Richard Sommer in trust for Allen Livesey.

5.3.2 On 20th January 1642 Orwell and Livesey sold the manor of Scockles to the Governors of the Chest at Chatham, on the condition that the latter set aside £300 for the payment of annuities out of the estate (*ibid*). The estate was one of a number of properties acquired by the Governors in order to supplement the income of the charity, whose assets also included properties in the Kent parishes of Chisleth, St Mary’s Hoo, East Wickham and Chatham, as well as in the Essex parish of Stamford le Hope (Journal of the House of Lords Vol. 7: 588-590).

5.3.3 The Governors continued the practice of letting the estate to tenants; in 1645 it was leased to a certain Ralph Jefferyes, who paid £82 per annum for the use of the manor house, outhouses and 402 acres (*ibid*). In 1687 the estate was leased to David Turner for 21 years at £100 per annum (TNA ADM 82/129). The latter lease appears to have been revoked or surrendered three years later, when a new lease was issued to John Knowles and William Terris for £112 per annum. At the expiration of the latter lease the estate was leased to Henry Garrett for eleven years from Michaelmas 1702 at £100 per annum. As a condition of his lease, Garrett covenanted “to find Workmanship for the repairing of the Farm”, suggesting that he agreed to rebuild the farmhouse, which may have been the same building shown on the 1572 map (**Figure 3**). Given that the Grade II Listed house has been dated on stylistic grounds to the early 18th century (see listing description), it is likely that the present Scocles Court Manor was rebuilt by Garrett during the period 1702-1714.

5.4 Scocles Farm during the 18th and 19th centuries

5.4.1 The manor of Scocles remained in the possession of the Chatham Chest throughout the 18th century, although the names of the various leaseholders during that period have not been ascertained (Hasted, 1798: *ibid*). It is possible that the estate was sold following the merger of the Chatham and Greenwich hospitals during the period 1803-1814, although the precise date of its disposal is uncertain. The farm is shown on the 1816 Ordnance Survey First Series map where it is labelled ‘Cockles E’ (**Figure 4**).

5.4.2 Although the antiquary Edward Hasted estimated that the estate contained 340 acres in 1798, the Minster tithe apportionment of 1842 stated that it encompassed 404 acres, almost exactly the same area that was recorded in 1645 (TNA IR 29/17/253). In 1842 the estate was in the possession of Colonel William Baldock, who did not reside at the property. The farmhouse was instead occupied by William Coveney, the farm bailiff, a 38 year-old native of Whitstable who shared the property with his wife Clara and a number of domestic servants (TNA HO 107/474/16/11/6: 4; TNA HO 107/1628/320: 13). The tithe apportionment revealed that the Coveney family cultivated crops and raised livestock (sheep) on the farm, while a census return of 1861 indicated that the nearby cottages (Scocles Cottages) were inhabited by a mixture of carters, shepherds and agricultural labourers, all of whom presumably worked on the farm (TNA RG 9/530/38: 28). The tithe map of 1842 showed the relationship between Scocles manor house and the cottages and outbuildings (**Figure 5**). The farm is labelled 'Scockles Farm' on the 1869 Ordnance Survey map and 'Scocles Farm' on the 1898 Ordnance Survey map (**Figures 6 and 7**).

5.4.3 The Coveney family continued to reside at the property until the 1860s, although they had moved to an address in Minster High Street by 1871, by which date William was in his late 60s (Melville's Kent Directory, 1858: 233; TNA RG 9/530/38: 28; TNA RG 10/985/97: 26). By the early 1880s Scocles Farm was in the occupation of Edward Goodwin, a 35 year-old native of Warden in Kent who lived at the property with his wife Jemima, the couple's four young children and four domestic servants (TNA RG 11/978/28: 5). The farm remained in the possession of the Baldock family for whom Goodwin served as farm bailiff (Kelly's Kent Directory, 1882: 489). The Goodwin family were living and working at Scocles farm in the early 1890s, by which date they had eight children (TNA RG 12/720/27: 5).

5.5 Scocles Farm and Scocles Court Manor during the 20th century

5.5.1 Edward and Jemima Goodwin were still at Scocles at the turn of the 20th century, when they shared the farmhouse with five of their children and two domestic servants (TNA RG 13/814/6: 4). A directory of 1902 records that the nearby Scocles Cottages were in the respective occupations of Alfred Curtis, Frederick Jordan, James Batty, Edward Atkinson and William Philpott (Parsons' Directory, 1902: 133).

5.5.2 The 1906 Ordnance Survey map showed the addition of a number of outbuildings to the farm since 1898 (**Figures 7 and 8**). At some point in the ten years after 1901 the Goodwin family moved to Danley Farm, also in Minster, where they were living in 1911 (TNA RG 14/4452/43). By the latter date Scocles was in the occupation of the 60 year-old William Alexander, his wife Emily and the couple's two adult daughters (TNA RG 14/4451/82). A directory records that William Alexander was still living and working at Scocles farm two years later (Kelly's Kent, Surrey & Sussex Directory, 1913: 647).

5.5.3 Cartographic evidence suggests that at some point between 1933 and the 1964 Scocles Farm and Scocles Court became two separate properties (**Figures 9 and 10**). A number of reminiscences about life at Scocles Court during the 1950s posted on the 'Minster and Halfway' website (URL: <http://www.pbase.com/luckytrev/minster>) indicate that the property was then in the possession of Sidney Hale and his wife Clara. The couple's daughter Angela Catherine (b. 01/1947) subsequently married Geoffrey Peter Fray (born 09/1946) with whom she shared the property formerly belonging to her parents. Geoffrey, who described his trade as a machine fitter, established a crane hire company called Mantid Ltd in December 1991 with his wife as co-director. The business traded from Scocles Court Manor ME12 3RU until Angela Hale retired in 2013 ([https://companycheck.co.uk/director/901862939/MR-GEOFFREY-PETER-FRAY/summary](https://companycheck.co.uk/director/901862939/MR-GEOFFREY-PETER-FRAY/)).

6 HISTORIC BUILDING SURVEY

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 The following text provides objective descriptions about the historic structures and fabric recorded at the time of the survey. Interpretation of function and phasing is based on the information gathered during the fieldwork and from available documentary sources.
- 6.1.2 The principal elevation of Scocles Manor Court faces south-east towards Scocles Road (**Figure 2; Plates 1 and 2**). Each principal space/room/bay within the house have been given individual numbers, pre-fixed with either; B (basement), GF (ground floor), FF (first floor) or A (attic). The locations of these internal spaces are shown on **Figures 11 to 14**.
- 6.1.3 Scocles Manor Court has the appearance and balance of a fine Georgian house, built in the Queen Anne style over two and a half storeys with a small basement. The house adopts a square plan form, which is typical of the late 17th and early 18th century and is precisely the same dimension both north-east to south-west and north-west to south-south. The elevations are all built in brick, reserving the better quality brickwork for the principal road (south-east) facing elevation (**Plates 1 and 2**).
- 6.1.4 Given its square plan form the roof appears to be simply hipped, but in fact comprises four inter-connecting pitched roofs (hipped at the angles), which together form a central 'well', drained via a conduit which passes through the southern roof attic space. The roof is covered with red clay plain tiles and the south-eastern and north-western roof pitches are interrupted by paired hipped-roofed dormer windows (**Plates 1, 2 and 7**). The fenestration is a mixture of original and repaired sash windows and modern casement insertions. The front façade has a formal portico with fluted columns (**Plates 1 and 2**), while a much more utilitarian reconstructed brick-built porch has been added to the north-eastern elevation (**Plate 4**). A large square section chimneystack rises through the building to pierce the roof south-west of the central well (**Plate 8**) while a corresponding but smaller in-wall chimneystack rises up from the north-east elevation (**Plate 4**). It is shadowed to the west by an external brick chimneystack, which rises from within the northern porch.
- 6.1.5 An original late 17th/early 18th century brick horse mounting block with stone steps and stone platform is situated at the entrance to the farm (**Figures 2 and 11; Plate 3**).

6.2 South-East Road-facing Elevation

- 6.2.1 The south-eastern principal elevation fronting onto Scocles Road overlooks the formal drive and approach to the house. This elevation has a balanced symmetrical appearance with a three window range (the central first floor window built blind) and a pair of corresponding ground floor windows openings, which align with those above, flanking a central entrance bay (**Plates 1 and 2**). A pair of attic dormers with hipped roofs, sit in-board of the first floor windows and central within the south-eastern roof plane.
- 6.2.2 The brickwork to the facade uses better quality brickwork when compared to the rest of the building, using bricks with very few examples showing evidence of burnt headers or kiss marks. The bonding was of a much better quality with finer joints and, as is the case for all four elevations, built using hand-made red bricks (typically measuring 210-220mm x 65mm x 95-100mm) laid in Flemish bond. The elevation was simple with little adornment apart from a simple corbelling course at the eaves. This contrasts with the dentil eaves course present on all the other elevations. The window openings were formed without the use of queen closers (using a half brick to the window jamb) with those at ground floor level using simple rough brick voussiors and not gauge-work as one may expect. This was also the case for the door opening and the segmental arch to the blind window. The first floor window openings were not built with brick voussiors but alternatively used simple (visible) hardwood lintels set just below the eaves soffit (**Plate 2**). All of the window openings had inserted tile sills while the fenestration, a

mixture of 8 over 8 (ground floor) or 6 over 6 (first floor) unhorned sashes, were recessed back from the wall line by half a brick. Flush box sash windows were banned by the Building Act of 1709, which decreed that windows should be set back into the opening by four inches (a 'recessed-box' sash). The main entrance was adorned with a timber built portico built with fluted columns, Ionic moderne capitals and a moulded canopy. It is set onto a modern brick and stone built plinth and encloses a crude Portland stone threshold.

6.3 North-East Elevation (Plates 4 to 6)

- 6.3.1 The north-east elevation had been the subject of much more attention, represented by the addition of a hipped roof porch and adjoining coal store (**Plate 4**). The porch had been placed roughly centrally to the elevation. These changes had caused the insertion/replacement of ground floor windows. The brickwork of this rear elevation lacked the refinement of the front facade and included more bricks with kiss marks and burnt headers. The brickwork was in a less regular bond. This may have been accentuated by the quality of its re-pointing. The bricks were the same dimension and bond but showed features including diagonal pressure marks and scoring to the brick face. This elevation unlike the front facade included a simple wall plinth and quoin to the east angle (only). It also included a raised three course brick first floor band and an eaves dentil course.
- 6.3.2 The fenestration to the first floor comprised two recessed box sashes in their original openings and a smaller off-centre casement. The former included a 6 over 6 sash and a later 6 over 2 horned sash repaired/replaced in the 19th century. The ground floor windows, though roughly in original locations were later insertions, comprising softwood casements with rebuilt window heads, incorporating an exposed timber lintel and a simple brick-on-edge course.
- 6.3.3 The central porch appears to have recently been rebuilt reusing existing bricks laid in stretcher bond and incorporating a damp course membrane. Its hipped plain tile roof has also been rebuilt (bolted together) and enclosed, on its north-western side, an external brick chimneystack. The latter, appears to be a ?19th century or later addition, which had been rebuilt (in recent years) above eaves level. The chimneystack was added as a flue to a coal-fired boiler (removed) situated within the north-eastern porch (**Plate 5**). A coal hopper, which primed the boiler via an Archimedes screw, was located within a brick built lean-to to the north-west of the porch (**Plate 6**).
- 6.3.4 The other chimneystack biased to the north-east front was an original feature, whose upper courses had also had been part re-built and repaired. The chimneystack was clearly leaning out, addressed, historically by an iron band and strap tied back into the roof structure (**Plate 4**).

6.4 North-West Elevation

- 6.4.1 The north-west (rear) elevation has also been much altered and appears to have been partially rebuilt, possibly associated with the later removal of adjoining farm buildings shown on the 1841 to 1908 maps (**Figures 5 to 8**). Two diagonal roof lines of a former abutting building, which has been removed, are visible in the north side of the north-west elevation (**Plate 7**) corresponding with the building shown on the historic maps.
- 6.4.2 Generally the brickwork in the north-west elevation is poorly executed and it is mainly built in Flemish bond (**Plate 7**). It includes areas towards the west corner that uses burnt headers to decorative effect, areas which incorporate narrower ?Tudor/Stuart (16th/17th century) bricks (220mm x 45mm x ?) and brickwork that matches that in the adjacent north-east elevation. A brick wall plinth (rendered along the north-east elevation) continues along the south-west (side; **Plate 9**) and north-east (side; **Plates 4 to 6**) elevations. A short length of first floor band survives towards the western corner (**Plate 7**). Whilst the eaves dentil course remains, a later tile course has been inserted below it, which extends along most of the length of the elevation.
- 6.4.3 It seems most likely that the first floor window opening at the west end of the north-west elevation is original, although its corresponding opening at the other end of the

elevation has in recent years been enlarged and replaced with modern 'French' doors'. The door opening below, built with a timber lintel appears to be a later insertion, as is the ground floor window at the west end of the elevation, which is clearly a modern casement within an opening with a rebuilt brick head. The two smaller central openings at ground and first floor are both modern insertions.

6.4.4 The roofline includes a pair of hipped roofed dormers, whose central positions correspond with those in the front south-east facing roof plane.

6.5 South-West Elevation

6.5.1 The south-west (side) elevation in common with the north-west (rear) elevation has also been much altered and rebuilt (**Plates 8 and 9**). A considerable rebuilding of the elevation appears to have taken place from base to eaves, particularly in the central and western part. This brickwork is poorly constructed and contrasts markedly with the brickwork towards the south end of the elevation. The latter is regularly built and similar to that in the front façade. The brickwork in the centre and west of the elevation is rough, poorly coursed and incorporates a mixture of bricks, re-using a small number of Tudor/Stuart (16th/17th century) bricks as well as original bricks.

6.5.2 A plinth and dentil course extend along the base and top of the elevation, respectively. A brick quoin is present at the front (south end) of the elevation only. The first floor band is missing on this elevation, although it is present in the north-east elevation on the other side of the house. An undated postcard of Scocles Farm (**Historic Plate 1**) shows the west side of the south-west elevation and the original layout of the windows and the first floor band. It shows that the present ground floor French doors are (not surprisingly) a modern insertion, replacing a sash window of a size and type similar to the extant 6 over 6 sash above. It also confirms that the small central casement at first floor level is modern insertion. The ground floor casement window at the south end of the elevation has also been inserted. These casement windows were both built with exposed timber lintels and tile sills, the latter also a feature of the original openings to first floor, suggesting they were renovated at the same point as the later windows were added. A tie bar with a crude cross- spreader plate is situated towards the western end of the elevation.

6.5.3 The roofline is dominated by a large brick built chimneystack, which sits centrally to the roof when viewed from the south-west. The brickwork of the chimneystack has the same appearance as the main elevations, although it is built in stretcher bond. The uppermost 11 courses of the chimneystack are a modern re-building/repair.

6.6 Interior

6.6.1 The house is laid out over two principal storeys (ground and first floor) but also incorporates a small basement located below the south-western quadrant and attic rooms within the roof space.

Ground Floor

6.6.2 The ground floor currently comprises (through the loss of internal partitions) two principal spaces, although it was originally sub-divided into four rooms (GF1 to GF4 on **Figure 11**), with two rooms set on each side of the off-centre extant axial wall. This axial wall, which is a load bearing internal wall extends up through the building and is present, in the same position on the floor above, thus providing a similar spatial layout to the first floor (**Figure 12**). The original ground floor windows have been replaced by modern casements in all but the two principal box sashes to the front (south-east) facade (**Plates 1 and 2**).

6.6.3 The two original larger rooms at ground floor (GF1 and GF2) were, by implication, the higher status rooms and accordingly located to the south-western side of the axial wall, with GF2 entered directly from the principal entrance in the front (south-east) elevation. The two rooms were presumably originally divided south-west to north-east at the midway point of the central brick chimney breast.

6.6.4 The floors comprised a patchwork of 8 to 10 inch softwood butt boards. No evidence of

skirting boards remained.

Room GF1

- 6.6.5 Room GF1, to the north-west of the chimney breast retained a number of historic features despite the extensive re-lining of the inner walls using modern plasterboard resulting in the loss of any wall/ceiling detail such as cornices or skirting boards. The fact that the visible on-edge common first floor joists (to ceiling) showed evidence of nailing in their soffits, suggests that this ceiling was formerly plastered (not necessarily originally; **Plate 10**). The heavy scantling oak binding joists, decorated with lambs tongue (ogee) stops were always meant to be visible.
- 6.6.6 A large open back to back fireplace with an oak bressumer and an oak lintel above formerly heated GF1 (**Plate 12**). It had clearly been rebuilt in recent years along its south-west side, including the present south-west jamb to the fireplace. This work also involved the addition of the present bressumer, insertion of an upper lintel and the counter-pitched brickwork between the upper and lower lintel. Despite these recent alterations it retained its flagstone hearth and a cast iron fire back with embossed initials E.C. & D.T. and two shields with 'Lions Rampant' and a central panel with an insignia and the initials W.F. (**Plates 13 and 14**). The older brickwork typically measured 220mm x 65mm x 100mm and used bull nosed or chamfered bricks to the fireplace opening (north-east side only; **Plate 12**). The fireplace was a simple open hearth which tapered into a single flue.
- 6.6.7 The north and west corners of GF1 were still occupied by ornate built-in late 18th or early 19th century display cupboards (**Plates 10 and 11**). The western example used classical motifs in its detailing, the upper two thirds part-glazed and fitted with ornate arched glazed doors. These opened into a shelved display with a half round back, domed head and ornately shaped shelving. The lower third was much plainer. The height of the cupboard and its cornice corresponds with a removed ceiling. The northern built-in cupboard was less ornate, although included a fretwork band and was split using the same two thirds one third division, with the larger upper doors each decorated with two recessed panels. The interior was similar, built with a rounded back, ornately shaped shelving and bossed acanthus leaf and a pendant heart decoration.
- 6.6.8 The architraves to both doors from GF1 to GF3 were early examples, plain in the decoration with a bead, and correctly pegged at the corners. The north-western door to the kitchen was a simple plank and batten door with two applied panels (**Plates 11 and 24**) and the central door, an original plain two panel softwood door (**Plate 23**).

Room GF2

- 6.6.9 Room GF2 had similarly lost any evidence of historic decoration as the walls had been relined using modern plasterboard (**Plate 15**). The reveals of the south-west window had been rebuilt using modern brickwork. The ceiling joists showed the same nailing evidence for a former plaster ceiling and the room was crossed by an identical oak binding joists with ogee stops (**Plate 17**).
- 6.6.10 The south-eastern side of the back to back fire place also has an open hearth with an oak bressumer (7 x 5½ inch) (**Plates 15 and 16**). The fireplace was built with a curved back, each of the two corners formed using a quarter-round of headers. This characteristic feature is repeated in the fireplace in GF4 (**Figure 11; Plate 21**) and in examples on the first floor (**Figure 12; Plate 33**) and in the attic room (**Figure 13**). The brickwork to the chimney breast was the same as that in the chimney breast in GF1 with red bricks (210-220 x 65 x 100mm) built in an irregular bond (**Plate 16**). The fireplace was also partly re-built with corbelled brickwork along its south-west side. It was also cut back at the east corner to facilitate the structure of an under stair cupboard below the stairwell (**Figure 11; Plate 15**). Other features include a small salt shelf built into the rear wall of the fireplace and a stone flagged hearth (**Plate 16**). No evidence of a later fireplace inserted into this small inglenook was present and it appears to have started and remained as an open hearth.
- 6.6.11 The tall window opening to the south-east (front) retained an 18th century un-horned 8

over 8 sash window built with fine cavetto and bead moulded glazing bars and rails. The sash boxes had been restored with new chords and the sills rebuilt using tile. An oak lintel was visible over the top of the window opening, a feature widely repeated through the building. The south-west window in GF2 was a modern casement built with two mullions and fixed side lights.

6.6.12 The main entrance also incorporated an exposed internal lintel and retained its 18th century architrave, pegged and with a narrow bead embellishment, a decorative feature also recorded on the adjacent architrave of the internal door from GF2 to GF4. The door was an 18th century six panel door with recessed panels and two (inserted) upper lights. It still retained an early mortice lock, although this is now redundant.

6.6.13 The stair was built up against the north-east side of the chimney breast (**Figure 11**; **Plates 18** and **19**). The enclosing structure at ground floor level was mainly modern, built using machine-cut and planed softwood (**Plate 15**). The treads and risers were unplaned softwood which were both nailed and glued together; the risers via a series of small wooden triangular section blocks at the riser/tread junction (**Plate 18**). They were held (stack side) by a softwood string with the same planed softwood appearance as the stair enclosing structure and the two newel posts. Together this suggests that the lower part of the present stair is a late 20th century reconstruction.

6.6.14 The stair case was built with a quarter winder at its base (**Figure 11**; **Plate 12**) and another quarter winder to first floor (**Figure 12**; **Plate 19**), with a short straight flight between. The treads at the base of the stair were much larger than those in the upper winder, which also suggests that the base of the stairs have been remodelled. The area of the ground floor ceiling around the stair (north-east of the chimney breast) had been rebuilt (**Plate 15**). This was seen by the presence of later joists of a distinctly different character than the rest of the ceiling and a trimmer beam forming the present opening.

Room GF3

6.6.15 Rooms GF3 and GF4, although at present a single space, were formerly divided by a partition wall located just to the north-west of the inglenook fireplace in GF4 (**Figure 11**; **Plate 20**). Room GF3, latterly in use as a kitchen, was accessed internally by a doorway from GF1. This doorway still has its original hardwood plank and batten door, early-mid 18th century strap hinges and a mortice box and lock (**Plate 24**).

6.6.16 An external door lay centrally in the north-west wall just north of a small inserted modern casement window (**Figure 11**; **Plates 7** and **20**). A casement window in the north-east wall was also a later introduction, possibly an enlargement of an earlier window. This opening has an exposed internal lintel.

6.6.17 The ceiling structure over GF3 and GF4 was original with the construction of the house. It was the same as that over GF1 and 2 using exposed heavy oak binding joists with run-outs and on-edge common joists (**Plates 20** and **22**). The inner ends to the binding joists lapped over the top of the axial wall with their ends just visible or slightly protruding beyond the wall line. The present floor structure within GF3 is a modern floor, built off brick piers. Access into the basement, via a flight of brick steps, was present in the west corner of Room GF3 (**Figure 11**).

Room GF4

6.6.18 Room GF4 is dominated by a large inglenook fireplace which lay roughly central to the former room layout (**Figure 11**; **Plate 20**). The inglenook was built with an open-hearth and heavy oak 6x6 inch bressumer beam and a curved inner profile to the fireback (**Plate 21**). The hearth, built using brick pammets, protruded beyond the line of the fireplace. The south-eastern corner of the fireplace had been rebuilt to the level of the ceiling in recent years, using re-used brickwork with wide mortar joints (the same as that used for the fireplaces in Rooms GF1 and GF2). Pieces of Welsh slate had been used as packing to level the bressumer at the re-built end. The bressumer was 'keyed' to receive a plaster finish.

6.6.19 The window to the south-east (front) wall was identical to the 8 over 8 sash described for Room GF2 and had also been restored. Some panes of float glass still remained in-

situ.

6.6.20 The north-west doorway in the south-west wall of GF4 still has its original door with early-mid 18th century strap hinges (**Plate 23**).

6.6.21 The door opening from the north-east porch incorporates a modern softwood glazed door flanked by fixed frieze lights. The opening has an exposed internal lintel.

First Floor

Rooms FF1 and FF2

6.6.22 The first floor, in common with the ground floor had lost many of its original internal partitions and accordingly its spatial integrity (**Figure 12; Plate 25**). Rooms FF1 and FF2 occupied the north-eastern part of the building, to the north-east of the axial wall. They were formerly sub-divided by a light-weight stud wall crossing the floor just south-east of the north-western of the two door openings (**Plate 26**). Its former position is clearly seen by a scar in the plaster of the brick axial wall. This scar also shows that the present north-western door, a modern faux four panel door, is a later smaller door fitted into a larger rebuilt door opening.

6.6.23 This contrasts with the door to FF1 which retains an 18th century two panel door hung off contemporary wrought iron strap hinges (**Plate 28**). The architrave is also original and is pegged at the corners. The axial wall is one brick thick and is built using bricks measuring 220x60x95-100mm covered with horse-hair plaster. Whilst the plaster was generally in a poor condition, a beaded dado rail and a plain skirting board survived (in part) within FF1.

6.6.24 The plaster ceilings to both FF1 and FF2 had latterly been replaced with modern plaster ceilings, although the heavy scantling 7½ inch binding and bridging joists, dividing the ceiling into three bays remained visible (**Plate 25**). These joists, in common with those at ground floor level, were meant to be visible from the outset, with the bridging joists (north-west to south-east) stopped at their junction with the binding joists (north-east to south-west). They were clearly not machine-cut but 'squared up' using an axe or adze, as seen by slight corrugation along the soffits and were formed from either soft or hard wood.

6.6.25 The fireplace in FF1 is located along the north-eastern flank wall (**Figure 12**). It had been rebuilt, most likely during the second half of the 19th century to accommodate the present cast iron fire surround (**Plates 25 and 27**). This may have also involved its repositioning slightly to the south-east and its enlargement as seen by the reconstruction of the corbelled brickwork and bressumer, tying the new fireplace into the original chimney breast. As the corbelling work was not plastered, it may have been boxed in. The cast-iron fire surround is typical of a Victorian fireplace belonging to the second half of the 19th century and is relatively plain with a small fire basket, given the size of the room. Interestingly, the adjoining room (FF2) was unheated, so must have been a cold possibly damp room.

6.6.26 The two windows in Room FF1 were both 18th century 6 over 6 sash windows. The south-east sash window retains its fine glazing bars, although the north-east sash window has been rebuilt with heavier replacement ovolo bars.

6.6.27 The north-east and north-west walls in Room FF2 had recently been re-plastered, removing all evidence of earlier decorative treatments (**Plate 25**). A small 19th century casement window lay at the south-east end of the north-east wall in Room FF2. A sash window with horns and larger glazing to the lower sash, is present towards the north-west end of the north-east wall. This window is similar to that towards the south-east end of the north-east wall in Room FF1 (**Plate 4**). A pair of glazed 'French doors' had recently been inserted into the north-west wall of FF2 (**Plate 25**).

Bedroom FF3

6.6.28 Bedroom FF3 was located at the front (south-east) of the house and to the south-east of the chimney breast (**Figure 12**). This was evidently a higher status room retaining its tall sash window in its south-east wall with fine cavetto and bead glazing bars and a

moulded apron to the window foot. The corresponding sash window to the south-west wall lacked the apron detail and had repaired using heavier ovolo moulded glazing bars (**Plate 29**). The area of wall around this window had been rebuilt with white bricks. This type of bricks were also visible internally in the north-west wall at ground floor level and had recently been re-plastered. The north-western wall on each side of the chimney breast was an original stud wall (**Figure 12; Plates 29 to 31**). It had been built using irregular-section hard wood studding at 22 inch centres, which had been overlain by lath and plaster. The wall still retained a beaded dado rail, the same type that was present in Room FF1 (**Plates 25 and 26**). This dado rail and the skirting boards, though clearly early features and rare survivals, were not original because they overlay an earlier blocked internal door present between Rooms FF1 and FF3 (**Figure 12; Plate 31**).

- 6.6.29 The ceiling layout in FF3 used heavy scantling joists and was identical to that in Room FF1. The inner ends of the bridging joists were pegged into the binding joist, which aligned with (and may be a continuation of) that in FF1 (**Figure 12; Plates 29 and 31**). Baltic timber had been used. A similar attic floor structure was visible over Room FF4 and FF5 with heavy ceiling joists running north-east to south-west around the chimney breast and the stairwell (**Figure 12; Plate 34**). The removal of plaster to the top of the walls exposed the wall plates. Face halved scarf joints (indicative of a post-medieval date) were present just to the north-east of the south-east window in FF3 and over the south-west window in FF3.
- 6.6.30 Possibly the most significant feature to survive was a cast-iron hob grate fireplace which along with a plain slender timber surround suggests a late 18th century/Regency date for the insertion of this fireplace (**Plate 30**). The hob grate was decorated in relief and the splayed sides to the opening were reeded.
- 6.6.31 Both doors to FF3 were 18th century two panel doors hung off contemporary wrought-iron strap hinges (**Plate 31**). The south-western of the two opened into FF4 but may have previously opened into a small closet (for ablutions) to the rear of the chimney breast (**Figure 12**). The external wall to the south-west of this doorway thickens to c.50cm thick from a 1½ brick thick. This is most likely a consequence of modern internal works to the walls.

Rooms FF4 and FF5

- 6.6.32 Rooms FF4 and FF5 together comprised the much altered remains of a large single bedroom. Room FF4 is located to the north-west of the chimney breast and Room FF5 is a modern bathroom and toilet created through the insertion of a light stud partition wall into the former single room that now comprise Rooms FF4 and FF5 (**Figure 12; Plate 36**).
- 6.6.33 Single bedroom FF4 and FF5 originally encompassed the space to the north-west of the chimney breast and was heated by a large single fireplace, probably an open hearth fireplace with a bressumer similar to that in Room GF2 (**Figure 12; Plates 32 and 33**). Although most of this fireplace had been removed, particularly the south-western side, the corbelled brickwork above the bressumer and the bressumer; the remains of the distinctive curved brickwork at the rear of the fireplace, its hearth, its sooted brickwork and a blocked flue, were still present.
- 6.6.34 Although the north-east and north-west walls of Room FF4 and FF5 had been recently re-plastered in places, the removal of an area of ceiling plaster revealed detail of the ceiling joists (**Plates 34 and 37**). They were relatively heavy soft and hard wood joists, with some showing distinctive scribed bracking or Baltic marks (**Plate 34**). The joists were tied into heavier scantling bridging joists using below centre tenons. The exposed ceiling was crossed by three bridging joists, two immediately adjacent or built into the chimney breast and a further joist to the north-east. The latter also carried the common joists from Rooms FF1 and FF2, which were pegged-in correctly, and later joists to the south-west with trimmers forming the opening for the present stair. These trimmer joists were not of the same character as the rest of the ceiling structure and represent a later reworking of the stair.

6.6.35 Whilst FF5 was a modern late 20th century or early 21st century insertion added to provide the convenience of a first floor bathroom and toilet into the former Bedroom FF4 and FF5, it re-used an 18th century door and its architrave (**Plate 36**). The door was particularly wide measuring 101cm in width and built with six plain recessed panels, three each side of the central rail. The architrave has the narrow beaded detailing seen elsewhere and is surmounted by a semi-elliptical shouldered door light of four fixed glazed panels. The ironmongery was modern.

6.6.36 The south-west window in FF5 comprised a 6 over 6 box sash rebuilt with a new bottom rail and modern brick jambs, while the smaller north-west window was a crude modern sash window in a rebuilt opening (**Plates 35 and 37**). Another modern window had been inserted in Room FF4 in the north-west wall (**Figure 12**).

Attic Space

6.6.37 Access to the attic rooms was via a winder stair built in the same position, up against the north-eastern side of the chimney breast, as the stair below (**Figure 13; Plate 38**).

6.6.38 Presently the attic floor is a single open space with former divisions to rooms lost (**Figure 13; Plates 39 to 41**). Accordingly the historic spatial layout of these rooms, their definition and number is unclear, although only one room, located in the southern corner, was obviously formerly heated (**Figure 13**). Another fireplace (back to back) conceivably may have been present on the north-west side of the chimney breast, and had later been blocked in (**Plate 45**). The extant example followed the same design of fireplace, with a bressumer or mantel beam to an open-hearth, which was built with the same distinctive curved brickwork to the fireback. The hearth comprised 10 inch ceramic tiles and the fireplace was plastered both internally and externally up to the level of the bressumer.

6.6.39 Whilst the extent and layout of the rooms was unclear, evidence suggests that the roof space had a plastered ceiling (7ft high), using lath and plaster, at the level of the butt purlins (south-east and north-west roof pitches) and above the joggled purlins in the north-east and south-west roof pitches. The level of the former broadly coincided with the tie beams into which the ceiling structure was attached. All the larger roof components below ceiling level were white-washed showing that the bones of the roof, the butt purlins and the principal hip rafters were visible and not plastered over.

6.6.40 The four attic dormer windows were clearly modern in their construction, however the absence of empty mortice holes in the soffit of the butt purlin for a common rafter, indicates that the roof was originally built with four attic dormers in their present positions. This and the presence of a fireplace shows that attic rooms were part of the house from the outset (i.e. early 18th century build).

6.7 Roof Structure

6.7.1 The roof structure was a mixture of both hardwood (oak) and softwood imported from the Baltic regions. The principal components including the four principal hip rafters, the butt purlins and principal rafters were mainly oak while the joists that supported the central valley and the tiebeams were in softwood. The common rafters were a mixture of both softwood and hardwood and included some modern replacement and bolstering. A number of the main roof timbers, particularly some of the principal rafters and butt purlins showed distinctive bracking marks associated with Baltic timber (**Plate 41**), which was increasingly imported from the Baltic regions from the 17th century due to a depletion in native woods and a shortage in timber as a consequence of the rebuilding of London following the Great Fire in 1666.

6.7.2 The roof has a joggled purlin construction (**Plates 39 and 40**), although it used an in-line butt purlin to the south-east and north-western roof pitches so as not to complicate the positioning of the dormer windows (**Figure 13**). Each of the four principal hip rafters are chamfered as are the majority of the butt purlins. The roof is properly pegged, with the common rafters pegged into the back of the butt purlins and the purlins pegged into the principal rafters.

6.7.3 The roof is an unusual construction, comprised of a circuit of four inter-connecting

pitched roofs (hipped at the angles), which together enclose a central 'well' (**Figure 13**). The outer roof pitches (seen externally) are built using butt purlins, while their return, inner roofs are much simpler pitched roofs built above the level of the purlins (**Plate 42**). Inboard they are supported by an internal frame of tiebeams, which in turn also underpin the central well. The latter formed from four inter-connecting valleys, is drained via a pipe (modern), within an original timber conduit, which passes through the south-western roof space above the level of the former attic ceiling to drain externally (**Plate 45**). Decay to the supporting joist structure to the central valley show historic problems with this roof structure, which when it has not been regularly maintained and the drain kept clear, leaked into the roof space (**Plate 44**).

- 6.7.4 The common rafters were either halved or pegged at the apex and many were marked with Roman numerals. The best sequence of Roman numerals was within the south-eastern roof (**Plates 41 and 43**). The two principal rafters in this roof pitch were both marked with a Roman II at the foot on the south-west side and the shorter central principal was marked with a Roman I on the south-east. No other carpentry marks were recognised.

Basement

- 6.7.5 The basement is located below the western quadrant of the building and accessed via a short flight of brick built steps from the former kitchen GF3 (**Figures 11 and 14**). It is a relatively small rectangular plan cellar divided centrally (south-east to north-west) by a single axial beam (**Plates 46 and 47**). This beam is set into the south-eastern flank wall and supported on the north-west side by a modern brick pier, as the north-western basement wall had been rebuilt as part of modern underpinning works (**Plate 46**). The axial beam is chamfered to the soffit and carries deep section hand sawn oak floor joists (3 x 5 inch) all suggestive of a 17th century or later date. The ceiling to the cellar was formerly plastered between the joists and whitewashed. The floor was built using red brick.
- 6.7.6 The brickwork to the walls (south-west and south-east) was constructed in an irregular English bond and in common with the external walls to the south-west and north-west included re-used Tudor/Stuart bricks (16th/17th century) and 18th century bricks, the latter typically measuring 210-220x60x100mm. Subsidence had clearly been a problem as the south-western wall was buttressed with the addition of a pair of modern stock brick buttresses built in cement mortar and the north-western wall had been rebuilt using concrete block and construction blocks. The most notable feature was a small recess that contained a moulded stone block with a cinque-foil decoration and a border with incised spandrels (**Plates 47 and 48**). The block was crudely inscribed with a I X I and towards the base, a date that appears to read 17..? This stone had been inserted into the brickwork and its function was not known.

6.8 Farm Outbuilding (Plates 49-50)

- 6.8.1 This former farm outbuilding is a small detached building located to the north-west of the main house (**Figures 2 and 11**). It is single storey and is built in red brick laid in Flemish bond, with a peg tile roof, which is hipped to the south-west and gable ended to the north-east (**Plate 49**). The difference in the roof profile is due to the loss of its north-eastern end. The end of the building is shown on the 1841 to 1908 maps (**Figures 5 to 9**) and was removed between 1908 and 1933 (**Figures 9 and 10**).
- 6.8.2 The outbuilding is entered via a doorway in its south-eastern long wall, still retaining its pegged and beaded architrave. The door has been removed. The building is lit by a single small window opening with diamond-set bars.
- 6.8.3 Internally, the brick walls of the building were un-plastered and whitewashed. The building has a brick floor. The roof structure was also whitewashed and comprised a hardwood clasped side purlin roof with regular sized, sawn common rafters (**Plate 50**). No internal historic fixtures or fittings survived.

7 DISCUSSION

- 7.1 The historic building recording and documentary research focused on Scocles Manor Court has shown that this former farmhouse has a long and complex historic and structural development, which can be traced back to the 16th century.
- 7.2 In 1538 Henry VIII granted the site of the dissolved monastery of St Sexburga and the manor of Minster to Sir Thomas Cheney (c.1482-1558), Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports and Treasurer of the Household. Over the course of the next two decades Cheney set about consolidating his estates in Sheppey, acquiring a number of nearby manors, including Dandele (1550), Newhall alias Borstal (1554) and Calehill (1556). In 1547 William Berry/Bury, then lord of the manor of Calehill, sold an estate comprising lands in Eastchurch and Minster to Cheney. Documentary evidence suggests that the manor of Scocles was either included in the latter sale or was conveyed with Calehill to Cheney in 1556.
- 7.3 Following the death of Sir Thomas Cheney, his son Henry, later Lord Cheney of Toddington, disposed of his Kentish estates and in 1576, conveyed “the scite of the Mannor of Scockles and Lands in Minster” to Robert and William Allen for £1,300.
- 7.4 A nautical map of the Isle of Sheppey produced in the early 1570s contains a stylised depiction of Scocles. The property was identified as “Scokells”. The map depicted the property as a farmhouse, with (stylistically) a pitched roof and chimneystack at the rear of the property. It is probable that this building was timber-framed. During the recording, a number of Tudor/Stuart (16th/17th century) bricks were identified, which have been incorporated in the later brickwork within the rear elevations and within the basement walls of the house.
- 7.5 The manor of Scocles appears to have remained in the possession of the Allen family until the early 17th century. In 1642, the estate was one of a number of properties acquired by the Governors of the Chest for sick and maimed seamen at Chatham in order to supplement the income of the charity. The Governors continued the practice of letting the estate to tenants. The estate was leased to Henry Garrett for eleven years from Michaelmas 1702 at £100 per annum. As a condition of his lease, Garrett covenanted “to find Workmanship for the repairing of the Farm”, suggesting that he agreed to rebuild the farmhouse, which may have been the same building shown on the 1572 map. Given that the Grade II Listed house has been dated on stylistic grounds to the early 18th century (see listing description), it is likely that the present Scocles Court Manor was rebuilt by Garrett during the period 1702-1714.
- 7.6 The external brickwork of the house and the chimney breasts and stacks are early 18th century in appearance, however a number of architectural features hint at an earlier date. The plan form of the south-western half of the house (Rooms GF1 and 2) resembles a two cell lobby entry plan, with a central stack, a newel stair to the rear (in much the same location as present) with a lobby entry, opening onto the chimneystack, from the centre of the south-west elevation. This is a very popular post-medieval house plan which became widely used throughout the Lowland regions of Britain during the late 16th and 17th centuries. The present first floor structure is also late 16th and 17th century in appearance. The oak bridging beams decorated with chamfers and lambs tongue ogee stops are typical of the 17th century and would have originally been visible in the ceiling as now. This type of floor structure is more common prior to the 18th century. In addition, large open-hearth fireplaces are not common after the late 17th century.
- 7.7 It is possible that the building was entirely rebuilt in the early 18th century and its use as a rural farmhouse and its relative isolation on Sheppey may have had a bearing on its architecture with its archaic features. Alternatively, the early 18th century brickwork in its external elevations possibly encases the remains of a late 16th or 17th century timber-framed lobby entry building. The only physical evidence for this recorded during the building survey was the first floor structure of the southern and the entry lobby plan form of the south-western part of the building.

- 7.8 From observations made during the survey it is clear that the early 18th century rebuilding was considerable and to the extent that most of the historic fabric of the building (as it stands today) dates to this rebuilding event.
- 7.9 If the early 18th century brickwork encases the remains of a late 16th or 17th century timber-framed lobby entry building, the early 18th century re-construction may have resulted in a change in the building's orientation, relocating the principal facade to the south-east to face onto Scocles Road from the south-west. It also entailed the enlargement of the former building on its north-eastern side, to form its present square plan form, with the addition of present Rooms GF3 and GF4. The width of these rooms was carefully dimensioned so that the main entrance was located central to the facade, its position influenced by the internal load bearing axial (former rear) wall.
- 7.10 The binding joists to GF3 and GF4 were laid over the top of this axial wall and were re-used (possibly from the upper storey of the preceding building), cut shorter in length and embellished with simple run out stops, and not the lambs tongue stops present in GF1 and GF2. These works also involved the complete rebuilding of the main elevations in Flemish brickwork up to the level of the eaves, a brickwork characteristic which becomes popular particularly for farmhouses in East Anglia after 1660 (Barley, 1961) and the addition of a new (the present) 'hipped' roof structure. All of the main historic structural work above the ground floor level, including the joggled bridging and binding joists and the common joists over the first floor rooms and the roof structure date to the early 18th century. The fabric of these structures, particularly the roof is a mixture of good quality hard and softwood, which through the presence of distinctive bracking marks, appears to have been imported the Baltic regions. This influx of imported timber is bolstered by a shortage of good construction timber brought about by a depletion of local timber, particularly after the Great Fire of 1666 and the subsequent rebuilding works. As a consequence of the Great Fire many changes were made to the design of buildings and their fenestration and the Building Act of 1709 banned flush set windows in preference for those recessed back in the opening by four inches. The recessed-box sashes, which mainly survive toward the front of the house are sympathetic with an early 18th century date for this rebuilding.
- 7.11 The present roof structure was added as part of the early 18th century reconstruction. It was built using a joggled purlin roof, a carpentry which becomes more widely used during the 17th and 18th centuries, particularly as its strong construction allows the roof space to be utilised as attic rooms. This was certainly the case at Scocles, which incorporated attic rooms, lit by dormer windows (in their present locations) and heated by a single fireplace, from the outset. The roof adopts an unusual design with a central well into which the circuit of the surrounding roofs drain, a rather impractical feature, which requires regular maintenance to maintain its drainage, and one, as seen by decay to the roof in this area, which has not historically been successful. Despite these localised areas of decay the roof remains in good order.
- 7.12 The plan form of the 18th century house, though not including a formal entrance with display stair, a plan typical to many of the better quality 18th century houses, was simply laid out with a room occupying each corner of the building over both floors. This spatial layout has, however, been lost over time, to the extent that few original, non load bearing, internal partitions survive. This is particularly the case at first floor where the partition walls between Rooms FF3 and FF4 and the first floor landing had been removed along with part of the fireplace to Room FF4. Both of the two historic chimneystacks had been partly rebuilt (in recent years) and the newel stair, to the rear of the stack, adapted and remodelled.
- 7.13 Whilst almost all of the historic plasterwork to the walls and ceilings has been lost along with details of cornices, some historic plaster, dado rails and skirting boards did remain in Rooms FF1 and FF3. As they overlay a blocked door opening, these features are likely secondary and probably date to a late 18th century or early 19th century phase of works. Despite the removal of historic decoration, notable historic fittings and fixtures did remain with a particularly good survival of early doors many still retaining their early wrought iron strap hinges, features that are frequently replaced.

- 7.14 The survey has also shown that this building appears to have historically suffered from structural problems as seen by the under-pinning of the north-western rear elevation and the rebuilding of a large part of the south-western wall. These later repair works to the walls are also seen across most of the building, where visible. There have also been some rather rudimentary repairs, using railway sleepers as lintels and many unsympathetic alterations, using modern brickwork to internal window reveals and modern plasterboard to walls and ceilings.
- 7.15 Despite these modern repairs and alterations, Scocles is still an important house on a national level which still fully merits its present Grade II statutory designation and is a building that contributes much to the historic built character and the historic development of the Isle of Sheppey.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Indo-Celtic Ltd for commissioning the project.
- 8.2 The project was managed for Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited by Charlotte Matthews. The documentary research was undertaken by Guy Thompson and the on-site building recording was carried out by Adam Garwood. Guy wrote the Historical Background for this report while Adam wrote the rest of this report. The illustrations were prepared by Hayley Baxter.

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APPENDIX 1: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-246602

Project details

Project name	Scocles Manor Court, Scocles Road, Minster-On-Sea, Kent
Short description of the project	Pre-Construct Archaeology was commissioned by Indo-Celtic Ltd to undertake building recording of the Grade II Listed Scocles Manor Court, Minster-on-Sea, Kent. The listing description for this former farmhouse reads: 'Early C18. 2 storeys and attic in red brick with hipped roof with 2 hipped dormers'. The recording was undertaken in response to a planning condition for alterations. The building recording and documentary research established that Sir Thomas Cheney acquired the manor of Scocles in the early/mid 16 th century. A c.1572 map depicts the farmhouse at "Scokells" with a pitched roof and chimneystack. The manor of Scocles was leased to Henry Garrett from 1702. As a condition of his lease, Garrett appears to have agreed to rebuild the farmhouse. The external brickwork of the house is early 18 th century, however a number of architectural features hint at an earlier date. The plan form of half of the house resembles a late 16 th /17 th century two cell lobby entry plan, with a central stack, a newel stair to the rear with a lobby entry. The present first floor structure in this part of the house is also late 16 th /17 th century in appearance. It is possible that the building was entirely rebuilt in the early 18 th century and its use as a rural farmhouse and its relative isolation on Sheppey may have had a bearing on its architecture with its archaic features. Alternatively, the early 18 th century brickwork in its external elevations possibly encases the remains of a late 16 th /17 th century lobby entry building.
Project dates	Start: 08-03-2016 End: 10-03-2016
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	15/508295/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Building Recording
Site status	Listed Building
Monument type	HOUSE Post Medieval
Monument type	FARMHOUSE Post Medieval
Methods techniques	& "Measured Survey", "Photographic Survey", "Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT SWALE MINSTER-ON-SEA Scocles Manor Court, Scocles Road, Minster-On-Sea, Kent
Postcode	ME12 3RU
Site coordinates	TQ 95015 71958 51.412484948309 0.804654732536 51 24 44 N 000 48 16 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Project brief originator Kent County Council

Project design originator Adam Garwood

Project director/manager Charlotte Matthews

Project supervisor Adam Garwood

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Name of sponsor/funding body Indo-Celtic Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Kent History Centre

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"

Paper Archive Exists? No

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Historic Building Recording of Scocles Manor Court, Scocles Road, Minster-On-Sea, Kent ME12 3RU

Author(s)/Editor(s) Garwood, A. and Thompson, G.

Other bibliographic details PCA Report No. R12427

Date 2016

Issuer or publisher Pre-Construct Limited

Place of issue or publication London

Description A4 PDF report

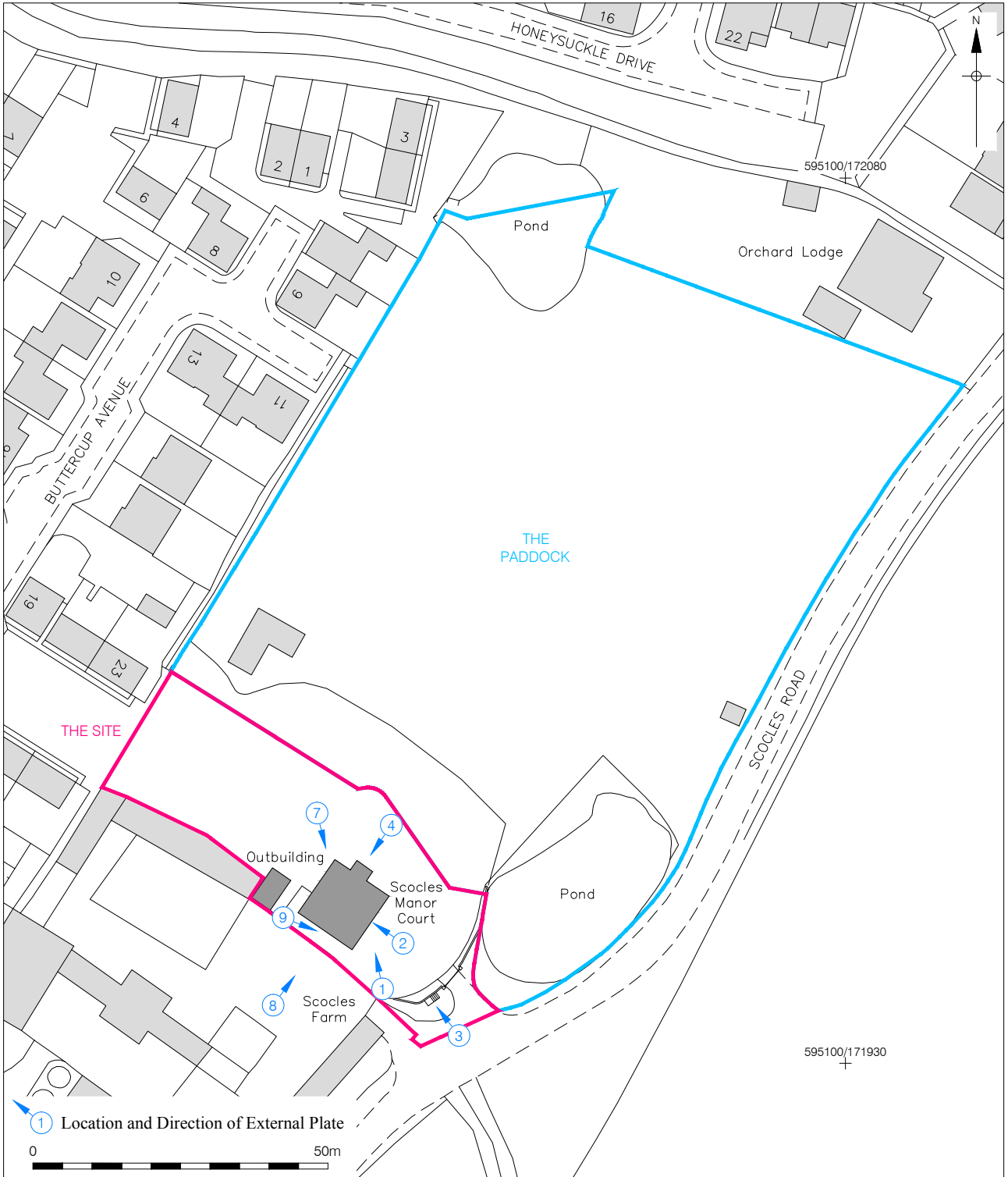
Entered by Charlotte Matthews (cmatthews@pre-construct.com)

Entered on 4 April 2016



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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:2,000,000, 400,000 & 1:25,000 at A4



Map based on drawing supplied by Nigel Bird Architects
 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2016
 31/03/16 HB

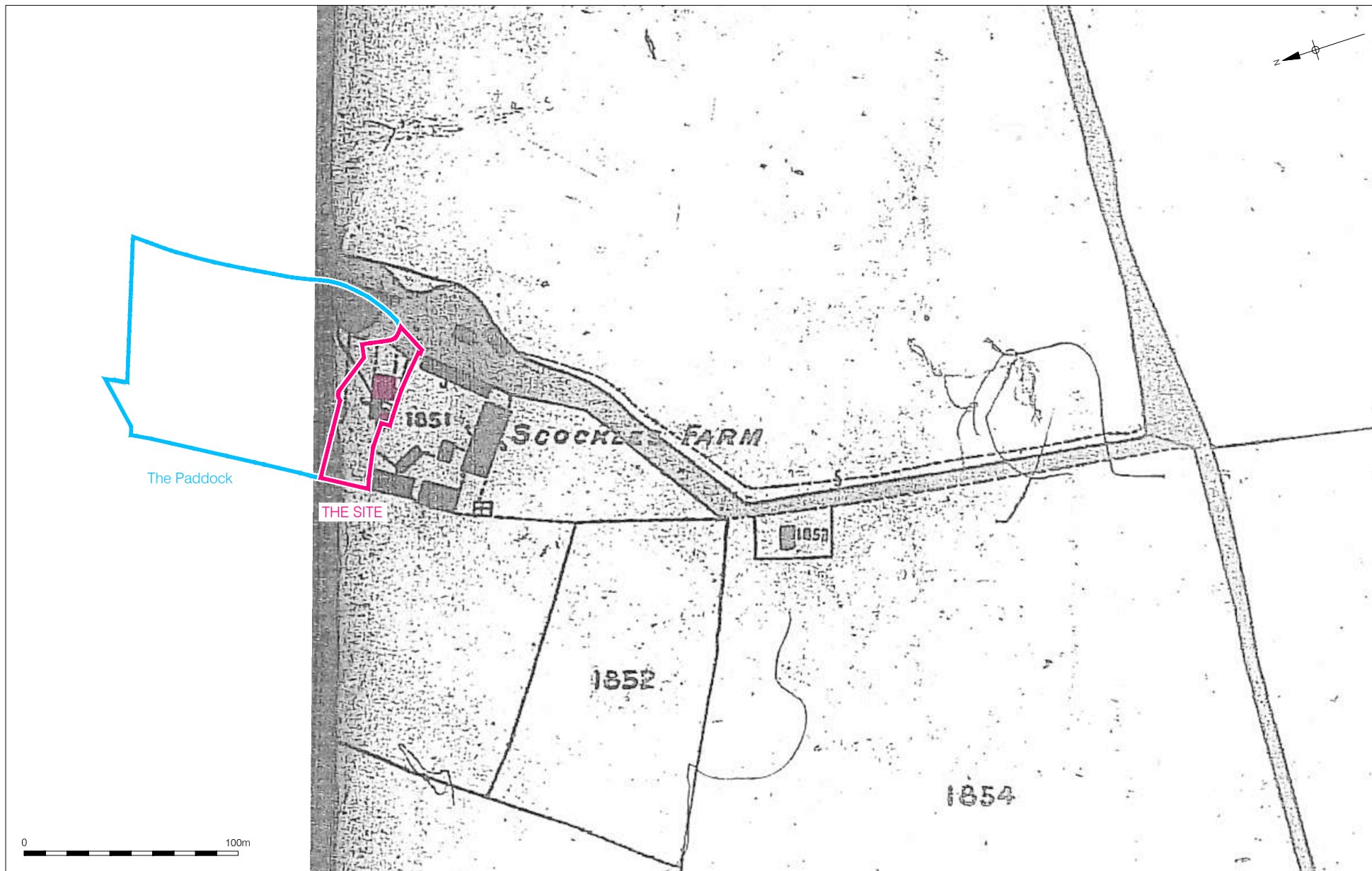
Figure 2
 Detailed Site Location
 1:1,000 at A4



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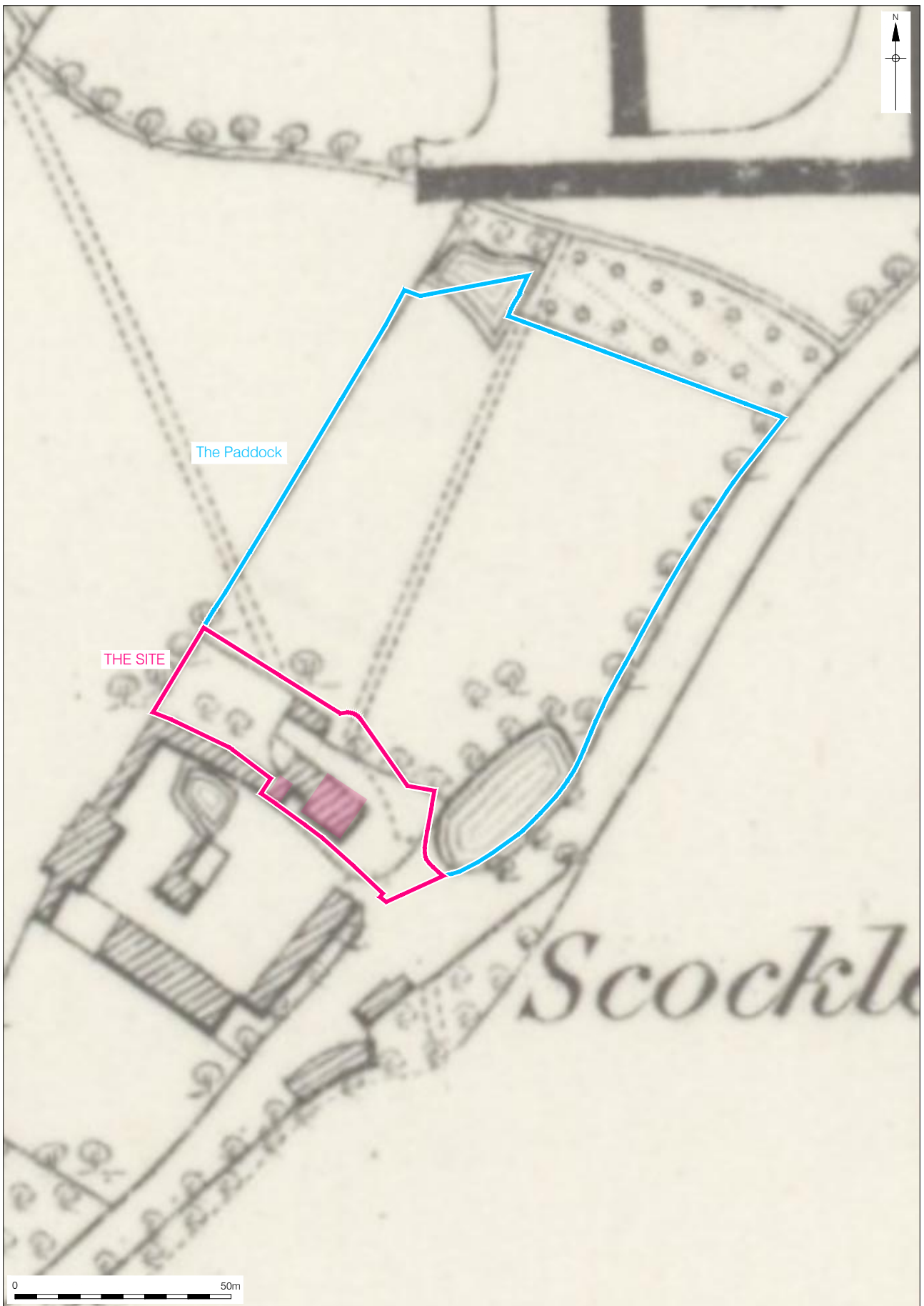
31/03/16 HB

Figure 4
Ordnance Survey First Series, 1816
approx 1:20000 at A4



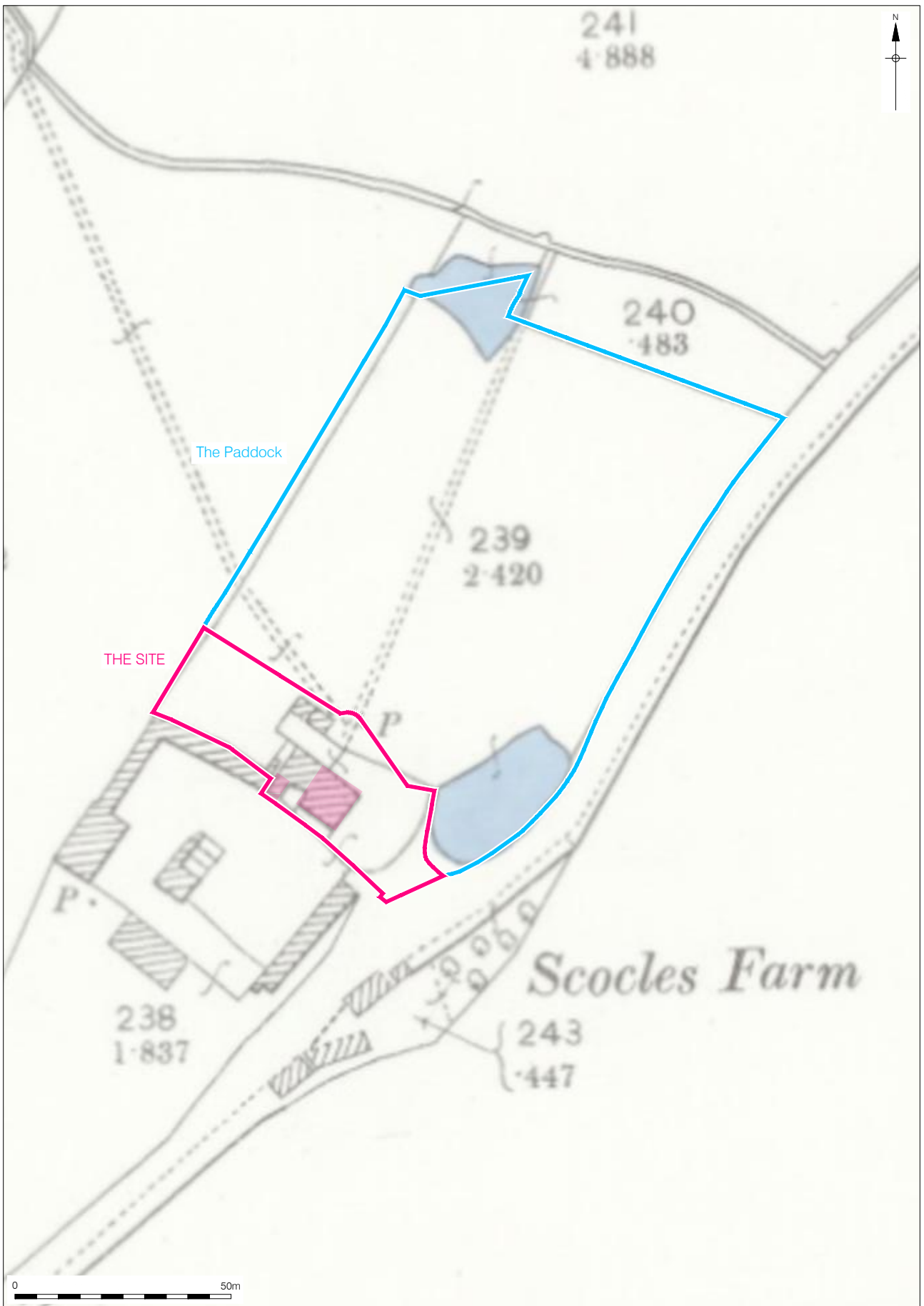
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Figure 5
Minster Tithe Map, 1841
1:2,500 at A4



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Figure 6
First Edition Ordnance Survey, 1869
1:1,250 at A4



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Figure 7
 Second Edition Ordnance Survey, 1898
 1:1,250 at A4



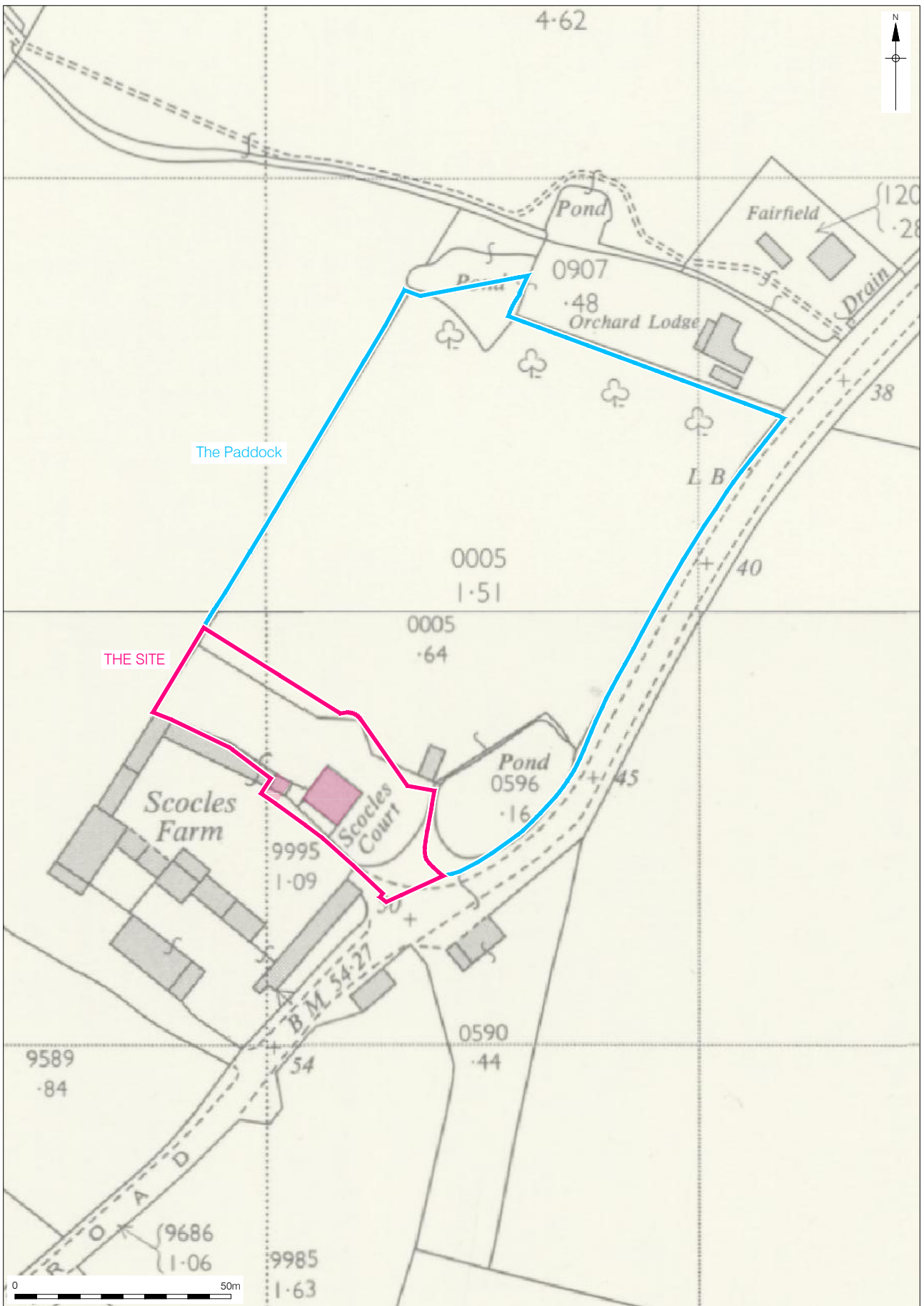
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Figure 8
Third Edition Ordnance Survey, 1908
1:1,250 at A4



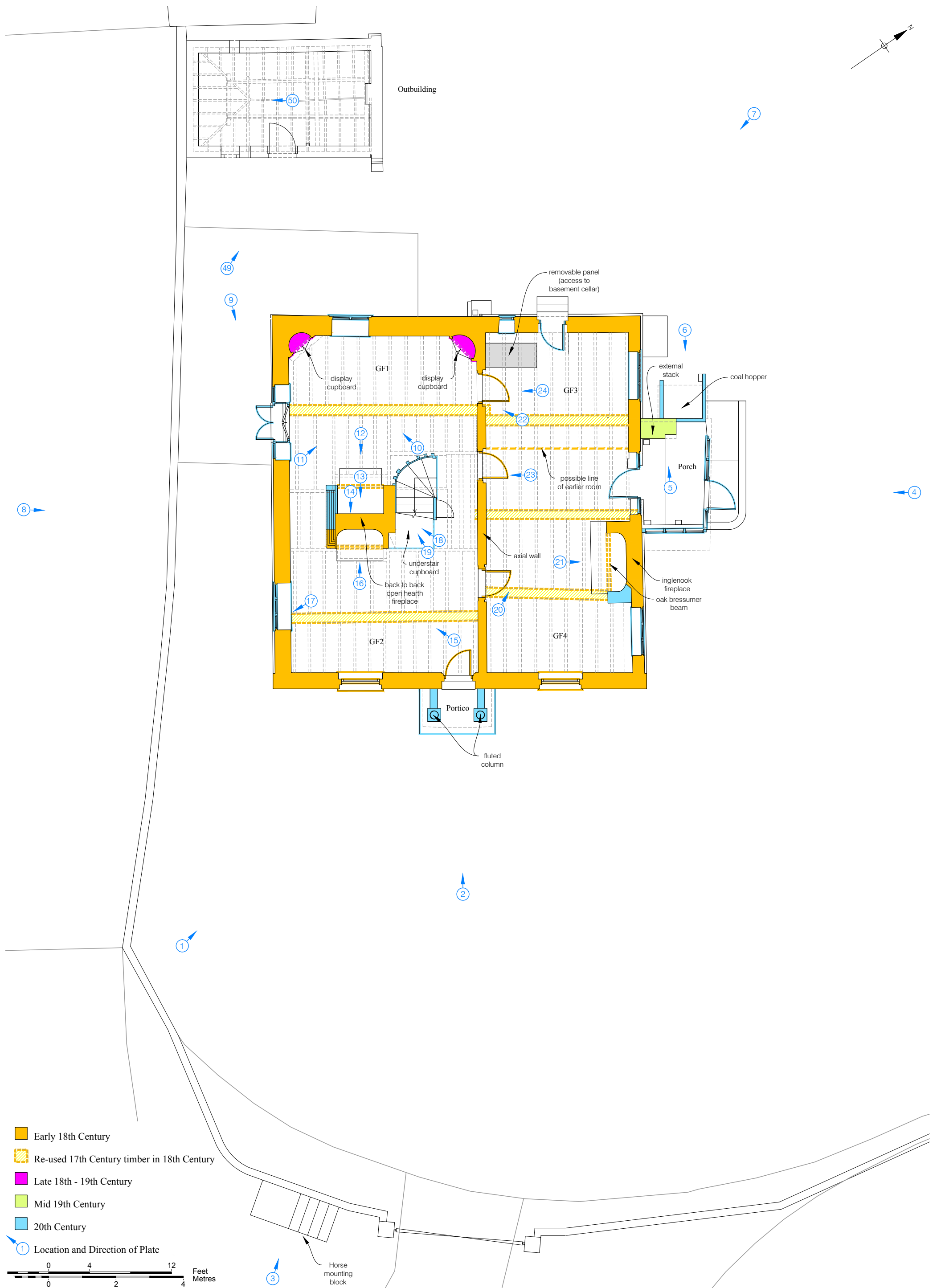
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Figure 9
Revised Edition Ordnance Survey, 1933
1:1,250 at A4



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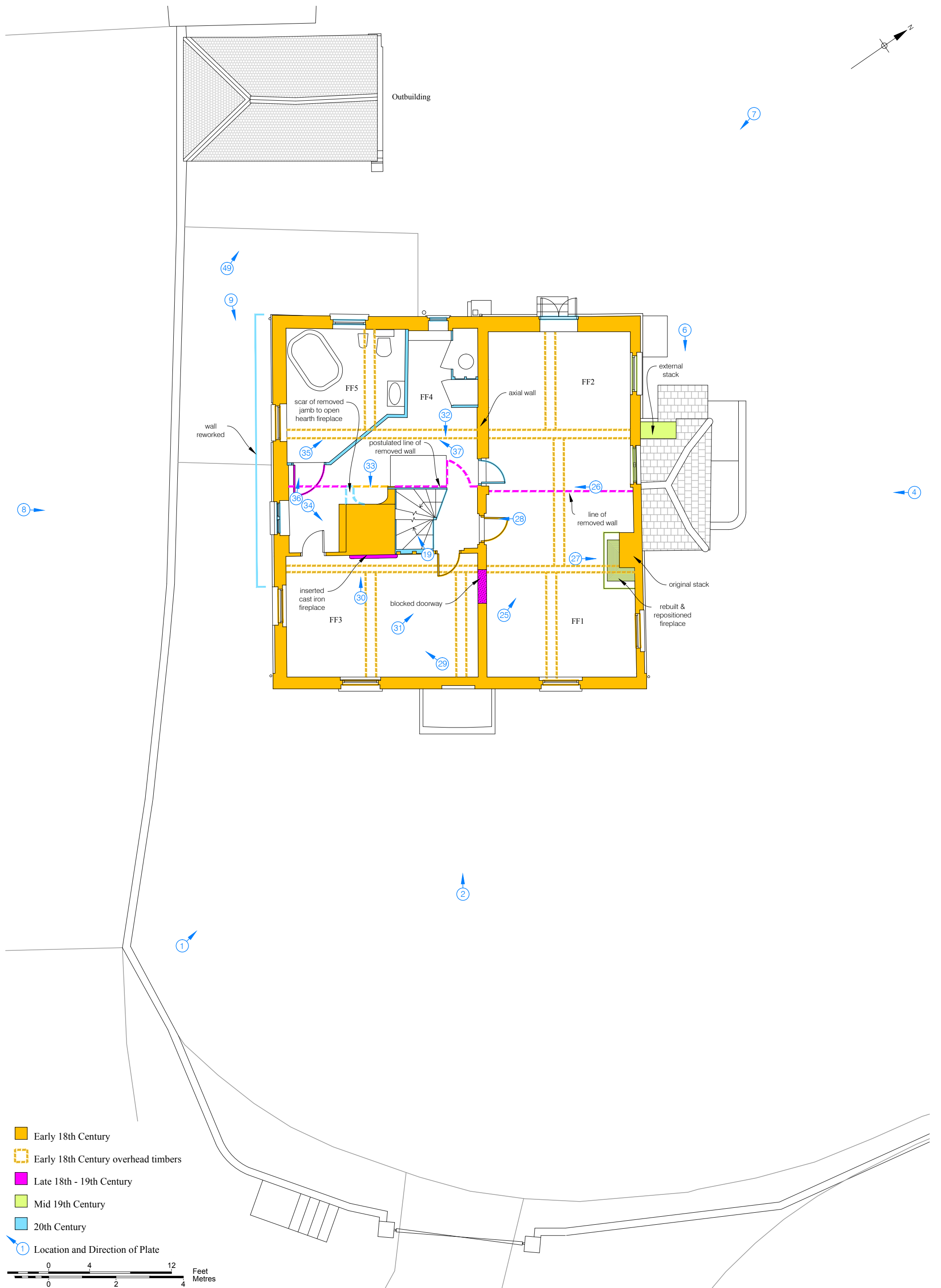
Figure 10
 Ordnance Survey, 1964
 1:1,250 at A4



- Early 18th Century
 - Re-used 17th Century timber in 18th Century
 - Late 18th - 19th Century
 - Mid 19th Century
 - 20th Century
 - ① Location and Direction of Plate
- 0 4 12 Feet Metres

Based on drawing supplied by Nigel Bird Architects
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Figure 11
 Ground Floor Plan as existing with plate directions
 1:100 at A3

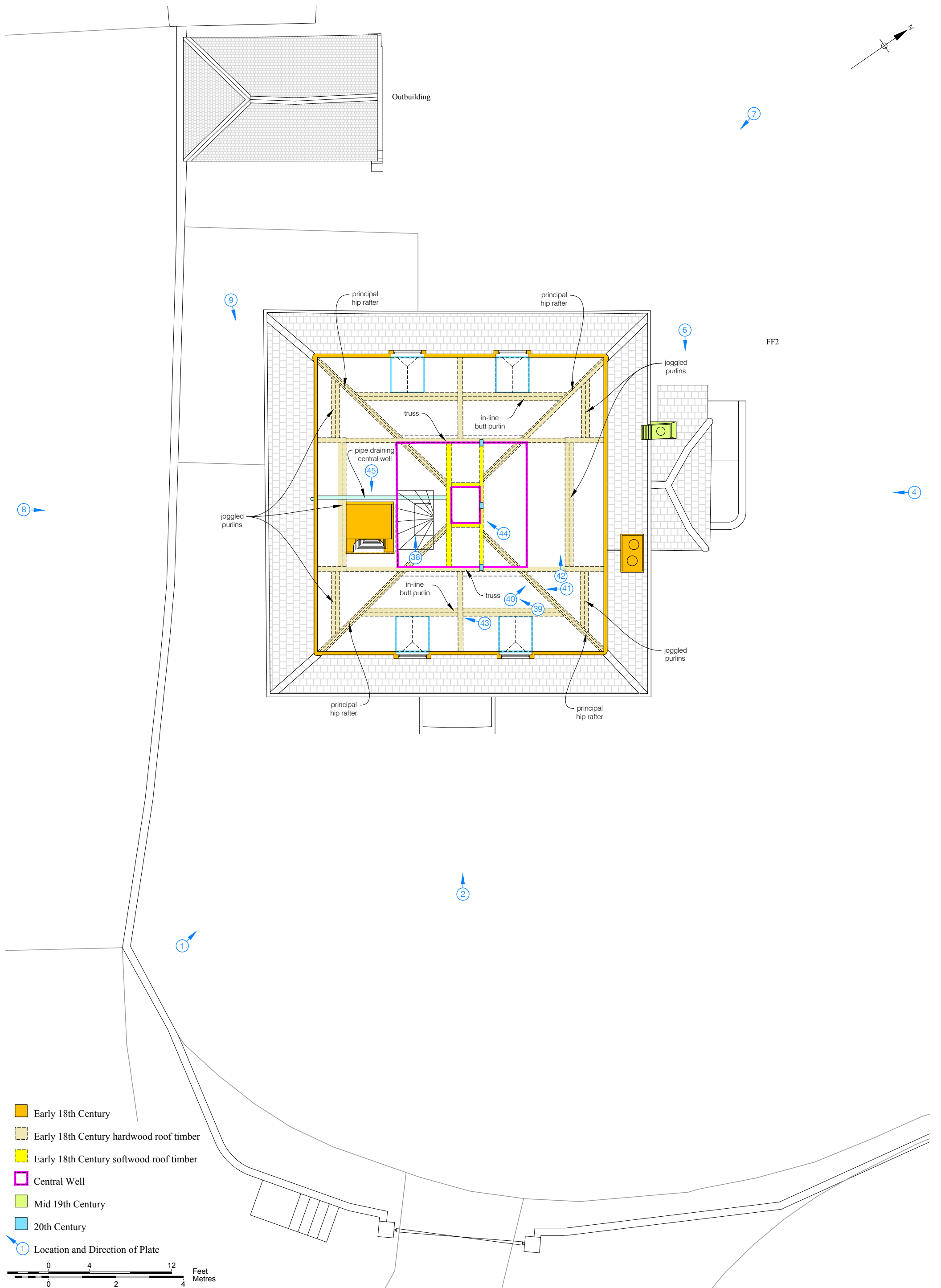


- Early 18th Century
- Early 18th Century overhead timbers
- Late 18th - 19th Century
- Mid 19th Century
- 20th Century
- 1 Location and Direction of Plate

0 4 12 Feet
0 2 4 Metres

Based on drawing supplied by Nigel Bird Architects
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Figure 12
First Floor Plan as existing with plate directions
1:100 at A3

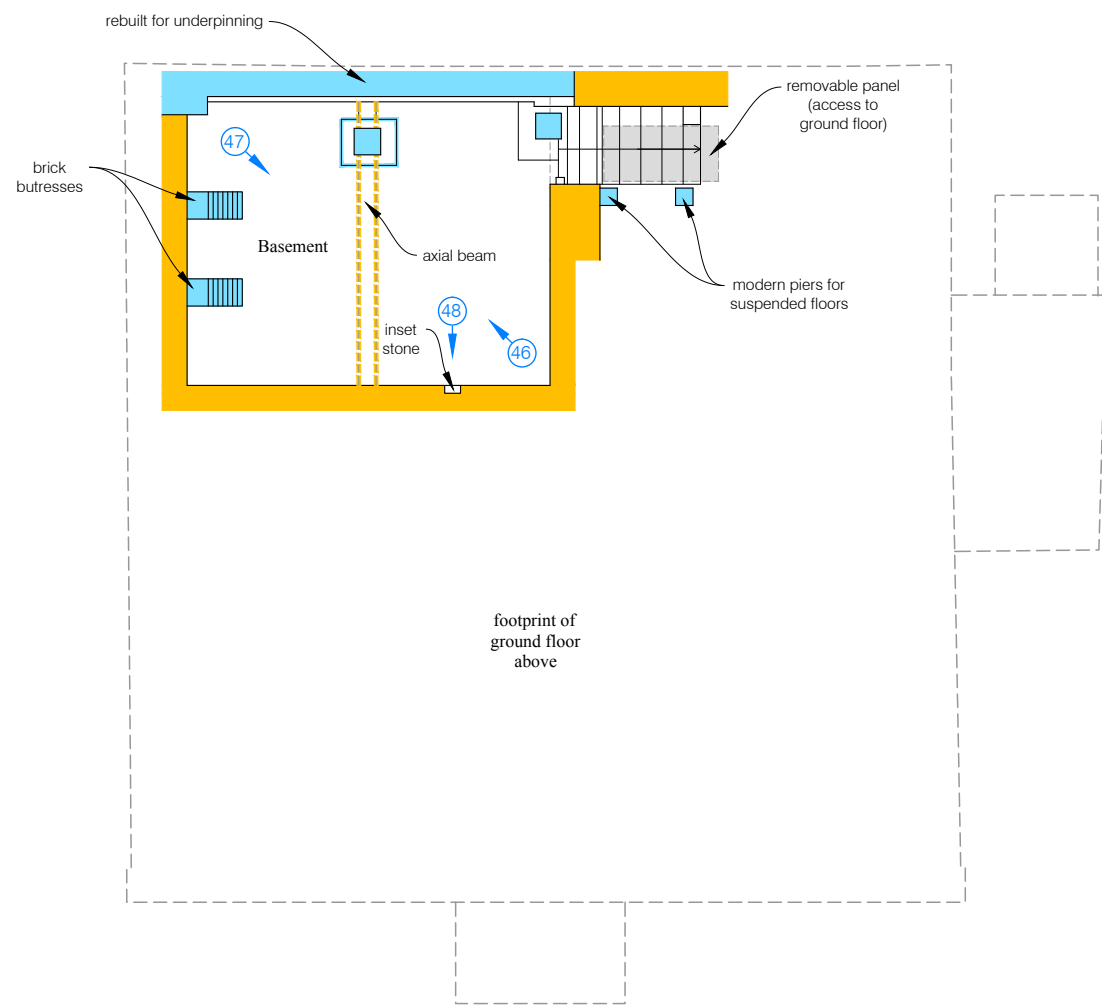
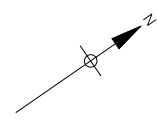


- Early 18th Century
- Early 18th Century hardwood roof timber
- Early 18th Century softwood roof timber
- Central Well
- Mid 19th Century
- 20th Century
- ① Location and Direction of Plate



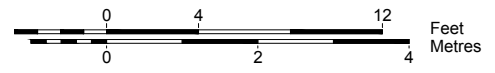
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Figure 13
 Attic Floor Plan as existing with plate directions
 1:100 at A3



- Early 18th Century
- 20th Century

① Location and Direction of Plate



Based on drawing supplied by Nigel Bird Architects
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Figure 14
Basement Plan as existing with plate directions
1:100 at A4



Historic Plate 1 Undated postcard showing south-west elevation of Scocles Farmhouse (now Scocles Manor Court), looking north-east (<http://www.pbase.com/luckytrev/minster>)



Plate 1 Scocles Manor Court looking north-west



Plate 2 Scocles Manor Court, principal elevation looking north-west



Plate 3 Horse mounting block looking north-west



Plate 4 North-east elevation looking south-west



Plate 5 Flue for boiler in northern porch, looking north-west



Plate 6 Coal hopper, looking south-east



Plate 7 North-west (rear) elevation looking south-east



Plate 8 South-west elevation looking north-east



Plate 9 South-west elevation looking south-east



Plate 10 Room GF1 showing display cupboards, looking west



Plate 11 Room GF 1 showing display cupboards looking north



Plate 12 Open hearth fireplace in GF1 showing rebuilding, looking south-east



Plate 13 Fireback in fireplace of GF1, looking south-east



Plate 14 Detail of crest in fireback in fireplace of GF1, looking south-east



Plate 15 Room GF2 looking west



Plate 16 Open hearth fireplace in GF2, looking north-west



Plate 17 Chamfer and ogee stop to binding joist in GF2, looking south



Plate 18 Detail of stair construction seen via ground floor under-stair cupboard in GF2, looking south-west



Plate 19 Winder stair, looking west down from the first floor to the ground floor



Plate 20 Rooms GF3 and GF4, looking north



Plate 21 Inglebrook fireplace in GF4 showing rebuilt south-east side, looking north-east



Plate 22 Simpler stops to binding joists and side by side layout of beams over axial wall in GF3, looking south-west



Plate 23 Eighteenth century strap hinge to door from GF1 to GF4, looking south-west



Plate 24 Plank door to GF3, looking south-west



Plate 25 Rooms FF1 and FF2, looking north-west



Plate 26 Removed partition wall between FF1 (left) and FF2 (right), looking south-west



Plate 27 Inserted mid-late 19th century cast-iron fire surround in Room FF1, looking north-east



Plate 28 Eighteenth century strap (T) hinge on door to FF1, looking south-west



Plate 29 Bedroom FF3, looking west (before the removal of the radiator)



Plate 30 Fireplace in Bedroom FF3, looking north-west



Plate 31 Eighteenth century door, dado rail and skirting boards in Room FF3, looking north



Plate 32 Former Bedroom FF4 looking south-east towards the staircase



Plate 33 Remains of fireplace to FF4, looking south-east



Plate 34 Heavy ceiling joists with Baltic marks over Room FF4, looking south-east



Plate 35 Former Bathroom FF5 before removal of partition (right) between Rooms FF4 and FF5, looking north



Plate 36 Former Bathroom FF5, looking north-west from FF4



Plate 37 Rooms FF4 and FF5 after the removal of partition wall between the two rooms, looking west



Plate 38 Winder stair, looking north-west from the attic down to the first floor



Plate 39 Attic floor showing fireplace and joggled butt purlins, looking south-west

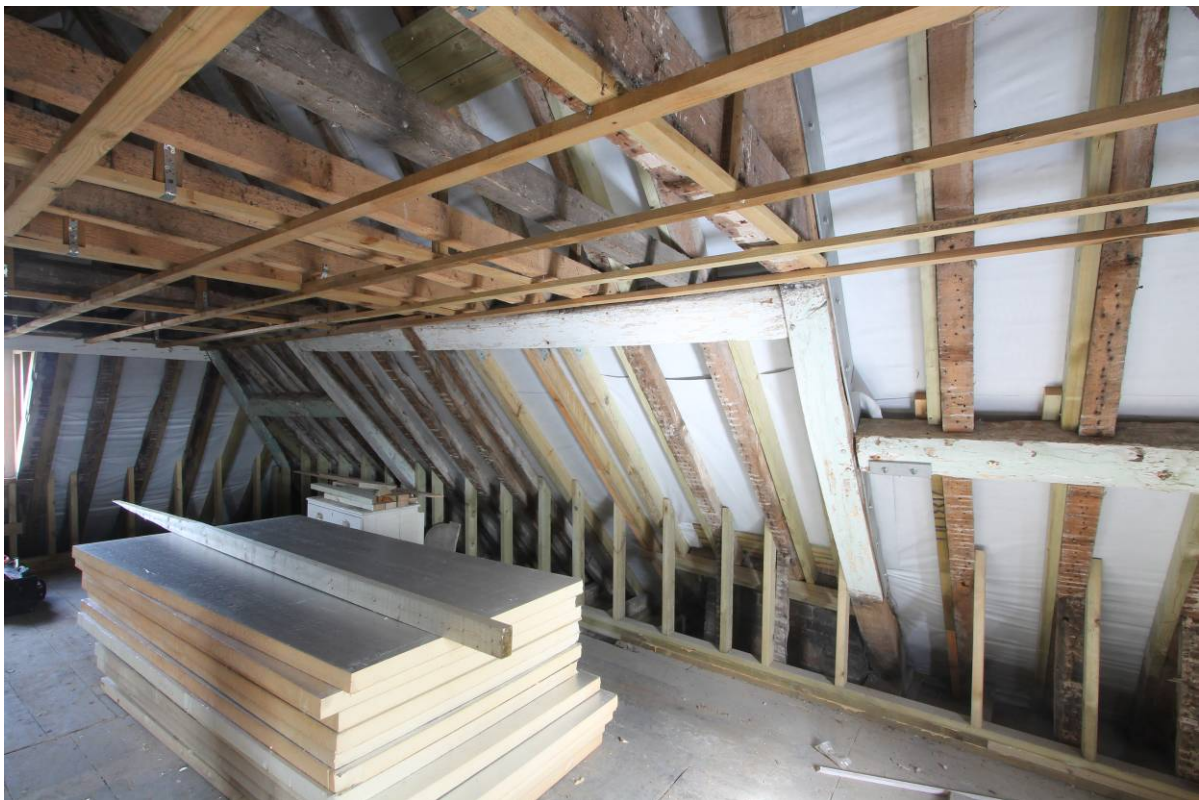


Plate 40 Attic floor showing joggled butt purlins, looking north-east



Plate 41 South-eastern roof pitch showing Baltic marks with the central well to the right, looking south-west



Plate 42 North-eastern roof pitch with central well to the left, looking north-west



Plate 43 Roman marking to common rafters in south-eastern roof pitch with central well to the right, looking south-west



Plate 44 Decay from leaking central well, looking west



Plate 45 Timber conduit holding drainage pipe from central roof well, looking south-east



Plate 46 Basement looking west



Plate 47 Basement looking east



Plate 48 Inserted Stone with inscribed possible date 17...?



Plate 49 Former farm outbuilding, looking north



Plate 50 Clapsed side purlin roof in former farm outbuilding, looking south-west

PCA

PCA SOUTH

UNIT 54
BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE
96 ENDWELL ROAD
BROCKLEY
LONDON SE4 2PD
TEL: 020 7732 3925 / 020 7639 9091
FAX: 020 7639 9588
EMAIL: info@pre-construct.com

PCA NORTH

UNIT 19A
TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK
DURHAM DH6 5PG
TEL: 0191 377 1111
FAX: 0191 377 0101
EMAIL: info.north@pre-construct.com

PCA CENTRAL

THE GRANARY, RECTORY FARM
BREWERY ROAD, PAMPISFORD
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 3EN
TEL: 01223 845 522
FAX: 01223 845 522
EMAIL: info.central@pre-construct.com

PCA WEST

BLOCK 4
CHILCOMB HOUSE
CHILCOMB LANE
WINCHESTER
HAMPSHIRE SO23 8RB
TEL: 01962 849 549
EMAIL: info.west@pre-construct.com

PCA MIDLANDS

17-19 KETTERING RD
LITTLE BOWDEN
MARKET HARBOROUGH
LEICESTERSHIRE LE16 8AN
TEL: 01858 468 333
EMAIL: info.midlands@pre-construct.com

