

# GROVE HOUSE, 1 WHARF STREET, BAWTRY, SOUTH YORKSHIRE



## Archaeological Building Recording during structural alterations

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SUMMARY OF PROJECT DETAILS

<b>OASIS ID:</b>	Thejesso1-312103
<b>TJC Project Code:</b>	A13
<b>Project Type(s):</b>	Structural Watching Brief b/w Photography
<b>National Grid Reference:</b>	SK 65231 93089 (centered)
<b>County:</b>	South Yorkshire
<b>District/Unitary Authority:</b>	Doncaster MBC
<b>Parish:</b>	Bawtry
<b>Elevation (above sea level):</b>	c.10m
<b>Designation Status(s):</b>	Listed Building – Grade II (NHLE: 1286917) Bawtry Conservation Area
<b>HER Record No(s):</b>	n/a
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Oliver Jessop MCI(A)
<b>Reviewed by</b>	James Thomson MCI(A)
<b>Date:</b>	April 2018
<b>Version:</b>	FINAL

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## NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

*During internal structural alterations to Grove House in Bawtry, South Yorkshire and an intermittent archaeological watching brief was maintained to document areas of historic fabric that were exposed. The building is Grade II Listed (NHLE 1286917) and falls within the Bawtry Conservation Area.*

*The archaeological monitoring was a requirement of Listed Building Consent (BMBC LBC 15/02919/FUL) and undertaken in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation.*

*Only three locations in the frontage part of Grove House were examined, but the results have enhanced our understanding of the development of the property. The detailed archaeological recording of the exposed sections of historic fabric have demonstrated that the walling varies in its constructional style, with evidence noted in room G4 for struck pointing, which is suggestive that this was once an external wall face. This interpretation contradicts the previous description of the development of the building by in a Heritage Statement (Wells 2006, 20-21), which suggested that the phase 1 building had a double pile plan. This now appears to have been incorrect and that the initial layout comprised of a single room deep plan of three units/rooms that fronted directly onto the pavement.*

*In addition, the examination of the recessed cupboard in room G2, has indicated that this was once a doorway, that has subsequently been blocked with a thin timber studwork frame and in-filled with bricks, most likely as part of the phase 2 remodeling of the interior.*

*It is also interesting to note that the size of the bricks that were recorded in each of the three areas where monitoring was undertaken, c.5.5-6cm x 12cm x 24-24.5cm, are slightly larger than bricks commonly dated to the 18<sup>th</sup> Century and which help with confirm that the phase 1 building was 17<sup>th</sup> Century in origin.*

*It is concluded that the aims of this scheme of archaeological recording have refined our understanding of the phased development and constructional sequence of the Grove House and will add to the earlier research and analysis previous undertaken.*

*This report will be submitted to the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service for inclusion within their Sites and Monuments Record and uploaded to the Online Archaeological Database of Archaeological Projects – OASIS (No. Thejesso1-312 103).*

# I INTRODUCTION

## BACKGROUND

This document presents the results of a programme of archaeological monitoring in the form of an structural watching brief during internal alterations to Grove House in Bawtry, South Yorkshire (**Figure 1**). It has been prepared in accordance with guidance issued by Historic England (2016) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).

Grove House is a Grade II Listed building, of which the core fabric dates to the 17<sup>th</sup> Century (Wells 2016, 20). It falls within the Bawtry Conservation Area.

## AIMS

The principal aim of this scheme of archaeological monitoring has been to identify, record and interpret any aspects of the historic fabric, or *in-situ* features that are currently obscured. With particular regard to:

- Recording any evidence for former structural elements, surfaces and decorative schemes;
- Establishing the constructional sequence of the building;
- Establishing and interpreting any results with reference to the previous surveys and research that has been undertaken.

## *PRINCIPAL DELIVERABLES DERIVING FROM THIS WORK:*

- A structured fieldwork archive, comprising site notes, records, drawings, digital and b/w photographs to document the condition, nature and extent of any historic features within the fabric of the building that are encountered;
- The preparation of an interpretative report that provides a discussion upon the nature of any features that are discovered;
- To issue digital and bound copies of the report to the Client, DMBC and the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service for inclusion with the County Sites and Monuments Record;
- To upload a digital summary to OASIS (Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations).

## DISSEMINATION

Printed or digital copies of this report will be distributed to the Client, DMBC and SYAS. In addition, a digital copy will be uploaded to the OASIS (Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations) with the reference number: **thejessol-312 103**.

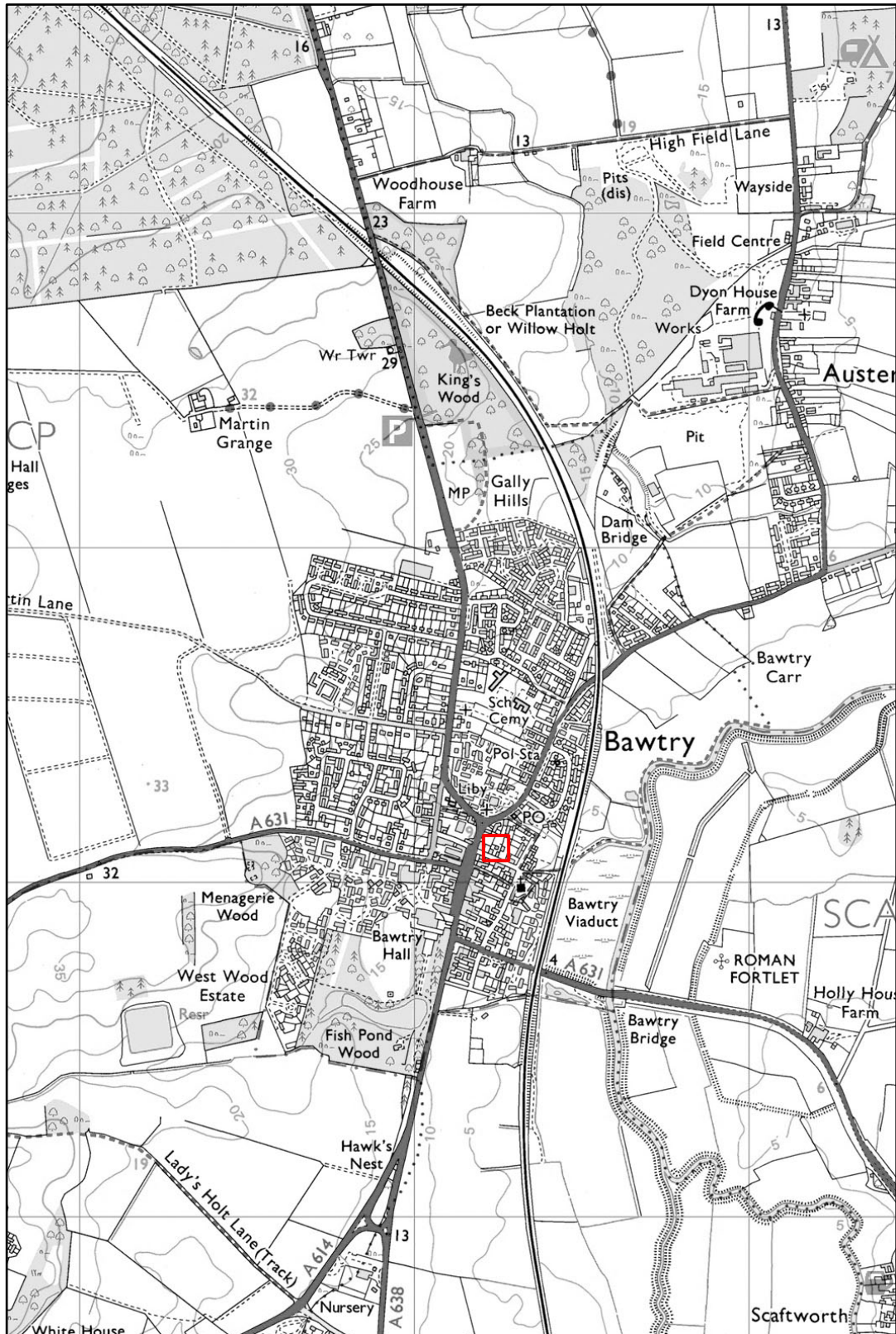


Figure 1: Location map of Grove House

OS map reproduced under Licence No. 100056148. Ordnance Survey © Crown Copyright ©.

## 2 SITE LOCATION AND BASELINE CONDITION

### LOCATION OF SITE AND SETTING

Grove House is located at 1 Wharf Street (**Appendix 1.1**) in the south-east of Bawtry in South Yorkshire (**Figure 2**). It has an L-shaped plan with a linear extension to the rear (**Appendix 1.2**). The building sits on the north side of Wharf Street. The west boundary is formed by Granby House and a Public House. Grove Coach House and The Poplars form the eastern boundary while the northern boundary is formed by the gardens to Grove Coach House.

The site is centered on NGR SK 65231 93089.

### GEOLOGY AND ELEVATION

The underlying bedrock geology is Nottingham Castle Sandstone Formation – Sandstone, Pebbly. Superficial deposits are recorded as River Terrace Deposits 1 – Sand and Gravel (BGS Digital data 2018).

The house is located at an elevation of c.10m above sea.



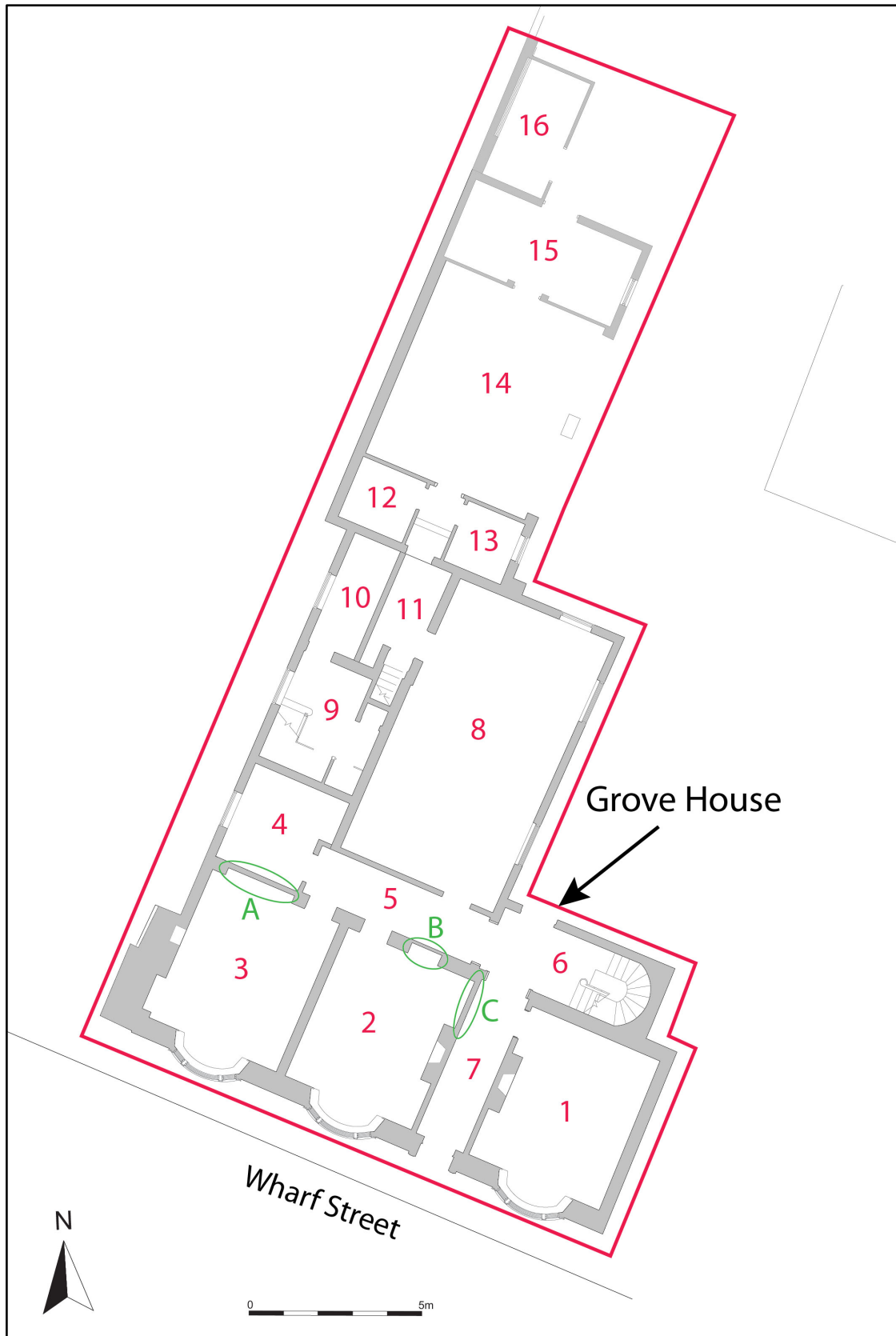


Figure 2: Ground floor layout of Grove House (areas of watching brief - A-C)

## 3 METHODOLOGY

### INTRODUCTION

This scheme of archaeological monitoring has been undertaken in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014), and Historic England (2016) and an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (TJC 2017).

### METHODOLOGY

The archaeological recording was undertaken following a soft strip of sections of plasterwork and, an intermittent archaeological watching brief was maintained during the removal of sections of brickwork. The purpose was to identify and document any aspects of the historic fabric that were obscured, or inaccessible.

Written notes and sketches were produced during the watching brief and a single b/w film was taken along with a selection of digital photographs (see **Appendix 1**). Each photograph included a metric survey scale of an appropriate scale, and positioned in suitable locations within each frame as appropriate (**Appendix 1**). A written register and location plan have been used to document the location of all photographs (**Appendix 2**).

### LIMITATIONS

The watching brief has been limited to the three locations on the ground floor where brickwork was removed, it did not examine any other areas of the property, although a series of general photos of the exterior were taken to place the building in its wider context.

The scope of the report is limited to:

- Consultation with architectural plans produced for alterations to the building;
- Detailed site survey comprising of b/w photography;
- The preparation of this report and a fieldwork archive.

### NOMENCLATURE

The terminology used throughout this document has been derived from existing names and descriptions associated with Grove House.

### SITE SURVEY

The dates that the watching brief was undertaken was on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> July 2017 by Oliver Jessop MCI(A).

## 4 UNDERSTANDING THE SITE - HISTORY

### SUMMARY

The origins of Grove House are unknown, although it is likely that it was built in the 17th century for one of the wealthy merchants in Bawtry. The previous heritage statement (Wells 2016, 27) suggests that it was built as a double pile property facing the street (**Appendix I.1**), however it is more likely that the form of the original building was a linear structure two-storeys in height, one room deep and three rooms in length with a cellar – c.5.9m x 16m (see **Figure 3**).

The second phase of the building comprised of a large rectangular extension to the rear c.8.5m x 10.5m (**Appendix I.4**). This effectively doubled the size of the building and represents a considerable investment in upgrading the interior plan form and circulation routes within the building. This included the addition of a large curved staircase in the south-east corner (**Appendix I.3**), with a secondary ancillary staircase to the north-west for domestic service staff. It is likely that the façade was enhanced at this date by the addition of bowed bay windows and the door-case was altered. From cartographic sources, this second phase of work is assumed to have been undertaken in the 1840s (Wells 2016, 30).

The third phase of development comprises a series of subsequent changes to the most northerly end of the rear wing, when a second single-storey extension c.5.6m x 14.5m was added (**Appendix I.3**). This is dated to the mid-late 19<sup>th</sup> Century and perhaps undertaken by Edward Smith who was the owner in 1883. Following his death in 1884, his son Captain Edward Smith took residence.

The property was auctioned in 1902, the lot comprising of the house, a coach house, stables, gardens and a small strip of land on the opposite side of the street used as a garden.

In 1911, the Hennington family then occupied the house but the property was again put up for auction in August 1950, after which it was divided into two parts, the rear becoming used as a Youth Hostel.

In the early 21<sup>st</sup> Century, it was adapted to offices, but has again reverted to domestic accommodation.

## 5 UNDERSTANDING THE SITE – DESCRIPTION OF FABRIC

### SUMMARY

This section of the report describes the three areas of the ground floor where the archaeological watching brief was undertaken (see **Figure 2**). Each relates to the removal of plasterwork on both faces of internal walls within the frontage section of Grove House and then the removal of brickwork to form new door openings.

### OBSERVATION A (ROOMS G3/G4)

A new opening was made in the north wall of **G3** (**Appendix I.5**) to allow direct access in to **G4** to the north (**Appendix I.6**), the first stage of which comprised the removal of the existing wall plaster coving an area of c.1.42m wide by 2.3m high. The north wall of **G3** comprised of a recessed arch forming a vaulted niche.

The removed plaster was found to be c.2.5-3cm in thickness on both wall faces and was a lime mix with coarse brown animal hair added as a binder. Over the top was a thin skim of modern gypsum plaster.

During the removal of the brickwork it was noted that the treatment of the pointing varied, with the joints in **G4** having a struck finish (**Appendix I.7**), whilst in **G3** they were unstruck (**Appendix I.8**). This evidence is indicative that the wall face exposed in **G4** was originally an external wall, which helps confirm the phased development of the front section of the building. The bricks were of an orange/red handmade fabric with no frog and measured 5.5cm x 12cm x 24.5cm.

It was also observed that the wall itself was only one brick thick and comprising of irregular courses of stretch and headers, however the headers actually represent cut back whole bricks. This is an odd detail as the walling on either side of the arch is wider. One explanation is that the wall was built as a standard width, but when the building was extended in phase 2, the recessed niche in **G3** was formed by partially removing the inner skin of the bricks within the room and any projecting headers were cut back to their current thickness (**Appendix I.5**).

### OBSERVATION B (ROOMS G2/G5)

In the north wall of **G2** there is a doorway to the west and a recessed cupboard set slightly off-center (**Appendix I.9**). Both the door and cupboard have deeply moulded architraves typical of a mid 18<sup>th</sup> century style, although there is a curved arch set above a flat lintel above the cupboard, reminiscent of the recess in **G3** (**Appendix I.5**) and presumably contemporary in date forming part of the phase 2 remodeling.

The cupboard measured 0.4m x 1.12m and was internally plastered with a lime mix with coarse brown animal hair, c.2.5m thick. The interior was painted a dark ochre colour, with 5x horizontal scars (**Appendix I.10**) indicating the location of former shelves of differing heights.

The north wall of the corridor **G5** on the opposite side of the new opening that as being created was also plastered with a slightly thicker layer of plaster, c.3cm, but on top of the lime and hair mix was a skim of modern gypsym plaster.

During the removal of the plaster in the recessed cupboard two timber posts were exposed (**Appendix I.11**). These measured 6cm x 7cm in scantling and were nailed into a horizontal timber at the top (**Appendix I.12**) with hand forged nails. Between the timber posts, or studs, bricks had been inserted and set on their side in an offset pattern. The bricks were of an orange handmade fabric with no frog and measured 6cm x 12cm x 24cm. The wall and plaster on either face measured 11.5cm in thickness.

An interesting feature of the horizontal timber that formed a lintel above the inserted studs was a row of small timber wedges immediately above it (**Appendix I.12**). This detail may indicate that the lintel was a secondary insertion into the wall fabric, and the wedges were used to pack up the void at the top to prevent the bricks in the wall above from dropping. It is however suggested that the inserted wall at the rear of the cupboard in **G2** is secondary insertion into an earlier doorway opening as part of the phase 2 alterations. The formation of this blocking therefore comprised of both the vertical studs and the horizontal timber, which is not large enough to have functioned as a lintel and must have been removed.

#### OBSERVATION C (ROOMS G2/G7)

A new doorway was formed in the entrance corridor **G7** into **G2** (**Appendices I.13, I.14**) and was directly opposite the existing doorway in **G1**. The plaster on both wall faces was found to be a lime mix with added animal hair c.3cm thick with a modern skim of gypsum plaster. The wall core was a single skin of brick (**Appendix I.12**) measuring 12cm in width. Exposed within the center of the wall at a height of 1.27m above the timber floorboards in **G7** was a horizontal softwood timber (see **Appendices I.15, I.16**). This appeared to be reused and contained 3-4 redundant peg holes, but it did not appear to represent an *in-situ* timber frame. A second block of timber measuring 7cm x 12cm was located at a height of 0.72m above the floor (**Appendix I.15**) and may have been used to act as a nail fixing point for panelling, or a low dado rail.

The walling bricks were an orange handmade fabric with no frog and measuring 5.5-6cm x 12cm x 24cm. No additional features were noted in this section of brickwork.

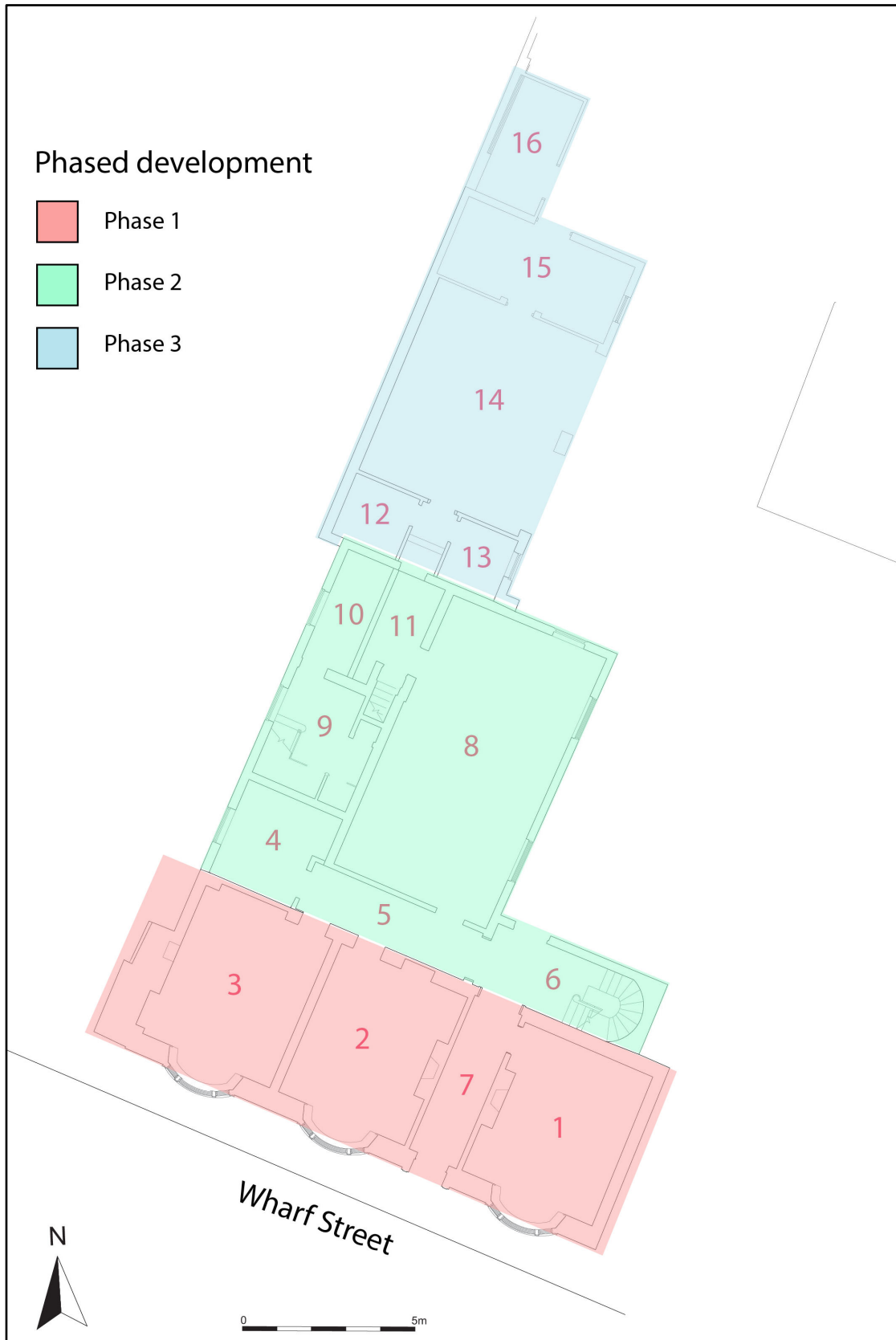


Figure 3: Block plan with phased development of Grove House

## 6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

### DISCUSSION

The scheme of archaeological monitoring only examined three locations in the frontage part of Grove House, but the results have enhanced our understanding of the development of the property. The detailed archaeological recording of the exposed sections of wall fabric have demonstrated that the walling varies in its constructional style, with evidence noted in **G4** for struck pointing, which is suggestive that this was once an external wall face. This interpretation contradicts the previous description of the development of the building by Wells (2006, 20-21), which suggested that the phase 1 building had a double pile plan. This now appears to have been incorrect and that the initial layout comprised of a single room deep plan of three rooms that fronted directly onto the pavement.

In addition, the examination of the recessed cupboard in **G2**, has indicated that this was once a doorway, that has subsequently been blocked with a thin timber studwork frame and in-filled with bricks, most likely as part of the phase 2 remodeling of the building.

It is also interesting to note that the size of the bricks that were recorded in each of the three areas where monitoring was undertaken, c.5.5-6cm x 12cm x 24-24.5cm, are slightly larger than bricks commonly dated to the 18<sup>th</sup> Century and which help confirm that the phase 1 building was 17<sup>th</sup> Century in origin.

### CONCLUSION

It is concluded that the aims of this scheme of archaeological recording have refined our understanding of the phased development and constructional sequence of the Grove House and will add to the earlier research and analysis previous undertaken in the Heritage Statement by Wells in 2016.

The building is a Designated Heritage Asset and contributes to the historic character of Bawtry and the requirement for archaeological monitoring during the structural alterations can be considered as having been a worthwhile exercise.

## 7 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### AUTHORSHIP

This report has been prepared by Oliver Jessop MClfA. Editing has been provided by James Thomson MClfA.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Russell Fennell is thanked for his help in arranging access and for commissioning the work. Lisa Cowley is acknowledged and thanked for providing survey drawings and background information to the project.

### PROJECT ARCHIVE

The fieldwork archive will ultimately be deposited with the Doncaster archives in South Yorkshire.

*The archive contents of this survey include:*

- 1x b/w photographic negative sheets (Films 1)
- photographic prints (x16 5"x7")
- Field notes and drawings (6x A4) and photographic registers (1x A4)
- Copy of final report (TJC2018.24)

### SOURCES AND REFERENCES CONSULTED

#### SECONDARY SOURCES: PUBLISHED WORKS AND GREY LITERATURE

ClfA (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists). 2014. *Standards and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings and structures*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: Reading

HE (Historic England). 2016. *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice*. Historic England: London

Emma J.Wells Heritage Consultancy (EWHC). 2016. *Grove House, Bawtry, Heritage Statement*. (Unpublished) Report No.CS2015GHB001

TJC (2017). *Grove House, 1 Wharf Street, Bawtry, South Yorkshire – Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological building recording during structural alterations*. (Unpublished) TJC Report No.2017.14



INTERNET RESOURCES

- British Geological Survey: [www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)
- National Heritage List: [www.english-eritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-england/](http://www.english-eritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-england/)

## **Appendix I:**

### Survey Photographs



Appendix I.1: General view of front elevation of Grove House looking east (2m scale).



Appendix I.2: General view of west elevation of Grove House, looking south-east (2m scale).





**Appendix I.3:** General view of rear of property, looking south-west (2m scale).



**Appendix I.4:** General view of exterior of staircase with round headed window (2m scale).





Appendix I.5: Detail of north wall of G3 with plaster removed (1 m/2m scale).



Appendix I.6: Detail of south wall of G4 with plaster removed (1 m/2m scale).



Appendix I.7: Detail of brick wall between **G3** and **G4**; note single brick thickness.



Appendix I.8: Detail of south wall of **G4**; note struck pointing suggestive of being external (10cm scale).





**Appendix I.9:** General view of north wall in **G2** (1m/2m scale).



**Appendix I.10:** General view of south wall of corridor **G5** (1m/2m scale).



**Appendix I.11:** Detail of exposed timber studs and brick fill in cupboard in **G2** (0.5m scale).



**Appendix I.12:** Detail of re-used timber forming lintel in south wall of corridor **G5** (10cm scale).





Appendix I.13: General view of north-east corner of **G2** (1m/2m scale).



Appendix I.14: General view of north-east corner of **G2** following removal of bricks (2m scale).



Appendix I.15: General view of north wall in G7, note inset timbers (1m/2m scale).





Appendix I.16: Detail of inset timber in wall between **G2** and **G7**; note single brick thick (10cm scale).