

Lord Crewe Arms Blanchland

Historic Building Record Part 1



Report Date: November 2014

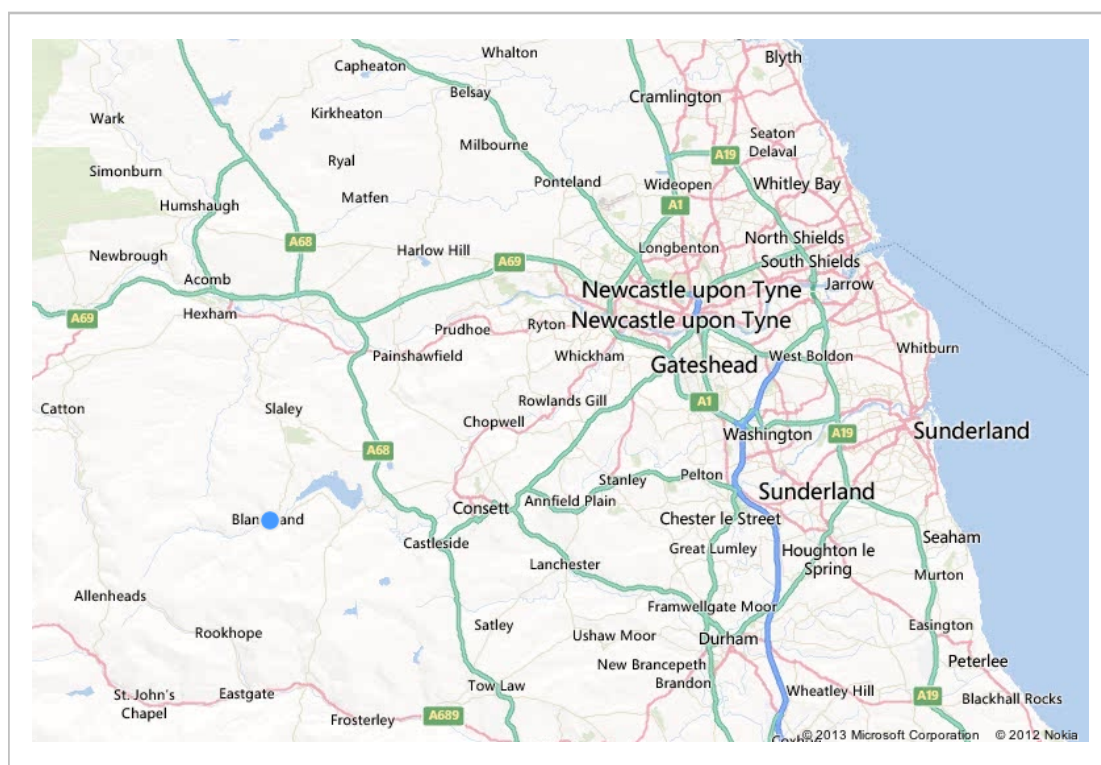
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1. Introduction

JB Heritage Consultancy was commissioned to carry out a Level 2 Historic Building Record of The Lord Crewe Arms, The Square, Blanchland, Consett, County Durham, DH8 9SP on 1 October 2013. The record was prepared by John Bargh MSc IHBC. The report is written in accordance with the Brief for Recording a Group of Historic Buildings issued by Northumberland County Council dated 26 June 2013 and received via an email dated 2 September 2013. Documentary research was undertaken at Northumberland Archives, Woodhorn, Northumberland, Newcastle Library, books and the Internet. The report format is laid out in accordance with English Heritage: Understanding Historic Buildings a Guide to Good Recording Practice 2006 and will conform as a minimum to Level 2 standard as set out in this Guide.

Blanchland is located about 11 miles south of Hexham on the B6306. The village is situated in the Derwent Valley and surrounded by picturesque woodland. The Lord Crewe Arms is situated in the centre of the village.



This report accords with the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by JB Heritage Consultancy dated 16 November 2013 and approved by Northumberland County Council in November 2013.

Blanchland lies in the north east corner of the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The village lies within the Blanchland Conservation Area which was designated on 10 October 1972. Details of the Listing for the Lord Crewe Arms is given in Appendix F but briefly they are as follows:- Lord Crewe Arms ID Number 240415 Grade II*; Wall on South Side of Churchyard ID Number 240384 Grade II; No 17 and Houses, Wing of Lord Crewe Arms ID Number 240413 Grade II; Outbuildings and Privies ID Number 240414 Grade II; The grounds to the east of The Lord Crewe Arms English Heritage Scheduled Monument List Entry Number 1017683vc.

The drawings in this record are to be found in Appendix A, B and C and are provided by Architectural Design and Planning Limited.

A 2 metre surveyors lath has been used in some of the photographs. Where coloured graduations are shown each graduation is 500mm long. Photographs included in the report are taken with a Digital SLR Camera Canon EOS 400D DIGITAL. Photographs of historic features are to be found in two separate documents entitled: Lord Crewe Arms Blanchland, Historic Building Record Part 2: Photographs Document 1 and Document 2.

Where historical significant features are identified in the text, they are given their respective Plate No reference which is then located on the existing drawings in Appendix A: Existing Plans and Elevations at the back of the record. It is also cross referenced to the relevant photograph, or Plate in the two documents comprising Part 2. The direction of the arrow relating to the Plate No on the Existing Plans is the direction from which the photograph was taken. The phasing of historic periods is noted on the three drawings to be found in Appendix B: Phased Historic Plans at the back of this record. For ease of description the Lord Crewe Arms is split up into areas which are shown on the plan in Appendix E. Also towards the back of the report is a Block Plan (Figure 25) of the village of Blanchland showing Medieval masonry.

The NCC Brief requires the programme of building recording to broadly adhere to Level 2 of the Guide but some additional items are required from other levels of the guidelines. These items are as follows:-

Written Account

This section should include:-

- Precise details of the location of the building, by name or street number, civil parish or town.
- The National Grid reference of the building and details of listing or scheduling.
- The date when the record was made and the name of the recorder.
- A summary of the building's plan, type and purpose, materials used in construction and so far as is possible, the date of construction.
- The names of architects, builders, patrons and owners (if known).

Drawn Record

This section should include:

- A scale plan and elevations of all floors as existing, showing the form and location of any structural features of historic significance (including blocked windows and doors, former fireplace openings, masonry joints, changes in internal levels, internal fixtures and fittings).
- Areas of modern disturbance should be noted on plans and/or elevations as this will help to identify areas where impact on historic fabric can be reduced in future applications within the buildings.
- Architect's plans and elevations can be used, provided that they are at a recognisable planning scale and show sufficient structural detail. Any additional features and any discrepancies found on site must be amended on the plans.

Photography

This section should include:-

- General views of the exterior of the building, from all angles.
- The overall appearance of the principal rooms and circulation areas.
- Detailed photography of internal and external flooring, fixtures and fittings, particularly areas of known Medieval fabric and/or areas subject to alteration.

Specific issues to be addressed by the Historic Building Record are as follows:-

While the building recording should record the buildings in line with section 3 of the Brief, the recording and subsequent report should make particular reference to:-

- i) The Location where the television cable will be drilled through the walls in the Crypt Bar.
- ii) All stone flooring that will be affected by the alterations.

- iii) The location and nature of all historic fabric impacted on by the proposed development.
- iv) Phasing within the buildings, particularly the location of identifiable Medieval fabric and areas of modern disturbance so that this information can be used to assess the historic impact of future applications on the site.

The Historic Building Record is produced in accordance with the Northumberland County Council Brief dated 26 June 2013 with a condition attached to carry out a programme of building recording. Stripping out work had been previously approved and the recording was undertaken during this stripping out work. The methodology for undertaking the recording during the works is contained in the Written Scheme of Investigation, submitted to and approved by Northumberland County Council. Further recording was undertaken at the completion of the refurbishment contract.

Briefly the work to the Lord Crewe Arms involves:-

Stripping out existing modern fittings, sanitary ware, electrical and mechanical services.

Asbestos insulation removal.

Removing modern partitions and doors with asbestos linings.

Carrying out repairs to timber windows and doors, roof and some floors.

New plasterwork with insulation to some walls and ceilings.

New partitions, sanitary ware, kitchen fittings internal doors and stairs to cottages.

New mechanical and electrical services

Redecoration throughout.

Planning Reference Number: 12/03203/LBC & 13/01150/FUL.

NC ref: T7/4; 15815 & 17161.

OS Grid Reference: Lord Crewe Arms NY 96595 50365. Cottages NY 96613 50354.

OASIS Number: 194250.

2. Historical Development

2.1. After the discovery of artefacts it is likely the first settlement around Blanchland was probably in the Bronze Age.¹ However in terms of the village and the Lord Crewe Arms the main story begins in Medieval times. In 1165 land at Blanchland was gifted by Walter de Bolbec III, a Norman knight, for the establishment of a new abbey by Premonstratensian Canons.² The Premonstratensians were not monks but lived together in religious communities to serve the community.³ Before 1214 Hugh de Bolbec had granted additional land to his Abbey at Blanchland.⁴ It is thought that no permanent religious buildings were present on the site during the twelfth century and that some of the first buildings of the Abbey were erected during the thirteenth century.⁵ The Abbey with its surrounding buildings and grounds were quite extensive and included buildings such as the Gatehouse, the Abbots House, the Guest House, the Chapter House and the Cloisters.⁶ Throughout the Medieval period the Outer Court of the Abbey, which is now near the village square, would have seen much of the day to day activity required to support the small population of Canons.⁷ The former buildings around the Outer Court would have been offices for the administration and running of the Abbey.⁸ The house located to the south of the square today may embody remains of the Abbey Mill.⁹

2.2. Blanchland received a Royal visit by Edward III in 1327 who stayed at the Abbey whilst campaigning against the Scots.^{10, 11} In 1397 the Abbey at Blanchland was still active.¹² During the late fifteenth century times were hard for the Abbey; there were insufficient Canons to maintain the Abbey as well as conduct their religious duties and the establishment fell into debt.¹³ The Abbey was dissolved by Henry VIII in 1535/6 but was refounded again in 1536/7 to continue worship but under observance of the King's rules.¹⁴ In 1539 the Abbey was dissolved for the second time and pensions were granted to the Canons.¹⁵ A lease for Blanchland Monastery was granted to William Grene in 1540 and by 1545 the site of Blanchland was granted to John Bellow and John Broxholme.¹⁶ Many of the claustral buildings were now derelict and became a source of building stone for new buildings.¹⁷

2.3. The Blanchland Estate was purchased from Bellow and Broxholme in 1545 by William Farewell.¹⁸ It then passed into the Radcliffe family (Earl of Derwentwater) through the marriage of William Farewell's widow to Anthony Radcliffe.¹⁹ Through succession and the marriage between Jane Radcliffe and Nicholas Forster of Bamburgh, the estate entered the Forster family.²⁰ They moved into the former Abbot's Lodgings²¹ adapting it as their manor house along with other buildings as cottages.²² The rentals and rates record for Northumberland in 1663 has Lady Forster as the landed proprietor for Blanchland.²³ From the 1665 inventory of her possessions, Lady Forster was recorded as having several

apartments including her own chamber, the tower chamber, the cloister chambers and 'parlers' and the kitchen.²⁴ The room presently named the 'Dorothy Forster Room' may have been the Forster's parlour.²⁵ This range of rooms indicates that a substantial conversion to form a manor house had already been carried out. A description is given by the niece of Dorothy Forster, another Dorothy Forster, which describes her own dwelling house as comprising two buildings, one a great square tower which stands over the ancient gate containing several good rooms and used for company and visitors: a second building that is part of the old monastery and includes the refectory, a fair and noble hall with a large kitchen below and beside it a small modern house within another ancient square tower.²⁶ This house has a stone balcony on the north side from where stone steps lead to the green meadow which was once the monk's burying place.²⁷ Dorothy and her brothers were tutored by Anthony Hilyard who was learned, talented and much trusted by Dorothy's father and would later become steward to the estate.²⁸ He resided in the household²⁹ so it is likely that the Hilyard Room was named after him. A succession of individuals named Forster held the estate during most of the seventeenth century.³⁰

2.4. In 1708 the Blanchland and Bamburgh estates were purchased by Nathaniel, Lord Crewe, Bishop of Durham who had married Dorothy Forster, the daughter of Sir William Forster of Bamburgh, in 1699.³¹ Dorothy, Lady Crewe, died in 1715.³² Thomas Forster was the nephew of Dorothy, Lady Crewe.³³ He was a high church Tory squire who represented Northumberland in parliament and in 1715 joined and was made general of the Jacobite uprising.³⁴ For this he was imprisoned in Newgate Gaol, from where he escaped, helped by his sister, Dorothy.³⁵ Today her ghost is said to haunt the Lord Crewe Arms.³⁶

2.5. When Lord Crewe died in 1721 he left his northern estates, including Blanchland, to a charity called the Lord Crewe's Charity for the benefit of the clergy in the north of England and the poor people in parishes where he owned land.³⁷ John Wesley, the preacher, visited Blanchland in 1747 when the village was no more than a ruin and preached in the churchyard.³⁸ Between the Dissolution and 1752 the Abbey church stood unused.³⁹ In 1752 Blanchland was made an independent parish⁴⁰ and the Trustees of the Lord Crewe's Charity rebuilt the choir of the ruined Abbey into the new parish church.⁴¹ In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries they rebuilt the village using the former Medieval layout⁴² and material from the former Abbey for the benefit of the lead miners.⁴³ The stone for the village buildings was quarried locally and stone slates were obtained from Ladycross Quarry in Slaley Forest.⁴⁴ Ladycross stone was recorded as being used in 1740 for slates in Blanchland.⁴⁵ In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries the mining of lead was carried out in the surrounding Blanchland hills but may have been mined much earlier than this.⁴⁶ This industry transformed the landscape but eventually fell into decline.⁴⁷

2.6. In 1855 R Forster was the 'Tavern Keeper' at Blanchland.⁴⁸ In 1869 there was still a Forster resident at the Lord Crewe Arms. The Archives Service has letters of this date from a Mary Forster at the 'Lord Crewe's Arms'.⁴⁹ In 1879 Mrs Elizabeth Johnson was at the Lord Crewe Arms⁵⁰ but the Forster name returned as in 1886 a Mrs M Forster was now resident.⁵¹ In the years 1897 and 1902 Mrs Maria Imison was at the Lord Crewe Arms Public House.⁵²

2.7. By 1908 proposals were being considered for a commercial use for the Lord Crewe Arms. Negotiations were being made by the Lord Crewe's Trustees to let the Lord Crewe Arms on a rental to the Northumberland Public House Trust Company Ltd⁵³ who also had the tenancy of the Angel which was let as a Temperance Refreshment House.⁵⁴ In the Directory of 1910, Norwood Egerton Woollett was listed as being at the Lord Crewe Arms Public House.⁵⁵ He was the Secretary of the Northumberland Public House Trust Company Ltd.⁵⁶ In 1921 a John Barker was at the Lord Crewe Arms Public House.⁵⁷ Further letters and documents about letting the premises were made in 1923.⁵⁸ There appears in the London Gazette, a notice to creditors of the winding up of the Public House Trust dated 1923.⁵⁹ In 1929, as well as having the Lord Crewe Arms, John Barker also had the Angel Temperance Hotel.⁶⁰ Further letters appear about letting the Lord Crewe Arms in 1932.⁶¹

2.8. W.H. Auden, perhaps the greatest of the twentieth century poets was fond of Blanchland and stayed for a few days at the Lord Crewe Arms in 1930. One of his writings seems to refer to the Hilyard Room at the Lord Crewe Arms.⁶²

2.9. Upon entering the twenty-first century the Lord Crewe Arms has maintained its use as a hotel attracting visitors from afar. In recent years, however, the hotel fell into decline and was closed. A scheme of refurbishment was carried out to regenerate this building into a high quality destination hotel after which it was opened in April 2014. The refurbishment works completed in 2012-2014 revealed some interesting features which have been recorded in this report. The refurbishment work brought the hotel to modern standards, with minimum impact on the fabric of these Grade II and II* Listed buildings.

3. Building Description

To aid the description the Lord Crewe Arms is best divided into three areas as shown in Appendix E: the Main Building, the Cottages and the Privies. The Main Building is all that part of the building excluding the Cottages and Privies. It contains Medieval masonry to the ground floor walls but was considerably altered by the Radcliffe and Forster families and later by the Lord Crewe's Charity.⁶³ In this Historic Building Record the Main Building is further divided into three parts: the Tower, the Central Section and the Southern Building.



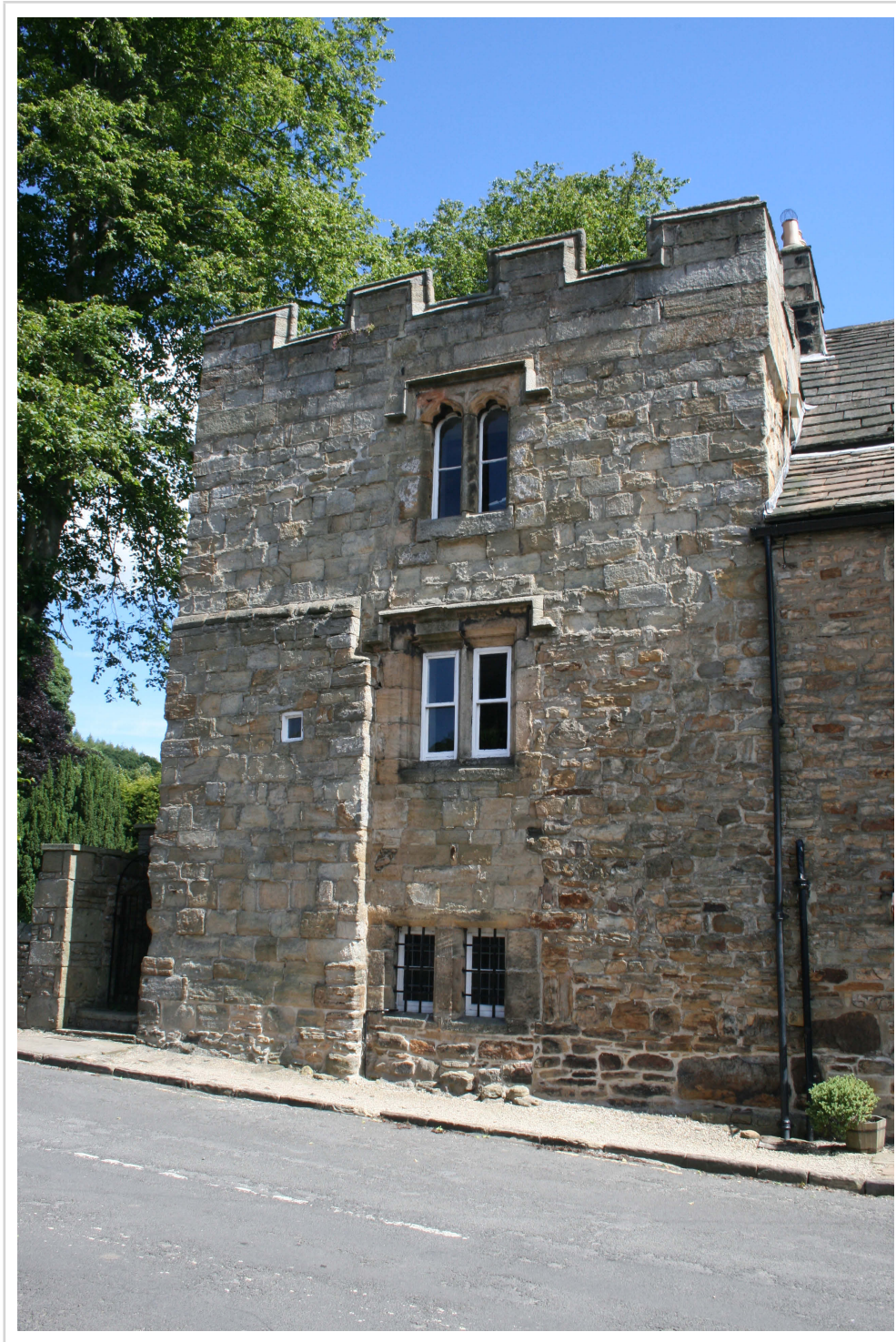
View of the Tower Looking Down the Village

3.1. The Tower

3.1.1. The tower is three storey and built in random rubble buff coloured sandstone with some squared blocks of stone. It has several features of a tower house with its battlemented parapet and vaulted ceiling to the ground floor. The roof is shallow pitched and it is understood, covered with lead. The battlemented parapet is formed on all four sides but has the south side concealed within the adjoining roof construction. The battlemented parapet is built of large ashlar blocks bedded, in some places, on a drip mould. These ashlar blocks can be seen on the south elevation within the adjoining roof space. Along the tops of the parapet merlons and embrasures is a continuous roll mould. Early photographs show chimney stacks rising above the roof which have been removed. The internal surfaces of external walls are plastered but some of the walls in the Radcliffe Room and Bamburgh Room have a lining of lath and plaster on timber studs with a 40mm cavity between the studs and the internal surface of the external wall. Some of these walls have now been finished with an insulated plaster lining. The varied fenestration is described by elevation followed by a description of the significant rooms.

3.1.2. Part of the earlier north elevation is concealed by a single storey stone built toilet extension with a flat roof covered with promenade tiles. On the eastern end of the toilet extension is a stone chute (Plate 46) built in to drain the flat roof of the extension.

3.1.3. Part of the early tower external wall on the ground floor, concealed by the toilet extension, can be viewed from inside the toilet. Inside here, above a more recent doorway into the Crypt Bar is a pointed arch (Plate 47) with rough cut voussoirs and drip mould, probably a former doorway. The visible north elevation of the tower has three window openings with timber mullions and casement frames set in stone surrounds. The door is a plank and batten type and on the door frame is the mechanical bell-pull connected to the servants' bell system within the building. Above the windows is the drip mould below the battlemented parapet. To the east end of this wall and attached to it is the remains of a Medieval wall built of random rubble with some squared blocks of stone (Plate 1). It has two openings on the cloister (south) side (Plate 6), a short length of plinth moulding ⁶⁴ and a sealed up Gothic lancet arch window at higher level (Plate 2). Just visible in Plate 2 below this window on the south side is a small projecting corbel stone, 200mm wide and with a 180mm projection. On the north side is a double piscina below the level of the churchyard (Plate 4). Near the piscina and eastwards is a half round pilaster (Plate 3) and further along to the east is the jamb of a doorway ⁶⁵. This doorway is approximately 1250mm wide. Above the piscina is a hole in the wall, approximately 300mm-400mm square, with its eastern side built as part of a splayed window jamb (Plate 5).



West Elevation of the Tower Showing Thickened Out Wall for Garderobe

3.1.4. The west wall, at its northern end, contains a large area of thickened out external wall projecting beyond the main wall which contains a garderobe (See Photo above). The small 330mm x 330mm window in this projecting wall probably served to give the garderobe natural light. There are three pairs of window frames on the main wall. On the second floor the pair

of window frames is divided by a chamfered stone mullion with trefoil segmental arches and projecting stone hood mould at the window head. The jambs are chamfered and the cill is chamfered and stooped to receive the mullion. There are holes in the jambs and mullion which may have housed iron horizontal bars across the window. The first floor window also has a chamfered stone mullion between the pair of window frames with a stone hood mould and double chamfered and recessed stone head and jambs. The ground floor window has a large chamfered stone mullion, chamfered jambs and horizontal and vertical iron window bars.

3.1.5. On the ground floor of the east wall there are two doorways. One has a stone chamfered surround with stone Gothic arch and hood mould and a timber panel door (Plate 11). The other door appears to be a recent insertion along with the internal doorway into the Crypt Bar. On the first floor the window (Plate 7) has two stone chamfered mullions, three trefoil segmental arches with a hood mould over. The jambs are chamfered and the chamfered cill is stooped to receive the mullions. The window frames within the openings are metal, set within the stonework with centre pivot hung metal casements. Above these are two coloured stained glass windows with glass which appears to be of early origin. One piece of glass features, what appears to be, a crown and other pieces contain lettering (Plates 8, 9 and 10). On the second floor there is a small vertical sliding sash window with chamfered head and cill and to the right of this is a chamfered recess in the stonework possibly once a small window, now sealed up. Also on this elevation the quoin stones to the south-east corner of the tower continue down from below the parapet towards first floor level indicating that there were adjoining buildings to the south but on the ground floor only (Plate 30).

3.1.6. The Crypt Bar has a smooth faced stone flagged floor and walls finished with natural stone. The north wall is thickened out below floor level (Plate 13 and 14). The ceiling is segmental and vaulted with thin pieces of stone (Plate 15). This vaulted room is entered on the east side through the Gothic arch doorway which has a segmental arch with hood mould internally.⁶⁶ On the north is the doorway into the toilet extension and further along to the east end is a recess formed in the wall (Plate 19). Between the recess and toilet door is a projecting stone string course (Plate 20). There are two doorways on the south side of the room formed in the thirteenth century masonry: the one at the east end may be a later insertion as the wall continues across the doorway below floor level (Plate 17).

3.1.7. In the Dorothy Forster Room there is a recess in the wall which has a stone floor and stone ceiling and stone chamfered dressings to the opening. This structure forms the garderobe (Plate 21). There are two iron hooks in the dressings indicating that there was a door fixed to the opening. Internally on the north wall of the garderobe the wall is thickened out to form a ledge on which was probably fixed a timber seat. Below this in the floor is a

300mm x 300mm square hole (Plate 22), of similar construction to a flue, extending down to the ground floor where there would have been an exit hole formed in the stone wall. There is a hob grate fireplace (Plate 23) in a wood surround and part of a servants' bell mechanism. There are three oak beams to the ceiling. The main beam is 320mm wide; the beam nearest the window is 200mm wide and the beam near the Bamburgh Room door is 280mm wide. All the beams have their edges chamfered, some with stepped stops.

3.1.8. On the first floor is the Bamburgh Room where the attractive stained glass windows can be appreciated (Plates 8, 9, and 10). In this room there are exposed oak beams to the ceiling and a cast iron hob grate fireplace with stone surround (Plate 24). There are three oak beams: the main central beam is 300mm wide and chamfered with a stepped stop; the window beam is 240mm wide, with a chamfer and the beam against the shower wall is approximately 200mm wide and not chamfered. There are also vestiges of the servants' call bell system. In the shower is a stone moulded feature, now concealed, probably part of a former fireplace (Plate 25).

3.1.9. On the second floor of the tower in the Radcliffe Room and bathroom there are two Victorian cast iron fireplaces with stone surround, one has a 600mm x 600mm recess in the wall above with moulded architrave (Plate 26). At the head of the staircase enclosure is a tall timber cupboard with two pairs of timber doors each with narrow raised and fielded panels. The ceiling to the room is constructed from exposed oak beams, purlins and rafters with lath and plaster panels between (Plate 27). The lath and plaster is now concealed with plastered insulated panels but the timber roof construction is retained. The beams are 'boomerang' shaped and have chamfered edges with stepped stops (Plate 28). They are 200mm-260mm wide. The purlins are 170mm wide. The ridge pieces range from 190mm to 220mm wide and are carried in part by oak corbels fixed to the main beams (Plate 29). The rafters range from 80mm to 120mm wide and are spaced at 400mm centres.

3.2. The Central Section

3.2.1. The external walls are built of random rubble buff sandstone and support King Post roof trusses and a pitched roof covered with natural thin stone slates laid in diminishing courses with a stone ridge. The King Post trusses have two additional vertical timber posts and struts positioned along the tie beam. The purlins are 150mm x 100mm section and the rafters are 90mm x 70mm section timbers fixed at 400mm centres. All the roof timbers are pine. There are two stone chimney stacks with capping and clay pots.



East Elevation from the Grounds

3.2.2. The east elevation contains window openings and quoin stones of the tower built vertically within the wall mass. (Plate 30). The window frames to the ground floor are mainly Georgian style with small panes set in a plain stone surround of later date. On the first floor there are three timber vertical sliding sash window frames in stone dressed openings with ogee heads.



West Elevation. Area of Masonry (Left of Centre)

3.2.3. Part of the west elevation wall is built almost as an outshut with a mono-pitched stone slated roof following the line of the main roof. This has a plank and batten door in a plain stone surround on the ground floor. Above on the first floor is a small pane timber vertical sliding sash window frame set in a stone surround with ogee head. To the south end of the wall at ground level is an area of masonry wall, approximately the size of a door, built using a different technique.

3.2.4. The section of wall visible on the south elevation is that of the outshut. Here, on the ground and first floors, there are two sections of wall built using a different building technique and with a straight joint as if to form a door or window opening. The former gable to this part of the house complete with its chimney breast can be viewed within the roof space.

3.2.5. The stone chimney breast, with two bands of large plinth stones (Plate 33) and a dove-cote built into the gable (Plates 34 and 35) all have remains of the original finish of roughcast. This roughcast is applied to the gable wall and chimney breast and traces were also found on the lower elevation of the Central Section east wall and on the north elevation of the tower at high level below the parapet drip stone.

3.2.6. The main dovecote is built into the gable to the east side of the chimney breast. The dovecote has five rows of square holes formed in the wall of size 110mm wide x 180mm high. They are arranged horizontally in a line with 200mm vertical spacing in between the lines. A thin stone ledge is built in below the holes which projects about 220mm. To the west of the chimney breast is a smaller dovecote with a single row of holes built using a similar specification.

3.2.7. The large chimney breast is attached to the gable and is 1500mm wide with a 1300mm projection from the gable (measured above the large plinth). The large moulded plinth to the chimney breast is 500mm wider than the main breast at its west side and 300mm wider on its south side. The plinth may have continued around on the east side but this has been removed. Further up the gable towards the roof apex the chimney breast reduces in size with another plinth 260mm wide. The flue at the top is built of stone and has been 'tumbled in' to join the main chimney.

3.2.8. The Restaurant and Adjoining Staircase. This large room was used as a restaurant. It has a picture rail and dado rail with dado. The plaster ceiling has decorative fibrous plaster roses to the centre of the ceiling and above the light fittings. There are two stone fireplaces with Horace Walpole Gothic style lintels ⁶⁷ (Plate 36) and four interesting purpose made cupboards with wine racks and pine doors with raised and fielded panels (Plate 37). Moving out of this room to the stone staircase there is a door to the Dorothy Forster room with timber segmental headed frame and servants' bells above. The door is a plank and ledged door with segmental head. It is painted with an interesting decoration on one side (Plates 38, 45 and 54). Behind this door and before entering the Dorothy Forster room is a small earthenware sink, size 450mm x 500mm, set within a recess in the wall (Plate 39).

3.2.9. The Hilyard Room on the ground floor has a stone flag floor and many of the walls are natural stone. Of interest here are the original moulded oak beams dividing up the plaster ceiling in a Tudor style (Plate 40) and the large fireplace with segmental stone arch over the entrance (Plates 41 and 57). The large skewback stones each side of the opening support five substantial stone voussoirs across the opening. The edge of the intrados, or underside, is given a roll moulding that is finished with a stop moulding halfway down the jamb. Above the fireplace is a rough stone relieving arch. Inside the fireplace opening is Tom Forster's reputed hiding place represented by a modern platform. The doorway leading out of this room on the south side has an elliptical arch carved from a single piece of stone and a plank and batten door. The squared stone jambs and arch have chamfered edges or arrises.

3.2.10. The Derwent Room has a stone flag floor and lath and plaster ceiling with exposed moulded beams. The walls are stone with a plaster finish. The ornate cast iron fireplace has a timber surround (Plate 61). The window has timber shutters now sealed up with paint.

3.3. The Southern Building

3.3.1. The last part of the main building is a continuation of the Central Section with the external walls of buff sandstone random rubble and a pitched roof covered with thin stone slates. The purlins are 150mm x 110mm; the ridge is 100mm x 100mm and the rafters are 60mm x 80mm fixed at 480mm centres. All roof timbers and the king post roof trusses are made from pine and oak. The southern building was probably constructed as a separate enlargement to the central section. It has one chimney stack on the gable.

3.3.2. The east wall has a fenestration denoting three storeys. Below first and second floor window cill level there is a projecting stone horizontal string course. At the north end of the string course are quoin stones of the Central Section within the wall mass (Plate 31). These extend down to first floor level. The window frames on the second floor are timber vertical sliding sash set in a stone surround with ogee head. On the first floor the window frames are rectangular set in a stone surround. On the ground floor is a small pane timber vertical sliding sash window frame and to the left of that is a large segmental arch (Plate 63) with fluted voussoirs and hood moulding which has been built up later with masonry and contains a door.



West Elevation of Southern Building

3.3.3. The west wall has a Georgian style timber vertical sliding sash window frame set in a stone surround on each of the three floors. On the staircase is a timber vertical sliding sash window in a stone surround with ogee head. To the north of this are stone quoins built within the wall mass and a difference in stone building technique indicating where the wall was extended (Plate 32). As with the quoins at the other locations, these quoin stones disappear once they have reached first floor height. Looking down the lower part of the wall towards the north there are vestiges of a possible former window cill, head and jamb. The main entrance door is of interest (Plate 64). It has chamfered jambs and the springer stones support a moulded Gothic arch, some sections of which appear to have been recently replaced. Above the arch is a curious stone detail which appears to be the head of a Medieval window opening. The stone shows that the former window had cavetto mullions and iron bars to the opening without any glass. The stone has been turned on its side and built horizontally into the wall.

3.3.4. The south elevation consists of a gable constructed from buff sandstone random rubble. This gable rises above the Cottages roof.

3.3.5. On the second floor inside the Etherstone and Tom Forster rooms are Victorian cast iron fireplaces with stone surrounds. The staircase leading up to the Etherstone and Tom Forster Rooms has a balustrade with square timber balusters of size 30mm x 30mm at 130mm centres. The newels are turned and the handrail is moulded. The handrail is pitch pine and the remaining parts to the balustrade are painted and are also likely to be made from pitch pine (Plate 65). On the first floor is the former restaurant kitchen which has little of interest internally.

3.3.6. On the ground floor is the Reception area which has a stone flagged floor with steps down from the entrance. There is a large segmental stone fireplace opening (Plate 66) with inner, more recent brick lined fireplace. The segmental fireplace arch has edges moulded with a double chamfer which runs down along the jambs to a chamfer stop just above floor level.⁶⁸ To the west side of the arch is a door with a single chamfered three centred arch⁶⁹ cut from a solid piece of stone. The door into the cottage range is a vertical boarded door with quirk beads along the boards.

3.4. The Cottages

3.4.1. The plan form is a range of six, with possibly a seventh, two storey terraced houses built under one roof. This range of seven houses includes the house at the east end which is a unit of two rooms in width with thicker external walls than most of the remaining houses. The roof to the range is pitched and hipped at the west end. It is covered with natural thin stone slates laid in diminishing courses with a stone ridge. Some areas of the slates have

been re-nailed on modern underslater's felt in recent times. The roof covering is supported by pine King Post roof trusses. The oak purlins are 100mm x 160mm section. The rafters are pine and oak, of varying section with an average size of 80mm x 80mm fixed at 400mm centres. The ridge is 150mm x 150mm oak. Built into the internal cross wall within the west end roof space is a circular sculpted stone fragment (Plate 67). At the east end there is a small single storey lean-to extension. There are six stone chimney stacks with stone caps and clay pots. The external walls are random rubble buff sandstone with quoins. The window frames are a mixture of Georgian and Victorian style frames with timber vertical sliding sashes and side hung casements. The doors are timber ledged plank and batten hung on metal straps and hooks. Most window and door openings have stone surrounds and dressings. Internally the ground floors are a mixture of timber suspended construction, recent concrete and some natural stone flags to the west end. The first floors are suspended timber with part of the joists visible below the plastered ceiling. These joists are pitch pine with a lack of trimming timbers for stair wells in each house, suggesting that the joists are later replacements. There would probably have been thick masonry cross walls from front to back dividing the terrace into separate units. These would have been continuous at one time but are now perforated with door openings, timber stud partitions and areas of recent brick and block walling. The ceilings are lath and plaster.

3.4.2. The external south wall fenestration has been the subject of some change. Starting from the east end of the range: a first floor window frame is contained within a larger opening which has been partially built up (Plate 68). The stonework to the jambs, head and cill of the former opening still survive, showing that it once had stone mullions and is a survival of early fabric. Moving along towards the centre of the Cottages a vestige of, possibly a window jamb, is visible (Plate 69) and the stonework to the right of it is evidently a built up former opening. Centrally on the elevation is a vertical formation within the stonework at ground level (Plate 70) suggesting a former opening. On the first floor diagonally above is another vestige of a stone jamb and a long cill and an area of stonework to the right of it which appears to have been built up on two separate occasions (Plate 70). Nearby, to the left on the first floor is a stone sculptured face built into the wall (Plate 71). Moving towards the west end there is a foliage detail, approximately 500mm long, built in at first floor level (Plate 71). On the last cottage there is a doorway on the ground floor that was built up, probably in recent years. (Plate 72). Above the door is another foliage detail, approximately 450mm long, built into the wall (Plate 71). (Plate 73) shows the original sealed up opening now provided with a door.

3.4.3. On the west elevation (Plate 43) the two small windows on the ground floor have plain stone surrounds. On the first floor there are two windows: the 16 pane Georgian style vertical sliding sash frame is contained within a moulded stone surround and the 4 pane Victorian one, also a vertical sliding sash frame, is in a plain stone surround. These first floor window surrounds have been inserted at different times.

3.4.4. Along the east elevation, there is a lean-to extension with random rubble stone external walls and a mono-pitched roof covered with stone slates. On the gable of the Cottages is a small vertical sliding sash window.

3.4.5. Moving around to the north or rear of the Cottages overlooking the grounds there are some changes to the fenestration. At the western end on the first floor is an early window surround with stone ovolo moulds and a central stone mullion (Plate 44). Moving eastwards along the external wall is a former first floor window opening now built up with stone. Centrally within the wall are two window frames: a modern casement and Georgian vertical sliding sash. At the east end there is a large section of wall that has been rebuilt in stone to include a 4000mm long horizontal stone string course above first floor height. The wall above the string course reduces in thickness.

3.4.6. Internally much of the walls and finishes are modern but some interesting features survive. In the first floor bedroom at the east end is a moulded gritstone Medieval fireplace surround with a later fireplace set within it (Plate 74). In the ground floor lounge at the east end is a Tudor style gritstone fireplace surround (Plate 75). In one first floor bedroom is a former doorway, 900mm wide x 1800mm high with chamfered jambs and oak lintel (Plates 76 and 77). In another bedroom is a fireplace surround with ogee head to its opening (Plate 78). On the ground floor on the north wall at the western end is a small window of approximate size 600mm x 500mm that has been sealed up some time ago (Plate 56). This has plastered reveals and soffit.



South View of the Cottages

3.5. The Privies

3.5.1. The Privies is a single storey building divided into smaller rooms. The three small rooms facing the east may have been toilets. The single east facing room on the end of the Privies contains an old copper and range (Plate 80). This range is set in a plain stone surround and has a stone aperture that once contained a cast iron cauldron for boiling water. Parts of the cast iron front panels and grate survive but generally the range is in a poor state. The other rooms to the west would probably have been for storage of fuel. The building is constructed of random rubble buff sandstone external walls with some large squared quoin stones. The pitched roof is covered with stone slates laid in diminished courses and there is a stone ridge. The roof construction is modern timber rafters on purlins. The doors are timber vertical boarded with some stone lintels over the openings. The east gable has a vent formed in the wall at high level and on the east there are several holes in the stonework near the corners indicative of gate fastenings. The floors internally are stone flags and concrete.



The Privies

3.6. Installation of TV Cable in Crypt Bar

(Plate 52) shows the former position of the old TV cable entering the Crypt Bar in the west end. Internally an existing mortar joint was carefully cut out and the cable was housed in it and then passed to the first floor. The joint was then pointed up with mortar as shown in (Plate 51). Externally the new cable is housed in conduit secured to the wall as shown in (Plate 81).

3.7. Work to Stone Flag Floors and Medieval Walls

There was some disturbance to the existing stone flag floors, the Crypt Bar probably being disturbed the most. The stone flags are laid directly on the ground and were carefully removed. (Plate 12) shows the floor at the west end of the Crypt Bar before work started. (Plates 13 and 14) show the service ducts excavated and pipes being installed. At the east end further ducts were excavated. Plate 16 shows the stone flag floor before work started, (Plate 17) shows work in progress and the discovery of a thickened out Medieval wall crossing a doorway. (Plate 18) shows the floor to the east end of the Crypt Bar after reinstatement and is typical of the level of reinstatement of the floors that have been disturbed for the installation of services throughout the building. In the Hilyard Room the floor was taken up in the fireplace opening and services installed. (Plate 62) shows the duct during refurbishment work. The only stone flag floor being replaced under the refurbishment work

was in the Beer Store. (Plate 55) shows the defective state of the existing floor before it was replaced with concrete. (Plate 50) is an existing view of the stone flag floor leading to the Cottage external entrance. (Plate 53) is another existing view of the stone flag floor leading to the Gun Store.

During the refurbishment, holes were cut in the Medieval stone walls and parts of the stone flag floor taken up to the Derwent Room and Lobby to the Crypt Bar. (Plates 58 and 59) show the openings in the wall and floor between the Derwent Room and the Lobby to the Crypt Bar. (Plate 60) shows the stone floor of the Derwent Room before refurbishment started. (Plates 48 and 49) are photographs taken from the Lobby to the Crypt Bar showing the floor and wall openings made good.

4. Historical Building Description

4.1. General

4.1.1. The main building as seen today comprises the tower, the central section and the southern building. The Cottages are attached to the south end of the main building. The Privies is a detached block located at the east end of the site. The site of the main building and Cottages occupies the footprint of Blanchland Abbey built in the thirteenth century. A drawing prepared by W. H. Knowles dated 1901, shows that the outer walls of the Lord Crewe Arms Main Building are mostly thirteenth century.⁷⁰

[illegible]

4.1.2. In the thirteenth century the tower was the Abbot's House; the central section and southern building contained the Guest House; the Cottages was the Frater and the grounds to the east was the Cloister. After the Dissolution many of the claustral buildings became derelict and were a source of building stone for new buildings in the village. In the seventeenth century the main building had been converted to the manor house and residence for the Radcliffe family and then it became the Forster's.⁷¹ Later, in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the Lord Crewe's Charity carried out further modifications to the buildings. The following paragraphs describe the significant fabric and features to be found in the Lord Crewe Arms.

4.2. The Tower

4.2.1. The tower is a prominent feature of the main building. It has Medieval walls to the ground floor but the upper floors were rebuilt possibly after the Dissolution⁷² with the outer walls and battlemented parapet displaying a Post Reformation character.⁷³ On this parapet the mouldings to the merlons and embrasures are different to those on the parapet above the Reading Room across the road suggesting that both structures were built at separate times and the W.H. Knowles Drawing of 1901 confirms this. The barrel vaulted ceiling to the Crypt Bar (Plate 15) and projecting stone string course (Plate 20) are original features of this room.

4.2.2. The east wall retains a thirteenth century Gothic doorway on the ground floor (Plate 11) so a significant amount of the lower eastern wall is Medieval. On the first floor the window to the Bamburgh Room (Plates 7,8,9 and 10) may be an insertion at the time of the conversion to a manor house. It contains stained glass, probably rescued from the Abbey.

4.2.3. On the west elevation the thickened out section of wall locates the garderobe. The position of the garderobe mirrors that on the Reading Room opposite but does not share the same external features. These two garderobe structures are likely to be of different dates. The second floor window to the Radcliffe Room contains holes for window bars so may originally have been a ground floor window. The first floor window to the Dorothy Forster Room is square headed. Both windows could have been reclaimed from another location and inserted at the time of the manor house conversion.

4.2.4. Most of the ground floor north wall of the tower is concealed by a circa twentieth century toilet extension. On the eastern side of this extension is a stone chute, (Plate 46) probably of Medieval origin from the former Abbey, and built in as a means to convey the rain water from the extension roof. Approximately at the centre of the north external wall on the ground floor and concealed from external view by the toilet extension is a Gothic doorway probably of 13th century date (Plate 47). The ground floor room, known as the Crypt Bar,

was originally provided with natural light by two small double light square headed windows, one at the west end and one on the north side.⁷⁴ The window opening at the west end probably still survives and is the window facing the street on the west elevation. The other window on the north side could be the recess seen today from inside the Crypt Bar in the east end of the north wall (Plate 19). The thick internal walls to the south side of the Crypt Bar are probably Medieval and contain one early doorway and a later one. At the later doorway and below floor level the internal wall continues across the doorway helping to confirm that it was once a solid wall (Plate 17). The section of Medieval wall abutting the north east corner of the north wall of the tower formed part of the Nave to the Abbey and is of early thirteenth century date (Plate 1).^{75, 76} This vestige of Medieval wall contains significant architectural features including a Gothic lancet window (Plate 2) in the Early English style, a period of between 1190-1290, so fits in well with the 1225 date for the Nave. The Medieval wall probably extends to about half way along the tower north wall⁷⁷ so there is a substantial amount of Medieval fabric present in the lower part of the tower. The significant features are described. Part of a splayed window jamb, possibly from the lancet window, on the north side (Plate 5). Below this a double piscina (Plate 4), occupying an unusual position, and may be a Post Reformation insertion removed from the choir.⁷⁸ To the east of the piscina on the garden wall is a half round pilaster (Plate 3) and further along is the jamb of a doorway.⁷⁹ On the south side of the wall are two openings (Plate 6 shows one) and a short length of plinth moulding⁸⁰ Below the lancet window on the south side is a small projecting corbel stone (Plate 2). Returning to the north wall of the tower: further up the elevation is a door of more recent date and three window frames set in stone surrounds probably of nineteenth century date.

4.2.5. The Dorothy Forster Room dates from Charles I and may have been the Forster's parlour.⁸¹ The most prominent feature is the garderobe (Plates 21 and 22), the toilet, which is found in Medieval castles or large houses and may be a survival from the time of the Abbey. It is contained within the wall which is given additional thickness by a thickening out of masonry on the west elevation. Some of the beams in the ceiling have stepped chamfer stops on their edges which is a mid seventeenth century detail and no doubt installed during the Radcliffe and Forster's manor house conversion. The fireplace was installed as an eighteenth century modification to this room (Plate 23).

4.2.6. The Bamburgh Room adjoining has a trefoil segmental arched window looking out towards the east which may be a seventeenth century insertion (Plates 8,9 and 10). The ceiling contains beams with stepped chamfer stops which dates this construction to mid seventeenth century. It is likely that a substantial part of this room was formed during the house conversion for the Radcliffe and Forster families in the seventeenth century but some earlier masonry probably survives. In the shower the vestige of a moulded fireplace jamb

(Plate 25, now concealed) may be dated at around the fifteenth century as it is very similar to the fireplace in the Reading Room above the village shop opposite the Lord Crewe Arms. It is possible that other sections of this fireplace, such as a lintel, may be hidden within the wall and concealed behind the late eighteenth century cast iron fireplace (Plate 24).

4.2.7. In the second floor Radcliffe Room the most significant feature is the roof construction (Plates 27,28 and 29) which, with its stepped chamfer stops to the beams, follows a design seen in the mid seventeenth century. The evidence points to the replacement of the roof to the tower during the time the Radcliffe and Forster families were adapting the building as their manor house. The upper part of the tower is probably mostly of seventeenth century date with the possibility that the windows were inserted at the same time.

4.3. The Central Section

4.3.1. The central section is formed from the Medieval range and largely rebuilt in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.⁸² One stage of this rebuilding formed the large first floor room with its eighteenth century Horace Walpole Gothic style windows. This first floor large room is the former Restaurant which dates from the eighteenth century.⁸³ The fireplaces in this room are also Horace Walpole style and are probably original (Plate 36).

4.3.2. After the Dissolution the Guest House became the manor house for the Radcliffe and Forster families.⁸⁴ The ceiling in the Hilyard Room (Plate 40) is constructed in a Tudor style, probably at the time of the manor house conversion. The fireplace (Plates 41 and 57) is not shown to represent Medieval masonry on the plan by W.H. Knowles drawn in 1901,⁸⁵ so is probably a Post Reformation construction. However, Addleshaw describes this fireplace being in a room, the Hilyard Room, and used for the curing and storing food.⁸⁶ Inside the fireplace opening is a space which is reputed to be a hiding place for Tom Forster after his escape from Newgate Gaol.⁸⁷ There is some uncertainty about the authenticity of this space. An old postcard picture shows that this fireplace once had a large kitchen range within the opening.⁸⁸ The postcard also shows that the walls were wallpapered at one time so they may have been plastered.⁸⁹ The adjoining Derwent Room fireplace probably dates from the early nineteenth century (Plate 61).

4.3.3. The east elevation provides evidence that this part of the building was built after the tower as its walls abut the existing quoin stones which formed the main corner of the tower (Plate 30). These quoin stones show that there was once a south facing external wall to the tower but there was also a ground floor storey in existence.

4.3.4. The west elevation comprises mainly the outshut, probably constructed when the Southern Building was built, with its window with ogee head of eighteenth century date. The outshut appears to have been built in front of the original west external wall as where it joins the main hotel wall there is part of a stone dressing and window head contained within the wall (Plate 32). The outshut contains the staircase giving access between the tower and other first floor rooms. On the outshut and below the 'Lord Crewe Arms' sign and around the short return there is some rebuilding of the stonework, possibly the blocking up of a former doorway and window (Plate 32).

4.3.5. The upper part of the original south gable is visible in the roof space. Centrally in the gable is a large chimney breast (Plate 33) and to either side are holes forming the dovecote (Plates 34 and 35). Dovecotes were often provided in large houses. The gable wall and chimney are given a coat of roughcast and vestiges of this wall finish are visible on the lower part of the east elevation and below the parapet on the north elevation of the tower. It is likely that the whole south and east elevation and north elevation of the tower were once rendered.

4.4. The Southern Building

4.4.1. There are some Medieval walls at low level but the upper part of the southern building was probably constructed in the eighteenth century and as a separate enlargement to the house. The staircase balustrade (Plate 65) leading up to the second floor is of eighteenth century date. The upper floor rooms over the Abbey kitchen and store rooms were formed from the Abbots Lodging and Guest House in the seventeenth and eighteenth century.⁹⁰ In the ground floor room presently the Reception, the large fireplace (Plate 66) possibly served the original kitchen to the Abbey.⁹¹ In the Etherstone and Tom Forster Room on the second floor there are Victorian fireplaces.

4.4.2. On the east elevation the large arch on the ground floor is thirteenth century (Plate 63). It originally gave access to the lavatory where the Canons washed their hands before entering the Frater.^{92, 93} This is confirmation that substantial parts of the ground floor walls are Medieval. The window frames on the second floor are timber vertical sliding sash. Their stone surrounds are of interest as they help to date this part of the building. They have ogee heads in an eighteenth century Horace Walpole style. At the north end of the wall the quoin stones, originally forming the corner of the Central Section can be seen built in vertically within the wall (Plate 31). The quoin stones extend down to first floor level so the single storey building on the ground floor was present when this enlargement was carried out.

4.4.3. On the west elevation the window to the staircase has an ogee head confirming a likely eighteenth century date. To the north of the wall where it is built against the central

section there are vertical quoin stones to the upper level. The masonry to the south of the quoin stones is built in a different style which provides evidence that this is a later enlargement (Plate 32). When John Wesley visited Blanchland in 1747 the village was described as a ruin. The Lord Crewe's Charity set about rebuilding the village using the former Medieval layout in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.⁹⁴ When they took over, further alterations were made to the main building.⁹⁵ They favoured building in old features, probably rescued from the Abbey ruins. One such feature is on the west elevation. The curious stone built into the wall above the main entrance door (Plate 64) was done probably during the eighteenth century conversion carried out by the Lord Crewe's Charity.⁹⁶

4.5. The Cottages

4.5.1. The Cottages are built on the site of the Frater and contain fragments of earlier masonry in their external walls.⁹⁷ The Cottages are now part of the Lord Crewe Arms. The Frater was the south range of the Abbey which was altered firstly by the Forster family as part of their mansion and later turned into cottages ⁹⁸ probably in the eighteenth century.⁹⁹ During the latter remodelling Medieval features, such as the face and foliage details on the south elevation (Plate 71) and the circular stone fragment in the roof space (Plate 67), were built in to the walls as features. These features were probably obtained from the Abbey. This range of seven houses includes the house at the east end which is a unit of two rooms in width with thicker external walls than most of the remaining houses. These thicker walls could be a survival of Medieval fabric. On the north elevation at the western end is an early mullioned window (Plate 44).

4.5.2. The south elevation has a significant amount of interesting detail which is fully described in Section 3.4.2. The face and foliage details were probably from the former Abbey and built in during the eighteenth century conversion.¹⁰⁰ The doorway on the western end cottage was built up some time ago. It has now been opened up and provided with a door to match the main style (Plates 72 and 73).

4.5.3. The Cottages would probably have had thick solid stone cross walls to divide them up when the building was formed into cottages. Internally much of the walls and finishes have been modernised but some interesting features survive. (Plate 79) shows part of an internal stone rubble wall to a stair well finished with lime wash, which was probably the finish applied to most of the early walls. On (Plate 79) there is also a vertical oak stud at a former staircase enclosure indicating that timber and lath and plaster partitions may have been used to enclose some of the smaller spaces between the stone cross walls.

4.5.4. In the first floor bedroom at the east end of the Cottages, the moulded gritstone Medieval fireplace surround is probably original and has been modified with an eighteenth century fireplace set within the opening (Plate 74). In the ground floor lounge at the east end the Tudor style gritstone fireplace surround again is probably original (Plate 75). Two bedrooms have interesting features. There is a former doorway with chamfered stone jambs and oak lintel which is probably indicative of how the early doorways in the building were constructed (Plates 76 and 77). In another bedroom is a fireplace surround with ogee head, probably not changed since it was installed in the eighteenth century (Plate 78).

4.6. Privies

There is very little in the Privies, other than the range and copper, which would suggest the use of this area as a wash house (Plate 80).

5. Interpretation and Significance

5.1. The story of the Lord Crewe Arms began in the thirteenth century when the Abbey was built. After the Dissolution in the sixteenth century the Abbey buildings became ruinous but the dilapidated structures that remained, and the old Abbey layout would become the foundation for the centre of the village of Blanchland as seen today. The Block Plan in Figure 25 at the end of the report shows how the centre of the village is built on the Abbey foundations and the extent of the Medieval walling that survives.

5.2. Part of these ruins would receive the attention of a family called Radcliffe and then, by marriage, it would pass to the Forster family. They converted some of the ruins into a mansion, probably building it in three main areas starting with the conversion of the tower and ground floor rooms in the seventeenth century followed by two separate extensions of later date to the south. Evidence points to there being a substantial amount of Medieval masonry in existence, particularly on the ground floor, and possibly in the tower at higher level. Their conversion enclosed spaces and formed rooms and was built in the style of the time adding another chapter of history. From an early description, certain inferences could be made. The great square tower referred to in the description is the present tower that contains the Radcliffe, Dorothy Forster and Bamburgh rooms. The second building mentioned could be the ground floor of the Central and Southern Building as seen today. It was described as being part of the old monastery and including a refectory, a hall and a large kitchen below. The refectory may have been the former Frater, now the Cottages: the hall could be the area encompassing the Hilyard Room with its fireplace and the kitchen below could be the Reception which also had a fireplace. The reference to the kitchen being 'below' may mean

simply that its floor level is at a lower level (which it is). The description also refers to a small modern house within another square tower being beside their own dwelling house. This may be the tower which today contains the village shop and Reading Room. This house is described as having a stone balcony on the north side from where stone steps lead to the green meadow which was once the monk's burying place. The first floor room of this building does have a stone balcony and stone steps leading from the north side. There is another description in 1665 given by Lady Forster. She had several apartments including her own chamber, the tower chamber, the cloister chambers and 'parlers' and the kitchen. The upper floors of the Central Section and Southern Building date from the eighteenth century and were probably added by the Forsters or, more likely, the Lord Crewe's Charity. From these descriptions it can be deduced that the Forster family manor house occupied most of the buildings now embodied in the Lord Crewe Arms.

5.3. Today the Abbey nave is missing except for a small vestige of the south wall which forms part of the Lord Crewe Arms tower at the north-east corner. Parts of the walls of the thirteenth century Abbey Guest House are embodied in the Lord Crewe Arms and the grounds was the Cloister Garth.¹⁰¹ The former Abbey Outer Court to the south-west of the Lord Crewe Arms is now the square. The Gatehouse now accommodates the post office and shop and the Cottages, once the Frater, are repetitive in design and are similar to the rows of cottages located in other parts of the village.

5.4. The individual elevations are significant and show evidence of alterations and phased development through the centuries. This is particularly evident with the quoin stones embedded within the wall, the former gable within the roof space and the window and door openings. The tower contains Medieval masonry with Gothic doorways giving access to the Abbey. The Southern Building contains the large Medieval arch on the east elevation. The Cottages contains some Medieval masonry.

5.5. Most of the timber window and door frames will have been replaced at some time as the Georgian and Victorian style of frame is noticeable. Fortunately many of the original stone window surrounds survive. Some window surrounds contain holes for window bars which is a very early feature. The mullioned windows with trefoiled segmental heads and hood moulds move away from the Gothic and tend towards a Tudor feature. The next two stages of development use windows with ogee heads which helps to date this part to eighteenth century. In the roof space the former gable with its chimney breast with roughcast finish and dovecote is significant evidence for the external appearance of the Forster's manor house.

5.6. A further phase of modification was by the Lord Crewe's Charity in the eighteenth and nineteenth century. Their style appears to favour the building in of old features within the walls. The carved face and foliage stones on the Cottages together with the stone window detail built in over the main door on the west elevation is evidence of their adopted style. A carved stone fragment was also found built into a wall within the roof space of the Cottages.

5.7. The Building Description in Section 3 and Historical Building Description in Section 4 have described architectural features from the various stages of development which are all significant and contribute to the value of the heritage asset. They are tangible evidence for the architectural style, method of construction and functional items adopted when they were built in. Some important Medieval features survive. All the fireplaces are significant as they range from Medieval to Victorian and are original. The seventeenth century architectural features were almost certainly installed at the time of the Forster's adaptation.

5.8. The Lord Crewe Arms represents a catalogue of history. It has vestiges of the thirteenth century Abbey walls and is built on the original Abbey footprint. The walls and spaces produced when the seventeenth century conversion was undertaken by the Forster family, together with the architectural details, are still largely in evidence. When the Lord Crewe's Charity rebuilt the village in the eighteenth and nineteenth century the future of the Lord Crewe's Arms was secured. The building in its entirety together with its identified architectural features is a significant heritage asset. There is also the association with a monarch who stayed at the Abbey and also a famous poet who loved Blanchland.

6. Conclusion

The Lord Crewe Arms is an important heritage asset in its own right and has a catalogue of history attached to it. This important building has lately been run as a hotel but in recent years it was closed, remained empty and unused. For the longevity of this building it was vital to regenerate it, put it to use again and enable it to contribute to the economy whilst preserving its history. A scheme of refurbishment was planned and the important historic features identified in a Heritage Statement. The Heritage Statement sought to preserve these features and integrate them in the refurbishment scheme. This has been achieved through careful design and planning by the architect, Christopher Reed and the contractors. This Historic Building Record has recorded the significant historic features identified both before work started and during the work. A very detailed text delivers information on the history of the building: a detailed description is given on the building elements and a further analysis is presented on how the building has developed from its Medieval beginnings to its recent use as a hotel. Photographs and a series of plans, elevations and historic maps are included in

the report. Copies of the Historic Building Record will be deposited with departments of Northumberland County Council, Northumberland Archives at Woodhorn and OASIS.

7. Bibliography

Further reading can be found in the following documents:-

The Abbey that Became a Village. An Archaeological/Architectural Study. December 2012.
Peter F Ryder.

Medieval Cross Slab Grave Covers in Northumberland 1 South West Northumberland,
Archaeologia Aeliana 5th ser XXVIII, 55, 83-4 (Ryder 2000)

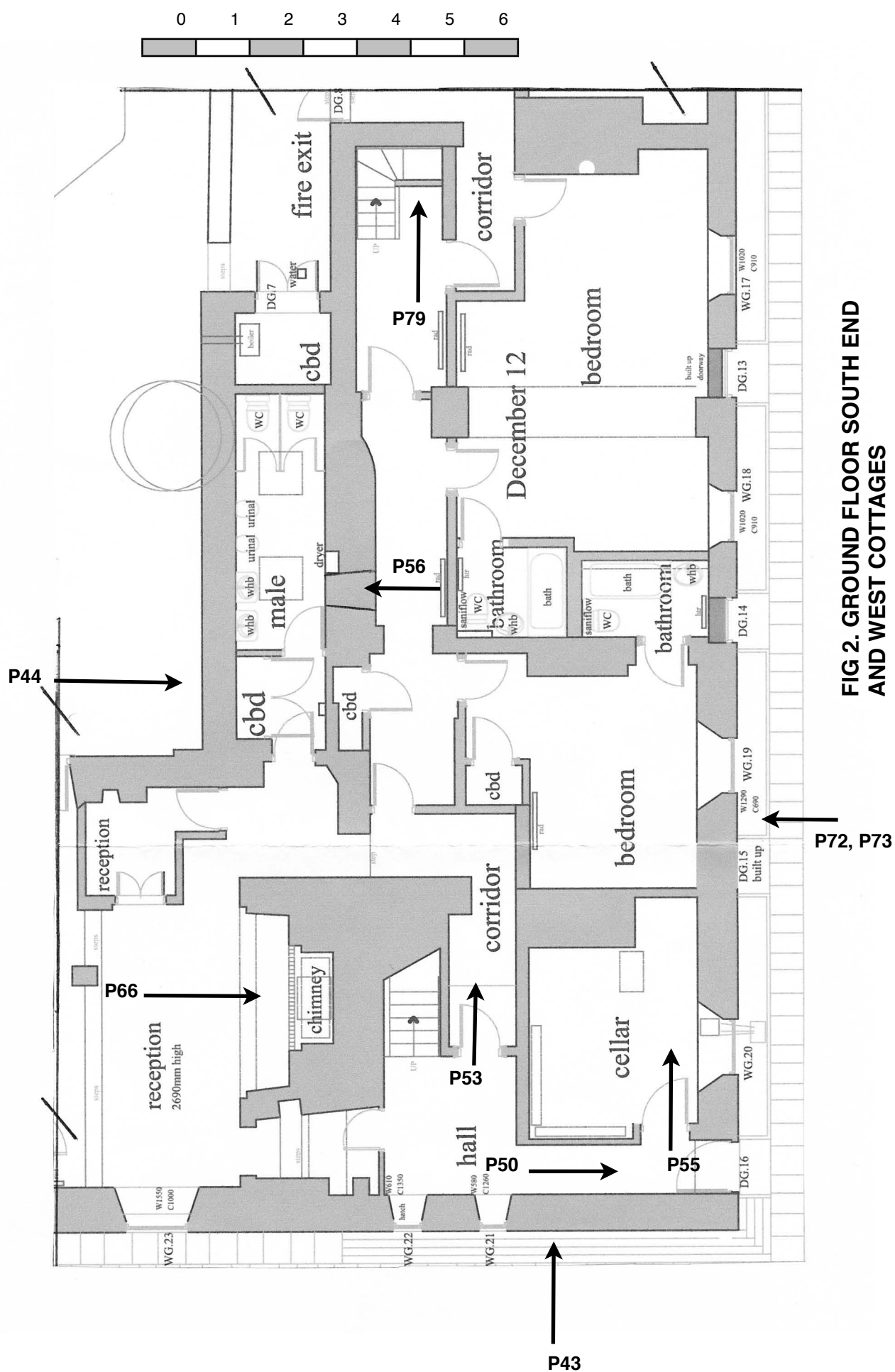
Conduits under the Square, Blanchland Village. Archaeological Recording. MS report for Lord
Crewe Trustees, August 2005. (Ryder P.F. 2005)

The Abbey Gatehouse and adjacent house, Blanchland. MS Report for Kevin Doonan,
architect. (Ryder P.F. 2006)

Appendix A Existing Plans and Elevations

Scale 1:100





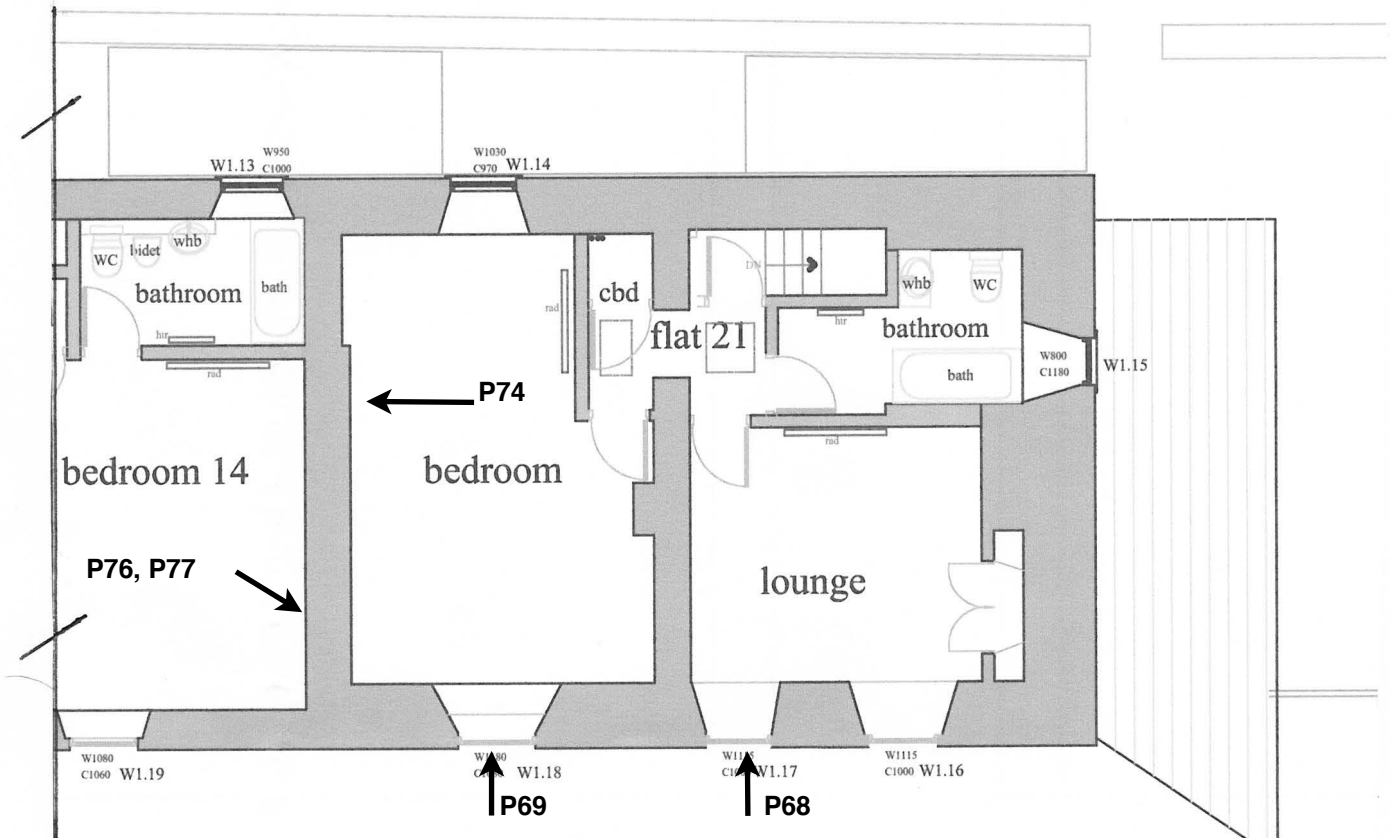
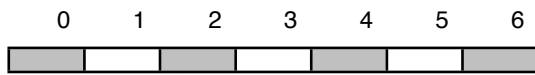


FIG 3. FIRST FLOOR COTTAGES EAST END

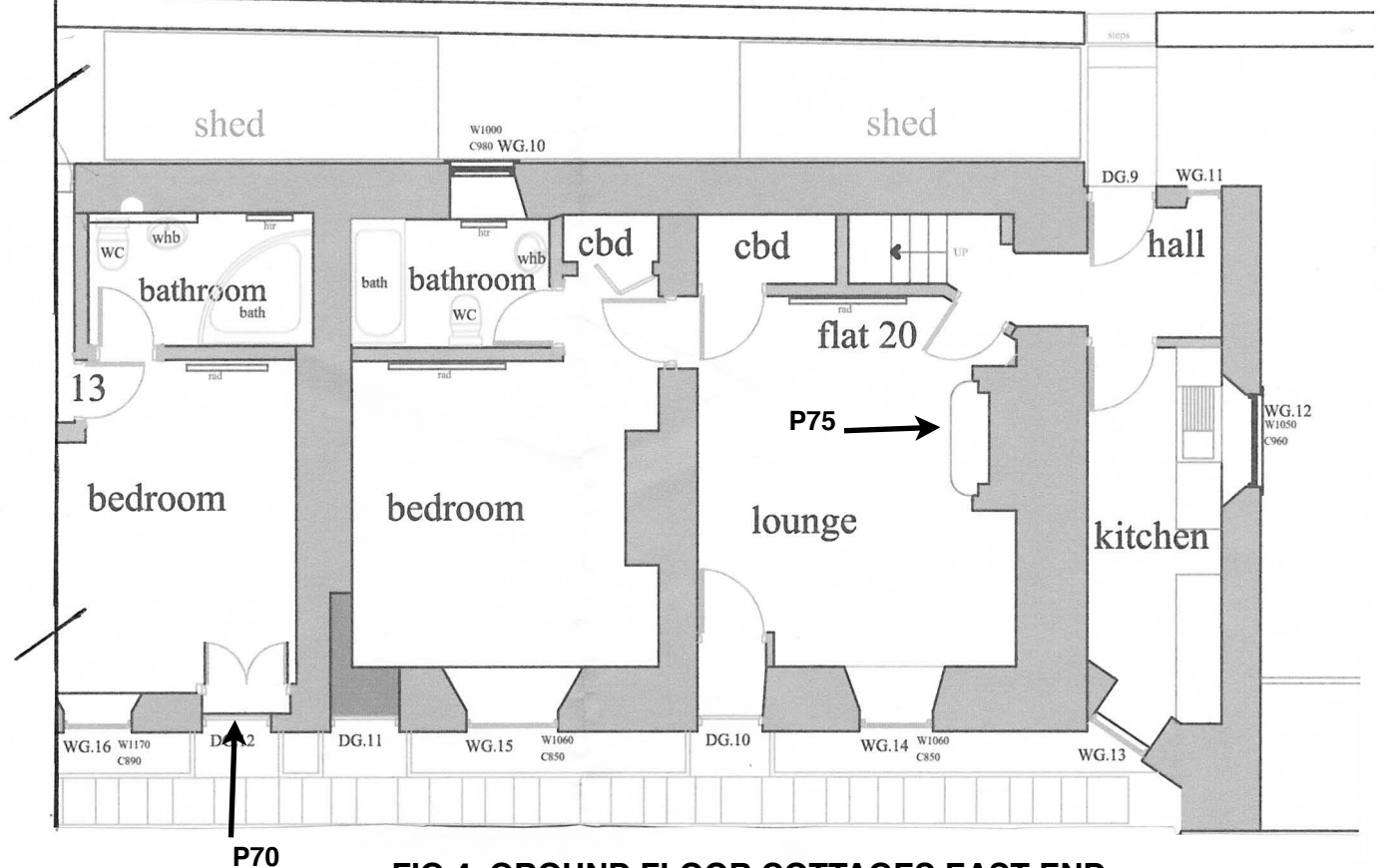


FIG 4. GROUND FLOOR COTTAGES EAST END

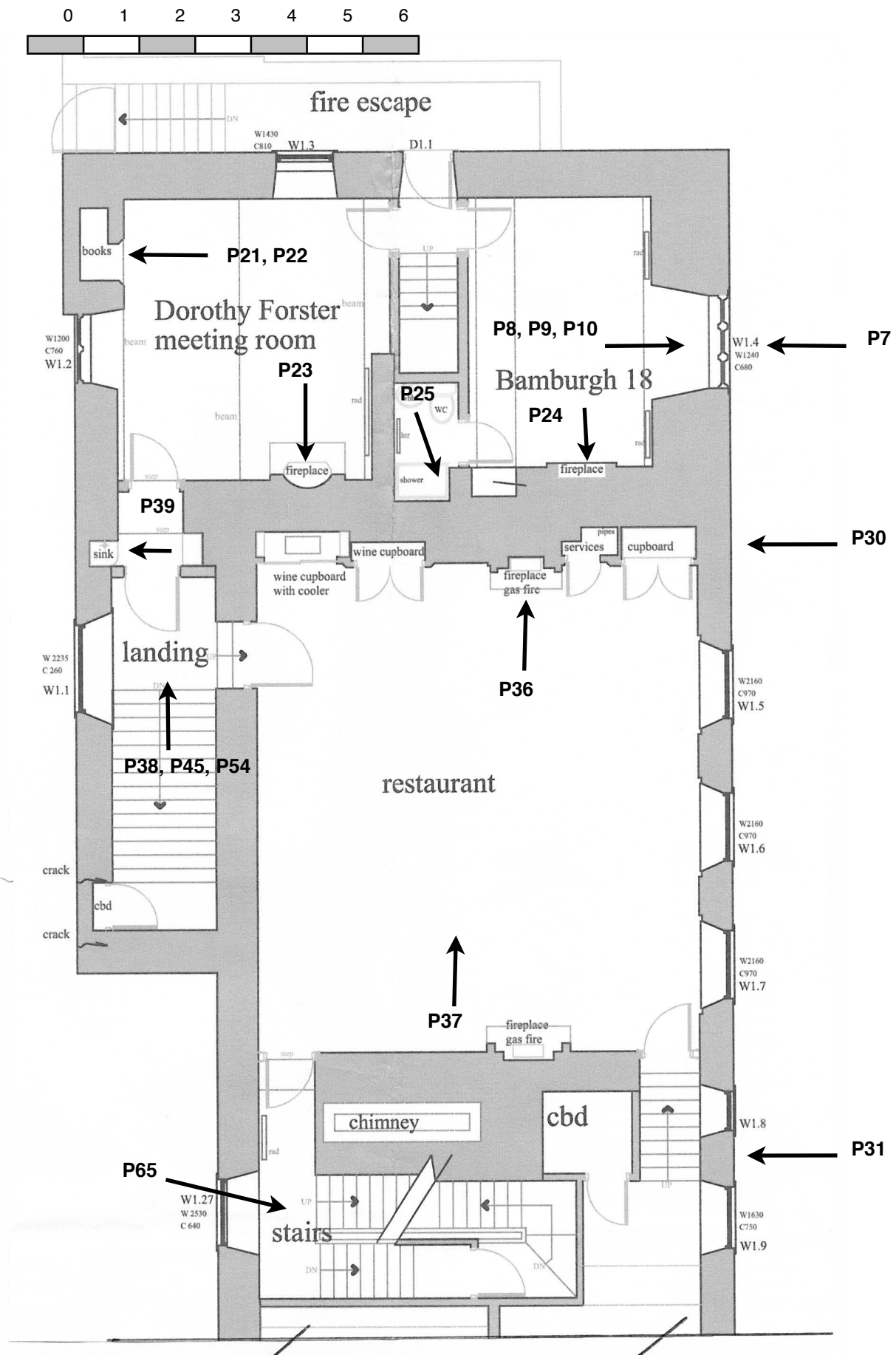
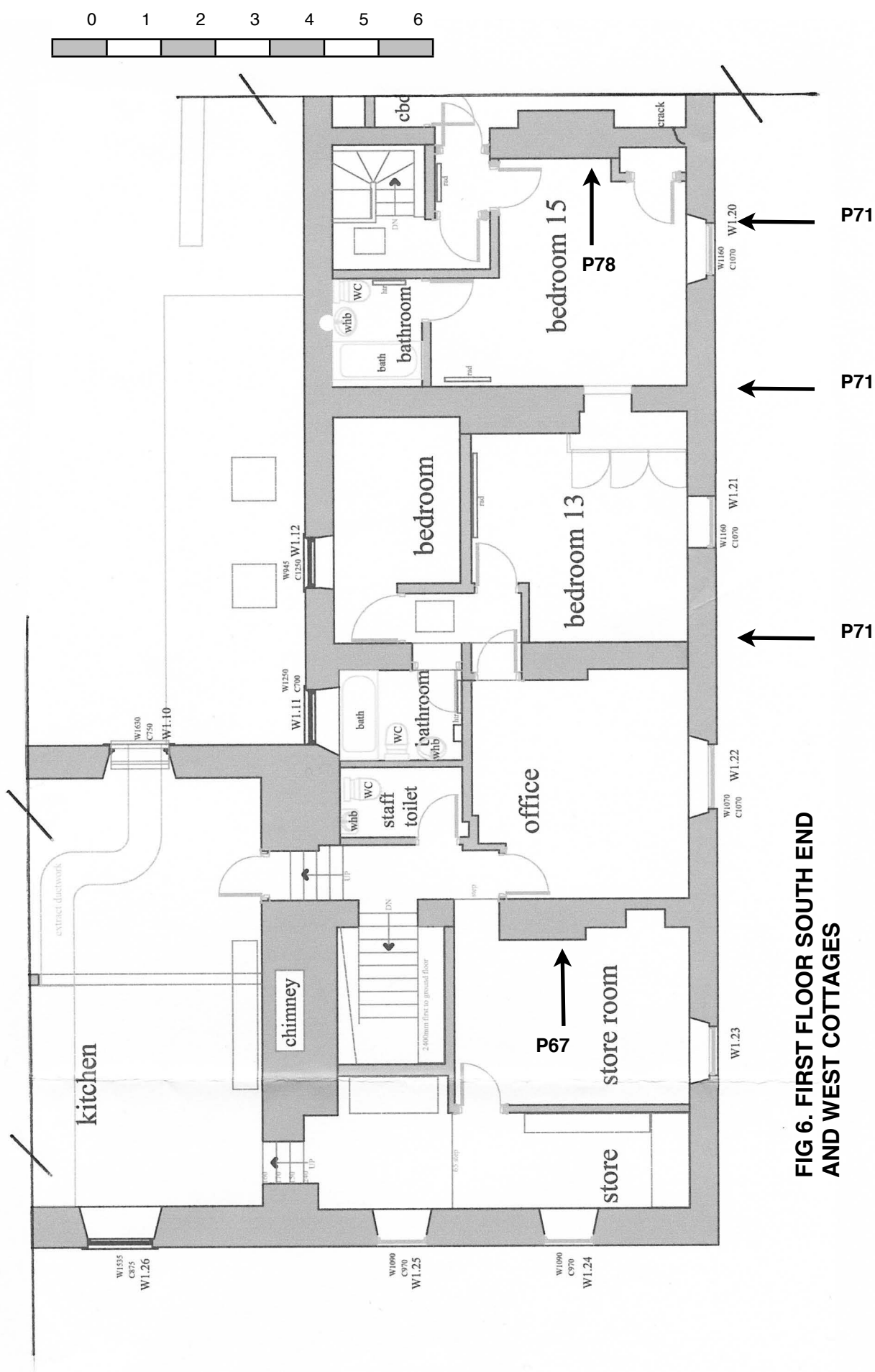


FIG 5. FIRST FLOOR NORTH END



**FIG 6. FIRST FLOOR SOUTH END
AND WEST COTTAGES**

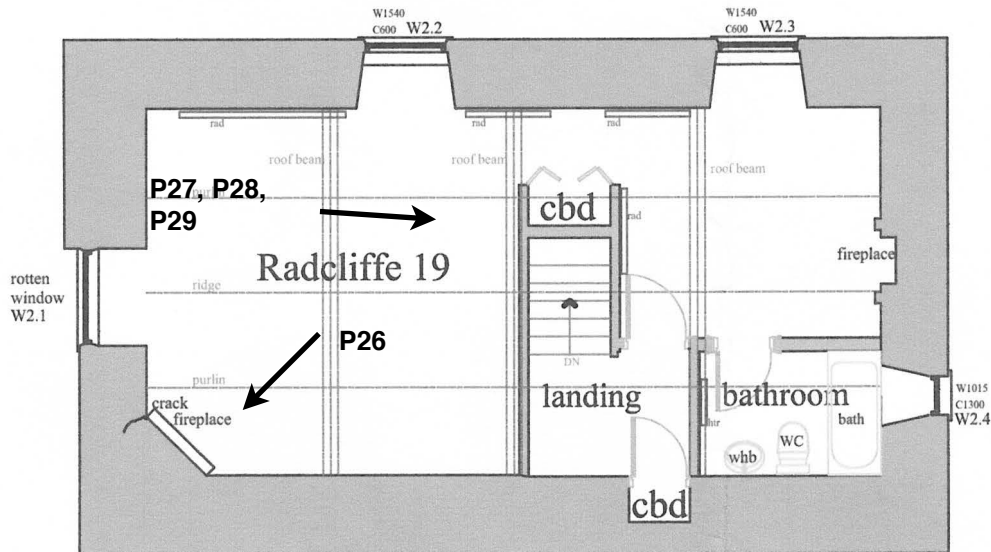
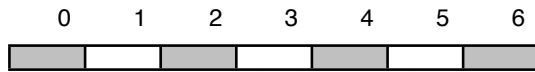


FIG 7. SECOND FLOOR TOWER

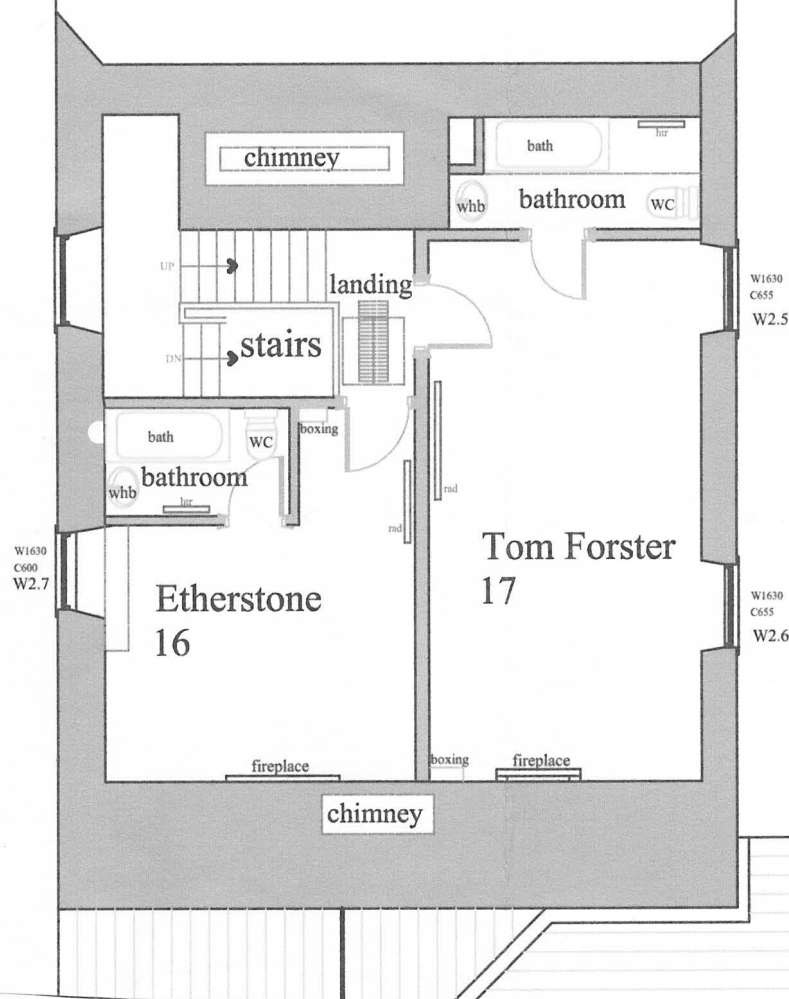


FIG 8. SECOND FLOOR SOUTHERN BUILDING

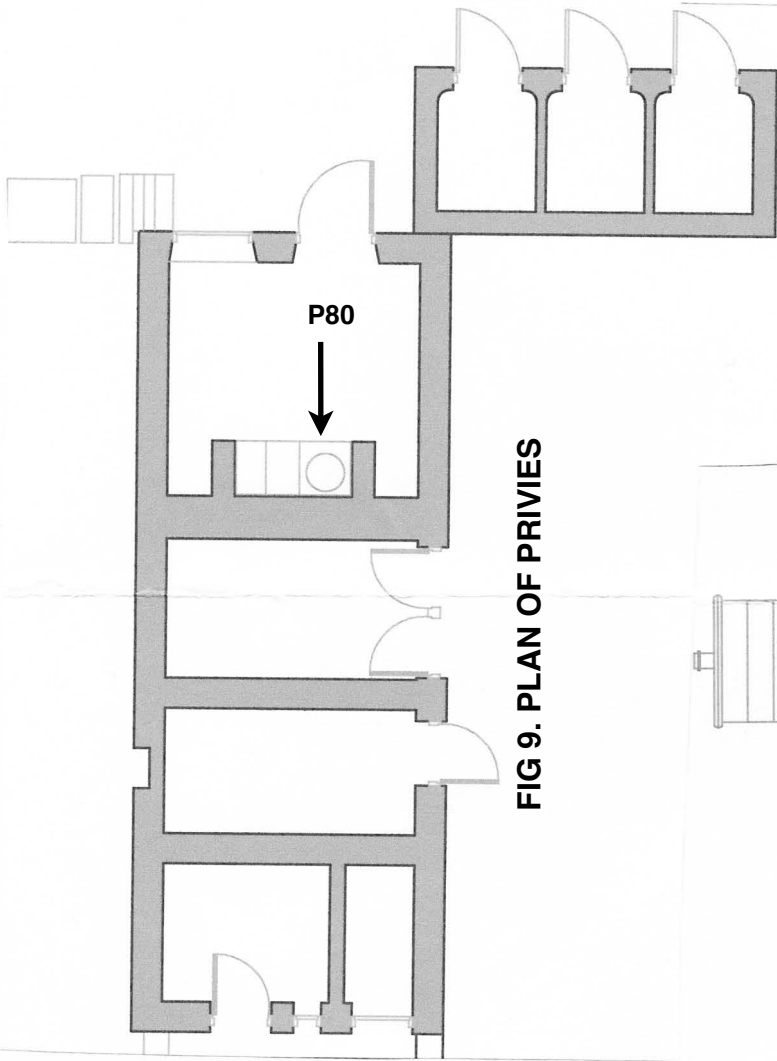
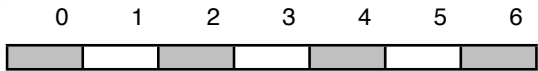


FIG 9. PLAN OF PRIVIES

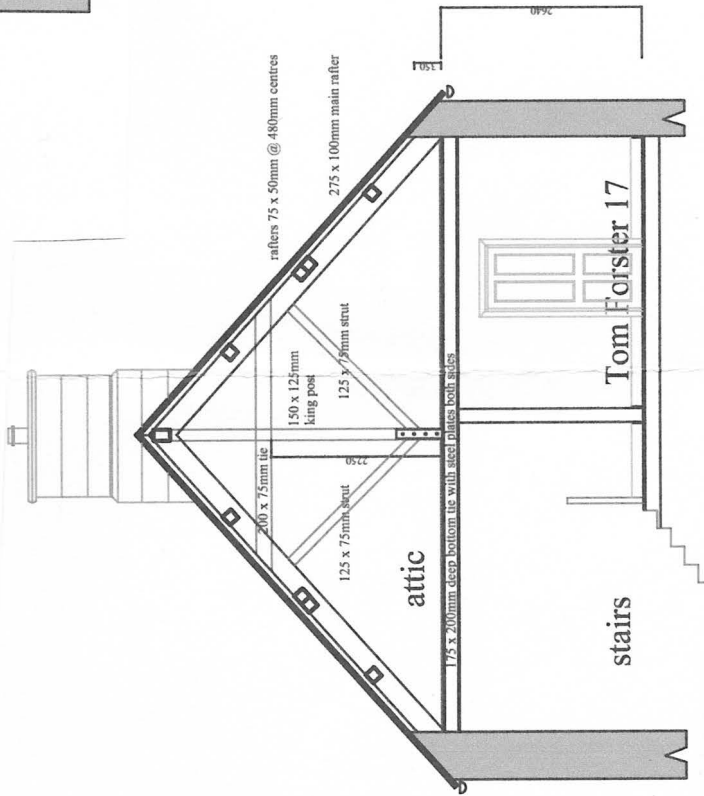


FIG 10. SECTION AA THROUGH ROOF

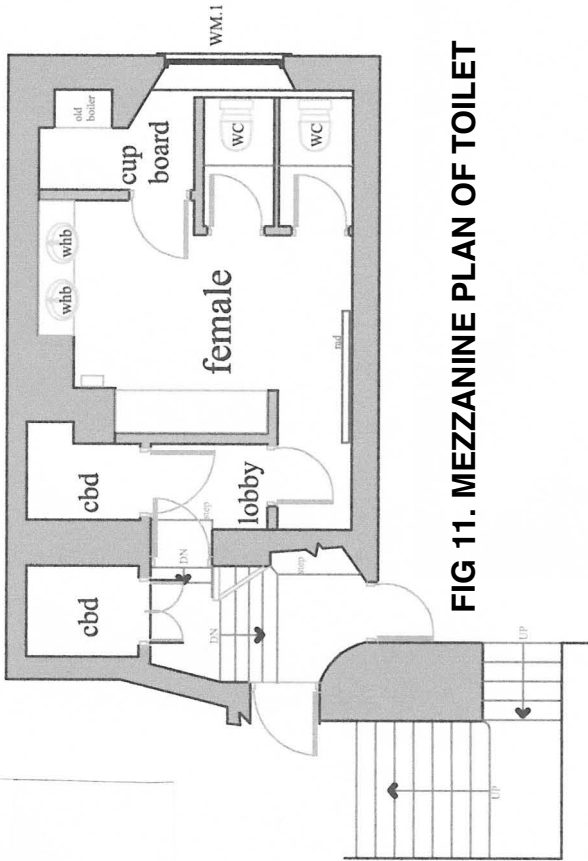
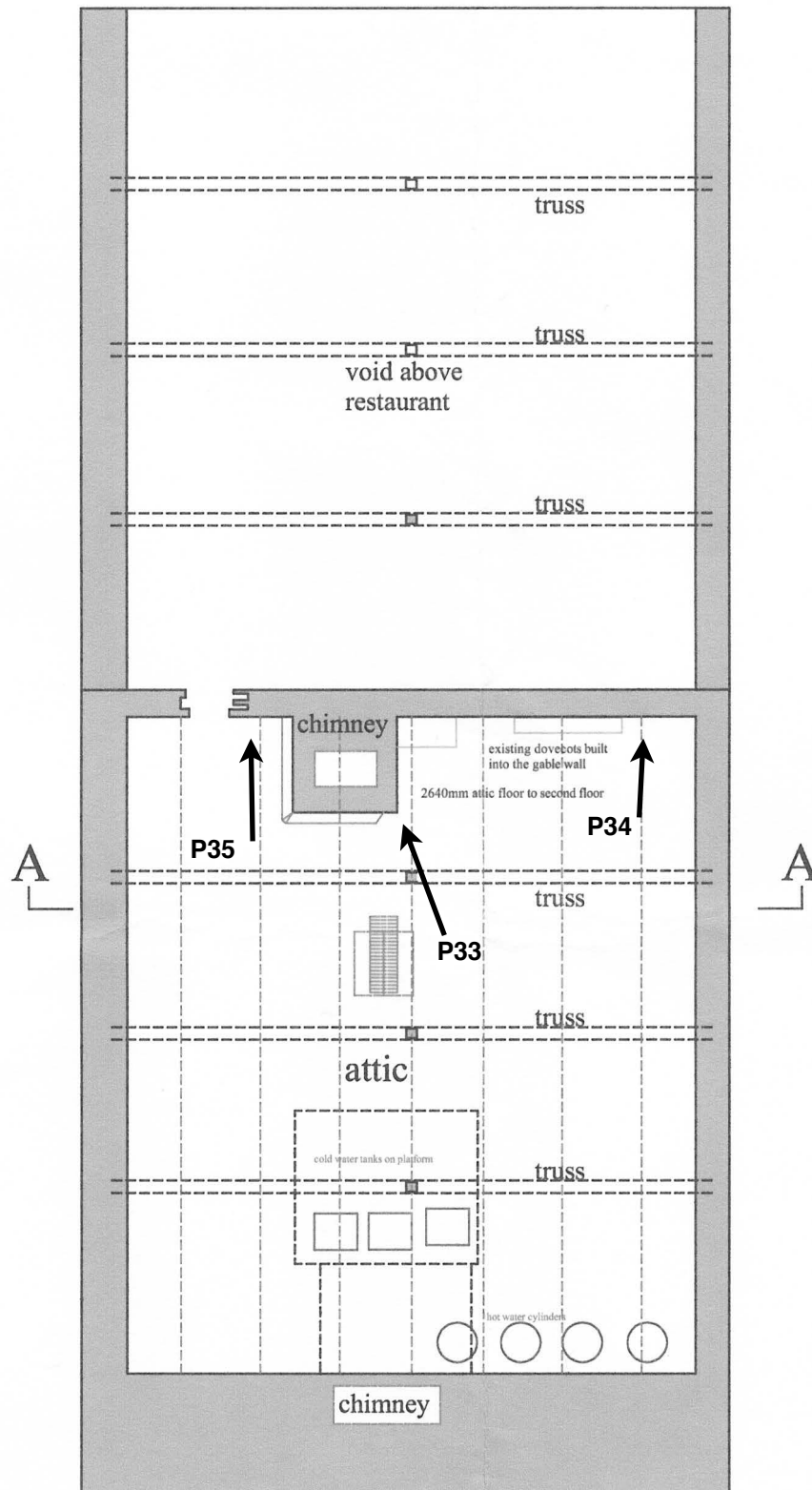
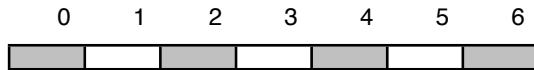


FIG 11. MEZZANINE PLAN OF TOILET



**FIG 12. ATTIC PLAN SHOWING
SECTION AA**

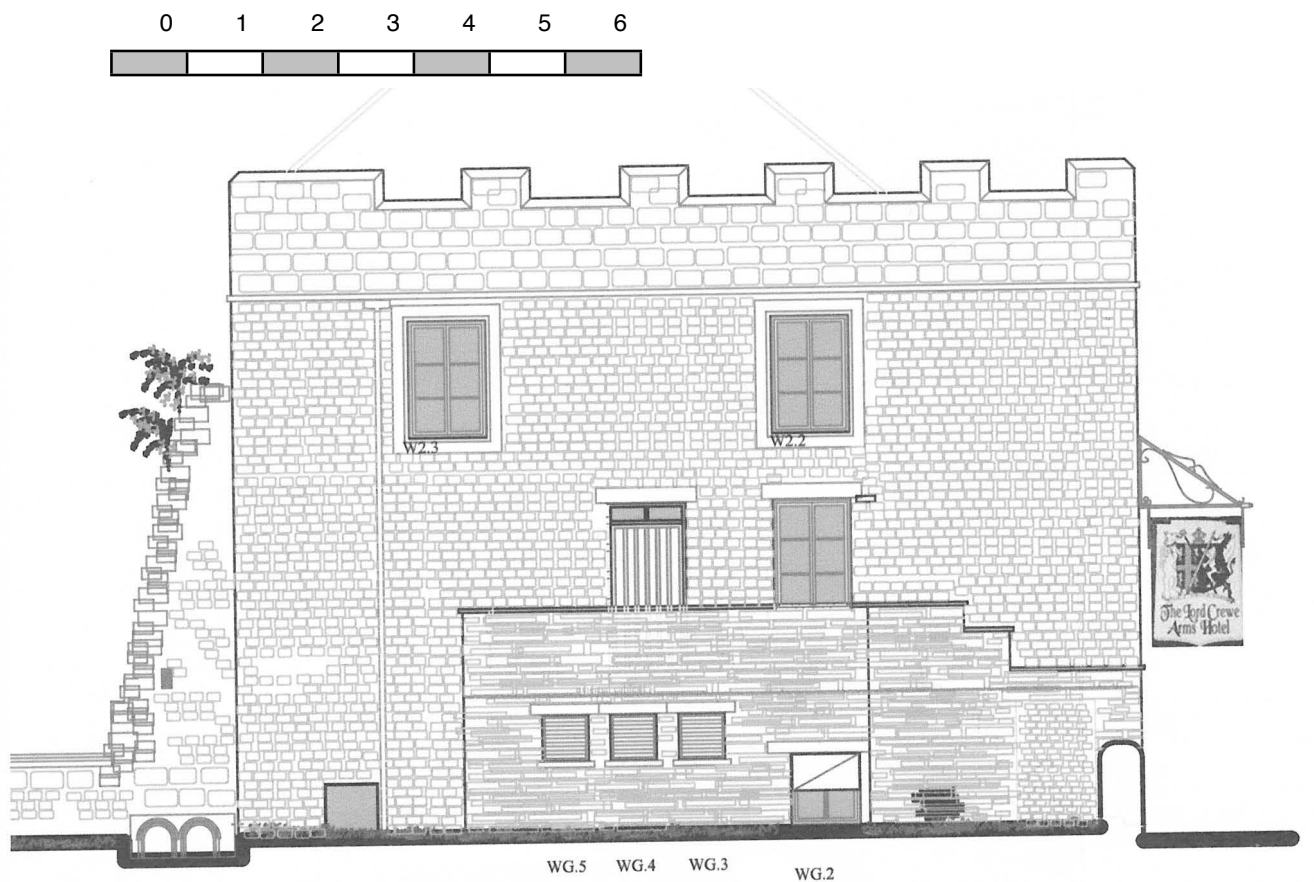


FIG 13. NORTH ELEVATION TOWER

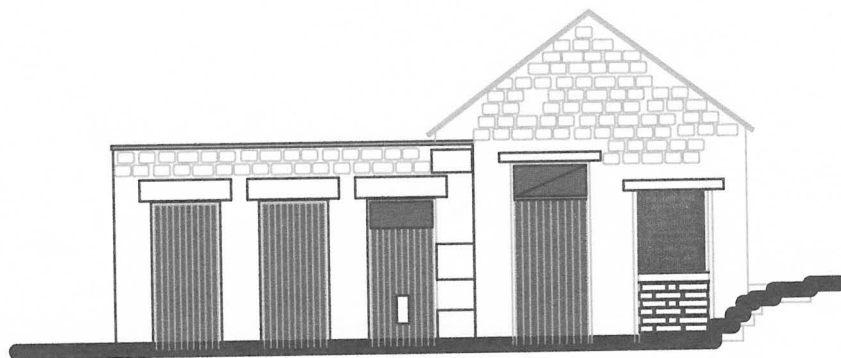


FIG 14. EAST ELEVATION PRIVIES



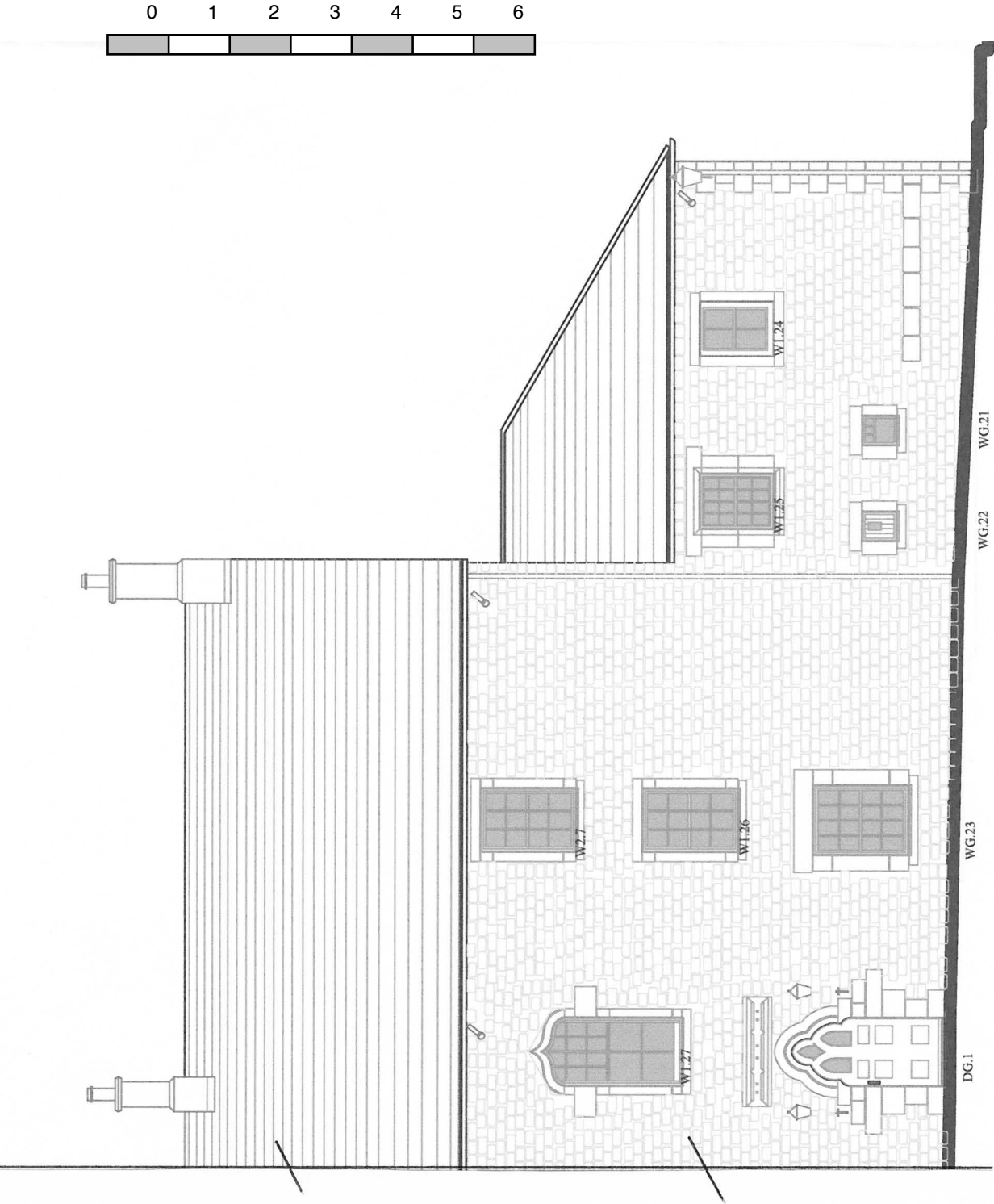


FIG 16. WEST ELEVATION SOUTHERN
BUILDING AND COTTAGES

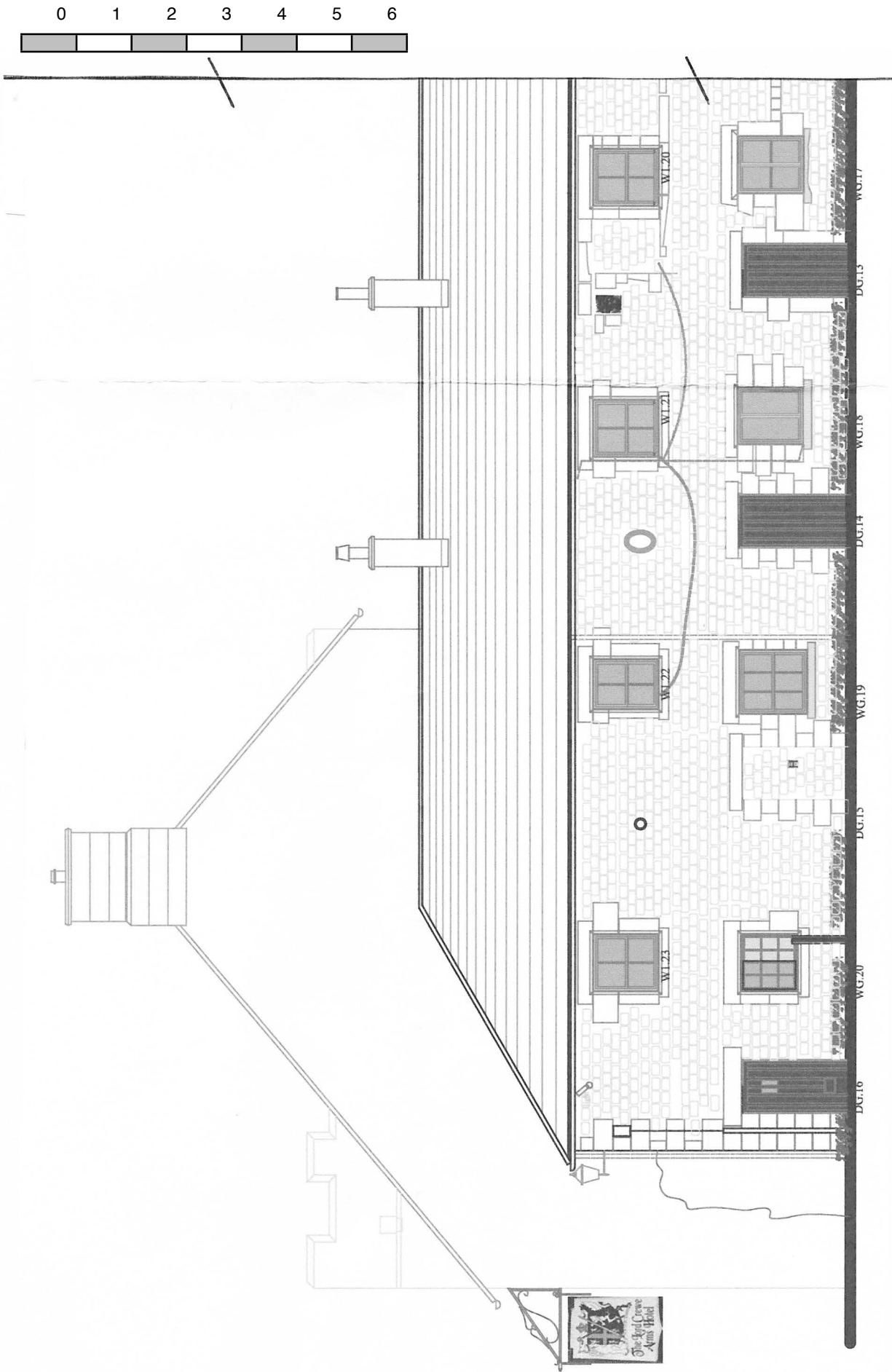


FIG 17. SOUTH ELEVATION WEST END COTTAGES

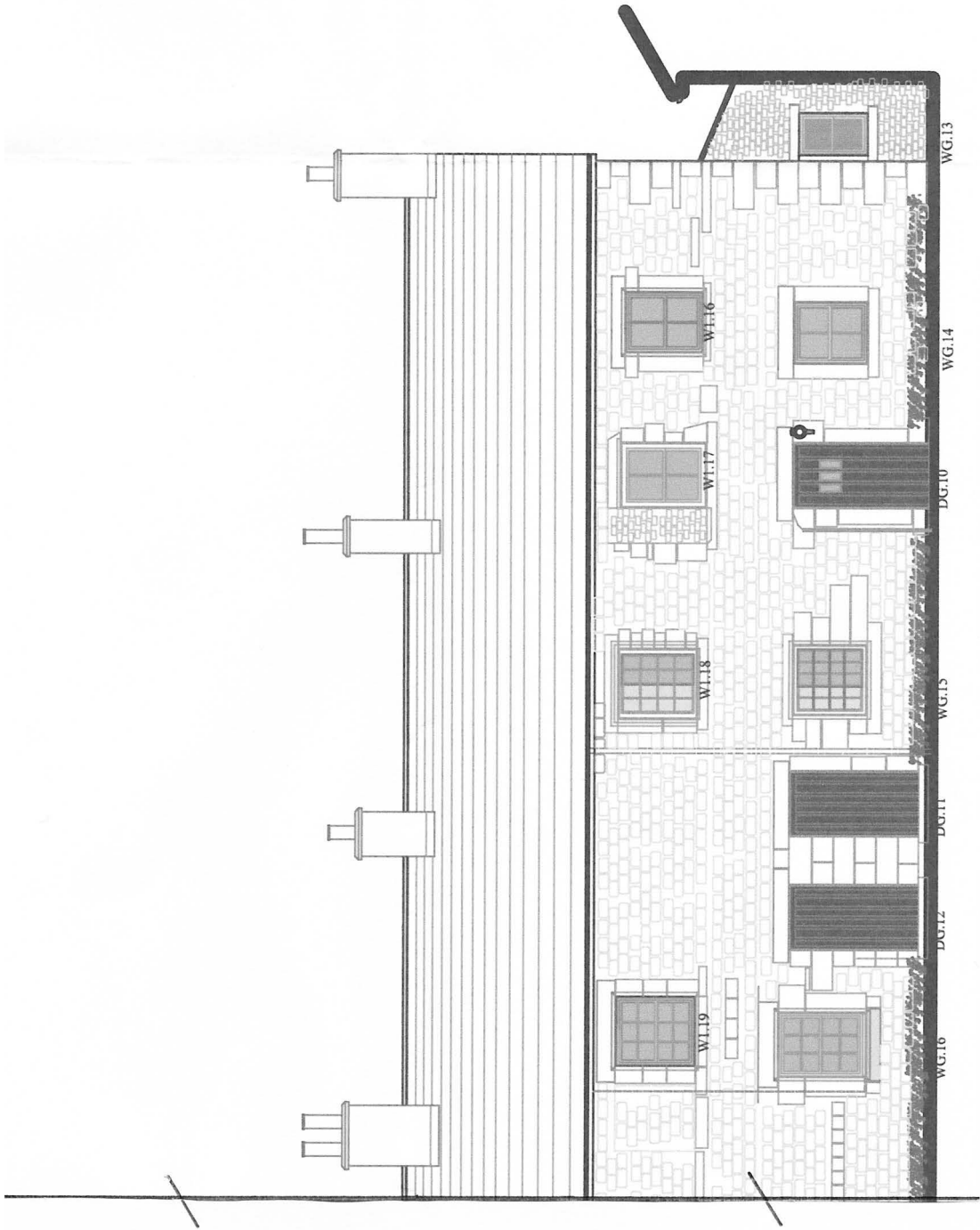
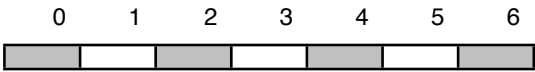


FIG 18. SOUTH ELEVATION EAST END COTTAGES

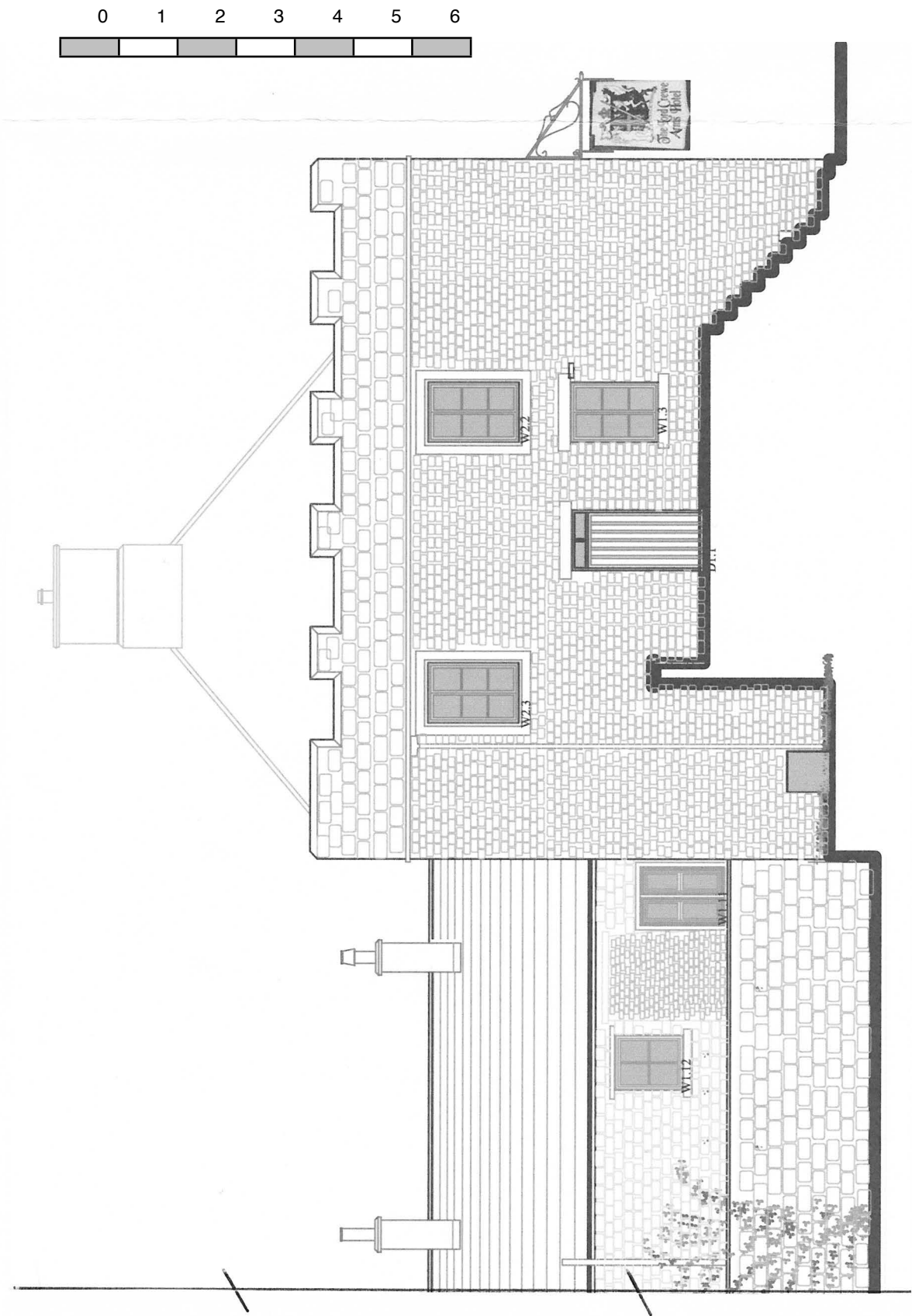


FIG 19. NORTH ELEVATION WEST END COTTAGES

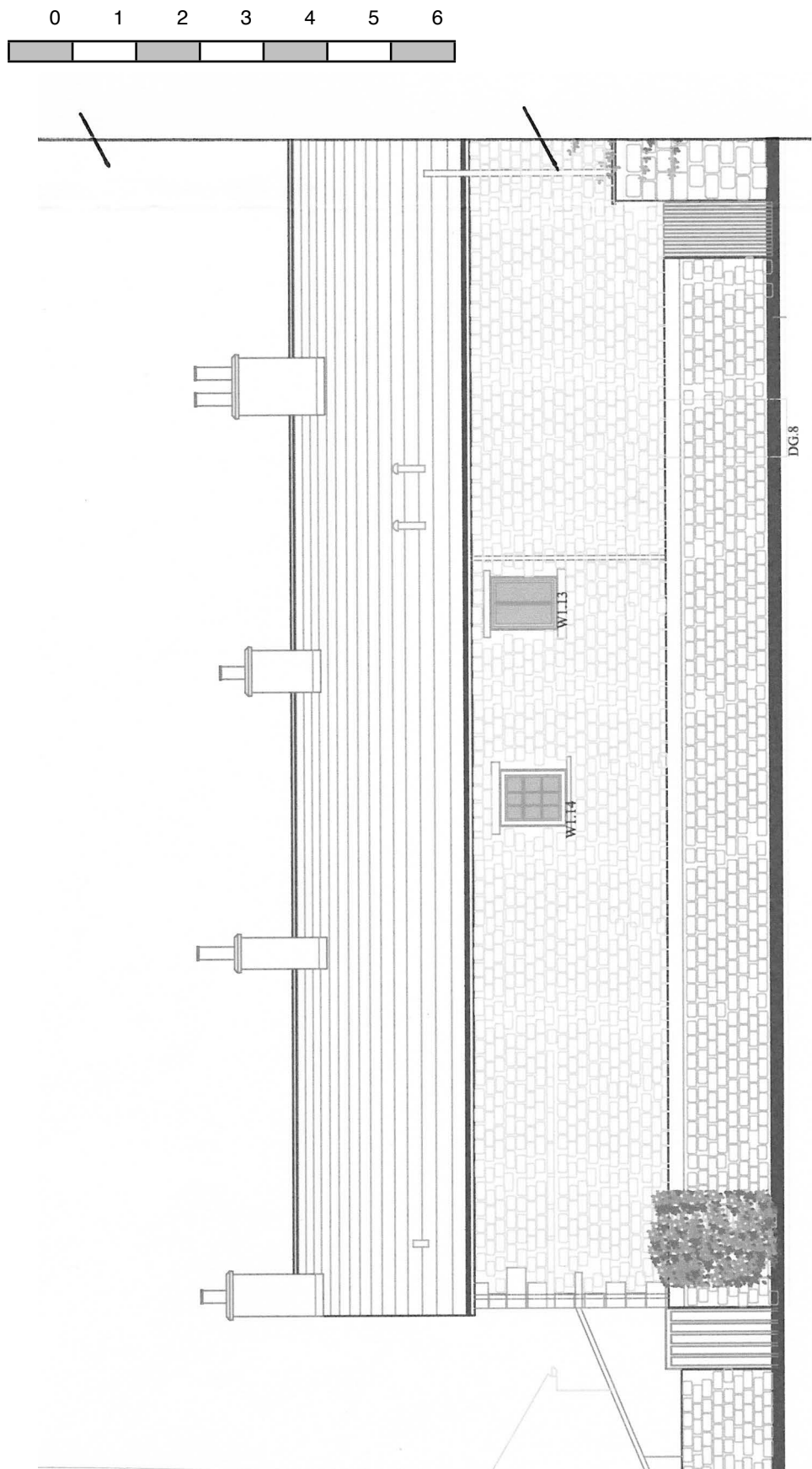


FIG 20. NORTH ELEVATION EAST END COTTAGES

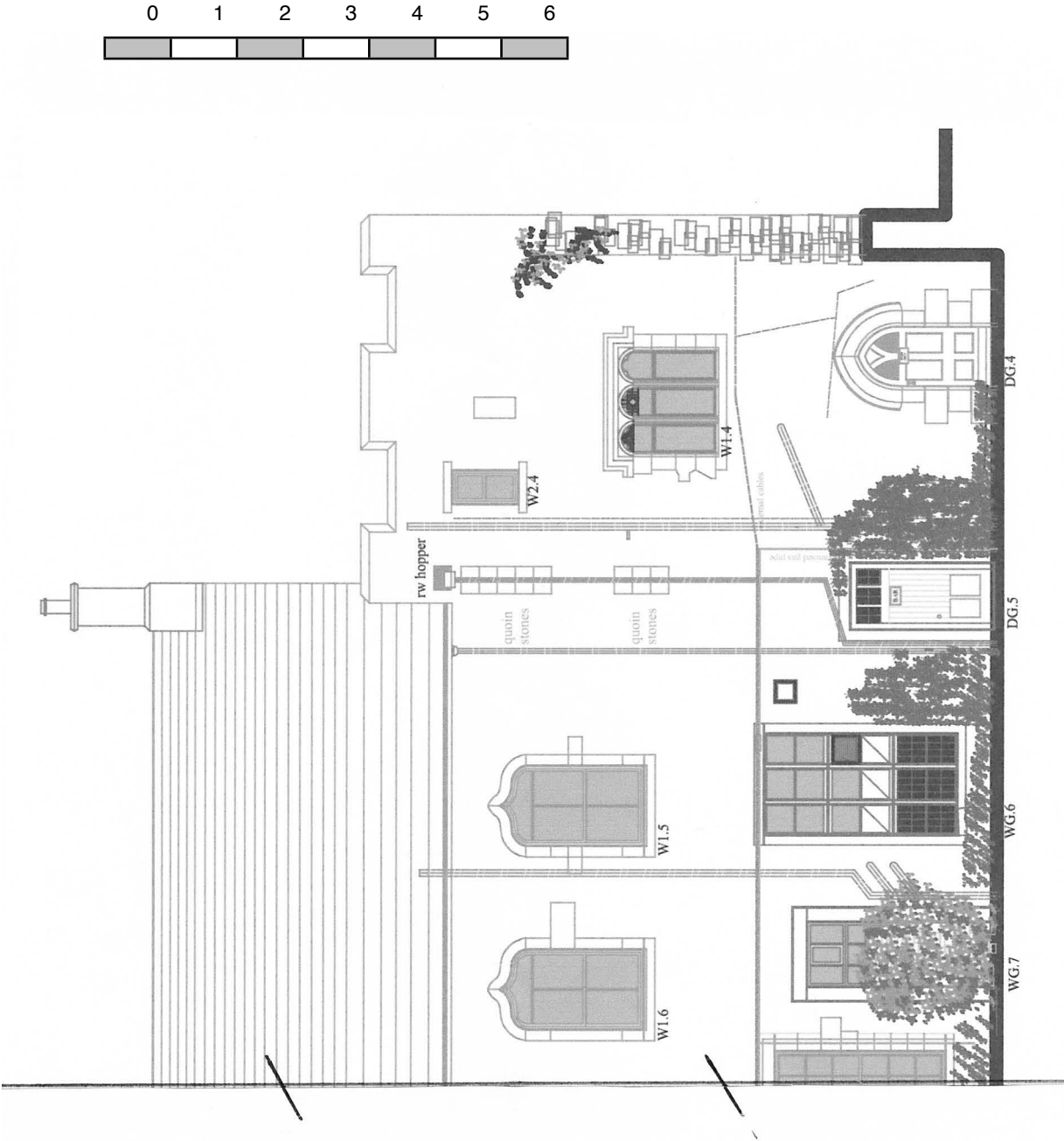
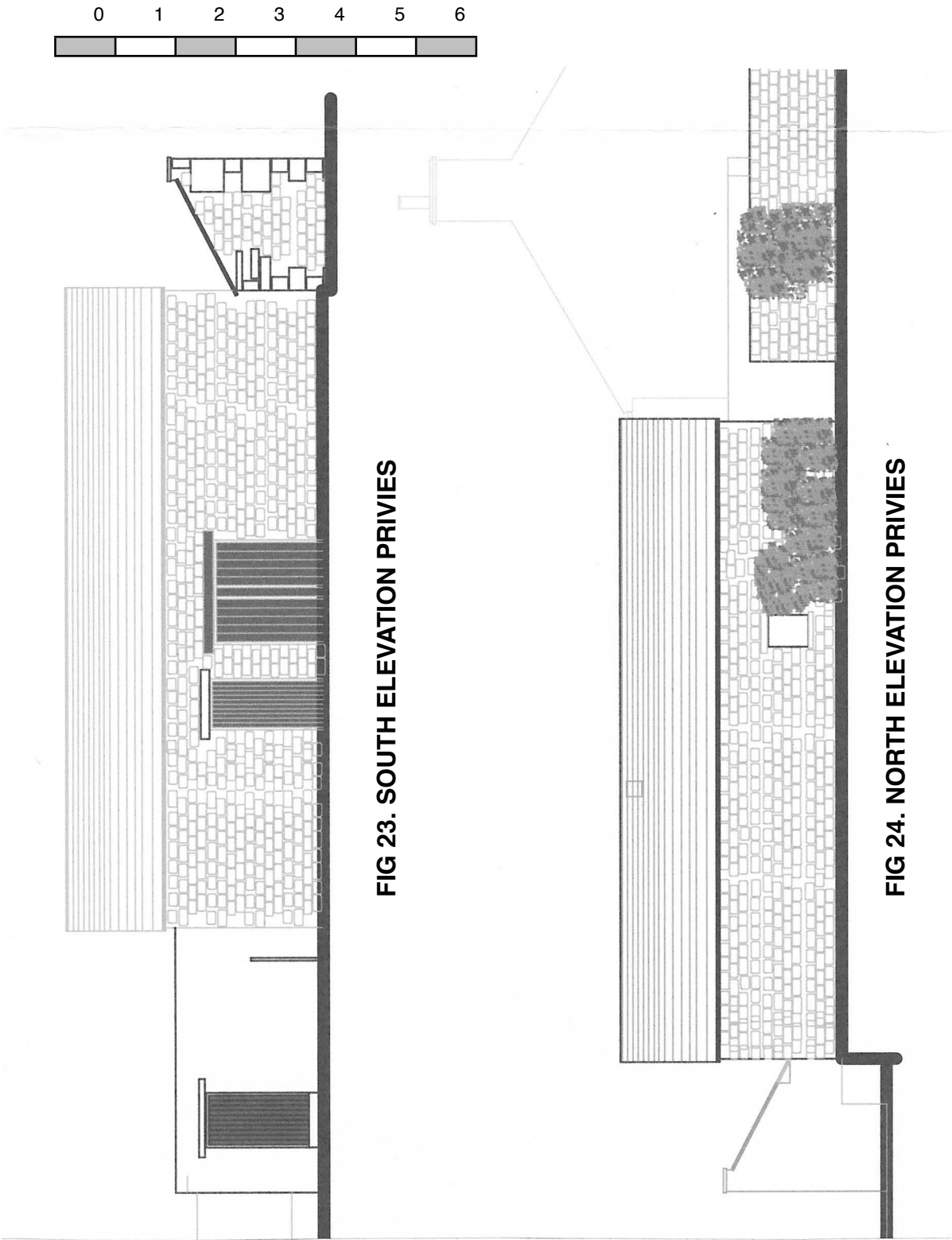


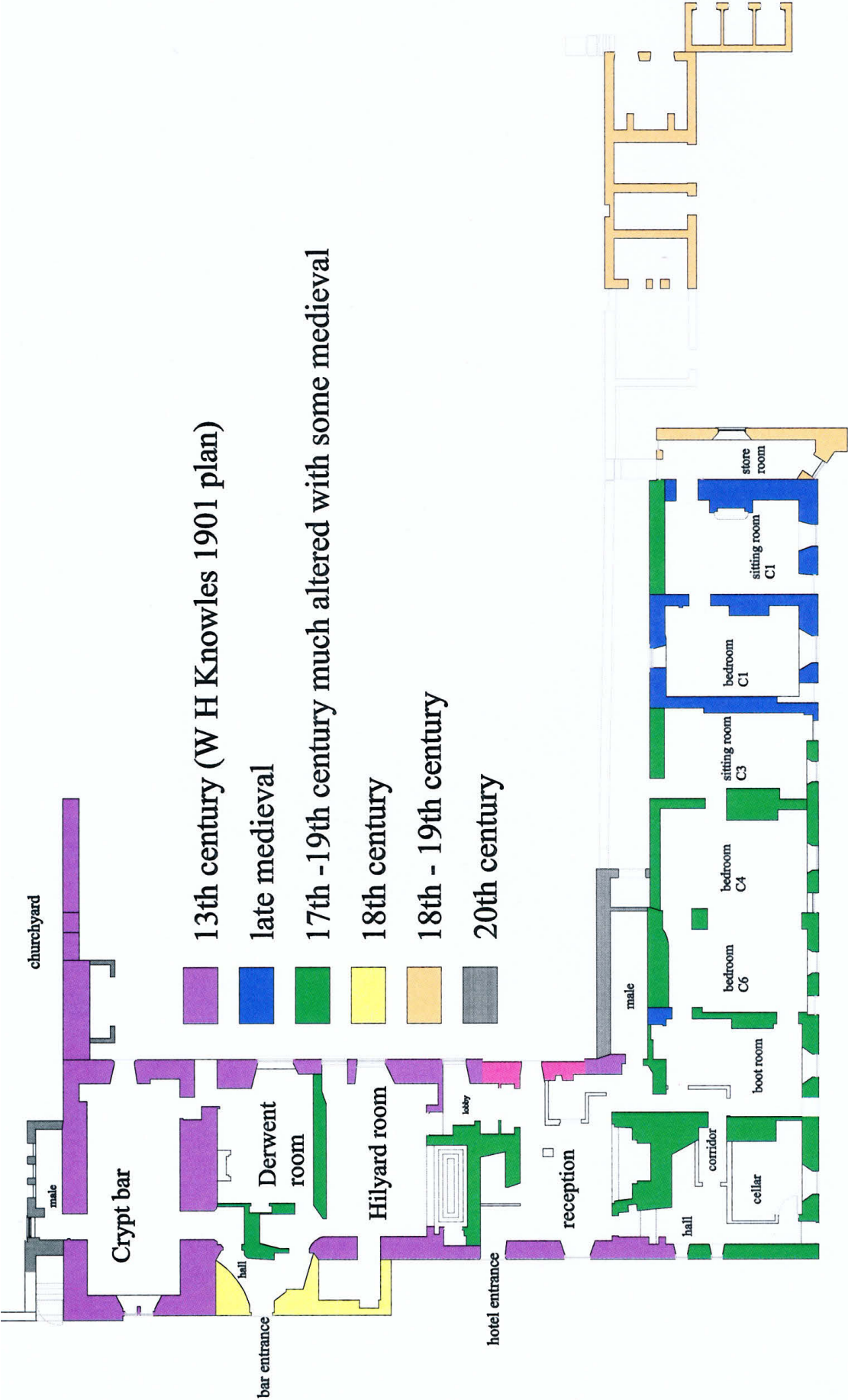
FIG 21. EAST ELEVATION TOWER AND CENTRAL SECTION



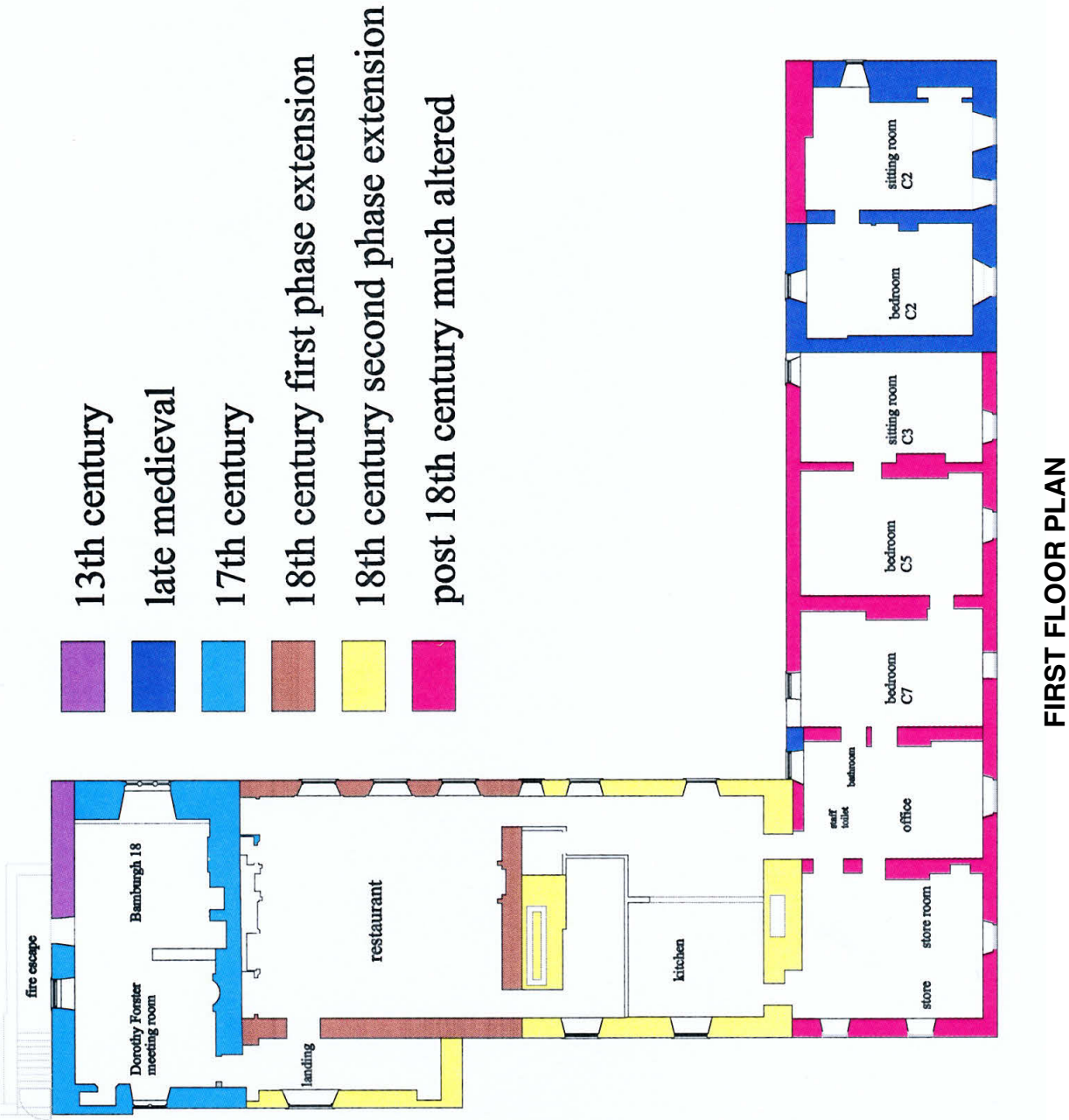


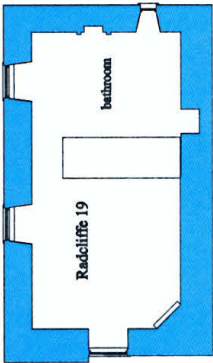
Appendix B Plans of Phased Historic Periods

Not to Scale

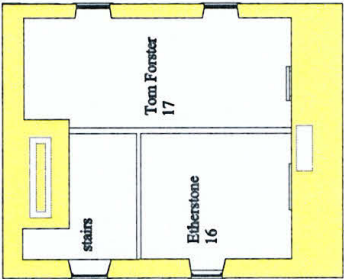


GROUND FLOOR PLAN





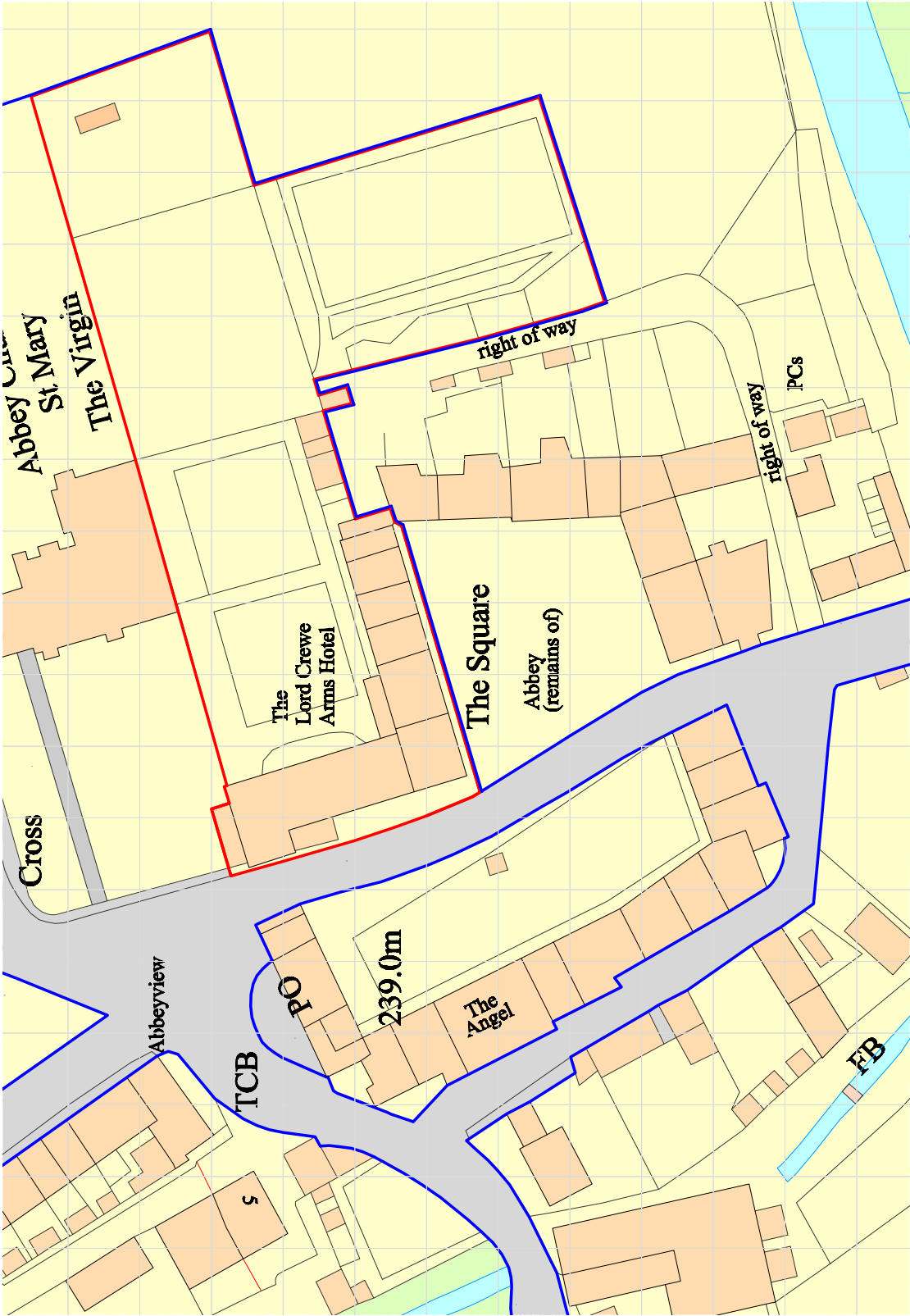
17th century rebuilding
by Radcliffes or Forsters



18th century
second phase extension

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

Appendix C Location Plan



LOCATION PLAN NOT TO SCALE

Appendix D Historic Maps

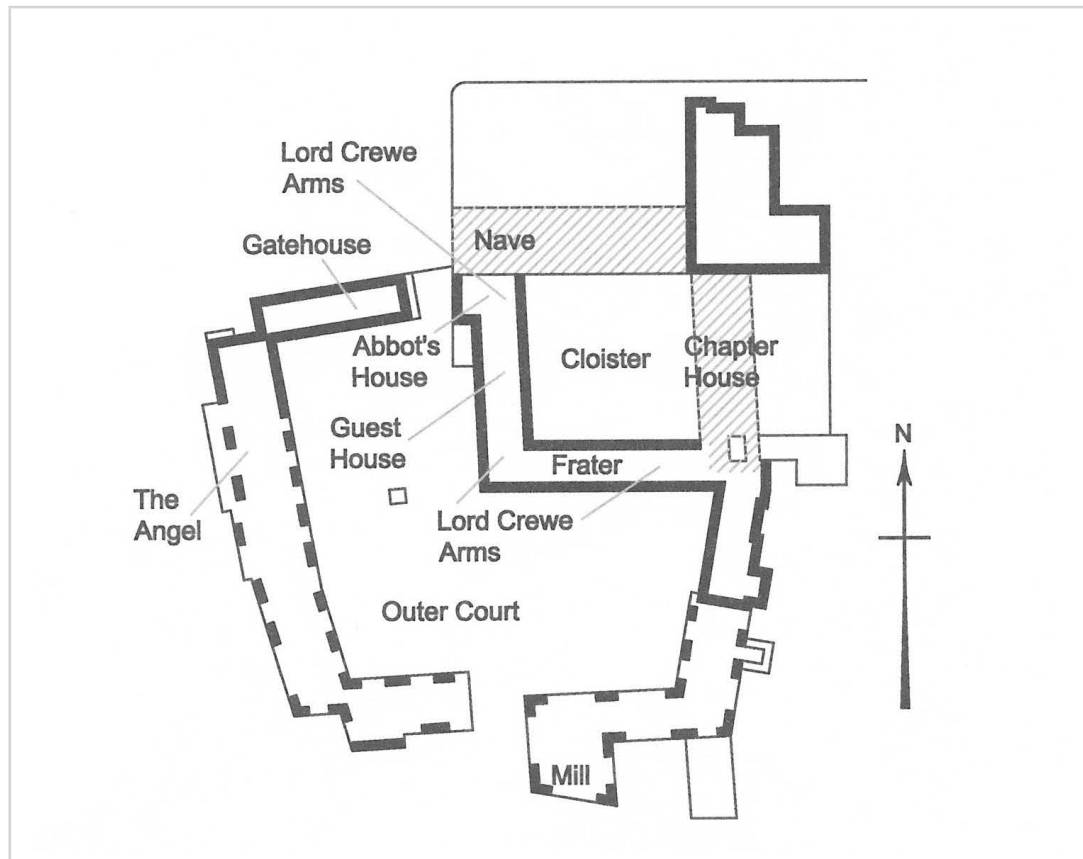
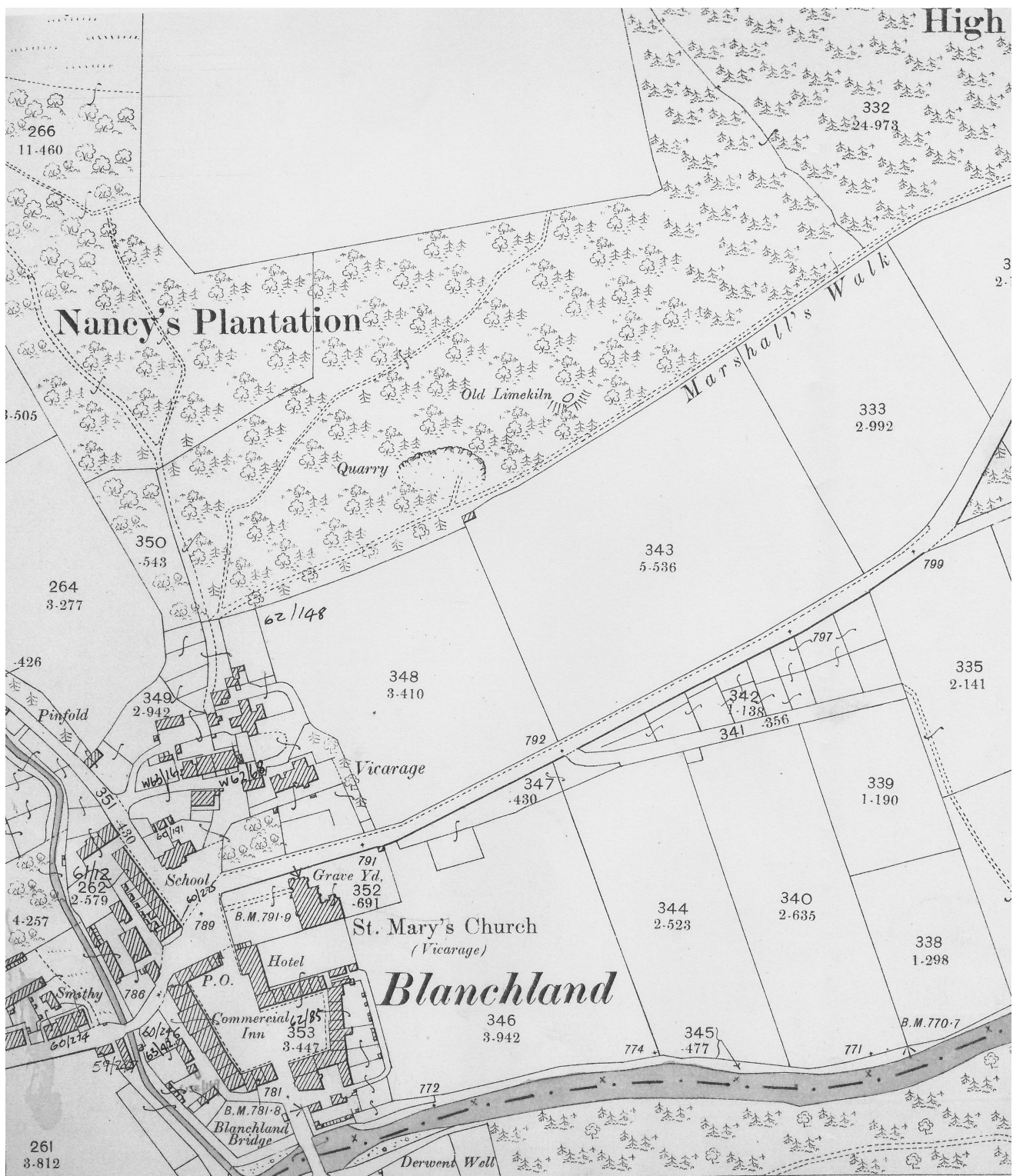
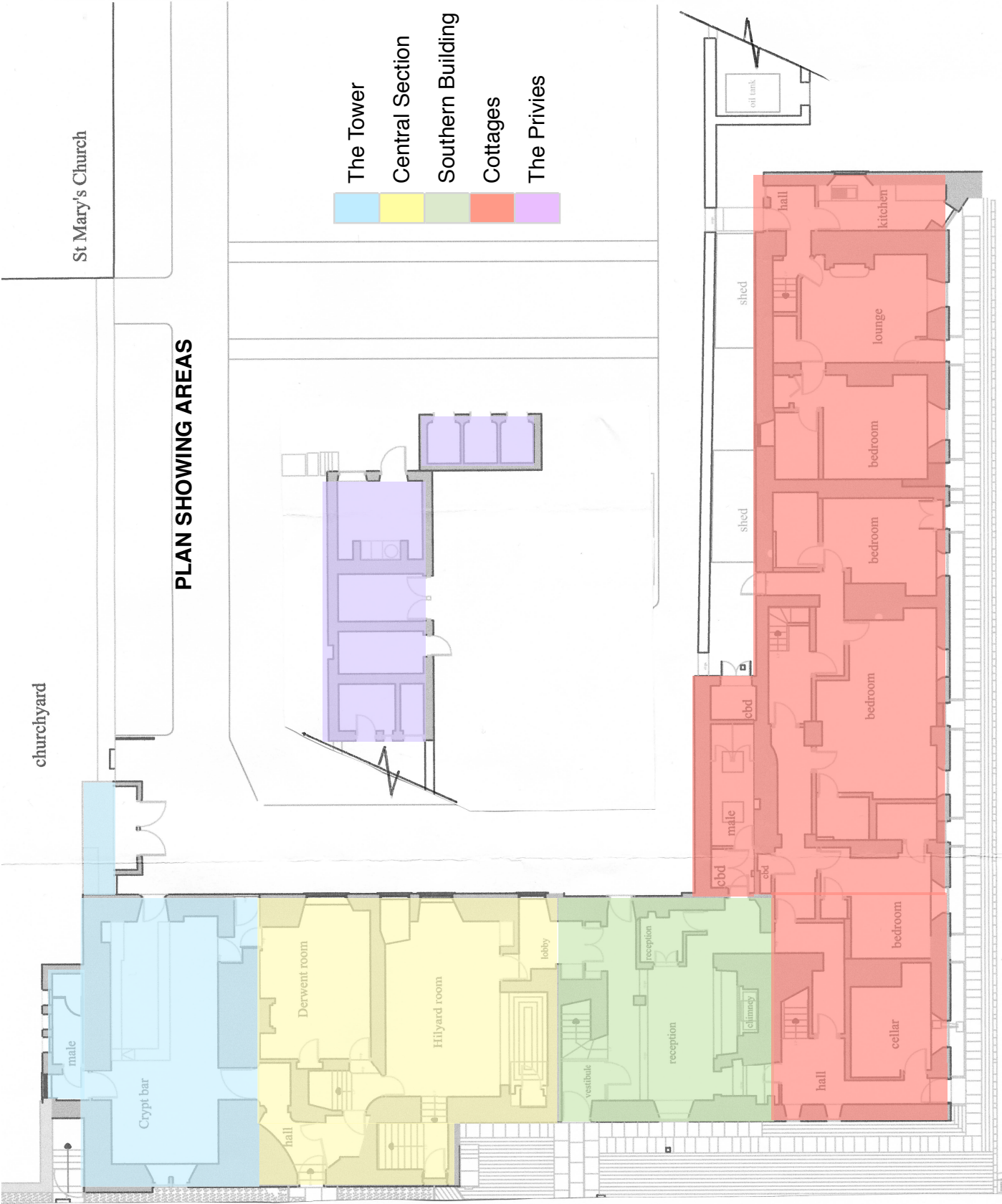


Figure 25. Block Plan of Village. Buildings within a dark outline contain Medieval fabric. Buildings within a dotted line may be Medieval ranges. The hatched areas show missing Abbey Buildings. Source: Blanchland: Abbey, Village and Estate.

Second Edition OS Map 1897 Scale 1:2500 Sheet CViii.8



Appendix E Defined Areas in Report Description



Appendix F Listing Descriptions

English Heritage Scheduled Monument ¹⁰² under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

Blanchland Premonstratensian Abbey

List Entry Number: 1017683vc

UID No: 12612

National Grid Reference: NY 96639 50380

Blanchland Abbey was one of approximately 31 abbeys of the Premonstratensian Order in Medieval England. Of these the remains of only about a dozen survive to any extent and the remains at Blanchland form one of the most complete examples. The site at Blanchland has several features which distinguish it from other monasteries of this order. In particular it has the only surviving example of a roofed Premonstratensian church and is one of only a handful where the west and south claustral ranges survive to any extent. The greatest importance of the site, however, for which it is justly famous, is the completeness with which the whole precinct plan survives and can be seen in the modern village scape. The monastic buildings were taken over in the years after the Dissolution to make a complete village. The monastic church became the parish church, the cloisters became the manor house and the outer court became the village square surrounded by the villagers' cottages. Even today the village consists of few buildings beyond this remarkable core. The area of the scheduling itself contains some of the least disturbed features and deposits relating to the monastery, notably part of the church, cloisters and burial ground, which are of great importance for any analysis of the archaeology and the history of this monastery and for the monastic life in the border country of northern England.

The monument comprises the site of the nave, south transept, cloister garth, east claustral range and part of the monastic graveyard of Blanchland Abbey. Remains of all these features survive beneath the modern ground surface. The later 12th/early 13th century standing cross west of the church tower is also included. The Abbey was founded for the Canons of the Order of Premonstre (Premonstratensians) by Walter de Bolbeck in 1165. Although never a very large house, it was visited by Edward III in 1327 following its burning by Scots raiders. The monastery was initially dissolved in 1536 only to be reformed by the King in 1537 before being finally dissolved in 1539. The site passed through secular hands and was acquired by the Forster family in the early 17th century. By this time or soon after, the cloister had become the core of the mansion, parts of which survive today as the Lord Crewe Arms Hotel (Listed Building Grade II*). The northern and western walls of the former parish burial ground are included in this scheduling as they are considered to incorporate areas of medieval fabric. Other walls demarcating the edge of the area of the monument are not included in the scheduling. A row of buildings to the rear of the Hotel adjacent to the south boundary of the monument are excluded from the scheduling, but the ground beneath them is included. The area of the scheduling comprises only part of the former monastic precinct. It should be noted that the following features of the Abbey are not included: 1) The parish church which comprises the north transept and choir of the monastic church. 2) The present parochial graveyard east of the parish church. 3) The remains of the west and south ranges of the cloister and of buildings which originally formed four sides of the monastic Outer Court (including the precinct gatehouse) which have been converted in various ways into dwellings etc. 4) The village square and adjacent roads. These are all considered at present to be adequately covered by other forms of statutory protection, notably listed building legislation and conservation controls.

English Heritage List Entry.¹⁰³ Listed for Special Architectural or Historic Interest

LORD CREWE ARMS

List Entry Number: 1154141

ID Number: 240415

Grade II*

National Grid Reference: NY 96595 50365

Hotel, incorporating west cloister range of Abbey (probably abbots lodge, guest house and kitchen). C13 and C15, remodelled mid-C18. Stone; stone slate roof. C18 parts in Gothick style. West elevation in 3 parts; to left 3-storey tower, C15 heightening in squared stone of earlier rubble fabric, with shallow garderobe projection on left; centre part is C18 stair extension, 2 storeys, 2 bays; right part, set back, 3 storeys, 2 bays. Left bay of centre part has renewed door in raised stone surround, left bay of right part an old panelled door under tall trefoiled arch of re-set medieval fragments. Tower has paired chamfered loops on ground floor, 2-light mullioned windows with hood moulds above, the upper with trefoiled lights; embattled C18 parapet. Centre and right parts have scattered fenestration; sash windows in tooled raised stone surrounds, 2 ogee-arched stair windows. Stepped-and-corniced ridge and right end stacks, stepped left end stack. Rear elevation similar; to left C13 moulded segmental arch of canons' lavatory, possibly reset. Sill bands to left 3-storey part. Sash windows in stone surrounds, some ogee-arched. Tower has C13 chamfered doorway, C15 window of 3 trefoiled lights above and 2 chamfered loops (one blocked) to 2nd floor.

Interior: Ground floor south room has large chamfered segmental-arched fireplace flanked by doorways with depressed arched heads, that to left re-set. Central room has similar doorway and large restored segmental-arched fireplace with smoking platform in large open stack above; late medieval moulded ceiling beams. C18 stone stair from central room up to large hall with C18 panelling and fireplaces. Tower has barrel-vaulted basement and shouldered-arched doorways. Room above has chamfered doorway to garderobe (now cupboard) and old chamfered ceiling beams. After the Dissolution the range became the house of the Forster family; Thomas Forster, awaiting trial at Newgate for his part in the 1715 rebellion, escaped with the aid of his sister Dorothy and is reputed to have hidden for a time in the "priest's hole" before going into exile in France.

English Heritage List Entry.¹⁰⁴ Listed for Special Architectural or Historic Interest

NO 17 AND ADJACENT BUILDING TO WEST, NOW A WING OF LORD CREWE ARMS

List Entry Number: 1045387

ID Number: 240413

Grade II

National Grid Reference: NY 96613 50354

Terrace of 6 houses, formerly monastic building, remodelled mid-C18. Mostly rubble, with dressings; stone slate roofs. 2 storeys, 8 bays. Vertical-panelled doors to left of bay 1, between bays 2 and 3 (in raised stone surround), between bays 4 and 5, pair between bays 6 and 7, and between bays 7 and 8. Various sash windows, (some renewed) most in hollow-chamfered surrounds, some C19 and some of earlier work re-set. Bay 8 windows in C18 block surrounds. Remains of a range of 3 large windows with double hollow-chamfered jambs on 1st floor of bays 4 and 5. 5 ridge stacks (one rebuilt in brick) and right end stack; roof hipped to left. left return shows 2 small windows, the lower with glazing bars, in C18 stone surrounds. Rear elevation shows old projecting stack, and at far right blocked 2-light window with ovolo-moulded surround.

Interior much altered. No 17 has a C17 ground floor fireplace with a flat-pointed head in a square frame; a larger arched fireplace on the floor above is now covered over. The terrace appears to be the monastic south range, much remodelled; conventionally this would have the frater at 1st floor level - the remains of large C15 (?) windows on the south suggest an important apartment here.

English Heritage List Entry.¹⁰⁵ Listed for Special Architectural or Historic Interest
OUTBUILDING AND ATTACHED PRIVIES 5 METRES EAST OF NO. 17.

List Entry Number: 1045388

ID Number: 240414

Grade II

National Grid Reference: NY 96645 50368

Outbuilding and attached privies, late C18 altered C19. Coursed rubble with cut dressings; stone slate roof, stone stack. South elevation: boarded double doors under timber lintel with blocked opening above; boarded door to left, ridge stack. Set forward to right attached range of 3 privies with mono-pitch roof and boarded doors on right return. Left return of main building shows a further pair of privy doors, each with small window to left. Included for group value.

English Heritage List Entry.¹⁰⁶ Listed for Special Architectural or Historic Interest
WALL ON SOUTH SIDE OF CHURCHYARD.

List Entry Number: 1153683

ID Number: 240384

Grade II

National Grid Reference: NY 96607 50383

Wall; west part and lower courses are part of south wall of early C13 abbey nave, other parts C17 and later. Coursed stone with dressings. South elevation (to garden of Lord Crewe Arms): tall section on left links to Lord Crewe Arms (q.v.) and has chamfered plinth, corbel for former cloister roof and blocked lancet above. To right of small C20 pent shed is blocked C17 doorway with flattened triangular head; to far right wall links to church of St. Mary (q.v.); hollow-chamfered jambs of medieval processional doorway at foot of wall. North elevation to churchyard (ground level higher than on south): tall section shows double trefoiled piscina and round pilaster.

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