



Archaeological Recording at The Forge House, Church Lane East Haddon, Northamptonshire

Report No. 14/57

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at The Forge House, Church Lane
East Haddon
Northamptonshire**

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS molanort1-173399
Project title	Archaeological Recording At The Forge House, East Haddon, Northamptonshire	
Short description	Northamptonshire Archaeology (now trading as MOLA) carried out a programme of archaeological recording at the grade II listed, 17th century, Forge House, Church Lane, East Haddon during the course of groundworks and alterations associated with the construction of a new extension and covered walkway. No archaeological features or deposits were recorded in the areas of groundworks. The new door openings revealed that the east and northern elevations are of a cob with ironstone rubble construction, rendered externally.	
Project type	Archaeological recording during groundworks	
Previous work	Unknown	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type and period	17th century building, formerly a forge or smith	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	Forge House, East Haddon, Northamptonshire	
NGR	SP 66800 68075	
Area	48 sqm	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	MOLA	
Project brief originator	Daventry District Council	
Project Design originator	MOLA	
Director/Supervisor	Amir Bassir	
Project Manager	Steve Parry	
Sponsor or funding body	Haddonstone Ltd	
PROJECT DATE		
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End date	March 2014	
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING
AT THE FORGE HOUSE, CHURCH LANE
EAST HADDON, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

Abstract

Northamptonshire Archaeology (now trading as MOLA) carried out a programme of archaeological recording at the grade II listed, 17th century, Forge House, Church Lane, East Haddon during the course of groundworks and alterations associated with the construction of a new extension and covered walkway. No archaeological features or deposits were recorded in the areas of groundworks. The new door openings revealed that the east and northern elevations are of a cob with ironstone rubble construction, rendered externally.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology (now trading as MOLA) was commissioned in November 2013 by Haddonstone Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological recording at The Forge House, Church Lane East Haddon during groundworks and alterations associated with the construction of a new extension and covered walkway (NGR SP 66800 68075 Figs 1 & 2).

Two areas of groundworks were monitored, one to the east of The Forge House and the other to the immediate north of the building. The works revealed a stratigraphy of modern surfaces and levelling layers overlying deposits of mixed and re-deposited natural and manmade materials. No archaeological features or deposits were recorded in these areas. Alterations to The Forge House comprised three new door openings, one to the north at ground level, serving the new covered walkway and two in the east elevation at ground and first levels, opening into the new extension. The northern door and the eastern, ground level door were inserted into existing window openings, thereby minimising disturbance of the structure.

The Forge House is situated within the village of East Haddon, Northamptonshire. The village has developed around two perpendicular roads, Main Street which runs east – west and Church Lane, running north – south. These two roads meet at St Mary's Church which is located centrally to the village.

The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey as comprising Upper lias clay in the lower areas while most of the parish is sand overlaid by patches of boulder clay and glacial sands and gravels. (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex>)

2 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

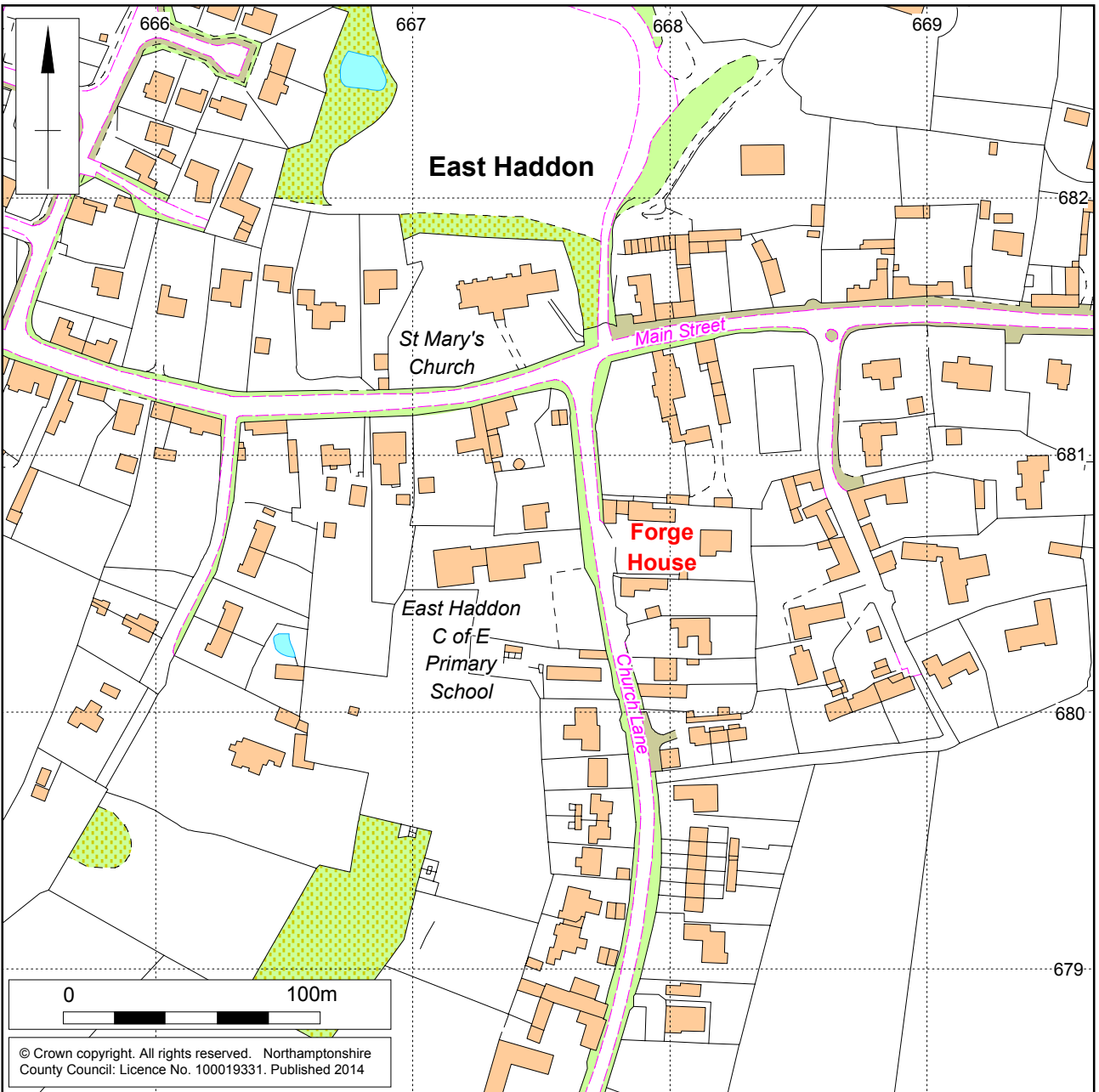
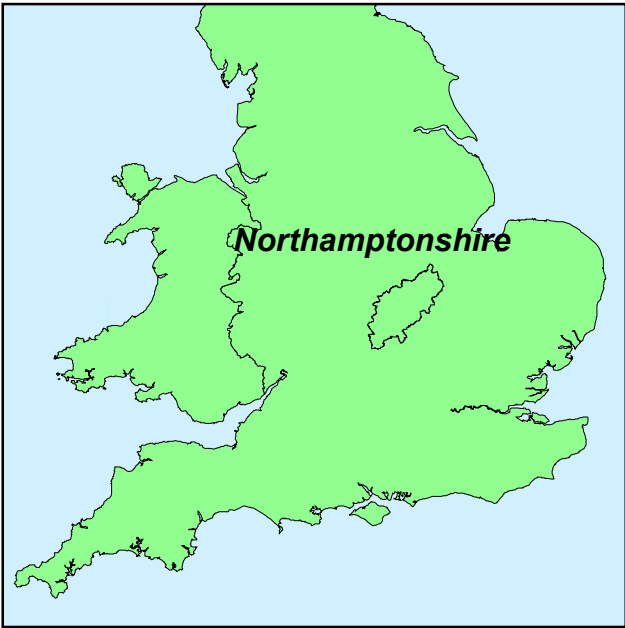
The objective of Level 2 building recording is to provide a descriptive record of an extant structure, often before demolition or conversion, where the building is known or strongly suspected to retain limited historic significance. The work provides a basic record in accordance with the EH procedural document of 2006 *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice*. Level 2 will provide conclusions regarding the building's development and use but will not discuss in detail the evidence on which these conclusions are based. A measured plan and other drawings will be produced as appropriate. The written account will include an account of the structure, fabric and layout of the building as well as a description of phases of development.

A comprehensive photographic record will ensure the preservation by record of the buildings before alteration. These will be suitably annotated and a plan showing the location and orientation of photographs will be included in the written report.

An archaeological inspection and recording will be carried out during the groundworks and opening up or knocking through of existing walls.

The objectives of this will be to:

- Identify, investigate and record any evidence of former architectural features or blocked openings, and any significant archaeological remains, exposed during the fabric alteration and groundworks;
- Determine and record the date, extent, character, state of preservation and depth of burial of any archaeological deposits;
- Create a permanent archive and record of the archaeological information collected during the course of the fieldwork and analysis.



Scale 1:2500

Site location Fig 1

3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Forge House is a Grade II listed building. The listing description is as follows:

House. Late C17. Regular coursed lias with slate roof. 3-unit plan. 2 storeys with attic; 3-window range. Entrances to left of centre and at far right; both with C20 glazed doors under wood lintels. Plain wood casement windows in moulded stone surrounds with drip moulds to ground floor. Small stair window between windows 1 and 2 from left. Similar window to left gable. Ashlar gable parapet to left. Brick and rendered stacks to ridge and end. C19 single storey buildings to left were originally the forge. Rear plain C20 render.

The Church of St Mary's, which is located at the centre of East Haddon, is the oldest surviving structure in the village with elements dating to the 12th century. A manor house formerly stood on the southern extent of the village, south of Forge House, now visible only as earthworks.

The Forge House itself dates to the 17th century and is constructed of locally available, coursed ironstone as well as cob with rubble, in a style prevalent in contemporary structures in the area.

Thomas Eyres' map of 1791 (reprinted 1975)

This map of 1791 provides a basic representation of East Haddon as it stood at that time. The main road system, comprising Main Street and Church Lane, is easily recognisable and standing structures are shown in the area now occupied by The Forge, House though it is not possible to associate them with the current building.



Eyres' map of 1791, showing the site location Fig 2

Bryants' map of 1827

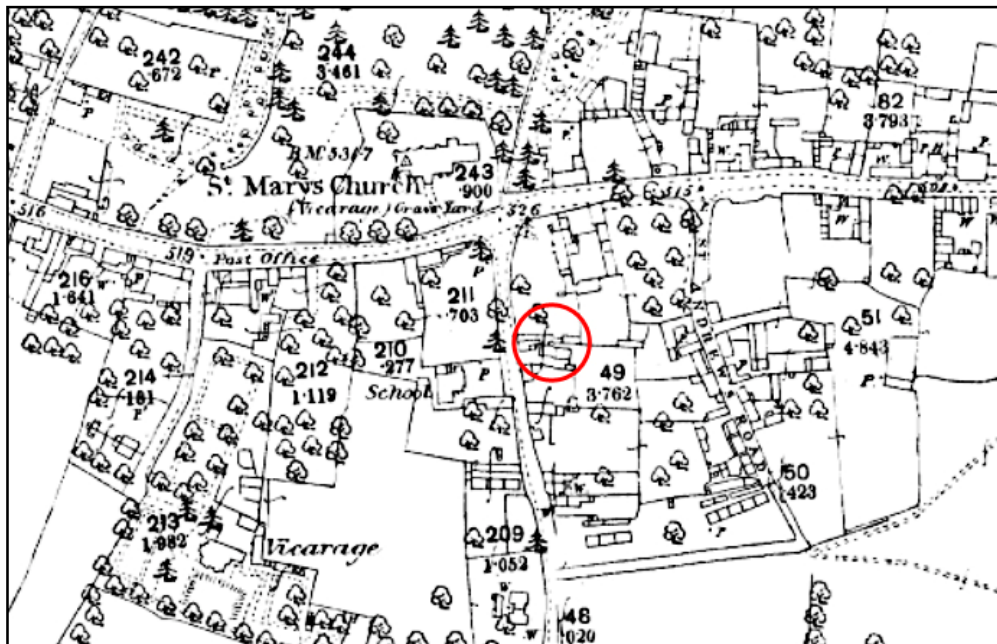
As with Eyres' map of 1791, this map provides a basic representation of the village with major structures roughly shown. A structure which could be The Forge House can be seen in the approximate site location.



Bryants' map of 1827, showing the site location Fig 3

First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885

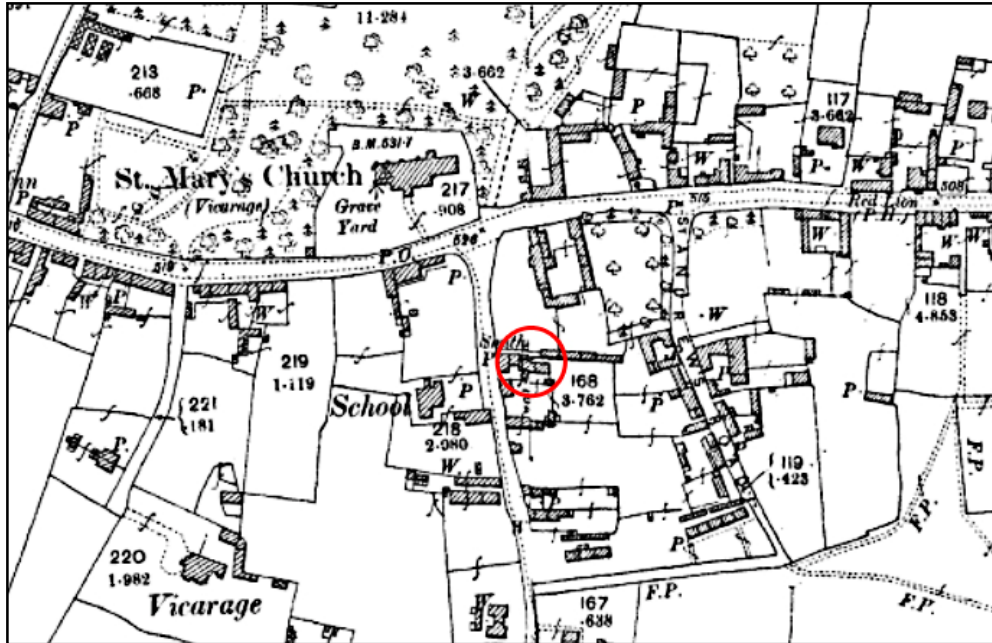
The Forge House is clearly shown on this map though it is not possible to ascertain detailed information about the building as it stood at this time. The area immediately north of the building is shown as open ground with trees, much as it is today.



First edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885, showing The Forge House Fig 4

Ordnance Survey map of 1900

This map is very similar to the Ordnance Survey map of 1885, however, The Forge House is labelled as "Smith".



Ordnance Survey map of 1900, showing The Forge House Fig 5

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

The programme of archaeological monitoring and recording of groundworks and alterations was undertaken between November 2013 and February 2014. This included a photographic record, both digital and black and white and a drawn recording comprising plans, sections and amendments to the existing drawn record.

The Forge House is largely constructed of coursed ironstone blocks supported on ironstone foundations. The opening of the new doorways revealed that cob is also present in the east and north elevations, where it has been rendered.

The groundworks were constrained to two areas, Area 1 and Area 2 (Fig 6). Area 1 was a rectangular area c6m x 4m abutting the north side of Forge House. The ground level which rose from the garden to the building was reduced by approximately 0.4m – 0.6m to allow the insertion of a new door into The Forge House which would provide access to the new covered walkway. A short flight of modern stairs abutting the Sale Managers Office were removed to accommodate the reduction of ground level (Figs 6 & 8).

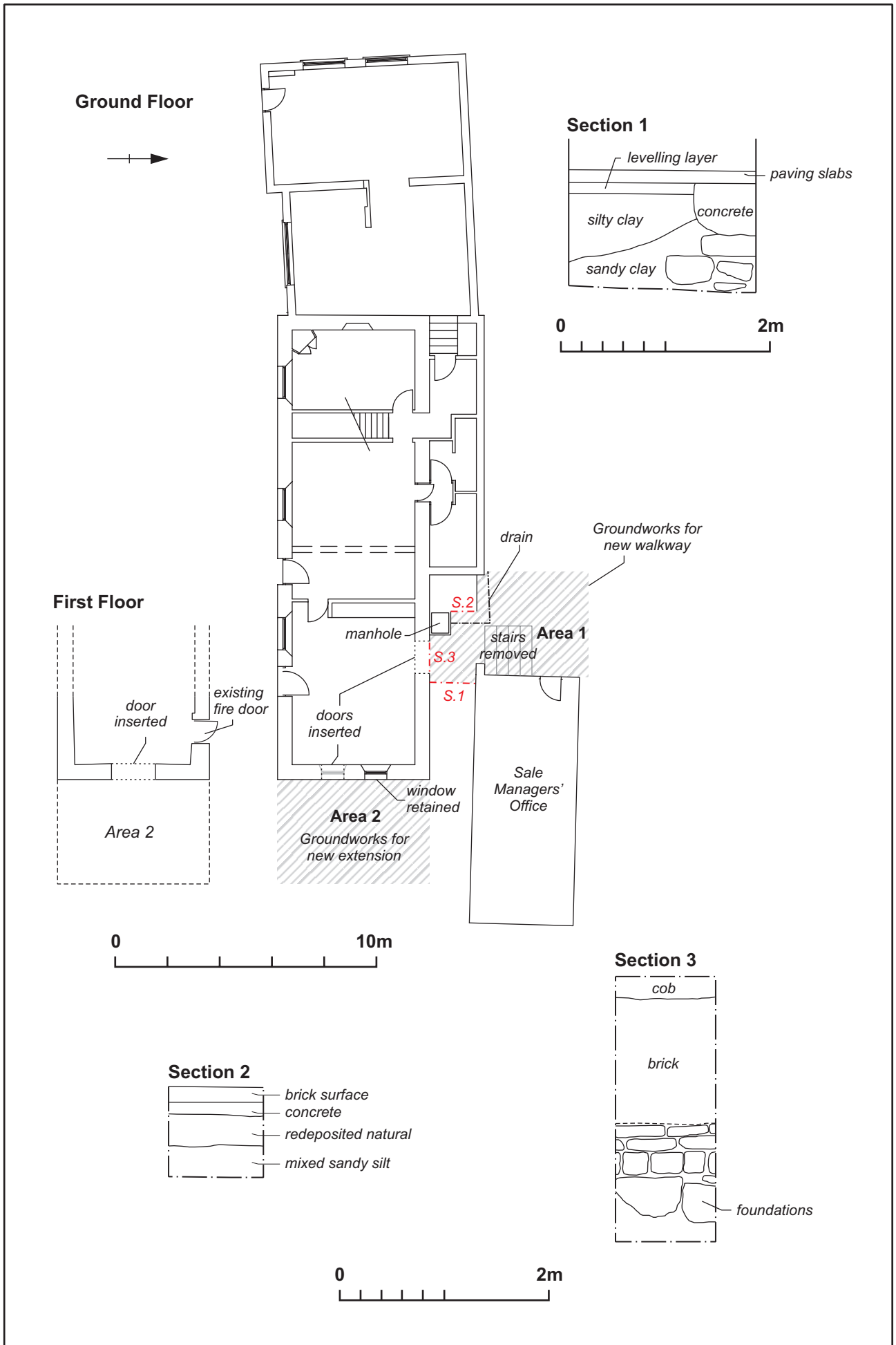
The stratigraphy of Area 1 was found to comprise paving slabs supported on a levelling layer of dark silty material overlying mixed deposits of re-deposited natural made ground (Fig 6, Sections 1 & 2, Figs 10 & 11). A manhole with adjacent brick surface to the south-west of Area 1 was retained (Fig 6). A modern drain ran north from the manhole and dog-legged westward within the area of groundworks (Figs 6, 9 & 11).

No deposits, features or artefacts of an early provenance were uncovered within this area.

Area 2 was a rectangular area c4m x 6m abutting the east side of Forge House and covering the footprint of the new extension (Figs 6, 15-17). The ground level was reduced c1m to a uniform level. The stratigraphy in this area comprised a modern tarmac, car park surface and paving slabs overlying mixed material containing large fragments of ironstone and sandstone rubble as well as fragments of brick and worked stone. This layer was removed to reach a natural substrate of orange-brown sandy silt with iron stone. No archaeological features or deposits were seen here. Sherds of modern pottery were present in the mixed rubble level. These were not retained.

Three new doorways were created as part of these works. Two were inserted at ground level, serving the new covered walkway and extension and the third was at first floor level, allowing access to the upper floor of the new extension (Fig 6). The new opening to the covered walkway was c1.2m in width and c2.5m tall. The wall through which it was inserted comprised ironstone rubble foundations, brick and mortar in Flemish bond and cob (Fig 6, Section 3 & Fig 12). The cob and brick levels were rendered over. A blocked window opening formerly looked north toward the garden, level with the new door opening (Figs 13 & 14). The brickwork seen in the doorway opening (Fig 6, Section 3, Figs 12 & 14) was put in place when this window was blocked.

The ground floor doorway to the extension was inserted into an existing window opening in the east elevation (Figs 6 and 19). An existing window to the north of this was retained. The wall through which the door was inserted comprised ironstone rubble with cob, rendered over (Fig 20). A double door, c1.6m wide was inserted at first floor level, opening into the new extension (Figs 6 and 22). The wall here was also of cob with ironstone rubble, rendered externally.



Scales, Plans 1:200, Sections 1:50 (A4)

Plans of the recording areas with representative sections Fig 6



General view of Area 1 at the beginning of groundworks, looking south Fig 7



Area 1 at the beginning of groundworks, looking south Fig 8



Area 1 during groundworks, looking east Fig 9



Section 1, looking east Fig 10



Section 2, looking south-west Fig 11



Section 3, new doorway prior to knocking through, looking south Fig 12



The new doorway after knocking through, looking south Fig 13



Former window opening in the north wall, level with new doorway Fig 14



Area 2, general view at the start of groundworks, looking west Fig 15



Area 2, during groundworks, looking west Fig 16



Area 2, during groundworks, looking north Fig 17



The new extension after completion of groundworks, looking north Fig 18



The ground floor doorway in the new extension, looking east Fig 19



Cross section of the ground floor wall, showing cob with ironstone rubble Fig 20



General view of the ground floor of the new extension, looking east Fig 21



The first floor doorway, looking east Fig 22

5 DISCUSSION

The archaeological observation revealed a stratigraphy of made ground and levelling layers overlain by paving slabs and car park surfacing. No archaeological features were observed in the area of groundworks. The new doorways provided snap shots of the fabric of the walls in those locations. Where rendered, the walls were of cob with ironstone rubble supported on ironstone rubble foundations. Where possible, the doors were inserted into existing or blocked window openings to minimise damage to the historic fabric of the building.

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