



**Archaeological building recording and
observation, investigation and recording
at Rectory Farm, Sulgrave, Northamptonshire
February 2014**

Planning permission: S/2013/0567/FUL
Listed building consent: S/2013/0568/LBC

Report No. 14/78

Author: Yvonne Wolframm-Murray

Illustrators: Amir Bassir
Carl Middleditch



Archaeological building recording and observation, investigation and recording at Rectory Farm, Sulgrave, Northamptonshire February 2014

Planning permission: S/2013/0567/FUL
Listed building consent: S/2013/0568/LBC

Report No. 14/78

Quality control and sign off:

Issue No.	Date approved:	Checked by:	Verified by:	Approved by:	Reason for Issue:
1	08/04/14	Pat Chapman	-	Andy Chapman	Draft for client review

Author: Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

Illustrators: Amir Bassir
Carl Middleditch

© MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) 2014

MOLA
Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton
NN4 8BN
01604 700 493
www.mola.org.uk
sparry@mola.org.uk

STAFF

Project Manager: Anthony Maull Cert Arch supported by
David J Leigh BA MOLA

Fieldwork: Tim Sharman BA

Building Recording: Carl Middleditch Dip. Arch. (Leics).,
ARIBA, MCSD, FFB. Chartered
Architect

Text: Yvonne Wolframm-Murray BSc PhD

Illustrations: Amir Bassir BSc
Carl Middleditch

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		Oasis No. Molanort1-176660	
Project title	Archaeological building recording and observation, investigation and recording at Rectory Farm, Sulgrave, Northamptonshire		
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by MOLA in February 2014 for Mr and Mrs Smyth-Osbourne during the groundworks of the conversion of a 19th-century farm outbuilding at Rectory Farm, Sulgrave, Northamptonshire. Building recording was undertaken by Mr Carl Middleditch in November 2013. No pre-modern archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.		
Project type	Watching Brief		
Site Status	-		
Previous work	Building Recording (Middleditch 2013)		
Current land use	Building in farmyard		
Future work	unknown		
Monument type and period	-		
Significant finds	-		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Northamptonshire		
Site address	The Rectory, Little Street, Sulgrave		
Post code	OX17 2SG		
OS co-ordinates	SP 5589 4540		
Area (sq m/ha)	c 28m ²		
Height aOD	-		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA		
Project brief originator	NCC Assistant Archaeological Advisor		
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology		
Director/Supervisor	Tim Sharman		
Project Managers	Anthony Maull with David J Leigh		
Sponsor or funding body	Mr and Mrs Smyth-Osborne		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	26 February 2014		
End date	26 February 2014		
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Contents	
Physical	NA store	-	
Paper		Site records (1 small archive box)	
Digital		Client report PDF	
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)		
Title	Archaeological building recording and observation, investigation and recording at Rectory Farm, Sulgrave, Northamptonshire		
Serial title & volume	14/78		
Author(s)	Yvonne Wolfram-Murray		
Page numbers	17		
Date	09/04/2014		

Contents

1	INTRODUCTION
2	BACKGROUND
2.1	Location and topography
2.2	Historical and archaeological background
3	OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY
4	THE BUILDING RECORDING
5	THE RECORDED EVIDENCE
6	THE SITE ARCHIVE
7	DISCUSSION
	BIBLIOGRAPHY

Tables

Table 1:	Summary of the site archive
----------	-----------------------------

Figures

Front cover: General view of Plot A, looking north

Fig 1: Site location

Fig 2: The area of archaeological observation

Fig 3: North-west elevation into courtyard (C Middleditch)

Fig 4: South-east (rear) elevation (C Middleditch)

Fig 5: Plan of the outbuilding and area of archaeological observation (C Middleditch)

Fig 6: Elevations and section (by Carl Middleditch)

Fig 7: Remains of original truss and modern roof construction (C Middleditch)

Fig 8: Original beam (C Middleditch)

Fig 9: The excavation of the floor in the former garden store, looking east

Fig 10: Wall foundation (104) and stone slabs (103), looking south-east

Fig 11: Four stone slabs, looking south

Archaeological building recording and observation investigation and recording at Rectory Farm, Sulgrave, Northamptonshire February 2014

Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by MOLA in February 2014 for Mr and Mrs Smyth-Osbourne during the groundworks of the conversion of a 19th-century farm outbuilding at Rectory Farm, Sulgrave, Northamptonshire. Building recording was undertaken by Mr Carl Middleditch in November 2013. No pre-modern archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

MOLA was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Smyth-Osbourne to undertake a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording in February 2014 at Rectory Farm, Sulgrave, Northamptonshire (SP 5589 4540, Fig 1) during groundworks associated with the conversion of the outbuilding into a self-contained annexe. Planning permission (S/2013/0567/FUL) and Listed Building Consent (S/2013/0568/LBC) have been granted. Mr C Middleditch undertook the building recording in November 2013.

The works were required as part of a planning consent in line with *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012). The Assistant Archaeological Advisor for Northamptonshire County Council required that the impact of development on heritage assets potentially present on the site be mitigated through a programme of archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication. A Written Scheme of Investigation was produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology for the watching brief (Leigh 2013). The works were monitored by the Assistant County Archaeological Advisor to Northamptonshire County Council.

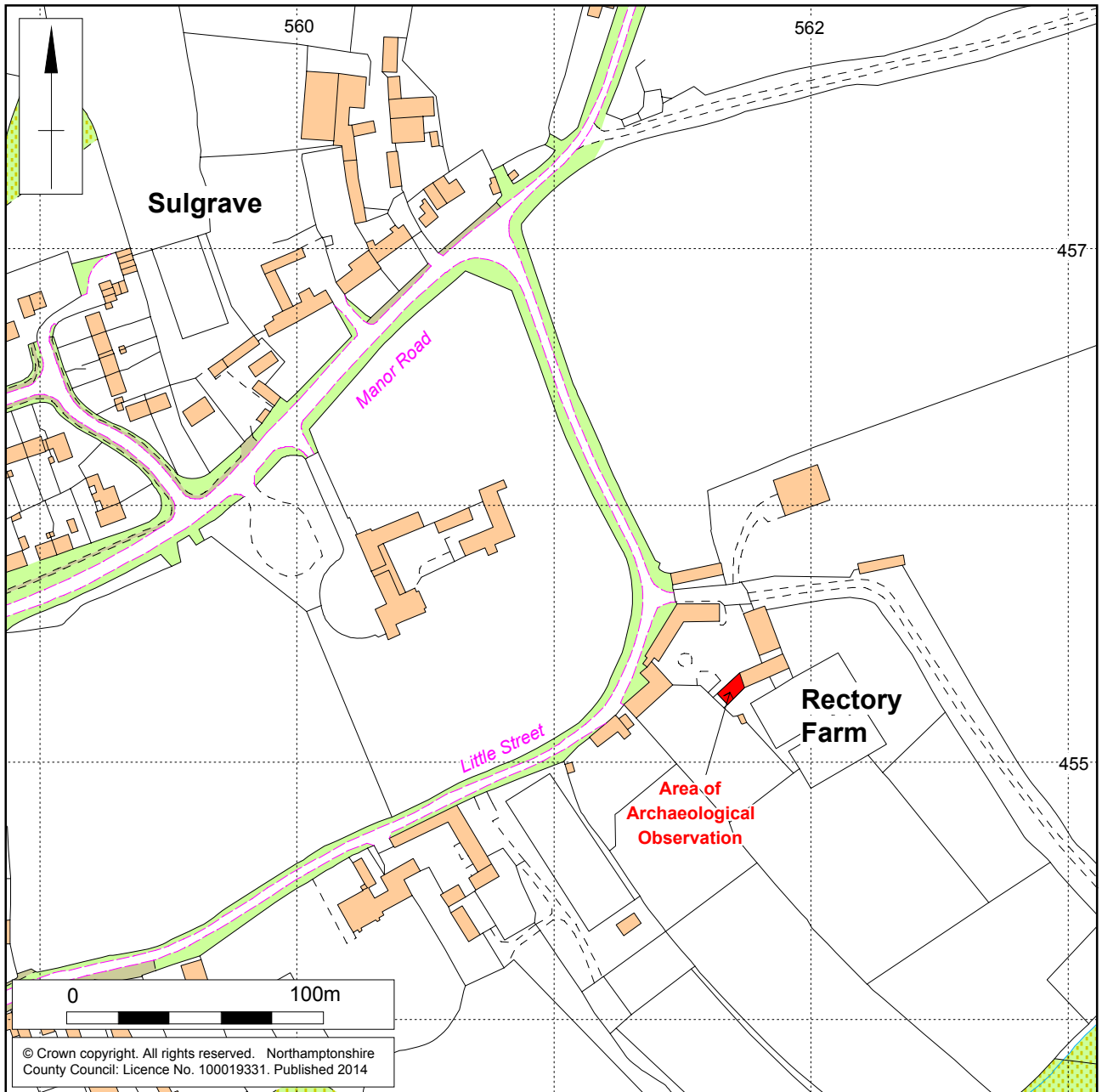
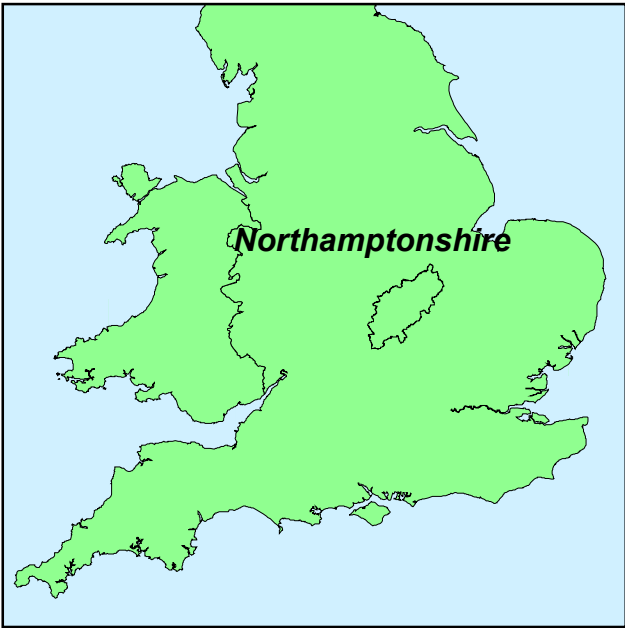
MOLA is an Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) registered organisation. The work was carried out in accordance with the current best archaeological practice as defined in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA 2008) and the procedural document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (EH 2009).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and topography

Sulgrave is a small village in south Northamptonshire, eight miles north of Brackley. Rectory Farm is situated off Little Street on the eastern edge of the village. The current use of the outbuilding is chicken house, store and garden store.

The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey of Great Britain as comprising Northamptonshire Ironstone.



Scale 1:2500

Site location Fig 1

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

The village is Saxon in origin, recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086. It is an area of archaeological interest, including the Scheduled Monument of earthworks of a Norman castle and the 14th-century church of St James, around which the village continued to evolve before spreading north-east. Sulgrave Manor, 12th-century in origin, is now Tudor in architecture with additions through the following centuries, and is noted as the home of the ancestors of George Washington, first president of the United States of America. There is also an 18th-century School House, now the community shop.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

A RCHMC Level 1 was required for the recording of the farm outbuilding, which required a basic visual record supplemented by the information to identify the location of the building, age and type. The recorder, Mr C Middleditch, provided:

- Site location plan
- Plans and elevations as existing
- Structural appraisal
- Photographs
- A written statement

In order to examine the archaeological resource within the proposed development area the objectives of the watching brief were to:

- Identify, investigate and record all archaeological deposits exposed during the works;
- 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.

The character, composition and general depositional sequence of stratification was recorded on MOLA watching brief sheets. All recording followed the guidelines detailed in the MOLA *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual* (2014). A photographic record was maintained, consisting of digital images and black and white photographs. All records were compiled during fieldwork into a comprehensive site archive in accordance with the guidelines of Appendix 3 in the English Heritage procedural document, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (2009).

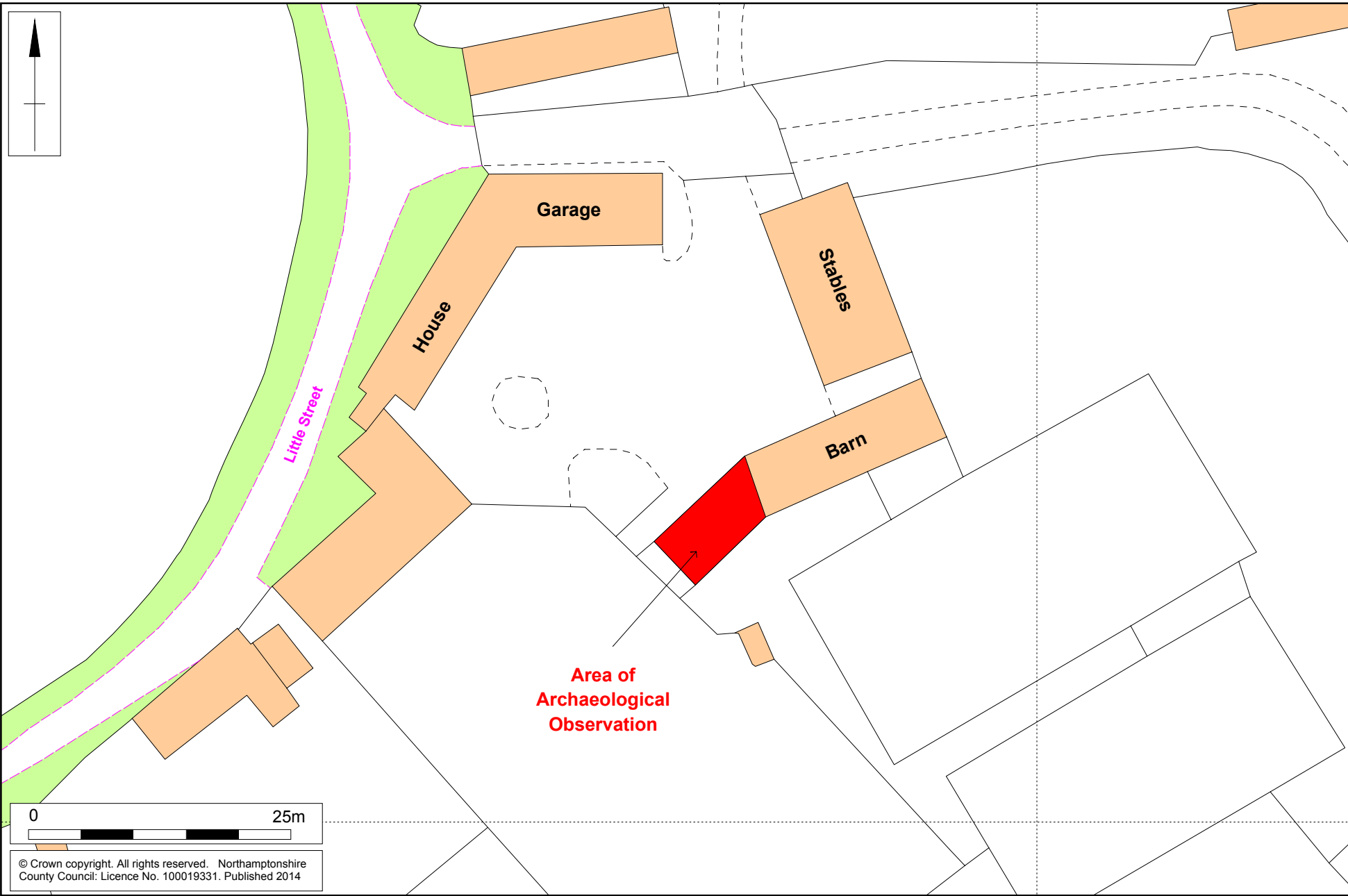
The development area comprised c 28m² (Figs 2). The fieldwork was undertaken in February 2014 during the groundworks associated with the proposed conversion. This comprised the removal of overburden down to foundation levels within the both areas of the outbuilding.

A small mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket was used for soil removal. The conditions were good and observation of the excavated groundworks was possible throughout the machine excavation post concrete floor removal. Work was carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA 2008).

Scale 1:500

The area of archaeological observation

Fig 2



4 THE BUILDING RECORDING

The following report is based on information provided by Mr C Middleditch. The outbuilding is a curtilage listed building. It is situated within the courtyard of Rectory Farm and constructed against a large former threshing barn (Figs 3 to 6). The single storey outbuilding is constructed of two leaves of coursed light and mid yellow-grey limestone, possibly with rubble infill. The concrete floor is at two levels, higher in the south-western building.

It was built in two phases. A free standing single room outbuilding was probably constructed initially to the south-west of the threshing barn. This building has large quoins on its four corners. The south-western wall is a large opening blocked modern slatted wood infill with a central door (Fig 5). A door in the north-western elevation has been blocked with stone work.

The space between the outbuilding and the old threshing barn was later infilled, creating a space that was subdivided by a timber partition. There are two wooden braced and ledged barn doors with a wooden lintel on the north-western front elevation. There are two small windows on each elevation next to the threshing barn. A larger window opening on the rear of the building has been blocked with stone on the outside and brick internally, the wooden lintel also was removed.

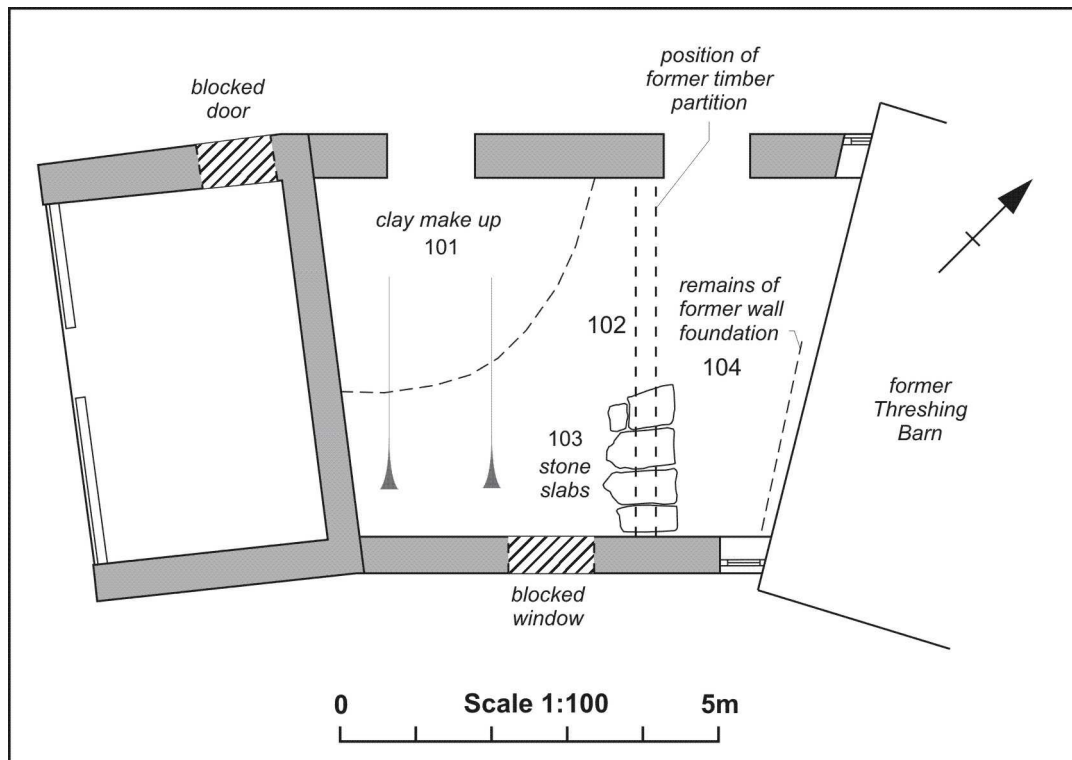
The roof has been replaced, possibly from a slated roof, as suggested by its low roof pitch evident from the surviving truss (Figs 7 and 8). The present corrugated iron is carried on timber purlins, which are supported by the central gable and from the beam on the wooden partition. Alongside the surviving truss, a cross beam and the wall plates remain (Middleditch 2013a and b).



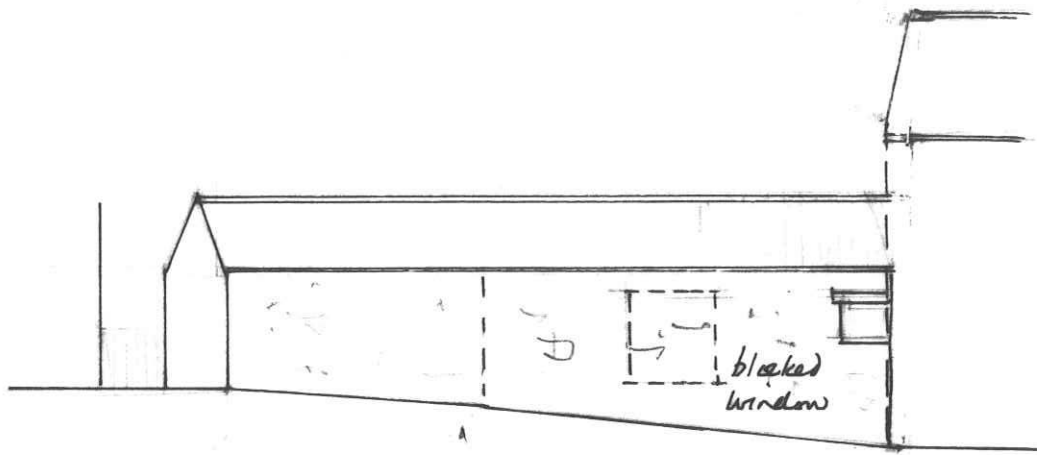
North-west elevation into courtyard (C Middleditch) Fig 3



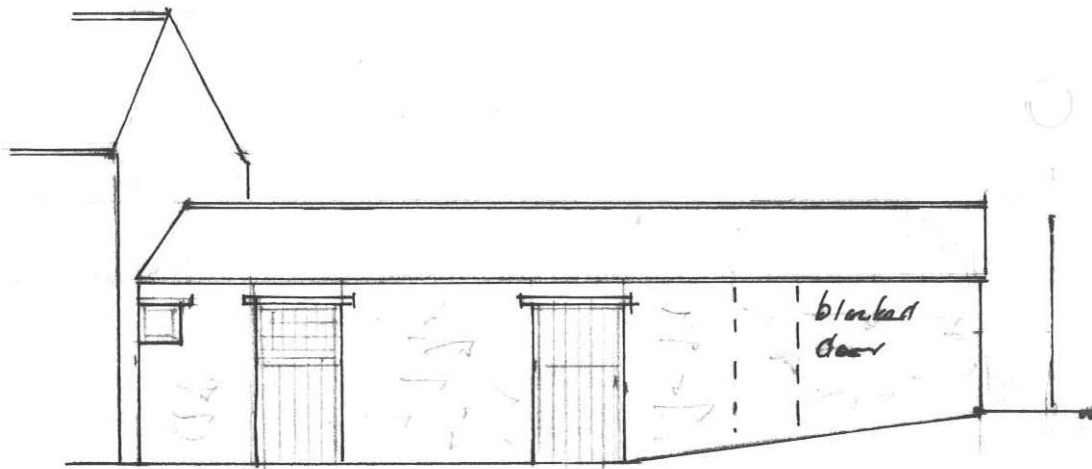
South-east (rear) elevation (C Middleditch) Fig 4



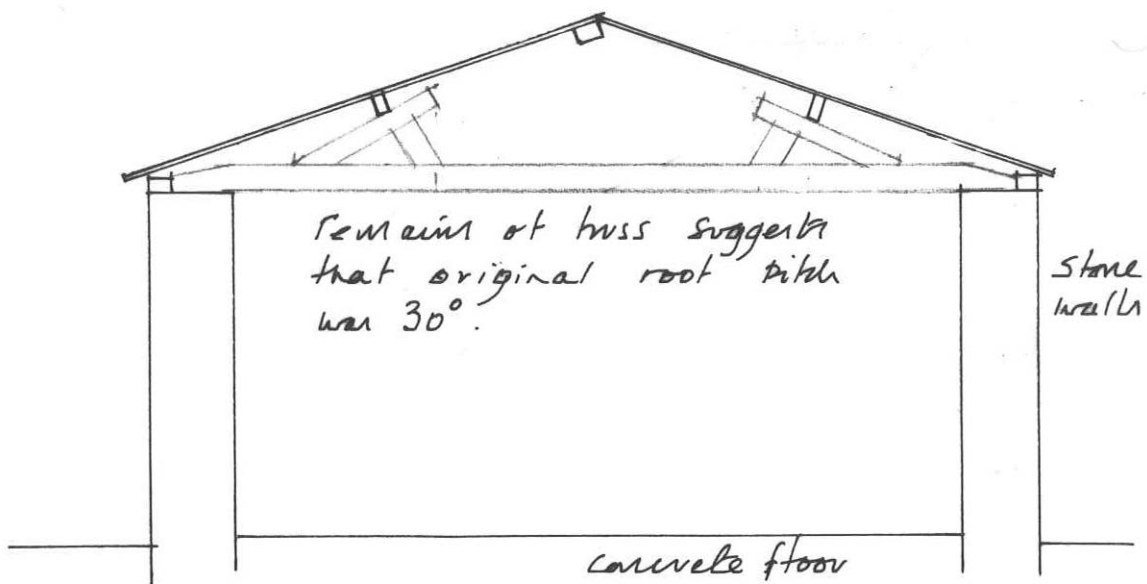
Plan of the outbuilding and area of archaeological observation Fig 5



SOUTH EAST ELEVATION



NORTH WEST ELEVATION
(to courtyard)



CROSS SECTION

The internal walls were clad in brick to a height of c 1.0m above which it is stone, the wall are white washed. The north-eastern part of the building was subdivided by a timber screen, whitewashed. The top beam is supported on the two wall plates and a vertical beam in the centre. It is clad in wooden slats.



Remains of original truss and modern roof construction (C Middleditch) Fig 7



Original beam (C Middleditch) Fig 8

5 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

Formation level for the new lower floor was c 0.30m below the concrete floor in the north-eastern part of the building and c 0.50m below the concrete floor in the old garden store (Figs 9 -11). The soil comprised mid grey organic silty clay (102) overlain by a re-deposited layer of yellow-orange clay (101), which is still visible in the north-western corner where the organic silty clay dips. This was capped by loose brown soil on which the concrete was laid.

Along the old threshing barn wall is a row of vertical stones (104) capped by horizontal stones lying on the grey clay (102), which formed part of the footings for the barn wall. At a distance of c 1.5m from the barn wall four stone slabs (103) were uncovered, also lying directly on top of the grey clay (102). Below the rear wall of the outbuilding is a small area of coursed stones to the left side of the stone slabs (104) and a patch of loose dark soil to the right overlain by stone and brick rubble.



The excavation of the floor in the former garden store, looking east Fig 9



Wall foundation (104) and stone slabs (103), looking south-east Fig 10



Four stone slabs, looking south Fig 11

6 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The project has generated a small archive that will be prepared and consolidated for deposition.

Table 1: Summary of the site archive

RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief forms	2
Digital photographs	29
B&W photos	21
Watching brief sketch plans	2
Building recording plans	1
Building recording notes	2

7 DISCUSSION

The outbuilding was probably built in two stages, with the south-western part built first with the centre to the threshing barn filled in at a later stage. The building has undergone some alterations with the blocking of a window and a door, and the renewal of the roof.

The pitch of roof, evident from the surviving truss, may have originally been slated. It was suggested, with the arrangement of the stable doors, that the subdivided central part of the building had been used for stabling. The owners believe that the end section was used as a pig sty (Middleditch 2013a and b).

The archaeological observation, investigation and recording of the machine excavation of the groundworks associated with the lowering of the floor level as part of the conversion of the outbuilding to a self contained annex. An organic clay layer was uncovered at formation level, sloping south-west, the ground was levelled with yellow-orange clay. Along the barn the base of a stone-wall was uncovered. In the area of the wooden partition four stone slabs were uncovered, this may be the base of a stone-lined drain or the base for the footings of a partition wall.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

DCLG 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department of Communities and Local Government

EH 2009 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* English Heritage Procedural Document

IfA 2008 *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* Institute for Archaeologists

MOLA 2014 *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual*, MOLA

Leigh, D J, 2013 *Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication on land at Rectory Farm, Sulgrave, Northamptonshire*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

Middleditch, C, 2013a *Outbuilding Rectory Farm, little Street, Sulgrave, Northamptonshire, OX17 2SG, Scheme of Building Record – Level 1*

Middleditch, C, 2013b *Proposed conversion of outbuilding into a self-contained annexe for groom*

MOLA



MOLA
Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton
NN4 8BN
01604 700 493
www.mola.org.uk
sparry@mola.org.uk