

birmingham archaeology



**THE UNIVERSITY
OF BIRMINGHAM**

**Langley Heath Farm, Fox
Hollies Road, Walmley,
Birmingham**

**Archaeological/Historic
Building Research and
Recording, 2006**

Checked by	
Supervisor.....	date.....
Project Manager.....	date.....



Project No. 1434

May 2006

Langley Heath Farm, Fox Hollies Road, Walmley, Birmingham
Archaeological/Historic Building Research and Recording, 2006

By Malcolm Hislop

For Rubery Owen Holdings Limited

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Langley Heath Farm, Fox Hollies Road, Walmley, Birmingham

Archaeological/Historic Building Research and Recording, 2006

Summary

Archaeological/historic building research and recording was carried out on a group of farmbuildings at Langley Heath Farm, Fox Hollies Road, Walmley, Birmingham (NGR SP 1470 9451), for Rubery Owen Holdings Limited. Langley Heath Farmhouse, a building of 17th-century origin, is grade II listed, and the associated farm buildings are listed grade A on the Local List of Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest. The recording work was occasioned by the submission of a planning application to convert the farm buildings into residential accommodation, the results of the project being required to inform the decision making process. The project revealed that the west range incorporated an 18th-century integrated nucleus of barn, stable with granary above, and loose box. The barn retained fully framed and pegged queen strut roof trusses. Between 1857 and 1886 a new cowhouse range (east range) was built on the opposite side of the farmyard, and the west range was extended to incorporate a cartshed. Finally, between 1927 and 1937, a new cowhouse extension was added to the east range.

1.0 Introduction

In April 2006 Birmingham Archaeology carried out archaeological/historic building research and recording of a group of farm buildings at Langley Heath Farm, Fox Hollies Road, Walmley, Birmingham, for Rubery Owen Holdings Limited. Langley Heath Farmhouse, a building of 17th-century origin, is grade II listed, and the associated farm buildings, to which this report pertains, are listed grade A on the Local List of Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest. The recording work was occasioned by the submission of a planning application to convert the farm buildings into residential accommodation, the results of the project being required to inform the decision making process. The work was carried out according to a written scheme of investigation prepared by Birmingham Archaeology (2006), which was itself based on a brief issued by Birmingham City Council (2005).

2.0 Site Location

Langley Heath Farm is situated on the east side of Fox Hollies Road to the southeast of Sutton Coldfield and to the northeast of Walmley, Birmingham (NGR SP 1470 9451). The farm buildings are located immediately to the south of Langley Heath Farmhouse.

3.0 Objectives

The principal objective of the project was to elucidate the historical and structural development of the farmbuilding complex, as an entity, and in terms of its relationship to the farmhouse and other farms in the area, and to the relevant part of the West Midlands Regional Research Framework.

Others were:

- To obtain a photographic/descriptive record of the farm buildings, their setting, fabric, fixtures and fittings.
- To make a drawn record of the barn complex comprising plans, elevations and sections.
- To produce an historical narrative, using documentary and cartographic sources.
- To make an analytical written record of the buildings
- The dissemination and publication of the results.
- Long-term conservation of the project archive in appropriate conditions.

4.0 Methods

Documentary Research

A search of readily available published and unpublished documentary sources including historic maps, illustrations and photographs, was carried out in Sutton Coldfield Library Local Studies and/or Birmingham Central Library Local Studies.

Drawn Record

A measured survey was made, based on annotation and amendment of existing architectural drawings, to a standard equivalent to English Heritage Level 3 (English Heritage 2006). The drawings include a site plan, ground plan, elevations and sections.

Photographic Record

The photographic survey was carried out with a 35mm camera using black and white film and a photographic scale, and was supplemented by colour digital coverage. The survey consisted of both external and internal photographs including fixtures and fittings. Photographs were recorded on *pro forma* register sheets indicating location, scales used, orientation, photographer and date.

5.0 Historical Background

Langley was one of the manors of Sutton Coldfield, being held in the 13th-century by Walter de Bereford (VCH 1947, 238). A moated site situated approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile north-northeast of Langley Heath Farm, at Old Langley Hall, is probably the site of the manor house for which a licence to crenellate was obtained by Edward de Bereford in 1327 (Lea 2003, 25). Approximately the same distance to the southeast is another moated

site, Peddimore Hall, which in the 13th century was occupied by the Arden family (Lea 2003, 26-27). Between Langley Old Hall and Langley Heath Farm is an area known in the Middle Ages as *Burhale*, an assart of the Ardens of Peddimore granted in 1240 (Lea 2003, 27). It may have been at this time too that the land serving Langley Heath Farm was brought into cultivation, although the current name of 'Langley Heath' place name suggests a comparatively late settlement on marginal land.

By 1824, when the Corn Rent Map (Fig. 3) appeared, the farm was in existence along with Fox Hollies Road and most of the surrounding land enclosed by small fields, though substantial areas of common land still remained in the area. In that year too an Act of Parliament was passed allowing enclosure from the commons, wastes and open fields, and by the time of the 1857 Poor Rate Valuation Map (Fig. 4), the common land had been largely enclosed as well.

The Corn Rent Map shows both the farmhouse and the west range as being in existence by that date. There was also another rectangular building to the south of these structures on an oblique alignment, and defining one side of what appears to have been a fold yard or enclosure. At this time, the owner was Richard Wright and the occupier Charles Wright (Corn Rent Schedule). The premises are described as house, buildings and garden, the tithe rent was calculated at 9s 2¼d. (approximately 46p).

The Poor Rate Valuation Map shows that by 1857 the southern building had been given a northern extension extending northwest towards the farmhouse, and a wing now extended east from the south end of the west range. By 1886, when the farm was surveyed for the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 5), much of this east range had been rebuilt on the current alignment, and in the position of the southern wing was a smaller building with a series of three pens on the south side, probably pigsties. This does seem to have been a rebuilding, rather than a correction of an erroneous alignment on the earlier maps, because other aspects of the farmstead as depicted in 1824 and 1857 correspond very well with the Ordnance Survey maps. Also by this date the eastern wing of the west range had been removed, and the range itself had taken on its current appearance.

On the 1903 Ordnance Survey map an annexe is shown on the east side of the east range (Fig. 6), and by 1914 (Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map, Fig. 7) this had been extended to the north, and an annexe had appeared on the east side of the west range. By 1937 (Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map, Fig. 8) the pig sties had been swept away and a new range built on the same alignment.

In 1952 Langley Heath Farm was sold to the present owners, then known as Rubery Owen and Co. Ltd. The auction catalogue describes a set of farmbuildings adjacent to the farmhouse, comprising a three stall stable and harness room with loft over, a barn, a garage, a two-bay open cart shed, a poultry house, a meal house and a range of cow sheds with 'tie-up' for 42 beasts. Apart from the farm buildings, and close to the house itself, was a dairy. The plan of the farm at this time was probably much the same as that shown on the 1964 map (Fig. 9), which suggests that no significant changes had occurred since 1937.

6.0 Description

Langley Heath Farmhouse is an L-shaped building with the main range aligned roughly north-south facing west towards Fox Hollies Road. A rear wing extends eastwards from the north end of the east elevation, and faces onto a small yard. The farmbuildings occupy two sides of a farmyard to the south of the house, and are linked at their north ends by a wall screening the house from the yard.

The West Range

Exterior

The west range is the earlier of the two groups of farmbuildings, and comprises a combination barn and stable block, probably early 18th-century, with a mid-19th-century cartshed addition to the south.

West elevation (Fig. 12: Elevation A, Plate 1)

The west elevation shows the two main phases quite clearly. To the left (north) is the Phase 1 barn and stable, and to the right (south) the Phase 2 cartshed with a markedly lower roof line.

The Phase 1 range is built of 9 in x 4¼ in x 2½ in red bricks laid in Flemish stretcher bond (three courses of stretchers between header bonded courses), and has a plain tile roof. The three-bay flail threshing barn, which occupies the southern end of the range, has central full-height doors, with strap hinges on sandstone hinge blocks, giving access to the threshing floor. The two flanking bays were each perforated by a lozenge-shaped arrangement of air vents; that to the left (north) survives, with a hatch above and below; that to the right (south) has largely been destroyed by the insertion of a mid-20th-century window. The stable bay, to the left (north) of the barn, has a blocked doorway to the right-hand (south) side with flat arch composed of brick voussoirs (Plate 2), and an inserted mid-20th-century window to the ground floor left (north). At first-floor level, the granary over the stable has a hatch to the left (north) and a blocked window to the right (south).

The Phase 2 cartshed to the right (south) is constructed of 8¾ in x 4-4¼ in x 2½ in red bricks laid in Flemish stretcher bond. At the junction of the two phases is a segmental-arched cart entry beneath a gable, and immediately above the arch a straight joint between the brickwork of the two phases (Plate 3).

East Elevation (Fig. 13: Elevation H, Plate 4)

The farmyard elevation of the Phase 1 building to the right (north) was dominated by two large gables. The left-hand (southern) gable, which represents the barn porch, is flush with the face of the rest of the range, and has a segmental-arched entrance with full-

height barn doors, now divided horizontally into upper and lower sections secured by three sets of strap hinges. However, the provision of only two pairs of hinge blocks suggests that this division is a later alteration. Beneath the right-hand (north) gable, at ground level, are an original doorway on the left-hand (south) side with flat arch composed of brick voussoirs (Plate 5), and a mid-20th-century window to the centre. The doorway is directly opposite the blocked entrance on the west elevation. A flight of late 19th/early 20th-century blue brick steps to the right (north) incorporates two segmental-arched openings on the south face, one above another, the lower one a dog kennel. The steps lead to a doorway at first-floor level giving access to a granary over the stable. This opening is probably original, although it has been partially reconstructed. To the left (south) at first-floor level, directly opposite the blocked opening on the west elevation, is an opening for a window or hatch, now modified to create a smaller opening containing a wooden frame. Between the two gables are an original segmental-arched doorway and window.

Everything to the left (south) of the barn doors belongs to Phase 2. At the right-hand (north) end of this section are two inserted doors and an inserted window, all of 20th-century date. Otherwise the wall is blind.

South Elevation

The south gable end has 2 bays of cart entrances with bullnose brick jambs and chamfered timber lintel (Plate 6).

Interior

The Barn

The barn contained three bays, the central threshing floor extending into the porch to the east under a separate roof. The bays are defined by stub walls carrying two fully jointed and pegged queen strut trusses (Fig. 13: Section X-X), which in turn support one pair of trenched purlins and straight windbraces. The east purlin supports the ends of the purlins that carry the porch roof. The east wall of the south bay is perforated by a lozenge shaped arrangement of air vents like those to the west elevation; a feature that points to this having been an external wall originally. There is no indication that this wall ever contained any other openings, but to the south of the vents is an inserted hatch, and to the north an inserted doorway, part of a later 20th-century entrance passage from the farmyard. A later 20th-century wall extends from the south side of this passage into the southern bay of the barn. The northern bay of the barn has been subdivided by a number of later walls, and a first floor inserted.

The Stable

This is the 'three stall stable and harness room with loft over' of the auction catalogue of 1952. Formerly entered from opposed doorways in the east and west elevations, access is now only from the east. Owing to later alterations, including a new concrete floor and the

plastering of the walls to half height, there is little evidence of original fixtures and fittings, though the positions of the doorways might suggest that they were ranged along the north wall, where there was room for three to four stalls. At the west end of the south wall are the stubs of a number of sawn-off wooden brackets, possibly bridle hangers. The floor above is supported on a pair of chamfered axial beams.

The granary above is similarly devoid of features. In the south wall is a hatch opening to the northern bay of the barn. The main roof is carried on a pair of purlins, the eastern one of which supports the purlins over the western gable.

Loose Box

A small room situated between the barn porch and the stable, and entered from the farmyard to the east through an original doorway, may have been a loose box originally. It is certainly conveniently situated for the stable and would have provided suitable accommodation for a single animal, but it is also perhaps to be identified with the 'meal house' of the 1952 catalogue. The interior has been much altered, including the removal of much of the western wall and the insertion of a timber beam over the gap. In addition, the room has been divided into two by the insertion of a cross wall against the north side of which a fireplace and chimneystack have been inserted. The segmental-arched fireplace has a cast iron head and probably dates from the mid-19th century.

The Cartsheds

The southern extension to the barn and stable block contained two cart sheds, a single-bay shed (the garage of the 1952 catalogue) immediately south of the barn aligned east-west, and a two-bay shed (the two-bay open cartshed of 1952) at the southern end of the range aligned north-south, both open to the roof. Within the former, towards the east end of the north wall, is a straight joint between two phases of brickwork, denoting that the material to the east is a later addition (Plate 7). This later brickwork itself appears to comprise two phases, the earlier rising from ground level to a height of 0.88m is composed of 9 in x 2½ in bricks. Above this the bricks are 9¼ ins x 4½ ins x 2¾ ins and laid in Flemish stretcher bond. On this wall, and in a similar position on the opposite wall, a chain is fixed at 0.67m above floor level, suggesting, perhaps, that this compartment has, at one time been used to house animals.

In the southern cartshed, the two-bay division is mirrored at the position of the central east-west roof truss, which is supported on central and side piers. The roof truss is of queen post construction with the principals carrying a single pair of purlins, and the queen posts secured by iron stirrups.

Storage Shed

Probably the poultry house of 1952, this compartment occupies the recess between the barn porch and the cartshed, and is contemporary with the cartshed. Originally a single room, it has been divided in order to create an entrance passage at its north end. It contains no significant features.

The East Range

The earliest part of the east range is an early 19th-century L-shaped cowhouse with both arms of the L facing towards the farmyard. There are also some 20th-century additions, including an obliquely set cowhouse to the southwest also facing towards the courtyard, a triangular link between it and the 19th-century block, facing southeast, and a north-south aligned animal shed at the north end of the east elevation.

Exterior

West Elevation

The 19th-century building (Plate 8) to the left (north) comprises the main range to the right (south) with a gabled wing to the left (north). To the far right (south) is an obliquely set cowhouse extension dating from c. 1930, a good example of a sympathetic 20th-century addition to a period building (Plate 9).

The 19th-century cowhouse is constructed of 9¼ in x 4½ in x 2½ in red bricks laid in Flemish stretcher bond under a plain tile roof. The main range contains three original segmental-arched doorways with stable-type doors, the northernmost wider than the other two (Plate 10). All six windows in this elevation have blue brick sills, metal frames and concrete lintels and date from the mid-20th century.

East Elevation

The east elevation comprises, from left (south) to right (north), the 1950s cowhouse with four window bays, a mid-20th-century link with central stable-type door and a pair of flanking windows (Plate 11), and the 19th-century cowhouse, obscured at its north end by a lean-to extension (Plate 12) built between 1903 and 1914. The 19th-century cowhouse has a blocked segmental-arched doorway to right (north) of centre (Plate 13), and a mid-20th-century window to left (south) of centre. In addition, visible only from within the northern lean-to is an extant segmental-arched doorway retaining its 19th-century boarded door with original strap hinges. To the north of this doorway is a 19th-century segmental-arched window with small-pane cast iron frame, the only original window in the building (Plate 14).

Interior

19th-century Cowhouse

Although there are many later doorways within the internal partition walls the original layout is readily discernible. Thus the three doorways from the courtyard into the main north-south arm of the 19th-century range gave access to a central feed preparation room which separated a pair of byres. The southern byre was self-contained, but there was communication between the feed room and the northern byre. In addition to the doorway from the farmyard, the northern byre could also be entered from a now blocked doorway

at the south end of the east wall. There are two jointed and pegged king-post roof trusses over the main arm, carrying a single pair of purlins and a plank ridge piece, with iron stirrups to the king posts (Plate 15) and tie beam ends.

The northern arm formed another self-contained suite of byre to the west, entered from the farmyard, and a smaller byre, loose box or feed room to the east, with separate access from the east, but communicating with the western byre through an open archway in the dividing wall. There is another jointed and pegged king-post roof truss over the western byre, this one with a bolted king post (Plate 16).

7.0 Interpretation

The earliest part of the farmbuilding complex at Langley Heath Farm is the west range, which we know was in existence by 1824, and which is likely to date from the early 18th century. The main piece of architectural evidence for this is the character of the roof trusses. The queen strut roof truss, properly jointed and pegged as it is at Langley Heath, was the principal category of roof structure used in West Midlands post-medieval timber-framed buildings, and is usually thought of as a 17th-century type. Although it continued in use through the 18th century (Peters 1988, 26-8), examples became increasingly rare, and it was during this time that it was largely superseded by other types, notably the king post truss. The Langley Heath example does not appear to be reused, and the likelihood is that it was custom made for the barn at a time after timber-framing had been superseded by brick as the principal building material for West Midlands farm buildings. Generally, this transition occurred *circa* 1700, so a date in the early 1700s for the barn complex would not be unreasonable. The 2½ in brick thickness could support an early 18th-century date (Campbell and Saint 2005, 180-1), but dating of bricks can be hazardous, and the fact that there seems to have been very little variation in thickness (or bond) between the bricks of the barn and those of later structures, means that this cannot be relied upon as independent testimony. However, the flat brick arches of the opposed stable doorways would also support a date of around 1700.

The west range was an integrated structure housing a barn, stable, granary, and loose box. The barn, of course, had been the staple farm building since the Middle Ages, and all the other components of this combination building were related to arable farming. Horses powered the plough, and the granary provided a more secure depository for grain than any ground level store could offer. The three-horse stable could suggest that at the time of construction the proprietor of Langley Heath Farm was using a light short plough, of the type introduced to Warwickshire from Yorkshire in the 18th-century, rather than the old fashioned heavy plough. The former could be drawn by three horses, whereas the latter needed a team of five or six (VCH 1908, 271).

The construction of the east range, probably during the third quarter of the 19th-century, relates to the period of 'High Farming' (c.1840-c.1880) and the increased emphasis on stock rearing, which was accompanied by a corresponding expansion of accommodation for cattle (Wade Martins 1991, 60-64). The new cowhouse at Langley Heath represents a major capital investment from which a comfortable return might be expected. In keeping

with advanced thinking (Brunskill 1999, 66-7) the building was a single-storey structure, without the hay loft of many earlier structures. On the other hand, the only lighting in the byres appears to have been from the doorways. Wholesale improvement of the interior in the 20th century means that the original layout of the building is to some degree uncertain, although the broad outline of three self-contained byres, containing space for some twenty to twenty-five beasts in total, is clear.

The cartsheds that were added to the west range at around the same time as the construction of the east range, were a product of the more business-like approach to farming that characterised the 19th century. Carts and other agricultural implements were items that needed to be preserved from the elements in order to protect the investment of capital they represented.

The farmbuildings at Langley Heath Farm are typical of the 18th and 19th century agricultural vernacular of the West Midlands with their red brick walls, plain tile roofs, segmental arches, and, for the 19th century, bullnose brick openings. The most interesting element of the complex is, perhaps, the barn and stable block, which forms the early part of the west range. This has been tentatively dated here to the early 1700s, though dendrochronological sampling and analysis of the barn roof timbers might give a more accurate indication of date, and there help to fill one of the gaps in our understanding of Birmingham in the post-medieval period highlighted by Hodder (2003b, 4).

8.0 Acknowledgements

The project was managed for Birmingham Archaeology by Malcolm Hislop, BA, PhD, MIFA, who also acted as principal fieldworker. He was assisted by Elli Suntinoinen, BA, MA. Thanks are owed to Jim Owen of Rubery Owen Holdings Ltd, to Mr Dowling of Langley Heath Farm for their assistance and affability, and to Marion Baxter of Sutton Coldfield Library for her kind and professional help in respect of the documentary sources.

9.0 Sources

9.1 Textual Sources

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9.2 Cartographic Sources

- 1824 Corn rent map
- 1857 Poor rate valuation map
- 1888 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map, Warwickshire sheet VIII.4
- 1903 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map, Warwickshire sheet VIII.4
- 1914 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map, Warwickshire sheet VIII.4
- 1939 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map, Warwickshire sheet VIII.4
- 1964 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map, SP1494

APPENDIX 1

Site: Langley Heath Farm, Fox Hollies Road, Walmley

Planning Application Ref: N/05568/05/LBC

Grid Ref: 414,704/294,511

Ref: SMR 01075

Date: 18th October 2005

Conservation Group Contact: Andrew Rudge, Senior Conservation Officer

Direct Line: 0121 464 2138

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BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL / HISTORIC BUILDING RESEARCH AND RECORDING

1.0 Introduction

The following brief is for the structural, fabric and historical recording and analysis of a complex of agricultural buildings associated with Langley Heath Farm, Fox Hollies Road, Walmley. The work is to be undertaken in advance of determination. Birmingham City Council's Conservation Group has prepared the brief, and it is a requirement that a written scheme of investigation (WSI) should be prepared to match the brief. This should be prepared for the applicant by a professional archaeologist/historic buildings specialist/ organisation.

It is strongly advised that all contractors visit the site before completing their specification, as there may be implications and requirements for accurately costing the project.

2.0 Site Location and Description

Langley Heath Farm is Statutory Listed at Grade II, while the associated complex of agricultural buildings, which are the subject of this brief, are listed grade A on the Local List of Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest.

The site is located in a prominent position within green belt land to the east of the historic town of Sutton Coldfield (which now lies within the northern city limits of Birmingham). The farm building itself is believed to date to the 17th century with the addition of an 18th century wing. Immediately adjacent, and too the south, of the farm are a range of agricultural buildings arranged around a courtyard. It is the associated farm buildings that are the subject of the brief.

3.0 Planning Background

3.1 This brief for Historic Building Research and Recording has been prepared by Birmingham City Council's Conservation Group. A planning application for the redevelopment of the farm buildings and conversion into residential units has been

submitted to Birmingham City Council (Local Planning Authority). This brief has been produced to guide Pre-determination research and analysis in order to inform the decision making process in accordance with *Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: Planning and the Historic Environment*, *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning* (DoE, 1990), and Regulation 4 of the *Town & Country Planning (Applications) Regulations 1988*.

***Where substantially revised or new plans are proposed the brief may change.**

3.2 It is recommended that the applicant submit a *written scheme of investigation* (prepared on behalf of the applicant by a recognised archaeological or historic building contractor) to the *City Conservation Group* prior to works commencing. This should be done to insure that an appropriate level and standard of work is achieved in order to meet the requirements of the *Local Planning Authority*. The *written scheme of investigation* (WSI) should include details of the number and qualification of staff provided for the project (including provision for specialist staff) and the project timetable. It is recommended that the *Local Planning Authority* approve the *WSI*, in writing, before work on site is undertaken.

4.0 Aims and Objectives

4.1 The principle aims and objectives of this project are:

- ✓ • The production of a photographic/ descriptive record of the barn complex, their setting, fabric and fixtures and fittings.
- ✓ • The production of a drawn record, plans and elevations, of the barn complex (existing plans where available, and appropriate, should be used and adapted to add relevant information i.e. phasing, changes in fabric).
- ✓ • The production of a historical narrative, using documentary and cartographic sources. This should research the historical and architectural development, and age, of the farm buildings and put them in their wider context.
- ✓ • The analysis and interpretation of the site archive in order to achieve an understanding of the structures, their history and function and to promote local and national research.
- ✓ • The dissemination and publication of the results.
- ✓ • The long-term conservation of the project archive in appropriate conditions.

Note: The stated aims and objectives should be clearly tied into the WSI product outputs.

5.0 Research Questions

The WSI should be informed by an appropriate research question(s). The question(s) should focus the output of the WSI (recording/analysis) on the development of a fuller understanding of the role and function of the building.

These should include:

- What is the development history of the barn complex and their relationship to the farm, and
- How does the development of this site relate to that of farms in the local area – reference should be made to the relevant part of the West Midlands Regional Research Framework for Archaeology

6.0 Documentary Research and Fieldwork

Site Related Methodology

6.1 The following works should take place:

6.1.1 Documentary research should be undertaken. Sources referred to should include; written, cartographic, illustrative and photographic records. It is anticipated that originals or copies of most of the relevant sources will be available in Local Studies in Sutton Coldfield Library. The attached note gives guidance on sources.

6.1.2 A **drawn record** should be produced. This should make use of all existing measured plans and elevations, and be undertaken to level 3 of the RCHME's building recording specifications. It should include all appropriate sections, floor plans, elevations and existing contextual details necessary to interpret and record the historical development of the site and its buildings. Where existing plans, elevations and sections are used as a base for recording, survey data must be checked for its accuracy and its fitness for the purpose of recording and phasing the structures on site, and for supporting detailed annotation.

6.1.3 A full **photographic record** should be produced consisting of archive quality black and white prints together with negatives and supplemented by colour slides or colour digital photography. This should include general external coverage and more detailed internal coverage, both of the structure and its fixtures and fittings. A photographic scale should be included in the case of detailed photographs along with photo board.

6.1.4 The photographic record should be accompanied by a photographic register detailing (as a minimum) location and direction of shot; and where possible the photographic record should be tied into the drawn record. Particular attention should be paid to any internal fixtures and fittings.

General Methodology

6.2 The archaeological / historic building contractor must liaise with the relevant owner/ building contractor(s) to ensure full and safe access.

6.3 As far as possible the archaeological / historic building contractor should record the location, extent, date, nature, character and relationships of any archaeological/architectural evidence revealed.

6.4 Appropriate written, drawn (including OS datum points) and photographic records should be made on site, accountable to the time and conditions.

6.5 The archaeological/ historic building contractor will inform Birmingham City Council Conservation Group of the start date and progress of work, so that provision can be made for monitoring. The contractor will also inform the Conservation Group when fieldwork finishes.

6.6 The archaeological / historic building contractor must work in accordance with the relevant *Standards and Guidance* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), and follow the IFA *Code of Conduct* and *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*.

6.7 All current Health and Safety legislation must be followed on site- this may include undertaking a site-specific risk assessment.

6.8 The contractor should ensure that any potential hazards/ services are identified and damage to these or dangerous practice is avoid.

7.0 Post-Fieldwork

7.1 Following completion of fieldwork an A4 page summary of results should be submitted to the City Conservation Group within 5 working days.

7.2 An archive report should be produced, completed and submitted to the City Conservation Group within *6 months* of the completion of fieldwork. Any variation to the stated submission date must be agreed with the client and the City Conservation Group. The report should describe the nature of the fieldwork undertaken, the circumstance and conditions under which it occurred and the results that were obtained. Included in this format should be:

- ✓ • A site location plan at an appropriate scale
- ✓ • Details of the organisation and personnel involved
- ✓ • The date of works
- ✓ • A site centred national grid reference
- ✓ • A concise non-technical summary of the results
- ✓ • Specialist assessment reports where applicable
- ✓ • A summary of the archive contents

- A copy of this brief and written scheme of investigation as appendices

***The report will be publicly accessible as part of the Birmingham Sites and Monuments Record.**

- 7.3 Two hard copies of the archive report and a copy in pdf format should be submitted to the City Conservation Group.
- 7.4 A summary report must be submitted to *West Midlands Archaeology*.
- 7.5 Provision should be made for the assembly of a site archive that should be prepared and deposited with a relevant repository. The archive will need to conform to relevant national standards, and the standards for deposition set out by the receiving repository.
- 7.6 The archive should be completed in accordance with MAP 2 (EH 1991), and the production of the archive and format of storage should also accord with the UK Institute for Conservation guidelines. The archive should be deposited with the relevant body 6 months after the completion of the archive report, unless otherwise agreed in consultation with the City Conservation Group/ Curator.

8.0 Academic Publications and Public Product

The results of this project may merit wider dissemination by publication in a suitable place, such as an academic report in a local or national journal, and/or on a web page(s). The most appropriate option should be agreed with the City Conservation Group on completion of the archive report. A contingency should therefore be made, and included in the WSI, for publication.

9.0 Personnel

Suitably experienced and qualified professionals, with specialist expertise in their area of competence, should carry out each aspect of the work. The names and titles of the Project Manager and all staff should be listed with a précis of their relevant and recent experience.

The Project Manager and key personnel must be individual members of the Institute of Field Archaeologists. It would be preferable for the professional organisation to be a Registered Archaeological Organisation with the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

10.0 Monitoring

The appropriate City Conservation Officer will monitor the fieldwork exercise as necessary and practicable. This will require written (includes emailed) notification of the start date 1 week in advance so that adequate field monitoring can be arranged. Key monitoring points should be agreed with the City Conservation Group and

Birmingham City Council before the start of fieldwork. The anticipated monitoring points will be the following:

- Approval of Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)
- Fieldwork and recording
- Results of finished building survey/recording, photographic prints
- Archive report
- Deposition of archive
- Up-dated project design for academic/ public publication (if required)
- Draft academic report
- Popular public product/publication

As part of the monitoring process a time table should be incorporated into the WSI, including:

- Expected start date and date of completion of the fieldwork.
- The date by which the archive report will be completed. This should be within 6 months of the end of the fieldwork.
- The date by which the archive and finds will be deposited with the relevant body. This should be within 6 months of the completion of the final archive report.
- The date by which the academic and or public product will be completed.

11.0 OASIS (the online index of archaeological data)

On completion of the project the contractor must complete the obligatory fields of the OASIS form and submit an electronic version of the report to OASIS (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/oasis>)

BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL / HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

For:

Langley Heath Farm, Fox Hollies Road, Walmley

18th October 2005

APPENDIX 2

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological/Historic Building Research and Recording at Langley Heath Farm, Fox Hollies Road, Walmley, Birmingham

1.0 Introduction

This written scheme of investigation describes a programme of recording work to be carried out by Birmingham Archaeology for Rubery Owen Holdings Limited on a group of farm buildings at Langley Heath Farm, Fox Hollies, Walmley, Birmingham. Langley Heath Farm, a building of 17th-century origin, is grade II listed, and the associated farm buildings, to which this WSI pertains, are listed grade A on the Local List of Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest. The proposed recording work has been occasioned by the submission of a planning application to convert the farm buildings into residential accommodation, and the results of the project are required to inform the decision making process.

2.0 Site Location

Langley Heath Farm is situated on the east side of Fox Hollies Road to the southeast of Sutton Coldfield and to the northeast of Walmley, Birmingham (NGR SP 1470 9451). The farm buildings are located immediately to the south of Langley Heath Farmhouse

3.0 Objectives

The principal objective of the project is to elucidate the historical and structural development of the farmbuilding complex, as an entity, and in terms of its relationship to the farmhouse and other farms in the area, and to the relevant part of the West Midlands Regional Research Framework.

Other are:

- To obtain a photographic/descriptive record of the farm buildings, their setting, fabric, fixtures and fittings.
- To make a drawn record of the barn complex comprising plans, elevations and sections.
- To produce an historical narrative, using documentary and cartographic sources.
- To make an analytical written record of the buildings
- The dissemination and publication of the results.
- Long-term conservation of the project archive in appropriate conditions.

4.0 Methods

Documentary Research

A search of readily available published and unpublished documentary sources including historic maps, illustrations and photographs, will be carried out in Sutton Coldfield Library Local Studies and/or Birmingham Central Library Local Studies.

Drawn Record

A measured survey will be made, based on annotation and amendment of existing architectural drawings, to a standard equivalent to RCHME Level 3 (RCHME 1996). The drawings will include a site plan, ground plan, elevations and sections.

Photographic Record

The photographic survey will be carried out with a 35mm camera using black and white film and a photographic scale, and will be supplemented by colour digital coverage. The survey will consist of both general external and more detailed internal photographs including fixtures and fittings. Photographs will be recorded on *pro forma* register sheets indicating location, scales used, orientation, photographer and date.

5.0 Staffing and Standards

The project will be managed for Birmingham Archaeology by Malcolm Hislop, BA, PhD, MIFA. The principal fieldworker will be Christopher Hewitson, BA, MA, AIFA or an historic buildings specialist of appropriate qualifications and experience. All personnel will be appropriately qualified for their roles in the project.

As part of the Archaeology and Heritage Division of the University of Birmingham, Birmingham Archaeology is a Registered Organisation of the Institute of Field Archaeologists. The work will be carried out in accordance with IFA's *Code of Conduct* and with IFA advice on archaeological building recording (IFA 2001).

Birmingham Archaeology conforms to all current Health and Safety legislation. A site specific risk assessment will be undertaken prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

6.0 Timetable

Birmingham City Council Conservation Group will be given 5 days' notice of commencement of the fieldwork, and will be informed when subsequent monitoring points have been reached. The proposed timetable is as follows:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 20 April | Begin fieldwork (duration approx. 3 days) |
| 11 May | Complete archive report |

- 31 August Complete publication
- 11 October Deposit archive with relevant body

7.0 Reporting

The results of the project will be presented in a report containing the following information:

- Non-technical summary
- Introduction
- Site location
- Objectives
- Methods
- Historical background
- Analytical building description
- Conclusions
- Acknowledgements
- References
- Appropriate illustrations
- Summary of the archive contents

In addition, a summary report will be submitted for publication in *West Midlands Archaeology*, and, depending on the significance of the results of the project, a more detailed report will be prepared for publication in an appropriate journal.

8.0 Archiving

The archive will be prepared in accordance with MAP 2 (English Heritage 1991, Appendix 3), and the preparation of the archive and storage format will accord with the UK Institute for Conservation guidelines. The archive will be stored temporarily at the University of Birmingham until final deposition within 6 months of completion of the project.

9.0 References

Birmingham City Council 2005 *Brief for Archaeological / Historic Building Research and Recording*.

English Heritage 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*.

IFA 2001 *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures*.

RCHME 1996, *Recording Historic Buildings: A Descriptive Specification*, 3rd edn.

10.0 OASIS

On completion of the project an OASIS form will be completed and an electronic version of the report submitted.

Birmingham Archaeology
13 April 2006

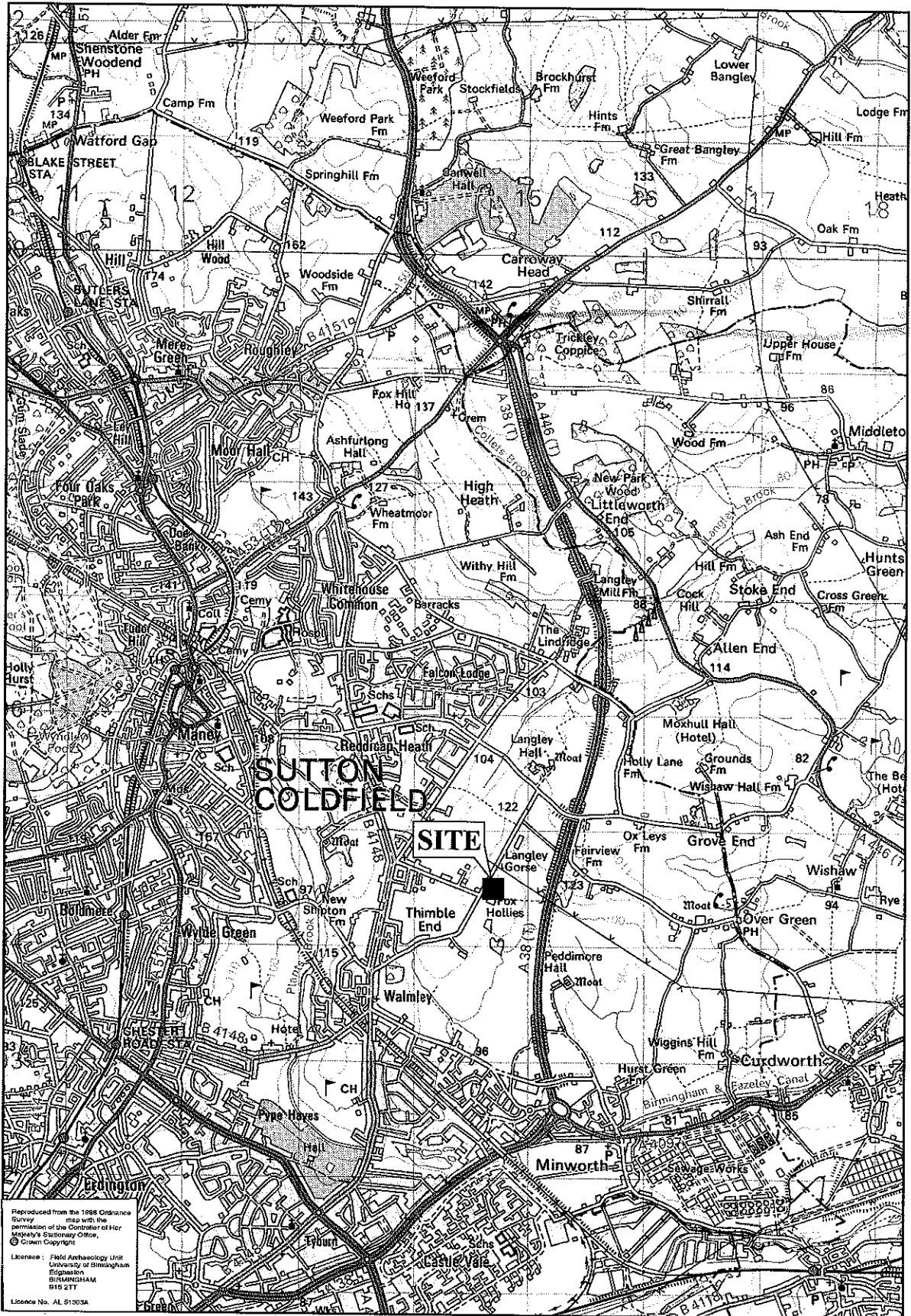


Fig.1

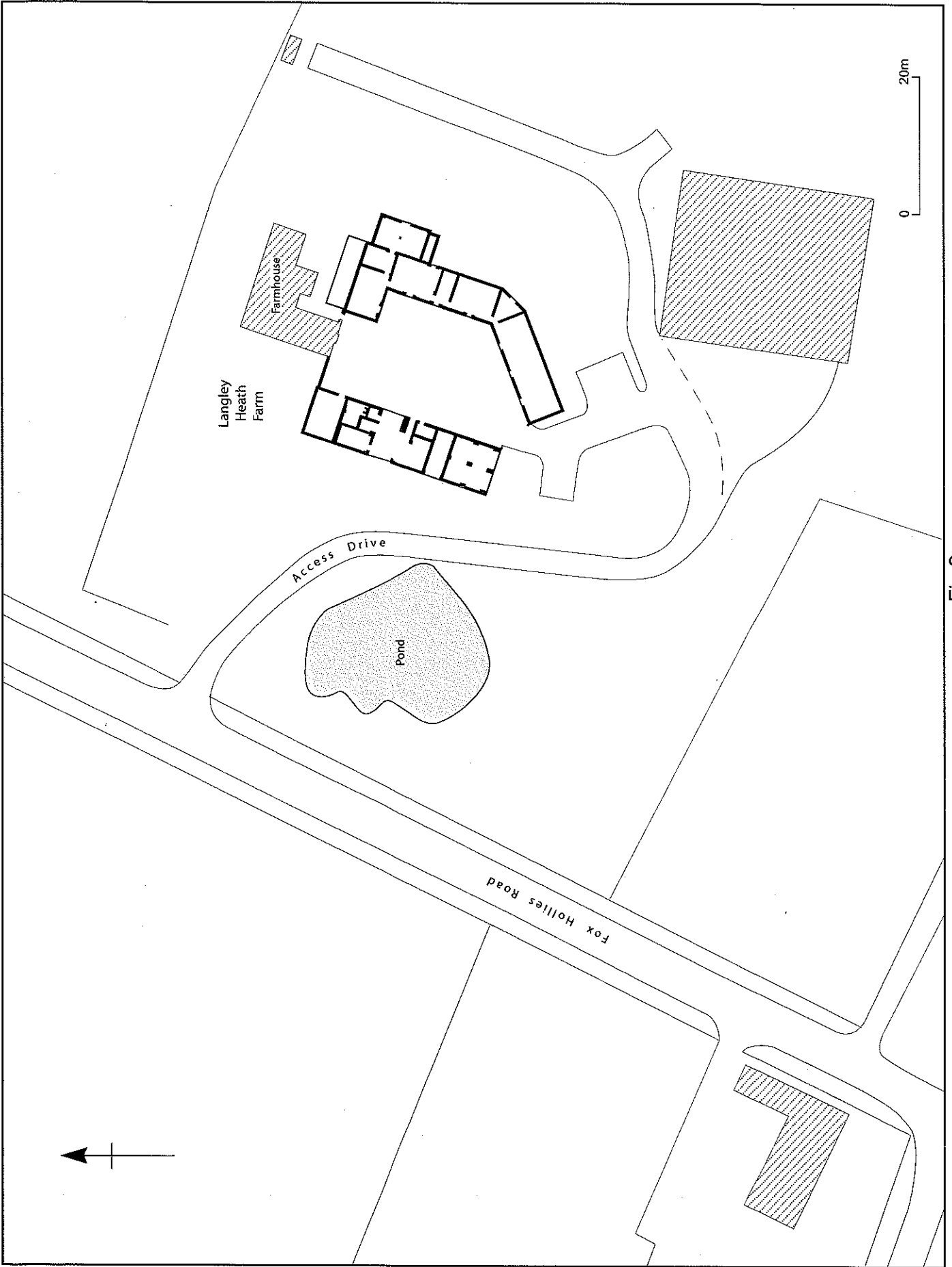


Fig.2

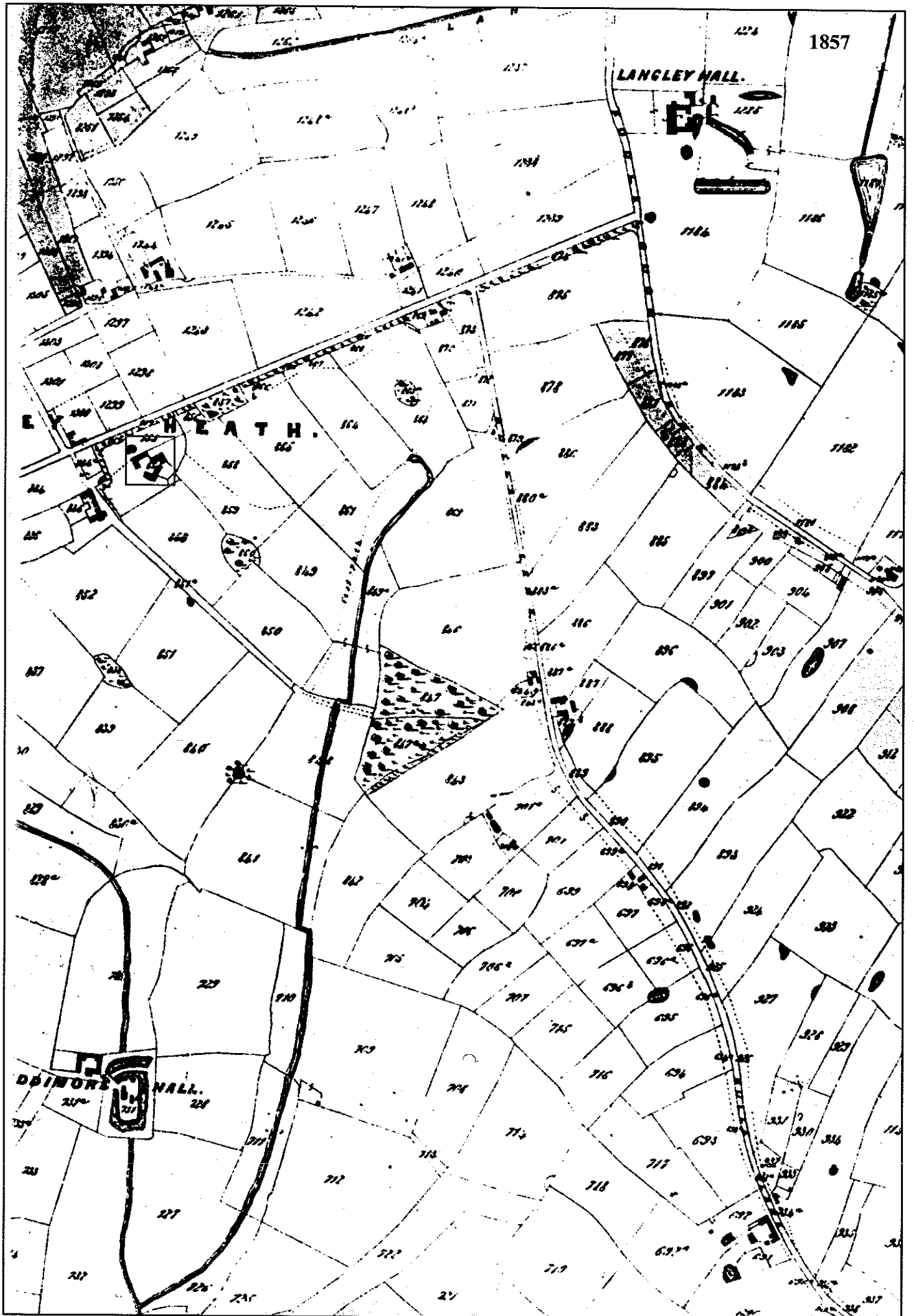


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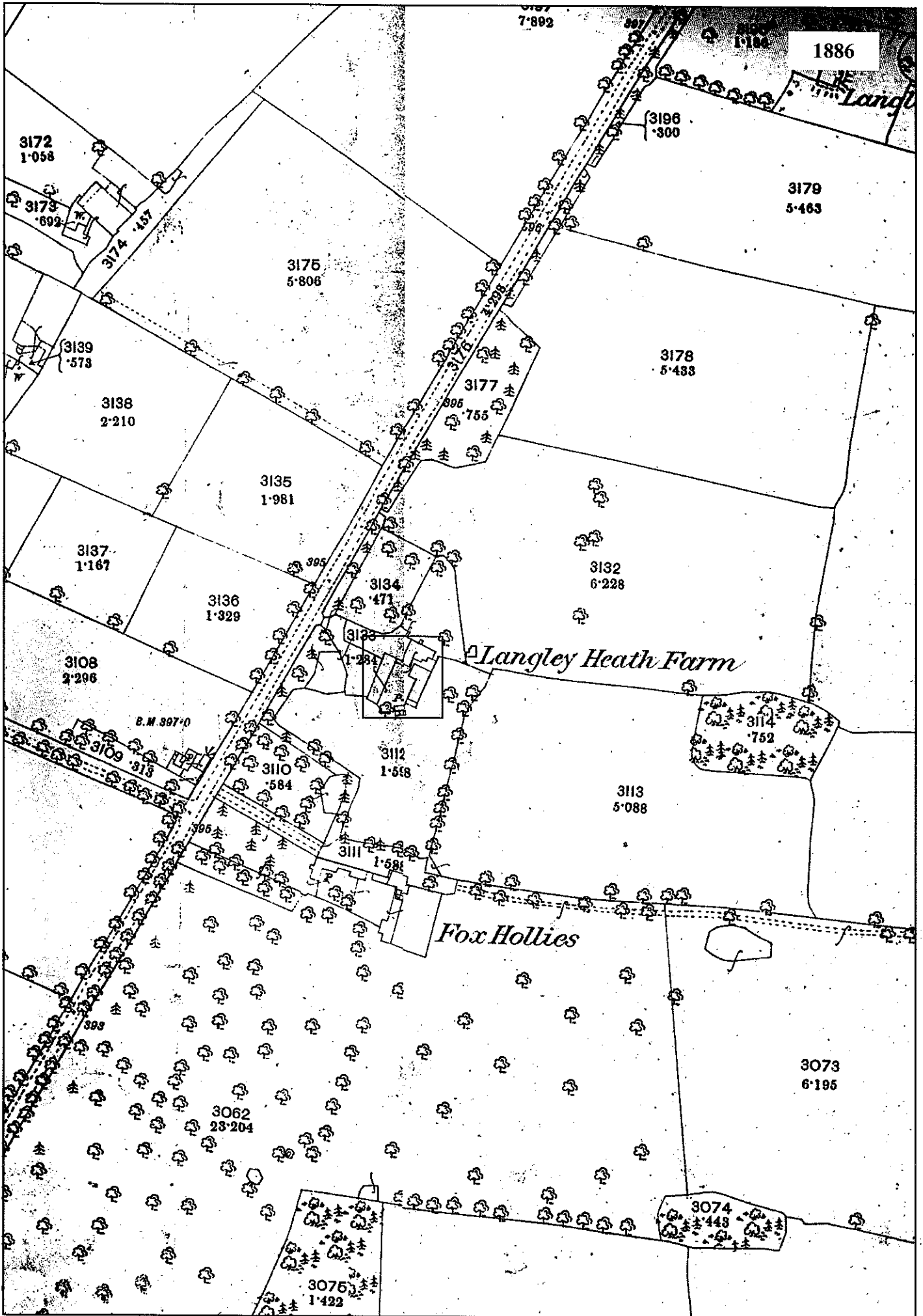


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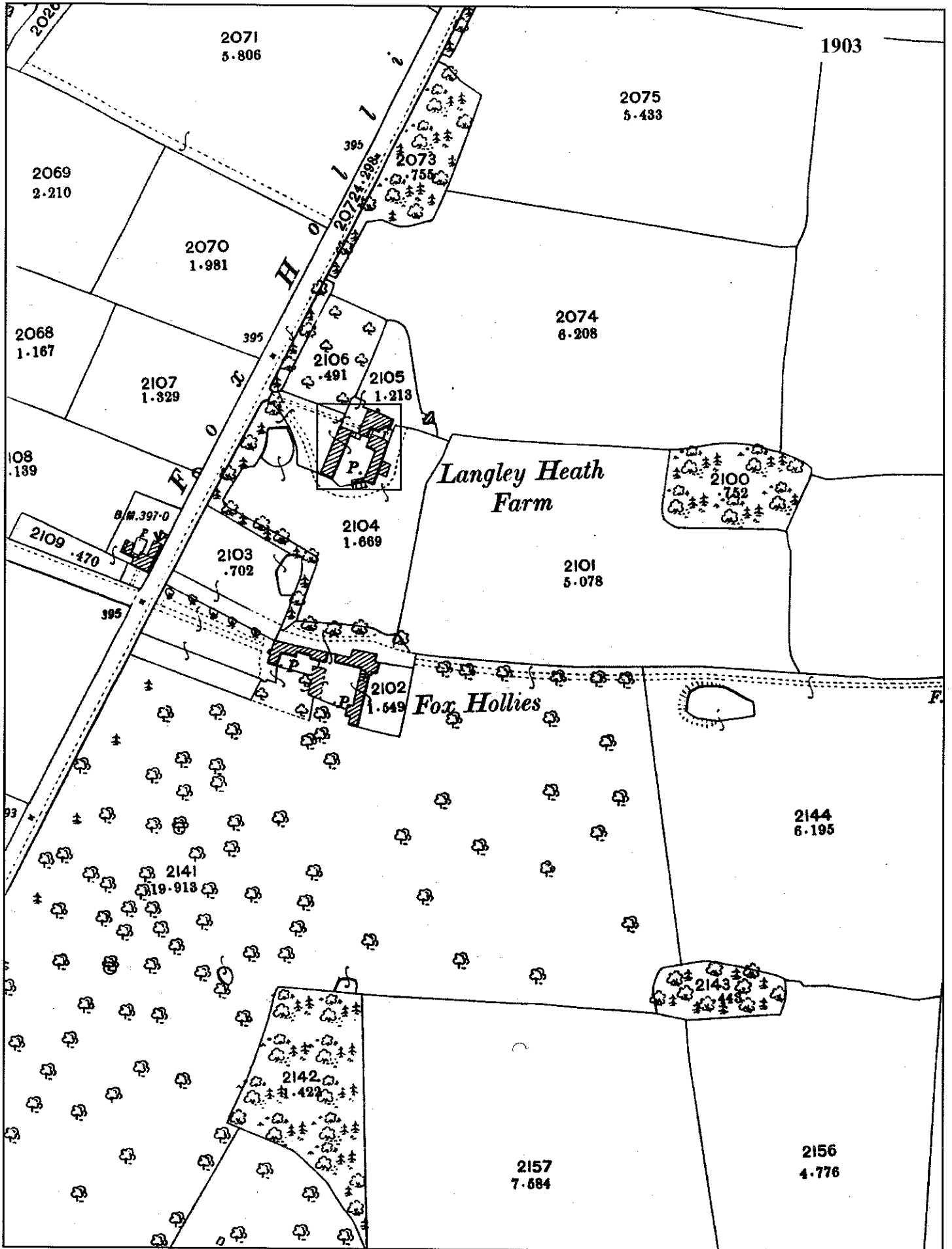


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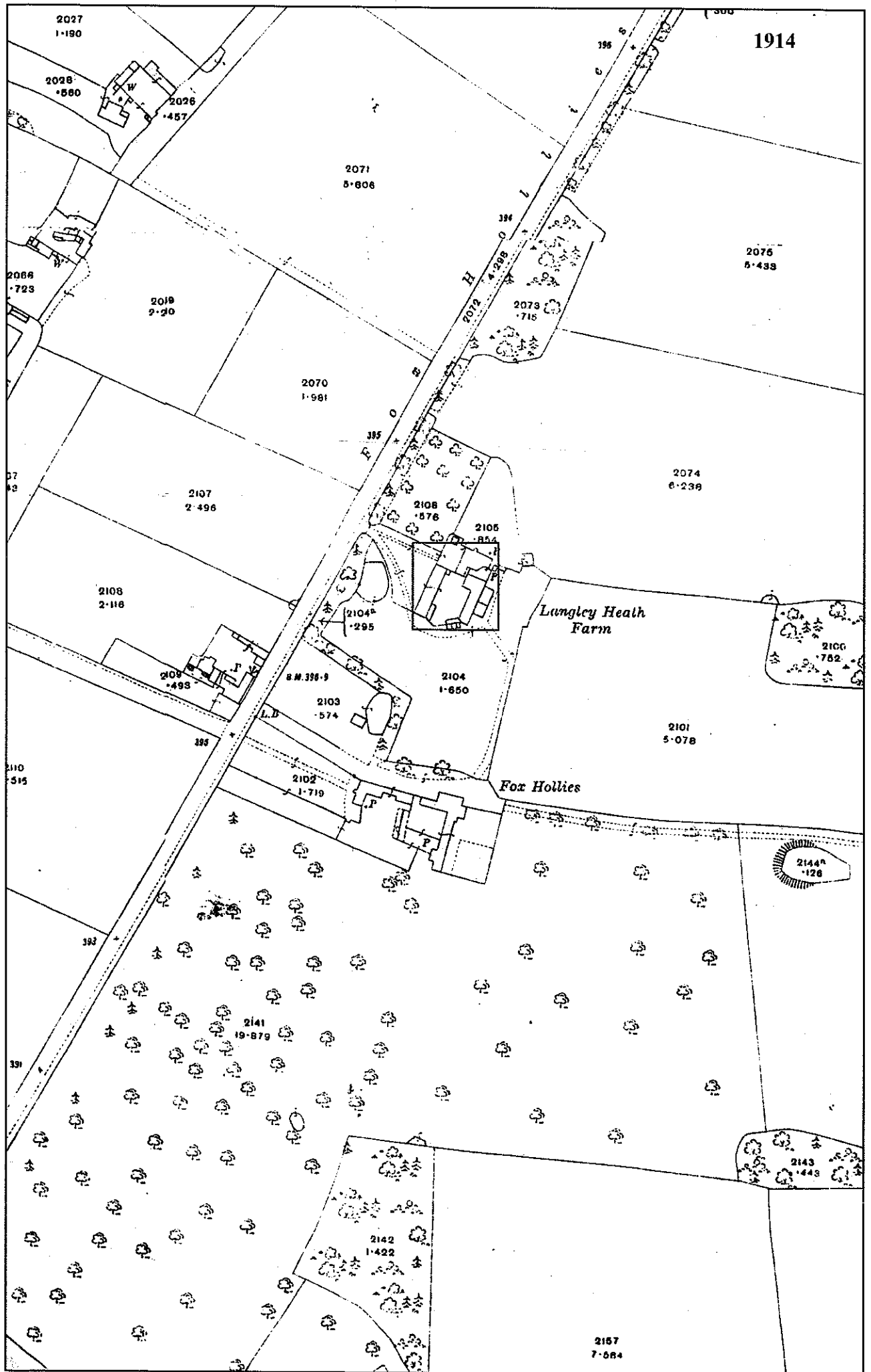


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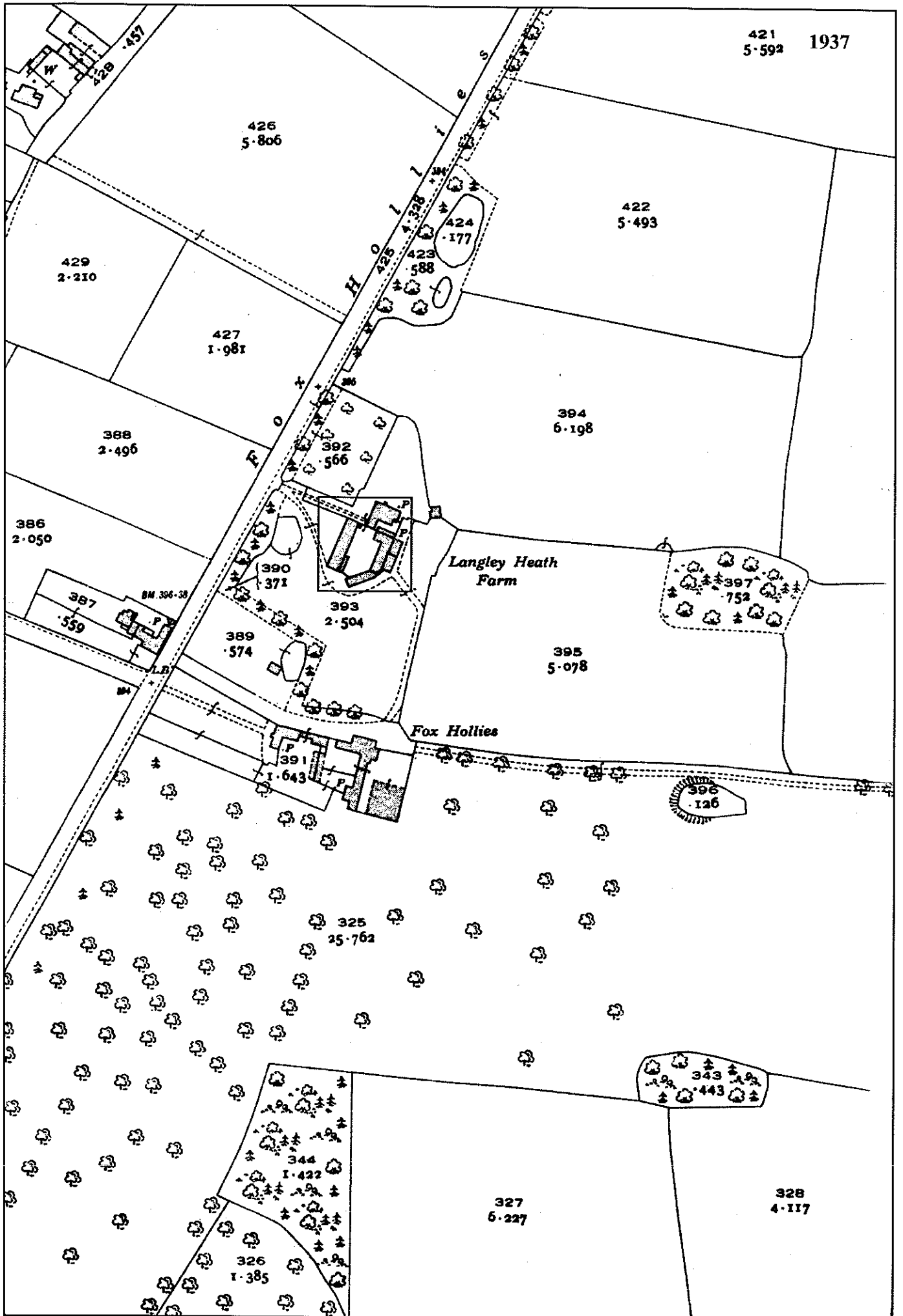


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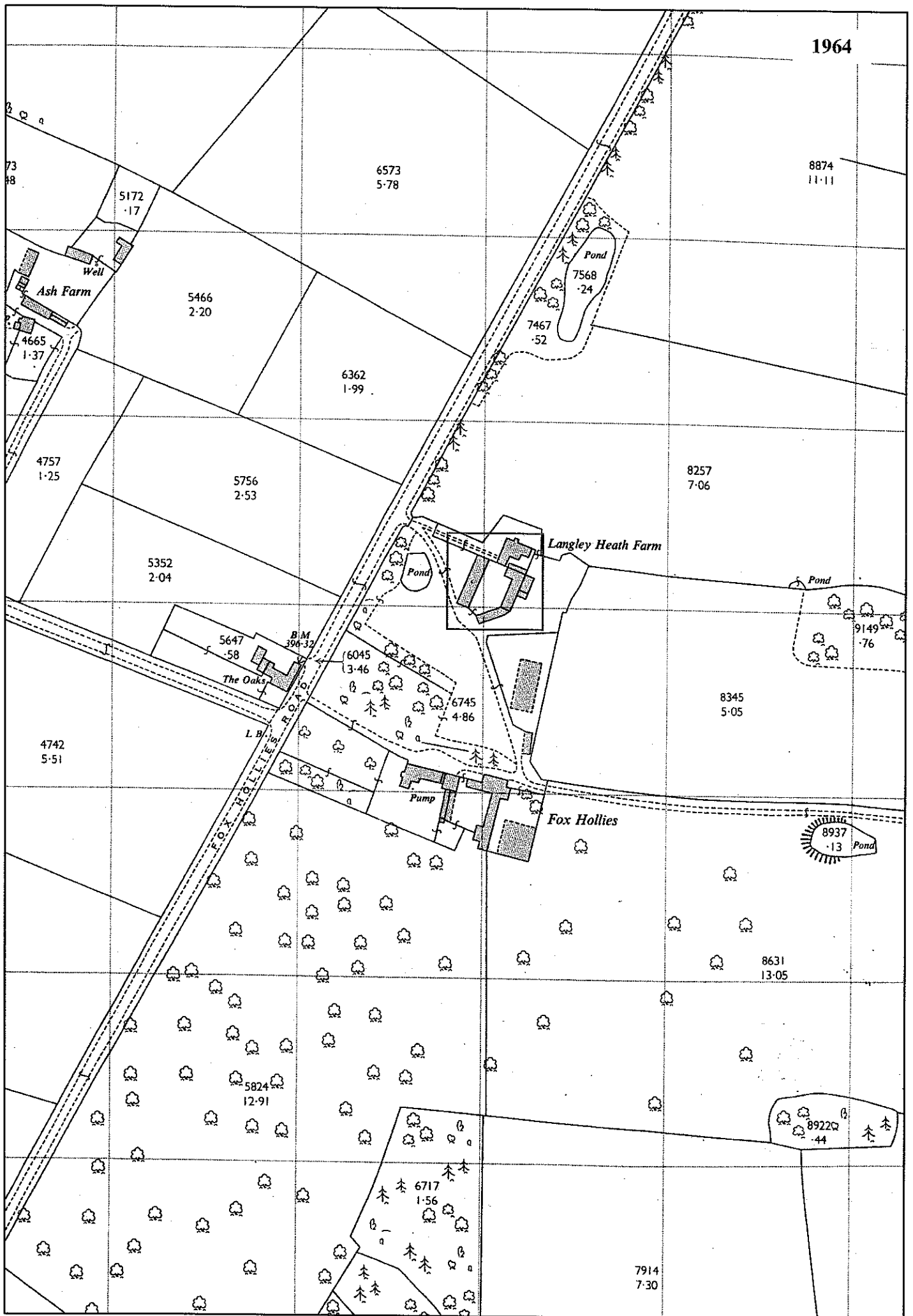


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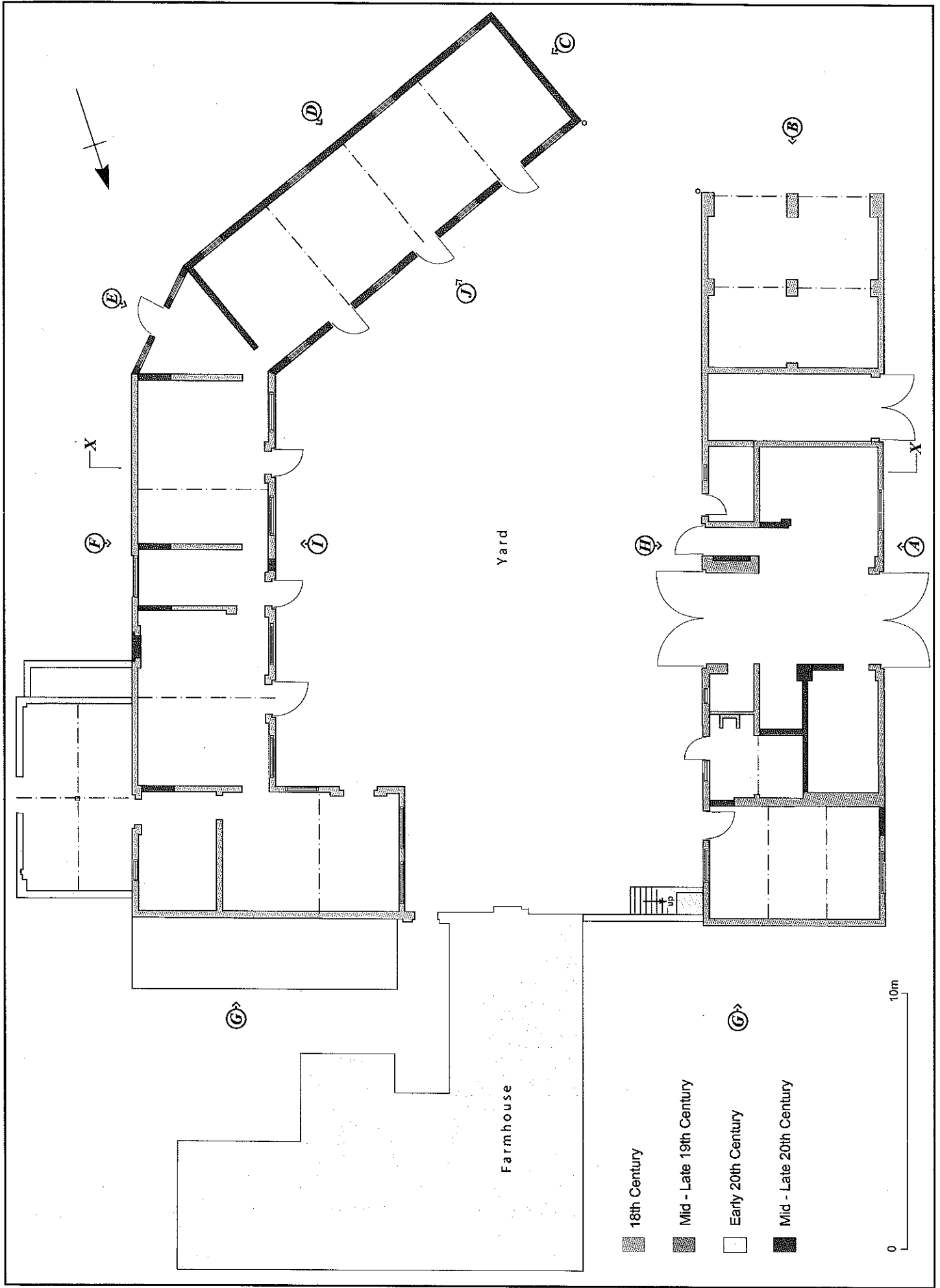


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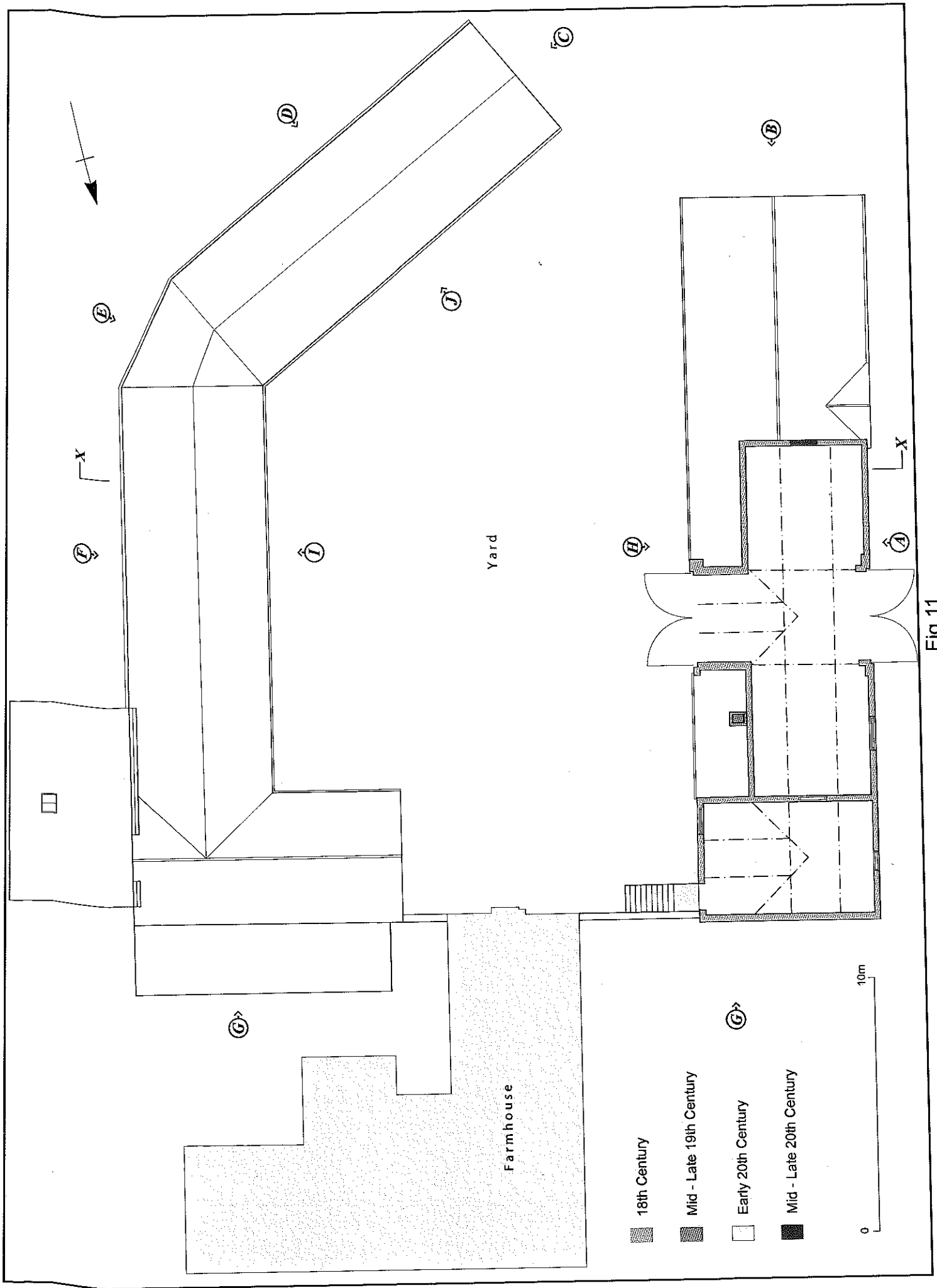


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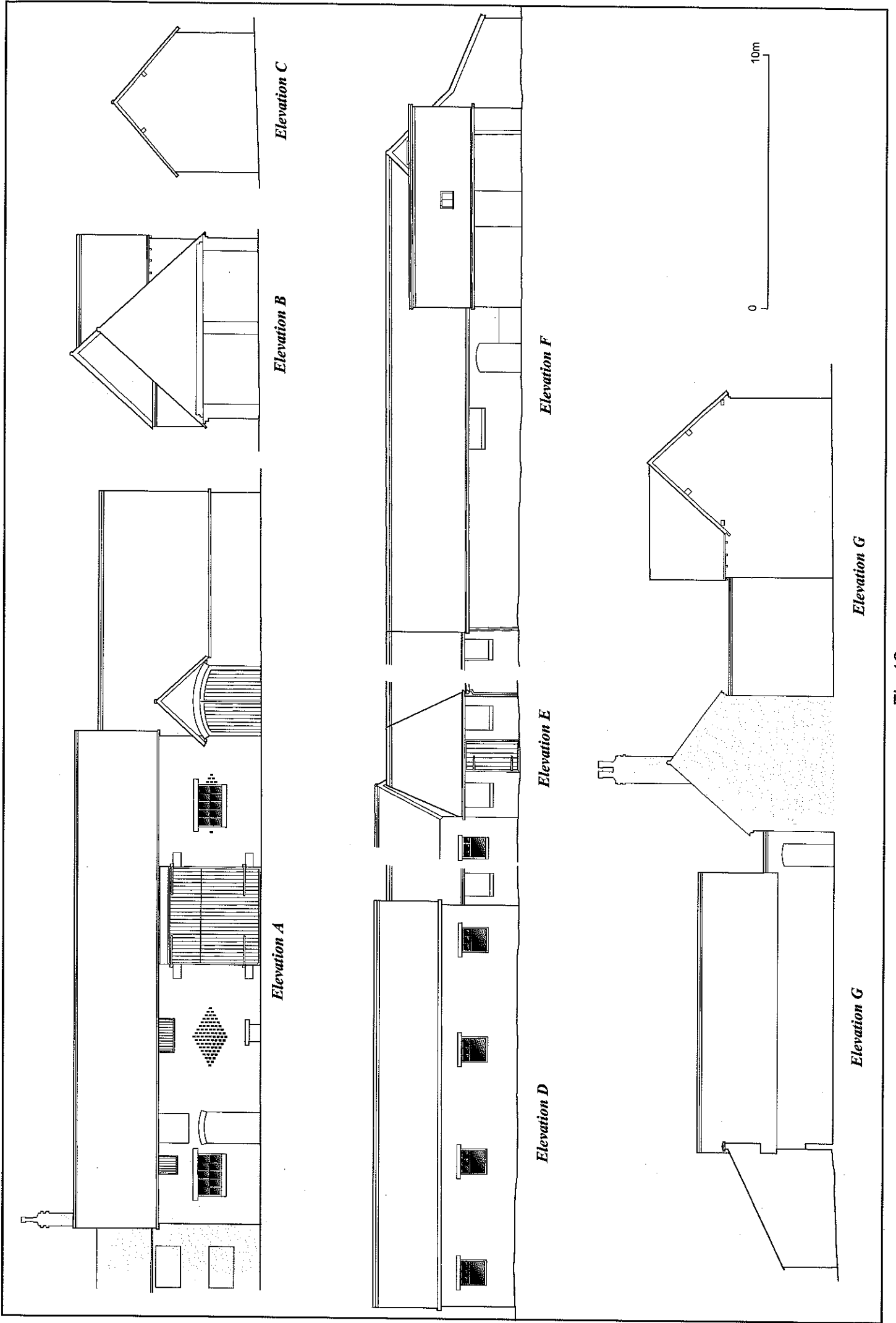
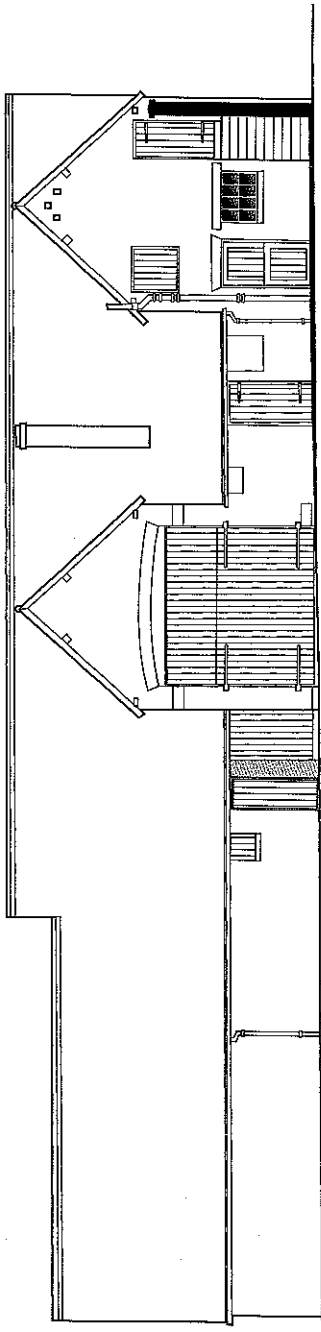
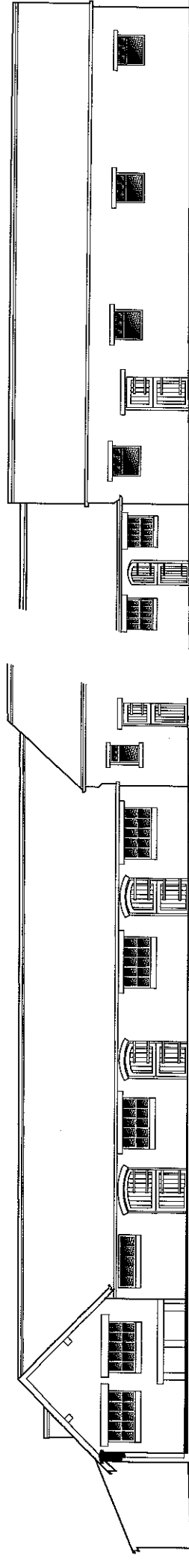


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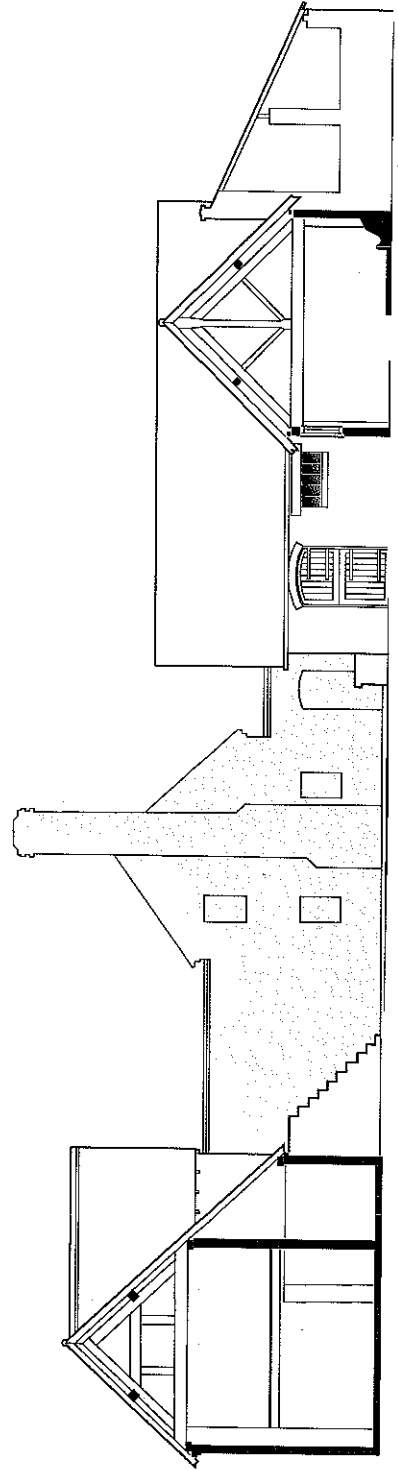


Elevation H



Elevation I

Elevation J



Section X - X

0 10m

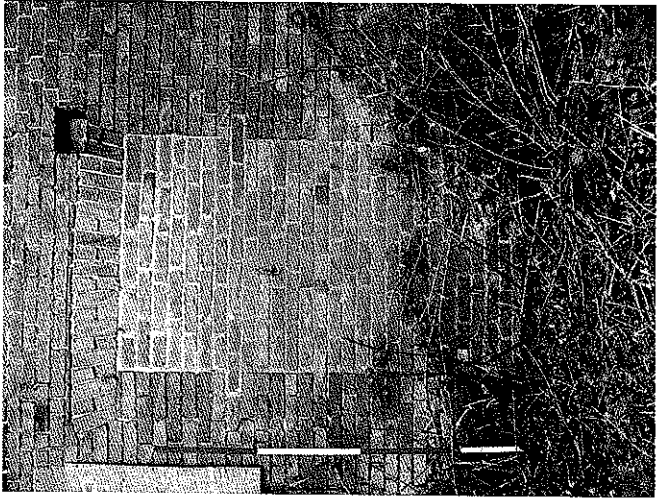


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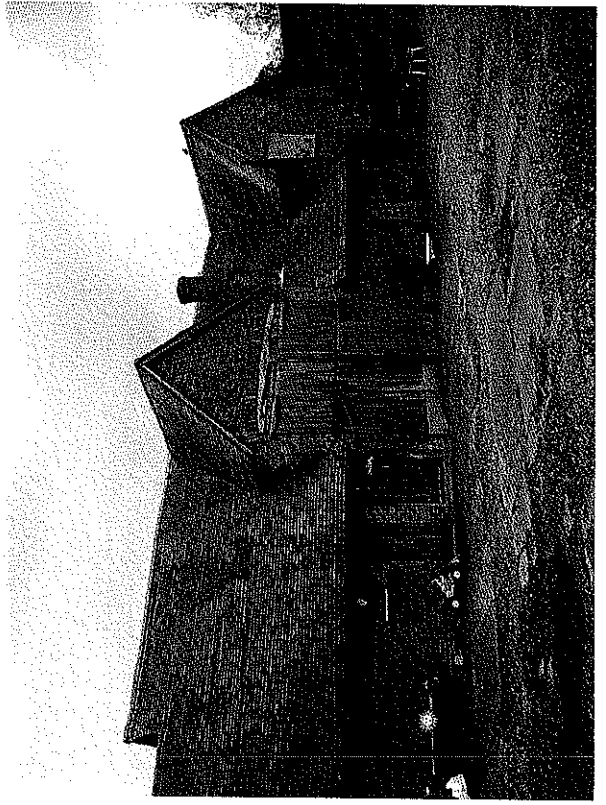


Plate 4



Plate 1



Plate 3



Plate 5



Plate 6

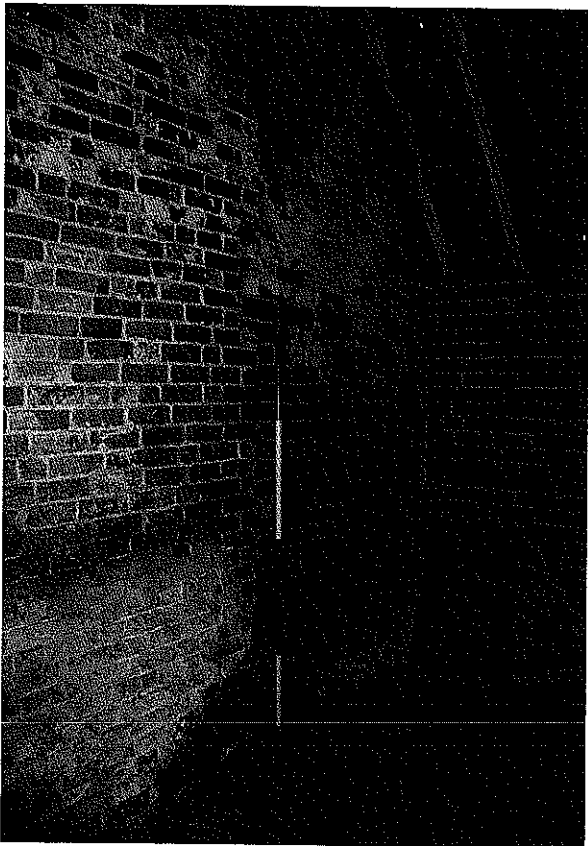


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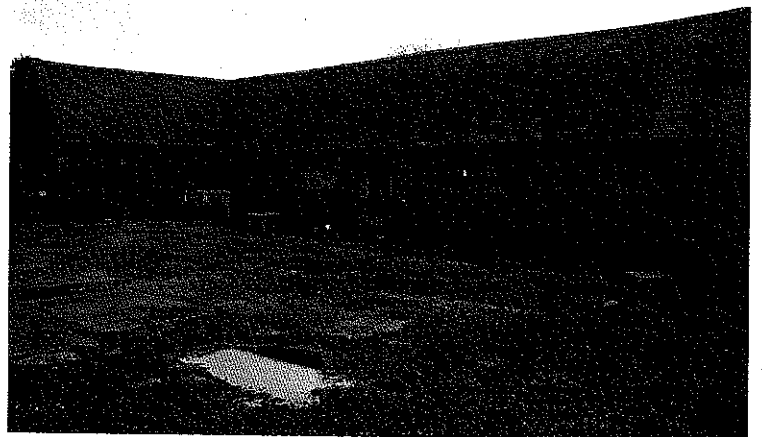


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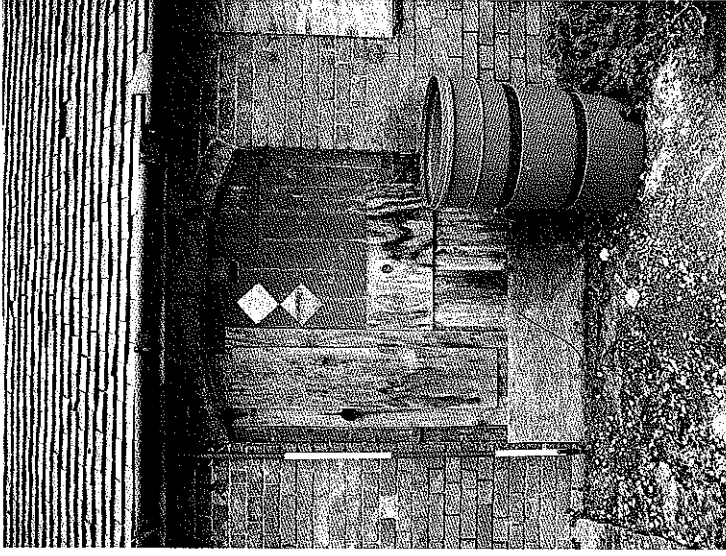


plate 10

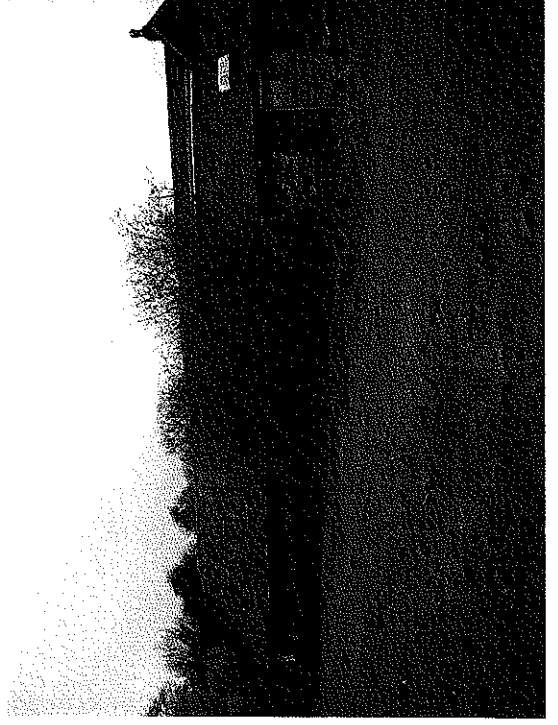


Plate 12



Plate 9



Plate 11



Plate 13

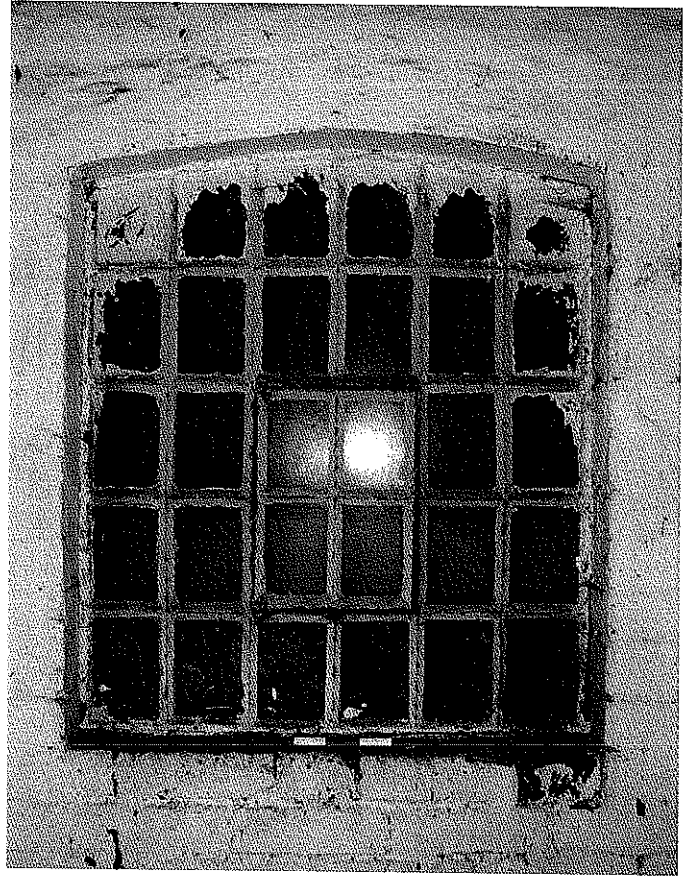


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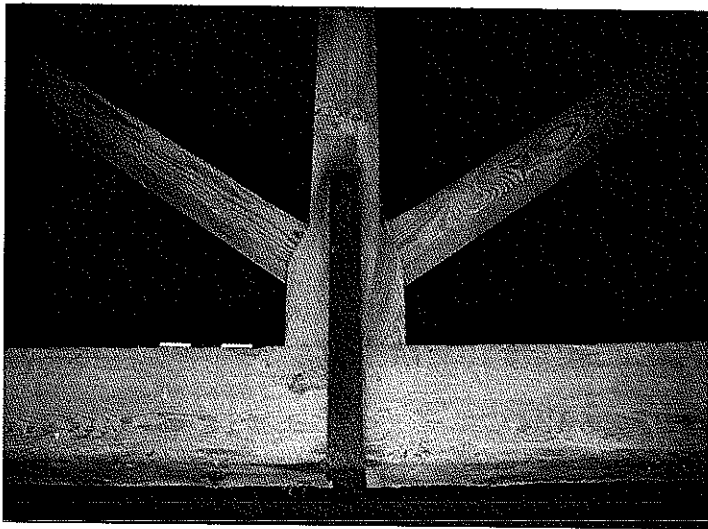


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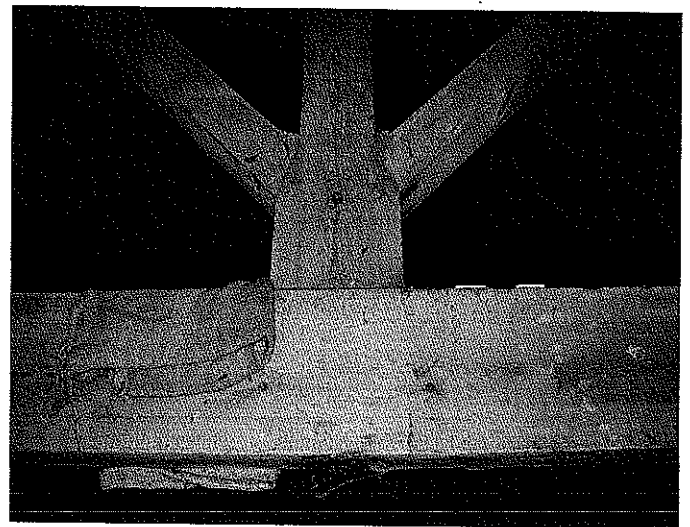


Plate 16