

Channel Tunnel Rail Link
Balfour Beatty Major Projects
for Union Railways (South) Ltd.

TALBOT HOUSE, SELLINDGE, KENT
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD IN ADVANCE OF AND DURING DISMANTLING

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Prepared by: R Tyler Position: Historic Building Officer Date: October 2002 Signed:
Checked by: JT Munby Position: Principal Archaeologist (Historic Buildings) Date: 2002 Signed:
Approved by: S Foreman Position: Project Manager Date: 2002 Signed:



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TALBOT HOUSE, SELLINDGE, KENT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD IN ADVANCE OF AND DURING DISMANTLING

Summary

Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Balfour Beatty Major Projects Ltd (BBMP) to undertake a programme of archaeological recording in advance of, and during the dismantling of the Grade II Listed Talbot House, Sellindge, Kent (NGR: 610736 137700,) for re-erection at Swan Lane, Sellindge (NGR: 611446 18950). The house has been dismantled in advance of the construction of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL) in whose path it lies.

Although the history and development of the house was known in outline from previous studies, the current study has allowed for a significant amount of detail to be added to this general understanding and as such can be seen to have been a worthwhile exercise. A number of features not previously identified or not fully understood from pre-dismantling inspections have been exposed during the dismantling process. The evolution of the house, from its origins in the mid-15th century to the present day, has been broken down into a series of six principal phases.

Talbot House originated in the middle years of the 15th century as a traditional, timber-framed 'Wealden' house, combining a centrally located 2-bay open hall (with recessed front elevation) with storeyed, jettied end bays beneath a single, unitary roof. The building as recorded retains a high proportion of primary structural fabric, including such details as primary wattle and daub infill panels, allowing for a fairly detailed reconstruction of its original appearance. Unfortunately the central 'open' truss with moulded tie beam and crown-post were removed during modifications undertaken in the mid-16th century. The house displays a standard range of structural and decorative features, though it also includes a number of less common structural details. A series of five 'combed' daub panels revealed below the dais beam of the hall during the dismantling of the house represents a discovery of particular, intrinsic interest and the inclusion of a representational human figure would appear to be a unique and unparalleled discovery. These panels were removed prior to conservation and have been deposited with the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton, West Sussex, a leading centre for the preservation and study of the vernacular architecture of south-eastern England.

In the mid-16th century, an upper floor was inserted into the open hall and the former open fire was enclosed within a timber framed, single-flue stack. Such improvements represent a standard development in the evolution from traditional, medieval open hall to post-medieval storeyed house and reflect a contemporary shift in attitudes towards comfort and privacy. The inserted floor at Talbot House includes a number of features of interest and is remarkable for its almost complete survival. A programme of dendrochronological sampling and analysis has allowed for the insertion of the floor to be firmly dated to between 1546-66AD.

The replacement of the simple, single-flue timber stack by the double-flue brick stack in the late 17th century represents the conclusion of the process of conversion begun c.150 years earlier, again increasing the comfort of the house to reflect contemporary tastes. Associated with these changes, a radical conversion of the medieval crown-post roof to a post-medieval staggered butt-purlin form was undertaken though thankfully a high proportion of the medieval rafters were reused in this process.

The later phases of modification comprised the underbuilding of the jettied upper stories of the

end bays and the creation of a flush, brick built elevation with tile hanging to the upper storey, effectively masking the medieval arrangements of the building externally. Following the construction of the London - Ashford mainline railway in the early 1840s, the property was divided into three 'cottages' and converted for use as labourer's accommodation, in which form it remained up until a programme of conversion undertaken in 1985 restored the house to a single dwelling.

The results of archaeological excavations, undertaken following the dismantling of the building, have proved to be somewhat disappointing, the paucity of evidence exposed being the, perhaps inevitable, result of the periodical programmes of refurbishment and modification of the structure over its extended history, in particular the lowering of the internal floor levels and the laying of concrete floor slabs in the recent past.

TALBOT HOUSE, SELLINDGE, KENT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD DURING DISMANTLING FOR RE-ERECTION

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Project

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Balfour Beatty Major Projects (BBMP) to undertake a programme of architectural survey and archaeological evaluation at the Grade II listed Talbot House (formerly Railway Cottages), Sellindge, Kent (NGR: 610736 137700) during the dismantling of the house for re-erection at a new location at Swan Lane Receptor Site, Sellindge (NGR: 611446 18950). The house, a 15th-century timber framed house of classic 'Wealden' form, has been dismantled in advance of the construction of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL) in whose path it lies. The recording work was undertaken over a period of 7 weeks from 13th January 2000 to 16th March 2000.

1.2 Reasons for Work

1.2.1 Planning Background

1.2.1.1 During the passage of the CTRL bill through Parliament, Undertaking No.0033 was given to Shepway District Council (SDC) in respect of Talbot House. This undertaking was 'to fund the cost of dismantling, moving and re-erecting the building on a suitably serviced site to be provided, with the necessary planning permission by Shepway District Council, Sellindge Parish Council or some other body or individual.'

1.2.1.2 The CTRL Act 1996 disappplies the requirement for obtaining Listed Building or Conservation Area consent for the demolition of such buildings. However, the Nominated Undertaker was required to obtain agreement under Deed of Heritage (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas), from SDC for the necessary works to the structure. A Heritage Deed submission (ref: 400/SHE/1/H3) covering the dismantling of Talbot House was submitted and subsequently agreed by SDC. A separate Heritage Deed submission for agreement (ref: 400/SHE/1/H4) was made to SDC detailing the mitigation proposals for the relocation and rebuilding of Talbot House at Swan Lane on the edge of Sellindge village. An application under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 was also made to SDC (ref: 400/SHE/1/R9) for the re-erection of Talbot House as the new site was on land outside the limits covered by the Act.

1.2.2 The controlled dismantling of the building was undertaken by Dolmen (Vernacular Building Materials and Conservation Consultants). Archaeological monitoring by OAU was maintained throughout the dismantling process with a view to completing and enhancing a survey of the building undertaken by Plowman Craven Associates for Watts and Partners on behalf of Rail Link Engineering (RLE) in 1998.

1.2.3 The recording work forms a part of a wide ranging programme of archaeological recording and excavation work undertaken along the route of the proposed CTRL. The survey was undertaken in accordance with section §.5 of the 'Sub-contract: Listed

Buildings in East Kent; Method Statement for Archaeological Investigation' prepared by OAU (September 1999). A methodology is included below in section §.4.

1.3 **Presentation of this Report**

- 1.3.1 The report covers both the building archaeology and the below-ground evaluation elements of the archaeological investigation of the farm. Following a brief summary of geological and topographic background (§.2), an outline of the historical and archaeological background is given in §.3. A statement of recording methodology is given in §.4. A general description of the house in its pre-dismantling state is given in §.5, while a full account of the phased development of the building, based upon the results of the current study, is presented in §.6. Section §.7 summarises the dendrochronological analysis undertaken by Mr Daniel Miles of the Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory. The results of archaeological excavations in advance of and subsequent to the dismantling of the building are outlined in section §.8 (see also Appendix B: Technical Reports). Finally, in section §.9, the results of the current work and their significance for our understanding of the history of the building are discussed.

2 GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND AND SITE LOCATION (see Figures 1 and 2)

2.1 Geological And Topographical Background

2.1.1 Talbot House is situated on the northern edge of the Low Weald, between the villages of Sellindge and Barrow Hill, one mile ESE of Sellindge Church (Figure 1). The site lies at an elevation of between 62.03m and 63.21m above Ordnance Datum. The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey (Sheet 305/6) indicates the natural geology of the area as a Pleistocene Head Brickearth overlying the Lower Greensand Folkestone Beds.

2.1.2 The Low Weald (or Vale of Kent) represents a wide flat valley, largely underlain by heavy clays which result in generally poor quality farm land. However, where the heavy clays are overlaid by alluvium and brickearth (as is the case here) the soils can be more productive (Pearson 1994, 11).

2.2 Site Location

2.2.1 Talbot House is located to the eastern side of the main Ashford Road (A20), Sellindge, Kent (NGR: 610736 137700; Figure 2a). It is situated on a narrow plot of land sandwiched between the M20 motorway to the north and the main-line London-Folkestone railway to the south, both of which are raised upon substantial embankments (Figure 2b).

3 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The Historical Background

- 3.1.1 Talbot House lies towards the east end of Sellindge parish, whereas the church lies towards the west end of the parish (both are on the Ashford-Hythe Road). In the centre of the parish was Sellindge Lees, a large rectangular area of common land, astride the road, and by the late 18th century many of the houses were to be found around the edge of the common (as on Mudge's Map of Kent, 1801). Talbot House is thus in a relatively marginal position, near to the bridge on the East Stour river, and is likely to have been new farm made in the later middle ages.
- 3.1.2 The first firm documentary evidence for Talbot House (then known as Butcher's Farm) is the tithe map prepared in 1838 (see Figure 3) and its accompanying apportionment, agreed in 1842. At this time, Butcher's Farm was still a reasonably sized holding (c.32 acres) though with few related outbuildings. The absentee owner of the property was listed as Charles Carr and the lessee as Thomas Hills, who also rented a number of other local properties, one of which is listed as his residence in the census of 1841, suggesting that he may have used Talbot House as subsidiary accommodation (Van Sickle 1998, 6-7).
- 3.1.3 Attempts to trace the early history of the house have not been successful (see §.3.2.2), though results may in time come from a comprehensive study of land-ownership in the parish.

3.2 Previous Archaeological Works

3.2.1 The RCHME Survey

- 3.2.1.1 Talbot House was one of a total of c.450 houses included within the RCHME survey of the medieval houses of Kent, undertaken between 1986 and 1992 (reported in 3 vols.: Barnwell and Adams 1994, Pearson 1994 and Pearson, Barnwell and Adams 1994). The house was the subject of a rapid appraisal and level 2 report (NBR ref.: 40132) and a brief summary is included in *A Gazetteer of Medieval Houses in Kent* (Pearson, Barnwell and Adams 1994). The house was at that time dated to between 1450-90AD.

3.2.2 Historical Outline and Assessment

- 3.2.2.1 A separately commissioned '*Historical Outline and Assessment*', undertaken in September 1998 (Van Sickle 1998), revealed little information relating to the early history of Talbot House. It was not possible to locate the property deeds for the house, while a search of the available sources yielded no reference pre-dating the early decades of the 19th century.

3.2.3 Interpretative Survey of Farmhouse

- 3.2.3.1 An '*Archaeological Interpretative Survey*' of the farmhouse was undertaken by Archaeology South-East in March 1999 (Martin and Martin 1999). This study summarised the evolution of the structure as it was then apparent, identifying four

principal 'periods' of development down to the later 17th century. The periods can be summarised as follows:

- Period A:** mid 15th century primary build; classic 'Wealden' farmhouse
- Period B:** c.1560: insertion of floor and timber framed stack
- Period C:** c.17th century; subdivision of parlour, underbuild of eastern wall
- Period D:** mid-late 17th century; insertion of brick stack

3.2.3.2 A series of more recent changes post-dating Period D were not discussed in detail. The basic evolution of the house as defined by Martin and Martin has been supported by the evidence recorded during the dismantling process, and their basic sequence of development has been used as the basis of the historical development outlined below (section §.6).

3.2.4 Archaeological Evaluation

3.2.4.1 A programme of archaeological trial trenching was undertaken by OAU in November 1999 while a further stage of excavation in and around the building footprint was undertaken upon completion of the dismantling process. The results of these works are included in §.8 below while assessments of finds and environmental materials are given in Appendix B: Technical Reports.

4 RECORDING METHODOLOGY

4.1 The Base Survey

- 4.1.1 The base survey for the present programme of archaeological recording was previously commissioned by RLE and undertaken by PCA (Plowman Craven Associates) for Watts and Partners in 1998, comprising a full set of digitally generated plans and cross sections of the structure as then accessible

4.2 The Drawn Record

- 4.2.1 A series of plan records were made of the farmhouse based as far as possible upon pre-existing survey drawings supplied by RLE (see §.4.1.1). Plans were generated at ground floor, first floor, ceiling and eaves level. Significant structural and archaeological detail, obscured at the time of the base survey, was added as overlays to the pre-existing drawings.
- 4.2.2 A series of longitudinal and transverse cross-sectional elevations were generated again based in part upon pre-existing survey data. In certain cases, the level of new detail exposed during stripping of interior finishes necessitated the generation of new elevation drawings. Such substantial areas of new survey data were related to independently established horizontal and vertical datums and, where possible, were tied in to the pre-existing base survey drawings.
- 4.2.3 Where appropriate, timbers were recorded *ex-situ*, in particular those faces of the timbers not accessible while they were *in-situ*, paying particular attention to patterns of peg holes and redundant mortices.
- 4.2.3 Record drawings were made at a scale of 1:10 and/or 1:20, at A1 format, on archivally stable drafting film. Structural and jointing details were recorded at a scale of 1:10 and/or 1:5 as appropriate or as measured and dimensioned sketches. Primary record drawings form a part of the site archive which will be deposited at the Centre for Kentish Studies, Maidstone, Kent.

4.3 The Photographic Record

- 4.3.1 A full 'room-by-room' colour print photographic record of the condition of the farmhouse prior to the commencement of work was made by Mr Peter Massey of Dolmen.
- 4.3.2 A full black and white negative and colour slide photographic record was made by OAU of all features and details exposed during the course of the dismantling process. In addition, a general record of the appearance of the buildings within their immediate context was made. Primary record photographs form a part of the site archive which will be deposited at the Centre for Kentish Studies, Maidstone, Kent.

4.4 The Dismantling Process

- 4.4.1 Dolmen (Vernacular Building Materials and Conservation Consultants) were retained by

BBMP as principle sub-contractor for the dismantling of the farmhouse, which was undertaken in accordance with a detailed Method Statement (RLE No: 440/GCD/SBBEA/00189-00) prepared by Dolmen and approved by BBMP/RLE. The dismantling process was monitored by OAU on a full-time basis throughout the course of works and was carefully programmed so as to allow for maximum access to previously inaccessible areas of the building for supplementary investigation and archaeological recording. Full details of the process can be found in the ‘Method Statement for Dismantling’ (Dolmen 1999).

4.5 Reference Terminology

4.5.1 Plan Form and Orientation

4.5.1.1 The house is rectangular in plan and is aligned on an ESE-WNW axis. For the purpose of the current survey, this has been simplified and, to avoid lengthy orientational descriptions, the longitudinal axis of the building is assumed east-west. Thus, the original front elevation faces south (towards the railway), while the original rear elevation (the present entrance elevation) faces northwards towards the motorway.

4.5.2 The Bay System

4.5.2.1 The primary farmhouse comprised a four-bay plan (see §.6.1 below). The bays (defined by three primary cross-frames and principal rafter-couples) are numbered I-IV from east-west for the purposes of the present report; likewise, the cross-frames and related principal rafter couples are numbered CF1-CF3, again from east to west.¹ The original bay system is reflected in the later phases of development of the house and the reference system is thus maintained throughout the descriptions in sections §.5 and §.6 below.

4.5.3 The Room Numbering System

4.5.3.1 For the purposes of the present study, a system of room numbering has been generated to enable the consistent numbering of records. Each room has been assigned a unique reference comprising a continuous sequence of room numbers preceded by a single letter prefix denoting ground floor (G) and first floor (F) respectively. The numbering sequence is illustrated in Figure 6 and can be summarised as follows:

Room Number	Function / Location	Room Number	Function / Location
G1	Bathroom	F6	Bedroom (south-west)
G2	Library/Music Room	F7	Bedroom (north-west)
G3	Hall	F8	Dressing Room
G4	Lounge	F9	Storeroom
G5	Kitchen/Dining Room	F10/10a	Study / landing
		F11	Principal Bedroom
		F12	Bathroom
		F13	Bedroom

Table 4.1: Room Numbering System

¹ It should be noted that the numbering system of the cross frames and bays employed here does not reflect any original system of numbering observed during dismantling.

5 SUMMARY DESCRIPTION (see Figures 4 - 6)

5.1 Overview

5.1.1 Talbot House occupies a rectangular footprint with overall plan dimensions of 14.8m (E/W) x 7.2m (N/S), with a single storey, brick built annexe of 20th-century date, measuring 2.70m (E/W) x 4.00m (N/S), appended to the north end of the eastern elevation. Accommodation within the principal house is ranged over two storeys under a steeply-pitched, fully hipped roof. The exterior walls stand c.3.65m high to the eaves while the roof stands 8.20m to the ridge. A central, double-stack rises above the ridge, slightly west of centre, while further single flue stacks, serving ground floor fireplaces, are located centrally to the west elevation and at the eastern end of the north elevation. The principal (entrance) elevation of the house in its pre-dismantling context was oriented towards the north, though this represents a reversal of its original and historic arrangement. Further access to the house is provided by a doorway in the east elevation, accessed via the 20th-century annexe.

5.2 Exterior Elevations (see Figure 5)

5.2.1 North Elevation (see Figure 5a)

5.2.1.1 The ground floor of the elevation is in brick laid in mixed bond, bays I-III with a low, offset ragstone footing. The brickwork of this elevation is not uniform as is the case with the southern wall, and has been subject to fairly extensive rebuilding. Upon dismantling, the ground floor brickwork of bay IV was found to be a rebuilt cavity wall, while within bays II and III, an inner skin of breeze-block construction was observed; this work dates to the 1985 refurbishment of the house (see §.6.6 below). The bay system of the original timber frame survives however, and is demarcated externally by four full-height posts (CF 2 is renewed). At the eastern end of the elevation, a single-flue stack rises from ground level to a height of 6.35m. Immediately east of the stack, a straight joint is visible between the brickwork of the south elevation and the earlier brickwork of the eastern elevation. At first floor level, the elevation comprises large panel framing. Within bay IV, paired tension braces rise from a surviving girth to the vertical wall posts either side of a central stud. Within bays I-III, the bays are divided into three by paired vertical studs. Access is via a single doorway located at the west of bay III. Fenestration comprises modern wooden casements, four to the ground floor and a single example to the first floor within bay II.

5.2.2 South Elevation (see Figure 5d)

5.2.2.1 The ground floor of the elevation is again in brick throughout, laid uniformly in Flemish bond with penny-rolled pointing; the upper storey is tile hung. Fenestration is of modern (1985) wooden casements, six to the ground floor and three at first floor level. Patching in the brickwork around two of the ground floor windows denotes the location of two former doorways, blocked in 1985, before which date the property was divided into three separate cottages. Although this elevation represents the front wall of the medieval house, little can be ascertained externally of the original arrangement of the building from the present façade.

5.2.3 East Elevation (see Figure 5b)

5.2.3.1 The southern half of the elevation follows the pattern of the south elevation; Flemish bond brickwork to the ground floor with tile hanging to the upper storey. The northern half of the elevation is constructed in earlier, English bond brickwork right up to the level of the wall plate, with a single, inserted three light opening casement to the upper storey (room F13). Access is provided by a single (19th-century) segmental headed doorway set within the early, Phase IV brickwork.

5.2.4 West Elevation (see Figure 5c)

5.2.4.1 The ground floor of the elevation is in brick laid, to the south, in Flemish bond (contemporary with the south elevation) though rebuilt in an uneven, mixed bond to the north (similar to N elevation bay IV). A single flue stack, serving a ground floor fireplace, rises centrally to the elevation, battered to the south at ground floor level. The southern half of the ground floor retains elements of the primary frame; the SW full-height corner post, central wall post and a section of girth survive within the rebuilt brickwork. The upper storey of the elevation is tile hung. A single, two-light casement lights the southern first floor room (F7), while two small window windows serve room G1 at ground floor level.

5.3 Interior Arrangements (see Figure 6)

5.3.1 Ground Floor

5.3.1.1 The internal arrangements of Talbot House at ground floor level still reflect, to a great extent, the general layout and proportions of its late medieval form, following the insertion of the 16th century first floor (see §.6.2 below), with the principal exception that the formerly recessed south wall has been underbuilt along the line of the wall-plate and that the orientation of the house has been reversed with the main doorway now being located in the north wall.

5.3.1.2 Principal access is via a doorway set in the north wall, at the west of bay III. This doorway, which reflects the original location of the medieval rear door, gives onto an L-shaped hallway (G3) the western section of which represents the northern half of the transverse cross passage of the medieval house (the southern part of the cross passage is included within room G2 to the south). Hallway G3 (max.3.1m N/S x 3.4m E/W) is flanked to the west by a modern (1985) brick built wall and, to the east, by the rear of a substantial brick built stack. Hallway G3 also occupies that part of bay III lying to the north of the brick stack where a door provides access to the principal living room G4. Two doorways on the west give access to G1 (3.08m N/S x max.3.28m E/W) in the north-west corner of the house and to an axial stair rising to the first floor. The head of the western flanking wall separating the hall from room G1 is formed by the cross beam of the original cross frame CF3 which survives complete, though the walling below has been either removed completely or renewed (see §.6.1.4.2).

5.3.1.3 A doorway in the southern wall of G3, immediately adjacent to the inserted brick stack and associated bread oven, gives access to room G2. Room G2 (3.4m N/S x max.5.9m E/W) comprises a single space extending from the western exterior wall of the house, to the south of the inserted brick stack, up to the line of the principal Phase II floor beam

immediately west of CF2, the walling below the CF3 cross beam having been removed. The western and southern walls are of brick laid in Flemish bond. The room is heated by a small fireplace in the western wall and is lit by three wooden casement windows, dating to the 1985 refurbishment, in the southern wall. West of CF3, the ceiling comprises primary timbers aligned across the building so as to allow for the original jettling of the upper chamber (see §.6.1.1.6); within Bay III the ceiling comprises an intact section of the phase II inserted floor (see §.6.2.2).

5.3.1.4 The main living room of the house, G4 (6.6m N/S x 4.1m E/W), is accessed via doorways to the north and south of the inserted stack (within rooms GF3 and GF2 respectively). It occupies the full extent of Bay II and retains, essentially, the overall proportions of the reduced hall of the late medieval house, with the additional area gained by the underbuilding of the front wall to the line of the bressummer. The principal post of the central cross frame (CF2) survives in the south-west corner of the room. The west wall formed the original dais, or upper, end of the hall and close studwork survives to the northern end with a blocked doorway adjacent to the north wall (see §.6.1.4.2); the southern part of the wall has been rebuilt in brick. The northern and southern walls of the room are also of brick, dating to the 19th century or later, while the eastern side of the room is formed by a massively built, late 18th-century brick stack (see §.6.3.1) with related bread oven. The ceiling of G4 comprises an almost complete mid-16th century inserted floor (see §.6.2.2), set slightly higher than those within the end bays (see Figures 11 and 12). The room is lit by paired wooden casement windows set within the northern and southern walls.

5.3.1.5 To the east of G4, the former parlour of the medieval house (G5; 6.6m N/S x 3.0m E/W) occupies the whole of Bay I. Current access between G4 and G5 to the east is provided by a doorway formed (in 1985) by the removal of a single stud and two infill panels from the central section of the primary dais partition. The northern, eastern and southern walls are all in brick; a segmental headed doorway in the west wall provides external access via a 20th century single-storey annexe. The room is lit by windows in the northern, eastern and southern walls and is heated by an angled fireplace (Phase V), located in the north-eastern corner of the room. The ceiling throughout Bay I comprises primary timbers, those to the south aligned across the building (to allow original jettling of the upper chamber) while those to the north are aligned along the principal axis of the house. Against the northern wall, two trimmers evidence the original location of a primary, rising stair; current access to the upper floor is provided by a stair with quarter turn located in the south-eastern angle of the room.

5.3.2 First Floor

5.3.2.1 The arrangements of the upper floor are somewhat idiosyncratic as a result of the process of its evolution, particularly the insertion of a series of simple stud partitions during the 19th-century when the property was divided into three independent cottages (see Figure 40). The floor levels within bays I and IV, reflecting the level of the primary upper chambers, are set some 0.38m below that within bays II and III which comprises the surviving 16th-century floor, inserted within the original open hall of the medieval house. Originally bays I, IV and II/III were independent of each other and were served by separate stairs, an arrangement that was also adopted during the 19th century sub-division. The principal divisions at this level were, and continue to be formed by the surviving primary cross frames CF1 and CF3. Further partitions are arranged around the inserted brick stack, comprising framing related to its timber precursor, and by the studwork walls

dating to the 19th-century. Doors opened within cross frames CF1 and CF3 provide through access at first floor level; that within CF1 cuts through the primary tie and related bracing, that within CF3 is low, the reduced tie functioning as a door head.

- 5.3.2.2 Within Bay I, a stair aligned across the axis of the house rises in the south-west corner from room G5 below to a small landing. The stair is flanked to the west by CF1, rebuilt in brick at ground floor level though retaining much primary fabric above the level of the moulded dais beam. Three doorways give off the landing providing access to rooms F13 (north), F12 (east) and F11 (west). Room F13 occupies the north-eastern corner of the building and is accessed, via a single step, directly from the bay I landing. The room measures 4.2m (N/S) x 3.0m (E/W) and is lit by a single three light casement in the eastern wall. The external walls of the room are predominantly in brick, the eastern wall representing a 17th-century underbuilding of the original timber frame. A single flue stack rises in the north-east corner serving a fireplace at ground floor level. To the south, room F12 (2.6m N/S x 2.3m E/W) is also accessed directly from the bay I landing. Here, both exterior walls retain elements of primary timber framing while the internal partitions date to the 19th-century. The room is lit by single two light casement in the south wall.
- 5.3.2.3 Bay II, originally forming the 16th-century hall chamber is, in its present state, divided into two separate rooms F10 and F11, with a connecting hallway (F10a), formerly also enclosing a 19th-century stair (now covered over) serving the central of the three cottages (see Figure 40). Room F11 (4.0m N/S x 4.6m E/W) is accessed from the Bay I landing to the east via a doorway cut through the primary cross frame, truncating the Phase I tie and associated arch bracing. The western limit of the room is defined by the Phase III brick fireplace and, to the south, by relict 16th-century framing contemporary with the inserted floor. A doorway to the south of the fireplace gives access to room F8 to the west. The north wall is formed by 19th-century stud partition on line of northern limit of brick fireplace. The southern wall is timber framed, retaining elements of the Phase I hall wall including a section primary bressummer, truncated for the insertion of a three light casement window. To the south west corner of the room, the upper section of the principal post of the central cross frame (CF2) survives with a small section of truncated tie beam (see Figure 27).
- 5.3.2.4 Bay III is divided into two rooms F8 and F9 to the south and north respectively, again reflecting the 19th-century cottage arrangements. The central eastern section of bay III is occupied by the 17th-century brick built stack. Room F8 (2.8m N/S x 3.1m E/W) is accessed from room F11 to the east and also from F6 to the west via a door cut through the primary cross frame CF3, which survives otherwise intact. The south wall retains a significant proportion of primary framing including bressummer, hall wall head-plate and associated close studding. The room is currently lit by a single skylight, though evidence in the south wall indicates a former window below the wall plate. To the north of the brick stack, room F9 (max.3.4m (N/S) x 3.0m E/W) is accessed from the hallway 10a. Again the west wall comprises the intact primary cross frame CF3 while the northern, exterior wall is of modern softwood infill framing below the surviving, primary wall plate.
- 5.3.2.5 Within bay IV, an axially aligned stair rises slightly north of centre from hallway G3 to a small landing located against the western exterior wall of the house. The framing around the stair is of 19th-century date. Opposing doorways give access to rooms F6 and F7, located to the south and north respectively. Room F6 (3.5m N/S x 3.5m E/W) occupies the south-west corner of the property and retains, in its eastern and southern walls, a high

proportion of primary fabric. The eastern wall is formed by the Phase I cross frame CF3, which survives complete save for an inserted, low doorway providing through access to F8, while the southern wall includes the primary longitudinal bressummer with associated close studding. The room is lit by a single three light casement in the south wall. Room F7 (3.5m N/S x max.3.2m E/W) to the north retains primary, paired tension-braces and associated stavework in its north wall, while in the west wall a single surviving ogee brace rises from the north-west corner post to the primary wall plate. The room is lit by single double-light casement in the west wall.

6 PHASING : THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HOUSE

6.1 Phase I (mid 15th century): a classic ‘Wealden’ farmhouse

6.1.1 Plan form and internal layout (see Figure 21)

6.1.1.1 Talbot House originated, in the mid-late 15th century, as a four bay timber-framed house of classic ‘Wealden’ form. It was constructed on an east-west alignment and comprised a two-bay open hall, recessed to the south, flanked by storeyed, jettied bays to east and west below a single, fully hipped roof. The open hall was central to the plan, occupying bays II and III. The high end of the hall, with parlour and chamber beyond, was located to the east while to the west, two service rooms with a further chamber over formed the lower end. Access was via opposing doors in the north and south walls at the west of Bay III, within the area of the hall. The maximum dimensions of the ground floor building footprint were 14.8m (E/W) x 6.35m (N/S). The upper storeys of the end bays were jettied to the south by c.0.40m.

6.1.1.2 The overall plan proportions of the primary structure can be summarised as follows:

	Dimensions	Surface Area
Hall (Bays II-III)	7.84m x 6.35m	49.78m ²
Parlour (Bay I; GF)	3.03m x 6.34m	19.21m ²
Service rooms (Bay IV; GF)	3.33m x 6.34m	21.11m ²
Total ground floor area		90.10 m²
Parlour Chamber (Bay I; FF)	3.03m x 6.80m	20.60 m ²
Service Chamber (Bay IV; FF)	3.33m x 6.80m	22.65 m ²
Total first floor area		43.25m²

Table 6.1: Overall proportions of primary building

6.1.1.3 Though the walls of the primary building stood fairly low, measuring 3.6m to the eaves (3.72m to the south where reversed assembly was used), this was compensated by the lofty roof which, standing 8.20m to the ridge, more than doubled the overall height of the structure.

6.1.1.4 As noted above, the hall occupied bays II and III and would, in its original form, have been open to the roof. The bays of the hall are near-equal in length (Bay II = 3.90m, Bay III = 3.84m). The principal tie and moulded crown-post of the central cross-frame (CF2) were removed during the 16th century, at the time of the insertion of the Phase II floor, and the original appearance of the open ‘truss’ is unfortunately left to speculation. The ‘upper’ end of the hall was located at the eastern side of bay II; the status of the partition being emphasised by a moulded and crenellated dais beam with close-studwork partition and incised daub infill panels below. At the north end of the dais partition, a doorway with deeply chamfered head gave access to the parlour beyond. Details recorded at the northern end of the dais beam indicate the original existence of a projecting spere, serving to protect the dais bench from draughts from the unheated parlour beyond. The parlour occupied the full extent of bay I at ground floor level. A stair set against the north wall of bay I ascended to a chamber above, again occupying the full extent of the bay. At the ‘lower’ end of the hall central, paired doors gave access to two service rooms (traditionally ‘pantry’ and ‘buttery’) while to the north, a third doorway gave directly

onto a rising stair mirroring the parlour stair within bay I and serving a further chamber, occupying the full extent of bay IV.

6.1.1.5 Principal through access was via a cross or ‘screens’ passage located at the low end of the hall, occupying the western part of bay III, served by opposing doors set within the north and south walls. Doors were of ‘durn’ type, the northern of which partly survives in an altered state within the extant structure, while the evidence of redundant mortices, recorded within the front and rear first floor girths, indicates the original existence of projecting speres to the eastern side of the passage which would have served to protect the main body of the hall from draughts from the exterior doorways. No evidence has been recorded during the present study to indicate how far these speres originally projected into the body of the hall, and the possibility exists that the feature could have taken the form of a screen extending across the full width of the house.

6.1.1.6 Bays I and IV were both furnished with upper storeys. To the southern (front) half of the house plan, the Phase I floor joists (av. 200mm x 140mm - 8 x 5½ in. scantling) were aligned across the width of the building so as to allow for jettied out of the front elevation. Mortices recorded in the soffit of the central joist of each end bay evidence the former location of jetty brackets. To the rear (north) of the building, the joists were aligned parallel to the principal axis of the building. The longitudinal trimmer beams supporting the southern, transverse joists were of similar scantling to the joists themselves.

6.1.2 The Main Elevations

6.1.2.1 The principal elevation of the house (see Figure 22a) was oriented towards the south. The main front wall was recessed from the line of the principal longitudinal bressummer by some c.0.40m, the upper storeys of bays I and IV being jettied out to the eaves line and the hall wall being recessed in classic ‘Wealden’ style. The bressummer forms the main horizontal member running the full length of the eaves on the line of the jettied end bays (I and IV). It measures 180mm wide x 200mm deep (7 x 8 in.) and is formed in three sections, being scarfed at CF1 and CF3. Within bays I and IV, the bressummer forms the head of the southern chamber walls and examination of the soffit evidences the form of the original close-studded wall frame and the location of the primary windows (see §.6.1.6 below). The studs of the chamber walls were set flush to the outer edge of the bressummer. Riven oak lathes were applied to the internal face of the studs, daub applied to both sides and limewashed. Longitudinal grooves located towards the inner edge of the bressummer soffit indicate that the windows were originally closed by sliding shutters. Within bays II and III, the bressummer is not directly supported, the hall wall being recessed from the line of the eaves. This ‘flying’ section of bressummer was carried by two curved, longitudinal braces rising from the jowled jetty posts of CF1 and CF3 while further support was provided by a transverse bracket rising from the central post of the hall wall at CF2 (Figure 27 and Plate 1, right). The



Plate 1: Phase I close studwork of upper hall wall, bay III (note transverse bracket. CF2).

framing of the front wall is in reversed assembly, the longitudinal bressummer being dovetailed over the transverse ties of CF1, 2 and 3, this arrangement being necessary so as to allow the 'flying' central section of the bressummer. The principal elevation was infilled with robust (150mm x 110mm, 6 x 4¼ in. scantling @ 300mm centres) close-studwork throughout. Unusually much of the studwork, including the storeyed end bays and of the lower hall wall (ie. below the girth) employed fully pegged joints, only the upper hall wall displaying un-pegged joints. No evidence for additional bracing was recorded within the front elevation.

- 6.1.2.2 The jowled and splayed heads of all wall posts within the front elevation are all turned through 90° and are oriented towards the centre of the building (ie. no attempt was made to create the illusion of cross wings in bays I and IV) and were tenoned to the soffit of the bressummer to counter the diagonal pressure of the roof.
- 6.1.2.3 The south wall of the hall, recessed from the eaves line by 0.40m, was independently framed. The recessed hall wall was formed of close studding (140mm x 110mm / 5½ x 4¼ in. scantling at c.310mm / 12in. centres); a number of the studs remain *in-situ* to the west of CF2 while the surviving plate soffit displays regularly spaced (unpegged) mortices. An unusual feature of the framing is the detail employed at the junction of the hall and the storeyed end bays. Here, the wall head-plate (170mm wide x 180mm deep, c.6½ x 7 in.) was supported by full-height, secondary posts located immediately adjacent to the lower wall posts of CF1 and CF3 (see Figure 26).² The western storey-post survives complete, tenoned into a fragmentary remains of a 220mm (8¾ in.) square sill beam; to the east the storey post has been truncated below the level of the side girth of the hall wall. The plate is scarfed just to the west of CF2 using an edge-halved and bridled joint with under-squinted abutments (see Figure 31b). The head plate was further supported at the centre of the hall by the full-height wall post of CF2.
- 6.1.2.4 Within bay III, a surviving section of girth provides further evidence for the original arrangements of the house. The surviving section, 3.50m in length, measures 225mm deep x 140mm wide (9in. x 5½in.) and is supported by the full height storey post at CF3 to the west and by the southern post at CF2 to the east to which it is tenoned. Redundant mortices in the eastern face of the CF2 post and the storey post at CF1 evidence the former continuation of the girth within bay II. The soffit of the surviving section of girth again displays (pegged) mortices for close set studwork and, adjacent to the CF1 storey post, evidence in the form of a multi-pegged mortice for the former principal door access to the screens passage. To the east of the former door, evidence in the form of a horizontal mortice in the girth signifies the location of a former spere/screen partition - an arrangement reflected to the north.
- 6.1.2.5 At the junction with the western wall frame, the corner post, being turned through 90° so that the splayed head runs along the line of the principal elevation (as opposed to across the depth of the building) is tenoned to the underside of the bressummer which is, in turn, dovetailed over the upper face of the wall plate of the western elevation. At CF3, the bressummer is dovetailed over the top face of the projecting tie, the jowled head of the jetty post is again turned through 90° along the line of the principal elevation and tenoned to the underside of the bressummer thus providing additional support to the longitudinal

² This represents one of the less common solutions to the problem of framing at the junction of hall and storeyed end bays in houses with the classic, recessed Wealden façade. Martin and Martin (1999, 4) have identified similar examples at Battle and Ticehurst in Sussex and at arkfield in Kent

timber (see Plate 2, right). Further support is given to the 'flying' section of bressummer by arch bracing rising from the jowled jetty post and tenoned to the soffit of the longitudinal plate. Details at CF1 reflect those at CF3 while at the junction with the eastern wall frame, details mirror those recorded to the west, described above, producing a fully symmetrical arrangement.



Plate 2: Reversed assembly at CF3 (S).

- 6.1.2.6 The rear elevation of the house was orientated towards the north. In the absence of the problem of accommodating a recessed wall, the frame was here constructed in 'standard' assembly (i.e. with the ties dovetailed over the longitudinal plate), with all jowled wall posts aligned transversely across the width of the building. The treatment of the façade was of a less expensive, more utilitarian nature reflecting the relatively lower status of the elevation. Within bays I and IV, large panel framing with exposed bracing was employed, while within bays II and III, paired studs and infill panels applied to oak staves would appear to have been used (though these areas have been subject to subsequent alterations). Primary framing only survives to the first floor of bay IV, where deep, paired tension braces either side of a central stud triangulate the girth and posts. The braces begin high up the posts and extend almost to the centre of the bay. This pattern was originally repeated at ground floor level, though this is today apparent only from the evidence of redundant brace mortices within the north-western corner post and the southern post of CF3. Similarly, within bay I, the pattern of original framing can be reconstructed from mortices in the surviving wall plate, girth and southern post of CF1 (the north-eastern corner post has been lost). At ground floor level the pattern would appear to have been similar to that recorded in bay IV, while at first floor level the bracing was of opposing arch braces rising from low down the posts to the centre of the wall plate either side of a central stud. This combination of both arch and tension bracing within a single elevation, resulting in an asymmetrical façade, reinforces the perceived lower status of the rear elevation.

6.1.3 The End Elevations

- 6.1.3.1 The original appearance of the end walls is a little more difficult to define with any degree of certainty. Three quarters of the eastern (parlour) elevation have been rebuilt in brick (Phases III and IV), while to the west the rebuilding of the ground floor in brick and the insertion of a single flue stack have likewise destroyed much evidence for the original arrangements (see Figure 5b and c). However, the evidence of redundant mortices within partially surviving plates, girths and posts can again be used to reconstruct, at least in part, the primary appearance of the end walls.
- 6.1.3.2 The original arrangement of the eastern (parlour) elevation is difficult to reconstruct in any detail, having been extensively rebuilt. However, paired ogee tension braces do survive at first floor level towards the south (front) of the building, arranged to each side of vertical stud (see Figure 16). An interesting feature of the eastern elevation is the

central post, which displays an axially aligned jowled head with redundant teazle tenon. Such an arrangement would suggest the original presence of an axial 'tie' spanning from the eastern hall wall to the exterior of the house. While such an arrangement within a Wealden house is structurally superfluous, such architectural elaborations are not uncommon in the parlour chamber, some even being further embellished with false crown-post, giving the impression of a cross-wing (Pearson 1994, 97). What is interesting at Talbot House is that no corresponding evidence was recorded within the tie of CF1 to support such an interpretation. That the post is in its primary location is evidenced by the fact that it carries the trimmer for the Phase I transverse floor joists and it is thus probable that the post represents a re-used timber, and that the teazle tenon has always been redundant.

6.1.3.4 The western (service) elevation retains its central full height post, girths, a small section of sole plate and its north-western corner post (see Figure 15). At first floor level, to the rear of the house a single ogee arch brace survives triangulating the corner post and the wall plate. A partially surviving brace mortice in the soffit of the wall plate suggests that this arrangement was mirrored to the front of the house. The frame between these braces would appear to have been subdivided by two vertical studs set to either side of the central, full-height wall post. It is probable that a further window, lighting the parlour chamber, was located between these studs, though no direct evidence for such an arrangement was recorded. Two opposing, unpegged mortices in the lower section of the wall post may represent the location of a sill for windows at ground floor level.

6.1.4 The Cross Frames

6.1.4.1 Internally, the bay system of the house was defined by a series of three cross frames, here numbered CF1 - CF3 from east to west (see Figure 21). CF1 and CF3 were both originally closed, forming the upper and lower ends of the hall respectively; both survive to a great extent within the extant structure (see Figure 24). Above the level of the cross beams, the walls are each divided into four panels by a series of three vertical studs, the panels being crossed by a series of deep braces which were originally exposed to both sides of the wall. The form of this bracing is, ostensibly, similar in both cross frames with arch braces rising to the centre and to the outer walls of the house producing a symmetrical pattern. Details of the bracing, however, are not uniform and, unusually, several of the braces rise from the cross beam to the tie as opposed to the normal arrangement of triangulating a horizontal and vertical member of the frame. At high level in each elevation, the tie beams support crown posts, slightly biased towards the front of the building, which are braced by paired, ogee tension braces.

6.1.4.2 The treatment of the of the cross beams themselves and the form of the infill below reflect the differing status and practical requirements of their locations at either end of the hall. The cross beam of CF1 (the dais beam) at the high end of the hall is deep (200mm x 240mm, 8 x 9½ in. scantling) and is moulded with a crenellated upper edge (see Figure 29). Below the cross beam, the wall is again formed of close studwork (the northern section of which survives *in-situ*) with infill panels of daub applied to lathes nailed to the rear of the studs. Several of the studs display large peg holes, presumably originally supporting the dais bench. Beneath later applications of wall paper, plaster and limewash, the surface of the five surviving primary infill daub panels retained incised decoration, formed with a five-toothed comb and displaying a variety of abstract designs though including a representational example showing the life size profile of a standing human figure (panel 5, Figure 30). At the northern limit of the dais partition, evidence

was recorded for a former draught spere, and for a doorway with deeply chamfered head originally serving the parlour beyond. By contrast, the cross beam of CF3 is of slighter scantling (170mm x 160mm, 6³/₄ x 6¹/₂ in.) and is entirely plain. Although all original fabric of the lower wall has been removed during later alterations, peg holes and redundant mortices in the soffit of the beam evidence two centrally placed doors (serving the service rooms) and a doorway to the northern end serving a stair rising to the chamber over (evidenced by a 'missing' Phase I joist mortice in the western face of the beam). The panel to the southern end of the wall was originally crossed by an upward (arch) brace rising from the jetty post to the soffit of the cross beam.

6.1.4.3 CF2 was originally open, being the central frame of the open hall; the tie and moulded crown-post of CF2 were removed at the time of the insertion of the Phase II floor, the rear post was renewed during an early programme of repair following the failure of the rear wall (see §.6.1.9 below). All that remains of this cross frame is the hollow-chamfered northern principal post (max. 380mm x 270mm, 15 x 10¹/₂ in. scantling), a short section of cut-off tie (260mm x 300mm, 10¹/₄ x 11³/₄in.) and the transverse bracket supporting the flying section of bressummer (see Figure 27). Insufficient detail survives to attempt any form of detailed reconstruction of the principal open truss of the hall.³

6.1.5 The Roof

6.1.5.1 Much of the fabric of the original roof survives and, though having undergone substantial reconstruction, a fairly detailed reconstruction of its original form can be made. The primary roof structure was steeply sloped (52° from horizontal), fully hipped to east and west and was of crown-post form. Within the body of the hall, a total of 15 common rafter pairs were originally tied at collar level. Collars were mainly jointed to the rafter pairs using central tenons, though in certain instances simple lap joints are employed. The collars were supported on a longitudinal crown plate which was in turn supported by crown posts at the three principal cross frames. Crown posts survive to both the upper and lower ends of the hall (see Figure 31a), that to the west retaining its arch brace and a short length of primary collar purlin (Plate 3; right) which displays a scarf joint of similar form to that employed within the southern bressummer and wall head-plate. The crown post / collar purlin joint employed to each end of the roof vary; to the east, the purlin was housed and pegged while to the west a central tenon survives presumably originally jointing to the soffit of the purlin.⁴ The collar purlin extended



Plate 3: Surviving crown-post, arch brace and collar purlin at CF3.

³ The reconstruction in Figure 23 is entirely conjectural and is included solely to illustrate the overall proportions and theoretical arrangement of the hall.

⁴ The western crown post displays an additional, redundant pair of mortices for lateral braces set high in the post, suggesting that this timber may be reused.

beyond the cross frames and was tenoned into the central jack rafters of the hipped ends, which were themselves carried upon short yokes set high in the rafter couple adjacent to the cross frames. The original form of the central crown-post and associated bracing are unknown as these features were removed, along with the central tie, at the time of the insertion of the Phase II floor (see §.6.2 below).

6.1.6 Fenestration

6.1.6.1 Evidence for primary fenestration was recorded in a number of locations. At first floor level, *in-situ* evidence was recorded in the soffit of the principal longitudinal bressummer of the south elevation within bays I and IV. This clearly indicates that each of the upper rooms of the storeyed end bays were furnished with two-light window openings (*c.*1.30 wide) located centrally within their southern walls, with internal sliding shutters running in a longitudinal groove. A redundant mortice in the western jamb of the bay I opening indicates that the windows were originally 0.70m tall). Evidence for the fenestration of the lower rooms of bays I and IV was recorded *ex-situ* from a timber retrieved during dismantling (see Figure 28; WP-38 - post flanking western stair) which reasonably represents a re-used jetty plate from either bay I or bay IV. The soffit of the plate displays mortices for window jambs (0.15m wide at 1.40m centres) and a further central post dividing the window into two lights, each with three 'diamond' profile mullion mortices. As with the first floor windows, a 0.20m deep longitudinal groove along the inner edge of the soffit evidences the original existence of a sliding shutter. The central post would originally have been tenoned into the soffit of the central, jettied floor joist, mortices for which were identified in both bays I and IV (see Figure 7).

6.1.6.2 Later alterations to the structure, namely the removal of a section of hall head-plate, the whole of the bay II girth and midrail/sill⁵ make the original location and form of the main hall window difficult to define with any degree of certainty. However, the presence of a pegged stud mortice within the eastern section of surviving plate in all likelihood represents the eastern jamb of the original window opening (other studs, being non-structural, were not pegged at this level, though see §.6.1.2.2 above). That the next surviving stud mortice, 2.25m to the west, is of unpegged form suggests that the original window was less than 2m wide. In this context, the presence of a notch in the south-westernmost joist of the Phase II inserted floor (see Figure 35) may be informative. As noted below (§.6.2.2.3), certain on-site adaptations were made to this floor to facilitate its introduction into the pre-existing house structure which raises the possibility that this notch may have been made to accommodate the eastern jamb of the hall window. If this were the case the main hall window would thus have been centrally located within bay II and would have had overall dimensions of *c.*1.4m wide x 2.40m tall. The window would have been divided vertically by the bay II girth, set at the same height as that surviving in bay III, and horizontally by a central post or 'king mullion'. The absence of 'diamond' profile mortices in the soffit of the surviving section of plate west of the pegged stud mortice suggests that the original mullions would have been set into a secondary window head spanning between the jambs slightly below the level of the plate.

6.1.6.3 The main hall window would have originally been mirrored in the rear (north) elevation, though evidence for the primary arrangement is again scant; the wall plate to bay II has

⁵ The bay II mid-rail, though missing, is evidenced by surviving double pegged mortices in the southern posts of CF1 and CF2 (see Figure 12).

been renewed and the extant girth may well represent a secondary insertion, related to either the early programme of repair to the Phase I building or to the insertion of the Phase II floor.⁶ Evidence recorded in the soffit of the extant girth, which is embellished with a deep stop chamfer to the interior, indicates an opening 1.2m wide, separated into four lights by three plain, rectangular mullions, each light having a central, narrow glazing bar. Examination of the upper surface of the girth, however, revealed no evidence for a corresponding upper opening, displaying only two post mortices and a 'v'-profile groove for staves. The implied arrangement of a ground floor window would more reasonably be associated with the Phase II ground floor hall.

6.1.7 Infill Panels

6.1.7.1 Throughout, primary panels were infilled with wattles, principally of hazel (though including some ash and willow) woven between cleft oak staves and rendered with a thick application of earth based daub. Onto this had been spread a thin layer of plaster, which was then whitewashed.

6.1.8 The Date of the Primary Building

6.1.8.1 All timbers within the surviving primary frame were noted to be of fast grown oak with no more than 40 growth rings evident in any individual timber. The timbers were thus, unfortunately, not suitable for dendrochronological sampling and dating of the primary structure must be based upon stylistic analysis. This said, it is fortunate that the Wealden frame includes a number of diagnostic features which, taken together, may be used to define a fairly tight date range for the primary structure. These features include:

- the combination of close studding and large panel infill
- the form of the close studwork itself
- the incorporation of 'ogee' bracing in exterior walls and cross frames
- the similarity of trimmer and joist scantling in the storeyed end bays
- the form of scarf joints used in the principal longitudinal members

6.1.8.2 Taken together, these features are suggestive of a date of *c.*1460 for the original construction.

6.1.9 Phase I(b) : early failure and repair of the rear wall

6.1.9.1 At an early stage, a significant structural defect resulted in the failure of the rear wall necessitating a substantial programme of repair. These repairs included the replacement of a section of the rear plate (Bay III) and the northern (rear) post of CF2. That this failure and repair occurred at an early date is indicated by the fact that the inserted floor (Phase II) takes into account the repairs undertaken to the Phase I frame; the Phase II joists spanning from trimmer (E) to the north wall, in particular, were observed to rest upon the sloping, renewed Phase I girth and have been cut, on-site, to compensate for the inclination of this timber so as to produce a finished horizontal floor at first floor level.

⁶ That the girth is jointed to the renewed CF2 post by the use of a free tenon suggests it represents a later insertion / alteration.

6.2 **Phase II (c.1550-60): the insertion of a first floor within the hall**

The first identifiable phase of alteration to the structure occurred in the middle years of the 16th century and comprised the insertion of a floor into the open hall of the house including an integral timber-framed stack backing onto the cross passage of the primary house, replacing the former open hearth in the centre of the hall.

6.2.1 Plan Form and Layout (see Figure 32)

6.1.2.1 In plan, the house maintained its overall Phase I footprint and it would appear that the arrangements within the storeyed end bays remained unchanged. The principal internal modification comprised the vertical and horizontal subdivision of bays II and III by the insertion of a floor and related timber stack backing onto the screens passage. This modification resulted in a reduction of the hall floor area by c.50%.

6.2.2 The Inserted Floor (see Figure 35)

6.2.2.1 The inserted floor structure comprised two distinct elements arranged to either side of the principal N-S aligned floor beam (A, Figure 35), located immediately west of CF2. This beam (180mm x 280mm, 7 x 11in.scantling) defines the western limit of the newly reduced hall and also formed the mantle beam of the integral timber stack (see §.6.2.3). Two mortices in the soffit of the beam formerly housed upright posts to each side of the 2.86m wide fireplace opening. To the north and south of the fireplace, doors gave access to the screens passage and to a newly formed newel stair respectively (the framework of the southern door survives *in-situ*).

6.2.2.2 To the east of the inserted stack, Bay II continued to function as the hall, in its new form measuring 4.10m (E/W) x 6.34m (N/S), giving a reduced floor area of 26m². The inserted floor structure was supported on a heavy (310mm x 240mm / 12½ x 9½ in.) axial beam (B, Figure 35), aligned east-west and double tenoned to the principal beam to the west with an upper diminished haunch (see Figure 36). To the east, the main girder was supported by the pre-existing Phase I dais beam upon which it rested directly. Tertiary, transverse beams (C and D, Figure 35; 240mm x 200mm / 9½ x 8 in.) aligned N/S, were single tenoned to the girder again using diminished haunch joints. To the north and south, the transverse beams were supported by the pre-existing Phase I side girths (that to the south has subsequently been removed, see §.6.4 below). Throughout, the carpentry of the floor, though plain, is of good quality; all principal timbers of the floor being plain chamfered with stepped runout stops, each quadrant of the floor comprising nine axially aligned common joists (110mm x 180mm - 7 in. x 4½ in.) similarly embellished with plain chamfers, stopped flush with the transverse beams. That the common joists are aligned along the building indicates that the house retained its central recess at this stage as opposed to becoming fully jettied as is often the case.

6.2.2.3 Details of the inserted floor clearly indicate that the floor was pre-fabricated away from site, and that a number *ad hoc* adaptations had to be made to overcome the problems of fitting the floor into a pre-existing building. This is perhaps most clearly evidenced in the treatment of the eastern limit of the floor frame where the main axial beam (B) and common joists simply rest upon packing pieces atop the dais beam, or in certain cases are housed within shallow notches made in the tension braces of the Phase I cross frame (see Figure 36b). Further evidence of prefabrication was recorded in the unused mortice for the south-westernmost common joist of the floor, the joist having been truncated due to the presence of the main post of CF2 (into which it is lodged) immediately east of the

principal floor beam (see Figure 35).

6.2.2.4 To the west of the principal floor beam (A) within Bay III, the inserted floor displays details related to the arrangement of the inserted timber stack, a stairwell serving the newly created hall chamber and the continued use of the ‘cross passage’ served by the Phase I doorways in the northern and southern walls. A pair of longitudinally set girders (E and F, Figure 35), biased slightly towards the rear (north) of the house, flanked the new fireplace. The soffits of these timbers display regularly spaced mortices originally housing staves for the daub side panels of the new fireplace (see §.6.3). Between the girders, a series of 5 joists aligned along the axis of the building originally rested, to the west, upon the cross beam of CF3 (evidenced by cutting to shape of the joist ends to accommodate the pre-existing Phase I bracing) and to the east were tenoned into a transverse trimmer (G; retrieved from Phase III ceiling during dismantling). The removal of the bay IV jetty plate, at the time of the brick underbuilding of the front elevation, and the truncation of the full height storey-post into which it was originally jointed resulted in the buckling of CF3 westwards, and necessitated a series of *ad hoc* repairs to the Phase II floor to compensate for the resulting shortfall of the joists (see §.6.4.3 below). To the north of girder (E), the floor is formed of a series of 7 stop-chamfered transverse joists, tenoned into (E) to the south and carried upon packing pieces atop the Phase I girth to the north. The joists have been truncated to the north, a result of on-site adaptation to fit the floor into the pre-existing house. To the south of girder (F), the line of the rear fireplace trimmer is continued by a principal joist (H), stop-chamfered to its western leading edge only and originally forming the head of a transverse partition. To the west of (H), four common joists span from girder (F), to which they are tenoned, to the southern wall of the house where they are simply lodged over the Phase I girth. The western of these joists is stop-chamfered to its eastern leading edge only indicating that, in its original arrangement, it was set flush with the Phase I cross beam of CF3. The area to the east of joist (H) and south of girder (F) housed a newel type stair serving the newly formed hall chamber, and was accessed from the hall (see §.6.2.4.2).

6.2.3 The Timber Stack

6.2.3.1 Contemporary with the insertion of the new timber floor within the open hall, and integral to the structure of this floor, a new timber framed stack was introduced with a large open fireplace serving the ground floor hall and backing onto the cross passage. This stack would have replaced a Phase I open hearth located centrally within the hall.⁷ The fireplace opening at ground floor level was 2.86m wide and 1.46m deep and was flanked by daub panels applied to vertical staves (evidenced by stave holes in the soffit of the flanking girders, E and F). Stave holes recorded in the soffit of the original rear trimmer for the stack (G), identified and retrieved during dismantling of the Phase III upper chamber ceilings (south of the brick stack in Bay III), indicate that the rear of the fireplace was similarly formed, at least in the upper part, of daub panels. The mantel of the fireplace at ground floor level was formed by the principal cross beam (A) of the inserted floor. The lower leading edge of beam (A) is plain chamfered between two mortices originally housing posts (200mm x 200mm, 8 x 8in. scantling) flanking the fireplace opening. The plain chamfer of the mantel beam returns at each end as a ‘mason’s mitre’ and would have originally continued down inner edge of the flanking posts. To the north of the stack, the frame included a new door serving the hall which, in

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The archaeological evaluation trench within the hall revealed traces of beaten clay floor surfaces displaying signs of burning which may relate to an early open hearth (see §.8.2.2.5).

combination with the framing in of the stair to the south of the stack, effectively separate off completely the principal room of the house from the entrance way. This doorway was significantly wider, at 0.98m, than the southern door (0.78m wide), reflecting its higher status as the main entrance to the hall. Stave mortices within the soffit of (A) between the flanking posts of both doors indicate that they would originally have been furnished with dropped heads.

6.2.3.2 While the arrangement of the timber stack at ground floor level can be reconstructed in some detail and with a reasonable degree of certainty from surviving evidence, the form of the stack above the level of the inserted floor is a little more problematical. However, fragmentary details recorded in the upper surfaces of the flanking beams, the rear trimmer and at high level within the roof allow for a conjectural reconstruction to be made. Dovetail mortices on the inner face of stack trimmers (E and F, Figure 35) indicate that the eastern face of the flue at first floor level was set back by some 0.40m from the leading edge of the ground floor mantel beam (A). A series of 'v'-profile stave seatings to the west of the mortices in both the northern and southern trimmers would appear to indicate that the flue at first floor level was fully enclosed (as opposed to a 'smoke bay' arrangement) and that the flue was again flanked by daub panels. An angled lap mortice in the collar immediately above the front face of the flue at first floor level may indicate that the southern face of the flue tapered towards the roof line (see Figure 33b). It is unclear whether the northern face of the flue was similarly tapered.

6.2.4 The Revised Circulation Pattern

6.2.4.1 As noted above (§.6.2.1), the overall plan form of the building in Phase II remained ostensibly unchanged with the insertion of the new floor. However, the introduction of the timber stack with related stair meant that the circulation pattern was significantly altered, access to the hall being via a new doorway to the north of the stack (ie. towards the rear of the house), fully integral to the framing of the inserted floor. This arrangement served to separate off the hall completely from the cross passage, thus increasing both the privacy the comfort of the reduced hall. The newly formed hall chamber measured 6.35m (N/S) x 4.50m (E/W) giving a floor area of 28.60m², slightly larger than that of the hall, the result of the west wall of the chamber being offset by c.0.40m relative to the west wall of the lower room. It would appear that during Phase II, all upper chambers remained open to the roof; the ceilings recorded during the dismantling process included re-used timbers from the structure of the Phase II stack, and thus must date from Phase III at the earliest.

6.2.4.2 Certain modifications were necessary to accommodate the newly formed upper rooms. To the south of the timber-framed stack a stair, accessed from the hall, gave access to the newly formed upper chamber within the floored over bay II. The framing of the doorways serving the new stair survive within the extant structure to an extent sufficient to allow for a reconstruction of their original arrangement. The doors would appear to have been ostensibly one above the other, the upper door being slightly, though not fully, offset to the north; such an arrangement would suggest a central newel type stair as opposed to a 'winder' layout. The stair was closed off from the cross passage to the west by a studwork wall on the line of joist H (Figure 35) of the floor structure, coincident with the rear of the timber stack. Such an arrangement would not easily accommodate access to the area above the cross passage, which must thus have been accessed around the north of the stack. This space, occupying half of bay III, was most likely used as a store related to the newly formed hall chamber; a small window with diamond mullions

was formed in the south wall, below the bressummer, by the removal of two primary studs (see Figure 32).

6.2.5 The date of the inserted floor

6.2.5.1 A programme of dendrochronological sampling and analysis undertaken as a part of the current project has allowed for a felling date range of 1546-66AD to be assigned to the timbers used within the structure of the inserted floor and associated features. A full dendrochronological report is given below in section 7.

6.3 **PHASE III (late 17th - early 18th century) : the insertion of the brick stack**

In the mid-late 17th century, the phase II timber stack was removed and replaced by a double flue, brick-built stack serving fireplaces at ground and first floor level (hall and hall chamber). Contemporary with this work, the roof underwent a major rebuild, the first floor chambers were ceiled for the first time and the parlour was subdivided.

6.3.1 The Brick Stack (see Figure 39)

6.3.1.1 The Phase II timber stack was removed and replaced, on the same site, by a double-flue, brick built stack serving superimposed fireplaces at ground and first floor level. The bricks employed in the construction of the stack were of ave. 240mm x 65mm x 295mm (9½ x 2½ x 3¾ in.), though including several longer (280mm / 11in.) examples, and were set in a pale cream, lime based mortar with struck pointing. The flues were originally finished with a daub lining which survived in parts.

6.3.1.2 At ground floor level, the face of the new stack was set some 400mm to the west of the Phase II mantel (A; Figure 35), which was necessarily left *in-situ* as it also functioned as the principal beam of the inserted floor.⁸ The fireplace recess at ground floor level measured 2.86m wide x 1.05m deep and stood 1.60m tall. Above the level of the original lintel, the brickwork was coved eastwards to infill the space between the front face of the ground floor fireplace and beam (A), thus creating a support for the hearth slab for the first floor fireplace. The first floor fireplace, which displays a curved rear wall, measured 1.24m wide x 0.52m deep and stood 1.15m tall to the soffit of its timber mantel beam. The stack, as recorded, stood to a maximum height of 8.95m though that section above the level of the ridge has been rebuilt obscuring the original height of the stack.

6.3.1.3 Details of the stack, including the size of bricks employed in its construction, the form of the coved brickwork support for the first floor hearth slab and the curved back to the first floor fireplace, taken together, suggest a late 17th- or early 18th-century date for this phase of work (Martin and Martin 1999, 13).

6.3.2 Roof Repairs

6.3.2.1 Contemporary with the introduction of the double-flue brick stack, a major programme of repair to the roof was undertaken. The western hip was rebuilt and that section of the crown-post roof west of the new stack (Bay II-W and Bay III) was replaced by a three bay roof of staggered butt-purlin form, though reusing a large number of original rafters (see Figures 19 and 20). To the east of the stack, a section of the original roof with collar

⁸ The original mantel beam for the ground floor Phase III fireplace has subsequently been replaced by a RSJ.

purlin and related lateral brace survive (see Plate 3, p.20).

6.3.3 Insertion of ceilings to upper chambers (see Figure 10).

6.3.3.1 It was also during this phase of work that the three first floor chambers, formerly open to the roof, were ceiled for the first time so as to effect a reduction in internal draughts. In the hall chamber (east of the stack) the ceiling comprises a series of 10 pairs of transverse joists supported by a single a central, axial girder. To the east, the central girder is notched into the Phase I cross frame (see Figure 13), while to the west it is supported by the newly inserted framing above the level of the first floor fireplace lintel. The joists of the inserted ceiling display a consistent sequence of carpenter's marks with adjacent pairs being numbered I-V from west to east, those to the north of the axial girder being distinguished by an additional 'tick' (see Figure 10). Within bay III, the ceiling was supported by a pair of girders located to the north and south of the brick stack respectively. Ceiling joists within the end bays are aligned along the axis of the building.

6.3.3.2 The phasing of the ceiling over of the chambers is clearly indicated by the fact that the southern girder of the ceiling to the west of the brick stack comprises the reused rear trimmer of the dismantled Phase II timber stack (see Figure 10).

6.3.4 Modifications to the Parlour

6.3.4.1 Probably contemporary with the introduction of the brick stack, the northern half of the eastern wall of the house was underbuilt to wall plate level in brick, laid in English bond, while the parlour itself was subdivided by an axial partition wall (subsequently removed).

6.4 PHASE IV: the underbuilding of the front elevation

In the 18th or early 19th century, a radical change was made to the external appearance of the house (if not to its internal arrangements) when the recessed front (S) wall of the hall and ground floor end bays were underbuilt in brick to create a flush elevation.

6.4.1 The reordering was most dramatic in the front elevation, where the jettied end bays were underbuilt at ground floor level in brick, laid in Flemish bond with penny rolled pointing. This brickwork extended across the recessed hall at ground floor level, the upper part of bays II and III (below the bressummer) being infilled with secondary studwork supporting tile hanging (see Plate 4, right). Thus the formerly distinctive, recessed wall of the medieval house was transformed into a flush



Plate 4: Bay 3(S); Phase I studwork with inserted studwork beyond (below bressummer) for support of tile hanging.

elevation of brick at ground floor level with a tile hung upper storey. The western elevation and the southern half of the eastern elevation were similarly rebuilt in brick at ground floor with tile hanging to the upper storey. It is unclear whether the tile hanging

was extended to the upper storey of the northern elevation at this phase; if it was, it has been subsequently removed to expose the remnants of the phase I timber frame.

6.4.2 Following the underbuilding of the front elevation, the (now structurally superfluous) timber-framed walls at ground floor level could be removed resulting in a gain of usable floorspace (though it should be noted that this gain was minimal at only 3.65m²). At first floor level however, the original close studwork of the recessed upper hall wall was left *in-situ*.⁹ The removal of the lower framing necessitated certain structural modifications; props were introduced to support the southern end of transverse beam (D) of the phase II floor, formerly supported by the phase I girth, and to support the southern end of the CF3 cross beam (see Figure 12). In the latter instance, the removal of the bay IV jetty plate, jetty post and the truncation of the storey post at CF3 resulted in the ‘buckling’ westwards of the CF3 cross beam and the related shortfall of the Phase II axial joists recorded within G3 (see §.6.2.2.4).

6.4.3 A certain amount of internal reordering was evidently undertaken at the same time as the underbuilding of the front elevation, evidenced by the re-use of the Bay I/IV jetty plate as the southern flanking post of the central axial stair within Bay IV. The exact extent of this reordering has been obscured by later alterations.

6.5 **PHASE V (c.1840): the conversion to three cottages** (Figure 39).

Following the passing of the South Eastern Railways Act of 1836, the main line rail connection from London to Ashford was opened in 1842 and through to the south coast at Folkestone in the following year. The route of the line passed immediately south of Talbot House upon a substantial embankment, which had a significant detrimental effect upon the setting of the house. It is at this time that the ownership of Talbot House transferred into railway hands, firstly to the South Eastern Railway Company and eventually to the British Rail Properties Board. The property was divided into three separate dwellings (‘Railway Cottages’) and was used as accommodation for rail employees, plate layers and track maintenance workers.

6.5.1 The division of the property into three independent dwellings necessitated certain practical modifications, specifically the restriction of through access at ground and first floor levels, the creation of independent, exterior access at ground level and the provision of vertical access within the central part of the building (‘Cottage 2’). Also dating to this phase are a series of simple stud partitions, with lath and plaster render applied to one face only, introduced at ground and first floor level to subdivide the larger, pre-existing rooms in a manner more suitable to their new use. The insertion of a new staircase within north-western quadrant of the Phase II floor, providing access between ground and first floor within Cottage 2, entailed the removal of three Phase II joists (see Figure 35).

6.5.2 The internal arrangements of the three newly created ‘cottages’ can be summarised as follows (compare Figures 6 and 39):

Cottage 1 (*West*): 3 beds., living room, kitchen and store. Overall floor area: c.63m²

- *Access*: opposed doorways in the north and south elevations (Bay III W - ie. original medieval door openings). An additional door in northern part of west elevation.

⁹ ie. There was no gain in usable floor space at first floor level.

- *Ground Floor*: Bays III and IV (rooms G1, G2 and G3 with the exception of that part of G2 south of the brick stack). G1 and G3(N) contained the kitchen while G2 provided living room accommodation. A small storeroom was located off the kitchen, occupying the area to the north of stack. The living room was heated by single fireplace in west wall.
- *Stair*: axially aligned stair occupying southern part of G1
- *First Floor*: Bay IV (rooms F6 and F7) with the southern half of bay III (room F8). Each room provided bedroom accommodation, none heated.

Cottage 2 (Centre): 3 beds., living room, kitchen, store. Overall floor area: *c.*73m²

- *Access*: doorways in north wall, Bay II(W) and south wall, Bay II(E).
- *Ground Floor*: Bay II (room G4, with addition of that section of G2 lying to the south of the stack). At this point, G4 was divided into 2 rooms by an axially aligned partition, located just the north of axial floor beam (B). The kitchen was housed in the northern room, while the southern room provided living room accommodation. The living room was served by the reduced, Phase III brick fireplace.
- *Stair*: axially aligned stair located in NW quadrant of G4 (within the area of the of kitchen, hard against the partition wall).
- *First Floor*: Bay II (rooms F10 and F11) with the northern part of Bay III (room F9). Each room provided bedroom accommodation, the principal bedroom (F11) being heated by the Phase III fireplace.

Cottage 3 (East): 2 beds., kitchen, living room. Overall floor area: *c.*36m²

- *Access*: via single doorway in centre of east elevation.
- *Ground Floor*: occupied full extent of Bay I (room G5) at that time subdivided into living room (N) and kitchen (S). The living room was heated by a single, angle fireplace to the NE corner.
- *Stair*: transversely aligned stair occupying western part of Bay I (S).
- *First Floor*: occupied full extent of bay I (rooms F12 and 13), comprising 2 bedrooms, neither heated.

6.6 PHASE VI (1985): the reversion to a single dwelling

In 1984, 'Railway Cottages' were sold into private hands and a programme of building works undertaken to revert the house to a single dwelling. The works comprised both external refurbishment (e.g. re-roofing) and internal re-ordering related to the new arrangements (creation of through access / blocking of superfluous doors, stairs etc.).

6.6.1 Proposal drawings lodged at the Shepway District Council Planning Department (Planning Application No.: SH/85/0119) summarise the works related to the reversion of Talbot House to a single dwelling. The application was granted on 24th May 1985.

6.6.2 The main works are referred to in a series of three proposal drawings ('as proposed' and 'as existing' elevations and plans) and can be summarised as follows:

- Re-roofing, including renewal of some peg tiles.
- Renewal of windows and blocking of doors x2 to south elevation.
- Partial rebuilding of north ground floor wall.
- New door between hall and parlour: proposals refer to the removal of 'lath and plaster'.
- Central stair in No.2 Railway Cottages blocked.
- Phase 2 door at 1F level (south of timber stack), formerly blocked, reopened - removal of lath and plaster and intermediate stud.

6.6.3 Most of the above works were readily apparent within the structure of the house, while during the dismantling process it was established that the 'partial rebuilding' of the ground floor north wall was, in reality, fairly extensive including the complete renewal of the walling in bay IV and substantial repair within bays II and III. It is not clear whether the reference to the removal of 'lath and plaster' infill from the dais partition wall reflects a known fact, established by prior investigation (suggesting that perhaps a doorway had been located here in the past) or whether it represents an assumption regarding the nature of the walling material. If the latter were the case, the possibility exists that a further two incised daub panels similar to those described above (§.6.1.4.2) may have been removed at this late date.

6.7 Unphased Features

6.7.1 A number of events were recognised during the dismantling of the building, though it has not been possible to securely place them within the chronology outlined above. These events include the following:

- *Introduction of bread oven:* the bread oven to the rear of the ground floor fireplace is evidently not contemporary with the Phase III brick built stack as, upon dismantling, a clear straight joint between the brickwork of the two structures was noted while render to the rear wall of the stack survived *in-situ* behind the brickwork of the later feature.
- *Opening of doors within primary cross frames to create through access at first floor level:* it is not clear at what time through access was first created at first floor level. It would seem unlikely to have been undertaken at Phase II, when the three chambers would appear to have maintained their independence, reflected by the provision of individual stairs.
- *Infilling of Phase I parlour door:* the blocking material of the Phase I doorway situated at the north end of the eastern hall wall, originally providing access between the hall and parlour, included a number of double pegged roofing tiles with a surface application of straw-tempered daub similar in nature to that recorded in the infill

panels above the dais beam, related to repairs undertaken at the time of the insertion of the Phase II floor. This would appear to suggest an early date for the relocation of this door. Other evidence however indicates the layout and function of the Phase II hall, though reduced in scale, remained fundamentally unchanged from the Phase I arrangements and nothing related to the insertion of the floor would actually necessitate the relocation of the parlour door. It would be dangerous to assign an event to a certain phase purely on the evidence of daub composition and the phasing of this event thus remains unclear.

- *Closing over of Phase I stairs:* no specific evidence was recorded for the closing over of the original stairs serving the parlour and service chambers.

7 DENDROCHRONOLOGICAL REPORT by Daniel H. Miles ¹⁰

7.1 Methodology

- 7.1.1 The building was carefully assessed for dendrochronological suitability, but none of the primary phase timbers appeared to have more than 40 rings, and most had less than 30. They had clearly come from fast-grown, complacent, trees which would not have the minimum number of rings necessary for successful cross-matching.¹¹ The inserted floor was also assessed for dating potential, and a number of joists and the axial beam were found to have a sufficient number of rings to warrant sampling.
- 7.1.2 All samples were of oak (*Quercus* spp.) and were taken from what appeared to be primary first-use timbers. Of these, only those timbers which looked most suitable for dendrochronological purposes with complete sapwood or reasonably long ring sequences were selected. The timbers were sampled through coring, using a 16mm hollow auger and were subsequently plugged and stained to match the surrounding surface. The locations of the samples are shown in Table 1 and on the plan in Figure 35.
- 7.1.3 The dry samples were sanded on a linisher using 60 to 1200 grit abrasive paper, and were cleaned with compressed air, to allow the ring boundaries to be clearly distinguished. They were then measured under a x10/x30 microscope using a travelling stage electronically displaying displacement to a precision of 0.001mm, rounded to the nearest 0.01mm. After measurement, the ring-width series for each sample were plotted as a graph of width against year. The graphs of each of the samples in the phase under study were then compared visually at the positions indicated by the computer matching and, when found satisfactory and consistent, were averaged to form a mean curve for the site or phase. This mean curve and any unmatched individual sequences were then compared against dated reference chronologies to obtain an absolute calendar date for each sequence.
- 7.1.4 Here this was accomplished by using a combination of both visual matching and a process of qualified statistical comparison by computer. The samples were first matched by computer, and then independently visually checked with graphs. When an undated sample or site sequence is compared against a dated sequence, known as a reference chronology, an indication of how good the match is must be determined. Although it is almost impossible to define a visual match, computer comparisons can be accurately quantified. Whilst it may not be the best statistical indicator, Student's *t*-value has been widely used amongst British dendrochronologists. The cross-correlation algorithms most commonly used are derived from Baillie and Pilcher's Belfast CROS programme (Baillie and Pilcher 1973), compared on an IBM compatible PC. A version of this and other programmes were written in BASIC by D Haddon-Reece, and latterly re-written in Microsoft Visual Basic by M R Allwright and P A Parker.
- 7.1.5 In comparing one sample or site master against other samples or chronologies, *t*-values over 3.5 are considered significant, although in reality it is common to find demonstrably spurious *t*-values of 4 and 5 because more than one matching position is indicated. For

¹⁰ Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory.

¹¹ A 'rough estimate', perhaps as high as 30-40% of houses using fast grown oak has been proposed by Pearson in discussing the problems of establishing a firm chronology for Kentish buildings (1994, 151).

this reason, dendrochronologists prefer to see some t-value ranges of 5, 6, and higher, and for these to be well replicated from different, independent chronologies with local and regional chronologies well represented. Where two individual samples match together with a t-value of 10 or above, this may suggest they originated from the same tree.

- 7.1.6 Once a tree-ring sequence has been firmly dated in time, a felling date, or date range, is ascribed where possible. With samples which have sapwood complete to the underside of, or including bark, this process is relatively straight forward. Depending on the completeness of the final ring, i.e. if it has only the spring vessels or earlywood formed, or the latewood or summer growth, a *precise felling date and season* can be given. If the sapwood is partially missing, or if only a heartwood/sapwood transition boundary survives, then an *estimated felling date range* can be given for each sample. The number of sapwood rings can be estimated by using a statistically derived sapwood estimate with a given confidence limit. Although an accepted sapwood estimate for British and Irish oaks is between 10 and 55 rings with a 95% confidence range (Hillam *et al* 1987), work in Kent by Nottingham University produced a new sapwood estimate of between 15 and 35 rings (Howard *et al* 1993, 46). This was based on a sample base of 18 timbers, with a small number of others from the south-east with substantial amounts of sapwood present. This estimate of 15 - 35 years has been used throughout this report. If no sapwood or heartwood/sapwood boundary survives, then the minimum number of sapwood rings from the appropriate sapwood estimate is added to the last measured ring to give a *terminus post quem* or *felled after* date.

7.2 Presentation of Results

- 7.2.1 The results are summarised in Table 7.1 (page 35) which includes most of the salient results of the dendrochronological process. From left to right, the first column gives the sample number which comprises a three letter identifying prefix, after which each timber is given an individual number. The next column shows whether the sample was from a core ('c') or from a section or slice from a timber ('s'). Next, the timber sampled is detailed along with a location reference.
- 7.2.2 The next three columns give the first measured ring and last measured ring dates of the sequence (if dated) and the date of heartwood/sapwood transition or boundary if present. This date is critical in determining an estimated felling date range if the sapwood is not complete to the bark edge. The column headed 'sapwood' gives the number of sapwood rings. If the sapwood is complete to bark edge, with a full ring with complete spring or summer growth, then a 'C' is shown, indicating felling during the winter months. Spring felling is indicated by a '¼C' and a summer or autumn felling is indicated by a '½C'. The next column gives the total number rings in the individual sample analysed. The following three columns give the mean ring width, the standard deviation, and the mean sensitivity of the sequence.
- 7.2.3 The final column of the summary table indicates the actual felling seasons and dates for each dated sample (if complete sapwood is present), or an estimated felling date range based on the last heartwood ring date and taking into account any surviving sapwood. Sometimes it will be noted that earlier end of the range will be before some other samples within the group with precise felling dates. This is nothing to be overly concerned about so long as the outer limit of the range is *after* the precise dates. It must be remembered however, that estimated felling date ranges are based on a 95% probability and therefore,

statistically, one sample in 20 will actually fall *outside* this range.

7.3 Results

- 7.3.1 Five timbers were sampled and included the axial beam from the centre bay (***tbh1***), two joists (***tbh2*** and ***tbh5***), the centre transverse beam (***tbh3***), and the partition head on the south of the smoke hood (***tbh4***). Two samples, a joist and the centre transverse beam, retained complete sapwood, and the others had partial sapwood or heartwood/sapwood transition. Ring counts ranged from 46 to 117 years (Table 7.1).
- 7.3.2 Three of the samples, ***tbh1***, ***tbh4***, and ***tbh5***, were found to match together as shown in Table 7.2. These were combined to form the site master ***TALBOTHs*** with 117 rings (Table 7.3). The site master was compared with the reference chronologies and found to date, spanning the years AD 1427-1543 (Table 7.4).
- 7.3.3 Of the three dated timbers, none retained complete sapwood. However, all retained the heartwood/sapwood transition, allowing estimated felling date ranges to be given. Sample ***tbh1*** from the axial beam produced a felling date range of 1547-67, sample ***tbh4*** from the partition head on the south of the smoke hood dated to 1548-68, and sample ***tbh5*** from a joist dated to 1543-63. By taking an average of all three heartwood/sapwood boundaries of 1531 produced a felling date range of 1546-66 for the group as a whole (Miles 1997).
- 7.3.4 Two samples failed to date, despite having 80 and 114 rings. Regrettably, both of these retained complete sapwood.

7.4 Acknowledgements

- 7.4.1 The author is grateful for the on-site assistance of Mr. Michael Worthington and Mr. Ric Tyler. Acknowledgements are also given to the Ancient Monuments Laboratory of English Heritage, and to the Sheffield University Dendrochronology Laboratory, for both published and unpublished data.

Sample Number and type	Timber and Position	Dates AD spanning	H/S boundary	Sapwood compliment	No. of rings	Mean Width (mm)	Std Devn (mm)	Mean Sens (mm)	Felling Seasons and date/date ranges
TALBOT HOUSE SELLINDGE									
<i>Inserted floor to hall</i>									
* <i>tbh1</i> c	Axial beam	1427-1543	1532	11	117	1.58	0.69	0.229	1547-67
<i>tbh2</i> c	2 nd joist from N, W bay of inserted floor	----		20¼C	80	1.66	0.70	0.169	
<i>tbh3</i> c	Centre transverse beam	----		29C	114	1.99	1.19	0.277	
* <i>tbh4</i> c	Partition head S of smoke hood	1465-1535	1533	2	71	2.10	0.93	0.211	1548-68
* <i>tbh5</i> c	4 th joist from SW inserted floor	1483-1528	1528	H/S	46	2.01	0.53	0.180	1543-63
* = TALBOTH'S Site Master		1427-1543	1531		117	1.85	0.68	0.195	1546-66

Sapwood estimate of 15-35 rings used, as per Nottingham Kent sapwood estimate (Howard *et al* 1993)

Key: * = sample included in site-master; c = core; mc = micro-core; g = graticule; ⊕ = pith included in sample; Φ = within 5 rings of centre; Ω = within 10 rings of centre
 ¼C, ½C, C = bark edge present, partial or complete ring: ¼C = spring (ring not measured), ½C = summer/autumn, or C = winter felling (ring measured);
 H/S bdry = heartwood/sapwood boundary - last heartwood ring date; std devn = standard deviation; mean sens = mean sensitivity

Table 7.1: Summary of tree-ring dating

SAMPLE:	<i>tbh4</i>	<i>tbh5</i>
Last ring date AD:	1535	1528
<i>tbh1</i>	$\frac{4.76}{71}$	$\frac{2.64}{46}$
	<i>tbh4</i>	$\frac{4.25}{46}$

Table 7.2 : Matrix of *t*-values and overlaps for components of *TALBOTHs*

TALBOTHs AD 1427-1543

Talbot House, Sellenge, inserted floor - mean of samples *tbh1* + *tbh4* + *tbh5*

117 rings, starting date AD 1427

RING WIDTHS (0.01MM)										NUMBER OF SAMPLES IN MASTER									
220	252	362	269	220	217	183	151	184	208	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
207	236	255	357	161	167	201	173	205	235	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
246	256	227	133	118	184	182	202	135	178	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
166	131	93	160	163	175	293	202	232	249	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2
217	232	193	268	267	364	373	238	374	327	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
158	277	254	228	229	176	223	246	213	306	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3
296	234	212	248	150	159	131	145	161	209	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
145	138	137	137	140	122	137	136	128	130	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
127	158	143	144	157	141	145	178	145	151	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
158	194	156	138	187	255	148	177	131	168	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
151	167	113	101	123	90	84	127	193	100	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
97	77	98	77	61	52	55				1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Table 3: Ring-width data for site master curve

REFERENCE CHRONOLOGY	SPANNING	OVERLAP	<i>t</i> - VALUE
SOUTH (<i>Hillam and Groves 1994</i>)	406-1594	117	4.61
LONDON (<i>Tyers pers com</i>)	413-1728	117	4.80
GASKYNS2 (<i>Miles and Worthington forthcoming</i>)	1440-1555	104	4.95
GIERTZ (<i>Siebenlist-Kerner 1978</i>)	1341-1636	117	5.00
SHALFRD2 (<i>Miles and Worthington 2001</i>)	1403-1574	117	5.05
NCADBRY2 (<i>Miles and Worthington 1998</i>)	1452-1574	92	5.07
HANTS97 (<i>Miles 1997a</i>)	1041-1972	117	5.10
MASTERAL (<i>Haddon-Reece and Miles 1993</i>)	404-1987	117	5.28
WIGBORO (<i>Miles and Worthington 1997</i>)	1447-1584	97	5.45
WALES97 (<i>Miles 1997b</i>)	404-1981	117	5.53
PLAISTOW (<i>Bridge 1998</i>)	1461-1580	83	6.82

Chronologies in **bold** denote regional masters

Table 7.4: Dating of *TALBOTHs* (AD 1427-1453) against reference chronologies at AD 1543

Table 7.4: References

- Bridge, M C, 1988 List 24 - Tree-ring dates, *Vernacular Architect*, **19**, 45.
- Haddon-Reece, D, and Miles, D H, 1993 *Working compilation of 190 British reference chronologies supplied by various researchers*, unpubl. computer file *MASTERAL*, the author.
- Hillam, J, and Groves, C, 1994 *Compilation of master chronologies from the South*, unpubl. computer file *SOUTH*, Sheffield Dendrochronology Laboratory.
- Miles, D H, 1997a *Working compilation of 55 reference chronologies centred around Hampshire by various researchers*, unpubl. computer file *HANTS97*, Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory.
- Miles, D H, 1997b *Working compilation of 58 reference chronologies centred around Wales by various researchers*, unpubl. computer file *WALES97*, Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory.
- Miles, D H, and Worthington, M J, 1997 Tree-ring dates, *Vernacular Architect.*, **28**, 159-181.
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8 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

8.1 The Earlier Building

- 8.1.1 The evidence of excavations suggests that there may have been an early (?C14th) building/ house on the site before the construction of the Phase I Wealden house recorded during the building study. Such remains were, however, so scant as to not allow for any informed reconstruction of the pre-Phase I site layout to be made.

8.2 The Phase I House

- 8.2.1 Talbot House represents an interesting, though unremarkable, example of a traditional 'Wealden' farmhouse of the mid-15th century. The Wealden house, combining a recessed, open hall and storeyed, jettied end bays beneath a single unitary roof, is the most common single type of medieval house to be found in Kent. With its low walls and total ground floor area of 90m², Talbot House is in the mid-range of the 127 examples of Wealden house recorded during the RCHME study of Medieval houses in Kent (Pearson, 1994, 71; Table 67).
- 8.2.2 The structure as recorded during dismantling retained a relatively high proportion of its original fabric, despite having undergone several phases of adaptation and modification. This high survival allows for a fairly confident reconstruction of the original appearance of the house to be made, though certain elements, such as the central open truss, remain subject to speculation. The house displays a standard range of structural features and decorative details, though it also includes a number of less common structural details (eg. the detail at the junction of the hall and the storeyed end bays - Figure 26).
- 8.2.3 That close studding was employed only in the front elevation and in the lower section of the dais partition reflects its use as a signifier of status, representing as it does, a relatively extravagant use of timber resources. Interestingly, and somewhat unusually, the close-studwork throughout most of the elevation was of deep scantling and was pegged top and bottom, with no apparent use of additional bracing.
- 8.2.4 The series of five 'combed' daub panels revealed below the dais beam of the hall during the dismantling of the house represents a feature of particular, intrinsic interest.¹² The survival of this type of decorative surface treatment, though not unknown, is by no means common (Barnwell and Adams 1994, 123). Pearson identifies only one certain example of plaster with incised decoration at ground floor level in her discussion of c.450 medieval houses in Kent (1994, 93), and thus the Talbot House panels can be seen to represent a particularly significant find. The inclusion here of a vernacular, representational human figure would appear, at this stage, to be unique and unparalleled feature and it is unfortunate in this respect that the timbers of the primary building were unsuitable for dendrochronological sampling, as the feature remains dated only on stylistic grounds.
- 8.2.5 With the exception of possible traces of an early hearth, archaeological evidence from

¹² The panels were removed for conservation and are currently housed at the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton, West Sussex.

below-ground about occupation of the medieval house has been disappointing, principally as a result of the recent introduction of concrete flooring throughout the building which has served to remove, almost completely, traces of earlier occupation.

8.3 **The Phase II House**

- 8.3.1 The insertion of an upper floor within the hall of the house and the enclosure of the fireplace in the mid-16th century represents an almost universal and widely acknowledged development of the traditional medieval open hall. Such improvements reflect a fundamental change in attitudes toward comfort and privacy, and were fuelled by a significant contemporary redistribution of wealth in favour of the landed, food producing classes, of the middle stratum of society, the lesser gentry and Yeomen.
- 8.3.2 The chronology and the physical processes by which this adaptation from open hall to storeyed house took place are, however, by no means uniform and while certain modifications to pre-existing timber houses are apparent as early as the second half of the 15th century, open halls continued to be built anew until well into the 16th century and the fully-storeyed house with brick stack did not become the norm until the 17th century (Pearson 1994, 108).
- 8.3.3 Talbot House's inserted floor of *c.*1550-60, though relatively plain in its detailing, is remarkable in its almost complete survival and several unusual features. The completeness and detailing allow for a fairly full understanding of the functioning of the house following this significant change. The integral single flue, timber-framed stack and the stair located adjacent to the stack, serving the new hall chamber, are features of interest. The complete separation of the hall and entrance passage served to significantly improve the comfort and privacy of the principal room of the house.

8.4 **The Phase III House**

- 8.4.1 The replacement of the simple, single-flue timber stack by the double flue brick stack represents the conclusion of the process of conversion begun in Phase II. The hall continued to function as before while the quality and comfort of the hall chamber was improved by the provision of an additional upper fireplace. Associated with these changes, a radical reordering of the roof structure was required, comprising the rebuilding of the western hip and the substantial conversion of the medieval crown-post roof to a post-medieval staggered butt-purlin form, though reusing a high proportion of the medieval rafters. The upper chambers were, for the first time, closed by the insertion of ceilings. The combination of a brick stack with a ceiled and fully plastered interior would have served to greatly reduce draughts and would thus have significantly increased the domestic comfort of the property.

8.5 **The Later Phases**

- 8.5.1 The underbuilding of the jettied front elevation in stone or brick represents a common modification of medieval buildings in the post-medieval period (Barnwell and Adams 1994, 40). The effective gain in usable floor area resulting from this modification was negligible (3.65m² or *c.*4%) and it is more probable that the aesthetic desire to create a

flush elevation was the deciding factor in undertaking such a significant programme of building works.

- 8.5.2 The construction of the London - Folkestone main line railway in the early 1840s had a negative impact upon the location and setting of Talbot House. It was thus perhaps inevitable that the property should move into the ownership of the Railways Property Board and be used as accommodation for railway employees; the division of the house into three separate cottages reflects this relative downgrading of its social status.

8.6 **Archaeological Investigation**

- 8.6.1 The results of archaeological excavations following the dismantling of the building have proved to be somewhat disappointing, the paucity of evidence exposed being the, perhaps inevitable, result of the periodical programmes of refurbishment and modification of the structure over its extended history, in particular the lowering of the internal floor levels and the laying of concrete floor slabs in the recent past.
- 8.6.2 The archaeological investigation of the building during dismantling has, however, produced valuable information about its original form and the various phases of its development and alteration. While the more recent restoration activities have reduced the amount of information that could be obtained about the stratigraphy of decorative schemes, or under-floor deposits, the current study has nonetheless been a worthwhile activity.

8.7 **Talbot House Rebuilt**

- 8.7.1 Talbot House has now been rebuilt within Sellindge parish at a new site in Swan Lane (NGR: 611446 18950), not as the multi-period house that was dismantled, but as a partially restored Wealden house. The rebuilding project has sought to restore the original exterior appearance of the medieval structure with its distinctive recessed hall and jettied end-bay arrangement, while internally the central truss and crown-post have been reintroduced. The purpose of the restoration was not, however, to create a historically correct, single-phase reconstruction and the rebuilt house also reflects its subsequent stages of development by retention of later features of significant interest, in particular the 16th-century inserted floor and 17th-century brick stack.

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Appendix A: Copy of DoE List Entry

TR 13 NW

SELLINDGE

BARROW HILL
(North-East side)

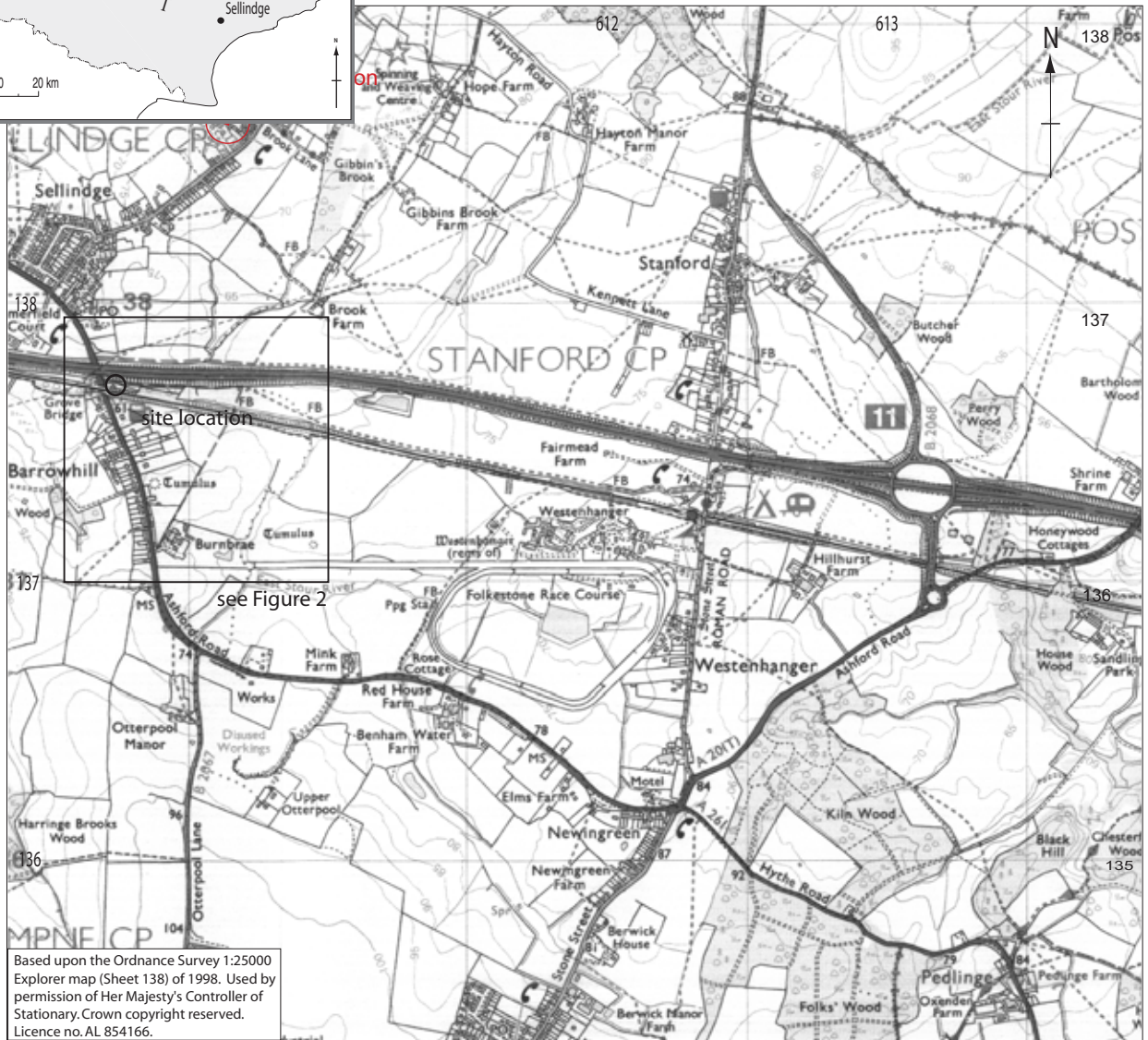
Railway Cottages

3/74

11.5.73

II

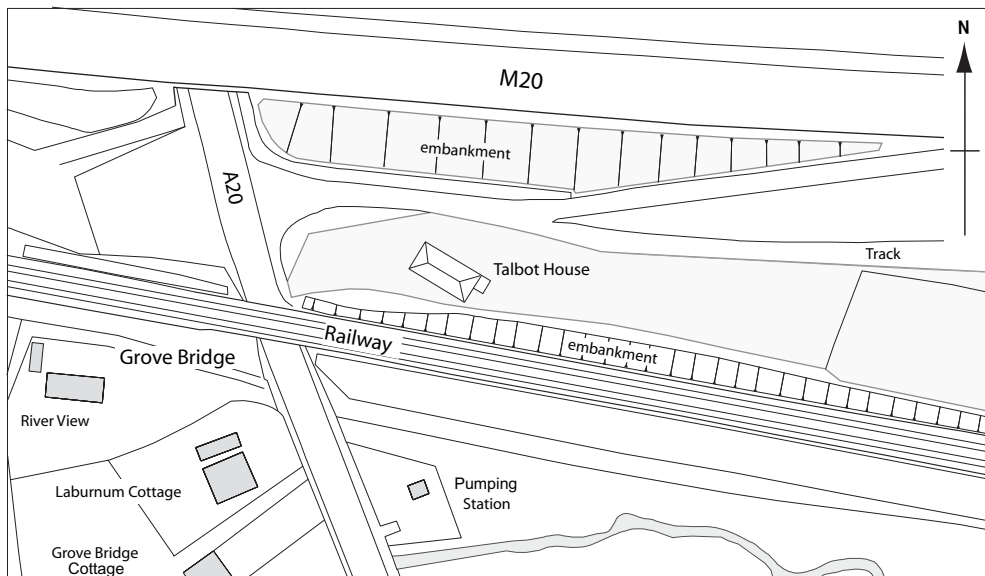
House, formerly house row, now house. C15, restored 1980s. Timber framed. Ground floor clad with red brick in mixed bond. Exposed framing to first floor, with rendered infilling. Plain tile roof. 4 timber-framed bays, central 2 probably open hall. 2 storeys, on stone plinth. Slightly higher midrail to 2 central bays. Broadly spaced studding. 2 tension braces to right end bay. Steeply-pitched hipped roof with gablets. Slender projecting stack to left end of front elevation. Multiple brick ridge stack to left end of right hall bay. Projecting gable end stack to right. Irregular fenestration of one two-light casement, to left hall bay. Four c20 wooden casements to ground floor. Panelled door within durns to right end of right hall bay. Interior not inspected.



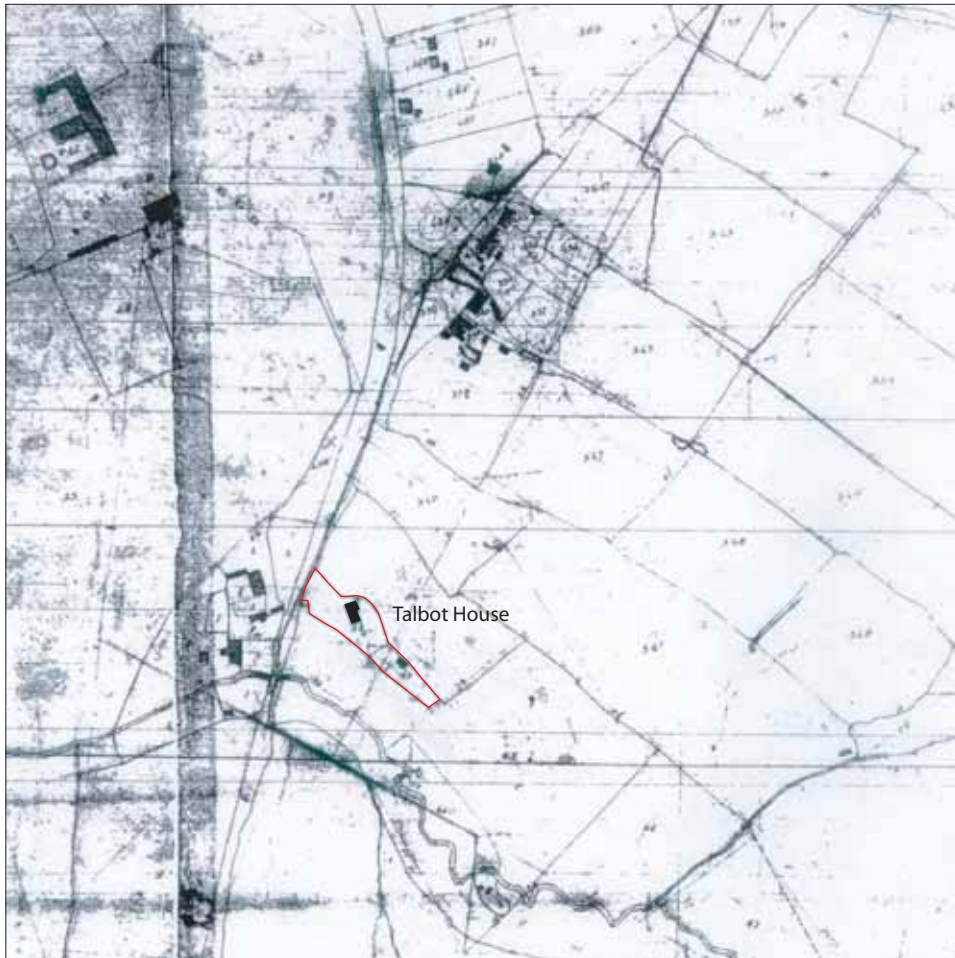
Based upon the Ordnance Survey 1:25000 Explorer map (Sheet 138) of 1998. Used by permission of Her Majesty's Controller of Stationary. Crown copyright reserved. Licence no. AL 854166.



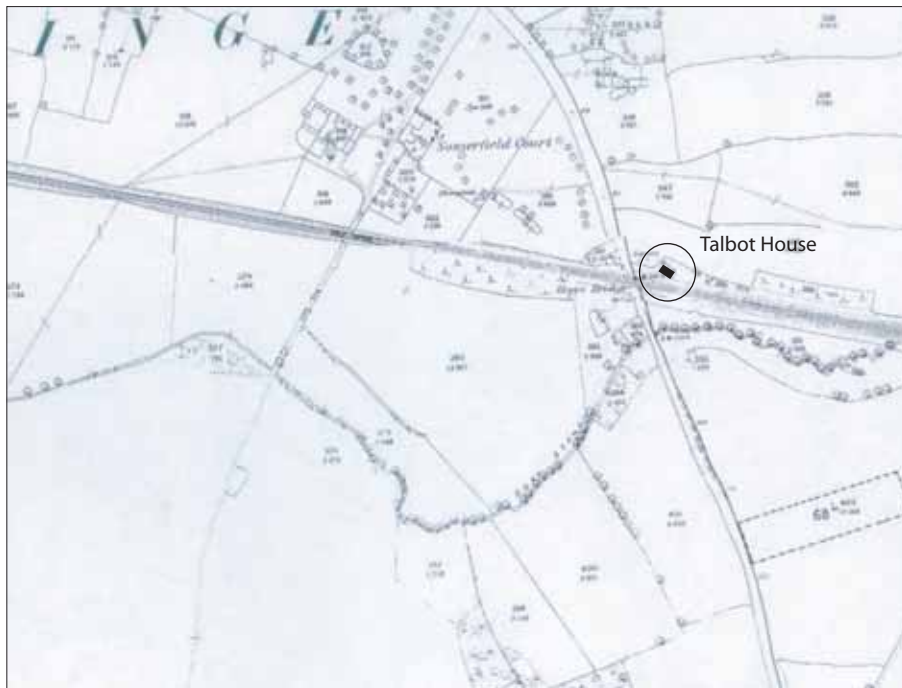
(a) Location plan at 1:2500



(b) site layout



(a) Sellindge tithe award map of 1838



(b) First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1819



(a) Talbot House photographed from the north-east in 1993



(b) View from the south-west in 1993



(a) North elevation



(b) East elevation

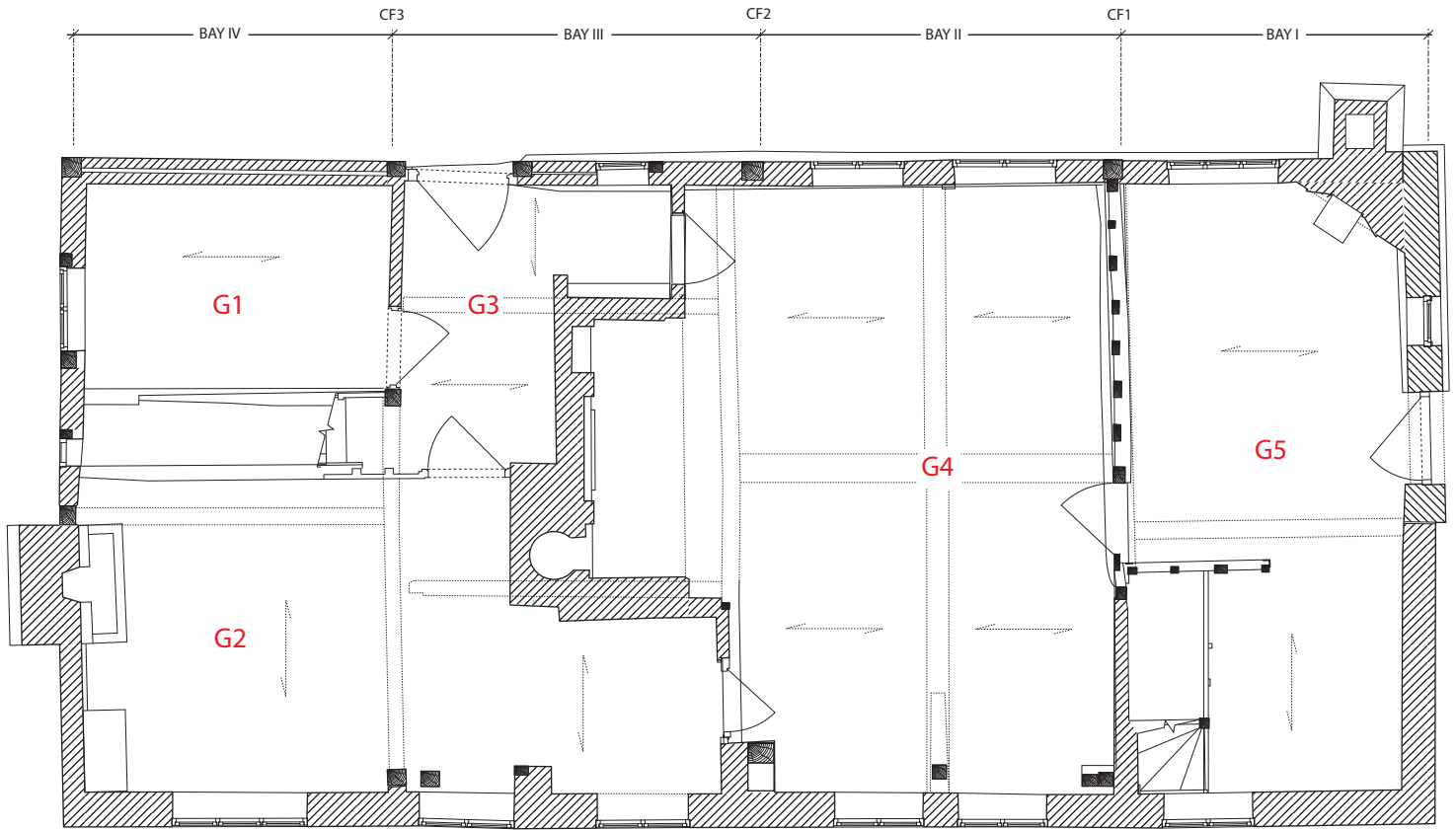


(c) West elevation

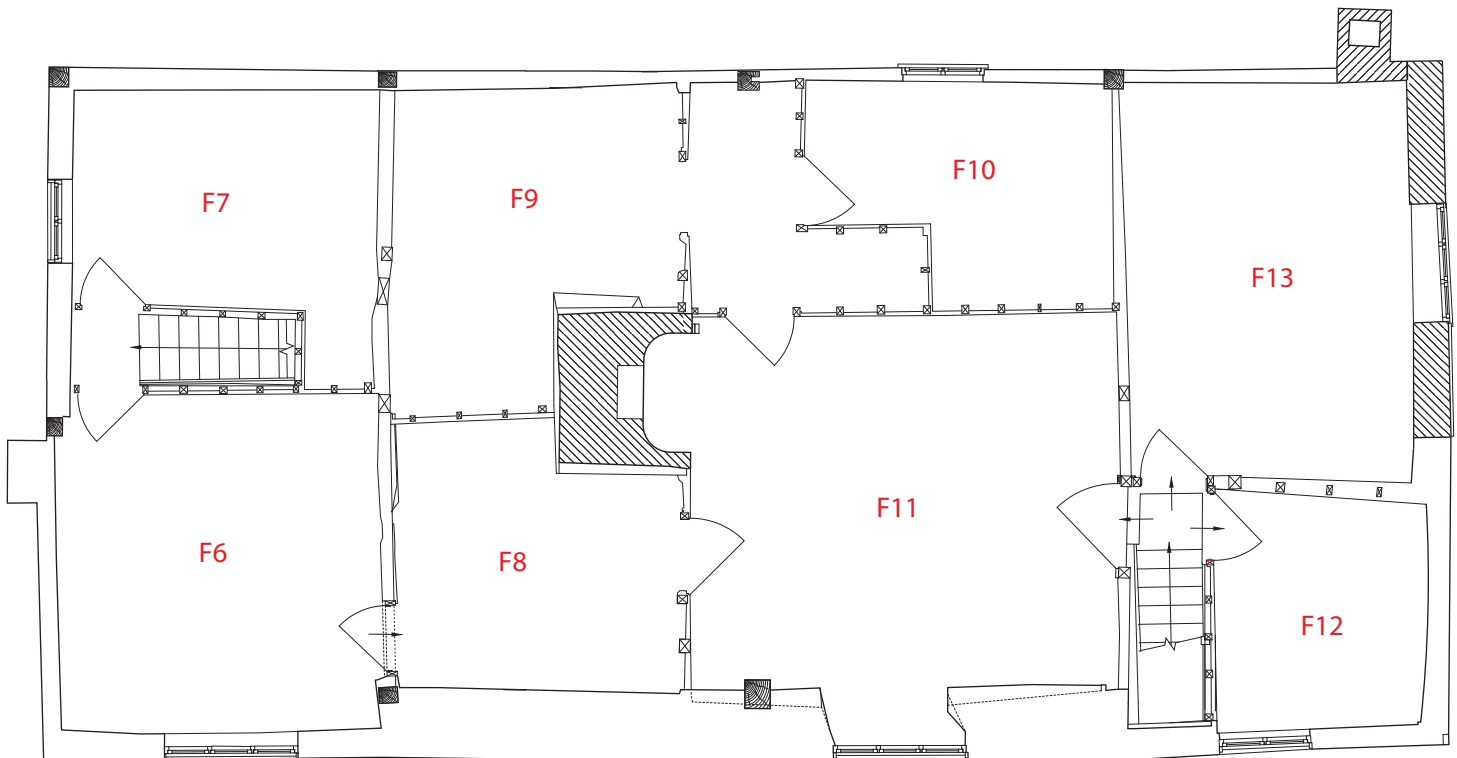
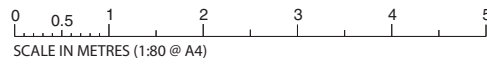


(d) South elevation

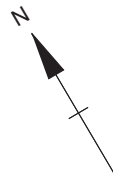
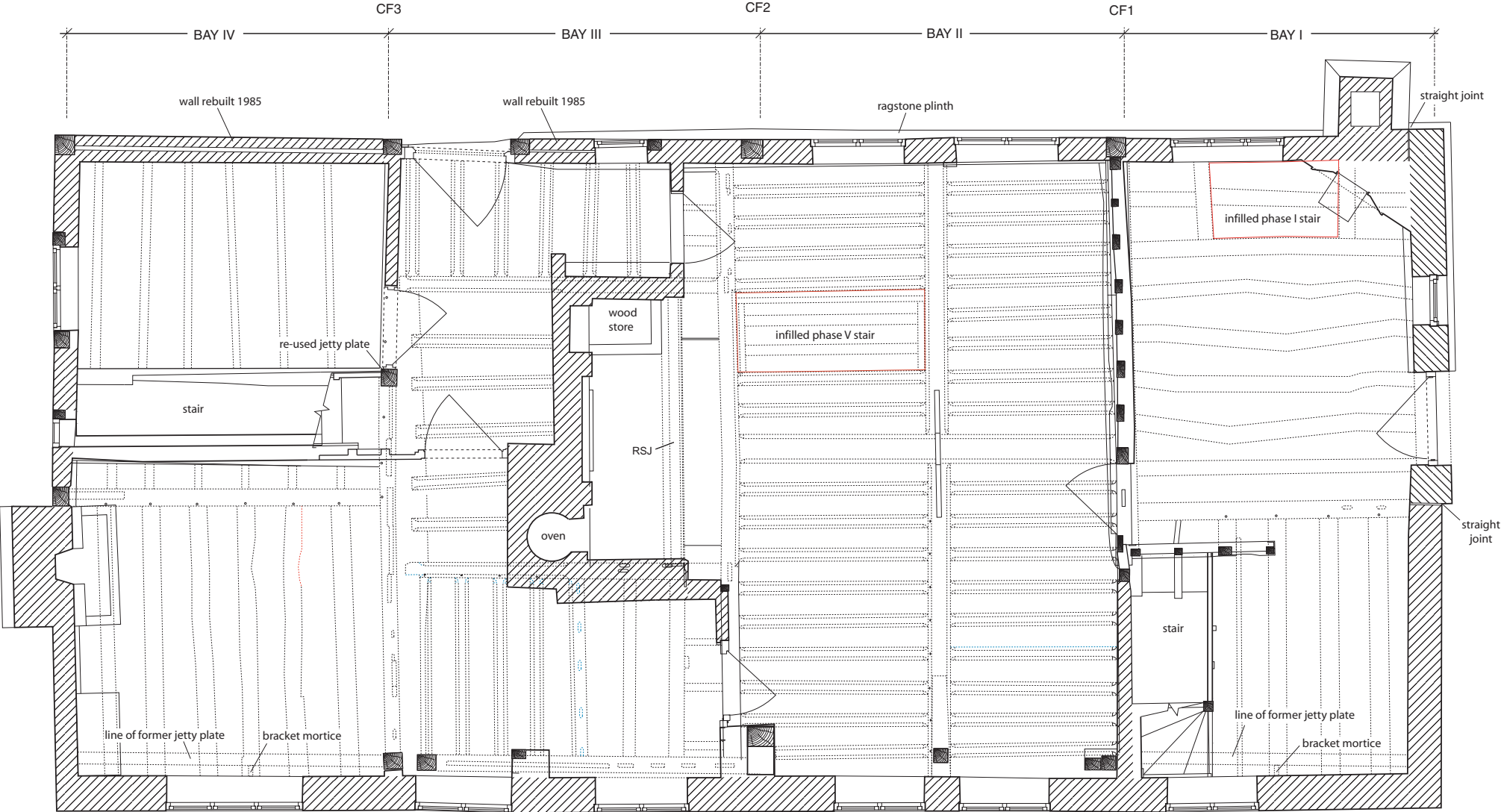
Figure 5 : External Elevations
RLE Rectified Photographic Survey



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



0 0.5 1 2 3 4 5
SCALE IN METRES (1:60 @ A4)

BRICKWORK KEY
 [diagonal hatching] Flemish bond
 [cross-hatching] English bond

NB : overhead detail in pecked line

Figure 7 : Ground Floor Plan (as recorded)

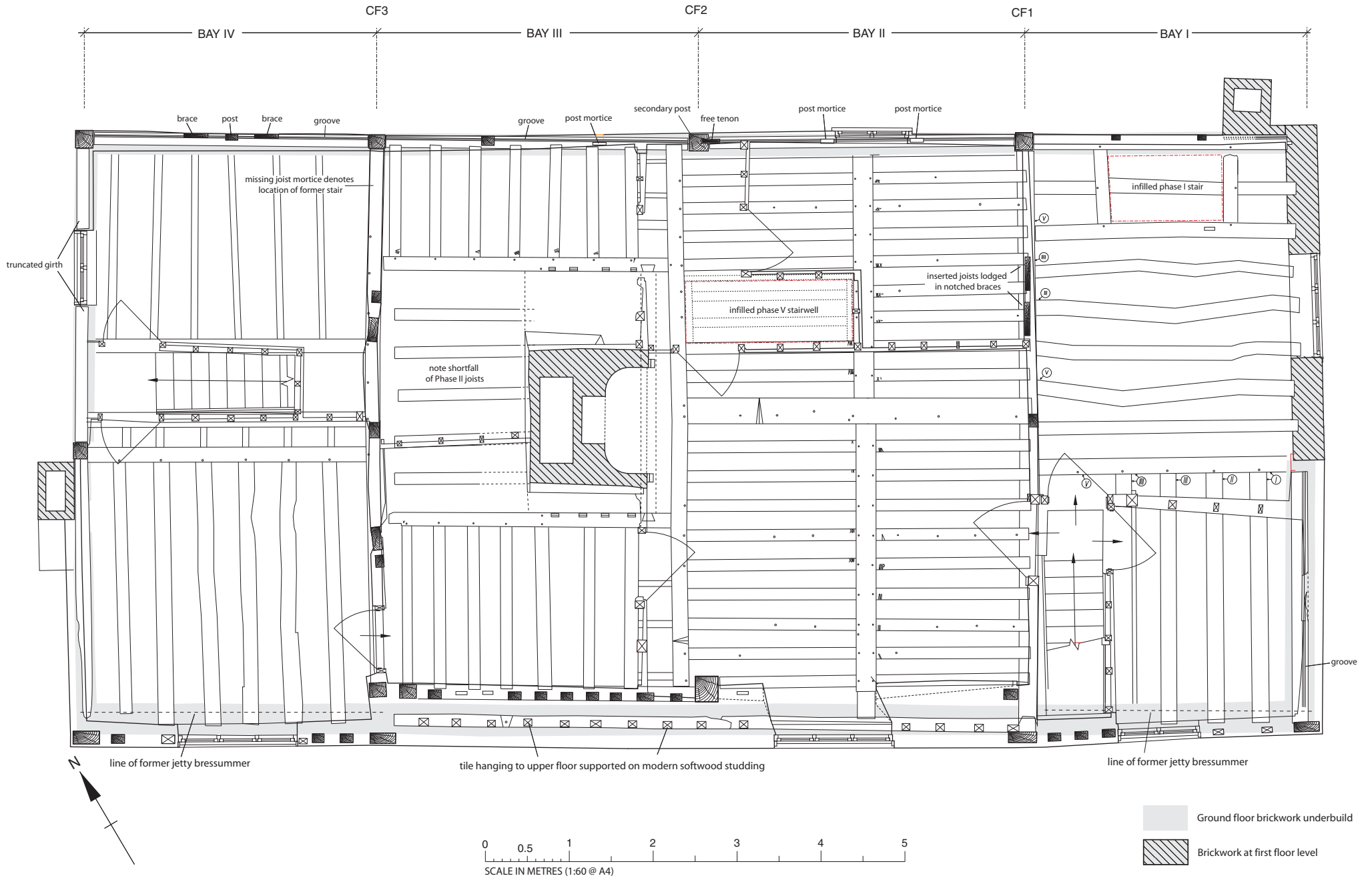


Figure 8 : First Floor Plan (as recorded)

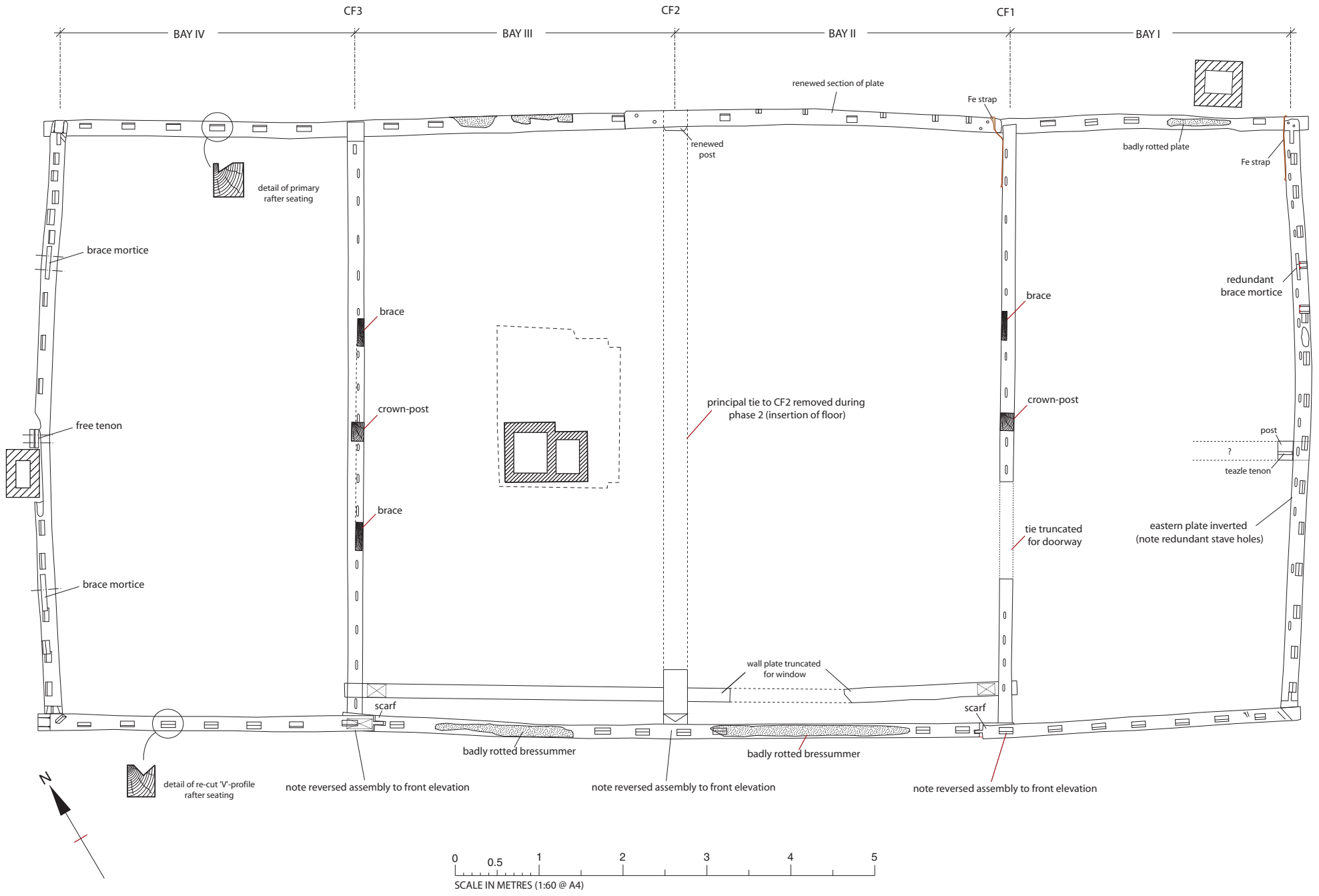
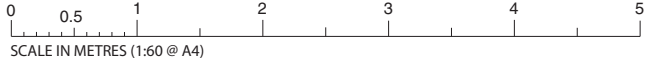
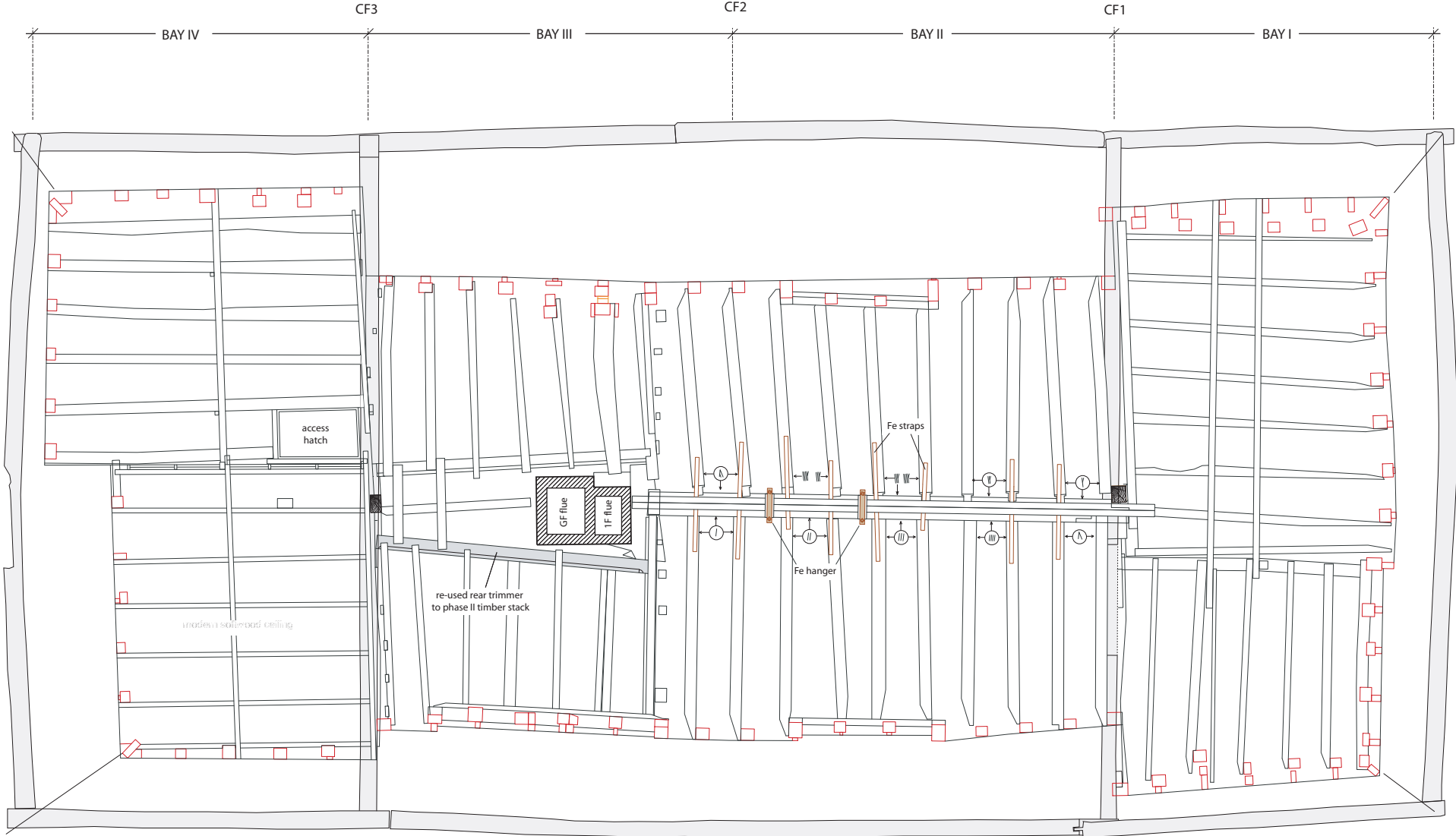


Figure 9 : Eaves Level Plan (as recorded)



NB.  = roof timbers in section

Figure 10 : Ceiling Level Plan (as recorded)

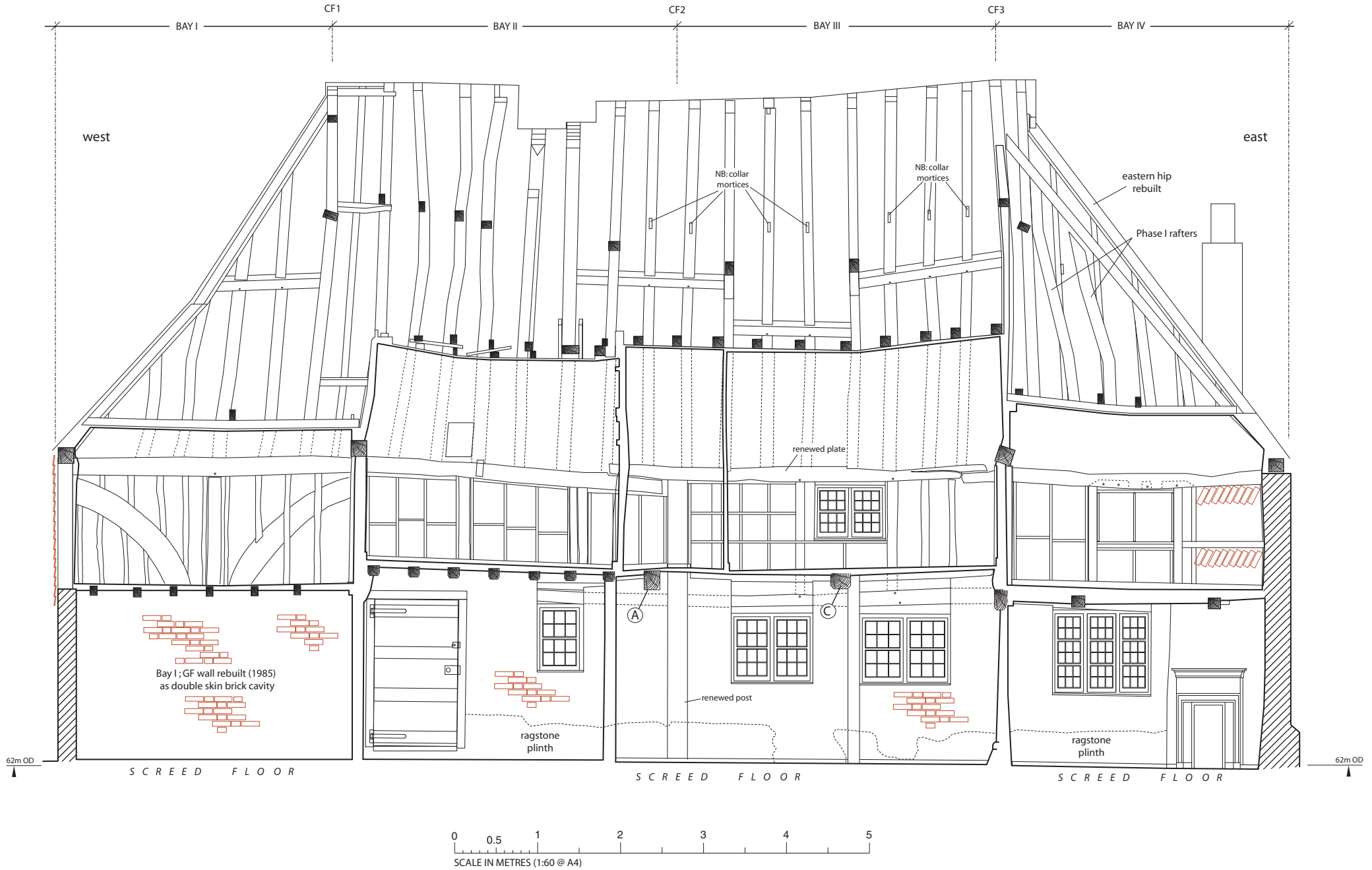


Figure 11 : Interior longitudinal elevation looking north (as recorded)

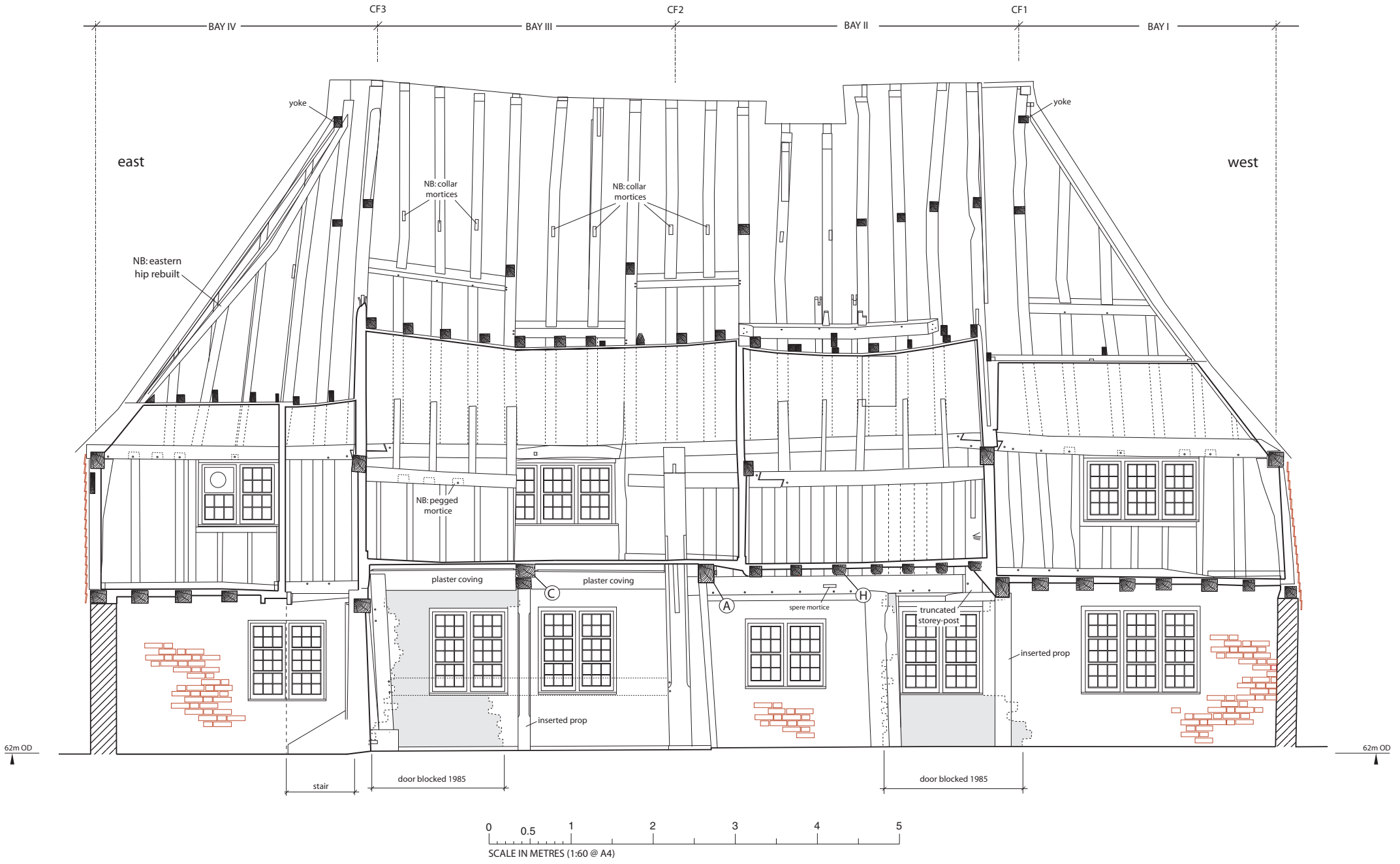
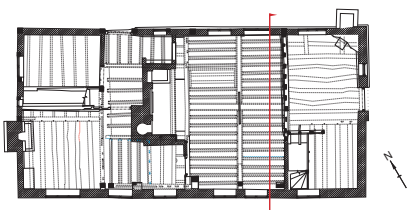
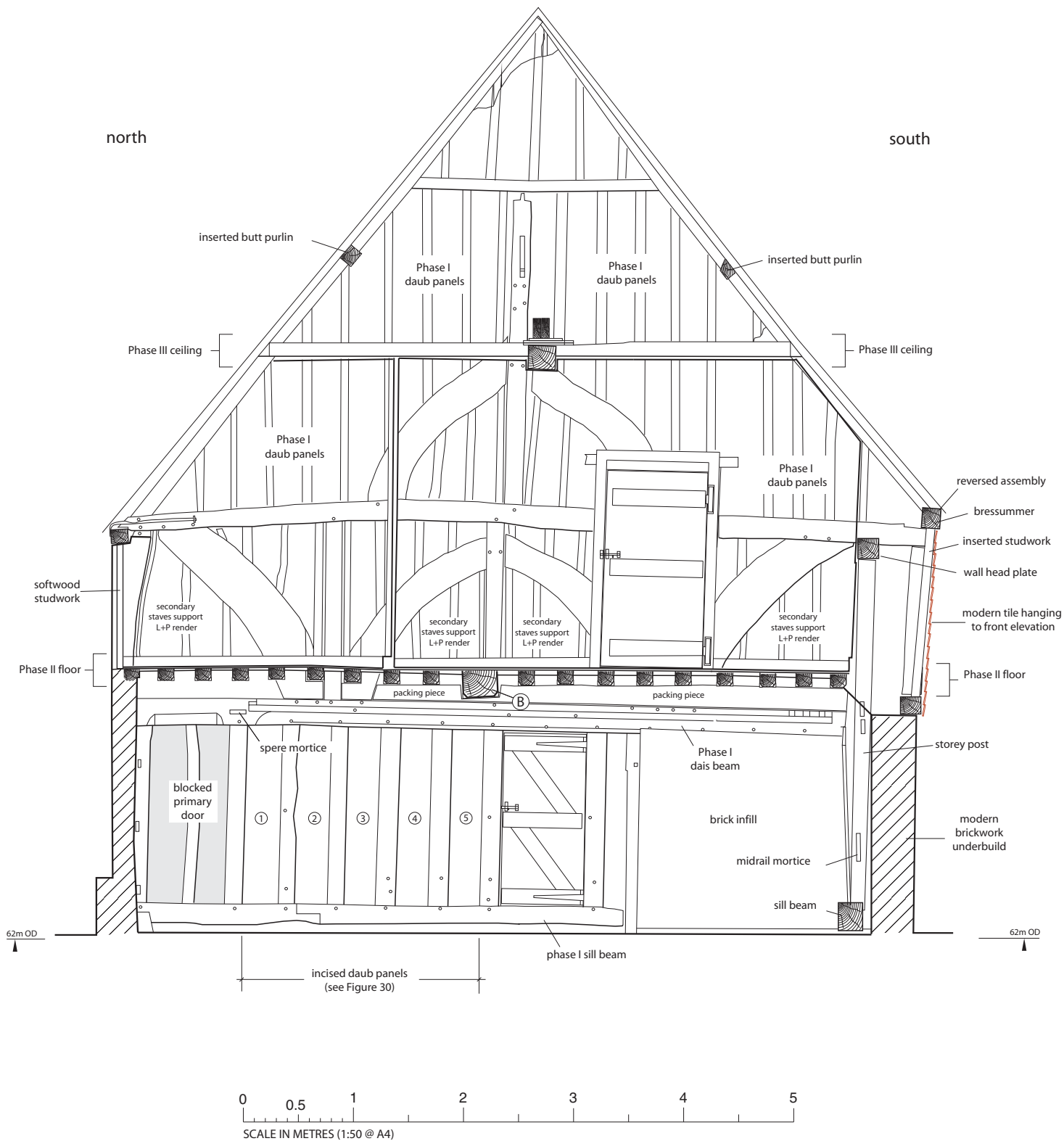


Figure 12 : Interior longitudinal elevation looking south (as recorded)



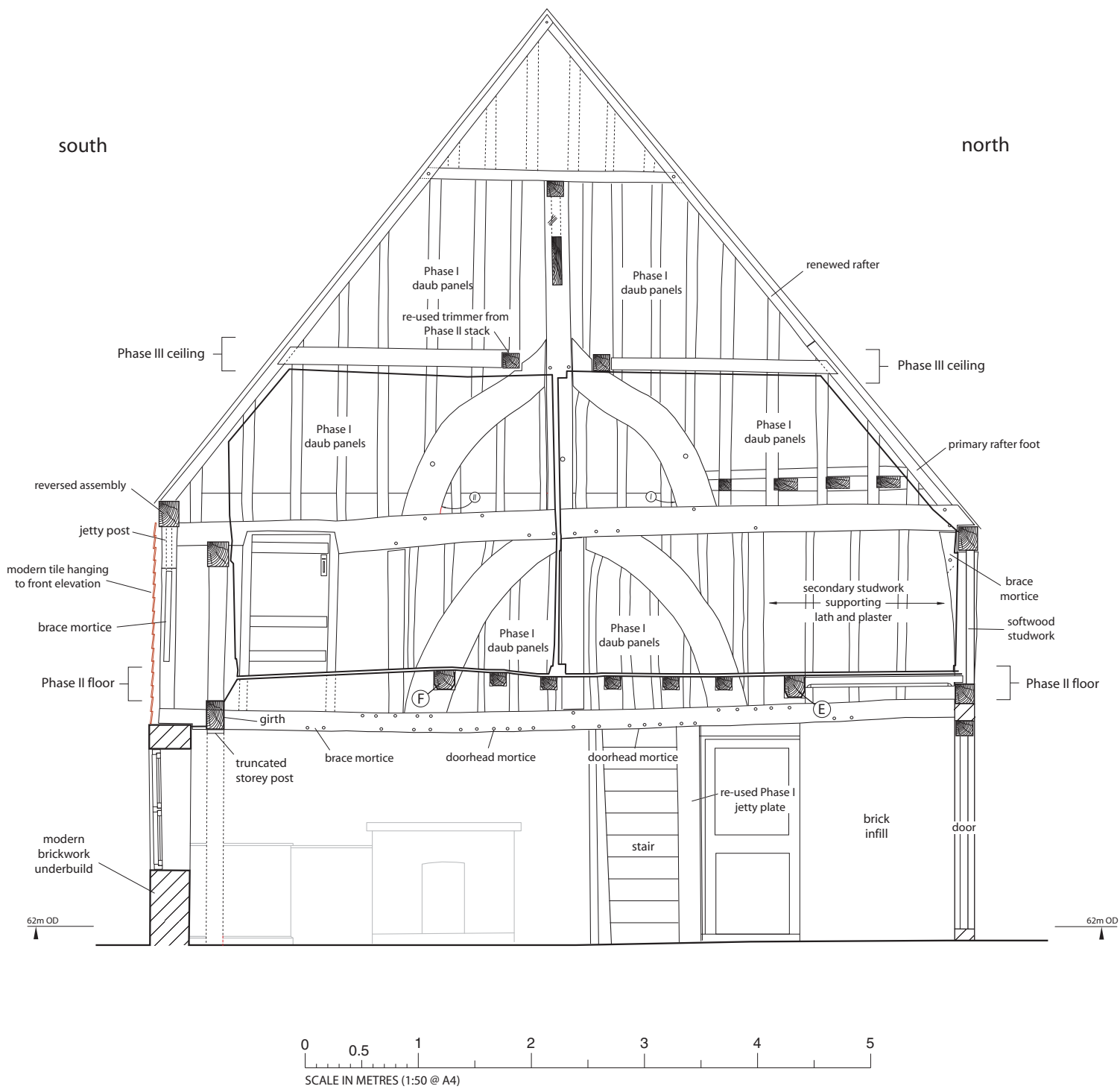
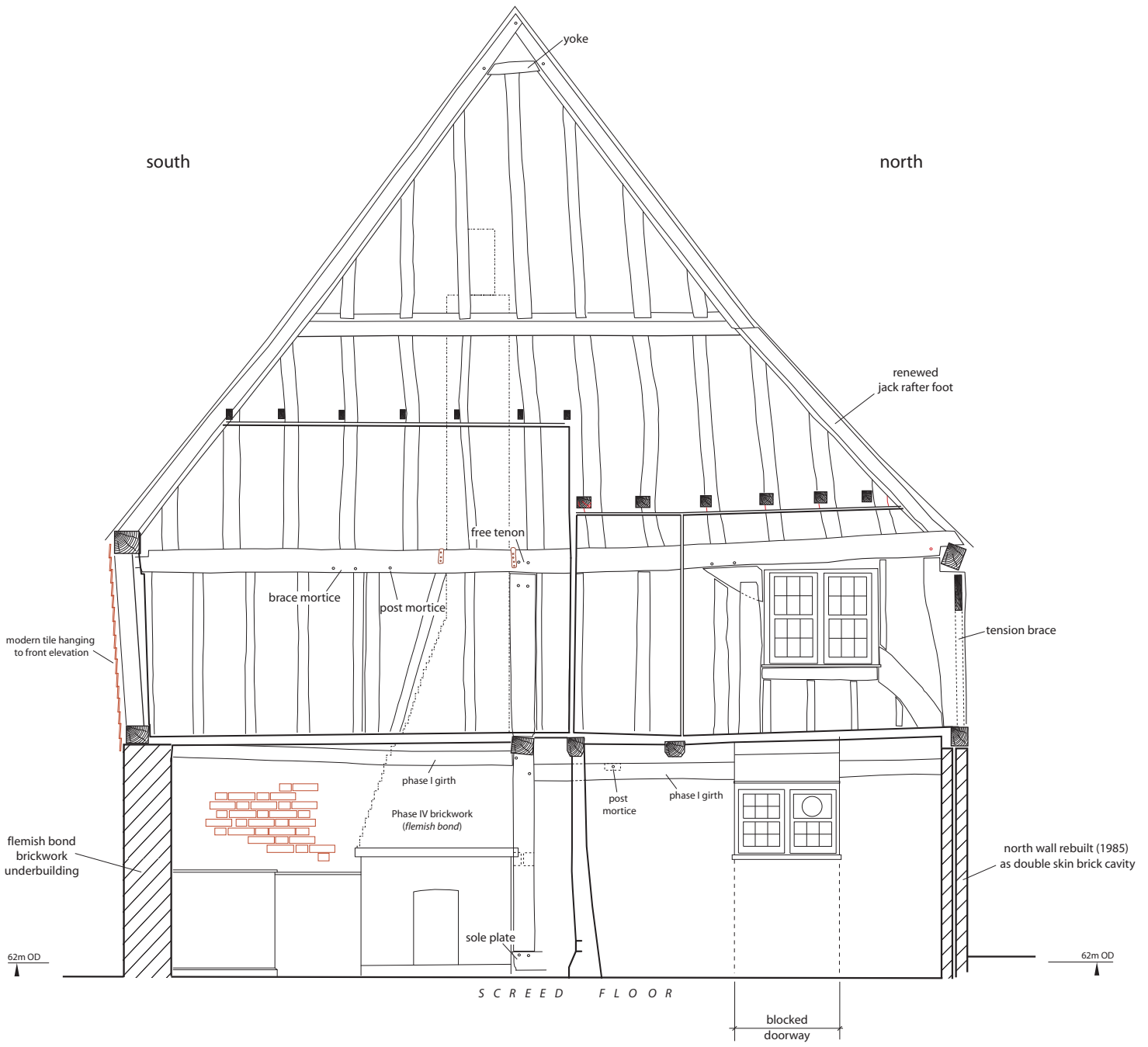


Figure 14 : Hall ; lower end as recorded



0 0.5 1 2 3 4 5
SCALE IN METRES (1:50 @ A4)

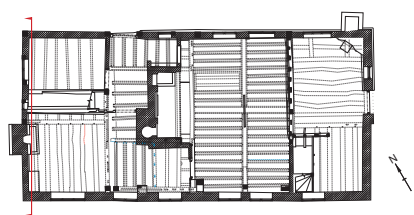


Figure 15 : Service (west) end internal elevation as recorded

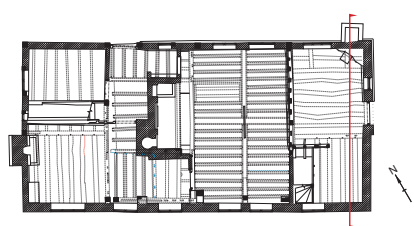
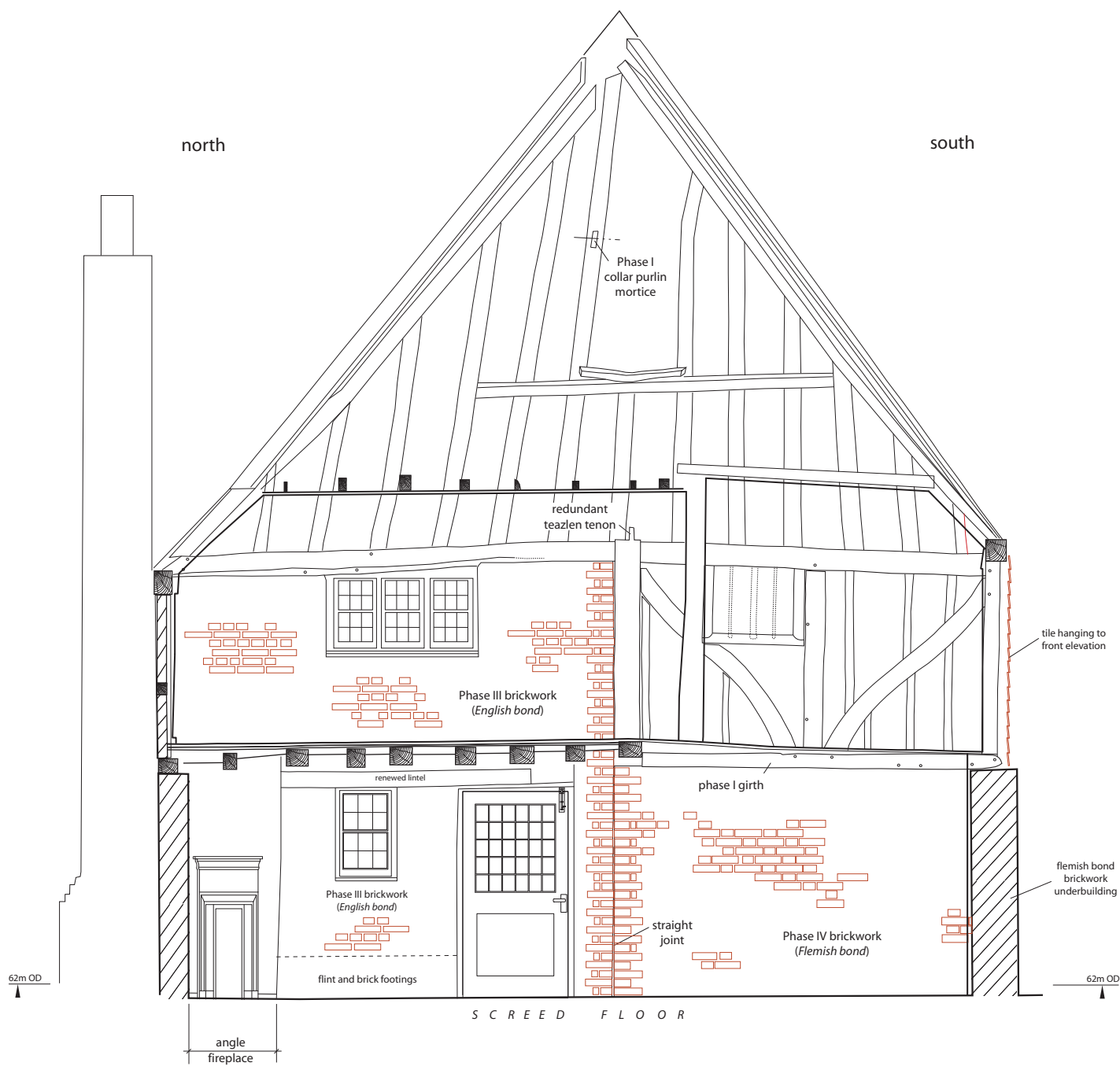
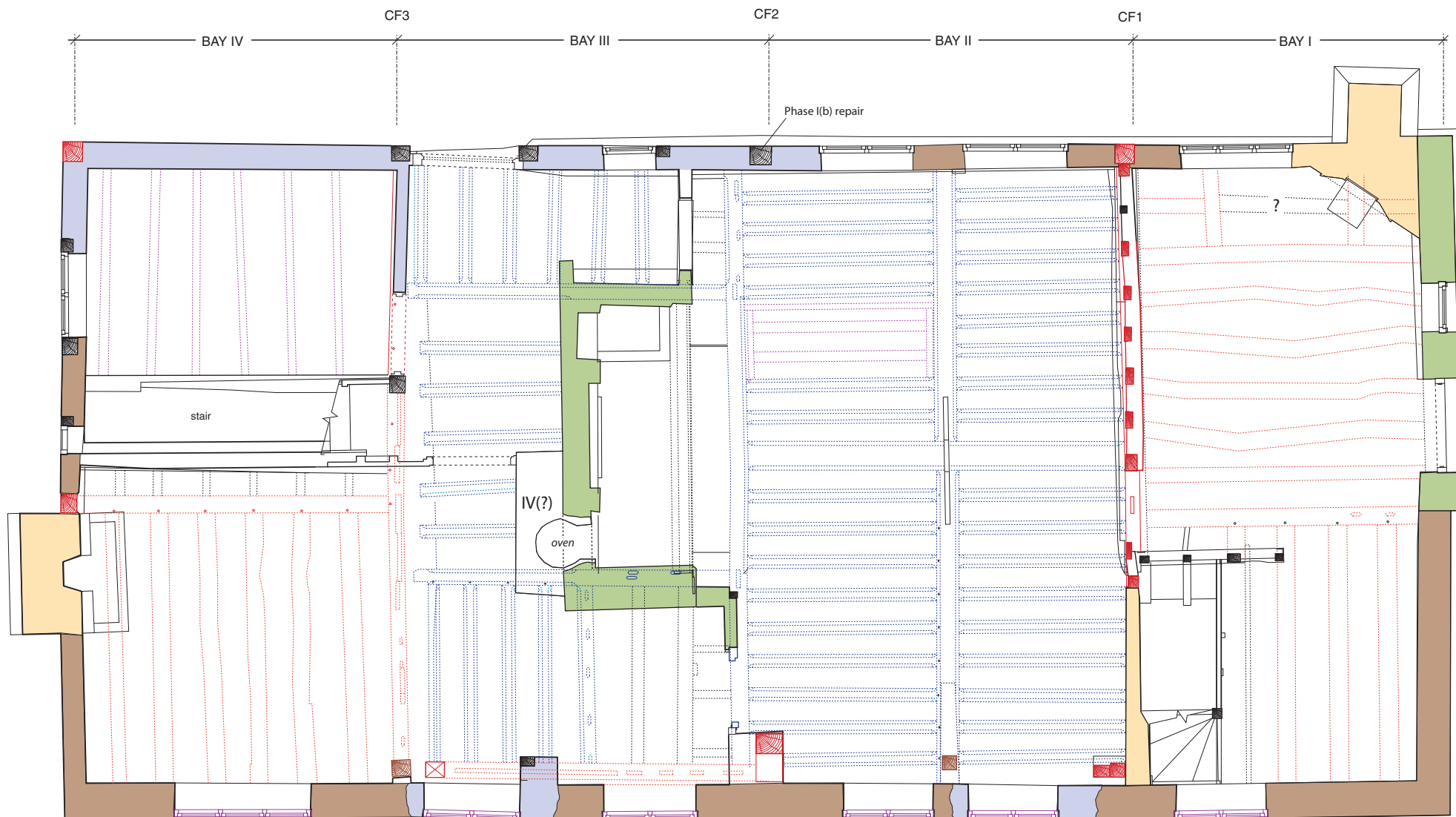


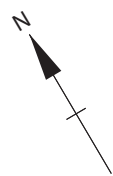
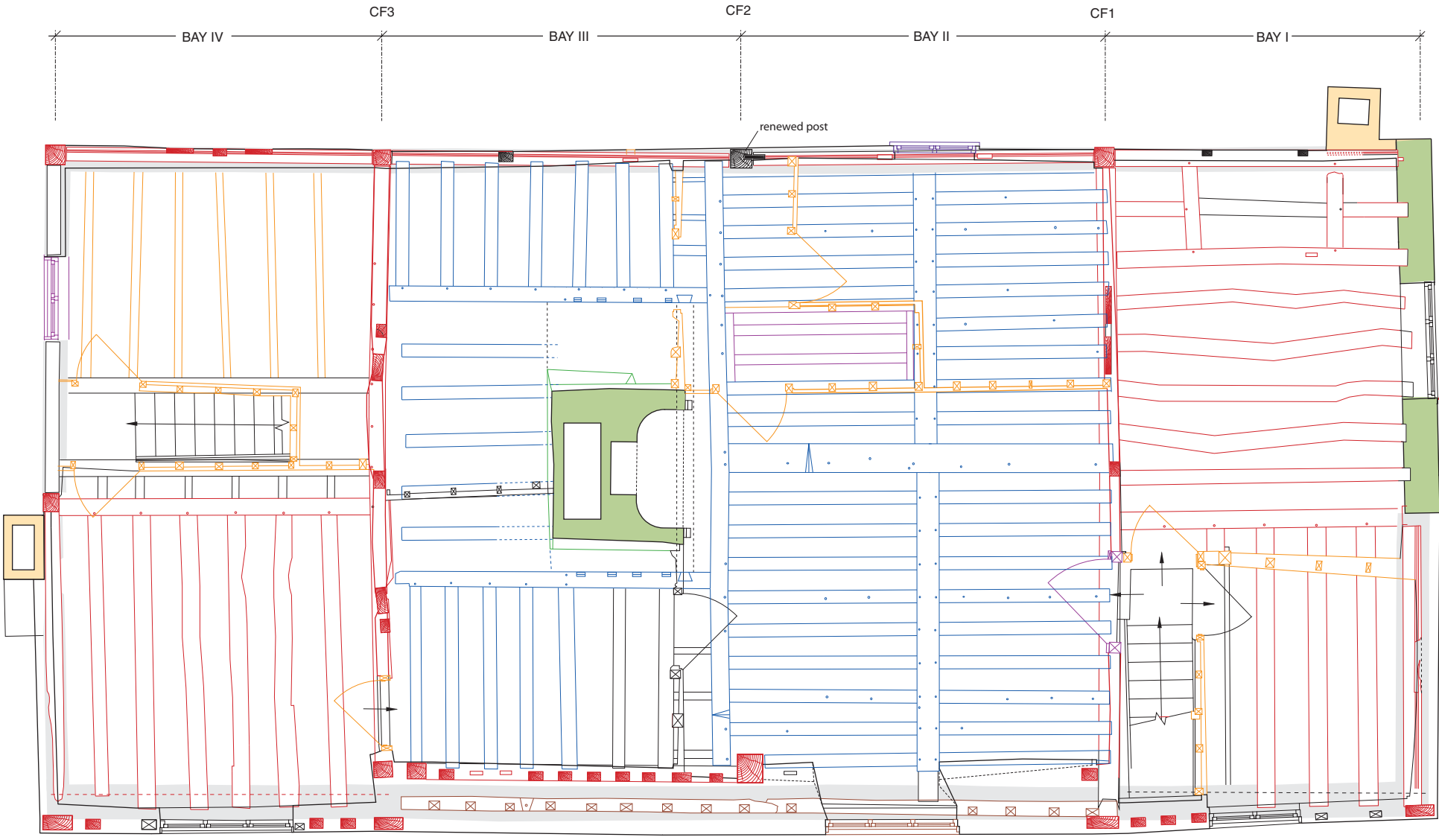
Figure 16 : Service (west) end internal elevation as recorded



KEY

	vert.	horiz. (pecked line = overhead detail)	masonry		vert.	horiz. (pecked line = overhead detail)	masonry
Phase I	[Red solid square]	[Red dashed lines]	[Red solid square]	Phase IV	[Brown solid square]	[Brown dashed lines]	[Brown solid square]
Phase II	[Blue solid square]	[Blue dashed lines]	[Blue solid square]	Phase V	[Orange solid square]	[Orange dashed lines]	[Orange solid square]
Phase III	[Green solid square]	[Green dashed lines]	[Green solid square]	Phase VI	[Purple solid square]	[Purple dashed lines]	[Purple solid square]

Figure 17 : Ground Floor Plan, phasing of principal structural elements



KEY

	vert.	horiz. (pecked line = overhead detail)	masonry		vert.	horiz. (pecked line = overhead detail)	masonry
Phase I	[Red hatched box]	[Red lines]	[Red box]	Phase IV	[Brown hatched box]	[Brown lines]	[Brown box]
Phase II	[Blue hatched box]	[Blue lines]	[Blue box]	Phase V	[Orange hatched box]	[Orange lines]	[Orange box]
Phase III	[Green hatched box]	[Green lines]	[Green box]	Phase VI	[Purple hatched box]	[Purple lines]	[Purple box]

Figure 18 : First Floor Plan (phasing of principal structural elements)



Figure 19: Interior longitudinal elevation looking south (phasing of structural elements)

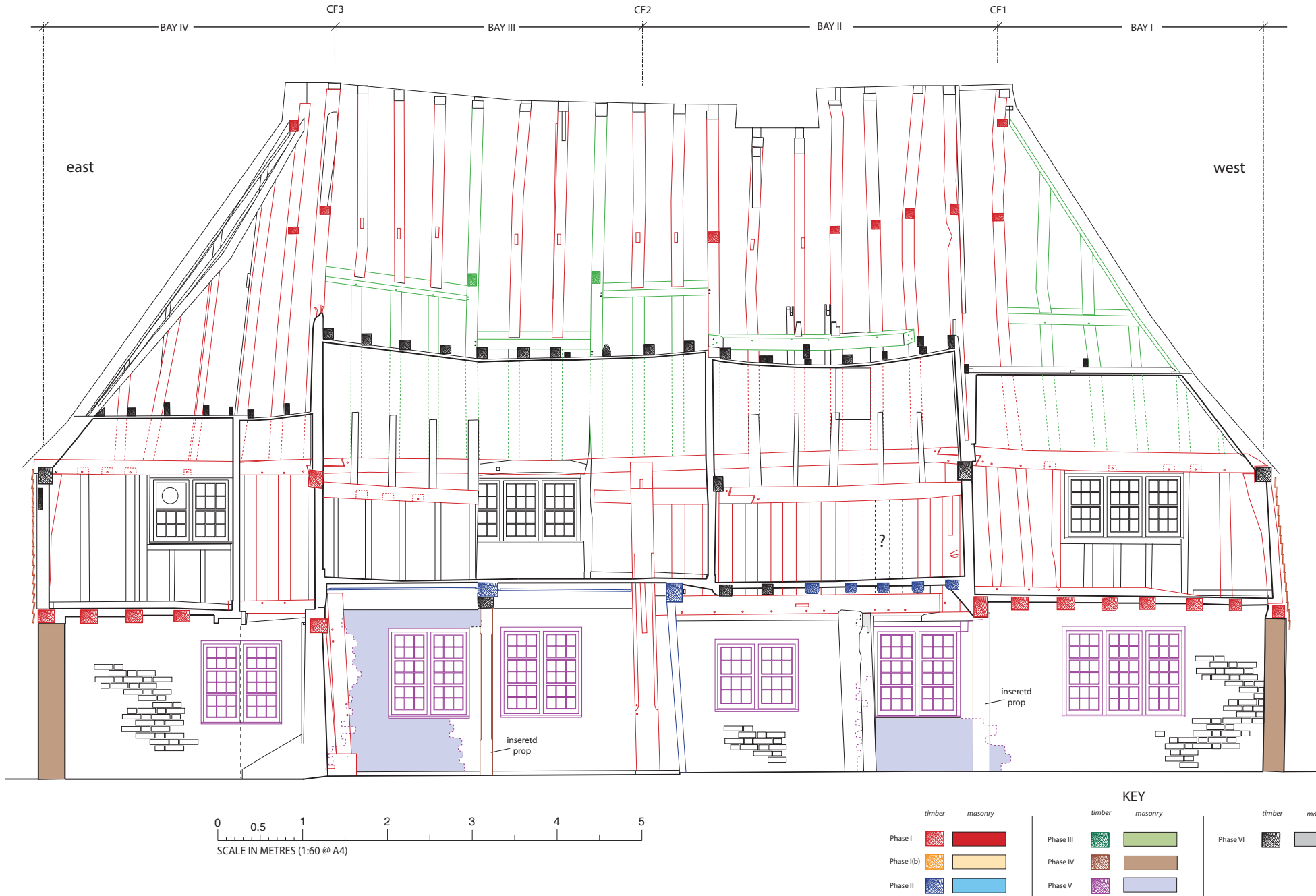
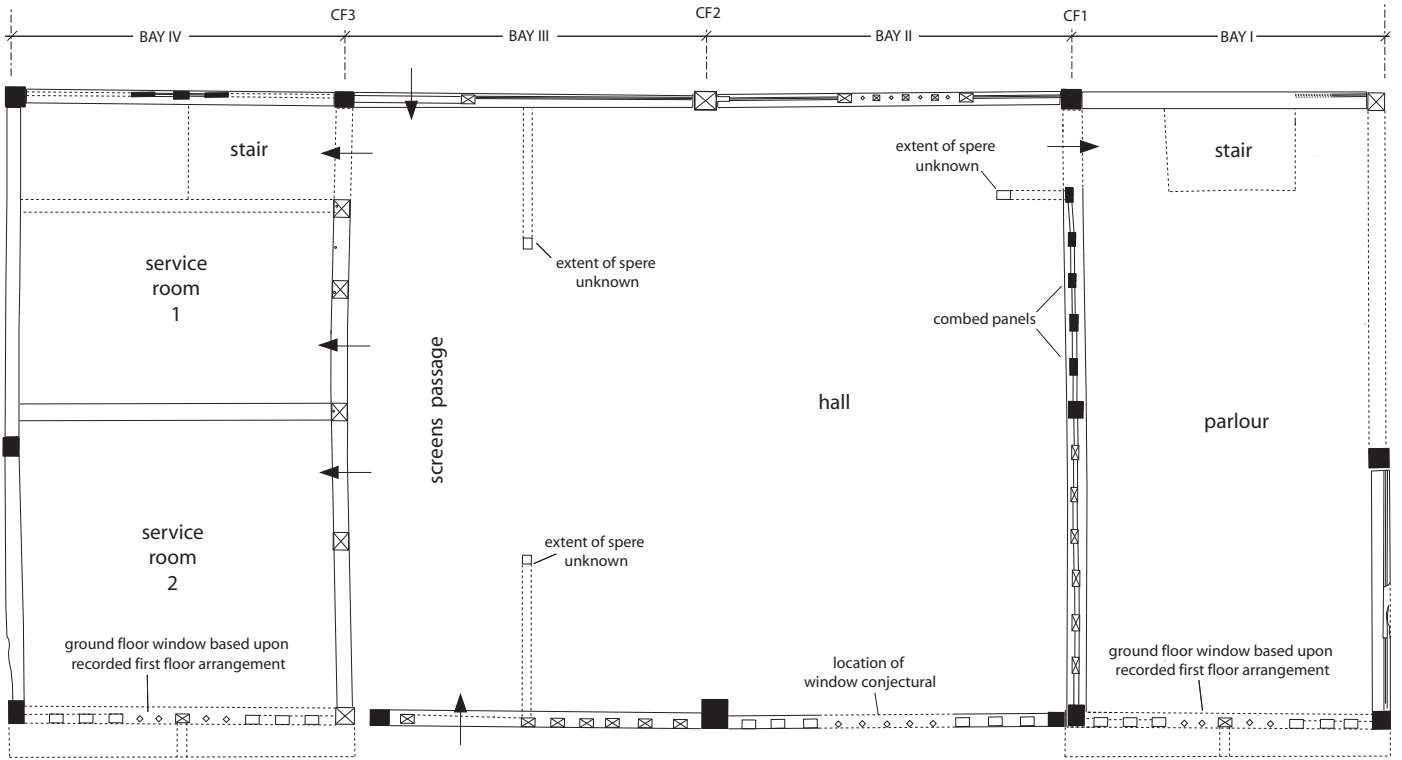


Figure 20 : Interior longitudinal elevation looking south (phasing of structural elements)

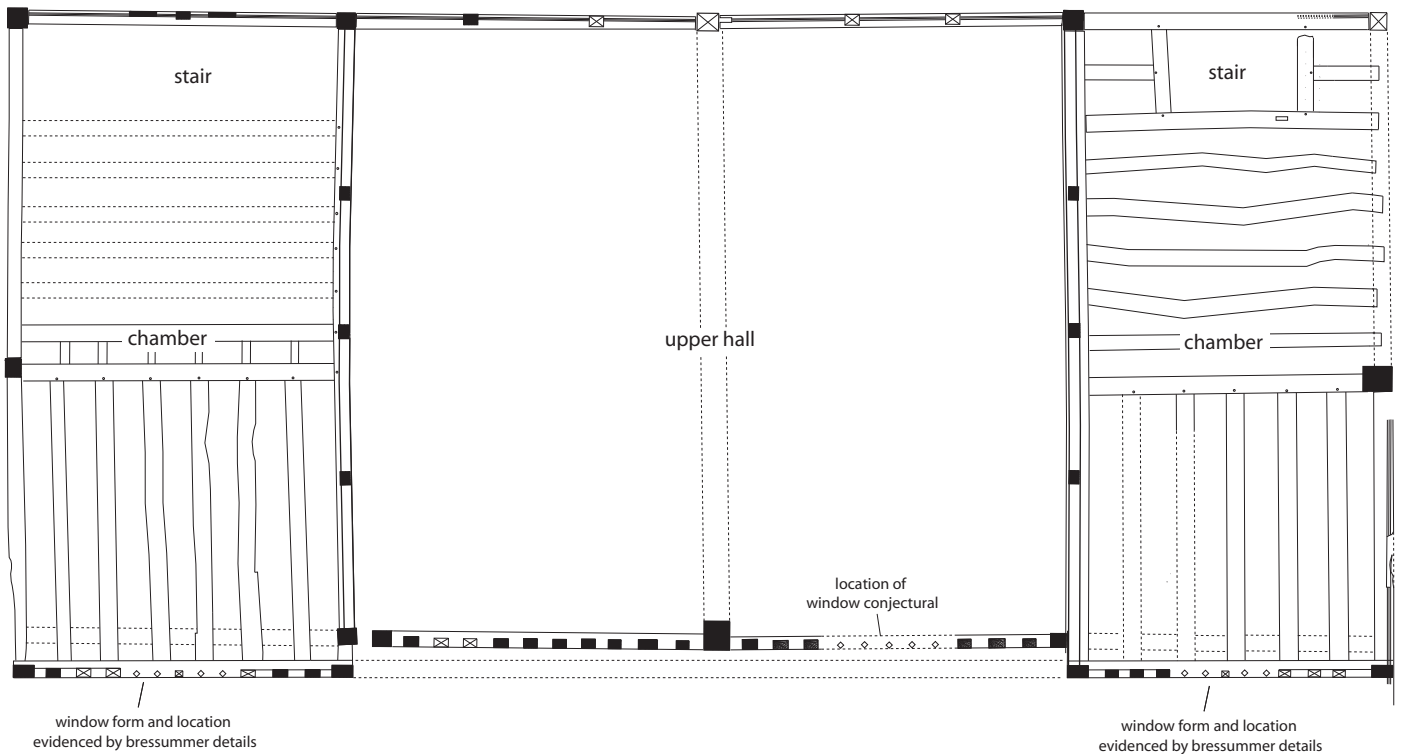


GROUND FLOOR PLAN

KEY

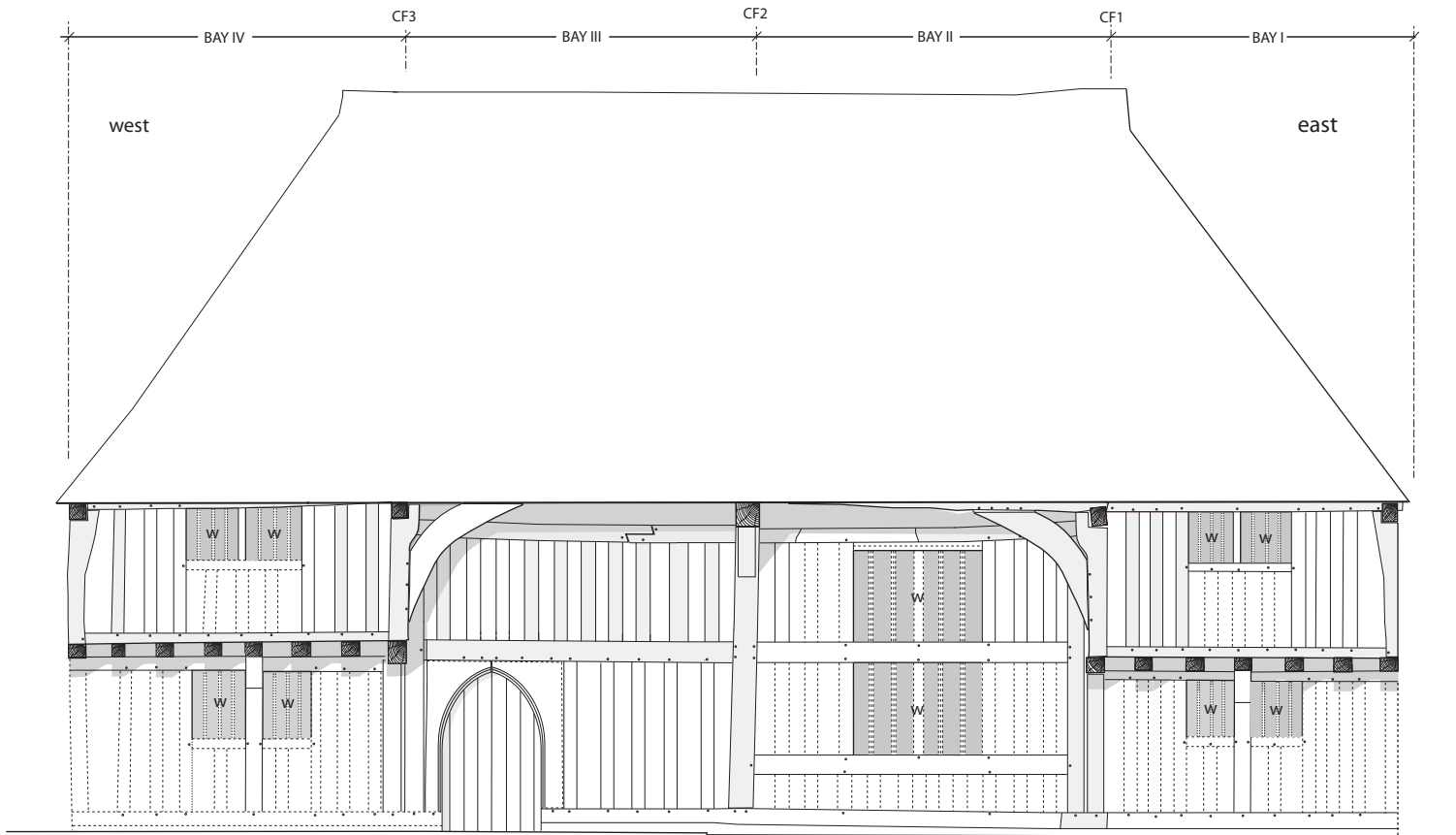
- in-situ* primary timbers
- primary timbers evidenced by surviving mortices / peg holes etc.
- conjectural / projected primary timbers

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 5
SCALE IN METRES (1:80 @ A4)






FIRST FLOOR PLAN

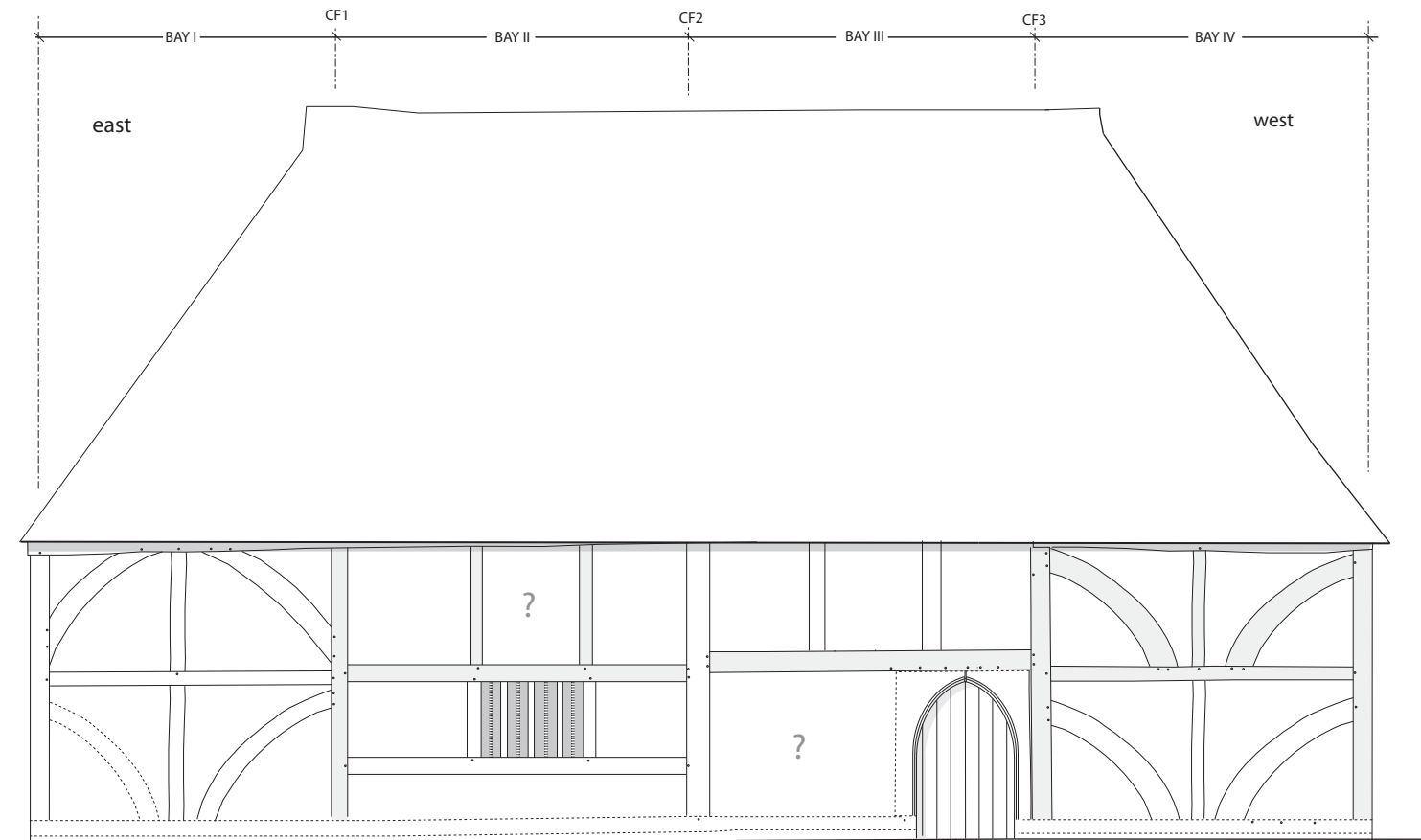
Figure 21 : PHASE I ; Reconstructed Ground and First Floor Plans



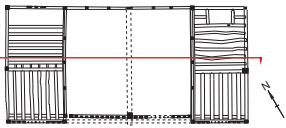
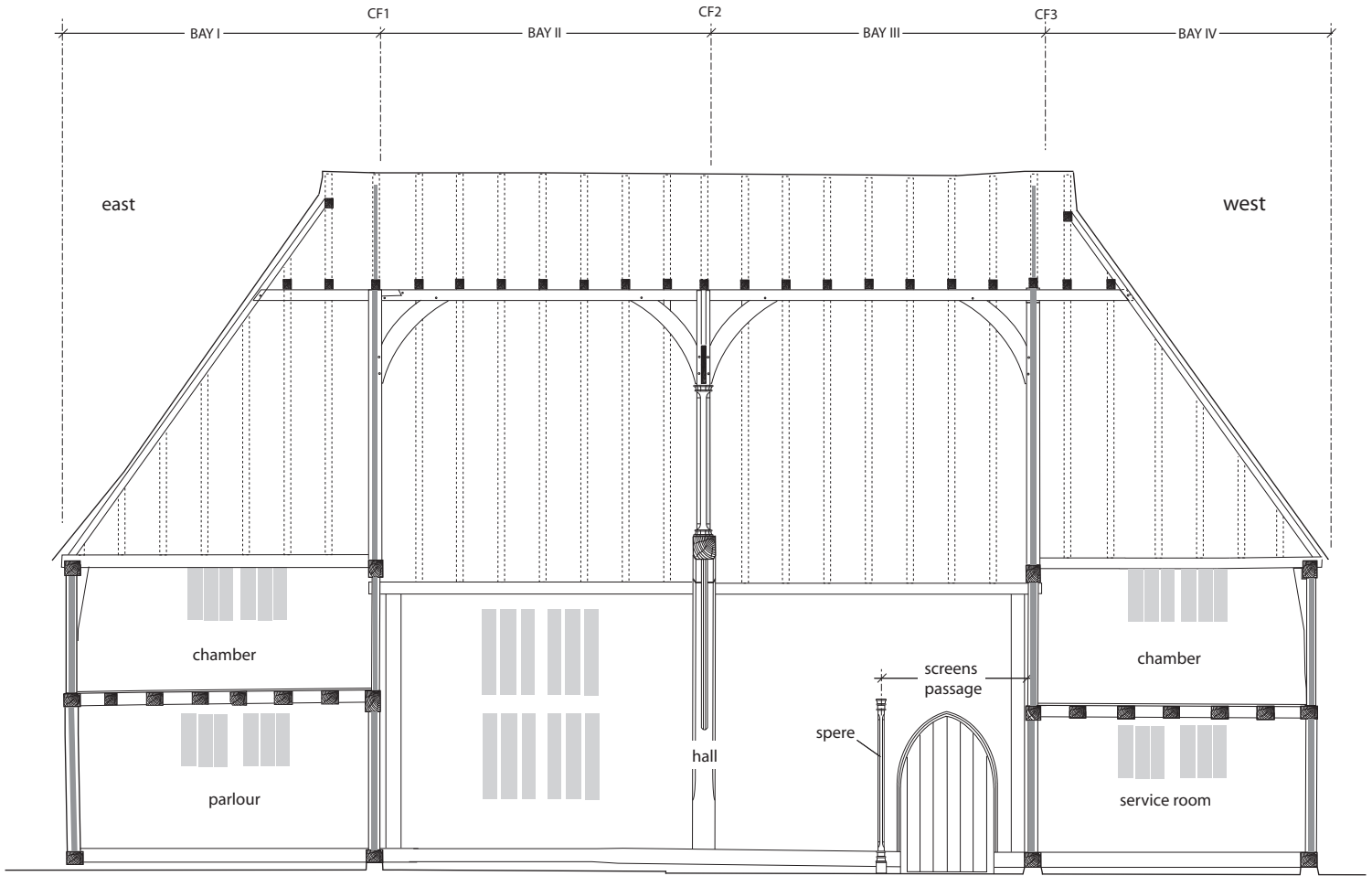
(a) Front (south) elevation

-  *in-situ* primary timbers
-  primary timbers evidenced by surviving mortices / peg holes etc.
-  conjectural / projected primary timbers

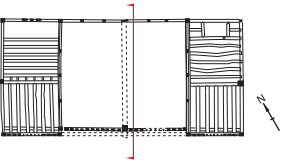
0 0.5 1 2 3 4 5
SCALE IN METRES (1:80 @ A4)



(b) Rear (north) elevation



0 0.5 1 2 3 4 5
SCALE IN METRES (1:80 @ A4)



N.B. The hall cross section is included solely to illustrate the overall proportions and theoretical arrangement of the hall. No evidence has been recorded for the original form of the central tie, crown-post or arch bracing details. Likewise, the original form of the speres remain unknown. Those illustrated are purely conjectural.

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 5
SCALE IN METRES (1:80 @ A4)

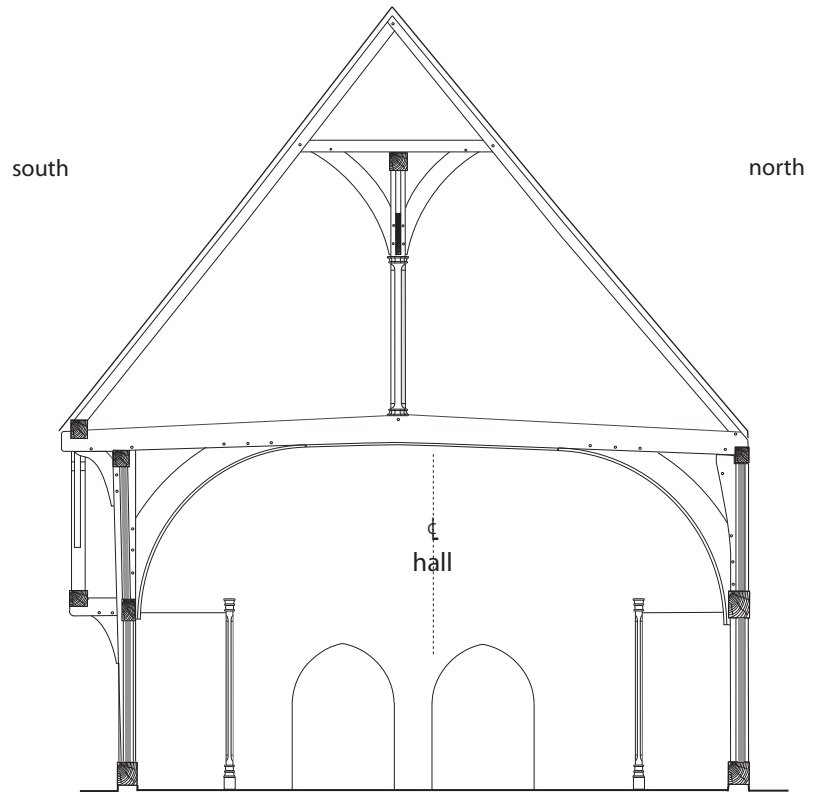
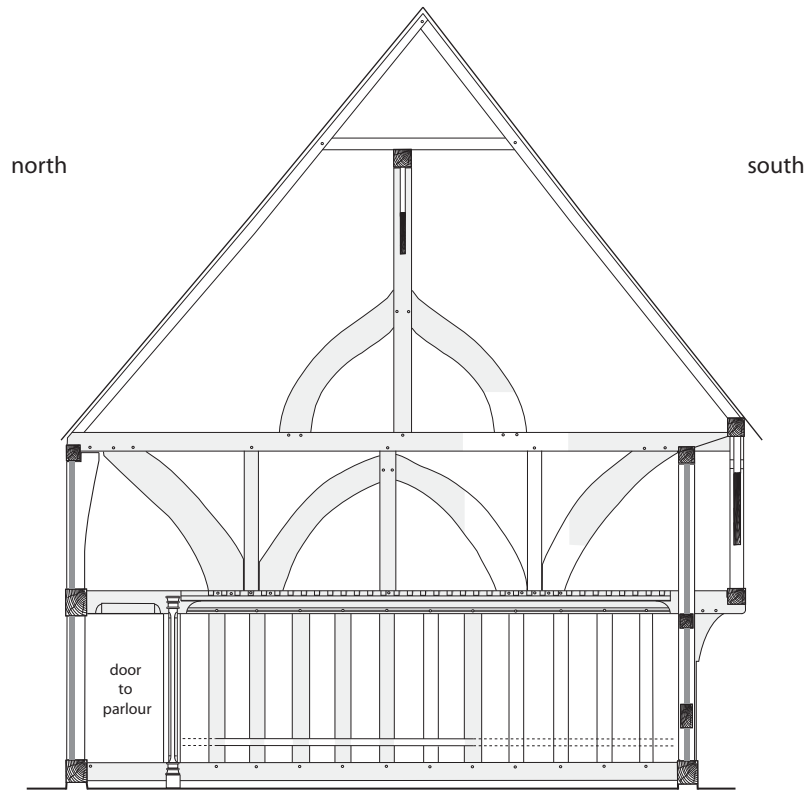
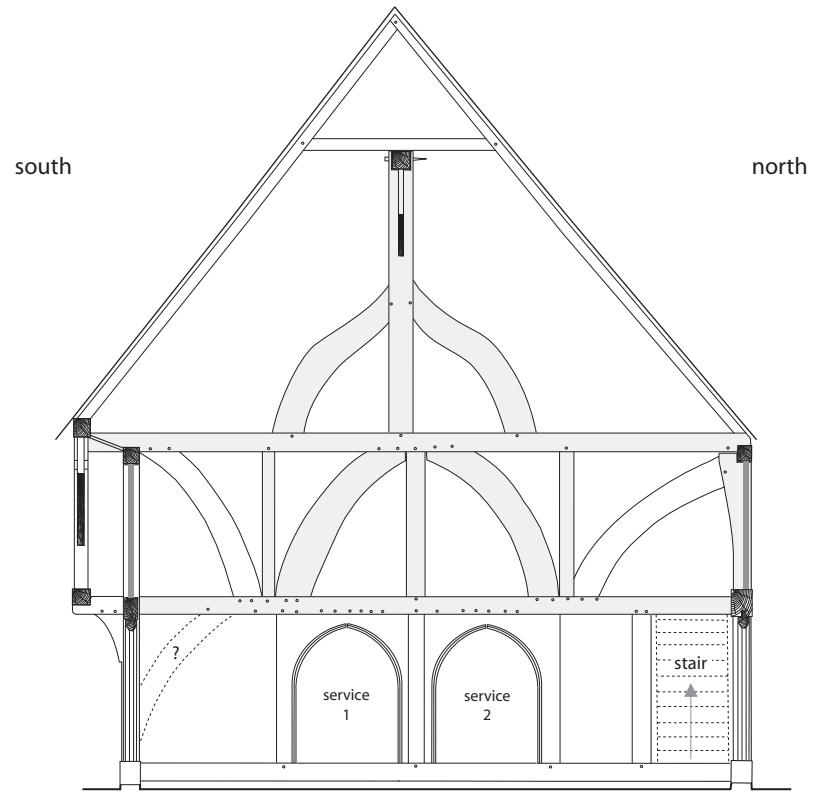
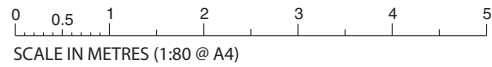


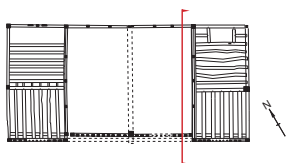
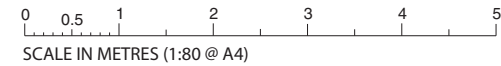
Figure 23 : PHASE I : reconstructed longitudinal and hall cross-section (CF 2)






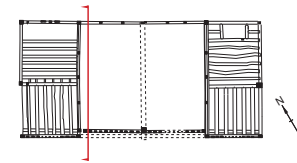
(a) Hall; high end (CF 1)

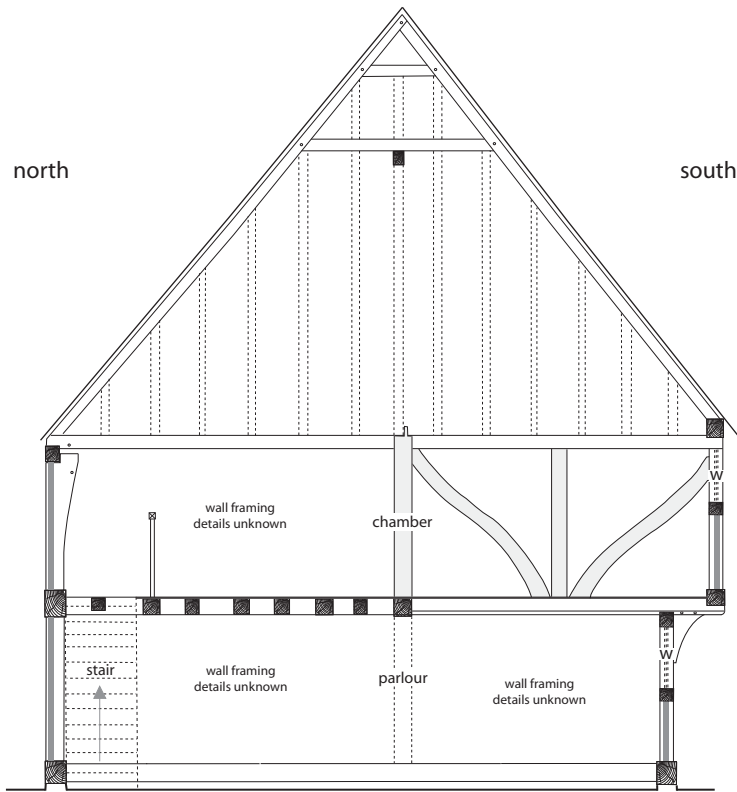


(b) Hall; low end (CF 3)

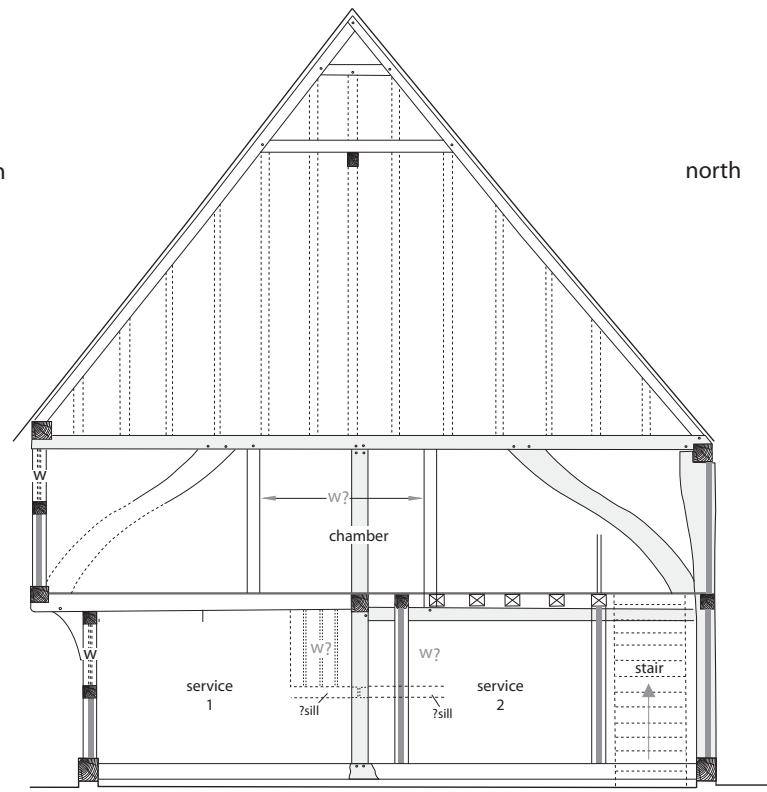


-  *in-situ* primary timbers
-  primary timbers evidenced by surviving mortices / peg holes etc.
-  conjectural / projected primary timbers

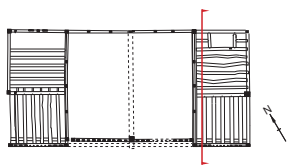
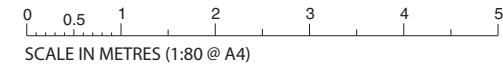
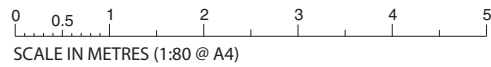







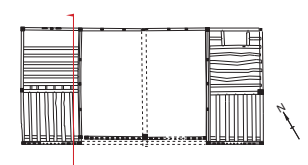
(a) Parlour end ; cross section



(b) Service end ; cross section



-  *in-situ* primary timbers
-  primary timbers evidenced by surviving mortices / peg holes etc.
-  conjectural / projected primary timbers



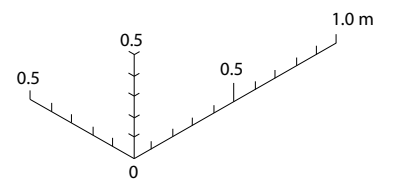
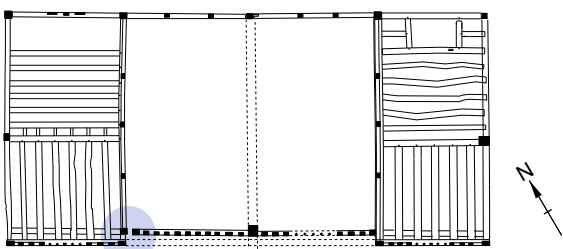
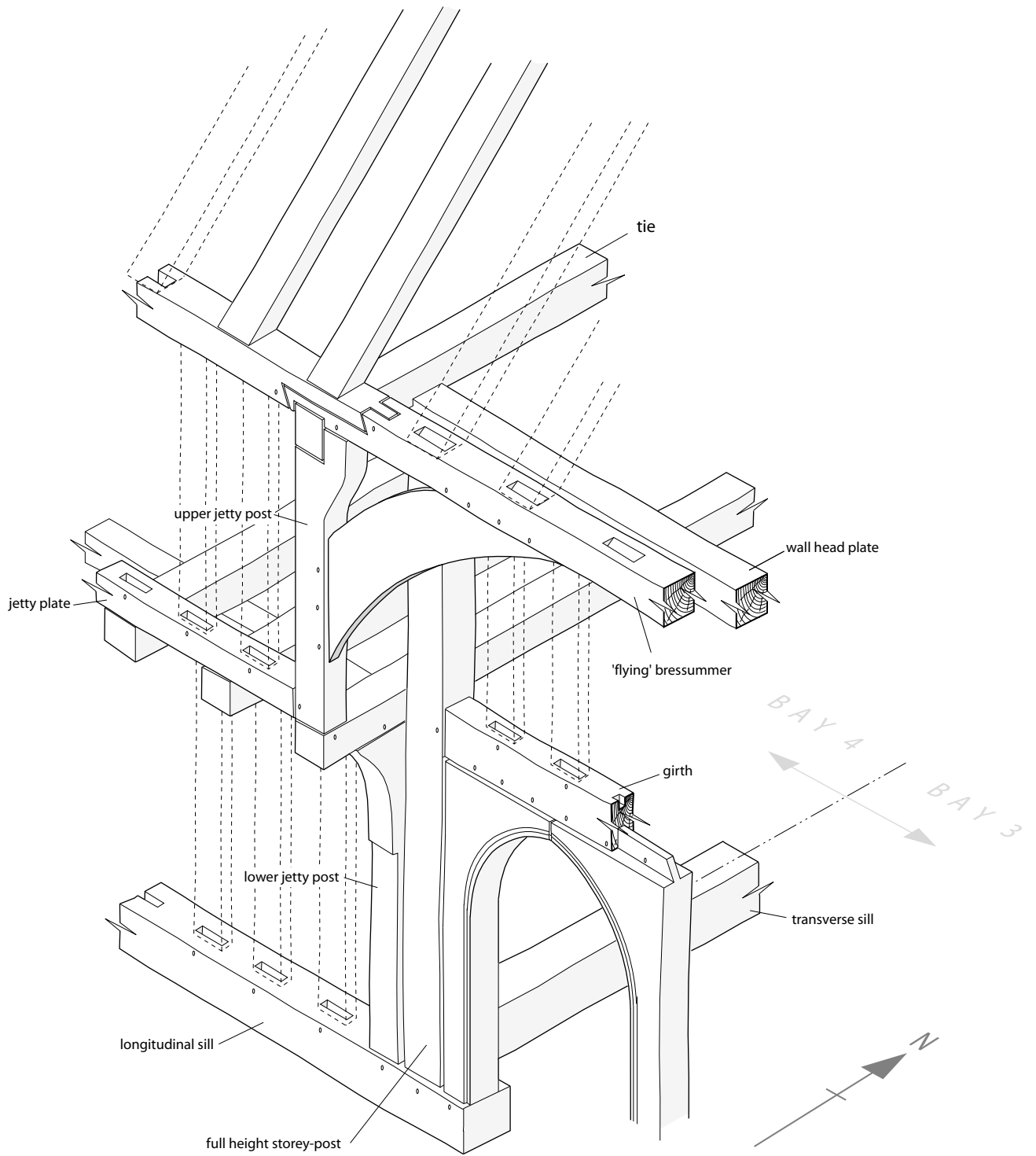
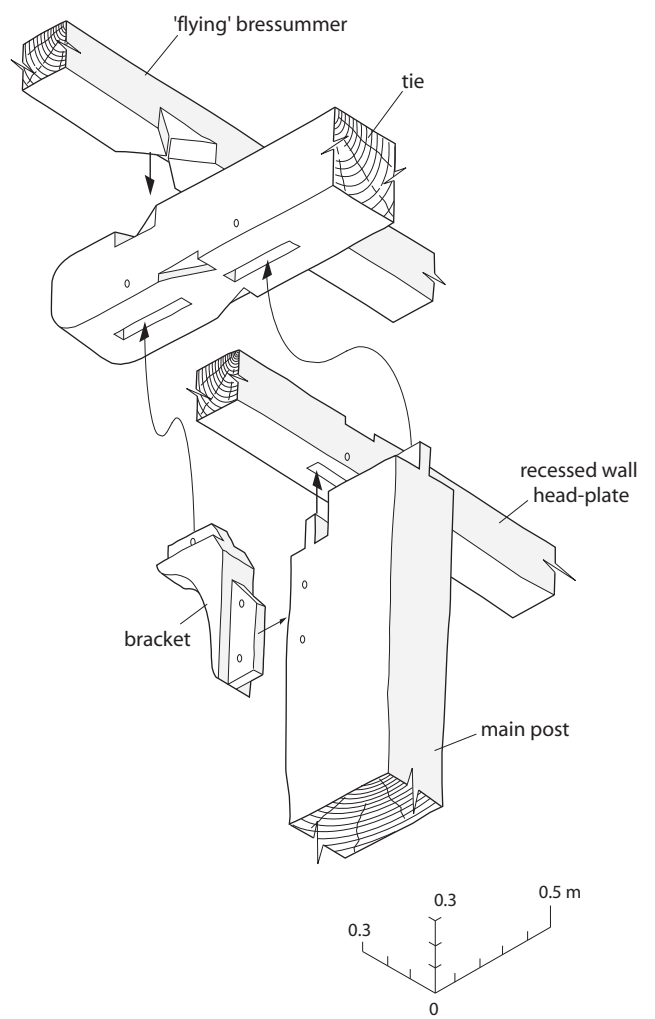
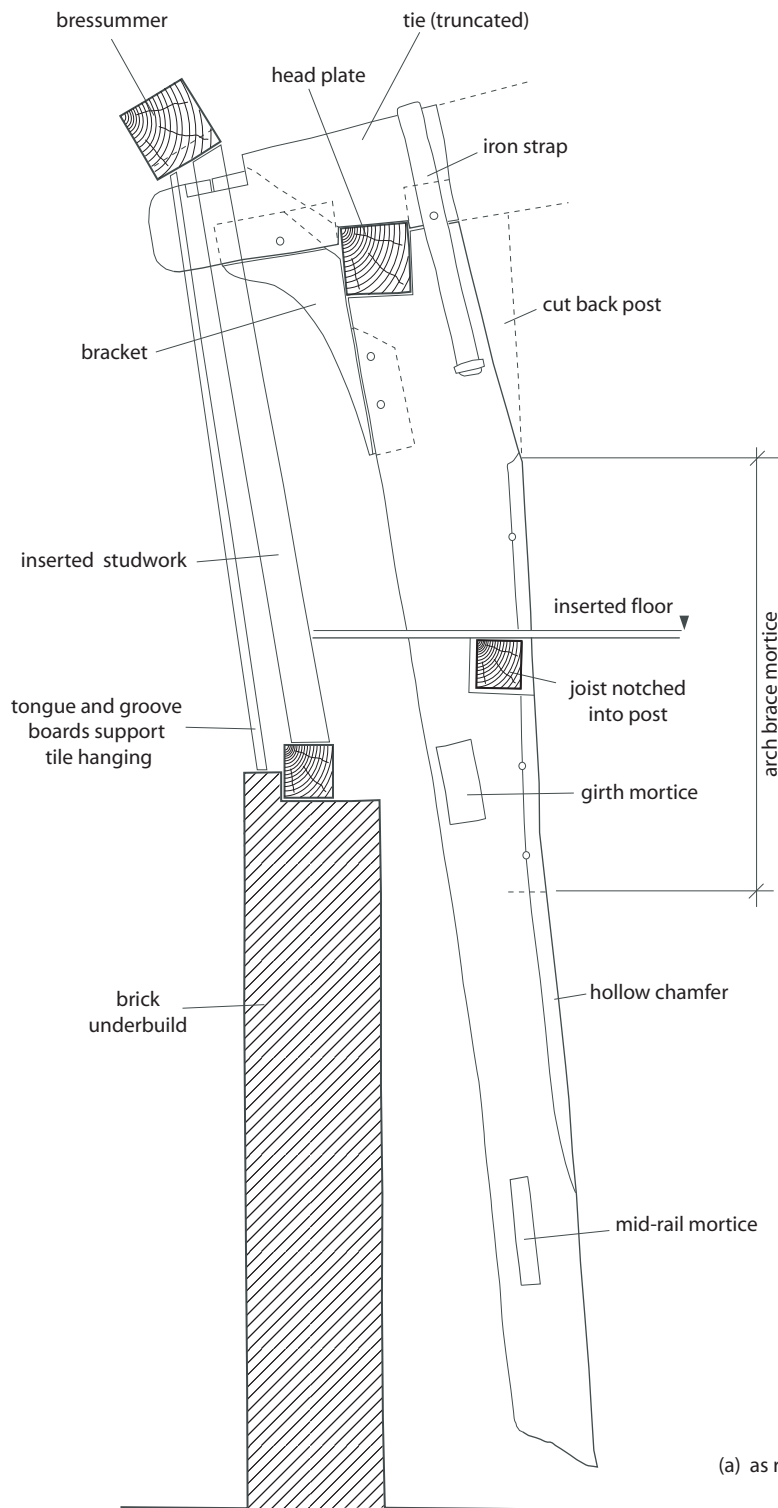
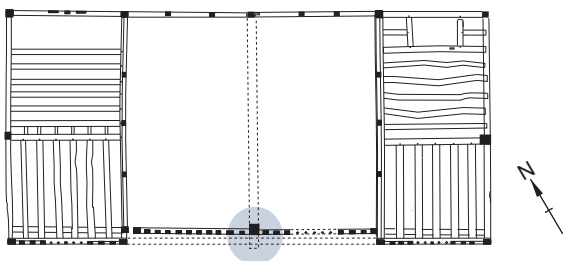


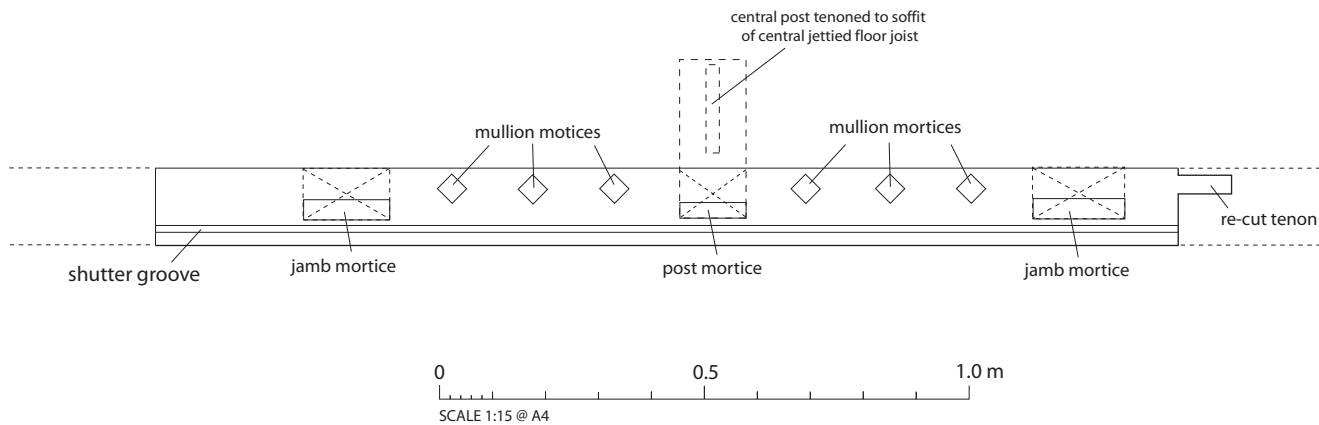
Figure 26 : PHASE I details : hall / jetty construction (reconstructed)



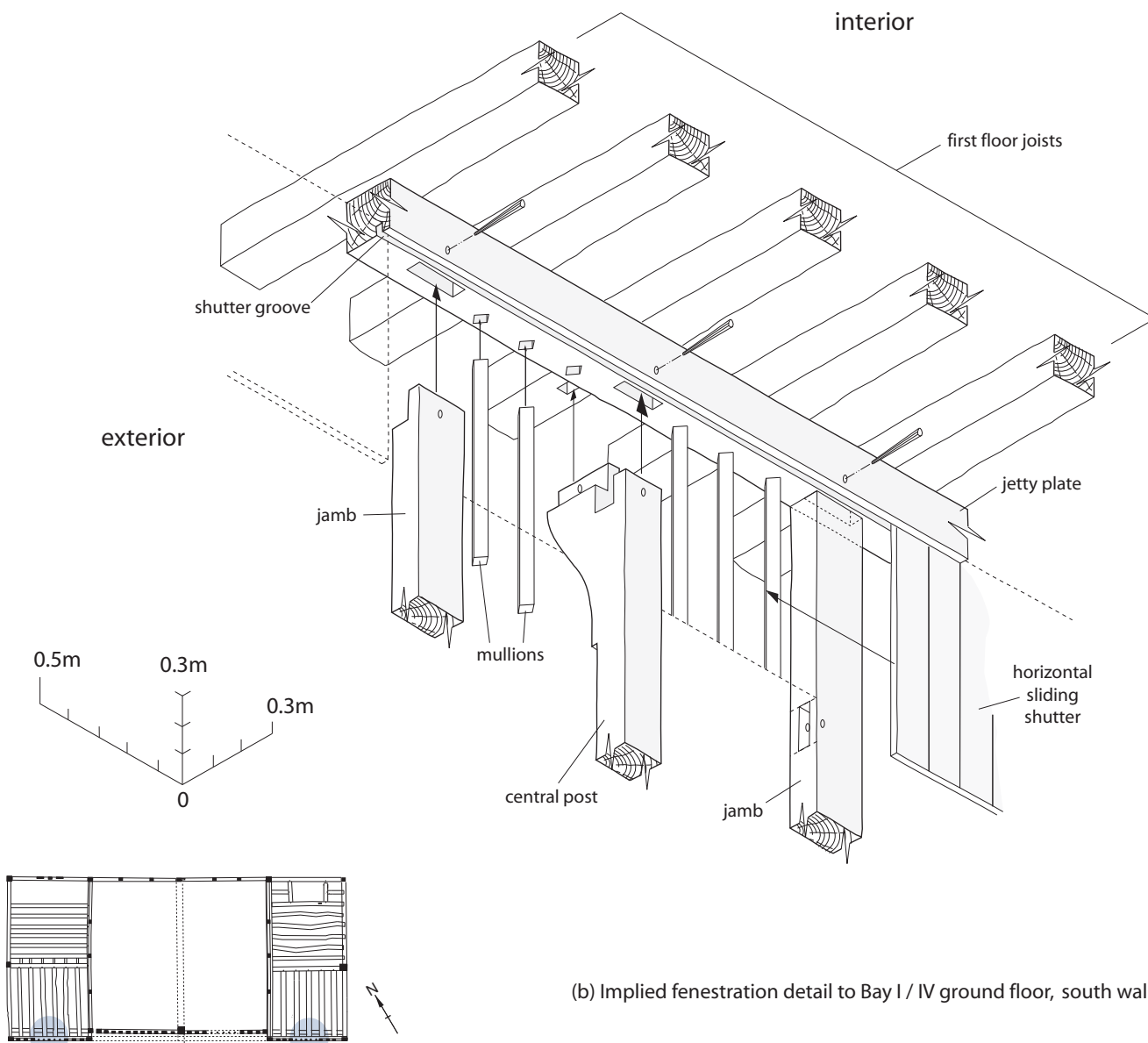
(b) exploded view

(a) as recorded

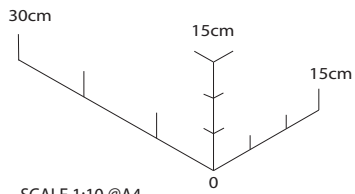
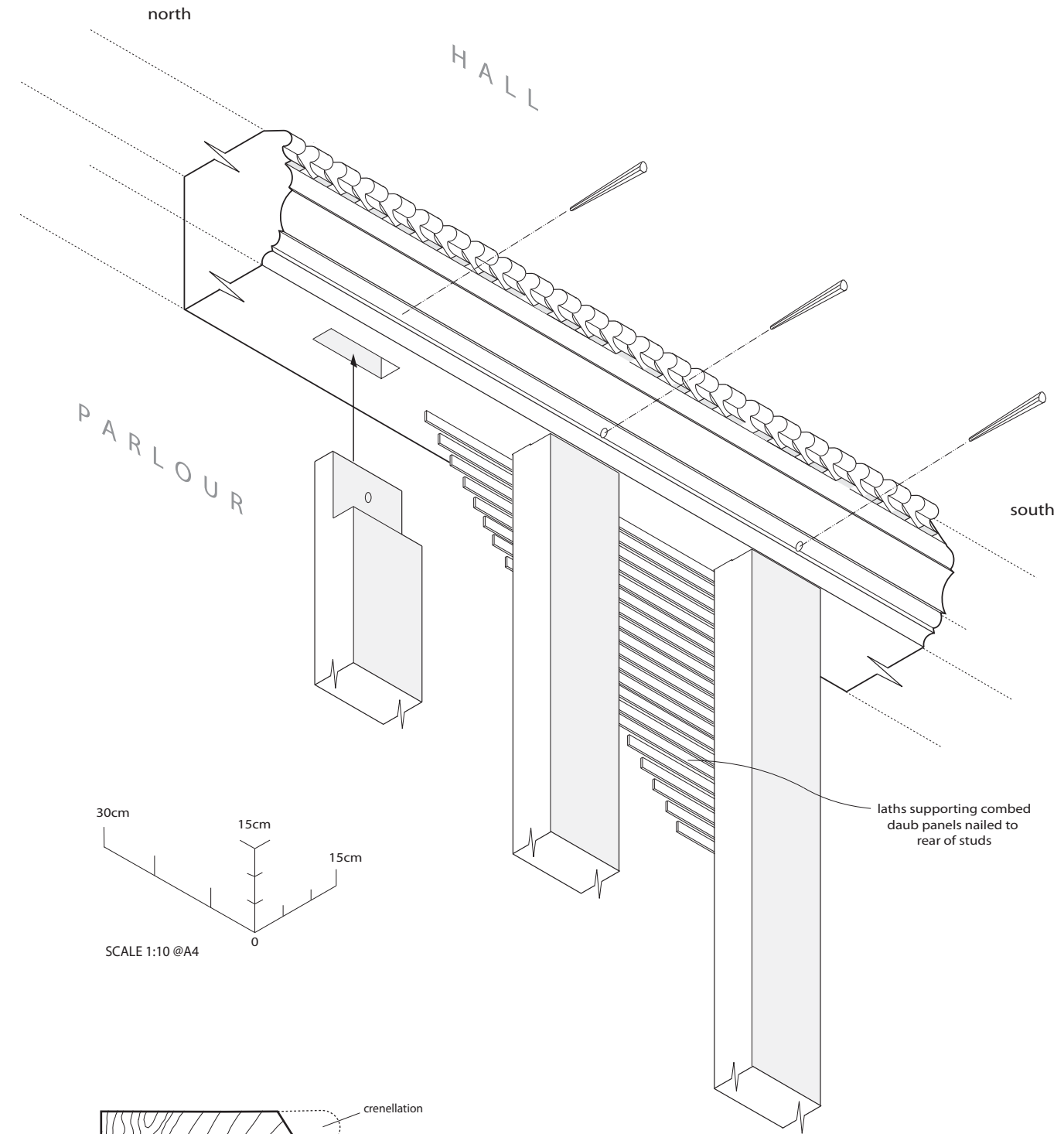




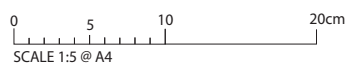
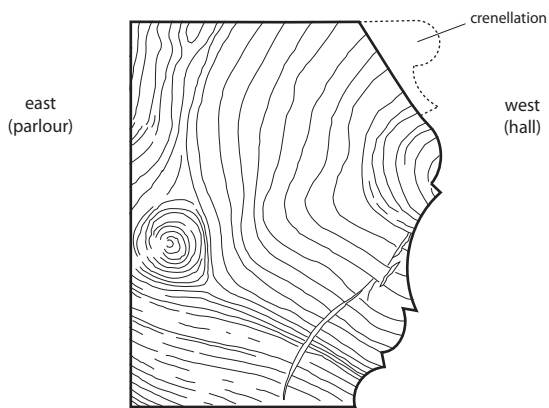
(a) Soffit detail of re-used jetty plate retrieved during dismantling



(b) Implied fenestration detail to Bay I / IV ground floor, south wall

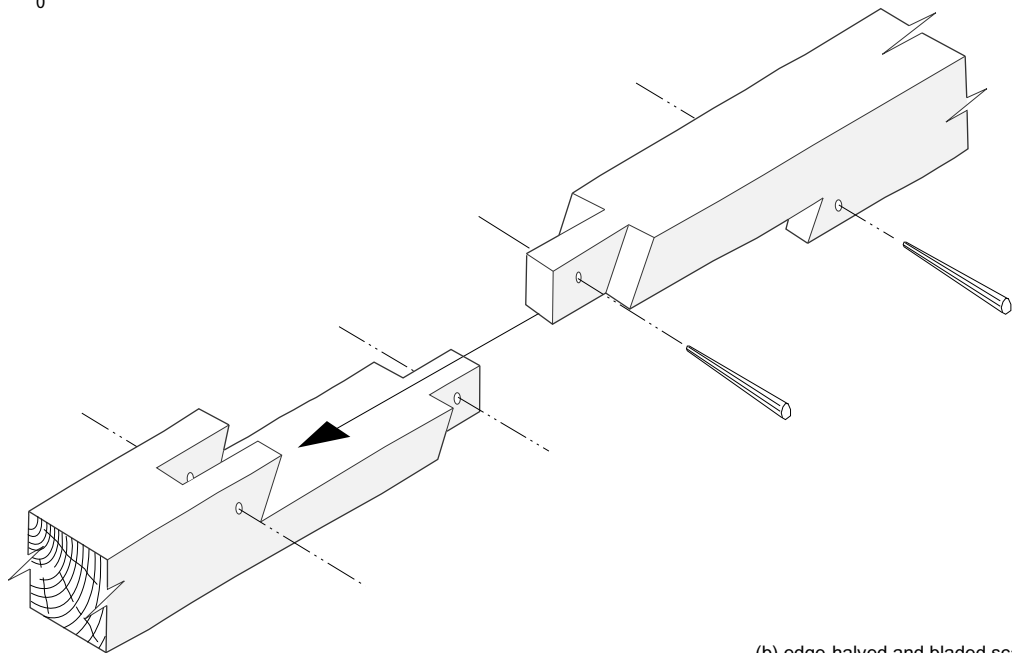
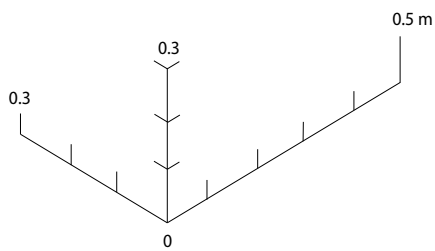
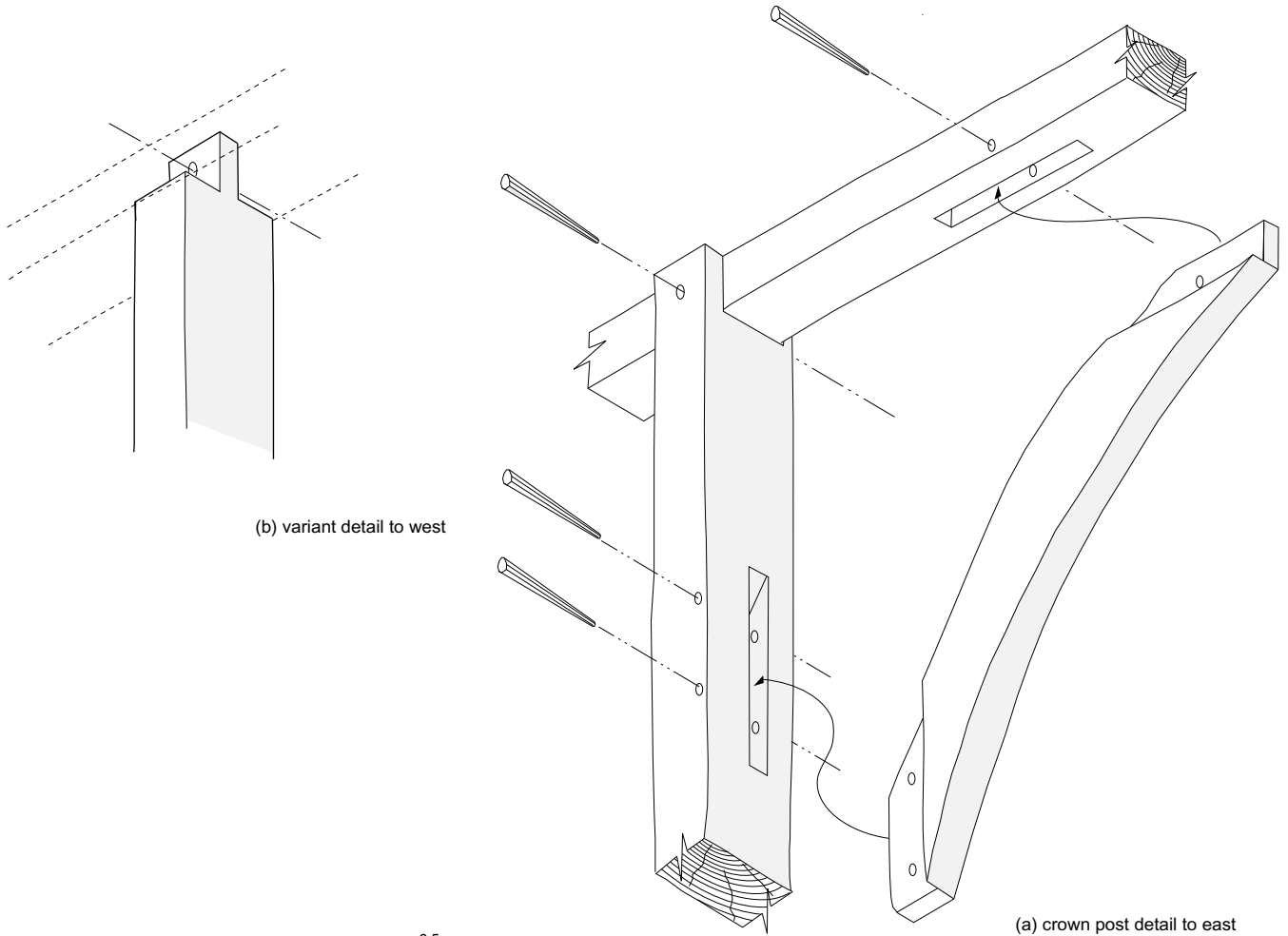


SCALE 1:10 @A4

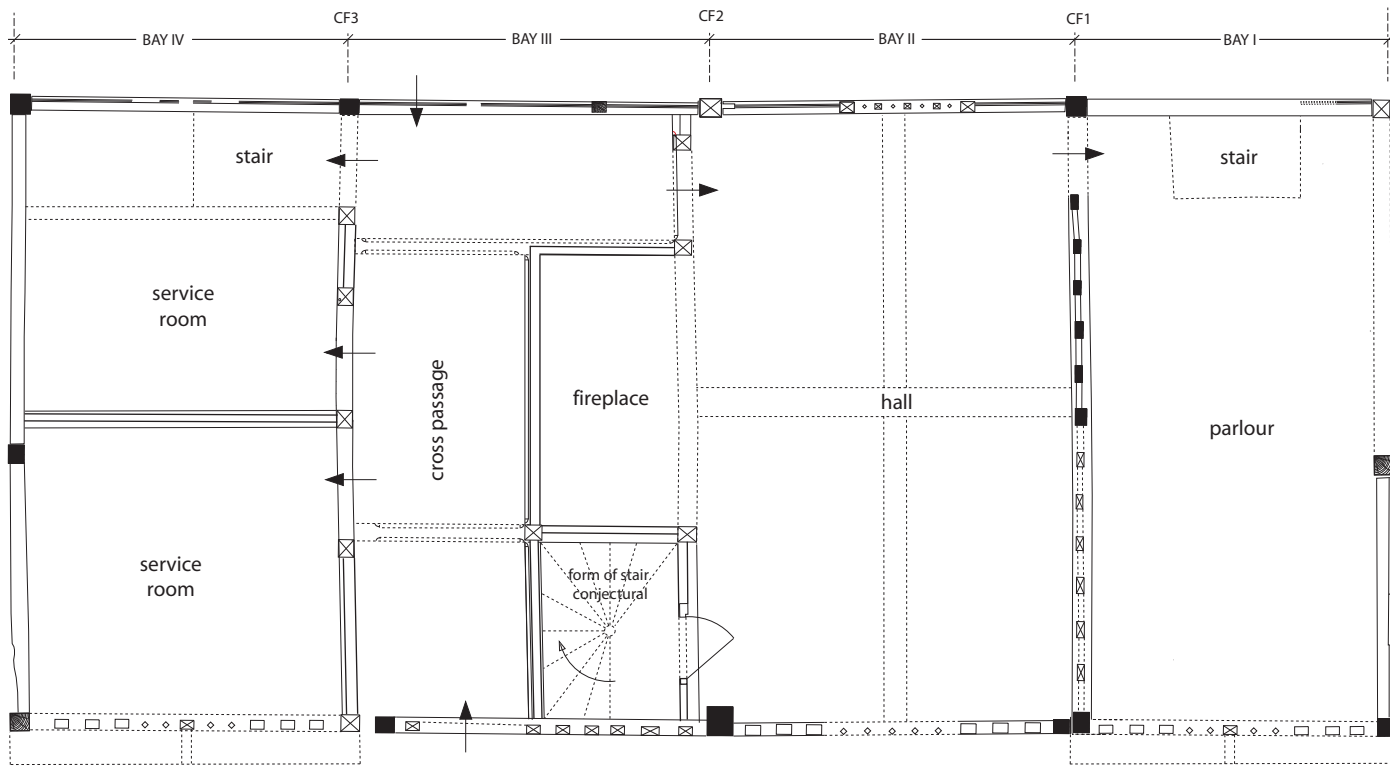


Dais beam profile

Figure 29: PHASE I : Details of dais partition



(b) edge-halved and bladed scarf joint used in bressummer, wall plate and collar purlin



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

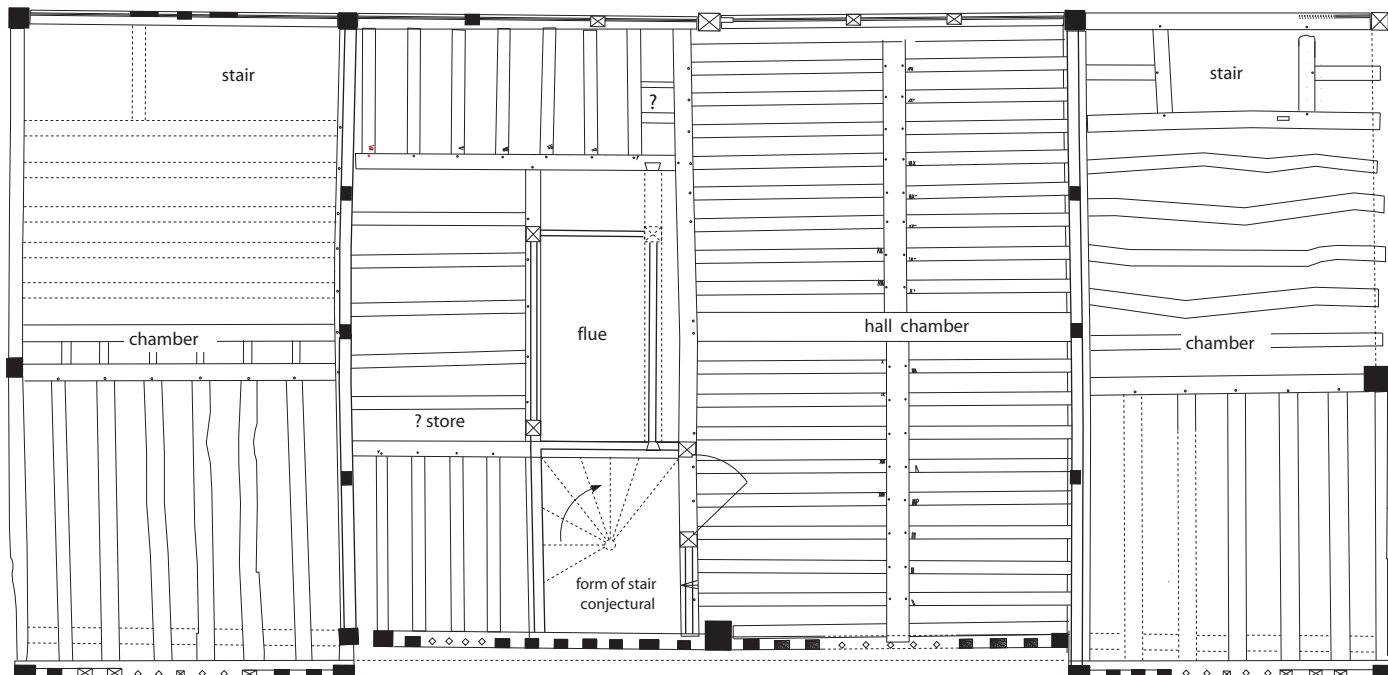


KEY

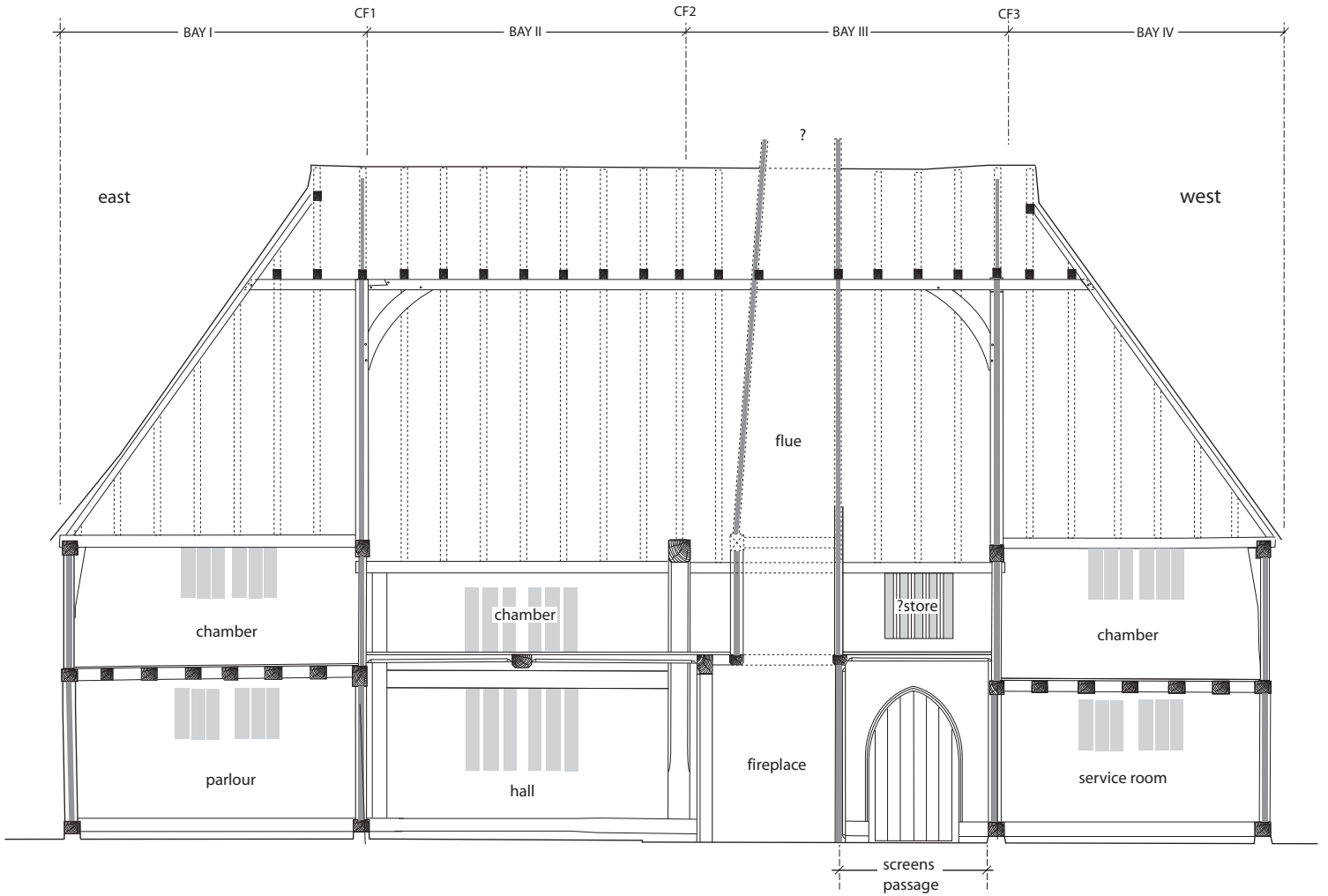
- | vert. | horiz. | |
|-------|--------|--|
| | | <i>in-situ</i> primary timbers |
| | | primary timbers evidenced by surviving mortices / peg holes etc. |
| | | conjectural / projected primary timbers |



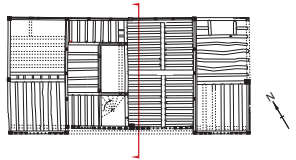
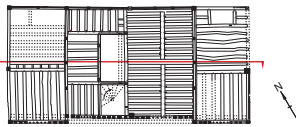
SCALE IN METRES (1:80 @ A4)



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



0 0.5 1 2 3 4 5
SCALE IN METRES (1:80 @ A4)



N.B. Although the form of the timber chimney at ground floor level can be reconstructed in some detail, above the level of the inserted floor, its original arrangement is less definite. The suggested reconstruction illustrated here is based upon the limited evidence of peg holes and redundant mortices recorded during dismantling and is thus partly conjectural.

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 5
SCALE IN METRES (1:80 @ A4)

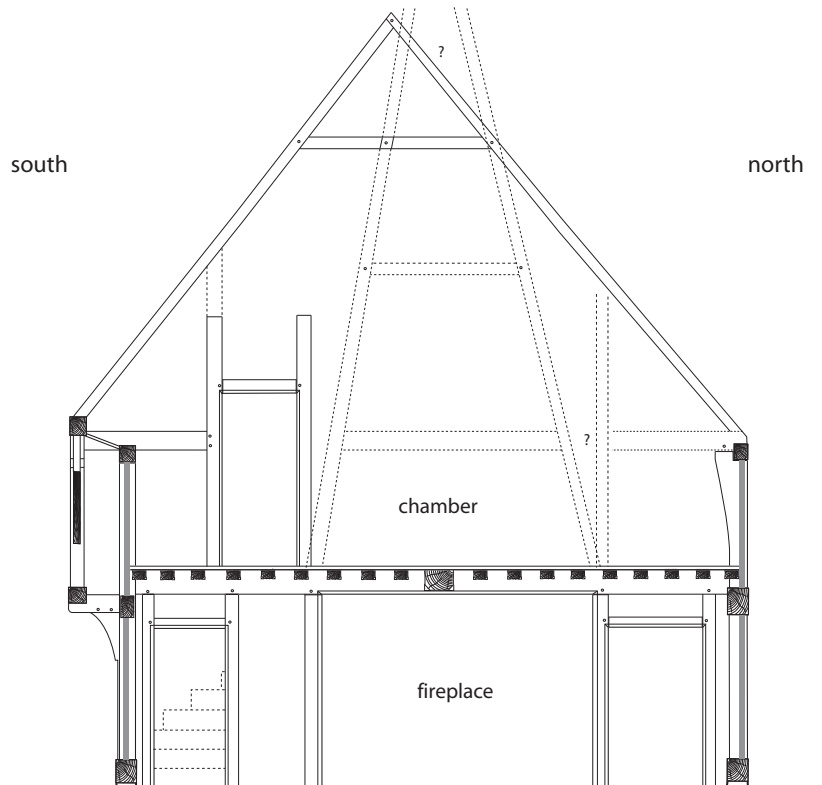
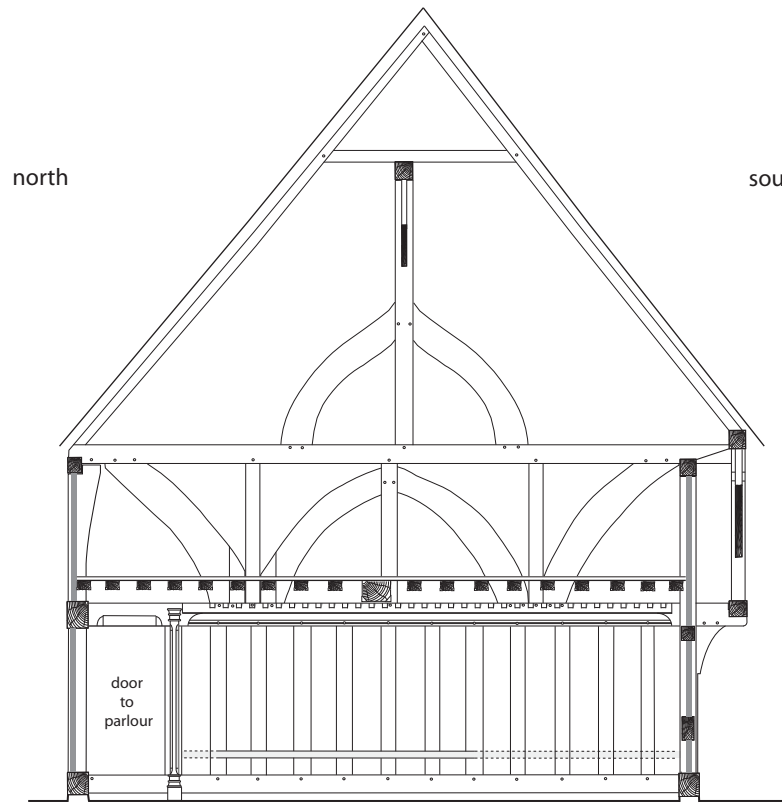
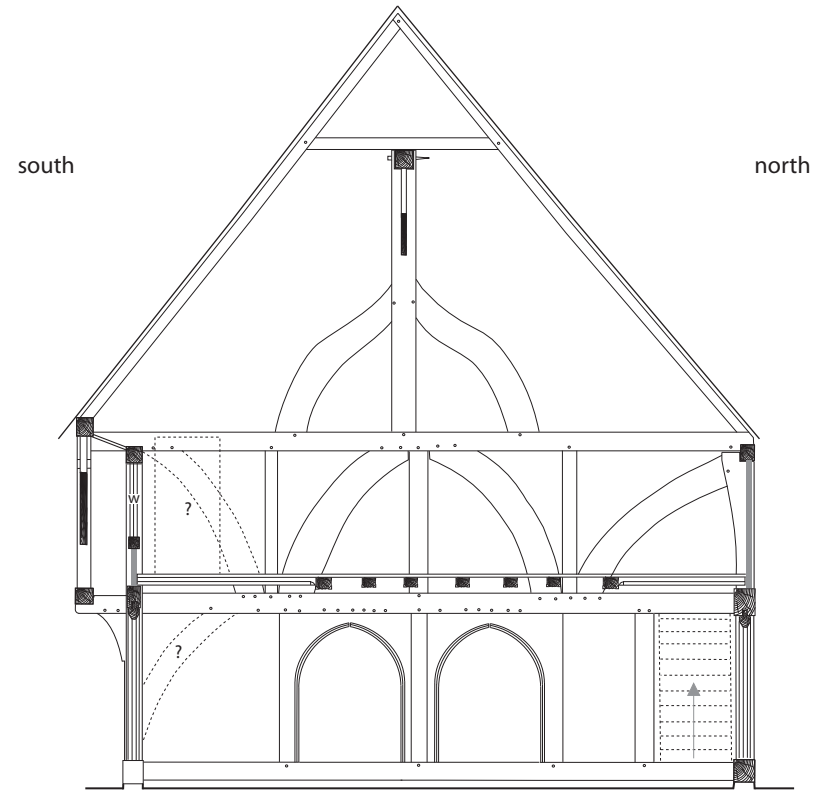
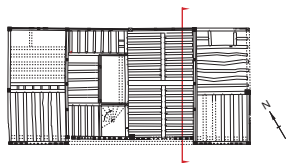
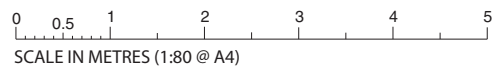


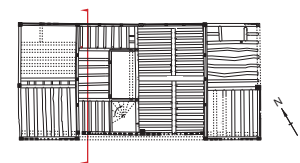
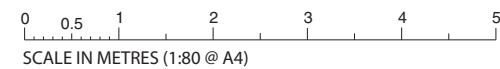
Figure 33 : PHASE II : reconstructed longitudinal and hall cross-section

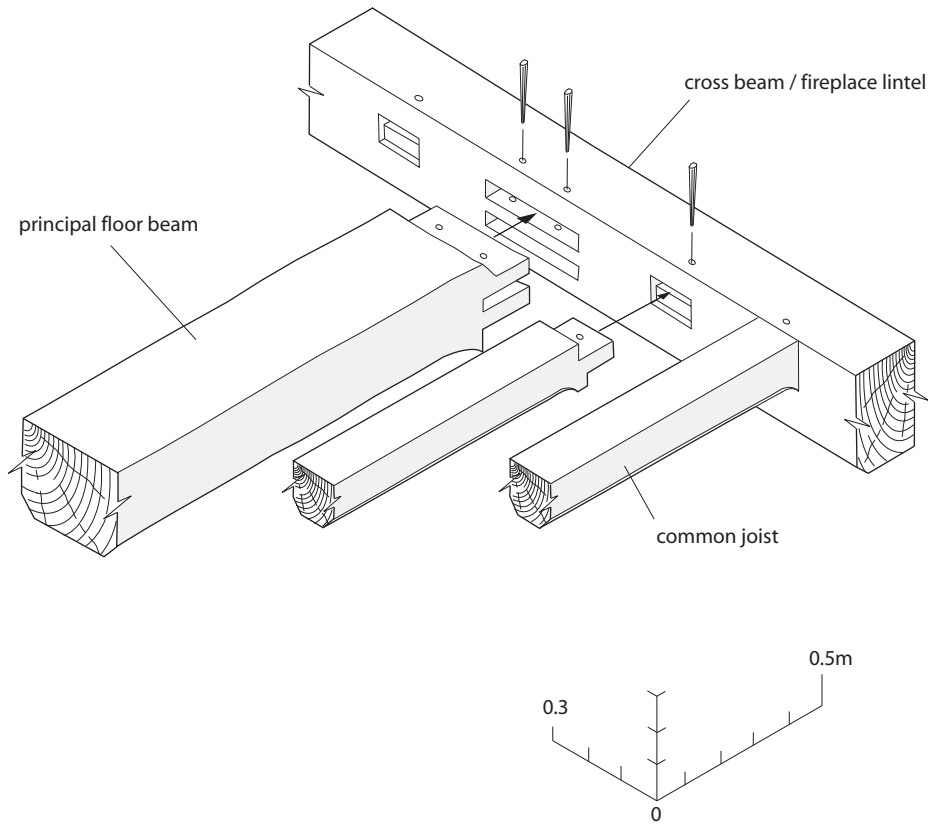


(a) Hall ; high end (CF 1)



(b) Hall ; low end (CF 3)

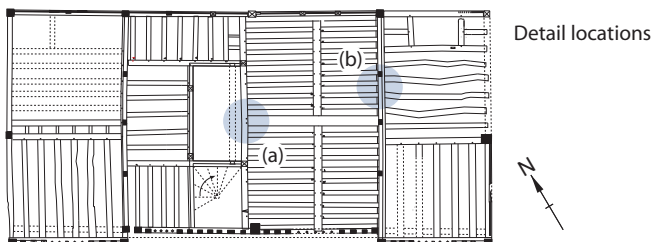


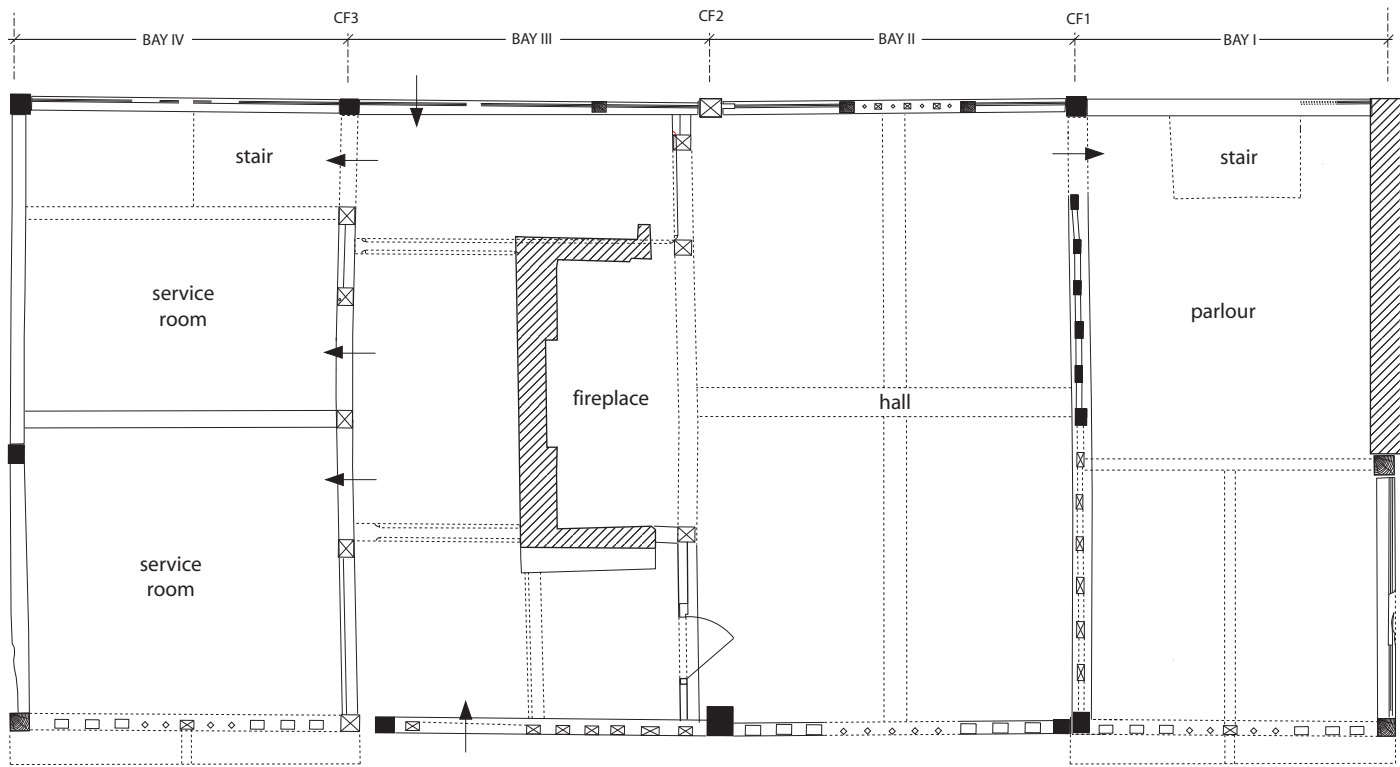


(a) Details of jointing at cross beam / secondary beam / common joist

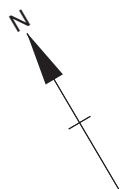


(b) At the high end of the hall, the common joists of the inserted floor are supported by packing pieces atop the pre-existing dias beam (left) or, in certain cases, are cut into the arch bracing of the end elevation (right).



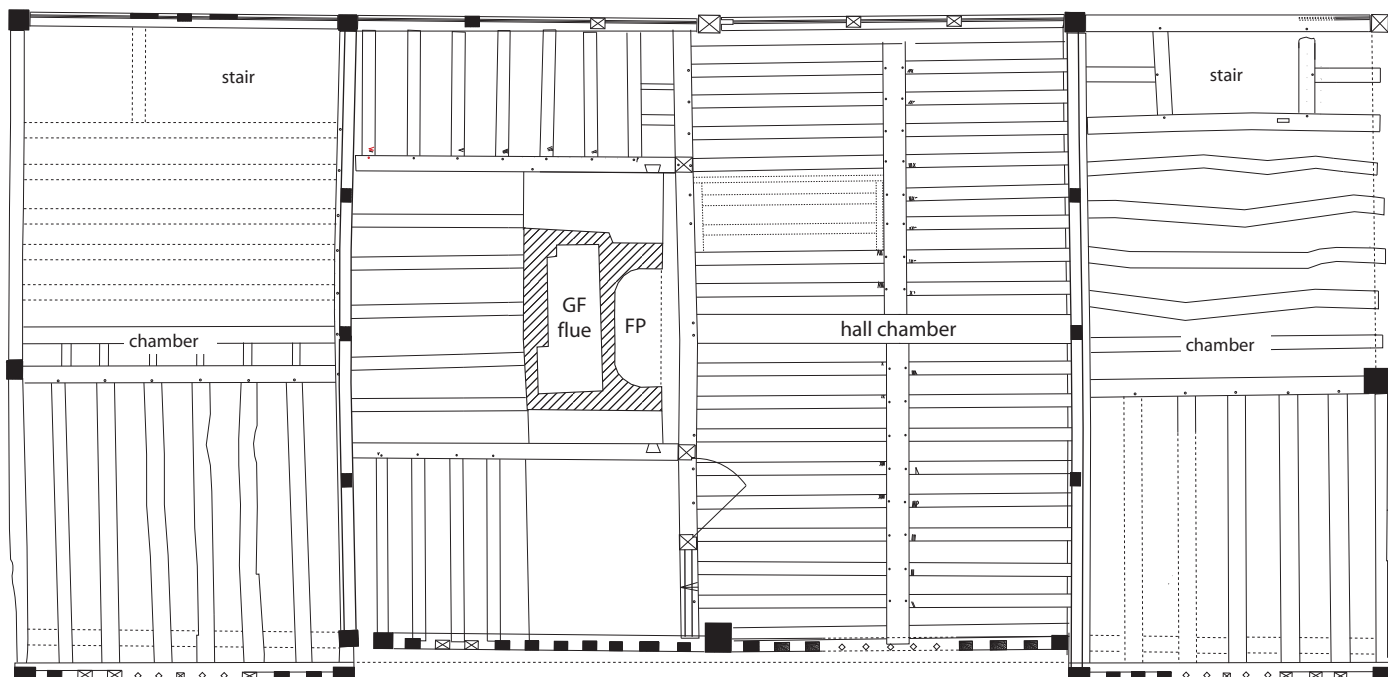
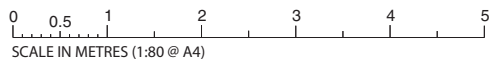


GROUND FLOOR PLAN

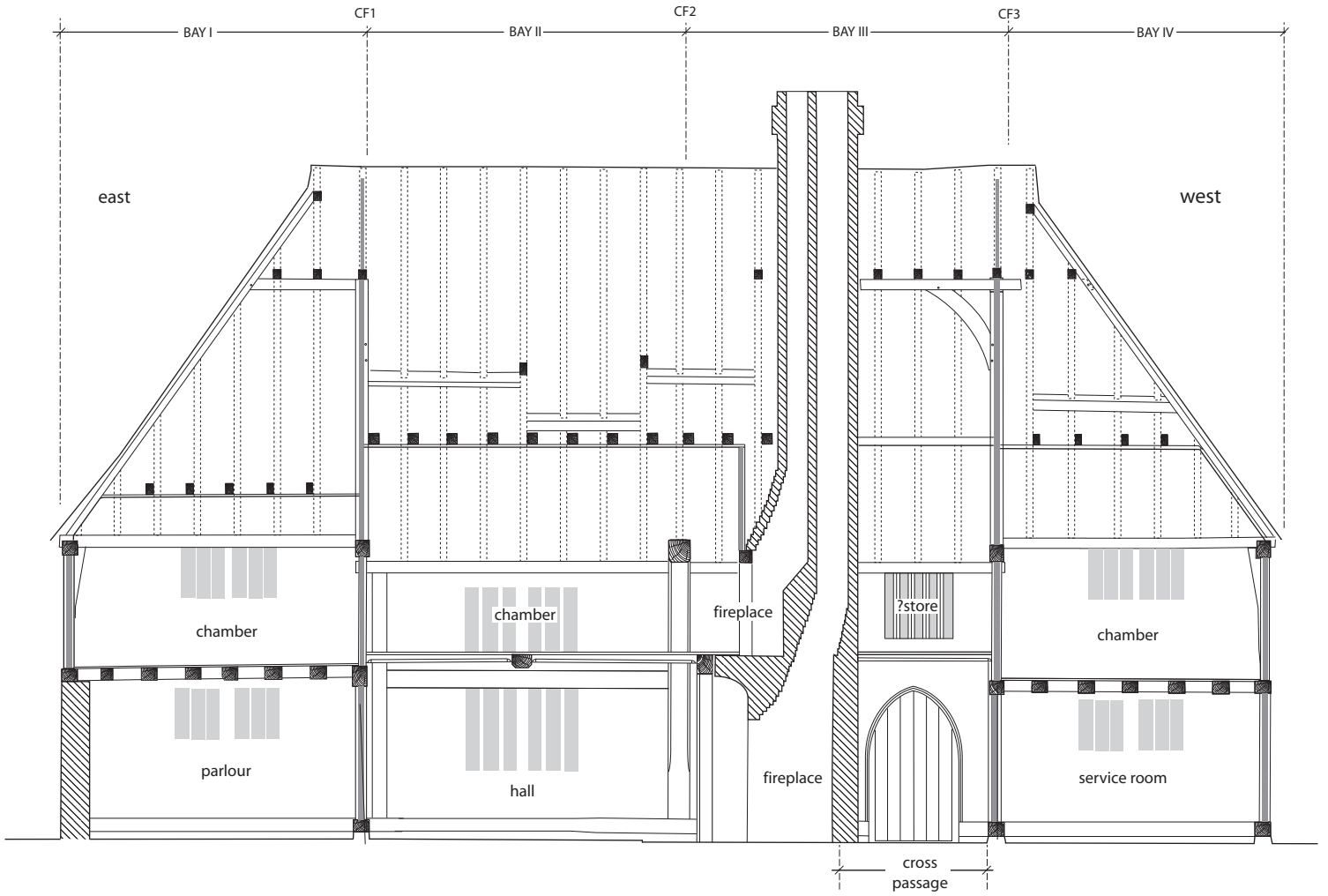


KEY

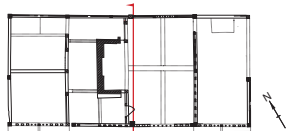
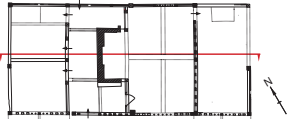
- | vert. | horiz. | |
|-------|--------|--|
| | | <i>in-situ</i> primary timbers |
| | | primary timbers evidenced by surviving mortices / peg holes etc. |
| | | conjectural / projected primary timbers |



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



0 0.5 1 2 3 4 5
SCALE IN METRES (1:80 @ A4)



0 0.5 1 2 3 4 5
SCALE IN METRES (1:80 @ A4)

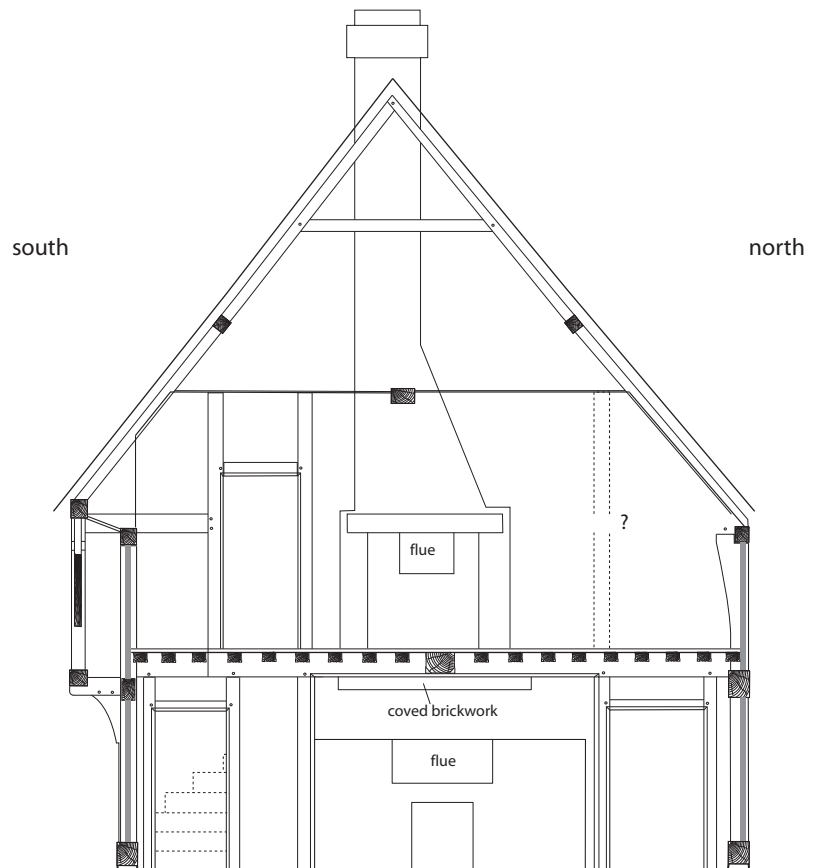


Figure 38 : PHASE III : reconstructed longitudinal cross-section and hall cross section

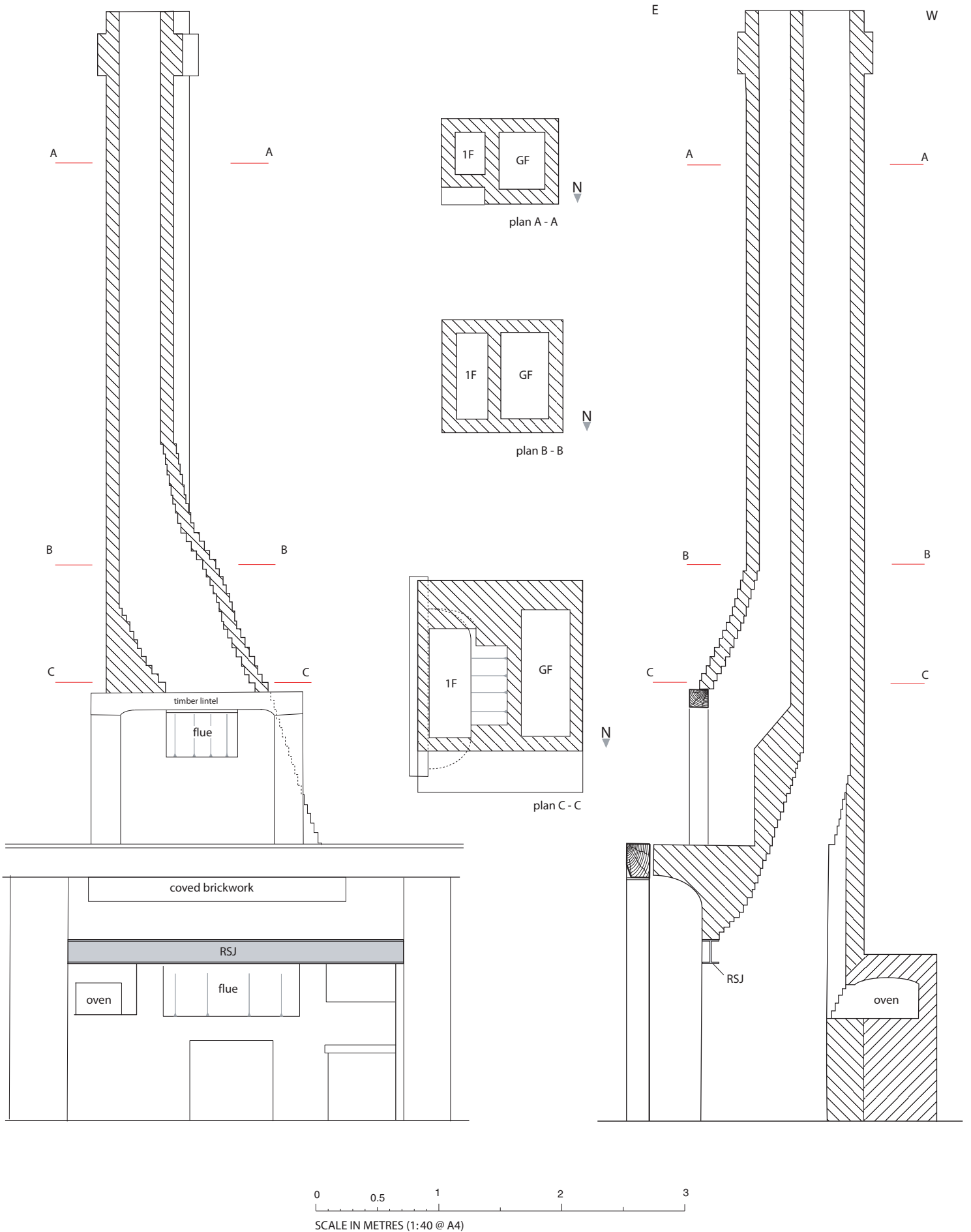
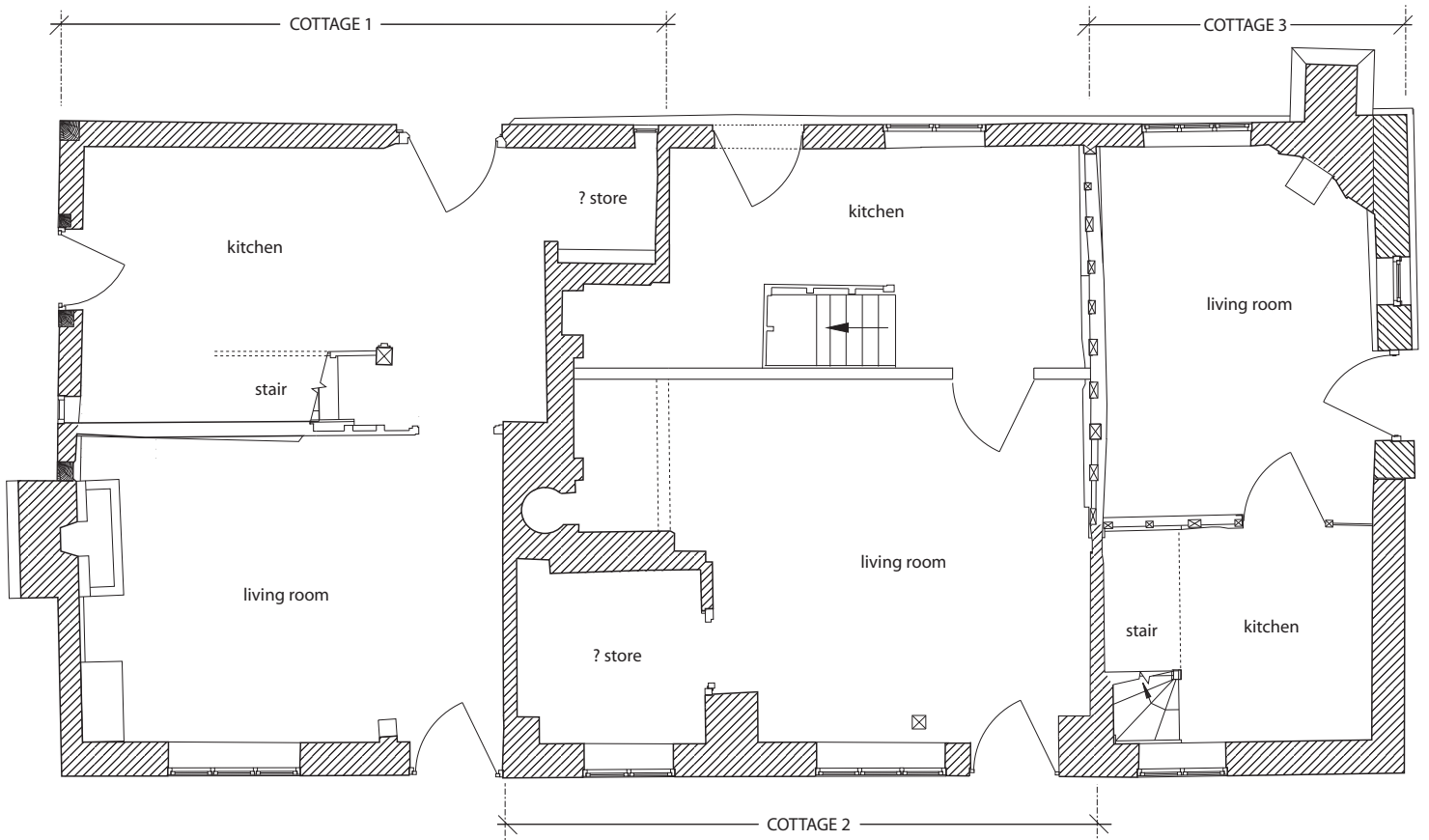


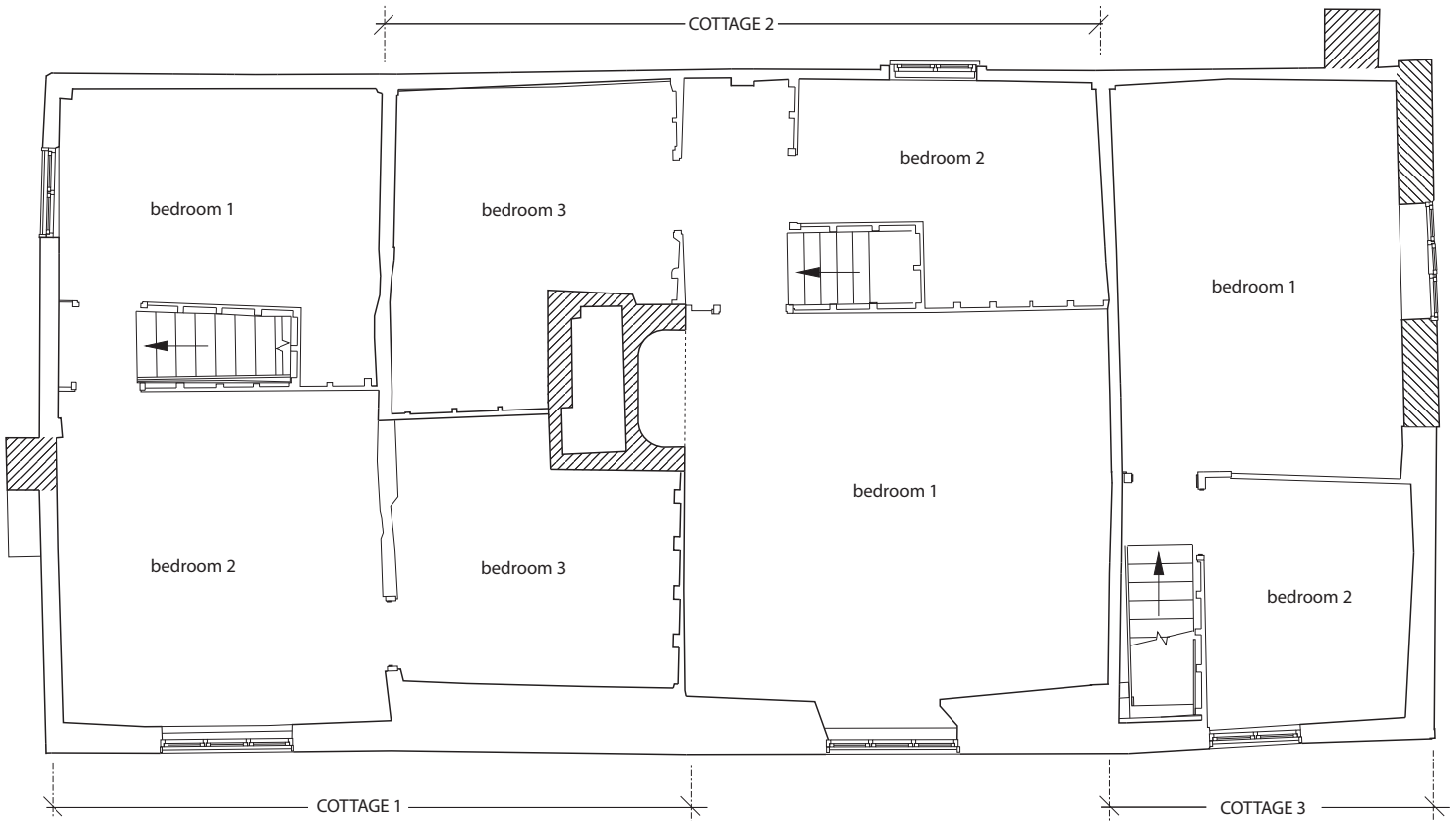
Figure 39: PHASE III : Details of brick stack



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

BRICKWORK KEY

-  Flemish bond
-  English bond



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

Figure 40: PHASE V : Railway Cottages: internal arrangements prior to conversion in 1985