



Iain Soden Heritage Services Ltd

Modern living in an historic environment

33 and 37 Main Road Crick

A Heritage Asset Survey

March 2014

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33 and 37 Main Road Crick

A Heritage Asset Survey

Iain Soden BA MIfA

Summary

This 17th- to 18th-century Grade II Listed farmhouse has been overhauled and updated in the 18th and 19th centuries, although it retains elements of some early interiors. It has lost one range totally and parts of the main range are redundant as farm buildings. It stands upon an historic plot and earlier remains may survive buried around and beneath it.

Introduction

The property at 33 & 37 Main Road, Crick lies at the current east end of the village of Crick, east of J18 of the M1 and south of the A428. A modern housing estate does lie further to the north and east. It lies at NGR: SP 5900 7247 (Fig 1) and is mapped as lying on clay at approximately 130m above Ordnance Datum (www.bgs.com).

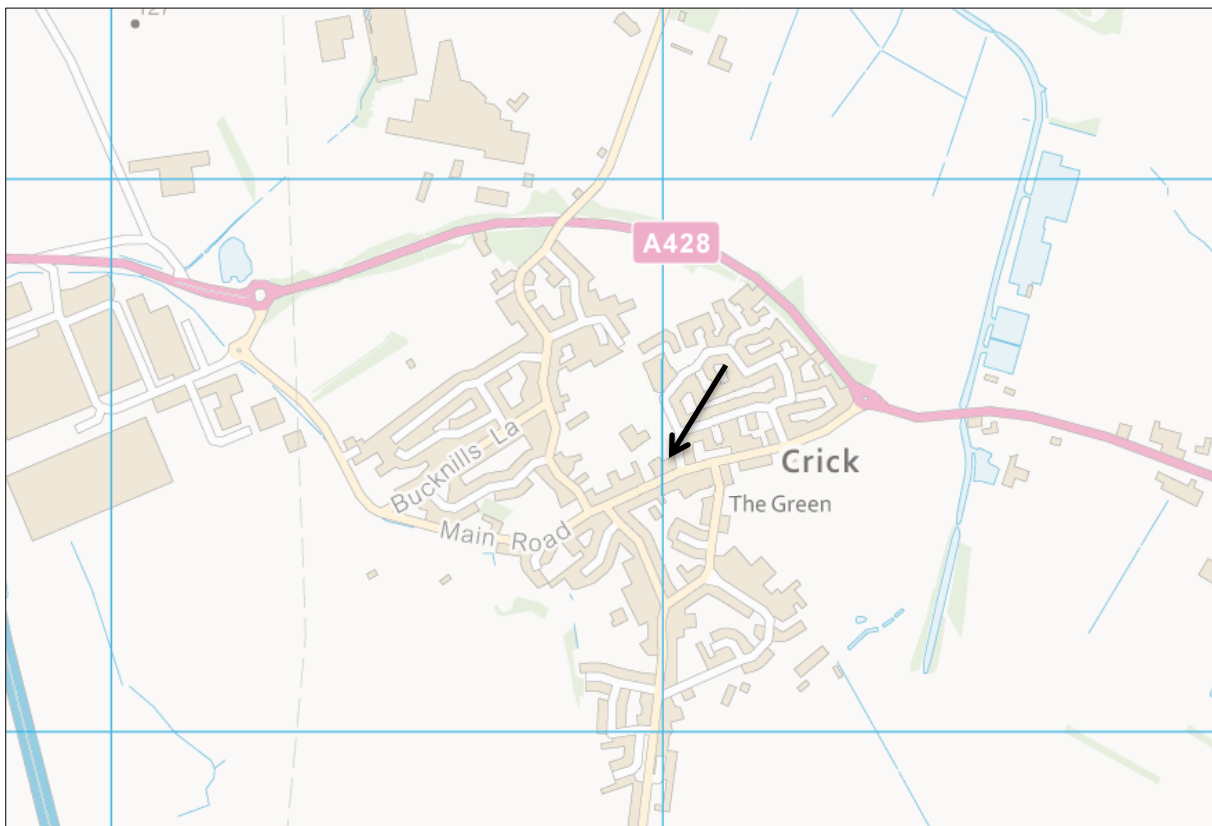


Fig 1: site location at SP 5900 7247.

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The house lies adjacent to the modern access road 'Bury Dyke'. However, it lies at the heart of the probable former medieval settlement of Crick, the former earthworks of which survived to be mapped by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME 1981, 60-2 and fig 53). Although these have now been largely built over further to the north and east, they previously commenced directly east of the property, within only a few yards, opening out into a probable hollow-way with former medieval house platforms. Thus the property, already comprising historic fabric above ground, may be seen to lie on a village plot of much older origins with a potential for remains surviving below ground. Bury Dyke takes its name from a nearby field 'Berry Dyke Field'. The pond adjacent to the house was formerly called Darker's Pit or Eddy's Pond (Hardy 1987, 20).

The field next to the house, which was the site for some of the above-mentioned earthworks, was plotted in a survey of the pre-Inclosure village made in 1977, but its early name is not known (Hall and Hardy 1977, 29). No Inclosure map of the village survives in the NRO, nor a tithe map. A map of 1810-20 does survive, but it is naively drawn and the property can only be surmised; few but the church look anything like what they do on the ground (NRO Map 4529; fig 2).

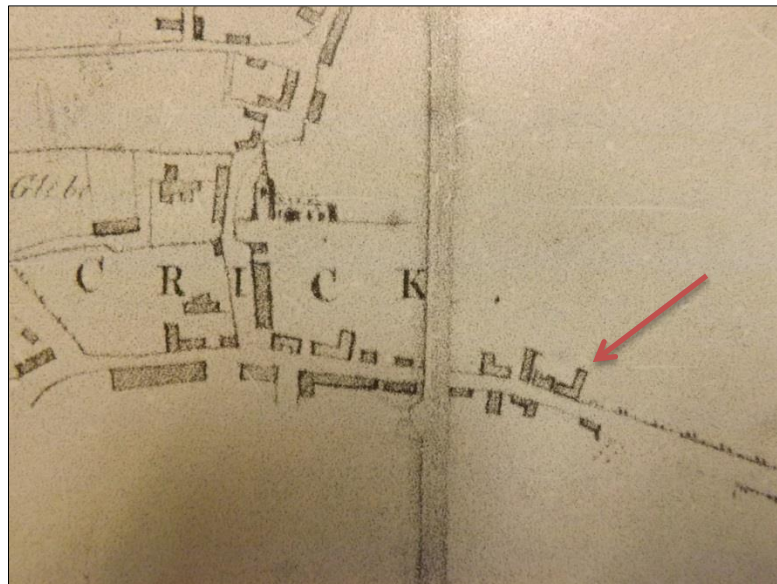


Fig 2: Extract from a photostat map of Crick 1810-20; the property ought to be that at the extreme right (arrowed), north of the road, but the awkwardness of the depiction makes clearer identification ill-advised.

Related previous research may be found in the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record, the repository for the results of all archaeological work in the county. The HER records as follows:

HER nos	ID		Notes
445/0/1	MNN131462	Poss medieval tofts and crofts	Former house sites and closes as depicted by RCHME (1981, fig 53)
445/0/31	MNN109885	Home Close and attached barn	(The property) 33 and 37 Main Road, Crick
8074/0/45	MNN143396	Ridge and furrow earthworks	Destroyed by housing, after planning appeal
	ENN104520	Trial excavation 1996	Medieval occupation found

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These entries are represented on the modern OS map base in the HER. They are not shown here as the detailed OS data is restricted by the Northamptonshire County Council license.

As a former farm, the property falls into the category described by HELM as a Dispersed Plan, to which additions were made which (to some small extent) regularised the layout (HELM 2006, 26). Direct links to the farmland were being eroded as early as 1915, when the first in a series of village schools was built behind the plot.

The following is a legacy-description of the listing of the property (www.britishlistedbuildingsonline.co.uk)

1CRICK MAIN ROAD

Home Close and attached barn

II

House. C17 and C18. Datestone 17-/E- on side facing the road. Coursed ironstone rubble, tile roof, brick stacks. Originally a block running north-south, consisting of house and probably the attached barn. It was remodelled in the C18 and an extension built projecting from the front to form a T-plan. Section to right, 2 storeys; 3 bays. Entrance to left of centre has wood lintel and C20 glazed door. 2-light transomed casement window with wood lintel to left, similar 3-light window to right. 2-light transomed casement windows with wood lintels in outer bays on the first floor. The window in the right bay has chamfered moulded stone jambs, probably the remains of a C17 window. One-light casement window with wood lintel in the centre on first floor. Coped right gable end with kneelers. Extension projecting to left, C18 is of similar materials; two storeys and attic; 2 bays. 3-light transomed casement windows with wood lintels to both floors, moulded stone cornice, copied gable ends. 2 bays of main block to left of projecting wing, have 2-light casement window with wood lintel to left bay. Stable door with wood lintel and glazed upper part in second bay from left and plank door with wood lintel in right bay. Gabled half dormer. Coped gable end. Barn extending from left side, C17-C18 coursed limestone rubble, corrugated iron roof, 3-bays. Door in left bay has plank door with wood lintel and overlight with wood slatted ventilation grille. C20 glazed extension across two bays to right. Coped left gable end. Interior not inspected.

Historical Background

The First Edition Ordnance Survey (1885) shows the house in plan as we now know it, but with the addition of the farmyard being closed off by another range across the north side, now lost. It is seen to best effect when depicted again in the Second Edition OS 25" map of 1900.

That lost range appears not to have been linked to the barns at either end, possibly because space was needed to open the barn doors, but also because a way through was needed to be maintained into the paddock behind, perhaps a mixture of both. The loss of the range may have been connected with changes in the farm regime as the barn doors were themselves subsequently blocked.

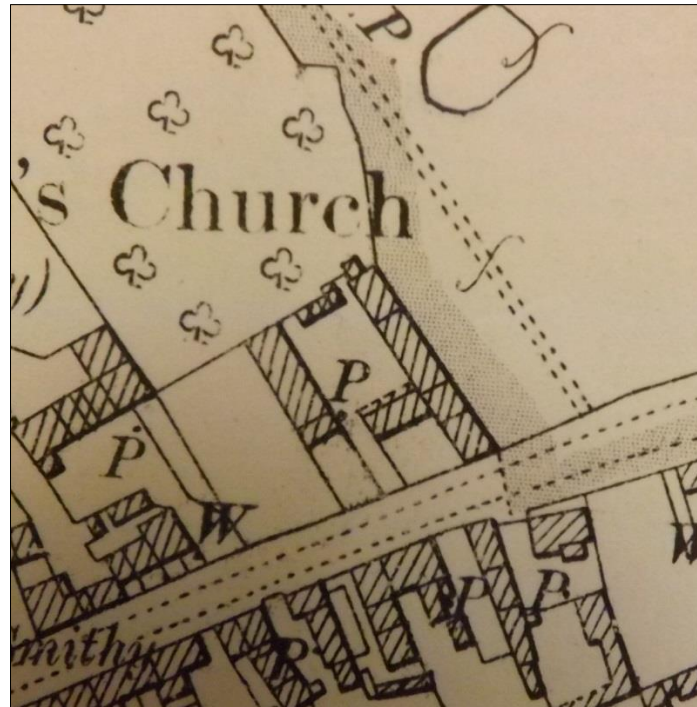


Fig 3: The house and barn in the 2nd edition OS map of 1900; note the north range, now lost. When still standing in 1953 this contained a coalhouse and (cart) hovel. The location of a pump (well) is shown at the south west corner of the farmyard (P).

The lost range may in some way be connected with the small building seen in an aerial photo of about 1965 (copy provided by the householder) but this building appears to be a late addition which was added after the previous range had gone, sometime between 1953 and 1965.



Fig 4: A small intermediate building on the north side (arrowed). It may or may not be a survival of the longer north range, which seems to have been largely replaced by an ornamental pond with a figure- of-8 shape.

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The property is probably represented for the first time as one registered for taxation on three hearths in 1674 (Hearth Tax - The National Archives, Kew: E179/254/14 – 901 Crick; typescript in NRO), of which there were 10 such properties (only six others contained four or more hearths at that time, the majority having one or two only). The principal manor houses of the village had 8 and 6, respectively. In 1674 it is unclear which of the farmers was at this property (Jonah Watts, Thos Ayre, Robt Robinson, John Garrett jun, Edw Clark, John Banbury, Edw Dunkley, Widow Mawby, Thos Wright, John Hollis).

In 1777 there were as many as 34 farmers in Crick, all between 21 and 55 years of age and registered for military service in the Militia (Hatley 1973, 65). One was disabled by a broken thigh. Again it is not clear which of them lived and farmed from the property in question.

In more recent times the farmer was said to have been James Elliott. His tenure gave way to that of the village undertaker Walter Armstone while more recently the school headmaster lived there (Hardy 1987 and *ex inf* current owner).

Multiple tenancies within the property appear likely during the late 19th and early-mid 20th centuries, given the number of former exterior doorways and the numerous stairs, all of which are of considerable age.

There are a number of historic photographs of the house c1900-1940 in circulation, but these show the property from broadly the same points of view and very much as it is today.



Fig 5: General view 1930s from the west



Fig 6: General view 1930s from the east



Fig 7: The clearest older view of the house, 1950s; note the old front door



Fig 8: The house during the replacement of its roof-covering in c2000; a part-glazed front door, subsequently replaced.

FOR SALE BY PRIVATE TREATY

by Order of the Executor of the late Mr. E. G. Shettle.

CRICK

Rugby 6 miles Northampton 12 miles

**Particulars of Sale of
A SINGLE LOT OF FREEHOLD PROPERTY
With Vacant Possession
known as**

“FAIRVIEW,” MAIN ROAD

**A Good roomy semi-detached House
IN PLEASANT RURAL SURROUNDINGS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE VILLAGE
adjoining open fields**

ON THE MAIN RUGBY TO NORTHAMPTON ROAD (A428) AND BUS ROUTE. There is also a convenient local Bus service between Rugby and Crick.
The property has

**Good sized rooms and ample outbuildings
and is
substantially built of stone with tiled roof**

and contains :—

On the First Floor :—FIVE BEDROOMS, approached from both main and secondary staircases, the smallest Bedroom measures 10ft. 7ins. x 6ft. 8ins. ; Wardrobe cupboard on landing.

On the Ground Floor :—HALL and Passage ; FRONT ROOM 13ft. 4ins. x 13ft. with open grate and corner cupboard ; LIVING ROOM, 13ft. 9ins. (into chimney corner) x 13ft., fitted open grate with brickwork surround, mantel and cupboards ; PANTRY ; cupboard under stairs ; STORE or Coalhouse ; KITCHEN 14ft. (into recess) x 10ft. fitted range and electric cooker (included) ; SCULLERY fitted deep sink (cold water over), drainer and plate rack and LARGE WASH-HOUSE with brick built copper, old sink (cold water over) and loft over.

OUTSIDE are large yard with carriage entrance (common to this and two adjoining properties), W.C., Coalhouse, Hovel,

STONE-BUILT STABLE with loft over and corrugated iron roof,

STONE-BUILT WORKSHOP (45ft 4ins x 16ft)
with corrugated iron roof and double doors to yard, (LET as garage to the Northamptonshire County Council at £1 19s. a QUARTER and thus producing gross £7 16s. a YEAR), Small front Garden and

GOOD SIZED GARDEN IN REAR
(approached by 3ft. right of way over garden of adjoining Cottage) ELECTRIC LIGHT (not installed in two Back Bedrooms)

MAIN WATER AND DRAINAGE

N.B.—This Lot is sold subject to the existing rights of way over the yard and carriageway including the right to dry washing on clothes lines, for the Owners of the two adjoining Cottages at present occupied by Mr. L. E. G. Shettle and Miss Noon respectively, and subject also to a right of way over the front Garden path for the Owner of the Cottage occupied by Mr. L. E. G. Shettle.

A PLAN OF THE PROPERTY MAY BE INSPECTED AT THE OFFICES OF THE AUCTIONEER OR THE SOLICITORS.

Rateable Value £12. Rates for the current half-year (including water) £6 17s 0d.

The above mentioned property will be sold, BY AUCTION, subject to conditions of sale, by

H. HOLLOWELL

at THE WHEATSHEAF HOTEL, CRICK

On Wednesday, 11th March, 1953

Fig 9: Advertising the sale of the main, older portion of the house in 1953. The list of attributable room uses given at the time is instructive

The House

The house falls naturally into two parts. The first, and the earliest, is the larger of the two, the long stone-built range lying at right angles to the street. It is probably 17th century in date but with a considerable 18th-century alteration (perhaps giving rise to the now only partly-legible date-stone 17.. in the roadside gable). This may constitute a considerable re-build close to the road and a change in stonework remains visible, particularly on the east side. The range was coeval with two agricultural buildings which were built at the north end and which form a north-eastern side to the farmyard. The ground floor retains evidence of its early (if not original layout) and more recent alterations are apparent. The first floor is probably not, for the most part, early in date and represents gradual upgrading of a typical rural property where most activities went on downstairs at the hearth-side.

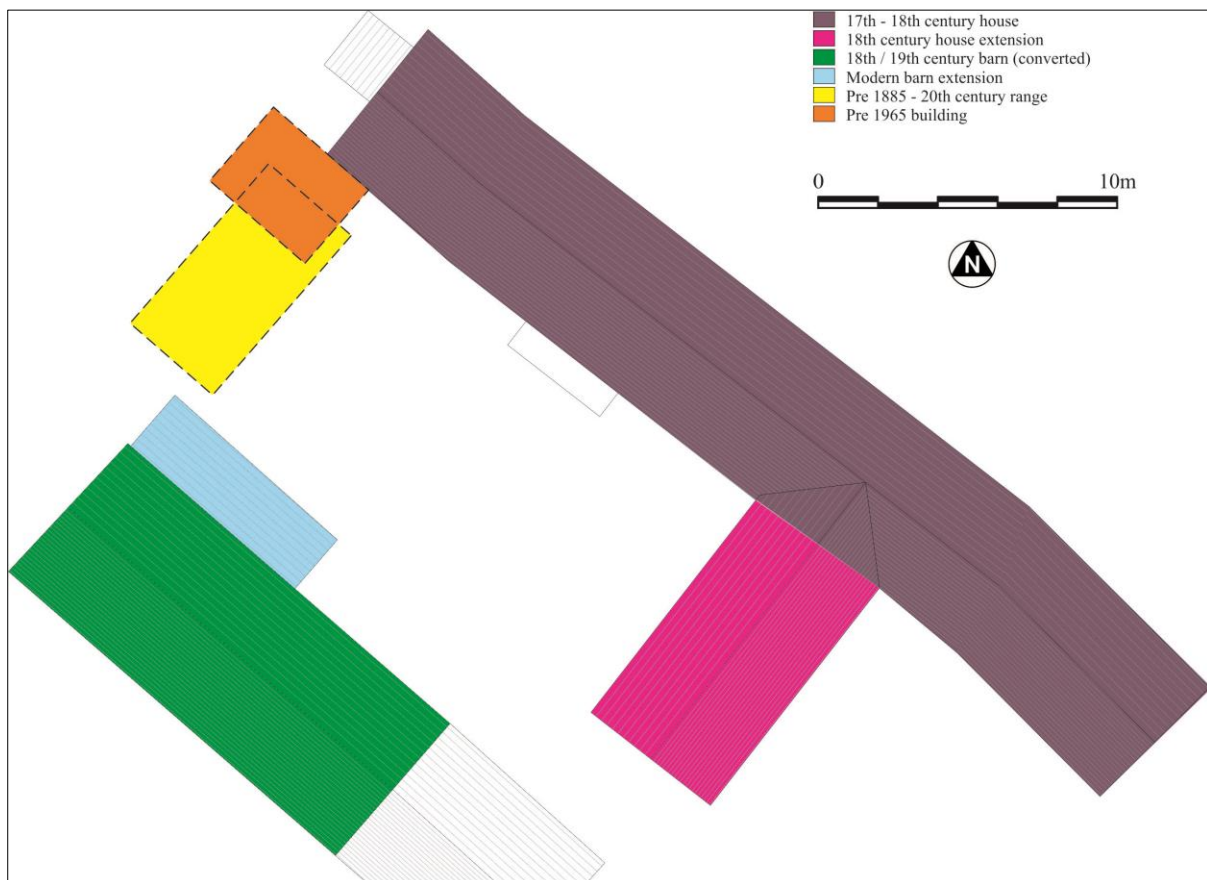


Fig 10: The site as a broadly-dated block-plan

The second and later portion is a two-storey addition which looks squarely onto the street. This is a firmly 18th century developed house form, of two bays with its chimney stacks built in the end gables, the type seen repeatedly across most of the local villages in the district, some of them dated.

Both elements are constructed of local Northampton Sand with Ironstone and although they are now roofed in Welsh slate, were once both thatched.

On the west of the farmyard is a former agricultural barn, which was converted in the last decade into a playgroup and is today used as offices. It is listed by curtilage but, other than the view from

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the outside, no historic fabric is visible anywhere in the building. This is the building which on the 1953 sale notice is described as being let out at that time as a garage to Northamptonshire County Council (confirmed by checking the distinctive measurements given).



Fig 11: Detached barn, converted into a nursery and extended in the last decade.



Fig 12: The two main elements of the house. The older, on the right, continues back out of shot beyond the later range on the left.



Fig 13: The outside (east face) of the house and the barn beyond. The first floor window locations are no older than later 19th century. The original eaves were probably lower, with a first floor much more constrained and not specifically for bedrooms, but rather combined with general storage.



Fig 14: The rear of the 18th-century addition; much of the long wall beneath the extravagantly-overhanging eaves-drip appears to have been re-built

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Ground Floor

The following is a suggested breakdown of the ground floor at salient points:

Room No	Current use	Other recorded use (1953)	Possible original use
G1	Hall and passage	Hall and passage	Hall and cross passage
G1a	Cloakroom	?Coalhouse and store	Hall and cross passage
G2	Sitting Room	Front Room	Parlour
G3	Sitting Room	Living Room	Hall kitchen
G4	Kitchen	Kitchen	Kitchen
G5	Sitting room	Separate property	Parlour
G5a	Sitting room	Separate property	Hall kitchen
G6	Dining Room	Scullery and wash-house	
G7	Store	Stable	Stable
G8	Store	WC	Not original
Outbuilding	Offices	Workshop /NCC Garage	Detached barn
Lost range on north	Demolished	Coal house and hovel	Unknown
Intermediate building on north c1965	Demolished	Unknown	Unknown

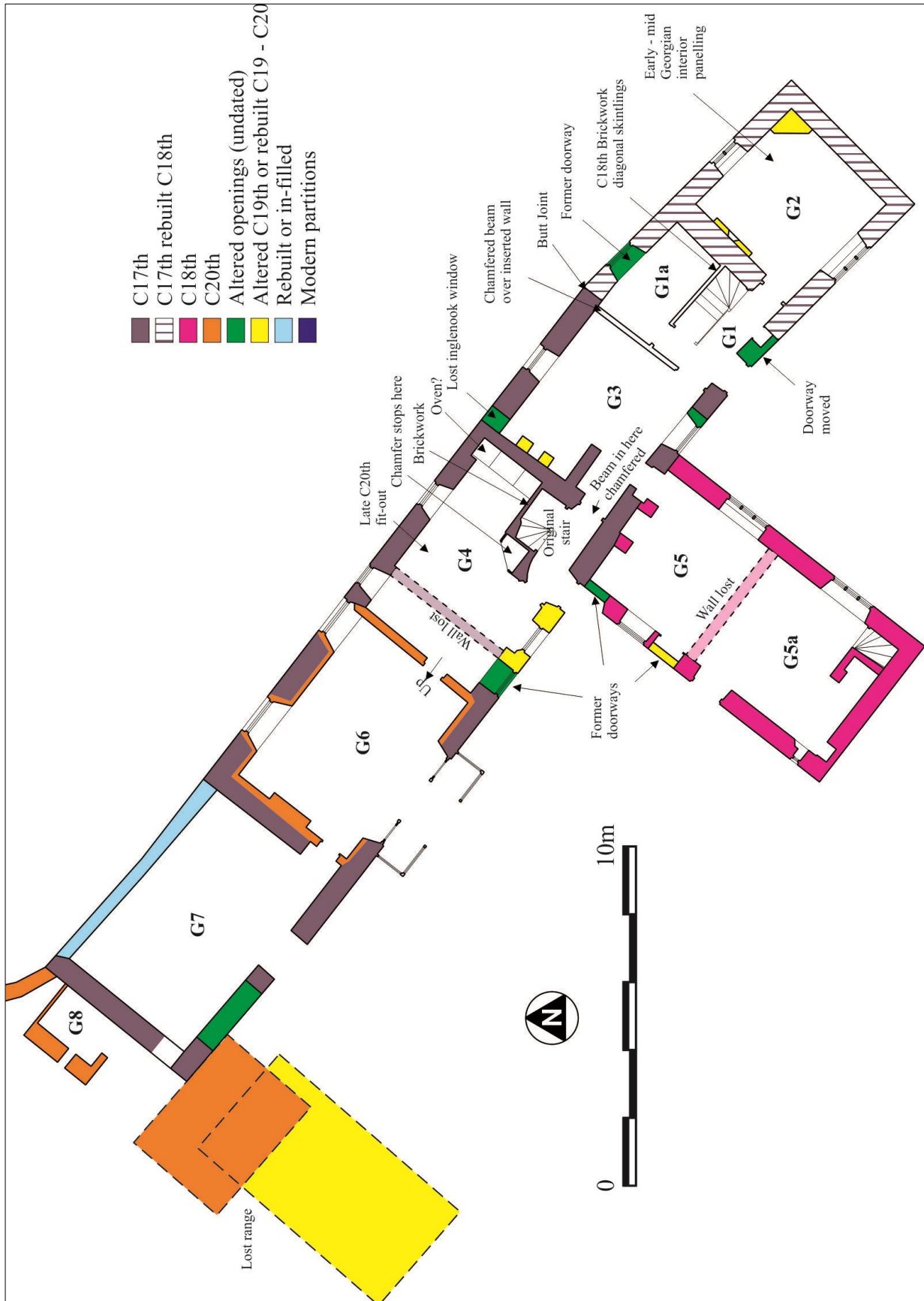


Fig 15: The buildings' ground floor, phased

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The following is a schedule of the rooms encountered in their present state:

G1 An entrance hall through a modern oak planked ledged and braced door with modern reproduction drop latch and bolt. A C19th cupboard marks the location of the previous doorway, perhaps the original one. This may have been a candle-cupboard. The ceiling is a replacement. Pine, machine-sawn tongue and groove V with dado lies behind the skirting on the outside wall. Similar vertical panelling on the inner wall but of wide oak or elm boards with a bead on the edge- this is probably older. The door to the stais is of 6-panels, 18th or early 19th century, re-hung on T-hinges, formerly H-hinges. There is a ledged planked door to the under-stairs cupboard. The stairs have a back wall of bricks in stretcher-bond exclusively with diagonal skintlings (stacking marks), usually indicative of a date before c1780. Bonding timbers in the wall, also indicative of C18th construction. The stone-flagged floor is continuous through to – G1a.

G1a A small rectangular room with very worn polished stone flagged floor. The window is a former doorway. The axial timber in the west edge of the ceiling is chamfered with a partition inserted below. Ceiling is partly a replacement.

G1 and G1a once formed a cross-passage entrance-way, possibly original to the building, but which was redundant when the stairs were inserted, probably before 1780.

G2 A relatively 'high-status' interior. It has a stop-chamfered axial beam between later and widened-out Victorian windows. There is a simple skirting and dado (chair rail) with raised and fielded panelling between, probably of the middle of the 18th century (EH 1993). No panelling above the dado. The window-surrounds and reveals are panelled in keeping with the room, but are later alterations. There is a corner china cabinet, a 19th century fire surround and mantel surround with a modern-tiled fireplace. The former wallpapering above the dado post-dates the 'modern' removal of the ceiling. There is a 6-panel stripped door and a flagged floor. The ceiling plaster has been removed from the underside of the joists in a modern practice which completely undermines the high-status of this 'best-room'. Only the chamfered axial beam should be visible.



Fig 16: The high-status panelled interior of room G2.

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G3 A sitting room with a large inglenook, originally open to G1 and G1a, except perhaps via a flimsy partition. Windows to front and back. Front has privacy-shutters (no top-leaf), covering the lower two thirds and having raised and fielded panels. The back has full security shutters folding back into shutter-boxes, again raised and fielded. The inglenook has a blocked fire-window on the north (the blocking visible on the exterior) and a C19th century chimney breast has been inserted into the inglenook. The ceiling has been taken down to reveal the joists in the usual modern reversal of what was usually intended, in search of 'character'. Only the chamfered axial beam was intended to be visible.



Fig 17: Sitting room G3 inglenook, note full shutters to right. A fire-light window has been blocked behind the armchair.

G4 The kitchen, with a modern tiled floor (probably previously dug-out). The western wall has been thrown back some 1.5m to create the current room. A chamfered beam between G3 and G4 shows the old doorway. There is a chamfer through the corner cupboard which stops at the wall to the side of the stair, as part of an early stair arrangement. The stair cupboard to the side has 18th century or earlier handmade bricks. There is a possible former oven location on the east wall at its south end.

G5 and G5a One room today, although formerly two. This is the sitting room in what was formerly the 18th century new-build. There are two blocked doorways to the north-west. The more central is the original entrance into the wing. The easterly fireplace is modern, in an original breast. In what was probably the parlour of the wing. The doorway in the corner is a later piercing, possibly short-lived, during a period of multiple tenancy of the whole complex.

There was originally a wall between G5 and G5a. This has been removed and the remains at ceiling level boxed in. Axial beams run east-west in both rooms, and are stop-chamfered. The joists were not intended to be seen. G5a has a large inglenook with stair around its back and a spice cupboard. There is a tiny fire window looking north.



Fig 18: Looking from G5a across G5. An original partition wall is missing from left to right.

G6. Now used as the dining room, this is formerly the scullery, created out of an agricultural outbuilding, probably in the early 20th century and serving G4. To create it windows were put into the north wall and three axial beams were inserted into a new ceiling, which show previous joist-socket configurations relating to their original places of use, perhaps not even in this property. The room has been lined with brick deliberately laid on edge (in a notably very frugal method of use of the material), partly to achieve ease of ongoing cleanliness, partly to maximise heat, perhaps suggesting that the creation of the room dates to after 1926 when coal was in desperately short supply and The Great Depression really began. The chimney breast is similarly an insertion at the same time as the lining of the walls as part of the scullery, which as a type was probably a short-lived room. Most did not remain in use after the 1960s, with the spread of modern kitchen appliances.



Fig 19: G6 Dining room; formerly a scullery. Originally a fully agricultural space.

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The room was shortened by about 1.5m at the south-east end when the kitchen was extended to its present dimensions. This resulted in the awkward position of the more southerly of the two rear windows, with its skewed reveal.

The French Doors and porch to this room were added between 1965 (they are not present on the aerial photo of that year) and 1987 (when mentioned in the listing). That is probably the point at which the dining room function was introduced and the floor raised to accommodate this. Prior to that any step up may have been further west at the junction of G6 and G7.

A battered and non-functioning louvered ventilator window just under the eaves lights the roof-space, which is currently unused. The window may have been designed to ventilate above the scullery and prevent build-ups of condensation. It is of 20th century date.

G7 The former stable is now used as a store. It has waney-edged unfinished axial beams supporting a boarded ceiling with a hay-loft space above. The south-west wall has a blocked large doorway and there is an adjacent stable door. The north-east wall has been re-built, perhaps after a total collapse (it is also possible it was once open-fronted on that side). There is a blocked doorway in the end wall.

The floor is of worn cobbles and stone, with expanses of brick, typical of stables. Although no stalls are evident, parts of a hayrack survive and some saddle/collar hooks are affixed over the barn-door blocking. Patches of earth-plaster survive.



Fig 20: G8, formerly a stable, now a store. Hay rack on right, harness peg on far left

G8 A simple stone and brick privy with pan-tile roof. Date unknown (there in 1885) but added to the end of the former stable. The house still had no internal WC as late as 1953, a not-uncommon occurrence in old buildings.

First Floor

Less survives of early first floor interiors than downstairs on the ground floors. The following summarises these interior spaces:

F1 A stair landing. Visible cheek-pieces indicate that this occupies roof-space. Above the stair wall (of 18th century date) is hand-cut oak or elm boarding. The stair-rail on the landing has hand-turned balusters with squat equal-sized upper and lower elements.



Fig 21: The handrail and stair balusters, possibly 18th century.

F1a A small bedroom created at the same time as the alteration to the entrance arrangements beneath. Part occupies the roof space. It is boarded off from F3 using the same boarding which characterises that between F1 and F1a.

F2, F3. Two bedrooms cut from the roof-space which both have inserted C19th century fireplaces. The small fire-baskets, simple hoods and shallow cheek-pieces suggest an early 19th century date.

F4 A modern bedroom space characterised by Tongue and groove boarding with a bead facing the landing. The interior has tongue and groove boarding with a V between, a more modern arrangement.

F5 A modern bathroom which is panelled out in TG-V over stud walls and which has a re-used C19th door.



Fig 22: Bedroom F2, typical of the modernised finished interiors upstairs, but note the absence of a tie-beam. The wall-fast shoes of the truss ends have been strengthened in stone, visible on the outside.

F6 A modern bedroom space which has been carved from two smaller spaces which formerly formed separate rooms, probably either side of a central partition. Out of the westerly of the two has been created a modern dressing room and a separate bathroom (F6a and F6b, respectively). The former of these has awkwardly split the function of the north-facing window down the middle using its partition. The original former stair behind the inglenook rises in the dressing room. A fireplace in F6 is probably a 19th century insertion.

A completely different construction method to the exterior stonework in the north-west wall of this floor, (Rooms F6 and F6b) suggests that this structure has been rebuilt or at least altered in a major fashion. This may be related to the re-roofing and the creation of the extravagant roof-overhang apparent on this side, which is depicted in Ordnance Survey maps as early as 1900.



Fig 23: Bedroom F6, the fireplace is a Victorian introduction

Room	Current use	Other recorded use (1953)	Possible original use
F1	Landing	(contained large wardrobe)	Landing
F1a	Bedroom	One of five bedrooms	Chamber in roof
F2	Bedroom	One of five bedrooms	Chamber in roof
F3	Bedroom	One of five bedrooms	Chamber in roof
F4	Bedroom	One of five bedrooms	Chamber in roof
F5	Bathroom	One of five bedrooms	Chamber in roof
F6	Bedroom	(separate property in 1953)	Two chambers/ bedrooms
F6a	Dressing room	(separate property in 1953)	
F6b	Bathroom	(separate property in 1953)	

It is noticeable that on the 1953 schedule there were no bathrooms in the property, and no hot water. The 18th century wing to the west was not included in that sale, being separately owned and tenanted at the time.

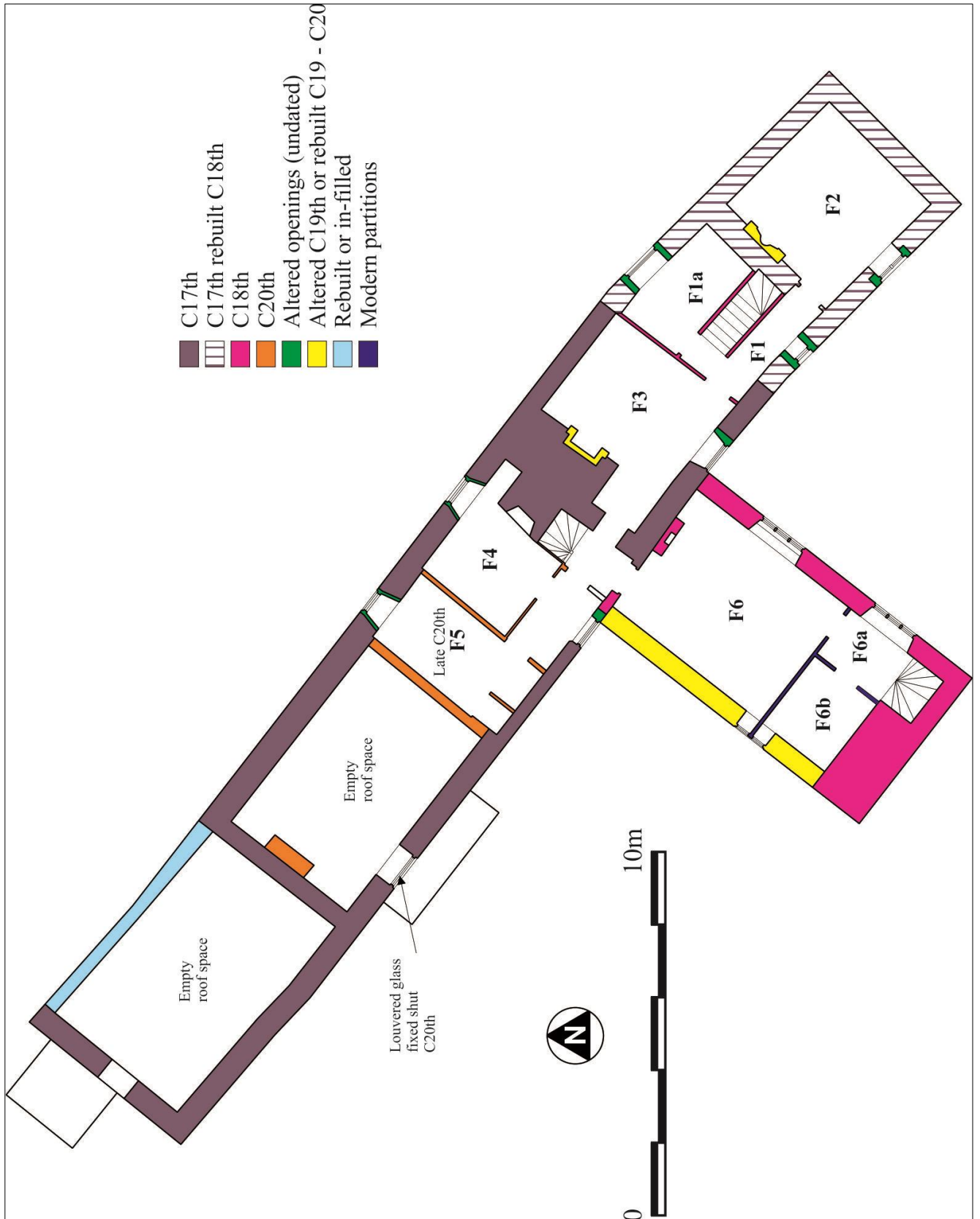


Fig 24: Plan of the buildings, first floor, phased

Development evidence from the roof

In the 17th century many small cottages had few bedrooms as we know them today and sleeping was often a haphazard affair, either a dual purpose of a 'living room' –using a box-bed or settle-bed near the fire, or in small upstairs chambers which were cold (un-heated), dark, were often unlit by a window and bore little resemblance to the comfort we expect today (see Ayres 1981, 200-5). Privacy (or lack of it) was not considered an issue and for many rural folk, matters such as sex were usually conducted out in the fields. Matters began to change in the 18th century as more people demanded more of their spaces and fuel became cheaper with the Industrial Revolution and more easily obtained (via canal). Bedrooms as we know them increased in number in line with an ability to heat them. The decade of the 1820s, a time of great agricultural change with the end of the Napoleonic Wars, were climatically particularly cold and wet and saw the spread of coal-burning on a grand domestic scale. 'Proper' bedrooms for ordinary folk increased greatly from then on. New houses were built with bedrooms and many were inserted into old cottage roofs for the first time, although poorer cottages lingered in many places with not even lip-service to progress.

The roof spaces from which the current bedrooms and other rooms F1-F5 were probably not originally bedrooms as we know them, but small chambers (usable as bedrooms or as stores), which were largely separated off from each other, by the hurdles of the tie-beams to the trusses. Tiny, hatch-like doors (preserving heat) were the usual means of communication between bays. It is noticeable that each of them today can only be accessed properly because the original trusses which support the roof have been broken through and the tie-beams removed. Few bedrooms in houses at this level of the rural social scale had heating in bedrooms and as can be seen, all of the upper fireplaces on the property are of 19th century or later date, in keeping with this practice.

Previous commentators (the listing team) comment that on the outside of the building, facing east are two jambs to a window which relate to a former early window. On close inspection, this now seems unlikely, as the jambs of all three windows on this side and one on the opposite, have been altered, either by re-building and strengthening them (where they already existed) or by giving them deliberately strong jambs (where they may not have existed before). This was to counteract the outward thrust of the roof trusses once they were bereft of their tie beams in the creation of the bedroom spaces.

The roof of the 18th-century two-storey wing also contains evidence of earlier arrangements. There is a notable proportion of re-used timber in the roof (see figs below), and sufficient redundancy in the truss details to show that only the trusses are where intended in the 18th century. Probably everything else, most notably the purlins, have been re-used from elsewhere.

The two windows in the roof space are probably original to the 18th century. However, that in the east gable has been blocked in brick. This probably relates to two steps:

- The re-arrangement of the main range roof
- The conversion from thatch to slate (or tile as noted in 1953)

When created, this window looked out onto a slightly lower roof-line covered in thatch (it may even have been able to see over the ridge). The thatch covering could be sewn in such a way as to run the rain-water along the straw and away from the gable wall to the eaves-drip on either side of the

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range. However, with the alteration of the roof-line and a conversion to a solid, rigid covering left that adjacent run-off impossible. A lead-lined roof valley was a possible solution, but the owners at the time chose simply to include the window and the space between the ranges within a new cross-gable.



Fig 25: 18th century range, roof, looking west. Note the window to the left of the chimney-hood



Fig 26: 18th century range, roof, looking east. Blocked window in brick-lined gable. When thatched, this window looked out over the adjacent roof-slope and the main chimney stack. Slate or tile could not so easily run water away in a curve and the angle (and view) were lost beneath a covering roof junction.



Fig 27: 18th century range, roof, looking east. Note the re-used timber of the purlin, top left



Fig 28: 18th century range, roof, looking west. Note the original roof arrangement indicated by the two empty purlin trenches in the truss. The replacement purlin is also re-used from elsewhere, being a former wall-plate or purlin turned around, with cut rafter shoes.

Conclusions

This is a fine rural 17th- to 18th-century farmhouse with attached former stable and nearby barn. It has been much altered so that only the basic shell and the framing are unchanged, although the panelling of an 18th-century 'best room' (G2) remains the most notable survival of detailing which attracts a heritage value not present in most houses of this date. Elsewhere the survival of internal brick partitions, wide vertical boarding and most internal doors and shutters, redolent of a late 18th-century or early 19th-century overhaul, are apparent. Most windows are much later and many window locations too (particularly first floor east facing). The bedrooms as they stand date no earlier than the 19th century, and all with a modern overhaul apparent.

The roofs have received much re-building and only the trusses can be said with any confidence to be original to each element. While the roofs have been overhauled (and the current coverings are modern), the interior ground-floor house-ceilings have everywhere had their joists exposed in an orgy of ceiling-stripping, irrespective of the intended status of each room. In fact there are no rooms anywhere in the house where any of the ceiling joists can be said with confidence to have been intended for view, a status reserved exclusively for the stop-chamfered axial beams. The by-product of this dubious modern search for old 'character' is upward loss of heat, loss of historic finds laid down between floorboards over generations, and an absence of sound proofing downwards. It also unavoidably darkens the space below.

The former farm-buildings have been partly converted. That of G6, its original identity not clear, became a scullery in the early 20th century, perhaps between the wars, while the redundant stable remains to be brought back into use in some way. Both have an inappropriate corrugated iron roof covering. Originally it would have been thatch. The detached barn may retain little historic character, having been converted to a day nursery in recent years. It has no historic fabric visible except for what can be seen on the exterior.

An ancillary north range to the farmyard, probably serving both house and farm, existed from before 1885, but has been demolished in the middle 20th century.

The site of the house is clearly a historic one, and there may be buried medieval archaeology surviving below interior stone floors (with the exceptions of any already replaced, such as G4 (kitchen), and in areas of the former farmyard, as well as outside the property, in the field on the north-east side. Such remains, if they exist, may represent continuity of occupation and the origins of this property, or relate to an earlier use.

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IS Heritage, 6 March 2014

33 & 37 Main Road, Crick

Appendix 1: OASIS data

Project Name	33 and 37 Main Road, Crick
OASIS ID	Iainsode1-232052
Project Type	Building recording
Originator	Iain Soden Heritage Services Ltd
Project Manager	Iain Soden
Previous/future work	Not known
Current land use	House
Development type	Development
Reason for investigation	NPPF
National grid reference	SP 5900 7247
Start/end dates of fieldwork	February – March 2014
Archive recipient	-
Study area	-