



Iain Soden Heritage Services Ltd

Modern living in an historic environment

Archaeological survey and recording before and during conservation of basement rooms at Kelmarsh Hall, with observation and recording on outbuildings

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The Laundry, looking towards the ironing room

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Archaeological survey and recording before and during conservation of basement rooms at Kelmarsh Hall, with observation and recording on outbuildings

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Illustrations by Andy Isham

Introduction

Kelmarsh Hall is situated in North-west Northamptonshire at NGR: SP 7363 7960, just north of the village of the same name and a little way from Junction 3 of the modern A14 M1-A1 link road (Fig 1) a few miles south of Market Harborough on the A508. It is a Grade I listed building, constructed in the 1720s and '30s, principally of brick.

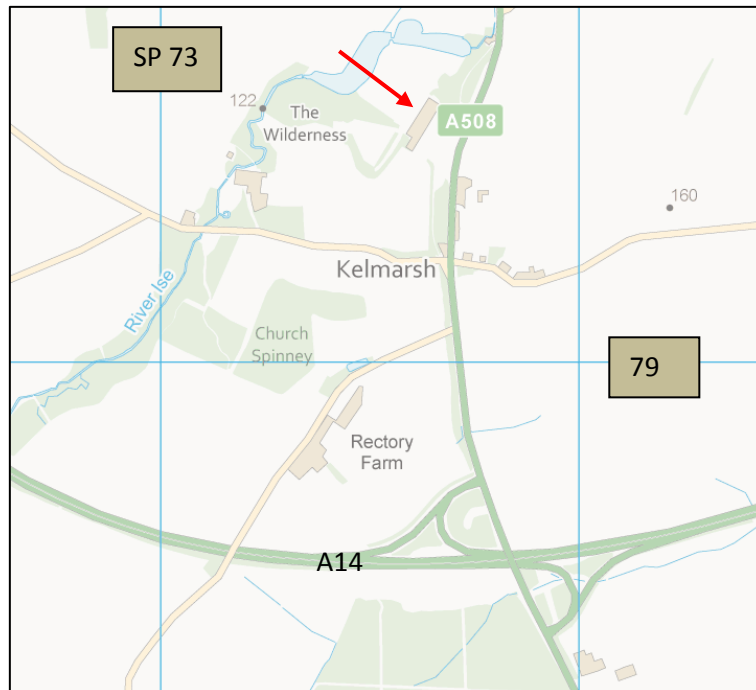


Fig 1: Location of Kelmarsh Hall (arrowed). Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database right 2017

In a fulsome entry, commensurate with its Grade I listing, the National Heritage List says the following about the hall:

KELMARSH HARBOROUGH ROAD SP77NN (West side) 6/64 Kelmarsh Hall 02/11/54

Country House. c.1727-32. By James Gibbs for William Hanbury, altered 1956 by Sir Albert Richardson. Red brick with ashlar dressings. Double pile plan with linked pavilions. Main facade: Centre of 2 storeys with basement and attic, 7-window range, centre 3 bays breaking forward with rectangular pediment over. Wide flight of steps up to central double doors under fanlight with

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glazing bars in geometrical pattern. Ashlar door-case has attached fluted Corinthian columns supporting a plain entablature with segmental pediment over. Tall sash windows at first floor reducing at first floor; all with glazing bars and moulded stone architraves. Those at ground floor have eared architraves with alternate segmental and triangular pediments over. Continuous ashlar cornice with a brick parapet above flanking bays. The centre sections of the parapets are replaced with balustrading. Mansard roof has dormers behind the parapet and brick stacks at the ridge. The centre is linked to the flanking pavilions by single-storey quadrants having central doors with pediments over flanked by sash windows with gauged brick heads. Glazing bars to the right pavilion ground floor right are original C18. Ashlar pilasters between each, opening each surmounted by a ball finial with a plain parapet and cornice below. The pavilions are of 2 storeys with attic. Each of 5-window range. The central entrances have moulded stone architraves with pediments over. Sash windows, reducing at first floor have glazing bars and gauged brick heads. Ashlar cornices with brick parapets over. Gambrel roofs; the right pavilion having brick stacks at the ridge. The inside return elevations of the pavillions are similar. Garden facade similar of 7-window range with centre 3 bays breaking forward with open rectangular pediment over. Tall sashes with glazing bars at ground floor, reducing at first floor with alternate segmental and triangular pediments over. The centre sash has a broad flight of stone steps. There is an armorial crest in the centre of the pediment. Single storey, 4-bay extension to left is C19 ballroom. End 3 bays breaking forward; all in a similar style to the main house. Facade to right reconstructed in 1956 by Sir Albert Richardson to James Gibbs' original design; when Victorian extensions removed. Stabling and walls attached to rear of left pavillion. Interior: Entrance hall, centre of main front, double height, has 3-bay arcade on rear wall with 3 sash windows to first floor corridor above. Panelled plasterwork to ceiling and restrained swags to walls, reputedly by James Wyatt. 2 black imitation marble bolection moulded fire surrounds. Dining Room to right of entrance has semi-circular recess at end with Adam style ceiling decoration. Chinese Room to left of entrance has C18 surround. Drawing Room, centre of west front, double height. Plaster roundels, in inner section and plaster frieze with cherubs; probably by James Wyatt. Moulded wood doorcases. The Yellow Room and the Library to right and left of the Drawing Room C18 style fireplaces and bookcases probably installed during early C20 remodelling. Staircase between the Chinese Room and Library has half landing and fine C18 wrought iron balustrade in lyre shaped units. The walls and ceiling have fine plasterwork panel decoration. The Ballroom to the right of the Yellow Room is C19 was probably remodelled early C20. Several first-floor rooms have C18 marble fire surrounds. (Sir Niklaus Pevsner in his *Buildings of England: Northamptonshire*, (271) wrote knowledgeably of the Hall while it also appeared in *Country Life* February 25th 1933, 198-203).



Fig 2: Kelmarsh Hall: The principal (east) front 2016; note the low basement windows

Acknowledgements

We extend grateful thanks to The Kelmarsh Trust for their commission and their good humour during disruptive works, especially to Des Brack, formerly Operations Manager, who took every opportunity to accommodate us despite his busy workload. To Purcell UK (Architects) go our thanks for their understanding of our needs and their innovation in guiding the works, most particularly to David Clifton. Also for use of their excellent surveys. We thank them for use of their site survey. We are grateful to Stone Edge Ltd, Principal Contractors and their site manager, Andy Shepherd, for their warm welcome and keen professionalism in their right-treatment of this Grade I listed building; they set a notable example.

Fieldwork was conducted by Iain Soden, Joe Prentice, and Thomas Soden. Field drawings were prepared by the field team, with report fair copies as appropriate by Andy Isham.

The work was carried out under the aegis of Listed Building Consent from Daventry District Council, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation to Rachel Booth of DDC and Liz Mordue of Northamptonshire County Council, who kindly monitored the works.

Scope of the present works 2016-17

Basement

The most recent and thorough survey of the basement of the main block of the house was undertaken in 2014 (The Jessop Consultancy 2014). That survey was undertaken prior to any works to repair, restore or alter any of the rooms at basement level and were purely observational with no intrusive intervention. Many of the rooms were full at the time. The present phase of works, undertaken to prepare the basement rooms for access to the public, afforded the opportunity to observe those rooms which required intrusive or restorative intervention during the works and thus observe previously-concealed structural or decorative schemes.

Archaeological recording commenced on the ancillary buildings in September 2016, moving onto the main house basements in early 2017. These lasted until Spring 2017.

The numbering of the basement rooms adopted is that previously utilised so that concordance of the two phases of work can be effected hereafter (Fig 3). In the Jessop report the rooms of the nineteenth-century northern extension were included. During this phase of works none of those rooms were altered and so have not been included here. Similarly the basement of the north pavilion was recorded but as no work was undertaken there either, those rooms and areas have not been recorded on this occasion nor addressed within this document.

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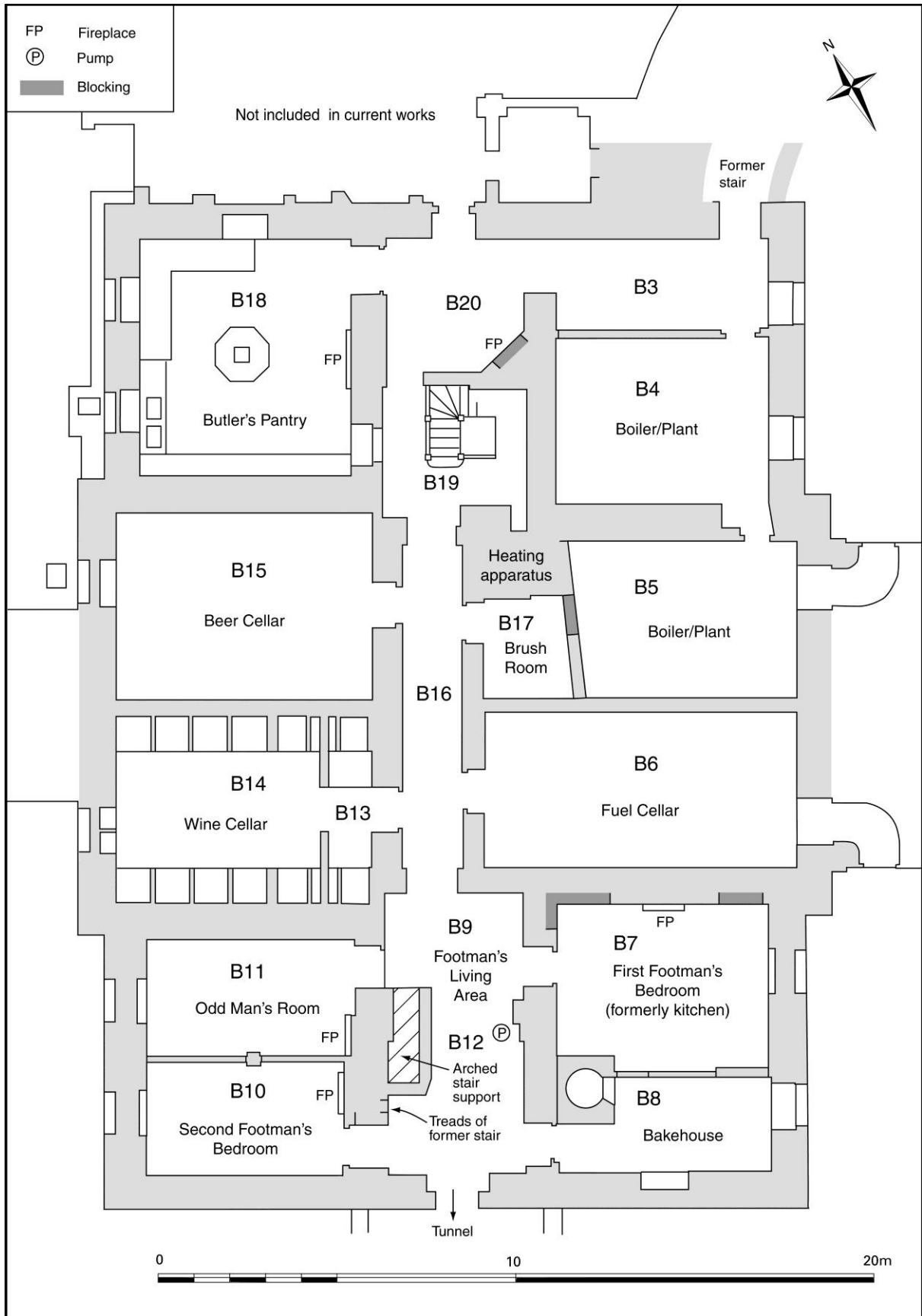


Fig 3: Plan of the basement rooms showing existing layout and new data. Compare Fig 8. Note the North Quadrant Stair at top right (Andy Isham, after Purcell UK)

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Ancillary buildings

Lying south-west of the main house, the ancillary buildings being altered and recorded comprised the ironing room and laundry, a coach house and a former forge. The long straight tunnel which links these to the main house was also in need of conservation at its outer end where it had begun to collapse. Mechanical excavation took place in a number of areas within and outside the buildings, including elements which devolved to archaeological controlled hand-excavation and recording when buried remains came to light.

Likewise there were elements of the existing buildings which required wholesale dismantling in order to conserve or even rebuild them safely. While rebuilding took place brick-for brick and timber for timber, some elements were archaeologically recorded as they would be lost in the process or were uncovered unexpectedly for the first time and thereafter scheduled for re-covering.

A number of new service runs were also watched across the outer courtyard, but none exposed any archaeology.

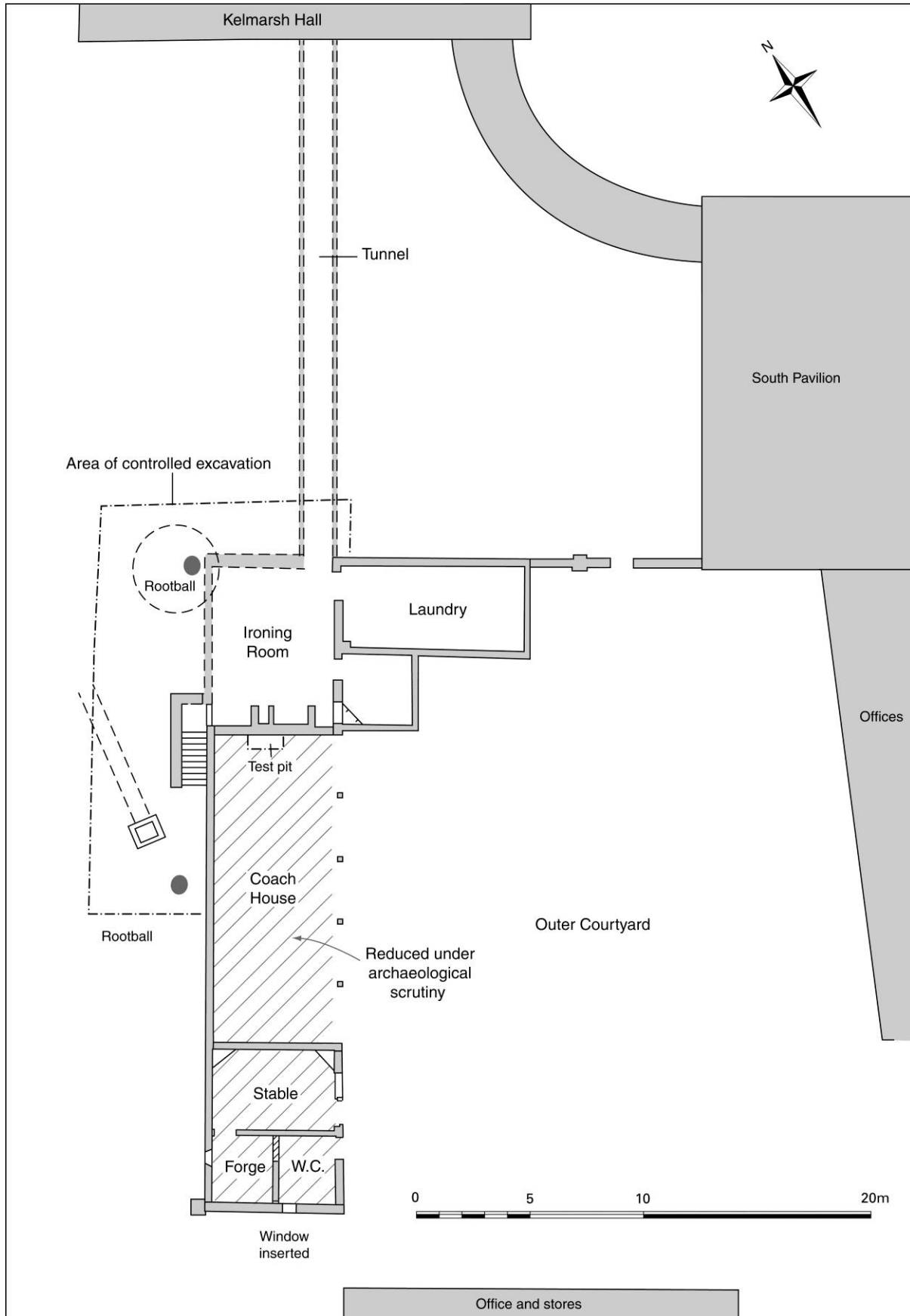


Fig 4: Plan of the ancillary buildings (Andy Isham, after Purcell UK)

Baseline survey

In accordance with the brief, before all works began, but largely following emptying of the rooms (where advisable/possible), a medium-format (film) photographic survey was undertaken of all areas to be altered, inside and out. This is presented at the end of this report as an appendix (A3 format)

A Zenza Bronica ETRS medium format camera fitted with a 50mm lens was deployed, using Ilford FP4 125ASA film. Metering was by hand-held meter, with a separate manual TTL spot-metered Nikon SLR camera to ratify and refine readings. Since the basements in particular were very dimly lit, the camera was tripod-mounted and a 130-lumen portable halogen work-lamp was available to provide strong side-lighting to make the environment more workable and maximise the value of sensitive metering. The results of this baseline survey are presented as a separate Appendix at the end of this report, and are available in archive as negatives, prints and as digitally copied jpeg images on disc. A few have also been used interspersed within this report.

The survey was backed up by the early introduction of 35mm photography, comprising fully digital colour images taken with a Nikon D40 SLR camera fitted with an 18-70mm wide-angle-short zoom lens and film photography using a Nikon F55 SLR camera fitted with a 28-80mm short zoom lens and Ilford FP4 (125ASA) or HP5 (400ASA) film. Both had built-in flash. Backups for each were also available in case of problems. The 35mm SLR cameras were employed for the remainder of recording during alterations and conservation.

Limitations of the evidence

Within the basements of the building the brief called for a 'light-touch' in terms of conservation. As a result structural fabric which might otherwise (perhaps on a less important site) have been replaced was here retained and conserved *en bloc*. This meant that interventions through existing décor, finishes and wall coverings were limited in many areas to small 'key holes' which afforded little or no new view of existing fabric which might throw light upon wider materials, construction methods or room uses. Simple cleaning was the most widespread response before consolidation of existing surfaces and features, which required little or no archaeological response. Replacement on an extensive or intensive scale was needed on a few areas where rot had progressed to fabric beneath the surface. Here records were more extensive and followed standard archaeological procedures.

Some basement rooms entailed no conservation other than their clearance and cleaning. Here the baseline photographic coverage is the only new record.

In respect of the ancillary buildings, the records made have been targeted upon two elements:

- Structural remains inside and outside, uncovered before unavoidable loss, including both buried archaeology and upstanding remains.
- Interior elements uncovered unexpectedly, but which could be noted, cleaned and found to warrant (and be capable of) re-use. This compliments the day-to-day record made by the Principal Contractors of the fabric they were dismantling in order to reuse in the brick-for-brick re-build.

Building recording of the basement rooms

The rooms are considered here in numerical sequence rather than in the sequence in which they were observed or altered during the renovation works. The descriptions (but not recommendations) made in Jessop (2014) are included in *italic*, with page numbers from that report, before the observations made during the current survey are set out.

Room B3 (Fig 3)

*...two rooms **B3** and **B4** both containing plant and pipework for the modern heating system within the Hall. They were originally a single room possibly used as the Servant's Hall, but it is suggested that this was divided in **Phase 3**. Room **B3** (**Appendix 3.7**) measures 2.5m x 8.5m, and **B4** (**Appendix 3.9**) measures 4.6m x 8.5m. There is an inserted doorway with a concrete lintel in the east end of the wall between the two rooms. Prior to the creation of this opening, there was an earlier doorway from the base of the stairwell **B19** in the southwest corner of **B4**. Each room has a high-level window in the east wall, and there is a blocked-in fireplace in the west wall (**Appendix 3.10**). In the northeast corner of **B3** is a doorway that leads to a curved flight of stairs (**Appendix 3.66**) that formerly gave access from the basement up to the North Quadrant Corridor and North Pavilion where the kitchens were located. Although a later staircase has been inserted within the corridor (**Appendix 3.64**), beneath it the remains of earlier painted plaster and decorative finishes were noted (**Appendix 3.65**) (p27).*

During the current works no interventions were made within the main part of B3, which as previously noted, was part of a single room forming the northern part of a larger space now divided by an inserted cross-wall separating it from B4 to the south. The room contains modern plant connected with the heating system located along the south side of the room. The floor throughout is of modern concrete with occasional areas of patching which may relate to the installation of related services and the walls are painted white.

The North Quadrant stair

No work was undertaken within the main part of the room, now occupied by the heating system and previously subdivided to make the present rooms B3 and B4 (see Figs 3 for location and 9). However, as part of the scheme to provide access to the public a lift was inserted within the quadrant corridor in order to better comply with accessibility legislation. In order to insert the lift the flight of stone steps leading up from the basement to the ground floor quadrant corridor and the inserted timber flight above were removed (Fig 5).

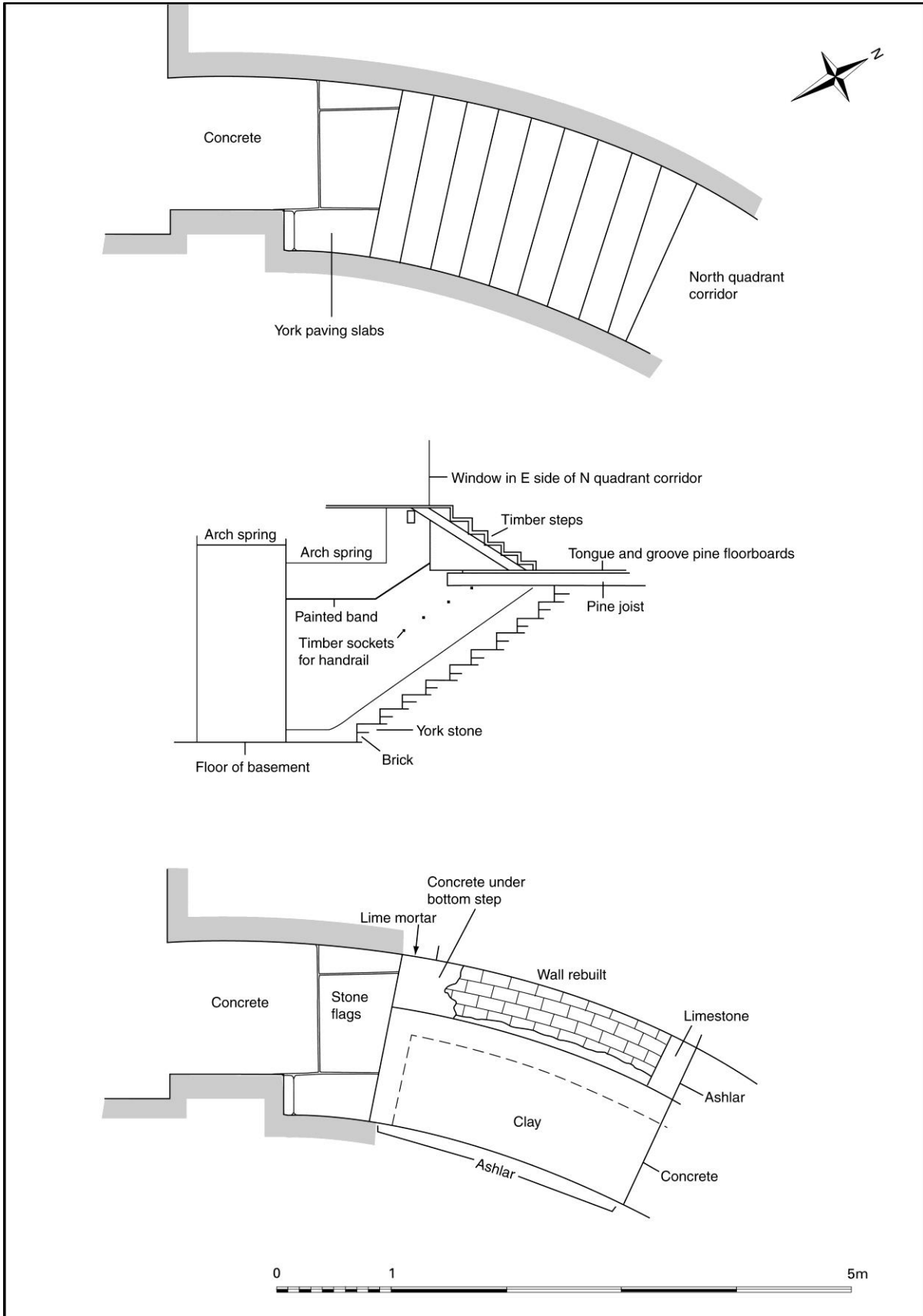


Fig 5: The North Quadrant Stair as entered from Room B3– Top: plan before removal; Middle: section; Bottom: plan after removal for new lift (Andy Isham).

The flight of stone and brick steps which led up from the basement to the quadrant corridor comprised ten treads including that level with the corridor floor. Each tread was made from York stone and some were slightly wedge-shaped in plan to accommodate the curve of the quadrant into which it had been inserted. The floor at the base of the flight was also of York stone flags almost as far as the doorway through the north wall of the basement (Fig 5); west of that point it was of modern concrete.



Fig 6: The stone and timber steps in the north quadrant, looking north; 1m and 50cm scales.

During the removal of the stone and brick steps the sub-base was revealed to be a mixture of stone and brick rubble within a matrix mostly of clay with mortar fragments, presumably the remnants of mortar used in the bedding of the superstructure. A small number of re-used limestone fragments were revealed which retain profiles of ovolo-section mullion and transom window mouldings (See Architectural Fragments, this report). Such mouldings were commonly used during the seventeenth century and their earliest use has been dated to c1575 so must post-date that time. Their presence here may represent demolition material of the earlier Kelmarsh Hall, known only from a single engraving which dates to the early years of the eighteenth century. If this is the case it indicates that the previous hall had been largely demolished, or was in the process of demolition, at the same time that the new hall was being built, for the fragments to be incorporated. Also from the same sub-base were small fragments of bottle glass dating to the same period.

Following the removal of the stone and brick of the steps an earlier sequence of building was revealed.

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The earlier sequence of structures had been partially removed by the insertion of the existing flight of steps which appear to have been inserted during the nineteenth century. Beneath them an almost central curving spine wall remained in a truncated condition which shows that formerly the space had been at least partly accessible and on the north-west side of that spine wall a brick floor remained *in situ* (Figs 5, 6 and 7).



Fig 7: The former curving spine wall and brick floor, looking north. 1m and 50cm scales. NB: The bright blue colour is modern marker-paint

The spine wall survived at the north-east end of this exposed section to a height of c.1.25m and comprised a standard 9-inch wall with the bricks laid alternately in courses of headers and stretchers. To the west of that wall there remains a limestone block wall face and a single block of limestone within the floor at the base of that wall (Fig 7). This suggests that the space did not continue further north-eastwards than this point but did extend westwards beneath the current west wall. The west wall of the present quadrant butts against the ashlar at the north end indicating that the latter pre-dates the brick west wall. At the southern end the spine wall turned through 90 degrees and extended as far as, and butted up against, the east wall of the quadrant. The foundation construction of that wall is composed entirely of finely dressed limestone ashlar blocks, perhaps again suggesting re-use from either the earlier hall or another stone building close by.

Quite what the original configuration may have been is uncertain due to the limited intervention. However, none of the existing plans of the building which survive indicate a basement level access into the corridor at this point.

The alignment of the bricks, laid in a curve within the floor surface, is slightly different to the present north-west wall of the corridor further supporting the suggestion that the present wall is a later rebuild. This is confirmed by the fact that the brick floor surface appeared to lie beneath that wall.

To the east of the truncated section of the spine wall the exposed surface was of a coarse concrete mix. The presence of such a material supports the suggestion of a relatively late date for the insertion of the stone and brick steps. Beneath this concrete infill was re-deposited clay which appears to represent the underlying natural geology, disturbed and then backfilled when the east wall of the quadrant was built.

One possible use for this earlier configuration may have been a previous coal store or access point. The reason for this supposition is the presence of coal dust with the interstices between the bricks of the floor (Fig 8).



Fig 8: Coal dust between the joints and on the surface of the bricks laid in the floor of the earlier basement level corridor. North to the right, 50 cm scale.

The presence of either a coal chute or access to the service yard makes sense when such mundane tasks were generally kept out of sight. The fact that there are two coal chutes in either side wall of the present front steps to the hall is uncharacteristic since it would have necessitated the presence of a coal cart on the principal entrance front. It has previously been commented that those chutes appear to be secondary (see below, B5 and B6) so the existence of an earlier entrance for such dirty material from the service yard, hidden by the quadrant corridors, make much more sense.

On an early, but undated, plan of the house a double flight of steps is indicated in this location (Fig 9).

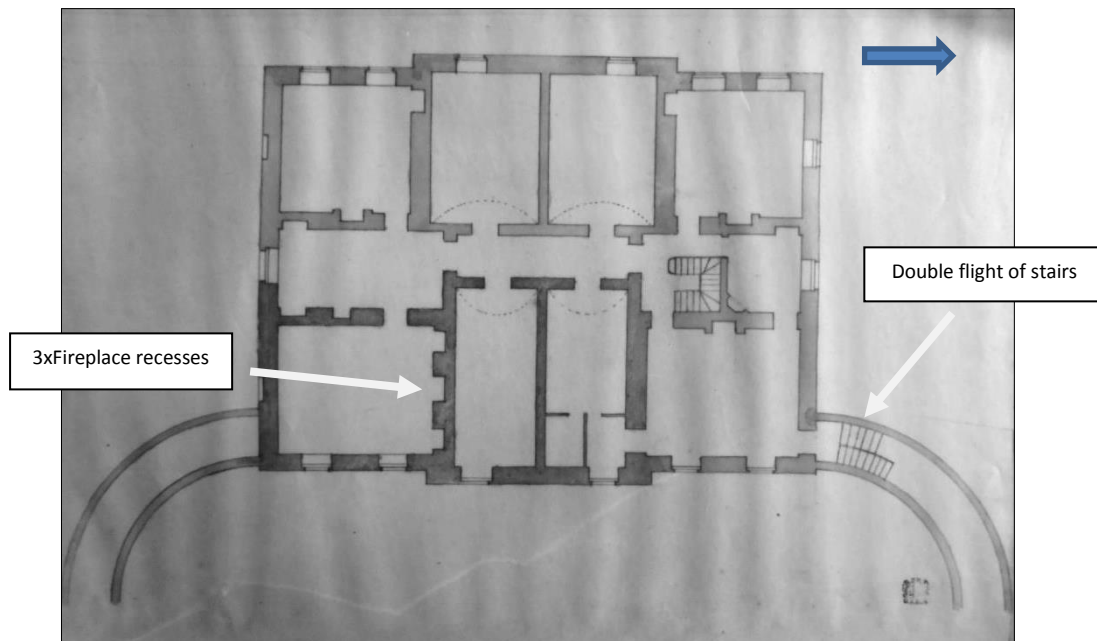


Fig 9: Copy of Gibb's plan of the basement (RIBA cat no.1, after Friedman 1973). Showing location of double flight of steps in the north quadrant and three former fireplace recesses in the east wall of what later became the First Footman's Bedroom (see below, B7). North to right.

The truncated brick curving spine wall uncovered during these works appears to correspond closely, though not exactly, with that shown on the Gibb's plan (Fig 9). In reality it is not located exactly between the side walls of the quadrant but is positioned closer to the north wall than the south making that portion rather narrow. However, it was clearly utilised as the brick floor remains *in situ*. Quite how these two flights of stairs were used is uncertain, but it may be that one rose up and the other down, side by side, to separate different functions though almost certainly not social status since both are structurally and hierarchically 'below stairs'.

Areas of no intrusive works

No intrusive work was undertaken in rooms B4-B6, B12-16 and B19 during the current works. Nor are there comments to make on the previous recording works undertaken there.

Room B7 (Fig 3)

The former First Footman's Bedroom.

...the large phase 1 room that has been subdivided into two smaller spaces of unequal size. To the north is B7 that measures 4.5m x 5.8m, and has a raised timber floor (Appendix 3.16). The room has an unusual 8-panelled door and the unequal spacing of the rails in the upper half may have once been for glazing. There is a high level window in the east wall with vertical planking on the wall below (Appendix 3.19), although this timberwork does not extend to the other walls of the room. There is a cast iron fireplace with red glazed tiles in the north wall (Appendix 3.20) although the surround, which was presumably slate to match the other basement rooms, has been removed. P 29.

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During the current phase of renovation the majority of the timber suspended floor was removed and replaced and the wall panelling removed prior to re-fitting. The room was originally a larger space which comprised the area now occupied by this and adjoining Room B8 (see Fig 3).

That thin timber plank panelling comprised vertical boards of pine, painted on the room side only with a pale cream coloured oil-based paint. It was fixed over horizontal pine battens nailed to the underlying brick wall surface. Contrary to the description in the previous report it did extend for a short section along the south wall of the room as well as the entire length of the east wall. Subsequently the pine boards had been covered with hessian fabric onto which thin, probably lining, paper had been affixed. This covering extended for a short distance long the south wall of the room, westwards from the south-east corner of the room. The reason for this was most likely to try to alleviate the problems of damp and cold from the east, external, wall of the room.

The remainder of the room retained, either fully or in a degraded or missing state, lime wall plaster across the wall surfaces which retained a number of layers of apparently lime-based paint or coloured wash. The ceiling was similarly finished on lime plaster laid on split timber laths nailed to the underside of the joist supporting the floor above. A single structural beam, aligned east-west across the ceiling had been boxed in and could not be observed but is most likely of oak.

The removal of the pine floor boards revealed that the whole room had been fitted with this raised timber floor in one phase of works (Fig 10).

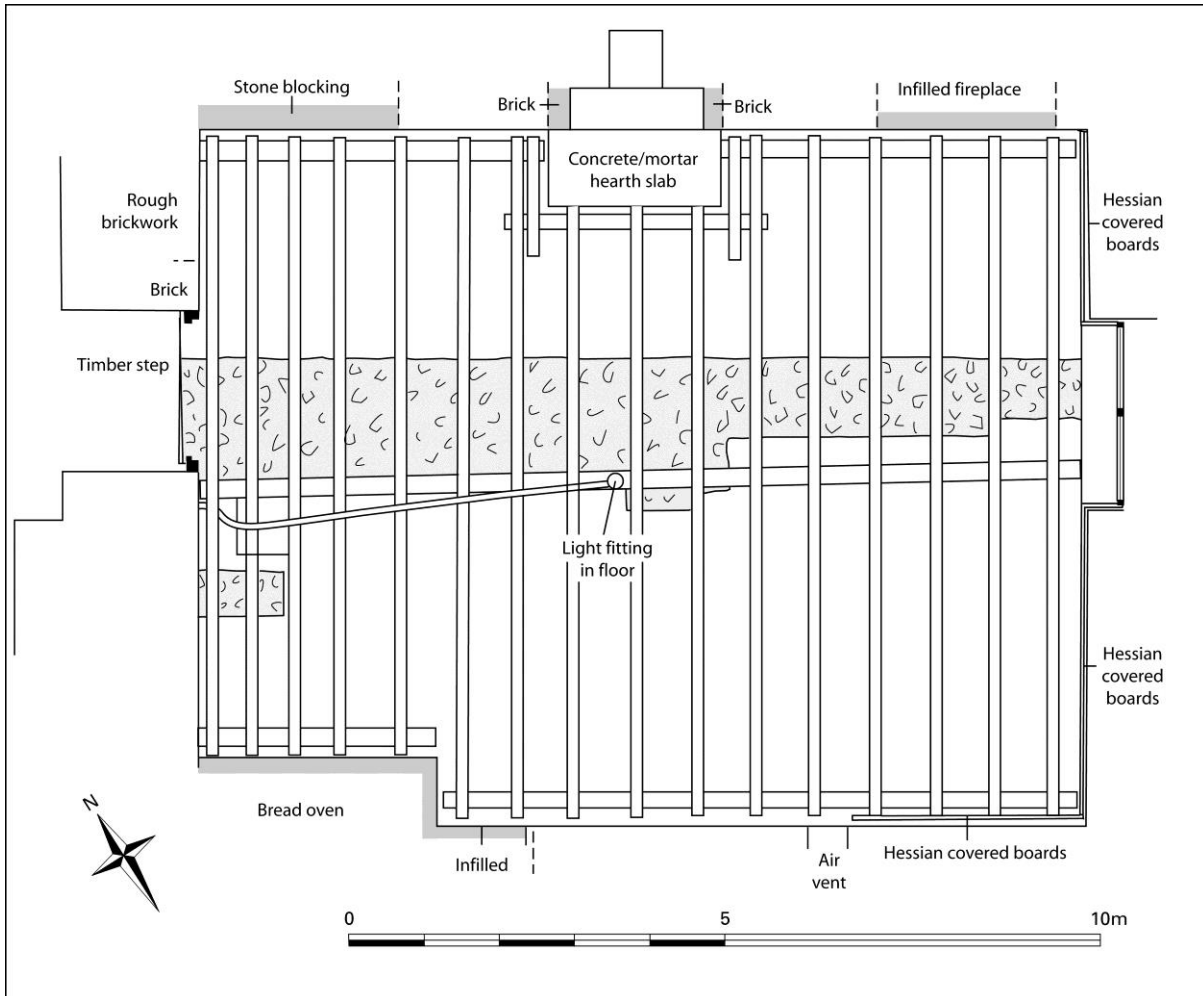


Fig 10: Plan of Room B7 showing sub-floorboard features (Andy Isham).



Fig 11: The supporting single brick sleeper-wall capped with a single floorboard supporting the joists, looking south; scale 1m.

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Three rows of single brick 'sleeper-walls' extended across the room from east-west with subsidiary sections of the same located around the concrete hearth slab on the north side of the room and a short section in the south-west corner where the bread oven of the adjoining room projected into the space (Fig 10). Laid on top of each of these low walls were sheets of blue slate, to act as a damp-proof barrier and laid over these were single tongue and groove floor boards of the same size and type as those used to form the finished floor surface (115mm wide x 20mm thick, 6 inches x ¾ inch). Unequally spaced across those principal joists were the secondary joists which were laid north-south and onto which the tongue and groove floor boards were nailed. Thus the joists and floorboards were supported above the level of the original floor surface which largely remained intact and comprised red brick laid flat.

Across the room, extending from almost the full width of the doorway into the room to directly below the window an area of the brick floor had been removed (Fig 10). It appears that this narrow channel was used to conceal a sub-floor lead water pipe, only the western end of which was observed where it turned southwards and was exposed in a deliberately constructed inspection chamber (Fig 12). The channel though the brick floor had been backfilled with clay and brick rubble along with mortar fragments.



Fig 12: The water pipe and tap beneath the timber floor of Room B7. Scale with 1cm divisions.

Within the small inspection chamber a short section of the pipe was visible and fitted to it was a brass tap, presumably for regulating the supply. It seems most likely that the water supply came from the water tank known to be located beneath the lawn on the east entrance front of the house which stores rainwater from the roof. To the immediate west of this room, on the east side of B9, a water pump is known to have been located, though it is now missing. The most likely scenario is that the pipe supplied water to that pump.

Interestingly there was no indication of this inspection chamber or the pipe and tap prior to the floorboards being lifted suggesting that when the current floor was laid the pipe and tap were no longer in use as no access was provided to them. It is therefore suggested that the floor had been

re-laid relatively recently, perhaps as late as the middle years of the twentieth century. Certainly, when lifted, the undersides of the boards did not appear to show any signs of great age.

No other features were uncovered beneath the timber floor. As part of the renovations works all usable boards were retained for re-use and all of the joists were retained *in situ*. None of the single floorboards laid on the low brick walls were removed.

There were no finds from the sub-floor space.

The only other features related to the timber floor was a ceramic two-pin electrical plug set in a brass collar fitted with a hinged cap (See Fig 10). The cabling which supplied power to the socket was fed through a hollow iron conduit and which was laid beneath the floor, set in shallow notches cut into the joists. It was set into the east face of the west wall of the room and its final route was not visible beyond that point.

Above the floor a simple skirting board extended around much of the room although it was missing from the sort section of wall located to the north of the doorway. Throughout the room it was painted a pale green.

The north wall of the room contained a central fireplace which had retained a cast iron insert which had been removed for safe keeping prior to the floor removal. The removal of the insert revealed the fire brick and house brick backing which had been inserted behind that insert; none related to any early phase and the cast iron insert appears to date to the last decades of the nineteenth- or early years of the twentieth-century. Scars in the wall plaster indicate the last phase of the fire surround which could have been either of slate or timber.

Revealed beneath the degraded wall plaster to the east and west of that central fireplace were the outlines of two further fireplace openings (see Figs 13).

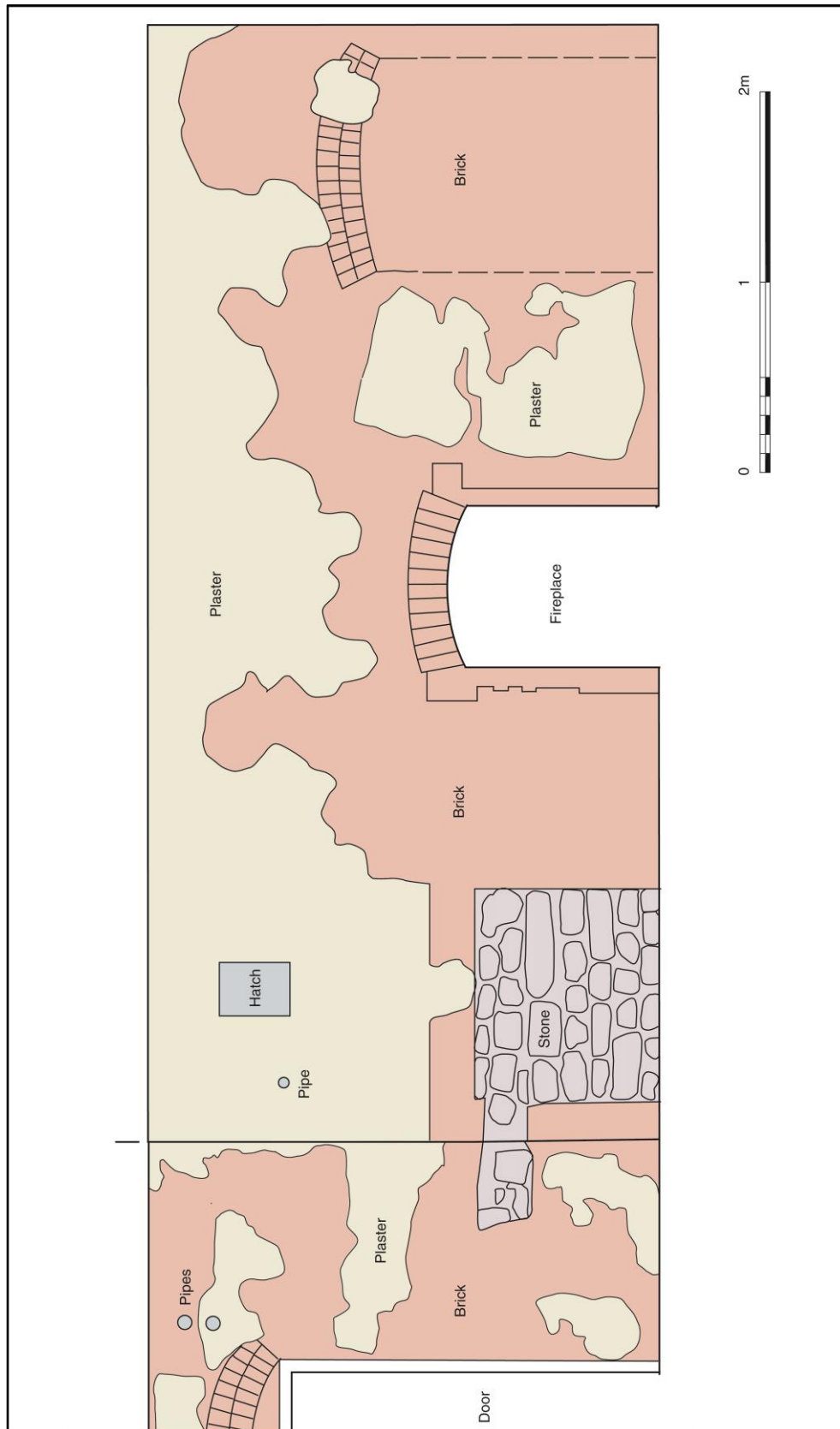


Fig 13: The short west and long north walls of Room B7 showing (opened out) three former fireplaces and, in the west wall the conjoined blocking of a (?) former oven door (Andy Isham).

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The western of the two blocked openings was infilled with coursed limestone rubble with occasional ashlar pieces bonded in lime mortar. The eastern example was infilled entirely with red brick. Each infilled arch had vertical jambs which rose to a height of 1.6m above the brick original floor level. It is not certain when the two arches were infilled and the different infilling materials might indicate different times, although their infill may simply reflect the material available at the time. Three fireplaces are indicated on the Gibb's plan (see Fig 9) which on that plan shows the room to be a single space with the now separate B8 to the south.



Fig 14: Middle (open) and left-hand (blocked) fireplace in B7; scale 2m



Fig 15: Middle (open) and right-hand (blocked) fireplace in B7; scale 2m

The location of three fireplaces positioned side by side in the basement would suggest the use of this space originally as the kitchen, a much more convenient location for such services rather than in the north pavilion which has traditionally been suggested. This attribution has apparently largely been attributed on the drawn evidence indicated on the RIBA series of plans (Fig 16). It now begs revision.

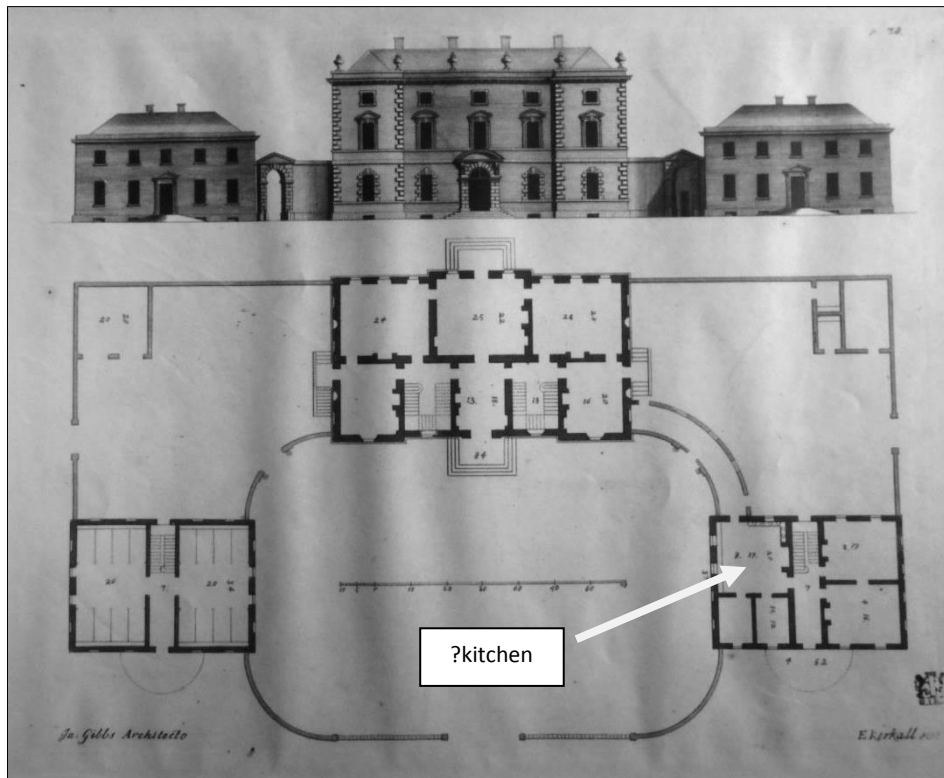


Fig 16: The c1728 Gibb's plan showing the whole ground floor plan, with the kitchen located in the north pavilion (arrowed).

There is, however, a fundamental problem with the Gibb's plan of Kelmarsh which is annotated on the plate as a design for a 'gentleman's residence in Northamptonshire'. It is not specifically indicated to be Kelmarsh. Although it does bear striking similarities, there are also intriguing differences.

Externally the main entrance front as designed has a recessed central three bay section, while as built those three bays project. Internally the plan differs from the built house more dramatically, most notably in the design for the entrance hall with two flanking flights of stairs, dramatically different from the executed design. It could be argued that the Gibb's design was simply an exercise in showing his potential clients the *type* of house they aspire to rather than the design being the finished plan.

It could be argued that the Gibb's design closely matches with the early plan and elevations for (the now demolished) Blatherwycke Hall. That, too, had a central block and two flanking pavilions linked by quadrant corridors and the original building contract for 1720 survives (NRO: OB (B) 12). Whilst much altered later in its existence it closely resembled the Gibb's design as shown on a drawing prior to those alterations of 1811 (NRO Jackson O'Brien Scrapbook Vol 3). However, that building is ascribed to the architect Thomas Ripley. What is clear is that Gibb's was an architect familiar with and willing to adapt a broadly Palladian format.

There seems little doubt that Kelmarsh was based on the Gibb's design but it should not be taken as the executed plan. Why changes were made either prior to or during the completion of the building we cannot know, but what we can be certain of is that it is not the building that Gibb's drew on

paper. This is not unusual for either historic houses, or indeed, modern ones. However, the former adherence of using the Gibb's plan to allocate room functions fit the present building should perhaps be considered more cautiously. What is present as standing fabric is what was built, albeit with alterations, and that should be the focus of interpretation, not a design published essentially as a pattern book which has made to fit even when the physical evidence suggests otherwise.

Whilst a kitchen may have been drawn on the first floor plan of the north pavilion there is nothing now to prove that it existed there, although it could have been later removed. What do exist are the three fireplace openings in the basement, albeit now with two of them infilled. There is no other explanation for them apart from being kitchen fireplaces. Their location, close to fuel and food stores makes greater sense (not always obvious in Country House planning), as well as being close to a former flight of stairs at the south end of the basement which formerly rose into the main staircase hall above (see below, B12 and associated evidence).

Room B8 (Fig 3)

Formerly part of the kitchen, subsequently a bakehouse.

No intrusive work was undertaken within this space during the current works. Formerly once the southern portion of a larger, single room separated from the northern section by an inserted brick wall (see Fig 3 for proportions). Subsequently further altered by the insertion of a brick bread oven into the north-west corner.



Fig 17: The secondary bread oven which dominates room B8 and which when first built, lay fully within a conjoined B7 and B8; Scale 2m. In 2016 the authors recorded the remains of an identically-sized square oven like this in Buckinghamshire dated c1842.

Room B9 (Fig 3)

No intrusive work was undertaken within this space during the current works. It was previously noted that against the west side of this space a brick structure (B12) projects into the room from the west side (Jessop 2014, 28). The text indicates that this structure is

'...very curious and cannot easily be explained. One possibility is that it functioned as an access stair to the floor above, though there is no evidence for any means of access within the existing flagstones on the ground floor'.

However, this tentative identification can now be confirmed since close examination of the west wall of B9 indicates the faced-off stone treads of a stair rising from the south of the projecting structure which would have risen through the now blocked south end of B12. Thus the angled arched vaulting can be seen to have supported the weight of a stone stair from the basement to the ground floor.

The south-east corner of the east wall has a rounded profile and one brick length to the west a vertical scar in the brickwork shows the blocked route of the former stairs which must have emerged on the west side of the staircase hall above. Similar examination of that staircase hall floor shows no indication of patching which must therefore indicate that the present staircase hall floor is a later re-laying and is not original.

The interior of B12 supports the assertion that this projection supported a staircase since the roof of the space rises from west to east in a corbelled fashion which would be expected if it were to support stone treads.

The reason for a staircase at this end of the building makes perfect sense if the interpretation of room B7 (before subdivision and the creation of adjacent B8) as the site of the basement kitchens is correct. With fuel and other goods being transported into the basement from the service yard to the rear (west) of the north pavilion via the steps located in the north quadrant such materials could be stored within the vaulted rooms to the north on both sides of the central corridor. From the kitchens a much-used route would be necessary to the original dining room, later re-positioned in the nineteenth-century range added to the north end of the main block. It is therefore most likely that the former basement to ground level staircase was removed at that date and the staircase hall re-floored at that date. The use of stone is traditional for such a well-used route rather than the winding timber staircase still present at the north end of the central corridor.

Room B10 (Fig 3)

No intrusive work was undertaken within this space during the current works. The floor is of mortar, or concrete, throughout and is not a raised timber floor as reported previously (Jessop 2014, 27-8). The fireplace is in the east, and not south wall as previously reported (Jessop 2014, 28).

Room B11 (Fig 3)

No intrusive work was undertaken within this space during the current works. The fireplace is in the east, and not south, wall as previously reported (Jessop 2014, 28).

Room B17 (Fig 3)

This room was most recently used as a store cupboard (known as 'The Brush Room') but formerly was the western part of the larger room B5 (Fig 3). When previously surveyed almost nothing of the structural elements of the room could be observed as the entire room had been boarded out.

Removal of the boarding and the raised timber floor exposed a series of cast iron flue boxes and air regulation vents which relate to a previously unknown warm air heating mechanism. This system appears to have been heated by a boiler. More exists in the rear of this wall adjacent to the dumb waiter.



Fig 18: The hot-air firebox and flue boxes in the so-called 'Brush Room' (B17). The iron pediment on the firebox on the right is cast with the name in relief 'G & F Haden, Trowbridge', a 19th-century supplier of heating to country houses and large institutions. Scale 1m.

Room B18 (Butler's Pantry)

The timberwork and carpentry of this focal room has been conserved as standing for presentation. The room is being presented with minimal change. However, it has elsewhere been received wisdom that the timberwork and benches are original features to the room. However, it is clear that they are not.

Close scrutiny of the stone flagged floor shows that wear patterns are present which pre-date the existing furnished layout.

In addition the panelled timber cladding of the supporting post in the centre of the room was removed in order to fit it better. This exposed the brick column inside. The column had clearly supported a coat of lime-wash as might be expected to keep a brick wall clean and free from bacteria. This relates seemingly to a use of the room which predates the current one.

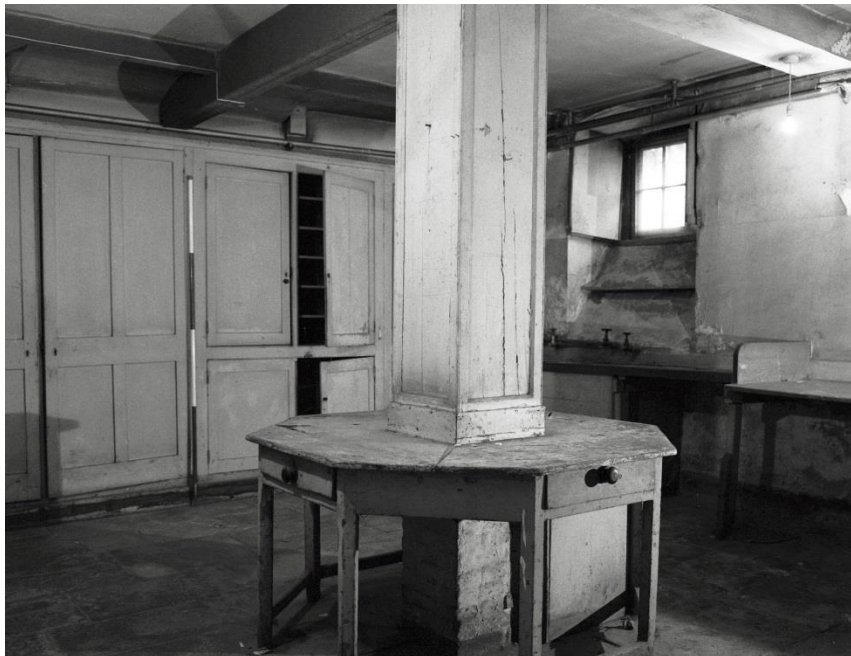


Fig 19: The Butler's Pantry. Beneath timber cladding, the brick central column is lime-washed throughout. Scale 2m

Room B20

No intrusive work was undertaken within this space during the current works. It contains a corner fireplace across the south-east corner of the space, not across the south-west corner as previously reported (Jessop 2014, 25).

The Ancillary Buildings

The Coach House

During the works on the ancillary range, the interior of the former coach-house (and most recently garages) required the laying of a new floor. The existing floor was partly of Staffordshire blue engineering brick, with some areas of concrete, but not of sufficient calibre to pass engineering requirements as a new public space.

The old floor was taken up and ground reduction was generally by machine, with regular archaeological attendance until natural clay was reached and all features and structures accounted for.

Beneath the floors was natural clay, in some areas undisturbed, but in others re-deposited in order to insert stone-built and -capped drains, one of which was found at just over 1m depth, aligned approximately east-west and dipping away from the courtyard towards the garden.

The majority of the long range had most recently been converted to a garage, and the front wall-plate was supported on a row of cast-iron columns of square section. These had been slotted in under the existing roof and fixed by means of opposed wedges (tipping the whole roof structure slightly backwards and out of true) and were seated on inserted brick piers under their base.



Fig 20: Cast iron pier/door-post on inserted brick base. Scale 1m

The foundations to the coach-house were of brick, but rather haphazard, with no attention to bonding or real structural integrity.

Such poor brickwork is a hallmark of the range in general, with most of the walls simply abutting their neighbours in a simple butt-joint, with no attempt to key in the coursing. While the obvious inference of this is that most of the divisions of space encountered are not original to the range, the choice not to key in dividing walls did make for unnecessarily weak structures. This extensive poor

quality brickwork, perhaps a surprise when the 1720s quality of the main hall is compared, perhaps suggests that locally the owners could not rely on a ready supply of competent bricklayers through the 19th century in an area which is actually known for its stone buildings. Or it is possible that they were simply not prepared to put much effort or finances into such outbuildings.

The weak joints between walls did however leave the structure unduly prone to the heave produced by two mature pine trees which were mechanically dug out as part of the dismantling of the ironing room and adjacent buildings. Both trees had compromised the brickwork of the building, not least because they were growing within what had become a thickened embankment of earth against the north and west sides of the building.



Fig 21: Digging out one of the pine tree stumps from against the still-scaffolded ironing room. Note the steam collector high on the gable behind.

The ironing room

The ironing room comprises a basement room linked to the main block of the house by a subterranean tunnel as well as having an added external staircase on the west side which allowed access to and from a former drying ground located on that side of the coach house. Due to considerable deterioration of the north and west external walls along with much of the floor, the majority of the space had to be dismantled and re-built in order to make it safe. Only the south and east walls were retained without substantial rebuilding.

Interior inspection and recording of the ironing room had always been severely restricted by the necessary scaffold cradle which some time before had been placed inside to prevent the north and west walls collapsing inwards. It was therefore necessary to make what records were possible during the dismantling process from the exterior, which was timber by timber, brick by brick, course by course.



Fig 22: The roof of the ironing room, stripped down to its principal truss. Note at far right the sections of wall-plate falling away from the wall-line. Also the ceiling-frame inside the wall-lines.

The common-rafter roof was dismantled and the separate elements set aside for re-use where possible, all in the same places.

The ceiling of the ironing room was of tongue and groove pine strips which had been nailed to an inserted ceiling. That ceiling was formed around a box-frame fixed to pine wall-plates which had been slotted into the brick walls at eaves level.

Above the eaves the roof was stripped down by its component parts: Welsh slate covering, ridge-plank, common rafters, purlins and a single truss.

The truss and rafters rested on wall plates made of short lengths of oak joined in pre-cut sections by simple, if awkwardly-executed, scarf-joints, some (but not all) marked with simple chisel-cut carpenter's marks in Roman numerals.



Fig 23: The two wall-plates. Outer one for the roof, inner one to fix the ceiling frame. Between them the brick of the wall top with the scale resting on it. This view shows a mistakenly-cut lap-dovetail adjacent to that actually used to grip the tie-beam of the truss. Scale 30cm



Fig 24: Scarfed sections of wall-plate with carpenter's marks (VIII); scale 30cm

High in the south gable wall was a corbelled brick box which was capped with mortared Welsh slates. This formed a channel which slanted upwards under the gable to join the chimney stack which served the fireplaces below. This is believed to be a primitive steam-hood or collector for the clouds of steam (and fumes) which early smoothing irons would have produced.



Fig 25: Slate-covered channel on interior gable for collecting and channelling smoke and steam away.
Scale 30cm

As part of the process of dismantling prior to rebuilding, after the removal of the roof structure, the north and west walls were removed by hand and usable materials photographed, numbered and stored on site by the contractors. In order to provide sufficient foundations for those walls the ground level was reduced from the north and west sides of the building into which new structural elements were introduced. During this earthmoving an archaeologist was present at all times in order that any remains uncovered could be recorded prior to their removal.

The walls of the ironing room comprised red brick bonded in lime mortar. Due to the largely basemented nature of the space, the walls as retainers were one half brick thicker than the standard 9-inch wall; however, the bonding between the stretchers and headers was erratic which might in part explain the failure of the two external elements. As with the plethora of butt-joints within the building, quite why such relatively poor brick laying was undertaken is not clear. Below ground level the internal wall surface of the room was of brick, the face against the surrounding soil was of rough ironstone blocks bonded only with clay.



Fig 26: The below-ground stone and brick north and west walls of the ironing room reduced, looking south-east. Note the high-level steam-collector (top right). 1m scale.

There were no 'foundations' as such and both the brick and stone retaining walls ceased level with the internal floor surface of the ironing room. The brick and stone walls were laid directly onto the natural blue lias clay and the whole appears to have been trench built, i.e. a large hole was dug slightly larger than the final dimension of the required room size and the walls then lined the sides of that hole from the inside. There was no evidence for the creation of construction trenches to finish off the outside faces.

Apparently truncated by the creation of the north and south walls of the ironing room were the remains of two further stone walls, also aligned north-south [5] and east-west [7] but pre-dating the construction of the ironing room. Wall [5] was 0.7m in width whilst wall [7] was 0.5m in width.

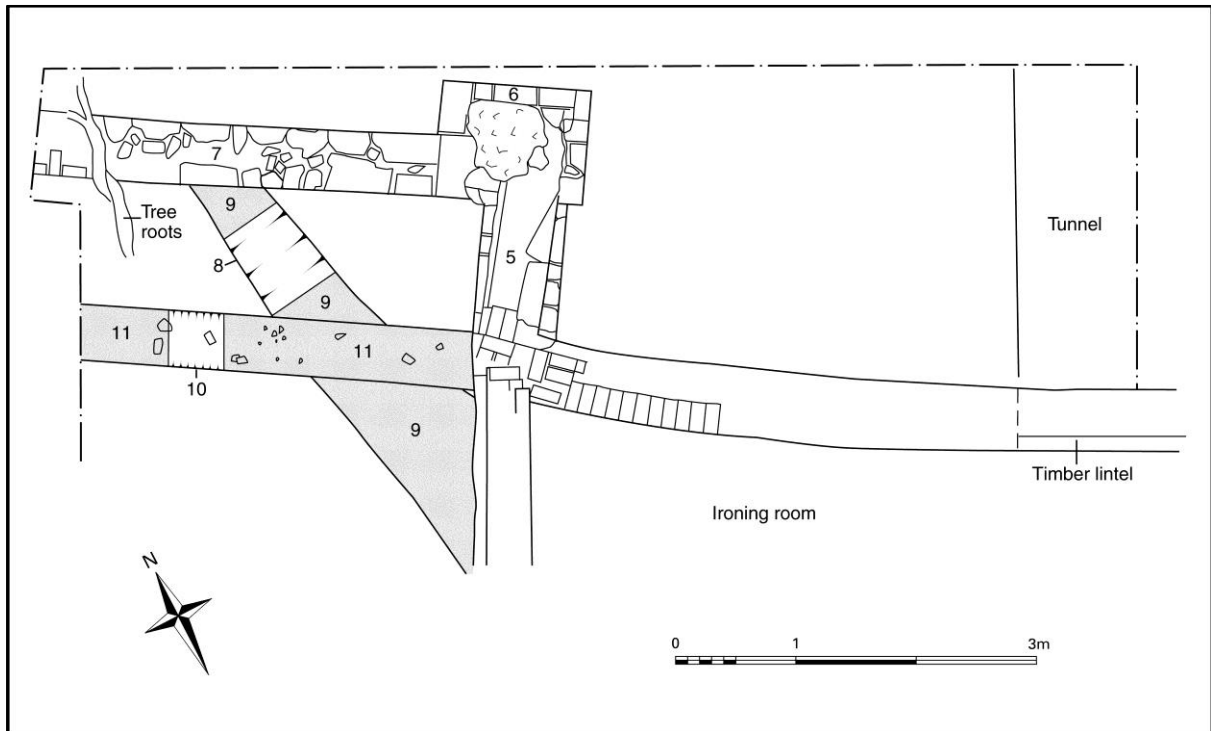


Fig 27: Plan of the stone walls and features truncated by the creation of the ironing room.
(Andy Isham)

The walls were constructed of both dressed and un-dressed pieces of ironstone and limestone. Where dressed pieces were used they were mostly, but not exclusively, used to form the outer faces of the wall. The majority of the footing was un-mortared but bonded with clay, presumably extracted from the surrounding natural geology. However, at the north-east corner the wall was thickened to form what appear to be clasping buttresses on the outer faces of the two walls [6]. At this point the stonework was bonded in a creamy white lime mortar.



Fig 28: The wall footings looking west: 2m scale.

A small number of the limestone fragments were re-used pieces of architectural stonework and include fragments of window detail such as mullion and transom mouldings (See below for catalogue-report).

The purpose of the wall footings is uncertain but they almost certainly relate to a square service building, located to the south of the main block and perhaps a version of something indicated on the Gibb's plan (Fig 16). The exact function of the building is unknown but its location, prominently situated on the west garden front suggests that it was most likely contrived to give the impression of a garden pavilion even if its real purpose was more prosaic.

The western limit of the footing was not determined since it continued beyond the edge of the area which needed to be reduced for the present purposes. Similarly, the southern limit of the wall could not be determined since it had been truncated by the insertion of the west wall of the ironing room.

Following the removal of the wall footings and further reduction of the natural ground surface a narrow robber trench aligned east–west [10] was revealed (Figs 27 and 29).



Fig 29: The east-west robber trench [10] and underlying angled Romano-British ditch [9]. 1m scale, looking east.

This trench was neatly cut into the natural blue clay and extended westwards from the corner of the ironing room although appears to have been unconnected with it; the association seems to have been coincidental. It probably related to an earlier wall on a similar alignment. The westward limit of the robber trench extended beyond the limit of the excavations and so is unknown. The trench was c0.5m in width and survived only to a depth of 40-50mm. It retained a flat base and was filled by dirty natural clay with occasional fragments of red brick and mortar with small slivers of green bottle glass.

Beneath the robber trench a shallow U-shaped ditch aligned roughly north-west to south-east was revealed. The ditch was narrower at the northern end where it was roughly 0.5m wide and 0.9m wide at the southern end where it was truncated by the west wall of the ironing room. Surviving to a depth of c0.2m the fill [9] comprised a dark grey/black loamy fill with a high proportion of charcoal flecks. There were otherwise very few inclusions apart from tiny flecks of flint.

Finds retrieved include three fragments (all joining) of a coarse burnt daub retaining impressions of chaff and straw on one side along with the impressions of dragged finger marks on the other where the surface was roughly smoothed. These pieces appear to be fragments of an oven or furnace lining.

Fourteen fragments of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery were recovered with a mixture of grit, shell and grog tempering. All were wheel thrown and were of oxidised orange/pink fabric with a reduced grey core. Only one base and one rim sherd was present. They were almost certainly manufactured on or near the site from locally dug clay. There were no fragments of definitive post-Conquest Roman wares suggesting a date of pre-AD 43 for the group.

The single section of ditch suggests occupation on the site although the limited nature of the remains precludes and further interpretation as to the extent or nature of that occupation.

The tunnel

Extending northwards from the north wall of the ironing room and connecting that space with the basement of the main hall is a narrow, barrel-vaulted pedestrian tunnel (Figs 4, 30 & 31). This structure, intended to provide a route whereby the associated staff could pass between the two areas without being seen by the owners or visitors when in the house and gardens is typical of a period when it was deemed desirable for servants to be as invisible as possible. It allowed dirty linen to be taken to the laundry for washing followed by drying then ironing before being returned to the house, all out of sight. However, while on the one hand the use of the tunnel must have been damp and perhaps a little forbidding, it might have also provided other opportunities since laundry maids were often considered to have slightly suspect morals. This was largely because they spent much of their time unobserved by the housekeeper (Evans 2011).

Where the tunnel connects with the north wall of the ironing room the integrity of the structure had been affected by the movement in the north wall of the room which had caused weakness within the tunnel itself. The side walls were built of dressed and undressed ironstone and limestone and the vault made of a simple semi-circular or barrel vault constructed from a single brick laid on edge and bonded in lime mortar. Though the tunnel is not deeply buried beneath the ground, the use of a single un-weatherproofed brick skin for the vault is perhaps flimsy but perhaps reflects the amount of money prepared to be spent on the staff.

The interior of the tunnel has white painted walls, no doubt to give the impression of lightness but there are no integral lamp niches along its length. It is not, therefore, clear quite what arrangements were made for lighting but it seems unlikely that there was none.

The floor is paved with nineteenth-century red and black quarry tiles and either side are shallow channels for drainage.

When the southern end of the tunnel was rebuilt where it connects with the north wall of the ironing room it was observed that it had been trench built with the construction trench being slightly wider than the finished brick and stonework.



Fig 30: The tunnel vault during uncovering. Note the left-hand end breached. To left front is a later drain with inspection chamber.



Fig 31: The tunnel, during conservation at its broken end. Note its shallow burial at its apex.

The stable and forge

Furthest from the Ironing Room, on the south end of the coach house lay a former stable for two horses (two tethering rings and troughs) and two adjacent rooms, most recently one a WC (at the front) and the other a long-since-disused forge (at the rear).

The WC was probably a later use of the room since some of the paintwork had been painted over patches of excessive claw-scratches, suggesting that the room was used for a while as an impromptu kennel, perhaps why the direct doorway to the forge had been blocked up.

However, the front wall of the WC is entirely brick infill. Along with the nearby coach-house/garage doors, this suggests that the whole range was originally open-fronted, for coaches, carts and other wheeled vehicles. This side faces east, the preferred agricultural orientation for such buildings, since it militates against strong prolonged sunlight on (relatively) delicate wheels and spokes as they dry. Over-drying or regular fast drying can over time split the different woods used in wheel assemblies.



Fig 32: WC to left, stable to right. Note the continuous (flimsy) wall-plate and the butt joint (arrowed) showing how the front of the WC wall is an insert to block a previously open front; scale 2m

In the stable the brick floor was reduced to natural ground, a process which entailed dismantling two secondary corner-troughs for the horses, and taking up the brick floor. Neither exposed any buried remains, although stored in the stable had been a superbly-preserved hand-operated chaff-cutter. After photographing, this was moved off site by the Kelmarsh Trust for safe keeping.



Fig 33: The chaff cutter; guard up.

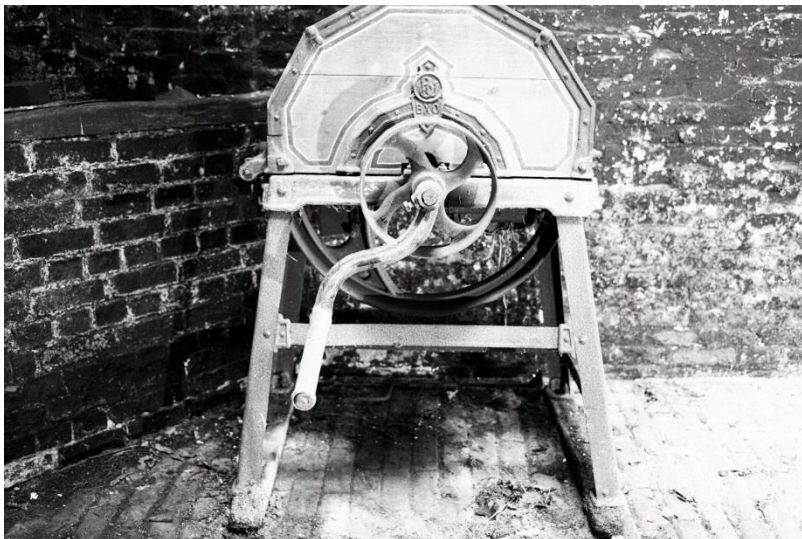


Fig 34: The chaff cutter; guard down.



Fig 35: The front of the stable, with two part door, added brick corner trough and iron hay-basket;
scale 2m

The adjacent forge was of intrinsic interest, not least since it had not been used in many decades and had been left just as it was when last used, perhaps when the estate moved finally from horse-drawn transport to motor-vehicles.

Firstly it must be noted that a forge was not the original, intended use of the room, since the base for the anvil, a huge waney-edged tree trunk log of (probably) elm, was set into a 300mm-deep pit dug through the existing blue-brick floor. Excessively rotted, it was not retained.



Fig 36: The anvil base removed; scale 30cm



Fig 37: the pit for the anvil base; scale 30cm

The room itself was a curious division of space since most of its brick walls were built with butt joints to their neighbours, rendering the whole structure inherently weak. The layout had already changed once when a doorway was blocked up (to what became an adjacent WC), and the full repertoire of forge equipment was only put in after the doorway was blocked.

Between the stable and the forge it served was a proper two-piece stable door, kicked, chewed and battered by both horses and (not chewed perhaps) the Blacksmith. It was much repaired. A curved iron bar which could be stretched across the open top half would prevent a horse putting its nose through too far. As a measure against well-aimed kicks at the door-jambs, these uprights had been fixed to the brick floor with iron straps.

Internally the rooms had been painted with a bitumen-rich paint to half-height, lime-washed above, with woodwork painted a matt yellow ochre.



Fig 38: The stable door between stable and forge. Note the hinged iron bar to left, iron strap at lower right, and the excessively chewed exposed edges of the timber; scale 1m



Fig 39: View through the stable door into the clutter of the abandoned forge. To the rear is the part-collapsed brick smoke-canopy and timber bressumer beam; scale 2m.



Fig 40: The heart of the forge – an excessively heavy mobile bellows and hearth combined; scale 1m

Close to the centre of this small room was a very heavy iron and steel structure which combined hearth and bellows. It still contained a deal of spent fuel in the hearth itself, liberally strewn with

discarded tongs, pliers and other tool-attachments. Seemingly the abandonment of the forge had not been particularly planned, nor was there ever any attempt to put the room to an alternative use thereafter. Only the anvil had been taken out, leaving deep locator-holes for spikes which held it fast onto its sunken tree-trunk base, still rotting in its pit.

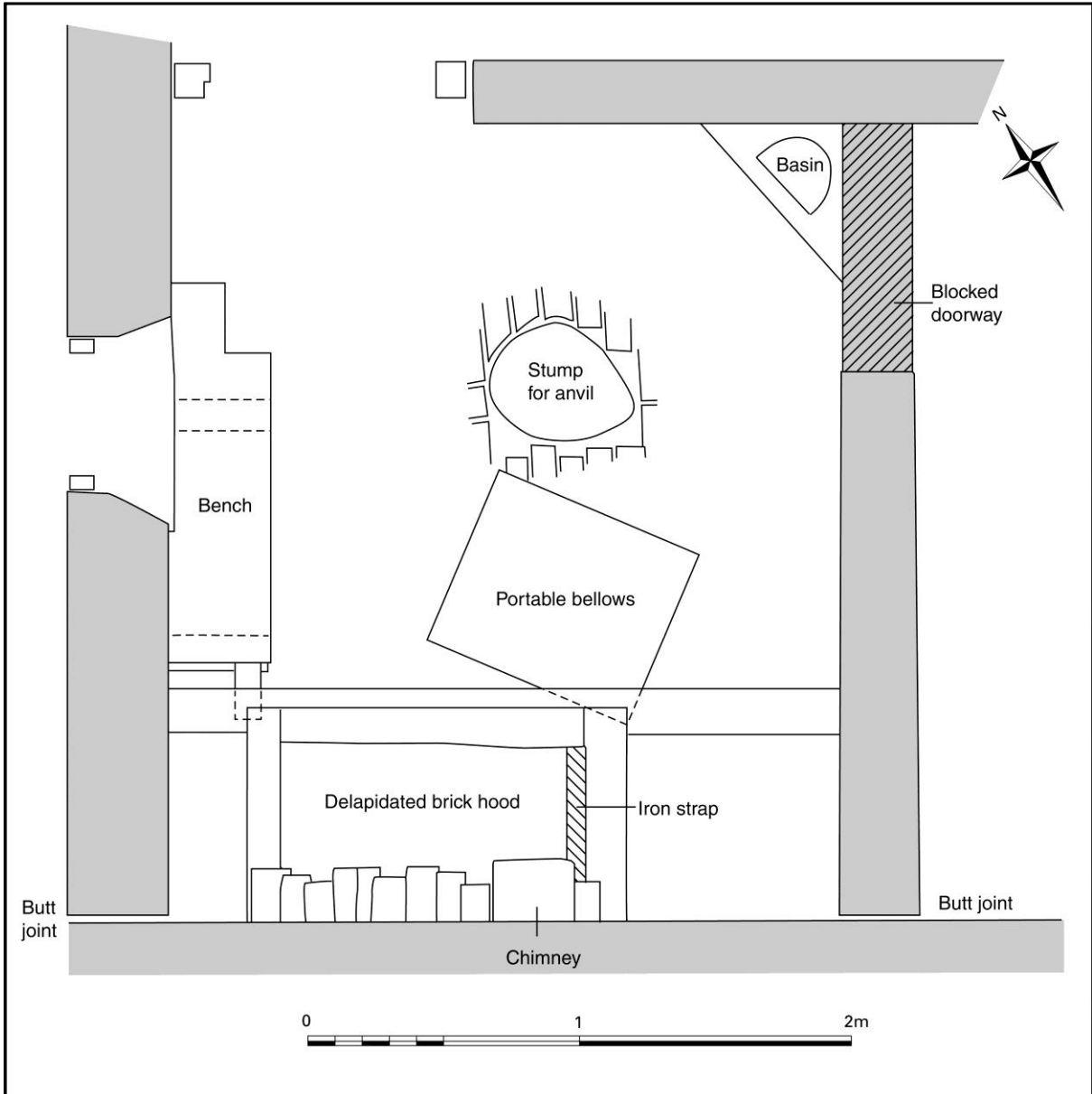





Fig 41: plan of the forge layout. Note the surrounding brickwork butt-joints (Andy Isham).





Finds of intrinsic interest



Architectural stonework (Jacobean) (Fig 42)

During the cleaning and recording of the wall which was excavated at the rear of the Ironing Room, it was noted that a number of architectural fragments were built into the foundation which it is considered probably derive from the first (1630s) Kelmarsh Hall. A couple more come from the footing of the North Quadrant. While the first hall's original location remains unknown, it is highly likely that with the reuse of these stones, in these two different locations, the source is probably very close by.

1a	Cornice fragment in fine-grained limestone. Size 380mm x 234mm x 120mm. Context 5; Scale 30cm	
1b	Underside view of same, showing (?) fixing holes.	
2	Fragment from an arch, curved door-head or coping from shaped gable in fine-grained limestone. Size 480mm x 200mm x 245mm. Context 5; Scale 30cm	

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3	Two fragments of a window sill or coping in fine-grained limestone. Sizes: (left) 285mm x 170mm x 135mm; (right) 275mm x 200mm x 140mm. Context 5; Scale 30cm.	
4	Fragment of ovolo mullion or transom in fine grained limestone, cut down. Size: 325mm x 140mm x 95mm. From East wall footing of North Quadrant; scale 30cm.	
5a	Junction piece from ovolo mullion and transom, with lead came (arrowed) in glazing groove on ovolo (underside) of transom. The piece has a plain upper surface (to run off rain), ovolo beneath on the transom. The mullion has ovolo on both sides. Limewash traces on the interior. 315mm x 200mm x 125mm; Context 5; Scale 30cm.	
5b	Upper (chamfered side) view of the same. Scale 30cm.	

5c	Profile view of the transom of the same, with chamfered upper and ovolo underside. Context 5; Scale 30cm.	
6	Two joining fragments of ovolo mullion in fine grained limestone. (310mm) x 190mm x (125mm). Context 5; Scale 30cm.	

A cast iron fireback

A cast-iron fireback was retrieved by the contractors when clearing scrub to the west of the coach house. It is badly corroded but cast in relief, it bears the date 1633 between two crudely moulded fleurs-de-lys (Fig 43). The sides and top are finished with a raised moulded rope-twist border and the remainder of the casting is blank. Such firebacks were widely used to protect the stone-, or more often, brick-work in the rear of fireplaces and do exist from the sixteenth century. However, they are and were much-copied. It may therefore be original or a later copy. If it is an original it might have come from the original hall although it could have been bought in at a later date; there is another, similar, example within the Chinese Room which bears the initials and Coat of Arms for Elizabeth I which if original, must be of an even earlier date. The provenance of that is also uncertain.



Fig 43: The cast iron fireback; scale 50cm

Conclusions

The conservation programme at Kelmarsh Hall has made the basements of the main hall and a series of ancillary buildings open to the public for the first time, enabling greater access and fuller interpretation.

Walls dismantled due to their instability have been rebuilt as new, using the same materials where possible, repaired or replaced like-for-like where not.

There have been some unexpected gains, however.

There was no inkling previously that there might be Iron Age/Roman occupation on the site. Given the Grade I Listed status of the current house, however, it seems likely that such remains will rarely be seen unless widespread earthmoving takes place. In addition the widespread earthmoving which has already taken place to create the current Hall, its gardens, and their predecessor, probably mean that such remains survive only in small islands between later (arguably more important) remains and planned landscapes.

A few architectural fragments may indicate that the previous Kelmarsh Hall actually lies close by. The current work has added nothing to arguments as to exactly where it might lie, but the re-use of these rather battered fragments suggests the two halls lay in close proximity. These are not ideal stones for reuse and would not have been worth taking very far at all. The authenticity of the fireback dated 1633 is not beyond doubt. If original, it may or may not derive from the early Hall – the evidence is equivocal.

The discovery of at least one reduced structure behind the ironing room suggests that a 1720s/30s plan which shows a garden pavilion may be accurate (in spirit if not in measurement). If this identification of the excavated remains is correct, then it is tempting to see the outbuildings which survive as having been inserted rather ignominiously into a previous genteel garden space, in a less-than-inspired move which looks like a step back from an original rather splendid scheme. Functionality over beauty perhaps.

Within the main basements, it can be seen that a number of rooms have changed their function. The First Footman's Bedroom (B7) and adjacent Bakehouse (B8) were clearly once conjoined and formed the principal Kitchen of the 1720s Hall. It is unclear when they ceased to function in this way. The Bakehouse oven may date to the mid- 19th-century, but the full, final separation of the two rooms took place after this, when the kitchen was moved out (and presumably the First Footman moved in).

Similarly, a service stair once rose from the central corridor at its south end. Fully blanked off at Ground Floor level, most remains were also removed from the basement. However, some stone treads in the corridor wall and the angled, arched structure remain testament to this sturdy flight which would have enabled a completely different circulation of staff to work around the house. Presumably it was taken out when the timber stair around the dumb waiter in B19 was put in, perhaps part of the same move which saw the adjacent kitchen moved away from B7. Clearly the staff circulation routes, access, privacy, food service, dining clearance have all changed very considerably and warrant fresh research.

The removal of the stair in the North Quadrant has shown that some early plans appear relatively accurate in showing a stair from the outset and the discovery of coal dust deep in the structure seems to suggest that fuel was once either delivered or stored (or both) here, some way from the more recent coal stores in B5 and B6, which were formerly simple cellar rooms. Their windows were converted into curving coal chutes when the front access steps were widened. Like the possible former garden pavilion remains, the North Quadrant Stair also reused architectural fragments probably from the first Kelmarsh Hall of the 1630s.

Little can be said of the tunnel, except to note how flimsily-built it was. With only a single brick thickness for its vault, and with no covering apparently conceived against water, it is again illustrative of the sums *not* being lavished upon the serving classes of Kelmarsh.

The collapsing ironing room has been successfully rebuilt, exactly as it was. The room itself held no real surprises, since it was low-grade, functional architecture. It was however, part of a wider group that is notable for its lack of structural finesse – the large number of brick butt-joints suggest either bricklayers who had little expertise, or family finances being used very reluctantly indeed, or the plan for the range undergoing constant and regular reassessment and alteration. The outbuildings were notable for having every expense spared on them.

The discovery of a former forge before its loss in the scheme was a surprise. It had been left just as it was when last used. Although it could not be preserved for public consumption the records betoken a brief period in the early- to mid-twentieth century when the room was needed for a great house, as it wavered between an equestrian-centred past and a mechanised future shorn of horse-drawn transport and hand-fed, hand-cranked contraptions like a chaff-cutter. Thenceforth horses were strictly for pleasure. That the forge and stable were shut up and left – right next to the coach house become garage - indicates the immediate redundancy of much space, as well as many careers.

Bibliography

Evans S, 2011 *Life Below Stairs In the Victorian and Edwardian Country House*

The Jessop Consultancy 2014 *The Basements at Kelmarsh Hall, Kelmarsh, Northamptonshire.*
Historic Building Survey Document No: TJC2014.24 (DRAFTv1)

Appendix 1

OASIS data

Project Name	Kelmarsh Hall, Northamptonshire
OASIS ID	iainsode1-292706
Project Type	Building Recording/watching brief
Originator	Iain Soden Heritage Services Ltd
Project Manager	Iain Soden
Previous/future work	Yes/no
Current land use	In use as a building (Country House)
Development type	Conservation for public presentation
Reason for investigation	Listed Building Consent Condition
National grid reference	SP 7363 7960
Start/end dates of fieldwork	September 2016 – May 2017
Archive recipient	Kelmarsh Hall
Study area	2500 sq m

Appendix 2

Kelmarsh Hall Archive Photographic Register.

Medium format black and White negative photographs taken in 2016 prior to all renovation works. Cardinal points assume site north not true north (the main elevations of the main block respectively north, east, south and west). There were 5 films, all on Ilford FP4 (125ASA) taken using a Zenza Bronica ETRS camera, tripod mounted, fitted with a 50mm lens and hand-held metering. External lighting of 130 lumens was supplied.



Iain Soden Heritage Services Ltd

10 August 2017

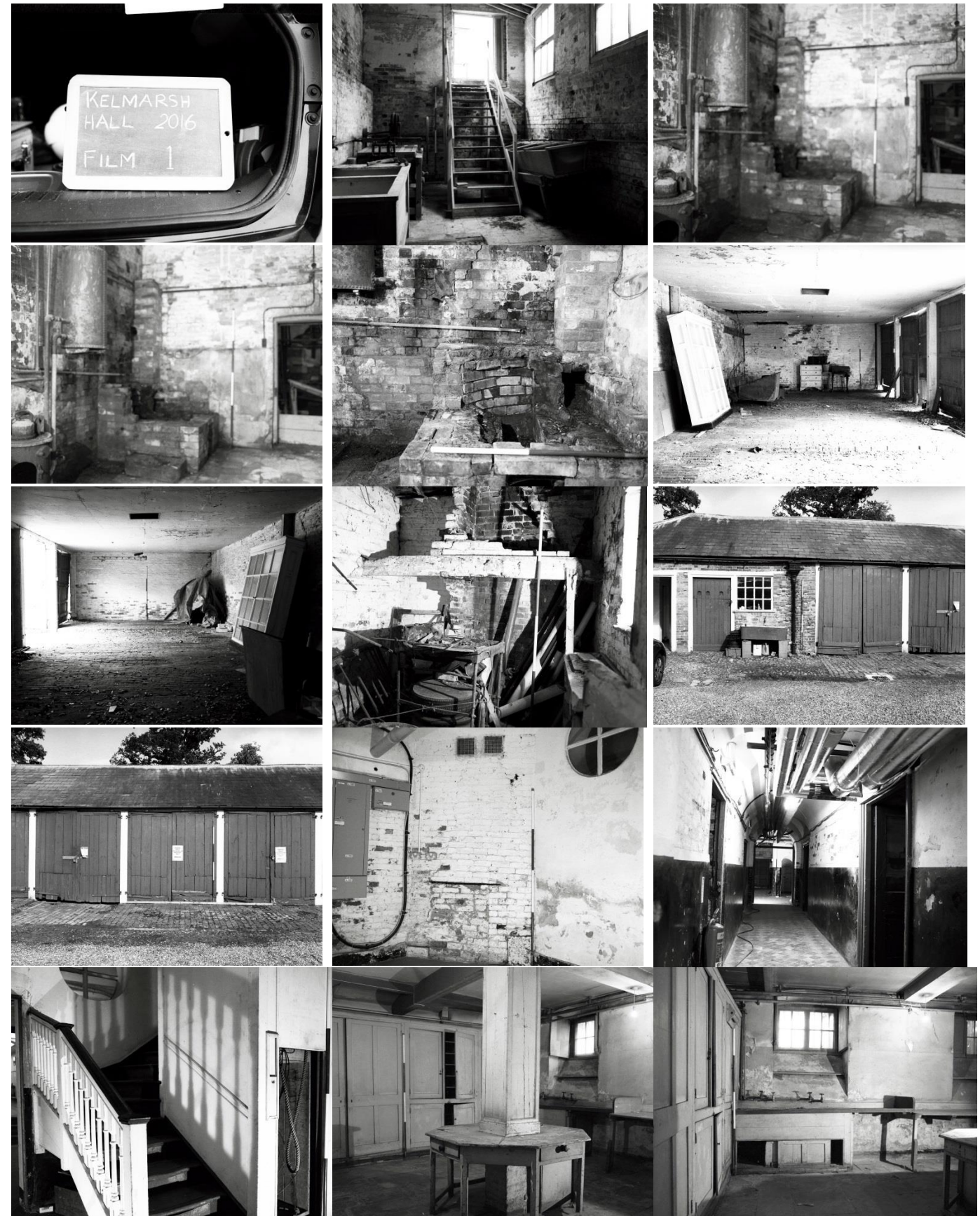
Kelmarsh Hall: The Preliminary Medium Format Photographic Survey

Schedule of the photographs

Film 1

Film	Frame	Looking	Subject	Scale	Technical data
1	1	-	Title shot	-	-
1	2	SE	Laundry, looking to temporary timber staircase entrance from stable yard	2m	1/15 @F8
1	3	SW	Laundry, looking towards Ironing Room doorway	2m	1/15 @F2.8
1	4	SW	Laundry, looking towards Ironing Room doorway	2m	1/15 @F4
1	5	S	Laundry; 'copper' water heater	1m	1/8 @ F 2.8
1	6	N	Coach House	2m	1/8 @ F4
1	7	S	Coach House	2m	1/60 @F4
1	8	S	Forge	2m	1/8 @F4
1	9	W	East elevation of Coach House, south end	2m	1/125 @F16
1	10	W	East elevation of Coach House, centre	2m	1/125 @F16
1	11	SE	B 20 showing corner fireplace	2m	1/60 @F4
1	12	S	B 16-central corridor	2m	¼ second @F6
1	13	NE	B 19-servants staircase and dumb waiter	2m	1/15 @F5.6
1	14	SW	B 18-Butler's Pantry	2m	1/15 @F5.6
1	15	W	B 18 Butler's Panty	2m	1/15 @F5.6

The photographs lead in rows opposite 1-3 (top), 4-6, 7-9, 10-12 and 13-15 (bottom)



Kelmarsh Hall

Film 2

Film	Frame	Looking	Subject	Scale	Technical data
2	1	W	B 15-Beer Cellar	2m	¼ second
2	2	SW	B 14-Wine Cellar	2m	1/8 @F5.6
2	3	W	B 14-Wine Cellar from HB 13, looking through grille door	2m	¼ @F2.8
2	4	W	B 14-Wine Cellar from HB 13, looking through grille door	2m	¼ @F5.6
2	5	SW	B 14-Wine Cellar	2m	1/8 @F5.6
2	6	E	B 10 Second Footman's Bedroom	2m	1/15 @ F4
2	7	NW	B 10 Second Footman's Bedroom	2m	1/15 @ F4

The photos opposite lead across each row in turn (1-3, 4-6, 7)

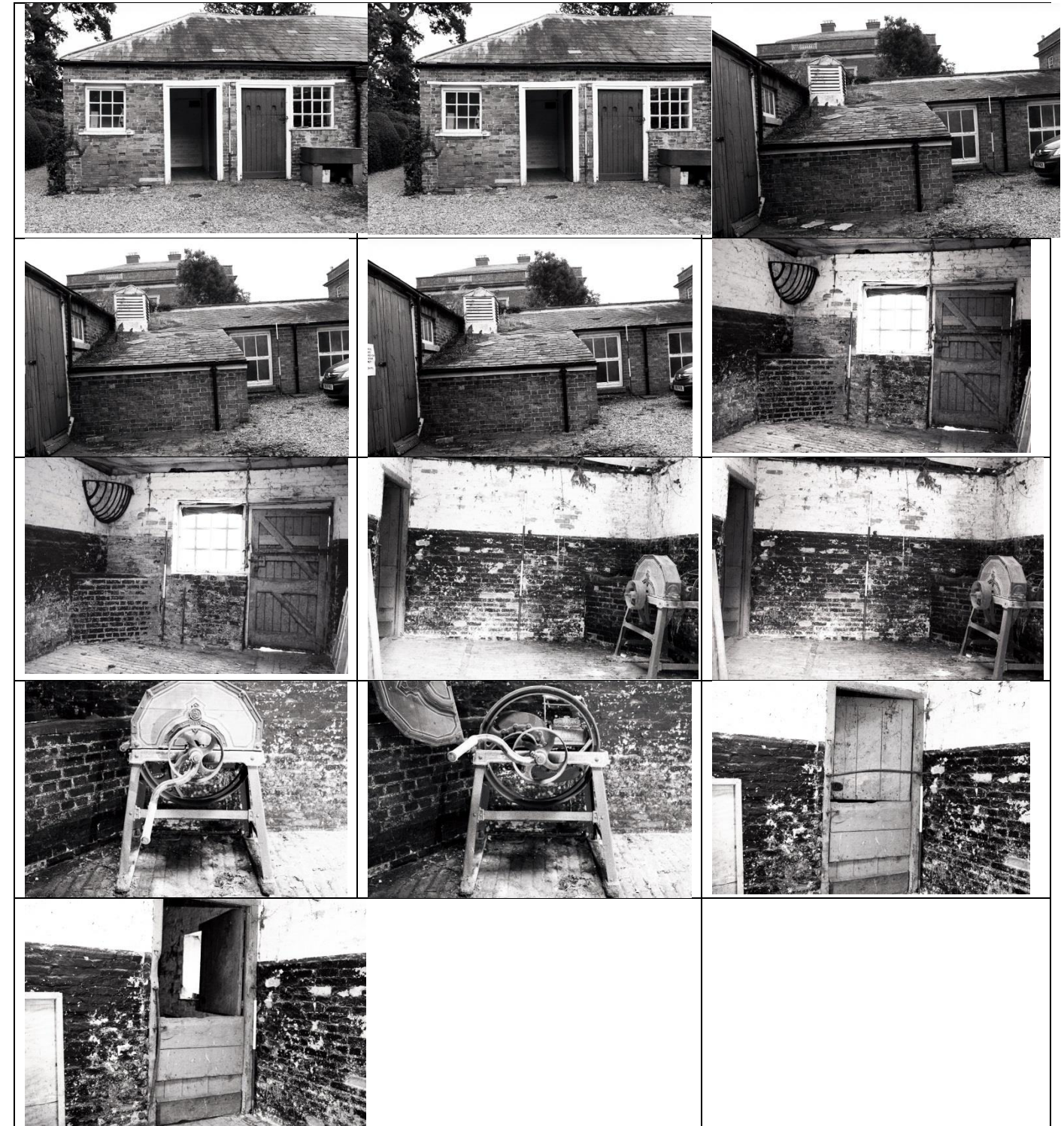


Kelmarsh Hall

Film 3

Film	Frame	Looking	Subject	Scale	Technical data
3	1	-	Blank shot (not shown)	-	-
3	2	W	East Elevation of Coach House, south end	2m	1/250 @F11
3	3	W	East Elevation of Coach House, south end	2m	1/250 @F11
3	4	N	South elevation of Laundry	2m	1/250 @F11
3	5	N	South elevation of Laundry	2m	1/250 @F11
3	6	N	South elevation of Laundry	2m	1/250 @F11
3	7	E	Stable adjacent to Forge	2m	1/60 @F4
3	8	E	Stable adjacent to Forge	2m	1/125 @F4
3	9	W	Stable adjacent to Forge	2m	1/15 @F4
3	10	W	Stable adjacent to Forge	2m	1/30 @F4
3	11	N	Stable, chaff cutter detail	-	1/8 @ F4
3	12	N	Stable, chaff cutter detail	-	1/15 @F4
3	13	SW	Stable with Forge door closed	1m	1/8 @F4
3	14	SW	Stable with Forge door, upper part open	1m	1/8 @F4

The photos opposite lead across each row in turn (2-4, 5-7, 8-10, 11-13, 14)

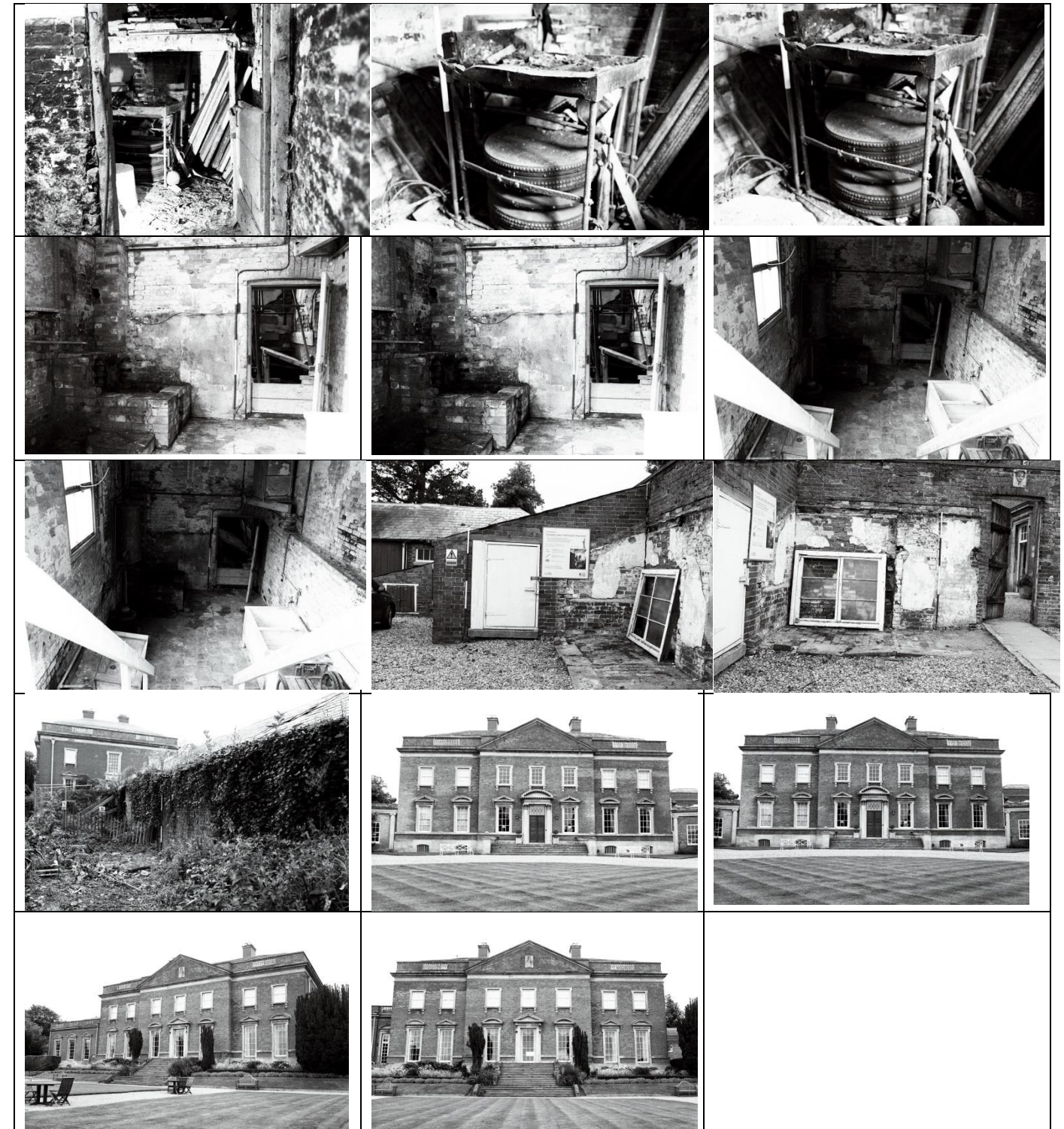


Kelmarsh Hall

Film 4

Film	Frame	Looking	Subject	Scale	Technical data
4	1	S	The Forge from Stable through doorway	1m	1/8 @F4
4	2	SE	The Forge, detail of bellows	1m	1 second @ F4
4	3	SE	The Forge, detail of bellows	1m	½ second @ F4
4	4	W	The Laundry with door to Ironing Room	2m	1/8 @ F4
4	5	W	The Laundry with door to Ironing Room	2m	¼ @ F4
4	6	W	The Laundry from top of temporary stairs	2m	1/8 @ F8
4	7	W	The Laundry from top of temporary stairs	2m	¼ @ F8
4	8	W	Temporary entrance to Laundry from service yard	2m	1/250 @ F11
4	9	N	Site of former Kennels	2m	1/250 @ F11
4	10	NE	West elevation of Coach House	2m	1/250 @ F5.6
4	11	W	Main entrance front of Kelmarsh Hall	-	-
4	12	W	Main entrance front of Kelmarsh Hall	-	-
4	13	NE	West or garden front of Kelmarsh Hall	-	-
4	14	E	West or garden front of Kelmarsh Hall	-	-

The photos opposite lead across each row in turn (1-3, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12, 13-14)



Kelmarsh Hall

Film 5

Film	Frame	Looking	Subject	Scale	Technical data
5	1	-	Blank shot (not shown)	-	-
5	2	-	Blank shot (not shown)	-	-
5	3	NW	B 8 Bake house	2m	Not recorded
5	4	NW	B 8 Bake house	2m	"
5	5	NW	B 8 Bake house	2m	"
5	6	E	B 8 Bake house with water softener	2m	"
5	7	E	B 8 Bake house with water softener	2m	"
5	8	NE	B 7 First Footman's Bedroom	2m	"
5	9	NE	B 7 First Footman's Bedroom	2m	"
5	10	NE	B 7 First Footman's Bedroom	2m	"
5	11	SW	B7 First Footman's Bedroom with projecting brickwork of bread oven	2m	"
5	12	SW	B7 First Footman's Bedroom with projecting brickwork of bread oven	2m	"
5	13	SW	B7 First Footman's Bedroom with projecting brickwork of bread oven	2m	"
5	14	NW	B 7 First Footman's Bedroom	2m	"
5	15	NW	B 7 First Footman's Bedroom	2m	"
5	16	NW	B 7 First Footman's Bedroom	2m	"
5	17	NW	B 7 First Footman's Bedroom (part view only)	2m	Double exposure x

The photos opposite lead across each row in turn (3-5, 6-8, 9-11, 12-14, 15-17)

