



**THE ARCHAEOLOGY CO.**

Foot of Hill Farm, Rainford  
Historic Building Survey

---

January 2022

# Contents

Non-technical Summary and Acknowledgements

1. Introduction

2. Site Location

3. Aims and Objectives

4. Methodology

5. Historical Background

6. Physical Description

7. Analysis and Phasing

8. Conclusions

9. Archive

10. Copyright

Bibliography

Appendix 1: Figures

Appendix 2: Plates

## **NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

An archaeological building survey was required prior to the renovation of the farmhouse and outbuilding at Foot of Hill Farm, Rainford. The work was carried out by Steven Price of The Archaeology Co.

The building appears to have been built as a dwelling in a double pile form in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, later extended in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The attached outbuilding was erected in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and a further kitchen extension added in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Steven Price of The Archaeology Co. has been commissioned to perform a level 2/3 historic building survey of a house and outbuilding at Foot of Hill Farm, Rainford. The condition suggested by MEAS for planning application P/2021/0656/FUL states:

*No development or demolition shall take place until the applicant or their agents, has secured the implementation and submission of a report on a programme of historic building investigation. That programme of historic building investigation works should be undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority prior to works taking place. The WSI must include the following five steps:*

- *A programme and methodology of site investigation and recording.*
- *A programme for post-investigation reporting to include production of a final report of the significance of the historic building.*
- *Provision for appropriate publication and dissemination of the archaeology and history of the historic building.*
- *Provision for archive deposition of the report and records of the site investigation.*
- *Nomination of a competent person or persons / organisation to undertake the works set out within the approved WSI.*

1.2 This procedure followed the advice of Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework. This came into effect in March 2012 and requires that “Local planning authorities should make information about the significance of the historic environment gathered as part of plan-making or development management publicly accessible. They should also require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the



impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible” (NPPF 2021, 141).

- 1.3 Mr Adam Smith has commissioned Mr. Steven Price BA (Hons), MA, MPhil, PCIfA of The Archaeology Co., to carry out the historic building recording. Steven Price is a Practitioner of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists with over 15 years’ experience of surveying and recording buildings of many types. He has carried out numerous standard Level 2 and 3 surveys for this type of property.

## 2. SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 The site lies on the east side of the A570 Rainford Bypass, just to the south of the junction with Mill Lane. The postal address is Foot of the Hill Farm, Mill Lane, Rainford, St Helens WA11 8LN and the National Grid Reference is SJ 48917 98935. There are two non-designated heritage assets recorded on the Merseyside Historic Environment Record within the proposed development site; Nos. 1 and 2 Foot of the Hill Farm, Mill Lane, Rainford, an 18th century house (MME7292) and an outbuilding at Foot of the Hill Farm, Mill Lane, Rainford, a 19th century structure (MME20590). The latter is a barn and is not a part of this survey as it is not impacted by the proposal. The site lies c. 2.25km to the southeast of Rainford centre. The site is relatively flat although set below the level of the A570 and Mill Lane, the latter sloping downwards to the east.

### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 Buildings are an important part of the historic environment as they provide information on historical technology, social structure and lifestyles. The alteration of such buildings may remove evidence of their past uses and occupation and make it more difficult for future historians to understand and interpret them. The aim of the survey was to preserve 'by record' the information that may be lost as a result of demolition or alteration. This was achieved by recording and analysing the plan form, function, age and development of the building and by the provision of a written, drawn and photographic archive for future reference.
- 3.2 The purpose of an Historic Building Recording, according to the ClfA (2014) is to "examine a specified building, structure or complex, and its setting, in order to inform a) the formulation of a strategy for the conservation, alteration, demolition, repair or management of a building, or structure, or complex and its setting or b) to seek a better understanding, compile a lasting record, analyse the findings/record, and then disseminate the results".
- 3.3 The objective for this project was to seek a better understanding, compile a lasting record, analyse the findings/record, and then disseminate the results. Also, the North West Regional Research Framework was reviewed for relevant research objectives. In this instance, the scope of the project is quite small, but sought to address two questions:
- Ind09: How does the nature of rural settlement change during this period?
  - Ind18: How can we identify the impact of industrialisation on rural dwellings?

#### 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 An appropriate record has been made of the building to Historic England level 2/3 standards. Floor plans, elevations and a representative section are required. After checking and verifying their accuracy, the architects' drawings have been utilised. The drawn record shows all features of interest that have been recorded photographically, as well as showing other features of historical significance that may not be directly affected by the proposal but which are necessary to put those features in context.
- 4.2 Construction techniques and sequences were appropriately illustrated or described, if visible.
- 4.3 The archaeologist on site identified and noted:
- Truss positions and form;
  - Any significant changes in construction material – this is intended to include significant changes in stone/brick type and size, coursing, etc.
  - All blocked, altered or introduced openings;
  - Evidence for phasing, and for historical additions or alterations to the building.
- 4.4 Drawing conventions conform to Historic England guidelines as laid out in *Understanding Historic Buildings – A guide to good recording practice*, Historic England 2016.
- 4.5 Photographs were taken with an Olympus E600 Digital SLR camera (12 Megapixels) in RAW format. All detailed photographs and general shots contain a 2-metre ranging-rod, discretely positioned, sufficient to independently establish the scale of all elements of the building and its structure, where it was safe to do so.
- 4.6 The photographic coverage includes:
- General photographs of the interior and exterior of the building/complex, along with photographs of the site/setting of the building.

- The overall appearance of principal rooms and circulation areas.
  - Detailed coverage of the building's external appearance. In the case of a building designed by an architect, or intended to be seen from a certain point of view, it is important to have regard to the builder's intentions and to record the effect of the design or of the building's placing.
  - Any external detail, structural or decorative, which is relevant to the building's design, development and use and which does not show adequately on general photographs.
  - The building's relationship to its setting, and to significant viewpoints.
  - Internal detail, structural and decorative which is relevant to the building's design, development and use and which does not show adequately on general photographs. Elements for which multiple examples exist (e.g. each type of roof truss, column or window frame) have been recorded by means of a single representative illustration.
- 4.7 A plan showing the location from which the photographs have been taken has been produced.
- 4.8 A photographic register listing all photographs taken has been produced. For ease of use each set of photographs have been numbered sequentially 1, 2, 3, etc.
- 4.9 The site was visited on the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021. Detailed notes were made of the structural details of the buildings and photographs taken. Measurements were taken with hand held and electronic 'tapes' which enabled the drawings to be produced.
- 4.10 The project was carried out in accordance with the recommendations of *The Management of Archaeological Projects* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 1991 and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings and Structures* 2014.

## 5. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 At the time of the Domesday survey in 1086 Rainford formed part of the manor of Warrington, although by the late 12<sup>th</sup> century a free tenant is recorded in the manor of Rainford. The first known Rainford is Sir Geoffrey de Rainford from 1150. He appears to have accompanied Richard Cour De Leon in the third crusade and taken part in the siege of Accra in 1191 (Rigby n.d.).
- 5.2 By 1324 Rainford was held by Robert de Lathom, before descending through the family. Richard de Lathom made a grant to Henry de Haysarm in 1325–6, and later, as Richard de Lathom, lord of Rainford, he leased four acres to the same Henry de Haysarm and Margery his daughter in 1340. The manor then descended through the Lathoms and subsequently to their heirs, the Stanleys (Farrer & Brownbill 1907).
- 5.3 During this period much of the land within Rainford was mossland bordering on the great expanse of Simonswood forest (Rigby n.d.). Foot of Hill farm appears to be shown on Yates' map of 1786, although shows no detail of the buildings. It is believed to have belonged to Edmond Lyon during this time (Merseyside HER). However, Greenwood's map of 1818 shows a group of three buildings at the site by this time.
- 5.4 The tithe plan of Rainford from 1841 shows two buildings on this site, one of which is the barn opposite the house (MME20590), the other an L-shaped building. There was no evidence on site to suggest the extant building extended in this direction and is it likely a conflation of the subject house and the neighboring property to the south. The plot number is shown as 1563, recorded as "house, outbuilding and garden", owned by the Earl of Derby and occupied by Mary Webster. Mary Webster occupied several plots in the area (figure 10), including other properties (plot number 1568) recorded as "cottages and gardens", to the northwest of the site. The fields are believed to have been inherited from Edmond Lyon (Merseyside HER), with one of her fields (plot number 1788) named as "Edmund Lyon's Moss". The surrounding field boundaries are regular and rectangular, suggesting that they were formed by

the enclosure act of 1774 (Adkins et al. 2008; Baker & Butlin 1973). However, those to the far north, are less regular, suggesting this area was enclosed prior to this. Further, plot number 1555, which is the most north-eastern of the plots occupied by Mary Webster, is named as “The Wind Mill Meadow and Croft”. This is an irregularly shaped plot, with 3 of the 4 sides bounded by Rainford Brook. The name suggests a windmill was once located in this area, and is shown on Yates’s map as Rainford Mills. Mary Webster is recorded at the property in the 1841 census returns, recorded as a 60-year-old farmer. She is listed alongside Charles Beesley, Robert Crosby, Hannah Hancock and Mary Hancock

- 5.5 The site is shown in greater detail the 1850 OS map, with three buildings present, along with a well. The house appears to be roughly square in plan, with the projecting porch of the front door to the southwest. The building appears wider than it is at present, with a further projection to the northwest elevation. The outbuilding, connecting it to the southern building, is not shown. The 1851 census records William Hancock as the head at the property and as a farmer of 30 acres. No wife is recorded although his daughter Hannah is, presumably the same Hannah listed in 1841. Another daughter, Margaret, is also recorded as well as the aforementioned Mary Webster, listed as William’s sister. Two young farm servants are also recorded.
- 5.6 The property is not named in the 1861 census, although William Hancock is listed alongside his wife Mary Ann. The property is listed, alongside several others, as near Hill Top. The property is un-named again in the 1871 census, recorded simply as a part of Mill Lane. However, it is assumed that William Wiswall lived here at this time. He is recorded alongside his wife Jane, their two daughters Mary and Jane Ann, as well as their son Henry. Three farm servants are also recorded.
- 5.7 The 1891 census records a similar situation to the previous, although Henry Wiswall is no longer listed, and the house recorded as Hill Foot Farm. On the 1892 OS map the house appears much as it does today. The house is shown with the present rectangular proportions, as well as the porched entrance to

the southwest. The outbuilding is also shown by this time, linking it to the adjacent property to the south.

- 5.8 William Wiswall is recorded as the sole occupant of Hill Foot Farm in the 1901 census at the age of 70, with two farm servants. By the 1911 census, Henry Wiswall is listed as the head. He is recorded alongside his wife Mary and their children, William, Jane, Tom, Mary and Henry. His father, William, is also present, recorded as retired. The OS maps for 1908 and 1927 show little change to the site over this time. The kitchen extension to the northeast elevation was added in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.



## 6. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

### General Description

- 6.1 (Plate 1). The building comprises the main house constructed in a narrow handmade brick (8 ¾" x 2 ¼" x 4") in English Garden Wall Bond (3:1) with a large extension to the southeast. The roofs of both are double pitched and covered with slate. A chimney stack lies at each end of the main house building, each with a single modern pot.

### Exterior

- 6.2 Southwest elevation (Plates 2 - 11). This forms the main five bay frontage of the building. Bays 1 to 3 form the original frontage of the main house. Bays 1 and 3 are identical, with landscape windows to ground and first floor levels, each with a heavy sandstone lintel and stone cill. A string course of brick lies between them, three brick deep. The jams to the windows show some rebuilding (plate 4), suggesting they are later insertions, or later modifications of existing windows. The second bay is the central bay of the original house (plate 5). This contains a projecting porch with gable. At ground floor level there is a personnel doorway with modern door hung. Above is a square window with heavy sandstone lintel and stone cill. The string course is present here also, although set slightly lower in the face and being cut by the doorway lintel. Bays 4 and 5 (plate 8) are set back from the main house, and constructed of a different brick (see 6.4). Bay 4 contains a personnel doorway at the western end, and bay 5 contains a square window. Both match those to the other bays.
- 6.3 To the east is the face of the outbuilding (plates 9 - 11). This contains an inserted window towards the centre of the face, with sandstone cill and lintel. Rough joints and modern brickwork line the jambs. To the east is a personnel doorway. No door is hung although the timber frame is present
- 6.3 Northwest elevation (Plates 12 - 14). This forms the gable end of the house. The whole is rendered, masking the brickwork below. At the northern end the face is stepped forward. This is featureless with the exception of a square window at

first floor level in the centre of the face. The remainder of the gable is featureless. At the northern end is the elevation of the single-story kitchen extension. This contains a personnel doorway to the southern side. At the southern end is the elevation of the projecting porch, containing a portrait window at ground floor level, with cill and lintel matching those to the front.

6.5 Northeast elevation (Plates 15 - 24). This forms the rear of the building. The face is four bays, with the first bay (east) formed by the kitchen extension and the fourth bay (west) elongated. At ground floor level the fourth bay is dominated by the single-story kitchen extension. This is constructed in machine made brown brick with a large landscape window dominating the face. Above this, at first floor level is the face of the house proper. This is constructed of the same brown handmade brick of the front elevation, and the fourth bay contains an inserted square window towards the east side of the bay, the modern brickwork to the jambs showing its insertion. The third bay contains a timber framed two light stair window, below the level of the other first floor windows. This has a heavy sandstone lintel and stone cill. The second bay contains a square window at ground and first floor levels, each with a heavy sandstone lintel and stone cill. The area below the ground floor window shows rough joints, suggesting it was once a doorway (plate 20). Bay 1 contains a matching window at ground floor level, at the west side of the bay. A straight joint is visible running up the wall from the window jamb, separating it from the second bay (plates 18 - 19). This rises to first floor level, where it then turns west, cutting across the first floor windows to bays 2 and 3. The brickwork in this area, and bay 1, is of an orange handmade brick measuring 9" x 3" x 4 1/4", and constructed in English Bond.

6.6 To the east is the face of the single story outbuilding (plate 21). This is also constructed of an orange handmade brick, although of a slightly larger size (9" x 3 1/2" x 4 1/2"). The face contains four openings within it; At the western end is a timber framed personnel doorway with no door hung. To the east and roughly in the centre of the face is a square window with no frame (plate 24). East of this, at the far eastern end is a further doorway with timber door hung. All have heavy sandstone lintels over and the window has a stone cill to match. Finally,

between the window and the easternmost doorway is a small, square timber framed hatch, high in the face (plate 23).

- 6.7 Southeast elevation (Plates 25 & 26). This forms the other gable end of the building. The southern end of the gable of the original building is visible, with a portrait window at ground floor level. To the north is the gable end of the extension. This contains a landscape window at ground floor level with a smaller square window above, at first floor level.

## Interior

### Ground floor

- 6.8 (Plates 27 - 58) The house is entered via the front door in the southwest elevation. This leads into a small porch area which leads directly into the living room, and also projects slightly into it. On most of the walls the plaster has been removed revealing the bare brick. A fireplace lies in the centre of the northwest wall with arched lintel of brick over (plate 29). A bowed timber beam lies above this. To the southwest of this a blocked window is visible with timber lintel (plate 31). To the northeast side of the fireplace is a cupboard (plate 30). The doorway is set within the brick wall and leads to small storage space set within dog-leg seen on the northwest gable. The northeast wall has a doorway to the rest of the house at the eastern end, and at the western end is a blocked doorway (plate 33). A pair of hand cut timber beams (plate 34), chamfered and stopped, run from the chimney breast southeast to meet the southeastern wall. The floor is timber, although to the southeast side is quarry tiled. This quarry tiled flooring runs between the porch and doorway opposite, with a slight projection at the northern end, suggesting a removed wall.
- 6.9 The doorway leads to a small hallway with timber dog-legged stairs rising up towards the northeast. A reused chamfered and stopped beam supports the ceiling (plate 37). A doorway leads to a small area below the staircase, with two stop steps down to a small flagged floor storage area. From the hallway, to the northwest a doorway leads into the kitchen. The kitchen walls are again bare brick and in the southwest wall the blocked doorway to the living room is visible with timber lintel over (plate 41). In the northwest wall a small blocked

opening is visible. A pair of hand cut timber chamfered beams span the room northeast – southwest. The floor, throughout the kitchen and stair landing is flagged. The majority of the northeast wall has been removed for the insertion of a wide opening into the modern kitchen extension. This is a small modern kitchen, with windows to the northeast and southeast faces, and a doorway to the northwest.

6.10 From the bottom of the staircase a doorway leads through to the southeast and into a large L-shaped room, with a doorway immediately to the south west. The L-shaped room comprises the original northeastern room of the building (plate 46) along with the later eastern extension (plate 47). The first floor has been removed, as well as a fireplace in the north east wall of the extension (plate 49). Where the wall of the original building has been removed, an RSJ has been put in place. A pair of windows lie in the north east wall, with a further window in the southeast wall and a doorway and window in the southwest wall. The doorway to the southwest of the entrance from the staircase leads to a dining room at the front of the house (plate 51). A fireplace lies in the southeast wall (plate 53) and the northwest wall has been inserted, with a timber beam partially visible spanning the former opening. A further beam runs parallel to this in the centre of the room, chamfered, but not stopped (plate 54). To the north side of the fireplace is a cupboard. within this the flue from the chimney is shown to move across towards the north, with an arched lintel visible (plate 55). The floor, beneath the modern lino, is quarry tiled, matching those in the room to the northwest.

6.11 The single story outbuilding comprises 4 individual rooms, each accessed via the northeast elevation. At the western end the room is inaccessible. No blocked doorways were found in the bare brick sections, suggesting that the entrance would have been from within the eastern extension. To the west is a small toilet room (plate 58), with the timber seat still present. In the west wall a blocked window into the inaccessible space was visible. It is unclear what this was for. To the east was a small room with no doorway (plate 57), but windows to the northeast and southwest walls. The southwestern is a later insertion. The northwest wall does not reach the floor level, being suspended by a concrete

beam, allowing the nightsoil to be collected from the adjacent toilet. At the far eastern end of the building a pair of doorways lie in the northeast and southwest walls, creating an access passage (plate 56). In the northwest wall a further doorway leads into a small storage cupboard. The roof throughout is single pitched down to the northeast and supported on machine cut purlins.

#### First Floor

6.12 (Plates 59 - 77). The first floor is accessed via the dog-legged staircase with a two light timber framed casement window light at the half landing. The balusters are square as are the chamfered newel posts. The staircase leads to a landing running northwest – southeast, with doorways off to each side (plate 61). At the northwest end a doorway leads to a small bedroom with en-suite bathroom. The walls are plastered, along with the ceiling. The ceiling shows the pitch of the roof to the northeast, before becoming flat. The floor is bare boards, 140mm wide. The en-suite has a matching ceiling although the floor is covered with lino and the walls tiled, with a modern suite installed. The doorway opposite the top of the stairs leads into the main bedroom (plate 62). Here the timber boards of the floor are present (130mm wide) and the walls plastered. However, the plastered ceiling has been removed showing the roof structure above. This contains machine cut purlins and rafters, supporting a modern roof (plate 65). In the northwest wall of the room is a fireplace (plate 63) with chimneybreast rising to the apex of the roof. The fireplace itself has been removed. To the north of the fireplace a cupboard is present, matching that of the room below (plate 66). In the southwest wall a doorway leads to a small room above the porch (plate 67). This has wide floorboards (175mm) aligned perpendicularly to those in the bedroom. The ceiling is plastered and follows the pitch of the gable, with a window in the northwest wall.

6.13 Towards the east end of the landing a pair of doors lie to the northeast and southwest sides. That to the northeast leads to a bathroom (plate 71), the walls having been stripped back to the bare brick and with a blocked opening visible in the southeast wall; the former gable end of the original building (plate 72). The southwest wall is shown to be lath and plaster. To the southwest the doorway leads to a further bedroom (plate 73). Like the previous, the floor has

been stripped back to the bare boards (130mm wide) and the plaster ceiling removed. A fireplace lies in the eastern corner of the room (plate 74), the flue from the fireplace below having moved to accommodate it. As with the previous bedroom the attic space shows that the roof has been replaced. At the east end of the landing corridor the floor has been removed, looking into the open space of the eastern extension. This shows a removed fireplace in the northeast wall, above the removed fireplace found below. The ceiling is again plastered.

## 7. ANALYSIS

- 7.1 Greenwoods map of 181 appears to show 3 buildings on the site. roughly in the locations of the present house (MME7292), the barn opposite (MME7292), and the building to the south (outside the present site boundary). The tithe plan shows a slightly different situation, with the barn clearly shown, although the house shown as an L-shaped building. There was no evidence on site to suggest the house extended in this direction and is it likely a conflation of the subject house and the neighbouring property to the south. This is also suggested by the 1850 OS map which shows a different situation, with the three buildings once again visible. Here the house appears to be roughly square with the projecting porch visible. A further projection to the northwest may be the dog-leg projection in the gable end. The 1892 OS map shows this projection more clearly as the dog-leg to the northwest gable. The southeast extension had also been erected by this time, as well as the outbuilding, connecting it to the building to the south.
- 7.2 The house appears to have been built in a double pile form, although has several unusual features. A double pile plan was typically square, whereas here the northwest elevation is stepped out part way. This dog-leg projection meant that the kitchen was slightly larger than was usual, although no evidence for a fireplace was found within it. This may suggest it was the dairy, rather than the kitchen, although it would be unusual to have the kitchen as the smaller room. Further, a doorway linking this room with the living room lay in the cross wall. This is unusual, as typically a doorway opposite the front door would give access to the dog-legged staircase to the rear (as happens here), and from here doorways would lead off to the left and right to the kitchen and dairy (Brunskill 2008). The front door appears to have led directly into the living room with the parlour off to the right. However, the quarry tiled floor extends from the front door to the staircase as well as into the parlour. Further, the junction in the living room floor between the tiles and the floor boards suggests that a wall was once present, that has been removed, with a door to the northern end. This suggests that the arrangement may have originally been the opposite way around, with the doorway leading into the parlour, with the quarry tiles

throughout, and with the living room off to the left, with its boarded floor. The presence of the porch is also atypical, and is unusual in having a room within it at first floor level. Some of the larger double pile houses has a small central room above the doorway, although in smaller buildings this was omitted due to space. The space above the porch measured approximately 1.5m square (4' 11'), meaning the space was unlikely to be used as room, and more of a cupboard.

- 7.3 Double pile houses were common from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century through the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Brunskill (2008) notes that the smaller and older examples had the front door leading directly into the main living room, rather than into a passage. The size of brick used (8 ¾" x 2 ½" x 4") also suggests a similar date (BOM n.d) and the bond (English Garden Wall) was used from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century onward (Heritage Directory 2009). This suggests a late 18<sup>th</sup> century construction date.
- 7.4 Alternatively the building may be a modification of an earlier two-unit house from the 17<sup>th</sup> / early 18<sup>th</sup> century. This would have comprised the present front two rooms (living room and parlour). The arrangement of the blocked doorway in the northeast cross wall and small blocked window to the west of the fireplace is also reminiscent of the layout for an inglenook fireplace; the blocked doorway would have led onto the jamb of the fireplace, with the blocked window acting as the fire window (Brunskill 2004). However, no further evidence for this was found. The timber beam supporting the ceiling at the base of the stairs shows evidence of having been reused. If this end of the house was built as an extension to the two-unit dwelling, this may explain why. Several of the windows to the front (southwest) elevation all appear to have been modified, with rough joints visible to either side. These joints are shorter than the present windows, suggesting that the latter replaced shorter windows, evocative of an elongated mullion, common through the 17<sup>th</sup> century (Brunskill 2004). One of the problems with this interpretation is that the brickwork (noted above) appears to date from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. This would suggest that the two-unit house was rebuilt (the external walls at least) when it was converted to



a double pile dwelling. This also suggests that mullions were not present and replaced, although shorter windows were certainly present.

- 7.5 The extension to the southeast appears to have been added in the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century, as it does not appear on the 1850 OS map. The brick size and shape also support this. The construction is English bond, which was popular until the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, making in an unusual choice. However, given the disparity in the thickness of the bricks between the original building and the extension, the choice may have been made to better match the header courses across the face. The straight joint between the two sections is clearly visible in the rear elevation, rising from the window jamb of the extension. However, the joint does not rise the full height of the face, ending c.0.75m below the level of the eaves. The joint the runs along the top of the face, with the upper half built in the same brick and bond as the extension. The joint cuts across the first floor window to meet the lintel of the stairlight. Above this lintel the brickwork matches the original face. This appears to suggest that the level of the eaves was lower, at least on the eastern side, prior to the erection of the extension, suggestive of a partial catslide roof. This also suggests that the first floor window is an insertion dating to the time of the extension. The left jamb shows no evidence of this, although possible evidence lies in the right jamb, where the line of headers is interrupted with a stretcher, although no rough joints were found.
- 7.6 The outbuilding appears to have been built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Both the southeast extension and the outbuilding first appear on the 1892 OS map. However, the outbuilding butts up against the extension, showing it to be a later construction. The inaccessible western end was likely accessed from the interior of the house extension. The location of the toilet in the outbuilding suggests that there was accesses from the rear of the house to the garden and outbuilding. This doorway lay to the eastern bay of the original house, visible as rough joints below the cill of the present window. That the joints appear rough suggests it was a later insertion.

7.7 Questions from the North West Regional Research Framework were identified for the project:

- Ind09: How does the nature of rural settlement change during this period?
- Ind18: How can we identify the impact of industrialisation on rural dwellings?

The building does not give any immediate answers regarding the changing nature of rural settlement during the period. The map evidence suggests that the settlement may have changed quite considerably over the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century: the building changed shape and size dramatically between the tithe plan of 1841, the first edition OS map of 1850 and the OS map of 1892. The tithe plan shows it as an 'L' shaped building, whereas 9 years later the OS map shows it as a separate square building. The width appears to have been exaggerated and by the 1892 map appears to have its present form. These mapping evidence appears to be misleading, as no evidence was found for the 1841 'L' shaped building or the extended width shown on the 1850 map as compared to the 1892 map. The impact of industrialisation and the change of farm practices over the period may be reflected in the addition of the outbuilding in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, combining the toilet, storage and another unidentified room linked to the house. The impact of industrialisation on the farmstead may be more apparent following a further survey of the adjacent house (under separate ownership) and barn, which may reveal information as to what the other house was in relation to the farmstead when built.

## 8. CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The house appears to have been built in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century in a modified double pile form. However, a few of the features found may suggest that the house developed in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, as a two-unit dwelling, which was later altered, although these are inconclusive. The house was later extended in the mid - late 19<sup>th</sup> century, with the outbuilding added in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## 9. ARCHIVE

- 9.1 The results of the survey will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current Historic England guidelines ('The Management of Archaeological Projects' 2015); the 'Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage' (UKIC 1990); current ClfA 'standards and guidance for the creation, compilation, transportation and deposition of archaeological archive' (published 2014); and National Museums Liverpool's 'Guidelines for the Transfer of Archaeological Archives to the Museum of Liverpool' (2020). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the ClfA in that organisation's code of conduct.
- 9.2 All documents and project files will be reviewed by Steven Price throughout the project lifespan. Material will be selected on the basis of its contribution to the overall aims of the project as set out in section 4. The selection of the archive will be undertaken by Steven Price with advice from National Museums Liverpool if important architectural features are encountered. The selection process will be a single phase following the approval of the final report by Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service.
- 9.3 All digital data created over the course of this project will be collected, stored, and selected for final deposition. Only final copies of any born digital data will be deposited in the final project archive. Deselected material is expected to include duplicates and any non-final versions of data. In terms of photographic images, this would include blurred or light imbalanced images. Deselected material will be deleted following acceptance of the archive.
- 9.4 The archive will comprise the report and digital photographs. No artefacts will be taken from the site. The paper archive, comprising the report, will be placed with National Museums Liverpool, within a reasonable time of completion of the project. The digital archive shall be deposited with the Archaeological Data

Service (ADS). This shall comprise the digital photographs saved as tiff files, following ADS guidance, along with a digital copy of the report. A digital copy of the report will also be sent to Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service and the Merseyside Historic Environment Record. Should the results warrant it, a summary report, or detailed article on the work shall be submitted for publication in a regional or national journal, appropriate to the significance of the results and findings of the project. As a minimum a short summary of the project shall be sent to the editor of Post Medieval Archaeology for inclusion in their annual round-up of fieldwork, with a copy forwarded to MEAS. This shall be done no later than the end of March in the year following completion of the fieldwork.

## **10. COPYRIGHT**

- 10.1 Full copyright of this commissioned report and other project documents shall be retained by the author of the report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Abbreviations

ADS	Archaeological Data Service
BOM	Borough of Macclesfield
CIfA	Chartered Institute for archaeologists
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
OS	Ordnance Survey

### Sources

Adkins, R, Adkins, L and Leitch, V. 2008 "The Handbook of British Archaeology"

Baker, A.R.H and Butlin, R.A. 1973 "Studies of Field Systems in the British Isles"

Brunskill, R. W. 2004 "Traditional Buildings of Britain: AN Introduction to vernacular Architecture and its Revival"

Brunskill, R. W. 2008 "Houses and Cottages of Britain: Origins and Development of Traditional Building"

BOM n.d. "Conserving you Historic Building: Brick Walls"

CIfA 2014 "Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings and Structures" accessed online at: <[http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/ifa\\_standards\\_buildings.pdf](http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/ifa_standards_buildings.pdf)>

Farrer, W. & Brownbill, J. (eds.) 1907 "Townships: Rainford", in "A History of the County of Lancaste" Volume 3, pp. 382-386. British History Online. accessed online at: <<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/lancs/vol3/pp382-386>>

Heritage Directory 2009 "Brick Bonds: Heritage Directory Note"

Historic England 2016 "Understanding Historic Buildings – A guide to good recording practice"

"National Planning Policy Framework" July 2021 accessed online at [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

National Museums Liverpool 2020 'Guidelines for the Transfer of Archaeological Archives to the Museum of Liverpool'

Rigby, M. n.d. "A History of Rainford"

## Maps

1786 Yates Map of Lancashire

1818 Greenwoods' map of Lancashire

1841 Tithe plan of Rainford

1850 OS map Lancashire Sheet C

1892 OS map Lancashire Sheet C.8

1908 OS map Lancashire Sheet C.8

1927 OS map Lancashire Sheet C.8



## Appendix 1: Figures

## Contents

- Figure 1: Location plan
- Figure 2: Site plan
- Figure 3: Yates's map of Lancashire 1786
- Figure 4: Greenwoods' map of Lancashire 1818
- Figure 5: 1845 Tithe plan of Rainford
- Figure 6: 1850 OS map Lancashire Sheet C
- Figure 7: 1892 OS map Lancashire Sheet C.8
- Figure 8: 1908 OS map Lancashire Sheet C.8
- Figure 9: 1927 OS map Lancashire Sheet C.8
- Figure 10: 1845 Tithe plan showing plots occupied by Mary Webster
- Figure 11: Ground Floor Plan
- Figure 12: First floor Plan
- Figure 13: Southwest and Northeast Elevations
- Figure 14: Southeast Elevation
- Figure 15: Northwest Elevation
- Figure 16: Section A – A1
- Figure 17: Ground Floor Photo Location Plan
- Figure 18: First Floor Photo Location Plan
- Figure 19: Photograph Register

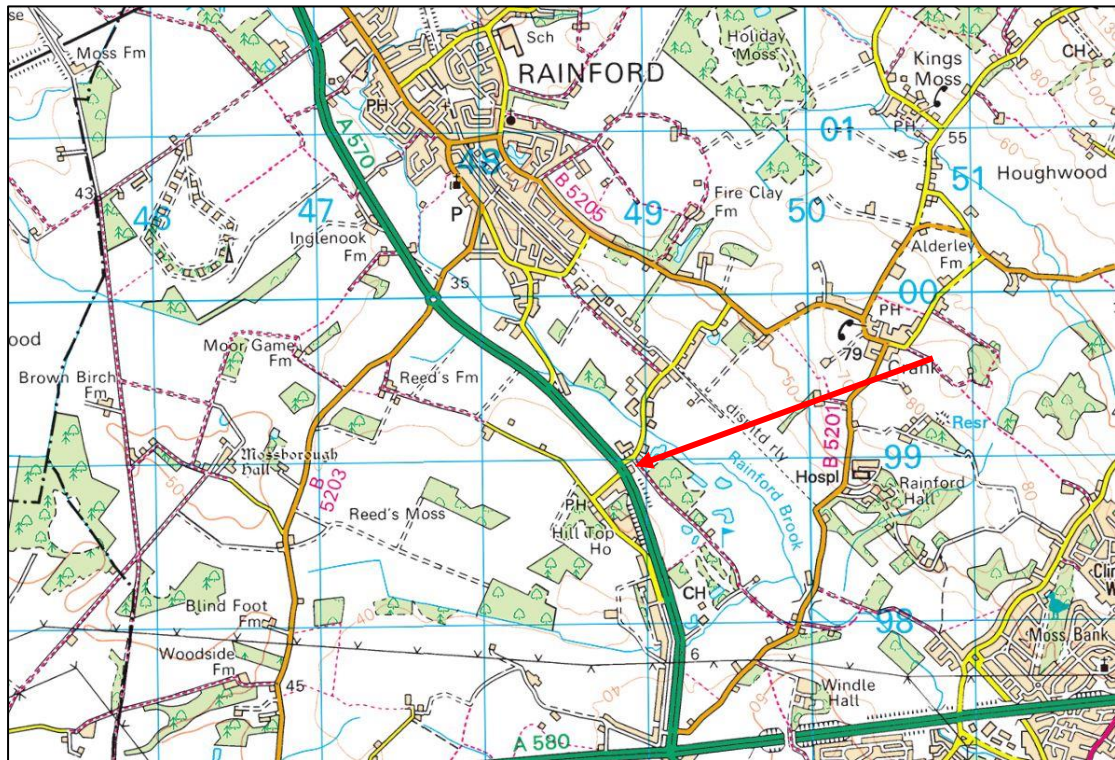


Figure 1: Location Plan (OS Licence Number: 100057911)

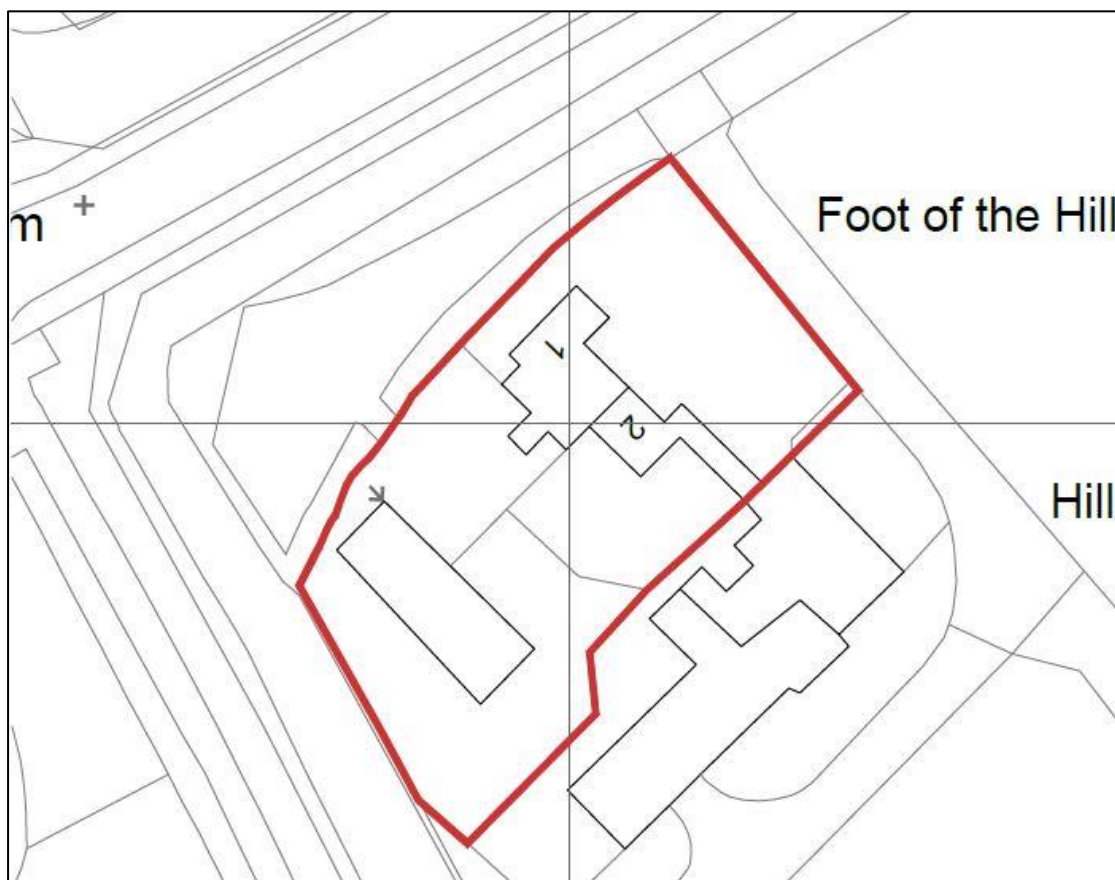


Figure 2: Site Plan (Courtesy of client) showing barn (MME20590) to the southwest



Figure 3: 1786 Yates' map of Lancashire



Figure 4: Greenwood's map of Lancashire 1818





Figure 5: 1841 Tithe plan of Rainford



Figure 6: 1850 OS map Lancashire Sheet C

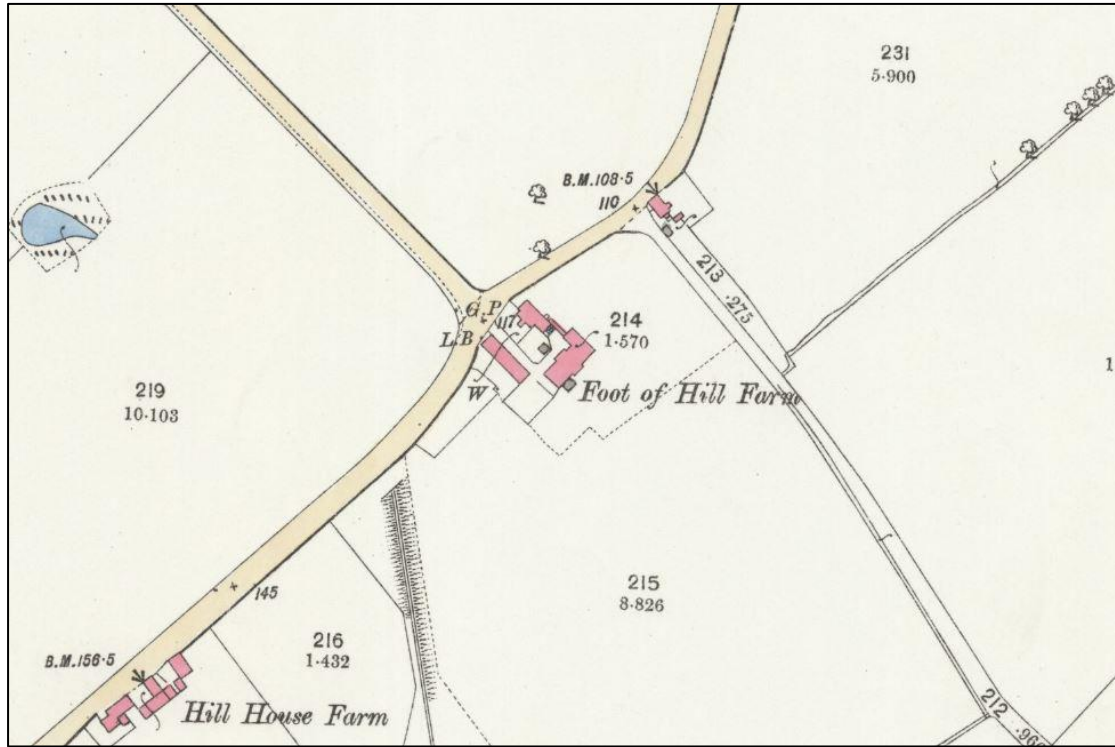


Figure 7: 1892 OS map Lancashire Sheet C.8

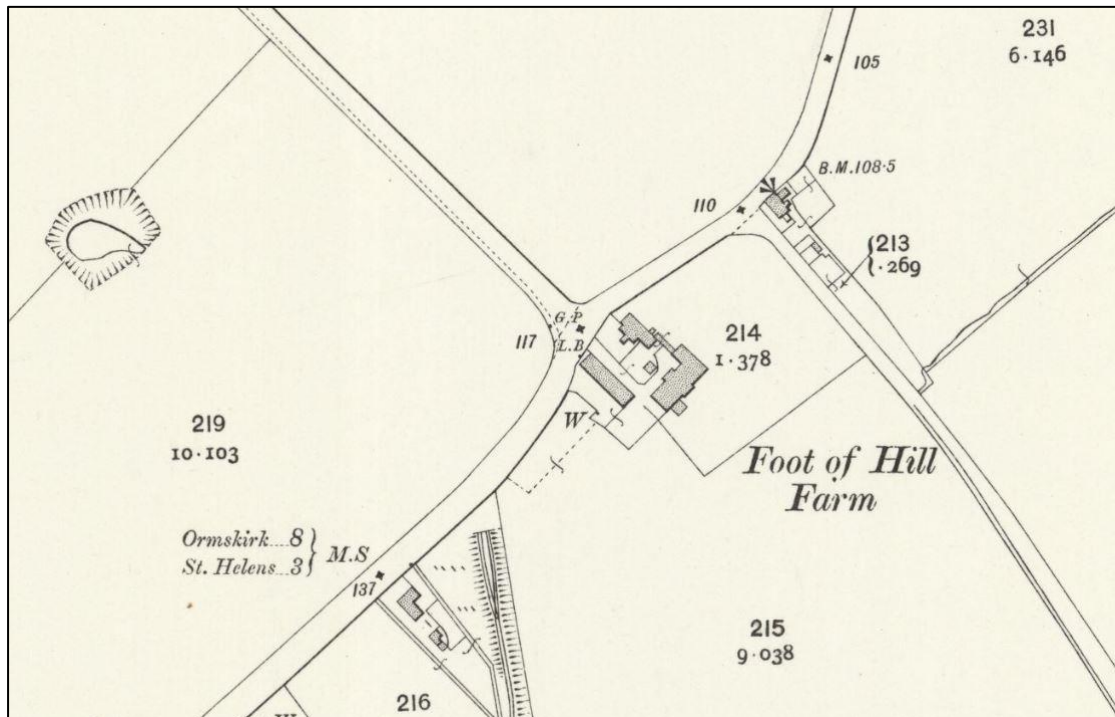


Figure 8: 1908 OS map Lancashire Sheet C.8



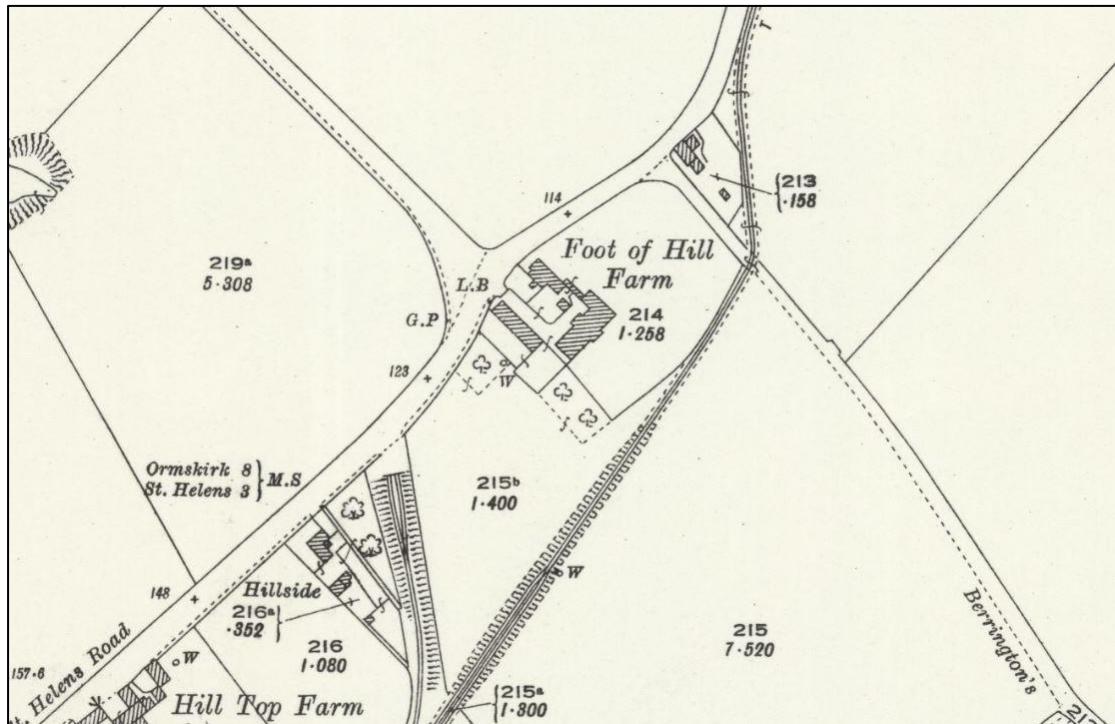


Figure 9: 1927 OS map Lancashire Sheet

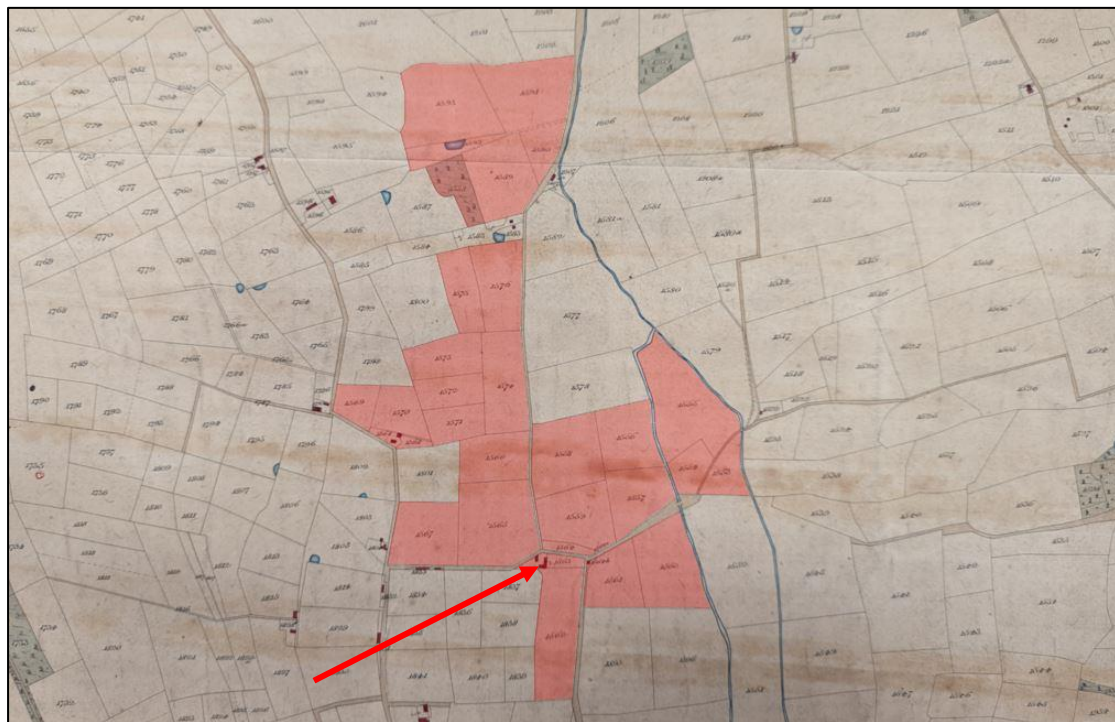
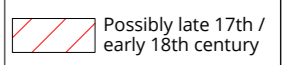
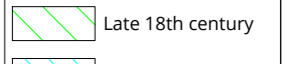
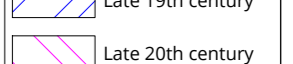
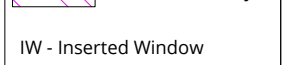
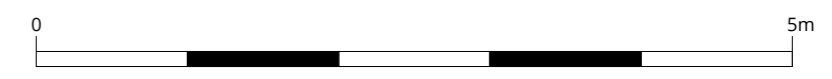
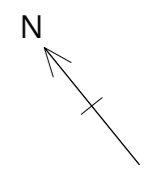
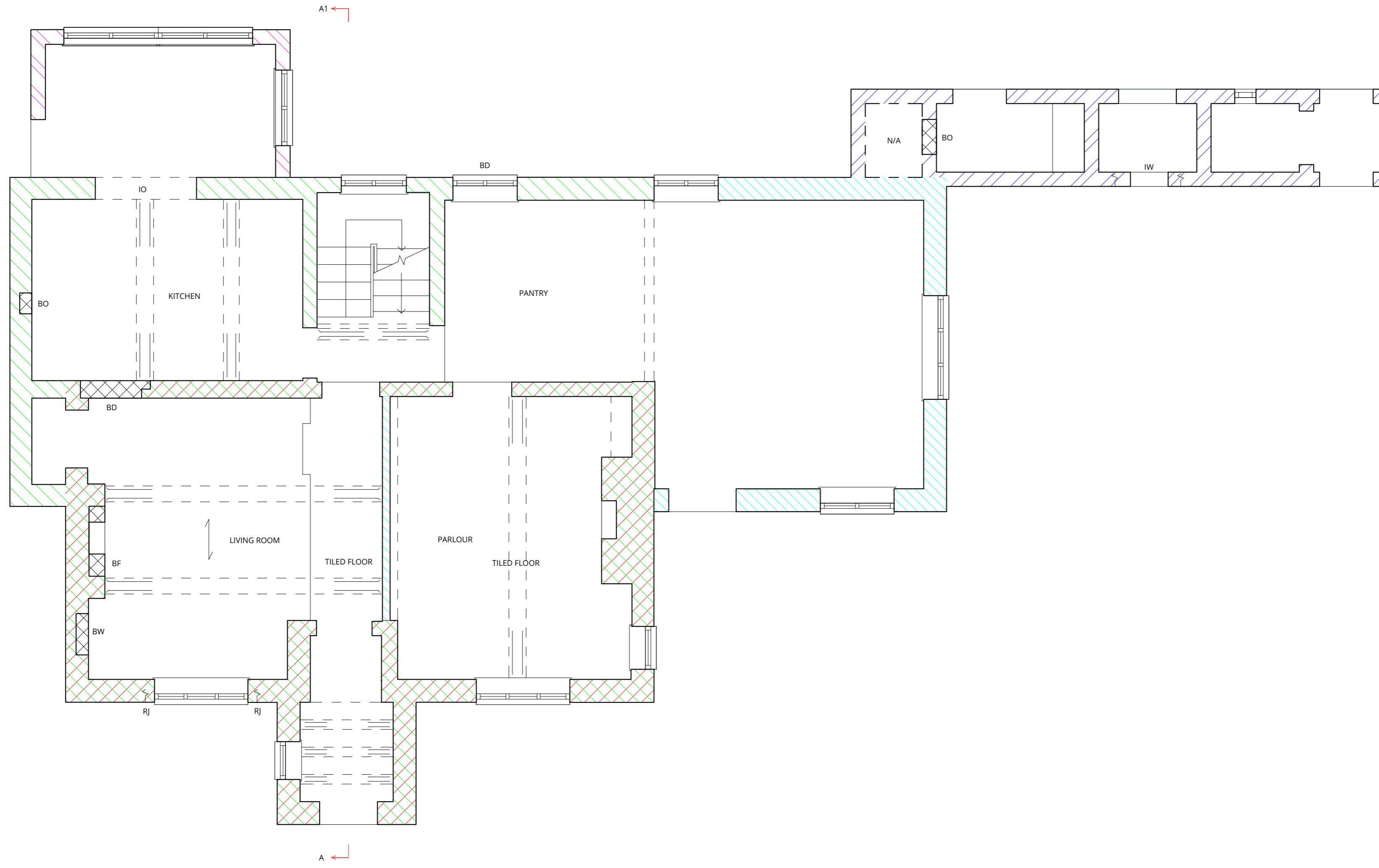


Figure 10: 1841 Tithe plan showing plots occupied by Mary Webster. Foot of Hill Farm location shown with arrow

-  Possibly late 17th / early 18th century
-  Late 18th century
-  Mid 19th century
-  Late 19th century
-  Late 20th century

- IW - Inserted Window
- IO - Inserted Opening
- BO - Blocked Opening
- BD - Blocked Doorway
- BW - Blocked Window
- BF - Blocked Fireplace
- SJ - Straight Joint
- RJ - Rough Joint







**THE ARCHAEOLOGY CO.**





steven@thearchaeologyco.uk  
07803202689

Foot of Hill Farm, Rainford

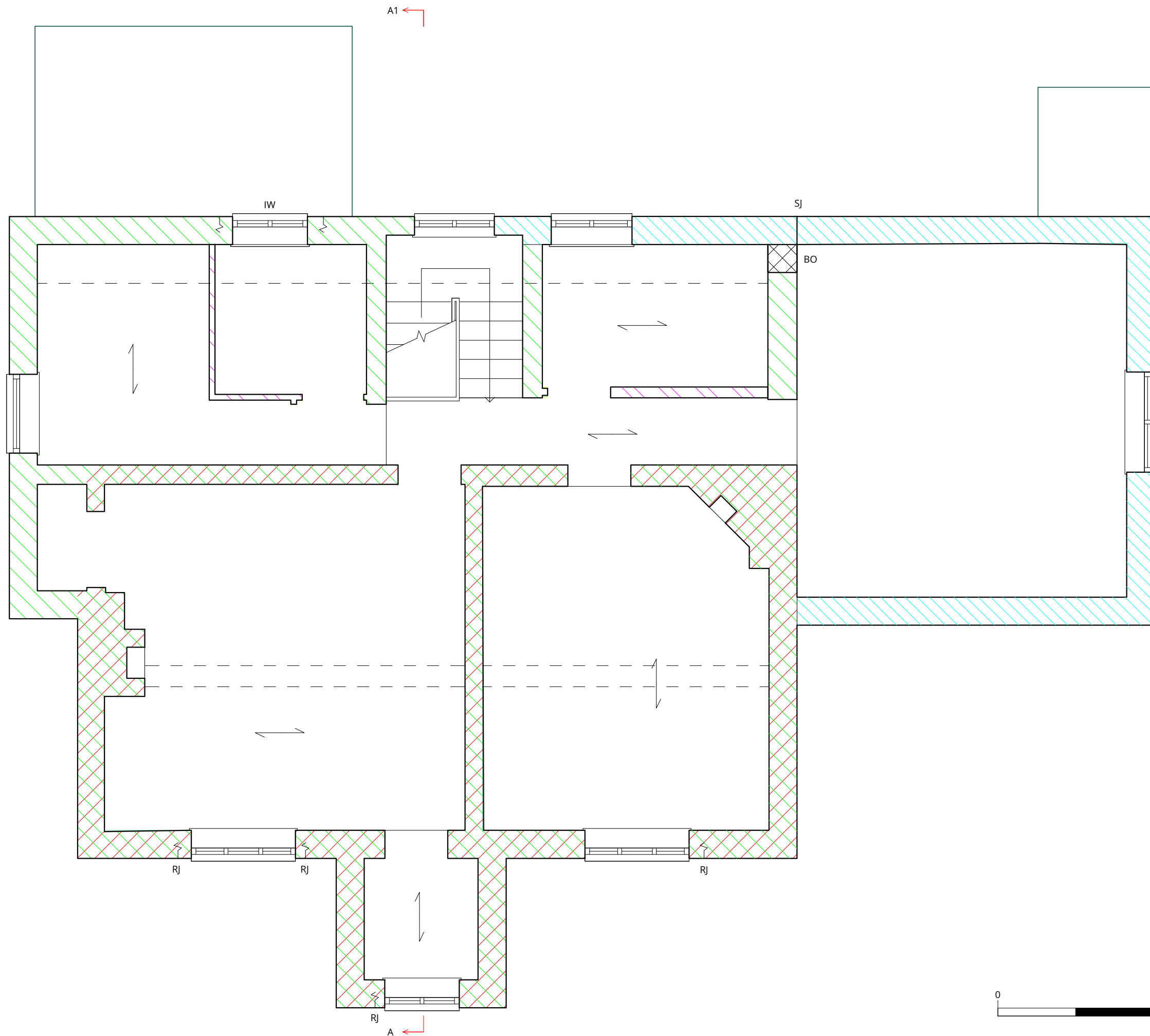
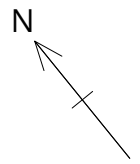
Figure 12: First Floor Plan

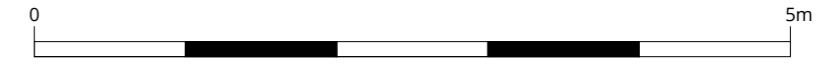
Scale: 1:50 @ A3

Date: November 2021

-  early 18th century
-  Late 18th century
-  Mid 19th century
-  Late 20th century

- IW - Inserted Window
- IO - Inserted Opening
- BO - Blocked Opening
- BD - Blocked Doorway
- BW - Blocked Window
- BF - Blocked Fireplace
- SJ - Straight Joint
- RJ - Rough Joint





  
**THE ARCHAEOLOGY CO.**  
steven@thearchaeologyco.uk  
07803202689

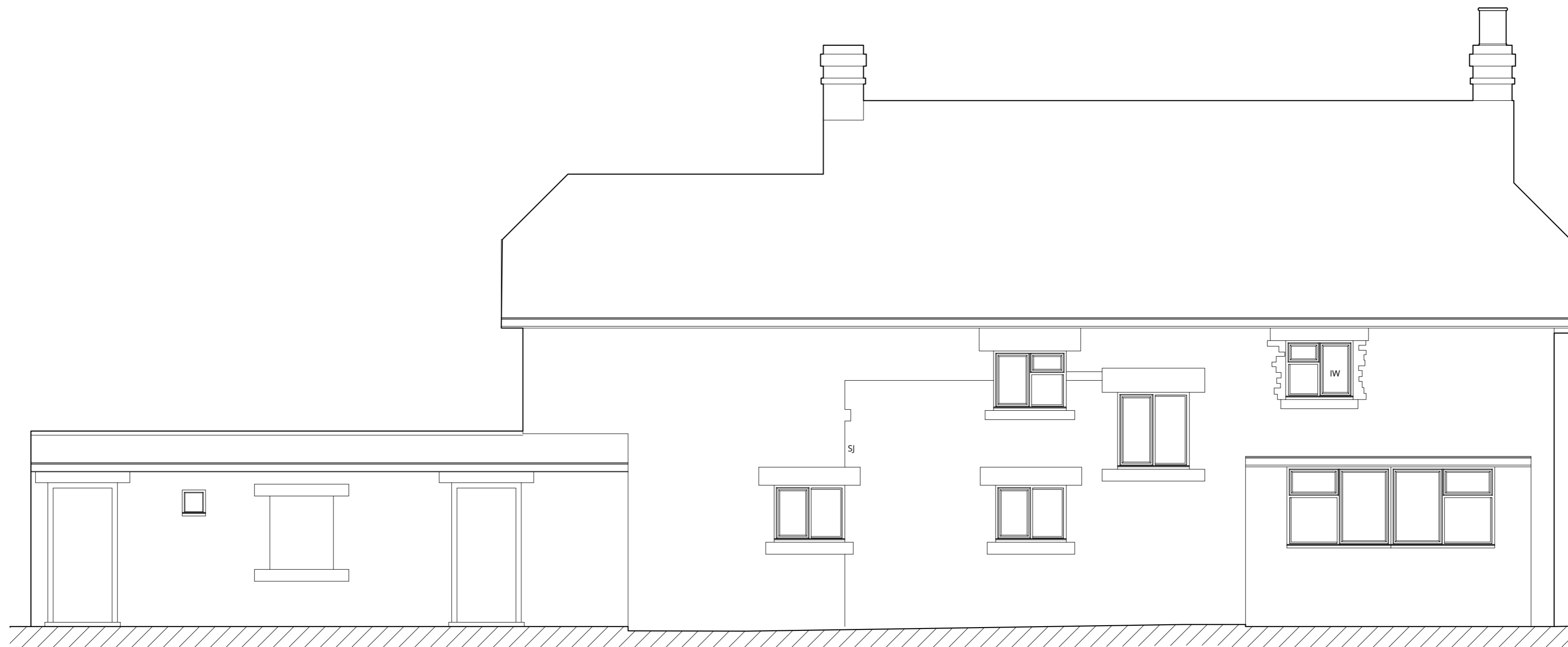
Foot of Hill Farm, Rainford

Figure 13: Southwest and  
Northeast Elevations

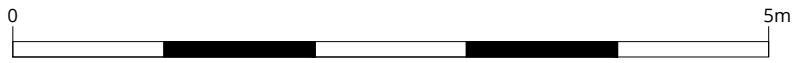
Scale: 1:50 @ A2  
Date: November 2021



Southwest Elevation



Northeast Elevation



**THE ARCHAEOLOGY CO.**

steven@thearchaeologyco.uk  
07803202689

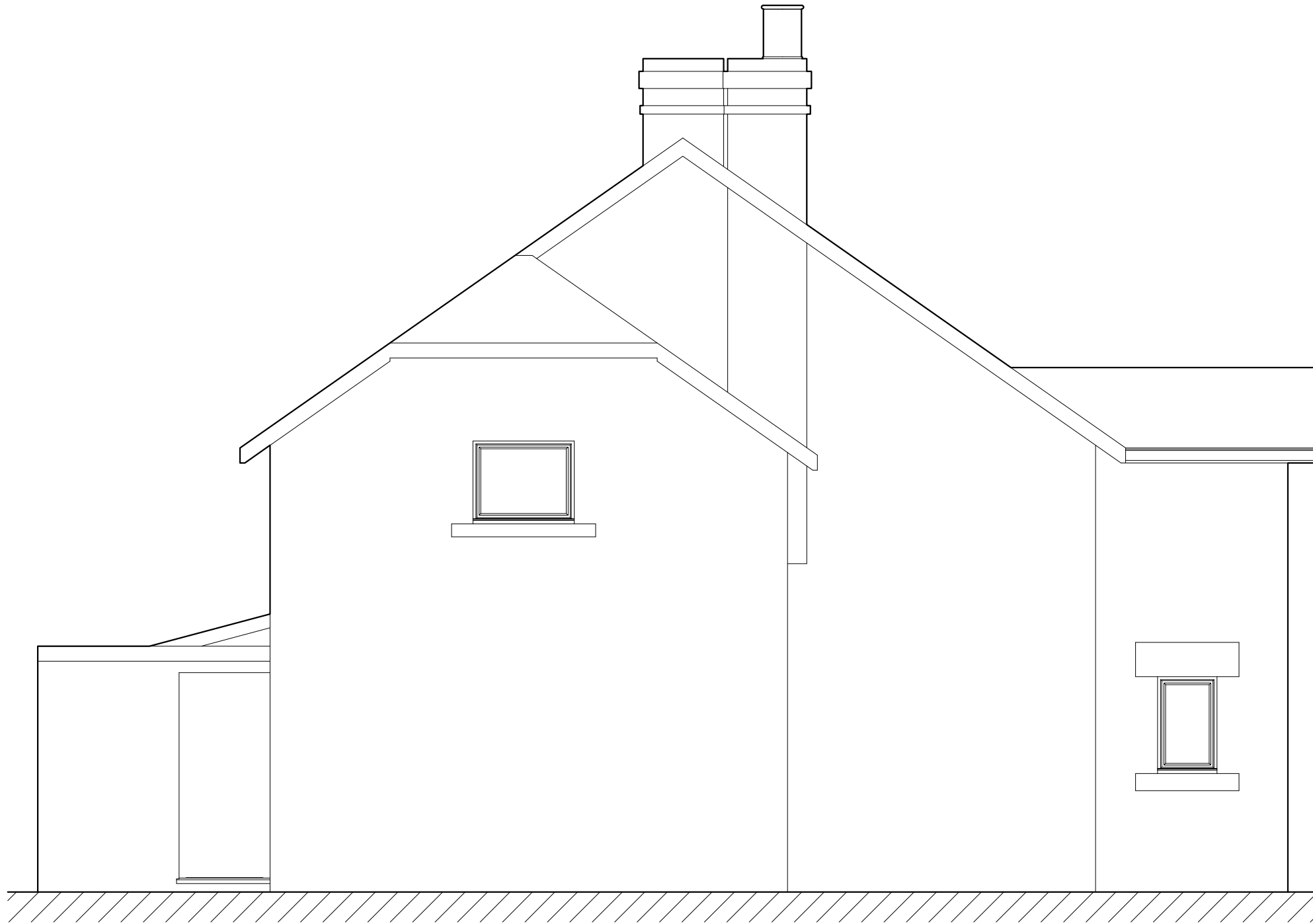
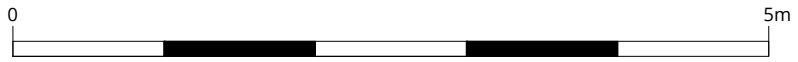
Foot of Hill Farm, Rainford

Figure 14: Southeast  
Elevation

Scale: 1:50 @ A3

Date: November 2021





**THE ARCHAEOLOGY CO.**

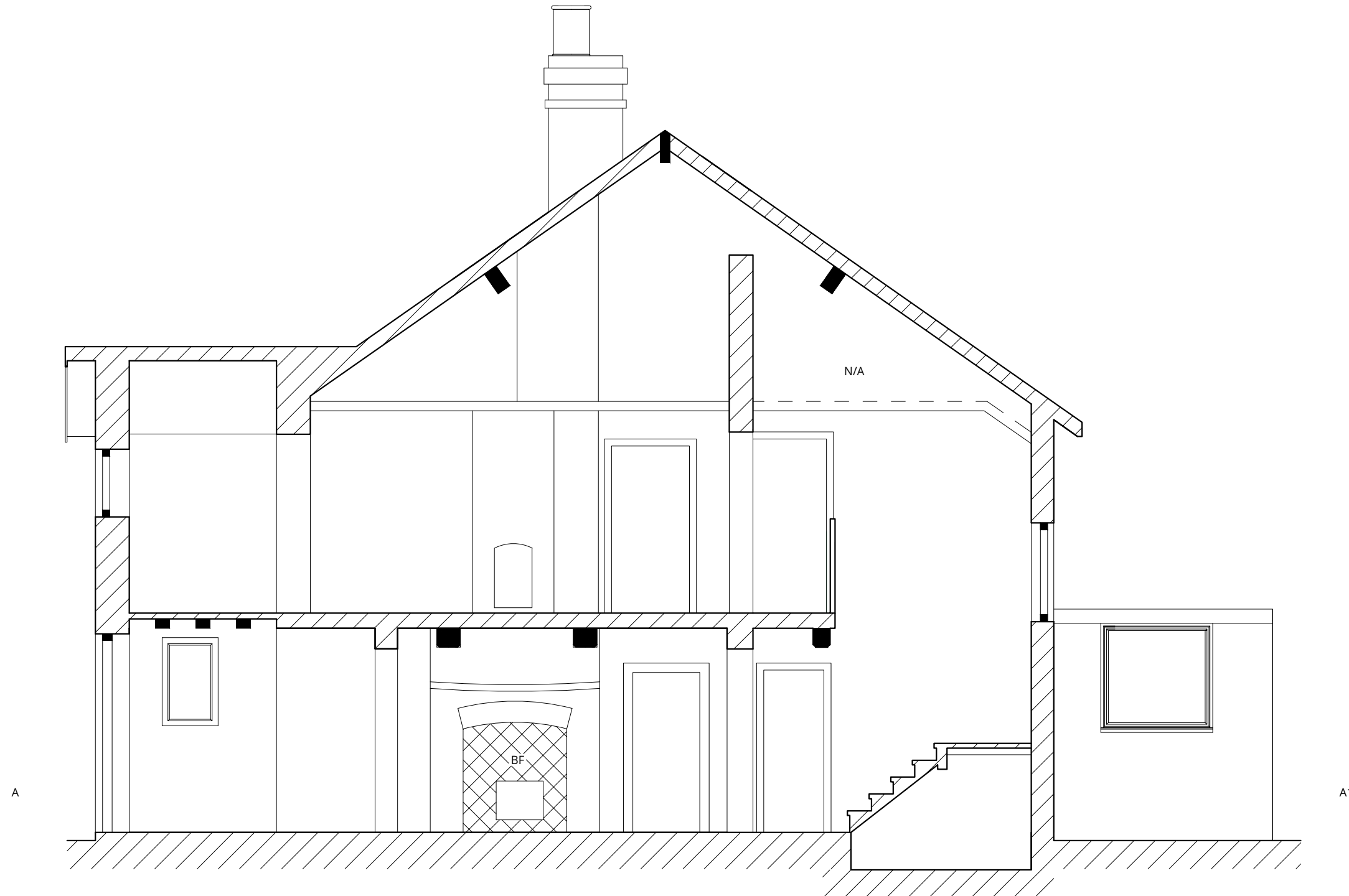
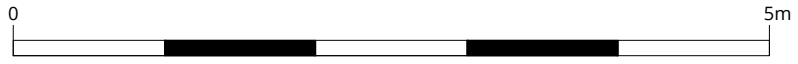
steven@thearchaeologyco.uk  
07803202689

Foot of Hill Farm, Rainford

Figure 15: Northwest  
Elevation

Scale: 1:50 @ A3

Date: November 2021



THE ARCHAEOLOGY CO.

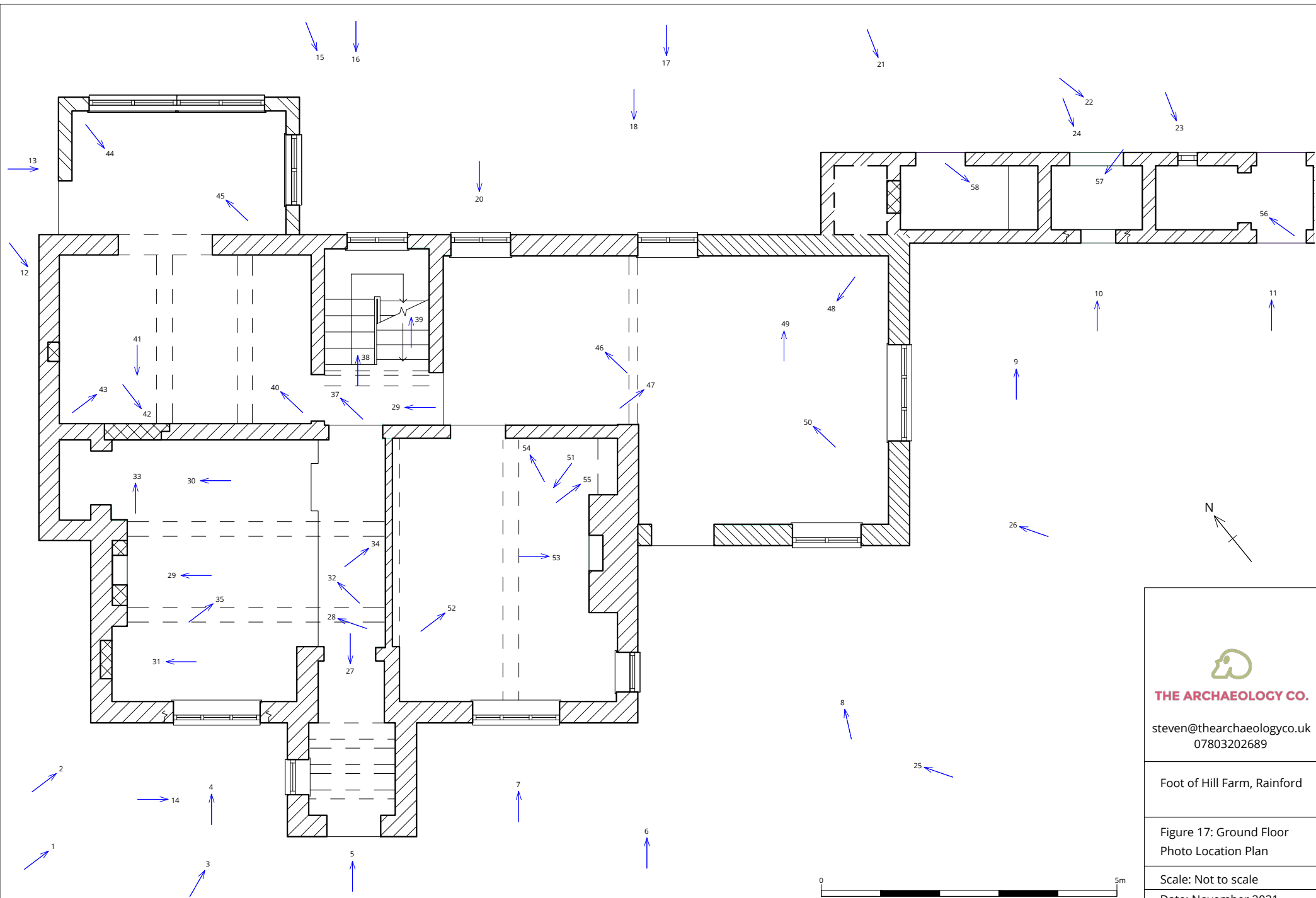
steven@thearchaeologyco.uk  
07803202689

Foot of Hill Farm, Rainford

Figure 16: Section A - A1

Scale: 1:50 @ A3

Date: November 2021



  
**THE ARCHAEOLOGY CO.**  
 steven@thearchaeologyco.uk  
 07803202689

---

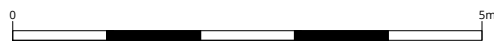
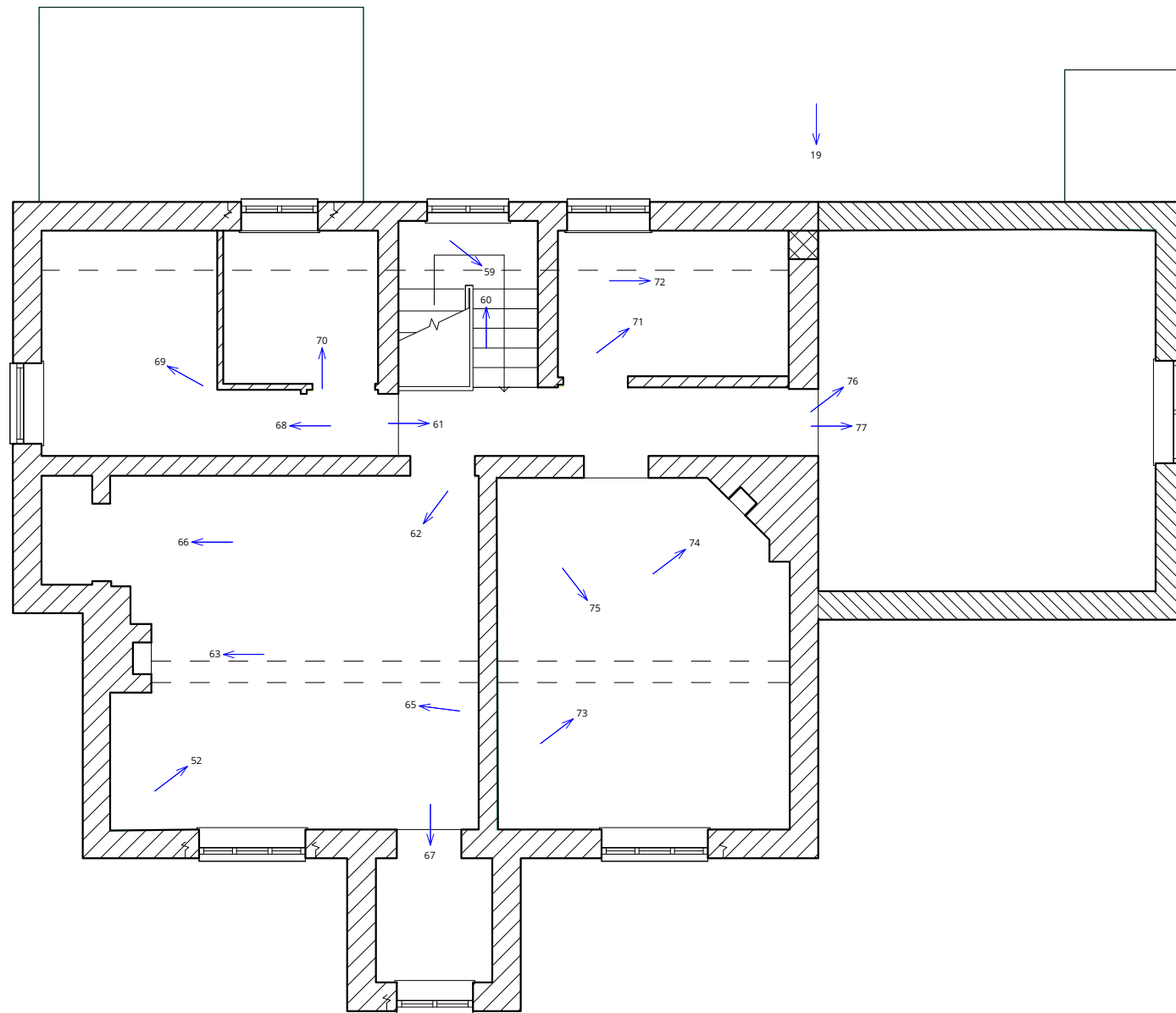
Foot of Hill Farm, Rainford

---

Figure 17: Ground Floor  
Photo Location Plan

---

Scale: Not to scale  
Date: November 2021



  
**THE ARCHAEOLOGY CO.**  
 steven@thearchaeologyco.uk  
 07803202689

---

Foot of Hill Farm, Rainford

---

Figure 18: First Floor  
Photo Location Plan

---

Scale: Not to scale  
Date: November 2021

Figure 19: Photograph Register

<b>Plate No.</b>	<b>Digital No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>View to</b>
1	PB051129	General shot of building	E
2	PB051128	Southwest and Northwest elevations	E
3	PB051131	Southwest elevation	NE
4	PB051132	Detail of bay 1	NE
5	PB051133	Detail of central bay with projecting porch	NE
6	PB051134	Southwest elevation showing extension	NE
7	PB051135	Detail of Bay 3 windows	NE
8	PB051137	Southwest elevation of extension	NE
9	PB051140	Southwest elevation of outbuilding	NE
10	PB051141	Detail of inserted window shown above	NE
11	PB051120	Eastern end of southwest elevation of outbuilding	NE
12	PB051126	Northwest elevation	S
13	PB051127	Northwest elevation of kitchen extension	SE
14	PB051130	Northwest elevation of projecting porch	SE
15	PB051110	Northeast elevation	S
16	PB051111	Northeast elevation of main house and kitchen extension	SW
17	PB051112	Northeast elevation showing extension	SW
18	PB051113	Junction of main house and extension	SW
19	PB051114	Detail of above showing straight joint and difference in brickwork	SW
20	PB051115	Blocked doorway	SW
21	PB051116	Northeast elevation of outbuilding	SW
22	PB051117	East end of outbuilding	S
23	PB051118	Detail of small hatch	SW
24	PB051119	Detail of window	SW
25	PB051136	Southeast elevation of main house	NW
26	PB051139	Southeast elevation of extension	NW
27	PB051054	Interior of porch showing front door	SW
28	PB051055	Living room to west corner of house	NW
29	PB051057	Detail of fireplace	NW
30	PB051058	Cupboard to east of fireplace	NW
31	PB051059	Blocked window to west of fireplace	NW
32	PB051060	Blocked doorway in northeast wall	N
33	PB051062	Detail of blocked doorway	NE
34	PB051061	Detail of chamfered and stopped beam	E
35	PB051063	General shot of room showing doorway to staircase	E
36	PB051064	Staircase and doorway to kitchen	NW
37	PB051066	Reused beam in stairacse showing blocked soffit	N
38	PB051067	Staircase detail	NE
39	PB051085	Storgae area below stairs	NE
40	PB051068	Kitchen to north corner of house	N
41	PB051069	Detail of blocked doorto living room	SW
42	PB051070	Detail of timber beam	S
43	PB051071	General shot of room	E



44	PB051072	Inserted opening to kitchen extension	S
45	PB051073	Kitchen extension	N
46	PB051075	Eastern end of main house	N
47	PB051076	Interior of extension showing removed fireplace and ceiling	E
48	PB051077	As above showing entrance to southwest elevation	W
49	PB051078	Removed ground and first floor fireplaces	NE
50	PB051079	Extension looking towards main house showing removed ceiling	N
51	PB051080	Room to south corner of main house showing blocked opening to right	W
52	PB051081	Fireplace to southeast wall	E
53	PB051084	Fireplace detail	SE
54	PB051082	Detail of beam	N
55	PB051086	Arch of chimney breast moving to the north of the fireplace	E
56	PB051122	Interior of east end of outbuilding	N
57	PB051123	Interior of central room of outbuilding showing concrete beam supporting opening below adjacent toilet	W
58	PB051124	Outbuilding toilet showing timber seat	S
59	PB051087	Landing showing timber stairs	S
60	PB051088	Stair window	NE
61	PB051089	First floor landing	SE
62	PB051090	Main bedroom to west corner	W
63	PB051091	Detail of fireplace	NW
64	PB051092	General shot of room	E
65	PB051108	Detail of roof space above showing modern roof	NW
66	PB051096	Cupboard to east of fireplace	NW
67	PB051095	'Room' above porch	SW
68	PB051097	Room to north corner	NW
69	PB051098	Room to north corner	N
70	PB051099	En suite bathroom of above	NE
71	PB051100	Bathroom to west corner of house	E
72	PB051101	As above showing blocked opening in brickwork and lath and plaster wall	SE
73	PB051102	Bedroom to south corner showing corner fireplace	E
74	PB051104	Detail of corner fireplace	E
75	PB051105	General shot of room	S
76	PB051106	Extension showing removed fireplace	E
77	PB051107	First floor of extension	SE

## Appendix 2: Plates



Plate 1: General shot of building



Plate 2: Southwest and Northwest elevations





Plate 3: Southwest elevation



Plate 4: Detail of bay 1





Plate 5: Detail of central bay with projecting porch



Plate 6: Southwest elevation showing extension





Plate 7: Detail of Bay 3 windows



Plate 8: Southwest elevation of extension





Plate 9: Southwest elevation of outbuilding



Plate 10: Detail of inserted window shown above





Plate 11: Eastern end of southwest elevation of outbuilding



Plate 12: Northwest elevation





Plate 13: Northwest elevation of kitchen extension



Plate 14: Northwest elevation of projecting porch





Plate 15: Northeast elevation



Plate 16: Northeast elevation of main house and kitchen extension





Plate 17: Northeast elevation showing extension

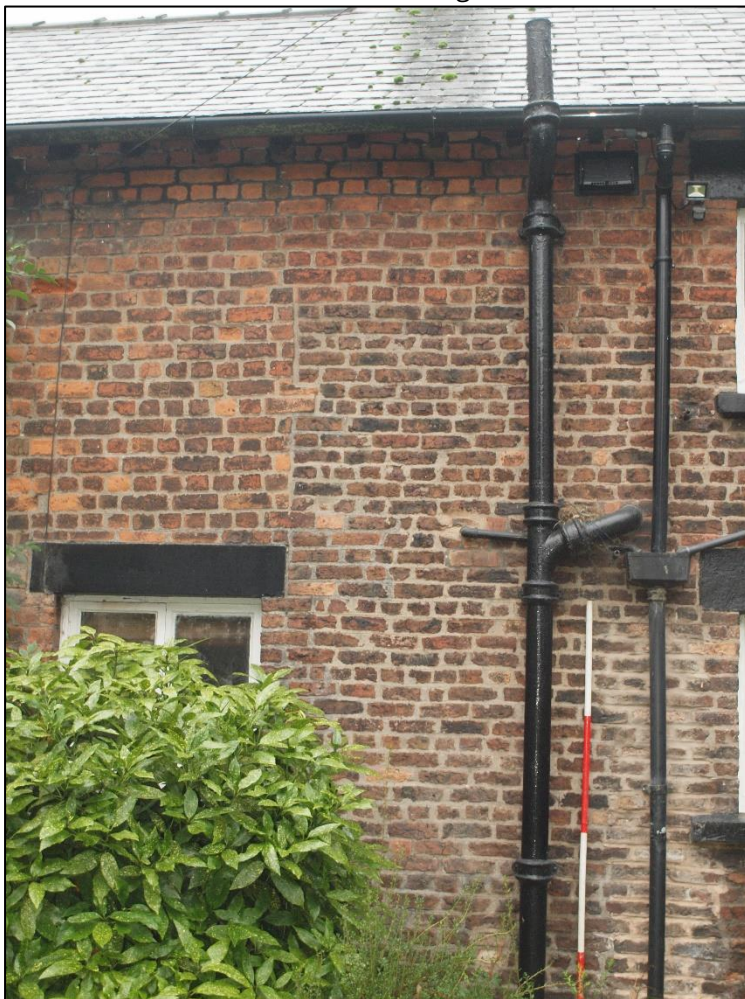


Plate 18: Junction of main house and extension





Plate 19: Detail of above showing straight joint and difference in brickwork



Plate 20: Blocked doorway





Plate 21: Northeast elevation of outbuilding



Plate 22: East end of outbuilding





Plate 23: Detail of small hatch



Plate 24: Detail of window





Plate 25: Southeast elevation of main house



Plate 26: Southeast elevation of extension





Plate 27: Interior of porch showing front door



Plate 28: Living room to west corner of house





Plate 29: Detail of fireplace



Plate 30: Cupboard to east of fireplace





Plate 31: Blocked window to west of fireplace

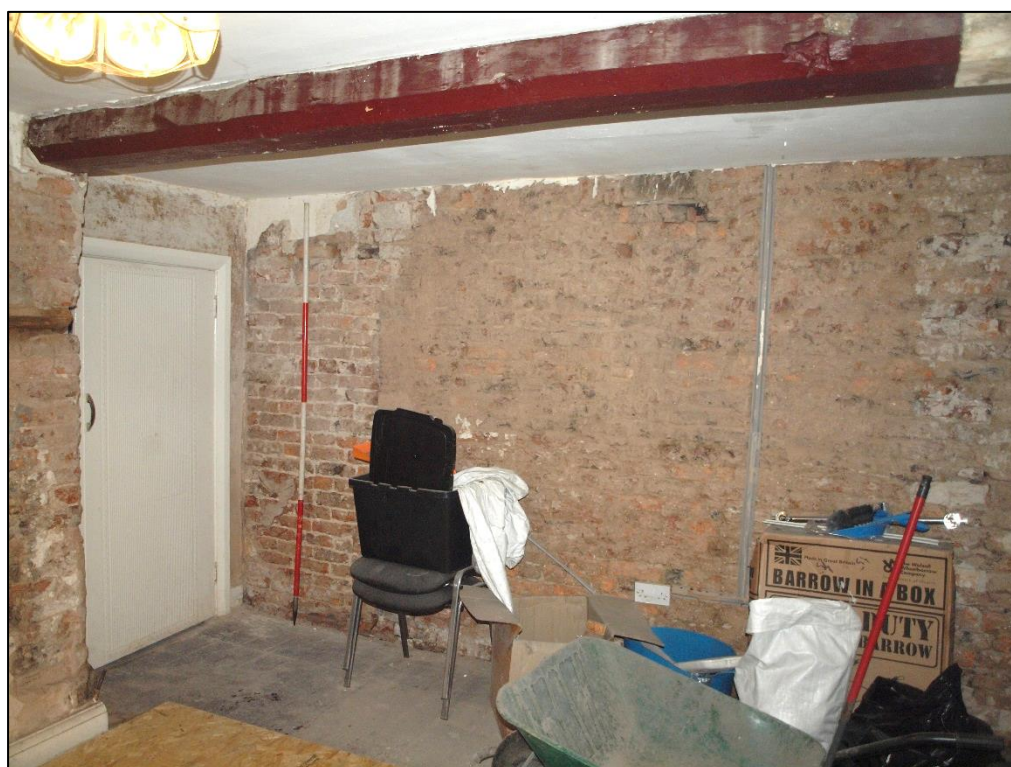


Plate 32: Blocked doorway in northeast wall



Plate 33: Detail of blocked doorway

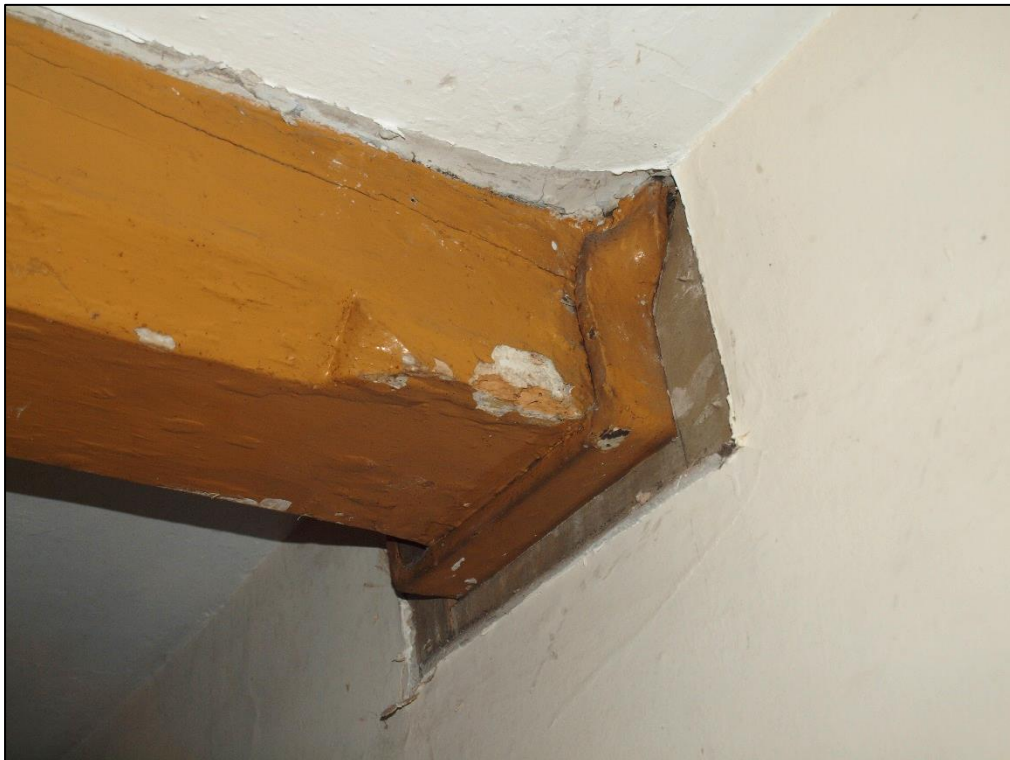


Plate 34: Detail of chamfered and stopped beam





Plate 35: General shot of room showing doorway to staircase



Plate 36: Staircase and doorway to kitchen



Plate 37: Reused beam in staircase showing blocked soffit



Plate 38: Staircase detail





Plate 39: Storage area below stairs



Plate 40: Kitchen to north corner of house





Plate 41: Detail of blocked door to living room



Plate 42: Detail of timber beam





Plate 43: General shot of room



Plate 44: Inserted opening to kitchen extension



Plate 45: Kitchen extension



Plate 46: Eastern end of main house





Plate 47: Interior of extension showing removed fireplace and ceiling



Plate 48: As above showing entrance to southwest elevation





Plate 49: Removed ground and first floor fireplaces



Plate 50: Extension looking towards main house showing removed ceiling



Plate 51: Room to south corner of main house showing blocked opening to right



Plate 52: Fireplace to southeast wall





Plate 53: Fireplace detail



Plate 54: Detail of beam



Plate 55: Arch of chimney breast moving to the north of the fireplace



Plate 56: Interior of east end of outbuilding





Plate 57: Interior of central room of outbuilding showing concrete beam supporting opening below adjacent toilet



Plate 58: Outbuilding toilet showing timber seat





Plate 59: Landing showing timber stairs

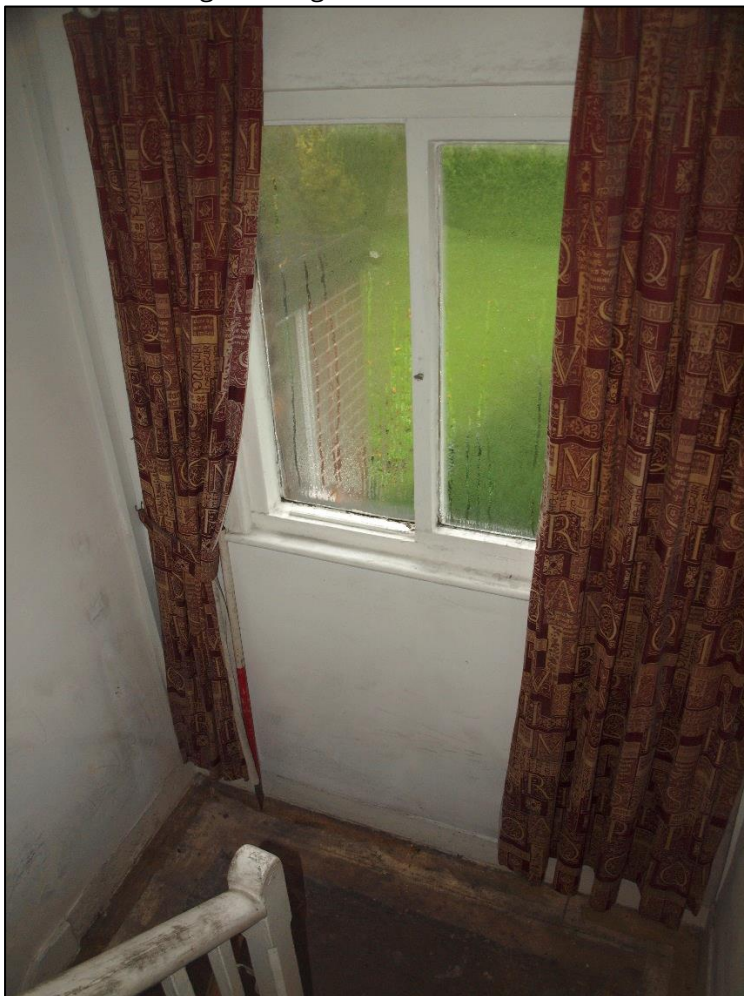


Plate 60: Stair window



Plate 61: First floor landing



Plate 62: Main bedroom to west corner





Plate 63: Detail of fireplace



Plate 64: General shot of room



Plate 65: Detail of roof space above showing modern roof



Plate 66: Cupboard to east of fireplace



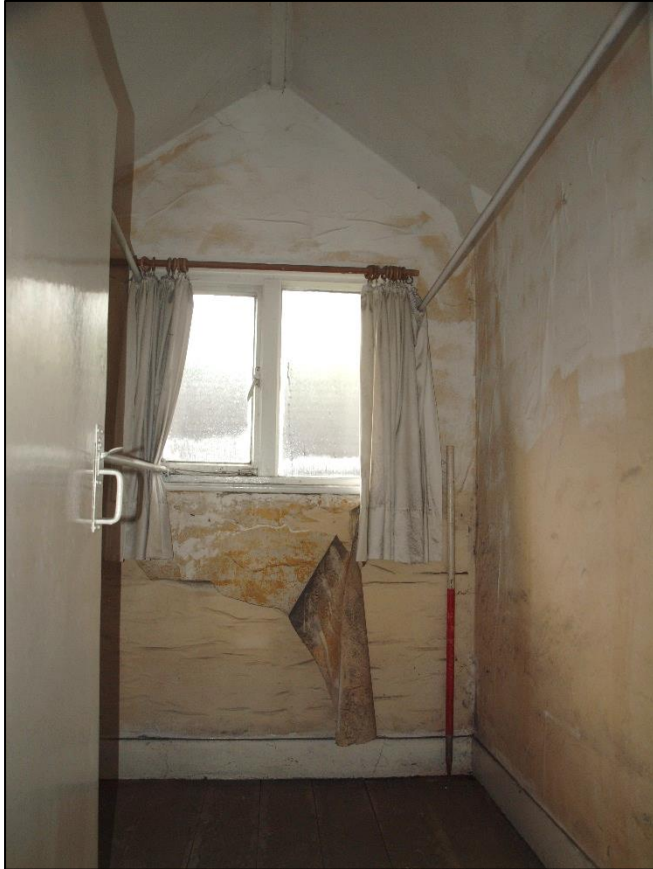


Plate 67: 'Room' above porch



Plate 68: Room to north corner





Plate 69: As above

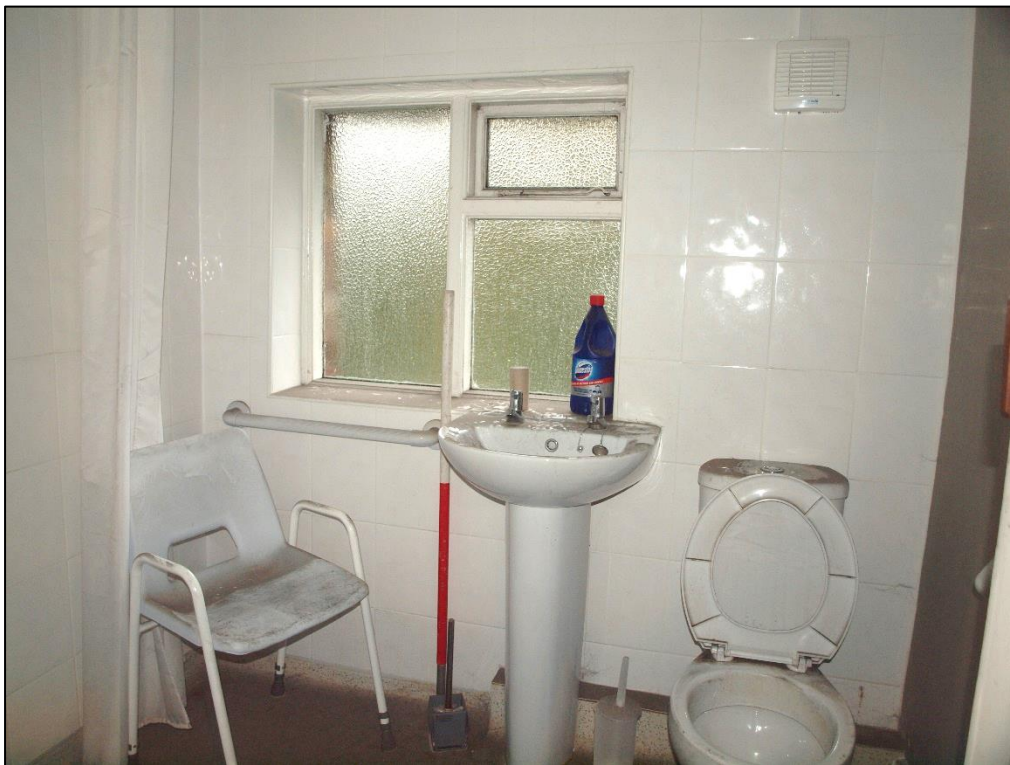


Plate 70: En suite bathroom of above



Plate 71: Bathroom to west corner of house



Plate 72: As above showing blocked opening in brickwork and lath and plaster wall





Plate 73: Bedroom to south corner showing corner fireplace



Plate 74: Detail of corner fireplace





Plate 75: General shot of room



Plate 76: Extension showing removed fireplace



Plate 77: First floor of extension