



THE ARCHAEOLOGY CO.

Barn at Providence Mill, Wirksworth
for a Level 1 Historic Building Survey

March 2022

Contents

Non-technical Summary and Acknowledgements

1. Introduction

2. Site Location

3. Aims and Objectives

4. Methodology

5. Historical Background

6. Summary Statement

7. Archive

8. Copyright

Bibliography

Appendix 1: Figures

Appendix 2: Plates

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

A level 1 archaeological building survey was required prior to the conversion of the outbuilding at Providence Mill, Wirksworth. The work was carried out by Steven Price of The Archaeology Co.

The present building was erected in the early 20th century, between 1898 and 1920, replacing the earlier outbuilding on the site and erected in order to serve the mill.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Steven Price of The Archaeology Co. has been commissioned to perform a level 1 historic building survey of a barn at Providence Mill, Wirksworth. It is a requirement of condition 3 of Planning Application 21/00636/FUL that:

No development, including demolition, shall take place until a Written Scheme of Investigation for a programme of historic building recording has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing, until all on-site elements of the approved scheme have been completed to the written satisfaction of the local planning authority, and until the provision has been made for analysis, reporting, publication and dissemination of the results and archive deposition has been secured.. The Written Scheme of Investigation shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and

- 1. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording;*
- 2. The programme and provision for post-investigation analysis and reporting;*
- 3. Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation;*
- 4. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation; and*
- 5. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organization to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation"*

The works are for the "Conversion of a conservatory and associated paved area and relevant demolition of an outbuilding in the conservation area".

- 1.2 This procedure followed the advice of Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework. This came into effect in March 2012 and has been subsequently been updated, most recently in July 2021. Paragraph 205 of Section 16 states that "Local planning authorities should 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, 58).

- 1.3 Steven Price BA (Hons), MA, MPhil, PCIfA of The Archaeology Co., has been commissioned 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 building.

2. SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 The site lies c. 1km south of Wirksworth centre on the northeast side of Gorse Bank at its southern end. The postal address is Providence Mill, Gorse Bank, Wirksworth, Derbyshire DE4 4ED and the National Grid Reference is SK 29039 53085.

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". A level 1 survey is "a basic visual record, supplemented by the minimum of information needed to identify the building's location, age and type" (HE 2016).

3.3 Research Objectives

The East Midlands Framework was reviewed for research objectives. In this instance, the scope of the project is quite small, but may support other studies into the following objectives:

- 9.2.2: How have building types changed (e.g. adaption of industrial buildings to new uses) and what has been the impact of building regulations?

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 As per the WSI, a sketch plan has been produced on site. 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 Drawing conventions conform to Historic England guidelines as laid out in Understanding Historic Buildings – A guide to good recording practice, Historic England 2016.
- 4.4 Photographs were taken with a 12-megapixel digital SLR camera 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.
- 4.5 The photographic coverage includes:
- General photographs of the interior and exterior of the building, along with photographs of the site/setting of the building.
 - The overall appearance of principal rooms and circulation areas.
- 4.6 A site visit was made on 21st March 2022 when 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 floor plan to be produced.
- 4.7 The project was carried out in accordance with the recommendations of The Management of Archaeological Projects 2nd 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 The first edition OS map of 1879 shows the site at this time. A building appears roughly in the location of the present Providence Mill, although set slightly to the west of where the current mill now stands. Outbuildings are shown to the north, but in less detail. The surrounding field boundaries appear to be fairly irregular, suggesting that they were formed prior to the enclosures act of 1773 (Adkins *et al* 2008; Baker & Butlin, 1973).
- 5.2 By the time of the 1898 OS map Providence Mill (HER No. MDR 3425) had been erected. It is named on the map as such and noted as a tape mill. The subject building is shown as an L-shaped outbuilding to the north. A smaller square building lies to the west of this. The building recording listing describes the building thus: "A small stone built textile mill stands in the centre of the hamlet of Gorse Bank, one of the satellite settlements of Wirksworth. Although looking like an 18th century mill, with small pane cast iron windows, quoins and stone surrounds, the mill is in fact 19th century. It stands on the site of an earlier water-powered mill, the stream of which has been culverted beneath the present building. ... Originally the site of a saw mill. The present building dates from about 1880 and consists of a six bay building with three storeys and an attic. The tape mill was established by George Gamble. Above the mill are some associated houses of the same period."
- 5.2 The tape trade was in a depression following the first world war. By 1919 it was recorded that "...the tape trade is still very stagnant. The position is not helped by the Government who are till unloading large stocks of tape acquired for war purposes on the market without discrimination" (Derbyshire Courier 30/08/1919). By the 1920's the L-shaped building shown on the previous mapping had been replaced with the present sub-rectangular building, connected to the cottage to the west of it, shown as a small square building. Further rectangular outbuildings had also been erected between this and the mill.

6. Summary Statement

6.1 The building appears to have been erected in the early 20th century, between 1898 and 1920, replacing the earlier outbuilding on the site. The building is constructed of shaped sandstone, possibly reusing the stone from the earlier building. It was built as a single open space internally, possibly for storage, with whitewashed walls. The roof is modern, covered with corrugated metal sheeting. It was unlikely to have been taller, the front dominated by the long windows flanking the central doorway, suggesting that a further story was unlikely. The eastern corner of the building shows some rebuilding, with modern brick forming the eastern window jamb. The majority of the front is constructed in shaped sandstone rubble, with some of the quoins and the window cills being dressed sandstone. The window cills themselves are formed from two separate pieces of dressed stone, with a small infill piece between them, further suggesting the stone has been reused.

6.2 How have building types changed (e.g. adaption of industrial buildings to new uses) and what has been the impact of building regulations?

In this instance the building appears to have been a replacement of an earlier building on the same location, rather than an adaptation of an earlier building for a new function. The building appears to have been built as a storage unit, likely reusing the stone from earlier buildings.

7. ARCHIVE

- 7.1 The results of the survey will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with the ClfA Archives Selection Toolkit, Archaeological Archives Forum (2011) Archaeological Archives and current ClfA “standards and guidance for the creation, compilation, transportation and deposition of archaeological archive” (published October 2014). 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.
- 7.2 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 Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist if important architectural features are encountered. The selection process will be a single phase following the approval of the final report by the Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist.
- 7.3 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.
- 7.4 The archive will comprise the report and digital photographs. No artefacts will be taken from the site. The primary digital archive, comprising the photographs and report shall first be sent to Steven Baker for comments and approval. It will subsequently be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS). The digital photographs shall be saved as tiff files following ADS guidance. A digital copy of the report will also be sent to Derbyshire Historic Environment Record.

8. COPYRIGHT

- 8.1 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

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

Archaeological Data Service "The East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework"

<https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/researchframeworks/eastmidlands/>
<accessed 30th March 2020>

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

ClfA 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>

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

"National Planning Policy Framework" 2012 accessed online at www.communities.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Figures

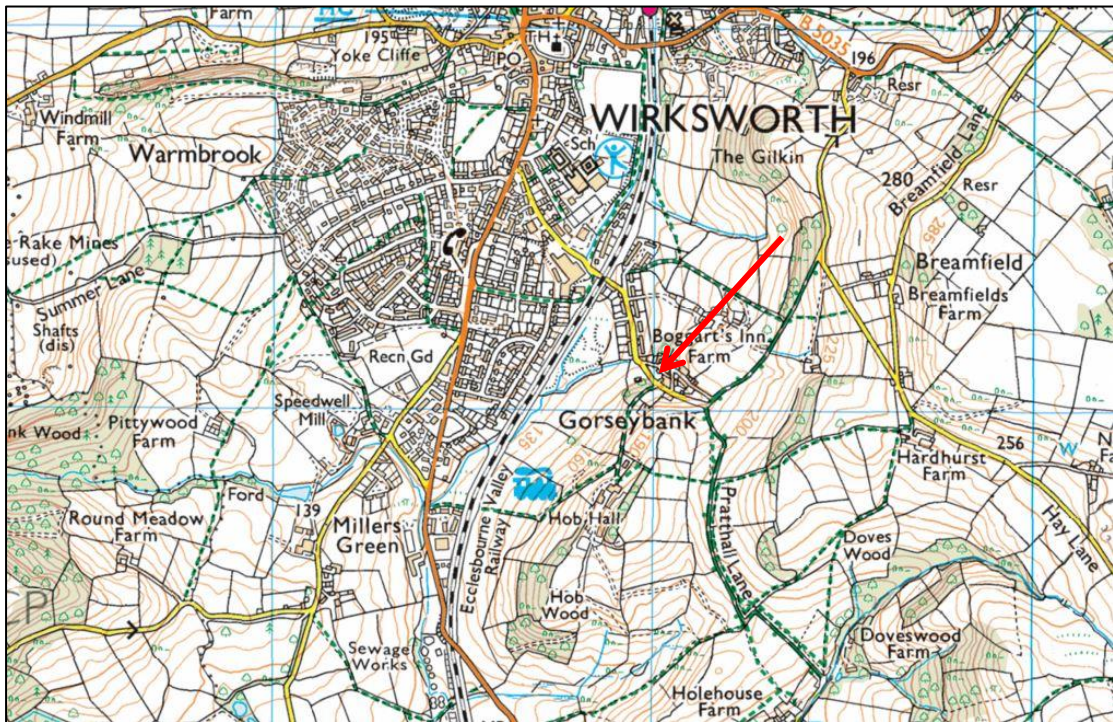


Figure 1: Location Plan (OS Licence Number: 100057911)

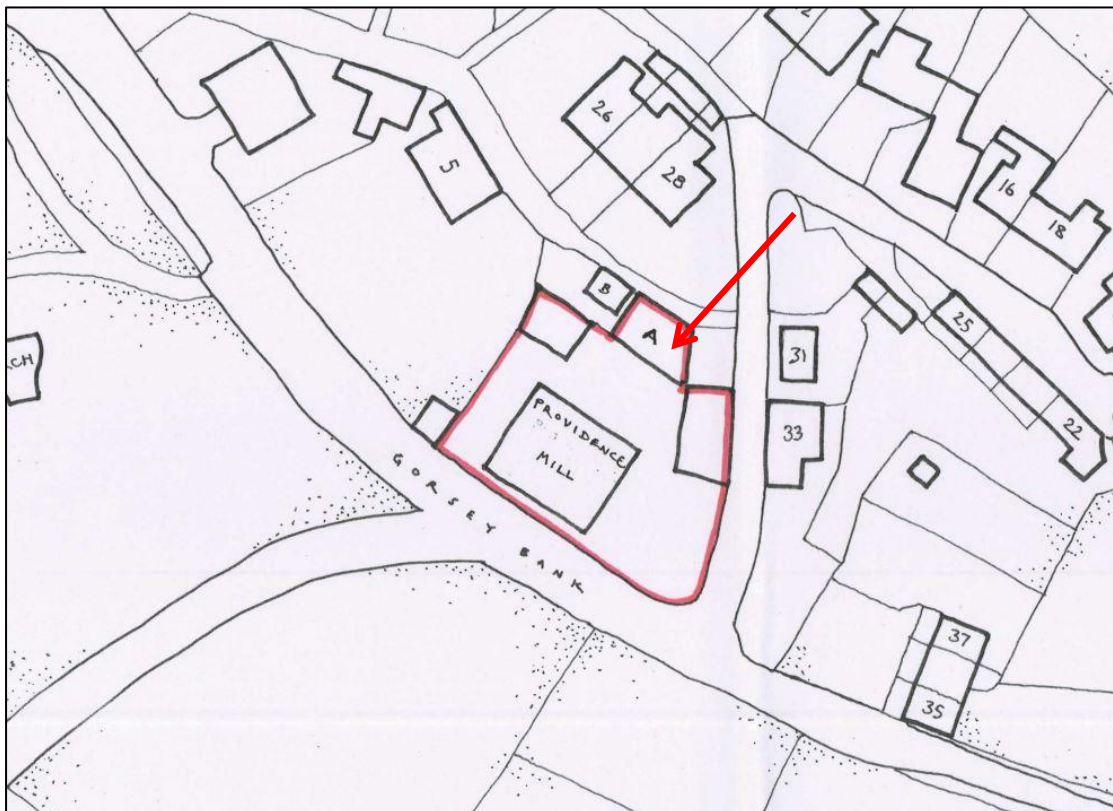


Figure 2: Site Plan (Courtesy of client)

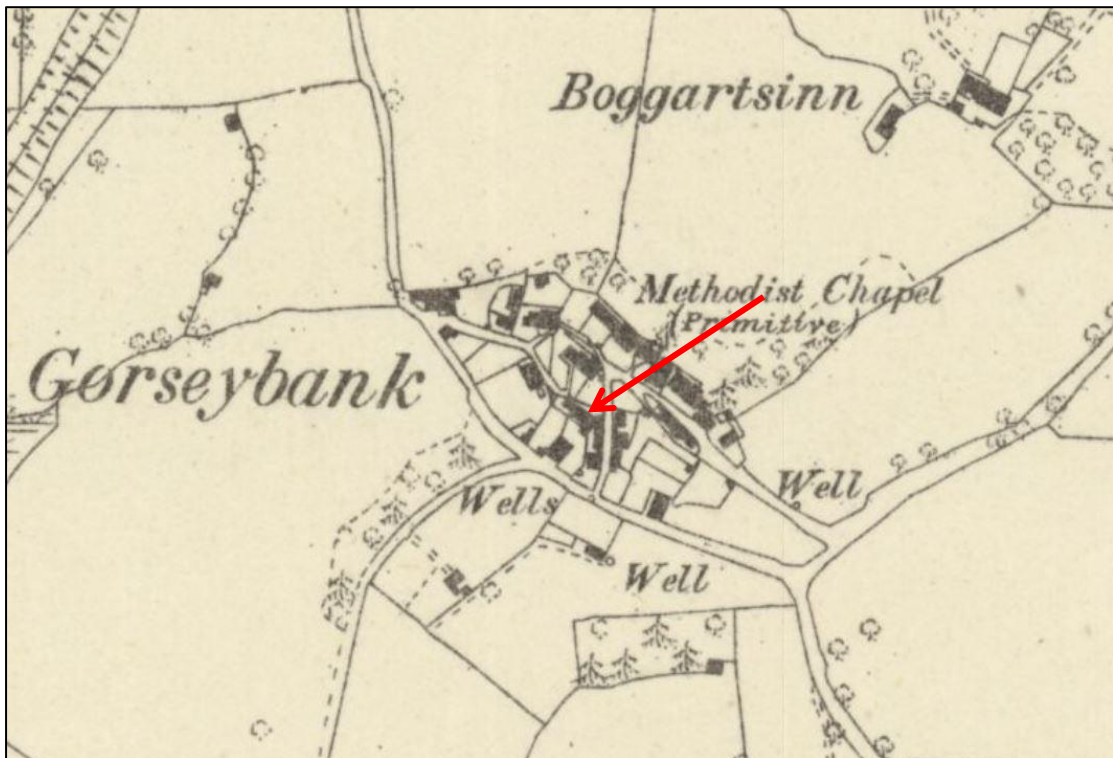


Figure 3: 1879 OS map Derbyshire Sheet XXXIX

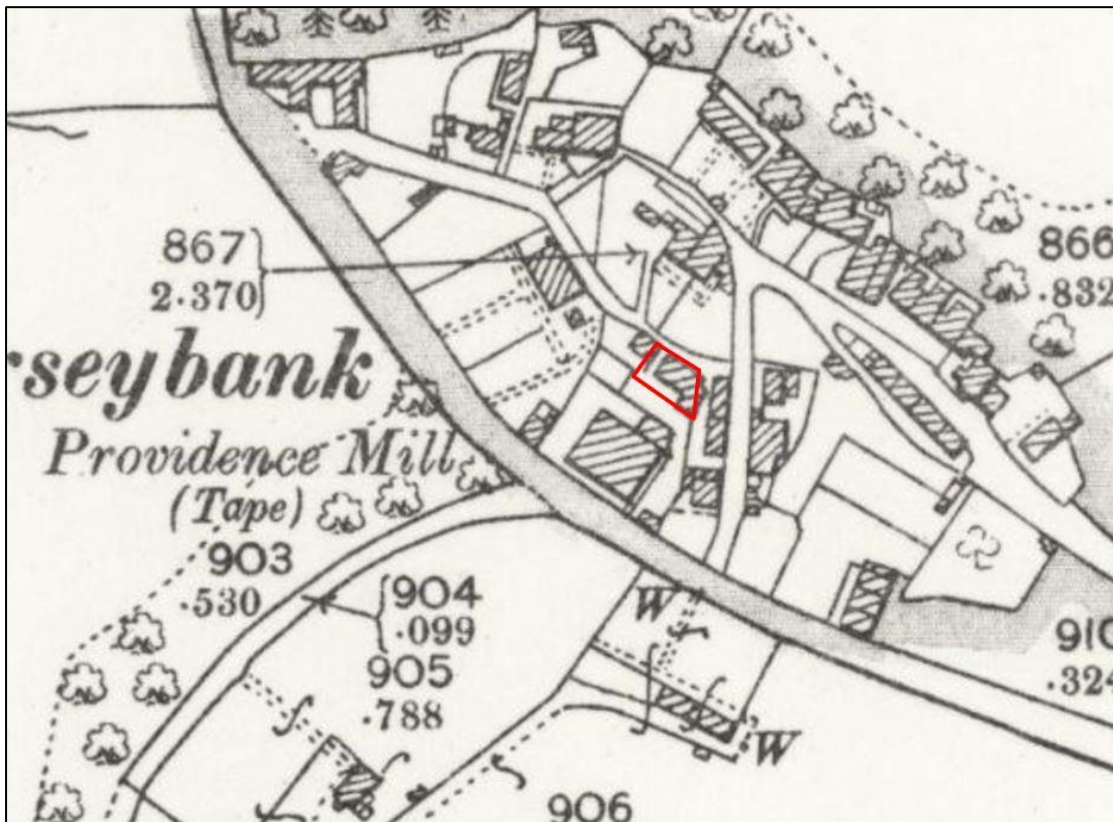


Figure 4: 1898 OS map Derbyshire Sheet XXXIX.2 showing present building location



Figure 5: 1920 OS map Derbyshire Sheet XXXIX.2 showing building location



THE ARCHAEOLOGY CO.

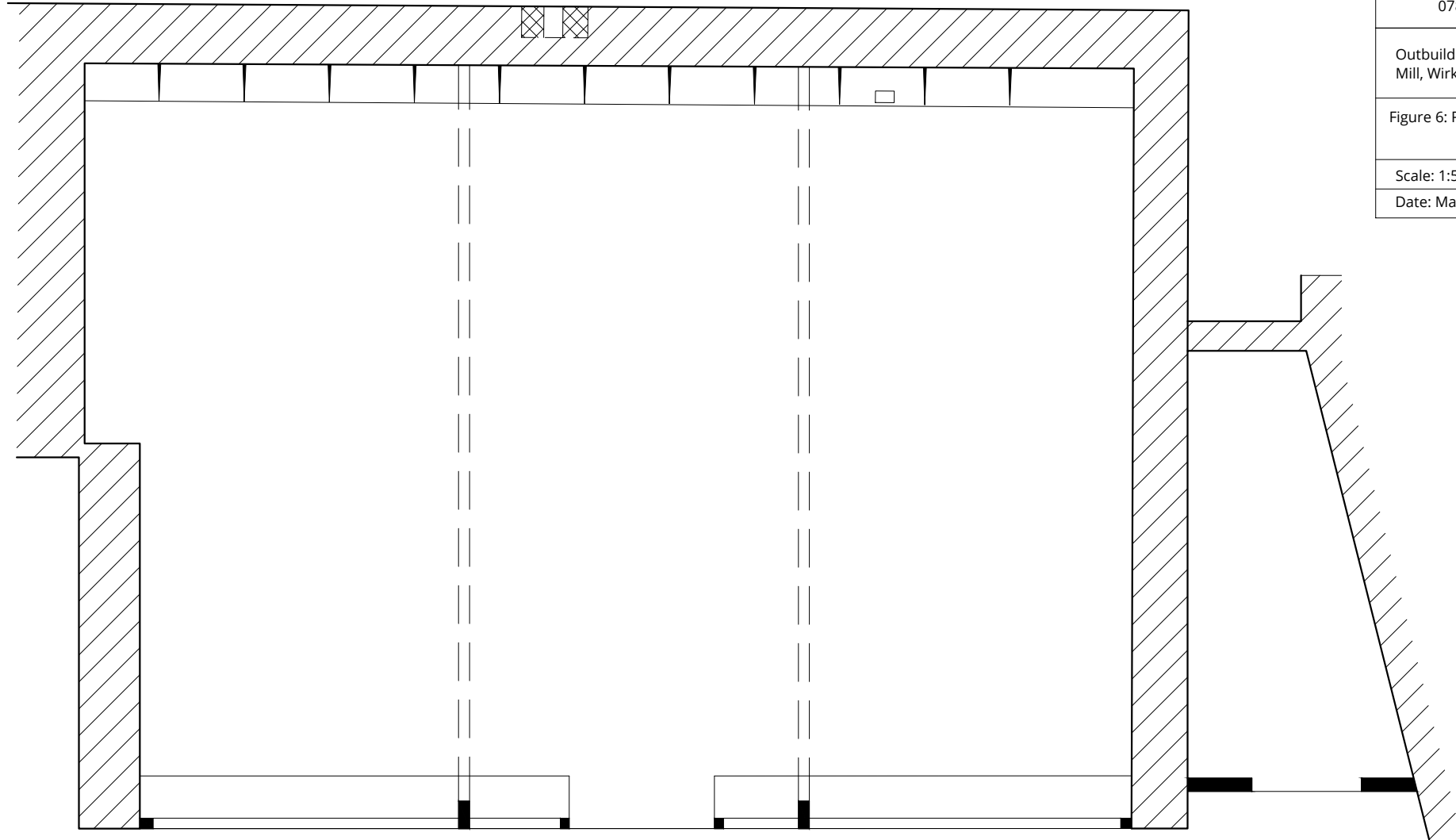
steven@thearchaeologyco.uk
07803202689

Outbuilding at Providence
Mill, Wirksworth

Figure 6: Plan

Scale: 1:50 @ A3

Date: March 2022



Appendix 2: Plates



Plate 1: Providence Mill



Plate 2: Subject building in relation to Providence Mill



Plate 3: Southwest elevation



Plate 4: Central doorway detail



Plate 5: Window detail



Plate 6: Southern corner, with timber wall and doorway inserted



Plate 7: Detail of brick rebuilding to corner



Plate 8: Detail of dressed sandstone quoin to corner



Plate 9: Detail of dressed sandstone window cills



Plate 10: Northwest elevation



Plate 11: Wall detail showing rough rubble construction



Plate 12: Southeast elevation beyond inserted timber door



Plate 13: Southeast elevation, northern end



Plate 14: Northeast elevation



Plate 15: Northeast elevation



Plate 16: Hole within northeast elevation



Plate 17: General shot of interior looking west



Plate 18: Detail of northeast wall showing sloping base



Plate 19: Western end of southwest wall showing windows



Plate 20: Detail of wall shown above, showing rough rubble construction



Plate 21: General shot looking east



Plate 22: As above looking southeast



Plate 23: Drain hole in sloping base of northeast wall



Plate 24: East end of southwest wall



Plate 25: Detail of roof construction



Plate 26: External shot of corrugated metal roof, showing Providence Mill beyond