



Barn at The Mordaunts, Crowle

Building Recording

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October 2018

EHI809-1

WSM70647

Barn at The Mordaunts, Crowle

Building Recording

Contents

1. Reasons for this Report.....	3
1.1. Location	3
1.2. Aims	3
2. Methodology	5
2.1. Documentary Search	5
2.2. Fieldwork	5
2.3. Reporting	6
3. Site Information.....	6
3.1. General Descriptions.....	6
3.2. Historic and Archaeological Background.....	8
3.3. Map Regression	10
3.4. Documentary Evidence.....	12
4. Building Recording	13
4.1. Detailed Descriptions	13
4.2. 17 th century.....	27
4.3. 18 th century.....	27
4.4. 19 th century.....	30
4.5. 20 th century.....	30
5. Summary and Conclusions.....	32
6. Bibliography.....	32
7. Appendix I: Archive Information	35

Barn at The Mordaunts, Crowle

Building Recording

1. Reasons for this Report

This document has been produced by Elmwood Heritage, at the request of the Gould Singleton Architects and the client, Mr and Mrs Dyble, for historic building recording of a barn at The Mordaunts, Crowle. This is required in order to fulfil Condition 9 of the approved planning application Wychavon I8/00668/FUL and I8/00669/LB.

The work conforms to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (CIfA 2014) and Historic England's (HE) *Understanding Historic Buildings* (HE 2016). The work also conforms to a Method Statement prepared by Elmwood Heritage (EH 2018).

The report is also led by government guidance, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF; DCLG 2012).

1.1. Location

Historic building recording is required as a condition of an approved planning application (W/18/00668/FUL and W/18/00669/LB) for the conversion and alteration of a barn and adjoining cart shed at The Mordaunts, Lower Crowle Road, Crowle, Worcester, WR7 4AH. The barn lies around 18m to the immediate north of The Mordaunts house and is centred on NGR SO 92998 56311. The Mordaunts is located within the Lower Crowle area of Crowle, to the east of the main village (Fig 1).

Crowle is located to the east of Worcester City and is a compact village ranged along the streets of Church Road, Froxmere Road and Bredicot Lane. It also has two outlying sections of settlement with Crowle Green to the north, which includes The Chequers Inn, and Lower Crowle to the east consisting of a cluster of farms, including The Mordaunts. The Mordaunts lies on bedrock of 'Wilmcote Limestone Member - Mudstone And Limestone, Interbedded' (BGS 2018). This is overlain by 'Slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage' (UKSO 2018).

1.2. Aims

The Clients wish to convert the barn and partially demolish the adjoining cart shed. The barn is a Grade II listed timber-frame structure with brick in-fill panels and a lias plinth whilst the cart shed is predominantly constructed of lias.

Permission was granted for the scheme by Wychavon District Council, application numbers I8/0068/FUL and I8/0069/LB, with a number of conditions. Condition 9 of the decision notice states that 'No development shall take place until a programme of historic building recording and interpretation ... has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing' in order 'To protect, conserve and enhance the significance of heritage assets'. This is in accordance with Policies SWDP6 and SWDP24 of the South Worcestershire Development Plan and the NPPF paragraph 141.

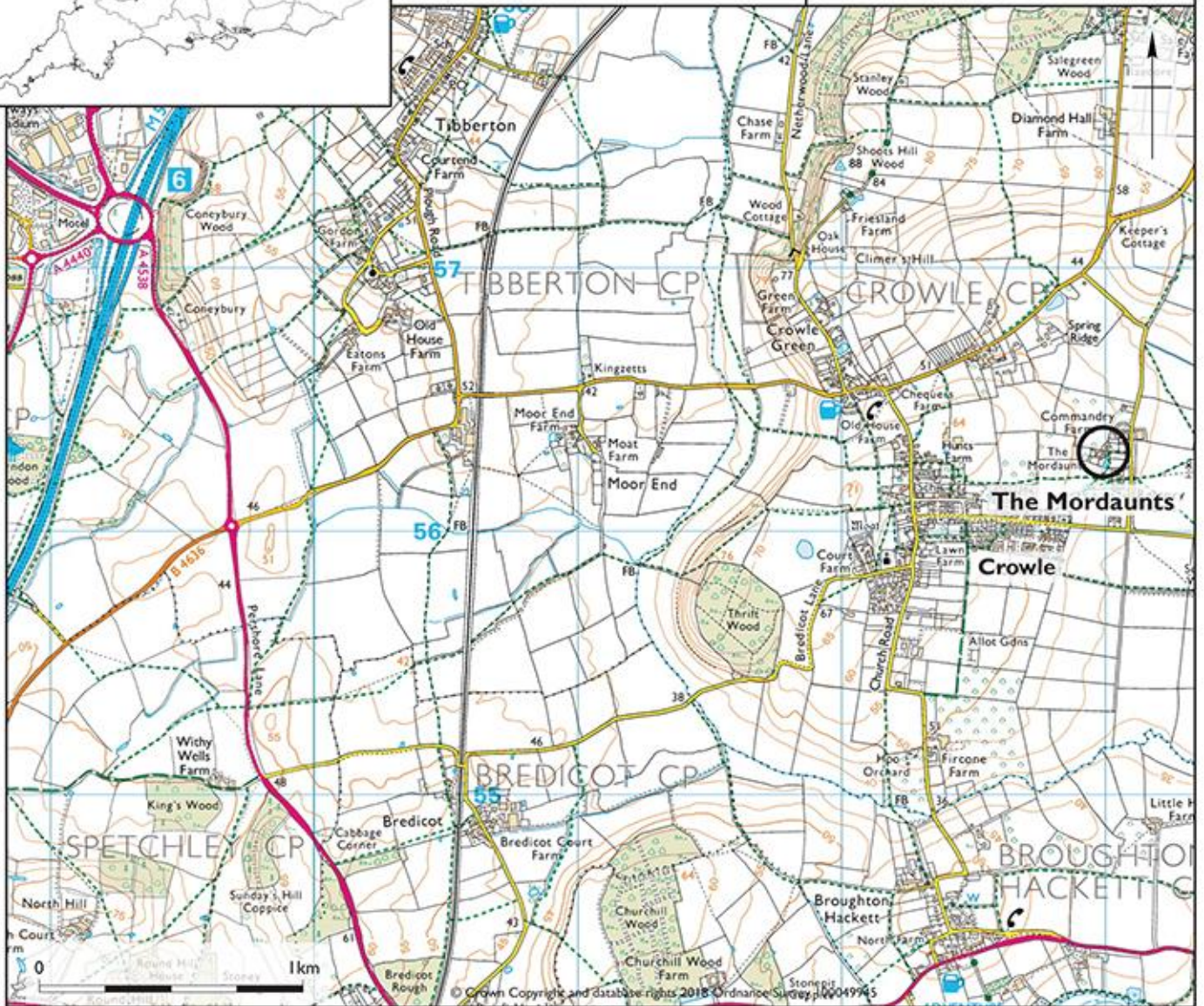


Figure 1 Location of Site

Scale at A4 - 1:25,000

WSM70647
 Project EHI809-2
 Barn at The Mordaunts, Crowle
 Building Recording

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As a result of this condition a Level 3 Building Recording Survey is required, as defined on page 26 of the Historic England guidance *Understanding Historic Buildings: a Guide to Good Recording Practice* (HE 2016).

The general aim of the building recording is to provide a descriptive and illustrative account of the building, including discussion of its local regional and national significance.

2. Methodology

2.1. Documentary Search

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search of Worcestershire HER entries (WSM numbers) was obtained from Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) and a search of grey literature reports of archaeological work was carried out with the Archaeology Data Service and the Worcestershire Online Archaeological Library. Information held on the National Heritage List for England (NHLE numbers) and on the Historic England website PastScape (NRHE numbers) was also accessed.

2.2. Fieldwork

Fieldwork was undertaken on 12th March and 1st October 2018 by Shona Robson-Glyde. A Worcestershire HER number has been assigned to the fieldwork, WSM70647. A Nikon D3200 digital SLR camera set at large fine (24.1 MP) was used and two 1m ranging rods were used for scale. A plan of the photographs reproduced in the report is included as Figure 7.

A number of professional organisations have produced standards and guidance which the project will adhere to. The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) has produced the *Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (CIfA 2014). Historic England (HE) has produced *Understanding Historic: a Guide to Good Recording Practice* (HE 2016). A Level 3 survey is defined in the HE guidance as ‘an analytical record, and will comprise an introductory description followed by a systematic account of the building’s origins, development and use’.

The building recording consisted of the following elements:

Drawings

- Annotated measured plans to scale (based on supplied architects drawings)
- A site plan relating the building to other structures and to any related topographical and landscape features
- A plan or plans identifying the location and direction of accompanying photographs
- Phased ground plans
- Copies of earlier drawings of the building

Photography

- A general view or views of the building in its wider setting or landscape
- The external appearance of the building as a series of oblique images and at right angles to the elevations
- Further views showing the design intentions
- Overall appearance of the principal rooms and circulation areas
- External or internal detail, structural or decorative relative to the design of the building and its development or use

- Machinery, plant or evidence of its former existence
- Dates, inscriptions, signage, maker's plates or marks and graffiti which contribute to an understanding of the building
- Building contents which have a bearing on the history of the building

2.3. Reporting

This report includes the following elements:

- Location of the building as an address and in the form of a National Grid reference
- The planning application reference number (W/18/00668/FUL and W18/00669/LB)
- A note of any statutory designation (such as listing; NHLE1350108) and non-statutory designation (such as local lists and HER; WSM34971)
- Date when the record was made and the name of the recorder
- A summary statement describing the building, its form, function, materials and date
- Introduction setting out the circumstances in which the record was made, its objectives, methods, scope and limitations, and any constraints
- Acknowledgements to all those who have made a significant contribution to the making of the record
- Discussion of the published sources relating to the building and its setting, an account of its history as given in published sources, an analysis of historic map evidence (map regression) and a critical evaluation of previous records of the building
- Photographs of the building
- Account of the building's overall form (structure, materials, layout) and of its successive phases of development, together with the evidence supporting this analysis
- A location plan of the site and a photograph location plan
- Account of the building's past and present use, and of the uses of its parts, with the evidence for these interpretations
- Any evidence for the former existence of demolished structures or removed plant associated with the building
- Copies of historic maps, drawings, views or photographs illustrating the development of the building or its site (subject to copyright)
- Any further information from documentary sources, published or unpublished
- An outline of the significance of the building
- Full bibliographic and other references, or a list of the sources consulted

3. Site Information

3.1. General Descriptions

The buildings recorded at The Mordaunts consist of a timber-frame building (Plate 1), last used as a stable, and an adjoining stone and brick cart shed (Plate 2). They lie to the immediate north of The Mordaunts house and adjoin further former farm buildings to the west some of which date from the 17th century and are listed. The majority of these are now converted with the stable and cart shed recorded in this project being the only unconverted structures. The stable is listed (NHLE1350108) and is described in the listing information as: *'Stable about 20 yards north of The Mordaunts GV II Stable. C17 with mid-C20 alterations. Timber-framed with brick infill, brick replacement walling, plain tiled roof. Three framed bays aligned east/ west; two levels. Framing: irregular, mainly five panels from sill to wall- plate,*

collar and tie-beam truss with three struts below collar and V-strut in apex exposed in east gable end. South elevation facing farmyard has four stable doors and two windows, one of which has a 2-light casement, at ground floor level and a 2-light casement and two loft doors to the upper level. Interior: roof and upper level not accessible. It is probable that the building was originally constructed as a barn as suggested by the wall-framing'.



Plate 1 Timber-frame building from the south west



Plate 2 Cart shed from the south west

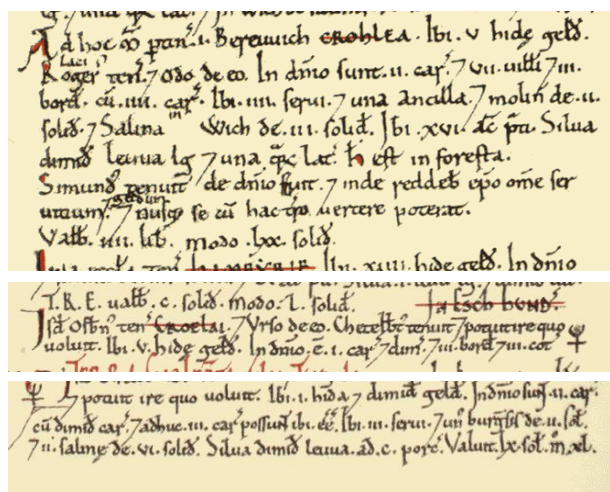
The timber-frame building consisted of upright posts with horizontal rails between them forming a structure principally of five panels in height. These panels were infilled with bricks and the structure was built on a plinth of coursed lias rubble. The south elevation had four inserted stable doors, three windows, two pitching hatches and a small ground floor hatch.

The north elevation had no openings and a large portion of it had been rebuilt in brick. This elevation was accessible from the interior and only partly from the exterior due to different ownership of the land on the north side of the property and a number of vehicles blocking the view of the elevation.

The adjoining cart shed, to the east, was built of coursed lias rubble walls with a small amount of brick in the north wall and all of the top of east gable. The south elevation of four bays had three bays completely open with the roof supported on timber posts and the east bay was closed with garage doors. The ground was higher against the north elevation and, as a result, little of the lias wall was visible. The eaves were of brick with a dentilated eaves cornice.

3.2. Historic and Archaeological Background

The historic environment record (HER; Fig 2) for the area of Crowle including The Mordaunts contains a number of records (WSM numbers). There has been no prehistoric activity so far recorded in the area around The Mordaunts although it is believed that a Romano-British settlement existed to the west of the church off Bredicot Lane.



Domesday Book extracts for Crowle

Historic documents suggest that Crowle was an estate given to the Bishop of Worcester in the early 9th century and consisted of five 'mansae' or manors (Birch 1885, p1). The location of all five of the manors is still unknown. The Domesday Book shows Crowle, as 'Crohlea', as having two manors with a total of 27 households with a tax value of 10 geld units, which is large in both size and tax (Thorn and Thorn 1982, p2,78 and 19,14). The largest of the manors, of 5 hides, was part of the manor of Phepson and was tenanted by the Priory of Worcester from Roger de Lacy. Attached to

the Crowle manor was a saltpan at Droitwich. The smaller of the two manors, also of 5 hides, was held by Urso d'Abetot and tenanted by Osbern son of Richard. It also held two salt pans at Droitwich. It is possible that the smaller manor was the area of Lower Crowle.

The two manors went through a number of changes in ownership, including, in the 12th century, part being annexed to Northwick manor. It is also during the 12th century that the parish church was originally constructed. The village of Crowle appears to be a planned settlement, with straight and rectangular road and boundary patterns but this does not extend to Lower Crowle and the area of The Mordaunts.

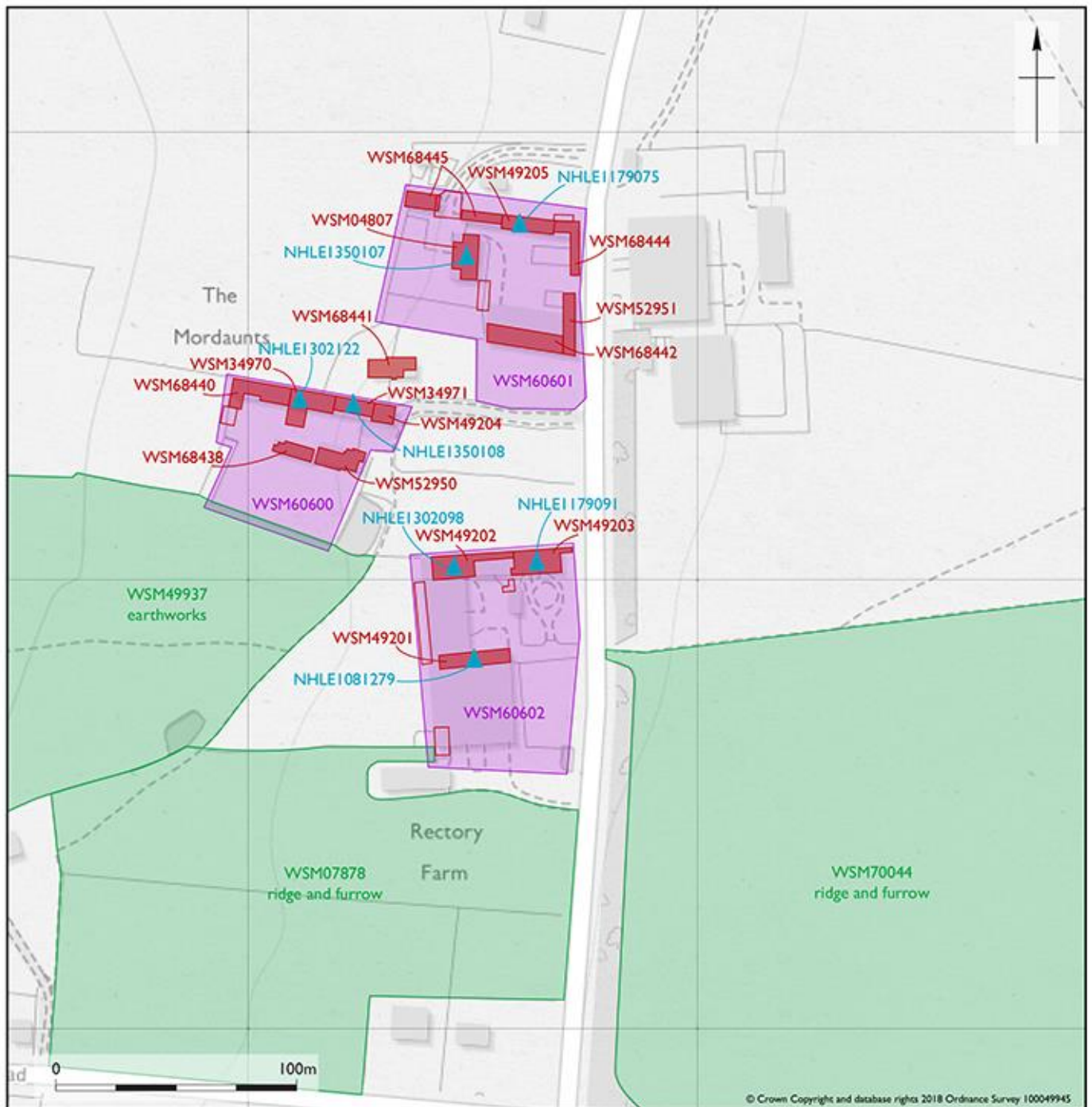


Figure 2
HER and listed building information

Scale at A4 - 1:2500

- ▲ Listed building
- Site of historic building
- Historic building
- Historic farmstead
- Monument

WSM70647
Project EH1809-2
Barn at The Mordaunts, Crowle
Building Recording

The earliest evidence within the area of The Mordaunts is an area of earthworks (WSM49937) to the west and south west of The Mordaunts house. This has been described as a deserted medieval village and possible moated manor house and survives as a series of deep, wide trackways, large building platforms and a wider oval feature. They have been postulated to be early medieval in date with the oval feature being the moated manor house, possibly one of the five manors described in the Saxon charter. Along with these earthworks are surviving medieval ridge and furrow (WSM07878 and WSM70044) to the south and south east. A watching brief was carried out (WSM 67015), in the former orchard to the east of The Mordaunts, when a new drive was put in. This was expected to reveal medieval evidence related to the adjoining earthworks but only uncovered evidence of plough scarring or orchard trenches with finds of mid 17th century to 18th century and modern dates.

There are a number of historic buildings within the area, mainly forming the three farmsteads of Commandery Farm (WSM60601), Rectory Farm (WSM60602) and The Mordaunts (WSM60600). This cluster of farms is unusual and may have grown out of the medieval settlement in this area. The Mordaunts farmstead contains a number of buildings. The farmhouse (WSM52950) is a large, three storey, 19th century, brick house. To the north of this is the 17th century, timber-frame, listed barn (NHLE1350108; WSM34971) and its adjoining stone and brick cart shed (WSM49204) which have been recorded for this report. To the north east of the farmhouse is a large 17th century, or earlier, listed, timber-frame threshing barn (NHLE1302122; WSM34970) which has a 19th century two-storey brick extension. Adjoining the western side of this barn is a range of 19th century shelter sheds, now converted (WSM68440). To the west of the farmhouse is a stone building that is known as a cider house and is recorded on the HER as a cottage (WSM68438). These last three buildings were all recorded prior to being converted in 2007 and a report was produced (WSM36904; Lobb 2007).

Commandery Farm, north of The Mordaunts, consists of a listed c1600 timber-frame farmhouse (NHLE1350107; WSM4807) with a listed 17th century timber-frame barn (NHLE1179075; WSM49205) to the north east. It also includes a 19th century brick threshing barn (WSM52951), remains of a 19th brick building (WSM68442), two 19th century brick buildings, possibly stables and hayloft (WSM68444), 17th century timber-frame cart shed and 19th century brick stable (WSM68445). Rectory Farm, south of The Mordaunts, consists of a listed 17th century farmhouse (NHLE1179091; WSM49203) that was remodelled in the 19th century. Adjoining this is a listed range of 17th century timber-frame granary, cart shed and stables (NHLE11302098; WSM49202). To the south of these two buildings is a listed c1600 timber-frame threshing barn (NHLE1081279; WSM49201).

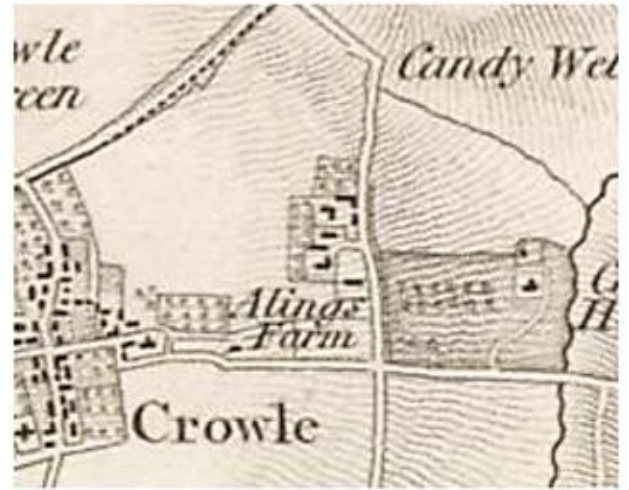
As can be seen, all of the listed buildings are 17th century or earlier in date, including the subject of this report, and show that settlement has been long established here. The surrounding landscape is one of piecemeal enclosures used variously for arable, pasture and orchards. Noake, in 1868,

3.3. Map Regression

Historic mapping for the area of Lower Crowle around The Mordaunts dates back to the 1808 inclosure map. This, however, shows little detail of the buildings but does record the owner of the



Extract of Dawson's map of 1813



Extract of 1831 Ordnance Survey



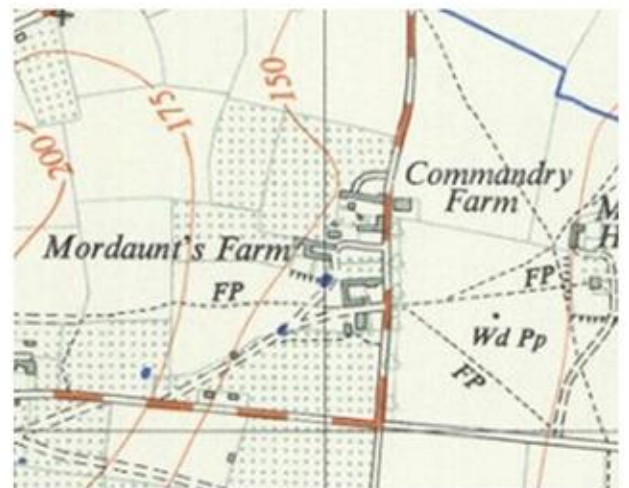
Extract of 1884 Ordnance Survey



Extract of 1905 Ordnance Survey



Extract of 1937 Land Utilisation Survey



Extract of 1961 Ordnance Survey

Figure 3
Extracts from historic maps

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Project EH1809-2
Barn at The Mordaunts, Crowle
Building Recording

land as Arthur Bagshaw (Worcestershire Archives Ref: 850 CROWLE/1497/2). An 1813 map, drawn by Robert Dawson, shows the area of Crowle and includes the buildings of The Mordaunts.

describes the industry of Crowle as 'agriculture for the men and gloving for some of the women' (Noake 1868, p108). The landscape around Crowle can be seen to be very agricultural although there are patches of woodland or orchards to both north and south of the farm.

The first Ordnance Survey of 1831 shows no more detail, which is not surprising given the scale of the survey. The cluster of farms at Lower Crowle is extremely obvious on both this map and Dawson's 1813 map, as is the very rural landscape surrounding the village despite its close location to Worcester and other settlements.

There are no further maps until the first edition Ordnance Survey of 1884. This map shows a lot more detail with all the buildings of The Mordaunts, Mordaunt's Farm as it is labelled, visible. Large areas of fields to the north, east and west are now shown as orchards on this map. This suggests that the nature of farming in the area had altered by this period. The buildings of Mordaunt's Farm are shown as two long ranges with the recorded buildings being the two eastern sections of the northern range.

The 1905 Ordnance Survey is very similar to the 1884 map but shows that the orchards to the south of the cluster of farms has increased in size along with that to the east of The Mordaunts, which is again labelled as 'Mordaunt's Farm'. The buildings are also virtually identical to those shown on the 1884 map with only an addition added to the western end of the northern range, away from the recorded buildings at the eastern end of that range.

The Land Utilisation Survey map of 1937 and the 1945 Ordnance Surveys are at a less detailed scale but show the same arrangement of buildings and land uses as shown on the 1884 and 1905 Ordnance Surveys. This is also repeated on the 1961 Ordnance Survey which also is less detailed due to the scale of the map. The area around The Mordaunts today has changed little with the exception that most of the orchards have been removed and Commandery Farm, to the north, has expanded across Lower Crowle Road.

3.4. Documentary Evidence

Records for The Mordaunts can be found in the censuses and the various Worcestershire trade directories although these only give us details for the 19th century. The 1851 census records that six servants of Major Clowes were living at The Mordaunts including William Baker the Butler. The 1871 census records a Mr John J Wilson and his family living at The Mordaunts. The 1873 Littlebury trade directory records John James Wilson at The Mordaunts where he is listed under private residents. The 1879 Littlebury trade directory shows the private resident of The Mordaunts as Mr John Joseph Wilson.

The 1881 census shows John J Wilson and his family living at The Mordaunts still. He is recorded as farming 73 acres. John Joseph Wilson is listed in the trade directories as a private resident at The Mordaunts through to the Littlebury directory of 1885. In this he is shown as John Joseph Wilson Esq., farmer and landowner, The Mordaunts. Kelly's 1888 trade directory lists Edward Inions as farmer at The Mordaunts but by the 1891 census Joseph Foster and his family are living and farming at 'Mordaunts Farm'. Joseph Foster is also recorded in the trade directories as farmer at The Mordaunts until 1900.

William S White and his wife are recorded in the 1901 census as farmers of 'Mordaunts Farm' and William White is also listed in the 1904 trade directory but at The Moorlands. The next available trade directory, Littlebury's 1905, records the farmer of The Mordaunts to be Henry Phipps. He is recorded at the farm until 1932 but is listed as a 'Private Resident' from 1916 onwards. He is also shown on the 1911 census at 'Mordaunts Farm' where his profession is given as a 'grazier' meaning livestock farmer. His wife, Eliza Jane Phipps, is listed as being a 'hotel keeper' but not working at home. The last two available trade directories of 1936 and 1940 list Alfred Reginald Lane as the farmer of 'Mordaunts Farm' with the 1940 directory noting that he was farming less than 150 acres.

4. Building Recording

4.1. Detailed Descriptions

The timber-frame building has been divided into three sections for ease of description.

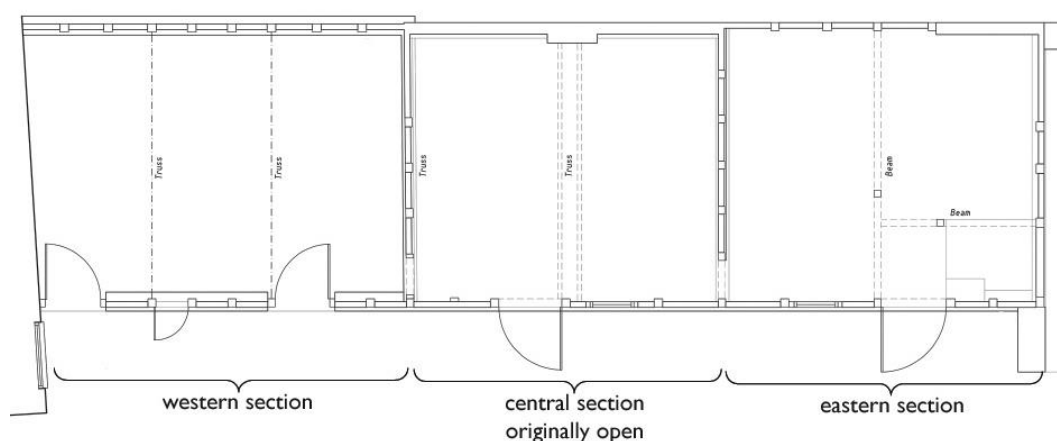


Plate 3 Layout of timber-frame building

Western section of timber-frame building

The framing of the timber-frame building's western section was regular with five panels between wall and sill plate (Plate 4; Fig 4). There were two 'stable' doors and a small hatched window opening. The upper part of the frame had a pitching opening. Evidence of peg holes showed that there had been a lean-to attached to the south elevation of this section (Plate 5; Fig 4).

Internally this section was open to the rafters with two collar and post trusses visible (Plate 6). The building was abutted by the adjoining listed barn (now converted) to the west with the brick and lias gable of this barn forming the west elevation of the timber-frame building of The Mordaunts. The east elevation of this section was a full height frame (Plate 7), the top of which had been covered with weatherboard.

The floors within this section were of concrete and showed evidence of there being internal divisions creating three stalls (Plate 8). These were accessed through the two 'stable' doors visible in the southern elevation. At some point this section was used for the storage of hay or straw which was loaded through the pitching door in the south elevation.

Part of the north elevation of the section had collapsed into the structure, most probably due to a vehicle impacting with the exterior of the building. This allowed the structure of the frame to be

seen and showed that the rails were merely sitting upon the brick infill and were not tied into the upright posts.



Plate 4 Western section of timber-frame building



Plate 5 Peg holes from former lean-to extension



Plate 6 Western section interior, collar and post trusses



Plate 7 Western section interior, east frame



Plate 8 Western section interior, evidence of former divisions

Central section of timber-frame building

The south elevation of the central section of the timber-frame building had a large ground floor 'stable' door with a window to the side and a pitching door on the first floor (Plate 9; Fig 4). The framing of this section was very irregular and inconsistent with that of the frame of the western end. Above the stable door, were five panels that had been cut to insert the joists to hold a floor. The framing to the right of the stable door and window was more consistent with three upright posts and dividing rails but it also did not match the framing of the western end.



Plate 9 Central section from the south

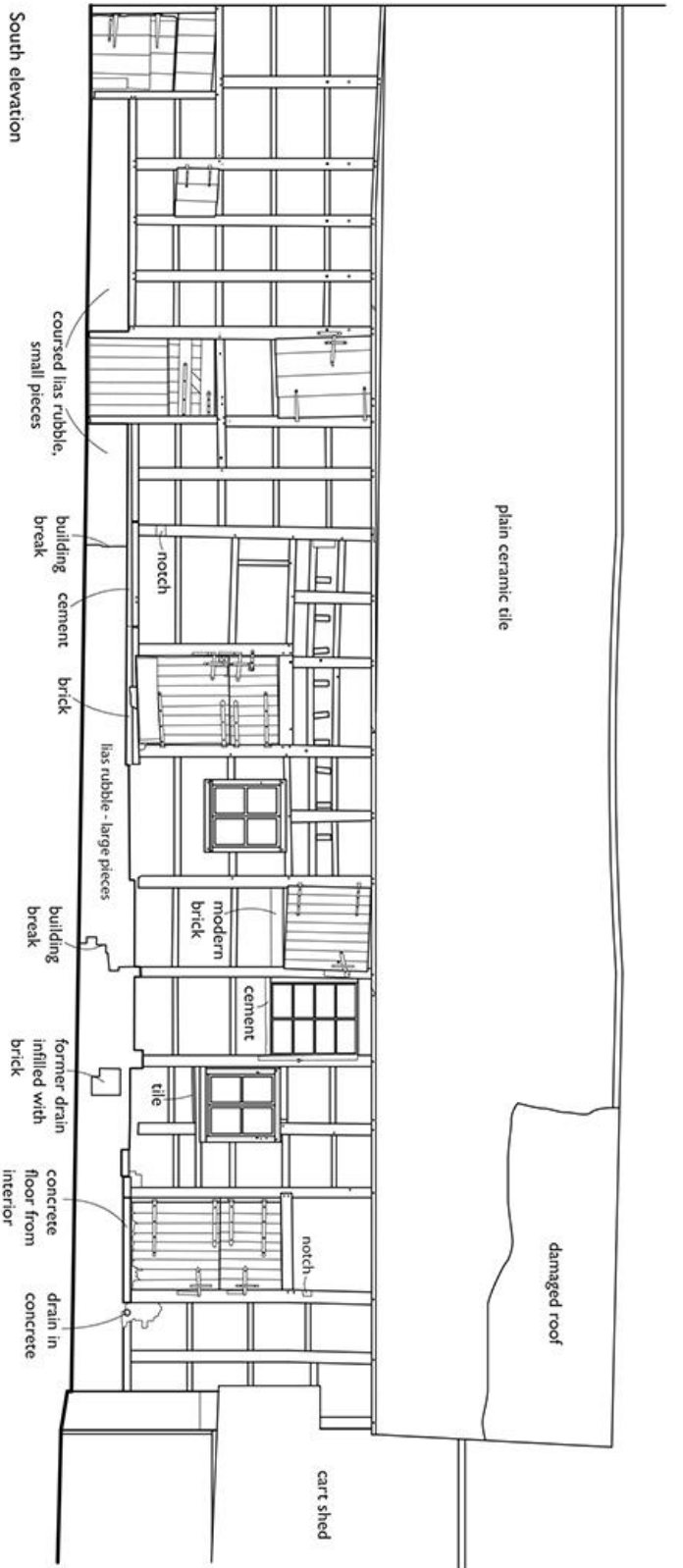
Figure 4
Timber-frame building
south and north
elevations

Scale at A4 - 1:100

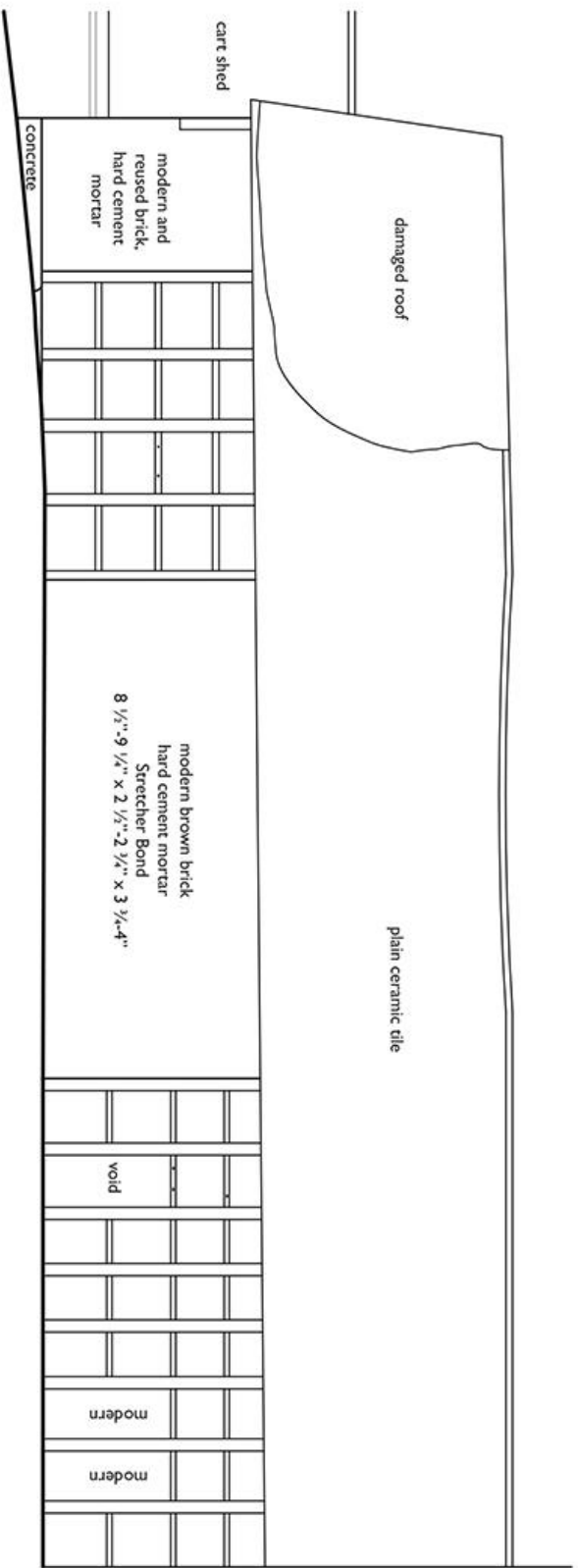
Based on architects drawing
 no. 2911/01 by
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WSM70647
 Project EHI 809-2
 Barn at The Mordaunts, Crowle
 Building Recording

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South elevation



North elevation



The north elevation was not fully accessible for detailed photographs to be taken (Plate 10), however, it was visibly accessible, so notes were able to be taken. It could be seen from both the interior and exterior to have been rebuilt in brick (Plate 11).



Plate 10 North elevation of timber-frame building, central section behind Land Rover



Plate 11 Central section interior, north wall

Internally, the central section was also open to the rafters (Plate 12). It had, at one time, had a first floor but this had been removed. The insertion of the floor had caused the cruck truss to be cut off. Once the floor had been removed the truss had to be propped up on a brick pier, on the north side, and supported by floor joists and iron ties.



Plate 12 Central section interior, much altered cruck truss



Plate 13 Central section interior, truss and east wall

The eastern elevation of this section of the building was a full height frame, the top part of which had been covered in weatherboard with an opening cut through and later blocked (Plate 13). The ground floor also had an inserted opening leading into the eastern section of the building.

The unusual framing, the brick north elevation and building breaks in the plinth (Plate 14; Fig 4) all show that this section of the building was originally open. It is likely that the whole structure had two enclosed sections to the east and west with an open bay in the centre completely open to the roof. The full height frames to the sides of the centre section confirm this. Because the north elevation has been rebuilt, it is not completely certain that that elevation was open prior to being replaced in brick, but the timber-frame southern elevation definitely was.

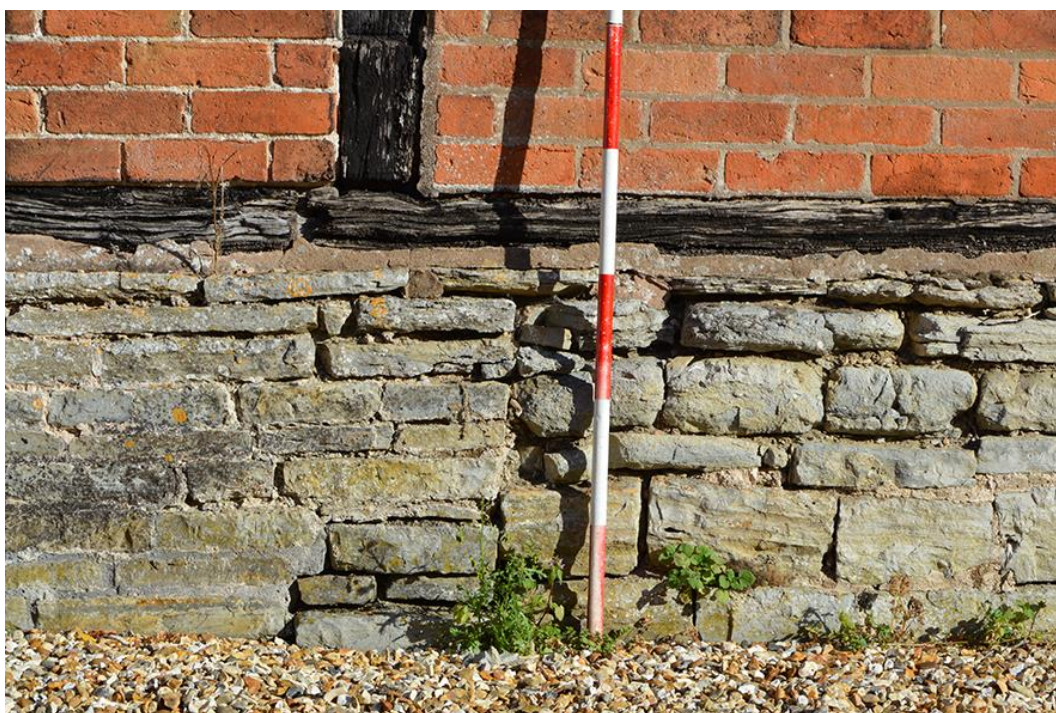


Plate 14 Central section, west building break

Eastern section of timber-frame building

The eastern section of the building consisted of a section of framing that was very similar to that of the western end (Plate 15; Fig 4). There were, mainly, five panels between wall and sill plates with rails between the upright posts. The ground floor had a window and a 'stable' door whilst the first floor had a large metal framed casement window. A panel above the door may have originally contained an opening but has since been filled with brick.

Internally, the eastern section had a single room on both ground (Plate 16) and first floors (Plate 17) with a staircase in the south eastern corner. The western wall and part of the north wall of the ground floor had been partially covered with wood panels, painted plaster or concrete.

The roof on this section of the timber-frame building had been compromised for a number of years, as a result a number of posts were being used to prop the floor structure and the roof structure. This was most evident on the first floor where one of the purlin joints had broken and was propped up with a timber beam (Plate 18). The floor was also rotten in this section of the building.



Plate 15 Eastern section from the south



Plate 16 Eastern section, ground floor interior, note stairs

On the open upper floor of the eastern section of the timber-frame building, the cruck truss was visible, although it was marred from the ingress of water through the damaged roof.

The framing of the western elevation, adjoining the central section of the building, was visible from the first floor and the cruck truss was clearly visible along with the inserted, and blocked, opening in the weatherboard that could also be seen from the central section.



Plate 17 Eastern section, first floor interior



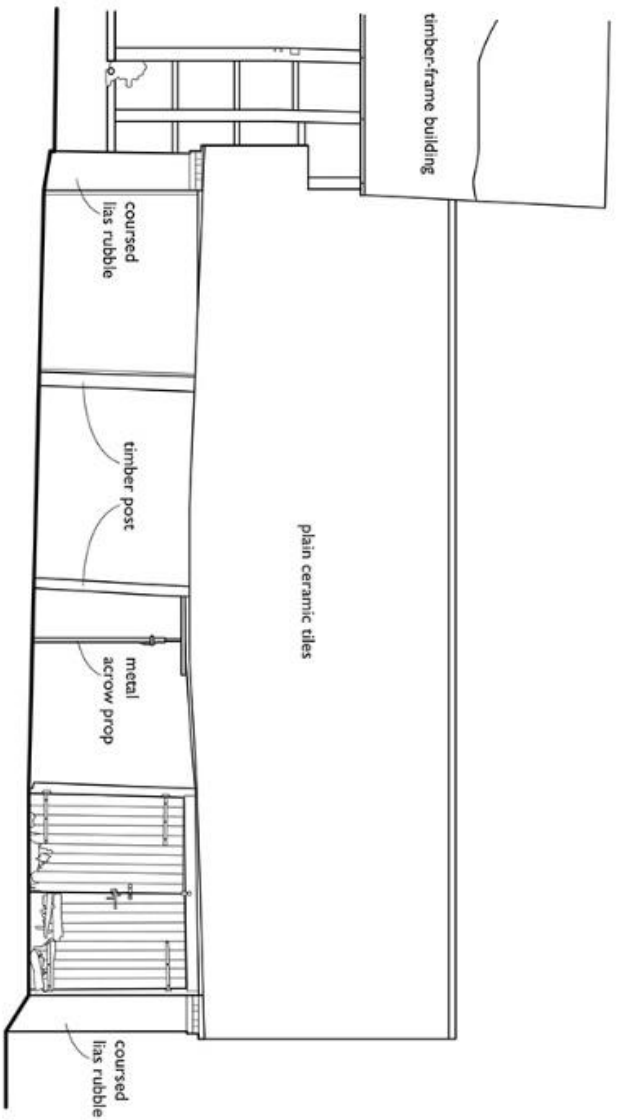
Plate 18 Eastern section, first floor interior showing broken purlin joint

The upper floor of the eastern section of the building had obviously been used as a granary or apple store at some point with a timber division and a hatch in the floor still in existence.

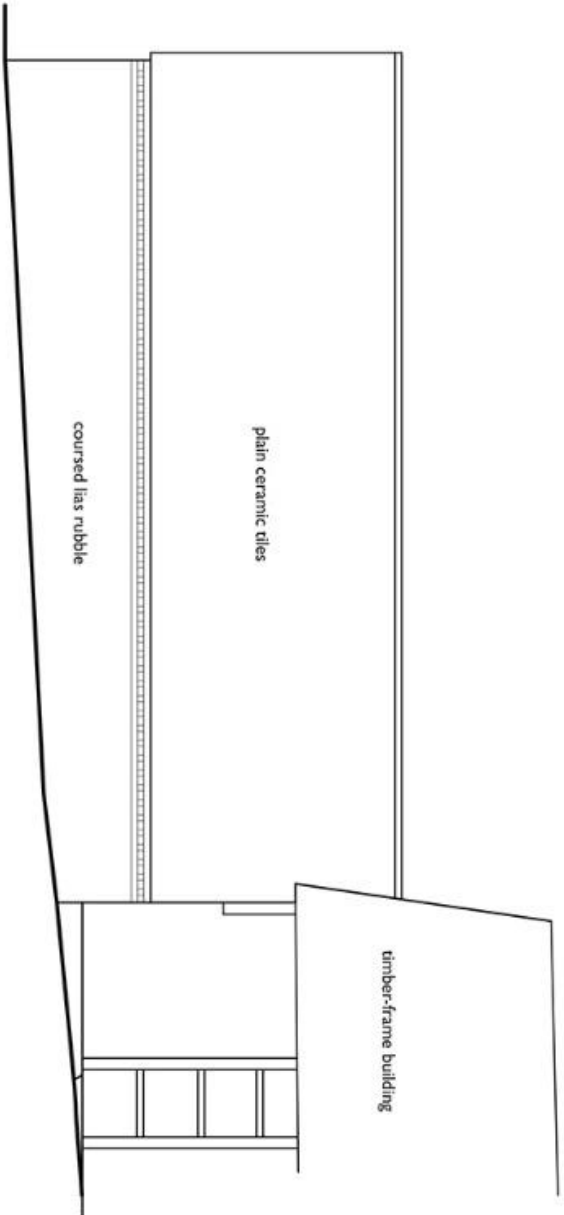
The eastern gable of the eastern section of the timber-frame building was partially blocked by the cart shed with it only being visible on the interior of the cart shed and above the roof line of that building. The apex of the eastern gable was filled with herringbone brickwork, although this appeared to be of a different age and size than the rest of the infill.

Cart shed

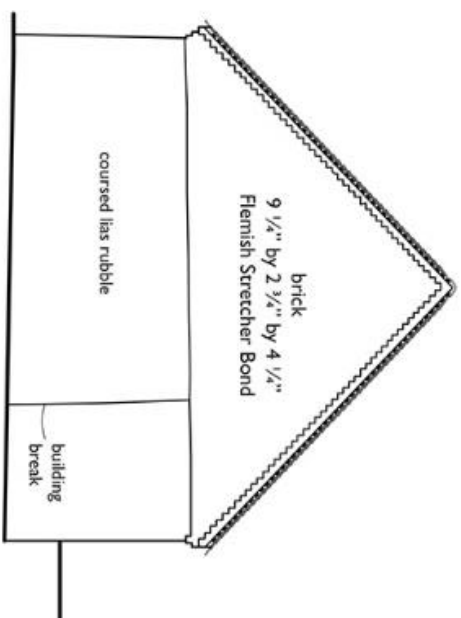
The cart shed (Plate 19; Fig 5) was not unusual in its construction or layout. It is probable the lias north and east walls were boundary walls of the farmstead that were utilised to create the building. This is borne out by the use of brick in the top of the eastern gable and for the eaves.



South elevation



North elevation



East gable

Figure 5
Cart shed south and north elevations and east gable

Scale at A4 - 1:100

Based on architects drawing no. 2911/01 by Gould Singleton Architects

WSM70647
 Project EH1809-2
 Barn at The Mordaunts, Crowle
 Building Recording

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Internally the cart shed had been divided into three distinct spaces by the addition of timber partitions attached to the trusses. The trusses themselves were of crude collar and post construction (Plate 20).



Plate 19 Cart shed, from the south



Plate 20 Cart shed, one of the trusses

The spaces within the cart shed had distinct functions, with the western space being used for wood storage (Plate 21) and the eastern space as a garage and store (Plate 22). This area also had a roof over it with limited access (Plate 23). The central area was used for cutting wood and storing rubbish bins and rubble (Plate 24).



Plate 21 Cart shed, west end



Plate 22 Cart shed, east end garage space

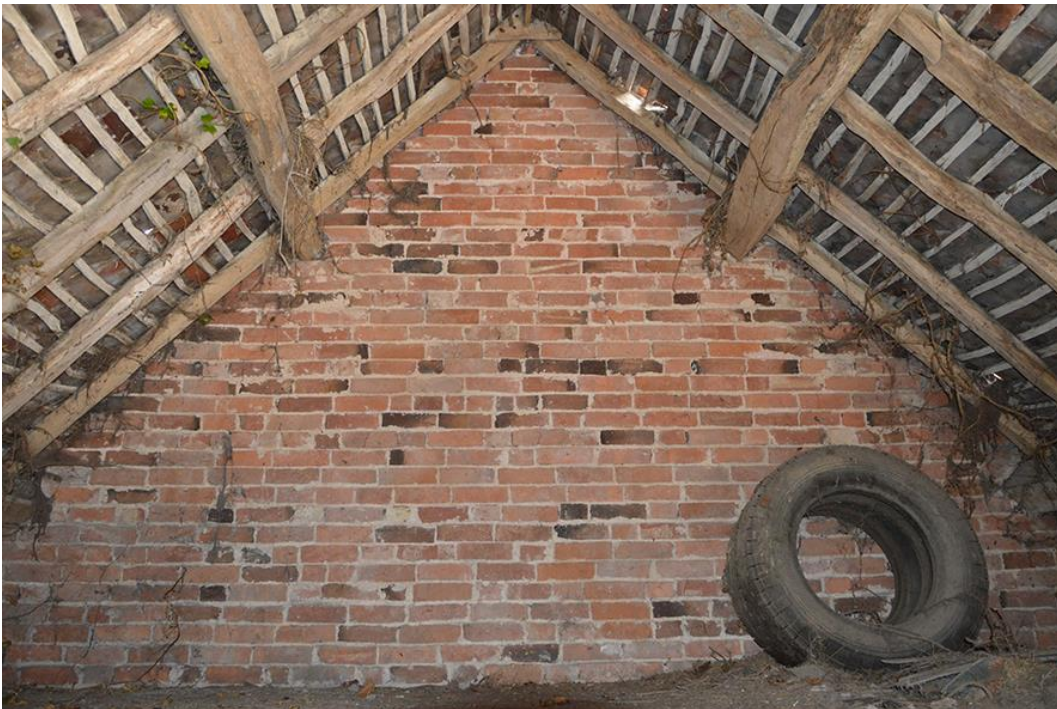


Plate 23 Cart shed, garage roofspace



Plate 24 Cart shed, central area

The original functions of these spaces are not clear, but cart sheds were originally used not just for storing carts but also for the storage of farm implements such as ploughs, harrows, seed drills and hoppers and later mowing machines for harvesting. Hand implements such as dung forks, manure knives, mattocks and twobills, scythes, pitchforks and shovels were also stored in cart sheds.

Depending on the date of the divisions in the cart shed, they may have been used for keeping individual implement types apart such as horse-drawn and hand implements. It is also possible that the 'garage' area of the cart shed was used for the storage of the house cart or carriage to keep it protected.

4.2. 17th century

In the 17th century a timber-frame barn was constructed at The Mordaunts (Fig 6). It was built around the same time as a timber-frame threshing barn, situated to the west. The barn was constructed of elm, a type of timber that was commonly used in Worcestershire in this period. The construction would probably have been carried out in the earlier part of the 17th century. The tall timber posts and un-jointed rails are typical of the early 17th century in parts of Worcestershire. The building had five panels above its lias plinth that would have been infilled with brick or spilt laths, the current brick infill is later in date. Adjoining the eastern end of the building, but built after the timber-frame building, was a lias stone boundary wall.

The building originally consisted of a central open section, possibly with double doors, and two enclosed sections to the sides. A building break in the lias plinth and the haphazard framing show that the central was originally open. Despite having an open central section, the building is unlikely to have been used as a threshing barn, given its low height and the existence of a threshing barn already at the site, but may have been used for straw or hay storage.

The open central section was used to bring carts laden with the hay into the building. From there the crop would have been distributed into the two side sections. It may have had a stone floor, but a packed earth surface would not be uncommon. The surfaces on the two side sections would have been stone or wood to allow the hay or straw to be stored in dry conditions.

A number of holes in the framing on the south elevation of the western section of the building show that this part of the structure had an extension attached to it. This may have been part of the original structure or a later 17th century addition and could have been used as a shelter shed or for further storage.

4.3. 18th century

In the early 18th century, the central section of the timber-frame building was converted with the addition of an upper floor (Plate 25) and the creation of framing in the original openings (Fig 6). It is probable that the whole building was converted into a stable at this point with insertion of doors and windows and the upper floor being used for hay storage.

In the mid 18th century, the infill panels of the building were also replaced with the current brick infill. The bricks measure 9 to 9 ¼" by 2 ¾" by 4 ¼". They are coursed in Stretcher Bond and used a white lime mortar. This size and type of brick is typical of the early to mid 18th century and may be later than the conversion of the building to a stable and with the insertion of the floor in the central section. The panels of the internal frames between the sections of the building were also partly replaced with brick at this time.

Also in the mid 18th century, the adjoining barn to the west, not part of this survey, was built causing the western gable of the timber-frame building to be replaced with the current brick wall of the adjoining building (Lobb 2007).

The cart shed was also built in the mid 18th century. It utilised the later 17th century lias boundary wall, adjoining the eastern end of the timber-frame building. The eastern part of the wall was added to and a brick upper portion raised the wall to roof height. A straight joint on the eastern gable shows where the boundary wall was extended to create the cart shed (Plate 26). The brick used in this gable was the same as that used in the infill panels of the timber-frame building but coursed in Flemish Stretcher Bond. The cart shed originally had a completely open internal space which was used for the storage of farm carts and implements.



Plate 25 Timber joists of inserted floor in timber-frame building



Plate 26 Cart shed gable with building break to right of ranging rod

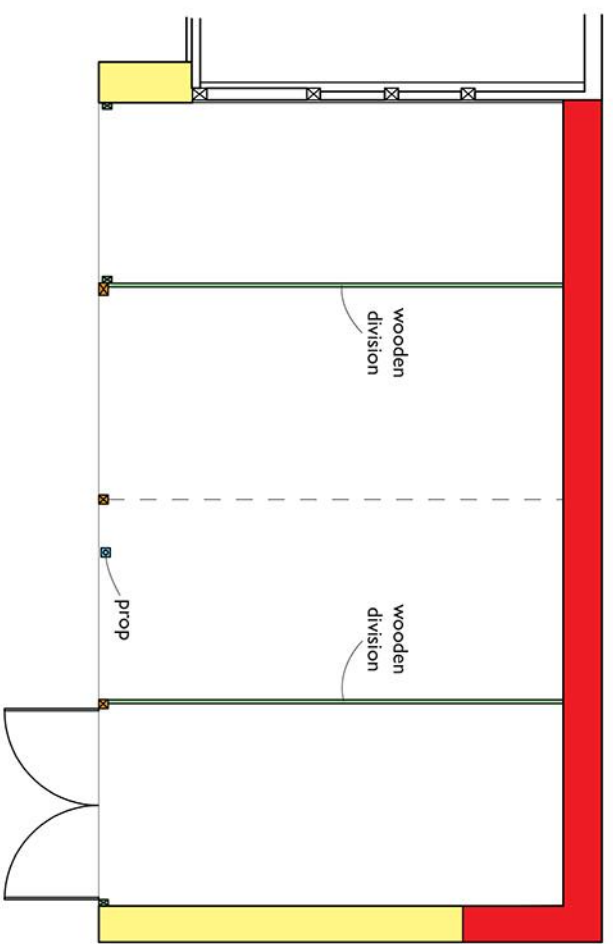
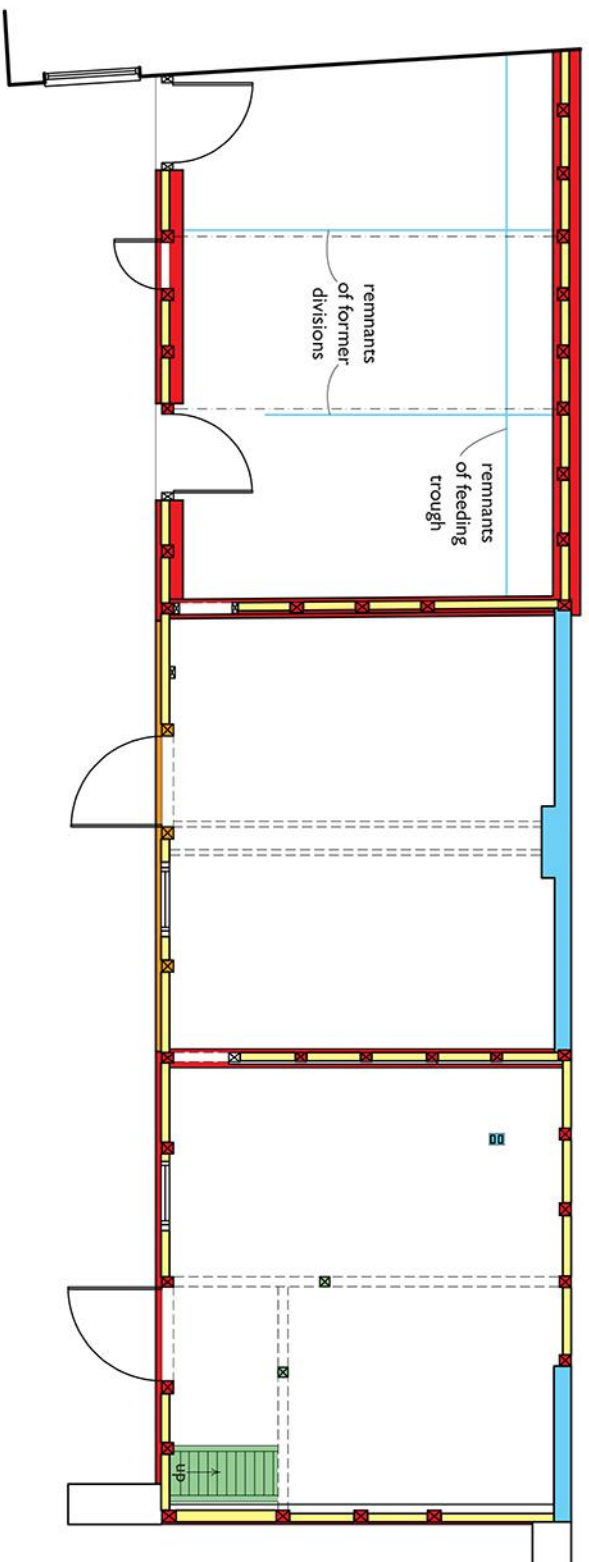


Figure 6
Phased ground plans

Scale at A4 - 1:100

Based on architects drawing
no. 2911/01 by
Gould Singleton Architects

- 17th century
- early 18th century
- mid 18th century
- 19th century
- 20th century

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4.4. 19th century

In the later part of the 19th century, small changes were made to the buildings particularly the cart shed and the eastern end of the timber-frame building. The cart shed had two timber partitions added into the structure to create three individual spaces, the two ends enclosed by double doors (Plate 27). Only the eastern end has its double doors surviving. The partitions were formed of reclaimed wooden panels (Plate 28), possibly from cattle or horse stalls, and were attached to the trusses. It is possible that these spaces were still used for the storage of farm implements and carts with the enclosed spaces used for the house carts rather than for farm carts.



Plate 27 Cart shed, west (no doors) and east (with doors)

It is probably at this time that the upper floor was added into the eastern end of the timber-frame barn to create a space used as a granary with partitions to hold the grain (Plate 29). Given the number of orchards shown on the historic mapping around the farm, it is possible that the upper floor was used for apple storage instead. A hatch was included in the floor to allow the grain or apples to be bagged in the room below. A doorway was also inserted through the adjacent truss to provide access from this space into the first floor of the central section.

4.5. 20th century

In the early 20th century, changes were made to the interior of the timber-frame building. This had been used as a stable and the internal fittings were replaced with concrete and metal fixtures. This suggests that the building was being used for cattle and may have been a cattle stable for draught animals. In the early 20th century, knowledge of cattle diseases increased and wooden fittings for cattle sheds were replaced with ceramic, concrete and metal fittings to cut down the spread of diseases. Only trace evidence for these fittings was still evident in the building. The floors had been replaced with concrete and the west end of the timber-frame building showed evidence of

corrugated metal partitions being set into the concrete and the imprint of where a feeding trough had been.

It seems that both the cart shed roof and the roof of the eastern end of the timber-frame building became unstable during the 20th century. The cart shed frontage is now propped with a metal acrow prop and a number of timber props have been used in the timer-frame building to support a snapped purlin joint.



Plate 28 Cart shed interior division of reused timber panels



Plate 29 Timber-frame building first floor granary or apple store partition

5. Summary and Conclusions

The two adjoining buildings recorded at The Mordaunts consisted of a timber-frame 17th century structure and a stone and brick cart shed. The timber-frame building was first built in the 17th century as part of a farm that was either being created at this time or expanded and was most probably used for hay or straw storage.

The timber-frame building was altered through time, including having its infill panels replaced with brick and a cart shed being attached to the eastern end in the early part of the 18th century. Changes in both buildings reflected the changes that were needed for the farm to develop, with ox stables being created in the barn, partitions being added in the cart shed and later the replacement of fittings to ensure disease was not spread through the draught animals.

This form of organic development of farm buildings is common on any farm across Worcestershire and the Country as a whole. It reflects the continued re-use of utilitarian buildings that was required in a society that did not rely on single use items and structures but adapted without replacing.

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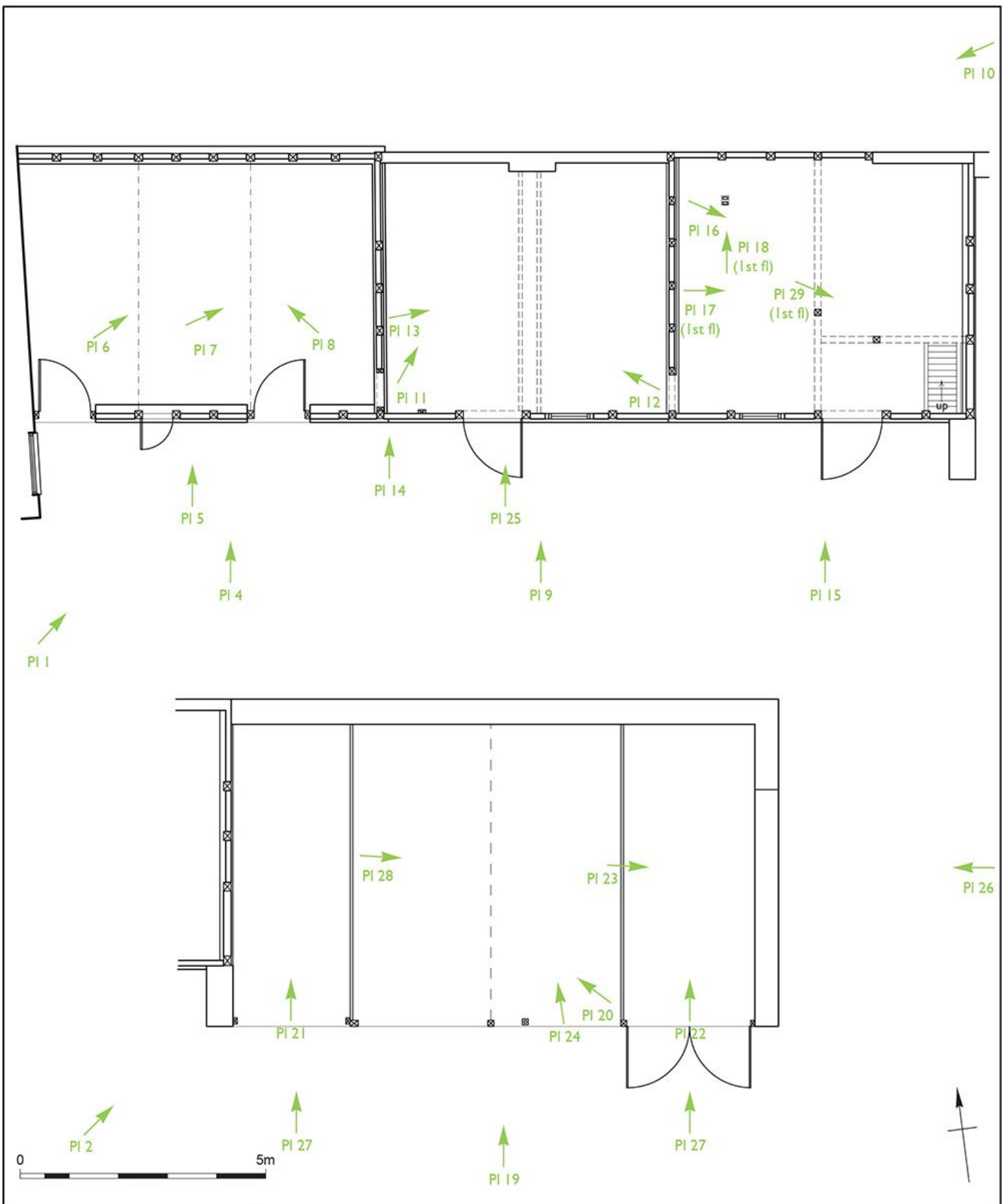


Figure 7
Plate location plan

Scale at A4 - 1:100

Based on architects drawing
no. 2911/01 by
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7. Appendix I: Archive Information

The Archive consists of 110 digital photographs of the site and 4 pages of notes produced on site. Digital copies of the archive will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service.

A copy of the report will be sent to the Historic Environment Record and will be lodged with OASIS the Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigationS.