



*Historic Building Recording of
Former Farm Buildings at
Himbleton Manor,
Worcestershire*

A report for Mrs V Crosbie-Dawson

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Project: PJ 201

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1. Project Background

1.1. Location of the Site

Himbleton lies around 10 kilometres to the north-east of Worcester and may be reached via unadopted lanes off the B4090 Droitwich to Feckenham Road, or from the A422 Worcester to Inkberrow Road (NGR SO 9498 5861; Figure 1). Himbleton Manor lies to the east of the village on the brow of Neight Hill.

1.2. Development Details

A planning application was made to Wychavon District Council for the conversion of existing farm buildings to provide domestic accommodation and associated works (reference W/06/1443). The planning process determined that the proposed development was likely to affect a building(s) locally listed on the Worcestershire County Historic Environment Record (WSM 34973), as a result, the Planning Archaeologist, Worcestershire County Council, placed a 'programme of assessment of buildings' planning condition on the application, in-line with Planning Policy Guidance note 15 (PPG 15). A brief of work was written for the scope of the required recording (WHEAS 2006) and a written scheme of investigation (Mercian Archaeology 2007) for the work was subsequently approved.

1.3. Reasons for the Historic Building Recording

The data contained within the Sites and Monuments Record suggested that the building conversion work would affect a building contained on the local list of historically important buildings. The brief of works states that:

'The development will affect buildings of intrinsic historic interest' (WHEAS 2006).

In such circumstances a programme of archaeological work is attached to planning conditions for any development. In this instance, an *evaluation of historic buildings* was suggested, in order that the buildings would be better understood so that informed decisions may be made regarding any conservation, restoration or further recording strategy.

2. Methods and Process

2.1. Project Specification

- The project conforms to the Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures (IFA 2001).
- The buildings were recorded to at least Level 3 as defined by English Heritage (English Heritage 2006).
- The project conforms to a brief prepared by the Planning Advisory Section, Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council (WHEAS 2006) and for which a project proposal and detailed specification was produced (Mercian Archaeology 2007).
- The project conforms to the service practice and health and safety policy as contained within the Mercian Archaeology Service Manual (Williams 2003)

2.2. Aims of the Project

The aims of the historic building recording were to compile an archive of the building(s) within their topographical setting. This was to consist of both written and photographic records. The results of the fieldwork were to be used to produce a report chronicling changes and development within the building(s) and where possible, to attach relative dates to individual phases of building. The documentary survey was to be used to assist the chronological phasing of the complex and also, to ascribe function and use to the building(s).

2.3. Background Research

Prior to the commencement of fieldwork all known relevant and available documentary and cartographic sources were consulted.

A search of the Worcestershire Historic Environment was commissioned. This identified an area of ridge and furrow agriculture to the south-west of Himbleton Manor (WSM 05631), though the early map evidence suggests that this is more likely an area of former orchard; an earthwork bank (WSM 29954) and an Holloway (WSM 38511), both of unknown date.

Documentary research was carried out at Worcestershire Record Office (WRO) and the following sources were specifically consulted and were of use:

Cartographic Sources

Source	Reference Number
Plan of Himbleton Parish by John Snape (1777)	WRO BA 1691/14, s971.12
Inclosure Plan of Himbleton by John Clarke (circa 1800)	WRO BA 1691/15, s971.12
Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 25". Worcestershire Sheet XXIX.12 (1904)	WRO
Ordnance Survey 25" edition. Worcestershire Sheet XXIX.12 (1928)	WRO

Other Primary Sources of Use

Source	Reference Number
Indenture of 1862, John Jones of Worcester to William Laslett	WRO BA 10153, 850 Himbleton
Schedule of deeds of Manor Farm (late 18 th century to 1908)	WRO BA 10153, 850 Himbleton
Rate Book (1870)	WRO BA 4087, b850 Himbleton

Other Primary Sources Consulted (of little use)

Source	Reference Number
Plans of Himbleton (1848)	WRO BA 12058, 971.2
Manor Farm documents	WRO BA 7977/1, 899:627
Himbleton sale particulars	WRO BA 9526/65, b705:1041
Schedule of documents deposited by the Dean and Chapter of Worcester	WRO 2602/92, 009:1

Secondary sources used are referenced within the report.

2.4. The Fieldwork Methodology

The building recording was undertaken between in October 2007 prior to any development work being carried out at the site.

A full photographic survey was carried out using digital photography. Either a 2-metre or 1-metre scale was used where possible.

The methodology adopted and the working conditions meant that the aims and objectives of the brief could be fully met and the fieldwork was successfully concluded.

3. The Documentary Research

3.1. General Background

The parish of Himbleton extends to around 2,400 acres with its lands irrigated by the Dean Brook, which is a tributary of the Bow Brook, with a second tributary, the Little Brook, forming the southern parish boundary. The soils are predominantly of clay, ideally suited to the growing of wheat, barley and beans (VCH III) and horticulture (Pitt 1913).

The present village is laid out along the approach road to the church, with ribbon development along the east-west road at the southern side of the village. The buildings are predominantly 18-19th century, but many earlier timber-framed buildings survive. The principal buildings are the parish church of St Mary Magdalene, Court Farm, Manor Farm, Shell Manor Farm, Brook Farm and Himbleton Manor.

It is recorded that the monks of Worcester held land at Himbleton as early as 1248 and that by 1378 the prior of Worcester leased the manor of Himbleton to William Hull for the term of thirty years at a rental of £14 2s. 8d (VCH III). The manor remained in the possession of the prior until the dissolution of the priory in 1539-40. The Dean and Chapter of Worcester were granted the manor following the dissolution, but they were relieved of it in 1654, when it was sold by order of Parliament. to Nicholas Lockyer, a chaplain of Oliver Cromwell. It was returned to the Dean and Chapter in 1692 following the reformation and remained in their ownership until it passed to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in 1859, who held the manor into the 20th century (VCH III).

3.2. Cartographic Evidence

The earliest available map of Himbleton was the 1777 plan surveyed and drawn by John Snape (WRO BA 1691/14, s971.12). This shows that Himbleton Manor had not yet been built and that the land upon which it stands was part of an open field called 'Stocking Field', which was farmed in strips as part of the open field system of the parish. The present access routes to the manor house are shown on the map as field tracks, the north-south access track divided the strips into Short Furlong to the west and Long Furlong to the east. The subject buildings now stand in an area shown on the map as 'orchard', adjacent to the east-west access track. The land is shown as in the ownership of the Dean and Chapter and leased to various tenants. Unfortunately, the map could not be reproduced in this report due to copyright restrictions.

The map of Himbleton dating from around 1800 (WRO BA 1691/15, s971.12) shows that the land had by now been inclosed (enclosed), with the subject land now in the tenancy of an individual, instead of worked as strips in furlongs by various tenants. The tenant (of the Dean and Chapter) is shown as James Lambe. The subject buildings have not yet been built. Unfortunately, the map could not be reproduced in this report due to copyright restrictions.

A plan of the subject land is included in an indenture between John Jones and William Laslett, dated to 1862 (WRO BA 10153, 850 Himbleton). The map shows the land now further divided and presents the fieldnames 'Pleck', 'Middle Hill', 'Wassett Ground', 'The Big Hill' and 'Middle Ground'. The indenture shows that Laslett paid £4700 for the holding from Jones. Himbleton Manor has still yet to be built. Unfortunately, the plan could not be reproduced in this report due to copyright restrictions.

There was no 25" to 1 mile scale 1st edition Ordnance Survey plan of the area available at the records office, though a copy of the 6" to 1 mile 1885 map provided with the commissioned Historic Environment Record search shows Himbleton Manor now established and depicted as 'Manor Farm'. The house is depicted on the southern side of the east-west access road, with an E shaped range of buildings on the opposite northern side. The buildings are surrounded on all sides by orchard. The 'Jubilee Rooms' building, which also forms part of this project, has not been constructed by this time. Unfortunately, due to copyright restrictions this plan could not be reproduced.

The later 25" to 1 mile 1904 Ordnance Survey map shows the buildings in a similar configuration as the earlier plan, it also shows that the Jubilee Rooms building had now been built (Figure 2). The later edition of 1928 (Figure 3) shows a similar layout.

3.3. Specific Background

The documentary sources were a little confusing, in that there is reference made to Manor Farm, which appears to refer to holdings at Court Farm, whereas the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map shows Himbleton Manor as 'Manor Farm'. There is also reference in the Himbleton archives, to a Manor Farm at Dunhampton. The following paragraphs include information, which can only be applied to Himbleton Manor / Manor Farm.

A schedule of deeds relating to Manor Farm indicate that it was formed from portions of Church Farm, Court Farm estate, Hornhill, Wedgeburys and Held Woods; William Laslett acquired the lands in 1868 from various tenants of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, including John Pigeon Cottrill and Douglas Gallon (WRO BA 10153, 850 Himbleton). The physical evidence from the site indicates that the subject buildings were built in 1868 (see below) and Lasletts' purchase of the lands which formed the new estate in the same year indicate that he was likely responsible for the construction of Himbleton Manor and the farm buildings.

The 1870 Rate Book for Himbleton shows that the holding was then leased to Thomas Meredith Hopkins and owned by D. Galton esq and was described as 'Manor House' (WRO BA 4087, b850 Himbleton).

The 1871 census records the property as 'new manor house' and lists the occupants as Jane Husband, with her sons Thomas, Henry and Albert, and daughters Ann and Jane. Jane senior is listed as 'a farmer of 93 acres'.

Littlebury's Trade Directory of 1879 lists Thomas Meredith Hopkins, farmer and hop grower of Lower Wick, as holding Court Farm and Manor House Farm, Himbleton, as well as Glebe

Farm and Earl's Common Farm. This appears to suggest that Hopkins leased the farm from Galton and was sub-letting the holdings.

The 1881 census does not refer to the manor house, but lists 'Manor Farm'. It records William Best as farm bailiff, Ann Wall as housekeeper and grand children Ann, Rose, Victor and Hugh Ledbury as also incumbent.

The 1884 Kelly's Trade Directory shows that Captain Douglas Galton was now incumbant at Himbleton Manor and William Best was his farm bailiff. This suggests that at the time of the 1881 census the house was possibly undergoing works so that the Galton family could take up their seat at Himbleton Manor.

The 1891 census shows that Douglas Galton resided at the manor with his wife Marianne, daughter Laura and six servants. William Best was still farm bailiff and lived in the adjacent cottage.

Douglas Galton was an eminent engineer, scientist and pioneer of social reform. He joined the army in 1840 at the age of 18 and embarked upon a diverse military career, which included inventing an electric spark mechanism detonator for gunpowder charges, carrying out research into the use of iron for railway appliances, and developing an expertise in submarine telegraphy. Perhaps more importantly, he became a leading member of the Army Sanitary Committee who gave advice on improving sanitary conditions, both within military contexts and within the public domain. It therefore seems ironic that he died in 1899 at the age of 77, from blood poisoning (<http://www.loxtonsomerset.org.uk/people/lhstgt03.html>).

Kelly's Directory of 1904 shows Lady Galton to be resident at Himbleton Manor. Albert Fincher is listed as farm bailiff and Sampson Fincher as head gardener. By 1912, Kelly's Directory lists Mrs Gascoigne at Himbleton Manor, with Sampson Fincher still as head gardener. The schedule of deeds for Manor Farm (WRO BA 0153, 850 Himbleton) indicates that Mrs Trench Gascoigne took out a mortgage on the property in 1909. This must have been Douglas Galtons' daughter Laura, who married Colonel Frederick Richard Thomas Trench-Gascoigne in 1862, taking the name Trench-Gascoigne. In 1924 Cynthia, daughter of Laura and Frederick Trench-Gascoigne married Major Arthur Fitzgerald Sandys-Hill and it seems that the property ownership was then transferred to the name Sandys-Hill.

3. The Historic Building Recording

The subject buildings are identified in Figure 4. The buildings are arranged in an 'E' plan form, with a northern range and east, west and central ranges. The Jubilee Rooms building stands to the north-east of the complex. The buildings are described below.

The Northern Range

The northern range consists of a central two-storey element with flanking single storey units at each end; the whole is of one build (Plates 1 and 2). The structure is of 9" x 3" handmade bricks laid in a common bond, with three courses of stretchers sandwiched between header courses, bonded in a gritty, buff coloured lime mortar. Architectural detailing is limited to dentilated eaves and cornice, rough segmental brick arched lintels above lower windows and doors; upper windows have plain brick lintels. Roof cover is of plain handmade clay tile. Original doors have pegged frames with chamfers and stops (Plate 3).

The two-storey section of the range is split internally into three bays, all of different proportions (see Figure 5), each accessed from the other by a single personnel door at lower level, with further doors at each end allowing access to the single storey elements of the ranges. The upper floor is divided into two lofts, with access via stairs in the central bay (Plate 4) and access between the two via a landing above the stairs. A further bridge between the two upper rooms has been inserted into the same bay. It is likely that the stairs and landing are also an insertion, as the bay originally represented a loading bay, with cart access from the northern side; this doorway has now been modified, providing windows and a single door to the central section, with an external porch. The floor of the former loading bay retains its original 12" x 6" blue engineering brick floor. The evidence suggesting that the stairs and bridges are inserted, is that their locations would foul the useable space in the loading bay and the internal openings at upper level, which would have been used as access for loading onto carts below (Plate 5).

There is a further blocked cart door to the northern elevation (at the western end), which gave access for a small cart into the end bay. This was blocked, probably in the late 19th or early 20th century, and a window inserted (Plate 6); it seems likely that this was carried out at the same time that the central doorway was modified and the stairs and bridges were inserted. This suggests a change in use of space at this time, which much have been related to a contemporary change in farming practice.

There is no evidence to suggest that any of the windows other than that referred to above, are later insertions into the building, indicating that light into the building was important. A series of rectangular vents (now covered) are also part of the original build, with one added when the north-western cart doors were blocked (Plate 6), which also indicates that ventilation was important to original function.

The roof structure is supported on typical 'off the shelf' king post trusses, with the post bolted from below the tiebeam into a nut inserted into a rebate in the post. Struts brace the truss from the tiebeam and from the king post to positions on the principal rafters below the purlins,

which are supported by cleats nailed to the principals (Plate 7). Further light is allowed into the upper floor space via roof lights, which may be original.

The single storey elements of the range have no light or access from the northern side (the fields side). The western unit represents a former 4 bay open fronted implement / cart shed, with a stable taking up the bay which butts the double storey unit; the evidence suggests that the eastern unit was formerly used as a secure storage area, though the former usage can only be determined from the configuration of doors (Plate 8). There are a pair of double doors below an RSJ lintel, which would allow cart / vehicle access, and a single personnel door and window. A concrete floor adjacent to the double doors has replaced the original brick floor. It is difficult to determine whether the double doors are inserted, as there is conflicting evidence; the use of the RSJ below the cornice seems anomalous and suggests insertion, though RSJ's (rolled steel joist) were available from 1866 and an RSJ is used as a lintel in the central range (see below). The evidence suggesting insertion comes from analysis of the brickwork to the east of the doors. The brickwork at the single doorframe ends in full bricks, with bats (cut brick spacers) used within the adjacent brickwork, in comparison the brickwork at the double doors frame ends with bats against the frame. This evidence is however countered, as a pair of kerbs curve from the present stonework driveway and aim directly towards the double doors (Plate 9).

Both single-storey units are constructed in the same style and materials as the central unit and are part of the same phase of building.

The Eastern Range

The eastern range is now used for garaging and storage of gardening equipment (Plate 10); its original use was as a cart shed, with an inserted loft room used as an overseers office (Plate 11). The structure is of similar materials and style to the northern range, with a handmade clay tile roof over brick and mortar walls in a common bond. The eastern side of the unit was originally open, with the wall plate supported on a series of 5 timber posts, each chamfered and stopped, forming 5 cart bays, with the southern end bay secured by a partition wall. There are a pair of cart doors to the front (east) of the enclosed bay, with a former side (south) access door, which was bricked up, probably in the early 20th century. Further modification / alteration to the unit can be seen in the adjacent bay, where an upper floor has been inserted; this is only above this single bay, supported by the dividing wall and the inserted wall that divides the 2nd and 3rd bays. The upper floor is accessed via a contemporary door and stairs from the eastern side. The upper space appears to have been used as an overseers or farm bailiffs' office; a bailiff is referred to at the farm in all the early trade directories (referred to above). The space is furnished with a fireplace, with a chimney springing from halfway up the original dividing wall. This suggests that there was originally an upper floor and that the inserted dividing wall, stairs and present floor are replacements for the earlier structure, which would probably have been accessed by a ladder and open on the present cart bay side, thus oversailing the original cart bay below. There is further modification at the northern end, with the former open front now covered across to provide security for the present workshop and a pair of large six-light timber framed window units inserted into the northern gable to introduce light to the enclosed space (Plate 12).

The rear (west) of the range is butted by a full-length lean-to, which joins the northern range and a rectangular projection from the opposite (southern) end of the eastern range (Plate 13 and 14). This is a later addition to the build; the map evidence suggests a date of around 1900 for its construction. It differs from the original buildings in that it utilises a single Flemish

bond in its walling, though the access door is identical to the original units from elsewhere at the site, with chamfered and stopped door frames and pegged joints. This suggests re-use of materials. Original use of this space is unknown, but as there is a loft over, it is a possibility that it was used as a stable, possibly for a riding horse. The lean-to element has a corrugated roof, with the roofline raised at a central bay, providing cover for a large cart or possibly the best trap (Plate 15).

The Central Range

The central range is contemporary with the original build and is constructed in similar materials and style, with common bond brickwork, king-post trusses and a clay tile roof cover (Plates 15 and 16). The southern gable end confirms the documentary sources (see above) that the buildings were constructed in 1868, as the date is depicted in vitrified blue brick within the wall (Plate 17). The single storey space is divided into three, with a pair of stables at the southern end and a longer unit butting the northern range. This has two pairs of double doors, the southernmost below an RSJ; again it is difficult to determine if the doors are inserted, as any modification must have been very well carried out. There is 16 light sash window, which provides light from the east, with no windows to the opposite western elevation. The position of bats close to the sash window suggests that it is a later insertion.

Internally, the structure has a brick floor, with access doors to a former feeding passage at the rear (west) of the former stables and an exit door to the west.

The Western Range

The western range was originally detached from the northern range; this area has now been enclosed with a corrugated roof supported on RSJ's, with a double door inserted into the western gable end of the northern range, also below an RSJ (Plate 18). The evidence suggests that this area was originally a walled yard (see maps, Figures 2 and 3), which would have been associated with small stables at the northern end of the western range. The 1904 map shows the piggery fronted by a series of small yards; these have now gone but can be detected from the remains of walls at ground level and within the western elevation wall of the build (Plates 19 and 20). The piggery is a long low structure with an inserted access door providing a personnel entrance. The roof cover is supported on rafters and ridge piece, with selected pairs of rafters cross-braced to give the roof some stability.

Some time after 1904, a small rectangular building was constructed abutting the northern end of the piggery (Plate 21). This appears to have formed a pair of stables, though the area is smaller than would be expected, perhaps suggesting they were intended for ponies or foals; the spaces now have limited access and are used as a generator house. An 'owl hole' in the southern gable indicates that there was originally a hayloft above; owls were encouraged to assist in keeping down rodent levels.

A further block at the southern end completes the western range. This was constructed in similar style and materials as the remainder of the original fabric of the site and housed a pair of separate rooms, probably for the production and storage of foodstuffs for the animals. There is a hearth in the inner space (northernmost) below the remains of a chimney; this was probably used for boiling pigswill and providing heat for other animal feed processing functions (Plate 22).

The Jubilee Rooms (Assembly Rooms)

The Jubilee Rooms, or 'Assembly Rooms', is a separate building on the north-eastern side of the site (Plates 23 to 26). It first appears on the Ordnance Survey map of 1904 and according to the present gardener at Himbleton Manor, it was built for Queen Victoria's jubilee, though it is not known if this was the 1887 Golden Jubilee, or the 1897 Diamond Jubilee. The rooms were subsequently used as an assembly hall for the villagers of Himbleton.

The building consists of a single storey main assembly room, with a first floor bedroom over a kitchen at the western end. There is a small square single storey heated room at the north-west corner, with a lean-to covered store along the northern side, a similar covered store along the eastern elevation, with a small toilet block at the south-east corner (Figure 7).

There is a chimneypiece with hearths serving the kitchen, bedroom and assembly hall, with a further chimney and hearth in the square room at the north-west corner. A further corner chimney can be seen in the north-eastern corner of the assembly room, though this does not have a hearth (suggesting it has been bricked up- though this cannot be seen) and does not project through the roof, though there is no evidence that it ever did.

The main assembly room is a 3" brick curtain wall and pier construction in a common bond with every fourth course of Flemish headers. There are a series of large six light iron-framed windows to the southern side and a similar window unit to the eastern gable end; the lack of windows to the northern side indicates that the lean-to on this side is original. The roof cover is of clay tile supported on purlins carried by a series of factory produced collar trusses, with the collar attached to the principal rafters with iron braces; there are iron tension braces between the base of each principal. The trusses are supported on corbels formed by upturned bullnose bricks at the top of each pier (Plate 27). The roof is sark boarded out below the tiles. The space has a parquet floor of hardwood blocks in a herringbone style.

The kitchen and bedroom block is a taller build than the assembly room, but part of the same structure and contemporary. A lobby encloses stairs to the bedroom and the main entrance to the assembly room. A 16 light cast-iron window lights the bedroom with a central opening vent, the hearth has long since been bricked up. The room still houses a single cast-iron bed (Plate 28). The kitchen below retains its hearth and original 6-light iron window (Plate 29).

The square building at the north-western corner still retains its hearth, though the grate has been removed. The single cell unit is lit by a 6-light window unit (Plate 30). The room has lately been used as a store, but traditionally it may have been used as a day room for the head gardener, though there is no definitive evidence for its purpose.

4. Phasing of the Buildings and Dating

Discussion of the Fabric and Dating Evidence

Accurate dating of farm buildings is often problematic as dateable architectural features are often changed, modified or re-used. This is usually more pronounced within commercial or agricultural buildings than in domestic architecture. It may also be that architectural fashion takes longer to manifest itself within the fabric of buildings reserved for animals or produce. Consequently, any evidence for close dating is problematic without substantiating documentary evidence. In such instance, the dating and phasing of the buildings has to be subjective. Where brick farm buildings are dated to within a quarter of a century without substantiating documentary or cartographic evidence, a certain amount of conjecture will almost certainly have been used. It is sometimes possible to date domestic architecture (approximately) using brick typology. Generally, bricks got gradually larger between the 16th and 18th centuries and in 1784 a brick tax was introduced, resulting in standardised 3” bricks. However, this typology cannot be relied upon in agricultural buildings, as materials were frequently re-used; at Himbleton Manor, however, it would appear that there was no re-use of materials from earlier than the earliest visible phase of building, the bricks used were all 3” items.

The documentary and physical evidence shows that the complex was built in 1868, with minor additions around 1900 and later modifications. The Jubilee Rooms were built for Queen Victoria’s jubilee in 1887 or 1897; suggested phasing is shown in Figures 5 and 7.

5. Discussion

Much has been written regarding the ‘progression’ of farming, although the majority relates to the agricultural revolution of the late 18th and 19th centuries, when there was large scale parliamentary enclosure resulting in change of use of vast tracts of land, although inclosure (enclosure) was well under way during the previous two-centuries (English Heritage 1997, 3), and the vast majority focuses on traditional farming (agriculture and animal husbandry) rather than making analysis of diversity. Himbleton Manor today produces fruit and honey for the open market and it appears from the evidence that this was also the type of farming carried out traditionally. The range of buildings do not fall into the well-documented format of a farm complex with a foldyard, barn, granary, animal sheds, cartsheds and associated lofts and pens, though the complex may appear to fit this format when viewed on a map.

The buildings at Himbleton represent a range of buildings, which appear to have originally been built specifically for horticultural purposes, and used for the same purpose ever since. The two-storey unit of the northern range resembles a barn in shape and size, though there are

crucial differences, with cart-doors only to one side (the northern fields side), whereas a barn would have opposing cart doors; windows to both upper and lower areas, a barn would have vents, but would not need windows, and the ground floor space is split with individual access doors to each, not a requirement of a barn. Though there is no definitive evidence, it is suggested here that the upper floors represent former fruit drying lofts, where fruit would have been laid out on straw to dry. William Pitt, in his 'General View of the Agriculture of the County of Worcester (1813) refers to the difference between 'mill fruit' (that destined for the cider or perry mill), which would have been stored in piles outside, and table fruit (that for sale in the open market), which would have been laid out in 'large rooms on a bed of straw to dry' (Pitt 1813, 155). Carts containing the picked fruit would have unloaded from the central cart bay. The lower floor rooms were likely to have been used for packing and sorting the produce and possibly storage of crates and baskets etc. Ponies and carts would have been an important part of the production and distribution process and there are cart sheds in the northern and eastern ranges, with associated stables. Other parts of the buildings would also have been used for storage and despatch of fruit and with areas most likely reserved for honey production processes. There is no evidence for the manor farm having its own cider mill and press, but this would seem likely as cider provided farm labourers with drink, which was often used as part payment, and there was a developing market for the resale of ciders and perry's during the 19th century (Pitt 1813, 170).

So the evidence points to the farm having been built specifically for the purpose of fruit production, though there are smaller elements which point to a 'self-sufficiency' approach, rather than agriculture on a commercial scale; the building to the south of the complex (adjacent to the house) is most likely a former granary over cart shed, with external steps to the loft (now removed); pigs were kept in the western range and it is most likely that chickens were kept in the yard. There is no evidence for technological progression at the farm, or indication that progressive farming methods were adopted, which would have seen the farm, industrialised, with a developed high input / high output strategy (Wade Martins 1991, 62).

The construction of the Jubilee Rooms, a place for social gathering of the villagers, is a testament to the philanthropic nature of the former owner of Himbleton Manor, Sir Douglas Galton, who was thought highly of by the villagers (Poultney & Poultney 2002) and according to the written evidence spent much of his life in the pursuance of making the lives of others better

6. Conclusion

The results of the historic building recording at Himbleton Manor determined that the present architecturally planned farm-buildings complex primarily dates from 1868, with further building around 1900 and modification and alteration into the 20th century. The Jubilee Rooms building was built to commemorate Queen Victoria's jubilee of 1887 or 1897 and was used as an assembly room for the local villagers and sponsored by the owner of Himbleton Manor, Sir Douglas Galton. The farm specialised in fruit (and possibly honey) production and the buildings were designed and built specifically for this purpose. This was rare as usually farms diversified, carrying out agriculture alongside horticulture.

The documentary evidence for the site was scant, other than providing a specific date of construction and a list of owners and occupiers. This and the lack of features at the farm specific to individual processes of fruit production, means that the suggested use of space is somewhat speculative.

7. Acknowledgements

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Worcestershire

Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Section (WHEAS 2006)
Requirements for evaluating Historic Farm Buildings at Himbleton Manor, Worcestershire

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Plate 1: The northern range, looking south-east



Plate 2: The northern range (right of picture) looking north-west



Plate 3: Original door with chamfered and stopped frame



Plate 4: The central cart bay of the northern range, looking north



Plate 5: Stairs, landing (right) and bridge (left) in the cart bay of the northern range



Plate 6: Blocked doorway with later inserted window in the north elevation of the northern range



Plate 7: Truss in the northern range, typical of those used elsewhere at the site



Plate 8: Possible inserted double doors in single storey element of the northern range



Plate 9: Stone drive heads towards double doors of east part of the northern range



Plate 10: The eastern range looking south-west



Plate 11: Hearth in the overseers' office in the eastern range



Plate 12: Inserted windows in the northern gable of the eastern range



Plate 13: Lean-to on the western side of the eastern range



Plate 14: Extension to the eastern range (left of gable)



Plate 15: The central range looking west



Plate 16: Central range looking north-east



Plate 17: The date 1868 on the southern gable of the central range



Plate 18: Covered area, which joins the northern range and the western range (right of photo)



Plate 19: Former piggy in the western range



Plate 20: Scar of former wall of pigsty, indicating door is a later insertion



Plate 21: Stable block in the north-west corner of the complex, with later wall (right)



Plate 22: Feed processing block at the southern end of the western range



Plate 23: The Jubilee Rooms looking north



Plate 24: The kitchen and bedroom block of the Jubilee Rooms, looking north-east



Plate 25: The Jubilee Rooms looking east



Plate 26: The Jubilee Rooms looking west



Plate 27: Roof truss in the assembly room



Plate 28: Bedroom above the kitchen in the Jubilee Rooms

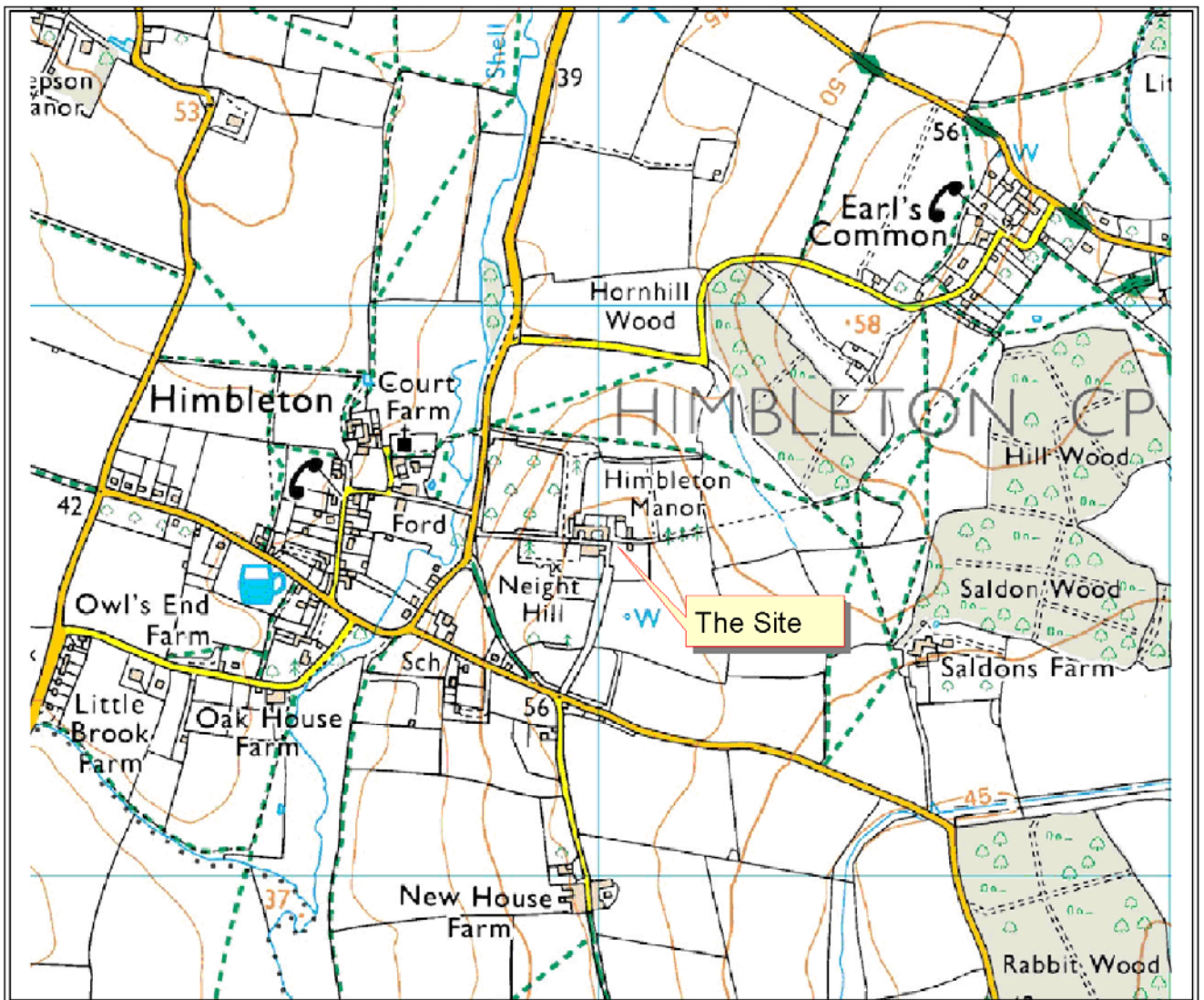
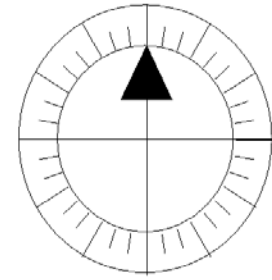
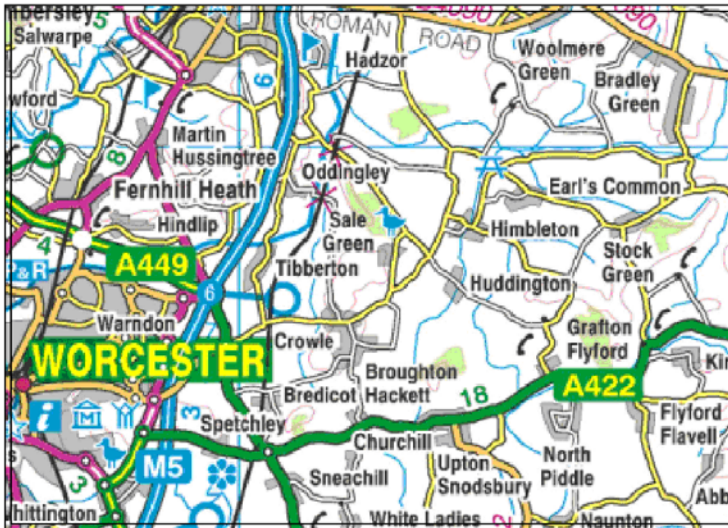
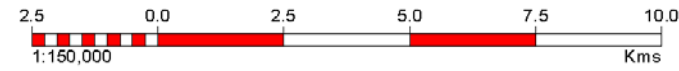


Plate 29: Jubilee Rooms kitchen area



Plate 30: Jubilee Rooms annexe

Figure 1: Location of the Site

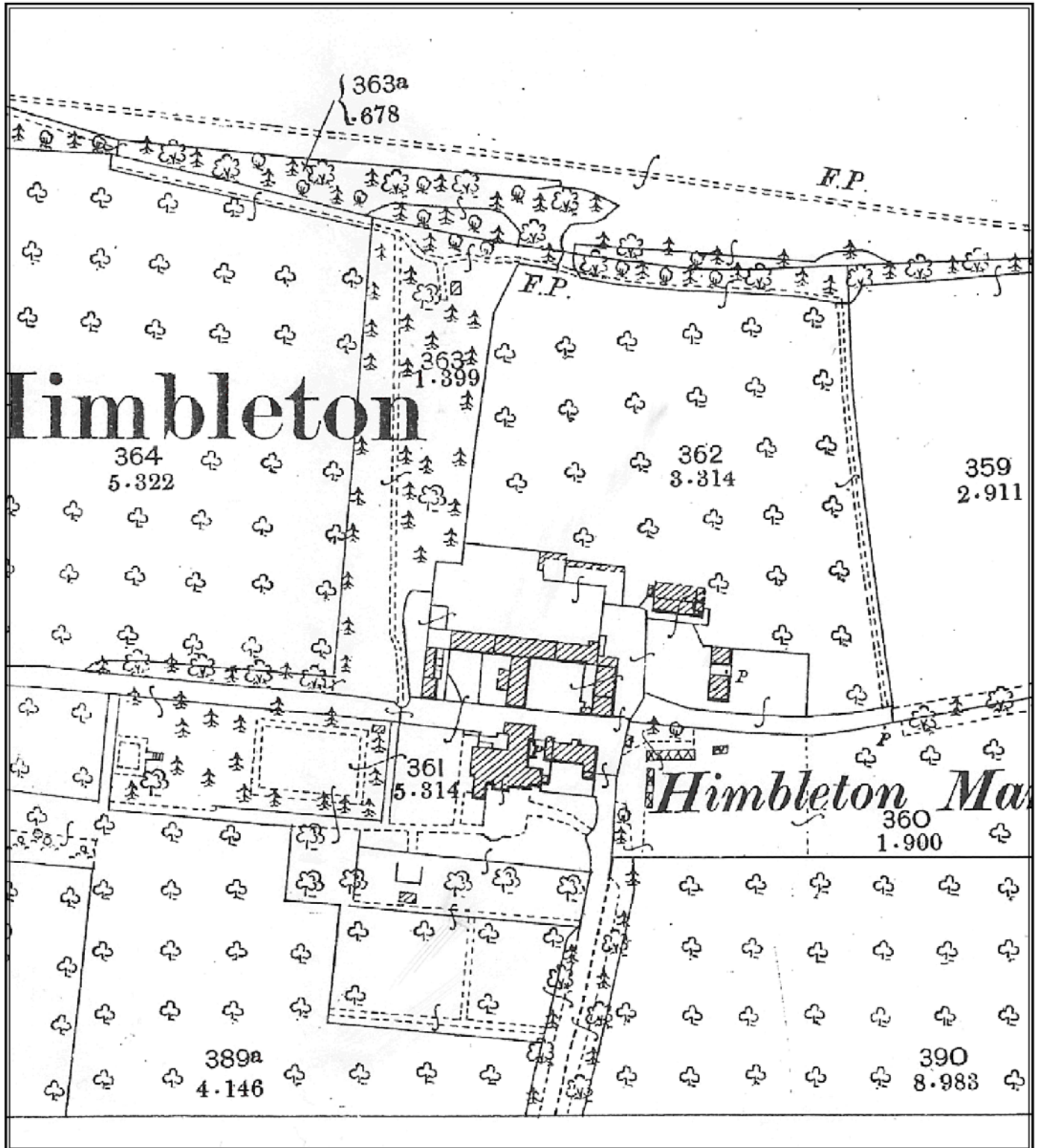


Location of the site at Himbleton,
Worcestershire

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Figure 2: 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey (1904)



The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map showing Himbleton Manor

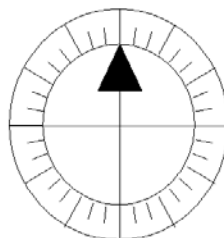
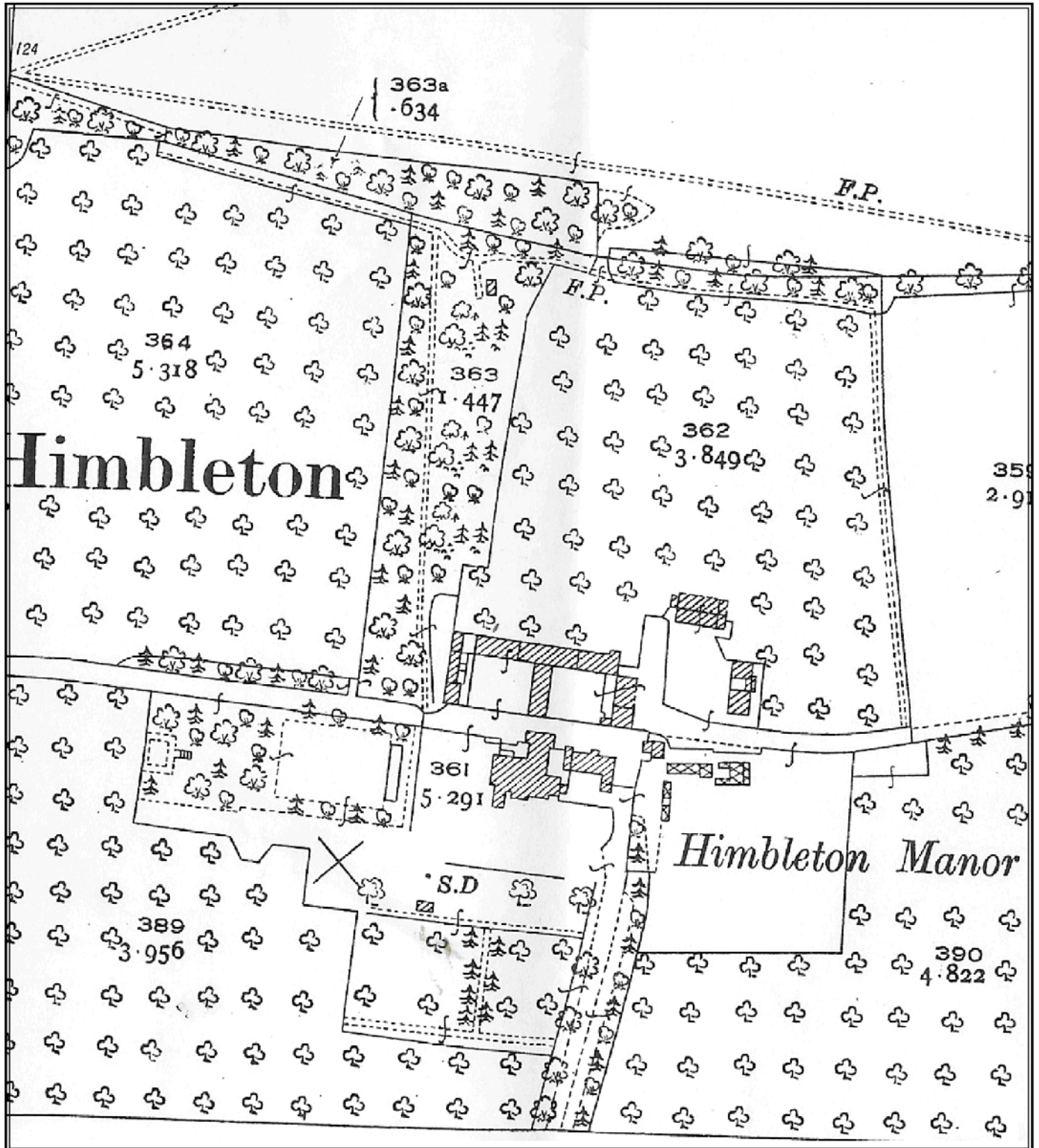
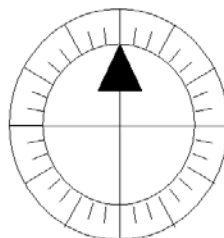


Figure 3: 1928 Edition Ordnance Survey Map



The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map showing Himbleton Manor



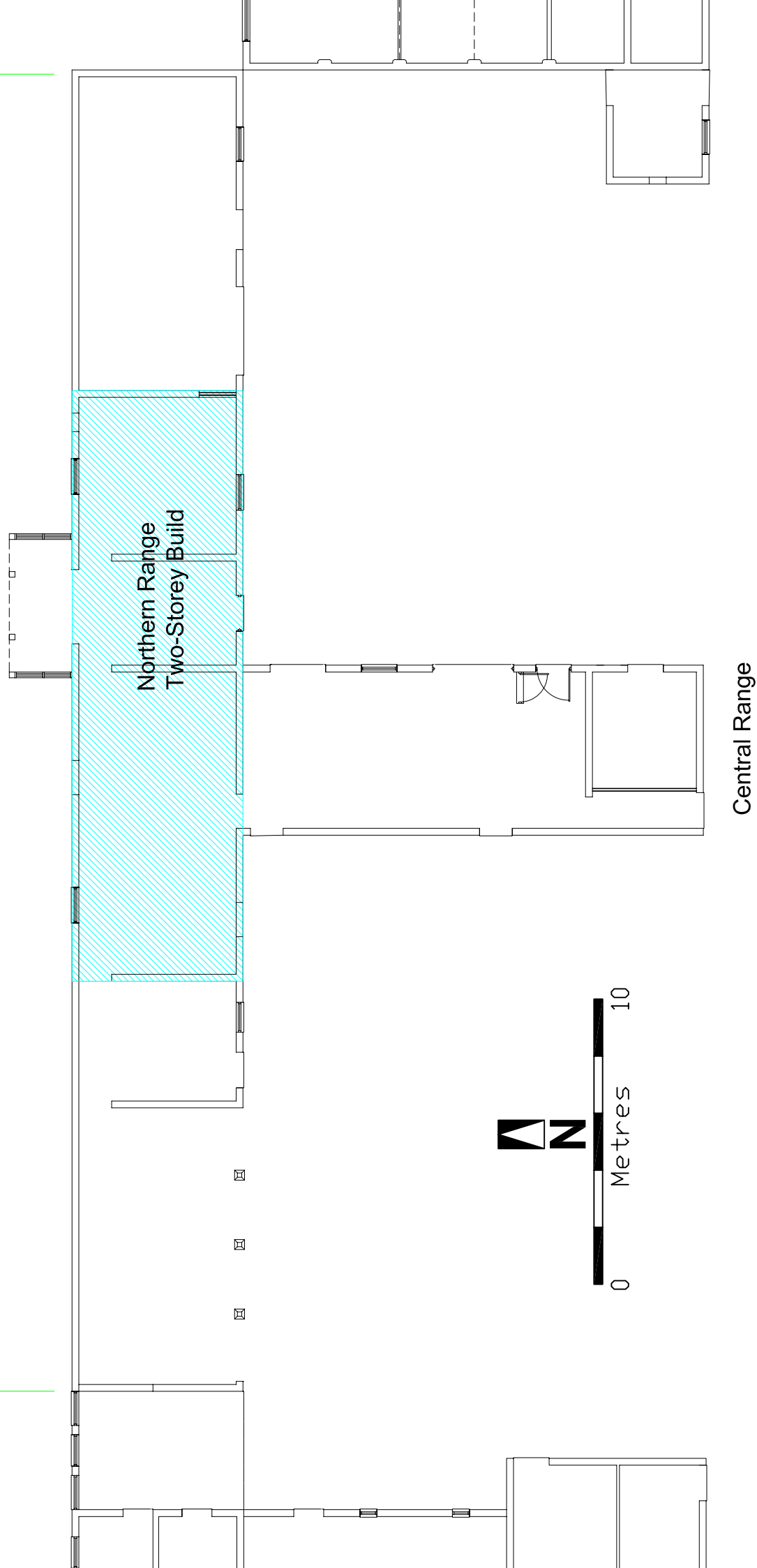
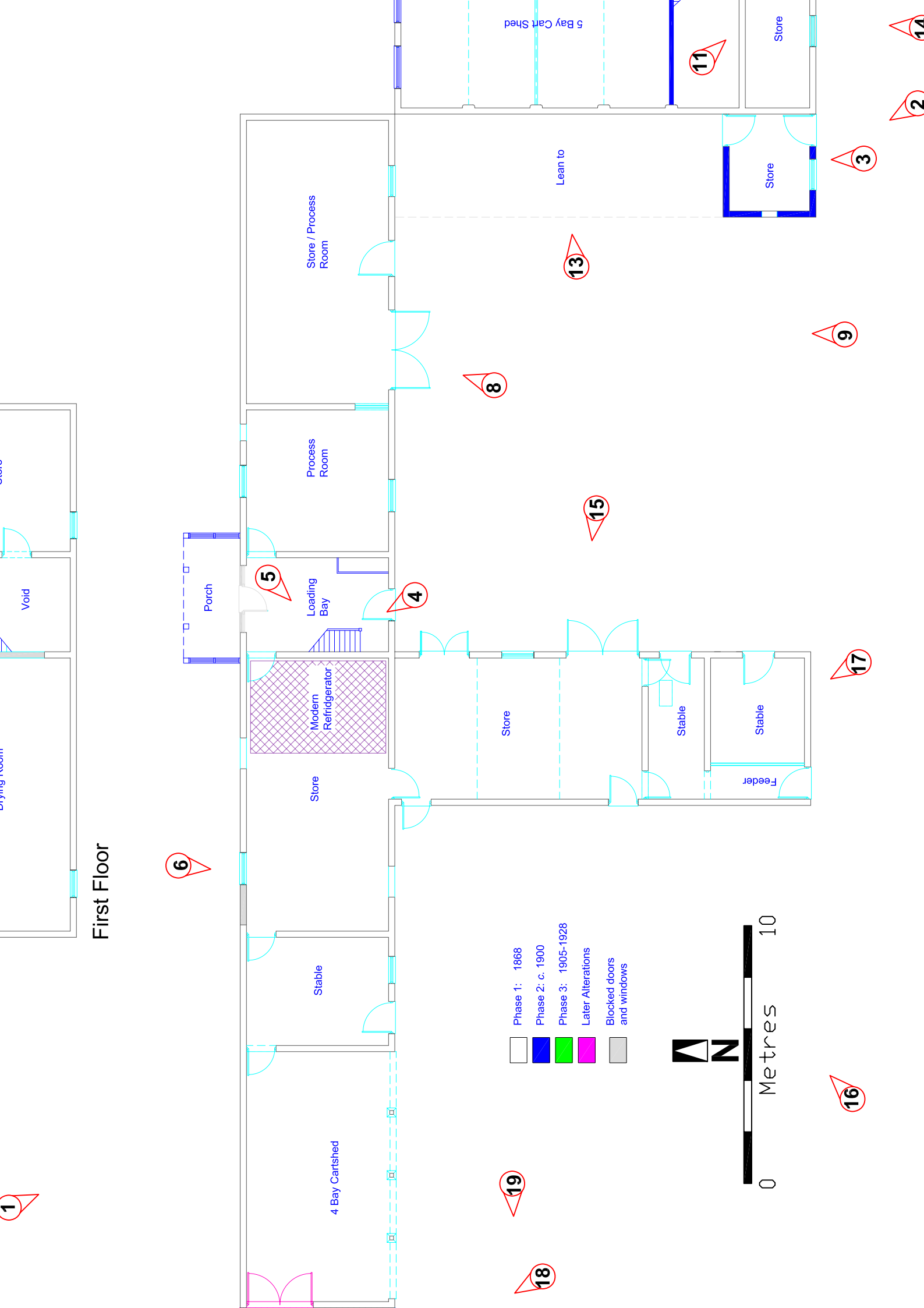
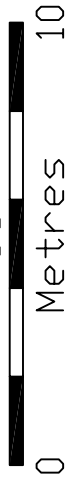


Figure 4: Identification of Elements of the Farm Buildings as referred to in Text (Original drawing by Fisher)



First Floor

- Phase 1: 1868
- Phase 2: c. 1900
- Phase 3: 1905-1928
- Later Alterations
- Blocked doors and windows



1

6

5

4

8

15

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11

9

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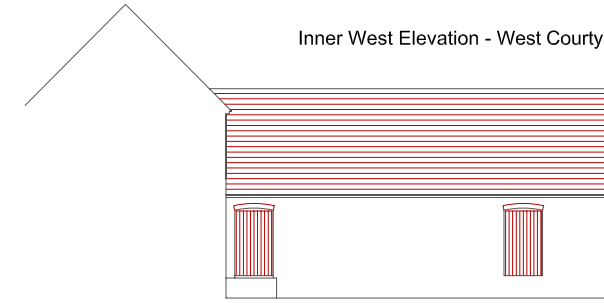
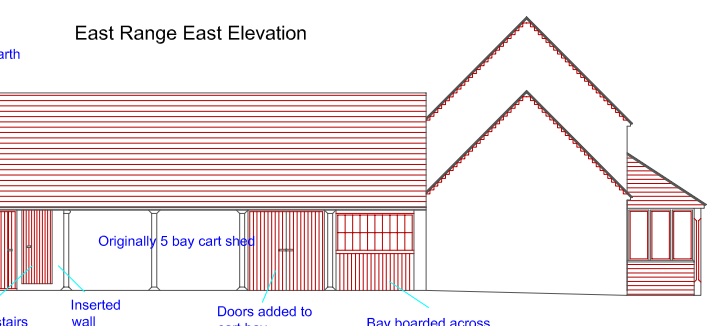
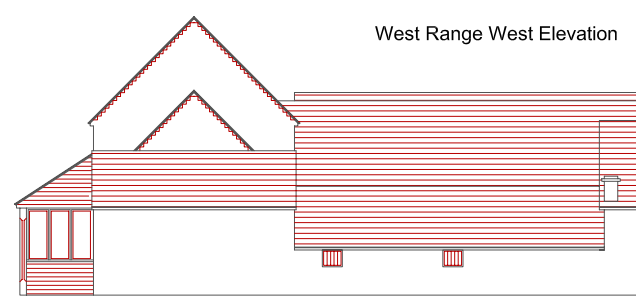
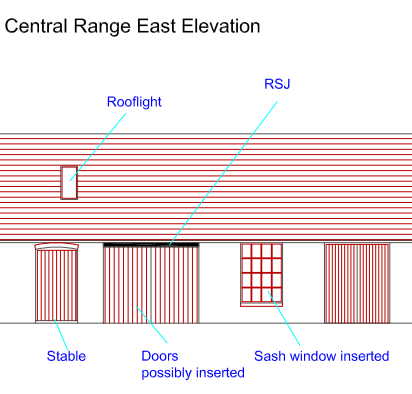
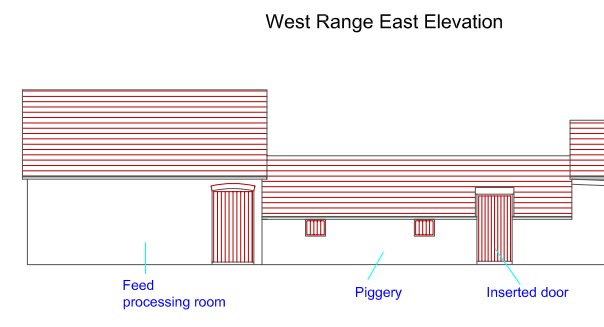
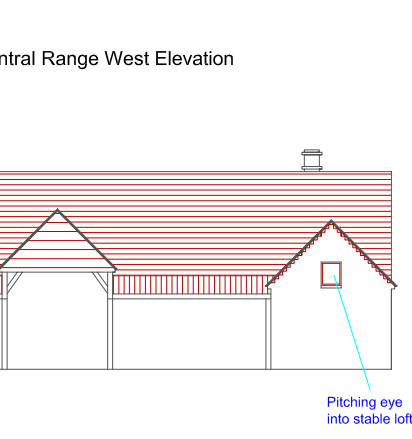
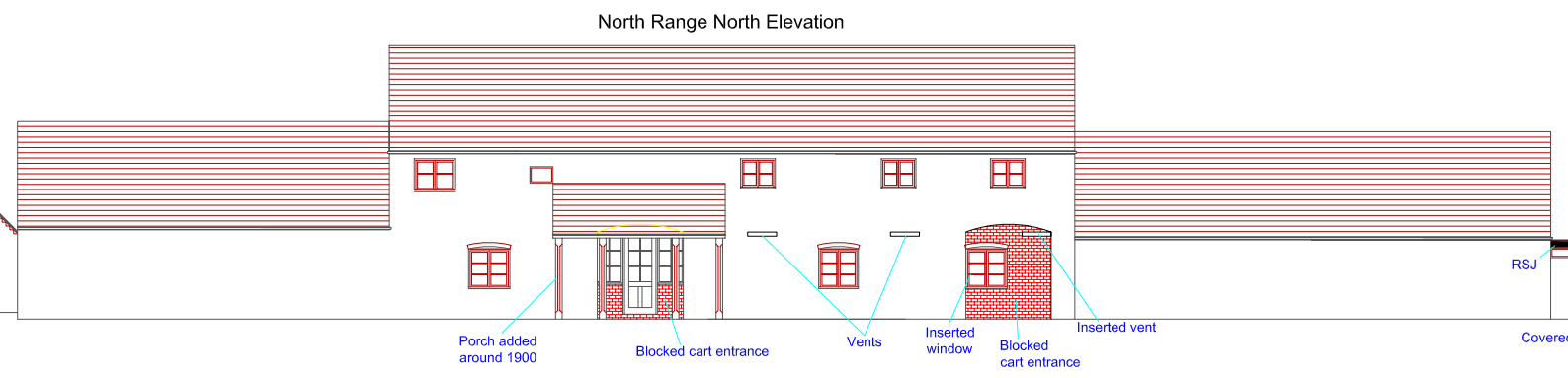
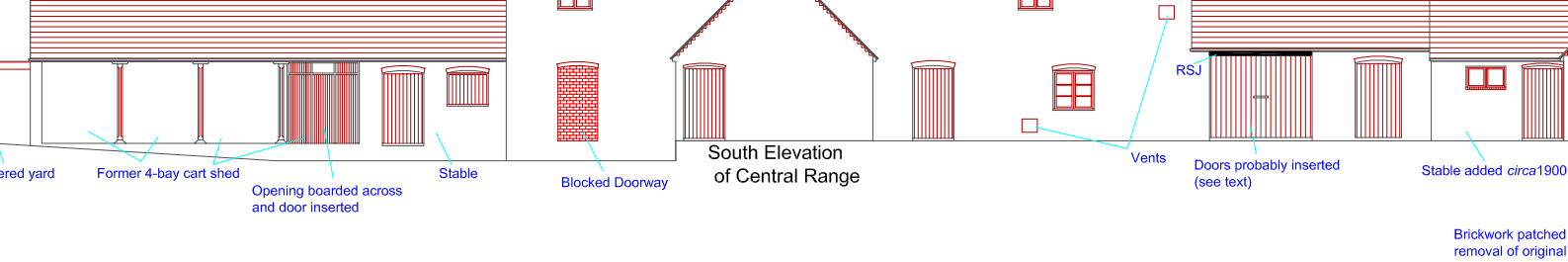
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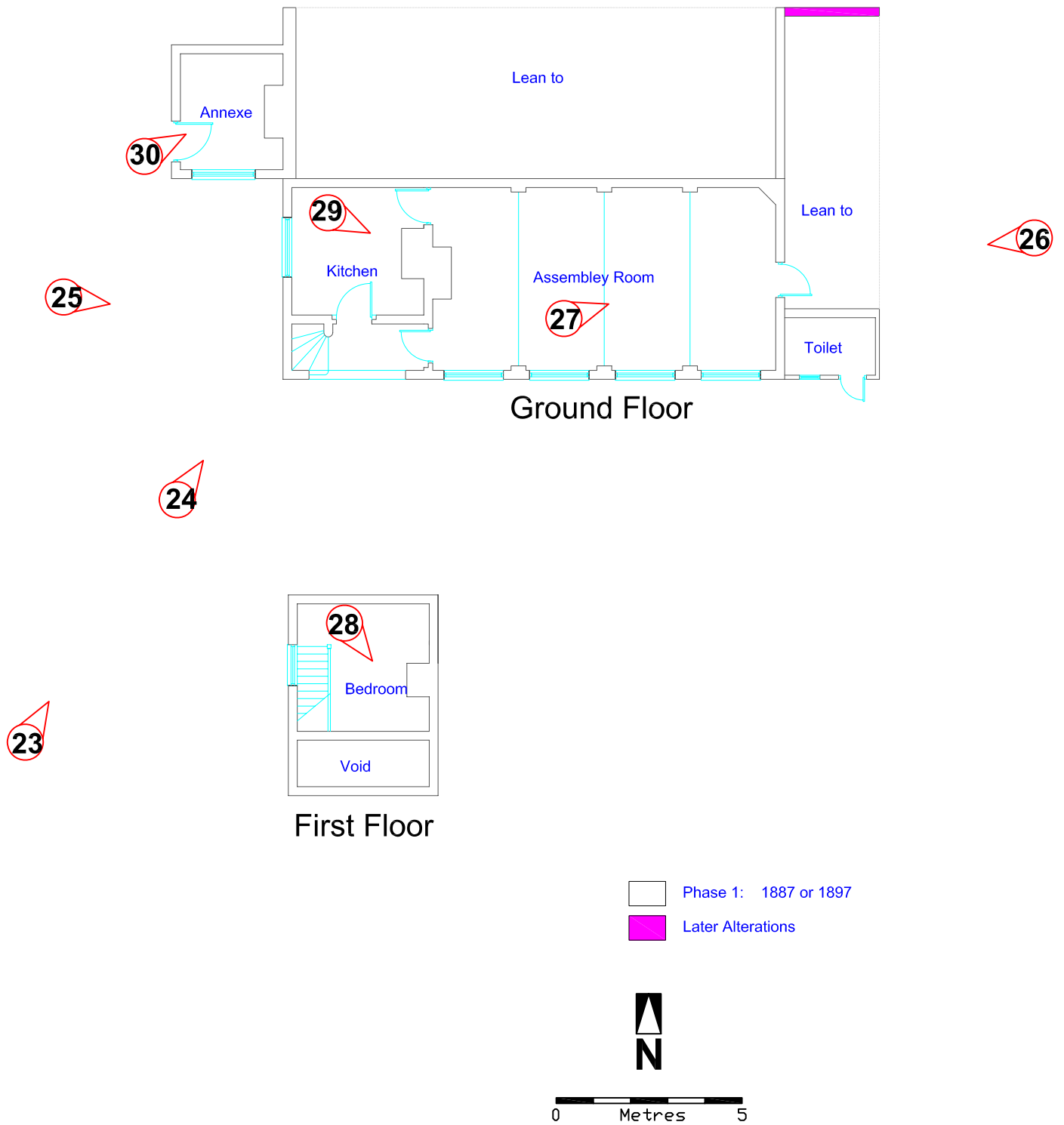
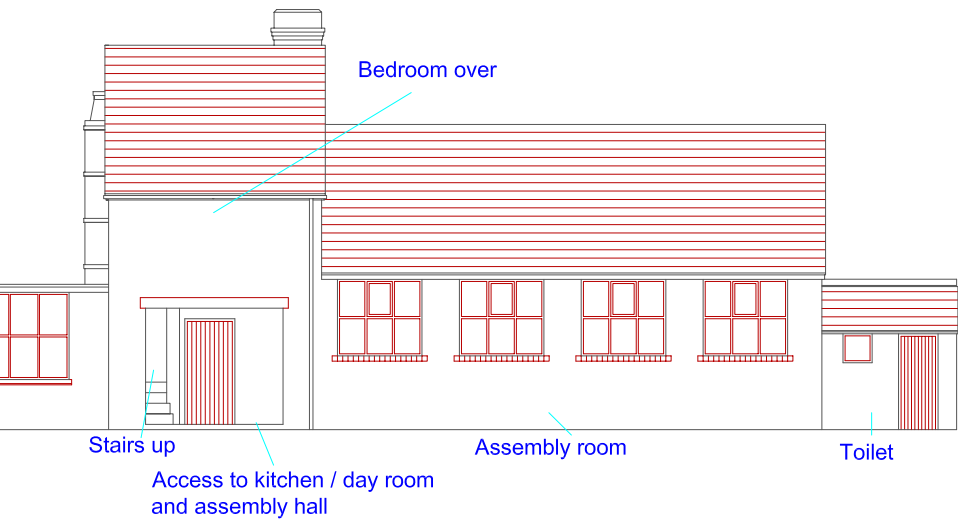
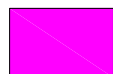


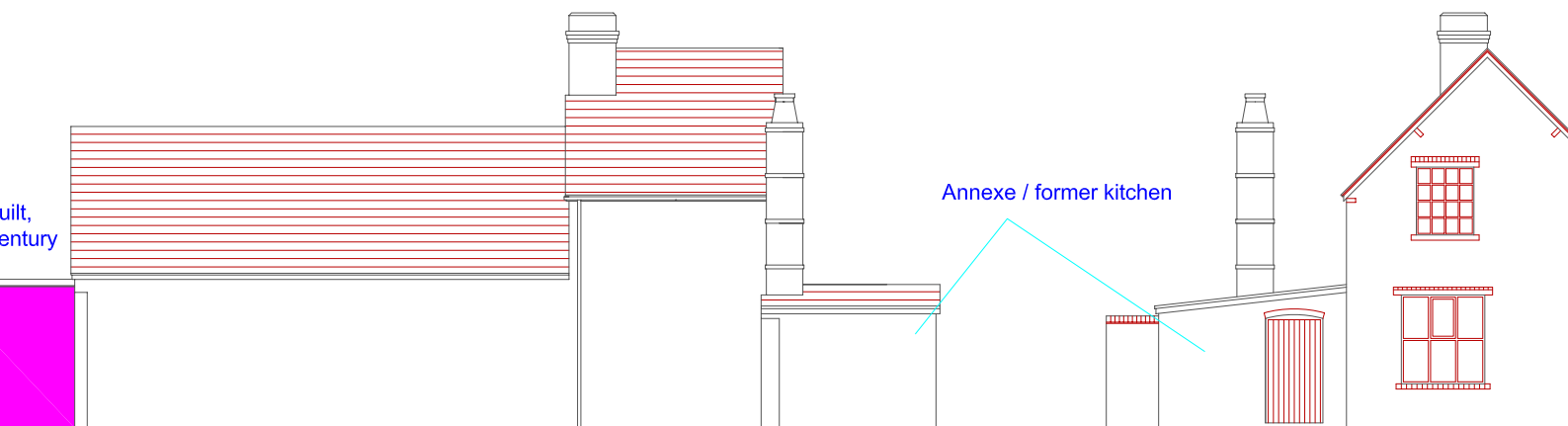
Figure 7: Plan of the Jubilee Rooms and Photo Directions in Report (Original drawing by Fisher German LLP)



Phase 1: 1887 or 1897



Later Alterations



19th Elevation

West Elevation