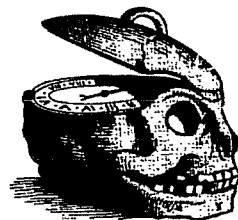


ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING
RECORDING
OF A TIMBER-FRAMED
OUTBUILDING AT THE COVENTRY
ARMS, UPTON SNODSBURY
WORCESTERSHIRE

WSM 33524



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Archaeological building recording of a timber framed outbuilding at the Coventry Arms, Upton Snodsbury, Worcester (WSM 33524) January- February 2004

Mike Napthan 7th March, 2004

1 Summary

A photographic building recording survey of an outbuilding at the Coventry Arms, Upton Snodsbury was undertaken as a mitigation strategy prior to conversion from storage to a holiday cottage. The project comprised of internal and external photographic survey, which was augmented by a measured sketch survey. Selected elevations were then drawn in detail from rectified photographs.

The building consists of two bays, and is of timber frame construction throughout with the exception of the southern gable end, which is entirely of brick. The earliest element of the building was an internal frame, apparently of 16th Century date, with two doorways at ground floor level and angle bracing in the lower panels. The location of the doorways and quality of the carpentry, with neatly plastered wattle and daub panels are unusual in an agricultural setting and may indicate that the building had a domestic or service function. During the 17th and early 18th Centuries the building was almost entirely rebuilt with the exception of part of the central frame. The use of re-used timbers confuses the issue, but it would appear that the eastern and western elevations were extensively refurbished if not rebuilt entirely, and an upper floor was inserted probably in the late 17th or early 18th Century. Subsequently the earlier panel infills were replaced in brick. The southern gable end was rebuilt in brick in the early 19th Century and the last major alteration appears to have been the rebuilding of the external steps in brick in the 19th Century. The building appears to have served for the majority of its life as a general purpose storage building, presumably serving the varying needs of the household and a small agricultural holding. Though previously erroneously described as a "barn" or "cider-mill house" these lay elsewhere on the site.

2 Introduction

- 2.1 This report represents the findings of an archaeological survey of a disused agricultural outbuilding at the Coventry Arms, Upton Snodsbury, by Mike Napthan Archaeology in early 2004. The project was designed to meet a requirement (a Brief supplied by the County Archaeological Service (W/03/1535 , 24th September 2003) for a programme of building recording prior to conversion of an outbuilding (described in the application as a barn) residential use. The Coventry Arms is a Grade II Listed building (WSM 02974). The building itself is listed on the County Historic Environment Record as possibly housing a Cider Mill (WSM 02974) though this is clearly erroneous as the original 1972 observation of the cider mill refers to the building "by the side of the pub". A single storey timber framed open fronted shed, apparently the cider house building survives approximately 20m to the north -west of the building recorded during the present project.
- 2.2 The purpose of the present project was to "establish the character , history, dating, form and archaeological development" of the building and its setting" (WAS Brief). The conversion scheme is being undertaken for Mr S Bant (the Client). The project design has been prepared in accordance with the RCHME guidance "Recording Historic buildings- a descriptive specification", (3rd Edn, 1996).

3 Aims

- 3.1 The aims of the building recording were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of the historic building fabric in order to provide sufficient information to establish the nature of the

resource (including character, extent, date, state of preservation and quality). The purpose of an archaeological project (as defined by the IFA) is "to examine the archaeological resource in a given area or site within a framework of defined research objectives, to seek a better understanding of and compile a lasting record of that resource, to analyze and interpret the results, and disseminate them"

3.2 These aims were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:

- i) to define the past functions of the building
- ii) to determine the dates of construction and subsequent changes of form and function
- iii) to establish whether the building fits within the local vernacular architectural traditions
- iv) to identify whether the building was built as part of a group or complex.

4 Methodology

- 4.1 The buildings were examined and recorded in January and February 2004. The building was semi derelict and used for the storage of old furniture and old straw at the time of examination. The building was heavily covered with ivy at the time of the first visit, but all accessible ivy was removed by the contractors prior to the second visit. Record Office and SMR searches were undertaken for Upton Snodsbury, Coventry Arms and Croome Estate records (the seat of the Earls of Coventry).
- 4.2 The majority of recording was undertaken photographically. The photographic media used were primarily digital media (238 images), and colour transparency (77 images). The digital images are presented with this report on CDROM.
- 4.3 The plans and elevations were based on measured site sketches of the principal frames, corrected and enhanced from rectified photography. It was not practical to check all dimensions on site, however the present drawings may be considered representative of the general structures. Timber frame details were added wherever possible to the elevations, however the scope of the project did not facilitate close examination of all faces of all timbers, and in the northern bay the ground floor timbers were obscured by black paint. The omission of empty mortices or peg holes from the drawings (Figs 2-5) should not therefore be taken as evidence of their absence.
- 4.4 Dating of the architectural ironwork follows the dates suggested by the CBA handbook (Alcock and Hall, 1994) Descriptive terminology largely follows Brown (1986).

5 Archaeological background

- 5.1 The site lies to the south of Court Farm, which is believed to have been the manorial site. A chapel in the court of Snodsbury is mentioned in 1258 in the conveyance of the manor by Christine de Wick to William Beauchamp. (VCH, 212). The overlordship of the manor was held by Pershore Abbey until the Dissolution, and passed through a number of hands until 1632-3 when it was sold by William Walsh to Thomas Lord Coventry, lord keeper of the great seal (VCH, 209). The rectory was acquired by a subsequent Lord Coventry around 1864. Cartographic evidence, particularly the 1838 Tithe Awards map shows that the Coventry Arms site apparently lay within an open field system and that routeways became established around a focus just to the south west of the present building. The outer boundaries of the open field continues across the Worcester roadline, and then continues to the east as the northern boundary of the present property, possibly returning to the south east along the western boundary of the Bull Inn and across the road to the south. A deserted medieval village (WSM 02932) is recorded in the field to the east of the present building and a Saxon settlement suspected in the immediate area (WSM02933). The route of the Worcester-Alcester road clearly developed around the site of the present building, possibly replacing a route through Court Farm skirting the open field on its northern edge.
- 5.2 The secondary road toward the Coventry Arms junction from the south appears to have followed the line of the strip-lands, and beyond the study area there are indications in the form of enclosed verges marked on the 1838 Tithe Award that the road followed an earlier wider drove route, which is traceable on the Tithe Map as roadway and field boundaries almost consistently straight to the southern edge of the parish. Branching off the route is a possible hollow-way (WSM 02963).

- 5.3 By 1838 there was a range of buildings centred on the pond at the Coventry Arms road junction, and this appears to have formed a large open yard. A later building, directly overlying the infilled pond, is shown on the 1880s Ordnance Survey mapping. The field is marked in 1838 as "Barn Ground, out buildings and yard". The field to the north of the present Coventry Arms was then "Home Croft", and to the south west lay Weavers and Coles Close, the small field east of the junction was marked "Bull D(welling?)".
- 5.4 Tracing documentary evidence for the present site proved difficult, as there do not appear to be detailed estate plans covering this area. It is possible that the property was held by Thomas Hughes with Court Farm in 1809 (WRO BA 5312, ref 705:627 Parcel 1), but the description is insufficiently clear to establish whether the present building was included in Court Farm, for which extensive documentary evidence survives. By 1882 the Court Farm property was held by JW Hughes (WRO BA10110, parcel xii), and it is clear that the properties were held separately by that date. The Coventry Arms was not recorded in the 1850 Kellys Directory, and this is suggestive evidence that it was not then a public house, though a large building is shown on the 1838 Tithe Map on the site of the present pub. Mrs Mary Bullock was listed in 1850 as a beer retailer, maltster and shopkeeper, and it is probably no coincidence that by 1879 the licensee of the Coventry Arms was a Suzannah Bullock (Littleburys Directory). The building would seem therefore to have been initially used as an "off-licence" (to use modern parlance) and general store, and only subsequently became a licensed premises. There seems to be no surviving above ground evidence of the requisite malt-house (which in view of the fire hazard was presumably brick), though this may have been part of the range to the north of the main building. A John Warner was licensee in 1908, but no attempt has been made to trace more recent property details.
- 5.5 The timber framed building range to the west of the studied building appears from plan and surface evidence to have included (in order from the east) a probable barn, shed, a two storey building and the cider mill-house. Four small enclosures shown on the Tithe map between the main agricultural range and the Coventry Arms main building were probably pig-sties. At the time of the initial visit the Lias plinth wall of the probable barn remained partially visible and a wall of the adjacent shed was still standing (Fig 8). They were subsequently removed during site clearance to create road access to the new development. The remaining standing timber framed buildings appear on brief external inspection to be late 17th or early 18th C in date.
- 5.6 No previous archaeological interventions appear (from supplied HER data) to have occurred in this area of the parish.

6 Results

6.1 Frame 1 (Figs 4 and 6)

This frame currently forms the northern gable end of the building. In common with all the examined structural timber in the building it appears to be entirely of oak; it sits on a rather uneven Lias plinth, which is at least five courses deep externally. The plinth appears to have been built up under a wall-plate that had previously distorted through subsidence or decay. Two purlin scars are visible externally below tie-beam level and these appear to relate to a further building or bay to the north. The outline of this additional building is shown on the 1880s Ordnance Survey map, but not on the 1838 Tithe Awards, suggesting that it may have been a 19th C addition or rebuilding of a derelict bay. Several of the empty mortices on the external face of Frame 1 may relate to this structure, of which nothing visible remains in plan. Frame 1 itself (Figs 4 and 6) is primarily constructed of re-used timbers. The storey-posts at the corners of the building are inverted in that the jowls are located at the base. The studs (vertical members) run the full height from sill-beam to tie beam and the intervening panels are formed by short horizontal rails, with the exception of the bottom rail on the eastern side of the frame, which across two panels. There are no braces in this frame, and the general standard of carpentry is poor by comparison with the remainder of the building. The truss members above the tie beam are of small scantling and appear to be re-used. The whole frame has single skin brick noggin infill of probably mid 18th C date. No carpenters assembly marks were visible on this frame.

6.2 Bay 1 (Fig 3)

- 6.2.1 This bay, 3.9x 5.51m internally lay between Frames 1 and 2 at the northern end of the building and was primarily earth floored, with a 2m wide strip of Lias flagstones along its western side. Almost directly beneath the bridging beam a 9 inch thick brick wall foundation appeared to be the base of a former partition, the only remaining above ground element of which was a probable door jamb

directly in front of Frame 1, and partially supporting the bridging beam. No wall scar was visible on the northern face of Frame 2 and it is probable that the partition was entirely of timber sitting on a brick dwarf wall. This bay was lit by a small window (formerly lightly barred) on the western elevation and another smaller window opening on the eastern elevation, neither appeared to have been glazed, and the eastern window was clearly inserted as the jamb was nailed to the rails. An aperture in the door was clearly a secondary insertion, of 19th or early 20th C date. The door itself appeared to be of late 17th or early 18th C date, the metalwork being primarily of 17th C types (Fig 7). The door lock was an early 19th C box lock.

- 6.2.2 The first floor in this bay rested on a central inserted bridging beam of 18th C date and timber sills nailed to the inside of the lateral walls. The upper floor was of wide oak boarding (possibly re-used) and was clearly not an original feature. It was accessed through an inserted door and short stairway on the western elevation. The construction of the doorway, floor and stairs appeared to be no earlier than 18th C. The external brick steps were of early 19th C brick with Lias treads and incorporated an arched recess to shelter a guard dog.
- 6.2.3 Other than the doorway the upper room in this bay was lit only by a single small open panel close to floor level, this did not appear to have been glazed or shuttered, but may originally have been covered in oiled cloth or similar translucent material. The brick nogging of the timber framing had been continued above the wall plate to seal any draughts from under the eaves. The wall plates appear to have been replaced, and this was particularly clear where the comparatively clean timber met the weathered and whitewashed timber of the Frame 2 storey-post jowl. As discussed below the second stud from the north on the eastern elevation was considerably larger in scantling than its neighbours, and clearly far more weathered than the other studs and rails on this elevation, with the exception of the Frame 2 storey-post.
- 6.2.4 The brick dimensions of the external panel infill were 235x115x74mm (typically later 18th C dimensions), whilst those in the upper part of Frame 2 were earlier (220x105x55mm- probably late 17th-early 18th C), suggesting that the floor was inserted prior to the brick infilling of the exterior panels. The rails of the external walls were all of smaller scantling than those of Frame 2, and were not truly level with the rails of the latter. The sill beam of the eastern elevation was scarfed just to the north of Frame 2, indicating that the majority of the sill beams had probably been replaced, as the length beneath the storey post of Frame 2 was also scarfed in Bay 2.

6.3 Frame 2 (Figs 5 and 8)

- 6.3.1 This frame lies between Bays 1 and 2, and sits on a shallow Lias dwarf wall, which appears to have been inserted. The frame is of good workmanship (using larger scantling timber than is evident elsewhere in the building) and appears to have been adze or plane finished. There are no certain saw marks on the original elements. Carpenters' assembly marks are visible from Bay 2, and those on the bottom rail include crescents relating to the curved braces between the two blocked doorways. The sill beam is irregular but shows considerable wear at either end from use of the doorways. A possible (and certainly secondary) timber latch rest was noted on the jamb of the eastern doorway, but the method of hingeing was not visible, which may be indicative of "harr" hinges (where projections of the door were shaped as dowels and engaged in sockets drilled into the door head and sill). The eastern door had been widened, possibly to permit stock access, though there was little sign of wear. A mortice in the eastern jamb of the western doorway indicates that the doorway was not original, and that there was formerly a rail across this panel. The majority of panels retained wattle and daub infill, smoothly finished in plaster and whitewashed. The doorway blockings included sawn timbers and split laths together with traditional wattle and daub. The blocked doorways were less smoothly plastered and more typical of agricultural work.
- 6.3.2 The upper part of Frame 2 had been considerably altered to permit insertion of the bridging beam and the first floor doorway. Above the inserted floors some panels had been infilled with brick, and the remainder above the tie-beam planked. The inserted upper door jambs have frequent small rectangular mortices, and these appear to be relics of a previous use of the timber as a bridging beam (the mortices housing floor joists). The two jambs were clearly sawn laterally from a single beam. There also appears to have been some substantial re-arrangement of the studs above tie beam level, and as the beam soffits were not visible it is not possible to determine the original form of the upper part of the frame. The tie-beam itself may not be original as it is rather narrow in relation to the lodgement of the western storey-post jowl. The principal rafters appear to be original, as do the lower purlins to Bay 1. Empty purlin mortices beneath the upper purlins may reflect the previous use of stopped purlins in Bay 2.

6.4 Bay 2 and southern gable end (Figs 2, 3 and 8)

6.4.1 This was the southern bay and lay between Frame 2 and the southern gable end. The internal dimensions were 5.13 wide by 5.21m deep, the bay width having been increased slightly by the rebuilding of the end wall in brick and subsequent movement of the end wall to the south. The floor was largely obscured by old straw at the time of survey, but appeared to be earthen throughout.

6.4.2 The western elevation was largely open at ground floor level, and appeared to have been previously secured by double doors, part of which survived on the southern side of the opening (obscured by vegetation in the photographs – Fig 6). A door stop was present in the centre of the door head rail soffit. The panel to the north of the doorway was entirely open, having lost any infill and only mortices for the missing rails showed that it was not formerly an opening. At 1st floor level a further open panel may have been used for light or to load goods, but does not appear to have been originally intended for that purpose, and was grooved to accommodate wattle infilling.

6.4.3 The eastern elevation survived almost intact, but showed evidence of alteration or repair in the northern corner of the bay, where there were peg-holes suggesting an empty mortice in the top of the sill beam. As noted above (para 6.2) this is a short (less than 2m long) length of sill-beam which was apparently retained beneath Frame 2 whilst the remainder was replaced. The shuttered window (Figs 6 and 8) appears to be an insertion as the northern window jamb has been cut into the head and foot rails and is not pegged but nailed to the rails.

6.4.4 The southernmost rails of the eastern and western elevations are built into the brickwork at the point where they presumably met the removed third frame. The brickwork of the southern gable end is of probably early 19th C date (bricks 220x115x63mm). The gable end had moved considerably out of true, and very little bearing remained for the roof and bridging beam. There was no clear indication of a window or shutter for the square window aperture at 1st floor level. The only surviving internal fittings in the building were two large timber bins on the eastern side at first floor level. These could conceivably have served as an apple-store or similar, but are probably related to the more recent use of the building as a log-barn.

6.5 The Steps (Fig 6)

The stone and brick steps were in very poor condition, and it was not possible to determine with any accuracy the number or size of the treads as all of the Lias stone slabs were frost shattered and had been moved by root action. The brick vaulted dog-shelter beneath was however in good condition, and appeared to be of mid 19th C date (bricks 220x110x80mm). The steps were clearly secondary and only abutted the face of the building, which had allowed considerable water penetration and consequent decay of the adjacent timber frame elements

6.6 The Roof (Fig 3)

The existing roof of the building appears to be of largely 18th C date, but was presumably at least partly stripped of its covering to permit 19th C rebuilding of the southern gable end. The flat ribbed and pegged tiles are of post-medieval character in the main with occasional machine made replacements.

7 Interpretation

7.1 The building as it stands may be a fragment of a larger structure, which was extensively rebuilt in the 17th C and subsequently modified in the 18th Century. Further rebuilding of the southern end and steps appears to have occurred in the 19th C.

7.2 The earliest element is Frame 2 which, although modified above head height, may be interpreted as an internal frame of a probably domestic building of 15th -16th C date, though it is without closely dateable features, the form of the jowls being the only visible indicator of the date range. The characteristics of this phase are the presence of carpenters assembly marks (which incidentally prove that the tension-bracing arrangement was original), and the smooth adzed or planed surface, particularly on the southern face. In domestic buildings the “fair face” of the frames (that is the upper face in the carpenters yard) almost invariably faces the most important end of the building, where the site permitted it this would be the solar (or sunny) end, as is the case here. The presence of two doorways in the extreme ends of a single frame is a feature far more typical of domestic

arrangements than agricultural, and would usually be found in the service area of a medieval house. It is however not possible to determine whether the two doorways were ever used contemporaneously; the western doorway was not an original feature, and might conceivably have merely replaced the eastern entrance. The location of the tension braces appears to reflect the original builders intention to have a door or doorways in the end panels – bracing of the storey posts was more usual and more structurally effective than the arrangement here, which was clearly a necessary compromise between the convenience of the door location and structural stability. The panels of Frame 2 shows clear indications of having been infilled with wattle and daub to collar beam soffit level, though there are no apparent indications of infilling above the tie-beam. The apparent near-absence of further elements of the building represented by Frame 2 is not readily explicable, and it may be that some of the cut down and re-used timbers elsewhere in the structure are of similar date, though these might be expected to retain the same scantling, surface finish and sequence of assembly marks. The second stud from the north on the eastern elevation is weathered externally to a similar extent to the Frame 2 storey post on the same elevation, shows clear evidence of re-used mortices and is of larger scantling than the other timbers – it would appear that it may have been originally a storey post contemporary with Frame 2, but that the jowls have been cut back. If this probable storey post is in its original position it would indicate that the bay length of the original building was 0.8m shorter (4.33m).

- 7.3 There does not appear to be any evidence for an original upper floor in Bays 1 or 2, though the presence of re-used bridging beams in an apparently 17th-18th C context strongly suggests the presence of a two storey element elsewhere on the site in the preceding century.
- 7.4 The widening of the eastern internal doorway was perhaps to permit the passage of goods, cattle or horses. The lowering or erosion of the internal floor levels has removed all evidence of floors and/or earlier partition arrangements in the southern bay (Bay 2), and the brick foundation running across the floor of Bay 1 appears to relate to the 18th C re-arrangements. The external walls are grooved within the frames and were evidently originally infilled with wattle and daub or woven panelling. This rebuilding would appear to have been of 17th C date, and is distinguishable from the earlier phase by the absence of carpenters marks and the presence of coarse saw marking on the internal faces.
- 7.5 Frame 1 was built with a mixture of re-used and new timber, and it is clearly not of the same workmanship as Frame 2. There are some indications (in the form of morticing and the projecting ends of the purlins) that this frame was originally also internal, though the issue has been clouded by the later (post 1838?) construction of a single storey building between the pond and Frame 1. It is noteworthy that the jowled ends of the storey posts are at the bottom, in contrast to conventional practice – this may have been intended to resist side racking in an internal situation where the presence of diagonal bracing might prove inconvenient. The absence of bracing in itself is suggestive that the frame was originally internal, as some form of bracing would usually be required for a gable end. Latterly the building has clearly relied on the compression of the brick infill to resist racking.
- 7.6 The eastern elevation appeared largely to be of a single phase of construction, clearly post-dating Frame 2 – probably in the mid 17th Century though there are few closely dateable features, and the only subsequent alterations seem to have been the insertion of the brick infill and windows. On the evidence of the shutter hinges the windows would appear to be of late 17th or early 18th C date, and this would fit well with the dating of the general brick infilling. No earlier fenestration of this elevation could be discerned, though it is entirely possible that one or more of the panels were originally open, and evidence may be obscured by the brick infill. The general carpentry of this elevation is of good quality, although the internal finish is not so clean as Frame 2. As noted elsewhere there is some evidence of re-use of a former storey post apparently contemporary with Frame 2 in this elevation.
- 7.7 The western elevation appears to have undergone several stages of alteration. There are some indications that there was formerly a structure in front of the present doorway to Bay 1, notably the three large mortices in the second stud from the north and mortices in the storey post of Frame 1 (not shown on drawings). The panel above the door and the doorway itself would appear to date from the rebuilding of Frame 1 as the horizontal members are out of line with the remainder of the elevation. The doorway to Bay 2 has also been extensively altered, apparently to form a cart or implement shed, there are no surviving indications of the form or location of any original external door to this bay. The present arrangement appears to be of 18th C date, as the remaining door fragment hung on an 18th

C hinge. The doorway at the top of the steps is clearly inserted, and this would appear to have occurred in the early 18th C as the hinges, latch and latch rest are of L17th-early 18th Century forms. The brick and stone steps are of different brick to the panel infill and would appear to be early 19th Century.

- 7.8 The southern elevation was entirely brick-built, of early 19th C brick. It appears to have been constructed on the original location of Frame 3, but subsequent movement has increased the bay length slightly. Unfortunately the absence of Frame 3 prevents any firm conclusions being drawn about the possible former presence of an additional bay towards the roadside. The Tithe map evidence suggests that any additional building to the south was gone before 1838.
- 7.9 The internal arrangements and first floor appear to be of early 18th C date. The bridging beam (with stopped chamfers) had been rather crudely inserted and notched over the tie-beam of Frame 2, where it met Frame 1 it was even more crudely notched over a short horizontal rail, and is therefore supported entirely by two small tenons no more than 85x45mm in cross section. As these joints have not failed it is very probable that Frame 1 had brick infilling prior to insertion of the first floor, and that the infill serves to transmit the floor loads. The insertion of the first floor doorway through Frame 2 necessitated the cutting or replacement of the tie beam. The inserted door jambs are laterally sawn from a single re-used bridging beam, the empty mortices of which are visible from Bay 1. To the east of the doorway the tie-beam is also morticed, apparently for ceiling joists, though this would be exceptionally high (circa 2.8m) for a ceiling in a conventional domestic building of this date. It is quite possible that this timber has also been re-used and inserted, which may explain the apparently damaged storey-post jowl on the eastern side of Frame 2. The presence of oak planking across the fair face of the upper part of Frame 2 prevented the detection of any surviving carpenters' assembly marks, and there was therefore no certain indication which timbers at this level had been replaced.
- 7.10 There are few indications, other than the doorway arrangements in Frame 2 for the earlier functions of the building, though it would appear from the quality of the original plasterwork to have been domestic or ancillary to a domestic building (eg buttery, brewhouse or kitchen). The epithet "barn" is applicable only in its widest sense as a building used for agricultural storage purposes. The dimensions are clearly much too small to have housed a cider mill – the requirements for such a building are described in detail in Loudons Encyclopaedia of Agriculture (1831) "*a mill-house is as nessecry (sic) as a barn. It s generally one end of an outbuilding , or perhaps an open shed ... The smallest dimensions , to render it any way convenient are twenty four feet by twenty (7.32mx6.1m) ; a floor thrown over it, at seven feet high, a door in the middle of the front and a window opposite; with the mill on one side, the press on the other side of the window, as much room being left in front towards the door for fruit and utensils as the nature of the mill and the press will allow....the mill is placed so as to leave a horse path about three feet wide, between the bed and the walls; so that a moderately sized mill, with its horsepath takes up a space of fourteen or fifteen feet (4.3-4.6m) every way*". That the press and the mill needed to be in the same room is fairly evident from this description, and this would have been impossible in the building currently under discussion. The probable location of the cider mill observed in the 1970s was the large single storey open-fronted shed immediately to the north-east of the main building (Figs 1 and 8) .
- 7.11 The building shows few signs of having been used to house animals, though it is possible that the scars on the base of Frame 1 in Bay 1 relate to a former manger. The partition location and stone paving in Bay 1 are also reminiscent of a stable, though in that case a brick floor throughout might be expected to survive. There were no signs of tethering rings, nor would the wattle and daub panelling of Frame 2 have survived any prolonged use by stock inclined to kick. The polishing of timber uprights which is the inevitable sign of animals rubbing themselves against walls was absent above bottom rail height, and only moderate at levels accessible to pigs or sheep.
- 7.12 That the building, particularly the first floor and Bay 1, were used for secured storage is evident from the early 19th C box lock on the door to Bay 1 and the presence of a chain-hole and hasp for a padlock on the doorway to the first floor. The nature of the product stored is unclear, the open panels at 1st floor level were comparatively small, and appeared to be secondary insertions. The window in the southern elevation was large, but not at floor level, so material presumably was brought up the steps. Storage bins in Bay 2 at first floor level appeared to relate to more recent use of the building as a log barn, and this is the name the current owner knows it by. It may well have been used for general storage of apple or root crops or seed-corn variously according to season.

- 7.13 The circumstances of the near total rebuilding in the 17th C are unclear – the works evidently included extensive replacement of the eastern and western elevations with new timber, possibly retaining some of the original upright members, but with largely new sills and new rails. The surviving timbers show no sign of fire damage and it must be assumed that re-building was considered necessary through decay of the main posts or because of a change of function. The rebuilding of Frame 1 is of a slightly different character, and may not have been strictly contemporary. It is clear that the infill at this stage was wattle and daub or perhaps woven lath panels. An upper floor was inserted probably during the earlier part of the 18th C, and this clearly marks a further change of function for both bays. The present arrangement of doorways appears to date from this phase, though the architectural metalwork is in part a little earlier. The replacement of the southern gable end may have been as a result of decay or the removal of any further bay to the south to permit road widening. The subsidence of the present gable suggests that it was built over an infilled feature.

8 Conclusions

- 8.1 The project has produced a reasonably comprehensive record of the outbuilding as it stood immediately prior to major conversion works. The scope of the project was limited, but it has been possible to define the broad phasing and functions of the structure. It is very clear that the development of the building was far more complex and over a longer time-span than had previously been thought. The loss of historic fabric and detail due to the conversion process has to a small extent been offset by a greater understanding of the structure and the long-term preservation of the majority of the frame.

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10 Acknowledgements

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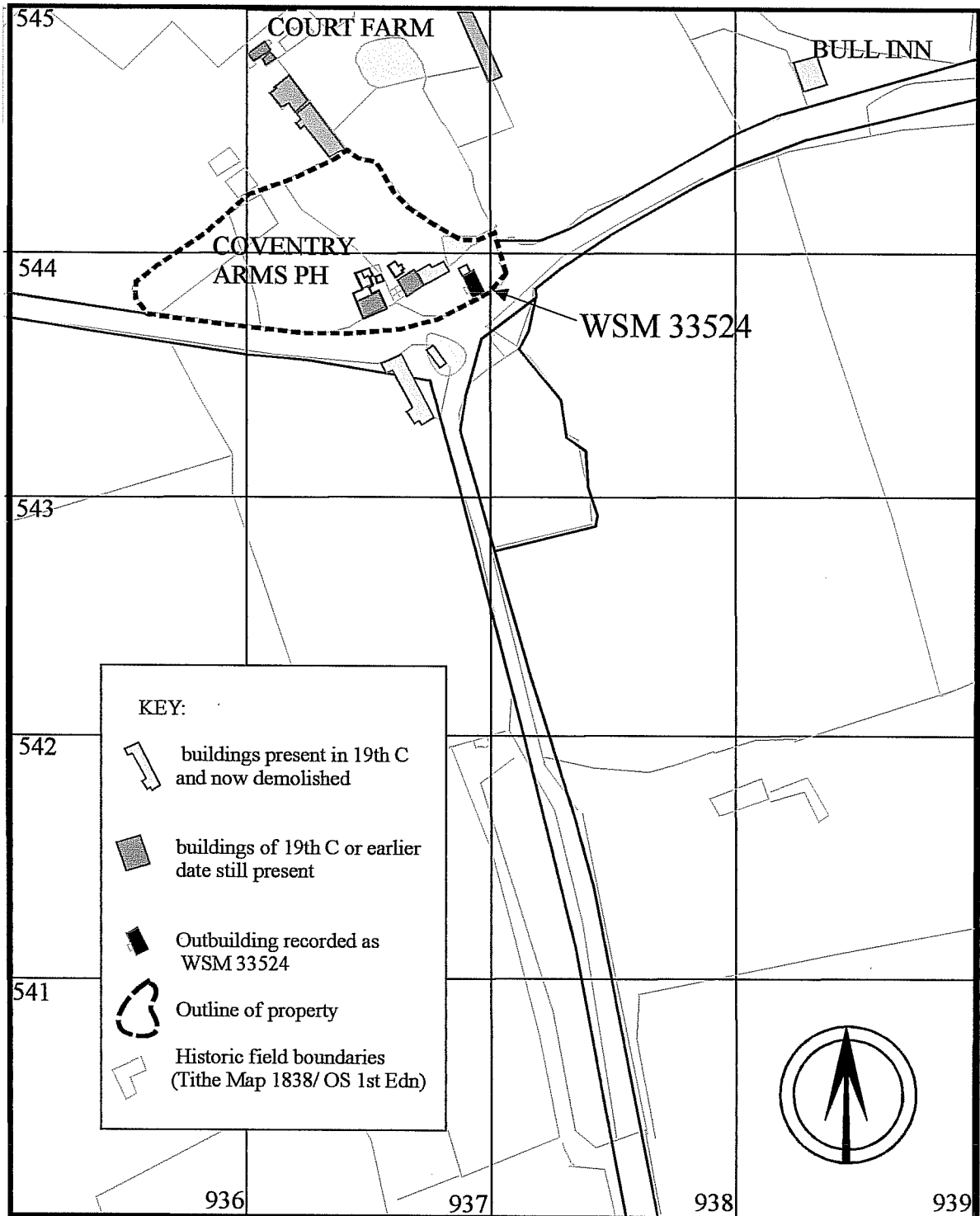


Figure 1: Site location, Coventry Arms, Upton Snodsbury, Worcestershire SO 9369 5439

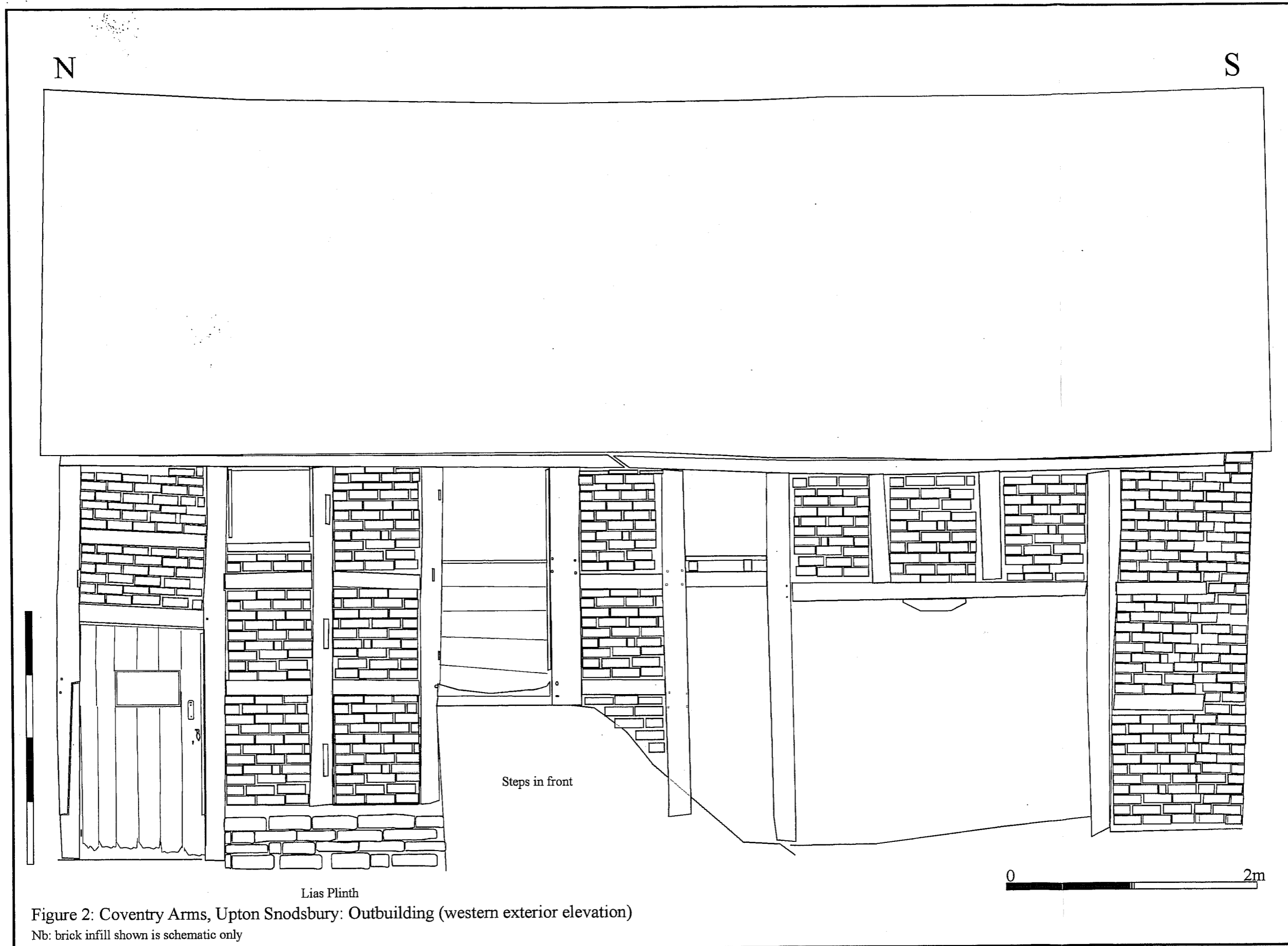


Figure 2: Coventry Arms, Upton Snodsbury: Outbuilding (western exterior elevation)

Nb: brick infill shown is schematic only

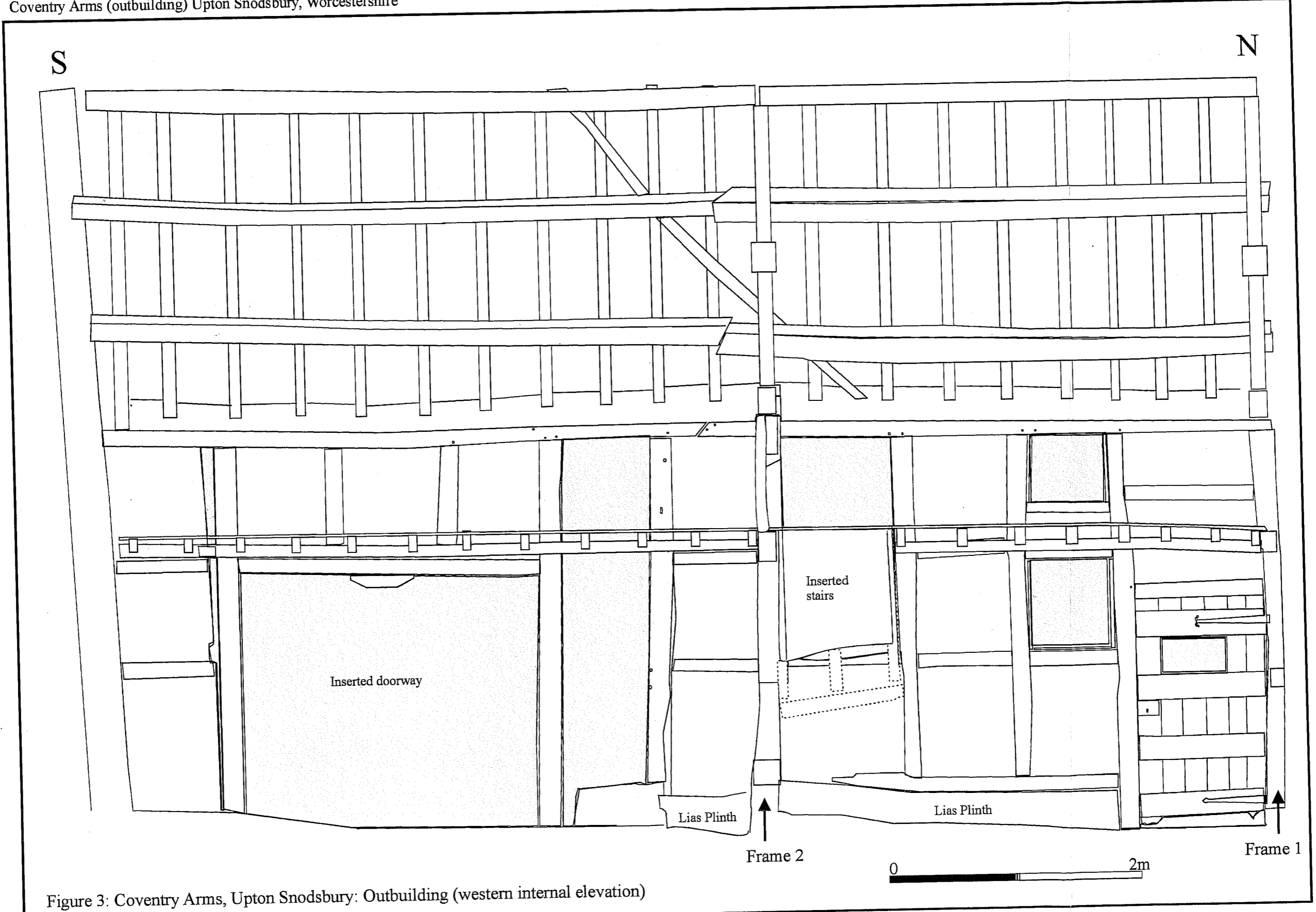
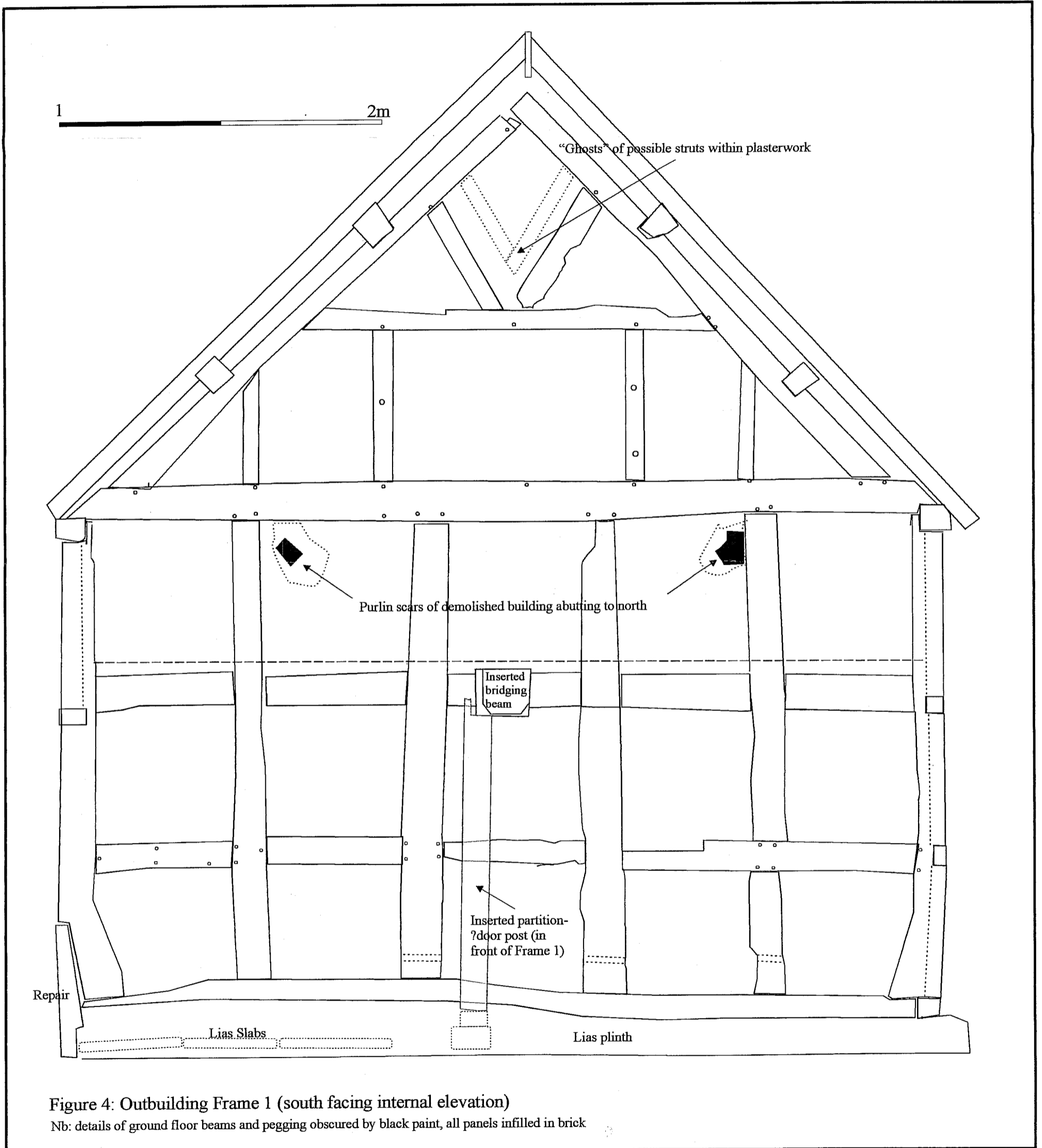


Figure 3: Coventry Arms, Upton Snodsbury: Outbuilding (western internal elevation)



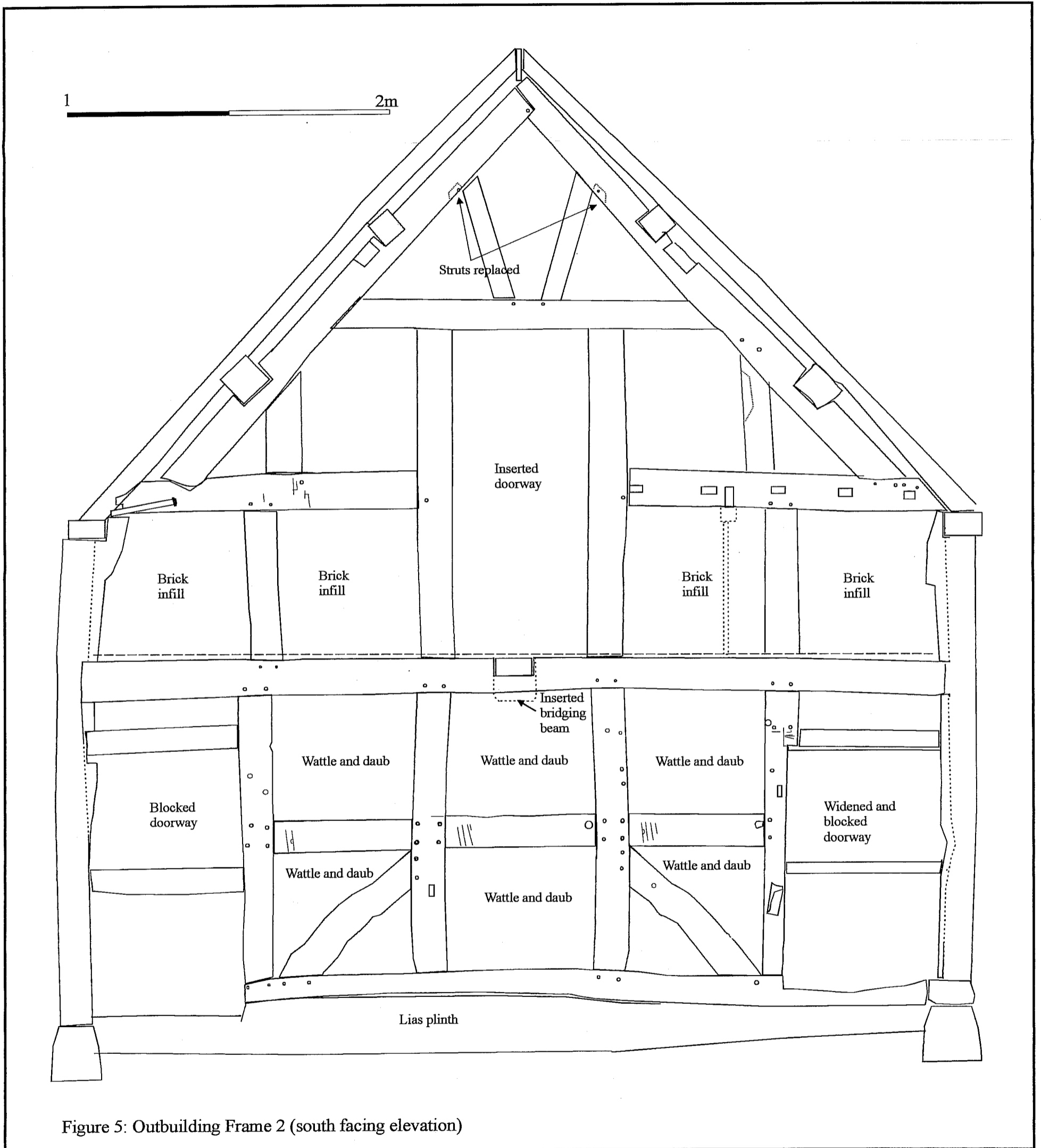


Figure 5: Outbuilding Frame 2 (south facing elevation)



Southern elevation



Eastern elevation



Northern elevation

View from north-east



Shutter detail, eastern elevation



Western elevation



View from north-west

Figure 6: Coventry Arms, Upton Snodsbury: Outbuilding exterior views 2004 prior to conversion



17th Century door pull, ground floor



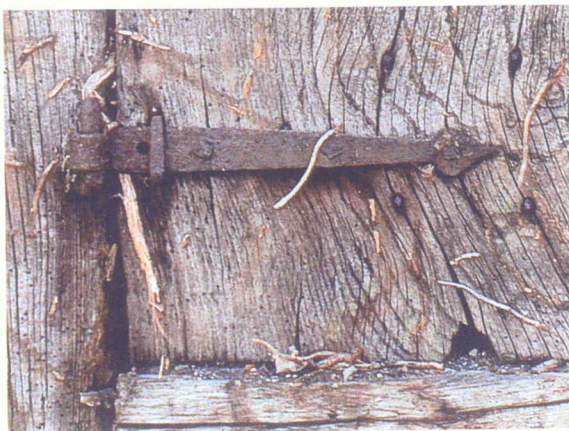
Ground floor door hinges - 17th C (above)-18th Century below right



Latch and latch rest 1st floor (L17th - early 18th C)



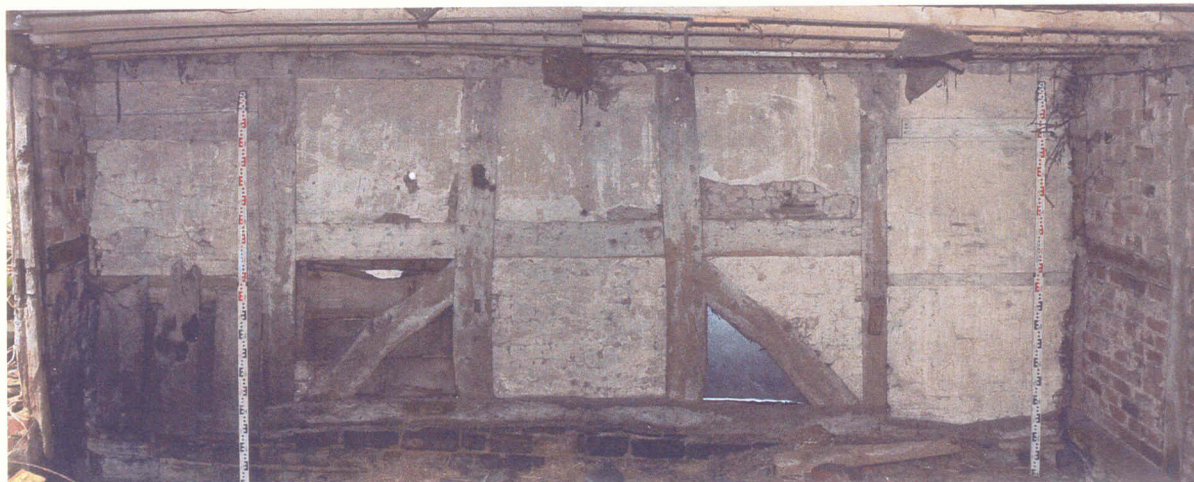
L 17th- 18th C hinges 1st floor doorway, note "anti-lift" nails above pintles



17th - early 18th C shutter hinge, ground floor



Figure7 : Coventry Arms outbuilding - architectural iron-work



Frame 2 from south (composite photograph)



Eastern internal elevation of Bay 2



Cider mill-house and other timber framed buildings adjacent to Coventry Arms PH, showing stone plinth of former ?barn (nb: plinth and partially collapsed building in foreground has subsequently been removed to create new drive access)

Figure 8: Photographs