

Report 2405



nau archaeology

**An Historic Building Recording Survey at  
Ivy Farm, Stanhoe, Norfolk**

ENF125176



Prepared for  
**Strata Architectural Ltd.**



Andy Phelps BA

December 2010



[www.nps.co.uk](http://www.nps.co.uk)

<b>PROJECT CHECKLIST</b>		
Project Manager	Nigel Page	
Draft Completed	Andy Phelps	14/10/2010
Graphics Completed	David Dobson	17/10/2010
Edit Completed	Jayne Bown	22/11/2010
Signed Off	Nigel Page	30/11/2010
<i>Issue 1</i>		

## **NAU Archaeology**

Scandic House  
85 Mountergate  
Norwich  
NR1 1PY

T 01603 756150

F 01603 756190

E [jayne.bown@nps.co.uk](mailto:jayne.bown@nps.co.uk)

[www.nau.org.uk](http://www.nau.org.uk)

BAU 2405

© NAU Archaeology

## Contents

---

<i>Summary</i> .....	1
1.0 Introduction .....	1
2.0 Historical Background .....	1
3.0 Methodology .....	3
4.0 Building Survey .....	5
4.1 Building A .....	5
4.2 Building B .....	8
4.3 Buildings A and B Interior .....	8
4.4 Building C .....	15
4.5 Building D .....	19
4.6 Building E .....	21
4.7 Building F .....	21
5.0 Building G .....	24
6.0 Conclusions .....	26
<i>Acknowledgements</i> .....	30
<i>Bibliography</i> .....	30

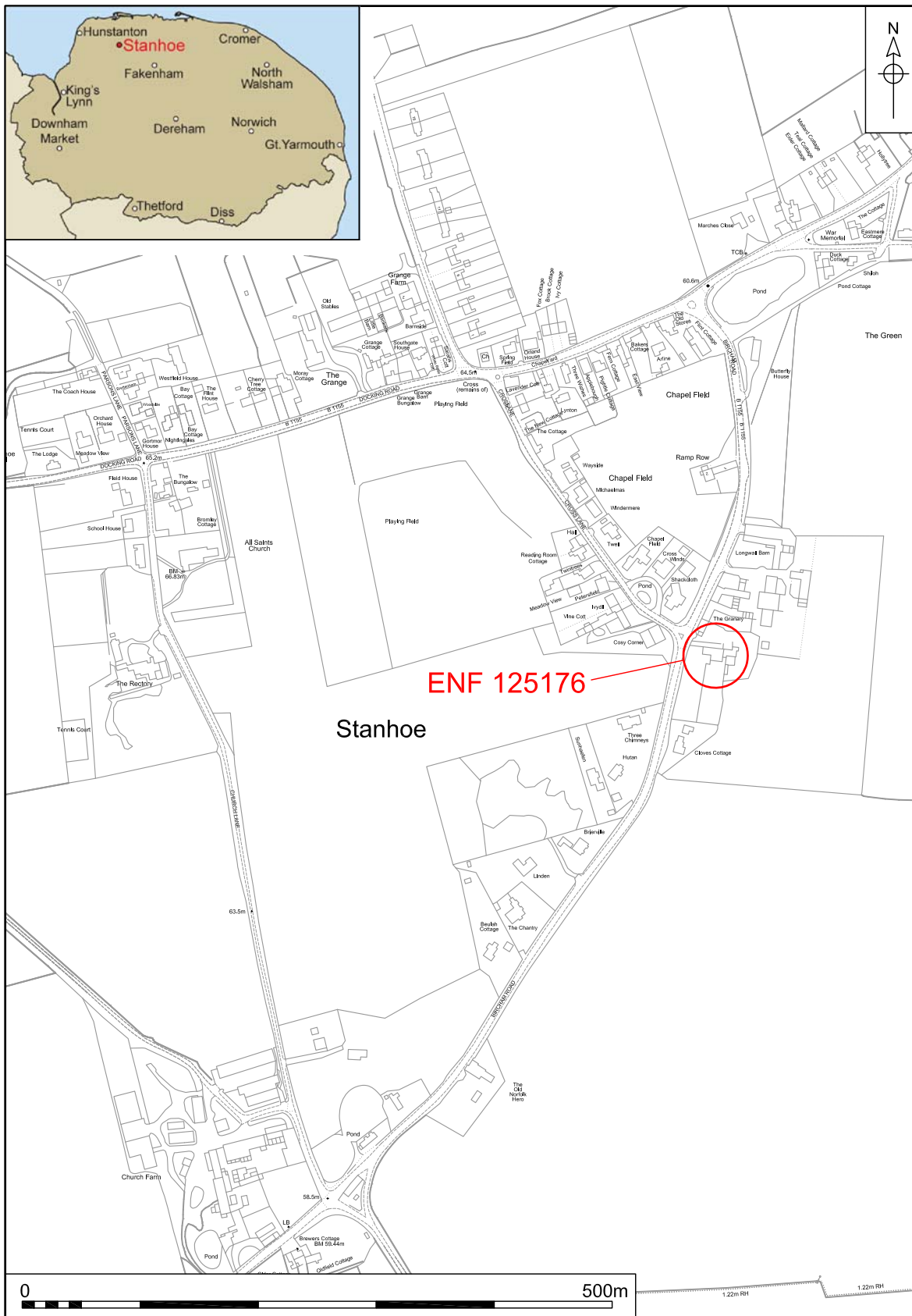
## Figures

- Figure 1 Site Location
- Figure 2 Plan of Buildings A-G
- Figure 3 Plan of Buildings A and B
- Figure 4 Plan of Building C, D and E
- Figure 5 Plan of Buildings F
- Figure 6 Plan of Building G

## Plates

- Plate 1 Building A, north elevation facing south-west
- Plate 2 Moulded brick cornice on Building A north elevation
- Plate 3 Building A north elevation facing south-east
- Plate 4 Front door with porch surround removed
- Plate 5 Relocated ground floor window on northern elevation of Building A
- Plate 6 In-filled window on northern elevation of Building A
- Plate 7 Blocked window beside bay window
- Plate 8 West elevation, Buildings A and B
- Plate 9 Exposed walling on west elevation of Building A
- Plate 10 Southern elevation of Building A
- Plate 11 East gable of Building A showing tumble-in detail at eaves
- Plate 12 South elevation of Building B
- Plate 13 East gable of Building B
- Plate 14 Western elevation of Building B
- Plate 15 Boarded up fireplace in eastern ground floor room Building A
- Plate 16 Chamfered beam with stop
- Plate 17 Ground floor Building B western room
- Plate 18 French windows, ground floor, Building B
- Plate 19 Blocked doorway beneath stairs in Building A, 1m scale
- Plate 20 Western ground floor room Building A
- Plate 21 Central ground floor room, Building A
- Plate 22 Blocked doorway formerly leading into Building B
- Plate 23 Fireplace first floor central bedroom Building A
- Plate 24 Window divided by partition wall in Building A
- Plate 25 Hall stairs leading up to first floor
- Plate 26 Niche indicating previous doorway in Building A

Plate 27	Second floor east bedroom
Plate 28	Construction of Building A's walls
Plate 29	Construction of Building B's walls
Plate 30	Blocked opening on southern elevation of Building A
Plate 31	Building C north elevation
Plate 32	Eastern elevation of Building C
Plate 33	Southern elevation of Building C
Plate 34	Interior of Building C, west end
Plate 35	Interior of Building C, fireplace to right
Plate 36	Water pump in Building C
Plate 37	Building D facing south west
Plate 38	West elevation of Building D
Plate 39	Interior of Building D
Plate 40	Building E east elevation
Plate 41	Interior of Building E
Plate 42	East elevation of Building F
Plate 43	Northern elevation of Building F
Plate 44	Building G facing north-west
Plate 45	Building G looking south from road
Plate 46	West elevation of Building G
Plate 47	Date stone above blocked door on Building G
Plate 48	Southern cell of Building G
Plate 49	Interior of northern cell Building G
Plate 50	Blocked door in northern wall of northern cell, Building G
Plate 51	Doors in southern wall of Building G
Plate 52	Ivy Farm barn southern elevation



© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Local Authority No. 100019340

Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:5000

Location:	Ivy Farm, Stanhoe, Norfolk
District:	King's Lynn and West Norfolk
Grid Ref.:	TF 8064 3679
HER No.:	ENF125176
OASIS Ref.:	85140
Client:	Strata Architectural Ltd.
Dates of Fieldwork:	19–20 August and 21-22 September 2010

---

## **Summary**

*In August 2010 NAU conducted an historic building survey at Ivy Farm, Stanhoe, Norfolk at the request of Strata Architectural Ltd ahead of planned demolition of the structure. Following the completion of the recording the demolition was monitored by an archaeologist to record any further evidence. The survey revealed a modest farmhouse that may have dated from as early as the mid 18th century with additions and alterations from the later 18th or 19th centuries and again in the 20th century. Additionally a series of ancillary buildings including a possible stable and external larder were recorded. The farmhouse was divided into two separate houses in the 20th century until their disuse and subsequent demolition.*

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

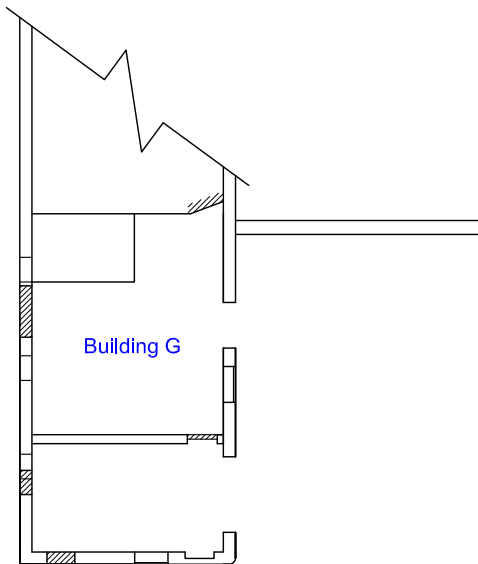
The application to demolish Ivy Farm House (09/00026/F) in the village of Stanhoe, prompted King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council acting on the advice of Norfolk Landscape Archaeology to request the completion of an historic building recording survey accompanied by a programme of archaeological monitoring during the demolition phase (Ref CNF42293). In response Strata Architectural Ltd commissioned NAU to undertake the works according to an agreed project design prepared by Nigel Page of NAU Archaeology (NAU/NP/BAU2405)

The work was carried out between August and September 2010 and was designed to record details relating to the form, function, date, extent, phasing, character, status and significance of the building through a drawn, photographic and written record. The site archive is currently held by NAU Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with the Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service (NMAS), following the relevant policies on archiving standards.

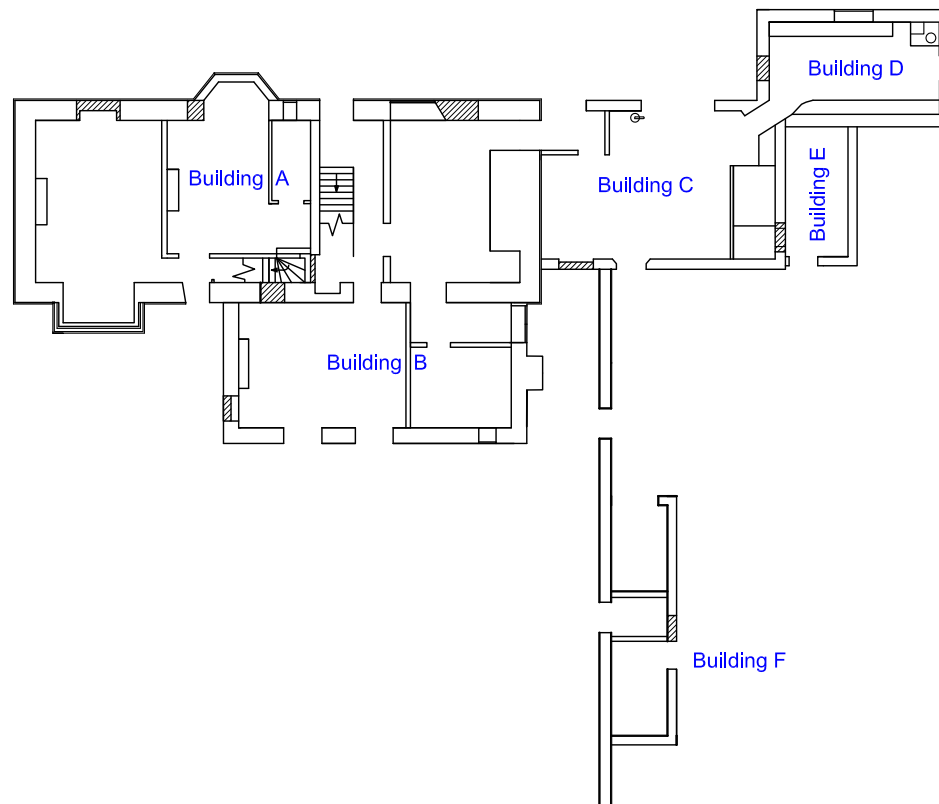
## **2.0 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Ivy Farm is located at the junction of the B1155 Bircham Road and Church Lane on the east side of the B1155 on the south side of the village.

Cartographic sources suggest that by the 1880s the present building existed much as it does today, with the farm buildings to the north, and it is possible that these same buildings are those depicted on Faden's map of 1797. Ivy Farm reportedly served as the home farm of the Easthall manor estate which was owned by the renowned Townshend family from the 14th to the late 17th centuries. Written accounts refer directly to the farm in 1532 when the tenancy was held by Thomas



Building G



Building A

Building B

Building C

Building D

Building E

Building F

Figure 2. Plan of Buildings A-G. Scale 1:250





Oughton however it was probably not until the early 18th century when the Glover family bought the estate that the earliest of the present buildings was constructed. The large Grade II listed barn (NHER 36053) to the north-east which shares some stylistic elements with the main house retains a date stone of 1746 and gives the name 'Rob Glover' as its benefactor. The present building was occupied until 2008 but unfortunately its neglect in the last few decades left it in a poor state of repair.

### **3.0 METHODOLOGY**

The objective of this survey was to create a record that included the following three elements:

A black and white photographic record using 35mm film

A drawn record, highlighting structurally significant features, fixtures and fittings

A written record

The work undertaken conforms to the guidelines set out within *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good practice* (English Heritage 2006) level 2 survey. In total seven buildings were surveyed and are referred to in the text as buildings A to G

Access was generally good however the western end of building A's second floor was not available for inspection due to the absence of lighting and fragile state of the building. Additionally the northern half of building G had already been converted to residential use and so was not thoroughly investigated in this area.

Site conditions were good, with the work taking place in fine weather.



Plate 1. Building A, north elevation facing south-west



Plate 2. Moulded brick cornice on Building A north elevation



Plate 3. Building A north elevation facing south-east



Plate 4. Front door with porch surround removed

## 4.0 BUILDING SURVEY

### 4.1 Building A

#### *Exterior*

Building A was rectangular in design with a length of 17.35m and width of 6.68m (Figs 2 and 3). It had a red pan tile roof gabled to the east and west each surmounted by a red brick chimney (Plate 1). A third brick chimney rose from the ridge line approximately 5m to the east of the western gable end. All four external walls had been coated in white paint with a contrasting shallow plinth approximately 0.4m high and painted black extending around the base of each side. At the eaves to the north and south a moulded brick cornice had been applied in four courses using a much finer brick than that used elsewhere on the building (Plate2).

The northern elevation constructed of coursed flint and brick constituted the main approach to the house and displayed four large rectangular windows evenly spaced across the façade's first floor giving the appearance of four distinct bays (Plate 3). The first and third windows (east to west) showed preserved sash windows of 10 over 10 lights, while the two remaining had been replaced with casements. Each window had brick jambs however those of the westernmost window differed slightly in character, and the opening was narrower than the other three perhaps suggesting an adaptation. On the ground floor a large canted bay window just to the west of centre must have dominated the elevation, although obscured by bushes at the time of the survey. It had a central sash of 8 over 8 lights with subsidiary sashes each side half this size. The front door stood to its east with traces of a removed porch visible upon the surrounding walls (Plate 4).

Between the front door and the bay window sat a small casement window, again obscured by foliage, while at the east end a large 3 over 6 sash beneath a shallow cambered arch appeared to have replaced an earlier opening further to the east that may originally have been more in line with that on the floor above (Plate 5). At the west end a second shallow cambered arch framed a similar opening but the use of brick varied from that to the east and the jambs had more in common with the window above. Unlike the cambered arch window to the east this opening had been in-filled and the in-fill rendered over (Plate 6). Inspection of the walling immediately to the west of the bay window suggested this feature had replaced an earlier opening as the remnants of a blocked cambered arch and western jamb similar to those seen to the west had survived the insertion and appeared to line up with the window on the floor above (Plate 7).

The western gable displayed no openings and a liberal application of pebble dashing prior to its coating in white paint obscured any evidence there might have been for such features. To the south a portion of render had fallen away revealing the wall's construction to be of alternating courses of brick and chalk in a lime mortar (Plates 8 and 9). In the gable above two opposing curved iron clamps evidently tied this wall back into the house.

The southern elevation was also pebble-dashed and the addition of Building B had obscured the eastern half of the elevation but to the west a shallow bay casement window on the ground floor sat beneath its own projecting red plain tile roof (Plate





Plate 5. Relocated ground floor window on northern elevation of Building A



Plate 6. In-filled window on northern elevation of Building A



Plate 7. Blocked window beside bay window



Plate 8. West elevation, Buildings A and B





Plate 9. Exposed walling on west elevation of Building A



Plate 10. Southern elevation of Building A



Plate 11. East gable of Building A showing tumble-in detail at eaves



Plate 12. Southern elevation of Building B

8). This roof extended to the east where it formed a shelter over the back door. On the first floor above this door sat a rectangular sash window of 3 over 6 light

design while above the bay window a more modern casement of three panels completed the fenestration (Plate 10). The eastern gable was again obscured by later buildings but externally the visible portions were of brick with a tumble-in pattern in the upper gable (Plate 11). By following the extent of this tumble-in design to the north it was clear that the pitch of the roof had been altered slightly. A clearly defined joint in the brick work indicated that the chimney stack above had evidently been widened. Both the first and second floors had rectangular modern casement windows to the south. Building C projected to the east under a gable roof.

## **4.2 Building B**

### ***Exterior***

Building B was a rectangular two storey extension appended to the eastern end of Building A's southern elevation (which served as its northern wall) (Figs 2 and 3, Plate 12). It measured 10m by 4.7m and to the south and west had received the same coating of white paint over pebble dash as Building A's west end. The elevation to the east was of red brick and flint but was also painted with a thick layer of white paint (Plate 13). The roof covering of red pan-tiles was flanked to the east and west by red brick chimney stacks rising from each gable end while to the north it adjoined the roof of Building A at the eaves to form a valley. The western elevation contained just a single casement window at the southern end of the ground floor which although still glazed had been blocked up internally (Plate 14). The southern elevation displayed two rectangular three-panel casement windows regularly spaced out across the first floor while two French windows on the ground floor below opened out into the garden with a third and smaller casement window at the eastern end (Plate 12). The eastern gable had a single modern casement window on the ground floor just to the north of a central chimney breast projecting away from the walls face and rising to the apex.

## **4.3 Buildings A and B Interior**

### ***Ground Floor***

Internally the ground floor of Building A was divided into three large rooms (Fig. 3) with a hallway containing the staircase opposite the front door which divided the eastern room from the two western rooms. The eastern room could be accessed from both the hall and from a second door that led into building C in the north-eastern corner. Features of note included a large chimney breast against the centre of the eastern wall which had been boarded up (Plate 15) and a wooden beam running across the width of the room's western side. This beam was approximately 0.25m wide with chamfered edges and lambs tongue stops at either end (Plate 16). The room had evidently last seen use as a kitchen. From a doorway in the centre of the southern wall entry could be gained to two smaller rooms within the additional space provided by Building B. The first of these was a bathroom and beyond this a rectangular room that had been formerly provided with shelving on three sides. Neither room displayed any features of particular interest having been thoroughly redecorated in a modern style.



Figure 3. Plan of Buildings A and B. Scale 1:150





Plate 13. East gable of Building B



Plate 14. Western elevation of Building B



Plate 15. Boarded up fire-place in eastern ground floor room, Building A

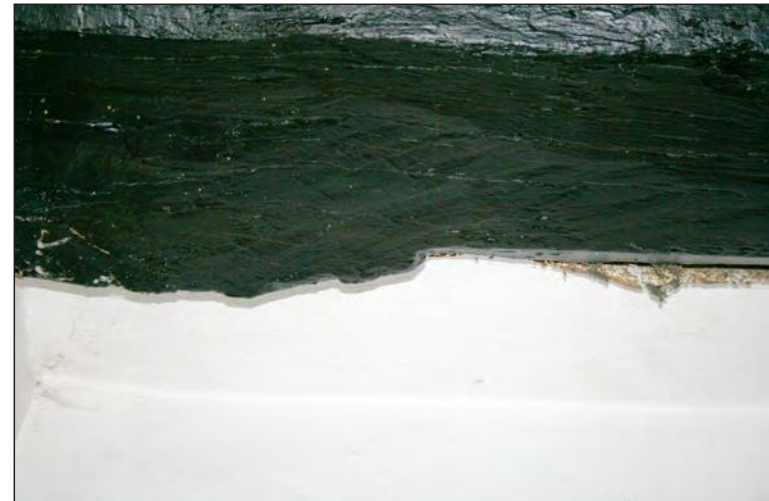


Plate 16. Chamfered beam with stop





Plate 17. Ground floor, Building B, western room



Plate 18. French windows, ground floor, Building B



Plate 19. Blocked doorway beneath stairs  
in Building A, 1m scale



Plate 20. Western ground floor room, Building A

From the southern end of the hall a doorway opened into a lounge room within Building B with a fireplace at the western end (Plate 17). Along its southern wall two sets of French doors opened out into the garden (Plate 18) while a niche on the western wall just to the south of the fireplace signalled the location of the blocked window visible from the exterior.

It was clear that previously it had been possible, via a door in the west wall below the stairs to gain entry to the remainder of the ground floor of the house from the hall but this had been blocked up when the house was converted into two separate dwellings (Plate 19). Access to the ground floor on the western side of the building was granted by the doorway on the southern side of Building A, to the east of the rectangular bay window in the southern elevation. From here a large living room was located to the west with a fireplace against the centre of the western wall and bay window to the south (Plate 20). Along the northern wall an arched niche had been recessed into the centre of the blocked window visible from the exterior. Directly to the north of the southern doorway a second living space was present with a fireplace again set against the centre of the western wall (Plate 21). This room housed the bay window visible on the main elevation at the centre of the northern wall while a built in cupboard had been erected in the north-eastern corner. From the south-eastern corner of this room a staircase had been inserted (at the time of the division of the house) which led to the upper floor while the space beneath had been converted into a toilet with its entrance immediately to the east as you entered the house from the southern doorway. On the southern wall of Building A against which the staircase had been inserted it was possible to see the upper portions of what may have been originally an internal doorway leading into Building B (Plate 22). This too was likely blocked at the time of the partitioning of the house.

### ***First Floor***

Upon arriving at the top of the staircase a doorway to the west led into a rectangular bedroom at the south-eastern corner of the house (Fig. 3). A second bedroom of comparable size lay to the north with a doorway between the two. The rooms had originally been one large space and it was evident that the dividing cross wall had been erected after the removal of the central fireplace in the western wall (traces of the fireplace remained on the floor). A third bedroom lay to the east with a fireplace against the centre of the western wall (Plate 23). This room could be accessed from both the second bedroom via a doorway at the north end of the adjoining wall or off of a corridor that ran east to west along its southern side. There was little of interest in this room beyond the fireplace however a hollow sounding section at the northern end of the eastern wall may have indicated the existence of a blocked doorway. At the eastern end of the corridor a bathroom had been built into the awkward space left by first floor partition. It was entirely modern in character but it had evidently been necessary to divide the northern window with the partition wall, losing a third of it to the eastern half of the building (Plate 24).

In the eastern half of the building the staircase led up to a small landing from which a further short step up led south into the first floor of Building B (Plate 25). Here two rooms of roughly equal size, one to the east and another to the west, were divided by a north-south partition wall. Each room had its own fireplace at the centre of its respective gable wall while the eastern room displayed a niche along its northern wall that indicated the previous location of a doorway between



Plate 21. Central ground floor room, Building A



Plate 22. Blocked doorway formerly leading into Building B



Plate 23. Fire-place first floor central bedroom Building A



Plate 24. Window divided by partition wall in Building A





Plate 25. Hall stairs leading up to first floor



Plate 26. Niche indicating previous doorway in Building A



Plate 27. Second floor east bedroom



Plate 28. Construction of Building A's walls

Buildings A and B (Plate 26). From the small landing turning east led up to the main landing corridor that ran north to south across the width of the house. From this corridor two rooms were accessible to the east both of similar dimension. The southernmost of the two served as a bathroom while that to the north appeared to be another bedroom. They were divided down the centre by an east-west cross-wall which intersected the chimney breast at the centre of the eastern wall.

### **Second Floor**

From the small landing in the eastern half of the first floor a staircase to the west led up to two bedrooms in the roof space (Fig. 3). The largest of these was located at the eastern end of the building and could only be accessed via the smaller room at the centre of the building (Plate 27). Little of historic interest was present with both rooms being decorated in a modern style however it was noted that those elements of the roof that were visible were not original.

At the centre of the western wall of the smaller of the two bedrooms another door led presumably to the remaining roof space, but it appeared not to have been converted and access was not available for inspection.

### **Watching Brief**

Several details came to light as a result of the demolition of the building that would otherwise not have been visible. Most obviously the construction methods used for the walls were recorded in cross section revealing the walls of Building A to be 0.65m thick at the base tapering gently to the wall plates (Plate 28). In contrast the walls of building B were 0.50m thick on the ground floor narrowing at first floor height by approximately 0.2m (Plate 29). Both buildings used chalk rubble and flint in a lime mortar with occasional bricks throughout and at the openings. Also of note was the identification of a small blocked window at first floor height on the southern elevation of Building A and partially obscured by the construction of Building B (Plate 30).

## **4.4 Building C**

### **Exterior**

Building C was a single storey structure with roof space above that extended 8m east from the eastern wall of Building A which it relied upon structurally as its western wall (Figs 2 and 4, Plate 31). Its northern wall was aligned with that of Building A's northern elevation but with a width of 5.6m it was over one metre shorter to the south. A gabled red pan-tile roof extended across the length of the building where it formed a complex joint with the roof of Building D at its north-eastern corner. The northern elevation was constructed of roughly coursed flint and brick with brick dressings but had a thick layer of white paint applied across the whole face (Plate 31). There were two openings along this elevation, a double doorway to the east designed to admit a car and another to the west for foot traffic. The western jamb of the larger entrance indicated that perhaps some alteration had occurred in this area and the present opening might well have replaced an earlier window. The western entrance may well have been original and preserved at its head a square lintel formed in bricks set at a consistent 45 degree angle to leave a V at the centre (Plate 31). The eastern gable was partially obscured by building E however it had been constructed in a mixture of soft red brick and chalk with no attempt at coursing. An in-filled window with brick jambs was present at

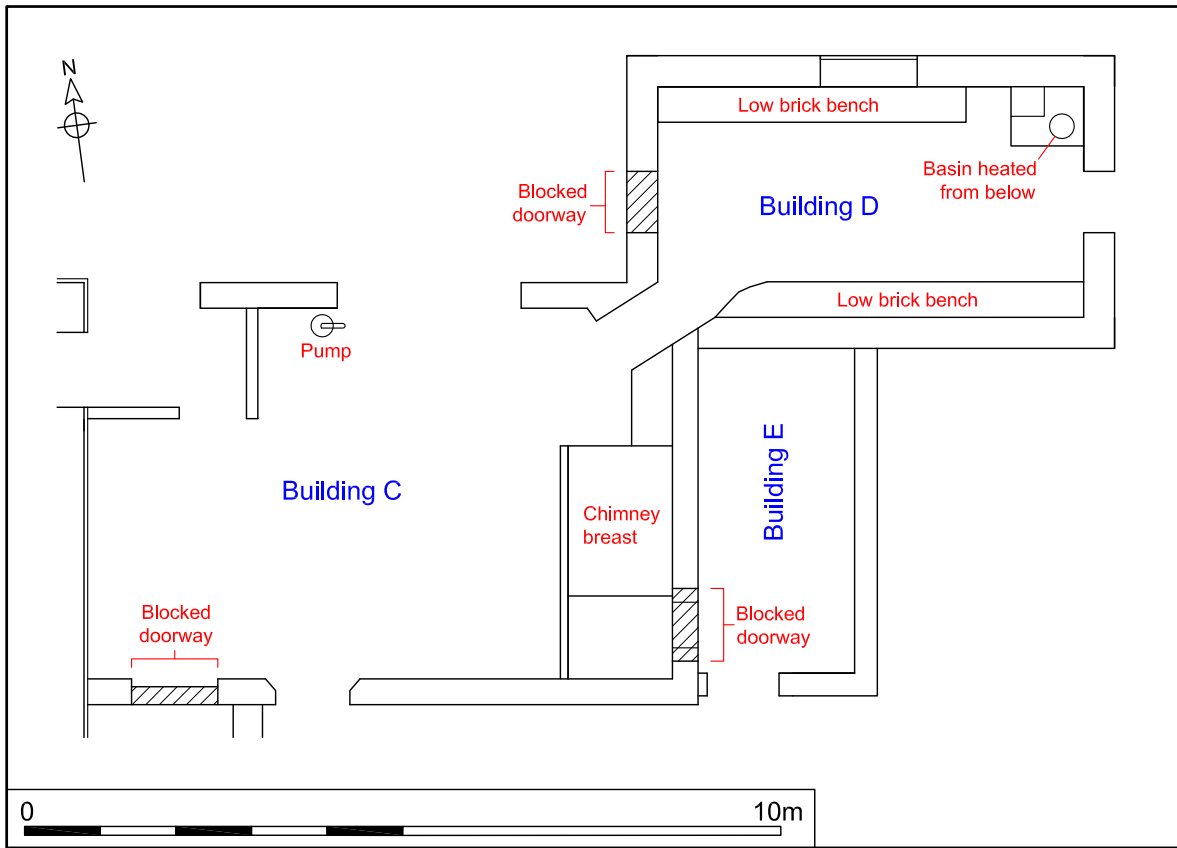


Figure 4. Plan of Buildings C, D and E. Scale 1:100

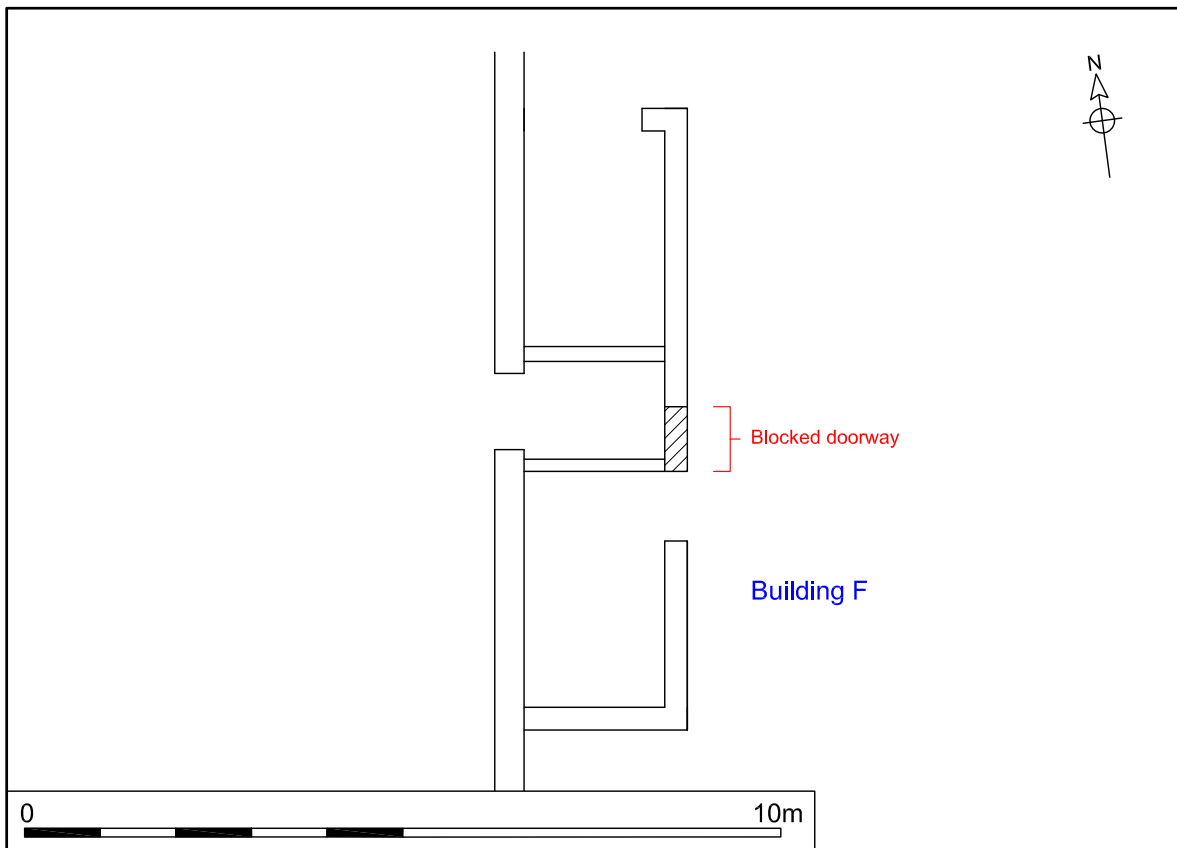


Figure 5. Plan of Building F. Scale 1:100





Plate 29. Construction of Building B's walls

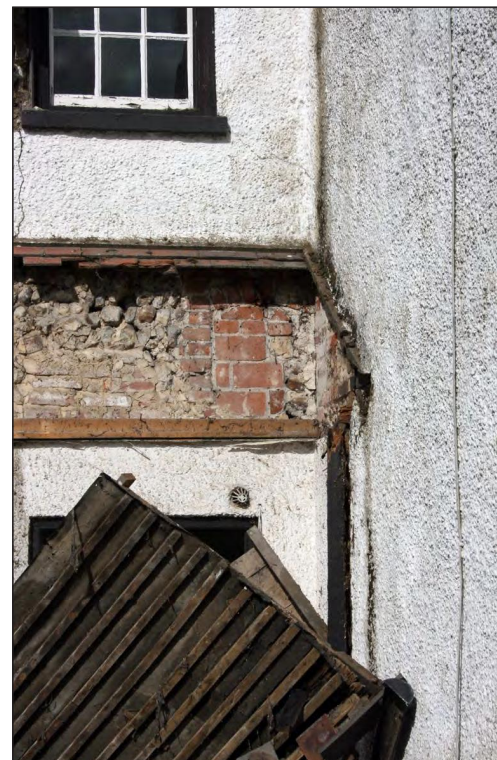


Plate 30. Blocked opening on southern elevation of Building A



Plate 31. Building C north elevation



Plate 32. Eastern elevation of Building C





Plate 33. Southern elevation of Building C



Plate 34. Interior of Building C, west end



Plate 35. Interior of Building C, fireplace to right



Plate 36. Water pump in Building C



the southern end and below this and hidden from view by building E sat a doorway of similar construction and also blocked (Plate 32). Distinct from the remainder of the walling material the gable's apex was formed in coursed red brick and the presence of a chimney breast on the interior of this wall suggests this was the remains of a removed chimney stack. The southern elevation was similar in construction to the eastern gable with un-coursed brick and chalk however it was noted with interest that it also contained fragments of re-used Barnack stone (Plate 33), presumably quarried from a long demolished building of higher status in the local area. There were two doorways both of similar design located side by side at the western end of the elevation however a north-south garden wall to eaves height and located between the two divided the doors and presumably accounts for the need for both. The changing requirements of the building meant that the one to the west was no longer necessary and had been blocked up. From examination of the eastern face of the garden wall where it adjoined Building C it appeared there may have been a lean-to structure that had previously stood against the southern wall of Building C and was now only suggested by the survival of a possible roof line against the garden wall (Plate 33).

### **Interior**

Upon entry into Building C via the smaller of the two northern doorways access was available to Building A by a passage immediately to the west. This passage was divided from the remainder of Building C by partitions to both the south and east thus preventing warmer air escaping when the external door was opened. A second door within the partition wall opposite the external doorway opened into the main interior of Building C. The internal walls were whitewashed (Plate 34) and the floor was of concrete, however where this concrete had come away it was evident that it had previously been of brick. Against the eastern wall a brick chimney with bread oven protruded from the wall, although efforts had been made to screen it off presumably to reduce draughts (Plate 35). Clearly the fireplace had not been used in some while. Immediately to its south could be seen the in-filled doorway visible from the interior of Building E and the fireplace may even have slightly obscured the doorway's northern jamb. On the opposing wall a plinth could be seen identical in character to that seen on the three other external walls of Building A and it appears likely that originally this would have also been external (Plate 34). Although no formal access remained, the loft space had been floor-boarded and the joist arrangement in the south-west corner suggested a ladder may have stood here. Affixed to the wall immediately west of the double garage doors was a cast iron water pump which would have provided the water to the building (Plate 36), while to the east of the doors an entrance in the north-eastern corner led down into Building D (Plate 35).

## **4.5 Building D**

### **Exterior**

Building D measured 6.4m east-west by 3.9m north-south adjoining Building C to the north-east (Figs 2 and 4). It was constructed of a mixture of coursed flint and red brick headers with brick dressings and a gabled red pan-tile roof (Plate 37). To the north and south a brick dentil cornice sat below the eaves and to the north and east a shallow plinth ran across the base of the walls. At the centre of the northern elevation a low rectangular window with a cambered brick arch and internal



Plate 37. Building D facing south-west



Plate 38. West elevation of Building D



Plate 39. Interior of Building D



Plate 40. Building E east elevation

wooden shutters provided the only natural light to the building but the eastern gable preserved the outline of an in-filled window in its upper gable (Plate 37). A doorway positioned directly beneath this latter window was the only remaining external entry to the building but in the opposing wall there were traces of another doorway with its threshold approximately 1.5m from the ground (Plate 38). This had also been in-filled and then heavily obscured by the application of white paint to the wall but nevertheless it was possible to see beneath this opening the truncated jambs of what might perhaps have been an earlier doorway at ground level. By examination of the north-western quoin it was evident there had been some rebuilding work at the western end of the building and it appeared that the structure had been lengthened by approximately 0.4m in this direction. As with Building A tumble-in brickwork had been used at both gables.

### **Interior**

Internally Building D was of a very simple design with low brick benches running along the northern and southern walls (Plate 39). A fireplace or oven sat in the north-eastern corner with a brick chimney stack rising through the roof above. Either side of the remaining window a wooden beam projected from the wall which, in common with the remaining three walls, was of coursed chalk rubble beneath a crumbling lime plaster. The entire floor had been concreted and although no longer intact the ceiling above had been of lath and plaster with iron hooks still visible on the undersides of some of the roof collars.

## **4.6 Building E**

Building E was a lean-to structure sitting in the south-eastern angle created between Buildings C and D, which provided its northern and western walls (Figs 2 and 4, Plate 40). The remaining two walls were of un-coursed red brick and flint rubble in a lime mortar upon which sat a red pan-tile roof. A single doorway in the southern wall provided the only access and there were no windows but as mentioned above a blocked doorway that led at one time into Building C was visible immediately to the west upon entering the structure. Internally the walls had received a coat of whitewash and the floor was in brick but no other features of interest were noted (Plate 41).

## **4.7 Building F**

Built alongside the brick garden wall that extended south from the southern wall of Building C, Building F was a low lean-to structure 2.2m wide and 8.2m long with a red pan-tile roof (Figs 2 and 5, Plate 42). Its northern, southern and eastern walls were of flint rubble with brick headers with brick at the quoins and openings. In common with Building C it also contained fragments of re-used shelly limestone probably quarried originally at Barnack. The building was divided into three separate compartments, with a door in the northern wall allowing entry to the northern cell, a second doorway in the western wall giving access to an external central toilet cell and a third opening in the eastern wall leading into a wood store in the southern cell. To the north of the eastern doorway brick jambs may indicate a rectangular blocked window while above the northern doorway a small square opening remained (Plate 43). Traces of soot or coal dust on the walls and brick floor of the northernmost cell may have resulted from the storage of coal.





Plate 41. Interior of Building E



Plate 42. East elevation of Building F



Plate 43. Northern elevation of Building F



Plate 44. Building G facing north-west





Plate 45. Building G looking south from road



Plate 46. West elevation of Building G



Plate 47. Date stone above blocked door on Building G



Plate 48. Southern cell of Building G

## 4.8 Building G

### Exterior

Building G was a rectangular structure aligned against Bircham Road and forming the western boundary of the farm (Plate 44). It sat approximately 12m to the north of Building A (Figs 2 and 5) across a small yard and just to the north of the present day entrance to Ivy Farm House from the road. At least half of the building had already been converted to residential accommodation but the southern half remained in use as a garage and for storage. The total length of the building was over 12m with a width of 7.1m and it was constructed of coursed flint and chalk with brick dressings. The gabled roof was of red pan-tiles however the upper third of the building had been rebuilt in red brick probably in the last decade and most of the roof timbers had been replaced at this time (Plate 44). A shallow brick plinth ran across the base of the building to the east west and south. The western elevation which faced the road was provided with three square brick vents evenly spaced out across the length of the building and sitting directly beneath the wall plate (Plate 45). Their geometric pattern was formed by omitting every other brick header in five rows. Beneath the southernmost vent were the jambs and cambered arch of an in-filled window while further to the north a window of wider dimension but otherwise similar design had also been blocked up (Plate 46). On the southern gable wall another window with a cambered arch was located just to the east of centre no more than a metre from the ground while at the far western end a doorway, again with a cambered arch, had been blocked, initially to leave a window and then later this too has been bricked up. Just above this doorway sat a date stone carved with the initials 'R.G.' and the date '1745' although it looked to have been repositioned, perhaps during the rebuilding of the upper half of the building (Plate 47). At the southern end of the eastern elevation a double door below a cambered arch opened into the southern cell while a second doorway to the north was clearly inserted at a more modern date and had been fitted with a steel door (Plate 44). A large rectangular window with a square lintel had been placed immediately to its south. At the south-eastern corner of the building the lower portion of the brick quoins had been chamfered to reduce the potential for collision with farm machinery.

### Interior

Building G had been divided internally into a southern cell and a northern cell by a red brick partition wall. The southern cell presently served as a garage (Plate 48) and the northern cell as a general storage (Plate 49) without internal access between the two, however a bricked up doorway at the eastern end of the cross-wall had previously allowed this function. The southern cell had whitewashed walls and a brick floor lain bedding face up while the northern cell had whitewashed walls to the east and west. The southern wall was plastered above 1.5m with black waterproof paint on the lower portion but the northern wall had been left without either. This wall divided off the already-converted remainder of the building but a blocked door at its eastern end indicated this had not always been the case (Plate 50). The floor was of concrete and a steel cell was located in the north-western corner.

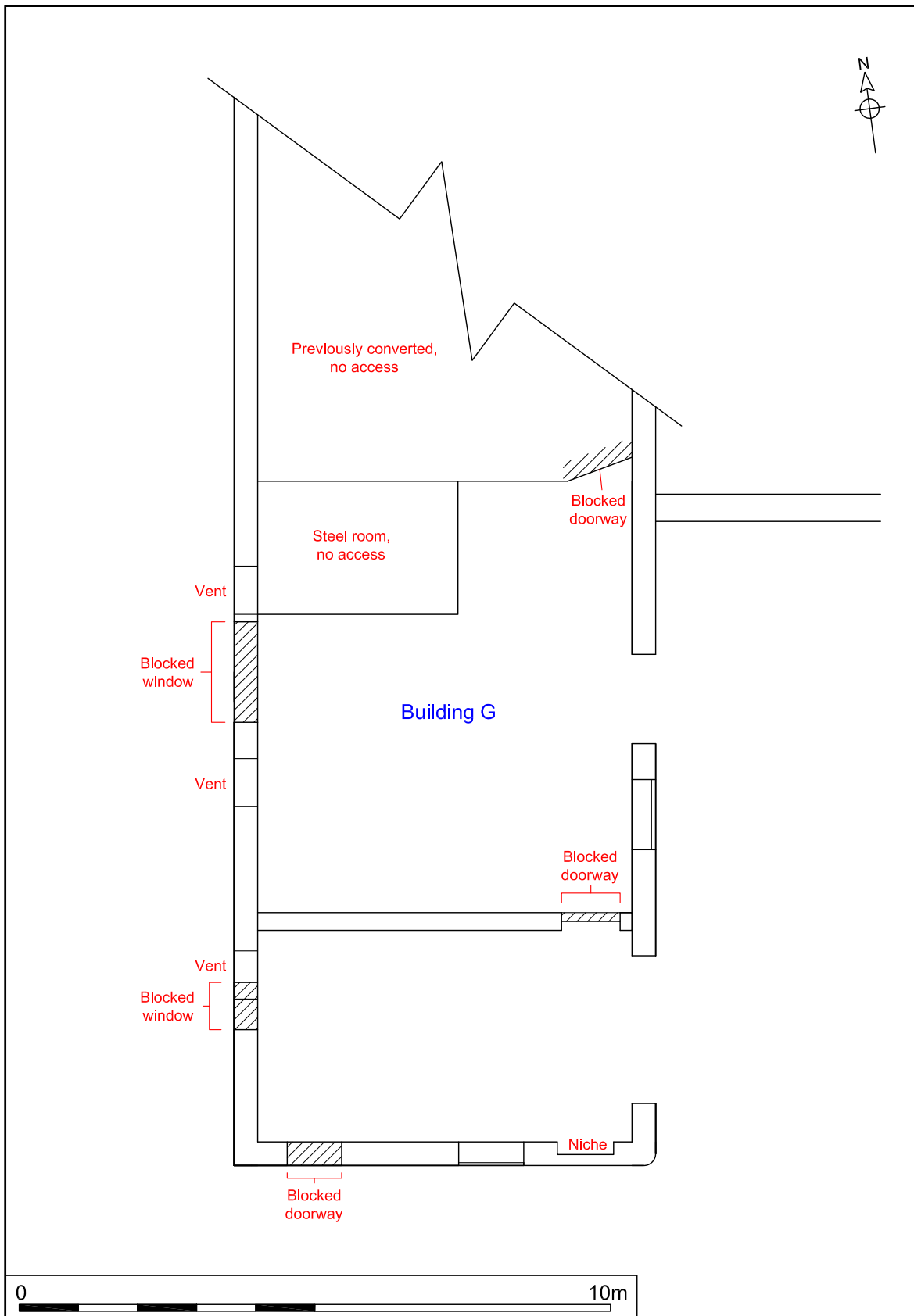


Figure 6. Plan of Building G. Scale 1:100

Above both cells the roof had been replaced recently, however joists from the floor serving the roof space above had been retained; this upper floor was inaccessible at the time of the survey.

## 5.0 CONCLUSIONS

Building A served as the main farmhouse for Ivy Farm. The original building was most likely of two floors with the loft space converted much later. The ground floor would have probably been divided into four full-width bays with the kitchen to the east separated from the two living rooms at the western end by the hall containing the stairs to the upper floor. At the centre of the eastern gable wall a large brick fireplace presumably housed the kitchen's range with a rectangular window on the northern wall slightly further to the south than the present one. The primary entrance to the house would have been from the north opening into the hallway and it is possible that a second external doorway at the opposite end of the hall led to the rear of the house. Access to the two living rooms at the western end of the house might have been granted at this time by the blocked doorway beneath the stairs and each room would have had rectangular sash windows on their northern wall perhaps mirrored on the opposing wall. The canted bay window is of a later date and can be seen to obscure an earlier opening that may be the original window.

At the time of the survey each room had its own fireplace at the centre of the western wall and it appears that this may always have been the case as no evidence of an opening could be found at the western face of the dividing wall to suggest they shared a single chimney. The divisions of the ground floor were probably reflected on the first floor creating two large bedrooms to the west and a third to the east of the hall. Although this latter bedroom has since been subdivided, interior bathroom facilities were rare in the 18th century and if the farmhouse had them they would have been of a very crude character.

With perhaps some minor alterations the present location of the sash windows on the northern elevation is probably original, although the windows themselves mostly date from the 19th century based upon the presence of horns in their lower corners. The southern elevation has been much altered and therefore is difficult to interpret, however the curious small blocked arched opening observed during demolition certainly predates the construction of Building B and appears to coincide with the first floor (Plate 30). Its function is unknown but it may have been a chute for the disposal of waste or perhaps even part of a garderobe. The presence of the large chamfered beams with lambs tongue decoration are indications that either these items were reused from an earlier structure or that they were originally exposed throughout the house as in the kitchen (Plate 16). Many houses of the early 18th century only later received lath and plaster ceilings as the fashions changed.

The construction of Building B to the south required the punching through of several new doors along the southern wall in locations which may have originally been windows. There were probably at least two and perhaps even three of these doors on the ground floor leading into the new structure and this pattern was repeated on the first floor. The extension increased the size of the house significantly with two additional rooms on each floor served by a fireplace and shared chimney on both gables. Such an extension would have represented a





Plate 49. Interior of northern cell Building G



Plate 50. Blocked door in northern wall of northern cell, Building G



Plate 51. Doors in southern wall of Building G



Plate 52. Ivy Farm barn southern elevation

substantial investment so the farm was presumably reasonably successful at the time.

With the construction of Building C it is possible that at least some of the functions of the original kitchen including the cooking of food were transferred to this new building as it has a large fireplace on the eastern gable wall with space for a bread oven. The room is utilitarian in nature and shows no signs of having ever been anything but functional with its whitewashed walls and tile floor. The roof space was apparently used as basic accommodation for farm hands and although now blocked, a break in the joists in the south-west corner indicates the former location of a ladder. The double garage doors in the northern elevation are clearly a 20th-century addition when once again the kitchen was moved back into the main house while the remnants of a western jamb tell us of at least one earlier opening along this wall now destroyed. A continuous wooden lintel across the heads of the two doors on the southern elevation indicates these openings to be contemporary and their location either side of the north-south garden wall suggests this wall must be at least as old as the doorways it divides (Plate 51).

It seems likely based upon the alignment of the two buildings that Building D already existed by the time Building C was built although the western gable may have been extended to the west a little way. The low benches, lath and plaster ceiling and iron ceiling hooks suggest it probably began life as a larder perhaps storing meats and cheeses in a cool environment although it too has seen at least one change of use with the addition of a stove at one end designed to heat water for the sink above. The loft space was evidently also utilised for storage, being accessed from the windows beneath each apex at either gable end.

Building E probably performed some ancillary function such as wood-storage or livestock-shelter but by this time the doorway into Building C may well have been blocked up. Building F would also have been used in this way, although it has been sub-divided to create areas for coal and wood storage as well as providing a toilet external to the main building.

Building G although extensively altered internally was probably a stable with space for crop-storage above. The ventilation windows (Plates 45 and 46) were designed to provide airflow to the stored crops and reduce problems of spoilage while the high ceilings of the lower floor would have given plenty of head space for horses. It is also possible there may have been a window at the apex of one or both gables to allow loading and unloading of crops into the loft but any evidence for this would have been lost during the rebuilding of the upper parts of the structure. More recently the southern cell has obviously been used as a garage while the northern cell has likely seen service as a strong room for chemical storage.

### **Dates and Phasing**

The earliest building is probably the farmhouse itself (Building A) although Building D to the north-east may be of the same date. The brick tumbling at the eastern gable end of Building A was widely used across East Anglia from the 17th century onwards and is also present in both Building D and the Grade II listed barn to the north-east (Plate 52). The latter of these two buildings is believed to date to 1746 which is not an unreasonable date for the house also. Several buildings were likely constructed during this time as evidenced by the date stone re-positioned above the southern doorway of Building G. The extension to Building A is difficult to date

precisely but it is likely that it dates to the period before the agricultural depression that began in the 1880s, a view supported by the 1st edition OS mapping. This is also true of the rest of the buildings in the complex but it does appear from the odd alignment of Building D with Building C that the former (D) does predate the latter (C). Building E certainly appears to be of a later date than both of these buildings as it depends upon them for its northern and western walls while the lean-to structure to the south (Building F) maybe contemporary with Building C as these are the only two buildings to make use of Barnack stone evidently quarried from a nearby ruined building (perhaps from the ruins of St Peter's Chapel a short distance to the north, NHER 1927). With this in mind the weight of evidence suggests Building C either post-dates or is contemporary with the construction of the garden wall, just as Building F must. Building G cannot be directly linked with the phasing of the other structures but if we tentatively accept the date stone as being repositioned on the rebuilding of the upper portions of the structure then this would make it contemporary with the farmhouse and Building D as well as the listed barn to the east.

Recommendations for future work based upon this report will be made by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology.

## ***Acknowledgements***

The field work was carried out by the author with graphics prepared by the author and David Dobson. The report was edited by Jayne Bown.

## ***Bibliography***

- |  |      |   |
|--|------|---|
| Department for Communities and Local Government 2010 | 2010 | <i>Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment</i>                               |
| English Heritage                                     | 2006 | <i>Understanding historic buildings: A guide to good recording practice</i> . London, English Heritage. |