# NEW LODGE, BANK MILL LANE BERKHAMSTED

# A HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD

### SUMMARY

A programme of archaeological evaluation and Historic Building Recording was undertaken at New Lodge, Bank Mill Road, Berkhamsted, in advance of redevelopment of the site. The Lodge showed many stages of construction, and it was enlarged from an 18<sup>th</sup> century two-storey two bay cottage into a villa with an impressive frontage by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Alterations to the house from the mid 1950s have removed much of the potential historic fabric, reducing its value as a heritage resource. Recent removal of fireplaces and stone floors have further reduced the value of the property, which is also subject to damp, and is likely to degenerate rapidly without remedial action.

North of the main Lodge is a stable block of largely 20<sup>th</sup> century date, but its northern end was constructed of a wooden frame which appears to be of 17<sup>th</sup> century character, possibly earlier.

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

#### **Site Location** (Figures 1 and 2)

1.1 The site is located on the south side of Bank Mill Lane, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire. The National Grid Reference for the centre of the site is SP 0022 0736 2956. The site is currently occupied by a four bay house with 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century elements that has been altered. There are four late 20<sup>th</sup> century greenhouses, and a stable block which may have its origins in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The buildings sit within a sizeable plot of land covering nearly two hectares.

### **Development Proposals**

1.2 The development scheme proposes the construction of a residential development consisting of approximately 50 units with associated garages, storage areas and a children's play area.

#### **Planning Background**

- 1.3 The local planning authority is the Dacorum Borough Council, advice to the council is provided by Hertfordshire County Council's Archaeology Officer.
- 1.4 A planning application has not yet been submitted to develop the site. However, the County Archaeology Officer has recommended that an archaeological investigation comprising the field evaluation of the site and a Historic Building Record of the New Lodge building should be undertaken before the application is submitted.

### 2 METHODOLOGY

#### **Historic Building Recording**

- 2.10 The principal Lodge is identified by a name and presented with a letter and numeral identifier for each room: B for basement, G for ground floor and F for first floor
- 2.11 A site code was applied for from the Dacorum archaeology officer. The sitecode BDAS 1634 has been used on all site records. All site records are to be transferred to Dacorum Heritage Trust under that code.
- 2.12 The recording was carried out between on 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> March 2008
- 2.13 The buildings were recorded to Level 3 as defined in 'Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice' (2006) and the Specification for Historic Building recording supplied by Hertfordshire County Council (HCC 2007).
- 2.14 The principal photographic record was undertaken by a photographic specialist using medium format and supported by 35mm colour slide, black and white print, and digital photographs.

### **3** HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Natural topography and flora and fauna have always influenced the pattern of human settlement, and the principal landscape feature of the site is the river Bulbourne which runs along the northern edge of the site, which lies at the bottom of its valley.

### Post-Medieval (c.1540 - modern)

- 3.2 The standing buildings on the site are of post-medieval date, and the relevant historical background is presented here. The medieval town saw renewed development, gaining a grammar school, market house, court house and a new manor house. The town is situated on a major route and many coaching inns were built along the high street, along with large and impressive private houses of the wealthy. Poverty was still rife, and a workhouse was established on Park View Road.
- 3.2 Further economic growth was provided by the construction of the Grand Union Canal in 1793, and accompanying trades such as barge construction began. The construction of the canal affected the practical uses of the Bulbourne, reducing it to little more than a stream, with water levels drying up due to the Grand Union Canal removing its water supply. Originally it was a fast flowing river, powerful enough to drive watermills, and also a navigable waterway. Cartographic sources indicate that there was some development on the site by the time the Canal was established.
- 3.2 The earliest buildings on the site are shown in a late 18<sup>th</sup> century map, which shows buildings in the approximate location of new Lodge, with gardens laid out to the east. Elements of these structures may be present within the buildings subject of this report, but the map is heavily stylized. An early 19<sup>th</sup> century map also depicts the site, but a possible building illustrated is little more than an amorphous smudge. The name 'New Lodge is given for the first time, which may suggest that the building on the site is a replacement for an earlier house.
- 3.3 19<sup>th</sup> century Berkhamstead dramatically increased in size after the building of the railways, but the core of the town was still concentrated around the medieval centre, over a kilometre west of the site of New Lodge. The Tithe maps of Berkhamsted and Northchurch, 1839 illustrate the site in some detail. There is an L-shaped building located where New Lodge currently stands, and a range of rectangular buildings to its northeast, where the 'stable' and 'granary' are located.
- 3.4 By 1878 the outline of the site of New Lodge has slightly changed. 2 large subrectangular buildings and 7 minor structures occupy the site.
- 3.5 The buildings have a similar ground plan by 1925, suggesting few early 20<sup>th</sup> century alterations, and maps of the site show no changes until 1993, when a number of additional structures including moveable greenhouses are shown on various parts of the site.

#### 4 HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD

4.1 The site consists of the villa known as New Lodge, with associated structures including the remains of a possible 17<sup>th</sup> century granary, a stable block and greenhouses. The Lodge lies in the centre of the site, extensive grounds spreading east and west. The site is accessed over a small brick bridge across the River Bulbourne, which forms the sites northern boundary. There appear to be four or five phases of construction and alterations, resulting in a building of varied styles.

# NEW LODGE,

### **General Description**

- 4.2 The main building on the site is a two storey, four-bay house with a partial cellar. The main eastern aspect presents four gable ends with partial decorative bargeboards, giving the illusion of contemporaneity. Towards the south end of the main front is a stone entrance of neoclassical style, which is thought to have been brought from elsewhere and inserted. The building has an approximate L-shape, with a main stairway towards the southern end, which has well-decorated rooms of mid 19<sup>th</sup> century date, the southeast room with a bay window that provides access to the garden. The northern rooms were most recently used as the service areas: kitchens and workshops. A second stair rises up the rear of the property, part encased in a 20<sup>th</sup> century semi-glazed extension. The windows are a mixture of sash and casement, and the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century sashes have associated shutters. The roof is slate, and most internal chimneystacks correspond to chimneys visible at roof level.
- 4.3 Immediately prior to recording, stone floors were removed from the ground floor, fireplaces and mantelpieces have been smashed and removed, and an attempt appears to have been made to burn down the property. The whole of the interior is in a condition of filth, particularly kitchens and toilet areas, plus two rooms used as aviaries.

### **Exterior decoration**

- 4.4 The majority of the property has been rendered and painted white, leaving little definite evidence of phasing or even construction details. There is a patch of missing render on the western face of the second bay which may be evidence of repair or rebuild between the ground floor and first floor windows. The northeast corner of the property is also bare of render and has been rebuilt.
- 4.5 Each of the six gables is decorated, or bears evidence of bargeboards. All those on the western elevation are of a style, suggesting that they were all added at the same period, to give an impression of uniformity. They are therefore likely to date to the latest phase. The bargeboards are carved in groups of back-to-back ogee forms and pierced at the widest points. The eastern gable has a simpler form, of repeating semicircles.

- 4.6 The windows of the second, third and fourth bays of the west facing elevation have been decorated with an applied wooden hood-mould. The hood-mould stands out 0.08m from the elevation, and has a waveform underside. The outer window frames have been painted black, and the inner elements white. This may be a modern decorative style, however.
- 4.7 The windows on the eastern extension have more decorative applied hoodmoulds than the western elevation. The hood is larger, with rectangular panels and the underside decorated with back to back ogee moulding. Side panels, also of ogee form are present on the south window, and on all sides of the polygonal bay, which has a pitched slate roof.

### The Neoclassical Entrance

- 4.8 Between the third and fourth bay of the property is a somewhat incongruous stone arch, which may be described as neoclassical, and has an almost Jonesian quality. It is assumed that this has derived from architectural salvage, and re-erected to form a porch area. The stonework obeys the rules of classical order. The plinth is square and undecorated, topped by ogee-moulded architrave. The columns that form the sides of the arch are quite plain, and are formed of smooth blocks of stone. The profile of the arch is also moulded, in three steps.
- 4.9 The pediment of the arch is topped with a concave cornice, and opens with a rococo curve on either side to a stepped central area rising a metre higher. The inside edges of the arch are flat, as if this were not a true arch, but an applied piece, perhaps more of a very elaborate pilaster.

### Basement

- 4.10 The basement is located towards the south of the property and accessed down a set of brick stairs which lead down southwards from a room (Room G6) directly west of the porch area and under the principal staircase. The stairs are accessed through a low door with four panels, and there are eight steps. They lead down in an S-shape to a short corridor running southwards, which open onto a room 3.47m by 4.08m. A small storage area (Room B1) with shelving lies west of the short corridor and along the east side of the corridor is a shelf of brick.
- 4.11 The walls of the cellar appear to be part brick and part stone: the materials of the lower 0.9m are rough and rounded, but are laid in courses. It was impossible to determine the character of the lower courses due to a layer of thick black paint on the surface. However, if they are stone, then this is out of character with the rest of the building and may suggest the remnants a previously unsuspected building. Four brick alcoves or shelves are built into the walls of the cellar: two in the south wall, and one each in the north and west. A second opening in the west wall has a 45° splayed opening, and may have been blocked up. This opening has a rough

arch formed of brick and is partially blocked. It lies at the base of a chimneystack, so may be a remnant of an oven or fireplace in the cellar.

- 4.12 At the northeastern corner of the cellar is a 1.03m wide recess that terminates in another brick wall. If this is blocking, then the original form of the cellar may be considerably larger than that now present. The brickwork is roughly finished and does not seem contemporary with the rest of the basement.
- 4.13 The floor of the basement is cement, and may overlie an earlier, perhaps stone, surface. This has not been investigated. The walls are unplastered, and the building materials are predominately brick, although flint pieces and roughly squared blocks of limestone are also used, particularly in the south wall. These seem unlikely to be a remnant of an older building *in situ*, rather are re-used building material from another property whose provenance cannot be proved.
- 4.14 The ceiling of the cellar is formed of a principal joist running north-south, the common joists pegged in and running east-west. The principal joist has a square profile of 0.20m, and the room is 1.69m high. No natural light reaches this part of the building. Given the location of this cellar beneath the main staircase, it seems likely that this part of the building is contemporary with a remodelling that included the stairs and the rear range of rooms.

## **Ground Floor**

### Rooms G1 and G2

- 4.15 Two rooms on the eastern part of the building are characterised by being bound by walls 0.40m thick. There is a central chimneystack, with a fireplace on either side. That in Room G1 is blocked, but hearth stones are still present; that in Room G2 has been demolished, leaving just a brick arch surrounding the former grate. The floor in these rooms is thought to have been stone slabs, but these are no longer present, and evidence of stone dust and fragments suggests their removal was a very recent event. The walls are finished with plaster, and a plain skirting board is present. The ceiling is formed of plaster over wooden laths.
- 4.16 The rooms are lit by a single window each, both being tripartite casements: the central pane hinges open, and the upper light of each side pane is a hopper window, fastened at the top.
- 4.17 The original form of the doorways to these two rooms has been compromised by later additions, but they are three in number. One door leads from Room G1 northwards, and was probably an external door. It is now blocked and the door itself covered with a plain panel. This door and frame span 0.93m. To the rear of each room, are doors which lead to/ from the corridor beyond. The sides of the door cases are decorated with ogee mouldings with square heads and a bead moulding at the base.

4.18 To the west of the fireplaces, the wall between the two rooms is slightly thinner than elsewhere, and may have been blocked, suggesting that there was access between the rooms, and they are part of a single house.

#### Corridor and Rear Rooms G3 to G6

- 4.19 Immediately west of the two front rooms is a corridor that, until recently, had a stone floor. Plain skirting is still present. Several rooms lead off this to the west, and there is a door at the northern and southern ends. The northern door was probably an external door before the property was extended northwards, whereas the door at the southern end separates this part of the house from the southern end with its decorative 19<sup>th</sup> century rooms. The northern door shows planks on the inside and has a panelled finish on the outside: two low vertical panels and two above, the upper of which has a curved top. The southern door is a simple four-panelled door. Part way along the passage, an arch is present, and presumably adds structural support to the floor above.
- 4.20 The northernmost of this group of three rooms has been most recently used as a kitchen. The principal feature of the room is a large brick fireplace that may once have held a range, but now contains an oven and cupboard space. The fireplace is 1.52m wide (5 ft) and has rounded internal corners: It was expected that a chimney stack would be present, but this has been removed on the floor above and the re is no evidence for it at roof level. As with the hall way, this room had stone floors until recently. The room is in considerable disarray, with food containers and cooking detritus liberally strewn, and furniture carelessly dispersed.
- 4.21 The window of the kitchen is a wooden-framed casement with two opening toplights and two regular casements. The room does not have a western wall: it is open-plan from the hall.
- 4.22 The other two rooms of this section both have brick walls between each other, but are separated from the hall by wooden partitions which may suggest a prior openplan arrangement. Room G5 has a boarded floor, plain skirting, and a casement window in the east wall. This room was most recently used for storage of jars containing liquids and chemicals associated with the occupants' many pastimes.
- 4.23 The room immediately south of this (G6) is similarly furnished: it has a boarded floor and the plain skirting board common to this group of rooms. This room has several features to note; a fireplace and its mantelpiece in the northern wall have been removed, leaving only the bare brickwork behind. The opening of the fireplace has a brick arch, and no evidence of extra structural supports such as iron bars. The window of the room is a sash window, six-over six, and has a good condition case with shutters. All the sash fittings appear to be present, although the window was quite inaccessible. The window has a stone sill.

4.24 In the southern wall of the room is a low wooden door which provides access to the partial basement. It is slightly obscured by a cupboard between the basement door and the western wall.

### Room G7: Hall

- 4.25 This room is provides access to all parts of the property: to the north-south corridor, upstairs to the first floor, to the group of rooms with 19<sup>th</sup> century internal fittings on the south end of the property, and is accessed from the main front door on the western face of the house. The floor is carpeted over floorboards: the partial basement underlies part of the hall. The room has minimal decoration: the skirting board has a square top with bead moulding, (skirting#1). There is no architrave or ceiling rose which might have been expected in a room which is the first internal space visitors would see.
- 4.26 At the eastern end of the hall, as well as a doorway to a main 19<sup>th</sup> century room is an arch which leads to a small service area: the arch has bead-moulding around the edges, and this is a feature only seen in this room and the first floor landing and corridor. An arch of the same form accesses the inner porch.
- 4.27 All these rooms are generally 2.40m from floor to ceiling.

#### Staircase

4.28 The banister to the staircase is one of the more decorative fittings in the property. The stairs rise for fifteen steps with a half-turn at the top to the first floor landing. The staircase has twisted balusters with square profiles at each end. The hand rail above is rounded, and terminates on a curtail step. On the landing above, the balusters are interspersed with thin dowelling rods which give extra support.

### Room G8, Southern End Room: Dining Room

- 4.29 The exact date of the fabric of this room is unclear. The fittings suggest a mid 19<sup>th</sup> century date, whereas its ground plan suggests the walls were built contemporary with rooms G3 to G7. However, the ceiling in this room is higher than rooms G3 to G7, at 2.75m.
- 4.30 The skirting board is notably wide: 0.33m, and the top is decorated with double ogee moulding. At the top of the walls, the room is decorated with a geometric 'greek key' motif of 10mm depth lying within several rows of bead and ogee moulds. This is one of only three ground floor rooms with moulded cornices. This room also features a scotia picture rail. The doorframe has architrave of bead and ogee moulding.
- 4.31 The most impressive decorative element in the room is the large sash window in the southern end, almost spanning the height of the wall. The sashes are both tripartite, with narrow side lights and the frame has ogee moulding, whereas the glazing bars have squared profiles. The sash window is flanked on either side by

cases for shutters: each shutter has four hinged parts with indented panels, and has an internal clasp for securing the shutters when closed.

4.32 The mantelpiece in the room is of 20<sup>th</sup> century origin, constructed of bricks with incised lines, and spans much of the east wall. It is not considered an original fixture.

#### **Room G9, Southwestern Room: Library**

- 4.33 This is a large room which is described by the English Heritage advisors report as a former library. There is little evidence for its use remaining in the building. Original fittings are present: the doorframe, a sash window in the western wall, coving, picture rail and skirting board are all of 19<sup>th</sup> century date. The room is 2.83m tall
- 4.34 The doorframe has architrave of bead and ogee moulding, the picture rail is moulded in the scotia pattern, and the skirting board is quite simple; a square top with bead moulding, (skirting#1). The architrave has ovolu moulding either side of concave coving.
- 4.35 The window spans almost the entire height of the room. It is quadripartite, with narrow sashes at both sides, and large casements in the centre, almost like French windows, but not reaching floor level. The wooden window frame has ogee moulding and the window sill is stone.
- 4.36 The fireplace survives in somewhat battered form. Any mantelpiece that was recently present has been removed. Glazed dark red a yellow bricks form the surround that appear to be of 20<sup>th</sup> century date. The grate is not present, and a small gas fire lies in the recess.
- 4.37 The southern wall of this room has been modified. Its original form cannot be proved, but a 2.5m section is part-glazed, allowing light in from a small conservatory that has been added on the southern end. The original wall could have included a door or window, or equally been blind.

#### **Room G10, Drawing Room**

- 4.38 The eastern rear room is one of the best appointed rooms in the property. This large room is lit by a large sash window in the south wall, and a three sided bay with French windows in the eastern wall. The sash window has a decorative external hoodmould. Internally, the sash has a case which houses folding wooden shutters, as present in most of the southern rooms. The sides of the bay windows also once had shutters: the cases are present, but the shutters themselves have gone.
- 4.39 The skirting board in the room is quite ornate, with an ogee mould atop a fillet. The architrave is also highly moulded around the ceiling: tongue and dart

moulding along a lower register and a wider tongue and dart along an upper register, separated by curved moulding.

4.40 The western end of the room is also well proportioned: above the door is an arch which almost reaches the ceiling. A purely decorative arch is present on the southern side until recently held an ornate, possibly rococo mirror. The fireplace has been recently removed: all fireplace furniture is missing, as is a second large mirror with upper moulding has been taken. The carpet has also been recently removed, revealing floorboards running east-west. This is the tallest room on the ground floor, 3.33m high.

#### Room G11, Porch

4.41 The porch is a small square room set back almost 2m from the stone arch, and is almost totally undecorated, barring a bead-moulded arch which leads to the hall to the east. The porch has a pair of doors, separating it from the entrance with the stone arch beyond, which forms a second porch. The central door is semi-glazed and there are flanking windows with small diamond panes in lead frames and also horizontal glazing bars, in a very Tudor style.

#### Rooms G12-14

4.42 This small suite of three rooms is set within an extension to the property added within a corner formed by the east wall and the south extension of the drawing room, and contains two rooms with stone floors that are used as stores. T the far eastern room is a lavatory. The first room (G12) has bead-moulded skirting and a door to the garden, which requires three steps down. The central store room and the lavatory both have six-over-six sash windows. The southern wall of room G12 and part of the wall of room G13 are notably thin, and may be evidence that there was another opening in Room G10 such as a window or door, prior to the construction of this block. The first floor rooms directly above here contain a bathroom and lavatory, and the whole of the block has a flat roof. This is clearly one of the later parts of the house, and may have been added in a sudden flush of sanitary zeal.

#### **Rooms G15-20: Northern extension**

4.43 This is a group of six smallish rooms within a new build that forms the northernmost bay. These have clearly been added to an earlier structure, since there is a blocked door in Room G1, and the door at the end of the corridor (G3) has the form of an exterior door with a storm step. Two rooms are at the west of the property. One (G15) is lit by a window in the end wall, which has modern Tudor-effect glazing, and no architectural details: no skirting or architrave is present. The room's most recent use is as a workshop, and contains paints, chemical and adhesives, plus an oven. This room is accessed from a small antechamber to the east (G17) which has an external door set in an opening with a basket arch. The antechamber also provides access to a northwestern room with a

fixed window in the northern wall. This was used primarily as a paint store, and is of low architectural and historical merit.

4.44 Three other rooms lie south of the antechamber. The first to be encountered on travelling east is a room with a casement window (G18) in the north wall that is used as a store for general detritus, such as cardboard boxes and discarded food items. It may once have been a workshop, or possibly some kind of scullery or wash house, given its location in the 'service' part of the house. However, with no fixtures or fittings to help define its use, interpretation is limited. East of here is a step down to another room filled with waste items (G19) that has an exterior door, again in an opening with a basket arch, and also provides access to a second ground floor lavatory which contains a high level cistern (G20).

#### Room G21, Outer porch

4.45 This room is formed by the addition of the neoclassical arch between bays three and four, and contains one interesting fitting: a bell-pull that still rings a bell for attention. This was clearly for visitors to the property, but would have been inaccessible once the outer doors on the stone arch were added. The bell pull hangs on a twisted wrought iron rod chain, and the handle is modelled in an open basket teardrop form. The rod is held in position by clasps with fleur-de-lys backplates which have been heavily painted over and are somewhat indistinct. The upper part of the pull is a chain, which meets a rocker, which then leads to the bell located in the corridor.

#### Room G22, covered stairway

4.46 A flight of stairs lead to the first floor from the east side of the house, and lie within a semi-glazed structure which resembles a conservatory. There is no evidence on the ground floor of the provenance of the stairs, but they may be a late addition or modification to provide access above the service wing of the house. Possibly, there was always a staircase here, and this semi glazed room, which has a lean to roof with boarded sides and brick on the lower parts off the walls, was added as a replacement to a simple covered shelter that may have been present before.

#### **First Floor**

### Front rooms, Rooms F1 and F2

4.47 Two rooms on the first floor are located directly over two rooms on the ground floor and appear to be the earliest part of New Lodge. They have walls 0.40m thick, and are therefore interpreted as contemporary. A chimney stack between the two rooms has a fireplace in each room. That to the north (F1) has a square reveal, but all fire furniture has been removed. In the more southern of the two rooms, the fireplace is near to the front wall of the property, and may be a later insertion, since there is a separate chimney for this standing proud of roof level, which would have been unnecessary given the presence of the main stack.

- 4.48 All the rooms are accessed by a door from the corridor to the east, but the eastern wall has evidence of this once being an exterior wall: a blocked window is apparent in the corridor, but not seen within either of the rooms because part of the dividing wall meets the eastern wall at the window's location. This indicates not only that the eastern wall at this point was once external, but that there was direct access between the two rooms.
- 4.49 The northern room is less well decorated than the southern room. The northern room has a plain skirting board and a scotia picture rail. Room F2, in contrast, has a bead-moulded skirting board and coving with a lower double fillet. The rooms are lit by a single window each, both being tripartite casements: the central pane hinges open, and the upper light of each side pane is a hopper window, fastened at the top. The casements have quite decorative fittings: the catches that open the casements have ornate pierced plates.

#### Upper corridor and rear rooms F3 to F6

- 4.50 In a similar arrangement to the ground floor, there is a corridor behind the two front rooms, with rooms leading off it to the east. The corridor is largely plain, with a bead-moulded skirting board, and one supporting arch is also bead-moulded. The corridor also provides access to the northern group of rooms (F13 to F15), and to the southern landing. Stairs form the east side of the property also lead into this corridor.
- 4.51 The northernmost room of this group, Room F4 has been heavily modified: the window is modern, and the north wall has been removed, forming a larger room with Room F13. The former location of a wall here is proved by a wall plate that is still present a ceiling level, spanning the room east-west. The northern wall is likely to have once featured a chimneybreast, since it would have stood directly above the fireplace in the kitchen.
- 4.52 The central of these rooms is small, and has few significant details. There is skirting with bead moulding. The window, however, appears slightly anomalous. The window is tripartite, each part containing 35 small square panes in seven rows of five. However, only two parts of the window are in this room: the third light overlooks the stairs that rise from the east side of the building Room F16. The northern wall of this room, which backs onto the stairs, is only 0.08m wide, formed of boards over studwork, and therefore not load-bearing. This would suggest that this is an added partition. However, it is not proof that the stairs are a recent or even historic addition. All this proves is that Room F5 was made smaller, resulting in an enclosed staircase. If the staircase is a late addition, then the question is raised of the location of prior access to the first floor.
- 4.53 The third of these rear rooms was in most recent use in internal aviary, and remains of branches and cage materials were present. The expected detritus from birds was also present in significant quantities. The room is sparsely decorated,

with plain skirting, an ovolu picture rail. A cracked ceramic basin lies to the south of the window, which is a ten-over ten sash, with narrow side lights.

#### Landing, Room F7

4.54 This room is accessed from the main stair with its twisted balusters, and provides access to the smarter rooms at the south end of the house. However, it has more in common with the northern 'service' range than the well-appointed southern rooms. Notably, the floor and ceiling levels are in common with the corridor (F3) and all other northern rooms, rather than the southern three rooms, which are accessed by short flights of two stairs (Rooms F8 and F9), and a flight of five stairs (Room F10). This is caused largely by the heights of the rooms below. The only light to the landing comes from a pair of modern sliding 'patio' doors which lead onto a flat roof above the porch. Evidence for any former opening here does not survive.

#### **Southern Room F8**

- 4.55 This large, bright room is lit by a window in the south wall, a very large sash with a simple panel beneath. The room is suffering badly from damp, lining paper is peeling off, and mould is rampant on the east wall. As in most of the property, the chimneybreast in the eastern wall has been robbed of its furniture.
- 4.56 The doorframe has architrave of bead and ogee moulding, and this is common to the three rooms at this south end of the house. Other decorative elements include the skirting, which is bead-moulded and the sash case, which is bead and ogee-moulded. The ceiling has no moulding at the junction with the walls. Instead, the east and west walls curve towards the flat ceiling over a distance of 0.55m. This disguises the fact that the ceiling is above eaves level.

#### Western Room, F9

- 4.57 P This room is characterised by its recent use as an aviary: it was clearly open plan, since there is an extra door formed of cage wire. Historic elements do survive under the general bird-waste. The skirting has bead moulding, there is double fillet coving, and the window is a large four-part casement with substantial uprights. The catch handles are subtly delicate, with a spiral end. This room is 2.48m high, and the ceiling is lath and plaster.
- 4.58 The chimneybreast in this room has a rare survival for this building: the fireplace is actually still present. Although painted a rather unnatural turquoise, some details area apparent: it is a narrow fireplace, just 0.74m wide, and has a neoclassical style, with raised ovolu moulding forming an upper panel, leaf and dart architrave above, and a moulded cornice. The grate is also still present, and is a basket formed of five iron bars. The current heater is gas-powered, and the chimney has not been used recently, like all the chimneys in the property.

#### Eastern Room, F10

- 4.59 This is the tallest room on the first floor, and is accessed up six steps from the landing, with a little antechamber immediately in front of the door which also leads to facilities to the north. It is lit by three windows; two in the east wall and one in the south wall. The window in the south wall is a two-over-two sash, and has a well-preserved internal folding shutter that fits well into its case. The case is panelled. The more northern of the two windows in the east wall is also a sash, with complete shutter units.
- 4.60 The third window in this room is a casement. The opening is the same size as the sash on the east wall, so it seems probably that either could be a replacement. Given the preponderance of shuttered sashes in this part of the property, it is most likely that the casement is the replacement.
- 4.61 The more decorative elements of the southern suite of rooms are also present; a bead –moulded skirting board, a scotia picture rail, and the north and south walls curve towards the ceiling above eaves level. The fireplace is in the west wall, sharing the chimneystack in Room F8. A second feature in the south wall is a low hatch. It is at floor level in this room, and opens at 1.26m high Room F10. The reason for this opening is not immediately clear; it seems unlikely to be for food carriage; the house is not of a date to require hidden exits, and it does not access any hidden spaces.

#### Facilities, Rooms F11 and F12

4.62 These two rooms are in the inserted block, above Rooms G12-14, and are quite high-ceilinged too. The western room contains a lavatory and basin, the eastern room contains a bath. Neither of these rooms appears to have been used to keep the occupants clean in recent times. Both rooms are lit by six-over-six sashes of undistinguished character. The rooms are both plain, the undecorated walls broken only by a dado rail. The roof above this part of the house is a flat roof with a slight northward slope.

#### Northern Range, Rooms F13 to 15

- 4.63 Three rooms form the northernmost bay, and most of the fittings appear to be of 20<sup>th</sup> century date. The eastern room is an extension of a room already present (F4), and has a modern casement in the east wall. However, there is a shuttered sash in the north wall. This is of a character with the shuttered sashes in elsewhere on this floor, and it is possible that this came from the lost north wall of Room F4, and reapplied to the new exterior wall. Decoration is limited to a plain skirting board and a scotia picture rail. This room has been recently used as an unhygienic living space: rotting food and packaging is strewn around the room, as well as dog and cat food.
- 4.64 In the centre of the northern bay is a lavatory the room is large enough to house the lavatory and one user, but little else. The room is lit by a small casement window.

4.65 The northwest room is lit by another sash window, ten-over ten, and with a full set of shutters in their cases. The provenance of this window may be from this house: it is of the same style as that in the north end of room F13. However, it is unclear where this could have come from. Perhaps this was in the north wall of Room F1, and has been moved and a blocking put in. Because of current wall surfaces, it was not possible to prove whether there had ever been modifications to the end wall. A second window in the room is in the west wall, and is a plain casement. The only other architectural detail is plain skirting board.

#### F16: The staircase

4.66 This space house the staircase which rises through the east side of the house. Its presence is somewhat enigmatic, given that it almost seems an afterthought, although clearly, there was a need to have a staircase to the first floor. There are three points that suggest it is a later addition. Firstly, its southern wall is a partition wall of Room F5, suggesting Room F5 was modified. Secondly, the window in the east wall has been divided by the insertion of the partition wall. Finally, the covered area at the bottom of the stairs is a 20<sup>th</sup> century addition. However, in other ways, it is not too anomalous. The back of the stairs do not intrude excessively into the kitchen on the ground floor (Room G4) and there will always have been a requirement for upstairs access. The main staircase in the hall (G7) would always have provided access once built. Perhaps there was some demarcation of the upstairs space, as if the northern part of the first floor was occupied by a separate household. An alternative explanation is that access to the first floor was via a staircase on the former north wall of the house, now formed by Rooms G1, G4, F1 and F4, and when the property was extended, a new staircase was required.

### The Roof

- 4.67 Access to the roof was not possible: prior access points are either boarded over, or Health and Safety considerations were paramount. However, it seems likely that they are King-post roofs; purlins project beneath the gable ends in a manner that suggests the rafters lie on their outer edges. All roofs are finished with slate: the flat roof could not be accessed, however.
- 4.68 Seven chimney stacks rise above the roof, and the evidence suggests there had been an eighth, which was located at the old northern end of the building, above the kitchen (G4) and room above (F4). Two chimneystacks serve what appears to be the earliest part of the building, (Rooms G1, G2, F1 and F2), plus an additional stack at the front of the property for the new fireplace in Room F2. A fourth chimney rises from the suite of rear rooms, that which serves rooms G6 and F6. The southern group of rooms are served by three chimneystacks: One for rooms G9 and F9, one to serving four fireplaces, which is the largest, widest stack (Rooms G8, G10, F8 and F10,) and one in the flat-roofed service area (G13).

### THE GRANARY AND STABLE

- 4.69 The oldest part of the buildings on site is the northern end of the stable building, a long two-storey structure to the north of New Lodge. The structure is described as a granary in the English Heritage Buildings Assessment, and while this may be the case, it may be more of a grain store associated with stabling than a granary which may suggest a considerable bakehouse or mill.
- 4.70 Considerable repair, rebuilding episodes and modification has reduced the oldest parts of the granary to a west-facing first floor wall with an external door, its north wall, part of its internal superstructure, part of the roof, although that may have been retiled, and a partial south side of the roof.
- 4.71 The west end of the northern part of the granary presents a gable end that has external lapped weatherboarded cladding. This disguises the age of the building, the detail only apparent on the interior.
- 4.72 The gable structure is built upon brick piers with very worn stone capitals. These capitals may once have been decorated, but are of limestone and heavily eroded. The original form of the gable end, and by deduction, the whole 'granary' first floor and roof building, is a timber framed building. The first floor is supported on wall plates 0.22m square; these sit atop the piers, and run east-west on either side of the structure. At the western end, a third wall plate is jointed into these, running north-south, and supporting the floor of the first floor and uprights that form the west wall. The east wall has been fully rebuilt with brick, and no north-south wall plate is present.
- 4.73 Principal posts with tapered jowls rise form the western ends of the wall plates. These have square profiles of 0.18m, tapering out to 0.28m wide. Wall plates atop these posts are both rectangular (0.20m by 0.14m), and a slightly curved tie beam is pegged atop these, spanning the width of the building. Between the tie beam and the lower wall plate are two posts which form the frame of a door. The door may be a later addition, but the opening appears original to the building. This opening allows goods to be loaded onto the first floor. The door is made of five vertical planks and four cross-pieces. There are just two strap hinges, and the door opens inwards. No pulley assembly was observed, but the exterior is extensively ivy-clad, so this may have been hidden. The rest of the end wall is formed by struts that may be modifications of the original form: they exhibited saw marks characteristic of machine-cut timbers.
- 4.74 The roof is a Clasped Purlin Roof: principal rafters that form the gable end rise from the tie-beam, pegged with two trenails. The collar that spans the two Principal rafters is supported by three struts, and the collar clasps the purlins in place. At the eastern end, this assembly is not present: the purlins run straight into the modern brickwork that forms the eastern wall. There is no ridge-piece; the

roof structure is supported by angled wind-braces. The common rafters at 0.30m intervals and are 0.10m wide.

- 4.75 The northern side of the roof has a full set of common rafters, batons and tiles atop. The southern side has been almost fully dismantled, leaving one wind-brace, one purlin, and the wall plate has been cut to allow access between this section of the building and the modern part to the south. One post and three struts are still present in the south first-floor wall, whereas the northern wall has modern surfaces, and could not be examined. All the struts are pegged to the wall plate. One strut has a carpenter's mark: four incised diagonal lines. The southern wall plate also has a carpenter's mark: an X and four diagonal lines, clearly showing the number fourteen. No other marks are present.
- 4.76 The missing parts of the south side of the roof allow access to the newer part of the building: thus batons, roof tiles and common rafters have been removed, and the roof line extended with a flat modern roof that covers the entirety of the building.
- 4.77 The main body of the stable block has two storeys. The ground floor facing west is characterised by a series of double barn doors which open into large internal spaces. The walls are constructed of bricks 230mm by 110mm by 60mm of mid 20<sup>th</sup> century character. The eastern wall features two high level windows and is backed on by collapsed glasshouses which it was impossible to enter. The east wall is has extra strength brought by irregularly spaced buttresses 0.35m thick compared to the main parts of the walls which are only 0.23m thick. The floor of the stable block was, until recently, paved with two-cobble bricks.
- 4.78 There is a single part of the building which suggests stalling: a wooden panel in the centre of the building with a metal grille atop it. Internally, there is also occasional evidence of wooden panelling, which helps retain heat, but its extent is very limited.
- 4.79 The upper floor of the stable block is in very poor condition, with many floorboards missing or rotten. It was generally filled with jars of chemicals and rotting paperwork. The walls are made of breeze blocks and the windows casement. The roof is flat, roof joists running east-west. There is little of historic interest in this stable block.

## **GREENHOUSES.**

4.80 Four large greenhouses are present on the site, which may be described as located two to the east of the New Lodge and two to the west. All but the northeastern greenhouse are built of the same basic elements: two sections of tubular aluminium frame with internal braces forms a six-sided frame. This is part of a unit 3.04m long, which is affixed to the next frame. Between each frame are four

glass panes in a wooden frame. The northwestern greenhouse is formed of ten units and is 30.40m long. The southwestern greenhouse is formed of  $6\frac{3}{4}$  units, and is 20.52m long. The southeastern greenhouse is also ten units long.

- 4.81 The northeastern greenhouse has a wooden frame forming two sides and two roof angles. It is strengthened with aluminium struts. It too is constructed of units each 3.04m long, and is ten units, thus 30.40m in length.
- 4.82 The eastern greenhouses are filled with horticultural items: soils, flowerpots, seed trays and some dying plants. They are both located in sheltered ground to the east of the stable block.
- 4.83 The western greenhouses are characterised as being used as almost industrial units: there is little evidence for their use as greenhouses, bar a collection of tiny flowerpots in that to the northwest. It is suspected that the structures are cheaply made, and were actually used more as workshops than horticulture.

### 5 CONCLUSIONS New Lodge

6.1 There appear to be a minimum of six phase of construction to New Lodge, presented simply below. A more accurate date may be supplied if the documents reported by English Heritage Listed Building report are made available to this author.

Phase	Outline	Detail	Date
1	Primary construction.	Rooms G1, G2, F1, F2	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> century?
2	Extension to rear	Rooms G3, G4, G5, G6, F3, F4, F5, F6	Early C19th?
3	Southern range	Rooms G7, G8, G9, G10, G11, F7, F8, F9, F10	c.1830?
4	Service block	G12, G13, G14, F11, F12	c.1850
5	Northern extension	G15-20, F13-15	C20th
6	Stone arch introduced	G21, F16	C20th

- 6.2 The earliest part of New Lodge appears to be the central part of the western front, with its wall 0.40m thick, with a central chimneystack and window in the rear wall. The location of the initial front door and a stair to the first floor are unknown. Possibly, the front door was in a location now a window. The EH report mentions a potential rebuild of the whole frontage. If this is the case, then evidence for the original front could have been completely removed.
- 6.3 The apparent two-up-two-down cottage was then extended eastwards. A first floor window was blocked, a corridor was added and three rooms behind on each floor. On the ground floor, this included a new kitchen. The question of access to the

new extension is raised: either the staircase in Room G7 is contemporary, or there was another staircase, in a location now lost.

- 6.4 It is at this second phase that some doubt over the sequence becomes apparent. This is the exact phasing of the cellar, the hall and the landing above (Rooms G7 and F7). The lower part of the basement walls appear to built of stone, not brick as in the rest of the property. If this is the case, then this could be a remnant of an earlier, unsuspected building, perhaps an 'Old' Lodge. If the basement is rebuilt contemporary with the phase 2 extension, this would include room G7 and G8 above, as well as the stairs to the first floor. It may be simply that the basement uses stone because the weight of the masonry above requires a solid foundation? Room G8 is so much in character with the rest of the southern suite of rooms as to make its presence most likely third phase.
- 6.5 The third phase most likely consists of the southern rooms with their large windows, high ceilings and decorative mouldings. It probably also consists of the hall and landing, and stairs therein.
- 6.6 The services: bathrooms, lavatory and downstairs rooms are specifically added to this southern suite; a new phase. The different roof height and presence of a flat roof indicate these are an addition following the 19<sup>th</sup> century fashion of incorporating the new efficient water closet technology.
- 6.7 The date of the phase 5 northern extension is unknown, but the use of basket arches on the ground floor suggests a late 19<sup>th</sup> century or early 20<sup>th</sup> century date. Potentially, the cased sash windows in the northern wall of the first floor were originally in the northern wall of the property and were place don the new end wall.
- 6.8 The addition of the stone arch at the front door is somewhat surprising. Its date is unknown. It has the character of an 18<sup>th</sup> century neoclassical building, but is rather small in size, and lacks the scale of the grander neoclassical movement. It also seems rather unlikely that the owners of a Lodge on the outskirts of Berkhamsted would have commissioned this architectural detail. Perhaps this is a modern addition, a piece of architectural salvage.
- 6.9 Also of probable modern date is the staircase to the east of the property. There is no need for this staircase: a perfectly adequate stair is present in the main hall. This may indicate a division of the first floor into two living spaces in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

#### **Stable and Granary**

6.10 The granary building, surviving in fragmentary form amongst 20<sup>th</sup> century modifications, is probably the earliest building on the site, but has been severely compromised by modifications. It is listed as a granary, and this may well be the

case, but if not an industrial granary, then perhaps more of a hay-loft for stables. The building stretching southward from it has the form of a stable with wide barn doors and a brick-cobbled floor, but this building is of much later origin. There are buildings shown in this approximate location on early maps, including the Tithe Map, but the stable block appears to be of fully late 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century date. However, the presence of the timber framed granary or hay loft may suggest the existence of a prior stable block, of which the current building is a replacement.

6.11 Since the stable building is of modern date, it can be assumed that the attached glasshouses are of similar age, and of low architectural and historical interest.

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ay, east extension	W	Y		1
ay, east extension	NW	Y		1
arden door steps	NW	Y		1
arden door detail	W	Y		
elieving arch, east extension	W	Y		
ast extension	W	Y		
ast extension bargeboard	W	Y		-
ast extension bargeboard	W	Y		
ast side flat roof window	W	Y		
ast side flat roof window	W	Y		
ast extension	N	Y		-
ast extension window	N	Y		-
ast extension hoodmould	N	Y		1
ast extension hoodmould	N	Y		
	N	Y		1
buth side	N	Y		-
buth side	N	Y		1
buth side bargeboard	N	Y		-
buth side window	NE	Y		-
round floor window	NE	Y		1
buth elevation	NE	Y		1
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#### **APPENDIX A: Photographic Register, HBR**

Image No.	Description	View	Digital	Colour	B/W
51	Chimneys	Е	Y		
52	Bay 3 gable elevation	Е	Y		
53	East elevation	W	Y		
54	East elevation	W	Y		
55	South elevation	N	Y		
56	South elevation	N	Y		
57	South elevation	N	Y		
58	Southeast end	N	Y		
59	Southeast end	NW	Y		
60	Southeast end	NW	Y		
61	East extension	W	Y		
62	East extension	W	Y		
63	East elevation, north end	W	Y		
<u>64</u>	Bell pull in porch	N	Y		
65	Bell pull in porch	N	Y		
66 66	Plate for bell pull	N	Y		
67	Bell pull mechanism	N	Y	-	+
67 68	Inner door	W	Y	<u> </u>	
68 69	Hall and stairs	NE W	Y Y		
69 70		W	Y		
	Banister detail				
71	Banister detail	N	Y		
72	Banister detail	N	Y		
73	Stairs	W	Y		
74	Front room G9, south end	SW	Y		
75	Front room G9, south end	SE	Y		
76	Middle south room	S	Y		
77	Middle south room	S	Y		
78	Middle south room	S	Y		
79	Middle south room shutters	S	Y		
80	Middle south room, window detail	SE	Y		
81	Middle south room, geometric moulding		Y		
82	Back room	Е	Y		
83	Back room	W	Y		
84	Back room window	SW	Υ		
85	Architrave, back room		Y		
86	Corridor	Ν	Y		
87	Corridor	N	Y		
88	Front room G2	W	Y		
89	Middle Room G1	N	Y		
90	Middle room G1	W	Y		
91	North room G15	W	Y		
92	North room G15	E	Y	1	1
93	Rear room G6	E	Y		
94	Middle Room G5	E	Y		
95	Rear stairs (F16)	W	Y		
96	Lavatory G20	SE	Y		1
90 97	Cistern G20	SE	Y		
97 98	Store G18	NE	Y	-	+
98 99		NE	Y	<u> </u>	
	Kitchen G4		Y Y		
100	Kitchen range location	NE			-
101	Back door Old back door	N N	Y Y		

Image No.	Description	View	Digital	Colour	B/W
103	Old back door#2	S	Y		
104	Old back door#2	S	Y		
105	Rear store G18	NE	Y		
106	Rear store G18	Е	Y		
107	Rear store G18	NE	Y		
108	Basement wall	S	Y		
109	Basement wall	W	Y		
110	Basement	S	Y		
111	Basement	N	Y		
112	First floor room F9	SW	Y		
113	First floor room F9	SW	Y		
114	First floor room F9	SW	Y		
115	Back room F10	E	Y		
116	Back room F10	N N	Y		
117	Landing F7	E	Y		
118	Middle Room F8	S	Y		
119	Middle Room F8	S	Y		1
120	Back room F10	E	Y		
120	Back room F10	S	Y		
121	Towards toilets	NE	Y		
122		N N	Y	-	-
125	Landing corridor F3 Landing corridor F3	N N	Y		
124	ĕ	W	Y		
	Landing F7				-
126	Front room F2	W	Y		-
127	Front room F2	W	Y		
128	Front room F1	W	Y		-
129	Front room F1	W	Y		-
130	Room F9 fireplace	E	Y		-
131	Room F10 fireplace	N	Y		
132	Room F10	W	Y		
133	F1 window catch		Y		
134	Window catch		Y		
135	Room F1	W	Y		
136	Back entrance F16	E	Y		
137	Back stairwell F16	Е	Y		
138	Back stairwell F16	Е	Y		
139	Rear room F6	Е	Y		
140	Rear room F6	Е	Y		
141	Middle rear room F5	Е	Y		
142	Rooms F4 and F13	NE	Y		
143	F15 northwest room shutters	NW	Y		
144	F15 northwest room	W	Y		
145	F15 northwest room shutters	N	Y		
146	North lavatory F14	N	Y		1
147	Northeast room F13	NE	Y		1
148	Stable south, west elevation	NE	Y	1	1
149	Stable south, south end	E	Y	1	1
150	Stable south, mid point	E	Y		
150	Stable south north end	E	Y		1
151	Stable south upstairs	N N	Y	1	1
152	Stable south upstairs	S	Y		
155	Stable south upstails	NW	Y	+	+

Image No.	Description	View	Digital	Colour	B/W
155	Stable greenhouse	NW	Y		
155	Stable granary north elevation	S	Y		
150	Stable granary west elevation	E	Y		
157	Stable granary east elevation	W	Y		
158	Stable granary ground floor	W	Y		
160	Stable granary ground floor	SW	Y		
161	Stable granary ground floor	SW	Y		
162	Stable granary west end	W	Y		
163	Stable granary west end	W	Y		
164	Stable granary west end	W	Y		
165	Stable granary roof assembly	NW	Y		
166	Stable granary west end	W	Y		
167		W	Y		
167	Stable granary west end	w N	Y		
	Stable granary roof assembly		Y		
169	Stable granary roof assembly	N	Y Y		
170	Stable granary first floor wall	N	Y Y		
171	Stable granary first floor gable	W	Y Y		
172	Stable granary first floor roof	N			
173	Stable granary wall plate marks	N	Y		
174	Northeast greenhouse	E	Y		
175	Northeast greenhouse	E	Y		
176	East greenhouses	E	Y		
177	Eastern greenhouses	E	Y		
178	Eastern greenhouses	E	Y		
179	Southeast greenhouse	E	Y		
180	Outbuildings	NW	Y		
181	Bridge	W	Y		
182	Northeast greenhouse	W	Y		
183	Northwest greenhouse	NE	Y		
184	Northwest greenhouse	NE	Y		

#### NEW LODGE, BANK MILL LANE BERKHAMSTED: A HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD

# **APPENDIX B: OASIS FORM**

To be added

# APPENDIX C: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

To be added