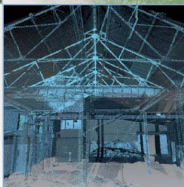
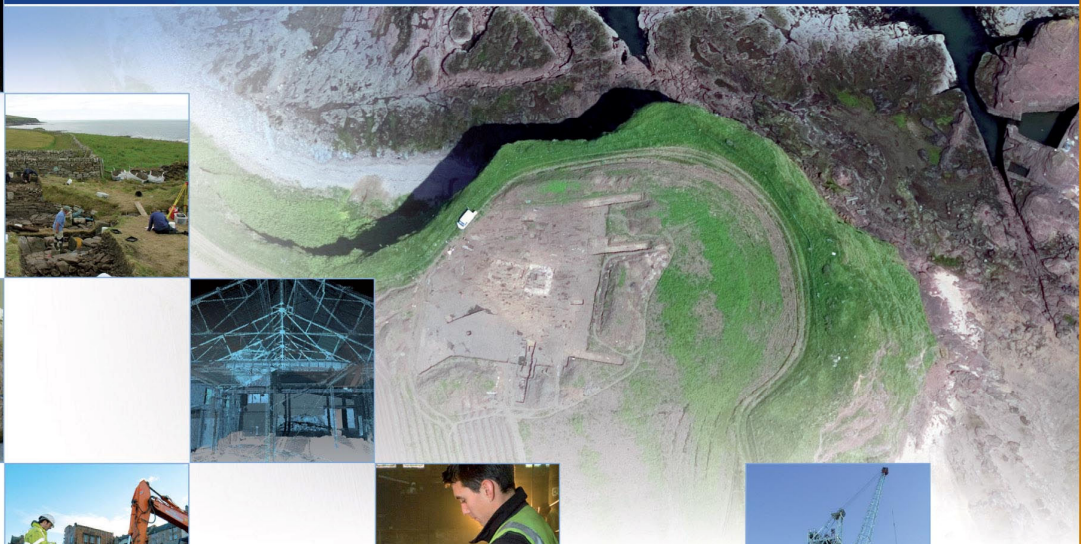
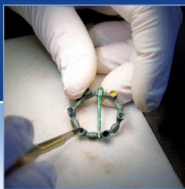


Rudchester Manor House and Barn, Rudchester Historic Building Report

October 2009



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Rudchester Manor House and Barn

Historic Building Report

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National Grid Reference (NGR): NZ 112 673

Planning Application No: CM/20071080 & CM/20071091

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Summary

In October 2008, AOC Archaeology Group were commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological building recording followed by an archaeological watching brief at Rudchester Manor, near Heddon-on-the-Wall. The initial stage of works concentrated on the proposed conversion of the barn, adjacent to the manor house but a further stage of works was also carried out on the Manor house itself, concentrating on the later extension to its north-west corner.

Rudchester is an exceptional village which is steeped in archaeology and history. It is situated directly to the south of the Roman fort of Vindobala and to the east of an associated Roman Mitharaem. Remains of Roman activity and of the Vallum have also been discovered within the two courtyards of the later village. Many of the buildings within this small village are probably constructed largely from Roman stone and some decorative fragments of stone have been found within the buildings themselves. The extensive Roman activity often overshadows some of the later archaeology within the village, including the 13th century Pele tower incorporated into the 18th century manor house and the later buildings that demonstrate how the village has adapted over time.

The following report concentrates on the historic building recording aspects of the archaeological works and a separate report for the archaeological below-ground watching brief elements has also been prepared. The historic building recording of the barn, and the later extension of the manor house, involved the compilation of measured plans and a full photographic and written record. The initial recording of the later extension was followed by a structural watching brief which monitored the demolition of the extension to ensure that any items uncovered, including worked stone, were recorded.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Rudchester Manor is located in the small township of Rudchester in the parish of Heddon-on-the-Wall (**Figure 1**). The Manor House occupies the south-west corner of the village and the associated barn is situated to the north-west of the house. The two buildings are centred at National Grid Reference NZ 112 673.
- 1.2 Rudchester is entered directly from the main road in the east which runs south from the Military Road in the north. The barn is located in the westernmost of two courtyards with the eastern courtyard belonging largely to Rudchester Farm and the western courtyard to Rudchester Manor and the adjacent Stable Cottage. The barn is part of the western range of the western courtyard with the attached Stable Cottage to the south and a second two-storey attached barn to the north.
- 1.3 Both the barn and manor house appear to be of the same design and construction making their likely construction date within the late 18th and early 19th century. The site of Rudchester lies to the south of the Roman fort Vindobala and within the vicinity of various Roman features including the Vicus and Vallum. As such, much of the stone used in the construction of the farm buildings has been taken from the Roman remains.

2 Objectives

- 2.1 The objectives of this report are detailed in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* issued by AOC Archaeology Group (Watson 2008, 2009). The principal objectives were as follows:
 - To undertake a desk-based assessment in order to produce a historical background of the site and inform the interpretation and analysis of the fabric;
 - To identify and record all upstanding historical remains through annotated, measured plans and photographs;
 - To determine the character, date, extent, quality and significance of the historical and archaeological form of the buildings taking particular note of specialised functions and arrangements.

3 Methodology

3.1 Introduction

The following study was principally concerned with the barn to the north-west (rear) of the manor house which is scheduled for conversion. However, a separate planning condition on the Manor House itself has led to further historic building recording of a later extension attached to the Manor House and this has allowed a brief overview of the Manor House to also be included within the survey in order to place the extension within its context. The historic building recording of the manor house concentrated on the exterior of the building and the interior rooms of the extension to be demolished.

The barn is shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map and is located close to a large number of archaeological features which has led to the suggestion that Roman and medieval worked stone and items of sculpture may have been re-used within the fabric. The barn, therefore, required a full record to be created prior to alterations being made. The

Northumberland County Council Archaeology and Conservation Team recommended a Level 2 historic buildings survey as outlined in English Heritage's 'Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice' (2006). A Level 2 survey includes a drawn record comprising plans, a full black and white photographic record and written descriptions preceded by an element of archival research and map-regression. Further details of each aspect are explained below.

3.2 *Archive research*

A brief historical assessment was undertaken prior to the survey in order to collect as much historical background information as possible from publicly available sources. The research included a map regression exercise using maps from the Northumberland County Archives, Woodhorn and Hexham Local Studies Library which can be viewed in **Figures 2 - 4** of this report. Some maps have been omitted from the report, however, due to copyright restrictions on the material. In addition to the cartographic evidence, all available primary and secondary sources were explored including sales particulars, trade directories and relevant estate records.

3.3 *Photographic record*

A general photographic record was made of the interior and exterior of the barn and manor house in black and white print and colour digital using a 35mm camera and tripod where necessary and a 35 mm digital SLR. Internal shots of the interior of the manor house (with the exception of the extension that was demolished) were outside the scope of the survey. A 1m or 2m ranging pole was used for scale where health and safety and access allowed. In addition to general photographs, detail photographs were taken of specific features such as doors, windows, blocked openings, etc.

A full photograph index has been compiled and can be found in Appendix 1 of this report.

3.4 *Written record*

A written record was compiled of the interior and exterior of the barn and manor house extension using *pro-forma* record sheets which included comment on condition, construction, architectural detail, phasing and function. Each room has been numbered for ease of identification and the written descriptions can be cross-referenced with the floor plans (**Figures 5 - 8**). A survey of the whole manor house was beyond the scope of this survey but a general overview of the interior and exterior has been provided in order to place the extension within its context.

3.5 *Drawn record*

The drawn record included ground floor and first floor plans of the manor house and barn at a scale of 1:100 and 1:50, respectively (**Figures 5 - 8**). The drawn record included any historical and architectural features and details of the fabric and phasing.

4 Historical background

- 4.1 Rudchester is an important site, both historically and archaeologically. The earliest known occupation of the site is during the Roman period with the Roman fort of Vindobala located to the north of the farm. The fort probably dates to *circa* 1st - 2nd century AD and is believed to be contemporary with Hadrian's Wall upon which the fort was situated. Roman activity also includes the site of a *mithraeum* to the north-west of the farm, the *vallum* which runs through the north portion of the farm and the *vicus*, remains of which have been found in the eastern courtyard at Rudchester.
- 4.2 The settlement at Rudchester, however, is first mentioned in documentary sources in an undated charter in which the whole of 'Rouchestre' was granted by Ordinel de Umfraville to Eilaf, Son of Roger (Reid 1926, 199). The Northumberland County History (1926) describes how this must refer to Ordinel II and, therefore, must have been written before his death in 1181.
- 4.3 In 1285, Simon of Rudchester gave proof of age for building a hall at Rudchester (Reid 1926, 199). This hall was undoubtedly the 13th century hall incorporated into the Pele tower within the present 18th century manor house.
- 4.4 The land at Rudchester was later passed to Robert of Rudchester IV in 1419 (Hugill, R 1939, 168). Robert died childless and it, therefore, passed to his sister Margaret who was the wife of William Rutherford (Reid 1926, 201). Ridge and furrow to the north of the farm suggests the site acted as a manorial holding with a small number of peasant dwellings. The property and land at Rudchester, referred to as Rudchester Tower, was bought by Gibert Grouch from the Treason Trustees on 9th December 1653 but was soon recovered by Thomas Rutherford II and it remained with this family until it was sold to Thomas Riddell on 27th February 1667 (Reid, 1926, 200).
- 4.5 The property was re-sold in 1685 to John Rogers who died childless meaning the property passed to his cousins and co-heirs Edward Montague, Anthony Isaacson and William Archdeacon. A later deed of exchange in 1713 made Archdeacon the sole owner of the property before he sold it again in 1770 to Aysgough Fawkes (Reid 1926, 207; Northumberland County Archives IDE/1/140).
- 4.6 It was during the mid to late 1700s that many of the Roman remains were discovered with an increased amount of ploughing being carried out and the stone being re-used to build the present farm buildings and cottages.. It was around this time that the Roman cistern, also known as the 'Giant's Grave', was found to the west of the farm and also, in 1766, a hoard of silver and gold Roman coins were found (Northumberland County Archives NRO.2176/262).

- 4.7 In 1752, the turnpike road, also known as 'Military Road', was constructed to the north of Rudchester. The road was built upon the line of Hadrian's Wall, using the stone as its foundations. The road was built in response to the Jacobite rebellion of 1745 in order to mobilise troops quickly and effectively (Slater 1850, 112; Lancaster University Archaeological Unit 2001, 5).
- 4.8 Aysgough Fawkes died soon after taking ownership of the manor leaving the property to his brother Francis on 27th August 1770. When Francis died in 1786, he left the property to his friend Walter Hawkesworth who thereon took the names 'Fawkes' as did his son Walter Ramsden Hawkesworth who inherited it in 1792 (Reid 1926, 207). It is likely that the Fawkes/Hawkesworth family were responsible for the present manor house incorporating the Pele tower. A letter from a John Stanton to the Council for the Society of Antiquaries, Newcastle, describes how a male Roman figure had been found in the vicinity of the fort but also that a female Roman figure had been found by a *mason* in 1812 (Northumberland County Archives SANT/ADM/4/1/1/105). The suggestion that there was a mason at Rudchester suggests that there was some construction work being carried out. What work and the location of the work on the site the figure was found is unclear.
- 4.9 A newspaper clipping dated 1816 describes how the manor and entire township was to be sold to the best bidder on 24th October 1816. The tithes are described as being let to the present tenants for 3 years at £200 per year and that the lease had ended 'last midsummer' (Northumberland County Archives SANT/BEQ/18/2/8/187).
- 4.10 In 1818 Rudchester was sold to William James of Deckham Hall (Reid 1926, 207). A newspaper clipping describes how the property was to be sold by auction on 3rd December 1818. The property was described as comprising two farmhouses, outbuildings and cottages for labourers with 640 acres of land. The property was in the occupation of Mr William Barkass and the lease was due to expire in May 1819 (Northumberland County Archives SANT/BEQ/18/2/8/199a).
- 4.11 Upon the death of William James, the property was left to his son Thomas James in 1820 who died in 1883 (Reid 1926, 207) Thomas James was the landowner in 1841, according to the tithe award of Rudchester. The property was occupied, however, by John and Thomas Stephenson. The property acted as a tenant farm with arable meadow and pasture land. The barn is marked as 'barn' on the tithe map with an unknown circular feature to the west of it (Northumberland County Archives DT 403s).
- 4.12 Whellan's Directory of 1855 describes how Thomas James Esq is still the landowner and occupies one of the farms (presumably the manor) with Alexander Scott being the land steward and also resident (Whellan 1855, 783). Whellan further states that the population of Rudchester in 1851 was 48 which seems quite a large number for so few houses, but this presumably included the labourers, servants and their families as well as the lord of the manor himself.

- 4.13 Thomas James remained the sole landowner in 1858 according to the Post Office Directory of the same year (Post Office 1858, 198) but by the publication of Kelly's Directory of 1894, the sole landowner is listed as Christian H James Esq, presumably the son of Thomas James. The directory further describes how the lord of the manor is the Duke of Northumberland K.G, P.C. The bailiff to Christian James is Thomas Watson and he also resided in Rudchester (Kelly 1894).
- 4.14 The Ordnance Survey map of 1869 (**Figure 2**) shows the complex at Rudchester largely as it is today with two courtyards and a third to the north-east. The manor occupies the position to the south of the village and is a rough L-shaped plan. The barn is located within the western range of the west courtyard. The barn appears to be twice its present width suggesting there was an extension to its western side at this date. The second edition Ordnance Survey map of 1898 and the edition of 1900 (**Figure 3 & 4**) show the buildings as largely unchanged since the publication of the 1869 map. This is with the exception of the manor house which appears more rectangular in plan although it is unlikely the late extension occupied the north-west corner at this date.
- 4.15 In 1902 the manor at Rudchester was advertised for sale by public auction to take place on 29th May 1902. The site was described as comprising pasture, arable, woodland, a lake, houses and outbuildings. The manor is described as a comfortable Gentleman's residence and the farm is occupied by the bailiff. There are in addition, three cottages on the homestead and two cottages on the farm (Northumberland County Archives ZSA 50/66). The manor house is described in detail as follows: '...comfortable gentlemen's residence comprising three reception rooms, four bedrooms and dressing room, two servants' bedrooms, kitchen, scullery and commodious out offices' (Northumberland County Archives ZSA 50/66).
- 4.16 The sales particular dated 1936 describes how the manor at Rudchester was to be sold but that the lease was still valid and not due to expire until 1951. The brochure gives a detailed account of the manor house and various outbuildings. The outbuildings to the manor are listed as two garages, an old harness room, laundry and workshop. The buildings of Rudchester Farm were listed as a byre for 25, hemmel, loose box and store with granary over, byre for 17, hay barn with granary over, seven bay hemmel and sheep dip. It is unclear which buildings were assigned to each function, although the barn to which this report refers, was probably a granary at this time (Northumberland County Archives NRO 2176/262). The sales particular describes the manor house as incorporating the following:

'...entrance hall, drawing room, old stone fireplace, lounge and dining room, maid's parlour, pantry adjacent, larder, stick and coal houses and heating chamber, large modern kitchen with 'aga' cooker, half landing with lavatory. On the first floor, four bedrooms, dressing room, two bathrooms and maid's bedroom...' (Northumberland County Archives 2176/262).

4.17 According to the Northumberland County History (1926) the owner of Rudchester was Christian Hugh Septimus James in 1926. It is unclear who the manor of Rudchester was purchased by in 1902 and 1936 but it seems that the property remained in the James family until recent years and was still owned by a Mr T James in 1989 according to the property review of the site (Northumberland County Council 1989). The manor house is now occupied by Mr and Mrs Plummer and their family and their holding includes the barn and land to the west of it. The land to the north of the farm is owned by Northumberland County Council.

5 Descriptions: the Manor House

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The Manor House is by far the largest and finest building within the township of Rudchester (**Plate 1 & 2**). It stands to the south-west corner of the hamlet with its rear (west) façade facing onto the second, western, courtyard and the front (east) façade faces onto a private walled garden which once included a drive providing direct access from the road.

5.1.2 The following descriptions will provide a general overview of the manor house with more detailed descriptions of the extension which has been demolished. The descriptions are best understood in conjunction with the floor plans (**Figures 5 – 8**).

5.2 The Exterior

5.2.1 Rudchester Manor House appears from the outset to be a Georgian country house constructed of random sandstone blocks with a hipped slate roof to an L-shaped plan. Upon further inspection, however, the manor house conceals a 13th century Pele tower within its south-east corner, although many of the architectural details pertaining to the tower's use have been replaced by later fixtures. A late extension to the west side of the house is also constructed of random sandstone rubble with roughly dressed stone quoins and pitched slate roof. To the north-west corner of the manor house is an extension with rendered walls and flat felt roof. This extension was demolished as part of the development and will be further described below.

5.2.2 East elevation

The main façade (or east elevation) of the manor house is the most striking (**Plate 3**). It is largely covered with vegetation although a central doorway with dressed stone surround and segmental arched header is still visible together with flanking gothic sliding sash windows with intersecting glazing bars, at both ground and first floor level. There are two windows to the south of the doorway (at ground and first floor level) and four to the north. This is a result of the incorporation of the Pele tower to the south-east corner of the house. The window to the far north is smaller than the other windows possibly owing to a lower ceiling in the room at this side of the house.

5.2.3 *South elevation*

Again the south elevation of the house is largely covered with vegetation although the design is discernible and is much the same as the main east façade (**Plate 4**). There are four windows, two to each floor, all containing gothic sliding sash windows with intersecting glazing bars and roll moulded dressed stone surrounds. At ground floor level there is a central blind window which provides balance to the elevation.

5.2.4 *West elevation*

The rear or west elevation can be broken into different sections. To the south side of the elevation the house projects creating the L-shaped plan (**Plate 5**). The west elevation of this extension contains a small brick porch leading onto a small walled garden. To the north of the walled garden, on the same elevation, is a small single storey lean-to with slate roof and gothic sliding sash windows with intersecting glazing bars, although this example has a brick surround and appears to be a later insertion. The main west elevation is set back and it is clear that this elevation was not intended to be seen by the visitor in the 18th and 19th centuries (**Plate 6**). The elevation is constructed of roughly coursed, squared stone rubble with squared stone quoins to the south end and rendered to the north end (**Plate 7**). The rendered section of the elevation marks the extension which has now been demolished. There is a small single-storey outshot to the extension with double timber doors opening onto an external store and a modern stable door to the south of it.

The main section of the west elevation contains four windows at first floor level (the northernmost within the extension that has been demolished) and three at ground floor level. All the windows have projecting stone sills and, with the exception of the first floor window in the extension to be demolished, dressed stone lintels. The first floor window within the extension contained a two-light, side hung, timber frame. The first floor window to the south of it and that to the far south at first floor level each have horizontal sliding sash frames (also known as Yorkshire sash windows). Between the two sliding sash windows is a narrow six-pane window with top opening panes. At ground floor level, the windows have three different designs. To the far north the window contains a horizontal sliding sash timber frame (or Yorkshire sash) whilst to the south of it is a side hung timber frame. To the far south is a two-light window with nine-panes to each light and top opening panes. The central window at ground floor level has been blocked underneath its sill which suggests it was a former doorway, probably the service entrance.

5.2.5 *North elevation*

The north elevation can be divided into two phases with the main manor house to the east side of the elevation and the rendered later extension to the west side of the elevation (**Plate 8**). The former is constructed of squared coursed sandstone with squared quoins to its edges, distinguishing it from the extension. This part of the elevation is punctuated by two windows each with dressed stone lintel and sill but with dissimilar frames. The window to the east contains a sixteen-pane sliding sash and the window beside it has a two-light window with side hung frames.

The extension to the west of the main house contained a single two-light fixed timber casement window and two openings to the west of it which contained timber plank doors. A tall chimney extended from the western edge of the extension.

5.3 The Interior

5.3.1 *Ground floor later extension of manor house: Room 0.1*

The most recent rear entrance into the manor house was through a modern split timber plank door set in the west elevation of the later extension. The doorway opened onto a long corridor which travelled east to the main rooms of the house (**Plate 9**). To the north side of the corridor were three doors to separate rooms and to the south side were two doors. The northernmost of these doorways led to a modern bathroom whilst the one to the south of it led to the modern kitchen (Room 0.11). The east end of the corridor opened onto Room 0.5, part of the 18th century manor house. The corridor had plastered and painted walls with a concrete floor to the west and tiled floor to the east.

5.3.2 *Ground floor later extension of manor house: Room 0.2*

The small room to the west end of the later extension had pale, yellow brick walls and a concrete floor (**Plate 10**). To the north-east corner was a brick boiler with flue rising through the ceiling. In the north wall of the room was a square opening with a timber plank door over. To the opposite wall was a doorway with timber plank and battened door. This room was likely to have been the 'heating chamber' referred to in the 1936 sales particular.

5.3.3 *Ground floor later extension of manor house: Room 0.3*

The central room of the later extension had painted brick walls to the south, west and north and a stone wall to the east, with a concrete floor (**Plate 11**). There was a timber plank and battened door in the south wall and a small opening, also with timber plank door, in the north wall. There was an opening in the east wall which was blocked with brick complete with a roughly dressed stone surround (**Plate 12**). During the demolition of this section it was discovered the surround was constructed of regular stone blocks and was blocked with pale, yellow bricks matching those used in the construction of Rooms 0.1 and 0.2 suggesting it was blocked in the early 20th century. Large stone quoins were also removed from the south edge of the wall and these probably formed the jamb of a former doorway. This room was probably the stick or coal house mentioned in the 1936 sales particular.

5.3.4 *Ground floor later extension of manor house: Room 0.4*

Unlike the other rooms in the later extension, Room 0.4 had stone walls and was accessed from the main corridor through a four-panelled timber door in the south wall (**Plate 13**). In the opposite wall was a two-light late 20th century timber casement window. During demolition, a broken 20th century blue and white patterned plate and horse shoe were found in this part of the wall. Prior to demolition, this room was used as the utility room and was probably the pantry or scullery described in the 1936 sales particular.

5.3.5 *General description of ground floor of manor house: Room 0.5 to 0.10*

Rooms 0.5 to 0.10 form the L-shaped plan of the mid to late 18th century manor house incorporating the 13th century pele tower to the south-east corner (Room 0.9). These rooms have been modernised and are presently used as a comfortable family home. The rooms appear to largely maintain their 18th century layout with some fireplaces and all the late 18th century sash windows also remaining. The main entrance into the house, for the family and visitors, would have been through the central doorway in the east elevation which leads into the main hallway with reception rooms to the north and south of it.

The Pele tower (Room 0.9) has been modified to accommodate the 18th century house although some original features can still be identified. The walls of the tower are approximately 2 metres thick making it easy to identify in plan form. 18th century windows have been inserted into the south and east walls and these match the designs of those found elsewhere. The tower at this level is presently entered from the hallway in its north-west corner but this is probably the location of a former spiral staircase, if the Pele tower indeed had a permanent staircase (many Pele towers having only a temporary ladder to first floor level as a defensive measure). There is a segmental arched doorway in the west wall of the room leading through to Room 0.10. This entrance probably formed the original entrance into the Pele tower at ground floor level, providing access for the animals. This would not, however, provide the defensive measure expected in such a tower.

In the north wall is a grand stone fireplace flanked by stone carved columns reputed to have been taken from the site of the Mithraeum in the 19th century. The fireplace has previously been described as also containing an inscribed tablet which is now missing (Reid 1926). Above the fireplace are two shields containing coats of arms. It is unlikely that the fireplace was an original feature of the Pele tower since the chamber would be on the first floor with the ground floor being used for storage or stalling animals during raids.

5.3.6 *General description of manor house: Rooms 0.11*

The Room which fills the reentrant angle of the 18th century L-shaped manor house, was probably added in the early 19th century and would have allowed more service accommodation and facilities. The kitchen described in the sales particulars of 1902 and 1936 are likely to have been located here with additional rooms in the extension being added at a later date.

5.3.7 *The later extension at first floor level: Room 1.1*

The majority of the later extension was single storey although there was a single first floor room above Room 0.4 which was constructed with brick walls, contrary to the ground which is stone built. Internally, the room was furnished as a late 20th century bedroom and was accessed directly from Room 1.9 through a four-panelled door (**Plate 14**). Late 20th century wardrobes lined the north wall and the room was lit by a single two-light window with six-panes to each light in the west wall. The room probably provided one of the maid's bedrooms described in the 1936 sales particular.

5.3.8 *General description of the first floor of the manor house: Rooms 1.2 to 1.10*

As with the ground floor, Rooms 1.2 to 1.7 form the L-shaped plan of the 18th century manor house with the Pele tower incorporated into the south-east corner (Room 1.5). All the rooms have been modernised although they appear to retain their 18th century windows and some retain their 18th and 19th century fireplaces. There are no windows in the north wall of the first floor and there is no evidence for blocked openings to the exterior. This wall may have lacked windows to restrict the view of the farm activity to the north and west of the house.

The first floor room of the Pele tower (Room 1.5) is entered directly from the hallway (Room 1.7) or from the dressing room (Room 1.4). The west of these doorways may have provided access from a stairwell which has since been removed through a temporary ladder was the best means of defence. 18th century gothic windows have been inserted into the south and

east walls. However, a window with cusped ogee header remains to the north end of the east wall. The room has been furnished to accommodate a modern bedroom.

Rooms 1.8 and 1.9 form the first floor of the late 18th/early 19th century extension above the kitchen and are both furnished as modern bedrooms and bathrooms. The present bathroom (Room 1.8) and ensuite to Room 1.9 is probably the location of one of the bathrooms described in the 1936 sales particular, the other being in Room 1.10. Room 1.8 and 1.9 probably formed servant's accommodation prior to the later extension to the north-west corner being constructed.

6 Descriptions: the barn

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The barn stands to the north-west of Rudchester Manor and is located in the centre of a range of cottages and farm buildings that make up the western edge of the farmyard (**Plate 15 & 16**). To the north of the barn is a second two-storey barn which completes the range. This building is not included in the survey. To the south of the barn are further two-storey farm buildings which have been converted to cottages. These buildings are set lower than the barn and butt against it, suggesting they are of a later date.

6.2 The Exterior

6.2.1 The barn is constructed of sandstone rubble with large dressed sandstone quoins to its southern extent in both the east and west elevations, separating the barn from the cottages in the south. The barn seems to have been built in two separate phases with a phase break to the centre of each of the east and west elevations. The southern end of the barn seems to be the earliest phase with the northern end consisting of a two-storey extension incorporating a second barn which is not included in this survey. The building has a pitched slate roof which covers the whole of the barn and the second barn to the north in one phase of construction.

6.2.2 *East elevation*

The front east elevation faces onto the courtyard and towards the manor house. It is constructed of sandstone rubble with large stone quoins to its southern edge, separating it from the cottages in the south. The elevation has a central doorway at ground floor level with a dressed stone lintel and timber frame (**Plate 17**). To the north of the doorway is a clear phase break suggesting the barn was built in two distinct phases. Further to the north is the outline of a stone blocked doorway. To the south of the doorway is a fixed twelve-pane timber casement window with a projecting stone sill and stone lintel. At first floor level, above the doorway is a second nine-pane fixed timber casement window with projecting stone sill. The top of the window extends to the eaves of the roofline.

6.2.3 *South elevation*

Part of the south elevation is visible at the apex of the roof above the roofline of Stable Cottage which abuts the elevation (**Plate 18**). It is constructed of stone with some fragments of red brick. There are also some dressed stone blocks visible which relate to a former opening within the apex and the dressed stone lintel of one of the blocked first floor

windows. The openings were probably blocked when the farm buildings and Stable Cottage were constructed, probably in the early 19th century.

6.2.4 *West elevation*

The rear elevation of the barn is also constructed of sandstone rubble with stone quoins to its southern edge (**Plate 19**). There is a clear phase break in the centre of the barn with the south end of the barn belonging to a separate phase to the north end. At first floor level, there are two doorways with the southernmost being slightly smaller than its counterpart. Both doorways have timber frames and timber lintels. The southernmost door retains its timber plank door. Further to the north is a timber lintel belonging to the former cart entrance which has now been blocked with stone. Below the lintel is a square opening with timber lintel and timber sill and below the opening is a rounded recess.

6.3 **The Interior**

Internally, the barn has two open rooms arranged on two floors. Both floors have a low step in the centre of the floors which cuts the building east to west. The step corresponds with the phase break visible in the east and west elevations.

6.3.1 *The ground floor*

The ground floor room of the barn has stone walls which are whitewashed with some plaster render, particularly to the south side of the room (**Plate 20**). The floor is divided east to west by a low step making the floor level in the north lower than that in the south. The floor to the south is concrete whilst to the north it is earth with some rubble and broken flags, presumably relating to the original threshing floor. The ceiling is timber but has been largely replaced, particularly in the south end of the barn and it is stepped as a result of the step at first floor level.

The barn is accessed directly from the exterior through a central doorway in the east elevation. The doorway has a timber frame and a timber plank battened door which has been removed from its hinges. To the north of the doorway is a stone blocked doorway which is visible from the exterior only. In the west wall is large stone blocked cart entrance the timber lintel of which remains in place at first floor level. This doorway would have provided access for the cart, full of wheat from the fields in the west. There may have been a similar entrance in the east wall prior to the introduction of the present doorway. The opposing doorways would have provided a route through which the cart could enter the building from the west and leave through the east elevation after the wheat was unloaded into the barn. There is a further doorway in the east end of the north elevation which leads into a second barn in the north.

The ground floor room is lit by two windows which flank the doorway in the east wall. The window to the south has a twelve-pane fixed timber casement frame whilst that to the north has a six-pane timber casement with top opening pane.

To the south end of the barn are stone partitions which form two stalls with low timber plank battened doorways (**Plate 21**). In the western pen is a concrete block with a corn mixer upon it. The corn mixer was fed from the floor above via a timber hopper and a groove has

been cut in the partition between the stalls to allow the grain to collect in the eastern stall (**Plate 22**).

To the north of the doorway, against the east wall, is a shelf for holding a former hopper. The circular shape of the hopper is shown in the cut in the ceiling above. The bench is constructed of large stone blocks and brick. The stone blocks contain tooling marks which suggest they are re-used, perhaps from the Roman remains found in the vicinity of the Manor (**Plate 23**).

6.3.2 *The first floor*

The first floor is reached via the timber staircase set against the west wall. As with the floor below, the room has whitewashed stone walls with the exception of the south wall which is red brick with render over (**Plate 24**). The room is open to the roof which is supported by timber A-frame trusses. The roof is slate with some small roof light windows to the east side.

In the north wall is an inserted doorway with red brick patching to its jambs leading to the first floor of the second barn. To the west of the doorway is some graffiti comprising a list of dates and numbers, dated 1939 to 1941 (**Plate 25**). There are a further two doorways to the south end of the west wall which may have been formerly accessed from an external timber staircase which has since been removed. However, it may also have acted as loading doors for hauling up the sacks of hay, and later, corn.

7 Discussion

7.1 Phasing and development: the manor house

- 7.1.1 The earliest part of the manor house is the 13th century Pele tower set within its south-east corner. Evidence for the date of the tower is restricted to historical references which suggest there was a hall built on the site around 1285. The only remaining medieval window within the tower, however, contains a cusped ogee header indicative of the 14th century. This may of course be a later insertion. The tower has been largely modified to accommodate the 18th century manor house which has resulted in many of the original openings and features being removed or replaced. The Pele may have had a basement level to accommodate the animals and therefore, restricting access between the floors through a trap door within the building and not an external door - a key defensive measure. The ground or basement floor level of most Pele towers have vaulted ceilings, at Rudchester, the ceilings are flat as would be expected in an 18th century gentleman's residence. The Pele tower was probably accompanied by other contemporary buildings prior to the remodelling in the late 18th century. Some Pele towers were indeed modified in the later medieval period to provide a solar chamber with access to an attached hall at ground or first floor level. If there was an attached hall at Rudchester, it is likely that it would be located beneath the 18th century north/south wing.
- 7.1.2 The manor house appears from the outset as a comfortable late 18th century residence and displays many features of the period including the gothic windows, Tudor arched doorway, plan form, symmetry and overall construction methods. This likely construction date would correlate with other historical developments at the end of the 18th century including the

discovery of many Roman artefacts suggesting some groundwork and construction was being carried out. The Military Road was constructed in 1752 which would have allowed increased accessibility to the property as it operated as a gentleman's home. The site was bought by Aysgarth Fawkes in the later 18th century and remained under the Fawkes family ownership until it was sold again in the early 19th century to William James. It remained with the James family for the majority of the 19th and 20th centuries. It was one of these major families who were responsible for the construction of the manor house and associated farm buildings including the barn.

- 7.1.3 The manor house was extended to the west, filling the reentrant angle of the L-shaped plan. This extension was probably constructed in the early 19th century in order to provide additional service facilities and accommodation for the servants who may have, prior to this date, resided in separate cottages within the village.
- 7.1.4 The later extension in the north-west corner of the house, to which this report has concentrated, was probably constructed in two phases with the small stone room being added in the later 19th century and the brick elements of the extension added in the early 20th century. The suite of rooms were certainly described in the 1936 sales particular.

7.2 Phasing and Development: the barn

- 7.2.1 The barn to the north-west of Rudchester Manor, like the majority of the buildings at Rudchester, was probably built of stone from the Roman ruins that once dominated the area. In particular, the large dressed stone blocks set against the centre of the east elevation at ground floor level seem to date from this period with evidence of tooling to the western face of the stones. The stones have been re-used in this area of the barn in order to hold a hopper which has since been removed. The stones were probably set in this location in the late 19th and early 20th century. The Roman Mithraeum was discovered in 1844 and stones from that site were used in the fireplace of the manor house. It is likely that such large stones came from the same area if not from the fort itself.
- 7.2.2 The south portion of the barn to the rear of the main house at Rudchester appears to be 18th century in date. The design of the barn constructed using re-used stone and with quoins to its south edge is similar to the construction of the main manor house and is therefore, probably contemporary with it.
- 7.2.3 The north side of the barn seems to be slightly later with a clear phase break marking two distinct phases in the east and west elevations. The northern portion of the barn is part of the second barn further to the north which is not included in this survey but which must date to at least the early 19th century in terms of design and its appearance on the 1841 tithe map of Rudchester. When the northern barn was constructed, the north elevation of the earlier barn seems to have been cut with fragments of the former quoin stones being visible in the east elevation, beside the phase break.
- 7.2.4 The barn does not seem to have altered dramatically over time. The earliest map of the barn was created in 1841 and the subsequent cartographic evidence shows that the barn remained of roughly the same size and shape throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. The 1841 map does, however, show that there was a circular feature located to the west of the barn and this would probably block the cart entrance located in the west elevation. The

barn also seems to have extended further to the west than its present layout which may relate to a former lean-to which has since been removed. No evidence of a lean-to remains.

7.3 Function: the manor house

- 7.3.1 The Pele tower set within the south-east corner of the present manor house is an exceptional survival though many of its features pertaining to its use have since been removed making it difficult to assess how the building was used. Most Pele towers were constructed in the border areas between the 14th and 17th centuries, thus making Rudchester (if indeed the tower is 13th century) an early example (Yorke 2003, 54). Pele towers functioned as defensive structures, a place of refuge during an attack or raid, but they were never intended to fight back. It is difficult to assess whether Rudchester was a defensive Pele tower since the internal walls are covered with later furnishings and only one decorative window remains. If the tower was indeed a Pele tower, it would be expected that there would only be access from the exterior through a first floor doorway accessed by means of a retractable ladder. Access between floor levels would be through internal trap doors in the floors. Thus, if the segmental arched doorway at ground floor level at Rudchester was used to provide access for the animals, it would be expected that there would be other external measures to provide protection, such as a moat. However, there are no visible remains of a moat and much of the top of the Pele tower is concealed by the later 18th century hipped roof though the attic is reputed to retain the crenellated parapet of the Pele.
- 7.3.2 It is possible that the tower was used in its early or later years as part of a solar block attached to a hall which may have been constructed of timber or stone and later replaced by the north wing of the 18th century manor. The cusped ogee-headed window at first floor level of the Pele tower is not a defensive design. Windows with fine decoration often lit a small chapel within a solar tower and this window is also located in the east wall (chapels usually being aligned east/west).
- 7.3.3 It is unlikely that the Pele tower provided accommodation for the lord of the manor until it was remodelled in the late 18th century and it must therefore be considered that other buildings were attached or located close to the tower. The late 18th century remodelling made the manor house the largest building within the village and clearly reflected the status of the gentleman who resided there. It contained a comfortable suite of rooms indicative of 18th century manors of the time with an almost symmetrical façade and central doorway leading to the heart of the house. There were a suite of reception rooms including a drawing room, lounge and dining room. It is unclear where the kitchen may have been located prior to the addition of the 19th century extension on the west side of the house but it would have most likely been to the rear (west) of the house or located within a separate building.
- 7.3.4 The 19th century brought further expansion of the manor house providing more service facilities and servants' accommodation. By the later 19th century a small stone extension was added to the north-west corner and this was probably the larder or scullery. The small rooms that were part of the early 20th century brick extension (now demolished) are most likely to have been stores or as the 1936 sales particular describes; the heating chamber, stick and coal store, pantry and scullery. The present owners have also suggested that the rooms may have been used as dog kennels in recent years.

7.4 Function: the barn

- 7.4.1 The barn at Rudchester seems to have been a larger building when it was first constructed, being half the size of the present building. The building seems to have had two floors as indicated by the openings in the east, south and west elevations. In this initial phase, the barn was probably used as a granary, perhaps with stable at ground floor level, though no evidence of a stable exists.
- 7.4.2 The barn was extended to the north probably in the late 18th century/early 19th century creating a second two-storey barn in the north. It seems to be within this phase of construction that the barn was used as a threshing barn owing to the fact that the south jamb of the cart entrance uses the phase break between the earlier barn and its north extension. The threshing barn probably had a second opposing cart entrance in the east elevation allowing the cart to enter from the fields in the west and leave through the doorway in the east. The upper floor during this period would have been used for storage of the hay and wheat.
- 7.4.3 Probably in the later 19th century, the ground floor of the barn was adapted to accommodate two pens with low stone partition walls. The height of the walls suggest that the pens were probably for pigs.
- 7.4.4 Probably in the later 19th century and early 20th century, the barn was adapted to accommodate corn milling. The corn mixer set in the western pen may have been moved from elsewhere in the building, but its position in the western pen and the cut made in the partition walls separating the pens, made the pens themselves redundant. Grain was fed into the mixer through the wooden chute in the floor above and the mixed and ground grain would collect in the eastern pen. Further evidence for the corn milling is given by the circular cut between the ground and first floor where presumably a hopper would have been located. The hopper would have stood on the large stone blocks at ground floor level. Items of graffiti, presumably accounts, on the north wall at first floor level dating to 1939 to 1941, give a likely date for when the barn was in use as a granary and corn mill. The presence of two large steel water tanks relating to the sprinkler system further suggest there may have been additional items of machinery in this building in the mid 20th century.
- 7.4.5 As farming at Rudchester became less of a priority and Rudchester Manor became increasingly private and domestic, the barn was no longer used for agricultural purposes and has recently been used as a store. The proposed development will convert the barn into a gymnasium and children's play area.

8 Conclusions

- 8.1 The site of Rudchester has been occupied since the Roman period with large amounts of Roman activity both below ground and preserved within the later buildings. The village is the site of exceptional archaeological importance and this has meant that the later buildings, including the 13th century Pele tower, have often been overlooked. The incorporation of the Pele tower within the 18th century manor house has both protected and concealed it and although many of the original features can no longer be seen, they are likely to survive underneath later furnishings. The development of the farm at Rudchester from the Roman Vicus to an 18th century gentlemen's residence is an interesting one in

itself. Though this report has concentrated on the much later extension at the north-west corner of the manor and the associated barn, the survey has allowed the author to give at least a brief overview of yet another fascinating feature at Rudchester.

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9.3 Cartographic references

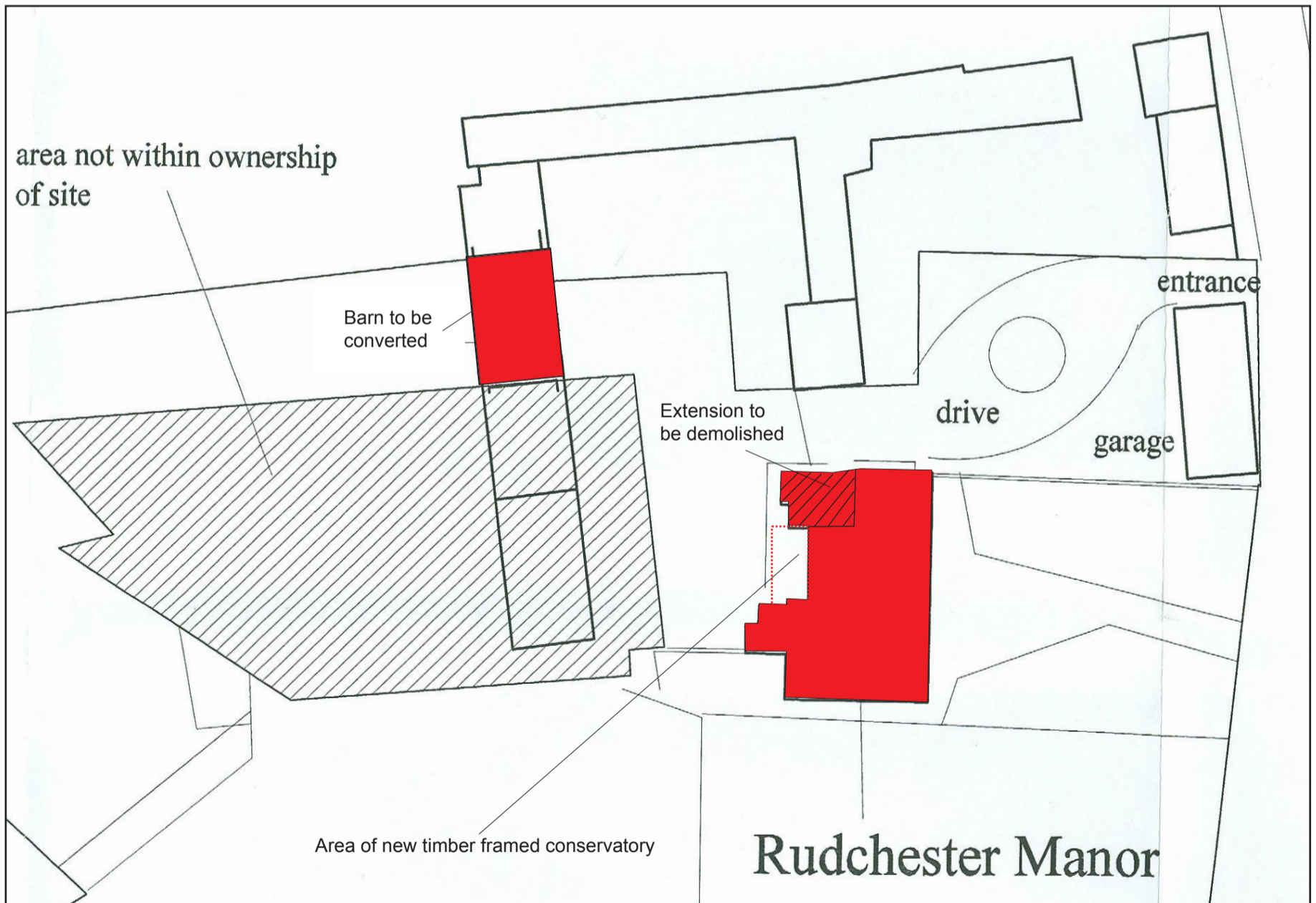
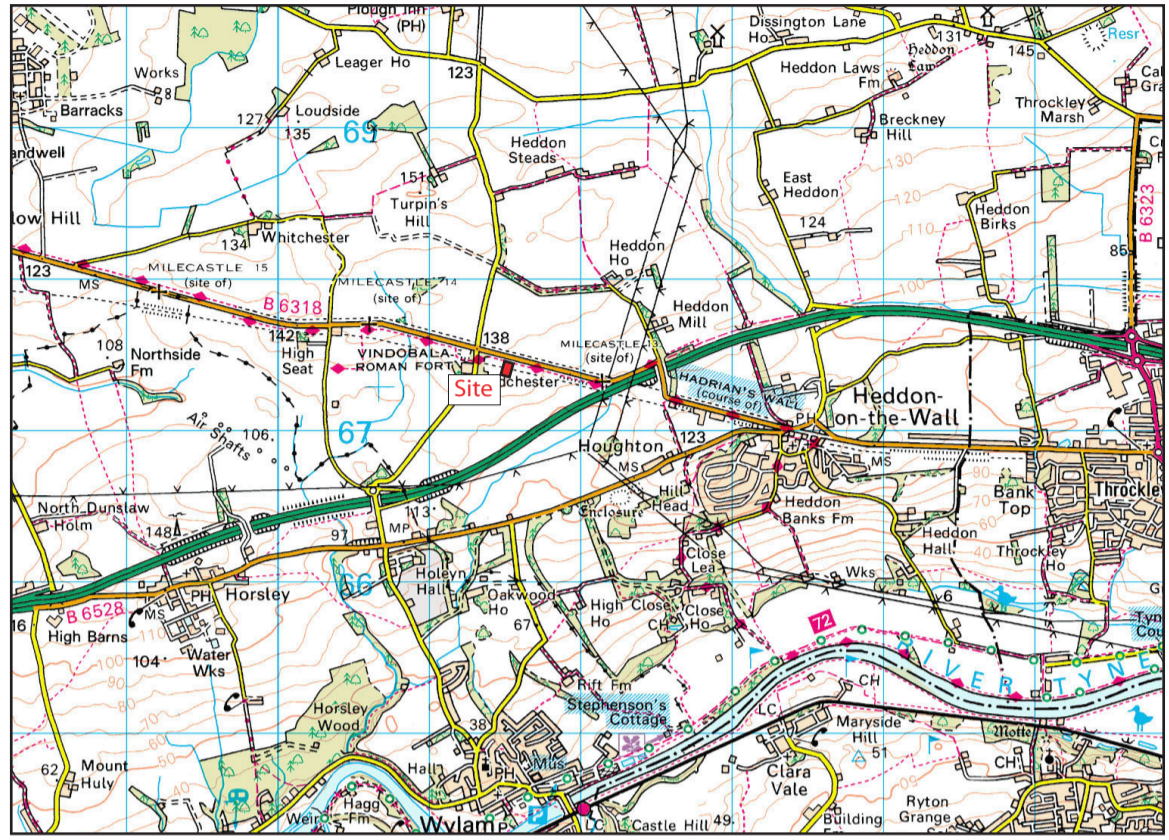
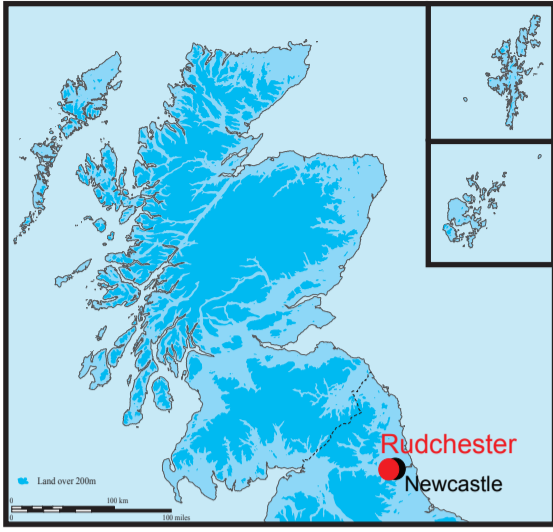
1869 Ordnance Survey map *Northumberland* 6 inch to a mile

1898 Ordnance Survey map *Northumberland* 25 inch to a mile

1900 Ordnance Survey map *Northumberland* 25 inch



Figures



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Figure 1: Location map showing Rudchester Manor and barn, Rudchester, Heddton-on-the-Wall

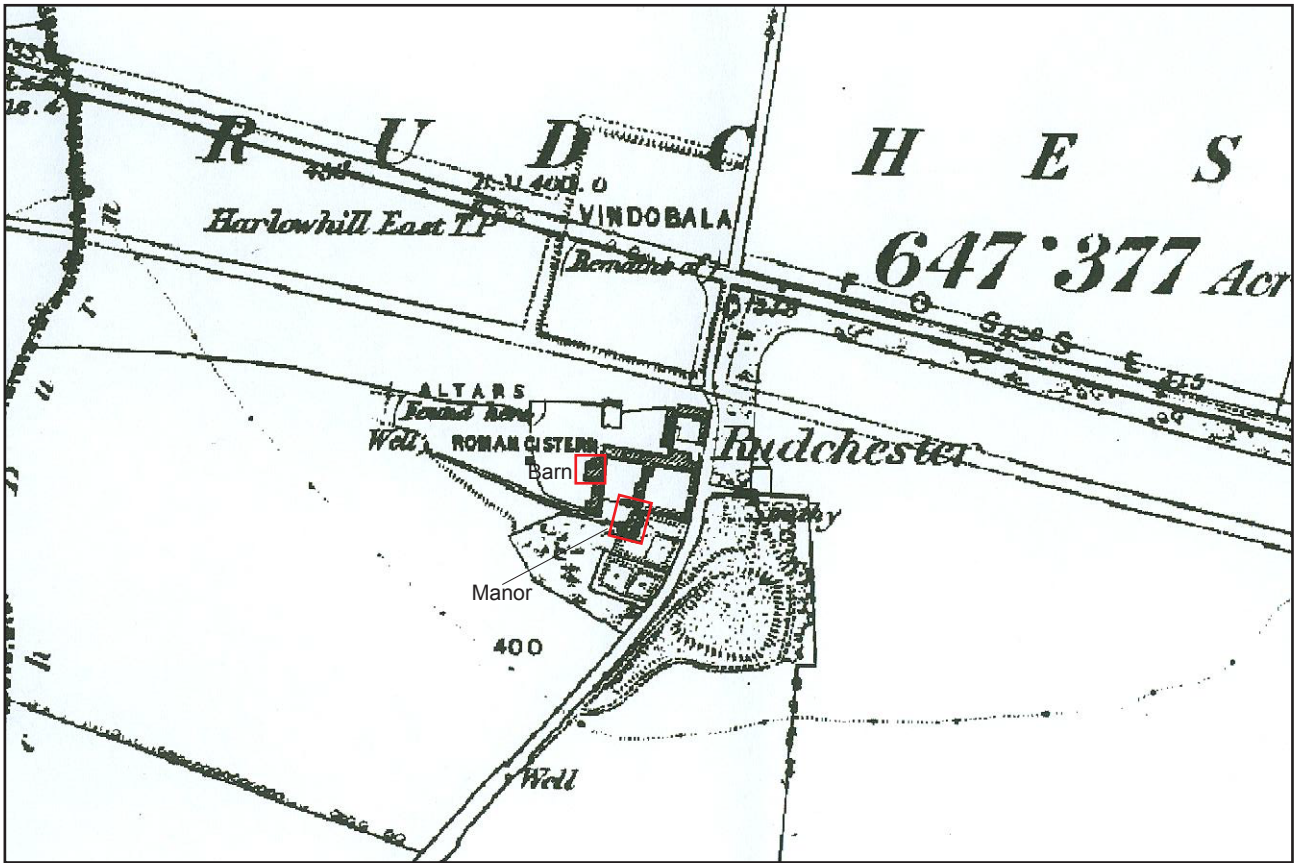


Figure 2: Extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey map

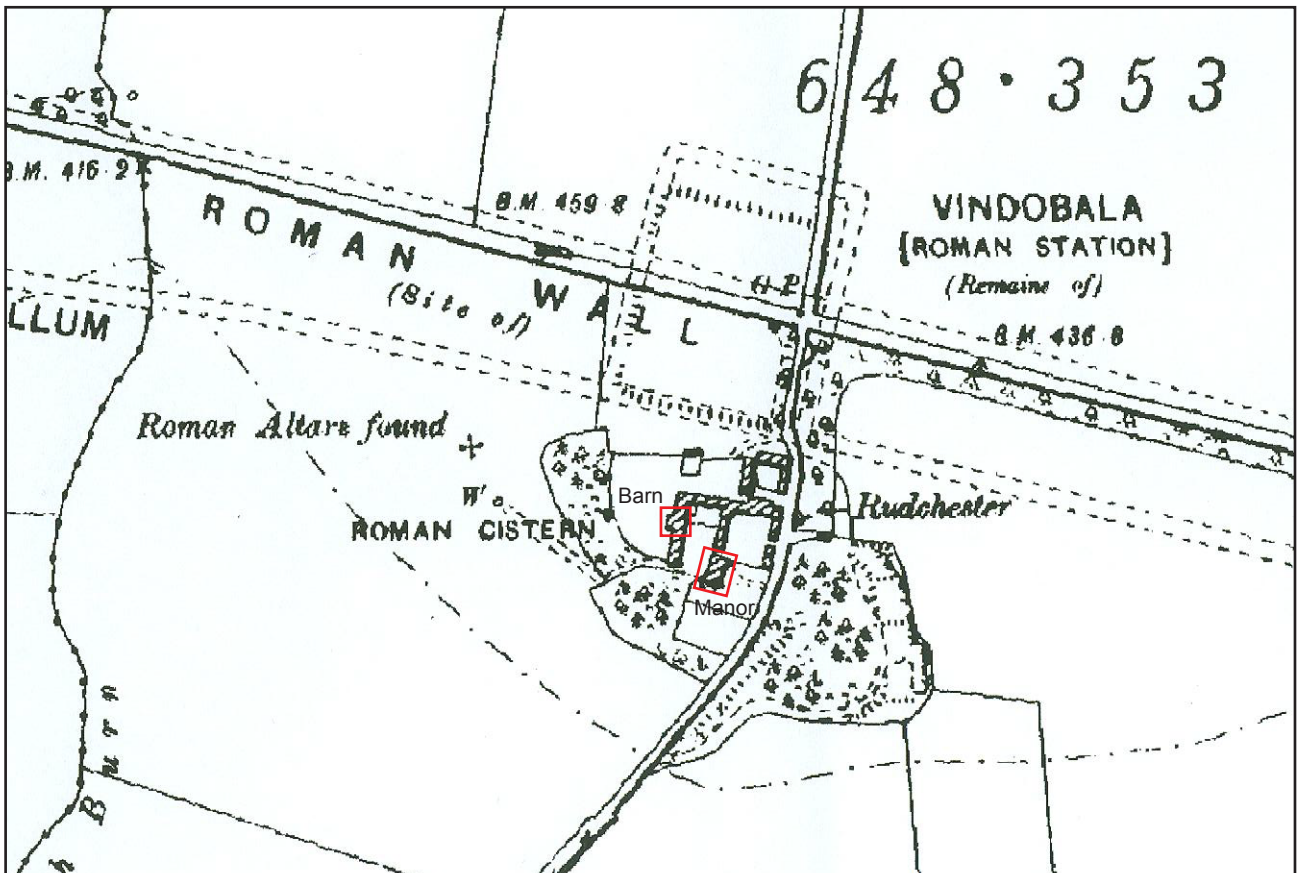


Figure 3: Extract from 1898 Ordnance Survey map

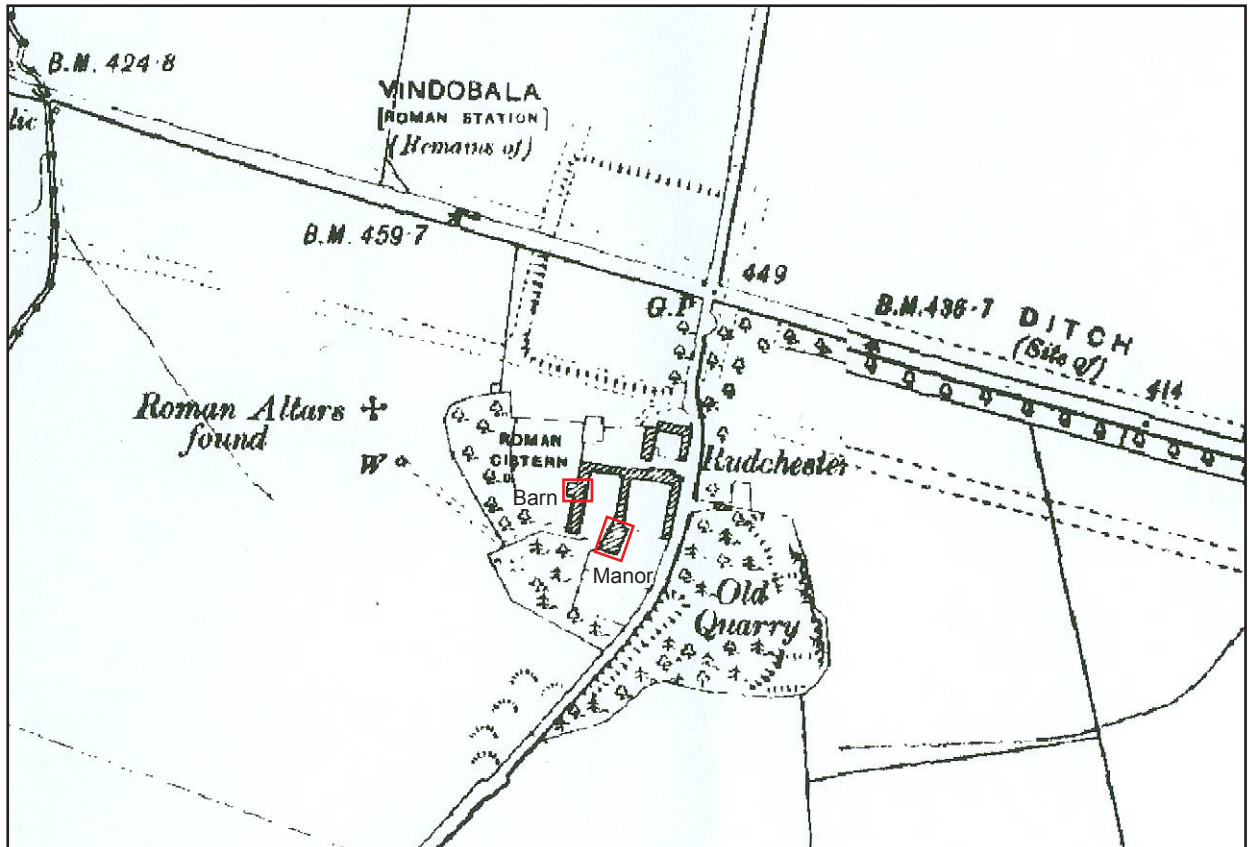
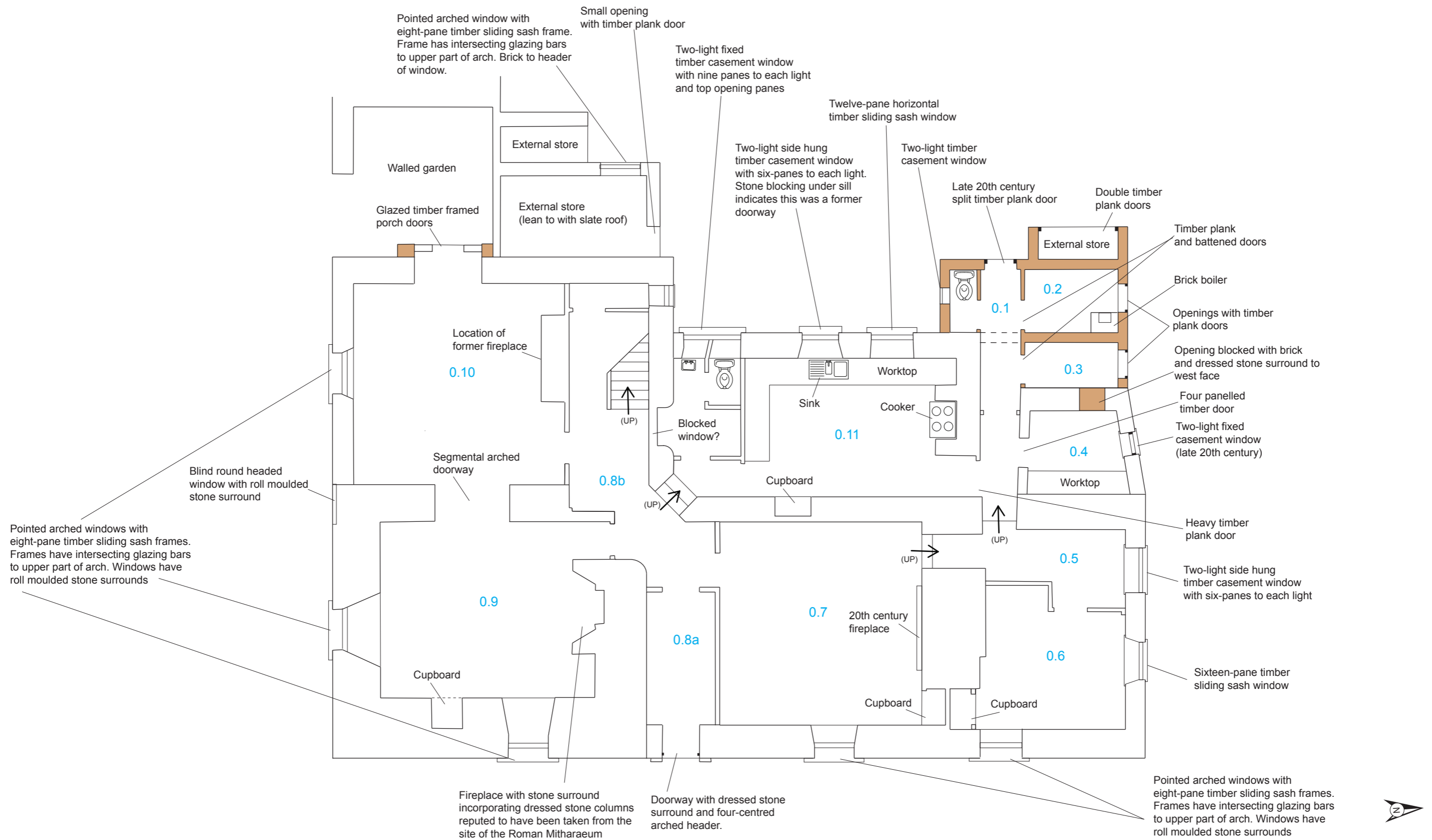


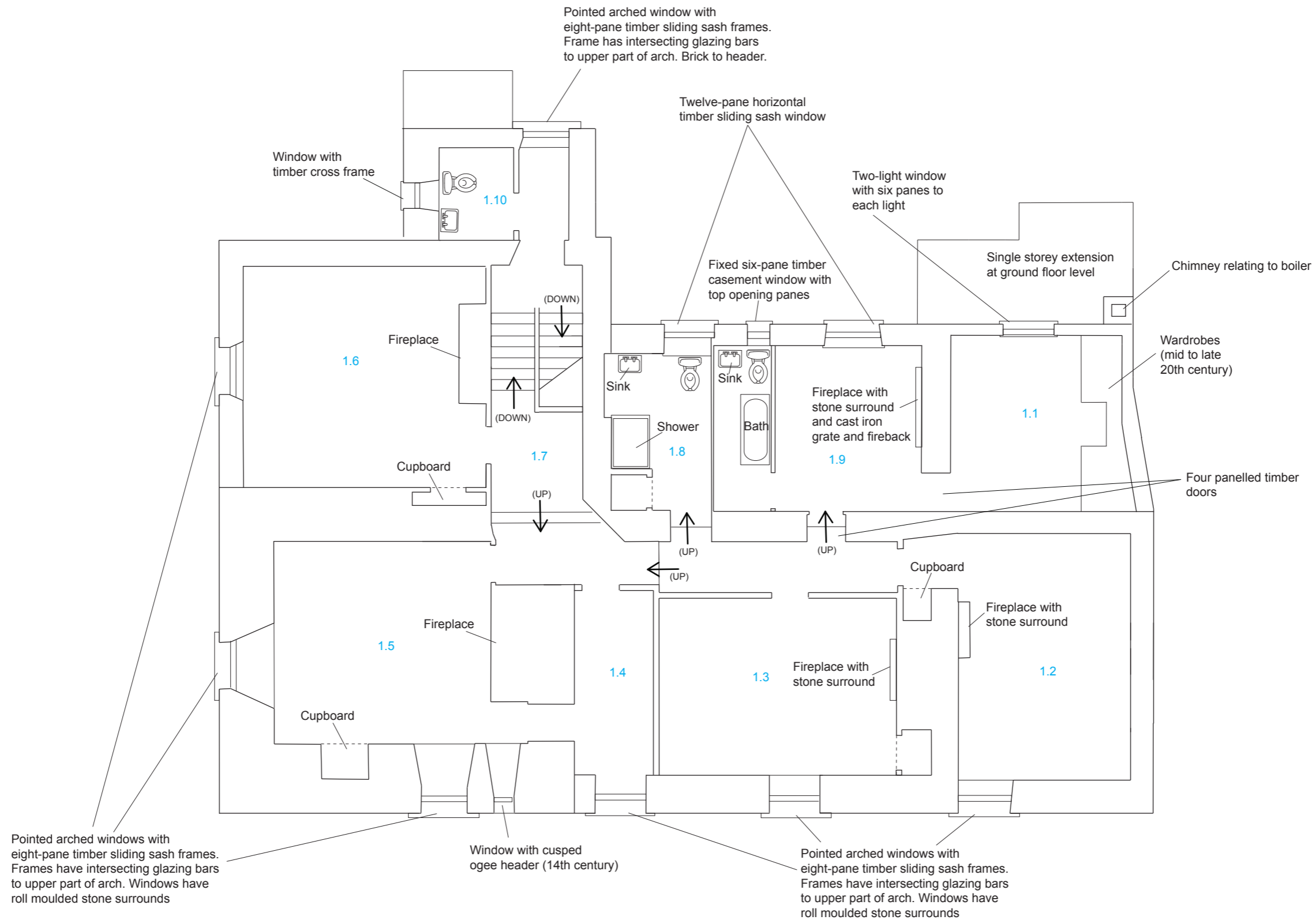
Figure 4: Extract from 1900 Ordnance Survey map



- Key
- Brick
 - Roof beams/ truss
 - Blocking

Figure 5: Ground floor plan of Rudchester Manor House





Key




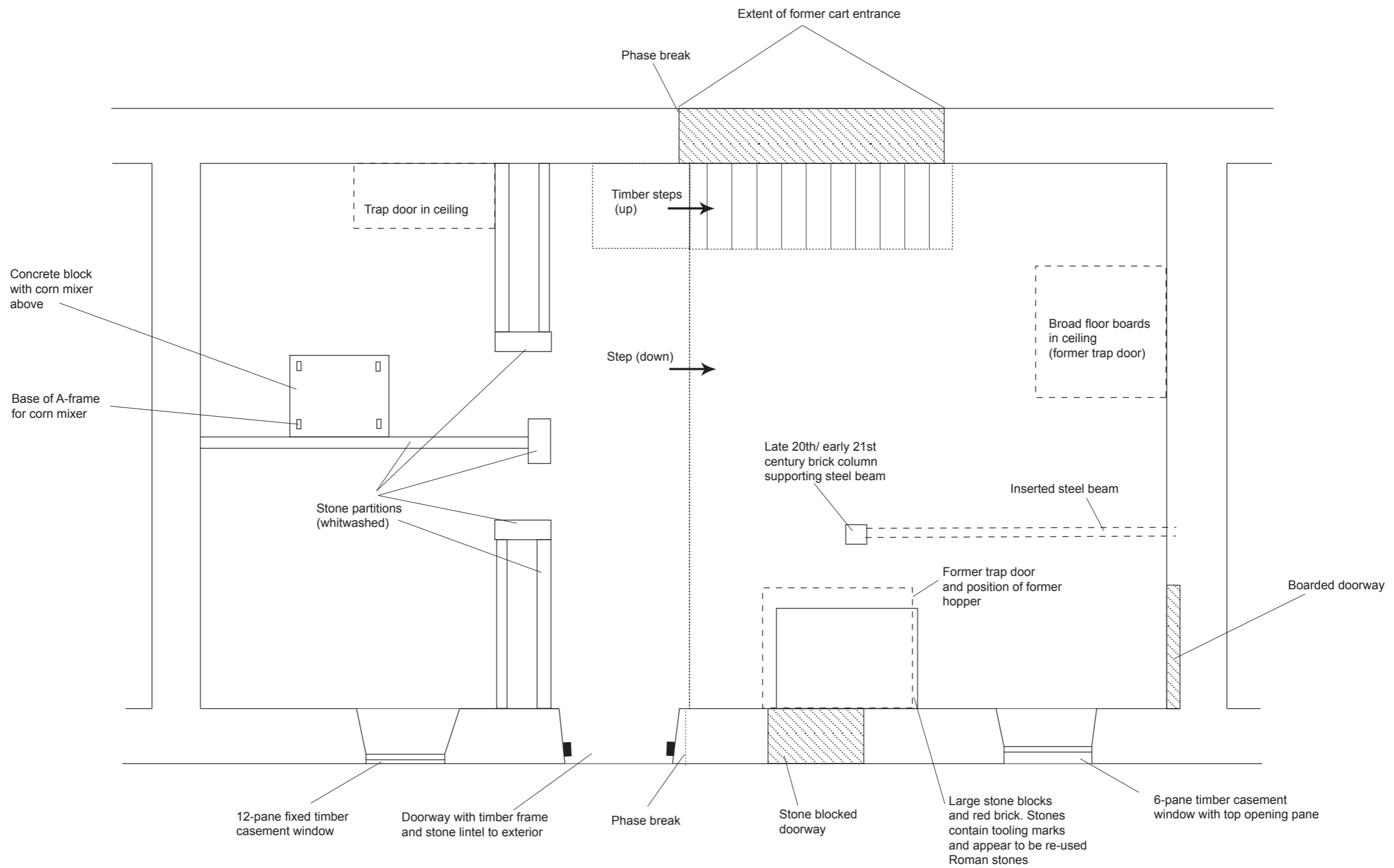
-  Brick
-  Roof beams/ truss
-  Blocking

Figure 6: First floor plan of Rudchester Manor House





Key




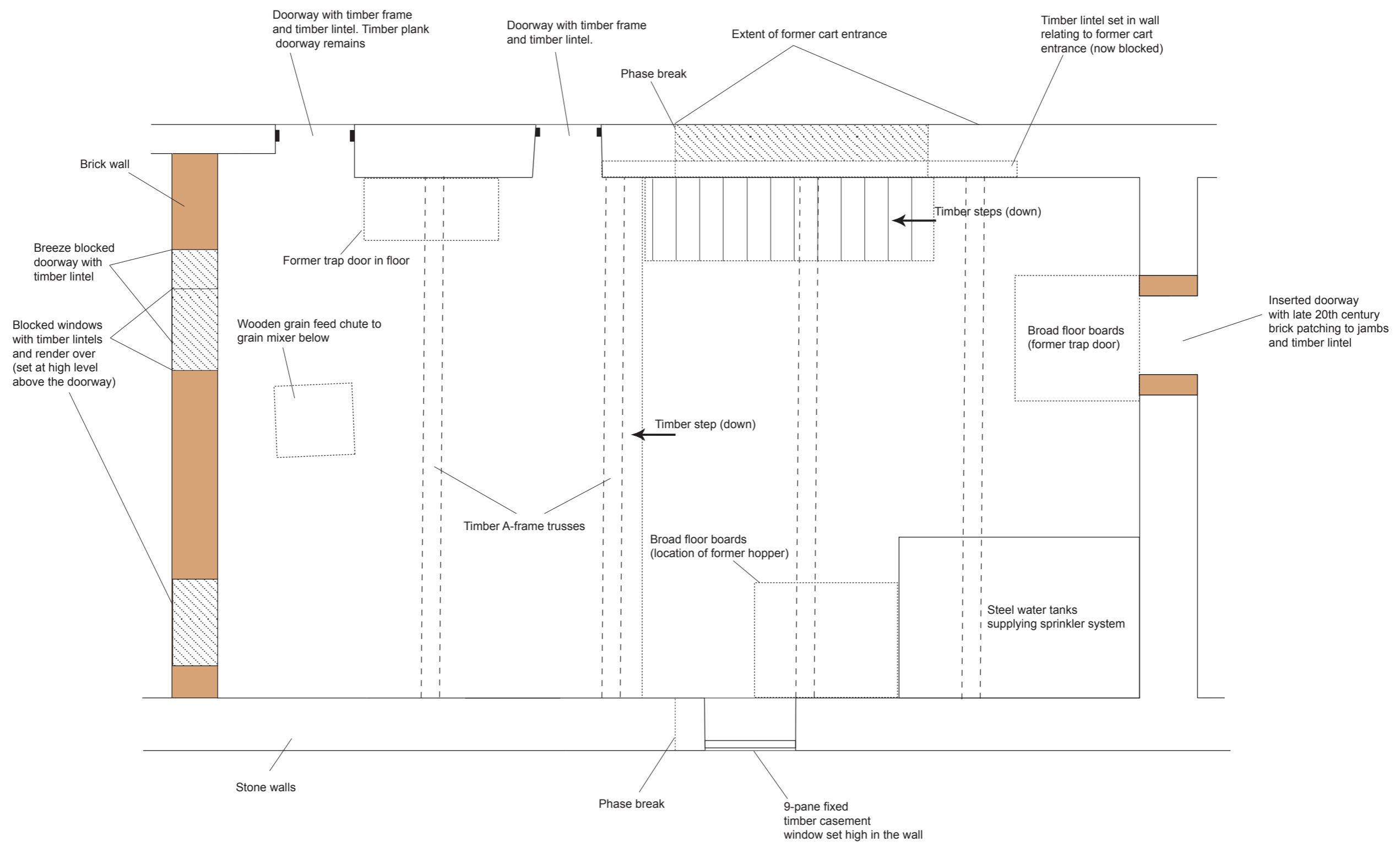
-  Brick
-  Roof beams/ truss
-  Blocking

Figure 7: Ground Floor Plan of Barn at Rudchester Manor





Key




-  Brick
-  Roof beams/ truss
-  Blocking

Figure 8: First Floor Plan of Barn at Rudchester Manor



Plates



Plate 1: General of Rudchester Manor House from north-east



Plate 2: General view of Rudchester Manor House from north-west



Plate 3: General view of east elevation of Manor House from north-east



Plate 4: General view of south elevation of Manor House from south-west



Plate 5: General view of south end of west elevation of Manor House from south-west



Plate 6: General view of centre of west elevation of Manor House from west



Plate 7: General view of north end of west elevation (later extension, now demolished) of Manor House from west



Plate 8: General view of north elevation of Manor House from north-east

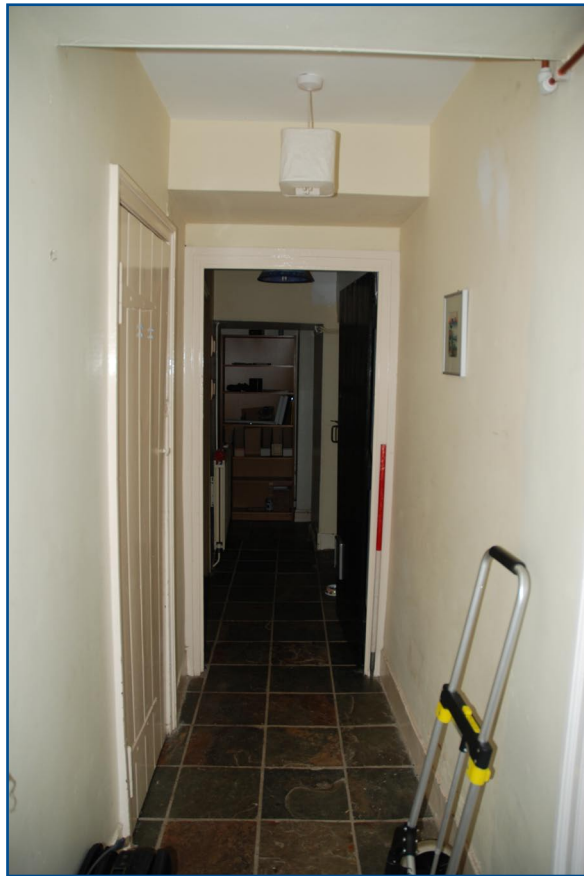


Plate 9: General view of Room 0.1 in Manor House extension from west



Plate 10: General view of Room 0.2 in Manor House extension from south



Plate 11: General view of Room 0.3 in Manor House extension from south



Plate 12: Detail of east wall on Room 0.3 during demolition of Manor House extension from west



Plate 13: General view of Room 0.4 in Manor House extension from south



Plate 14: General view of Room 1.1 in Manor House extension from south-east



Plate 15: General view of barn from south-east



Plate 16: General view of barn from south-west



Plate 17: Detail of central door and edge of blocked door in east elevation of barn from east



Plate 18: General view of south elevation of barn from south-east



Plate 19: General view of west elevation of barn from south-west



Plate 20: General view of ground floor of barn from south-west



Plate 21: General view of ground floor of barn showing pens to south from north-east



Plate 22: Detail of corn mixer to ground floor of barn from east



Plate 23: Detail of dressed stones to centre of east wall from north-west



Plate 24: General view of first floor of barn from south-east

Appendix 1: Photograph Register

Photograph Register

Black and White photography: Film 1

Frame No.	Area/room	Description	From
1	Exterior	General view of Rudchester Manor House	NW
2	Exterior	Detail of window in east elevation of barn	E
3	Exterior	General view of the barn	SW
4	Exterior	Detail of phase break in west elevation of barn between the barn and Stable Cottage to the south	W
5	Exterior	Detail of phase break in west elevation of barn	SW
6	Exterior	Detail of phase break in west elevation of barn	W
7	Exterior	West elevation of barn on ground floor of barn	W
8	Exterior	West elevation of barn on ground floor of barn	SW
9	Ground floor	Detail of corn mixer on ground floor of barn	E
10	Ground floor	Detail of corn mixer on ground floor of barn	E
11	Ground floor	Detail of large stone with tooling marks against east wall of barn	SW
12	Ground floor	Detail of large stone with tooling marks against east wall of barn	W
13	Ground floor	Detail of large stone with tooling marks against east wall of barn	W
14	First floor	Detail of graffiti on north wall of first floor of barn	S
15	First floor	Detail of roof in first floor of barn	NE
16	First floor	Detail of lintel embedded into west wall on first floor of barn	NE
17	First floor	General view of first floor on of barn	SW
18	First floor	General view of first floor of barn	SE
19	First floor	General view of first floor showing blocked doorway in south wall and doorways in west wall of barn	NE
20	First floor	General view of first floor of barn	NW
21	First floor	General view of first floor of barn	NW
22	Ground floor	Detail of stone against east wall and trap door above on ground floor of barn	SW
23	Ground floor	Detail of large stone with tooling marks against east wall of barn	NW
24	Ground floor	Detail of corn mixer on ground floor of barn	NE
25	Ground floor	Detail of corn mixer on ground floor of barn	E
26	Ground floor	Detail of stall partitions and doors on ground floor of barn	NE
27	Ground floor	General view of ground floor room of barn showing stalls	NE
28	Ground floor	General view of ground floor room of barn showing stalls	NW
29	Ground floor	General view of ground floor room of barn	NW
30	Ground floor	General view of ground floor room of barn	SW
31	Ground floor	General view of ground floor room of barn	SE
32	Exterior	Detail of phase break between barn and Stable Cottage	SE
33	Exterior	Detail of doorway and possible phase break on east elevation of barn	SE
34	Exterior	South elevation of barn	SE
35	Exterior	General view of barn	SE
36	Exterior	East elevation of barn	E

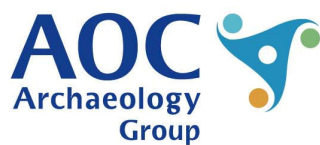
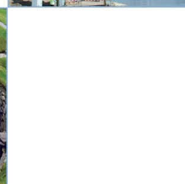
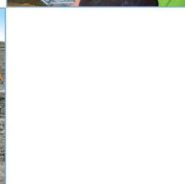
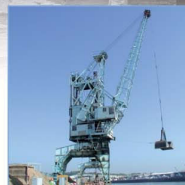
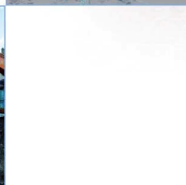
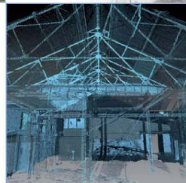
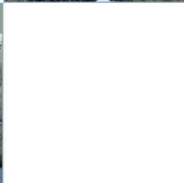
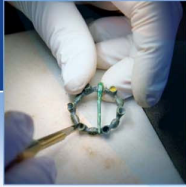
Black and White photography: Film 2

Frame No.	Area/room	Description	From
9	Exterior	General view of manor house	NE
10	Exterior	South end of west elevation of manor house	SW
11	Exterior	South elevation of manor house	SW
12	Exterior	General view of manor house	SE
13	Exterior	East elevation of manor house	NE
14	Exterior	North elevation of manor house	NW
15	Exterior	Detail of blocked door and inserted window in centre of west elevation of manor house	W
16	Exterior	General view of manor house extension to south-west	N
17	Exterior	General view of manor house extension	S
18	Exterior	Centre of west elevation of manor house	W
19	Exterior	General view of manor house	NW
20	Exterior	General view of west side of manor house	NW
21	Exterior	General view of manor house extension	NW
22	Exterior	North end of west elevation of manor house	W
23	Exterior	North elevation of manor house extension	NE
24	Exterior	North elevation of manor house	NE
25	Room 0.11 Manor House	Detail of doorway leading to Room 0.1	S
26	Room 0.1 Manor House	Detail of doorway in south wall leading to Room 0.11	N
27	Room 1.1 Manor House	Detail of window latches in window in west wall	E
28	Room 1.1 Manor House	General view	SE
29	Room 0.5 Manor House	General view	W
30	Room 0.4 Manor House	General view	W
31	Room 0.3 Manor House	Detail of quoins to south edge of east wall	NW
32	Room 0.3 Manor House	General view	W
33	Room 0.2 Manor House	Detail of boiler and flue	SW

34	Room 0.2 Manor House	General view	S
35	Room 0.1 Manor House	General view	W
36	Room 0.1 Manor House	General view	E

Black and White photography: Film 3

Frame No.	Area/room	Description	From
25	Exterior	Section of exposed elevation of 19 th century extension to manor house (north elevation)	N
26	Exterior	Detail of dressed stone quoins to edge of exposed elevation of 18 th century house (west elevation)	NW
27	Exterior	Section of exposed elevation of 18 th century house (west elevation)	W
28	Exterior	Detail of stone sill removed from blocked opening in east wall of Room 0.3 of manor house extension	
29	Exterior	Detail of stone with square socket removed from east wall of Room 0.3 of manor house extension during demolition	
30	Exterior	Detail of stone sill removed from blocked opening in east wall of Room 0.3 of manor house extension	
31	Exterior	Detail of stone lintel removed from blocked opening in east wall of Room 0.3 of manor house extension	
32	Exterior	Detail of decorative stone quoin to edge of west elevation (19 th century extension) of manor house	W
33	Exterior	Edge of west elevation (19 th century extension) of manor house	W
34	Room 0.4	West wall of Room 0.4 during demolition of extension	SE
35	Room 0.3	East wall of Room 0.3 during demolition of extension	W
36	Room 0.3	East wall of Room 0.3 during demolition of extension	W



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