

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT**

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**SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/021**

# **The Old Dairy, Gislingham GSG 034**

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## HER Information

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**Planning Application No:** 0700/08

**Date of Fieldwork:** 12th January, 3rd to 6th, 9th and 23rd March 2009

**Grid Reference:** TL 0724 7101

**Funding Body:** Mr and Mrs Rodgers

**Curatorial Officer:** Dr. Jess Tipper

**Project Officer:** David Gill and Mo Muldowney

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## Summary

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Multiple stages of archaeological monitoring were carried out during renovation of 'The Old Dairy', Gislingham, following a programme of historic building recording (Alston, forthcoming). The work identified the base of a brick-construction Tudor brewing oven, a second, oval brick structure of unknown function and a series of layers that pre-date a clay floor layer removed by the previous owner. In addition, two possible ditches or pits were identified.





## 1. Introduction

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Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) was commissioned to undertake a programme of monitoring at 'The Old Dairy', Gislingham by the current owners, Mr and Mrs Rodgers. A number of visits were made to the property during January and March 2009 whilst work was being carried out on the footings and interior of the building. Archaeological monitoring was undertaken in accordance with a Brief and Specification produced by Dr. Jess Tipper (SCCAS, Conservation Team) (Appendix 1) and followed an historic building recording of 'The Old Dairy' (Alston, forthcoming).

Gislingham is situated 7 miles from Walsham le Willows (west) and Eye (north-east) and the site itself is located on the south-west edge of the village at the corner of Back Street and Finningham Road (Fig. 1). 'The Old Dairy' stands between the pond and the main house (Holm Oak House).

## 2. Geology and topography

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The site overlies clay and lies at a height of just over 57m OD. 'The Old Dairy' itself is sited on predominantly flat ground next to the pond and is set in the gardens of the main house, back from both Back Street to the south, and Finningham Road to the east.

## 3. Archaeological and historical background

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At present there are few entries recorded in the Historic Environment Record (HER) within 500m of the 'The Old Dairy'. The nearest is GSG 010, located 150m to the north-east recording the site of a possible moat. Roman pottery was also found here, as was a Saxon cruciform brooch fragment. Further afield (370m) to the north-east is GSG 015, a Roman bronze finger ring with a blue *intaglio* of an eagle.

A four-trench evaluation (GSG 022) took place at a proposed school site behind Broadfields Road in 2001 that recorded no archaeological features but did recover pottery and worked flint (Everett 2001).



## 4. Methodology

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Archaeological monitoring took place in two main stages. The first required examination of the deposits exposed during replacement of the sill plates of the property. The second stage took place during the removal of the concrete (ground) floor inside the house and involved partial excavation of the exposed structures and deposits.

Recording during both stages was carried out using SCCAS *pro forma* sheets. Sections were hand drawn at scale 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate and plans were drawn at 1:20, supplemented by TST data. A photographic record was taken of all exposed structures and deposits using a colour high-resolution digital camera.

Three environmental samples were taken.

The site archive is stored in the SCCAS main store at Bury St Edmunds under HER no. GSG 034 and a digital copy of the report submitted online to the Archaeological Data Service (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>).

## 5. Results

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### 5.1 Stage 1 – External

Monitoring the replacement of the sill beams took place on 12th January 2009 and identified a series of seven layers (including modern deposits) directly underlying the building. The location of each intervention is presented below in Fig. 2.

The sequence of stratified deposits identified in each intervention is presented in Table 1 below. Sections are presented in Fig. 3.

Context	Section	Description	Thickness (m)
0003	1; 2; 3	Pale orange white clay	0.16
0004	1; 2; 3; 4	Pale orange sandy clay	0.30
0002	1; 2; 3; 4	Pale brown silty clay, darker at top	0.38 (0.14)
0001	1	Dark brown soil with tile fragments	0.10
Topsoil	3	As 0001, no inclusions	0.27
Concrete and bricks	2; 4	Modern rubble and coursed brick and concrete	0.34
Sill/sole beam	4	Wood square beam (modern)	0.20

Table 1. Deposits observed during Stage 1 (earliest deposit first)

## MAPINFO?

Figure 2. Stage 1: Monitored interventions

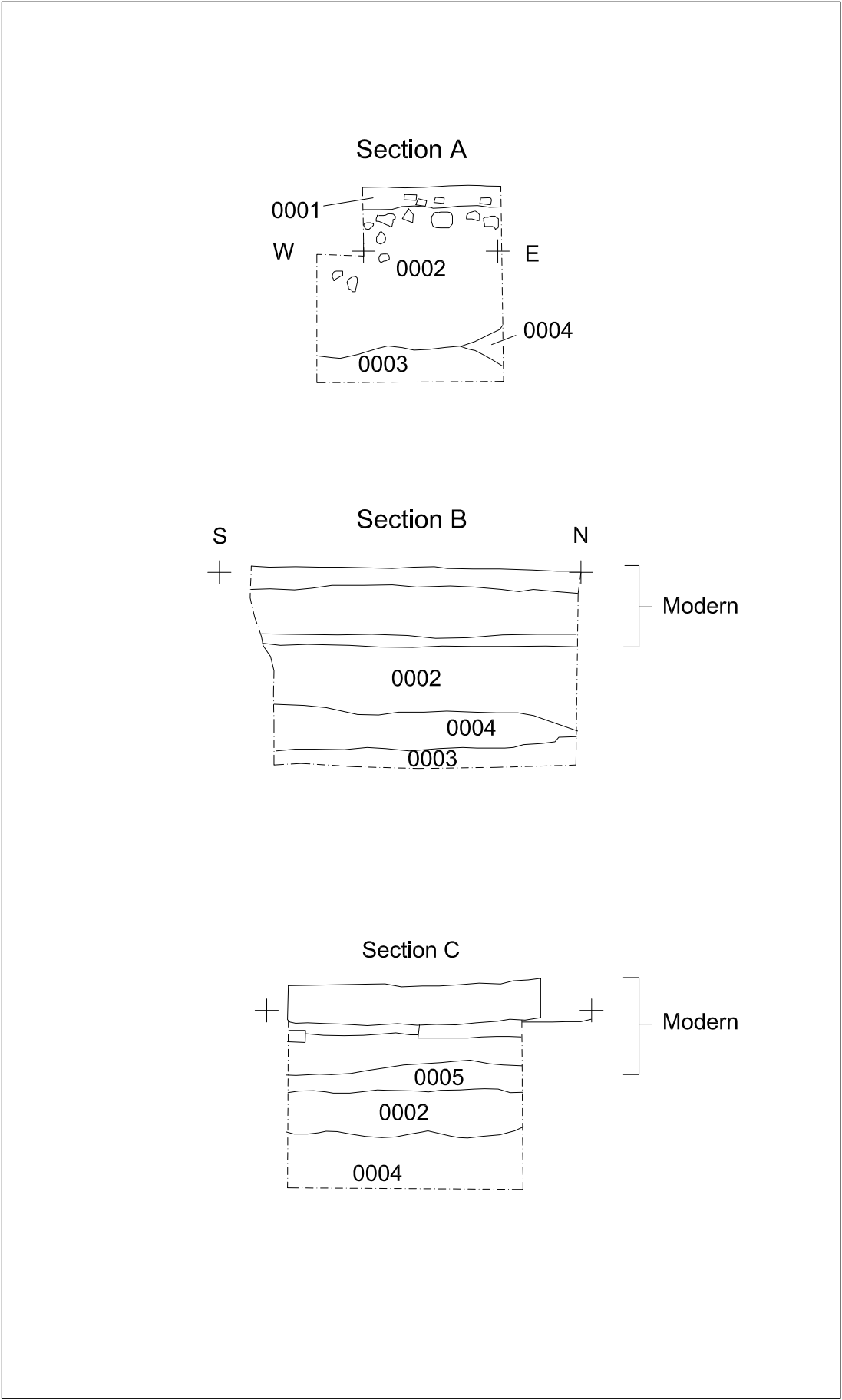


Figure . Stage 1 sections, scale 1:25 on A4

## **5.2 Stage 2 - Internal (Fig. 4)**

Monitoring inside the building took place over a number of non-sequential days during the removal of the concrete floor, lowering of the ground surface and underpinning of the staircase. Two brick structures, small patches of a clay surface, a partition wall cut/impression and a series of three layers and a ditch were identified.

### ***Cut features and layers***

All deposits and structures overlay or truncated the pale whitish yellow natural sandy clay (0041), which was encountered at 57.02m OD. This may have been the same deposit as 0003 that was observed externally in Stage 1.

The only feature seen to truncate 0041 was ditch 0038 (Fig. 5, S.6), which was partially excavated in the north room and also observed in the south room during underpinning of the stairs (23rd March). It was linear in plan and had a projected u-shape profile (the rising water table and limit of excavation prevented full observation) with a flared top. It was more than 1.6m wide and over 0.30m deep and contained at least one dark grey fill (0033) that was very similar to the overlying deposit 0032. Two sherds of late 13th - 14th century pottery were recovered.

Extensive deposit 0032 (Fig. 5, S.6) overlay ditch 0038 and spread across the room. It was dark grey silty clay with frequent charcoal up to 0.44m thick, containing sixteen sherds of late 13th - 14th century pottery, a fragment of animal bone and an oyster shell. It is thought that this layer was the same as 0028, the main deposit in the south room, as both lay at approximately 57.30m OD and were similar in colour (see also Fig. 5, S.5). The same layer was observed during monitoring when the floor layer was reduced and whilst the stairs were underpinned. Note that context 0031 refers to a finds spit at the top of 0032.

0027=0024 was a thin (0.11m) layer that overlay 0032=0028 and was observed in the south room only. It comprised mid greyish brown silty clay with patches of whiteish yellow clay that was stained by, and contained, charcoal. In the north-west corner of the room it was truncated by the oval brick structure (0022) (Fig. 5, S.5 and S.4) and below the oven 0015 it sloped down to the east. Two sherds of late 12th – 14th century pottery and four fragments of animal bone were recovered.

Figure 4. Stage 2 - site plan (all features)

Overlying this deposit was mid yellowish brown silty clay 0008=0026. It varied in depth between 0.06m and 0.27m and contained a large quantity (109 sherds) of pottery and some animal bone (Fig. 4 and Fig. 5, S.5). A rectangular iron plate (SF 1002) was recovered from the upper surface of this layer.

At the north end of the south room, layer 0008=0026 was overlain by 0.02 – 0.04m thick mixed orange-blue-yellow clay layer 0023. It lay at a height of approximately 57.42m OD, 0.10m above 0008=0026 and was located on a raised area measuring 3.40m long by 1.7m wide (Fig. 4). No finds were recovered. Layer 0023 was truncated by three features; pit 0030, partition wall 0035 and construction cut 0022 (see below). Pit 0030 was not excavated although a copper alloy button (SF1001) was recovered from just below the surface of fill 0029. The pit was an irregular sub-rectangular shape in plan, 0.70m long by more than 0.36m wide. Its fill was very similar to that excavated in pit 0009, 1m to the south-west, comprising light whiteish grey ash.

Partition wall 0035 was located less than 0.20m to the south of pit 0030 and was truncated by construction cut 0022 at its west end (Fig. 4). The cut was linear and just over 3.4m long by 0.05m wide and 0.03m deep. At the east end it survived as little more than a shadow on top of 0023. In profile the partition cut had a flat base and straight sides and was filled by 0034, very dark brownish grey silty clay from which no finds were recovered.

Where not overlain by 0023, layer 0008=0026 was truncated by pit 0009 and posthole 0012 and partially overlain by the patchy remains of layer 0017. Pit 0009 (Fig. 5, S.1) was an irregular sub-circular shape in plan and was 0.50m in diameter by 0.13m deep. It had steep, straight sides, with spade marks on the east edge, and a flat but sloping base. A single fill (0007) was present comprising light whiteish grey ash from which five sherds of glazed 16th – 18th century pottery, CBM and a fragment of clay tobacco pipe were recovered.

Posthole 0012 (Fig. 5, S.4) was situated immediately to the south of construction cut 0022 and circular in plan. It was 0.29m in diameter and only 0.08m deep with a slightly uneven steep-sided concave-based profile. The single fill 0011 comprised pale grey fine sand with a gritty texture and occasional small lumps of mortar. No finds were recovered.



Layer 0017 was light whiteish yellow clay and lay in three patches no larger than 0.36m wide to the east of and below oven 0015. It was up to 0.12m thick and may have been the remnants of the floor layer also seen below the stairs and in the north room (0036) (Fig. 5, S.6). Layer 0017 was contemporary with oven 0015 as it lay both over and under the bricks forming the latter's' east edge (see 7 Discussion). No finds were recovered.

### **Structures**

Oven 0015 (Fig. 5, Plate 1 and 2) was located almost centrally within the south room and was keyhole-shaped in plan. It was constructed from bricks (dimensions 0.24m x 0.12m x 0.05m) and mortar (0016) and survived to two courses at the rounded south end and only one course elsewhere. It was 1.75m long and 0.65m wide at its narrowest point and 1.13m wide at the rounded end. A moderate degree of wear was noted on the surface of the bricks (which were quite soft) particularly at the middle and north end. A small number of whole bricks were kept for analysis (see 6. Finds and Environmental Evidence). Interestingly, the mortar (0016) was a silty clay matrix around the bricks rather than the more traditional mix of sand, lime, hair etc. On the main surface of the oven, the mortar was not fully visible under a deposit of fine grey, almost white ash and in some places residues of burnt material.

Immediately below the oven it was possible to observe the affect of heat during firing (Plate 3); a bowl-shaped reddened area shows that the heat was strongest in the centre of the oven, penetrating to a depth of 0.05m into layer 0008.

The second brick structure (Plate 4 and 5) was located in the north-west corner of the south room and was sub-circular in plan with an oval construction cut (0022) (Fig. 4 and Fig. 5, S.2, S.3 and S.4) that truncated partition 0035. The construction cut was 1.18m long by 0.82m wide and 0.27m deep. It had steep sides and a flat, if slightly uneven base into which a couple of the bricks had been pressed. A deposit of 0.05m – 0.25m thick yellowish white mortar (0025) was placed at the base of the construction cut, followed by a single course of bricks that formed the base (0020). The bricks were of varying sizes and may have been broken to fit within the construction cut. Gaps at the edge of the cut were filled with mortar and other brick fragments. Two bricks at the south edge of the cut and beyond the limit of the circular structure itself were placed

slightly higher than the rest and it is unclear whether they are part of this, or an earlier structure.

The sides (0018) of the circular structure were constructed using half-sized bricks either two or three courses high. Up to 0.10m of yellowish white mortar (0019) remained on the bricks over the north half of the structure and in thin traces elsewhere, suggesting it was originally built higher. The structure itself was built abutting the north side of the construction cut but not the south side, which was filled with mortar 0021, a mixed 0.11m thick deposit of mixed mortar and mid brownish clay packing material (Fig. 5, S.4).

All features and layers were covered with modern brick and concrete rubble, overlain by a concrete floor.

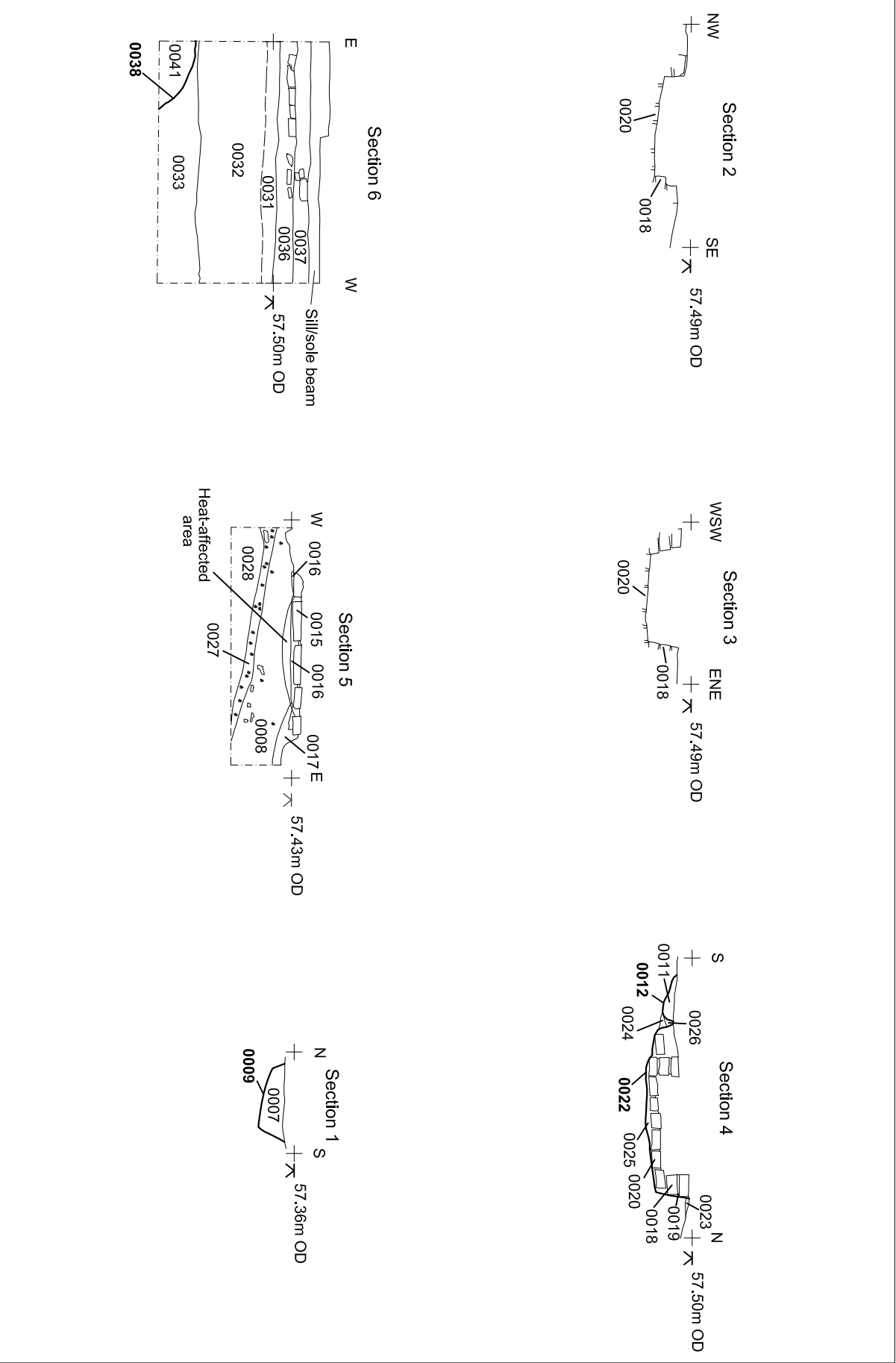


Figure : Sections, scale 1:35 on A4

## 6. Finds and Environmental Evidence

### Introduction

Finds were collected from sixteen contexts, as shown in Table 2, below.

Context	Pottery		CBM		Mortar		Animal bone		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0001			1	39						Post-medieval
0005			4	3315					1 stone @ 1678g	18th-19th C
0006	1	2								L13th-14th C
0007	5	24								16th-18th C
0008	109	877					21	339	2 fired clay @ 7g	L13th-14th C
0015			8	12156						M16th-17th C
0018			8	11697						C
0020			5	10843						L17th-18th C?
0024	2	55					4	144		17th C
										L12th-14th C
0025					17	650				Post-medieval
0028	2	15							1 worked flint @ 6g	L12th-14th C
0029									1 oyster shell @ 12g	
0031	10	67					1	5	1 oyster shell @ 4g	L13th-14th C
0032	6	91								L13th-14th C
0033	2	26								L13th-14th C
0039	27	184					3	53	1 oyster shell @ 10g	L13th-14th C
Total	164	1341	26	38050	17	650	29	541		

Table 2. Bulk finds

### Pottery

A total of 164 fragments of pottery was recovered from the monitoring (1.341kg). The assemblage is mainly medieval in date but a small number of post-medieval sherds were also identified. The ceramics have been fully quantified and catalogued in an Access database.

A small quantity of shell-tempered wares dating to the 11th-12th century was present in four contexts with medieval wares of a later date. Small and often abraded sherds of St Neots-type ware (850-1150), and Yarmouth type wares (11th-12th century) were identified in deposits 0008, 0024, 0031, and 0039.

The remainder of the assemblage is almost entirely medieval in date, and consists for the most part of fragments of medieval coarseware (Late 12th-14th century), and sherds of Hollesley-type ware, a generic term for the pale buff to off-white wheelthrown greywares which were produced on the eastern side of the county during the 13th-14th centuries (Anderson 2004 20). In addition a small quantity of glazed wares was also present, including a fragment of Hedingham fineware (M12th-M13th C).

The medieval sherds present in ditchfill 0033 and overlying deposit 0032 are Hollesley-type wares and medieval coarseware body sherds (L13th-14th century). The pottery present in deposit 0008 consists of several fragments of Hollesley-type ware bowls and cooking wares which have squared rims dating to the 13th-14th century. Similar sherds of the same date were collected as unstratified finds under the number 0039.

The remains of an Iron Glazed Blackware rilled cup or tankard dating to the 16th-18th century was identified in pitfill 0007.

### **Ceramic building material**

A number of complete or semi-complete bricks were retained for dating from the structural features uncovered during the course of the monitoring (26 fragments weighing 38.050kg). The ceramic building material has been fully quantified and catalogued in an Access database.

The bricks which were sampled from the oven structure 0015 are relatively soft and a uniform mid orange in colour, with some being slightly brown orange. They are made in medium sandy fabrics with ferrous inclusions and flint (msfe). The dimensions of the bricks, most notably their height indicates that they are similar to Drury type LB1, which dates from the middle of the 16th century to the end of the 17th century. The undersides of the bricks show the remains of the clay bedding in which they were laid. Some of the bricks have signs of more conventional lime mortar on the sides, and one half brick has been reused as there is mortar on the broken edge.

A number of bricks were collected from the base course of the second brick structure (0020). They are made in a several different fabric types and in a mixture of sizes. One half-brick has clearly been reused. Two almost complete bricks are made in buff to pale pink silty fabrics with clay pellet inclusions which are likely to date to the 17th century. Further bricks were also recovered from the sides of this structure (0018). They include some earlier style bricks but also the remains of bricks with thicknesses of 60-63mm. Bricks of this type with this range of thickness are slightly later in date, most probably dating between the late seventeenth and even into the eighteenth century (Drury 1993 164). The bricks are made for the most part in harder, darker red fabrics and most have been deliberately broken into half-sizes and remortared.

A small number of post-medieval rooftile fragments were present in 0005 and 0029. A brick made in a yellowish buff gault fabric from 0005 dates to the 18th-19th century.

### **Fired clay**

Two fragments of fired clay were retained from 0008 (0.004kg). One fragment is made in a soft orange fabric with frequent rounded chalk inclusions, and the second piece which is reduced is also made in a fine fabric with some chalk inclusions. No diagnostic features such as structural impressions were identified. Fired clay made in fine fabrics with chalk inclusions is often medieval in date and as medieval pottery was found in this deposit, it may be so in this particular case.

### **Mortar**

Seventeen fragments of mortar were recovered from 0025, at the bottom of the brick structure in the south room (0.655kg). The mortar is soft, limey and off-white in colour with frequent chalk and occasional flint inclusions up to 6mm in length. The mortar has an underside of dark soil which contains moderate charcoal inclusions, which is presumably representative of the deposit on which it was laid.

### **Post-medieval window glass**

A single fragment of post-medieval window glass was found in 0039.

### **Small Finds**

A total of three artefacts were allocated small find numbers. The fragmentary remains of two tapering shafts of iron without any head which may be nails were found in 0005 (SF1001). A rectangular iron plate (SF1002) measuring 550x460mm was recovered from 0010, the upper surface of a deposit inside the south room. A copper alloy flat circular button without a fastening loop found in pitfill 0029 is post-medieval (SF 1003).

### **Worked flint (identification by Colin Pendleton)**

An unpatinated flake with an area of retouch on one edge including a notch was recovered from 0028. It has a natural striking platform and parallel flake scars on the dorsal face. It is later prehistoric in date, probably Later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age.

## **Animal bone**

A small quantity of animal bone was collected from four contexts (29 fragments @ 0.541kg). The largest group was recovered from 0008 and is made up of many small splinters of bone with some bovine teeth including molars. A fragment of horse tibia was present in 0024 and a fragment of a horse ulna was identified in 0039.

## **Shell**

Three fragments of oyster shell were recovered from three features (0.026kg). These were recorded and subsequently discarded.

## **Plant macrofossils**

Val Fryer

### ***Introduction and method statement***

Samples for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from a small number of features of probable medieval date, and three were submitted for assessment.

The samples were bulk floated by SCCAS staff and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x16, and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Appendix 3. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace. All plant remains were charred. Modern contaminants including fibrous roots, arthropod remains and fungal sclerotia were present throughout.

### ***Results***

Barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains were present at a low density within Samples 1 and 3, and all three assemblages also contained additional indeterminate cereals. A fragmentary cotyledon of a large pulse (Fabaceae) was noted within Sample 1, and Sample 3 produced a single bread wheat (*T. aestivum/compactum*) type rachis node along with a small number of weed seeds. Preservation of these remains was poor to moderate, with most of the grains being puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures.

Charcoal/charred wood fragments were present throughout, and were particularly abundant within the assemblage from Sample 1. Shells of terrestrial and freshwater

molluscs were also noted in Samples 2 and 3 although, at the time of writing, it was unclear whether they were contemporary with the features from which the samples were taken, or later contaminants. Other remains were scarce, although Sample 2 did contain a high density of light coloured mineralised concretions.

### ***Conclusions***

In summary, the charcoal rich assemblage from Sample 1 is almost certainly derived from a single deposit of domestic hearth waste, with the grains and large pulse indicative of material which was accidentally spilled during culinary preparation. The assemblages from Samples 2 and 3 are very small and both are probably derived from scattered refuse. The significance (if any) of the mineralised concretions within Sample 2 is not currently known.

### ***Recommendations for further work***

Although the current assemblages are small and inconclusive, they do clearly illustrate that charred plant macrofossils are preserved within the archaeological horizon at Gislingham. Therefore, if further interventions are planned, it is strongly recommended that additional plant macrofossils samples of approximately 20 – 30 litres in volume are taken from all dated and sealed deposits recorded during excavation.

### ***Discussion of the material evidence***

The earliest artefact recovered from the monitoring is the later prehistoric flake which was residual in deposit 0028. The majority of the finds assemblage is medieval and post-medieval. A small number of early medieval wares were present which are of interest as they are likely to reflect activity of this date in the vicinity. Most of the medieval pottery however dates to the 13th-14th century, and includes coarsewares and some glazed wares. The small ceramic assemblage recovered from the monitoring has provided valuable information on the types of pottery which were in use one of the villages of central north Suffolk during the medieval period. The bricks recovered from the two ovens also provide some dating evidence for these two features. The analysis of the environmental material from the ashy deposit 0007 indicates that it was a domestic hearth which also contained some food waste.



## 7. Discussion

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The monitoring has identified a number of medieval and post-medieval features within the footprint of 'The Old Dairy', comprising cut features, layers and structures. Pottery recovered from the medieval features suggests that the main activity took place in the 13th to 14th centuries, although the presence of few 11th to 12th century sherds does indicate that there was earlier activity in the vicinity. Ditch 0038 was the earliest feature identified within the building and although its construction date was not discernable, the pottery recovered from the upper part of its fill (0033) and the two overlying deposits (0031 and 0032) suggest it was backfilled during the 13th to 14th century. This may have been done in order to allow for the construction of the present building [dated to ??](#) (Alston, forthcoming). As it was neither fully excavated nor seen fully in plan due to the constraints of the building, the ditch's function was difficult to determine; however it may be surmised that it was a field boundary, possibly forming the west side of a plot of land at the corner of Back Street and Finningham Road.

Other medieval features comprise a series of four layers - 0036, 0037, 0028=0032, 0024=0027 and 0008=0026, 0023

Pottery from layers overlying the ditch from 12th to 14th century. Sample 3 from 0027 suggests scattered background activity, so not derived from immediate vicinity but prob from domestic/settlement type activity. Layer 0017 is probably the only remnant of floor or surface. Layers 0036, 0037, 0028=0032, 0024=0027 and 0008=0026 all pre-date the post-med structures – are any equivalent to outside coz this means the difference between them being floors or accumulated soil layers? 0005 darker at top, burnt flecks – is this 0027? Perhaps near the outside limit of the layer so less clear...

Not possible to equate the external deposits as recorded during Stage 1 to those identified inside the building although they were similar...

The most striking features of this monitoring are the two brick structures 0022 and 0015; analysis of

Circular oven post-dates the brewing oven - not associated? Maybe a slight overlap – different bricks a clue?

## 8. Archive deposition

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Paper and photographic archive: **SCCAS Bury St Edmunds T:arc\route**

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds. Store Location: I/94/5.

## 9. List of contributors and acknowledgements

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Monitoring was carried out by a number of archaeological staff, (Abby Antrobus, David Gill, Johnathon van Jennians, Mo Muldowney and John Sims) all from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was directed by Mo Muldowney and managed by David Gill.

Richenda Goffin managed the post-excavation, produced the specialist finds report and edited the report, whilst finds processing was carried out by Michelle Williams and Becky Pressler. Gemma Adams assisted with scanning of the site records.

## 10. Bibliography

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### Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Team alone. Ultimately the need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting services cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

## Plates



(c) Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council. Licence No. 100023395 2009

**Plate 1. Oven 0015 pre-excavation, with modern concrete 'consolidation', facing south**



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**Plate 2. Oven 0015 pre-excavation, facing west**





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**Plate 3. Excavated section across oven 0015 showing extent of heat-affected area, facing north**



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**Plate 4. Brick structure 0018 and posthole 0012 (left) pre-excitation, facing west**





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**Plate 5. Brick structure 0018 and posthole 0012 (left) mid-excavation, facing west**



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**Plate 6. Oven 0015 during excavation, facing north-east**

<b>Appendix 1</b>	<b>Brief and Specification</b>
<b>Appendix 2</b>	<b>Context Summary</b>
<b>Appendix 3</b>	<b>Plant Macrofossils</b>
<b>Appendix 4</b>	<b>Site Matrix</b>

The Old Dairy, Finningham Road, Gislingham (TM 0724 7101)

## Historic Building Record Summary

The Old Dairy forms part of a small hamlet focused on an enclosed medieval green known as Rush Green at the southern edge of Gislingham parish, approximately 0.8 km SSW of St Mary's church. The property is currently in separate ownership but until recent years was listed at grade II as the detached dairy wing of Rushgreen farmhouse (now re-named Holm Oak House), to which it lies in close proximity. At the time of the Gislingham tithe survey in 1840 Rush Green Farm was a mid-scale tenanted holding of 73 acres owned by Richard Reeve and occupied by Thomas Steggall. The tithe map shows the outlines of the two buildings just as they remain today.

Holm Oak House is a timber-framed, thatched and rendered structure with a queen-post roof on an east-west axis which dates from the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century and originally consisted of a pair of service rooms on the west, a floored central hall entered by a cross-passage and a parlour on the east. The house was heated by a single fireplace in a narrow dedicated bay between the hall and parlour, and the entire building extended to 13.4 m in length by 5.3 m in total width (44 ft by 17 ft). During the early part of the 17<sup>th</sup> century the building was considerably enlarged by adding a new parlour of 5.3 m (17 ft) to the eastern gable, demolishing the original chimney to combine the old parlour and hall, and inserting a large new chimney with back-to-back fireplaces between the resulting new hall and parlour.

The Old Dairy is a late-16<sup>th</sup> century timber-framed, tiled and rendered two-storied structure of three bays on an approximately north-south axis at right-angles to the front service corner of the main farmhouse - which appears to have faced south towards Rush Green. The north-eastern corner of the dairy lies 2.1 m (7 ft) south of the farmhouse's south-western corner. The building extends to 10.7 m in length by 4.9 m in total width and its walls rise to 3.5 m at their roof-plates (35 ft by 16 ft by 11.5 ft), and was built as a detached kitchen or bake-house with what appears to have been an integral parlour on the north. Detached bake-houses were multi-purpose structures for brewing, malting, washing, slaughtering and heating hot water as well as for baking. They were once standard features of East Anglian farms, often - as here - detached to avoid contamination by fire and smell and often at right-angles to the main house to form part of a 'base court' flanking the approach in imitation of the gentry fashion. This example is of considerable historic importance as it is exceptionally well preserved alongside a broadly contemporary farmhouse and includes a relatively rare parlour. Tudor wills sometimes make provision for a widow to occupy a kitchen while she remains unmarried (instead of the more usual parlour), and this is the type of annex referred to. Parlours were not normally heated until the late-16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries and such a building would have served to accommodate guests and junior family units when not occupied by the older generation. Given the structure's current name it was presumably converted into a dairy at some later date. The dramatic enlargement of the main house a decade or two later demonstrates the perceived need for more domestic space on the site.

The interior was divided into a single-bay parlour of 3.8 m in length to the north and a two-bay bake-house of 6.5 m to the south (12.5 ft and 21.5 ft respectively). The bake-house was probably entered by a cross-passage against the parlour wall but although evidence of the eastern door is visible above the present entrance the key timbers of the rear wall were either hidden or missing at the time of inspection. A door opened into the northern room 1 m from the eastern entrance and this space contained a ceiling of flat-sectioned joists each decorated with neatly step-stopped chamfers and was lit by diamond-mullioned windows in all three external elevations - all with evidence of internally sliding shutters. The presence of chamfered joists in this unheated space suggests it was used as a parlour rather than for any utilitarian purpose, and in all respects it is typical of contemporary parlours elsewhere. The original joists in the northern bay of the bake-house are similarly chamfered, as is the northern edge of the principal binding joist that divides the shorter northern bay of 2.7 (9 ft) from its longer counterpart of 3.3 m (11 ft) to the south. The southern edge of this joist is not chamfered however, and the southern bay originally contained only six joists that formed a gallery or platform of



1.8 m (6 ft) in width against its western wall. The rest of the space, forming an area of 2.9 m by 3.3 m (9.5 ft by 11 ft) was completely open to the (largely concealed) clasped-purlin roof and lit by a small window set at mid-height in the front wall. This window contained three diamond mullions, was 0.75 m wide by 0.6 m in height (29 ins by 24 ins), and lay 0.6 m below the roof-plates, almost level with the level of the present bedroom floor which represents a later insertion. This large space would have contained a bread oven and/or brewing vat suspended over a furnace, and may even have doubled as a malting kiln. The rear gallery may have supported additional brewing vessels and allowed access from above for the purposes of filling and stirring. Similar galleries are found in known Tudor brew-houses such as Lacock Abbey in Wiltshire. Although the gallery joists were removed when the present ceiling was inserted the absence of mortises in the southern mid-rail indicates the position of a stair in the south-eastern corner.

The upper storey was also divided into two spaces, but at this level the larger of the two lay to the north. An arch-braced open truss lay between the 'parlour' bay and the northern bay of the bake-house, with a closed partition against the gallery and void. This partition contained a doorway 0.9 m from the back wall allowing access to the gallery, which appears to have been the only method of entering the northern chamber. The southern gable contained neither doors nor windows on its lower storey, but a first-floor doorway with extant internal pintel hinges appears to be an original feature. This door lay 1.6 m (5.5 ft) from the front wall and ostensibly opened directly into the void – so the platform may have extended along its southern wall. It may have operated as an external loading door, but could have provided a link with an additional thatched and rendered building of unknown date and purpose that extended by approximately 6.4 m (21 ft) from the present gable – as indicated by its visible foundations and old photographs - but was demolished during the late-20<sup>th</sup> century.