



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

Temple Mill, Gibbet Lane,
Bilstone, Leicestershire
(SK 35660 03483):
Historic Building Record

By Sophie Clarke



ULAS Report No 2014-062
©2014

**Temple Mill, Gibbet Lane,
Bilstone, Leicestershire:
Historic Building Record**

NGR: SK 35660 03483

Sophie Clarke

For: Mr and Mrs A. Cullen

Checked by

Signed:



Date: 28.03.2014.

Name: Richard Buckley

University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH

Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614

ULAS Report Number 2014-062

©2014

**Temple Mill, Gibbet Lane, Bilstone, Leicestershire SK 35660 03483:
Historic Building Record**

Contents

<i>Summary</i>	1
1. Introduction.....	2
2. Site location	2
3. Aims and methods	4
4. Listed Building Description.....	6
5. Documentary Evidence.....	7
6. Building Description.....	12
7. Photographs.....	21
8. The fireplace.....	39
9. Bibliography	44

Figures

Figure 1. Temple Mill, rear elevation, looking south-west.....	2
Figure 2. Top: Location of Temple Mill. Not to scale. Bottom: Location of Temple Mill on 1886 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map (not to scale).....	3
Figure 3. Site plan, not to scale. Supplied by owner. © Contains OS data.....	4
Figure 4. 1927 Sales Particulars from the Gopsall Estate.....	8
Figure 5. NE view of Temple Mill <i>c.</i> 1786 (sketch by Elizabeth Coltman).....	10
Figure 6. NE view of Temple Mill, present day.	10
Figure 7. SW view of Temple Mill <i>c.</i> 1786 (sketch by Elizabeth Coltman)	11
Figure 8. SW view of Temple Mill, present day.....	11
Figure 9. East-facing elevation (derived from Bosworth Design survey)	13
Figure 10. West-facing elevation (derived from Bosworth Design survey).....	14
Figure 11. North-facing elevation (derived from Bosworth Design survey).....	14
Figure 12. South-facing elevation (derived from Bosworth Design)	15
Figure 13. Block plan to show basic three-bay plan of early house.	16
Figure 14. Ground floor plan (derived from Bosworth Design survey)	18
Figure 15. First floor plan (derived from Bosworth Design survey).....	19
Figure 16. Second floor plan (derived from Bosworth Design survey).....	20
Figure 17. Location of figures 20-36 on ground floor plan	21
Figure 18. Location of figures 37-43 on first floor plan.	22
Figure 19. Location of figures 44-48 on second floor plan.	23
Figure 20. Front elevation, looking north-west.	23
Figure 21. Front elevation, former doorway in central position, looking west.	24
Figure 22. Front elevation with blocked doorway opening at first floor level, looking west..	24
Figure 23. Front elevation, looking south-west towards wheel-house and cart-shed.....	25
Figure 24. North-facing elevation, looking south.....	25
Figure 25. Timber post at corner of rear extension, looking south.....	26
Figure 26. West-facing elevation, looking east towards wheel-house.....	26
Figure 27. West-facing elevation, looking east.	27
Figure 28. South-facing elevation, looking north.	27
Figure 29. Shuttered access to wheel-house, looking west.....	28
Figure 30. Sluice-gate mechanism in wheel-house. Looking east.....	28

Figure 31. Axle for water-wheel and blocked openings in wheel-house wall, looking south.	29
Figure 32. Wheel house, looking east towards axle and sluice gate.....	29
Figure 33. Turning wheel and handle for sluice-gate, in workshop, looking north-east.	30
Figure 34. Former living kitchen, looking north towards modern fire-place within earlier inglenook.....	31
Figure 35. Chamfered axial beam over former living kitchen, with scroll stops. Looking north.....	31
Figure 36. Modern dining room, with 1930s staircase, looking north-west.....	32
Figure 37. First floor landing, 1930s stud partition wall to left hand side, looking south.....	32
Figure 38. Bedroom over modern kitchen, with king-post roof truss, looking north.....	33
Figure 39. First floor bedroom formed by 1930s partition wall. Looking north-west.....	33
Figure 40. First floor room, possibly former millers' office, with moulded plasterwork to ceiling, looking south-west.....	34
Figure 41. As above with cast-iron register plate fire-place, looking north.....	34
Figure 42. Principal rafter roof truss in gable end wall of modern bathroom, looking west...	35
Figure 43. Heated bedroom within 18th-century gable extension, looking east.....	35
Figure 44. Principal-rafter room trusses at second floor level, with interrupted tie-beam. Looking north.....	36
Figure 45. As above, looking south.....	36
Figure 46. Timber pulley, part of sack hoist. Looking south.....	37
Figure 47. Interrupted tie-beam and wind-braces, looking south-east.....	37
Figure 48. Interrupted tie-beam supported by short post, which is tenoned into the transverse axial floor beam. Looking south.....	38
Figure 49. Brick fireplace of 1970, prior to removal, looking west.....	40
Figure 50. Timber bresummer and 19th-century brick stack exposed following removal of modern brickwork.....	40
Figure 51. Outline of earlier fireplace and partially blocked opening showing position of earlier range stove, with modern fire-bricks to right hand side.....	41
Figure 52. Roughly mortared 18th century brick infill between 19th century stack and 18th brick arch above. Looking south.....	41
Figure 53 . 19th-century brick stack, with 18th-century bricks and mortar infilling up to 18th century structural arch above. Looking north.....	42
Figure 54. Recessed cupboard to right of inglenook, looking west.....	43

Temple Mill, Gibbet Lane, Bilstone, Leicestershire SK 35660 03483: Historic Building Record

Sophie Clarke

Summary

Temple Mill is a Grade II listed former corn mill, ostensibly a brick building dating to the first half of the 18th century, although there is some evidence to suggest that the structure may originally have been timber-framed. The roof structure is supported by a pair of interrupted tie-beam trusses which evolved during the second half of the 17th century and are commonly seen throughout the 18th century, within buildings where increased height was required within the roof space. The roof timbers have all been re-used within the existing structure and the evidence indicates that they were originally part of a box-framed building, although their provenance cannot be established with any certainty.

The owners are in possession of a rich archive of documentary information regarding the house, which has been passed to them by the descendants of John Hall (1699-1763), a former miller who bought the mill in 1730. The rebuilding of the mill in brick is likely to have taken place after 1730, with extensions to the mill-house and the establishment of the dairy farm undertaken by the 1780s.

The watermill mill ceased to operate after the Second World War and the mill race was filled in by 1970. There is very little of the mill machinery surviving: the cast-iron axle for the wheel is visible within the wheel house and its position indicates a wheel of the breast-shot type. The sluice gate and opening mechanism survive, with a pit-wheel and turning handle located within the adjacent workshop at ground floor level.

1. Introduction

This report presents the results of a historic building appraisal of Temple Mill, Gibbet Lane, Bilstone, Leicestershire. It has been prepared by Sophie Clarke of University of Leicester Archaeological Services, on behalf of Mr and Mrs A. Cullen.

Temple Mill is a Grade II listed former corn mill located close to the River Sence and likely to date from the 17th century. The site has also previously been worked as a dairy farm and there is a range of 18th century farm buildings associated with the house, which were not examined as part of this study.

The current owners Mr and Mrs Cullen requested that ULAS undertake the work on their behalf in order to provide some basic background information regarding the dating and chronological development of their house.



Figure 1. Temple Mill, rear elevation, looking south-west.

2. Site location

Temple is an ancient hamlet located in the parish of Sibson, close to the western border of Leicestershire with Warwickshire. Temple Mill is located in an isolated position, on the eastern side of Gibbet Lane, to the south of Bilstone village at National Grid Reference SK 35660 03483.



Figure 2. Top: Location of Temple Mill. Not to scale. Bottom: Location of Temple Mill on 1886 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map (not to scale)

Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 1996. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 10009495.

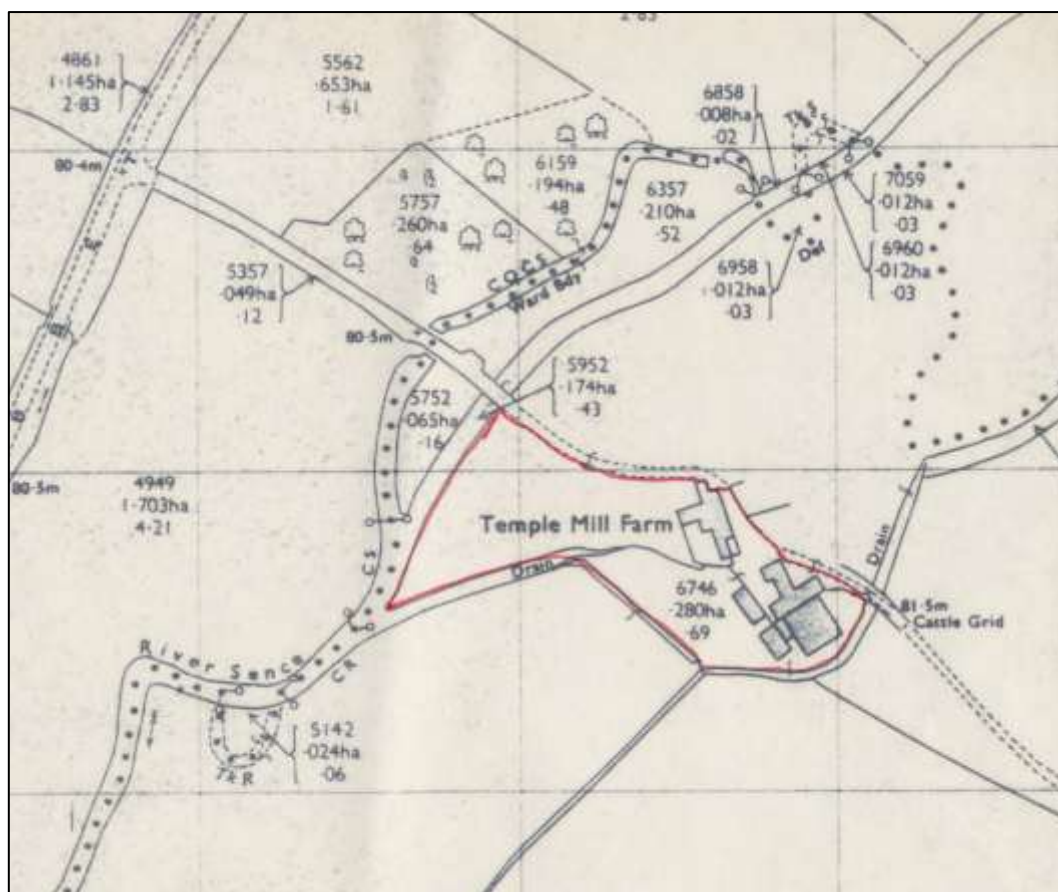


Figure 3. Site plan, not to scale. Supplied by owner. © Contains OS data.

3. Aims and methods

Following consultation with the owners, the following scheme of work was agreed upon:

- a) Inspection of the building in order to identify and interpret structural phases
- b) Preparation of floor plans and basic photographic record
- c) Basic background research and identification of potential sources of further information
- d) Conservation advice regarding the hearth
- e) Preparation of an illustrated report including a summary description of phasing

All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures*.

The methodology followed procedure designed to produce a record of the building equivalent to a Level 2 survey, as defined by English Heritage guidelines *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice* (2006). The work incorporated the following specific elements:

The Written Account

- The precise location of the building, by name or street number, civil parish, town etc and national Grid Reference
- A note on any statutory or non-statutory designations
- The date the record was made, the names of the recorders.
- A statement describing the building's type or purpose, materials and possible dates of construction and alteration. This account should outline the building's plan, form, function, age and development sequence. The names of builders and owners should be given if this information can be established.
- A summary of the buildings type or purpose, historically and at present, its materials and possible date.

The Survey Drawings

Plan and elevation drawings of the house made by Bosworth Design Architects in 1989 were used as the basis for the fieldwork. These were verified for accuracy and amended with historic and architectural detail as appropriate. Site drawings were then transferred to a CAD package and revised to conform to the architectural drawing conventions set out in the English Heritage guidelines.

The Photographic Record

Photographs were taken using a Pentax K10 digital SLR camera to produce high quality digital photographs in .jpg format. The photographic record comprises:

- General views of the building in its setting or landscape.
- The building's exterior appearance.
- The overall appearance of the principal internal areas.
- Any exterior details which are relevant to the building's design, development and use, and which do not show adequately on the general photographic record.
- Internal details structural or decorative relevant to the building's design, development and use.
- Any machinery or plant or evidence for its former existence.
- The buildings contents or ephemera which have a significant bearing on the building's history.

The fieldwork was carried out on the 7th and 13th of March 2014, by Sophie Clarke of ULAS.

4. Listed Building Description

Temple Mill is a Grade II listed building, with the following listing description, taken from the Images of England website:

<http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk/Details/Default.aspx?id=188099&mode=quick>



© Mr Peter J Ellis

IoE Number:188099

Location: TEMPLE MILL, GIBBET LANE (south side)
SHEEPY, HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH, LEICESTERSHIRE

Photographer:Mr Peter J Ellis

Date Photographed:26 August 2004

Date listed:13 October 1986

Date of last amendment:13 October 1986

GradeII

SHEEPY SK30 SE GIBBET LANE, WELLSBOROUGH (South side)
4/103

Temple Mill II Mill and Mill house, now dwelling. Later C18, Brick with plain tiled roof and some stone dressings. 2 storeyed throughout, the Mill itself taking up the 2 right hand bays, the rest domestic, with central door and 6 pane window to its left, 2 smaller windows to the right. 15 pane sash and pair of 2 light casements above. Evidence of many former window or door openings in this elevation and in the gable of the Mill itself, which has a stone oculus in the gable apex, and moulded stone eaves cornice to rear. Cornice of front elevation may have been similar, but it is now rendered over. Lower outbuilding to left is now integral with the dwelling. Few remains of machinery within.

Listing NGR: SK3566103487

5. Documentary Evidence

Temple Mill is first recorded in 1279 (Adams et al. 2000), held by the de Temple family of Temple Hall, lords of the manor of Sheepy Parva. No other early archive references relating to the watermill have been found during this preliminary stage of research.

The Cullens are in possession of a rich archive of documentary material, which has been passed to them by Polly Munson, descendant of John Hall (d. 1714), the tenant miller at Temple Mill during the early 18th century. On the basis of this information, Marion Cullen has compiled the following table:

Name	Occupancy	Status	Details	Source
John Hall (d.1714)	1700-1714	Tenant miller	Previously at Temple Hall	P. Munson
John Hall (d. 1728)	1714-1728	Tenant miller	Left £200 in will for the purchase of mill	P. Munson
John Hall 1699-1763	1728-1763	Owner in 1730		P. Munson
John Hall 1736-1820	1763-1785	Miller and farmer	Leased land from Mrs Baxter at Temple Farm; moved to America in 1785	P. Munson
Benjamin Skelton	1785-1791	Tenant	Tenant of John Hall	P. Munson
Mr Miles	1791-	Owner	Purchased from John Hall for £1100	P. Munson
William Dawkins 1802-94	?	?	Father of six children born at Temple Mill	Descendants of family
Joseph Dawkins (1827-1869)	?	?	Buried at Sibson	
1927		Tenancy	Mill purchased by Crown Estates from Gopsall Estate	Sales Particulars
Mr. Jennaway	1950s-1970s	Tenant Farmer	One son, died in road accident on Gibbet Lane	Local source
'Bank managers son'	1970s-	Tenant Farmer		Local Source
Brian Sutton	1978-1980	Tenant Farmer	Short tenancy here before moving to Temple Farm	Local Source
Anthony and Marion Cullen	1982-	Owner/Occupier	Purchased from Crown Estates at Auction for £5,500	M. Cullen

Although the mill is not listed in the local trade directories after 1916, it is thought to have remained in use for the grinding of animal feed until after the Second World War. In 1927 freehold of the mill was sold by the Gopsall Estate to the Crown Lands Commission, from whom the Cullens purchased the mill in 1982.

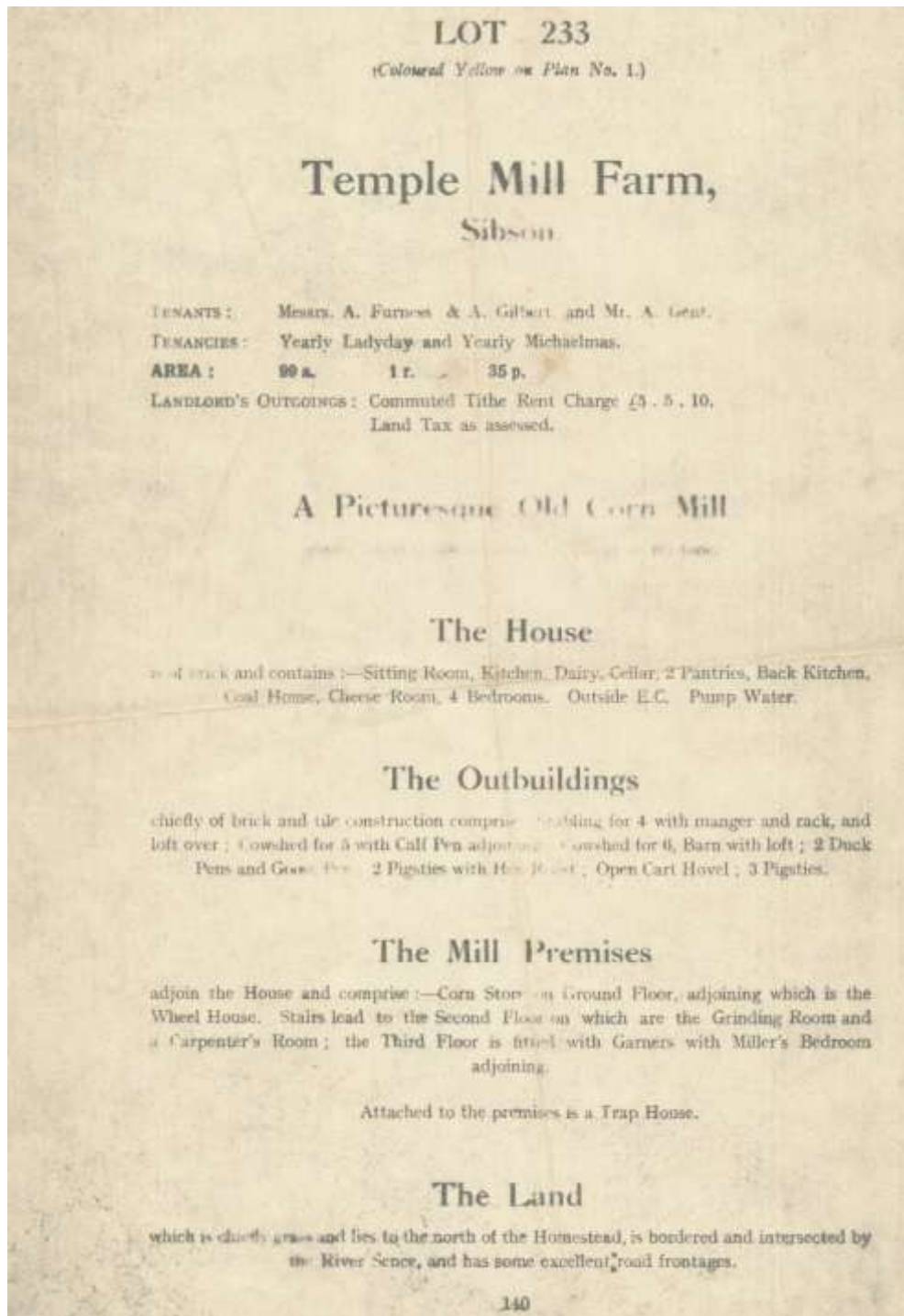


Figure 4. 1927 Sales Particulars from the Gopsall Estate

Early sketches

The archive includes a pair of sketches of Temple Mill, believed to have been drawn by Elizabeth Coltman in *c.*1786. Little is known about Elizabeth Coltman, although the family were closely associated with the Halls. Sarah Coltman (nee Hall) is recorded as housekeeper at the Mill from 1774-1785.

The first sketch shows the principal elevation of the mill, looking from the north-east. Here the mill pond is shown in front of the building, with the mill race running into the wheel-house on the right-hand side. The building is of brick, with a doorway positioned in the centre of the façade, flanked by a pair of small- arch headed window openings. Three further openings are shown at mid- height. Above left of the doorway entrance, one of these may be a loading door. On the right-hand side of the house is a single-storey cart-shed and to the left, a single-storey, heated structure which may have been used as a dairy. The farm buildings are located to the left of this.

The second sketch shows Temple Mill from the south-west. Although the building is somewhat obscured by the trees in the foreground, the basic form of the building is very similar to the present day arrangement, with some variation which may be an indication of elements that have since been demolished. On the left hand side of the picture, the roofline of the projecting range appears to continue down towards ground floor level, which may suggest the presence of a lean-to structure. Vertical joints and the hint of a roof scar in the present day brickwork may be further evidence for this. Towards the centre of the building, a projecting bay window appears to be shown at ground floor level; there is no evidence for such a window within the present elevation, nor does there appear to be room for it. The Cullens have previously found the remains of a tile floor in this location during gardening, and it is possible that there may have been an extra element of building present in location, although further excavations would have to be carried out to establish this. There are two substantial chimneys shown on the right hand side, associated with the dairy.



Figure 5. NE view of Temple Mill c. 1786 (sketch by Elizabeth Coltman)



Figure 6. NE view of Temple Mill, present day.



Figure 7. SW view of Temple Mill c. 1786 (sketch by Elizabeth Coltman)



Figure 8. SW view of Temple Mill, present day.

Leicestershire Watermills

In his gazetteer of Leicestershire Watermills, Ashton records Temple Mill as one of the smallest in Leicestershire and suggests that the wheel and machinery were dismantled soon after the Second World War. Of this he states that ‘the wheel appeared to be of the breast-shot type and about 13 feet in diameter- there is evidence in the wheel house of an earlier wheel which looked to have been of the under-shot type. The water course is now blocked and the mill pond filled in – only the peeping tail-race exists proclaiming its old associations’ (1977, 95).

6. Building Description

Exterior

The present building appears to have originated as a combined mill and mill house, of three structural bays in length and two storeys in height. The evidence indicates that the structure was originally fully timber-framed, and is likely to have been constructed at some point during the 17th century. In concurrence with the listing description, the form and layout of the building would suggest that the milling was carried out within the two northernmost bays, with domestic occupation probably confined to the southern part of the house, away from the mill machinery. The wheel house is located at the northern end of the building, and here only the axle survives, along with the sluice gate and opening mechanism, with the gear wheel and turning handle located within the workshop to the south. The mill race was filled in by 1970.

To the rear of the building, a short range projecting at right angles from the west-facing façade appears to be a later addition. The remains of a structural timber post located at the western corner of the north-facing elevation of this range can just be seen below the line of the eaves, and this relic represents scant but compelling evidence to indicate that the building originated as a timber-framed structure, with the side walls later rebuilt in brick. Here the elevations were raised using a combination of Flemish Garden-Wall bond with Monk bond, using two or three stretchers between header bricks, with queen closers to the wall returns. Brick dimensions are typically 9 ¼ inches x 4 ½ inches x 2 ¼ inches and the fabric would indicate a date in the first half of the 18th century. With reference to the documentary evidence, it would seem reasonable to suggest that the walls were rebuilt shortly after 1730, following the purchase of the mill by John Hall (1699-1763).

Shortly after the rebuilding of the side walls, probably during the second half of the 18th century, a number of ancilliary structures were built on to the house, which appear on the drawings of 1786. These comprise a single-storey cart-shed located at the northern gable-end; a two-bay service range of one and a half stories located at the southern gable end, which has previously been identified as a dairy and a single-bay extension of one and a half storeys located to the rear of the building, designed to increase the provision of heated domestic accommodation for its occupants. The farm buildings located to the south of the house are also likely to have been constructed at this time, probably during the third quarter of the 18th century.

The east-facing, principal elevation of Temple Mill has a number of blocked window and doorway openings within the brickwork, which reflect how the use of the building and

internal layout has changed over time. The central doorway depicted in the sketch of 1786 is now partially blocked to form a window; the smaller window lights on either side of this are still visible, although one is now blocked. A pair of sandstone blocks on the left hand side of the blocked doorway opening indicate where the pintles for the door hinges would have been fixed and there is a second pair located at first floor level, to the left of centre, associated with another blocked doorway in this position. The present doorway entrance is located to the south of the range; this is a late insertion, and may date to a 20th-century arrangement. To the left of this, a blocked archway at ground floor level may be evidence of the ‘cellar’ referred to in the sales particulars of 1927 (see above), although this is not likely to have been fully subterranean, due to the high level of the water table in this area.



Figure 9. East-facing elevation (derived from Bosworth Design survey)



Figure 10. West-facing elevation (derived from Bosworth Design survey)

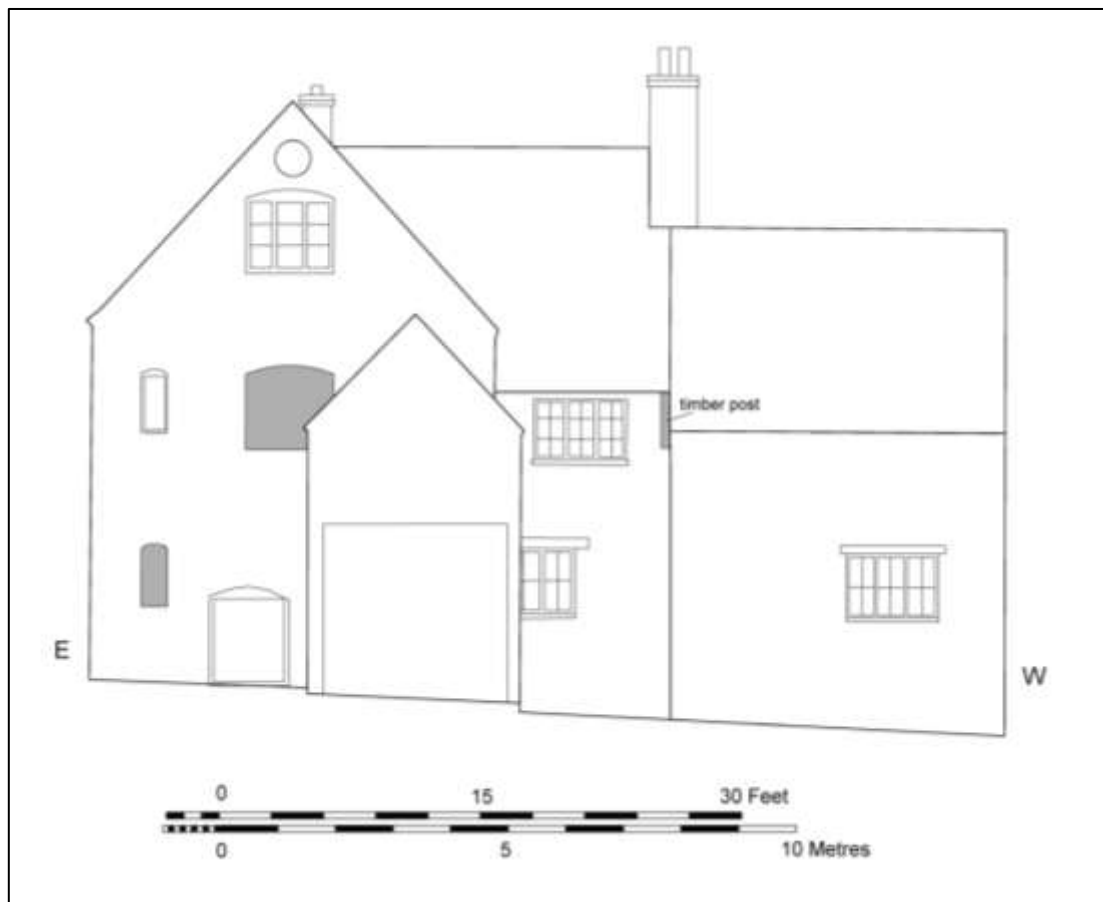


Figure 11. North-facing elevation (derived from Bosworth Design survey)



Figure 12. South-facing elevation (derived from Bosworth Design)

Interior

Ground Floor

The current ground floor plan of the house presents a somewhat complicated picture, representing several phases of internal modifications that have been undertaken by its successive owners.

Originally, the building is likely to have been constructed on a simple linear plan, which can be deduced from the current plans below (figure 13). The position of the bay divisions corresponds with the line of the roof trusses on the second floor plan; the wall-posts of the original timber-framed structure are no longer present, but there are brick piers in this position which were constructed to support the substantial transverse axial beams of the first and second floor structures.

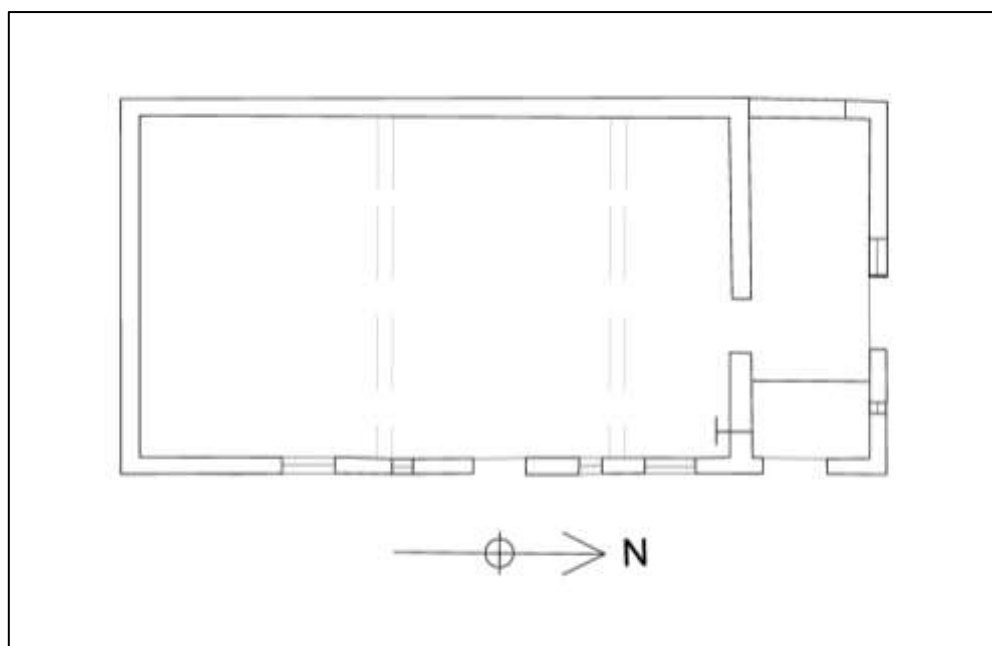


Figure 13. Block plan to show basic three-bay plan of early house.

The building is likely to have been extended to the rear during the early 18th century, with the addition of a timber-framed wing of two storeys, projecting from the west elevation. At ground floor level, the west wall was broken through. It seems likely that the extension was designed to increase the domestic accommodation for the occupants of the house, which may also have involved the insertion of internal walls to subdivide the internal space from east to west, rather than from north to south as before. At ground floor level, the west wall was broken through and here a timber beam, with chamfers and scroll stops was inserted to support the wall above. Beyond the new opening was an inglenook fireplace, and of this only the bressumer survives, now supported by a 20th century steel I-beam (see below). There is little evidence to indicate the layout of the ground floor at this time, but the decorative treatment of the chamfered beam is indicative of a domestic room, probably a living kitchen set apart from the working areas of the mill.

Beyond the 'living kitchen' is the heated parlour, located in the single-bay extension of one and a half stories, which is likely to have been constructed during the second half of the 18th century. The former cart shed at the northern end of the building and the buildings to the south, including the former dairy, now the kitchen, and the earth-closet (W.C.) are also likely to have been built at this time. The alterations seen inside the house may represent the period when the miller diversified into dairy farming: the thickened walls, with ventilator bricks seen at the southern end of the house are likely to have provided the insulation for the cold storage of cheese and other dairy products. There is a steel I- beam over the present dining room at the front of the house which indicates the late removal of an inserted wall- it is likely that these rooms represent the pantries and possibly the cellar mentioned on the sales particulars of 1927 (fig 4 above). The brick wall separating the workshop from the dining room is modern and the staircase to the first floor appears to date to the 1930s, and it is likely that a scheme of internal refurbishment was carried out after the sale in 1927.

First floor

No evidence for the mill workings survive at first floor level. The transverse axial beams which support the second-floor structure are visible and indicate how the building was originally divided into its three-bay form. A number of stud partition walls have been used to form a separate bedroom and bathroom leading off a landing space and the doors can also be dated to the 1930s. Within the short projecting range to the mill are two small, heated rooms. The room to the south has a decorative cornice, with matching moulding applied to what appear to be two overhead ceiling beams. The arch-plate register grate fire-place here may date to the mid to late 19th century. The detailing of the room is indicative of a 'polite' space, designed to be seen, and may have been used by the miller as an office.

The room to the north was originally heated, but has been subdivided to form a small bathroom and give access onto the heated master bedroom beyond, located within the 18th century extension.

At the southern end of the building, above the former dairy is a small bedroom, partially located within the eaves. The lower part of a timber king-post roof truss is exposed below the ceiling, which consists of plaster on reeds. The low doorway houses an early timber plank and batten door. This first floor room is likely to have originally been used as a store, which is a common arrangement within farmhouses.

Second floor

The second floor is dominated by a pair of interrupted tie-beam roof trusses, which provided the height needed for the milling process. The form of the roof trusses is of a type that began to evolve after about c.1650 and are commonly seen towards the end of the 17th and throughout the 18th century, within buildings where increased roof height was a requirement. (N. Finn pers. comm.). Here the central part of the tie-beams are omitted, and the ends are tenoned into raking braces, which rise from the axial beams of the floor to meet the principal rafters. The principal rafters are pegged at the apex and supported by a collar. Two orders of purlins rest in notches on the backs of the principals to support the rafters, and there are wind-braces to provide lateral stability to the frame. Wooden pegs are used throughout. All of the timbers have redundant sockets and jointing to indicate their re-use within the present structure. Although the empty sockets were only briefly inspected, the presence of lap-dovetail jointing can be considered as evidence that the timbers were previously part of a box-framed structure – whilst it is entirely plausible that the timbers may have been sourced from an earlier form of this mill building, this cannot be established with any certainty.

Adjacent to the northernmost roof truss is a timber pulley wheel for a sack hoist, which was used to lift the sacks of grain up to the second floor, where there would have been hoppers to feed the corn to the millstones below. The small, unheated room located within the short projecting range at this level has been described as the miller's bedroom.

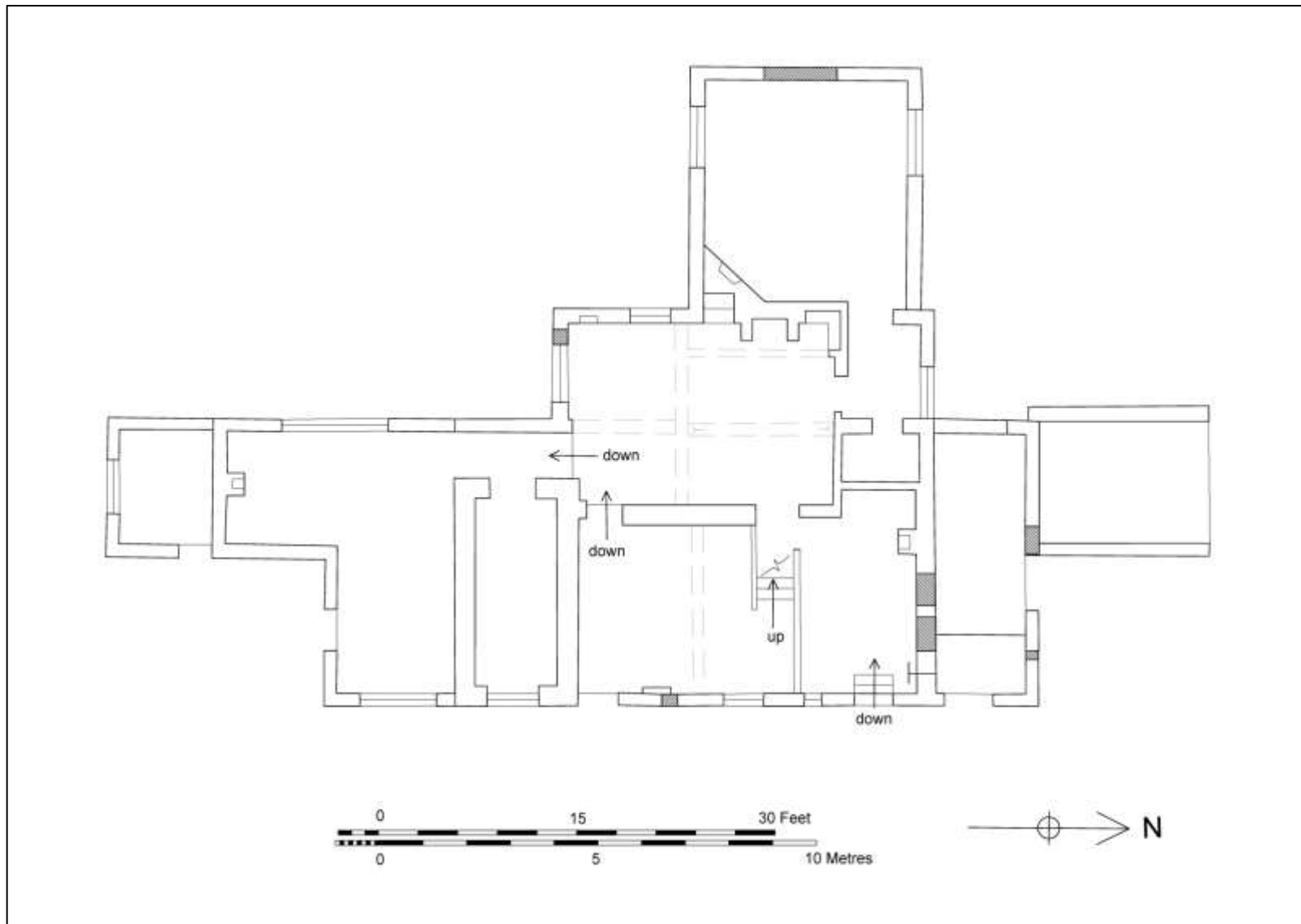


Figure 14. Ground floor plan (derived from Bosworth Design survey)

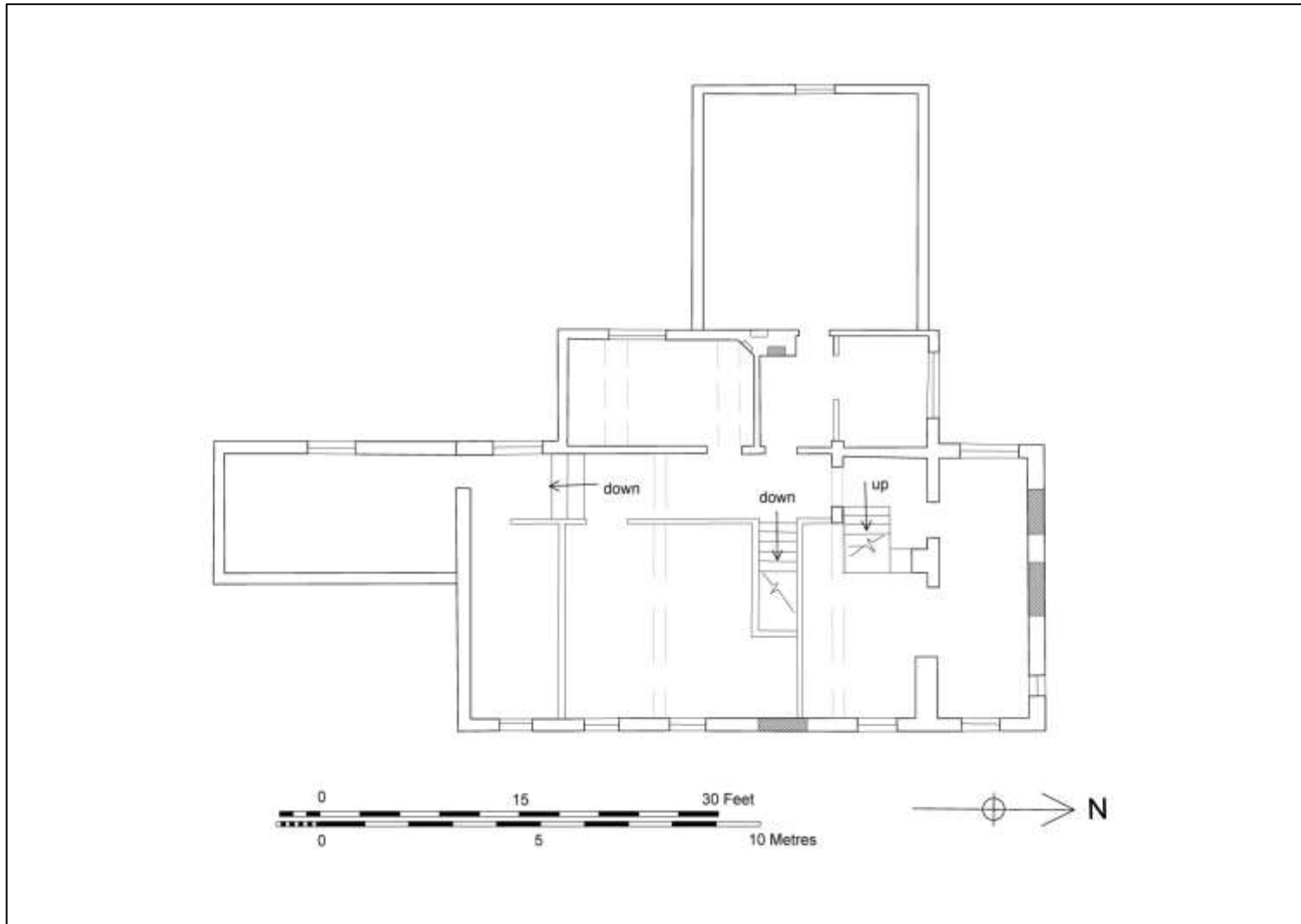


Figure 15. First floor plan (derived from Bosworth Design survey)

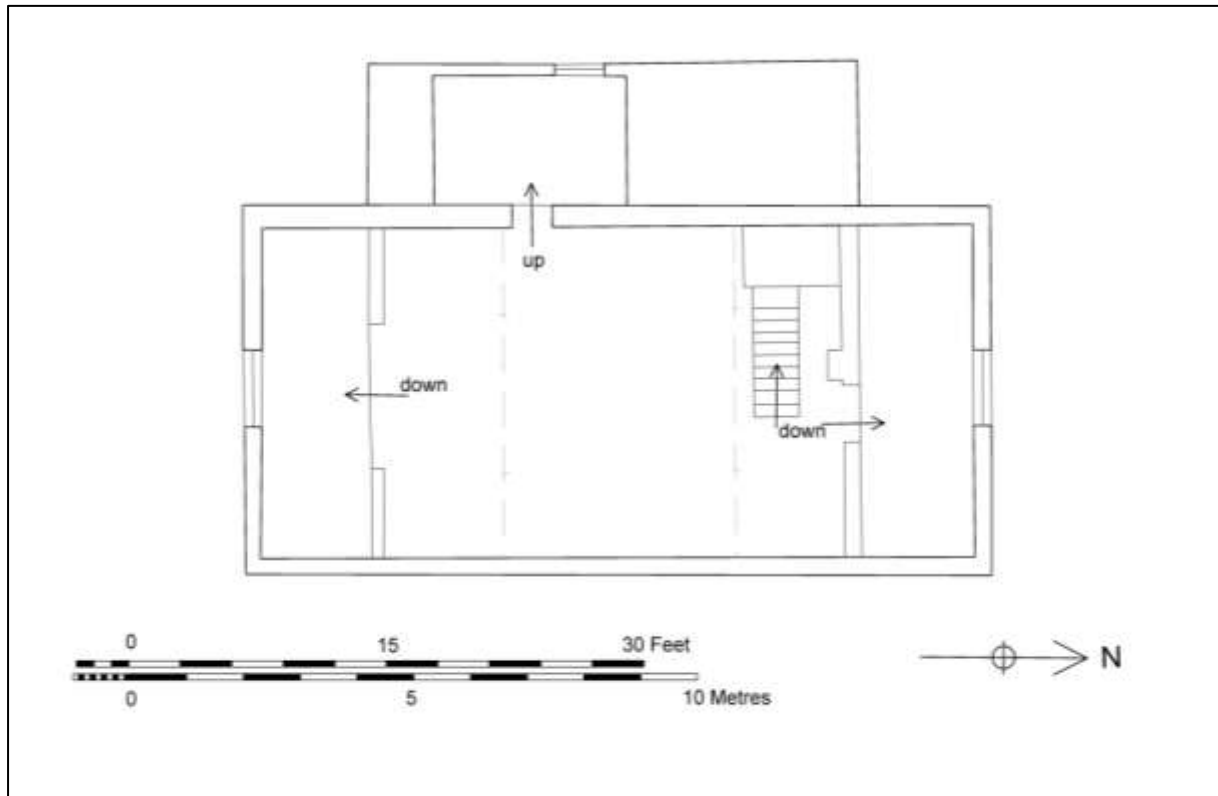


Figure 16. Second floor plan (derived from Bosworth Design survey)

7. Photographs

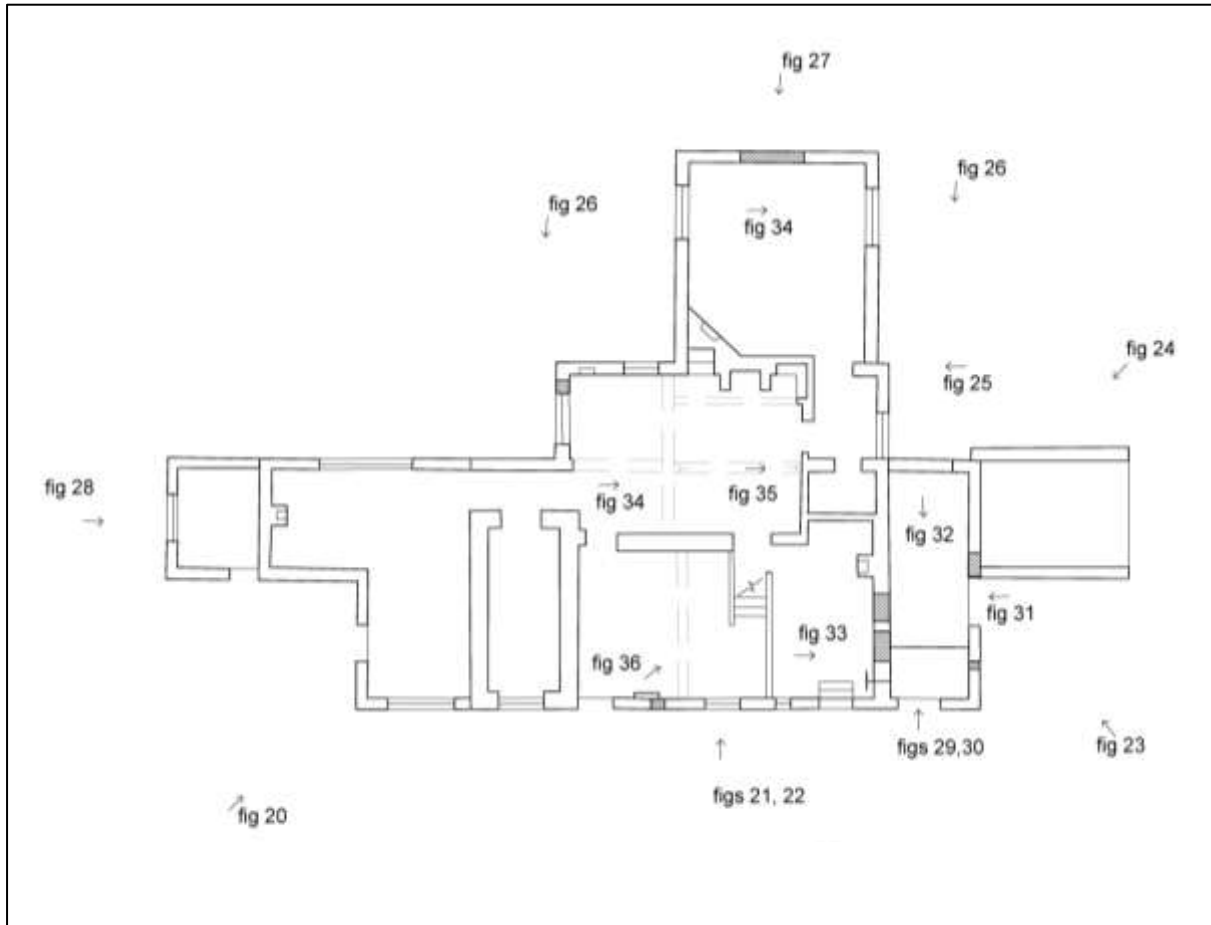


Figure 17. Location of figures 20-36 on ground floor plan

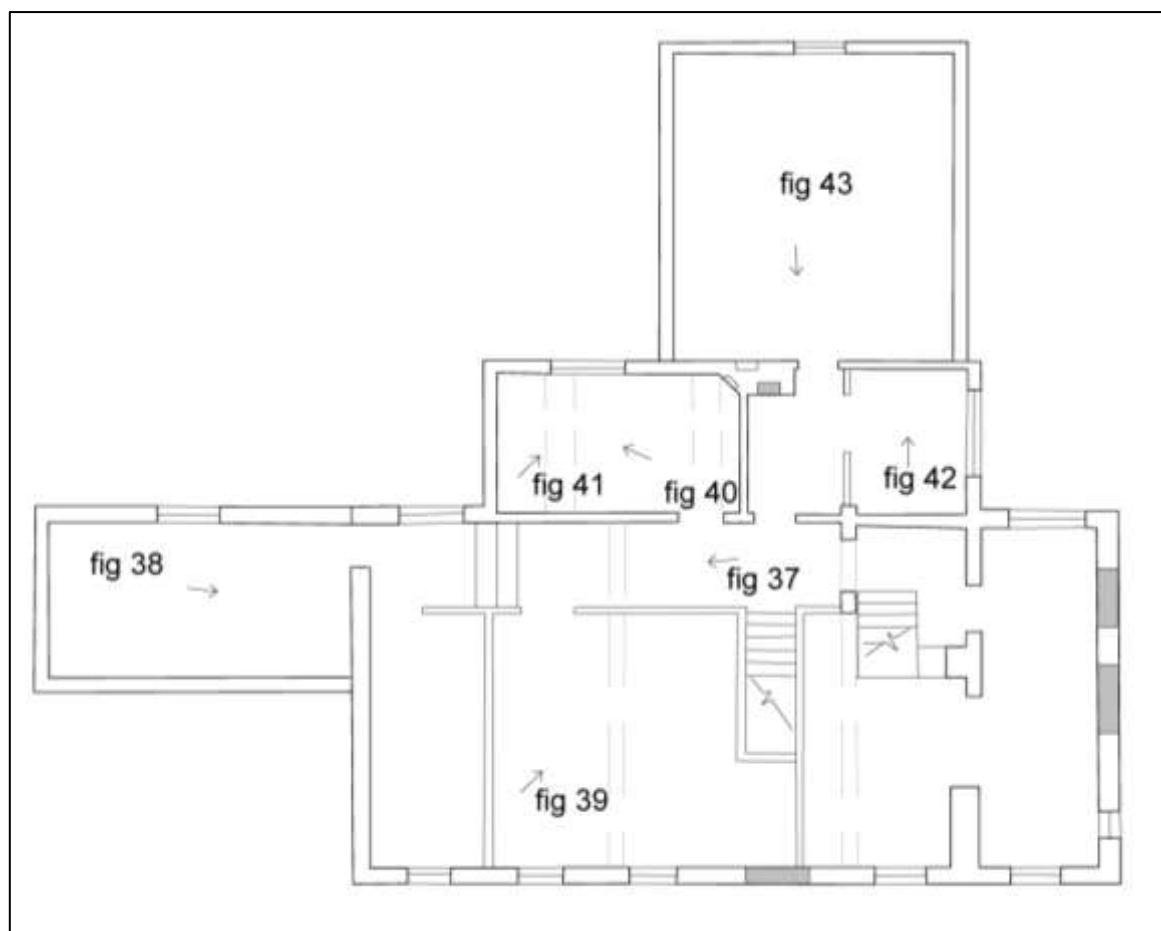


Figure 18. Location of figures 37-43 on first floor plan.

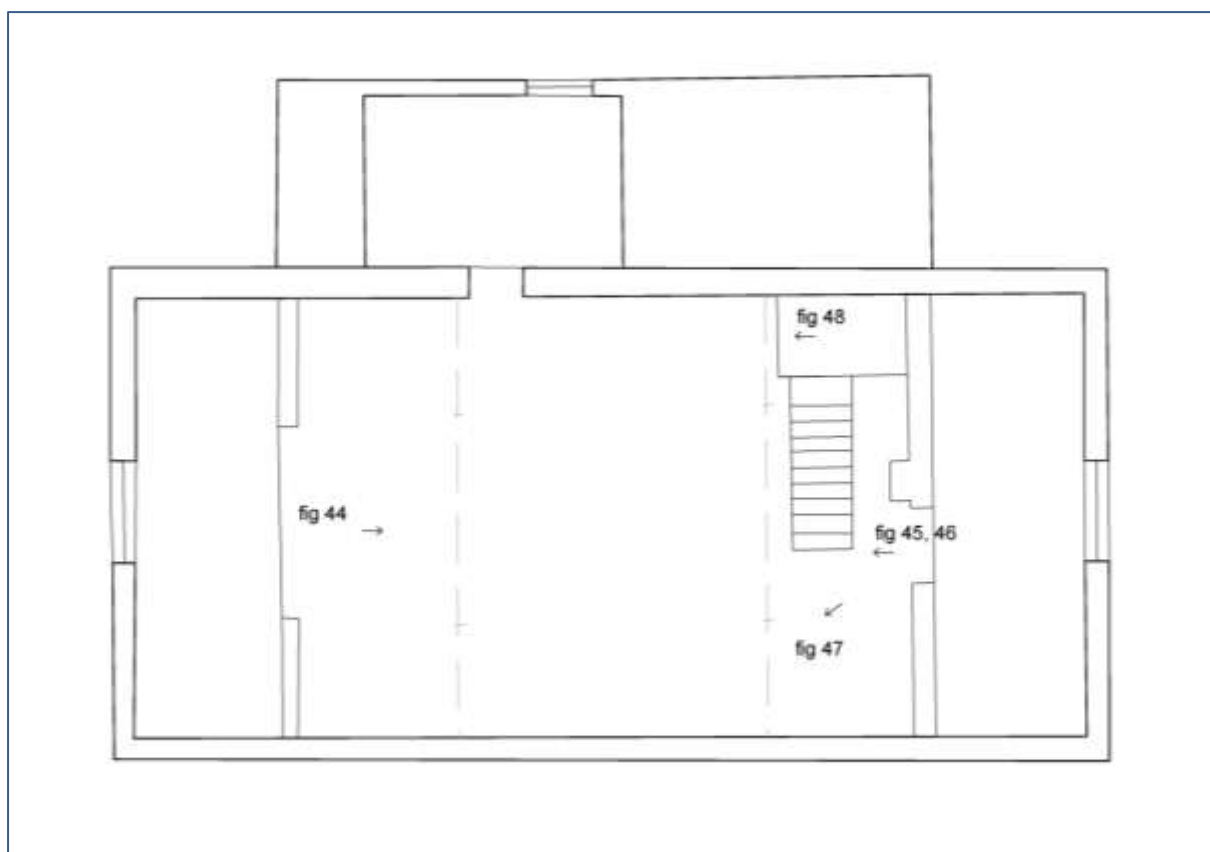


Figure 19. Location of figures 44-48 on second floor plan.



Figure 20. Front elevation, looking north-west.



Figure 21. Front elevation, former doorway in central position, looking west.



Figure 22. Front elevation with blocked doorway opening at first floor level, looking west.



Figure 23. Front elevation, looking south-west towards wheel-house and cart-shed.



Figure 24. North-facing elevation, looking south.



Figure 25. Timber post at corner of rear extension, looking south.



Figure 26. West-facing elevation, looking east towards wheel-house.



Figure 27. West-facing elevation, looking east.



Figure 28. South-facing elevation, looking north.



Figure 29. Shuttered access to wheel-house, looking west.



Figure 30. Sluice-gate mechanism in wheel-house. Looking east.



Figure 31. Axle for water-wheel and blocked openings in wheel-house wall, looking south.



Figure 32. Wheel house, looking east towards axle and sluice gate.



Figure 33. Turning wheel and handle for sluice-gate, in workshop, looking north-east.



Figure 34. Former living kitchen, looking north towards modern fire-place within earlier inglenook.



Figure 35. Chamfered axial beam over former living kitchen, with scroll stops. Looking north.



Figure 36. Modern dining room, with 1930s staircase, looking north-west.



Figure 37. First floor landing, 1930s stud partition wall to left hand side, looking south.



Figure 38. Bedroom over modern kitchen, with king-post roof truss, looking north.



Figure 39. First floor bedroom formed by 1930s partition wall. Looking north-west.



Figure 40. First floor room, possibly former millers' office, with moulded plasterwork to ceiling, looking south-west.



Figure 41. As above with cast-iron register plate fire-place, looking north.



Figure 42. Principal rafter roof truss in gable end wall of modern bathroom, looking west.



Figure 43. Heated bedroom within 18th-century gable extension, looking east.



Figure 44. Principal-rafter room trusses at second floor level, with interrupted tie-beam. Looking north.



Figure 45. As above, looking south.



Figure 46. Timber pulley, part of sack hoist. Looking south.



Figure 47. Interrupted tie-beam and wind-braces, looking south-east.



Figure 48. Interrupted tie-beam supported by short post, which is tenoned into the transverse axial floor beam. Looking south.

8. The fireplace

During the course of the fieldwork, Mr and Mrs Cullen instructed a builder to remove the 1970s brick fireplace from the former living kitchen, with a view to installing a fireplace more in keeping with the historic character of the building. This work revealed evidence of two earlier phases for the form of the fireplace, in addition to a substantial timber bresummer beam, which would have been constructed as part of an original timber inglenook. The northern end of the bresummer was supported on a brick pier, finished with apparently 18th century beaded wood panels. The southern end of the beam has been sawn off and is presently supported by a steel I-beam. It is likely that the beam would have been originally supported by a timber post, tenoned into the underside, but any evidence for this has been removed.

The original inglenook fireplace is likely to have been open, with the bresummer providing support for a chimney hood and upper stack. During the 18th century rebuilding, the opening was reduced in scale. A brick chimney stack was constructed to provide the upper rooms with heating, supported by a brick arch at ground floor level. The arch is likely to have been supported on a brick pier, which was removed at some point during the 20th century, following the insertion of the I- beam.

Following the removal of the modern brick cladding, a brick stack was revealed within the former inglenook, which rose from the floor to the level of the brick arch. The stack was constructed of narrow, 18th century brick, roughly mortared in place. Brickwork at the base of the stack appeared to have been tied into the brickwork behind. The presence of a mid-19th century brick used within the construction of the stack was taken as evidence for its being a relatively late insertion. The partially blocked recesses for a cast-iron range oven were evident in the stack, and pieces of this were recovered by the builder from the loose rubble within the openings.

On Tuesday 25th March, the Conservation Officer from Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council came to inspect the works and it has been agreed that the Victorian stack may be removed without Listed Building Consent, as part of the restoration of the fireplace.



Figure 49. Brick fireplace of 1970, prior to removal, looking west.



Figure 50. Timber bresummer and 19th-century brick stack exposed following removal of modern brickwork



Figure 51. Outline of earlier fireplace and partially blocked opening showing position of earlier range stove, with modern fire-bricks to right hand side.



Figure 52. Roughly mortared 18th century brick infill between 19th century stack and 18th brick arch above. Looking south.



Figure 53. 19th-century brick stack, with 18th-century bricks and mortar infilling up to 18th century structural arch above. Looking north.



Figure 54. Recessed cupboard to right of inglenook, looking west.

9. Bibliography

Ashton, N. 1979 *Leicestershire Watermills*: Wymondham: Sycamore Press

English Heritage 2006 *Understanding Historic Buildings. A guide to good recording practice*. London: English Heritage

Hall, L. 2005 *Period House Fixtures and Fittings 1300-1900* Newbury: Countryside Books

Nichols, J. 1811 *History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester*. London: Nichols and Son

Sophie Clarke
ULAS
University of Leicester
University Road,
Leicester LE1 7RH
Tel: 0116 252 2848
Fax: 0116 252 2614
sjc46@le.ac.uk

28.03.2014

ULAS Contact Details

Richard Buckley or Patrick Clay
University of Leicester Archaeological
Services (ULAS)
University of Leicester,
University Road,
Leicester LE1 7RH

T: +44 (0)116 252 2848

F: +44 (0)116 252 2614

E: ulas@le.ac.uk

W: www.le.ac.uk/ulas



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

