



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

**A Level 2 Historic Building Recording:
The Granary,
Rodbaston Campus,
South Staffordshire College,
Rodbaston,
South Staffordshire**

NGR: SJ 92078 11414

Andrew Hyam



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A R Hyam

For: South Staffordshire College

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Summary

A Level 2 historic building recording was undertaken by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) at the Granary, Rodbaston Campus, South Staffordshire College, Farm Drive, Rodbaston, Staffordshire between the 14th and 16th of October 2015. The survey studied the Granary building and adjacent associated buildings which once formed part of the Rodbaston Hall model farm estate. The Granary dates to the second half of the 19th century with late 19th century additions and alterations. It was first constructed as a single storey structure with a central tower. Later in the 19th century the building was extended to create a two storey building and, possibly at the same time, three southern range buildings were added. The southern range buildings were demolished soon after the mid-1960s and replaced by two steel-framed structures.

Much of the original farm complex has been redeveloped or demolished during its time as an agricultural college. The 19th century Granary can be seen as being representative of changes in farming practices and technology seen across the country around this time.

Planning permission has been granted to refurbish and convert the now redundant building into new teaching areas and to construct a new workshop.

The report and archive will be deposited with Staffordshire Museums under Accession Number 2015.LH.17.

Introduction

In accordance with NPPF Section 12 *Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment* this document forms the report for an historic building recording (Level 2) at the Granary, Rodbaston Campus, South Staffordshire College, Farm Drive, Rodbaston. Level 2 historic building surveys are defined in the Historic England guidance document – *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice* (2006).

Planning permission has been approved under planning application 15/00513/FUL to refurbish the Granary building and to construct a new workshop. The Principal Archaeologist, as advisor to South Staffordshire Council, has advised that a Level 2 Historic Building Record takes place prior to the commencement of any rebuilding and refurbishment work.

Background

The Granary building is located at the College of Agriculture at the Rodbaston campus which forms part of South Staffordshire College. The campus lies in a rural location to the west of Cannock between the M6 motorway and the A449 and is south of the village of Penkridge (Fig. 1).

Rodbaston Campus is situated on a south facing slope and is reached from the A449 which runs from north to south along the western boundary of the campus. Rodbaston Hall is located to the north-east of the main campus and cannot be seen from most campus buildings. The Granary building presently sits in the centre of the campus which has recently been extended with a new teaching building which combines a large refectory and canteen (Figs 2 and 3). The new building is modern in style and lies slightly uphill and to the north of the Granary. It is such a recent addition that it is not yet shown on any maps or online aerial imagery. Surrounding both the Granary and the new building are a range of agricultural open barns and industrial style metal-skinned single storey buildings. Most of these buildings appear to date from the second half of the 20th century. With the exception of the Granary and a small brick-built building to the south of the Granary no other nearby buildings appear to be any earlier than the mid-20th century.

The Staffordshire HER identifies the Granary as being a surviving remnant of the former model farm complex built in the mid-19th century (MST13237). The original Rodbaston Hall (HER: PRN 54241 and PRN 25422) was built by William Holland in the 1830s who then sold it to local ironmaster Thomas Shaw Hellier in 1854. Thomas Hellier appears to have been quite an innovator and it was his money and influence that created the model farm. However his time at Rodbaston was relatively short lived and in the early 1870s the Hellier family sold the hall and farm to Henry Ward. After Henry Ward's death his widow sold the estate to the War Agricultural Committee in 1919 who converted the farm into an agricultural training depot. In 1921 the depot became the Rodbaston Farm Institute and was eventually taken over by Staffordshire County Council. The institute changed its name in 1967 to the Staffordshire College of Agriculture but remained under council control until 1994 when it became independent. In 2009 the college became part of the South Staffordshire College and is now known as the Rodbaston Campus.

A series of photographs from the Staffordshire County Council archives (Staffordshire Past Track) shows the front of the Granary in 1964 very much as it exists at the time of the present survey. The key difference on the north facing elevation is a sliding door covering an entrance close to the west end. The photographs show three single storey brick-built ranges with skylights and ventilation louvres to the rear (south) of the Granary. The ranges butt against the south wall of the Granary and have flat gables at their southern ends. The Staffordshire Past Track website identifies the rear ranges as loose boxes, cow houses and stables with an enclosed yard in between the ranges. A narrow hayloft building fills the northern part of the western yard. The buildings appear to be of mid to late 19th century design and are likely to coincide with Thomas Hellier's tenure of the site.



Figure 1: Site location
NTS. Contains OS data.

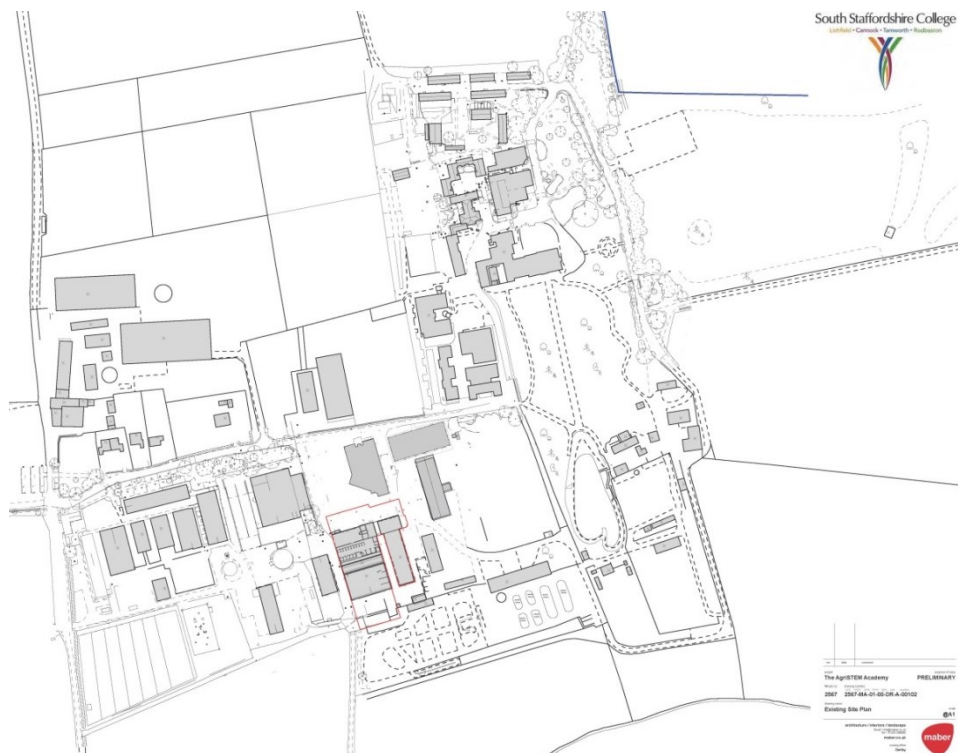


Figure 2: Rodbaston Campus
Granary buildings outlined. Plan supplied by South Staffordshire College
Rodbaston Hall top right. NTS. North to top of plan

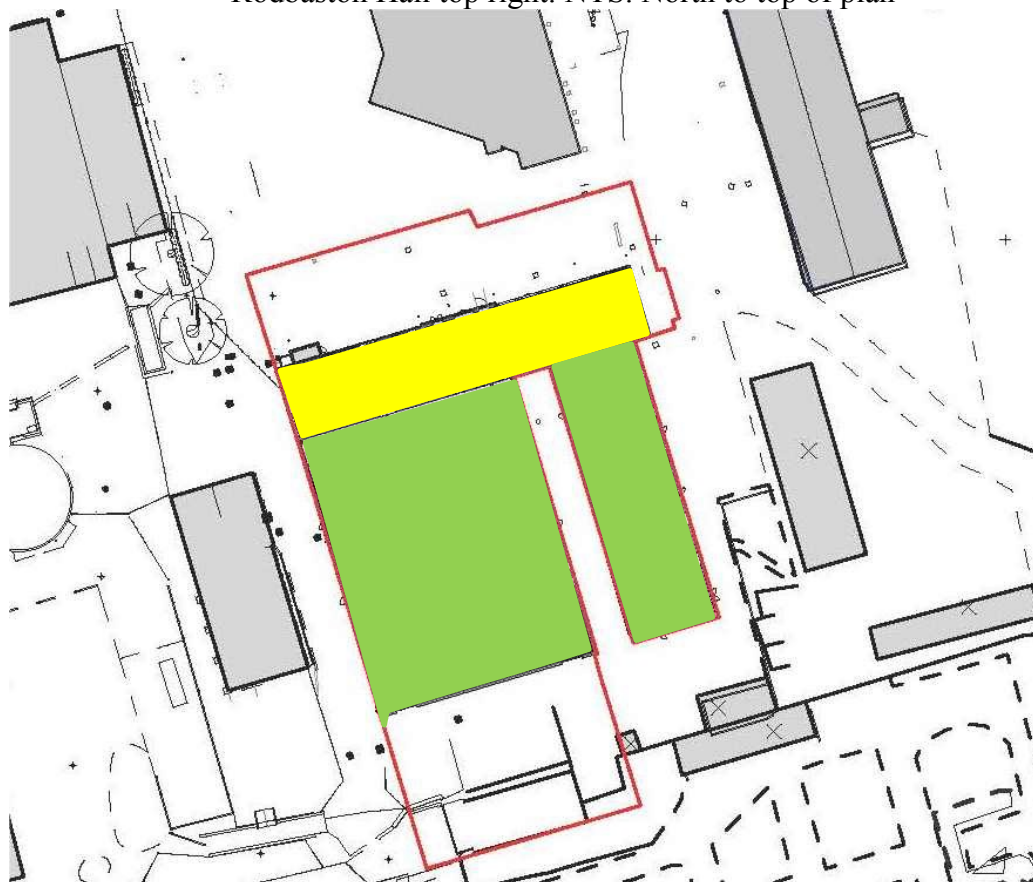


Figure 3: The Granary and buildings affected by proposed development
Original granary building highlighted in yellow, post 1964 buildings in green

Objectives

The purpose of the work was to record and advance the understanding of the significance of the heritage asset, namely the Granary and associated buildings. The objectives and research themes are laid out in the ULAS *Written Scheme of Investigation for Historic Building Recording: South Staffordshire College, Farm Drive, Rodbaston* (ULAS 2015).

The specific objectives of the historic building survey were:

- To provide a written, drawn and photographic record of all the buildings on site prior to the commencement of works with specific attention given to those elements proposed for demolition, conversion and/or alteration. This work to be undertaken to a standard that will allow the future interpretation of the building within the context for which it was originally designed and which subsequently evolved.
- To ensure the long-term preservation of the information through deposition of the record and a summary written report with an appropriate depository.

Methodology

The methodology used throughout the survey is discussed in detail in the ULAS WSI and also followed Historic England's 2006 guidelines *Understanding Historic Buildings*. The Historic Building Recording for this project was undertaken to Level 2 which was augmented to record any fixtures, fittings and evidence of power transmission through the farm. It also considered the relationship of process flow within the structure of the building.

Results

Historic Map Evidence

19th century mapping suggests that the location of the model farm buildings lay within an area of agricultural land. The Staffordshire Historic Farmsteads Survey also identified the farmstead as being laid out in a regular courtyard plan with a covered yard and an isolated farmhouse.

The 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1884 shows the site of the Granary as part of Hall Farm with Rodbaston Hall to the north-east (Fig. 4). An area of apparently landscaped gardens and an ice house are shown to the east of Hall Farm. The outline of the Granary building is shown in the 1884 OS map but the details are not very clear and simply show the footprint of a large rectangle with buildings and ranges extending southwards. It is probable that this shows the Granary and the rear ranges with their courtyards. The north-east corner of the granary building can be seen extending eastwards beyond the building line as shown in one of the Past Track photographs taken in 1964 but little else can be identified. To the south-east corner of the granary a range of small buildings is identified as being close to, and possibly associated with, a gasometer. There do not appear to be any other buildings associated

with Hall Farm although a small structure to the south-east of the Granary may be the farmhouse.

The next available edition, published in 1902, shows the eastern end of the Granary as a separate room or building but the map still remains unclear about the building's internal details. What is clear is that there is no open passageway through the middle of the building as there is at present. A new long rectangular building has been built to the north of the Granary across a trackway where the present student refectory has recently been built. Subsequent editions continue with this general lack of clarity although the 1923 edition shows Rodbaston Hall with the new title of the Staffordshire Farm Institute.

By the time of the 1958 edition the entire range to the south of the Granary appears to have been modified to show three separate ranges suggesting that a rear covered yard has had its roof removed. The two easternmost ranges have a narrow alley leading right through the Granary building. The frontage of the eastern end of the Granary is shown as dotted which suggests an open fronted structure.

The 1966 edition appears to show the building layout, or at least the building footprint, very much as it survives today with the original three rear ranges having been replaced by the present steel buildings. A number of other probable agricultural buildings are clustered around the Granary building which still appears to be the focal point of the farm complex.



Figure 4 First Edition County Series Ordnance Survey 1884
Granary shown within highlighted box

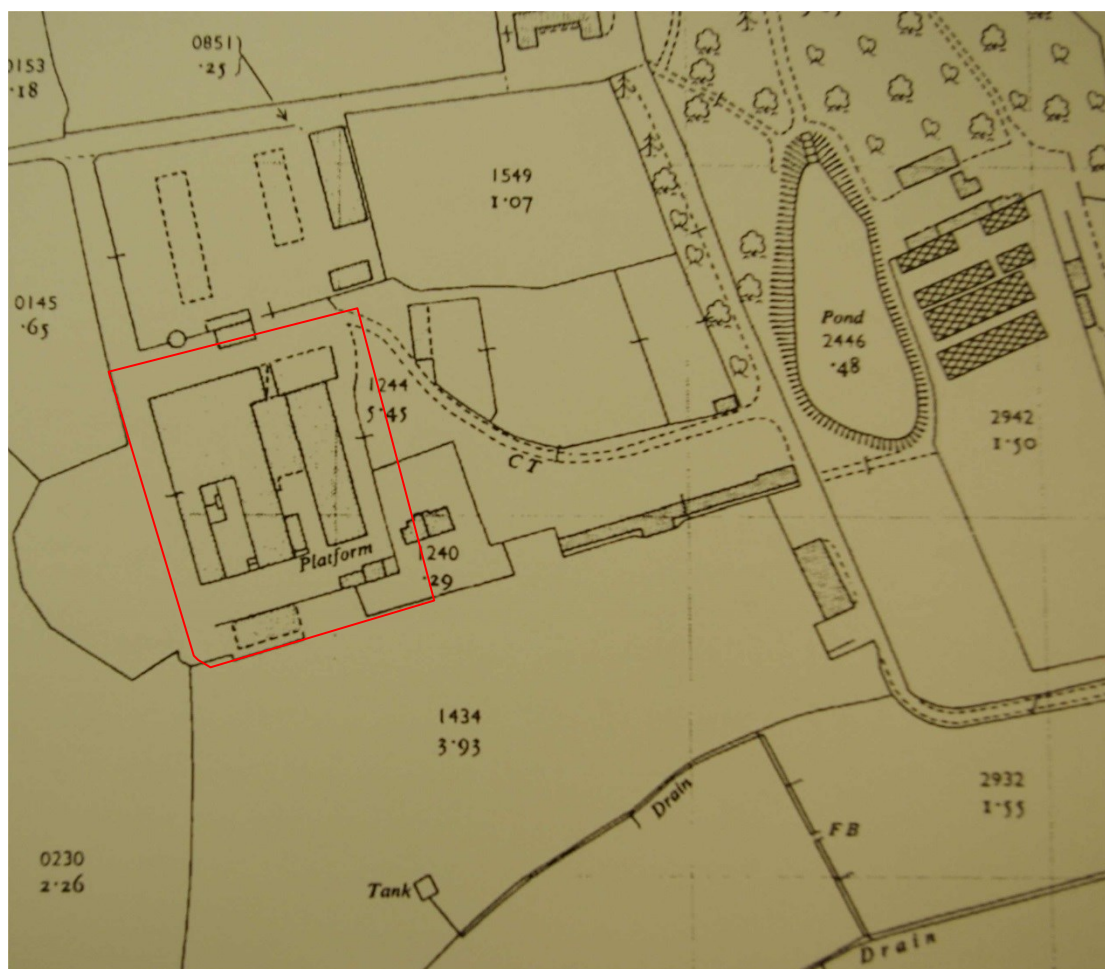


Figure 5 Ordnance Survey 1958 edition
Granary shown within highlighted box

The Building Survey

As noted earlier the Granary building sits in the centre of the campus and is surrounded by significantly later structures including a very recent new building immediately to the north (Figs 6 - 9). A system of concrete roads links the campus together. The Granary sits on an east-north-east to west-south-west alignment with the main elevation being the north-north-west facing elevation. For the sake of clarity this report will treat the axis of the building as following an east to west alignment with the north facing elevation being the principal elevation. Attached to the south facing elevation of the Granary are two large steel-framed structures which are not shown in the 1964 photographs noted in the background section above. These steel-framed buildings still in use as classrooms, a piggery and store and are discussed below but do not appear to be much more than 40 years old. The main Granary building is presently disused and, although in a reasonable state of repair, is beginning to suffer from neglect. Many of the downstairs rooms are being used as storage for redundant furniture and a range of miscellaneous items.

The main two storey Granary building is built from red brick and has a roof covering of plain tiles which may be original. The bricks are laid in English Garden Wall bond consisting of a single course of headers separated by three courses of stretchers.



Figure 6: General view of the Granary
Looking south-west. South-eastern range of Granary buildings on far left of picture



Figure 7: Granary and new campus building
Looking east



Figure 8: Granary and new building from the north
Looking south



Figure 9: Granary from the south
Looking north. Gasometer building in foreground on right behind modern lean-to

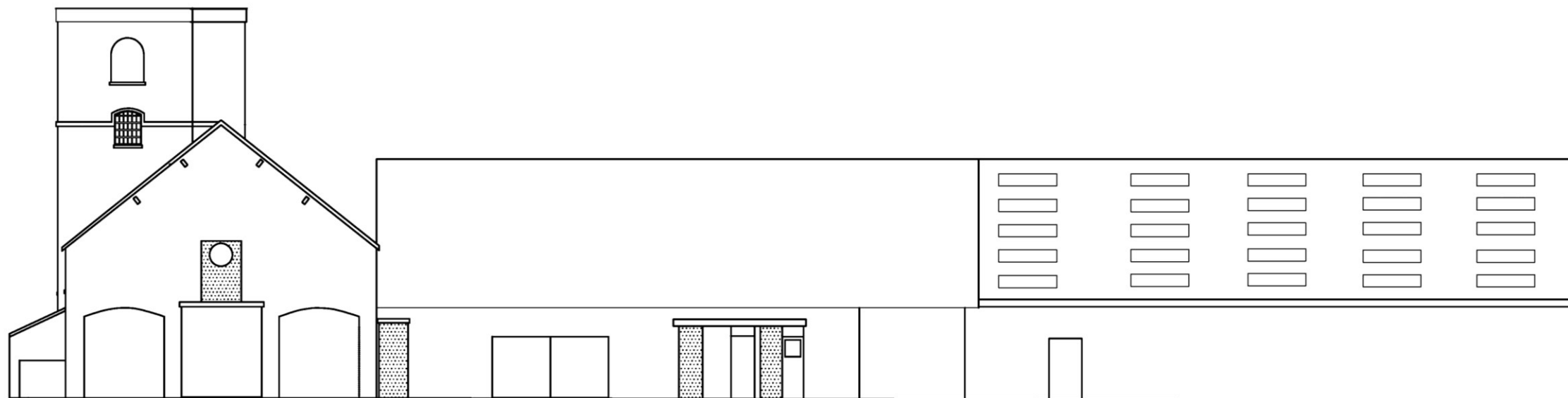
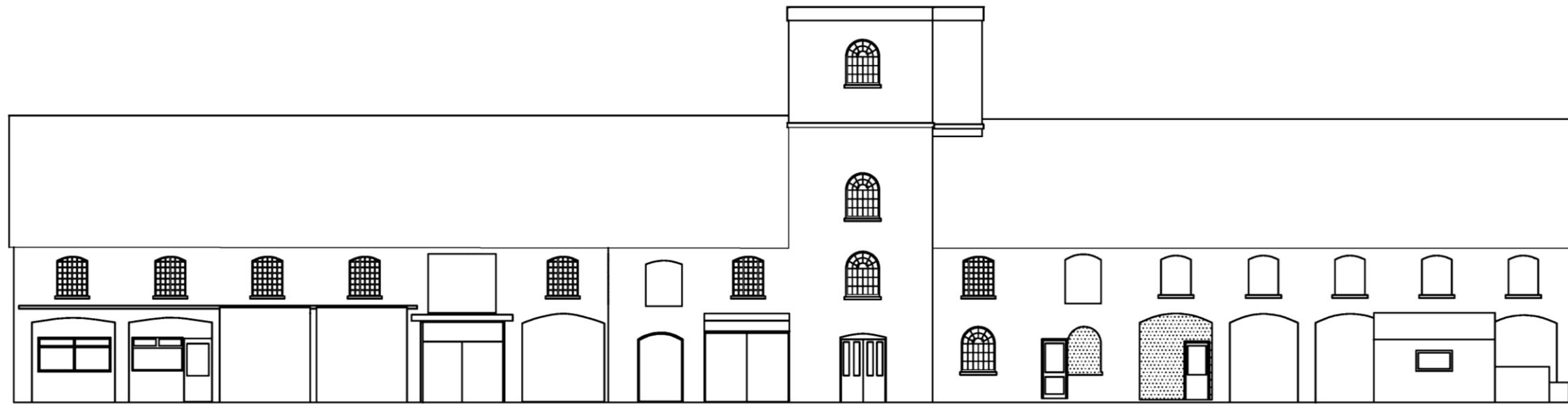


Figure 10: Granary, north and west facing elevations
Modified from drawings supplied by client

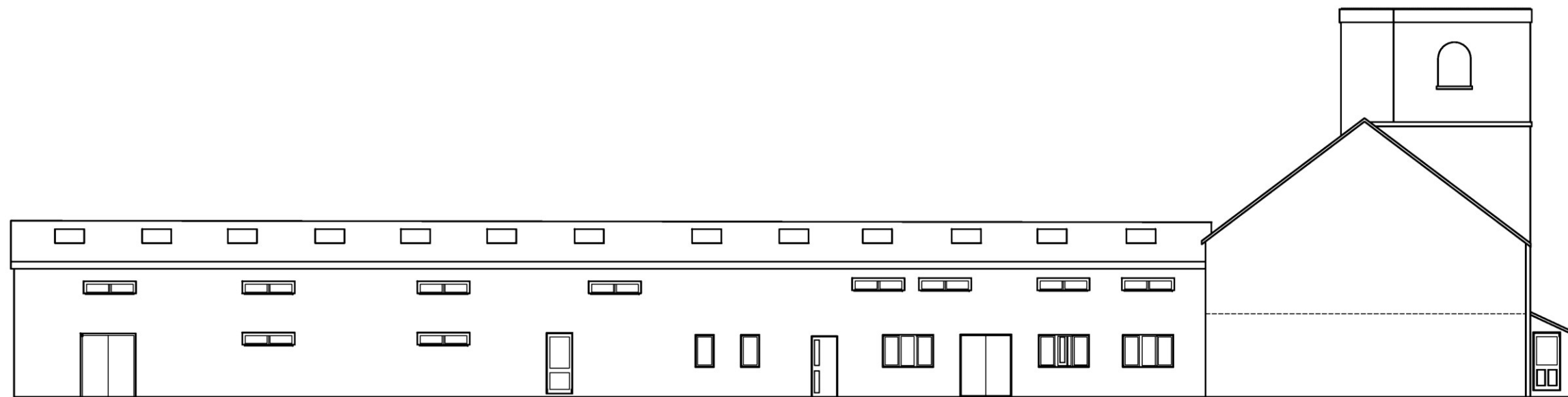
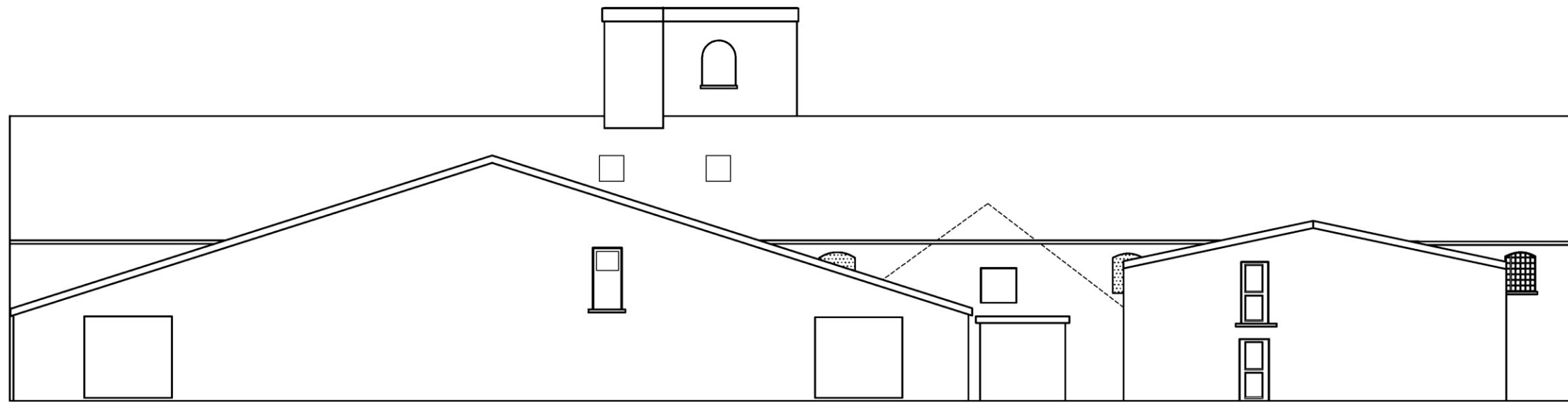


Figure 11: Granary, south and east facing elevations
Modified from drawings supplied by client

The Outside Elevations

North Facing Elevation

The north facing elevation is the principal elevation and faces out onto a wide concrete roadway with the new campus building opposite to the north. The elevation can be divided into three sections: the eastern section, the central section with the tower and the western section at the other end.

When viewed from east to west at ground floor there are four wide arches in the eastern section. Two have been filled in with glazed wooden panels to create the front wall of a large workshop (Figs 12 and 13). Two more arched openings have sliding wooden doors covering the opening. The tracks for the sliding doors run above the arches close to the eastern corner of the building. To the west of the four arches is a rectangular double gateway with a concrete lintel leading into an open room. The 1964 Past Track photograph indicates that this used to be a fifth archway with a small hayloft type door above it. To the west of the modified doorway with the concrete lintel is another archway and passage which leads all the way through the building to the space between the rear ranges. The first floor has iron-framed multi-paned windows which have tilting central panels (Fig. 14). The window sills are made from blue bricks. The 1964 photograph suggests that the existing square doorway over the concrete lintel was originally a much smaller hayloft door which matched the size and shape of its neighbouring windows.

To the west of the passageway through the building the elevation steps outwards by 0.25m to create a slightly projected central section which includes the four storey tower (Fig. 15). The line of the eaves remains unbroken until it meets the side of the tower itself. At ground floor level there is a wide arched doorway with a double width gateway to the west. The gateway has a modern steel lintel and appears to post-date the 1964 photograph which shows a lower arched opening. At first floor level is a hayloft type door and a multi-paned window of the same pattern as those to the east.

The main part of the rectangular tower sits on the north side of the granary roof ridgeline. Attached to the south-west corner of the tower is a small chimney-like square structure which sits astride the ridgeline. The main tower has a ground floor doorway with three Romanesque style arched windows on the floors above. The windows have cast-iron multi-paned frames with larger panes than those used on the eastern section (Fig. 16). The first floor window has a blue brick sill but the higher floors have limestone sills which match a decorative limestone band which runs around the east, west and north sides at the height of the roof ridgeline (Fig. 17). The window sills are supported by projecting brick headers which are present for decorative purposes only. The east, west and south faces of the tower have blind arches with sills to match those used on the glazed windows. The blind arches do not appear to have ever been open windows. On the west facing elevation of the tower is a small window which breaks the line of the stone banding and was presumably placed to light a stairwell. Just above the stone band the brickwork changes colour from red to a slightly more yellow colour which extends upwards just above the second floor window arch to a brick string course where the colour changes back to a darker red. The top of the tower is finished with projecting limestone coping stones. The reason for the change is not entirely clear and may be due to the tower being raised although

the style of the windows on the north facing elevation is identical in both areas of brickwork. The change in brickwork can be seen on both the main tower and the attached chimney structure.

Immediately to the west of the tower the building steps back again to the same line as the eastern end of the building. At ground floor level two Romanesque windows of the same style as seen on the tower are present although one has been blocked by brickwork and replaced by a single width doorway (Fig. 18). To the west of the windows are five blind arches creating a decorative arcade design. The easternmost of the arches has been blocked by modern breeze blocks and a doorway inserted into it. The 1964 photograph shows this blocking as an open archway with a sliding door covering it in the same way as seen at the eastern end of this elevation. The fixings for the sliding door trackway are still present. The rest of the arches are blocked with the same bricks as used on the rest of the building and appear to have always been blind. A modern lean-to brick-built structure has been built against this part of the elevation and partially obscures one of the arches. At first floor level there is a single multi-paned window of the same design as used at the eastern end of the elevation and a rectangular hayloft style door. The remaining five recesses to the west give the impression of blocked windows but were never open and are for decorative purposes only.



Figure 12: Granary, north facing elevation, eastern end
Looking south-west



Figure 13: Granary, north facing elevation, eastern end
Looking south. Note inserted concrete lintel next to the sliding doors



Figure 14: East facing elevation, first floor eastern end window detail
Looking south



Figure 15: Granary north facing elevation, central tower section
Looking south. Note steps in wall (arrowed)



Figure 16: Granary tower window detail
Looking south, First floor



Figure 17: Granary tower, west facing elevation
Looking south-east



Figure 18: Granary north facing elevation, western end
Looking south

West Facing Elevation

The flat gable-ended west facing elevation has two ground floor decorative blind arches to match those used on the north facing elevation (Fig. 19). There is no evidence that the arches were ever intended to be openings. There are courses of lighter coloured bricks running across the recesses of the arches and across the supporting pilasters on either side indicating continuous contemporary brickwork. Between the two blind arches is a rectangular entrance with a steel roller shutter door and a concrete lintel. The lintel is modern and may have replaced an earlier archway. Above the lintel is a rectangular patch of later brickwork indicating the location of a blocked opening which may have been a window. Within the patched brickwork is a circular ventilation fan and a narrow chute extending out from the wall.

At eaves level the brickwork appears to change from a lighter red to a slightly darker red which extends up to the ridgeline. The darker bricks have also been affected by frost which suggests that the gable may have been rebuilt. The modern southern range building is not flush with the west facing elevation of the Granary but is set slightly back to accommodate the guttering.



Figure 19: Granary, west facing elevation
Looking east. 1m scale

South Facing Elevation

Much of the south facing elevation is obscured by the two rear (south) ranges of buildings (Figs 20 to 22). The tiled roof of the Granary has two glass roof lights close to the tower and is broken at eaves level by the rear ranges. The main part of the tower can be seen on the northern side of the ridge and has a blind arched window as seen on the eastern and western faces. Between the rear ranges is the access passageway through the building to the north side (Fig. 21). The lintel is concrete with blue brick supports and shows evidence of being rebuilt.

Above the concrete lintel can be seen a scar left by the gable end of an earlier rear range. This must be one of the three rear ranges shown on the early Ordnance Survey maps and in the 1964 photographs. The roofline of this earlier building can also be seen in an area of disturbed roof tiles which have been laid to fill the gap left by the building. The scar left on the bricks shows that the brickwork was not keyed and therefore indicates that the demolished range was built at a later date than the main granary. A rectangular hayloft doorway sits within the apex of the scar on the brickwork. Either side of the scar are two blocked windows which are partially obscured by the roof lines of the present rear ranges.

At the eastern end of the south facing elevation is a single first floor multi-paned window which is adjacent to the eastern edge of the easternmost of the southern range buildings (Fig. 22). The modern south range is so close to the window that the guttering partially obscures the window. The ground floor brickwork is slightly lighter and yellowish than the darker brickwork of the first floor suggesting that some form of rebuilding or extension has taken place.



Figure 20: Granary, east end of south facing elevation
Looking north-east



Figure 21: Granary, centre of south-facing elevation
Looking north. Note scar on brickwork and roof (red arrow) from earlier rear range
and blocked window (yellow arrow). 1m scale



Figure 22: Granary, east end of south facing elevation
Looking north. Note difference in ground floor and first floor brickwork. 1m scale

East Facing Elevation

The east facing gable end of the Granary is plain without any openings or blind arches. Of greatest significance however is a clear change in the brickwork at the top of ground floor level (Fig. 23). The brickwork at ground floor level has a slightly lighter appearance than the first floor and gable brickwork which suggests a rebuild or extension.



Figure 23: Granary, east facing elevation
Looking west. 1m scale

Inside the main Granary

The Granary has two distinct halves separated by the central tower. To the west of the tower is a large full-height open room with a small mezzanine floor built against the tower wall. To the east of the tower are a series of ground floor rooms and a large first floor room as shown on the plans below (Figs 24 and 25). There is no direct access from the main Granary building into the southern range buildings. Throughout much of the building there are many No Smoking signs indicating not only the dangers of traditional fires but also the explosive nature of the dust created during the grinding process.

Identification numbers allocated during this survey were given for ease of recognition and do not refer to any earlier uses or room numbers. Both floors were surveyed from west to east.

Ground floor

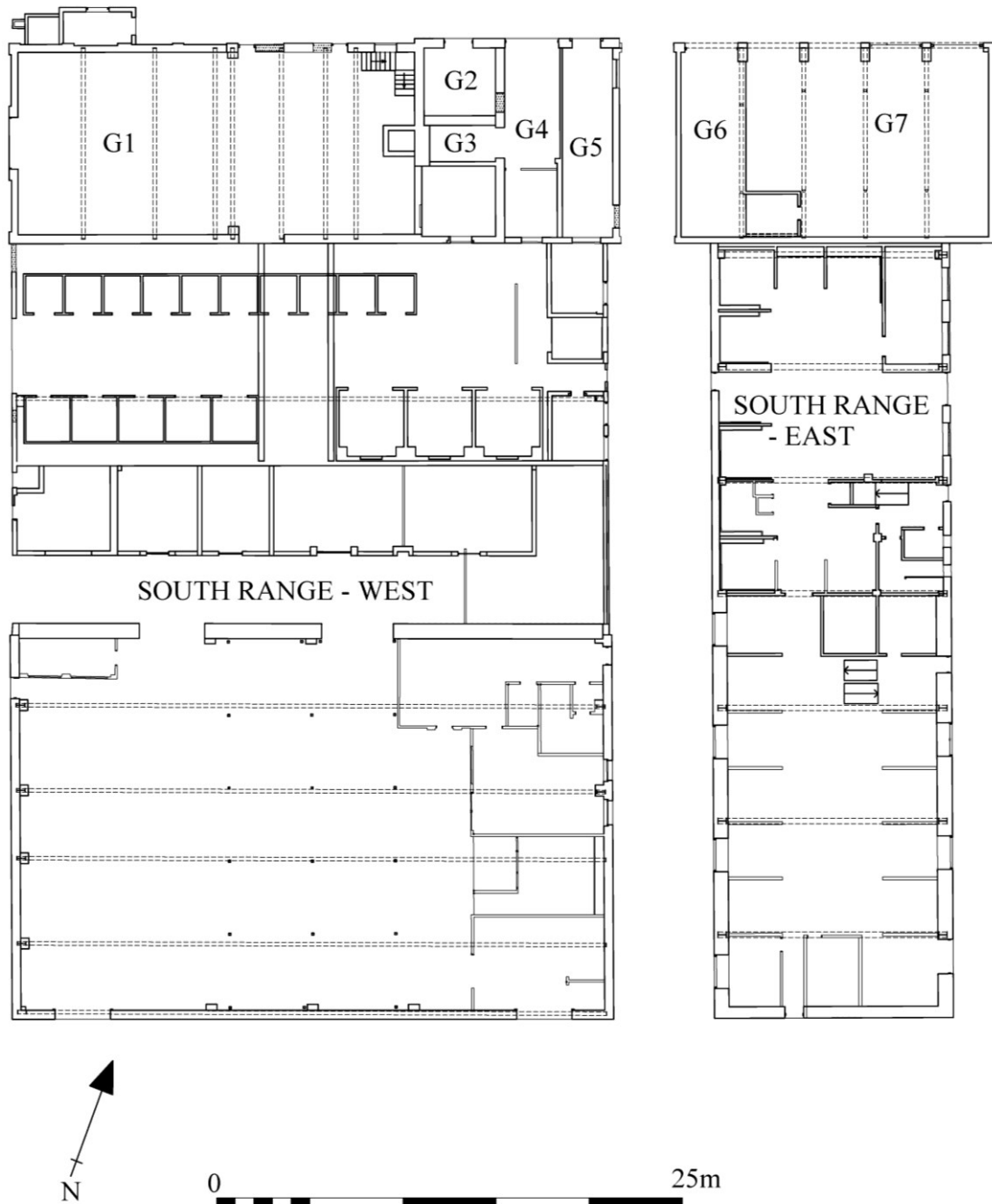


Figure 24: Granary and south ranges ground floor plan

First floor

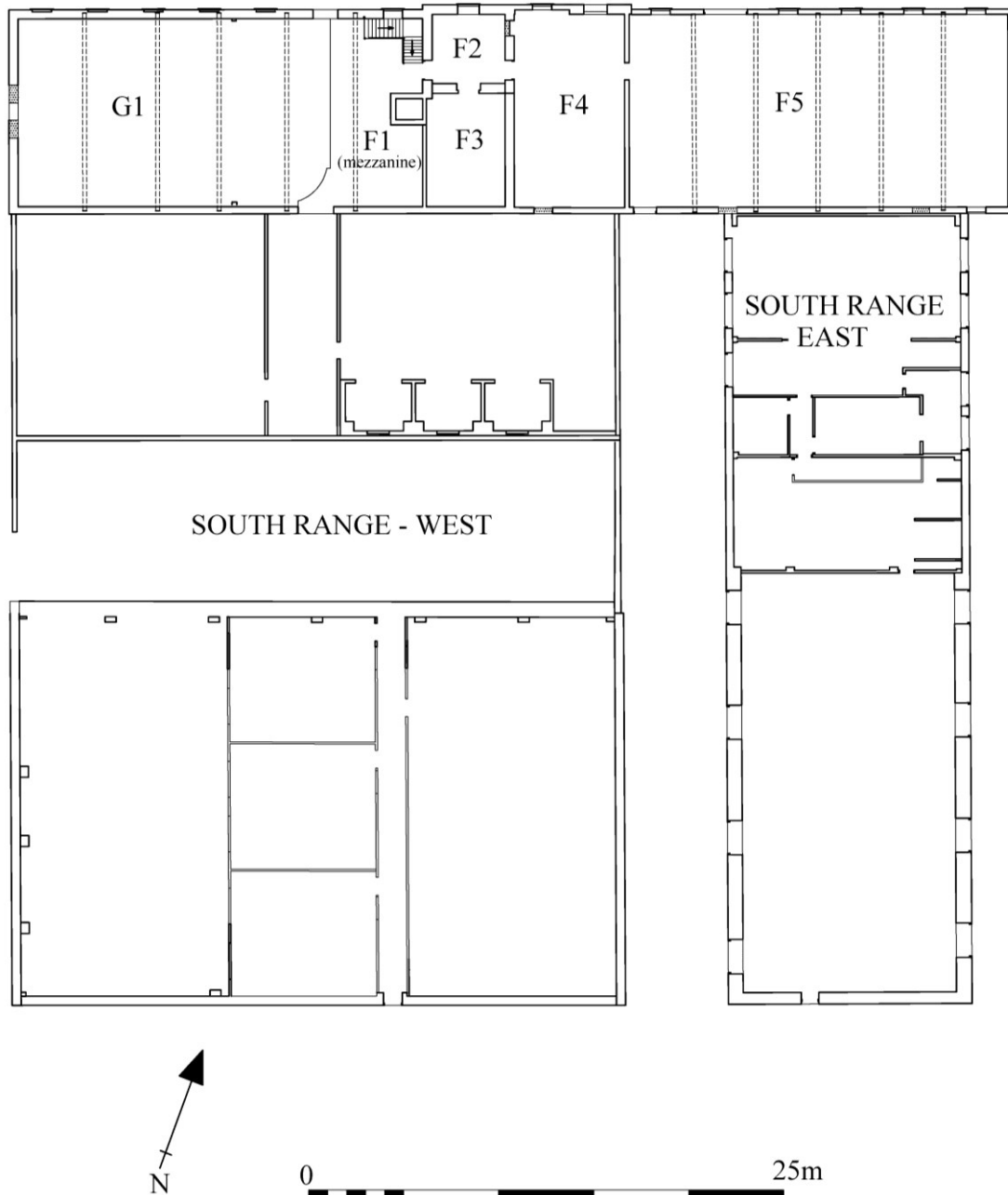


Figure 25: Granary and south ranges first floor

Granary Ground Floor

Room G1

Room **G1** is the westernmost ground floor room of the main Granary building. It is open to the roof with a small wooden mezzanine floor at the eastern end. The north wall has two single doorways at ground floor level and one archway blocked with breeze blocks as noted on the north facing elevation description. Two windows at the north-east end of the room light a set of wooden stairs leading up to the mezzanine and the rest of the first floor rooms. There is no internal structural evidence of any of the blind arches or windows on the north wall showing that they were built for external decoration only. The western end wall of **G1** has the large roller shutter door as seen on the outside elevation. Above the roller door is the patched brickwork with the remains of a brick arch at the top indicating that this was once a window rather than a hayloft type door.

The south wall has a ground floor double doorway which, although sealed, leads into the westernmost of the south ranges (Fig. 28). At first floor height is a multi-paned window matching those seen on the north facing elevation which opens into the roof space of the southern range (Fig. 29). The east wall of **G1** is formed by the west side of the tower and the smaller rectangular part of the tower which extends into the room (Fig. 30). There is no evidence of any openings, blocked or otherwise, on the protruding part of the tower.

The wooden mezzanine floor is supported by modern steel I-beams running from north to south. It is reached by a set of wooden stairs in the north-east corner of the room. Approximately 6m to the west of the mezzanine floor is evidence of a masonry wall running across the middle of the room which supported a substantial timber beam with slots cut for floor joists (Figs 26 and 28). All that remains of the wall are two short stubs of masonry projecting out from the north and south walls. The masonry stubs, which are built from brick, form partial arches suggesting that they formed two small doorways with a wall forming the majority of the structure. The underside of the timber beam still has traces of whitewash and mortar where it rested on the top of the wall. The north and south walls are whitewashed at ground floor level but are unpainted brick at first floor level giving further evidence that there may have been a floor here supported by joists extending from the beam on the now demolished wall. The north and south walls also have a ledge at first floor level which could have held more beams to support the east to west floor joists. Similarly the upper walls of the Granary are whitewashed between the mezzanine floor and the masonry stubs indicating that there was some form of division of what is now a single large room. The removal of this possible floor must pre-date or coincide with the insertion of the large roller shutter door on the west wall which is higher than the ceiling would have been.

The roof structure of the Granary appears to be of mid to late 19th century date and has two purlins on each side which are supported by the principal rafters which are cut off at the height of the top purlin (Fig. 31). The queen posts and raking struts are attached to the main truss by pegged and bolted iron stirrups as are the principals where they meet the wall. Most of the major joints are marked by Roman numerals made when the structure was constructed before being installed (Fig. 32). Supported within the roof structure is a timber walkway which can be reached from the

mezzanine (Fig. 33). The walkway runs across the backs of the main roof trusses and has remnants of other timber structures on its north side. These remnant structures may be the frames for hoppers although little remains. A large door-like timber baffle is also suspended from the roof to the north of the walkway. The main components of the walkway also have carpenter's construction marks in the form of more Roman numerals.

The mezzanine floor, although it is part of the first floor and has been identified by the reference **F1**, is part of the larger room and so will be discussed in this section. The mezzanine is reached by the wooden stairs in the corner (Fig. 34). As noted the smaller rectangular chimney-like portion of the tower extends into the room but there are no indications of any openings on it. However, there is the hole for a bearing box on the west side of this structure showing that a drive shaft extended out into the main room at the height of the walkway (Fig. 35). No trace of this shaft or the drive equipment survives. Where the walkway ends is a timber latticework structure of unclear purpose has been attached to the mezzanine floor (see Fig. 35).

The mezzanine has a curved edge which does not quite reach the hayloft style door on the north wall and suggests that it may have extended further west before being rebuilt with steel support beams (Fig. 36). The door is hinged at the top but can no longer be reached. On the south wall is a modern opening with a steel lintel leading into the roof space of the westernmost of the south ranges. This was boarded over and sealed shut.

Room G2

Ground floor Room **G2** is not linked to its neighbouring rooms and is located within the base of the main tower. Its walls are matchboard lined which suggests that it may once have served as an office (Fig. 37). A hole in the boarding on the east wall reveals the presence of a blocked opening into the adjacent room **G3**. At the time of the survey the room housed a small borehole pump and associated modern pipework.

Room G3

The small ground floor Room **G3** lies directly behind (south) of Room **G2** and is reached by passing through an archway from Room **G4** to the east (Fig. 38). The room is currently used as a timber store so could not be closely inspected. Beneath the timber a low brick platform could be seen built against the wall of Room **G2**. The purpose and function of this was not clear. To the south of Room **G3** is a small square room with a locked doorway leading out to the rear range building. This room could not be accessed.

Room G4

Room **G4** is a long narrow room running across the width of the Granary building. It has a boarded eastern wall with a modern timber partition dividing the room into two (See Fig. 38). The boards on the east wall are wide and are beaded and appear to be late 19th century in origin if not a little earlier. To the south of the modern partition the boarded wall gives way to a brick wall. A small arched fanlight window looks into the south range building (Fig. 39). On the west wall of **G4**, as noted, is the open arch into **G3** along with a low brick arch which has been blocked with later brickwork. This lower arch corresponds with the hole in the east wall seen in Room **G2**.

Room G5

Room **G5** is a similarly sized room to **G4** and runs across the width of the Granary. The east wall forms the wall of the passageway running from the front to the back of the Granary and has a blocked door close to the south end (Fig. 40). Near to the northern end of the east wall is a wide but narrow rectangular window which also opens into the passageway (Fig. 41). The west wall is shared with **G4** and is part brick and part boards. The south wall has a wide arched window which has been blocked by brickwork. This room is one of the few rooms with any processing equipment left and has a rectangular steel bagging hopper built into the ceiling at the south end. The hopper appears to be relatively modern.

Room G6

Room **G6** is located on the eastern side of the passageway through the building and, at the time of the survey, was used as a store. It has a brick west wall unbroken by any openings or former openings and a corrugated sheet metal east wall (Fig. 42). The corrugated sheet is attached to the side of a substantial north to south timber beam which is supported (or propped) by square section steel posts. The temporary nature of the sheet walling suggests that this room was originally part of the adjacent room **G7**. As noted during the description of the north facing elevation this room has a modern concrete lintel above the entrance. The ceiling joists are modern steel beams with timber inserted along their length which is a modification that probably took place at the same time as the insertion of the lintel. It may also indicate that heavy equipment might have been present on the floor above.

Room G7

Room **G7** forms a large open carpentry shop at the eastern end of the Granary (Fig. 43). At the time of the survey it was the only room still in regular use in this building. The two arches on the north wall are infilled with modern wood and glass as discussed earlier. From the inside the arches with the sliding wooden doors can be seen to be of the same design as the others suggesting that this whole area was built as an open four-bayed room or possibly a five-bay room if Room **G6** had an arch before its rebuild. This is probably what is shown on the 1958 Ordnance Survey map. The ceiling is supported by substantial north to south timber beams which have been supported by modern square section steel posts. Many of these beams have a variety of raze marks in the form of incised slashes or recognisable numbers (Figs 44 and 45). The ceiling has been boarded with modern plasterboard so it is not possible to inspect the first floor joists to see if they have been strengthened as in Room **G6**.

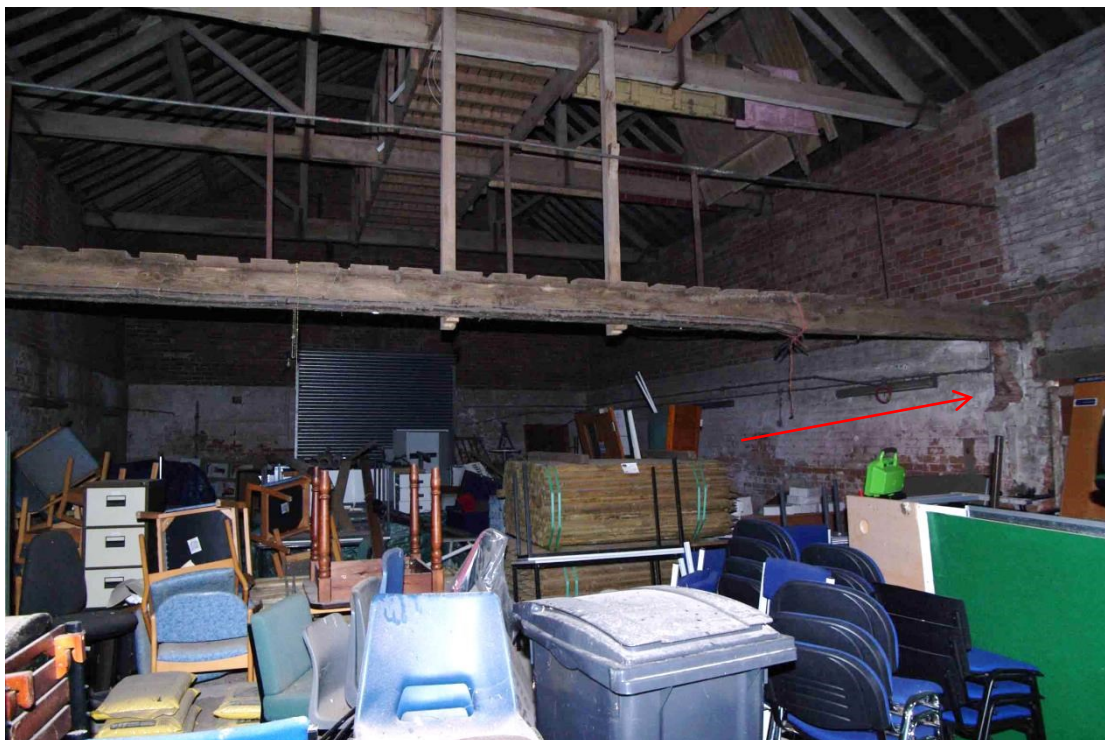


Figure 26: Granary, ground floor Room G1
Looking west. Arrow indicates location of masonry stub



Figure 27: Granary, ground floor Room G1
Looking east

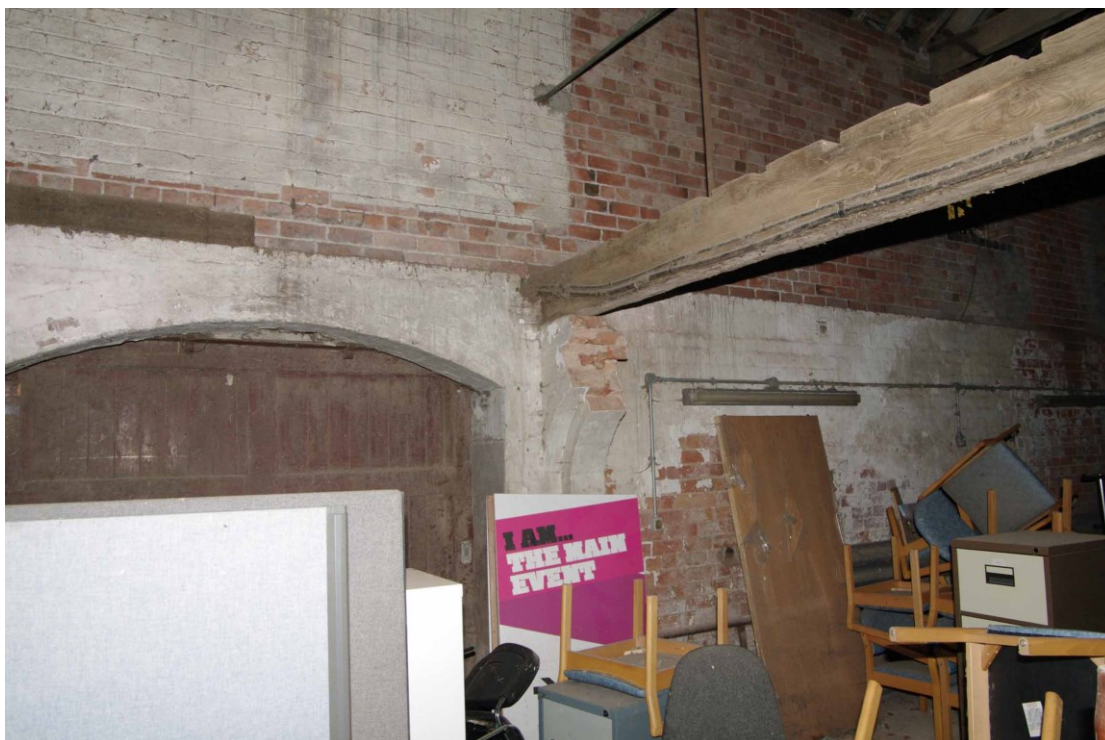


Figure 28: Granary, ground floor Room G1. Masonry stub of archway
Looking south-west

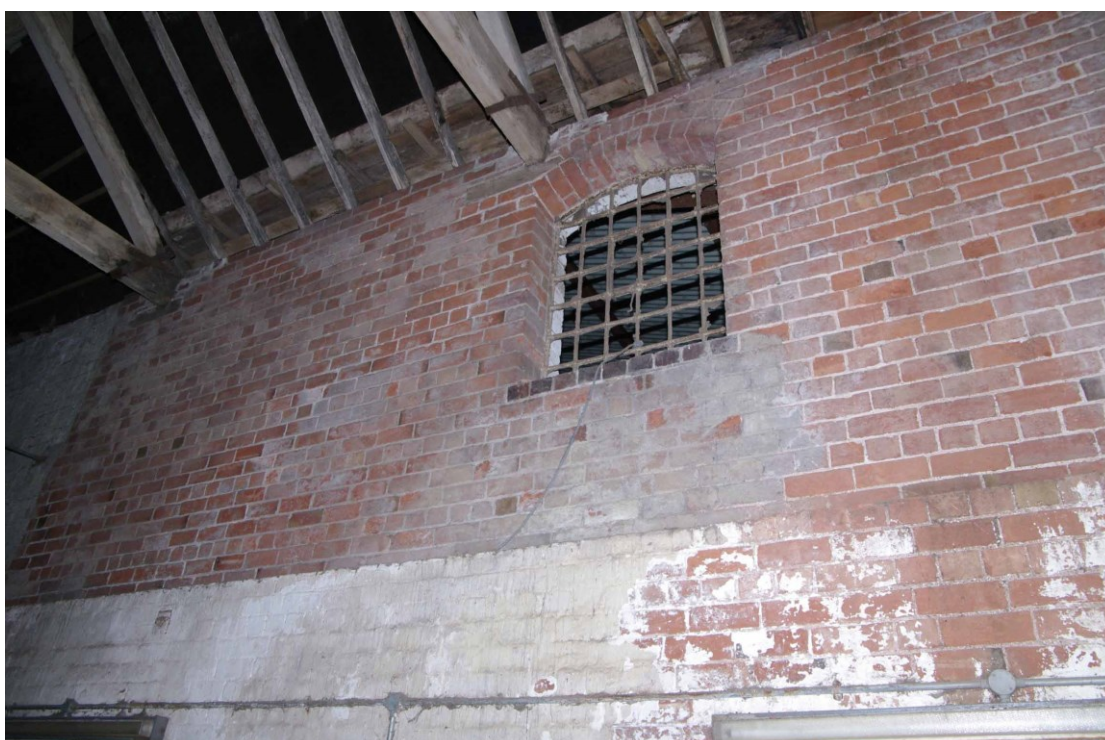


Figure 29: Granary, Room G1 window on south wall
Looking south-east

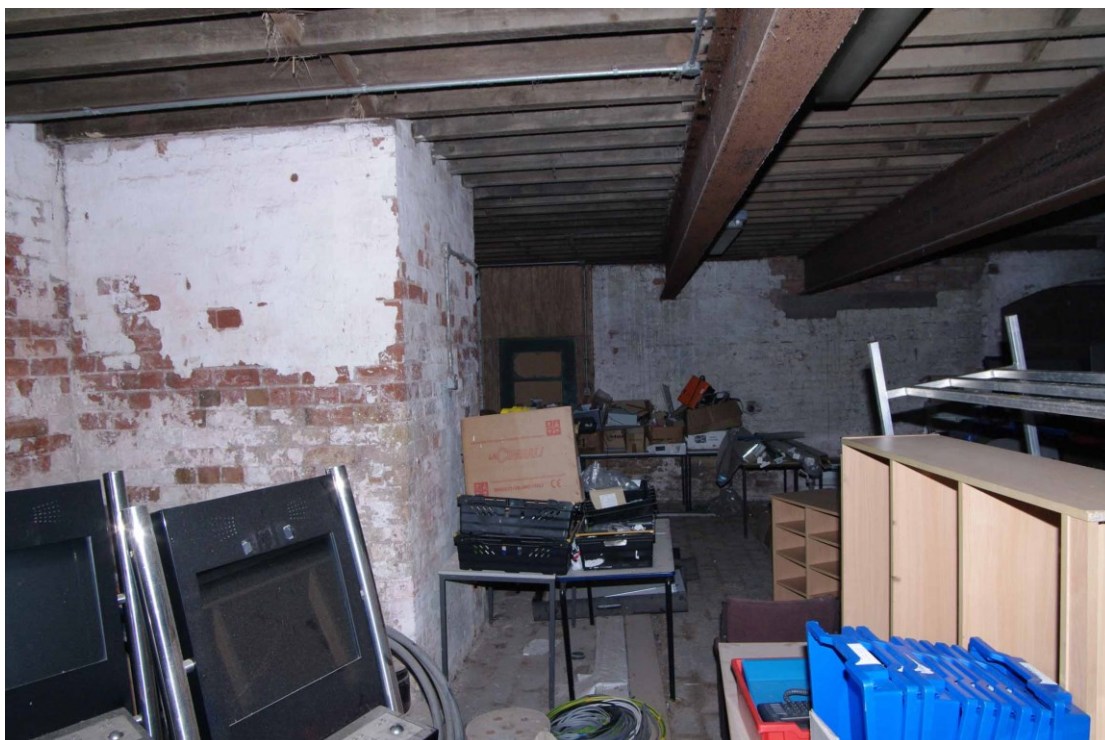


Figure 30: Granary, ground floor Room G1. Below mezzanine
Looking south. Protruding portion of tower on left of picture



Figure 31: Granary roof structure at west end of building
Looking south-west



Figure 32: Granary, Room G1 roof detail and carpenter's mark "V" mark indicated by arrow at junction of queen post and truss



Figure 33: Granary, Room G1 walkway in roof
Looking east. Note baffles and other timber structures on left



Figure 34: Granary, Room G1 stairs to mezzanine
Looking east. 1m scale. Note modern steel beams supporting mezzanine



Figure 35: Granary, Room F1 mezzanine
Looking south-east. Arrow shows location of bearing box. 1m scale



Figure 36: Granary, Room F1 north wall loading door
Looking north-west. 1m scale



Figure 37: Granary, ground floor Room G2
Looking north-east. 1m scale



Figure 38: Granary, ground floor. Entrance to Room G3 on right
Looking south-west. Photograph taken from Room G4 with modern partition on right



Figure 39: Granary, ground floor. South end of Room G4
Looking south-east



Figure 40: Granary, ground floor Room G5
Looking south-east



Figure 41: Granary, passageway and outside wall of Room G5
Looking north-west. 1m scale. Blocked doorway to left of scale



Figure 42: Granary, ground floor Room G6
Looking south



Figure 43: Granary, ground floor Room G7
Looking north-east



Figure 44: Granary, ground floor Room G7. Raze marks on beam



Figure 45: Granary, ground floor Room G7. Raze marks on beam

Granary First Floor

The first floor of the Granary is reached via the stairs from **G1** with no apparent access from any other room. As with the ground floor rooms very little equipment has survived in-situ.

Room **F1** is described along with Room **G1** in the section above.

Room F2

Room **F2** is reached via a doorway from the mezzanine **F1**. The wooden doorway into the room has the name “*Granary*” chalked onto it (Fig. 46). Room **F2** has very clean and pointed brickwork compared to the rest of the building which suggests a relatively recent refurbishment. The ceiling has joists but is open up to the top of the tower which is completely empty with no sign of any floors, steps or equipment which again suggests some form of refurbishment (Fig. 47). On the north wall is an arched window which matches those in the tower above (Fig. 48). To the east of the window is a chalked note informing that “*1 BARROW ROLLED BARLEY EQUALS 50KG*”

The south wall is formed by the south wall of the tower and has a doorway leading into Room **F3**. The east wall has a low brick archway in the north corner which has been blocked by later brickwork (Fig. 49). To the south of the blocked arch is a doorway leading into Room **F4**.

Room F3

Room **F2** appears to have been used as a store room and has a wooden rail around the wall with labels showing: *store ration, bullock ration, ewe ration, production ration and store ration* (Fig. 50). A chalked notice also asks for sacks to be stacked neatly. Although the floor appeared to be unsafe and the room was not entered it could be seen that there is a joint in the brickwork between the tower wall and the east wall of the room and another joint between the chimney structure and the western wall approximately half way along. (see plan in Fig. 25 above). There are also rectangular holes high up on the east and west walls possibly for ducting or machinery driveshafts.

Room F4

Room **F4** is located in the room above **G5** which has the hopper attached to the ceiling. A board has been nailed to the floor over the hole for the hopper below and there is no evidence of any equipment in this room (Figs 51 and 52). A window which has been blocked by breeze blocks is located on the south wall. The modern nature of the breeze blocks suggests that they may have been inserted when the present southern range building was constructed. On the north wall is a multi-paned window and a hayloft style door which is hinged at the top.

As noted in Room **F3** a joint in the brickwork can be seen on the south-east corner of the tower wall where it joins the dividing wall of Rooms **F3** and **F4** (Fig. 53). The tower wall is built using an English Garden Wall bond whereas the dividing wall uses three courses of stretchers and one course of alternating headers and stretchers. The different bonds suggest different times of construction. The north and south walls of the room use English Garden wall as seen elsewhere in the building. More chalk markings on the wall indicate where materials were stored and show: “*BEEF RATION, STORE RATION, HEIFFER No 2, CALVES ONLY DO NOT USE*”. The

chalk marks appear to be relatively fresh and unweathered suggesting that the granary was used until quite recently.

The roof structure is the same as that seen in Room **G1** which suggests that the entire roof of the Granary was built at the same time (Fig. 53). Modern roofing felt can be seen between the rafters and the tiles which indicates that the tiles have been re-hung or replaced. There are several scorch marks that can be seen on the roof timbers (Fig. 53). It is not clear if these were caused by hot machinery located nearby or if they are apotropaic marks. Scorch marks can often be seen in earlier buildings to ward off fires and evil spirits. A granary would represent a significant fire risk which may encourage the workers to take extra precautions but such marks are not often seen in late 19th century roof structures.

Room F5

Room **F5** is a large open room covering the whole of the first floor to the east of the ground floor passageway (Fig. 54). Two windows on the south wall have been blocked using breeze blocks, an event which presumably happened when the south ranges were added. One window remaining window on the south wall is left intact but even this is partially obscured by the guttering of the south range building (Fig. 55). On the same wall, in the south-western corner, is a rectangular hayloft style door. This door is the one that is located within the scar of the older gable end discussed above and shown in Figure 21. No evidence of the gable or the former range can be seen from within this room. The north wall still retains all of its multi-paned windows with the exception of the modified loading door above room **G6** with its modified concrete lintel. The tops of the ground floor arches can also be seen at floor level (Fig. 57).

On the western wall is a bearing box to the north of the doorway with a timber beam above it (Fig. 57). There is no indication of an opposing bearing box anywhere within the room or of any associated driveshaft equipment. In the south-western corner of the room is a small timber platform which has a metal rail set into the roof structure above it (Fig. 58). This may be the remnant of the superstructure for a bagging hopper but this is not clear. No other processing equipment relating to the Granary can be seen in this room.



Figure 46: Granary, first floor. Doorway to Room F2
Looking east from Room F1. 1m scale



Figure 47: Inside of tower from Room F2
Looking north



Figure 48: Granary, first floor Room F2. Window detail
Looking north. 1m scale. Note chalked graffiti to right of window



Figure 49: Granary, first floor Room F2
Looking north-east. 1m scale



Figure 50: Granary, first floor Room F3
Looking south. Note rail with labels on around room



Figure 51: Granary, first floor Room F4
Looking south. 1m scale



Figure 52: Granary, first floor Room F4
Looking north. 1m scale



Figure 53: Granary, first floor Room F4 roof detail
Looking north-west. Red arrows point to scorch marks, yellow arrow at brick joint of
tower wall and room wall



Figure 54: Granary, first floor Room F5
Looking east



Figure 55: Granary, first floor Room F5. Windows in south-east corner
Looking south. 1m scale



Figure 56: Granary, first floor Room F5 north wall
Looking north-east. 1m scale



Figure 57: Granary, first floor Room F5
Bearing box on west wall (above door). Looking north-west. 1m scale



Figure 58: Granary, first floor Room F5
Looking south into north-west corner of room

The South Range Buildings

As noted, the two south range modern buildings are built against the south facing elevation of the main Granary building (see Figs 11 and 12 for elevations and Figs 24 and 25 for plans). They replace the three rear ranges shown on most available maps and in the 1964 photographs. The present buildings appear to butt against the Granary but are not keyed in either at wall or roof height. At the time of the survey both buildings were in active use for teaching purposes.

South-western Range

The south-western range is the larger of the two southern ranges. It has a steel beam frame with a combination of steel cladding and brick walls (Figs 59 - 61). The northern half of the building is used for animal pens and a feed store (Fig. 62). This part of the building has brick walls which show a variety of blocked doorways and patching. The bricks appear to be from the later 20th century and are unlikely to incorporate or re-use any of the earlier rear range walls. The pens and store have been built within the framework of the building and are not attached. Above some of the pens is a mezzanine floor which appears to be used for storage. The southern half of the building is identified as being the piggery and has a number of smaller subdivided rooms and spaces within it.

South-eastern Range

The south-eastern range is lower and less than half the width of the south-western range. The difference in sizes of the two ranges is likely to be their ability to fit against the rear of the Granary and leave a space for the passageway running through it. This range has a steel frame and is clad entirely with sheet steel of the same type used in the south end of the south-western range which suggests a similar construction

date. The building has two floors which are subdivided to create a variety of teaching spaces.



Figure 59: South-western rear range
Looking north-east



Figure 60: South-western rear range
Looking north-west. 1m scale



Figure 61: South-western rear range, west facing elevation
Looking east



Figure 62: South-western rear range, inside
Looking north-west



Figure 63: South-eastern rear range. West facing elevation
Looking north-east



Figure 64: South-eastern rear range. South and east facing elevations
Looking north-west. 1m scale

Additional Campus Buildings of Historic Interest

As noted in the historic map analysis there is a small building to the south-east of the granary buildings which appears to be associated with the Granary and the Rodbaston Hall estate (Fig. 65). Although not part of the building survey the opportunity was taken to take a number of photographs of the building whilst carrying out the main survey. The first edition Ordnance Survey identifies the location of the building as a gasometer. It was not uncommon for late 19th and early 20th century rural estates to produce their own gas and electricity supplies which would be used in the Hall and across the farm. No evidence of gas lighting or usage was noted within the Granary. It would be expected that a gasometer would be likely to consist of a gas generating building and a large pressure tank built to store locally produced coal gas. The surviving building is in the form of a brick-built structure with a tiled roof and is therefore more likely to have been used in the production, regulation and distribution of the gas around the estate.

The building consists of a single storey structure with a tile roof using similar bricks and tiles to those used on the main Granary building. The similarity of the bricks and tiles may suggest a similar construction date. At the time of the survey the roof and walls appeared to be in a poor state of repair and the entire building was fenced off preventing access and detailed inspection. Weeds and undergrowth obscured much of the north facing elevation. The building is located on the edge of a terrace which drops down to the south.

The principal elevation of the building faces northwards towards the south-east corner of the Granary buildings (Fig. 66). This elevation appears to be built in a similar English Garden Wall bond as used on the main Granary building. However, the brick coursing is quite variable and may reflect a number of rebuilding phases along with other modifications. There are two wide arched openings at each end of the north facing elevation. The ridgeline is broken by the hole for a chimney but a much smaller chimney has been rebuilt within the hole leaving a significant gap between it and the roof. A low brick wall butts against the eastern corner of the elevation and runs northwards alongside the south-eastern rear range to create a boundary wall to the Granary site.

The west facing elevation is a plain gable end laid, for the most part, in a stretcher bond (Fig. 67). The bricks are possibly re-used and may be a new wall added when the building was truncated. The 1958 Ordnance Survey map suggests that this structure was a much longer building consisting of a number of elements which are now no longer present. The ground in front of this elevation is overgrown so it is not possible to inspect it for evidence of wall foundations or floors of demolished buildings.

The east facing elevation has a gable end with a rounded south-eastern corner which follows the ground level round as it drops away to the south (Fig. 68). The difference in ground level between the north and south elevations is approximately 1 metre. The reason for the curve in the wall is not immediately clear and would certainly have made construction of the wall and roof much more complicated. Buildings may have rounded corners to help carts negotiate sharp turns but this curve appears to be far more than would be required for that purpose. It is possible that the curve may have been built to accommodate a round feature or vessel set within the building but an

internal inspection was not possible. Much of the brickwork has been patched or modified.

The south facing elevation is partially obscured by a modern tractor shed built against, but not joining, the wall (Figs 9 and 69). This wall appears to have a large window which may have been modified from a larger opening which was perhaps used as a loading bay for coal. There is evidence for repointing of the brickwork which may suggest other openings. Two small buttresses help to prevent the wall from sliding downhill.

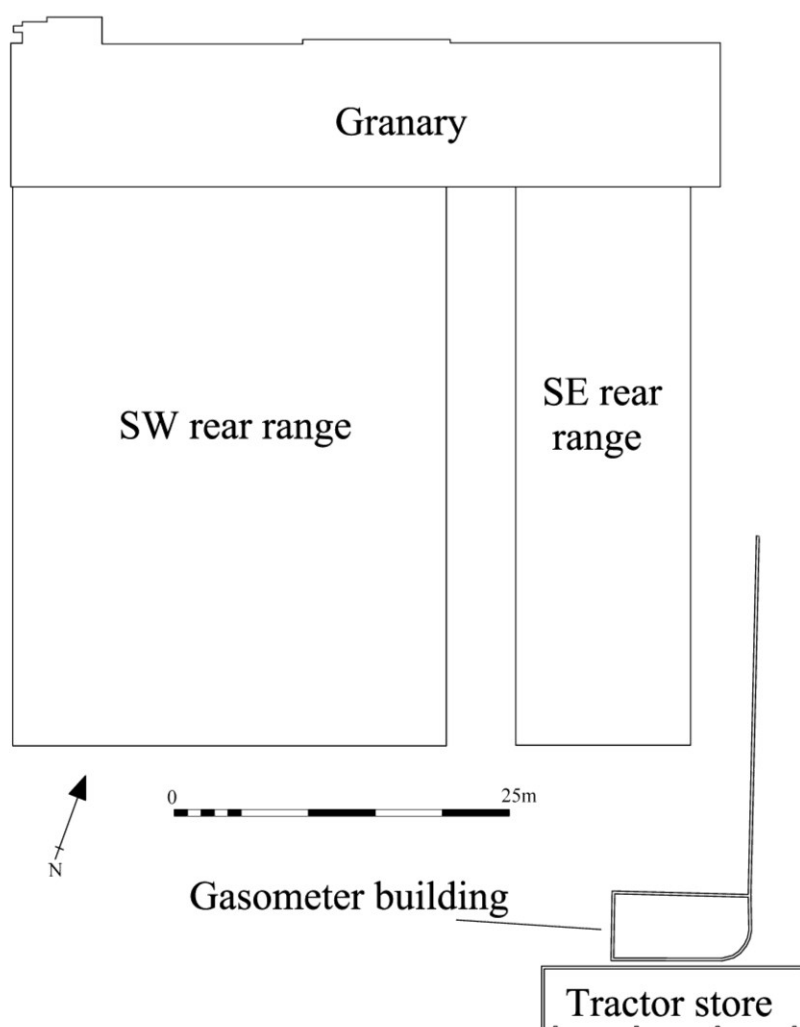


Figure 65 Plan of gasometer building and Granary buildings



Figure 66 Gasometer building, north facing elevation
Looking south



Figure 67 Gasometer building, west facing elevation
Looking east



Figure 68 Gasometer building, east facing elevation
Looking west



Figure 69 Gasometer building, south facing elevation behind tractor shed
Looking north

Discussion

Overall the Granary building represents a small but significant remnant of the late 19th century model farm built on the Rodbaston estate. It is clear that this must have been a landmark building within the estate and as such was not built as a purely functional building. The decorative elements such as the blind arcades and limestone sills indicate that this was a building to be shown off by the owner.

It seems likely that the Granary was built soon after Thomas Hellier bought the estate in 1854. The construction of the model farm is attributed to him and this building would have been part of his plan. From the evidence indicated by the changes in brickwork, seen most clearly on the east facing gable end, it is possible that the building underwent a significant expansion from a single storey to a two storey building. The mid to late 19th century roof structure suggest that this extension may have taken place under Hellier or during the 1870s when Henry Ward purchased the estate. The butt joints of the first floor internal walls and the central tower point towards the possibility that the tower was always at least two storeys. However, the changes in brickwork around the tower parapet suggest that even this may have been raised at some point.

Internally very little has survived from its days as a granary. The timber walkway and bearing boxes are all that appear to remain from the 19th century and should be retained in the re-purposed building if at all possible.

The two southern ranges are obviously modern but even the three demolished ranges appear to have been later additions to the original design. Despite being shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1884 none of the ranges were keyed into the brickwork of the main Granary which would be expected if the structures were contemporary. It is possible they were added when the first floor was added or they may be evidence of third phase of expansion.

The gasometer building was only given a rapid survey and would benefit from a more detailed inspection providing it could be made structurally safe. It is clearly part of the later 19th century estate and pre-dates the 1884 map and is likely to be of similar date to the Granary. As with the Granary this building is an interesting example of modern (19th century) technology being introduced into large rural estates.

Archive

The archive consists of:

This report,

6 contact sheets of 182 digital photographs,

4 ULAS pro-forma photographic record sheets,

1 DVD of this report and the digital colour photographs in jpeg and tiff format.

Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the appropriate local archaeological journal in due course. A record of the project will also be submitted to the OASIS project. OASIS is an online index to archaeological grey literature.

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Appendix 1 All Digital Photographs



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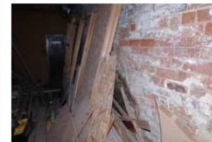
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Project Name	A Level 2 Historic Building Recording: The Granary, Rodbaston Campus, South Staffordshire College, Rodbaston, South Staffordshire.
Project Type	Historic Building survey
Project Manager	V Score
Project Supervisor	A Hyam
Previous/Future work	No previous work
Current Land Use	Educational establishment
Development Type	Conversion/ redevelopment
Reason for Investigation	As a condition
Position in the Planning Process	ongoing
Site Co ordinates	SJ 92078 11414
Start/end dates of field work	14.10.2015 – 16.10.2015
Archive Recipient	Staffordshire County Council
Study Area	3000m ² approx

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