

Archaeological Services

A Level 2 Historic Building Assessment at Hall Farm, Hall Lane, Packington, 2 Leicestershire SK 36047 14710

Jon Coward



ULAS Report No. 2018-067

A Level 2 Historic Building Assessment at Hall Farm, Hall Lane, Packington, Leicestershire (SK 36047 14710)

Jon Coward

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Summary

A historic Building Assessment to Level 2 was carried out by ULAS in February 2018 of a house and associated agricultural outbuildings at Hall Farm, Packington, Leicestershire SK 36047 14710, in advance of redevelopment. The survey shows that the main house, although mainly 19th century in date, may incorporate parts of an earlier structure. The outbuildings are a mixture of early 18th century (or perhaps late 17th century) and 19th century; most of them have been altered in some way or another, and there appears to have been a wholesale re-roofing episode in the mid/late 19th century, presumably connected to the increasing use of mechanisation and adoption of 'high farming' concepts. The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council Museums under accession code X.A.23.2018 in due course.

Background

Planning and listed-building consent are to be sought for the retention and conversion of the existing farmhouse and frontage barn to form four new dwellings, and demolition of remaining agricultural buildings and erection of five single and two storey dwellings.

Hall Farm is located within the historic settlement core of medieval and post-medieval Packington (MLE10599), within the designated Conservation Area (DLE657). The historic farm building of the Hall Farm are located on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map and are recognised as being of historical significance.

As part of a pre-planning enquiry, the planning officer for North West Leicestershire District Council has indicated that any application would need to include a programme of non-intrusive building survey (Level 2) alongside intrusive archaeological work.

The development includes;

- Demolition works including the existing agricultural farm buildings
- Retention and conversion of existing farmhouse and frontage barn
- A new build of single and two storey dwellings.

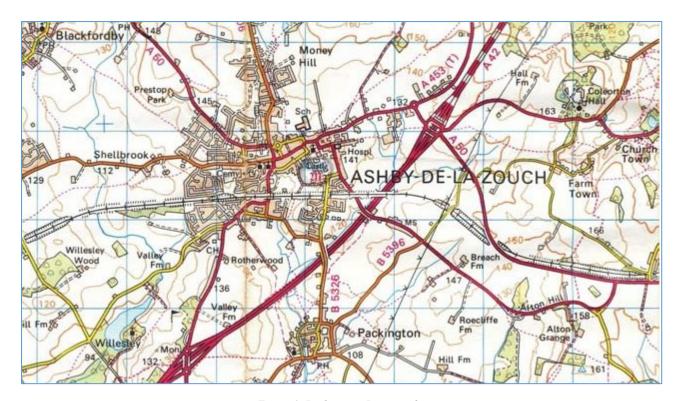


Figure 1 Packington, Leicestershire

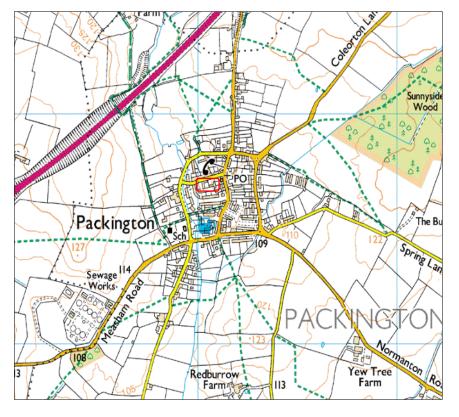


Figure 2 Location of Hall Farm (in red)

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Aims

The purpose of the work was to record and advance understanding of the heritage asset.

The objectives of the Historic Building Recording programme are:

- To provide a written, drawn and photographic record of all the buildings on site prior to the commencement of works.
- To assess the impact of the proposals on fabric of architectural or historic importance.
- To ensure the long-term preservation of the information through deposition of the record and a summary written report with an appropriate depository.

Methodology

All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct and adhered to their Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures (2014).

Historic England's guidelines *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice* (2016) has been used as a basis for defining levels of recording. The Historic Building Record for this project was undertaken to Level 2.

The site-based element of the Historic Building Recording programme involved the validation and correction of existing survey drawings and the compilation of photographic and written records. An ordered archive will be compiled for deposition with an appropriate body and an Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) record completed.

The photographic record was creating using a Pentax K5 digital SLR to create DNG files which were post processed into tagged image file format (TIFFs) for archiving.

Results



Figure 3 Block plan

For the purposes of this report, the various buildings have been divided into different components (Figure 3): moving clockwise from the north, the long barn against the street is block A; B and C are the north-south ranges which run down the east side and D the east-west return; E is the short north-south unit attached to D; block F the building immediately to the south-east of the house proper, and G the small range running between the north of the house and the south of block A.

All the wood roof/ceiling/floor etc structures mentioned in this report were constructed from machine cut deal, unless specified as otherwise; all roofs were covered in plain clay nib tiles.

Block A

Drawn plans: Figure 72, Figure 71

Built of brick with a plain nib tile roof, with dentilled eaves, Block A appears to be an unusually large combination barn, partly on two floors. It has undergone extensive re-construction and remodelling over the course of its life, as can be seen in the brickwork. The yard frontage (Figure 4) shows multiple blocked windows on the first floor. The west side of the range has two storeys, the upper reached via a brick stair.



Figure 4 Block A south elevation

The west gable is not visible due to ivy. The east end (Figure 5) shows numerous builds including an inserted side door, with larger bricks forming the gable in a line roughly where the wall tie appears. Of note is that the building may have been re-skinned judging by the vertical joints on the yard side and the street side. The roof across the range, however, is homogeneous: king post trusses and single purlins which are part supported by cleats, part trenched into the back of the principals. These are relatively late given the metal bolts running through the tie beams up into the post.

The rear wall (fronting the street, Figure 6, Figure 8) is mostly of early 18th-century style brick, handmade; the lower part of the middle and west end is rougher quality, exhibiting a high percentage of spalled, overfired, and ill-sorted fabric (Figure 7). This could indicate a different build, or may just be that the lower part was a different firing, as brick kiln firing conditions were not tightly controlled at this date. Blocked openings onto the street are in evidence.

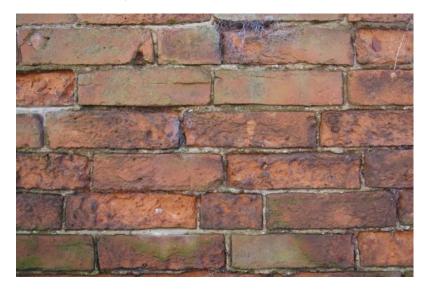
The west end is two storied with access to the upper floor via brick stairs (Figure 9). The floor of the upper story is machined deal, probably of the same date as the roof (Figure 11); it looks to be an insertion or replacement. A small section of floor (Figure 12) on the eastern side of the west end has earlier hand-sawn beams of much larger scantling.



Figure 5 Block A east elevation



Figure 6 Block A east and north elevation



 $Figure\ 7\ Block\ A\ detail\ of\ brickwork\ on\ lower\ north\ elevation$



Figure 8 Block A part of north elevation



Figure 9 Block A. View down the stairs from the upper floor, looking south



Figure 10 Block A ground floor, west end looking east



Figure 11 Block A upper floor, west end looking east



Figure 12 Block A, looking north. Small area of earlier carpentry visible in ceiling



Figure 13 Block A east end, showing blocked door in gable end. Looking south-east



Figure 14 Block A east side. Looking west

Block B

Drawn plan: Figure 73

Block B appears originally to have been two separate buildings: the north unit uses 18th-century style bricks whereas those of the south are probably early 19th century (Figure 15). At a later date the two were incorporated: the north gable rebuilt, the south unit heightened slightly (Figure 18) and a common rafter roof extended across the two, turning the gap in between into a covered passageway. The south unit has an intermittent stone plinth. The southern end has an odd geometry with a chamfer on the west wall corner, and south gable at an angle to the side walls, presumably to fit in with some obstacle which has since disappeared.



Figure 15 Block B. North unit to left. The blocked central opening indicates the original gap between the two units



Figure 16 Block B looking south-east. Note rebuilt gable end



Figure 17 Blocks B (left) and part of C, looking north-east



Figure 18 Block B South unit looking north towards original gable end. Note heightened gable and small brick pillars which would have supported the purlins of the original roofline



Figure 19 Block B, north unit, looking west.

Block C

Drawn plan: Figure 74



Figure 20 Block C west elevation looking south-east

Block C comprises two units. To the north is a tall sub square unit (Figure 17, Figure 20, Figure 21). This appears to have started life as a single storey building of probable 18th century. It was subsequently heightened to allow space for another storey, and there is an opening high up in the north gable, but there is little indication that any floor has been removed and so if it were two storey, perhaps a free-standing platform arrangement was used. The roof is common rafter.



Figure 21 Block C, north unit, looking south east.

To the south is a cow parlour (Figure 22), vented with pipes inserted through the walls at eaves level. Two queen strut trusses of heavy scantling sit on brick pilasters, supporting purlins which are cleated and semi trenched into them. The southern end has a separate loose-box style unit with a surviving stall and feed rack.



Figure 22 Block C central, looking south-east



 $Figure\ 23\ Block\ C\ south\ end,\ looking\ south-east$

Block D

Drawn plan: Figure 75

Block D (Figure 24) comprises two separate units, a smaller animal house to the east (Figure 25), later 19th century, also with vents at the eaves, and queen strut trusses very similar to the ones in block C except that the purlins are more trenched into the back of the truss and the cleats omitted. Also of note is the use of bullnose brick at the entrance which is an indication that this is a slightly later build than block C. Adjacent and to the west, another unit (Figure 26) is semi-derelict. The roof is supported on king post trusses, bolted through the tiebeam, with the purlins sat on cleats. The tiebeams are sat on the wall plate to the rear, but at the front brick pillars have been added to the inside of the original wall line to help support the tiebeam. The explanation may be that this building, being vented and whitewashed, started off as a cow parlour, but got converted into an open front cart/equipment barn with the increase in mechanisation.



Figure 24 Block D looking south west



Figure 25 Block D, east unit, looking west



Figure 26 Block D, west unit, looking west

Block E

Drawn plan: Figure 75

Block E (Figure 27 - Figure 31) is a unit of four stables, with probable haylofts over (there is no safe access into the upper floor), accessed by external stairs. The stall at the north end is still in reasonable condition but water damage gets progressively worse towards the southern end, which is derelict.



Figure 27 Block E looking north



Figure 28 Block E looking east



Figure 29 Block E northern stall



Figure 30 Block E, third stall from the north

Internally, the floors are brick or cobble, with a trough running along the back wall and feed rack still *in-situ* in one stall. Of note are the joists over, instead of the usual machine cut deal, these are various sizes and have some obviously re-used timber: regular peg holes and a groove for laths are visible. Straw laid across the joists above indicates a probable lime ash floor over. The roof structure however, (insofar as it can be seen) is machine cut deal in common with virtually all the carpentry in these outbuildings.

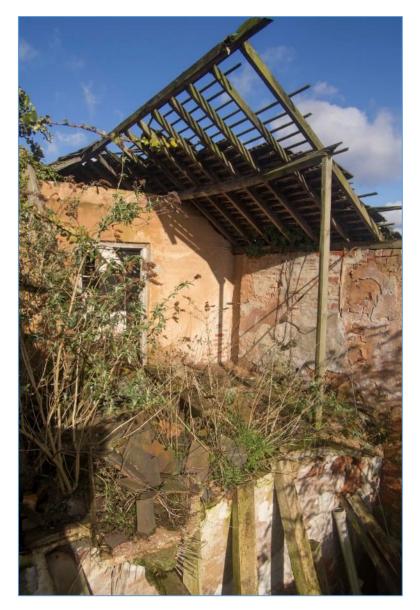


Figure 31 Block E upper storey looking north

Block F

Drawn plan: Figure 76

This unit (Figure 32 - Figure 35) is a rather peculiar building. It consists of a cell-like structure at the east end (into which there was no access at the time of the survey) made from rough coursed masonry to eaves height, then above that apparently random chunks of semi-faced fieldstone. The pointing indicates that either this has been re-built, or that something may have been removed from this end of the building. At the west end the gable is semi-coursed masonry all the way up. The south side is open and the north has a brick skin. Internally, stretches of brick wall vaguely divide the space, although these walls may just be the most convenient way to support the roof structure rather than a conscious effort to create different cells. The whole is semi-derelict and the north-west corner unstable. The north elevation was mostly not visible at the time of the survey, having pallets stacked up to eaves height up against it. Internally the north wall had a trough running along it. There was no

floor. The roof structure was the usual machine-cut deal, but there seems to be a (presumably earlier) purlin left in-situ at the west end (Figure 34). Also at the west end a vertical run of blackened stone may indicate the position of a removed flue. A short run of masonry comes off the south west corner, and although the building would make slightly more sense were the cell structure at the east end replicated at the west, clearly nothing has been removed from the north-west corner, and moreover nothing was seen in the evaluation trench previously excavated here (ULAS Report No. 2018-028). Little useful can be said about this structure except that the provision of a trough implies use by animals at some stage in its life.



Figure 32 Block F, looking north-west



Figure 33 Block F, looking north-east



Figure 34 Block F, west end, looking north-west. Note purlin, and possible course of flue



Figure 35 Block F, west gable, looking east

Block G

Drawn plan: Figure 71, Figure 72



Figure 36 Block G, looking west

Block G (Figure 36 - Figure 38) runs between the house's scullery and the large barn on the frontage. Built of brick, it has two units internally, the whole covered with a monopitch corrugated roof. The southern unit has been converted into garage space by widening it eastwards with short perpendicular brick walls, to create a sort of outshot, roofed with sheeting and felt, now collapsed. Internally the southern unit has been rendered and painted and few constructional clues are visible. The northern unit is slightly more useful in that the brickwork of the rear wall looks pre-Victorian, and the row of headers probably indicates an original roofline. The perpendicular wall between this unit and the southern is obviously not the same build as the rear wall. The low perpendicular wall appears to have been higher at one time and tied into the rear wall, where a vertical removal scar is visible.

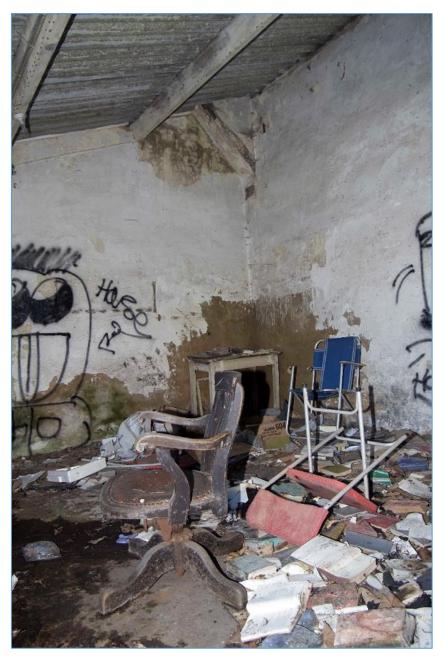


Figure 37 Block G southern unit, looking south west



Figure 38 Block G northern unit, looking south west

The main house: external

Drawn plans: Figure 69, Figure 70

The main house is of quite unusual design, being a double-front twin pile variation on the H plan. There is very little difference between the treatment of the principal west elevation (Figure 40) and the rear (yard side) of the house (Figure 39), and although the brickwork shows the building to be almost certainly 19th century, the only nod to Victorian Gothic is the front door on the west elevation. The windows are casement rather than sash, which again is unusual. The house is not covered by Pevsner (1984).

The bakehouse/scullery block sits to the north of the main house. A curiosity is that that chimney serving the scullery oven and house bedroom on the upper floors terminates at the eaves line (Figure 39), and a possible re-building line shadows the edge of the chimney flue. Possibly this stack had structural problems in the past and had to be truncated and patched up. This might explain the lack of fireplace in the top bedroom on this side, but servant's rooms were not necessarily provided with fires in any case.

The south elevation (Figure 41) is mostly obscured by ivy, but of note is that the south west stack, or at least its lower portion, is masonry, and moreover the south-west corner has what appears to be earlier brickwork up to head height. Moving around this south-west corner, it can be seen that where the brickwork looks older, the building sits on a stone plinth, whereas the more recent brickwork sits on a brick plinth (Figure 42). The main part of the house has bricks of 24 x 7 cm length x height, the southwest corner 23 x 5 cm length x height, although this is an average as they are irregular.



Figure 39 East and north elevation, looking south west



Figure 40 Main (west) façade, looking east



Figure 41 South elevation showing masonry stack base and earlier brickwork to left. Looking north

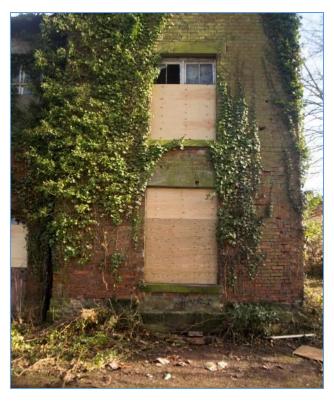


Figure 42 Detail of southwest corner, looking east

The main house: internal

The house is arranged over three floors plus a basement. It appears to have been squatted, judging by the state of the rooms and the graffiti. The front door opens into a hallway, the main stairs ahead (Figure 43). These have a quite plain handrail with chunky balusters in a rectangular section, almost splat. The heavy newel posts have an interrupted chamfer topped with simple finials (Figure 44). The whole has an air of workmanlike solidity rather than elegance.



Figure 43 Hall and stairs. Looking east

The room in the north-east corner was the kitchen, which looks out over the farmyard. A much decayed closed range (Figure 45) is set into one wall. The latches on the six-panel fielded door are likely to be original, and the servants bells still *in-situ*. The floor over is supported on a heavy axial beam with very wide chamfer, plain joists still have meat hooks (Figure 46).



Figure 44 First floor landing, looking west



Figure 45 Kitchen, looking north east



Figure 46 Joists with meat hooks

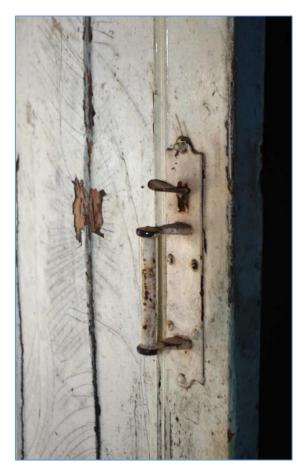


Figure 47 Kichen doorlatch



Figure 48 Servants stair. Looking north towards scullery. Small open door shows position of serving hatch

On leaving the kitchen, the service stair is a relatively plain closed string affair with a simple turned newel post. A serving hatch runs between the kitchen and the hallway, with the room immediately opposite the hatch, entered via a six-panel raised and fielded door, presumably the dining room. The door latch is one of several in the house which are of a set with the kitchen.



Figure 49 Dining room, looking across corridor to serving hatch



Figure 50 Oven in bakehouse/scullery. Looking south west



Figure 51 Mouth of oven, showing firebrick back



Figure 52 Open range on north wall

The scullery/bakehouse has an oven (Figure 50) in the south west corner, probably for bread; it is a domed affair lined with firebrick. The large door in the stack above could have been for access to an arrangement for smoking meat in the flue. In addition another range (Figure 52) sits on the north wall.

Re-entering the main house and going into the hallway, the two reception rooms are on the south side of the house. Both fireplaces have been replaced, but the door and window cases (Figure 53 - Figure 55) look to be early 19th century, and the shutters survive. The detailing in the south east room is more intricate than the south west, and so this was most likely the main reception room for guests.



Figure 53 South east reception room door case



Figure 54 South east reception room, looking south east



Figure 55 South west Reception room looking west



Figure 56 South west reception room looking south

On the first floor, the main bedroom (Figure 57) would appear to have been the one to the south west, although slightly smaller than the south-east one. It would have had the view over the garden and orchard rather than the farmyard to the rear. Both rooms have arched fire surrounds, which is a shape more used in the second half of the 19th century than the first; the one in the main bedroom has moulding similar to the main downstairs reception room.



Figure 57 South-west bedroom first floor



Figure~58~Fireplace~in~south-east~bedroom~first~floor



Figure 59 North east bedroom, looking west

The fireplace in the north-east bedroom has been removed; the one in the north-west bedroom (Figure 60) is arched and probably mid-to-late 19th century.



Figure 60 First floor north-west bedroom, looking north

The service stairs give access to the top floor. Of note is that all of the three fire grates are late 18th century in design: two Pantheon patterns, one quite decayed, and one Forest pattern in slightly better condition. There is no fireplace in the north-west chamber, where the chimney has been truncated.



Figure 61 Second floor south east bedroom, looking south east



Figure 62 Detail of Pantheon hob grate



Figure 63 Second floor south west bedroom, looking south. Forest hob grate



Figure 64 Second floor north west chamber, looking north west

The cellar (Figure 65, Figure 66) is accessed via a four panelled door in the hallway. Descending some very worn brick steps, the two rooms occupy the space under the front of the hallway, and the southwest corner. The ceilings are brick vaults, and much of the construction uses the older-looking early 18th-century style bricks, although the thralls and the supporting wall down the side of the stairs appear to be 19th century. The southern room has what looks like a blocked coal chute set into the west wall, and has curious blocking apparent along part of the east wall, as though there may have been another room.



Figure 65 Cellar, beneath hall, looking east up stairs



Figure 66 Cellar, beneath reception room, looking east. Note blocking to rear wall

Discussion

As noted above, the house is of somewhat unusual design. Although mainly built of 19th century bricks, the south-west corner has a stone plinth, and early 18th-century-looking brickwork up to head height; the cellars use the same early-looking bricks; and part of the south-west stack is masonry. In addition the windows are casement rather than sash. The H plan is normally considered more a medieval pattern than post 1700. There was no access into the roof space at the time of the survey.

There is a very useful estate map from 1735 (Figure 67) which shows the house and farm buildings; this is discussed more fully in Finn 2015. The salient points are that although there was a house in the same position in 1735, the outline shown on the plan is subtly different to the present structure, and the most likely explanation is that the house was rebuilt in virtually the same place, but perhaps reused part of the original structure (e.g. the south west corner and cellars).



Figure 67 Map of the estate of Lord Hastings, 1735. Hall farm centre.

As for the fixtures and fittings, the door cases fit well into early 19th-century styles, and six-panel doors were mostly superseded by four panels by the start of the Victorian period (1837). Conversely the arched fireplaces are conventionally dated to 1850 onwards, and the hob grates on the top floor are a late 18th-century design which presumably came from the original house. The design of the main stair is a bit of a one-off, with fat square newel posts and semi-splat balusters. The facetted finials are a style more often associated with 17th-century examples. The heavily chamfered axial beam in the kitchen also looks out of place, and may well have come from an earlier property. As ever though, when dealing with properties in rural areas outside the centres of fashion, caution needs to be used when dating using stylistic clues, especially if the property is not just a domestic dwelling but also part of a working farm.

All in all, the property probably best fits a date range of c.1800-1840.

The estate map is also useful in providing dating for the rest of the farm buildings, as many of them (or at least their pre-cursors) are shown. The long barn on the road (block A) seems to be slightly

longer on the estate map than the O.S. first edition of 1885 (Figure 68); it is possible that one bay on the west had been removed.

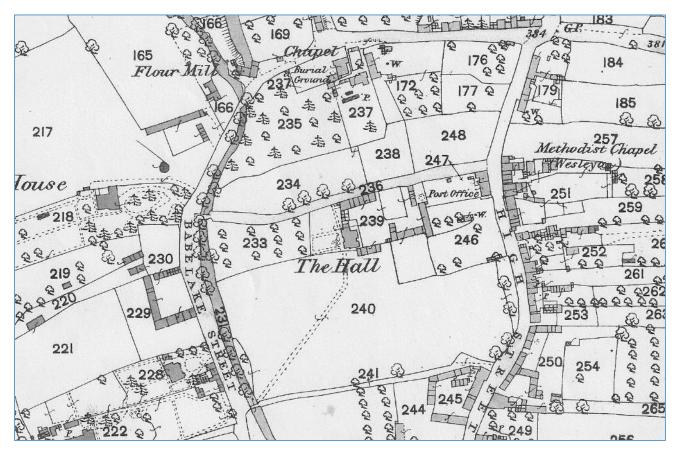


Figure 68 O.S. First edition 1885

Block B does not appear on the 1735 map, but appears by 1885. A shorter building is shown on the 1735 map to the east of block B; one of the two components of block B uses older brick than the other, and it may have been simply moved and re-built. Also of note is that two of the farm buildings (southern half of block B, and block F) utilise stonework either as a footing or part of the main structure, but these are buildings which did not appear to exist at the time of the estate map, so the usual correlation of 'stone= earlier, brick = later' does not hold true in this case. However it is of note that the south-west corner of the main house has a stone footing, which is common to many early brick domestic buildings due to the porous nature of early bricks.

The stables (block E) appear on the estate map, as does the cow parlour (block C). Block G, the present garages, looks to have started life as pig sties on the first edition; most farms would have kept some pigs and usually they were housed somewhere near the kitchens.

All of the roofs of the farm buildings appear to be roughly the same date, probably later 19th century to judge from the bolted kingposts, and it seems likely that the entire complex underwent a period of modernisation where the roofs were replaced wholesale, and the opportunity was taken to heighten some units (e.g. the north end of block C), and either replace or add floors (block A).

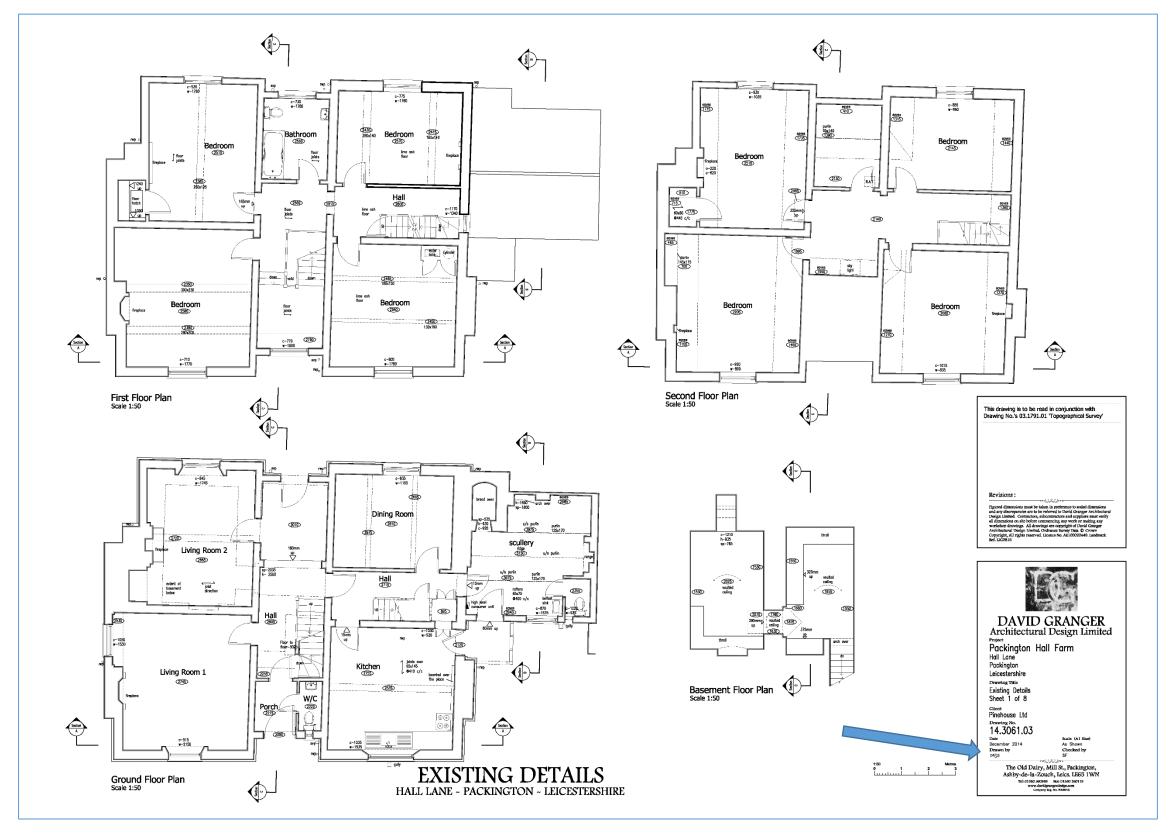


Figure 69 Main house: floorplans. Provided by client

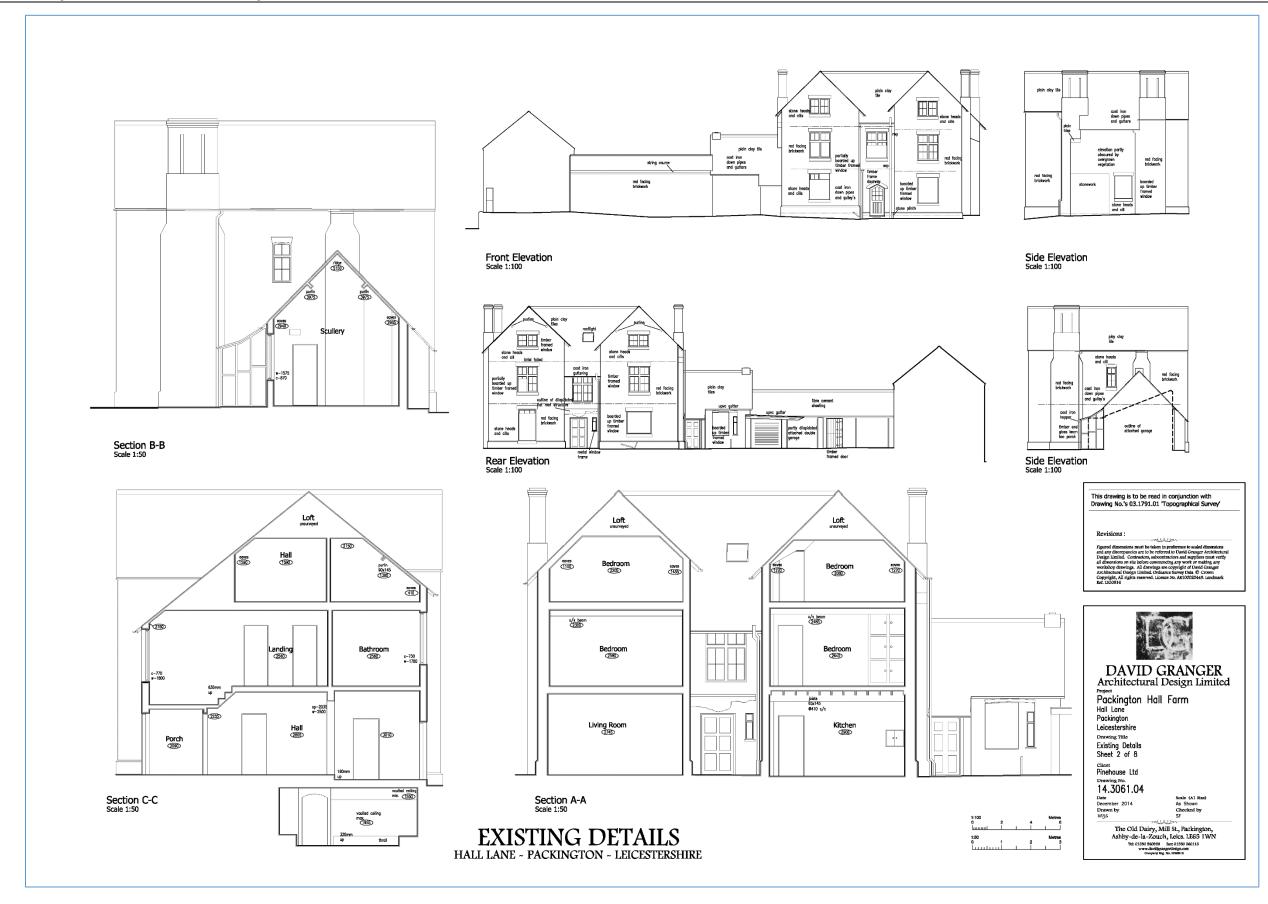


Figure 70 Main House: elevation/sections. Provided by client

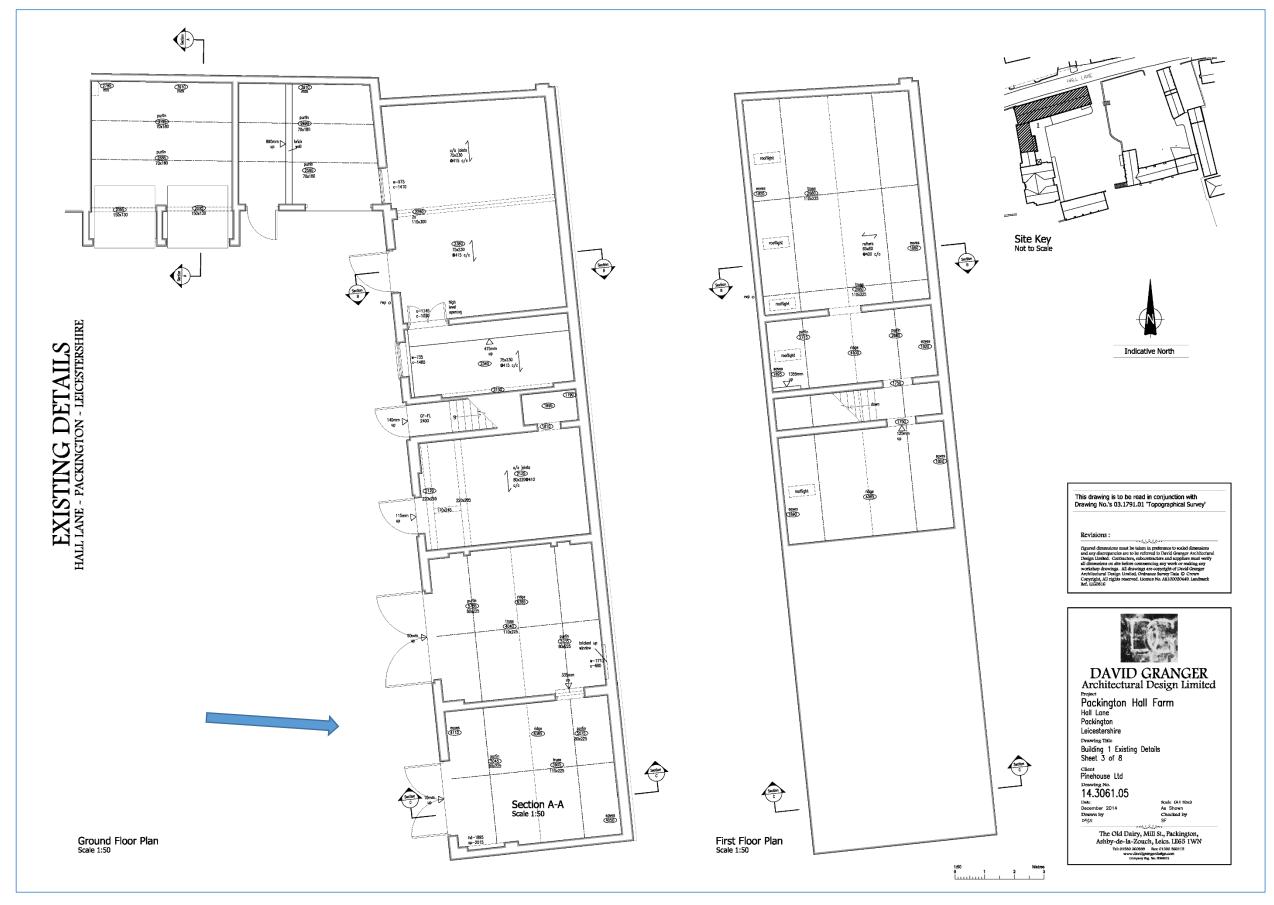


Figure 71 Blocks A and G: floorplans. Provided by client

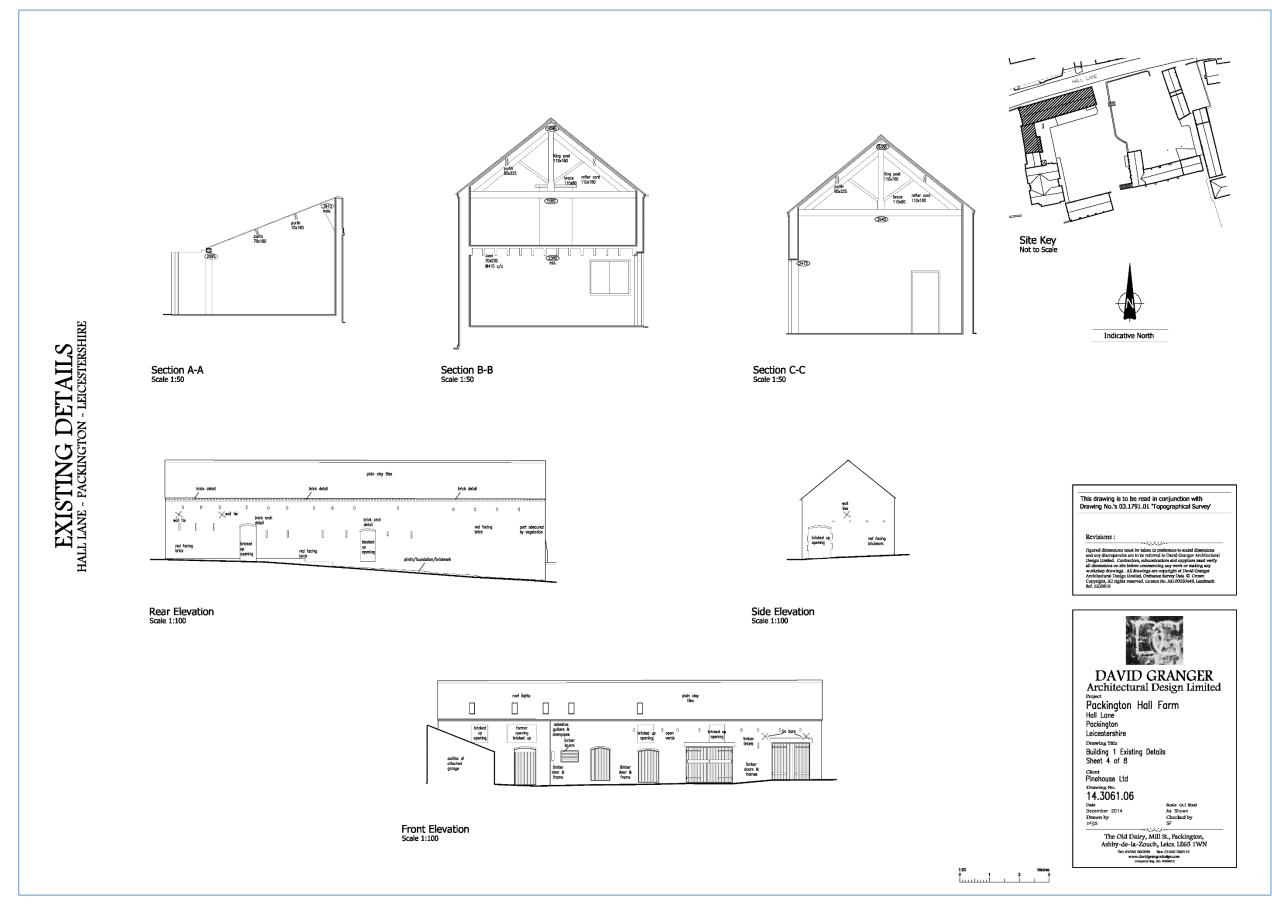


Figure 72 Blocks, A, G: elevations/sections. Provided by client

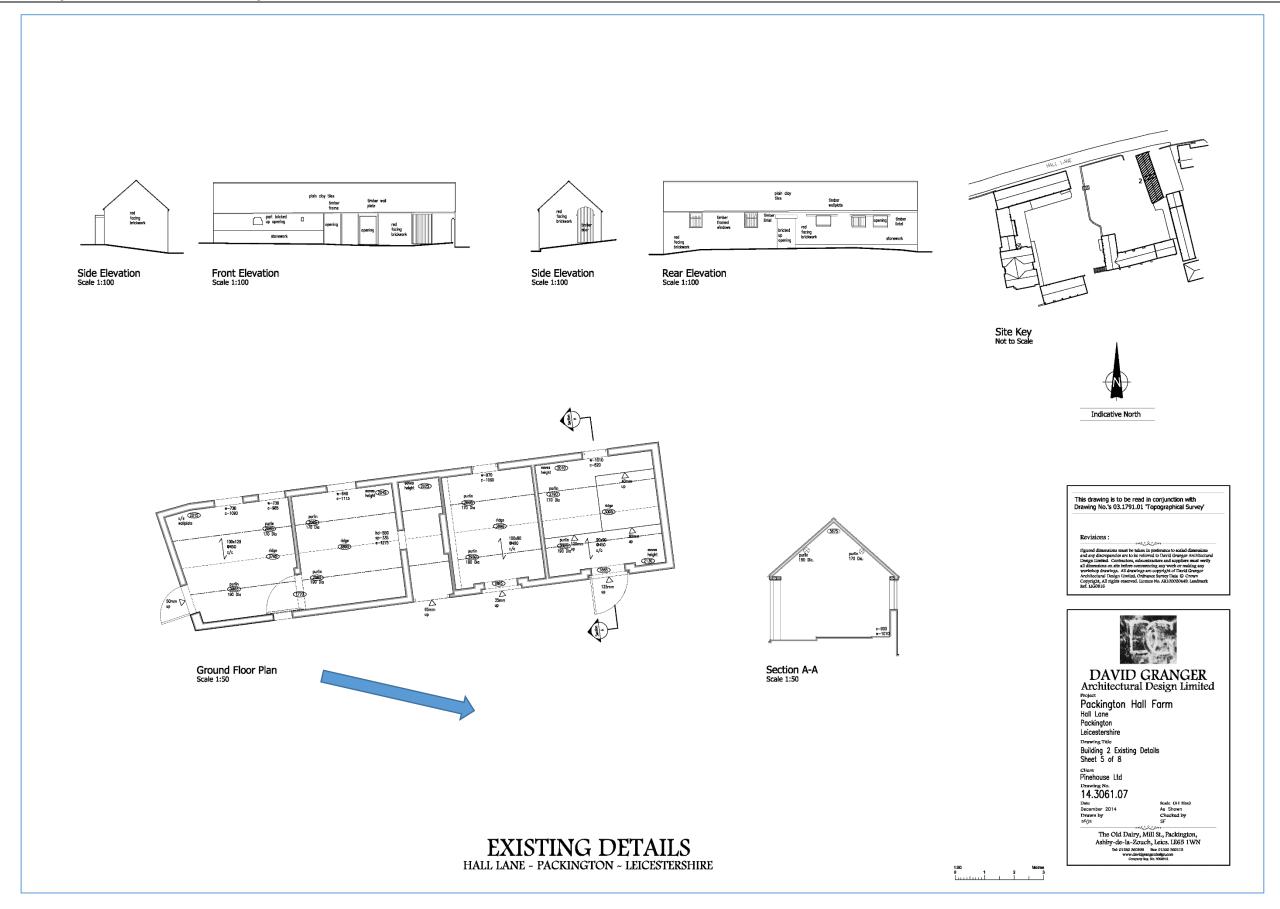


Figure 73 Block B: floorplans, elevations, sections. Provided by client

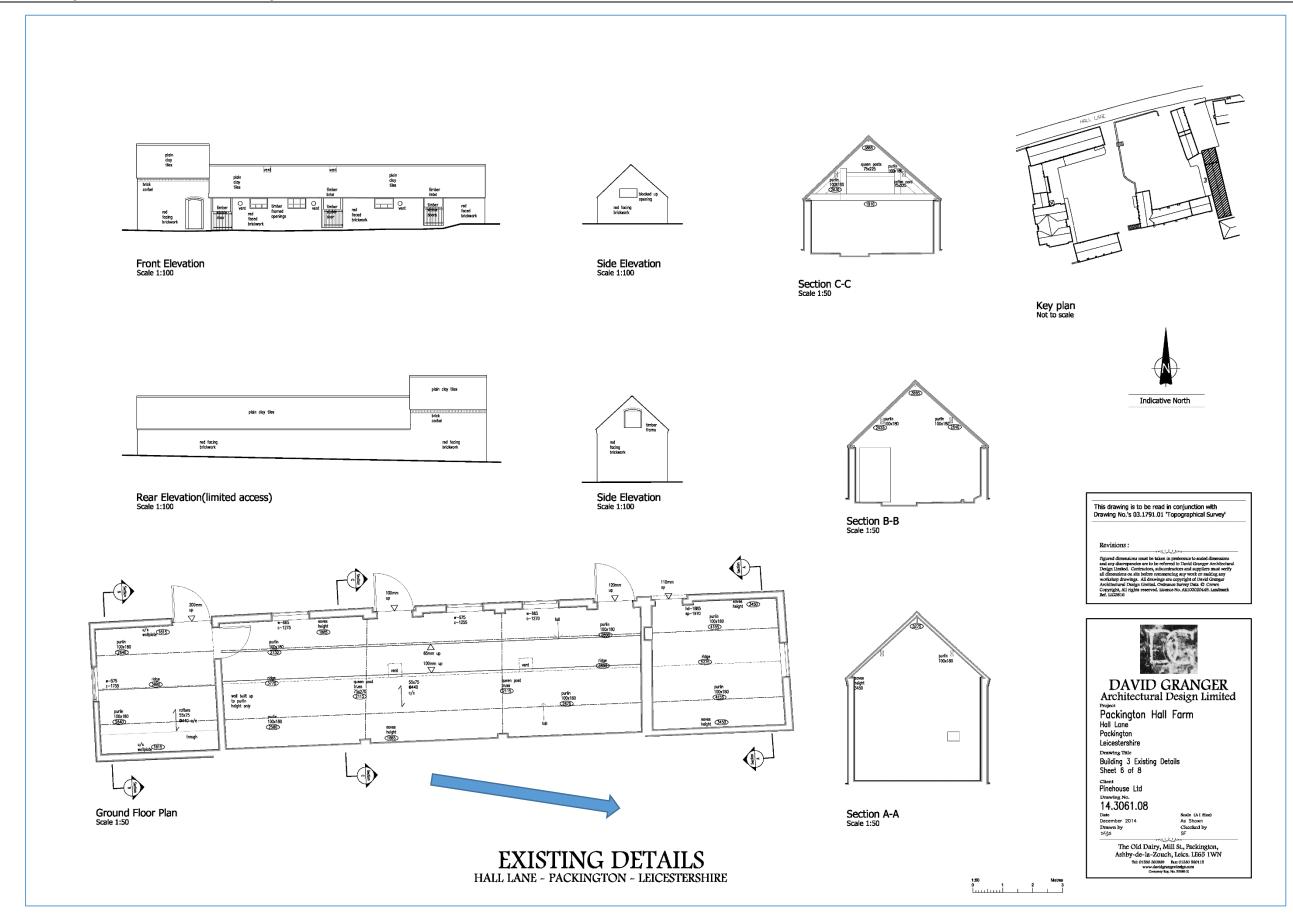


Figure 74 Block C: floorplan, elevations, sections. Provided by client

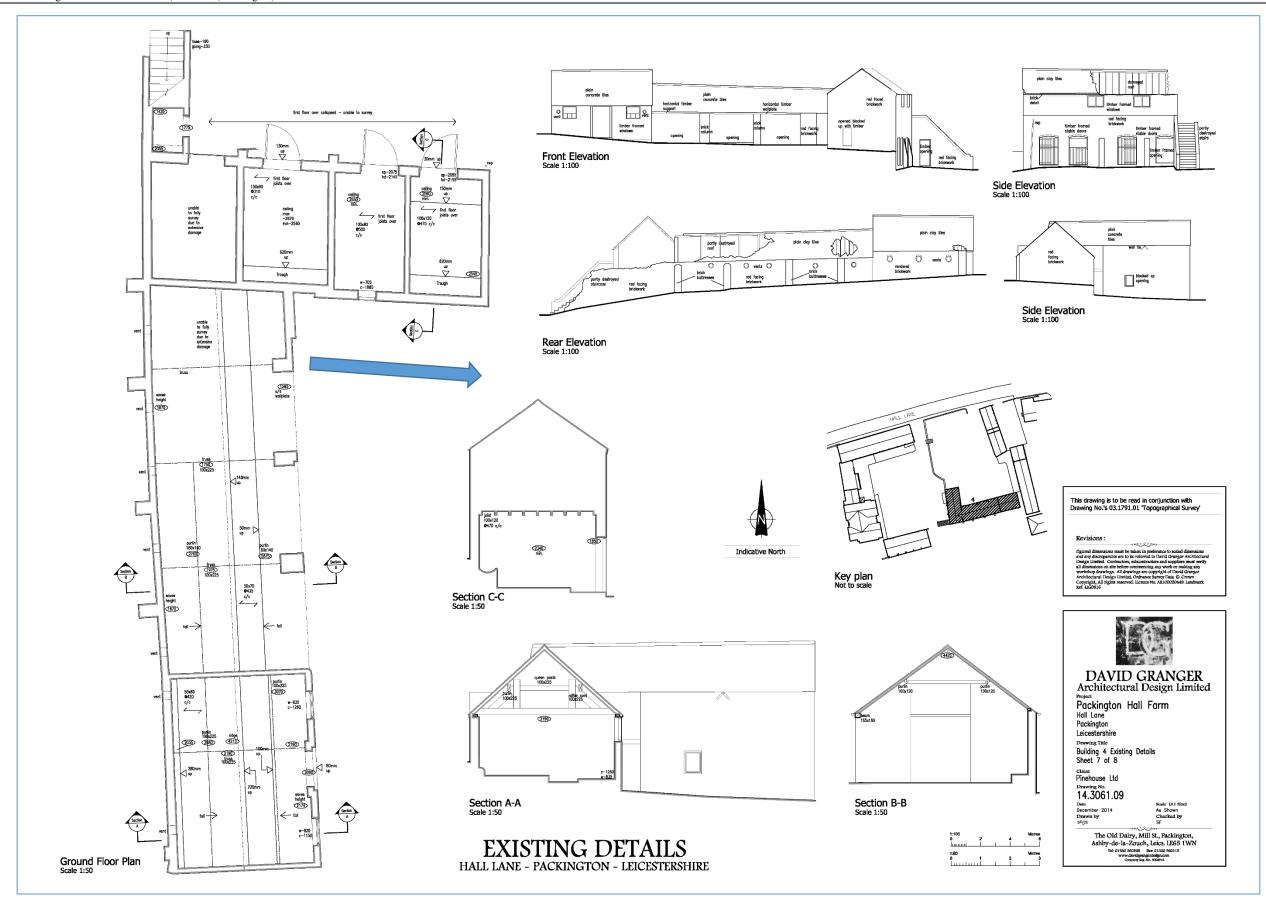


Figure 75 Blocks D, E: floorplans, elevations, sections. Provided by client

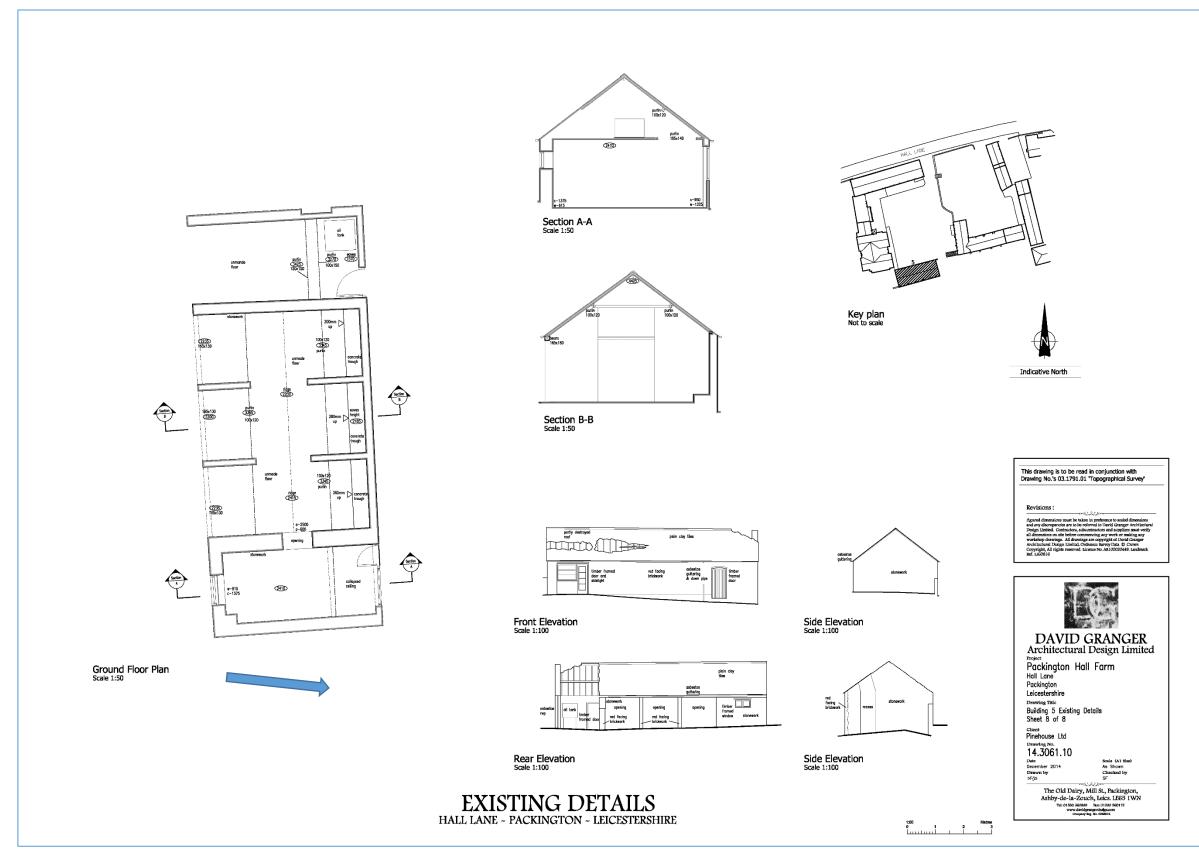


Figure 76 Block F: floorplan, elevations, sections. Provided by client

Acknowledgments

The survey and report was undertaken by the author. Richard Buckley of ULAS provided project management. ULAS would like to thank David Grainger and his staff for their help during the project.

Archive

The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire Museum Service under accession number X.A.23 2018 and consists of:

This report,

111 digital images in TIF format

1 DVD containing the digital images.

A written photographic index

A4 photograph record sheets,

A4 contact sheets of digital photographs,

Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society 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.

Bibliography

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Sources consulted

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Jon Coward

ULAS 2018

Appendix OASIS information

| | Oasis No | universi1- | | |
|---|--------------------------|---|----------------|---------------|
| PROJECT DETAILS | Project Name | A Level 2 Historic Building Assessment at Hall Farm, Hall Lane, | | |
| | | Packington, Leicestershire LE65 1WE | | |
| | Start/end dates of field | 1/2/2018 - 27/2/2018 | | |
| | work | | | |
| | Previous/Future Work | Yes / No | | |
| | Project Type | Historic building recording | | |
| | Site Status | Grade II listed | | |
| | Current Land Use | Building | | |
| | Monument Type/Period | Building/18th to 20th century | | |
| | Significant Finds/Period | None/none | | |
| | Development Type | Residential | | |
| | Reason for Investigation | NPPF | | |
| | Position in the Planning | Planning condition | | |
| | Process | | | |
| | Planning Ref. | 15/01130/FUL | | |
| | Site Address/Postcode | Hall Farm, Hall Lane, Packington, Leicestershire | | |
| PROJECT | Study Area | 200m ² | | |
| LOCATION | Site Coordinates | SK 36047 14710 | | |
| | Height OD | 110m OD | | |
| | Organisation | ULAS | | |
| | Project Brief Originator | Local Planning Authority (LCC) | | |
| | Project Design | ULAS | | |
| PROJECT | Originator | | | |
| CREATORS | Project Manager | R Buckley | | |
| | Project | J Coward | | |
| | Director/Supervisor | | | |
| | Sponsor/Funding Body | Lychgate Homes | | |
| | | Physical | Digital | Paper |
| PROJECT ARCHIVE | Recipient | NA | LCC MusService | LCCMusService |
| | ID (Acc. No.) | | X.A23.2018 | X.A23.2018 |
| | Contents | | Photos | Field Notes |
| | | | Survey data | |
| | Type | Grey Literature (unpublished) | | |
| | Title | A Level 2 Historic Building Assessment | | |
| | | at Hall Farm, Hall Lane, Packington, | | |
| | - | 2 Leicestershire SK 36047 14710 | | |
| PROJECT | Author | J Coward | | |
| RIRI IOCRAPHY Other bibliographic ULAS Report No 2018-067 | | | | |
| | details | 2010 | | |
| | Date | 2018 | | |
| | Publisher/Place | University of Leicester Archaeological Services / University of Leicester | | |
| | Description | Developer Report A4 pdf | | |
| Developer Report A4 pur | | | | |















