

**Oxney Grange, Eyebury Road,
Eye, Peterborough (TF 229 023):
Standing Building Survey.**

Sophie Clarke

Checked by Project Manager

Signed: **Date:**

Name:

For Manor Construction Ltd.

**University of Leicester Archaeological Services
Report 2006-003 ©2006**

Oxney Grange, Eyebury Road, Eye, Peterborough (TF 229 023):Standing Building Survey.

Contents

1	Introduction.....	1
2	Archaeological Aims and Objectives.....	1
3	Methodology	2
4	Results.....	2
5	Conclusion	4
6	Archive.....	4

Figures

Figure 1: Farmhouse Building, Ground Floor Plan. Print Scale 1:100

Figure 2: Farmhouse Building, Interpretive Ground Floor Plan, with section drawings located. Print Scale 1:100.

Figure 3: Sectional Elevation A – A1. Print Scale 1:50

Figure 4: Sectional Elevation B – B1. Print Scale 1:50

Figure 5: Sectional Elevation C – C1. Print Scale 1:50

Figure 6: Sectional Elevation D – D1. Print Scale 1:50

Figure 7: Detail of Vault Profiles X and Y. Print Scale 1:10

Plates

Plate 1. Chamfered stone plinth course in Room G3 within area of former 19th century staircase

Plate 2. Chamfered stone plinth course exposed beneath modern floor joists in Room G14.

Plate 3. Medieval window opening in the east wall of Room G13, subsequently converted into a doorway

Plate 4. External face of medieval window (later converted into door) with overlight, to right of 19th century fireplace in Room G14.

Plate 5. Vault over Room G6 with rendered 19th century brick between stone ribs

Plate 6. Vault over Room G13 with ?18th century brickwork

Plate 7. Room G11 vault and springing of removed canopy to ?entrance in south wall.

Plate 8. Springing of removed vault at south-west corner of corridor adjacent to Room G4 (X on Figures 2 & 7)

Plate 9. Springing of vault at north-west corner of Room G6 (Y on Figures 2 & 7)

Plate 10. Red-painted plaster on north wall of Room G13

Oxney Grange, Eyebury Road, Eye, Peterborough (TF 229 023): Standing Building Survey.

Sophie Clarke

1 Introduction

A design brief approved by Peterborough City Council outlined the necessity for a Standing Building Survey of buildings at Oxney Grange, Eyebury Road, Eye, Peterborough (TF 229 023), in advance of remedial restoration works and the eventual conversion of the buildings for residential purposes. A preliminary archaeological and architectural assessment of the Grange undertaken by Richard K. Morriss & Associates in 2004 has determined the significance of the various structures associated with the site; using this work as a reference, the design brief specified requirements for the preparation of a historic building record of the medieval elements of the main building, to level 3 standard as defined by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England guidelines *Recording Historic Buildings: A Descriptive Specification* 3rd edition (RCHME 1996). A record of the other buildings on site was also requested, to be carried out to level 2 standard.

The written and photographic elements having already been produced by Richard K. Morriss & Associates (2004 and forthcoming), University of Leicester Archaeological Services was contracted by Manor Construction Ltd to produce the drawn component of the record: this report presents the results of that work.

2 Archaeological Aims and Objectives

As outlined in the *Brief*, the main aim of the Historic Building Survey was to provide an appropriate record of the various structures prior to alteration/conversion for residential use, providing an analytical account of the building's origin, development and use, based on the information collated during this and previous stages of archaeological investigation to standards set down by the former RCHME (now English Heritage).

The specific objectives of the Historic Building Survey were summarised as follows:

- Identification and recording of historic architectural details
- Preparation of an RCHME level 3 Historic Building Record for the medieval elements and RCHME level 2 Historic Building Record for the later structures, collating information from all stages of the archaeological investigation.
- Compilation and deposition of the project archive.

3 Methodology

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) was commissioned to carry out the drawn element necessary to comply with the requirements for a level 3 Historic Building Record as outlined in the *Brief*; the work was carried out in November 2005.

Scaled printouts of the existing architects survey of the ancillary buildings form the basis of the drawn component of the level 2 survey: these were verified for accuracy on site and the information provided therein exceeded the minimum requirements of the RCHME guidelines.

For the level 3 survey of the medieval elements, a fresh hand measured and drawn survey was made on drafting film, comprising a plan drawing, at a scale of 1:50, of the ground floor of the main building and three sectional elevation drawings at 1:20 scale. Two additional drawings to demonstrate the profiles of the medieval vaulting were produced at a scale of 1:5. No medieval fabric survived above the level of the first floor, which corresponded with the sill level of the first floor windows on the external elevations.

Field notes were taken to accompany the survey drawings and a photographic record of the investigation, using colour slide transparencies, was undertaken to illustrate the detail of the principal features.

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

4 Results

4.1 Main Farmhouse Building – Level 3 Survey

The principal results of this phase of the project are a set of annotated plan and section drawings, which will form part of the overall site archive. For the purposes of this report, these have been reproduced and appear below as Figures 1 – 7. A full analysis of the layout and phasing of the building has already been given within Richard K. Morriss' *Oxney Grange, Peterborough: An Architectural and Archaeological Analysis* of 2004 and these drawings should be used to supplement the information therein. During the course of the survey however, a number of additional details were uncovered which may be added to the final written element of the report.

For the sake of consistency, this report follows the same room numbering system used by Morriss in the preliminary analysis.

4.1.1 At the time that the survey drawings were made, certain emergency remedial works within the farmhouse building were already underway, exposing the under-floor cavities within Rooms G2-G4 and G14 and enabling some limited below-ground investigation. Within the floor cavity of Room G3, beneath the remnants of

the removed 19th century staircase, the remains of a chamfered stone plinth course were revealed, representing the position of an early, external wall, aligned east/west (Figures 1 & 2; Plate 1). It seems highly likely therefore that this must mark the position of the southern gable end of the North Range, confirming, therefore, the three-bay layout of the principal medieval range, as previously suggested by Morriss (2004, 34).

A late medieval jug handle fragment was retrieved from the rubble surrounding the plinth course and has been identified as Bourne A ware, dating from *c.* 1450 AD.

4.2.2 An investigation within the under-floor cavity of Room G14, adjacent to the northern wall, revealed further elements of a plain, chamfered plinth course, again representing the remains of external walls (Figures 1 & 2). In the northwestern corner of the room the plinth course is aligned east/west, representing the outer face of the south wall of G11. A right-angled turn to the south at the western end, following the outer wall face of G13, confirms the original, L-shaped layout of the medieval West Range, previously inferred by Morriss (2004, 34).

The eastern extent of the east/west plinth course is interrupted by a stretch of coursed, bonded stone rubble, but is seen again some 2.4m to the east (Plate 2). At this point, however, the plinth course turns at right-angles towards the north and appears to continue beneath the 19th century brick infill, which separates G14 from G11. The floor plan (Figures 1 and 2) shows that the turn in the plinth course is on the same alignment as the first of the stepped corbels on the eastern side of Room G11, and appears to indicate the position of an original opening through the medieval wall, with the coursed rubble representing an early phase of blocking. There is evidence to suggest therefore, that the corbels within G11 may be associated with a hooded stone canopy to a wide, principal entrance: this could only be confirmed, however, through further intrusive investigation within Rooms G11 and G14 (Plate 7).

4.2.3 The arrangement of the quoins which frame the reveals of the primary opening within the east wall of Room G13, suggest that this was originally a window (Figure 5; Plate 3). The wall below was later broken out to ground level to form a doorway, although the date of this episode of modification is unknown. The external face of this was exposed in Room G14, partially obscured by the 19th century fireplace (Plate 4). The wide early 19th century doorway between G12 and G13 occupies the position of an earlier medieval doorway. On the north-eastern side of the door, just above the north-eastern capital within Room G13, is the remains of a chamfered stone, representing the lower part of the east side of an arched door head, similar in style, perhaps, to that located between Room G11 and the inner hallway G5 (Figure 5). The top part of the stone has been roughly levelled off, presumably when the doorway was widened – an activity which appears to have removed all other evidence of the earlier doorway.

4.2.4 The vault over room G6 was evidently rebuilt in the 19th century. Between the stone ribs the vaulting consists of 3 inch brickwork. This was visible within G6 where areas of render were missing and from above where the infill material had been removed to expose the top of the vault (Plate 5). This was comparable with 19th century brickwork seen elsewhere within the complex and is presumably

attributable to the 1839 remodelling of the house. Earlier brickwork was used in the vault over G13: this is possibly 18th century in date although in the absence of more detailed investigation a medieval date cannot be entirely discounted (Plate 6). The vaults within G11 and G12 were not exposed (Plate 7). Areas of 18th century brickwork elsewhere in the house point to earlier alterations all but obliterated by the 1839 remodelling.

4.2.5 An area of early, red-painted or stained plaster on the north wall of room G13 could well be medieval in date (Plate 10). A single pottery sherd in the late medieval Bourne A ware (c.1450+) fabric was found at the surface of the soil deposit which formed ground level within this room.

4.3 *The Ancillary Buildings – Level 2 Survey*

A full set of architects' drawings for the other buildings associated with Oxney Grange have been provided by the client – these were verified for accuracy on site and are considered to be more than sufficient to fulfil the requirements for a level 2 survey, according to RCHME guidelines (1996). No architectural detail has been added. At the time of the survey, emergency remedial works to the buildings had already commenced. A full set of the architects drawings will be included as part of the site archive.

5 Conclusion

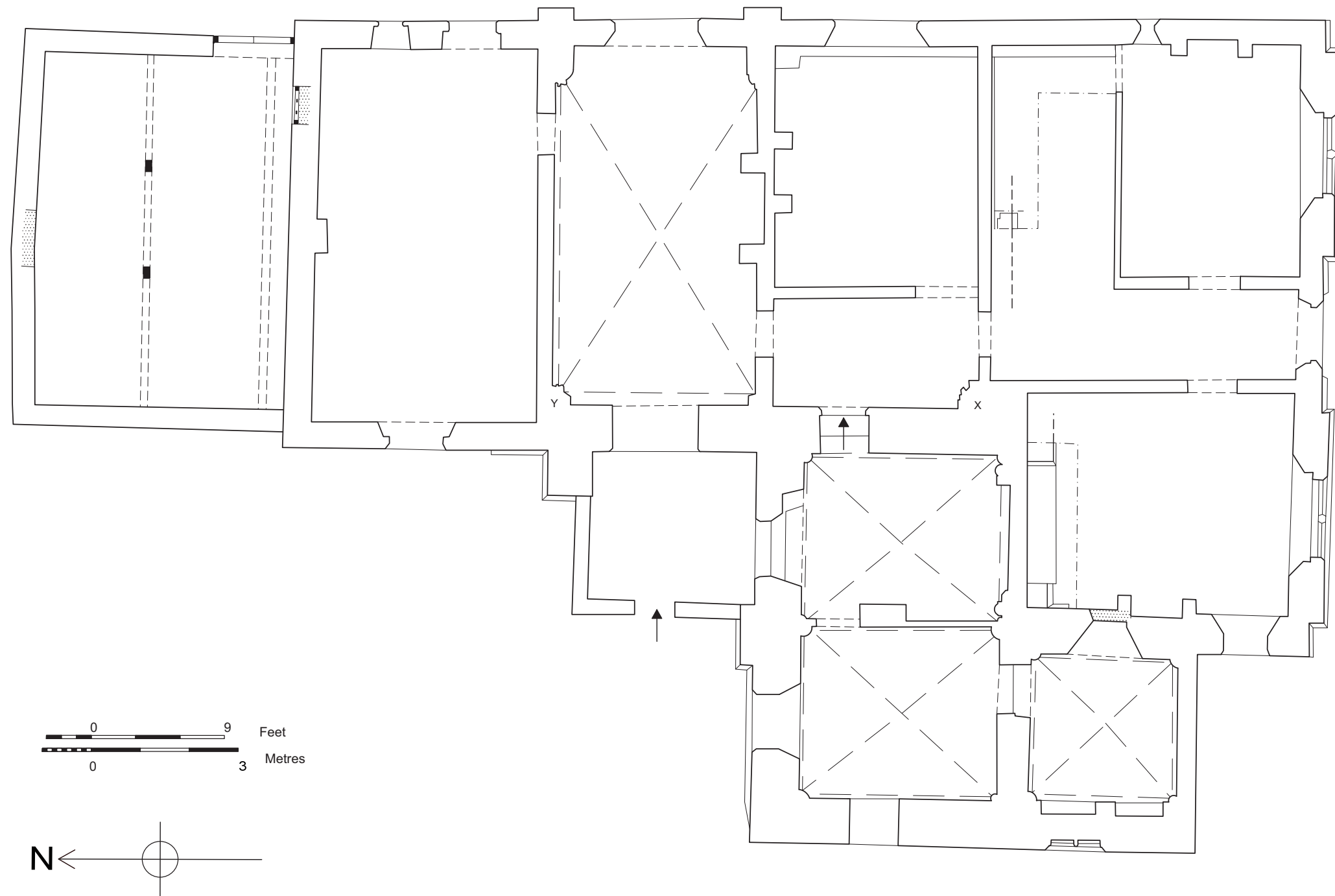
Detailed survey of the main building has confirmed the basic layout of the medieval building, as identified by the preliminary analysis undertaken in 2004 by Richard K. Morriss. Limited opportunity for some below-ground investigation revealed evidence for a possible principal entrance on the southern side of the building – the size and embellishment of which may indicate that the ground floor level was perhaps an area of some status, rather than being simply used for storage or service. If this was the principal entrance to the grange complex, then G13 may be tentatively identified as a gatekeeper's lodge, with the window in its east wall overlooking the main entrance.

6 Archive

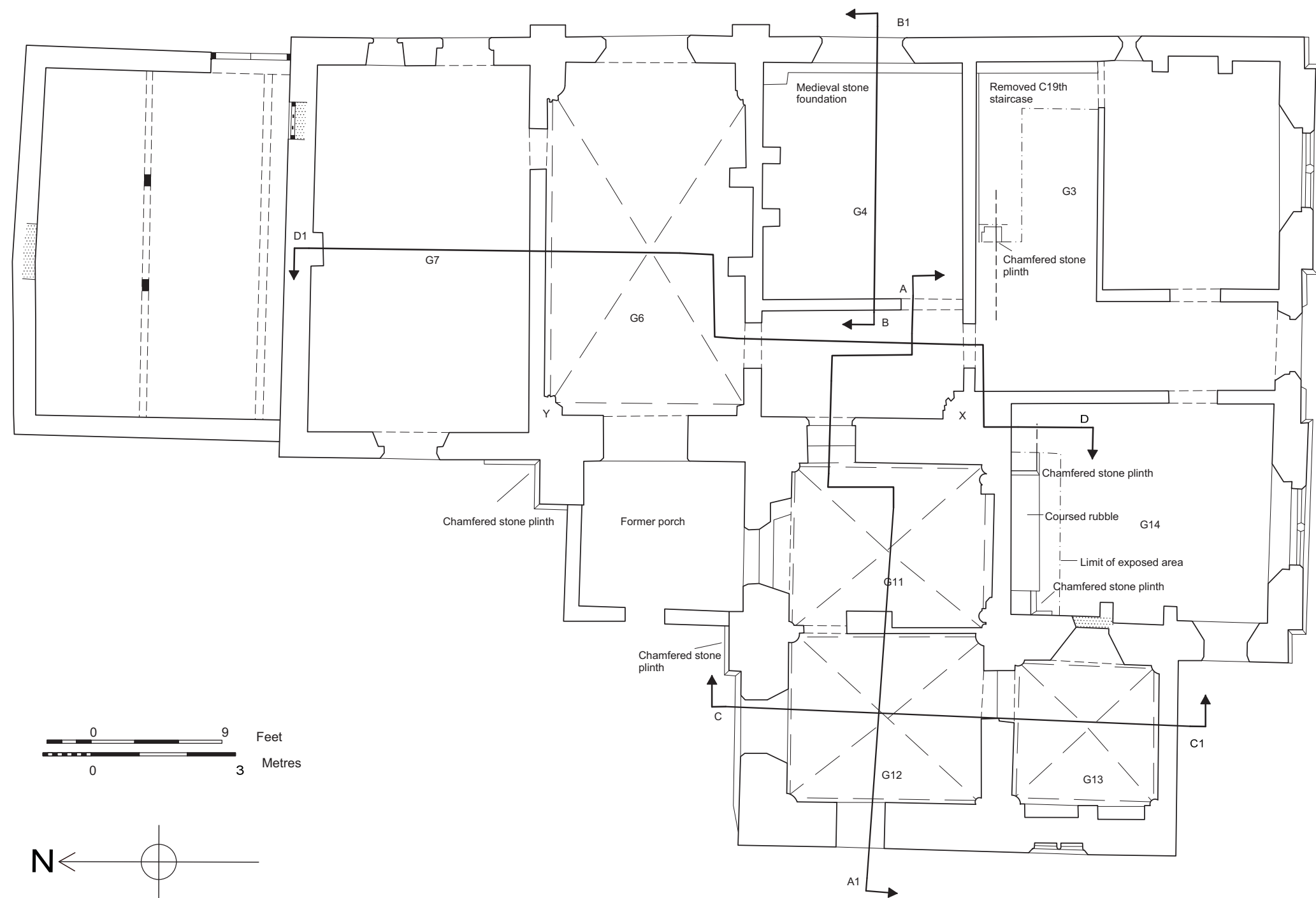
The archive consists of annotated plan and section drawings on 6 sheets of A3 permagraph sheets. These will be deposited with Peterborough City Council SMR.

7 Acknowledgements

The survey was undertaken by Sophie Clarke and Andy Hyam, with the assistance of Neil Finn. The project was managed by Neil Finn and Patrick Clay. Thanks are due to Mark McGilley and the staff on site for their co-operation and also to Richard K. Morriss for his assistance and provision of background information.



Oxney Grange Historic Building Survey.
Figure 1: Farmhouse Building, Ground Floor Plan. Print Scale 1:100



Oxney Grange Historic Building Survey.

Figure 2: Farmhouse Building, Interpretive Ground Floor Plan, with section drawings located. Print Scale 1:100

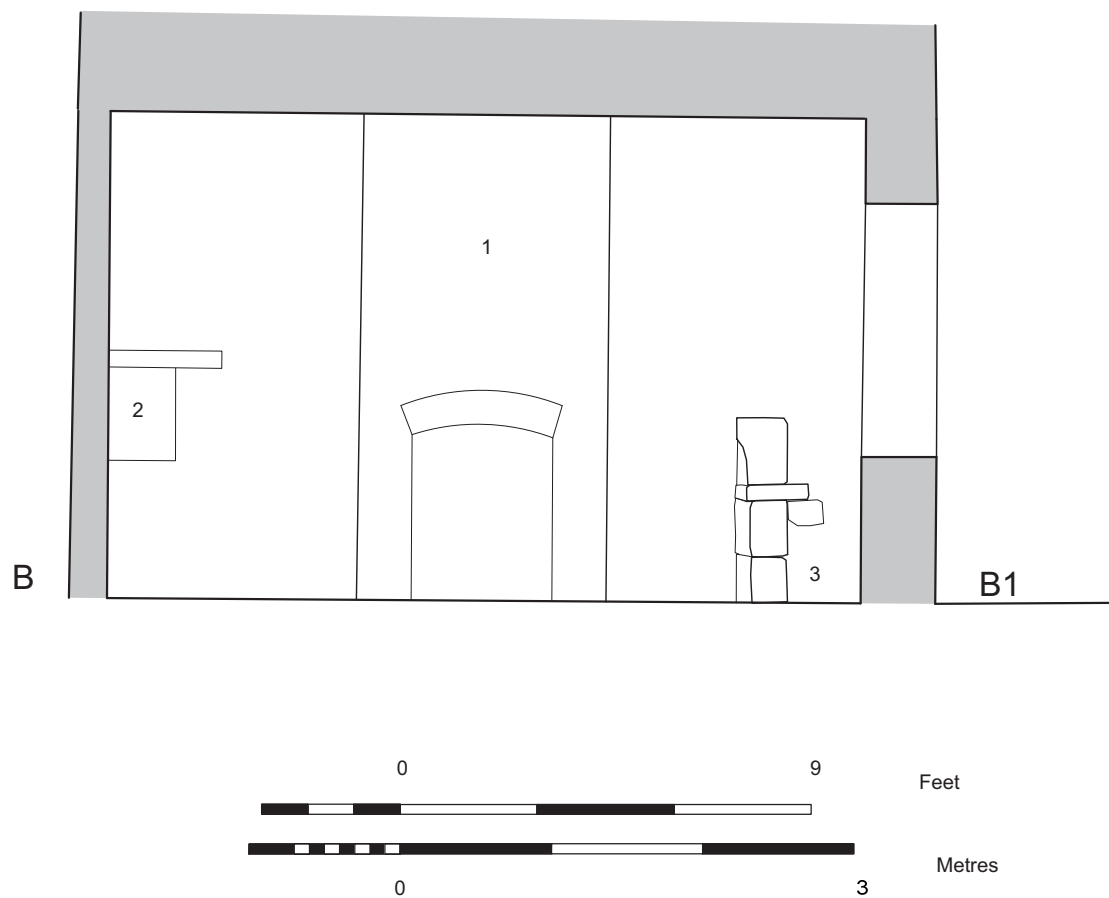
1. Modern breeze block wall
2. 19th century brick pier
3. Cluster of columns providing springing for removed medieval vaulting to room G4.
4. Medieval doorway
5. Medieval vaulting with stepped corbels
6. 19th century doorway, occupying position of medieval opening



Oxney Grange Historic Building Survey

Figure 3: Sectional Elevation A-A1.
North facing. Print Scale 1:50

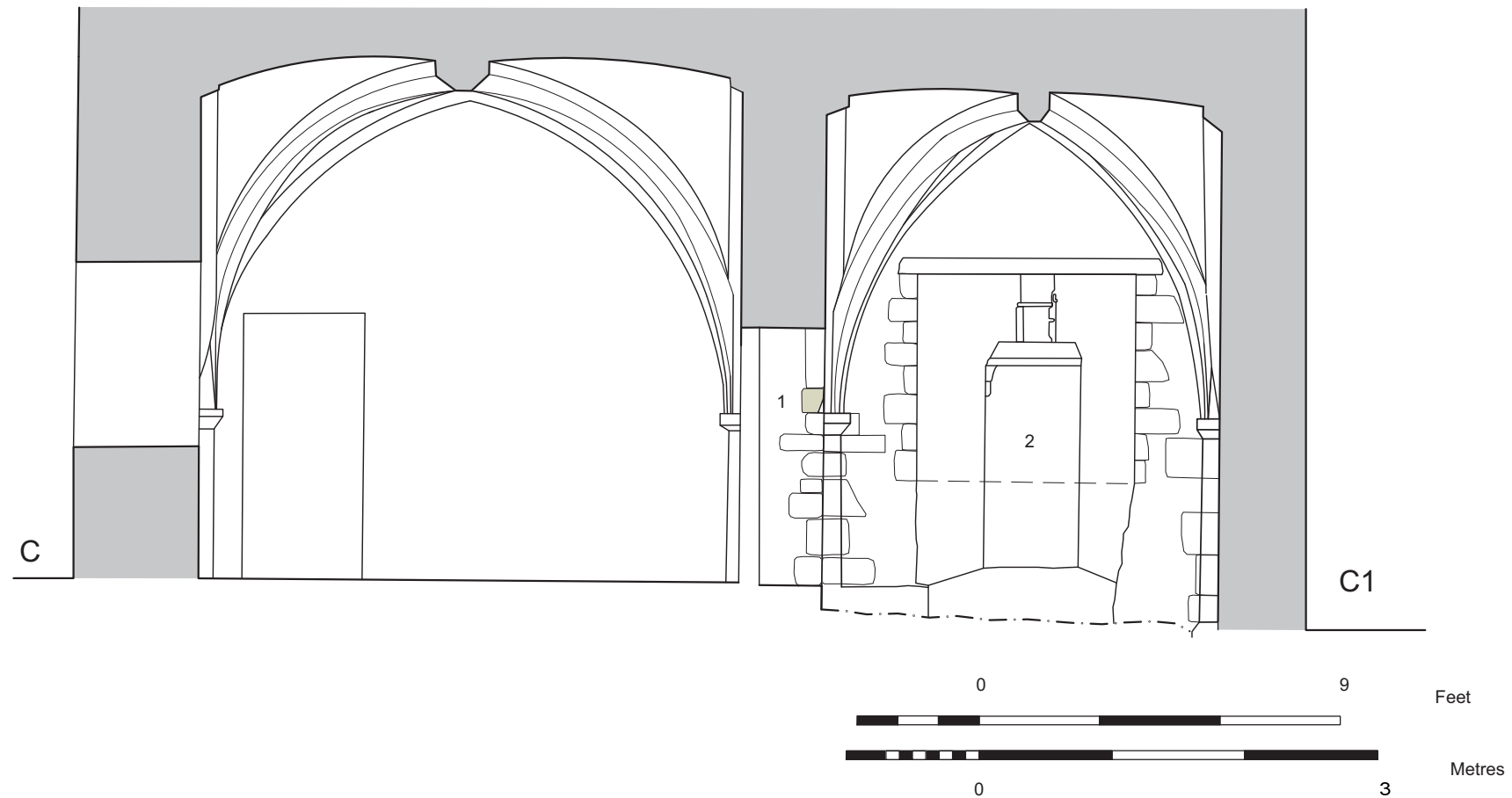
1. 19th century brickwork
2. Blocked window
3. Remains of column support providing evidence for removed medieval stone vaulting within Room G4.



Oxney Grange Historic Building Survey

Figure 4: Sectional Elevation B-B1
South facing. Print Scale 1:50

1. 19th century doorway occupying position of medieval opening. The face of the stone shown as shaded has been roughly levelled off: a remnant of chamfer survives indicating the former presence of an arched door-head, at right angles to the wall face shown.
2. Medieval doorway, with overlight above. The stone quoins suggest that this opening was originally a window, with the lower portion of the wall roughly broken through at a later date to form a doorway. Both doorway and overlight now blocked with 19th century brick.



Oxney Grange Historic Building Survey

Figure 5: Sectional Elevation C-C1.
West facing. Print Scale 1:50

1. Blocked medieval doorway, originally a window, with overlight above.

2. 19th century brick fireplace. Dashed line indicates outer edge of stone quoins to medieval doorway, visible behind wall of fireplace.

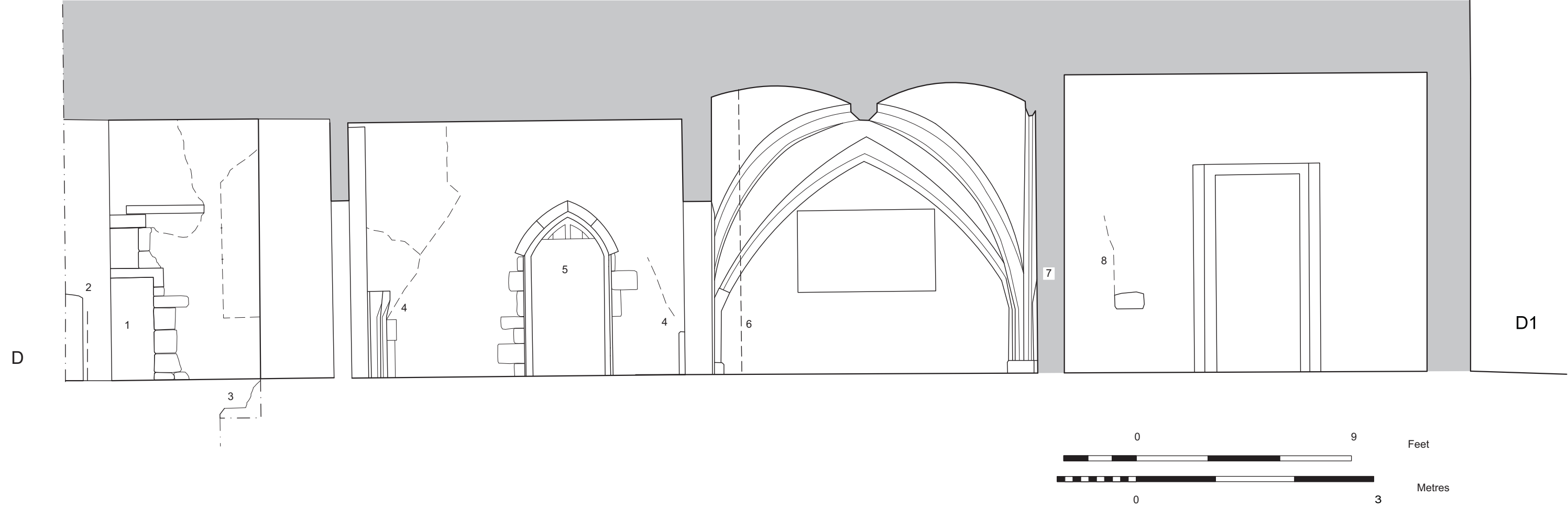
3. Chamfered stone plinth visible within cavity beneath modern floor joists, denoting external wall face to medieval building. Dashed line above is scar of outer face of removed wall.

4. Cluster of columns providing springing for removed medieval vaulting to Room G4. Cracks in wall above mark the position of removed wall vaults.
5. Medieval doorway, with remnant of timber door surviving within opening. Pintles on the other side show that the door would have opened into Room G11, behind.

6. Projected line of chimney breast.

7. Springing of medieval vault indicating continuation of vaulting into Room G7. (see profile Y, Figure 6)

8. Crack in wall related to external buttress?



Oxney Grange Historic Building Survey

Figure 6: Sectional Elevation D - D1.
East facing. Print Scale 1:50

Profile Y showing springing of vault in Room G6, continuing behind 19th century wall to form (removed) vault in Room G7.

Profile X showing springing of vault in Room G5

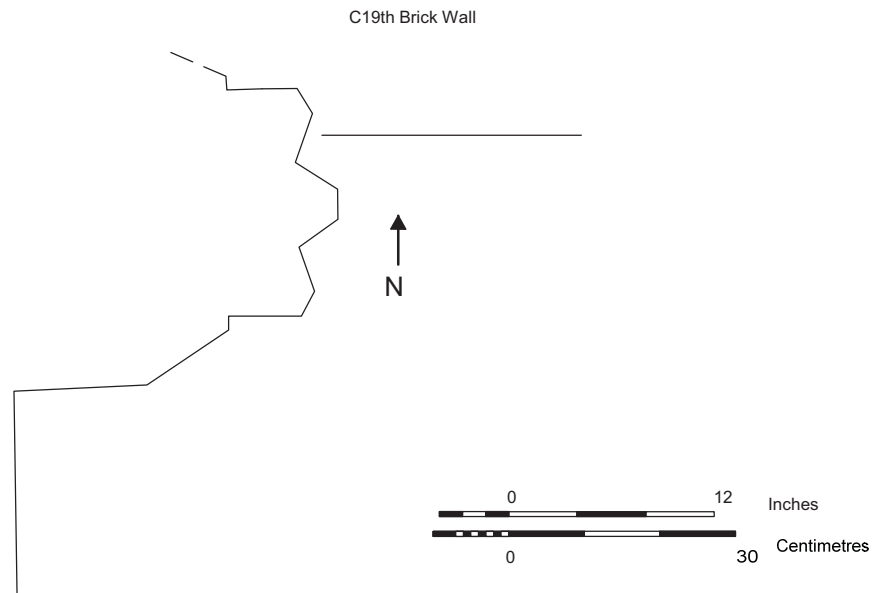


Figure 7. Detail of vault profiles X and Y, located on Ground Floor Plan, Figure 1. Print Scale 1:10



Plate 1. Chamfered stone plinth course in Room G3, exposed within area of former 19th century staircase. Scale: 0.2m.



Plate 2. Chamfered stone plinth course exposed beneath modern floor joists in Room G14. To the left of the 0.2m photo scale is rubble stone blocking of what may have been an original entrance.

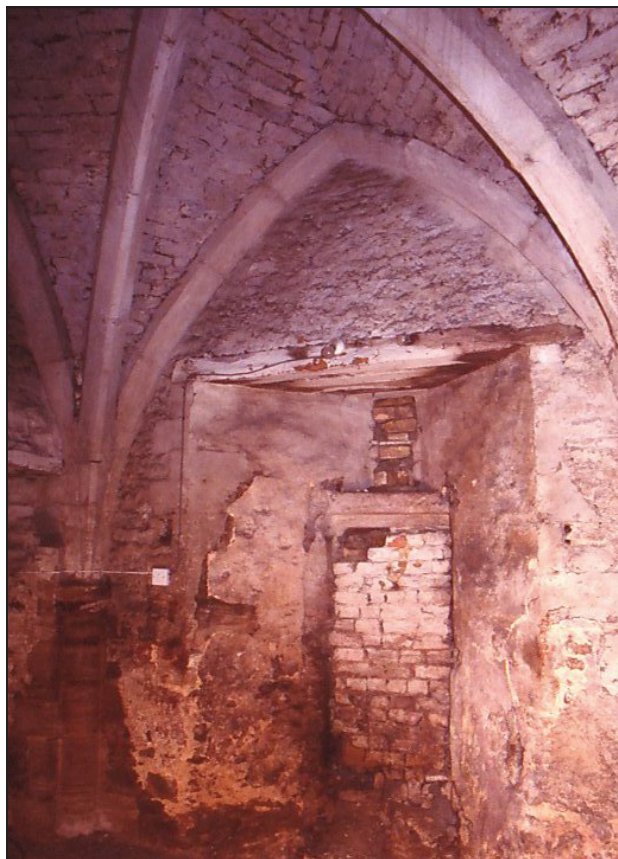


Plate 3. Medieval window opening in the east wall of Room G13, subsequently converted into a doorway.

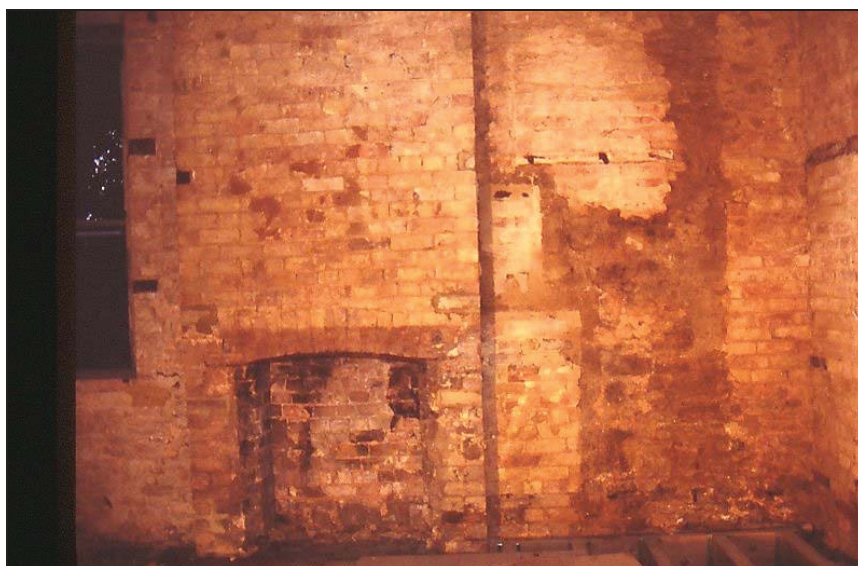


Plate 4. External face of medieval window (later converted into door) with overlight, to right of 19th century fireplace in Room G14.



Plate 5. Vault over Room G6 with rendered 19th century brick between the stone ribs.



Plate 6. Vault over Room G13 with ?18th century brickwork.



Plate 7. Room G11 vault and springing of removed canopy to entrance in south wall.



Plate 8. Springing of removed vault at south-west corner of corridor adjacent to Room G4 (X on Figures 2 & 7).



Plate 9. Springing of vault at north-west corner of Room G6 (Y on Figures 2 & 7).



Plate 10. Red-painted plaster on north wall of Room G13.