

CHLC12



THE CIDER HOUSE, PUTLEY, HEREFORDSHIRE

*Historic Building Recording and
Archaeological Ground Monitoring*

*commissioned by Christopher F Knock acting
as agent to the client, Anthony Bradley*

N121032/F

May 2013

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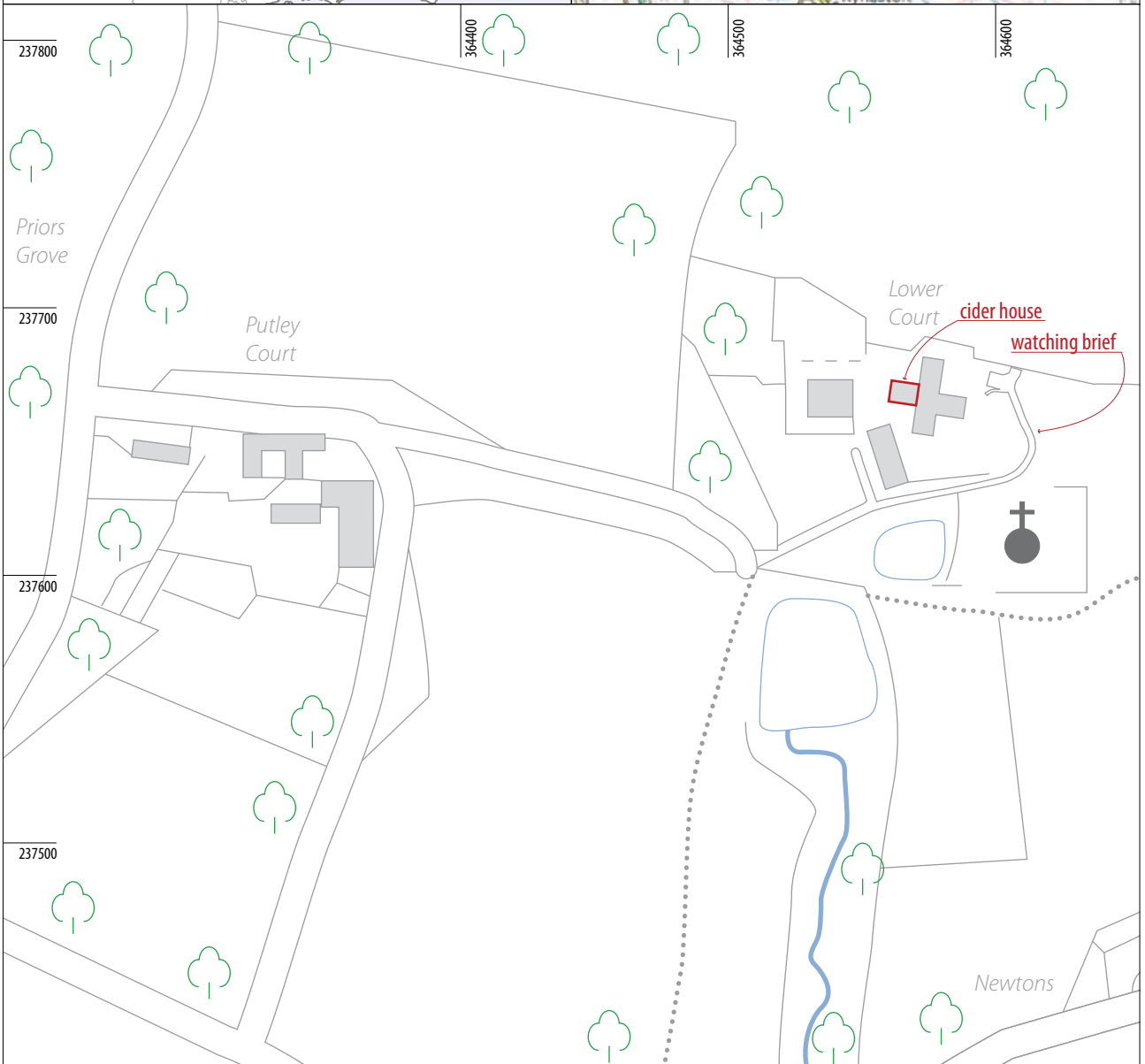
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author would like to thank the staff of the Hereford Records Office, and the owner of the property surveyed for this report, for their assistance in enabling the work to take place and the Architect for providing information relating to the project.



Cider House
Lower Ct
Ledbury
Herefordshire



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scale 1:2,500 @ A4



0 125m

Illus 1

Site location

THE CIDER HOUSE, PUTLEY, HEREFORDSHIRE

Historic Building Recording and Archaeological Ground Monitoring

As part of proposals for the conversion and associated ground works of the Cider House, into separate residential accommodation within the grounds of Lower Court, Herefordshire Council issued a requirement for the archaeological recording of the building prior to the intended works (due to the listed status of the building) and the monitoring of any associated ground works (planning application N121032/F).

The Cider House is a grade two listed structure (English Heritage ID: 152813-(04-12-1985)), comprising a two story, red brick building with plain clay tile roof, a tallet stair on the south elevation currently provides external access to the first floor. Within the ground floor, the building retains original features such as a stone mill and cider press.

The Cider house is attached to the northeast corner of Lower Court and a stone barn butts the north elevation, which is currently accessible from within the Cider house, through an internal stone staircase.

The roof trusses have curved principles with collard v-struts; the height of the upper story has been increased, resulting in the alteration of the roof angle and the addition of a series of ladder racks from the original purlins to support to the new purlins.

A watching brief was also conducted on the ground works for the construction of a new driveway and associated parking area. No archaeological features were observed within the area of ground works monitored.

1

1. INTRODUCTION

An historic building recording and watching brief was undertaken in response to a condition on planning permission (Planning application N121032/F) granted by Herefordshire Council for the conversion of the Cider House, into separate residential accommodation and associated ground at Lower Court Putley. The condition stated that the applicant must secure the implementation of a program of archaeological monitoring and building recording, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved in writing by the local planning authority, and this was duly submitted by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd (Boucher 2012).

During two site visits on the 23rd of October 2012 and the 17th of April 2013, Headland Archaeology (UK) Limited carried out the archaeological program of works, comprising a building recording exercise on the Cider house and the monitoring of the excavation for an additional driveway and parking within the grounds of Lower Court (NGR SO 64570 37665).

The work was commissioned by Christopher F Knock (Architect) acting as Agent to the Client, Anthony Bradley.

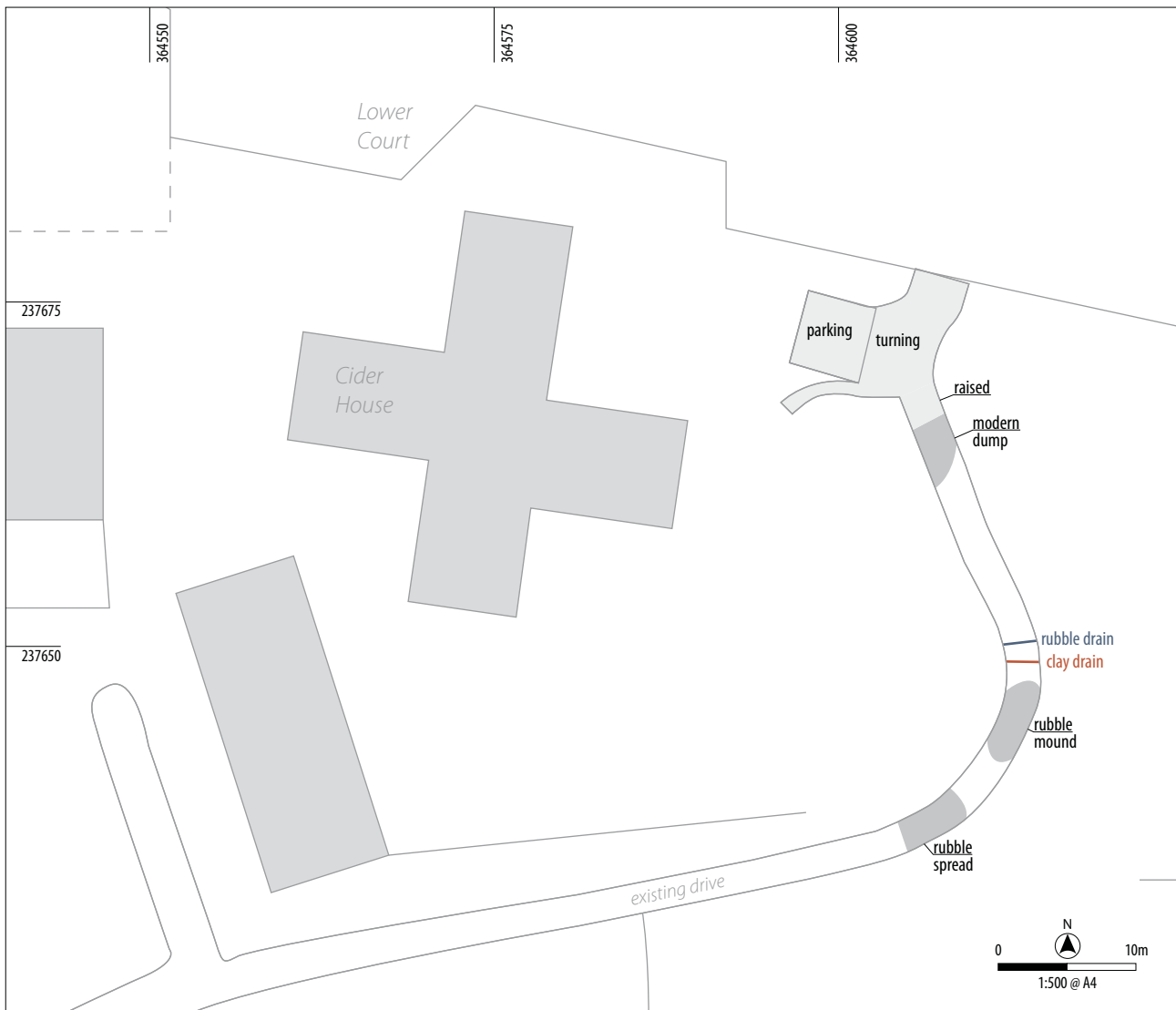
1.1 Site location

The project site is located within the grounds of Lower Court, Putley, just to the north of the medieval Parish Church of Putley (*Illus 1*), the latter much restored but dating back to the 12th century.

Approximately 6 miles from Ledbury and 10 miles from Hereford, the parish of Putley covers some 1100 acres. The higher parts lie on the eastern edge of the Woolhope dome of Silurian Limestone, while the lower parts rest upon old red sandstone with overlaying deposits of heavy glacial clays. (BGS)

2. OBJECTIVES

The objective of the building survey was to produce annotated plans and a photographic record of the structure and gather primary and secondary historical information that would place the building in its architectural, social, and economic context.



2

Illus 2

Site plan showing investigations in preparation for new drive

3. METHOD

3.1 Ground monitoring

The objectives of the ground monitoring were to ascertain whether any archaeological remains were present within the area of the development, and to characterise their date, extent, preservation, and significance.

3.2 Documentary research

The Hereford Record Office and Hereford Library were visited, and historic maps were consulted and searched for references relating to the Cider house. Copies of books on local history were also consulted, although given the vagaries of the buildings in question and the very general nature of most of the texts there was little of direct relevance that could be obtained from the sources consulted.

3.3 Building recording

The existing building was recorded in plan, on all floors and in section by the architect (CF Knock); the drawings were then annotated during the building survey.

A comprehensive photographic record of the building was made, on colour transparency and black and white print, on 35 mm SLR cameras.

Digital images were also taken to provide images for illustrative purposes.

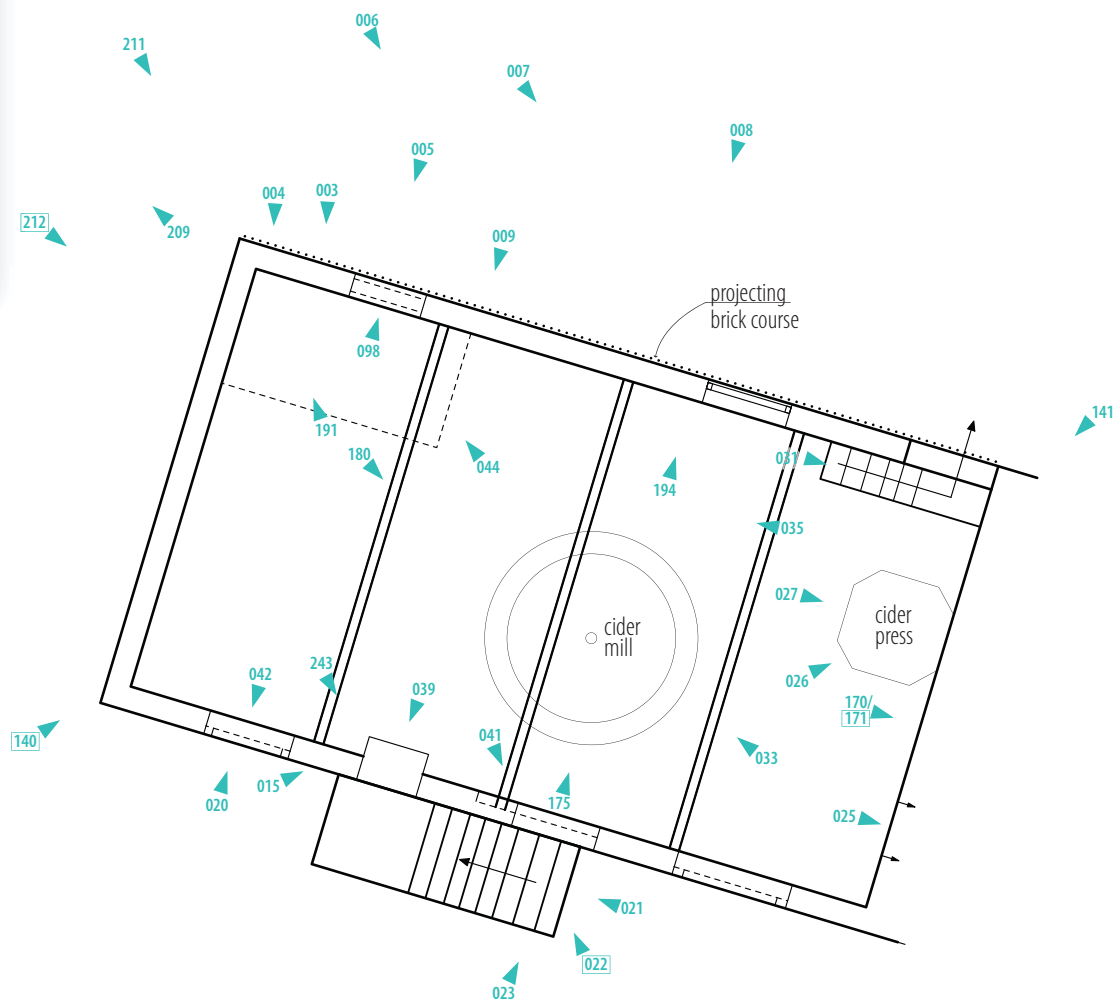
4. DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH

4.1 Archaeological and historical background

No evidence has been identified to indicate or categorise any occupation of the local area until the Roman period.



212
External view showing change in coursing for the alteration of the roof height



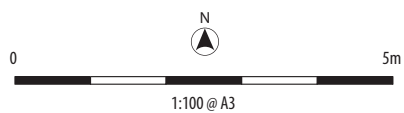
171
Internal view showing timber framing of abutting building, seen within modern hole cut for plumbing



140
External view showing the gable end and change in coursing



022
Arched brick lintel reflecting original lintels over inserted window, cut by later inserted staircase





024



Doorway accessing upper level, due to the building constraints the lintel cuts the top of the wall below the roof level

074

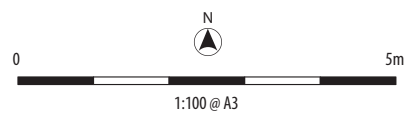


Internal detail showing change in roof height and rake angle

112



Internal view showing change in brick coursing required on the gable end because of the alteration to the roof angle and height



Headland Archaeology

During the restoration of the Parish church in 1875–6, and in 1877, pieces of Roman pottery and tile were identified. Although not a direct indication of occupation they could suggest that some settlement had taken place, especially when considering that the Roman road from Dilwyn to Stretton Grandison, now the A417, lies a mile to the east of Putley (Currie, JI).

An excavation conducted by the Woolhope Club in 1954 identified a series of Roman field drains within close proximity to the Parish Church.

There is even less information on any indication of Saxon origins for Putley (Poteslepa), the Domesday book being the earliest written record, the translation reads

'Roger [de Laci] also holds Putley and William (d'Evreux) from him. Tosti held it. 1 hide which pays tax. In Lordship 2 ploughs; 2 villagers and 1 smallholder with 2 ploughs. 2 slaves. The values is and was 20s'

The accepted area of a hide is between 120 and 180 acres, indicating that Putley was a very small and minor manor, with a very small population.

During the medieval period reference is made to indicate that, from the early medieval period, part of Putley was owned by the wealthy St Peter's Abbey in Gloucester (Currie, JI). Precisely which land, and how it was cultivated is not known. The tithe map of 1838 refers to an area of land near Putley Green as the Abbots Orchard a tentative but not conclusive connection.

The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments and Constructions of England, refers to the Cider house as being part of the 'New House, house and cider-mill 760 yards E.S.E of the Church'. It describes the house 'as being partly weather boarded with modern additions' with the reference to the Cider house as follows: 'The Cider-mill, N.W. of the house, is partly of brick'.

The reference to the fact that the Cider house was only partly constructed in brick differs from what can be seen of the existing building, perhaps suggesting that the cider making facilities may have been originally located in the north barn rather than the brick built Cider house.

The Parish map of 1858 shows the Cider house and north barn to be both present and butting the main house, however, the north barn is not represented in the correct location, either suggesting possible alterations or an inaccuracy with the map making.

5. BUILDING SURVEY

The Cider house is rectangular in plan and aligned east-west. The building butts up to the north west wall of the Lower Court and is constructed from coursed red brick and roofed with plain red clay tiles; the original ridge tiles have been replaced with later concrete ones. The building's walls were approximately 0.35m in width with no cavity at ground level, reducing to 0.25m at wall plate level, the transition taking place at first floor level.

The south elevation comprises of a tallet staircase, three door openings, and two windows. The ground floor openings are capped with brick arch lintels and belong to the first phase of the building. Positioned towards the east of the elevation the main door to the building is noted as being unusually wide, while located to the west end a half height doorway, raised above ground level, provides a loading door for chattel to be transferred from the back of a cart. Beneath the eaves, a corbelled dentil brick course can be seen. The course is broken by the first floor window and doorway, an indication that they both belong to the second phase of construction.

The west elevation comprises an inserted opening within the gable end and a later corrugated iron and lapped timber lean-to at ground floor level. Two iron tie rods are visible at first floor level. The window opening has a flatten brick lintel suggesting that it was possibly not part of the original construction. Within the gable elevation, the alteration to the roof height is clearly visible, the later brickwork being light in colour and the later purlins projecting from the masonry of the gable end.

The north elevation mirrors the corbelled dentil course seen on the south elevation beneath the eaves and contains two openings, a doorway, and window. The doorway shares the same brick arched lintels also seen on the south elevation; however, the small casement window is constructed with a wooden lintel indicating that it was inserted later.

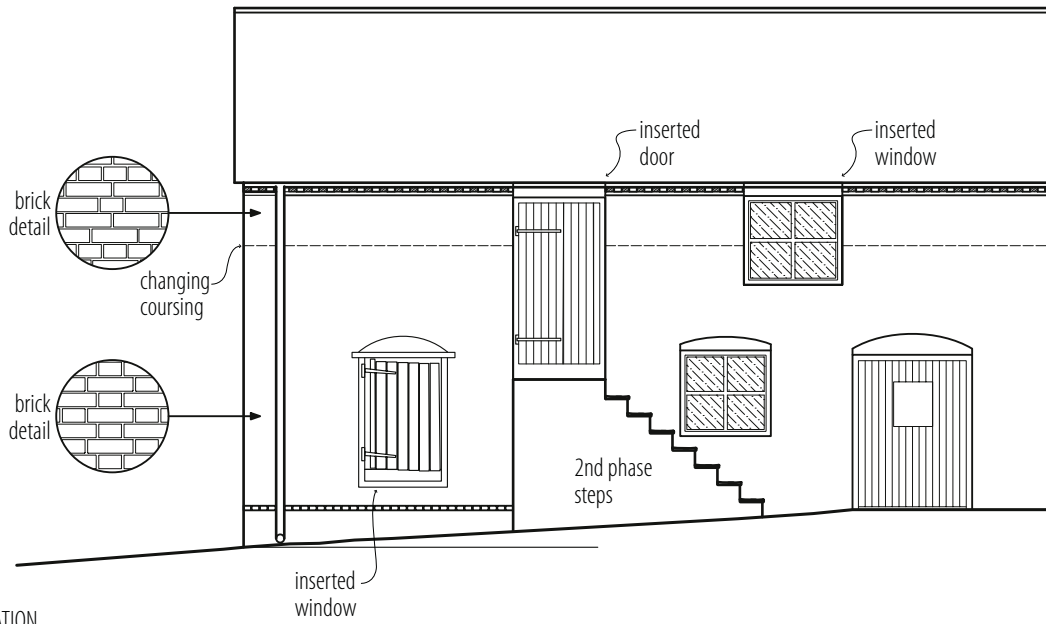
Within close proximity to the north wall window, a wooden beam houses the remains of a bearing case for a machine shaft, running into the building. No indication remains to identify the power source or the machine that was driven, however, at the time of the survey a number of iron shafts and drive wheels were noted within close proximity to the building.

At the lower level of the north elevation a small course of bricks, project out from the wall line. This is not reflected on the west or south elevations, although the raised ground level on the south elevation may obscured this feature. The projecting brickwork probably represents the foundation layers for the Cider house, indicating that the ground level has been reduced on the north side of the building. The reduction of the original ground level is further emphasised by the north wall doorstep being set high in comparison to the present day ground level

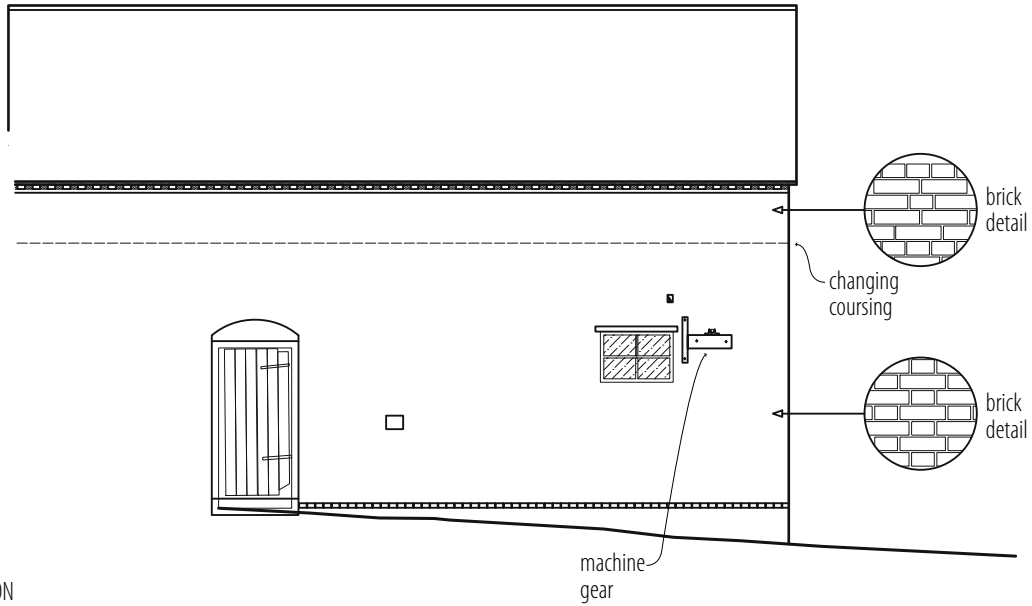
Initial inspection of the building shows little in the way of alterations; both the north face and south face retain original features in the shape of door openings and windows, although two small openings do appear to be later inserts. However, the external appearance of the building does indicates at least that two phases of major alteration have taken place; unusually this is reflected in a change in the height of the eaves and not extensions to the original structure.

The building has been raised at the eaves by approximately 600mm resulting in a change of roof angle from approximately 45° to 35°.

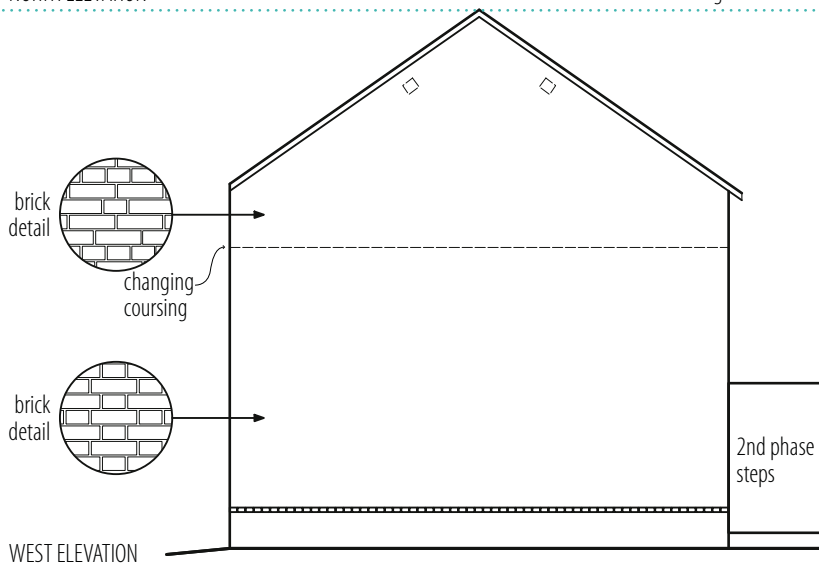
The alteration to the eaves are reflected externally, in the brickwork, the coursing patterns change from a Flemish bond on the first phase building to a variation on English cross bond used in the raised eaves.



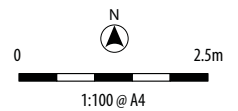
SOUTH ELEVATION



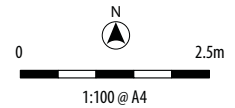
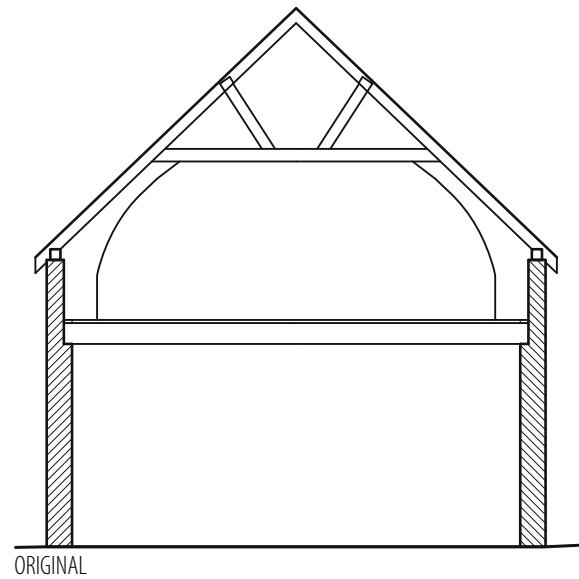
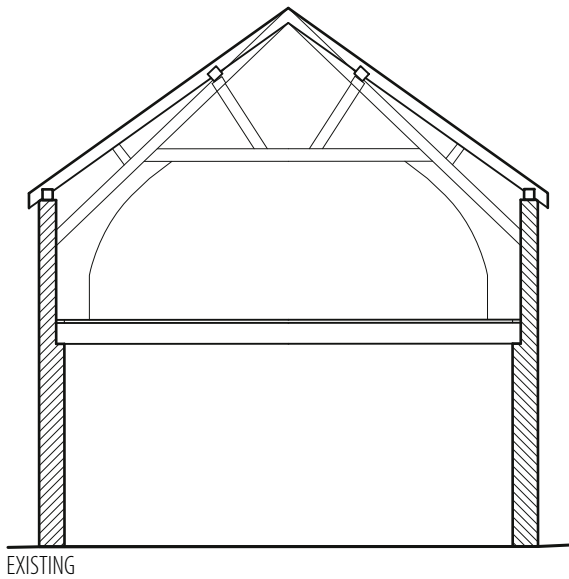
NORTH ELEVATION



WEST ELEVATION



Illus 5
Building elevations



Illus 6

Building sections showing existing and original roof line

Illus 7

Internal view showing altered roof truss and ladder rack extension to the purlins

Illus 8

Internal view showing carpenters marks on main trusses



Close examination of the bricks represented in both areas indicates that they share similar dimensions, approximately 0.22 by 0.07m and generally only differ in appearance, the second phase brickwork being a slight lighter colour and exhibiting subtle variations in finish suggesting the brick work was reclaimed.

The original bricks consist of a gritty red clay of various shades, bonded with a gritty yellow, sandy mortar, with black inclusions and small air pockets. The second phase mortar in the later alterations consists of a brown/yellow mix with white grit inclusions and fine flecks of a black material, possibly coal.

The second phase alteration, resulting in the increased height of the eaves, was a necessary action in order to allow access to the first floor, from the external second phase staircase.

Original entry to the first floor was not obvious at the time of the survey, but may have been facilitated internally by a ladder and hatch system, now obscured.



The tallest staircase on the south facing elevation is constructed from sand stone rubble and red brick; it is not obviously bonded to the main building, resulting in the staircase pulling away from the main building's fabric. The location and dimensions of the staircase were heavily constrained by the location of the original openings on the ground floor level and the spacing of the common rafters. This resulted in the position of the staircase nearly encroaching upon the ground floor window.

The positioning of the staircase on the south elevation is perhaps an indication of the path of least resistance as the less complicated and less crowded north elevation would have allowed easier construction of the staircase, the southern elevation being favoured as it allowed quick access from the adjoining house.

Access to the first floor of the Cider house is gained through a full height doorway hung with a ledge door. However, despite the increased height of the eaves it was necessary to construct a small flight of steps cutting into the first floor level, to provide head room through the doorway.

The internal steps bridge the change in wall thickness and hence the steps intrude into the ground floor ceiling height. The upper doorway, also bridges the run of corbelled dentil brick beneath the eaves, as does the small casement window.

Both the window and doorway are contemporary with the increase in eave height, the cutting of the corbelled dentil course was necessary to gain as much height for the doorway, subsequently the door utilises the wall plate as a lintel, and is positioned in line with the common rafters.

Within the first floor space, the roof trusses comprise a half-cruick design, supported on the lateral joists. The trusses have curved principles with collars supporting V-raked struts. Timber ladders have been added to the original purlins to facilitate the change in roof angle required by the raising of the eaves. The new purlins are supported by the ladders and project through the altered gable ends.

Examination of the carpenter marks on the three principle trusses suggest that they are original to the building. The carpenter's marks run consecutively, east to west, and are numbered 1 to 6.

Two doorways, one in north and one in the south elevation provide external access to the ground floor. The south elevation doorway is slightly wider than its northern counterpart, the reason behind this possibly being reflected through the use of the building.

Positioned within the building, two original features relating to its use survive. A large circular stone pulping mill and a cider press with associated stone tank, as noted previously a system of iron drive rods was inserted into the building, however, no evidence remains to indicate if they were used to drive the mill. Although within the north west corner of the building, evidence for a brick and stone built animal stall, remains within the floor makeup, suggesting that the mill was originally driven by horsepower and consequently explaining the necessity for wider than normal doorways.

Internal examination of the east gable wall shows a small brick arch located at ground level, which has recently been blocked up with modern cinder block, the use of such an arch not being obvious at the time of the survey. The gable wall has also been pierced by modern plumbing from the adjacent building, the subsequent hole allowing a glimpse of the peg-jointed timber framing of the aforementioned building.

Located in the northeast corner of the ground floor was an interesting feature consisting of a narrow stone winding staircase, providing access to the long barn butting the north elevation of the Cider house.

Viewed from within the north barn, it is clear that the brick built Cider house is partially set upon a stone built foundation wall that cuts into the footprint of the north barn. Only a small portion of this wall is visible within the north barn, hence its significance cannot be accurately assessed. The stone built footing could conceivably be the remains of an earlier building or due to the significant ground level changes across the site could just as likely represent stone built footings for the Cider house, however, it is a very curious feature to find a staircase built into possible wall footings.

6. GROUND MONITORING

As part of the redevelopment works a watching brief was required to monitor the construction of a new stone laid driveway and associated parking area. Located towards the north east of the Lower Court buildings the new drive way connects to an existing road way and runs north towards the rear of Lower Court.

The required excavation depth for the construction of the new drive way meant that approximately 0.20m of overburden was removed.

The Topsoil consisted of a red-brown, compact mouldable clay loam, with inclusions of small angular stones. Beneath the topsoil, the subsoil also consisted of red-brown mouldable clay loam, but contained frequent inclusions of small to medium sized angular stones.

Within the monitored excavation area, a few patches of intense rubble spreads containing a mixture of brick and stone were observed. The areas of rubble and brick probably represented modern dumping and levelling. No archaeological features were observed within the area of construction.

7. CONCLUSION

During the ground monitoring works for the new stone driveway no features were observed that would enhance the limited historical information available for the local area, the identification of rubble dumping represents relatively modern activity, however, the limited depth of the excavation could have prevented any evidence relating to the archaeological development of the area being observed.

From the results of the building survey, it is clear that the building has undergone two main phases of development. The original



Illus 9

General view of the new road access being constructed

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building was raised at the eaves to allow external access to the upper floor, requiring the alteration of the roof angle (but not its height) through the insertion of ladder racks to support the new purlins. The identification of a series of consecutive carpenter's marks suggests that roof trusses are contemporary with the original construction.

Within the Cider House, a significant amount of historical artefacts remain illustrating the use and importance the building played in the manufacture of Herefordshire's traditional alcoholic beverage. With consideration to sympathetic design, the implements of this trade will be preserved and incorporated into the re-development of the building thus preserving the building's historic character.

Cider making is an agricultural industry with a strong tradition in Herefordshire. Farmers would produce cider to be drunk by farm works, particularly at busy times, such as haymaking and harvest. It even became customary in the 18th Century to pay part of a farm labourer's wage in cider. The Cider house remains a record and testament to the history of Hereford's great reputation in the production of this apple base alcoholic beverage.

The building shows the necessary development and status afforded to the production of cider. It has been adapted to suit this purpose

through changing times, and its prominent location within the farm complex suggests the level of importance placed upon the production of cider within the farm system.

Although not unique amongst the surviving historic assets relating to Herefordshire cider manufacturing, the Cider house at Lower Court does represent a dwindling cultural resource; the re-development of such establishments has led to an increased amount of cider making paraphernalia decorating the roundabouts and traffic islands of Herefordshire, as large-scale production has all but superseded local manufacture. The alteration of the Truck Act in 1887 perhaps sounded the death knell for local cider production as the act prohibited the payment of farm labourers wages in alcoholic beverages.

However, thanks to an understanding of the role of cider manufacture in the history of Herefordshire, the alterations envisaged to the Cider house will retain the original fittings within the building and therefore preserve the historical connection that cider production has played in the development of Herefordshire.



8. REFERENCES

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1887 Ordnance Survey map *First Edition*.

8.3 Online references

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APPENDIX 1 – PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

photo	C/S	B/W	digital	facing	description	photo	C/S	B/W	digital	facing	description
0	37	37		-	Film ID shot	25	12	12	52	E	Roof details
1	36	36	3	S	Detail of projecting brick footings	26	11	11	53	E	Roof details
2	35	35	4	S	General view of north elevation	27	10	10	54	E	Roof details
3	34	34	5	S	General view of north elevation	28	09	09	55	E	Roof details
4	33	33	6	S	General view of north elevation	29	08	08	56	E	Roof details
5	32	32	7	S	General view of north elevation	36	07	07	67	E	Roof details
6	31	31	8	S	General view of north elevation	37	06	06	74	S	Roof details
7	30	30	9	S	General view of north elevation	38	05	05	75	S	Roof details
8	29	29	21	W	Detail showing external staircase	39	04	04	85	E	Roof details
9	28	28	22	N	Window cut by external staircase	40	03	03	88	E	Roof details
10	27	27	23	N	Upper window	41	02	02	104	E	Roof details
11	26	26	24	N	Upper level doorway	42	01	01	112	E	Roof details
12	25	25	25	E	Internal brick built in filled arch	43	37	37	138	E	Linking block between barn and house
13	24	24	26	N	Cider press	44	36	36	140	N	General view of south elevation
14	23	23	27	E	Cider press	45	35	35	141	S	General view of footing wall from north barn
15	22	22	31	E	Internal stone staircase	46	34	34	170	E	Joist details
16	21	21	33	W	Internal details, ground floor	47	33	33	171	E	Timber framing detail
17	20	20	35	W	Internal details, ground floor	48	32	32	175	S	General detail of possible blocked opening
18	19	19	39	S	First floor stair construction details	49	31	31	180	S	General view of cider mill
19	18	18	41	N	Beam details	50	30	30	191	E	Beam details over stall
20	17	17	42	S	Internal view through loading door	51	29	29	194	E	General view ,internal ground floor
21	16	16	44	N	Stall floor details	52	28	28	209	W	View of machine gear in field
22	15	15	49	N	First floor stair details	53	27	27	211	S	General view of north and west elevation
23	14	14	50	E	Roof details	54	26	26	212	S	General view of west elevation
24	13	13	51	E	Roof details	55	25	25	243	S	First floor stair detail



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