



CAM ARC Report Number 987

Historic Building Recording and Archaeological Investigations at 2 High Street, Barley, Hertfordshire

**Historic Building Recording and
Archaeological Excavation and Watching
Brief**

Taleyna Fletcher

February 2008

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Taleyna Fletcher BA, AIFA

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PROJECT DETAILS				
Project name	Historic Building Recording and Archaeological Investigations at " High Street, Barley, Hertfordshire			
Short description	CAM ARC conducted a historical building survey and archaeological investigations at the rear of 2, High Street, Barley, Hertfordshire in advance of alterations to a building. This work was carried out in response to a brief issued by Hertfordshire County Councils Historical Environment Unit, which required that a historical building survey be carried out on a "lean-to" extension at the rear of existing building, which was to be removed. Archaeological monitoring was required following the removal of the lean-to, which required a small amount of excavation. Undated and modern postholes were recorded as well as a modern pit. A watching brief during the removal of the weatherboarding at the rear of the house revealed a stud wall with early and replacement timbers.			
Project dates	Start	10 th September 2007	End	23 rd November 2007
Previous work	None		Future work	No
Associated project reference codes	XHTBAR07, Planning Application No. 1/06/1015			
Type of project	Building Recording and Watching Brief			
Site status	None			
Current land use (List all that apply)	Residential			
Planned development	Removal of "lean to" and erection of rear extension.			
Monument types / period (List all that apply)	Residential Dwelling-General Residential, Post Medieval – 1540-1901			
Significant finds: Artefact type / period (List all that apply)	None			
PROJECT LOCATION				
County	Hertfordshire	Parish	Barley	
HER for region	Hertfordshire			
Site address (Including postcode)	2, High Street, Barley, Hertfordshire, SG8 8HZ			
Study area (sq.m or ha)	59.87m ²			
National grid reference	TL 3993 3857			
Height OD	Min OD	88.10m	Max OD	88.25m
PROJECT ORIGINATORS				
Organisation	CAM ARC			
Project brief originator	Andy Instone			
Project design originator	Toby Gane			
Director/supervisor	Taleyna Fletcher			
Project manager	Toby Gane			
Sponsor or funding body	Alison Stacey/Private Development			
ARCHIVES	Location and accession number		Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, database, context sheets etc)	
Physical			none	
Paper	HALS (Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies Collection), Register Office Block, County Hall, Hertford, Herts		Site notes, historical background, site photographs, annotated site plans and elevations	
Digital	As above		Digital Photographs.	
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Summary

Between 10th September and 23rd November 2007, CAM ARC (formally the Archaeological Field Unit) of Cambridgeshire County Council conducted a historical building survey and archaeological investigations at the rear of 2 High Street, Barley, Hertfordshire in advance of alterations to the building.

This work was carried out in response to a brief issued by Hertfordshire County Councils Historical Environment Unit. The brief required that a historical building survey was carried out on elements of the existing building to be removed followed by archaeological monitoring of the demolition and subsequent groundworks for the new extension.

The historic building survey, together with consultation of cartographic and documentary sources enabled the lean-to to be dated between 1898 and 1921.

A watching brief was carried out as the area for the footings of the new extension was opened up. A number of features were revealed and following consultation with Hertfordshire's Historic Environment team, excavation of the area was carried out. Three postholes were investigated, one containing modern finds, the other two were undated and one modern pit was recorded.

The removal of the weatherboarding from the rear of the house revealed a timber stud wall comprising both early and replacement timbers and a topplate with mortices, indicating possible reuse.

Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Geology and Topography	1
3	Archaeological and Historical Background	1
3.1	Archaeological Background including HER entries	2
3.2	History of 2 High Street	5
3.3	Listed Buildings within Barley	6
4	Building Recording Survey	6
4.1	Methodology	6
4.2	Results	7
4.2.1	Brief Summary of Inspection of 2, High Street	7
4.2.2	Description of Lean-To	9
4.3	Watching Brief during Building Alterations	10
4.4	Discussion	11
5	Archaeological Investigations	13
5.1	Methodology	13
5.2	Results	14
5.3	Discussion	15
6	Discussion and Conclusions	15
	Acknowledgements	16
	Bibliography	16
	Maps Consulted	17
	Other Sources Consulted	17
	Websites Consulted	17
	List of Appendices	18
	Appendix 1: List of Contexts	

List of Figures

Figure 1:	Site location showing development area	19
Figure 2:	Map showing location of HER entries (within Barley and environs)	20
Figure 3:	Front elevation of No. 2 High Street, Barley	21
Figure 4:	Ground and first floor plans of 2 High Street	22
Figure 5:	South-facing internal elevation of lean-to structure	23
Figure 6:	1st Edition Ordnance Survey, 1898 (development area in green)	24
Figure 7:	1921 Edition Ordnance Survey (showing development area in green)	25
Figure 8:	Ground floor plan showing suggested phases of development	26
Figure 9:	Extract from map, 1603 (development area in green)	27
Figure 10:	Excavation plan	28

List of Plates

Plate 1:	Numbers 2 and 3 High Street	29
Plate 2:	Brick plinth at base of 2 High Street	29
Plate 3:	Chimney/Cooking range in kitchen	30
Plate 4:	Fireplace	30
Plate 5:	Corner of cellar	31
Plate 6:	Side of chimneybreast (taken from stairs)	31
Plate 7:	Tie-beam	32
Plate 8:	Replaced roof	32
Plate 9:	Chimney (taken from attic)	33
Plate 10:	Lean-to (prior to removal)	33
Plate 11:	Detail inside lean-to	34
Plate 12:	Lean-to against house	34
Plate 13:	Weatherboarding following removal of lean-to	35
Plate 14:	Timber-frame exposed following removal of weatherboarding	35
Plate 15:	Timber-frame in-filled with insulation	36
Plate 16:	Repaired brace	36
Plate 17:	Wall plate with mortices	37
Plate 18:	Outbuilding	38
Plate 19:	Photograph of 2 and 3 High Street, taken 1980 (from HALS)	39
Plate 20:	Front of 2 High Street	39
Plate 21:	Pit [04]	40

1 Introduction

The work was designed to assess the historical context of the lean-to building to be removed and to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Planning and Policy Guidance 16 - Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990). The results will enable decisions to be made by Hertfordshire County Councils Historic Environment Unit, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found and future historic building work within the area.

This archaeological investigation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Andy Instone of the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (Planning Reference 1/06/1015), supplemented by a Specification prepared by CAM ARC (formally Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit). The Brief required that in addition to the recording of the building to be demolished, an archaeological watching brief be carried out on the alteration work to the building and during the excavation of the footings for the proposed extension.

The site archive is currently held by CAM ARC and will be deposited with the appropriate Hertfordshire stores in due course.

2 Geology and Topography

The village of Barley lies 22.5km southwest of Cambridge, within north Hertfordshire (Figure 1). Barley lies on the middle chalk, overlain by the Hanslope soil series, a chalky boulder clay. The soil in the northern part of the parish is a much lighter chalky glacial drift, that in the southern part of the parish is a much heavier boulder clay (British Geological Survey (BGS). 1978). The land falls gently towards the Quin valley to the south and is predominantly arable with generous amount of woodland.

3 Archaeological and Historical Background

The site lies within an area of archaeological significance, within the medieval core of Barley.

3.1 Archaeological Background and SMR Entries for Barley (500m radius of the site)

The HER research was conducted for the High Street area of Barley (Figure 2). This generated twenty records, summarised by period within the text below.

Prehistoric

Settlement in Barley began in the later Prehistoric period. Bronze Age axe heads (MHT11218) have been found to the west of the village and Bronze Age ditches have also been recorded. The Icknield Way (Prehistoric and later route from East Anglia to Wessex) forms the northern boundary to the parish.

HER entries as follows:

- Cropmarks (MHT 7772). Cropmarks of a “goal-post” enclosure approximately 50 x 15m. Also two pits in the north of the enclosure.
- Cropmark (MHT7819). Cropmark of a round feature approximately 12m in diameter, probably representing the ploughed-down remains of a round barrow.
- Bronze Age Axe Heads (MHT11218). A collection of Bronze Age axe heads was found in Picknage Field, Manor Farm was recorded. The finds included a sword fragment and part of a bucket footing; both are Bronze Age in date. The tip of the sword was missing, but otherwise, nearly complete. The footing is considered a rare find.

Iron Age/Roman

Settlement was located on the lighter, chalkier soils north of the parish where Iron Age and Roman activity has been recorded (SMR 176, 4029 and 4030).

Farmstead and Inhumation (MHT 176). Excavated in 1959, a number of pits (rubbish and storage), horseshoe-shaped ditched enclosure and four large postholes (possibly forming a granary) were all recorded. Three infant burials were also present.

HER entries as follows:

- Late Iron Age and Roman pottery was found within the topsoil during alteration work at 7 Crossways (MHT10791).

Saxon

Six manors were recorded in Barley in the late Saxon period, including one held by the Benedictine convent at Chatteris and one held by Leofwine (Earl of Kent and Essex).

Sixty people were recorded as living in Barley at the time of the Domesday, however it is estimated that the population was nearer 120. These included 1 priest, 10 slaves, 19 villagers and 8 Freemen.

HER entries as follows:

- Saxo-Norman pottery sherds were recorded in a field northwest of Barley (MHT4032). The area is now ploughed over and no further finds discoveries have been made.

Medieval

By the 15th century, only four of the Saxon Manors remained; Burnells, Mincinbury, Abbotsbury and Greenbury.

HER entries as follows:

- Medieval village of Barley (MHT2689). First recorded in C11th, it is suggested that the first element of the name may be “byrgen”, meaning burial place. It appears in the Domesday as “Berlai”. The domesday records a settlement at Barley, and the parish contained six manors, which by the C15th had become four. In the C10th the manor of “Mincinbury” was held by Alfwen a nurse or foster-mother to King Edgar, the founder of the Abbey of Chatteris. She is reputed to have given the two acres known as the Plaistow, and the original Town House to the village.
- Site of the Greenbury Manor (MHT 4024). Alleged site of the manor house, the site is occupied by a disused quarry, now ploughed over. According to JC Wilkerson, a house and barns are shown on the Enclosure Map (circa 1810), and pottery from the early medieval-C17th has been picked up in the vicinity. Not on 1843 Tithe Map.
- Base of Medieval Cross (MHT 4033). The base of a medieval cross, 0.80m high, stands next to the cage at Barley. According to C J Wilkerson, it is believed locally that the cross-base was moved from the other side of the road about 50-60 years ago.
- Church of St Margaret of Antioch (MHT4298). Parish church with C12th origins, a late C13th/earlyC14th south aisle (altered C16th) and north aisle, porch, vestry/organ bay and spirelet

added in 1871. Constructed of flint and rubble with herring-bone coursing in tower and stone dressings.

- Medieval occupation and residual prehistoric and Roman finds rear of Farriers, Church End (MHT20785). Evaluation trenches revealed a narrow ditch and an area of compacted stones appearing to form part of a deliberately laid surface. Both contained medieval pottery. Residual struck flint (Mesolithic/Neolithic) and Late pre-Roman Iron Age, Roman and possibly early-middle Iron Age pottery was found.
- Manor Farm House and Manor of Burnells, or Hoares Manor (MHT11211). Manor House Farm is C16th in date and extended in the C17th and mid-C19th. The early ranges are timber framed and rendered and the C19th block at the front is red brick with flared headers. It is thought to be on or close to the site of one of the six manors of Barley recorded in 1086 and was held by the Burnell family from the C12th to the C15th and known as Burnells Manor. The first use of the name Hoares Manordates to 1539. A watching brief on the conversion of adjacent farm confirmed continuous occupation since C16th, but no evidence of earlier occupation.

Post-Medieval (1500-1900)

There are a number of post-medieval buildings and monuments within the village, any of which are Grade II listed (see section 3.3).

HER entries as follows:

- Village Lock-Up, "Crosshill Cage" (MHT92). C17th village lock-up of "plank and muntin" timber framed construction. Last used 1890, restored 1970.
- Milestone, opposite the shop in the orchard (MHT 5059). Milestone, made of stone, c.122 x 62 x 61cm, with a bevelled top. Erected in 1732. Has an early C19th cast iron plate, with, below, an incised inscription and pointing hand, recently blacked in.
- Post Box (MHT5491). Brick pillar wall box, located on the mount, Barley.
- Farm Buildings, Manor Farm, Church End (MHT10892). The mainly C17th and C18th farm buildings were converted for residential use in 1995-6. The all-weather boarding and roof was replaced, the main structural elements were retained. The listed elements include a former brewhouse, two conjoined C17th timber framed barns, an C18th saddle barn or granary

and a C17th or C18th three-bay aisled barn. The flint and brick walling appears to have been largely re-built.

Undated

HER entries as follows:

- Cropmarks (MHT7813). Cropmark of a short length of linear ditch, approximately 40m long.
- Cropmark (MHT7814) Cropmark of a linear ditch, approximately 200m long. Possibly associated with nearby Iron Age farmstead.
- Cropmark (MHT7815). Cropmarks of perpendicular linear ditches approx 160 x 60m. Possibly associated with nearby Iron Age farmstead.
- Post-medieval Farm Buildings, Lower Farm, High Street (MHT12606). The earliest buildings surviving at Lower Farm are two stables dating to the late C16th and mid C17th, the older of the two preserving features suggesting that it was used as domestic accommodation for agricultural workers. The other farm buildings were recorded as mid C19th, a small open-fronted cart shed and a large "L"-shaped barn of flint and timber.

3.2 History of 2 High Street

Together, numbers 2 and 3 High Street have a grade II listing as historic buildings (www.english-heritage.org.uk). The description is as follows;

"House, extended now 2 dwellings, at one time 3. Mid to late C17, altered, reroofed and extended in C19. Timber frame on brick base. Rendered and weatherboarded. Slate roof. Originally 3-cell lobby entry plan with 1 bay added at both ends. 2 storeys. 5-window front. Plinth. Entrances to left of original centre and in right bay, recessed panelled doors with small hoods. To left 2 bays of C20 2 light casements. To right ground floor horizontal sliding sashes, ground floor right and first floor cross casements with a 3 light casement in original right bay. Rebuilt axial ridge stack behind entrance. Weatherboarding on left end and to rear. To rear left a separately roofed 2 bay C19 block. To rear right a lean-to outshut with 2 stacks. Interior: some exposed framing, stop chamfered bearer. Included for group value."

3.3 Other Listed Buildings within Barley High Street

The Fox and Hounds Public House	Grade II listed
Lower Farm House and No. 2 Lower Yard Cottages	Grade II listed
The Priors	Grade II listed
The Laurels	Grade II listed
The Old Post Office	Grade II listed
The Ramblers	Grade II listed
Icknield Way Cottage with shop and Post Office	Grade II listed
Numbers 2 and 3	Grade II listed
Barley United Reform Church	Grade II listed
Numbers 7 and 9	Grade II listed
Tudor Cottage, 11	Grade II listed
Wheelwrights	Grade II listed
Number 5	Grade II listed
Sells Close Cottages 1, 2 and 3	Grade II listed
White Posts	Grade II listed

4 Building Recording Survey

4.1 Methodology

A site visit was made on 10th September 2007 to record the lean-to building scheduled for removal. The main purpose of this visit was to record and date the lean-to using visual description and elevation drawings where necessary and to carry out a photographic survey using a digital, SLR (black and white and slide film) and Medium Format Cameras.

To fully understand the context of the lean-to and its historical setting, it was also necessary to carry out a brief inspection of the main property, taking photographs where necessary.

To complete the building recording work, a watching brief was necessary in January 2008 as the wooden panelling was removed from the rear of the house in advance of the construction of the conservatory extension.

All building recording work carried out complied with standards and guidance set out in by the IFA (1999) and was undertaken by an experienced archaeologist. Scaled architects drawings, supplied by the client in CAD format, were used for field notes and were annotated

and amended on site as necessary. Elevations were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and structure techniques and full descriptions of the timber-framed structure was carried out whilst on site.

4.2 Results

4.2.1 Summary of Inspection of 2, High Street, Barley

In order to understand the context of the buildings development, a brief inspection was carried out of the interior and exterior of 2 High Street. This summary briefly describes some of the interesting features and rooms of the property which assist in dating and understanding its development and historical setting.

External Description

Front Elevation (Figure 3)

At the time of inspection, the front of the number 2 High Street was rendered and painted pale green (plate 1). A brick plinth was visible at the base with up to seven courses of brick in an irregular bond comprising headers and stretchers (plate 2).

The house is a two-storey dwelling of timber-framed construction upon a brick plinth, resting beneath a moderately gently pitched slate-covered roof.

High Street is on a slight slope, and this is clearly visible in the brickwork of the of properties 2 and 3, as the number of courses of brick increases down-slope to maintain the building on one level.

There were six windows, three on each floor – set two to the right of the front door and four to the left.

From the front, a central chimney between no. 2 and 3 was visible. It was also possible to see evidence of timber framing behind the rendering.

From the front it is also possible to see a blocked doorway within the wall of number 3.

Side Elevation

The side of the property (north-facing) was covered with horizontal timber boards. The pitch of the roofline was best viewed from here. The roof pitch was relatively gradual slope.

Rear Elevation

The rear of the property was almost entirely covered with horizontally laid timber “weather-boarding”. This was painted a dark green.

Two brick chimneys built on to the rear of the house were visible.

Internal Description

The house was accessed from the High Street and the front door entered into the kitchen/dining room. From the inside of the house, it was possible to see a number of original early fixtures and fittings as well as indications of how the building was constructed and altered in its lifetime.

Ground Floor (Figure 4)

On the ground floor there were five rooms: a kitchen, utility room (with shower), living room and office. A brief inspection of this floor indicated that there was more than one phase of development of the building. A number of interesting features were noted and photographed. These include a chimney with cooking range in the kitchen (plate 3) and a large open fire in the office (plate 4). At the back of the fireplace, a cast-iron, dated fireback was noted, bearing the date 1664.

From a trap door in the living room, there was access to a cellar. Although access and light was restricted, it was possible to see that the cellar appeared to be cut into the natural chalk and its walls were lined with red brick and pieces of roughly cut stone. The walls and ground were very uneven and there was evidence of some repair or alteration in one corner (plate 5).

The first floor was accessed via a set of stairs at the rear of the house and within the wall it was possible to see the location of the outside of chimney noted in the office (plate 6).

First Floor (Figure 4)

On the first floor there were four rooms: three bedrooms and a bathroom. On this floor it was possible to gain an understanding of the structure of the earliest part of the house and to see the later additions.

At the top of the walls in the bedrooms and stretching across to the rear wall, the location of what appeared to be tie beams were visible (plate 7).

Roof Space

The attic was accessed from the first floor via a small opening. From here it was possible to see that the original roof structure had been very recently replaced (plate 8). The upper part of the brick chimney was also visible (plate 9).

4.2.2 Description of Lean-To

The element of the building under investigation was a lean-to at the rear of the main house, on the western side and at the time of inspection was being used as a shed/store housing motorbikes and various tools (plate 10).

External Description

The lean-to/shed was of timber-framed construction, built upon a brick plinth on two sides (north and south) and under a corrugated iron roof.

The timber frame was covered with weatherboarding, laid horizontally around the frame and painted green. The frame was presumably laid on top of the plinth to raise it from the ground and contact with the damp/wet ground.

The brick plinth was constructed in Flemish bond, comprising seven courses (visible) of red brick with an average dimension of 22 x 7cm (plate 11). The mortar was a creamy beige cement with grit and small stone inclusions. The bricks appear to have horizontal pressure marks, indicating that they were hand made.

The roof comprised two large sheets of corrugated iron, held in place by large nails. There was a plastic gutter and down-pipe.

A temporary extension/porch has been added onto the rear of the shed. It extended the length by a further 1.85m. It was constructed of an iron-corrugated roof, held up using two iron supports.

The lean-to appeared to be later, rather than contemporary with the main building. The type of brick used to construct the plinth was different to that of the main house, and in the corner where they meet, there was no evidence of it being keyed in (plate 12).

Internal Description

The lean-to comprised opposing timber frames of which the internal elevation of one was drawn (figure 5). The weatherboarding/panelling used on the rest of the house was exposed at the rear of the lean-to

(opposite the door) (plate 13, when lean-to was removed). There were no obvious nails or fixtures used on the construction of the building.

The western panel (that which contained the door) of the lean-to was wider than the building itself. This panel overhung the southern "wall" by 23cm. Unlike the north and south walls, the southern wall was not of any obvious deliberate construction, and instead appeared to represent a re-used wooden panel of weather-boarding to create an enclosed space. The door may then have been added later or was contemporary with the panel.

The internal dimensions of the shed/lean-to were approximately 3.10 x 2.30m.

The roof rested on three overhead horizontal beams.

Although it was difficult to gain a full inspection of the floor at this stage (due to several layers of newspaper, carpeting and general build-up, it appeared to be concrete.

The brick plinth appeared different on the internal face to that outside. The bonding was of no recognised pattern and the brick dimensions varied, but were on average 18 x 5cm and appeared again to be hand-made. Four courses were visible.

Fixtures and Fittings

The door to the lean-to was made up of five vertical, wooden panels and held together with four horizontal wooden panels visible from the inside. The door hung by two iron hinges onto iron brackets set into the doorframe and opened outward. The bottom of the door had been damaged and was deteriorating. The door measures 1.74m in length, 0.71m wide and c.16mm thick. The handle was a round, iron knob.

At the time of the first visit, the shed was fitted with a number of wooden shelves for storage.

4.3 Watching Brief during Building Alterations

It was necessary to provide a record of the rear of the building once the weatherboarding had been removed, to gain an understanding of the structure and to look for any survival of early or original elements.

Although an archaeologist was not present during the removal of the boards, the client undertook a detailed photographic record of their removal and the exposed wall before and after the insulation wadding was inserted (plates 14 and 15).

The removal of the lean-to revealed the weatherboarding intact. This dates the construction of the lean-to after the addition of the weatherboards.

The exposed wall revealed shows the survival of some early as well as replaced timbers which make up the stud wall, behind which lathe and plaster work was clearly visible (plate 14).

Most of the timbers appear to be 19th century or later replacements, other than some of the studs (far right on plate 14), the upper part of the wind brace (plate 16) and the top plate which all appear much earlier.

Interestingly, within the wall plate, two mortices are visible (plate 17). This may suggest that the building originally extended further to the rear, however, as there was no evidence for this within the archaeological investigation or anywhere else within the rear elevation, it is more likely that this timber has been reused.

4.4 Discussion

The evidence collected on site suggests that the lean-to structure dates to around the late 19th century. Together with cartographic sources, it is possible to offer a date range of between 1898 and 1921.

The 2nd Edition Ordnance survey map of 1898 (Figure 6) shows numbers 2 and 3 High Street with no division between them at the rear. There are no out buildings or evidence of any lean-to structures at this time.

By the 1921 edition of the Ordnance survey (Figure 7) there is the presence of the three structures which appear on the current modern map, one of which is the lean to. By this time, there are also two other small outbuildings, which are still present at the rear of number 2 and are currently used for storage (plate 18). By 1921, there is also a plot of land at the very end of the shared garden, which appears to be fenced off or separated for some purpose, perhaps for an allotment. There is still no land division between the two properties at this time.

It therefore appears that some additional building work took place between 1898 and 1921 with the construction of the lean-tos and it is possible that the structures erected at this time are contemporary. It could be suggested that around this time, the repairs to the stud wall took place and the weatherboarding used to cover it.

The main house itself, number 2 High Street, appears to be a significantly older property and may have its origins in the late medieval period. Although only a brief inspection of the house was carried out as it was not a specific requirement of the brief, there were

indications in the lay out of the building that there were four phases of development (Figure 8).

The first phase incorporates the living room, hall way and office and possibly elements of number 3 High Street, the adjoining property. This idea is supported by the listed building description (www.lbonline.english-heritage.org.uk), which suggests “originally 3-cell lobby entry plan with 1 bay added at both ends”. The current entrance for number 3 is located centrally between numbers 2 and 3 in this phase and may possibly represent the location of the original entrance to the house. The chimney of number 2 (Plate 4) would also be centrally located if it were a back-to-back fireplace, serving the central open room of this building. This suggested layout would fit the model of a central fireplace plan, which would consist of an upper room, a living room and a service room, with living and service rooms heated by two fireplaces back-to-back with the main entrance at the junction of the two rooms (Brunskill 2000). The location rear location of the stairs would also fit this model (from where the side of the chimneybreast is visible). This type of layout was popular in the eastern counties of England in the 17th century. The absence of the original roof timbers and without seeing the layout of number 3, it is impossible to make and certain conclusions regarding the buildings original plan. From looking at the front elevations of numbers 2 and 3, it is possible to visualise the original build, without the extension onto the end of number 2 and a centrally located door and chimney. During the background search of Hertfordshire’s Archive and Local Studies collection, a photograph was found taken in 1980 (plate 19) which shows another doorway, located on number 3 High Street. Without closer inspection of number 3, it is not possibly to say what phase this belongs to or whether it represents another division into three properties or the relocation of the door to number 3 in the original phase.

If the fireback recorded within the office fireplace is *in-situ* and contemporary to the date of construction, then this phase could be dated to 1664. This would fit with the dated model suggested by Brunskill for the layout of the building. However, firebacks are rarely built into the structure and reproductions or reused firebacks can prove misleading (Hall 2005).

Consultation of an early map of Barley from 1603 (Figure 9) shows that there appears to have been a building on the current site of numbers 2 and 3. However, it does not appear similar or alike in shape or form as the current or even the earliest building phase. There are two possible reasons for this, firstly, maps of this period are known to be unreliable and were not always produced to scale and may contain errors as a result of the artist/surveyors interpretation. Secondly, the building shown may represent an earlier build in the same location. The map shows many houses along the High Street, mostly detached. The building in the location of the study area, appears to be aligned at a

right angle to the road, and the plot at the rear is separate from the houses. Interestingly, the plot size and shape appears to be roughly the same as the plot seen at the rear of numbers 2 and 3 until the boundary which first appears sometime after 1921 and is present today.

The second phase of building appears to be an extension on the end of number 2 (currently the kitchen on the ground floor). This extension provided a separate kitchen with chimney/fireplace for cooking/heat. The slight change in floor level between the living room and the kitchen further supports the suggestion that this addition was after the original build. Close inspection of the front elevation also shows evidence in the raised brickwork of where the earliest phase build may have ended (plate 20). This extension may have been added when the original building was divided into two separate dwellings, and when the access to number 2 was inserted.

The third phase of development was the addition of an out-shot to the rear of the current utility room. From here, the back of the chimney in the kitchen is visible and another access to the rear garden is provided.

The final phase identified was the addition of the lean-to. Already dated as 1898-1921, the erection of this lean-to may also be broadly contemporary with the construction of the outbuildings in the garden, repair to the stud wall and erection of the weatherboarding.

5 Archaeological Investigations

5.1 Methodology

Following the removal of the lean-to and foundations, the area for the extension footings was excavated using a mechanical mini digger with a toothless ditching bucket. The groundworks had started before CAMARC were notified to be on site. All overburden was removed down to the level of the undisturbed chalk natural and the area was hand-cleaned to fully expose archaeological features.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using CAM ARCs *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits. Supplementary digital photographs were also taken using an Olympus digital camera.

The excavation area was located and later tied into the Ordnance Survey grid using triangulation from existing buildings.

5.2 Results (Figure 10)

The undisturbed chalk natural and archaeological features were exposed at a depth of approximately 0.60m below the current ground level. One layer was recorded sealing the chalk; a rich, dark garden soil with no obvious finds.

Postholes

Three postholes were recorded within the excavation area. They were all broadly similar in shape, depth and profile. All were fully excavated for retrieval of datable finds. It is possible that the postholes may represent a structure or fence line, however, with such a small area of investigation, the evidence is inconclusive. The fills of the posthole were all similar, suggesting that they are contemporary in date. Fragments of slate and a red quarry floor tile were recovered from one of the postholes [06], suggesting a c.19th century demolition date. A small fragment of pig scapular was found within the fill of another posthole [02].

Posthole **02** was circular in plan with moderate sloping edges and a concave base. It measured 0.33m in diameter with a depth of 0.06m. This posthole was 100% excavated and filled by 01.

Fill 01 was a moderately compacted, mid grey brown silty clay with animal bone inclusions.

Posthole **06** was sub-circular in plan with moderate sloping edges and a rounded base. It measured 0.28m in length and 0.22m in width with a depth of 0.07m. This posthole was 100% excavated and filled by 05.

Fill 05 was a crumbly, loose silty clay and contained fragments of grey slate and tile.

Posthole **08** was sub-circular in plan with moderate sloping edges and a rounded base. It measured 0.32m in length and 0.36m in width with a depth of 0.08m. This posthole was 100% excavated and filled by 07.

Fill 07 was a moderately compacted, mid grey brown silty clay with no obvious inclusions.

Modern Pit

A single pit was recorded within the excavation area. It contained modern finds including large fragments of an iron frame (?) and a plastic bag (plate 21).

Pit **04** was circular in plan with steep, almost vertical sloping edges. This pit was not fully excavated and so profile and base are unknown. It measured 0.33m in diameter with a minimum depth of 0.60m. This pit was filled by 03.

Fill 03 was a very dark, organic and silty fill and contained a plastic bag, wine bottle corks, plant roots, and a parts of a large iron frame.

5.3 Discussion

This investigation revealed the presence and survival of archaeological features at the rear of the house. The postholes are thought to be contemporary and may be part of a post-built structure or fenceline however the limited size of the investigation area makes it difficult to interpret the function. However, two possible suggestions can be made.

Firstly, although the only dating evidence retrieved was post-medieval (likely to be 19th century in date), it is possible that these post holes represent a temporary structure with a much earlier date, removed or demolished in the 19th century prior to the construction of the lean-to etc, however, there is no evidence for this on the 1898 Ordnance Survey map. It is highly unlikely that the postholes represent a building or part of a structure, which predate the current house. Secondly, it could be suggested that the postholes represent part of another temporary structure, contemporary with the lean-to recorded. The current Ordnance survey map shows two structures, (one next to the lean-to), suggesting that there was a structure there until very recently.

Given the proximity to the house, there was very little disturbance from building activity; only 19th century service pipes truncated the excavation area.

6 Discussion and Conclusion

This work has successfully identified the survival of post-medieval archaeological remains at the rear of the property. The on-site building record in conjunction with cartographic evidence has enabled the lean-to construction to be dated between 1898 and 1921. A brief inspection and study of the main building has identified a possible four phases of development of the building, which may have its origins in the 1600s, a period of great rebuilding in England. The watching brief at the rear of the house during the removal of the weatherboarding

has shown surviving elements of the timber-frame of the house, which may be associated with its original construction.

Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by Hertfordshire County Councils Historic Environment Unit.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Alison Stacey who commissioned and funded the work and Andrew Corrigan who assisted with the on-site photography. The project was managed by Toby Gane.

Particular thanks to the British Library for granting permission to reproduce the 1603 Barley Map.

The brief for archaeological works was written by Andy Instone.

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2nd Edition Ordnance Survey, 1898	Sheet V.14
1921 Edition Ordnance Survey	Sheet V.14

SURVEYS AND PERAMBULATION, WITH PLANS, BY JOHN NORDEN, of the manors of Mincingbury, Abbotsbury and Hoares, in Barley, co. Hertf made for Sir John Spencer, Lord of the Manors, 1603

British Library Reference Shelfmark/Mauscript No.

Add.42508, f37

Other Sources Consulted

Description	Hertfordshire Local Archive Studies Reference
Colour Photographs of No 2 and 3 High Street, Barley taken by Kenneth Johnson in 1980	SF33A SF34A SF35A

Websites Consulted

www.lbonline.english-heritage.org.uk

www.hertfordshire-genealogy.co.uk

www.bl.uk (British Library online)

Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context Number	Description	Other information
01	Fill of posthole 02	Contained animal bone
02	Cut of porthole	
03	Fill of pit 04	Contained plastic bag, iron and wood
04	Cut of modern pit	
05	Fill of posthole 06	Contained slate and tile
06	Cut of posthole	
07	Fill of posthole 08	
08	Cut of posthole	



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Figure 1 Location of development area (red) with excavated area (black)

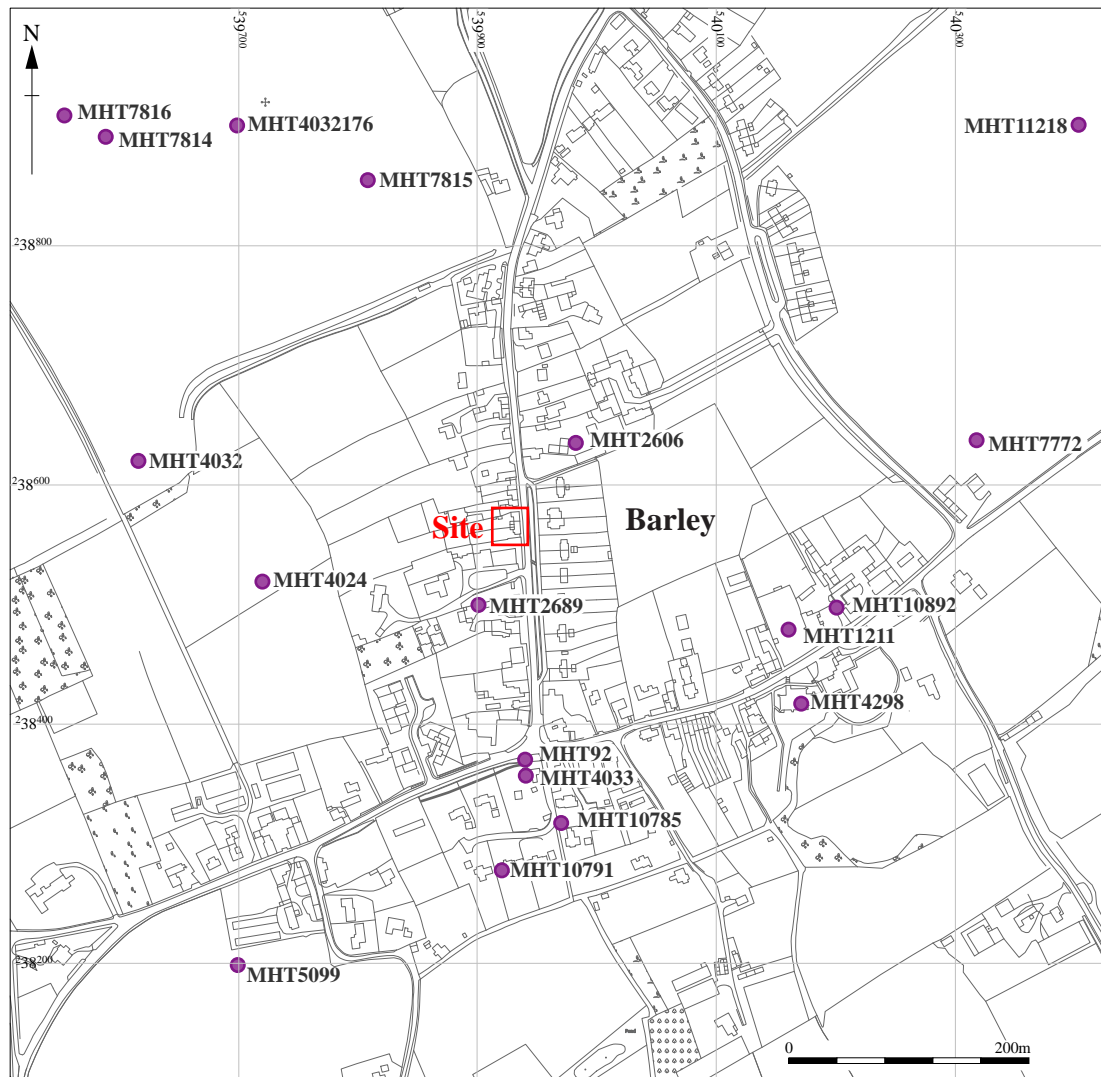


Figure 2: Map showing location of HER entries (within Barley and environs)



Figure : Front elevation of o 2 High treet Barley

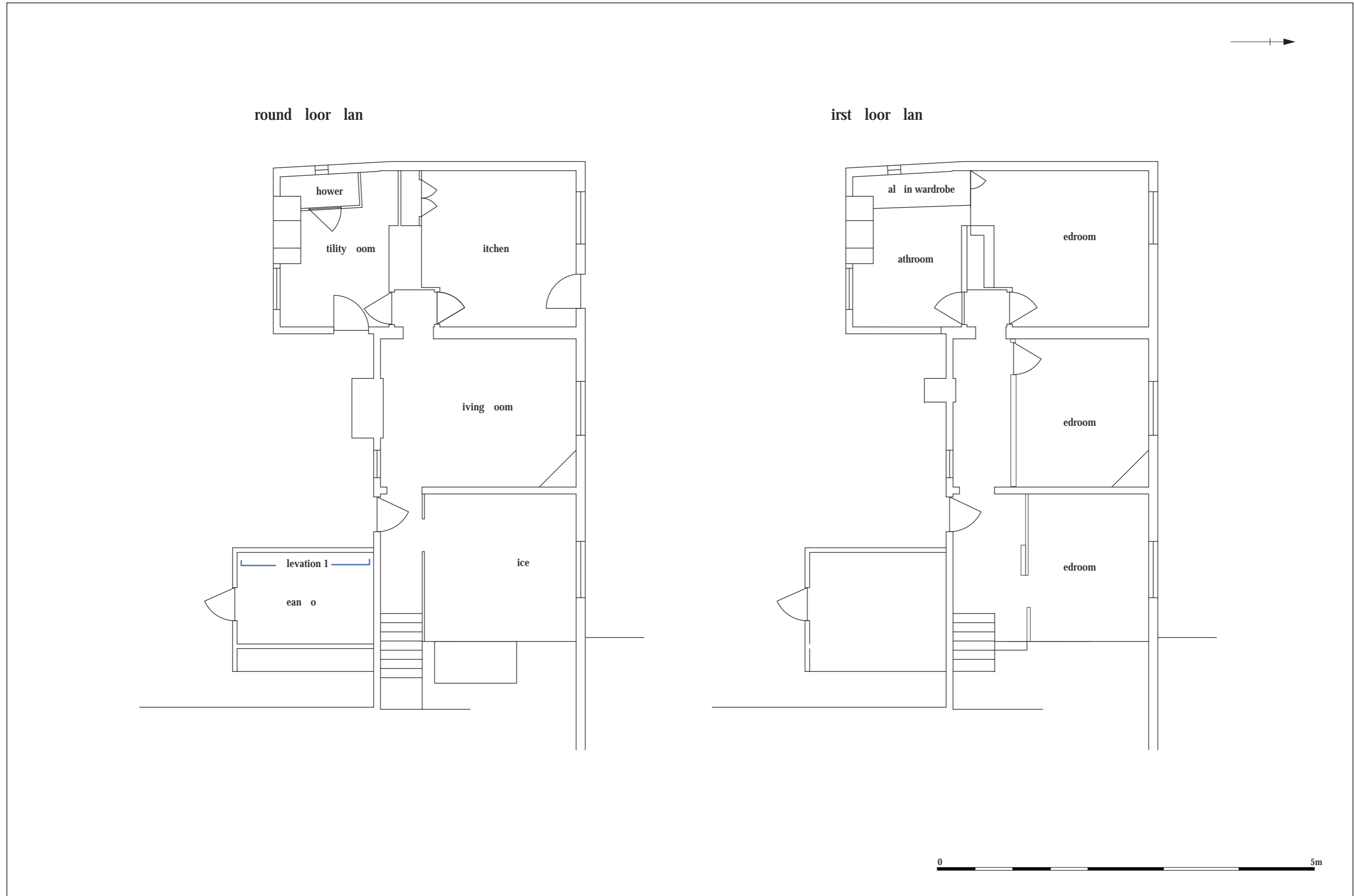


Figure 4: Ground and first floor plans of 2 High Street

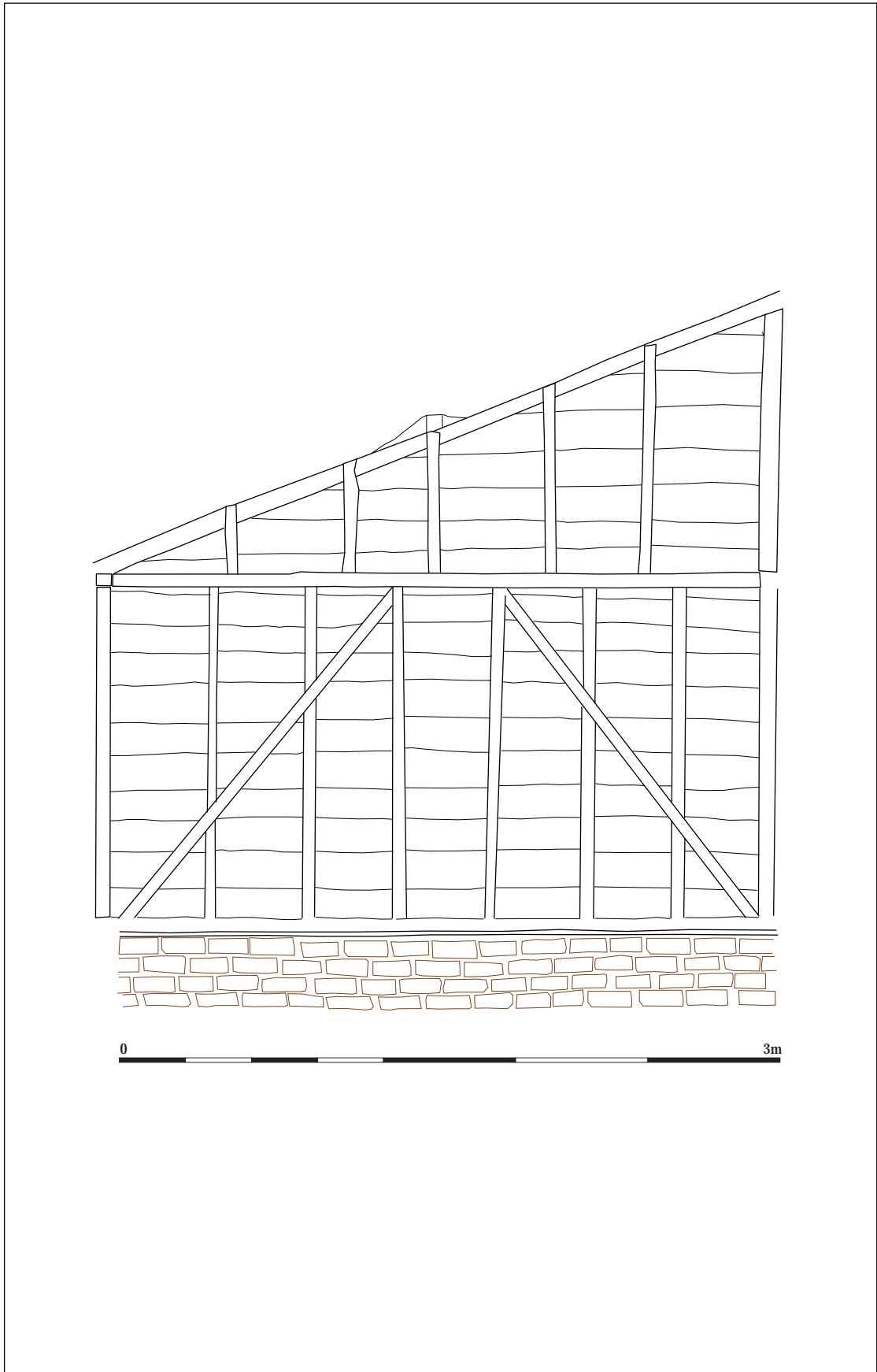
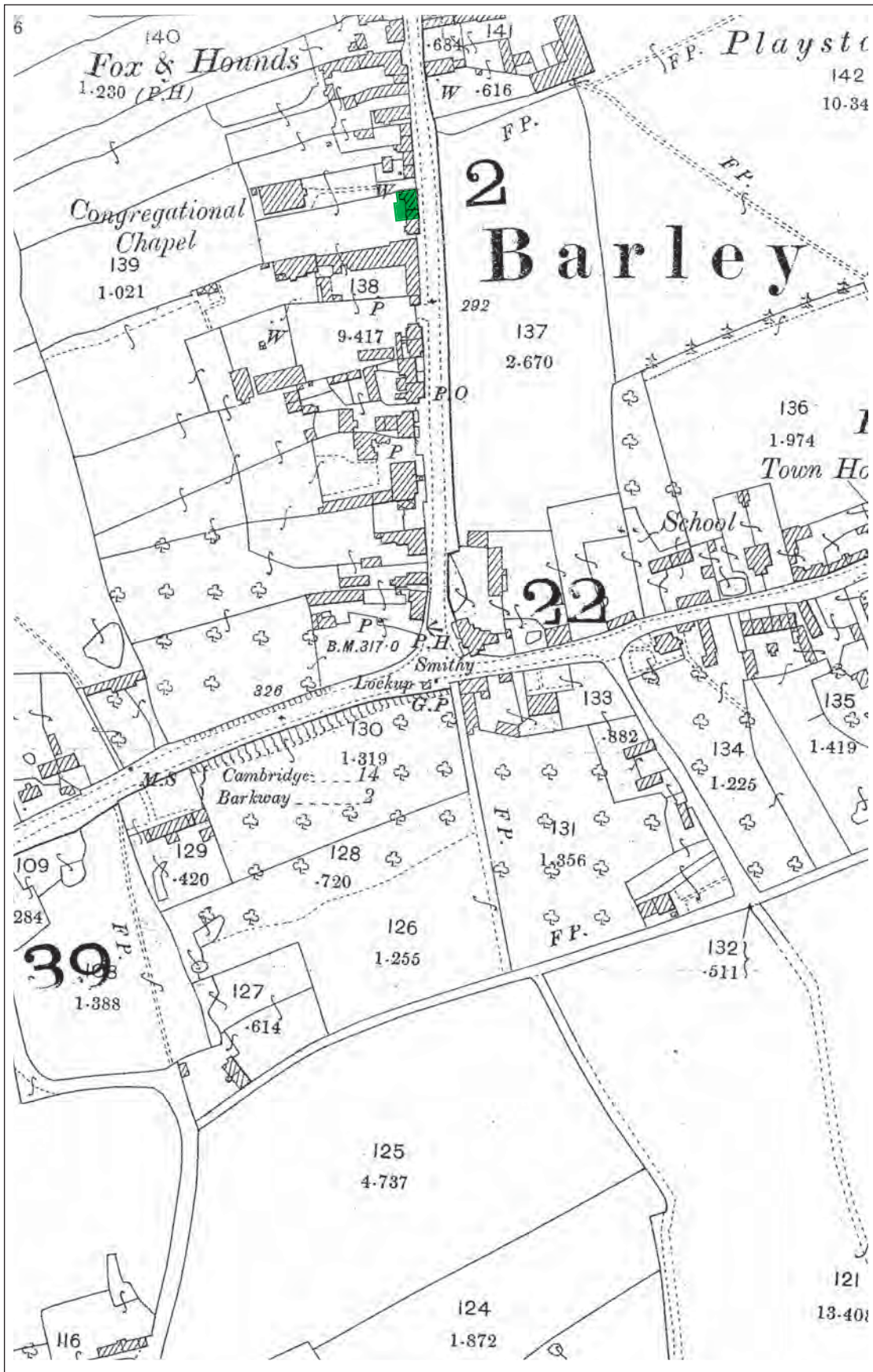


Figure : South facing internal elevation of lean to structure



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Figure : 1st Edition Ordnance Survey showing study area (green)

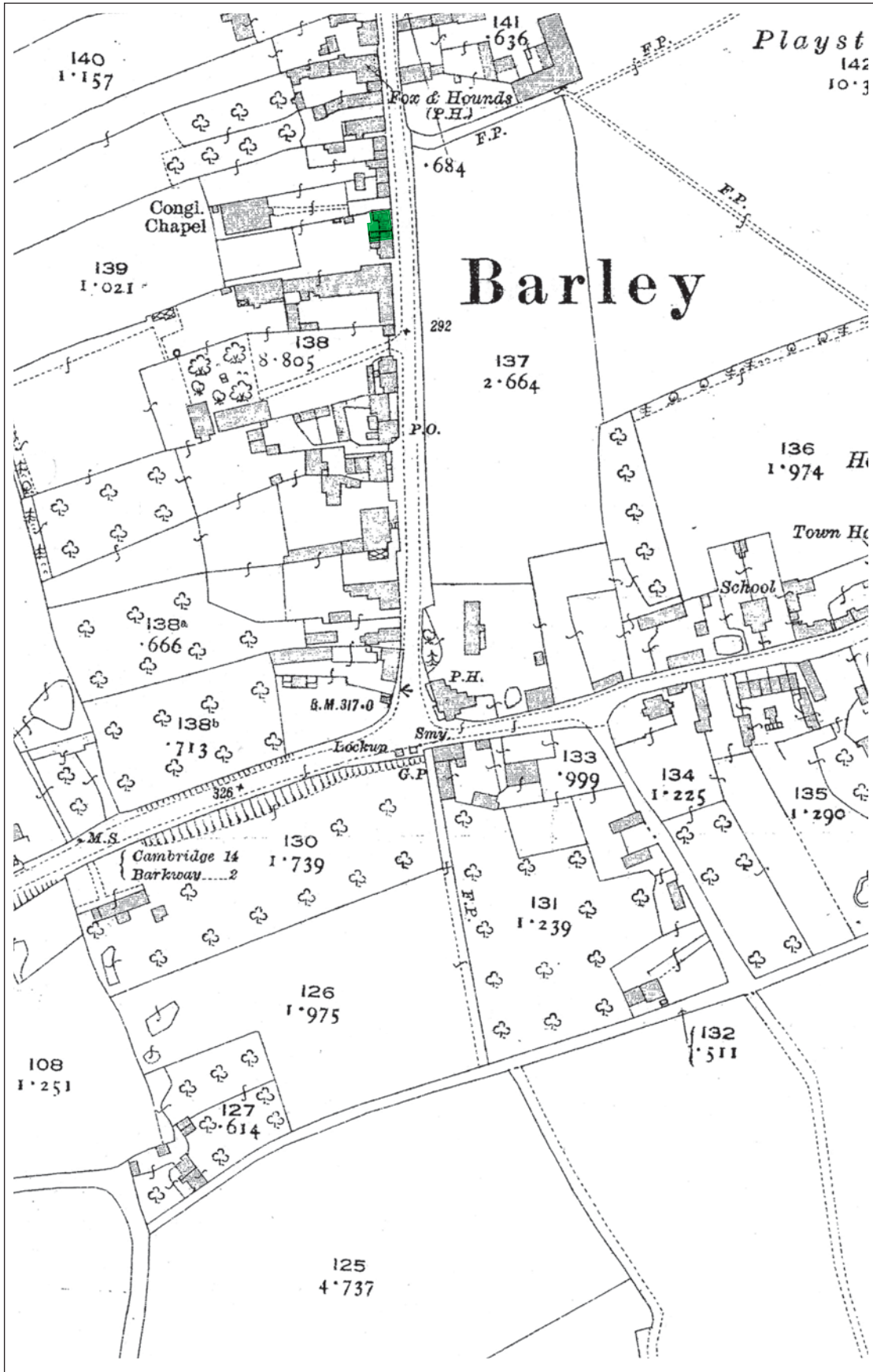


Figure : 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map showing study area green



Figure : Ground and first floor plans of 2 High Street



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Figure 1: Extract from map showing location of development area in green

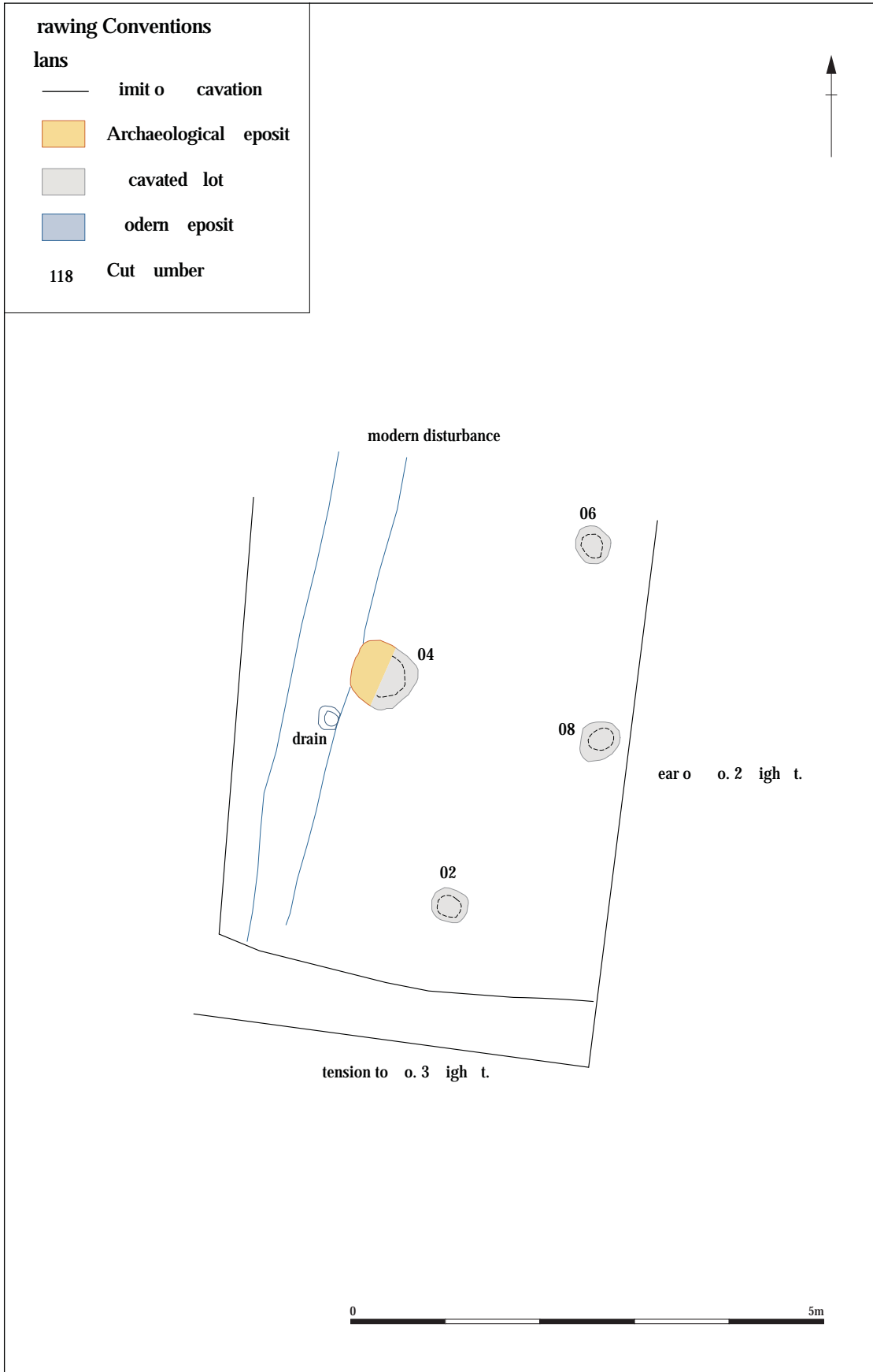


Figure : a ation plan



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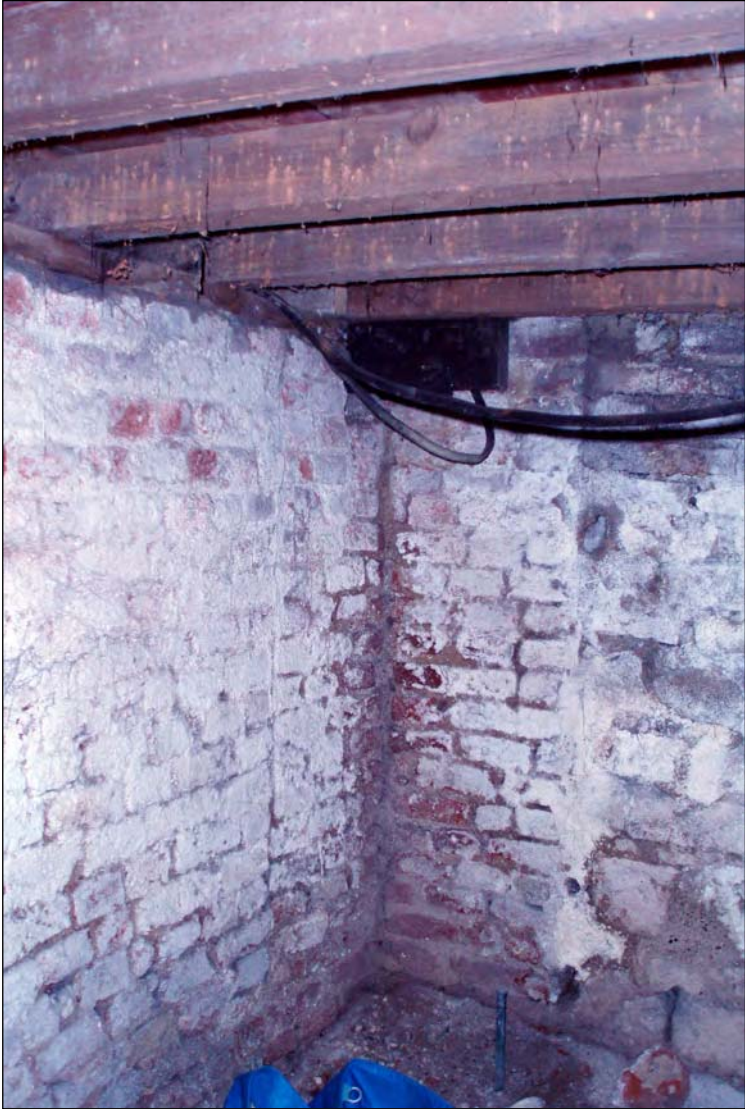
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late 4: Firepla e



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late : ean to prior to re o al



late 1: detail inside lean to



late 2: lean to against house



late 3: weather boarding following removal of lean to



late 4: timber frame exposed following removal of weather boarding



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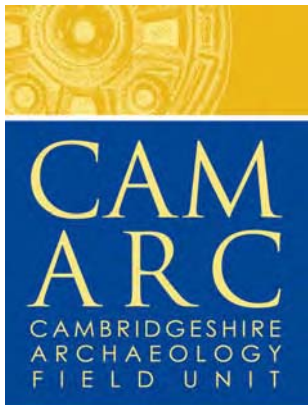
late : hotoograph of 2 and High Street ta en H S ef SF a



late 2 : Front of 2 High Street



late 2 : it 4



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