

HERITAGE NETWORK



RECTORY FARM Meesden, Herts.

HN980

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD & ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

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Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

RECTORY FARM, Meesden, Hertfordshire

Project ref.: HN980
Planning ref.: 3/11/1535/FP
HER consultation number: 302/11

Historic Building Record & Archaeological Monitoring Record

Prepared on behalf of Warren Gibbs

by

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&

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Contents

	Summary.....	Page i
Section 1	Introduction.....	Page 1
Section 2	Historic Background.....	Page 2
Section 3	Building Record	Page 4
Section 4	Archaeological Fieldwork.....	Page 9
Section 5	Discussion.....	Page 11
Section 6	Schedule of site visits	Page 13
Section 7	Sources Consulted	Page 14
Section 8	Figures	Page 15
Section 9	Plates	Page 18
Appendix 1	Photographic Log.....	Page 19
Appendix 2	OASIS Data Entry.....	Page 23

The cover photograph shows a view of the site, including Buildings 1 – 4, looking south-west

Acknowledgements

The historic building record was carried out by David Hillelson and the monitoring of the development groundworks was carried out by Robin Densem. The report text and illustrations were prepared by David Hillelson and Jim Snee.

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Summary

Site name and address:	Rectory Farm, Meesden, Herts. SG9 0AZ		
County:	Hertfordshire	District:	East Hertfordshire
Village/town:	Meesden	Parish:	Meesden
Planning reference:	3/11/1535/FP	NGR:	TL 43663 32468
Client name and address:	Warren Gibbs, 2 Wickham Way, Puckeridge, Herts. SG11 2PB		
Nature of work:	New dwelling	Former use:	Building
Site Status:	Area of Archaeological Significance (AAS20)	Reason for investigation:	Direction of LPA (PPS5)
Position in planning process:	After full determination	Project brief originator:	Local Authority
Site Code:	HN980	HER consultation:	302/11
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc...	HBR / OR	Archive Recipient:	HALS (HBR); Hertford Museum (OR)
Start of work	30/03/2012	Finish of work	25/06/2012
Related HER Nos:	n/a	Periods represented:	Post-medieval, Modern
Oasis UID	heritage1-119897	Significant finds:	GLASS – Modern BRICK – Post-medieval
Monument types:	None		
Physical archive:	BRICK, GLASS		
Previous summaries/reports:	n/a		

Synopsis:

As the result of an archaeological condition on planning consent for the development of Rectory Farm, Meesden, the Heritage Network was commissioned to create a record of the existing buildings and to undertake archaeological monitoring of the development groundworks.

The documentary research for the project demonstrated that Rectory Farm was built between 1815 and 1840 on a previously unoccupied site. The farmhouse (Building 1) appears to have been built as a schoolhouse, incorporating a school room and accommodation for the school mistress, which functioned from the late 1830s until 1875. The building was cheaply constructed of poor quality softwood framing with weatherboard to the exterior, but with at least one reused oak tie beam. Three outbuildings, Buildings 2, 4 and 6, were also recorded, all dating to the original construction phase. A fourth outbuilding, Building 3, was modern, dating to the second half of the 20th century.

No significant archaeological features were identified in the course of the groundworks.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared on behalf of *Warren Gibbs*, as part of a programme of archaeological works carried out on the redevelopment of the site at Rectory Farm, Meesden, Herts.

1.2 The planning permission for the development (ref: 3/11/1535/FP) granted by East Hertfordshire District Council (EHDC), has been subject to a standard archaeological condition (Condition 2) issued in accordance with the provisions of the Department of Communities and Local Government's *Planning Policy Statement 5* (PPS5), now superseded by the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF). The development proposes the demolition of the existing buildings and their replacement with a detached two storey dwelling with associated services and landscaping.

1.3 A full specification for the works was contained in Heritage Network's approved *Project Design*, dated March 2012 (Snee 2012).

1.4 The present site lies on the southern edge of Rectory Farm, to the east of the modern village of Meesden, and is centred on NGR TL 43663 32468. The site is bounded by a minor road to the west, and agricultural land to the north, east and south (Figure 1).

1.5 The proposed development lies within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 20, which includes the remains of a medieval moat at Meesden Bury, the medieval parish church of St Mary, Meesden Rectory (renamed Meesden Hall) and Rectory Farm.

1.6 The aim of the building recording has been to make a detailed record of the buildings scheduled for demolition, in their present condition, to monitor the demolition works and record any features not previously accessible, and to undertake additional research, as necessary, to place the building in its local and regional archaeological and historical context. It was considered that such recording had the potential to contribute to an understanding of the origin and construction of the Hall, its setting and its context currently and historically.

1.7 The aim of the groundworks monitoring programme has been to identify and record any below ground archaeological remains that were liable to be threatened by the development, consider their location, depth, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality in accordance with the current published regional research agenda (Medlycott 2011), and provide a local and regional, archaeological and historical context for them.

1.8 It was considered that the below ground investigation had the potential to contribute to a number of regional research topics, and, in particular, to an increased understanding of

- landscape use and settlement patterns in the Romano-British period;
- the origins and development of the medieval and post-medieval settlement of Meesden;
- the economic infrastructure of post-medieval rural estates;
- the transition between the medieval and post-medieval rural settlements and landscapes

1.9 The present report, together with the deposition of the project archives with Hertfordshire Archives and with Hertford Museum, and the publication of a short note in *Hertfordshire Archaeology and History*, is intended to complete the archaeological requirements of the planning consent and allow Condition 2 to be discharged.

2. Historic Background

2.1 The site lies within Area of Archaeological Significance no. 20, which notes the remains of a medieval moat at Meesden Bury, the medieval parish church of St Mary, Meesden Rectory (now called Meesden Hall), and Rectory Farm.

2.2 The earliest archaeological remains in the vicinity of the site, are dated to the Romano-British period. A spread of pottery and tile (HER 2610) has been recorded in the ploughsoil of fields to the southeast. This material was found adjacent to the proposed line of a Roman road (HER 4707) linking Ermine Street (the modern A10) to the Braughing - Great Chesterford road.

2.3 The Manor of Meesdenbury (HER 12016), to the northeast of the present development, is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086. The timber manor house, with moat and a wooden bridge, is documented in the records of the Court Baron in 1418, although its condition is described as 'ruinous'. The present house dates from the 17th century (HER 12018), with a 19th century brick casing and is associated with three 17th century barns (HER 17061), an L-shaped pond that may be the remains of the medieval moat (HER 1945), and the brick foundations of a 19th century brewhouse (HER 12019).

2.4 To the northwest of Rectory Farm, is the 12th century church of St Mary (HER 4346), which forms the parish church of Meesden. Adjacent to the church is the former rectory (HER 17137), an early 18th century house and grounds that now forms a private residence.

2.5 Rectory Farm is a post-medieval farmstead, formerly part of the Rectory estate. The county Historic Environment Record (HER) notes this as comprising a later 18th century farmhouse of simple construction with associated outbuildings (HER 17136), but this description can now be updated (see below).

2.6 The present village of Meesden is a linear settlement established along Mill Lane. The site of a windmill is documented at the east end of the village (HER 5977), recorded in documents dating to 1262, and present on the Dury and Andrews' map of 1766. Undated earthworks to the northwest of the village (HER 16438) could represent further earlier settlement, although they are more likely to have been formed from trackways and small field enclosures.

Cartographic Evidence

2.7 The earliest detailed map available for Meesden is *A Map or Plan of the Parish of Meesden in the County of Hertford* (HALS 26872A), dated 1815 (Figure 2). This map shows the Rectory and church, with the driveway to the Rectory shown as a later addition. However, the area now occupied by Rectory Farm is shown as an open field, labelled Hall Close, and is flanked on the west by a narrow plantation of trees.

2.8 The Tithe Map of 1840 (HALS DSA4/68/2) shows that, by this date, the plantation had been partially cleared and a house (Building 1) had been erected at the corner of the field (Figure 3). The farmyard is shown to the north, bounded by ranges of buildings to its north and east, including, amongst them, Buildings 6 and 7. Two smaller buildings, near to the house, appear to represent Buildings 2 and 4. The plot appears to be labelled 132a, though this is very faded and no entry under this number was found in the Tithe Award. Plot 132 represents the plantation of trees lining the road and Plot 131 is recorded as Hall Close, owned by the Revd Armytage Gausson and occupied by William Watson.

2.9 The OS 1st edition 25” County Series, dated 1878, shows that the remainder of the plantation had been cleared and that various changes had been made to the buildings (Figure 4). Building 7 has been extended to the east (with the creation of Building 8), and Building 2 appears to have been extended to the north. A narrow building has been erected in the north-west corner of the yard, in the area now occupied by Building 9, and a small building is shown to the east of the house, in the general location of Building 5. The house also appears to have been enlarged, with infilling to the south-west corner and an extension to the south elevation.

2.10 The OS 2nd edition 25” County Series, dated 1898, shows little change to the layout of the farm (Figure 5).

2.11 By the time of the 1978 edition OS map, the narrow structure west of Building 7 had been replaced by a larger structure (Building 9), and the range between Buildings 6 and 8 had been demolished (Figure 6). This layout appears to have remained largely unchanged to the present day (Figure 7).

3. Building record

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

3.1 Rectory Farm consists of a farmhouse lying to the south of a farmyard, formed by a range of barns to the north, and sheds to the south and west (Figure 8). The development has involved the demolition of the farmhouse (Building 1) and Buildings 2 and 4. Building 3 was intended to be renovated and Building 6 was intended to be left, but, after demolition work on site had started, it was decided that both buildings were in too poor a condition to be retained, though Building 3 is to be rebuilt on the same footprint.

3.2 A full record of Buildings 2 and 4 has been completed, and an outline record of Building 1, which fell outside the provisions of the archaeological condition on the planning consent. Building 3 was modern and has been photographed. Building 6 lay outside the recording brief, but photographs have been provided by the client which have allowed a basic description to be collated. Buildings 5, 7, 8 and 9 have been retained without alteration.

Building 1

3.3 Although, Building 1 fell outside the requirements of the planning condition for recording, access was kindly made available for an outline record to be made, following discussions between the client and the HEU. This has allowed a measured sketch plan of the interior as existing to be made, to supplement the architect's elevations and roof plan, and a digital photographic record of the interior and exterior (Figures 9 & 10). A site visit was also made in the course of the demolition programme, during which keyholes were opened up that allowed the structure of the building to be examined.

3.4 The building is timber-framed and of two storeys with a shallow pitched pantile roof aligned north-south (Plates 1 - 6). A two-flue chimney rises through the centre of the ridge. A small, single-storey square extension with a pitched pantile roof has been added to the east end of the south elevation, and a single storey rectangular extension with a pitched cement asbestos roof has been added to the north end of the east elevation. All the exterior elevations have been rendered but this has been applied over pre-existing weatherboarding.

3.5 The main entrance to the building is through a gabled doorway set in the north end of the west elevation, which opens into Room 1 (Figure 10).

- Room 1 has an enclosed staircase in the south-east corner and doorways south into Room 2 and east into Room 3 (Plates 7 & 8).
- The ceiling of Room 2 is supported on two octagonal wooden posts and a chimney and blocked fireplace, set at an angle, occupy the north-west corner (Plates 9 & 10).
- Room 3 has a modern brick fireplace in the middle of the south elevation and a door at the west end of the north elevation opening into the yard (Plate 11). A hole broken through the northern elevation showed 1½" laths supporting plaster strengthened with animal hair, and nailed to 2" waney-edged softwood studs on 14-inch centres (Plate 12). On the outside of the studs, 7" softwood weatherboarding could be seen. The structure of the east and west elevations were similar, though with laths on the outside of the studs.
- Doors at either end of the east elevation of Room 3 give access to the kitchen, Room 4, and a lobby, Room 5, leading to an outside door and to a door leading into Room 8 (Plate 13).

- A door in the middle of the east elevation of Room 5 leads into a utility room, Room 6, and then into a bathroom, Room 7. The threshold of the doorway shows a blocked mortice hole, indicating that the doorway has been opened up later and suggesting that the eastern extension was formerly a self-contained out-house (Plate 14).
- Room 8 is of double height, with tall windows in the east and south elevations, and a large chimney breast and modern fireplace in the north elevation, offset to the west (Plates 15-17). The east elevation was opened up revealing 3" waney-edged softwood studs on 15"-16" centres morticed into the sole plate (Plate 18). A diagonal primary brace was also exposed, with the interrupted studs nailed in place.
- A door towards the east end of the south elevation of Room 8 leads into Room 9, which has a blocked doorway leading into the garden, in the middle of its west elevation (Plate 19).
- At the top of the stairs from Room 1, a short corridor leads into Room 10, occupying the attic space above Rooms 3, 4 & 5. Opening up the north elevation revealed a tie-beam, interrupted by a window and morticed and pegged to the uprights on either side of it (Plate 20). The tie-beam is 5" wide and 4" deep. Above the tie-beam are 2½" waney-edged softwood studs on 11"-12" centres, while those below are 3" on 14-inch centres. No peg holes associated with the studs were observed. At the north-east corner, the tie-beam rests on a wall plate running north-south, which is supported by a corner post measuring 6" north-south by 4" east-west (Plate 21). A tie-beam exposed in the south elevation is of hardwood, with well-defined adze marks on the inner face (Plate 22) and a redundant peg-hole at the eastern end (Plate 23), which is almost certainly re-used. Above the tie-beam are 2½" softwood studs on 15"-16" centres, while those below are 3" on 16-inch centres.
- Room 11 lies to the west of Room 10 and above Rooms 1 and 3. It is accessed through a door off the corridor. A shallow plinth runs along the western side of the room and a door at the southern end of the west elevation gives access to low storage space beneath the eaves (Plate 24).

Building 2

3.6 Building 2 is a two-cell stable and wood/coal store aligned north-south with a pitched clay-tile roof, measuring 5.85 x 3.20m (Figures 11 & 12; Plates 25 & 26). It abuts Building 3 which lies to the north. The elevations have all been rendered and local information indicates that the previous owner of the property had been a plasterer who was responsible for rendering the majority of the buildings on the property.

- The western elevation has no detail other than a line at the division of the two cells (marking the replacement of the timber framing at the southern end of the elevation with cinder blocks).
- The southern elevation has no detail other than a rendered-over horn to the eastern wall plate.
- The eastern elevation is bisected by a modern rendered cement block yard wall decorated with pargetting, built in line with the division between the two cells and separating the farmhouse from the farmyard. The store forms the southern cell, and is accessed by a boarded, ledged and braced door at the southern end of the elevation. A single light window of four panes lies beyond the door, adjacent to the yard wall. To the north of this is a boarded and ledged stable door giving access to the northern cell.

3.7 The structure of the building is formed of timber framing consisting of corner posts supporting wall-plates in the eastern and western elevations. These, in turn, support tie-beams and the roof structure consisting of rafter pairs meeting at a ridge plate, with a collar, and a single clasped purlin in each slope (Plate 27). Both cells are open to the roof, and there are signs of burning at the southern end of the western slope, possibly indicative of an accidental fire (Plate 28). The southern cell has a brick floor, while the northern cell has an apparent earth floor, though this may mask a solid base.

Southern cell

3.8 The southern cell measures 2.6m long by 3.00m wide on the interior, the height from the floor to the top of the wall plate is 1.77m, and to the ridge is 3.39m. A sole plate survives in the southern elevation of the southern cell, this being much decayed and resting on a pad formed of a single layer of red bricks laid as headers (Plate 29). Waney-edged softwood studs, on 14-inch centres, link the sole plate and waney-edged southern tie-beam, and a nailed primary brace crosses the eastern half of the elevation. There is no sign of a similar brace to the west. Behind the studwork, sawn softwood weatherboarding is visible, each board of 7-inch width. Above the tie-beam, the gable is formed of a collar and studs on 16-inch centres (Plate 30).

3.9 A sole plate also survives in the eastern elevation, which has badly weathered waney-edged studwork, also on 14-inch centres and a diagonal primary brace at the southern end, interrupted by the later addition of a doorway and a window (Plate 31). Softwood weatherboarding is also visible behind the studwork in this elevation.

3.10 The studwork in the eastern elevation of the southern cell has been replaced by cement blocks, and the partition that separates the northern and southern cells is covered in softwood weatherboarding (Plate 32).

Northern cell

3.11 The northern cell measures 2.93m long by 3.00m wide on the interior, the height from the floor to the ridge is 3.30m. The interior of the stable has been rendered to 1.2m (4 feet) above floor level, with studwork on 14-inch centres visible behind the render in the east, west and south elevations (Plates 33-35). The northern elevation has been removed below the level of the tie-beam, exposing the cement block forming the southern elevation to Building 3, which butts it to the north (Plate 36).

Building 3

3.12 Building 3, measuring 6.65 x 4.30m and aligned north-south, is an entirely modern structure built of cement blocks, with a pent roof covered in corrugated cement asbestos sheeting (now collapsed) (Figure 11; Plates 37-38). It appears to be contemporary with Building 9, on the north side of the gateway that gives access to the farmyard from the road to the west. Safe access was not possible.

Building 4

3.13 Building 4 is a two-cell store measuring 5.60 x 2.80m and aligned east-west (Figure 12). It has a pitched corrugated cement asbestos roof. It is built predominantly of brick (of several different periods) with a substantial block of cob surviving in the middle of the southern elevation.

- The western gable end is formed of hand-made red brick laid in Flemish bond with a lime mortar, the bricks measuring $8\frac{3}{8}$ " x 4" x $2\frac{1}{2}$ " (the lengths of the bricks actually varying between 7" and 9") (Plate 39). A single light, top-hinged window of two panes occupies the centre of the elevation. Above the level of the eaves, all has been rebuilt in Fletton bricks in poor quality cement mortar. An OS benchmark was noted 0.787m above the existing ground level and 0.71m north from the south-west corner (value 134.03mAOD).
- The south elevation has two doors giving access to the east and west cells, both doors being modern boarded, ledged and braced (Plate 40). To the west of the western door, the structure is of brick, contemporary with the western elevation. Between the two doors, a brick plinth supports a panel of cob which has been rendered and painted, with a window opening at its eastern end below the eaves (Plate 41). This has a wood and metal mullion bisecting the opening with each half being further bisected by a metal strut. Horizontal wooden slats have been nailed in front of this. To the east of the eastern door, the elevation is formed of modern Fletton bricks laid in a random pattern with cement mortar.
- The east elevation is formed of randomly laid hand-made red brick, $2\frac{1}{2}$ " in height and other mixed dimensions, set in lime mortar to a height of 1.54m above the existing ground level, with modern Fletton bricks in stretcher bond and cement mortar, above (Plate 42). A band of cement based mortar has been applied to the base of the wall to 0.98m above existing ground level.
- The north elevation is formed of hand-made red brick laid in Flemish bond with a lime mortar, the dimensions of the bricks being similar to those in the west elevation (Plate 42). A window opening to the east of the elevation lights the eastern cell, but is masked by a corrugated fibreglass panel.

Western cell

3.14 The western cell measures 2.22 long by 2.34 wide, with the height from the brick floor to the wall plate being 1.58m, and to the apex of the roof being 3.39m. The roof is modern, corrugated cement asbestos supported on an upper and a lower purlin only.

3.15 The eastern interior elevation is a stud partition, faced with nailed lath and plaster, separating the two cells (Plate 43). The plaster continues round to the southern elevation where the cob is exposed in places (Plate 44). The northern elevation bows outwards exposing the junction with the partition (Plate 45).

Eastern cell

3.16 The eastern cell measures 2.81 long by 2.34 wide, with a concrete floor. The dividing partition, which forms the western interior elevation, has studs on 14-inch centres, all of narrow scantling and waney-edged. The partition sits on a brick sill which probably replaces a timber sole plate (Plate 46). The northern elevation has a window opening in a similar style to that already noted in the southern exterior elevation (Plate 47).

Building 6

3.17 Building 6 was expected to have been retained, but was demolished on safety grounds without a detailed record having been made (Figure 13). The following description has been drawn up on the basis of photographs taken by the client.

3.18 The building consisted of a two-bay timber framed and weatherboarded shed aligned north-south, with a corrugated iron pent roof sloping down to the east, and timber framed and weatherboarded extensions to the east and west (Plates 48-49). An extension to the north, shown on recent OS maps, had been removed before the start of the present project.

3.19 Access to the main shed was through a boarded, ledged and braced stable door at the western end of the south elevation (Plate 50), with a further stable door at the northern end of the west elevation. The shed measured approximately 7 x 6m, and appears to have been constructed using a reclaimed and cut down post and truss framework formed of jowled principal posts, wall plates and tie-beams with curving braces (Plate 51). The pent roof rested on a series of timbers running east to west, themselves resting on the wall plates and on an independently supported beam running north to south down the centre. The floor appears to have been of earth.

3.20 The interior elevations were lined with horizontal boarding but the supporting studwork is visible where boards have come away. The studs at the northern end of the east elevation appear to have been waney-edged and of narrow scantling, similar to those noted in Buildings 1 and 2, but at the southern end they appear to have been more substantial, suggesting that they had been re-used.

3.21 The south-east corner had been crudely partitioned off to create a pen or stall, and wooden mangers with tethering rings lined the east elevation beyond, indicating the shed's use as a stable or byre.

3.22 The lean-to extension to the east measured approximately 4 x 2.5m and was open to the south, suggesting its use as a cartlodge (Plate 52). It had a pent roof of corrugated iron sloping down to the east. Much of the weatherboarding in the north and east elevations had come away and much of the studwork in the north elevation was also missing. The studs in the east elevation appear to have been more substantial, but the sole plate had decayed completely.

3.23 The lean-to extension to the west measured approximately 4.5 x 3.75m overall, the eastern half being timber-framed and weatherboarded, the western half being formed of a rendered wall. The pent corrugated iron roof, sloping down to the west, extended across the whole building, being supported at its western end by three short pillars rising from the wall creating ventilation for the interior. Access was through a boarded door in the middle of the north elevation. The ventilation, and the extensive use of chicken wire, suggests that this area was used as a chicken-run, at least in latter years.

4. Archaeological Fieldwork

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

4.1 The present site lies on the southern edge of Rectory Farm, to the east of the modern village of Meesden, and is centred on NGR TL 43663 32468. The site is bounded by a minor road to the west, and agricultural land to the north, east and south (Figure 1). The site lies at an approximate height of 130mOD.

4.2 Locally the soils belong to the Hanslope Association (411d), described as *Slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils. Some slowly permeable non-calcareous clayey soils.* (SSEW 1983). The underlying geology consists of Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford (Undifferentiated) Chalk Formation – Chalk, overlain by Lowestoft Formation - Diamicton (www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience).

METHODOLOGY

4.3 The timetable for the fieldwork followed the client's groundwork schedule. A single site visit was made to monitor the excavation of foundation trenches, which was done using a tracked 360° machine fitted with a 0.6m wide bucket (Figure 14; Plate 53).

4.4 All work was carried out in accordance with the approved Project Design, current health and safety legislation, and both IfA and ALGAO standards.

MONITORING AND RECORDING

Stratigraphy

4.5 The stratigraphy on the site consisted of brown (10YR 4/3) clay overburden (001) with moderate brick, chalk and sub-angular gravel, 0.50m thick, overlying the natural substratum (002) which consisted of light olive brown (2.5YR 5/4) clay with frequent chalk fragments (Figure 15).

Archaeology

4.6 Cutting into overburden (001) and lying on the upper surface of natural clay (002) were the footings (003) for the former Building 4 (Figure 15; Plate 54). These were composed of unfrosted red brick bonded with soft sandy lime mortar.

4.7 No other features, deposits or finds of archaeological significance were encountered within the foundation trenches.

FINDS ASSESSMENT**Concordance**

Context	Brick		Glass	
	No:	Wt (g):	No:	Wt (g):
001	1	920	2	65
003	1	2540		
Total	2	3460	2	65

Brick

4.8 A total of 1 brick fragment and 1 whole brick, weighing 3460g, was recovered from 2 contexts.

4.9 The brick fragment from overburden (001) was from a handmade, unfrosted brick, probably local and dating to the 19th century. The whole brick recovered from (003) was of the same, form and fabric as the fragment in (001) and was also identified as a locally made 19th century house brick.

Recommendations

4.10 Given the small size and relatively recent date of the assemblage, no further work is proposed on this material.

Glass

4.11 Two fragments of glass, weighing 65g, were recovered from context (001). One fragment was a piece of modern window glass, the other was the top of a modern white glass bottle.

Recommendations

4.12 Given the small size and relatively recent date of the assemblage, no further work is proposed on this material.

5. Discussion

BUILDING RECORD

5.1 The cartographic evidence shows that Rectory Farm was built on a green field site, known as Hall Close, between 1815 and 1840, probably by the Rector, Armytage Gausson. Buildings 1, 2, 4, 6 and 7 all appear to be represented and might, therefore, be considered to be contemporary. The nature of the framing observed in Buildings 1 and 2 was certainly similar, with studwork of poor quality, waney-edged softwood of narrow scantling. Building 4 was brick and cob built, and may have served as a dairy, while Building 6 was largely built of re-used timbers and probably served as a byre. Building 7 was not examined.

5.2 Building 1 is unusual: cheaply built using a timber frame and weatherboarding, with a shallow-pitched roof, and large open hall (Room 10) occupying much of the southern half of the footprint. It does not appear to have been designed as a typical farmhouse. A comment from a current resident of the village indicated that the farmhouse had once been the village school, though not in his lifetime (i.e. not since 1930). The layout of the building would certainly support this suggestion, with Room 10, to the south of the chimney, representing the school room, being well lit and having sufficient ceiling height to allow tiered seating, with Room 9 providing an entrance and cloakroom. The rooms to the north of the chimney, laid out on two storeys with an outhouse to the east, would have provided accommodation for a school master or mistress. This would suggest that the building had been purpose built.

5.3 The log books for Meesden National School are held by the Hertfordshire Archives, and these indicate that the school operated between May 1875 and December 1933, when the pupils all moved to the school in Brent Pelham (HALS: H.Ed1 43/1). The school was located in the centre of the village, built, following the Education Act of 1870, on land given by Thomas Dimsdale, and funded by a mixture of government grant, subscriptions and penny fees (Nat.Archives: ED 103/126/50).

5.4 Kelly's Directory for 1855, however, states that 'here is a church school'. The same directory for 1874 states that 'here is a church school supported by subscription' and names the mistress as Miss Law. Church sponsored education developed following the growth of non-conformist institutions such as the British Schools in the first half of the 19th century, and the reaction to this by the Oxford Movement, founded in 1833. Although no documentation has been found to support this, it seems likely that it was this political climate that prompted the foundation of a church school at Meesden, probably in the late 1830s. It is likely that the church school referred to in the Kelly's Directories was Building 1 at Rectory Farm and that it only became the farmhouse after the children moved to the National School in 1875.

5.5 At some point between 1840 and 1878, Building 1 was extended to the south of the school room (Room 2), to create an uninterrupted western (or front) elevation. An entrance lobby to the school room (Room 9) was also created. The latter improvement would certainly have been of benefit to the school, though the former may have been undertaken after the school had moved out, that is between 1875 and 1878.

5.6 Buildings 1, 2 and 4 appear to have remained relatively unchanged from that time to the present. The most notable alterations consist of the rendering of the exteriors of all of the buildings on the site, and the replacement of the windows in Building 1, which probably took

place in the 1960s or 70s. This may also be the period when the doorway between the main house and the eastern outbuilding was created, to provide an inside bathroom and WC.

MONITORING OF GROUNDWORKS

5.7 The present site lies within Area of Archaeological Significance no. 20, which notes the remains of a medieval moat at Meesden Bury, the medieval parish church of St Mary, Meesden Rectory (now called Meesden Hall), and Rectory Farm. The area is known to contain archaeological remains dating from the Roman period onwards. It was considered that monitoring of the groundworks had the potential to contribute to a number of regional research topics from the Roman period to the post-medieval.

5.8 The cartographic evidence shows that Rectory Farm was founded on a green field site to the west of the Rectory between 1815 and 1840. The excavation of the foundations for the new dwelling revealed no significant archaeological features, although the shallow 19th brick footings to the recently demolished Building 4 were noted.

CONCLUSION

Building Record

5.9 The documentary research for the present project demonstrated that Rectory Farm was built between 1815 and 1840 on a previously unoccupied site. The farmhouse appears to have been built as a schoolhouse, incorporating a school room and accommodation for the school mistress, which functioned from the late 1830s until 1875. The building was cheaply constructed of poor quality softwood framing with weatherboard to the exterior, but with at least one reused oak tie beam. Three outbuildings, Buildings 2, 4 and 6, were also recorded, all dating to the original construction phase. A fourth outbuilding, Building 3, was modern, dating to the second half of the 20th century.

Monitoring of Groundworks

5.10 No significant archaeological features were identified in the course of the groundworks.

Confidence Rating

5.11 During the course of recording Buildings 2, 3 and 4, structural elements were visible and accessible throughout. Building 1 was only recorded summarily and key structural elements were only exposed in the course of demolition. Building 6 was recorded from photographs provided by the client. Good documentary evidence was located at Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies, and at the Public Record Office. On this basis, the overall confidence rating for the building recording may be considered to be *Moderate to High*.

5.12 During the course of the monitoring of groundworks, the overall conditions were generally acceptable for the identification of potential features and deposits, and for their investigation. On this basis the confidence rating for the archaeological monitoring may be considered to be *High*.

6. Schedule of Site Visits

Date	Staff	Hours	Comments
30/03/2012	DJH	8	Historic building record
19/06/2012	DJH	4	Historic building record
25/06/2012	RGD	11	O/R Foundation trench excavation

7. Sources Consulted

Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies

A Map or Plan of the Parish of Meesden in the County of Hertford, 1815 (26872A)
Meesden Tithe Award, 1840 (DSA4 68/1)
Meesden Tithe Map, 1840 (DSA4 68/2)
Meesden National School plan (DES 1/56)
Meesden School Log (H.Ed1 43/1)
Ordnance Survey mapping: County Series 1st edition (1878), 2nd edition (1898), 1:2500 series (1978)

National Archives

School Building Application: Meesden National School (ED 103/126/50)

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Medlycott, M. (ed.) 2011 *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24.
Morris, J. 1976, *Domesday Book: Hertfordshire*. Phillimore
Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW) 1983:1:250,000 *Soil Map of England & Wales, Sheet 4, Eastern England*. SSEW

Internet

Heritage Gateway: www.heritagegateway.org.uk
British Geological Survey (BGS): www.bgs.ac.uk

8. Figures

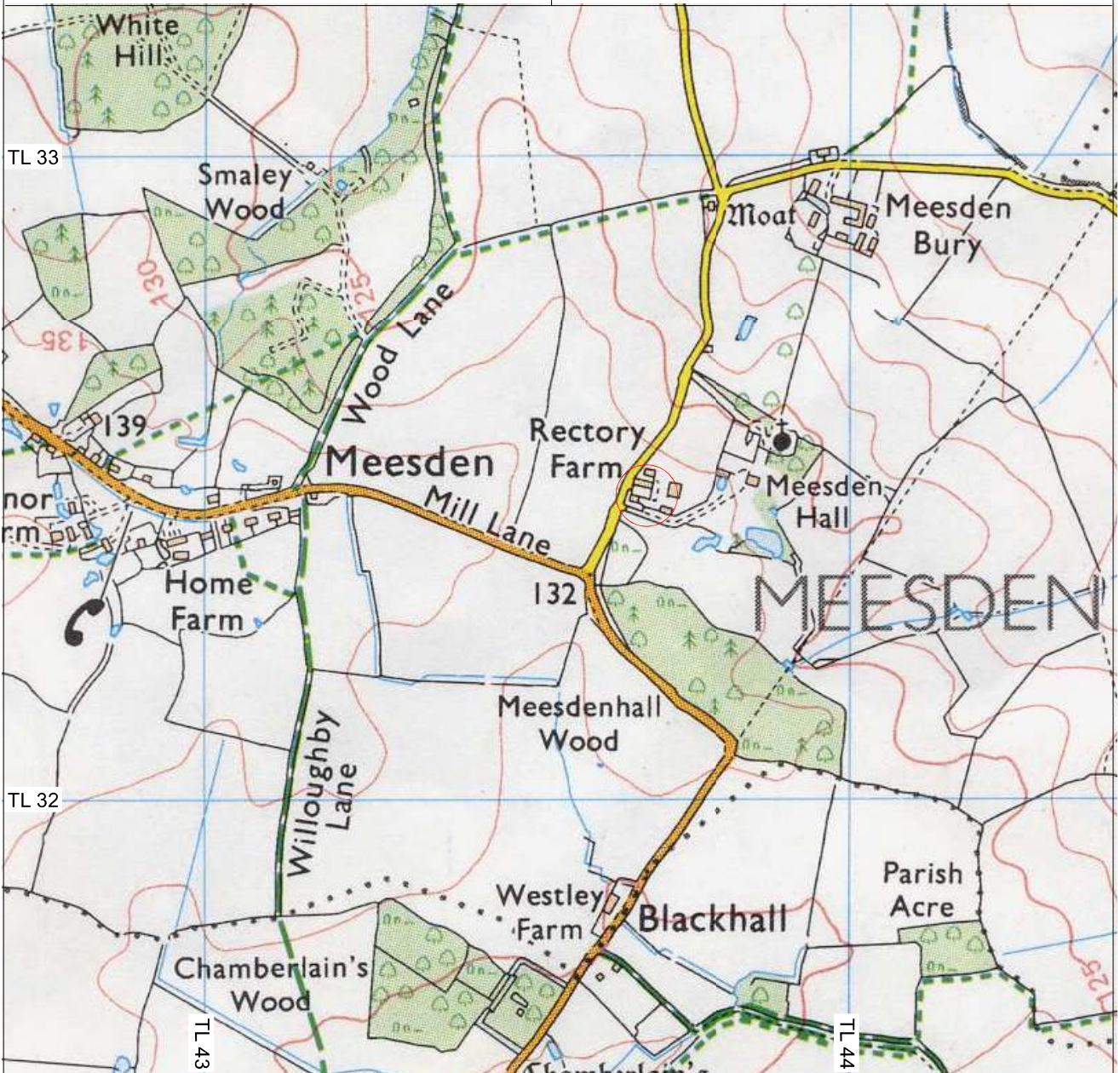
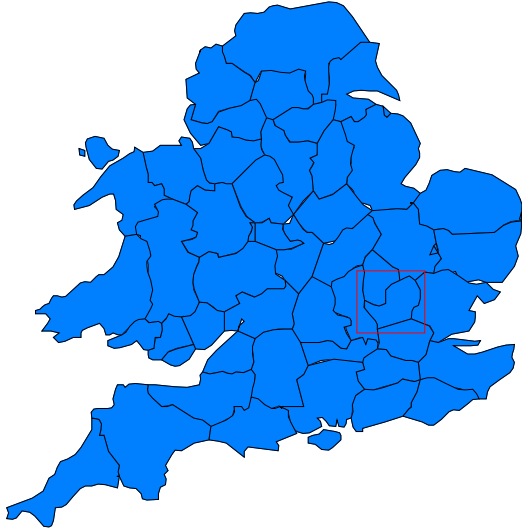
Figure 1	Site location
Figure 2	Map of Parish of Meesden, 1815
Figure 3	Meesden Tithe Map, 1840
Figure 4	OS 1 st edition map, 1878
Figure 5	OS 2 nd edition map, 1898
Figure 6	OS 1:2500 map, 1978
Figure 7	OS digital map, 2012-08-06
Figure 8	Site layout
Figure 9	Building 1: elevations
Figure 10	Building 1: plan
Figure 11	Buildings 2 & 3: elevations
Figure 12	Building 4: elevations, Buildings 2 & 4: plans
Figure 13	Building 6: plan
Figure 14	Plan of Groundworks
Figure 15	Sections 1 & 2

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Rectory Farm, Meesden, Hertfordshire

HN980



Site Location

Scale 1:10000

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Figure 1

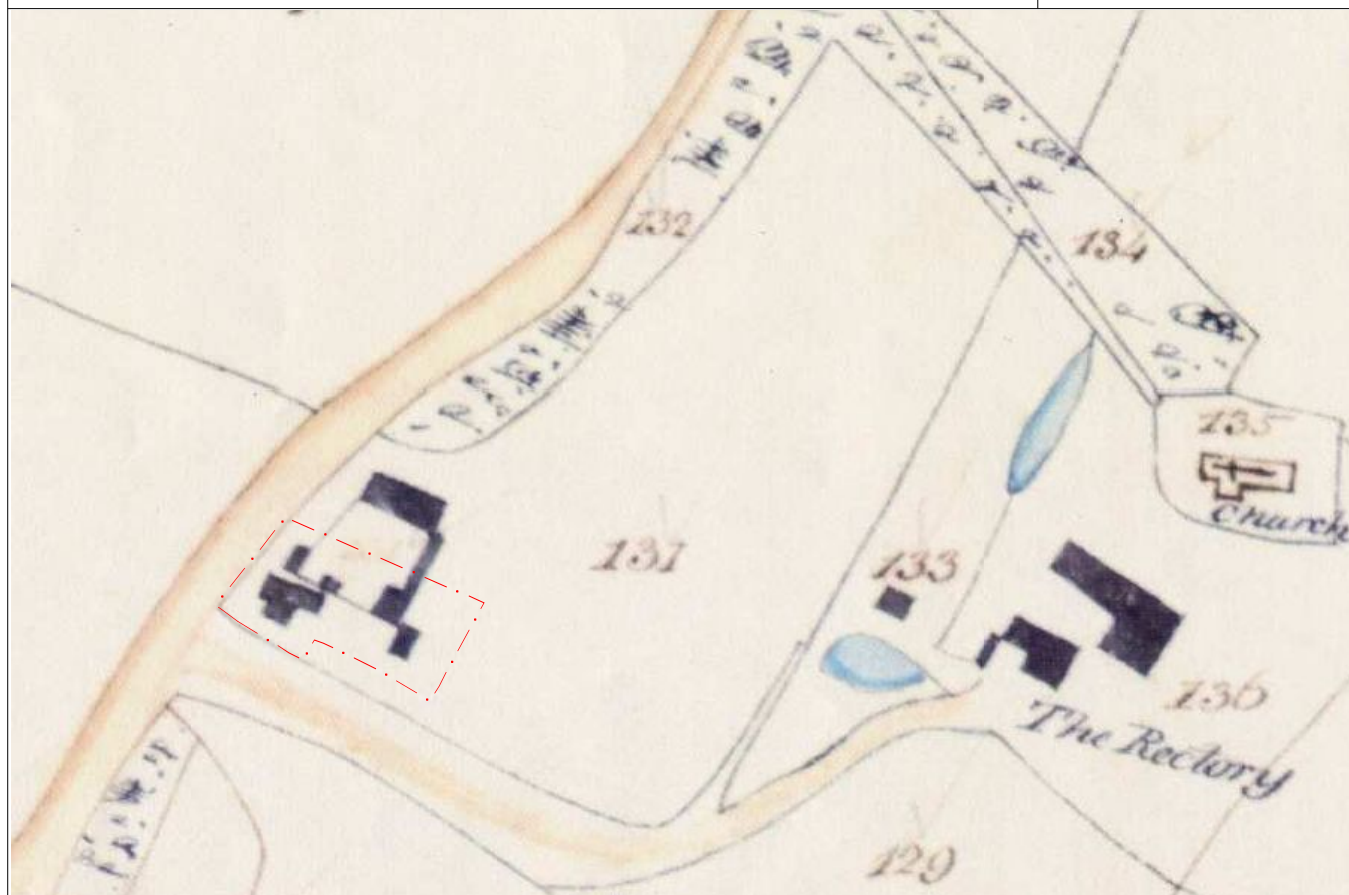


A Map or Plan of the Parish of Meesden in the County of Hertford, 1815

(HALS 26872A)

Scale 1:2500

Figure 2



Meesden Tithe Map, 1840

(HALS DSA4/68/2)

Scale 1:2500

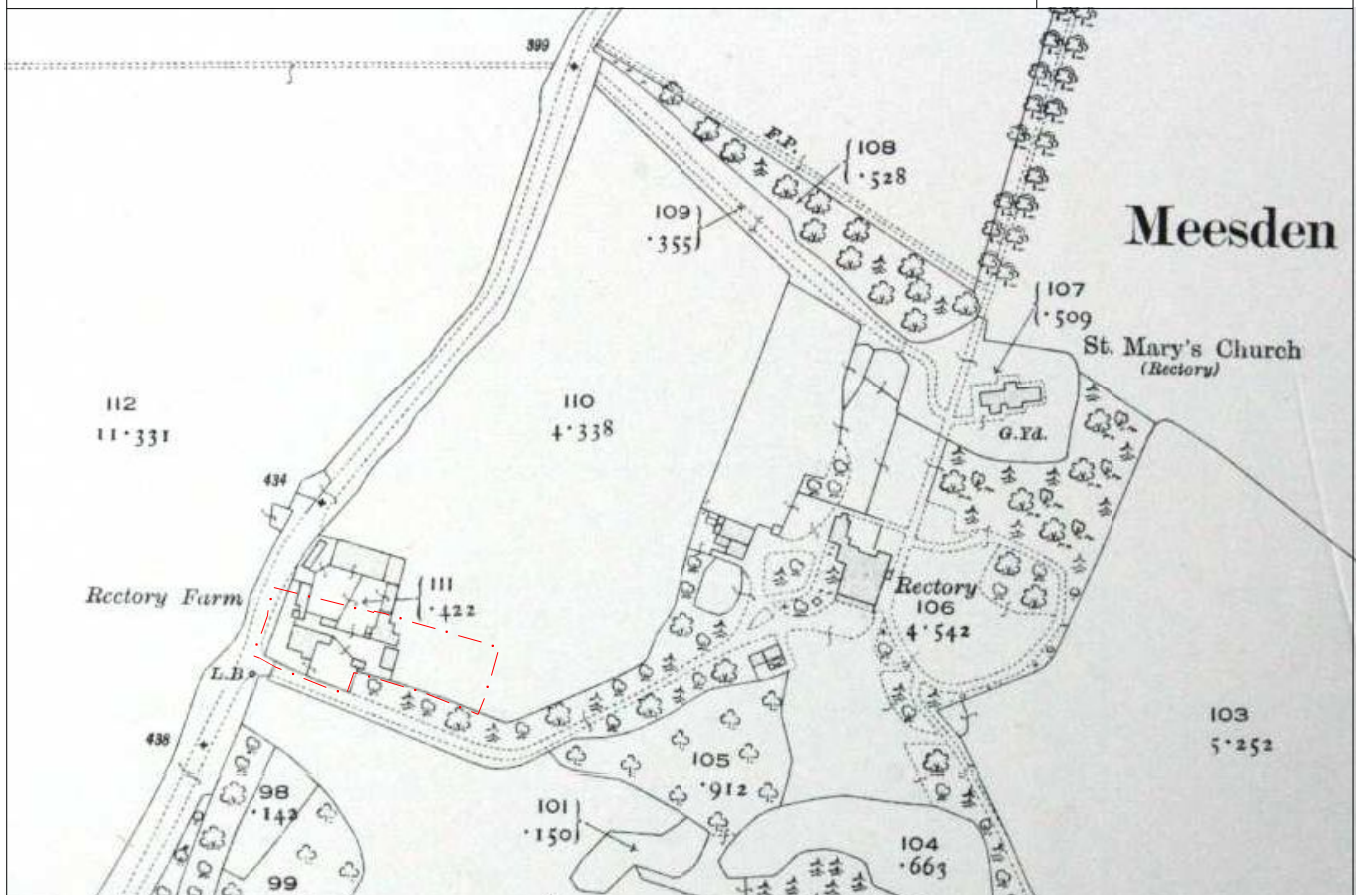
Figure 3



1st edition OS map, 25" scale, 1878

Scale 1:2500

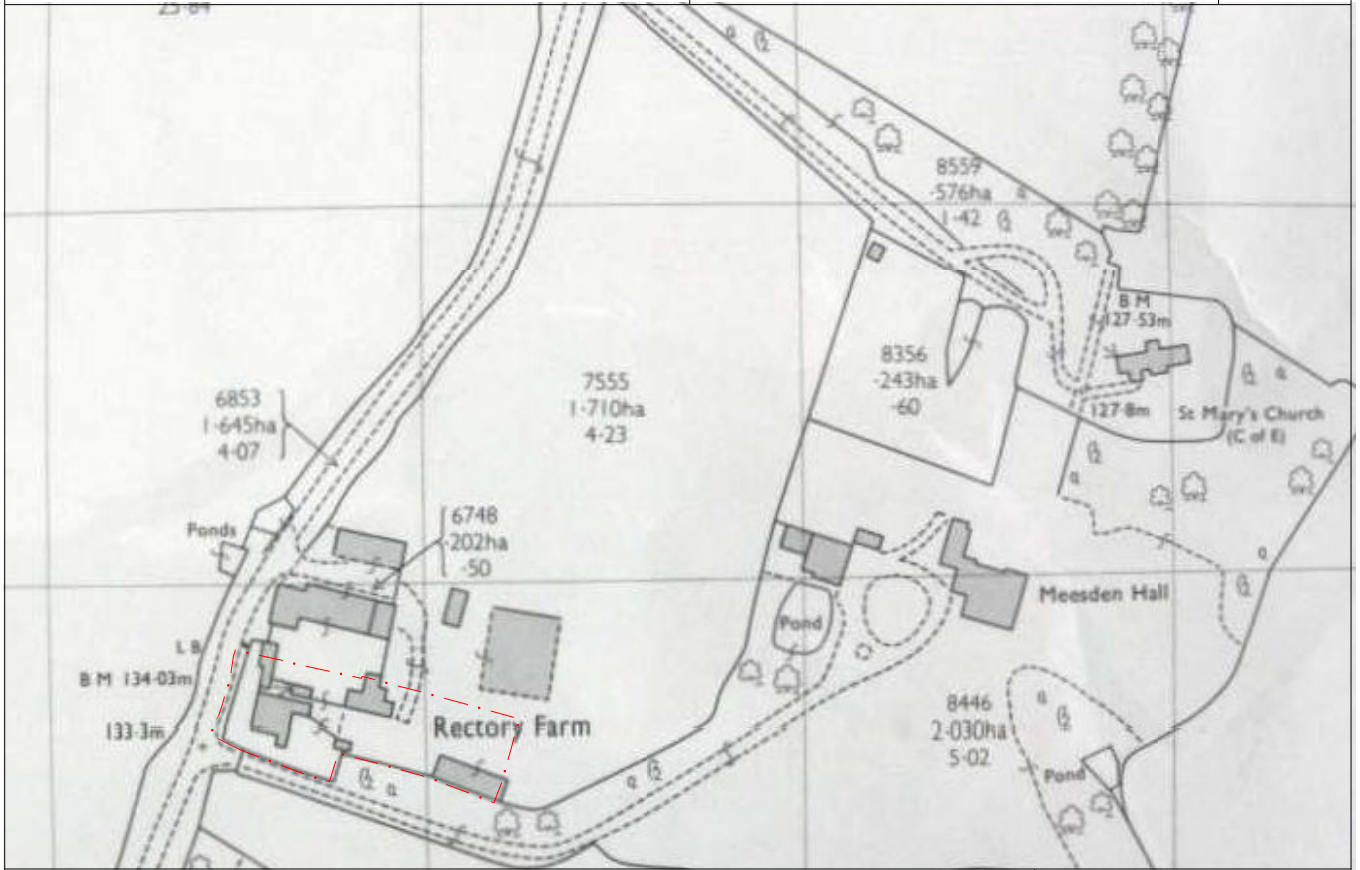
Figure 4



2nd edition OS map, 1898

Scale 1:2500

Figure 5

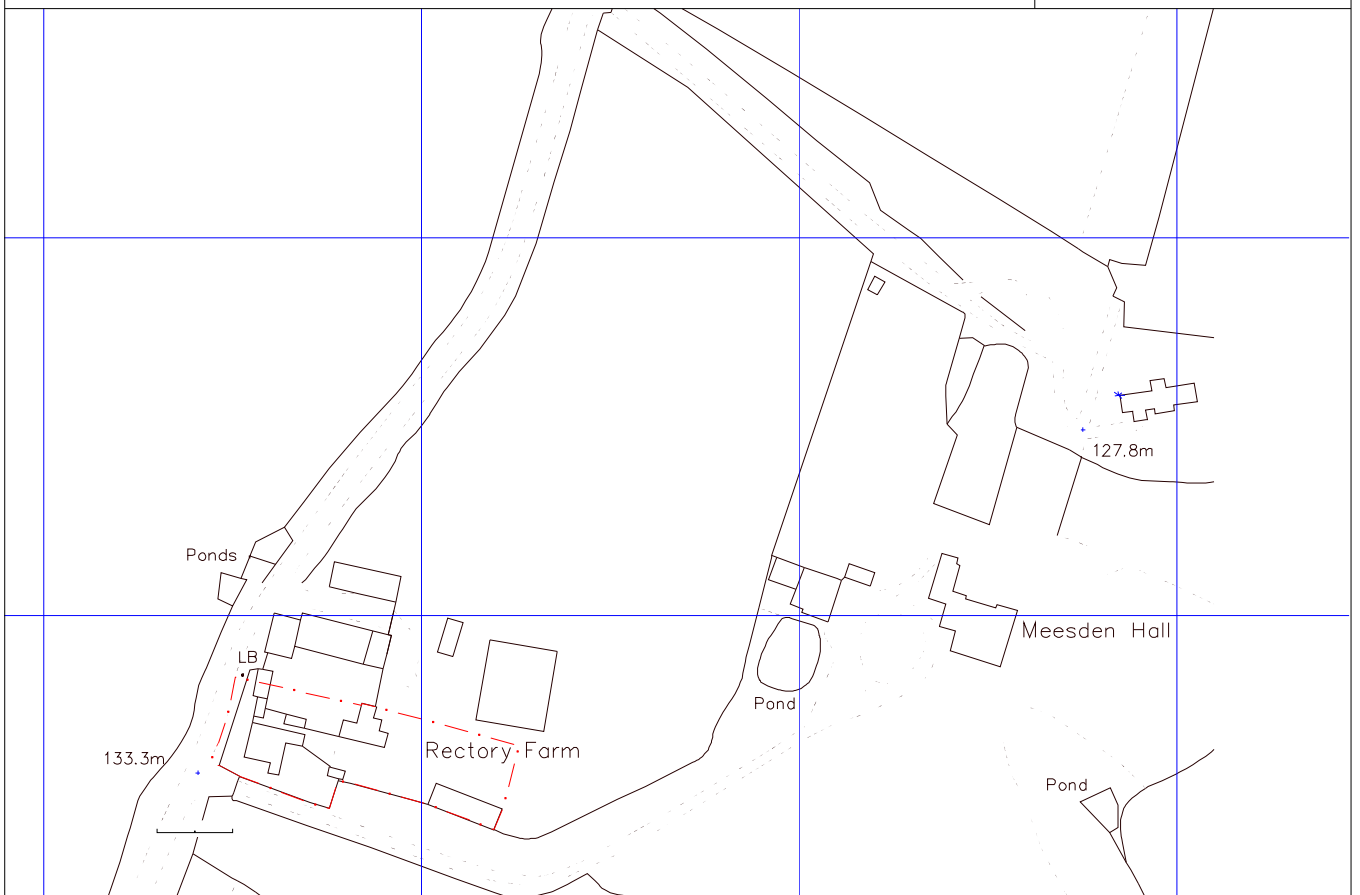


OS map, 1978

Scale 1:2000

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Figure 6

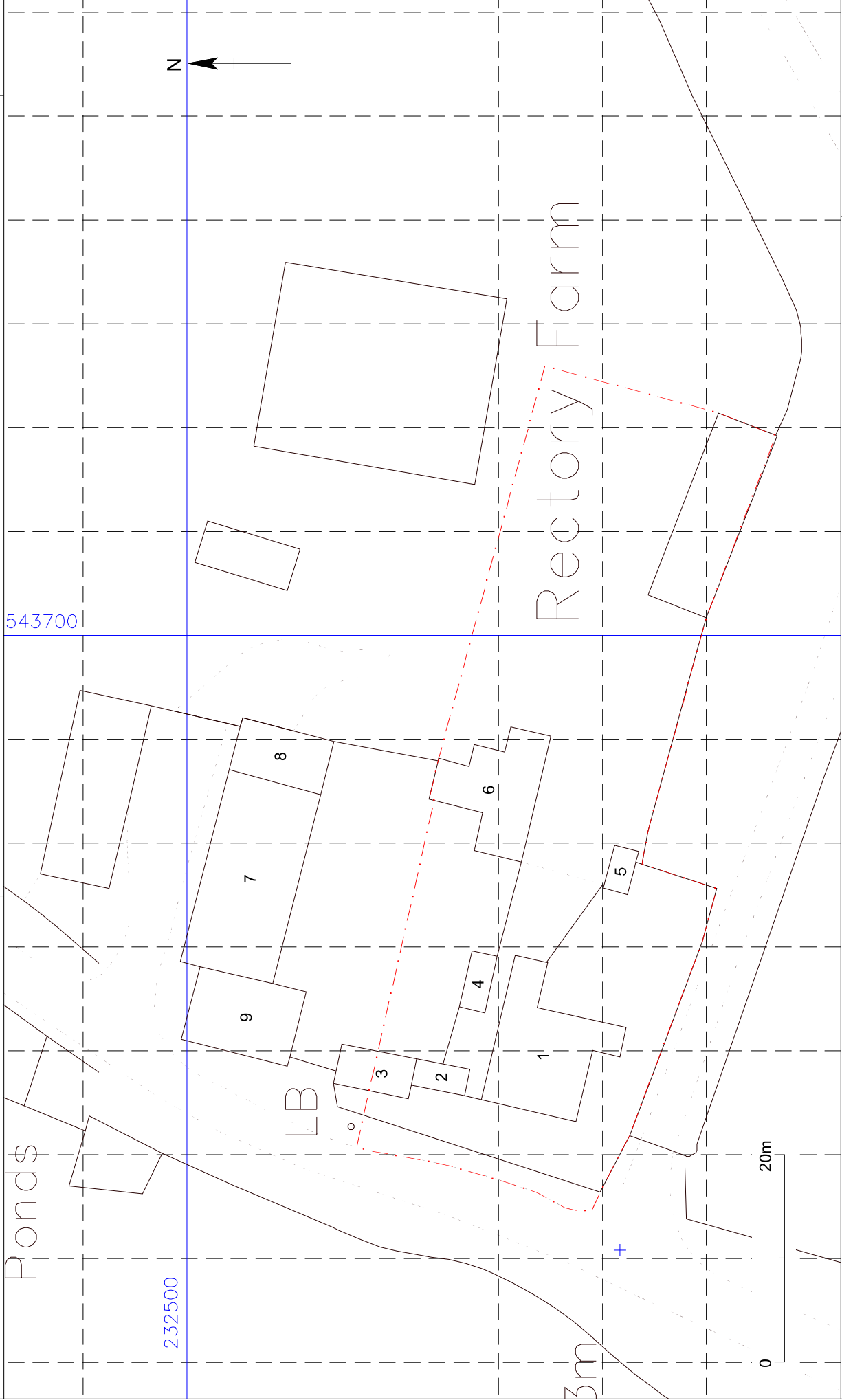


OS map, 2012

Scale 1:2000

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Figure 7



Site Layout

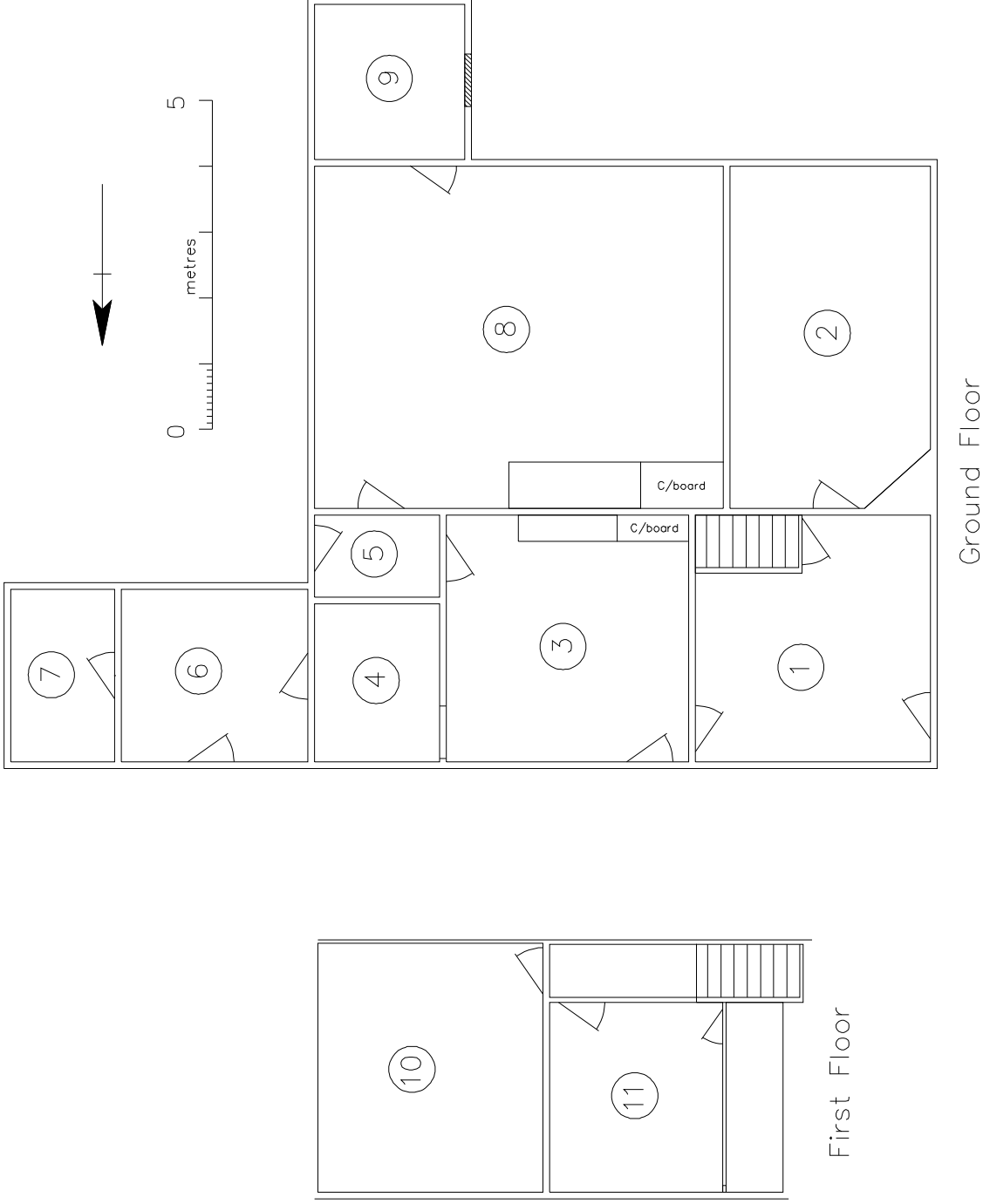
West Elevation

South Elevation



East Elevation

North Elevation



Building 1: Plan

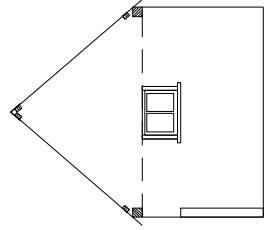
West Elevation

South Elevation

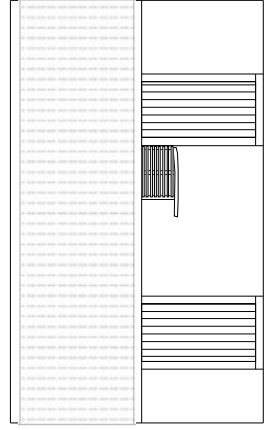


East Elevation

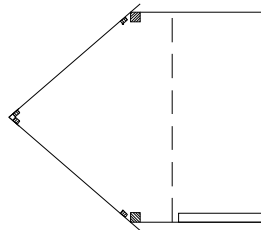
North Elevation



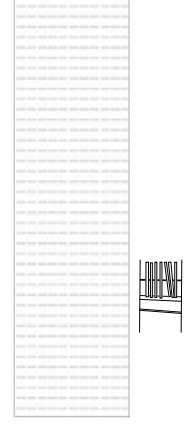
West Elevation



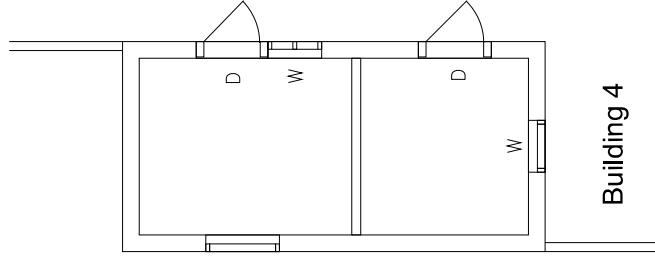
South Elevation



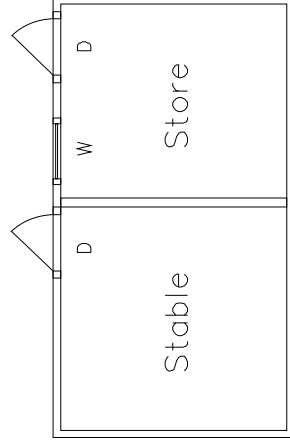
East Elevation



North Elevation



Building 4



Building 2



Building 6: Plan

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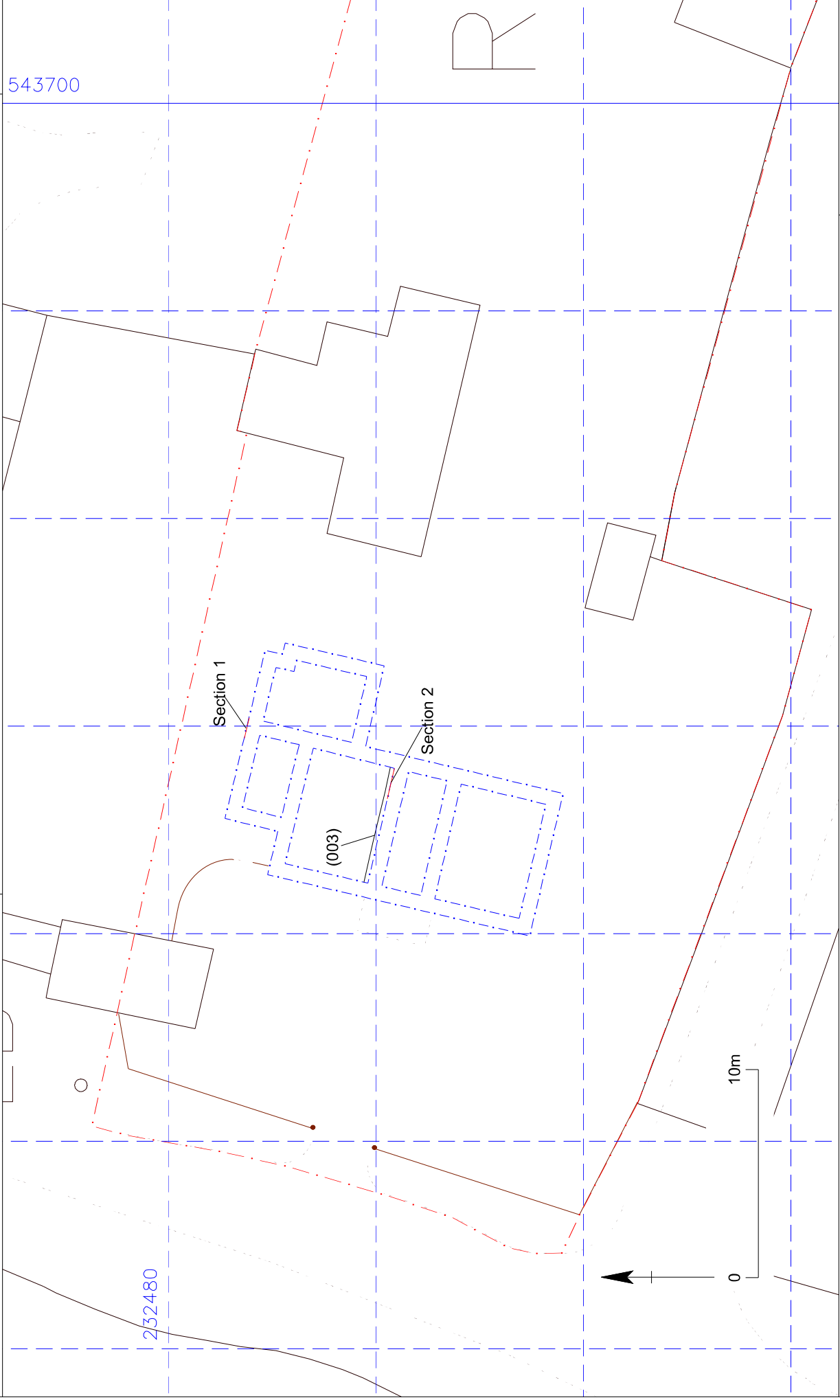
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Figure 13

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Rectory Farm, Meesden, Hertfordshire

HN980



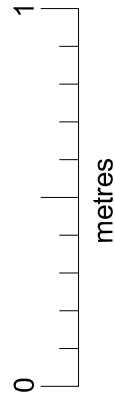
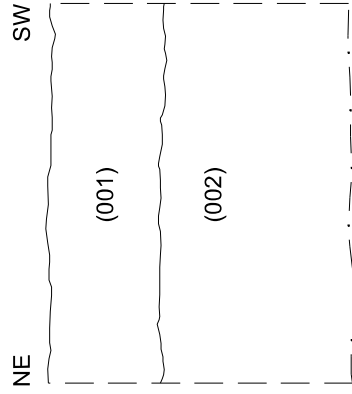
Plan of Groundworks

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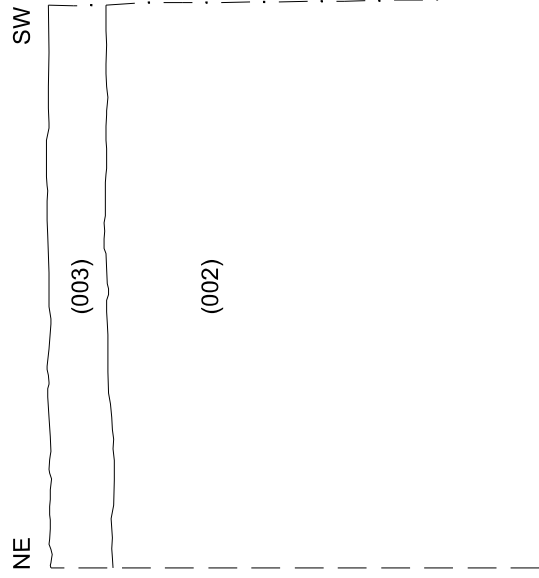
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Figure 14

Section 1, southwest facing



Section 2, southwest facing



9. Plates

Plate 01	Building 1, west exterior elevation, facing east
Plate 02	Building 1, south exterior elevation, facing north-east
Plate 03	Building 1, east exterior elevation, facing north-west
Plate 04	Building 1 (and Buildings 2 & 4), north exterior elevations, facing south
Plate 05	Building 1, north exterior elevation, facing south-west
Plate 06	Building 1, north exterior elevation, facing south-east
Plate 07	Building 1, Room 1, south elevation, facing south-east
Plate 08	Building 1, Room 1, north and east elevations, facing north-east
Plate 09	Building 1, Room 2, view south
Plate 10	Building 1, Room 2, north elevation
Plate 11	Building 1, Room 3, south elevation, facing south-west
Plate 12	Building 1, Room 3, north elevation (detail)
Plate 13	Building 1, Room 3, east elevation
Plate 15	Building 1, Room 8, north elevation, facing north-west
Plate 16	Building 1, Room 8, east elevation
Plate 17	Building 1, Room 8, south elevation
Plate 18	Building 1, Room 8, east elevation (detail)
Plate 20	Building 1, Room 10, north elevation
Plate 21	Building 1, Room 10, north elevation (detail, R of window)
Plate 22	Building 1, Room 10, south elevation (detail)
Plate 23	Building 1, Room 10, south elevation (detail)
Plate 24	Building 1, Room 11, west elevation, facing north-west
Plate 25	Building 2, east exterior elevation, facing west
Plate 26	Building 2, south and west exterior elevations, facing north-east
Plate 27	Building 2 (S cell) – interior roof structure, facing north
Plate 28	Building 2 (S cell) – interior roof structure, facing west
Plate 29	Building 2 (S cell) – interior framing, south elevation
Plate 30	Building 2 (S cell) – interior upper framing, south elevation
Plate 31	Building 2 (S cell) – interior, east elevation
Plate 32	Building 2 (S cell) – interior, north elevation
Plate 33	Building 2 (N cell) – interior, east elevation
Plate 34	Building 2 (N cell) – interior, west elevation
Plate 35	Building 2 (N cell) – interior, south elevation
Plate 36	Building 2 (N cell) – interior, north elevation
Plate 37	Buildings 2 & 3, east exterior elevation, facing west
Plate 38	Building 3 – interior, facing west

Plate 39	Building 4, south and west exterior elevations, facing east north-east
Plate 40	Building 4, south and east exterior elevations, facing north-west
Plate 41	Building 4 – window detail, south exterior elevation, facing north
Plate 42	Building 4, north and east exterior elevations, facing south-west
Plate 44	Building 4 (W cell) – cob wall detail, south elevation
Plate 46	Building 4 (E cell) – interior, west elevation
Plate 47	Building 4 – interior window detail
Plate 48	Buildings 5 & 6, view south-east
Plate 49	Building 6, north and east exterior elevations, facing south-west
Plate 50	Building 6, south exterior elevation, facing north
Plate 51	Building 6, main barn, interior, view south-east
Plate 52	Building 6, cartlodge, south exterior elevation, facing north
Plate 53	Footings as excavated, view south
Plate 54	Footings – Brick footing 3, view north

HN980: Rectory Farm, Meesden - Photographic Plates



Plate_01



Plate_02



Plate_03



Plate_04



Plate_05



Plate_06



Plate_07



Plate_08

HN980: Rectory Farm, Meesden - Photographic Plates



Plate_09



Plate_10



Plate_11



Plate_12



Plate_13



Plate_14



Plate_15



Plate_16

HN980: Rectory Farm, Meesden - Photographic Plates



Plate_17



Plate_18



Plate_19



Plate_20



Plate_21



Plate_22



Plate_23



Plate_24

HN980: Rectory Farm, Meesden - Photographic Plates



Plate 25



Plate 26



Plate 27



Plate 28



Plate 29



Plate 30



Plate 31



Plate 32

HN980: Rectory Farm, Meesden - Photographic Plates



Plate_33



Plate_34



Plate_35



Plate_36



Plate_37



Plate_38



Plate_39



Plate_40

HN980: Rectory Farm, Meesden - Photographic Plates



Plate 41



Plate 42



Plate 43



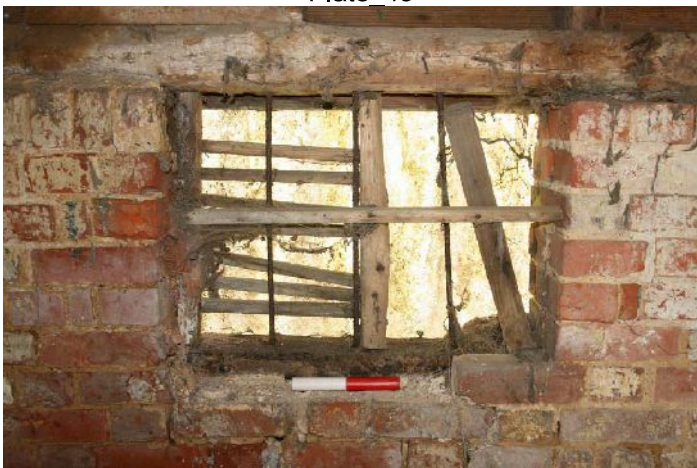
Plate 44



Plate 45



Plate 46



Plate_47



Plate_48

HN980: Rectory Farm, Meesden - Photographic Plates



Plate_49



Plate_50



Plate_51



Plate_52



Plate_53



Plate_54

Appendix 1

Photographic Log

Frame	B&W	Details	Elevation	Facing	By	Date
HN980 001	Y	Rectory Farm	View	SW	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 002	Y	Rectory Farm	View	SW	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 003	Y	Buildings 5 & 6	View	SE	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 004	Y	Buildings 2 & 3	E	W	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 005	Y	Building 4	N & E	SW	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 006	Y	Buildings 7, 8 & 9	S	N	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 007	Y	Buildings 7, 8 & 9	S	N	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 008	Y	Building 4	S & E	NW	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 009	Y	Building 2	E	W	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 010	Y	Building 2	S & W	NE	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 011	Y	Building 1	W	E	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 012	Y	Western boundary	View	SE	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 013	Y	Buildings 7 & 9	N	SE	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 014	Y	Building 4	S & W	ENE	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 015	Y	Building 1	S	NE	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 016	Y	Building 1	E	NW	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 017	Y	Building 1 (and Buildings 2 & 4)	N	S	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 018	Y	Building 1	N	SW	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 019	Y	Building 1	N	SE	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 020	Y	Building 2 (S cell) – interior framing	S	S	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 021	Y	Building 2 (S cell) – interior upper framing	S	S	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 022	Y	Building 2 (S cell) - interior	N	N	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 023	Y	Building 2 (S cell) – interior roof structure	-	N	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 024	Y	Building 2 (S cell) - interior	W	W	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 025	Y	Building 2 (S cell) – interior roof structure	-	W	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 026	Y	Building 2 (S cell) – interior roof structure	-	W	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 027	Y	Building 2 (S cell) - interior	E	E	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 028	Y	Building 2 (S cell) – interior roof structure	-	E	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 029	Y	Building 2 (S cell) – interior roof structure	-	E	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 030	Y	Building 2 (N cell) - interior	S	S	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 031	Y	Building 2 (N cell) - interior	W	W	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 032	Y	Building 2 (N cell) - interior	E	E	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 033	Y	Building 2 (N cell) - interior	N	N	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 034	Y	Building 2 (N cell) - interior	N	N	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 035	Y	Building 2 (N cell) - interior	W	W	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 036	Y	Building 2 (N cell) – interior roof structure	-	W	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 037	Y	Building 2 (N cell) – interior roof structure	-	N	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 038	Y	Building 3 – interior	S	S	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 039	Y	Building 3 – interior	N	N	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 040	Y	Building 3 – interior	W	W	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 041	Y	Building 4 (E cell) - interior	N	N	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 042	Y	Building 4 (E cell) - interior	W	W	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 043	Y	Building 4 (E cell) - interior	W	W	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 044	Y	Building 4 (E cell) - interior	S	S	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 045	Y	Building 4 (E cell) - interior	E	E	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 046	Y	Building 4 (E cell) - interior	E	E	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 047	Y	Building 4 (E cell) - interior	S	S	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 048	Y	Building 4 (W cell) - interior	N	N	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 049	Y	Building 4 (W cell) - interior	N	N	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 050	Y	Building 4 (W cell) - interior	E	NE	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 051	Y	Building 4 (W cell) - interior	W	NW	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 052	Y	Building 4 (W cell) - interior	S	S	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 053	Y	Building 4 (W cell) - interior	S	S	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 054	Y	Yard wall to W of Bldg 4 (pargetting)	S	N	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980 055	Y	Yard wall to W of Bldg 4 (pargetting)	S	N	DJH	30/03/2012

Frame	B&W	Details	Elevation	Facing	By	Date
HN980_056	Y	Yard wall to W of Bldg 4 (pargetting)	S	N	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_057	Y	Yard wall to W of Bldg 4 (pargetting)	S	N	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_058	Y	Building 4 – window detail	S	N	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_059	Y	Building 4 – window detail	S	N	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_060	Y	Building 4 – interior window detail	S	S	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_061	Y	Building 4 – interior window detail	S	S	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_062	Y	Building 4 (W cell) – cob wall detail	S	S	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_063	Y	Building 4 (W cell) – cob wall detail	-	SE	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_064	Y	Building 4 (W cell) – cob wall detail	-	SE	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_065	Y	Building 4 (W cell) – cob wall detail	-	SE	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_066	Y	Building 4 (W cell) – junction N wall & partition	-	NE	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_067	Y	Building 4 (W cell) – junction N wall & partition	-	NE	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_068	Y	Building 4 (E cell) - junction N wall & partition	-	NW	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_069	Y	Building 4 – interior window detail	N	N	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_070	Y	Building 4 – interior window detail	N	N	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_071	Y	Building 4 – interior window detail	N	N	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_072		Building 1, Room 6	W	W	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_073		Building 1, Room 6	N	N	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_074		Building 1, Room 6 – door detail	N	NW	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_075		Building 1, Room 3	S	SW	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_076		Building 1, Room 3	W	W	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_077		Building 1, Room 3	N	N	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_078		Building 1, Room 3	E	E	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_079		Building 1, Room 1	W	W	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_080		Building 1, Room 1	W & S	SW	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_081		Building 1, Room 1	S	SE	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_082		Building 1, Room 1	S	SE	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_083		Building 1, Room 1 – staircase detail	-	E	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_084		Building 1, Room 1	N	N	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_085		Building 1, Room 1	N & E	NE	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_086		Building 1, Room 2	View	S	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_087		Building 1, Room 2	W	NW	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_088		Building 1, Room 2	N	N	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_089		Building 1, Room 8	S	S	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_090		Building 1, Room 8	W	SW	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_091		Building 1, Room 8	W	NW	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_092		Building 1, Room 8	N	NW	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_093		Building 1, Room 8	N	N	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_094		Building 1, Room 8	E	E	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_095		Building 1, Room 9	S	S	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_096		Building 1, Room 9	S	S	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_097		Building 1, Room 10	N	N	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_098		Building 1, Room 10	E	E	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_099		Building 1, Room 10	S	S	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_100		Building 1, Room 10	W	W	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_101		Building 1, Room 11	N	N	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_102		Building 1, Room 11	W	NW	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_103		Building 1, Room 11	S	S	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_104		Building 1, Room 11 – cupboard	N	N	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_105		Building 1, Room 11 – cupboard	W	W	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_106		Building 1 – roof space	-	NE	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_107		Building 1 – roof space	-	NE	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_108	Y	Rectory Farm	View	NE	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_109	Y	Rectory Farm	View	NE	DJH	30/03/2012
HN980_110		Building 1, Room 3	W	W	DJH	19/06/2012
HN980_111		Building 1, Room 3 (detail)	W	W	DJH	19/06/2012
HN980_112		Building 1, Room 3	N	N	DJH	19/06/2012

Frame	B&W	Details	Elevation	Facing	By	Date
HN980_113		Building 1, Room 3	N	N	DJH	19/06/2012
HN980_114		Building 1, Room 3 (detail)	N	N	DJH	19/06/2012
HN980_115		Building 1, Room 3	E	E	DJH	19/06/2012
HN980_116		Building 1, Room 3 (detail)	E	E	DJH	19/06/2012
HN980_117		Building 1, Room 8	E	E	DJH	19/06/2012
HN980_118		Building 1, Room 8 (detail)	E	E	DJH	19/06/2012
HN980_119		Building 1, Room 8 (detail)	E	E	DJH	19/06/2012
HN980_120		Building 1, Room 2 (fireplace)	N	N	DJH	19/06/2012
HN980_121		Building 1, Room 2 (fireplace – detail)	N	N	DJH	19/06/2012
HN980_122		Building 1, Room 2 (fireplace – detail)	N	N	DJH	19/06/2012
HN980_123		Building 1, Room 10	N	N	DJH	19/06/2012
HN980_124		Building 1, Room 10 (detail, L of window)	N	N	DJH	19/06/2012
HN980_125		Building 1, Room 10 (detail, R of window)	N	N	DJH	19/06/2012
HN980_126		Building 1, Room 10 (detail, R of window)	N	N	DJH	19/06/2012
HN980_127		Building 1, Room 10 (detail, R of window)	N	N	DJH	19/06/2012
HN980_128		Building 1, Room 10 (detail, L of window)	N	N	DJH	19/06/2012
HN980_129		Building 1, Room 10	S	S	DJH	19/06/2012
HN980_130		Building 1, Room 10 (detail)	S	S	DJH	19/06/2012
HN980_131		Building 1, Room 10 (detail)	S	S	DJH	19/06/2012
HN980_132		Building 1, Room 10 (detail)	S	S	DJH	19/06/2012
HN980_133		Building 1, Room 10 (detail)	S	S	DJH	19/06/2012
HN980_134		Building 1, Room 10 (detail)	S	S	DJH	19/06/2012
HN980_135		Building 1, Room 10 (detail)	S	S	DJH	19/06/2012
HN980_136		Building 1, Room 10 (detail)	S	S	DJH	19/06/2012
HN980_137		Building 1, Room 4	N & E	NE	DJH	19/06/2012
HN980_138		Building 1, Room 4 (detail)	N & E	NE	DJH	19/06/2012
HN980_139		Building 1, threshold between Rooms 4 & 6	-	W	DJH	19/06/2012
HN980_140		Building 1, threshold between Rooms 4 & 6 (detail)	-	W	DJH	19/06/2012
HN980_141		Building 1, roof structure to Rooms 6 & 7 (exterior)	S	N	DJH	19/06/2012
HN980_142		Building 1, roof structure to Rooms 6 & 7	-	E	DJH	19/06/2012
HN980_143		Building 1, roof structure to Rooms 6 & 7			DJH	19/06/2012
HN980_144		Building 1, roof structure to Rooms 6 & 7			DJH	19/06/2012
HN980_145		Building 1, roof structure to Rooms 6 & 7			DJH	19/06/2012
HN980_146		Wall adjacent to Building 4 under demolition	-	W	DJH	19/06/2012
HN980_147		Development footprint	View	N	RJD	25/06/2012
HN980_148		Development footprint	View	N	RJD	25/06/2012
HN980_149		Development footprint	View	NE	RJD	25/06/2012
HN980_150		Development footprint	View	NE	RJD	25/06/2012
HN980_151		Footings – General view	View	NE	RJD	25/06/2012
HN980_152		Footings – General view	View	NE	RJD	25/06/2012
HN980_153		Footings – Layers 1 and 2	View	NE	RJD	25/06/2012
HN980_154		Footings – Layers 1 and 2	View	NE	RJD	25/06/2012
HN980_155		Footings – Brick footing 3	View	N	RJD	25/06/2012
HN980_156		Footings – Brick footing 3	View	N	RJD	25/06/2012
HN980_157		Footings – Brick footing 3	View	N	RJD	25/06/2012
HN980_158		Footings – typical section	View	S	RJD	25/06/2012
HN980_159		Footings – typical section	View	S	RJD	25/06/2012
HN980_160		Footings as excavated	View	S	RJD	25/06/2012
HN980_161		Footings as excavated	View	S	RJD	25/06/2012
HN980_162		Footings as excavated	View	S	RJD	25/06/2012
HN980_163		Footings as excavated	View	S	RJD	25/06/2012
HN980_C3298		Building 6, Cartlodge	S	N	WG	28/05/2012
HN980_C3299		Building 6	S	N	WG	28/05/2012
HN980_C3300		Building 6, W extension	S	N	WG	28/05/2012
HN980_C3301		Farmyard	View	NW	WG	28/05/2012
HN980_C3305		Building 6	View	SE	WG	28/05/2012
HN980_C3306		Building 6	N & W	SE	WG	28/05/2012

Frame	B&W	Details	Elevation	Facing	By	Date
HN980_C3308		Building 6, main barn, interior	View	SE	WG	28/05/2012
HN980_C3309		Building 6, main barn, interior	E	E	WG	28/05/2012
HN980_C3348		Buildings 5 & 6	View	SE	WG	28/05/2012
HN980_C3357		Building 6, main barn, interior	View	SE	WG	28/05/2012
HN980_C3358		Building 6, main barn, interior	View	SE	WG	28/05/2012
HN980_C3359		Building 6, main barn, interior	E	E	WG	28/05/2012
HN980_C3360		Building 6, main barn, interior	N & E	E	WG	28/05/2012
HN980_C3361		Building 6, main barn, interior	S & E	E	WG	28/05/2012
HN980_C3362		Building 6, main barn, interior (NW corner)	N & W	N	WG	28/05/2012
HN980_C3363		Building 6, main barn, interior (SW corner)	S & W	S	WG	28/05/2012
HN980_C3364		Building 6, main barn, interior (NW corner)	N	N	WG	28/05/2012
HN980_C3365		Building 6, W extension	View	SE	WG	28/05/2012
HN980_C3369		Building 6	N & E	SW	WG	28/05/2012

HN980: Rectory Farm, Meesden - Digital Contact Sheet



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Appendix 2

OASIS Data Entry

<i>OASIS ID: heritage1-119897</i>	
Project details	
Project name	Meesden, Rectory Farm, Langley Lane
Short description of the project	As the result of an archaeological condition on planning consent for the development of Rectory Farm, Meesden, the Heritage Network was commissioned to create a record of the existing buildings and to undertake archaeological monitoring of the development groundworks. The documentary research for the project demonstrated that Rectory Farm was built between 1815 and 1840 on a previously unoccupied site. The farmhouse (Building 1) appears to have been built as a schoolhouse, incorporating a school room and accommodation for the school mistress, which functioned from the late 1830s until 1875. The building was cheaply constructed of poor quality softwood framing with weatherboard to the exterior, but with at least one reused oak tie beam. Three outbuildings, Buildings 2, 4 and 6, were also recorded, all dating to the original construction phase. A fourth outbuilding, Building 3, was modern, dating to the second half of the 20th century. No significant archaeological features were identified in the course of the groundworks.
Project dates	Start: 30-03-2012 End: 25-06-2012
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	HN980 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Building Recording
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Monument type	BUILDING Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Modern
Methods	"Photographic Survey","Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE EAST HERTFORDSHIRE MEESDEN Rectory Farm
Postcode	SG9 0AZ
Study area	1786.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 43663 32468 51 0 51 58 17 N 000 05 29 E Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Heritage Network
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Heritage Network

Project director	David Hillelson
Project supervisor	David Hillelson
Type of funding body	Developer
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Diary","Drawing","Photograph","Report"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Rectory Farm, Meesden, Hertfordshire: Historic Building Record and Archaeological Monitoring Record
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hillelson, D.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Snee, J.
Other bibliographic details	Report no. 736
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	Heritage Network
Place of issue or publication	Letchworth, Herts.
Description	A4 booklet, comb bound, green cover, 24 pages, 15 figures, 54 photographic plates