
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD
BROOK FARM, STATION ROAD, TILBROOK,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Brook Farm, Station Road, Tilbrook, Cambridgeshire, Building Recording, Building Monitoring & Recording and Archaeological Monitoring & Recording</i>		
<i>In July 2010, Archaeological Solutions conducted historic building recording at Brook Farm, Station Road, Tilbrook, Cambridgeshire.</i>			
<i>Technical analysis established that the building probably originated in the later 16th or early 17th century, laid out on conventional lines with parlour/hall arrangement, and a separate but contiguous service wing to the north. The evidence suggests some augmentation and development in the early 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. Of most notable importance are several historic decorative wall-paintings, which were found in the four rooms of the south range, and represent a rare survival in the county, part of a local cluster of known paintings and an important indicator of local social and wider, East Anglian artistic influences.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>6th - 7th and 13th July 2010</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>P3967</i>	Site code	<i>AS 1332</i>
Type of project	<i>Historic building recording</i>		
Site status	<i>Grade II Listed</i>		
Current land use	<i>Dwelling</i>		
Planned development	<i>Internal alterations</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Late 16th / early 17th century farmhouse with later additions and alterations</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)			
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>Huntingdonshire</i>	<i>Tilbrook</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Cambridge Historic Environment Record (CHER)</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>PE28 0JT</i>		
Area of site			
NGR	<i>TL 0801 6939</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>39m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Dan McConnell (CAPCA) Cambridgeshire County Council</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Tansy Collins</i>		
Funded by	<i>Gary Randall</i>		
Full title	<i>Brook Farm, Station Road, Tilbrook, Cambridgeshire, Building Recording, Building Monitoring & Recording and Archaeological Monitoring & Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Collins, T, Prosser, L, Thompson, P & Henry, K</i>		
Report no.	<i>3629</i>		
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HISTORIC BUILDING APPRAISAL

SUMMARY

In July 2010, Archaeological Solutions conducted historic building recording at Brook Farm, Station Road, Tilbrook, Cambridgeshire. Technical analysis established that the building probably originated in the later 16th or early 17th century, laid out on conventional lines with parlour/hall arrangement, and a separate but contiguous service wing to the north. The evidence suggests some augmentation and development in the early 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. Of most notable importance are several historic decorative wall-paintings, which were found in the four rooms of the south range, and represent a rare survival in the county, part of a local cluster of known paintings and an important indicator of local social and wider, East Anglian artistic influences.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In July 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted historic building recording, building monitoring & recording at Brook Farm, Station Road, Tilbrook, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 0801 6939: Figs. 1 & 2). The recording was undertaken in advance of proposed alterations to the existing Grade II listed building. It was carried out alongside archaeological monitoring & recording of associated groundworks relating to an evaporation pond and ground source heating. The monitoring and recording is the subject of a separate report by AS. The wall paintings were examined by Andrea Kirkham (Kirkham 2010)

1.2 The recording was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice, Cambridgeshire County Council (CAPCA) (Dan McConnell, dated 16/06/2010) and a written scheme of investigation compiled by AS (dated 05/07/2010) and approved by CAPCA. The works were required as part of a planning condition required by the local planning authority (Planning Refs. 1000416FUL, 1000417LBC, 1000522FUL & 1000523LBC).

Planning policy context

1.3 The building recording was carried out to Level 2 as defined in the English Heritage document *Understanding historic buildings: a guide to good recording practice*, 2006 and the Royal Commission's *Recording historic buildings: a descriptive specification 3rd edition*, RCHME 1996. It was also carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' (IFA) *Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures*

(revised 2008). The relevant sections of *Standards for field archaeology in the east of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Paper 14/ALGAO (Gurney 2003) and the IFA *Standard and guidance for archaeological desk-based assessments* (revised 2008) were also followed.

1.4 The objectives of the historic building recording were, as set out in the specification and the IFA and English Heritage guidance documents:

- to compile a record of the buildings identified for alteration, with particular reference to plan, date and phasing, materials used and the context of the farm within its local contemporary landscape. Other buildings on the site require summary record to place the conversion buildings in context.

Planning Policy Statement 5, published in March 2010 provides appropriate guidance to conserving the significance of the historic environment. It states that those sites which have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The Planning Policy Statement aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. It aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. It states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment and to contribute to our knowledge and understanding of our past, and to make this publicly available, should be taken, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE (Figs.1 & 2)

2.1 Tilbrook is a small village lying to the west of Huntingdon, between St Neots and Higham Ferrers. Brook Farm lies on the south side of Station Road, which extends around the north side of the village. An open paddock extends to the south and east of the farmhouse, while a garden on the west is occupied principally by the driveway and a drained ornamental pond.

2.2 The building is a former farmhouse, Grade II Listed (LBN 399726) and described as of 17th century in date of timber-framed construction with a kitchen wing to the north and 19th century additions to the west including a single-storey brew-house. Of particular note is a fragmentary 17th century wall-painting in the parlour, which was found to be part of a much more extensive decorative scheme. A small outbuilding lies to the north of the farmhouse, which was also inspected during the recording.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Information was sought from a variety of available sources in order to meet the objectives of the project.

Archaeological databases

3.2 The standard collation of all known archaeological sites and spot finds within Cambridgeshire comes from the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER). In order to provide a representative sample, the HER database was searched for all known entries within a c. 1 km radius of the site. Entries within an approximate 0.5 km radius of the site are listed (Appendix 1) and plotted below (Fig. 3). Their significance, where relevant, is discussed in Section 4.2. Significant HER entries from beyond the 1 km radius have also been discussed where relevant.

Historical and cartographic sources

3.3 The principal source for these types of evidence was the Cambridge Record Office (CRO). Relevant documents are listed in Appendix 2 and reproduced in Figs. 4 - 7.

Secondary sources

3.4 The principal sources of secondary material were the CHER as well as AS's own reference library. All sources, including websites, are listed in the bibliography.

Geological/geotechnical information

3.5 A description of the superficial and solid geology of the local and surrounding area was compiled in order to assess the likely presence and potential condition of any archaeological remains on the site. This information was drawn from appropriate maps based on the work of the British Geological Survey.

The building

3.6 The site was visited on the 6th - 7th and 13th July 2010 in order to undertake the recording and photographic work. The photographic recording was carried out using a Canon 1000d digital SLR camera (10megapixels) for all external views, general internal shots and fine detail. External lighting and weather conditions were good at the time of the survey. A scale was used wherever possible, and a flash was employed for internal shots. A pictorial index of the digital photography and selected colour plates are included below together

with locations marked on architects drawings provided by the client (Fig. 9). Wall paintings were subject to a separate specialist analysis by Andrea Kirkham.

4 THE EVIDENCE

Topography, geology and soils (Fig. 1)

4.1 Tillbrook is located on March Gravels in the valley of the Till stream at c.39m AOD.

Archaeological and historical background (Fig. 3)

4.2 Prehistoric and Roman activity in the area (c.1km) is sparse, limited to a possible tile fragment, and more convincing evidence for Romano-British activity is only encountered to the north-east of Tilbrook itself. Archaeological work nearby suggests some activity in the middle and late Saxon periods although it is not until the 11th century when the village appears to develop substantially.

4.3 Medieval expansion is clearly indicated by the presence of All Saints Church (CHER 399721) which dates from the late 12th century, although was largely rebuilt and extended in the 14th-16th centuries (CHER 00234). A fragment of medieval cross was found in the south porch (CHER 00234a) and the stump of another 15th century village cross (Grade II Listed 399727: CHER 5221) was identified c.80m to the east of the site. Medieval quarry pits, probably for gravel extraction, have been found in the vicinity of Saxon ditches (CHER MCB18229), while aerial photographs clearly indicate the presence of medieval house platforms to the north, between Station Road and the river Til (CHER MCB16816). In addition a large amount of ridge and furrow can be seen to the west, mainly lying across the river Til (CHER MCB16815 and MCB18640), and to the east of Tilbrook itself (CHER MCB18643 and MCB18644). Archaeological work in the immediate vicinity of the site revealed little of historic interest, for example an evaluation (MCB18230) 100m to the south found no evidence for a building indicated in that location on the Inclosure map (Fig. 4).

4.4 A number of 16th and later timber-framed buildings survive in the area, a small group of which are of particular interest due to the survival of late 16th or early 17th century painted decorative schemes. To the north lies Manor House (Grade II* Listed; LBN 399729), which preserves a partly exposed decorative paint scheme in one of the first-floor chambers, noted in the Listing as comprising a pattern of classical architecture framed by a geometric patterned border. Britten's Farm (LBN 395651), in nearby Kimbolton, has some well-preserved paintings which bear marked similarities with those in the building (Kirkham 2010), while further paint schemes are preserved at Highway Farmhouse, Great Staughton (LBN 399277. These are recorded in the Listing as surviving on the timber frame including red and black chevrons on the joists with similar colours

on the studs.

The development of the building.

4.5 Research into the development of the farmhouse was necessarily brief under the scope of this report and the earliest source readily available comprises the 1802 Inclosure map (Fig. 4) which depicts the farmhouse as a simple L-shaped layout with two outbuildings, to the north and south. At this time the land belonged to J. Bygrave.

4.6 Various documents in the possessions of the client give information on the sequence of owners of Brook Farm, and although a record in 1919 notes that a fire destroyed all earlier documents and deeds, ownership can be traced through abstracts back to 1860. At this point the farm was owned by William Ackroyd, with John Rawson and Joseph Craven as trustees, and appears to stay within this family until 1925, when the farm passed from John William Rawson Ackroyd (apparently the grandson of the original William Ackroyd) to George Thomas Coulson Odell. During this time the farm expanded a little, with the addition of two outbuildings to the west, one to the east within the attached paddock and what appears to be an extension on the north-west side of the farmhouse. This expansion is first depicted on the 1885 OS map (Fig. 5) where the outbuilding to the south has also been removed. Subsequent cartographic sources depict little change (Figs. 6-7), although it appears that a series of trees, likely an orchard, are no longer present on the later maps. The final cartographic source available for inspection, which depicts the building is a village plan of the manor, dated to the 1970s (Fig. 8). This shows the various structures that were part of the manor at this time, although the lack of hatching on Brook Farm suggests the farm was not part of the manor at this point. However, this does not indicate that Brook Farm was never part of the manor estates and future research may present further information regarding the history of the building.

5 THE BUILDING

5.1 The farmhouse is constructed in two distinct ranges, the north range being slightly joggled to its southern companion, with the principal chimney stack rising at the junction. In addition a rear brick wing has been added to the west of the north range with a two-storey outshut continuing in-line along the west side of the south range. Both principal ranges are timber-framed, rendered and resting on a plinth of 19th century bricks, but much patching and repair of the render is visible.

5.2 In some places an earlier, rougher texture is visible. The roofs are peg-tiled. A second stack has been constructed within the south gable; both have been rebuilt at upper level. At the time of the survey, the south gable had been stripped to reveal the underlying structure.

Exterior

5.3 The east front is the principal elevation (Plate 1), though in common with many farms the front door was not used, the most frequently used entrance being from the working yard to the west. Where a modern porch has been removed, the original render over wattle-and-daub infill has been exposed. The south range, at ground floor level, has a modern door at the north end, formerly enclosed by the porch, and two timber casement windows. The north example is probably of 1950s date while its southern counterpart is possibly a little earlier. The north range is only lit by a single, earlier 20th century four-light casement, each light of two panes. Upper windows include two Yorkshire sashes on the south range, each with two-by-nine panes, while the north range has a three-light timber casement, each light of two panes. An attic dormer window lies slightly offset to this window and is of three lights in similar form.

5.4 The original west elevation (Plate 2) has been augmented with a number of later extensions. The southern outshut is constructed of 19th century brickwork. The lower fabric is laid in Flemish bond which, where visible, is of the same form as the plinth visible on the east. However, the upper floor is laid in rat-trap bond. Access is given to the building through a rear doorway at the north end of the south range on this side, which is of late 20th century date. To the south this elevation is pierced by a small 19th century four-pane fixed window. The upper floor contains three windows, the outer windows of 12-pane casement form and the central window of four panes. A small hip-roofed extension has been added, extending the outshut to the north, and is possibly of contemporary date with a large late 20th century window. Above this, the junction with the main chimney stack is visible, shouldered out to incorporate the north range. The west side of the north range was latterly extended with a cross-wing and only a short section of the west elevation in this area is now visible. The wing is constructed of 19th century brick laid in Flemish bond, gabled on the west side incorporating a slender flush chimney stack and pierced by a single light.

5.5 The north gable is entered through a 20th century panelled and glazed door, set within an older architrave which retains two pintles on the outer face for an earlier door. Two windows lie at first floor level; one has two lights of four panes each, while the other is a smaller four-pane window. The surrounding render is much repaired and a decayed bargeboard frames the gable. The cross-wing to the west contains a large blocked window, formerly pierced by a doorway, which was latterly blocked with modern Fletton bricks and now contains two WC lights.

5.6 The south gable wall has been stripped of its modern render to reveal the underlying structure, framed by large, splay-cut corner posts and a badly decayed sole-plate resting on the brick dwarf wall. A mid-rail is supported by six common studs at lower level and the remains of a central window, latterly

blocked by brick when the internal chimney stack was constructed. It is possible that this is itself a later feature, as peg-holes and the stumps of two inner studs survive above and below the aperture, but the work is all clearly of some age. The sill and lintel are simply cogged into the supporting studwork, and hold rebated mullions to form a three-light window which also preserves original square holes for the original casement pintles.

5.7 At first floor level the outer posts have short downward braces engaging below the splay cuts and recessed behind wattle-and-daub infill, while a series of studs survive, in-line with their lower counterparts and all properly pegged. The wattle and daub survives extensively, and appears to have two distinct phases. The primary fabric comprises a chalky lime-mortar with a buff-coloured finishing coat, with a second, rougher fabric used for discrete repair and partial infill of the window. The original central window (Plate 3), trapped behind the later brick stack is an important survival. It was of tripartite form in the classic late 16th or early 17th century manner, with a larger central window flanked by smaller side-lights. The outer light retains a single mullion of diamond-profile with intermediate saddle bars, and appear to have been unglazed originally, but the central light has been altered. Two existing mullions may be secondary, as redundant peg-holes survive for a central stud to continue through, while the saddle bars have not been recessed into the frame as would be expected, but into an added timber slip.

5.8 Above the tie-beam the frame is closed with principal rafters with in-line but slender gable studs. Those timbers accessible for measurement can be summarised as follows:

Tie-beam	8" x 6" (203mm x 152mm)
Principal rafter	5 ³ / ₄ " x 5" (146mm x 127mm)
Common stud	5 ¹ / ₂ " x 4 ¹ / ₂ " (140mm x 114mm) (averaging 15 ¹ / ₂ "-16" or 394mm-406mm apart)
Window mullion	2 ³ / ₄ " x 2"
Diamond profile window mullion	2 ³ / ₄ " x 2 ³ / ₄ "

5.9 An unusual feature is represented by the principal internal bridging joist, which is exposed on the south façade but sits above the mid-rail on a few courses of stacked bricks instead of engaging with the frame as would be expected.

Interior

5.10 The building is laid out in a fairly conventional manner. The principal ranges are each of two bays at ground floor level, with an enclosed stair in the north giving access to the upper floor, and a separate stair on the west giving independent access to the south. The decorative paint schemes survive only in the south range.

Ground floor

South range

5.11 The ground floor comprises two chambers, GF01 and GF02. Room GF01 probably formed the original hall dominated by a large inglenook fireplace on the north (Plate 4). The bressumer is large and chamfered with stepped stops at both ends, while a taper mark is visible, possibly a ritual mark. Stone packing has been inserted above to the main binding joist with some discrete brick repair. A number of localised deep mortices to the east are associated with a notch in the beam above, perhaps for a shelf. The back and cheeks of the fireplace are constructed of large limestone blocks, although there is some disturbance to the west in brick, perhaps for a bread oven. The west brick jamb retains fine plasterwork with some trace of painting. Various iron hooks also survive within the aperture. A 19th century pavement floor is in overall excellent condition except for one or two areas which have been lifted near the fireplace to reveal a lime base. A thin 19th century or earlier skirting board with slight mouldings extends round the room. The principal framing elements, including mid-rails and main ceiling joist are exposed. The mid-rail has a regular arrangement of peg-holes for studs, while the west mid-rail also preserves faint traces of a painted chevron pattern, now much faded. The window on the east is a 1970s timber replacement but the pattern of peg-holes above indicates a window of smaller proportions in this location originally.

5.12 Three doors lead to adjoining rooms. On the north a doorway with wide staff-moulded surround in the late 17th or early 18th century style gives access to the lobby (Room GF03). The door itself had H-L hinges which had been removed at the time of the survey to strip the door of paint. To GF02 on the south a similar simple surround frames a two-panel early 18th century door, of fairly rudimentary form with adze marks and retaining bakelite knobs and a 19th century rim-lock. It has been stripped and re-painted in the recent past. A third doorway to the west has a wide simple surround with a slight cyma moulding of 18th or 19th century date. The door has been removed but H-hinges remain *in situ*. The position of an additional external door in the south-east corner can be discerned by modern plaster infill, but this has been blocked. A peg in the mid-rail shows this to have been a secondary insertion.

5.13 The principal bridging joist of the ceiling has a heavy chamfer on both sides with stepped-stops at either end. The remainder of the ceiling is underdrawn with lath and plaster in the 17th century manner.

5.14 Room GF02 to the south was probably the original parlour. Its fixtures and fittings are of some pretence, and it has a boarded floor. Surviving features include two full-height 18th century cupboards flanking the fireplace (Plate 5), all probably contemporary with the insertion of the stack. Visible framing components include the bay division corner posts on the north, the north principal

binding joist, the mid-rails and in the south-east area a short section of mid-rail with surviving studwork.

5.15 The west cupboard comprises a central split door with a lower single panel and two upper panels of asymmetrical proportions with delicate mouldings in late 18th/early 19th century style. The lower door preserves a recessed mortice lock and both have their original knobs and key escutcheon plates. All the doors are hung on H-hinges and are flanked by matching panelled joinery, with rails double-pegged in the 18th century manner. The whole construction is finished by a solid skirting and moulded cornice. All the joinery was originally grained and this survives to the rear of the doors and shelf ends. Recent work had partly dismantled the east cupboard adjoining the fireplace, revealing an underlying brick floor and much of the structure, all in a highly disturbed state, but alteration has revealed part of a painted decorative scheme, including a fragmentary inscription in Gothic script on the gable mid-rail. In the north-west corner of the room further evidence for painting survives where a section of later finishing plasterwork has fallen away to reveal red or orange and grey pigments (Plate 6). Reference should be made to the accompanying report by Andrea Kirkham for more discussion on this subject.

5.16 The hall was separated from the service wing to the north by a small lobby, Room GF03 which also gives access to the exterior through a modern door. The west wall is the shouldered stack, though finished in plain plaster.

North range

5.17 The north range is occupied by two rooms and an enclosed staircase in the north-east corner. In Room GF04, the floor is of brick and heavily worn, lying at a step down from the south range. The fireplace, piercing the rear of the main stack is constructed of 18th / 19th century brickwork with jambs and a simple bressumer (Plate 7), chamfered with wave stops and preserving evenly-spaced peg-holes for a shelf together with the burn-mark from a taper as seen in the south range. An 18th century bread oven also survives to the rear within wide chamfered reveals.

5.18 The external walls are fairly plain; no skirting survives and the single window is probably 1950s in date. The doorway from the lobby retains a simple surround, one jamb has an 18th / 19th century applied moulding but no door is present. Two doorways lie on the north; a late 17th century boarded and ledged door to Room GF05 with its original latch while a second similar door to the east encloses the staircase. The main bridging joist is exposed, together with a short section of mid-rail in the north-west corner. The joist is heavily chamfered, with wave stops at the north end and crude run-outs to the south, but it has been compromised; supported only by the door lintel on the south and cut through.

5.19 The adjoining room GF05 occupies the north end of the range. It has a

brick floor and plain plastered walls, with timber-framing visible on three sides, although much obscured by yellow paint. The central bridging joist is in-line with its counterpart to the south and is chamfered with bulbous stops in the early 17th century manner. The mid-rail and binding joist is visible, the latter with peg-holes indicating the position of joists. The north, external door is modern, but a second to the outshut on the west is thinly boarded and ledged, probably of 19th century date.

Cross-wing and outshut

5.20 Additions to the original building extend along the rear side of the building with several rooms (GF06-GF08) occupying the outshut and Room GF09 in the cross-wing.

5.21 Room GF06 is a small brick-paved store or dairy at the south end of the outshut. It is lit by a 1970s casement at the south end but is otherwise plain. Most notably on the east, the formerly external wall of the house is visible showing the brick plinth with plastered timber-framing above. A simple, boarded partition divides the room from GF07 with a probable early 18th century door with strap hinges.

5.22 Room GF07 is partly occupied by an enclosed staircase on the north-west. It is paved throughout, but the floor steps up in level to the north where the brick is laid in a basket-weave pattern. A small larder lies beneath the stairs where it is enclosed by simple late 18 / early 19th century panelling with a slim boarded door, ledged to the rear with strap hinges. Within the cupboard (Room GF07a) the slatted south wall is contemporary or earlier. Rudimentary shelving survives, while the room is lit by a small four-pane fixed window on the west with early 19th century glazing bars although this is possibly renewed.

5.23 Room GF08 to the north is fairly plain, with a 1970s window and door on the west with modern fixtures and fittings.

5.24 Room GF09 occupies the cross-wing abutting the north range, and is 19th century in date. It has painted brick walls although the east wall is the formerly external wall of the north range and preserves a section of the original rough-cast render at upper level with some exposed timber below. A principal post with in-line mid-rails and the feet of the upper studs are visible with a very short tension brace. The room itself is of limited interest.

First Floor

5.25 At first floor level the two principal ranges generally follow the outline seen below with further rooms occupying the roof space of the western outshut.

South range

5.26 Room FF01 is the chamber above the hall. The principal elements of the underlying frame are exposed, while the roof is ceiled at purlin level. The south-west corner has been enclosed with 20th century materials to create a small lobby from the staircase housed in the west outshut. The floor is of wide softwood floor-boards.

5.27 Exposed framing elements include wall-plates, the north tie-beam which incorporates a chimneypiece and tension bracing at the corners, together with a few common studs. The corner posts marking the bay division are slightly jowled with downward bracing descended both ways from the corner post. Several timbers have been stripped to reveal painted decoration, particularly on a single stud to the east adjoining the window and the fireplace bressumer. More traces of the paint scheme survives in the north-east corner beneath a finishing coat of 18th century plaster (Plate 8) suggesting that much more remains obscured by plaster. There are signs of a blocked doorway on the south wall which may be contiguous with a distinct cut in the adjoining floor boards, perhaps indicating the position of a former staircase.

5.28 The north wall preserves much of interest. The fireplace retains a fine decorated cast-iron basket grate of late 18th century date, with a brick hearth and narrow brick cheeks. This is framed by jambs of chamfered and dressed stone with a cambered timber bressumer, which is also chamfered and stopped. Dressed stone is used has also been used as packing between the bressumer and tie-beam, while the whole arrangement appears to have been painted originally. A stud between the fireplace and adjoining doorway is also of note as faint traces of painted decoration are visible along with a number of taper burns.

5.29 The window to the east is a Yorkshire sash, probably of mid-19th century date, while a door to the adjoining room to the north is boarded and bead-moulded with four ledges to the rear with H- and H-L hinges, all probably 18th century in date with contemporary furniture. The door has been extended to fit this aperture and so may be reused.

5.30 To the south Room FF02 forms the original parlour chamber, which has some similarity to its lower counterpart. The floor is covered with wide oak boards while the walls are plastered leaving the main structural elements exposed as elsewhere, including a tie-beam to the north with downward bracing (visible also as an impression on the east but obscured by plasterwork), wall-plates and corner-posts. Some stripping of thick overlying paint layers has occurred here, apart from the west downward brace, where a well-preserved painted scheme survives (Plate 9). The corner bay-division posts have slightly splay-cut jowls in the late 16th / early 17th century manner. A Yorkshire sash provides light as in the adjoining room, while the south wall has a central stack with flanking enclosed boarded closets. These are of very simple construction

but with contemporary knobs to the lower companions. The cupboards are lined with newspaper dating from 1851 with contemporary mid-Victorian coat-hooks. Within the west cupboard, further paintwork appears to survive on the downward brace where later paintwork is falling away.

5.31 Room FF03 lies above the ground floor entrance lobby and is structurally part of the north bay of the south range and includes the re-entrant angle on the east side. The floor is covered with wide oak boarding set at a slightly lower level while the walls have exposed timbering with plaster infill, except for the shouldered chimney stack in the south-west corner. The bay division frame has a splay-cut jowled principal post on the east which clearly belongs to the north range, the tie-beam having been cut to facilitate access between the two ranges. The doorway is framed with staff-moulded boarding. The wall-plate of the lobby is also rather awkward and appears to have been cut and latterly supported by two studs and a short nogging piece which may have formed a tiny window lintel.

North range

5.32 The northern half of Room FF03 occupies the south bay of the range, but is subdivided by a partition to Room FF04 by a secondary tie-beam with upper slender studs infilled with plaster, and a low slender boarded and ledged door. The floorboards continue beneath the partition which is clearly a secondary insertion, truncating a window on the east. The interconnecting door is of 17th century date with three wide boards and simple ledges to the rear and strap hinges hung on pintles, the upper with a spade head finial. The surround is contemporary. A rim lock is probably 18th century in date.

5.33 Room FF04 is narrow and partitioned on the north at the bay division (Plate 10). The floor has wide boards, while the ceiling is coved at eaves level with modern fabric suspended beneath the earlier level. The north-west corner post has a splay-cut jowl. A door to the north is slender and boarded with strap hinges hung on pintles, probably 17th century like its companion. It is ledged to the rear and is housed in a simple surround. However, here it appears to be a secondary insertion as the tie-beam forms a partition with simple coggled-in and nailed-on common studs, one of which was later removed to insert the door. Some modern cement repair is visible, particularly on the west wall and dated by graffiti to 1946. The original window is modern and shared with the adjoining room, but additional light is provided by a 20th century attic dormer.

5.34 The north bay is occupied by Room FF05, forming the stair landing, with a small room to the west (Room FF06). The stair has a rudimentary balustrade with a slender newel and four horizontal rails, some possibly removed, but the whole thing clearly of some age. Visible framing elements include a principal post on the south-east, and the north-east corner post which has a splay-cut jowl. The end tie-beam and bay division tie-beam are both exposed, along with the east wall-plate which is slightly chamfered and has been repaired by scarfing two

members and fixing with forelock bolts. Light is provided by a small mid-19th century four-pane casement.

5.35 Room FF06 is given access through a boarded door with bead-mouldings, ledged to the rear. It is hung on H-L hinges, all possibly 18th century in date, but with a 19th century rim-lock. The room is fairly plain though the north-west corner post has a short splay-cut jowl. The north window is a two-light 20th century casement,

Outshut

5.36 The south range staircase gives access to a pair of rooms housed in the roof space. The whole area is fairly plain and no structural elements are visible. Room FF07 is given access from a stair landing (FF08) and is simple with wide softwood floorboards and plain plastered walls. The door is early 19th century in date and preserves a little hand-made latch with little spade finials. Light is provided by a mid-19th century casement set in a robust pegged frame. The stair landing shares a window with room FF09 which is also similarly simple in form.

Roof structure

5.37 The roofs of both ranges were partly accessible for visual inspection through ceiling hatches in Room FF01 and Room FF04, though not for detailed exploration. They bear marked similarities in form though the north range is much simpler in construction, while the hall chamber bay was clearly once meant to be seen, and so has modest decorative touches.

5.38 The general construction of the south range is of principal collar-rafters clasping a single side-purlin in each pitch with fairly waney common rafters riding over the purlins. Various later additions and reinforcements are visible, including short purlin-like members staggered across the roof pitch, usually indicative of earlier thatching. Below the original purlins, fairly straight wind-braces lie on either side of a mid-bay division. A half-bay division is also expressed (Plate 11), although there do not appear to be corresponding principal posts at lower level. This mid-bay is triangulated to the collar by long elegant bracing clearly meant to be seen from the room below. Remains of the earlier under-drawing at collar level survives while the end walls of each bay retain fine coats of finishing lath-and-plaster. The south bay above the parlour-chamber was not inspected.

5.39 The north range roof is of trapped side-purlin form with a single purlin in each pitch, scarfed at the collars, with wind braces and a ridge purlin. The bay division is marked above the tie-beam by nailed-on studs to collar level, with lath-and-plaster, while above the collar waney studs support bundles of reed reinforced with daub (Plate 12). Little is visible to the south above the lobby area, although one section on the east appears to be a plastered as if the area once formed accommodation. The existing ceiling is a 20th century insertion

although there is no evidence for earlier lath-and-plaster under-drawing as seen in the south range.

Outbuilding

5.40 A number of outbuildings associated with the farmhouse are portrayed on historic maps, but only a single example survives to the north of the farmhouse, aligned east – west and parallel with the road. It is constructed of red brick with a pan-tiled roof, and was clearly once open-fronted to the south (Plate 13). This has now been infilled with a yellow-pink Huntingdonshire brick although remnants of the original supporting posts appear to have been incorporated into the brickwork. Split-doors have also been inserted although they are in poor condition and of limited historic interest.

5.41 The interior has been divided into stalls by brickwork partitions rising to tie-beam level, although the east stall is offset to the tie-beam. The roof comprises a simple tie-beam with raking struts rising to a single purlin in each pitch with slender softwood rafters riding over to a ridge-board at the apex. All the timber appears to be hand-sawn and mostly of softwood, although the west tie-beam is mechanically-sawn.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 In most respects, Brook Farm is fairly conventional in layout for its date and status, being typical of a yeoman farmer's residence of the later 16th or early 17th century; essentially a lobby-entry house, but varying in that the service rooms, though in their conventional location, are housed in a separate, contiguous structure. What marks the house as especially interesting is the quality and extent of the surviving wall paintings, which as an ephemeral characteristic of any historic house, are now extremely rare and consequently precious. Such paintings may once have been much more numerous, but falling out of favour by the later 17th century, many were deliberately rubbed off or covered by paint, where they can be destroyed inadvertently by the modern preoccupation for seeing old beams and creating a rustic, cottage look. The losses are huge, as bare timberwork and modern plaster in old houses attest, but wall paintings, where they survive are of the highest importance as indicators of wealth, of conspicuous display and social change. In the later 16th century, at a time when home comforts and decoration, in the form of paintings and textiles were beginning to widen from being exclusively the preserve of the elite, to being more accessible to the middling classes in society, they demonstrate both the artistic tastes and wider influences of the later 16th and early 17th centuries. All too often, like furnishings and wallpapers, they are the missing element in understanding past lives and society. The Brook Farm paintings, though fragmentary, demonstrate colour and richness which belies the rather plain

timber-framing, and also changes in fashion, with successive augmentation, and finally, obliteration.

6.2 The building itself may mask similar complexity. It is possible that the north range was constructed first, as the south appears to utilise a pre-existing wall between the two, but this may not be evidence of any appreciable chronological gap, and the picture is confused by the distinct difference in status accorded to the ranges. The south is much more ostentatious in the standard of carpentry, most notably expressed in the fine roof above the hall chamber, and there is little doubt that the north range was, in the initial concept, a much more utilitarian space with little need for decorative touches. Cheese lofts, food stores and servants' accommodation spring to mind. This area may have been unheated originally, as the fireplace appears to be an early 18th century addition to the pre-existing stack.

6.3 Characteristics which allow more precise dating include the splay-cut jowls of the principal bay division posts, the fairly straight wind-bracing of the roof and the tripartite nature of the newly uncovered south gable window, which all suggest a date around the end of the 16th and beginning of the 17th century, after which several of these characteristics fall out of use. These accord with the analysis of the painted schemes.

6.4 Some dating elements are less precise – several of the doors could be of either date, but more likely to be part of an early 17th century augmentation which corresponds to the development of the painted schemes proposed by Andrea Kirkham. At some stage, a door was knocked through from the hall chamber to the north range, while other doors were also introduced, in some cases compromising the structural integrity of the tie-beams, which were too low to allow adequate passage. The sequence discernible in the historic south windows also indicates an upgrading with glass, while the side lights were not glazed, and most possibly blocked up to leave a single, central window. It is possible that the western outshut also has an earlier precursor in timber, as traces of a catslide roof can be discerned on the south gable, and a few features such as doors within the area pre-date the 19th century brick construction now visible.

6.5 A third major phase of development occurred in the 18th century, when the parlour was upgraded with polite feature such as display cupboards for china, flanking a newly inserted chimney stack. Most of the painted schemes were probably also flushed over with new plaster and paint at this time, and so preserved.

6.6 Nineteenth century alterations are much in evidence. The outshut was probably raised by a storey and reconstructed in brick, adding extra bedrooms, while the north range was given a new wing, also in brick. The List description suggested this was a brew house, although evidence for this earlier function is

now lost, but it confirms the general continuation of the area for domestic, service functions.

6.7 Modern additions have been less sympathetic. The render has been replaced in modern times, while the original thatch has been lost, though possibly as early as the 18th or 19th century. Almost all the windows are modern casements, apart from one or two surviving 19th century side-sashes, which are fairly unusual.

7 CONCLUSION

7.1 Brook Farm is of significant interest, having escaped concerted modernisation until the present time. This has no doubt assisted the preservation of several painted decorative schemes beneath layers of later paint, and these are likely to remain extensive on areas of historic fabric. These paintings, hinted at by the List description but now known to be much more extensive and varied than previously thought, are of regional importance. In the wider world, so much has been lost due to later renovation that now they are only present in a tiny fraction of the surviving building stock. Generally, the total number of all known wall-paintings in Huntingdonshire amounts to little more than a handful of examples. As such their importance is amplified for the information they can add to our knowledge of regional styles and local conditions. Similar schemes, in style and date have been noted at Britten's Farm, Kimbolton, in the use of zig-zag and cartouche motifs and some comparison can be made to a chevron pattern at Highway Farmhouse, Great Staughton. The Manor House at Tilbrook also preserves classical architectural ornament in paintwork, which appears to be of slightly higher status. East Anglia is a region noted for the quality of its wall paintings, particularly in Suffolk and Norfolk, but the quantity diminishes further west, so that these paintings provide important information to augment the local picture, as well as the tastes of the original owner, and so provides a wider context for the history of the house itself.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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WEB SITES

Heritage Gateway.org.uk

APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA

The following sites are those that lie within a c. 0.5km radius of the assessment site. The table has been compiled from data held by the Cambridge Historic Environment Record (CHER).

CHER Number	National Grid Reference	Details
<i>Saxon 410-1066</i>		
MCB18229	0803 6925	Ditches and re-cuts: Evaluation west of All Saints Church found ditches and re-cuts indicating two separate dates. They contrast with the modern village layout suggesting the village was re-planned in the later 11 th century. Medieval quarry pits were also present
<i>Medieval 1066 – 1540</i>		
00234	0806 6923	All Saints Church: Grade I listed building 399721. North aisle is late 12 th century, the central tower was removed in the late 13 th the chancel was rebuilt in the 14 th century and the clerestory added in the 16 th . Restored in the 19 th
00234a	0806 6923	Broken medieval cross shaft: found in south porch of All Saints Church
05221	0810 6938	Medieval cross: Grade II listed 399727 lower stem of a 15 th century village cross found 50 yards north-west of All Saints Church
MCB16815	0767 6945	Ridge and furrow: visible from aerial photography in three fields
MCB16816	0801 6945	House platform: earthwork remains visible in aerial photographs
MCB18640	0767 6940	Ridge and furrow: visible from aerial photography in three fields
MCB18643	0837 6923	Ridge and furrow: visible from aerial photography in three fields
MCB18644	0828 6893	Ridge and furrow: visible from aerial photography in three fields
<i>Post-medieval 1540-1900</i>		
00235	0815 6951	Manor House: Grade II* listed building 399729. Early 17 th century house incorporating elements of a 16 th century building. Late 17 th century wing added.
00236	081 694	Barn at the Manor House: Grade II listed building 399728 17 th century barn with 5 bays
MCB18230	0805 6934	Building: shown on 1802 map but archaeological

		evaluation found no evidence for it
<i>Undated</i>		
MCB 16876	0791 6918	Gully: An evaluation at Station Road revealed modern building remains and a gully which contained a sherd of 9 th -11 th century pottery and a piece of CBM.

APPENDIX 2 LISTED BUILDINGS

Listed Building No.	National Grid Reference	Grade and Name
399721	08060 69225	Church of All Saints: Grade I mainly 13 th -15 th century with 12 th century north arcade
399722	07691 69097	The White Horse Public House: Grade II 18 th century cottage with 19 th century wing
399723	07954 69295	The Croft: Grade II 18 th century with early 19 th century alterations
399724	07933 69303	Former Granary Stables, Barn and Cart shed to the Croft: Grade II 18 th and 19 th century former farm buildings around a courtyard
399725	08220 69487	No's 65 and 67 Station Road: Grade II 17 th century cottage divided in the 19 th century
399726	08028 69397	Brook Farmhouse: Grade II 17 th century farmhouse with kitchen wing to the north and 19 th century additions to the west. Timber framed with modern tile roof with repaired 17 th century ridge stack to the north gable end and 18 th century stack to south gable end. 19 th century brick extension to the west. Single storey brick brew house to the west of kitchen range. Hall with blocked inglenook fireplace and parlour with original 17 th century wall paintings.
399727	08100 69381	Village Cross: Grade II c.15 th century
399728	08114 69492	Barn c.20 yards south of Manor Farmhouse: Grade II 17 th century 5 bay barn
399729	08152 69516	Manor House: Grade II* early 17 th century house

APPENDIX 3 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Date	Scale	Source
1999	1:25,000	OS Land Ranger
2007	1:200	Client
1999	-	Archaeological Solutions
1802	-	Inclosure map, HRO (Acc. 2110/9/2)
1885	25 inch	OS 1 st edition, HRO (XX.3)
1901	25 inch	OS 2 nd edition, HRO (XX.3)
1950	6 inch	OS, HRO (XX.NE)
1970s	1:2500	Village plan of Manor, HRO (map drawer collection)

COLOUR PLATES



Plate 1 East façade of the assessment building, taken from the south-east (7)



Plate 2 West façade of the assessment building, taken from the north-west (1)



Plate 3 Blocked original tri-partite first-floor window on the south wall (south range), taken from the south-west (83)



Plate 4 Inglenook fireplace on the north side of Room GF01, taken from the east (23)



Plate 5 South side of Room GF02, taken from the north (14)



Plate 6 Detail of the exposed paint scheme on the north wall of Room GF02, taken from the south (22)



Plate 7 South-west corner of Room GF04 showing fireplace, taken from the north-east (26)

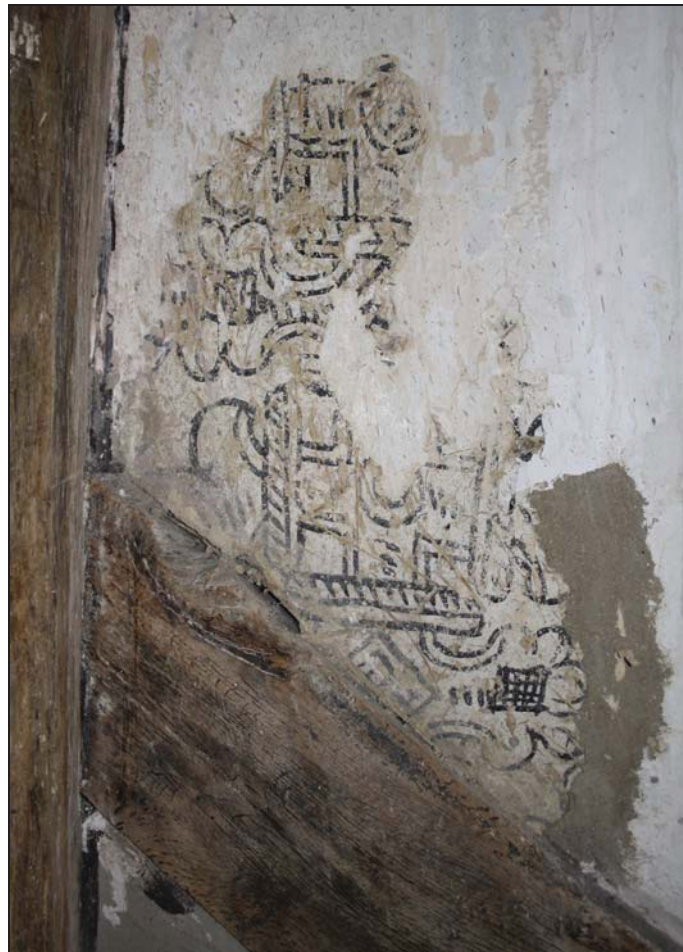


Plate 8 Detail of east wall in Room FF01 showing original decorative paint scheme, taken from the west (58)



Plate 9 Downward brace on the west wall of Room FF02 showing original painted scheme, taken from the west (43)



Plate 10 North wall of Room FF04, taken from the south-east (66)



Plate 11 View in the roof space above Room FF01 (north bay, mid-bay division), taken from the north-west (88)



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Plate 13 South elevation of the outbuilding, taken from the south (09)

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West façade of the assessment building, taken from the north-west



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North façade of the assessment building, taken from the north



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West façade of the south range, taken from the west



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South façade of the south range, taken from the south



5

East façade of the south range, taken from the west



6

East façade of the north range, taken from the west



7

East façade of the assessment building, taken from the south-east



8

East façade of the assessment building, taken from the north-east



9

South elevation of the outbuilding, taken from the south



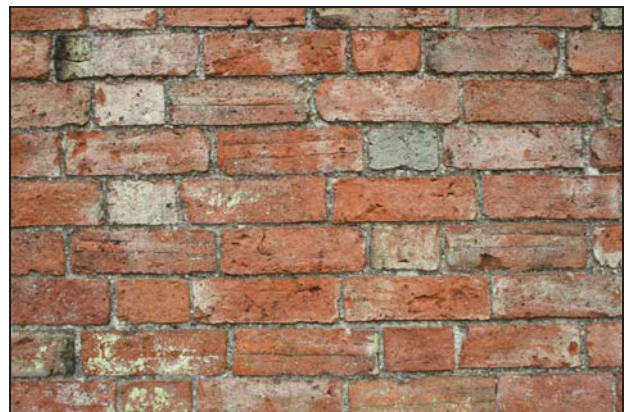
10

West elevation of the outbuilding, taken from the west



11

North elevation of the outbuilding, taken from the north



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Typical example of the brickwork of the north side of the outbuilding, taken from the north



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East elevation of the outbuilding, taken from the east



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South side of Room GF02, taken from the north



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West side of Room GF02, taken from the east



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East side of Room GF02, taken from the west



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Inner face of the 18th century door to Room GF02, taken from the south-east



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Outer face of the 18th century door to Room GF02, taken from the south-east



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Detail of framed text panel on the mid-rail of the south wall in Room GF02, taken from the north-east



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Detail of framed text panel on the mid-rail of the south wall in Room GF02, taken from the north-east



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West end of the north wall in Room GF02 with exposed painted scheme (indicated), taken from the south



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Detail of the exposed paint scheme on the north wall of Room GF02, taken from the south



23

Inglenook fireplace on the north side of Room GF01, taken from the east



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West side of the inglenook showing disturbance for a possible oven along with fine plasterwork, taken from the east



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South-west corner of Room GF04 showing fireplace, taken from the north-east



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18th century oven in Room GF04, taken from the east



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Upright handle on the west door, north wall of Room GF04, taken from the south



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Upright handle on the east door, north wall of Room GF04, taken from the west



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Room GF06 in the west outshut, taken from the south



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GF07 in the west outshut, taken from the north



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Door to GF07a in the west outshut, taken from east



35
Staircase leading to first floor level from GF07 in the west outshut, taken from the north



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View of Room GF08 showing binding joist, taken from the north



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East wall of Room GF09 showing formerly external wall of the main range, taken from the west



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East wall of Room GF09 showing formerly external wall of the main range, taken from the west



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Chimney stack on the west wall of Room GF09, taken from the east



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South wall of Room FF02, taken from the north



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North wall of Room FF02, taken from the south



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West wall of Room FF02, taken from the east



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Downward brace on the west wall of Room FF02 showing original painted scheme, taken from the west



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Fireplace on the south wall of Room FF02, taken from the north



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North side of Room FF01, taken from the south



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East wall of Room FF01, taken from the west



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North-west corner post in Room FF01 showing downward braces, taken from the south-east



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18th century basket grate in Room FF01, taken from the south



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Inserted compartment in the south-west corner of Room FF01, taken from the north-east



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Fire-place lintel in Room FF01 showing original decorative paint scheme, taken from the south



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Detail of fire-place lintel in Room FF01 showing original decorative paint scheme, taken from the south



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Detail of fire-place lintel in Room FF01 showing original decorative paint scheme, taken from the south



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Detail of fire-place lintel in Room FF01 showing original decorative paint scheme, taken from the south



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Detail of fire-place lintel in Room FF01 showing original decorative paint scheme, taken from the south



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Detail of east fire-place jamb in Room FF01 showing original decorative paint scheme, taken from the south



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Stud on north wall of Room FF01 showing taper marks, taken from the south



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Detail of east wall in Room FF01 showing original decorative paint scheme, taken from the west



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Detail of east wall in Room FF01 showing original decorative paint scheme, taken from the west



59
Detail of east wall in Room FF01 showing original decorative paint scheme, taken from the west



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Detail of east wall in Room FF01 showing original decorative paint scheme, taken from the west



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Detail of east wall in Room FF01 showing original decorative paint scheme, taken from the west



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South side of Room FF03 in the south range, taken from the north-west



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East side of Room FF03 in the north range, taken from the west



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North wall of Room FF03, taken from the south



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South wall of Room FF04, taken from the north-west



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North wall of Room FF04, taken from the south-east



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Balustrade in Room FF05, taken from the north-west



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North side of Room FF05, taken from the south



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North-east area of Room FF06, taken from the south-west



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Detail of H-L hinge on the door to Room FF06, taken from the west



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West wall of Room FF06, taken from the east



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Yorkshire sash window on the east wall of Room FF01, taken from the south-west



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Yorkshire sash window on the east wall of Room FF02, taken from the south-west



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Room FF07 in the west outshut, taken from the north



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Detail of casement on the west wall of Room FF07, taken from the north-east



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Roof form of the outbuilding, taken from the south-west



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South gable wall of the south range at lower level, taken from the south-west



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Blocked ground-floor window on the south wall (south range), taken from the south



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View in the roof space above Room FF01 (north bay, mid-bay division), taken from the north-west



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View of the roof space above Room FF01 (north bay, east side of the south range), taken from the north-west



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View of the roof space above Room FF01 (north bay, east side of the south range), taken from the west



91
View of the roof space above Room FF04 (south bay, north range) , taken from the north



92
View of the roof space above Room FF04 (south bay, west side of the north range), taken from the south-east



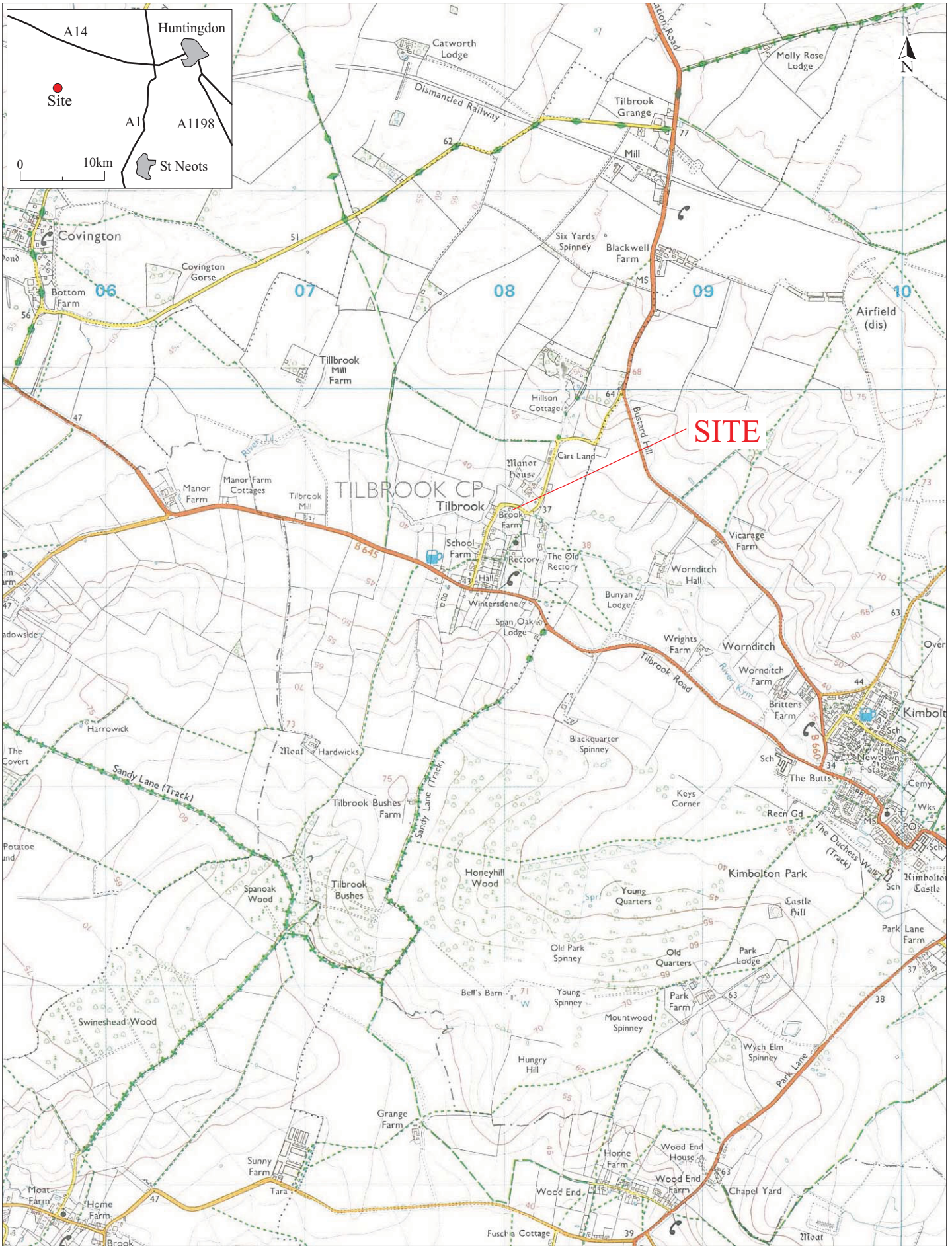
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View of the roof space above Room FF04 showing the bay division (south bay, north range), taken from the south



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West mid-rail in Room GF01 showing faint traces of painted decoration, taken from the east

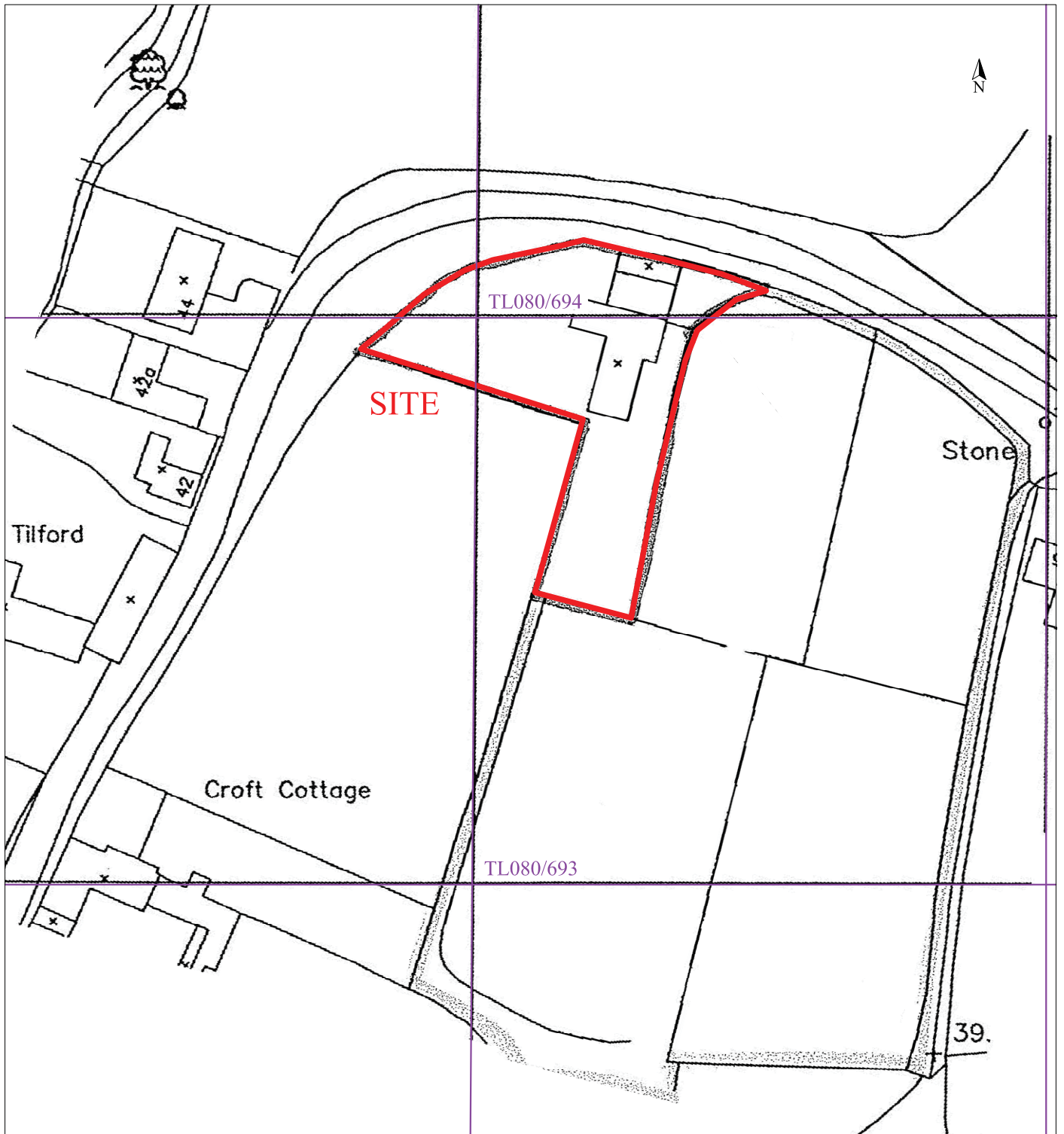


95
Fragment of possible early 19th century wallpaper adjoining the door jamb of the north door in Room GF01, taken from the south



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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:1250 at A4

- Anglo-Saxon (AD 410 - 1065)
- ▲ Medieval (AD 1066 - 1539)
- ★ Post-medieval (AD 1540 - 1900)
- ⊕ Undated
- Listed Buildings



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Fig. 3 HER Data
 Scale 1:5,000 at A4



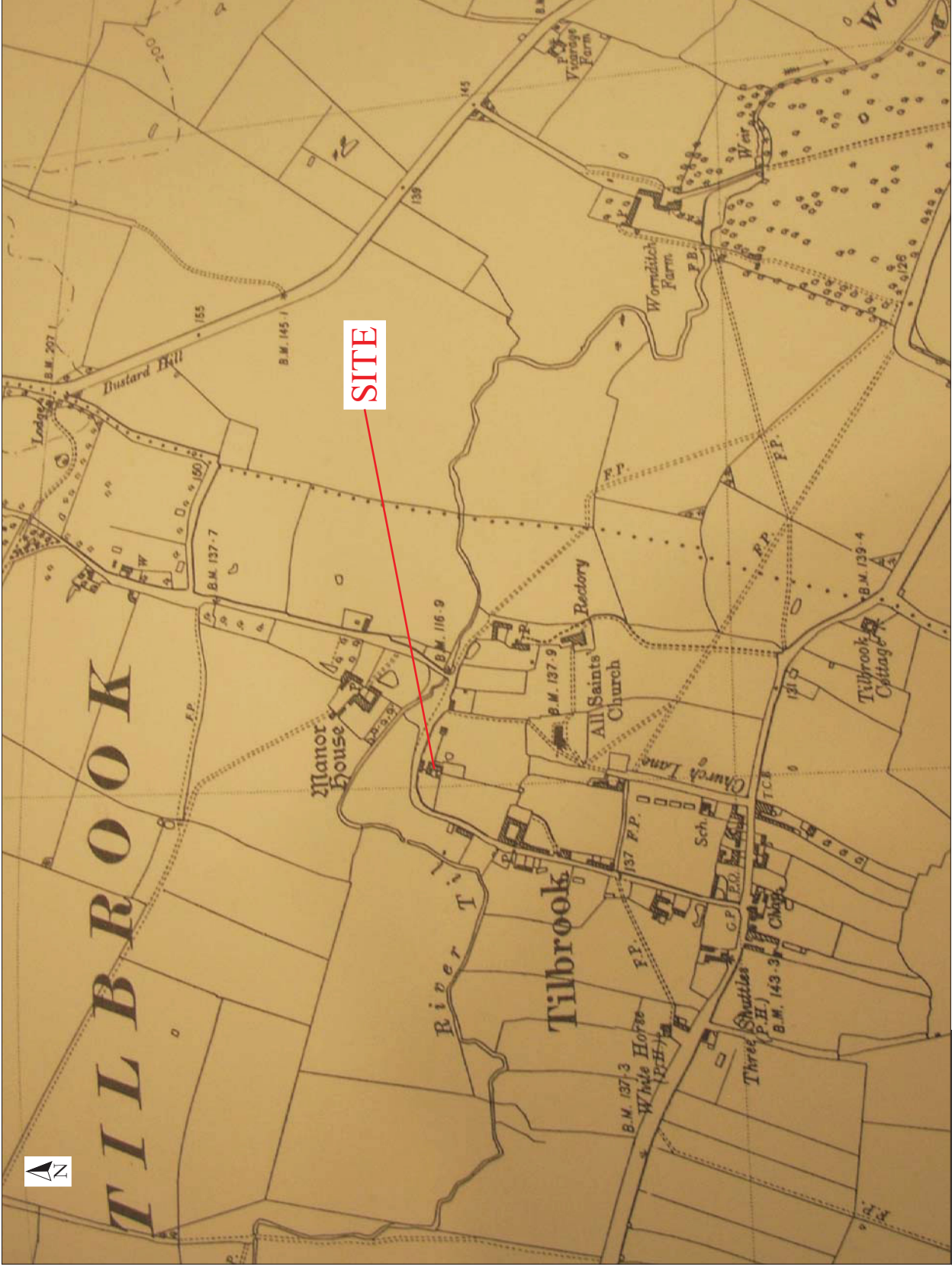
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Fig. 5 1st edition OS map, 1885
 Not to scale

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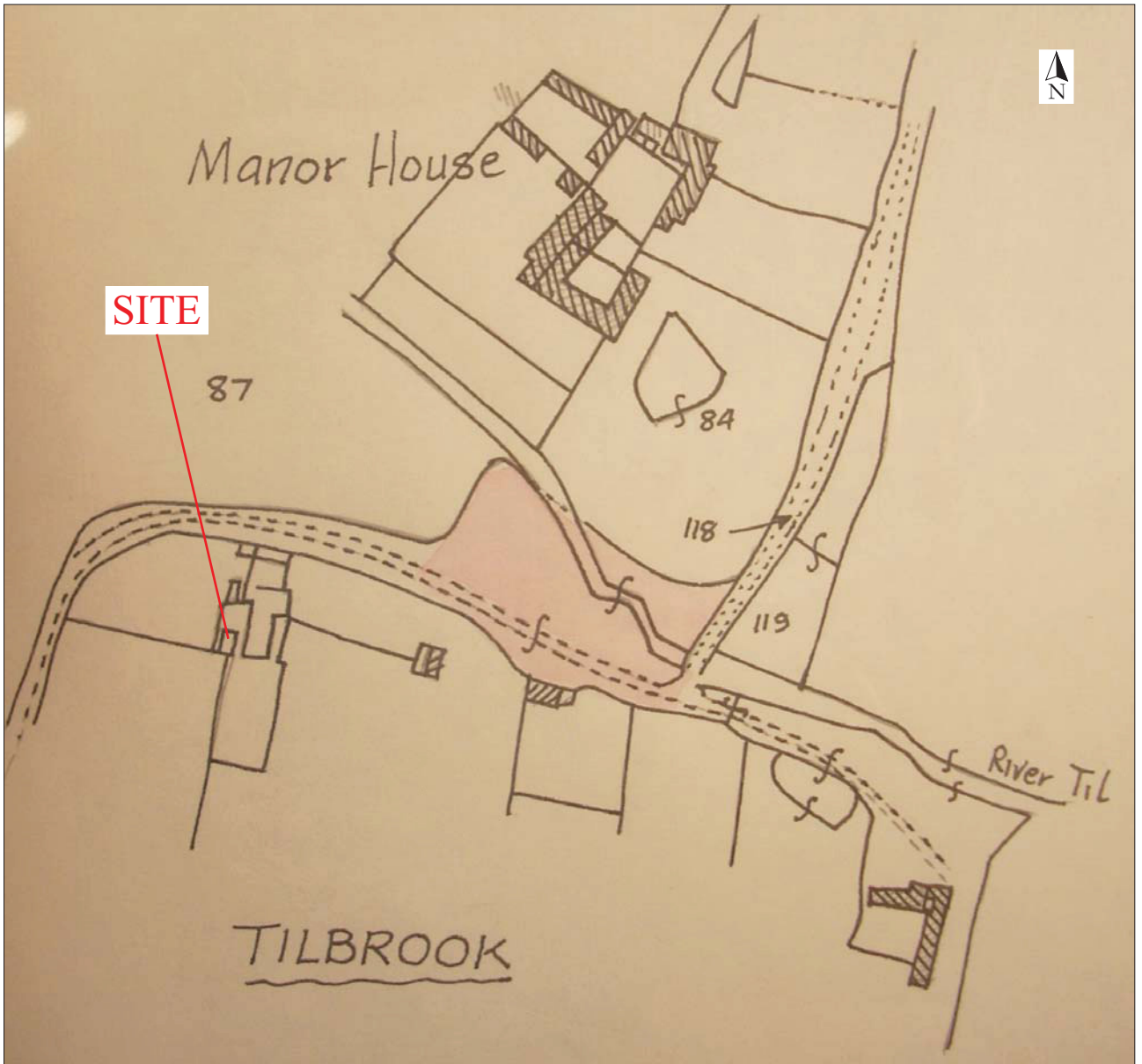
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Fig. 6 2nd edition OS map, 1901
 Not to scale

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Fig. 7 OS map, 1950
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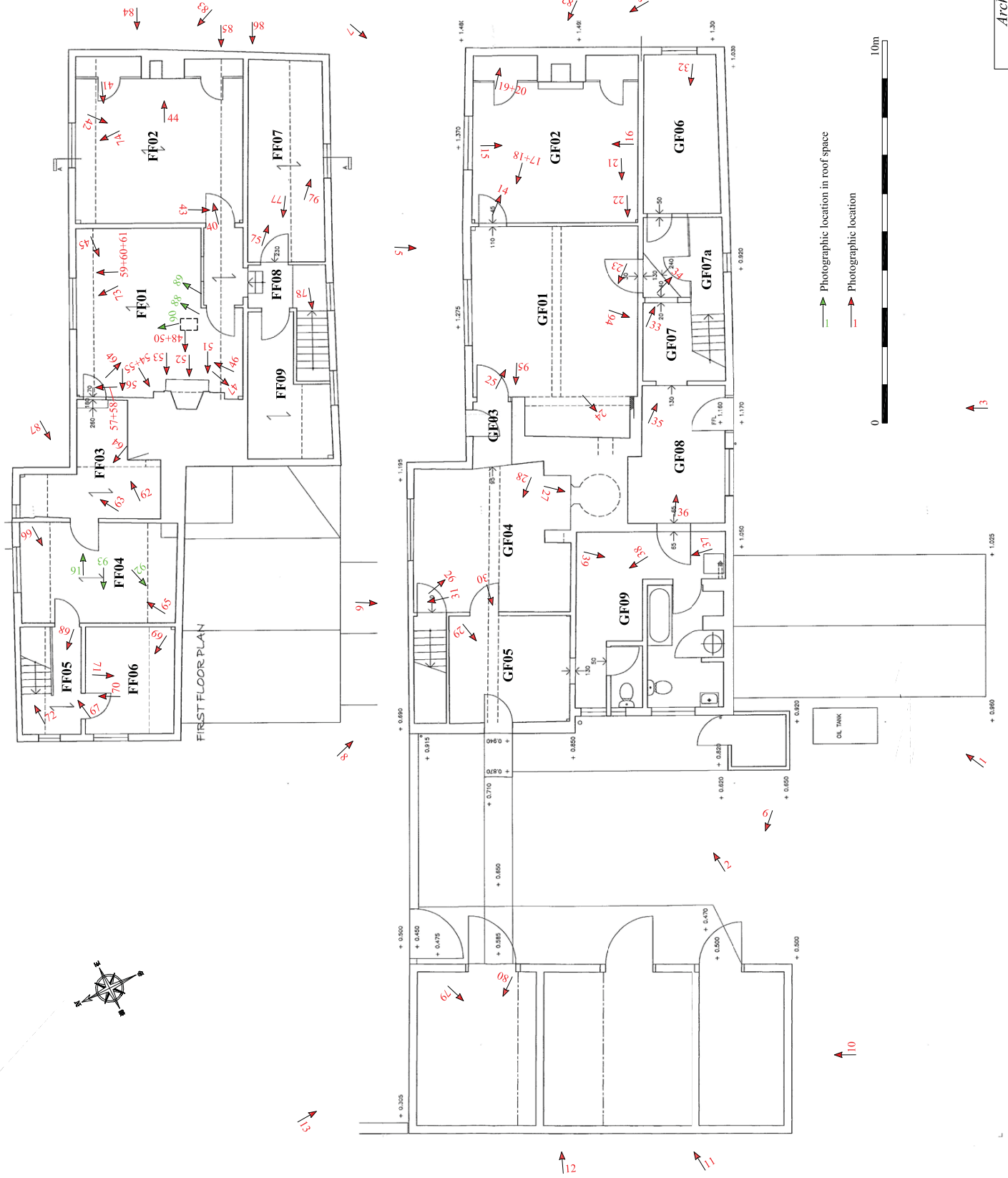
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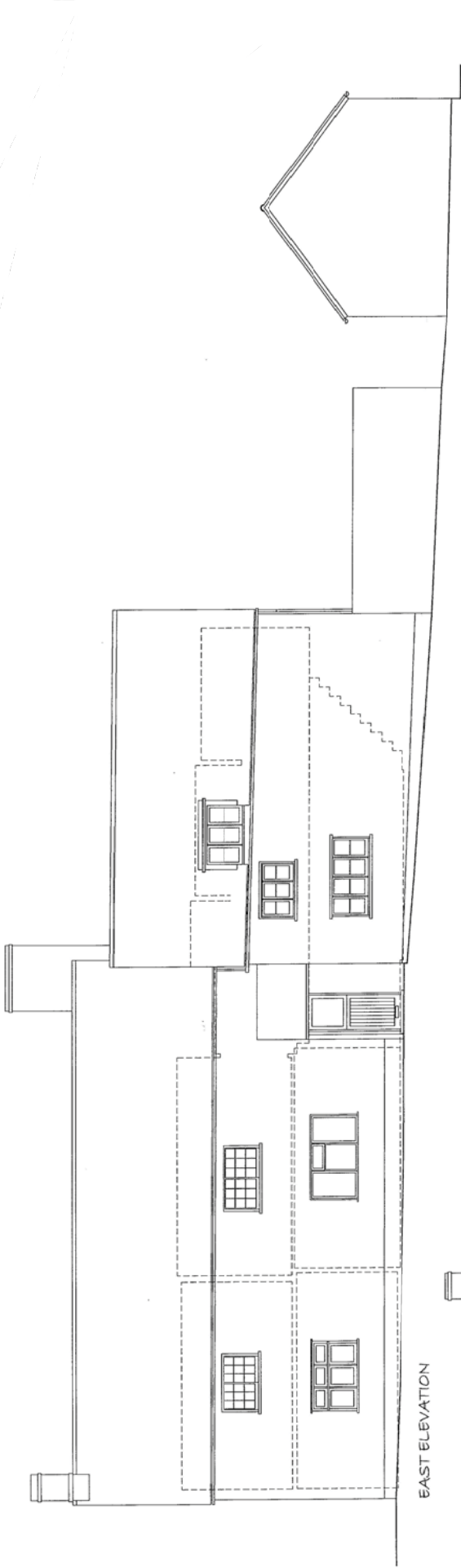


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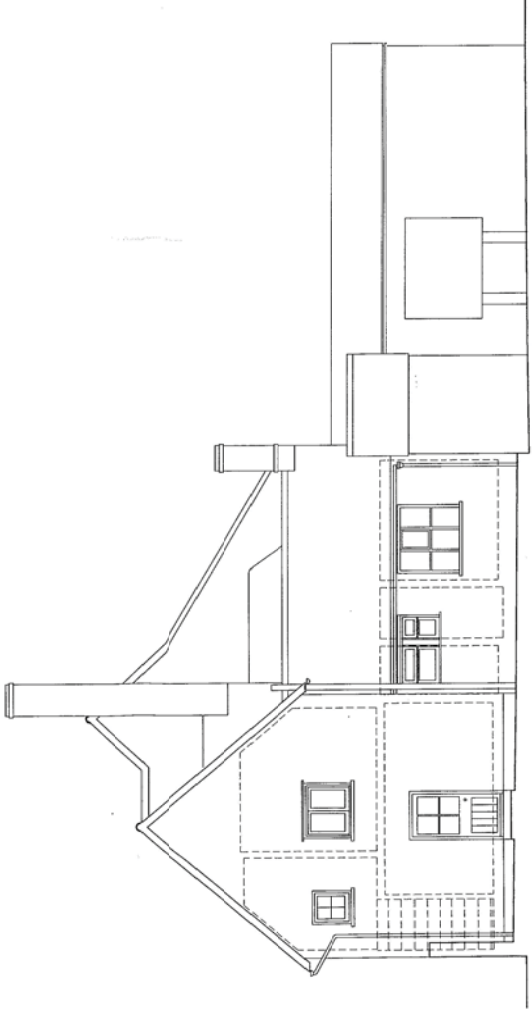
Fig. 8 Village plan of Manor, 1970s

Not to scale

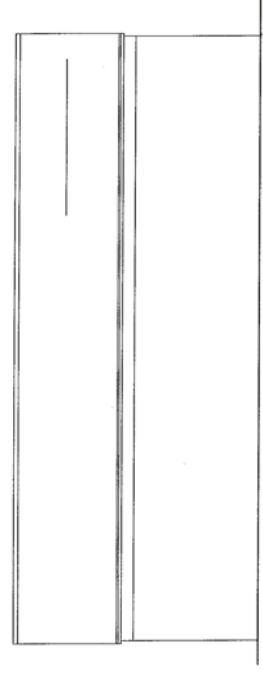




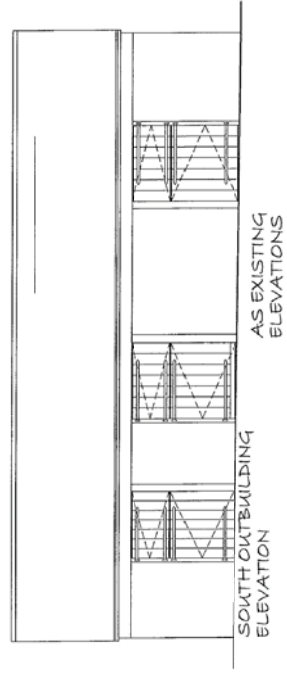
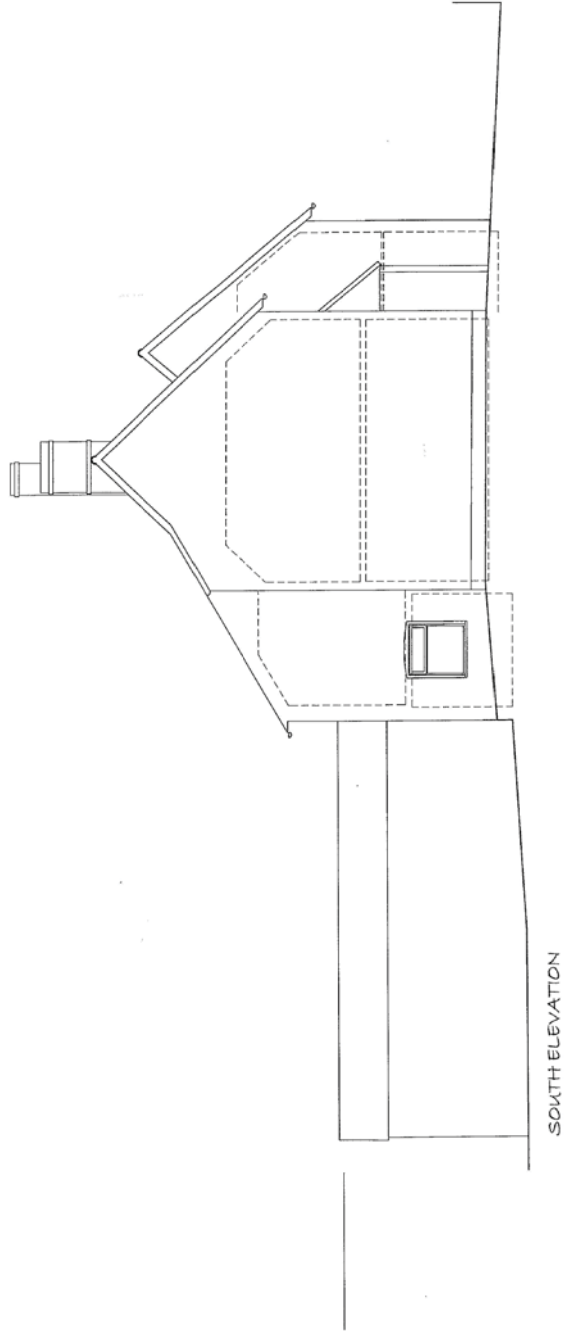
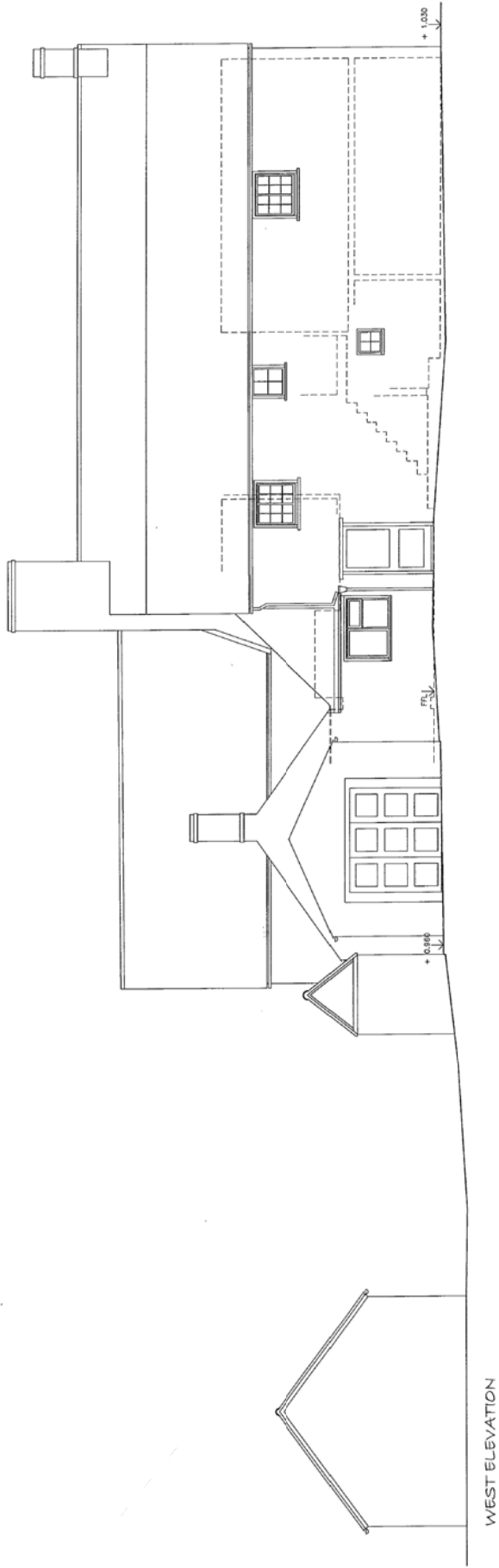
EAST ELEVATION



NORTH ELEVATION

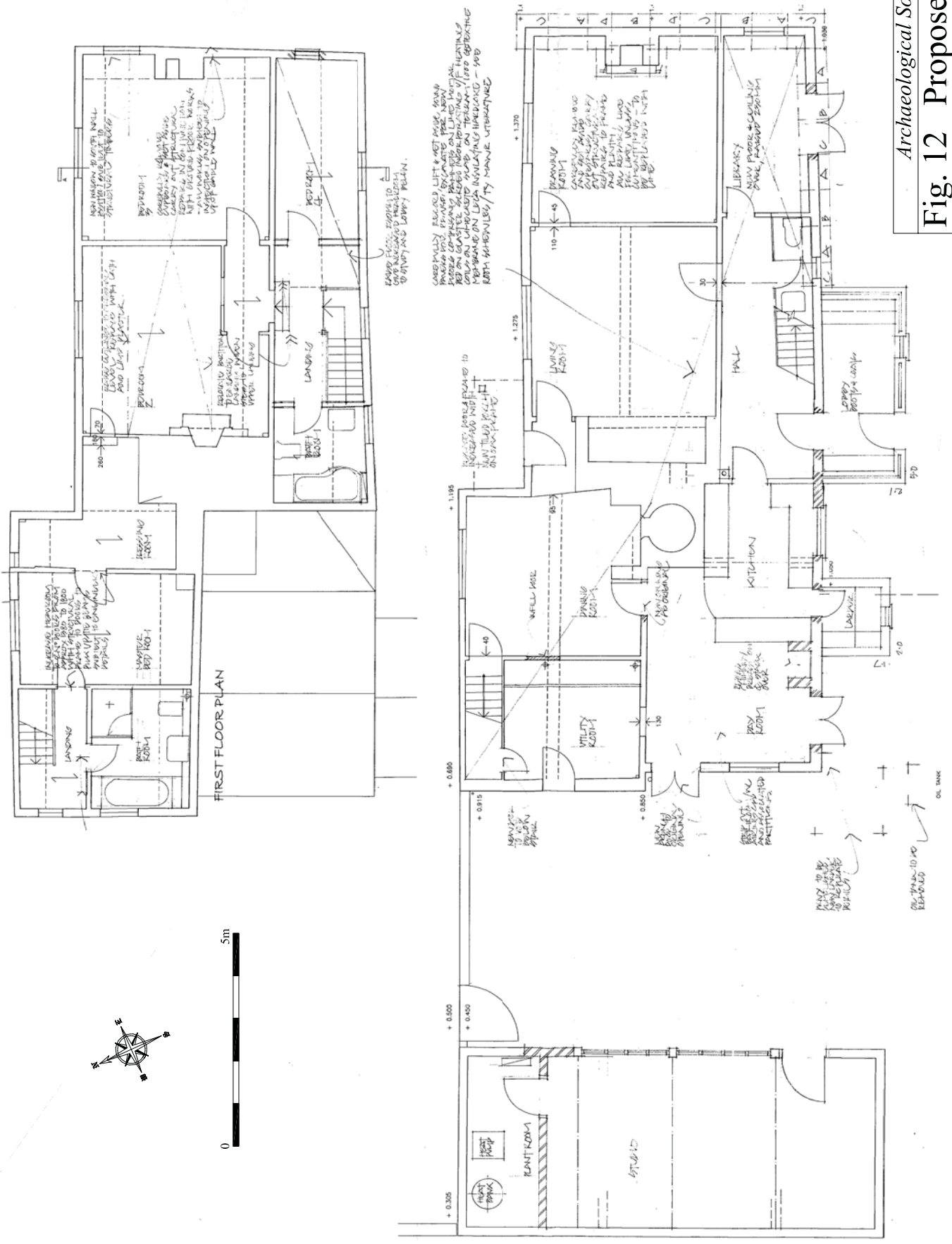


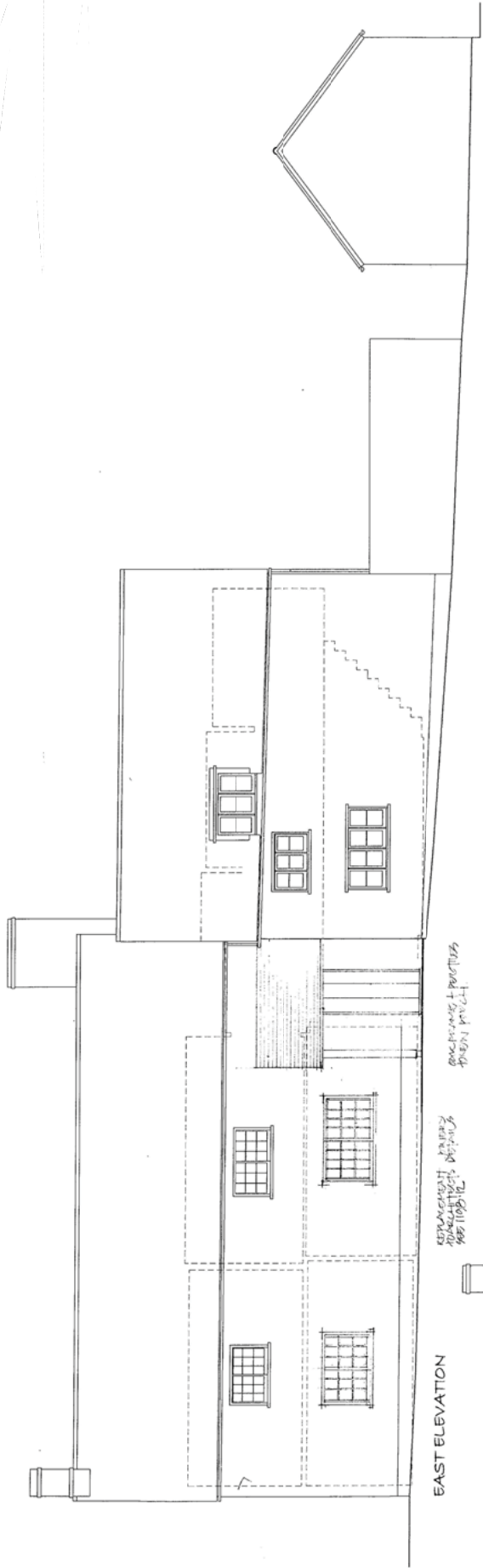
NORTH OUTBUILDING ELEVATION



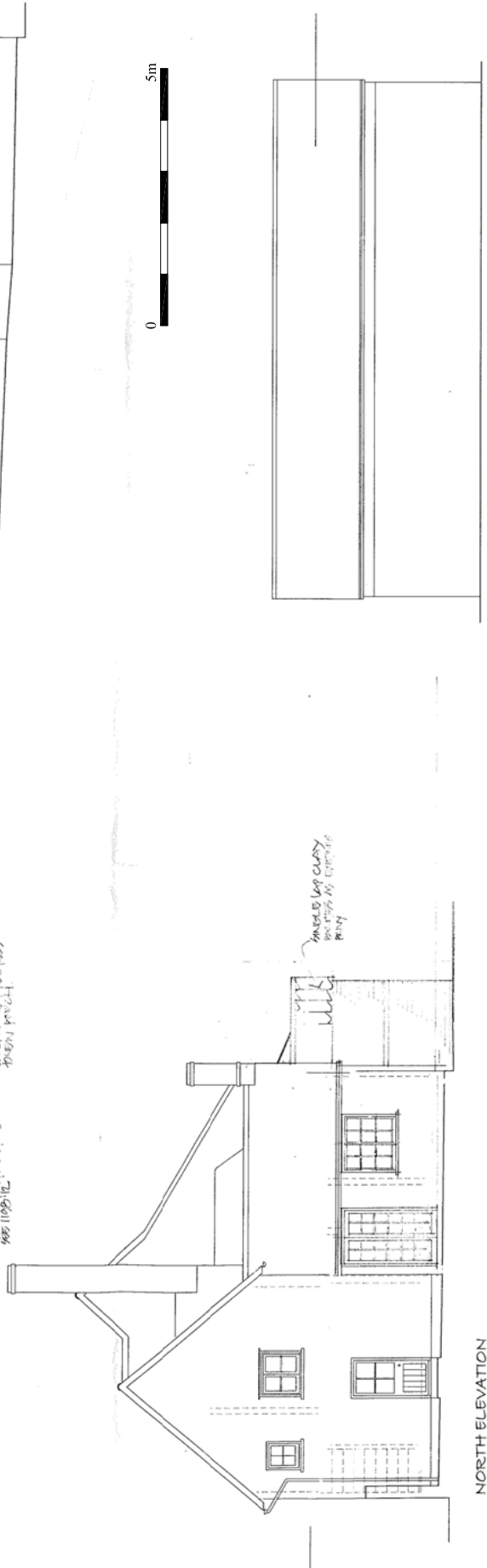
AS EXISTING ELEVATIONS

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Fig. 11 Existing elevations
 Scale 1:125 at A4

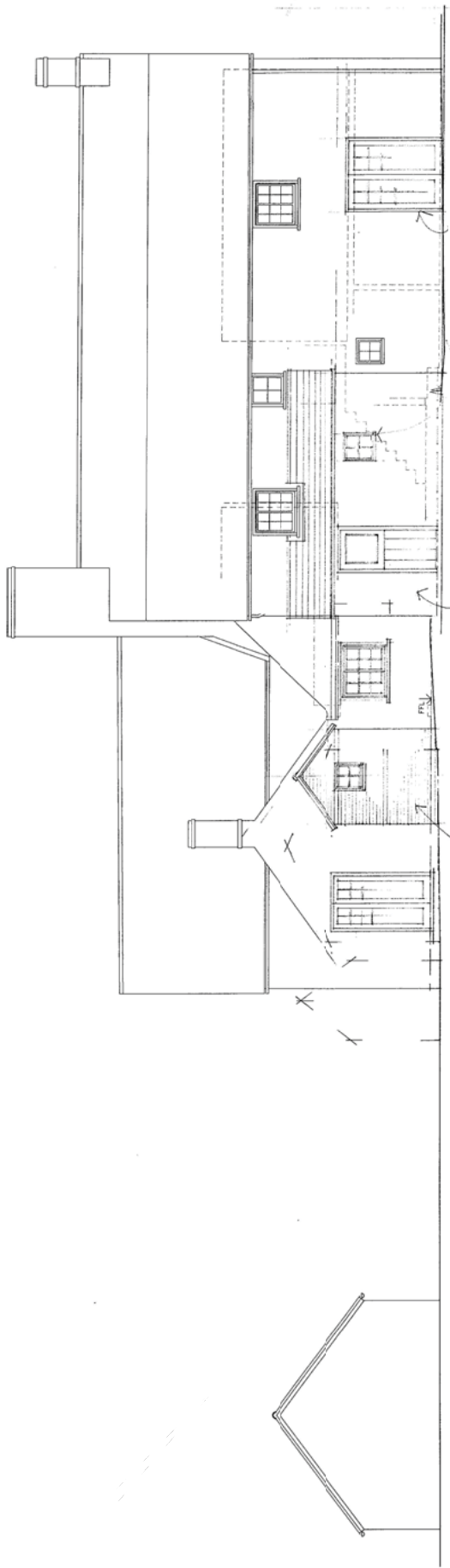




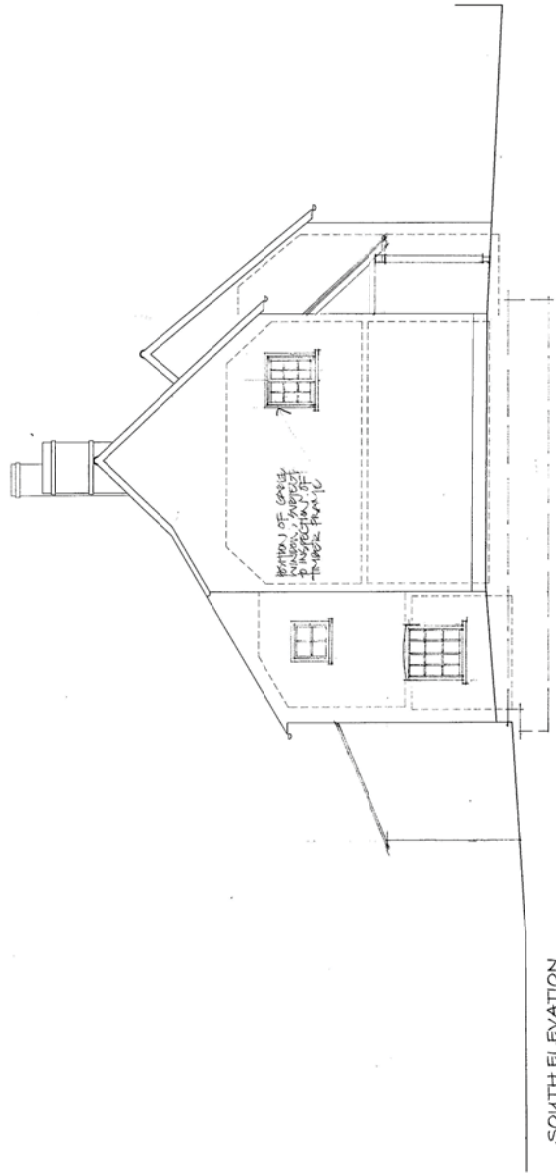
EAST ELEVATION



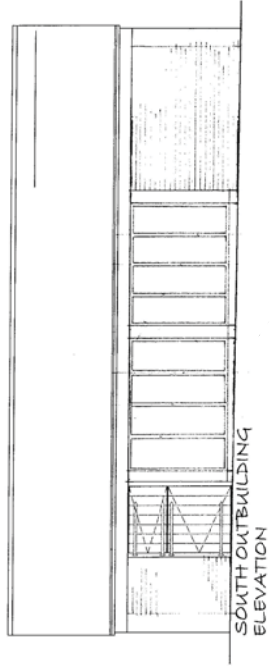
NORTH ELEVATION



WEST ELEVATION



SOUTH ELEVATION



SOUTH OUTBUILDING ELEVATION

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Fig. 14 Proposed elevations

Scale 1:125 at A4