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**THE SWAN PUBLIC HOUSE
HIGH STREET, WHEATHAMPSTEAD
HERTFORDSHIRE**

**HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING
Level 3**

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NGR: TL 17706 13915	Report No. 4458
District: St Albans	Site Code: AS1640
Approved: Claire Halpin MiFA	Project No. 5485
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Project name	<i>The Swan Public House, High Street, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire. Historic Building Recording</i>		
Summary			
<i>In October 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) conducted historic building recording at the Swan Public House, High Street, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 17706 13915). The work was required by St Albans District Council prior to the restoration of the building after fire damage.</i>			
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Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>21st – 25th October 2013</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>?</i>
P. number	<i>5485</i>	Site code	<i>AS1640</i>
Type of project	<i>Historic building recording</i>		
Site status	<i>Grade II listed</i>		
Current land use	<i>Public house, outbuildings and car park</i>		
Planned development	<i>Repair and refurbishment</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Late 15th/early 16th open hall with later 17th – 20th extensions</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)			
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>St Albans</i>	<i>Wheathampstead</i>
HER for area	<i>HALS</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>AL4 8AR</i>		
Area of site	<i>C.750m</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 17706 13915</i>		
Height AOD (max)	<i>-</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Laura Levitt / Simon West (SADC)</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Lisa Smith</i>		
Funded by	<i>Profile Consultancy Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>The Swan Public House, High Street, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire. Historic Building Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Prosser, L. Smith, L. Higgs, K.</i>		
Report no.	<i>4458</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>November 2013</i>		

THE SWAN PUBLIC HOUSE
HIGH STREET, WHEATHAMPSTEAD
HERTFORDSHIRE

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

SUMMARY

In October 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) conducted historic building recording at the Swan Public House, High Street, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 17706 13915). The recording was required by St Albans District Council prior to the restoration of the building after fire damage.

The analysis broadly confirmed the list description of the building as a late medieval open hall, but revealed greater detail and allowed significant refinement on known knowledge. In addition to the open hall, the parlour range also survives substantially, while an early 17th century range added to the south of the building is likely to have been raised by a further storey in the later 18th century. The main brunt of the fire was limited to the upper chamber of the medieval core, with ancillary smoke and water damage in the immediate vicinity. However, the worst destruction was confined to the common rafters and upper roof, which probably represent a repair of c.1900 following an earlier fire in the building. The primary medieval timbers while charred may be salvageable. The fire also exposed areas of original wattle and daub infill, and 17th century lath and plaster, inserted following the flooring of the earlier hall. These have been identified in the report, and if possible and practicable should be retained as of importance to the historic integrity of the building.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In October 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) conducted historic building recording at the Swan Public House, High Street, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire AL4 8AR (NGR TL 17706 13915; Figs.1-2). The recording was required by St Albans District Council (SADC) prior to the restoration of the building after fire damage which occurred in July 2013.

1.2 The project adhered to a specification prepared by AS (dated 20th September 2013) according to advice issued by SADC. The historic building assessment followed the procedures set out in English Heritage's 'Understanding historic buildings: a guide to good recording practice' (2006), and also conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists' 'Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures' (IFA 2008). The recording was conducted to Level 3 as defined in the EH document.

1.3 The aims of the project were to:

- Record the building in its current form for the purpose of recording any original features, or features of archaeological interest that may be exposed, and any additional research/recording necessary to place the findings of the recording in their context.

Planning policy

1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF 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. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.5 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings and scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

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

2.1 Wheathampstead lies within the district of St Albans in Hertfordshire (Fig. 1) some 6 km to the north of the city, whilst the smaller town of Harpenden is located 4km to the west. The Swan lies within the historic medieval and post-medieval core of the settlement and within the town's Conservation Area (CA). It fronts onto the High Street, which extends on a north-south alignment.

2.2 The building stands on an irregular plot of land covering an area of approximately 750m² (Fig. 2). Some 19th century outbuildings survive on the northern side of the property. Old aerial photographs show that these were

more numerous originally, but most have been superseded by a large car park. The building is Grade II listed, and described as dating to around 1500 with a 2-bay open hall, a bay at each end and a mid- to late-17th century wing added. It appears to have been re-fronted in the early to mid 19th century (LB No. 1175876; see Appendix 1, below). An extension to the south was added at a similar time. The building was damaged by fire on 16 July 2013.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 The site was visited between 21st and 25th October 2013 in order to compile internal descriptions of the building and undertake the photographic work. The written description, analysis and photographic survey were carried out by Lee Prosser and Lisa Smith while the drawing work was completed by Kathren Henry. Floor plans, sections and elevations based upon drawings provided by the client are included with annotations (Figs. 5 -7).

3.2 The photographic recording was conducted using medium format (4.5cm x 6cm) black and white film and included all external views and general internal shots. This utilised a Zenza Bronica ETRS camera and Ilford HP5 IOS 400 120mm film. Colour photographs were taken using a Canon 60D (18 megapixels) digital camera, duplicating the black and white photography. Where necessary, architectural detail was captured using 35mm black and white film and supplementary colour photography used 35mm Ektachrome colour transparency. 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 location plots (Fig. 5 & 6).

4 HISTORIC BACKGROUND

4.1 Archaeological investigations and finds in the Lea Valley show activity during prehistoric times to be prevalent in this area. In the late Iron Age, the establishment of an 'enclosed oppidum' – a fortified administrative centre links Wheathampstead as an important settlement in the tribal landscape of Britain. This formed the foundation for the infrastructure of Roman settlement which would have been situated in the hinterland of the major urban centre of *Verulamium* or St Albans.

4.2 Occupation probably continued into the Anglo-Saxon period. The Domesday Survey of 1086 implies the presence of a church, which is confirmed by physical remains, and a watermill (HER 2630; Thompson 2002, 6). During its restoration c. 1865, the parish church of St Helen's 13th century chancel was found to stand upon the rubble foundations of an earlier apsidal east end (HER 2877).

4.3 In the medieval period, Wheathampstead was one of the few nucleated villages on south-west Hertfordshire, where scattered hamlets and farms

known as Ends and Greens instead dominated the landscape (Thompson 2002, 7). The village developed around the river crossing, 300m to the north of the site, whilst the wider landscape is dotted with a large number of farmsteads, many of which have medieval origins. Town Farm, which comprised a late 15th century half-timbered building, stood just north of the site until 1971 when it was demolished amid protest (HER 2875). Further late medieval structures comprise Place Farm, Bury Farm Cottages and White Cottage (HERs 2876, 9197 & 10477; Page 1908). Other remains are recorded at Bury Green, Wheathampstead Rectory, Lattimores and Rectory Manor.

4.4 Between the 16th and 18th centuries the population increased steadily, with the river mills ensuring the prosperity of local cloth-making and milling industries, but the settlement did not expand significantly. Neither did the arrival of the railways (HER 5521) in the 19th century result in any degree of stimulus, which instead was largely superseded by the expansion of Harpenden to the west (Thompson 2002, 21). Wheathampstead preserves numerous buildings and features of the post-medieval and early modern periods including several maltings, breweries and public houses, the Wesleyan and Independent Chapels (HERs 10481 & 10482), the well-head gear (HER 5961), former corn mill (HER 5820) and the site of the National School (HER 10483).

4.5 The Swan probably originated as a private dwelling, as its early morphology, having the usual open hall, service and parlour wing arrangement conforms to the late-medieval house form. Although no further evidence could be found for the early history of the site, the Wheathampstead & District Preservation Society has established the names of several early occupants, including John House in 1744 (Pub History website). An insurance document for the Sun Fire Office reveals that in December 1792, The Swan was insured by the company in conjunction with its victualler D. I. Mardell (London Metropolitan Archives Ref. MS 11936/391/60863). Further landlords associated with the site include James Messer in 1756 and Joseph Sibley by 1814 (Pub History website). It is likely that with more research, a more continuous sequence could be established.

4.6 The parish tithe map, which dates to 1841 is the earliest accurate cartographic source, and depicts the site as a single plot of land extending northwards to Church Street (Fig. 3). The south-western wing was, however absent at this date, but is present by the production of the Ordnance Survey plan of 1898 (Fig. 4). The accompanying tithe apportionment, which dates to 1840, confirms that the site (#20) was occupied by the '*Swan Inn and Blacksmith's Shop*', which covered an area of 3 roods and 39 perches and was owned and occupied by John Isaac. The blacksmith's shop presumably consisted of the L-shaped building depicted on the map located to the immediate north of the site and fronting Church Street, whilst an outbuilding stood in the south-western corner of the site at that date.

4.7 Local trade directories reveal that later 19th century landlords of the Swan included Charles Burgess from 1851 until 1886, when he was succeeded by his stepson Alfred (Fred) (Pub History website). At this time, a

large range of outbuildings stood surrounding a yard to the rear of the pub, presumably housing the blacksmith's shop and stabling.

4.8 Sales particulars for the freehold estate of The Hatfield Brewery dated January 1920 include the Swan in the sale of 107 licensed houses at that time (HALS Ref. D/EBy/B91). It is described as lot 37, a freehold, fully-licensed public house with blacksmith's shop adjoining. The main structure was listed as a brick and rough-cast building with tiled roof containing two attic rooms on the second floor, seven bedrooms of the first floor, seven rooms on the ground floor and a cellar (Plate 2). To the rear lay a large yard with gateway entrance, a stable containing four loose-boxes, a stable for three horses, loft, blacksmith's shop, barn, open cart shed, harness room, wash room, store shed, two W.Cs and a urinal. At that time the pub was let to Mr. Dench at an annual rent of £15, whilst the blacksmith's shop was let to Mr. Matthews for £10 p.a.

4.9 Little else is known about the history of the site in the 20th century, other than it was occupied by the licensees Mrs Agnes Brown, Arthur Ernest Lovick, William Baines and John P. Wilkinson prior to World War II (Pub History website; Plate 2). There is also a suggestion, as yet unsubstantiated in the documentary record that a fire in 1900 nearly destroyed the pub. The site appears to have been subject to architectural consideration by the local historian and building specialist Gordon Moodey, as papers held in the Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS; Ref. D/EGm/311) include a drawing from September 1964 of the external stack found in the saloon bar.

5 THE BUILDING (Fig. 5-7)

Exterior

5.1 The Swan enjoys a prominent position on the western side of the High Street at the junction with Marford Road (Plate 3 & 4). The building has undergone a series of extensions and alterations which are clearly expressed in the existing form and layout.

5.2 The main frontage is dominated by a high range to the left, mainly constructed in brick, with the lower, medieval core extending to the north, which was most badly affected by the fire. Three large canted bay windows with many panes light the ground floor, but these all differ slightly in style and size. The upper floor is covered in a painted pebble-dash render, pierced by several sashes of 18th century appearance which are all set at differing levels, creating an asymmetrical appearance. The roof is of old peg-tiles with two six-light dormers to the lower northern element and a chimney stack rising from the roof apex.

5.3 The northern gable abuts a flat-roofed building which is now in separate ownership, but the masonry appears to have been replaced with late 19th or early 20th century homogenous red brick laid in Flemish-bond, with a central projecting chimney stack.

5.4 The south elevation incorporates a Victorian domestic range of brick, which is typical of its date and proportions. The brickwork is laid in Flemish-bond and now mostly painted on this side, but also includes a short section of return render, with the exception of a large, composite and shouldered stack of 17th century date, which dominates the end wall of the building (Plate 5). The rest is generously glazed with three eight-over-eight sashes at lower level and two upper windows of the same form. A later 20th century brick porch encloses a door. The return gable to the rear has escaped treatment with paint and is blank, rising to a flush stack. The roof is of slate, terminating in slender, slightly shaped barge-boards. Here, evidence of lime-washing survives below the eaves.

5.5 The rear elevation is marked by a series of single-storey, flat-roofed extensions which appear to be mostly modern rebuilds of earlier outshuts. The re-entrant angle between the 19th century south-west range and core of the building is filled by one such extension which uses recycled brick, but a scar-impression of the roof-line of its predecessor survives on the adjoining wall and accords with a similar, pent-roofed lean-to which does survive at the northern end, this. Below the eaves, 18th century brickwork which in-fills the earlier timberwork survives in pristine condition, suggesting that it was protected by these 19th century lean-to structures until recent times.

5.6 The surviving northern lean-to has a slate roof and is probably of 19th century date, now partly subsumed by a short, Fletton-brick corridor which connects the main building with a functions or snooker room. This corridor encloses a formerly external late 18th century doorcase and hood described below.

5.7 The phasing of the main range can best be appreciated in the area below the eaves, where the two original bays are well expressed (Plate 6). The south bay retains a pattern of slender but regular studs infilled with 18th century orange brick – these preserve their original struck-pointed joints. The roof in this area was partly destroyed by fire though within the uncleared rubble it is clear that the tiles were modern and machine-made. The main internal chimney-stack, constructed in its upper stages in late 18th or 19th century brickwork rises though the apex of the lower range to the north of the bay division, which is marked here by a thicker principal post.

5.8 The south range, by contrast rises to a slightly higher level, preserving a stubby gable above the medieval core. At lower level, some 18th century brick infill remains apparent in the timber-work, but part is pebble-dashed; here unpainted and of a typical late 19th century type. The modern peg-tile roof is pierced by two dormers on this side.

5.9 Where the Victorian south-west range abuts the older structure there appears to have been a complete removal of earlier fabric. As this is unpainted, it is more easily discernible, laid in Flemish-bond with a buff mortar which preserves some tuck pointing, though this is neither meticulous nor comprehensive in its execution. At upper level a window has been dropped to

form a door giving emergency access to the flat roof while another retains a gauged, slightly camber arch in the typical manner.

Interior

Cellar

5.10 A brick-lined cellar occupies the south-eastern portions of the building and is given access from a stair behind the bar. The walls are plain and painted, marked only by a barrel run on the east and a number of niches. Two posts support the under-boarded ceiling at the bay division but otherwise little of interest is visible.

Ground Floor

5.11 As is usual with modern public houses, several smaller rooms, bars and saloons have been consolidated into a single, open-plan public space extending through the medieval core, the south range and south-western Victorian addition. For ease of description, these spaces have been enumerated below as if they were still separate entities. The bar itself forms a hub situated within the central bay; it retains little of interest being largely modern, with typical fixtures and fittings. Most of the décor is also modern throughout, including simple match-lined boarding rising to a dado shelf with plain plastered and painted walls above. Other features such as partitions, seating and ornamental shelving set at high level are similarly cosmetic and probably date no earlier than the 1970s.

5.12 Within the space as a whole, however, the different phases are clearly discernable, particularly illustrated by the changes in floor and ceiling height and the exposed timber-frame visible in many places. The medieval core of the building occupies the two northernmost bays of GF01, which is dominated by a large inglenook fireplace on the north. The southern bay is a later 17th addition while the 19th century range extends to the rear.

GF01

5.13 The southern bay of the medieval core as mentioned above, is occupied on the west by the bar while being lit on the east by a three-cant bay window with a ten-over-ten central sash window flanked by four-over-four sashes to each of the canted sides. This is slightly later than its counterpart on the south (Plate 7). An enclosed staircase to the rear of the bar is entered from the northern bay to give access to the floors above. The door is of some interest being apparently once open with an arrangement of sticks or slates above and below the stile. Its age cannot be determined, but it retains riveted strap hinges with slender finials hung on pintels which do not appear to have been disturbed and so could be of 18th century date. Part of the space on the external wall is occupied by an incongruous semi-circular brickwork structure

which in fact obscures a former small corner fireplace. The hearth-stone remains *in situ*.

5.14 The ceiling in this area is particularly low, and spanned above the bar by an exposed, but heavily hacked back joist. This appears properly pegged and was formerly chamfered on both sides. Analysis suggests that this space forms the parlour end of the medieval building, adjoining the hall, which has always been floored to the upper storey.

5.15 At the transition to the southern 17th century element, the original external medieval wall survives in part. The timber-frame consists of a post to the east frontage which has been used to support part of the later, 17th century structure. A continuous mid-rail at head height has been truncated to the west and is now carried by a large central post, but this is probably repositioned or not original as mortices survive in the adjoining soffit for other studs and wattle staves in regular arrangement. Furthermore, their position aligns with similar empty mortices on the opposite side of the space, at the transition to the former medieval hall. Above the mid-rail, several studs, in-line with their lost lower counterparts are preserved and appear original.

5.16 The northern bay is the southern bay of the former open hall, and was most seriously damaged by the fire of July 2013. Here, the floor is modern laid in terracotta tiles while a large inglenook fireplace, essentially bisecting the former hall, occupies the north-east corner (Plate 8). As elsewhere, a large bay window on the east preserves slightly different details to its companions with four, fixed, six-light panes and casements to the cants. The frames are chamfered and stopped in the later 19th century manner.

5.17 Of the older building, much original fabric is exposed. At the bay division on the south, a robust mid-rail survives retaining a few lower studs together with redundant mortices for its lost companions and wattle holes for staves. At the eastern end the mid-rail has now disengaged from the principal-post. A large central post has been inserted for support. A short section of wattle and daub panel to upper level survives just below ceiling level. On the east, the original mid-rail survives as a lintel to the window, where it remains jointed to the original principal-posts. Its soffit, though hacked back, retains traces of a continuous groove for an original shutter and mortices for jambs and slots for mullions suggesting a three-light window. The northern post also appears to have been incorporated into the fireplace to support the bressumer.

5.18 The rear, west wall demonstrates a simpler arrangement, having been more highly disturbed. An original mid-rail has now been much truncated by the insertion of a broad panelled 18th century door and window leading to the rear flat roofed extension (Plate 9). The upper portion of an original principal-post is preserved as a truncated stump while two early studs survive in the lower register. The entire wall has been infilled with 19th century or later brickwork, all re-used and set in cement. A secondary mid-rail, chamfered but only partially visible has clearly been inserted to carry joists for the inserted floor.

5.19 The inglenook is framed by a large chamfered bressumer beam with lambs-tongue chamfer stops in the late 16th or early 17th century manner. It retains a little recessed cupboard to the rear, probably dating to the 18th century. The upper brick infill which retains slightly raking unpegged studs is not genuine. Other large peg holes in the bressumer also suggest the existence of a fixed shelf.

5.20 The ceiling is spanned by a robust, heavily chamfered joist, which terminates with simple wave stops on the south. Where badly affected by water ingress, various elements have been exposed, revealing plastered hand split laths together with common joists which are regular in section measuring 6" x 4" and spaced 1' apart.

GF02

5.21 A single bay extension to the south, dating to the 17th century, has been consolidated with the rear 19th century range and retains several interesting features. As mentioned above it is set at a slightly higher level than the medieval core with steps and a short section of modern balustrade making up the difference. The space is dominated, as elsewhere by a canted bay window to the main frontage with wide twelve-over twelve central sash and four-over-four sashes to the cants. On the south the fireplace is constructed in 17th century fabric with a deeply chamfered rear face, though refurbished in modern materials. It retains a 18th / 19th cast iron Continental fireback possibly depicting a battle scene.

5.22 At ceiling level some timber-framed elements are visible, including a central binding joist with ovolo chamfers, terminating above the fireplace on the south with lambs-tongue stops (Plate 10). On the north it is supported on a simple timber bearer inserted into the original external face of the medieval range. The bay window breaks forward of the original mid-rail, which survives, though much hacked back and modified.

GF03

5.23 GF03, now forming a single space with GF02 occupies the later 19th century south-west range. External access is given from the south, via a six panel door with late early 19th mouldings with contemporary frame now enclosed by a modern porch. Immediately opposite, a second door leads to the modern flat roofed extension (GF07). Three eight-over-eight sash windows without horns light this end of the building, and preserve slender glazing bars typical of early to mid-19th century date. The fireplace on the west is a modern cosmetic pastiche.

GF04 & GF04a

5.24 Behind the inglenook to the north, an entrance corridor extends between the main frontage and the rear of the building in the manner of a cross passage, but occupies one end of the formerly open hall. This has been extended via a modern passage through the external rear yard to a functions or snooker room, which once stood as an independent outbuilding. The front external door is 18th century, four panelled with an Edwardian door knocker while that to the rear a simple 19th century ledged, braced and boarded door survives, but retaining a hood on scrolled brackets, now partly truncated by the new brickwork. This is likely to be 18th century in date. The low ceiling is lined with wide Victorian match-lined boarding, partly damaged by the fire.

5.25 The northern range functions as the pub kitchen, and is given access from the corridor via a modern glazed door. It is lit on the east by two, two-over-two sashes of late Victorian or early Edwardian date. A second staircase rises against the western wall. This room is plain with modern features though some timber-framing is visible. The west wall retains a mid-rail, much disturbed with peg-holes indicating a regular arrangement of studs. The slender central joist retains a pattern of empty mortices indicating a former partition dividing the space into two rooms at this level.

GF05

5.26 The 19th century lean-to to the rear of GF04 is plain except for a late Victorian or early Edwardian casement window, but otherwise of little interest.

GF06

5.27 The functions or snooker room, reached by the modern corridor described above, was originally a 19th century outbuilding entered through a large door hung on robust strap-hinges and pintels, ledged and braced to the rear. There is an iron pump on the southern wall though the timberwork visible in the space is all cosmetic.

GF07

5.28 The flat-roofed extension to the rear of the main range is entirely modern, occupied by lavatories and is of no interest.

First Floor

5.29 The first floor is arranged as a series of rooms broadly conforming to the pattern of structural ranges illustrated above. Two staircases give access.

FF01

5.30 The central staircase rises to a modest landing, and consists of a simple late 19th century balustrade with chamfered and stopped balusters on a closed string, capped by a semi-circular hand-rail. The differences in floor levels between the ranges are well expressed in the area, with short flights of steps leading to the later 17th and 19th rooms. A simple narrow door, ledged and braced to the rear and hung on slender strap hinges with finials encloses a stair to the attic.

FF02

5.31 FF02 occupies the space directly above the bar, and probably formed the original parlour chamber of the medieval building. It is entered from the landing via a four panelled door. It has wide pine floor boards with high ceiling. A built-in cupboard on the south encloses the space below the attic stair. Elements of the medieval timber-framing are visible on the south-east, where the original tie-beam, a straight downward brace and part of the principal post have been left redundant by the raising of the roof by an additional floor (Plate 11). Part of the original wall-plate on the external wall has clearly been truncated to accommodate the existing sash window. A late 19th century postcard of the pub shows this window to be foreshortened, and therefore must have lain below this wall-plate before being extended, thereby sacrificing part of the original frame (Plate 1).

FF03

5.32 FF03 formed part of the upper area of the original medieval open hall, and was also the seat of the recent fire. Despite the damage, the fire has served to expose the underlying fabric, including timber-framing. The principal medieval timbers of the flanking trusses to the side walls appear to be intact though the boarded floor, possibly of 17th century date has been rendered extremely fragile and soft by water and heat.

5.33 The northern truss or frame, which now abuts the stack, was once open within the hall. The principal-posts rise with slight evidence of jowling to support elegant thick curved braces with hollow chamfers on both sides. These are double-pegged to a slightly cambered tie-beam. Above this two queen-posts are clearly primary and rise to a collar jointed to the principal-rafters. When the hall was partitioned and floored, slender common studs were inserted above and below the tie-beam and infilled with panels of wide laths, covered with rough daub containing a high concentration of straw and charcoal fragments, and a plaster skin. This infilling differs from the primary fabric on the opposite side of the wall, and appears to be 17th century in date. There is no evidence that the stack was pierced with a fireplace at this level.

5.34 The south frame preserves much ancient fabric which indicates that this was a closed partition from the outset (Plate 13). The principal-posts are present together with the tie-beam which has been partially cut back to accommodate a doorway to the stair landing. Original studs above and below

the tie-beam appear to survive in most places. The upper register preserves the original medieval wattle and daub infill panels, together with one lower panel on the west side adjacent to the door (Plate 14). These comprise large staves and interwoven split twigs with a high quantity of chalk lumps, finished with a thin layer of plaster. Other lower panels have been refurbished, possibly in the 17th century contemporary when the hall was floored, as split laths are present. In the lower register the remains of a downward brace can be distinguished, truncated by the insertion of a door.

5.35 The external walls also retain interesting elements of the early timber frame. The western wall-plate has been bolstered slightly with iron and two studs are visible, though others are flushed over but remain expressed on the exterior. The eastern wall-plate appears to be a complete replacement but several early studs have been preserved including one with a slot for a downward brace. Machine-sawn external laths support the render on the external face.

5.36 The worse fire damage appears confined to the common rafters in this room, but these are of slender scantling, and probably represent a replacement roof of c.1900. The earlier form of the roof is hinted at in the presence of empty mortices in the surviving medieval principal rafters, which suggest wind-braces and purlins, but these were all latterly replaced with a much more ephemeral structure, none of it original.

FF04

5.37 The bisection of the original hall with a chimney stack and hall left a shorter bay on the north, now divided into a broad stair landing (FF04) and bathroom (FF05). The rear face of the formerly open hall truss survives and is noted above. The closed partition to the north retains a principal-post which gently swells at the head and supports a continuous wall-plate and mid-rail below (Plate 15). The tie-beam has been cut to accommodate the doorway. Above, a pattern of studwork survives, all properly pegged to the collar. The nature of the infill is difficult to assess though much appears to be intact and may be wattle and daub. In this area, damage to the ceiling plaster has exposed robust rafters of broadly square section, which must be primary to the medieval building and illustrates the original form of the early roof.

FF05

5.38 The bathroom is an Edwardian insertion, and divided from FF04 by a partition of match-lined boarding and an early 20th century door. Here the chimney stack remains exposed. The room is lit by an eight-over-eight sash window of late Victorian date. The west wall preserves its original wall-plate and upper original timber-framing.

FF06

5.39 FF06 is a large room at the north end of the building, given access from FF04 from where a short flight of steps rises to a boarded floor. The room is

plain with simple skirting boards, lit on the east by a dormer window retaining its Edwardian three-light casement window. This survives in good condition and was identical to those destroyed in the adjoining space, and therefore may serve as an example during the refurbishment. A lustreware tiled fireplace of 1930s to 1950s date survives on the northern wall.

5.40 At the bay division the tie-beam is well expressed along with the queen-posts and a number of studs rising to collar level (Plate 16). The wall-plate is also visible on the east. The room is ceiled at collar level but a hole caused by fire damage provided an opportunity to view the roof at this end of the building. The timber elements directly above FF06 are softwood and early 20th century in date, but to the south, an original primary timber in the form of a single king-strut rises from the collar to the apex of the early frame. The original common rafters partly visible at lower level are present on both pitches, some retaining notches for collars.

FF07

5.41 FF07 occupies the upper part of the southern, 17th century extension, though it was completely refurbished in Victorian times. It is large and plain, entered from the landing via a plain four panelled door, with few distinct features except for very wide abutting floor boards visible at the western end. Simple Victorian skirting extends around the room and a fireplace has been blocked on the south. The window on the east is an eight-over-eight sash set in a Victorian frame.

FF08

5.42 Two large rooms and a small bathroom occupy the south-western range at this level, all given access from a corridor on the north. The rooms in this area are typically Victorian and domestic in proportions and layout. FF08 is plain with panelled door and sash window on the south.

FF09

5.43 FF09 is also plain with panelled door and small blocked fireplace with simple surround on the west. The north-western corner of the room has been appropriated for a shower within FF10.

FF10

5.44 At the end of the corridor, FF10 accommodates a lavatory and shower with single light window.

Attic Floor

5.45 As mentioned above, the attic is reached by a steep, narrow stair from the landing (FF01). The space is divided into two rooms (SF01 & SF02) which lie above the two southernmost bays in an area clearly raised for extra

accommodation. The space is floored with wide boards. The rooms are lit by two modern dormer windows on the western pitch each with 12-paned casement windows.

5.46 The roof at this level is of clasped side-purlin form, comprising simple fairly waney oak rafters rising to a ridge-board (Plate 17). Thin hand-split laths and rough lime mortar have been used to ceil the rooms. A gap offers a view into the roof of the south-western range, which is entirely of softwood construction in typical Victorian style.

6 DISCUSSION (Fig. 7)

6.1 Technical analysis allows both confirmation of the list description, as well as further expansion, refinement and definition of the complex evolution of the building. The fire, which occurred at the heart of the medieval core, has exposed much of the original fabric, thereby allowing greater analysis and confirming the survival of the late medieval timber-frame and contemporary wattle and daub infill panels. Much has escaped complete destruction, and all measures should be taken to preserve these primary timbers, which can be de-charred whilst preserving their structural integrity, as well as surviving infill materials. In the south-eastern corner of the room there is some structural compromise at the junction of the principal-post and tie-beam. Here, efforts should be made to provide additional support to these early timbers without disturbing them. The extent of original fabric is illustrated in Figure 7.

6.2 The historic core of the building is clearly discernible as a two-bay open hall of early 16th century date; the bays being of unequal size and formerly bisected by an arched, open frame with hollow chamfered braces which survive at upper level. A further bay to the south, now occupied by the bar was most probably the parlour with a chamber above, contemporary with the hall. This suggests an original layout in the classic late medieval manner, with hall, parlour and service ranges. The evidence to the north hints at its use as a service range, but being hardly damaged by the fire, there is less exposed timber to make an adequate assessment. The timber which remains exposed elsewhere however, allows a reconstruction, with some accuracy, of the original framing pattern. This was of fairly wide-spaced studwork above and below mid-rails, once augmented with downward braces, and pierced by unglazed windows, of which a single example is indicated by empty mortices in the mid-rail soffit. Similar studwork patterning can be seen in other buildings in Wheathampstead, suggesting a local tradition.

6.3 Other clues to layout are present. The positioning of redundant studwork mortices suggests that the lost doorway between the hall and parlour lay in the position of the existing staircase, which may also have accommodated a ladder stair to the upper storey. A small kitchen survives on the north where the primary joist retains mortices for a two-room partition in the classic service-bay arrangement.

6.4 The roof of the medieval core appears to have been replaced in the southern bay, possibly after the fire of 1900, and ironically this modern roof has suffered almost complete destruction a second time. However, the northern bay preserves several original common rafter-couples, which were once triangulated by collars to illustrate the general form. We can assume that there were wind-braces to a pair of purlins, but these are no longer present in either bay. However, they confirm the form of the roof as Tudor in origin, and most probably early 16th century. The truss- or frame-form at the structural bay divisions was of queen posts rising to collar, and a king-post to the apex. One example of this survives in the northern truss.

6.5 The building was extended in the 17th century by a single bay at the south end. This is reflected in the treatment of the ceiling joist at ground floor level and hinted at by the generous proportion of the rooms. The large impressive gable stack was also added at this date. The hall was probably also floored at this time as the inglenook bressumer beam and the fabric of the stack and decoration of the main joist point to a late 16th or early 17th century date, but the two phases are not necessarily exactly contemporary, and indeed the chimney stack may have been inserted before the hall was floored, as there appears to have been no provision of a fireplace for the new hall chamber.

6.6 At first floor level an incongruous feature of the building is reflected in the raising of the southern 'parlour' bay and the 17th century range by an extra floor to create two further attic rooms above. This has created the stepping of the roof profile seen to the exterior, and can be dated broadly to the end of the 18th century.

6.7 The 18th century has left other traces including the nogging up of the western façade and appearance of decorative elements such as the decorative rear door hood, now sadly truncated by a modern extension. Perhaps the northernmost bay window in the main bar can also be attributed to this date.

6.8 In the 19th century, possibly around 1850-70, the south range was extended to the west with the addition of a domestic block in fine red brick. This preserves simple early Victorian internal features. A possible later Victorian phase of upgrading can be seen in some of the decorative embellishments in the upper parts of the timber-framing, particularly on the exterior where pebble dashed render was applied in an Arts and Crafts vernacular style. This may have been part of a post fire refurbishment around 1900. The ultimate effect of these changes was to give the building an asymmetrical appearance and complete the picture of a long, organic evolution. A number of outbuildings including the function room were also possibly rebuilt in brick, while a low slate-roofed range, now transformed into garages is all that remains of a courtyard of outbuildings which must have included stables, barns and a blacksmith's shop.

7 CONCLUSION

7.1 The Swan remains one of Wheathampstead's historical gems, reflected in its early origins and subsequent evolution. The damage caused by the fire of July 2013, although concentrated in the historic core has been less devastating than initially feared, with much survival of medieval features, and complete or irreparable damage confined to later Victorian roof timbers. It is hoped that with sensitive and careful repair, the building can be returned to its former position with little loss of historic integrity.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

An archive of all materials produced by the report has been created and listed according to English Heritage (MAP2) standards. Copies of the final report will be lodged with the Hertfordshire Heritage Environment Record (HER). The project archive will be lodged with Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions is grateful to Mr Philip Spencer of Profile Consultancy Ltd for arranging access and for his help and advice.

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www.english-heritage.org.uk

<http://pubshistory.com>

www.wheathampstead.net/swan/

www.wheathampstead.org/

<http://www.wheathampsteadheritage.org.uk>

APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC BUILDING LISTING

Name: THE SWAN PUBLIC HOUSE

List entry Number: 1175876

Location

THE SWAN PUBLIC HOUSE, HIGH STREET

The building may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County	District	District Type	Parish
Hertfordshire	St. Albans	District Authority	Wheathampstead

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: II

Date first listed: 15-Jun-1971

History

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Details

TL 11 SE WHEATHAMPSTEAD HIGH STREET (west side)
WHEATHAMPSTEAD

6/430 The Swan P.H.

15.6.71

GV II

Public House. Built c.1500 with an open hall of 2 bays and a bay each end. 2-storey wing added on S mid-late C17. Refronted in early-mid C19. Red brick ground floor, roughcast upper floor. Plain tile roof. 2 blocks, the northerly one single storey and attics. Large mid-late C17 red brick chimney stack on S end with coped off-sets and corbelled-out caps. The front has 3 canted window bays to the ground floor, the southerly two with sash windows. N block has a central door with reeded panels and cut bracket hood. Above this a sash window. C17 ridge stack. Internally, the S end has ovolo moulded floor beams. Low- ceilinged c.1500 bay between the S end and the centre, which has a C17 chamfer-stopped beam and a large inglenook. Early-mid C19 rear extension on S. (RCHM Typescript).

Listing NGR: TL1770613915

APPENDIX 2 HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address:	The Swan Public House, High Street, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire
County: Hertfordshire	District: St Albans
Village/Town: Wheathampstead	Parish: Wheathampstead
Planning application reference:	-
Client name/address/tel:	Profile Consultancy Ltd
Nature of application:	Refurbishment and repair of the pub
Present land use:	Public House
Size of application area:	Size of area investigated
NGR (8 figures):	TL1770613915
Site Code:	AS1640
Site director/Organization:	Archaeological Solutions
Type of work:	Historic Building Recording
Date of work:	October 2013
Location of finds/Curating museum:	HALS
Related SMR Nos:	Periods represented: Early 16 th C to 20 th Century
Relevant previous summaries/reports: -	
Summary of fieldwork results:	<p>In October 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) conducted an historic building recording at the Swan Public House, High Street, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 17706 13915). The work was required by St Albans District Council prior to the restoration of the building after significant fire damage.</p> <p>The analysis broadly confirmed the list description of the building as a late medieval open hall, but revealed greater detail and allowed significant refinement on known knowledge. In addition to the open hall, the parlour range also survives substantially, while an early 17th century range added to the south of the building is likely to have been raised by a further storey in the later 18th century. The main brunt of the fire was limited to the upper chamber of the medieval core, with ancillary smoke and water damage in the immediate vicinity. However, the worst destruction was confined to the common rafters and upper roof, which probably represent a repair of c.1900 following an earlier fire in the building. The primary medieval timbers while charred, are probably salvageable. The fire also exposed areas of original wattle and daub infill, and 17th century lath and plaster, inserted following the flooring of the earlier hall. These have been identified in the report, and if possible and practicable should be retained as of importance to the historic integrity of the building.</p>
Author of summary: Lee Prosser	Date of Summary: November 2013

APPENDIX 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS BUILDING RECORDING ARCHIVE FORM

Site Details							
Site Name: The Swan Public House, High Street, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire					NGR: TL1770613915		
County: Hertfordshire				Museum Collecting Area: HALS			
Site Code: AS1640				Project Number: 5485			
Date of Work: October 2013				Related Work:			
Brief/s				Specification/s			
Date		Present		Date		Present	
-		-		20 th September 2013		Yes	
Site Records (Description)							
Notes taken on site (11 pages A4)							
Site Drawings (Give Details of Formats & Size)							
3 x A3 sheet of draft film 1 x A1 sheet of draft film							
Architect's Drawings: Plans and elevations 1 sheet A3 – annotated Plans and elevations 1 sheet A4 – annotated							
Digital Drawings							
Printouts of Drawings			Printouts of Data			Digital Data	
In report						Digital photographs and drawings in digital format on CD	
Reports							
Report No		Report Type				Present	
4458		Historic Building Recording				Yes	
Site Photographs							
Black & White Contact Prints					Colour Slides		
Film No	Film Type	Negs	Negs Present	Contacts Present	Film No	Negs	Present
1	120mm	7-15	Yes	Yes	1	23 -37	Yes
2	120mm	1-15	Yes	Yes			
3	120mm	1-15	Yes	Yes			
4	120mm	1-15	Yes	Yes			
5	120mm	1-15	Yes	Yes			
6	120mm	1-15	Yes	Yes			
7	120mm	1-6	Yes	Yes			
Photographic Location Plans Present? (Give Details)							
In report and separate printouts in archive folder							
Digital Photographs (Give Details):							
Digital photography. Index and selected plates printed in report. Separate printout of index included in archive folder and digitally on CD							

PLATES



Plate 1 Late 19th century postcard of the Swan



Plate 2 Early 20th century picture of the Swan



Plate 3 The Swan prior to the fire of July 2013



Plate 4 The Swan, (post-fire) taken from the north-east (DP 4)



Plate 5 Lower portions of the chimney stack, south elevation, taken from the south-east (DP 3)



Plate 6 Upper portions of west elevation of main building, taken from the south-west (DP 12)



Plate 7 Junction between the medieval core and 17th century extension, GF02, taken from the south (DP 26)



Plate 8 Large inglenook fireplace, GF01, taken from the south-east (DP 30)



Plate 9 Bar area with stair access to upper floors and access to GF07 beyond, GF01, taken from the north-east (DP 34)



Plate 10 Lamb's tongue chamfer stops to the binding joist, GF02, taken from the north (DP 23)



Plate 11 FF02, taken from the north (DP 61)



Plate 12 North elevation, FF03, taken from the south (DP 71)



Plate 13 South elevation, FF03, taken from the north (DP 67)



Plate 14 Wattle and daub panels to the south elevation, FF03, taken from the north-east (DP 72)



Plate 15 Stair well leading from FF04 to GF04, taken from the south-east (DP 76)



Plate 16 Timber framed partition between FF05 & FF06, taken from the north-east (DP 84)



Plate 17 View into roof space from SF01, taken from the south (DP 86)

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The Swan from the rear, taken from the south-west



2

The Swan, taken from the south-east



3

Lower portions of the chimney stack, south elevation, taken from the south-east



4

The Swan, taken from the north-east



5

West elevations taken from the west



6

Later rear extensions, taken from the south-west



7

Remains of timber-framing to the rear elevation seen between corridor extension and flat roofed extension, taken from the west



8

North elevation to rear range, taken from the north



9

Upper portions of west elevation of main building and north elevation to rear range, taken from the north-west



10

Upper portions of west elevation of main building, taken from the north-west



11

Upper portions of west elevation of main building, taken from the south-west



12

Upper portions of west elevation of main building, taken from the south-west



13

South elevation, taken from the south-west



14

Small entrance porch, south elevation, taken from the south-west



15

Western gable end to rear range, taken from the south-west



16

Upper sash window to rear range, south elevation, taken from the south-west



17

GF03 occupying the rear range, taken from the east



18

GF03 looking towards GF02, taken from the north-west



19

Two sash windows to GF03, taken from the north



20

Entrance porch, taken from the north-west



21

Door leading to GF07 from GF03, taken from the south-east



22

Fireplace, GF02, taken from the north



23

Lamb's tongue chamfer stops to the binding joist, GF02, taken from the north



24

Large bay window, GF02, taken from the south-west



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Lower bar area, GF01, taken from the south



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Junction between the medieval core and 17th century extension, GF02, taken from the south



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Bar, GF02, taken from the south



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Bay window and window seat, lower bar area, GF01, taken from the north-west



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Bar, lower bar area, GF01, taken from the north-east



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Large inglenook fireplace, GF01, taken from the south-east



31

Large bay window adjacent to large inglenook, GF01, taken from the south-west



32

Rear wall of GF01, taken from the east



33

Rear wall and access to corridor beyond, GF01, taken from the south-east



34

Bar area with stair access to upper floors and access to GF07 beyond, GF01, taken from the north-east



35

Small cupboard within inglenook to the left of the fireplace, GF01, taken from the south



36

Small cupboard within inglenook to the right of the fireplace, GF01, taken from the south



37

Lamb's tongue chamfer stops to the bressumer, GF01, taken from the south-west



38

Corridor between GF01 and GF04, taken from the west



39

Curved corridor leading to GF06, taken from the east



40

Originally external door hung on strap hinges and pintels to GF06, taken from the south-east



41

External 18th century hood enclosed by later corridor extension, taken from the west



42

Decorative bracket supporting 18th century hood, taken from the south-west



43

GF04, taken from the south-west



44

GF04, taken from the north-east



45

GF05, taken from the north



46

GF05, taken from the south



47

GF06, taken from the north-east



48

Water pump, GF06, taken from the north-east



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GF06, taken from the south-east



50

Corridor leading to w/cs within GF07, taken from the south



51

Door leading to main bar, GF07, taken from the south-west



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BF01, taken from the north-west



53

Barrel run, BF01, taken from the west



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Niches within the walls, BF01, taken from the north-east



55

BF01, taken from the south-east



56

Stair leading from GF02 to first floor level, taken from the north



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FF01, taken from the south-west



58

Small narrow door enclosing stair to attic, FF01, taken from the west



59

FF07, taken from the north-west



60

FF07, taken from the south-east



61

FF02, taken from the north



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FF02, taken from the east



63

Corridor leading from FF01 to rear range, taken from the east



64

FF09, taken from the north-east



65

FF09, taken from the south-west



66

FF10, taken from the east



67

South elevation, FF03, taken from the north



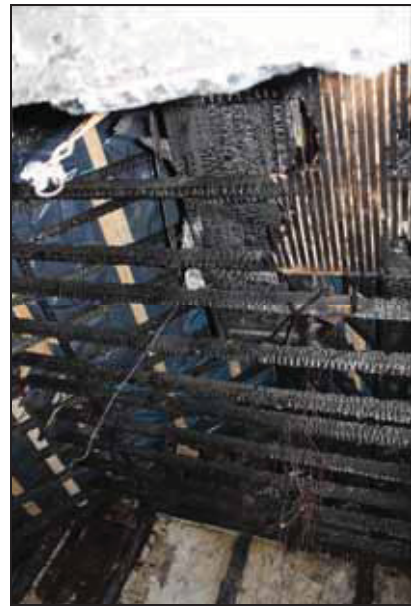
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West elevation, FF03, taken from the north-east



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East elevation, FF03, taken from the north-west



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Charred intermediate collars and common-rafters, FF03, taken from the north-west



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North elevation, FF03, taken from the south



72

Wattle and daub panels to the south elevation, FF03, taken from the north-east



73

Upper wattle and daub panels to the south elevation, FF03, taken from the north-west



74

FF04, taken from the north



75

FF04, taken from the south



76

Stair well leading from FF04 to GF04, taken from the south-east



77

Timber framed partition between FF04 & FF06, taken from the south



78

Timber framed partition between FF03 & FF04, taken from the north



79

Brick chimney stack, FF04, taken from the north-west



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Brick chimney stack, FF05, taken from the north-east



81

Timber framed partition between FF05 & FF06, taken from the south-east



82

FF06, taken from the south-west



83

Timber framed partition between FF05 & FF06, taken from the north



84

Timber framed partition between FF05 & FF06, taken from the north-east



85

Narrow stair leading from FF01 to the attic floor, taken from the west



86

View into roof space from SF01, taken from the south



87

Enclosed eaves, SF01, taken from the south-west



88

Enclosed eaves, SF01, taken from the south-east



89

Partition between SF01 & SF02, taken from the north-east



90

SF02, taken from the north-west



91

SF02, taken from the south-east



92

Roof structure above the rear range, SF02, taken from the east



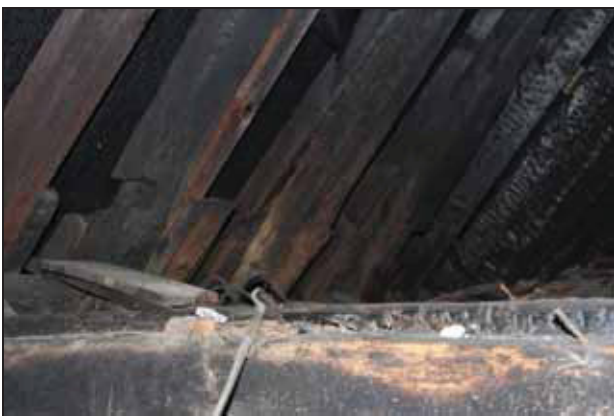
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Roof structure above FF03, taken from the south



94

Surviving king strut at partition between FF05 & FF06, taken from the north-west



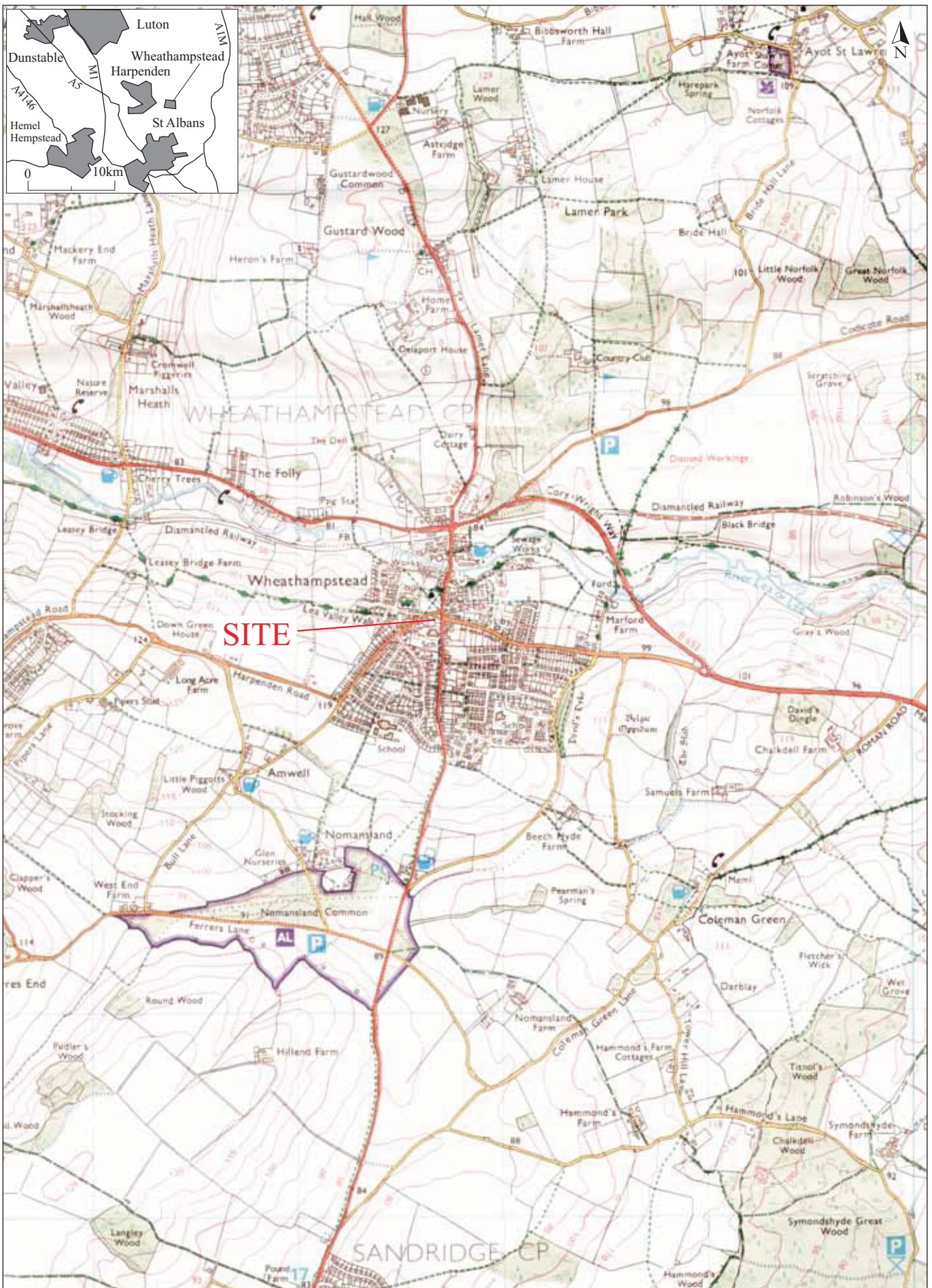
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Original medieval rafters retaining mortices for intermediate collars, taken from the north-west



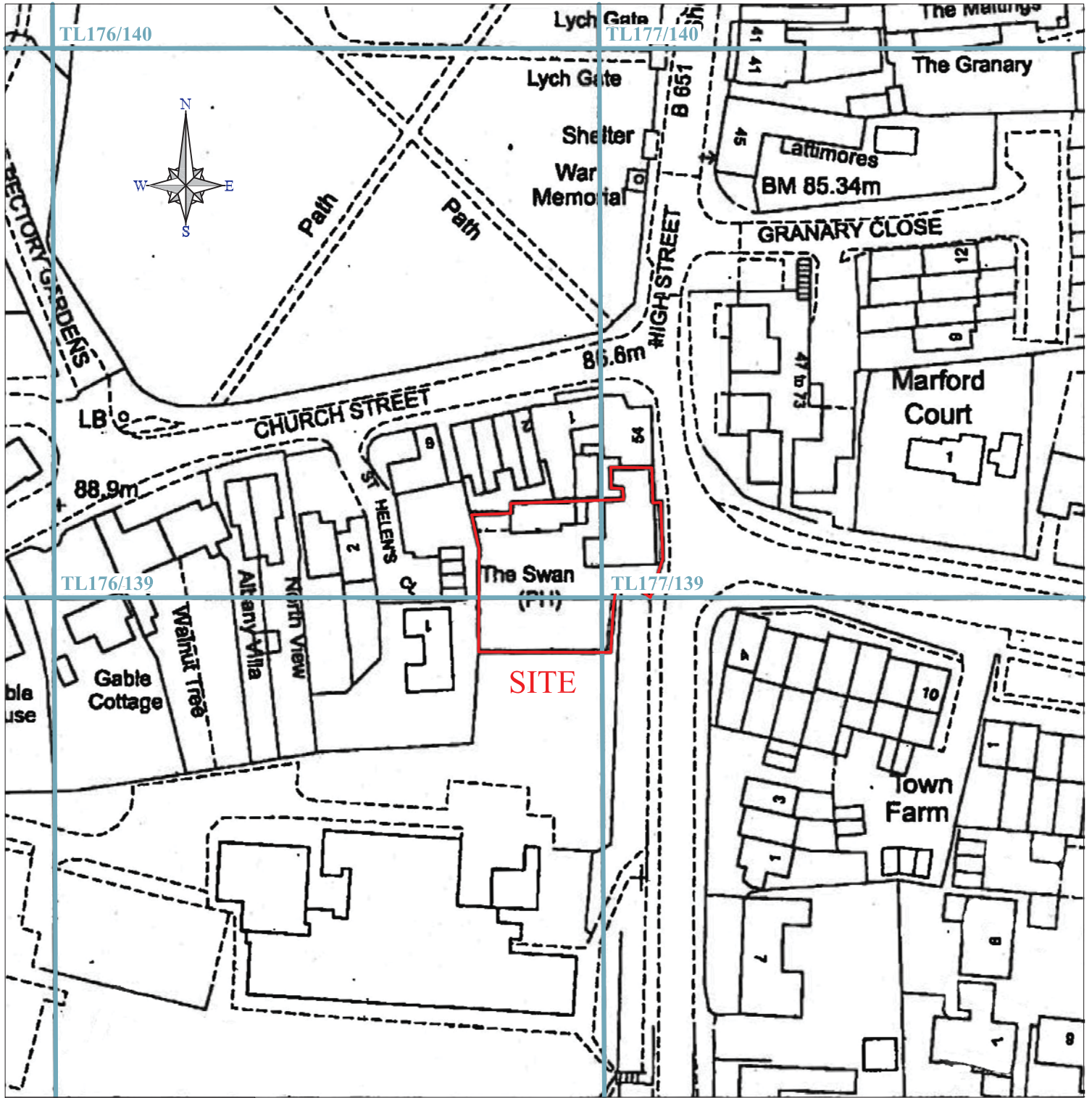
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Redundant mortices to the principal rafters possibly for windbraces, FF03, taken from the south-east



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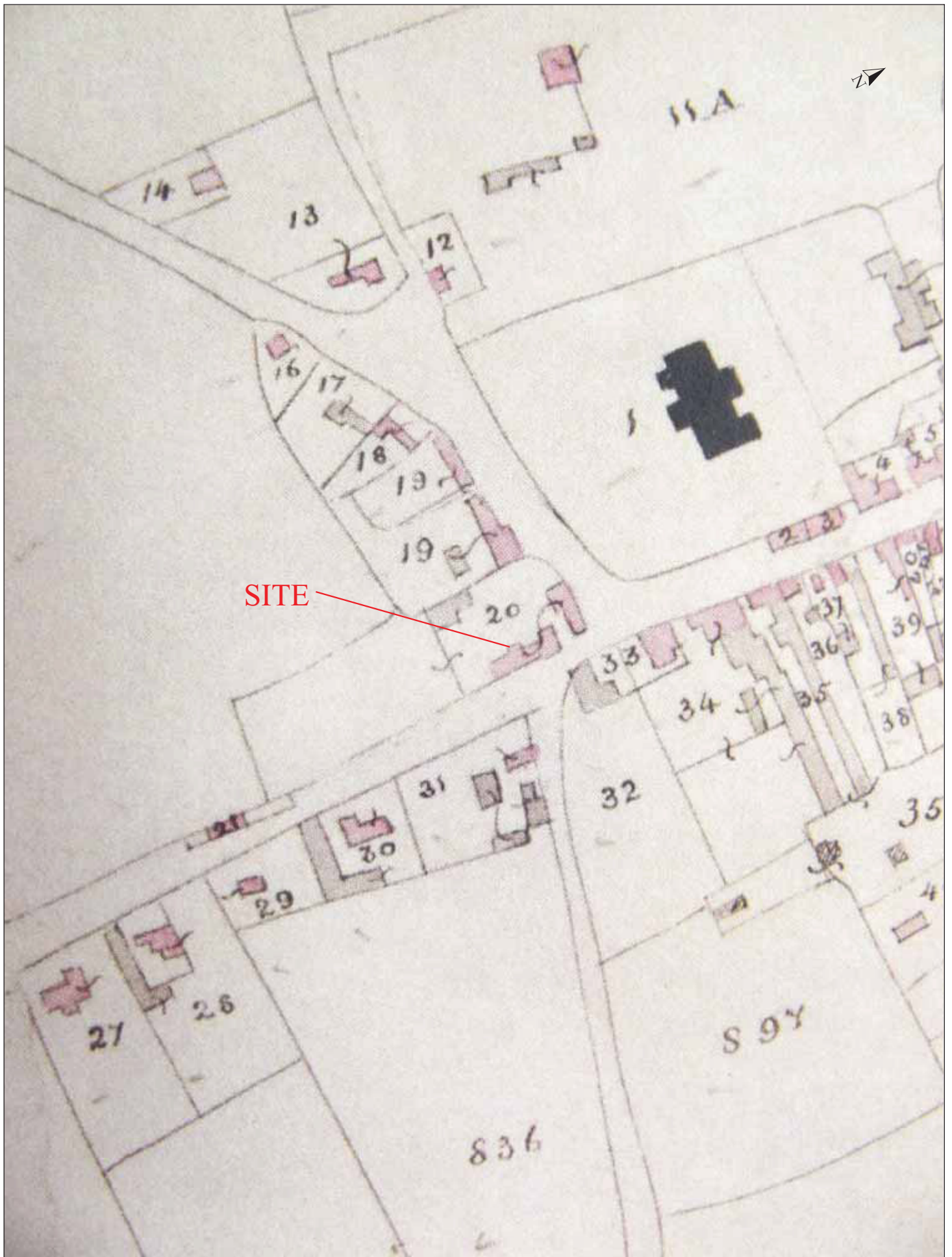
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:1000 at A4

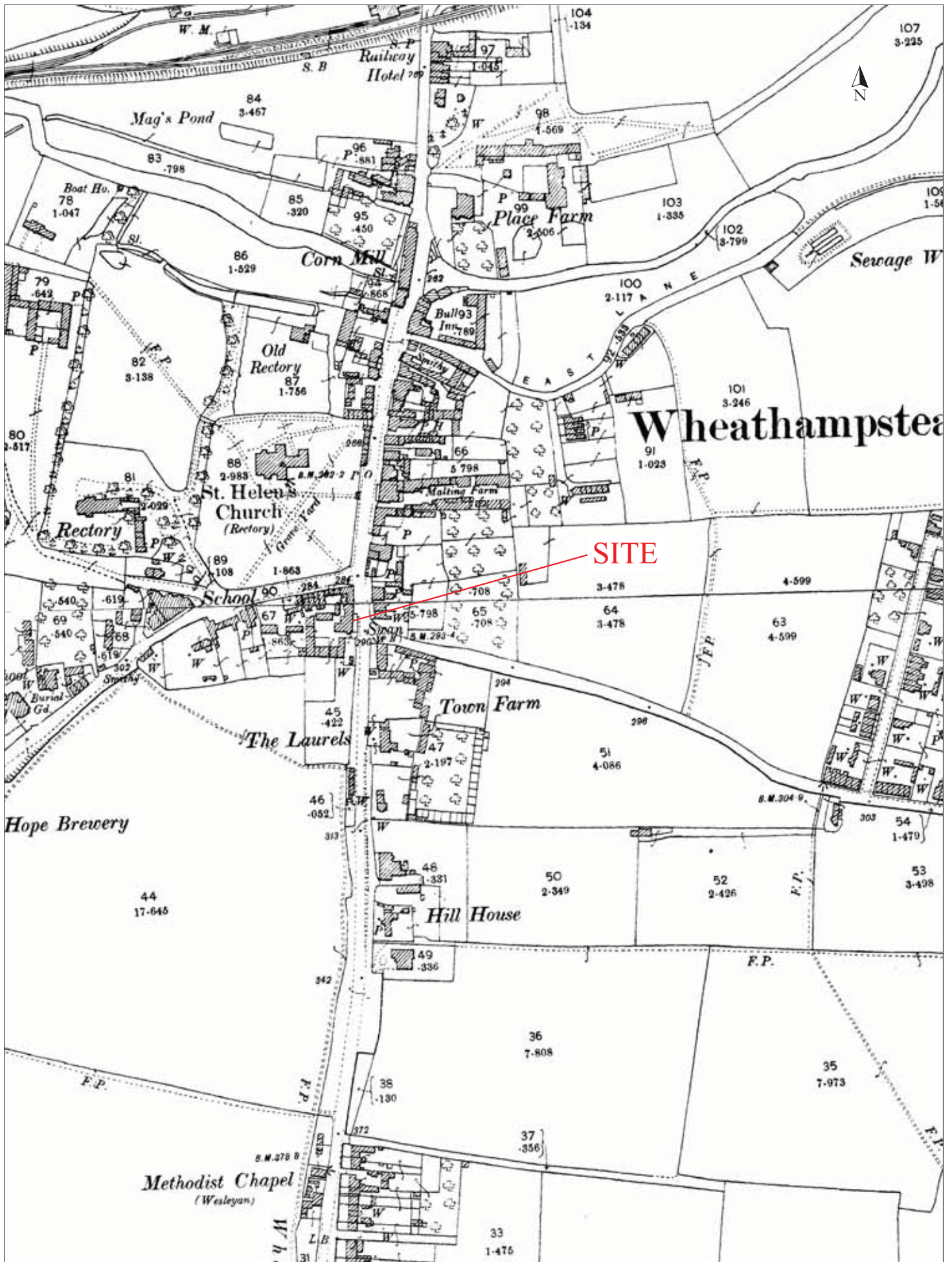


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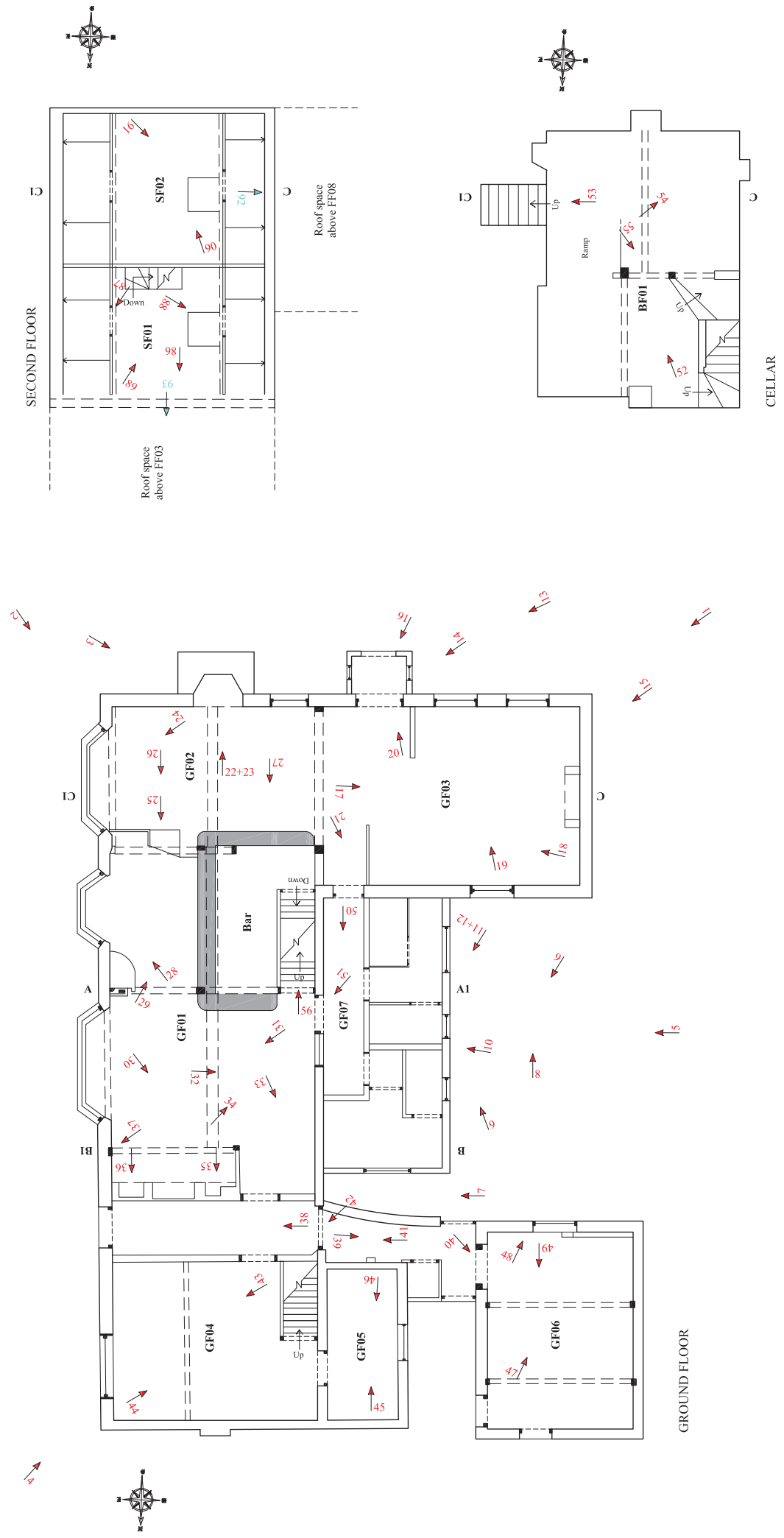
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Fig. 3 Tithe map, 1841

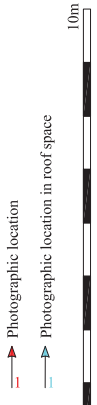
Not to scale

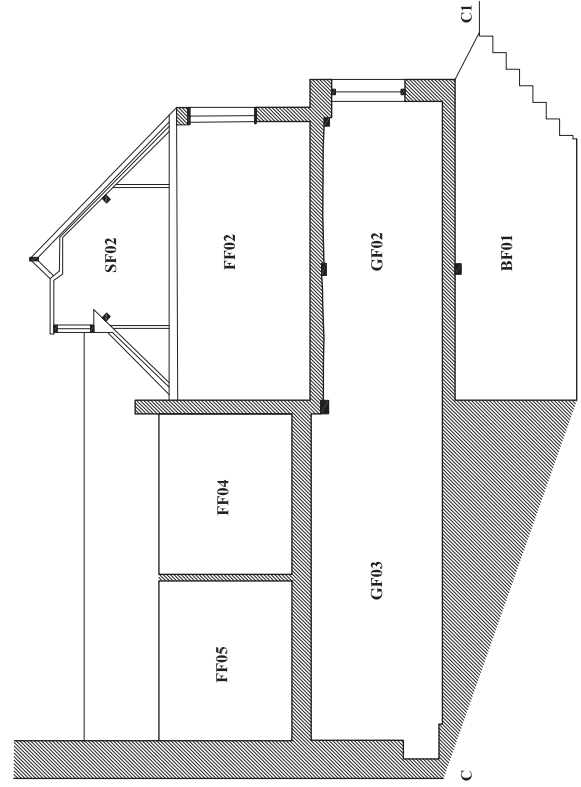
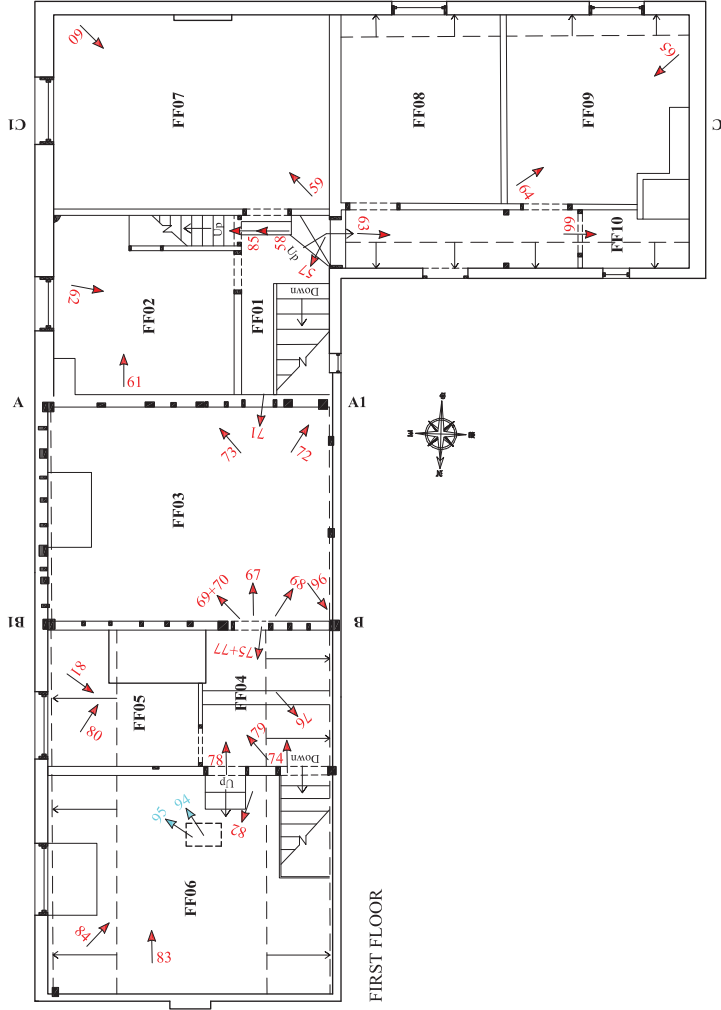
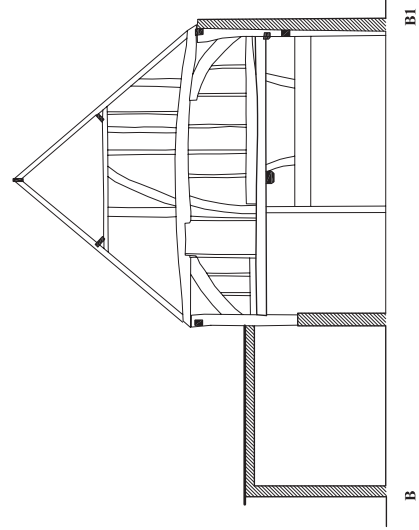
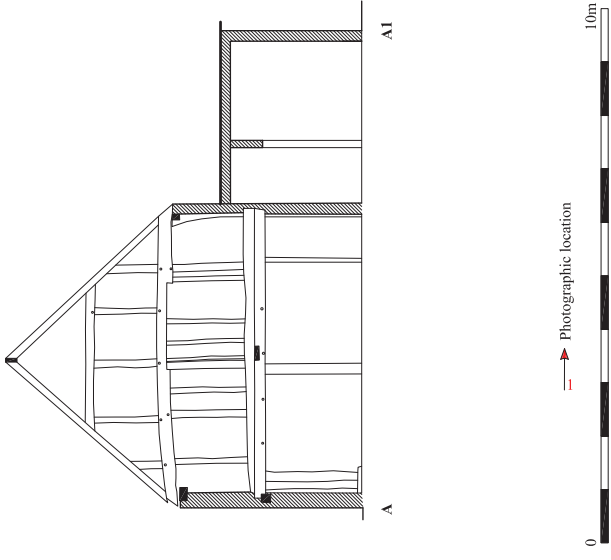


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 Fig. 4 OS map, 1898
 Not to scale

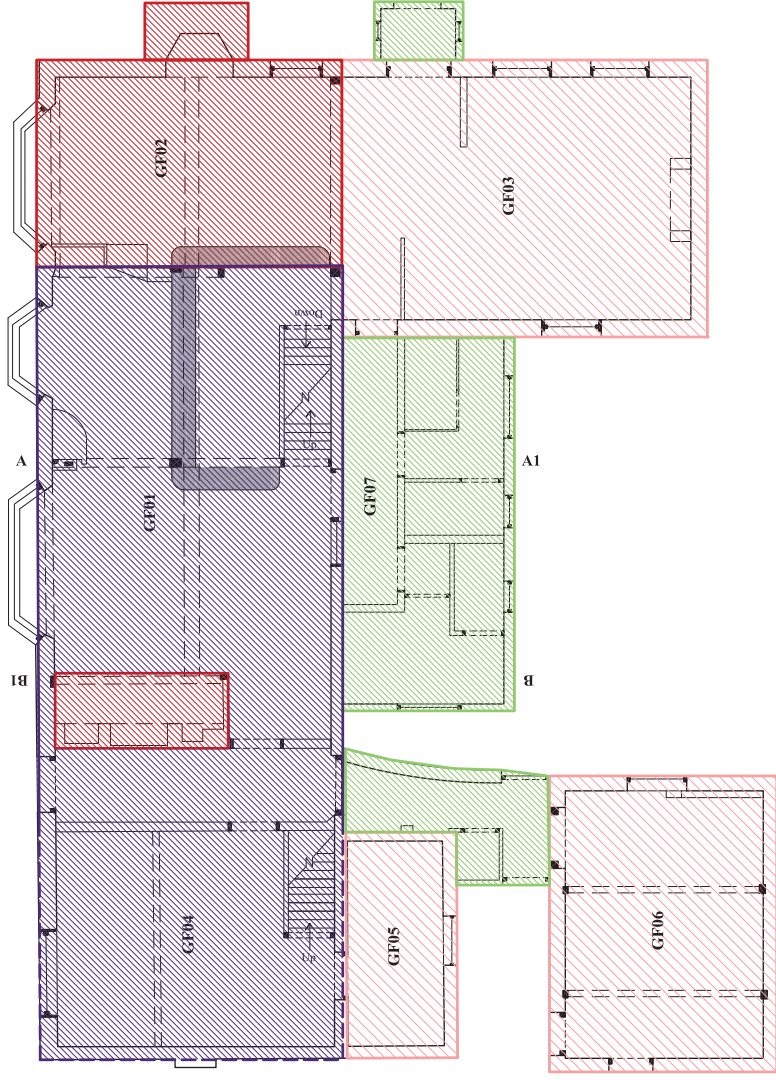


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Fig. 5 Floor plans
 Scale 1:100 at A3



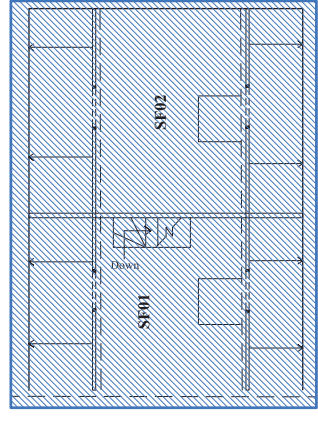
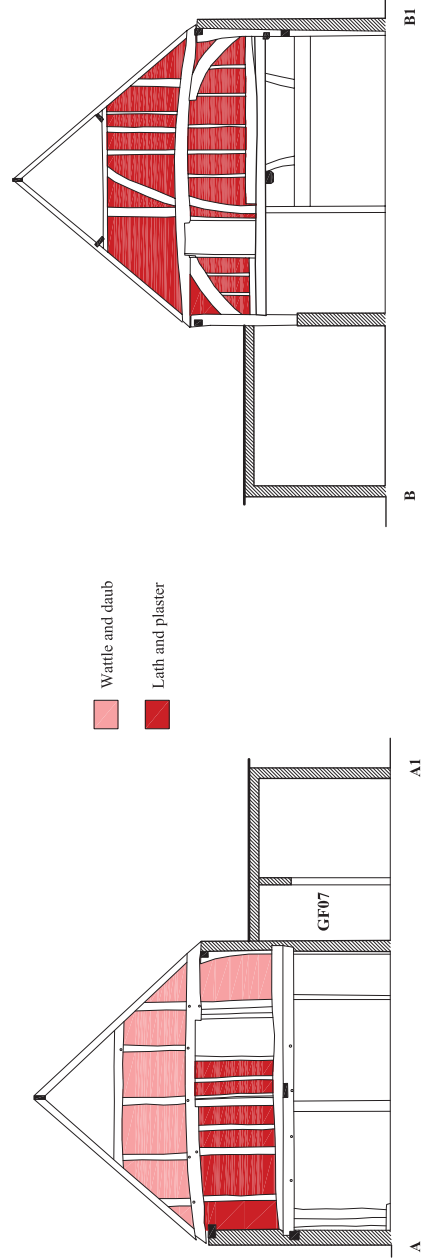


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Fig. 6 Floor plan, cross-sections, elevations
 Scale 1:100 at A3



GROUND FLOOR

- Wattle and daub
- Lath and plaster



SECOND FLOOR

- Early 16th century
- 17th century
- 18th century
- 19th century
- 20th century

