

birmingham archaeology

The Mordaunts, Crowle,
Worcestershire

THE MORDAUNTS, CROWLE, WORCESTERSHIRE

CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION.....	1
2	SITE LOCATION	1
3	OBJECTIVES	1
4	METHODOLOGY	2
4.1	DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH	2
4.2	WRITTEN RECORD.....	2
4.3	DRAWN RECORD.....	2
5	HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	2
6	BUILDINGS DESCRIPTIONS	3
6.1	BUILDING 1 – ‘THE COW BYRE’	3
6.2	BUILDING 2 – THE ‘BIG BARN’	4
6.3	BUILDING 3 – ‘ENGINE SHED’	5
6.4	BUILDING 4 – ‘UNDERCROFT’	6
6.5	BUILDING 5	7
6.6	BUILDING 6 – ‘THE GRANARY’	7
7	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	8
8	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	9
9	BIBLIOGRAPHY	9

Figures

Fig.1 -	Site Location
Fig.2 -	Site Plan
Fig.3 -	1808 Enclosure map of Crowle
Fig.4 -	1885 Ordnance Survey 1 st Edition
Fig.5 -	1889 Ordnance Survey 1 st Edition
Fig.6 -	Building Layout
Fig.7 -	Buildings 1-4 – Main Elevation
Fig.8 -	Buildings 1-4 – Side Elevations/Sections
Fig.9 -	Buildings 1-4 - Sections
Fig.10 -	Buildings 1-4 – Ground Floor Plans
Fig.11 -	Buildings 1-4 – First Floor and Basement Plans
Fig.12 -	Buildings 5 & 6 - Elevations
Fig.13 -	Buildings 5 & 6 – Plans and Sections
Fig.14 -	Photo Location Sheet 1
Fig.15 -	Photo Location Sheet 2
Fig.16 -	Photo Location Sheet 3

Plates

- Plate 1 – Building 1 – E wall from the SE
- Plate 2 – Building 1 – E wall from the SW
- Plate 3 – Building 1 – Interior partitions from the SW
- Plate 4 – Building 1 – Upper cruck truss from the E
- Plate 5 – Building 2 – Exterior from the SE
- Plate 6 – Building 2 – Diagonal air vent - E elevation
- Plate 7 – Building 2 – Window inserted into air vent - W elevation
- Plate 8 – Building 2 – Lias limestone hinge blocks – E elevation
- Plate 9 – Building 2 – Interior from N
- Plate 10 – Building 2 – W wall-post Frame 2 from the SE
- Plate 11 – Building 2 – Soffit of tiebeam and collar Frame 2
- Plate 12 – Building 2 – E wall-post Frame 2 from the SW
- Plate 13 – Building 2 – W wall-post Frame 2 from the NE
- Plate 14 – Building 2 – Sill-beam and wall-post Frame 4 from the NE
- Plate 15 – Building 2 – Soffit of collar Frame 4
- Plate 16 – Building 2 – West doors from E
- Plate 17 – Building 2 – Access to first floor of Building 3 in E wall
- Plate 18 – Building 3 – S elevation
- Plate 19 – Building 3 – Interior ground floor from SW
- Plate 20 – Building 3 – Bricked up opening in E wall
- Plate 21 – Building 3 – Slots in E-W beams
- Plate 22 – Building 3 – First floor truss from W
- Plate 23 – Building 3 – Detail of first floor truss from W
- Plate 24 – Building 4 – S elevation
- Plate 25 – Building 4 – E elevation from SE
- Plate 26 – Building 4 – Openings on S elevation
- Plate 27 – Building 4 – Flagstone floor of lower ground level from W
- Plate 28 – Building 4 – S wall of lower ground level from NE
- Plate 29 – Building 4 – Inserted doorway in W wall of ground floor room
- Plate 30 – Building 4 – Blocked window in E wall of first floor room
- Plate 31 – Building 4 – Truss from SW
- Plate 32 – Building 5 – Exterior from NW
- Plate 33 – Building 6 – Exterior from NE
- Plate 34 – Building 6 – S wall of ground floor room showing exposed flagstone floor
- Plate 35 – Building 6 – Stud partition in first floor room from SW
- Plate 36 – Building 6 – E truss from NE
- Plate 37 – Building 6 – W window on S wall of first floor room

Appendices

- Appendix 1 - 1:50 sections through Building 2

SUMMARY

In January 2007, Birmingham Archaeology carried out a programme of historic building recording and analysis at The Mordaunts, Lower Crowle Road, Crowle, Worcestershire. The work was carried out as part of a proposal to convert the currently unused farm buildings to residential accommodation. The group of buildings, which include a Grade II listed barn (Worcestershire HER ref. no. WSM34970) were found to date from the seventeenth century onwards, with the large barn possibly incorporating part of an earlier timber-framed aisled barn. The site also included a late seventeenth or early eighteenth upper cruck building, which are comparatively rare in an agricultural context in Worcestershire. Significantly all timber-framed buildings encountered on site were constructed from elm. It is proposed, given the possible presence of an aisled barn, that below ground archaeological investigation take place prior to any ground works, in an attempt to locate the footings of the sill-beams or outer walls of the aisles of the building.

THE MORDAUNTS, CROWLE, WORCESTERSHIRE

1 INTRODUCTION

In January 2007 Birmingham Archaeology carried out a program of Building Analysis and Recording at the Mordaunts, Lower Crowle Road, Crowle, Worcestershire. The work was commissioned by Steve Haskey Design and Construction Ltd. on behalf of M. Foster Esq. in advance of the proposed conversion of the barns to residential accommodation.

This report outlines the results of the assessment, which was carried in January 2007, and which was prepared in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings and Structures (IFA 2001).

The assessment conformed to a brief produced by Worcestershire County, and a Written Scheme of Investigation (Birmingham Archaeology 2006), which was approved by the Local Planning Authority prior to implementation, in accordance with guidelines laid down in Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 (DoE 1990).

2 SITE LOCATION

The Mordaunts Farm is located on the west side of Lower Crowle Road, approximately 1 km east of Crowle, Worcestershire, and is centred on NGR SO 9297 5631 (Fig. 1).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The overall aims of the fieldwork was to obtain, prior to redevelopment, an interpretative record of the buildings based on English Heritage (2006) Level 3.

Specific objectives were as follows:

- A detailed analysis and description of the history, character, date, techniques of construction, phasing and significance of the structures.
- A detailed photographic survey of the following:
 - All external elevations
 - All internal room spaces and roof structures (where accessible)
 - Details of any architectural or functional fixtures and fittings and features relating to either the function or development of the building.
 - Photographs illustrating the building's relationship to surrounding buildings and setting.
- A 1:20 measured and annotated drawing of the existing visible timber frame.
- The collation and annotation of existing survey drawings.
- A phased plan and elevations of the building with photo locations marked.

- A location plan related to the national grid.
- An interpretative written record, including the setting in relation to the surrounding built environment.
- Dendrochronological sampling and analysis of the timber-framed building, where suitable timbers are available.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Documentary Research

Documentary research was carried out at Worcestershire Records Office, Worcestershire Library and History Centre and the libraries of the University of Birmingham. Sources consulted included all readily available published and non-published documentary sources, including local histories, census returns, trade directories, historic maps and photographs, and other documents appropriate to the age of the buildings in question. In addition, Worcestershire SMR, the principal source for archaeological information in the county, was consulted.

4.2 Written Record

A written record of each building was compiled in the field on *pro forma* building and room record sheets, noting details of building type, date(s), materials, plan, and elevations. These notes were combined with the results of the documentary research to produce an analytical account of each structure including historical and architectural context.

4.3 Drawn Record

The drawn record consists of floor plans, elevations and sections based on a survey carried out by Steve Haskey Design and Construction Ltd. These have been annotated to highlight historical detail.

A further survey of the timber framing in the main barn was carried out using a Leica Cyrax laser scanner to produce AutoCAD drawings at a scale of 1:50. These have been appended to this report (Appendix 1).

4.4 Photographic Record

The photographic survey comprises both general and detail shots using a 35mm camera with black and white film and a high-resolution digital camera. All detail shots include a scale. Photographs were recorded on *pro forma* index sheets detailing location and direction.

5 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The earliest detailed map of Crowle was the Enclosure map produced in 1808 (Fig. 3). The map shows, in very little detail, buildings sitting on the same alignment as the current barn. Unfortunately, it is not possible to say whether these represent the current buildings or earlier structures. The earliest Ordnance Survey maps of 1885 and 1889 (Figs. 4 & 5), show the current layout of the buildings already in place. A thorough search of the Worcester Record Office yielded no relevant information on the buildings themselves, nor did a search of the records of the Hereford & Worcester Architecture Record Group.

Building 2, the 'Big Barn' is Grade II listed, the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record describes Building 2 (HER reference number WSM34970) as:

'Barn. 17th century, or earlier, altered and extended mid-to late 19th. Part timber-framed with brick infill, part brick on lias limestone rubble base, plain tiled roof. Four-bay barn aligned north/south with wagon bay second from south gable end having opposed cart entries with double doors. Dentilled eaves cornice and diaper ventilation patterns in west, south and east walls; north gable end is timber-framed, four panels from sill to wall-plate with swept upper braces and a collar and tie-beam truss with vertical strut. Interior: brick walling encases part of former timber-frame; roof has two tiers of trenced purlins and the three intermediate collar and tie-beam trusses have an upper collar and raking struts. A 19th shelter shed adjoins the north-west side, and a 19th century large two-storey wing adjoins the north-east side of the barn; neither are included.'

6 BUILDINGS DESCRIPTIONS

The buildings have been designated numbers (Fig. 6) and names based on those shown on the architect's plans. The locations of the Plates referred to in the text are illustrated on figs. 14-16. The phased plans, sections and elevations of the buildings are shown in figs. 7-13. These are based on the architect's drawings of the buildings.

6.1 Building 1 – 'The Cow Byre'

Although from the exterior and in plan form the building resembles two separate structures, Building 1 has at its core a six-bay, timber-framed upper cruck barn. The lower portions of the original structure survive along the north and east walls, and consist of a low random rubble wall of lias limestone, topped by four courses of hand-made brick bats. The wall rises to approximately 0.45m, and was built to support a substantial sill-beam, which supports regularly spaced wall-posts. The supporting stone and brickwork of the east wall survives better, and is best seen from within Building 2 (Plate 1). The wall is weatherboarded on the exterior face with horizontal laid boards to the west and vertical boards to the east, although these may be replacements. The east wall is also weatherboarded on its exterior, but has two intermediate posts, onto which are lapped three short rails at mid-height (Plate 2). The truss of the east wall is again different, being formed from a king-post with two angled braces. This may be for structural reasons, or may be a conscious attempt to mimic the gable walls of the stable block to the east.

The west end of the building was originally timber-framed, and presumably identical to the east wall. Of the original structure only the end truss and north-west post survive, with the lower portions having been replaced by handmade brick (8¾"x2¾"x4¼") laid in an irregular bond. The upper portion is built of brick (9"x3"x4½") with cement mortar laid in Flemish Garden Wall bond. The south wall of the building has been extended at both west and east ends. The west extension forms a small additional stall and is largely built from scantling and corrugated iron sheeting. However, the base of the west wall is composed of squared lias limestone, and appears of better quality than the other stonework on site. The extension at the east end of the barn is constructed of handmade brick (8¾"x2¾"x4¼") laid in English bond. This appears to have been built to accommodate two large brick stalls, which have been formed by the placement of low brick walls below the two east trusses (Plate 3). The brick extension seems to have been created to form a covered entry into these stalls.

The upper crucks are, like the other timber structures surveyed, comprised of elm, which has been sawn and pegged (Plate 4). The blades rise from a truss cut into the wall-posts, which rise above the level of the truss to about mid-height on the cruck. The wall-plate then forms a secondary support for the slope of the roof, along with a purlin higher up the blade. Unusually, the cruck spurs are pegged into the blades and lapped onto the top of the wall plate. The crucks were originally supported by collars high up on the blades, but these

have all been removed. At the apex, the two blades are lapped, with a notch cut to carry the ridge purlin, which in the west three bays has been replaced by a ridge board. The tie-beams of the building have been notched to accommodate six joists running east-west, indicating the presence of an original first-floor level.

Upper crucks are usually assumed to be a late development of cruck construction, and taken to date to the post-medieval period (Charles 1967, p17). The brickwork of the extensions at the east and west ends of the building is eighteenth century in appearance, suggesting that the original timber-frame building is of seventeenth or eighteenth century date. The suggested uses for upper crucks are most often agricultural, with Homes (1978, p14) highlighting their usage in granaries and hop-rooms and Charles (1967, p17) listing them as typical in stables. Interestingly, Charles also states that they were typically constructed of elm. Upper crucks are thought to exist in considerable numbers in Worcestershire (Charles 1967, p17), however, the Vernacular Architecture Group Cruck Database lists only ten upper crucks in Worcestershire, only one of which is assumed to be in an agricultural, rather than a domestic, building (VAG website).

6.2 Building 2 – The ‘Big Barn’

From the exterior Building 2 has the appearance of an eighteenth century brick threshing barn (Plate 5). The walls are built of random rubble lias limestone to c.2m height, with red brick (8¾x2¾x4½”) laid in a raking Flemish Stretcher bond. The walls are perforated with a series of regularly spaced diagonal air vents (Plate 6), some of which have been blocked, and two of which have been opened up to form windows (Plate 7). The building has a set of large opposing wagon doors, which stretch to eaves level, and are supported on large lias limestone hinge blocks (Plate 8). The eaves of the building have the same dentilated design as Buildings 1, 3 and 4, and the roof above is composed of clay tile. The north wall of the building was not viewed from the exterior, but is radically different in form from the other walls of the building, consisting of a square-panelled, brick-nogged timber gable frame.

The interior of the building contains an earlier, substantial timber-frame reaching from floor level to support the roof of the barn (Plate 9). This was due to be dated through dendro-chronology, but proved to be composed wholly of elm, for which no sequences exist.

The intermediate frames (2, 3 and 4) are linked by purlins and wall-plates, but there is no evidence of a longitudinal sill beam ever having existed. The intermediate frames have a queen post truss. The frames have been numbered 1-4 from the north gable wall to the southmost intermediate frame. Drawings of the frames, along with a cross-section through the barn have been appended to this report (Appendix 1).

Frame 1

Frames 2 to 4 are completely unrelated to the timber-framing of the north gable frame (Frame 1), which has been crudely tacked on to the end of the building. The north gable frame is attached to the rest of the timber-framing by the wall-plates, which have been slotted through the wall-posts of frame 2 and wedge to stop them moving (Plate 10). The purlins from Frame 1 have also been roughly cut into the principals of Frame 2. Frame 1 also has slots cut for mid-rails running north-south, which do not correspond to any slots on Frame 2. The frame is brick-nogged with handmade bricks.

Frame 2

Frame 2 represents the original north gable wall of the earlier timber-framed barn. Although only the wall-posts, arched braces and truss survive, the frame originally had a central post running downwards from the tie-beam. Along with this the frame had two rails, one at the base of the arched brace, and one mid-way between this and the sill-beam. The sill-beam itself has been almost completely cut away, surviving only as wide footings to the

wall-posts, but with a wall scar marking the position of the sill-wall on the floor. The soffits of the tie-beam, collar and arched braces all have wattle-holes (Plate 11), which are not found on any other timbers in the building. The upper portion of the principals, above the height of the collar, have been removed. The east wall-plate has also been cut short to the south of the arched brace (Plate 12).

Frame 3

Frame 3 is largely complete, with the exception of the sill-beam, which again has been reduced to wide supports for the wall-posts (Plate 13). The east wall-post has had its north and south running arched braces removed, along with the wall-plates, whilst the west wall-post has had its north running arched brace removed.

Frame 4

Frame 4 has an almost complete sill-beam, which is cut only slightly in its centre, to allow access to the south bay of the barn (Plate 14). Despite this there are no intermediate posts or rails, suggesting that the barn continued to the south. The collar of Frame 4 has been strengthened by the addition of another timber, as the original timber had warped (Plate 15).

Building 2 appears to be a 4-bay threshing barn, with a stone flagged threshing floor in the second bay from the south. The base of each set of large doors have slots for planks forming the lift (Plate 16). The raised sill-beams of the earlier timber structure appear to have been left deliberately high to form a division between the threshing floor and the storage areas of the barn. A door placed high on the east wall provided further access to storage, leading through to the first floor level of Building 3 (Plate 17). It is unclear what the original function of the timber-framed structure represented by Frames 2-4 was, but it can easily be assumed that it was an earlier threshing barn. There is room for speculation, however, that Frames 2-4 may represent the north end of the nave of an aisled barn. There are several reasons to suggest this. Firstly, the transverse sill beams of each wall-post appear to run beyond the limits of the frame (Plate ?), suggesting the structure continued outwards. Secondly, there is no sign of any intermediate rails or posts along the length of the frame, despite the fact that the wall-posts rise to a height of 2-3 stories. Given the evidence for wattle and daub in Frame 2, it is likely that this would have been the original infill, yet there are no signs of wattle holes on any of the longitudinal braces or wall-plates, and no evidence for a weatherboarding of the exterior.

6.3 Building 3 – ‘Engine Shed’

Building 3 is a two-storey adjunction at the northeast end of Building 2, and dates to the same period as the brick façade to the big barn. The building is built of red brick (8¾x2¾"x4½") laid in a Flemish stretcher bond. The main elevation of the ground floor (south) originally had three door sized openings at ground floor level with bullnosed brick surrounds, supported by a large timber beam (Plate 18). These appear to have provided access for animals or small carts. The floor above has two short windows covered by wooden shutters just under the eaves. Internally the ground floor is one open space, with painted brick walls reinforced with brick piers (Plate 19). A doorway has been crudely inserted in the east wall providing access through to the ground floor of Building 4. To the south of this is a low inserted opening (Plate 20), which has been bricked up, and which would originally have opened into the undercroft of Building 3. The north wall of the room has had two metal-framed windows inserted to provide more light. The ceiling is dominated by substantial beams running east-west to the main truss. These are separated by only 0.8m and have been crudely inserted to the original framework of the building, cutting through the east and west walls, and lapped onto the central truss. The resulting change in load to the central north-south beam has led to the addition of several large posts at its north and south ends. The beams are notched as though to receive machinery (Plate 21),

with patches of replaced floorboards above the notches, suggesting that they represent the location of machinery or hoppers leading from the first floor to the ground floor.

The first floor is again one large room, open to the roof, which is dominated by a large and complex truss (Plate 22). This is again composed of elm, which is sawn and pegged. From the tie-beam upwards the structure is a normal king-post truss supporting a two-purlin roof. Below the tie-beam, however, there are two diagonal braces running downwards to the beam supporting the first floor. The truss has been further supported by the addition of a large metal stirrup to the base of the kingpost as well as two iron rods tying the truss to the beam below (Plate 23). This again appears to date to the addition of the substantial east-west beams to the ceiling of the ground floor, and was designed to provide additional support for the timbers.

The first floor room has its interior plastered and painted. The east wall has a central doorway providing access to the first floor of Building 4, whilst the west wall has a doorway at its south end leading through to Building 2. The roof has had several windows cut into it.

The original function of Building 3 appears unclear, although it is referred to as the 'engine house' this appears to date to the insertion of the large east-west beams, which bore machinery. The earliest function appears to have been stabling on the ground floor with a granary above. The first floor would originally have been accessed directly from Building 2, with the stairs in the southwest corner of the building being a later insertion.

6.4 Building 4 – 'Undercroft'

Building 4 is built immediately adjacent to Building 3, with a very visible straight joint marking the junction of the two buildings (Plate 24). The building is three storeys in height, with the lower ground level accessible by means of the changing ground level on site (Plate 25). The lower ground level is constructed of random rubble lias limestone, whilst from ground level up the building is built from red brick (8¾x2¾x4¼") laid in an irregular bond composed of a mix of Flemish stretcher and English bond. The main elevation (south) has a central opening consisting of a short boarded hatch leading to the lower ground floor, surmounted by a tall segmental-arched window, which has been reduced in proportions by the addition of brickwork to either jamb (Plate 26). The east elevation is mostly obscured by the abutment of the seventeenth century stableblock to the east. At the south end of the elevation at lower ground level, a segmental arched doorway leads into the 'undercroft'. To the north of the doorway, concealed within the stableblock to the east, the lower portions of the lias limestone walling ramps upward to c.2m height. Contained within the gable eaves is a wide segmental arched window, placed to respect the stableblock to the east.

The interior of the building at lower ground level consists of one low room, which has been adapted to form two stable stalls. The floor is composed of stone flags, partially obscured by the addition of a thin skin of concrete (Plate 27). The north, east and south walls are wholly composed of random rubble lias limestone walls, whilst the west wall is built of red-brick (8¾"x2¾"x4¼") laid in a raking Flemish stretcher bond from mid-height upwards. The south wall of the room has a hatch in its upper portions leading to the exterior (Plate 28). The ceiling of the room is open to the joists of the floor above, with the floorboards stopping short of the east wall to form an opening to the ground floor above. The ground floor interior again consists of one large room originally accessed from the opening on the south wall, but now accessed from a crudely inserted doorway in the centre of the west wall. To either side of this the inserted east-west beams from Building 3 protrude through the wall (Plate 29). The interior is largely functional, with floor, brick walls and ceiling all untreated.

The first floor level is contained within the attic space of Building 4, and again consists of one open room. The room was last in use as a chicken house, and subsequently the floor has been obscured. The walls are of untreated brick. The room is currently accessed

through the first floor of Building 3, through a central doorway on the west wall. At the south end of the east wall is a blocked up window (Plate 30). The roof is supported by two large posts which rise from the beams of the first floor. These are met at mid-height by tie-beams from the tops of the north and south walls. The tie-beams are supported by braces rising from the first floor beam, and in turn support braces which rise diagonally to support the principal at the level of the lower purlin (Plate 31). The entire structure appears to have been designed to allow access through the centre of the room without the truss blocking access.

Building 4 appears to have originally been a storage building, with all three floors lacking any fittings or fixtures. The ground floor was most likely a granary building, raised slightly above ground level, and with another room below to provide a dry, raised storage room. The building post-dates Building 3 to the west, but its relationship to the stableblock to the east is unclear. The west wall of the stableblock was removed to form the north wall of Building 2 (See 6.2 above), but this must have occurred prior to the erection of Building 4. It is possible that Building 4 stands on the site of an earlier structure, possibly represented by the lias limestone in the lower portions of the building.

6.5 Building 5

Collection of small outhouses built from red brick (9"x3"x4½") laid in a Flemish stretcher bond (Plate 32). These have been built as lean-tos to Building 6 and the stone built boundary wall to the south of the Fold. They appear on the first edition of the Ordnance Survey map, so must have been in place by 1885, however, in character they are of no great architectural or historical significance.

6.6 Building 6 – 'The Granary'

Building 6 stands at the south side of the courtyard, across from the other buildings. Unlike the other buildings both its walls and dressings are built of random rubble lias limestone (Plate 33). The building is two storeys in height, with a blue-black slate roof, which is hipped at its east end, but not at the west. The main elevation of the building (north) has a segmental-arched doorway towards the east, with a small segmental-arched window to the west. At first floor level there are two evenly spaced dormerhead windows. The east elevation of the building has a doorway towards the north at ground floor level, which is identical to that on the north elevation. The ground floor interior consists of one large room, with untreated random rubble walls and a stone flagged floor, which has been obscured by the addition of a thin layer of concrete (Plate 34). The room has a staircase along the east wall leading to the first floor. The room is open to the joists of the floor above, which are supported by herringbone struts. There is little to indicate the original function of the room.

The first floor of Building 6 was previously partitioned into two rooms by the addition of studwork to the central of the three roof-trusses. The lath and plaster has been removed from this, but the studs remain *in situ* (Plate 35). There is evidence of similar lath and plaster on the underside of the rafters, reaching up to a lowered ceiling at mid-height on the trusses (Plate 36). Beneath this height the trusses are painted white. The walls also show evidence of having been plastered and whitewashed (Plate 37). The trusses are simple bolted king-posts, typical of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

In terms of function, a family tradition names the building as the 'granary', which may represent its original function. The plastering of the upper floor is known to have been a feature of granaries, and is assumed to have been for cleanliness (Peters 1981,p52). The only other upper floors known to be plastered where those used for accommodating farm workers (*ibid.* p52), but this seems less likely due to the attachment of the name 'granary' to the building. The ground floor of the building is unlikely to have functioned as a granary, and may have been a cider house, however, due to the lack of any fixtures or fittings, it is

difficult to ascribe a clear function to this. The removal of the concrete from the top of the flagged floor may provide evidence of where earlier machinery was placed.

7 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The collection of barns at Mordaunt's Farm offer a wide range of building types and styles, which have remained largely unaltered despite continual adaptation and addition. The buildings display a wide range of timber technologies, from upper crucks (Building 1), to square framing (Building 2), to a variety of eighteenth and nineteenth century trusses (Buildings 3-6). This is particularly significant as some of these buildings appear to have been constructed within a reasonably close time-span, yet are greatly different in their construction. They are made all the more significant as they are wholly composed out of elm, which, although it is not uncommon in Worcestershire buildings, is not a widely used material, and is usually dated to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries (Harris *pers. comm.*). Building 2 not only appears to pre-date this, but uses significantly more substantial timbers than would be expected. Building 2 is also significant as it may represent an aisled barn, of which only two are known in Worcestershire, the most famous being the large monastic barn at Bredon. If found to be an aisled barn the building would be highly significant, and as such every effort should be made to retain all of the timber-frame of Building 2 and to ensure its long-term survival. It is possible to establish the presence of an aisled barn through below ground excavation, which could detect the footings of any sill wall of an aisle. Given the nature of the ground level on site, the only place where this may survive is to the west of Frame 2 or 3. It is therefore recommended that prior to any ground works on site, this area of ground be archaeologically investigated by the opening of a strip running from the base of the barn wall westwards. It is envisaged that this would be a moderately simple exercise, and given the potential implications of the presence of an aisled barn, it is highly recommended.

As stated above, it was not possible to carry out dendrochronology on any of the timber structures at The Mordaunts, as all the timber on site is elm. The lack of dendrochronology has made it difficult to ascribe definite dates to the various buildings. Basing a dating sequence on stylistic grounds has its difficulties, as there are numerous arguments surrounding the dating of upper crucks and the use of elm. The lack of detail on the large timber-frame also makes dating difficult. Despite this, there is good reason to challenge the description given in the listing in Worcestershire HER (HER reference number WSM34970). The '17th century' date ascribed to the barn appears to refer to the north gable wall, which has been added to the other frames at a later date. The brick additions and alterations to the barn are composed of 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " handmade bricks, which is usually placed in the last quarter of the 18th century, and not the mid-to late 19th century. A suggested chronology has been given on the phased plan of the main barn complex (fig. 7). Building 6 appears to be of one build, dating to the nineteenth century. This is based purely on the style of the roof truss, as the walls, built as they are of random rubble with little diagnostic detail, may be earlier, although this is unlikely.

The proposed conversion to The Mordaunts is greatly sympathetic to the style and character of the original building. If it is established that Building 2 does contain the remains of an earlier aisled barn, it is proposed that the conversion work should still proceed, as the timbers have been fully recorded, and the currently proposed alteration should not unduly affect them. The building currently stands unused, and although the level of survival in the timber elements of the building is high, future exposure to the elements would be highly detrimental to the building, especially given that the structure is composed of elm, which is prone to decay in variable conditions. The conversion of the buildings to residential structures, therefore, would ensure their future by providing a level of maintenance and repair, which may otherwise be neglected. As stated above, every effort should be made to retain all the timber-framing on site, especially those of Buildings 1 and 2, in the anticipation of elm sequences for dendrochronology eventually becoming available. An

attempt should also be made, where possible, to make a feature, both of the timber frames and of the flagstone floors, which have been mostly obscured by a thin layer of concrete.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The project was commissioned by Steve Haskey Design and Construction Ltd., on behalf of M. Foster. Thanks are due to the proprietors for their co-operation and assistance throughout the project. The fieldwork was supervised by Michael Lobb, who also produced the written report, which was illustrated by Bryony Ryder, and edited by Amanda Forster. Malcolm Hislop managed the project for Birmingham Archaeology.

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Birmingham Archaeology 2006 *The Mordaunts, Lower Crowle Road, Crowle, Worcestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation*

Charles, F W B 1967 *Medieval Cruck Building and its Derivatives* The Society for Medieval Archaeology Monograph Series No. 2

Department of the Environment (DoE) 1990 *Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: Planning and the Historic Environment*

Homes, I 1978 'The Agricultural Use of the Herefordshire House and its Outbuildings' in *Vernacular Architecture Vol. 9, p12-17*

Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) 2001 *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations*

Peters, J E C 1981 *Discovering Traditional Farm Buildings* Aylesbury: Shire Publications Ltd.

Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England (RCHME) 1996 *Recording Historic Buildings: A Descriptive Specification 3rd Edition*

Websites

VAG – Cruck Database - <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/collections/blurbs/368.cfm>

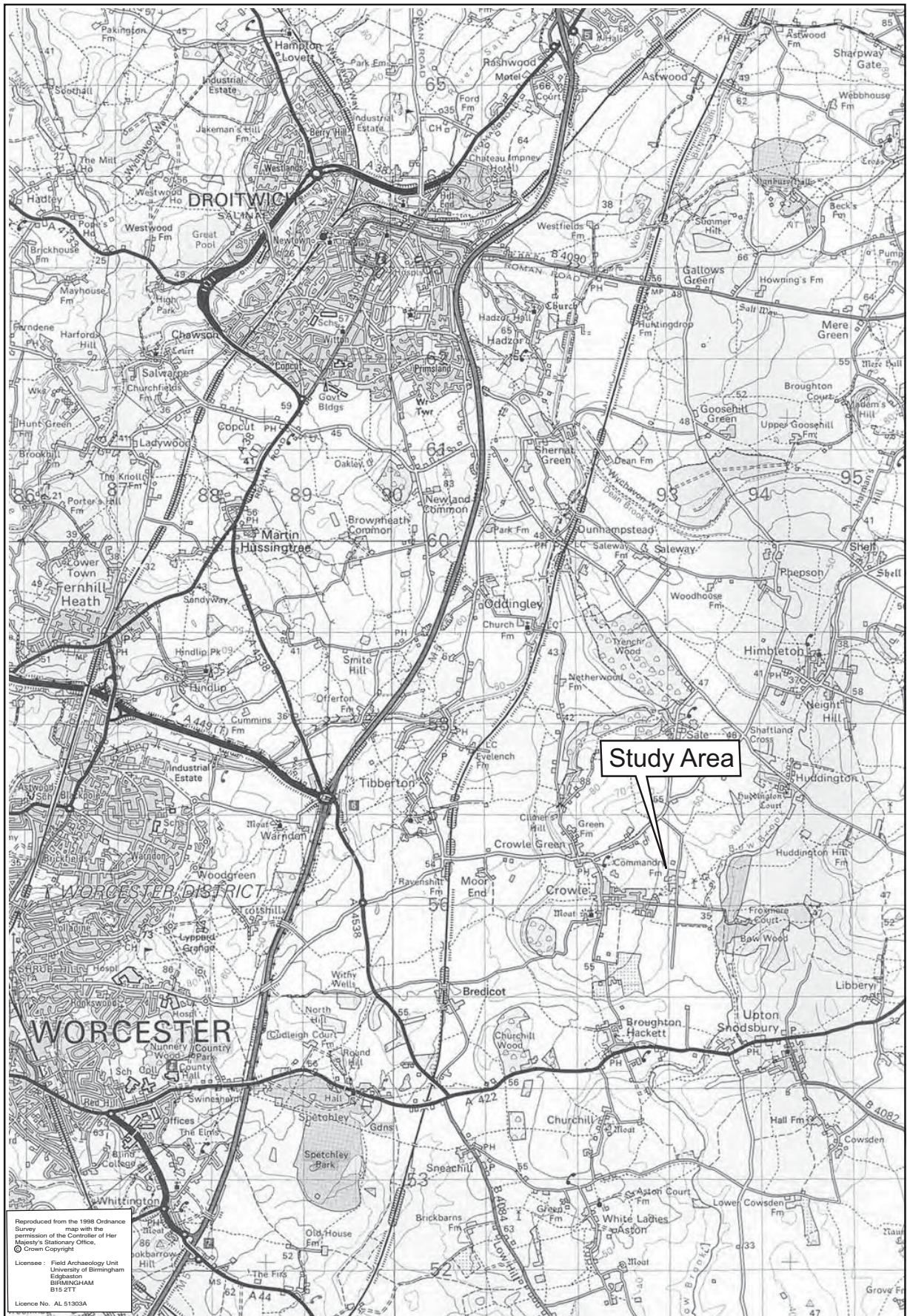


Fig.1

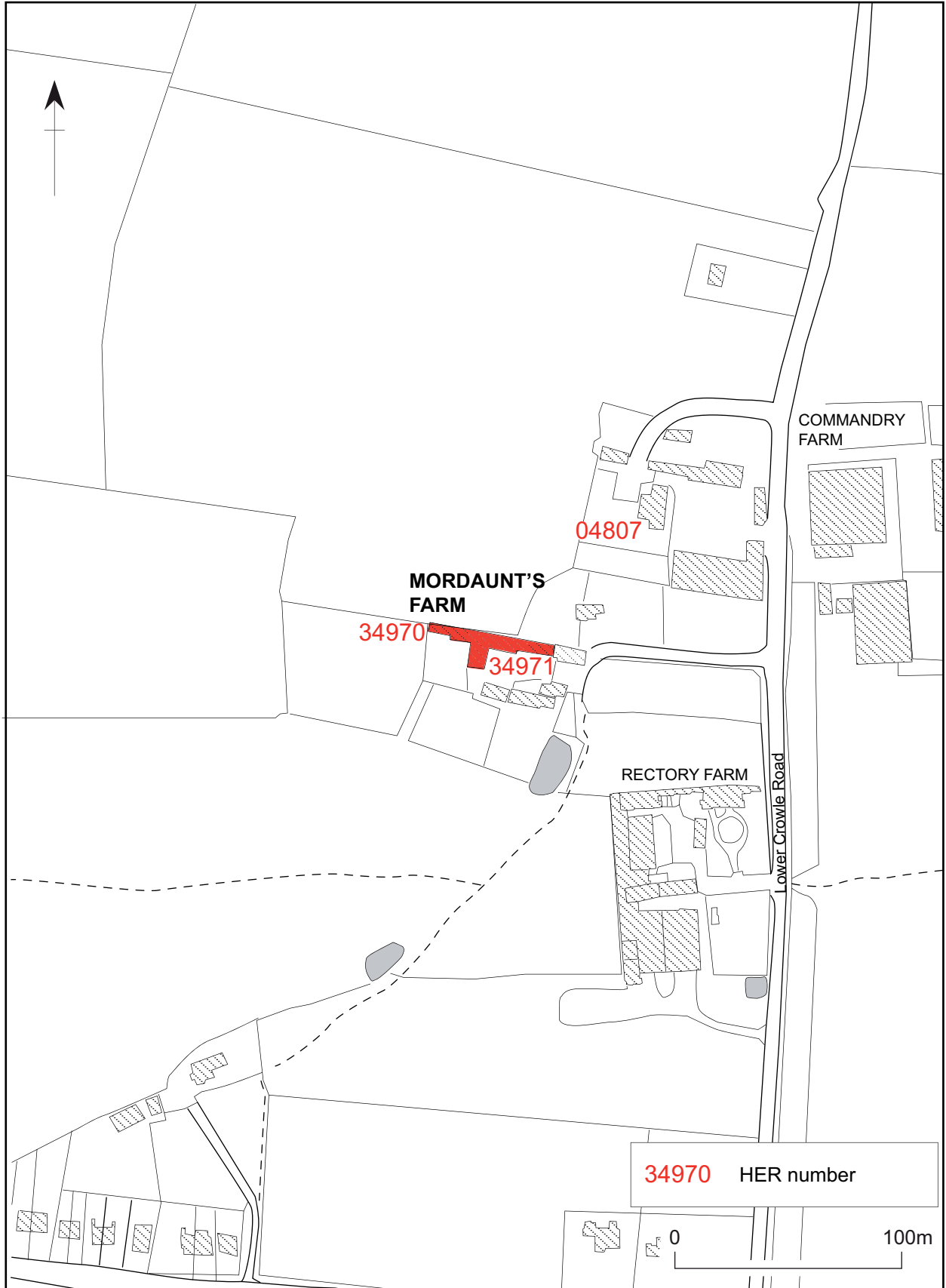


Fig.2

1808



Fig.3

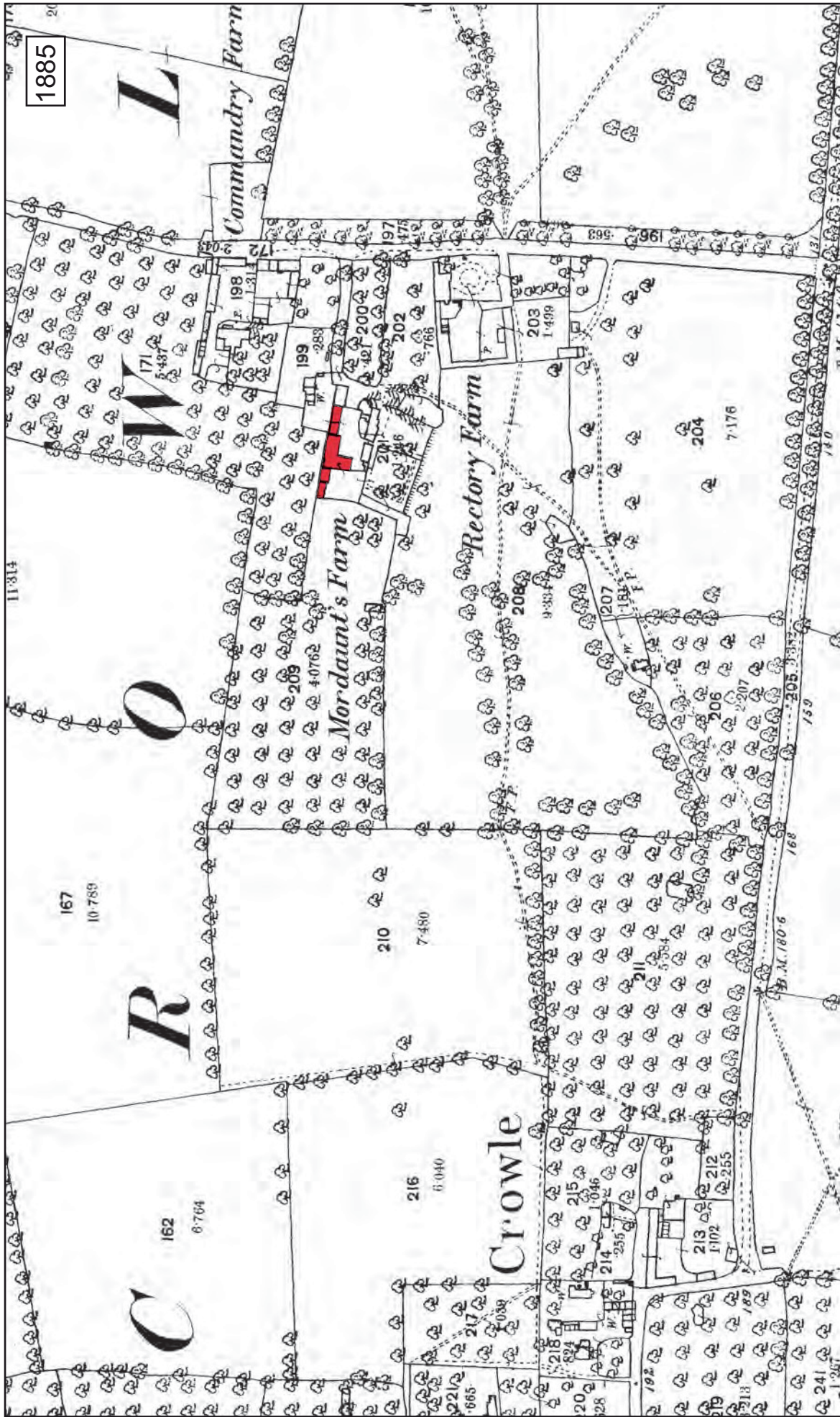
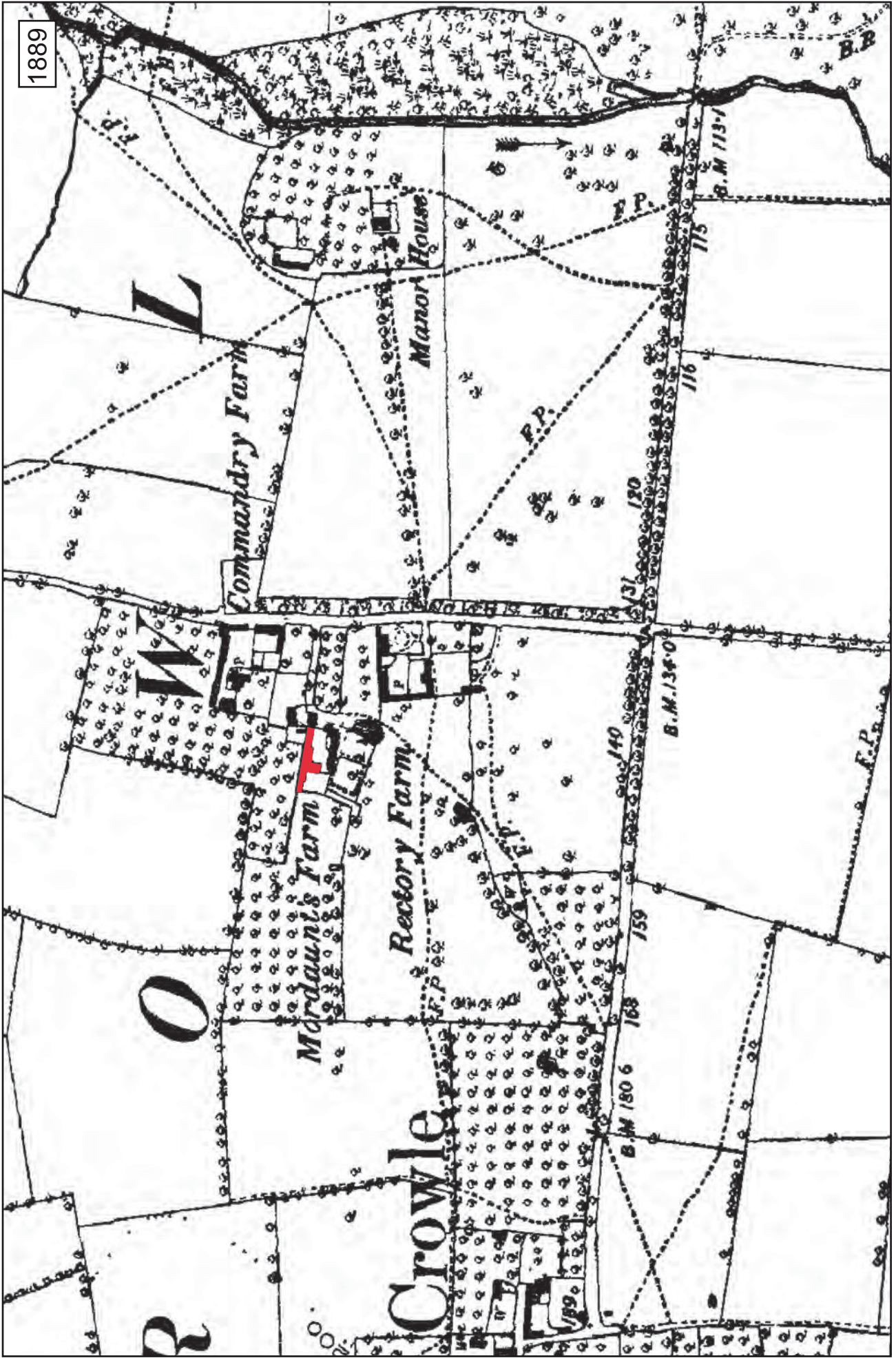


Fig.4

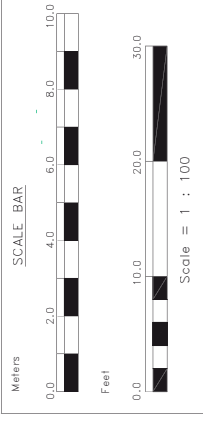


1889

Fig.5

NOTES

THIS SURVEY HAS BEEN PREPARED WITH A SCALING ACCURACY FOR A PLOT AT A SCALE OF 1/100.
BASED ON DRAWINGS PRODUCED BY STEVE HASKEY DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION LTD. REPRODUCED BY KIND CONSENT.



job P.N. 1554
The Mordaunts, Crowle
Historic Building Recording

title Building Layout

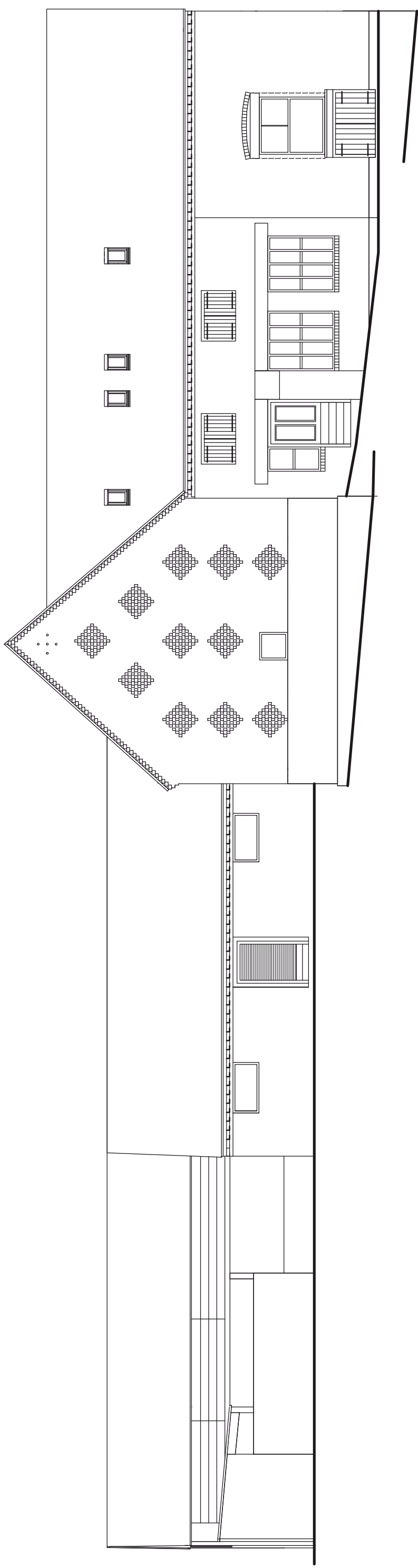
client Fig no. 6

scale 1/200 date Feb 2007

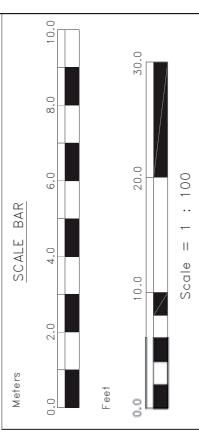
birmingham archaeology
Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT
THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM
TEL: 0121 414 5513 FAX: 0121 414 5516
E-MAIL: bareh@bham.ac.uk
Institute of Field Archaeologists

NOTES

THIS SURVEY HAS BEEN PREPARED WITH A SCALING ACCURACY FOR A PLOT AT A SCALE OF 1/100.
BASED ON DRAWINGS PRODUCED BY STEVE HASKEY DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION LTD. REPRODUCED BY KIND CONSENT.



South Elevation



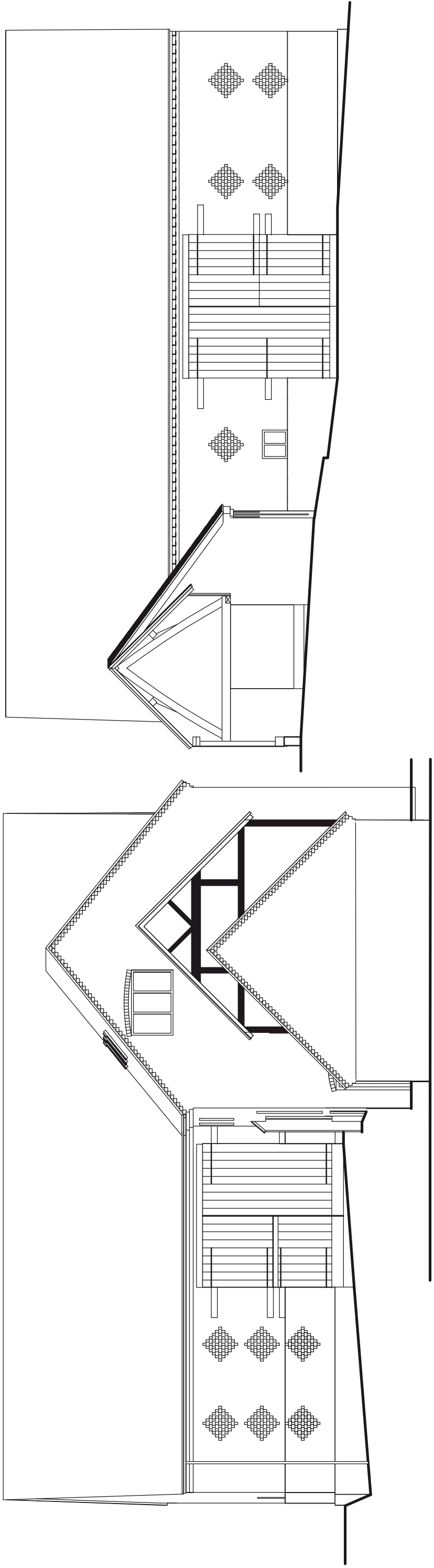
job	P.N. 1554		
client	The Mordaunts, Crowle		
title	Historic Building Recording		
file	Buildings 1-4 - Main Elevation		
scale	1/100	date	Feb 2007
client	Fig no.	7	

birmingham archaeology
Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT
TEL: 0121 414 5513 FAX: 0121 414 5516
E-MAIL: barchi@bham.ac.uk
Institute of Field Archaeologists

N.B. Please see plans for phasing

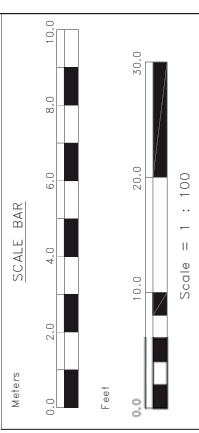
NOTES

THIS SURVEY HAS BEEN PREPARED WITH A SCALING ACCURACY FOR A PLOT AT A SCALE OF 1/100.
BASED ON DRAWINGS PRODUCED BY STEVE HASKEY DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION LTD. REPRODUCED BY KIND CONSENT.



East Elevation

West Elevation



job P.N. 1554
The Mordaunts, Crowle
Historic Building Recording

title
Buildings 1-4 -
Side Elevations/Sections

client
fig. no. 8

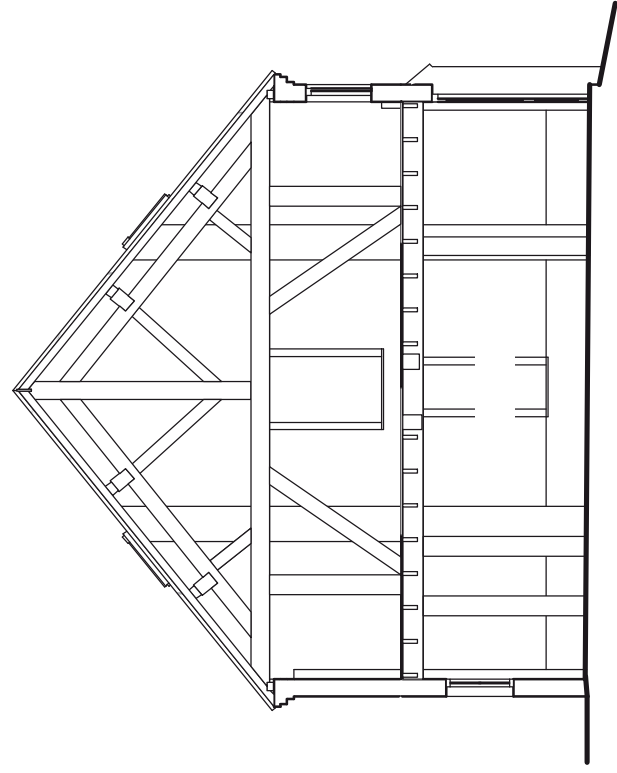
scale 1/100
date Feb 2007

birmingham archaeology
Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT
TEL: 0121 414 5513 FAX: 0121 414 5516
E-MAIL: bareh@bham.ac.uk
Institute of Field Archaeologists

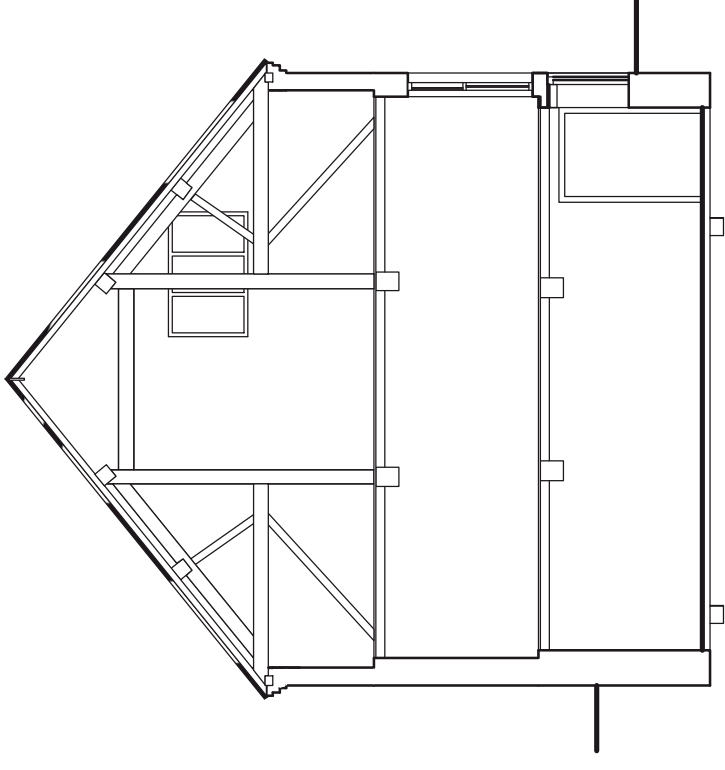
N.B. Please see plans for phasing

NOTES

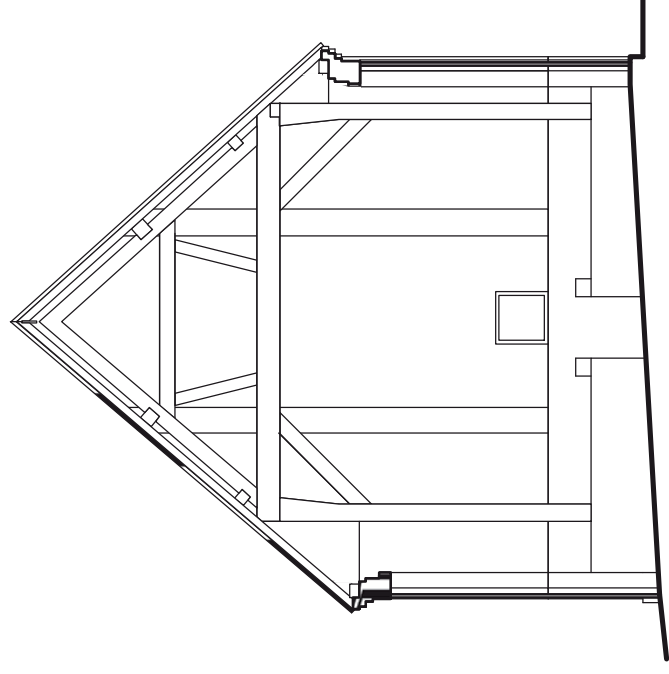
THIS SURVEY HAS BEEN PREPARED WITH A SCALING ACCURACY FOR A PLOT AT A SCALE OF 1/100.
BASED ON DRAWINGS PRODUCED BY STEVE HASKEY DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION LTD. REPRODUCED BY KIND CONSENT.



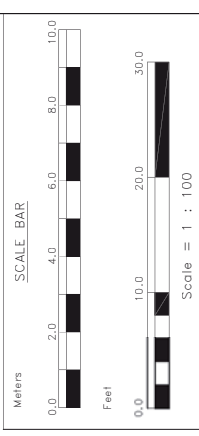
Section C-C



Section D-D



Section B-B



job P.N. 1554

The Mordaunts, Crowle
Historic Building Recording

title

Buildings 1-4
Sections

client

Fig. no. 9

scale 1/100

date Feb 2007

birmingham archaeology

Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT
TEL: 0121 414 5513 FAX: 0121 414 5516
E-MAIL: bareh@bham.ac.uk

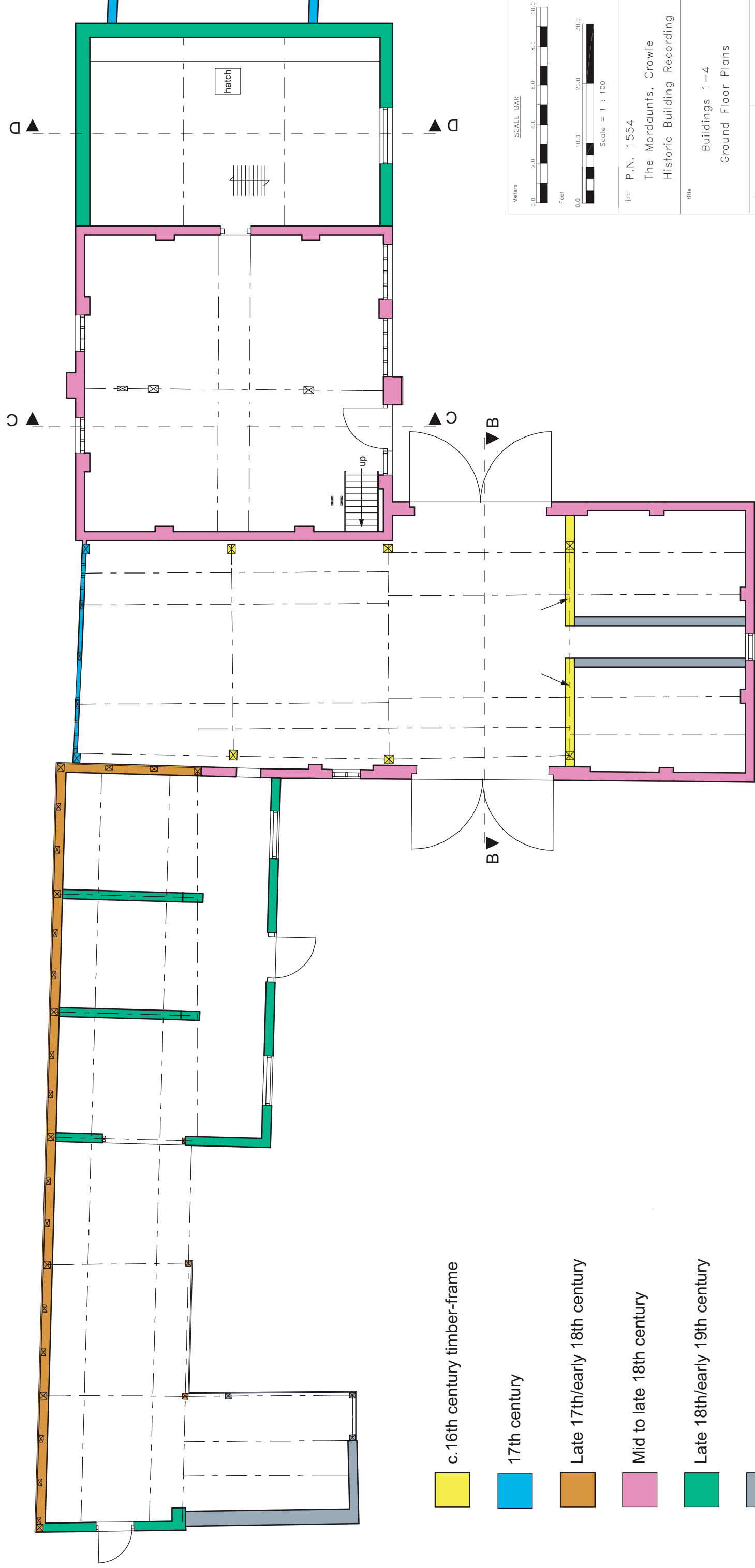


Institute of Field Archaeologists

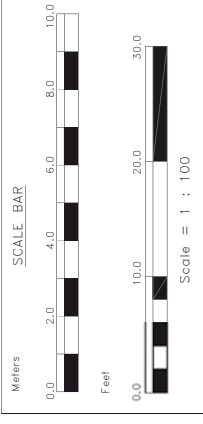
N.B. Please see plans for phasing

NOTES

THIS SURVEY HAS BEEN PREPARED WITH A SCALING ACCURACY FOR A PLOT AT A SCALE OF 1/100.
BASED ON DRAWINGS PRODUCED BY STEVE HASSEY DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION LTD. REPRODUCED BY RMB CONSENT.



- c. 16th century timber-frame
- 17th century
- Late 17th/early 18th century
- Mid to late 18th century
- Late 18th/early 19th century
- 20th century alterations



job P.N. 1554
The Mordaunts, Crowle
Historic Building Recording

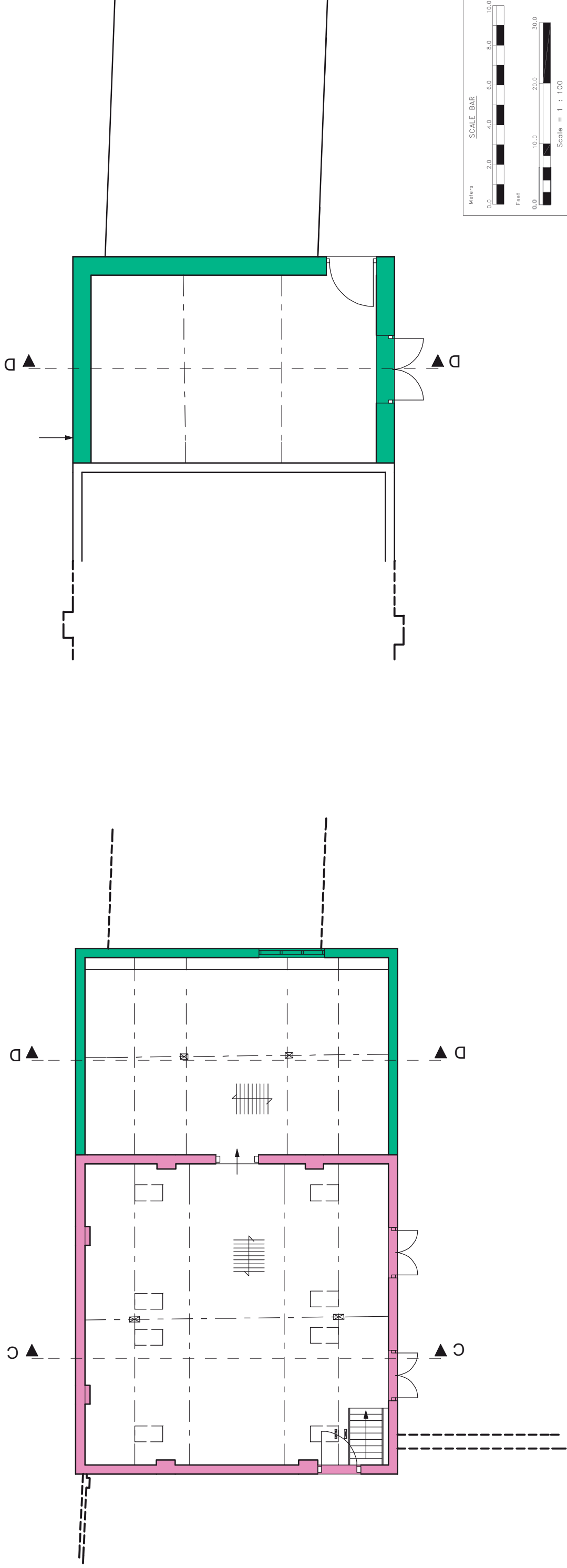
title Buildings 1-4
Ground Floor Plans

client	fig. no.
scale	date
1/100	Feb 2007

birmingham archaeology
Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT
TEL: 0121 414 5513 FAX: 0121 414 5516
E-MAIL: barch@bham.ac.uk
Institute of Field Archaeologists

NOTES

THIS SURVEY HAS BEEN PREPARED WITH A SCALING ACCURACY FOR A PLOT AT A SCALE OF 1/100.
BASED ON DRAWINGS PRODUCED BY STEVE HASKEY DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION LTD. REPRODUCED BY KIND CONSENT.



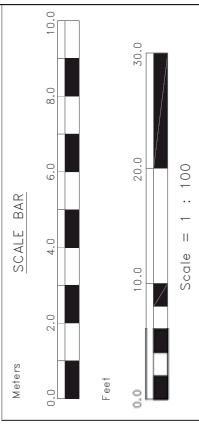
First Floor

Basement

Mid to late 18th century



Late 18th/early 19th century

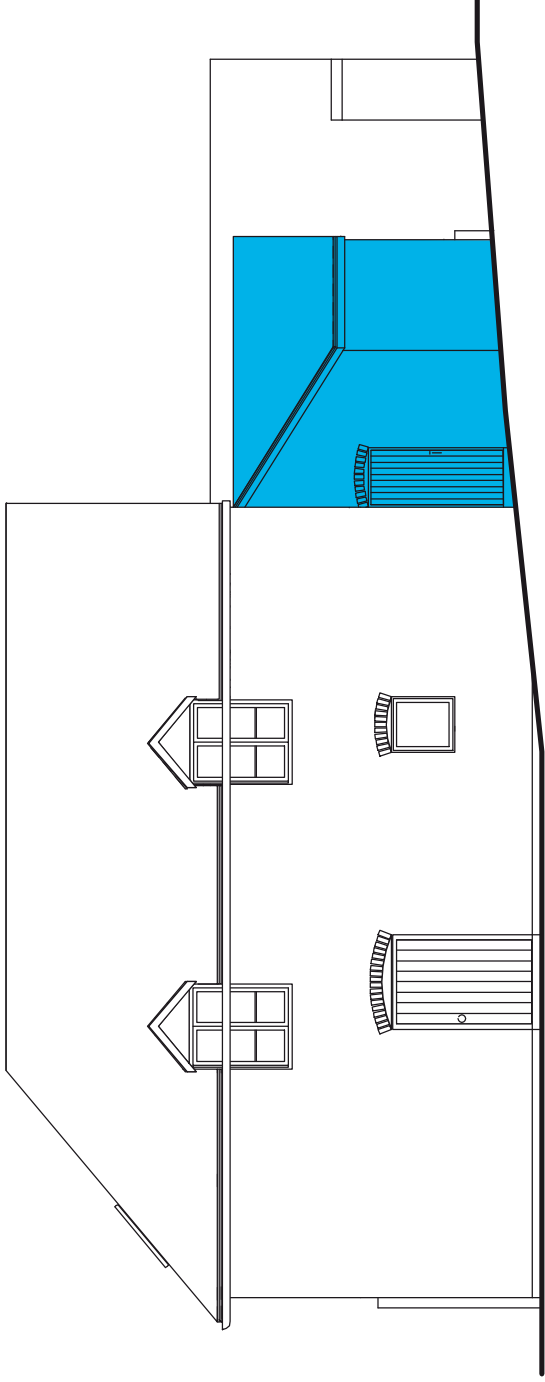


job	P.N. 1554		
client	The Mordaunts, Crowle		
title	Historic Building Recording		
	Buildings 1-4		
	First Floor and Basement Plans		
client	Fig. no.	11	
scale	date	Feb 2007	
1/100			

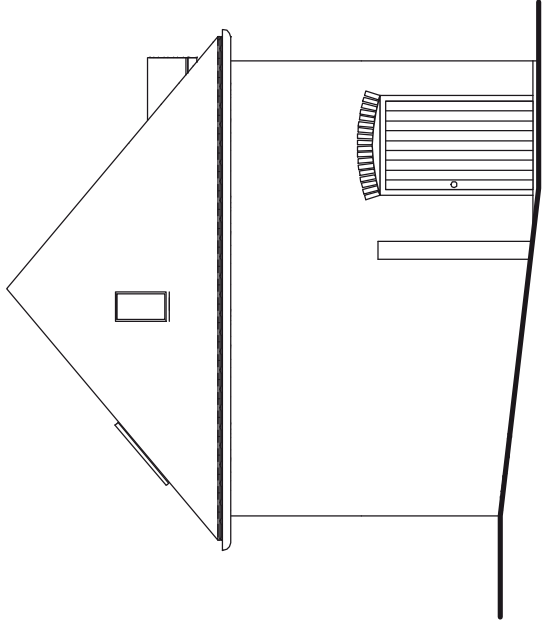
birmingham archaeology
Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT
TEL: 0121 414 5513 FAX: 0121 414 5516
E-MAIL: barch@bham.ac.uk
Institute of Field Archaeologists

NOTES

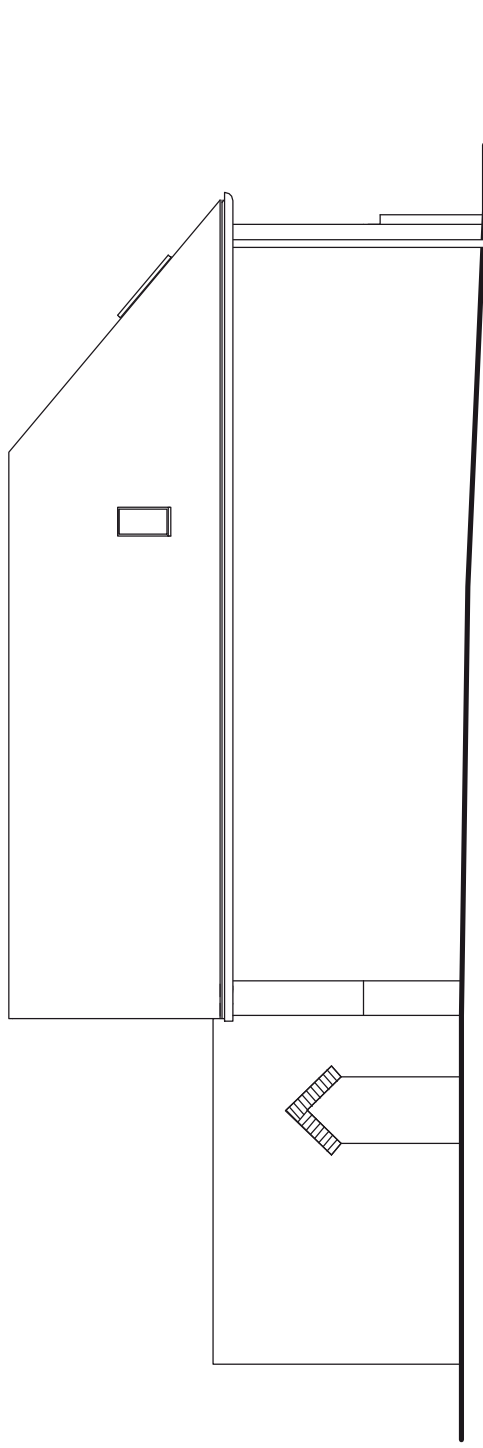
THIS SURVEY HAS BEEN PREPARED WITH A SCALING ACCURACY FOR A PLOT AT A SCALE OF 1/100.
 BASED ON DRAWINGS PRODUCED BY STEVE HASKEY DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION LTD. REPRODUCED BY KIND CONSENT.



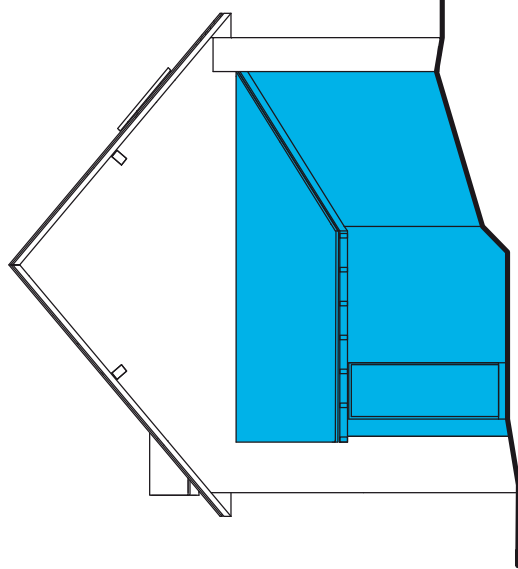
North Elevation



East Elevation

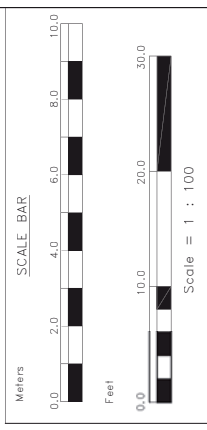


South Elevation



West Elevation

- mid 19th century
- late 19th century



job P.N. 1554
 The Mordaunts, Crowle
 Historic Building Recording

title Buildings 5 & 6 Elevations

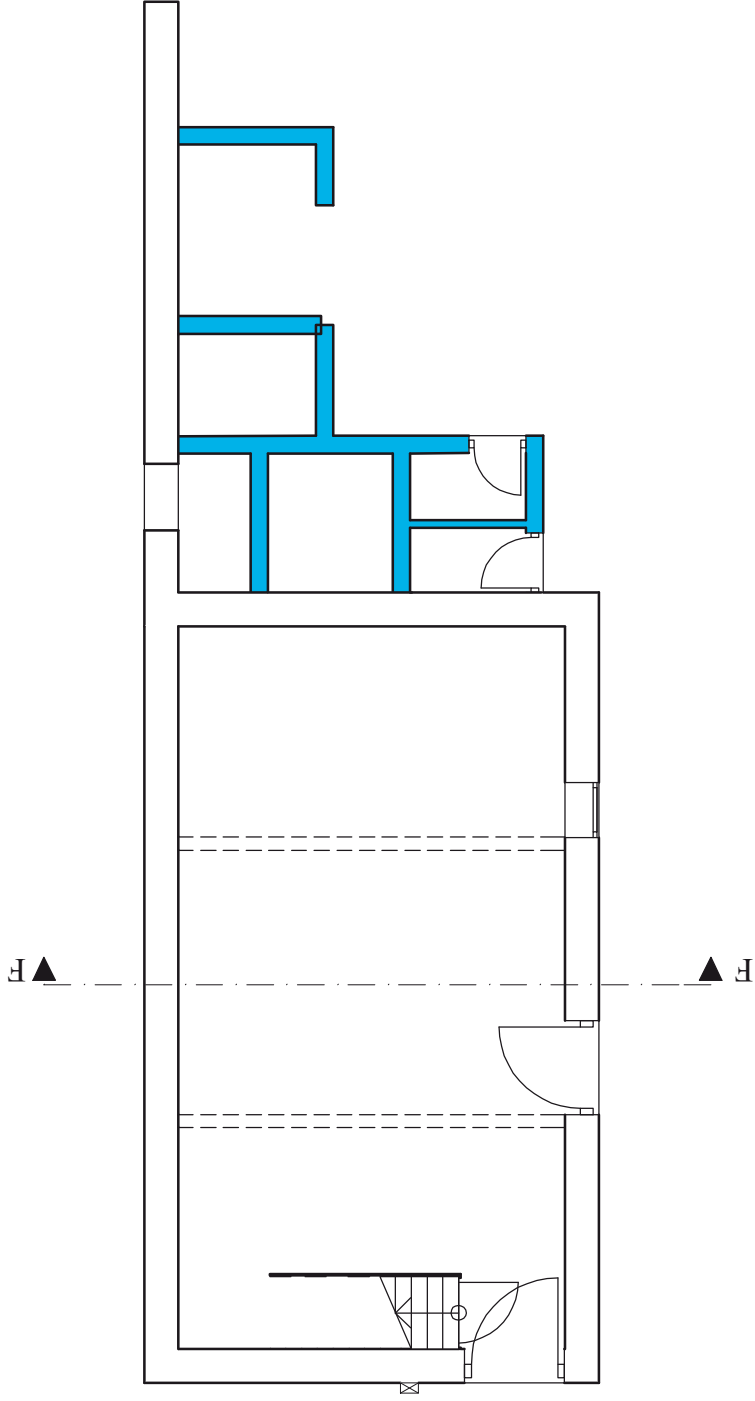
client Fig no. 12

scale 1/100 date Feb 2007

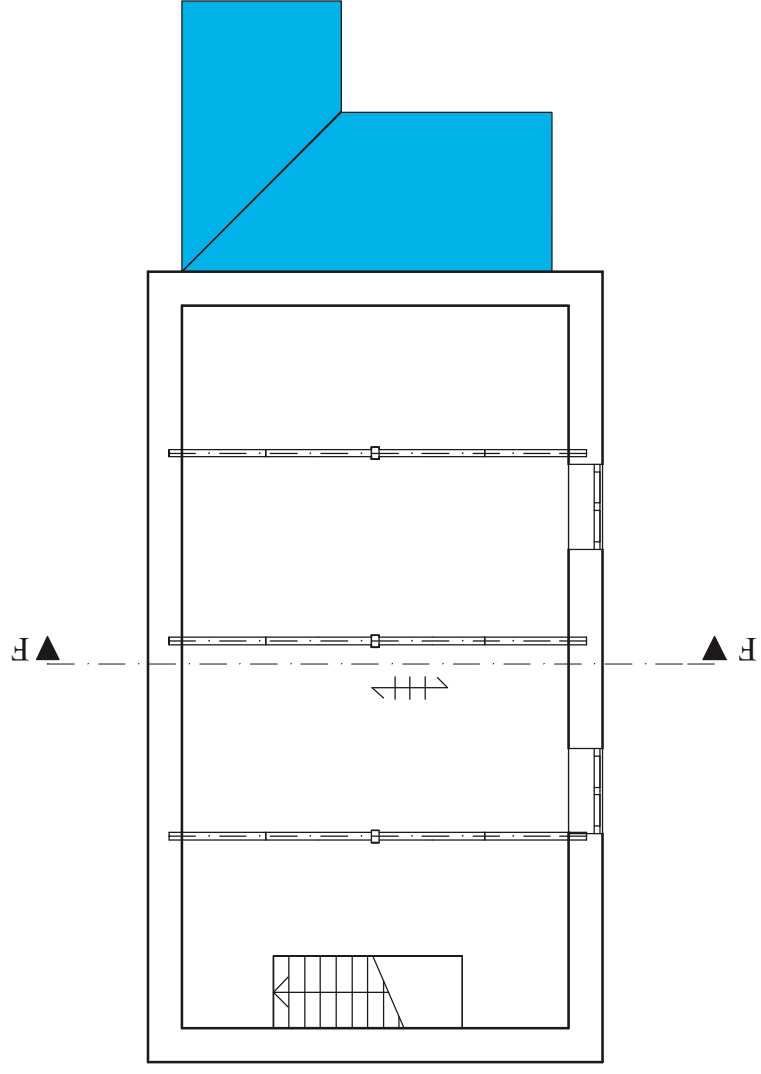
birmingham archaeology
 Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT
 THE UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL TEL: 0121 414 5513 FAX: 0121 414 5516
 E-MAIL: barch@bham.ac.uk
 Institute of Field Archaeologists

NOTES

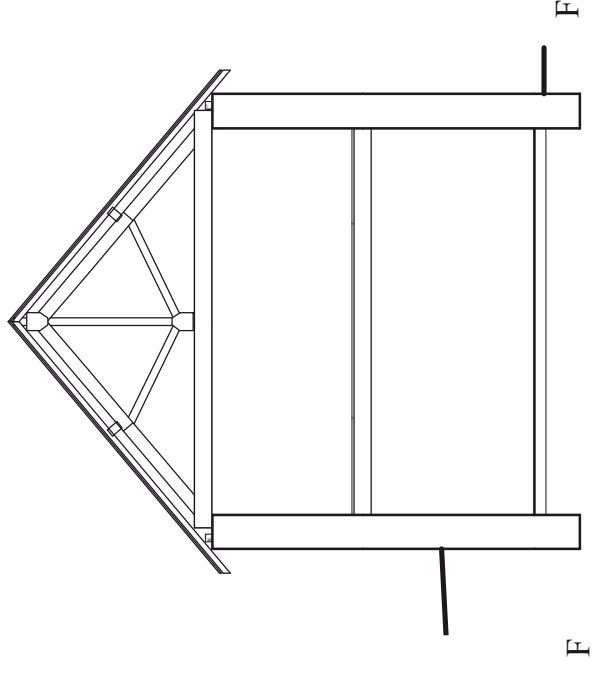
THIS SURVEY HAS BEEN PREPARED WITH A SCALING ACCURACY FOR A PLOT AT A SCALE OF 1/100.
 BASED ON DRAWINGS PRODUCED BY STEVE HASKEY DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION LTD. REPRODUCED BY KIND CONSENT.



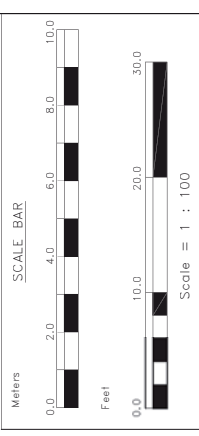
Ground Floor Plan



First Floor Plan



Section F-F



job	P.N. 1554 The Mordaunts, Crowle Historic Building Recording		
title	Buildings 5 & 6 Plans and Section		
client	Fig no.	13	
scale	1/100	date	Feb 2007

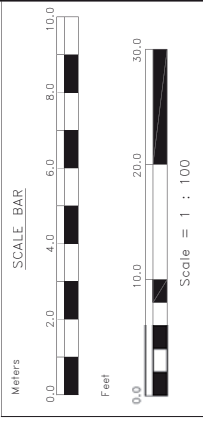
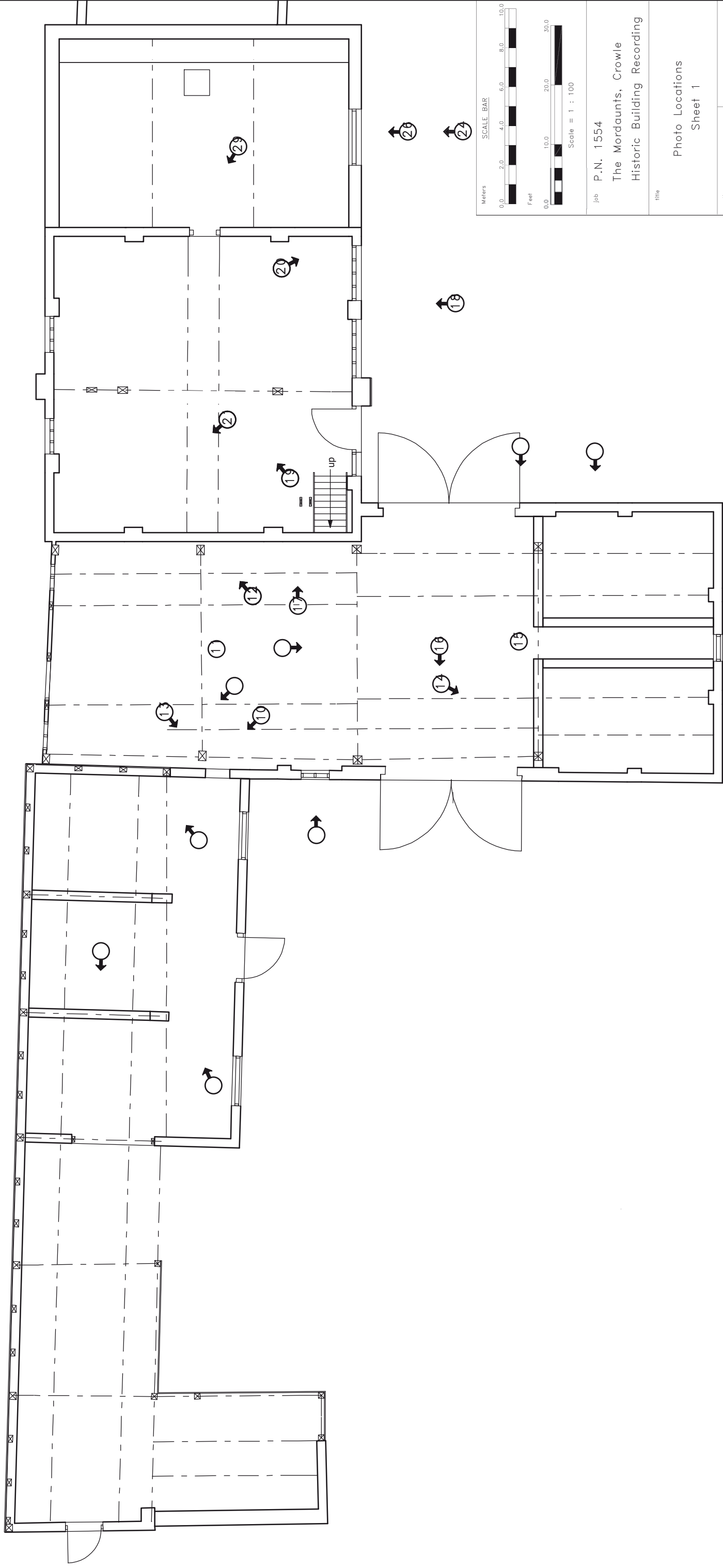
- mid 19th century
- late 19th century

birmingham archaeology
 Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT
 TEL: 0121 414 5513 FAX: 0121 414 5516
 E-MAIL: bareh@bham.ac.uk

Institute of Field Archaeologists

NOTES

THIS SURVEY HAS BEEN PREPARED WITH A SCALING ACCURACY FOR A PLOT AT A SCALE OF 1/100.
 BASED ON DRAWINGS PRODUCED BY STEVE HASSEY DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION LTD. REPRODUCED BY RHD CONSENT.



job P.N. 1554
 The Mordaunts, Crowle
 Historic Building Recording

title Photo Locations
 Sheet 1

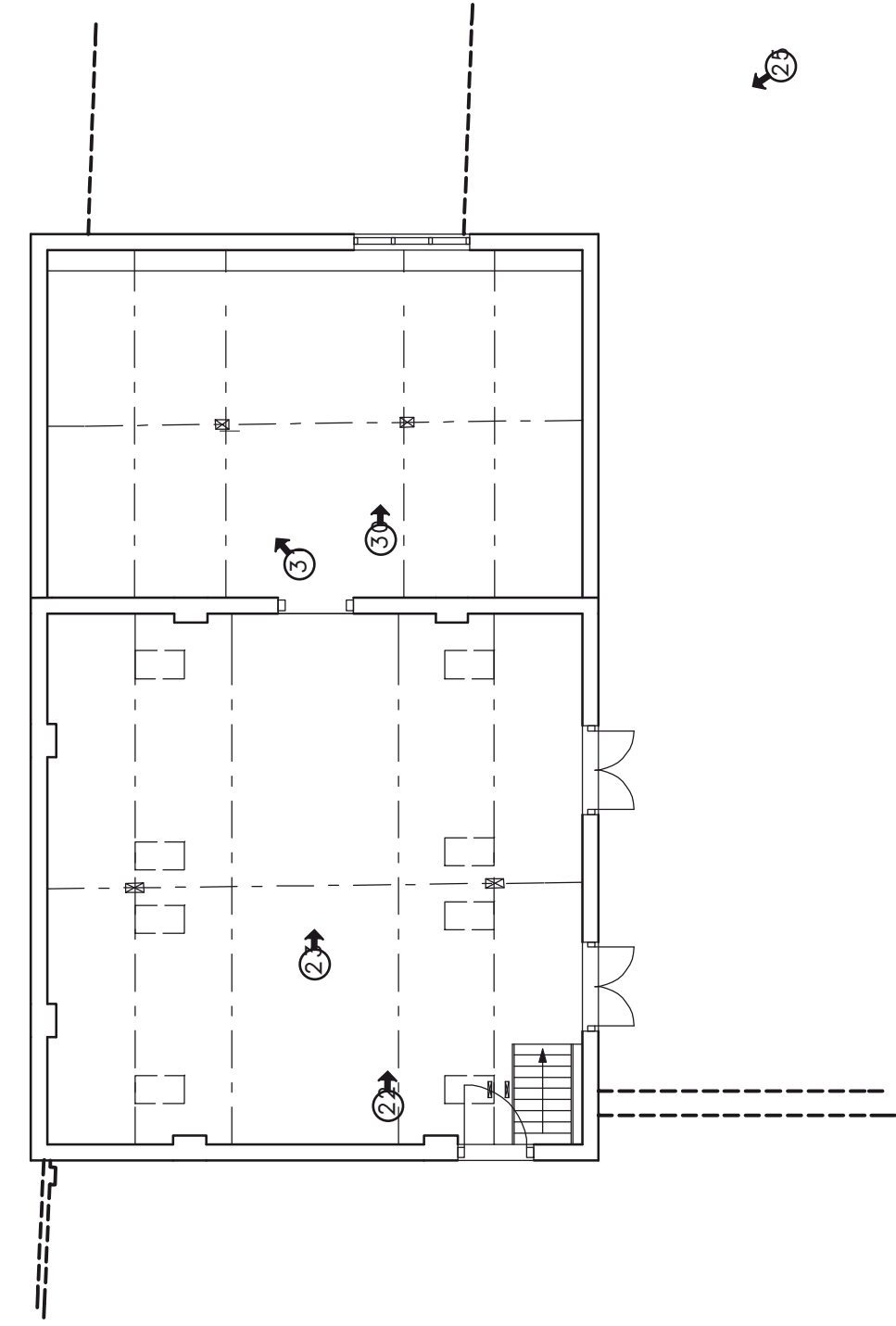
client
 dwg no. 14

scale 1/100
 date Feb 2007

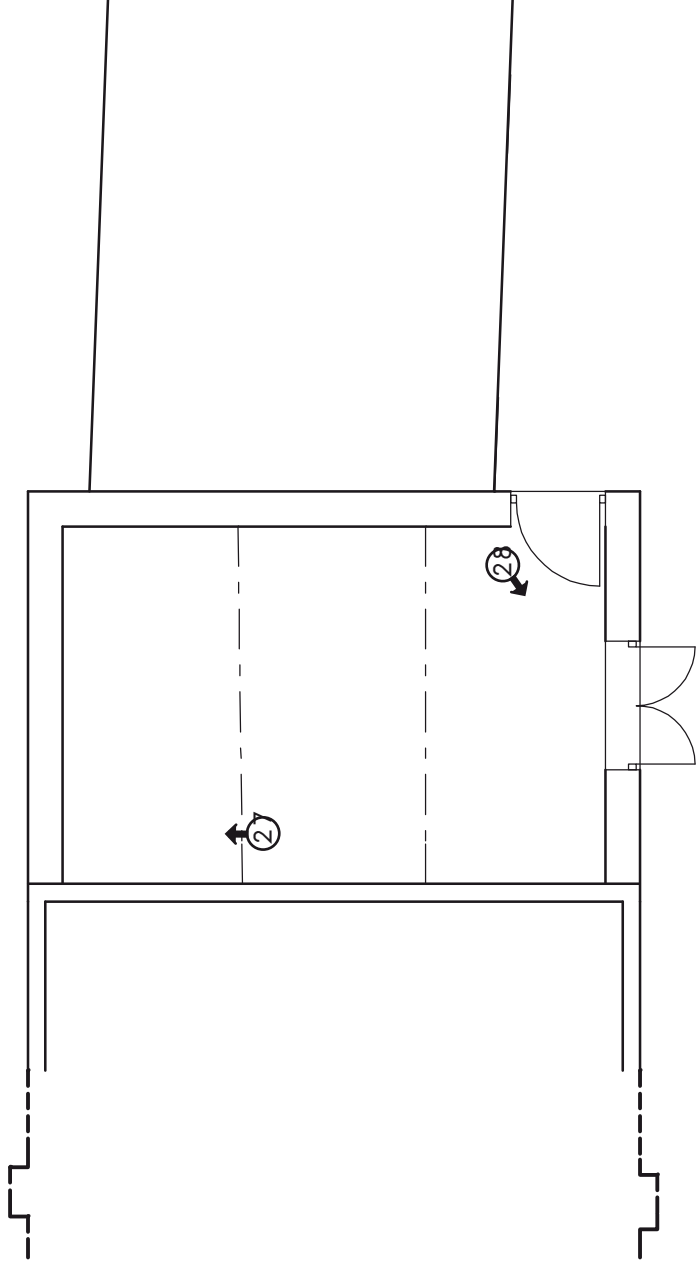
birmingham archaeology
 Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT
 TEL: 0121 414 5513 FAX: 0121 414 5516
 E-MAIL: barch@bham.ac.uk
 Institute of Field Archaeologists

NOTES

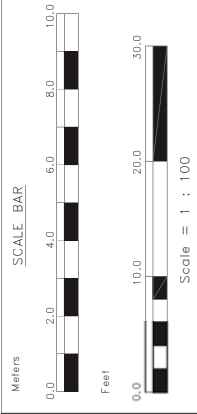
THIS SURVEY HAS BEEN PREPARED WITH A SCALING ACCURACY FOR A PLOT AT A SCALE OF 1/100.
BASED ON DRAWINGS PRODUCED BY STEVE HASKEY DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION LTD. REPRODUCED BY KIND CONSENT.



First Floor



Basement



job P.N. 1554
The Mordaunts, Crowle
Historic Building Recording

title
Photo Locations
Sheet 2

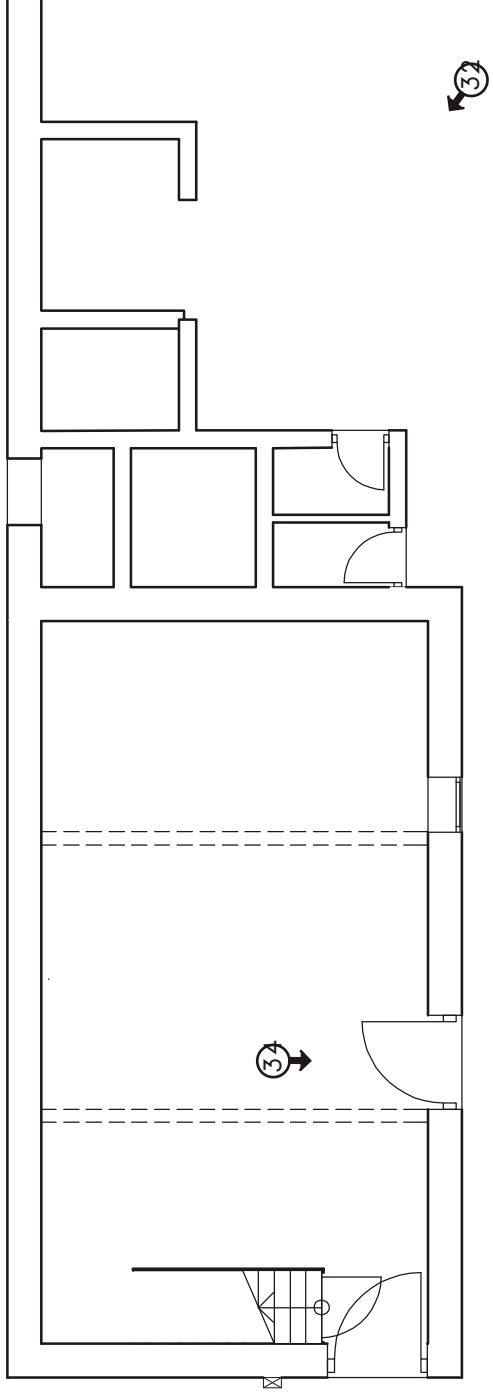
client
fig no. 15

scale 1/100
date Feb 2007

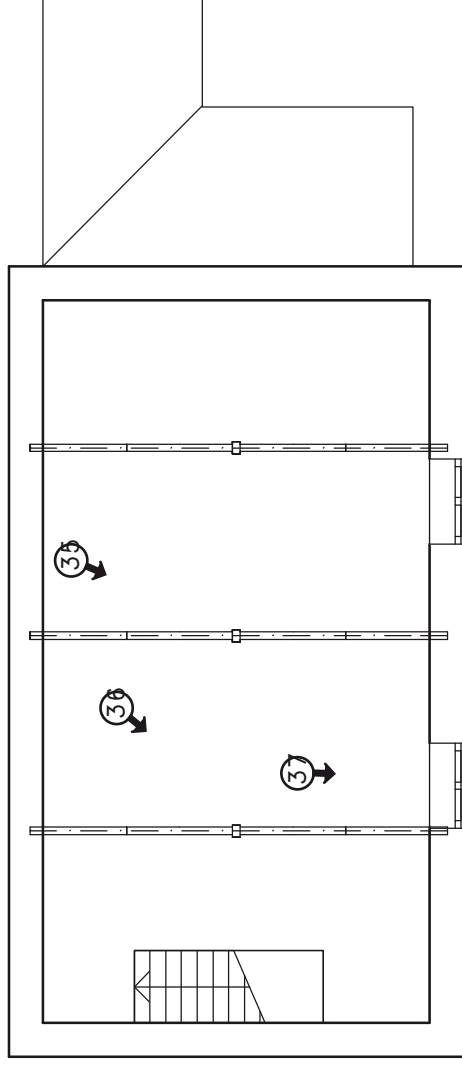
birmingham archaeology
Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT
TEL: 0121 414 5513 FAX: 0121 414 5516
E-MAIL: bareh@bham.ac.uk
Institute of Field Archaeologists

NOTES

THIS SURVEY HAS BEEN PREPARED WITH A SCALING ACCURACY FOR A PLOT AT A SCALE OF 1/100.
BASED ON DRAWINGS PRODUCED BY STEVE HASKEY DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION LTD. REPRODUCED BY KIND CONSENT.



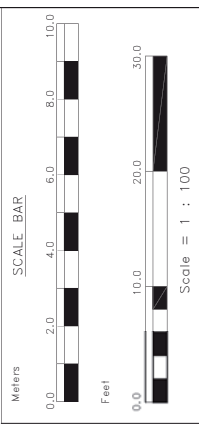
32



33

33

33



job P.N. 1554
The Mordaunts, Crowle
Historic Building Recording

title
Photo Locations
Sheet 3

client
dwg no. 16

scale 1/100
date Feb 2007

birmingham archaeology

Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT
TEL: 0121 414 5513 FAX: 0121 414 5516
E-MAIL: barch@bham.ac.uk

Institute of Field Archaeologists



Plate 1



Plate 2



Plate 3



Plate 4



Plate 5

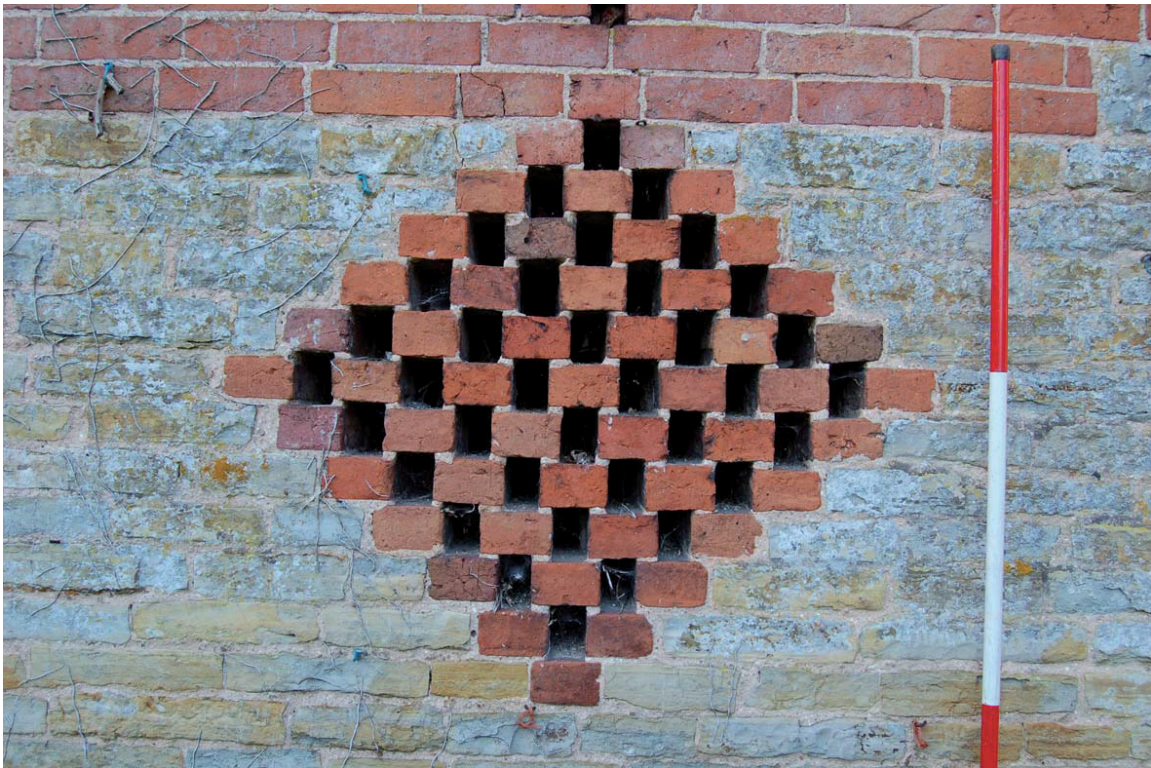


Plate 6

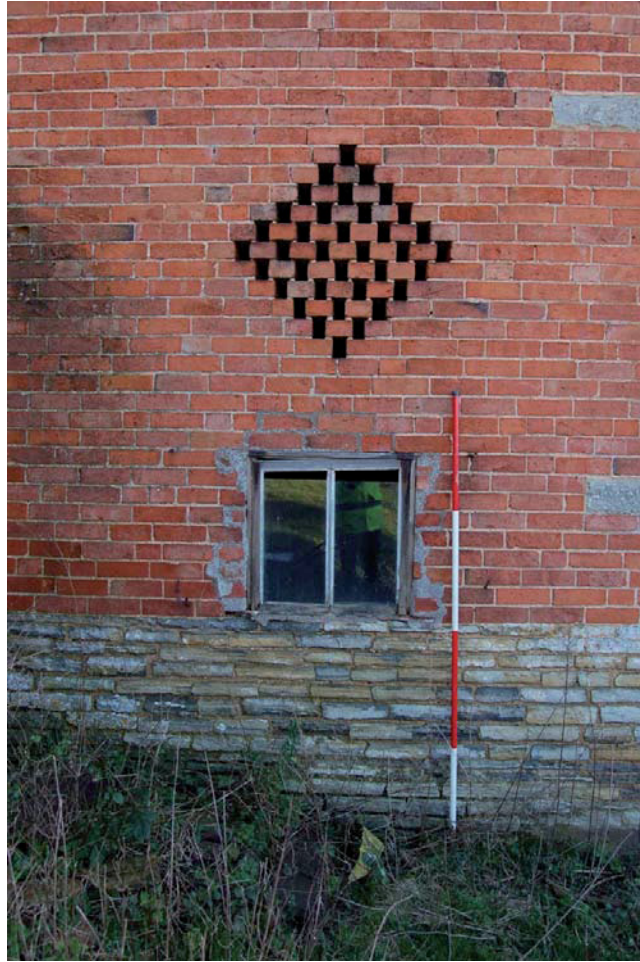


Plate 7



Plate 8



Plate 9



Plate 10



Plate 11



Plate 12

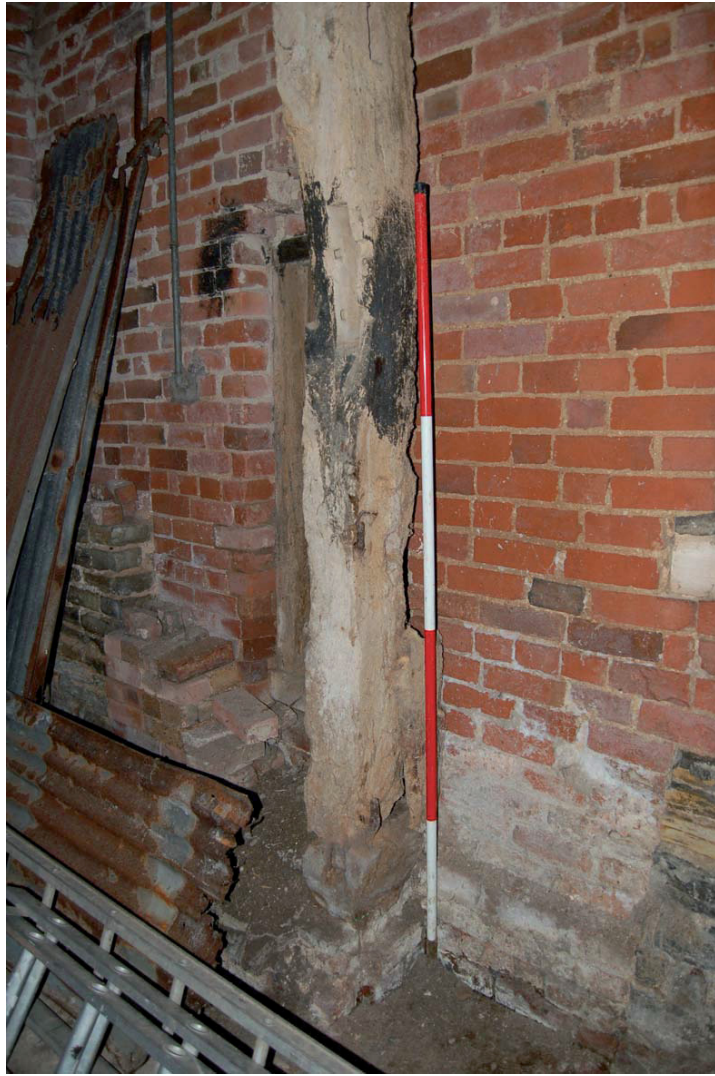


Plate 13



Plate 14



Plate 15



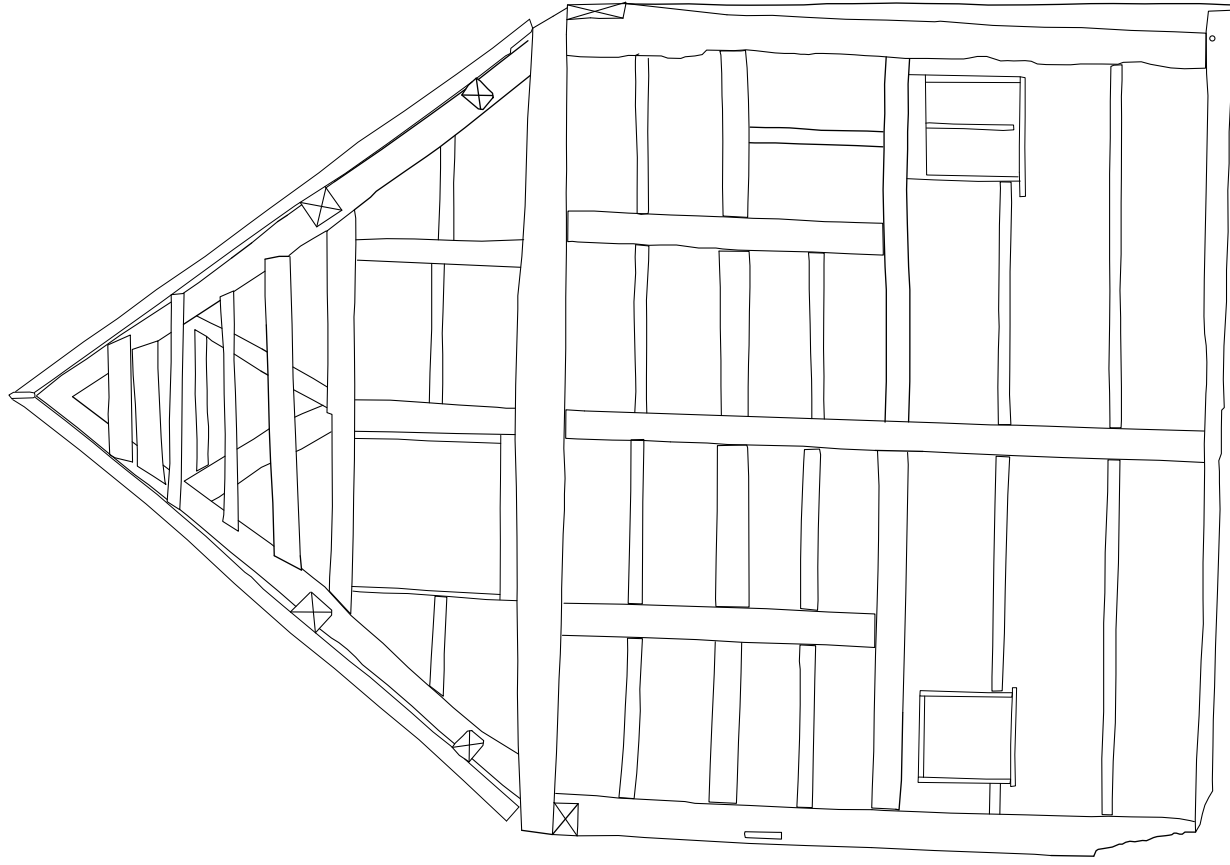
Plate 16

Appendix 1

NOTES

THIS SURVEY HAS BEEN PREPARED WITH A SCALING ACCURACY FOR A PLOT AT A SCALE OF 1/50.

REVISION NOTES:-

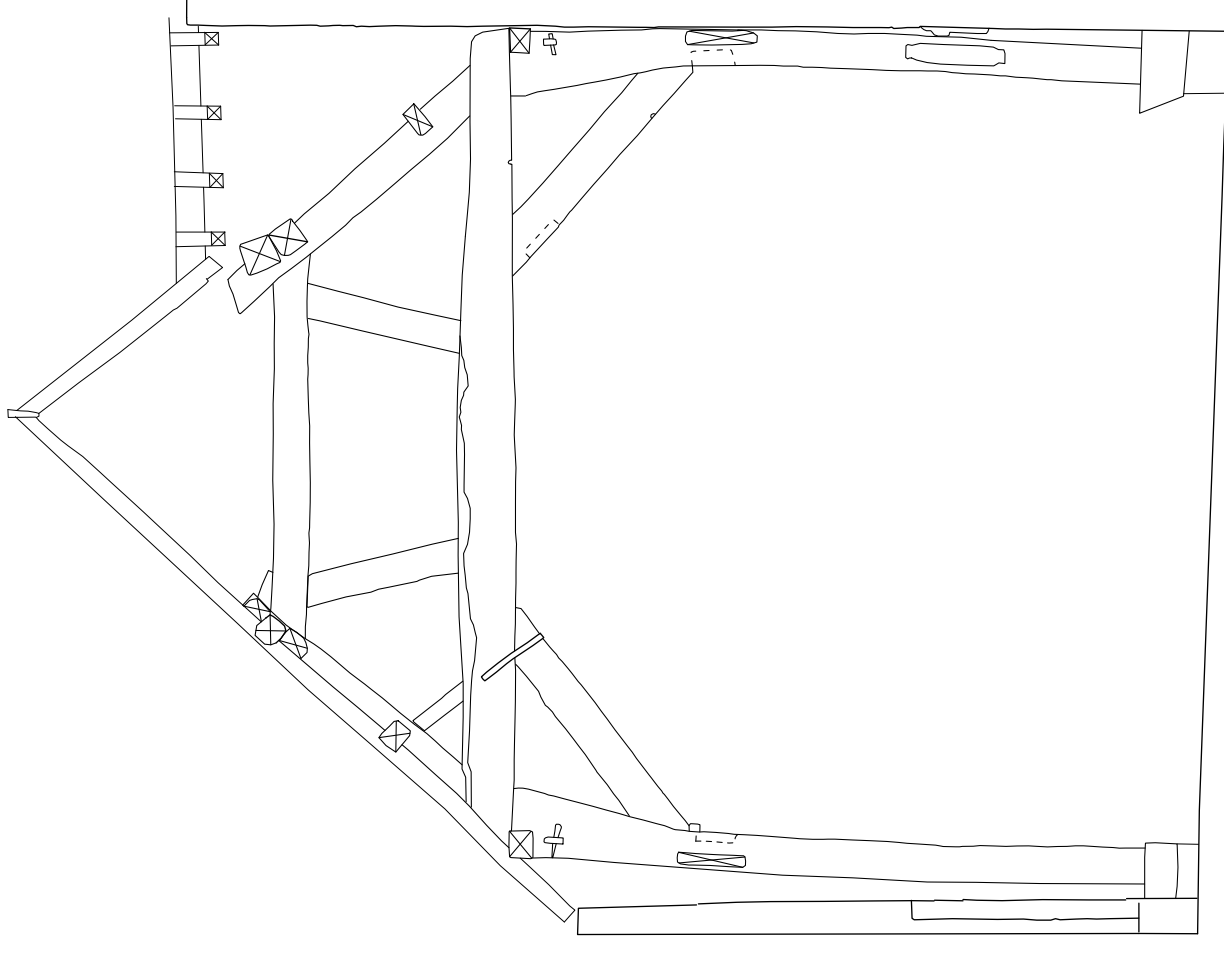


W

E

W

E



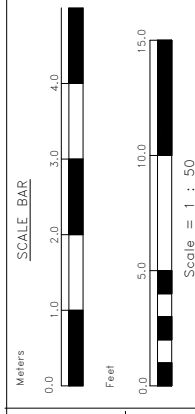
Frame 1

Frame 2

Job P.N. 1554
Mordaunt's Barn, Crowle
Historic Building Recording

client

Frames 1 & 2



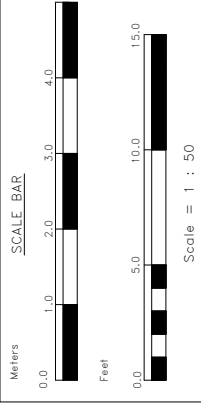
scale 1/50
date April 2007

birmingham archaeology
Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT
TEL: 0121 414 5513 FAX: 0121 414 5516
E-MAIL: borc@bham.ac.uk
The University of Birmingham
Institute of Field Archaeologists

NOTES

THIS SURVEY HAS BEEN PREPARED WITH A SCALING ACCURACY FOR A PLOT AT A SCALE OF 1/50.

REVISION NOTES:-

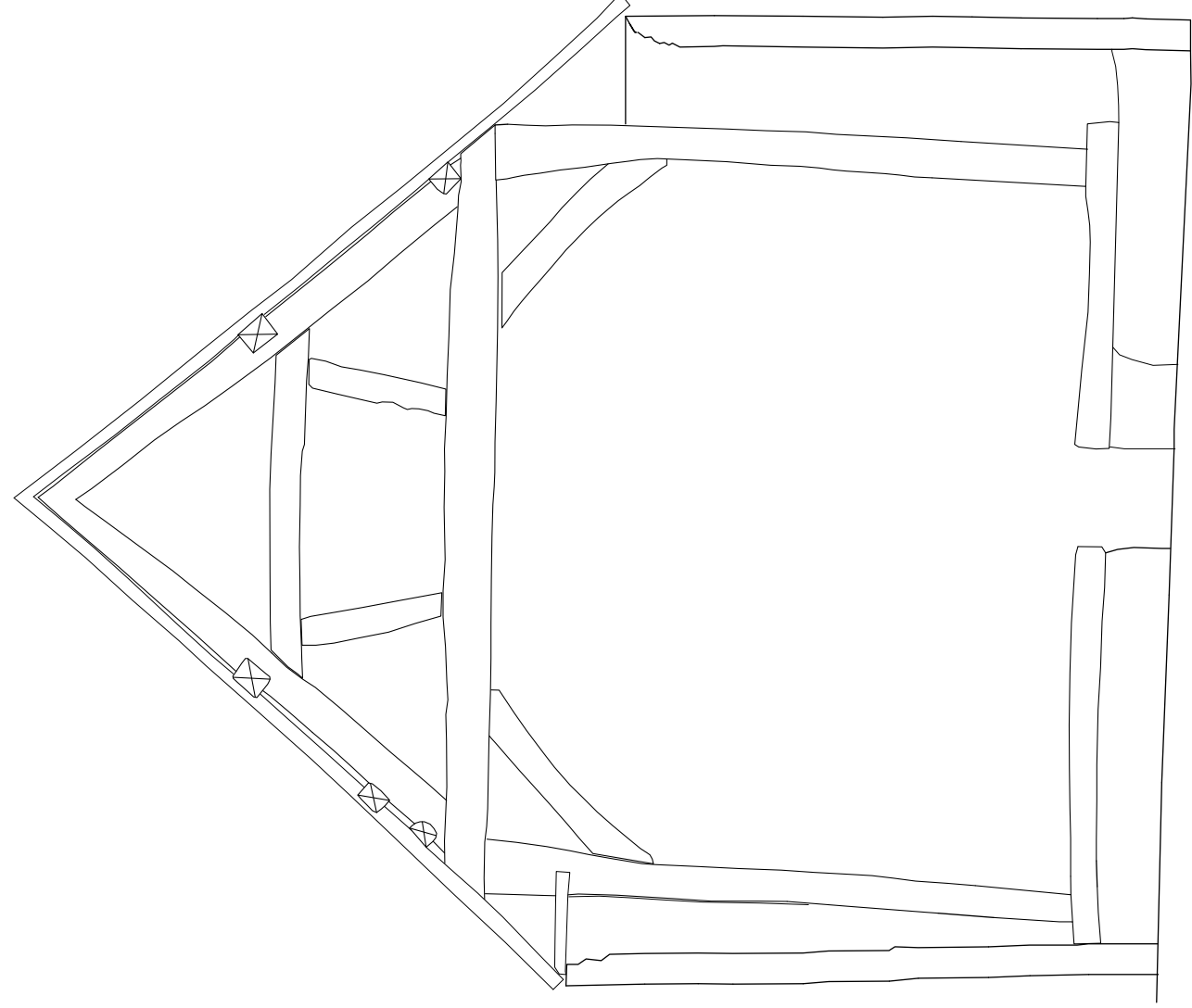


job P.N. 1554
Mordaunt's Barn, Crowle
Historic Building Recording

title
Frames 3 & 4

scale 1/50
date April 2007

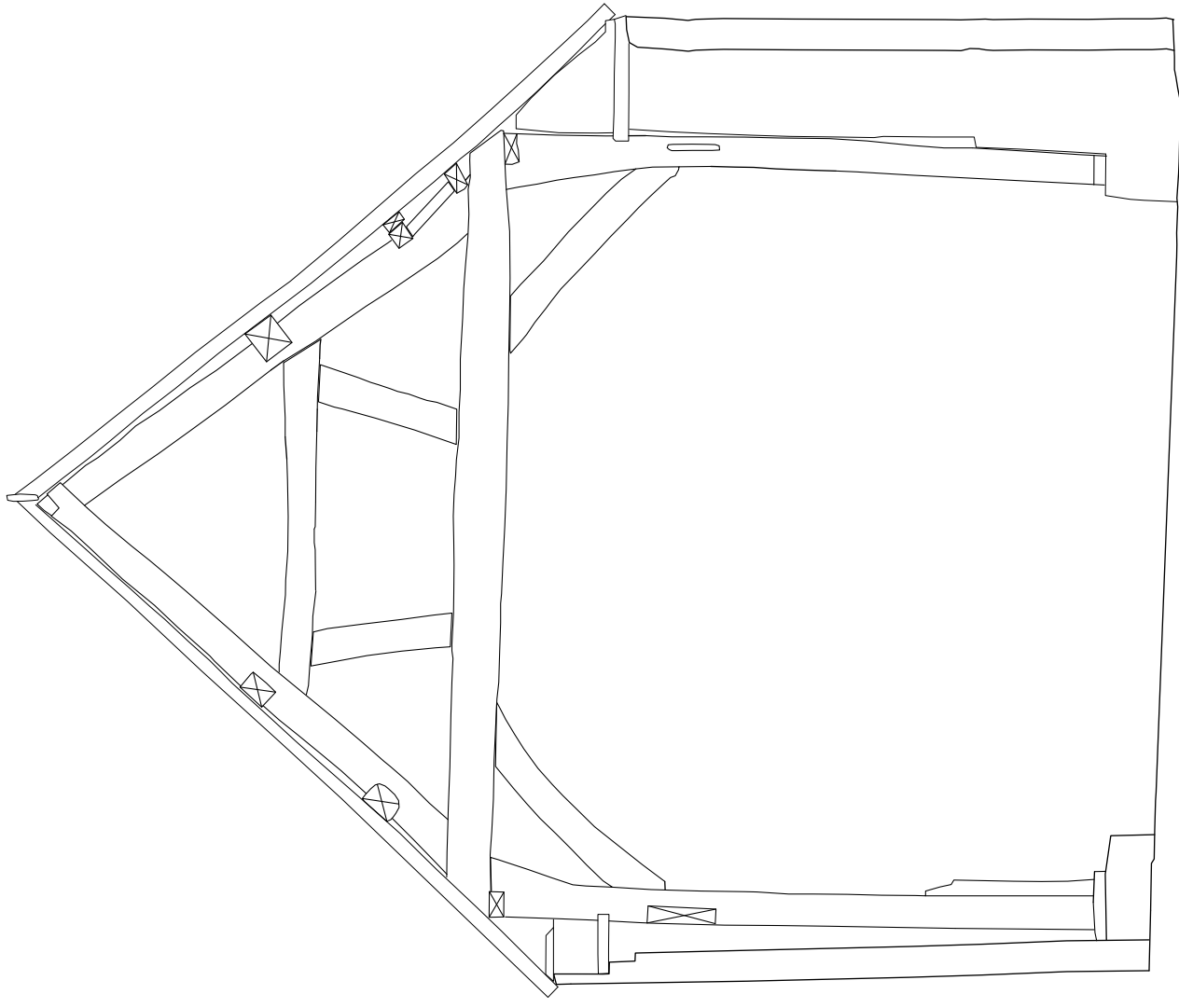
birmingham archaeology
Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT
TEL: 0121 414 5513 FAX: 0121 414 5516
E-MAIL: borca@bham.ac.uk
Institute of Field Archaeologists



E

W

Frame 4



W

E

Frame 3

NOTES

THIS SURVEY HAS BEEN PREPARED WITH A SCALING ACCURACY FOR A PLOT AT A SCALE OF 1/50.

REVISION NOTES:-



N

S

North-South East facing section

job	P.N. 1554	scale	1/50	date	April 2007
client	Mordaunt's Barn, Crowle Historic Building Recording	SCALE BAR		birmingham archaeology	
		Meters	0.0 1.0 2.0 3.0 4.0	Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT	
		Feet	0.0 5.0 10.0 15.0	THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM TEL: 0121 414 5513 FAX: 0121 414 5516 E-MAIL: barch@bham.ac.uk	
			Scale = 1 : 50	Institute of Field Archaeologists	