

**SILVER WOOD,
RICKMANSWORTH
HERTFORDSHIRE**

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

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Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete a report as possible, within the terms of the specification. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

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Structure of this report

After the introductory Section 1, this report presents the results of the historic building recording. This includes the results of documentary and cartographic research and sufficient historical background to place the building in context. A selection of photographs and copies of the drawn plans are included to illustrate the text, details of the photographic record including copies of the contact prints are included in appendix 6.2.



Non-Technical Summary

Silver Wood was built just before 1935 as part of the speculative development in the suburbs of north London between the First and Second World Wars. Encouraged by the Metropolitan Railway Company, the development of this part of Metro-Land largely comprised low density, detached housing on large plots of land. The construction of nearby golf courses added to the attraction and would have been an important factor in the marketing literature used to attract the successful professional classes to the area.

The current house has been re-modelled and extended, although stylistically it retains much of its original character. An interesting mix of moderne and vernacular, the house is typical of the restrained style of the new suburbs. Speculative builders were careful not to include anything too extreme in the design and, would not normally have employed an architect. Silver Wood clearly shows how the builders took on various elements of prevailing style. Although the externally the building lends itself to moderne influences, the main entrance and internal design of the house are typical of the Tudobethan style of the 20th-century vernacular revival.

The function and layout of the rooms within the original house are typical of a suburban house built in the 1930s and mirror the social changes between the wars. Although family relationships were more informal and live-in servants no longer common, the larger suburban house still contained a formal entrance hall with a kitchen area that was clearly demarcated from the main entertaining and living area. With the increasing use of electric appliances and a more scientific approach to design, the kitchen became more compact and the increasing informality of house meant that the living room now had a more elevated status than the dining room: Silver Wood is no exception to this trend.

Silver Wood is a significant survival of the suburban Metro-Land development around the fashionable suburb of Northwood. The significance of the building lies in the fact that it is representative of type and shows the eclectic mix of styles typical of the speculative builder.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Planning Background*

The Hertfordshire County Archaeological Office (CAO) recommended a programme of historic building recording in response to a planning application (8/04/0437) submitted to Three Rivers District Council. The proposed development comprises demolition of the building currently standing on the site prior to residential development.

The Local Planning Authority (LPA) decided that the building required recording by a suitably experienced professional archaeologist prior to its demolition. Work was to be carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority (LPA). The requirements for the historic building recording were outlined in a brief of works produced by the CAO (Hertfordshire County Council, 2004) on behalf of Three Rivers District Council. A full specification (Albion Archaeology, 2004) was produced and approved prior to commencement of works.

1.2 *Stages of Work*

The work comprised documentary and cartographic research, detailed on-site measurement and analysis of the building and a photographic survey carried out to RCHME level 3 standard (RCHME, 1996). A full archive comprising the report, drawn plans, field notes, photographic negatives, contact sheets and a set of prints will be deposited at the Hertfordshire Records Office.

1.3 *Site Location and Description*

The house is located on the western fringe of Oxhey Wood on the Hertfordshire side of the Greater London-Hertfordshire border, and between the settlements of South Oxhey, Northwood and Pinner (TQ 10422 92108) (Fig. 1). Typically the area comprises leafy suburban lanes containing large houses set within spacious plots. Much of the housing stock has been built within the last 50 years, although houses dating from the 1930s and 40s are also relatively common.

1.4 *General Background*

Silver Wood is an unremarkable detached suburban house built sometime in the 1930s and extended thereafter. However, it is a significant survival of the suburban development around the western fringes of Oxhey Wood. The brief (Hertfordshire County Council, 2004) notes the importance of the building as representative of the earliest development in this part of Hertfordshire before WWII.

1.5 *Aims and Objectives*

The purpose of the work at outlined in the brief (Hertfordshire County Council, 2004) and subsequent Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion Archaeology, 2004) was to:



- Compile a comprehensive and high quality drawn and photographic record of the structures identified for demolition, with associated documentary survey
- Provide a review of the local and regional historical context of the structures recorded by the project
- Produce a high quality, fully integrated archive for long-term deposition in order to preserve by record the building in its current form prior to demolition.



2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 *Methodology: Documentary and Cartographic Research*

Cartographic and documentary work was undertaken using information held in the Hertfordshire Records Office (HRO). A search was made of the primary records, maps and photographs using the HRO and National Archives indexes in order to establish whether relevant sources might exist. Relevant sources were taken to be photographs, drawings or maps showing the location of the house and any documents dating from the early-20th century that might reveal information relating to land holdings which would have included the current study area.

Secondary sources were also consulted. These included pictorial collections and various studies relating to the history of the suburbs around London in particular those concerned with the development of Metro-Land.

The HRO contains little relevant primary material relating either directly or indirectly to the late Victorian and 20th century development of this area of Hertfordshire. Other than the Ordnance Survey maps no sources specifically refer to the development area and only two non-relevant plans exist of suburban houses on the nearby Moor Park Estate. Secondary sources consulted included local histories and the Victoria County History (Page, 1971), although these were of little specific relevance. Contemporary books on house design help give an outline of the architecture and style of the period. These include the reprints of *Metro-Land* 1924 and 1932 editions (2004 & 1987), *How to Own and Equip a House* (Bateman, 1937), *How to Plan Your Home* (Briggs, 1937) and the off-the-shelf architectural plans included in *Small Houses £500-£2000* (Myles-Wright, 1937). Several studies have been written about the development of the suburbs after the First World War, in particular the so-called Metro-Land developments linked to the expansion of the railway and underground network to the north of London (e.g., Burnett, 1980; Jackson, 1973). These studies provide a good general background to the social, historical and architectural context of speculative development during the inter-war period.

2.2 *Historical and Architectural Background*

Increasing overcrowding in late Victorian London reached crisis after the First World War as the housing shortage deepened. The census of 1801 gives London a population of almost 1 million; by the last years of the 19th century this population was 6.6 million. After WWI, the government allocated money to build “homes fit for heroes” and this initiated a new phase of suburban expansion. At first this took the form of subsidised, ‘council’ housing built both in and outside London based on the garden city ideals of Ebenezer Howard. Private developers soon followed, buying up large amounts of land around London for housing developments to cater for middle class owner-occupiers. The success of these developments was facilitated and encouraged by improved road and rail systems and prevailing social conditions which saw the huge growth of the professional classes after 1914.



The development of London's public transport system in the second half of the 19th and early 20th century helped shape suburban development. The Metropolitan Railway, opened in 1863, was the world's first underground railway. The line expanded rapidly and by 1892 it had reached Aylesbury (Willesden Green 1879, Harrow-on-the-Hill 1880, Pinner 1885, Rickmansworth 1887, Chesham 1889). In 1904, the branch from Harrow-on-the-Hill to Uxbridge opened, but it was not until 1925 that a further extension was opened from Moor Park via Croxley to Watford.

The underground companies quickly realised that greater potential profit lay outside the city and launched advertising campaigns to encourage Londoners to move from the noisy and congested centre out to the county. The Metropolitan Railway Company published its annual guide, *Metro-Land*, between 1915 and 1932. The guide was designed to promote the area for leisure excursion, but it also contained information about time tables and ticket prices, as well as numerous advertisements for the new suburban housing developments. Although not directly on the line, Silver Wood would have been within easy reach of Northwood underground station and close by a number of golf courses, a factor highlighted in the annual *Metro-Land* guides which showed location of new developments, underground stations and nearby golf courses.

The ability to commute to work on a daily basis from areas outside the city, combined with a variety of social changes and economic factors, led to a sustained period of new house building within the countryside around London. 1.4 million people moved to outer London between 1921 and 1937 and at the same time the population of London fell by 400,000. Between 1919 and 1939, nearly 4 million new homes were built, 2.8 million of these by private, speculative builders. 1.6 million of these were built between 1935 and 1939, with speculative building at a peak of 287,000 in 1935 and 275,200 in 1937. By 1939 the speculative housing market was glutted and builders were in fierce competition, although houses were still being built in some numbers. In the mid 1930s, the sale price of these houses typically ranged from £500 to £1000, although prices of £1,250 - £2,000 were common in some sought after suburbs such as Edgware, Mill Hill or Northwood. (Burnett, 1980).

Whilst suburban development was made possible by the improvement of transport links to the city, it was the dual effect of the rise of the professional class with property-owning aspirations and the contraction in size of middle class households, that ensured there was a ready market for the speculative builder. It has been calculated that the professional classes numbered 744,000 in 1911 and that this number had risen to 1.5 million 40 years later (Burnett, 1980). Most of these people aspired to house ownership and by the 1930s a regular wage of £200pa provided sufficient security for mortgage payments of 9s per week (Jackson, 1973). In addition to this, many middle class families had been forced to economize at the end of the First World War. Household sizes decreased considerably: a shortage of domestic servants meant fewer live-in domestic servants and birth rate declined sharply between 1900 and 1935. Another factor in the declining size of the household was increasing survival into old age which



resulted in a larger number of retired couples requiring accommodation long after their children has left home. (Burnett, 1980).

Architectural style had little influence on speculatively built houses. No one style dominated and the builders were free to adopt or adapt whatever best fitted the constraints of land and materials. With a view to the largest market, builders were careful to avoid extremes and as a result new buildings often took on elements of several different styles.

In his satirical *Pillar to Post*, Osbert Lancaster (1938) identified the new suburban styles coining the phrases 'Stockbrokers Tudor', 'Wimbledon Transitional' and 'By-Pass Variegated' to describe the vernacular revival that saw the return of the traditional English rural forms pioneered by Webb and popularised by the likes of Voysey and Lutyens. The Tudorbethan and Jacobethan styles typical of suburban design were interspersed with modified versions of the 'sun-house' and other elements of modern design which included cement render over the more traditional brick, wide windows, a general absence of decoration and, on occasion, flat roofs. Many developments offered a mix of styles which included bungalows, detached homes and the occasional 'sunshine' house. In the summer of 1934 Davis, Morrells, Bergs and New Ideal Homes advertised homes built in versions of the moderne style, and, in April 1935, Howard advertised moderne-style homes, but with pitched roofs. However, by the end of 1935 the type of house being advertised would suggest that the fashion for suburban moderne design was over (Jackson 1973).

Few houses with a sale price of less than £1,000 were architect-planned and most builders used off-the-peg designs such as those in H. Myles Wright collection of architects plans for small houses published in 1937. John Laing & Sons entered the speculative housing market in 1930 innovatively employing a panel of architects to design their 3- and 4-bedroomed detached houses (Burnett, 1980). This trend that was increasingly followed by other companies.

The speculative suburb usually lacked an overall plan; the result of street by street development by a number of different builders. Development typically began along and behind existing roads with easy access for services. In many areas this meant a sprawl of similar houses along busy arterial roads, backing onto agricultural land and remote from amenities. There were, however, sharp differences between this type of development and that of the more fashionable suburbs of which Silver Wood was part. This social differentiation was made explicit by the Town and County Planning Act of 1932 which introduced the concept of 'zoning' whereby districts were scheduled for development at differing densities ranging from 12 to only 1 per acre.

Internally most inter-war houses followed a traditional plan, linked to the increasing importance of services and the demand for modern fixtures and fittings. The decline in the formality of social relationships and scarcity of domestic staff after the WWI had an effect on room use. It became much more acceptable for guests to be entertained in family rooms thus breaking down the separation between public and private space. Freer and more open relationships between the



sexes and between children led to a further breakdown in the formality of the house. Despite these social changes, room layout and use still tended to mirror elements of the pre-war house. Although the moderne style found its way into the external features of many suburban houses built in the early and mid-1930s, internally there was little evidence for the influence of the open-plan, functional, 'machine for living in'.

The detached entrance hall remained an important feature and was often described as a 'lounge hall' with the intention that it would be furnished with easy chairs and occasional tables (Burnett, 1980). The entrance hall was often panelled and sometimes contained a fireplace. The suburban house would have 2-3 reception rooms and kitchen quarters, sometimes screened by an inner hall or lobby. More informal relationships within the house meant that the sitting room was now the largest room (typically 20' x 14'), with the dining room now reduced to a small, squarish room perhaps measuring 15' X 12'. Larger detached houses would have a third reception room (c. 10' x 12') designated as a morning room or study. The kitchen was convenient and compact and would include cooker, sink and work-tops. Upstairs there were fewer and smaller bedrooms often provided with built-in wardrobes and hand-basins. Most bedrooms had small fireplaces, sometimes with inset electric bars. Silver Wood with its large panelled entrance hall, 13' square dining room and 20'8" x 20' 8" living room, was therefore fairly typical.

2.3 The Cartographic Evidence

Silver Wood is first shown on the 1935 (4th edition) Ordnance Survey Map which shows the development of several plots within what had been the southern part of Firth Wood, possibly part of the Eastbury estate (Figs. 1 & 2). The three plots fronting Sandy Lane were all just over an acre in size and contained detached houses set back some way from the road. Other houses were built on three adjacent, smaller plots of about ½ acre fronting Oxhey Drive. The development of this area included Eastbury golf course, one of a number within walking distance of the newly built Silver Wood.

Later editions of the Ordnance Survey are of little help in dating the extension of the house into its current form as all subsequent editions of the map show the house in its original plan. The next revision to the Ordnance Survey Map (1956) shows the buildings at too small a scale to discern detailed house plans. However it does show that further low-density development had taken place to the south.

The map evidence shows that the original plot was somewhat larger than it is now and that the southern portion was relatively recently divided off for further residential development.



3. BUILDING RECORDING: DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

3.1 *Methodology: Building Recording*

Throughout the project the standards set in the *IFA Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings and Structures* and *ALGAO Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* have been adhered to. All work has been done in accordance with the IFA Code of Conduct.

The site survey comprised detailed examination of the building, compilation of a plan record of the structure using base plans provided by the architect and a photographic survey to RCHME Level 3 standard. The Level 3 photographic survey was undertaken using medium format print supplemented with other formats as appropriate

A selection of the photographs have been reproduced to illustrate the text. The photographs have been scanned using an HP scanjet 3670 and printed on to photographic quality paper. Copies of the photographs have then been colour copied for inclusion in the report. Although colour photographs are used to illustrate the report, the archive also contains black and white photographs showing the same views. The black and white photographs have been developed by hand and produced to an archival quality using black and white photographic paper. Contact prints have been included in Appendix 1.

3.2 *Detailed Description*

3.2.1 *General Description*

Silver Wood is a two-storey, detached suburban villa built in a restrained moderne style, somewhat different from the standard vernacular revivalist suburban dwelling, but nonetheless typical of the early 1930s. It is built set back from the road and currently sits in an irregular-shaped plot of approximately 0.8 acre (0.3ha), with a relatively narrow frontage. The original development site was rectangular in plan and included the adjacent plot of land to the south. The neighbouring properties are of much more recent build, the property to the south having been built on land that was once part of Silver Wood's gardens and the property to the north post-dating the mid 1950s.

The north-facing front entrance is hard up against the northern boundary of the site making the principle view from the house towards the south-facing back gardens which could be accessed by French windows from the main ground floor reception rooms. Much of the garden planting comprises relatively recently planted conifers although there are also a number of mature woodland trees that would have been present at the time of the original build.



3.2.2 External Description

(Plates 1-3)

The house two-storey house with hipped roof, measures approximately 20m x 7.5m. It has a full-height rectangular, projecting entrance bay with half-hipped roof and a two-storey extension on western end which projects from the southern elevation. The later extension works are executed in the same style as the rest of the house. The house is finished with a cement render over brick laid in English bond.

The shallow-pitched (30°) hipped roof has sproketed eaves and is finished in plain tiles, with the hips formed of bonnet hip tiles. There are three stacks, two internal avoiding ridge, one external on western gable end. The last part of the second phase extension.

The porch has a hipped, tiled roof on brick pillars; the brick pillars possibly replacing earlier wooden structure that may or may not have been built in a similar style. The porch area and pathway along the southern elevation are paved with crazy paving, although this is unlikely original.

The front door is wooden panelled with two small lights at top. It retains the original door furniture, including a wooden surround to the bell push. There is a wooden fluted door surround with square blocks containing raised circular detailing at the ends of the architrave. The second entrance comprises a glazed side door within the eastern elevation.

Metal-framed Crittall windows are used throughout and all have red-tiled sills (Plate 5). The windows are of varying sizes and include a long window two-panes high within the main living room – an early replacement possibly associated with the addition of the porch in its current form. The original dining and living rooms have French windows in the southern elevation which open onto the garden area. Windows in the later extension are of same style to those in the original build. The first-floor window openings are immediately below eaves. The first floor east-facing window within the extension contains a window opening with full length doors and decorative safety rail ‘balcony’.

3.2.3 Internal Description

3.2.3.1 *Ground Floor – Entrance Hall and Stair Well (1)*

(Fig. 3, Plate 4)

The entrance hall is a large area containing the stairwell and with openings off to kitchen and utility areas, dining room and original living room. The hall way is wood panelled to dado height and has simple applied muntins and rails in a typically ‘Tudorbethan’ style. The opening demarcating the utility and kitchen area from the remainder of the house is finished with a wooden surround with a decorative architrave giving the impression of a Tudor-style arch. The plank doors with Suffolk latches which lead through to the adjacent dining and living rooms are unlikely original.



The stairs have taper steps at the foot and top; they are relatively plain and have a straight newel post with flat wooden cap and simple, turned wood balusters. There is a short rail and panel at the foot of the stairs marking off the main entrance from the stairwell. The window opening is within the unenclosed under-stairs space.

3.2.3.2 Ground Floor – Utility and Kitchen (2-4)

(Fig. 3, Plate 4)

The utility and kitchen areas are clearly demarcated from the living rooms by the 'Tudor'-style arched opening (Plate 4b) which, in turn, leads to an inner lobby off which are a utility room, kitchen and WC. Although the current WC and utility area has been slightly extended, the original room layout would have been similar, albeit smaller. The wooden corner cupboard enclosing the electricity meters is an original fixture. The kitchen contains modern fixtures and fittings and although the window and French door opening into the garden are original, the window furniture has been replaced relatively recently. The chimney breast has been removed to create more space.

3.2.3.3 Ground Floor – Dining Room (5)

(Fig. 3, Plate 5a)

The square dining room measures 4m x 4m (c.13ft), consistent with the standard design for this period and clearly indicative of the elevation in status of the much larger living room. The dining room contains the original Crittall metal-framed window and French-door with red, glazed tile sill and original window fittings. Other than the plain narrow skirting, no other original features remain.

3.2.3.4 Ground Floor – Living Room A (6)

(Fig. 3)

The adjacent living room which measures approx. 6m x 6m (20ft 8in) would have been the principal family room. As with the dining room, the living room contains the original metal-framed windows. The window fittings and plain, narrow skirting are the only other original features in the room. After the re-modelling and extension of the house glazed double doors have been inserted in the original external wall in order to give access into the newer, larger Living Room B. The cornice, lighting fixtures and 'false' beams are all relatively recent in date.

3.2.3.5 Ground Floor – Living Room B (7)

(Fig. 3)

The house has been extended to the west by the addition, on the ground floor, of a large additional living room. The extension was executed in a similar style to the first phase house, the fixtures and fittings used as close to the original design as possible. Crittall metal-framed windows have been used throughout the extension, although the tiles used for the sills have rolled rather than flat edges and the window fittings are more decorative than their original counterparts. The cornice and lighting fixtures are all relatively recent in date.

3.2.3.6 First Floor – Upstairs Landing Area Corridor and Bathroom (8, 9)

(Fig. 4)

The upstairs landing and corridor has been designed to create a large, impressive open-space similar to the hall below. Lit by a series of windows along the front



elevation the space is light and airy. In the original layout doors led off this space into the three bedrooms and upstairs bathroom. The plank doors with Suffolk style latches are the same type used on the ground floor and are of relatively recent date.

The run of fitted cupboards are possibly in their original position. Fitted cupboards were a common feature of this period and it is noticeable that the skirting board at the back of the cupboard is of plainer than the replacement moulded skirtings used elsewhere on the first floor. The upstairs airing cupboard has been inserted against the original external wall and obscures an original window opening, now partially blocked. There are no original features in the bathroom, although the position of the pre-extension external wall, now formed into a decorative arch, is clearly discernable. The door furniture, cornice, skirting boards (with the exception of those within the fitted cupboard) and the light fixtures are all relatively recent in date.

3.2.3.7 First Floor – Upstairs Bedrooms (10-12)

(Fig. 4, plate 5b)

The three original bedrooms are all similar in size; the two end bedrooms containing fireplaces, now blocked off. Bedrooms 11 and 12 have both retained the original picture rail, whilst Bedroom 12 has the original fitted wardrobe adjacent to the chimney breast. The original metal-framed windows and window furniture are present throughout.

3.2.3.8 First Floor – Upstairs Bedrooms (13, 14)

(Fig. 4)

As with the downstairs room, the two bedrooms in the western extension have been finished in a similar style to the first phase house, with the rolled sill tiles and more decorative window fittings the only clue to their later date.



4. ANALYSIS

4.1 *Phasing and Development*

(Figs. 2, 3-5)

The map evidence shows that the house was built on a plot of building land cleared from Firth Wood sometime before 1935. The external design of the house shows elements of the moderne style which sets it apart from the more common suburban vernacular. Jackson (1973) presents evidence for a spate of more modernistic houses being built between 1934 and 1935 and a building date close to 1935 would be quite consistent for a speculative build of this type in this area.

It is a little more difficult to be precise about the date of Silver Wood's re-modelling as the map evidence does not show the building layout in detail and, in any case, the building appears never to have been re-surveyed for mapping purposes. The most modern fixtures and fittings within the house suggest that the house was last updated in the 1970s/early 1980s, although the major re-modelling of the house would have taken place earlier than this.

The remodelling involved the addition of a large two-storey extension to the western end of the house and the creation of additional space by extending the front of the projecting bay eastwards. The window fixtures and fittings match the original ones in all but the smallest detail. This might suggest that the date of extension was within the same stylistic period as the original build. On the other hand metal-framed windows were popular until relatively recent times and many of the styles in Crittall's catalogue would have been current for long periods of time.

The style of the current porch probably dates from the re-modelling, although a porch close to this in form was probably part of the original build. The position of the porch roof suggests that it is not in its original form as its roofline has necessitated the insertion of a new window two, rather than three, panes high. The scar of the original window can be seen in line with the current porch roof (Plate 1b). Interestingly the window itself is in the original style suggesting that the porch was altered soon after building, before the second phase re-modelling. Perhaps the new owners were keen to add a more vernacular style porch to the plain, more moderne exterior of the newly built house.

4.2 *Form and Function*

Silver Wood is an interesting mix of moderne and vernacular and is typical of the restrained style of a speculative build. It is unlikely that the house was architect designed, although, as a larger, detached residence in a fashionable area, it contained elements of individuality not present in the standard off-the-peg designs of the standard semi-detached or estate built house. The eclectic mix of styles, which in this case include a rather random use of different-sized windows, are typical of speculative buildings. Speculative builders were careful not to include anything too extreme in the design and, would not normally have employed an architect. Silver Wood clearly shows how the builders took on various elements of prevailing style.



The plain external style, with simple projecting central bay, the use of relatively large metal-framed windows and the insertion of French doors (Plate 5a), along with the high position of the upper storey windows (Plate 1) give the house a distinctly moderne architectural style. A flat roof would have been considered too extreme, although the low-pitched, hipped roof helps retain a more modernistic style.

By contrast, the main entrance and internal design of the house are a typical mix of the Jacobethan and Tudobethan style of the vernacular revival. The vernacular style has carried through to more recent times with the insertion of planked doors with Suffolk latches throughout the house, false beams and large feature fireplaces.

The function and layout of the rooms within the original house are fairly standard for a suburban house of this date and mirror the social changes between the wars. Although family relationships were more informal and live-in servants were no longer common, the larger suburban house still contained a formal entrance hall and the kitchen area was clearly demarcated from the main entertaining and living area. Silver Wood reflects two key changes in house design. Kitchens had become more compact and scientifically planned with the increasing use of electric appliances and higher expectations of the modern conveniences and services that would be supplied as part of a newly built house. With the more informal approach to modern living, the living room now had a more elevated status than the dining room which no longer served as a formal parlour for high status guests.

4.3 General Conclusions

Despite later extension and re-modelling, Silver Wood retains its original style and a number of features that date from its original build. The house was built within an area of up-market, low density development, close by the underground and other amenities including several nearby golf courses. It is a significant survival of the suburban Metro-Land development around the fashionable suburb of Northwood and typical of the speculative building of the time. Although of limited architectural merit, the significance of the building lies in the fact that it is representative of type and shows the eclectic mix of styles typical of the speculative builder.



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APPENDIX 1

4.4 Archive

4.4.1 Summary of Archive Contents

Report (hard and digital copy)

Set of architects plans as provided on paper (A3)

Field notes

2 sheets of drawing showing detailed plans and elevations

Various sizes, ink on drawing film

Set of negatives 120mm colour print (film 1)

Set of contact prints 120mm colour print (film 1)

Set of negatives 120mm colour print (film 1)

Set of negatives 120mm B&W print (film 1)

Set of contact prints 120mm B&W print (film 1)

Set of negatives 120mm B&W print (film 1)



4.4.2 The photographic record

4.4.2.1 Negatives/Prints 120mm (colour)

PROJECT CODE	FILM No. Coll	FILM 120mm TYPE
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IMAGE No	SHOT No.	SUBJECT	VIEW	BY	DATE
1	1	Eastern Elevation	W	NMcB	25/11/04
2	2	General external view	NW	NMcB	25/11/04
3	3	Southern Elevation	N	NMcB	25/11/04
4	4	External view	NE	NMcB	25/11/04
5	5	Western Elevation	E	NMcB	25/11/04
6	6	Oblique view front elevation	SE	NMcB	25/11/04
7	7	Detail of porch – external	SW	NMcB	25/11/04
8	8	Detail of front door - external	S	NMcB	25/11/04
9	9	Entrance Hall –internal view towards kitchen	E	NMcB	25/11/04
10	10	Living Room A (6) - internal view towards garden	S	NMcB	25/11/04
11	11	Living Room A (6) – internal view towards extension Living Room B (7)	SW	NMcB	25/11/04
12	12	Living Room A (6) – internal view, northern wall	N	NMcB	25/11/04
13	13	Entrance Hall & Stairs – view towards Living Room	W	NMcB	25/11/04
14	14	French doors Dining Room (5) – detail	S	NMcB	25/11/04
15	15	First Floor Bedroom (12) – fitted wardrobe and original window	SE	NMcB	25/11/04
16	16	First floor landing area	W	NMcB	25/11/04



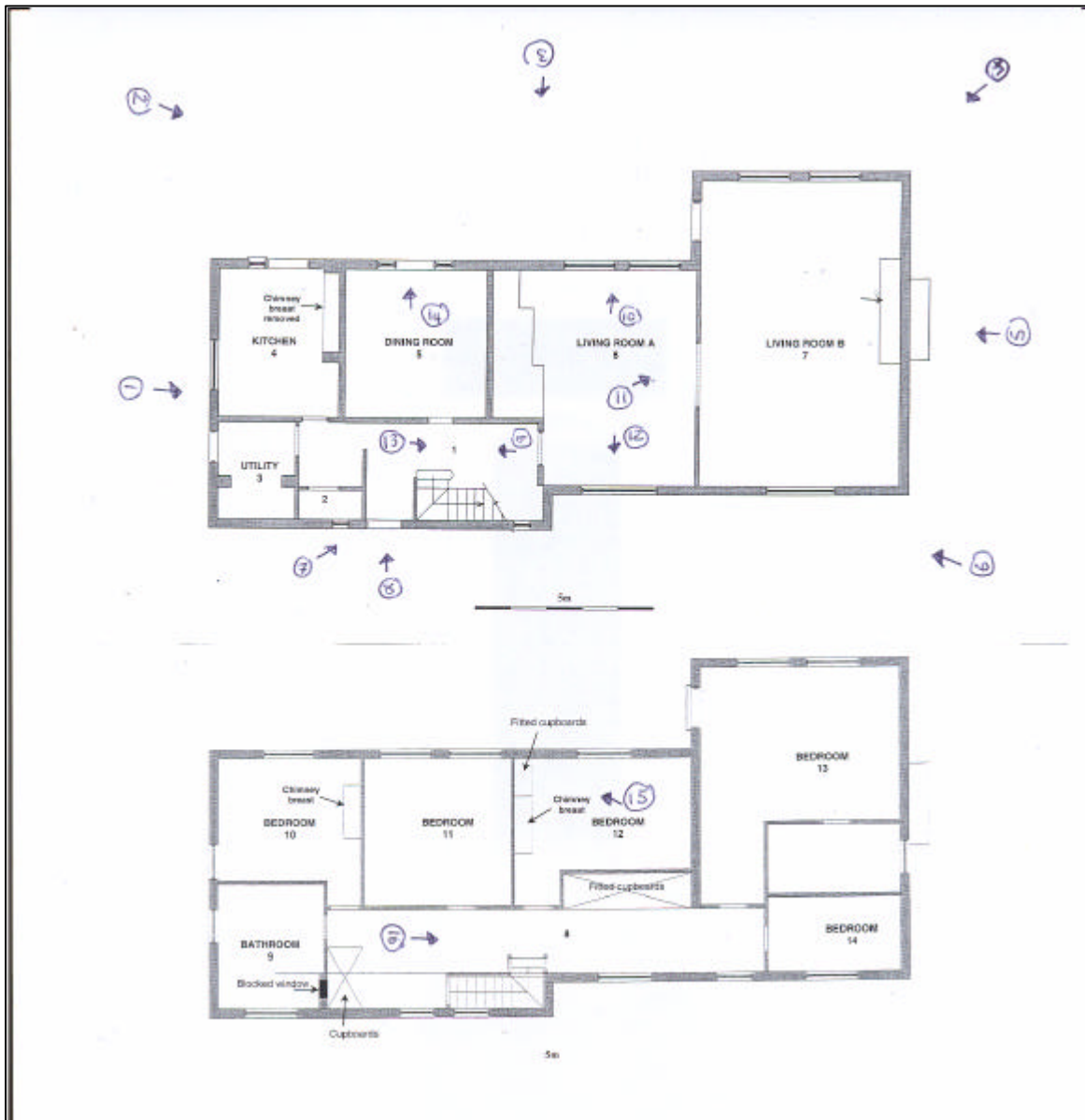
Negatives/Prints 120mm (black and white)

PROJECT CODE	FILM No. B&W1	FILM 120mm TYPE
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IMAGE No	SHOT No.	SUBJECT	VIEW	BY	
1	1	Eastern Elevation	W	NMcB	25/11/04
2	2	General external view	NW	NMcB	25/11/04
3	3	Southern Elevation	N	NMcB	25/11/04
4	4	External view	NE	NMcB	25/11/04
5	5	Western Elevation	E	NMcB	25/11/04
6	6	Oblique view front elevation	SE	NMcB	25/11/04
7	7	Detail of porch – external	SW	NMcB	25/11/04
8	8	Detail of front door - external	S	NMcB	25/11/04
9	9	Entrance Hall – internal view towards kitchen	E	NMcB	25/11/04
10	10	Living Room A (6) - internal view towards garden	S	NMcB	25/11/04
11	11	Living Room A (6) – internal view towards extension Living Room B (7)	SW	NMcB	25/11/04
12	12	Living Room A (6) – internal view, northern wall	N	NMcB	25/11/04
13	13	Entrance Hall & Stairs – view towards Living Room	W	NMcB	25/11/04
14	14	French doors Dining Room (5) – detail	S	NMcB	25/11/04
15	15	First Floor Bedroom (12) – fitted wardrobe and original window	SE	NMcB	25/11/04
16	16	First floor landing area	W	NMcB	25/11/04

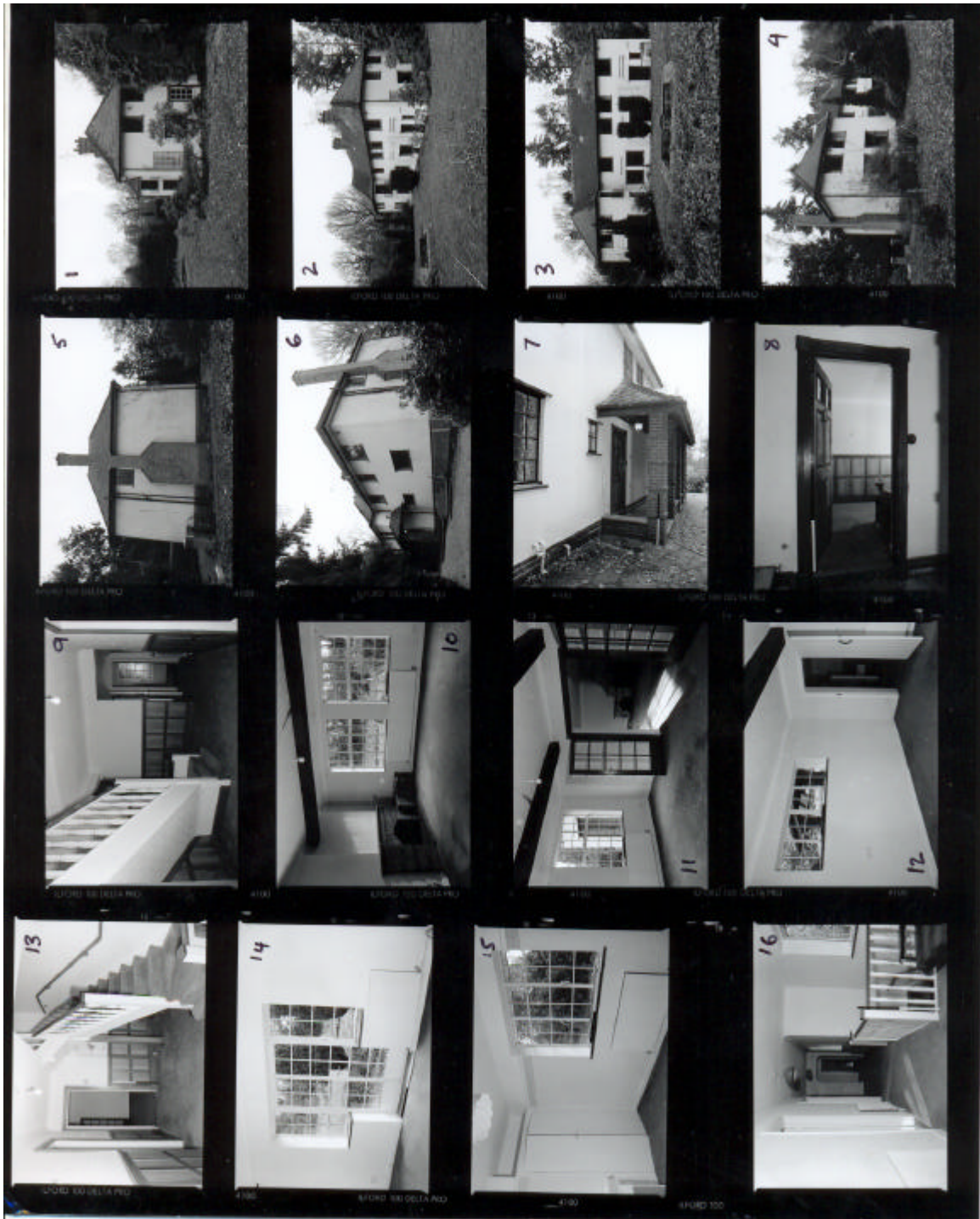


LOCATION COLOUR & B/W SHOTS





4.4.2.2 Contact Prints (copies)





4.4.2.3 Arrangements for Long-Term Deposition

The project archive will be deposited at the Hertfordshire Record Office. Copies of the report will be deposited with the Hertfordshire County Sites and Monuments Records and with the National Monuments Record: Buildings



4.5 SMR Entry Summary Sheet

Site name and address: Silverwood, Sandy Lane		
County: Hertfordshire		District: Three Rivers
Village/Town: Rickmansworth		Parish:
Planning application reference: 8/04/0437		
Client name, address, and tel. no.: jpb architects on behalf of		
Nature of application: Demolition prior to residential development on site		
Present land use: Residential		
Size of application area: N/A		Size of area investigated: N/A
NGR (to 8 figures): TQ 10422 92108		
Site code (if applicable): SWN1072		
Site director/Organization: H. Cooper-Read, Albion Archaeology		
Type of work: Historic Building Recording		
Date of work:	Start: 25/11/04	Finish: 25/11/04
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: Archive at Albion Archaeology prior to deposition at Hertfordshire Records Office		
Related SMR Nos: N/A		Periods represented: Post medieval
Relevant previous summaries/reports: None		
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p><i>. Silver Wood was built just before 1935 as part of the speculative development in the suburbs of north London between the First and Second World Wars. Encouraged by the Railway Companies, the development of this part of Metro-Land largely comprised low density, detached housing on large plots of land. The construction of nearby golf courses added to the attraction and would have been an important factor in marketing literature attracting the successful professional classes to the area.</i></p> <p><i>The current house has been re-modelled and extended, although stylistically it retains much of its original character. An interesting mix of moderne and vernacular, the house is typical of the restrained style of the new suburbs. Speculative builders were careful not to include anything too extreme in the design and, without the luxury of individual architect-designed plans, Silver Wood clearly shows how they took on elements of prevailing style. Although the external style lends itself to moderne influences, the main entrance and internal design of the house are typical of the Tudobethan style of the vernacular revival.</i></p> <p><i>The function and layout of the rooms within the original house are typical of a suburban house built in the 1930s and mirror the social changes between the wars. Although family relationships were more informal and live-in servants no longer common, the larger suburban house still contained a formal entrance hall with a kitchen area that was clearly demarcated from the main entertaining and living area. With the increasing use of electric appliances and a more scientific approach to design, the kitchen became more compact and the increasing informality of house meant that the living room now had a more elevated status than the dining room: Silver Wood is no exception to this trend.</i></p>		



Silver Wood is a significant survival of the suburban Metro-Land development around the fashionable suburb of Northwood. The significance of the building lies in the fact that it is representative of type and shows the eclectic mix of styles typical of the speculative builder.

Author of summary: H. Cooper-Read

Date of summary: 13/12/04

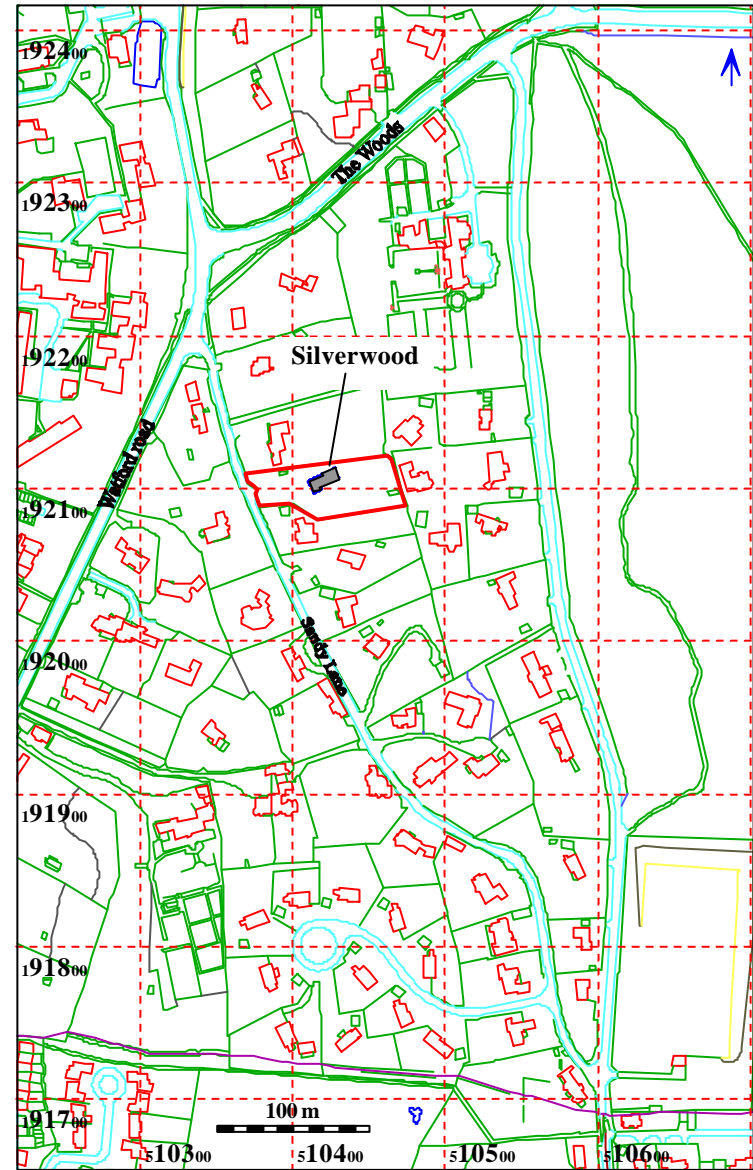
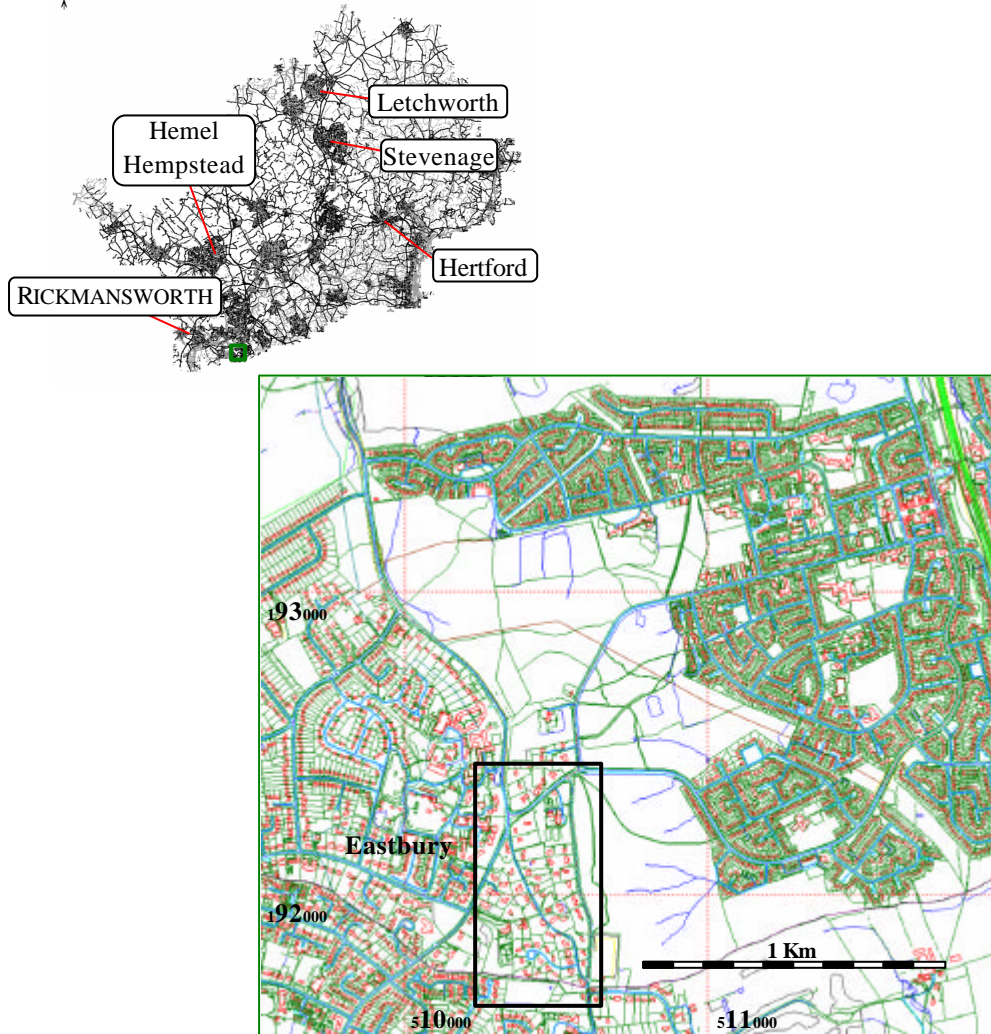


Figure 1: Site location plan

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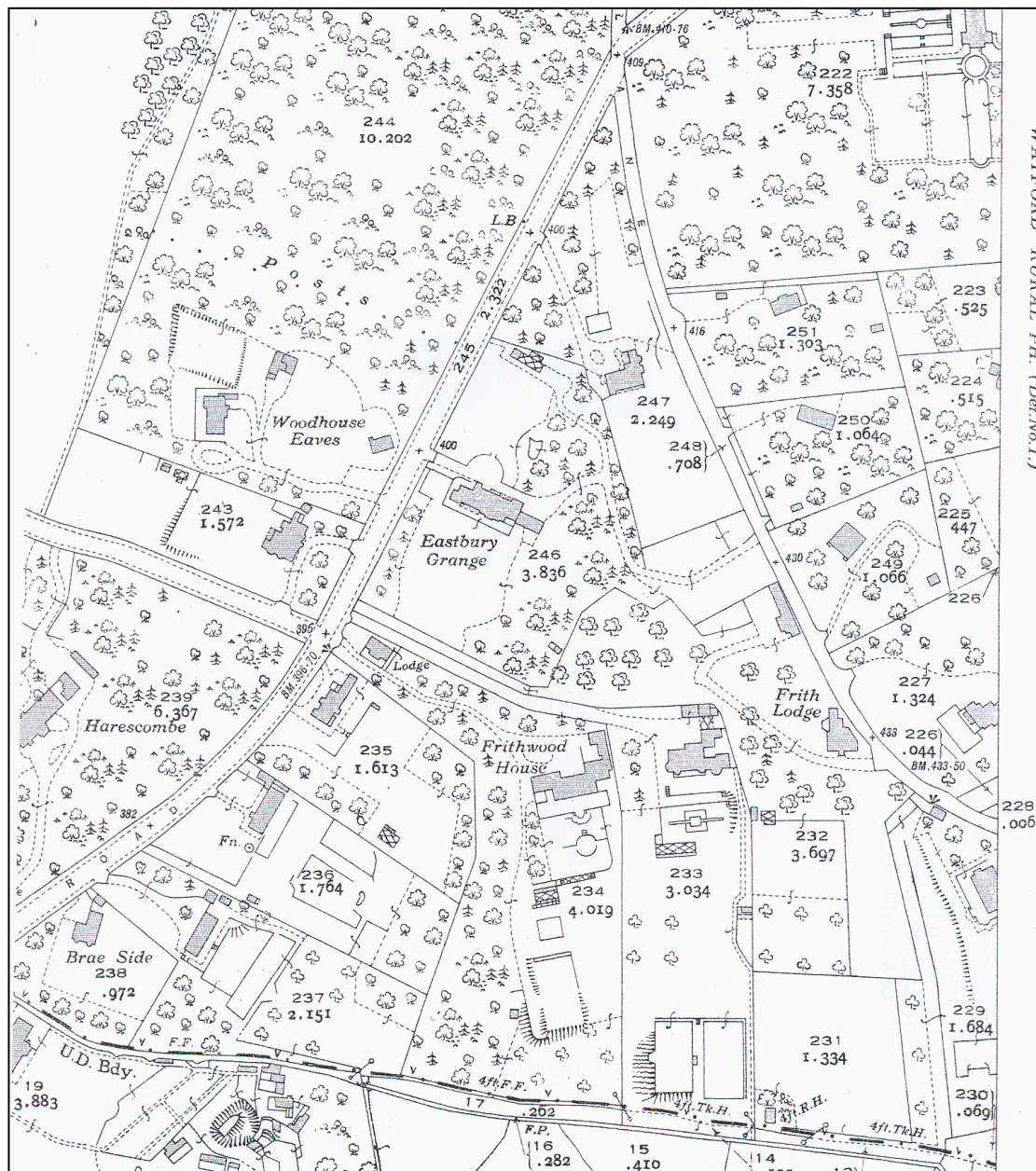


Figure 2: 1935 Ordnance Survey Map

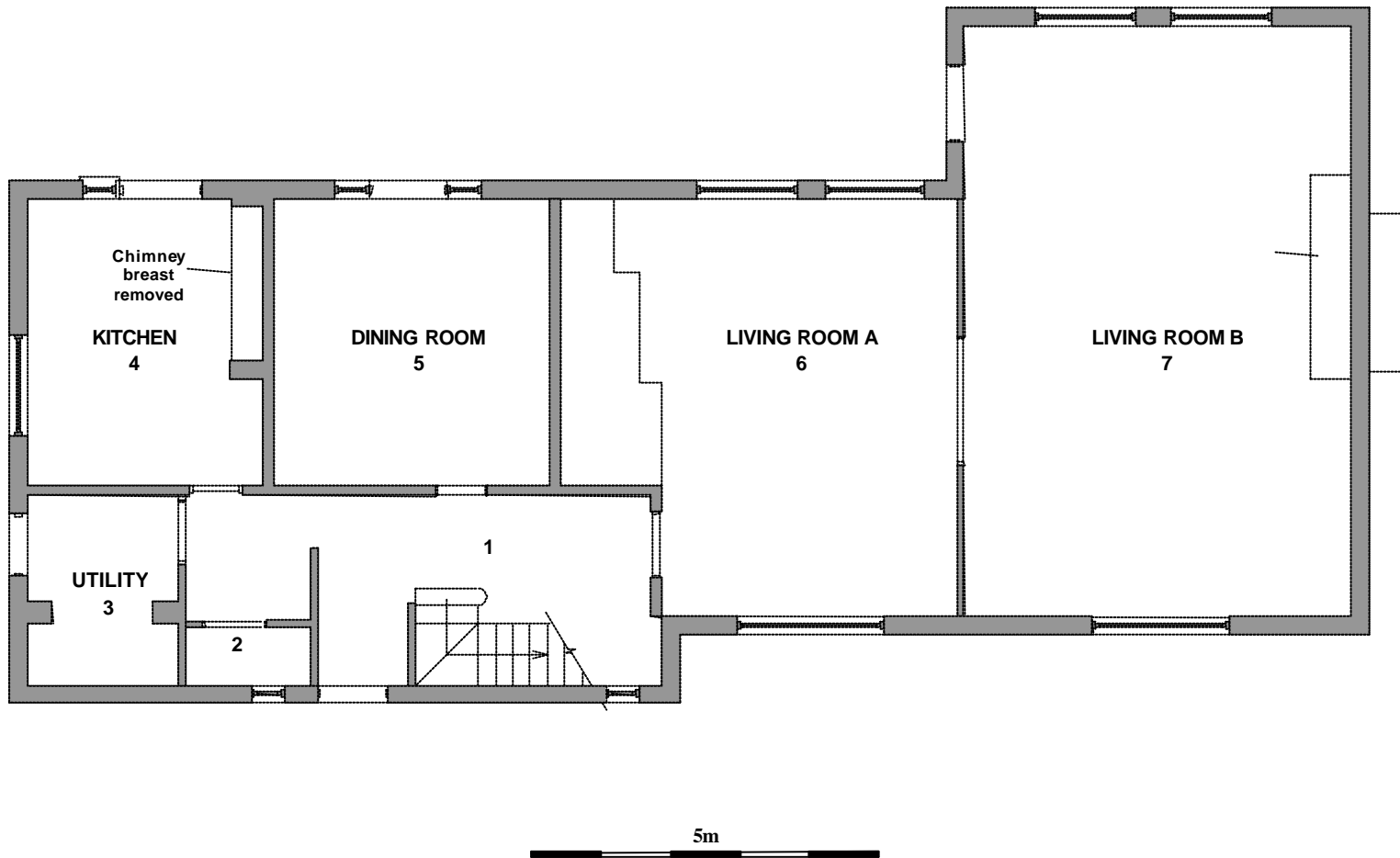


Figure 3: Ground Floor plan
Based on plan supplied by jpb architects

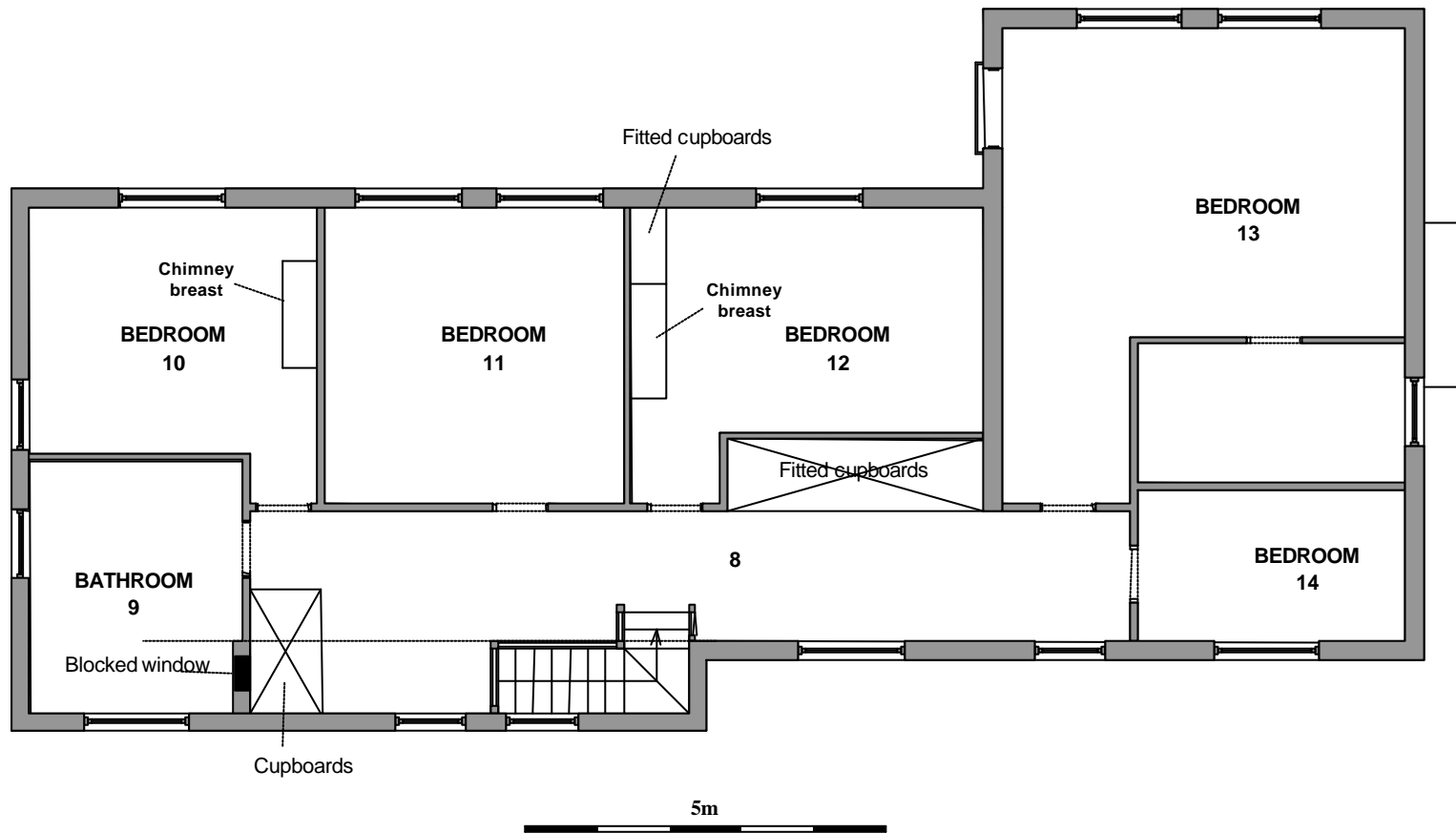


Figure 4: First floor plan
Based on plan supplied by jpb architects

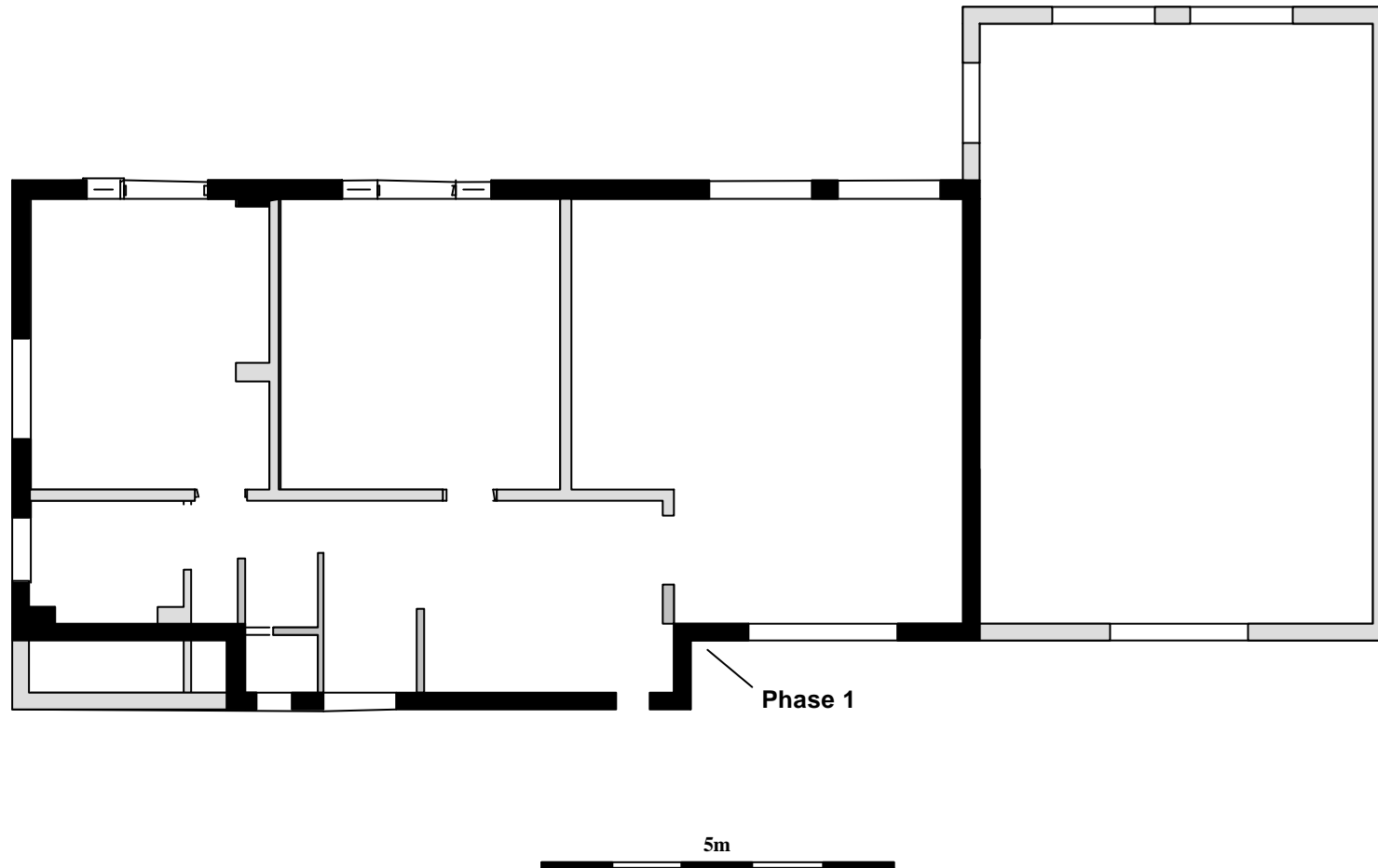


Figure 5: Building Phases
Based on plan supplied by jpb Architects



Plate 1a: External Elevation (view north)



Plate 1b: External View showing frontage (view east-south-east)



Plate 2: External View (towards north-east). Mostly showing second phase extension



Plate 3a: Side Elevation (view west-south-west)



Plate 3b: Side Elevation (view east-north-east)



Plate 4a: Front Entrance



Plate 4b: Entrance Hall and Stairwell (view towards kitchen and utility area)



Plate 5a: French Windows Ground Floor Dining Room (5)



Plate 5b: Detail First Floor Bedroom (12)