Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological building recording at The Summerhouse, Forty Hall, Enfield

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Report 10/129

September 2010

REGISTERED IfA ORGANISATION

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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Archaeological building recording at The Summerhouse, Forty Hall, Enfield	
Short description	Northamptonshire Archaeology undertook archaeological building recording at The Summerhouse, Forty Hall, Enfield. The former building, thought to date from the eighteenth century, is built of red brick and was deliberately demolished in *c*1951. It appears to have been constructed in one phase, but includes additional alterations and embellishments. The purpose of the recording action was to record the remains of the structure prior to works to stabilise the walls and prevent further deterioration.	
Project type	Building recording (FFH 10)	
Site status	Forty Hall Listed Grade I, Park registered Grade II including an area of Scheduled Ancient Monument	
Previous work	Excavation and basic recording by EAS	
Current Land use	Open access park	
Future work	Repair and stabilisation	
Monument type/ period	Post-medieval summerhouse/pavilion	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Middlesex	
Site address	Forty Hall, Forty Hill, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 9HA	
Study area	Approximately 20sq m	
OS Easting & Northing	TQ 33349876	
Height OD	*c* 50m	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief originator	Paul Drury Partnership	
Project Design originator	Joe Prentice	
Director/Supervisor	Joe Prentice	
Project Manager	Steve Parry	
Sponsor or funding body	London Borough of Enfield	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date/end date	26 and 27 July 2010	
ARCHIVES	Location	Content
Physical		
Paper		Site records, photographic, drawings
Digital		Mapinfo GIS data, photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Unpublished client report (NA report)	
Title	Archaeological building recording at The Summerhouse, Forty Hall, Enfield	
Serial title & volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology Report 10/129	
Author(s)	Joe Prentice	
Page numbers		
Date	July 2010	

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING AT THE SUMMERHOUSE

FORTY HALL, ENFIELD

JULY 2010

ABSTRACT

Northamptonshire Archaeology undertook archaeological building recording at The Summerhouse, Forty Hall, Enfield. The former building, thought to date from the eighteenth century, is built of red brick and was deliberately demolished in c*1951. It appears to have been constructed in one phase with potentially additional alterations and embellishments. The purpose of the recording action was to record the remains of the structure prior to works to stabilise the walls and prevent further deterioration.*

1 INTRODUCTION

In July 2010 Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) was commissioned by the Paul Drury Partnership (PDP) on behalf of the London Borough of Enfield to undertake archaeological building recording at The Summerhouse, Forty Hall, Enfield (NGR TQ 3334 9876, Fig 1). The work was undertaken to inform works to stabilise the remains of the largely demolished structure.

The evaluation complied with a Brief issued by PDP (PDP 2010) and which was agreed by relevant parties prior to the commencement of works. The area had been excavated in 1999 by Enfield Archaeological Society (EAS) who had removed rubble from the interior and for a short distance around the exterior. At that time a short report was produced along with a ground plan. Since that time, new colonisation by vegetation has occurred, though on a more limited scale than previously, and the majority of this has been cut away prior to the present. No further excavation was undertaken, and apart from brushing of the tops and sides of the walls to remove weed and moss growth, only limited cutting of brambles and nettles was carried out. The building sits within an area of wildlife habitat which included newts and badgers, so intervention was deliberately kept to a minimum.

Prior to commencement of an archaeological evaluation within the Pleasure Grounds (Prentice 2010), a site code, **FFH 10,** was allocated to the project by Kath Maloney, Archivist, Department of Archaeological Collections and Archive, LAARC, Museum of London. The building recording of The Summerhouse was not allocated a separate number as it was agreed that the work would be included as an amendment using the same site code.

2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The history of the site currently known as Forty Hall begins (in recorded history at least) with the medieval Manor of Elsyng which stood to the north of the current house close to the Turkey Brook (Peats and Drury 2007). The first documentary reference to this site dates from 1374 when Jordan de Elsyng is recorded as holding part of the King's fee in

Enfield, and the earliest record of the manor is in 1381. Excavations carried out between 1963 and 1971 by the Enfield Archaeological Society suggest that the earliest phases of building were timber framed, later replaced by red brick on a massive scale, almost certainly by Sir Thomas Lovell to whom the manor passed in 1492. He also merged the existing land holding with that of the adjoining manor of Worcesters. It is probable that both Henry VII and VIII were entertained there. After Lovell's death in 1524 the estate was bequeathed to Thomas Manners, later Earl of Rutland who created a 375 acre deer park around the manor.

In 1539-40 Manners exchanged the Manor of Worcesters, including Elsyng Hall, with Henry VIII for lands in the Midlands. The site was only occasionally used by the King, but was used by his children Edward and Elizabeth, both future monarchs, and it was to this palace that they were brought in 1547 to be told of their father's death. Edward, after his accession, extended the building and gave it to Elizabeth in 1550, though it reverted to the Crown in 1558 after her accession. Elizabeth visited roughly every four years until 1572, and paid her last visit in 1596 during which time it was clearly maintained to some degree, yet by 1597 the buildings were reported to be in danger of collapse. After James I became king, the palace was tidied for a visit in 1605-06, but in 1607 the site became redundant after James' acquisition of Theobalds from Robert Cecil, First Earl of Salisbury. In 1608 a Royal Warrant was issued for the house to be dismantled with a view to using materials at Theobalds. However, whilst some demolition appears to have taken place, most seem to have remained and were repaired in 1609-10 at the behest of its keeper, Philip Herbert, Earl of Montgomery and improvements were made to the gardens. The palace was in good enough repair in 1612 for a visit by James. Herbert was created Earl of Pembroke in 1641 and bought the palace and park from Charles I at the same time. It is assumed he lived there until his death in 1650.

The current Forty Hall was built by a wealthy London merchant, Nicholas Rainton (1569-1646), in *c*1629 (the date of a carved brick set into the north-east corner of the house) on land purchased form Robert Cecil, Earl of Salisbury in 1616 (Gillam 1997). Rainton had made his money importing satin and taffeta from Florence and velvet from Genoa and was one of many self-made men who created country houses and estates from their new-found monies. The house he built has been the subject of extensive research by PDP (Peats and Drury 2007). By 1656 Nicholas Rainton II (nephew of the first Nicholas) acquired the site of Elsyng Palace which he demolished and incorporated the park with that attached to the Hall. The property remained in the hands of Nicholas Rainton's descendants until 1773 when the house and park, including The Summerhouse, were offered for sale at auction, but they failed to sell due to the high reserve set. In 1787 the estate was again offered for sale, and Lot 1 comprising 'The Mansion House, with the Yards, Courts, Outbuildings, Gardens, Ponds, Lawns, Walks, Plantations, &c, &c, ..' was purchased by Edmund Armstrong. He died in 1797 leave enormous debts, and the Hall was again put up for auction in 1799 when it was bought by James Meyer. In 1895 following the death of James Meyer II the property was bought by Henry Carrington Bowles for his eldest son, Henry Ferryman Bowles who lived there until his death in 1943 when it passed to his grandson, Derek Henry Parker Bowles who decided to sell and move elsewhere for the benefit of his health. In 1951 the Forty Hall estate was purchased by the Enfield Urban District Council who retains it today as the London Borough of Enfield. The house is a museum and the grounds are a public open space.

The area surrounding the site of the former palace of Elsyng in now a Scheduled Ancient Monument (No LO59). The Summerhouse, and a second pavilion further to the west were both excavated by EAS in 1999 and reported upon in the Bulletin of the Enfield Archaeological Society (Gillam 1999).

3 OBJECTIVES

The principal objectives of the building recording were to provide scale drawings (at 1:20) of the plan, the four main external and internal elevations along with a photographic record and descriptive text which seeks to clarify, as far as possible, the original form and subsequent evolution of the building. This record would broadly conform to Level III in the English Heritage guidance document, *Understanding Historic Buildings* (EH 2006).

Brick by brick drawing was not required, but all areas relevant to understanding the original form and sequence of the building were required to be illustrated in sufficient detail to capture the evidence.

4 THE SUMMERHOUSE

4.1 General comments

The Summerhouse, also called the Eastern Summerhouse to distinguish it from a second building located to the west, stands almost exactly on the 50m contour as mapped by the Ordnance Survey, and lies to the east of a small rectangular pond which appears to have been created as part of an integral design within the wider park landscape (Figs 2 and 3). The pond, presumably a contemporary feature, appears to have been deliberately created with a splayed plan creating an optical illusion which, when viewed from the building, made this body of water appear longer than it really is (Fig 3). The site lies to the east of the highest point of Forty Hill, which is a remnant of the upper terrace of the River Lea where the natural geology is London Clay with a capping of Boyne Hill Gravel (Gillam 1997).

Little is currently known of the history and development of The Summerhouse, though it does appear on the sale plan of 1773 (Fig 2). The building is located towards the southern end of a belt of trees sandwiched between agricultural fields and appears to have afforded views both east and west, as well as possibly to the south, though certainly not to the north as this wall contained a chimneybreast (see below).

The Summerhouse lies in an area of the park known as a *ferme orneé* (literally an ornamented farm) which appears to have been created during the mid eighteenth-century under the ownership of Eliab and Elizabeth Breton (Peats and Drury 2007). This form of designed landscape, popular in the mid eighteenth-century included functional, but ornamented farm buildings as well as purely landscape features such as paths, belts of trees, water features and buildings designed not for animals but for people (Fleming and Gore 1979). Of this style of landscaping, the most famous example is The Leasowes near Halesowen not far from Birmingham, created by William Shenstone from the 1740's (Thacker 1994).

The trees, pond and The Summerhouse are shown on the 1773 plan in such a way that the building was situated at the eastern side of a semi-circular glade, open on the west side facing towards the pond, which partly extended into the adjacent Eight Acre Field to the west. On the 1886 Ordnance Survey map The Summerhouse is shown surrounded by trees and reached by a path which follows the boundary with the Eight Acre Field to the pond (Fig 3). The path then skirts the eastern end of the pond, at the same time leading to the building, before looping back around the north side of the pond and then returning to its original course along the Eight Acre Field boundary.

The Summerhouse is known to have survived intact until the sale of the estate to Enfield Urban District Council, (now the London Borough of Enfield), in 1951 although shortly after it was demolished through fear of it being occupied by squatters. So far no pictorial views have been found of the building prior to its demolition and so its form and function have thus far been determined only from the surviving architectural remains. There is a small section of wall which seems to indicate that the roof was gabled, lying in the base of the half-cellar, uncovered during the 1999 excavation, and though it is not immediately apparent which sides were gabled, structurally it would appear that it would be the east and west sides, since the chimney rises on the north. The roof covering appears to have been of Westmorland slate, although clay peg tiles are also listed as being found and it may be that it had been at some stage re-roofed (Gillam 1999). The shallowness of the surviving gabled fragment found in the basement might also indicate that any roof structure was not visible from the outside, and may have been hidden behind a low parapet (a pitch of less than 22 degrees would require the roof to be covered in lead, Paul Drury pers comm). At present not enough information survives to comment with any certainty on the roof configuration.

The remains of the building appear to be situated on a slight mound, though it is not clear if this is really the case or whether the mound is actually the remains of fallen material around its exterior. Further excavation may clarify this point as well as determining whether or not there were any surfaced paths leading to and around it. This would also identify whether there were steps or simply an earth slope leading into the basement.

The use of small buildings within wider designed landscapes is common during the eighteenth century, and their form and function varies enormously from site to site, some being correctly classical in form and decoration, some Gothick and others more rustic. Their construction varies from finely carved stone to brick, sometimes covered in stucco, timber or a combination of all of these. So widely varied were they in size, form and material it is difficult to generalise on their appearance, but broadly speaking they were small structures in which members of the family and their friends could meet to sit, take refreshments or indulge in a variety of pastimes, some more respectable than others. They were often, but not always, positioned to take in wider views of the surrounding area, and also themselves performed a function as eye-catchers, so even if not visited they were still elements of interest in the wider landscape when viewed from a distance.

Historically, the ancestors of this type of building can be traced to the small pavilions and banqueting houses of the Tudors and Elizabethans, and whose functions appear to be much the same, though at that period they tended to be much closer to the main house, (and in the case of banqueting houses often actually attached structures on the roof as at Longleat and Wollaton Hall). With the change in garden fashions from strictly formal to more naturalistic design introduced by Bridgeman and Kent from the 1720s they became more widely located within the landscape rather than being positioned close to the main house, and it is to this type that the Forty Hall example almost certainly belongs. They continued in popularity throughout the nineteenth century and are still popular today, though it is less usual nowadays for individually designed permanent structures to be built. At present no date for construction or name of architect is known for the Forty Hall example. Given that so little is at present known of the original complete form of the Forty Hall building due to its incomplete survival, it is difficult to compare it to other examples.

4.1 The external structure

The structure was built of brick, 4.0m square in plan externally not including the thickened corners, and 2.80m square internally, with the four sides facing almost exactly the four cardinal points. A canted bay is present on the eastern side adding a further 1.50m externally but only 1.0m wide internally (Fig 4). The bricks are, in general, poorly made and fired to varying degrees resulting in a wide range of colour, texture and hardness which may explain partly why the building seems to have been rendered, though only very small patches of more recent render now remains. They are not frogged. The colours range from pale pinkish-red through to a dark purple, almost certainly indicative of higher firing and typical of bricks fired in clamps where a variety of temperature caused such broad colour and textural ranges from a single batch. They are almost certain to have been fired on the estate. The size of the bricks varies between 230mm x 110mm x 55mm and 240mm x 100mm x 60mm (9 x 4¼ x 2¼ inches and 9½ x 4 x 2⅜ inches) in size. The bricks are bonded in a white lime mortar with a fairly coarse sand aggregate. There is additionally some pointing in different lime mortars and also some smaller patches of Portland cement patching and render. The date of the main, square, building has previously been suggested as early eighteenth-century, the date of the canted bay mid-late eighteenth-century. The author of this report is of the opinion that the whole is of a single phase; the reasoning for this will be laid out below.

West external elevation (Fig 5)
This elevation faces the pond to the west and retains fragmentary evidence of a single door jamb towards the north end of the wall. The jamb appears to have had a rebate on the internal surface which most likely held a timber post for a door frame, and if this opening is original suggests that it held double doors as it is too wide for a single leaf door. No evidence survives on the southern side of the jamb as the wall has been demolished in this location. There is no surviving indication that this door opening has been altered.

At the north and south corners the wall is thickened giving the appearance of clasped buttresses which have, predominantly on the north corner, remains of cement render fashioned to give the appearance of quoins in the form of smooth chamfered rustication to imitate the appearance of blocks of ashlar masonry (Fig 5). It is likely that this was part of the original design and was originally faced with lime mortar, the surviving cement render being the latest surviving phase of repair. The surface render is positioned both above and below a projecting string comprising a single course of brick set out from the wall surface by *c*50mm. No render remains above this level on the southern corner though *ex situ* fragments were noted lying close by, and what appear to be the upper surfaces of broken render were visible close to the wall plane at soil level.

A broken slab of fine grained grey sandstone may represent the topmost section of a flight of steps leading to the former entrance, although it is not clear if further steps, or evidence for them, remains buried (Fig 4, section A-A; Fig 5). The positioning of the fragment suggests that the full width of the west front between the two projecting corners was surfaced with slabs. If not the uppermost step of a flight, it must have acted as a single step and the remainder of the slope leading westwards from it may have been gravelled since a grass surface this close to the building would not have withstood the wear and tear even of a few family members if used often.

North external elevation (Fig 6)
This is the most complete surviving section of wall. It is built above a simple, stepped plinth which is not present on the clasped buttress itself, but begins from its eastern face and continues to the north-east corner. The most recent rendering has been applied to give the appearance of chamfered rustication. Apart from the rendering on the clasped buttress of the north-west corner there are no indications that the other surfaces were similarly covered, the join of the present rendering is cleanly finished in the angle between the buttress and the north face of the building. The bricks are predominantly laid in English bond (alternate courses of headers and stretchers) though there are areas where this bond is less regular, most likely due to the relatively short lengths of walling.

In the centre of the north wall is the rear projection of the chimney stack and at the north-west corner the wall again thickens giving the appearance of a clasped buttress, but there is currently no indication of any rendering duplicating the appearance of quoins present at the north-west corner. The upper surface of the surviving section comprises loose bricks with almost no adhering mortar, and for a few courses below this level the mortar is largely or completely weathered out. At the north-east corner there is a section of the external angle missing. On the north side of the north-east clasped buttress is a patch of cement pointing to the brickwork which, though irregular, might indicate the former location of a downpipe, and perhaps is present due to a repair following a leak; there are not any clear indications of brackets or holes for the attachment of any downpipe, however, and this repair may be coincidental and unrelated.

East external elevation (Fig 7)
Very little of this elevation survives above ground apart from sections of the north-west and south-west corner. The entire central section in between is only present below ground level, and indeed this section would have been open to allow access into the space within the canted bay. It has been suggested that the canted bay is a later addition, however, the evidence for this is not entirely clear. As it survives, the bond between the straight section of the east wall and the junction where the angle of the canted section projects from it displays no clear indication of a section being chopped out of a straight face and the angled bricks being set into it. There is no obvious change in coursing, bond or mortar, and the fact that carefully shaped birdsmouth bricks are present suggest that if this is a later insertion, unusual care was taken at that stage to make specially angled bricks for the addition. Also the external plane of the east face of wall which is present between the north-east and south-east corners is set further back from the clasped buttresses of the corners than on other faces; if this was originally the external eastern face it seems curious that this be set-out and built in a different way to the other three sides where the set-back is consistent. Below ground level there is a double off-set well below ground level where the foundation wall thickens; it is not known if this configuration is present elsewhere, though it is not on the exposed face of the south wall (Figs 4 and 7, see below).

There is no indication how the canted bay was finished above ground level; whether each face was filled entirely with windows or if there were brick piers at each angle against which timber frames were set. By the same token it is not clear how the floor was configured, though it would make most sense to have the joists aligned north-south as they were in the main building since then the floorboards would be aligned consistently at right angles (ie east-west) into the bay and on the long axis of the interior, as one would expect in a space of this kind.

The reason for the north-south eastern wall (present only below floor level if this theory is correct) appears therefore to be a simple constructional device which would tie the north and south walls together more rigidly. If the canted bay is a later addition, the care with which it was added is considerable and it must be assumed that prior to its addition the east side would have probably had a centrally placed window overlooking the park. Since so little of the east wall survives, nothing else can be said of its original configuration or decoration.

On the east face of the southern clasped buttress is a slightly eroded area below the level of the plinth which might indicate water damage, perhaps from a leaky downpipe. As on the north elevation, there are no indications of any fixing holes or remains of brackets if this was the case.

South external elevation (Fig 8)
This wall was constructed in the same way as the other walls, with a plinth and clasped buttress corners. It has a doorway placed centrally at basement level which gave access to that space. In its current state, the doorway survives only to the level of the former arch, with the cut-back bricks for the springing of the arch surviving on both sides. The length of the angle cut-back into three courses of brickwork indicates that the arch consisted of bricks laid lengthwise (stretchers), or perhaps more likely alternately headers and stretchers. It is assumed that the arch was of segmental form as is present beneath the fireplace in the north internal wall (see below). Above, and to either side of the remains of the arch the brickwork thickens to the same depth as that of the wall below the plinth to allow for the height of the arch beneath. It is assumed that the plinth therefore rose to either side, then passed above the arch at a slightly higher level than is present on the remainder of the building. At the south-west corner the clasped buttress has no plinth on the south side but does retain small areas of cement render on the east face with evidence of more render below ground level. The render appears to have only been applied to the buttress, as on the north-west corner, and there are no indications that it continued further.

The doorway into the basement is plainly finished on the exterior. There is no visible sill, but the report produced in 1999 when the site was cleared reports that a threshold of reused bricks was revealed (Gillam 1999). This covered an area of roughly 3 feet square. No mention is made of any external paving to the doorway, or of steps leading down to this entrance so the form of entry is unclear at present.

4.3 The internal structure

South internal elevation (Fig 9)
On entering the basement the first impression is of how limited this space must have been, and that it could never have served as a fully usable space as such, but merely as storage, perhaps more useful here given the distance from the main house. The wall is constructed as on the exterior, of neatly laid red brick in white lime mortar, mostly, but not exclusively laid in English bond.

The doorway has a rebate on the interior for the fitting of timber door posts, the jambs are square set and not splayed. On either side of the doorway at the base of the exposed wall is an offset, or plinth, presumably the upper surface of a thickening of the foundations as it serves no obvious purpose, and does not appear to represent the floor surface which seems to lie at a lower level. Level with the base of the springing of the arch is an internal ledge on which rested the lower edges of the joists for the floor to the room above; the ends of the joists were set into the south wall spaced roughly at between 250mm and 300mm intervals, three on either side of the doorway. The joists themselves appear to have been approximately 100mm in width and 220mm in depth, set into the wall approximately 50-60mm. None now survive so it is not possible to determine if they were of hard or soft wood. Above the level of the upper surface of the joists are two small slots on each side of the door between headers in a single course. It is thought that these empty slots originally held wooden packing which may have been used to fix either skirting boards or the lower edge of wainscoting.

West internal elevation (Fig 10)
A plain elevation with a partial off-set at present ground level at both north and south ends, but not continuing the entire length of the wall; this presumably represents widening of the wall foundation where greater loads were carried either side of the door opening, confirming that it was originally of the width implied by the surviving jamb for a pair of double doors. There is no ledge on this side at the level of that on the south side

as the joists would have been laid parallel to the wall plane and therefore did not need to be seated on it. There is, however, a slight off-set at just over half way up the side of the joist which would have allowed the ends of the floor boards, laid at right angles, to oversail the joist and perhaps therefore make a closer fit to the west wall. A single slot is visible on either side of the former doorway between the edges of bricks at the same level as those observed on the south wall, and appear to have served the same function, ie for the attachment of skirting or wainscoting.

At the northern end of the wall where the brickwork remains above external ground level there is evidence for the inner jamb of the doorway; it has a simple rebate similar to that of the half-basement door comprising of a single brick set back from the external wall plane. No evidence for a sill remains, so it is unclear of this was of timber or stone.

North internal elevation (Fig 11)
This elevation contains not only the remains of the fireplace and chimney breast which heated the upper room, but also a structural arch beneath (Fig 4, section B-B). At basement level the wall retains an offset along the full length of the wall to either side of the arch. The arch recess contains a similar sized off-set on its eastern side, but not on its western. The arch is constructed of edge-set bricks and is laid flush with the internal wall plane. Immediately above are the remains of a second, shallow arch set at right angles to the wall plane which would have sprung from the north wall to a trimmer between the adjoining joists; this would have supported a stone hearth slab. The few remaining bricks of that arch are also laid on edge.

The fireplace opening is essentially of the same dimensions as the arch beneath and has undergone some changes. The most obvious is the insertion of a new hearth slab within the fireplace, presumably since this area would be subject to the most intense heat, and the east and west sides of the fireplace have had linings of edge-laid bricks set within the embrasure. The bricks sit on top of the stone hearth slab and are therefore later than it, but in reality most likely is part of the same alteration. There is currently no sign that the back of the fireplace was re-lined and it shows little heat damage, perhaps suggesting the presence of a cast-iron fireback (the 1999 excavation report mentions fragments of fireback). The narrowing might have taken place at the time a new grate was added, fragments of a cast-iron grate were also reported in the 1999 clearing exercise, though the size and configuration are unknown (Gillam 1999). Though the arch of the fireplace opening is now missing, its height can be deduced from the cut-back bricks on the east side where the sloping profile indicates a similar segmental arch to that above the basement door, and of the same configuration. It is reported in the summary of the 1999 excavation that fragments of decorative plaster surround were retrieved, though it is not known what style these pieces display, and so no date is given here for that feature.

On either side of the lower arch and at the same level as the ledge on the south wall is a similar ledge to support the floor joists, there are also three empty sockets for those joists to either side of the fireplace of the same dimensions as previously described. Above these there are similar empty joints for skirting or wainscoting, on this wall the latter seems more likely since, given the higher survival of this section of wall, these slots can be seen at a higher level. However, there are also remnants of wall plaster adhering to the bricks on either side of the fireplace; it is not clear of these pre-or post-date the possible wainscoting, however, the remaining section to the east of the fireplace appears to respect the level of the two upper slots suggesting that that section at least was present when the lower portion of the wall was panelled. There is no indication that the north wall contained any windows.

East internal elevation (Fig 12)
Almost nothing survives of the east wall above basement level, and here too it does not survive even to the level of the former floor. Of the north-south aligned wall which forms the east side of the square section of the building little can be said; it has a small off-set section at the north end comprising two courses of brick, whilst at the southern end of the wall a similar length is of one course only.

Of the internal faces of the canted bay little too can be said, the bricks are of the same size and composition as in the remainder of the building, bonded in a similar way. The wall does not survive to a sufficient height to retain any evidence of internal fittings.

5 CONCLUSIONS

The Eastern Summerhouse at Forty Hall would have been a simple, but almost certainly comfortable, single roomed building from which to take views to the east and west. It would have provided a stopping point for refreshments, perhaps as an end destination in itself, or as part of a longer route around the periphery of the park. It also probably served as an eye-catcher when viewed from a distance and appears to have been part of a deliberately designed landscape known as a *ferme orneé*. Its location on the eastern side of a belt of trees meant that it was visible both from the east and west. The pond which it overlooked on the western side appears to have been deliberately dug to create the illusion of greater length.

Its date of construction is unknown, and apart from the few remaining sections of walling, little survives to pinpoint its precise date which decorative details, fixtures and fittings might help with. It is, in the opinion of the author of this report, of a single phase with the canted bay part of the original design, though since so little remains above ground, and investigative work was not part of this programme, evidence for it being a later addition may be present below ground.

There was clearly some decorative detail of the exterior giving it a broadly classical style with chamfered rustication on the main, western, entrance front, the nearest comparison found (though not really comparable since this example is one of a pair of gate lodges and is probably much too elaborate) is a 1761 design by John Vardy at Hackwood Park, Hampshire, executed but now demolished (Fig 13). There is no evidence from the surviving elements that this rustication continued on all four walls, but this may be more to do with survival than anything else. However, the latest rendering in cement clearly went no further than the north-west and south-west buttresses since both have cleanly finished eastern edges.

Arrangements for the doors and windows are uncertain, apart from the fact that the doors on the west entrance must have been double leaf. The canted bay would have had windows in all three faces.

Of the configuration of the roof there is at present almost no evidence at all. A single fragment of a shallow pitched gable lies in the basement, suggesting that it was not of pyramidal form even though similar-sized, but 17th-century buildings, are present in the stable yard of the house. Therefore, it appears that the roof was gabled, and if so, it seems most likely that the gabled walls were on the east and west sides. This would not only make a more imposing entrance from the west, and possibly allow for decorative detail to be included in the pediment, but would make the necessary roofing details easier and visually pleasing on the east above the bay. The shallowness of the surviving fragment does raise the possibility that the roof was not intended to be seen, and may have been hidden behind a parapet, and if the building was intended to be of broadly classical form (particularly the rusticated side) this may have been the case. However, such buildings do not conform to rigid architectural rules, and it could have combined a number of not necessarily correct architectural styles. Unless, or until visual or oral evidence for its form comes to light, this has to be conjecture.

The current condition of the remains of the structure varies considerably and the following notes are merely observations and do not intend to be comments on the structural integrity of the building. The upper courses of the majority of the brickwork are not attached but simply lie loosely on the surfaces of the bricks below with little or no mortar between. The pointing on the remainder of the walls varies, in some places is intact and in others has eroded out to such a depth that none can actually be seen. There is decorative render only on the north-west and south-west buttresses above ground level, and it is not thought that the other two were ever covered in this way or at least not in the latest rendering with cement. There is also no evidence that the flat wall planes between were rendered, and this seems most likely so that those buttresses would contrast more strongly with the brick of the walls (not unlike the rendered window surrounds on Forty Hall in imitation of stone dressings).

The north, east and west walls have large cracks in them both above and below ground level. There is at present little root penetration above ground since the structure has recently been cleared, but much of the walls have extensive moss and some nettle and bramble coverage.

It is not clear how the access to the basement was handled externally, there is no evidence of steps and it is not clear at what level the external ground surface was originally. Similarly there is no evidence visible of more than one stone step in front of the main door, or of any path leading to it, and perhaps also around the pond. The basement does not appear to have been floored by anything other than soil apart from a section of brick laid in the doorway.

An appeal in local newspapers may produce photographic evidence of the building before its demolition, and it is possible that there are also residents alive who remember it, though this is perhaps less likely given that it was demolished approximately sixty years ago.

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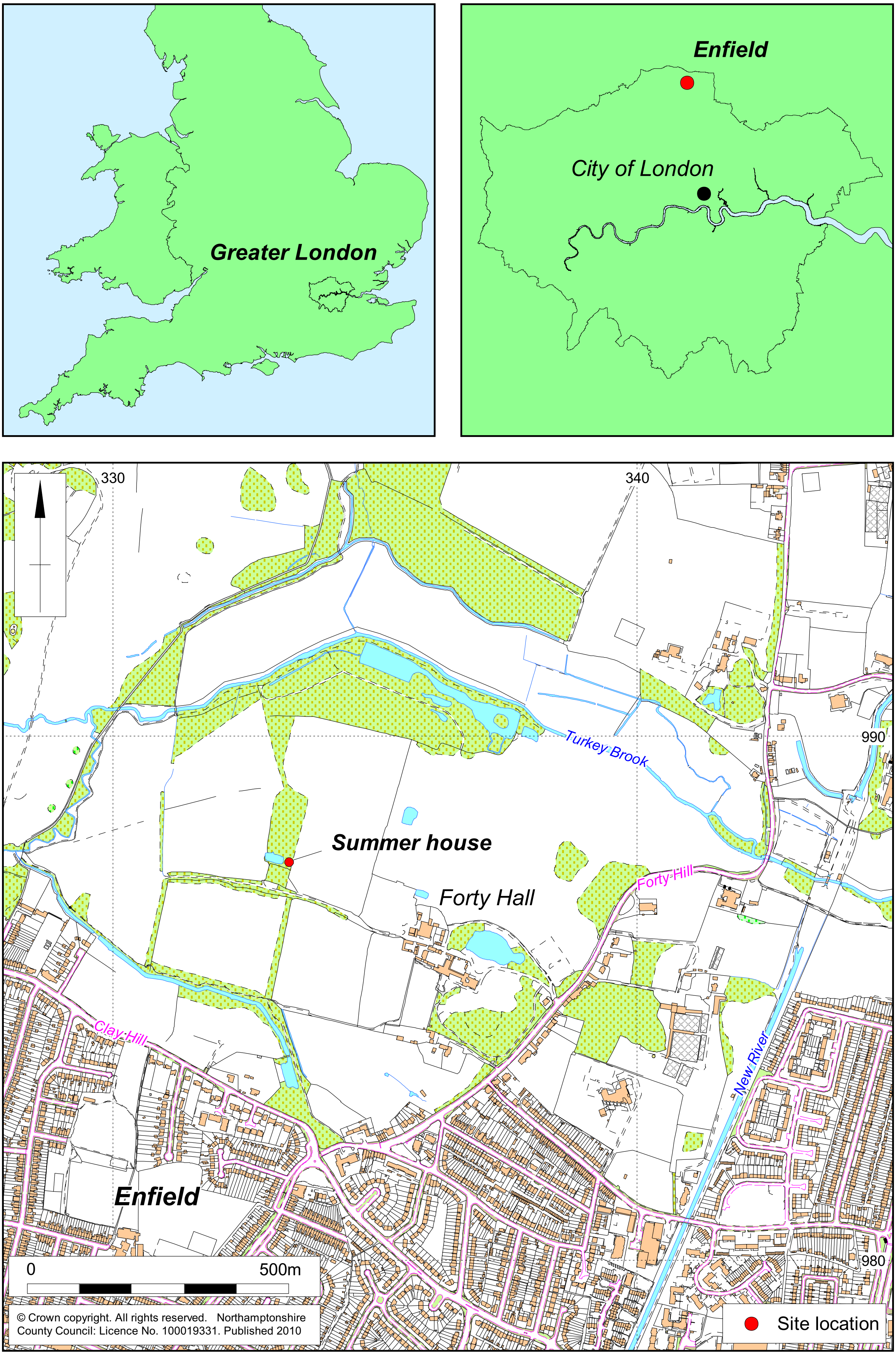
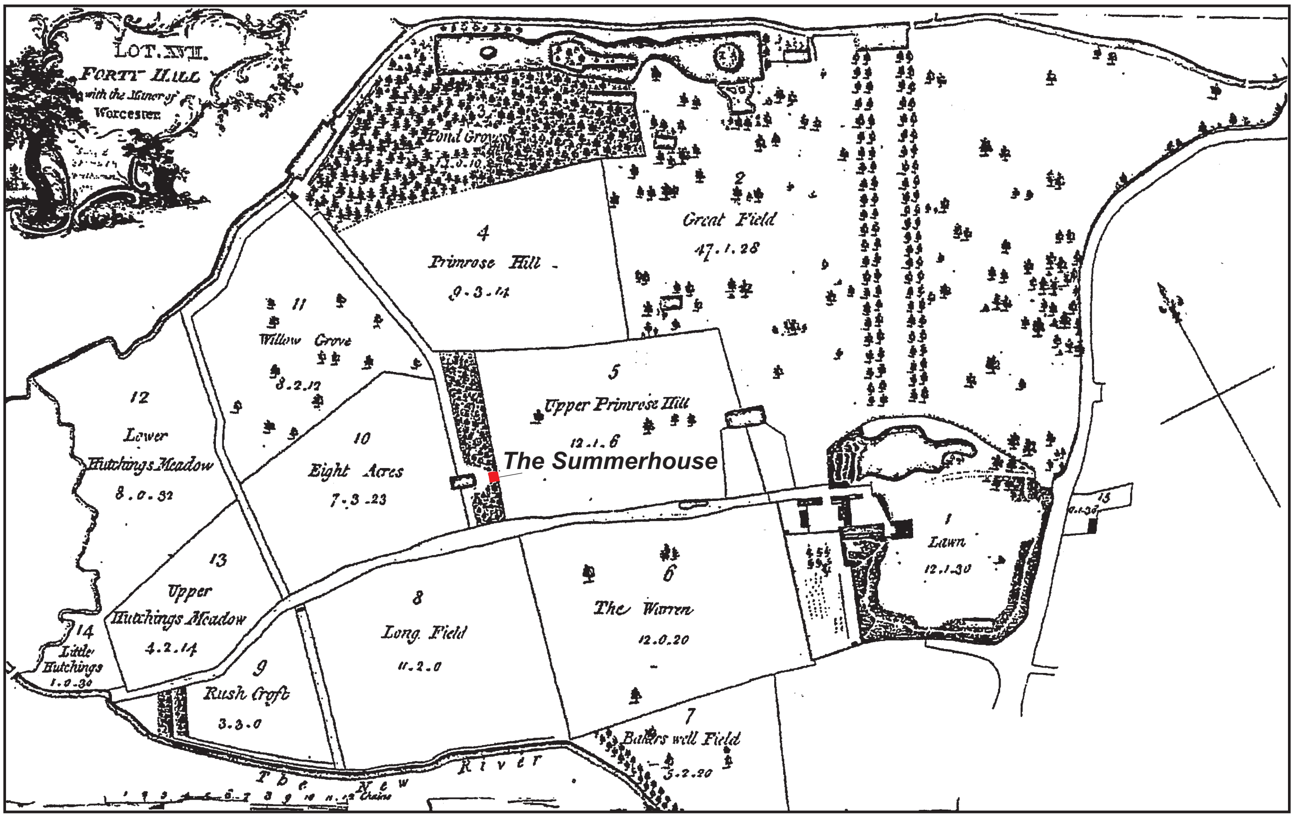
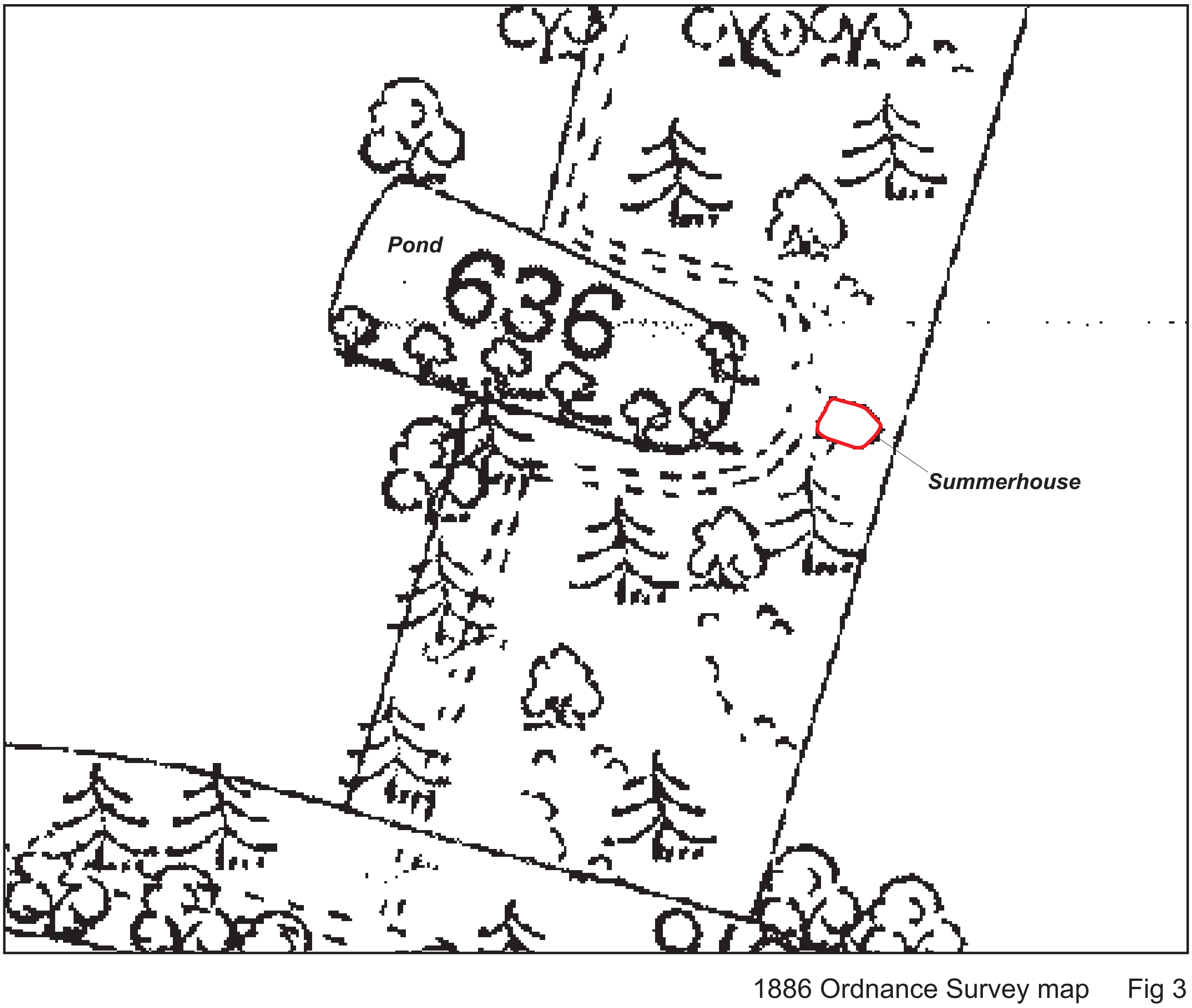


Scale 1:10,000

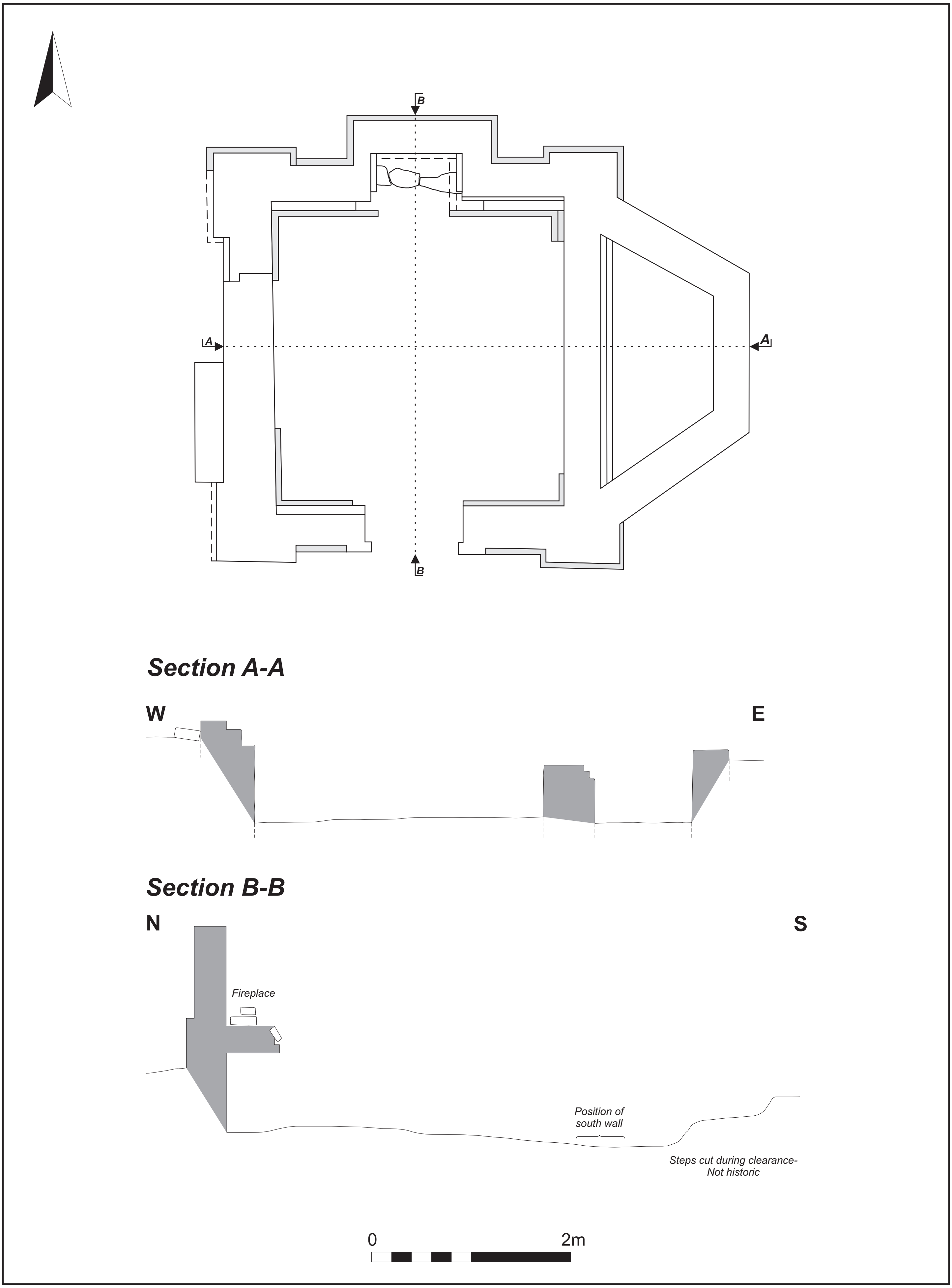
Site location Fig 1



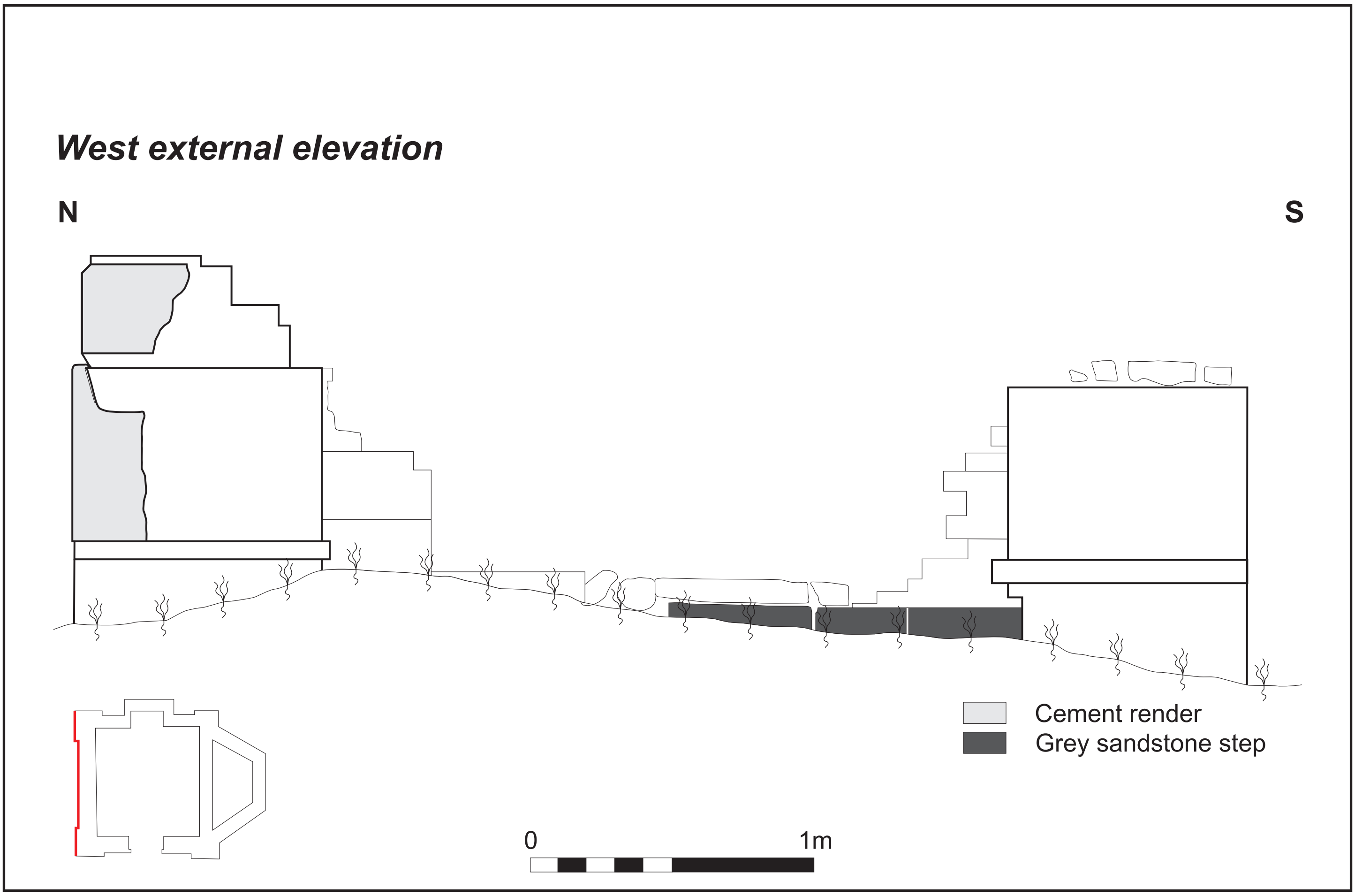
1773 Estate sale map Fig 2



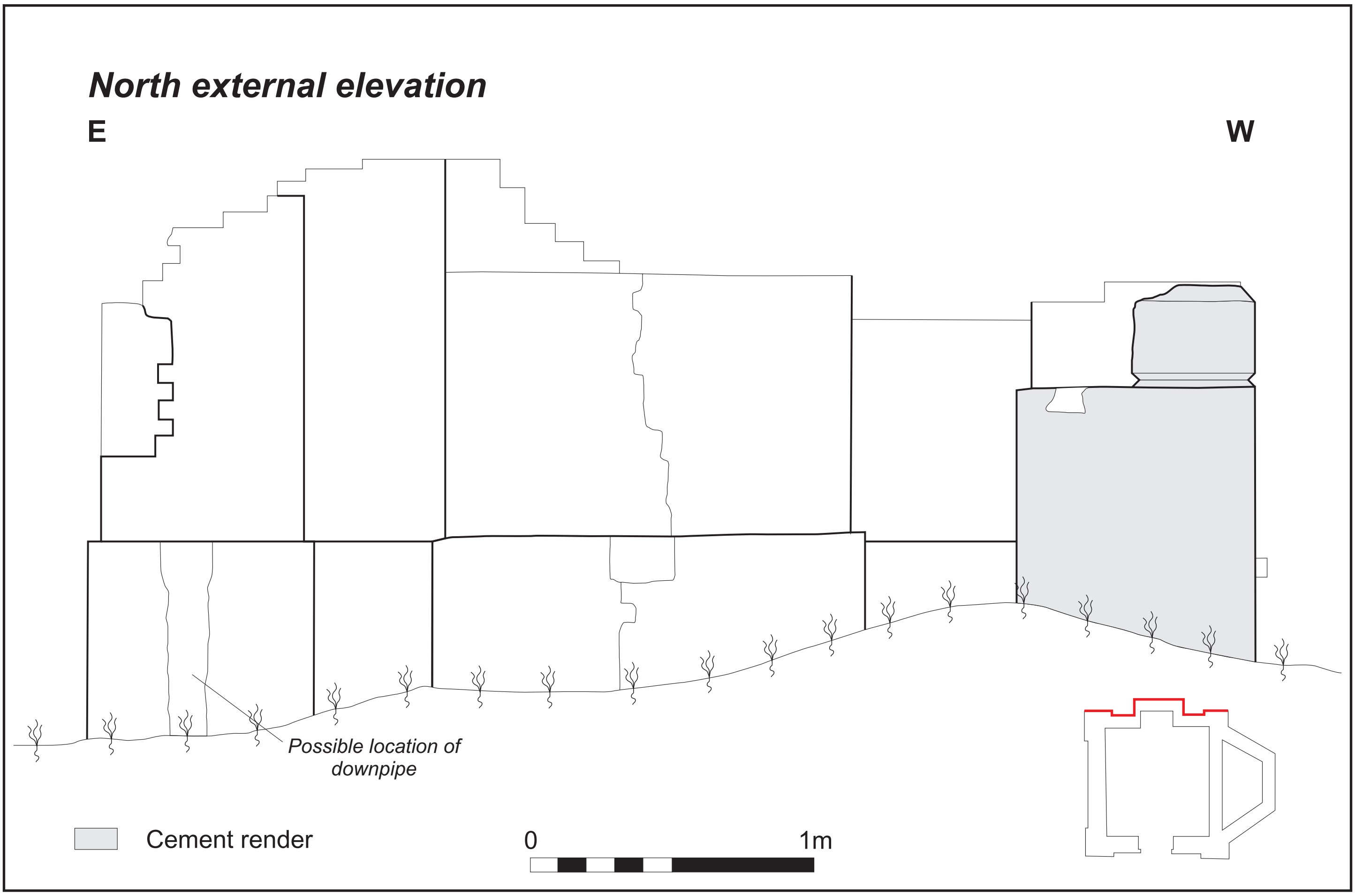
1886 Ordnance Survey map Fig 3



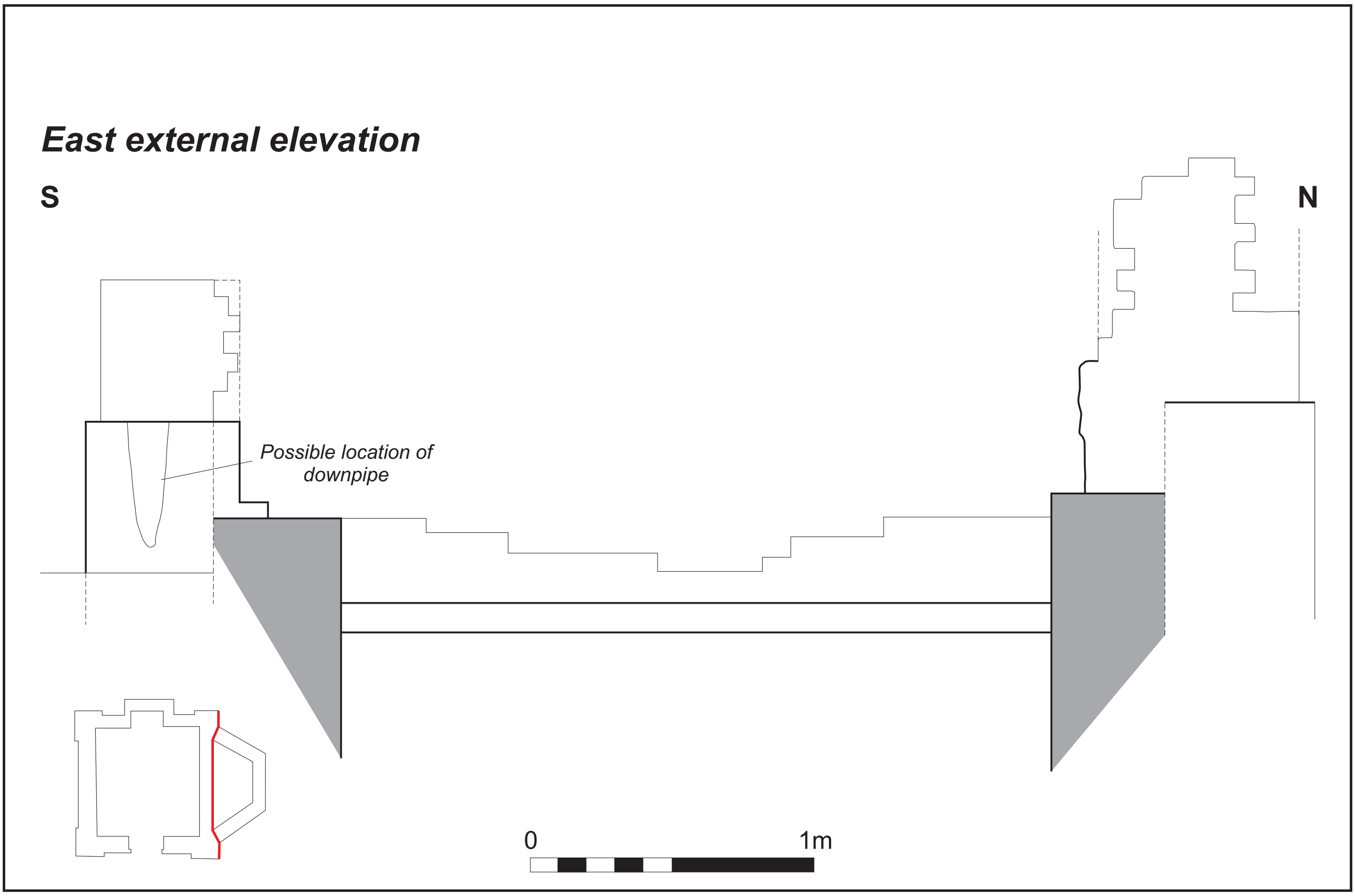
Plan of the Summerhouse with sections A-A, B-B   Fig 4



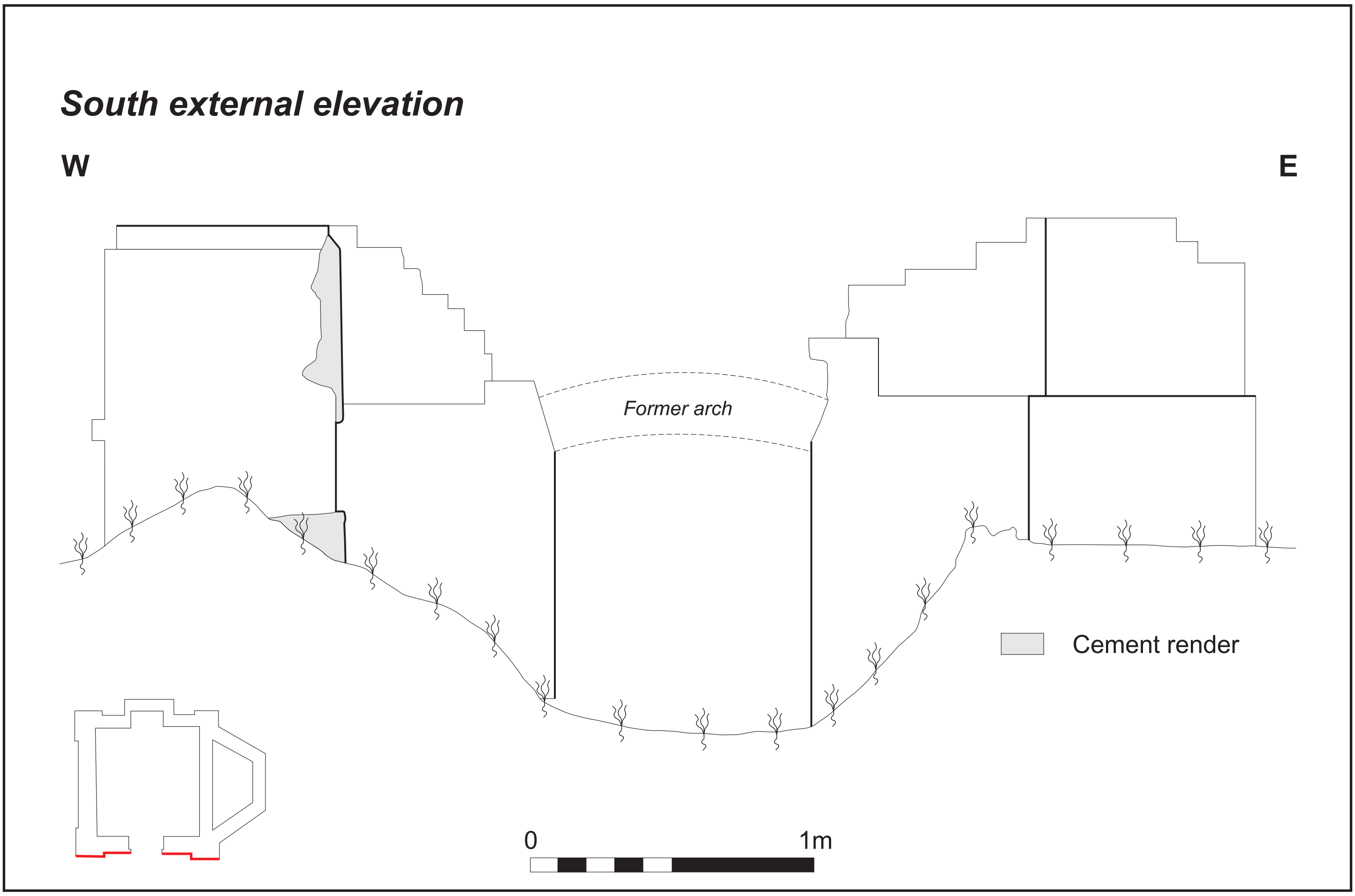
West external elevation and rusticated corner Fig 5



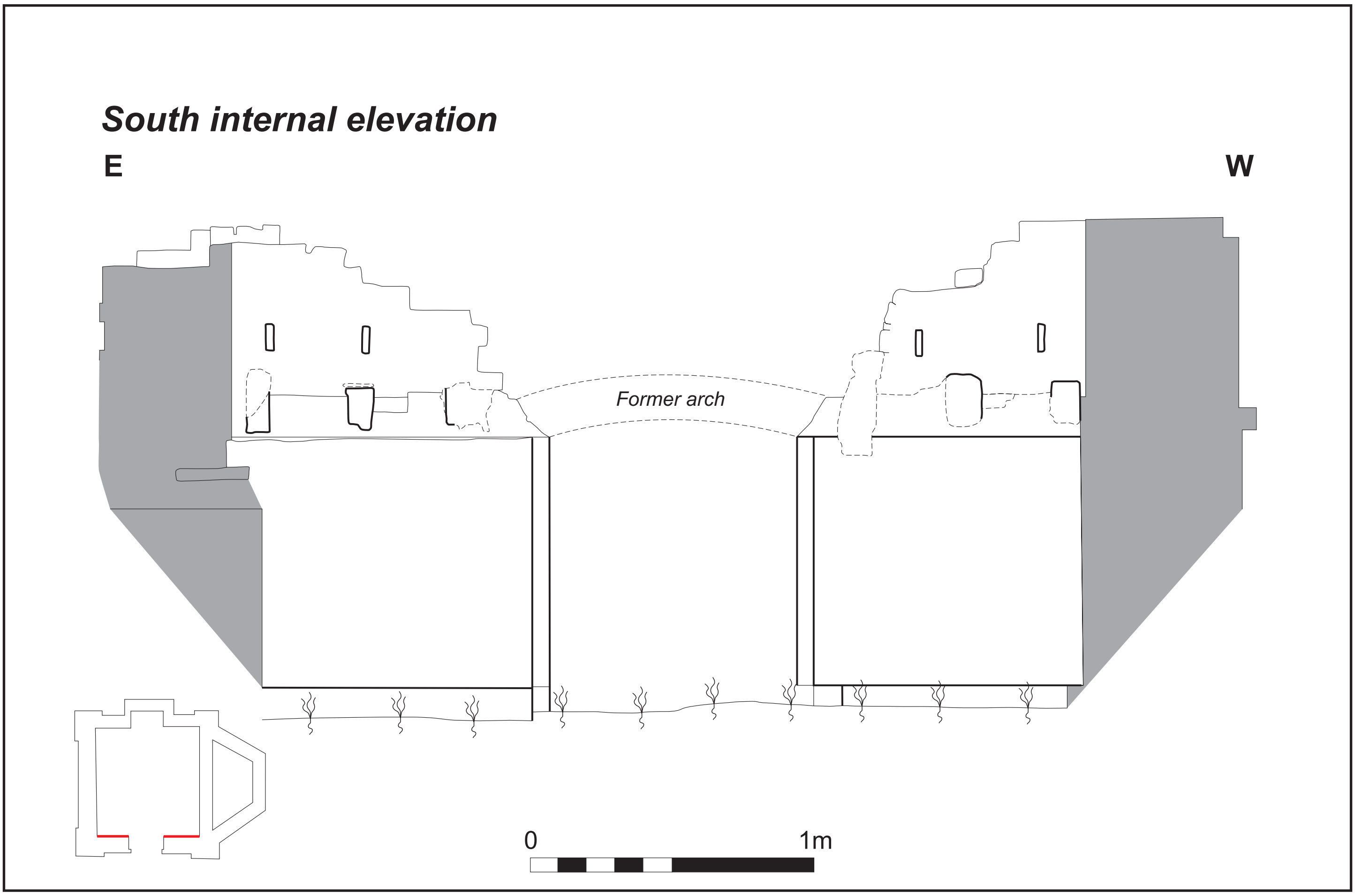
North external elevation with chimney stack Fig 6



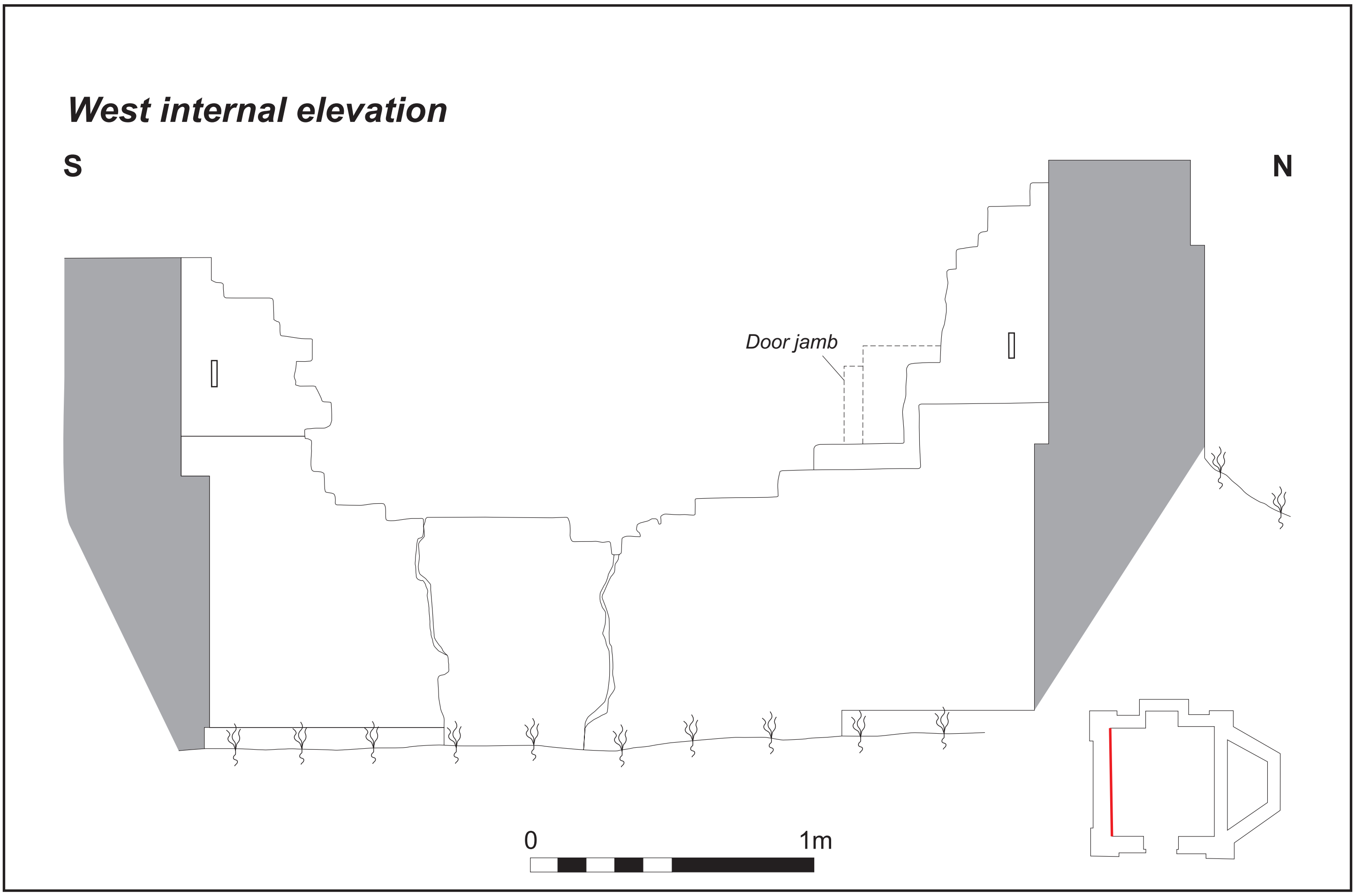
East external elevation showing canted bay in foreground   Fig 7



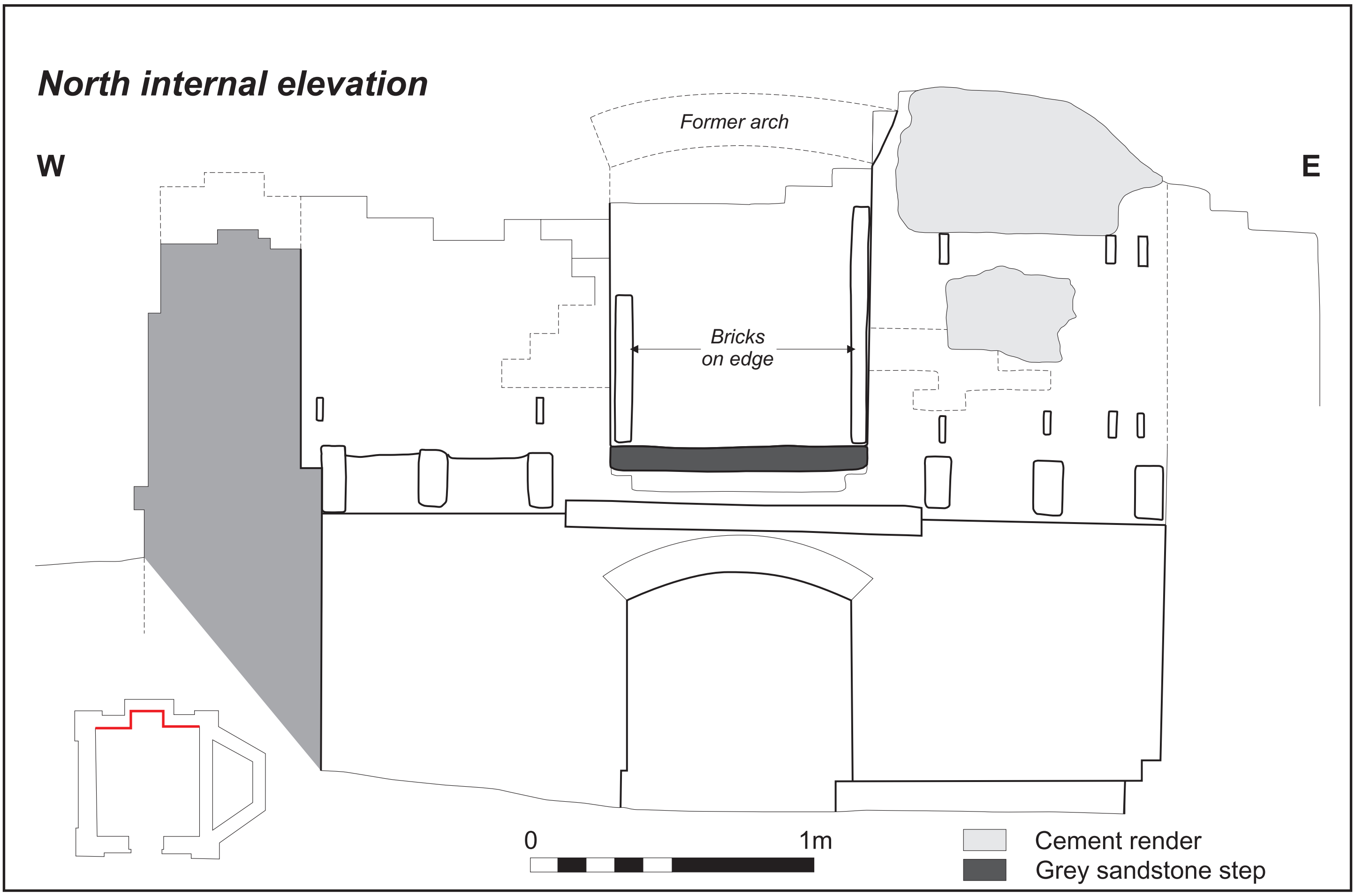
South external elevation showing door to basement Fig 8



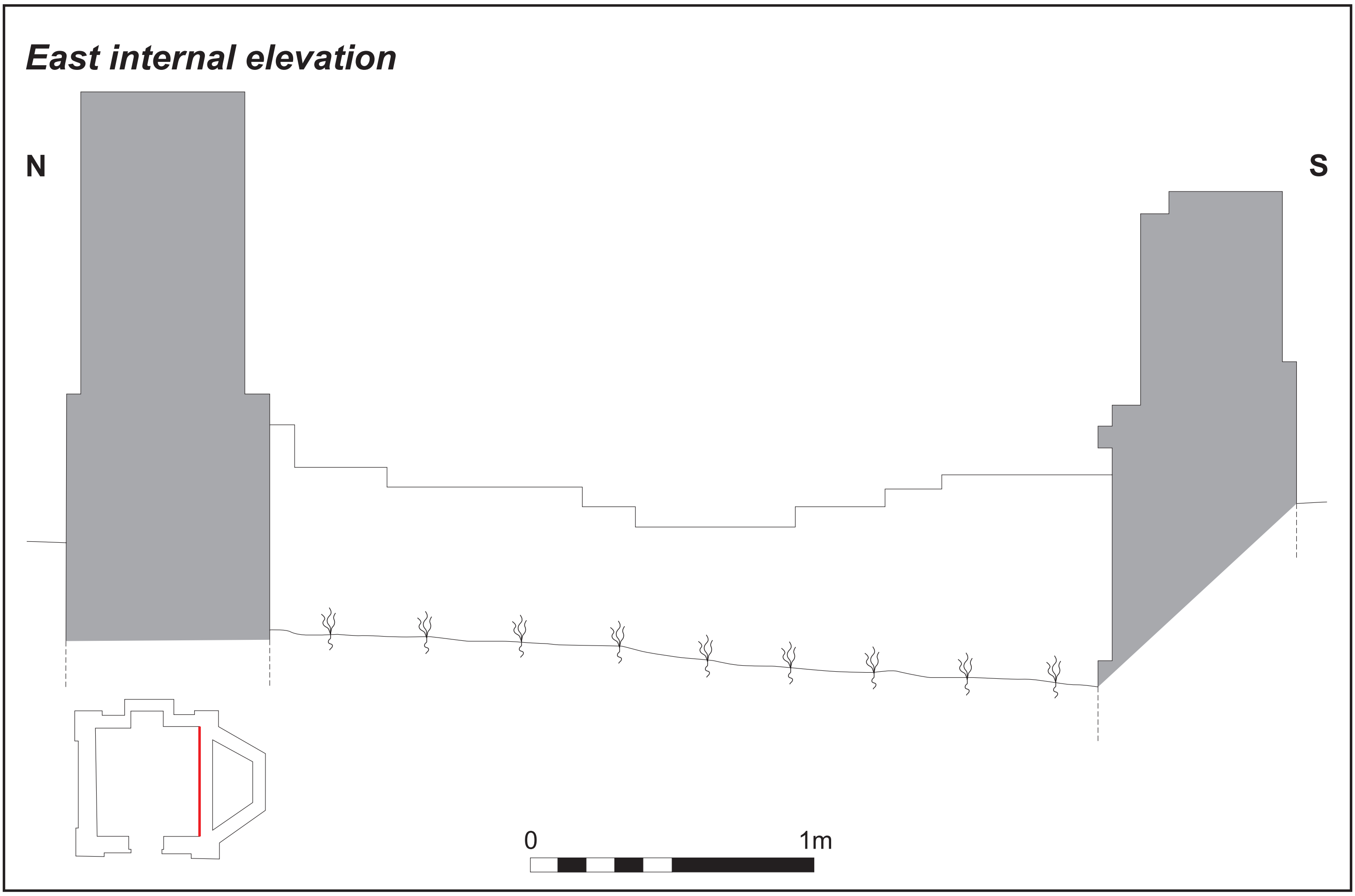
South internal elevation Fig 9



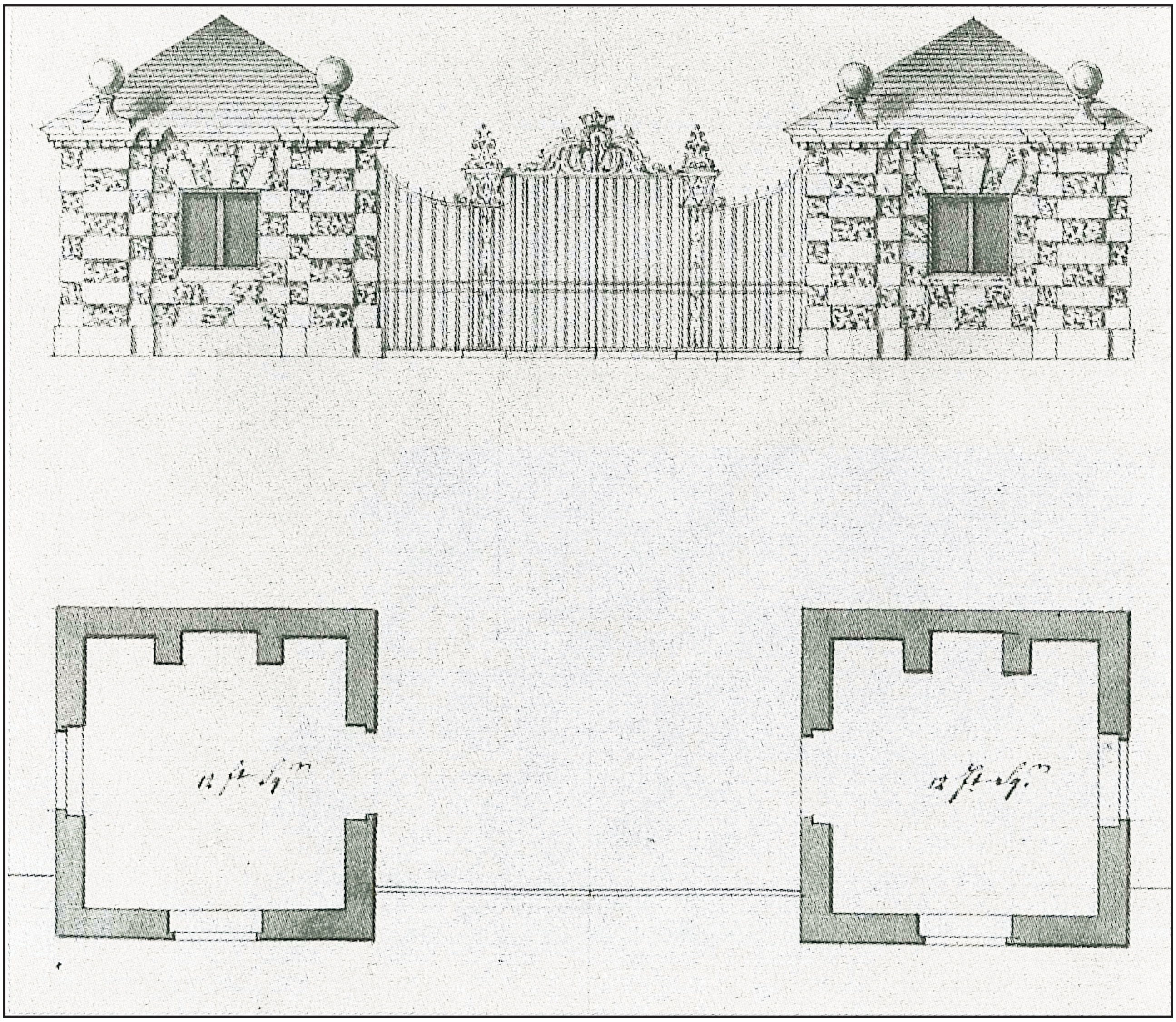
West internal elevation Fig 10



North internal elevation showing fireplace Fig 11



East internal elevation looking into canted bay Fig 12



Gate lodge plan by John Vardy, 1761. From *Trumpet at a Distant Gate* by Tim Mowl and Brian Earnshaw

Fig 13

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