



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological Building Recording at Living Stones The Avenue, Flore, Northamptonshire March 2012



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March 2012



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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		Oasis Number 121041
Project title	Archaeological Building Recording at Living Stones, The Avenue, Flore, Northamptonshire, March 2012	
Short description	Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out a buildings recording action at the Living Stones, Flore, Northamptonshire to record a 19th century, single story, brick built outbuilding prior to its demolition or conversion into accommodation blocks. The building forms a lean-to against an existing stone boundary wall and is divided into four rooms which serve as storage and workshops. The structure was found to have been subject to alteration since its construction, with the northern bay demolished and rebuilt in the 20th century. The structure likely replaces an earlier 17th-18th century one though none of the earlier fabric survives.	
Project type	Building assessment	
Previous work	Unknown	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type and period	18th century brick outbuildings	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	Living Stones, The Avenue, Flore	
Easting	46407	
Northing	26006	
Area	0.0043ha	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Northamptonshire County Council Archaeological Advisor	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Amir Bassir	
Project Manager	Iain Soden	
Sponsor or funding body	Jane Darling, Jesus Fellowship Church	
PROJECT DATE		
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End date	31st March 2012	
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

AT LIVING STONES, THE AVENUE, FLORE, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

MARCH 2012

Abstract

Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out a buildings recording action at the Living Stones, Flore, Northamptonshire to record a 19th century, single story, brick built outbuilding prior to its demolition or conversion into accommodation blocks. The building forms a lean-to against an existing stone boundary wall and is divided into four rooms which serve as storage and workshops. The structure was found to have been subject to alteration since its construction, with the northern bay demolished and rebuilt in the 20th century. The structure likely replaces an earlier 17th-18th century one though none of the earlier fabric survives.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) were commissioned by Jane Darling of the Jesus Fellowship Church to undertake an archaeological buildings recording action on an outbuilding at the Living Stones, Flore, Northamptonshire, (NGR SP 6407 6006, Figs 1&2).

The work was carried out in response to a condition of planning consent granted by Northamptonshire County Council for the demolition or conversion of the buildings into accommodation blocks.

2 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The principal objectives of the building recording brief as set out in the Brief (NCC 2012) was to record and understand the nature, function and character of existing buildings and to place them in their historic, cultural and environmental setting. The level of recording was specified as Level 1 – a basic visual record (English Heritage 2006, 14).

The specific aims of the building recording project were to:

- Provide a comprehensive visual record of the structures prior to demolition;
- Provide a comprehensive review of the local and regional historical context of the structures recorded;
- Produce a high quality, fully integrated archive suitable for long term deposition in order to “preserve by record” the buildings in their current form, prior to demolition;

A site visit was made during which all principal exterior elevations were photographed. The interiors were photographically recorded to include structural details that would be lost during demolition.

3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Living Stones

The National Heritage List description for the Living Stones is as follows:

Former vicarage, now house. Largely rebuilt 1815, probably by Daniel Harris of Oxford; C17 origins. Coursed squared ironstone, slate roofs, brick end and ridge stacks. Central staircase plan. 2-storey, 3-window range. Main block has central part-glazed door with round-arched head and fanlight, arch inscribed AUDE HOSPEES CONTEMNERE OPES/K.M.R.T./1815.

12-pane sash window to left with stone lintel and keyblock, a pair of C19 plate glass sash windows to right with stone lintels, and 4-pane C19 sash windows to first floor with stone lintels and keyblocks.

Storey band, moulded stone eaves, roof hipped to left, a stone coped gable to right with kneelers. Lower, 2-storey, 1-window wing to right has 12-pane sash windows with stone lintels and keyblocks and stone coped gable with kneelers. First floor window to right gable end with hood mould, blocked and partially covered by later brick stack to right. Service wing to rear right. Interior: staircase hall has stone floor and open well staircase with stick balusters, carved tread ends and ramped and wreathed handrail.

(Peterborough Diocesan Records in Northants Record Office)

Records held in the archives of Christchurch college reveal that the rectory of Flore, with the property and tithes that went with it, were part of an early endowment made to the college by Henry VIII in 1546, in pursuance of the establishment of the Church of England across the country.

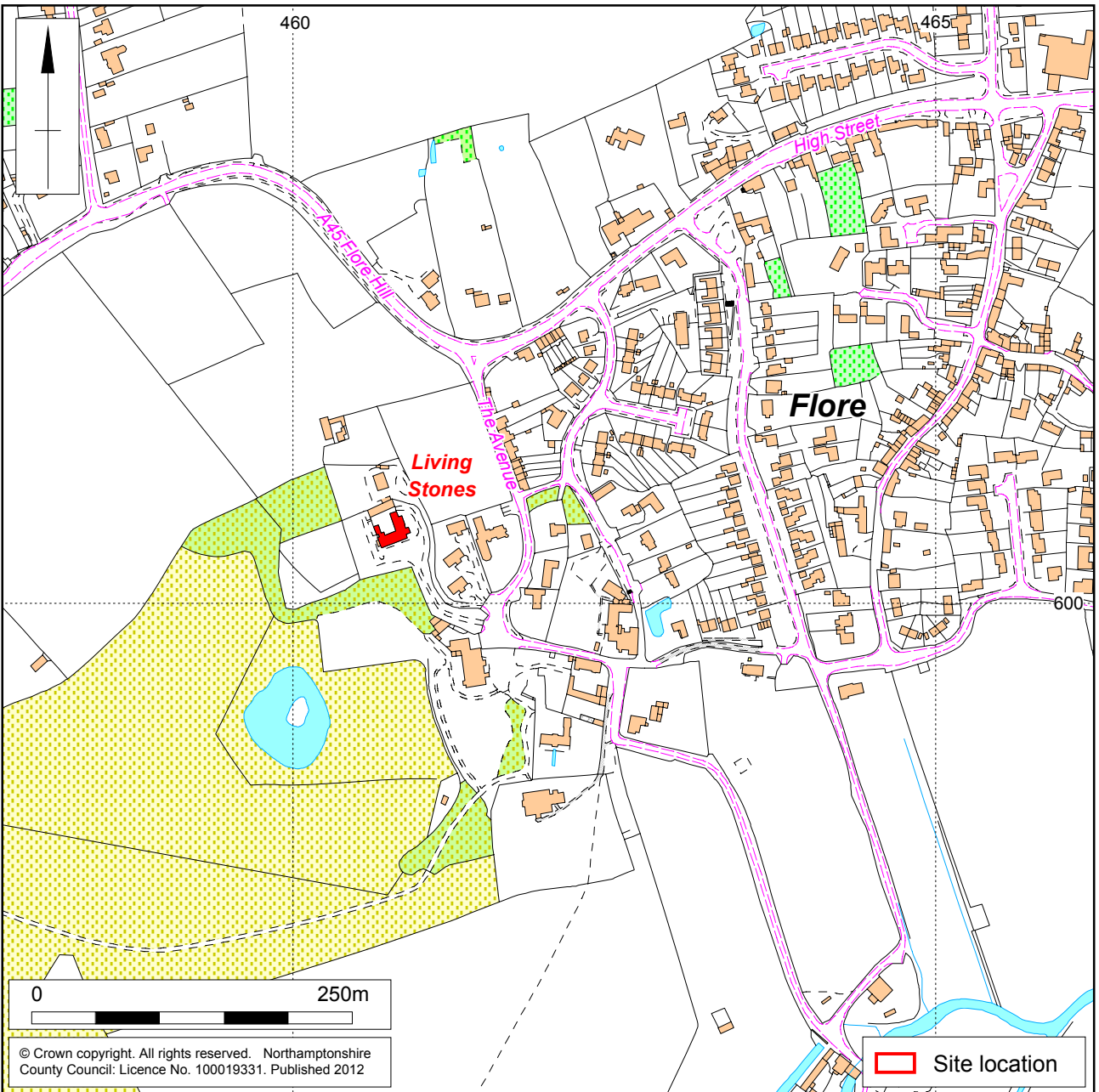
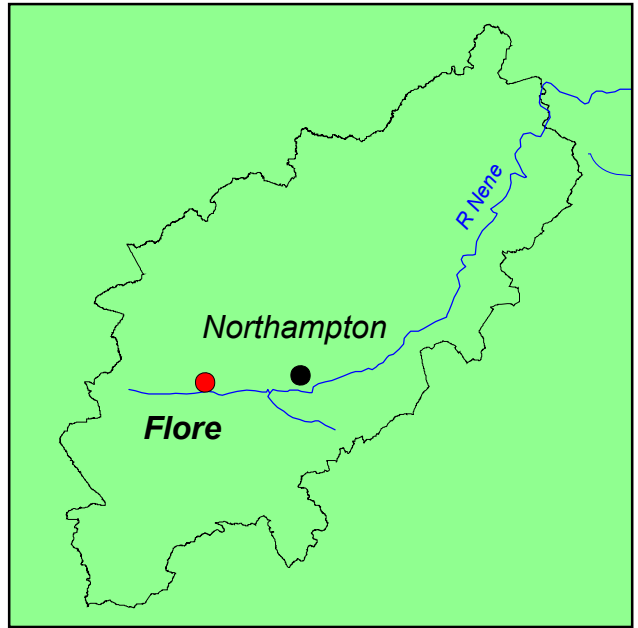
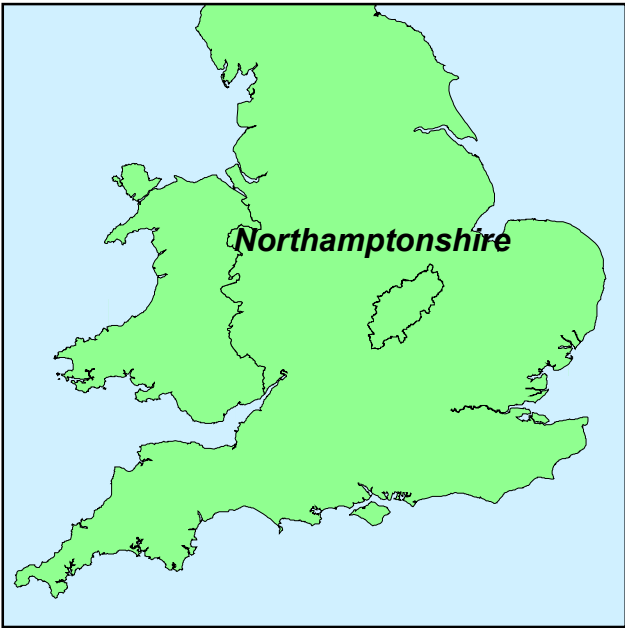
Before that date, the property was part of the possessions of the Merton Priory (Morris 1999)

Documentary evidence suggests that the vicarage was relocated from the Old Rectory into the present property in 1684. These records, "The Flore Glebe Terriers" describe the property as

- Vicarage House-5 bays
- Brew house- 2 bays
- Stables and little barn- 4 bays
- Hen and coal house-2 bays

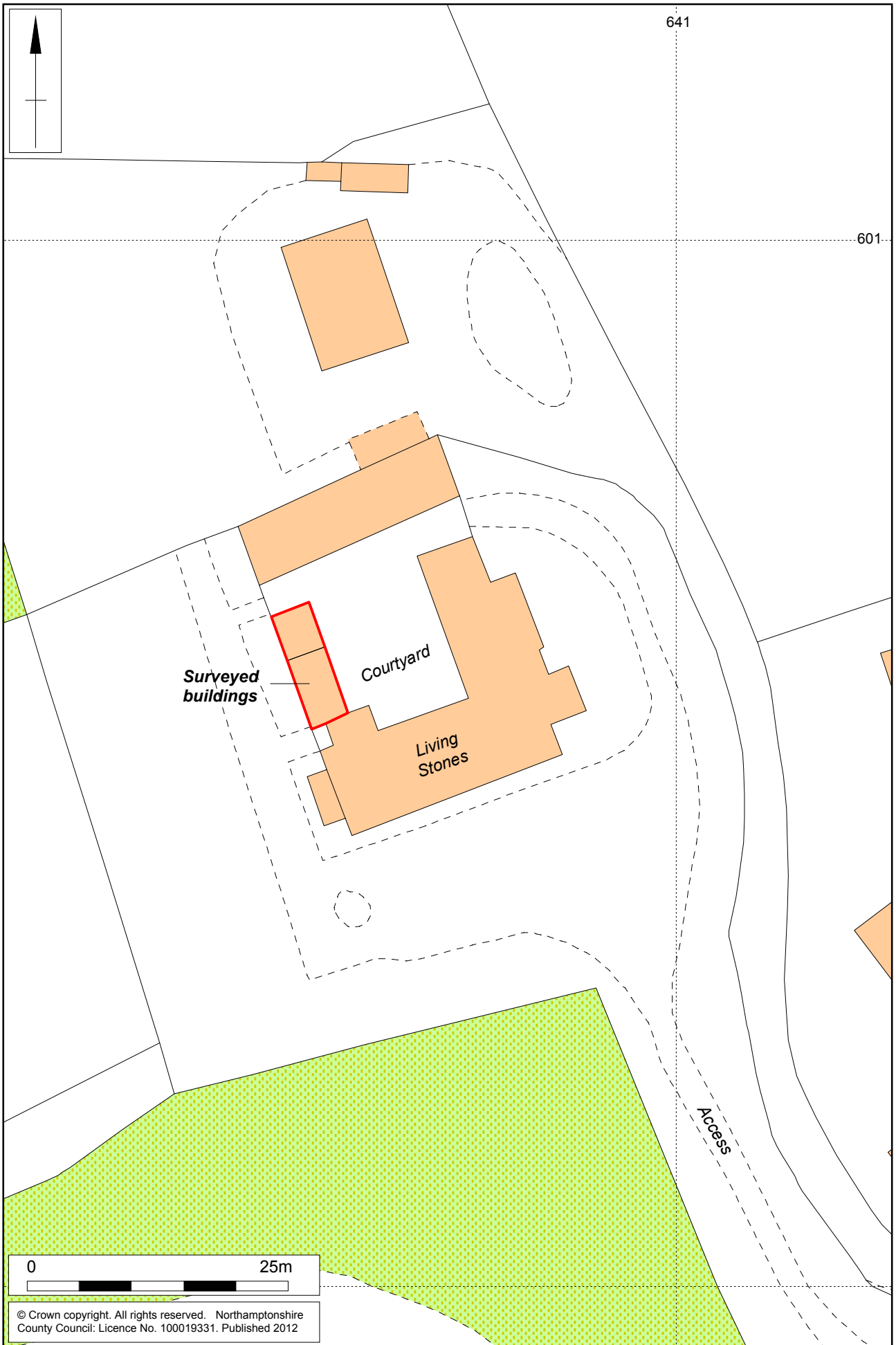
The property was subject to major alteration following the appointment of Kenneth Tarpley in 1815 who commissioned extensive alterations and renovations under the architectural direction of Daniel Harris. An 1816 map by Daniel Harris showing proposed alterations to the buildings, clearly shows four existing bays with proposals for the construction of a fifth bay to the north (Fig 4) It can therefore be assumed that the outbuildings had been extended in the 18th century. During the alteration works, the four existing rooms were merged into three and a fourth was added to the north. A doorway was knocked into the hen house and the existing doorways were blocked and altered to suit the new internal arrangement. It is also likely that the roof was raised during these works.

The most northerly bay of the outbuildings was demolished during the mid 20th century to allow vehicular access into a garage which had been constructed in the old stable block. This bay was then rebuilt in the 1980s and fitted with water tanks and access to a drain. (Fig 5)



Scale 1:5000

Site location Fig 1



Scale 1:500 (A4)

Location of the surveyed buildings Fig 2

4 BUILDING RECORDING

4.1 The building

The buildings were visited on the 2 March 2012 to carry out a photographic and written survey of the areas to be affected by the proposed works.

The structure is a single storey, brick built outbuilding, currently used for the storage of tools and equipment and as workshops also housing water tanks. It is a simple rectangular structure, aligned roughly north-west - south-east (Figs 1, 2 &5). It has a total length of 12.0m and a width of approximately 3.0m. The height is approximately 3.5m at the rear wall and 2.0m high at the front.

The building is divided into four rooms of varying size each with its own doorway (Figs 3 &5). The building forms the western extent of a central cobbled courtyard as a lean-to built against the pre-existing western enclosure wall, constructed from Northampton sand and ironstone (Fig 2).

The roof of the building is of slate tiles with weather boarding on the north elevation and lead flashing where the roof abuts the wall of the south wing of the house and the western enclosure wall. The floor in the rooms is concrete with an earlier brick floor visible beneath the concrete in Room 1 (Fig 7).

There are four east facing doorways with green-painted, wood doors in wooden frames. The date of the doors is unclear as they are of differing styles, but they all appear to be relatively recent and are unlikely to be original. The doors to Rooms 2 and 3 feature modern locks. The casement windows to Rooms 3 and 4 are also unlikely to be original.

Old iron mangers have been fixed to the front of the building in recent times to serve as decorative plant holders.

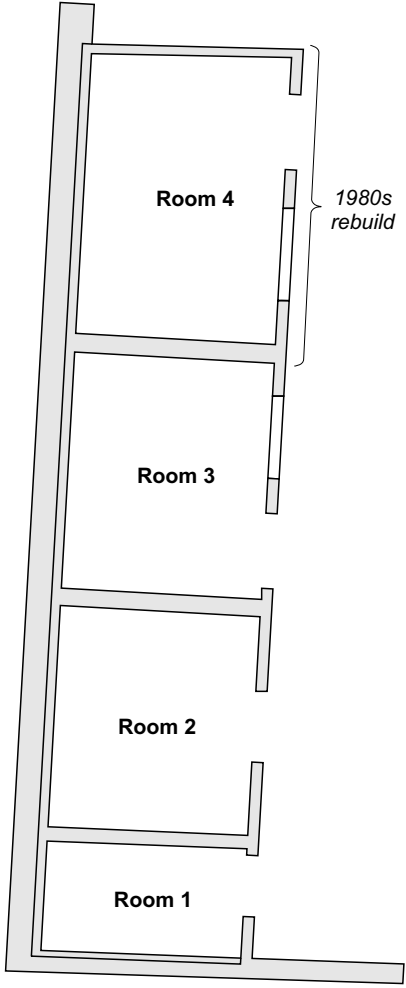
The structure shows evidence of alterations and blockings as well as the rebuilding of the most northerly room.



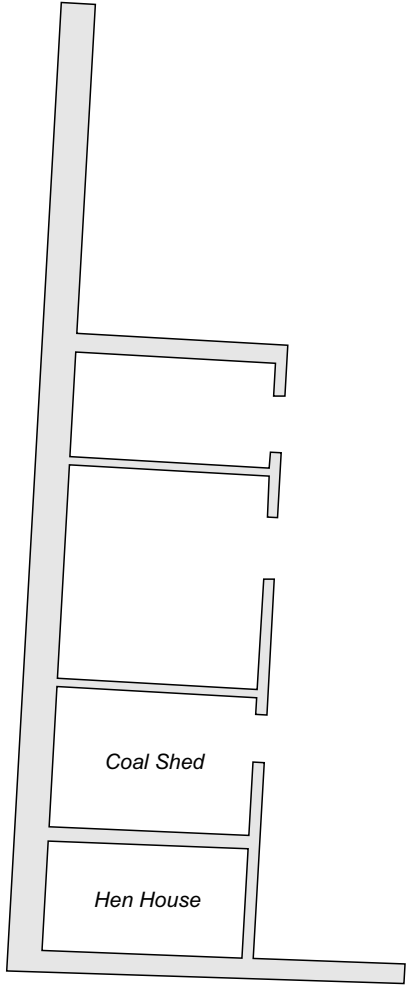
East facing (front) elevation Fig 3



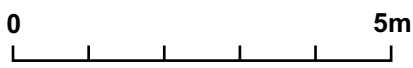
North elevation showing weather boarding (Fig 4)



Present layout of the outbuildings



Approximate pre 19th century arrangement of the outbuildings as shown on the map of 1816 by Daniel Harris



4.2 Room 1

This is the smallest room with an approximate internal measurement of 1.6m x 2.8m (Figs 5&6). It is constructed from bricks which have been plastered or painted. These have been laid in stretcher-bond with occasional courses of headers on the western/back wall. Three ascending beam slots on the southern wall and courses of newer bricks higher up the walls indicate that the roof has been raised as part of later alterations. The roof frame is mostly obscured by insulation but, where visible, it appears to be of recent construction.

An original floor of flat laid bricks is visible against the southern wall. This is covered by an inch of concrete throughout the rest of the structures (Fig 8).

The room is currently used for storage of tools and equipment and has modern electrical fittings and lighting.



Room 1, looking west Fig 6



Beam slots in the southern wall of Room 1 Fig 7



The original brick floor, overlain by concrete, Room 1 Fig 8

4.3 Room 2

Constructed from unplastered red brick, the walls of this room are still blackened from their former use as a coal cellar (Fig 9). The room has an internal measurement of 3.0m x 2.7m (Fig 5). The roof frame in this room appears to be contemporary with the construction of the room.

Unlike the other rooms, there is a 0.3m drop to the floor level from the doorway. The floor is constructed from concrete, presumably covering an earlier brick surface. Much of the room is obscured by tools and equipment.



General view of Room 2, looking west Fig 9

4.4 Room 3

Constructed from white painted brick in stretcher-bond with occasional courses of stretchers and headers, the room has an internal measurement of approximately 3.4m x 2.7m (Fig 5&10). Three courses of timber are present at regular intervals in between the brickwork of the south, north and western walls (Fig 12). The timber planks feature both lap and butt joints. The remnants of many nails and screws are present in the wood, presumably as aids to storage. The second timber course in the back (west) wall is overlain by a course of headers on edge. Traces of grey plaster are present on the back wall.

The purlin shows evidence of reuse in the form of a defunct mortice slot in the southern end (Fig 11). Iron hooks are present at intervals along the length of the purlin. The rafters supported by the purlin are recent. The brickwork has been knocked through and expanded to receive the purlin and associated brick and timber packing, though there is no obvious evidence of a scar for an earlier roof configuration (Fig 13).

An area of modern brickwork in the north-eastern corner of the room dates to the demolition of the northern room in the mid 20th century and is also visible on the external eastern elevation (Figs 14&19). As in Room 2, Daniel Harris' map of 1816 shows a different position and layout of this room with the doorway further north on the east wall and no window present (Fig 5).

The room is fitted with electrical sockets and lighting and the floor is of concrete, presumably covering an earlier brick surface.



General view of Room 3 Fig 10



Purlin in Room 3, showing timber re-use and iron hooks Fig 11



The timber courses in the brickwork of Room 3, looking south Fig 12



The alteration of brickwork to accommodate the purlin, Room 3 Fig 13



Area of modern brickwork in the north eastern corner of Room 3 Fig 14

4.5 Room 4

This room was largely constructed in the 1980s following its demolition in the mid 20th century. A straight join is clearly visible on the eastern elevation where the modern rebuild begins (Fig 19). The 19th century fabric partially survives in the west (back) and southern walls (Figs 15&17). The newer build is constructed from courses of red brick stretchers while the older fabric is of painted brick in stretcher-bond with occasional courses of headers and stretchers. The roof frame is of an entirely modern construction.

The room houses two metal water tanks which are supported on brick plinths (Figs 15&17). There is access to a drain in the floor via a metal cover with concrete surround (Fig 16). The floor is of concrete and the room is fitted with electrical sockets and lighting.



General view of Room 4 showing the water tanks, looking south-west Fig 15



The drain access and concrete surround in Room 4, looking north Fig 16



The merging of the older fabric and later rebuild, beneath the water tanks, west wall of Room 1, also showing brick plinths Fig 17

5 CONCLUSION

The survey has shown that the outbuildings in this location have their origins in the 18th century but have been subject to rebuilding, alteration, renovation in the years since. The most significant phase of works was in 1816 under Daniel Harris when the earlier buildings were probably demolished and replaced by a new and extended range in brick. It is unlikely that any fabric dating prior to the 1816 alterations survives in the structure. It is quite probable that the buildings were re-roofed and the roof level raised at some point in the later 19th century, and the Welsh slate tiles may have been introduced at this time. It is likely that Rooms 1 and 2 are the least disturbed and retain more of their original fabric than Rooms 3 and 4. The beam slots in the southern wall of Room 1 suggest that the wall at least remains relatively unaltered.

The northern end of the range was demolished in the mid 20th century to accommodate vehicular access in the courtyard. This demolition can be seen in the brickwork in Room 3 and in the older fabric visible in parts of Room 4 which was rebuilt in the 1980s (Figs 4,18&19). The north-eastern corner of Room 3 was damaged during this demolition and rebuilt with modern bricks. The current Room 4 abuts this area (Fig 19).



The doorways to Rooms 2 and 3, and later iron manger Fig 18



Demolition scar and vertical joint between Rooms 3 and 4 Fig 19

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