



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological assessment of buildings on the
Eydon Hall Estate, Eydon, Northamptonshire;
The detached stable and stock buildings



Northamptonshire Archaeology

2 Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton NN4 8BE
t. 01604 700493 f. 01604 702822
e. sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk
w. www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk



Northamptonshire
County Council

Joe Prentice and Iain Soden

Report 11/154

July 2011



**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY
JULY 2011**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF
BUILDINGS ON THE EYDON HALL ESTATE, EYDON,
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE:
THE DETACHED STABLE AND STOCK BUILDINGS
JUNE 2011**

STAFF

Project Manager: Iain Soden BA, MfA

Text: Joe Prentice

Fieldwork: Joe Prentice and Iain Soden

Illustrations: Amir Bassir BSc

QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Pat Chapman		
Verified by	Iain Soden		
Approved by	Steve Parry		

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Archaeological assessment of buildings on the Eydon Hall Estate, Eydon, Northamptonshire	
Short description	A building assessment recorded the detached former stable block and associated stock buildings lying to the east of the northern entrance to the estate along with further buildings to the east of the same driveway. The stable block dates to the mid seventeenth-century with later additions and alterations, the stone range of stock buildings most likely date to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. To the south-east lie modern steel and corrugated sheeting sheds.	
Project type	Building assessment	
Site status	Stable block Listed Grade II, adjacent buildings within curtilage thereof	
Previous work	None	
Current Land use	All buildings currently vacant awaiting renovation	
Future work	Proposed renovation and conversion to workshop and home office spaces; expansion of sheds	
Monument type/ period	Post-medieval	
Significant finds	No	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	Eydon Hall Estate, Eydon, Northampton, NN11 3QE	
Study area	Stable block and adjacent farm buildings	
OS Easting & Northing	Centered on SP 54235 50025; 0.19ha	
Height OD	c 150-160m above Ordnance Datum	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief originator	Brief agreed with Client's Architect	
Project Design originator	Iain Soden (NA)	
Director/Supervisor		
Project Manager	Iain Soden (NA)	
Sponsor or funding body	Mr and Mrs Stamper	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	June 2011	
End date	July 2011	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		None
Paper		
Digital		
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)	
Title	Archaeological assessment of buildings on the Eydon Hall Estate, Eydon, Northamptonshire	
Serial title & volume	11/154	
Author(s)	J Prentice & I Soden	
Page numbers	16 text, 4 figs, 20 plates	
Date	July 2011	

Contents

- 1 INTRODUCTION
 - 2 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY
 - 3 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT
 - 4 BUILDING ASSESSMENT
 - 5 CONCLUSIONS
- ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
- BIBLIOGRAPHY
- GLOSSARY

Cover photo: The detached stable, stock buildings and steel framed sheds looking west

Figures

- Fig 1: Site location, 1:5,000
- Fig 2: Location of the buildings
- Fig 3: Ground and first floor plans of the detached stable
- Fig 4: Ground floor plans of the stock buildings

Plates

- Plate 1: The detached stable south elevation, looking north
- Plate 2: The detached stable, scratch dial
- Plate 3: The detached stable west elevation, looking east
- Plate 4: The detached stable east elevation, looking west
- Plate 5: The detached stable Room G1, looking east
- Plate 6: The detached stable Room G1, looking west
- Plate 7: The detached stable Room G2, looking east
- Plate 8: The detached stable Room F1, looking west
- Plate 9: The detached stable Room F1, blocked window in south wall, looking south
- Plate 10: The detached stable Room F1, looking east
- Plate 11: The detached stable Room F2 west wall, looking west
- Plate 12: The detached stable Room F2 east wall, looking east

- Plate 13: The detached stable fireplace flue, looking up, showing sooting
- Plate 14: Stock building SB1, looking north
- Plate 15: Stock building SB2, looking north
- Plate 16: Stock building SB3, looking north
- Plate 17: Stock building SB3, interior, looking north-east
- Plate 18: Stock buildings SB4 and SB5, looking north-west
- Plate 19: Conjoined steel framed sheds, looking south
- Plate 20: Single steel framed building, looking east

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING ASSESSMENT OF
THE FORMER STABLE BLOCK AND FARM BUILDINGS, EYDON
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

JUNE 2011

Abstract

A building assessment recorded the former stable block and associated farm buildings lying to the east of the northern entrance to the Eydon Hall Estate. The stable block dates to the mid seventeenth-century with later additions and alterations, the stone range of stock buildings most likely date to the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. To the south-east lie modern steel and corrugated sheeting sheds

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The village of Eydon lies approximately 22 miles (35 kilometres) south-west of Northampton (NGR SP 54235 50025; Fig 1). Eydon Hall, a late eighteenth-century mansion designed by James Lewis for the Reverend Francis Annesley (c1733-1811) lies to the south-west of the church of St Nicholas at the southern end of the village. The existing mansion was constructed in 1788-89 and replaced an earlier building, variously reported to have been located a short distance to the east (Hewden and Taylor 1996) and east of the church.

The group of buildings which are the subject of this report lie to the east of the north entrance lodge to the Hall and comprise a former stable block and associated service buildings and animal shelters. The stable block is Grade II Listed, the adjacent stock and service buildings are not individually listed but are likely to be covered by the same level of listing and, for the purposes of this exercise have been regarded as listed by curtilage.

- 1.2 Site visits were made in early June 2011 to assess the structure of the stable block and adjacent farm buildings before any alterations are undertaken to determine, if possible, the dates of the structures and to record any evidence of former fixtures and fittings. The record conforms broadly to that of Level II of the English Heritage guidelines (EH 2006).
- 1.3 The underlying bedrock geology of the area comprises Northampton Sand Formation (British Geological Survey 1974).

2 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 The general objectives of the recording were:
- To establish an accurate archaeological record of the buildings to English Heritage Level II (EH 2006, section 5), by means of annotated phase plans.
 - To undertake a comprehensive photographic survey of the buildings in their present condition using digital colour media.
 - To undertake detailed recording of significant structural features, including any architectural detailing and decoration, timber framing, graffiti, ritual marks or carpenter marks.

- 2.2 The drawn record was based upon the architect's plans as produced for the current owner. The accuracy of the plans was checked and they were annotated and amended to produce an accurate archaeological building record.
- 2.3 All works were conducted in accordance with the English Heritage procedural document, *The Management of Research Projects on the Historic Environment* (EH 2006b, revised 2009) and the Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (IfA revised 2008).

3 BUILDING ASSESSMENT

- 3.1 For ease of reference this building assessment reports on each separate element of the present buildings floor by floor, separating the various additions in a chronological order where this can be discerned; there follows at the end a discussion which draws together the group as a whole.

The stable block is a rectangular structure with its long axis aligned almost exactly east-west with a detached range of farm buildings lying to the immediate east (Fig 2). The stable block comprises two floors, the adjacent farm buildings are all single storey. To the south of these is a group of late twentieth-century steel framed farm sheds.

The whole complex is constructed of dressed, coursed ironstone bonded in a creamy-white lime mortar or red brick with a variety of roof coverings including slate and corrugated metal or asbestos sheeting. Rainwater goods are a mixture of cast iron and modern polyurethane.

The different sections of the building are described separately; external elevations first then individual rooms, floor by floor.

3.2 The stable block exterior

3.3 *The south elevation*

The stable block is built on a slope which falls from west to east and thus the levels of the doorways at the west end are higher than those at the eastern end, both corresponding to different internal floor levels. Built of dressed and coursed ironstone bonded in lime mortar with no plinth but with large quoins at the corners, this elevation contains three doorways, all secondary, and two arched windows facing southwards at ground floor level with a single, two-light mullioned window at first floor level (Fig 3, Plate 1). The two arched windows are clearly later additions as is the doorway which they symmetrically flank. The form of the windows is identical, each comprising un-moulded sills with the arches formed of alternating larger and smaller voussoirs proud of the wall but in an un-rusticated row. Each is filled by four fixed panes of glass set within timber glazing bars and frame, all painted white. The westernmost arch retains a number of engraved graffiti on the sill and voussoirs comprising capital letters W, H and I (probably representing J) but no dates.

The central door is a modern replacement, set within a modern door frame beneath an oak lintel. The door fittings are all modern. This doorway, between the arched windows serves the main, western stable but was originally entered via a now blocked doorway located close to the internal cross wall which divides the western, upper, room from the lower, eastern room (Fig 3). The jambs of the former doorway can be traced on both sides, and the original lintel height is thought to be close to the level of the doorway to the east, and the sill level of the window of the arched window to the west.

There is no indication that the stones of the jambs were moulded or chamfered. To the west of the former doorway is a scratch, or Mass, dial (Plate 2). Generally identified as dating to the medieval period (c1100-1600) they are often re-set even appearing on north or internal walls where they could not have functioned, but are almost exclusively originally built into churches. Displaying wide variations, they are difficult to date and vary from very simple dials with a central hole for the gnomon and a semi-circle of dots representing the times to elaborate radiating lines with Roman or Arab numerals inscribed. The location of the dial here is problematic since there is clearly no suggestion that this building was a church, or even related to it in the manner of a rectory, so it seems more likely that the block of stone on which the dial is incised has simply been re-used.

At the east end at ground floor level are two doorways, the westernmost probably original, the easternmost a later insertion (Fig 3). Both are currently fitted with modern doors set in modern frames, each beneath an oak lintel.

At first floor level is a single window, now divided into two lights by a central, stone mullion, though originally divided into three lights by two mullions (Fig 3). The mullions are of a simple chamfered pattern and the window is surmounted by a hood mould. Both lights are currently fitted with fixed timber frames, each holding two panes of glass. To the west of this window are faint scars of two further sets of windows, of the same configuration (see below, section 3.10). They are each expertly blocked with well selected and coursed ironstone laid in lime mortar.

The roof is covered with blue, probably Welsh, slate with either lead or galvanised metal flashing to the ridge line in place of ridge tiles.

3.4 ***The west elevation***

The west gable end is constructed of the same materials as the south elevation, and it too lacks a plinth (Fig 3, Plate 3). It currently contains a single opening at first floor level although this has been reduced in size from a wider window. As it currently remains, this opening has been made to function as a hay loft door and is fitted with a modern vertically planked door set in an oak frame beneath an oak lintel. The form of the earlier window is uncertain but was probably mullioned like those on the south side of the building. Below, and to the south, is evidence of a window at ground floor level, the sill of which is at approximately the same level as that of the arched windows on the south side, and probably contemporary with them. It was set beneath an oak lintel and has been filled externally with coursed ironstone laid in lime mortar.

At eaves level are simply decorated kneelers which support coping extending to the ridge. The coursing of the stonework at eaves level suggests that the pitch of the roof may have been altered from an originally steeper angle (see below, section 3.10).

3.5 ***The north elevation***

The north elevation is constructed in the same way as the previously described elevations and has no plinth (Fig 3). Currently this elevation cannot be viewed in its entirety due to the insertion of a wall towards the western end which joins it to the adjacent carriage house. There is at present only a single opening on this side and this has been reduced, the present sill being higher than the original. This opening is at present fitted with a door made of vertical planks set beneath an oak lintel. The strap hinges, viewed only from ground level, appear to be of late nineteenth-century date.

Towards the western end are two former openings at ground floor level, one above the other though slightly staggered. This configuration suggests that they were not open at

the same time or their location makes no sense. Difficult to see due to lichen growth on the wall, neither retains its original lintel and the openings have been infilled with ironstone.

3.6 ***The east elevation***

The east gable end of the building is constructed in the same way as the other elevation but with a plinth (Fig 3, Plate 4). The elevation contains a single window at both ground and first floor levels with a blocked triangular opening at attic level; there is a simple brick stack projecting above the ridge.

The window at ground floor level comprises a three light opening with two chamfered mullions set beneath a hood mould. The individual lights are secured by the presence of vertical iron bars set into the lintel and sill of the windows; they are not currently glazed but are covered internally by plywood sheet.

Above the hood mould is the external disc of a circular tie plate, of uncertain date, but probably twentieth-century, used to restrain outward movement of the gable.

At first floor level there is a further window which appears originally to have been identically configured, though now only the individual blocks remain, comprising the jambs, sill and lintel, the hood mould having been dressed off. The mullions may remain within the thickness of the wall, however, they cannot be seen and the whole opening is now filled with coursed ironstone.

At eaves level a triangular opening is visible, though its original form and function is unclear; it may have provided an opening for an attic dovecote, or been another window or held an armorial or datestone. Nothing now remains and the space is now filled with coursed ironstone.

The eaves retain simply decorated kneelers identical to those on the west gable, and the roof line has plain copings. At the ridge is a later, brick chimney stack.

3.7 ***The stable block interior***

The stable block will be described floor by floor from the lowest level upwards. Rooms have been given numbers to avoid any confusion although where a clear function can be ascribed that appellation will also be included. Ground floor = G1 etc, first floor = F1 etc.

3.8 ***The ground floor, G1***

A large, rectangular room located at the west end of the building (Fig 3, Plate 5). The floor is of modern concrete laid over a polythene membrane. The interior south wall retains lime plaster across almost its entire surface, including the jambs and soffits of the door and windows, and which is limewashed. The west, north and east walls are of exposed stone and brickwork. The arched windows in the south wall have deeply splayed sills and soffits which allow more daylight into the room.

The ceiling is supported on three transverse beams, painted white. They are all carefully squared and probably of oak, although close inspection was not possible, and each is chamfered with run-out stops on both sides at either end. They in turn support axial joists some of which are original, others are modern replacements; the originals retain indications that the underside of the ceiling was plastered over laths. There is a loft hatch in the second bay from the west end which would have allowed fodder and other materials to be passed between the lower and upper floors; it does not retain its hinged door and currently is simply covered by a loose board.

In the west wall the recess of the partly filled former window can be seen, the inner surface filled with modern, grey, breeze blocks set beneath an oak lintel (Plate 6). To the north the faint outline of the stall end, or travise, can be seen as a dark stain on the wall. This suggests that the heel post was situated just to the north of the northern jamb of the blocked window and the travise appears to have had a traditional swept top rail, rising towards the headpost, located close to or against the north wall. There are no indications of either a hayrack or manger.

The north wall is devoid of evidence of the stall divisions, hayracks or mangers. The outlines of the two windows observed on the north wall exterior can be more clearly seen, and again it appears that they must have been open at different times since the upper lies slightly above the lower, an unlikely historic layout. Both retain their oak lintels but no indications of frames since the infilling lies flush with the internal wall plane. At the upper east end of the wall the blocked lower portion of the hayloft door observed in the external north wall can be faintly seen. Beneath each of the three transverse beams there are faint indications which show that these have been raised to their present height; formerly they were located approximately 0.6m lower and indicate that the ceiling (and by definition the floor above) were originally lower. This raising appears to have been associated with the insertion of the arched windows and present doorway in the south wall since at the lower level the ceiling would have cut across the former (no indication can be seen of the corresponding southern, lower sockets, since the south wall retains its plaster coating).

The east wall contains an internal doorway leading through to the adjacent east room; the northern jamb of this doorway is a modern re-build, part of the southern jamb appears to be historic whilst part of this too has been re-built. The lintel(s) comprise oak beams. To the south at (the earlier, lower) first floor level is a blocked opening filled with red brick; to the immediate south of this is the current access to the first floor room at the eastern end of the building (Plate 5). Currently there is no staircase or loft ladder to this higher level, but a scar of a former stair can be seen rising from the south side of the wall to the present first floor but crossing the brick blocking; this suggests that this scar relates to the period after which the ceiling was raised. There is no indication of how the upper floor was accessed before the raising of the ceiling.

The evidence indicates that in its latest phase of alteration this room was used as a stable.

3.9 ***The ground floor, Room G2***

Accessible from either of the two doors in the south wall or the internal doorway in the east wall of G1, this room is at a lower level than the former stable (Fig 3). Almost exactly square in plan it also contains a window in the east wall (previously described, section 3.6). Nothing can be seen internally since this opening is currently boarded over. To the immediate south of this window is a fireplace, a secondary feature, built into and against the south and east walls (Plate 7). It retains an oak lintel, the stone jambs are badly eroded and no indication remains to indicate whether or not they were decorated. The hearth is raised slightly above present floor level, (which is modern concrete over polythene membrane) and the back of the fireplace opening is filled with dressed ironstone, rubble stone and clay tiles. The east wall is largely plastered and limewashed.

The south wall has been partly re-built using breeze blocks, and is partly original, both doorways have modern concrete lintels and the doors and frames are also modern replacements, although as noted, the western doorway is seemingly an original setting.

The west wall retains almost no features apart from the doorway leading into room G1 and is bare stonework with no plaster finish. The only other possible feature is what may be an in-filled socket for an axial beam, though if this is the case the reason is unclear since there appears to be no obvious reason why the principal beam in this room should ever have been aligned differently to those in G1.

The north wall is plastered and limewashed, and apart from the scar of a vertical post set beneath the present transverse beam suggesting some form of stub partition, there are no other features.

The beam is of the same size and is finished in the same way as those in G1, its spacing is also the same and therefore the supposition that this has been re-aligned by 90 degrees seems less likely. The joists and undersides of the floorboards are painted white.

It is postulated that this room was latterly used as a tack room adjacent to the stable.

3.10 ***The first floor, F1***

Accessed by a modern ladder in the location of the former staircase at the southern end of G1, the upper floor is a single, unlit, space (Fig 3, Plate 8). There is a hayloft door in the west wall, although when closed this allows no natural light into the room since it has no glazing, likewise a hayloft door in the north wall which is also unglazed.

The south wall retains the scars of the inner jambs and lintels of the blocked windows at this level (Plate 9). Whilst only partially exposed, the upper edges of the side jambs and moulded lintels of the mullioned outer openings can be observed. Each is set beneath an oak lintel which has the internal edge carefully chamfered and decorated at each end with scroll moulded stops (there were originally three lights with two mullions to each opening like the one extant in F2, see Fig 3). The wall, including those areas of window blocking, retain roughly finished and limewashed plaster.

The west wall contains the hay loft door which has splayed jambs beneath an oak lintel. The whole opening is set within a partially infilled wider opening, presumably originally filled with a wide mullioned window; if this was the case there would have probably been four lights rather than the three of the windows in the south and east walls due to the width of the former opening; however, no evidence remains to confirm this. Whilst the lower portion of the wall is bare stone, the upper section shows that this wall was at some stage plastered and limewashed.

The north wall retains almost no features apart from the hayloft door towards the eastern end but which once related to the earlier, lower floor level.

The east wall contains the doorway, presently lying halfway below the first floor level, (since the ceiling/floor was raised) and an internal window at the north end of this wall (Plates 5 and 10). Neither appear to be original openings, and the location of the doorway now makes, and presumably previously made for, an awkward progression from the ladder (formerly stair) to either upper floor. This unusual arrangement indicates that when carried out, the upper floor was considered to be of minor importance and the people using it equally so. Both the doorway leading into F2 and the internal window are best observed, and therefore described, from F2 (see below, section 3.11). The dividing wall between the two upper rooms is constructed of ironstone only to the level of the eaves, above this the cheeks are in-filled with vertical timber studs and plastered between, probably over laths or wattle.

The roof is supported on three oak trusses of vaguely queen post construction (Plates 8 and 9). The struts which give the appearance of queen posts are in fact later attachments fixed with iron nails and rise from the upper surface of the tie beams to the level of the collars. The principal rafters support the purlins which appear to be trenched, although this is not certain. All of the joints are pegged. The secondary rafters do not align with the principals and it appears that the roof has been altered, perhaps being completely replaced with some timbers showing evidence of re-use, not least the trusses themselves which retain empty, redundant, mortices. This evidence, along with the possible reduced gable angles observed in the west gable, suggest considerable re-configuration. The underside of the roof is not felted.

3.11 *The first floor, F2*

Accessed by a doorway set within the stone dividing wall between the two parts of the interior, this room must originally have been accessed from the former staircase against the west side of the wall (Fig 3, Plate 5). Just as the ground floor east room of the building is at a lower level than the west, so the first floor room is at a lower level than the western first floor room, a necessity since the building is constructed on a slope (see Plate 1). The room is currently unplastered although each wall bears indications that at one time it was, each internal wall face now comprises either stone or brick.

In the south wall is a window, originally divided into three parts by two stone chamfered mullions, although now divided by a single, re-positioned mullion (Fig 3). The opening has splayed reveals and the internal lintel is of oak with a chamfered edge; the soffit retains painted plaster laid over split laths. The sill is a replacement and comprises planks (probably pine) fixed to horizontal timber set into the wall. The glazing within the altered window comprises fixed lights of two panes to each half in a timber frame. Beneath the window is an area of modern patching infilled with breeze blocks and common bricks.

The west wall contains the doorway, formerly from the now missing staircase, currently from a modern ladder (Plate 11). The opening retains no door and is a secondary insertion, the previous doorway was situated to the north, now filled on the west side by brickwork with the east side being utilised as a cupboard. The original doorway was situated beneath a thick oak lintel, when it was moved to the south no lintel was inserted so that the southern side of the doorway is supported simply by the doorframe. The interior of the cupboard is lined with matchboard, some of which is painted maroon. To the north of the cupboard is an internal window or hatch opening set beneath the tie beam, although this does not appear to be an original feature since the stonework beneath it is clearly re-set as is the south jamb. It may simply have been an attempt to allow some natural daylight into the (at present) unlit western first floor room.

The north wall is plain and retains no evidence of windows or other opening or any internal features.

The east wall retains the most evidence of former intervention (Fig 3, Plate 12). It can be roughly divided into three sections, a stone fireplace and associated chimney stack on the north side, a brick fireplace and stack in the centre and the stack, or flue, to the fireplace situated in the room beneath on the south side. All are secondary features, but the two stone stacks pre-date the central brick feature. Both stacks are built against, but not bonded to, the external walls indicating that they were not integral to the first phase of the building. The fireplace at first floor level is better preserved than that on the ground floor, and retains moulded jambs as well as the lintel which is cut from a single block and has chamfered edges. These terminate in moulded stops at their lower ends on either side but are too badly eroded to determine the exact form. The fireplace has lost its hearth and hearth slab. Currently there is a void through to the floor below. The

back of the fireplace has been re-plastered and shows no sign of having been used, but inspection up the flue reveals sooting showing that at some stage the fireplace was utilised (Plate 13). This view also shows how the stack has moved away from the external wall due to the lack of bonding. In the angle of the south and east walls is located the stack to the fireplace below. Here it presents a simple stone face with no other features apart from a tiny fragment of facing plaster at floor level. Both the northern fireplace stack and the southern stack have been cut off at eaves level and it is unclear if they originally joined to connect at ridge height and formed one external stack or projected through the roof line individually. Between these two stone stacks the recess has been infilled with a predominantly brick fireplace and associated flue, although with some ironstone down the north side (Plate 12). This is clearly the last phase of addition in this room and by the size of the bricks probably dates to the second half of the nineteenth-century. The front of the flue has, for some reason, been largely removed, taking with it the arch which formed the lintel of the fireplace opening although evidence for the height of the springing remains on the north side. The fireplace appears to have undergone some changes, and seems to have been reduced, or narrowed, though currently retains no grate. The brick stack appears to have been visible only to eaves level which suggests that at this stage the room had a ceiling at this level, above that height the flue narrows and rises to the ridge where it emerges and is visible externally decorated with a simple projecting collar fitted with a clay pot. Internally, behind the brick flue of the central stack, the triangular opening observed on the eastern external elevation can be partly seen, although too little to add to its previous description, and apart from confirming that this opening passed through the full thickness of the wall little more can be said of it.

3.12 **The livestock buildings.**

These comprise a range of ironstone and brick stock buildings aligned roughly east-west along their long axis. They lie on a slope which falls from west to east, thus the eastern end is situated at a lower level than the western end. To the south-east of this range is a group of late twentieth-century A-frame sheds with steel frames infilled with breeze block walls and vertical boarding and roofed in corrugated asbestos and metal sheeting. The stone range has been numbered SB1 etc (**S**tock **B**uilding 1 etc) with former use ascribed where evidence supports attribution. All buildings are single storey.

3.13 **SB1, stable**

An ironstone stable situated at the western end of the range (Fig 4, Plate 14). The walls comprise dressed and un-dressed ironstone with larger dressed quoins at corners and openings. The roof is corrugated asbestos with blue clay ridge tiles.

The north wall is blank, with no openings, the east wall is an internal wall dividing this room from the adjoining room and contains a blocked doorway indicating that originally the two were inter-connected. The south wall contains a door fitted with a two-part stable door though the current panels are simply sheets of plywood hung on modern hinges (Plate 14). The frame appears to be of oak and is probably original although the lintel is a modern replacement. To the west is a filled window, blocked with red brick which also extends along the entire south wall below eaves height indicating that this wall has been heightened. This heightening can also be seen on the west gable end. This wall contains a door and window, the former fitted with what appear to be original fittings, the latter fitted with the original frame but later glazing. The doorway is fitted with a vertically boarded ledge and braced door set within a pine frame beneath an oak lintel. The window contains a single pane of glass and was hinged on the north side but is a secondary replacement.

Internally the room contains almost no fittings, the floor is concrete and apart from the openings previously described, there are no fixtures or fittings to aid interpretation. The roof is supported on a simple A-frame truss of machine sawn pine. There are two purlins to each side resting on cleats but no secondary rafters or laths. All of the walls retain traces of limewash.

3.14 **SB2, stable**

Located to the immediate east of SB1, and constructed at the same time, this building is constructed of the same materials and roofed in the same way although this section contains two panels of translucent polythene for additional light (Fig 4, Plate 15).

The north wall appears to have originally contained two windows. Indistinct evidence of blocking survives internally but at present the external surface is covered with vegetation. The east wall is blank and forms the dividing wall between this and the adjacent building (set at a lower level) to the east. The south wall contains a modern, wide, doorway at the east end of the wall. This is currently fitted with a two part stable door of vertical boards, ledged and braced with iron hinges and draw bolts. To the west is a blocked doorway, probably the original access to this room, and almost certainly there was a window to the east making this elevation a mirror image of the stable SB1. The west side of the room contains the infilled doorway connecting to SB1.

The roof is constructed and covered in the same way as SB1 and the floor is concrete. The east and west walls retain limewashed plaster, the north and south walls simply limewashed stone.

3.15 **SB3, stock shed**

This rectangular building stands downhill of both SB1 and 2, and as a consequence is terraced into the hillside. It is constructed of the same materials but roofed with blue, probably Welsh, slate with red clay ridge tiles (Fig 4, Plate 16). The external north elevation was largely obscured by vegetation, the south elevation obscured by free-standing containers making both elevations difficult to observe.

Internally the room is a single space but was mostly filled with stored materials (Plate 17). The north wall contains five, four light timber framed windows, the upper half of which hinge and open inwards resting originally on curved stays, now all missing (but present in SB4). All of the wall surfaces, reveals, sills and soffits are plastered and limewashed apart from where the matchboarded underside of the roof lies directly above the window opening (Plate 17). The easternmost window is, in fact, half a window since the dividing wall which separates this room from SB4 cuts across it. Between each window and set into the wall are curved, probably salt-glazed drain, pipes, their open ends pointing upwards (Plate 17). These would have been either built into the wall during construction or added later for ventilation, a typical late nineteenth-century feature.

The east wall (seen clearly only from room SB4) comprises common brick in the lower part, and stud and asbestos sheeting in the upper indicating that it is not original, though there must have been a barrier here of some description since room SB 4 is at a lower level. There is a doorway at the south end of the wall fitted with a vertically boarded, ledged and braced, pine door.

The south wall contains three, timber, two light fixed windows. The door is a modern metal sheet door, and though now covered with render or plaster, the internal jambs appear to have been constructed with bullnose bricks. In the angle of the south and west walls is a painted pine corner cupboard with two shelves and originally two doors, although now only rusty scars of the hinges on each jamb remain.

The floor of the room was concrete where it could be observed. The roof comprises four simple A-frames of sawn pine with a circular iron bar in the location of a king post, bolted through the tie beam at the lower end. There are two purlins to each side resting on cleats. At the ridge there are two angled ridge planks deliberately spaced to allow further ventilation, the red clay ridge tiles are laid not end-to-end but staggered so that there is a further ventilation gap at ridge height (Plate 16). As has been previously mentioned, the underside of the roof is matchboarded throughout, painted white, and on the north slope of the roof are four skylights, one to each bay fitted with iron frames holding three panes of glass each; it is not known if these were fixed or opening lights.

It seems probable that this building was used for cattle although given the limited access and lack of fixtures and fittings, this is not certain.

3.16 **SB 4**

The easternmost end of the building, this is situated at the lowest level (Fig 4, Plate 18). Constructed of ironstone it contains two windows (in reality one and a half) in the north wall of the same configuration as those described in SB3.

The east gable end contains a blocked doorway towards the south end of the wall and there is an indication, in the form of a faint scar, that there was previously another building attached to this external elevation. The former doorway is filled with ironstone externally and common bricks internally, both beneath an oak lintel.

The south wall has been largely removed and is now open almost to the eaves where a narrow band of stonework lies above a timber lintel. Only the west end of the south wall remains and its east end has been finished off in common brick. Against its inner surface, a flight of stone steps rises to the level of the door which leads is to room SB3 (Fig 4). The floor of this room was not visible since the entire space is filled with ironstone rubble.

The roof is of the same construction as that over SB3, the only difference being that the matchboarding on the underside of the roof is not painted.

3.17 **SB5, lean-to**

A modern lean-to built against the south side of SB4 (Fig 4, Plate 18). The east and west walls are constructed of breeze blocks and the roof of corrugated metal sheet is supported on pine purlins and a single transverse beam, the north end of which is supported on a breeze block pier built against the south side of SB4 and the south end of which rests on an H-section girder.

In the west wall is a two light timber framed casement, in the east wall a re-used 'Crittall' type galvanised metal window of nine lights. The two outer panels of three lights each are opening casements, the two lower central lights are fixed with a hinged opening central upper light. Both windows are set beneath concrete lintels.

3.18 **Steel framed farm sheds**

This group comprises three separate buildings, two conjoined, the other standing slightly to one side.

The conjoined buildings lie at the eastern side of the group and comprise large H-section steel posts which support a roof similarly constructed and covered in corrugated asbestos (Fig 2, Plate 19). The lower parts of the frame are infilled with breeze blocks to form walls.

At its west side the structure of the steel barn oversails a stone boundary wall. This has either replaced or is a vestige of a long building indicated on the 1884 and 1901 Ordnance Survey maps. It is not on the 1820 map so was constructed between the earlier and later dates and has been lost after 1901.

Above this the sides of the barns are fitted with vertical boards to enclose the interior although the spacing of these boards is such that they allow ventilation, and some daylight. The floors are laid to concrete. No name plate was observed on either shed, and they are of standard late twentieth-century construction and style, sometimes generically called 'Atcost' although that name more correctly refers to reinforced concrete framed farm buildings. However, without a name plate it is all but impossible to attribute the sheds at Eydon to any supplier and they can simply be considered to be standard examples of now ubiquitous modern farm buildings.

The separate steel framed building lies at the west side of the group closer to the detached stable (Fig 2, Plate 20). The lower ends of this structure are set in concrete blocks, themselves set on top of a terraced concrete slab which forms the base of the building. The roof is constructed of lattice-steel framing and supports a corrugated asbestos roof with an asbestos east gable; the west gable is not enclosed, presumably so that this end, at the top of the slope, could be used for higher machinery to enter beneath.

4 DISCUSSION

The stable block

This building is rectangular and of ironstone and has undergone extensive alteration and re-configuration, both internally and externally. The main structure appears to conform to a mid seventeenth-century model which comprised two storeys. At that period it does not appear to have been supplied with fireplaces and therefore its original function remains uncertain given that it had what can only be described as domestic windows. Alternatively, if it did have fireplaces, what form these took is now not clear since the three which it now contains are clearly later additions. It appears always to have been separated internally into two unequal parts and when first built, the floor at the west end was positioned at a lower level indicated by now filled sockets visible in the north wall. The floor at the east end appears to be at its original height.

The floor in the west end was raised to its present height when new ground floor windows comprising semi-circular lights with stressed voussoirs were added to either side of a central doorway, the latter replacing an earlier doorway at the east end of the west room. These semi-circular windows necessitated the raising of the floor since otherwise it would not have allowed them to be positioned at their present level, and the height was necessary since they were added when the building was converted to provide stabling. Relatively high windows are a common feature of such buildings since they prevent horses from either being spooked by seeing outside and also from damaging themselves by putting their heads through glazed openings. The style of the new windows suggests an eighteenth-century date, perhaps contemporary with the building of the new Hall at the very end of that century. While such windows were present in the best architecture from the second quarter of the eighteenth century, it is highly likely that it was some time, perhaps a generation, before they filtered down either to all parts of Northamptonshire or to more ordinary farm-buildings. As far as can be determined, the transverse beams now present are the originals simply lifted from the lower level.

It appears that at the same date that the western room was converted to a stable, the eastern rooms were converted to tack rooms and living quarters, thus both floors had fireplaces added, although both might have incorporated re-used fireplaces since the style of both is of seventeenth and not eighteenth-century design. Alternatively both may be *in situ* features from the early, but not original, phase of the building's life and indicate that though not part of the original design, they were added very soon after completion. However, if this is the case no evidence now survives to suggest their former positions within the building. That neither is original has been established by the fact that on neither the ground nor first floors are the chimney stacks bonded to the fabric of the external walls. At a later date still, and for reasons not entirely apparent, a third fireplace was added at first floor level between the fireplace and stack on that floor and the stack of the fireplace present on the ground floor. Why this was considered necessary is not clear since there was already a fireplace and stack at this level, but for reasons now lost to us, this was clearly rebuilt.

Another curious positioning is the (now missing) staircase to the first floor. Its location is clearly indicated by the opening within the first floor at the east end of the west room along with the doorway through to the eastern first floor room from the same staircase. Why it should have been located here is a mystery since not only does it take up space within the stables, but it would have more conveniently served what became the tack room and living quarters if located within the eastern room. Access to the hayloft could have been provided from that room simply by the insertion of a doorway from the upper east room to the upper west room, thus the whole of the western ground floor would have been available for stalls. However, in buildings that are altered rather than designed, re-configuration often leads to an awkward layout which is difficult to interpret.

The reason for the blocking of the windows at hayloft level above the stables is also unclear, since some light would have been useful otherwise the only natural light would have been from the door at the west end. Why the window were fully blocked and not simply reduced is not clear, nor why they were not fitted with louvres and thus provide some level of ventilation is equally odd, as ventilation is essential when storing fodder. However, the evidence within the building is clear and for whatever reason, the blocking was total.

It appears that the roof may have been replaced when the conversion to stables took place as, has already been mentioned, the secondary rafters do not align with the principals which suggest re-configuring if not full replacement. The present roof covering comprises blue slate which would almost certainly not have been used until the coming of the railways in the nineteenth-century.

The livestock buildings.

This range of buildings has undergone some alteration and up-grade and, although most are visible, the amount of stored material within them at the time of the survey has meant that there may be elements which have not yet been observed. However, the basic phasing shows simply blockings and re-flooring and the general layout indicates that this range was built for the housing of livestock.

Whilst little now remains of any internal features it is possible, with some confidence, to suggest that the two westernmost rooms were for horses and the longer eastern range for cattle. The easternmost room at the lower end of the range was the least observed since it is currently used to store stone rubble and few observations could be made, however, it is not thought that seeing the lower levels of the walls and floor would add greatly to the record. Map-evidence indicates that the long range was in existence by 1814 but may not have been much older, the period just before having been a time of great agricultural expansion in line with the national needs of the Napoleonic Wars. The lean-

to against the south side is clearly modern, and probably dates to the 1970s, being present on the 1979-81 Ordnance Survey map.

The steel framed sheds are of no visual or historic merit and are simply standard prefabricated modern farm buildings of a type found across not only Britain, but much of the world. Their wide usage and non-regional design reflect the changes in farming methods and increased mechanisation since the end of the Second World War.

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The detached stable block appears to have been built originally as a domestic building though the level of later intervention has made interpretation of the original layout difficult. Re-fenestration has been carried out on both the ground and first floors, and the floor level has been raised, all this in relation to a conversion to stables in the western part of the building. The date for this is uncertain, but it most likely relates to the construction of the new Eydon Hall towards the end of the eighteenth century and the location, adjacent to the double coach house, (not included in this survey) makes this supposition more likely.
- 5.2 The insertion of fireplaces in the eastern rooms indicates some form of residential use, although their lack of bonding suggests they were an afterthought and not part of the original design. It is curious that if the building were used for domestic purposes there is no indication of fireplaces in the western, larger room, though none can now be seen. In a domestic location, or later on, in respect of expensive horses, the relative lack of openings in the cold (and dark) north wall, indicates some thought for the warmth of the occupants
- 5.3 The building has been re-roofed, perhaps entirely, but certainly partially and retains nineteenth-century slate covering.
- 5.4 The range of stock buildings, appears to be of standard and un-remarkable format, probably dating to the boom-farming years in the period c1790-1814 (their existence by then confirmed by a map of 1814), providing stabling and stock hovels for cattle and horses. Their subsequent alteration is probably simply the result of changing farming practises since the Second World War when it appears that most of the internal fixtures and fitting were removed. A lean-to at the eastern end is modern and probably dates to the 1970's.
- 5.5 The two conjoined steel-framed sheds and single shed are probably of much the same date and have no historic value being of a style used across the world.
- 5.6 The English Heritage/Countryside Agency report on historic farmsteads in the East Midlands comments that '*substantially complete farm buildings of this period (1550-1750) are rare*' and that '*substantially complete examples of farm buildings of the 1750-1840 period are far less common than those of the post 1840 period, when many farmsteads matured into their present form and large numbers of buildings were erected*' (www.helm.gov.uk; Historic Farmsteads 26). In the case of Eydon, while individual buildings here originate in both the periods mentioned, none is *substantially complete* in their original intended form (and there is doubt over the actual original form and function of the oldest of them). While original elements survive, they now derive their current value and character from the eclectic mix of their forms and their enduring appeal to changing uses of the complex to meet the needs of a living, working farm. This is a

successful farm-complex which has grown 'organically' embracing and altering the old buildings at its core, and while some have been lost around the farmhouse, others have expanded or new ones been introduced alongside for over three hundred years.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are extended to Joe Stamper for arranging access to the buildings and to the Roger Coy Partnership for the use of their plans as a basis for those used in this report.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

EH 2006 *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practise*, English Heritage

EH 2006b, revised 2009 *The Management of Research Projects on the Historic Environment*, English Heritage

EH/Countryside Agency 2006 Historic Farmsteads; Preliminary Character Statement: East Midlands Region, (www.helm.gov.uk)

IfA revised 2008 *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures*, Institute for Archaeologists

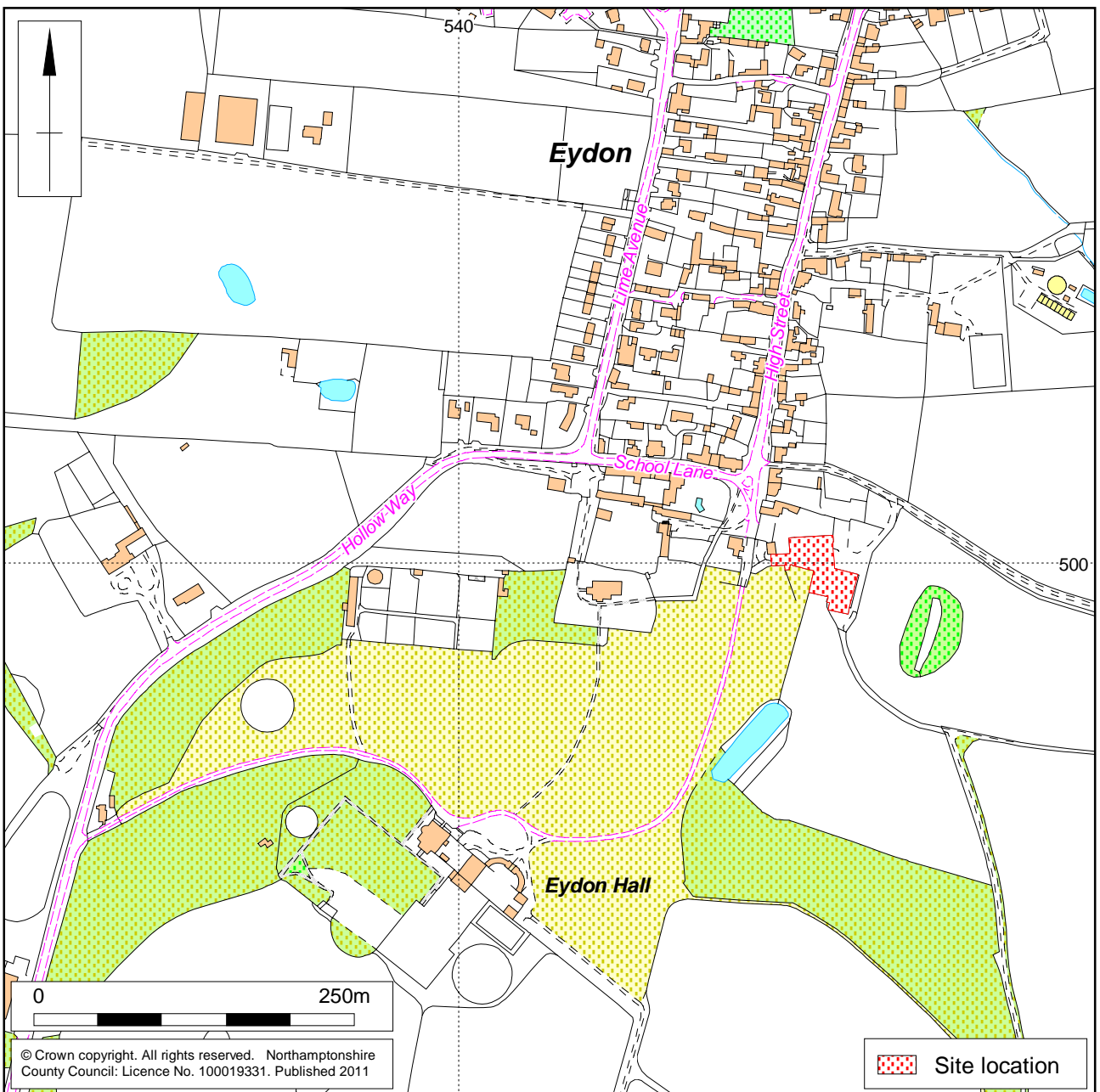
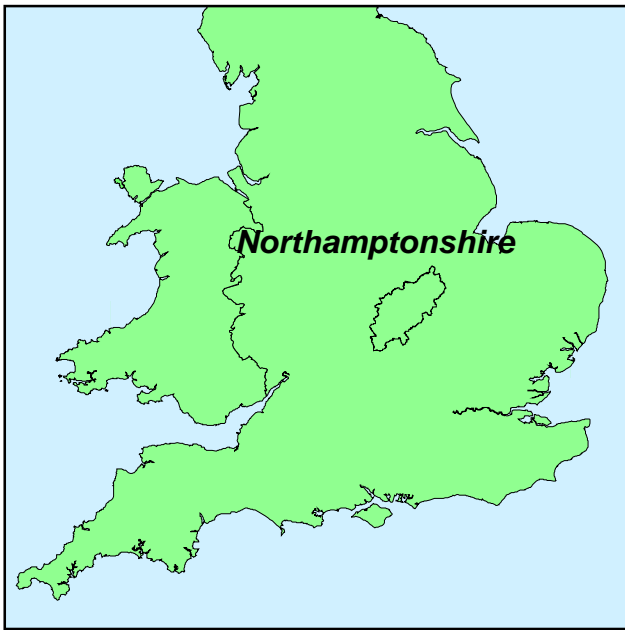
Hewden, J, and Taylor, R, 1996 *The Country Houses of Northamptonshire*, Royal Commission on Historical Monuments in England

Wood-Jones, R, B 1963 *Traditional Domestic Architecture in the Banbury region*

GLOSSARY

Bressumer	Horizontal beam over a fireplace opening
Bullnose bricks	Bricks with one rounded corner, in use from c1840 onwards. Primarily used on the jambs and sills of doors and windows with the intention of preventing humans and animals harming themselves on sharp corners
Chamfer	Surface formed by cutting off a square edge, usually at an angle of 45 degrees
Cleat	Block attached to one timber to support another
Collar	A horizontal transverse timber between a pair of rafters at a height between the eaves and the ridge
Coping	Course of masonry or brickwork, often shaped, covering the top of a wall
Curtilage	In UK Listed Building legislation the term can be taken to mean that the consideration afforded to a Listed Building may extend to

	other structures or landscape within the purview of the primary structure
Eaves	Overhanging lower edge of a roof
Gnomon	A bar, usually of metal, which casts a shadow on either a vertical or horizontal sundial against an incised line which records the time
Hood mould	Projecting moulding above an arch or a lintel to throw off water
Jamb	Straight (vertical) side of a door, window or arch
Kneeler	A stone at the foot of each slope of a gable, on which the inclined coping stones rest. Often decorated.
Ledged and braced	Strengthening timbers on the inside of a door; the ledges comprising horizontal timbers, the braces diagonal timbers
Lintel	Horizontal beam or stone bridging an opening
Mullion	Vertical member made of stone or timber between the lights of a window opening. A king mullion is a wider example of the same form of division, usually inserted in a window of four or more lights
Plinth	Projecting courses at the foot of a wall, the upper edge usually chamfered or moulded
Purlin	Roof timber aligned horizontally, usually laid on top of principal rafters and beneath common rafters
Quoin	Dressed stones at the external angles of a building. Sometimes all the stones of the same size, often alternately large and small. This pattern sometimes recreated in brickwork.
Rafter	Roof timber aligned vertically from the eaves to the ridge. Can be further sub-divided into principal rafters which comprise thicker, stronger timbers and secondary or common rafters which are usually smaller and thinner
Reveal	The side within the opening of a window, door or recess
Segmental	When describing an arch meaning in the form of a segment of a circle
Soffit	Underside of an arch, lintel etc
Stile	A vertical timber in panelling or door construction
Tie beam	A horizontal, transverse, timber which carries the feet of the principal rafters at wall plate level
Travise	A timber screen dividing the stalls of a stable, usually with a swept or sloping top profile terminating at a heel post
Wall plate	A timber laid horizontally on the top of a wall to receive the lower ends of the rafters



Scale 1:5000

Site location Fig 1

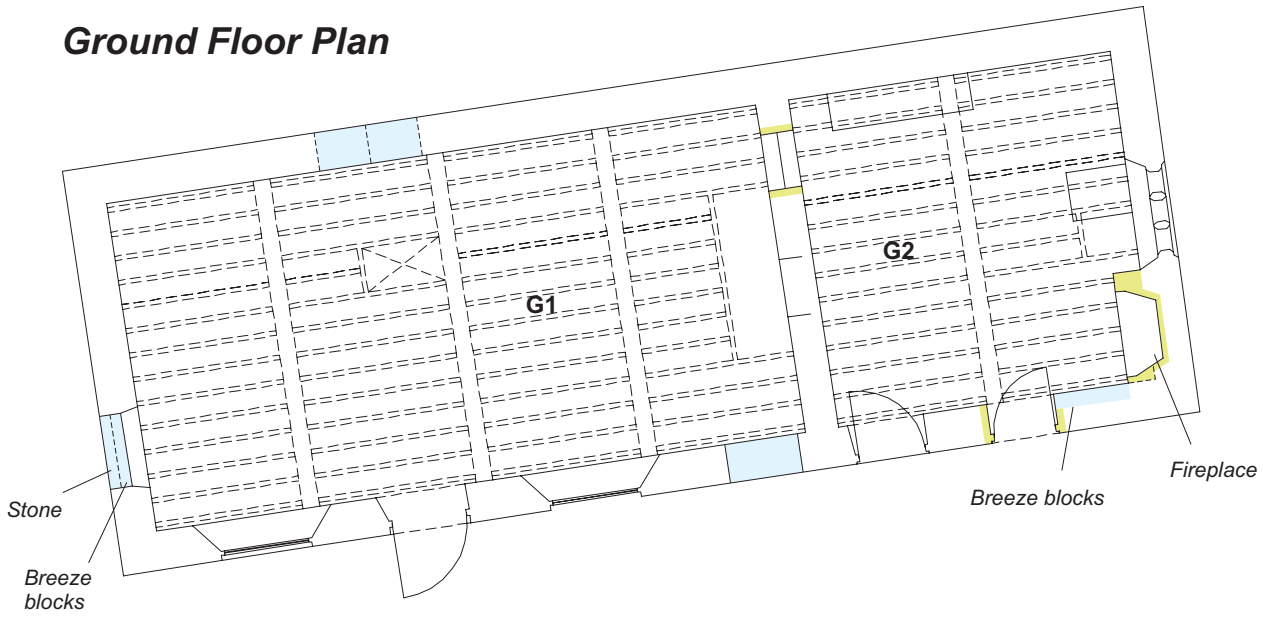


Scale 1:500 (A4)

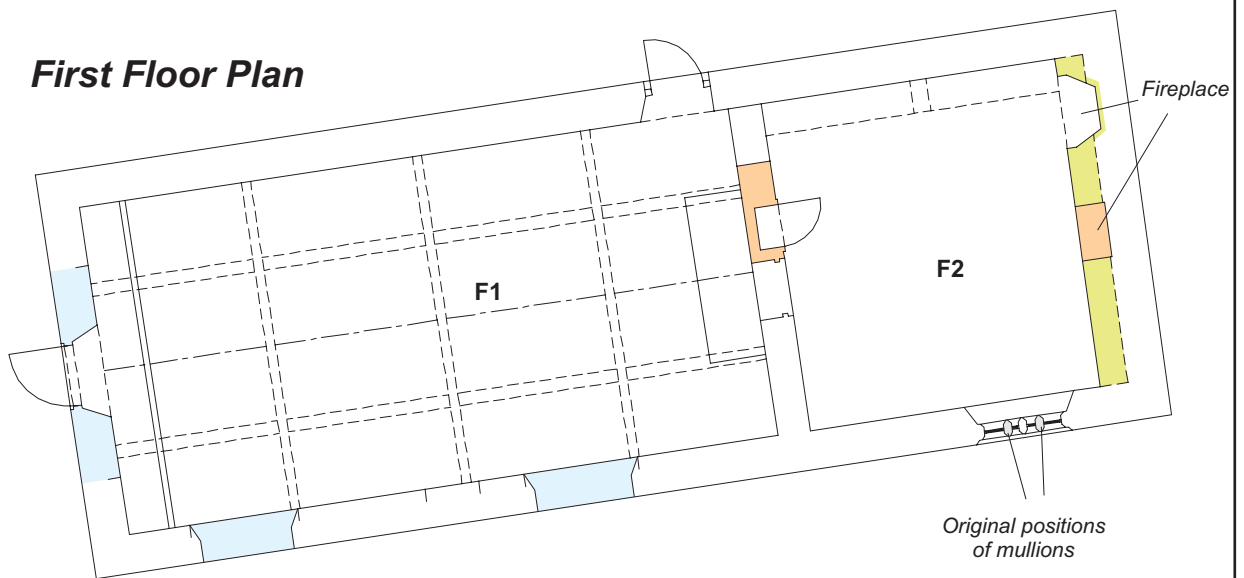
Location of the buildings Fig 2






Ground Floor Plan



First Floor Plan

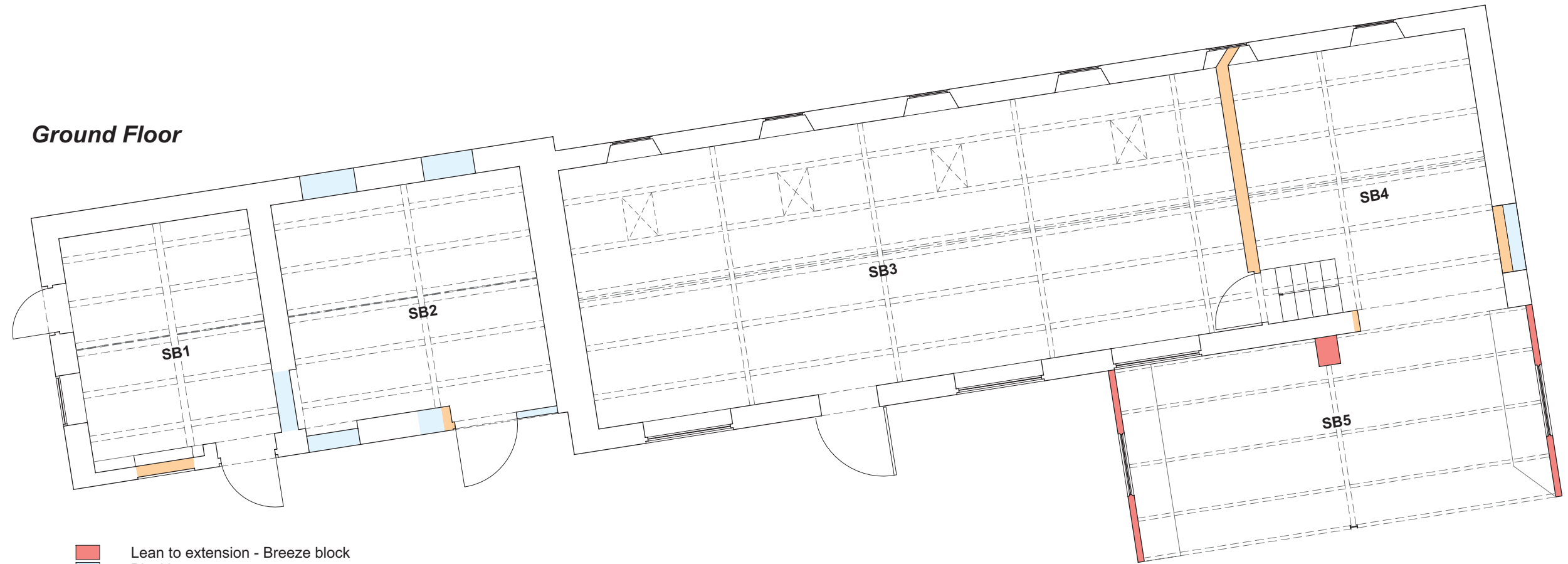


-  Inserted features
-  Blocking
-  Brick

0 5m



Ground Floor



- Lean to extension - Breeze block
- Blocking
- Brick





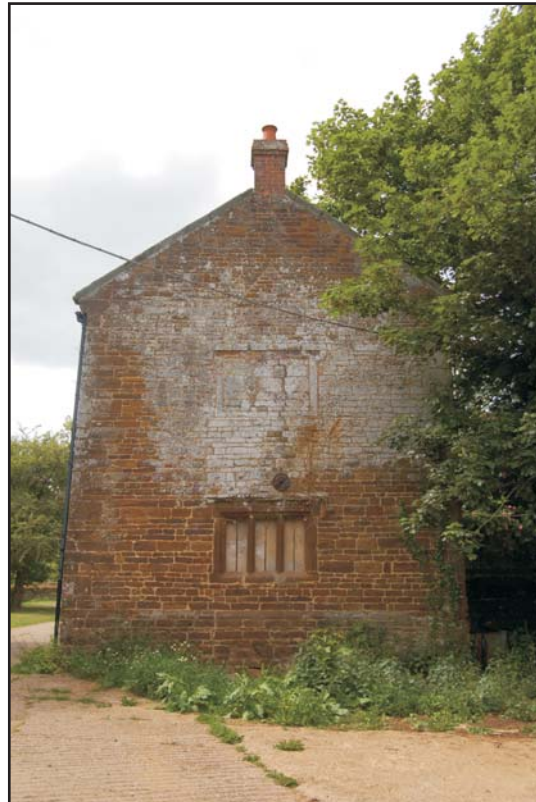
The detached stable south elevation, looking north Plate 1



The detached stable, scratch dial Plate 2



The detached stable west elevation, looking east Plate 3



The detached stable east elevation, looking west Plate 4



The detached stable, Room G1, looking east Plate 5



The detached stable, Room G1, looking west Plate 6



The detached stable, Room G2, looking east Plate 7



The detached stable, Room F1, looking west Plate 8



The detached stable, Room F1, blocked window in south wall, looking south Plate 9



The detached stable, Room F1, looking east Plate 10



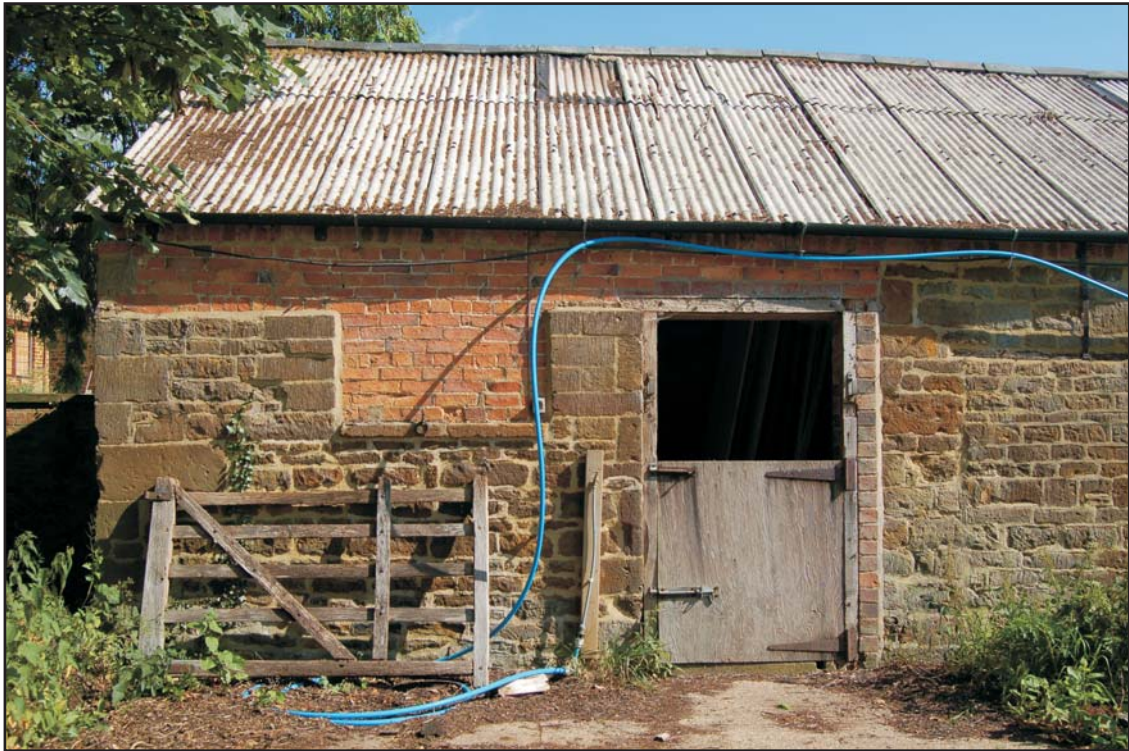
The detached stable, Room F2, west wall, looking west Plate 11



The detached stable, Room F2, east wall, looking east Plate 12



The detached stable fireplace flue, looking up, showing sooting Plate 13



Stock building SB1, looking north Plate 14



Stock building SB2, looking north Plate 15



Stock building SB3, looking north Plate 16



Stock building SB3, interior, looking north-east Plate 17



Stock buildings SB4 and SB5, looking north-west Plate 18



Conjoined steel framed sheds, looking south Plate 19



Single steel framed building, looking east Plate 20