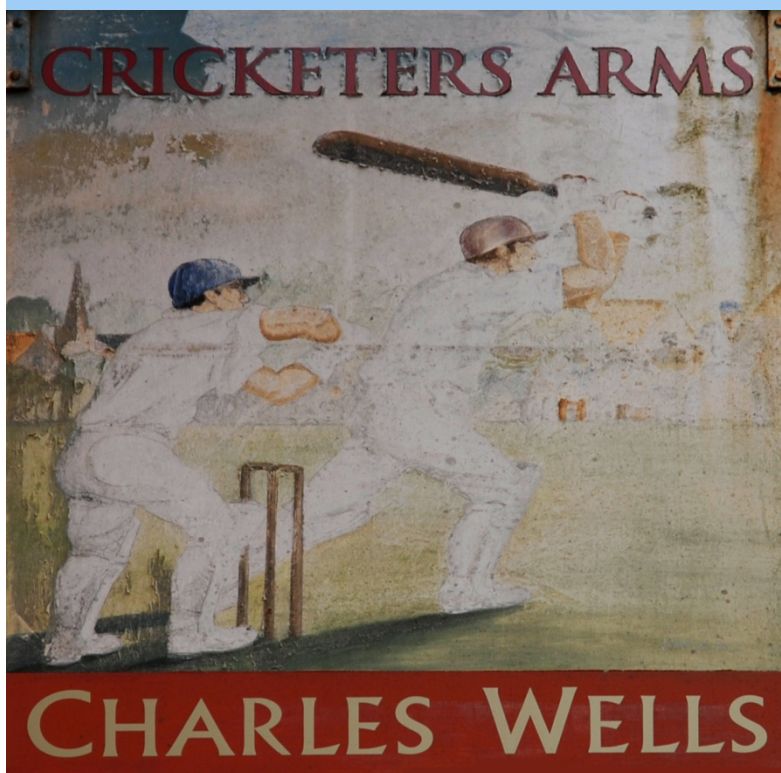




Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological Building Recording at The Cricketers' Arms, Hervey Street, Northampton



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QUALITY CONTROL

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PROJECT DETAILS	
Project title	Archaeological Building Recording at The Cricketers' Arms, Hervey Street, Northampton
Short description	Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out buildings recording at The Cricketers' Arms, Hervey Street, Northampton prior to the building's conversion to housing and the demolition of the outbuildings. The property is a 19th-century terraced building, which has served as a Public House since its construction between 1878 and 1881. Very few original features survive in the building due to cosmetic alterations and upgrading of the property.
Project type	Building assessment
Previous work	None
Future work	None
Monument type and period	19th century Public House
PROJECT LOCATION	
County	Northamptonshire
Site address	Cricketers' Arms, Hervey Street, Northampton, Northamptonshire
OS Grid Ref	SP 7606 6124
Area	0.02 ha
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	Mr James Yuill
PROJECT DATE	
Start date	May 2012
End date	May 2012
BIBLIOGRAPHY	
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING AT THE CRICKETERS' ARMS, HERVEY STREET, NORTHAMPTON

Abstract

Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out buildings recording at The Cricketers' Arms, Hervey Street, Northampton prior the buildings conversion to housing and the demolition of the outbuildings. The property is a 19th century terraced building, which has served as a Public House since its construction between 1878 and 1881. Very few original features survive in the building due to cosmetic alterations and upgrading of the property.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) were commissioned by Mr James Yuill to undertake archaeological buildings recording at The Cricketers' Arms, Hervey Street, Northampton (NGR: SP 7607 6124; Figs 1 & 2).

The work was carried out in May 2012 in response to a condition of planning consent granted by Northampton Borough Council for the conversion of the building into housing and the demolition of the outbuildings.

The building lies midway along the southern side of Hervey Street, close to the Territorial Army centre and south of the Racecourse. The gardens of several properties back onto the site to the south and west. The building is located within the Boot and Shoe Quarter Conservation Area.

The building has served as a Public House throughout its existence and its layout and historic documentation suggests that it was constructed as such. It was vacant at the time of recording but some of the furniture and trappings were still present. Full access was available to the cellars, ground and first floors. However, the first floor of the stable outbuilding was inaccessible. The roof space was not accessed.

2 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

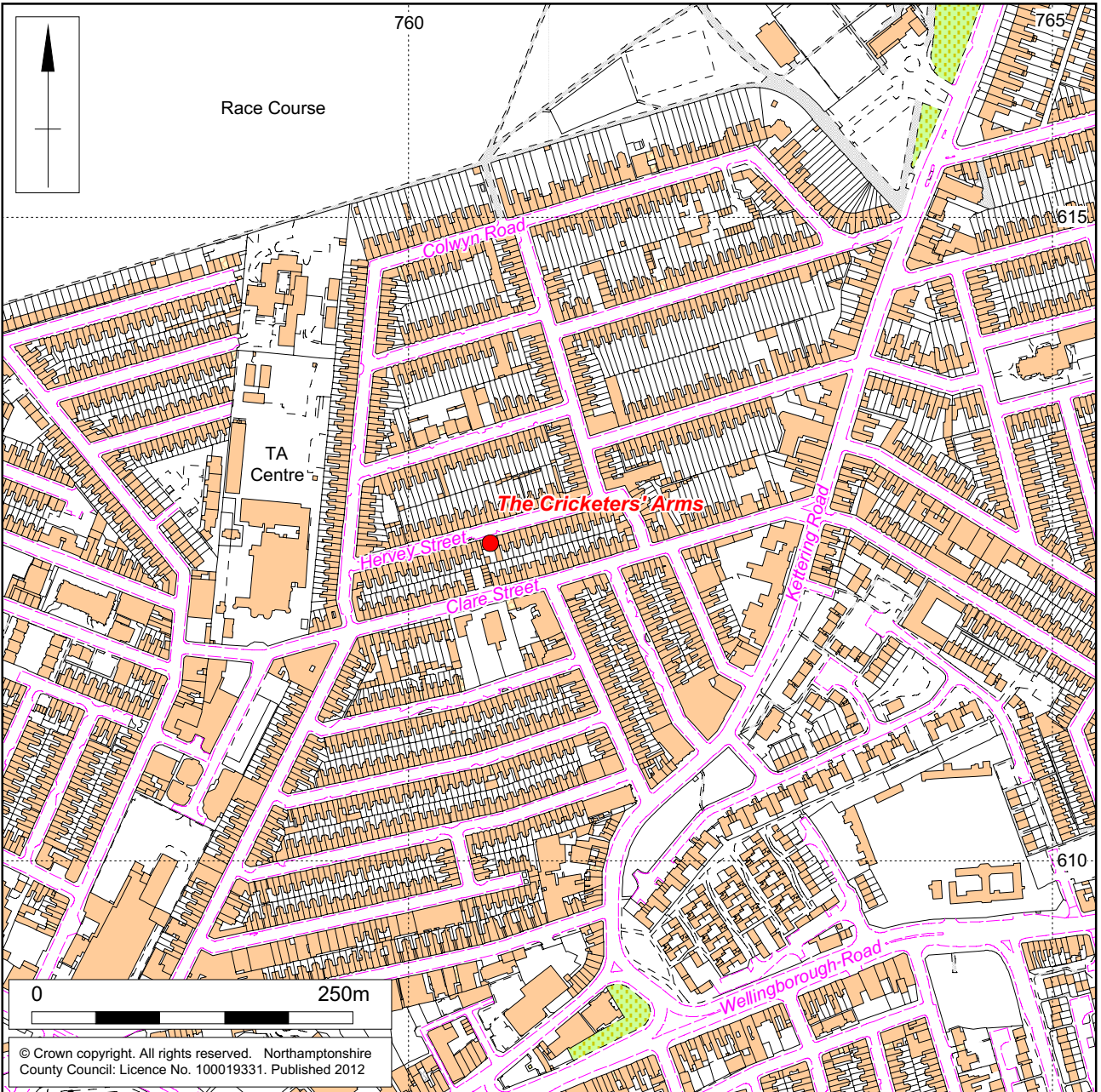
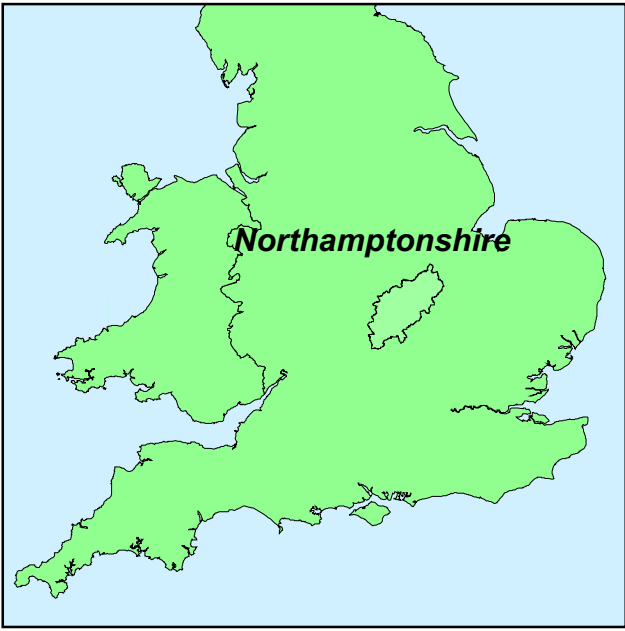
The principal objectives of the building recording are set out in the Brief (NCC 2012): to record and understand the nature, function and character of existing buildings and to place them in their historic, cultural and environmental setting. The level of recording was specified as Level 1/2 – a basic visual record with enhanced documentation (English Heritage 2006, 14).

The specific aims of the building recording were to:

- Provide a comprehensive visual record of the Public House and its outbuildings;
- Provide a comprehensive review of the local and regional historical context of the structures;
- 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 conversion and demolition.

Two site visits was made in May 2012, when the principal exterior elevations were photographed. The interiors were photographically recorded to include structural details that would be lost during conversions and demolition. Measured sketch plans of the Public House and its outbuildings were also produced. This report contains simple measured plans of the buildings and an analysis of the function of the individual rooms where evidence exists.

A visit was also made to the Northampton Record Office (NRO) to research any relevant documents.



Scale 1:5000

Site location Fig 1

2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The Cricketers' Arms

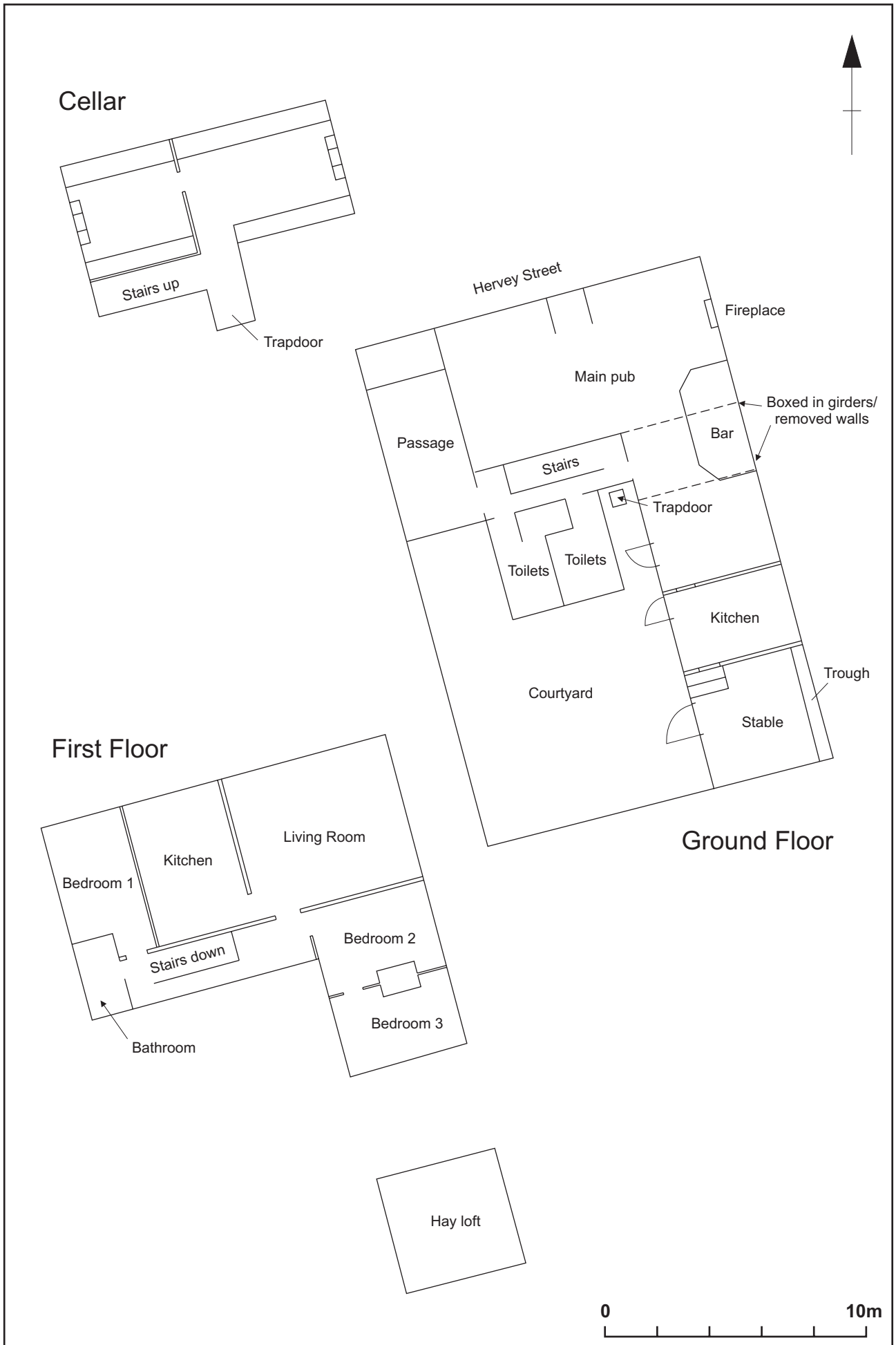
The Cricketers' Arms on Hervey Street is located within the Northampton Boot and Shoe Quarter and Conservation Area. This area was heavily dominated by the boot and shoe industry during the 18th - 19th centuries and through to the 20th century. The roads and houses in the area followed a regimented pattern of terraced houses and factories. Shops and pubs such as The Cricketers' Arms, and The Crispin on nearby Russell Street were also built to serve the workers.

A search of the NRO revealed the purchase of a plot of land on Hervey Street by Pickering Phipps in 1878 (ZB 108). The document does not specify the exact plot of land on the road but it is probable that the purchase is the site of The Cricketers' Arms (a Phipps Brewery pub). The census of 1881 lists a William Cordley, Licensed Victualler at The Cricketers' Arms. Wrights Northampton Directory of 1884, lists a W.M.C. Gubbins at The Cricketers' Arms. The building is visible on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1884, though it isn't annotated as a public house. The Kelly 1894 trade directory lists a Joseph Potter as "Beer retailer" at plots 43 and 45 of Hervey Street. The name J.Potter can be seen on a historic photograph of the building's frontage (PBP 189, Fig 2).

The layout of the building and the spacious courtyard with adjoining passageway, support the idea that The Cricketers' Arms was intended and built as a public House rather than being a later conversion.



Undated photograph of The Cricketers' Arms Fig 2



Scale 1:200 (A4)

Plans of The Cricketer's Arms Fig 3

3 BUILDING RECORDING

3.1 The building

The buildings were visited in May 2012 to carry out a photographic, measured sketch and written survey of the areas to be affected by the proposed works.

The buildings, which were vacant at the time of the survey, consist of a ground floor Public House and associated ground floor toilet outbuilding. A ground floor kitchen to the rear of the Public House and a former stable with original features are also present. A large cellar with a trapdoor and chute underlie the main building. The first floor of the building comprises a residential layout with kitchen, bathroom, a large living room and three bedrooms. A carriage arch and passageway with two sets of double doors are present to the west of the building and the first floor bathroom and a bedroom overlie this. This passage was extended and roofed over when the toilet block was constructed. The original archway to the passage at the back of the building can be seen above the roof extension.



The main elevation, looking south Fig 4

The primary function of the building has been as a Public House, serving the local population and workers in the shoe industry. The fittings and fixtures relating to this function were still present during the survey. These include the bar, light fittings, pub games and decorations. A concreted beer garden is present to the rear. A brick toilet block was built in the garden, against the rear wall of the pub with access via the corridor from the pub to the passageway.

3.2 Building assessment

The front (north) elevation shows that this is a two storey terraced building with a through passage to the west, fronted by a pair of double doors (Fig 4). The building has an L shape layout and partly encloses a concreted, walled beer garden to the rear of the property (Fig 3 ground floor). A brick toilet block has been built against the south elevation, projecting into the garden. The property is built from red brick in Flemish bond on the front elevation and a variant of Flemish on the southern wall and other elevations. The front elevation has a blue and white paint scheme (Fig 4). This elevation retains the original facade and later pub decorations, lighting and motifs. The first floor has sash windows with a blue and white paint scheme on the surrounding moulded brickwork.

The main entrance opens into a large bar area which is on an L shaped layout (Fig 3). The room has a white colour scheme with dark green patterned panel borders and ceiling and a dark brown-red, square tiled floor (Figs 5 & 6). The eastern wall of the room has yellow wallpaper between the green panel borders. The room retains the pub light fixtures with brass fittings. An original cast iron fireplace with tile surround is present on the eastern wall of the room (Fig 7). A red stained timber bar with a mirrored back and brass fittings is built against the eastern wall of the room. A pair of wooden ceiling fans with brass fittings are also visible in this room (Fig 5). A collection of pub games such as a Northamptonshire skittles table, pool table and a piano were also present (Fig 6).

Evidence for 20th-century structural alterations can be seen in a pair of boxed-in girders in the ceiling of the bar (Fig 5). One supports the blocked fireplaces in the first floor bedrooms and the other represents a removed wall.

A doorway in the southern wall leads into the kitchen. No fixtures or fittings remained in this room at the time of the survey. The south and eastern walls have white tiles and the room is painted plain white (Fig 8). Two square vents are built into the ceiling above where the cooking equipment would have been. The floor was plain concrete. A door and large window are built into the western wall opening onto the beer garden (Fig 9). It was unclear whether this room was a later addition between the house and stable.

A corridor leads from the main pub area to the passageway, with access to the toilet block and stairs leading to the cellar and the first floor (Fig 9). The corridor continues the dark green paint scheme of the pub and has white patterned wallpaper. Two doors provide access to the male and female halves of the toilet block. The toilet block is brick built with white and pink tiles (Fig 10). The structure is a later extension to the main building.

The cellars appear to be purpose-built for use as pub cellars with raised, brick walkways for storing beer kegs. A chute at the bottom of the stairs end rises to a trapdoor in the garden from which kegs could be rolled down wooden runners to the cellar (Fig 12). The cellar is divided into two rooms with an arched recess in each room, on the west and east walls respectively (Fig 11).

The first floor bathroom and landing bedroom overlie the passageway. The bathroom was wallpapered and tiled and a sash window was built into the south wall. The bathroom juts into the space of the landing bedroom. The room has pink and white wallpaper and no furniture or fittings remained. The floor of the room is noticeably sagging beneath the sash window on the north wall. The window frame is also at a distinct angle to the window (Fig 13).

The corridor from the stairs leads to a set of doorways opening on the bedrooms and the living room. The living room is very spacious with a pair of sash windows overlooking the street (Fig 14). A fireplace opening and flue are present on the eastern wall of the room. No furniture or fittings remained in the room except a pair of modern light hangings.

The kitchen is accessed via a doorway in the western wall of the living room (Fig 12). No fixtures or fittings remain. A single sash window in the north wall overlooks the street. A pair of circular vents flank the window (Fig 15).

The back bedrooms contain a similar suite of skirting and sash windows and wardrobes flanking a blocked fireplace (Fig 16). No furniture or fittings were present during the survey.

The ground floor outbuilding is accessed via a doorway in the south wall of the kitchen. This was probably a stable and a wooden feeding trough against the eastern wall with iron rings supports this (Fig 18). Patches of white wash and black paint remain on the walls. In the angle of the north-east corner of the room there is a scar on the wall from the removal of a corner manger (Fig 18, left). The brick floor is lower than other ground floor rooms in the building and two brick steps with concrete treads lead down from the doorway. A stable door with iron hinges is built into the western wall opening onto the beer garden (Fig 17 & Fig 20). A square opening in the ceiling provides access to the first floor hay loft. Several iron fittings hang down from the joists. A pair of rectangular vents flank the doorway at ceiling level. A boarded up opening with an arched top, of equal size to the stable door is present at first floor level (Fig 17 & Fig 20).

The passageway from the street to the garden is fronted by two pairs of blue painted double doors. The inner doors are modern fire doors. The construction of the toilet outbuilding extended the passageway and an asbestos roof was built over the extension (Fig 19). The original extent of the passage can be seen by the presence of bull nose bricks in the wall.



The pub and bar, looking south-east Fig 5



Pub games and piano Fig 6



The fireplace on the east wall of the pub Fig 7



The ground floor kitchen, looking east Fig 8



The ground floor corridor with access to the first floor, toilets and passageway Fig 9



The toilet block Fig 10



The cellar showing arched recess on the rear wall, supporting chimney Fig 11



The cellar chute and trapdoor Fig 12



The landing bedroom Fig 13



The first floor living room Fig 14



The first floor kitchen Fig 15



Bedroom 2, showing the blocked fireplace Fig 16



The kitchen and stable, looking east Fig 17



The trough in the stable with tethering rings visible Fig 18



The south elevation showing the toilet block and passageway Fig 19



General view of the buildings, looking north-west Fig 20

4 CONCLUSION

The survey has shown that The Cricketers' Arms was conceived of and built as a Public House in the late 19th century to serve the flourishing boot and shoe industry of the area. The building retains some of the original street facade as shown on a historic photograph (Fig 2). Evidence for some internal alterations such as the removal of a ground floor wall and fireplace can be seen. Very few original features survive in the building due to cosmetic alterations and upgrading of the property.

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