



# Northamptonshire Archaeology

## Archaeological Building Recording at The Elms Yardley Gobion, Northamptonshire



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**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		OASIS No 129611
Project title	Archaeological Building Recording at The Elms, Yardley Gobion, Northamptonshire	
Short description	<i>Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out buildings recording on outbuildings at The Elms, Yardley Gobion, Northamptonshire. The stone and brick-built, single-storey outbuildings, dated to the 19th century, were found to be unused, and in a state of disrepair and partially demolished. The fabric of the buildings showed evidence of alterations such as blocked doorways and inserted and removed partitions.</i>	
Project type	Building assessment	
Previous work	Unknown	
Future work	Watching Brief	
Monument type and period	19th - century brick outbuildings	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	The Elms, Grafton Road, Yardley Gobion, Northamptonshire	
NGR	SP 7646 4485	
Area	0.027 ha	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Northamptonshire County Council Archaeological Advisor	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Amir Bassir	
Project Manager	Steve Parry	
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting	
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>		
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End date	June 2012	
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING  
AT THE ELMS, YARDLEY GOBION  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

***Abstract***

*Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out buildings recording on outbuildings at The Elms, Yardley Gobion, Northamptonshire. The stone and brick-built, single-storey outbuildings, dated to the 19th century, were found to be unused, in a state of disrepair and partially demolished. The fabric of the buildings showed evidence of alterations such as blocked doorways and inserted and removed partitions.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

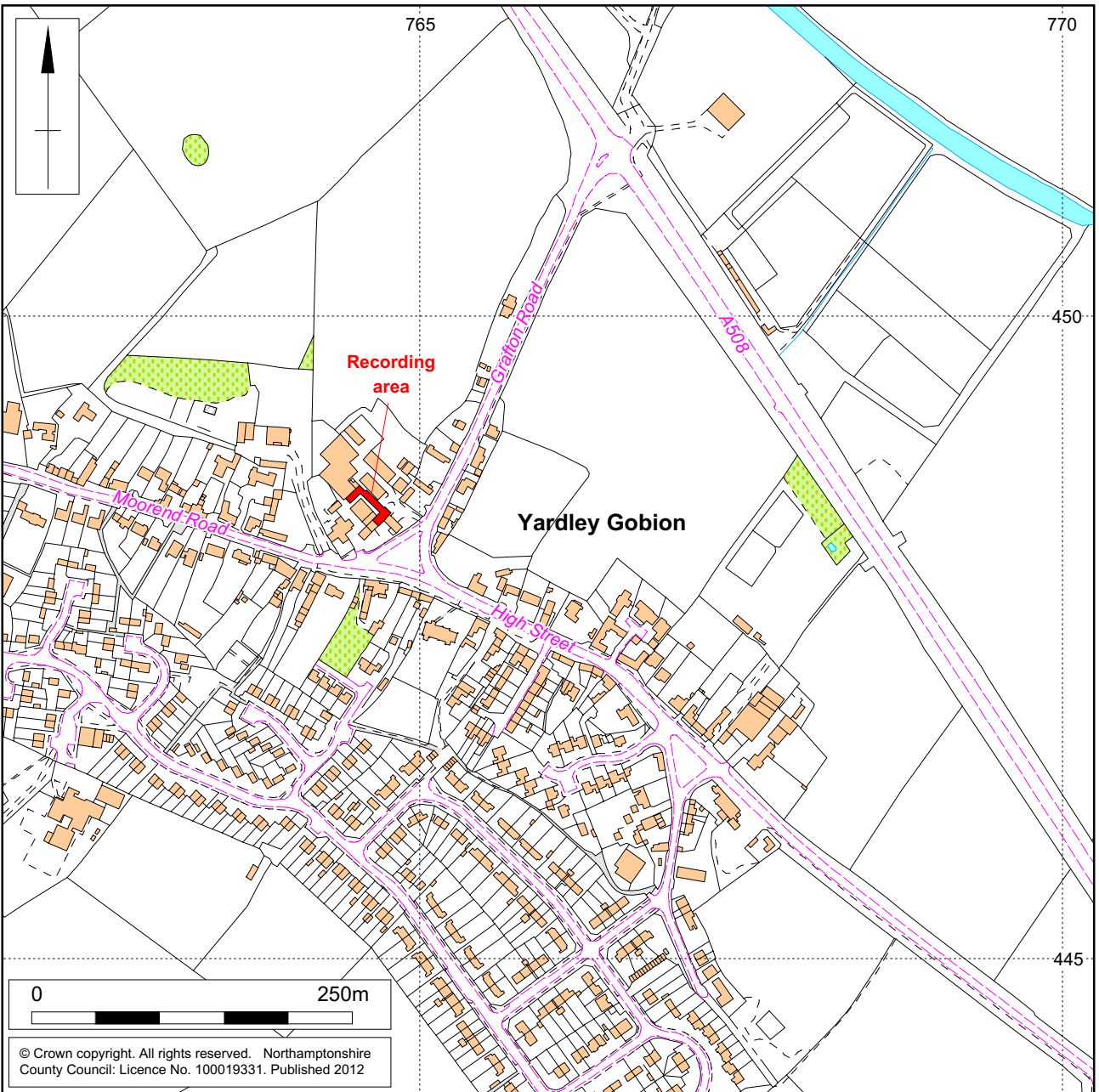
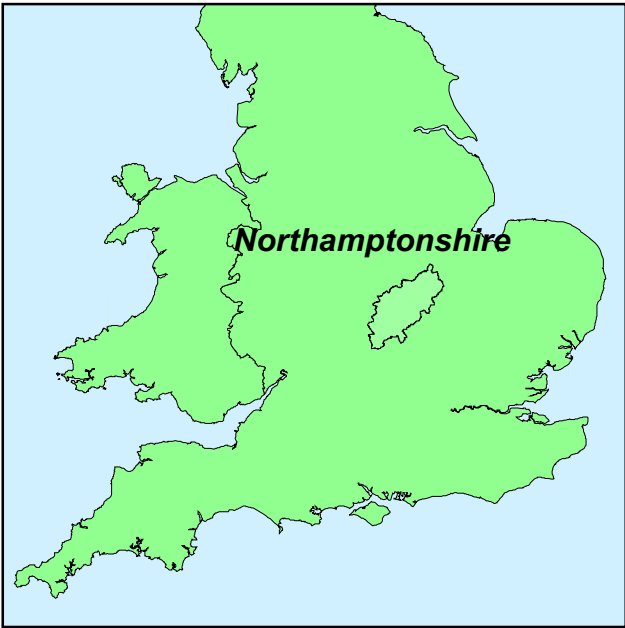
Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) were commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological buildings recording on outbuildings at The Elms, Yardley Gobion, Northamptonshire (NGR: SP 7646 4485; Figs 1 & 6).

The work was carried out in May 2012 in response to a condition of planning consent granted by South Northamptonshire Council for the conversion of the buildings ahead of development of the land for housing.

The site lies within the village of Yardley Gobion and is bound to the south and east by Grafton Street and to the west by Mooreland Road. Pastural fields for cattle lie to the north and north-east of the site.

The underlying geology of the area is of Triassic and Jurassic mudstones, sandstones and limestone, overlain by Glacial Till. (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html>).

At the time of recording, several structures on the site had already been demolished and the ground levelled. The northern corner of the recorded area had also been partially demolished and the roof removed. Parts of the structure were shored up with internal props due to structural damage.



Scale 1:5000

Site location Fig 1

## 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 2 – a descriptive record (English Heritage 2006, 14).

The specific aims of the building recording were to:

- Provide a comprehensive visual record of the structures prior to conversion;
- 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 in May 2012, when the principal exterior elevations were photographed. The interiors were photographically recorded to include structural details that would be lost during demolition and notes were made of any features and alterations. Measured plans, sections and elevation of the buildings were obtained from ST Associates.

## 3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### 3.1 Historical background

The village of Yardley Gobion has its origins in the 12th century, taking its name of Gobion from Hugh Gobion who was granted land at Yardley by Earl Ferrars in 1160. The village remained a small farming settlement throughout the following years. A moated castle was constructed by Edward III in 1363 at Moor End, now part of Yardley Gobion. This castle was demolished in 1541.

The distribution of land around the village was altered following the 1775 enclosure act which resulted in the allocation of land to 18 families with the rest coming into possession of the Duke of Grafton. (<http://www.mkheritage.co.uk/yghg/index.html>)

### 3.2 Historic maps

The Elms is located to the north-west of the junction between Grafton Road and Moorend Road in Yardley Gobion. A visit was made in June 2012 to the Northamptonshire Record Office (NRO) to look at relevant historic documents for this area.

***1725 draft map of Yardley Gobion by Collier and Baker*** (NRO 358, Fig 2)

This map shows two parallel buildings on the site of The Elms. It is difficult to say with certainty how these relate to the buildings currently on the site but it is possible that these are earlier buildings which were demolished before the construction of the current structures.



**1728 map of Yardley Gobion** (NRO 4224, Fig 3)

There is little change from the earlier map. The two parallel ranges of buildings are still present with no new structures depicted.

**1883 1st edition Ordnance Survey map** (Fig 4)

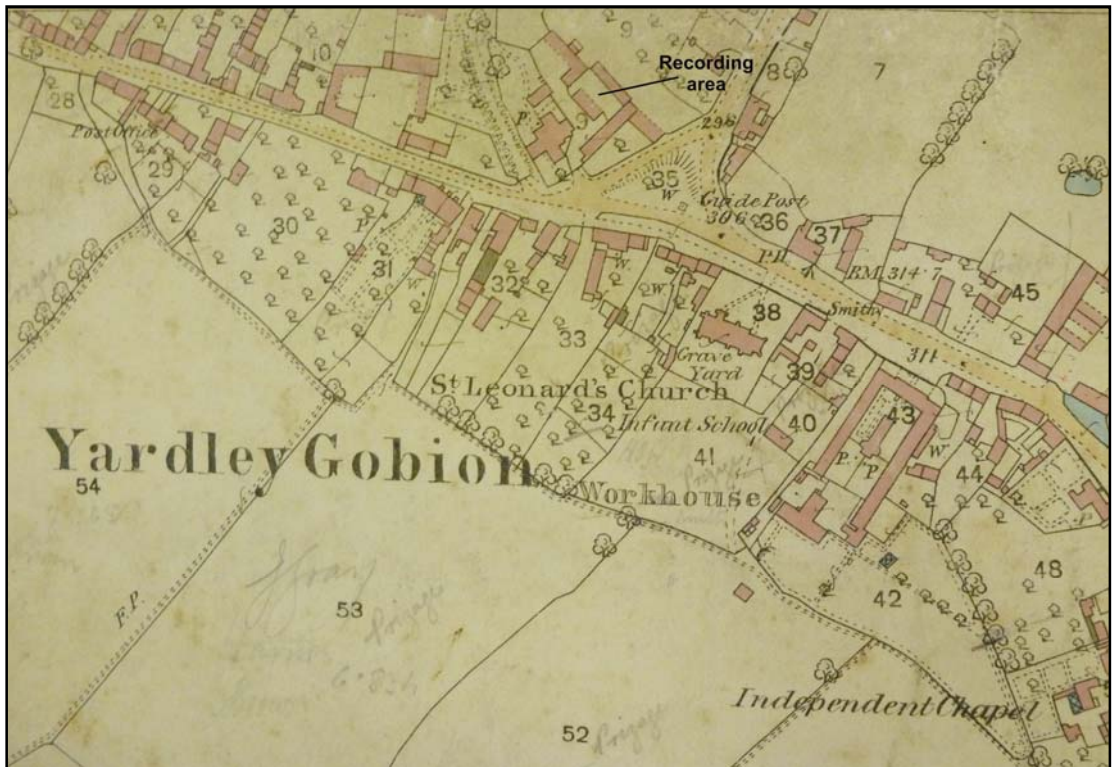
The recording area is shown with the recorded structures in their present layout. A long range close to the road on the west is shown but it is unclear if this is the same structure shown on previous maps or whether this structure is a more recent one.



Collier and Baker's map of Yardley Gobion c1725 Fig 2



Historic map of 1728, showing the recording area Fig 3



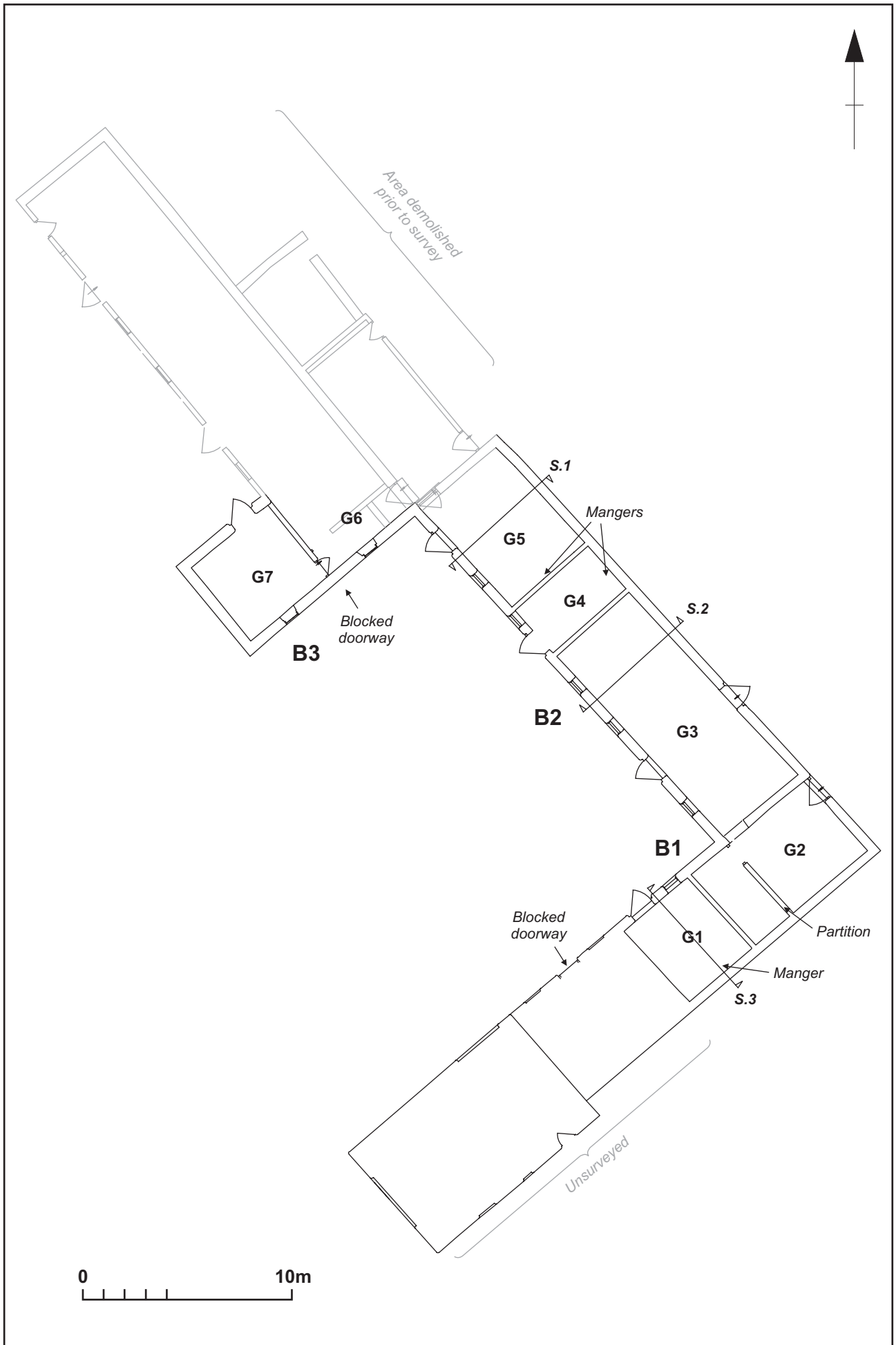
1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1883 Fig 4



Scale 1:500

The recording area Fig 5

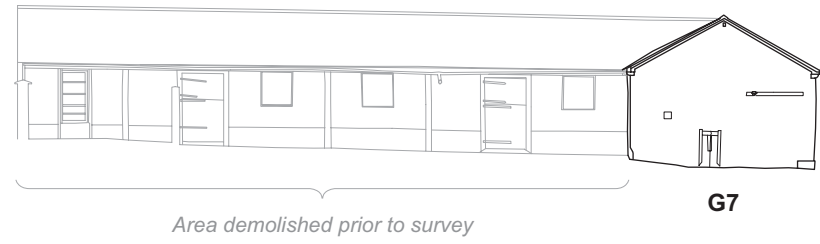
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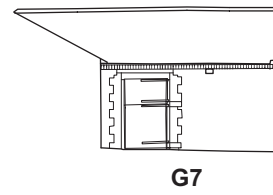
Scale 1:250 (A4)

Plan of the recorded buildings Fig 6

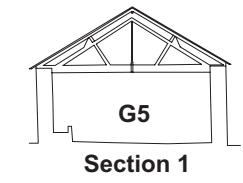
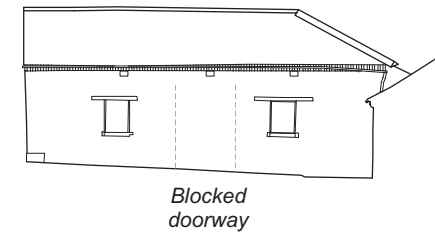
Western elevation - Building 3



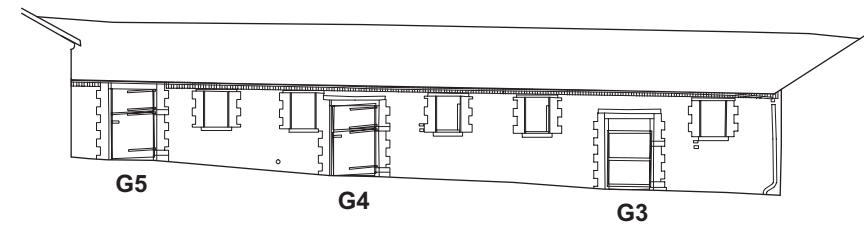
Northern elevation, Building 3



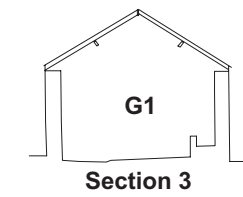
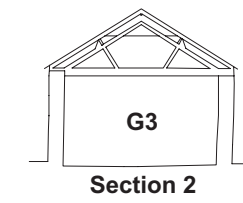
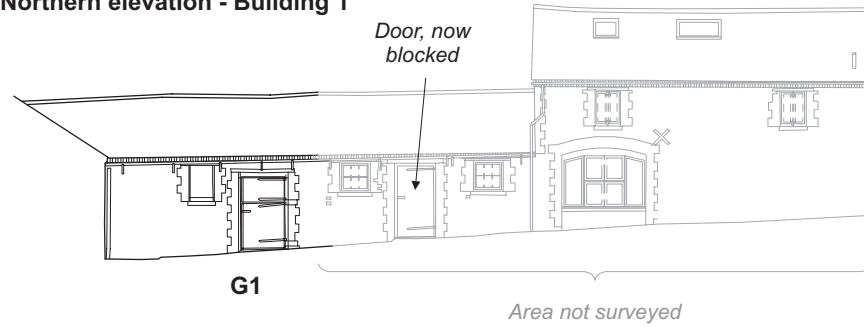
Southern elevation - Building 3



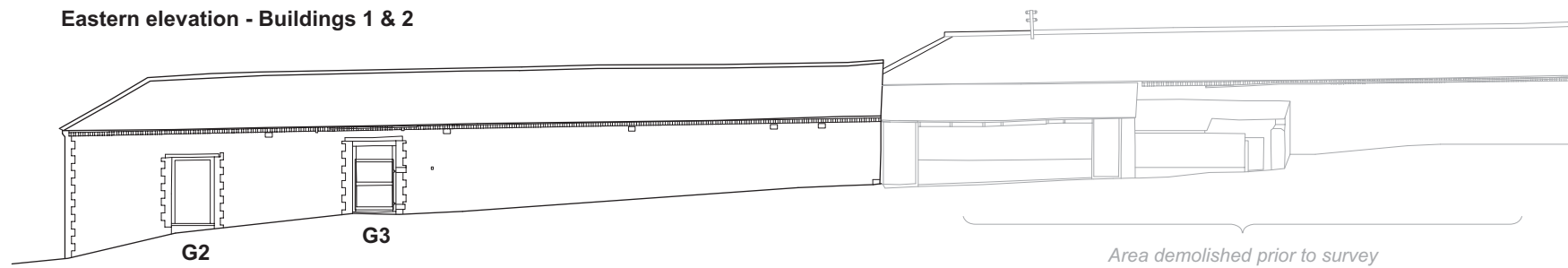
Western elevation - Building 2



Northern elevation - Building 1



Eastern elevation - Buildings 1 & 2



## 4 BUILDING RECORDING

The buildings were visited in May 2012 to carry out a survey of the areas to be affected by the proposed works.

The recorded buildings consist of three stone and brick-built single-storey ranges surrounding a central courtyard. The floor levels have been reduced recently throughout the buildings and no evidence for the previous floors was visible. The buildings were in use as stables for horses and cattle until very recently when the land was set aside for development. Several more modern structures, which abutted the recorded buildings, have been demolished and the ground had been levelled by the time of this survey. The demolitions have resulted in some structural damage to the recorded buildings which were shored up for safety reasons. There has been some slippage of the roof tiles and the buildings are partly unroofed in places.

The buildings are primarily constructed from pale yellow sandy limestone set in a coarse, gravelly, yellow-brown mortar. Quoins of ferruginous sandstone are present on the corner of Building 3 (Fig 10). The jambs and reveals are stressed with quoins of contrasting squared and bullnose brickwork, laid to courses with the walling stone (Fig 22). The hinges of the doors are embedded either in timbers inserted into the brickwork or larger blocks of a medium – fine grained, grey sandstone. Inverted bullnose dentils run the full length of the buildings, below the eaves (Fig 22). Square vents are present at regular intervals below the eaves, with external metal meshes. Occasional timber beams are present, both internally and externally, to allow equipment and lighting to be hung from screws and nails.

Where doors remained in the buildings, these were black painted stable doors with iron hinges and black painted, timber lintels. The construction of the doorways with bullnose jambs and inner jambs of squared brick is unusual in that the function of the bullnose bricks is to prevent injury to livestock, yet this function is negated by the inner squared jambs (Fig 22). This feature is present on all the external doorways in the structure and does not appear to be a later narrowing.

Louvres with black painted wooden slats are set within reveals of bullnose bricks and framed with timber lintels and internal timber sill plates (Figs 22 & 24). Externally, there are bullnose brick window sills. Several of the timbers in the buildings show signs of re-use.

The roof is Welsh slate nailed to a machine sawn timber frame of battens, rafters and purlins supported by a simple king post truss with an iron supporting rod instead of a central post (Figs 16, 17, 20 & 23). Rectangular roof lights are present at regular intervals throughout the structures. It was unclear if these were original to the structure or were later additions.

### 4.1 Building 1

The southern range of the recording area, this building adjoins a two storey house to the west (Fig 8). Half of the range has been incorporated into the house and was not part of the surveyed area. A blocked doorway can be seen on this area, probably dating to the conversion of the structure to a residential function (Figs 6&7). Building 1 is divided into two rooms, G1 and G2. Room G1 is accessed via a doorway on the northern elevation, facing into the central courtyard (Fig 8). An iron hayrack remained against the southern wall of the room (Fig 14). A louvered window is built into the northern wall of the room. The upper wall of room G1 is whitewashed and the lower extent of the wall is painted black.

Room G2 is accessed via an external doorway on the eastern elevation and an internal doorway which provides access to room G3 of Building 2 (Figs 12, 13, 15 & 17). Evidence for a removed partition could be seen on the south-western wall of Room G2. *In-situ* wooden supports on this wall indicate that a small hay loft was present here (Figs 15 & 17). This partition can be seen on the 2010 architect survey plan. The walls of room G2 are whitewashed to the extent of the eaves/gable.

#### **4.2 Building 2**

Building 2 forms the eastern range of the recording area and is divided into three rooms, G3, G4 and G5 (Figs 6&7). Room G3 is accessed via doorways on the east and western walls (Figs 16 & 17). Two louvered windows are built into the western wall. A doorway in the southern wall of the room provides access to room G2 of Building 1. No fixtures or fittings remained in the room during the survey. The room has a combination of whitewash and black painted walls (Figs 16&17).

Room G4, the smallest room of Building 2, is accessed via the central courtyard (Figs 8 & 9). A hay rack was present on the eastern wall of the room (Fig 18). A louvered window in the western wall provides light and ventilation into the room.

Room G5 forms the northerly room of the range. It was partially demolished and unroofed at the time of the survey. The northern wall of the room, visible on the 2010 plan had been removed by the time of recording. The room is accessed via a door in the western wall, facing the courtyard. A second doorway in the north wall is shown on the 2010 plan. A hayrack remained on the southern wall (Fig 19).

Both rooms G4 and G5 feature a combination of black paint from ground to window sill level and white wash above.

#### **4.3 Building 3**

This range was partially demolished and unroofed and the floor levels reduced at the time of recording. The structure is divided into room G7 and area G6 (Figs 6&7). The 2010 plan of the recorded area shows room G6 as a narrow passage way with access to the now demolished building to the north and to room G7. All but the southern wall of room G6 had been demolished prior to this survey. The areas are separated by a brick half wall topped with a wooden partition (Figs 20 & 21). A blocking was visible on the southern, courtyard facing elevation, directly perpendicular to this partition (Fig 25). It is probable that the areas of room G6 and G7 were once part of a larger room which was subdivided when the now demolished building to the north was constructed.

The surviving walls of room G6 and the upper extent of the walls of room G7 are whitewashed. The lower part of the walls of room G7 are a mixture of rendering and black paint.



Buildings B1 and B2, looking south-east Fig 8



Buildings B2 and B3, looking north Fig 9





The western elevation of building B3 with sandstone quoins visible to the right, looking east Fig 10



The northern elevations of buildings B3 and B2, looking south-east Fig 11



The eastern elevation of buildings B2 and B1, looking south-west Fig 12



The southern elevation of building B1, with the scar of a former building visible to the left, looking north-west Fig 13



Room G1 with hay rack on the rear wall, looking south-east Fig 14



Room G2 showing the scars from a removed partition and former hay loft, looking south-west Fig 15



The interior of room G3, looking north-west Fig 16



The interior of room G3 with room G2 beyond, looking south-east Fig 17



Room G4 with hay rack on the rear wall, looking north-east Fig 18



Room G5 with hay rack on the rear wall, looking south-east Fig 19



Room G6 showing the inserted half wall and timber partition, looking south-west Fig 20



Room G7 with the inserted partition to the left, looking south-east Fig 21



Detail showing the construction of the doors and windows, also showing the inverted bullnose dentils Fig 22



The roof structure above room G2 Fig 23



Detail of the interior of the window in room G6 Fig 24



The blocked door on the southern elevation of building B3, looking north-west Fig 25



## 5 CONCLUSION

The survey has shown that the recorded buildings have their origins in the 19th century and while subject to some alterations, have remained relatively unchanged since. It is possible that older structures were present on the site before the construction of the recorded buildings but no evidence of an earlier fabric was visible in the structures. The buildings were constructed for agricultural use, housing livestock, though future development of the site will see them converted into housing.

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