



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological building recording at White Gates, Upper Heyford, Northamptonshire



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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS NO. 146838
Project title	Archaeological building recording at White Gates, Upper Heyford, Northamptonshire	
Short description	Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out a buildings recording action at White Gates, Upper Heyford, Northamptonshire to record a late 19th-century carriage house before it is converted into a private dwelling. The carriage house and stable block has enough original features remaining that its purpose for the stabling of approximately three horses and a carriage could be envisaged, however, the internal features have been affected by neglect over time and a recent fire. The use of Foxleys' Patent Bricks allowed the entire rear of the house, along with the south facing garden wall, to have been strung to grow fruit.	
Project type	Building recording	
Previous work	none	
Future work	unknown	
Monument type and period	19 th century building	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	White Gates, Upper Heyford, Northamptonshire	
Easting / Northing		
Area sqm or ha		
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	NCC	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Yvonne Wolfram-Murray	
Project Manager	Steve Parry	
Sponsor or funding body	Mr Sudhu-Brar	
PROJECT DATE		
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End date		
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Contents

- 1 INTRODUCTION**
- 2 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY**
- 3 BACKGROUND**
- 4 BUILDING ASSESSMENT**
 - 4.1 Ground floor**
 - 4.2 First floor**
- 5 DISCUSSION**
- BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Figures

- Fig 1 Site location
- Fig 2 Building location
- Fig 5 Plans
- Fig 6 Elevation and section
- Fig 3 1810 Ordnance Survey Surveyors map
- Fig 4 First Edition Ordnance Survey map 1885
- Fig 7 The wall, looking east
- Fig 8 View from above, looking south
- Fig 9 Front elevation, looking east
- Fig 10 Rear elevation, looking west
- Fig 11 Foxleys' Patent Bricks
- Fig 12 Details of the gable
- Fig 13 Rear door, looking west
- Fig 14 Interior, looking west
- Fig 15 Front access with arch, looking east
- Fig 16 Brick floor with drain
- Fig 17 External view of south stable window
- Fig 18 Hay feeding rack
- Fig 19 South stable herringbone floor
- Fig 20 Split barn door to north stable, with ladder
- Fig 21 Internal view of northern stable window
- Fig 22 North stable brick floor
- Fig 23 North-east feeder
- Fig 24 South-east feeder
- Fig 25 Wooden vat in north-west corner
- Fig 26 Tack/grooms room
- Fig 27 Panelled door to tack room
- Fig 28 Wooden panelling and fixtures
- Fig 29 Fireplace
- Fig 30 View of the entrance into the carriage house
- Fig 31 View of external limestone flags
- Fig 32 Carriage house window, looking east
- Fig 33 Carriage house brick floor and threshold
- Fig 34 Wooden disk
- Fig 35 Stairs with dog kennel
- Fig 36 Wooden stair and door to first floor
- Fig 37 Room at top of stairs
- Fig 38 First floor, looking north
- Fig 39 View through door on first floor
- Fig 40 Window in northern gable end

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING
AT WHITE GATES, UPPER HEYFORD, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
MARCH 2013

Abstract

Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out a buildings recording action at White Gates, Upper Heyford, Northamptonshire to record a late 19th-century carriage house before it is converted into a private dwelling. The carriage house and stable block has enough original features remaining that its purpose for the stabling of approximately three horses and a carriage could be envisaged, however, the internal features have been affected by neglect over time and a recent fire. The use of Foxleys' Patent Bricks allowed the entire rear of the house, along with the south facing garden wall, to have been strung to grow fruit.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) were commissioned by Robinson Lloyd Architecture Ltd, on behalf of Mr Sudhu-Brar, to undertake an archaeological buildings recording action on the carriage house and stable block at White Gates, Upper Heyford, Northamptonshire, (Figs 1 and 2). The work was carried out in response to the proposed conversion of the building (Planning consent No: S/2012/0208/FUL).

2 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The objectives of the work, subject to accessibility, were to:

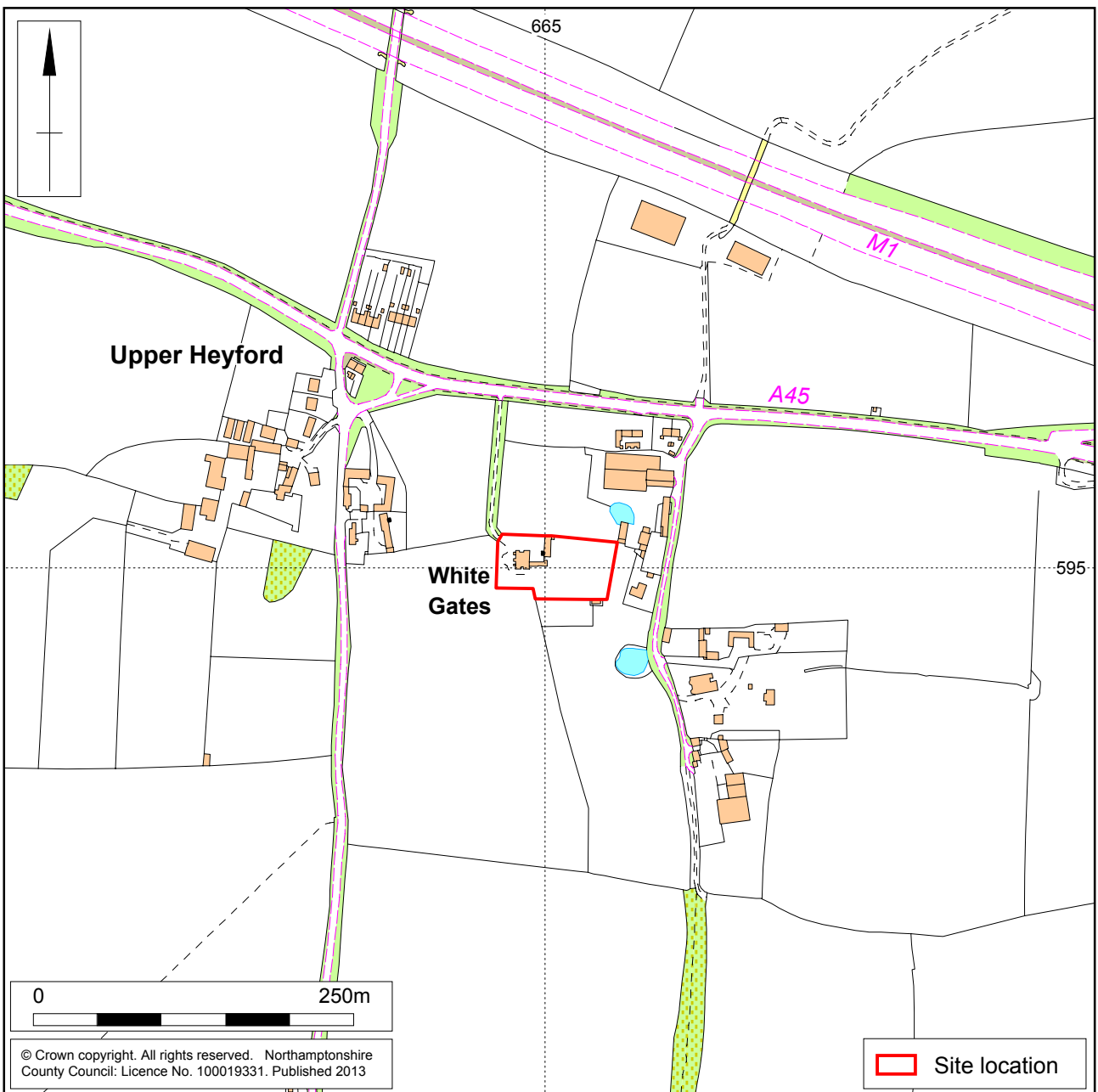
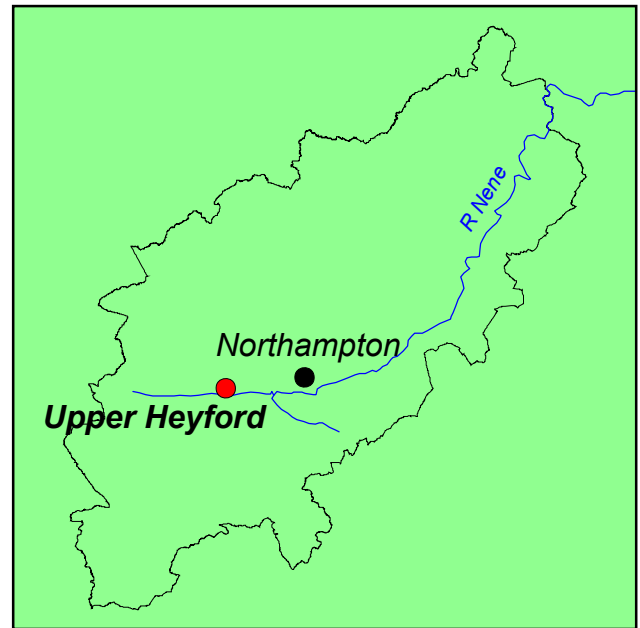
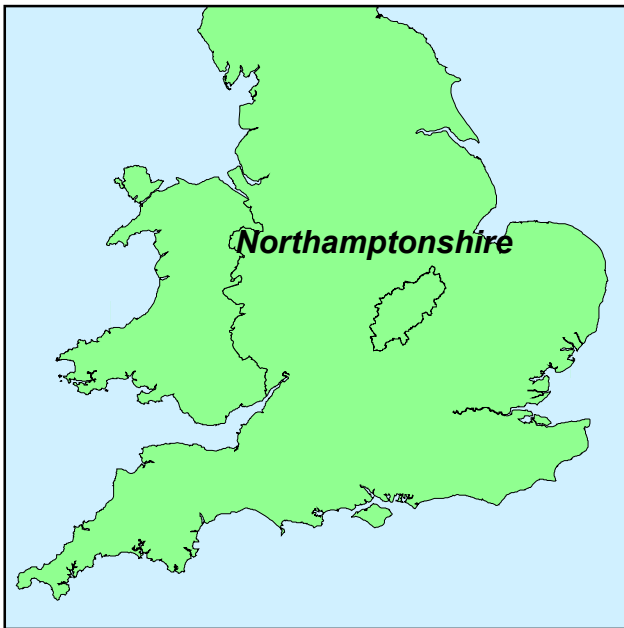
- Compile a descriptive record of the building at English Heritage's Level 3 before conversion of the building takes place,
- Provide a detailed understanding of the nature of the building, and to provide the historical context, development and significance of the building group.

A site visit was made on Tuesday 19th March 2013. The work was carried in accordance with the WSI (NA 2013), which was prepared with reference to the brief issued by the Northamptonshire County Council Assistant Archaeological Advisor (NCC 2012).

The building was recorded in accordance with the standards, conventions and specifications defined in English Heritage, *Understanding Historic Buildings, A guide to good recording practice* (2006).

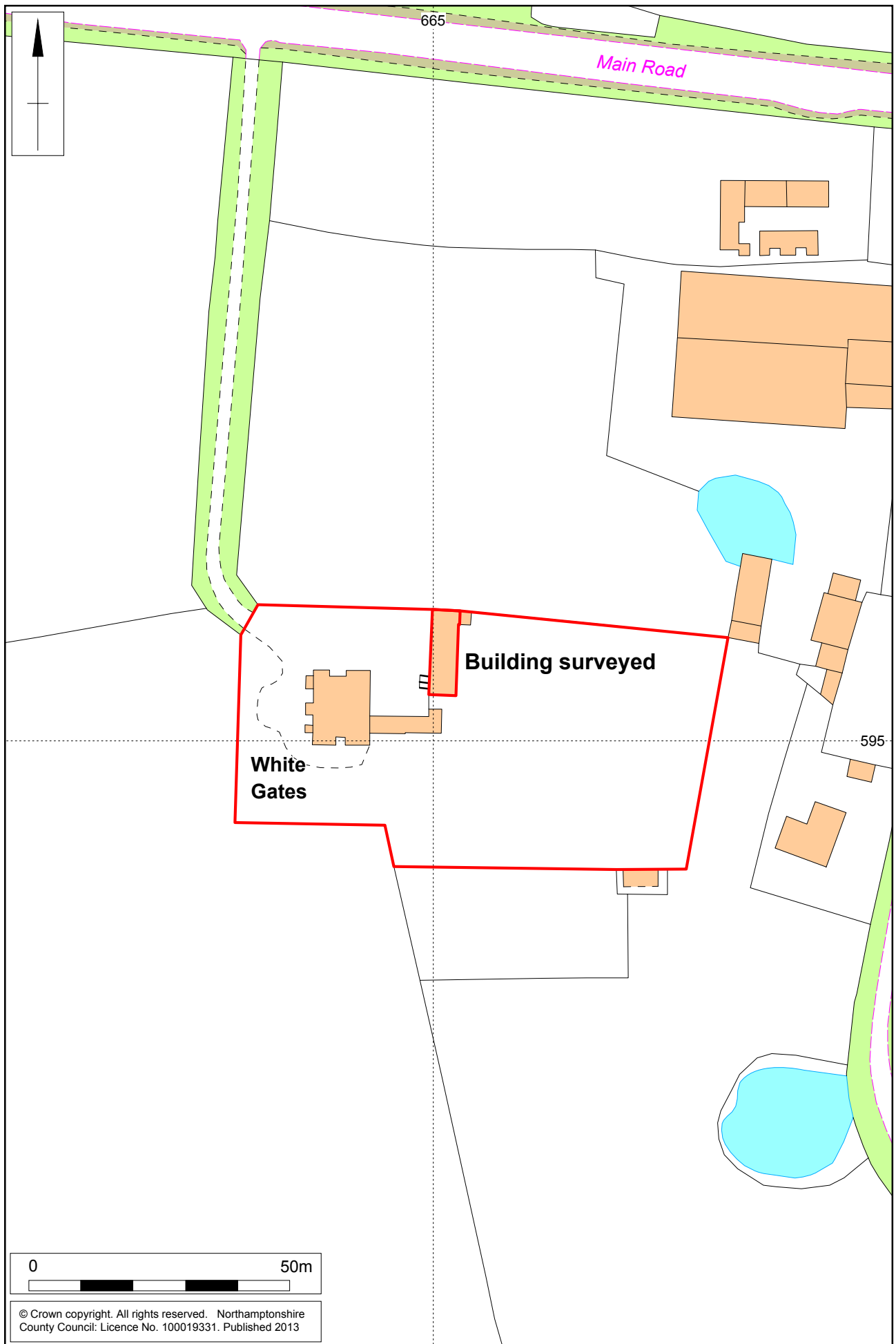
All principal exterior elevations were photographed and described. All rooms were photographically and descriptively recorded and included significant structural or decorative details that may be lost during alterations.

The plans and elevations of the building, provided by the developers, were checked for accuracy on site and annotated, were supplemented by a cross-section. Fixtures and fittings, which related to the buildings' early use, were recorded and former uses of the individual buildings were postulated where sufficient evidence remained to do so.



Scale 1:5,000

Site location Fig 1



Scale 1:1,000 (A4)

Building location Fig 2

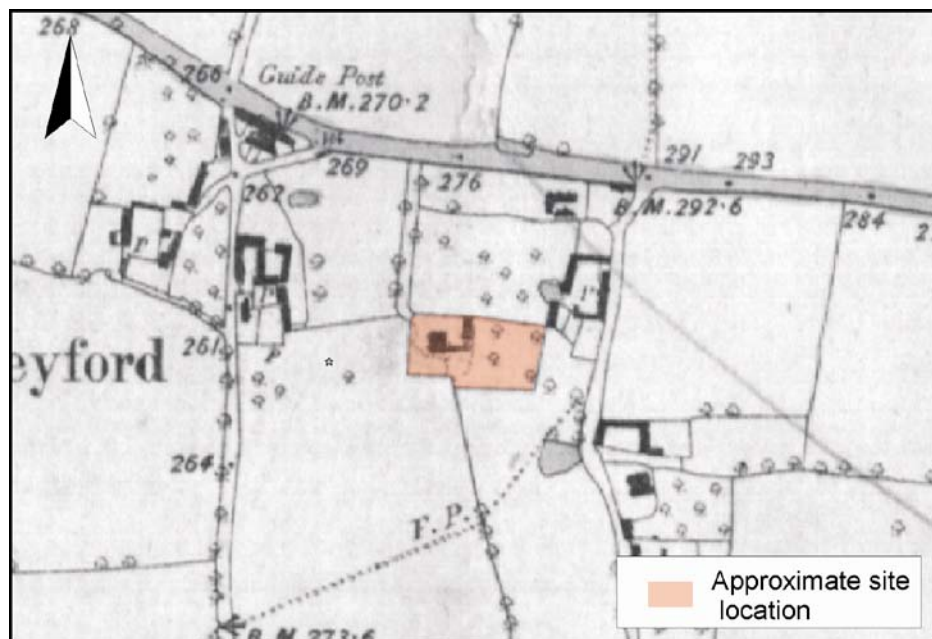
3 BACKGROUND

Upper Heyford is six miles west of Northampton on the A45. White Gates is situated down a drive of the main road. There are no direct neighbours with fields to the north, west and south. East of White Gates is Hill Farm and The Close (Fig 1).

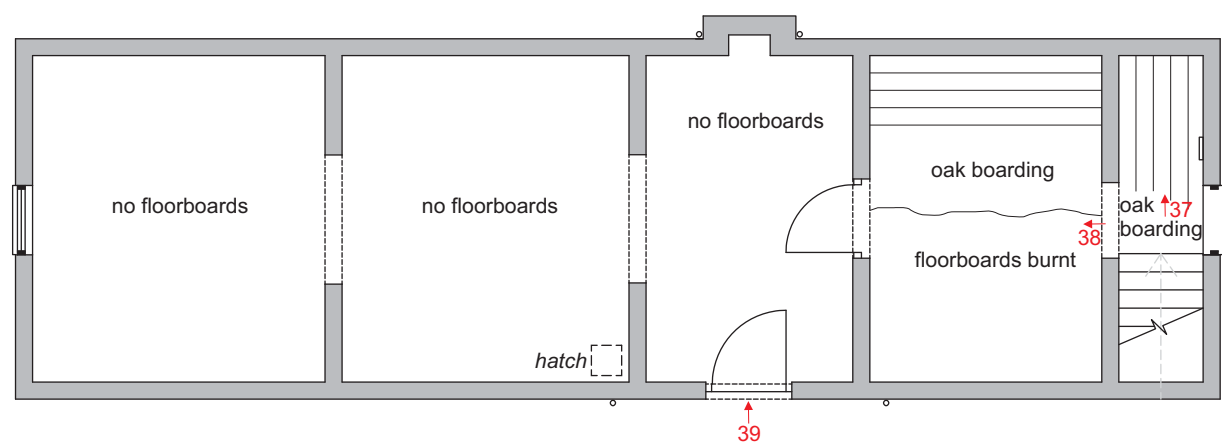
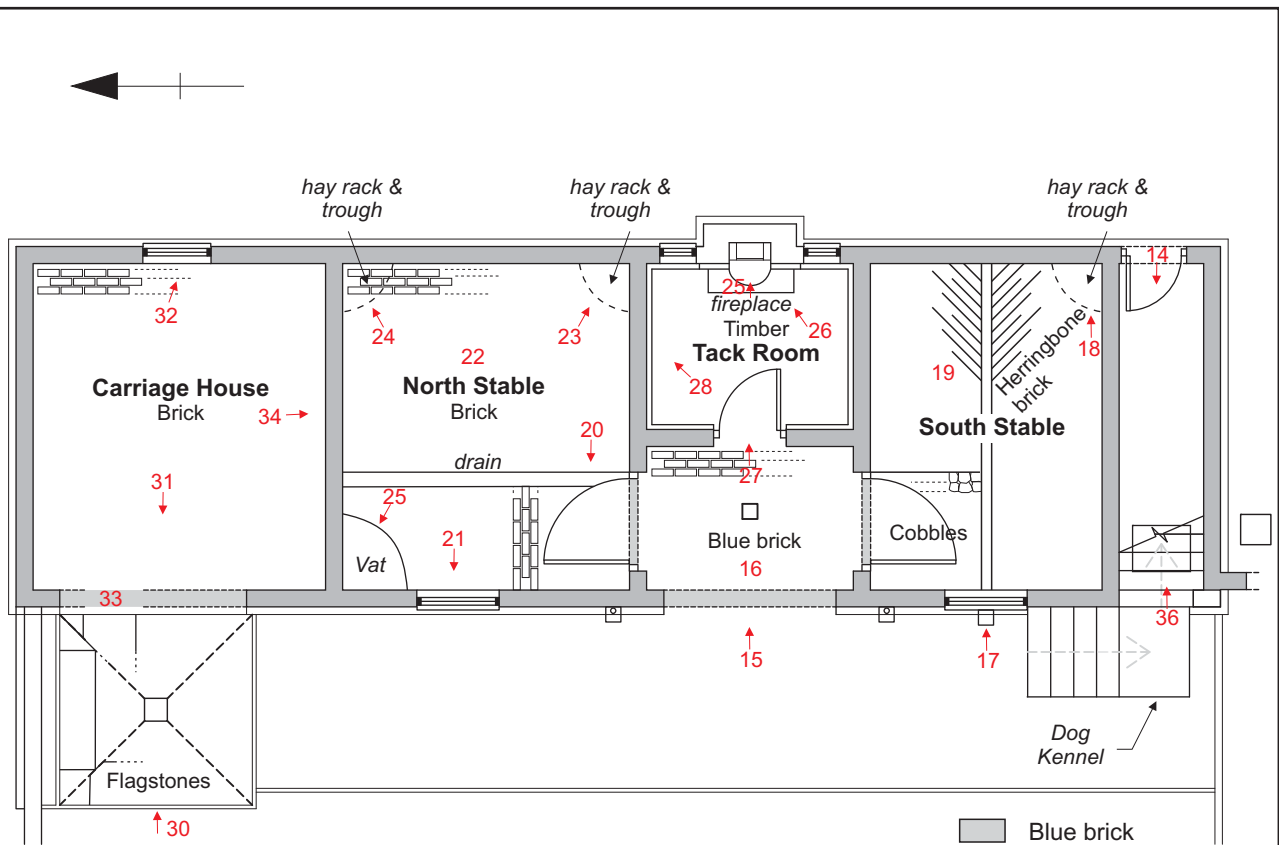
The buildings complex of main house and out buildings does not appear on the 1810 Ordnance Survey (OS) surveyors' preparatory map (Fig 3). The buildings complex is present on the first edition Ordnance Survey map from 1885 (Fig 4). A search of the HER and in the Records office did not reveal any information on White Gates.



1810 Ordnance Survey Surveyors map Fig 3

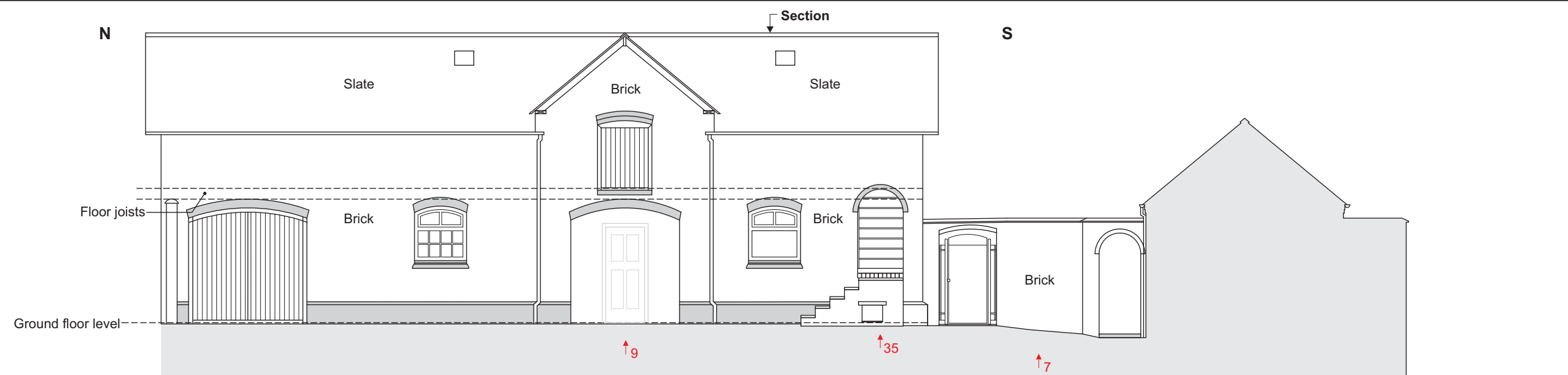


First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885 Fig 4

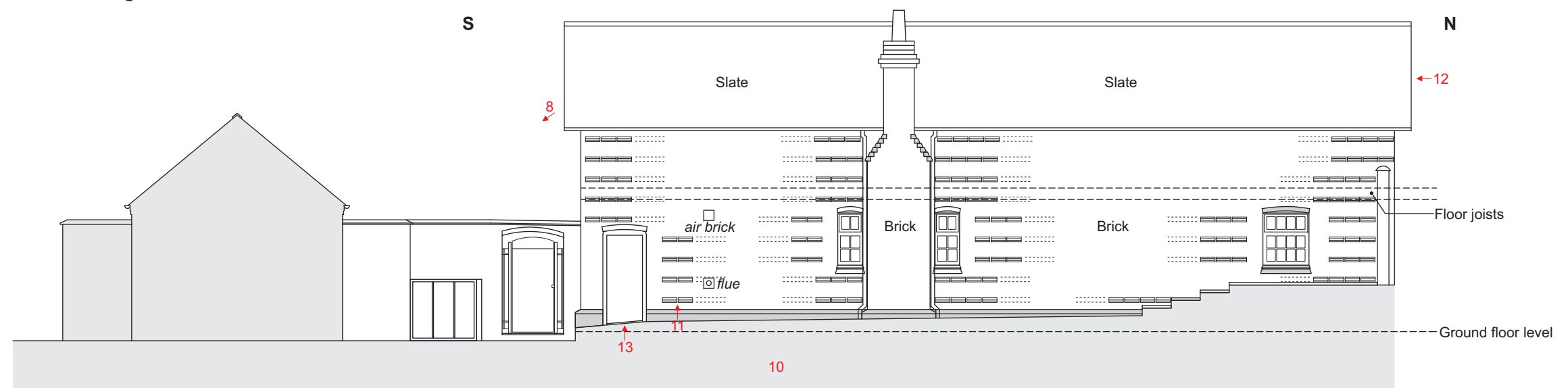


0 5m

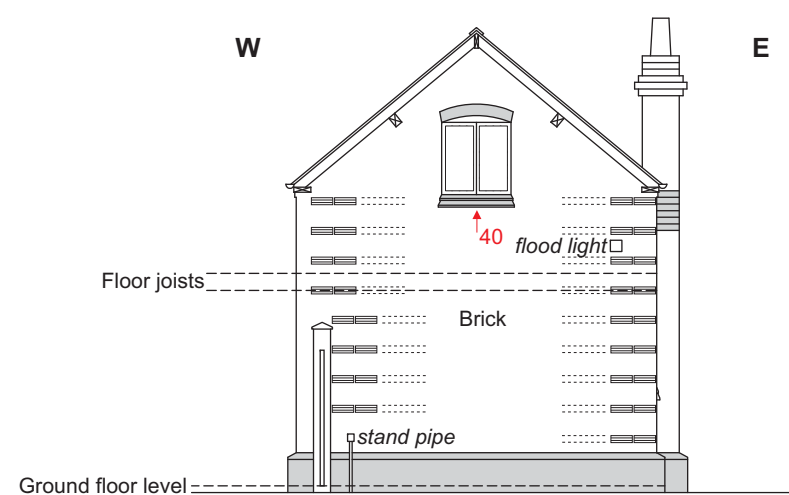
↑xx Location of photographic survey figure



Existing front elevation

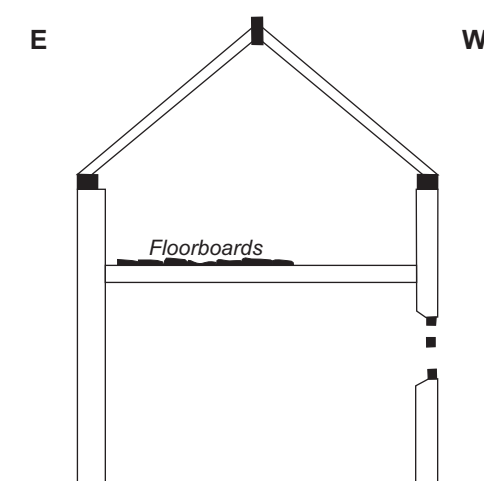


Existing rear elevation



Existing southern elevation

Foxley's patent bricks
 Blue brick



Existing section

Location of photographic survey figure

0 5m

4 BUILDING ASSESSMENT

This gabled building is located to the north-east of the main house and forms a right-angle with the southern range (Fig 2). The entire complex is likely to be contemporary. The carriage house and stable block is attached to the rest of the buildings via a brick wall. This has a segmented arch with a wrought iron gate, giving access to the rear of the building and garden. There is a second arch, giving access to the southern range, currently the entrance into the range is blocked off (Figs 7 and 8).



The wall, looking east Fig 7



View from above, looking south Fig 8

The carriage house and stable block is a two story brick built-building of a single build (Fig 9). The handmade bricks are Flemish Garden Wall bonded with light coloured lime mortar. The rear, east facing facade and the adjoining south facing garden wall, have at regular intervals, every fourth course, rows of Foxley's Patented Bricks (Figs 10 and 11), which were perforated for fruit-wires (Campbell 2005).



Front elevation, looking east Fig 9



Rear elevation, looking west Fig 10



Foxleys' Patent Bricks Fig 11

At the time of the site visit large parts of the roof had been removed and replaced. The slate had been partially replaced. The northern gable was still original, this showed white painted wooden rafters, fascia boards, and the decorative ends of the purlins (Fig 12).



Details of the gable Fig 12

4.1 Ground floor

The ground floor is divided into two uses, the carriage house at the northern end of the building and the stable block with a tack/grooms room forming the southern part of the building (Figs 5 and 6). There is a single room accessed from the rear through a segmental arched doorway. The ledged wooden door is painted blue and has a round opening at the bottom for a cat and was opened by a cast iron drop latch (Fig 13). There are iron nails remaining in the brickwork, the underside of the stairs to the first floor and wooden ceiling are visible (Fig 14). The floor is partially concrete and earth, which have pipes passing through.



Rear door, looking west Fig 13

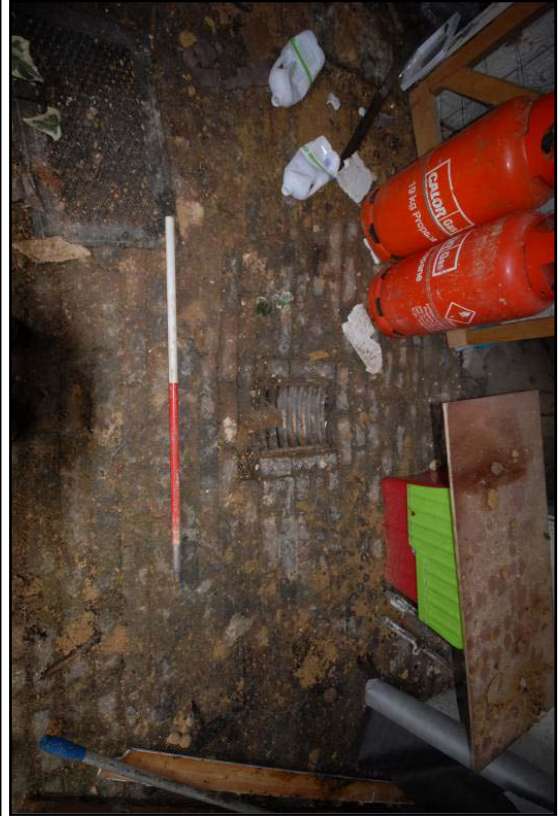


Interior, looking west Fig 14

At the front access to the stables is through a bonded arch constructed with blue engineering bricks, as is the threshold (Fig 15). The walls are white washed and the ceiling and the walls above the doors is blackened, may be due to fire or paint. The floor is laid with blue bricks, sloping centrally to a cast iron drain (Fig 16). This space leads to the two stables, and the tack/grooms room in between.



Front access with arch, looking east
Fig 15



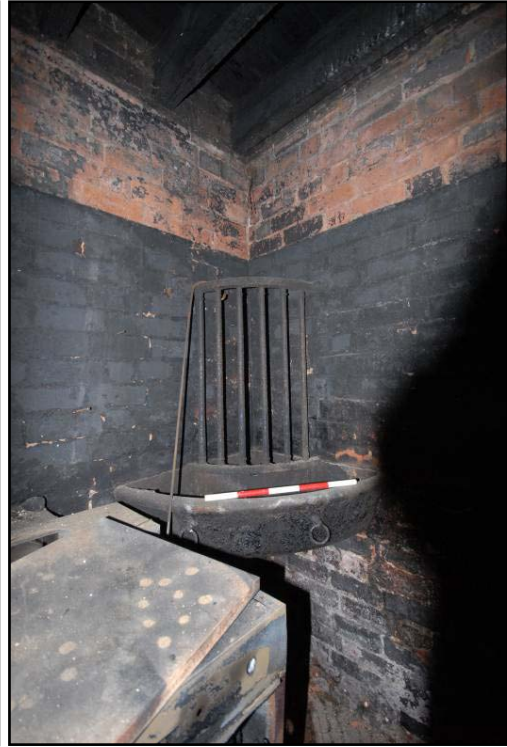
Brick floor with drain Fig 16

South stable

The southern, smaller stable is accessed through a split barn door, wide to account for the size of a horse. The door jambs are painted white and the ledged doors blue, the threshold is laid with engineering bricks. The single hung window is on the western side of the room, the white painted wooden frame is located in a segmental arched opening with sloping engineering bricks as the sill. The lower part of the window has iron bars, but the glass is missing. The top part, two light but glass missing, pivots inwards (Fig 17). In the south-eastern corner is an iron hay feeding rack with a trough at the base with tethering ring attached (Fig 18). The floor is in a herringbone pattern, orientated to a central drain. The tiles are placed on end and ordered in a repeating pattern of single tile followed by two tiles (Fig 19). The floor area at the door is laid with square stone cobbles. The ceiling is charred showing the remnants of floorboards, the walls are blackened to three-quarters high above which is bare brick. The room contained a generator.



External view of south stable window
Fig 17



Hay feeding rack Fig 18



South stable, herringbone floor Fig 19

North stable

The northern stable is larger, but similarly set up. It is accessed through a similar split barn door (Fig 20) and the window is similar, except it retains the eight panels and glass in the lower part of the window (Fig 21). Behind the door is a ladder that accesses the first floor. The floor is brick laid out in a stretcher pattern north to south down to the drain at which point the bricks are east to west aligned (Fig 22). The walls are painted black, three-quarters height by the feeders then sloping down to window height. The space above is painted pink. This stable contains two feeders, one in the north-eastern corner and one in the south-western corner with iron tethering ring still attached (Figs 23 and

24). In the north-western corner is a wooden vat placed on a single row of bricks (Fig 25).



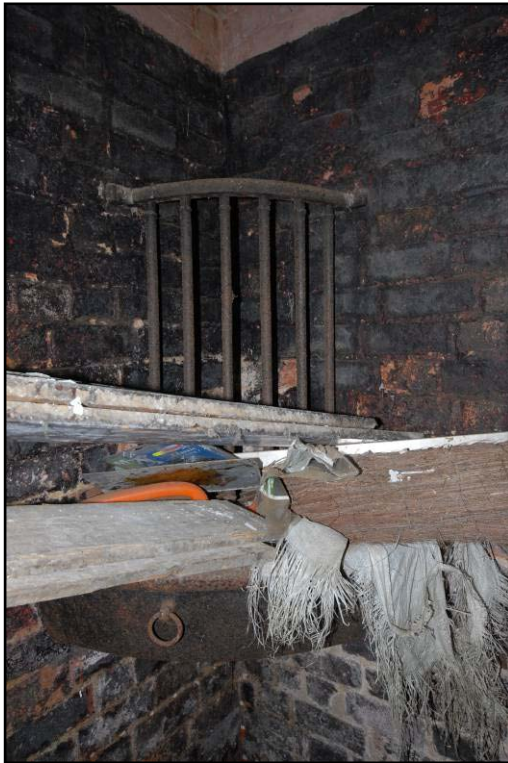
Split barn door to north stable, with ladder Fig 20



Internal view of north stable window Fig 21



North stable, brick floor Fig 22



North-east feeder, north stable
Fig 23



South-east feeder, north stable
Fig 24



Wooden vat in north-west corner, north stable Fig 25

Tack/grooms room

In the centre is a small tack/grooms room (Fig 26), access to this room was limited due to the state of the floor. Entry into the room is through a blue painted, wooden panelled door set into a moulded, white painted door frame (Fig 27). There are two windows on either side of the chimney. The single hung windows are four light on the bottom and four light at the top, which opens outwards (Fig 26). The flooring is pine floor boards, which are now collapsed (Fig 26). The ceiling is white painted plaster and lath. The entire room was panelled, which is surviving in places most notably on the northern wall. There are nails and hooks along the wall, with a branding iron hanging from one of them (Fig 28). The fireplace is still *in situ*, comprising of a black painted, stone surround, a wooden mantel, and highly decorated cast iron grate resting on a limestone block (Fig 29).



Tack/grooms room Fig 26



Panelled door to tack room Fig 27



Wooden panelling and fixtures Fig 28 Fireplace Fig 29

Carriage house

Access into the carriage house is through a full height, bonded arched, double doorway on the western front of building (Fig 30). The double doors are recent. The bonded arch and threshold are built with blue engineering bricks and a square of limestone flags have been laid in front of the door (Fig 31). There is a white painted wooden framed window placed high on the rear east wall. The single hung window is eight light at the bottom and eight light at the top, which opens (Fig 32). The floor of the room is brick, laid out in stretchers (Fig 33), the ceiling is white painted plaster and lath, and the walls are light pink-painted brick. No original other features survive, there is a small wooden disk hung on the southern wall, (Fig 34) and a wooden shelf.



View of the entrance into the carriage house Fig 30



View of external limestone flags Fig 31



Carriage house, window, looking east Fig 32



Carriage house brick floor and threshold Fig 33



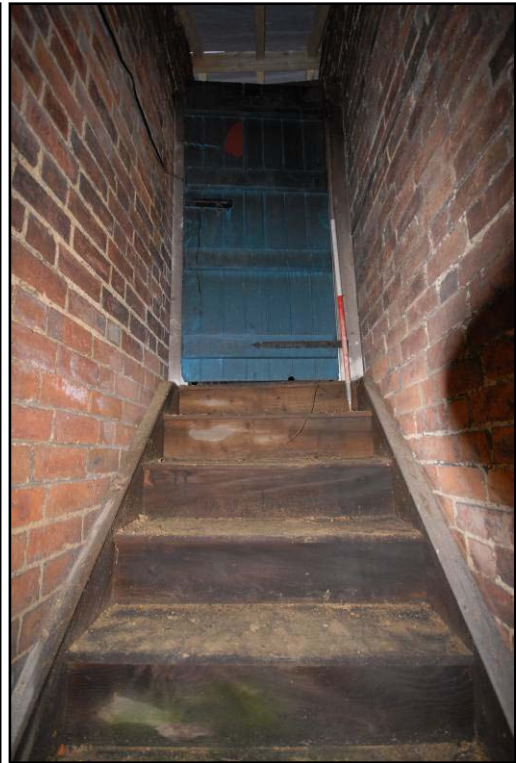
Wooden disk Fig 34

4.2 First floor

The first floor is accessed through a partially external stair case constructed in brick with limestone treads (Figs 5 and 6). There is an inbuilt dog kennel in the staircase, the opening lined with bullnosed bricks and a metal ring is still fixed next to the opening (Fig 35). Through the small opening the stair case becomes oak internally (Fig 36). At the top is a blue painted wooden, plank and ledged door. The flooring is oak planks and laid east west (Fig 37). The window is missing with only part of the white painted wood remaining. The walls are red brick.



Stairs with dog kennel Fig 35



Wooden stair and door to first floor
Fig 36



Room at the top of the stairs Fig 37

Due to the condition/lack off of flooring on the first floor no further access could be gained. The first room has remnants of oak flooring along the eastern wall, but the rest was lost in the fire (Fig 38). The central room has a door to the outside on the western side, the planked and ledged door survives (Fig 39). The segmental arched northern window survives in its original state. It is a white painted 30 light casement window, the glass segments are set in lead. The western half opens outwards and the latch is retained. The lintel and sill are both blue engineering brick (Fig 40).



First floor, looking north Fig 38



View through door on first floor Fig 39



Window in northern gable end Fig 40

5 DISCUSSION

The survey recorded the building that is proposed for conversion. There has been a fire in the southern end of the building, afterwards the entire roof was taken down and rebuilt. Otherwise the building has been neglected over the years, notably in the tack/grooms room where the floor has collapsed. No significant changes have been made to the building, allowing some of the original features to survive, for example the hay rack feeders.

The building is a late 19th century carriage house and stable. The building complex of which it part, is not present on the 1810 preparatory survey map, but is present on the 1885 Ordnance Survey map. The Foxleys' Patent Bricks were patented *circa* 1864 (Campbell 2005). This gives a 21 year period during which this group of buildings was likely to have been built.

The carriage house and stable block has enough original features remaining that its purpose for the stabling of approximately three horses and a carriage could be envisaged. The tack/grooms room has original features remaining, this would have been a space to keep warm on cold days, keeping the workers out of the main house.

The use of Foxleys' Patent Bricks allowed the entire rear of the house along with the south facing garden wall to have been strung. This would have allowed fruit to be grown. The small room to the rear of the building may have been used for storing gardening materials, however, not many original features remain.

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