



**Northamptonshire
County Council**

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An assessment of
three dormer windows
at Barton Seagrave Hall,
Northamptonshire



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AN ASSESSMENT OF THREE DORMER WINDOWS AT BARTON SEAGRAVE HALL, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On 3 November 2005 Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) was contacted by Mr Tony Shaw from the Wicksteed Trust in Kettering to assess three dormer windows at Barton Seagrave Hall (Fig 1).
- 1.2 The Hall is Listed Grade II and therefore Listed Building Consent is required before any work is undertaken to the windows. The assessment should consider the present condition of the windows and their historic relevance to the building which could then be submitted as part of the application for Listed Building Consent.

2. ASSESSMENT

- 2.1 The Hall is a fine building comprising various phases of construction; the west wing which contains the three dormer windows is Georgian according to Pevsner (Pevsner and Cherry 1973). The dormers sit within the attic storey of the five bay west front of the house overlooking the garden on that side (Plate 1). Each dormer is of the same configuration, is pedimented and contains nine lights set in two casement windows, one of three lights, the other of six (Plates 2 and 3). Only the casements are in need of repair, the structure of the dormers is sound and will not be replaced. Since the dormers are set within the roof they could only be viewed from the ground externally, but each was examined from inside the attic rooms which they light.
- 2.2 The southern windows two light a single room; the casements are made of pine painted white, the moulding size and profile suggests a late nineteenth/early twentieth century date. Each is fitted with sliding iron bolts at top and bottom, these have monkey tail terminals but are modern (i.e. late nineteenth/early twentieth century). In the centre of the edge of the frames that open outwards are swivel catches, these are cast metal and stylistically suggest an early twentieth century date, most probably 1920s/30s. The casement stays are cast in the same style and are of the same date. Some glass has fallen from the windows due to the fragility of the frames, some of which have had attempts to repair them using narrow iron plates. However, due to the rotten nature of the wood these plates have been unsuccessful.
- 2.3 The third dormer which lights a smaller room at the northern end of this wing is in the worst condition (Plate 3, left hand window). The three light casement has fallen out completely and is presently stored on a landing, in the six light casement some glass has fallen out and has been replaced with plywood sheet. Both casement frames are very rotten. The windows furniture is the same as in the southern room, i.e. all late nineteenth or early twentieth century.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The three dormers all appear to be replacements and are not contemporary with the original date (eighteenth century) of the west wing in which they sit. They light former servants rooms in the attic, and their position on the west side at roof level means they will have been subject to constant extremes of weather. Their present condition is deleterious to the fabric of the structure of the roof as they are letting in wind and water.
- 3.2 It is the opinion of the author of this report that they have no historic value in themselves as they are secondary fixtures and are now beyond repair. Wicksteed Trust carpenters are understood to have already made measured drawings of the casements and are ready to make new ones; the existing window glass and fittings are to be re-used on the new frames. This seems the most sensible and logical option and will prevent further deterioration of the roof structure.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig 1 Location of Barton Seagrave Hall

PLATES

- Plate 1 The west wing from the west
Plate 2 The southernmost dormer
Plate 3 The central and northern dormers

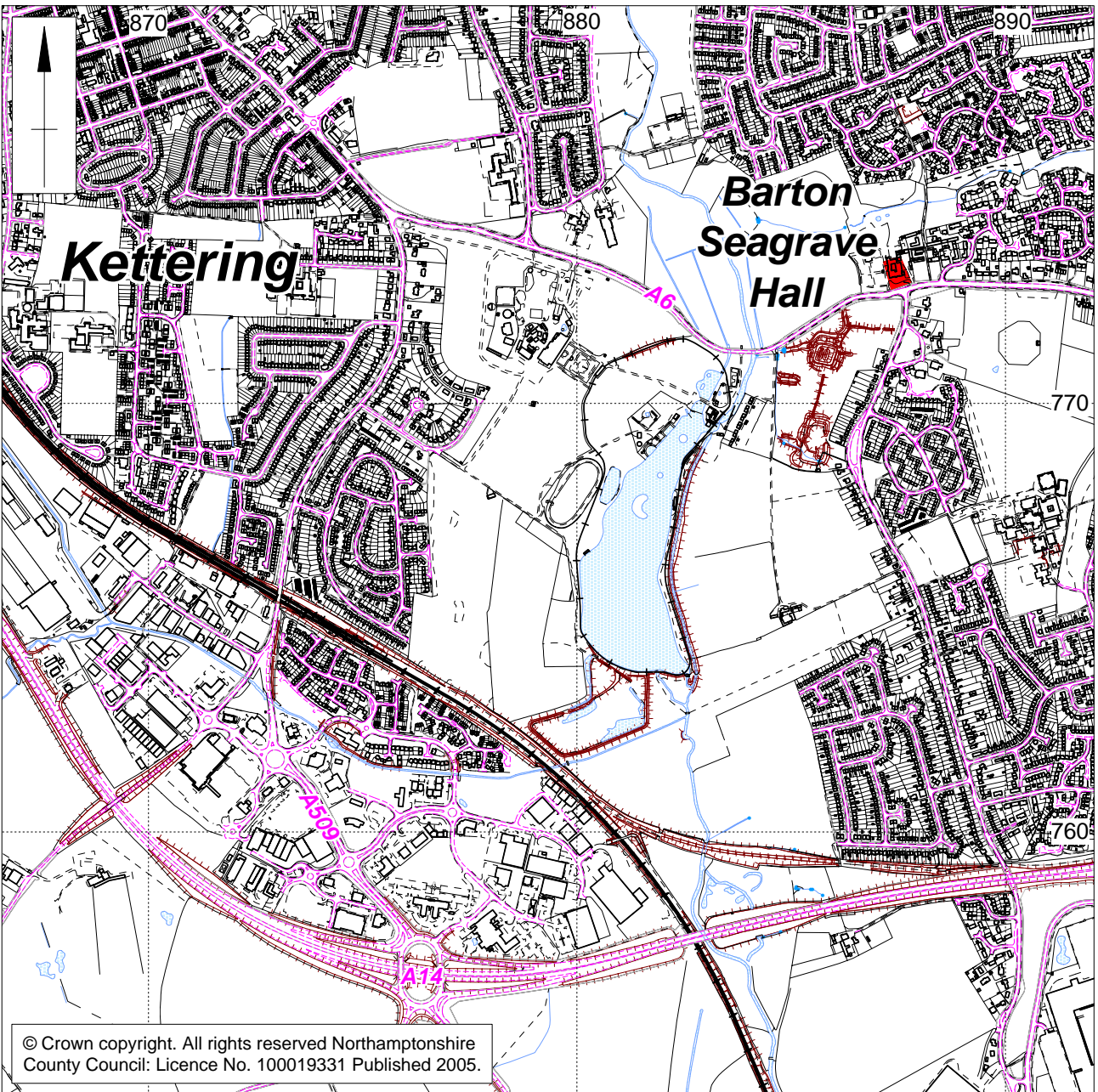
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Scale 1:15,000

Fig. 1



Plate 1 The west wing from the west



Plate 2 The southernmost dormer



Plate 3 The central and northern dormers