



Northamptonshire  
County Council

# Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological Buildings Recording  
of a Wall at 4 High Street Wootton

Northamptonshire

January 2009



Tim Upson-Smith

January 2009

Report 09/10

## Northamptonshire Archaeology

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## OASIS REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project name	Archaeological buildings recording of a wall at 4 High Street Wootton, Northamptonshire	
Short description	Northamptonshire Archaeology were commissioned to draw stone by stone elevations and photograph both faces of a wall fronting High Street, Wootton, adjacent to number 4. The wall would appear to date to the 16th or 17th centuries and was in 1779 part of a long narrow east-west aligned building. By 1885 this building had been demolished leaving the north and west walls to form the boundary of 4 High Street, Wootton.	
Project type	Buildings Recording	
Site status	None	
Previous work	None	
Current Land use		
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	Post-medieval	
Significant finds		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	4 High Street Wootton, Northamptonshire	
Study area (sq.m or ha)		
OS Easting & Northing	SP7627 5636	
Height OD		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator		
Project Design originator		
Director/Supervisor	Tim Upson-Smith	
Project Manager	Tony Walsh	
Sponsor or funding body		
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>		
Start date	January 2009	
End date	January 2009	
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location (Accession no.)</b>	<b>Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)</b>
Physical		
Paper		
Digital		
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
Title	Archaeological buildings recording of a wall at 4 High Street Wootton, Northamptonshire	
Serial title & volume	09/10	
Author(s)	Tim Upson-Smith	
Page numbers	18	
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## QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Verified by	Antony Walsh		
Checked by	Pat Chapman		
Approved by	Joe Prentice		

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# ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDINGS RECORDING

## OF A WALL AT 4 HIGH STREET WOOTTON

### NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

JANUARY 2009

REPORT 09/10

#### *Abstract*

*Northamptonshire Archaeology were commissioned to draw stone by stone elevations and photograph both faces of a wall fronting High Street, Wootton, adjacent to number 4. The wall would appear to date to the 16th or 17th centuries and was in 1779 part of a long narrow east-west aligned building. By 1885 this building had been demolished leaving the north and west walls to form the boundary of 4 High Street, Wootton.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology were commissioned by Mr Runham, through Elliott Associates, to draw stone by stone elevations and photograph both faces of a wall adjacent to 4 High Street Wootton, Northamptonshire (NGR SP7627 5636, Fig 1). The wall was an L-shaped remnant of a building which is known to have stood on the site in 1789. Only the part of the wall fronting 4 High Street was recorded.

The recording action comprised the drawing of elevations at 1:20 and the detailed and general photographic survey of the wall.

The work was carried out as a requirement of the Northampton Borough Council conservation officer in response to a planning application to demolish and rebuild the boundary back from the street frontage by 1.5m.

## 2 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

All works were conducted in accordance with the *Code of Conduct, Standards, Guidelines and Practices of the Institute of Field Archaeologists* (2007); *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures* (Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001) and *Understanding Historic Buildings. A Guide to Good Practice* (English Heritage 2006).

The general aim of the survey was to record the existing wall by photography and drawn elevation prior to its repositioning.

All relevant historic maps held in the Northamptonshire Record Office (NRO) were consulted to provide general information on its setting. Relevant maps were reproduced.

## **2.1 Methodology**

Photography was by digital camera and 35mm black and white film negative. The main items of equipment used in the survey were:

Nikon D200 SLR, 10.2 million pixel sensor

Nikon F80 Film SLR

Nikon 18-70mm wide angle lens

Sigma 10-20mm wide angle lens

Sandisk extreme III 2Gb Compact flash memory Cards

Ilford HP5 Black and White Film

Bilora Favorit tripod and head with quick release

The drawn survey was carried by using a level base line to measure in individual stones. The record broadly conforms to Level 3 of the English Heritage guidelines 2006 (English Heritage 2006).

## **3 SITE BACKGROUND**

The wall forms part of the current boundary to number 4 High Street, Wootton, which is a Grade II listed building (see Appendix 1 for the listing description). It comprises an L-shape which borders the High Street and the northern limit of the plot adjacent to number 4 (Fig 1). Only the High Street elevation was recorded (on both sides), the longer, northern length is to be retained.

### **3.1 Historic Maps**

1779 map (NRO map 5094)

This map shows the recorded wall as forming the gable end of a long east-west aligned range which is joined to 4 High Street (Fig 2). This arrangement might suggest that the building was a service range. No access into the plot is shown on this map, which may suggest that there was perhaps an arch through the main building leading to the rear plot.

1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1885

This map shows the east west aligned range as having been largely demolished, with only its north and west walls surviving forming the plot boundary for 4 High Street (Fig 3). This arrangement is the same as how the site was at the time of the present survey.

## **4 SURVEY RESULTS**

### **4.1 The west facing elevation** (Fig 4, Plate 1)

The wall was aligned north-south and measured 5.7m long by 3.4m high and was constructed in Northamptonshire Sand Ironstone bonded with buff lime mortar. The wall was formerly part of a larger building and its survival was due to it being used latterly as a boundary. The surviving pair of stone mullioned windows were the main datable features of the wall and might suggest a 16th to 17th-century date, their condition precluding closer attribution.

The west facing elevation had dressed long and short quoins at its northern end, with the rest of the wall consisting of roughly dressed and coursed stone. The quoins at the southern end of the wall appeared to be later insertions, which would suggest that the wall once extended further south. The top of the wall had been capped with pantiles to protect it from the weather though the face of the wall had suffered from heavy weathering and in places was subject to moss and lichen growth which obscured some of the wall surface.

The mullions, although in a very poor eroded condition, showed remnants of a cavetto moulding (Plate 3). There was no evidence for glazing grooves, although sockets for horizontal iron bars did survive (Plate 3). An iron hinge also survived (Plate 4) which may be a fitting for internal shutters which were common with unglazed mullioned windows. Above both windows there was a very badly eroded hood mould.

The windows had undergone two phases of blocking, the first with dressed stone blocking the opposite half of each window (Fig 4, Plate 1). The second phase of blocking was with machine-made bricks, these measured 9 inches x 4 ¼ inches x 2 ⅞ inches, which would indicate a 19th-century date. The wall also had a plinth, which possibly had a moulded top, although again this was much eroded (Fig 4, Plate 1).

#### **4.2 The east facing elevation (Fig 5, Plate 2)**

The east facing (former interior) elevation of the wall measured 5.2m long by 3.6m high and was constructed in very roughly coursed Northamptonshire Sand Ironstone rubble, bonded with a buff lime mortar. The upper two courses below the pantile capping were in dressed stone which would suggest that the upper part of the wall had been rebuilt, perhaps when the wall no longer functioned as part of a building.

On this face of the wall the windows had a wooden lintel with a central scarf joint (Plate 5). The first phase blocking of each window was less visible on this elevation. Each jamb was originally splayed; when one half of each window was infilled the blocking formed a wider splay from the edge of the original window to the central mullion (Fig 5, Plate 2). This blocking was given a plaster finish which presumably matched the remainder of the original wall surface, though here it has been lost.

The section of the wall between the windows had been rebuilt in hand made brick at a later date, probably during the eighteenth century. Where this brick pier had been inserted beneath the wooden lintel, wooden blocks and a section of plank were used as packing (Fig 5, Plate 5). Planking also survived beneath the lintel in the southern window opening which may be the remnant of original finishing (Plate 6). No complete internal window sills had survived although there was the remnant of a plank beneath the central brickwork; also there were a series of wooden blocks set into the wall below where the original sill would have been. These may have been fixing points for a wooden sill.

At the southern end of the wall there was a patch of modern re-pointing. The lower part of the wall beneath the windows was up until recently buried beneath a flower bed, so that the rough coursed rubble was obscured with soil on this part of the wall.

## **5 DISCUSSION**

The earliest available map, of 1779, shows a long narrow building fronting onto the High Street with another building joined to it aligned north-south (Fig 2). The wall which is the subject of this report appears to be the remains of the west gable end of this building, and the long, featureless north wall of the same.

Stylistically the wall offers few clues as to its age, however the window mullions are of a style which might suggest a sixteenth or seventeenth-century date. However, whilst it might be expected that by the middle of the sixteenth century, ovolo



mouldings would be used, influences from fashionable buildings often took time to filter down to rural vernacular buildings and the broad date range into the 17th century is still applicable.

There is also the possibility that the mullions are earlier than the wall, and have been re-set.

The building of which the surveyed wall forms the gable end, and the extension from 4 High Street were demolished before 1885 as they do not appear on the Ordnance Survey map of that date (Fig 3).

At some point in its history, either due to change of use or status, half of each window was blocked in dressed stone and the interior face plastered. At a later date the remaining openings were infilled with brick, most likely after the wall was no longer part of a building needing light but was retained as a boundary wall.

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Calloway S, 2005 *The Elements of Style*, Mitchel Beazley

English Heritage 2006 *Understanding Historic Buildings, a guide to good recording practice*, English Heritage

IFA 1995 revised 2007 *Code of Conduct, Standards, Guidelines and Practices of the Institute of Field Archaeologists*, Institute of Field Archaeologists

IFA 2001 *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures* Institute of Field Archaeologists

#### **Northampton Record Office Sources**

1779 map (NRO: Map 5094)

First Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1885 (NRO: 3209)

#### **Web pages**

<http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk>

**APPENDIX 1 LISTED BUILDING DESCRIPTION**



IoE Number: 232131

Location: 4 HIGH STREET (east side)

WOOTTON, NORTHAMPTON, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Photographer: Mr Roger Ashley

Date Photographed: 04 July 2005

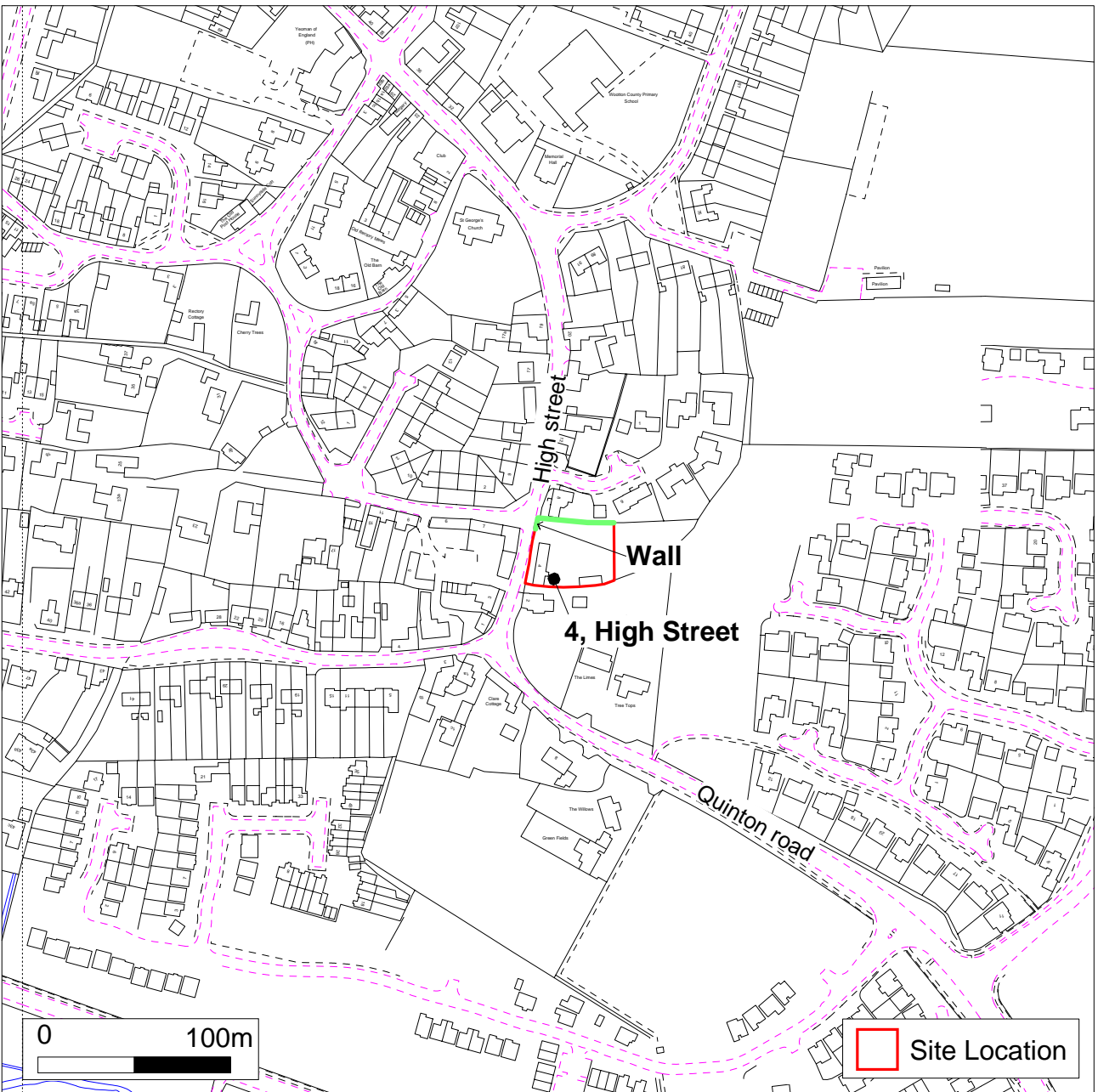
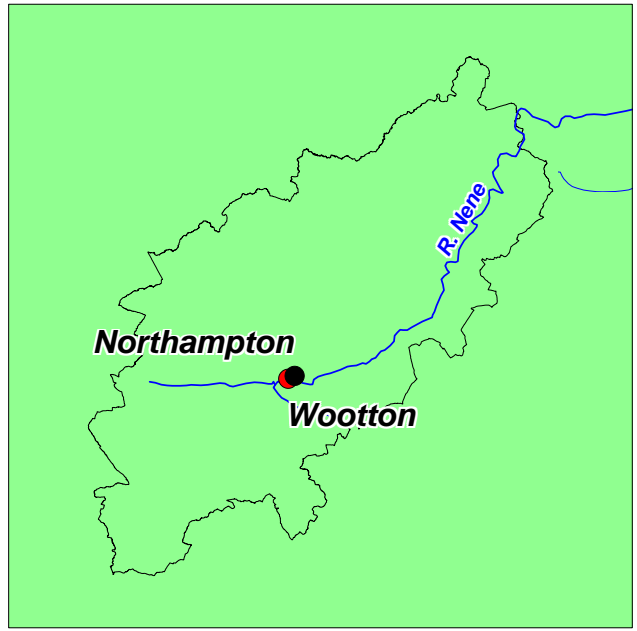
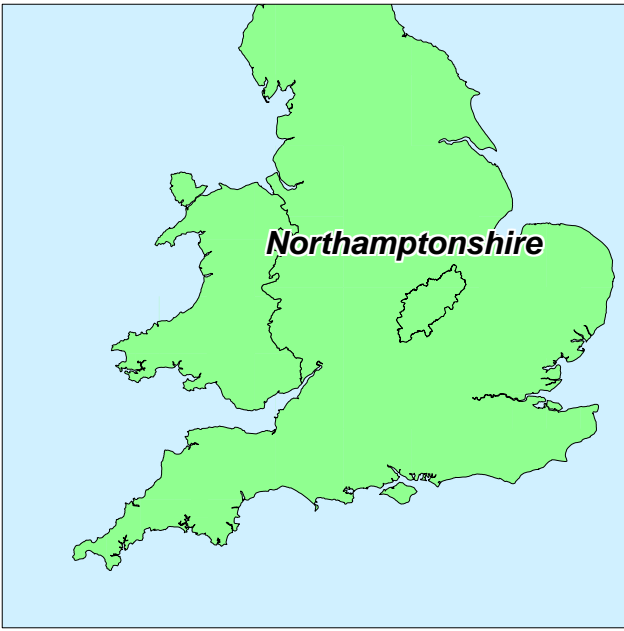
Date listed: 03 May 1968

Date of last amendment: 03 May 1968

Grade II

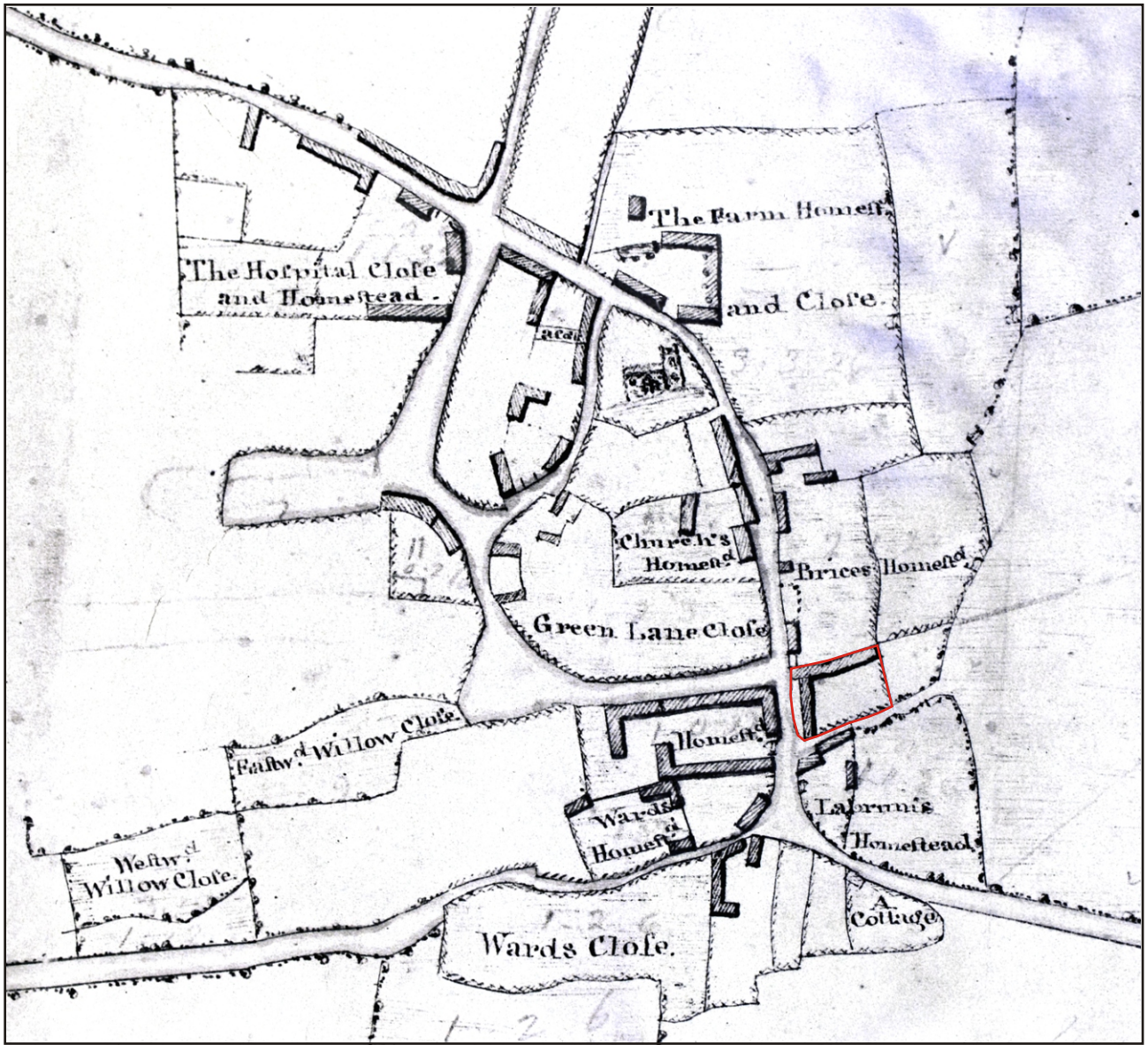
1.HIGH STREET5327(East Side)Wootton No 4

1. HIGH STREET 5327 (East Side) Wootton No 4 SP 7656 29/490 3.5.68. II GV 2. Inscribed with owner's initials TL, and date 1765 but appears older. 2 storeys and attics, 1st floor band. Ironstone squared rubble with chamfered plinth. Stone coped gable ends, kneelers and flanking chimneys to Welsh slated roof. 1st floor pair of 2 light wood mullioned and transomed casement windows, ground floor canted bay window on left with dentil cornice. Central mezzanine level mullioned and transomed leaded window. Lattice casement now inserted on right of ground floor in place of canted bay window. Keystones. Single storey wing on left with 2 leaded casement windows. Nos 1, 2, 3 and 4 form a group with Clare Cottage, Quinton Road.

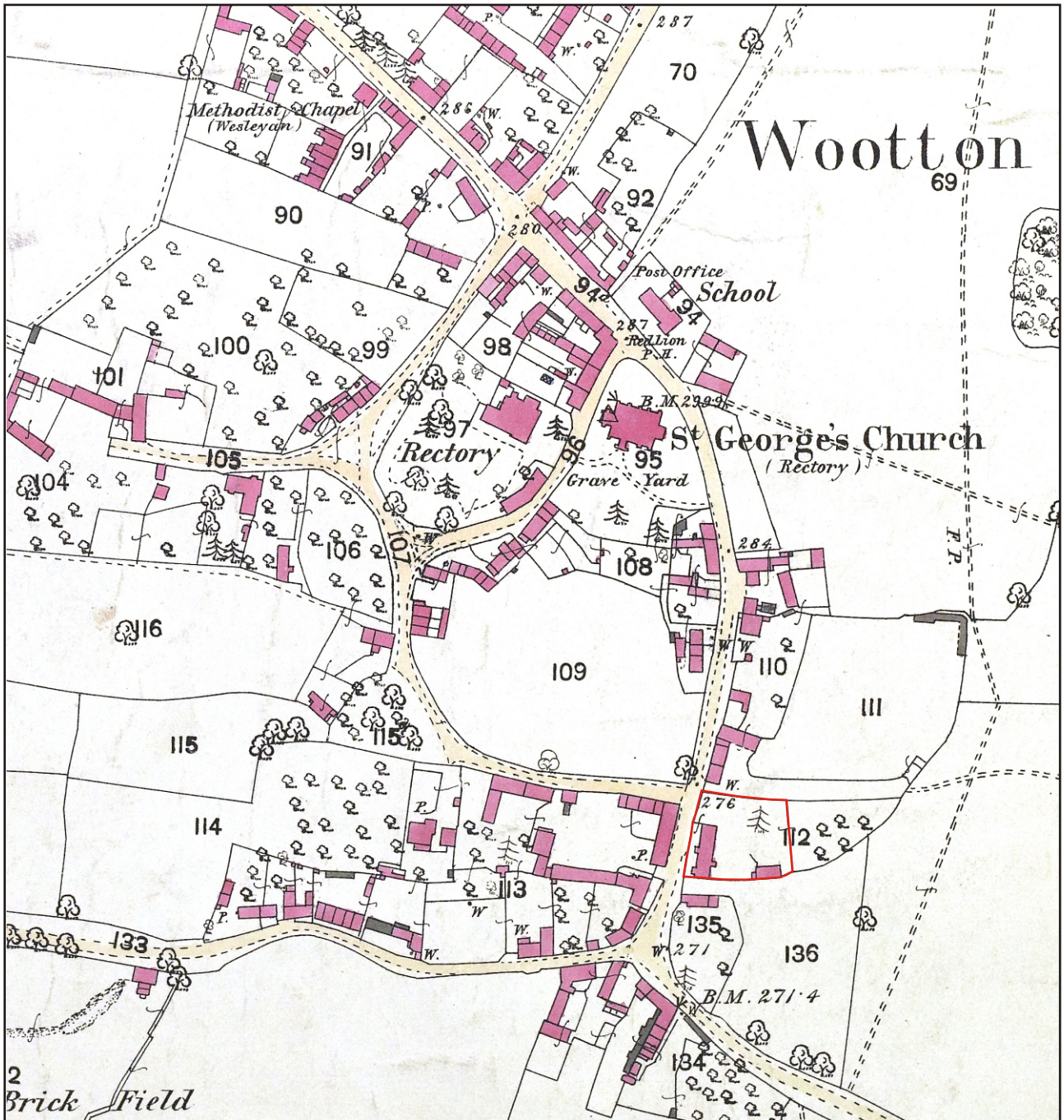


Scale 1:1500

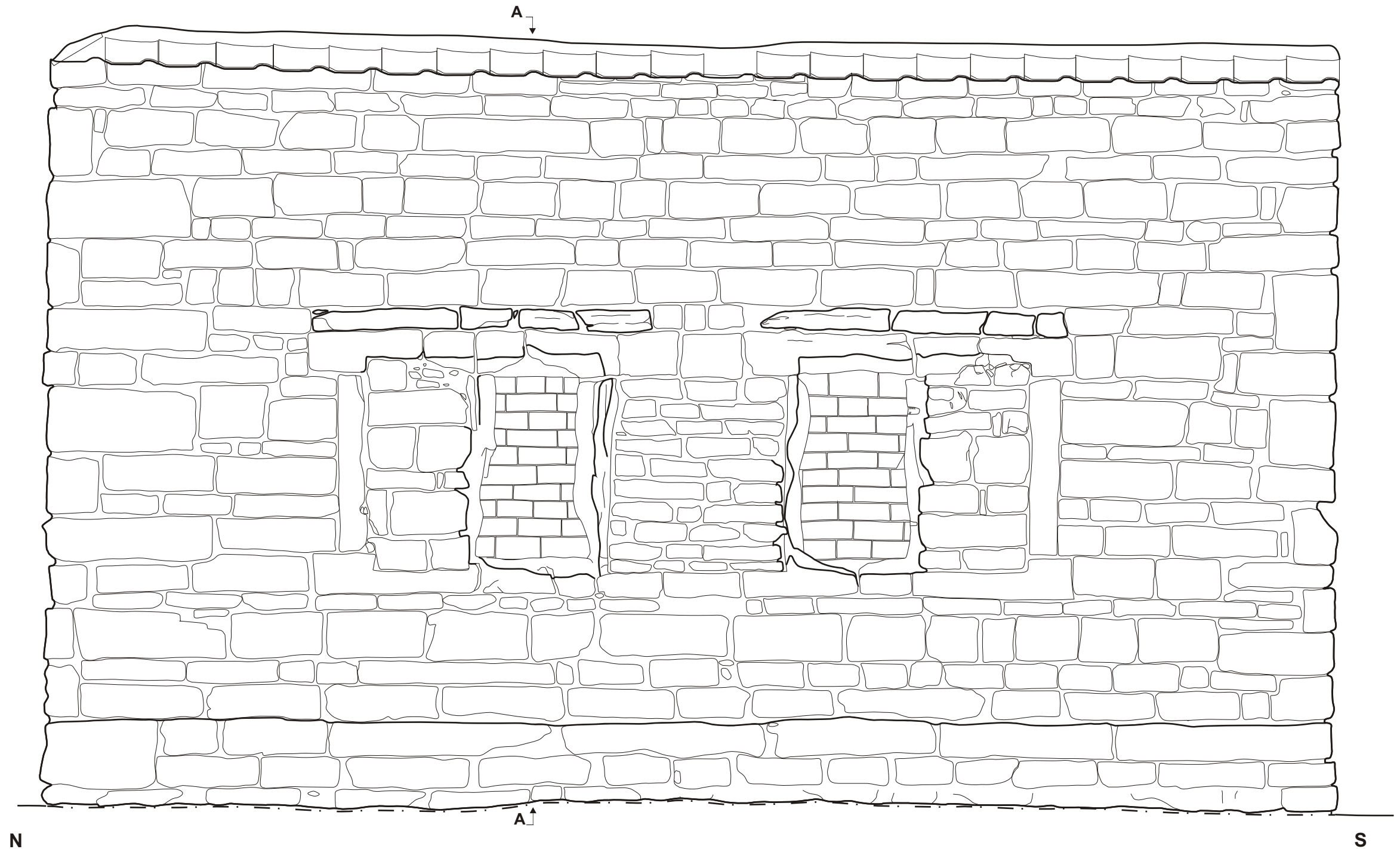
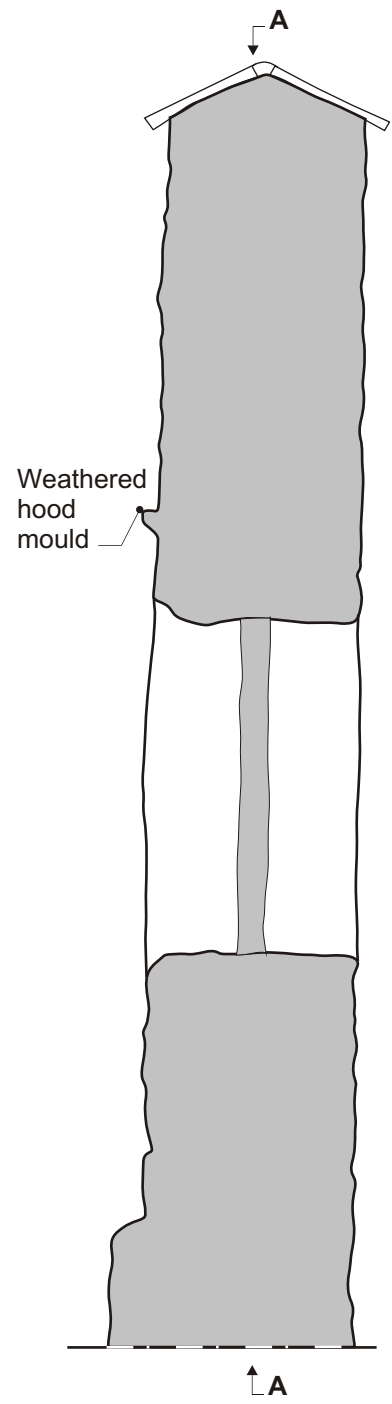
Site location Fig 1



Wootton 1779 map NRO map 5094

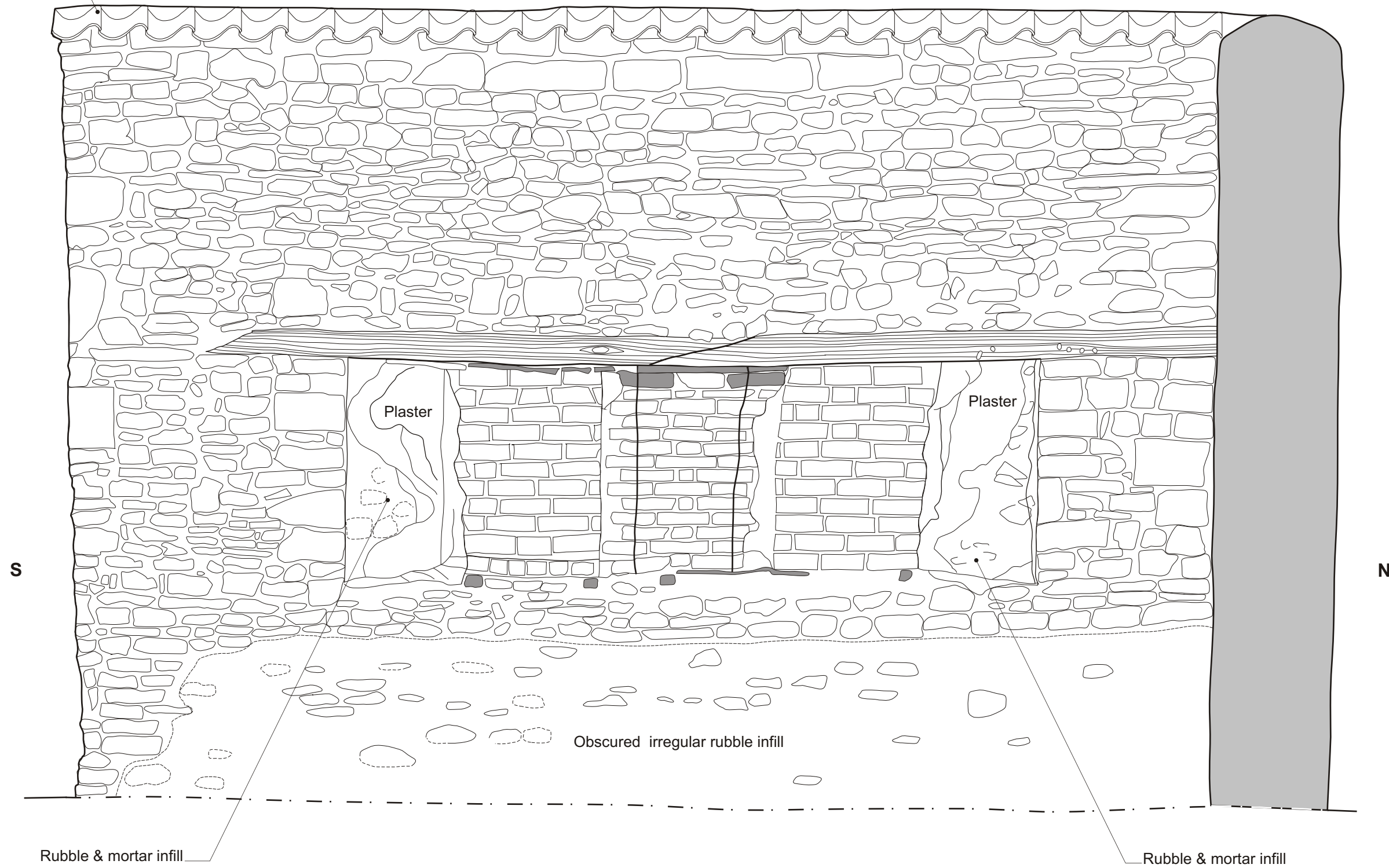


1st Edition 25th Ordnance Survey map, 1885



West facing elevation Fig 4

Pantiles



Key

Wood

0 1m

East facing elevation Fig 5

**PLATES**



Plate 1: West facing elevation



Plate 2: East facing elevation





Plate 3: Detail of window bar slot



Plate 4: Detail of iron hinge



Plate 5: Detail of scarf joint and wooden blocks



Plate 6: Detail of planking below lintel