THE BICKFORD CENTRE 23 SOUTH STREET GREAT TORRINGTON

DEVON

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING & MONITORING



South West Archaeology Ltd. report no. 230519



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The Bickford Centre, 23 South Street, Great Torrington, Devon

Historic Building Recording & Monitoring

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SUMMARY

South West Archaeology Ltd. was commissioned to undertake historic building recording for The Bickford Centre, South Street, Great Torrington, Devon This work was undertaken in order to make a record of the building and its features prior to and during the removal of timber panelling within the building.

The Bickford Centre occupies a mid-row plot on South Street, Great Torrington, within the historic core of the town and the Conservation Area. The building is an amalgamation of two historic buildings which appear to have been joined and reconfigured in the 19th century, forming a mixed-use development, with shop, office and accommodation above, a characteristic which it still retains to this day.

The Bickford Centre is valued for its positive contribution to South Street with its cohesive historic facade. However, in truth, the building is far more complex and arguably more valuable than it appears, as it echoes the ancient medieval town plan, contains 17th century fabric, evidences the stylistic evolution of panelling in this region from c.1600-1832 via its numerous recycled panelled sections. The building also defines the narrative historic and economic development of the life of the town, and now following these recent works, its survival has been insured.



May 2023

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CONTENTS

SUMM		2
CONTE.		3
	FIGURES	4
	F TABLES	4
	F APPENDICES	4
	DWLEDGEMENTS CT CREDITS	5
1.0	INTRODUCTION	6
1.1	Project Background	-
1.2	TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	6
1.3	HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	6
1.4	METHODOLOGY	7
2.0	HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING	g
2.1	SITE DESCRIPTION	g
2.2	DESCRIPTION OF BUILDING 1	g
	2.2.1 Function	15
	2.2.2 Relationships	15
2.3	DESCRIPTION OF BUILDING 2	16
	2.3.1 Function 2.3.2 Relationships	18 19
2.4	THE PANELLING OF ROOM 17, BUILDING 2	19
	2.4.1 North Wall	19
	2.4.2 East Wall	19
	2.4.3 South Wall	19
	2.4.4 West Wall	20
2.5	DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS.	20
2.6	PANELLING SUMMARY	21
2.7	OTHER SIGNIFICANT FEATURES IN B1 & B2	29
3.0	BUILDING ANALYSIS	33
3.1	Phasing Discussion	33
	3.1.1 Pre-17 th Century (Medieval?) 3.1.2 17th Century	33 33
	3.1.3 Early 19 th Century	34
3.2	PHASED PLANS	35
3.3	STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	37
	3.3.1 Evidential value	37
	3.3.2 Historical value	37
	3.3.3 Aesthetic value	37
	3.3.4 Communal value 3.3.5 Integrity	38 38
	3.3.6 Authenticity	38
4.0	MONITORING OF THE WORKS	39
4.1	PROJECT BACKGROUND	39
4.2	REMOVAL OF PANELLING FROM R17	39
4.2	ENLARGING OF DOOR TO R2 — REMOVAL OF WALL COVERINGS IN THIS SPACE	43
4.4	CONSIDERING THE DETAILS OF THE PANELLING IN R2	49
4.5	Updated Ground Floor Phasing from Recording	49
5.0	CONCLUSIONS	51
6.0	BIBLIOGRAPH	52

LIST OF FIGURES

Cover	plate:	Reset	panelling	profile _.	from	The	Bickford	Centre,	Great	Torringt	on.

FIGURE 1: LOCATION MAP.	8
FIGURE 2: THE FRONT ELEVATION OF THE BICKFORD CENTRE, TAKEN IN 2016; FROM THE SOUTH-WEST.	9
FIGURE 3: THE BEADED PLANK TIMBER STRUCTURE WHICH ENCLOSES THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE REAR ELEVATION; FROM THE NORTI	
Figure 4: View along the west wall of $R1$ and $R1$ a, showing two phases of panelling; from the north-east.	12
FIGURE 5: THE EAST WALL OF R3, SHOWING CENTRAL FIREPLACE AND TWO BEADED ARCHED ALCOVES; FROM THE WEST-NORTH-WES	
Figure 6: (left) - R11a, the long-drop toilet, with reset, 18^{TH} century panelling; (Right) Door to R16.	14
Figure 7: View to the west party wall of the building, and $19^{ ext{ iny H}}$ century king post trusses of Building 1 ; from the eas	
Figure 8: The east elevation of Building 2, showing the modern character; from the north-east	16
Figure 9: W13 in Room 17, with recycled and reset 18^{th} century panelled sections to the sides.	17
FIGURE 10: THE ROOF STRUCTURE OVER BUILDING 2, THE NORTHERNMOST TRUSS OF 3; FROM THE SOUTH-WEST.	18
Figure 11 : Two phases of panelling at the base of the north wall, type 1 and type 2 ; from the south (1 M scale).	20
FIGURE 12: PROFILES OF THE VARIOUS UPRIGHT STYLES OF THE PANELLING IN R1 AND R17 (ALSO R2).	24
FIGURE 13: THE NORTH WALL OF R17, ANNOTATED PHOTOGRAPH, SHOWING RESET PANELLING; FROM THE SOUTH (1M SCALE).	25
FIGURE 14: THE EAST WALL OF R17, WITH RESET PANELLING ANNOTATED, FROM THE WEST (1M SCALE).	26
Figure 15: The south wall of R17, showing annotated reset panelling, from the north (2 x 1m scales).	27
FIGURE 16: THE WEST WALL OF R17, SHOWING ANNOTATED PANELLING, FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).	28
FIGURE 17: A (LEFT) BEADED PLANK PANELLING ON THE PARTITION WALL BETWEEN R5 AND R3. B (RIGHT) THE MOULDED HANDRAII	. 29
FIGURE 18: GROUND FLOOR PHASE DIAGRAM.	35
FIGURE 19: FIRST FLOOR PHASE DIAGRAM.	36
FIGURE 20: THE REAR WALL OF THE FRONT BLOCK, WITH PANELLING REMOVED; FROM THE NORTH (1M SCALE).	40
FIGURE 21: ANNOTATED DIAGRAM OF THE EXPOSED STONEWORK OF R17, SOUTH WALL.	41
FIGURE 22: THE EAST WALL OF THE BACK-BLOCK WHICH NOW SERVES NO.25; FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).	42
FIGURE 23: THE TIMBER-FRAMED PARTITION BETWEEN R17 AND R18; FROM THE NORTH-EAST (0.3M SCALE).	43
FIGURE 24: THE NORTH WALL OF R2, WITH DOOR TO R17, BEFORE AND AFTER STRIPPING OF WALL COVERINGS; FROM THE SOUTH.	44
FIGURE 25: ANNOTATED PHOTOGRAPH OF NORTH WALL OF R2, SHOWING AREAS OF RECYCLED PANELLING AND PLANK BOARDING.	45
Figure $26\colon$ Row of tacks and nails, some with hessian fabric on them, suggest boarding was later covered with fabr	IIC. 46
FIGURE 27: FRAGMENTS OF RED PAINT, UNDER A BITUMEN-LIKE BLACK TAR PAINT ON THE SHUTTERS USED ON THE WALL OF R2.	46
FIGURE 28: EXTRACT OF THE TIMES NEWSPAPER, MENTIONING SIR ROBER PEEL, LAID UNDER THE WALL PAPER.	48
FIGURE 29: THE EARLIEST LAYER OVER THE SHUTTERS, A REGENCY STYLE BLOCK-PRINTED WALLPAPER/.	48
Figure 30: Profile of the ogee/cavetto mouldings on the recycled panelling in R2	49
FIGURE 31: UPDATED GROUND FLOOR PHASING OF WALLS.	50
Figure 32: Plan showing Ground Floor door and window numbers.	53
FIGURE 33: PLAN OF FIRST FLOOR DOORS AND WINDOWS.	54
Figure 34: Plan of Second floor windows and doors.	55
LIST OF TABLES	
Tonia 4. Tirana wa amu na ana wa wa wa ana ana ana ana ana ana	22
TABLE 1: TYPES AND STYLES OF PANELLING, DESCRIPTION AND PHASING.	23
TABLE 2: SIGNIFICANT FEATURES.	30
Table 3: Layers of wall coverings North Wall of R2.	47
LIST OF APPENDICES	
LIST OF APPENDICES	
Appendix 1: Building Plans, with numbered windows and doors to be read with recording tables	53
APPENDIX 2 : BUILDING RECORDING TABLES	56
Appendix 3: Photographic Archive 2016 & 2018	67
Appendix 4: Further Photographic Recording of Panelling 2018/2019	89
Appendix 5: Monitoring and Recording of works 2023	107
Appendix 6: Extracted Text from 2022 WSI	112

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1.0 Introduction

LOCATION: THE BICKFORD CENTRE, 23 SOUTH STREET

PARISH: GREAT TORRINGTON

DISTRICT: TORRIDGE **COUNTY:** DEVON

NGR: SS 49502 19085

PLANNING REF: 1/0288/2019/FUL & 1/0289/2019/LBC

SWARCH REF: TBC18

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) was commissioned by a private client to originally produce an appraisal and then a full historic building recording report for the Grade II Listed Bickford Centre, 23 South Street, Great Torrington. This work was undertaken in order to assess the significance and historical development of the building prior to a planning submission for development/restoration and modernisation. Planning permission (1/0288/2019/FUL) and Listed Building Consent (1/0289/2019/LBC) were gained in 2019 for the works, on a conditional basis. Works began in December 2022 and the site was attended twice to photographically record the removal of the panelling and assess the walls beneath.

1.2 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Great Torrington occupies an elevated location to the east of the River Torridge, 15 kilometres south-west of Barnstaple and 11 kilometres south of Bideford in North Devon. It is an elongated settlement stretched along the A386, B3227 and B3232. The Bickford Centre is located at 23 South Street, at a height of approximately 80m AOD. The soils of this area are the well-drained fine loamy or fine silty soils over rock of the Manod Association (SSEW 1983), overlying the sandstone of the Bude Formation (BGS 2018).

1.3 HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Great Torrington has a rich built and natural heritage, much of which still dictates the character, form, and appearance of the settlement and some of which pre-dates the market town. Neolithic artefacts found within the town may be indicative of early settlement. The town's hilltop location forms a strategic position upon which a castle was sited, of which little now remains. The town flourished on its markets and fairs, based on agricultural and wool industries, and later a thriving glove manufacturing industry in the 19th Century.

The Great Torrington Conservation Area extends beyond the town centre, stretching from Castle Street in the west, to Halsdon Terrace in the east; and from New Street in the north to Castle Hill car park in the south, bordering the Great Torrington Commons. The large number of Listed buildings contained within the Conservation Area, designated in 1973, reflects the historic importance of the town. There are 97 Listed buildings in Great Torrington, mostly located within the Conservation Area, of which five; the Church of St Michael, Cawsey House, Black Horse Hotel, Palmer House and Market House are Grade II*. The focus for the Conservation Area is the medieval core of the town, and it is subject to an Article 4 Direction which seeks to ensure that any improvements and enhancements achieved are not diminished by changes to unlisted buildings within the area. The towns Civil War associations and industrial heritage are also of significance to its historic context.

The Devon Historic Environment Record has numerous entries for Great Torrington. No 23 itself has an entry (MDV23811) as well as being grade II listed noted as a 19th century shop. The adjacent building, No.25, is also Grade II Listed and on the HER (MDV23812) for being a likely 16th century building. Also, on the HER on South Street is Cawsey House (Grade II*) and 31 & 33 South Street (MDV23813) which are listed as being 19th century but with potentially earlier origins. Further east on South Street Nos, 11 and 11a are on the HER (MDV23910) as later 18th or early 19th century shops and to the west is a large group of Grade II listed 18th and 19th century merchants houses: 38 South Street (MDV23817), 40 South Street (MDV2818), 42 & 44 South Street (MDV23819, MDV23820), 41 & 43 South Street (MDV23814) and a bible Christian chapel and Sunday school (MDV2360), lastly 46 South Street another merchants house and later shop of 19th century date (MDV23821). This provides a historical context of upscale merchant housing and commercial premises within which No.23 developed as part of a cohesive group of buildings. There are also some earlier HER records in the immediate vicinity, in the car park and rear plots opposite South Street was a medieval monastic hospital, the Hospital of the Holy Trintiy, founded in the 1400s (MDV57590), now replaced by a Grade II listed 18th century villa called Castle Hill House, used as the town's information centre, library, and council offices.

The HER also shows that sites that have been excavated have predominantly informed the medieval and post-medieval history of the town, with works in the Sydney House car park finding stone walling and yard surfaces from outbuildings and post medieval service buildings (MDV119417). Excavations elsewhere in the core of the town have also identified a 17th century kiln and associated kiln-waster dump on the edge of the commons, off Mill Street (MDV55054). Other medieval domestic and industrial activity has been recorded in the town (MDV116863). An initial survey carried out by SWARCH in 2016 indicated that there were a number of historic fittings and a potentially more complex narrative for the building than previously thought.

1.4 METHODOLOGY

The building appraisal was conducted in 2016 by Emily Wapshott, the site retuned to in September 2018 for the recording works and over several dates in December 2022 and January 2023 for the monitoring of the works. The work was undertaken in line with best practice and follows the guidance outlined in: CIfA's Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures (2014) and Historic England's Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Processes (2016). The recording works were conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Boyd 2022) drawn up in consultation with the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).



FIGURE 1: LOCATION MAP.

2.0 HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

2.1 SITE DESCRIPTION

The Bickford Centre sits within the conservation area of the medieval market town of Great Torrington, on the north side of South Street, leading to the town square. It stands opposite Grade II* Listed 28 South Street, a fine Stuart period brick townhouse. No.23 is also flanked by Grade II listed 25 South Street to the west. There are sixteen other Listed buildings on South Street, as well as numerous other undesignated heritage assets which form two distinct groups of mixed character: purpose-built 19th century residential apartments above shops to the east end, nearest the Square; late Georgian middle-status merchants' townhouses to the west end, where it adjoins Mill Street.

The south façade fronts directly onto the street, with a generous modern pavement, bounded by traditional bollards, between it and the road. To the rear is a surviving open cobbled yard, once much larger, running behind the adjacent house to the east, possibly including some ruined outbuildings; the ground level and space in this area was reduced and disturbed in the 1990s, by the building of a rendered concrete block range of flats. To the west, the building is attached to No.25, The *Great Torrington Town and Lands* Charity offices, a fine 16th century building, with earlier origins and to the east it is attached to No.21, a double fronted mid-Victorian range, containing a paired set of townhouses, partly converted for retail.



FIGURE 2: THE FRONT ELEVATION OF THE BICKFORD CENTRE, TAKEN IN 2016; FROM THE SOUTH-WEST.

2.2 DESCRIPTION OF BUILDING 1

The Bickford Centre is a three-storey, double-fronted building, the front elevation rendered and painted. This elevation has the generous balanced proportions of the late Georgian or Regency period, with large, hornless sash windows. On the ground floor there are the substantive remains of the historic shop-front, framed by half-round Tuscan columns and fine panelled double front doors, offset to the east side. The moulded cast iron hopper and downpipes are marked with I.T.P.

and the date 1832, likely dating this elevation, or the remodelling of this frontage. The building has a relatively shallow pitched slate roof and narrow, brick rendered axial shafts rise above the east and west party walls to either side of the building.

The rear elevation, facing the courtyard, is unpainted cement render over rubble stone of three storeys, two bay width. There is one chunky sash to first floor and a smaller casement to second floor. This elevation is obscured at ground floor level by a beaded timber plank, timber framed structure, which forms a storeroom along the rear wall. Within this space, the rear wall can be seen to be obliquely angled and much thicker at ground floor level, containing a blocked opening. Access between the house and yard, as at the front, is via a pair of fine panelled doors, now strapped together, forming a matched set with those to the front, with a wide cross passage between. To the west side, the elevation is obscured by the back block (Building 2) and to the east is abutted by an attached, block of modern flats. This elevation lies at a slight oblique angle to the rest of the building and the street, an angle which is echoed in the back block (Building 2). It has a very well-preserved long drop toilet cantilevered above first floor level, a timber plank framed structure to the east side, with slate roof and lead pipe work.



FIGURE 3: THE BEADED PLANK TIMBER STRUCTURE WHICH ENCLOSES THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE REAR ELEVATION; FROM THE NORTH.

Internally, the front block appears to have been adapted around the footprint of connecting two earlier, separate town plots, with mid-terrace alleyways leading to rear yards common on this street – this adaption has created the effect of a cross-passage on the ground floor, flanked by a room to either side and stair to the rear. The cross passage (Rooms 1 & 1A) has been divided by a modern glazed partition for fire safety, but retains a strong early 19th century character, with the matched sets of doors to street and courtyard but plain plaster walls and ceilings, with plain internal four panel doors at the north end with beaded plank panelling to the east wall, solid, sturdy and functional; this style is repeated in other rooms in the house. There are plaster skirtings, marking this as a service status space and, possibly, a surviving slate flagged floor beneath the carpet, as it is more uneven than one would expect for concrete. What makes this cross-passage of even more interest is the use of recycled sections of fine panelling, reused on the

western lathe and plaster partition wall. Two distinct styles have been recycled here, from separate spaces; that to the rear is much simpler, small flat square panels, the cross pieces, and uprights with simple scratch-moulded decoration of early to mid-17th century date. The front section has larger, flat rectangular panels and its cross pieces and uprights have a stepped ogee moulding, with an ogee moulded top rail, of later 17th or even early 18th century date. Two other sections of similar panelling are re-used on the north wall of Room 17 in the back block (Building 2). To the rear of the cross passage, a forced doorway, now re-blocked with boarding, provides additional access to the back block (Building 2) and a long, narrow, rear store (Room 4) and a cold store space beneath the stairs both open directly into the main throughway, enclosed by simple, plain panelled doors. Above the cold store, under the stairs, there is a fine panelled cupboard door, which matches cupboards in Room 3 and Room 17; the cupboard structure itself has not survived modern repairs to the underside of the stairs.

To the west of the cross passage is a large purpose-built shop space (Room 2) now used as a community tea and coffee space for older residents. This space has a mixture of painted and wallpapered (woodchip) wall coverings, some with some panelling beneath or boarding, boxing out the original irregularly aligned walls. There is beaded plank panelling to dado height to the north, west and south walls, now also covered by a thin layer of woodchip wallpaper, with plain modern plaster ceiling. The plank panelling continues under the large shop windows, which have rough, chunky plank sills, so even though the glass facia has been updated, the overall style of the shop front remains broadly the same. Narrow, beaded skirting boards are retained to most walls, cut and reset in many places, the floor carpeted. The space has a superficial late 20th century character, but when more carefully observed, it is clear there are a lot of 19th century details retained here. Of note is a large, projecting stone stack, which serves the adjacent town plot, No.25, on the west wall and there appears to be a large, blocked opening to the north-west corner, creating a deep alcove. The north wall, to the east end is a chunky, slightly battered wall, with a small, forced doorway leading through to the back block (Building 2).

To the east of the cross passage is a small, heated room (Room 3), which is now used as a kitchen, with a set of modern fitted units fixed to the west partition wall and south wall. This room retains a strong early 19th century character, and it has some fine historic details; with panelled cupboards and a glazed display cabinet, flanking a fireplace in a shallow brick stack. It is likely, therefore, that this small room, directly accessible from shop and street was probably an office for the shopkeeper/tradesman. The small fireplace is blocked with boarding; it is not known if a grate remains behind, but the timber surround has moulded roundels to corners, sits on plain blocks plinths and has a round edged but plain mantle shelf. The arched alcoves are of very simple restrained style, with beaded plasterwork to the opening, set with beaded, glazed, cabinet arched doors to the north side, above an ogee moulded, panelled, double cupboard. To the north, the cupboard has survived, but its doors and the display cabinet have been lost. These decorative features show that this was a quality build, not fussy but with an eye to fashion and the style of 'new' polite interiors, very much of late Georgian or Regency type, cohesive with the character of the building's frontage.



FIGURE 4: VIEW ALONG THE WEST WALL OF R1 AND R1A, SHOWING TWO PHASES OF PANELLING; FROM THE NORTH-EAST.



FIGURE 5: THE EAST WALL OF R3, SHOWING CENTRAL FIREPLACE AND TWO BEADED ARCHED ALCOVES, ONE TO NORTH WITH SURVIVING CUPBOARD AND DISPLAY CABINET; FROM THE WEST-NORTH-WEST.

The staircase (Room 5) has been ingeniously fitted into the rear of the building, incorporating part of an older wall at ground floor to the north, battered and much heavier in build. The stair rises straight out of the cross-passage, through a beaded opening, which has scars for hinges, suggesting a door may also have closed off this space. Again, as seen in the probable former office (Room 3), real care has been taken with the style and form of the staircase, unable to fit an elegant open string of the period, turned vase style balusters and moulded handrails have been fitted to a closed-string style with fine plaster stair plate. The lower walls of the stair hall have also been panelled with beaded plank panels. Rising to the first-floor landing (Room 6), one passes a deep ledge in the north wall, the top of the earlier fragment of wall encapsulated in the later post-medieval build. This ledge is respected by the beaded skirting of the stair, the narrower, lighter rubble build above with a chunky sash window overlooking the rear courtyard. There is a short corridor (Room 6A) formed by modern partitions which links to the first floor of the back block (Building 2) and to the first floor flat.

The first-floor layout has been altered with modern partitions to form a flat, which occupies the whole floor space of this level. To the west is a large sitting room (Room 7) which has a fireplace forced into the earlier stone stack which belongs to the adjacent house, No.25, on the west wall. The surround is remarkably like that in room 3, sitting on plain block plinths, with carved roundels to the corners and a plain mantle shelf. A cast iron grate survives here, later 19th century in date, of foliate decoration and with green glazed tiled cheeks. There is also a good, panelled door to a deep cupboard (Room 7A) in the wall here, the cupboard infilling a large, blocked opening, directly above that on the ground floor, between this building's north wall and the adjacent house's (No.25) east wall. There are ogee-moulded skirting boards in this room and a four-panel ogee moulded door, so this space has retained a fairly cohesive Regency character. Beyond the sitting room, via the good early 19th century door, is a long narrow room, divided into a modern shower room to the rear (Room 10) and a small linking corridor (Room 8) to the front, lit by a sash window, with a run of modern kitchen units fitted. A large bedroom lies beyond (Room 9); no historic details have survived in this space, but for the large sash window, but the crispness of the woodwork would suggest the sashes have been replaced. A modern door links this room back to the first-floor landing, in a forced opening, which seems too closely set to the flight of stairs.

Rising back up the stairs from the first-floor landing (Room 6), a spacious half landing which the handrail ramps up to meet, sits between the first and second floors of the building, served by a fine, six-panel door, which matches the cupboard door in Room 7, leading to the purpose-built, long-drop toilet, an extraordinary historic feature. This plastered, timber plank panelled framework has been internally clad with three sections of recycled and reset fine raised and fielded panelling, of early 18th century character. An early 20th century raised cistern toilet now occupies the space, with lead pipe work; there is a good small window overlooking the yard. It is likely this is a slight sub-phase of relatively late 19th century date, continuing the trend for including earlier carpentry in the building's rooms.

The second-floor landing has been divided by modern partitions, forming an entrance to another modern flat layout; the fine moulded handrail and balusters would be expected to return to the south forming an open balustrade, the space lit by a small casement window. The second floor flat has a rear corridor (Room 12) and three small rooms (Room 13, 14 and 15) respecting each of the window openings on the front wall, the sashes all being replacements at this level. It is unclear if the layout has been altered, as on the first floor, but this level of the building may always have contained smallish bedrooms. There is a fine 18th century door reset to a small space (Room 16) to the north-west, again within the infill area up against the adjacent plot, No.25.



Figure 6 A & B: (Left) - R11a, the long-drop toilet, with reset, 18^{TH} century panelling and (Right) - Door to R16 on the second floor, also an 18^{TH} century feature.

The roof space over the front block is accessed via the hallway, through a modern hatch. There are three large king-post trusses, where the blades clasp the post at the ridge, with pegged joints, but bolted joints to the tie beam, with additional later strap bracing. The struts are very lightweight and there are two purlins to each pitch, which loosely overlap, sitting directly on the backs of the blades. A narrow modern ridge plank has been cut into the historic king posts and modern rafters carry felt under the slates, the roof has been fairly recently overhauled. To the west end, in the roof space, there is clear visibility to the party wall; where a steep historic roofline with stone coping can clearly be seen, a small, stone-framed blocked opening (window) appears to sit right up into the apex of this roofline. This sits within very heavy stone walling, which stops short of the current frontage of the building by about 2m. The adjacent stack is of heavy stone build. This indicates that the next-door house had a lower three storey height roof and a small attic window originally looked out into a gap between buildings, rather than being attached. The front section of wall is 19th century rubble infill (some brick is present) and probably dates with this building. To the east end, the party wall is a looser mix of rubble stone, with a brick stack and flues forced into the centre at the apex and again, to the south end this wall is extended with looser rubble, probably 19th century, built up and around the earlier party wall, when this building was constructed.



Figure 7: View to the west party wall of the building, and 19^{th} century king post trusses of Building 1; from the east.

2.2.1 FUNCTION

A purpose-built, three storey, single depth building, with ground floor shop and office, with living accommodation above. The first and second floors have retained their residential function, although divided into separate flats; the ground floor shop level has been a community centre since the 1970s.

2.2.2 RELATIONSHIPS

Building 1, the front block, represents a later 18th or early 19th century rebuild across two late medieval or early 1600s town plots.

Building 2 is a likely 17th century service block, which served the westernmost of these two town plots and is abutted by, and partly incorporated into Building 1.

2.3 DESCRIPTION OF BUILDING 2

Two storey, four bay back block to the west of the plot, of which only the east wall is visible externally. The walls are of stone rubble; cement rendered externally to at least the north and east walls. The north, west and south walls are all blind, but exhibit blocked openings. Many of the windows in the east wall, facing into the yard, have been replaced in the 20th or 21st centuries and several of the openings may be wholly modern. There is one surviving single light, 19th century casement and frame to the first floor, set in a small square opening and there is one very narrow opening to the ground floor, with deep sloping sides, although set with a modern metal-framed window. These two central openings to ground and first floor are interesting, having a certain agricultural air to them and may in fact be enlarged slit vents, hinting at the possible earlier function of this range. There are also two door openings within this elevation, to the south end, directly above each other and both with 19th century doors. Generally, the inappropriate modernising of this building's exterior obscures its older origins.



FIGURE 8: THE EAST ELEVATION OF BUILDING 2, SHOWING THE MODERN CHARACTER; FROM THE NORTH-EAST

The ground floor of this back block is divided by one historic lathe and plaster partition into two spaces, one smaller sub-square room to the south end (Room 17) and one larger room to the north end (Room 19), which has a mid-20th century cupboard or pantry formed within it (Room 18). The southern space (Room 17) is accessed via two doorways from Building 1; forced in the south wall, that to the west set with a modern doorway, whilst to the south-east corner is a 19th century four panel door. This room has been aggrandised by the resetting of many different sections of 17th and 18th century panelling. There is a shallow brick stack built against the west wall, framed by a blocked doorway to the south, now used as a tall cupboard, reset with a panelled 17th century door and to the north a wide shallow shelved cupboard with panelled early 19th century doors. This room is lit by a 19th century casement in its east wall. The large north room (Room 19) is accessed via a fine panelled door, of 18th century style but likely early 19th century date; similar doors seen in Rooms 7 and 11/11A. This room has been comprehensively remodelled in the 1960s, converted to customer toilets. The toilets have been built against the east wall, lit by modern metal framed crittal-style windows. There is a shallow brick stack built

against the north wall, with beaded corners, with a large, blocked hearth. To the south-east corner is a large storage cupboard (Room 18) formed by modern partitions with a modern mid-20th century panelled door.

The first floor of the building (Room 20) is now accessed via Building 1's first floor, along the rear corridor (Room 6A). The first floor was formerly accessed via a demolished metal external stair, through a door in the east wall. This floor is one large open space (Room 20), with scarring indicating removed, modern, partitions, which created a small bathroom within the studio flat which used to occupy this room (a mid-20th century bath and toilet survive to the north-east corner). A 20th century fitted kitchen units occupy short sections of the east and west walls to the south end, the south-west corner boarded out to provide space for the plumbing of the second floor. A shallow and narrow brick stack rises up the west wall to the south end, serving the fireplace on the ground floor, this upper floor showing no evidence of having been heated. Victorian style beaded skirting boards survive to the north and west walls and partly to the north-east corner. No other historic features have survived here, this area having been more heavily remodelled in the mid-20th century.



Figure 9: W13 in Room 17, with recycled and reset 18^{TH} century panelled sections to the sides. The shutters, cut and nailed shut, And early 19^{TH} century panelling forming a window seat; from the west.

The roof is of modern corrugated sheeting, the structure pegged with overlapping ridge, with wide sockets for trenched purlins, forming simple A-frames. Modern rafters carry the corrugated sheeting and there is a narrow 19th century, diamond set ridge. Some of the truss blades have been reused from a finer 17th century roof, with clear mortice and tenon, or half-lapped sockets and numerous peg holes or cut off pegs showing. Some blades are actually reused collars from a much heavier and more substantial roof. Some show staining from lathes, at least one exhibits a long slot in its underside for a screen, and several of the lighter weight timbers with regular truncated pegs may represent uprights from partitions. This shows the roofline was altered in the 19th century, most likely re-using timbers from the earlier roof (and elsewhere within) the building (Building 2) or perhaps more likely from the replaced front buildings (now Building 1). This

somewhat explains the squat proportions of the rear range (Building 2), affecting its overall character and appearance, as it clearly was intended to have a much steeper roof pitch.

Within the attic is the only place that the stonework of the walls is exposed. Where it is visible to the north and north-east side, it is of slatestone rubble, almost semi-coursed in places, in a clay and lime bond. The north wall shows an inserted brick flue for the shallow brick stack built onto its internal south face, showing 19th century adaption of an earlier structure. The south wall is whitewashed right up to the apex and is heavier stonework, larger platey slatestone slabs, but there is no visible brick repair or patching and this stonework appears to be an earlier and better built than the north wall.



FIGURE 10: THE ROOF STRUCTURE OVER BUILDING 2, SHOWING REUSED BLADES IN THE TRUSSES AND PEGGED RIDGE, THE NORTHERNMOST TRUSS OF 3; FROM THE SOUTH-WEST.

2.3.1 FUNCTION

This was a purpose-built, two storey service range, built in the 17th century, directly serving a townhouse along South Street. There is little visible evidence supporting an original function for this range, but we can say that it seems that both ground and first floors appear to have been open spaces and neither was heated. The two narrow, deeply splayed openings may indicate a semi-agricultural function and the larger formerly cobbled historic yard could suggest that this was once a stable.

In the 19th century, with the wholesale replacement of two separate townhouses fronting South Street with a single larger, purpose-built shop and accommodation block, the service range was adapted on the ground floor, a partition forming one small room, a brick stack added for heating, the space aggrandised with recycled panelling, forming a small parlour. Behind, a larger room was also adapted, a brick stack added, with a large hearth, a service space or possibly even a kitchen. On the first floor, a door may have been served by an external stair, two windows, one to south and north, both with chunky timber lintels, have window seats, with a further 19th century, single light casement, suggesting some kind of secondary accommodation may have been adapted here, possibly for servants.

2.3.2 RELATIONSHIPS

Building 2 represents a 17th century service range, an extension to a medieval town plot which has since been replaced. This two-storey block was probably mixed-function. Building 1 has been rebuilt around Building 2 in the early 19th century.

2.4 THE PANELLING OF ROOM 17, BUILDING 2

2.4.1 NORTH WALL

This wall has a door to the west side, D25, of 18th or early 19th century style. The door is framed by reset flat ogee moulded pilasters (Type 5) of marked classical influence and late 17th century date, designed to break up and define sections of panelling. Above the door is a damaged section of pilaster, with sockets for a door lock cut into it, again clearly reset. Above that is a short section of damaged long rectangular panelling, as seen to the east. Beyond the pilaster, to the east, the wall is totally clad in reset sections of panelling. There are two very awkwardly cut, long, top panels, sat at a slanting diagonal with peg holes (Type 8). Below is a more centred and carefully positioned large section of panelling, of small, square, flat panels, with a deep bolection style moulding (Type 3). This is connected via tiny wooden pegs and later metal tacks. There are some small handmade nails. This is of late 17th century style. The first 0.7m of the wall is covered by two different types of older panelling, to the west simple scratch moulded plank panelling (Type 1), to the east ogee moulded uprights, to simple plank panelling (Type 2), both styles create the small rectangular panels typical of the 17th century. The east end of the north wall is framed by another pilaster, which matches those of the doorway; beyond, the corner has been left plain with just simple beaded plank infill.

2.4.2 EAST WALL

This is punctured by the large window opening with a 19th century casement, W13, in the centre and a blocked doorway, D7, to the south end. To the north is a large section of the same panelling as the north wall, with small square panels, with bolection moulding (Type 3), framed by two ogee moulded pilasters (Type 5). Below is another cut off piece of the simple ogee moulded panelling (Type 2). Under the window is a separate piece, with two large, flat, rectangular panels, with chunky bead moulding, likely early 19th century (Type 9). To the south is another pilaster and beyond, another section of the bolection mould panelling, this time with graduated panel size, getting larger down to the floor (Type 4), otherwise the same as the north wall. This suggests it is from the same decorative scheme or source, as the moulding is identical, but possibly a smarter room, hence the extra graduated detailing. The area around the blocked doorway is boarded over with thin MDF style sheeting. The window sits in an opening which it has truncated, set into the room and nailed in place, there are a set of panelled shutters which are nailed shut as the window has been fitted over them. They have chunky, simple, stepped ovolo mouldings (Type 6) and are probably early 18th century, showing some evolution from the Type 3 panelling.

2.4.3 SOUTH WALL

This wall has a door to the west end, opposite that in the north wall, but this is a forced opening, in the very thick, battered south wall. It is fitted with a modern, part-glazed door, D24. To the east end of the wall there is a large, contiguous panel of the same square bolection moulded panelling (Type 3) as the east and north walls. This runs into the opening of the blocked doorway. Below this, one of the pilasters (Type 5) has been used as a base rail, on its side and the section is framed by a pilaster edging the forced doorway. Above are two deeply moulded ogee long rectangular panels, the same as those used on the north wall (Type 8). Below, the base of the wall is infilled with plain plank and MDF sheeting. Beyond the door is another pilaster and beyond that, a short cut off section of the same bolection moulded panelling. At the base of the wall, in the south-west corner of the room, two panels of ogee moulding survive. The south wall has suffered in the past from damage and water ingress, damp having developed. The panelling is buckled and warped, very rotten in places.



FIGURE 11: TWO PHASES OF PANELLING AT THE BASE OF THE NORTH WALL, TYPE 1 AND TYPE 2; FROM THE SOUTH (1M SCALE).

2.4.4 WEST WALL

The west wall is dominated by the large, blocked fireplace and a tall cupboard to the south and a short, shelved cupboard to the north, set high in the wall. These mean that only small sections of bolection moulded panelling (Type 3) infill around the openings. There are pilasters (Type 5) either side of the cupboard to the south and a fine, moulded, panelled door is reset here, its butterfly hinges reused. Behind this cupboard door is a larger, blocked doorway. A narrow section of the bolection mould panelling is cut to infill between cupboard and fireplace with an additional couple of strips of reused pilaster. Above the fireplace is more bolection mould panelling but the cupboard to the north is of large flat panels and bead moulding, like the section under the window on the east wall and likely early 19th century (Type 9).

2.5 DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS.

Regarding a date for the re-fitting of the various sections of panelling within Room 17, it likely to have occurred in the 19th century, when the front block was built. The main block being linked to and re-using the rear services of one of the earlier buildings that had formerly fronted South Street. We can date the fittings, as the panelling has been reset to respect the forced doorway in the south wall, linking the new and earlier buildings, D24, and respects D7, the blocked doorway. Both features are 19th century.

The panelling attachments also provide clues to its date of fitting; using a mixture of dowels, pegs, metal tacks and handmade nails, which indicate a date comfortably into the early 19th century. The somewhat crude joints between panels indicate this was no carpenter, or at least not one with sophisticated joinery skills. The mix-matched patterns and styles are indicative of an 'anything will do' attitude, are not surprising if this was service space. The choice to not simply plaster the walls suggests that the room may have been visited by the owner or been partly open to scrutiny, not a totally private service space, hence a need to 'present' it in some form. The large casement window, large, blocked fireplace and direct access to the central entrance hall may indicate that this became the kitchen for the 19th century building.

Having established the likely fitting of the pieces, it is important to acknowledge the character of the room, which is mismatched and eclectic, although visually unified by a thick cream paint layer. The sections of panelling are generally in quite good condition, and some are well moulded, of a good quality of craftsmanship, which, while it might not be high status, would certainly have been suitable for a merchant dwelling. Their irregular and even somewhat eccentric consolidation suggests these were reclaimed in a haphazard manner from scrap. It is most likely that the panelling had been stripped out from the two demolished townhouses on the street side of the plot. It would not have been unusual for a three-storey townhouse may have several different styles of decoration from different periods.

The earliest styles of panelling are the scratch moulded and ogee moulded sections found at the base of the north wall (Types 1 and 2). These small sections are identical to those in Rooms 1 and 1A, the entrance hall, and may be off cuts from larger panel pieces. It is particularly interesting that we see this reuse in both service areas of the house. Stylistically, the simple plank backing, and moulded uprights would identify a date range in the early 17th century, c.1600-1620s.

It is possible that this early 17th century material, which would pre-date the Civil War period, may be off cuts from the remains of other fine 17th century townhouses which were damaged or destroyed in the Battle of Torrington in 1646. Many damaged buildings would have been pulled down, very likely stripped, and scavenged first; hence small sections of different styles being combined.

The finer bolection moulded panelling would probably, if refitted correctly, represent 50-60% of a small fine room. This displays more classical influence and is unlikely to predate the 1646 battle, no longer being vernacular in character.

This is particularly interesting, as the end of the 17th and beginning of the 18th century was something of a prosperous time for Great Torrington, with two exceptional Grade II* Listed townhouses of the early 1700s in the town and other altered Grade II listed townhouses on New Street indicating considerable wealth for some occupants, as well as associations with such national figures as Sir Joshua Reynolds and Dr. Samuel Johnson. Directly opposite the site, is one of these fine houses, No.28 South Street. It has a wide range of bolection moulded panelling and has some fine plaster ceilings. Whilst the panelling in Room 17 is much simpler, and its small squares more reminiscent of the previous century, it may have been an attempt by the owner of one of the townhouses on this, north side of the street, to update and aggrandise his parlour/reception room. Some of the panelling in the room is certainly 18th century, with heavy ovolo moulding and large flat panels, with 18th century panelled doors reset in the front block. A section under the window, forming a window seat, respecting the new casement and the cupboard to the north of the stack, are early 19th century in character and clearly respect the new configuration of this room.

2.6 Panelling Summary

In conclusion, this room indicates three different styles of 17th century panelling, all of middle to upper middle status, in line with the merchant classes who occupied South Street in this period. It then highlights some 18th century panelling, which may be a lost phase, not otherwise represented in the building record, and the early 19th century phase when so much remodelling to the two plots was undertaken to create the fine, mixed use building complex seen today. Collectively the panelling whilst reset here is a direct reflection of the narrative of the building.

The possibility of identifying the exact source of the panelling and linking it to a known building/location is thought to be highly unlikely. Certainly, we can say with some assurance that this did not originate in any of the grand houses in the environs which have sadly been ruined in

THE BICKFORD CENTRE, 23 SOUTH STREET, GREAT TORRINGTON, DEVON

the intervening centuries; it is simply not grand enough and the panels not of an appropriate scale for larger rooms, where it would look cramped. It most likely the panelling largely or entirely originated from the site, and the replaced front-range buildings.

THE BICKFORD CENTRE, 23 SOUTH STREET, GREAT TORRINGTON, DEVON

TABLE 1: TYPES AND STYLES OF PANELLING, DESCRIPTION AND PHASING.

No. of Paneling Type	Description	Date/Period Ascribed	Where it occurs in the Bickford Centre - Location
1	Narrow rectangular flat panels. Uprights and cross pieces simple scratch moulded decoration. Vernacular in form.	Early to mid-1600s (1600-1650s)	Room 1A, Building 1, west wall. Room 17, Building 2, north wall.
2	Square flat panels. Uprights and cross pieces simple ogee moulded decoration. Still simple, a little more refined.	Mid-1600s (1620-1646)	Room 1, Building 1, west wall. Room 17, Building 2, north wall.
3	Small square flat panels. Deep bolection style moulding. Classically influenced, but vernacular in form.	Late 17 th century, post 1646	Room 17, Building 2, north, east, south and west walls.
4	Deep bolection style moulding, as to Type 3, but the panels start off square and graduate larger down the wall into rectangular panels. Classically influenced and showing an understanding of proportion and depth, the graduating panels are an optical illusion used to create the effect of raising the height of ceilings.	Late, 17 th century, post 1646	Room 17, Building 2, east wall, south end.
5	Narrow pilasters, flat, with ogee moulded edges, small rectangular capitols and plinths. Classically influenced.	Late 17 th century, or early 18 th century.	Room 17, Building 2, north, south and east and west walls.
6	Pair of paneled shutters, large square panels, chunky ovolo mouldings. Can clearly be seen to sit in a shutter box casement and are nailed shut.	Early 18 th century (1700-1720s)	Room 17, Building 2, east wall, either side of casement window, actually a set of nailed shutters.
7	Fine raised and fielded paneling, three sections, each with two panels. Ovolo moulded.	Early to mid-18 th century (1720s-1750s)	Room 11A, Building 1, north, east and west walls.
8	Long rectangular 'top rail' panels, with stepped ogee moulding. Would fit with a typical 18 th century paneled room, where central panels were framed by side pieces and base boards.	Early to mid-18 th century (1720s-1750s)	Room 17, Building 2, north wall top and north end of east wall and top of south wall.
9	Chunky beaded paneling of different weights, large flat panels.	Early 19 th century (1800?)	Room 17, Building 2, east wall, beneath window seat. To D23, second floor, Rooms 12/16, Building 1. Room 1, 1A, 2 and 5, Building 1. Beaded paneling to cupboards or doors in Room 1A, 3, Building 1 and Room 17, Building 2.
10	Flat panels, stepped ogee mouldings, shallow.	Early 19 th century (c.1832)	Beaded ogee paneling to cupboards or doors in Room 7, 7A, 8, 11A, Building 1.

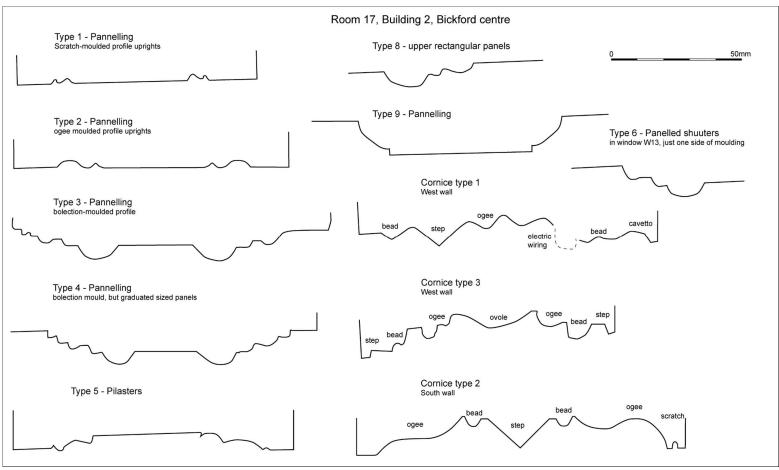


FIGURE 12: PROFILES OF THE VARIOUS UPRIGHT STYLES OF THE PANELLING IN R1 AND R17 (ALSO R2).

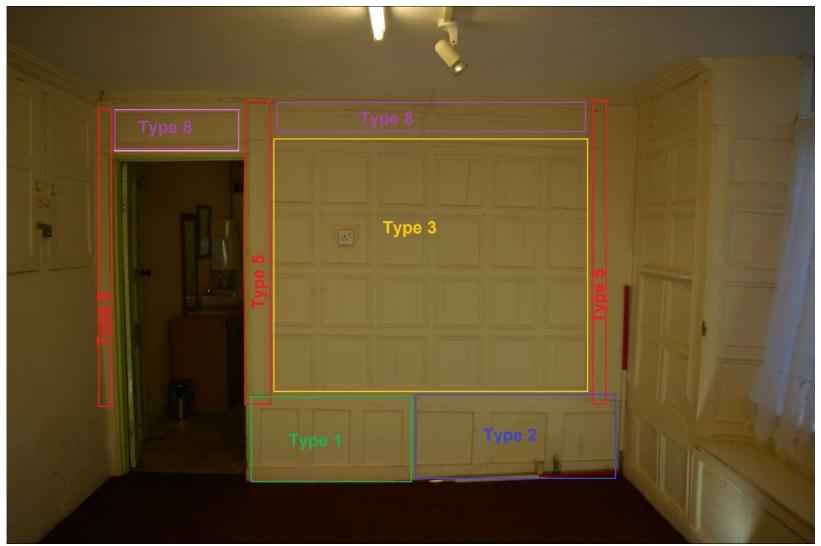


FIGURE 13: THE NORTH WALL OF R17, ANNOTATED PHOTOGRAPH, SHOWING RESET PANELLING; FROM THE SOUTH (1M SCALE).

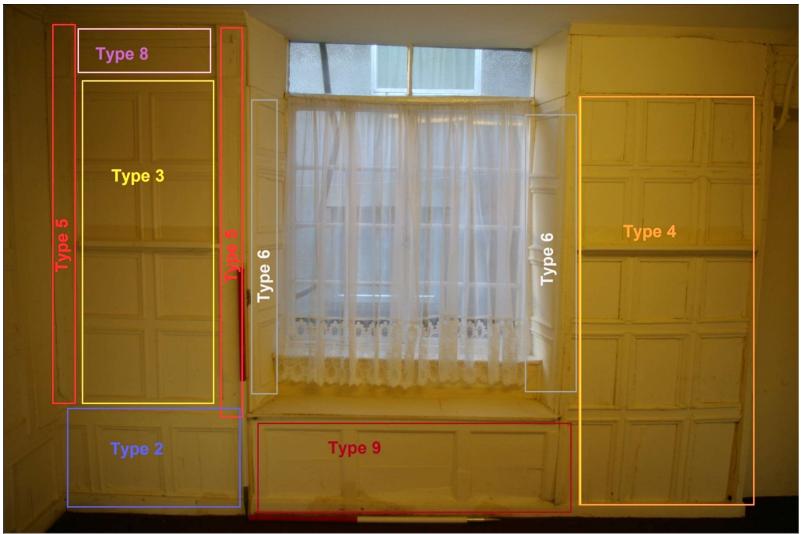


FIGURE 14: THE EAST WALL OF R17, WITH RESET PANELLING ANNOTATED, FROM THE WEST (1M SCALE).

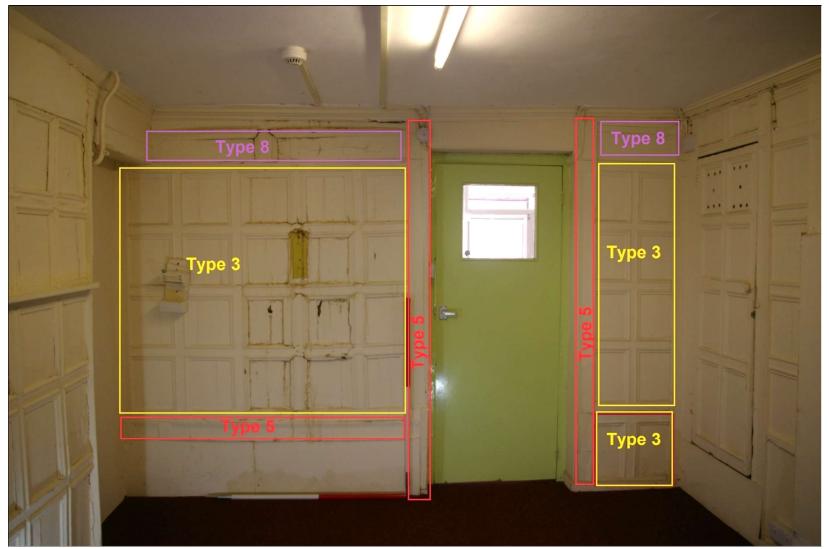


FIGURE 15: THE SOUTH WALL OF R17, SHOWING ANNOTATED RESET PANELLING, FROM THE NORTH (2 X 1M SCALES).

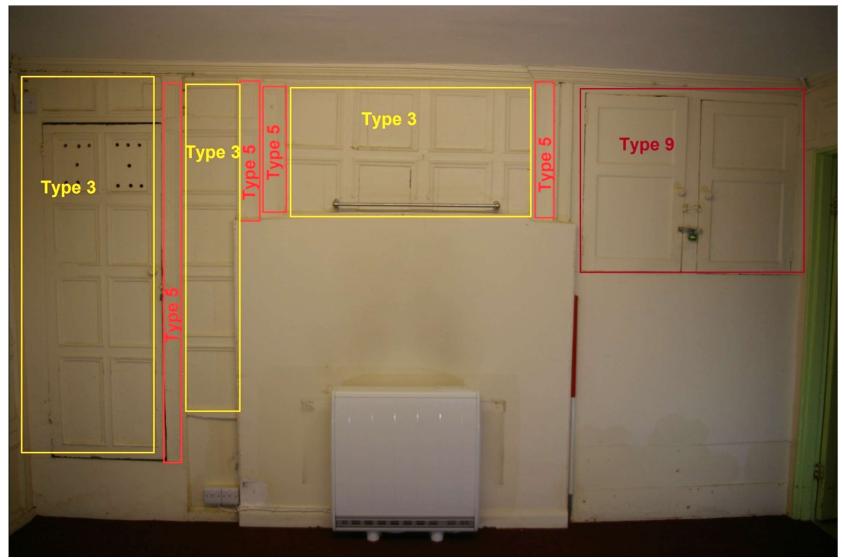


FIGURE 16: THE WEST WALL OF R17, SHOWING ANNOTATED PANELLING, FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).

2.7 OTHER SIGNIFICANT FEATURES IN B1 & B2

Despite many alterations, both historic and more modern, the Bickford Centre still contains a wealth of historic details (see Table 1, below).



FIGURE 17 A & B: A (LEFT) THE BEADED PLANK PANELLING ON THE PARTITION WALL BETWEEN R5 AND R3; FROM THE NORTH-EAST. B (RIGHT) THE MOULDED HANDRAIL ATTACHED TO THE NEWEL POST, THE BANISTERS AND DETAILED VIEW OF THE TURNED BALUSTERS; FROM THE EAST-NORTH-EAST.

TABLE 2: SIGNIFICANT FEATURES.

Building No:	Room No:	Possible Historic Function	Historic Features
Building 1	1	Cross passage, serving rear courtyard/ entrance hall	D1 - Fine doorway, double width, raised and fielded panels, glazed upper panels, with decorative fanlight above. 18 th century in style but probably early 19 th century in date. Reset late 17 th or early 18 th century paneling to west side, with large rectangular panels, ogee moulded crosspieces and uprights. Early 19 th century beaded plank paneling to the east side. The floor may be flagstones under carpet. Slate threshold to door.
	1a	Cross passage, serving rear courtyard/ entrance hall	Reset early 17 th century paneling to west side, scratch moulded framework, small square flat panels. Early 19 th century beaded plank paneling to the east side. The floor may be flagstones under carpet. Slate slab threshold to rear door. D3 - 18 th century in style these doors are probably early 19 th century in date. Fine rear double width door, raised and fielded panels, glazed upper panels, strapped together at a later date. D7 - Four panel moulded door to Building 2 to west, later 19 th century. D8 - Four panel plain door to room 4 to east, later 19 th century. D9 - Four panel plain door to cold store to east, later 19 th century. Moulded beaded opening to stairs, room 5, to east. Early 19 th century, two panel, bead moulded fine cupboard door above door to cold store under stairs to east. Similar cupboard doors can be seen in room 17 to Building 2.
	3	Office	Early 19th century. Fireplace with timber surround, beaded planks, roundels to corners, plain mantle shelf with rounded corners. Early 19th century. Low cupboards to rounded arched alcoves either side of fireplace, those to south with replaced doors, to north fine bead moulded paneled doors. This style is similar to the cupboard above the cold store in room 1a and the cupboard next to the stack in room 17, Building 1. Early 19th century glazed upper display cabinet with beaded glazing bars, three panes to each side, small round turned wood knob. The alcove to south has lost its cabinet, but plaster beading remains to opening. W1 - Sash window to front, hornless frame but two large panes to each, in wide beaded opening. Mid-19th century character.
	4	Tack Room/Store	Cobbled and flagged floor. Lime plastered and whitewashed walls. W2 - Integral window to beaded plank frame which forms space, chunky chamfered glazing bars, 12 panes. Lead toilet pipe from above. Remains of beaded timber with rusted iron pins, remains of coat hooks/ or tack hooks for horses/trap? D8 - Plain four panel later 19 th century door. Adjacent house, No.21 has rounded rear wall, seen within here, for rear former stair turret? 17 th century, therefore dating party wall.
	5	Stair and half landing to	Early 19 th century. Moulded beaded doorframe to stair,

	ground floor	scarring for hinges, indicating there was once a door
		here. Early 19 th century beaded skirting rises with stairs. Early 19 th century beaded plank boarding to ground floor wall rises with stair. Early 19 th century moulded handrail to first flight of steps, reattached to replacement plasterboard. Early 19 th century newel to landing and moulded handrail and turned balusters, as well as moulded plaster stair plate to second flight between half landing and first floor landing. Large step in wall here, much thicker lower down, heavier, stops at first floor. Indicating wall at ground floor predates stair as ledged to carry first floor planks. No visible dateable features.
6	First floor landing and flight to second floor	Early 19 th century newel to landing and moulded handrail and turned balusters. Early 19 th century moulded plaster stair plate to second flight between half landing and first floor landing. W3 - 18 th century style sash in chunky sash box. Hornless sash window 6x6 panes, in wide moulded sash box, in beaded opening. (Actual sashes may have been replaced like-for-like as the woodwork looks very crisp).
7		W4 – Tall hornless 6x6 sash window in beaded frame, shallow straight-sided opening. Early 19 th century in style but the actual sashes look replaced. D12 – Early 19 th century ogee moulded six-panel narrow door in stepped ovolo moulded door frame, leading to room 7a, a deep cupboard. D13 - 19 th century ogee moulded four-panel door with brass doorknob and iron lock.
8		W5 - Tall hornless 6x6 sash window in beaded frame, shallow straight-sided opening. Early 19 th century in style but the actual sashes look replaced. D13 - 19 th century ogee moulded four-panel door with brass doorknob and iron lock.
9		W6 - Tall hornless 6x6 sash window in beaded frame, shallow straight-sided opening. Early 19 th century in style but the actual sashes look replaced.
11	Half landing and Second Floor landing	Early 19 th century. Ramped moulded handrail rises to landing, smaller landing post, not newel, moulded handrail continues to second floor. Early 19 th century. Turned balusters, as well as moulded plaster stair plate respects all flights and half landings. D17 - Early 19 th century. Fine moulded six-panel door in wide reed-moulded surround, very narrow to room 11a, former long-drop toilet. Made to fit narrow opening. W8 - Small beaded casement window, later 1800s to rear window on second floor landing. Coiled catch. Abutted by modern partition along mullion.
11a	Long-drop toilet extension	D17 - Fine moulded six-panel door in wide reed-moulded surround, very narrow to room 11a, former long-drop toilet. Made to fit narrow opening. 18 th century character but probably early 19 th century in date. Lead toilet pipe work. Very fine raised and fielded paneling to sides of toilet, three sections in total, sides cut and re-pegged. Early 18 th century or late 17 th century, reset here. W7 - Early to mid-19 th century small single light window in moulded frame. Similar in style to the sash in room 3.
12/16	Second floor corridor	D23 - Fine large two-panel ogee moulded door, in

THE BICKFORD CENTRE, 23 SOUTH STREET, GREAT TORRINGTON, DEVON

			moulded frame. 18 th century, reset here.
Building 2	17	Former kitchens/services	Blocked sizeable fireplace. Cupboard/alcoves to either side, to south with fine narrow eight-panel door, with air vent holes to top. 17 th century, reset here. Reset sections of 17 th 18 th and early 19 th century paneling to walls, evidence of sealed shutters and reset window seat. D7 - Later 19 th century four panel door to south-east corner. D25 - 18 th or early 19 th century door to R19. W13 - Casement window, inserted into earlier opening to east wall, beaded and moulded glazing bars, 8x8 panes to each light. 19 th century.

3.0 BUILDING ANALYSIS

3.1 Phasing Discussion

The party wall with No.21 to the east and the party wall with No.25, to the west, are both earlier in date than the majority of the structural remains within the Bickford Centre, No.23. These walls relate to the two adjacent buildings, both heavily altered but broadly late medieval in date. It is likely from the weight of the stone walling and heavy corbelling to the first floor, as well as its slightly different alignment, that as it stands, No.25, to the west, is earlier than any remains in No.21, more likely to be 1500s than 1600s. No.25 came under limited scrutiny in the early 2000s when renovated and it is of interest that an alleyway to the rear yard and back block appears to be enshrined in its layout (see Figure 10).

3.1.1 PRE-17TH CENTURY (MEDIEVAL?)

The earliest building fabric within the Bickford Centre may be the thick party wall between Building 1 and Building 2, on the ground and first floor. This wall may represent the last remains of the late medieval or early 1600s townhouse which sat between the back block (Building 2) and the street. Supportive of this theory that the wall may be earlier, is that there are blocked doors to both east and west walls, within Building 2, against this wall, on the ground floor, suggestive of a possible alleyway running between the back block and townhouse to the south.

The planned layout of the front block, Building 1, is also of interest, as, like No.25, despite intensive alteration, the medieval layout of two town-plots with alleyway between is enshrined in its later room plan. This is not defined by surviving built form but by the absence of evidence in a way, as the later structure has responded to an existing plan and to some extent visible to the north to pre-existing walls. The cross passage to the east and infilled gap between Nos.23 and 25 to the west, would suggest that the current structure was built across two narrower town plots and, using the better surviving build evidence of No.25, these building's ground floor stone structures were divided by alleyways (or drangways). The small, blocked window in the pointed gable roof of No.25, surviving within the loft of No.23, would indicate a small gap rose all the way up the range, allowing light into the upper stories and also providing a (minimal) fire break.

There is something of a surviving pattern of these alleyways on South Street, such common 'covered ways' or drangways running between houses and later adaption of these alleys to serve townhouses converted to multi-occupancy buildings in the 19th century. Alleys running along the back of town plots, between the front shop area and back domestic ranges or between yards is also a feature of medieval town plans in the West Country, seen in the archaeological evidence of No.13 High Street Torrington, a site which is just two town plots away, over the rear north wall. The series of opposing blocked doorways from No.25, through to No.21 may also suggest this was a thoroughfare of sorts as well. That this more ancient layout has been in some way preserved in these buildings is evidence, despite their street frontages, of phases being more of adaption and alteration than complete replacement.

3.1.2 17TH CENTURY

The next phase of build in the Bickford Centre is that of Building 2, the back block, of likely service function. As the townhouse along the street has not survived, we cannot say for sure if this back block was built onto or next to an earlier building. The reasons for its construction are also two-fold: either in response to a period of wealth in the early-mid 1600s, with the expansion of accommodations and the specialisation of spaces, pushing service into the back of the plot; or a response to damage from the 1646 battle between Royalists and Parliamentarians which, rather unusually, unfolded in the heart of the town. Building 2, due to its working life and relatively low status has been much altered; however, it still structurally represents a majority survival from the 17th century. The most dateable visible element of this building, other than its thick walls, is the

reused timber in its roof, hinting at a heavy pegged A-frame roof here, which has been lowered and altered. There is no evidence on the surviving timbers of any smoke-blackening or even minor smoke leakage, suggesting this back block was never heated or associated with long-term smoking wood fires in hearths.

Building 1 contains some earlier evidence as well, its north wall at ground floor is much thicker and of a heavier build, at a slight oblique angle to the rest of the front block, this seems more cohesive with the east party wall of No.21. It is of note that this wall lies on a similar alignment to Building 2 and may also be 17th century in date.

3.1.3 EARLY 19TH CENTURY

The rest of Building 1, the front block, has been remodelled in the early 19th century, at least one phase of aggrandisement was in c.1832, as recorded on the decorative drainage hopper on the front elevation. It is of note that so many features in the building have a strongly 18th century character, despite their potential 1832 date, evidencing a style-lag to the West Country, or potentially a mid-phase, or earlier first attempt at modernisation. A key element of this building, and its adaption of the earlier town plots, is the use of recycled carpentry, including doors, skirting boards, and sections of panelling. Small sections of early 17th century, scratch moulded panelling and slightly later ogee moulded 17th century panelling may have been sourced from the demolished townhouses, seen in both the cross passage in Building 1 (Rooms 1 and 1A) and in Building 2 (Room 17). These quite small and crudely cut sections appear to infill around more intentionally placed pieces or are set in service areas, suggestive of a recognisance of their unfashionable and slightly simpler forms. Building 1 is very cohesive in style with good, beaded plank panelling seen in many of the rooms on the ground floor (Rooms 1, 1A, 2 and 5) and cohesive details, such as where fireplaces survive (Rooms 3 and 7) seen throughout the block. Care was clearly taken to adapt the space available and any surviving structure, whilst attempting to ascribe affordable but fashionable late Georgian style, making a statement for the builder/owner, a tradesman or merchant, about his status. We can see from the important group of Listed and undesignated historic buildings on South Street, that this was a key location for an upscale retail or trade unit in the early 1800s, moving slightly out of the bustle of the main square.

The earlier structure, Building 2, was heavily adapted in this early 19th century phase, probably just after Building 1 was constructed around it. On the ground floor (Room 17), recycled panelling of a cohesive style was reset on the walls, finer in quality than the examples seen in the cross passage in rooms 1 and 1A; more classical influence in its bolection mouldings and even including reused ogee pilaster dividers, and elongated top rail panels, as well as fine, deeply moulded wooden cornice. This panelling, different to the small section in the front block, is suggestive of a whole panelled room, of 17th century date, being removed from another location and crudely reset here (pilasters used as base rails, crudely cut pieces infilling spacing between larger sections of panelling). The source of this, likely later 17th century panelling, cannot be established without definitive documentary evidence, however a consideration of its form tells us that the panelling is of oak planks, the quality of middling status, not particularly rustic but certainly not of high status, the mouldings quite simple and there is no detailed carving or frieze work included. This whole room may have been stripped directly from the two adjacent townhouses before their partial demolition and remodelling.

The resetting of the recycled panelling in Building 2, Room 17, has been dated to the early 19th century remodelling of the front block, as details such as the large cupboard north of the stack are cohesive with cupboards (cupboards in 1A and 7A, door to 11A) in well preserved Building 1. The panelling also respects the stack in this room, which may be a mix of brick and rubble, certainly brick on the first floor, dating this to the early 19th century. The overall effect of the room being panelled has obviously been considered an upgrade by those who undertook the work, the panels re-pegged and some spiking and handmade nails seen, but the crude placement of the pilasters

and lack of alignment of the panels does not evidence much care, certainly this was the improvement of a personal or service room, unlikely to be a public space considering the irregular and somewhat eccentric finished product.

3.2 PHASED PLANS

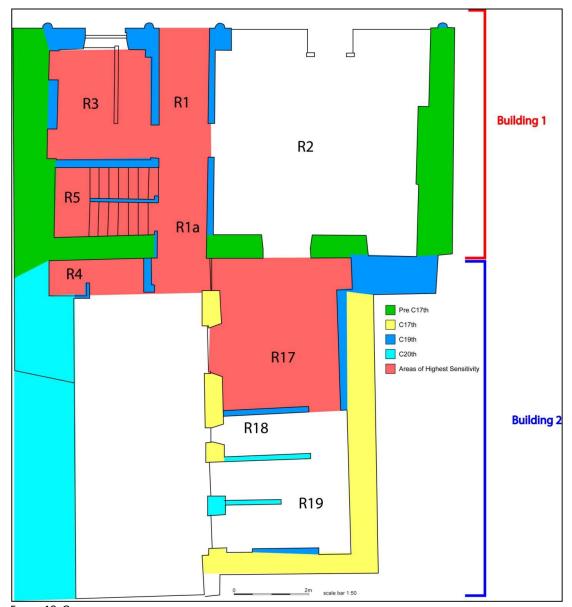


Figure 18: Ground floor phase diagram.

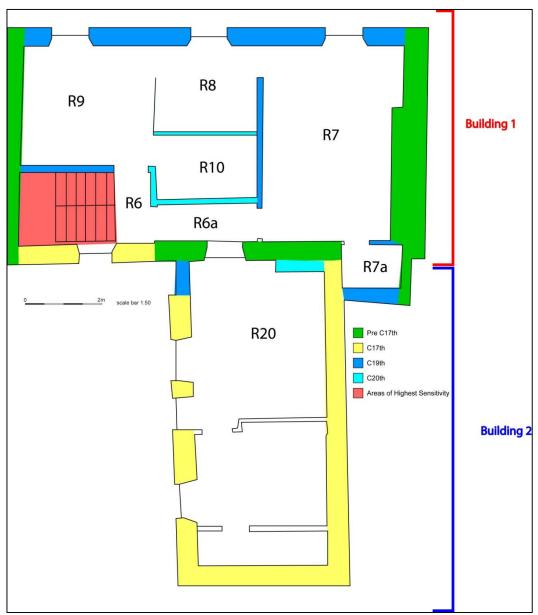


FIGURE 19: FIRST FLOOR PHASE DIAGRAM.

3.3 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bickford Centre has significance within Torrington as part of the group of large, historic, merchant's buildings along South Street, within the Conservation Area. As with others in this area of the town, the building incorporates and preserves within its plan a number of older buildings and features containing a narrative for the development of the building and town.

The Bickford Centre is Listed, but only to Grade II level; however, this was likely through a lack of appreciation for the complexity of the building and its wealth of fittings, some of which have since been lost, as it certainly would have fitted the criteria for at least a Grade II* Listing. The value of noted features should be considered to protect the building in the future.

In order to clarify the significance of the building in detail, it is broken down into the various aspects we consider when assessing significance.

3.3.1 EVIDENTIAL VALUE

Both buildings plastered walls will undoubtedly contain blocked openings and further changes in build which indicate phases of construction and alteration. There is already interesting visible and possibly complex phasing, in the rear wall for example, at ground floor visible in room 4 in Building 1 and we know there is a blocked opening in the east wall of Building 2. Both historic buildings will also seal historic ground surfaces and even earlier town occupation deposits, the site being in the medieval core of the settlement.

Building 1 is better understood and as it survives more completely, information is more accessible, numerous records and probably even photographs surviving for this structure.

Building 2 is full of inherent evidential value as so much of its structure has been altered and obscured and there is no truly definitive dateable feature. Further monitoring of the proposed renovations and alteration works may provide more information on the construction form and build details. For example, layers of paint have survived on the sections of panelling, recalling historic decorative schemes for this room or even those it was first set in.

3.3.2 HISTORICAL VALUE

No known associative value. Some historical associative value could be ascribed to the retrofitted 17th century panelling if its provenance could link it to a well-known local house, however the quality is not considered high enough for this panelling to have been brought from Stevenstone or similar.

3.3.3 AESTHETIC VALUE

Building 1 is built with the balanced and generous proportions of the late Georgian or Regency periods. The unnecessary but stylish details of the Tuscan columns to the shop front indicate that this building was intended to present an elegant and classical facade to the street and to reflect well on its builder and occupant, presumably a wealthy merchant, tradesman or similar. It forms a pleasing group, of historic character, with the other Listed and undesignated buildings on South Street.

Building 2 has been too heavily altered and repaired with inappropriate materials, such as cement renders and concrete blocks, to present anything other than a confused and run-down aesthetic, however, this back block, only ever intended to be functional and never viewed by the public, is unlikely to have ever had its aesthetics really considered, its appearance irrelevant to its value as a working building.

3.3.4 COMMUNAL VALUE

The Bickford Centre has been running since the 1970s and has provided a vital community venue for older people in the town to meet their peers and to seek help and support if needed. The centre has very high communal secondary value, run by a dedicated group of volunteers and supported by the local Rotary group.

3.3.5 INTEGRITY

The majority of the structure of Building 1 survives, with semi-intact decorative schemes in some rooms, most notably Rooms: 1, 1A, 3, 5 and 7. There are also good doors, however, there appears to have been a lot of resetting of historic features within the building, meaning one cannot use internal detail to phase the building at all and the complex developmental history has meant that layers of historic fabric has replaced other historic fabric.

Building 2's heavy remodelling in the 19th and 20th centuries has left it devoid of historic features or detail, its historic integrity much reduced, but for its four walls and some of the reused timbers in its roof structure.

3.3.6 AUTHENTICITY

Building 1 is still very authentic, with the shop floor used as a community centre and residential flats above. Despite superficial changes to partitions within the floors, or short runs of modern kitchen units, such as the formation of the flats within the space, the complex multi-functional use of the building has been retained.

Building 2 is not at all authentic, stripped out and remodelled at least twice in the 19th and 20th centuries, as well as unrecorded earlier alterations. It no longer presents as either historic or of service function.

4.0 MONITORING OF THE WORKS

4.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

Planning permission was granted on the Grade II Listed building in 2019 and the works began in December 2022; the site visited by Dr S Walls. The back of the panelling forming R17, from R18 was viewed in situ, whilst and during it being stripped off.

In January 2023, archaeologist Emily Wapshott visited the site, to undertake some further monitoring and recording of the affected panelling. The north wall of the main front block, in R2, which the doorway to the rear block is to be found (and is to be enlarged) was stripped as part of the building works. This exposed historic layers of decoration from inside the former ground floor shop space. The panelling in R17 was also removed and the wall and stack to the west in this space had been stripped out, the grate and fireplace removed before the visit.

The further recording was covered by a WSI (Ref: TBC22WSIv1) agreed between South West Archaeology Ltd and in consultation with DCHET and the Conservation Officer. The text of the WSI is included in Appendix 7.

4.2 REMOVAL OF PANELLING FROM R17

The south, north and west walls of R17 were stripped of panelling, for the renovations.

The south wall of R17, represents the north, rear wall of R2, part of the reconfigured block along the street. It was clear from the exposed stonework that to the west the wall is of battered, roughly coursed stone build, of graduated stonework with large stone slabs used at the base, likely of medieval of 16th century date. Further to the east this wall was rebuilt with closely packed semi-regularised rubble build, using platey slatestone – typical of 17th century buildings in and around Torrington and this region of North Devon. Between these two builds, where a door had been forced, or enlarged there was a large section of fairly loose 19th century rubble repair and several large, recycled pieces of timber have been inserted as lintels, propped up on timber blocks, possibly suggesting the alteration of an earlier, smaller opening.

THE BICKFORD CENTRE, 23 SOUTH STREET, GREAT TORRINGTON, DEVON



FIGURE 20: THE REAR WALL OF THE FRONT BLOCK, WITH PANELLING REMOVED; FROM THE NORTH (1M SCALE).

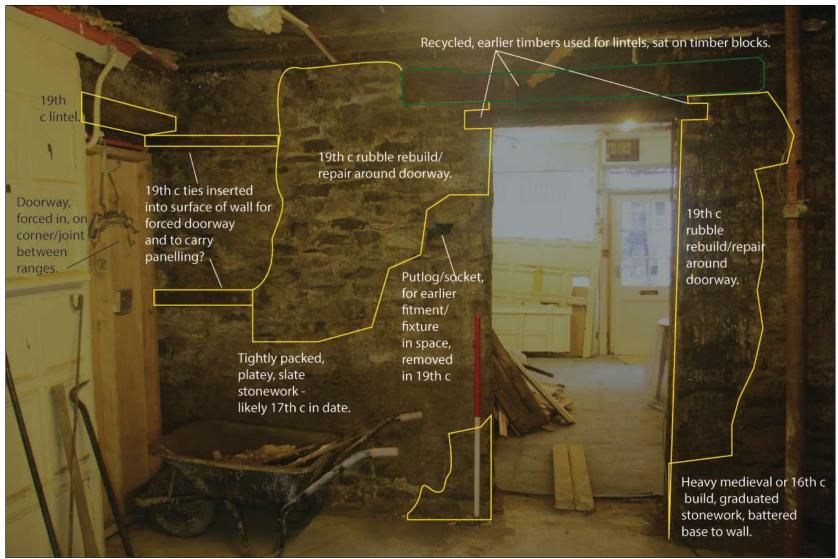


FIGURE 21: ANNOTATED DIAGRAM OF THE EXPOSED STONEWORK OF R17, SOUTH WALL.

The west wall was also stripped, exposing the two alcoves to the side of the fireplace and the stack. The stack can be seen to be of post-medieval date, but pre-1800, braced in situ with heavy recycled timbers at first floor, to allow for carrying a floor in No.23. The stack can be seen to be built up against and to be serving the adjacent building, No.25, but in the 19th century a fireplace was forced into the rear of the stack in No.23, the sides rebuilt in brick to accommodate this, with loose rubble repair above, a failed brick arch, since replaced the shallow hearth infilled with blockwork for structural support. The bricks of the rebuilt sides were a mix of pale red-yellow and a darker, red-brown and seemed to be frog less in form, some unusually small in size, likely handmade or locally made, in a gritty, coarse, lime and clay, pale brown coloured mortar. Whilst the alcove to the south of this stack exposed neatly coursed stonework, carefully toothed into the earlier rear wall, to the north the alcove did represent a blocked doorway, with loose rubble, mixed with brick. There is the stub of a short section of returning wall to the north-west of this section of wall and beyond the build appears a little different, suggesting some phasing even within this block, in the pre-1800 fabric, although the details of this have been obscured by extensive 19th and 20th century works to the building. This wall was to be repaired and left in situ.



FIGURE 22: THE EAST WALL OF THE BACK-BLOCK WHICH NOW SERVES NO.25; FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).

The north wall of the room, was a thick 19th century timber-framed partition, faced in the reset panelling, to the south side (into R17), with scarring and nail marks on the cross braces and styles showing it has a lath and plaster facing to R18. This means that in the 19th century that R18 and R19 were also domestic, or internal partitions, at least in one phase.

The 20th century plasterboard was pulled off on the north side, within R18 and the walling/framework photographed. This inspection confirmed the date of this partition, it also noted a lot of old straw in this area and in the void in the floor above, suggesting, this area R18/R19 was likely used as a stable with opening to the yard at some stage in the post-medieval period. It also confirmed that the modern boarding had been attached to the partition via modern horizontal braces, nailed in place. The window in R18, within the fragment of surviving 17th century walling, could be seen to be an altered slit-vent style opening, of vernacular character, chopped out on its exterior reveals to form a single light, 'toilet' window.



FIGURE 23: THE TIMBER-FRAMED PARTITION BETWEEN R17 AND R18; FROM THE NORTH-EAST (0.3M SCALE).

4.3 ENLARGING OF DOOR TO R2 - REMOVAL OF WALL COVERINGS IN THIS SPACE

Within the current tearoom, coffee space, R2, the outer, visible wallcovering was of 20th century chipboard, covered by woodchip wallpaper, painted cream. This was laid over, and above later 19th century tongue and groove, vertical pine planking, of tall, dado height, with a simple beaded top rail (Figure 24).

When the wall coverings were removed a complex mix of reset wood panelling, shutters and planks was exposed. The Victorian panelling had been reset over later 17th or early 18th century panelling, to lower dado height, c.1.14m. This was of small even-sized rectangular panels, with outer flat face, raised to the rear, each individually shaped by adze, with the marks clear on the unfinished rear sides. The styles and crossbars are moulded with ogee and cavetto, or hollowchamfered detail, showing the transition from vernacular to classical-inspired influence. This style was similar to Type 9, but not quite the same quality, with for example, the raised edges of the panels, tacked in place, instead of carved. The majority of the styles and crossbars, however, were pegged in place and the panels sit within grooves in the sides of the styles. Above this to the east was a section of reset vertical planks, nailed in place, presumably over some sort of crude frame, this had grey lime plaster over it, with a pale green and cream paint layers. To the west up and around the doorway are several cut sections, and one complete, boarded and framed panelled shutter - likely from the shop front, as it is noted to have dark red paint remains on the woodwork, covered by a bitumen paint. These fine shutters, with adze cut raised panels, exhibit numerous repairs, with T-braces and L-braces on the corners, tacked in place - 19th century repairs to an older structure to keep it functional. These planks and shutters were covered with several other layers, one of which is a wood-effect wallpaper – designed to look like walnut, laid over a layer of pasted newspaper remnants, including fragments of The Times, from the early 19th

century. Under the other wallpapers was a Regency style, monochrome classical block-printed wallpaper.



Figure 24: The north wall of R2, with door to R17, before and after stripping of wall coverings; from the south (2m scale bottom photograph).

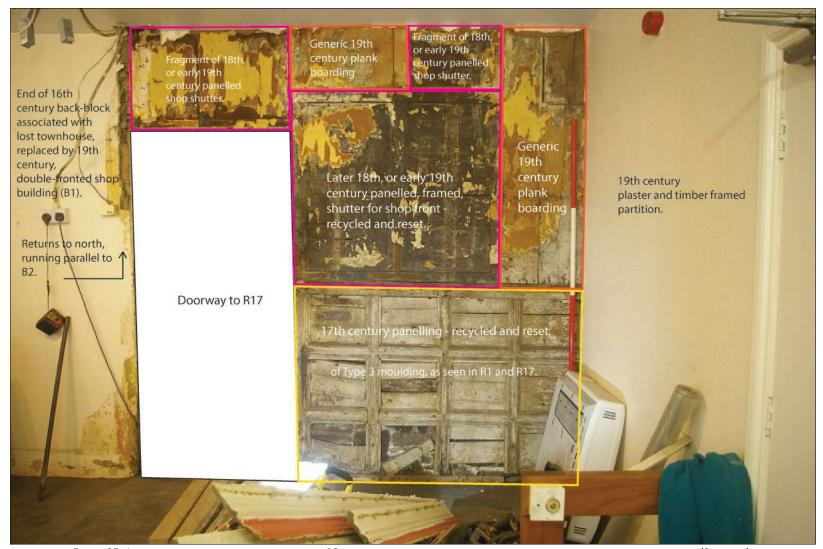


FIGURE 25: ANNOTATED PHOTOGRAPH OF NORTH WALL OF R2, SHOWING AREAS OF RECYCLED PANELLING AND PLANK BOARDING; FROM THE SOUTH (2M SCALE).

The extracts of the Times newspaper, photographed in situ, mention several politicians and events, so we can trace their dates quite accurately. Also of note are the rows of tacks over the panelling and boards, some of the tacks have hessian threads still attached; hessian was commonly used as a backing for fabric or fabric wallpapers, which could suggest fabric was stretched over these. The series of layers and their ascribed dates are laid out below in a table for ease of assessment.



FIGURE 26: ROW OF TACKS AND NAILS, SOME WITH HESSIAN FABRIC ON THEM, SUGGESTING THE BOARDING WAS LATER COVERED WITH FABRIC.



FIGURE 27: FRAGMENTS OF RED PAINT, UNDER A BITUMEN-LIKE BLACK TAR PAINT ON THE LARGEST OF THE SHUTTERS USED ON THE WALL OF R2.

TABLE 3: LAYERS OF WALL COVERINGS NORTH WALL OF R2.

Layer Type	Description	Relevant Dates –
		Periods/Styles
Wallpaper	Woodchip wallpaper painted cream	20 th century
Plank boarded	Vertical, tongue and groove plank boarding, with plain	Later Victorian, or possibly
panelling	rounded top rail at dado height.	even early 1900s.
Lime plaster	Grey lime plaster with flecks of charcoal or coal, painted pale,	Victorian or Edwardian
	sage-style green, with cream layer on top.	
Tacks and nails	Tacks and nails in earlier layers, with fragments of hessian	19 th century
	fibres still attached – hessian was a common underlayer for	
	fine wall papers or fabric wall coverings.	
Wallpaper	Painted, or treated wallpaper with shiny finish, painted to	Wood and marble effect
	look like wood grain etc	wallpapers are synonymous
		with the mid- 19 th century
		but did come back in fashion
		in the 20 th century.
		Most popular 1880-1900.
Wallpaper	Ochre or rich cream paper wallpaper, with loose, trailing	Mid to later 19 th century
	floral patterns in a pale blue grey – almost looks like	Style most popular 1860-
	watercolour – delicate.	1890.
Newspaper	Extracts of: THE TIMES.	Early-mid 19 th century
used to line	Sir James Graham (First Lord of the Admiralty) 1830-1834	covering period of 1830s to
over timber.	Home Secretary of the Home Office 1841 – 1846.	1850s.
	First Lord of the Admiralty 1852 – 1855.	
	,	
	Also mentioned Sir Rober Peel – who was Prime Minister	
	between 1834-1835 and 1841 – 1846. He died in 1850 – so	
	this fragment must be pre-1850 in date.	
	Also mentions the Whig party which cojoined with the Liberal	
	Party in the 1852 to 1859 period, so this newspaper is earlier	
	than the 1850s.	
Wallpaper	Grey background, with painted geometric, classical style –	Monochrome style of
	could be painted like panelling – some black detailing picked	wallpaper typical of Late
	out. The slight irregularities and smudges, show this was	Georgian and Regency
	block-printed by hand.	period. c.1811-1820.
Shutter	Boarded and framed shutter, with adze cut panels, raised to	Late 18 th or early 19 th century
fragments used	rear, flat to front. Pegged joints and tongue and grove – later	shutters – reused here
as panelling	19 th braces, nailed in place. Pine.	
Earlier	Small square panels with moulded styles and cross braces,	Later 17 th or early 18 th
panelling	adze cut panels, slightly raised, ogee and cavetto mouldings –	century panelling fragment
fragment used	oak.	reused here
as panelling.		. cused here
as pariening.	1	

These historic layers are of interest as they potentially push the initial date of this building back slightly from the 1832 date, as inscribed on the gutter hoppers — meaning that may not relate to a phase of remodelling but an event, like a marriage, or a new owner, marking a purchase. Being in situ as they are with the detail of the multiple phases of decorative schemes, does appear to suggest this large upscale shop space has been in existence since possibly as early as the 1810s or 1820s. Obviously old newspaper can be used to line the walls — so the dating is not exact but gives us a *terminus post quem* date, for the lining of this wall, with the initial shutters and planks. The earliest block-printed wallpaper has a distinct *Regency* aesthetic (c.1811 — 1820).

The opening was only minimally enlarged, so much of this fabric was left in situ and the woodwork was carefully cut through to maximise survival. It has now been boarded over, within the new scheme. No other work in this space was monitored.



FIGURE 28: EXTRACT OF THE TIMES NEWSPAPER, MENTIONING SIR JAMES GRAHAM AND SIR ROBER PEEL, AS WELL AS THE WHIG POLITICAL PARTY, LAID UNDER THE WOOD-EFFECT AND FLORAL WALL PAPERS.



FIGURE 29: THE EARLIEST LAYER OVER THE SHUTTERS, A REGENCY STYLE BLOCK-PRINTED WALLPAPER, OVERLAID BY FRAGMENTS OF NEWSPAPER.

4.4 Considering the Details of the Panelling in R2

Stylistically this panelling has elements present from both Type 3 and Type 9, likely another late 17th or early 18th century style. It retains the small panels synonymous with 17th century form, but its mouldings are now distinctly classical and simple, almost restrained. The profile and a photograph are included below. The front faces of each panel have a very slight raise, with a more marked raise to the rear, the panels are formed of planks, or individual slices of wood, hand cut. The mouldings may be applied later, and this may have been plain, which could suggest an attempt by someone to modernise or aggrandise an existing wall covering.

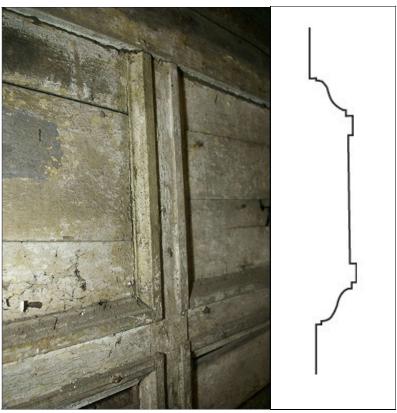


FIGURE 30: PROFILE OF THE OGEE/CAVETTO MOULDINGS ON THE RECYCLED PANELLING IN R2, THE MOULDINGS MAY BE ADDED LATER TO PLAIN STYLES. HENCE WHY THEY ARE PROUD.

4.5 UPDATED GROUND FLOOR PHASING FROM RECORDING

The monitoring of the works has allowed us to clarify the dating for certain sections of walling, as indicated in the below diagram. The assessment of the building largely remains the same, but we can clearly see that B2 is wholly a 17th century space built onto the corner of an earlier structure to the front and that the rear plot wall which staps out likely relates to No.23, one of the earlier medieval townhouses and No.25 has been extended into the alleyway in between. This adoption of a more public space may date to the later 17th or early 18th century judging by the stonework type of the stack, which was later adapted to serve No.25 (B2), the sides rebuilt in bricks around a new stove or similar. The remodel of the front block of the building, across at least two town-plots may be slightly earlier than first thought, judging by the evidence of the decorative layers uncovered in R2, the former shop floor-space, now tearoom.

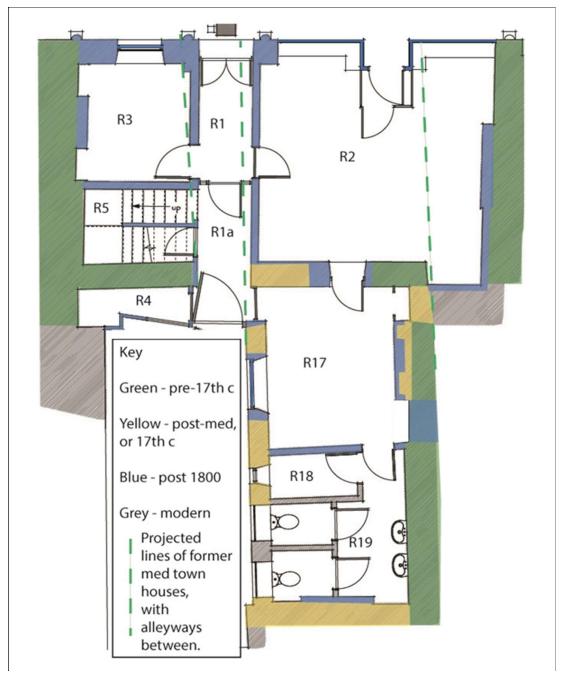


FIGURE 31: UPDATED GROUND FLOOR PHASING OF WALLS.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

The Bickford Centre occupies a mid-row plot on South Street, Great Torrington, within the medieval core of the town and the Conservation Area. The building is an amalgamation of at least two, if not three historic buildings which appear to have been joined and reconfigured in the early 19th century, forming a mixed-use building, with shop space to ground floor, offices to right and accommodation on the floors above; a characteristic which it retains to this day.

The Bickford Centre is valued for its positive contribution to South Street with its cohesive historic facade. However, in truth, the building is far more complex and arguably more valuable than it appears as it echoes the ancient medieval town plan, contains 17th century fabric, evidences the stylistic evolution of panelling in this region from c.1600-1832 via its numerous recycled panelled sections and also demonstrates the narrative historic and economic development of the life of the town.

The monitoring of the works has allowed us to clarify the dating for certain sections of walling, although the assessment of the building largely remains the same. We can now clearly see that B2 is wholly a 17th century space built onto the corner of an earlier structure to the front and that the rear plot wall which steps out likely relates to No.23, one of the earlier medieval townhouses and No.25 has been extended into the former medieval alleyway in between.

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APPENDIX 1: BUILDING PLANS, WITH NUMBERED WINDOWS AND DOORS TO BE READ WITH RECORDING TABLES

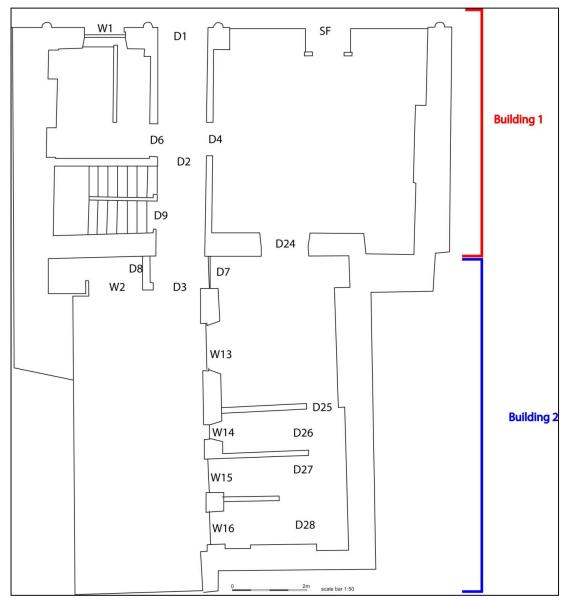


FIGURE 32: PLAN SHOWING GROUND FLOOR DOOR AND WINDOW NUMBERS.

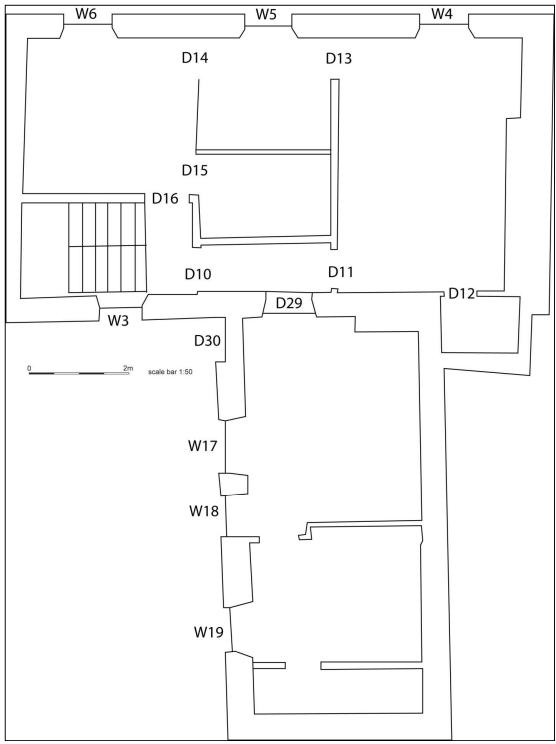


FIGURE 33: PLAN OF FIRST FLOOR DOORS AND WINDOWS.

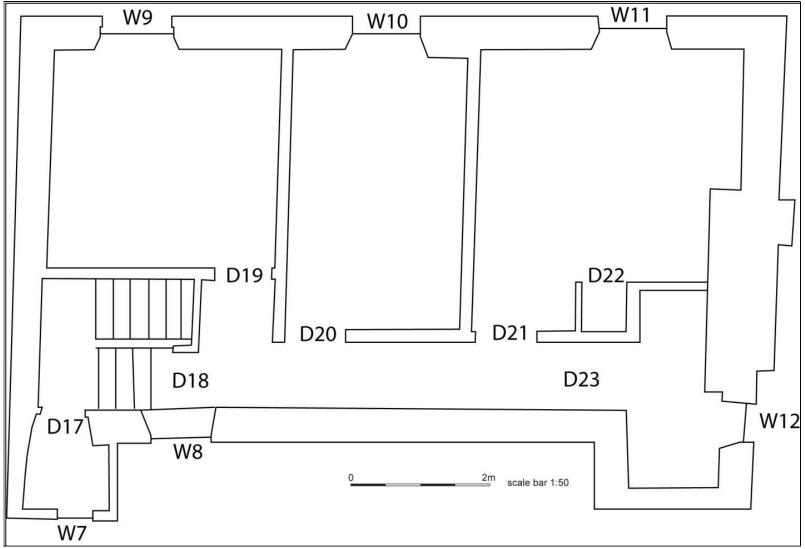


FIGURE 34: PLAN OF SECOND FLOOR WINDOWS AND DOORS.

APPENDIX 2: BUILDING RECORDING TABLES

BUILDING 1		General Description
Function/Summary:		Large 19 th century purpose-built mixed development of shop and accommodation,
		of fine 'townhouse' style with sash windows and classical detailing to the original
		shop front which has Tuscan pilasters.
Dating Evidence:		Style and form of building, architectural details, types of materials, historic map
		regression.
B1 Exterior		
B1 Elevation NORTH		Description
Fabric Description:		Three storey wall, two bays width, unpainted cement render on first and second
		floors. Ground floor enclosed in beaded plank framed timber structure.
Roof Covering		Shallow pitched slated roof with terracotta glazed ridge tiles. Two rendered axial
		stacks sit over the party walls to east and west.
Opening – Windows:	2	W3 - One wide chunky sash window, 6x6 panes, hornless frame to first floor, in
		wide sash box.
		W8 - One small sub-square casement window to the second floor, beaded frame,
		two light, two panes to each.
Openings - Doors	1	D3 - One fine double width doorway, offset to the west side. The wide beaded
		doorframe is integral to the beaded plank framed structure to the east. Within the
		frame is a large door, identical to those to the front, the paired doors have been
		strapped together with iron plate braces. Raised and fielded panels, upper glazed
		panes, frosted glass replacing original, large sheet repair nailed over bottom of
		door. Slate threshold slab to rear courtyard side. 18 th century style doors, but
		probably early 19 th century in date.
Drainage/Guttering		Cast iron guttering and downpipe.
Significant Details:		Large, beaded timber plank framed projection to mid-height between first and
		second floor comprises a historic long-drop toilet cubicle. Served by chunky lead
		piping, slated roof. Some cement render to sides.
		Long narrow timber plank beaded boarded structure built around ground floor,
		projecting forming a long narrow storeroom, slated roof. 12 integral glazed panes
		(W2) within framework.
Relationships:		The north elevation is built between the earlier block to the west and is partially
		obscured by the modern concrete and rendered block of flats built within this
		property's courtyard to the east side, but served by the adjacent property's access.
B1 Elevation SOUTH		Description
Fabric Description:		Relatively thin front wall of rubble stone, smooth rendered externally and painted.
		Three storeys, three window range. Plastered internally. Slight projecting plinth to
		base, thickly rendered painted black.
		2 bay shop fronts to west, single bay to east with entrance door and single sash
		window to office.
Roof Covering:		Shallow pitched slated roof with terracotta glazed ridge tiles. Two rendered axial
		stacks sit over the party walls to east and west.
Openings – Doors:	2	D1 - Pair of fine double doors to cross passage. Flush panelled to base, small deeply
		raised and fielded panel to centre and upper long glazed panel, reset with frosted
		glass, beaded to sides, wide beaded doorframe with integral rectangular fanlight
		above with beaded glazing bars forming geometric pattern, chunky round brass
		doorknob, two modern brass letter boxes cut in, modern locks and bolts. Large
		slate slab threshold to exterior side
		D5 - Modern panelled door to shop with upper glazed portion of six panes, modern
		brass handle and lock and letter box.
Opening – Windows:	1	W1 - Large sash window, hornless frame, moulded in narrow beaded frame but
		large single pane sashes to ground floor right.
		Three windows on first floor, all identical – W4, 5 and 6. 6x6 hornless sashes in
		beaded frames.
		Three windows on the second floor – W9 and 10 – horned squat 3x6 paned sashes,
		W11 a replacement white pvc double glazed window.

Drainage/Guttering	Cast iron guttering, moulded hopper with initials 'I.P.T.1832' and downpipe. Beaded barge boards and ogee moulded timber eaves board.
Significant Details:	2 bay shop fronts to west, single bay to east with entrance door and single sash window to office. Wide moulded sign painted timber hoarding supported above on shallow Tuscan pilasters, framing beaded moulded glazing bars to shop front. Fine pair of double doors to entrance with fanlight, further Tuscan pilaster frames the end of the elevation, flanking the single sash window east of the front doors.
Relationships:	The front wall is a rebuilt of probable 1832 date, built across two medieval town plots. The slight oblique angle it presents to both east and west party walls combined with its relatively thin width exhibits its later phasing.
B1 Elevation WEST	Description
Fabric Description	Gable end elevation, party wall to low second floor height is later 16 th or 17 th century, shows steeply pitched roofline over No.25, next door. Extended above and to south side in 19 th century rubble and brick. Blocked slit vent window with stone surround.
Relationships	The building is built up against the earlier 16 th /17 th century wall of No.25 South
	Street, a late medieval building. This was also formerly of lower three storeys height but was altered to two storeys in the 19 th century.
B1 Elevation EAST	Description
Fabric Description:	Gable end elevation, party wall to second floor, extended above in 19 th century rubble and brick. Axial flue forced into stone wall, rebuilt in brick.
Relationships	The building is built up against the likely 17 th century rear wall of No.21 South Street, a 1600s building with Victorian frontage along the street.

BUILDING 1		General Description		
Function/Summary:		Large 19 th century purpose-built mixed development of shop and accommodation, of		
		fine 'townhouse' style with sash windows and classical detailing to the original shop front which has Tuscan pilasters.		
Dating Evidence:		Style and form of building, architectural details, types of materials, historic map regression.		
Figure Numbers:				
INTERIOR				
		Ground Floor		
Room 1		Description		
Function:		Cross Passage		
Walls:		The south wall is solid, plastered. The east wall is a thick original partition, plastered and with beaded plank panelling, early 19 th century. The west wall is a later 19 th century		
		partition, awkwardly set to the front doors and plastered above but set with fine recycled, cut and refitted late 17 th or very early 18 th century panelling, with flat		
		rectangular panels and ogee moulded crosspieces and up-rights, ogee and stepped bead moulded top rail. Plaster skirting.		
		The north wall is a 20 th century glazed partition, with heavy glazed fire door on coiled anti-swing hinge.		
Floor:		Irregular floor surface, covered by rough carpet, probably slate slabs underneath.		
Ceiling:		Plastered and painted.		
Opening – Doors:	3	D1 - Fine pair of panelled front doors, three panels, large flush panel to base, small raised and fielded panel to centre and tall glazed panels above. Now set with modern frosted glass. These doors are 18 th century in style with raised and fielded panels but probably early 19 th century in date. With rectangular fanlight above with fine moulded glazing bars, the whole set in a chunky beaded frame. D2 - Door to room 1a, modern glazed fire door, in partition, 20 th century. D4 - Modern flat boarded fire door to Bickford Centre coffee/tearoom, room 2.		
6: 16: 15:11		D6 - Modern flat boarded door to kitchen, room 3.		
Significant Details:		Reset Late 17 th or very early 18 th century section of panelling to the west wall. This		
		partition has been altered in some way, from its original position, now on a marked		
		angle and awkwardly set with the front doorframe, clearly inserted. Did this replace an		

	earlier screen or even a part glazed shop partition?
Room 1A	Description
Function:	Cross Passage – Contiguous with the front part, room 1, divided by a modern partition.
Floor: Ceiling: Opening – Doors:	The west wall here is solid, plastered above, reset with a section of recycled early 1 century scratch-moulded panelling, with flat small square panels. To the east is a heavy lathe and plaster partition, with cob, beaded planks between doc to cellar cold store and stair, early 19 th century. The south wall is a modern glazed partition, with heavy glazed fire door (D2) on coil hydraulic hinge. To the north the rear wall of an earlier building has been breached and the space extended by a beaded wide plank framed structure. Irregular floor surface, covered by rough carpet, probably slate slabs underneath. Plastered and painted. D2 - Door to room 1, modern glazed fire door, in partition, 20 th century.
	Open doorway to staircase, room 5, with chunky bead-moulded frame, early 19 century. D3 - Fine double width early 19th century door. Beaded, raised and fielded panels. In straps brace the former pair of double doors, making a single door. Repaired to ba with plain panels. D7 - Plain four panel door to rear range, building 2, in forced opening, in beaded steppe frame, later 19th century. D8 - Plain four-panel later 19th century door to narrow store, room 4, beaded frame. D9 - Plain four-panel later 19th century door to cellar, in chunky plain frame but wi good earlier 19th century cupboard above with two panel moulded door and timb round knob and catch.
Significant Details:	The thick rear wall of the building has been breached to give access to the timb extension within the yard.
Room 2	Description
Function:	Former shop, now a community space.
Walls:	The east wall is a lathe and plaster partition, probably later 19 th century, clearly abutti the earlier wall to the south. The south wall is mostly taken up with plate glass shop facia, but to both east and we ends there is some beaded plank panelling and this returns under the east windo which also has a good chunky plank sill. The west wall is occupied by a large shallow stack, actually projecting from next door; the south side original shop tiling can be seen under the current wood chip wallpaped defined by a pattern of squares. The north wall to the east end is a heavy slightly battered construction, conforming the proportions of building 2, to the rear. It is lime plastered above with beaded pla panelling to half height. It has been covered by woodchip wallpaper. A doorway (D2 has been breached in this to building 2. To the west end there is a deep alcove whi appears to be infill, this too has plank boarded panelling to the lower half and wallpapered with woodchip.
Floor:	Solid floor, carpeted.
Ceiling: Opening – Doors:	Plastered and painted. D4 - Modern flat boarded fire door to room 1, cross passage. D5 - Relatively modern two panel door, one plain panel below, large, glazed panel abowith six panes. Modern brass letter box and chrome handle and lock. This sits in composite glazed lobby, made from several sections of glazed panelling and recycle doors. D24 - modern flat boarded door with single large wire-glass panel.
Opening – Windows:	SF - The modern plate glass facia now replaces the historic small pane windows but within beaded frame with ovolo moulded glazing bars to side and Tuscan half-roun pilasters to each end and framing the doorway. The windows are topped with a mouldwide timber hoarding, currently sign written as 'Bickford Centre'.
Significant Features:	The clear phasing indicated by the north wall, with a separate block to the east sic infilled between No.23 and No.25 suggests a more complex series of historic town plo

		having been combined in the 19 th century.
Room 3		Description
Function:		Currently used as a kitchen, formerly an office.
Walls:		Plastered and painted, lining paper.
Floor:		Solid, covered by modern lino sheeting.
Ceiling:		Plastered and painted.
Opening – Doors:	1	D6 - Modern boarded door to room 1, the cross passage.
	1	W1 - Large hornless sash window, chunky timber frame, beaded. Single pane glazing.
Opening – Windows:		Early to mid-19 th century.
Fireplace:		Small hearth in east wall, within shallow stack. The fireplace is now superficially blocked.
тпершее.		It has a wide beaded plank surround, with roundels to the corners and a simple plain mantle shelf.
Significant Details:		The stack, built within and partly set into the earlier party wall is flanked by two alcoves.
J		To the north this has its original panelled cupboard below with arched glazed display cabinet above. To the south the cupboard survives but its panelled doors have been replaced and the display cabinet has been lost, the beaded alcove surviving.
Room 4		Description
Function:		Wooden boarded shed/store to the rear.
Walls:		Beaded wide even width plank boards form the narrow shed-like structure to the north
		and west. Integral 12 glass panes (W2) to north wall.
		The walls to the south and east are stone rubble, that to the south heavy rubble, quite thick, of unknown date, to the east much older, on a heavier semi-coursed base and curving, belonging to the adjacent house, No.21, as this is the back of a 17 th century stair turret.
Floor:		Slate flagged and cobbled floor, patched with concrete.
Opening – Doors:	1	D8 - One door in west wall, beaded frame. Plain four panel 19 th century door.
Significant Details:		There appears to be a blocked opening in the south wall, with a chunky weathered timber lintel, the wall abutted by the stair on the south side, clearly blocking this opening, suggesting phasing.
		Staircase
Room 5		Description
Function:		Staircase and Half-Landing – Ground Floor
Walls:		Plastered and painted walls, with lining paper. Angled to follow up the first flight of stairs, between the cross-passage and half landing, is a run of beaded plank panelling. The south partition wall between the stairs and room 3, the former office is made of large planks. Plastered over.
Stairs:		Heavy oak beams carry the half-landings, and carriage braces carry the stairs, joints spiked, these heavy timbers appear to be oak. The stairs themselves are of heavy plank treads and risers. There are two distinct phases of repair, one of fairly thick pine planks, likely later 19 th or early 20 th century, one of very thin modern pine and tanalised blocks, a very recent repair. The first flight has a section of moulded handrail, now attached to modern plasterboard sheeting, but from the half landing and above rises a fine banister of turned vase balusters with plain square post newel with moulded capitols and moulded chunky handrail, ramped to some newels. The stair does not have the sweeping elegance or proportions typical of the period as it seems it was made to fit the space and has more in common with earlier 18 th or even 17 th closed string stairs than a typical early 19 th century structure.
Ceiling:		The undersides of the stairs as they rise are plastered, cohesive with the ovolo moulded stair plate.
Openings – Doors:		There is a beaded moulded doorframe to the base of the stairs, slight scars to the sides for hinges suggest there may have been a door here, enclosing the stairs.
Significant Details:		Solid wall to the north, chunky stone rubble wall, thicker to base, and slightly battered, ledge or step back at first floor level. The beaded skirting runs up and over this ledge. First Floor
Room 6		Description
Function:		Staircase and Landing – First Floor

Walls:		Solid wall to the east, older party wall, plastered and painted. Solid wall to the north, chunky stone rubble wall, thicker to base, and slightly battered, ledge or step back at first floor level. The beaded skirting runs up and over this ledge. Solid partition wall to the west, probably a chunky cob partition, or possibly even brick. Thinner historic partition wall to the south, below at ground floor this is constructed of wide thick planks.
Stairs:		Carriage braces carry the stairs, joints spiked; these heavy timbers appear to be oak. The stairs themselves are of heavy plank treads and risers. The second flight to the landing and the first-floor landing to next half landing have two fine banisters of turned vase balusters with plain square post newel with moulded capitols and moulded chunky handrail, ramped to some newels. The stair does not have the sweeping elegance or proportions typical of the period as it seems it was made to fit the space and has more in common with earlier 18 th or even 17 th closed string stairs than a typical early 19 th century structure.
Ceiling:		The underside of the stairs as they rise is plastered, cohesive with the ovolo moulded stair plate.
Floor:		Boarded floor, carpeted.
Opening – Doors:	2	D10 – Plain modern doorframe with plain rectangular fanlight above leading to R6a, a short corridor which accesses the first floor flat and building 2. D16 – Modern flat boarded unpainted door to first floor flat, modern copy doorframe, moulded.
Opening – Windows:	1	W3 – Sash window, in chunky sash box. Hornless frame, 6x6 panes.
Significant Details:		N/A
Room 6A		Description
Function:		Short corridor to the north side, leading to first floor flat off first floor landing.
Walls:		Thin modern partition to south and west, forming modern first floor flat space. North wall, solid, thick rubble wall, plastered and painted, with lining paper. Low beaded skirting to part of north wall.
Floor:		Boarded floor, carpeted.
Ceiling:		Plastered and painted.
Opening – Doors:		D10 - Plain modern doorframe with plain rectangular fanlight above leading to R6a, a short corridor which accesses the first floor flat and building 2. D11 - Modern flat boarded painted door to first floor flat, modern doorframe. D29 - Modern flat boarded unpainted door to first floor flat, modern doorframe.
Opening – Windows:		N/A
Significant Details:		N/A
J :: 1 = 23231		First Floor Flat
Room 7		Description
Function:		Living Room/Sitting Room
Walls:		Plastered and painted. Ogee moulded skirting to west, north and south walls. Modern copy skirting to east wall.
Floor:		Boarded floors, carpeted.
Ceiling:		Plastered and painted.
Opening – Doors:	2	D11 - Door to 6a, corridor. Modern painted flat boarded door. D12 - six panel ogee moulded cupboard door, 18 th century in style but probably early 19 th century. Cupboard marked up at room 7a, used as coat closet. D13 - Door to Room 8, kitchen. Ogee moulded four-panel door, brass doorknob and iron lock. Early 19 th century.
Opening – Windows:	1	W4 - One hornless 6x6 paned sash window to the south wall, in narrow beaded frame. Slate sill.
Significant Details:		Large stack to west wall, north end. Timber plank surround with mantle shelf and roundels to corners, early 19 th century, or Regency in style. Fine cast iron grate, with foliate mouldings, later 19 th century with green glazed tiles.
Room 8		Description
Function:		Kitchen.
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Walls:		Plastered and painted. Modern skirting in heritage beaded style.
Floor:		Boarded floors.
Ceiling:		Plastered and painted.
Opening – Doors:		D13 - Door to room 7 to west. Ogee moulded four-panel door, brass doorknob and iron
,		lock. Early 19 th century.
		D14 - Door to room 8 to east. Modern historic copy six panel door.
Opening –	1	W5 - One hornless 6x6 paned sash window to the south wall, in narrow beaded frame.
Windows:		Slate sill.
Significant Details:		N/A
Room 9		Description
Function:		Bedroom.
Walls:		Plastered and painted. Older beaded skirting to east wall and north wall.
Floor:		Boarded floors.
Ceiling:		Plastered and painted.
Opening – Doors:		D14 - Door to room 8 to west. Modern historic copy six panel door.
		D15 - Door to shower room, room 10 to west. Modern historic copy six panel door.
		D16 - Door to room 6 to north, D12. Plain flat boarded modern fire door, unpainted.
Opening –	1	W6 - One hornless 6x6 paned sash window to the south wall, in narrow beaded frame.
Windows:		Slate sill.
Significant Details:		N/A
Room 10		Description
Function:		Shower Room
Walls:		Plastered and tiled. Modern partitions.
Floor:		Boarded floor.
Ceiling:		Plastered and painted.
Opening – Doors:		D15 - Door to room 9, bedroom. Modern heritage style six panel fire door.
Significant Details:		N/A
		Staircase
Room 11		Description
Function:		Half landing to second floor
Walls:		Plastered and painted, beaded skirting which rises with the stairs, some lining paper to
		certain walls.
Stairs:		Carriage braces carry the stairs, joints spiked; these heavy timbers appear to be oak. The
		stairs themselves are of heavy plank treads and risers. The third flight to the landing and
		the fourth flight landing to next half landing have two fine banisters of turned vase
		balusters with plain square post newel with moulded capitols and moulded chunky
		handrail, ramped to across the landing.
		The stair does not have the sweeping elegance or proportions typical of the period as it
		seems it was made to fit the space and has more in common with earlier 18 th or even
		17 th closed string stairs than a typical early 19 th century structure.
Ceiling:		Plastered and painted.
Openings – Doors:	2	D17 - Fine door to room 11a, on the north wall. This is very narrow, with deeply reeded
		frame. The door is of 18 th century character, six flat ogee moulded panels, with black
		Bakelite doorknob and Yale lock cut in.
		D18 – Plain flat boarded door to modern flat wall to second floor landing, in modern
		plasterboard partition.
Openings –	1	W8 - Small sub-square casement window, beaded glazing bars, coiled catches. 2 panes to
Windows:		each casement. 19 th century.
Significant Details:		N/A
Room 11a		Description
Function:		Long drop toilet, leading off half landing
Walls:		Painted lime plaster over massive, beaded planks.
Floor:		Carpeted boarded floor.
Ceiling:		Plastered and painted.
Opening – Doors:	1	D17 - Fine door to room 11a, on the north wall. This is very narrow, with deeply reeded
		frame. The door is of 18 th century character, but probable early 19 th century date, six flat
		ogee moulded panels, with black Bakelite doorknob and Yale lock cut in. On the rear side

		panels are slightly raised, plainer. Similar to cupboard door in room 7.
Opening –	1	W7 – Small single light window, 2 panes, chunky glazing bars, early 19 th century. Chunky
Windows:	_	beaded frame.
Significant Details:		Three large sections of recycled panelling have been set to the east, west and north
		walls. This panelling is later 17 th or early 18 th century in date, deeply raised and fielded,
		with chunky ovolo moulding to sides, very chunky and thick, likely oak planks.
		Damaged in places and re-pegged to corners, nailed and patched. Scarring beneath this
		panelling showing there was a timber box here, presumably covering some kind of toilet
		structure, later replaced by the early 20th century high level cistern flush toilet, with
		chain flush pull.
		Second Floor Apartment
Room 12		Description
Function:		Hallway
Walls:		Plastered and painted beaded skirting boards to north wall.
Floor:		Boarded, carpeted.
Ceiling:		Plastered and painted.
Openings – Doors:	5	D14 - Plain flat boarded door to modern flat wall to second floor landing, in modern
		plasterboard partition.
		D18 - 20 th century copy 'heritage' style door in modern moulded frame.
		D19 - 20 th century copy 'heritage' style door in modern moulded frame.
		D21 - 20 th century copy 'heritage' style door in modern moulded frame.
		D23 – Wide and low two panel ogee moulded 18 th century door, with flat panels, scarring
		for LH hinges, but now reset on modern hinges, in narrow ogee moulded and beaded
Significant Dotails:		frame, also low. N/A
Significant Details: Room 13		Description
Function:		Bedroom
Walls:		Plastered and painted beaded skirting boards to south and west wall. Possibly blocked
vvalis.		fireplace to east wall, plastered over.
Floor:		Boarded, carpeted.
Ceiling:		Plastered and painted.
Opening – Doors:	1	D19 - 20 th century copy 'heritage' style door in modern moulded frame.
Opening –	1	W9 - 3x6 paned horned chunky sash window, quite modern in style, probably a
Windows:		replacement, beaded frame.
Significant Details:		N/A
Room 14		Description
Function:		Kitchen
Walls:		Plastered and painted. The south wall has a deep full height recessed window opening
		Beaded skirting boards partly respect this opening, but to the west side there are boxed
		in pipes or wires. Beaded skirting to the east wall.
		Wall to west obscured by fitted kitchen units and tiling.
Floor:		Boarded floor, lino covering.
Ceiling:		Plastered and painted.
Opening – Doors:	1	D20 – Tall door in moulded frame, 20 th century but of 'heritage' style.
Opening –	1	W10 – 3x6 paned horned chunky sash window, quite modern in style, probably a
Windows:		replacement, beaded frame.
Significant Details:		N/A
Room 15		Description
Function:		Sitting Room
Walls:		Plastered, painted, and also partly wallpapered. Beaded skirting to all walls.
Floor:		Boarded floor, carpeted.
Ceiling:		Plastered and painted.
Opening – Doors:	2	D21 – Tall door in moulded frame, 20 th century but of 'heritage' style.
		D22 - Modern plain boarded door to cupboard.
Opening –	1	W11 – white Upvc sash window style double glazing.
Windows:		NI/A
Significant Details:		N/A

Room 16		Description
Function:		Bathroom
Walls:		Plastered and painted.
Floor:		Boarded floor.
Ceiling:		Plastered and painted.
Opening – Doors:	1	D23 – Wide and low two panel ogee moulded 18 th century door, with flat panels, scarring for LH hinges, but now reset on modern hinges, in narrow ogee moulded and beaded frame, also low.
Opening – Windows:	1	W12 - Small single pane casement window to north-west corner.
Significant Details:		N/A

BUILDING 2		Description
Function/Summary:		Rear Service block of 17 th century date, to demolished late medieval or early 1600s plot. Two storeys, much altered in early 19 th century when the front building was
		developed.
Dating Evidence:		Style and form of building, architectural details, types of materials, historic map regression.
Figure Numbers:		
B2 Exterior		
B2 Elevation NORTH		Description
Fabric Description:		Thick stone rubble wall, possibly slightly battered to base. Rubble narrow 19 th century stack added to south face, serving range. Exposed stone to rear side, internally plastered.
Roof Covering:		Very shallow, relatively modern pitched corrugated sheeting roof. Timber barge boards to sides.
Openings –		N/A
Significant Details:		N/A
Relationships:		Cohesive with the east and west walls of the block, 17 th century in date, altered in the 19 th century.
B2 Elevation SOUTH		Description
Fabric Description:		Very thick wall, now internal, plastered to both sides.
Openings – Doors:	2	Two forced doorways, to ground (D1) and first floor (D6), both set with modern frames and modern boarded doors.
Significant Details:		This thick wall rises to above first floor height, but at second floor has been extended upwards likely with 19 th century rubble, much narrower. The wall is battered much thicker to base.
Relationships:		It is not clear due to external and internal wall treatments if this wall is the former rear wall of a medieval block which has been demolished or the probable 17 th century service block to the rear, which was built adjacent to it, within its rear courtyard.
B2 Elevation WEST		Description
Fabric Description:		Solid wall, presumed stone rubble, internally plastered on east face. Blind, in its current state. Two storeys, four bays length.
Roof Covering:		Very shallow, relatively modern pitched corrugated sheeting roof. Timber barge boards to sides.
Blocked Openings -	1	There is one known blocked doorway on the ground floor south end, now forming a cupboard.
Significant Details:		Large stack to the south end, blocked fireplace.
Relationships:		Part of probable 17 th century rear service block, cohesive with north and east walls.
B2 Elevation EAST		Description
Fabric Description:		Solid wall, stone rubble, exterior unpainted cement render, internally plastered. Two storeys, four bay range.
Roof Covering		Very shallow, relatively modern pitched corrugated sheeting roof. Timber barge boards to sides.
Drainage/Guttering		Series of mismatched plastic guttering and downpipes.
Openings – Windows:	7	Four to the ground floor:

		W13 - One large casement window, beaded glazing bars, coiled catches, narrow beaded frame, early 19 th century. W14- One single pane metal framed window to centre. W15 and W16 - Two mid-20 th century metal-framed toilet windows to north, large fixed frosted glass pane with small hopper casements above for ventilation. Three to the first floor: W17 - One modern two light white pvc casement window to south. W18 - One small 19 th century single pane casement, bead moulded in beaded frame, with wooden turned knob to centre in small, raised opening. W19 - One large two light modern transom style timber window to north end, fixed panes below, small hopper casements above. 20 th century.
Openings – Doors:	2	Two doors to the south end. D7 - One blocked doorway opening to the south-east corner of room 17, leading back into building 1, plain four panel later 19 th century door. D30 - One blocked but visible doorway to the first floor, slightly offset to that below. Good opening with neat quoins to side, very heavy oak timber lintels, one possibly reset with some ovolo moulded carving, but weathered and damaged. Set with early 19 th century door, uneven width planks, chunky ledging bars, small pane window cut into central plank. Strap hinges with spearheads, replaced, iron pintles to chunky beaded frame.
Significant Details:		N/A
Relationships:		Part of probable 17 th century rear service block, cohesive with north and east walls.

BUILDING 2	General Description
Function/Summary:	Rear Service block to demolished late medieval or early 1600s plot. Two storeys, much altered in early 19 th century when the front building was developed. First floor converted to a studio flat in 20 th century.
Dating Evidence:	Style and form of building, architectural details, types of materials, historic map regression.
Figure Numbers:	
INTERIOR	
	Ground Floor
Room 17	Description
Function:	Heated service room of unknown function.
Walls:	Lime plastered walls, covered by recycled sections of fine 17 th and 18 th century panelling, divided by pilasters, several different styles cut and reset together. Clearly cut and reset, many of the sections are nailed or re-pegged at the corners, clearly fitted here in the 19 th century, as a doorway has then been knocked through from the then newly built building 1. The south wall is solid, slightly battered, the north wall is a thick cob and lathe partition, the west wall is solid, the east wall is solid.
Floor:	Solid, carpeted.
Ceiling:	Plastered and painted.
Openings – Doors: 3	D24 – Modern flay boarded door with wired single glazed pane, chrome handle modern hinges, in modern narrow frame to south wall, in forced opening. D25 – Fine 18 th century or early 19 th century door. Ogee moulded six flat panels, the upper two cut out and frosted glass inserted. Reset on modern hinges, black Bakelite doorknob. (D7 – Boarded on room side but still in opening, leading formerly to Building 1. Later 19 th century plain four panel doors.)
Openings – 1 Windows:	W13 - One large casement window, beaded glazing bars, coiled catches, narrow beaded frame, early 19 th century. Below this is a flat panelled section of window seating, early 19 th century. Above the window is a small inset fanlight, very crude with central mullion, two clear modern panes of glass have been inserted, this may be because the 19 th century casement did not fill the larger opening from a larger earlier window, either a typically tall transom or even a mullioned window.
Fireplace:	There is a large stack here, enclosed by alcoves to north and south, that to the south with a reset narrow 17 th century panelled door, to a shallow plastered cupboard with shelves,

	sitting in a blocked doorway.
	To the north reset with two 18 th century ogee moulded flat panelled cupboard doors. The
	fireplace itself is boarded over. 17 th century panelling above the fireplace heavily cut and patched.
Significant Details:	N/A
Room 18	Description
Function:	Storeroom - 20 th century space formed from larger rear service space.
Walls:	Plastered and painted walls.
Floor:	Solid floor, covered by lino.
Ceiling:	Plastered and painted.
Opening – Doors:	D26 – Three panel early to middle 20 th century door, with Bakelite black doorknob, modern hinges.
Opening – Windows:	W14- One single pane metal framed window to centre. Quarry tiled window opening, steeply sloping sides, an enlarged air vent, indicative of former semi-agricultural or possibly 'stables' function of this former service block.
Significant Features:	N/A
Room 19	Description
Function:	Large unheated 17 th century service space, with later 19 th century stack.
Walls:	Modern plastered and painted.
Floor:	Solid floor, covered by lino.
Ceiling:	Plastered and painted.
Opening – Doors:	D27 and D28 – Two mid-20 th century plain boarded toilet doors, within modern mdf toilet cubicle partitions.
Opening – Windows:	W15 and W16 - Two mid-20 th century metal-framed toilet windows to north, large fixed frosted glass pane with small hopper casements above for ventilation.
Stack:	Wide shallow stack built onto the north wall, beaded moulding to plaster corners. There is
	a scar suggesting large blocked hearth and timber surround.
Significant Details:	Mid-20 th century cupboard built into west alcove to side of stack.
	Large air vent in stack, where an open hearth has been blocked.
	The toilets and sink themselves are 'vintage' being of mid to late 20 th century style.
	Inserted in the 1960s. Two mid-20 th century toilet cubicles have been built around them
	against the east wall.
	First Floor
Room 20	Description
Function:	First floor space, converted to 20 th century studio flat and then stripped out.
	19 th century conversion to accommodation, former loft or stores over service spaces.
Walls:	Plastered and painted walls.
Floor:	Boarded floor, two different ages of planks.
Ceiling:	Plastered and painted, lathe and plaster, again two different phases, lower ceiling to north end, some modern plasterboard to sections.
Openings – Doors:	2 D29 – Modern unpainted boarded door in modern unmoulded frame.
	D30 - One blocked but visible doorway to the first floor, slightly offset to that below. Good
	opening with neat quoins to side, very heavy oak timber lintels, one possibly reset with
	some ovolo moulded carving, but weathered and damaged. Set with early 19th century
	door, uneven width planks, chunky ledging bars, small pane window cut into central plank.
	Strap hinges with spear-head shaped ends, replaced, iron pintles to chunky beaded frame.
Openings –	W17 - One modern two light white pvc casement window to south.
Windows:	W18 - One small 19 th century single pane casement to centre in small deeply sloped
	opening, possibly an enlarged air vent like on the ground floor.
	W19 - One large two light modern transom style timber window to north end, fixed panes
_	below, small hopper casements above.
Stack:	Wide shallow stack built onto the north wall, beaded moulding to plaster corners.
Significant Details:	A late 20 th century bath, toilet and sink have been fitted to the north end.
	A lathe and plaster partition probably 19 th century runs across the space, east-west, this
	has been mostly demolished.
	There is a late 20 th century part fitted kitchen to the east and west walls to the south end.
	The south-west corner has been boarded over the pipe work from the second-floor

bathroom running down in the void, this exposes a large section of the rear wall of
building 1, showing some heavy rubble, getting lighter and looser built as it rises, patched
with the odd brick.

APPENDIX 3: PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE 2016 & 2018



- 1. LEFT: THE REAR, NORTH ELEVATION OF THE BICKFORD CENTRE; FROM THE NORTH.
- 2. RIGHT: LOOKING OUT INTO THE COURTYARD THROUGH THE REAR DOORWAY; FROM THE SOUTH.



- 3. LEFT: DETAIL OF THE PAIRED DOUBLE DOORS, STRAPPED TOGETHER; FROM THE SOUTH-WEST.
- 4. Right: The four panel, moulded 19^{th} century door to Building 2, from the south-east.



LEFT: THE DOOR TO R4, FROM WITHIN R1a, THE REAR PART OF THE CROSS PASSAGE; FROM THE SOUTH-WEST.
 RIGHT: PLAIN FOUR PANEL 19TH CENTURY DOOR TO ROOM 4; FROM THE WEST, SOUTH-WEST



7. LEFT: THE EAST WALL OF **R1**A, WITH THE DOOR TO THE COLD STORE AND THE STAIRCASE; FROM THE NORTH-WEST.

8. RIGHT: VIEW FROM THE REAR DOOR OF THE CROSS PASSAGE LOOKING TO THE FRONT DOORS; FROM THE NORTH.



9. Fine 18^{th} century panelling, reset here to the west wall; from the north-east.



10. The plain beaded plank panelling, 1803, to the east of the corridor; from the north-west. 11.



12. LEFT: THROUGH THE CROSS PASSAGE FROM THE FRONT DOORS TO THE REAR DOOR; FROM THE SOUTH



13. THE SASH WINDOW IN THE SOUTH WALL, WITHIN BEADED OPENING; FROM THE NORTH-EAST.



14. VIEW FROM THE OFFICE OUT OF THE DOOR TO THE MODERN DOOR OPPOSITE, LEADING TO R2; FROM THE EAST, NORTH-EAST.



15. THE MODERN PLATE GLASS FACIA OF R2, WITH A RECYCLED COMBINATION OF DOORS AND FRAMEWORK FORMING A SMALL LOBBY; FROM THE EAST-NORTH-EAST.



16. THE SURVIVING BEADED PLANK PANELLING UNDER WINDOW AND TO SOUTH WALL, SOUTH-EAST CORNER OF R2; FROM THE NORTH.



17. THE SURVIVING BEADED PLANK PANELLING IN THE NORTH-EAST CORNER OF R2, RUNNING INTO THE FORCED DOORWAY OPENING,
PAPERED OVER WITH WOODCHIP WALLPAPER; FROM THE SOUTH-WEST.



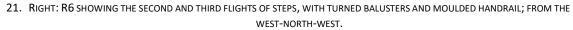
18. RIGHT: THE MOULDED HANDRAIL SERVING THE FIRST FLIGHT AND THE NEWEL POST TO THE HALF LANDING, R5; FROM THE SOUTH-EAST.



19. THE THICK SECTION OF GROUND FLOOR WALL, SHOWING A LEDGE DESIGNED FOR A FIRST FLOOR, SHOWING THIS STAIRCASE IS INSERTED INTO AN EARLIER SECTION OF BUILDING; FROM THE SOUTH-WEST.



20. LEFT: THE SASH WINDOW IN R6, THE FIRST FLOOR LANDING, A HORNLESS SASH, IN A CHUNKY MOULDED SASH BOX; FROM THE SOUTHWEST.





22. LEFT & RIGHT: ROOM 6A, THE SHORT SECTION OF CORRIDOR AND THE FORCED DOOR TO BUILDING 2; FROM THE EAST.



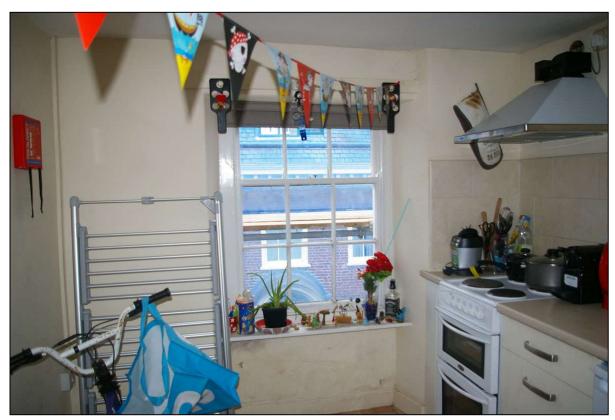
23. LEFT: THE THIRD FLIGHT OF STAIRS, SHOWING THE MOULDED HANDRAIL AND TURNED BALUSTERS; FROM THE SOUTH-WEST.24. RIGHT: R11 AND THE DOOR TO THE LONG-DROP TOILET WHICH PROJECTS OFF THE BACK OF THE BUILDING. THE DOOR IS A SIX PANEL WITH DEEPLY REEDED FRAME; FROM THE SOUTH.



25. THE SMALL, TWO LIGHT CASEMENT WINDOW WHICH LIGHTS THE SECOND FLOOR LANDING; FROM THE SOUTH-EAST.



26. RIGHT: THE LATER HORNED SASH WINDOW WHICH LIGHTS R13; FROM THE NORTH-WEST.



27. THE LATER HORNED SASH WINDOW WHICH LIGHTS THE KITCHEN, R14. ALSO SHOWING AN AWKWARD STEP IN THE WALL, THICKER TO THE WEST AND MAY SUGGEST INFILL BETWEEN BUILDINGS, FURTHER PHASING; FROM THE NORTH.



28. THE PVC SASH EFFECT MODERN WINDOW FITTED TO THE WESTERNMOST WINDOW IN THE FRONT WALL OF THE SECOND FLOOR LEVEL, ROOM 15; FROM THE NORTH, NORTH-WEST.



 $29.\ \ W13,19^{\text{\tiny TH}}\ \text{CENTURY CASEMENT WITH GLASS FILLET ABOVE, INFILLING AN ORIGINALLY TALLER OPENING; FROM THE EAST.}$



30. R17, showing reset 17^{th} century panelling sections on the walls; from the south-west.



31. W13, with recycled and reset 18^{th} century panelled sections to the sides, shutters, cut and nailed shut and window seat; from the west.



32. Reset 17^{TH} century panelled cupboard door in R17; from the east.



33. The 18^{TH} or early 19^{TH} century beaded, flat panelled cupboard doors to the north of the stack in R17; from the east.



34. Left & Right: D25, between R17 and R19, 18th century style door with two glass panes inserted; from the southeast and north.



35. Left: R18, the mid- 20^{TH} century cupboard structure; from the west. 36. Right: R19, with stack on north wall and 1960s toilet cubicles to the east wall; from the south-west.



 $37.\ \ W15$, one of the metal framed crittal-style windows in room 19; from the west.



38. Left: Air vent set into the former hearth in the north wall of R19; from the south-west.

39. Right: Room 6a, which links Building 1 to the first floor of Building 2, via D29; from the east.



40. D29, LOOKING INTO THE FIRST FLOOR OF BUILDING 2, ROOM 20; FROM THE SOUTH.



41. ROOM 20, SHOWING THE REMOVAL OF PARTITIONS INSTALLED IN THE MID- 20^{TH} CENTURY TO FORM A STUDIO STYLE FLAT; FROM THE SOUTH.



42. The East wall, room 20, showing W17, W18 and W19; from the south-west.



 $43. \ \ \text{The south party wall between Building 1} \ \text{and Building 2}, with forced door, D29; from the north.$



44. GOOD LATER 18TH OR EARLY 19TH CENTURY DOOR, D30, NAILED SHUT IN BOARDED OVER OPENING IN THE EAST WALL OF ROOM 20; FROM THE WEST-NORTH-WEST (WITH FLASH).



45. LONG VIEW DOWN THE EAST WALL OF ROOM 20; FROM THE NORTH-WEST.



46. W19, showing the lowered window seat behind the bath; from the north-west.



47. W18; FROM THE WEST-NORTH-WEST.



 $\textbf{48. W17, Showing modern double glazing in deep opening, with window seat below and chunky timber lintel; from the North-West \\$



49. THE NARROW BRICK RENDERED STACK BUILT ONTO THE EARLIER HEAVY STONE RUBBLE WEST WALL OF ROOM 20; FROM THE EAST.



 $50. \ \,$ The long west wall of room 20; from the north-east.



51. THE BEADED SKIRTING, IN ROOM 20, VICTORIAN IN STYLE WHICH RUNS ALONG THE WEST AND NORTH WALLS OF BR4; FROM THE EAST.



52. R20, the beaded skirting runs behind, and is cut by, the mid- 20^{TH} century toilet suggesting it may be Victorian or Edwardian; from the south-west.

APPENDIX 4: FURTHER PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORDING OF PANELLING 2018/2019



53. THE NORTH AND EAST WALL, WITH 1M SCALE; FROM THE SOUTH-WEST.



54. The east wall and W13 with 2 x 1m scales; from the west.



55. The East and south wall, with W13 and D7, with 2 x 1m scales; from the north-west



56. The south wall, with 2 x 1m scale and D7 and D24; from the north.



57. The south and west walls, D24 and cupboard, with 1m scale; from the north-east.



 $58. \ \ \text{The West Wall, With 1} \text{M Scale, With cupboard, blocked fireplace and cupboard to North; from the East.}$



 $59. \ \ \, \text{The West and North Walls, With 2} \, x \, 1 \text{M} \, \text{Scale, With D25 and Blocked Fireplace and Cupboard; from the South-East.}$



 $60. \ \,$ The reset panels above D25 on the north wall; from the south.



61. THE WOODEN CORNICE TO THE NORTH WALL; FROM THE EAST-SOUTH-EAST.



62. THE TYPE 8 TOP PANELS ON THE NORTH WALL; FROM THE SOUTH.



63. DETAIL OF THE BOLECTION MOULDINGS TO THE PANELLING; FROM THE SOUTH-WEST.



64. THE CUT AND DAMAGED SECTION OF PANELLING, WITH 1M SCALE; FROM THE SOUTH.



65. LEFT: THE SCRATCH MOULDED PANELS; FROM THE SOUTH.66. RIGHT: THE OGEE MOULDED PANELS; FROM THE SOUTH.



67. LEFT: THE END PILASTER OF THE NORTH WALL TO THE EAST, TYPE 5, WITH PLAIN PLANKS IN THE CORNERS; FROM THE SOUTH.
68. RIGHT: THE EAST WALL AT THE NORTH END, WITH THE PILASTERS AND RESET SECTIONS OF PANELLING; FROM THE WEST.



69. THE RAGGED JOINTS BETWEEN THE SECTIONS OF PANELLING ON THE EAST WALL; FROM THE WEST



70. The panel under the window seat and W13, with 1m scale, this type 9 panel is likely 19^{th} century; from the west.



71. LEFT: THE CHUNKY BEAD MOULDING UNDER THE WINDOW SEAT, ON THE EAST WALL; FROM THE NORTH-WEST.72. RIGHT: THE PANELLED SHUTTERS TO THE NORTH SIDE OF THE WINDOW, W13, WITH 1M SCALE; FROM THE SOUTH-SOUTH-WEST.



73. LEFT: THE PANELLED SHUTTERS TO THE SOUTH SIDE OF W13, WITH 1M SCALE; FROM THE NORTH-NORTH-EAST.

74. RIGHT: W13, ITSELF BEADED, WITH COILED CATCHES; FROM THE NORTH-NORTH-EAST.



75. THE EAST WALL AT THE SOUTH END, WITH D7 AND 1M SCALE; FROM THE WEST.



76. THE DIFFERENT WOODEN CORNICES MEETING IN THE SOUTH-EAST CORNER OF THE ROOM; FROM THE NORTH-WEST.



77. THE SOUTH WALL, EAST END, WITH 1M SCALE, D7 AND D24, SHOWING THE WATER DAMAGE TO THIS WALL; FROM THE NORTH.



78. THE COMPLEX DEEP CORNICE OF OGEE, CAVETTO, OVOLO AND BEADING, ALONG THE SOUTH WALL; FROM THE WEST-NORTH-WEST.



79. LAYERS OF HISTORIC PAINTWORK, SHOWING A DEEP PINKISH TERRACOTTA, A CHARTREUSE AND THE EARLIEST, A FOREST GREEN, ALL UNDER THE THICK MODERN CREAM EMULSION; FROM THE NORTH.



80. THE BASE OF THE SOUTH WALL, WITH 1M SCALE; FROM THE NORTH.



81. D24, FRAMED WITH THE TYPE 5 PILASTERS AND 1M SCALE; FROM THE NORTH.



82. THE DIFFERENT CORNICES IN THE SOUTH-WEST CORNER; FROM THE NORTH-EAST.



83. THE SOUTH-WEST CORNER, WITH PILASTERS AND TYPE 3 PANELLING; FROM THE NORTH-EAST.



84. THE CUT AND RESET PANELLING IN THE SOUTH-WEST CORNER; FROM THE NORTH.



85. LEFT: THE FINE PANELLED DOOR TO THE SOUTH OF THE WEST WALL; FROM THE EAST

86. RIGHT: THE BUTTERFLY HINGES TO THE CUPBOARD IN THE SOUTH-WEST CORNER OF ROOM 17; FROM THE EAST.



87. THE BUTTERFLY HINGES TO THE CUPBOARD IN THE SOUTH-WEST CORNER OF ROOM 17; FROM THE EAST.



88. THE CUT AND RESET PANELLING AND PILASTERS TO THE SOUTH OF THE BLOCKED FIREPLACE; FROM THE EAST.



 $89.\;$ Detail of the type 3 bolection moulding; from the east.



90. THE CUT AND RESET WOODEN CORNICE ALONG THE WEST WALL; FROM THE NORTH, NORTH-EAST



91. THE CUT AND RESET PILASTERS BETWEEN THE PANELLING AND CUPBOARD TO THE NORTH OF THE FIREPLACE; FROM THE EAST.



92. The early 19^{TH} century cupboard, type 9 beaded doors; from the east.

APPENDIX 5: MONITORING AND RECORDING OF WORKS 2023



93. The north side of the 19^{TH} century partition between R17 and R18; from the north-west (0.3m scale).



94. VIEW OF PARTITION WALL R18, WITH GOOD SLATE BUILT REVEALS TO FORMER SLIT VENT TO LEFT HAND SIDE, FROM THE NORTH (1M SCALE)



95. Chunky 19TH century joists and lintel over window, R17 – evidence of the remodel of this range; from the west.



96. VIEW OF THE SOUTH-EAST CORNER OF R17, WHERE THE DOOR TO R1 IS BLOCKED, SHOWING THE EAST AND SOUTH WALL ARE COHESIVE HERE, THE DOOR HOWEVER IS FORCED; FROM THE WEST-NORTH-WEST (1M SCALE).



 $97. \ \text{ALTERED STACK, SERVING NO.25, WITH FORCED AND NOW BLOCKED HEARTH SERVING NO.23; FROM THE EAST (1 \text{M SCALE}).}$



98. THE NORTH WALL OF R2, SHOWING PARTIALLY STRIPPED WALL COVERINGS, EXPOSING INTERESTING DECORATIVE SCHEMES AND RESET TIMBERWORK AND PANELLING; FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (2M SCALE).



99. R2, FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (2M SCALE).



100. The fragment of good heavy medieval walling, with formal levelling courses — hacked into to create opening, with timber ties inserted; from the south-east (1m scale).



101. DETAIL OF THE PANELLING ON THE NORTH WALL OF R2 (2M SCALE).



 $102.\mbox{\ensuremath{DETAIL}}$ OF ONE OF THE T-BRACE STRAPS ON THE RESET SHUTTER IN R2.

APPENDIX 6: EXTRACTED TEXT FROM 2022 WSI

1.0 Introduction

LOCATION: THE BICKFORD CENTRE, 23 SOUTH STREET

PARISH: GREAT TORRINGTON

DISTRICT: TORRIDGE **COUNTY:** DEVON

NGR: SS 49502 19085

SWARCH REF. TBC22

PLANNING REF. 1/0289/2019/LBC OASIS REF. SOUTHWES1-510121

a. PROJECT SCOPE

This document is the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for The Bickford Centre, 23 South Street, Devon. It has been produced by South West Archaeology Ltd (SWARCH) for a Private Client (the Client). It sets out the methodology for a programme of historic building recording, and for related off-site analyses and reporting. The WSI and the schedule of work it proposes were drawn up in consultation with DCHET and the Conservation Officer (CO).

b. Planning Context

Works on this site are being undertaken as part of listed building consent 1/0289/2019/LBC for internal alterations to the interior of the ground floor rest centre to provide better levels of access/facilities including conversion of first floor space to create a one bedroom dwelling.

c. Planning Condition(s)

In accordance with paragraph 205 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (2021), and the Policy DM07 of the North Devon and Torridge Local Plan 2011-2031, consent has been granted, conditional upon a programme of archaeological work being undertaken. Condition 3 states:

No works to which this consent relates shall commence until an appropriate programme of historic building recording and analysis has been secured and implemented in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall be carried out at all times in strict accordance with the approved scheme, or such other details as may be subsequently agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure, in accordance with Policy DM07 of the North Devon and Torridge Local Plan 2011 - 2031 and paragraph 199 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2018), that an appropriate record is made of the historic building affected by the development.

d. Public and Economic Benefit¹

Social benefit can arise through learning and development, and community strength and local identity can be enhanced through contact with the historic environment.

Social benefit also arises from the net contribution to human knowledge (the *research dividend*) made by investigative works.

Economic benefit can arise from the regeneration of historic places, leading to the revitalisation of communities and neighbourhoods.

Economic benefit can also arise from beneficial publicity, particularly through via outreach, but also via public appreciation of the works and enhanced public understanding.

SOUTH WEST ARCHAEOLOGY LTD. 112

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¹ CIfA 2015: Professional Archaeology: a guide for clients.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

a. Archaeological and Historical Background

Great Torrington has a rich built and natural heritage, much of which still dictates the character, form, and appearance of the settlement and some of which pre-dates the market town. Neolithic artefacts found within the town may be indicative of early settlement. The town's hilltop location forms a strategic position upon which a castle was sited, of which little now remains. The town flourished on its markets and fairs, based on agricultural and wool industries; and later a thriving glove manufacturing industry in the 19th Century.

The Great Torrington Conservation Area extends beyond the town centre, stretching from Castle Street in the west, to Halsdon Terrace in the east; and from New Street in the north to Castle Hill car park in the south, bordering the Great Torrington Commons. The large number of Listed buildings contained within the Conservation Area, designated in 1973, reflects the historic importance of the town. There are 97 Listed buildings in Great Torrington, mostly located within the Conservation Area, of which three; the Black Horse Hotel, Palmer House and Market House are Grade II*. The focus for the Conservation Area is the medieval core of the town, and it is subject to an Article 4 Direction which seeks to ensure that any improvements and enhancements achieved are not diminished by changes to unlisted buildings within the area. The towns Civil War associations and industrial heritage are also of significance to its historic context.

The Devon Historic Environment Record shows that limited excavation has been carried out within Torrington. Sites that have been excavated have predominantly informed the medieval and post-medieval history of the town, with works carried out at the castle site identifying rubble remains dating to the 15th century. Excavations elsewhere have also identified a 17th century kiln and associated waster dump. Other domestic and industrial activity has been recorded in the town. The HER has records for a number of heritage assets close to the development site. These include prehistoric find spots to the west (MDV452 and 42338), and the early medieval castle to the east (MDV437). However, the majority of the evidence comprises the historic and subsequent post-medieval core of the town, which includes numerous commercial properties. A survey carried out by SWARCH in 2016 indicated that there were a number of historic fittings and a potentially more complex narrative for the building than previously thought.

SWARCH carried out a previous phase of historic building in 2018, the results of which were as follows: The Bickford Centre occupies a mid-row plot on South Street, Great Torrington, within the historic core of the town and the Conservation Area. The building is an amalgamation of two historic buildings which appear to have been joined and reconfigured in the 19th century, forming a mixed use building, a characteristic which it retains to this day.

The Bickford Centre is valued for its positive contribution to South Street with its cohesive historic facade. However, in truth, the building is far more complex and arguably more valuable than it appears, as it echoes the ancient medieval town plan, contains 17th century fabric, evidences the stylistic evolution of panelling in this region from c.1600-1832 via its numerous reset recycled panelled sections and also defines the narrative historic and economic development of the life of the town.

The DCHET comments (08.05.2019) are as follows:

The application is supported by the results of a Historic Building Report (South West Archaeology report 181114).

This report indicates that the Rest Centre (Grade II Listed, 23 South Street) is a 19th century amalgamation of two historic buildings forming a mixed use building, there is also 17th century fabric surviving within the building. The proposed works include removal of period panelling and other works that may expose previously hidden architectural features and historic building fabric.

Given the impact upon the historic building and in accordance with paragraph 199 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2018) I would advise that this application should be supported by the submission of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) setting out a programme of historic building recording work to be

undertaken in mitigation for the impact upon the historic fabric and appearance of this building. The WSI should be based on national standards and quidance and be approved by the Historic Environment Team.

I would envisage the programme of work as taking the form of an appropriate record of the historic building as well as any architectural features, fixtures and fittings affected by the development. This work would be undertaken in advance of any construction works and supplemented, if required, by observations made during the development. The results of the historic building recording work and any post-excavation analysis undertaken would need to be presented in an appropriately detailed and illustrated report, and the finds and archive deposited in accordance with relevant national and local guidelines.



FIGURE 35: LOCATION MAP.

b. Topographical and Geological Background

Great Torrington occupies an elevated location to the east of the River Torridge, 15 kilometres south-west of Barnstaple and 11 kilometres south of Bideford in North Devon. It is an elongated settlement stretched along the A386, B3227 and B3232. The Bickford Centre is located at 23 South Street, at a height of approximately 80m AOD. The soils of this area are the well-drained fine loamy or fine silty soils over rock of the Manod Association², overlying the sandstone of the Bude Formation³.

² Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales (a brief explanation of the constituent soil associations)*.

3.0 HEALTH & SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES

a. SWARCH H&S POLICIES

SWARCH is committed to the highest standards of health and safety awareness. Works will be carried out in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work Act* 1974, the *Management of Health and Safety Regulations* 1992, and other relevant health and safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice. All SWARCH field staff hold current CSCS safety cards and EFAW or FAW qualifications. Specific RAMS and RA have been produced for this site and will be taken onto site with any SWARCH personnel.

b. Specific Health & Safety Measures

The site archaeologist will undertake any site safety induction course provided by the Client.

These health and safety requirements will be observed at all times by any archaeological staff working on site, particularly when working around voids, unprotected falls, and damaged floors.

Appropriate PPE will be employed at all times. As a minimum: protective footwear and high-vis jacket, with hard hats as appropriate. Additional PPE (gloves, glasses etc.) will be worn as required.

If the structure appears unsafe, a dynamic risk assessment will be undertaken to determine how to proceed. If necessary, the archaeologist will leave the structure to enable additional safety measures to be implemented. The provision of these measures will be the responsibility of the Client.

c. Environmental Policies

SWARCH is committed to the laws, regulations, and other policy mechanisms concerning environmental issues and sustainability. These issues include air and water pollution, solid waste management, biodiversity, ecosystem management, maintenance of biodiversity, the protection of natural resources, wildlife and endangered species, energy or regulation of toxic substances including pesticides and many types of industrial waste.

As a provider of archaeological services, SWARCH, its employees and subcontractors have a responsibility for the protection of archaeological heritage. In line with the CIfA *Environmental Protection Policy* para.1, SWARCH recognises that its responsibilities to the built heritage extend to the environment more generally, and that archaeological activities have the potential to affect the environment⁴.

SWARCH will adhere to any reasonable environmental policies of the Client and, if applicable, will take steps to minimise environmental damage or pollution arising from fieldwork.

4.0 PROJECT AIMS AND TIMETABLE

a. Programme of works

Undertake historic building recording ahead of the works; and Analyse and report on the results of the project as appropriate.

b. TIMETABLE

The works are likely to take place in October 2022.

5.0 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

a. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

³ British Geological Survey 2022: http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html.

⁴ CIfA 2016: Policy Statements.

This project has the potential to feed into research aims as outlined in the regional archaeological framework document SWARF⁵. The specific research aims from SWARF relevant to this project are:

Research Aim 4: Encourage wide involvement in archaeological research and present modern accounts of the past to the public.

6.0 METHODOLOGY

a. HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

Historic Building Recording will be carried out ahead of and during the proposed alterations, focussed on areas where period panelling is due to be removed and where 17th century fabric is likely to have survived. Written records will be accompanied by a comprehensive photographic record. The existing measured plans of the building will be annotated. This work will conform to Level 2/3 of the appropriate Historic England guidance⁶ and the DCHET Specifications⁷.



FIGURE 36: PROPOSED PLANS; FROM THE CLIENT.

b. Methodology

The Client will provide SWARCH with accurate measured plans and elevation drawings. In the absence of sufficiently detailed plans and elevations, SWARCH will either amend the supplied material, or produce or commission new measured drawings;

A detailed written record will be compiled. All parts of the structure will be investigated, save where they are inaccessible for safety reasons;

A photographic archive will be compiled.

Any finds identified as treasure or potential treasure, including precious metals, groups of coins or Prehistoric metalwork, will be dealt with according to the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice (2nd Revision) (Dept

⁵ Grove, J. & Croft, B. (eds.) 2012: *The Archaeology of South West England: South West Archaeological Research Framework; Research Strategy 2012-17.* Somerset County Council.

⁶ Historic England 2016: *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice*.

⁷ DCHET 2022: https://www.devon.gov.uk/historicenvironment/development-management/specifications/historic-building-recording/

for Culture Media and Sport). Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.

c. Recording

Measured plans and elevations will be annotated to show the features identified within the building;

- A room-by-room inventory (noting materials, walls, floors, ceilings, structural evidence, openings, other features, historic fixtures and fittings, graffiti etc.) will be compiled. Doors (Dx), windows (Wx), fireplaces (FPx), blocked openings (BOx) and significant features (Sx) will be individually numbered and described;
- A comprehensive photographic record of the structure will be prepared. This will include photographs illustrating all external elevations, photographs of each room from opposing corners, and detail photographs of the principal/significant features observed. Where appropriate, photographs will feature an appropriate scale.

Any variation of the above shall be agreed in consultation with the LPA.

7.0 MONITORING

- 7.0.1 SWARCH will inform the DCHET with two weeks' notice, unless otherwise agreed, of when the fieldwork is scheduled to take place. If significant architectural features are exposed or observed, or if significant archaeological features or deposits are uncovered, SWARCH will immediately liaise with the Client and DCHET to determine the most satisfactory way to proceed and determine any variation of method.
- 7.0.2 Monitoring will continue until the deposition of the site archive and finds, and the satisfactory completion of an OASIS report.

8.0 REPORTING

a. Reporting Strategy

8.1.1 Copies of the report(s) detailing the results of these investigations will be submitted to the OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) database under reference Southwes1-510121 within 3 months of completion of fieldwork, unless longer as dictated by specialist reporting, etc.

b. ARCHIVE REPORT

The full report will include the following elements:

A report number, date and the OASIS record number;

A non-technical summary of the results

An introduction to the project and the background to the project;

A description and illustration of the site location;

A methodology of the works undertaken, and an evaluation of that methodology;

Plans and reports of all documentary and other research undertaken;

A location plan and overall site plan;

Suitably detailed annotated plans of the structures;

Suitably detailed annotated elevations drawings of the structures;

A written summary of the structures, describing principal attributes and surviving significant features;

A phase plan of the structures, accompanied by a description of each phase and evidence in support of the proposed phasing;

The photographic archive will be presented as an appendix to the main body of the report;

An interpretation of the results in the appropriate context;

A summary of the contents of the project archive and its location;

A bibliography;

The LPA will receive the report within three months of completion of fieldwork, dependant on the provision of any specialist reports etc, the production of which may exceed this period. If a substantial delay is

anticipated then an interim report will be produced and a revised submission date for the final report agreed with the LPA.

c. Publication and Dissemination

8.3.1 It is not anticipated that the results of this work will merit formal dissemination. However, a note may be placed in the newsletter of the Devon Archaeological Society.

d. Public Participation

- 8.4.1 The limitations of this programme of fieldwork renders it unsuitable for public participation; however there may be local interest in the results of the recording;
- 8.4.2 Where there is local interest, SWARCH personnel routinely give evening talks to local historical and/or archaeological societies.

9.0 ARCHIVE

- 9.1.1 On completion of the project an ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with the appropriate guidelines⁸;
- 9.1.2 The archive will normally consist of two elements: the digital archive and the physical archive;
- 9.1.3 Should a material (artefact) archive will be generated during the recording work it will be deposited with the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon (MBND) in line with the MBND accessioning and selection guidelines, using reference number obtained once the generation of a material archive has been established.
- 9.1.4 Should a material archive be generated (comprising the retained artefacts/samples and the hardcopy paper record (if requested)) it will be cleaned (or otherwise treated), ordered, recorded, packed and boxed in accordance with the deposition standards and selection strategies of the MBND, and in a timely fashion. Should SWARCH be unable to attain a selection strategy from the Museum, specialists will be consulted to achieve an appropriate strategy in line with best practice;
- 9.1.5 The digital archive, including a copy of the final report, will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) in compliance with their standards and requirements and according to Historic England guidance for digital photography;
- 9.1.6 South West Archaeology Ltd. will retain copyright of the reports, documents and photographic images under the terms of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. Licence is hereby granted to the ADS for the storage and dissemination of the digital archive;
- 9.1.7 The material archive, comprising the retained artefacts/samples and the hardcopy paper record (if requested) will be cleaned (or otherwise treated), ordered, recorded, packed and boxed in accordance with the deposition standards and selection strategies of the MBND in a timely fashion. Should SWARCH be unable to attain a selection strategy from the Museum, specialists will be consulted to achieve an appropriate strategy in line with best practice. The paper archive, comprising site notes, sketches, annotated plans/elevations, will be digitised and will form part of the digital archive for the structure;
- 9.1.8 SWARCH will, on behalf of the MBND, obtain a written agreement from the landowner to transfer title to all items in a material archive to the receiving museum;
- 9.1.9 If ownership of all or any finds is to remain with the landowner, provision and agreement must be made for the time-limited retention of the material and its full analysis and recording, by appropriate specialists;
- 9.1.10 If the MBND are to retain the hardcopy paper archive it will be deposited under the same accession number as any material archive. Should the MBND decline the hardcopy paper archive, that archive will be offered to other appropriate museum bodies, record offices or DCHET. If a suitable third party cannot be found, the hardcopy paper archive will be retained by SWARCH for 3 years and then destroyed;
- 9.1.11 The archive will be completed within 3 months of the completion of the final report;
- 9.1.12 SWARCH will notify the DCHET when the digital archive is deposited with the ADS, and when any physical archive is deposited with the MBND.

SOUTH WEST ARCHAEOLOGY LTD. 118

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⁸ Historic England 2015: *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide.*

10.0 Personnel

SWARCH PERSONNEL

- 10.1.1 The project will be managed by Samuel Walls BA MA PhD MCIfA (Director at SWARCH 2013-present with 14 years of experience in the commercial sector);
- 10.1.2 The building recording will be undertaken by SWARCH personnel with appropriate expertise and experience, or supervised by SWARCH personnel with appropriate expertise and experience: Bryn Morris BA MA PhD ACIfA (Director at SWARCH 2013-present with 16 years commercial experience); Emily Wapshott BA MA (14 years commercial experience).
- 10.1.3 Where necessary, appropriate specialist advice will be obtained.

b. Specialists

BoneHayley Foster MA, PhDBuilding RecordingEmily WapsottConservationLaura Ratcliffe BScCuratorialAllison MillsEnvironmental Sample ProcessingSWARCH personnel

Lithics Peter Webb MA
Medieval Pottery John Allan
Metal & Leatherwork Quita Mould MA

Metal Detectorists Taw and Torridge Metal Detecting Club

Mills & Hydroelectric Plants

Plant Macro-Fossils

Pollen Analysis

Post Medieval Pottery

Martin Watts

Wendy Carruthers

Ralph Fyfe PhD

Bryn Morris PhD

Prehistoric Pottery Henrietta Quinnell or Imogen Wood PhD
Roman Pottery Henrietta Quinnell or Imogen Wood PhD

Wood Identification Dana Challinor PhD

c. Training and CPD

- 10.3.1 Where appropriate, SWARCH will seek to provide training opportunities to SWARCH personnel during the archaeological fieldwork and post-excavation process. Training would be undertaken in order to enhance recording and recovery, and maximise the research gain.
- 10.3.2 SWARCH training plans (PDP) and CPD logs will be updated during the project, as appropriate to need and demand.

11.0 Insurances and Quality Control

- 11.0.1 SWARCH carry Professional Indemnity Insurance cover up to £5 million, Public Liability up to £5 million and Employers Liability up to £10 million.
- 11.0.2 SWARCH is a Registered Organisation (RO) with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA).
- 11.0.3 SWARCH is committed to the highest standard of professional ethics and technical standards, and adheres to CIfA and Historic England guidelines in the conduct of our work.
- 11.0.4 The work undertaken will be carried out by professional archaeologists overseen by supervisors of ACIfA-level competence. The works and products will be overseen and checked by professional archaeologists with MCIfA-level competence.

12.0 CONFLICT WITH OTHER CONDITIONS AND STATUTORY RESTRAINTS

12.0.1 It remains the responsibility of the Client - in consultation with SWARCH, the applicant or agent - to ensure that the required archaeological works do not conflict with any other conditions that have been imposed upon the consent granted and should also consider any biodiversity issues as covered

by the NERC Act 2006. In particular, such conflicts may arise where archaeological investigations/excavations have the potential to have an impact upon protected species and/or natural habitats e.g. SSSIs, National Nature Reserves, Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Ramsar sites, County Wildlife Sites etc.



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