# HIGHER LANGAGE FARM SPARKWELL DEVON

Results of a Desk-Based Assessment, Historic Building Recording & Archaeological Evaluation





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# Higher Langage Farm, Sparkwell, Devon

# Results of a Desk-Based Assessment, Historic Building Recording & Archaeological Evaluation

For

Alistair Wright of Carlton Power

By



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# **Summary**

A programme of building recording and archaeological evaluation took place at Higher Langage farmhouse, Sparkwell, Devon, in advance of the demolition of the structure and the expansion of the Plympton Energy Park.

The farmhouse appears to have been a much-modified east-facing two- or three-cell cross-passage house with an open hall to which a chimney stack was added in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The building was re-roofed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and an extension (kitchen) added to the west of the building. 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century alterations extended and truncated the building, and the interior was thoroughly 'modernised' in the later 20<sup>th</sup> century, stripping it of most of its historic features.

An archaeological evaluation followed the demolition of the structure. This determined that ground levels within and around the building had been reduced, and no archaeological layers or features of any antiquity survived.

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Bill Horner of Devon County Historic Environment Service

Mr. A. Wright of Carlton Power Ltd.

David Foley and crew for assistance on site

# 1.0 Introduction

**Location:** Higher Langage Farmhouse

Parish: Sparkwell
District: South Hams
County: Devon

**NGR:** SX5729 5630

OS Map copying Licence No: 100044808

Oasis ID: southwes1-60436

#### 1.1 Project Background

South West Archaeology (SWARCH) was asked by Mr. Alistair Wright of Carlton Power (the Client) to carry out an historic building survey at Higher Langage Farm, Plympton, Devon, in advance of the demolition of that building. SWARCH was also asked to observe and record the demolition and conduct an archaeological evaluation prior to development works associated with Langage Energy Park. This work formed part of an archaeological planning condition and was conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix 1) developed in consultation with Mr. Bill Horner of Devon County Historic Environment Service (DCHES).

# 1.2 Historical Background

The farmhouse at Higher Langage forms part of a small hamlet consisting of the farms of Higher and Lower Langage, with their associated farm buildings (see Figure 1, Figure 2 and Figure 3). The hamlet sits in the modern civil parish of Sparkwell, anciently in the ecclesiastical parish of Plympton St. Mary, and forming a separate Domesday sub-manor. *Langeheiws* (the 'long *hiwisc*', *hiwisc* being 'land for the support of one family') was held by the Anglo-Saxon lord Sawin before 1066. Favourably taxed at ½hide (less 1 furlong), there was land for 1½ ploughs. Langage was one of 18 estates, concentrated in the western hundreds of the county, held by Sawin. In 1086 it was held by the Bishop of Coutances, but passed to the Plympton Priory after 1121 but by 1291 Langage formed part of the post-Dissolution 'Manor of Plympton Grange', which remained in Royal hands until the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. Langage, together with the adjacent Domesday sub-manors of Battisford, Beccamore, Challonsleigh, Hemerdon and Holland, survived as a coherent entity until it was swallowed up by the expansion of Plymouth (Gover *et al.* 1931; Hoskins 1978; Thorn & Thorn 1985; HER entry 16922).

#### 1.3 Archaeological Background

The Devon Historic Landscape Characterisation shows the fields to the west of the farmhouse as being enclosed during the post-medieval period ('Barton fields'), while the fields to the east are shown as medieval enclosures based on earlier strip fields (Devon HLC). Possible water meadows or catch-water leats have been identified to the south of Lower Langage Farm (DCHER 71192), and a vestigial cropmark enclosure lies just over 1km to the north-west (DCHER 12696).

The geophysical survey carried out in advance of the Energy Park development (Dean 2007) identified a complex and extensive series of linear features indicative of multiple phases of landscape use together with two probable enclosures and two, possibly as many as four, ring ditches (mortuary structures or roundhouse 'drip gullies'). Monitoring that took place in advance of the Choakford to Langage gas pipeline, and subsequent evaluation trenching carried out by Exeter Archaeology, determined that these geophysical anomalies represented two, possibly three Prehistoric settlements (of mid-late Bronze Age and mid-late Iron Age date) together with a probable Bronze Age ring ditch with associated field systems (analogous with

sites excavated in Cornwall e.g. Truro College: Gossip 2005; *forthcoming*). Medieval features and pottery were found concentrated in the vicinity of Higher and Lower Langage farms (see Hughes & Valentin 2008; Tyler *forthcoming*).

The farmhouse at Lower Langage is a Grade II listed structure (LBS no. 99224). An 18<sup>th</sup> century house with a 19<sup>th</sup> extension at the rear, with associated curtilage.

Two fields belonging to Higher Langage Farm are recorded as Great and Little 'Crockers Field' in the Tithe apportionment (fields 1359 and 1363), a term that can be associated with medieval or post-medieval pottery production.

# 1.4 Topographical and Geological Background

Higher and Lower Langage sit near the head of a broad shallow combe on a south-facing slope c.95m AOD. The underlying rocks form part of the Middle Devonian Slates, with alluvial/colluvial deposits lining the base of the combe (British Geological Survey 1974). The soils of this area are predominantly the well-drained find loamy and fine silty soils of the Denbigh 1 Association (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

#### 1.5 Methodology

A building survey conforming to English Heritage Level 3 guidelines was carried out by C. Humphreys, R. Waterhouse and D. Laing-Trengove in November 2007. At the time of the building survey all the openings of the building had been blocked and the electricity supply had been disconnected. As a result, the survey had to be conducted by torch-light. The exterior was coated with a cement render, and parts of this were removed to explore the relationship between the different elements of the building.

The farmhouse was demolished and a photographic record was compiled as the works proceeded. This work was carried out by M. Tingle on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2009. The remains of the farmhouse were cleared by a tracked mechanical excavator and the material was removed from the site.

Two evaluation trenches were opened. These were excavated by a tracked mechanical excavator using a 1.6m wide toothless grading bucket under strict archaeological supervision. Trench #1 was oriented NE-SW and was 19.4m long, bisecting the house and extending into the garden to the west. Trench #3 was 6.3×4m and extended from the end of the farmhouse to the south. This work was undertaken by B. W. Morris and D Laing-Trengove on the 14<sup>th</sup> August 2009. The excavation, monitoring and recording was carried out according to the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) drawn up in consultation with DCHES (Appendix 1).

Plan drawings of the building and evaluation trenches were made at scales of 1:20 or 1:50 where appropriate. A photographic record and a written record consisting of single context recording sheets were compiled.

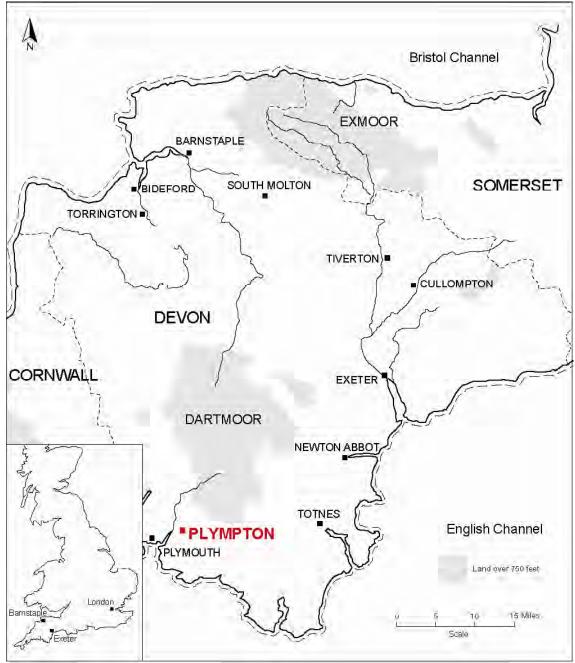


Figure 1: Regional Location.

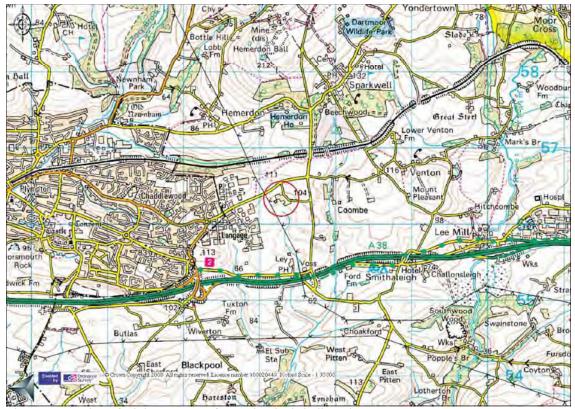


Figure 2: Location of Higher Langage farm. The site is indicated.



Figure 3: Higher and Lower Langage farms. Higher Langage farmhouse is highlighted in red.

# 2.0 Results of the Cartographic Analysis

The development of the settlement at Langage can be traced in detail from 1784.

# 2.1 The Gardner Survey of 1784-6 (Figure 4)

A survey of the area 8 miles east and west and twelve miles inland from Plymouth was commissioned by the Duke of Richmond in 1784. The survey was carried out by William Gardener between 1784 and 1786 at a scale of 6 inches to the mile and subsequently became the basis of the Ordnance Survey mapping. Higher and Lower Languish (Langage) farms are shown however Higher Langage farmhouse is shown with an east-west orientation.

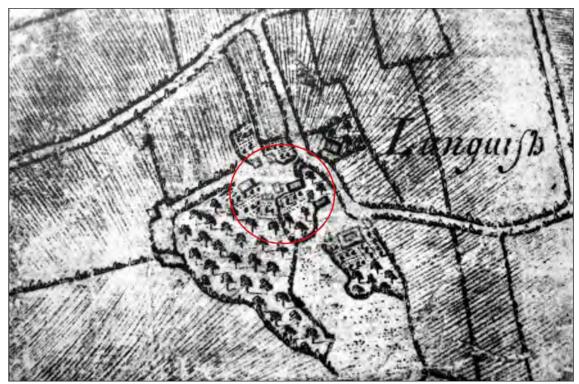


Figure 4: Extract from the Gardner Survey of 1784-6, showing Higher (indicated) and Lower Languish (Langage) farms.

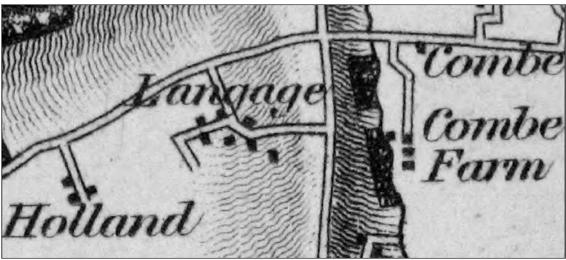


Figure 5: Extract from Greenwood's map of Devon published 1827.

# 2.2 Greenwood's map of Devon published 1827 (Figure 5)

The farms are shown but not with enough detail to enhance the understanding of the development of Higher Langage farmhouse.

# 2.3 The Plympton St Mary Tithe Map of 1841 (Figure 6 and Figure 7)

The Tithe Apportionment identifies number 1380 as the "House, Buildings and Court" of Higher Langage; number 1367 is identified as the "House, Buildings and Court" of Languish (later named Lower Langage). Higher Langage comprised 69 acres plus 24 acres designated as Prior Parks.

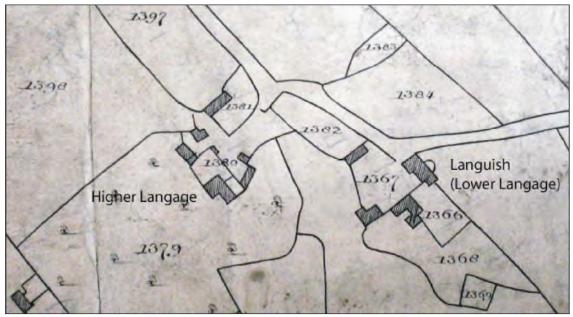


Figure 6: Extract from the Plympton St Mary Tithe Map of 1841 (DRO).

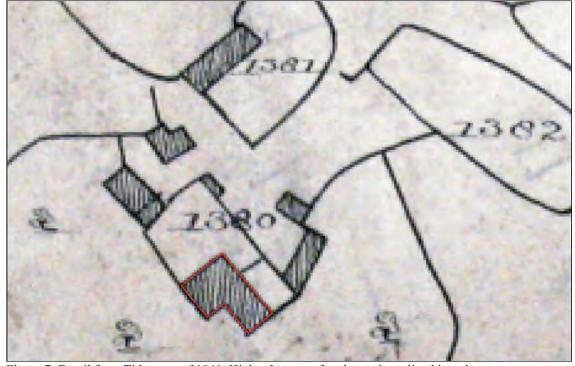


Figure 7: Detail from Tithe map of 1841. Higher Langage farmhouse is outlined in red.

# 2.4 The Ordnance Survey First Edition map published 1889 (

# 2.5 Figure 8)

There are only some minor changes discernable since 1841, primarily amongst the outbuildings.

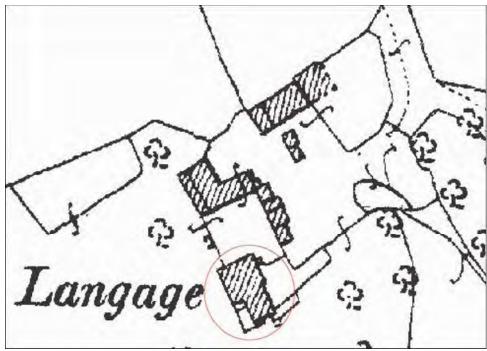


Figure 8: Extract from the Ordnance Survey First Edition map of 1889, showing Higher Langage with the farmhouse circled in red.

# 2.6 The Ordnance Survey Second Edition map published 1905 (Figure 9)

The detail shown is the same as the OS First Edition (Figure 8).

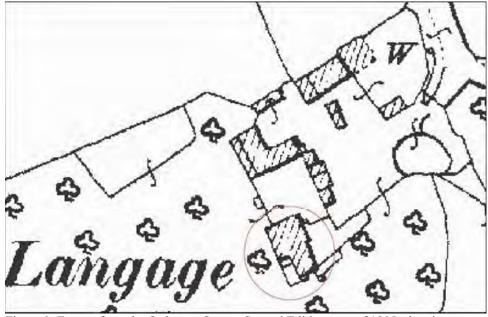


Figure 9: Extract from the Ordnance Survey Second Edition map of 1905, showing Higher Langage with the farmhouse circled in red.

#### 3.0 Results

At the time of the initial survey, all the openings of the building had been boarded up and the electricity supply had been disconnected. As a result the survey had to be conducted by torchlight. Parts of the external render were removed to enable a better understanding of the relationship of the different elements of the building. The relationships between different elements were further clarified during the demolition of the building.

# 3.1 External Description (Figure 10 and Figure 11)

East facing 1½ storey farmhouse with projecting lateral chimneystack and hall window on the east elevation, and a more modern chimneystack in the south gable (Figure 11). The building has been truncated at the southern end (here a fireplace is located on the external wall). The northern end of the building may also have been truncated in the position of the extant monopitch single storey extension. To the west (rear) of the building there is a two-storey and a modern single-storey extension (Figure 10). All walls are rendered with a modern cement mortar over a mix of stone rubble and cob. The roof to the main range, quarter hipped to the north, is covered with composite slates, while the extension roof to the north is of corrugated asbestos sheet.



Figure 10: Higher Langage farmhouse, viewed from the west.

#### 3.2 Internal Description: Ground floor

Nb. the numbers in brackets refer to the rooms shown on the phased plans (Figure 12 and Figure 15).

Generally all the rooms of the building have been 'modernised'. All of the first- and groundfloor structures and windows were replaced in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Very few features relating to the earlier phases of the build were identified during the survey. The building in its final form appears to have been divided into two occupancies: the southern end of the building is accessed through the central doorway in the eastern elevation; the northern end is accessed through the doorway in the east wall of the northern extension. The description below follows this pattern.

The building in its primary form would appear to have been of a cross-passage layout, i.e. a passage connecting opposed front and rear doorways (2) with a hall (3) to the north and a service room (1) to the south. The stair, which gives access to the first floor, was probably inserted into the cross-passage (2) in the late 18<sup>th</sup>-early 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the partition between this and the hall inserted at the same time.

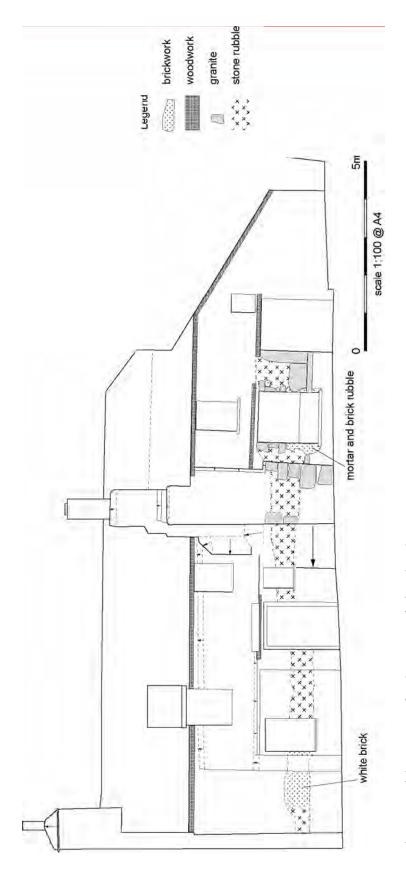


Figure 11: Higher Langage farmhouse, east-facing elevation.

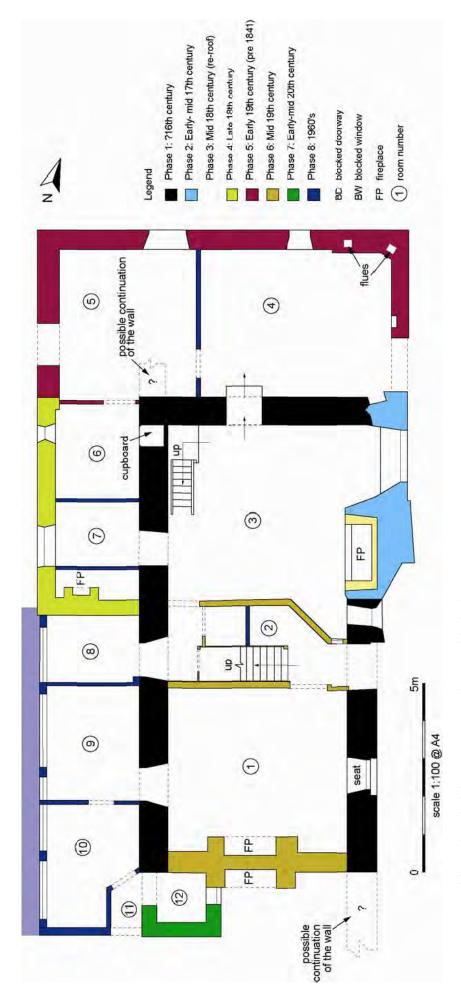


Figure 12: Ground floor plan of Higher Langage Farmhouse, with phasing.

The service room (1) would appear to have been truncated to the south and a wall inserted containing a chimney stack and 'back to back' fireplaces. On the ground floor the fireplace has been blocked. On the first floor, the bedroom (22) contains a cast-iron fireplace inserted into this stack that dates to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, and this is the likely date for this wall. The window in the eastern elevation is also of mid 19<sup>th</sup> century date.

The doorway in the west wall of room (1) leads to a modern extension that contains a kitchen (9) and a utility room (10). This opening is splayed and was probably a window prior to the construction of the extension.

Room (10) leads to a small lobby (11) with an external door and a toilet (12). The toilet (12) appears to be earlier than the rear extension and is built against the jamb of a fireplace which is now external to the main building. Presumably the toilet (12) was constructed when the room that formerly contained this fireplace was demolished, probably early-mid 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The northern end of the building is accessed through a doorway in the east wall of the northern extension. Room (4) is a kitchen with modern boarding applied to the walls and ceiling. Above the ceiling the blades of the roof structure are whitewashed. The windows in the north wall are all modern and would appear to be later insertions, which would indicate this part of the building was formerly more utilitarian.

Room (5) (as room (4)) leads through to room (6), a sub-divided part of a late 18<sup>th</sup> century extension. This part of the building is dated by the roof type, the cupboard and fireplace details.

A more recent partition between rooms (5) & (6) replaced the original external north wall of the extension (visible just below ceiling level). At the southern end of this extension in room (7) there is a fireplace suggesting that the ground floor was primarily used as a kitchen/scullery.

Towards the northern end of this extension there is a wall cupboard of late 18<sup>th</sup> century date set in the west wall of the main range.



Figure 13: Room 3 viewed from the west showing, the fireplace and hall window.

Access to the hall (3) is from room (4). This room has been modernised, with modern exposed rafters and a modern open stair inserted in the north-west corner. The large fireplace in the east wall has been blocked with a modern grate and surround. The adjacent window is modern as is the door in the west wall giving access to a sub-divided part of the extension, latterly used as a utility room (7). In the south-west corner of the hall a doorway with a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century door leads to a lobby with an understair cupboard and access to room (8). There is a bathroom in the northern end of the modern extension.

#### 3.3 Internal Description; First Floor

The partitions, the doors and the fireplace in the west wall of room (22) all suggest a mid 19<sup>th</sup> century redesign of the layout. The only feature that may be earlier is the panelling between the cupboard over the cross-passage in room (22) and room (23). This may be the upper part of a cross-passage screen possibly of the date when the first floor over the hall was inserted. All other features, including the windows, are modern.

#### 3.4 Roof Structure

The earliest roof structure is that over the main range (a late 18<sup>th</sup> century replacement for an earlier structure) and consists of 5 roof trusses each with straight blades resting on the wall tops with a half-lapped and pegged apex and a collar set low on the blade which is spiked and pegged. Each pitch has a single set of purlins set on the back of the blades. A diamond set ridge pole sits in the apex of each truss (Figure 14).

The roof is quarter hipped to the north with a crude two-light wooden window frame set just below the hip. The roof structure over the rear extension is slightly later with a notched, half-lapped, spiked and pegged apex with the blades sitting on a tie beam that in turn sits on the wall tops. A ridge board is supported by a wooden saddle nailed to each truss. Each pitch has a single set of purlins set on the back of the blades.



Figure 14: The roof structure over the main range, showing a blocked window in the north wall. Viewed from the south.

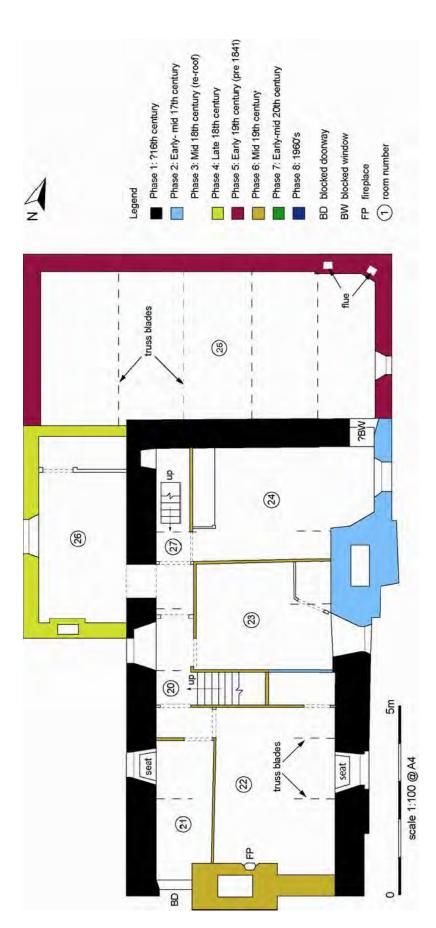


Figure 15: First floor plan of Higher Langage Farmhouse, with phasing.

# 4.0 The Phasing of the Building

The numbers in brackets refer to the rooms shown on the building plans (Figure 12 and Figure 15).

# 4.1 Phase 1: possibly 16<sup>th</sup> century

The primary layout of the building would appear to be a  $1\frac{1}{2}$  storey three-cell cross-passage house, consisting of a service or lower room (1), a cross-passage (2), a hall (3), and probably an inner room which has been replaced by rooms (4) & (5). The hall chimney stack appears to be a later addition therefore it is presumed that the hall would have been heated by a central open hearth with the room open to the rafters.

# 4.2 Phase 2: Early-mid 17<sup>th</sup> century

The chimneystack is added to the south wall of the hall (room 3), with the insertion of a first floor in this part of the building.

# 4.3 Phase 3: Mid 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The main range of the house is re-roofed. As the northern end of this structure is quarter-hipped, with a window just below the hip, it would seem likely that this was when the northern end of the main range was demolished.

# 4.4 Phase 4: Late 18<sup>th</sup> century

A heated, two storey extension is added to the west side of the building – rooms (6) & (7).

# 4.5 Phase 5: Early 19<sup>th</sup> century (pre-1842)

A heated, one storey extension is added to the north side of the building – rooms (4) & (5).

# 4.6 Phase 6: Mid 19<sup>th</sup> century

A chimneystack with opposed fireplaces is inserted into the southern end of the building, creating room (1) and a separate room (now demolished) to the south of the extant building.

# 4.7 Phase 7: Early-mid 20<sup>th</sup> century

The room to the south of the main range is demolished and a small extension (12) (possibly a toilet) is built in its place.

#### 4.8 Phase 8: 1960's

A single-story extension – rooms (8), (9) & (10) – is added to the south-west of the main range.

# 5.0 Archaeological Evaluation

## 5.1 Trench One (Figure 16)

Trench One demonstrated that no earlier floors or hearths survived beneath the modern floors of the structure. The house platform had been cut into the slope and the floors in the northern half of the building had been laid straight onto the bedrock. Indeed, the bedrock survived at a higher level beneath the walls, clearly indicating that internal floor levels had been reduced since the structure was built.

A number of features were observed to cut into the natural, but with few exceptions they proved to be of relatively recent date. For example, the shallow oval pit [102] located beneath the fireplace in the former hall (Room 3) even contained the remains of wood-chip wallpaper.

Pit [102] was 1.04×1.34m in extent and 0.22m deep, with a steep or nearly vertical eastern side and a shallow sloping western side. It was filled by (101), a firm dark greyish-brown clayey-silt containing abundant shale inclusions, common flecks of charcoal and occasional fragments of mortar. It also contained a few sherds of white refined earthenware (post 1720). This feature lay directly beneath the main fireplace in the eastern wall of the building.

A narrow gully [106] crossed the trench just to the west of the original core of the building, and probably formed a drainage or 'drip' gully. It was 0.2m wide and 0.06-0.09m deep, with a steep or nearly vertical eastern side and a shallow sloping western side. The fill of this feature (105) was a soft greyish-brown silty clay that contained abundant shale inclusions and a single sherd of post-medieval pottery.

A second gully [108] crossed Trench One 2m to the west of [106]. This gully was 0.4m wide and contained a soft wet brown mud with common angular stone inclusions, running with water. This was interpreted as a stone drain, but it was later observed to closely correspond with the outer wall of the farmhouse, and thus could represent the footings for that wall. It produced a single sherd of blue shell-edged plate (post-1810).

The base of a possible post-hole [104] was also observed in Trench One. This lay inside the building and was 0.2m in diameter but only 0.04m deep. The remaining fill (103) was a dark reddish-grey silty clay containing abundant shale inclusions and some quartz fragments.

# 5.2 Trench Three (Figure 16)

Trench Three was opened to investigate the southern end of the farmhouse. No buried structural evidence relating to the farmhouse was uncovered, though the white, mortar-bonded walls {115} of the former toilet (Room 12) were encountered which were associated with 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery.

A single linear gully [110] was identified running north-west-south-east, parallel to the original walls of the farmhouse and probably forming a southern extension of feature [106] from Trench One. It was 0.25m wide, up to 0.15m deep and contained a loose, light brown silty-clay containing abundant shale inclusions. Two sherds of white refined earthenware (post 1720) were recovered from this context.

#### 5.3 Other Notes

During the course of the archaeological evaluation, a large amount of material with a slag- or clinker-like appearance (113) was recovered from the former lower room of the farmhouse

(room (1)). This material was of low density, with a vesicular texture and amorphous, irregular morphology and contained fragments of semi-fused rock which suggests it was generated by a high-temperature, pyrotechnical process. The physical characteristics of this material suggests it contains a high proportion of vitrified rock although the process that generated it remains unidentified. Upon investigation this debris was found to be contained within a large underfloor cavity [111], 4.5×3.6m in extent. The cavity also contained a number of white mortar-bonded, roughly coursed stone rubble walls designed to carry a raised wooden floor. At a later point the debris was introduced to fill the cavity and a new floor (114) was laid out over the southern half of the room. This debris (113) fill contained a single complete architectural fragment from a fireplace and fragments of asbestos sheet.

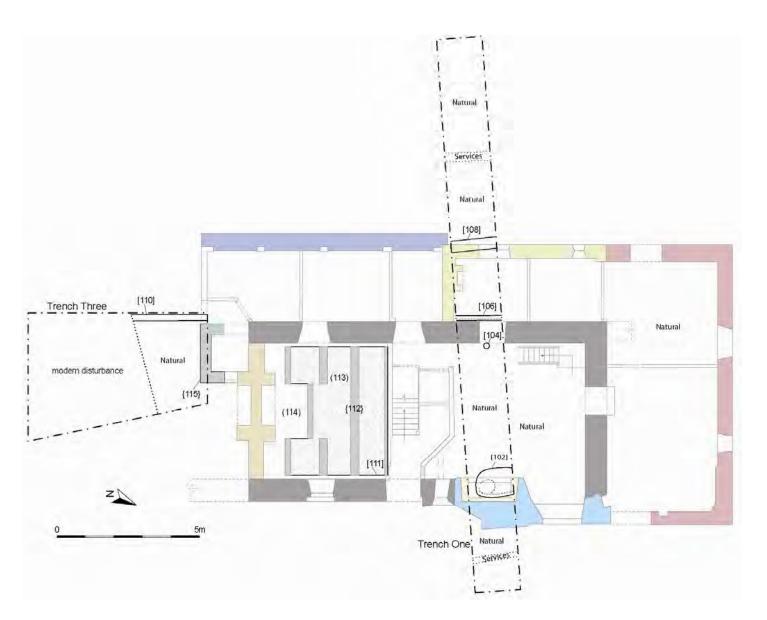


Figure 16: Plan of the evaluation trenches and floor layers in Room 1.

#### 6.0 Conclusions

The extant structure is similar in plan to that shown in the cartographic sources, with the sole exception of that produced by the Gardner survey. The accuracy of the Gardner map must be questioned, however, as it appears to show Higher Langage farmhouse to be on an east-west orientation while all later maps show the building having a long axis running north-south.

In its primary form the building would appear to have been a 17<sup>th</sup> century (possibly 16<sup>th</sup> century) two/three cell cross-passage house with various extensions being added to the building in the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The extant building was extensively 'modernised' in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, stripping it of any internal features of historic merit.

It is possible that Higher Langage farmhouse was formerly a long house with the southern end (Room 1) being used for cattle accommodation. However, the building has been truncated and the floors have been replaced, destroying any evidence that might support this theory i.e. a central drain exiting the building through the east wall.

The archaeological evaluation provided little further insight into the structural development of the farmhouse. In fact, with the possible exception of the linear gully [106]/[110], all the features that were identified were  $19^{th}$  or  $20^{th}$  century in date. With a single exception, all of the recovered finds dated to the  $19^{th}$  or  $20^{th}$  centuries. It is clear a considerable amount of truncation had occurred.

#### **Published Sources:**

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- **Soil Survey of England and Wales** 1983: *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales*. Harpenden.
- Thorn, C. & Thorn, F. 1985: Domesday Book: Devon (2 vols.). Chichester: Phillimore.

# **Unpublished Sources:**

- **Dean, R.** 2007: An Archaeological Geophysical Survey: Langage Energy Park, Plympton, Devon. Oare: Substrata Ltd.
- **Gossip, J.** 2005: Richard Lander School Development, Threemilestone, Cornwall: archaeological recording archive report. Truro: Cornwall Historic Environment Service.
- **Gossip, J.** forthcoming: *Life Outside the Round: Bronze Age and Iron Age Settlement at Higher Besore and Truro College, Threemilestone, Truro.* Truro: Cornwall Historic Environment Service.
- **Hughes, S.D. & Valentin, J.** 2008: Results of an Archaeological Trench Evaluation on land adjacent to Langage Energy Park, Plympton, Devon. Exeter Archaeology report 08.25.
- **Tyler, K.** forthcoming: Archaeological investigation of the Choakford to Langage gas pipeline, Plympton, Plymouth. Exeter Archaeology.

#### Appendix 1

# WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR MONITORING AND RECORDING AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT HIGHER LANGAGE FARM, SPARKWELL, DEVON.

#### Nb. No Brief was issued for this development

Location: Higher Langage Farmhouse

Parish: Sparkwell
District: South Hams
County: Devon
NGR: SX5729 5630

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document forms a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) it was produced by South West Archaeology (SWARCH) at the request of Mr. Alistair Wright of Carlton Power (the Client), and sets out the methodology for archaeological monitoring and recording to be undertaken during the demolition of Higher Langage Farmhouse, for removal of floor slabs and for evaluative trenching following demolition and prior to development of the site. The WSI and the schedule of work it proposes was produced in consultation with Bill Horner of Devon County Historic Environment Service (DCHES) and is in accordance with the requirements of Condition 31 and 33 of the planning consent which state:
  - 31 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to any archaeologists nominated by the Developer and agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority and shall allow the archaeologists to observe the excavations and record items of interest and finds.

    Reason: To allow the recordings of items of interest and finds.
  - 33 No development shall take place within the site or within the off-site landscaping areas until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, have secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure the archaeological significance of the site is fully investigated.

#### 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The initial survey of the building (SWARCH Draft Interim Report No. 081120) concludes that the footprint of the building shown on the mapping appears to be similar to the extant plan except for that produced by the Gardner survey. The accuracy of this map has to be questioned because Higher Langage farmhouse appears to have an east-west orientation while all later maps show the building with an axis running north-south.

In its primary form the building would appear to have been a two/three cell cross passage house, extensions being added to the building in the late 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. There is a possibility that this building was formerly a long house with a room being used for cattle accommodation. However, the building has been truncated at the east end and the floors have been replaced which has probably destroyed evidence i.e. a central drain exiting the building through the east wall, to support this theory. Evidence for this and a central hearth in the hall may be found during the removal of the floors of the building during demolition.

#### 3.0 AIMS

- To investigate and record any historic building fabric or architectural detail revealed during demolition of the building or removal of floors.
- 3.2 To evaluate the survival of below-ground archaeological deposits across the proposed development area to inform as to the requirement for any further investigations in mitigation for the impact of the proposed development upon the archaeological resource.
- 3.3 To undertake further archaeological investigations as appropriate based on the results of the evaluation.
- 3.4 Analyse and report on the results of the project as appropriate.

#### 4.0 METHOD

- 4.1 The desk-based assessment and building survey:
  - The results of the assessment and existing records of the building will be discussed with the DCHES and based on this consultation may determine the positioning of the evaluative excavations.
- 4.2 Monitoring and Historic building recording:
  - An archaeological record of the building has been carried out and a further record of elements revealed during demolition of the building will be undertaken with the aim of a greater understanding of the building and the identification and recording of any historic features. The work shall be carried out in accordance with *IFA Standards and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (1996), as amended (2001 & 2008). The recording will be based on English Heritage Level 2-3 (*Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice*) guidelines and *Institute of Field Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief 1994 (revised 2001 & 2008*) and will consist of:
  - 4.2.1 A written description and analysis of historic elements or features exposed during demolition of the building and the removal of floor slabs including evidence for different periods of build;
  - 4.2.2 A digital photographic record of the building will be undertaken;

4.2.3 Should significant building elements be exposed which merit further archaeological work; this will be undertaken in consultation with, and to a specification agreed with DCHES. The project will be organised so that specialist consultants who might be required to conserve or report on finds or advise or report on other aspects of the investigation (i.e. dendrochronological analysis) can be called upon and undertake assessment and analysis.

#### 4.3 Evaluation Excavations

A series of trenches will be excavated across the proposed development area. The locations of these excavations are illustrated in the attached plans. The position of the trenches has been determined in consideration of the results of the desk-based assessment, the below-ground impact of the proposed development and the site topography as follows:

- T1. Positioned to establish the survival of historic floors beneath the concrete floor of the farmhouse and the survival of archaeology in the farmyard to the west of the building.
- T2. Dependent on the results of T1, T2 would be excavated to examine all historic floor surfaces throughout the building.
- T3. The previous building survey established that the farmhouse has been truncated at the southern end. This trench would establish the earlier extent of the building.
- T4. Depending on the results of T1 this trench would further examine the archaeology to the west of the farmhouse.
- 4.3.1 The archaeological work will be carried out in accordance with the *Institute of Field Archaeologists* Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation 1994 (revised 2001 & 2008) and Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief 1994 (revised 2001 & 2008).
- 4.3.2 The evaluation trenches will be excavated by a 360° tracked machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket under the direct control of the site archaeologist to the depth of formation, the surface of *in situ* subsoil/weathered natural or archaeological deposits whichever is highest in the stratigraphic sequence.
- 4.3.3 Spoil will be examined for the recovery of artefacts.
- 4.3.4 Once the level of the archaeology has been reached all archaeological material will be excavated by hand down to the depth of the archaeology, although this need not require excavation to natural deposits if it is clear that complex and deep stratigraphy will be encountered.
- 4.3.5 All excavation of exposed archaeological features shall be carried out by hand, stratigraphically, and fully recorded by context to IFA guidelines.
- 4.3.6 If archaeological features are exposed, then as a minimum:
  - i) small discrete features will be fully excavated;
  - ii) larger discrete features will be half-sectioned (50% excavated);
  - iii) long linear features will be excavated to sample 20% of their length with investigative excavations distributed along the exposed length of any such feature.
- 4.3.7 Should a feature or features are exposed which extend beyond the limits of the trenching, slight expansion of the excavated area may be undertaken to clarify the feature/s. Decisions regarding expansion will be considered in consultation with the DCHES.
- 4.3.8 Whether any further excavation is required will be confirmed with DCHES. Should the above excavation not yield sufficient information to allow the form and function of archaeological features/deposits to be determined, full excavation of such features/deposits may be required.
- 4.3.9 In exceptional circumstances where materials of a particularly compact nature are encountered, these may be removed with a toothed bucket, subject to agreement with archaeological staff on site.
- 4.3.10 Should archaeological or palaeoenvironmental remains be exposed, the site archaeologist will investigate, record and sample such deposits.
- 4.3.11 Human remains must be left *in-situ*, covered and protected. Removal can only take place under appropriate Ministry of Justice and environmental health regulations. Such removal must be in compliance with the relevant primary legislation.
- 4.3.12 Should gold or silver artefacts be exposed, these will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act 1996. 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.
- 4.4 The Client will provide SWARCH with details of the location of existing services and of proposed groundworks within the site area, and of the proposed construction programme.
- 4.5 Health and Safety requirements will be observed at all times by any archaeological staff working on site, particularly when working with machinery. As a minimum: high-visibility jackets, safety helmets and protective footwear will be worn.
  - 4.5.1 Appropriate PPE will be employed at all times.
  - 4.5.2 The site archaeologist will undertake any site safety induction course provided by the Client.
  - 4.5.3 If the depth of trenching exceeds 1.2 metres the trench sides will need to be shored or stepped to enable the archaeologist to examine and if appropriate record the section of the trench. The provision of such measures will be the responsibility of the client.
- 4.6 SWARCH will agree monitoring arrangements with DCHES who will be informed of the start of the fieldwork, will monitor the project throughout, and will inspect the works in progress and at the conclusion of each stage of work, as well as examining both the site and primary records before the fieldwork phase can be signed off.

#### 5.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

- 5.1 This will be based on IFA guidelines and those advised by DCHES and will consist of:
  - 5.1.1 Standardised single context recording sheets, survey drawings in plan, section and profile at 1:10, 1:20, 1:50 and 1:100 as appropriate and digital photography.
  - 5.1.2 Survey and location of features.
  - 5.1.3 Labelling and bagging of finds on site, post-1800 unstratified pottery may be discarded on site after a representative sample has been retained.

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

5.2 Should suitable deposits be exposed (e.g. palaeoenvironmental) then scientific assessment/ analysis/dating techniques will be applied to further understand their nature/date and to establish appropriate sampling procedures. The project will be organised so that specialist consultants who might be required to conserve or report on other aspects of the investigations can be called upon.

#### 6.0 FURTHER WORK

- 6.1 If no archaeological deposits are exposed by the evaluation it may be decided by DCHES that no further archaeological works will be required.
- 6.2 The need for further archaeological work and the means of investigation (monitoring and recording, trenching or open area excavation) will be determined in consultation with the archaeological contractor, DCHES and the Client once the result of the evaluation is known. Subsequent work will be carried out in accordance with the above specification (4.0 and 5.0).
- 6.3 The development shall not proceed until the requirement for further archaeological intervention has been established by the DCHES.

#### 7.0 ARCHIVE AND REPORT

- 7.1 An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with *The Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991 2nd edition) upon completion of the entire project. This will include relevant correspondence together with context sheets, field drawings, and environmental, artefactual and photographic records. The archive and finds will be deposited with the Plymouth City Museum under accession number AR.2007.9. The museum's guidelines for the deposition of archives for long-term storage will be adhered to.
- 7.2 Archaeological finds resulting from the investigation (which are the property of the landowner), will also be deposited with the above museum (under the accession number above) in a format to be agreed with the museum, and within a timetable to be agreed with the HES. The museum's guidelines for the deposition of archives for long-term storage will be adhered to and any sampling procedures will be carried out prior to deposition and in consultation with the museum. If ownership of all or any of the 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.
- 7.3 An illustrated summary report will be produced as soon as possible following completion of fieldwork, specialist reports allowing. This will combine the results of the cartographic study, the historic building survey and the excavations. A draft report will be submitted to the HES for comment prior to its formal submission to the Local Planning Authority. Copies of the report will also be provided to North Devon District Council's Conservation Officer and the DCHES as well as the Client.
- 7.4 The report will include the following:
  - 7.4.1 A report number and the OASIS record number;
  - 7.4.2 A copy of this WSI;
  - 7.4.3 A location plan and overall site plan including the location of the building:
  - 7.4.4 The desk based assessment element will include the reproduction of relevant historic maps /plans etc and historic or current photographs where appropriate, and give an assessment of the context and development of the site;
  - 7.4.5 A description of the building including features of historical significance within the building and a consideration of the setting of the building in the wider context;
  - 7.4.6 Plans and sections of significant features or deposits at a relevant scale;
  - 7.4.7 A description of any remains and deposits identified including an interpretation of their character and significance;
  - 7.4.8 An assessment of significant artefacts, historical and/or architectural features, environmental and scientific samples together with recommendations for further analysis;
  - 7.4.9 Any specialist reports commissioned;
  - 7.4.10 Discussion of the archaeological deposits encountered and their context;
  - 7.4.11 A conclusion to include a summary of the archaeological potential and impact of the development on the site.
- 7.5 DCCHES will receive the report within three months of completion of fieldwork, dependant on the provision of specialist reports, radiocarbon dating results etc, the production of which may exceed this period. If a substantial delay is anticipated then an interim report will be produced. The report will be supplied to the HES on the understanding that one of these copies will be deposited for public reference in the HER. In addition to the hard copies of the report, one copy will be provided to the HES in digital format, in a format to be agreed in advance with the HES, on the understanding that it may in future be made available to researchers via a webbased version of the HER.
- 7.6 Should particularly significant historic fabric, architectural features, below-ground remains, finds be encountered, then these, because of their importance, are likely to merit wider publication in line with

government planning guidance. If such remains are encountered, the publication requirements –including any further analysis that may be necessary – will be confirmed with the HES.

7.7 A copy of the report detailing the results of these investigations will be submitted to the OASIS (*Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS*) database under OASIS record number southwes1-60436.

#### 8.0 PERSONNEL

The project will be managed by Colin Humphreys; the building recording and monitoring will be undertaken by Colin Humphreys and Robert Waterhouse, the excavation work will be undertaken by SWARCH personnel directed by Brynmor Morris. Relevant staff of the DCHES will be consulted as appropriate. Where necessary appropriate specialist advice will be sought, (see list of consultant specialists in Appendix 1 below).

Deb Laing-Trengove, South West Archaeology, The Old Dairy, Hacche Lane Business Park, Pathfields Business Park, South Molton, Devon EX36 3LH, Telephone: 01769 573555

#### List of specialists

#### **Building recording**

Robert Waterhouse, 13 Mill Meadow, Ashburton TQ13 7RN, Tel: 01364 652963

Richard Parker, Exeter Archaeology, Custom House, The Quay, Exeter, EX2 4AN, Tel: 01392 665521, exeter.arch@exeter.gov.uk

#### Conservation

Richard and Helena Jaeschke, 2 Bydown Cottages, Swimbridge, Barnstaple EX32 0QD, Tel: 01271 830891

#### Curatorial

Alison Mills, The Museum of Barnstaple & North Devon, The Square, Barnstaple, North Devon. EX32 8LN, Tel: 01271 346747

Thomas Cadbury, Curator of Antiquities, Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Bradninch Offices, Bradninch Place, Gandy Street, Exeter EX4 3LS, Tel: 01392 665356

Fiona Pitt, Plymouth City Museum, Drake Circus, Plymouth, PL4 8AJ, Tel: 01752 204766

#### Geophysical Survey

Ross Dean, South West Archaeology Limited.

GSB Prospection Ltd. Cowburn Farm, Market Street, Thornton, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD13 3HW

Tel: +44 (0)1274 835016, gsb@gsbprospection.com

#### **Human Bones**

Louise Lou, Head of Heritage Burial Services, Oxford Archaeology, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 OES, Tel: 01865 263 800

#### Lithics

Martin Tingle, Higher Brownston, Brownston, Modbury, Devon, PL21 OSQ, martin@mtingle.freeserve.co.uk

#### Metallurgy

Sarah Paynter, Centre for Archaeology, Fort Cumberland, Fort Cumberland Road, Eastney, Portsmouth PO4 9LD, Tel: 02392 856700, sarah.paynter@english-heritage.org.

#### Palaeoenvironmental/Organic

Vanessa Straker, English Heritage SW, 29 Queen Square, Bristol BS1 4ND, Tel: 0117 9287961, vanessa.straker@english-heritage.org.uk

Dana Challinon (wood identification), Lavender Cottage, Little Lane, Aynho, Oxfordshire OX17 3BJ,

Tel: 01869 810150, dana.challinor@tiscali.co.uk

Julie Jones (plant macro-fossils), juliedjones@blueyonder.co.uk

Heather Tinsley (pollen analysis), heathertinsley@aol.com

Ralph Fyffe (pollen analysis) University of Plymouth

#### Pottery

John Allen, Exeter Archaeology, Custom House, The Quay, Exeter, EX2 4AN, Tel: 01392 665918

Henrietta Quinnell, 39D Polsloe Road, Exeter EX1 2DN, Tel: 01392 433214

#### **Timber Conservation**

Liz Goodman, Specialist Services, Conservation Museum of London, 150 London Wall, London EC2Y 5HN Tel: 0207 8145646, lgoodman@museumoflondon.org.uk

# Appendix 2

# List of contexts

Context	Description
Number	
(100)	Modern overburden, rubbish, demolition material.
(101)	Fill of [102]. Firm greyish-brown clayey-silt, abundant shillet lithorelicts. Some darker elements containing common charcoal flakes, mortar. Included wood-chip wallpaper.
[102]	Shallow oval concave pit 1.04×1.34m by 0.16m deep. East side near vertical, west side gently slopes to middle, further depression at the southern end.
(103)	Fill of [104]. Only a small amount of the original fill remained. Soft dark reddish-grey clayeysilt, abundant small shillet lithorelicts and some small quartz fragments.
[104]	Base of possible circular post-hole. 0.2m diameter by 0.04m deep. Shallow, concave base.
(105)	Fill of [106]. Soft greyish-brown silty-clay, abundant shillet lithorelicts. 1 sherd post-medieval pottery.
[106]	Shallow gully crossing Trench #1 N-S. 0.2m wide and 0.06-0.09m deep. East side near vertical, west side gently slopes to middle. Probable drain/drip gully outside original core of house.
(107)	Fill of [108]. Soft wet brown mud with common angular stones and brick fragments, running with water. Interpreted as stone drain, coincidence with exterior wall suggests a wall foundation.
[108]	0.4m wide cut crossing Trench #1 N-S. Not excavated.
(109)	Fill of [110]. Loose light brown silty-clay. Abundant shillet lithorelicts. 2 sherds of white refined earthenware (post 1720).
[110]	Linear gully 0.25m wide by 0.15m deep. Observed length 2.7m. East side near vertical, west side gently slopes to middle. Probable extension of [106].
[111]	Cut within original farmhouse footprint for cavity beneath a raised wooden floor. Vertical sides, 4.5×3.6m. Not excavated.
{112}	Series of dwarf stone walls within [111] designed to carry the floor joists. Free-standing walls 0.25-0.3m thick, walls abutting sides of cut 0.1-0.15m thick. Composed of white mortared roughly coursed stone rubble.
(113)	?fill of [111]. Clean deposit of clinker/industrial waste completely filling the underfloor cavity represented by [111]/{112}. Contained asbestos fragments. Partly overlay {112}.
(114)	Soft light-brown silty-clay ?floor. Extended over parts of (113).
{115}	End wall of farmhouse, 0.6m thick. Large stones set in white mortar.
	Nb. All cut features cut into rock – decayed shillet or shales.

Appendix 3:

Concordance of Finds

post 1810 post 1720 C19<sup>th</sup> C20<sup>th</sup> Post-med DATE 0.002 | x2 white refined earthenware 0.006 White-refined earthenware səţou N. Devon coarseware **Pottery** all C19<sup>th</sup> pottery 0.015 0.144 7 0.167 weight kg 2 8 zherds ∠ stone architectr. frag. metal alloy button səţou Other 0000 >6.0 2 >6.0 weight kg fragments [sample only] notes Slag 1.082 **1.082** weight kg fragments Context (106) (107) (109) (113) (113)

# Appendix 4

List of jpegs contained on the CD on the rear cover of this report.

#### **Building Survey**

#### Ground Floor

- Higher Langage farmhouse viewed from the east.
- 2. As above viewed from the south-east.
- 3. Detail of above showing the hall (room 3) window.
- 4. The hall window and adjacent doorway.
- 5. As above, showing north end of east facing elevation.
- 6. The doorway and stack in the east elevation.
- Detail of above.
- 8. The south end of the west elevation.
- 9. The south facing end of the main range.
- As above.
- 11. As above.
- 12. The farmhouse viewed from the west.
- 13. The south end of the west elevation showing the 20<sup>th</sup> century extension.
- 14. The north end of the west elevation showing the late 18<sup>th</sup> century extension.
- 15. The farmhouse viewed from the north showing the hipped end of the main range and the gable of the rear extension.
- 16. Room (1) viewed from the south-east.
- 17. Room (1) viewed from the south-west.
- 18. Room (12), viewed from the west.
- 19. Room (10), viewed from the north-east.
- 20. Looking through doorway from Room (10) into Room (11), viewed from the north.
- 21. Room (10), viewed from the east.
- 22. Room (9), viewed from the north-east.
- 23. Cupboard beneath stairs (room (2)), viewed from the west.
- 24. Room (2), viewed from the north, through the doorway from Room (3).
- 25. Room (8), viewed from the east.
- 26. Room (3), viewed from the south-west.
- 27. The fireplace in Room (3), viewed from the west.
- 28. The south-east corner of Room (3), viewed from the north-west.
- 29. Room (3), viewed from the south-east.
- 30. Room (3), viewed from the north-east.
- 31. Room (7), viewed from the east.
- 32. Room (6), with cupboard, viewed from the north.
- 33. Room (5), north-western corner of original build of structure, viewed from the north-west.
- 34. Room (5), viewed from the north-west.
- 35. Room (5), viewed from the south-east.
- 36. Room (6), viewed from the south.
- 37. Room (4), the doorway into Room (3), viewed from the north.
- 38. Room (4), viewed from the south-west.
- 39. Room (4), the external doorway to the east, viewed from the west.
- 40. Room (4), the northern wall of the original structure, viewed from the north.

#### First Floor

- 41. Rom (27), viewed from the south.
- 42. Room (26), viewed from the south-east.
- 43. Room (26), viewed from north-west.
- 44. Room (23), viewed from the south-west.
- 45. Room (23), viewed from the east.
- 46. Room (2), view down the stairs to the eastern entrance, viewed from the west.
- 47. Room (22), viewed from the north-west.
- 48. Room (22), viewed from the north.
- 49. Room (22), detail of 19<sup>th</sup> century cast-iron fire surround, viewed from the north.
- 50. Room (22), viewed from the south-west.
- 51. Room (22), viewed from the south-east.
- 52. Room (21), viewed from the north.
- 53. Room (20) and (27), viewed from the south.
- 54. Room (24), viewed from the south-west.
- 55. Room (24), viewed from the north-east.

#### Roof Trusses

- 56. Main roof, hipped northern end, viewed from the south.
- 57. As above, detail of blocked window and detail of truss joint.

- 58. As above, showing northern two trusses.
- 59. As above. Detail of truss jointing.
- 60. As above.
- As above. Detail of collar jointing. 61
- 62.
- Roof of two-storey 18<sup>th</sup> extension, detail of gable end and trusses, viewed from the north. 63.
- 64. As above.
- 65. As above.
- 66. As above.
- As above, detail of truss jointing. 67.
- 68. As above, detail of collar jointing.

#### **Building Demolition**

- East-facing external elevation of farmhouse, viewed from south-east.
- East-facing external elevation, viewed from the south-east. 70.
- West-facing internal elevation of Rooms (6) to (10), viewed from south-west. 71.
- East-facing external elevation of farmhouse, viewed from north-east. 72.
- External corner of Room (5) during demolition, viewed from north-east. 73.
- 74. West-facing internal elevation of Room (6) & (7), viewed from west.
- West-facing internal elevation of Room (7) & (8), viewed from west. 75
- As above, showing build of wall and raises in the cob. 76.
- 77. West-facing internal elevation of Rooms (8)-(10), viewed from west.
- West-facing internal elevation, Rooms (10) & (11), viewed from west. 78.
- 79. North-facing internal elevation, Rooms (4) & (5), detail of corner, viewed from the north-east.
- 80. North-facing internal elevation, Rooms (4) & (5), viewed from the north-west.
- North-west corner of farmhouse, partly demolished, viewed from the north-west. 81.
- 82. As above, viewed from the north.
- West-facing internal elevation, Room (3), showing wall of chimney, viewed from north-west. 83.
- 84. West-facing internal elevation, Rooms (3) & (4), viewed from the north-west.
- 85. As above, showing demolition.
- East-facing external elevation of farmhouse, showing chimney, during demolition, viewed from the north-east. 86.
- 87. As above, showing detail of vertical joint in stonework.
- 88. West-facing internal elevation of Room (3), showing build of chimney, viewed from the north-west.
- East-facing external elevation/cross-section of farmhouse, Room 2, viewed from the north-east. 89.
- West-facing internal elevation of Room (2), showing wall in cross-section, viewed from the north-west. 90.
- Cross-section through east wall of Room 1, viewed from the north. 91
- 92. North-facing internal elevation of southern gable wall, viewed from the north-east.
- 93. Stub of southern gable wall, showing build, viewed from the east.
- Swing-shovel sitting on a pile of rubble. 94

#### **Evaluation**

- 95. View along base of Trench #1, from the south-west end (1m scale).
- 96. Edge of Trench #3, showing edge of south wall of farmhouse from the south-east (1m scale).
- 97. Trench #3, with wall of farmhouse in the background from the north-west (1m scale).
- Trench #3, showing modern cut and rubbish backfill from the north-west (1m scale). 98.
- Stripped area, showing clinker-filled under-floor cavity, from the north-west in the house (1m scale). 99.
- 100. Stripped area, showing clinker-filled under-floor cavity, from the north-east in the house (1m scale).
- View along base of Trench #1, from the south-east end (1m scale). 101.
- 102. View of farmhouse footprint from north (1m scale).
- 103.
- View of linear feature [106], vertical shot from the east (1m scale). View of linear feature [106], showing section from the south (1m scale). 104.
- 105. View of pit [102] (beneath fireplace), post-ex from the west (1m scale).
- 106. View of pit [102] (beneath fireplace), post-ex, showing section from the south (1m scale).
- 107. View of site with power station in background, from the east (1m scale).
- View of site with power station in background, from the east (1m scale). 108.