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**HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING  
MOUNT PLEASANT  
MAIN STREET  
SUTTON CHENEY  
LEICESTERSHIRE  
(SCMP14)**

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Work Undertaken For  
King West Ltd

October 2014

Report Compiled by  
Neil Parker MA

National Grid Reference: SK 4175 0041  
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES**

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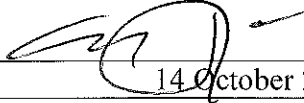





## Quality Control

### Historic Building Recording Mount Pleasant, Main Street, Sutton Cheney, Leicestershire

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Date: 14 October 2014	Date: 16 October 2014



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**HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING: MOUNT PLEASANT, MAIN STREET, SUTTON CHENEY, LEICESTERSHIRE**

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## **1. SUMMARY**

A programme of historic building recording was undertaken prior to alteration and extension at Mount Pleasant, Main Street, Sutton Cheney, Leicestershire.

The building ground floor plans, external elevations and other details were recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.

The building is a Grade II listed structure of early 19<sup>th</sup> century date with original features. It retains the frame of an apparent inglenook fireplace and some chamfered beams, which might suggest surviving elements of 18<sup>th</sup> century date.

## **2. INTRODUCTION**

### **2.1 Definition of Archaeological Building Recording**

Building recording is defined as:

*‘... a programme of work intended to establish the character, history, dating, form and archaeological development of a specified building, structure, or complex and its setting, including its buried components on land or under water.’ (IfA 2008).*

### **2.2 Planning Background**

A planning application is intended for the alteration and extension of the building. Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council has advised that a programme of historic building recording will be required in advance of any development. Leicestershire County Council Historic and Natural Environment Team have provided a generic brief for the work.

The building recording was carried out on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2014 by Neil Parker in accordance with a specification designed by Archaeological Project Services and approved by Leicestershire Historic Environment Service.

### **2.3 Site Location**

Sutton Cheney is located 7km north of Hinckley in the Hinckley & Bosworth District of Leicestershire (Fig. 2). The site is located in the village centre, a short distance to the southeast of the church, on the southeast side of Main Street, at National Grid Reference SK 4175 0041 (Figs. 3 & 4).

## **3. AIMS**

In accordance with the specification, the aims of the work were to provide a record of the standing building on the site prior to renovation and change of use.

## **4. METHODS**

Recording of the building was undertaken in accordance with English Heritage guidelines 2006 and ALGAO guidelines 1997.

Subject to accessibility and safety considerations, the recording of the building included:

- A photographic survey showing the building in its context, general and detailed views of the exterior, interior views of the principal rooms and circulation areas and structural or decorative details.
- A dimensioned ground plan (based on the architects' plan of the building as existing), which was annotated to incorporate details of the form and location of any structural features of historic interest.
- A written record providing an account of the building's location, type, materials and possible dates.

Photographic recording was undertaken with a digital camera. A manual 35mm camera fitted with a macro lens and using black and white film was also used. An index of the photographs was compiled on an annotated register.



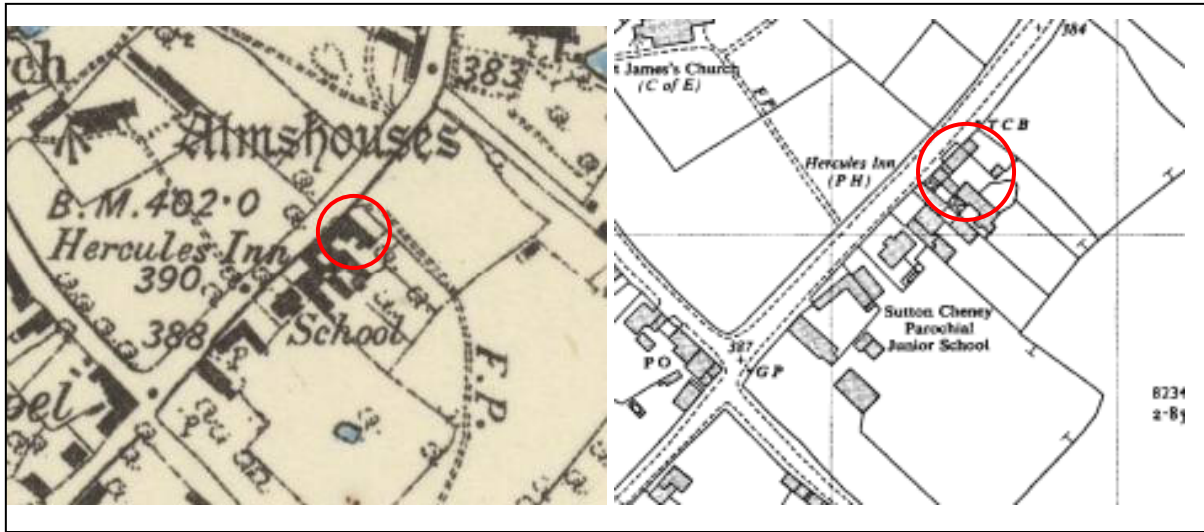
Plate 1. General view of the northwest elevation of Mount Pleasant, looking south from Main Street

## **5. HISTORICAL EVIDENCE**

Historical research involved examination of historic Ordnance Survey Maps. On all of the maps, Mount Pleasant is part of the same complex of buildings as The Hercules Inn (also Grade II listed and early 19<sup>th</sup> century) and what is now known as Church View in between them. The styles of the buildings, particularly Church View differ when observed on the ground and it is unlikely they were all built as one phase of construction.

Maps of Sutton Cheney, dating from between 1885 and 1930, show that the rear of the building extended further to the southeast than at the present time. At a scale of 1:25,000 the level of detail is only clear enough to show the rough extent. Further evidence of this can be seen from the scars on the southern elevation (Fig. 6, Plates 5, 6).

By 1958 the 1:2,500 Ordnance Survey map indicates that the majority of the rear portions of the building had been demolished. The outbuilding labelled as the Store (Figure 5 Plates 19 & 20) is the only surviving part. Mount Pleasant has until recently been used as a residence and currently stands empty.



**Fig.1** Extract from the Ordnance Survey Map of 1885, 1:25,000 (left) and the 1958 edition at scale 1:2,500 (right) showing changes in the extent of the rear of Mount Pleasant

## **6. FABRIC EVIDENCE**

Mount Pleasant is a Grade II Listed structure of early 19<sup>th</sup> century date. It is brick-built, of 2 storeys with a 3-unit plan and has a plain tiled roof, dentilled eaves and a gable end stack. Historic map evidence and visible scarring on the southeast elevation show that it was once a larger structure. A portion of this structure remains to the rear of the building as a store.

The main building exterior will be described first, followed by a detailed account of the interior on a room-by-room basis. A description of the outbuildings will follow.

### **6.1 Main Building. Exterior description**

#### **Northwest (Front) Elevation** (Figure 6, Plates 1 & 2)

The northwest elevation is the public façade of the building fronting Main Street. The main entrance is a single doorway between the southwest unit (Lounge 1) and the central unit (Lounge 2). It has a straight upper lintel and a pitched concrete porch roof. The windows either side on the ground and first floor are three light casement windows with cambered brick heads and creasing tile cills.

The wall of the northeast unit (Kitchen/Diner) has a blocked doorway of a similar size and flat-topped style to the main doorway. The window to the northeast of this door is also a three light casement with a cambered brick head and creasing tile cill. It is slightly smaller than its counterparts and set lower to the ground. Beneath the window on its southwestern (right) side is an area of apparent brick patching or infill. This might suggest an earlier narrower and taller window, but this is countered by the arched head which extends the full width of the window. There is no corresponding window in the first floor of the northwest elevation.





**Plate 2.** Detail of the northwest (front) elevation highlighting the blocked doorway and the difference in levels between the windows

The brickwork on the northwest elevation is mostly uniform in Flemish Garden Wall bond supplemented by vertical additions of queen closer bricks. The pointing is flush except for the course below the windows where it is weather struck.

#### **Northeast (Side) Elevation (Figure 6, Plates 3 & 4)**

The ground floor window in the northeast elevation is a two light timber cross casement window, the aperture for which has been cut into the existing brickwork. There is no cambered head. The first floor window, a three light timber casement with a cambered brick head, has a steeply sloping cill of canted blue brick and is integral to the surrounding brickwork. Above this in the gable is a blocked window aperture, also with a cambered head suggesting this floor was once in use as attic rooms.



**Plate 3 (left).** General view of the northeast (side) elevation showing the windows Looking west

**Plate 4 (Below).** Detail of the change in brickwork and the blocked window in the gable. Looking northwest



The brickwork in the northeast elevation is uniform, Flemish Garden Wall bond until the gable where the type changes to what appears to be more recent brick. This is bonded in a variant of Flemish Garden Wall (five stretchers to one header rather than three stretchers to one header per course as is seen on the other elevations). At the eaves the brick is set in sawtooth dentilation. Running the height of the elevation, to the north (right) of the windows is a vertical band of light brick. For the most part this is just some form of bleaching, as the colour partially crosses bricks, but there is some evidence of brick replacement in this band. Additionally, at the base of the band is a short section of blue brick.

There are two metal downpipes. One leads from the gutter on the southeast (rear) elevation and the other a more recent outlet from the shower room on the first floor.

### **Southeast (Rear) Elevation (Figure 5, Plates 5-8)**



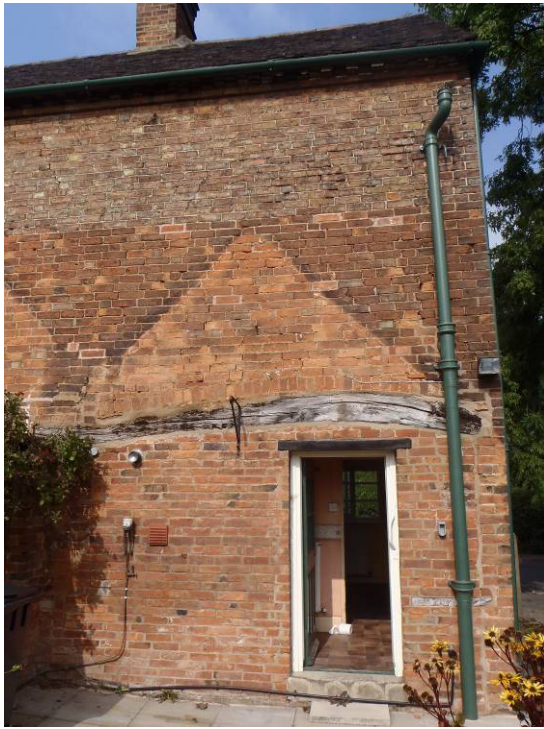
**Plate 5.** General view of the southeast (rear) elevation showing the scars of previous structural elements and the conspicuous changes in the brickwork

Previous structural elements of the building that were demolished some time between 1930 and 1958 are visible as scars on the southeast elevation of the main building. The central wall between the two structures remains as the garden wall (behind the shrubbery to the right of Plate 5). The scars of the pitched roofs cover two uniform phases of brickwork showing that within this upper space they abutted the building.

On the ground floor there is evidence that the structures may have been open to the main body of the building as they have been blocked with different phases of brickwork. The northeast part of the ground floor retains the original timber (oak) lintel above the modern door. Above this is a slightly arched course of bricks laid in a stretcher bond. Directly below the lintel were the remains of a wide space that has been completely bricked up. The presence of the lintel suggests that this part of the structure was completely open to the main building.

Aside from the occasional brick laid as a header and infrequent queen closers the entrance has been bricked up in stretcher bond. The new doorway with its straight wooden lintel has been built as an integral part of this phase of alteration. A small timber beam has been left to the right of the doorway, possibly as a means of attaching a gate.

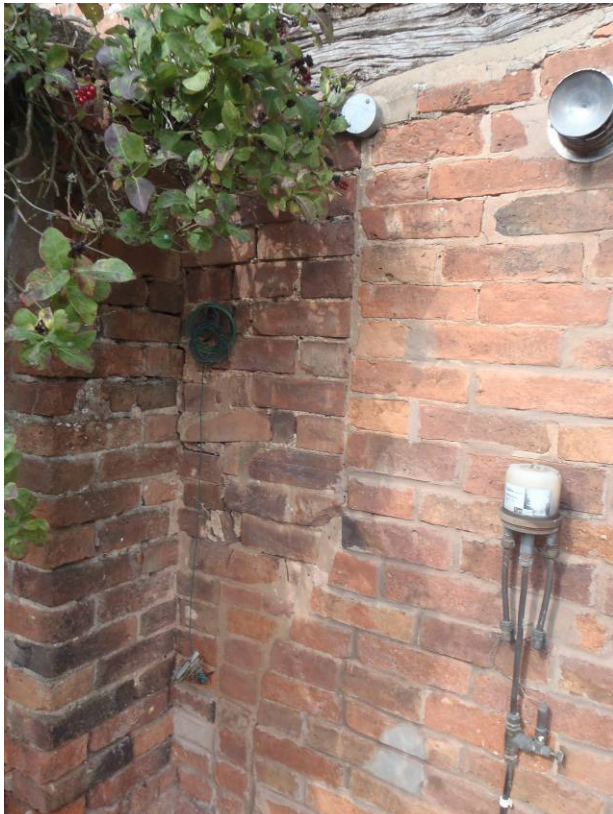




**Plate 6.** Detail of the rear entrance into the lobby area through a blocked-up original ground floor entrance. Looking northeast

The scar of the pitched roof of the northeast part of the structure above the lobby door reached only to the change in brickwork. Map evidence (Figure 1) reveals that this was the longest part of the two structures. It may have been a stable block.

The garden wall would have originally been the southwest wall of this structure that stretched all the way to the outbuilding labelled as a store. That this was an integral part of the whole building is evidenced by how the garden wall is keyed into the main structure (Plate 7).



**Plate 7.** Detail of the edge of the blocked entrance showing how the garden wall, keyed into the rear wall of the main building was an integral part of the structure. It formed the southwest (long) wall of this removed portion of the building. Looking west

The southwesterly of the two former structures was much taller. The scar of the pitched roof reached to the eaves overlapping the changes in brickwork on the main building. The map evidence shows this was the shorter of the two buildings. This structure may have been a barn associated with the possible stables.

Although the ground floor appeared to have been open, at least to some degree, there is no overarching wooden lintel or evidence that there has been one. It has been bricked up in two phases unlike its neighbouring building. It is possible that these separate phases represent the installation of the windows.



**Plate 8.** Detail of the windows within the bricked up area inside the building scar of the southwest structure. Looking northwest

The casement window to Lounge 2 has a straight brick head and was constructed within the bricked up area whereas the aperture for the small window to the pantry has been cut into the brickwork. Above them is a slight ridge where the ground floor opening to this structure has been filled in.

To the southwest and also on the ground floor, the casement window to Lounge 1 was also cut into the brickwork and has a flat head of blue bricks. The upper floor window with its cambered brick head was integral to the structure of the wall. All the windows have creasing tile cills.

The brickwork on the rear elevation had three distinct phases. Each was constructed in Flemish Garden Wall bond. The uppermost course on the bricks at the first floor was laid as stretchers before the change to the uppermost phase. In this central area of brickwork two timbers from the internal beams were also visible.

## **6.2 Main Building. Interior descriptions (Figure 4, Plates 9-18)**

### **Ground Floor**

Entrance to the property was through the back door at the northeast corner of the ground floor into the northeast unit. This had been divided into a lobby area and a kitchen diner. The partition wall between the lobby and kitchen was of lath and plaster and not original to the structure.





**Plate 9** (left). The kitchen with original timber beam.

**Plate 10** (below). Detail of the wall between the northeast and central units



The kitchen diner had a poured concrete floor covered by linoleum. The wall between the floor units and the attached upper cupboards was tiled. Where the appliances had been removed the internal wall was visible. Original to the structure, the internal bricks were laid in English bond. The wooden beam across the ceiling had a chamfered bottom and appeared to be original. It did not however extend into the central unit.

Access to the central unit was through the lobby also. The room was open as a single unit with a quarry tiled floor and windows front and rear. The most notable feature of this room was the fireplace. The entire northeast wall of the room beside the doorway was taken up with what appeared to be the remains of a large inglenook. At some time the inglenook was replaced by a smaller central hearth with recessed shelves on either side. The architrave top to the inglenook was likely added along with the smaller replacement hearth. This style of inglenook fireplace is reminiscent of 18<sup>th</sup> century architecture.



**Plate 11.**

A large inglenook fireplace that has been altered to provide a smaller central hearth and a chimney breast. There are recessed shelves on either side



The access to the pantry was at the southwest corner of the central unit and located below the landing. Within the pantry what now has been set up as a cold shelf against the back wall may have been the entrance to the cellar at the front of the building. Any access has since been blocked as the floor is now solid concrete.



**Plate 12.** The pantry and the cold shelf covering what may have been the access to the cellar

From the lounge in the northeast corner a door gives access to the front hall, stairs and main front entrance. This leads to the southwest unit (Lounge 1). The fireplace here is on the southwest end of the building and appears to be original to the building. The room has windows front and rear. There is also a timber across the ceiling that appears to be an original feature of the building.



**Plate 13.** The southwest unit (Lounge 1) of the ground floor looking toward the front entrance to the building. Some floorboards had been removed allowing a view of the cellar

The cellar below this room is the reason for the boarded floor. Some of the boards had been lifted allowing observation of the cellar.

The cellar itself only reached two thirds of the way back from the front of the building and its access is now blocked. It was possible to observe that it is of brick construction with an earth floor and is divided into compartments.



**Plate 14.**

The cellar below the southwest unit and the access through to where the entrance was located in the pantry area

### **First Floor**

On accessing the first floor from the stairway, to the right of the landing is a doorway through to an area labelled as a store. Both this area and the cupboard in Bedroom 2 extend over the passage on the ground floor between this and the adjacent property.



**Plate 15.**

The store area looking back toward the landing showing the lime plastered walls and poured concrete floor

The store area is unfurnished with the walls rendered in lime plaster. There are exposed joists in the ceiling that are visible on the outer rear elevation (Plate 5).

The floor is of uneven poured concrete over reeds. This structural element is visible from below in the passage between Mount Pleasant and Church View.



**Plate 16.**

The underside of the floor of the store area showing the reed construction. Looking upward from the passage between Mount Pleasant and Church View

Bedroom 2 is the same dimensionally southwest to northeast as the room below in the southwest unit but has been partitioned off with a lath and plaster wall on the southeast.

The fireplace in this bedroom has since been blocked off. It is above the ground floor fireplace but it is recessed into the wall; the flue is stepped out over the passageway below and the stack is where Mount Pleasant and Church View join.

On the northeast side of the stairs is Bedroom 1 occupying the central unit. On the northeast side of the rake-over chimney breast was an exposed timber beam crossing the ceiling with the associated joists exposed from front to back. Also on the northeast side was a blocked doorway through to Bedroom 3. The fireplace in this room was also blocked.



**Plate 17.**

Bedroom 1 in the central unit showing the exposed beams, the rake-over chimney breast and the blocked doorway to bedroom 3

The northeast unit was divided into Bedroom 3 and the Shower room. The division of the space was created by the shower unit and the immersion heater that were boarded out against a lath and plaster wall. The wall was flush to the northeast end wall partially blocking the window.

Access to the uppermost storey is in the central unit. The stairway entrance has been boarded up but enough had been removed to gain entry. The northeast unit with the bricked up window was inaccessible so its form and function as a room was not visible. Of note is the brickwork in the gable end of the southwest unit. The additional courses on the chimney and the gable show that although of some age, the roof is not original.



**Plate 18.**

Southwest gable end showing the additional courses of brickwork on the chimney and gable and the timber structure of the roof



### 6.3 The outbuildings (Figure 4, Plate2 19 & 20)

The outbuildings have undergone some alteration but are in essence the partial remains of the demolished structures visible as scars on the rear elevation of the main building.



**Plate 19.**

The original portions of the outbuildings with the attached garage on the right of the picture

The original parts of the outbuildings are split into two separate compartments, both built with brick laid in Flemish Garden Wall bond. The small northeast partition is a concrete floored coal shed. The rear store, with a brick floor has another internal doorway that leads through to what is now the garage. The rear wall, with its blocked up windows is integral and continues along to the house as the central garden wall.

The garage is a later addition and butts against the rear wall and the shed. The area previously occupied by the demolished buildings is now a patio.



**Plate 20.**

The garage, a modern addition attached to the remains of previous structures now used as outbuildings and stores. Looking south

## **7. DISCUSSION**

The historical evidence from the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map shows that the building has been here since at least 1885 and on its listing it is described as being of early 19<sup>th</sup> century date. However, the architectural remains of the large inglenook in the central unit suggest a possible origin in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and the chamfered beams may of the same date. The map evidence shows the buildings as part of the same complex as the Hercules Inn and this is believed to be of early 18<sup>th</sup> century date. The building in between, Church View, looks architecturally very different from the inn and Mount Pleasant and it is possible that this portion is of 19<sup>th</sup> century date.

The building has undergone several changes in its history. The most notable is the removal of a large portion at the rear, now occupied by the patio area and the store. The evidence for their form and position can be seen on the scars left on the rear elevation. The structures were present on the 1930 Ordnance Survey map but removed by the publication of the 1958 map. All that remains are what is now the garden wall and the store. It is possible that these may have been stables and associated barns and outbuildings.

Internal alterations are relatively slight and the basic three unit plan has been mostly retained throughout. On the ground floor the northeast unit has been partitioned into a lobby and kitchen diner with the front entrance bricked up and lobby access from the rear. This appears to have been done in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The large inglenook in the central unit has been enclosed and the smaller fireplace and chimney breast appear to be Victorian in date, as does the surround in the southwest unit. This alteration may be as much changing fashion as practicality. It is likely though that changes in cooking technology in the late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century made the large inglenook obsolete.

Another main structural alteration is the roof. The timbers of the roof structure are of some age but the top of the gable has been raised along with the chimney stack. It was not possible to ascertain the date of this alteration but the bricks in the additional section are very similar to those below. It is not evident when this floor went out of use but the bricks in the blocked window in the northeast gable appear to be relatively modern.

## **8. CONCLUSION**

The historic building recording undertaken at Mount Pleasant, Main Street, Sutton Cheney, Leicestershire has illustrated some major as well as subtle changes. A broad chronology suggests a possible 18<sup>th</sup> century rather than 19<sup>th</sup> century origin with some other phases of alteration, the largest change occurring between 1930 and 1958. The building has, it appears, always been in use as a residence.

## **9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Project Services wishes to thank King West Ltd who commissioned this building survey. The project was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Denise Drury.

## **10. PERSONNEL**

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor  
Building Recording: Neil Parker  
Photographic reproduction: Neil Parker  
CAD Illustration: Neil Parker  
Analysis: Neil Parker

## **11. BIBLIOGRAPHY**

ALGAO, 1997 *Analysis and Recording for the Conservation and Control of Works to Historic Buildings*

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

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## **12. ABBREVIATIONS**

APS Archaeological Project Services

IfA Institute for Archaeologists

OS Ordnance Survey

## **Appendix 1**

### **GLOSSARY**

<b>Architrave</b>	Surround of plain or elaborate mouldings framing a doorway, window-aperture or other opening.
<b>Creasing tile</b>	Flat clay tile laid to form decorative features or for waterproofing.
<b>Dentilation</b>	With dentils – small blocks forming a long, closely set, horizontal series under the cornice.
<b>English bond</b>	Brickwork arranged with alternate layers of stretchers (bricks laid lengthwise) and headers (bricks laid so their ends are visible).
<b>Flemish garden-wall bond</b>	Brickwork arranged with three stretchers (bricks laid lengthwise) between each pair of headers (bricks laid so their ends are visible) in each course.
<b>Light</b>	An aperture through which light may pass, such as a pane of glass (each separate pane of glass within a window).
<b>Queen closer</b>	A brick that has been cut over its length and is a stretcher long and a quarter-length wide.
<b>Ragged join</b>	Approximately vertical, slightly irregular, junction between sections of walling where one elevation has been cut and bonded into an earlier one.
<b>Straight join</b>	Regular vertical junction between two sections of walling that shows one part was butted against the other.
<b>Victorian</b>	Pertaining to the period of Queen Victoria's reign, dating from 1837-1901.





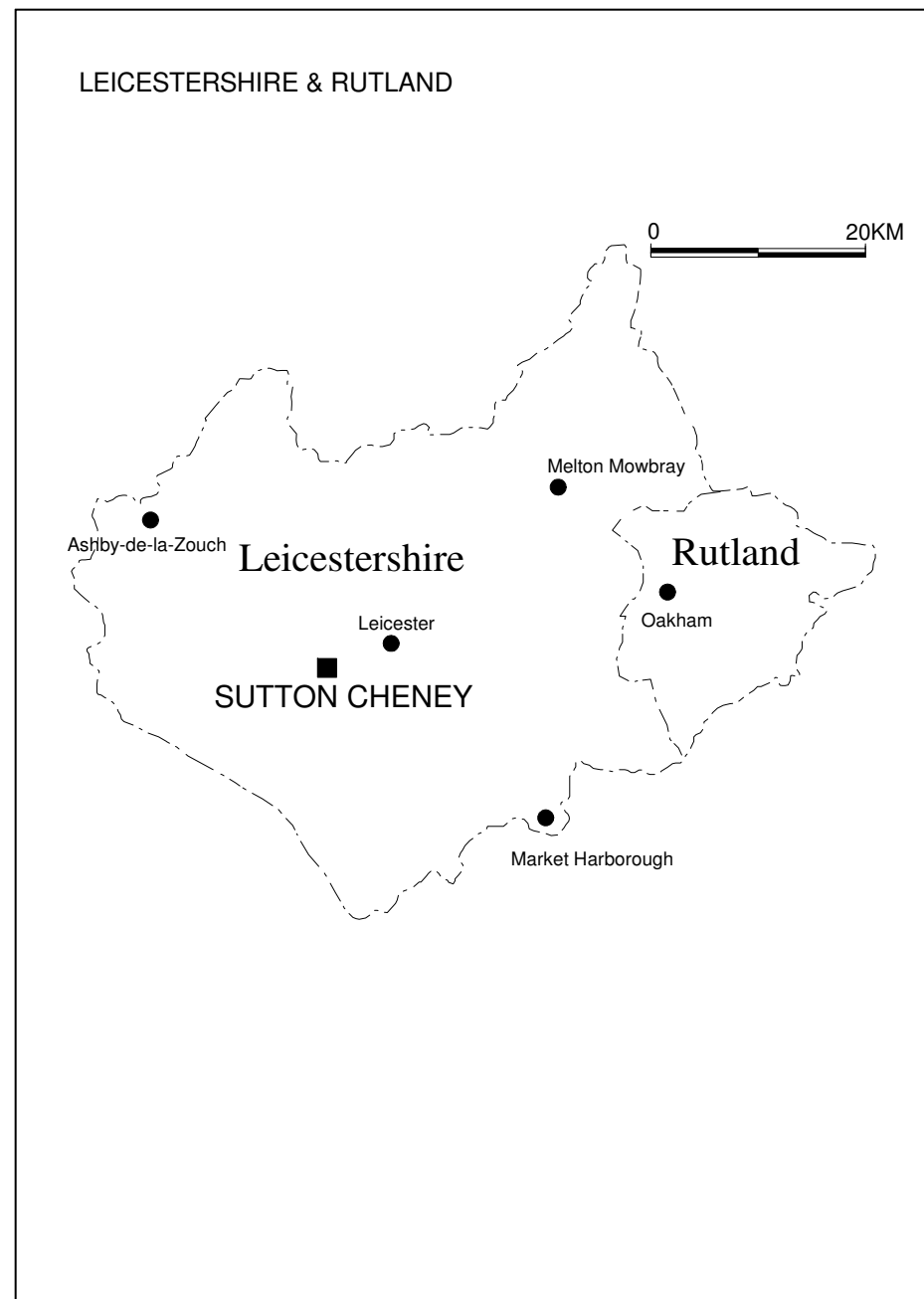
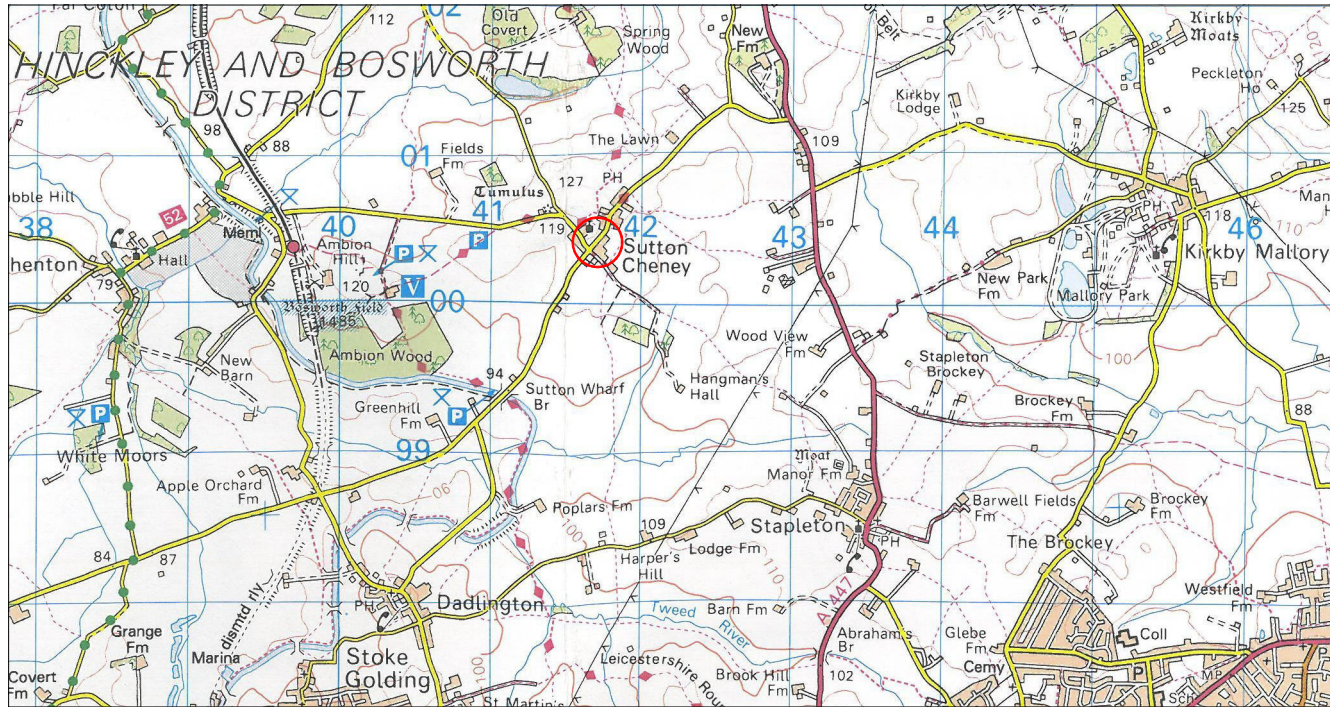


Figure 2 General location plan





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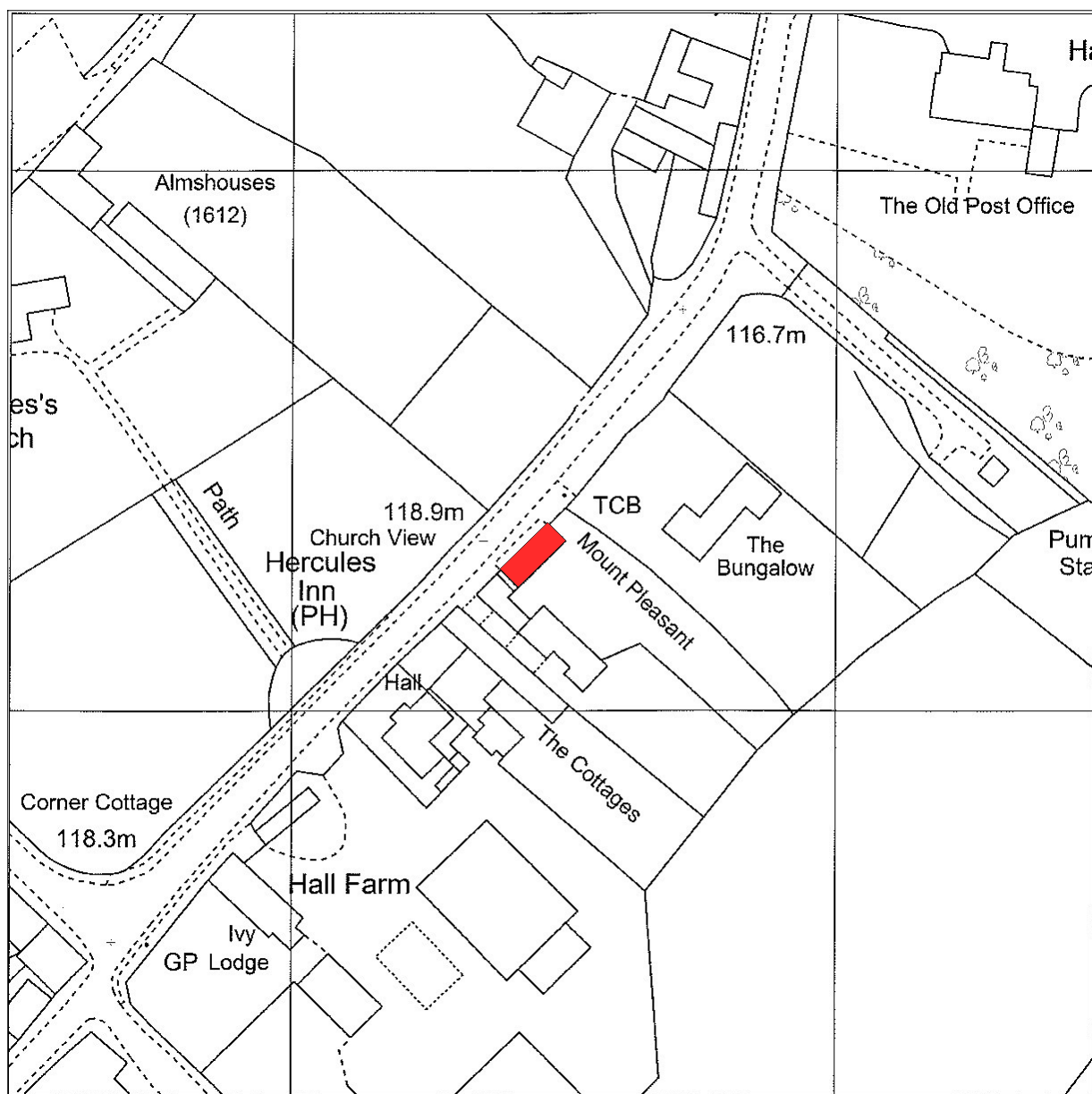
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Figure 3 Site Location





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Recorded building

0 50m



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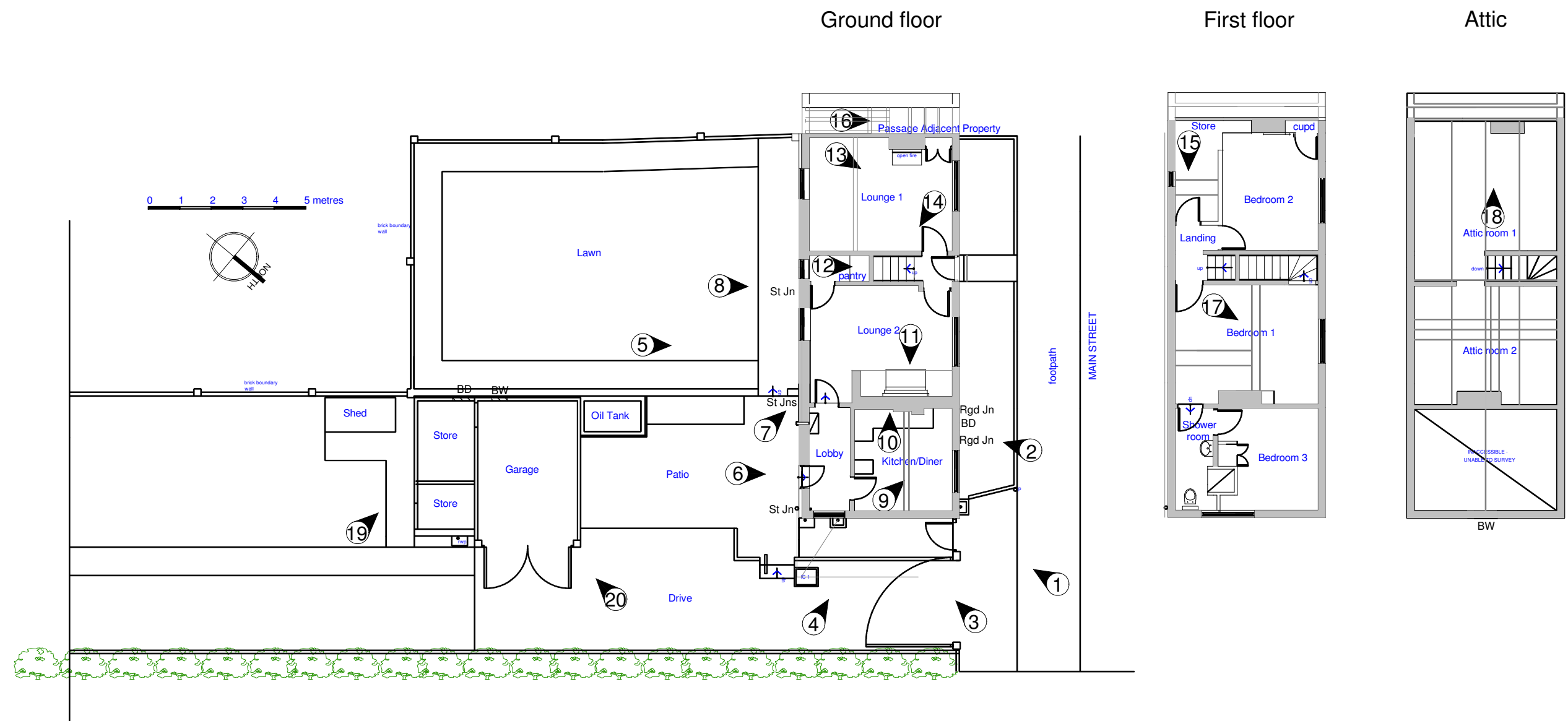
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Figure 4 Detailed site location map





based on drawings supplied by client


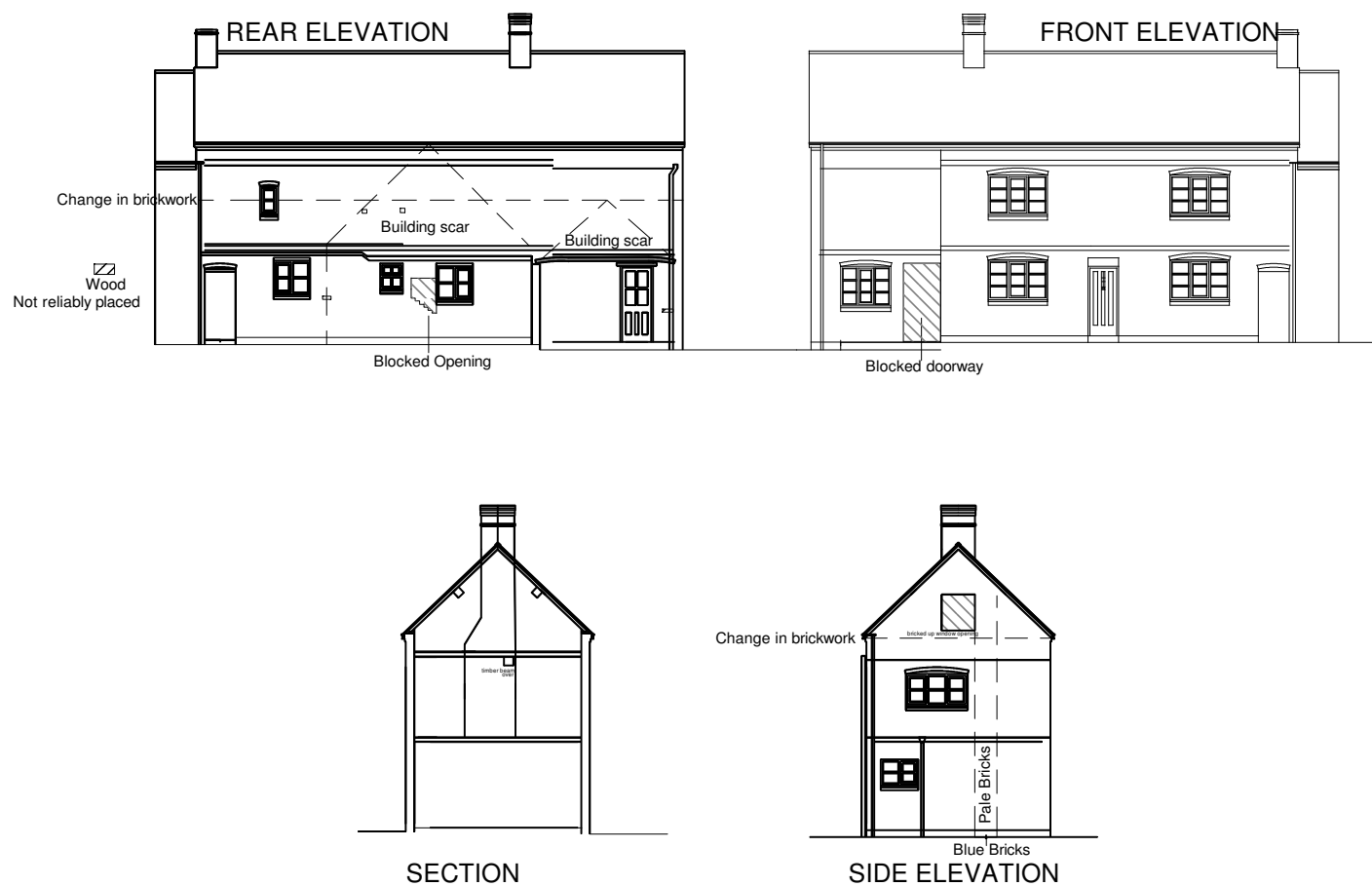
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Figure 5. Floor plans.



0 10 m

based on drawings supplied by client


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Figure 6 Elevations.





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### Project details

Project name	Historic Building Recording, Mount Pleasant, Main Street, Sutton Cheney
Short description of the project	Historic Building Recording of Grade II listed building with detailed photographs, measured floor plans and annotated elevations. The Listing details describe the building as of early 19th century date. Various original elements survive though scars on the rear elevation indicate the former presence of additional structures, since removed. Apparent remnants of an inglenook fireplace, and some chamfered beams, may indicate some 18th century elements survive within the building.
Project dates	Start: 05-09-2014 End: 05-09-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	SCMP14 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	X.A118.2014 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Building Recording
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Monument type	HOUSE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Annotated Sketch", "Photographic Survey", "Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	LEICESTERSHIRE HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH SUTTON CHENEY Mount Pleasant, Main Street
Postcode	CV13 0AH
Study area	0.25 Hectares

Site coordinates SK 4175 0041 52.5995190835 -1.38351658109 52 35 58 N 001 23 00 W Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Project Services
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	Gary Taylor
Project director/manager	Gary Taylor
Project supervisor	Neil Parker
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Digital Archive ID	X.A118.2014
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector"
Paper Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Paper Archive ID	X.A118.2014
Paper Contents	"Survey"
Paper Media available	"Correspondence", "Map", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Historic Building Recording, Mount Pleasant, Main Street, Sutton Cheney, Leicestershire (SCMP14)
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Parker, N.
Other bibliographic details	103/14
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Entered by Gary Taylor (info@apsarchaeology.co.uk)  
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