

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING
ON A BARN AT
STRETTON LODGE
CLIPSHAM ROAD
STRETTON
RUTLAND
(STCR10)

Work Undertaken For

Mr. R. Needham

August 2010

Report Compiled by Vicky Mellor BSc (Hons)

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES

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Quality Control Building Recording on a barn at Stretton Lodge, Clipsham Road, Stretton, Rutland

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Date: 31/8/10	Date: 31-8-10

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1. SUMMARY

A programme of historic building recording was undertaken prior to the conversion of a barn at Stretton Lodge, Clipsham Road, Stretton, Rutland. The recording was required as the building is of vernacular architectural and historic interest, and forms part of a Grade II Listed Building dated to 1809.

The layout, structure and details of the building were recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.

The surveyed building comprised a 'laithetype' barn integrated with a house, a type of building most commonly dating from around 1780 to 1820. The apparent depiction of the building on a map of c.1815 also supported the evidence of the 1809 datestone. The identity of "T. I. I", referred to on the datestone was not established during the survey.

The overall form of the barn appeared largely unaltered from its original layout, with walls, roof and various openings including breather slits and pitching holes all apparently being original to the building.

The barn may have been used for handthreshing and storage of crops although the building lacked the second large pair of doors which might be expected in a threshing barn.

The functions of an additional wooden possible lintel and possible pitching hole above the large northern doors of the building were unclear.

Later alterations to the barn included the insertion of iron cross ties to secure the building and the more recent addition of a concrete floor, perhaps replacing an original wooden plank floor. A small boiler room had also been recently inserted into the building.

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.' (If A 1999).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mr. R. Needham to undertake a programme of historic building recording on a barn at Stretton Lodge, Clipsham Road, Stretton, Rutland. A planning application (LBA/2010/0230) was submitted to Rutland County Council for the conversion of the barn to additional living accommodation. Permission was subject to conditions including the undertaking of a programme of historic building recording prior to the works.

The building recording was carried out on 11th August 2010 in accordance with a specification designed by Archaeological (Appendix Project and Services 1) approved by Senior Planning the Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council.

2.3 Site Location

Stretton is located 5km north-northwest of Oakham in the county of Rutland (Figure 1). The building, at Stretton Lodge, is located 1.5km northeast of Stretton village (Figure 2), some 900m to the north of Clipsham Road, at National Grid Reference SK 9607 1691. The barn itself lies at the south of a farm complex (Figure 3).

3. AIMS

In accordance with the specification, the aim of the work was to provide a record of the standing building prior to alteration.

4. METHODS

Recording of the building was undertaken to Level 2 standard, according to the English Heritage specification (2006).

Subject to accessibility, the recording of the building included:

- A photographic survey showing the building in its context, including viewpoints and the building's placing; general and detailed views of the exterior; interior views of the principal rooms and circulation areas; structural or decorative details.
- A dimensioned ground plan, incorporating details of the form and location of any structural features of historic interest.
- A written record providing an account of the location and status of the building, its type, plan, form, materials, possible dates and development sequence, details of the building's past and present relationship to its setting.

Photographic recording was undertaken with a manual 35mm camera fitted with a macro lens and a digital camera. Black and white film was used whilst digital photographs were in colour. An index of the photographs was compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro forma recording sheets.

5. RESULTS (Figures 4 & 5, Plates 1-24)

The surveyed building formed part of Stretton Lodge, a Grade II Listed Building of 'laithe-type' form in which a house and barn were integrated into a single build. Only the barn was recorded during the survey, although the nature of the building meant that a limited examination of the exterior of the adjoining house was also necessary. The house had at least two obvious phases of extensions to its rear but these were not examined, being later additions to the original house and barn building and beyond the scope of the survey.

To the north (rear) of the house and barn was an enclosed farmyard surrounded by former agricultural buildings including stables (Plates 2 & 5).

Overall the house and barn were approximately 19.30m long and 5.60m in width. The barn made up approximately 10.40m of the total length.

The barn comprised a single room with a small bay at the east end and a large double bay at the west (Figure 4). The room was open to the rafters (Plates 14 & 17).

The house and barn were each of coursed rubble with dressed stone quoins at each corner, extending from ground level to the full height of the walls (Plates 3, 4, 10 & 11). These quoins were not however evident internally, where coursed rubble was visible at the internal corners. The stonework of the house and barn appeared broadly continuous, similar stonework and working of stones being evident throughout building. Although the sometimes unclear, it appeared that a timber course was present at eaves level in each of the internal elevations.

The west end of the barn (Plate 10) had a raised gable (Plate 8). This was topped

with moulded coping stones, with a moulded cylindrical stone at the apex. The raised gable and moulded coping stones were mirrored in the east gable end of the house (Plate 4).

The roof of the house and barn was apparently of a single build (Plates 3 & 11). The roof comprised Collyweston which diminished in slates. approaching the apex of the roof. Inside the barn the roof construction was clearly visible, with rafters supporting laths, in turn supporting the slates (Plate 15). The laths were increasingly closely spaced towards the apex of the roof, reflecting the diminishing size of the slates (Plate 16). Occasional grey slate was visible internally amongst the Collyweston slate. Collars were noted clasping the roof purlins at and between each of the beams (Plates 15 & 16, Figure 5).

Two original beams were recorded inside the barn (Plate 15), each of which extended through the thickness of both south and north walls, and was visible externally, flush with the stonework (Plate 12).

Several original features of the barn were recorded in the west gable end (Plate 10). At ground floor level this gable had a single breather slit to allow ventilation. At first floor level was an opening with a wood surround and lintel, with a slatted and hinged wooden shutter. This might well have been a pitching hole or perhaps a window. Close to the apex of the roof was a small hole, probably an owl hole. Each of these features was also visible internally (Plates 14 & 18).

A datestone was recorded in the south elevation, over the doorway of the house "T. I. 1809" (Figure 5, Plate 3). Although datestones are often reused and misleading, there was nothing to suggest that this might be the case in this instance.

The south elevation of the barn retained

several original features. Two further breather slits were present at ground floor level, along with a doorway (Plates 6-8). The doorway and breather slits were also evident internally (Plates 19 & 20). The easternmost breather slit was blocked with whitewashed brick (Plate 20).

The south and north elevations of the barn were tied together with three iron tie beams, each of which was evident externally as a round tie plate (Plates 6 & 11). These all appeared to match and where legible the writing on one was recorded as "T.G. Gibson Stamford" (Plate 9). The Gibson Foundry was apparently established in 1843 by Thomas Gibson (www.bestlocalliving.co.uk).

A pair of wooden doors filled the large northern opening of the barn (Plate 12). A timber lintel was recorded at the top of the door opening, although any original timber uprights to either side of the opening had been replaced by or concealed behind concrete or mortar (Plates 21 & 23). At the threshold of the doorway were ceramic tiles (Plate 23). A further horizontal timber above these doors might be an indication of a former larger opening here, but no clear change in stonework was evident above the doors (Plate 12).

Above the large northern doorway was an opening with a wood surround and slatted hinged shutter (Plates 12 & 22).

The northern elevation also featured a single breather slit (Plates 11 & 13).

The interior of the barn was largely unaltered from its original form (Plates 14 & 17). A small modern boiler room had been inserted into the northeast corner of the barn (Plate 17).

The floor inside the barn was concrete, but a small hole had been made in this, presumably to examine the footings of the building and underlying flooring materials (Plate 24). Several large stones noted beneath the concrete were not keyed into the adjacent stone wall, and may represent stone flooring or stone supports for a wooden plank floor.

No openings or blocked openings were evident in the internal east gable end of the barn. The walling towards the centre of this gable appeared to have a very slightly smoother face towards the centre at ground floor level, and this could potentially indicate the position of a former opening, although this was far from convincing, and probably simply represents slight variation in the walling.

6. DISCUSSION

Dating

The surveyed building comprised a 'laithetype' barn integrated with a house. This type of building is more common in the Pennines, where they generally consist of a domestic building to which is attached a combination barn and cow house of the same two-storey height (Brunskill 1999, 109-110). Unlike some other forms of combined domestic and agricultural buildings, there is rarely an intercommunication between the portions (ibid). In other areas, examples of such buildings are known dating from between 1650 and 1880, but most were constructed between around 1780 and 1820 (ibid.).

A datestone recorded on the house "T. I. I. 1809" seems to be contemporary with the house and barn, and this date fits comfortably within the expected range for this type of building.

The Ordnance Survey 2" sketch of c.1815 was briefly examined (Figure 7). This records "Stretton Lodge" and depicts several buildings here, although in limited detail. This does however indicate that the house and barn were probably in existence by this time.

Form and function

The overall form of the barn appeared largely unaltered from its original layout, with walls, roof and various openings all apparently being original to the building. In a study of farmsteads in South Lincolnshire, barns used for handthreshing would typically feature a pair of tall and opposed threshing doors in the long walls. Between these lay the threshing floor where grain would be threshed and winnowed in the draught created by the paired doors. The space either side of the threshing floor would be used for storing unthreshed crop and straw (Barnwell and Giles 1997, 48-49).

In most respects, including general layout and the presence of breather slits and pitching holes, this barn is typical of one used for hand threshing and storage. However, no evidence was identified during the survey for an opposed pair of large doors in the southern wall mirroring those of the north wall, although it is possible that sufficient through-draught for threshing might have been provided by the small southern door, depending on the prevailing wind direction in the area. The barn cannot be proven to have been a threshing barn, and may have had another function, perhaps just for storage. If this were the case, the large size of the northern doors might be explained by the need for carts to be unloaded directly into the barn, and the smaller southern door may have simply provided a convenient pedestrian access to the building.

Breather slits are often identified in barns used for storage, to allow ventilation to the storage bays. The breather slits identified in each of the bays of the Stretton Lodge barn indicate that, at least at ground floor level, both bays were used for storage.

The first floor opening in the west gable end of the building may have been constructed as a pitching hole, to facilitate unloading of unprocessed crops from carts into the building. Alternatively, it could have been a window to provide light.

A first floor opening was located directly above the northern double doors. Given the position of this opening over the doors it would not appear that this could have been useful as pitching hole unless there had formerly been an upper floor level. However, no evidence for a former first floor level such as a hayloft was identified during the survey. Alternatively this opening might have been intended as a window to provide light, but this also seems somewhat unlikely given its location directly above the large double doors which would themselves have admitted light into the barn.

A probable owl hole in the west gable end would have encouraged the presence of beneficial owls in the barn which would have reduced mice eating stored crops.

Later alterations

Only limited alterations to the barn were apparent. At some time, probably after 1843, the long north and south walls had been secured by the addition of three iron cross ties, manufactured by T. G. Gibson of Stamford.

A single breather slit had been infilled with brick, but whitewash over this prevented identification and dating of the type of brick used.

The original timber surrounds of both doorways had been partly replaced with modern mortar or concrete.

The floor inside the barn was of modern concrete, but stones visible beneath this layer indicated either a stone floor or were perhaps more likely stone supports for a wooden plank floor.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Historic building recording was undertaken prior to the conversion of a barn at Stretton Lodge, Clipsham Road, Stretton, Rutland. The recording was required as the building is of vernacular architectural and historic interest, and forms part of a Grade II Listed Building dated to 1809.

The surveyed building comprised a 'laithetype' barn integrated with a house. This type of building most commonly dates from around 1780 to 1820, and the apparent depiction of the building on an Ordnance Survey map of c.1815 supports the evidence of the 1809 datestone. The identity of "T. I. I", referred to on the datestone, and presumably the builder or original owner of the building, was not established during the survey.

The overall form of the barn appeared largely unaltered from its original layout, with walls, roof and various openings all apparently being original to the building.

Original features included breather slits and pitching holes, and the barn may have been used for hand-threshing and storage of crops. However, the building lacked the second large pair of doors which might be expected in a threshing barn.

The functions of an additional wooden possible lintel and possible pitching hole above the large northern doors of the building were unclear.

Later alterations to the barn included the insertion of iron cross ties to secure the building and the more recent addition of a concrete floor, perhaps replacing an original wooden plank floor. A small boiler room was a recent insertion into the building.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr. R. Needham who commissioned the work. The project was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. David Start kindly permitted access to the library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor Building Recording: Vicky Mellor Photographic reproduction: Vicky Mellor CAD Illustration: Vicky Mellor

Analyst: Vicky Mellor

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Barnwell, P.S., and Giles, C., 1997, English Farmsteads, 1750-1914, RCHME

Brunskill, R.W., 1999, *Traditional Farm Buildings of Britain and their Conservation* (3rd ed, retitled)

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

IfA, 1999 Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures

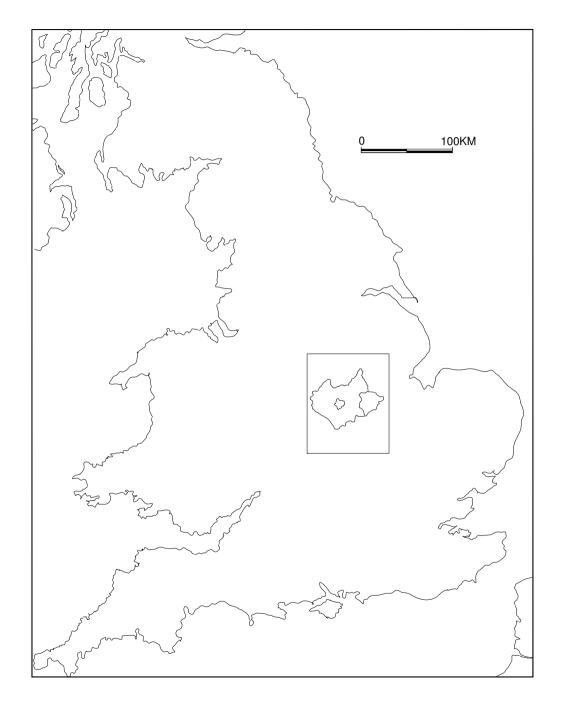
11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

IfA Institute of Field Archaeologists, (since renamed Institute for Archaeologists)

OS Ordnance Survey

RCHME Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England



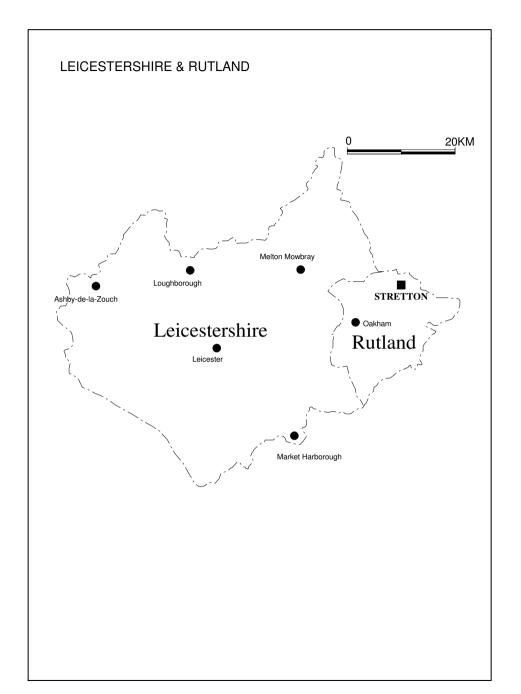


Figure 1 General location map

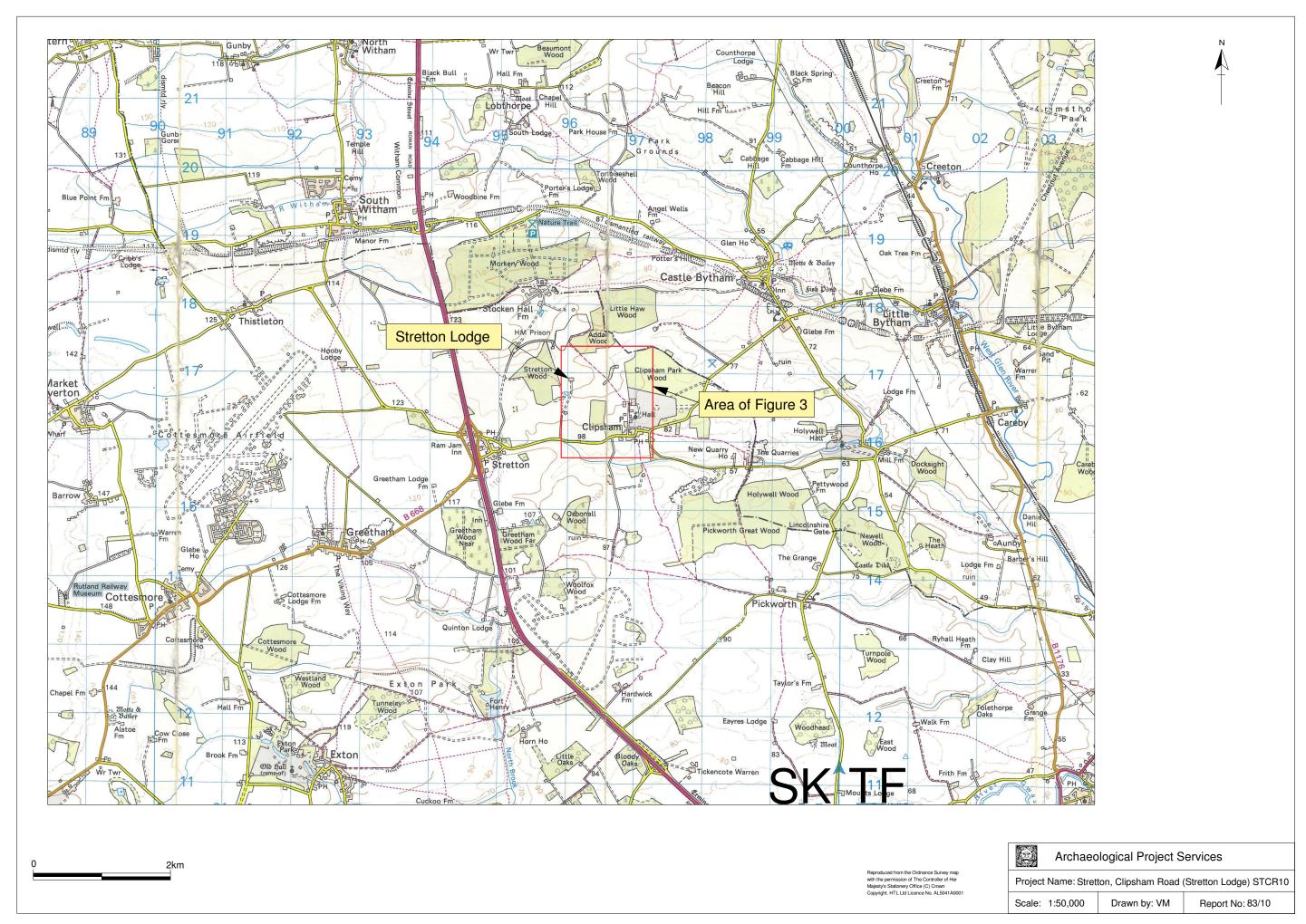


Figure 2 Site location map

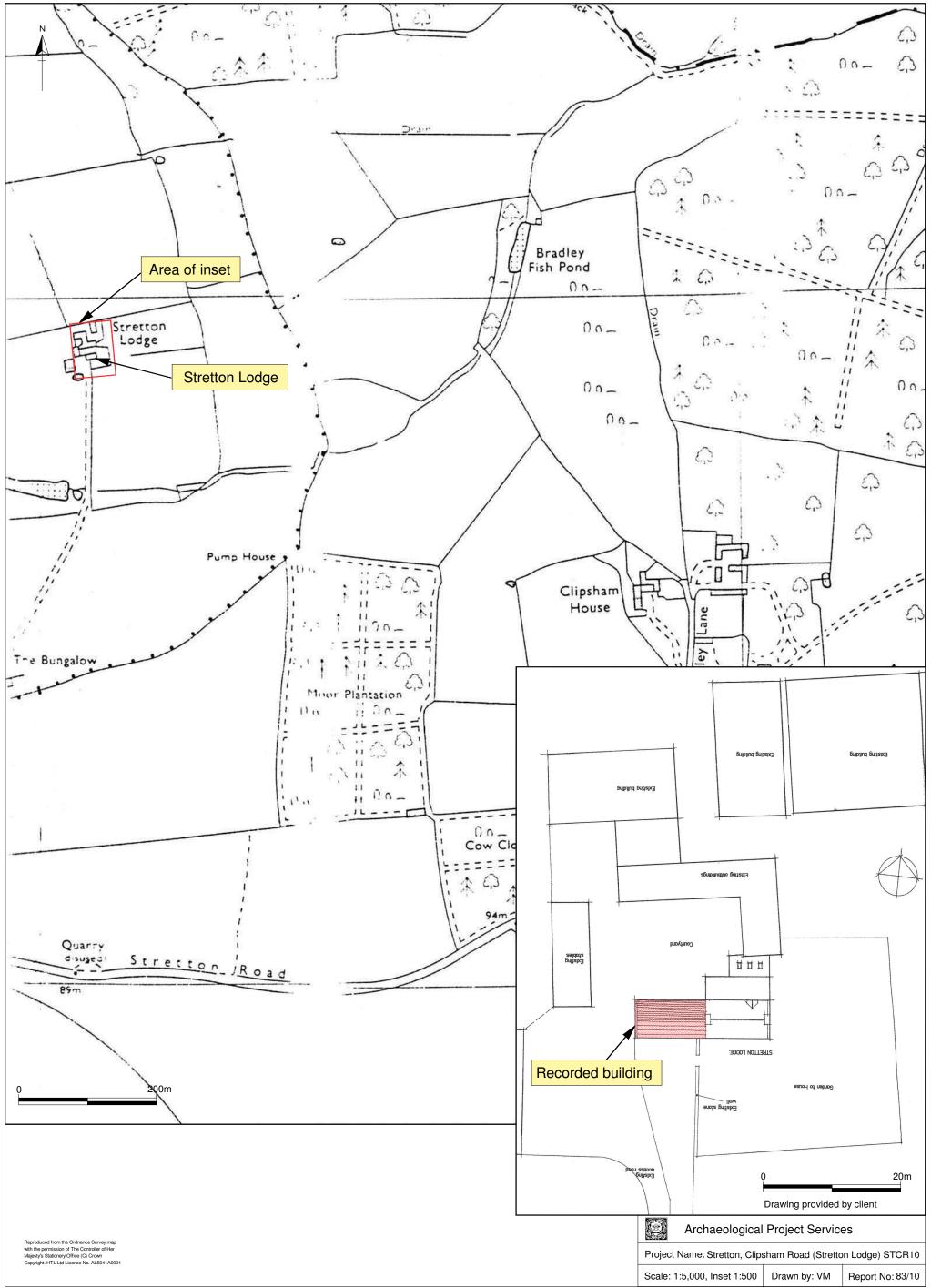


Figure 3 Location of recorded building

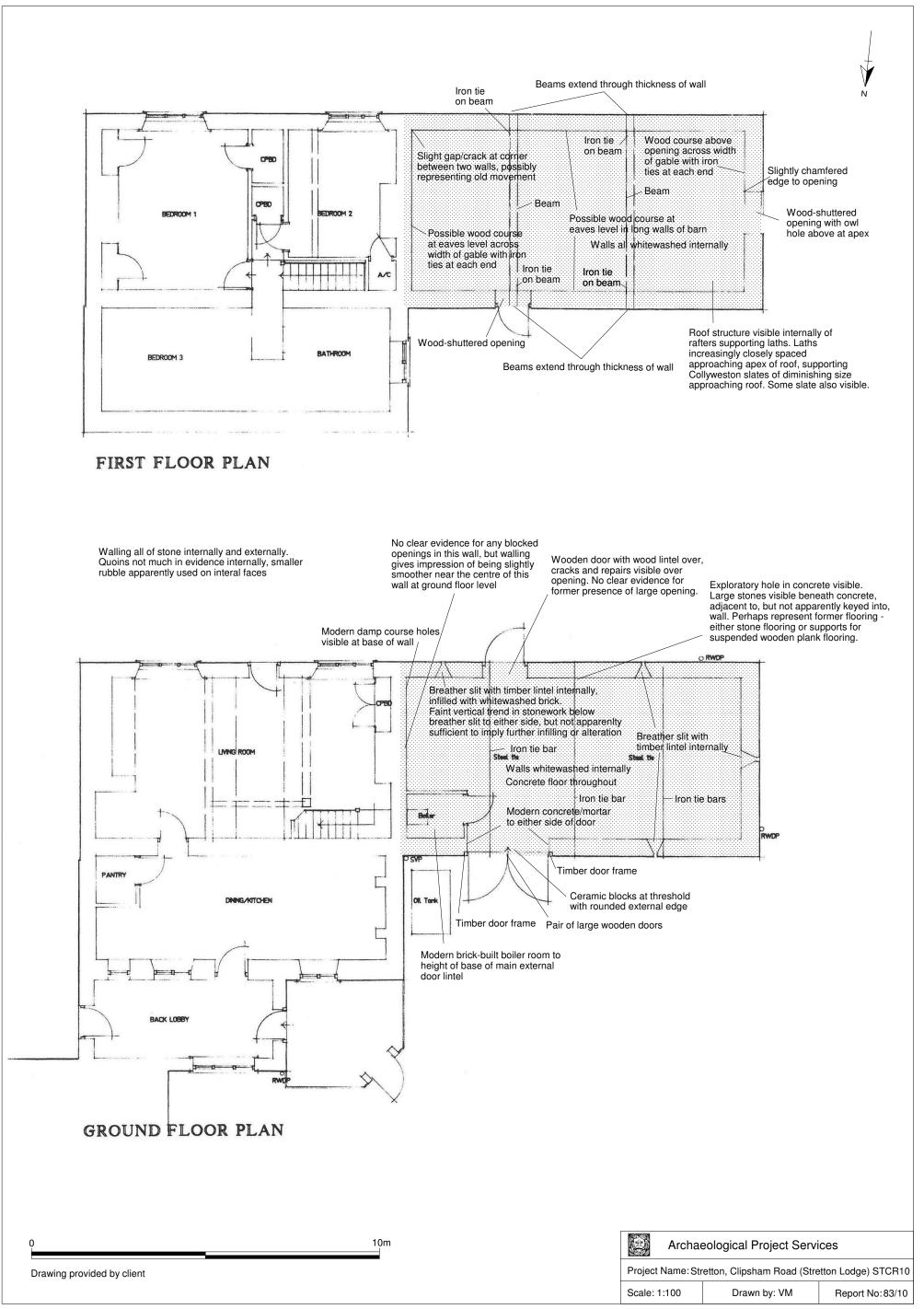


Figure 4 Plans of recorded building

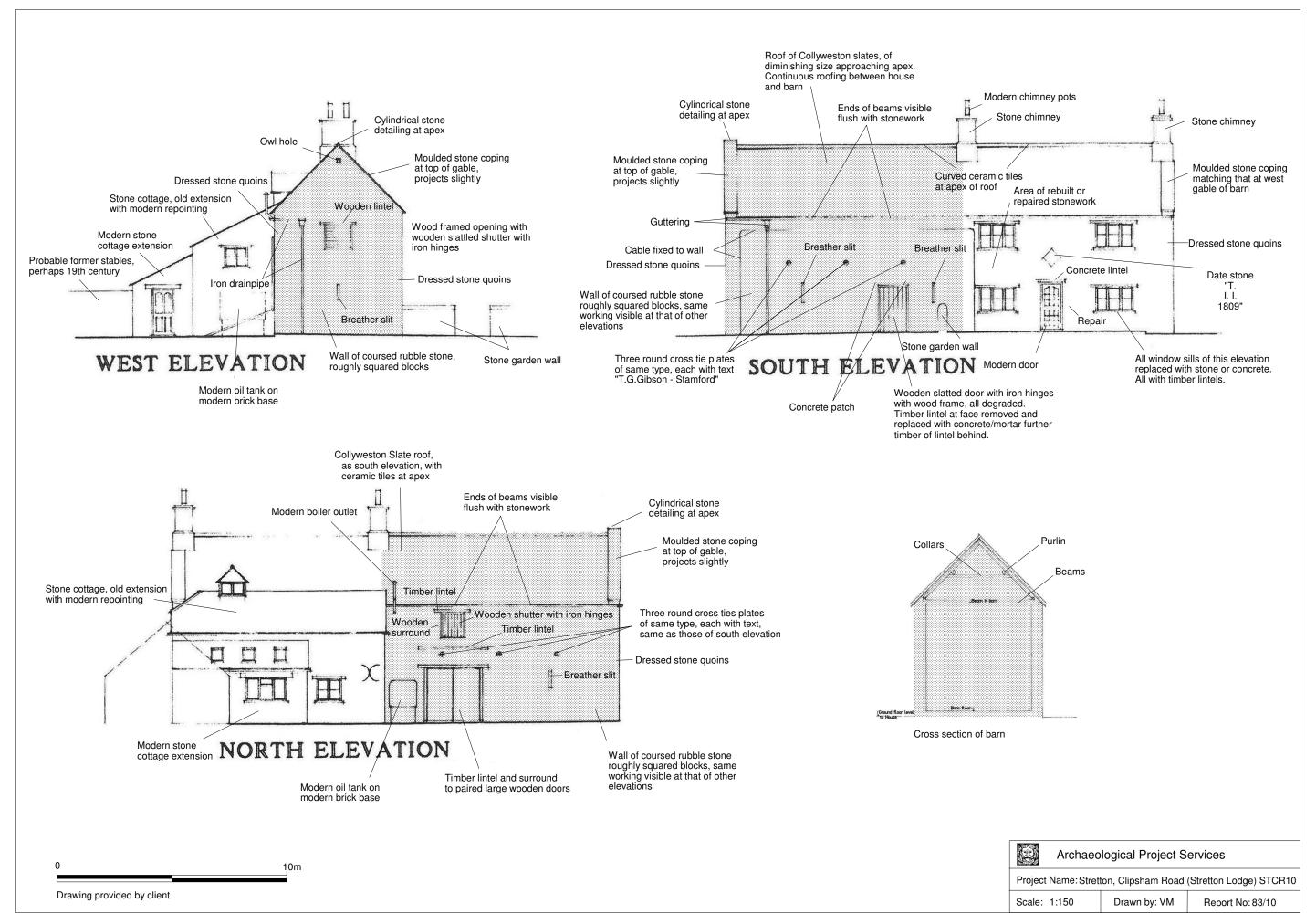
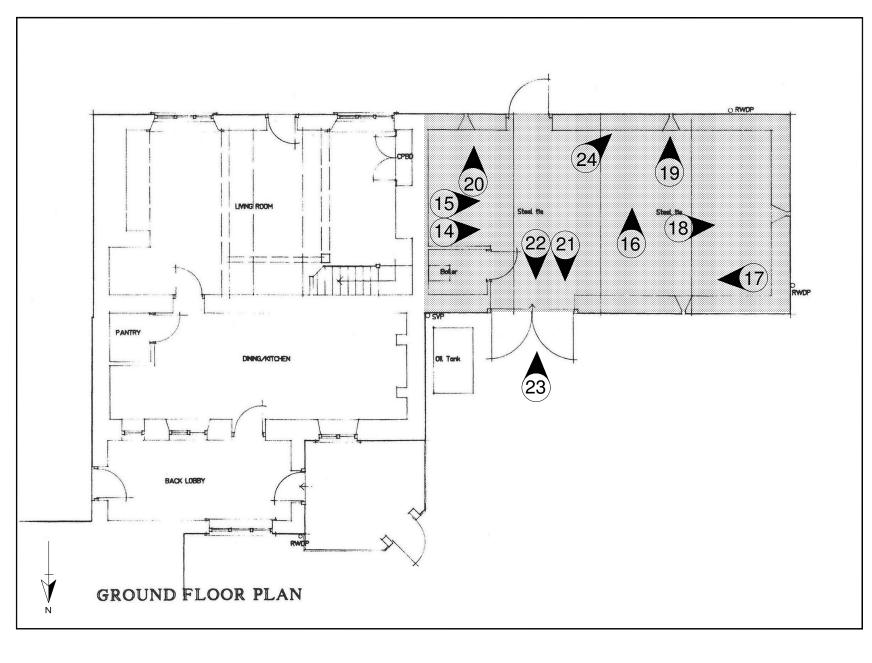
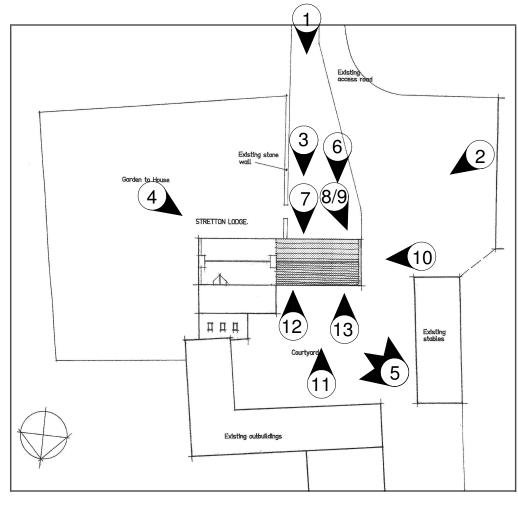


Figure 5 Elevations of recorded building

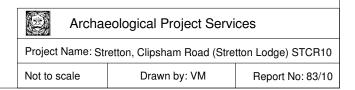




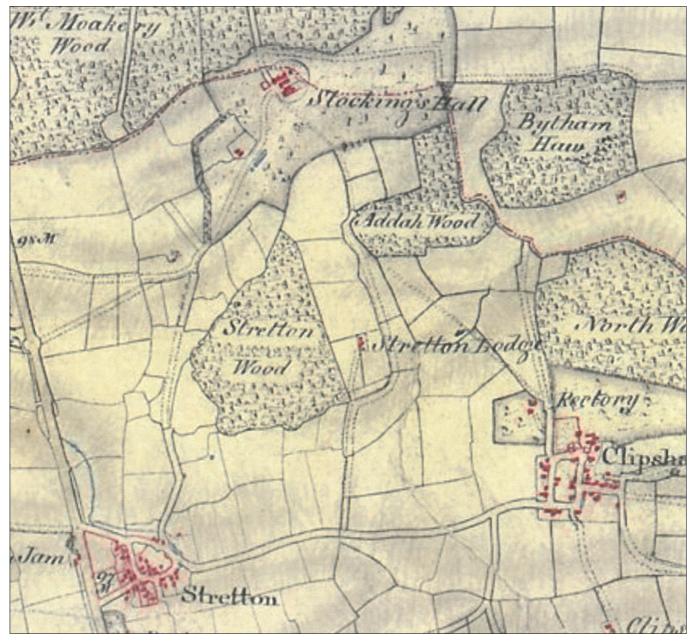
Recorded building

Indication of vantage point, direction and subject of plates and plate numbers

Drawing provided by client







http://www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/onlineex/ordsurvdraw/c/zoomify82355.html

Archaeological Project Services

Project Name:Stretton, Clipsham Road (Stretton Lodge) STCR10

Not to Scale Drawn by: VM Report No: 83/10

Figure 7 Extract from OS 2" Drawing c.1815



Plate 1 General view of Stretton Lodge from approach, looking north



Plate 2 General view of Stretton Lodge, looking northeast



Plate 3 Frontage (south elevation) of Stretton Lodge house and barn, looking north

One of two stone stanchion bases, perhaps from former cartshed or shelter elsewhere on farm



Plate 4 General view of Stretton Lodge house and barn, looking northwest



Plate 5 General view of rear of barn (north elevation) and farmyard, looking east, southeast and south

Plate 6 South elevation of barn, looking north





Plate 7 Detail of south elevation of barn showing doorway and cross tie plate, looking north



Plate 8 Detail of south elevation of barn showing breather slit, roofing and cross tie plate, looking north



Plate 9 Detail of south elevation of barn showing cross tie plate with text "T.G. Gibson Stamford", looking north

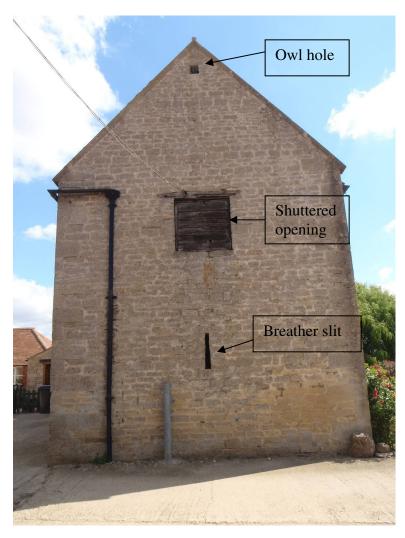


Plate 10 West gable end of barn, looking east



Plate 11 North elevation of barn, looking south



Internal beam flush with exterior of stonework

Plate 12 Detail of north elevation of barn, showing large doorway and shuttered opening, looking south



Plate 13 Detail of north elevation of barn, showing breather slit and cross tie plate, looking south



Plate 14 Interior of barn, looking west

Plate 15 Interior of barn showing roof construction, looking west





Plate 16 Interior of barn showing detail of roof construction, looking south



Plate 17 Interior of barn, looking east



Plate 18 Interior of barn, west gable end showing detail of breather slit and shuttered opening, looking west



Plate 19 Interior of barn, south wall, showing detail of breather slit, looking south



Plate 20 Interior of barn, south wall, showing detail of door and blocked breather slit, looking south



Plate 21 Interior of barn, north wall, showing detail of doorway, looking north

Plate 22 Interior of barn, north wall, showing detail of shuttered opening, looking north





Plate 23 Detail of flooring inside barn, ceramic tiles at threshold and concrete beyond, looking south

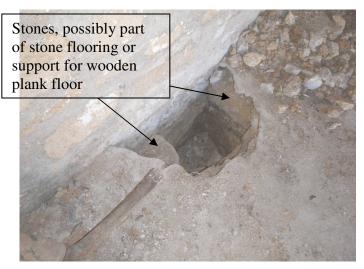


Plate 24 Detail of exploratory hole in flooring inside barn, looking southwest

Appendix 1

SPECIFICATION FOR HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

1 **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 A programme of historic building recording is required prior to the conversion of a farm building at Stretton Lodge, Clipsham Road, Stretton, Rutland.
- 1.2 The building is of vernacular architectural and historic interest. It forms part of a Grade II Listed Building dated to 1809.
- 1.3 The building recording will be undertaken prior to conversion of the structure. The structure, ground plan, external elevations and internal details will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.
- 1.4 On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for historic building recording prior to conversion of a farm building at Stretton Lodge, Clipsham Road, Stretton, Rutland.
- 2.2 This document contains the following parts:
 - 2.2.1 Overview.
 - 2.2.2 Stages of work and methodologies.
 - 2.2.3 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

3 SITE LOCATION

- 3.1 Stretton is located 5km north-northwest of Oakham in the county of Rutland. The building, at Stretton Lodge, is located 1.5km northeast of Stretton village, some 900m to the north of Clipsham Road, at National Grid Reference SK 9607 1691.
- 3.2 The barn to be recorded forms part of Stretton Lodge, a Grade II Listed Building dating to 1809. The building is of 'laithe-type' form in which a house and barn were integrated in a single build. Buildings of this type generally date from the 17th-19th centuries and unusually there are no internal links between the two elements.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 A planning application (LBA/2010/0230) was submitted to Rutland County Council for the proposed conversion of the farm building to additional living accommodation. Permission is subject to conditions including the undertaking of historic building recording prior to the conversion works.

5 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 5.1 The aim of the work will be to provide a record of the standing building on the site prior to alteration.
- 5.2 The objectives will be to establish:
 - 5.2.1 the form of the building;

- 5.2.2 the date of the building and features of special interest;
- 5.2.3 the state of preservation of the building and any features of special interest present.

6 BUILDING RECORDING

- Building Investigation will be undertaken prior to the demolition of the existing buildings. An English Heritage (2006) Level 2 survey of the standing buildings will be undertaken. Subject to accessibility and Health and Safety considerations, the record will include:
 - 6.1.1 A photographic survey showing the building in its context, including viewpoints and the building's placing; general and detailed views of the exterior; interior views of the principal rooms and circulation areas; structural or decorative details.
 - 6.1.2 A dimensioned ground plan, which will incorporate details of the form and location of any structural features of historic interest; supplemented by
 - 6.1.3 A written record providing an account of the location and status of the building, its type, plan, form, materials, possible dates and development sequence, details of the building's past and present relationship to its setting.

7 SITE OPERATIONS

7.1 <u>General considerations</u>

- 7.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the investigation.
- 7.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), under the management of a Member of the institute (MIfA). Archaeological Project Services is IfA registered organisation no. 21.
- 7.1.3 The building recording would be undertaken by staff with experience of such examinations up to English Heritage Level 3 standard.
- 7.1.4 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

8 REPORTING

8.1 On completion of the fieldwork, a report detailing the results of the building recording will be prepared. This will consist of:

A summary of the survey results.

A description of the history and historical setting of the building.

A text describing the results of the building survey.

Location plans of the site and building.

A ground plan of the building.

Interpretation of the development and use of the building.

Appropriate photographs of the elevations, general interior views and specific features.

9 REPORT DEPOSITION

9.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the client; the Senior Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire and Rutland; and to the County Council Historic Environment Record.

10 **ARCHIVE**

10.1 The documentation and records generated during the investigation will be deposited with Rutland County Museum, sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the Museum. This will be undertaken on accordance with guidelines published in *UKIC Guidelines for the preparation of archives for long term storage (1990)*; and following the requirements of the document titled *Acquisition and Disposal Policy*, prepared by Rutland County Museum, for long-term storage and curation.

11 **PUBLICATION**

- 11.1 Reports on the findings of the investigation will be submitted for inclusion in the journals *Rutland Record* and *Transactions of the Leicestershire Historical and Archaeological Society*. Details of the investigation will be input to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS).
- 11.2 If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the relevant national journals: *Post-medieval Archaeology* and *Vernacular Architecture*.

12 **CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

12.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Senior Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire and Rutland. They will be given written notice of the commencement of the project to enable them to make monitoring arrangements.

13 VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES

- Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.
- 13.2 In the event of the discovery of any unexpected remains of archaeological/historical importance, or of any changed circumstances, it is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to inform the archaeological curator.
- 13.3 Where important archaeological/historical remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation additional resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis.
- 13.4 Any contingency requirement for additional fieldwork or analysis outside the scope of the proposed scheme of works will only be activated following full consultation with the archaeological curator and the client.

14 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 14.1 The building recording will be undertaken prior to the conversion and is expected to take one day.
- 14.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of building recording will undertake the work.
- Analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from an illustrator.

15 INSURANCES

15.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers

Liability Insurance of £10,000,000, together with Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

16 **COPYRIGHT**

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17 **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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Specification: Version 1, 05-08-10

Appendix 2

GLOSSARY

Bay Regular structural subdivision of a building; the bays may be marked by roof-trusses,

beams etc.

Breather slit Narrow vertical slit to provide ventilation.

Collar Transverse horizontal timber connecting pairs of rafters above their feet and below

the apex of the roof.

Pitching hole Unglazed, shuttered window-like hole at first floor level to ease unloading of an

unprocessed crop into the building from a cart outside.

Purlin Longitudinal timber giving support to the rafters of a roof.

Quoins Angular courses of stone at the corner of a building.

Raised gable A gable that rises above the roof line.

Appendix 3

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 1 Daily record sheet
- 1 Building recording sheet
- 3 Photographic record sheets
- 7 Sheets of annotated architects plans
 Digital colour photographs
 Black and white print photographs

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services The Old School Cameron Street Heckington Sleaford Lincolnshire NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Rutland County Museum Catmose Street Oakham Rutland LE15 6HW

Accession Number: OAKRM: 2010.22

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: STCR10

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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