

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING & WATCHING BRIEF:
MAXFIELD HOUSE
17 GUSTARD WOOD
WHEATHAMPSTEAD
HERTFORDSHIRE**

NGR: TL 17124 16065

on behalf of Mr & Mrs Tierney



Karin Semmelmann MA MifA

December 2011

ASC: 1371/WGW/2



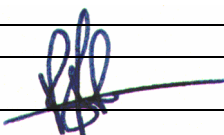
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<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	TL 17124 16065		
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Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

Between November 2010 and July 2011 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd carried out historic building recording and a watching brief of Maxfield House, 17 Gustard Wood, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire as a condition of planning permission for development involving buildings on the site. The house and garden, which extends behind the properties to the south of the development site, were once part of a larger complex with an H-plan focal centre. The buildings forming the southern crossing of the H now make up the neighbouring residence and the garage still belonging to Maxfield House. The northern crosswing, which was truncated piecemeal between 1840 and 1972, extends eastwards.

The surviving core of Maxfield House, a Grade II listed building, is mid-late 17th century, timber framed and encased in brick in the 18th century. The original extent of the brick building is defined by the chimneys in the north-south orientated range. This was subsequently extended northwards after which the crosswing was built. This appears to have been completed by 1775 when the roof was constructed by W. Wright.

The building has been extended with outshuts under a catslide roof and a 2-storey addition to the rear. The outshuts are not depicted on the maps, but the brickwork appears to be 19th century, the same date as the outbuilding to the southwest. The central lobby is 20th century.

Although various structural and architectural elements of the building were exposed during the watching brief, only the foundations for the northern crosswing and a possible return wall beneath the outbuilding were revealed during the ground reduction.

1 Introduction

1.1 Between November 2010 and July 2011 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out historic building recording and a watching brief of Maxfield House, 17 Gustard Wood, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire. The project was commissioned by James Porter on behalf of Mr & Mrs Tierney, and was carried out according to a project design prepared by ASC (Simmelmann 2010) following discussion with the archaeological officer (AA) of the local planning authority (LPA), *St Albans City & District Council*. The relevant planning application reference is 5/10/1240.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This building recording and watching brief project has been required under the terms of *Planning Policy Statement 5* (PPS5) as a condition of planning permission for development involving buildings on the site.

1.3 *Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd*

ASC is an independent archaeological practice providing a full range of archaeological services including consultancy, field evaluation, mitigation and post-excavation studies, historic building recording and analysis. ASC is recognised as a *Registered Organisation* by the Institute for Archaeologists and is also accredited ISO 9001, in recognition of its high standards and working practices.

1.4 *Management*

The project was managed by Karin Semmelmann BA MA MIFA, and was carried out under the overall direction of Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

1.5 *The Site*

1.5.1 *Location & Description*

Maxfield House is located on the outskirts of the parish and village of Wheathampstead, in the administrative district of St Albans at NGR TL 17124 16065 (Fig. 1)

The site, which is roughly L-shaped, lies to the north of number 14 and to the rear of numbers 3-14 Gustard Wood. It is bounded by Gustard Wood to the east, fields to the west and houses to the north and south (Fig. 2).

1.5.2 *Proposed Development*

The proposed development includes the erection of a two-storey front extension, a new porch to the rear, a replacement porch to the front alterations to the openings and the conversion of a detached garage to a store and habitable space (Fig. 3).



Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)

2 Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

As described in the project design (Section 2.1), the aims of the building recording and watching brief were:

Building Recording:

- To compile a detailed record of the structure concerned, prior to refurbishment, conversion or demolition
- To ascertain the structural history and development of the building, within its local context
- To provide sufficient information on the historic and architectural significance of the building to inform proposals relating to its refurbishment / conversion.

Watching Brief:

- To ensure the archaeological monitoring and recording of all aspects of the development programme likely to have an impact upon any buried archaeological deposits, or on the historic fabric of the building.
- To secure the analysis, conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site.
- To provide an adequately detailed project report that will place the findings of the investigations in their local and regional context, with reference to the relevant regional research agendas.

2.2 Standards

The work conforms to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), to current English Heritage guidelines (EH 2006), to the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (ALGAO 2003), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

2.3 Methods

The work was carried out according to the project design (Sections 2.3 & 2.4), which required:

- A programme of historic building recording to English Heritage Level 3 (EH 2006).
- A watching brief on building works involving significant disturbance to the historic fabric of the building.

3 Historical Background

3.1 The following section provides a summary of the readily available historical background to the site and its environs. This section has been compiled with information from Hertfordshire Archive and Local Studies Library (HALS), ASC and the author's own libraries and the Internet.

3.2 *General*

Gustard Wood lies to the northwest of Wheathampstead, a medieval settlement which developed on the site of the Roman crossing of the River Lea. That this area had been settled between the Roman period and the Middle Ages is evidenced in the 7th century pagan Saxon burial with rich grave goods to the north of the river crossing and the Saxon pillow graves in the churchyard (Thompson 2002: 6). Much of the parish of Wheathampstead was given to Westminster Abbey by Edward the Confessor in 1060 and a manor house, known as Wheathampstead Bury, was built close by. The remainder of the late Saxon estate at Wheathampstead, including the church, became known as Rectory Manor.

Westminster Abbey managed the large estate by creating another demesne manor, Harpendenbury, at the western end of the parish. By the 13th century a number of 120 acre freehold assarts had been established on land between the two demesne manors (*ibid*: 9). These included the manors of Lamers and Herons, both of which had links with Maxfield House.

Lamers is recorded as belonging to the de la Mare family in the 14th century. It was acquired by Sir John Garrard in 1608 after which the house was rebuilt on two occasions. Neither house has survived although the stable block still stands (*ibid*:14). Herons took its name from the Heron or Hayrun family who lived there in 1201. It was later held by Alice Perrers, Edward III's mistress, who sold it in 1392 (VCH online). Heron's Farm is located to the south of Maxfield House and is possibly a surviving relict of this former estate.

3.3 *Post-Medieval - Modern (1500-present)*

The Mid-Herts Golf Course, which is located directly opposite Maxfield House opened on 20th February 1893. No planning permission was sought nor apparently needed and there was some opposition to the golf club by local residents. One resident, who regularly grazed his sheep and sat in a deckchair on the greens was taken to court for digging up the greens in front of players (www.mid-hertsgolfclub.co.uk).

Much of Wheathampstead was managed by the Garrards of Lamer from the mid 17th century (Thompson 2002: 13). The hamlet remained small but acquired a National School and during the First World War a hospital was established at Blackmore End House for wounded soldiers. Lamer House became a hospital for officers at the same time. Two gun emplacements were installed on Gustard Wood Common between the Gold Club and Heron's Farm during the Second World War. The men were billeted in the cottages around the common (Jeavons, 2001: 37).

3.4 *Cartographic Evidence*

The Tithe Map and Award record the property simply as Gustard Wood (Fig. 4). At the time it belonged Edward Bruton and was occupied by him and others. The house was H-shaped at that time with a separate building to the southeast of it and some outbuildings between. The crosswing to the north extended to the west as well as to the east of the central range, and is illustrated as being considerably wider than the present wing. This could be artistic license on the part of the map maker, as the Ordnance survey map of 1881 illustrates a similar layout but the width is akin to the present wing (Fig. 5). It is clear from both these maps and that dated 1924 (Fig. 7) that the north wing has been extensively truncated to east and west. The section of the crosswing immediately west of the present building is depicted on the 1881 Ordnance Survey map as a timber building, which could either suggest that this was an unencased remnant of the timber framed building or that it served as an outbuilding.

The southern wing of the building is also shown as wider on the 1840 Tithe Map than on later plans, but the footprint appears little changed other than the buildings are no longer joined. The 1881 Ordnance Survey map depicts four rooms within the wing, which are now part of the adjacent property. The outbuilding, which lies at the western end of this wing is variously depicted over time.

The buildings to the south of the house appeared to have remained little altered between 1881 and 1924. However, between 1924 and 1972 the footprint of these buildings altered significantly as did the land holdings (Figs 7&8).

More pertinent to Maxfield House, it is at this time that the north wing was foreshortened and the rear lobby was built.

3.5 *Listed Building Description*

Images of England Reference: 163949

GV II House. C17 or earlier timber frame. Cased in red brick in C18, the brick now painted, but the chequered floor band and ground- floor segmental window heads exposed. Gabled cross wing on right to form L plan. Plain tile roof. 2 storeys. Back range has 3 sash windows with 5/10 panes. Replacement door on left centre. Wing is probably a C17 addition. 1 casement to gable end and a sash window to the side.

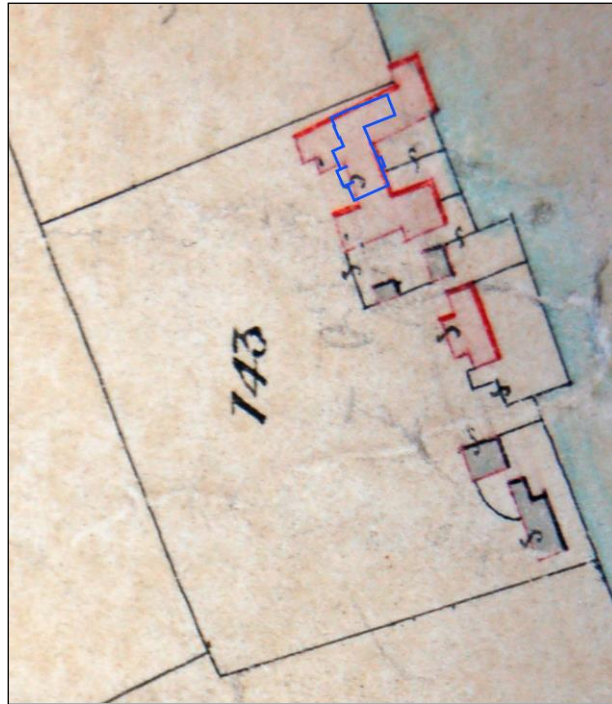


Figure 4: Extract from the 1840 Tithe Map (*not to scale*)

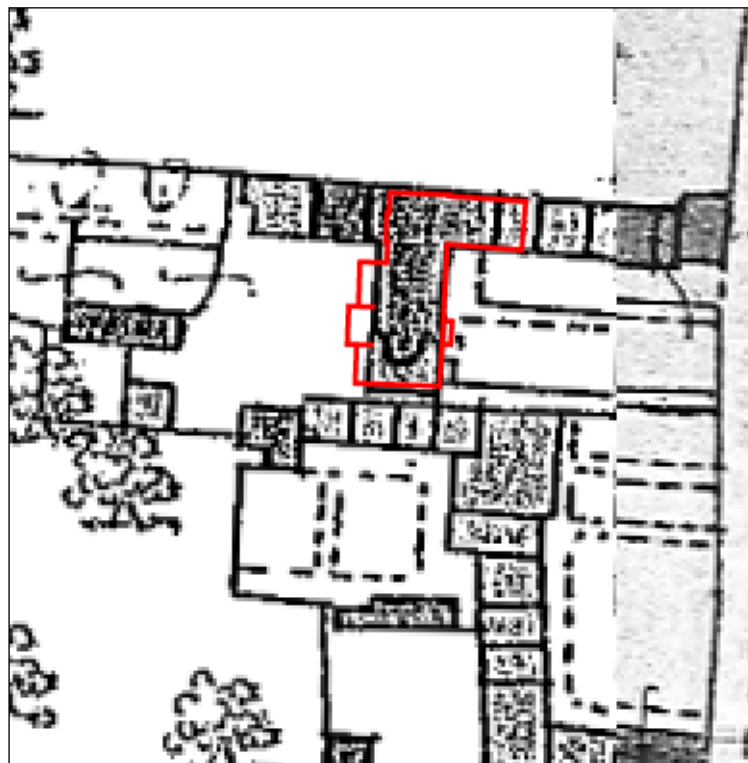


Figure 5: Extract from the 1881 Ordnance Survey Map (*not to scale*)

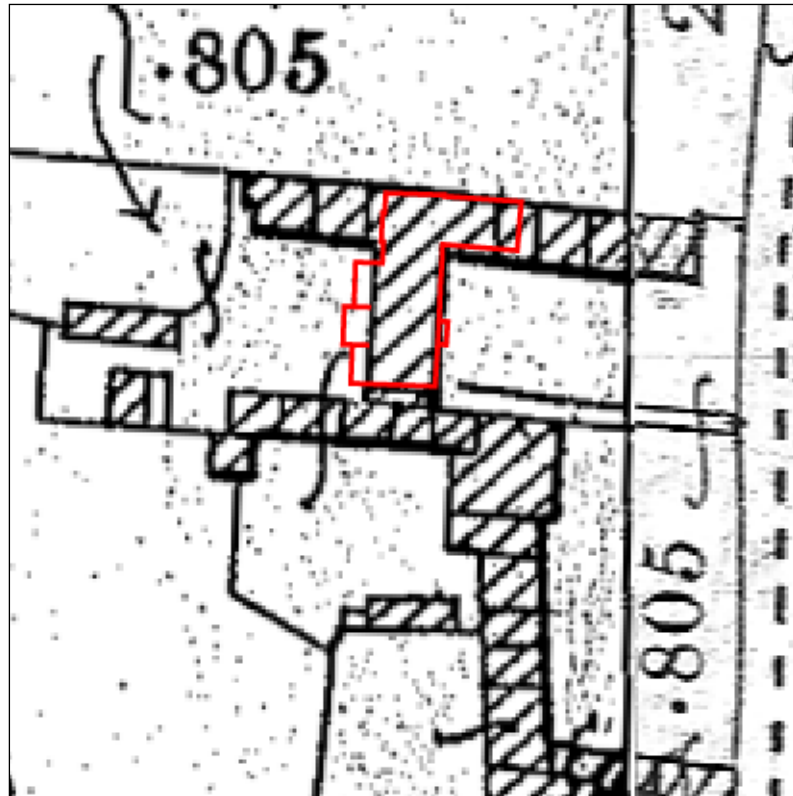


Figure 6: Extract from the 1898 Ordnance Survey Map (*not to scale*)

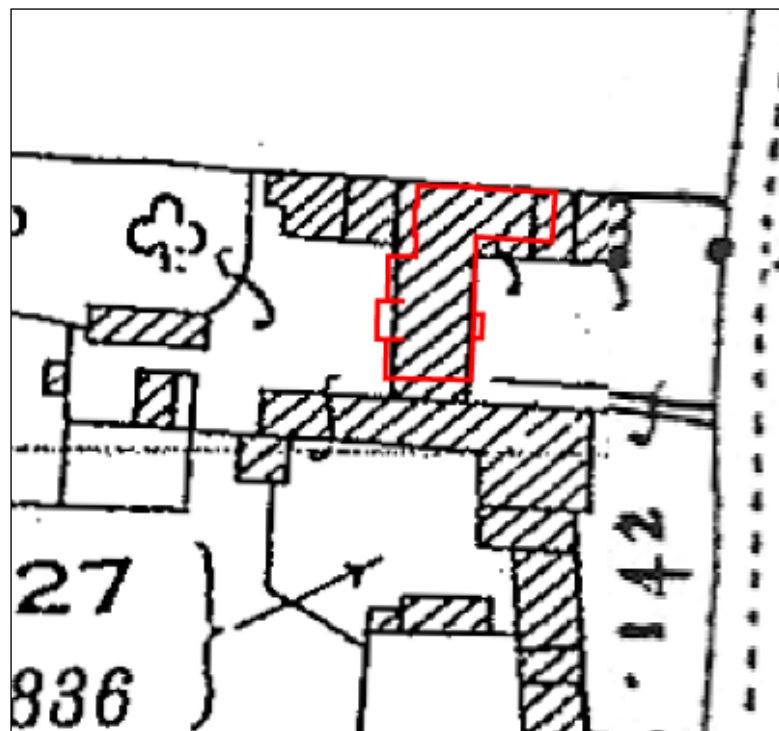


Figure 7: Extract from the 1924 Ordnance Survey Map (*not to scale*)

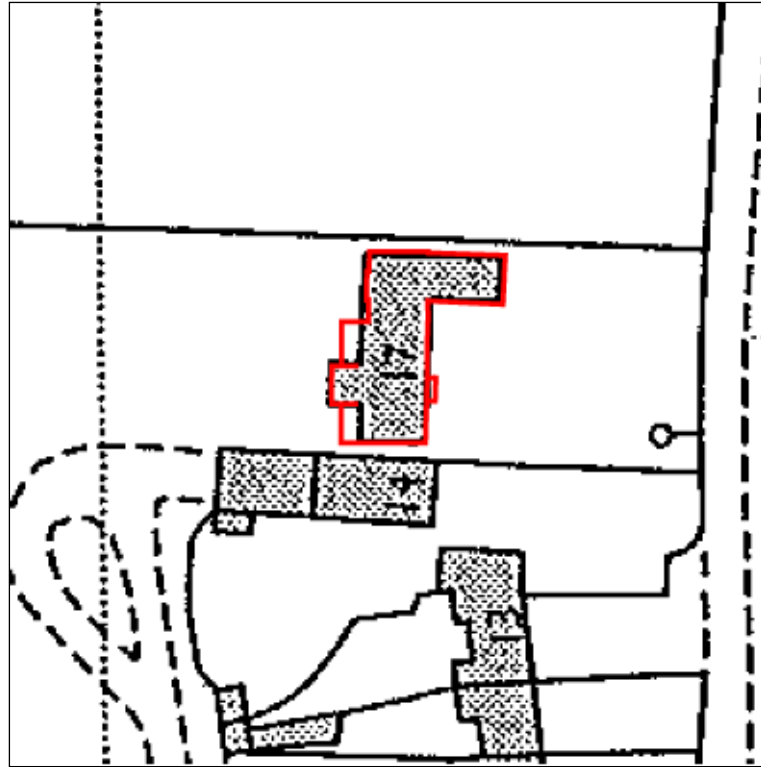


Figure 8: Extract from the 1974 Ordnance Survey Map (*not to scale*)

4 Description

4.1 *General*

The building, which is of two storeys with a cellar, consists of a main range orientated north to south and a cross wing to the north. The part of the building between the northern chimney stack and the cross wing is a separate build. It is a brick encased timber framed building under a tiled roof with a catslide roof and dormer windows to the rear. The garage and store is located to the southwest of the house. This is brick built and is attached to the neighbouring house.

4.2 *East Elevation* (Fig. 9, Plates 1-3)

This is the main elevation, which is set back from the lane. The brickwork, which is set in a Flemish bond, is painted black at the bottom and white above. The elevation has a brick plat band, three courses high. This and the segmental arches above the ground floor windows are unpainted. There are queen closers at the northern and southern end of the main part of the range and on the southern end of the corner section. The south side of the door and both sides of the window to the north of it are also defined by queen closers.

There is a brick chimney at both ends of the main block. The southern one has an additional stack built onto its northern face.

The tiebeam and collar are exposed in the cross wing. The brickwork is mainly set in a stretcher bond. Structural repairs are clearly evident in the poor brick repair work and the additional buttress at the southern end.

The 6-panelled timber front door is protected by a storm porch and is located towards the southern end of the elevation. The windows in the main range are 5 over 10 timber sash windows, with segmental arches over the ground floor windows. The southern reveal on the northernmost first floor window suggests that this is a later insertion. The windows in the crosswing are timber casements with rectangular cames under a soldier course. They are clearly later insertions. A timber bay window extends across the corner of the main range and the cross wing.

4.3 *West Elevation* (Fig. 10, Plates 4-5)

The main block at the southern end of the building has a catslide roof on either side of a central two storey addition under a pitched roof housing the staircase and rear lobby. Dormer windows have been set into the catslide roof and a similar window has been installed at the northern end of the elevation. They are all 3-light casement windows with rectangular cames under a pitched roof. The central lobby extension has a single 2-light casement on the first floor and a single light window with a tilting upper section on either side of the half glazed door. All the openings in the extension are defined by unpainted brickwork. French doors with adjoining 2-light windows light the northern end of the range. This is also adorned by two courses of unpainted brickwork above.

The brickwork in the wall is of interest. There is a butt joint approximately 30cm south of the central extension with queen closers to the south of the joint. This would suggest that there was formerly an opening to the north of the joint. The brickwork to the south

is in a Flemish bond and that to the north is in English bond. The central extension, which is also in English bond has queen closers on both sides. The northern part of the elevation, beyond the catslide roof, is largely rebuilt. Earlier brickwork is only present to the south of the ground floor window.

4.4 **South Elevation** (Fig. 11, Plate 6)

The south elevation of the main range is predominantly in a Flemish bond. It has a plat band marking the base of the roofline and some timberwork at the western end of the elevation.

The southern elevation of the cross wing has a timber sash window at both levels. The ground floor window has a segmental arch. The brickwork is set in a Flemish bond at the western end deteriorating to variations of a Flemish bond in the centre and stretcher bond at the eastern end. Some cement mortar is present around the segmental arch. There is a small section of 8 or 9 soldier bricks between the bay window and a small timber set into the wall.

4.5 **North Elevation** (Fig. 12, Plate 7)

The brickwork in the gable end of the main range is in a Flemish bond with queen closers on both sides whereas that in the cross wing is in an English bond with queen closers at the west end. The easternmost part of the crosswing wall is a later skin and poorly built. A blocked door is evident just to the west of this.

There is a small window at first floor level in the main range with a hayloft type door above it. A narrow chimney stack rises from the cross wing towards the western end.

4.6 **Cellar** (Fig. 18, Plates 8-9)

Size: 3.75 × 3.22m, height 2.20m

Location: Below G2 at the southern end of the house

Description: The room is accessed by a brick staircase in the northwest corner, which consists of 10 risers that formerly swept northwards at the top. It has now been straightened with the addition of new bricks on the upper tread. This is altogether a new addition to the cellar as can be seen in the clumsy juxtaposition of the cellar and staircase walls. A brick pier was subsequently added to the north side of the 4th tread from the bottom support the corner of the wall between the hall and the rear lobby.

There is an opening at the southern end of the east wall, which has a modern box light window covering it. There are two free standing walls running westwards from the east wall; the southernmost of which subdivides the opening. The walls are approximately 2.15m long and were probably intended to provide separate fuel stores.

The walls are made of either partially or completely painted brick. The floor is also of brick. The bricks, which measure c.23 x 11cm are laid east to west.

The joists are 8cm wide on c.46cm centres, run north to south and have diamond shaped braces between them. An east-west orientated I-beam has been inserted to the north of the opening.

4.7 **Ground Floor** (Fig. 13)

Room G1 (Plates 10-12)

Size: 5.93/3.56 × 2.52/0.96m, height 1.04/2.08m

Location: East side of the main range

Description: This is the entrance hall with the front door at the southern end of the east wall and another door to the rear lobby opposite. This and the other internal doors at the southern end of the hall are modern and multi-glazed. The front door is a 6 panelled timber door.

As the hall has been subdivided by a modern partition to create part of the kitchen (G3), there is now a narrow passage leading from the main hall area to the reception rooms at the northern end of the house. This is lit by a 5 over 10 sash window in the east wall and an internal window in the kitchen wall. At the north end of the hall is a plank and batten door inset with a small square pane of glass.

A narrow axial beam, supported by a single vertical post, runs east to west immediately north of the front door. It is re-used and has rafter seatings some 50cm apart. The ceiling to the south of this beam is of lath and plaster with a bridging beam extending southwards into Room G2. This ceiling is lower than that to the north of the beam. The exposed joists to the north of the axial beam are 7cm (2¾ inch) wide on c.39cm (15¾ inch) centres. To the south of the sash window is a binding beam with a 7.5cm (3 inch) chamfer.

The west wall at the southern end of the hall is the only one to be built of brick; the others are all timber although the east wall has since been encased in brick. They are all painted white and have fairly recent skirting boards.

The arch of the fireplace in the kitchen is also apparent in the hall. Immediately to the north of this is a small recess in the chimney.

The timber floor boards are orientated north to south in most of the hall. These appear to be of oak and are c.16cm wide. At the southern end of the hall, the boards are orientated east to west and are only 12cm wide. Inspection of the areas in the ground floor where floorboards had been removed revealed only a build up of dust and dirt; no archaeological or architectural features were observed.

Room G2 (Plates 13-14)

Size: 3.49 × 3.43m, height 2m

Location: Southern end of the building

Description: This is a small reception room with a fireplace in the south wall, a 5 over 10 sash window in the east wall and a modern glazed door at the west end of the north wall. The walls are all painted as is the ceiling, which has a binding beam with a 5cm (2in) chamfer.

The round-backed fireplace is relatively modern, as may be the alcoves, which extend beyond the original south wall of the timber framed building. The timber floor is also relatively new. Like that in the southern end of the hall the boards are orientated east to west and are 12cm wide.

Room G3 (Plates 15-17)

Size: 4.45 × 3.53m, height 2.03/2.08m

Location: On western side of main range

Description: This is the kitchen, which has been created out of a subdivision of the hall (G1) and an extension under a catslide roof to the west of the house. It has two ceiling heights reflecting the different parts of the room; the eastern part, where the joists are exposed being the higher. The chamfered beam in the south wall is an extension of that in the hall (G1).

There is a fireplace in the northeast corner of the room that now houses a modern boiler. The base is tiled, the internal walls painted and the wall arches into the room above the hearth ending in a chamfered beam at the top. To the west of the fireplace is a large cupboard. There is an internal window in the modern partition wall to the east of the fireplace.

The western end of the room houses the kitchen units and appliances. There are two windows in the west wall; a modern 3-light casement and a 2-light window to the south of it. The latter is typical of the type of larder windows in use until the mid-20th century and may indicate an earlier subdivision within the kitchen.

The floor is tiled.

Room G4 (Plates 18-21)

Size: 6.54× 3.67m, height 2.02m

Location: Northern end of the main range

Description: Reception room with a fireplace in the south wall, French doors and adjoining windows in the west wall and a large window in the junction of this room and G5. The walls are painted white apart for a small area below the window in the east wall where the brick remains exposed. The ceiling is of lath and plaster and also painted. There are two chamfered binding beams, the northernmost being the most robust with a 6cm (2³/₈ inch) chamfer and a mortice in the middle.

The fireplace is a late 20th century insertion with a stone hearth, chimney breast and shelves. An alcove to the west of the fireplace houses timber shelves. The windows on either side of the French doors are almost full height casement windows. The east window is a joint bay window with Room G5.

The plank and batten door in the south wall has five planks and a glass insert. The floorboards are modern, some 9cm (3½ inch) wide. The floor in G4 is one step higher than those in the adjoining rooms (G1 & G5).

Room G5 (Plates 22-25, 57)

Size: 5.18 × 3.79m, height 2.23m

Location: East wing

Description: This is another reception room, which opens out from Room G4. There are the remains of a fireplace at the western end of the north wall. This can be seen to be a later addition as it overlaps the binding beam immediately to the east of it. The ceiling joists are 5cm (2 inches) wide and 30cm (12 inches) apart. These are fairly standard modern measurements, yet the binding beam has lambs tongue chamfer stops which are typical of the mid 17th to mid 18th century. Two vertical posts and an axial beam towards the western end of the room appear to indicate either the original end of the room or the wing. However, the northern post is merely screwed onto the brick wall behind and is not robust enough to have performed a structural role.

The floor timbers are orientated north to south and are the same size as those in G4. Below the floor at the eastern end of the room brick lined cellar that was not accessible until the floor was removed. The brickwork is of various dates from the 18th century foundations for the building for modern Fletton type bricks in the north wall. Further testament to modern building work was the presence of RSJs running east to west through the cellar. The brick floor did not extend as far eastwards as the room, ending instead at a brick built drain approximately 1m from the east wall.

Room G6 (Plate 26)

Size: 2.56 × 1.76m, height 2.07m

Location: Southwest corner of the building

Description: This is a small bathroom within an extension to the house. It has a beam above the casement window in the west wall and another above the plank and batten door in the north wall. A post below the window completes the exposed timberwork in the room.

The walls and ceiling are painted and the floor, which is slightly higher than that in the adjoining rear lobby (G7) is tiled.

Room G7 (Plates 27-29)

Size: 3.51 × 2.44m, height 2.09m

Location: West of the hall (G1)

Description: This small rear lobby provides access to the rear garden and houses the modern closed string staircase along the north wall. It has 2 risers to a half landing followed by another 10 risers to the first floor. It has painted balusters, an unpainted handrail and a flat newel cap on the slightly recessed newel post. A cupboard has been created underneath the stairs.

The walls are painted, as is the ceiling. The windows in the west wall are 2-light casements. Between them is a half glazed door to the garden. There is also a fully glazed door to the hall and a modern plank and batten door to the bathroom. The beam above the bathroom door extends almost as far as the door and is angled downwards. The floor, which is tiled, has a hatch above the brick staircase to the cellar.

4.8 **First Floor** (Fig. 16)

Room F1 (Plates 30-32)

Size: 5.45 × 1.08/1.45m, height 2.46m

Location: Eastern end of the main range

Description: This is the landing which opens out at the northern end where it provides access to loft as well as the end bedrooms. The original timber frame is evident in the wallplate along the west wall, which displays a counter bladed scarf joint above the staircase, and the studding in the north wall. Part of two roof trusses are also exposed: both show evidence for re-use.

There is a 3-light casement dormer window to the north of the staircase. A small door in the north and south return wall of the dormer opens into the roof space beneath the window.

All the doors in the landing are modern plank and batten doors with battens over the joints.

Room F2 (Plates 33-36, 58)

Size: 5.02 × 3.78m, height 2.19m

Location: East wing

Description: This is entered by a plank and batten door in the west wall. There is a 2-light casement window in the east wall and a 5 over 10 sash window in the south wall. The walls and ceiling are painted and the timber floorboards, which are orientated north to south, are between 12 and 25cm (4¾ - 9⅞ inches) wide.

The wall plates in the north and south walls are exposed but no scarf joints were observed. A beam in the west wall, which is likely to have originally been the end of the wing, was truncated when the door was inserted. Cupboards have been built along the wall to the east of the door.

A chimney breast and cupboard adorn the north wall. A gap behind the chimney breast suggests that it has not been adequately tied into the wall.

It became clear during the watching brief that the east wall has undergone some remedial work as cement had been packed into the window reveal. The bricks within the two skins of brickwork are well puddled with some inclusions and appear to be of 18th century date. The mortar courses are fairly substantial at 10mm deep.

Room F3 (Plates 37-40, 59-60)

Size: 6.22 × 3.78m, height 2.10m

Location: Northern end of the main range

Description: This bedroom has a plank and batten door in the south wall and another at the northern end of the east wall. In addition there is a 5 over 10 sash window in the east wall, a single light in the north wall and a 4-light casement window in the west wall. The western ceiling/wall junction has been re-modelled to accommodate the casement window.

To the west of the north window are some built in cupboards, but the main feature of the room are the timbers. The beams in the north and south walls are quite plain, but

the two trusses within the room are striking in their bowed form and the open mortices. Both bowed trusses have iron clamps at the junction with the rafters.

The floorboards are orientated east to west and are 17-26cm (6⁵/₈ - 10¹/₄ inches) wide.

Room F4 (Plates 41-42, 61-62)

Size: 2.89 × 2.33m, height 2.43m

Location: East of the landing

Description: This is a small bedroom with a plank and batten door at the southern end of the west wall, a 5 over 10 sash window in the east wall, built in cupboards along the south wall and a fitted cupboard to the east of the chimney breast in the north wall. The floor is carpeted over a timber floor.

The chimney breast was exposed during the building works revealing a timber beam with a rafter seat at the western end supporting studwork above. The lower part of the fireplace had been bricked up although a gap had been left to access the modern metal flue. The fireplace was not as wide as the chimney breast behind it, creating an L-shaped cupboard to the right. A similar L-shaped arrangement was observed in Room F6.

The studwork and its associated lath and plaster between this room and F6 were exposed. The studs had been nailed in place but wooden pegs were used for the main frame.

Room F5 (Plate 43)

Size: 2.45 × 1.95m, height 2.24m

Location: South of the staircase

Description: This is a modern bathroom with a plank and batten door in the east wall and a modern 2-light casement window in the west wall.

The half hipped ceiling is painted white, the floor carpeted and the walls are papered.

Room F6 (Plates 44-47)

Size: 4.30 × 3.89m, height 2.49m

Location: Southern end of the main range

Description: This bedroom is accessed by a plank and batten door in the north wall to the east of which is an alcove with a modern bedroom fitting and an exposed tiebeam above. There is a 5 over 10 sash window in the east wall and a 3-light casement window in a bay to the west.

A chimney breast has been concealed some 25cm behind the south wall but is evident in the cupboards built on either side of it. The cupboard to the west of it is recessed and has modern 12cm (4³/₄ inches) wide floor boards as far as the south wall where the original floor boards start. These are 21- 23cm (8¹/₄ - 9 inches) wide.

There is a small step up into the cupboard in the southeast corner. This has the older, wider type of floorboards, a plank and batten door with long strap hinges on pintles. The door to the western cupboard is set within a timber frame

4.9 **Roof** (Plates 48-52)

The roof over the main range to the south of the chimney consists of pegged oak rafter couples with no ridge board or pole. The roofs accessible by the hayloft door overly the crosswing and the northern end of the main range. It also comprises pegged oak rafter

couples and bears the inscription W. Wright 1755. Whether this was the carpenter or occupier of the building at the time is not known.

4.10 **Outbuilding** (Fig. 13)

Room O1 (Plates 53-54)

Size: 4.52 × 2.60m, height 4.20m

Location: South of the garage

Description: This is a workshop/shed with a plank and batten door in the north wall and a Yorkshire sliding sash window to the west of it. The walls are painted brick and there is a timber frame by the east wall with splayed braces supporting the purlins. The wall dividing rooms O1 and O2 has a bonding beam set into it – a feature typical between the 17th and early 19th centuries.

Room O2 (Plates 55-56)

Size: 5.36 × 4.46m, height 4.44m

Location: North of O1

Description: This is the garage with the garage doors in an extension at the western end. There is a stable door in the north wall and a 2-light casement to the west of it. There appears to be a blocked window to the east of the door, but there is no evidence for this on the external face of the wall.

The floor has square setts at the eastern end, diamond block to the west of these, then a brick floor followed by slabs at the western end. These may reflect the former use of the building, possibly as a stable and carriage house. The building has been re-roofed.



Plate 1: East elevation



Plate 2: Crosswing: east elevation



Plate 3: East elevation/crosswing detail



Plate 4: West elevation



Plate 5: West elevation: northern end



Plate 6: Crosswing: south elevation



Plate 7: North elevation



Plate 8: Cellar stairs



Plate 9: Cellar: looking northeast



Plate 10: Room G1: southeast corner



Plate 11: Room G1: passage to Room G4



Plate 12: Room G1: southwest corner



Plate 13: Room G2: southeast corner



Plate 14: Room G2: northwest corner



Plate 15: Room G3: southeast end



Plate 16: Room G3: looking northwest



Plate 17: Room G3: looking west



Plate 18: Room G4: south wall



Plate 19: Room G4: looking southeast



Plate 20: Room G4: looking northeast



Plate 21: Room G4: from Room G5



Plate 22: Room G5: north wall



Plate 23: Room G5: east wall



Plate 24: Room G5: west wall



Plate 25: Room G5: south wall



Plate 26: Room G6: west wall detail



Plate 27: Room G7: southeast corner



Plate 28: Room G7: west wall

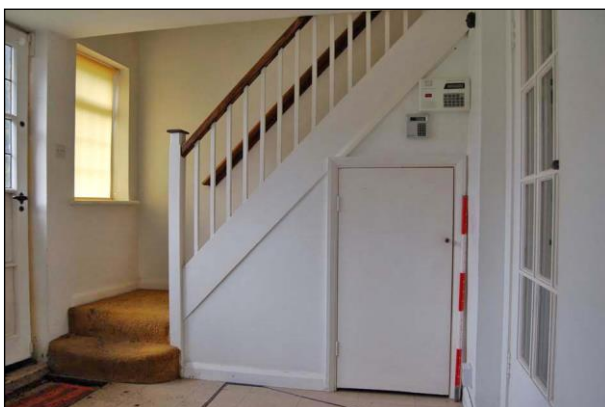


Plate 29: Room G7: looking north



Plate 30: Room F1: looking south



Plate 31: Room F1: looking north



Plate 32: Room F1: counterbladed scarf joint detail



Plate 33: Room F2: southeast corner



Plate 34: Room F2: south wall



Plate 35: Room F2: west wall



Plate 36: Room F2: north wall



Plate 37: Room F3: south wall



Plate 38: Room F3: east wall



Plate 39: Room F3: north wall



Plate 40: Room F3: northwest corner



Plate 41: Room F4: southwest corner



Plate 42: Room F4: northeast corner



Plate 43: Room F5: looking east



Plate 44: Room F6: north wall



Plate 45: Room F6: southeast corner



Plate 46: Room F6: south wall



Plate 47: Room F6: southwest corner

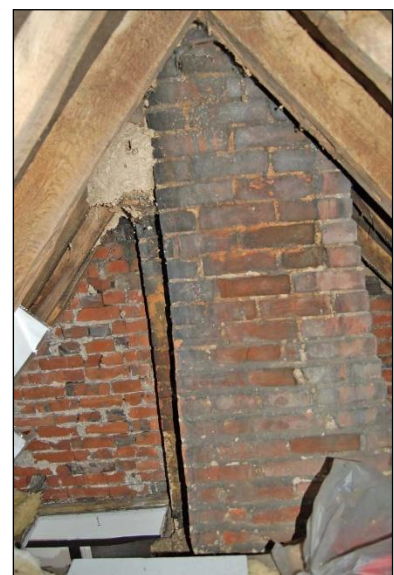


Plate 48: Roof over main range looking north



Plate 49: Roof over main range looking south



Plate 50: Roof over F3 looking south



Plate 51: Inscription detail



Plate 52: Roof over crosswing looking east



Plate 53: Room O1: north wall



Plate 54: Room O1: south wall



Plate 55: Room O2: east wall



Plate 56: Room O2: west wall



Plate 57: Room G5: cellar below the floor



Plate 58: Room F2 north wall



Plate 59: Room F3: iron stirrup



Plate 60: Room F3: modern tie



Plate 61: Room F4: chimney breast



Plate 62: Room F4/F6 stud partition

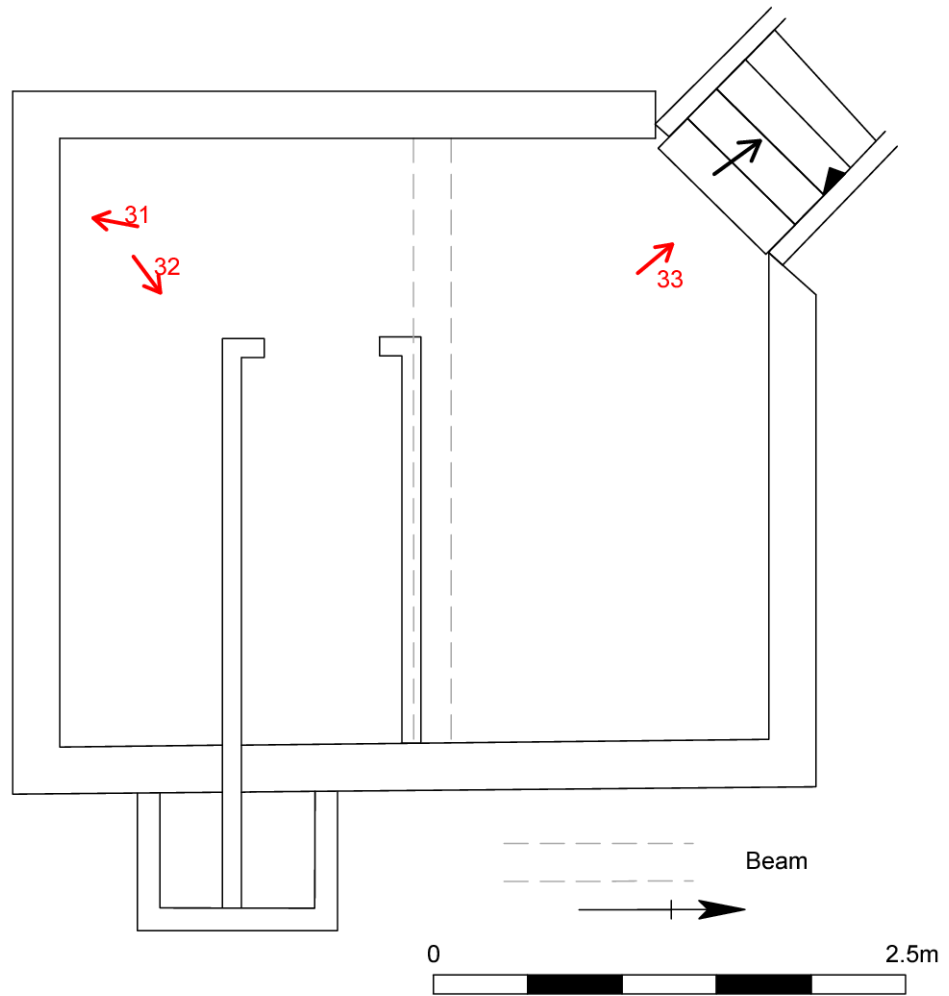


Figure 9: Cellar plan with photo views (scale 1:50)



Figure 10: East elevation (scale 1:100)



Figure 11: West elevation (scale 1:100)



Figure 12: South elevation (scale 1:100)



Figure 13: North elevation (scale 1:100)

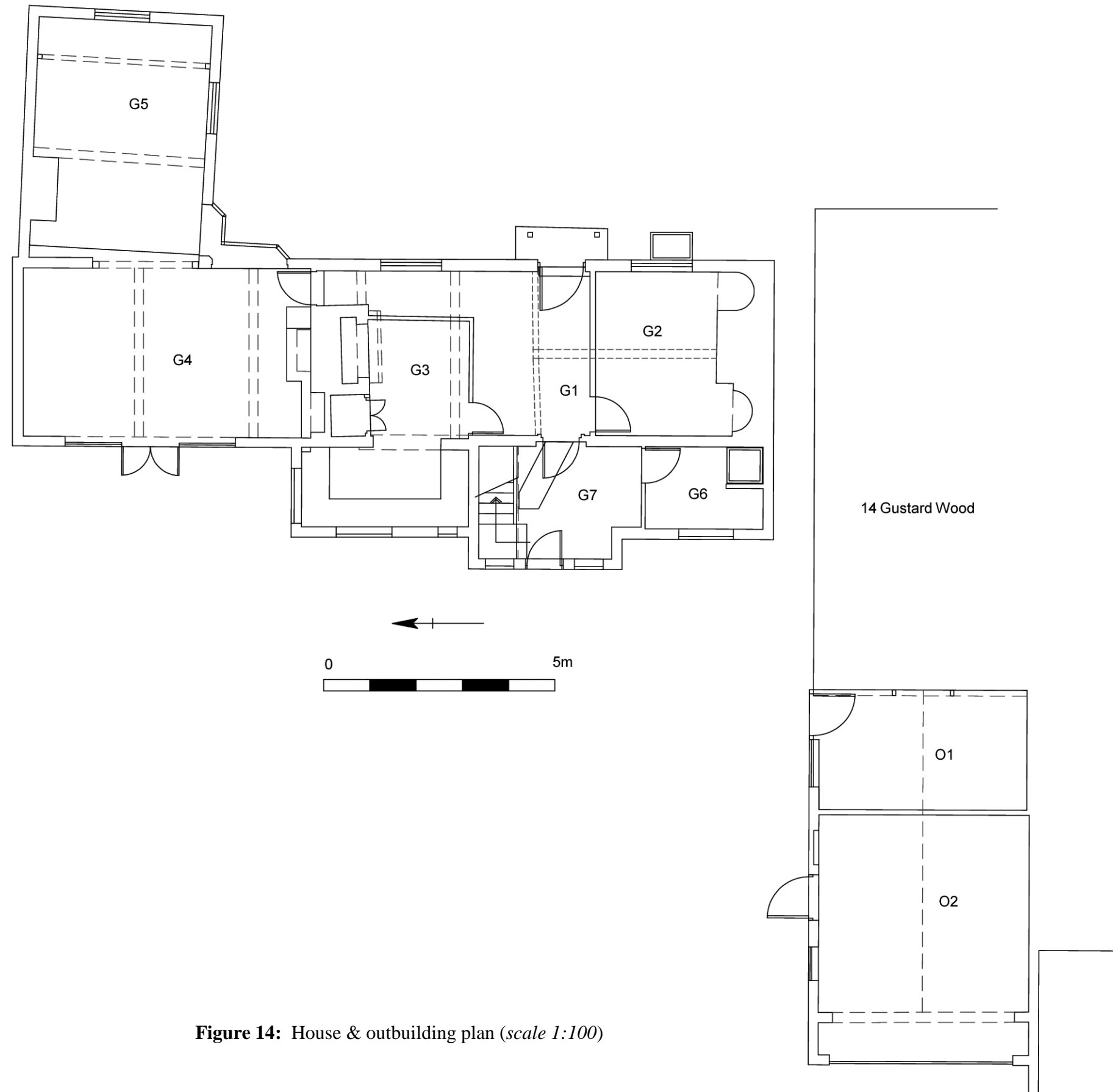


Figure 14: House & outbuilding plan (scale 1:100)

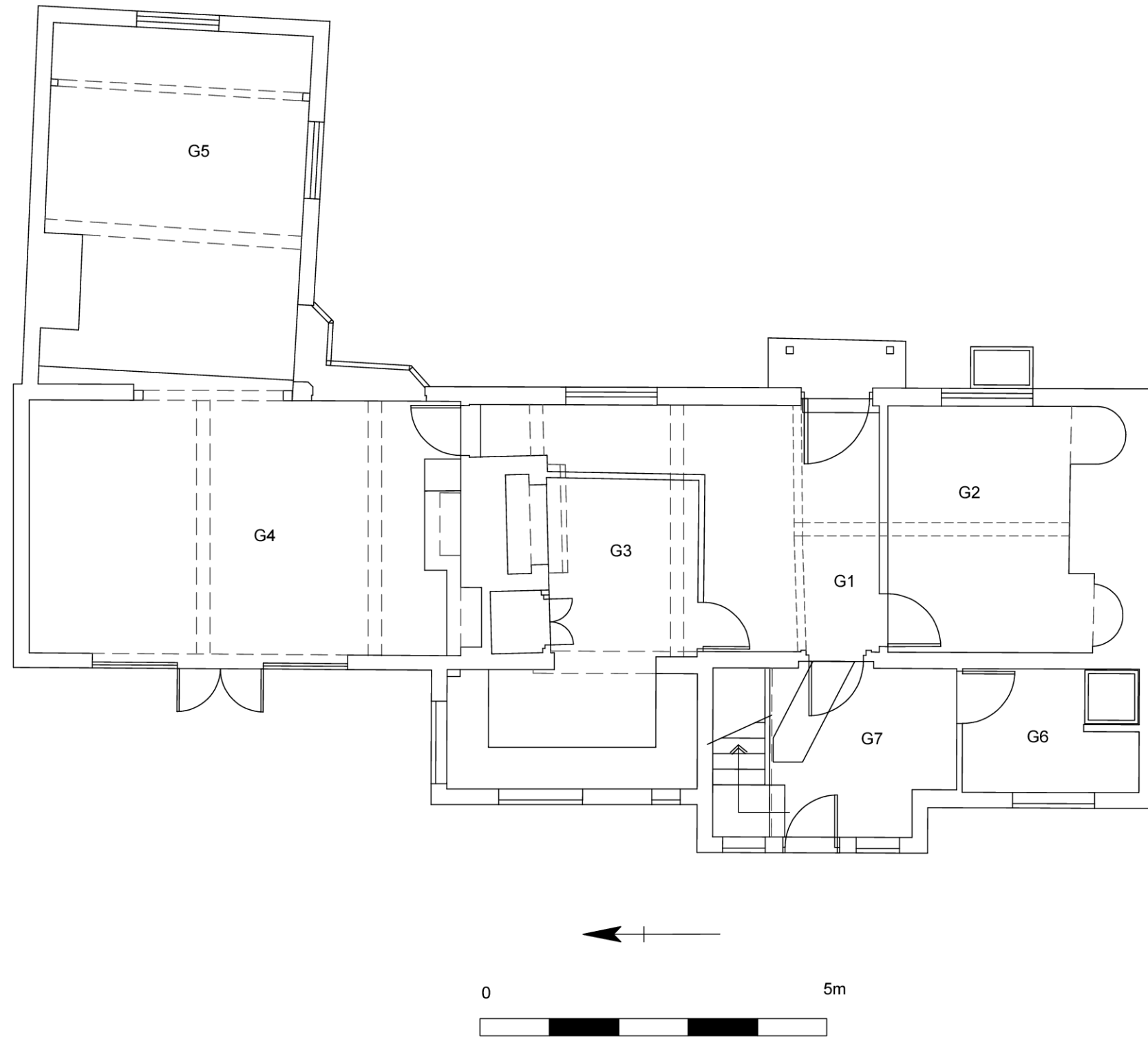


Figure 15: Ground floor plan (scale 1:75)

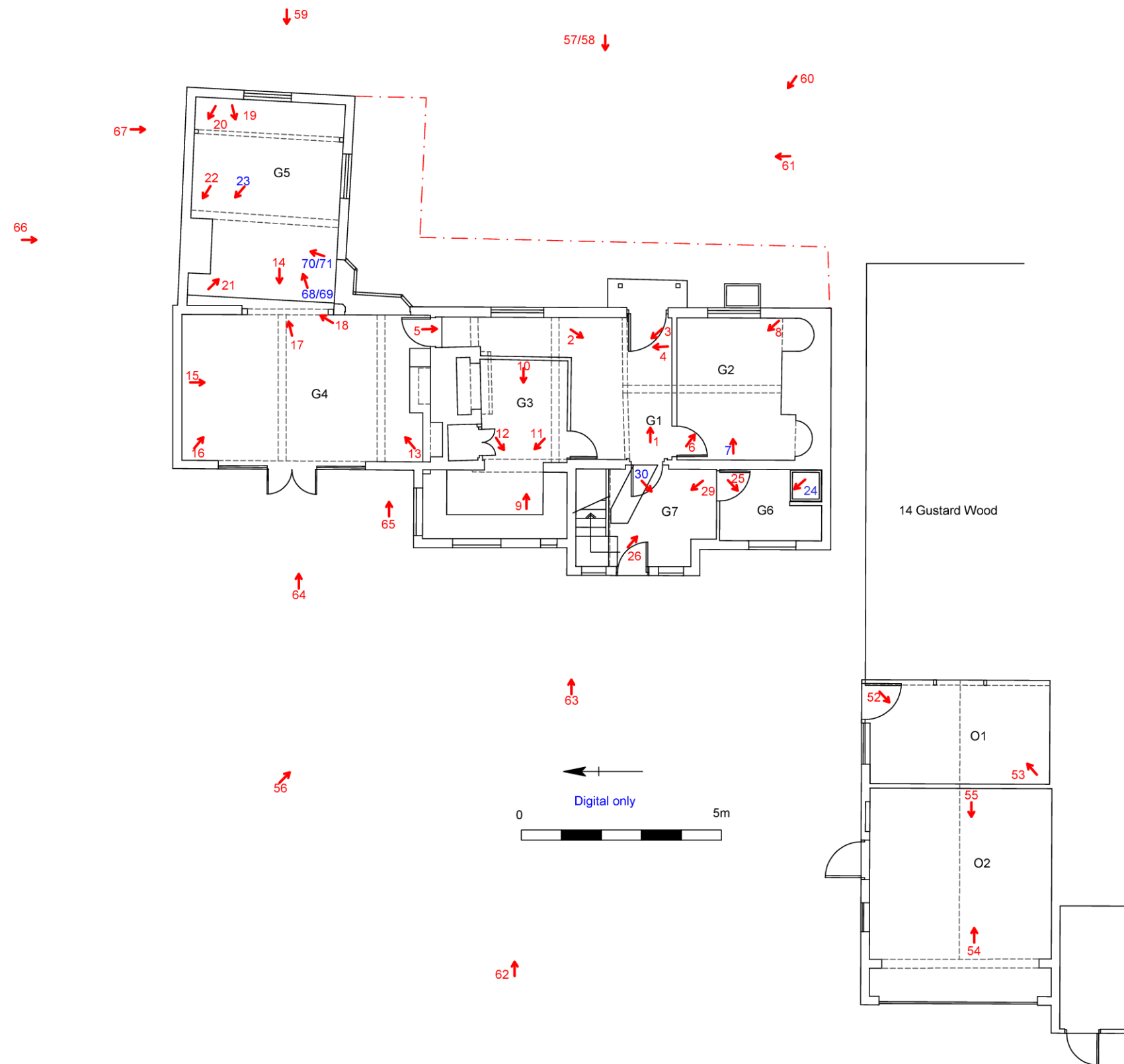


Figure 16: Ground floor photo plan (scale 1:125)

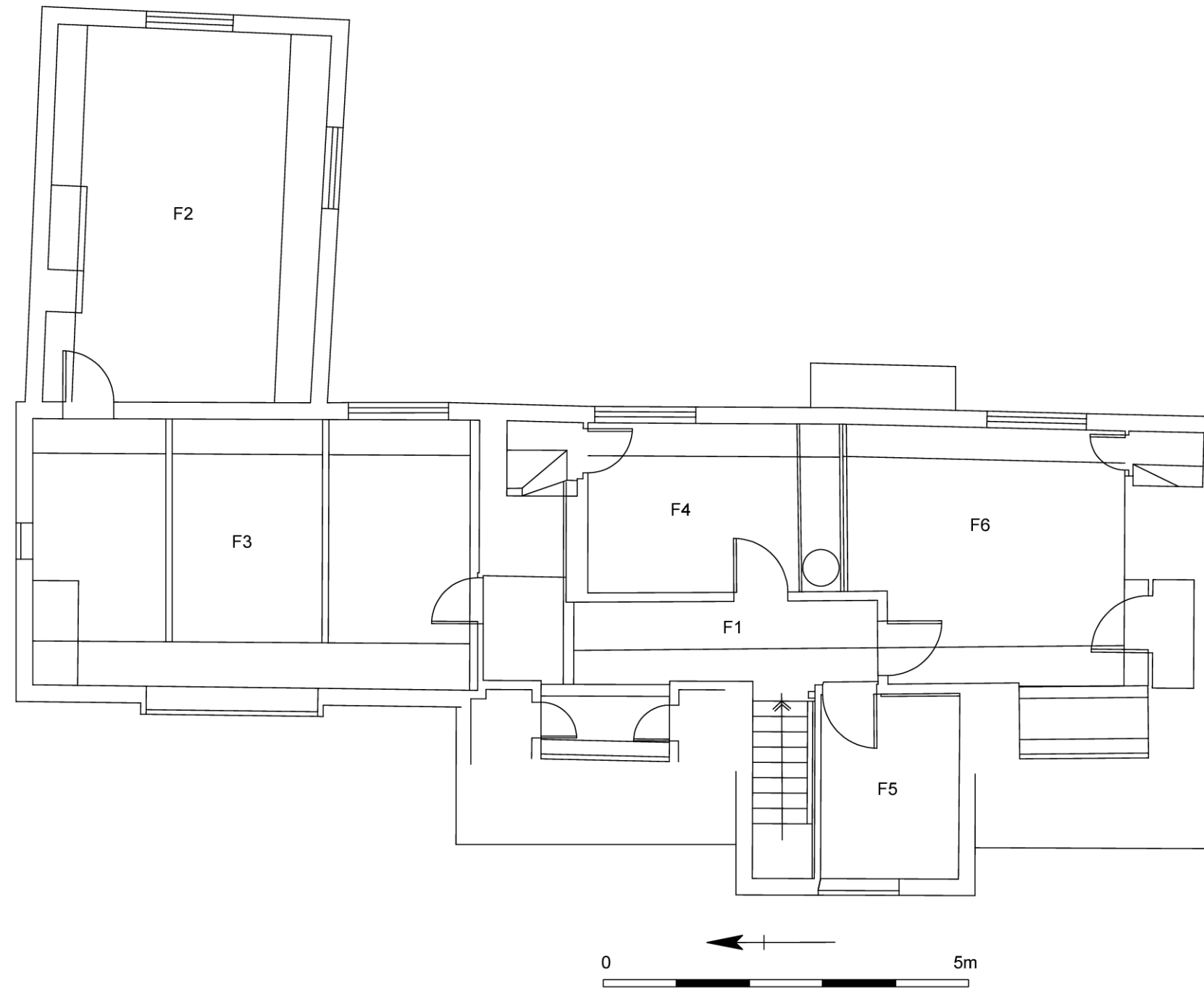


Figure 17: First floor plan (scale 1:75)



Figure 18: First floor photo plan (scale 1:75)

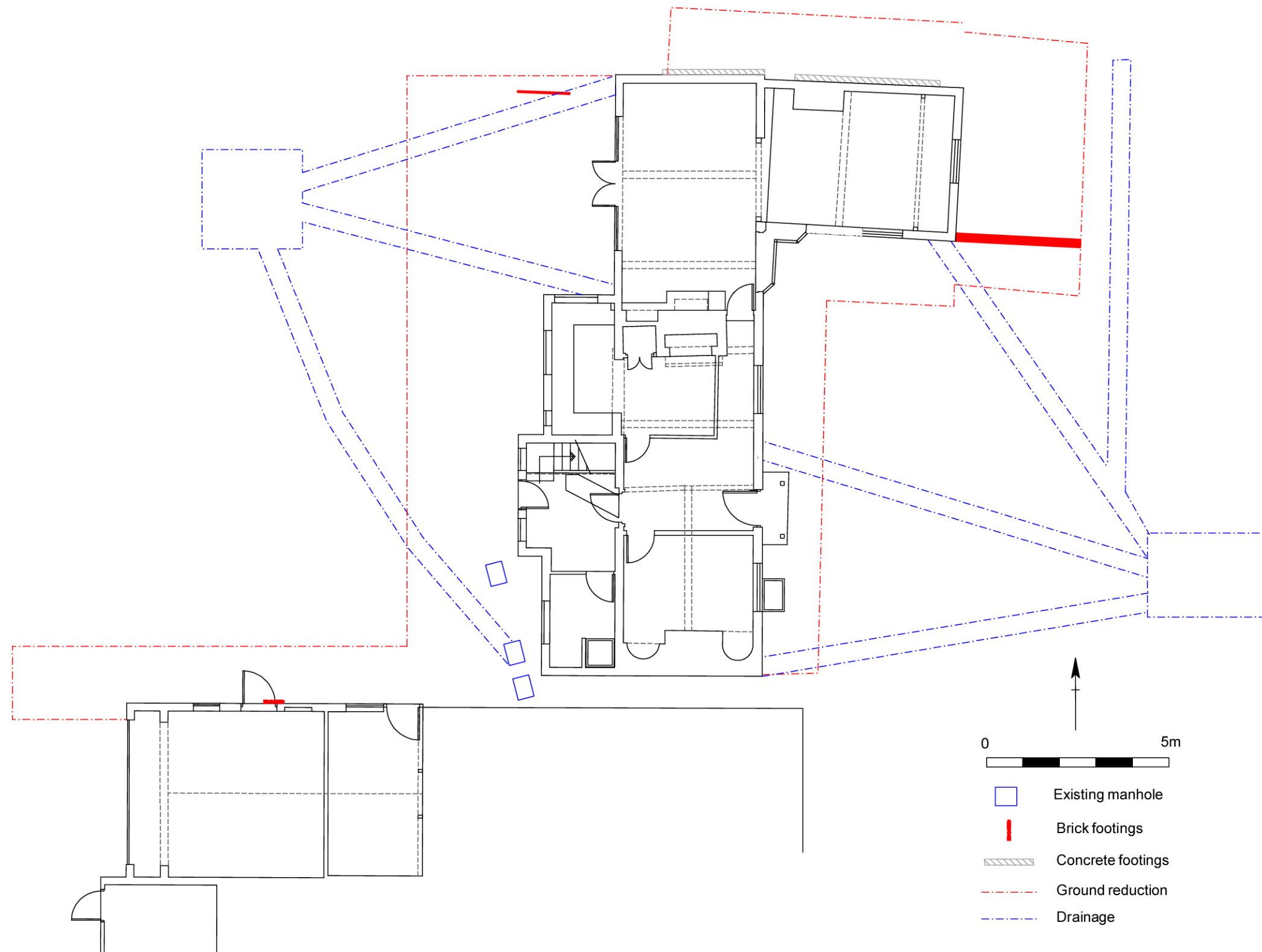


Figure 19: Watching brief results (scale 1:125)

5 Watching Brief on the Groundworks

5.1 *Ground reduction* (Plates 63-68)

Ground reduction took place on all four sides of the house and along the northern front of the outhouse up to an approximate depth of 0.50m. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.04m grass over 0.20-0.50m of subsoil/overburden under which was natural orangey-brown clay.

To the rear of the house were a number of services and the overburden contained much building debris. A single course of red bricks measuring approximately 23 x 11 x 7cm, set on end in lime mortar was revealed at the northern end of the building. This was clearly part of the original north wall of the cross wing and the remains extended as far as the ground reduction. Another possible wall was revealed beneath the outhouse.

The ground reduction to the east of the crosswing covered an area c. 3.4m w x 7.2m l x 0.50m deep. The foundations of the southern wall of the crosswing were revealed, which, like their counterpart to the west of the house, were of red brick set in lime mortar. Here, however, the remains were two courses wide and three courses deep.

The ground reduction to the front of the main body of the house was 1.75m wide to allow for the construction of a retaining wall and c.0.40m deep. No archaeological features were revealed, but the foundations were exposed, showing a variety of building techniques. The foundations to the south of the porch did not exceed 0.40m, which suggests that the cellar was dug later. Flint footings, c.0.29m deep, were exposed approximately 0.92m north of the porch. These extended as far as the northern extent of the original range. Beyond that, the foundations were brick built. The porch was supported on concrete foundations. The doorstep was found to be an inverted Yorkstone gravestone for William Hooper who died on August 26th 1850 aged 76 and his wife, Joanna, who died on October 26th 1855.

A 1.85m wide strip was reduced to the north of the crosswing to a depth of c.0.50m. No archaeological remains were revealed, but much of the wall was seen to be supported by concrete foundations.

5.2 *Service Trenches & Soakaway to the East of the House*

Four service trenches c.0.50m wide were excavated to the east of the house to a depth of 0.80m. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of subsoil over orangey brown clay natural. The foundations of the south wall of the crosswing were observed in the northernmost service trench. No other archaeological features or finds were observed. The soakaway, which measured 2.3 x 3.3m x 2.5m deep, was also devoid of archaeological features or finds.

5.2 *Service Trenches & Soakaway to the West of the House*

Three service trenches and a soakaway, all of similar dimensions to those excavated to the east, were excavated to the west of the house. No archaeological features or finds were observed.



Plate 63: North wall of crosswing



Plate 64: Wall remains beneath the outhouse



Plate 65: South wall of crosswing



Plate 66: North wall



Plate 67: Service trench east of the house



Plate 68: Rear soakaway

6 Conclusions

Maxfield House was once the central part of a large H-plan building. The oldest part of the present house is within the section demarcated by the chimneys in the north-south orientated range. The scantling of the surviving timbers and the counterbladed scarf joint in the western wall plate in the first floor landing suggest that the building may have been constructed in the mid-late 17th century. Subsequent rebuilding and alterations have left the building's developmental chronology open to various interpretations, but what appears to be clear is that the chimney stacks were subsequently added to the timber framed building and incorporated within the brick walls.

The south range, shown in the 1840 Tithe map as being brick built or brick encased was L-shaped and according to the late 19th century Ordnance Survey map incorporated a series of spaces. The outhouse, which was part of this range, displays largely 19th century structural characteristics although the inclusion of a bonding beam would put it within the earlier part of the century.

The northern end of the building presents a more complicated narrative. The original range was initially extended northwards, after which the crosswing was added. The brickwork, roof structure and interior timbers suggest that this occurred within fairly swift succession. The west wall of the northern extension has seen considerable rebuilding and the east wall is largely taken up by the corner window. The north wall, which appears unaltered, retains a high level door providing access to the roof space. Here an inscription dates the roof timbers if not the extension to 1775.

The crosswing initially extended further eastwards, but was truncated in stages between 1840 and 1972. The present east wall is poorly rebuilt using 18th century bricks on the western end of a former first floor window. Incorporated within the only surviving section of the north range is a chimney breast that is not tied into the wall behind it.

The cellar beneath Room G2 appears to have been created after the building was encased in brick and shows evidence for later reworking particularly in relation to the stairs. Access may originally have been via an external hatch but the construction of the rear lobby in the 20th century allowed the upper steps to be rebuilt and provide access from within the house.

The cellar below Room G5 is likely to have been part of the original build. Later brickwork and the inserted RSJs supporting the chimney attest to repairs and modification. What remained unattended was the severe bow to the east wall, the footings for which lay beyond the east wall of the cellar itself.

The outshuts to the rear of the building are interesting in that the brickwork appears to be late 18th or 19th century but the cartographic evidence suggests that they were built in the 20th century. The central lobby is, however, clearly a 20th century addition.

The groundworks revealed only the foundation for the north and south walls of the northern crosswing to west and east of the house respectively.



Figure 20: Phase plan (scale 1:100)

7 Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by James Porter of Wastell & Porter Architects Ltd on behalf of Mr & Mrs Tierney. The writer is grateful to James for his assistance and to Thomas O'Connor for providing the drawings which have been used as the basis for many of the illustrations within this report. The project was monitored by Simon West on behalf of the local planning authority. Thanks are also due to Ian Bryan and his staff for their on site assistance.

The project was managed for ASC by Karin Semmelmann MA MifA. Fieldwork was carried out by Karin Semmelmann, Calli Rouse BA AifA and Gareth Shane BSc. The report was prepared by Karin Semmelmann and edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MifA.

8 Archive

8.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Report
4. Historical & Survey notes
5. Architect's survey drawings
6. List of photographs
7. B/W prints
8. B/W negatives
9. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

8.2 The archive will be deposited with HALS.

9 References

Standards & Specifications

- ALGAO 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper **14**.
- EH 2006 *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice*. English Heritage (London).
- IFA 2000a Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.
- IFA 2000b Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*.
- IFA 2001 Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings)*.
- Semmelmann, K. 2010 *Historic Building Recording & Watching Brief Project Design: Maxfield House, 17 Gustard Wood, Wheathampstead* ASC 1371/WGW/1

Books and Historical Sources:

- Harpenden & District Local History Society* 1981 Vol 6, 7-8
- Jeavons, R. (ed) 2001 *Tales from Old Wheathampstead and Gustard Wood: portrait of a community* Wheathampstead Local History Group
- St Albans Architectural and Archaeological Society* 1988 Vol. *, 13-14
- Thompson, I. 2002 *Wheathampstead: Extensive Urban Survey* Hertfordshire County Council
- Wheathampstead Pump* Vol. 6

Maps

1690 Untitled plan	D/EBe T43
1827 Plan of the Lamer Estate	D/EGd (Add) P1
1840 Tithe Map	DSA4/116/2
1840 Tithe Award	DSA4/116/1
1881 Ordnance Survey Map	XXVIII.1
1898 Ordnance Survey Map	XXVIII.1
1924 Ordnance Survey Map	XXVIII.1
1881 Ordnance Survey Map	XXVII.4
1898 Ordnance Survey Map	XXVII.4
1924 Ordnance Survey Map	XXVII.4
1972 Ordnance Survey Map	TL 1616 1716
2011 Ordnance Survey Map	

Pictorial Sources

<http://www.mid-hertsgolfclub.co.uk/MHGCPages/MHGChistory/MHGChistory.html>

Internet Sources

Victoria County History Wheathampstead with Harpenden: Manors', *A History of the County of Hertford: volume 2* (1908), pp. 297-309. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=43282&strquery=Wheathampstead>
<http://www.wheathampstead.net/history.htm>

Appendix 1: List of Photographs

SITE NO/CODE: 1371/WGW			Site Name: 17 Gustard Wood, Wheathampstead
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	X	X	Room G1: southeast corner
2	X	X	Room G1: southwest corner
3	X	X	Room G1: modern partition wall between G1 and G3
4	X	X	Room G1: looking north towards G4
5	X	X	Room G1: looking south from G4
6	X	X	Room G2: southeast corner
7	X	X	Room G2: east wall
8	X	X	Room G2: northwest corner
9	X	X	Room G3: southeast end
10	X	X	Room G3: looking west from
11	X	X	Room G3: northwest corner
12	X	X	Room G3: southwest corner
13	X	X	Room G4: northeast corner
14	X	X	Room G4: looking west from G5
15	X	X	Room G4: south wall
16	X	X	Room G4: southeast corner
17	X	X	Room G5: east wall
18	X	X	Room G5: north wall
19	X	X	Room G5: west wall
20	X	X	Room G5: detail of vertical post on north wall
21	X	X	Room G5: south wall
22	X	X	Room G5: lambs tongue chamfer stop on binding beam
23		X	Room G5: binding beam, chimney relationship detail
24		X	Room G6: northwest corner
25	X	X	Room G6: west wall detail
26	X	X	Room G7: southeast corner
27	X	X	Roof space looking north
28	X	X	Roof space looking south
29	X	X	Room G7: looking north
30		X	Room G7: west wall
31	X	X	Room C1: device of uncertain function
32	X	X	Room C1: looking northeast
33	X	X	Room C1: looking northwest
34	X	X	Room F1: looking south
35	X	X	Room F1: looking north
36	X	X	Room F2: southeast corner
37	X	X	Room F2: south wall
38	X	X	Room F2: west wall
39	X	X	Room F2: east wall
40	X	X	Room F3: south wall
41	X	X	Room F3: east wall
42	X	X	Room F3: north wall
43	X	X	Room F3: northwest corner
44	X	X	Room F4: northeast corner
45	X	X	Room F4: southwest corner
46	X	X	Room F5: west wall

47	X	X	Room F6: south wall
48	X	X	Room F6: southwest corner
49	X	X	Room F6: southeast corner
50	X	X	Room F6: north wall
51	X	X	Room F1: counterbladed scarf joint
52	X	X	Room O1: south wall
53	X	X	Room O1: north wall
54	X	X	Room O2: east wall
55	X	X	Room O2: west wall
56	X	X	House & outbuilding from the northwest
57	X	X	East elevation
58	X	X	East elevation
59	X	X	Crosswing: east elevation
60	X	X	Main range/crosswing detail
61	X	X	Crosswing: south elevation
62	X	X	House & outbuilding from the west
63	X	X	West elevation
64	X	X	West elevation: north end
65	X	X	West elevation detail
66	X	X	North elevation
67	X	X	North elevation showing blocked doorway & facade
68		X	Cellar beneath Room G5
69		X	Cellar beneath Room G5
70		X	Cellar beneath Room G5
71		X	Cellar beneath Room G5
72		X	Notch in southern beam Room F1
73		X	Iron stirrup, Room F3
74		X	Iron tie, Room F3
75		X	Eastern side of roof over F3
76		X	Western side of roof over F3
77		X	Roof over F3 looking south
78		X	

A CDROM containing copies of all the digital photos listed above is included in the back cover of this report



Shot 1



Shot 2



Shot 3



Shot 4



Shot 5



Shot 6



Shot 7



Shot 8



Shot 9



Shot 10



Shot 11



Shot 12



Shot 13



Shot 14



Shot 15



Shot 16



Shot 17



Shot 18



Shot 19



Shot 20



Shot 21



Shot 22



Shot 23



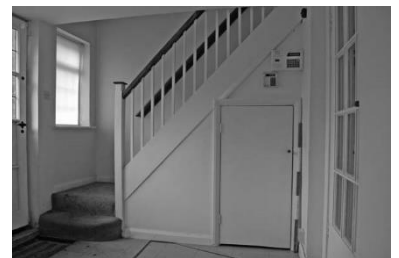
Shot 24



Shot 25



Shot 26



Shot 27



Shot 28



Shot 29



Shot 30



Shot 31



Shot 32



Shot 33



Shot 34



Shot 35



Shot 36



Shot 37



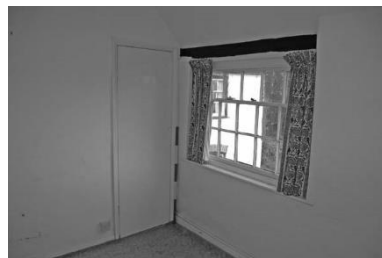
Shot 38



Shot 39



Shot 40



Shot 41



Shot 42



Shot 43



Shot 44



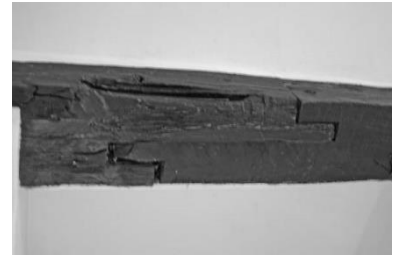
Shot 45



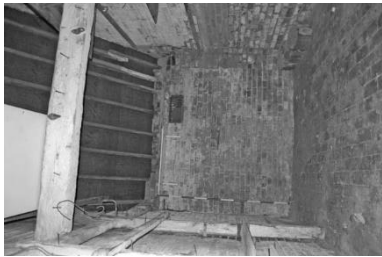
Shot 46



Shot 47



Shot 48



Shot 49



Shot 50



Shot 51



Shot 52



Shot 53



Shot 54



Shot 55



Shot 56



Shot 57



Shot 58



Shot 59



Shot 60



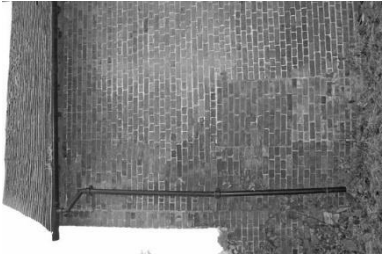
Shot 61



Shot 62



Shot 63



Shot 64

Appendix 2: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	Maxfield House, 17 Gustard Wood	OASIS reference:	Archaeol2-113692
<p>Short Description:</p> <p>Between November 2010 and July 2011 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd carried out historic building recording and a watching brief of Maxfield House, 17 Gustard Wood, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire as a condition of planning permission for development involving buildings on the site. The house and garden, which extends behind the properties to the south of the development site, were once part of a larger complex with an H-plan focal centre. The buildings forming the southern crossing of the H now makes up the neighbouring residence and the garage still belonging to Maxfield House. The northern crosswing, which was truncated piecemeal between 1840 and 1972, extends eastwards.</p> <p>The surviving core of Maxfield House, a Grade II listed building, is mid-late 17th century, timber framed and encased in brick in the 18th century. The original extent of the brick building is defined by the chimneys in the north-south orientated range. This was subsequently extended northwards after which the crosswing was built. This appears to have been completed by 1775 when the roof was constructed by W. Wright.</p> <p>The building has been extended with outshuts under a catslide roof and a 2-storey addition to the rear. The outshuts are not depicted on the maps, but the brickwork appears to be 19th century, the same date as the outbuilding to the southwest. The central lobby is 20th century.</p> <p>Although various structural and architectural elements of the building were exposed during the watching brief, only the foundations for the northern crosswing and a possible return wall beneath the outbuilding were revealed during the ground reduction.</p>			
Project Type:	Historic Building Recording & Watching Brief		
Previous work:		Site status:	IoE: 163949
Current land use:	Residential	Future work:	No
Monument type:	Building	Monument period:	Post-medieval
Significant finds:	N/A		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Hertfordshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	TL 17124 16065
Site address:	Maxfield House, 17 Gustard Wood, Wheathampstead AL4 8RP		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	625 sq m	Height OD: (metres)	c.123m AOD
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	Simon West, St Albans	Project design originator:	Karin Semmelmann
Project Manager:	Karin Semmelmann	Director/Supervisor:	Karin Semmelmann
Sponsor / funding body:	Mr & Mrs Tierney		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	17 th November 2010	End date:	17 th July 2011
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	HALS	Photographs	
Paper:		Architects drawings, site notes etc	
Digital:		CD	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Historic Building Recording & Watching Brief: Maxfield House, 17 Gustard Wood, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1371/WGW/2		
Author(s):	Karin Semmelmann MA MifA		
Page nos	58	Date:	5 th December 2011

Appendix 3: Hertfordshire HER Summary Sheet

Site name and address: Maxfield House 17 Gustard Wood Wheathampstead AL4 8RP	
County: Hertfordshire	District: St Albans
Village/Town: Wheathampstead	Parish: Wheathampstead
Planning application reference: 5/10/1240	
Client name, address, & tel. no: Mr & Mrs Tierney Rainbow Cottage Stocks Road Albury, Tring Hertfordshire HP23 5RZ	
Nature of application: Two-storey front extension, erection of rear porch, replacement front porch, alterations to openings and conversion of garage to store & habitable space	
Present land use: Residential	
Size of application area: 7160.5 sq m	Size of area investigated: c.625 sq m
NGR (to 8 figures): TL 17124 16065	Site code: 1371/WGW
Organization/ Site director: Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd/ Karin Semmelmann	
Type of work: Historic Building Recording & watching Brief	
Date of work: Start: 17 th November 2011	Finish: 17 th July 2011
Curating museum: HALS	
Related HER nos:	Periods represented: Post-medieval
Relevant previous summaries/reports	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p>Between November 2010 and July 2011 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd carried out historic building recording and a watching brief of Maxfield House, 17 Gustard Wood, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire as a condition of planning permission for development involving buildings on the site. The house and garden, which extends behind the properties to the south of the development site, were once part of a larger complex with an H-plan focal centre. The buildings forming the southern crossing of the H now makes up the neighbouring residence and the garage still belonging to Maxfield House. The northern crosswing, which was truncated piecemeal between 1840 and 1972, extends eastwards.</p> <p>The surviving core of Maxfield House is mid-late 17th century, timber framed and encased in brick in the 18th century. The original extent of the brick building is defined by the chimneys in the north-south orientated range. This was subsequently extended northwards after which the crosswing was built. This appears to have been completed by 1775 when the roof was constructed by W. Wright.</p> <p>The building has been extended with outshuts under a catslide roof and a 2-storey addition to the rear. The outshuts are not depicted on the maps, but the brickwork appears to be 19th century, the same date as the outbuilding to the southwest. The central lobby is 20th century.</p> <p>Although various structural and architectural elements of the building were exposed during the watching brief, only the foundations for the northern crosswing and a possible return wall beneath the outbuilding were revealed during the ground reduction.</p>	
Author: Karin Semmelmann	Date: 5th December 2011