

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING & WATCHING BRIEF: 7 NENE PARADE MARCH CAMBRIDGESHIRE

NGR: TL 4175 9669

on behalf of KL Elener Architectural Design



Karin Semmelmann MA MifA

October 2012

ASC: 1536/MNP/2



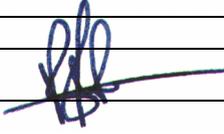
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<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Demolition of cottage and the formation of a garden		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Fenland District Council		
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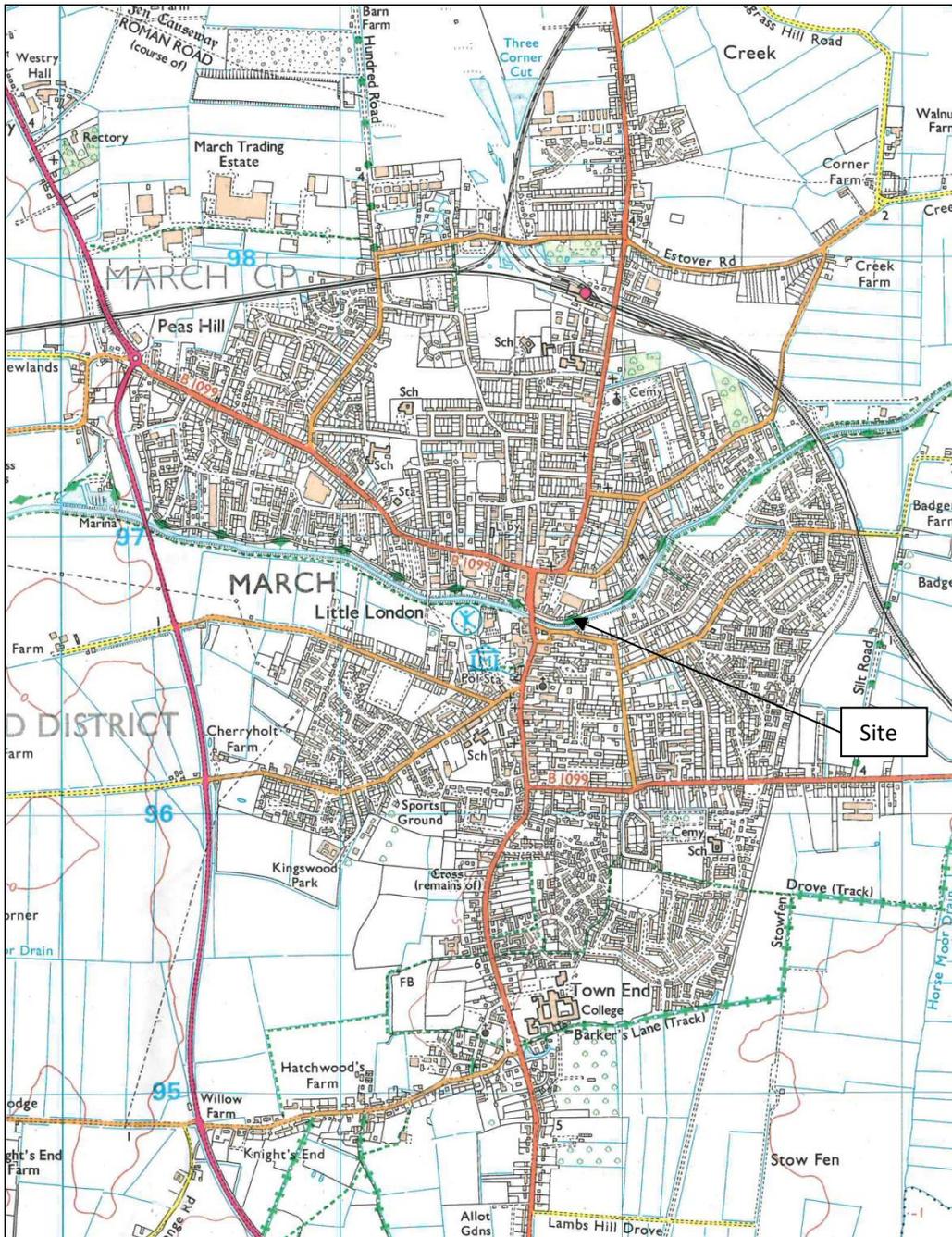


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In July 2012 historic building recording was undertaken at 7 Nene Parade, March. This was followed by a watching brief on the removal of the foundations in October the same year. The works were a condition of Listed Building Consent to redevelop the site following a serious fire in March 2011.

Although the site is depicted on an early 17th century estate map, the earliest part of the house appears to be mid-late 18th century. It was built as a single cell house with an inglenook fireplace and stairwell to the right of the main entrance. The building was extended to west in the second half of the 19th century to provide another single cell dwelling. These were later converted to a single residence.

The close structural relationship with number 8 to the east was revealed during the demolition works. The construction of this mid 19th century 2-storey house appears to have resulted in the reconstruction of much of the east wall of 7 Nene Parade, the installation of a fireplace in the first floor and the rebuilding of the inglenook fireplace on the ground floor. The stairs were also rebuilt, the treads extending into the party wall. The whole house was re-roofed once the western section had been built using a joinery technique derived from the boat building industry.

1 Introduction

1.1 Between July and October 2012 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out historic building recording and a watching brief at 7 Nene Parade, March, Cambridgeshire. The project was commissioned by KL Elener Architectural Design, and was carried out according to a project design prepared by ASC (Summerfield-Hill 2012) and approved by *Cambridgeshire Archaeology*, archaeological advisor (AA) to the local planning authority (LPA), *Fenland District Council*. The relevant planning application reference is FYR110412LB.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This building recording and watching brief project has been required under the terms of *National Planning Policy Frameworks* (NPPF) as a condition of Listed Building Consent.

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*

The site is a Grade II listed property located on the north bank of the River Nene at 7 Nene Parade, March, Cambridgeshire. It is in the administrative district of Fenland District Council, centred at NGR TL 4175 9669. The town of March lies on the northern peninsula of an island rising out of the surrounding fen (Fig. 1).

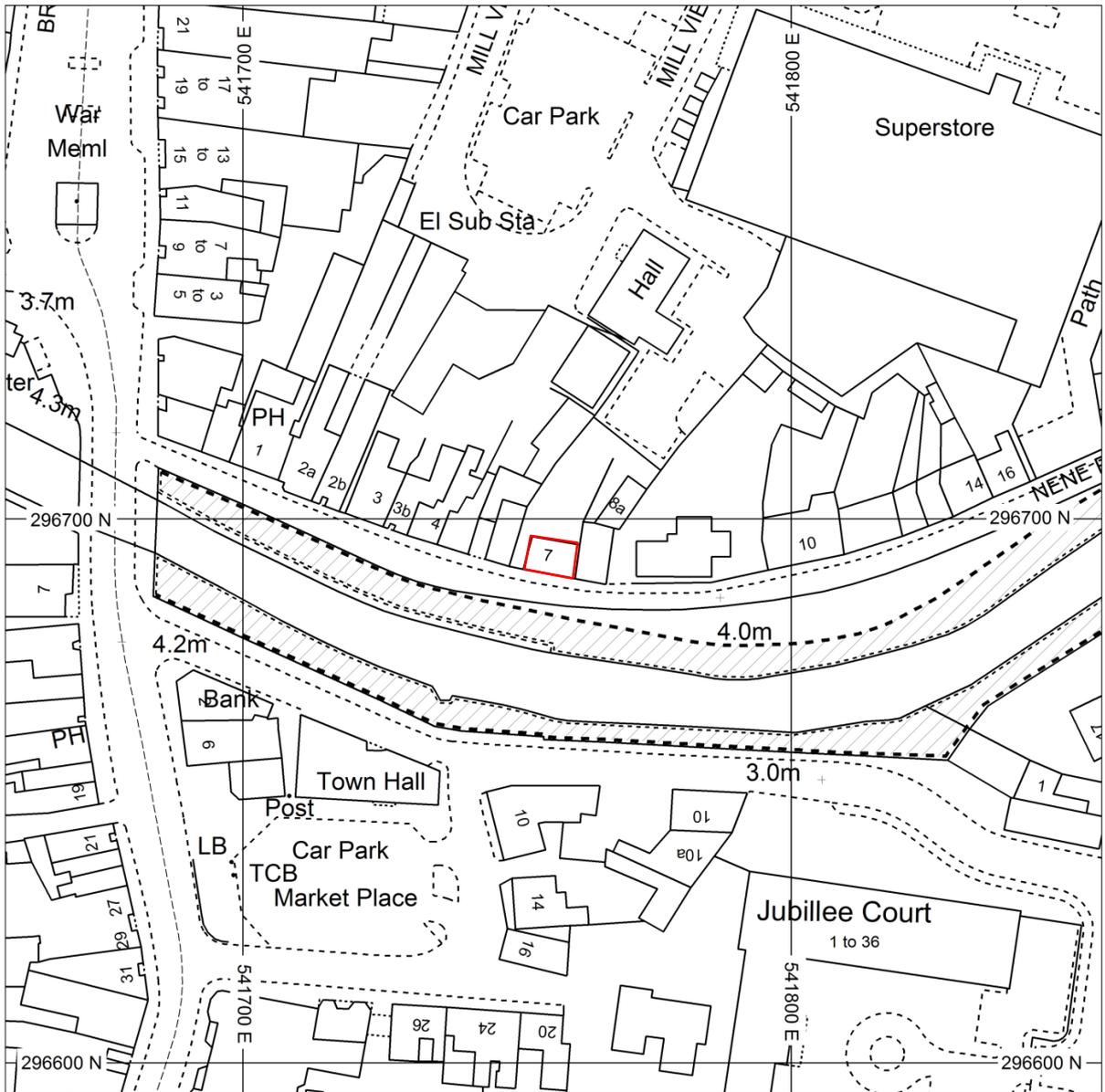
The cottage is situated on a rectangular plot of land with the River Nene to the south, and further residential properties to the east, west and north. Access to the site is via Nene Parade to the south of the cottage (Fig. 2).

The property has lately sustained significant fire damage, although much of the exterior fabric survives.

The site lies at an elevation level of *c.*4.0m AOD. The soils of the area are unsurveyed as March mainly consists of urban and industrial areas (Soil Survey 1983, U). The underlying geology comprises Quaternary till described as *boulder clay: stony clay rich in chalk and Jurassic erratics* (BGS, Sheet 159).

1.5.2 *Proposed Development*

The proposed development consists of the demolition of the cottage and construction of a new building on the site.



2 Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

As described in the project design (Section 2), the aims of the building recording and watching brief were:

Building Recording:

- English Heritage Level 3 historic building record (HBR). The HBR should include a suitable level of documentary research to set the results in their geographical, topographical, archaeological and historical context.

Watching Brief:

- An archaeological watching brief on the foundation removals with any archaeological evidence being incorporated into the historic building recording report.

2.2 Standards

The work conforms to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2010) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2008), 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 (Section 2), which described:

- A programme of historic building recording to English Heritage Level 3 (EH 2006).
- A watching brief on the removal of the foundations

2.4 Constraints

The building had not been cleared before the initial survey was undertaken resulting in some areas being inaccessible and others being obscured. The delicate state of the remaining first floor rendered it unsafe and the room was recorded from a small area by the door.

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 the Cambridge Record Office, Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (HER), the Extensive Urban Survey: March (CCC 2002), the internet and ASC's library.

3.2 *Prehistoric - Iron Age* (before 600BC-AD43)

A limited number of stray finds dating to the Palaeolithic period have been uncovered at March. However, more substantial evidence dates from the Mesolithic period. Two sites have been recorded at Gaul Road, c.900m southwest of the site, both of which also revealed Neolithic activity (EUS 2002: 16).

Settlement activity deriving from the Bronze Age has been identified at a number of locations, including Cherryholt c.1km south west of the site; Westry, c.2.6km northwest of the site; and at Flaggrass Hill, c.2.2km northeast of the site (*ibid*).

Evidence for Iron Age activity has been revealed in five sites around the parish. The most notable of these is Stonea Camp Hillfort, c.4.8km southeast of the site.

3.3 *Roman* (AD43-c.450)

Archaeology dating to the Roman period is dominated by three sites; Stonea, a major centre covering 9 hectares, c.4.8km southeast of Nene Parade; a Roman fort and settlement at Grandford, c.3km northwest of the site, and a settlement at Flaggrass, c.2.2km northeast of the site (Potter 2000: 13). About 150 ha of cropmarks apparently associated with Roman activity are present between Flaggrass and Grandford, comprising droveways and enclosures.

A major Roman highway, the Fen Causeway, ran across the northern tip of March Island, c.1.6km north of the site. This route was orientated east-west from the Water Newton area to Denver (Norfolk) and beyond (Potter 2000: 13).

Salt production was the main industrial activity at this time in the area, as March was able to provide sea water via the watercourses and peat for fuel. Evidence for salt production was revealed during an evaluation at 14 Market Place, March (Crawley 2011). Roman finds have uncovered in Ravenshill Drive and Nene Parade (HER MCB 19151 & 16791 respectively) as well as at Middle Level Yard (HER 0927), where a stone platform and gravel track were also revealed.

3.4 *Saxon* (c.450 -1066)

Although there is evidence for early Anglo-Saxon activity at Stonea, the earliest indication of settlement in March dates from c.1000, when March was given to the monastery at Ely by Oswy and Leofleda, when their son Aelfwin was admitted as a monk. At this time March was an outlier of Doddington Manor, c.6.4km southwest of the site, a large estate of 15,000 hectares (EUS 2002: 19).

3.5 *Medieval* (1066-1500)

The Domesday Survey of 1086 records the Ely holdings of March as being a berewick of Doddington and having 12 villeins with 12 acres each (Williams & Martin 2002: 525). St Edmundsbury Abbey held 16 acres of land worth 3s in March (*ibid*: 526). During the course of the Middle Ages more religious houses were awarded land in March. The priory of West Dereham, Norfolk, had property worth £1 6s 8d in 1291; in 1364 Adam Orchard and William atte Lofte granted property to Walden Abbey, Essex, and in 1249 Bishop Northwold granted 12 acres of marsh in March to the priory of St Neots, Hunts. (VCH online).

Records show that by 1251 March had 77 messuages, and the manor of Hatchwood had been established by 1328. A small cattle farm belonging to the Bishop of Ely is also known to have existed in the early 14th century (VCH online).

The core of the medieval settlement is likely to have focussed on the manor and St Wendreda's church, which is c.1.6km south of the site and dates from the 13th century (Pevsner 2002: 437). However, the Nene undoubtedly played a vital role in the development of March, as is indicated by its medieval name of *Marcheforde*, the ford possibly being on an old course of the river (cf VCH online). Medieval ditches found in Elwyn Road during an evaluation in 2001 confirm medieval activity in the area, but it is not certain whether they were boundary markers or simply part of a water management system (CB 15694). A roadside ditch, possibly of medieval date, was uncovered in Grays Lane to the north of the river in 1998 (HER CB 15693). These discoveries as well as the layout of this part of the town shown on an early 17th century plan (see Section 3.8), suggest that the riverside settlement may have been established well before the end of the medieval period. Certainly a merchant is recorded as early as 1221, and the town developed into a minor port by the mid-16th century (VCH online).

The Nene is known to have been diverted, although the date is still debated. The Fenland Survey speculates that this could have been undertaken by Ely Abbey as part of their water management programmes as early as the Anglo-Saxon period. Archaeological evidence is lacking and has probably been truncated by later reworking of the river (EUS 2002: 12). Place-name evidence further suggests the importance of the river, as March derives from the Old English *mearc*, meaning 'the place at the boundary' (Mills 1991: 222)

3.6 *Post-Medieval* (1500-1900)

The development of the port by 1556 appears to have created a second focus for the development of the settlement at the expense of the earlier core. That March was not truly urban at this time is indicated by the low Ship Money returns of 1639 and the fact that March was not granted a market until 1670 (EUS 2002: 13-14; VCH online). Urbanisation occurred in the 18th and 19th centuries when alternative employment was sought by agricultural workers, and later by the construction of the Great Eastern railway in 1846. This caused the land to the north of the river to become developed and the population to treble between 1801 and 1901 (*ibid*: 14).

Non-conformist chapels, schools and a number of new churches were established in the 18th and 19th centuries for the expanding town. A Baptist chapel was built on the High Street and a strict Baptist chapel was built in 1821 (HER CB 14928 & MCB 16831). Both were rebuilt and were able to accommodate over 750 worshippers each by the end

of the 19th century. The Doddington Rectory Division Act allowed for the creation of a separate parish for March in 1868 and the Urban District Council was formed in 1894. March is now the centre of the Fenland District Council (EUS 2002: 14-15).

Documentary sources such as the mid-19th century Middle Levels plan of March, the census records and directories, record the occupiers of the various properties and tenants renting the plots of land along the river bank at the time. Although not always easy to discern, it appears from the Census returns for 1861 that John James Needham, Curate, was lodging at 7 Nene Parade, then known as Well End. Number 8 was occupied by Edward Bell, bricklayer and general builder.

3.7 *Modern* (1900-present)

During the mid to late 19th century March became a significant hub on the GER main line from Ely to Peterborough, with branches to Wisbech and Spalding. Because of this the marshalling yard at Whitemoor, the largest in England and the second largest in Europe, was constructed on the Spalding line in the 1930s. The yard finally closed in the 1990s. Whitemoor Prison was subsequently built on part of the site (Wikipedia), and Network Rail established a supply depot elsewhere on the site in 2002. Other than retail outlets, the major employers in March are Whitemoor Prison and a number of food processing factories (*ibid*).

7 Nene Parade is known to have been subdivided into two dwellings before being opened up in the 20th century. The site, which was in the ownership of Ridgeons Building Merchants, was sold in the 1980s, at which time remedial works are known to have taken place to number 7 (Elener pers.comm.)

3.8 *Cartographic Evidence*

The earliest cartographic evidence for March is an early 17th-century plan showing the manor of Doddington. The development site is shown as being one of several long and narrow plots, not dissimilar to medieval burgage plots (Fig. 4). That the plot boundaries altered over time is clear on the Tithe Map drawn up in 1840 (Fig. 5). A vestige of the three smaller plots to the east of number 7 survived into the 19th century. Considerable changes had occurred to the buildings along the riverbank: several brick and timber structures had been constructed to the south of the present road and behind the buildings depicted in the earlier plan. Not surprisingly, most of the development had occurred in prime commercial and trading areas. Number 7 does not appear to be on the Tithe Map; a building is shown on the footprint of the present building to the east, and three timber buildings are located to the rear. The Tithe Award records the owner and occupier as being Matthew Smith, millwright. The 1854 Middle Levels Plan notes that he also leased the plot of land opposite his house on the river bank, as well as another a little further east.

By 1886 the back of the plots had been extensively developed to include a limekiln and a windmill as well as houses (Fig. 6). The footprint of the development site is also clearly depicted on the Ordnance Survey map. The buildings to the south of the road had, however, been demolished, perhaps as the river was being supplanted by the railway as a goods and passenger carrier.

Despite further development to the rear of the original plots, little if any change occurred to the development site between 1886 and 1911 (Figs 6-8).

3.9 *Aerial Photographs*

A number of photographs are stored at the Cambridgeshire Archive and March Museum, dating from 1925 to the 1960s and beyond. The photographs reproduced here (Figs 9-14) show the house as being a single dwelling under a pantiled roof. In essence, the external appearance of the building appears little changed since 1925 with the exception that the walls are now painted.

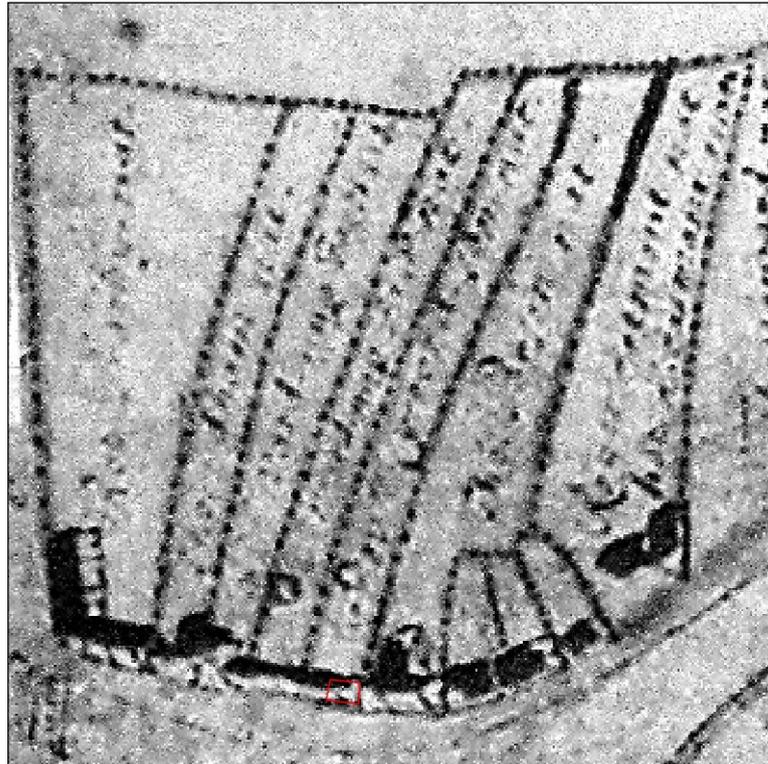


Figure 3: Extract of Doddington Manor of 1630 (*scale 1:2000*)

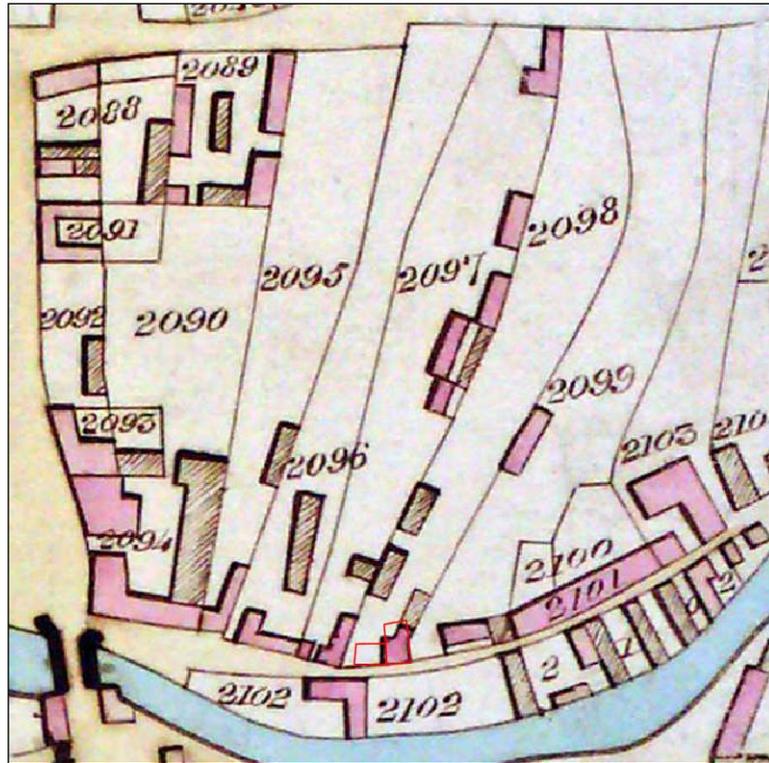


Figure 4: Extract of 1840 Tithe map (scale 1:2000)

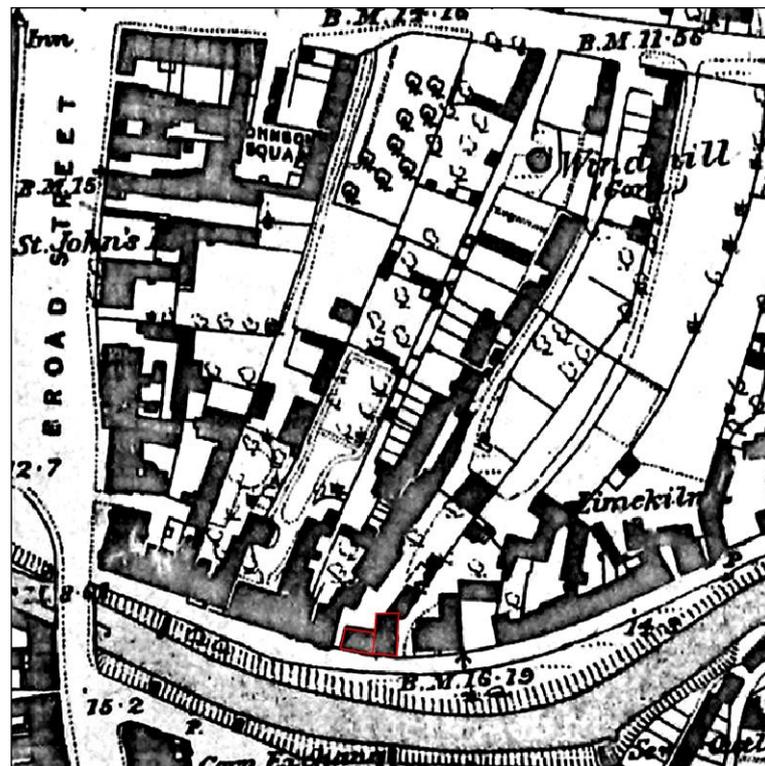


Figure 5: Extract of 1886 Ordnance Survey map (scale 1:2000)

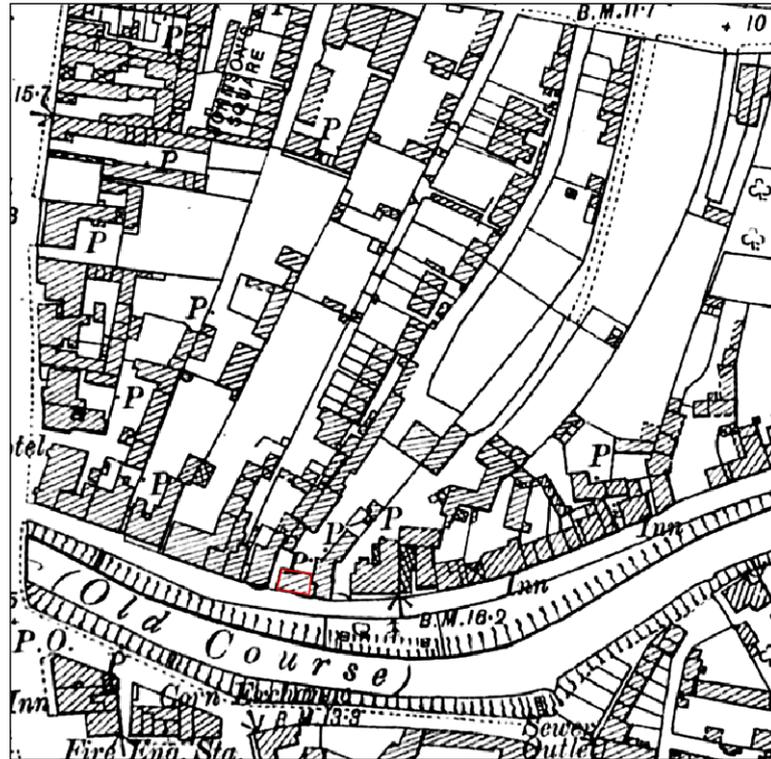


Figure 6: Extract of 1911 Ordnance Survey map (scale 1:2000)

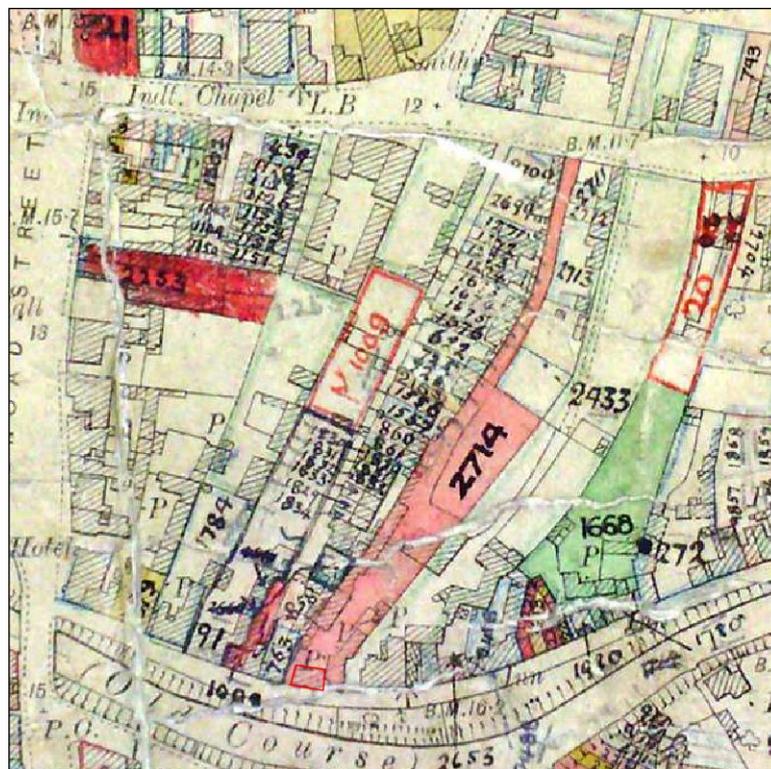


Figure 7: Extract of 1911 Land Values plan (scale 1:2000)



Figure 8: Nene Parade in 1925 (CRO Ref. 539/4/71)



Figure 9: Postcard of Nene Parade in the 1930s
(*Courtesy of March Museum*)

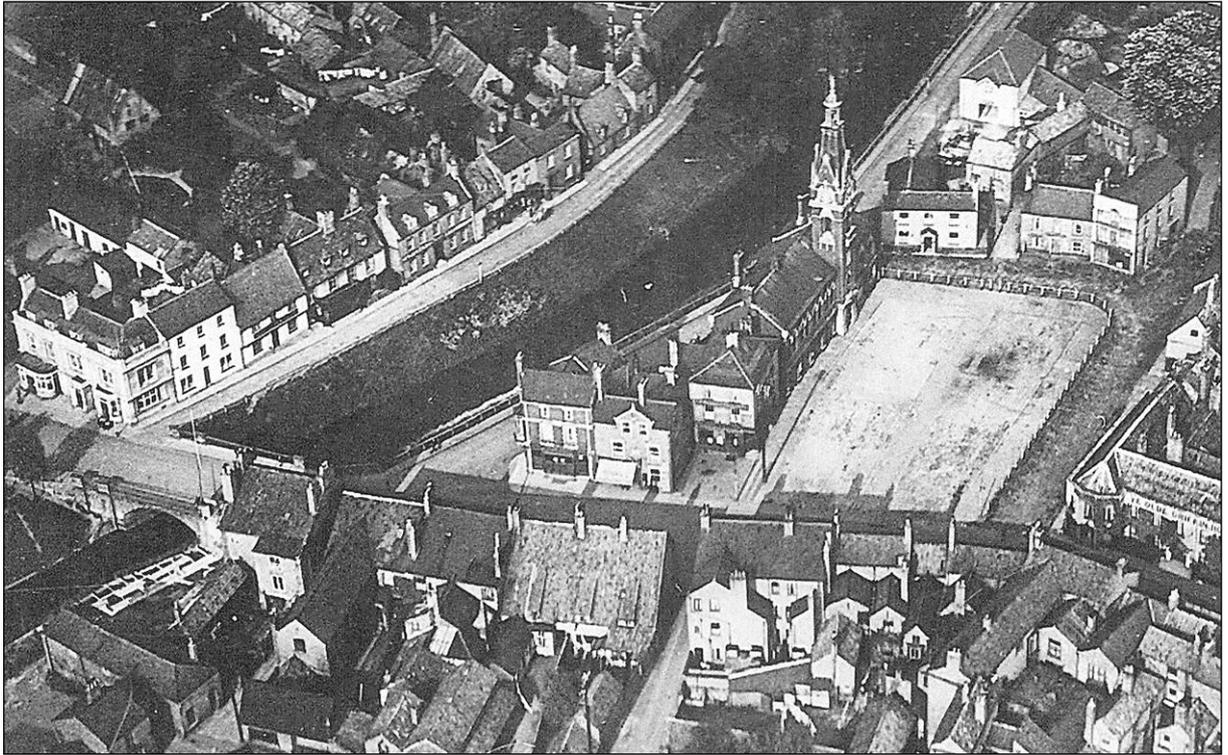


Figure 10: Aerial photograph thought to date from the 1930s
(*Courtesy of March Museum*)



Figure 11: Aerial photograph taken in 1949 (CRO Ref. 539/4/73)



Figure 12: Aerial photograph taken in 1955 (CRO Ref. 539/4/78)



Figure 13: Aerial photograph showing the rear of the house in 1961
(CRO Ref. 539/4/79)



Figure 14: Aerial photograph showing the front of the house in 1961
(CRO Ref. 539/4/780)

3.9 *Listed Building Description (Images of England Ref: 401717)*

GV II Cottage, probably mid-late C18. Brick, English bond painted with pantiled roof and parapetted tumbled gable ends with end stack. One storey and attic. Two C20 gable dormers. Segmental arches to two four pane hung sashes in original reeded architraves. Similar architrave to central doorway.

The building was de-listed in July 2012.

4 Description

4.1 *General*

The house is a one and a half storey brick built structure under a pantiled roof. The chimneys had been demolished prior to the survey, but photographs taken immediately after the fire show a 19th century stack at the eastern gable end with two square pots. The chimney stack on the western gable was squatter and had two round pots. The pitch of the roof and the parapet on the western gable suggest that this would have initially been thatched.

The building, which is painted white, stands directly on the footpath and has a garden/yard to the rear. The eastern end of the house is slightly offset as the northern end is narrower than the southern end; the whole is abutted by the neighbouring property.

4.2 *South Elevation* (Fig. 16, Plates 1-4)

This is the front elevation of the building with a single front door in the centre of the elevation. Photographs taken immediately after the fire indicate that this was a timber ledged and braced door under a segmental arch. The 4 over 4 sash to the east of the door also has a segmental arch over it. The sash window to the west of the door is taller and narrower and has a flat arch above. There are modern gabled dormer windows aligned with the ground floor windows.

The elevation displays two forms of brickwork; that to the west of the front door is set in Flemish bond and queen closers at the western end as well as at the openings. The bricks measure *c.* 21 x 6 x 10cm (8¼ x 2¾ x 3⅞ in). The bricks to the east of the door are smaller and measure *c.* 20 x 4cm (7⅞ x 1½ in). The poor quality repointing and paint makes it difficult to establish the bond. The brick themselves are handmade, friable, red and contain spanish (cinders and ash), which became increasingly common from the late 17th into the 18th century. A 47cm high concrete plinth has been added to the eastern end of the building either as a means of damp proofing or to protect the lowest courses of brickwork from excessive exposure to water. The eastern end of the wall curves to meet the adjoining property. Although this appeared to be a later addition, the lack of change in the brickwork noted during the demolition could suggest that this was an intrinsic part of the original build.

4.3 *West Elevation* (Fig. 16, Plate 5)

The west elevation had been partially demolished prior to the survey. There were no doors or windows in the ground floor, but earlier photographs show window in the upper floor. The brickwork in this wall is more uniform than elsewhere and almost certainly of 19th century date. The bricks measure 22 x 7 x 10cm (8½ x 2¼ x 3⅞ in). The lower part of the northern corner is rounded but is then offset and is squared off just below the upper floor level.

4.4 *East Elevation*

Abuts the adjoining property and can be seen in plan to be offset.

4.5 *North Elevation* (Fig. 17)

This is a single door to the west of centre and modern 2-light timber windows on either side. None of the openings have a relieving arch. The wall to the east of the door is made up of older red, friable bricks as seen elsewhere in this part of the building. Above the door are 19th century gault bricks and to the west of the door is a mixture of bricks, including at least two with diagonal as opposed to the more common and later skintlings. This would suggest that this part of the wall was built using reclaimed bricks.

4.6 *Ground Floor* (Fig. 18)

Room G1a (Plates 8-10, 14-15)

Size: 5.81 overall length × 3.49m × 1.95m high

Location: Western side of building

Description: This is a single room which had been subdivided c.2.90m north of the south wall. For ease of reference, the room is therefore described as G1a and G1b. The division now survives as two 20th century brick pillars supporting a bridging beam. A surviving joist and the remains of the tenons indicate the floor joists were 8cm wide x 9cm high and on approximately 40cm centres.

G1a is the southern part of the room, and has a sash window with horns overlooking the Nene. There is a brick built fireplace in the west wall with an arched recess to the south of it and the remains of another recess to the north. A recess to the east of the window marks the location of a former door into the building from Nene Parade. A door opening in the east wall gives access to Room G2. The floor appears to be modern bricks measuring 11 x 8cm and set in a herringbone pattern. The floor extends as far as a wooden threshold beneath the bridging beam.

The walls appear to have been left plain as the brickwork is largely exposed. The bricks in the south wall are 22 x 7 x 10cm (8½ x 2¾ x 3⅞ in), handmade and set in a hard, probably cement based mortar. Those in the west wall are slightly narrower but also set in a hard mortar. The east wall consists of earlier, red bricks in lime mortar.

Room G1b (Plates 11-13, 16)

Size: 5.81 overall length × 3.49m × <1.85m high

Location: Northern end of G1

Description: This part of the room has a door in the north wall with a 20th century 2-light window to the west of it. Another opening in the east wall gives access to a larder/store (G3). A butt wall towards the northern end of the west wall is all that remains of a staircase that had been removed towards the end of the 20th century. The east wall has the charred remains of studwork for attaching plasterboard over the cement render. The north wall also has a rough cement render c.1cm thick. The few exposed bricks in the door rebate are 22 x 5 x 9cm (8½ x 2 x 3½in) and set in lime mortar.

Room G2 (Plates 17-22)

Size: 4.69 × 4.08m

Location: South east corner

Description: The front door opens directly into this reception room, which is lit by a 4 over 4 light timber sash window with horns to the east of the door. The room is characterised by the ornate fireplace in the east wall and the exposed timbers in the ceiling.

The fireplace has a timber surround with bolection moulding carved with a repeated leaf and ribbon design between the brackets supporting the mantel piece. The hearth was obscured during the survey. On either side of the fireplace is a small door with two moulded panels opening into a cupboard.

The bridging beam and joists are completely exposed. The beam is chamfered and has a moulded façade to the soffit and panels attached to the sides between the joists. No chamfer stops were evident. The joists, which are 7cm wide and 13cm high are chamfered and on c.40cm centres. They have diminished haunched tenons, a feature of the late 17th and early 18th century, and are also devoid of chamfer stops. The ceiling is made up of the floorboards above.

The fire has exposed the various layers to the walls, which consist of modern cement render over the brickwork, which has been artexed. The south wall has studwork on the inside of the brick wall, which also had an artex covering.

A door in the southeast corner of the room leads to the winder stair to the upper floor. The timber staircase has 13 risers and a small, recently installed balustrade. Recent timber panelling has survived along the east wall. The door itself has two moulded and fielded panels and an ornate fingerplate on both sides. There is an opening in the west wall into Room G1.

A blocked opening within a possible timber frame survives in the north wall. The floor appears to be of stone tiles.

Room G3 (Plates 23-25)

Size: 4.31 × 1.58 m

Location: Northeast corner

Description: The room is accessed by a door in the west wall and is lit by a late 20th century 2-light window in the north wall. The exposed brickwork in the north wall consists of friable red bricks with spanish measuring c.22 x 4 x 10cm (8½ x 4 x 3⅞ in). They are set in lime mortar and have been rendered with cement. A former opening to the west of the present window has been blocked with similarly sized bricks. There is a break in the northern wall plate c.30cm from the west wall,

The south wall is built entirely in stretcher bond, using bricks measuring between 21 x 6.5 and 23 x 7cm (8¼ x 2¼ and 9 x 2¼ in). Although they appear to be machine produced, horizontal skintlings are present on some of the bricks, which is more indicative of hand made bricks produced from the late 18th century. Two slender bonding timbers have been inserted into the wall; a feature of late 18th and early 19th century brickwork. The south wall butts the west wall, which in turn butts the north wall, giving a likely sequence of construction.

There is a recess in the south wall, which is now blocked on the other side.

4.9 **First Floor** (Fig. 18, Plates 26-34)

Only the eastern end of the upper floor had survived the fire and subsequent partial demolition. It is accessible by a small enclosed winder stair in the southeast corner of the building that leads to the bedroom door. The historic fabric exposed above the stairwell consists of machine cut studs with reed lining that is plastered on the inside. The laths cut rather than riven and nailed into place with machine produced iron nails. These features suggest late 19th or early 20th century work. The timbers in the dormer window, however, are more recent.

In contrast, the rafters are extremely robust that appear to be shaped poles. They are tenoned into the wallplates with no overlap. Squared battens and lining on the southern side indicate a recent re-roofing episode.

The fireplace in the east wall appears to be 19th century.

The western end of the upper floor and roof had been demolished, but surviving pipework and a hole in the west end of the north wall demonstrated the location of the bathroom.



Plate 1: South elevation immediately after the fire
(Courtesy of Joan Munn)



Plate 2: South elevation detail
(Courtesy of Joan Munn)



Plate 3: South and west elevations



Plate 4: Dormer and chimney remains detail



Plate 5: West elevation



Plate 6: North elevation



Plate 7: Relationship between the adjoining houses from the rear



Plate 8: Room G1a: south wall



Plate 9: Room G1a: west wall



Plate 10: Room G1a: east wall



Plate 11: Room G1b: north wall



Plate 12: Room G1b: east wall



Plate 13: Room G1b: west wall



Plate 14: Exposed brickwork in the southeast corner of Room G1a



Plate 15: Exposed bricks in the west wall of Room G1a



Plate 16: Brickwork in the north wall of Room G1b



Plate 17: Room G2: window detail



Plate 18: Room G2: east wall



Plate 19: Room G2: north wall and ceiling joists



Plate 20: Room G2: joist detail



Plate 21: Room G2: east wall



Plate 22: Room G2: west wall



Plate 23: Room G3: looking east



Plate 24: Room G3: northwest corner detail



Plate 25: Room G3: south wall detail



Plate 26: Stair to first floor



Plate 27: Area above the stairwell



Plate 28: First floor: looking north



Plate 29: Western end of former first floor



Plate 30: First floor: east detail



Plate 31: First floor: south wall detail showing dormer timbers & reed packing



Plate 32: First floor: cut laths on south wall



Plate 33: Rafters on south side of the building



Plate 34: View of the first floor from G1



Plate 35: Section of the northern wallplate and rafter seatings



Figure 15: South and west elevations (*scale 1:100*)

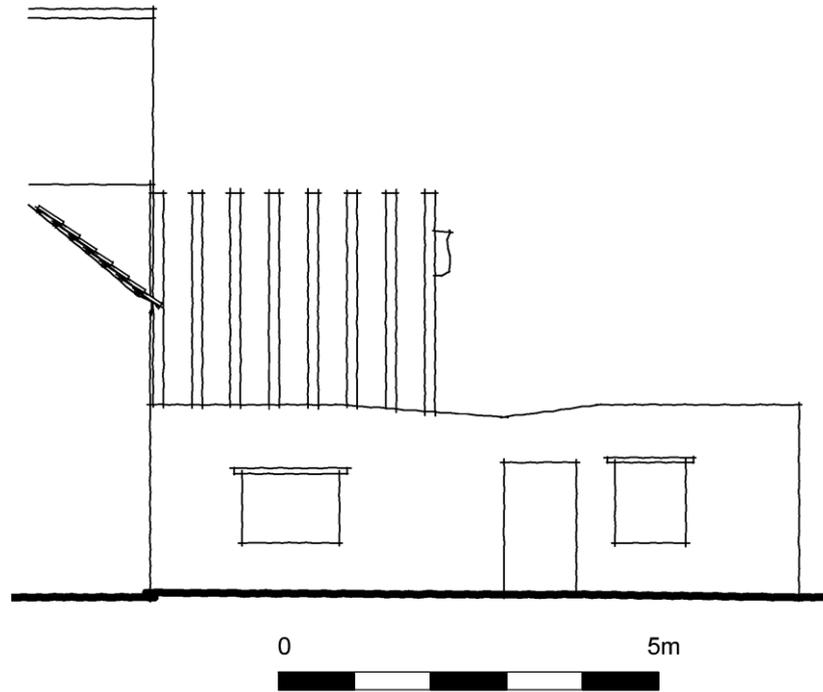


Figure 16: North elevation (*scale 1:100*)

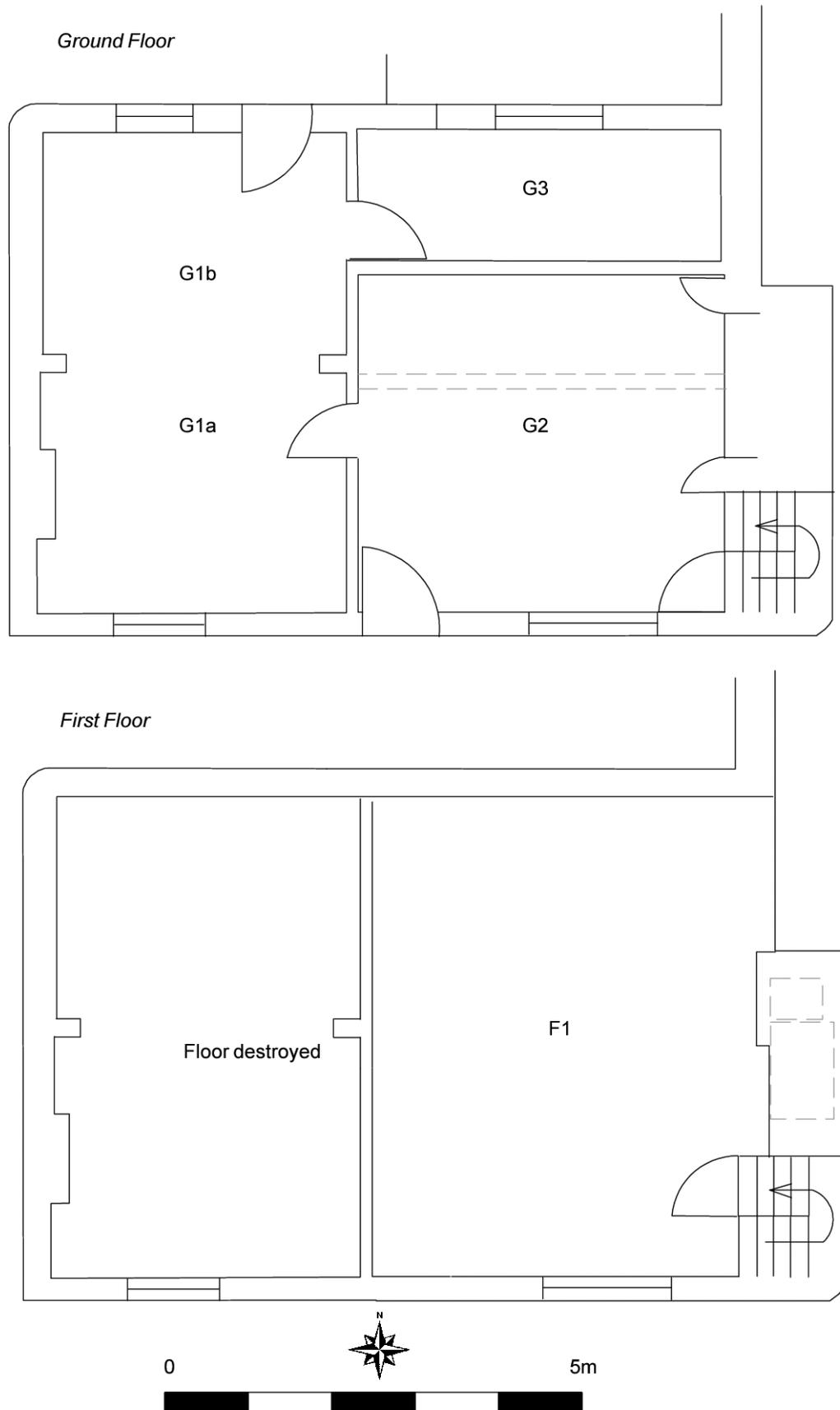


Figure 17: Floor plans (*scale 1:75*)

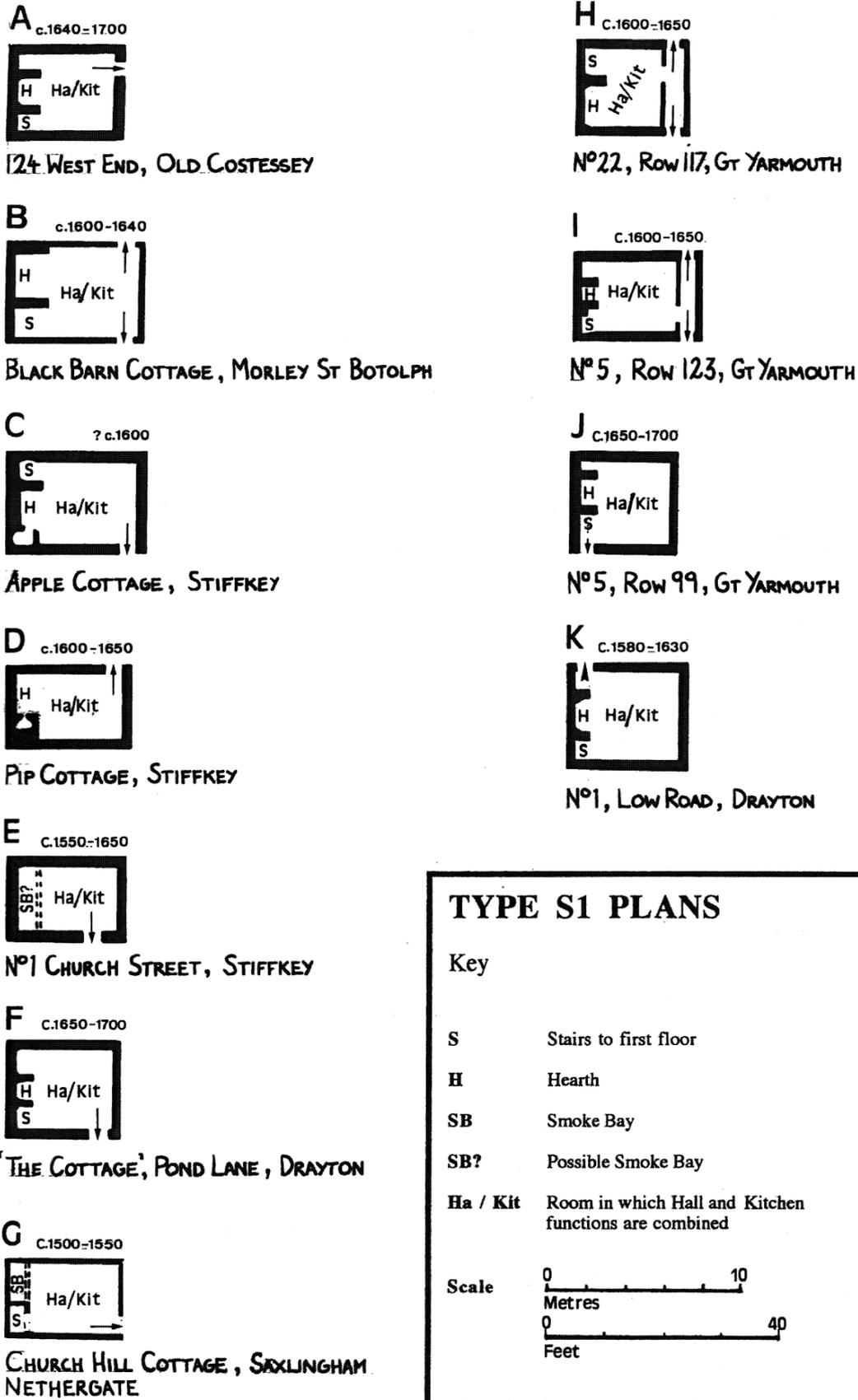


Figure 18: Comparative single cell floor plans
(Reproduced from Longcroft 2002)

5 Watching Brief

Because of the structural issues specific to this building, the watching brief encompassed more than just the monitoring of the removal of foundations. The east wall, which is a party wall with number 8, was dismantled most carefully, largely owing to the instability of the neighbouring building and the fact that the owner cannot be traced.

The relationship between the two buildings was found to be complex and not altogether clear. The east wall of number 7 was seen to consist of various building episodes (Plates 36-38). The earliest brickwork was of handmade bricks measuring approximately 25 x 5cm (9⁷/₈ x 2in), forming the walls of an inglenook fireplace with associated salt recess and raking chimney stack. Even here another building event was evident as repair work had taken place at first floor level. To the north of the original stack was another, light coloured stack serving the first floor. This was considerably smaller than its neighbour: the top of the redbrick stack was approximately 80 x 50cm, whereas the grey brick stack measured c.40 x 40cm (Plate 39). The rest of the wall appeared to be 19th century although a small area above the ground floor fireplace could have been a later repair. The floor tiles, which appear to be 19th century, were seen to lie beneath the fireplace. The brick base to the rear of the fire also appeared to be made of 19th century bricks. This would suggest that the fireplace and its attendant cupboards and shelves were installed some time in the 19th century, perhaps at the same time as the first floor fireplace was installed.

The west wall of number 8, which is 19th century and consists, at least in part, of a double skin of brickwork behind a gault brick skin fronting the house, clearly abuts the south wall of the inglenook fireplace (Plate 40). The treads of the staircase to number 7 extend some 3 inches into this wall. The salt recess was also seen to extend beyond the rear wall of the original fireplace. It is clear that the east wall of number 7 was rebuilt in the 19th century, probably when number 8 was constructed.

The foundations of the south wall were approximately 32cm deep and, whereas the eastern section comprised clearly coursed and bonded brickwork set in hard lime based mortar, the western section cemented (Plate 41). The foundation for the west wall was as deep but less solidly bonded. It rested directly on the soil and consisted of corbelled brickwork. The foundations for the north wall were non-existent. The eastern end of the south wall, which was built of the same brick type throughout, including the plinth, and with no apparent construction break, clearly curved round to overlap the southwest corner of number 8 (Plate 42). The curve covers the same span as the void between the two chimney stacks and the west wall of number 8, which could suggest that this would have been rebuilt, despite the lack of evidence in the brickwork itself.

The ground on which the house had been built comprised redeposited material, the base of which was not reached during the demolition.

A section of wallplate was saved for closer inspection (Plate 35). The rafter seatings were seen to rest within the timber, which was approximately 17cm wide, 13cm high with the rafter pegs 44cm apart. All the external walls were thick enough to support a wall plate of this width, which is thicker than the norm and considerably thicker than similar properties known on Nene Parade (Elener pers. comm.).



Plate 36: East wall after the first stage of demolition



Plate 37: East wall in context



Plate 38: East wall after the final stage of demolition



Plate 39: Top of the chimney stacks as seen from a cherry picker



Plate 40: Detail of wall juncture in the southeast corner of number 7



Plate 41: Foundation at the western end of the south wall



Plate 42: Detail of the south wall overlapping the southwest corner of number 8



Plate 43: Roof of the former workshop to the north of number 7
(Courtesy of Mel Saxby)

6 Conclusions

The style and brickwork used in the eastern end of the house suggests that the building was erected in the 18th century. The use of segmental arches over the door and window openings in the front of the building are also indicative of late 18th or early 19th century work. The brickwork to the west of the front door is indicative of later work; the bricks are largely machine made and soldier arches, which became increasingly common as the 19th century progressed, have been used in place of segmental arches. The dormer windows were clearly rebuilt in the 20th century and roof had also been at least partially renovated at this time.

Internally the evidence suggests that the north and south walls of the eastern end of the building were erected first, followed by the north-south wall that divides the two main reception areas. This appears to have replaced an earlier end wall as it is not bonded into the north wall. Finally, the east – west wall dividing Rooms G2 and G3 was erected. The timberwork in the main room displays characteristic more commonly associated with earlier buildings. The diminished haunched tenons would normally suggest an early 17th century date for the building and the short lambs tongue chamfer stops were commonly used between 1560 and 1650. However, the dimensional relationship of the axial timber and joists with the size of the room strongly suggests that these were reused.

The ground plan of the original single cell house is likely to have consisted of the hall/kitchen with a through passage on the opposite end of the room from the fireplace and stair (Fig.18). The more common variant of a single cell house in Cambridgeshire appears to be that with a service bay beyond the passage and tend to date from the late 18th to the early 19th century, although they were built in Dorset and Norfolk as early as the late 16th century (Longcroft 2002: 38). The question raised by the dividing wall, which clearly post-dates the external long walls is whether this is indicative of the loss of a service bay? The creation of the small store to the rear of the living room occurred in the 19th century, presumably when the house was extended to create another single cell dwelling next door.

As the roof is the same throughout the building, it must have been built for the newly extended house. It was not uncommon to use poles in 19th century buildings; perhaps the use of shaped trunks as rafters is an extension of this building form. What is unusual though is the way the rafters have been jointed into the wall plate. The housings do not allow the rafters to overhang the wallplate as is normally the case. Instead the rafters are housed and pegged completely within the rafter seatings; a construction form which appears to have been borrowed from boat building (Elener pers. comm.). The roof of the workshop that formerly stood to the rear of the plot was also built this way (Plate 43).

The cartographic evidence indicates that the western end of the house was built later than number 8. Indeed, the depiction of numbers 7 and 8 on the 1840 Tithe map suggests that they were under single ownership. This could partially explain the structural integration of the two buildings as the party wall was reconfigured. The recess that would have been to the north of the inglenook fireplace appears to have been annexed by number 8 to house its staircase whilst the staircase in number 7 was rebuilt. The inglenook was replaced by a more complex fireplace arrangement and another chimney was built to serve a new fireplace in the first floor. The western end of the building was subsequently built with a staircase in the northwest corner of the dwelling.

Although the Nene Parade burgage plots depicted in the early 17th century estate map are still discernible in later mapping and to some extent on the ground, there is no archaeological evidence for activity on the site before the construction of the present building in the 18th century.

7 Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by KL Elener Design on behalf of Louise Garner. The writer is grateful to Ken Elener for his assistance throughout the project. Thanks are also due to Joan and Richard Munn at the March and District Museum. The project was monitored by Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire Archaeology on behalf of the local planning authority. Thanks are also due to Philip Baxter, groundworks contractor, Andy Chapman, structural engineer, Joan and Richard Munn at the March and District Museum and Mel Saxby, neighbour for sharing her knowledge of the local history and her photographs.

The project was managed for ASC by Karin Semmelmann MA MifA. Fieldwork was carried out by Karin Semmelmann and Calli Rouse, BA PifA. 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.

8.2.1 The archive will be deposited with the Cambridge County Store.

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 2010 Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.
- IFA 2008 Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*.
- IFA (various dates) Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards & Guidance* documents (*Desk-Based Assessments 2011, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings 2008*).

Books and Historical Sources:

- Barley M B 1990 *Chapters of The Agrarian History of England and Wales: Volume 5, The Buildings of the Countryside, 1500-1750*. Cambridge University Press (Cambridge)
- Bevis T 1984 *More Than 1000 Years of March*. Private publication
- Beech S, Cartell L & Warshaw J 2008 *March Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Strategy*. Fenland District Council
- Cambridgeshire Extensive Urban Survey: March* Draft Report 10/05/2001
- History, Gazetteer & Directory of Cambridgeshire, 1851
- Longcroft A 2002 'Plan-forms in smaller post-medieval houses', *Vernacular Architecture* **33**, 34-56
- Mills A D 1991 *A Dictionary of English Place Names*. Oxford University Press (Oxford)
- Pevsner N 1991 *The Buildings of England: Cambridgeshire*. Penguin (London)
- RCHM 1972 *An Inventory of Historical Monuments in the County of Cambridge: Northeast Cambridgeshire Vol. 2*. HMSO (London)
- Victoria County History online: 'North Witchford Hundred: March', *A History of the County of Cambridge and the Isle of Ely: Volume 4: City of Ely; Ely, N. and S. Witchford and Wisbech Hundreds* (2002), pp. 116-123

Maps

- 1630 Manor of Doddington (Copy held in March Museum)
- 1819 Ordnance Survey
- 1878 XVI.1 Ordnance Survey 1 to 500
- 1887 XVI.1 Ordnance Survey 1 to 500
- 1840 Tithe map (R51/28/1C)
- 1886 XVI.1 Ordnance Survey 1 to 25"
- 1900 XVI.1 Ordnance Survey 1 to 25"
- 1902 XVI.1 Ordnance Survey 1 to 500
- 1911 XVI.1 Land Valuation
- 1925 XVI.1 Ordnance Survey 1 to 500
- 1971 Ordnance Survey 1 to 500

Pictorial Sources

From the Cambridgeshire County Record Office:

Aerofilms Ltd: aerial photographs. Cambridgeshire County Record Office Ref: 539/4/71-92

Aerofilms Ltd: aerial photographs. Cambridgeshire County Record Office Ref: 539/4/93-94

1910 photograph Cambridgeshire Collection Ref: Y.MAR.K1 51164

March Museum: reference classifications unknown

Mel Saxby, private collection

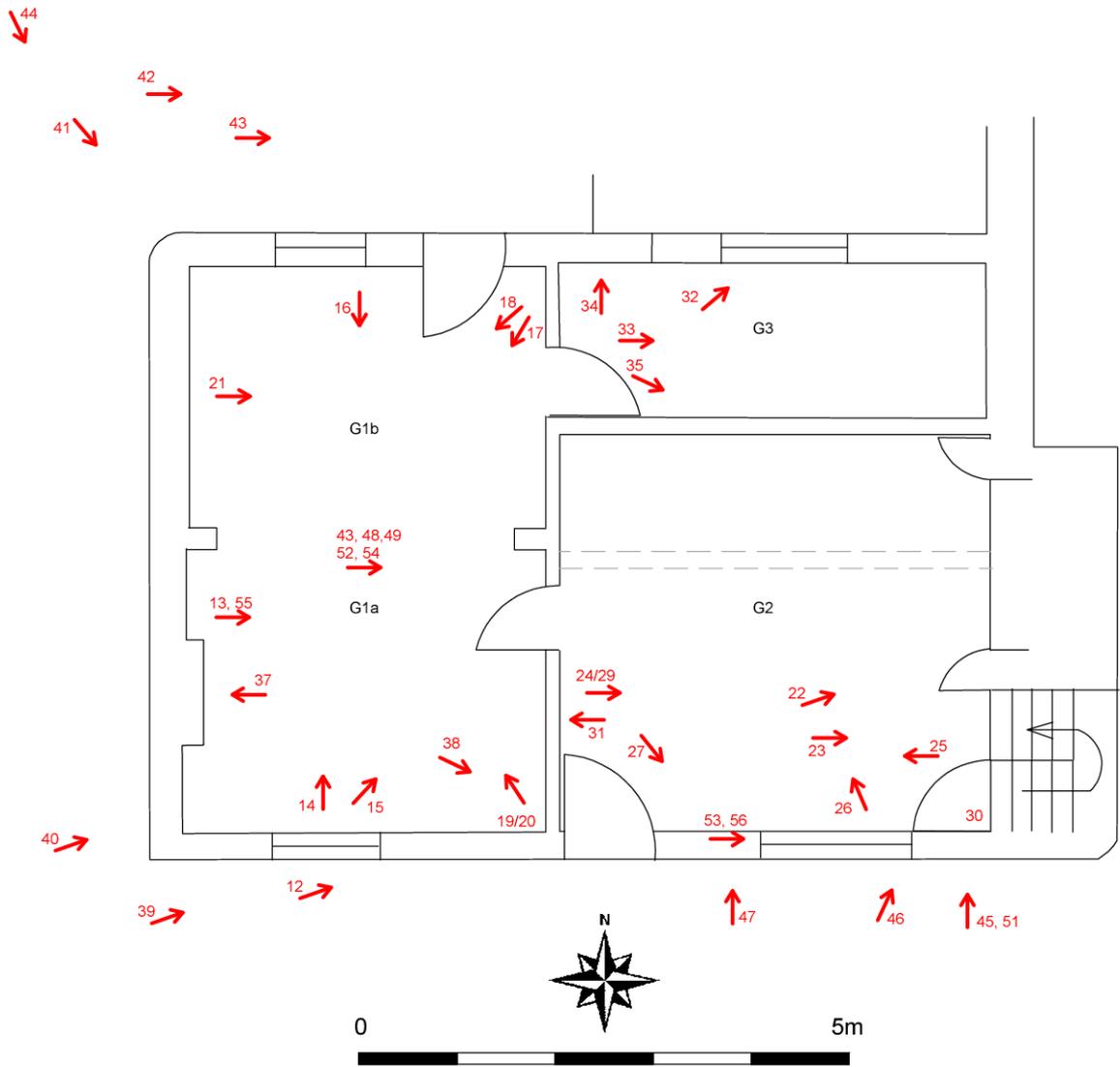


Figure 19: Ground floor photo plan (scale 1:75)

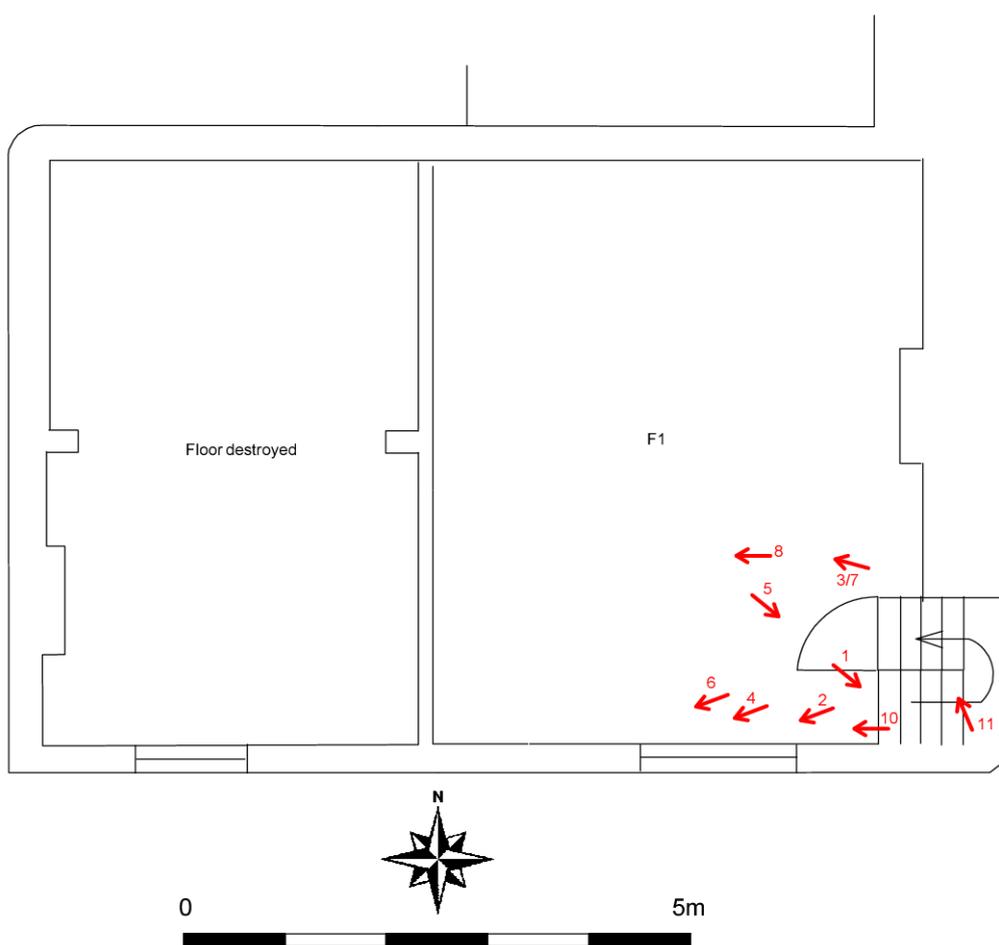


Figure 20: First floor photo plan (*scale 1:75*)

Appendix 1: Building Survey Photographs

SITE NO/CODE: 1536/ MNP			Site Name: 7 Nene Parade, March
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	x	x	Detail of reed and plaster in south wall
2	x	x	Dormer window detail
3	x	x	First floor north wall
4	x	x	Lath detail
5	x	x	Detail of building fabric in southeast corner of first floor
6	x	x	Modern timbers in dormer
7	x	x	First floor looking northwest
8	x	x	First floor looking west
9	x	x	First floor fireplace detail
10	x	x	Detail of building fabric above the stairwell
11	x	x	Stair detail
12	x	x	External view of building fabric of the dormer and south wall from the west
13	x	x	View of first floor from the southwest
14	x	x	G1: North wall
15	x	x	G1: East wall
16	x	x	G1: South wall
17	x	x	G1: Southwest corner
18	x	x	G1: West wall
19	x	x	G1: Northwest corner
20	x	x	G1: Northwest corner
21	x	x	G1b: East wall
22	x	x	G2: Fireplace detail
23	x	x	G2: Cupboard door detail
24	x	x	G2: looking east
25	x	x	G2: looking west
26	x	x	G2:north wall
27	x	x	G2>window detail
28	x	x	G2: detail of timberwork in ceiling
29	x	x	G2: east wall
30	x	x	G2: detail of fingerplate on door to stairs
31	x	x	G2: detail of west wall
32	x	x	G3: window detail
33	x	x	G3: looking east
34	x	x	G3: brickwork detail in northwest corner
35	x	x	G3: brickwork detail of south wall
36	x	x	G1b: detail of brickwork in north wall
37	x	x	G1a: detail of brickwork in west wall
38	x	x	G1a: detail of brickwork in southeast corner
39	x	x	View from the southwest
40	x	x	West elevation detail
41	x	x	North elevation
42	x	x	Context shot from the northwest
43	x	x	Neighbouring buildings to the east
44	x	x	Context shot from the northwest
45	x	x	Detail of eastern end of the roof from the south
46	x	x	Dormer and eastern end of the roof

47	x	x	Detail of rafters to south
48	x	x	East wall during demolition
49	x	x	East and south walls during demolition
50	x		Top of the chimney stacks and void to the rear
51	x		View of the earlier chimney stack from the south
52	x	x	East wall in context during demolition
53	x		Detail of iron tie in east wall
54	x	x	East wall after final demolition phase
55	x	x	East wall in context after the final demolition phase
56	x	x	Detail of foundations for the eastern end of the south wall
57	x		Detail of wallplate and rafter seatings

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

Appendix 2: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	7 Nene Parade, March	OASIS reference:	archaeo12-127254
Short Description:	<p>In July 2012 historic building recording was undertaken at 7 Nene Parade, March. This was followed by a watching brief on the removal of the foundations in October the same year. The works were a condition of Listed Building Consent to redevelop the site following a serious fire in March 2011.</p> <p>Although the site is depicted on an early 17th century estate map, the earliest part of the house appears to be mid-late 18th century. It was built as a single cell house with an inglenook fireplace and stairwell to the right of the main entrance. The building was extended to west in the second half of the 19th century to provide another single cell dwelling. These were later converted to a single residence.</p> <p>The close structural relationship with number 8 to the east was revealed during the demolition works. The construction of this mid 19th century 2-storey house appears to have resulted in the reconstruction of much of the east wall of 7 Nene Parade, the installation of a fireplace in the first floor and the rebuilding of the inglenook fireplace on the ground floor. The stairs were also rebuilt, the treads extending into the party wall. The whole house was re-roofed once the western section had been built using a joinery technique derived from the boat building industry.</p>		
Project Type:	Historic Building Recording and Watching Brief		
Previous work:	None	Site status:	IoE Ref: 401717
Current land use:	Residential	Future work:	No
Monument type:	Residential building	Monument period:	Post-medieval
Significant finds:	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Cambridgeshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	TL 4175 9669
Site address:	7 Nene Parade, March, Cambridgeshire		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	60.5 sq m	Height OD: (metres)	4.0mAOD
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	K. Gdaniec 2012	Project design originator:	C. Summerfield-Hill 2012
Project Manager:	K. Semmelmann	Director/Supervisor:	K. Semmelmann
Sponsor / funding body:	L. Garner		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	18 th July 2012	End date:	5 th October 2012
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Cambridge County Store	None	
Paper:		Architects drawings, photos, recording sheets etc	
Digital:		CD	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Historic Building Recording and Watching Brief: 7 Nene Parade, March, Cambridgeshire		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1536/MNP		
Author(s):	Karin Semmelmann MA MIfA		
Page nos	48	Date:	16 th October 2012