

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING & WATCHING BRIEF:  
50 HIGH STREET  
TRING  
HERTFORDSHIRE**

*on behalf of David Metcalfe*



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**March 2007**

**ASC: 855/THS/02**

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## Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	THS	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	855
<i>County:</i>	Hertfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Tring		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Tring		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP 9249 1145		
<i>Present use:</i>	Retail		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Conversion to restaurant		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	4/0946/06		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Dacorum		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	20.10.2006-02.11.2006		
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## Internal Quality Check

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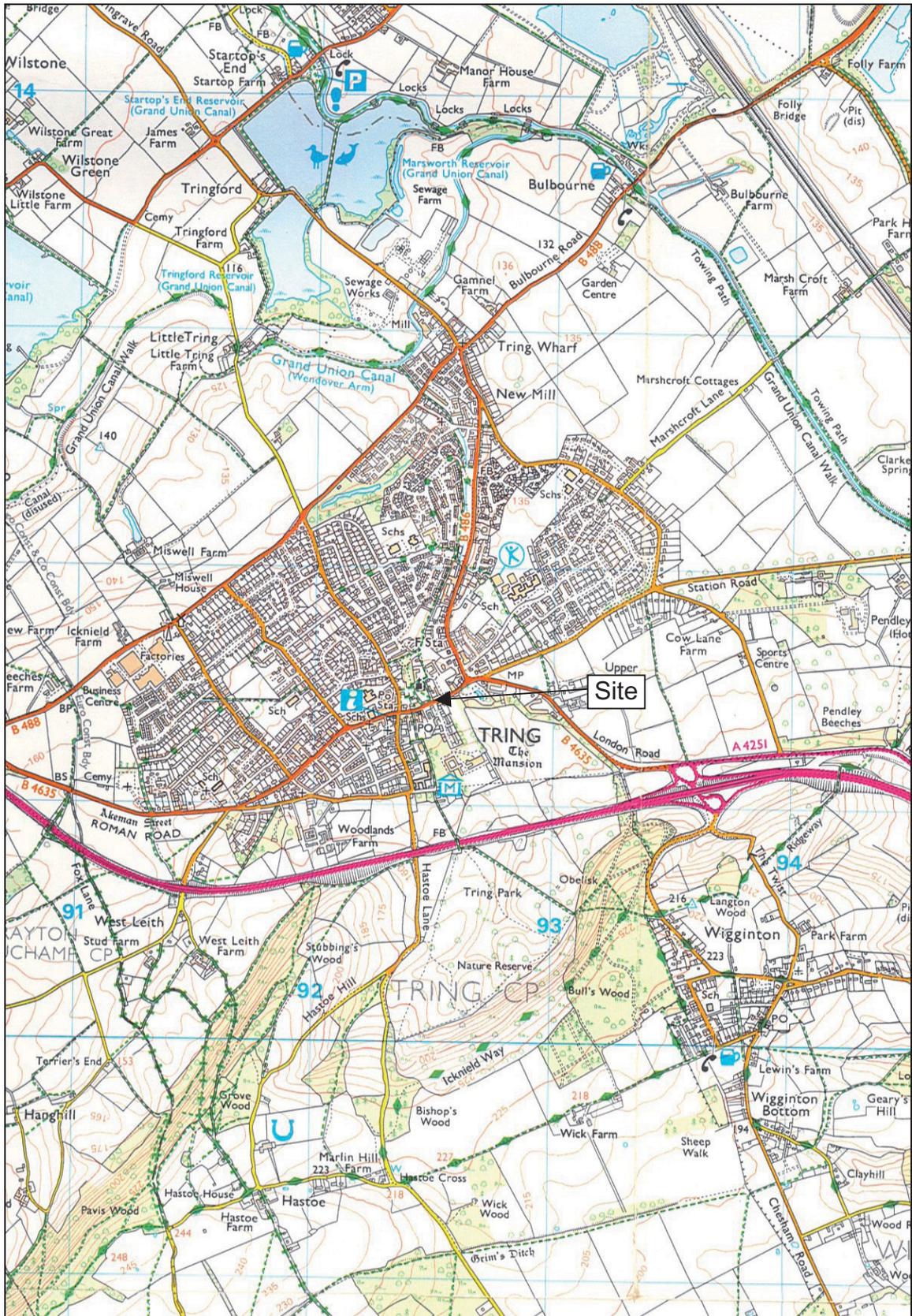


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

## Summary

*In the winter of 2006 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out historic building recording and a watching brief of 50 High Street, Tring, Hertfordshire, in response to proposals for the conversion of the building to a restaurant.*

*The present evidence suggests that the building is a mid 17<sup>th</sup> century infill between two early post-medieval structures, all three of which were set within medieval burgage plots. The site is known to have been the Plough Inn, and as is often the case with public houses, the building and its outhouses were altered on numerous occasions. The remaining building shows evidence for extensions to the north and south in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and for it being heightened, probably in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.*

*No archaeological features were revealed in the yard to the rear of the property or within the underpinning pits within the cellar. The cellar floor is clearly deep enough to have destroyed any archaeological features and the yard area has been severely disturbed by later building works and the installation of services.*

## 1 Introduction

1.1 In the winter of 2006 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out historic building recording and watching brief of 50 High Street, Tring, Hertfordshire (NGR SP 9249 1145: Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by David Metcalfe, and was carried out according to a project design prepared by ASC (Barclay, 2006), and a brief (Batt, 2006) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *Dacorum District Council*, by their archaeological advisor (AA), *Hertfordshire County Council*. The relevant planning application reference is 4/0946/06.

### 1.2 *Planning Background*

This building recording and watching brief project has been required under the terms of *Planning Policy Guidance Notes 15 & 16* (PPG15 & PPG16), in response to proposals for the conversion of buildings on the site.

### 1.3 *Location*

The site is located within the centre of Tring, at NGR SP 92496 11458. The proposed development area is rectangular in shape, and encompasses the existing building as well as a further area to the rear of the shop.

### 1.4 *Description*

The building is a three storey, timber framed structure with a brick built cellar and a slate roof. It has later extensions to the rear of the property and a small yard with a hatch by the rear elevation providing external access to the cellar.

### 1.5 *Geology & Topography*

The soils on the site and surrounding area belong to the Charity 2 association (Soil Survey 1983, 571m), described as 'Well drained flinty fine silty soils in valley

bottoms. Calcareous fine silty soils over chalk or chalk rubble on valley sides, sometimes shallow.' The underlying geology comprises flinty and chalky drift over chalk. The site lies at an elevation of *c.*133.6m OD.



## 2 Aims & Methods

### 2.1 Aims

As described in the brief (Section 3), the aims of the building recording and watching brief were:

*Building Recording:*

- To compile a comprehensive and high quality record of the building in advance of development.
- To provide a comprehensive review of the local and regional historical context of the structure recorded by the project.
- To produce of a high quality, fully integrated archive, suitable for long-term deposition, in order to 'preserve by record' the building, prior to conversion.

*Watching Brief:*

- To ensure the archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to encounter archaeological deposits.
- To secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development project.
- To secure the analysis, conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual / ecofactual material recovered from the site.

### 2.2 Standards

The work conforms to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute of Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), to the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England's *Recording Historic Buildings: a Descriptive Specification*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (RCHME 1996), 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 brief (Section 4), which required:

*Building Recording:*

- The survey was undertaken to RCHME Level 3

*Watching Brief:*

- Soil and overburden stripping under archaeological conditions
- Inspection of the subsoil for archaeological features, deposits and artefacts
- Rapid investigation and recording of any archaeological features or deposits
- Subsoil stripping under archaeological supervision
- Examination of service and foundation trenches, and subsequent recording of any exposed archaeological remains

- Rapid examination of spoil heaps for archaeological material
- A programme of post-fieldwork analysis, archiving and publication.

## 3 Historical Background

### 3.1 *General*

The site lies within Area of Archaeological Significance number DAC10 as described in the local plan. The following historical background is largely drawn from a desk-based assessment prepared by ASC Ltd for another project within the town (Rouse & Hunn 2005).

### 3.2 *Prehistoric*

Little is known of prehistoric activity in Tring despite the fact that the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age ditch known as Grim's Ditch passes to the south of Tring.

### 3.3 *Roman*

During the Roman period, the Tring area fell within the *civitas* (tribal territory) of the *Catuvellauni*, with its administrative centre at *Verulamium* (St Albans). The Roman road from St Albans to Alchester (Oxon), latterly known as *Akeman Street* (now the A4521), runs to the south of Tring. The nearest Roman settlement was at Cow Roast, 3.5km to the south-east. Little is known of the settlement, though it was evidently associated with a significant metal-working industry (Zeepvat 1997).

### 3.4 *Saxon*

Evidence from the west side of Tring suggests continuity from the early post-Roman period onwards. In the late Saxon period, up to the Danish wars of the 9<sup>th</sup> century, west Hertfordshire fell within the kingdom of Mercia (Gover *et al* 1970). During those wars much of Hertfordshire was annexed by the Danes, so much so that the western hundred of the county was known as *Dacorum*, the 'Danish hundred' (*ibid.*). In the late Anglo-Saxon period the manor of Tring was held by Engelric and two sokemen, who each held a hide (Page 1908, 282). In the Domesday survey (1086) Tring was subdivided into distinctive township units (*vills*) for taxation purposes. How many *vills* were included in the later parish of Tring is not certain but it can certainly be categorised as a multi-township unit. The location of the original manor house, however, is unknown (Hunns 2000, 4)

### 3.5 *Medieval* (1066-1500)

In the late 11<sup>th</sup> century Tring was held by Count Eustace of Boulogne, but by the early 12<sup>th</sup> century it had been granted to the abbey of St Saviour's, Faversham (Page 1908, 282-3). In 1340 Tring was exchanged for livings in Kent, and came into the possession of the archbishop of Canterbury (Richards 1974, 19). At the time of the Dissolution (1536) the manor passed to the Crown (Page 1908, 283). Tring developed during the medieval period and was granted a weekly market and annual fair in 1315-16 by Edward II.

The town church of St Peter and St Paul (HER4382) has its origins in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Not far from the church is the site of a medieval fishpond (HER10409), which was still marked on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map *c.*1899.

### 3.6 *Post-Medieval (1500-1900)*

In the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century the manor of Tring was granted to Henry Peckham, but it reverted to the Crown in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century (Page 1908, 283). It ceased to be Crown property in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, when it was granted to William Gore (*ibid.*). In 1786 the manor was conveyed to Drummond Smith, who died without issue and in 1823 it passed to William Kay (*ibid.*). In 1872 Kay's widow conveyed the manor to Baron Lionel Nathan de Rothschild, in whose hands it remained until the late 1930s (*ibid.*). The manor was enclosed in 1799 (Page 1908, 281).

Documentary evidence for this period presents a picture of Tring as a thriving community, with an increasingly wide range of trades and professions (HCC 2000). From the early 18<sup>th</sup> century to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century the Gores, and later the Rothschilds, as lords of the manor of Tring, became more deeply connected with the development of the town. William Gore enclosed land from Tring Park to the High Street, and diverted the highway, to improve his view. He also 'beautified' the church, and introduced institutional care for the poor in 1718 (*ibid.*). Rothschild's effect on the town was even more significant: the distinctive 'Tudor' style of many buildings in Tring is a result of rebuilding to designs by Rothschild's architect, William Huckvale, in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Number 50 High Street is said to have been built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and used as an inn prior to being a shop (Thompson 2002, 7).

### 3.7 *Cartographic Evidence*

The earliest map depicting the building is the 1799 Enclosure Map (Fig. 3), which shows that this was part of a range of building extending as far as the rear of the plot and located within a medieval burgage plot. The buildings to either side form the front of courtyards that were infilled within the following 100 years (Fig. 4). The 1899 Ordnance Survey plan shows clearly that the northern end of the building has since been shortened.

Although no changes took place to number 50 between 1899 and 1924, the buildings to the rear underwent some changes (Fig. 5). The building adjacent to number 50 was truncated creating a yard between number 50 and its nearest neighbour, and the plot appears to have been subdivided further north.

The rear of the property was foreshortened and rebuilt between 1924 and the present day (Fig. 6).

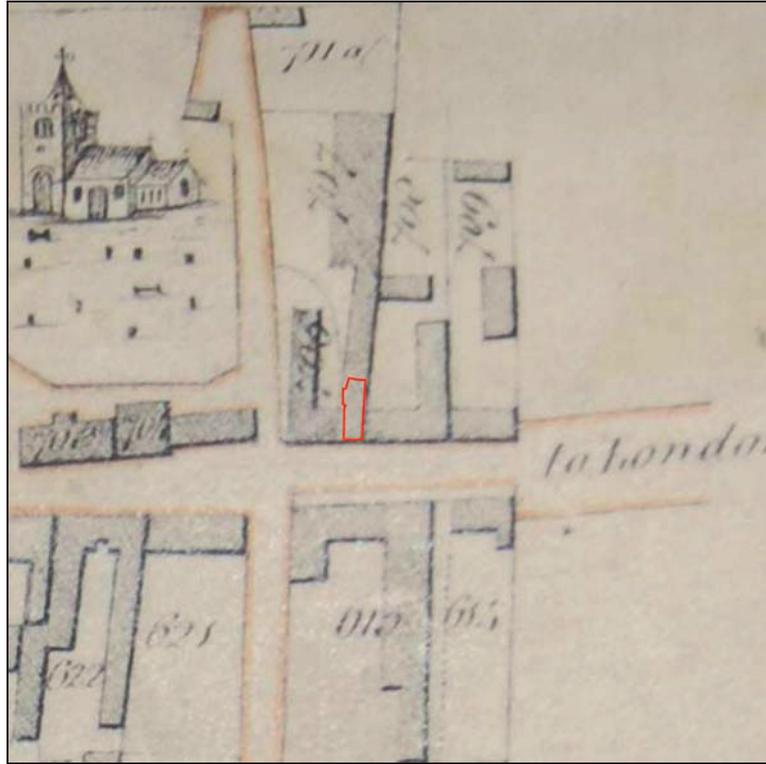


Figure 3: Extract from the 1799 Enclosure Map (not to scale)

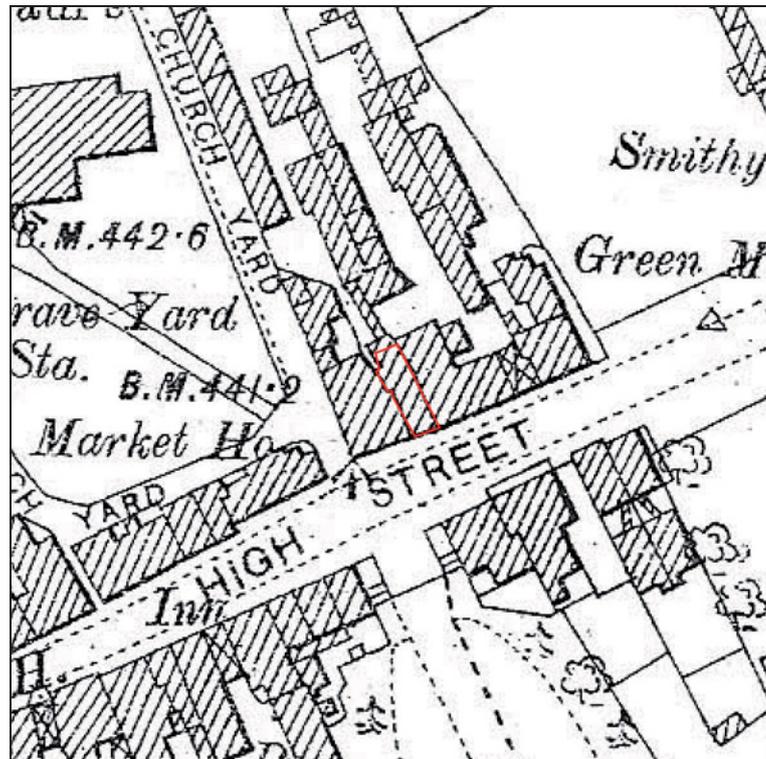
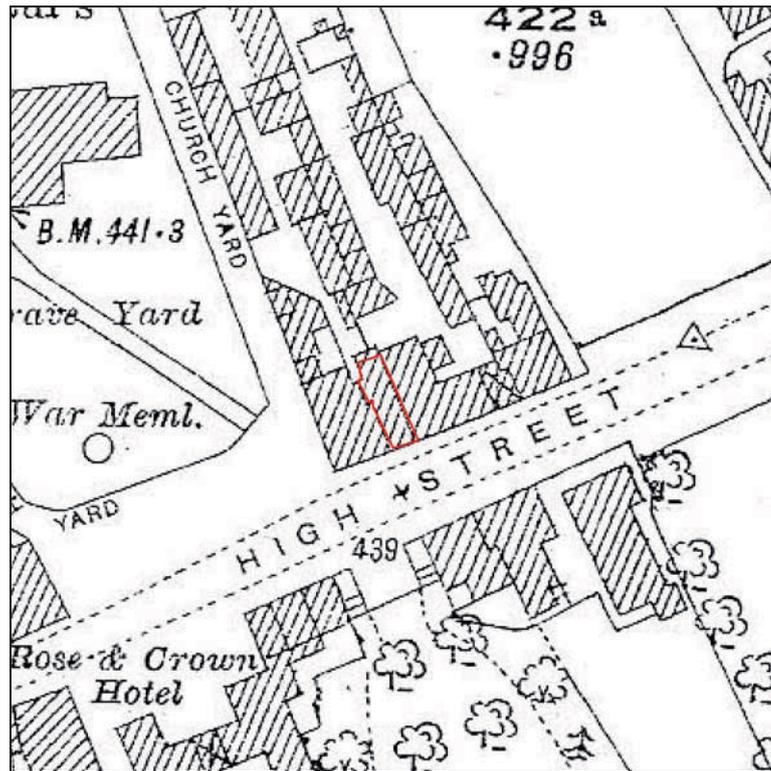
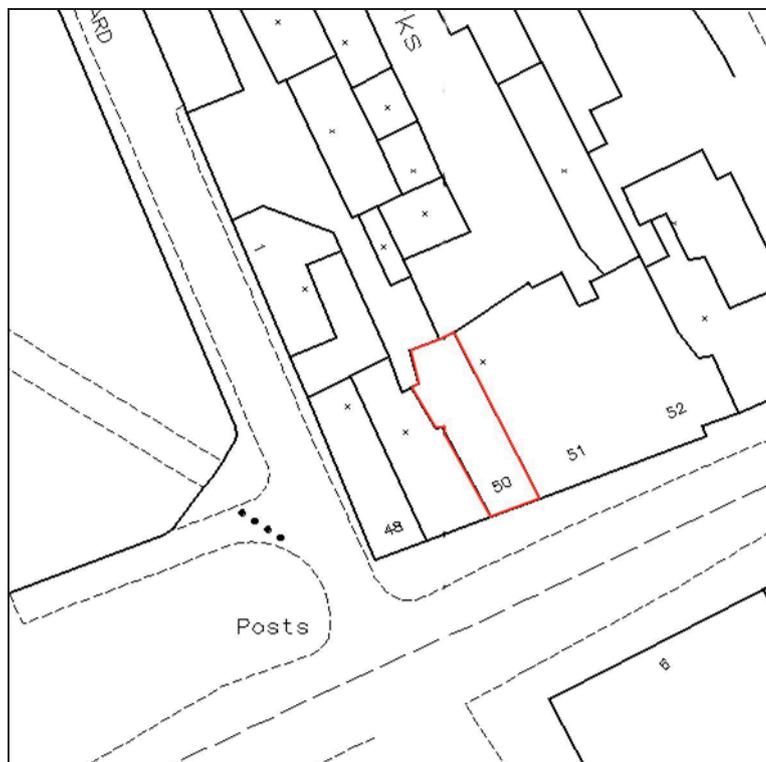


Figure 4: Extract from the 1899 Ordnance Survey Map (scale 12" to 1 mile)



**Figure 5:** Extract from the 1924 Ordnance Survey Map (scale 12" to 1 mile)



**Figure 6:** Extract from the 2006 Ordnance Survey Map (scale 1:1250)

### 3.8 *Listed Building Description*

GV II Inn, now a shop. C17, front block reconstructed in early C19, oriel on front c.1905 and shop front in 1920's when part of Rothschild estate. Timber frame roughcast in rear half, front of painted brick. A tall narrow 3-storeys and cellar building facing S with 2 recessed sash windows to 2nd floor, long rectangular wooden oriel at 1st floor over a glazed shop front with fascia and door on RH. Formerly The Plough Inn with stabling in 2 storeys brick and slate buildings on both sides of narrow yard to rear, not of special interest. Interior has exposed timbers with chamfered cross-beam on ground floor supported on post with cyma corbel in E wall. Massive purlins support roof of rear part, gabled to rear. Supports in cellar for back-to-back corner fireplaces on W wall of house, now removed above.

## 4 Description

### 4.1 General

This is a 3-storey, timber framed building under a slate roof with an early 20<sup>th</sup> century street frontage. There are two phases of extensions to the rear and the building also appears to have been extended slightly on the street frontage.

### 4.2 South Elevation (Fig. 7, Plate 1)

This fronts the High Street and consists of a brick wall set in Flemish Bond and painted green. There are two sash windows on the second floor and an oriel window on the first floor. The second floor windows have flat relieving arches and stone sills with decorative ironwork.

### 4.3 West Elevation

Abuts number 49.

### 4.4 East Elevation

Abuts number 51.

### 4.5 North Elevation (Fig. 8, Plate 2)

This is the rear elevation, which consists of the north wall of each of the successive phases of extension to the north. All of the elevations are rendered and under slate roofs. There is access to the building by a door to the east that has four panels with glazing in the upper section and another to a store in the west. The latter has been blocked. Between the two doors is a modern casement window, in front of which is the hatch that allows external access to the cellars.

There is an oriel window on the first floor of the first extension to the rear and a 6-light casement to the first floor of the original building. A modern casement window lights the second floor of the original building.

### 4.6 Cellar (Fig. 9)

#### Room C1 (Plate 3-5)

*Size:* 5.74 × 3.74m, height 2.48m

*Location:* South end of the building

*Description:* The cellar is entirely brick built, but with so many alterations, repairs and replacements that a chronological narrative is impossible within the remits of this project. The bricks are predominantly hand made, set in an English Bond using lime mortar. Those in the east wall tend to be approximately 21 x 10 x 5.5cm (8 x 4 x 2 inches) and could be 17<sup>th</sup> century. In contrast, those in the south wall measure approximately 22 x 11 x 6.5cm (8½ x 4½ x 2½ inches) and are 19<sup>th</sup> century. The west wall also shows evidence for rebuilding to the north of the southernmost binding beam.

The central binding beam has a 4cm wide chamfer with a run out stop in the northwest corner. The joists are c.12 x 6 -12 x 10cm on 50cm centres.

The floor, which is concrete, has been lowered by 28cm revealing the clunch natural.

There is a chimney support on the west wall, a coal chute in the south wall and two steps up to C2 to the north. The northwest corner of the room has an irregular shape with a diagonal joist giving additional support to the floor above.

**Room C2** (Plates 6-9)

*Size:* 7.40 × 3.0m+, height 2.0m

*Location:* North of C1

*Description:* The brickwork is equally variable in this part of the cellar and includes 18/19<sup>th</sup> century brick set in a mixed bond in the west wall, some vitrified bricks in the northeast end of the room, a new skin along the stairs and yellow and red brickwork in the entrance passage to the north.

The floor is brick and concrete and the ceiling is made up of joists and the floorboards above. The joists are of varying dimensions and spacing.

There is a small hatch of no obvious function in the northwest wall, a wooden staircase in the southeast corner to the ground floor and a staircase to the yard in the north wall.

**4.7 Ground Floor** (Fig. 10)

**Room G1** (Figs. 10- 11, Plate 10-18)

*Size:* 14.76 × 4.44m, height 2.02m

*Location:* Behind the street frontage

*Description:* This is now one large room as the former internal walls have been removed. The southern half of the room (G1a) is timber framed with brick infill. The walls to the north of the staircase (G1b) are plastered.

The east and west walls in Room G1a are very different, and were clearly the external walls of the properties to either side of number 50. The east wall is built on a supporting dwarf wall that is approximately 16cm high. It has an arched brace in the southernmost bay, which was later infilled with brick and a bonding beam. The brick infill appears to be earlier here than along the rest of the wall, where it appears to date from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The principal posts are 11-24cm wide and the studs are 9-10cm wide. The gap between the uprights is 63-69 cm. The dimensions of the timbers as well as their spacing suggests that this wall is probably 17<sup>th</sup> century, which is further supported by the gunstock jowls at the northern end of G1a.

There is ogee moulding on the principal post adjacent to the staircase, which runs along the east wall, and ordinary Lambs Tongue Chamfer Stops (generally dated late 16<sup>th</sup> to early 17<sup>th</sup> century) on the beam associated with it. However, there are long Lambs Tongue Chamfer Stops on the penultimate beam to the south, which are indicative of a later 17<sup>th</sup> century date.

The west wall is more robustly constructed and has had a fireplace inserted approximately 1.95m from the street frontage. There is no supporting dwarf wall, although a small section of a sill beam is still extant to the north of the fireplace. A

number of bonding timbers have been exposed, which are likely to have been inserted when the brick infill was put in, in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It was at this time that the building was extended c.1.18m further south, as the bonding timbers at the southern end of the wall suggest.

Room G1b, which lies in a later extension to the original building, has a neo-Regency fireplace in the west wall.

There is an 11 tread, closed string staircase to the first floor against the east wall and a wooden staircase to the cellar behind a door to the south of it.

The floor is of wide oak boards running east to west apart from the passage to the rear yard, which is of York flagstones and the ceiling is lath and plaster.

The room as it is now is lit by an early 20<sup>th</sup> century shop window in the south wall and a 3-light window with a central casement in the west wall. The front door is part of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century shop front. That to the rear yard has four panels with glazing in the upper section.

**Room G2** (Plate 19)

*Size:* 2.52 × 2.33m, height 2.26m

*Location:* Northwest corner of the building

*Description:* This lies within a single storey addition and consists of a plastered and painted room with a lath and plaster ceiling, oak flooring, a modern casement window in the north wall and the remains of a sliding door in the south wall. A door in the west wall opens into a store with a quarry tiled floor and a door at both the north and south ends.

**4.8 First Floor** (Fig. 11)

**Room F1** (Plates 20-25)

*Size:* 6.60 × 4.46m, height 2.26m

*Location:* Front of the building

*Description:* The east and west walls are timber framed with brick infill and the north and south walls are plastered and papered.

The west wall has a mock Regency fireplace and a gunstock jowlpost to the south of it. This was clearly the earlier end wall of this building, which appears to have been extended in the 18<sup>th</sup> century as suggested by the additional wallpost and the bonding beams. It was extended again in the 19/20<sup>th</sup> century. The remaining wattle and daub in the northern part of the wall would suggest that this wall is possibly 16<sup>th</sup> century.

The ceiling is lath and plaster and the floor has wide oak boards running east to west. There is a modern fireplace in the west wall and an early 20<sup>th</sup> century oriel window of 14-lights with two casements in the south wall.

There is a plain door with convex, reed-moulded architrave on a square base with a flower motif in square panels in the top corners.

**Room F2** (Plates 26-27)*Size:* 4.48 × 2.12m, height 2.27m*Location:* Centre of the building, north of F1*Description:* This is the landing with an 11 tread closed string staircase to the second floor against the south wall and a 13 tread staircase to the ground floor against the east wall. Both appear to be early 19<sup>th</sup> century and have a wooden handrail, square cut balusters and a newel post made up of a full height column with acanthus leaves and scrolls at the top. There is a cupboard below the stairs leading to the second and a further cupboard at the west end of the room.

The east wall is timber framed with brick infill and far from straight. The other walls are plastered with moulded skirting. The ceiling is lath and plaster and the floor is of timber boards running both east to west and north to south.

All the doors and their surrounds in the landing are similar to that in Room F1.

**Room F3** (Plates 28-33)*Size:* 6.95 × 4.53m, height 2.27m*Location:* Rear of the building, north of landing F2*Description:* This room was clearly formerly divided to provide a bathroom in the west half of the southern end, and possibly another room north of the step. The east and north walls are timber framed with brick infill and the south and west walls are plastered. Part of the studding in the wall has been exposed and all of the lath and plaster on the west wall to the north of the step has been removed.

The east wall clearly shows the development of the building with a jowl post and horn at the step indicating the end of the first build and the bonding timbers, which are indicative of 18<sup>th</sup> century work in the northern end of the wall. The truncated remains of a brace are still in evidence immediately below the gunstock jowl in the northernmost vertical post.

There is a 10-light oriel window in the north wall and a 6-light casement in the north wall of the bathroom. The doors and their surrounds are in the south wall and are similar to that in Room F1.

The ceiling is lath and plaster and the floor is made of wide timber boards running north to south.

**4.9 Second Floor / Attic** (Fig. 12)**Room S1** (Plates 34-35)*Size:* 2.92 × 1.58m, height 2.03m*Location:* Between S2 and S3*Description:* This is the landing, which has a 3-light casement window and a cupboard below it in the east wall. The purlins are exposed in both the east and west walls and a bonding timber is visible in the south wall. The walls are plastered and painted and the exposed laths in the west wall are of riven timbers. The west wall is suffering from structural stress and is severely curved.

**Room S2** (Plates 36-39)

*Size:* 4.54 × 3.33m, height 2.03m

*Location:* Rear of the building, north of landing S1

*Description:* The walls are plastered and painted with plain skirting boards and the purlins are exposed in both the east and west walls. There is a narrow chimneybreast in present against the west wall and a built in cupboard in the southwest corner. The ceiling, which is hipped, is of lath and plaster and has a loft hatch.

**Room S3** (Plates 40-43)

*Size:* 5.86 × 4.49m, height 2.32m

*Location:* Front of the building, south of landing S1

*Description:* The walls are plastered and painted with plain skirting boards. A truss has recently been exposed in the east wall, which may be the remains of an earlier roof over number 51. The ceiling, which slopes to the north, is of lath and plaster and the floor is carpeted over the timber boards. There is a chimneybreast against the north wall, two 2 over 2 sash windows in the south wall, a 2-light casement in the north wall and a hatch to the loft.



**Plate 1:** South elevation



**Plate 2:** North elevation



**Plate 3:** Cellar: C1, looking south



**Plate 4:** Cellar: C1, looking north



**Plate 5:** Cellar: C1, chimney support



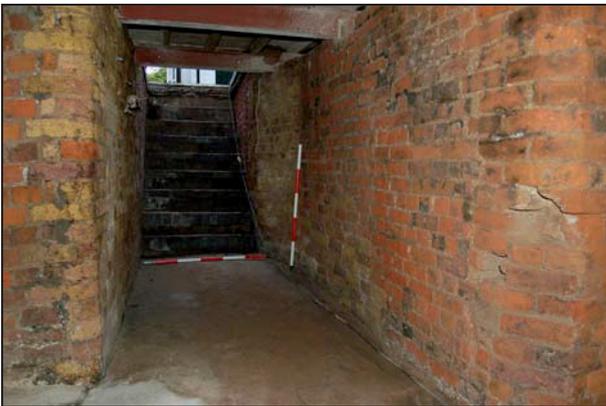
**Plate 6:** Cellar: C2, looking south



**Plate 7:** Cellar: C2, looking north



**Plate 8:** Cellar: C2, hatch detail



**Plate 9:** Cellar: entrance passage, looking north



**Plate 10:** G1: southeast corner



**Plate 11:** G1: east wall, north of the stairs



**Plate 12:** G1: northeast corner



**Plate 13:** G1: north wall



**Plate 14:** G1: northwest corner



**Plate 15:** G1: fireplace in west wall



**Plate 16:** G1: southwest corner



**Plate 17:** G1: ogee moulding in post



**Plate 18:** G1: gunstock jowlpost



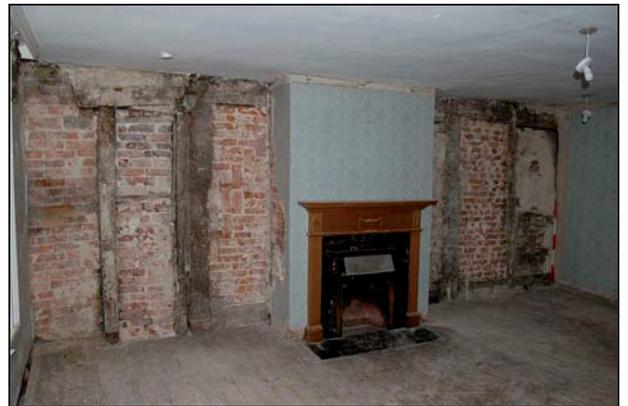
**Plate 19:** G2: looking northwest



**Plate 20:** F1: east wall



**Plate 21:** F1: north wall



**Plate 22:** F1: west wall



**Plate 23:** F1: wattle & daub detail



**Plate 24:** F1: south wall



**Plate 25:** F1: door detail



**Plate 26:** F2: east wall



**Plate 27:** F2: east wall



**Plate 28:** F3: south wall



**Plate 29:** F3: east wall, southern end



**Plate 30:** F3: east wall, northern end



**Plate 31:** F3: north wall



**Plate 32:** F3: west wall, northern end



**Plate 33:** F3: west wall, southern end



**Plate 34:** S1: west wall



**Plate 35:** S1: east wall



**Plate 36:** S2: north wall



**Plate 37:** S2: west wall



**Plate 38:** S2: south wall



**Plate 39:** S2: east wall



**Plate 40:** S3: south wall



**Plate 41:** S3: west wall



**Plate 42:** S3: north wall



**Plate 43:** S3: east wall



Figure 7: South elevation (Scale 1:50)



**Figure 8:** North elevation (Scale 1:50)



**Figure 9:** Basement floor plan (Scale 1:100)

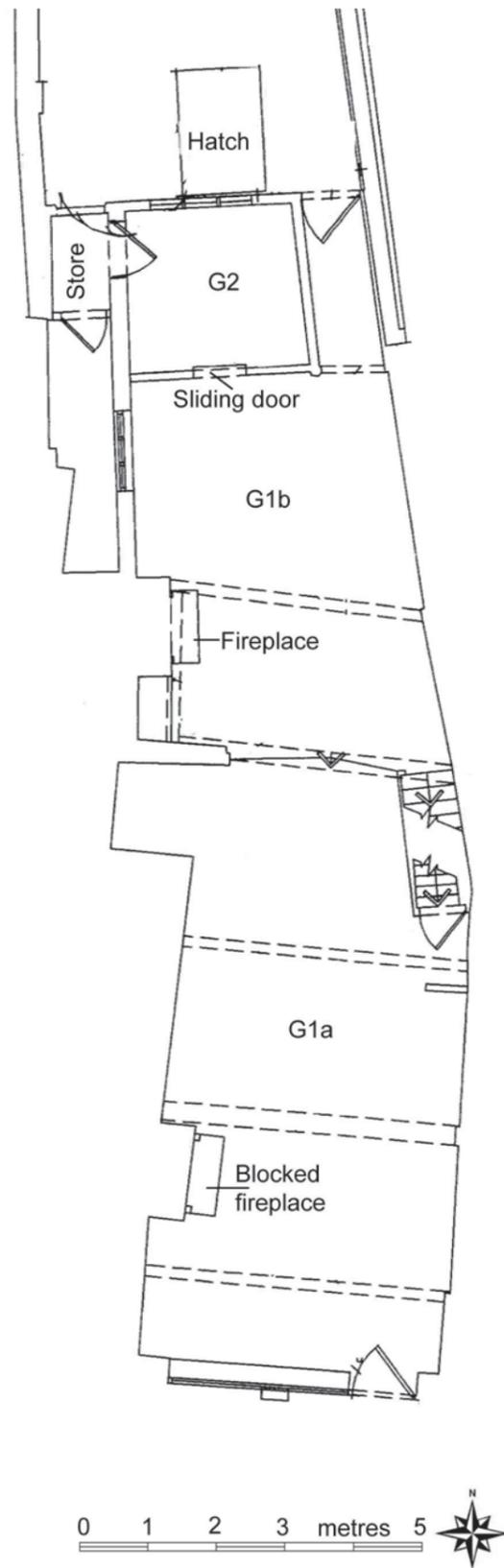


Figure 10: Ground floor plan (Scale 1:100)

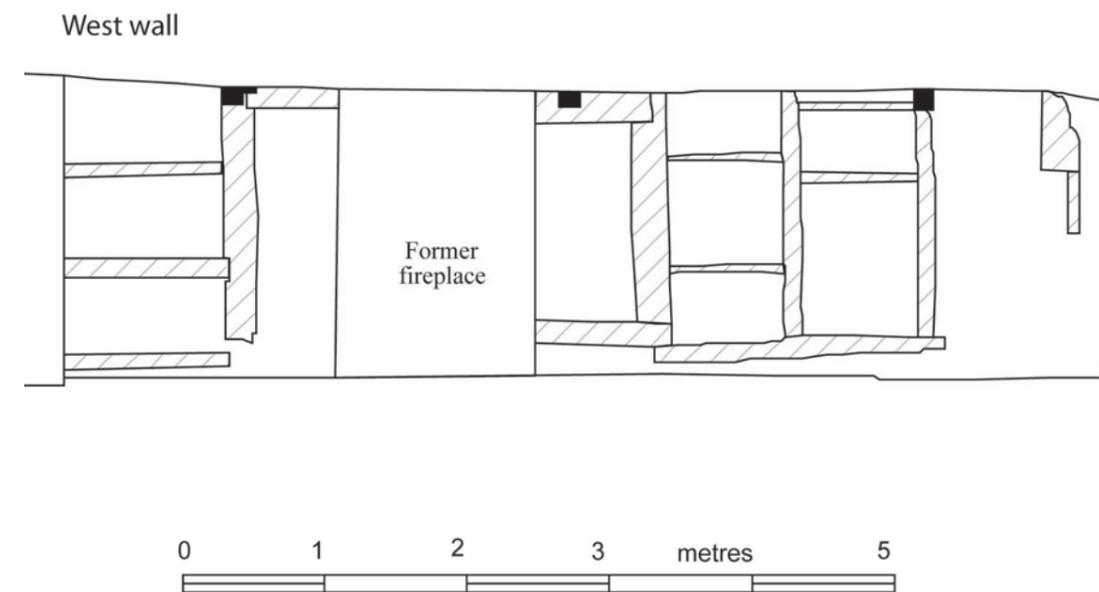
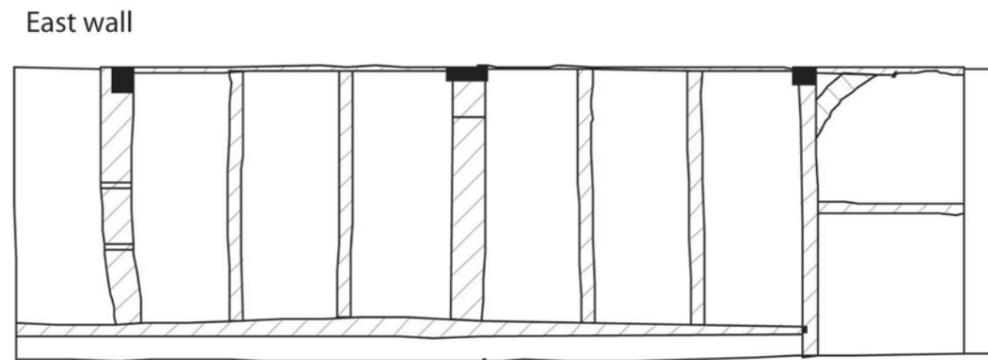
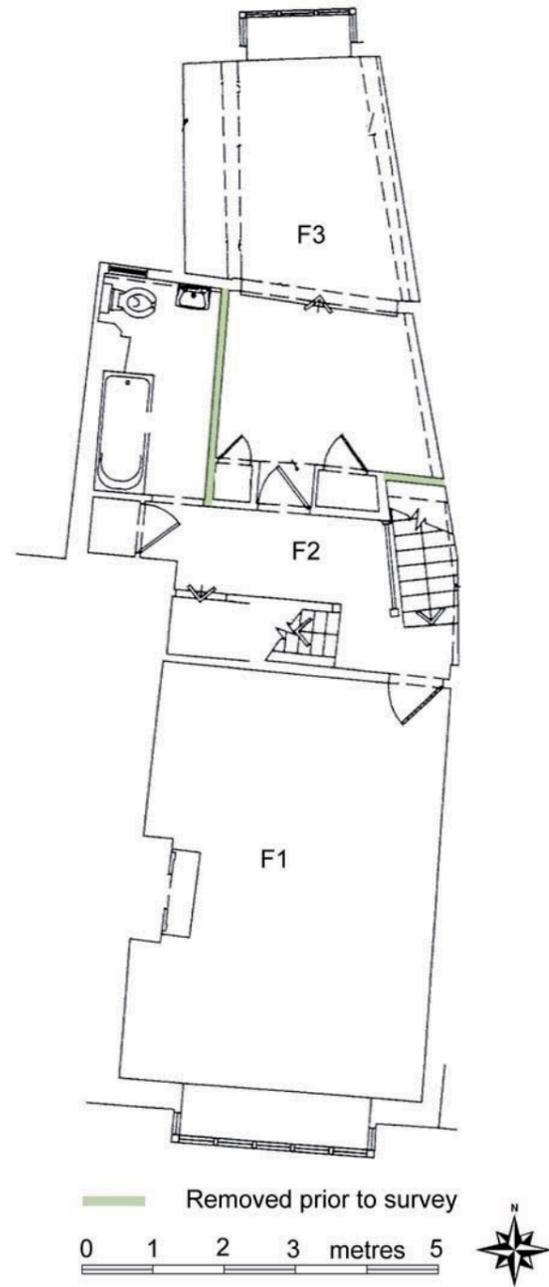
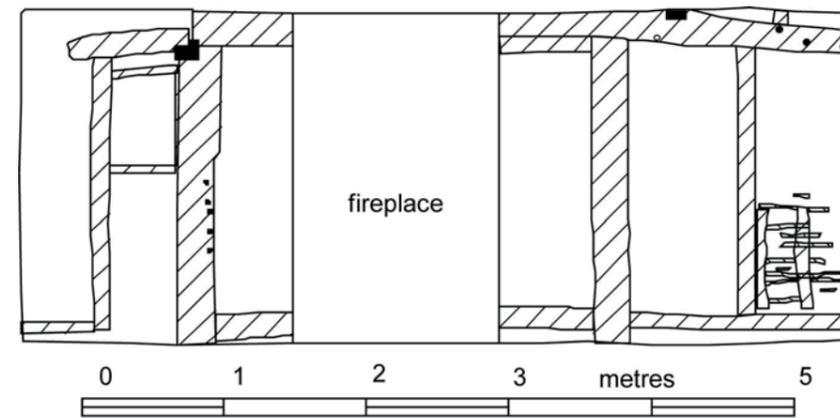


Figure 11: G1A: timber framing to east & west walls (Scale 1:100)



**Figure 12:** First floor plan (Scale 1:100)



**Figure 13:** F1, west wall (Scale 1:50)

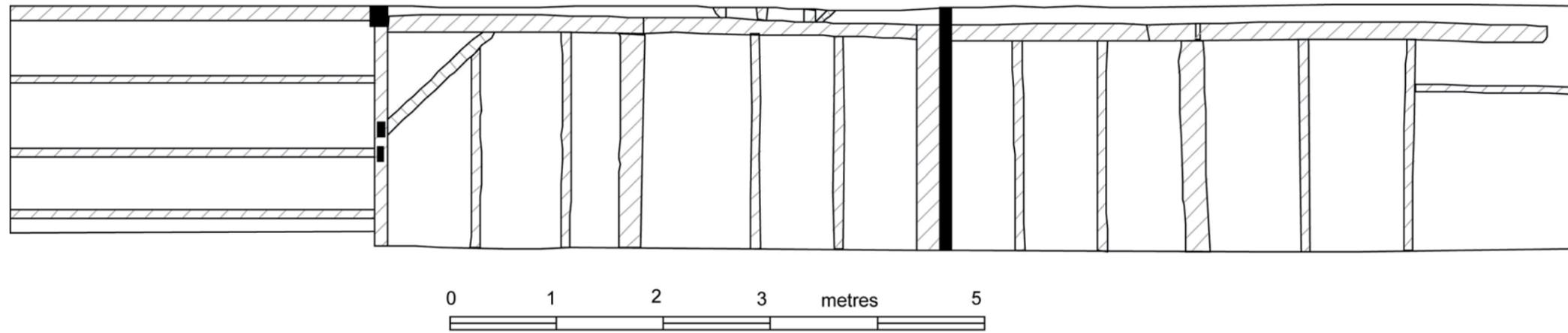


Figure 14: First floor, east wall (Scale 1:50)

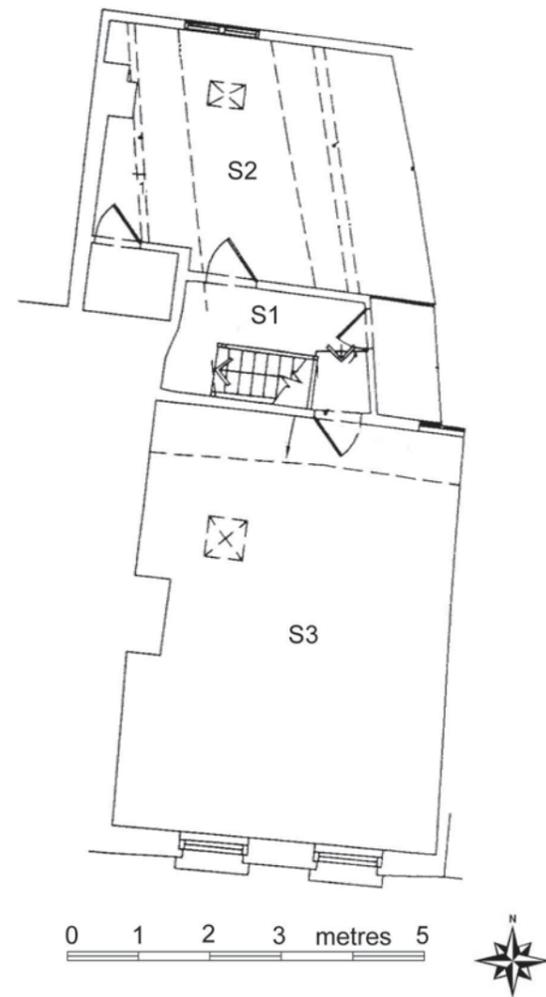


Figure 15: Second floor plan (Scale 1:100)

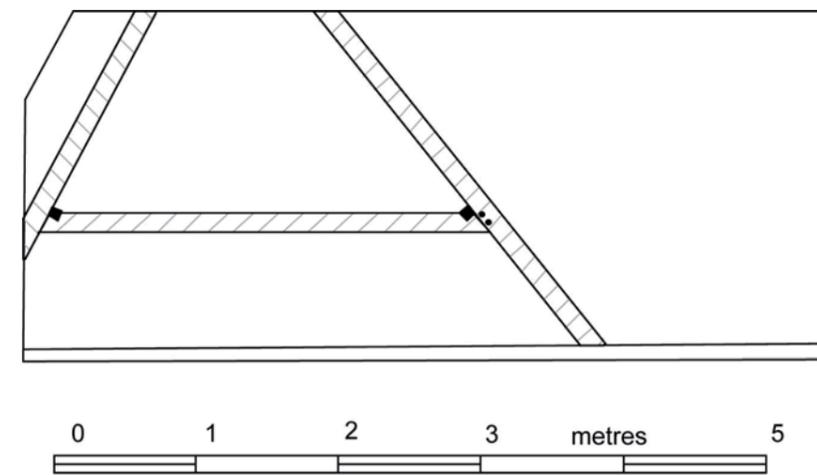


Figure 16: S3, east wall (Scale 1:50)

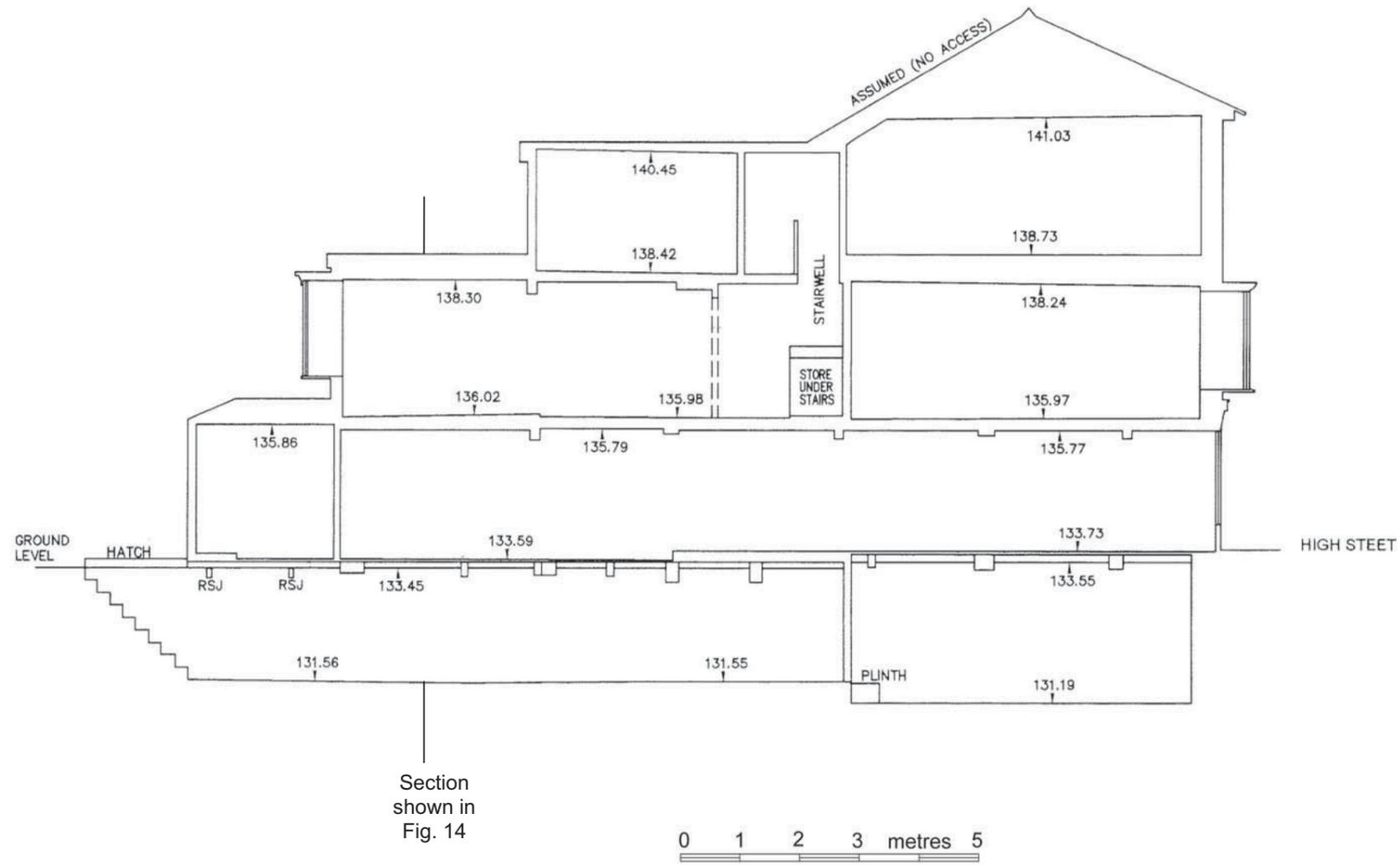


Figure 17: North-south section (Scale 1:100)

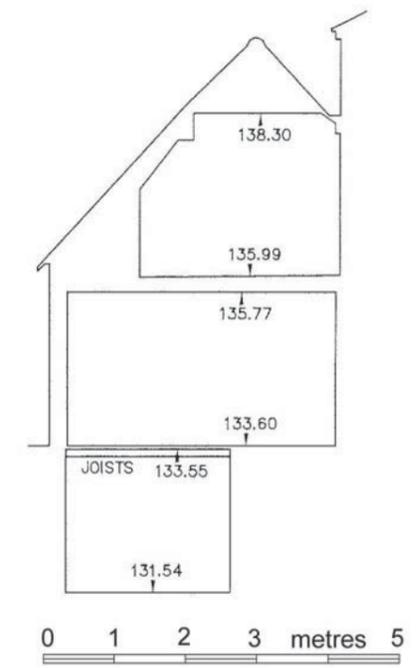
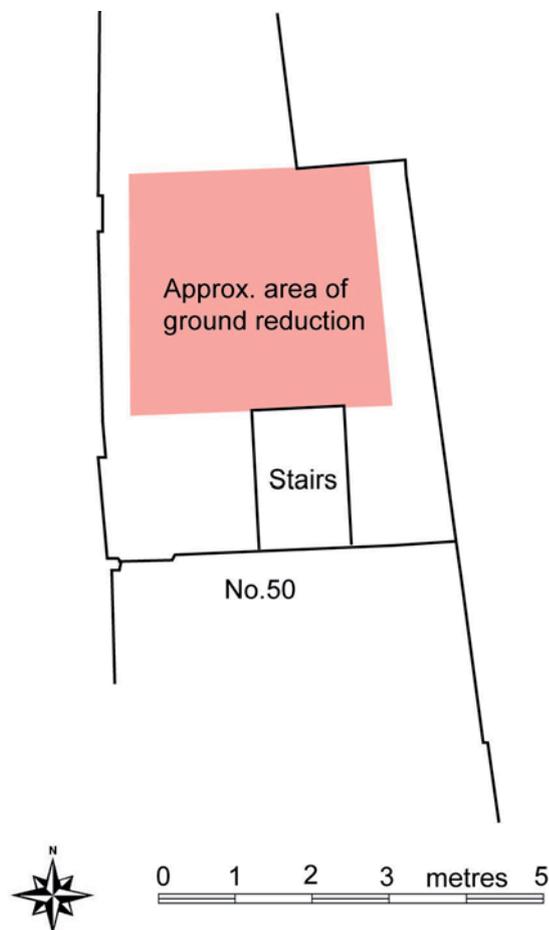


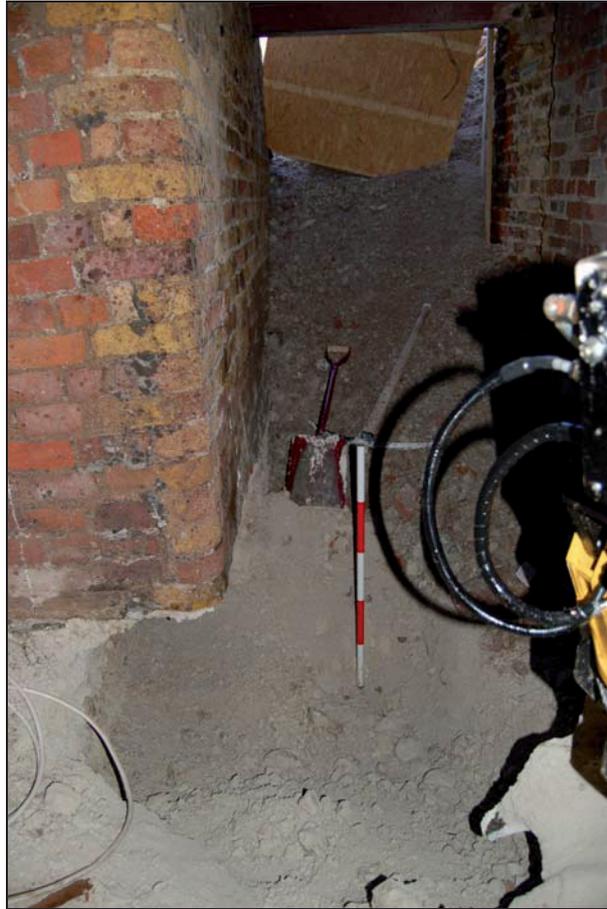
Figure 18: East-west section, north end of building (Scale 1:100)

## 5 Watching Brief

- 5.1** Two site visits were made to inspect ground works to the rear of the building. The initial ground reduction of up to 30cm deep revealed that this was made ground containing a number of services.
- 5.2.1** The excavation of two underpinning pits was monitored. The first, which lay in the northwest corner of the cellar at the junction with the stair, was irregularly shaped and approximately 1.25m N-S, 0.50m E-W and 0.72m deep. The second lay immediately below the fireplace in Room G1b was 1.20m N-S, 1m E-W and approximately 0.35m deep. There were no archaeological features or finds in either of the two pits as they consisted entirely of decomposed chalk.



**Figure 19:** Approx. location of the ground reduction (*Scale 1:100*)



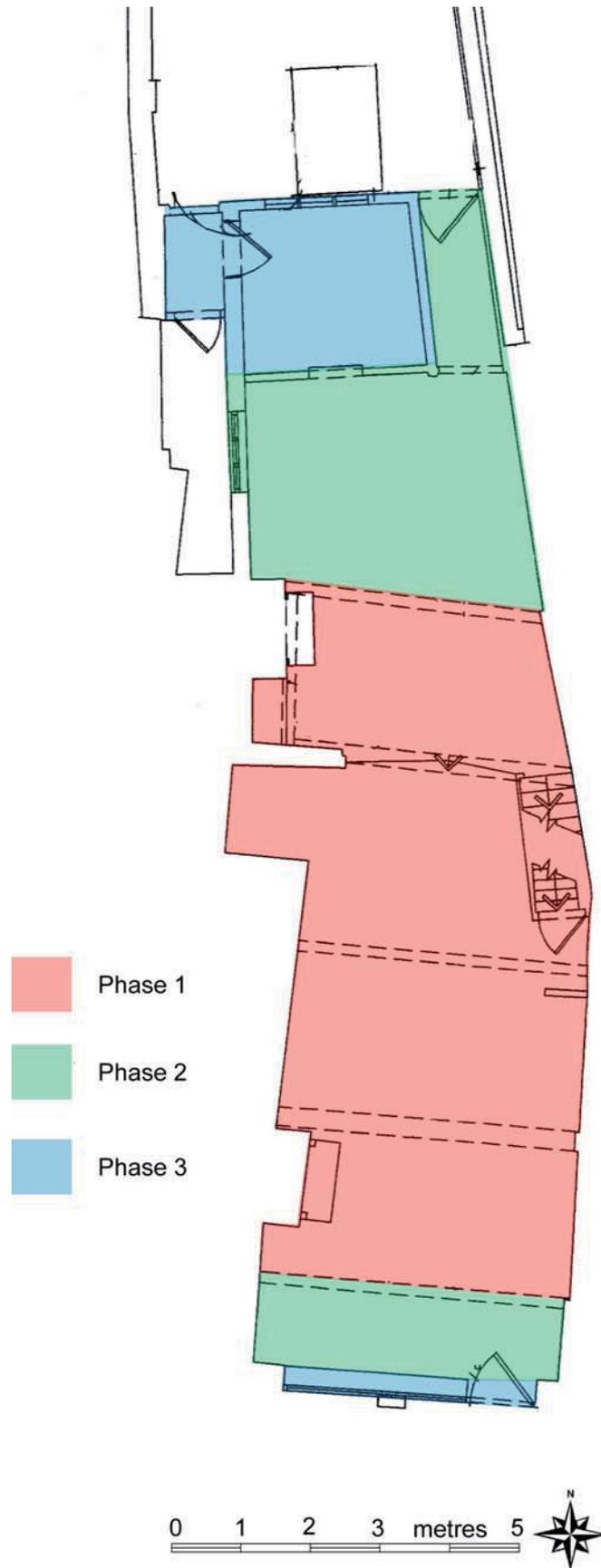
**Plate 44:** Underpinning pit cellar/stair junction



**Plate 45:** Underpinning pit below G1b fireplace

## 6 Conclusions

- 6.1** This is a most interesting building as it is clearly an infill between two existing properties, all of which lie within medieval burgage plots. All three have undergone alterations over the centuries and, without inspecting the two adjacent buildings, it is impossible to assess to what extent any of the original building fabric has survived in either of these.
- 6.2** The earliest part of the present building would appear to be the west wall, which displays characteristics of 16<sup>th</sup> century work. The less robust timberwork in the east wall is more indicative of post-medieval construction and is likely to be 17<sup>th</sup> century. The chamfer stops in the ground floor beams as well as the brickwork in the cellar would suggest that the earliest possible date for the creation of number 50 within the space left between the other two buildings is the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century.
- 6.3** That the building was extended in the 18<sup>th</sup> century is clear from the bonding timbers to the north and south of the original timber frame (Fig. 17). Whether both extensions were added at the same time is unclear, but the building had certainly exceeded its present dimensions by 1799.
- 6.4** The Enclosure Map of 1799 shows the building extending a long way back from the street frontage and forming the central arm of an inverted letter E. Although much of this range is still standing, the section closest to number 50 was demolished between 1899 and 1924. The foreshortening of number 50 sometime after 1924 can be considered to be Phase 3. Although it was rebuilt to a greater or lesser extent, the York stone slabs in the passage leading to the rear yard are almost certainly from the 18<sup>th</sup> century extension.
- 6.5** A final extension to consider is that into the roof space. The magnificent purlins suggest that the roofline over rooms S1 and S2 is original. The roof over Room S2, however, has been heightened, as has that of its neighbour as is indicated by the remains of the roof truss in the east wall. This is likely to have occurred in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century when the street frontage was rebuilt and, as such, this could also be considered as part of Phase 3
- 6.6** The evidence from the groundworks suggests that the yard to the rear of the property has been severely disturbed by building works and the installation of services. The cellar floor is clearly at such a depth for the construction of the cellar to have destroyed any existing archaeological features.



**Figure 20:** Phase plan (*Scale 1:100*)

## 6 Acknowledgements

The writer would like to thank David Metcalfe for commissioning this report; Kate Batt of Hertfordshire County Council for monitoring the project and the staff at Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS) for their assistance in the background research. Thanks are also due to David Metcalfe's staff for the forbearance and tea making skills.

The fieldwork for this project was undertaken by Karin Semmelmann MA AIFA. The report was written 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).

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IFA 2000b Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*.

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RCHME 1996 *Recording Historic Buildings: a Descriptive Specification* (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition).

### *Books and Historical Sources:*

Gover, JEB, Mawer A & Stenton FM 1970 *The Place-Names of Hertfordshire*. English Place-Name Soc. **40** (Cambridge).

Hunns, T. 2000 *Tring: Extensive Urban Survey Project: assessment report*. Hertfordshire County Council

Page, W (ed.) 1908 *The Victoria History of the Counties of England: Hertfordshire*, vol. **2** (London).

Richards S 1974 *A History of Tring*. Tring UDC (Tring).

Rouse, C. & Hunn, J.R. 2005, *Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment: Maund & Irvine Site, Brook Street, Tring, Hertfordshire* ASC Report 173/TBS/1

Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpenden).

Zeepvat B 1997 *The Roman Settlement at Cow Roast, Hertfordshire: Updated Project Design & Assessment Report*. Hertfordshire Arch. Trust, May 1997.

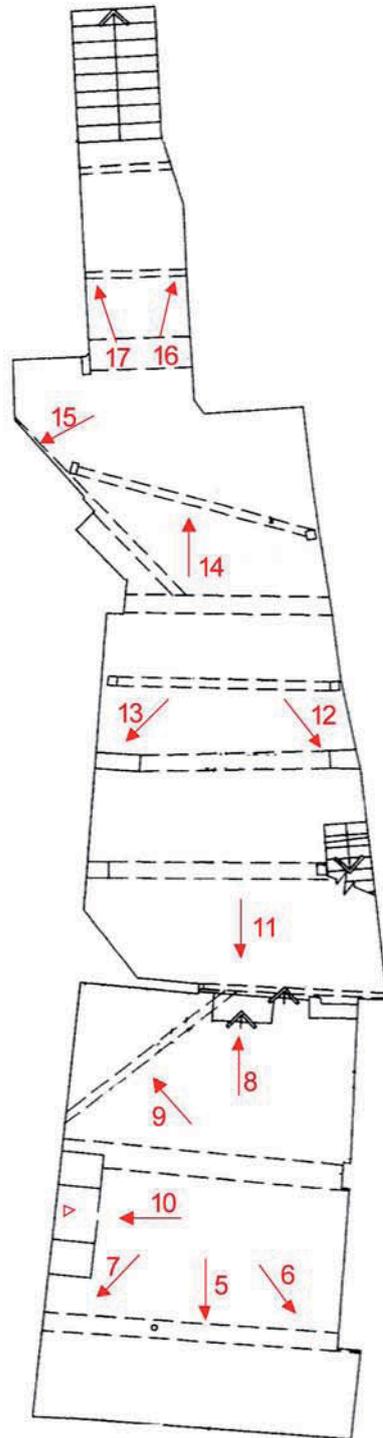
### *Maps*

Enclosure Map (1799)	D/P111/26/2
2 <sup>nd</sup> edition 1899 Ordnance Survey Plan (25 inch to 1 mile)	XIII.3
1924 Ordnance Survey Plan (25 inch to 1 mile)	XIII.3

## Appendix 1: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: 50 High Street, Tring, Herts.				SITE NO/CODE: 855/THS
Shot	B&W	Slide	Digital	Subject
1	x	O	x	North elevation
2	x	O	x	North elevation
3	x	O	x	South elevation
4	x	O	x	North side of Tring High Street
5	x	O	x	Cellar C1: south wall
6	x	O	x	Cellar C1: southeast corner
7	x	O	x	Cellar C1: southwest corner
8	x	O	x	Cellar C1: north wall
9	x	O	x	Cellar C1: northwest corner
10	x	O	x	Cellar C1: chimney support detail
11	x	O	x	Cellar C2: south wall
12	x	O	x	Cellar C2: southeast corner
13	x	O	x	Cellar C2: southwest corner
14	x	O	x	Cellar C2: north wall
15	x	O	x	Cellar C2: hatch detail
16	x	O	x	Cellar C2: north east view of entrance passage
17	x	O	x	Cellar C2: northwest view of entrance passage
18	x	O	x	G1: south wall
19	x	O	x	G1: southeast corner
20	x	O	x	G1: east wall, southern end
21	x	O	x	G1: east wall, south of stairs
22	x	O	x	G1: east wall, north of stairs
23	x	O	x	G1: northeast corner
24	x	O	x	G1: north wall
25	x	O	x	G1: northwest corner
26	x	O	x	G1: west wall, northern end
27	x	O	x	G1: east wall, gunstock jowl detail
28	x	O	x	G1: east wall, ogee detail on vertical post
29	x	O	x	G1: recess detail
30	x	O	x	G1: west wall, central section
31	x	O	x	G1: west wall southern end
32	x	O	x	G2: northwest corner
33	x	O	x	G2: southeast corner
34	x	O	x	F1: south wall
35	x	O	x	F1: east wall
36	x	O	x	F1: east wall, southern end
37	x	O	x	F1: east wall, northern end
38	x	O	x	F1: north wall
39	x	O	x	F1: west wall
40	x	O	x	F1: west wall, northern end
41	x	O	x	F1: west wall, southern end
42	x	O	x	F1: west wall, wattle & daub detail
43	x	O	x	F1: west wall, detail showing original wall end
44	x	O	x	F2: east wall, looking southeast
45	x	O	x	F2: newel column detail
46	x	O	x	F2: east wall looking northeast
47	x	O	x	F1: door detail
48	x	O	x	F3: south wall

49	x	O	x	F3: east wall, southern end
50	x	O	x	F3: east wall northern end
51	x	O	x	F3: north wall
52	x	O	x	F3: west wall, northern end
53	x	O	x	F3: west wall, southern end
54	O	O	x	F3: west wall return detail
55	x	O	x	F3: east wall, jowlpost detail
56	x	O	x	S1: west wall
57	x	O	x	S1: east wall
58	x	O	x	S2: north wall
59	x	O	x	S2: west wall
60	x	O	x	S2: south wall
61	x	O	x	S2: east wall
62	x	O	x	S3: south wall
63	x	O	x	S3: east wall
64	x	O	x	S3: north wall
65	x	O	x	S3: west wall



**Figure 21:** Cellar photo plan

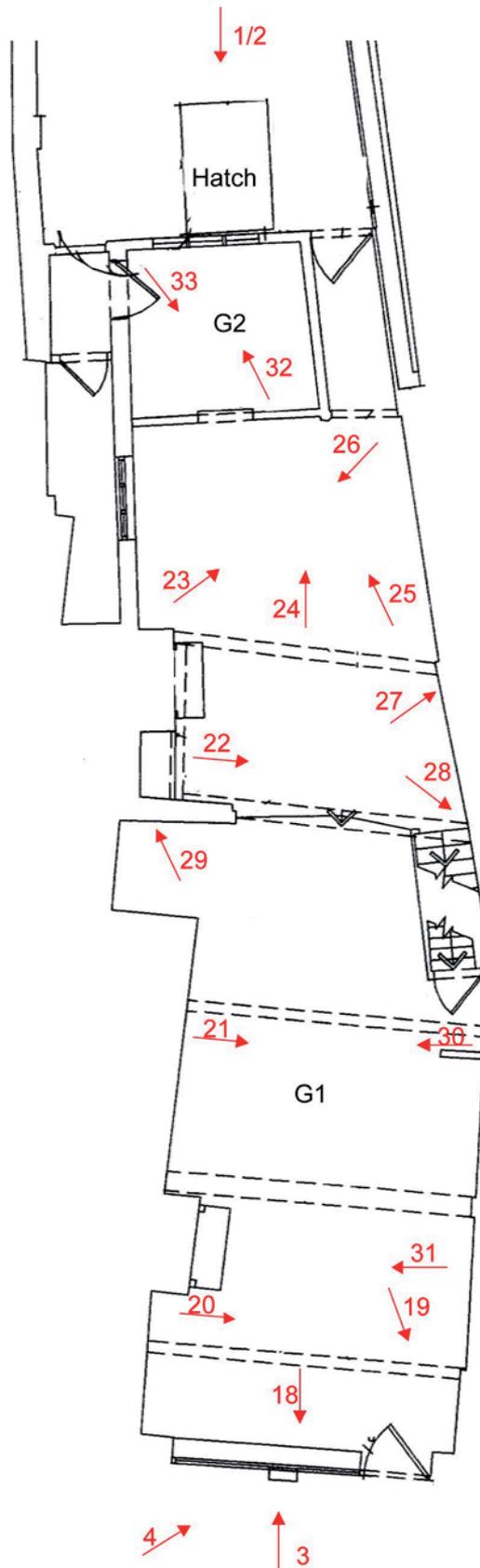
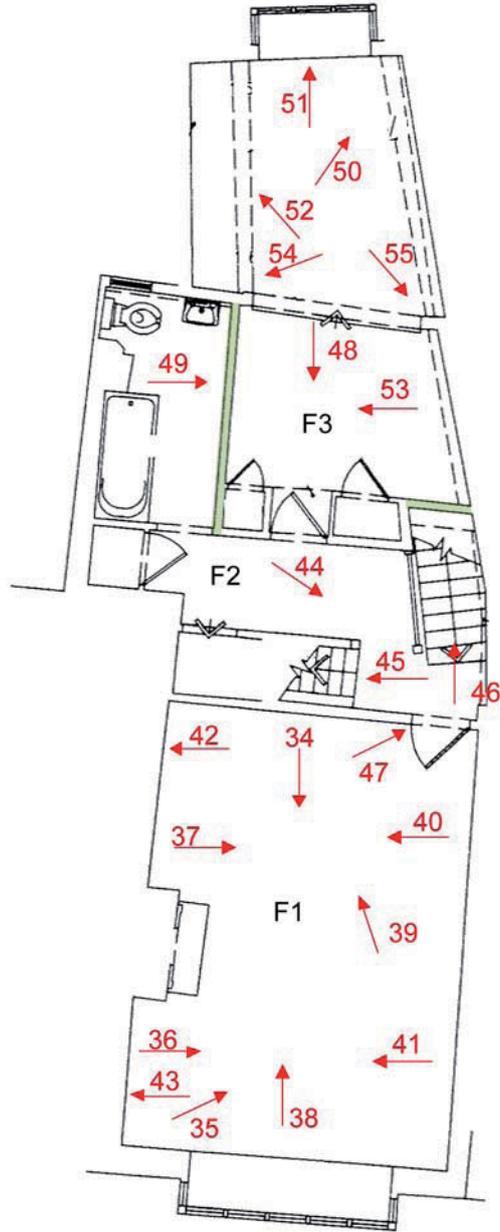
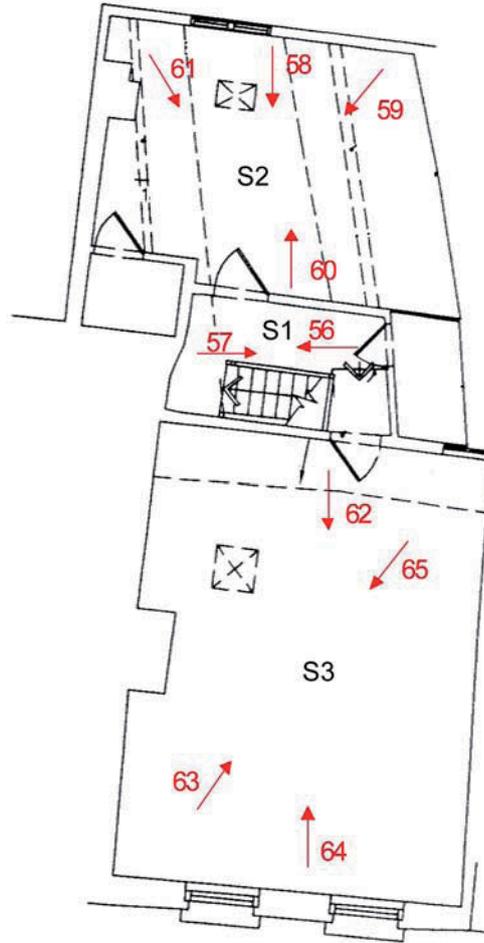


Figure 22: Ground floor photo plan



**Figure 23:** First floor photo plan



**Figure 24:** Second floor photo



**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



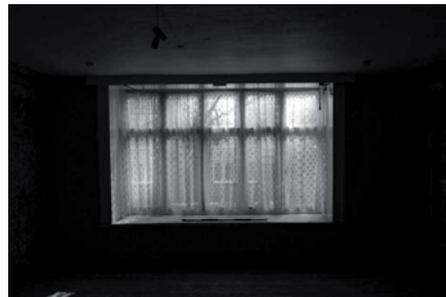
Shot 31



Shot 32



Shot 33



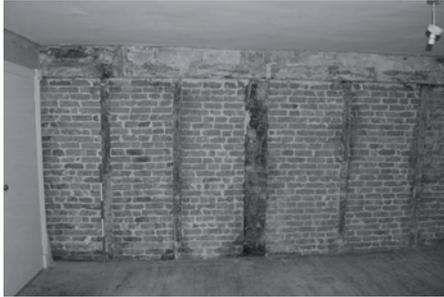
Shot 34



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:	50 High Street, Tring					
Short Description:	<p>In the winter of 2006 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out historic building recording and a watching brief of 50 High Street, Tring, Hertfordshire, in response to proposals for the conversion of buildings on the site.</p> <p>The present evidence suggests that the building is a mid 17<sup>th</sup> century infill between two early post-medieval structures, all of which were set within medieval burgage plots. The site became the Plough Inn, and as is often the case in public houses, the building and its outhouses were altered on numerous occasions. The remaining building shows evidence for extensions to the north and south in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and for it being heightened, probably in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.</p> <p>No archaeological features were revealed in the yard to the rear of the property or within the underpinning pits within the cellar. The cellar floor is clearly deep enough to have destroyed any existing archaeological features and the yard area had been severely disturbed by later building works and the installation of services.</p>					
Project Type: (indicate all that apply)	DBA	FW	Geophys	Survey	<b>Bldg Rec</b>	Post-Exc
	<b>WB</b>	Strip&Rec	Trenching	Test pits	Exc	Other
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed)	Listed		Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)		None	
Current land use:	Commercial		Future work: (yes / no / unknown)		Unknown	
Monument type:	Building		Monument period:		Post-medieval	
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	None					
PROJECT LOCATION						
County:	Hertfordshire		OS reference: (to at least 8 figures)		SP 9249 1145	
District:	Dacorum		Parish:		Tring	
Site address: (with postcode if known)	50 High Street, Tring, Hertfordshire					
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	N/A		Height OD: (metres)		133.6m	
PROJECT CREATORS						
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd					
Project brief originator:	K. Batt		Project design originator:		C. Barclay	
Project Manager:	B. Zeepvat		Director/Supervisor:		K. Semmelmann	
Sponsor / funding body:	D. Metcalfe					
PROJECT DATE						
Start date:	20.10.2006		End date:		02.11.2006	
PROJECT ARCHIVES						
	Location (Accession no.)		Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)			
Physical:	N/A		N/A			

Paper:	HALS	1 box	
Digital:	HALS	1 CD	
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b> (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Historic Building Recording and Watching Brief: 50 High Street. Tring, Hertfordshire		
Serial title & volume:			
Author(s):	Karin Semmelmann		
Page nos	55	Date:	9 <sup>th</sup> March 2007

### Appendix 3: SMR Summary Sheet

Site name and address: 50 High Street Tring Hertfordshire		
County: Hertfordshire		District: Dacorum
Village/Town: Tring		Parish: Tring
Planning application reference:		
Client name, address, & tel. no: David Metcalfe 50 High Street Tring Hertfordshire HP23 5AG		
Nature of application: Conversion to restaurant		
Present land use: Commercial		
Size of application area: n/a		Size of area investigated: n/a
NGR (to 8 figures): SP 9249 1145		Site code:
Site director/Organization: Bob Zeepvat / ASC Ltd		
Type of work: Building survey & watching brief		
Date of work:	Start: 20.10.2006	Finish: 02.11.2006
Curating museum: HALS		
Related SMR nos:		Periods represented: Post-medieval
Relevant previous summaries/reports None		
<p>In the winter of 2006 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out historic building recording and a watching brief of 50 High Street, Tring, Hertfordshire, in response to proposals for the conversion of buildings on the site.</p> <p>The present evidence suggests that the building is a mid 17<sup>th</sup> century infill between two early post-medieval structures, all of which were set within medieval burgage plots. The site became the Plough Inn, and as is often the case in public houses, the building and its outhouses were altered on numerous occasions. The remaining building shows evidence for extensions to the north and south in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and for it being heightened, probably in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.</p> <p>No archaeological features were revealed in the yard to the rear of the property or within the underpinning pits within the cellar. The cellar floor is clearly deep enough to have destroyed any existing archaeological features and the yard area had been severely disturbed by later building works and the installation of services.</p>		
Author: Karin Semmelmann		Date: 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2007