

# Llanthony Secunda Priory Llanthony Road Gloucester

*Built Heritage Assessment*



for  
*Llanthony Secunda Priory Trust*

CA Project: 5024  
CA Report: 14520


October 2015



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prepared by	Peter Davenport, Senior Built Heritage Consultant
date	20 October 2015
checked by	Laurie Coleman, Principal Fieldwork Manager – Office Head
date	20 October 2015
approved by	Laurie Coleman, Principal Fieldwork Manager – Office Head
signed	
date	20 October 2015
issue	02

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<b>Cirencester</b> Building 11 Kemble Enterprise Park Kemble, Cirencester Gloucestershire, GL7 6BQ t. 01285 771022 f. 01285 771033	<b>Milton Keynes</b> Unit 4 Cromwell Business Centre Howard Way, Newport Pagnell MK16 9QS t. 01908 218320	<b>Andover</b> Stanley House Walworth Road, Andover Hampshire, SP10 5LH t. 01264 347630
e. <a href="mailto:enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk">enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk</a>		

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Llanthony Secunda Priory
<b>Location:</b>	Llanthony Road, Gloucester
<b>NGR:</b>	SO 82384 17992
<b>Type:</b>	Historic Building Assessment
<b>SMC:</b>	ref. S00091198
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Gloucester City Museum (accession no. GLRCM: 2014.36)
<b>Site Code:</b>	LLP 14

An Historic Building Assessment was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in September and October 2014 at Llanthony Secunda Priory. The results of the archaeological evaluation trenches were also taken into account.

Two buildings were assessed: the timber and stone Medieval Range with the Victorian Farmhouse, and the Brick Range.

The Medieval Range was extremely complex, but in essence a ground floor of stone, of medieval origin, but with many phases of alteration and repair, supported a late 15th- to early 16th-century, timber-framed upper floor. The existing building is a remnant of a range that was as long again to the north, truncated in the 1870s, and before the construction of the farmhouse extended at least as far south as the present farmhouse does. The upper floor is constructed in a way that indicates it was jettied, but contradicting this is the fact that the current ground floor is wider than the upper storey, not narrower. It is tentatively suggested that the jettied section may come from somewhere else and the rest of the building modified to match, although there are still unexplained anomalies.

The Brick Range is a two-storey range, conventionally dated to the early 16th century. It too has undergone much alteration. It is currently unroofed. A recent assessment of the building by Oxford Archaeology has been reviewed. The general conclusions of this report are accepted, with some minor revisions and comments and added information from the recent evaluation excavations by Cotswold Archaeology. The dating of this range to the early 16th century and its high significance as an exceptionally early brick building (in the West Country) are confirmed.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In September and October 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an historic building assessment for Llanthony Secunda Priory Trust at Llanthony Secunda Priory (centred on NGR: SO 82384 17992; Fig. 1). The assessment was undertaken to provide an up-to-date understanding of the buildings' historic significance to inform applications for Listed Building and Scheduled Monument Consents for alterations to better conserve the buildings and bring the structures into beneficial use.
- 1.2 The assessment followed the approach laid out in the *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures (IFA 2008)*; *The Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE)*, *The Project Manager's Guide (EH 2006)* and *Understanding Historic Buildings; A guide to good recording practice (English Heritage 2006)*. There was a very substantial brief, requiring a Level 4 (EH2006) record of the buildings (Llanthony Secunda Priory Trust 2014). However, only a detailed assessment of the structural development and historic significance of the timber framed medieval range and the Brick Range was required at this stage. This report addresses that requirement.

### **Objectives**

- 1.3 The objectives of the assessment were to try to achieve a better understanding of the historic buildings assessed, especially the date and characteristics of the various elements of the buildings and the significance of these various elements and of the whole. The information gathered will both inform any design proposals affecting these structures and enable English Heritage and Gloucester City Council to be make informed decisions about the impact of the proposed project upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012)* and the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended)*.

### **Methodology**

- 1.4 Previous records, histories and studies of the priory and specifically the buildings concerned were consulted and the fabric of the buildings was carefully analysed to obtain a structural history and to characterise the buildings. An ordered archive of

materials will be deposited with Gloucester City Museum and Art Galley under accession no. GLRCM: 2014.36.

### ***The site***

- 1.5 The site lies to the south of Gloucester city centre, lying between Llanthony Road on its west side and by the Sharpness Ship Canal on the east (Fig. 2) To the north of the site is the Gloucester College campus and to the south are the site of a public house, and an area of open space programmed for development. The site itself is level, mainly laid to grass, with some areas of hardstanding, and a pond on the western side near to Llanthony Road. Along Llanthony Road, the site is bounded by lengths of the priory precinct wall, of varying degrees of survival, within which are the conserved remains of the West Gatehouse for the Priory, probably dating to c. 1500. Along the north side is a much rebuilt wall of post-medieval date, possibly on the line of the medieval precinct wall, with the paved floors and footings of a range of buildings against it. To the east of this are the roofless remains of the Tithe Barn of probable early 16th-century date All these elements from the Gatehouse on are Listed Grade I and are Scheduled Monuments.
- 1.6 Along the eastern side of the site is a low wall parallel to the canal which is substantially post-medieval in construction, though it may be the line of the medieval precinct wall. The south-eastern boundary is formed by a largely demolished structure which is apparently late medieval in date (South Wall/Precinct Range). West of this along the southern boundary is the Brick Range, a roofless brick-built shell, originally built c. 1500 but modified in the post-medieval period. This is usually called the Great Stable but a more objective name has been used here (the Brick Range). It is Listed Grade I and a Scheduled Monument. To the north and west of this range are fragments of stone and brick-faced walls which are part of a contemporary range running north from the building.
- 1.7 The Victorian Farmhouse lies in the centre of the site and is thought to date to around 1870, and is built on the footprint of a section of the Medieval Range between the Outer and Inner Courts of the priory. There was a gate passage through the medieval building linking the two. The Medieval Range lies to the north of the farmhouse and it is known to have been originally longer to the north and south. It is two-storey, with brick and coursed stone rubble walls at ground level and timber-framed construction above. Its use is unknown but it could have been part of



high-status guest accommodation for visitors to the Priory, possibly constructed c. 1500. It was used as an agricultural building after the Dissolution.

- 1.8 The Farmhouse was hard-stripped internally in the late 1970s preparatory to conversion into offices for the Gloucester Archaeological Unit. This work was monitored by John Rhodes who was able to report that the entire structure was a new build of c. 1870 except for the party wall with the Medieval Range, which was essentially part of that older building (John Rhodes, pers. comm.).
- 1.9 The Farmhouse was seen during the recent site visits and has been largely returned to that condition, with modern internal finishes only existing in parts of the first floor and portions of the ground floor. It is evident that John Rhodes was entirely correct, and that there are no elements of pre-Victorian structure surviving in the building, except for its party wall with the Medieval Range.
- 1.10 Equally, because of the two phases of hard strip, there is nothing left in the building of the original internal fittings and finishes and very little of the late 1970s/1980s work. The stair has been removed, and the layout altered by the addition of partitions, blocking of original doorways and the opening of new ones. There is evidence of the recent removal of late 20th century partitions.
- 1.11 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Blue Lias formation and Charmouth Mudstone formation of the Lower Jurassic period overlain by tidal flat deposits (sand, silt and clay) of the quaternary period (BGS 2014).

### ***Historical background***

- 1.12 A number of reports and publications have been prepared detailing the evidence for the history of the site have been prepared for the site (Hughes 2003; Hughes and Rhodes 2003; Watts and Hughes 2004; Morriss 2009) and reference should be made to those for the detailed historical background.
- 1.13 In summary, taken from Watts and Hughes 2004, the Augustinian priory of Llanthony in Gloucester was founded in 1136 as a cell of the mother church, Llanthony Prima at Llanthony in Monmouthshire, at a time when the Welsh borders were in turmoil and the prior and canons required a refuge. The church at Llanthony Secunda was begun in May 1136 and was consecrated in September 1137. When peace returned to the borders, successive priors remained in Gloucester. The two communities separated in 1205 after which Llanthony Secunda flourished, amassing

property within Gloucester, while the mother church became impoverished. Llanthony Secunda eventually absorbed its Welsh parent in 1481.

- 1.14 In 1301 the church, including four towers, was gutted by fire. The west front was rebuilt with twin towers flanking a great window of three stepped lancets. Nothing of the church and claustral buildings survives above ground today and the extant buildings, part of the more workaday Great or Inner Court, date from the end of the 15th century and later when the then prior, Henry Deane, proceeded to reconstruct both church and precinct, including the outer gatehouse. He also enlarged the south and west ranges of the inner court. By this time Llanthony Secunda was the richest Augustinian house in England, and entertained the court of Henry VII in 1500 and 1501. The priory was dissolved in 1538.
- 1.15 In 1540 the priory site was sold for £723 to Arthur Porter, JP for the County of Gloucestershire and former under-steward to the priory. Part of the priory church remained in use as the parish church. This was probably the nave; elsewhere, where part of a dissolved monastic church was retained for local worship, the chancel was usually removed to prevent restoration of the monastery. As part of his lease, Porter was required to keep and pay for a chaplain, whose wages were to be deducted from the priory rent.
- 1.16 In 1559, the site was described as a 'capital messuage' indicating that part of the site was then in use as a dwelling house. Three generations of the Porter family used the priory as their country house until 1615 when the property passed through marriage to Sir John (later Lord Viscount) Scudamore, although Sir Arthur and Lady Ann Porter continued to live there until their deaths in 1630 and 1632 respectively. Parts of the priory were then leased out to a succession of tenants including, in 1634, an Edward Spencer, yeoman, of Gloucester. The lease of that year indicates that the timber-framed range was, given its position north of the middle gatehouse, an oxhouse (Watts and Hughes 2004, 23). The Scudamores also retained part of the property, which appears to have flourished right up to the outbreak of the Civil War.
- 1.17 Llanthony suffered damage from both Royalists and Parliamentarians during the Civil War. Lord Viscount Scudamore, a fervent Royalist, was taken prisoner when Hereford fell in April 1643, after which his properties were plundered. The damage inflicted by the Parliamentarians was compounded by Royalists during the siege of

Gloucester in August 1643, when Llanthony served as a base for the besieging forces. From the shelter of the priory walls and buildings, the Royalist troops bombarded the city with bullets and received similar punishment. One account tells of cannon fire from the Barbican that landed at Llanthony and ‘made the stones of the wall fly about their ears...’

- 1.18 Writing in about 1660, Lord Scudamore stated that the parochial church at Llanthony had been ‘utterly demolished’ and rather than rebuild it he decided to upgrade the church in the adjoining parish of Hempsted where a new rectory was finished in 1671. The damage and loss of revenue occasioned by the Civil War also signalled the end of Llanthony House as a gentleman’s residence. Although apparently still standing in 1662, there is no mention of the house in 1670 and it must have been demolished by then. At the end of that year the property was leased to John Clissold except for the churchyard and ‘all the old walls and ruinous buildings’. The impression gained is that stone was being cleared from the site and either sold or used on elsewhere on the estate.
- 1.19 Sometime after 1670 the property was given over to farming entirely and the timber-studded Medieval Range was converted into a farmhouse. Little is known of the property in the 18th century as the accounts from Hempsted parish do not survive for that period. However, descriptions of Llanthony written by Archdeacon John Furney, who visited in 1717, provide important details from both his own observations and those of older people who recalled the substantial ruins of the church and cloister. These included one Welch Thomas, who in his teens had been stationed at Llanthony under Captain Morgan during the Siege of Gloucester (see below).
- 1.20 Although the construction of the canal wharves and railway dominated the development of the site in the 19th century, gradual ‘modernisation’ of the farmstead took place throughout the century. The accommodation was redesigned, certainly after 1854, to create the present Victorian Farmhouse, and various sheds were constructed and ponds created. Llanthony Abbey Farm (as it became known) continued to be owned by descendants of the Scudamores until 1898 when it was sold to J. M. Collett, chemical manufacturer, who intended to build a factory there. However, the farm was appropriated by the Great Western Railway in 1906. In the 20th century, various enterprises leased the farm including horn manufacturers and the Gloucester City Rifle Club. The importance of the upstanding remains of the

priory was officially recognised in 1949 when the site of Llanthony Abbey Farm was protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Gloucestershire no. 337). Gloucester City Council purchased the site from British Railways in 1974. It was transferred to Llanthony Secunda Priory Trust in 2009.

### ***Antiquarian records***

- 1.21 There is no doubt from Furney's accounts and from other sources that by the 18th century there was little left of the church and cloisters. For example, writing in 1727 Matthew Gibson noted that 'of the conventual church not one stone is left upon another that is not thrown down. All of the buildings belonging to the priory are likewise destroyed, except some of the meanest offices. Neither remain there any marks of its former greatness except the west and south gates...'.
- 1.22 However, Furney's collections of observations and older residents' memories confirm the agricultural use of the timber range: "what is now the dwelling house was formerly the stable. That all along it on the outside were iron rings to tye horses to"; and Welch Thomas's: "the present dwelling house was altered from being an outhouse ("typo" for oxhouse given the earlier reference, 1.16 above?) to what it is at present" after the civil war.
- 1.23 The earliest known maps to clearly depict the layout of the priory date from the last quarter of the 18th century (Watts and Hughes 2004, 23). That of 1780 (Hall and Pinnell 1782) shows the range as it was before truncation. It shows the Brick Range, apparently with a roof, but the north/south section, today represented by a single western external wall, is not shown, except as an internal boundary line, suggesting it was already roofless at that date. The 1792 estate map (Norfolk Estates 1792) adds little to the earlier plan, except to suggest that the very southern end of the Medieval Range was narrower.
- 1.24 It does show the line of the Gloucester and Berkeley Canal (now the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal), which was started in the 1790s.
- 1.25 A map prepared in 1854 shows the layout in that year (Watts and Hughes 2004; Fig. 4). This shows that the earlier plans were somewhat schematised, with the alignments of buildings being incorrect, but does confirm the general accuracy of the depictions.

- 1.26 In particular, it indicates, with shading, that the southern end of the timber Medieval Range was different from the rest of it. This probably means that the southern end was residential. This is confirmed by J. Clarke's description of "a long, barn-like building, with a modern cottage at one end." (Clarke 1853, 34). His drawing of the east elevation (Fig. 3) shows a tiny part of this cottage, which may be merely a reworking of the older structure rather than a replacement (*ibid*, between pp 34 and 35). The roof line is slightly different and it seems to have stone slabs as roofing rather than the tiles of the rest of the range. It appears to have been rendered.
- 1.27 Comparison with the sketchy, but upon inspection, very informative and detailed record by J. Buckler of 1818 of the same elevation (Fig. 4) suggest this is indeed so (Watts and Hughes, 2004, Ill. 12). The openings and windows in the cottage are in the same position and the ground-floor level, higher than that in the existing range, is the same, as indicated by external steps, but despite much alteration, in 1818 the timber frame of the cottage was still visible.
- 1.28 Buckler's drawing (as always) is very informative. He was the first to show that there was a gate passage through the range, which can be placed immediately south of the existing Medieval Range (Figs 4 and 8) but was demolished when the Victorian Farmhouse was constructed. There is a lot of detail on the now-demolished gate passage and the first floor over it. The drawing is a preparatory sketch and is very lightly done, but with care can be read.
- 1.29 All of the openings in the existing east elevation are shown in their present form, or as can be deduced from the fabric, and, therefore, pre-date 1818. The drawing also shows the stone jambs of the north-east corner of the gate passage, which have since been removed. They match those still extant on the north-west corner.
- 1.30 The now-demolished northern end of the range is shown as having two more of the mullioned windows on the ground floor, a third being still extant. Clarke shows these as having three lights, but they are drawn too simply to show details. A door with a four-centred arched head is shown at the north end of the elevation, more clearly in Buckler's view of the "Tithe" Barn, also 1818, which happens to show the north end of the east elevation of the timber range. A small square window is also shown which is probably similar to those still extant in the south end of the elevation.
- 1.31 Buckler's view of the Medieval Range is particularly informative on the gate passage (Fig. 4). It shows that, although the passageway has large, well-cut quoins similar to

those that still exist on the western end (Fig. 11), it has a cranked timber lintel, probably with solid arch braces. This supported a stud wall with a first floor level somewhat higher than the ranges either side. His drawing shows that by 1818, the gateway had been filled-in to provide more accommodation.

- 1.32 Watts and Hughes suggest that this passage was doubled in width at some point, but this appears to be a misinterpretation of the Buckler drawing (2004, caption to Ill. 12).
- 1.33 A braced canopy is shown projecting over the site of the blocked gate passage protecting two openings in the blocking of the passageway and one in the wall south of it (Fig. 4). The southern opening in the gateway is either a door or a window converted from a door, with steps up to it. The door just south of the gateway, similarly has steps up to it. The canopy clearly post-dates the blocking of the gateway.
- 1.34 Buckler's view also shows that there was yet another three-light mullioned window south of the gate passage, which also partly benefited from the canopy. This is what seems to have given Watt and Hughes the impression that this window projected like a bay or oriel, but it is clearly flush with its wall (ibid).
- 1.35 Buckler also shows two chimney stacks on the roof ridge (as does Clarke) and an indication of the break in roofing shown by Clarke. The northern is that still in place and the southern is that whose remnants are visible in the south end of the first floor of the existing structure (Figs 9 and 13).
- 1.36 The west elevation is less well documented. Clarke gives a short description "...The lower part is found on examination to be of solid stone-work, the upper portion of wood and plaster and apparently of much later date. A door way of late Early English, or early Decorated work, is to be seen here". An engraving of a view taken some time before 1824, probably early the 19th century (Harral 1824) shows this lancet-arched doorway, not in much detail, but enough to support Clarke's interpretation (Fig. 5). It was in the now-demolished northern section (Medieval Range North). Another door and window are seen through the arch of the West Gatehouse (which is the main feature of this view) and the window may be that now in the north end of the west elevation, but the view is not precise enough to make definite identifications.

- 1.37 Incidentally, both this view and Buckler's indicate that the external ground level of the existing timber range towards its north end was somewhat lower than today. A photograph of the west elevation in the NMR (DD68/2; copy at GRO SR543 45556/51) confirms this and allows an estimate of 0.6-0.7m as the difference from today. The higher ground level seems to have existed around the southern end of the range (site of the Victorian Farmhouse) according to Buckler.
- 1.38 The archaeological history and background is given in the report on the evaluation trenches (CA 2014).

## 2. THE BUILDINGS TODAY

### *The timber-framed and masonry Medieval Range*

- 2.1 The upper and lower storeys of this building are structurally distinct, the ground floor being of traditional masonry construction and the upper floor entirely timber-framed (Fig. 6). The exact relationship between them is odd and hard to understand. In 1853 Clarke wrote "below...with an exterior facing of stone, above, of wood and plaster. Though this upper part bears strong marks of antiquity, we are almost convinced that it was erected since the time of the monks...".
- 2.2 John Rhodes first made a serious attempt to understand the structural phasing of the ground floor and prepared phased drawings of the masonry, inside and out (drawings now held in Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery). These have been reviewed on site and the great majority of his phasing analysis accepted (Fig, 7, 8, 9 and 10). The phasing is largely based on differences in the character of areas of the masonry, and the clear occurrence of structural breaks in the stonework. Much has been obscured by recent work since Rhodes's analysis, including refacing, the cutting of new openings and covering with a coating to preserve areas of crumbling lias stone. This and repointing over the years means that even basic visual mortar comparisons could not easily be carried out.

### *Phase 1 masonry*

- 2.3 The dating of these phases is difficult. Clarke's observation of the 13th or 14th century doorway in the west elevation suggests an early origin for the structure. On the other hand, this could have been reset. Rhodes identified "pre-16th century" masonry and with one exception this is accepted as the oldest masonry in the present building. It consists of neatly coursed, fairly regularly sized, long blocks of lias and is stratigraphically the earliest stonework. It could, therefore, be of the same

date as the arched doorway. It is present in both east (Figs 6 and 7) and west (Fig. 8) elevations.

- 2.4 Rhodes identified an area at the north end of the interior of the west wall which seems to have no facing (Fig. 9, Phase 5 walling around Window W5). He suggested this might have been a scar of a removed chimney stack. Given its size (more than 7.5m) it would have to be a complex of hearths and ovens. However, this section of wall blocks two-thirds of the Phase 3 mullioned window here, the last third of which was given a new jamb in brick as part of the blocking (Fig. 10). Assuming that the window was not inserted with two lights blanked off (which is, in fact possible), this indicates a later phase for this masonry.
- 2.5 The date of the early style walling was tested by excavation (see CA 2014 for details). Trench 910 in the north-east corner of the building found a wall parallel to the eastern wall cut away by a linear feature against the inside (west) face of the external wall. This feature was not bottomed, but was interpreted as the construction trench for the east wall of the range. However, it contained glass bottle sherds and small amounts of pottery and clay pipe of late 18th/early 19th century date. It also seemed to come to an end within the trench at the south end, and possibly at the north, although here it was truncated by a mid 19th-century cut. This, and the fact that the second largest weight of finds was wall plaster, suggests it was a secondary excavation along the wall.
- 2.6 One explanation might be that this inner wall was merely the front panel of a stone bench supporting either stone slabs or timber plank seating. The finds may have found their way into the void behind it if such slabs were removed during the raising of the floor level.
- 2.7 Trench 908, inside and against the western wall showed a stone setting that might be a similar structure, with an apparent, filled cut (not excavated) between it and the wall.
- 2.8 Trench 907 showed no such bench, but a more extensive post-medieval excavation here had removed all possible medieval layers down to the foundation offset.
- 2.9 A similar cut along the inside of the east wall was recorded in Trench 909, outside the north end of the truncated building (Medieval Range North). This was more clearly not a construction trench, the section showing it reaching only as far as the top of the foundation offset. The material it was cut through, which post-dated the



footings, contained medieval and post-medieval finds, of a similar range to those in Trench 910. The offset was at c. 9.3mOD, and the cut in Trench 910 did not quite reach this level. The wall itself was very similar in style to the earliest phase identified in the above ground structure.

- 2.10 Whatever the function of these cuts (which may well be the same one), they are post-medieval and pre-date the construction of the gable wall which was built when the northern end of the range was demolished in the 1870s.
- 2.11 The depth of the offset of the wall of the demolished section (in Trench 909) suggests a floor, of which no sign was seen in the excavation, at about 0.6m below the present floor level.
- 2.12 On the west side of the ground floor the excavation of Trench 907 found an offset single course of footing at about one metre below the present concrete floor. A rough floor of broken sandstone slabs pre-dated this offset. This floor was buried by a stony, sandy silt make-up over which was laid, at offset level, a thin gravelly surface that may have had lime binder in it, making a thin mortar floor. This seems to have run up to the stone base of the cross-wall described below. Both were sealed by a thicker, dark brown silt with 17th or 18th century material in it.
- 2.13 A wall footing of one course of long blocks supporting a large, well-finished cuboid block of oolite projected from the plinth course, the top block level with it and clearly contemporary. No sign of the wall continuing upwards was visible in the adjacent wall face, suggesting that it may have merely been the plinth for a timber cross-wall.
- 2.14 The main wall had been rebuilt or refaced from c. 0.48m above the offset. As this contains recycled brick it is assumed this is 17th or 18th century.
- 2.15 These results suggest a floor at about 0.7 to one metre below the present internal floor, belonging to an early stage of the structure. Finds dating is inconclusive, but gives a TAQ of the 17th or 18th centuries. They also suggest a considerable amount of disturbance below the present floor level in the post-medieval centuries.

### ***Phase 2 masonry***

- 2.16 The four-centred doorway in the east elevation ought to be 15th to 17th century in date (Figs 6 and 7). It is inserted into the earliest wall. It shares masonry type with the masonry in the north wall of the gate passage (Figs 4, 9, 11 and 33). This masonry can be characterised as neatly coursed lias, with jambs and quoins cut from large oolite blocks. The courses are varied with bands of very thin coursing, cut

sharply and laid very neatly. This phase of work seems to be contemporary with the deep, concave-moulded string course that reduces the width of the ground floor to that of the timber-framed first floor.

- 2.17 The concave stone course is a strange feature. As far as I can see it is unique in half-timbered houses, the upper, framed floors of which are normally the same width or wider than the lower floor. In fact, the only vaguely similar examples where the wall is slightly wider than the upper floor are the result of the ground floor being rebuilt in stone (under-building), for example (at random), The Old Rectory, Helmsley, N. Yorks. They are much more usually found where a stone wall thins above a plinth or at a storey level.
- 2.18 Its constituent blocks (of which there must have been about 80 in the whole building before the demolition of the 1870s – many, if not all, are still on site) are all of the same profile but about half (nine) in the southern half of the west elevation are only half the height of the full size blocks elsewhere (Fig. 8). The course is completed by two stone courses that do not appear to be shaped but are roughly sloped back. It is hard to be sure as they are very eroded. These lower blocks are very like ordinary Perpendicular moulded string courses and can be compared to the plinth offsets in the Brick Range.
- 2.19 On the east elevation the eleven or twelve blocks in the equivalent position are also slightly thinner than the others, but only by a few inches, and the height is made up by a course of rubble (Fig. 7).
- 2.20 These differences rather strongly imply that the concave blocks were sourced from various places (though probably in the same building) rather than being cut for the present purpose.
- 2.21 This phase of masonry would be contemporary with the gate passage as shown in Buckler (Fig. 4). There are the remains of two splayed doorways into the gate passage from the range, one central (D3), and just east of the main gate jamb recorded by Rhodes, and the other at the inner, east end of the gate passage (D2) (Fig. 9, “South elevation” and “South Wall Interior” and Fig. 33). These have lost their heads and been much rebuilt and large elements replaced in brick and stone. Only the western side of the eastern doorway survived Victorian interference (Fig. 33).

- 2.22 There is no sign now of the gate jamb recorded by Rhodes, and its position, barely visible west of the Victorian chimney breast even then, might have been obscured or cut away by works in the late 1970s or later.
- 2.23 A similarly splayed doorway has been altered into the window on the west elevation, W3. This is structurally contemporary with the gate passage quoins. This may be the door visible through the arch of the main gate in Fig. 5. It was a window by 1875 (NMR SR553/45556.51GS). The four-centred arched doorway in the demolished north end of the east elevation will also have belonged to this phase.
- 2.24 At least one of the internally splayed windows on the east elevation may belong to this phase (W5 on Fig. 7), the large oolite jambs probably framing a taller window, reduced in height in a later phase. The window is shown at its present size in 1818 (Fig. 4). The slightly taller window to the south of this one (W6 on Fig. 7) contains similar jamb stones but looks to have been rebuilt in a later phase.
- 2.25 Other openings that may belong to this phase are represented by jamb stones below and north of window W2 (which probably replaces them) and the splayed, southern jamb of door D5 in the west wall (Fig. 9). Like the doorways at the south end, this has been heavily rebuilt in brick.

### ***Phase 3 masonry***

- 2.26 The next phase seems to be associated with the insertion of the mullioned windows into the wall, as shown in Buckler's and Clarke's views. The masonry is superficially like the Phase 2 narrow coursing, but is rather less neatly cut and less regularly and less horizontally coursed.
- 2.27 Only W1 and W4 survive from these mullioned windows, and only the jambs, sills and lintels are part of the windows as built (Figs 7 and 8). They share a simple stepped chamfer profile that could be 15th, 16th or 17th century. The mullions themselves and the window heads have been taken from elsewhere and inserted. The mullions have concave chamfers and probably come from 16th-century windows somewhere. The finely profiled heads are of similar date and style, but do not quite match the mullions (Fig. 12). The disparate sources of these elements is obvious from the mismatch of moulding profiles and the fact that the stone blocks from which the window heads have been carved have been reduced in width to fit the present openings. The original jambs are slotted for lead comes for glazing, as are the inserted mullions, but the heads are not.

- 2.28 The window stonework is now very badly eroded and some has been recently replaced with new ashlar. It is consequently difficult to know whether the windows were completed in this phase as they are now, from various constituent parts, or if the insertions are later repairs.
- 2.29 The concave moulding at first floor level has been cut into to accommodate window W1. This window has been reduced to one light by internal blocking and rebuilding of its southern jamb (see para 2.4).
- 2.30 Windows W6 and W5 probably reached their present form in this period.
- 2.31 The other clear insertion which is allocated to this phase is the chimney stack visible on the first floor (Fig. 13). This served a fireplace on the southern side, now a first floor room of the Victorian Farmhouse, but then in a room over the gateway. The external stack is visible in both Buckler's and Clarke's drawings (Figs 3 and 4).
- 2.32 The hearth level would have been 0.75m above the first floor in the surviving part of the medieval range and Rhodes marked this as "level of hearth behind" on his drawing. This is not now visible internally. This floor level is marked on the southern wall of the range by a beam. This is a short remnant of the baseplate of the first-floor timber frame over the gateway. A separated short length at the western end is also *in situ*, with evidence of a mortise and tenon joint to the principal wall post, now broken (Fig. 9).
- 2.33 This beam has been cut away to build the stack, which sits on top of the Phase 2 masonry of the gate passage. The level of the hearth indicates it was built before the floor of the room over the passageway was lowered (as Bucklers drawing indicates). This is thought to have taken place in Phase 4.
- 2.34 As we have an early 18th-century record that the "the present dwelling house was altered from being an outhouse to what it is at present" " after the Civil War, then it is probable that this is when the insertion of these windows and the associated works was carried out. It is unlikely that the northern end (of the existing Medieval Range) was a dwelling house, at least beyond the existing stack, while it is clear that the southern end became the "modern cottage" recorded by Clarke and shown less altered by Buckler.

#### **Phase 4 masonry**

- 2.35 This is mostly repairs, blockings and refacings that seem to date to the 18th and early 19th centuries, but is when the floor of the room over the passage was

lowered. Brick makes a more regular appearance in this phase, hand-made, unfrogged and between 2½” and 2¾” (63.5mm and 70mm) thick. The bricks are well-mixed, a consistent brick-red colour internally, with the usual firing variations on the outside.

- 2.36 The blocking of the gateway took place in this period and the lowering of the floor over the gate passage to the general level. Buckler’s drawing has an annotation in the wall below the cranked timber gate lintel, “Bk”, which suggests brick.
- 2.37 A doorway in the south-east corner of the present medieval range first floor would have led into the room, after its floor was lowered. Its door jamb appears to be contemporary with the lath and plaster infill of the truss here (described below) and it is full length to the present floor level. It seems to have been blocked with brick when the present Victorian farmhouse was built (Fig. 13).
- 2.38 On the ground floor Rhodes recorded a doorway with a brick segmentally-arched head exactly below this, using door D2 of Phase 2, but narrowed and reconfigured in brick (Fig. 9). Its components have been removed completely since then and the opening closed with concrete block (see also Fig. 33).
- 2.39 Brick was typically used to rebuild door and window jambs internally (e.g. D5) and to reface areas of external wall where the lias crumbled, probably due to increased air pollution from the later 18th century on (especially the west elevation).
- 2.40 The upper stack that is now freestanding in the first floor probably dates from this phase (and is shown on Buckler), but the lower part appears to be a later 19th-century rebuild, recently much restored. It post-dated layer 90702 in Trench 907, of 19th-century date (CA 2014).
- 2.41 Between the depictions of Buckler and Clarke (1818-1853) the gateway cottage was tidied up and rendered, to the extent that Clarke did not recognise it as part of the range (Clarke 1853, 35).

#### ***Phase 5 masonry***

- 2.42 At some time in the 1870s the northern end of the medieval range was reduced in length by approximately 50%, and the “modern cottage” that had included the gateway was removed and replaced by the present farmhouse. This seems to have re-used the stone stack of Period 3, and rebuilt it in brick above the tie beam of the truss that now formed the party wall between it and the old range.

- 2.43 The quoins of the east end of the passage were removed and the western jambs of the eastern doorway, and the interior of the wall here rebuilt in brick. Those in the west side were retained. Door D2 was retained or refurbished, but narrowed from 6' to 4' 4" (1.8m to 1.4m).
- 2.44 The open end of the range left after the demolition of the northern end, was closed by a full height masonry wall. It seems to have re-used the masonry from the demolished end (Fig. 14).
- 2.45 The window W3 (Figs 7 and 9) seems to have been created from a Phase 4 door, before 1875 (the actual frame is more recent and the opening is currently closed with concrete block).
- 2.46 Window W2 is identical in design to those in the Brick Range, and different to those of Phase 3 (Fig. 15). The presence of walling adjacent to the window, set in a soft grey mortar, along with much brick in its jambs, suggests that this was recycled and inserted in the 19th century.

#### ***The Victorian Farmhouse (phase 5)***

- 2.47 The present building, replacing the southern end of the Medieval Range, the modern cottage mentioned by Clarke (Clarke 1853), post-dates 1854 and predates 1886, according to OS mapping. Hughes suggests that it was in existence by 1870, as the address by that year is given as "Abbey" rather than "Farm", suggesting a rise in status (Hughes and Rhodes 2003, 34). Stylistically this is entirely possible. The architect P. C. Hardwick (1822-1892) may have been responsible for the design, but there is no direct evidence for his authorship, and if such a commission was dealt with by his office, it seems unlikely that he would have involved himself in such a minor work.
- 2.48 The farmhouse is built of brick with oolitic stone dressings, in a superficially high gothic revival style (Figs 30-32). In detail, however, it is evidently using the Perpendicular motifs of the priory buildings around it, rather than the 14th-century Gothic usually preferred by the purer revivalists. Structurally, it utilises the south wall of the Medieval Range, supplementing it with new work where necessary (Fig. 29). It seems to have followed the footprint of the earlier building, with a slightly wider, westward-projecting bay on the site of the gate passage.
- 2.49 There are two main floors and a tall attic. The latter seems to have been dead space, despite being lit with tall gable windows. An old doorway in the gable of the

retained south wall of the Medieval Range, which would have opened into the new attic, was blocked off with moulded face bricks, presumably when the new block was added.

- 2.50 The ground plan is simple, two rooms on each floor, either side of an entrance hall and staircase (Fig. 29).
- 2.51 The building is externally unaltered from when it was built, except for some truncation at the tops of the chimneys, recent concrete blocking of windows and the presumed replacement of at least some of the roof covering after fire damage.
- 2.52 The brick bond is essentially Flemish bond, but this is abandoned to a quite irregular bond wherever the stone dressings of windows and quoins demand.
- 2.53 Internally, the building has been drastically altered and nothing of its internal fittings or finishes survives (unless the wooden window reveals are the original, which they may be). These alterations result from two phases of works on the house. The first took place in the late 1970s when the farmhouse was converted for the use of the Gloucester Archaeological Unit. The internal plan was changed, new doors inserted, others blocked, rooms subdivided, fireplaces (presumably) removed and the building replastered and redecorated. These changes are shown on Figs 29 and 34-37.
- 2.54 The building has suffered an arson attack and the roof timbers have undergone repair. In addition, in recent years (since 2009), large parts of the interior have been stripped back to brick. It is assumed that the stairs were removed in this second phase of works (Fig. 35).
- 2.55 The latter operation has, at least, revealed that, while the exterior brickwork is high quality, regular 3" (76.2mm) thick, moulded face bricks, the interior is of thinner, more irregular moulded commons (2¾", 70mm) and includes apparently recycled bricks that are longer and even thinner (2¼", 57mm). Everything is laid in lime mortar.
- 2.56 The building is consequently a shell, retaining the plan and structure and external details of the original build, but nothing else pre-dating c. 1980.

### ***The Timber frame***

- 2.57 The oak timber frame is relatively straightforward to analyse and describe, but its relationship to the ground floor is extremely hard to clarify.

- 2.58 As it stands, the structure seems to be one build, although it can be divided into two sections. It seems that the southern section (from Truss 4, detailed below) belonged functionally with the demolished part of the range to the south, while the northern section was continuous with the demolished northern end.
- 2.59 The frame was externally very consistent, being a simple, close-studded range in six surviving bays (A to F, north to south). These are only evident externally from the pegged joints of the wall posts to the girding beam and wall plates, the wall posts being the same width as the studs (Figs 6-8).
- 2.60 The narrow panels between the studs are now filled with brick of 19th-century character (where it has not been recently removed). The removal of the brick has revealed the grooves in each side of the studs to take the sprung laths of the lath and plaster infill. This was replaced after 1853, as Clarke records the upper floor as “wood and plaster” in that year (para 2.1 above).
- 2.61 This removal has also revealed the vestiges of six original windows (already noted by Rhodes). These invariably span two panels, and are all in the southern half of the range, south of Truss 4. They are placed in the same positions on each elevation: at the extreme south side of Bay A and one either side of Truss 3 (Figs 7 and 8). In most cases the evidence is in the form of sawn-off joints and pegs and the absence of grooving for infill in the parts of the studs that formed the window jambs. One sill timber is still in place in Bay C (Fig. 16) and a lintel in Bay A.
- 2.62 The window positions now all have a whole stud in the centre, generally with lath grooves. The studs are clearly ancient, and are almost certain to have come from the demolished northern end of the range, suggesting these windows were removed after its demolition. The foot tenon of one of these studs was exposed in the east elevation, nailed in place. A scored XX may indicate its original position as the twentieth stud from the original north end of the range (Fig. 17).
- 2.63 There is no evidence of windows older than the 20th century in the existing north end of the range.
- 2.64 Internally the wall posts are of larger scantling and are jowled top and bottom and chamfered (Figs 16, 18 and 19). Mostly the chamfer does not stop but in one case on Truss 4, one chamfer is run out.
- 2.65 The girding beam is in several long sections jointed with face-splayed, mortised, side-pegged scarfs, three on the east and two in the west. Both beams are scarfed



immediately north of Truss 4. The wall plate is similarly jointed just north of Truss 4 (counting from the south) on both sides and again just south of Truss 2.

- 2.66 There are three types of truss. Trusses 1, 2 and 4 (Fig. 18) are tie beam and collar designs with a crown strut linking the two and curved, raking queen struts rising to the principals at the first purlin (Fig. 20). Two further raking struts link collar to principal at the second row of purlins. Truss 2 has small, curved braces at the junction with the wall posts (it is the only one originally open and there are no such braces in the other trusses of this group).
- 2.67 The trusses are closed with lath and plaster. Truss 1 has a groove in the top face for the lath staves, while Truss 2 has mortises. No grooving or mortising was noted in the principals. Given the inconsistency of the stave fixing it is not clear if the closing is primary or not. A doorway, which appears to be contemporary with the lath and plaster infilling, is still in place above the tie beam of Truss 1. This would have given access to the attic in the converted cottage before the Victorian Farmhouse was built. It is blocked with bricks similar to those used in the farmhouse.
- 2.68 Left of the doorway is the upper part of the stack described in paras 2.29/30. This is a rebuild in brick of 18th-century or earlier character and replaced a whole lath and plaster panel above the tie beam.
- 2.69 There is evidence, in the form of surviving lath and plaster, and of nail and lath marks, on the internal roof slope of Bay A, covering the wind braces, but this looks to be 18th or 19th century. It is not visible elsewhere (e.g. Fig. 22).
- 2.70 Truss 4 has two substantial studs rising from the floor beam to the tiebeam, dividing the truss into three panels. In the western panel is a large curved “tension” brace rising from the floor beam to the stud just below the tiebeam. There is evidence for another in the eastern panel. The spandrel of the brace is in-filled as the rest of the truss. The vertical staves are visible through damage to the plaster and the grooves and mortises for removed ones are also evident in the now-open panels. Clearly this truss was completely closed (Fig. 21).
- 2.71 Truss 2 has evidence of a partition in a similar position, with mortises for lath staves and a stud. However, the small up-brace and the position of the stud mortises makes it clear that there was no large curved brace here, and that any partition was only half width (Fig. 22).

- 2.72 The second type, Truss 3, of the arch-braced collar type (Fig 20, foreground). The principals sit directly on the wall post heads and the braces are jointed to them with a long multi-pegged tenon blade a little distance above the wall plate level. The arch braces are concave chamfered and die elegantly into the principals. The collar is slightly cranked and is also mortised for a long multi-pegged tenon blade.
- 2.73 The trusses are linked with two rows of threaded purlins and two rows of arched windbraces (one lower set missing in Bay 2). The latter were trenched into the back of the purlins and mortised into the principals. The common rafters are carried on the purlins.
- 2.74 All main horizontal timbers in Bays 1-3 are chamfered with a plain straight stop (Fig. 23).
- 2.75 The disposition of bay types here strongly suggest a lodging, with an upper chamber of some pretension, essentially an upper chamber of two bays (B and C), with a secondary, partly separated room in the bay to the south (A). Access to this set is discussed below.
- 2.76 Bays D-F (Trusses 5-7) are much plainer. The trusses are simple tiebeam types with small curved braces to the wall posts. There are windbraces only to the lower purlins and, given that the principals are quite small here, are trenched into the back of the timbers and sandwiched by common rafters fitted to the backs of the principals.
- 2.77 Only the wallplates are chamfered and then with run-outs rather than straight stops.
- 2.78 There is no sign that these three bays were ever separated from each other, although they do appear to have been walled off from the bays A-C. However, at the north end is a lath and plastered stud wall with central doorway, of typical 18th or earlier 19th-century style set under the tiebeam and hiding the curved braces (Fig. 24). It clearly pre-dates the closing end wall built when the Medieval Range North was demolished.
- 2.79 A puzzling aspect of the framing is that the three southern bays are built as a jettied storey. This is may also have been true of the northern bays but if so the floor beams here seem to have been replaced by three widely spaced beams set in the masonry below. They now support modern joists resting on their upper faces. There are no mortises in these beams to take joists. Whether the bressummer is set on the beams at all could not be established at this end, but the beams are lower than the southern ones and set directly in the masonry walls, so this is less likely.

- 2.80 The three southern bays have 17 large, closely spaced, transverse floor beams, set in medieval fashion on their sides, whose ends have rounded lower corners. These beams rest directly on the walling below (but are hidden behind masonry) and support the girding beam, which is, in effect, a jetty bressummer. It runs across them in a shallow rebate in the beam end, overhanging very slightly. This bressummer supports the wall studs and the wallposts of the trusses whose feet are jowled and tenoned in an exact mirror version of the head-to-wallplate/tiebeam joint (Fig. 25).
- 2.81 This is a certain indication that the upper floor was designed to be jettied. It is possible that given the slight overhang of the bressummer this was only slightly more than a false or hewn jetty, although the position of the beams makes this unlikely. The underside of the ends of the jettied beams could not be seen so any indication of marks or mortises for a timber lower floor or marks from an earlier stone ground floor could not be checked.
- 2.82 The obvious explanation would be that the ground floor has been underbuilt. However, in that case one would expect the new ground floor would be built at the same width as the upper floor or narrower. That it is wider and the concave stone plinth blocks have been (re-)used to reduce it to meet the timber frame suggests that the timber frame is secondary to the wall.
- 2.83 However, a timber frame built for the ground floor would presumably fit the dimensions and if it was jettied would be wider than the base.
- 2.84 Timber frames can be moved and re-used, and it is possible that bays A-C come from elsewhere and that Bays D-F were built to match. The differences in design (and the scarf joints in the wall plate and bressummer) could support this interpretation, although the projection of these timbers beyond the north end of Truss 4 suggest that it was always longer than three bays in any case. Nonetheless, it is hardly conceivable that the entire range pre-truncation, was moved from elsewhere, not least because the structure is so unusual: a very long, freestanding structure hard to imagine existing ready-made elsewhere. The existence of chamfers on the north side of the tie beam and complete lack of weathering also suggests that Truss 4 was always an internal one.
- 2.85 The gateway chamber and the rest of the southern bay have vanished with no detailed record, but Buckler's drawing shows that the upper floor continued narrow with the coping stones masking the transition from a wider ground floor.

- 2.86 Access to the upper floor is now via a straight wooden stair set in a wide opening in the floor (Figs 10 and 18). This stair is itself clearly quite a recent thing of modern design. The opening is crude and has been contrived by sawing out eight of the ceiling beams and hanging seven of them on a trimmer supported at one end by a post which is probably one of the sawn-off beams. The post is probably the east end of the eighth beam as it exhibits mortises exactly similar to those in it. How the eighth is supported is unclear (Fig. 27). The beam has many mortises in its underside showing it once had a partition under it. Another is evidenced under the trimmer. As the trimmer a re-used beam (perhaps from the north end of the existing range), the mortises are not evidence for a stair enclosure, as Rhodes thought, but of another transverse partition across the ground floor.
- 2.87 This also makes it clear that the stair opening is secondary, as the crude truncation of the main ceiling beams show. It is very probably of Phase 5 as are the floorboards in this half of the building.
- 2.88 The original access to the upper floor is not evident. As there was no access to the southern bays from the northern end, it seems probable that access was from the gatehouse in some form.

### ***Conclusions for the Medieval Range***

- 2.89 There is a possibility that this range dates from the early 14th century, if Clarke's observations can be trusted, and there is support for his view (Fig. 5). This may be the date of the oldest masonry in the ground floor.
- 2.90 The second phase of masonry is most likely to be 15th to 16th century. This is the most likely date for the timber frame, the arch-braced collar truss upper chamber most likely being in the middle of that time range. This would be the period (1500-1539?) in which the long Medieval Range and its inner gateway reached the form much of which survived to be recorded by antiquarians and fragments of which survive today.
- 2.91 The third phase may be the conversion of the "outhouse", to which use the range had descended in the 17th century, to the dwelling house after the Civil War and before 1717.
- 2.92 The fourth phase is probably not unified but a series of repairs in the 18th and early 19th century. It includes the works to the southern end between 1818 and 1853.

- 2.93 The fifth phase is the demolition of the north and south ends of the range in the 1870s and the construction of the Victorian Farmhouse, and works since then.

### **The Brick Range**

- 2.94 This has been subject to several previous investigations. John Clarke in 1853 thought the building was a modern (i.e post-medieval) structure on an older stone plinth. In 1989 John Rhodes published a historiography of Llanthony with a bibliography going back to 1712 and “Notes on its Historical Importance” (Rhodes 1989). However, this does not directly address the buildings.
- 2.95 Serious assessment of the building seems not to have begun until Richard Morriss’s conservation plan of 2009 (Morriss 2009). There his brief description and interpretation of the building, while capable of further detailing, is still not challenged in essentials by any work to date.
- 2.96 This was followed by a detailed assessment by Oxford Archaeology (presented in this document as Appendix C), part of a wider investigation of the “Great Court of the... Priory” (Allen *et al* 2014). This was part of a wider excavation report but specifically assessed the three test pits dug by CA in 2009 inside and outside the south wall of the building (op. cit, 116 and Figs 34, 36-7, although the last is within the demolished south-east building), and utilised rectified photographs of the elevations of the building created in 2011 and made available by Headland Archaeology. The detailed assessment (by Morriss himself) confirmed the comments Morriss had already made in 2009.
- 2.97 The Brick Range is a long, roofless, rectangular, brick building. It is conventionally thought to date from the early 16th century and seems to be mentioned in documents from the early 17th century (1629 “ii fair stables” Hughes and Rhodes 2003, 9, but 1626 in *ibid*, 5).
- 2.98 There seems little reason to doubt this conventional view, although Clarke believed it was a modern brick building on an older stone base (1853, 35). Analysis of the brick fabric 2, of which the great bulk of the Brick Range is built, strongly supports a date of the late 15th to early 16th century (Allen *et al* 2014, 131), as does a general consideration of the brick bonding, construction technique and the style of the windows.
- 2.99 There is little to add to the analysis and description and the suggested phasing of the building. However, some points may be made.

- 2.100 Despite recognition of the late phase of the hay racks indicated by their relationship to the earlier first floor level (Allen et al 2014, 123), it has been suggested that some of them may belong to a use as a stable in the earliest phase (Allen et al 2014, 124). However, the present author considers that all the slots representing the racks are cut across the oldest ceiling beam positions and are higher than the ceiling line so are clearly part of the later arrangements with a higher first floor (op. cit, fig. 35). As this higher first floor evidently belongs to the later insertion of the cross wall (which bears the pockets for the floor joists that connected the higher transverse beams), and the rack slots respect this cross wall (ibid, 122), these racks must belong to the later floor phase, probably 17th or 18th century.
- 2.101 Wrought-iron brackets and bars still in place, hammered into the joints in the brickwork would have held the racks in place. They are of two kinds, a forged, one-piece strap and peg, and a rolled iron or steel strap (Fig. 26). This suggests use into the later 19th century, the forged pegs being of a traditional, earlier style. At any rate, as correctly argued in Allen et al 2014, this phase must pre-date the insertion of the large, now-blocked, windows in the north wall, as these cut away some of the beam pockets.
- 2.102 Four stone blocks now flush with the internal wall face of the west gable end have been interpreted as the remains of corbels for floor beams (Allen et al, 2014, 121). They do not match up with any known floor levels, and the upper two do not line up with each other, so this interpretation may need revisiting.
- 2.103 The four-centred, arched doorway at the east end of the north wall also belongs to this first phase. There seems to have been another smaller doorway opposite it in the south wall. It is now blocked externally with concrete blocks and internally in stone. The shape of the upper surviving, fragmentary external jambs suggest that it had a depressed, four-centred, arched head. The present chamfered plinth above it seems to have been reduced in depth to make space for this arch, or, less likely, is a later insertion. Internally, the area above the arch or lintel has collapsed and been rebuilt. This supports Morriss's contention that these openings had internal wooden lintels.
- 2.104 The present large doorway in the north elevation, which is certainly a later insertion, may occupy the site of an earlier doorway. It is otherwise contemporary with the large windows and the removal of the floor. Morriss has pointed out that its construction has removed one of the original first floor windows. It is probable that

some elements of the jambs of this large doorway may be reused from an older door, but the brickwork around them shows that they are secondary in their present position. This large opening otherwise seems more probably to belong to a late, 19th or 20th century use; certainly the steel lintel does.

- 2.105 Another point to make is the possible rebuilding of the west gable. The gable is in a fairly consistent English Bond in a paler red brick, quite distinct from the disorganised stretcher bond with occasional headers used elsewhere, and is thinner than the wall below. Until its re-employment in the early 19th century, English Bond was rarely used after c. 1630 (Brunskill 1990). On the interior of the gable end, the three courses immediately above the window heads are curiously distorted in a wave formation rather than horizontal and are also in English bond. This may be connected to the fitting of the chamfered, northern lintel, so very unlike the others. The two lower windows are blocked in a rough English Bond, the others in stretcher bond and the window under the chamfered lintel, in modern bricks in cement mortar.
- 2.106 The stub walls either side of the eastern gable end are built in bricks identical to those in the farmhouse and may therefore be of a 19th-century date. This wall replaced the stone gable end borrowed from the older building to the east. This building had been demolished by 1782 (Watts and Hughes 2004), but the replacement need not have been contemporary with the demolition as the end wall would most likely have been retained, and may have been replaced only when it became dilapidated, or a new entrance at this end needed.
- 2.107 This may be the date of the cross wall, however, as the use of a header bond, though rare, is more typically 18th-century. This wall has no pockets for joists on its east side, suggesting that the first floor was removed in this phase of work at this end, while still existing (at the higher later-phase level) on the other side of the wall.
- 2.108 Various alterations are evident in the brickwork. The obvious traces are those of large windows, with wooden lintels, two west of the large entrance and one east, post-dating the removal of the internal, second phase, first floor. Internally these are blocked in brick; externally they are boarded up.
- 2.109 Two original windows are present at the east end internally, but only the upper one was noted by the Caroe survey. It was probably obscured by foliage, as it only exists externally as a stone sill and the bottom of the jambs. The brickwork facing between them has collapsed and on both faces has been rebuilt with their blocking. This has been done extremely carefully on the outside and is hard to see, but can be isolated.

- 2.110 They clearly respect a contemporary first floor, east of the inserted cross wall, one on each floor. Areas of sideways-laid bricks at first floor level suggest the repair of a scar of a floor, infilled joist pockets being visible on the opposite wall at this height. These are the same height as the earlier joist pockets in the western end.
- 2.111 It should also be noted that the refacing of much of the walling has been done very carefully, and that the re-use of old bricks and a similar mortar and bonding makes distinguishing other less-clearly signposted alterations much more difficult.
- 2.112 This is generally true on the north elevation where the stone frames of windows, undoubtedly original to the fabric, are often incomplete, yet are blocked by and set in what at first appears to be unbroken areas of brickwork. Careful observation can, however, distinguish the areas of repair. It is presumed that these brick repairs and refacings must have been carried out as part of conservation management of some kind, rather than the kind of running repair otherwise evident during the functioning lifetime of the buildings.

### ***Trial trenches***

- 2.113 The floor level of the first phase of the Brick Range is given by the threshold of the arched doorway revealed in evaluation trench 901 at 9.75mOD (approximately 0.4m below the present ground level), giving a minimum height of the doorway of 2.21m (minus a presumed internal timber lintel). A thin mortar layer at this level may have been the bedding for a floor.
- 2.114 Trench 903 at the other end of the building was taken down to 9.12m OD or 1.25m below present floor level, and no original floor level was found. A mortar lens at this depth (90308) was clearly a construction drip and not a floor make-up remnant. Above this was a thick dump layer of containing 17th or 18th-century pottery. Its upper surface was at 9.35m OD. Its existence suggests that any early 16th-century floor was removed and the ground dug out to lower the floor level. It was sealed by a layer of stone tile, nails and some charcoal. This suggests a roof collapse or even a fire. Lias stone *in situ* at the other end of the trench exhibited burning. This layer contained a lead ventilator quarry with the initials RH. Both the style and the initials (Richard Hart, the last prior) suggest an earlier 16th-century date for the quarry, but it must have fallen after the 17th or 18th century. It also suggests that the windows of that phase were glazed.
- 2.115 These layers were covered in a dumped make-up to support a pitched-brick floor cambered into a central drain constructed of black-finished channel bricks of late



19th/early 20th century type. Finds in the make-up were also of late 19th to early 20th century type. The drain discharged through a hole roughly hacked in the base of the western wall of the building, cutting through brick and the stone plinth.

- 2.116 The bricks were very similar to those in the walls of the building. Not enough is missing from the stables for them to have come from it and the south end of the west range was already reduced to its present state by 1780 (Watts and Hughes 2004, fig. 2), so could not have been the source. It is possible that a brick floor was lifted and relaid, but the archaeological sequence means it could not have come from here.
- 2.117 This floor was covered by a 20th century make-up and a concrete floor.
- 2.118 The question of floor levels is complicated by the levels of offset and change of material in the wall base. In Trench 901 the threshold is at the point where the rough stone foundation changes to more neatly laid stone wall. This is essentially the stone plinth visible at the west and south sides but largely buried on the north wall (seen in abandoned trench 902). The brick walling starts at 0.63m above the threshold (10.38m OD). There is evidence for a cutting down and back of the layers associated with the lowest part of the footing (90103) to the top of the foundation. This may suggest a rebuilding on an older footing, so that stone wall 90110 and the brick wall above is re-using an older foundation, 90108. Such a rebuild would post-date 90111 and the layer over it (90104), which produced post-medieval pottery. A rebuild of the wall at this date is extremely unlikely, so this disturbance must be part of the general lowering of the interior at this period.
- 2.119 In Trench 903 the brick work starts at 10m OD, the stone wall is 0.5m tall between this and the stone wall footing. All of the layers post-date all elements of the wall so that no useful sequence can be seen. However, there is a similar sequence of stone foundation, stone wall and then brick. The stone footing and wall are in one mortar and the brick in another. Whether this means that this brick wall is built on an earlier stone one is unclear, but possible.

### 3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The assessments of the two ranges have confirmed the general understanding of these buildings as late medieval, pre-Dissolution structures. The archaeological investigations below their floors have produced evidence that at first seems to

contradict this view. However, careful analysis suggests that all of the post-medieval finds are related to very extensive post-medieval excavation within these buildings.

### ***The Medieval Range***

- 3.2 No layers or finds from the excavations in this range could be associated with any medieval phases of this building, although one residual sherd of Saintonge ware from south-west France, usually associated with the wine trade, indicates, rather unsurprisingly, high status trading contact on the site in the 13th century.
- 3.3 There seems to have been much disturbance of the ground floor in the post-medieval centuries, and even the level of the original floor is uncertain. It is likely to have been very close to the foundation offset and evidence for wall benches rising from near this level has been adduced.
- 3.4 The presence of a wall bench and the possible early 14th century door noted by Clarke, suggests the possibility that the oldest masonry in the range dates from the early 14th century. This is not inherently unlikely.
- 3.5 A substantial recasting in the early 16th century is then proposed, in which period the timber-framed upper floor was added. The origin of this frame is still not fully understood but it can be interpreted as a reasonably high status lodging at the south end, possibly communicating with the chamber over the gate passage. The bays to the north seem to have been for storage. Their design certainly reflects a lower status for this end and the complete lack of windows here rather rules out any other use.
- 3.6 Antiquarian drawings suggest that both the southern and northern ends of the range were identical to the surviving section.
- 3.7 In the post-Dissolution period the range became agricultural buildings and in the second half of the 17th century was partially altered to a dwelling house. This situation is shown in 1818 by Buckler and with some changes in 1853 by Clarke. The mullioned windows were probably inserted at this phase. Other alterations and repairs can be allocated to this phase.
- 3.8 The south end of the range had been demolished before 1780 and even more fabric was lost when the residential end of the range was replaced with the present farmhouse in the 1870s and the northern half removed. This is when the lath and plaster infill of the timber frame was replaced in brick and the stone, north gable end

was built. This may be when the two surviving mullions in the north end of the range (W1 and W4) were repaired and the third one (W2) added.

- 3.9 Repairs and alterations in the early 21st centuries include a new doorway in the first floor from the Victorian farmhouse, stripping out of the farmhouse interior, and refacing of areas of stonework in the ground floor of the med range. Much of the brick infill in the first-floor external studding has been removed.

### ***The Brick Range***

- 3.10 This block is confirmed as an early 16th-century range, although its original function is unclear. The lack of original floors, partitions or other interior features makes the certain discovery of this unlikely. Lodgings, perhaps over stables, seem possible but the problems with this interpretation are aired in Allen et al 2014, 124-6. The sheer scale of the structure if always intended as stables is surprising. An upper floor is certain (in other words this was not a barn), but the lack of any indication of stairs or fireplaces is slightly odd, if explicable (Allen et al, 2014, 125).
- 3.11 “ii fair stables” are noted in 1626x9, and these may have been this range and the range at right angles to it.
- 3.12 The building seems to have been built on the footprint of an earlier structure of stone, but it is still possible that this is all one build, the stone footings being an insurance against the failure of brick in contact with the ground. No original floor certainly survives to help solve this issue, although a mortar skim may represent such a surface in CA TP2 (CA 2009) but this layer was disconnected stratigraphically from the walls. The white mortar used in the brick walling is quite different from the orangey yellow of the lime mortar of the buried stone work. This need not be of chronological significance, but may be.
- 3.13 Subdivision in the 18th or early 19th century went along with a first floor reset at a higher level. The evidence for hay racks belongs to this phase. The largely intact brick floor and central drain are probably a little later, perhaps contemporary with the construction of the Victorian farmhouse. The central brick gutter blocks are typical mid/late 19th-century products.
- 3.14 Large windows in the north wall and a large new doorway post-dated the removal of the first floor, and may date to the early 20th century. The first floor at the east end must also have been removed, as it would otherwise interfere with the full height opening in the gable end added at some point, soon or late, after the stone building

along the south-east boundary wall was demolished, which map evidence suggests was before 1780 (Watts and Hughes 2004). The brick types suggest a mid 19th-century date for this operation.

- 3.15 The Victorian Farmhouse is basically a single phase structure, built on to the south end of the Medieval Range in around 1870. It has, however, been gutted and refinished and refitted in around 1980 and more recently hard-stripped again, leaving nothing of its original finishes or fittings.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 This study has shown that the Medieval Range is a complex structure, with some unanswered questions, but is nonetheless clearly a late medieval structure with elements likely to originate in the 14th century.
- 4.2 Previous work has shown that the range is a fragment of a much larger range that extended north for more than twice the length of the present structure and southwards for slightly less than that.
- 4.3 The southern range contained a gateway through the range. The north wall of the gate passage survives in the ground floor of the south end of the existing building. The quoins on the north-western corner of the passage survive but have been lost to Victorian work on the north-eastern corner. A chamfered and rebated gate jamb on this wall was noted in previous studies but cannot currently be seen. Everything south of this wall has been replaced by the Victorian Farmhouse.
- 4.4 Despite the stone jamb it is clear that the gateway was covered by a cranked timber beam, probably with solid arch-braces.
- 4.5 The timber work in the south wall of the Medieval Range at first floor level indicates that there was a timber-framed chamber over the gateway at a higher level than the existing floor. This chamber has been lost to Victorian work, but antiquarian records confirm this interpretation, provide some of the missing detail (Fig. 4) and match the surviving fabric.
- 4.6 The existing range contained a chamber on the first floor at the south end, open to the roof, with indications that this formed a lodging. It may have communicated with the chamber over the gateway. It was separated from the northern bays of the range

- by a closed truss. These bays were windowless and are considered to have been for storage.
- 4.7 The style of timberwork suggests a late 15th to early 16th century date, but there is a possibility that the timber frame has been re-used, at least in part.
- 4.8 The ground plan of the Brick Range is, in contrast, largely complete, but nowhere does it survive as a roofed building. It has clearly been built off the west end of a pre-existing stone building, so originally had no independent gable end on the east. The south-west corner of the older building still survives with evidence for a doorway through it.
- 4.9 The building is built of brick facing a rubble core, with stone jambs and heads for the windows and doors. It was originally an L-shape with a door at the south end of the western wing, but no communication between the two wings. The only original surviving access to the southern wing was via a door at the east end in the north wall and another, smaller, door opposite it in the south wall. The present large opening west of the centre in the north wall is modern, but may be an enlarging of an older doorway.
- 4.10 The main wing, at least, had two floors. The relative heights are hard to confirm as no certain ground floor level is known. Its use as stables in the early 17th century, and its great size and relative grandeur supports the interpretation as lodgings over stables, but the absence of fireplaces or staircases, or indeed evidence of subdivision of the upper floor throws some doubt on this idea, as does the relative lack of fenestration.
- 4.11 The roof was certainly high and double-pitched, as indicated by the western gable remains, but it cannot be known if there was a loft or a ceiled upper floor. The two stone blocks in the gable at eaves level are not convincing as corbels for floor beams, particularly as they are at different levels.
- 4.12 The western wing seems to have been of one floor. There is no scar above the ground floor where east wall joined the main wing. Only the jamb of a door at the junction survives and nothing of the east wall otherwise above ground level. The west wall, while continuous with the gable end at ground floor level clearly never existed above as the gable end returns to the north wall of the main range via a set of stone quoins, so never continued north at the upper level.

- 4.13 Morriss suggest that an upper floor could have been of timber, but there is no direct evidence for an upper floor and the building could as easily have been of one floor.
- 4.14 Both these buildings are of high archaeological significance both for their standing structure and their buried archaeology. The Brick Range is a very early example of the use of brick in this region, and is an important exemplar of the afterlife of monastic buildings. While some minor details are disputed, the conclusions as to its significance and importance by Morriss (Allen et al 2014, 124) are supported in full. The Medieval Range is an important and rare example of a timber-framed structure in a monastic context, notwithstanding its confusing and still not fully resolved form and origin, and again is important for its history in the post-monastic period.

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**APPENDIX A: LISTED BUILDING ENTRIES**

SO8217 LLANTHONY ROAD 844-1/15/156 (East side) 23/01/52 Llanthony Priory, Range between Outer and Inner Courts (Formerly Listed as: HEMPSTED LANE Remains of Llanthony Priory)

GV I

Remains of the range between the Outer and Inner Courts of the Augustinian Priory of Llanthony Secunda. Late C14 and early C16; mullioned windows reset after 1646; C18 and C19 alterations. Squared and coursed limestone, C18 and C19 brick dressings; early C16 timber frame to upper floor; plain tile roof with C18 brick stack off centre to ridge on right. PLAN: formerly a long range of about thirty bays of which six bays in the approximate centre of the range remain to full height; at their southern end the six bays abut the side of the mid C19 farmhouse (qv) built on the site of the continuation of the range to the south and the Inner Gate which gave access to the Inner Court; the northern end of the range is indicated by the remains of its ashlar plinth. EXTERIOR: remaining six bays of two storeys, the lower storey of rubble, the upper storey timber-framed in close studding. East elevation has C20 windows to first floor; timber lintels over 2 windows left of large blocked doorway in chamfered 4-centred architrave; chamfered surround to 3-light C16 window to ground-floor right with hollow-chamfered 4-centred architraves to each light, set in cyma-moulded architrave. West elevation has C20 first-floor windows; one similar 3-light C16 window to ground-floor left, C20 door in inserted (probably C19) opening and later C16 window with chamfered architraves and sunk spandrels. INTERIOR: ground-floor beams of heavy scantling; first floor has signs of former window openings with slots for shutters and collar truss roof with 2 tiers of butt purlins with windbraces, angle side struts to 3 trusses; the disposition of mortice slots indicates that the upper floor was divided into 2 rooms. Probably built as a guest range. In the 1460s it was recorded that 80 people were taking communion in the precincts of the Priory. Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Listing NGR: SO8238918010

SO8217 LLANTHONY ROAD 844-1/15/155 (East side) 23/01/52 Llanthony Priory Farmhouse (Formerly Listed as: HEMPSTED LANE Remains of Llanthony Priory)

GV II

Farmhouse, now storehouse. c1870-80 on site and incorporating some remains of the south end (a former gatehouse) of the former C14 range of monastic buildings between the Outer and Inner Courts of the Augustinian Priory of Llanthony Secunda. Built of red brick with patterned blue headers and limestone ashlar dressings; slate roof with brick stacks. Tudor Gothic style. Double-depth block. EXTERIOR: two storeys. 3-bay east elevation, the centre gabled and broken forward with blind trefoiled light to apex; 2 trefoiled lancets in square-headed architrave to first floor; offset buttresses flank projecting porch with labelmould over hollow-chamfered ogee-headed doorway with 4 similar ogee arches to overlight; labelmould over lancet in square-headed architrave to left, Caernarvon-arched architrave in square-headed architrave above; these patterns repeated in 2-light transomed first-floor window and 3-light ground-floor window to right with plate-glass sashes. Similar detail to other elevations, the west elevation being articulated by offset stack and gable. INTERIOR: not inspected. This building dates from the use of the site as a farm, from the Dissolution until the late C19.

Listing NGR: SO8237917984

SO8217 LLANTHONY ROAD 844-1/15/160 (East side) 23/01/52 Llanthony Priory, Remains of Range on south side of Inner Court (Formerly Listed as: HEMPSTED LANE Remains of Llanthony Priory)

GV I

Remains of a range of monastic building on the south side of the Inner Court of the Augustinian Priory of Llanthony Secunda. Early C16. Random bond brick with limestone quoins and dressings. Rectangular plan. EXTERIOR: north elevation has stone quoins to large inserted double doorway and to former windows on 2 floors, all blocked; 4-centred window with sunk spandrels to first-floor right, then 3 corbels for beams to lean-to with large window; to left is large 4-centred chamfered arch to wide blocked doorway; truncated to left (east) end with C19 brickwork to left (east) gable end. West elevation has 3 windows to first floor and 2 to ground floor, all with chamfered architraves and sunk spandrels; splayed course of slabs over projecting ground floor. SUBSIDIARY FEATURES: wall projects north from west end, of brick for 10 metres then rubble for 3 metres; stone arched window; wall truncated and originally met range between inner and outer courts (qv).

Listing NGR: SO8237717950



## APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Llanthony Secunda Priory, Llanthony Road, Gloucester	
Short description	An Historic Building Assessment was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in September and October 2014 at Llanthony Secunda Priory. The results of the archaeological evaluation trenches were also taken into account. Two buildings were assessed: the timber and stone range north of and including the Victorian farmhouse, and the brick-built "Great Stable". The timber range was extremely complex, but in essence a ground floor of stone, of medieval origin, but with many phases of alteration and repair, supported a late 15th- to early 16th-century, timber-framed upper floor. The existing building is a remnant of a range that was as long again to the north, truncated in the 1870s, and before 1853 extended at least as far south as the present farmhouse does. The upper floor is constructed in a way that indicates it was jettied, but contradicting this is the fact that the current ground floor is wider than the upper storey, not narrower. It is tentatively suggested that the jettied section may come from somewhere else and the rest of the building constructed to match, although there are still unexplained anomalies. The Great Stable is a two storey brick range, conventionally dated to the early 16th century. It too has undergone much alteration. It is currently unroofed. A recent assessment of the building by Oxford Archaeology has been reviewed. The general conclusions of this report are accepted, with some minor revisions and comments and added information from the recent evaluation excavations by Cotswold Archaeology. The dating of this range to the early 16th century and its significance as an exceptionally early brick building (in the west country) are confirmed.	
Project dates	15 September to 1 October 2014	
Project type	Building Assessment	
Previous work	Building record and analysis (J. Rhodes 197x), Field evaluation (CA 2007) Historical reviews (Hughes and Rhodes 2003, Watts and Hughes 2004). Evaluation and Building Assessment and Record (Allen et al 2014)	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Llanthony Secunda Priory, Llanthony Road, Gloucester	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)		
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SO 82384 17992	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Gloucester City Council (GCC)	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Laurent Coleman	
Project Supervisor	Ray Holt	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>		
Priory		
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>		
N/A		
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)	
Physical	Gloucester City Museum	N/A
Paper	Gloucester City Museum & Art Gallery GLRCM: 2014.36	photographic registers, paper phased plans & elevations,
Digital	Gloucester City Museum & Art Gallery	digital photos,
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Llanthony Secunda Priory, Llanthony Road, Gloucester: Historic Building Assessment</i> . CA typescript report <b>14520</b>		

## **APPENDIX C: OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY'S REPORT ON THE BRICK RANGE**

Cotswold Archaeology is grateful to the authors and to Oxford Archaeology and Headland Archaeology for permission to include this report as an appendix to our report.

## **Chapter 7: The Great Stable and adjacent buildings in the south-west corner of the Great Court**

*By Richard K Morris and Tim Allen*

This report is extracted from a longer grey literature report (Allen et al. 2014) deposited with the Gloucester City HER.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The building identified as the Great Stable (Fig. 31) is a roofless rectangular shell sited against the southern boundary of the site. Immediately to the east are the remnants of the South-East Range, which seem to predate it, and attached to the building's north-western corner is the remaining wall of the South-West Range, which was contemporary with it.

A number of separate studies have been undertaken on this building, the results of which are all included here. In 2006 samples of brick from this, and from brick patches in the barn in the north-west corner of the Great Court, were sent to Alan Vince for analysis. In 2009 the Trust commissioned Cotswold Archaeological Trust to excavate three test-pits in and around the Great Stable (CAT 2009; Figs 31, 34, 36 and 37). One was dug around the south-west corner of the range, a second inside against the south wall, and a third just east of the surviving building, across the south wall of the adjacent South Range. A report was deposited with the Gloucester City HER, but has not been published.

A detailed photographic survey of the building was carried out by Headland Archaeology in 2011, but has not been published. We are grateful to Simon Mayes of Headland for making available all of the images, including the stitched composite elevations, in preparing this publication report.

In 2012 Richard K Morriss consultancy was asked to undertake an enhanced assessment of the Great Stable and adjacent buildings, which was completed in 2012. This report referred to the Headland survey, but did not incorporate any of their elevations.

At the time these reports were carried out the building was somewhat overgrown, making detailed observations of some areas difficult. In 2013, however, most of the vegetation was cleared, and shortly after this Leigh and Tim Allen of OA photographed the north and west external elevations to enable clearer composite scaled photographs to be constructed. As this work was not funded, however, it was not accompanied by a Total Station survey, although levels were later obtained on key points on the buildings. These composite photographic images were used to make outline scaled drawings. Further detailed photographs were also taken of specific elements on the south wall and in the interior. The clearing and further photography revealed some details not mentioned in the original report.

The publication report aims to integrate all of these elements into one summary narrative and therefore includes significant revisions and additions to Mr Morriss' original observations and interpretations.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE GREAT STABLE

### The Exterior

The building now consists simply of its four walls and one cross wall. It is approximately 34m/111ft. 6ins. long (west-east) and 9m/29ft. 6ins wide externally, with an internal width of 7.4m/24ft. The walls are faced with fairly regular hand-made red bricks, but it appears from the joist holes in the side walls (see Plate 37) that the brickwork is only a facing to rubblestone corework – copying traditional medieval masonry technique rather than being of solid brickwork. The original openings have oolitic limestone dressings. The internal ground level is higher than the original ground level, as the height of the blocked doorway at the east end is only 1.4m above present ground level. The original ground level appears to have been at least 0.5m lower (see Fig. 36 below).

#### *The North Elevation (Plate 38; Figure 32)*

The long north elevation faces into the priory precinct. Despite later changes, the original two-storey composition is largely identifiable in the surviving fabric. At the east end of the elevation there are no stone quoins; although the brickwork of the north wall is overgrown with ivy, it is clear from the south wall that the wall once butted against the gable end of an earlier structure, here called the South Range (Plate 39).

At the west end of the north elevation (Plate 38) there are, at first-floor level, ashlar masonry quoins marking the north-west angle of the building. Below the stone quoins at the north-west corner the north wall of the Great Stable and the gable end west wall are contemporary with a wall continuing northwards, so there are no quoins (Plate 42).

A clear pair of closely-set vertical construction breaks in the brickwork, approximately 7.7m from the north-west corner, presumably represents the position of a parallel wall running north (Plate 38; Plate 40). There are no indications of any primary openings in the north wall of the Great Stable to the west of this, but there are three corbels projecting from the wall at the same height, presumably to support a tie beam at first floor or roof level. This indicates that there was a south-west range built at right-angles to the Great Stables – and in line with the surviving Medieval Range to the north (see Fig. 31). Below the construction breaks, three stones from a door jamb indicate that there was a door through the eastern wall of the south-west range at this point.

The vertical breaks marking the east wall of the south-west range are topped by indistinct but angled pieces of broken limestone embedded in the brickwork just below the level of the adjacent first-floor window; there is no break in the brickwork above (Plate 40). This presumably indicates a ground floor brick wall topped by a plinth, matching the west wall. There was possibly timber framing above.

At the base of the wall at the west end, where the present ground level drops, the brickwork overlies several narrow and irregular courses of stonework. This is slightly higher (0.1m) than the level at which ashlar stonework gives way to brick on the west elevation, and the level of the base of the brickwork in the south internal elevation as exposed in the CAT test-pit 2 (see Figs 33 and 36). This suggests that there are only a few courses of brickwork below the present ground level on the external north elevation of the Great Stable, and that below this the wall consists of ashlar, with further stonework below a weathering, as on the west elevation (Plate 42).

The top of the brickwork of the north elevation, 2-3 brick courses above the windows, is only just below the top of the first floor below the gable in the better-preserved west end of the building (Plates 38 and 43). The south elevation is of the same height. This appears to indicate that the north (and south) walls survive virtually to full height below roof level. Both the north and south elevations are topped along much of their length by a weathering of modern concrete.

In the north elevation there are the remains of small single light windows on two levels, and of a large blocked doorway at the east end. It is a wide doorway with simply chamfered ashlar jambs under a simple four-centred head – made up of two large blocks of stone. It would presumably have been at least 2m/6ft 6ins tall, and indeed the floor found in test-pit 2 within the building was 2.05m below the level of the top of the door (Fig. 36).

The external face of the blocking is in brickwork not dissimilar from the rest of the elevation, but most of the internal blocking is in re-used blocks of ashlar masonry (Plate 41). The visible evidence suggests that the internal reveals of the opening were plain brick jambs, rather than ashlar masonry, and that there was a timber lintel on the inner face.

The ground and first-floor primary windows were not vertically aligned, and so not symmetrical. Three primary ground floor window openings can be identified (Fig. 32, A-C), all in the eastern half of the building. They are not evenly spaced. These fairly narrow openings have been blocked in hand-made red brick. They have ashlar masonry surrounds but the blocking makes it difficult to assess their original design. The survival of their frames is uneven, two at least being more or less intact. Externally they appear to have had flat stone lintels – unlike the first-floor windows and the ground-floor windows in the west gable (see below). Their internal surrounds were brick jambs and a stone lintel. Some of these lintels were massive, as were those in the west wall, and of a limestone burnt pink.

Six first-floor window positions are identifiable (Fig. 32, D-H and J). These are of the same basic dimensions as the ground floor openings and with broad-chamfered stone jambs and sills. However, some retain all or remnants of their typical Tudor four-centred heads with indented spandrels. They were of the same design as the better-preserved windows in the west gable.

Only a fragment of the east side of the fifth window (H) survives, and the position of this shows that the window must have been truncated by the cart opening immediately to the west, which is thus a secondary modification to the structure. There is some slight variation in the distance between these windows, but they average around 3.5m

(10' 6") apart, centre to centre. The gap between window H and the single window to the west (J) is 7m, or twice this interval, suggesting that a further window was destroyed when this cart opening was inserted. There would therefore have originally been seven windows on the first floor.

It is likely that the insertion of the cart opening also removed a fourth ground-floor window, although the absence of another window to the west of this shows that there was not a symmetrical arrangement of ground-floor windows.

There are three other blocked window openings in this elevation. These are large but crudely formed openings, originally with timber lintels; they do not respect either of the known first-floor levels within the building, indicating that, like the cartway opening, they belong to a later period when there was no longer a first floor present. They are blocked with hand-made brick. The westernmost one lies within the area of the South-West Range, and crosses the level of the line of corbels that belonged to it, indicating that the South-West Range had been demolished by the time it was inserted.

The large inserted cartway opening is the only existing opening in the elevation. Its jambs incorporate re-used ashlar, and on the east this is possibly partly taken from a large medieval opening, as it includes a well-crafted moulding and a splayed internal rebate. The present head of the opening is an RSJ, probably replacing timber lintels.

### *The South Wall*

At the eastern end the wall clearly butted against the earlier South Range. At the west end it has flush ashlar quoins above a simple ashlar weathering (see test-pit 1, Fig. 34). The base of the wall is now buried below present ground level, but there is a weathered set-back partway up the wall, the masonry being slightly narrower above it. This weathering – of ashlar masonry – is not continued onto the west gable, but there is a weathering nearly 1m higher on that gable end which ends flush with this wall – and may have continued along the top of the surviving wall of the South-West Range (Plates 39 and 43).

There was only one primary opening in the south elevation – a doorway at the eastern end and opposite the larger doorway in the north wall (Plate 39). This doorway is blocked (Plates 39 and 46) – externally in modern brick, internally in re-used ashlar blocks – but has the remnants of ashlar jambs on the outer face and remnants of its original four-centred head. This was a smaller version of the larger opening in the north wall but collapsed at the end of the 1980's (John Rhodes pers. comm.). The internal jambs seem to be of plain brick. The top of the opening was just below the level of the external weathering, suggesting that the door may have been an original feature. There were no windows in the south elevation.

A second ground floor doorway was later inserted through the wall. The top of this opening was also just below the weathering course on the exterior, ie of the same height as the south-east door, and also preserving the external appearance of the building. The floor level found in test-pit 2 would indicate that these doorways were probably 1.7-1.75m high, or approaching 6 feet. As this is to the west of the inserted

brick cross-wall within the building it may have been contemporary with it (Plate 47), though the door may have predated the inserted wall.

#### *The West Gable Wall (Plates 42-4; Figs 33 and 34)*

The almost symmetrical west gable elevation is the least altered part of the building, despite the loss of much of the upper, and thinner, brickwork of the gable itself – which makes assessment of the original height and pitch of the roof difficult. At the base is a simple ashlar weathering (see also test-pit 1, Fig. 34), below which at least two courses of roughly coursed lias are visible in places. Above this the wall is of brick. The set-back to the upper brickwork is visible on the exterior, but is more pronounced internally, where it is now covered in a weathering of modern concrete (Plates 42 & 43). This wall has a simple ashlar masonry weathering. The ashlar weathered set-back of the south elevation is not continued on the gable end. Instead, there is a slightly higher weathering, whose top corresponds to the first floor level in the adjacent South-West range (Plate 38).

The brickwork has neatly worked ashlar quoins, apart from at the ground floor of the northern corner, where the brickwork below the weathering continues uninterrupted into the west, or rear, wall of the South-West Range. There is no break in the coursing to suggest two separate phases of construction, and the stone weathering below also continues northwards below the brickwork of the South-West Range. It seems likely also that the weathering at first floor level also continued along the wall, but the ashlar quoins above this show that the first-floor brickwork did not.

Apart from its relationship with the former South-West Range, the composition of the gable elevation is largely symmetrical. At ground-floor level there are two widely spaced windows, one towards each corner. At first-floor level there are three windows, evenly distributed.

All of the windows were of a similar pattern, single-light with chamfered ashlar surrounds and four-centred heads (Plates 42 and 44). There are traces of sockets for saddle bars, a single stanchion, and – on those that are visible – shallow internal rebates. Those were presumably for shutters rather than for glazing – and one shutter possibly remains in place in one of the upper windows.

Internally the windows had splayed brick-lined reveals – probably originally plastered – beneath substantial stone lintels (Plate 43). Each of these reveals have been sealed, rather than completely blocked, by brickwork across their inward openings.

The lintels on the ground floor are surprisingly crude; at first-floor level, two are quite plain but the third – at the northern end, is both slightly less high and far more refined – being true ashlar with clear signs of a chamfer. As that would have related to chamfered jambs – of which there are no sign – and as it is in complete contrast to all the other lintels surviving within the building, it is possible that this was a piece of salvaged or damaged stone re-used in this position as the building was being built.

#### *The East Gable Wall*

The east gable wall is of a completely different character from that of the other three walls, despite being built of hand-made red brick (Plate 45). The evidence at the junction of the south wall with the fragmentary corner of the South Range suggests that originally this range simply butted up against the earlier structure. The present east gable wall was presumably built after the South Range had been partially demolished – leading to the need for such a wall. The northern two thirds of the wall is taken up by a broad full-height cart opening with external rebates in the brickwork for an outward opening pair of doors. Its lintel has been lost – as, indeed, has all of the gable proper above it. To the south of this broad opening is a much smaller, square-headed doorway with surviving timber doorframe beneath a segmental brick relieving arch (Plate 45). It is contemporary with the surrounding brickwork, and the level of its lintel is above that of the original first floor within the Great Stable (Fig. 35).

### *The Roof*

The roof has been lost and there are few indications of its design. There is a stepped sloped section of the foot of the northern slope of the roof surviving in the west gable, which would suggest a very steep pitched and very tall roof. It was presumably a large plain gabled structure and, by the probable date of this range, probably based on a series of trusses linked by purlins rather than being of close-coupled rafter form.

In the inner face of the west gable wall (Plate 43) there are the remains of two stone corbels embedded in the brickwork between the two windows on the ground floor, and another pair on either side of the central blocked window opening on the first floor. Unlike those in the ground floor, the pair above are not level with one another. These could have supported the paired spine beams of an attic floor, so that the roof above would have to have been sufficiently tall to accommodate it.

### **The Interior** (*Plates 46-9; Figs 35 and 36*)

#### *The original first floor*

There is clear evidence of two different first-floor levels. The lower one of these, which was probably the original first-floor level, is marked by a series of square sockets along the full length of the side walls, spaced at roughly 3m intervals and infilled with brick (Plate 46; Fig. 35). At least one of these is associated with a surviving remnant of a cut-back stone corbel, and it is possible that more of the beams were supported on stone corbels as well as being embedded into the brickwork.

In the inner face of the west gable wall, between the ground-floor windows and immediately below the first-floor level, is a pair of large stones now flush with the inner face of the wall but probably originally projecting as corbels for a pair of axial beams (Plate 43). It is possible that the whole of the upper floor structure consisted of this pair of axial beams interrupted by the bridging beams suggested by the blocked sockets in the side walls.

On the south side there is a very slight set-back in the brickwork associated with the primary first-floor level and above this there is an irregular course of soldier course bricks, possibly infilling the spaces where original common joists have been removed (Plate 46; Fig. 35). The evidence on the north side is similar, though more disturbed by later modifications.



### *Internal divisions*

The interior is divided into two by a brick cross wall well to the east of centre (Figs 31 and 35; Plates 47 and 48). That wall butts against the side walls and is clearly a post-medieval insertion. It has a single doorway at its southern end, in line with the smaller doorway in the east gable wall, and perhaps contemporary with it. The present internal floor is of concrete, higher than the original floor level.

There are no obvious traces of other former partitions within the building, but it is possible that timber-framed partitions could have existed and left little trace, especially if they incorporated the main first-floor bridging or axial beams.

### *The later first floor*

Almost 0.5m above the primary first floor level is clearer evidence for a later one. This later floor only existed in the space to the west of the inserted brick cross-wall, so was presumably contemporary with it. It appears to have consisted of a series of substantial bridging beams embedded directly into the inner face of the brickwork of the side walls, supporting axial common joists. In the inner face of the brickwork of the west gable wall and of the west side of the inserted brick cross wall is a series of redundant joist sockets for the common joists (Plates 43 and 47), which were evidently timbers of relatively small scantling.

There are no such sockets on the east face of the cross wall or on the inner face of the present east gable wall (Plate 48), nor in the inner faces of the side walls. This eastern space, therefore, must have been a tall single-storey space and open to the roof or to an attic floor. On the inner face of the south wall to the west of the cross wall is a series of closely set cut vertical channels, probably for the fixing of hay racks when the building was used for stabling or livestock (Plate 49). These come up to the level of the original first floor on the west, and continue above it on the east; as they would probably all have required space above for adding hay, they most likely all belong with the second phase first floor. They are not repeated on the north side, or in the eastern section.

As already discussed, the inserted large cart opening in the north wall and the large inserted, but now blocked, window openings in that elevation were clearly later than both phases of first floors.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE SOUTH-WEST RANGE** (*Plates 42 and 50; Fig. 33*)

To the north and west of the Great Stable is a length of mixed lias and brick-faced rubble walling that belongs to a contemporary range running northwards. The wall continues the line of the west gable of the Great Stable northwards and, as discussed above, appears to be contemporary with it, and is in line with the west wall of the surviving Medieval Range to the north.

At the base is a low projecting plinth with a roughly rounded top – possibly the weathered remains of a more crisply plain chamfered one. This continues from the

plinth on the west gable wall of the Great Stable. Below this several rough courses of lias rubble are visible in places, but the full height of this stone footing and the original ground-floor level in this area are unknown. Above the rounded section is a tall single course of ashlar masonry flush with the face of the brickwork above.

The brickwork is a single storey high and seems to have been built as such. Above this height there are full quoins on the corner of the Great Stable, and it seems likely that the ashlar weathering at that level on its west gable end would have continued on top of the brickwork of this wall of the South-West Range. The indication, therefore, is that the first floor of that range was of timber-framing.

There are three former openings identifiable in the ground-floor brickwork. Two of these are small stone-framed window openings similar to those in the Great Stable, though narrower and set 0.2m higher in the wall. The southern one is fairly intact, and has a plain-chamfered surround and a two-centre arched head (Plate 50). There is some evidence of former saddle bars and an internal shutter rebate. The second primary window is marked only by its southern jamb, which is at the northern end of the surviving section of the wall. Immediately to the north of this the wall is abutted by a cruder masonry extension replacing earlier work.

Just to the north of the southern window is a blocked doorway opening. This was evidently inserted and its northern jamb is partly made up by contemporary brickwork replacing some of the older fabric. The door is blocked with later brickwork.

Protruding from the north wall of the Great Stable are three stone corbels equally spaced at first floor level to support the timbers of the first floor, or the base of the roof (Fig. 32; Plate 38). The height of these is 0.4m higher than the contemporary original first floor of the Great Stable range.

There is only limited evidence for the appearance of the front of the range. A vertical scar in the north wall of the Great Stable indicates that the original width of the South-West Range was 7.6m internally and had walls *c* 0.5m wide, with an overall width of around 8.6m. Three superimposed stones of a door-jamb beneath show that there was a doorway into the range at its south end (Fig. 32). The door-jamb protrudes 0.18m from the wall, has a diagonal chamfer on the west side and a recess for the door on the east. The scar above does not show obvious signs of the truncation of bricks bonding at right angles, though there could have been a degree of rebuilding after such a wall had been removed.

The balance of the evidence suggests that this was a two-storey structure whose ground floor was of brick with masonry openings, and whose first floor was timber-framed. This composite construction method was also used in the Medieval Range – though in that the ground-floor walls were of masonry.

## **DISCUSSION AND SUGGESTED PHASING**

### **Phase One: *Circa 1500***

An L-shaped pair of buildings were constructed in the south-west corner of the Great Court. Both buildings had a footing of roughly coursed lias rubblestone, which extended above ground level. Test-pit 1 dug by CAT shows that on the south and west sides this was topped externally with an ashlar plinth, though the external part of the north elevation of the Great Stable was not exposed down to the corresponding level.

The Great Stable was built as a large two-storey brick structure with small single-light windows at both levels in the north and west gable walls. The main entrance was at the eastern end of the north wall, opposite a smaller doorway in the south wall; there may have been another doorway on the north side removed by the inserted cart opening.

This main range was contemporary with another range running northwards from the west end, the two creating an 'L-shaped' footprint, although there was no internal door between them. Like the Great Stable, this South-West range had a doorway at the left hand end of the elevation facing into the Great Court, and the surviving stonework of the door jambs is of the same height, so the lintels may have been as well. There was however no corresponding doorway opposite in the west wall of the South-West Range.

The South-West Range was in line with the standing West Range further north, and of very similar width, but had a brick ground floor, possibly with timber-framing above, whereas the West Range has a masonry ground floor with a timber-framed first-floor.

As well as different construction materials at first floor level, the first floor of the South-West range was at least 0.4m higher than that of the Great Stable range, strongly suggesting that their functions were different.

Stylistically and structurally the evidence suggests a date in the late-15th to early-16th century, based mainly on the style of the brickwork, the detailing of the blocked primary first-floor windows and the profile of the north-east doorway. Analysis of the bricks by Alan Vince (see below) also gives the same date range, and suggests that the bricks came from Worcester. These buildings were therefore part of the Inner Great Court of the monastic Priory.

Historically the Great Stable is a very early example of a substantial brick structure in Gloucestershire, probably earlier than Thornbury Castle on the Severn estuary, begun in 1511 for Edward Stafford, 3rd Duke of Buckingham, but never finished.

Apart from its size and antiquity, the Great Stable range is of considerable interest because of the manner in which the brickwork was used – as facework on both sides of a rubble core, in the tradition of masonry 'sandwich' construction, rather than being fully bonded - and thus representing an unusual and clearly transitional period in the development of regional construction techniques.

The undivided primary layout and the wide spacing and small size of the primary windows could support its use as a stable from the start, with the floor above used for the lodging of servants, either of the Priory or of the wealthier visitors. The western hay-rack slots could perhaps be consistent with use of part of the ground floor for

stabling; later stables often had hay fed from the upper floor directly into the racks (Bowen 1994, 26). The quality of the decoration of the windows, however, and the fact that the first-floor ones, at least, all appear to have been fitted with internal shutters, indicates a structure of reasonably high status rather than one of simple utility. The lack of windows in the outer wall might argue for stable use as against lodgings, judged by the character of later stable buildings. The same arrangement is however evident in the guest range at Mount Grace Priory in Yorkshire, where each lodging at ground level was provided with only one single light window facing onto the Inner court, and a two-light window for the first-floor chambers (Coppack 1990, 108). There was, however, also a door provided to each ground floor lodging. By the later 15<sup>th</sup> century brick was increasingly favoured for domestic ranges, and also for relatively minor precinct buildings such as the early 16<sup>th</sup> century 'Long Gallery' at Abingdon (Bond 2004, 335-6).

A mortar floor was found in test-pit 2 halfway down the south side of the Great Stable building, and if this was a floor, does not suggest a stable, for which a cobbled or flagstone floor is more likely. This floor surface was at a height of 10.18m OD, and the level of the first floor, established as around 12.43m OD, give a height of 2.2m for the height of the ground floor, or 1.9m to the bottom of the supporting cross-beams. In the 15<sup>th</sup> and early 16<sup>th</sup> century horses were on average just under 14 hands, or about 1.43m to the withers, and the largest recorded horses about 1.6m (R M Thomas pers. comm.). This would have made them between 1.63m and 1.8m to the top of the ears.

For more recent stables a height of 1.9m, or even 2.2m, might have been considered rather low for stabling horses, and if the mortar layer in the test-pit was a bedding layer for a stone floor (now removed) the height would have been even less. There are very few surviving examples to provide direct comparison for conditions in 1500 (Bowen 1994). A small stable built in the later 15th does survive at Mount Grace Priory (Coppack 1990, 100-111 and fig. 72), and occupied the ground floor of a two-storey building with a granary above, complete with slots for mangers in its south wall. This building was 17m long, 8.3m wide externally and 6.4m wide internally. The floor was a mixture of stone inside the doors and rammed clay between, with drains below it. The stable had three doorways, between 1.2 and 1.4m wide, and three drains. The height from the ground floor to the offset in the gable wall marking the first floor was approaching 3m (Coppack pers. Comm.). A very early 17<sup>th</sup> century stable survives at Chastleton House near Moreton-in-Marsh, Oxfordshire, also with a cobbled floor and drain, and this has a height of around 2.8m to the beams supporting the first floor, and 3m or more to the first floor itself. The evidence, limited though it is, would support the view that the original first floor at the Great Stable was unusually low for stabling.

It is therefore alternatively possible that both floor levels were used for lodgings. If so, there do not seem to have been any fireplaces or chimneys, and, as it is of two storeys and of later medieval date, open hearths can be ruled out, leaving only braziers as a possible means of heating. Guest-houses often have internal divisions of timber rather than stone; this was the case not only in examples of the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, as at Thornholme or Fountains Abbey, but also in late medieval examples such as at Mount Grace Priory (Coppack 1990, 107-8) and at Abingdon Abbey (Friends of Abingdon 1993). Fireplaces were not by any means ubiquitous in these buildings, and even latrines were few: Thornbury had a single example in one corner of the range,

and Mount Grace Priory one halfway along. Access to the first floor rooms at Mount Grace was by a timber stair within the Inner Court, as it was at the earlier Thornholme guesthouse (Coppack 1990, 107-8).

The adjacent South-West range had smaller windows in its surviving wall, set higher up than those in the west gable of the Great Stable, and a higher ground floor. While it would be unwise to speculate too far about the possible function of this building, it may not be coincidental that the height of its ground floor was the same as that of the modified Great Stable range, which had hay racks on the wall, and was clearly used for stabling, once modified. This might therefore have been a stable, with lodgings in the adjacent Great Stable block. Only excavation may help to clarify the function of these buildings further.

Together with the already existing South-East Range to the east, and the West Range to the north, the construction of these buildings virtually completely enclosed this part of the Great Court, providing a complex to serving the needs of the visitors to the Priory.

All these buildings appear to have been built at around the same time, when funds seem to have been readily available for such investment. If this programme of works had a specific catalyst, it could have been the two visits of Henry VII and his court in 1500 and 1501 before Prior Deane became Archbishop of Canterbury. The phenomenon of major investment in monastic houses at the turn of the 16th century is however seen throughout England.

### **The Post-Medieval Period: The Mid-16th to Early-18th Centuries**

The dissolution of the Priory in 1536 would have instantly made most of its hospitality buildings redundant, and how the building was used by the Porters who took over the site is uncertain. There are no dateable obvious structural clues in the fabric to indicate a major campaign of changes to it until the 18th century, but a pair of stables appear in Sir Arthur Porter's property in 1629, and are mentioned several times in the Scudamore's leases from 1635 onwards. The South-West range has tentatively been identified as stables in the late medieval period, and the raising of the height of the first floor in the Great Stable brought this into line with that of the adjacent range. It may have been during this period that the insertion of the cross-wall and the raising of the ground floor took place, plus the addition of the hay racks. Access into this section from the south was by an inserted doorway in the inserted cross-wall, and there may have been a corresponding doorway on the north, destroyed by the later cart-opening.

There are no obvious signs of any untoward damage to the fabric – by fire or by shot – to suggest it was affected by the Civil War siege.

### **The Georgian Period: The 18th to mid-19th Century**

After the Scudamore's house was abandoned, this range was clearly retained as a farm building. If the partition of the building, and its conversion into stabling, had not happened earlier, then this would have been a suitable time for the conversion,

involving the building of a brick partition wall and the rebuilding of the east gable wall. This presumably indicates that the South Range had already been demolished.

The section to the east of the cross wall seems to have had the first floor removed; the evidence for a large cart opening in its new east end suggests that this section was used as a cart shed or coach house. A lease made between 1885 and 1891 describes the range as being in two parts, and consisting of a stable, a cart-shed and a loft. There is unfortunately no earlier lease describing this building in detail to help establish exactly when this took place.

It probably remained in agricultural use for some time but became part of Humpherson's Horn Works by 1912 and remained so until 1930. This may have prompted the removal of the first floor, the blocking of the primary openings blocked and the addition of a new large cartway and larger plain windows in the north wall. Alternatively this may have happened in the 1950's, when it was converted into a lorry depot – which may have been when the large opening beneath an RSJ was inserted or remodelled and the present concrete floor laid. The building was still roofed until 1986 (J Rhodes pers. Comm.). Since then it has deteriorated into a roofless ruin.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE SOUTH RANGE**

Immediately to the east of the Great Stable, the present south boundary wall is evidently the south wall of a largely demolished structure that predated it and was thus probably of late-medieval date.

### **Description**

The building's south wall only survives to the top of the ground floor, and there are gaps. Until recently much of this was heavily overgrown, making a detailed assessment by RKM difficult. This wall aligns with the south wall of the Great Stable and is built of fairly regular coursed lias rubblestone (Plates 39 and 51-2). The surviving wall is 26.05m long, and contains six primary window openings, which are noted on Clarke's map of 1852. These were all internally splayed, 0.82-0.87m wide and 1.2-1.25m high on the inner side, with gaps of 2.6m between the edges of the windows, or just over 3m apart centre to centre (eg. Plate 51). At the western end there was evidently a gable wall which pre-dated the adjacent Great Stable to the west; that range originally had no east gable and was, instead, butted up against the gable of the South Range, indicating that it was of least of similar profile.

There are also three stone corbels with quarter round soffits, two some 0.25m high and 0.58m wide in the main length of surviving wall (Plate 51), the third 0.43m wide but 0.34m high at the west end of the south wall, close to the corner with the former west gable (Plate 52). These were evidently intended to take first-floor bridging beams. These indicate that the building was of at least two storeys.

### **Discussion**

This range was a two-storey rectangular structure between the slightly later Great Stable and the assumed site of the south gate into the Inner Court. As it predated the Great Stable, which is considered to date from around 1500, this range is of later-15th century or earlier date. Its proximity to the Great Stable, and at the edge of the Court close to a gateway into it, could suggest it had a similar function – i.e. a lodging range or perhaps a range with lodging above stabling.

## **THE SMALL BARN**

The remnants of a stone-built structure lying at a slight diagonal angle to the north-west of the South-West Range (Fig. 31).

### **Description**

The remains of this building now consist of two parallel walls of rubblestone – much of it made up of reused worked masonry – roughly 5m apart and standing about 1.5m high. There are no indications of any openings in the walls or of any internal cross-walls between them. At either end of each wall, however, is an internal rebate associated with an external plain chamfer. These are clearly related to opposing pairs of large doorways to the east and west of the surviving masonry, since demolished.

At the eastern end, the lost doorway position suggests that the continuation of the west wall of the South-West Range is a later feature as it obstructs the access to the former south doorway (Plate 53).

### **Discussion**

The building of which these two walls formed a part was presumably agricultural. The suggestion of two opposing pairs of presumably large doorways could indicate that this was a threshing barn with two threshing floors. It is presumably post-medieval in date, re-using masonry from the priory ruins, and could be as late as the later-18th century in date. A building is shown in this position from the late-18th century estate map onwards.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The medieval stable as a building type remains enigmatic, and the monastic stable even more so, largely from the lack of recognition of what must have been a very commonly occurring building (Worsley 2004). There is no doubt that busy monastic houses would have used horses and required a decent number of them, for apart from the late medieval hunting habits, estates had to be visited and managed. The horses of visiting guests had to be accommodated, and if necessary loans made to important travellers. In March 1421, for example, the Countess of Warwick travelled from Berkeley Castle to London (with 57 horses and 11 hackneys), of which her groom borrowed eight from the Bishop of Gloucester and five from the Prior of Llanthony (Worsley 2004, 8). The Great Stable at Llanthony may have been built as a combined stablea with lodgings above or as a lodgings block with accommodation on both floor levels and, possibly, within the attic.

Despite being radically altered on at least two occasions and now being a roofless shell, it is nevertheless a very important and rare survival of a late medieval building. Not only is it one of the few surviving structures of Llanthony Secunda, one of the most important religious houses in the west of England, but it is also one of the very earliest brick buildings in the region and one in which bricks were used in an unusual, transitional, manner still very much in the 'sandwich' tradition of medieval masonry.

The former South-West Range was evidently a contemporary west wing of the Great Stable – two storeys and of composite brick and timber-framed construction. It aligns with the West Range further to the north and its precise length is undetermined. Only the ground-floor section of its west wall survives, but there will undoubtedly be buried archaeological remains to indicate the extent of its medieval footprint.

The only significant remnant of the South Range to the east of the Great Stable is also a single section of walling. The evidence shows that this was of a rectangular structure slightly older than the Great Stable but probably of similar function. Only one trench has been excavated across this (in 1987), and this showed that the building was of very similar width to the Great Stable (Fig.31). CAT test-pit 3 established a ground level within this building, and showed that there was a door at the south-west corner with a well-preserved threshold (Fig. 37). Further significant buried remnants of this structure can be anticipated.

The Barn to the north-west of the South-West Range is also a roofless remnant of a once longer rectangular building, probably a threshing barn with floors in the missing ends. This was evidently a post-medieval structure which reused earlier masonry and it could date to the 18th century. It is one of the few surviving purpose-built farm buildings.

## **SOURCES AND DATING OF LATE MEDIEVAL BRICKS AT LLANTHONY SECUNDA PRIORY**

*by the late Alan Vince and John Rhodes*

The original brickwork of the priory can be dated to the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries and thus predates the common use of brick in the Gloucester area. Unlike later Gloucester bricks, which are made from silty alluvial clay, its bricks are of two coarse-grained fabrics:

Fabric 1, in bricks typically 200 by 100 by 55mm which form patches within the inside face of the stone barn, and

Fabric 2, in bricks typically 240 by 120 by 60mm which face the walls of the great stable, the west precinct wall and the inside of the west gatehouse.

### **Methodology**

Samples of each fabric were collected (those of fabric 2 being from the great stable), and Gloucester City Museum funded an analysis using thin sectioning and inductively coupled plasma spectroscopy (ICP-AES). The result confirms the visual impression



that the bricks are of south Worcestershire origin, probably being made in Worcester itself.

## **Fabric**

The fabrics are distinguishable by eye and in thin section.

### ***Fabric 1 (Samples A and B, V3007 and V3008)***

The following inclusions are present:

- (a) Rounded quartz. Moderate grains, up to 0.5 mm across. A few of the grains have a high sphericity and these ultimately derive from Permo-Triassic sands and sandstones (Millet seed quartz).
- (b) Rounded chert. Sparse rounded grains up to 0.5 mm across.
- (c) Rounded opaque grains. Sparse rounded opaque grains up to 2.0 mm long containing rare angular quartz and muscovite, less than 0.05 mm across.
- (d) Black-stained clay pellets. Concretionary pellets up to 3.0 mm across with a similar texture to the groundmass but with black mottling. Some have shrinkage cracks.
- (e) Subangular Quartz. Moderate ill-sorted grains up to 0.2 mm across.
- (f) Muscovite. Sparse laths up to 0.1 mm long.
- (g) Marl. Sparse angular fragments of marl with fine-grained sparry dolomite, up to 1.0 mm across.

The groundmass is optically isotropic and variegated in texture, with lenses and streaks of lighter-firing clay.

### ***Fabric 2 (Samples C and D, V3005 and V3006)***

In addition to large rounded 'Bunter' pebbles, the following inclusions are present:

- (a) Marl pellets. Sparse rounded pellets consisting of well-sorted quartz and non-ferroan calcite grains c. 0.1 mm across in a light brown clay/carbonate groundmass. The largest pellet is 10 mm long but most are less than 3.0 mm across.
- (b) Rounded quartz. Sparse rounded grains, similar to those in Fabric 1.
- (c) Microcline feldspar. A single rounded grain, 0.3 mm across.
- (d) Subangular quartz. Moderate ill-sorted grains up to 0.2 mm across.
- (e) Granite. A single rounded fragment of fresh feldspar enclosing quartz and opaque grains, 0.5 mm across.
- (f) Mudstone. Moderate rounded grains of unbedded, inclusionless brown mudstone, up to 1.0 mm across.

The groundmass consists of optically isotropic clay minerals and is variegated in texture. It contains numerous light-coloured specks, resulting from the former presence of calcareous specks.

## **Discussion**

### ***Source***

Both fabrics have characteristics which can be paralleled locally in samples of weathered Mercian Mudstone, whilst the rounded quartzose sand is typical of non-calcareous terrace sands in the Severn Valley. Neither fabric, however, is similar to samples of Lower Jurassic clays or alluvium from the Gloucester area. The nearest source of suitable raw materials is probably west of the Severn. However, **Fabric 2** is closely matched by Canynges-type floor tiles (cf. Eames 1980, 239-48), for which a Worcester source has been argued owing to their distribution in the churches of south

Worcestershire and the existence of a large documented tile industry, including a guild of tilers, in the city (Vince 1984, chapter 9, ‘Flat roof tiles’; ‘Floor tiles, late 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries’).

A study of the ceramic building material from Tewkesbury Abbey Meadow (Vince 2006; cf. Hoyle 1993) has shown that several different groups of bricks and flat roof tiles of probable Worcester origin were present. A comparison with the Llanthony fabrics is given below (Table 32). From this, it can be seen that Fabric 2 at Llanthony Priory is the equivalent of Fabric 3 at Tewkesbury. The bricks from the latter site include one complete example, 235 by 118 by 50 mm; 18 with complete widths ranging from 104 mm to 127 mm; and 42 with measurable thicknesses, ranging from 44 to 73 mm. One of these bricks has a scar where it was in contact with a glazed floor tile during firing and this floor tile is of Canynges-type fabric.

*Table 32: Comparison of brick inclusions from Llanthony and Tewkesbury Abbey Meadow*

<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Calcareous groundmass</i>	<i>Black stained clay Pellets</i>	<i>Rounded quartzose sand</i>	<i>Subangular quartz sand, c 0.2-0.4mm</i>	<i>Marl pellets</i>	<i>Mudstone pellets</i>
<b>Llanthony 1</b>	No	Yes	Moderate	No	No	No
<b>Llanthony 2</b>	Yes	No	Sparse	No	Yes	Yes
<b>TAM 3</b>	Yes	No	Sparse	No	Yes	Yes
<b>TAM 15</b>	Yes?	Yes	Abundant	No	Yes	No

There is no precise match for **Fabric 1** in the Tewkesbury fabrics although Fabric 15 is close.

### *Dating*

Two of the structures at Llanthony which incorporate bricks of Fabric 2 can be dated directly. The west gatehouse bears a coat of arms, formerly legible as that of Prior Deane (1467-1501), which does not impale the arms of the sees which he held concurrently from 1494 onwards (Rhodes 2002, xix, 52n.), so its bricks can be dated 1467-94. The west precinct wall abuts and is therefore later than the gatehouse and also exhibits more than one phase of construction, but its patterns of vitrified headers include a wayside cross of a kind which was anathematized at the Reformation (Vallance 1920, 1; cf. Duffy 1992, 462), so its bricks can be dated *c.* 1470-*c.* 1540.

Fabric 2 is clearly contemporary with Canynges-type floor tile production, which seems to have lasted from the 1480s or 1490s until the 1530s. Canynges-type floor tiles at Llanthony Priory were made for Prior Forest and are therefore dated 1501-25 (Rhodes 2002, p. xxii). No closely datable designs occur on the few Canynges-type tiles which survive at Tewkesbury but the Fabric 3 bricks there (and the flat roof tiles, several of which are stamped with makers’ marks) occur only in the latest phase of excavated monastic buildings. It is possible that the use of this fabric started before the production of floor tiles but it is unlikely to have started earlier than the middle of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, since floor tiles which are probably produced in the Worcester area at that date have a non-calcareous body and abundant rounded quartz sand temper (Vince 1984, ‘Droitwich-type tiles’). The outside limits for the Fabric 2 bricks at Llanthony are therefore late 15<sup>th</sup> to early 16<sup>th</sup> century.

The context of the Fabric 1 bricks in the now roofless stone barn at Llanthony is ambiguous. In its plan and cross-section, its arch profiles and saddle-stones and its padstones for upper crucks the barn closely resembles that at Swalcliffe (Oxon.) which is securely dated 1399-1405 (Lake 1989, 46), and brickwork extends deep into

the core of its south wall. On the other hand, above the padstones in the north wall any slots for cruck blades had already been walled up before the upper masonry was renewed in 1985-6, as attested by the then City Architect's photographic record. This suggests that it was re-roofed at a later date, possibly after a fire that occasioned partial rebuilding in brick and stone. Outside Llanthony Fabric 1 cannot be closely dated by archaeological parallels or associations, but on balance it is likely to be broadly similar in date to Fabric 2.

## Conclusions

The Llanthony Priory bricks come from two separate consignments, one of which (Fabric 2) can be linked to Worcester. The other, Fabric 1, is also made using weathered Mercian Mudstone, but given the wide outcrop of this formation, could have been produced closer to Gloucester.

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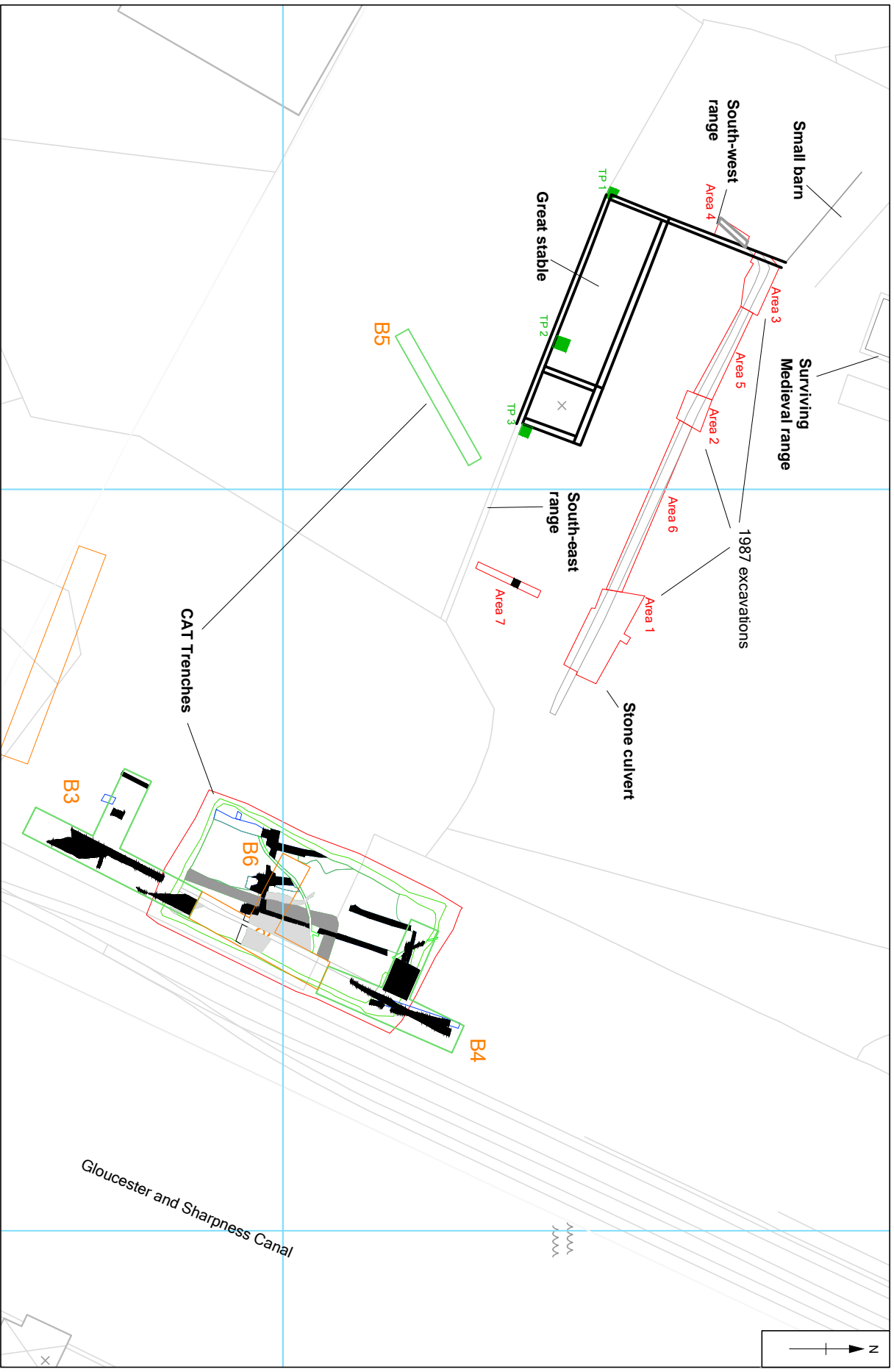
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Figure 31: Location of Great Stable within the Great Court, and of the test pits dug in and around it. 0 50 m



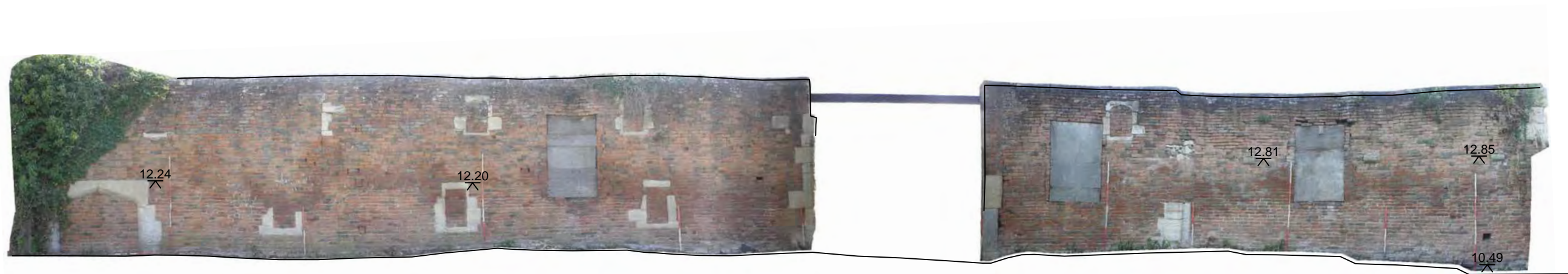


Plate 38: Long north external elevation of the Great Stable

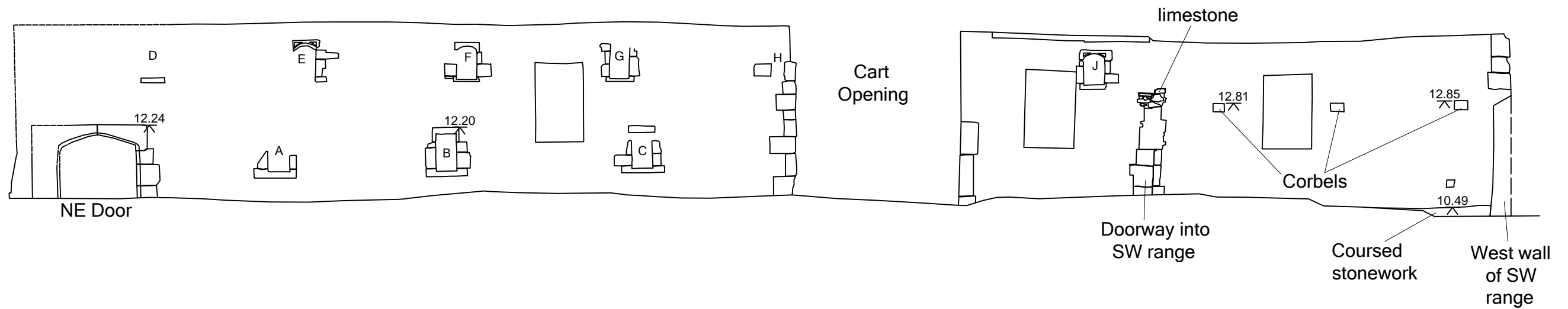
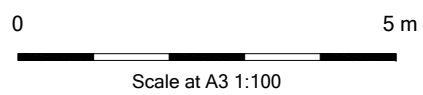


Figure 32: Elevation of the north exterior of the Great Stable



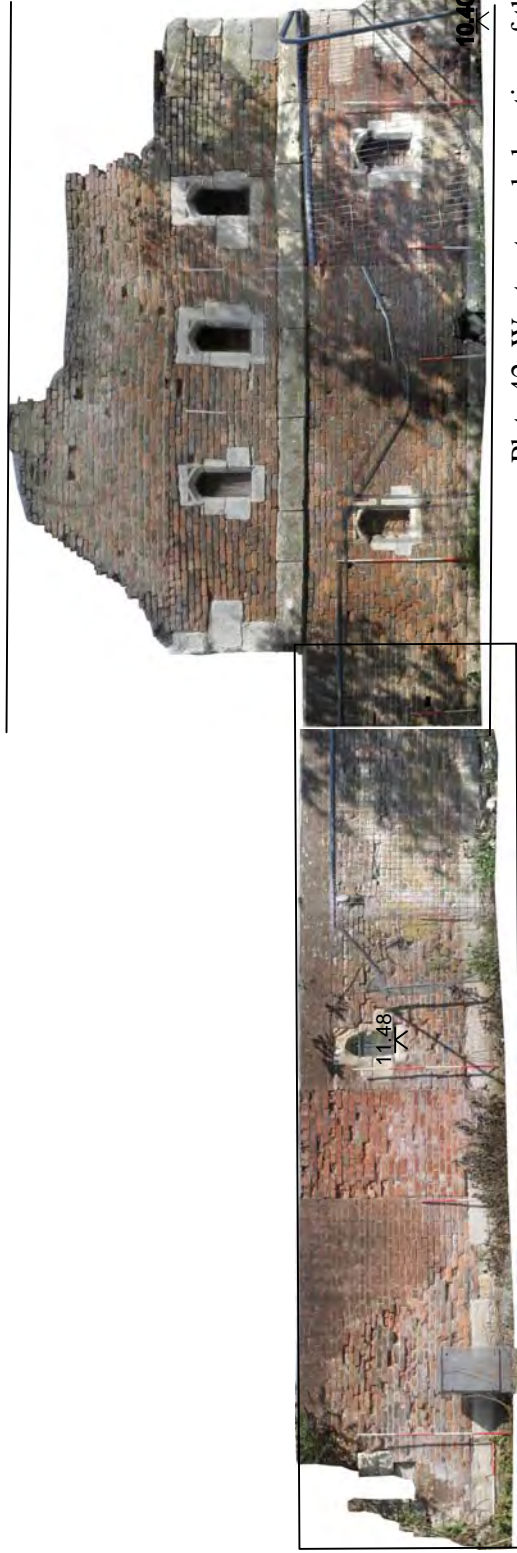


Plate 42: West external elevation of the Great Stable and the adjacent South-West range, OA

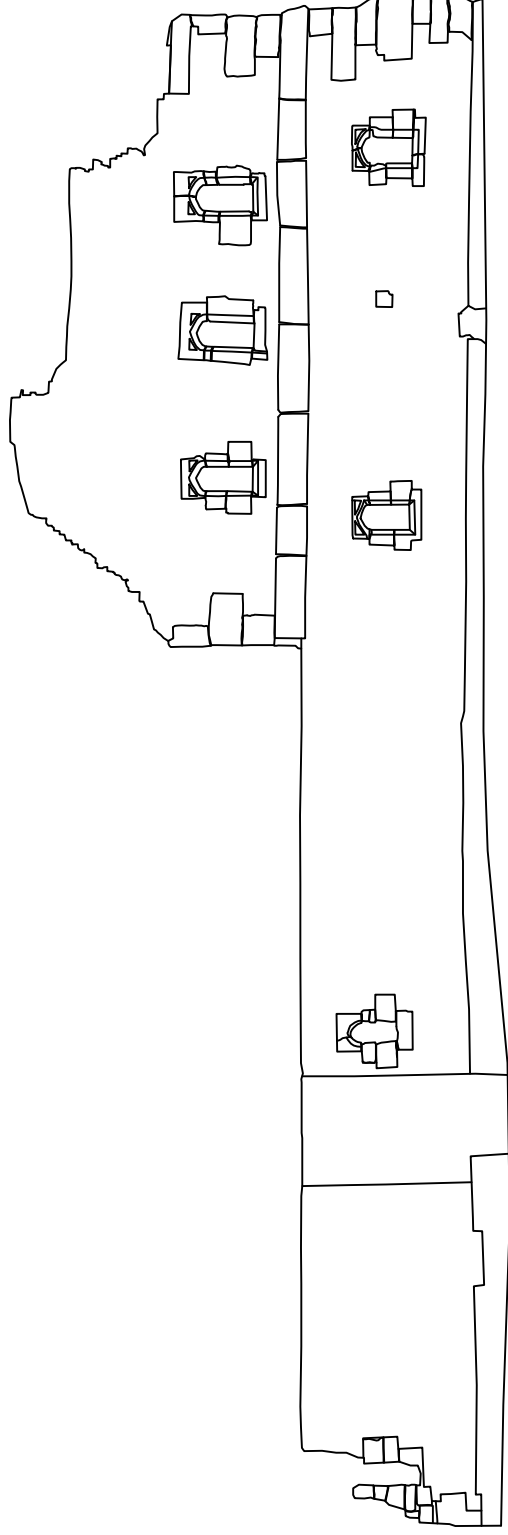
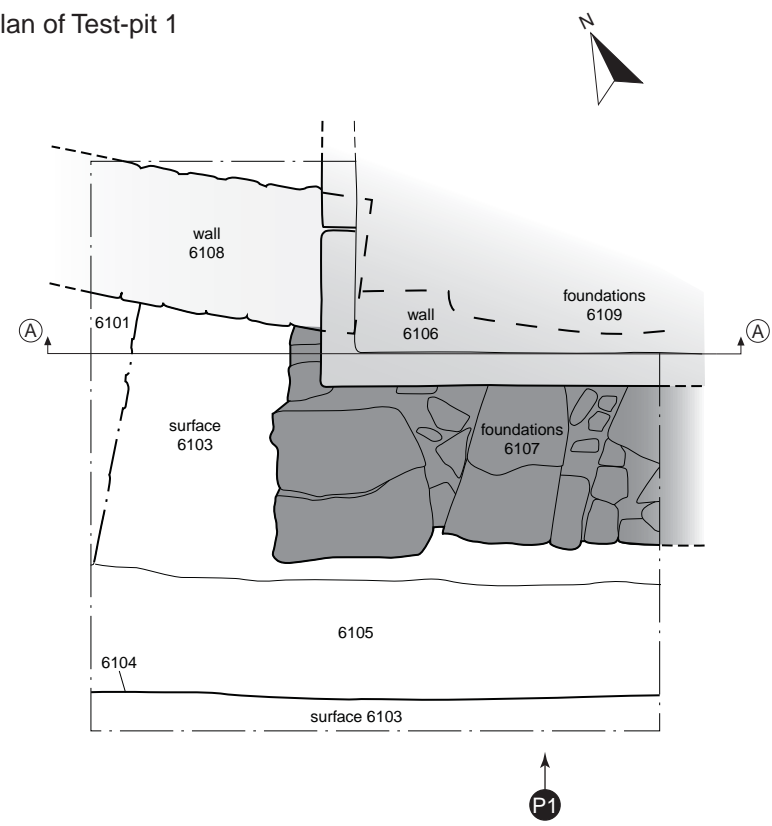
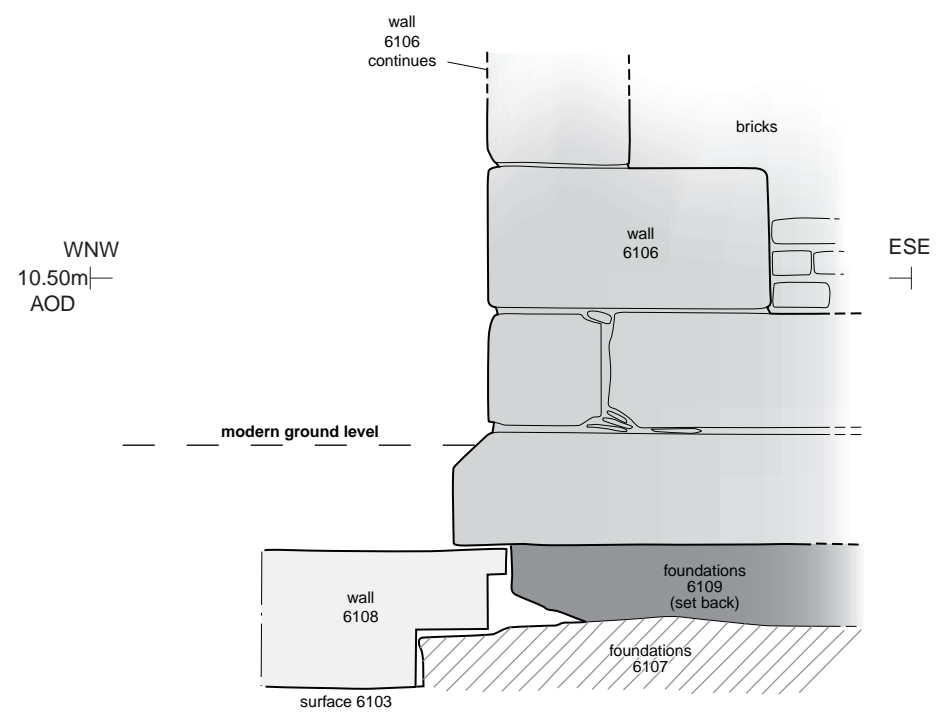


Figure 33: Elevation of the west exterior of the Great Stable and the South-West range.

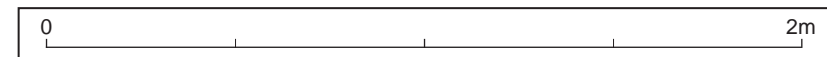
Plan of Test-pit 1



Section AA



Photograph 1 - P1



PROJECT TITLE  
Remains of the Inner Court  
Llanthony Priory, Gloucester Quays

FIGURE TITLE  
**Test-pit 1; plan, section and  
photograph**

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RK	1:20@A3	2498	<b>3</b>

Figure 34: Plans and sections of Test-pit 1 within the Great Stable. Reproduced with permission. Copyright Cotswold Archaeology





Plate 46: Long south internal elevation of the Great Stable, Headland Archaeology

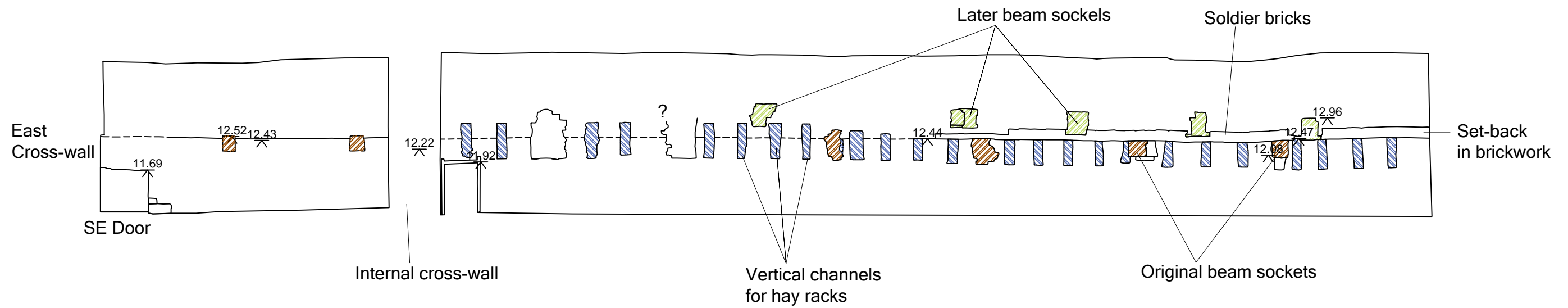
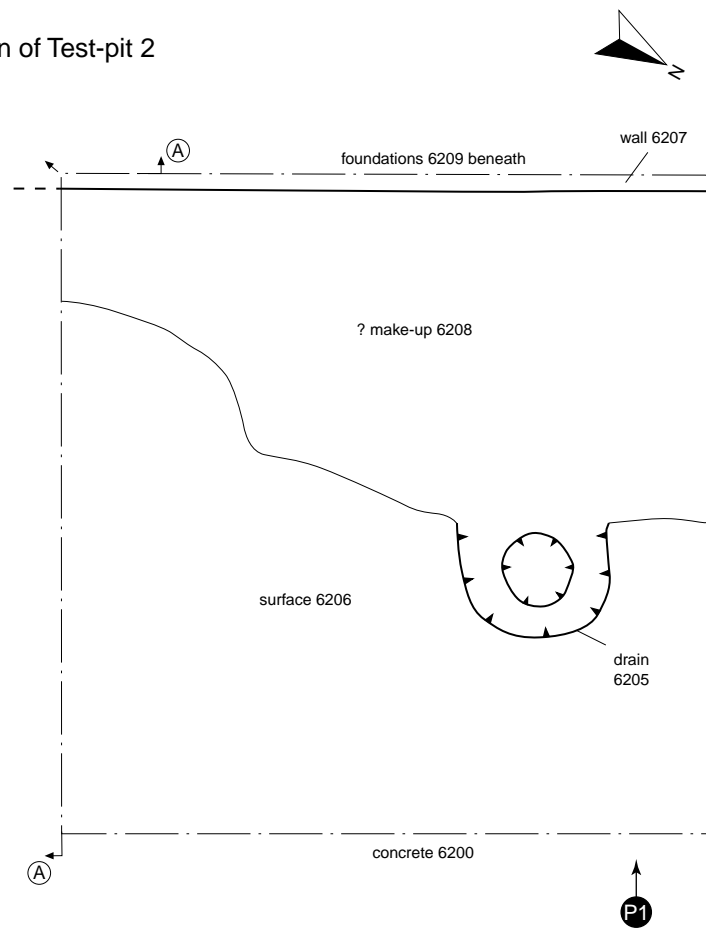


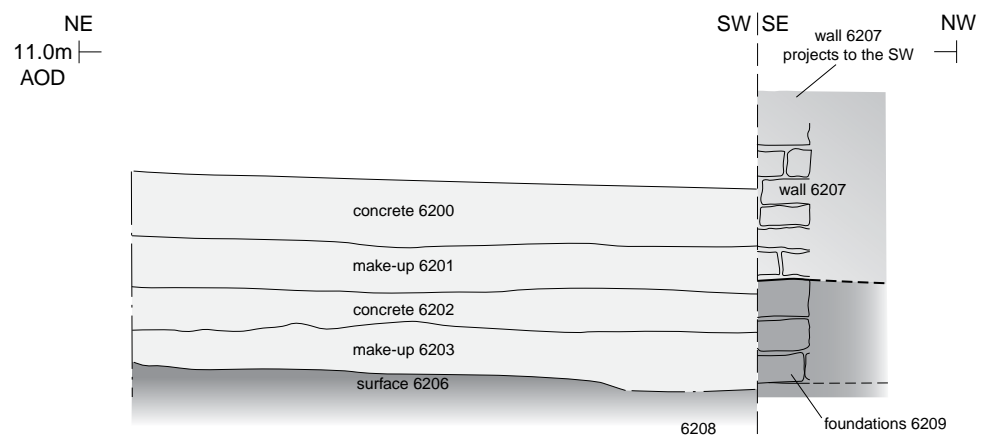
Figure 35: Elevation of the south interior of the Great Stable.



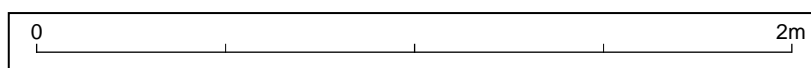
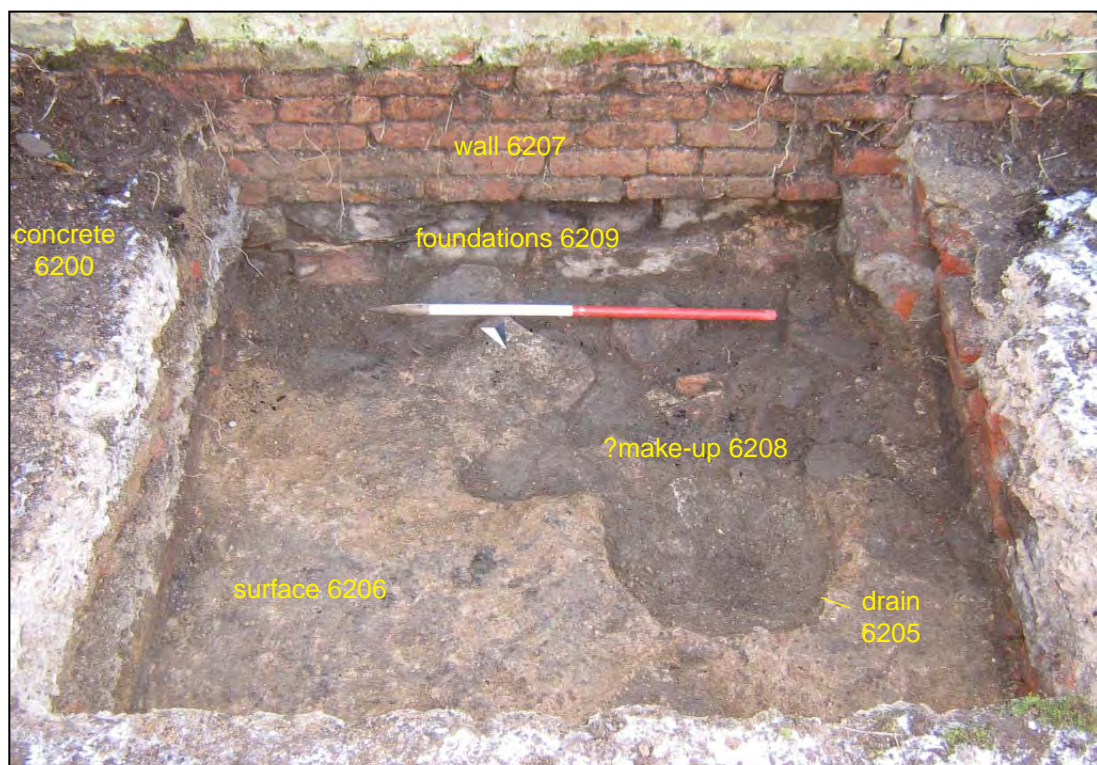
Plan of Test-pit 2



Section AA



Photograph 1 - P1



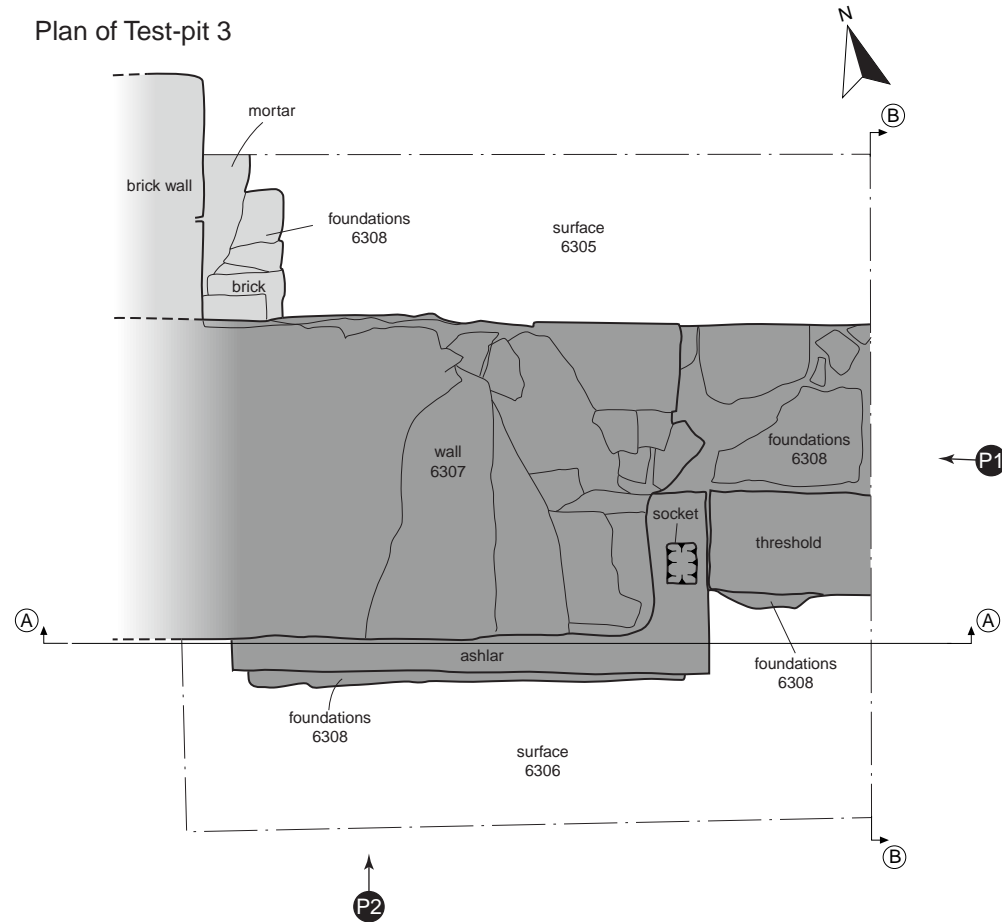
PROJECT TITLE  
Remains of the Inner Court  
Llanthony Priory, Gloucester Quays

FIGURE TITLE  
**Test-pit 2; plan, section and photograph**

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RK	1:20@A3	2498	<b>4</b>

Figure 36: Plan and sections of test-pit 2 within the Great Stable. Reproduced with permission. Copyright Cotswold Archaeology

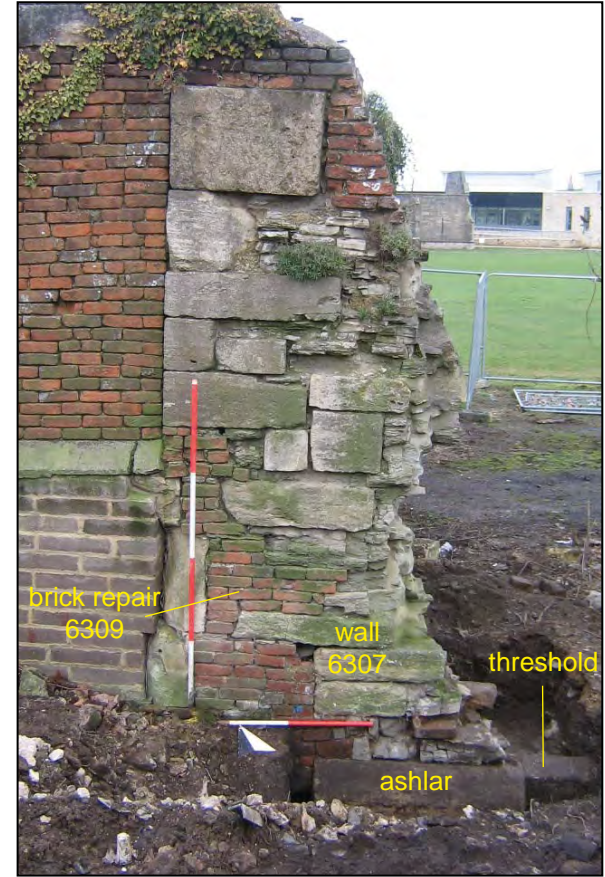
Plan of Test-pit 3



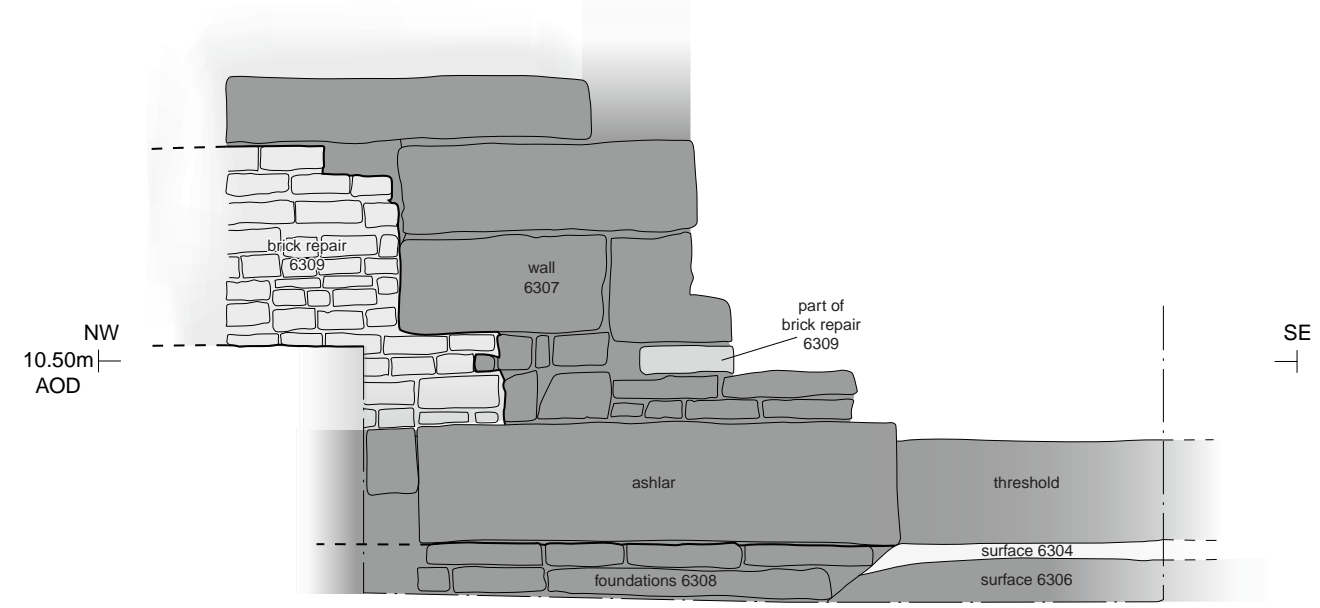
Photograph 1 - P1



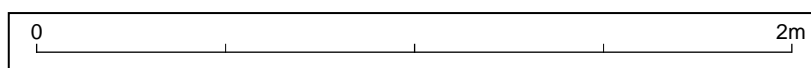
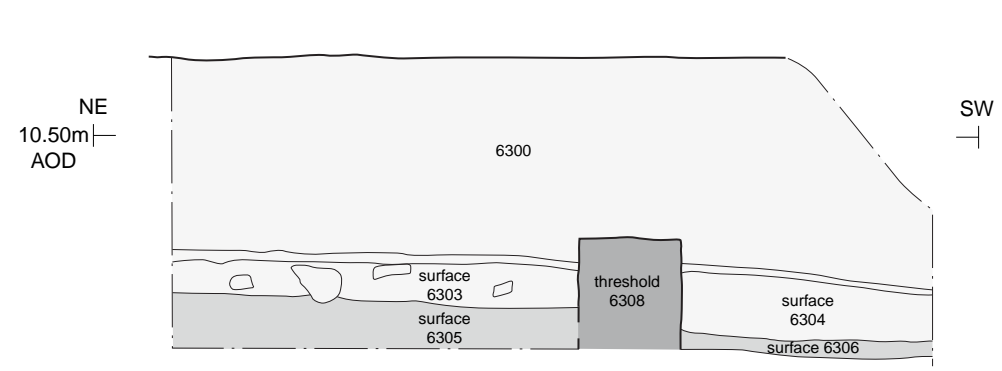
Photograph 2 - P2



Section AA

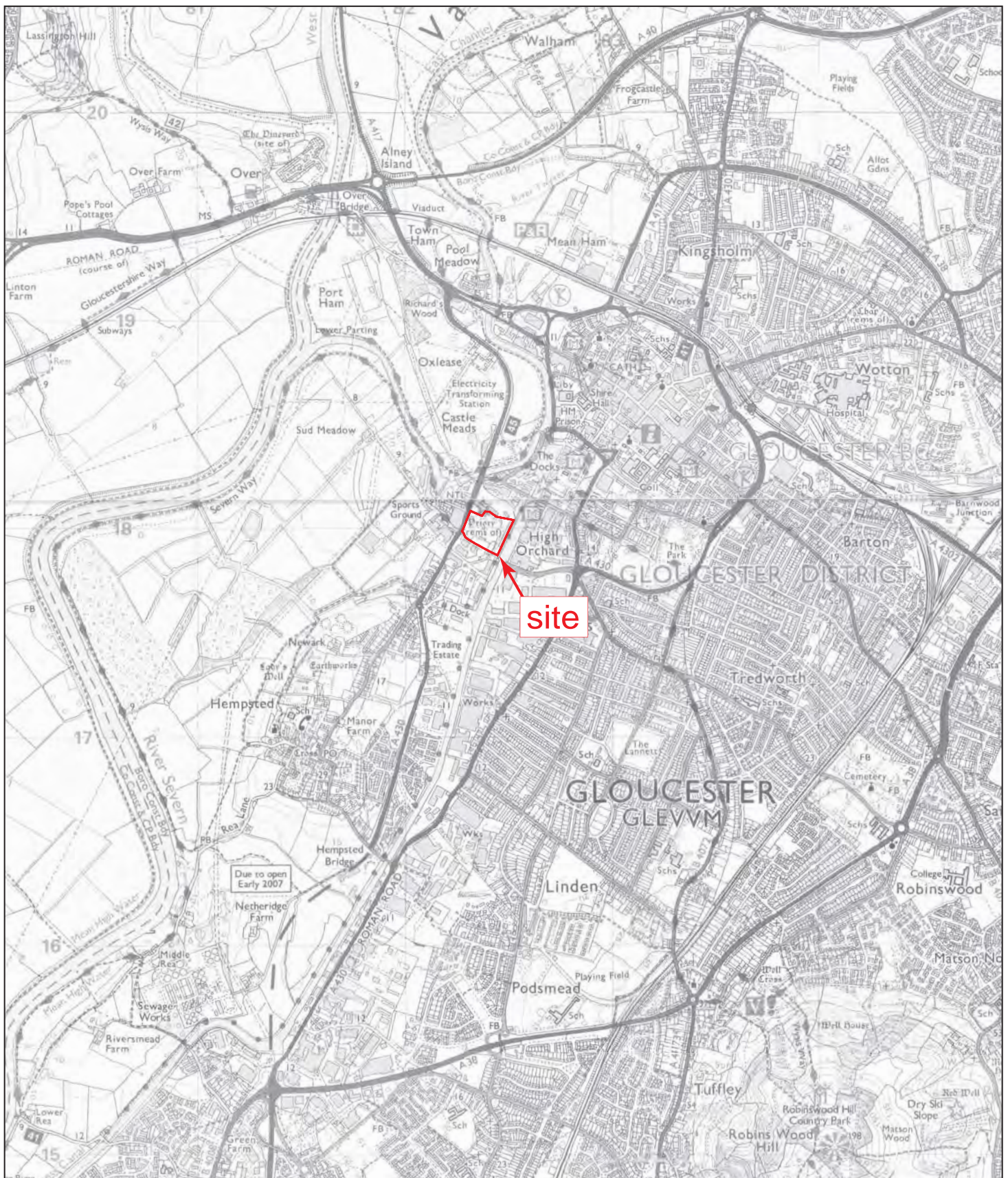


Section BB



PROJECT TITLE Remains of the Inner Court Llanthony Priory, Gloucester Quays			
FIGURE TITLE <b>Test-pit 3; plan, sections and photographs</b>			
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Figure 37: Plan and sections of test-pit 3 across the south wall of the South-East range. Reproduced with permission. Copyright Cotswold Archaeology



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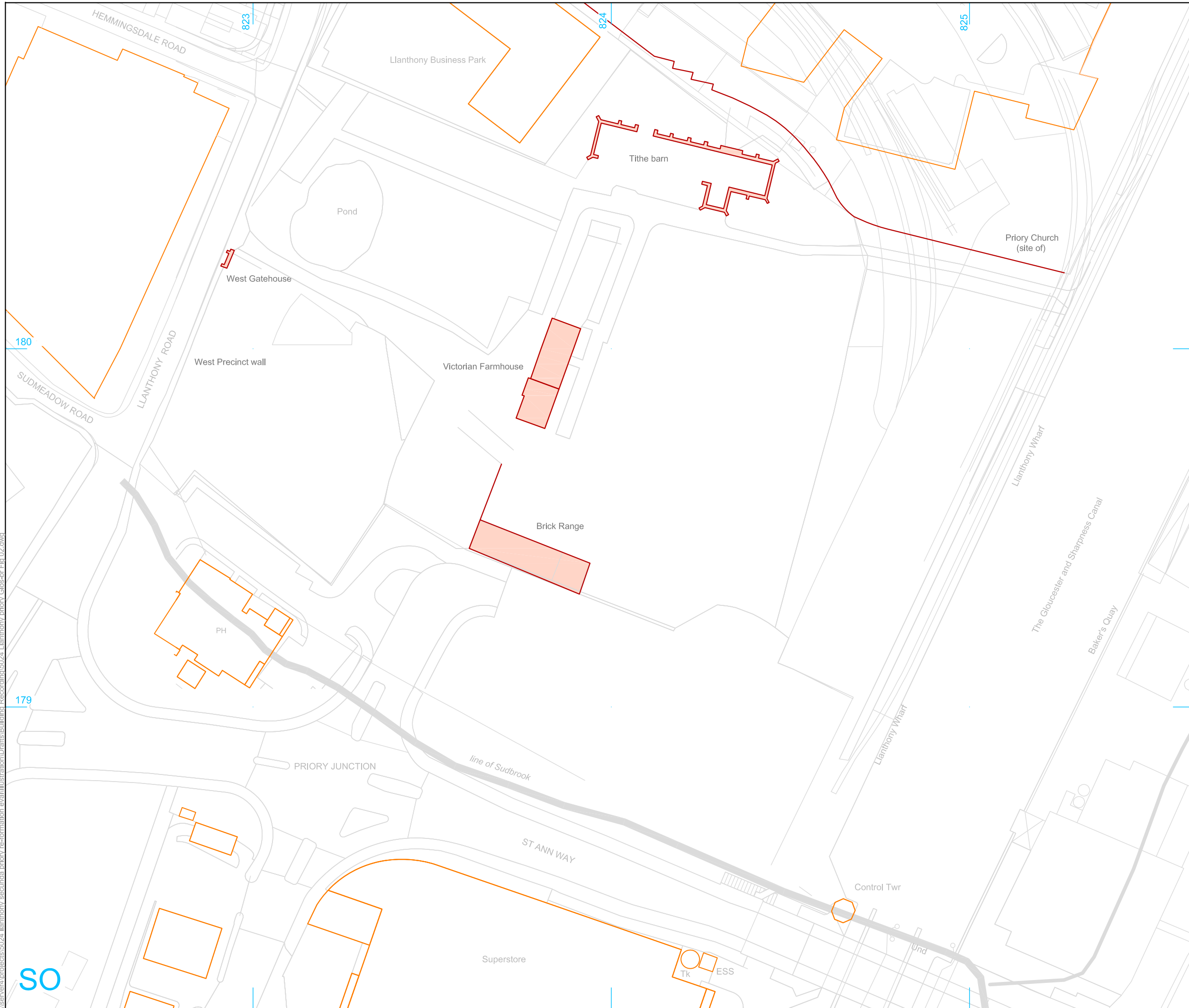
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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Llanthony Secunda Priory, Llanthony Road, Gloucester

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

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<b>PROJECT NO.</b> 5024	<b>DATE</b> 08/10/2014	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
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- Llanthony Priory building
- other building



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**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site, showing location of buildings

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SO



3



4

3 The Medieval Range in 1853, as drawn by J. Clarke

4 J. Buckler's sketch of the east elevation of the Medieval Range of 1818



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FIGURE TITLE

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FIGURE NO.

3 & 4



5



6

5 The West Gatehouse to the priory before 1824, the Medieval Range just visible in background

6 The Medieval Range from the north-west, an old photo taken before the recent refacings



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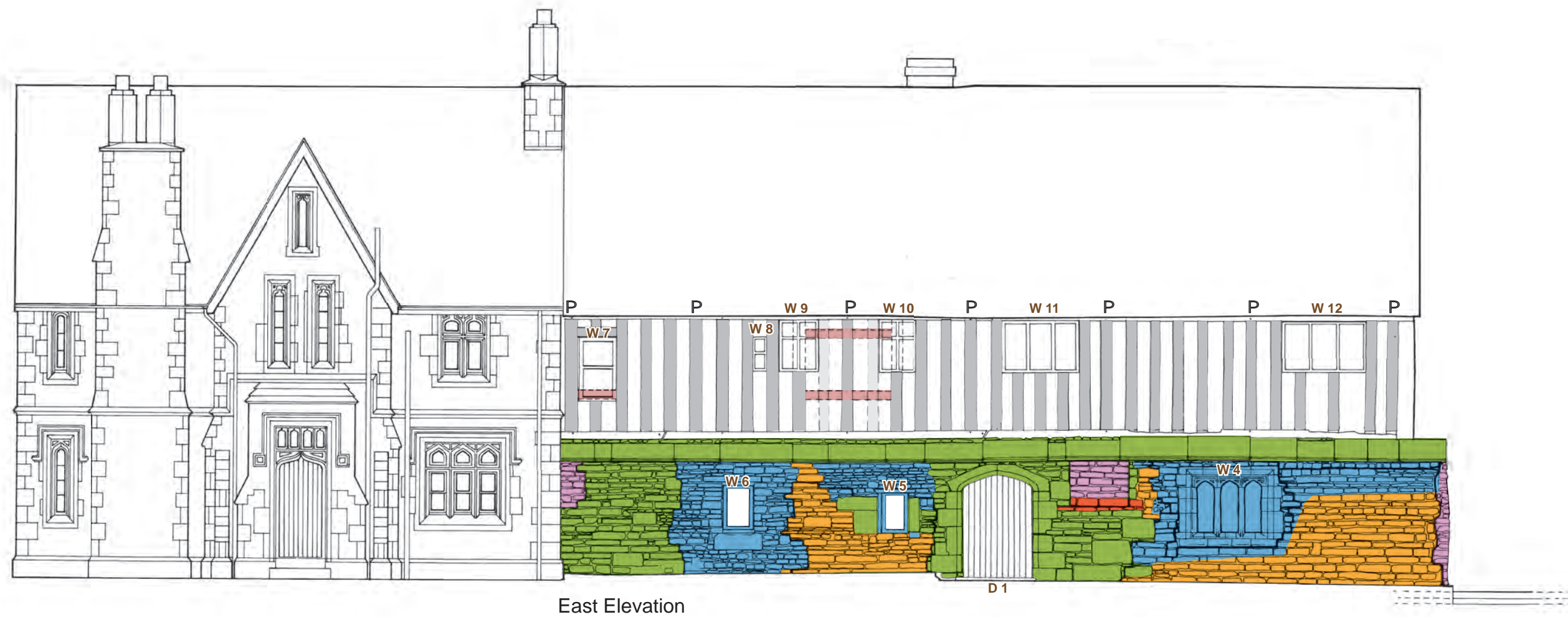
FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

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FIGURE NO.

5 & 6



- |   |   |
|---|---|
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| <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:blue; border:1px solid black;"></span> Phase 3   | <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:gray; border:1px solid black;"></span> timber in original position       |
| <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:red; border:1px solid black;"></span> Phase 4    | <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:gray; border:1px dashed black;"></span> timber moved from demolished end |
| <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:purple; border:1px solid black;"></span> Phase 5 | <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:red; border:1px dashed black;"></span> reconstructed window              |
| <b>W 1</b> window   |   |

0  5m

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FIGURE TITLE  
**The east elevation of the Medieval  
 Range and Victorian Farmhouse after  
 John Rhodes**

PROJECT NO. 5024	DATE 13/11/2014	FIGURE NO.
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APPROVED BY JB	SCALE@A3 1:100	





West Elevation

- |  |  |
|--|--|
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| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: blue; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Phase 3   | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: gray; border: 1px solid black;"></span> timber in original position           |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: red; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Phase 4    | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: lightgray; border: 1px solid black;"></span> timber moved from demolished end |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: purple; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Phase 5 | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: pink; border: 1px solid black;"></span> reconstructed window                  |
| <b>W 1</b> window  |  |

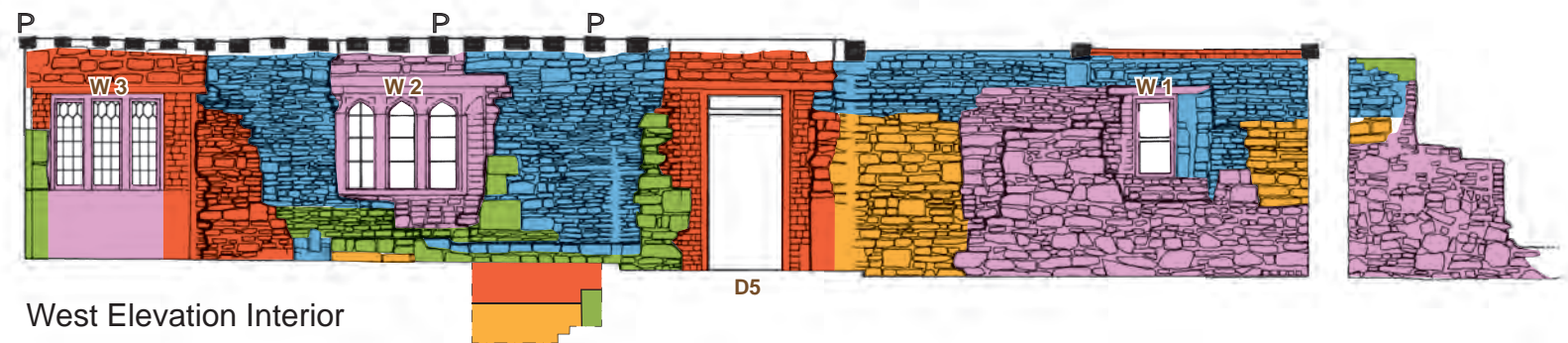
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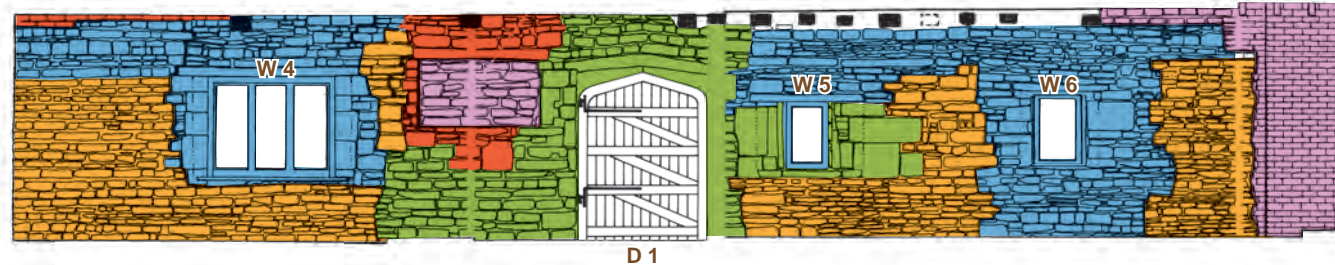
South Wall Interior



South Elevation: north wall of gate passage



West Elevation Interior



East Elevation Interior

- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: orange; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Phase 1 | <b>W 1</b> window |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: green; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Phase 2  | <b>D 1</b> door   |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: blue; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Phase 3   | <b>P</b> post     |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: red; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Phase 4    |                   |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: purple; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Phase 5 |                   |

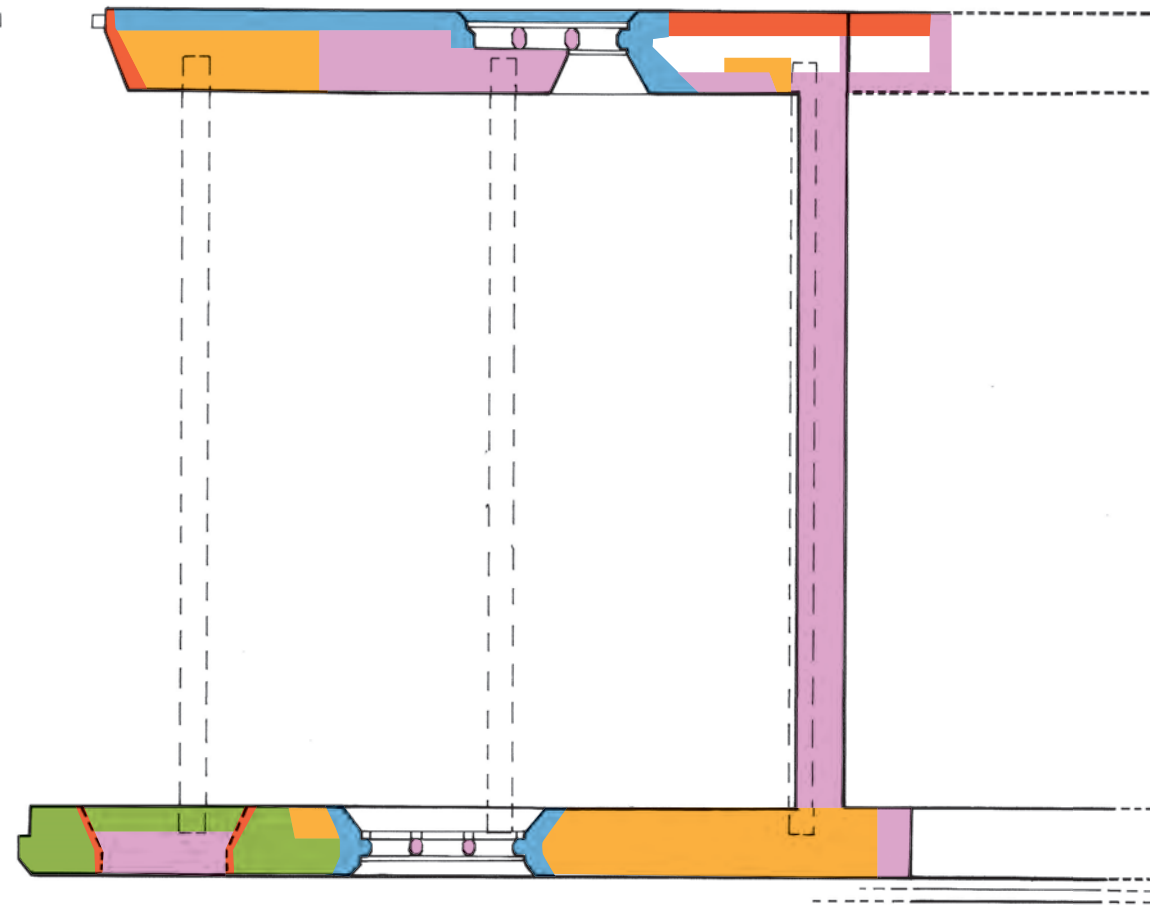




Site of Gate Passage



Ground Floor Plan



- Phase 1
- Phase 2
- Phase 3
- Phase 4
- Phase 5
- ceiling timber





**11 The Phase 2 northern wall of the gate passage with quoins, inside the farmhouse, looking north-west**



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*FIGURE NO.*

**11**



13

**13** The south wall of the first floor of the Medieval Range, showing the Phase 3 stack cut through by a recent door (on right) and the blocked Phase 4 door on the extreme left



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14

**14 The new gable end built after the demolition of the northern half of the Medieval Range, between the stubs of the side walls**



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**14**



15 The window W2, identical in design to those in the Brick Range



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15



16

**16 Remnants of original windows, including a sill, bottom right, either side of a wall post (Truss 3 west side)**



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**16**





**17 The base of a repositioned stud in the east elevation of the Medieval Range, with a joiner's version of Roman numeral XX (medieval/early post-medieval style). Note nails**



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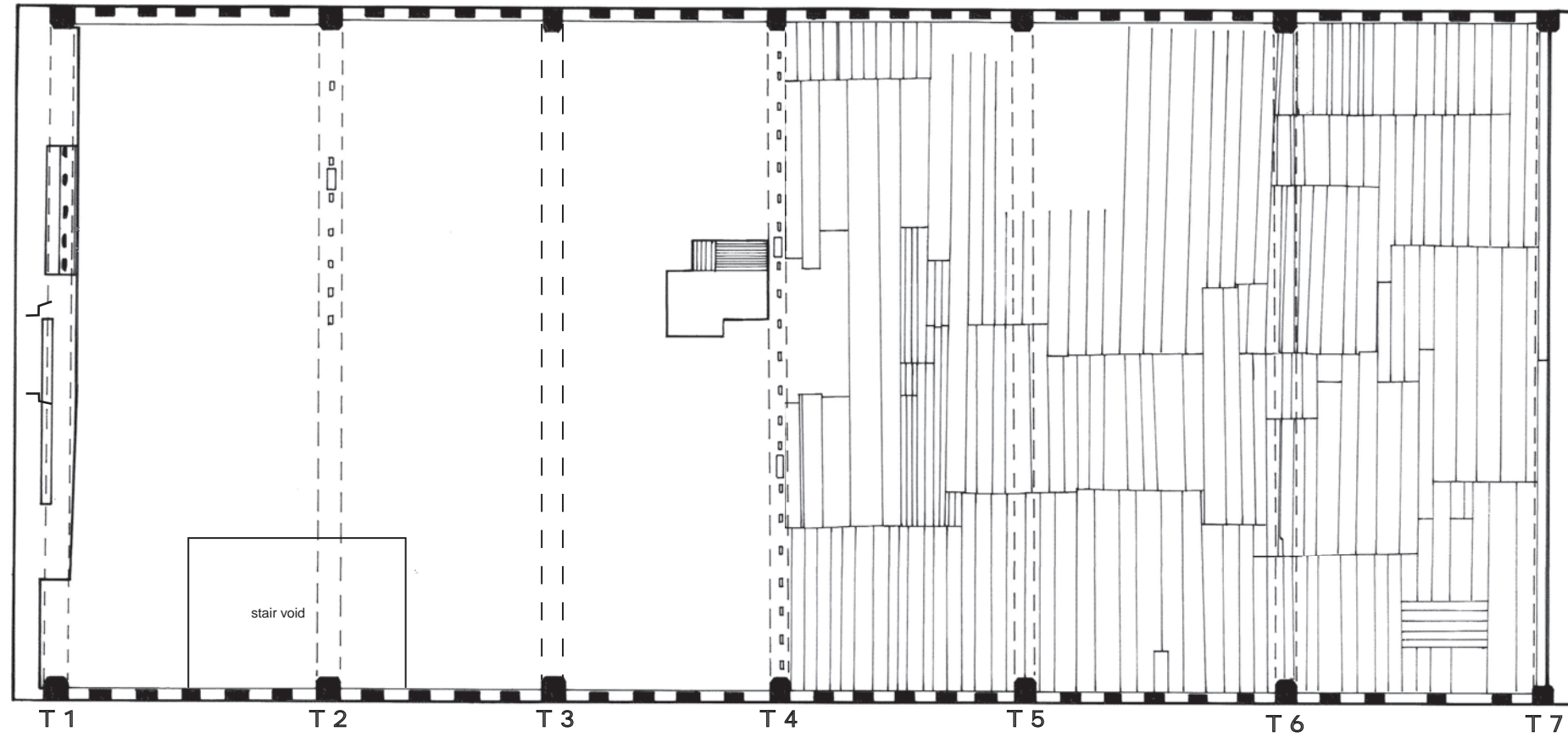
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*FIGURE NO.*

**17**



Site of chamber over passageway



First Floor Plan

- T 1 Truss
- [ - ] ceiling timber





19



20

19 The jowled head of the wall post in Truss 4

20 Tie beam and collar truss (here T2)



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FIGURE NO.

19 & 20



21 The arch brace of Truss 4, looking north



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FIGURE NO.

21



## 22 The evidence for a partition in the tie beam of Truss 2



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FIGURE NO.

**22**



**23** Straight cut stop on a purlin in Bay 1, typical of all timbers in bays A-C

**24** The Phase 4 stud wall and doorway at the north end of the Medieval Range, fixed on to Truss 7, and the Phase 5 closing wall



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FIGURE NO.

**23 & 24**



25



26

**25 A wall post/floor beam/bressummer joint (beam truncated for inserted staircase)**

**26 The iron fixings in the south wall of the Brick Range and the associated slots for hay racks**



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FIGURE NO.

25 & 26



27

**27 The east side of the ground floor of the Medieval Range and the stair and its aperture**



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FIGURE NO.

**27**





**28** The south end, ground-floor wall of the Medieval Range, looking south. The ashlar blocks in the window splay are the quoins of the northern corner of the gate passage (white-painted bricks at the top); see also Fig. 9



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


*FIGURE NO.*

**28**



Ground floor

First floor

-  c. 1870 farmhouse
-  c. 1970s alterations/farmhouse
-  post-2009 blockings



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**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Phased ground and first floor plans of the Victorian Farmhouse

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30 The Victorian Farmhouse east elevation (scale 2m)



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FIGURE NO.

**30**



**31 The Victorian Farmhouse south elevation (scale 2m)**



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*FIGURE NO.*

**31**



32 The Victorian Farmhouse west elevation (scale 2m)



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32



**33 Jamb of eastern doorway into gate passage, looking north. The jamb represents the easternmost surviving part of the gate passage wall on this floor (scale 2m)**



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**33**



**34 A typical stripped-out ground floor room in the Victorian Farmhouse showing Victorian brick and 1980s concrete, blocking doorway (scale 2m)**



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**34**



35 The stair well from the first floor



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35





**36 First floor hall showing 1980s finishes and blockings and the scar of a removed partition, after partial stripping out (scale 2m)**



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**36**



**37 Surviving 1980s finishes in the first floor (window reveals throughout seem to be Victorian, or careful copies) (scale 2m)**



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#### **Andover Office**

Stanley House  
Walworth Road  
Andover  
Hampshire  
SP10 5LH

t: 01264 347630

#### **Cirencester Office**

Building 11  
Kemble Enterprise Park  
Cirencester  
Gloucestershire  
GL7 6BQ

t: 01285 771022

#### **Exeter Office**

Unit 53  
Basepoint Business Centre  
Yeoford Way  
Marsh Barton Trading Estate  
Exeter  
EX2 8LB

t: 01392 826185

#### **Milton Keynes Office**

41 Burners Lane South  
Kiln Farm  
Milton Keynes  
Buckinghamshire  
MK11 3HA

t: 01908 564660