Land to the rear of 7 High Street, Hatherleigh, Devon

An Archaeological Appraisal and Historic Building Recording





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An Archaeological Appraisal and Historic Building Recording

Hartleigh Restoration Ltd

by



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Non-technical Summary

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out the recording of a standing building at No. 7 High Street, Hatherleigh, Devon (centred on NGR SS 54190 04450) in January 2012. The project was commissioned and funded by Hartleigh Restoration Ltd.

Hatherleigh has a documented medieval history, traces of which survive in burgage plot boundaries in the centre of the town which is a conservation area. The Site is set within one of these plots so there is high potential for archaeological remains pre-dating the standing buildings. The buildings formed the parts of a slaughter house which provided stock for a butcher's shop on the High Street front. The earliest building was standing by 1886 and at least two further buildings had probably been constructed before World War I. A fourth structure appears to have been built several decades later. Lean-to sheds annexed to two buildings reflected changes in the slaughtering process, as did modification of the earliest building.

The standing buildings themselves have no intrinsic architectural value and their demolition is unlikely to disturb earlier deposits, hence obviating the need for watching brief. However, any further development of the site should take into account the possible survival of underlying medieval deposits.

1



1. Introduction

- 1.1 Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out the recording of four standing buildings at No. 7 High Street, Hatherleigh, Devon (centred on NGR SS 54190 04450; hereafter referred to as the Site) on 5th January 2012, prior to their demolition. The project was commissioned and funded by Hartleigh Restoration Ltd.
- 1.2 In accordance with Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (2010), and the Local Development Framework Policy on archaeology, consent was granted (planning ref. 01837/2011) on condition that a programme of archaeological work was undertaken. This condition required that:

'No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority. The development shall be carried out at all times in strict accordance with the approved scheme, or such other details as may be subsequently agreed in writing by West Devon Borough Council (WDBC) Planning Authority.'

1.3 The nature of the archaeological work required was determined by Ms Cressida Whitton (Archaeological Officer, Devon County Council Historic Environment Service). In a brief for an archaeological appraisal and historic building recording, dated 10th November 2011 Ms Whitton stated that:

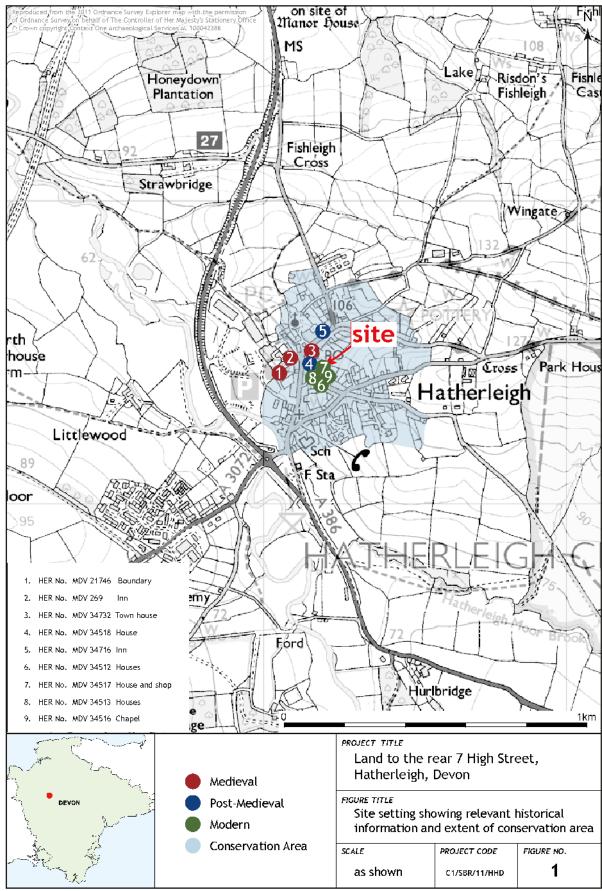
'The proposal area is located within the historic core and Conservation Area of the town of Hatherleigh, which has medieval origins (e.g. market and fair since AD 1220). The buildings to the rear of 7, High Street formerly an abattoir, are mainly of modern construction, however a number of brick-built buildings are also present which are marked on late C19th/early C20th historic mapping. Archaeological building recording is recommended for the latter prior to demolition (and during demolition if appropriate).'

1.4 Given the archaeological and historical significance of the buildings and the Hatherleigh Conservation Area within which they are set, it was determined that a reasonable archaeological response in mitigation of the demolition works would be to carry out a desk-based appraisal and a Level 1/2 historic building recording survey. Additionally, should demolition require groundworks below the current 'concrete' floor level within or outside the existing buildings, archaeological monitoring might additionally be required and a second WSI prepared (and approved by DCHES) to cover further work.

2. Site location, topography

- 2.1 Hatherleigh is a small market town in West Devon. It occupies a ridge east of the River Lew and the A386 road and is c. 10km north-north-west of Okehampton and c. 15km south-south-east of Great Torrington. The Site (centred on NGR SS 5419 0445) comprises level high ground at c. 83m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), to the rear of the north side of the High Street within the Hatherleigh Conservation Area. It included four brick-built buildings with two associated lean-to sheds.
- The underlying geology is of Bow Breccia Formation Permian Sedimentary Breccia (BGS 2012). The soils in the area are classed as free draining, slightly acid loam of low fertility (NSRI 2012).







3. Archaeological methodology

3.1 The programme was in two phases. The first phase comprised investigation and recording of the historic building fabrics and architectural detail prior to their demolition. Depending on the results of the first phase, a second may be instigated to monitor groundworks and investigate and record any exposed archaeological deposits.

Historic Building Survey

- 3.2 The historic building survey was supported by a desk-based appraisal placing the Site within its historical and archaeological context. This included map regression based on the Ordnance Survey maps and the Tithe Map and Apportionments. An examination was also made of aerial photographs held by the Historic Environment Service.
- 3.3 The building survey was a Level 2 descriptive record in accordance with guidelines issued by English Heritage (Menuge 2006). The West Devon Conservation Officer and the HES has been informed of the results of the survey.
- 3.4 A digital SLR camera was used to record the exterior and the interior of the former factory, including features of historical and architectural significance. Plans provided by the client's architect were used as a basis for the recording. The resulting archive consists of 87 digital images.

4. Historic background

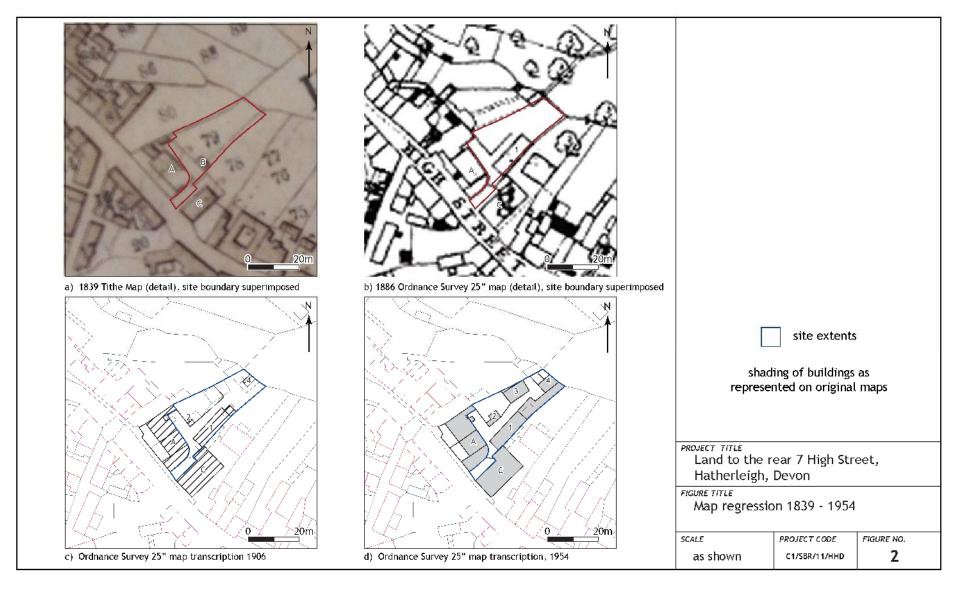
Medieval (AD 1066 - 1547)

- 4.1 The gift of the manor of *Haegthorn Leah* to Tavistock Abbey in AD 981 testifies to Hatherleigh's existence during the Anglo-Saxon period (hnet). The abbey continued to hold parts of the manor in 1086, when it is recorded that the settlement fell within the '(Black) Torrington Hundred' (Thorn and Thorn 1985, 5, 4). In 1220 Henry III granted the holding of a weekly market and a two-day annual fair in Hatherleigh (MDV 21746; hnet). Further documentary evidence records the collection of burgage rents in 1394 (MDV 21746) and a possible burgage plot boundary has been identified on the west side of the town (**Figure 1**, 1)
- 4.2 The market played a key role in the development of the town and its oldest surviving non-ecclesiastical buildings are along Market Street, including the George Inn (**Figure 1**, 2), built in *c*. 1450 but ravaged by fire in 2008. A town house of *c*. 1500 retains many late medieval features (**Figure 1**, 3).

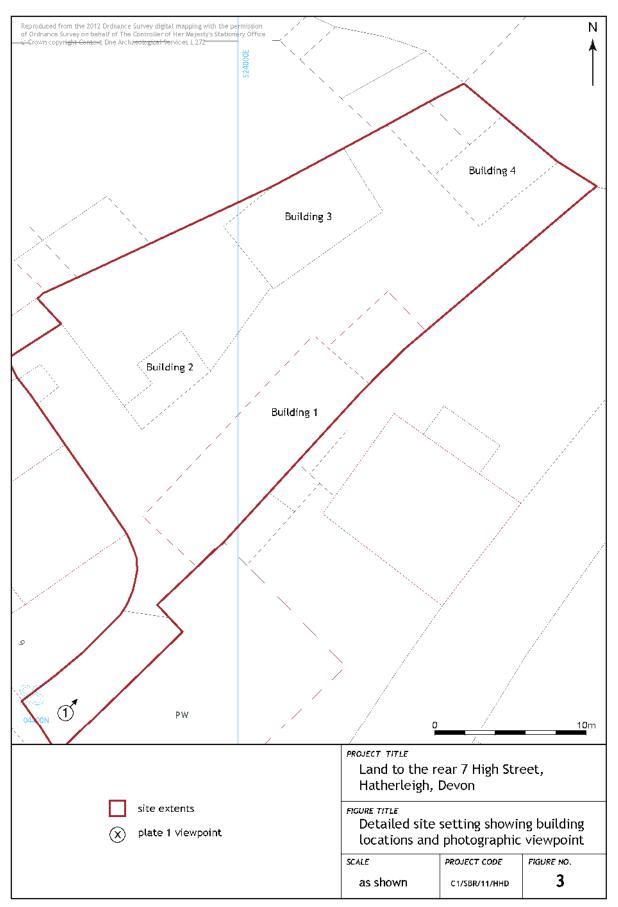
Post Medieval and Modern (AD 1548 -)

4.3 The continuing centrality of Market Street is reflected in the survival of an inn built in the 17th century (**Figure 1**, 5) but cottages of the previous century (**Figure 1**, 4) may indicate the early growth in importance of the High Street. Cottages and a Baptist chapel (**Figure 1**, 6, 8 and 9) not only reflect a growing population along the High Street but probably a change in the industrial character of the town, with combined domestic/commercial premises becoming a feature (**Figure 1**, 7). The present Site is an example of industrial premises located behind a shop front, which was still open for business in 2006 (Price 2006, 24).











Map regression

- 4.4 Tithe Map of 1839 shows good survival of burgage plot outlines perpendicular to the High Street (**Figure 2a**) and they are well represented in neighbouring Bridge Street and Market Street. Although the Site boundaries do not coincide precisely with those of the later maps it seems most likely that this reflects increased mapping accuracy over time rather than actual changes of boundaries on the ground.
- 4.5 The Site occupies a burgage plot which remained plainly visible as apportionment 79. It was listed as Cowless Orchard, an open space in use as orchard and pasture. A single small structure (Figure 2a, B) straddled the long boundary at the south west end. Further south-west a building (Figure 2a, A) fronting onto, but set slightly back from, the High Street may reasonably be identified with a similarly situated structure on the Ordnance Survey map of 1886. By that time an annexe had been added to its south end, extending to the street edge (Figure 2b, A) and extant at the present day (Plate 1).
- 4.6 Building 1 makes its first appearance on the same map (Figure 2b, 1), along with the marked Baptist chapel built in 1879 (Figure 2b, C), which appears to occupy the same footprint as a structure shown on the Tithe (Figure 2a, C). By 1906, Building 4 (Figure 3c) had been added and Buildings 2 and 3 (Figure 2d) are marked on the map of 1954. The latter shows a long north-eastward extension (Figure 2d) from Building 1 which had been replaced by a much smaller lean-to at the time of the photographic survey.

5. Results

5.1 The results have been divided into four sections, dealing separately with the individual buildings. Tables for each section summarise the results of the survey, with relevant plate numbers emboldened and in brackets under 'Observations'. The plate viewpoints are shown in **Figures 4** to **7**.



5.2 The south gable of Building 1 was the first structure encountered on accessing the Site from the High Street. The plan was rectangular and measured 5.25m wide by 15.57m long, oriented south-south-west to north-north-east. The building comprised three chambers with a single connecting corridor. The north chamber was clearly a holding space for live animals, from which they were driven along the corridor and slaughtered in the south chamber. From there, carcasses would have been transferred to the central chamber for final butchery. The narrow width of the corridor implies the slaughtering of medium-sized mammals such as sheep, pigs and possibly young cattle.

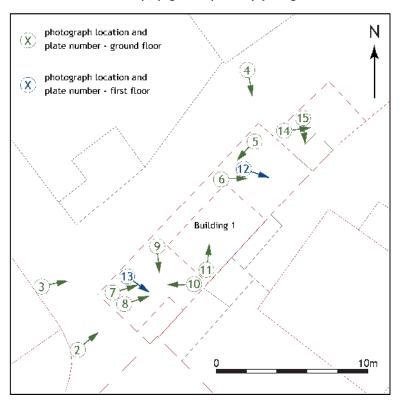


Figure 4. Building 1 showing photographic viewpoints

Element	Observations
Walls, external	Red brick in Flemish bond on south west and north west side (2 and 3). North east gable of random uncoursed stone with brick-arched and in-filled windows (4) supporting brickwork towards the apex. Height from ground to projecting eaves 5.24m and to apex 6.54m. The outer south west corner was truncated to produce a recess with a corbelled brick cover reaching almost to the height of the 1st floor windows. A gibbet-like angle-iron was attached to the underside of the corbel
Roof	Slate with flashed apex (2 - 4).
Doors	South west gable: opening remodelled to accommodate twin-leaved sliding metal on rail (2). North west wall: broad opening onto corridor with shallow arch of alternating pitched and horizontal brick (3). Two single-sized, similarly arched doors, one opening onto corridor, the other into the north room (4), each with simple 1st floor opening to eaves immediately above
Windows, south west gable	Two central blocked windows to the 1st floor, one with shallow arch of alternating pitched and horizontal brick (2), the other a lancet



Windows, north east gable Windows, north east gable	South end: two blue, timber-framed, concrete-silled windows with shallow arch of alternating pitched and horizontal brick lighting 1st floor which had formerly extended to the ground floor but the lower 60% had been blocked with brick (3). A narrow, rectangular blue, timber-framed, timber-silled window was situated above the large door (3). A square metal vent was sited to the north of the south 1st floor door and a lancet midway between the north 1st floor door and the buildings north east quoin (4) Two central blocked windows to the 1st floor, one with shallow arch of alternating pitched and horizontal brick (2), the other a lancet, symmetrical with the arrangement in the opposing gable (not illustrated)	
Corridor	Corridor, width 0.71m, length 5.64m, with cement-skinned walls linking north and south chambers and formerly giving access to the central chamber via a now blocked door (5)	
North chamber	Rectangular space of 5.19m by 4.32m with cement-rendered walls (6), accessed internally via corridor and externally via a single leaf door. Concrete ceiling supported by iron girders. Concrete floor with embedded upright girders supporting plated iron hurdles forming holding stalls with open shallow floor drain to rear	
South chamber	Nearly square space of 5.25m by 5.46m subdivided in south corner by rectangular cubicle of 1.17m by 3.08m (9). Internal access via corridor, external through twin-leaved sliding door through the gable. Cement render over brick and the blockwork of the central chamber. The rail for the transfer of slaughtered animals to the central chamber (7, 8) was <i>in situ</i> at the time of the survey, suspended from a steel frame. De-activated electrical equipment for the operation of the rail (10)	
Central chamber	Blockwork rectangular space of 3.64m by 5.64m with upper cement render and glazed tile over lower surface. Retained rail and associated steel frame, as well as chains suspended from the concrete ceiling (11)	
First floor	Unrendered brick walls, except at north east gable, where the lower wall was of stone (12). Concrete floor. Timber frame comprising rafters set on tie beams supporting trusses, with rafters supporting battens (13). Two symmetrically arranged internal brick buttresses set on top of the north east gable stonework supported beams (12)	
Lean-to annexe	Approximately square, 4.33m by 4.18m concrete walled and floored lean-to with a perspex roof supported by angle-iron pitching gently from the north east gable which it adjoined (14). The annexe was subdivided to form a 1.93m by 1.61m cubicle in its south west corner (15)	

Table 1. Building 1, summary inventory







Plate 1. Access to the Site (from SSW; no scale)



Plate 3. Building 1 exterior (from WSW; 2m scale)



Plate 2. Building 1 gable (from SSW; 2m scale)





Plate 4. Building 1 with annexe (from N; 2m scale)



Plate 6. Building 1, north room (from W; 2m scale)

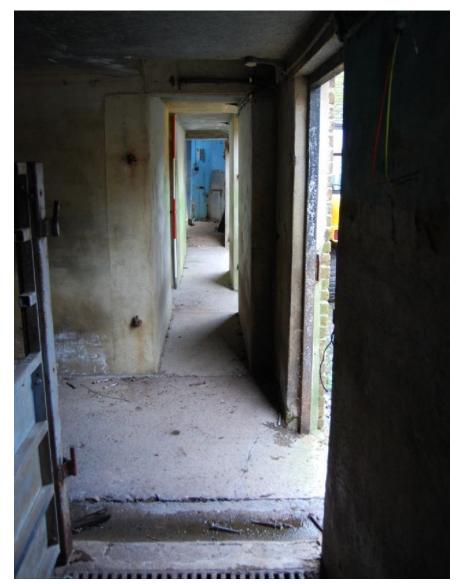


Plate 5. Building 1 corridor (from NE; 2m scale)





Plate 7. Building 1, south room and corridor (from W; 2m scale)



Plate 8. Building 1, south room showing rail and frame (from W; 2m scale)





Plate 9. Building 1, south room (from N; 2m scale)



Plate 10. Building 1, south room showing rail and frame (from E; 2m scale)





Plate 11. Building 1, middle room (from S; 2m scale)

Land to the rear of 7 High Street, Hatherleigh, Devon

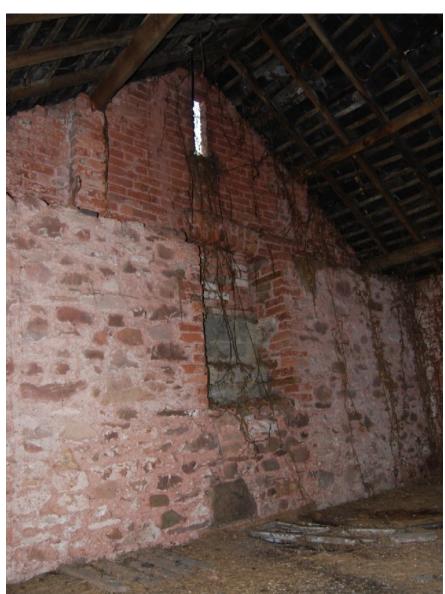


Plate 12. Building 1, 1st floor (from WSW; no scale)



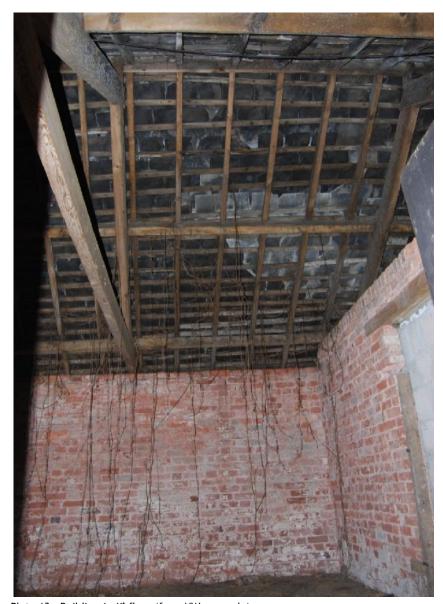


Plate 13. Building 1, 1st floor (from NW; no scale)



Plate 14. Building 1, lean-to (from NNE; 2m scale)



5.3 Building 2 was on a slightly convergent orientation with Building 1 which it faced from across a c. 4m wide concrete passage. The main body of the building was 4.44m long by 3.11m wide, with two privvies adjoining the east half of the southwest gable. Map regression suggests that it was built between 1906 and 1954. The manner of construction and the materials suggest that it dates to the earlier part of that period.

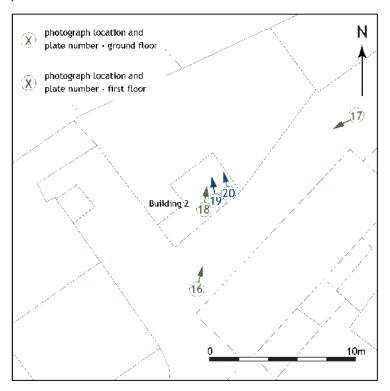


Figure 5. Building 2 showing photographic view points

Element	Observations	
Walls	Red brick in stretcher bond exterior (16 and 17)	
Roof	Galvanised, corrugated iron with flashing at the apex (16)	
Doors	Simple rectangular, timber-framed, single-leafed door at south end of south east -facing wall giving external access on ground floor. External access to 1st floor via similarly framed door through the west side of the south west gable and a wide rectangular opening immediately to the north of the ground floor door (16)	
Windows Single metal framed rectangular window through the north-west facing ground wall (18)		
Stack	Unelaborated brick chimney at the north east gable apex serving flue and former hearth.	
Ground floor	Tiles floor, boarded walls and board-tiled ceiling, the latter concealing the ceiling support. Built-in shelf unit within former hearth (18)	
First floor White-washed brick walls, probably timber floor. Rafters set directly onto v rafters supporting battens (19) to which corrugated roof fastened.		
Privvies	Semi-detached cubicles adjoining east side of south west gable. Stretcher bonded red brick under ceramic coped slate accessed by simple rectangular single leaf doors (16)	

Table 2. Building 2, summary inventory





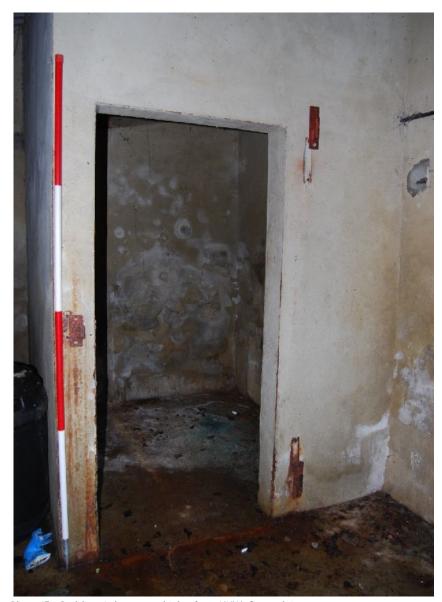


Plate 15. Building 1, lean-to cubicle (from NNW; 2m scale)



Plate 16. Building 2 (from S; 2m scale)



Plate 17. Building 2 in relation to Building 3 (from NE; 2m scale)



Plate 18. Building 2, ground floor (from S; 1m scale)



Plate 19. Building 2, 1st floor (from S; no scale)



Plate 20. Building 2, 1^{st} floor flue (from SSW; no scale)



5.4 Building 3 was a south-west to north-east oriented, 7.9m long by 4.97m wide structure located c. 8m north of Building 1. It comprised a single open space. Map regression suggests that it was built between 1906 and 1954. The manner of construction and the materials suggest that it was altered substantially subsequently.

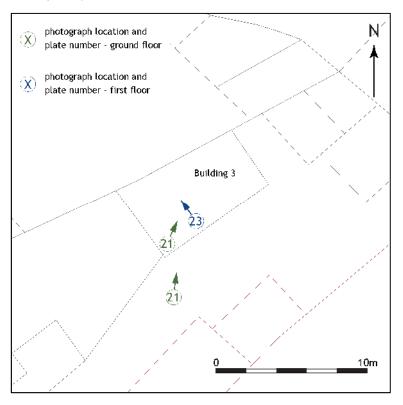


Figure 6. Building 3 showing photographic view points

Element	Observations
Walls	Mortared breeze block (21 and 22) with weather-boarded upper floor gables
Roof	Galvanised, corrugated iron with flashing at the apex (21 and 23). The main body of the structured was covered with a symmetrical pitch which was extended with a gentle pitch at the north east end
Doors	Entirely open access under south east gable (21) and a squat rectangular door giving direct access through that gable to the 1st floor
Windows	Rectangular metal framed windows (21 and 22)
Ground floor	Concrete surface (22) with exposed breeze block wall. Cill beams and south west and north east ends and a tie beam supported joists and a partially boarded ceiling (22)
First floor	Partially boarded floor over joists (23). Rafters supporting battens to which corrugated roof fastened

Table 3. Building 3, summary inventory





Plate 21. Building 3 (from S; 2m scale)



Plate 23. Building 3, roof space (from SE; no scale)





Plate 24. Building 4, roof space (from SSW; 2m scale)

Land to the rear of 7 High Street, Hatherleigh, Devon





Plate 25. Building 4, ground floor (from SW; 2m scale)



Plate 27. Building 4, lean-to (from S; 2m scale)



Plate 26. Building 4, 1st floor (from SSW; 2m scale)



5.5 Building 4 was situated in the north eastern part of the site. The two-storey structure was 5.67m long by 4.70m wide, with a lean-to of 5.76m by 4.52m projecting southwards beyond its south west gable on the north west side. The weathering of the mortar was very variable, suggesting repair work or partial rebuilding. Map regression suggests that it was first built between 1886 and 1906.

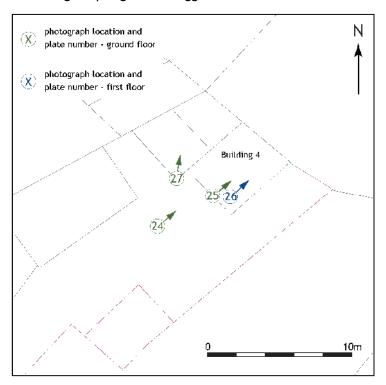


Figure 7. Building 4 showing photographic view points

Element	Observations
Walls	Red brick in stretcher bond exterior (24 and 26) with brick buttresses providing support to timber beams
Roof	Galvanised, corrugated iron with flashing at the apex (26) fastened to timber A-frame
Doors	On the ground floor there appears to have been a twin-leaved door on the west side of the south west gable and a single-leaf door on the east side. A single tie-beam effectively providing lintels for both. Above the beam was another opening with a sandstone lintel (24).
Windows	The ground floor was lit by a single rectangular timber-framed window through the south east side (25) and the 1 st floor by a stone-lintelled window through the north east gable (26)
Ground floor	The surface was of concrete with exposed brick walls. Freezers suggest the space was used for the storage of meat (25)
First floor	The floor was of boards (26) over joists. The timber frame roof was fully exposed and used as loft storage
Lean-to	Annexed to the north west side of Building 4, comprised of concrete floor with walls part breeze block, part corrugated iron (27). Set under a corrugated iron roof pitched from south-east to north-west over a frame of timber uprights and beams. Part of the north-east wall is set over a delapidated, uncoursed, stone wall; this presumably marks



the Site boundary and is possibly that shown on the Tithe Map. Access to the lean-to was via an opening where the structure projected beyond the main building (24)

Table 4. Building 4, summary inventory

6. Discussion

- 6.1 Until recently, the four buildings surveyed on the Site were used as a slaughter house supplying meat to a shop front at 7 High Street. It was beyond the scope of the present investigation to determine whether the first building on the site (Building 1) was constructed for that purpose, although it should be noted that map regression analysis shows that the shop front footprint has remained unaltered since at least 1886, the date when Building 1 was first marked.
- 6.2 The mapping implies that there were at least two further main phases of construction, with the addition of Building 4 by 1906 and Buildings 2 and 3 by 1954. Observation of the fabric of Building 2 would suggest that it is close in date to Building 4, hence probably pre-World War 1. Building 2 appears to have been used as a staff rest area, heated by a fireplace and with adjoining lavatories. The use of breeze blocks in Building 3 implies that it is several decades later, although part of the 1st floor (the gables) may be older, with the blockwork representing infilling of open sides or rebuilding of partial walls.
- 6.3 The materials used and the manner of construction of the lean-to against Building 1 would suggest a date no earlier than the 1960s and quite possibly a decade later. It may signify a change in the process which saw the simultaneous introduction of the central processing room. The latter also served to reduce the distress of animals in the holding area by separating them from the scene of slaughter. Contemporary alterations to Building 2 are consistent with its continued use as a staff rest area.
- 6.4 The wall supporting part of the Building 4 lean-to is probably the oldest fabric surviving on the Site, possibly predating the Tithe Map and loosely based on the boundary of a medieval burgage plot.
- The standing buildings themselves have no intrinsic architectural value and their demolition is unlikely to disturb earlier deposits, hence obviating the need for watching brief (cf section 3.1, phase2). However, any further development of the site should take into account the possible survival of underlying medieval deposits.

7. Archive

- 7.1 The archive will be prepared to comply with guidelines set out in Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage (UKIC 1990)/ Standards in the Museums Care of Archaeological Collections (Museum and Galleries Commission 1992)/ Management of Archaeological Projects 2 (English Heritage 1991).
- 7.2 Copies of this report in both printed and digital format will be deposited with:

Mr Patrick Gillies
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Hartleigh Barton
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Historic Environment Service
Devon County Council
Environment, Economy and Culture Directorate
Matford Offices
County Hall
Exeter
EX2 4QW



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Appendix 1. Devon Historic Environment Service report for archaeological events within the site and its immediate environs.

HER No.	Description	NGR	Figure 1 ref.
Medieval (Al	D1066 - AD1547)		·
MDV 21746	Documentary. Charter for market and fair, 1220. Burgage rents, 1394		
MDV 62891	Boundary. Possible burgage plot boundary ditch including medieval pottery	SS 5405 0443	1
MDV 269	Inn. George Inn, Market Street, dated to c. 1450. Formerly listed	SS 5409 0448	2
MDV 34732	Town house . Dated c. 1500, retaining many original Late medieval features. Grade II* listed building	SS 5416 0450	3
Post-Mediev	al (AD1548 - 1799)		
MDV 34518	House . 16 th century cottage, High Street, remodelled in mid 17 th century. Grade II listed building	SS 5416 0446	4
MDV 34716	Inn. Tally Ho! Inn, Market Street, dated to early 17 th century. Grade II listed building	SS 5420 0456	5
Modern (AD	1800 -)	•	
MDV 34512	Houses. Row of three cottages, dated to early 19 th century. Grade II listed building group	SS 5420 0439	6
MDV 34517	House and shop. Mid to late 19 th century, High Street, neighbouring the Site. Grade II listed building	SS 5420 0445	7
MDV 34513	Houses. Pair of mid 19 th century, High Street. Grade II listed building	SS 5417 0441	8
MDV 34516	Chapel. Baptist Chapel, dated 1879. Grade II listed building	SS 5422 0441	9

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