

**Archaeological building investigation
and recording at
1 New Street,
Childswickham,
Worcestershire,
WR12 7HQ**

Martin Cook BA MCIfA

25th September 2019

WSM 71924

Oasis ref martinco1- 367777

Sundowner
Circus Field Basin
Stocklake
Aylesbury
HP20 1AP

07850 918755

Contents

Introduction

Summary

The documentary material

Historic mapping

The Worcestershire Historic Environment Record: geology and topography

Historic buildings adjacent to the site

Monuments adjacent to the site

Landscape components adjacent to the site

Archaeological events adjacent to the site

Historic landscape character of the site

The fieldwork

General

Description - the building recording

Phase 1: construction of original house – 1902

The interior

Phase 2: construction of extension to north - by 1923

Phase 3.1: construction of further extension to north – mid to late 20th century

The interior

Phase 3.2: sub-division of principal bedroom – mid to late 20th century

Interpretation

Outline development of the domestic house from the early 17th to the early 20th century

General

6 Church Square, Cockfield, Bishop Auckland, County Durham

20 Albert Street, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire

1 New Street, Childswickham, Worcestershire

Bibliography

Traditional sources

Internet sources

Acknowledgements

Archive

Appendix 1

OASIS form

List of the illustrations

Drawings

- Fig 1: Location of site
Fig 2.1: Historic mapping
Fig 2.2: Historic mapping
Fig 3.1: Ground floor and first floor
Fig 3.2: Elevations
Fig 3.3: Elevations

Photographs

- Fig 4: South elevation
Fig 5: South elevation; detail of battered brick course
Fig 6: South elevation; detail of porch floor
Fig 7: East elevation; south end
Fig 8: East elevation; north end
Fig 9: North elevation; detail of moulded blue brick cill
Fig 10: North elevation
Fig 11: West elevation; north end
Fig 12: West elevation; south end
Fig 13: Room 1; hall
Fig 14: Room 1; hall, showing staircase
Fig 15: Room 1; hall, showing tiled floor
Fig 16: Room 2; sitting room
Fig 17: Room 2; sitting room, detail of fireplace
Fig 18: Room 2; sitting room, detail of door
Fig 19: Room 3; dining room
Fig 20: Room 3; dining room, detail of fireplace
Fig 21: Room 3; dining room, detail of window catch
Fig 22: Room 1; under stair larder
Fig 23: Room 1; under stair larder
Fig 24: Room 1; detail of staircase
Fig 25: Room 4; kitchen showing remains of hearth
Fig 26: Room 5; utility room, former bathroom and toilet
Fig 27: Room 12; third bedroom
Fig 28: Room 12; third bedroom, detail of fireplace
Fig 29: Room 10; landing
Fig 30: Room 8; bathroom, formerly part of first bedroom
Fig 31: Room 11; second bedroom
Fig 32: Room 11; second bedroom, detail of fireplace
Fig 33: Room 9; first bedroom
Fig 34: Room 9; first bedroom
Fig 35: Room 7: *en suite*, formerly part of first bedroom
Fig 36: Room 9; first bedroom, showing detail of fireplace
Fig 37: Roof space showing common rafter roof

Comparative material

- Fig 38.1: 6 Church Square, Cockfield, Bishop Auckland, County Durham – 1624
Fig 38.2: Hayloft ladder, stable, Woodford Halse, Northamptonshire – early to mid 18th century
Fig 38.3: Small scullery, Black Country Living Museum
Fig 38.4: Small range in cottage at Tardebigge New Wharf, Worcestershire
Fig 38.5: 20 Albert Street, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire – between 1880 and 1891
Fig 39: Conjectural original layout of first floor, 1 New Street, Childswickham

Archaeological building investigation and recording at 1 New Street, Childswickham, Worcestershire, WR12 7HQ

Introduction

Historic building recording of 1 New Street, Childswickham, Worcestershire, WR12 7HQ (SP 07187 38832, Fig 1), was undertaken at the request of Mr David Hollingworth. This was done according to a written scheme of investigation provided by Martin Cook BA MCIfA, based upon a condition recommended by Aidan Smyth of Wychavon District Council (planning ref W/19/00654/FUL) and an email exchange with Aidan Smyth. The WSI was approved by Aidan Smyth.

The project was undertaken to level two standard, in advance of demolition of the property.

Summary

Historic building recording was undertaken at 1 New Street, Childswickham, Worcestershire, WR12 7HQ. The building recording demonstrated that the house was built around 1902 with modifications throughout the 20th and 21st century relating, principally, to the provision of bathroom and lavatory facilities and changing norms of hygiene and cleanliness.

The documentary material

Documentary research at the Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service took place on the 7th August 2019 and a search of the Historic Environment Record was received on the 30th August 2019.

Historic mapping

The building is dated to the opening years of the 20th century. No historic mapping earlier than the late 19th century was consulted. The Ordnance Survey maps of 1885 and 1902 (Fig 2.1) show the site of the recorded building as a field. The Ordnance Survey maps of 1923 and 1946 (Fig 2.2) show the recorded building substantially in its current configuration.

The Worcestershire Historic Environment Record: geology and topography

General

The search area sits within a rolling lowland vale based on bedrock geology made up of mudstone and superficial geology made up of large deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel and alluvium that follow the course and tributaries of the Badsey Brook. The surrounding area is made up of large, regular arable fields under intensive farming, orchards and small tree plantations. Settlement is mostly nucleated and tree cover is made up of scattered hedgerows and watercourse trees. Within the search area a nucleated and clustered settlement is surrounded by modern expansion, large swathes of piecemeal enclosure, modern subdivision and field amalgamation and an isolated area of Parliamentary enclosure. The Conservation Area of Childswickham and the Scheduled Monuments of a moated site and village cross are also included within the search area.

Historic buildings adjacent to the site

WSM 01851

Former farmhouse 17th century - AD to 20th century AD

WSM 38255

The Old Post Office and Katies' House - 17th century AD to 21st century AD

WSM 38256

House, 21 New Street - 19th century AD to 21st century AD

WSM 38257

House, 23 New Street - 15th century AD to 21st century AD

WSM 53656

Outbuildings associated with Childswickham House - 17th century AD to 21st century AD

Monuments adjacent to the site

WSM 24132

Wyckham Court, Hinton Road - Undated

WSM 39557

Ridge and furrow, west of Perrins Farm - 1066 AD to 1539 AD

WSM 45206

Post-medieval occupation - post-medieval to 21st century AD

WSM 53657

Site of farmstead south-east of Childswickham Inn 19th century AD

Landscape components adjacent to the site

WSM 61307

Site of farmstead south-east of Childswickham Inn - 19th century AD

Archaeological events adjacent to the site

WSM 30766

Watching brief 2001

WSM 31935

Excavation in 2002 at Buckland Road

Historic landscape character of the site

HWR 3913

Modern expansion

The fieldwork

General

Fieldwork took place on the 9th September 2019. The building recording comprised a walk-over survey of the building with 'as existing' architect's plans and elevations. The plans and elevations were annotated with historic information relating to the construction and sequence of development of the building with photographs taken as appropriate (Figs 3.1 to 37).

Description - the building recording

Phase 1: construction of original house - 1902

An 'L' shaped dwelling comprising, at ground floor level, a sitting room and a dining room, built around a back-to-back fireplace, with a side passage and a kitchen with its own fireplace, was surmounted by a first floor of three rooms and a landing (Fig 3.1). It is thought that a range was provided in the kitchen, which was also used as a temporary bathroom and that lavatory arrangements were a privy at the end of the garden.

The front (south) elevation (Figs 3.3 and 4) was the most elaborate, being constructed in Flemish bond in lime mortar, with a stone lintel over the door and stone cills to the windows. Immediately below the first floor cills was a stone string course. Single brick arches spanned the window openings. A date stone (1902) was placed in the gable. Near ground level was a course of blue engineering bricks, forming a damp-proof course and just above this, a course of battered bricks (Fig 5). There was a recessed storm porch with stone steps and tiled floor (Fig 6). Within the porch, the front door had the upper two-thirds glazed, which was typical of an Edwardian house and the panels formed in the lower part of the door had raised mouldings around the edge to make them appear deeper.

The other elevations (Figs 3.2 - east and west elevations, 3.3 - north elevation and Figs 6, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12) were somewhat plainer. These were built in a version of Flemish bond (header/three stretchers/header in courses). The openings, where original, have single brick arches and blue brick moulded cills (Fig 9). The blue brick damp proof course continued around all three elevations.

The roof was of common rafter construction (Fig 37) with a ridge board and single, mid-height purlins, supported at the gables (the southern one of which they penetrated, Figs 3.3 and 4) and on the mid-cross-wall. The roof covering was of slate. Where it was possible to measure these slates, they were 24 inches by 12 inches (c 605mm by 305mm). Slates sizes were named after female nobility (a system

devised by General Hugh Warburton at Penrhyn quarry in 1738). The examples at New Street, Childswickham were of the size known as ‘Duchess’. The use of slate, which was light compared to the other, then commonly available, roof coverings, enabled the employment of both a lighter roof construction and thinner supporting walls.

Comparative weight of roofing materials

	Weight Kg/m ²	Durability (years)
Clay tiles	63	40
Welsh slate	32	100

The interior

The interior has been redecorated over the years and only a few features may be assigned to the original construction of the house. These are the tiled floor in the hall (Figs 13, 14 and 15) the fireplaces on the first floor (Figs 28, 32 and 36) and the banister rail, spindles, the top and bottom newel posts and their caps. It is possible that the stair itself is also original but this could not be determined. The building retains sash windows in many of its openings but it is unlikely that these are original. The catches (Fig 21) may be.

Phase 2: construction of extension to north - by 1923

Although it took until the later 1950s before many homes had a dedicated bathroom and an inside lavatory, 1 New Street appears to have had these facilities by 1923 when a narrow extension was added to the rear of the property (Figs 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 8 and 11). This was erected in stretcher bond. The extension had a single, steel-framed window on its east elevation.

Phase 3.1: construction of further extension to north – mid to late 20th century

A small extension was added to the Phase 2 structure. This was also in stretcher bond, had two small wooden windows at a high level and provided a lavatory at ground floor level (Figs 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 8 and 11).

The interior

The tiled fireplaces in the principal ground floor rooms (Figs 17 and 20) probably date to the 1950s.

Phase 3.2: sub-division of principal bedroom – mid to late 20th century

It is likely that this phase was broadly contemporary with Phase 3.1 and included the conversion of the Phase 2 bathroom and toilet into a corridor and utility room.

The first bedroom was subdivided with stud partitions to provide a bathroom and toilet, accessible from the first floor passage, and an *en suite* (Figs 3.1 30 and 35).

Interpretation

Outline development of the domestic house from the early 17th to the early 20th century

General

Small, domestic building construction has been a conservative industry for centuries with change being introduced only slowly with established, pragmatic, solutions forming the basis for new arrangements. This cautious process has been noted before in other areas of building and construction (Cook 1998). Such changes as were embraced in the provision of domestic housing were usually modest, cumulative alterations and the great design movements (eg: Arts and Crafts, Art Nouveau, Modernism, etc) had little or no influence. Where influence can be identified, it is often superficial, being restricted to decorative aspects. This brief review straddles the post-medieval (1540-1900) and modern (1901-2050) periods and is based upon a handful of examples from around the country with which the author is familiar, including the building studied by the current project.

6 Church Square, Cockfield, Bishop Auckland, County Durham

Although now much altered and extended, this was originally a one-up one-down mid terrace house (Fig 38.1) dating to 1624. Its primary, west-facing, entrance was directly off of the village green, into the single ground floor room. On the opposite side of this room is the original rear entrance, now blocked by a later staircase. The original access to the first floor is unknown but it was likely to have

been a vertical ladder, attached to one of the walls. Such ladders can still be seen providing access to hay lofts in stables dating from the early to mid 18th century (eg Fig 38.2; loft ladder Woodford Halse). There appears to have been a hearth against the southern wall from an early date and, presumably, such cooking as was undertaken took place over the open fire.

The chimney from the early hearth narrowed significantly as it passed through the first floor and this probably precluded heating of the first floor at this time. In the 19th and early 20th centuries significant extension and alterations took place. A small range was inserted into the formerly open hearth on the ground floor (eg Fig 38.4; range Tardebigge New Wharf). Subsequently, an outshut was built at the rear which provided space for a bathroom/toilet and a dedicated kitchen on the ground floor and a secondary bedroom at first floor level. A staircase was installed in the position of the existing one. A hearth was provided in the primary bedroom but the rooms in the outshut appear to have been unheated.

20 Albert Street, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire

By the later 19th century, the modifications made to the one-up one down dwelling in Cockfield had become established practice. 20 Albert Street (1880-1891; Fig 38.5) was a two-up two-down, mid-terrace house which also had its primary entrance directly off of the street that it fronted, into the front ground floor room. This room had the largest hearth and therefore probably also contained a small range similar to the one at Tardebigge (eg Fig 38.4; range Tardebigge New Wharf). The rear ground floor room accommodated the stair to the first floor, occupying a similar position to that of the later stair at Cockfield, a slightly smaller hearth and a door to the back plot. There was a small adjoining room which was probably a scullery (eg Fig 38.3; scullery Black Country Living Museum). At first floor level, on the street frontage, there was a principal bedroom with a small hearth. Behind this there was probably, originally, a single open space with a small hearth in the centre of the south-west wall. This could have been used for a number of purposes depending upon the needs of the occupants and could have been sub-divided, if required, with screens or curtains. Opening off this space was a small adjoining room, over the scullery, that was probably a simple bathroom/toilet. It is likely that the scullery and the bathroom were provided with hot water from the range.

The Victoria Park development, of which 20 Albert Street was part, was built under the provisions of the Public Health Act 1875. With the rapid urbanisation that accompanied the Industrial Revolution, huge swathes of terraced houses had been built to accommodate factory workers. The contrast between the housing stock built before the passage of the Act and that built after it was stark. The Act recommended that all new residential construction should include running water and an internal drainage system. However, it is important to understand that these new powers were permissive, not compulsory: they provided a model of best practice for municipalities, but actual implementation remained for the most part up to the individual local authority and, by extension, local builders and their clients. Victoria Park seems to have been a transitional development. It was provided with rear service roads and a number of the houses have small, square buildings at the end of their back plots, adjacent to these service roads (1:2500 Ordnance Survey maps of 1899 and 1925). These are presumably privies, the service roads bring primarily for a 'night-soil' cart. The houses without privies were presumably connected to a nascent sewerage system.

1 New Street, Childswickham, Worcestershire

The subject of this report, built in 1902 according to its datestone, although a detached building, is a recognisable development of the two examples above. The two-up two-down arrangement of Albert Street is recognisable in the layout of 1 New Street. However, at ground floor level, the intervening ten or twenty years have seen the entry into the house moved from being directly into a room to entry into a passage. The staircase, previously located in one of the ground floor rooms has also been moved to the passage. One element of the design, however, remains essentially unchanged. The kitchen and third bedroom over, although built contemporaneously with the rest of the house, have not yet been fully integrated within it and still appear to be extensions. The kitchen is large and probably accommodated a rather larger range than that at Cockfield and Aylesbury. Bathing probably still took place in a tin bath in front of the range and in the first decade or so of the house's existence, lavatory arrangements were probably still a privy at the end of the garden. There is no direct evidence for the existence of a privy as the early period of the house's existence falls between two Ordnance Survey

mappings. Subsequently, by 1923, a small extension had been added to the rear of the property, and it is likely that this provided bathing and lavatory arrangements.

One of the most significant changes to the internal layout of the house came in the later 20th century, or possibly early 21st century, with the creation of a bathroom and toilet and an *en suite* out of part of the area occupied by the first bedroom. An attempt was made to recreate the original layout at first floor level by removing the stud partitions and re-establishing the likely original positions of the solid walls (Fig 39).

Bibliography

Traditional sources

Cook, M, 1998 *Medieval bridges*

Cook, M, 2019 *Historic building recording at Pool Farm, 60 Hinton Road, Woodford Halse, Northamptonshire, NN11 3TR*

Internet sources

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_Health_Act_1875

<http://www.penmorfa.com/Slate/sizes.htm>

http://www.welshslate.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Roofing_brochure_webJuly14.pdf

<https://www.propertyinvestmentsuk.co.uk/edwardian-houses-make-ideal-property-to-renoate/>

<http://www.localhistories.org/homes.html>

Acknowledgements

The author would particularly like to thank Mr David Hollingworth and Aidan Smyth of Wychavon District Council for their kind co-operation.

Archive

The physical archive consists of:

8 x A4 pages

The text of the report

39 x illustrations of various sizes

Illustrations for the report

It has been deposited at Worcestershire County Museum, Hartlebury.

The digital archive consists of:

8 x A4 pages

The text of the report (.docx format)

39 x illustrations of various sizes

Illustrations for the report (.bmp format)

1 x copy of the combined report

(.pdf format)

This has been deposited with OASIS.

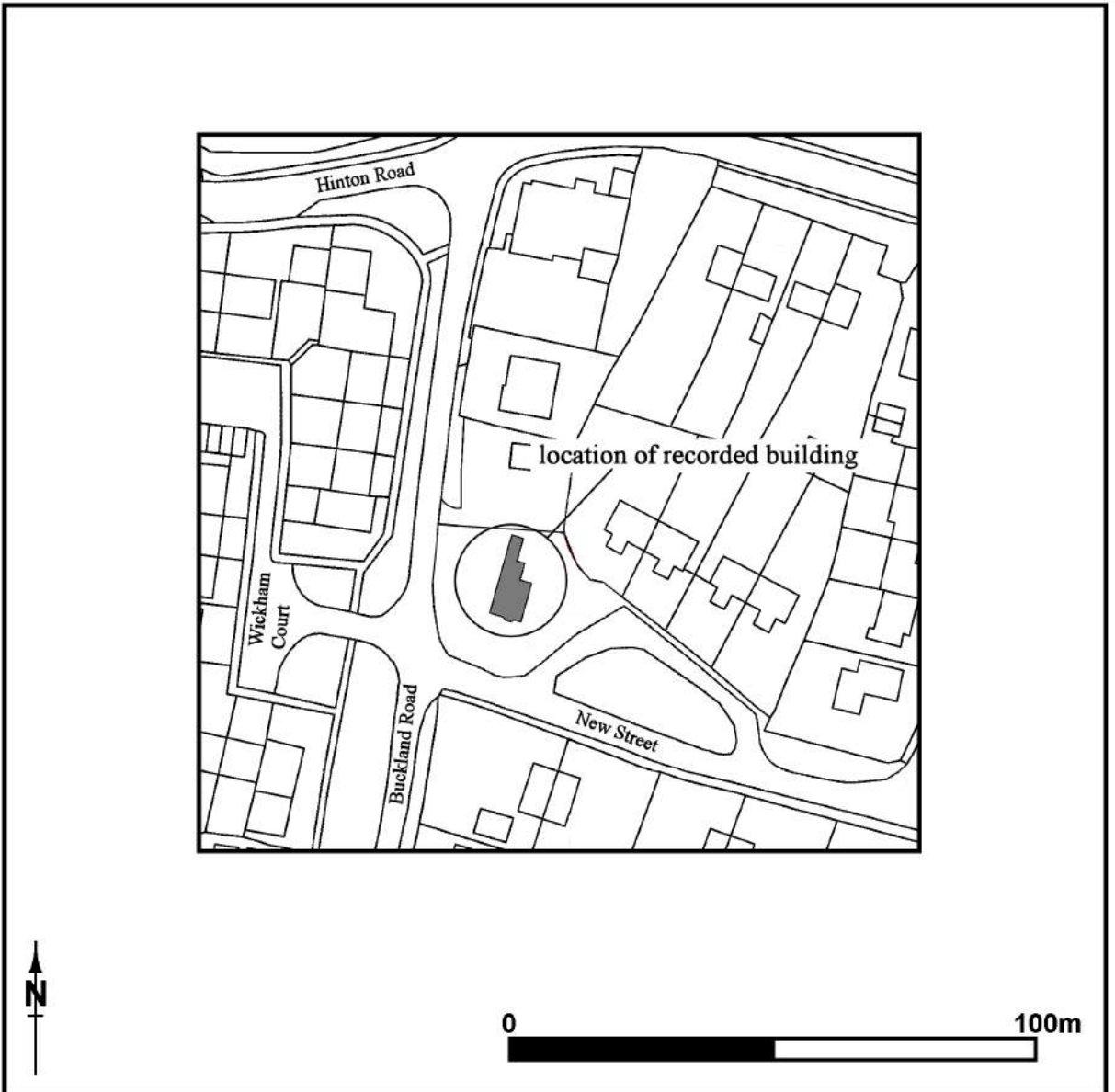
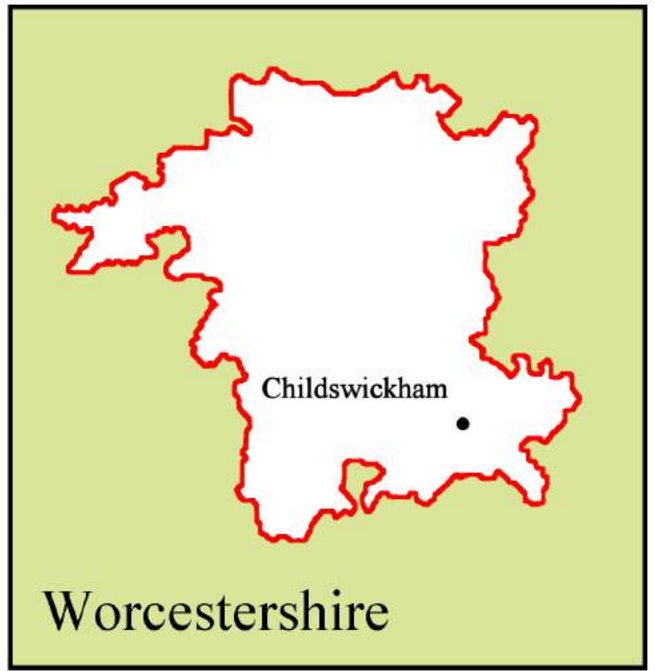
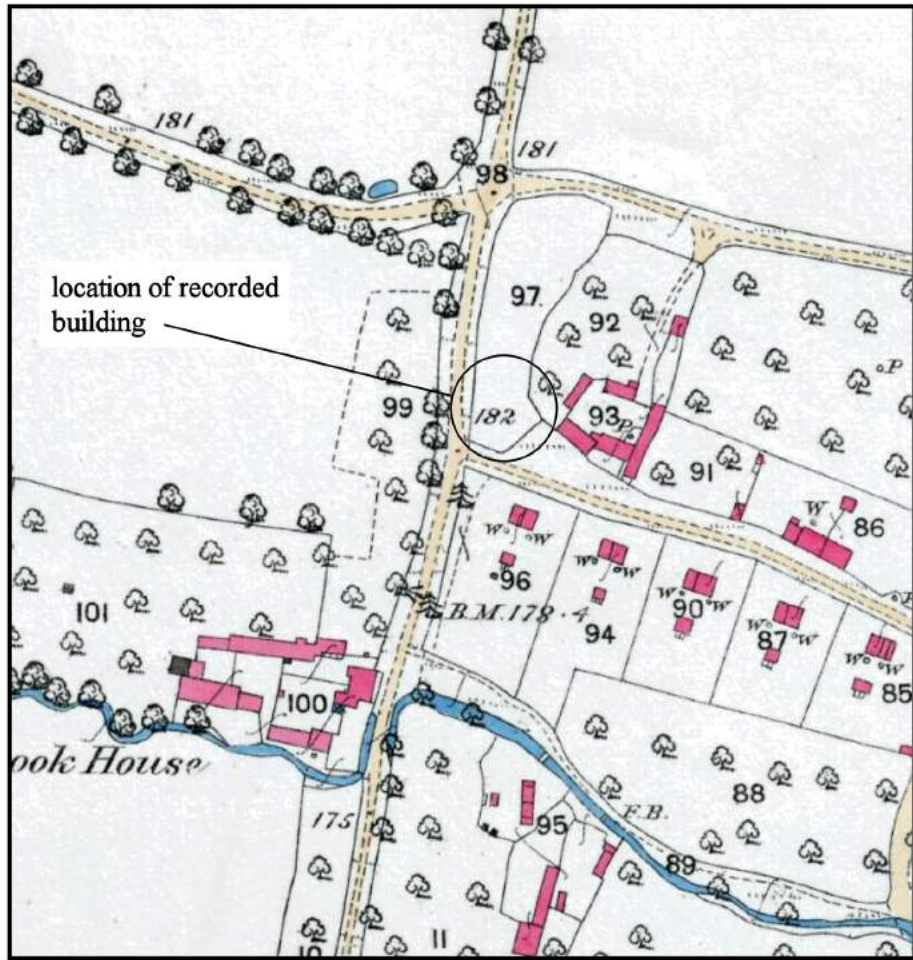
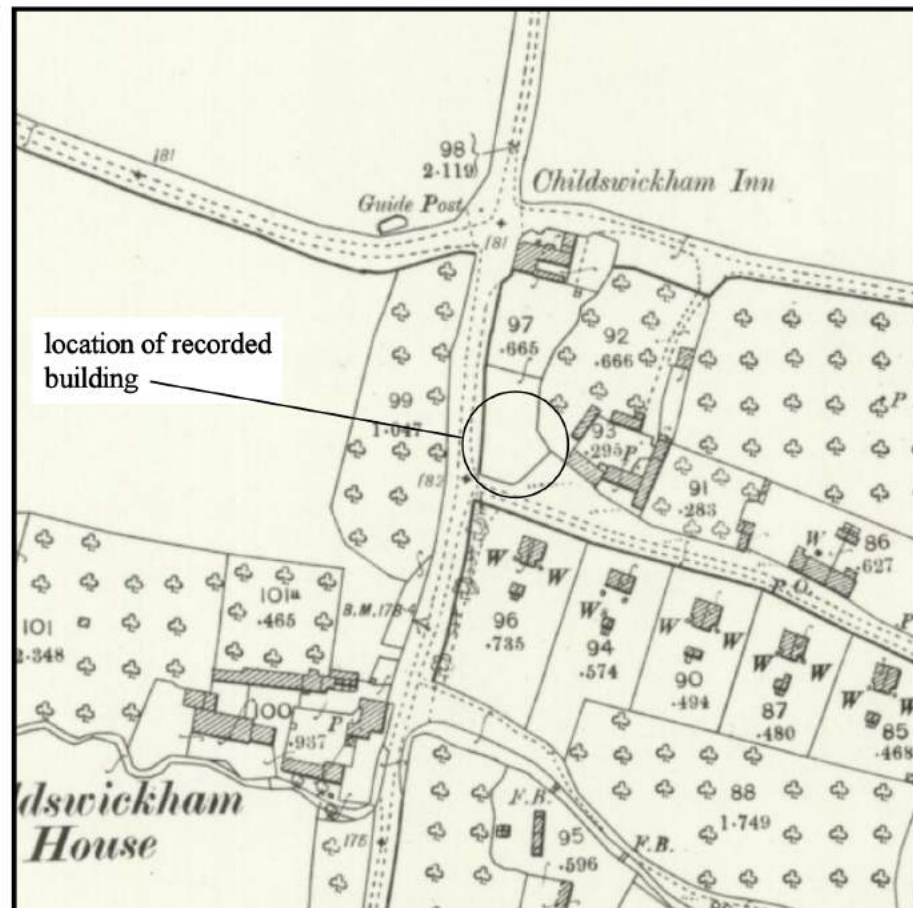


Fig 1: Location of site

1885



1902



0

200m

Fig 2.1: Historic mapping

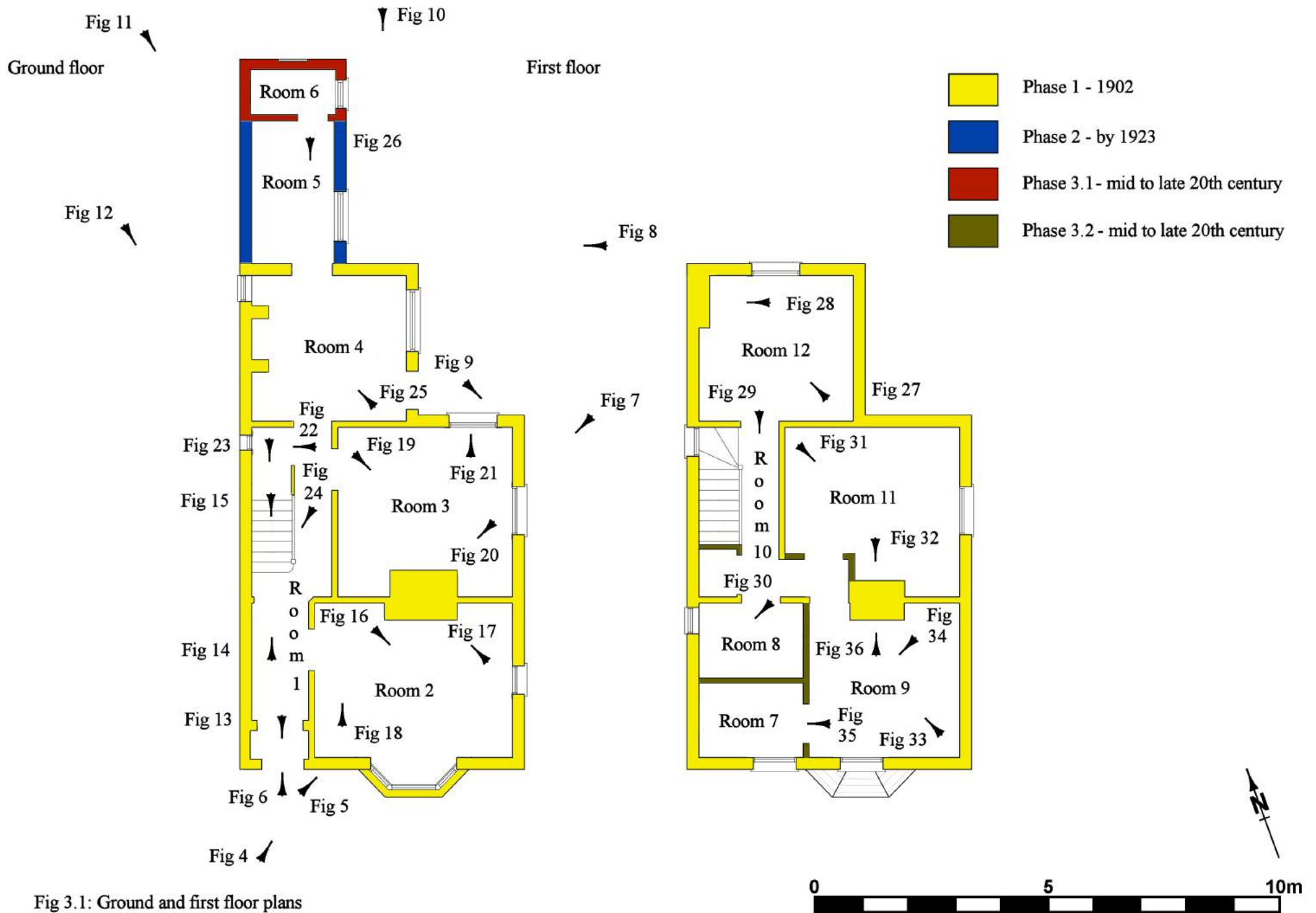
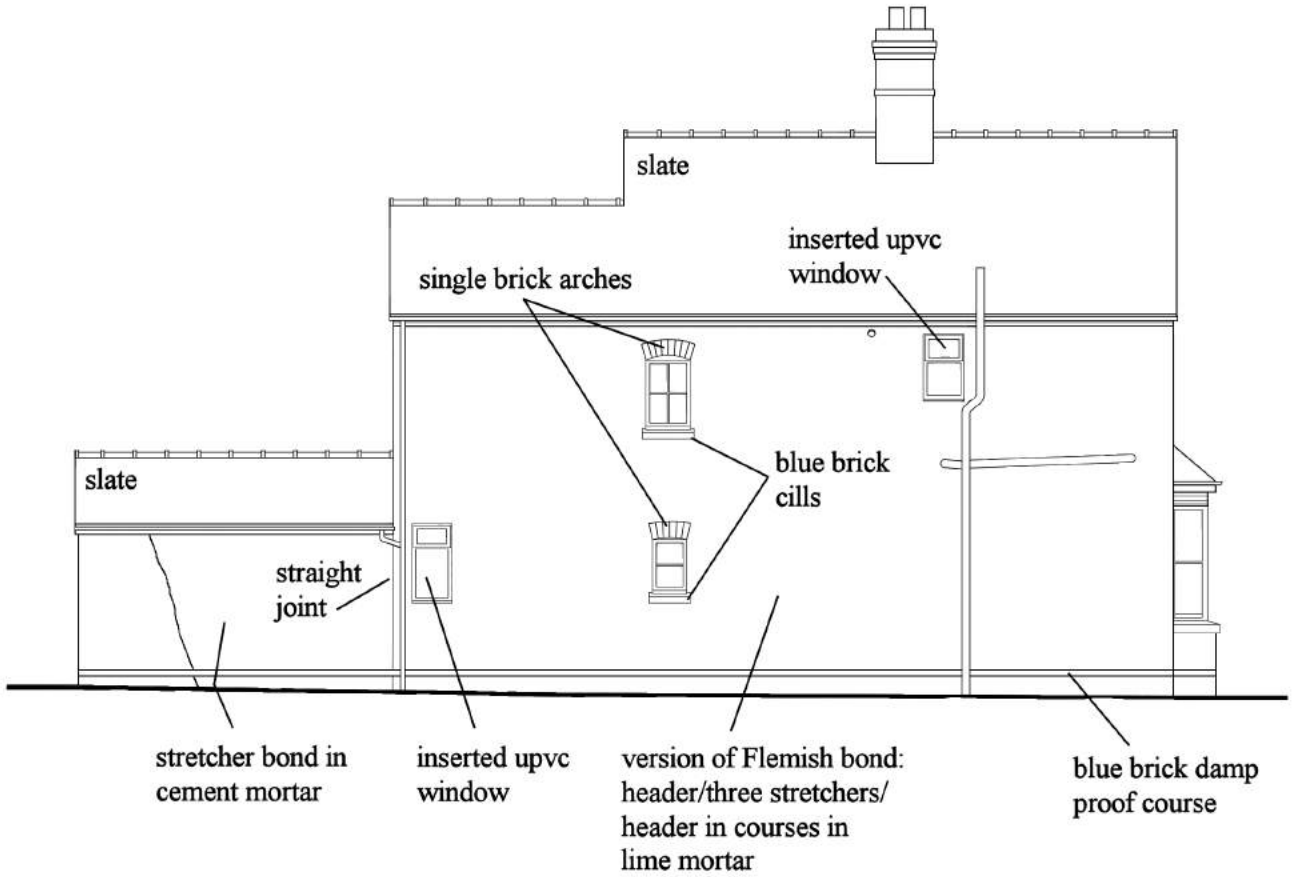


Fig 3.1: Ground and first floor plans

West elevation



East elevation

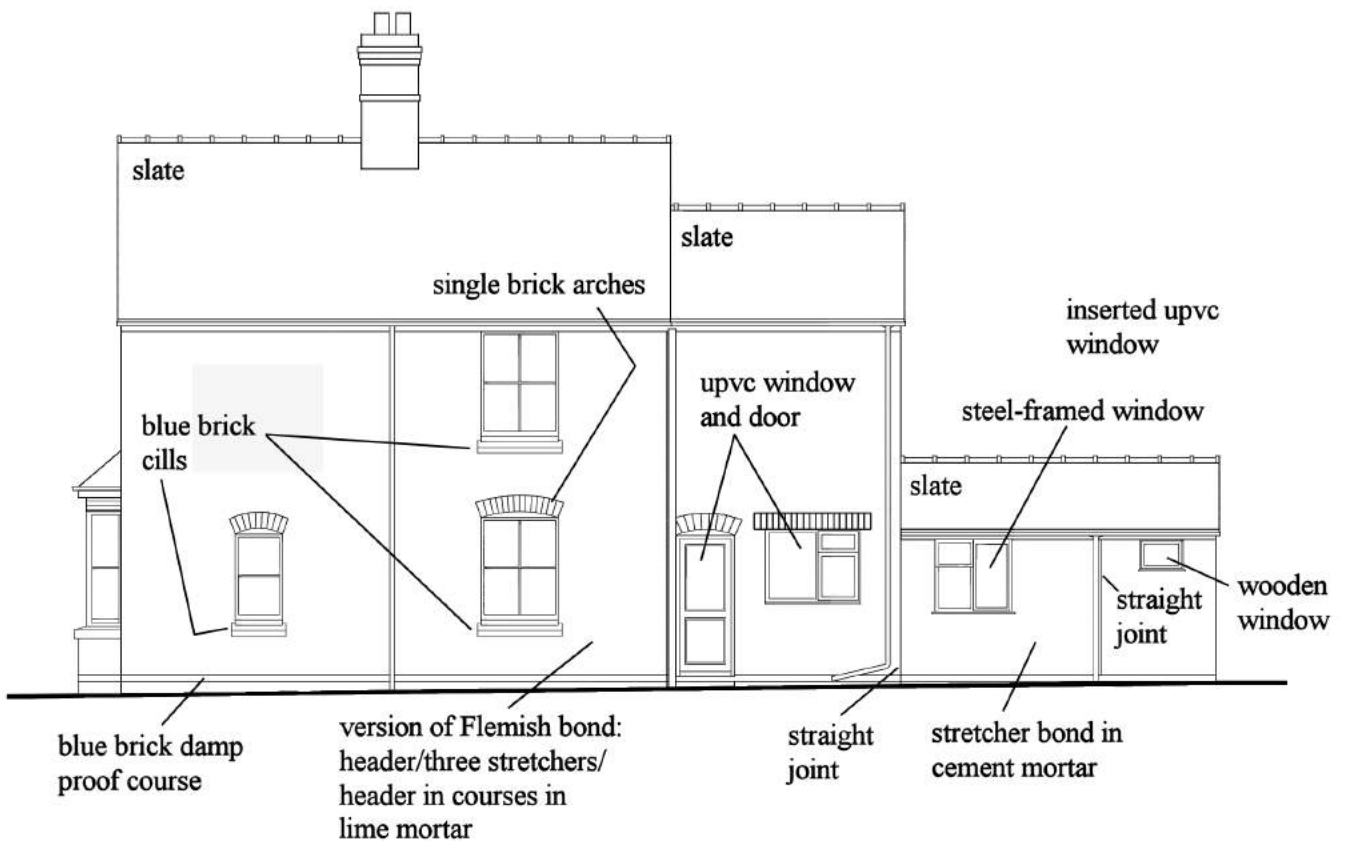
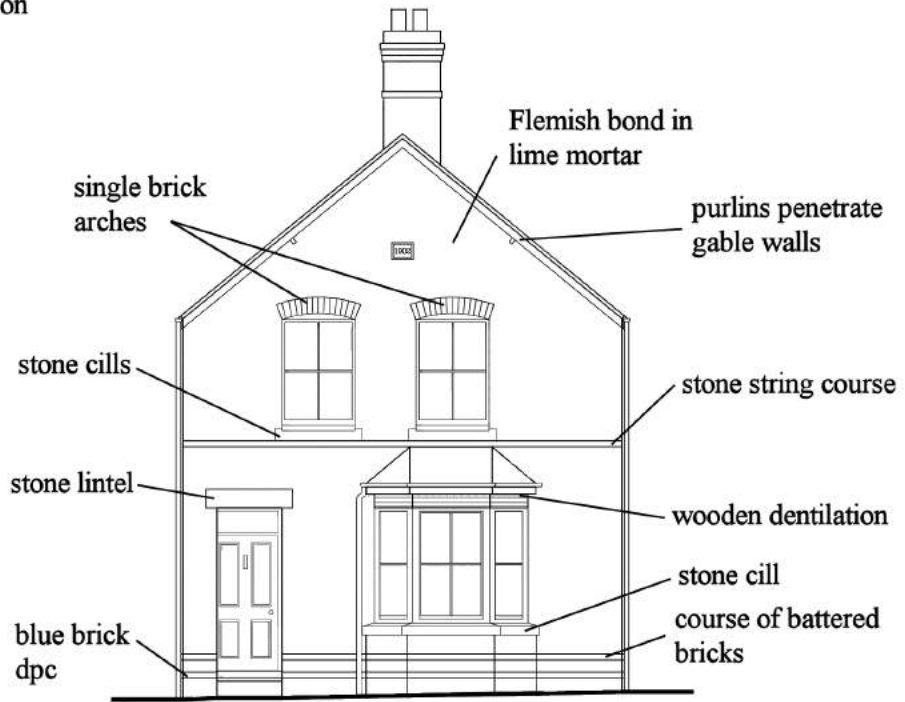


Fig 3.2: Elevations



South elevation



North elevation

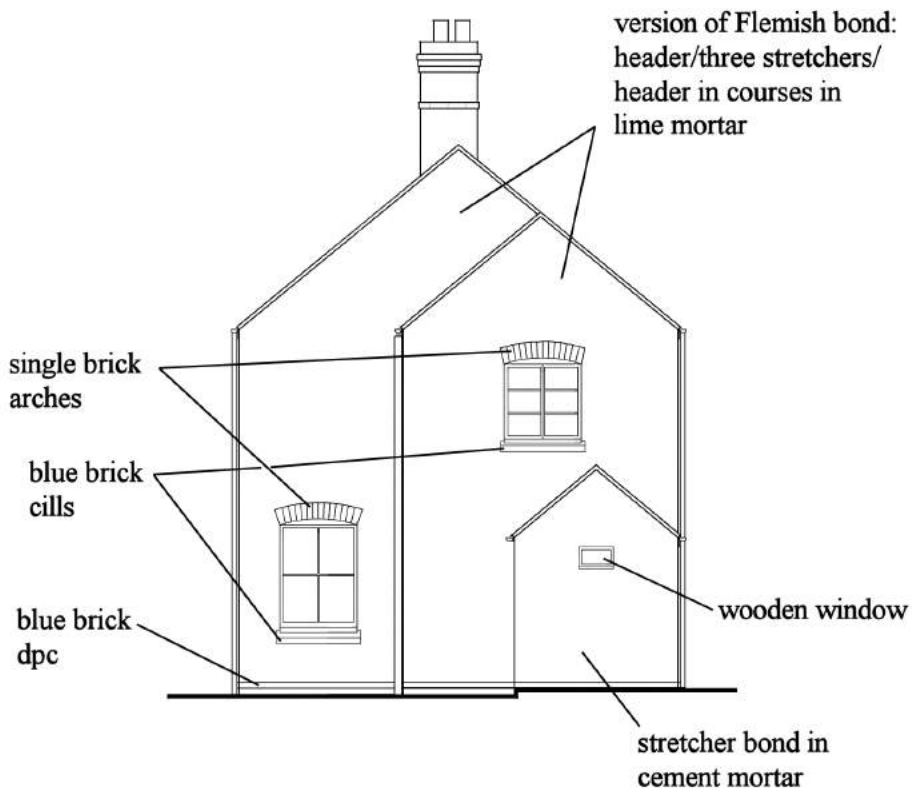


Fig 3.3: Elevations

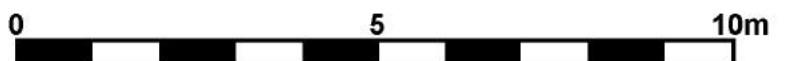




Fig 4: South elevation



Fig 5: South elevation; detail of battered brick course



Fig 6: South elevation; detail of porch floor



Fig 7: East elevation; south end



Fig 8: East elevation; north end



Fig 9: North elevation; detail of mounded blue brick cill



Fig 10: North elevation



Fig 11: West elevation; north end



Fig 12: West elevation; south end



Fig 13: Room 1; hall



Fig 14: Room 1; hall, showing staircase



Fig 15: Room 1; hall, showing tiled floor



Fig 16: Room 2; sitting room



Fig 17: Room 2; sitting room, detail of fireplace



Fig 18: Room 2; sitting room, detail of door



Fig 19: Room 3; dining room



Fig 20: Room 3; dining room, detail of fireplace



Fig 21: Room 3; dining room, detail of window catch



Fig 22: Room 1; understair larder



Fig 23: Room 1; understair larder



Fig 24: Room 1; detail of staircase



Fig 25: Room 4; kitchen showing remains of hearth



Fig 26: Room 5, utility room, former bathroom and toilet



Fig 27: Room 12, third bedroom



Fig 28: Room 12; third bedroom; detail of fireplace



Fig 29: Room 10; landing



Fig 30: Room 8; bathroom, formerly part of first bedroom



Fig 31: Room 11; second bedroom



Fig 32: Room 11; second bedroom, detail of fireplace



Fig 33: Room 9; first bedroom



Fig 34: Room 9; first bedroom



Fig 35: Room 7; en suite, formerly part of first bedroom

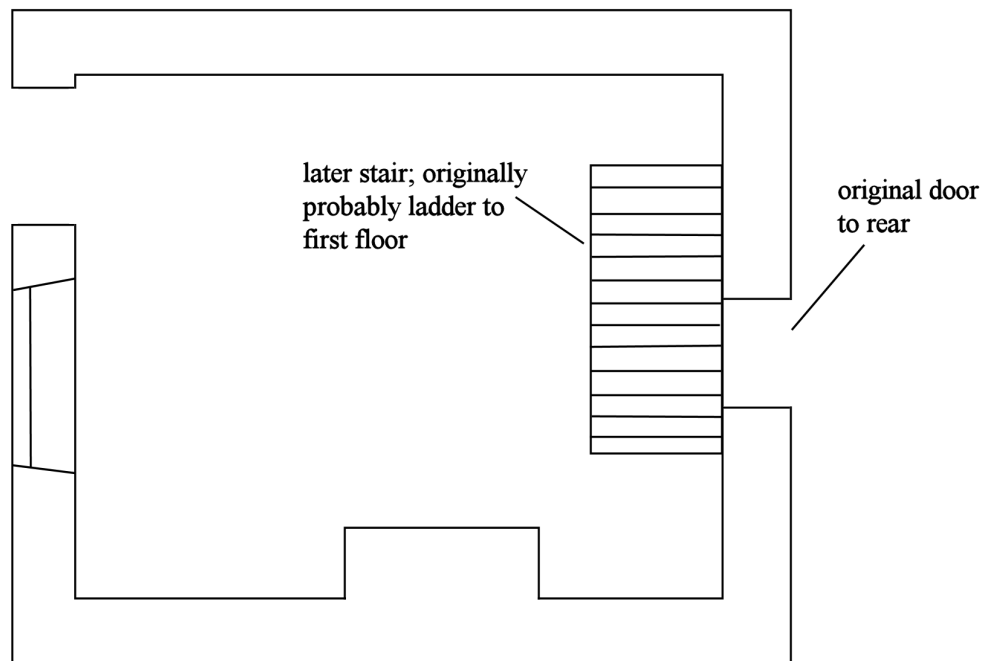


Fig 36: Room 9; first bedroom, showing detail of fireplace



Fig 37: Roof space showing common rafter roof

Ground floor



First floor

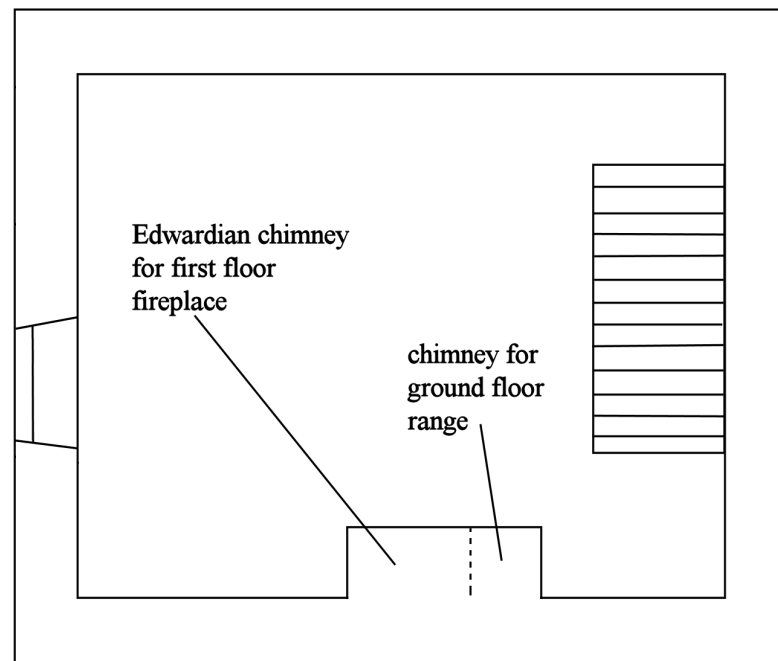


Fig 38.1: 6 Church Square, Cockfield, Bishop Auckland, County Durham - 1624

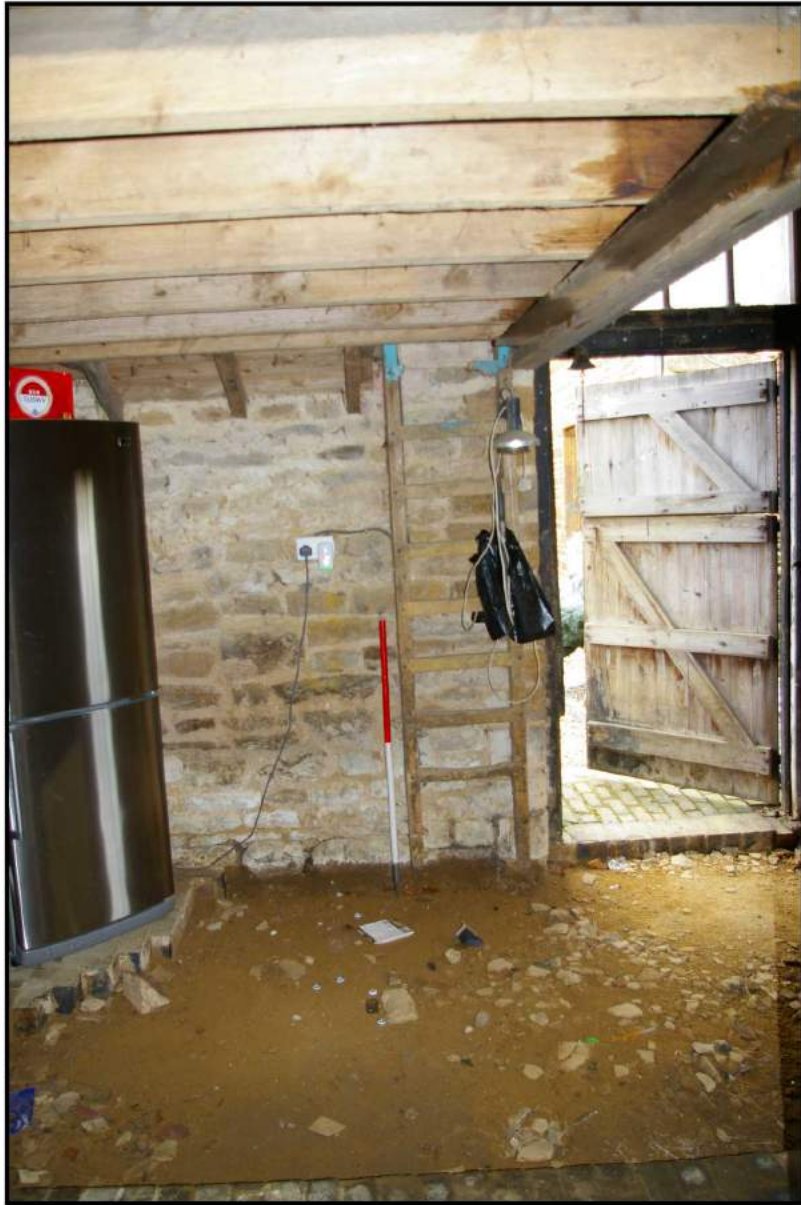


Fig 38.2: Hayloft ladder, stable, Woodford Halse, Northamptonshire - early to mid 18th century

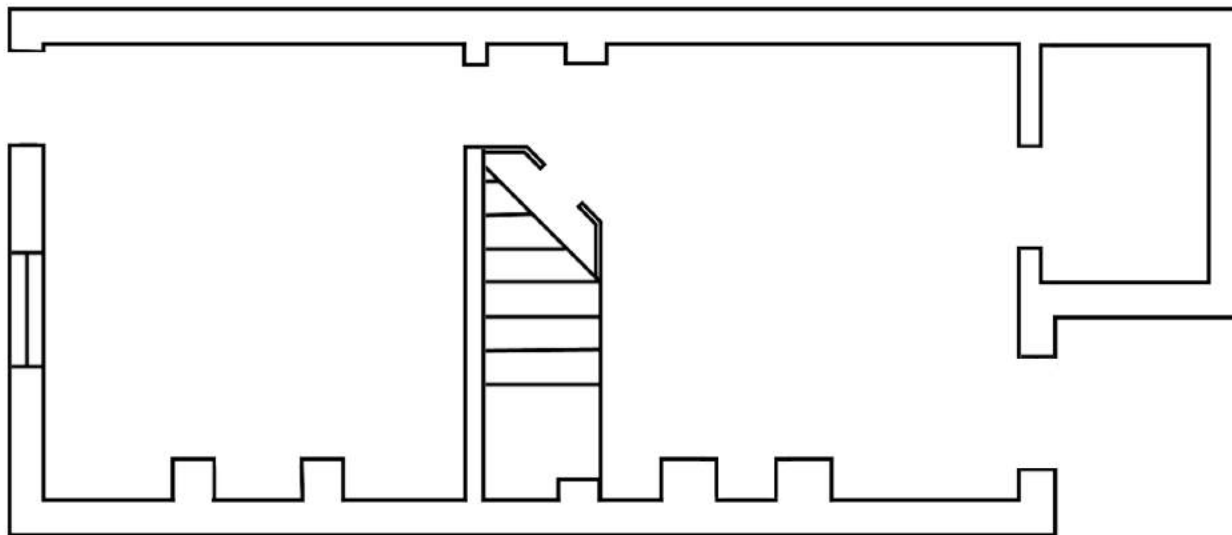


Fig 38.3: Small scullery, Black Country Living Museum



Fig 38.4: Small range in cottage at Tardebigge New Wharf, Worcestershire

Ground floor



First floor

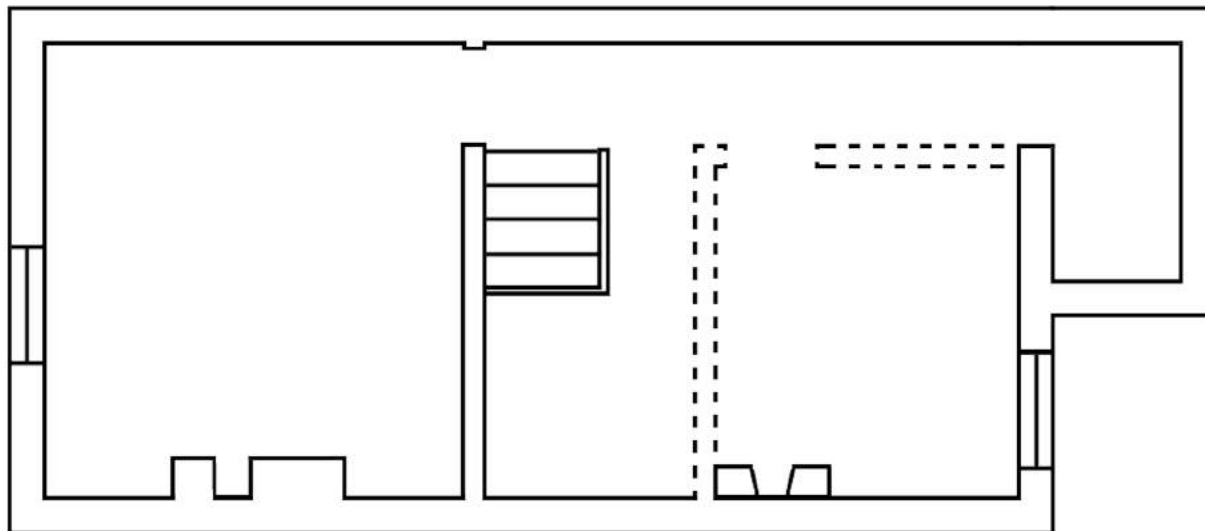


Fig 38.5: 20 Albert Street, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire - between 1880 and 1891

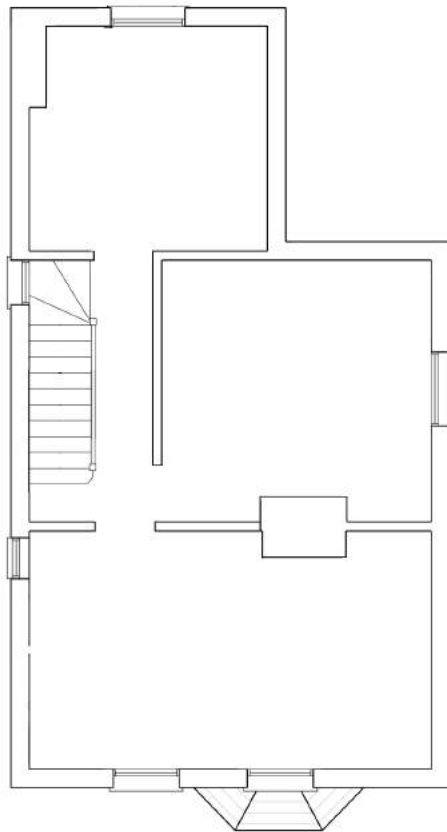


Fig 39: Conjectural original layout of first floor of 1 New Street, Childeswickham

Appendix 1: OASIS form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: martinco1-367777

Project details

Project name	1 New Street Childswickham
Short description of the project	Level 2 building recording at 1 New Street, Childswickham
Project dates	Start: 09-09-2019 End: 22-09-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	WSM 71924 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	19/00654/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Building Recording
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Monument type	DWELLING Modern
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WORCESTERSHIRE WYCHAVON CHILDSWICKHAM 1 New Street Childswickham
Postcode	WR12 7HQ
Study area	110 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 07187 38832 52.047414022264 -1.895189528242 52 02 50 N 001 53 42 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0m Max: 0m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Martin Cook BA MCIfA
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator	Martin Cook BA MCIfA
Project director/manager	Martin Cook BA MCIfA
Project supervisor	Martin Cook BA MCIfA
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	ADS
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Worcestershire County Museum
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological building investigation and recording at 1 New Street, Childswickham, Worcestershire, WR12 7HQ
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cook, M.
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Martin Cook MCIfA
Place of issue or publication	Aylesbury
Description	A4, blue card cover with transparent front cover

Entered by	Martin Cook (office@martincook.com)
Entered on	22 September 2019