

FIELD EVALUATION AND
BUILDING RECORDING
AT
THE OLD MILL INN, ELMLEY
CASTLE, WORCESTERSHIRE

Shona Robson-Glyde and Darren Miller

With a contribution by Angus Crawford

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

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Worcestershire County Council

Historic Environment and Archaeology Service,
Worcestershire County Council,
Woodbury,
University College Worcester,
Henwick Grove,
Worcester WR2 6AJ



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Field evaluation and building recording at the Old Mill Inn, Elmley Castle, Worcestershire

Shona Robson-Glyde and Darren Miller

With a contribution by Angus Crawford

Part 1: Project summary

Archaeological field evaluation and building recording were undertaken at the Old Mill Inn, Elmley Castle, Worcestershire (NGR SO 9845 4117). It was undertaken on behalf of Sam Parks of Kimbridge Limited, who intend to convert the inn into two dwellings and build four new dwellings for which conditional planning permission has been granted. The project aimed to establish the presence and significance of archaeological deposits, and the character and history of the present buildings.

The results showed that the site was first developed in the early 18th century. This development consisted of a two celled, three-storey brick house, built in the Palladian style. The house was built on deposits of made ground that were brought in to level a natural slope. A ditch found to the north-west of the house may have bounded the 18th century property. The site was further developed in the 19th century by the addition of other buildings, including a malthouse. The 20th century saw much change to the house as it was converted for use as pub. This involved the construction of numerous extensions to house the kitchen, bar, lounge, toilets, dining room, office and guest bedrooms.

Part 2: Detailed report

1. Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

The project was undertaken on behalf of Kimbridge Ltd Property Management who intend to convert the Old Mill Inn into two dwellings and construct four further dwellings in accordance with a planning application submitted to Wychavon District Council (reference 03/1449). The Planning Advisor of the Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeological Service considered that the development might affect remains of archaeological significance, and made an archaeological programme of works a condition of planning consent.

1.2 Project parameters

The project conforms to a brief prepared by the Planning Advisory Section of Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeological Service (HEAS 2004a, 2) and to a proposal (including detailed specification) was produced by the Field Section of the Service (HEAS 2004b). The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IFA 1999) and the *Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (IFA 2001).

1.3 Aims

The aims of the field evaluation were to ‘establish the presence and significance of archaeological deposits, and artefactual and ecofactual assemblages’ (HEAS 2004b, 1).

The aims of the building recording were to ‘establish the character, history, dating, form and archaeological development of a specified building’ (IFA 2001, 2).

More specifically the following aims were identified.

- To establish the presence of any earlier structures on or close to the footprint of Old Mill Inn.
- To establish what makes the building historically and/or architecturally significant, by clearly identifying its principle features.
- To inform the research cycle and should take into account local, regional and national research frameworks.

2. Methods

2.1 Documentary research

The project involved consulting records held in the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) and archives held at the Worcestershire Record Office. The relevant records and archives are summarised in Tables 1–3. Other sources were also consulted, including current and historic Ordnance Survey maps, the entry for Elmley Castle in the Victoria History of the County of Worcester (Moger and Wragge 1913), and the results of ground investigations on the site undertaken in March 2004 (Johnson 2004).

2.2 Fieldwork

Fieldwork was undertaken between 24th and 26th January 2005. The site reference number for the field evaluation and building recording elements of the project are WSM 34200 and WSM 34201 respectively.

2.2.1 Sample trenching

The brief required the excavation of three trenches totalling 117m² in specified locations to the north and west of the Old Mill Inn (HEAS 2004a, 4). In the event, four trenches totalling 94m² were excavated, in the locations shown on Figure 2. Changes in the number and location of the trenches, and the shortfall in the total area excavated were unavoidable because of the need to avoid damage to buried services and upstanding walls.

The brief also required the excavation of several trenches around the Old Mill Inn itself. In the event, four trenches, amounting to 7.6m² in area were excavated, as shown on Figure 2.

The larger trenches were excavated using a wheeled excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. Two of the smaller trenches were excavated by a combination of machine- and hand-excavation the other two were excavated entirely by hand. In each case, exposed surfaces were cleaned to allow deposits to be defined and interpreted in terms of natural and cultural formation processes. Selected deposits were excavated by hand to recover artefacts and plant/animal remains. Drawn, written and photographic records were made according to standard Service practice (CAS 1995).

Once recording was complete, the trenches were backfilled by replacing the excavated spoil.

2.2.2 Building recording

Building recording consisted of a photographic survey of the interior and exterior of the building and building analysis. All photographs were taken with photographic scales visible in each shot. The photographic survey was carried out using 35mm single lens reflex (SLR) Pentax P30 cameras with colour and black and white film. Additional photographs were taken with a digital Fujifilm Finepix S602zoom camera. All photographs were recorded on a pro-forma Photographic Record Sheet. This record was complemented by annotating ground and elevation plans and by completing pro-forma Building Record and Building Phase sheets.

The building recording project conformed to the specification for a level 3 survey as defined by the Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England (RCHME 1996). This required the following elements of survey.

Survey and drawings

- Plans of all main floors as existing (based on architects drawings).
- Drawings recording the form and location of other significant structural detail (based on architects drawings).

Photography

- Overall appearance of principal rooms and circulation areas.
- Detailed coverage of the building's external appearance.
- Any external detail, structural or decorative, which is relevant to the building's design, development and use, which does not show on general photographs.

However, due to the dense undergrowth and low wall in front of the building, full recording of the frontage of the building was not possible.

2.3 Post-fieldwork

2.3.1 Stratigraphic analysis

Stratigraphic analysis involved defining deposits on the basis of a range of properties, inferring their original character and the extent of post-depositional change, and establishing their relative sequence of deposition. This information provided the basis for the artefactual analysis.

2.3.2 **Building analysis**

Analysis of the building was based on the study of the photographic record, building recording forms and annotated architects drawings. It was also informed by the documentary sources listed above, and to a limited extent by the results of the field evaluation. This allowed plans to be drawn up showing the structural development of the building.

2.3.3 **Artefact study, by Angus Crawford**

All artefacts from the trial trenching were retrieved by hand and retained in accordance with the Service manual (CAS 1995 as amended).

All hand-retrieved finds were examined and a primary record was made on a Microsoft Access 2000 database. Artefacts were identified, quantified and dated and a *terminus post quem* produced for each stratified context where possible.

Pottery was examined under x20 magnification and recorded by fabric type and form according to the fabric reference series maintained by the service (Hurst and Rees 1992).

2.4 **The methods in retrospect**

The methods are thought to have been appropriate to the aims of the project, and the circumstances of the site.

With regard to the field evaluation, the total area excavated was some 20% less than specified in the brief, although the trenches are thought to have been sufficient to establish the nature of deposits to the north and west of the building, and immediately around it (an opinion later confirmed by the Planning Archaeologist).

With regard to the building recording, a full record of the frontage of the building was not possible but photographs were taken from a distance and at a slight angle so that an adequate record was produced. Architect's plans and elevations of the front of the building were also annotated with information about the structure and the architectural detail visible on the front of the building.

Finally, the level of analysis undertaken after the fieldwork is thought to have been appropriate to the amount and quality of each type of evidence, and its potential for integration.

On the basis of this assessment, a high degree of confidence to be attached to the accuracy of the evidence presented in this report, and the conclusions drawn from it.

3. **Topographical, archaeological, and historical background**

The Old Mill Inn lies at the east end of Mill Lane which leads from the main street of Elmley Castle village to the parish boundary along an unnamed stream (Fig 1). The site occupies level ground several metres above the level of the stream. The geology of the area has been mapped as "head" deposits overlying Lower Lias clays (Geological Survey of Great Britain 1974), and the soils have been mapped as typical brown calcareous earths.

The archaeological potential of the Old Mill Inn, and its immediate environs, has long been acknowledged (HEAS 2004a). The Old Mill Inn itself (less its modern extensions) and Mill Cottage immediately to the east are recorded in the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record and English Heritage's *List of buildings of special architectural interest* (see Table 2). Both buildings are named in relation to a nearby medieval and later mill; nothing of this mill remains above ground, although the millpond and something of the mill race that led from it are still visible. Some of the archaeological potential of the site was realised in 1998 when a watching brief on an extension resulted in the discovery of two walls and a brick surface. The walls were associated with a building recorded on an estate map of 1798, and the brick surface with a malthouse, which

replaced this building on much the same site (Bretherton 1998). No earlier remains were found in the limited areas investigated, but it was still considered that these might exist within the larger area affected by the proposed development.

| SMR number | Location | Information | Date | NGR |
|------------|-------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--------------|
| WSM 5986 | Old Mill Inn, Mill Lane | Listed two-storey red brick building. Front door has moulded wooden hood on modillion brackets and pilasters. | Early 18 th century | SO 9840 4117 |
| WSM 7679 | Mill Cottage, Mill Lane | Listed two-storey timber frame and brick cottage with half-hipped thatched roof and modern casement windows. | 17 th century | SO 9851 4112 |
| WSM 34243 | Corn mill, Mill Lane | Site of water powered corn mill. Still extant in 1920s | Medieval – post medieval | SO 9854 4116 |

Table 1: Worcestershire HER records of sites and monuments in the area of Old Mill Inn

| SMR number | Location | Information | Date | NGR |
|------------|--------------|---|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| WSM 29575 | Old Mill Inn | Watching brief carried out on foundation trenches for an extension. Revealed a number of walls on similar alignments constructed of stone and brick. Associated with building shown on tithe map of 1843. | 18 th century - modern | SO 9840 4117 |

Table 2: Worcestershire HER records of previous fieldwork in the area of Old Mill Inn

| Reference | Title/description | Date |
|------------------------------|--|-------|
| BA 744, ref 705:72 | Plan of Elmley Castle Estate | 1818 |
| BA 1572/279, ref. x760: 279 | Elmley Castle Tithe Award and Plan | 1842 |
| BA 2349/2 (i), ref. 705:392 | Plan of the village of Elmley Castle | c1866 |
| BA 2349 5(iii), ref. 705:392 | “A Plan and Survey of an Estate in the Parish of Elmley Castle and also of some Meadow land in the Parish of Fladbury in the County of Worcester and of Ashton Underhill Farm in the County of Gloucester the property of Robert Clavering Savage Esq” | 1798 |

Table 3: Summary of archives consulted at Worcestershire Record Office

4. Results

The trench locations are shown in Fig 2 and the building analysis and phasing is presented in Table 5 and Figures 5-7. Deposits and features are described in Table 4. Photographs are reproduced as Plates 1-42.

4.1 Field evaluation

The deposits and features encountered during the trial trenching fall naturally into the six categories described below. Details of individual deposits and features are given in Table 4.

| Trench number | Context number | Description | Interpretation | Depth below ground surface |
|---------------|----------------|--|------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | 100 | Machining layer | n/a | n/a |
| | 101 | Tarmac | Car park surface | 0-0.06m |
| | 102 | Roadstone | Made ground | 0.06-0.15m |
| | 103 | Brick rubble and tarmac shavings | Made ground | 0.15-0.40m |
| | 104 | Firm mid greyish green silty clay with common charcoal fragments and few brick/tile and mortar fragments | Subsoil | 0.40-0.55m |
| | 105 | As 104, with fewer inclusions | Subsoil | 0.55-0.80m |

| | | | | |
|---|-----|---|--|--------------|
| | 106 | Firm mid greyish green silty clay with common mid orange-brown mottles | Alluvium | 0.80-0.95m |
| | 107 | Firm light blueish grey silty clay with common mid orange brown mottles | Alluvium | 0.95-1.05m |
| | 108 | Light yellowish brown clay sand with abundant gravels | Fluvioglacial deposit | 1.05m+ |
| 2 | 200 | Machining layer | n/a | n/a |
| | 201 | Tarmac | Car park surface | 0-0.06m |
| | 202 | Roadstone | Made ground | 0.06-0.16m |
| | 203 | Brick rubble and tarmac shavings | Made ground | 0.16-0.40m |
| | 204 | Firm dark greyish brown clay loam with few charcoal fragments and flecks | Buried topsoil | 0.40-0.60m |
| | 205 | Firm mid greyish green silty clay with few gravels | Subsoil | 0.60-0.90m |
| | 206 | Light yellowish brown clay sand with abundant gravels | Fluvioglacial deposit | 0.90m+ |
| 3 | 300 | Machining layer | n/a | n/a |
| | 301 | Tarmac | Car park surface | 0-0.06m |
| | 302 | Roadstone | Made ground | 0.06-0.17m |
| | 303 | Brick rubble | Made ground | 0.17-0.47m |
| | 304 | Firm dark greyish brown clay loam with few charcoal fragments and flecks | Buried topsoil | 0.47-0.62m |
| | 305 | Firm mid greyish green silty clay with few gravels | Subsoil | 0.62-0.87m |
| | 306 | Light yellowish brown clay sand with abundant gravels | Fluvioglacial deposit | 0.87m+ |
| 4 | 400 | Machining layer | N/a | n/a |
| | 401 | Tarmac | Car park surface | 0-0.04m |
| | 402 | Roadstone | Made ground | 0.04-0.10m |
| | 403 | Brick rubble | Made ground | 0.10—0.29m |
| | 404 | Firm mid greyish green silty clay with few gravels | Subsoil | 0.29-0.64m |
| | 405 | Light yellowish brown clay sand with abundant gravels | Fluvioglacial deposit | 0.64m+ |
| | 406 | Firm mid reddish brown silty clay with common roots and gravels | Fill of 407 | 0.64-0.0.96m |
| | 407 | Linear, parallel sided feature with sharp break of slope at top, steeply sloping sides, gradual break of slope at base and rounded base | Re-cut boundary ditch | 0.64-0.0.96m |
| | 408 | Firm mid blueish grey silty clay with few roots | Fill of 409 | 0.64-0.84m |
| | 409 | Linear cut with gradual break of slope at top, and concave profile | Surviving east side of boundary ditch (west side removed by 407) | 0.64-0.84m |
| 5 | 500 | Machining layer | n/a | n/a |
| | 501 | Soft mid greyish brown clay loam | Topsoil | 0-0.10m |
| | 502 | Firm dark greyish brown clay loam | Made ground | 0.10-0.30m |
| | 503 | Firm light brown and greyish brown silty clay | Fill of 504 | 0-0.30m+ |
| | 504 | Linear cut with sharp break of slope at top and vertical side | Modern foundation trench | 0-0.30m+ |
| | 505 | Firm mid greyish green silty clay with few gravels | Subsoil | 0.30m+ |
| 6 | 600 | Machining layer | n/a | n/a |
| | 601 | Firm dark greyish brown silt loam with few gravels | Topsoil | 0-0.30m |
| | 602 | Firm mid greenish brown and dark greyish brown silty clay with few gravels | Made ground | 0.30-0.68m |
| | 603 | Firm mid brown silty clay | Made ground | 0.68-1.40m |
| | 604 | Firm light yellowish blue silty clay | Alluvium | 1.40-1.50m |
| | 605 | Firm mid yellowish brown silty clay | Alluvium | 1.50m+ |
| 7 | 700 | Number allocated to excavated spoil | n/a | n/a |
| | 701 | Concrete slabs | Modern surface | 0-0.04m |
| | 702 | Light reddish white mortar | Bedding layer for 701 | 0.04-0.10m |
| | 703 | Mid reddish brown medium sand with common gravels and brick/tile fragments | Made ground | 0.10-0.19m |
| | 704 | Firm mid greenish grey silty clay with few charcoal flecks | Made ground | 0.19-0.35m |
| | 705 | Firm light blueish yellow silty clay with common charcoal flecks | Made ground | 0.35-0.54m |

| | | | | |
|---|-----|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | 706 | Firm mid greenish grey silty clay with few charcoal flecks | Made ground | 0.54-0.72m |
| | 707 | Soft dark greyish brown silty clay with common decayed timber fragments | Remains of timber post | 0.19-0.67m |
| | 708 | Flat stone over compact gravel | Post-pad and fill of posthole 709 | 0.67-0.76m+ |
| | 709 | Square cut with vertical sides | Posthole | 0.76m+ |
| | 710 | Single course off roughly-hewn limestone blocks bonded with modern cement | Superstructure above foundation 711 | Height 0.16m above ground level |
| | 711 | c4 irregular courses of roughly-hewn and squared limestone blocks bonded with light yellowish brown mortar | Foundation | 0-0.60m |
| | 712 | Linear cut with sharp break of slope at top and vertical sides | Foundation trench | 0.60m+ |
| 8 | 800 | Number allocated to excavated spoil | n/a | n/a |
| | 801 | Soft mid greyish brown silty sand with few charcoal, brick/tile, and mortar fragments | Topsoil | 0-0.20m |
| | 802 | Firm light yellowish brown silty clay with few charcoal, brick/tile, and mortar fragments | Made ground | 0.20-0.40m |
| | 803 | Single course of bricks laid on edge and bonded with light brownish yellow mortar | Garden wall | 0.40-0.52m |
| | 804 | Firm light brownish yellow silty clay | Made ground | 0.53-0.95m+ |

Table 4: Descriptions of deposits and features

4.1.1 Natural deposits

Fluvioglacial deposits of gravels and light yellowish brown clay sand were reached in all of the larger trenches, but in none of the smaller trenches, as these were too limited in size to allow deep excavation. The absolute level of these deposits varied, being highest in Trench 4, in the south-west of the site, and around half a metre lower in Trenches, 1, 2, and 3 to the north and north-east. A similar pattern was evident in the trial pits excavated by VE Geotechnical Services (Johnson 2004). This suggests that the ground originally sloped gently to the north-east, towards the stream.

Overlying these deposits was a unit of orange-mottled greenish grey silty clay with occasional fragments of waterlogged branches and twigs. This unit evidently represents overbank alluviation from the stream to the east, presumably at some point in the early post-glacial period.

4.1.2 Reworked soils

A truncated soil profile was represented in the three trenches excavated in the present car park (Trenches 1-3). The lower unit consisted of the overbank alluvium described above, much transformed by later soil forming processes (contexts 204, 304 and 404), and an upper unit of dark greyish brown clay loam (contexts 104-106, 205, 305, and 404). In the area of Trench 1, the upper unit had been completely truncated by the construction of the present car park, and in the other trenches it was more or less truncated. A single sherd of 18th century pottery was recovered from the upper unit in Trench 2. Several sherds of 19th or 20th century pottery recovered from spoil from Trench 4 are also most likely to have come from this unit.

These soils and their associated artefacts indicate a low level of activity on open ground from the 18th century onwards. In addition, the colour and mottling of the subsoil indicate seasonal water logging caused by high groundwater levels.

4.1.3 Made ground

Deposits of made ground were identified in all trenches. In Trenches 1-4 in the car park these consisted of roadstone over brick rubble and tarmac (See Table 2 for context numbers and Plate 1 for a representative photograph). These deposits were obviously of recent origin, intended to provide a suitable foundation for the present tarmac surface. Even more recent made ground was found in Trench 1, on the north-west corner of the recent extension to the Old Mill Inn. This trench

had been excavated to gain more information on the stone wall found at this point in the previous evaluation, but it was immediately apparent that any remains had been removed during construction works, and that the ground had been levelled up with redeposited topsoil and subsoil (context 501 and 502).

In the other trenches, however, the made ground was of very different character, much deeper and evidently much older. In Trench 6, three deposits of re-deposited subsoil were exposed (contexts 602 and 603; Plate 2). The lowest deposit (context 603) produced several artefacts of 17th century date and although these artefacts may have been residual, they provide a baseline date of deposition. In Trench 7, 4m to the west, two deposits of re-deposited subsoil were found abutting the stone wall described below (contexts 704 and 705; Plate 3). Artefacts of 17th century date were recovered from the lower deposit (context 705), giving a baseline date for it and the wall. A large post-hole had been cut through these deposits, some 0.40m to the east of the wall (context 709). Finally, in Trench 8, at the south-west corner of the Old Mill Inn, 0.90m of redeposited subsoil was exposed before deeper excavation became impractical (contexts 802 and 803; shown on Plate 5).

Taken alongside the evidence for the site's original topography, the distribution and depth of made ground identified around the Old Mill Inn strongly suggests that it was deposited to make a level building platform.

4.1.4 **Stone building to west of Old Mill Inn**

While examining the site for potential trench locations, it was noted that the east end, and part of the north side of a brick building to the west of the Old Mill Inn rested on 2-3 courses of roughly-hewn limestone blocks bonded with modern cement (context 710; Fig 2; Plate 4). The character of the masonry suggested the east end of an earlier building that had been substantially demolished, but used to found the present brick building. Trench 7 was excavated along the east side of the building to test this hypothesis.

Excavation showed that the eastern length of wall rested on 2-3 courses of similar masonry bonded with light brownish yellow mortar (context 711). These courses were slightly offset from those visible at or about ground level. The wall was set in a trench (context 712) cut into made ground (context 706).

On its own, the archaeological evidence supports the suggestion that the present brick structure was raised on earlier foundations. Cartographic evidence, which proves it beyond reasonable doubt, is given below in section 5.

4.1.5 **Brick wall to south-east of Old Mill Inn**

In Trench 8, a single course of bricks was found beneath 0.40m of made ground (context 803; Plate 5). The wall extended eastwards, parallel to the south wall of the building, for 0.50m. The bricks were laid on edge and bonded with light yellowish brown mortar. Their dimensions were 9½×3×4 inches.

The function of this wall would be difficult to deduce from such slight remains, although it is evidently later than the building adjacent, and the dimensions of the bricks suggest a late 18th or 19th century date. However, as discussed below, there is cartographic evidence that clearly shows its date and function.

4.1.6 **Linear feature**

The only feature identified in the trenches excavated in the car park was a linear, parallel-sided feature that extended across most of Trench 4 on a north-east to south-west alignment (Fig 2, contexts 406-409; Plates 6 and 7). This feature had apparently been cut first with a shallow, concave profile (context 409) and then been re-cut sometime later, more narrowly and deeply, and

with much steeper sides (context 407). The fills of both cuts contained butchered animal bones but no pottery or other dateable material.

On this evidence alone, the feature would normally be interpreted as a boundary ditch, and as discussed below in relation to other evidence, it seems to fit into a context of changing property boundaries between the 18th and 20th centuries.

4.2 Building recording

Old Mill Inn has undergone a considerable amount of change to its fabric on the ground floor due to its use as a public house. The original building is very difficult to discern from the numerous modern extensions to the rear of the structure. The first and second floors and the cellar, however, remain remarkably unchanged. Old Mill Inn was constructed at the beginning of the 18th century as a house. The later 18th and 19th century maps show it to have had a number of outbuildings and extensions that have subsequently been demolished. It is possible that the building had a single storey extension to the rear that was used as a kitchen or wash range. This extension appears to be shown on the maps and its footprint was reproduced in the 1960s/70s when the lounge and public bar was built. The tithe award of 1842 indicates that the land parcel occupied by Old Mill Inn was a house, garden and a malthouse.

| Phase & Date | Element | Original function | Construction | Features | Notes |
|--|--------------------|----------------------|---|---|---|
| 1 (Figs 5-7) Early 18 th C | Lounge and kitchen | House (Plate 8) | Hand made brick coursed in Flemish Bond. | Bricks measuring 8 ¼" x 2 ½" x 2 ¾" x 4". Wall built with chequered brickwork (vitrified headers). Stairway partitions are timber frame. Front door has moulded wooden hood with pilasters (Plate 9). | Building has dogs-tooth eaves cornice on front and rear elevations. Original chimney is external to building (Plate 10). |
| | Cellar (Plate 11) | | Stone and brick. | Stone built to 0.8m (Plate 12) above floor level and brick barrel vaulted ceiling. | |
| 2 (Figs 5-6) Early-mid 19 th | Chimney | House | Brick built chimneystack (Plate 13). | Inserted into earlier building by attaching it to interior rear wall and removal of dogs-tooth eaves cornice at roof level (Plate 14). | All openings to flue are blocked. |
| 2 (Fig 5) Mid 19 th C | Store | Cart shed (Plate 15) | Handmade brick coursed in Flemish Garden Wall Bond. | Bricks measure 8 ¾" x 3" x 4 ¼". Incorporating 2 courses of well-shaped limestone as foundations for whole width of building and 3.6m of length (Plate 16). Lower course projects 0.13m from brick wall, upper course projects 0.03m. | Building has dogs-tooth eaves cornice on long elevations. Rest of building stands on cruder stone foundations (Plate 17) of slightly different alignment. |
| 3 (Fig 5) Mid 20 th C | Kitchen (Plate 18) | Unknown | Machine made brick extension to house coursed in Stretcher Bond | Bricks measure 8 ¼" x 2 ½" x 4". | Single storey flat roofed structure (Plate 19). |

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--|---|---|--|
| 4 (Fig 5) 1960s-1970s | Lounge and public bar (Plate 20) | | Machine made brick extension to rear of house (Plate 21) coursed in Stretcher Bond. | Bricks measure 8 ½" x 2 ½" x 4 ½". | Probably replacement of earlier extension as shown on tithe and 1 st edition maps. Built when building converted into a pub. Caused removal of sections of phase 1 walling. Used as domestic accommodation on first floor. (Plate 22) |
| | Toilets (Plate 23) | | Machine made brick structure to rear of house coursed in Stretcher Bond. | Bricks measure 8 ½" x 2 ½" x 4 ½". | Built when building converted into a pub. |
| 5 (Fig 5) pre 1998 | Toilets | | Unknown, brick or breezeblock | Internal partitions for toilets and extension (Plate 24) of phase 4 structure towards the rear of the house. | Shown on planning application drawings of 1998 |
| 6 (Fig 5) 1998 | Bedrooms (Plate 25) and conservatory (Plate 26) | | Reclaimed handmade and modern brick coursed in Stretcher Bond | Bricks measure 9" x 3" x 4 ¼". | Bedroom wing has dogs tooth eaves cornice. It also has 4 decorative brick crosses, proud of wall, incorporated into the long wall (Plate 27). Conservatory has large wooden frame double-glazed windows. |
| 7 (Fig 5) post 1999 | Office (Plate 28) | | Modern brick (dark pink-red brick with white-cream markings) coursed in Stretcher Bond. | Bricks measure 8 ½" x 2 ¾" x 4". External window has a segmental arched head in blue engineering brick. Internal window is a curved oriel bay (Plate 29). | Not shown on OS map of 1999 |

Table 5: Phased description of Old Mill Inn

4.2.1 Original building

The Old Mill Inn was originally built as a two-celled, three-storey building with cellar. No evidence exists of outbuildings associated with the house but cartographic evidence shows that, at least by 1798, outbuildings attached to the rear of the house did exist.

4.2.2 Cart shed and added chimney

The cart shed was constructed in the early 19th century with bricks standing on stone foundations. The main foundation was constructed of well-shaped stones that appear to constitute the remains of an earlier building. The large entrance was on the south-west face of the building.

This later chimney was constructed against the rear elevation of the building on the east side and was cut through the roof of the building.

4.2.3 Kitchen extension

This extension was built against the east gable of the house (Plate 30). Due to the later pub alterations it is difficult to discern the actual layout and function of this extension. The extension also incorporated an extension to the original cellar below the entire footprint of the building. The addition of this extension to the house caused the removal of the gable of the original building on the ground floor.

4.2.4 Pub buildings

These extensions to the rear of the building were added over a period of 30 years and enabled the pub to grow from an inn to include a restaurant and hotel.

4.3 Artefacts, by Angus Crawford

A summary of the artefacts recovered can be seen in Table 4. The pottery assemblage retrieved consisted of eleven sherds of pottery weighing 347g. The pottery was identified and grouped by fabric (see Table 5). The majority of the sherds were undiagnostic but could be dated between the 16th and 18th century by fabric type. Other artefacts comprised ceramic building material and animal bone.

The assemblage came from both stratified contexts and topsoil/subsoil contexts. Overall the material could be dated from the post-medieval to modern periods.

Condition

The level of preservation was generally moderate with the majority of sherds displaying some low levels of abrasion.

| Context | Material | Type | Total | Weight (gm.) | Context date (tpq) |
|---------|----------|---------------|-------|--------------|--|
| 204 | Pottery | Post-medieval | 1 | 117 | Late 18 th C |
| 400 | Pottery | Modern | 1 | 134 | Late 19 th – early 20 th C |
| 400 | Pottery | Post-medieval | 1 | 15 | |
| 406 | Bone | Animal | 11 | 146 | |
| 408 | Bone | Animal | 6 | 16 | |
| 505 | Pottery | Post-medieval | 1 | 16 | 18 th C |
| 603 | Bone | Animal | 1 | 0.5 | Early –mid 17 th C |
| 603 | Pottery | Post-medieval | 1 | 4 | |
| 603 | Tile | Roof | 1 | 0.5 | |
| 705 | Brick | Post-medieval | 1 | 10 | 18 th C |
| 705 | Pottery | Post-medieval | 4 | 53 | |
| 706 | Pottery | Post-medieval | 2 | 8 | Early –mid 17 th C |
| 706 | Tile | Roof | 1 | 26 | |

Table 6: Quantification of the assemblage

| Context | Fabric | Fabric name | Total | Weight (gm.) |
|---------|--------|----------------------------------|-------|--------------|
| 204 | 84 | Creamware | 1 | 117 |
| 400 | 81.4 | Miscellaneous late stonewares | 1 | 134 |
| 400 | 91 | Post-medieval buff wares | 1 | 15 |
| 505 | 78 | Post-medieval red sandy wares | 1 | 16 |
| 603 | 69 | Oxidized glazed Malvernian ware | 1 | 4 |
| 705 | 75 | North Devon gravel tempered ware | 1 | 11 |
| 705 | 78 | Post-medieval red sandy wares | 1 | 6 |
| 705 | 81.2 | Westerwald stoneware | 1 | 1 |
| 705 | 91 | Post-medieval buff wares | 1 | 35 |
| 706 | 78 | Post-medieval red sandy wares | 2 | 8 |

Table 7: Quantification of the pottery by fabric

5. Synthesis

5.1 Pre 18th century topography and land-use

The evidence from the field evaluation and geotechnical test pits suggests that, before the 18th century, the land on which the present buildings stand once sloped gently to the north-east, towards the stream. There is no direct evidence to suggest how the land was used before the 18th century, but its proximity to the stream makes it likely that it was meadow or pasture. At all events, there were no signs of cultivation in the form of plough furrows or artefacts deposited with manure, and the land directly opposite the stream was certainly a meadow by 1798.

5.2 18th century development

The site appears to have been developed in the early 18th century. The depth of made ground identified in Trenches 6-8 suggests that it was deposited to level the natural slope in advance of construction works.

The development of the site by the late 18th century consisted of the present house (Plate 31), and a similar-sized building adjoining it on the west. The house survives in reasonably good condition, although the building adjoining it is represented solely by the plan of 1798 (Fig 3). The 1842 tithe award indicated that the owners of the house and the nearby corn mill (Fig 1) were the same. It is likely that the owner of the mill built the house as well. Its form and architectural style are typical of an early 18th century house with its chequered brickwork (Plate 32) giving a pleasing appearance and the wooden door hood with pilasters around the front entrance (Plate 33) showing its status as the dwelling of an affluent person. The only compromise to its rural context is its use of red brick, instead of yellow or white as was the fashion at the time, and the timber-frame partitions on the interior of the building (Plate 34). At this period, brick building was in its 'Golden Age' (Brunskill 1997, 156) and timber frame buildings were being refaced to keep up with the latest fashion. In Worcestershire however, some farm buildings were still being constructed of timber and it was being used for internal divisions in houses. However in domestic accommodation the timberwork would not have been seen. It would have been in-filled with lath panels and plastered over.

The land immediately adjacent to the house was probably surfaced in some way, although any surfaces will have been removed by later landscaping. The boundaries of the 18th century property were defined on the east side by the lane that still follows the course of the stream. The western boundaries of the grounds are uncertain. No boundary is shown on the estate map of 1798, but this is not to say that no boundary was present. It is possible that the ditch identified in Trench 4 marked the western boundary of the property, but it may have defined land attached to Grace Cottage to the west.

5.3 19th century alterations

In the early decades of the 19th century, a new chimney was added to the house cutting through the dogs-tooth eaves cornice and the roof. This extra chimney is suggestive of sections of the house changing their domestic function or altering as fashions changed. Previously this eastern part of the house did not need to be heated by a fireplace and may therefore have been used as a serving area or as sleeping accommodation. The rear buildings attached to the house, as shown on the 1798 and 1842 maps (Fig 3), would most likely have contained kitchen, washhouse and privy facilities.

Also at this time, the building adjoining the house was demolished, and a new building was built on much the same site, though it extended right up to the line of Mill Lane. This building was probably the malthouse recorded in the tithe award of 1842. The east foundation of this building was identified in the watching brief in 1998 (Bretherton 1998, wall B). Contrary to the interpretation given in Bretherton it is more likely that the superstructure of this wall was brick rather than timber. At this time in Worcestershire buildings were being constructed of brick and timber framing was only used for internal partitions. The west foundation of this building was also found (Bretherton 1998, wall A).

At around the same time, two small outbuildings were built to the west of the house, as shown on the tithe map of 1842. The northern building can almost certainly be associated with the walls beneath the brick building that presently occupies the site (Plate 35). This building was evidently demolished and rebuilt as a cartshed on a larger scale (but re-using the foundations of the earlier building) between 1842 and 1885, as it appears on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of the latter date.

The tithe map (Fig 3) also shows that short walls had been built from the north-east and south-east corners of the house to the lane that bordered the property to the east. The brick wall found in Trench 8 can be seen as representing the wall between the house and a gate through to the adjoining piece of ground. This division of a piece of land is important to understanding the social

rank within the 19th century. At this time the owners of the house were dividing their private garden, their leisure time, from the industry of the malthouse, their work time.

In 1842, all the buildings and a garden to the north lay in a fenced plot held separately to the land to the east, which was probably held with Grace Cottage. By 1885, however, the property extended much further to the west, taking in the area now occupied by the car park. The new western boundary lay several metres beyond the ditch identified in Trench 4, and has remained on the same line ever since.

5.4 **20th century conversion**

More radical alterations took place on the site in the 1960s/70s and these can be associated with the conversion of the house and malthouse to a public house. These alterations consisted initially of an extension to the main house, now the kitchen, which was constructed to the against the north gable. It is not known what the extension was used for but due to its location against the house and its later function as a kitchen, it is likely that it was used as a cooking or dining space.

The conversion of the building to a public house involved the construction of a number of outbuildings to the rear of the main house on the footprint of the former outbuildings as shown on the 1798 and 1842 maps (Fig 3). This extension was used as a lounge and public bar on the ground floor (Plate 36). The extension on the first floor consisted of a bedroom (Plate 37), kitchen and living room (Plate 38). This conversion into a pub also caused a large amount of remodelling of the house, including the removal of sections of Phase 1 wall to allow access into the lounge and bar from the kitchen area, the addition of a bathroom on the first floor and the removal of primary fabric on the first floor to allow access into the bedroom and living room. The enlarged cellar was altered at this time to include a barrel ramp and entrance (Plate 39).

As part of this conversion, the land to the north-east of the buildings was landscaped to form a car park, and the garden immediately to the north was made into a public amenity. By this time, the northern boundary of the property had already been fixed.

In the late 1990s the pub was altered and at that time a 1960s building stood on the site of the malthouse. It was the demolition of this and the construction of the new building (Plate 40) on the same footprint that called for a watching brief (Bretherton 1998). The new building was used as guest bedrooms as the pub expanded into hotel. Also at this time a conservatory (Plate 41) was constructed next to the new building for use as a restaurant. A number of other extensions behind the pub provided a corridor between the bar/lounge and the toilets, a new lobby and later an office was built against the south-west wall of the cart shed causing the original cartshed entrance to be blocked (Plate 42). This period saw the expansion of the inn as what appears to be a thriving business. It is more likely however, as it closed soon afterwards, it was an attempt to make the business more profitable.

6. **Significance and research frameworks**

The archaeological remains encountered during the project are of limited significance in comparison with more ancient or more informative remains. There are no research frameworks to consider in this case. However, the significance of the buildings is already acknowledged due to its listed status, and there is an extensive literature that can be drawn upon to place the Old Mill Inn buildings in their appropriate architectural and historical contexts. This consists of a general literature on brick buildings (Brunskill 1997) and houses and cottages (Barley 1986, Brunskill 2000, Cruickshank 1985), and a growing specialist literature on Worcestershire buildings of this period (eg Robson-Glyde *et al* 2004). The early 18th century house that forms part of Old Mill Inn is very typical of the early 18th century Palladian style of architecture with a flat front to the building and a projecting wooden door hood. This type of building can be seen across the county in newly constructed buildings and also those refaced or altered at this time.

7. **Publication summary**

The Service has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, the Service intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

Archaeological field evaluation and building recording were undertaken on behalf of Kimbridge limited at Old Mill Inn, Elmley Castle, Worcestershire (NGR ref SO 9845 4117; SMR ref WSM 7679). The project aimed to establish the presence and significance of archaeological deposits, and the character and history of the present buildings.

The results showed that the site was first developed in the early 18th century. This development consisted of a two celled, three storey brick house built in the Palladian style. The house was built on deposits of made ground that were brought in to level a natural slope. A ditch found to the north-west of the house may have bounded the 18th century property. The site was further developed in the 19th century by the addition of other buildings, including a malthouse. The 20th century saw much change to the house as it was converted for use as pub. This involved the construction of numerous extensions to house the kitchen, bar, lounge, toilets, dining room, office and guest bedrooms.

8. **The archive**

The archive consists of:

- 4 Fieldwork progress records AS2
- 1 Photographic record AS3
- 1 Levels record AS19
- 5 A3 Drawing sheets AS34
- 8 Trench records AS41
- 7 Building record sheets AS43
- 3 Black and white photographic films
- 3 Colour photographic films
- 218 Digital photographs
- 1 Box of finds
- 1 Computer disk

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Worcestershire County Museum
Hartlebury Castle
Hartlebury
Near Kidderminster
Worcestershire DY11 7XZ
Tel Hartlebury (01299) 250416

9. **Acknowledgements**

The Service would like to thank Sam Parkes of Kimbridge Limited and Mike Glyde of Worcestershire County Council for their kind assistance.

10. Personnel

The fieldwork and report preparation was led by Shona Robson-Glyde and Darren Miller. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Simon Woodiwiss. Fieldwork was undertaken by Shona Robson-Glyde, Darren Miller, and Alvaro Mora Ottoman; finds analysis by Angus Crawford; and illustration by Carolyn Hunt. Shona Robson-Glyde prepared the plates for reproduction.

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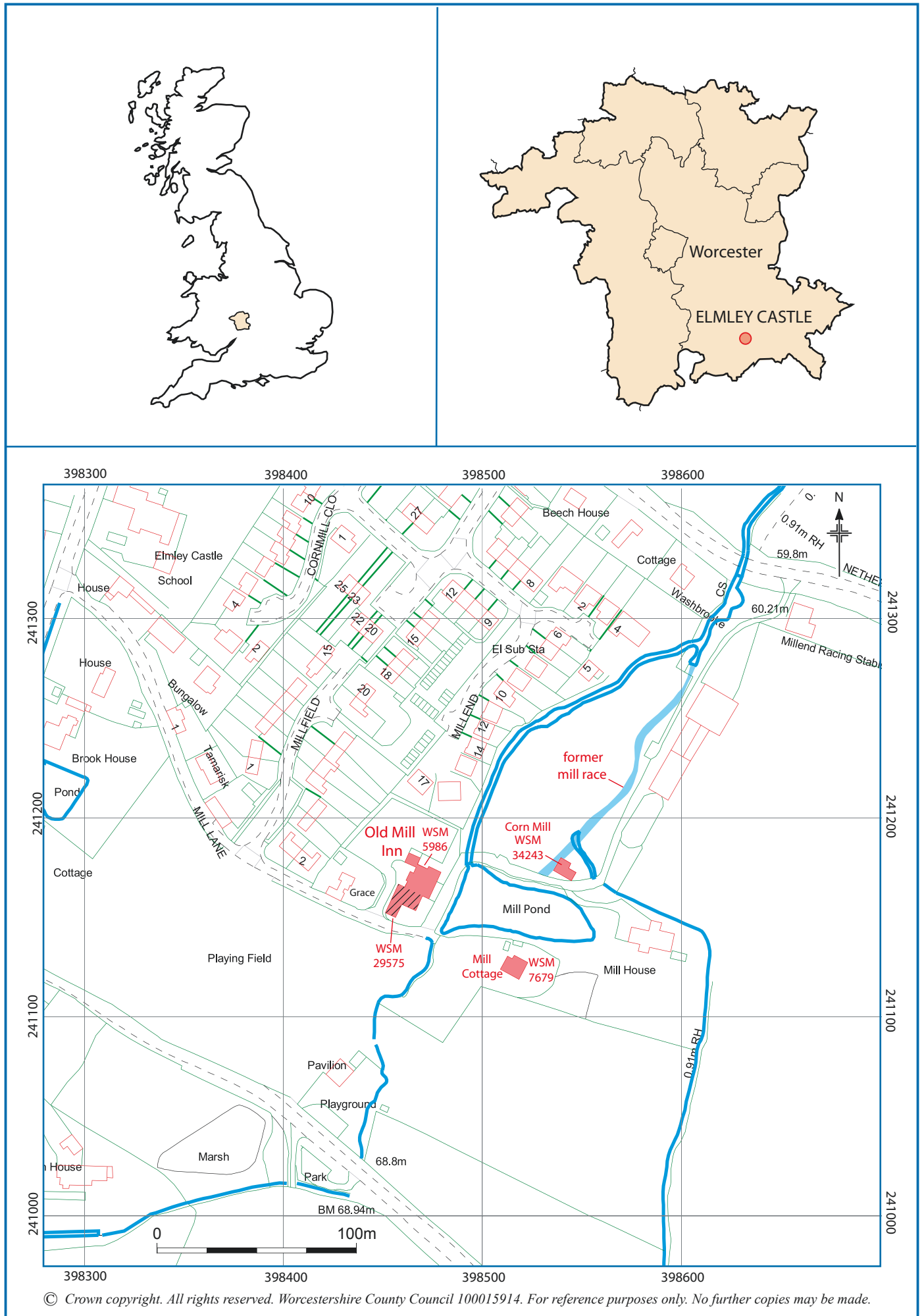
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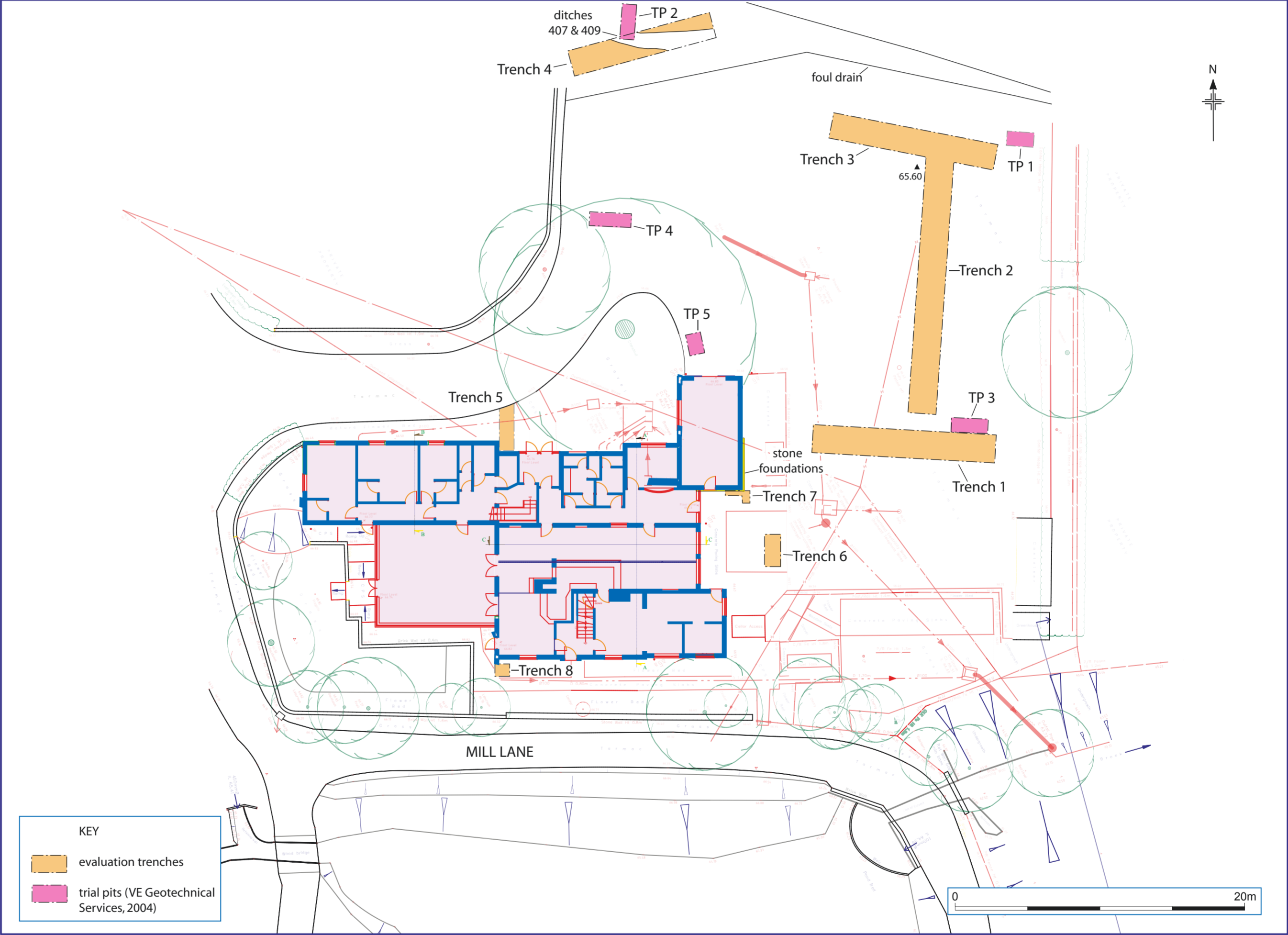
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12. **Appendix 1 Figures**



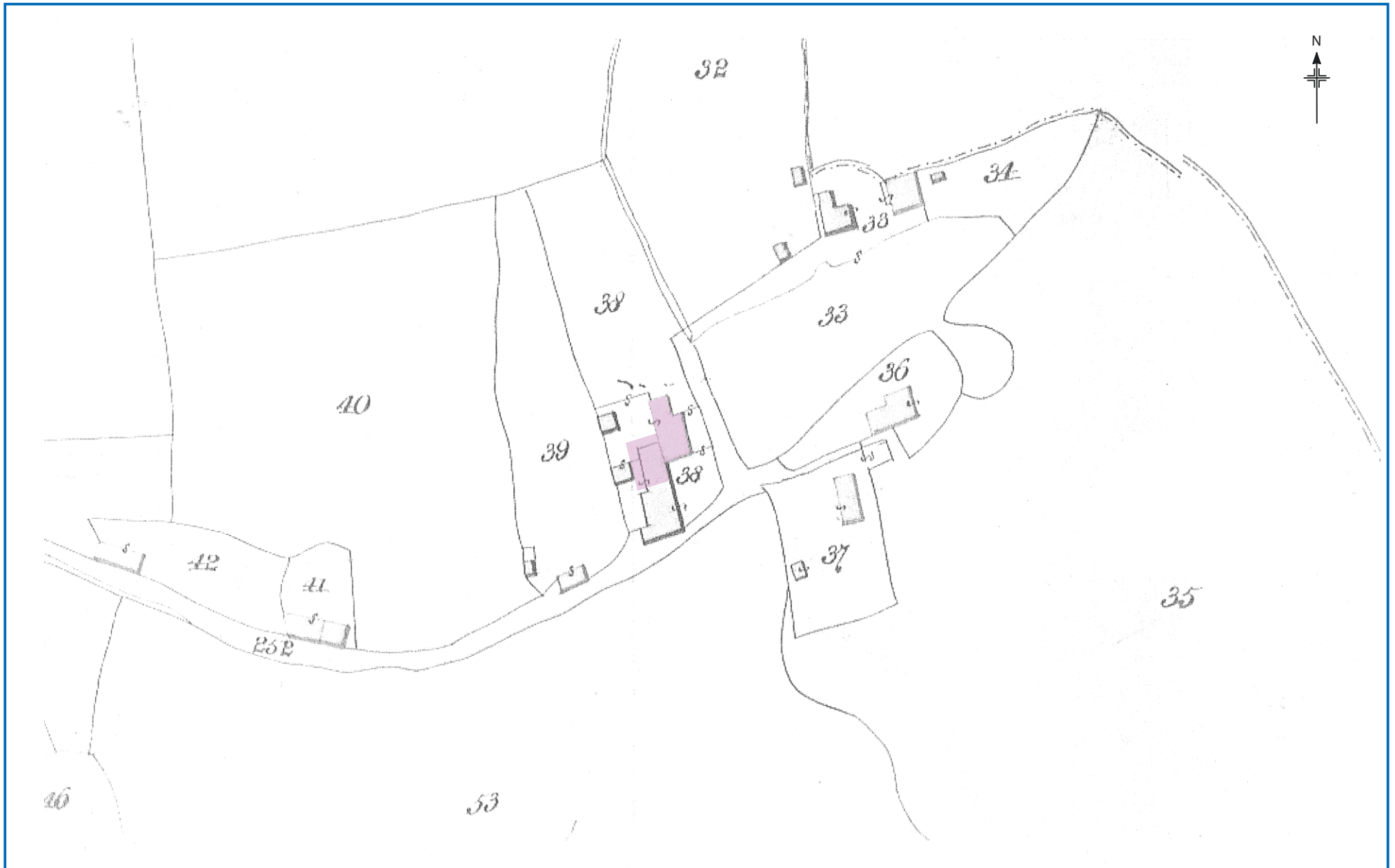
Location of the site, including HER information.

Figure 1



Location of trenches, test pits and trial pits (based upon Stable Architecture dwg no 3225-01)

Figure 2



Extract from Elmley Castle Tithe map, 1842 (highlighted area corresponds to footprint of buildings shown on estate map of 1798)

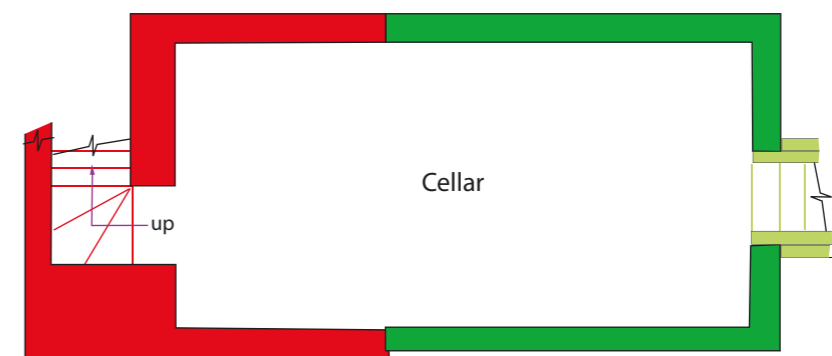
Figure 3



KEY

- | | |
|--|--|
| ■ early 18th century | ■ pre 1998 |
| ■ early - mid 19th century | ■ 1998 |
| ■ mid 20th century | ■ post 1999 |
| ■ 1960s - 1970s | |

GROUND FLOOR PLAN



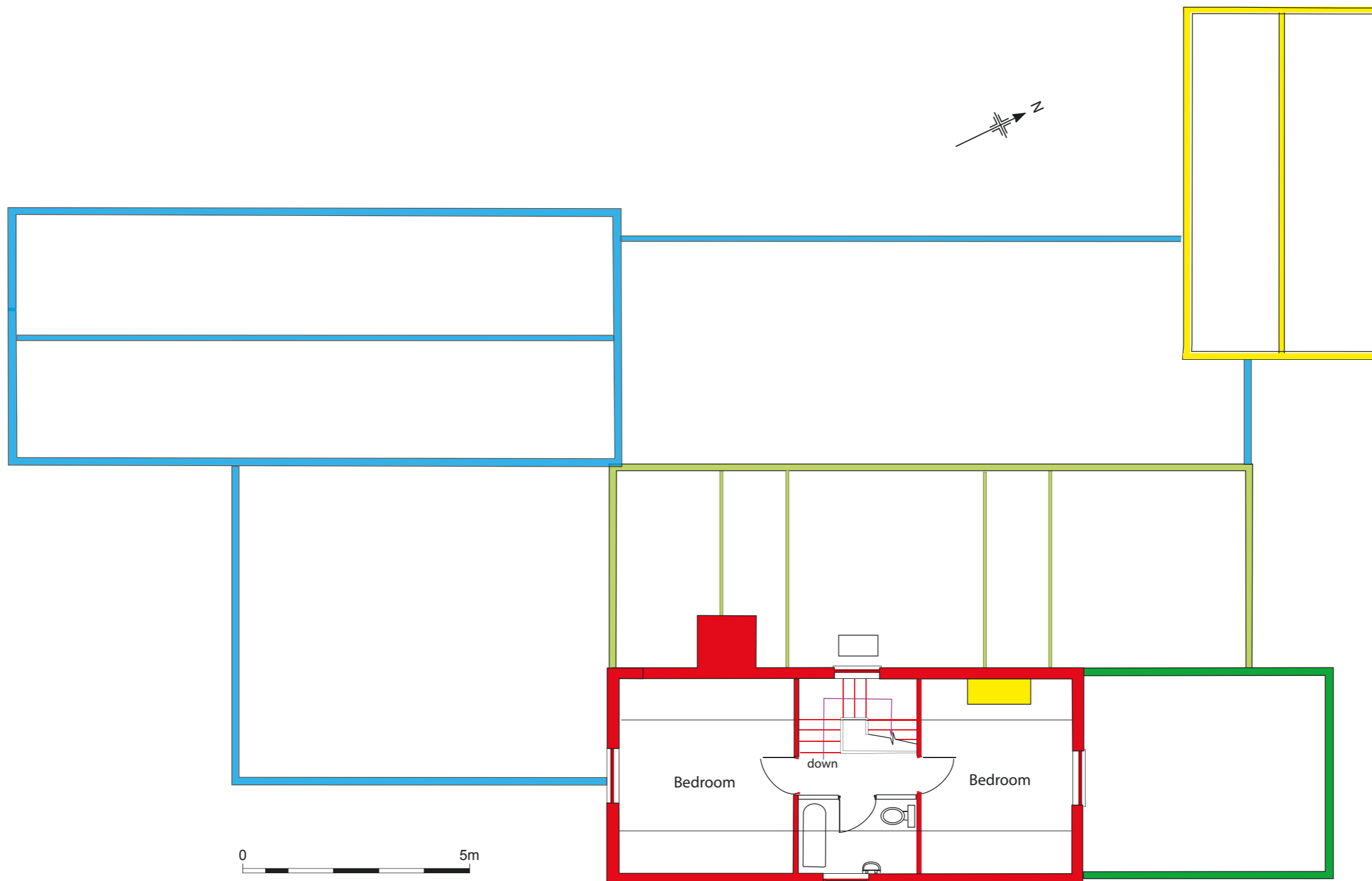
CELLAR PLAN



KEY

- | | |
|--|--|
| ■ early 18th century | ■ pre 1998 |
| ■ early - mid 19th century | ■ 1998 |
| ■ mid 20th century | ■ post 1999 |
| ■ 1960s - 1970s | |

FIRST FLOOR PLAN



0 5m

KEY

- early 18th century
- early - mid 19th century
- mid 20th century
- 1960s - 1970s
- pre 1998
- 1998
- post 1999

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

Second floor plan (based upon Stable Architecture dwg no 3225-01)

Figure 6

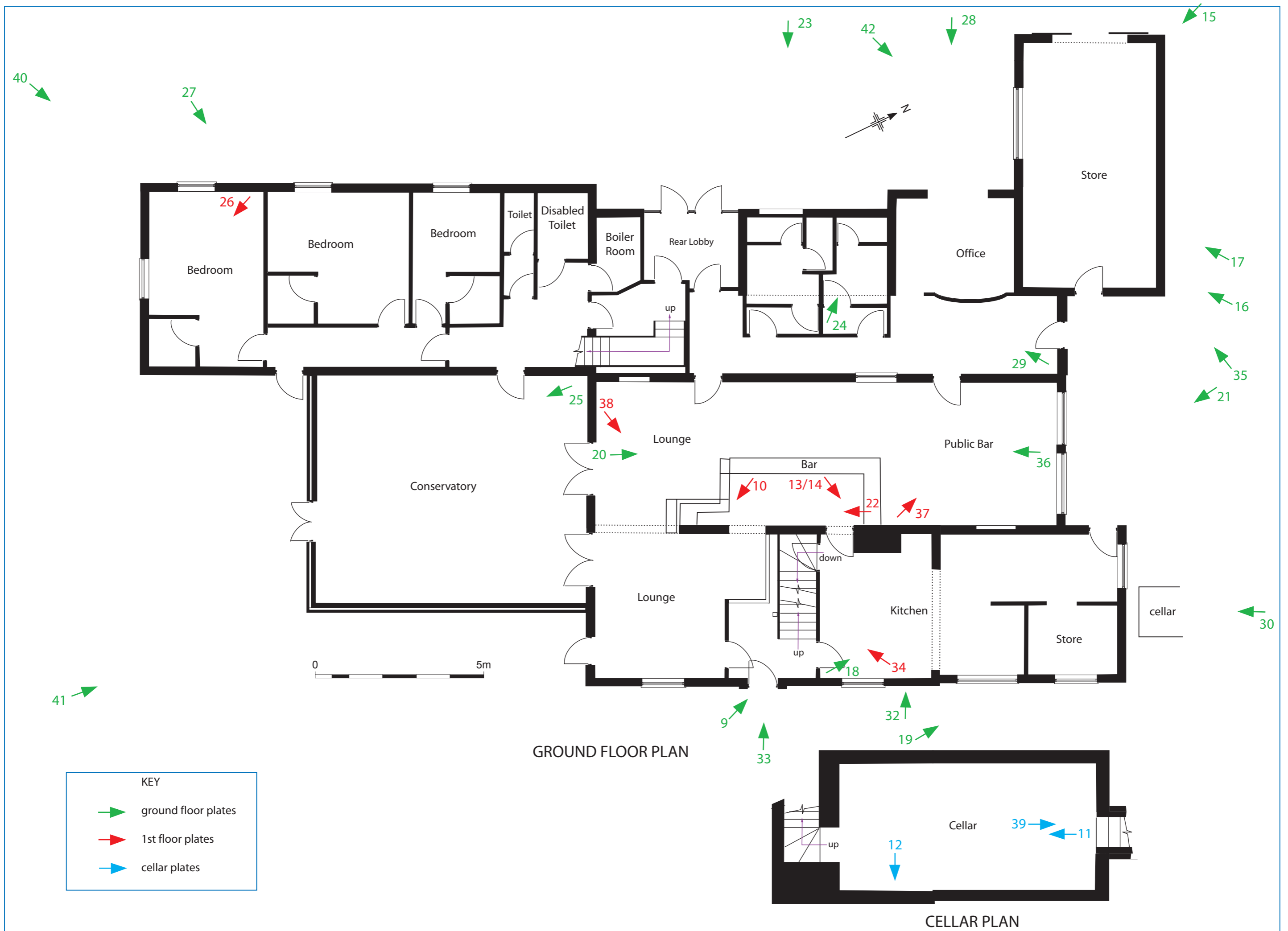


Plate locations

Figure 7

13. **Appendix 2 Plates**



Plate 1: Trench 3, representative section of deposits in area of car park



Plate 2: Trench 6, showing depth of made ground around house



Plate 3: Trench 7, showing made ground abutting stone wall



Plate 4: Trench 7, detail of stone wall



Plate 5: Trench 8, showing brick wall and made ground



Plate 6: Trench 4, oblique view of recut ditch



Plate 7: Trench, section through recut ditch



Plate 8: Frontage (south east face) of Old Mill Inn phase 1 house



Plate 9: Wooden hood and pilasters



Plate 10: Original chimney stack



Plate 11: Cellar interior, looking towards original cellar



Plate 12: Stonework of original cellar wall



Plate 13: Added chimneystack



Plate 14: Added chimneystack, cut through cornice and roof



Plate 15: Cart shed (left)



Plate 16: Limestone foundations of cart shed



Plate 17: Cruder stone foundations of cart shed



Plate 18: Kitchen interior



Plate 19: Flat roofed extension



Plate 20: Lounge and public bar



Plate 21: Rear extension, north side view



Plate 22: 1st floor corridor



Plate 23: Exterior of toilet block



Plate 24: Interior of toilets with later partitions



Plate 25: Interior of conservatory extension



Plate 26: Bedroom in new extension



Plate 27: Decorative crosses on extension wall



Plate 28: Exterior of office in London brick



Plate 29: Office oriel window



Plate 30: Extension against east gable



Plate 31: 18th century house



Plate 32: Chequered brickwork



Plate 33: Front entrance with hood and pilasters



Plate 34: Timber-frame internal partitions



Plate 35: Cart shed with stone foundations excavated



Plate 36: Lounge and bar



Plate 37: Rear extension bedroom



Plate 38: Rear extension living room



Plate 39: Barrel ramp



Plate 40: New hotel extension



Plate 41: Conservatory extension



Plate 42: Cart shed blocked entrance