

Archaeological excavation and building recording at Aylesbury House, Hockley Heath, Warwickshire



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Tim Cornah

With contributions by Laura Griffin and Rob Hedge

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

Summary

An archaeological excavation and building recording exercise was undertaken at Aylesbury House, Hockley Heath, Warwickshire (NGR SO 415723 273245). It was undertaken on behalf of CgMs Consulting, whose client, Spitfire Bespoke Homes Ltd, intend the residential development of the site.

The site comprises a former hotel and grounds situated to the north-east of the village of Hockley Heath in the Borough of Solihull. Documentary evidence suggested the potential presence of the of the Aylesbury family on the site of Aylesbury House from the 14th century. In an earlier evaluation of the site the presence of pottery from the 13th century within later post-medieval features strongly suggested activity of this date. An excavation area was opened over various features identified during the evaluation, though no deposits of a medieval date were identified. All the walls, drains and further features identified during the excavation related to outbuildings illustrated on historic mapping from 1841 onwards, though a single wall retained the potential to be contemporary with the earliest phase of the house.

The building recording identified that the earliest phase of the building was a timber framed house with a brick chimney stack potentially dating from the second half of the 16th century, though more likely from the early 17th century. The overall character of this building was difficult to define the house was rebuilt in brick in the middle of the 18th century, leaving only two partial gable frames of the earliest phase. The brick with stone detailing of the 18th century rebuild continued to dominate the external character of the house, a style that was reused in subsequent additions of the 19th and 20th centuries. An addition at the rear of the building had a more utilitarian character. The 18th century structure also dominated the internal space of the building over all of its three floors with its living spaces and chambers remaining, though reusing the earlier structures at the rear of the building. The character of the rear of the building was dominated largely by 20th century additions.

Report

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

Archaeological excavation and recording of a historic building was undertaken at Aylesbury House, Hockley Heath, Warwickshire (NGR SO 415723 273245). It was undertaken on behalf of CgMs Consulting, whose client, Spitfire Bespoke Homes Ltd, intend the residential development of the site.

Planning permission for the development has been granted by Warwick District Council (W-16-1169) subject to conditions including a programme of archaeological works.

Aylesbury House is a designated heritage asset (Grade II listed NHL 1184144) within the terms used by the *National Planning Policy Framework*. The building is also registered with the Warwickshire Historic Environment Record (WHER MWA7551).

No brief was prepared for this project though correspondence between CgMs and John Robinson of Warwickshire County Council has established that excavation of an area to the rear of the hotel centred on features uncovered during the evaluation is appropriate mitigation as well as a building record of the hotel prior to refurbishment and alteration. A detailed specification was produced and agreed for the project (WA 2017).

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance: Archaeological excavation* (ClfA 2014a) and the *Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (ClfA 2014),

2 Aims

The aims and scope of the excavation were to locate and sample archaeological deposits and record their nature, extent and date with the aim of preserving these assets by record to mitigate the effects of the proposed development.

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists defines the aims of building recording as 'a programme of work intended to establish the character, history, dating, form and archaeological development of a specified building' (Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures, ClfA 2014a).

3 Methods

3.1 Personnel

The project was undertaken by Timothy Cornah (BA (hons.), MSc) who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2006 and Richard Bradley (BA (hons.); MA; ACIfA) who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2008. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers (BA (hons.); MSc). Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt (BSc (hons.); PG Cert; MCIfA). Laura Griffin (BA (hons.); PG Cert; ACIfA), Robert Hedge (MA Cantab) contributed the finds report.

3.2 Documentary research

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Historic Environment Record (HER).

3.3 List of sources consulted

Cartographic sources

- 1841 Packwood Tithe Map including a plan of Aylesbury House
- 1888 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1:10,560 (Figure 12)
- 1905 Ordnance Survey Map 1:10,560

- 1921 Ordnance Survey Map 1:10,560

Aerial photographs

- Britain from Above EAW050010 ENGLAND (1953). Aylesbury House, Lapworth, from the east, 1953

Documentary sources

Published and grey literature sources are listed in the bibliography.

3.4 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2017).

Fieldwork was undertaken between 9th of January and 14th of February 2018.

3.5 Excavation methodology

A single excavation area, amounting to around 130m² in area, was excavated. The location of the excavation area is indicated in Figure 2. The area was located to test an area to the rear of the hotel centred on features uncovered during the evaluation

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed under archaeological supervision using a wheeled excavator, employing a toothless bucket. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012).

3.6 Artefact methodology, by Rob Hedge

The finds work reported here conforms with the following guidance: for findswork by ClfA (2014), for pottery analysis by PCR/SGRP/MPRG (2016), for archive creation by AAF (2011), and for museum deposition by SMA (1993).

3.6.1 Recovery policy

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012; appendix 2). Only a sample of 20th century material was retained.

3.6.2 Method of analysis

All hand-retrieved finds were examined. They were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* date was produced for each stratified context. The date was used for determining the broad date of phases defined for the site. All information was recorded on a Microsoft Access database.

The pottery and ceramic building material was examined under x20 magnification and referenced as appropriate by fabric type and form according to the Warwickshire medieval and post-medieval fabric reference series (Soden and Ratkai 1998).

Laura Griffin analysed the material from the evaluation (P4809) in 2016. Rob Hedge analysed the material from the excavation and watching brief (P5150) in 2018. The two reports are presented here to enable a synthesis of the assemblage, and its implications for the understanding of the chronology of the site.

3.6.3 Discard policy

The following categories/types of material will be discarded after a period of 6 months following the submission of this report, unless there is a specific request to retain them (and subject to the collection policy of the relevant depository):

- where unstratified

- post-medieval material, and;
- generally where material has been specifically assessed by an appropriate specialist as having no obvious grounds for retention.

See the environmental section for other discard where appropriate.

3.7 Environmental archaeology

No deposits appropriate for environmental analysis were present.

3.8 Building recording

Building recording consisted of a photographic survey of the interior and exterior of the buildings, analysis of their development, annotation of existing survey drawings and measured survey. All photographs were taken with photographic scales visible in each shot where possible. The photographic survey was carried out with a Sony α350 digital SLR camera. All photographs were recorded on a pro-forma Photographic Record Sheet. Annotation of existing ground plans and elevations, and completion of pro-forma Building Phase sheets, complemented the photographic record along with measured drawings completed to scale on drawing film at 1:20 scale.

The project conformed to the specification for a both a level 2 and 3 survey as defined in the Historic England document *Understanding historic buildings: a guide to good recording practice* (HE 2016). A level 3 survey is described as 'an analytical record' comprising of 'an introductory description followed by a systematic account of the buildings origins, development and use' (*ibid.*). This required the following elements of survey.

Survey and drawings

- Plans of all main floors and elevations as existing (provided by client).
- Measured drawings showing the form of any architectural or functional detail not more readily captured by photography.

Photography

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

Building analysis

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

The building as recorded is depicted in Plate 8 to *Plate 45*. Ground plans, phase plans and elevations have been reproduced as Figures 4-11.

3.9 Statement of confidence in the methods and results

The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved though access to the second floor of the building and its roof spaces was not possible for safety reasons. It is therefore the case that some details of the structure could not be recorded and analysed.

4 The application site

4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context

The following discussion within this section is summarised from the desk-based assessment of the site (CgMs 2016) unless stated otherwise.

The site lies on the Arden plateau, which is comprised of gently undulating high land once part of the Forest of Arden. The site slopes gently from a height of c140m AOD on its western side to c133m AOD on its eastern side with the bedrock geology listed as being Mercian Mudstone Group overlain by superficial diamictom till deposits of the middle Pleistocene.

No archaeological remains of either the Prehistoric or Romano-British periods have been identified within 1km of the site, or within the site itself. Features of these periods were therefore considered unlikely to be present. Similarly, no specific features within the site or wider area have been attributed to the Saxon-early medieval period despite the area having been mentioned in record from the 8th century onwards. It is likely that the site and its vicinity remained as unsettled woodland at this time.

Settlement at Hockley Heath was first documented in c1280, named as 'Huckeloweheath' and formed along the highway from Dudley to Warwick. The site lies to the east of the probable settlement centre and contains Aylesbury House. Whilst this house is largely of 18th century date, it retains 16th to 17th century elements, with some elements likely to predate this. The Aylesbury family were listed as the lords of the manor of Lapworth from 1361, so earlier elements present on this site could not be discounted. These elements could have taken the form of a moated house, which were noted features of the Arden landscape from the second half of the 13th century onwards.

The first mapping of the site dates to 1819, but it was not until 1841 that the house and its plot were illustrated on the Packwood Tithe map. In relation to the excavation area as illustrated on (Figure 3), an outbuilding with a boundary wall running to the back of the house is visible. Internal details of the plan of the house at this time and later maps will be discussed in the building recording section below.

From another source of this date, it is suggested that the outbuilding to the south was a stable and coach house, with the three buildings to the north being predominantly agricultural. The house at this time was used as a lunatic asylum. The 1888 Ordnance Survey (OS) map provides greater detail, with a set of buildings around a yard to the north, likely be agricultural and a further building also to the north of the house aligned north-east to south-west along with the coach house and stable to the south. To the south east of the house was an area segmented by paths into quadrants, and described in the early 20th century as a kitchen garden complete with a glasshouse and cold frames. The building immediately to the north of the house was partially removed by the time of the 1921 OS map, with a further building added to the south-east of the likely farmyard.

During the evaluation of the site (Cornah 2016), a trench excavated at the rear of the hotel two features were recorded from which dating of 17th to 18th Century date was retrieved. These are likely to relate to drainage and domestic waste from Aylesbury House. A brick wall also of a broadly contemporary date was also recorded and likely to relate to the outbuildings shown on the map of 1841 onwards. Residual medieval pottery was retrieved from one of the features.

4.2 Current land-use

The house and site remain derelict since the closure of the building as a hotel.

5 Excavation

5.1 Structural analysis

The trench and features recorded are shown in Figure 3 The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

Natural deposits (1211) consisted of compact light grey yellow and pink gravel rich clays, consistent with glacial till deposits (Plate 1 and Plate 2).

5.1.2 Phase 2: Post-medieval deposits

Post medieval deposits were largely concentrated in the south-eastern part of the excavation area where a series of intercutting pits and structures represent former outbuildings.

One of the earliest features observed was a small gully 0.32m wide [1247], which was identified during the evaluation and dated to the 18th century, though containing pottery from the 13th century onwards. This was aligned north-east to south-west and as it only partially remained was not further excavated.

Also identified during the evaluation and aligned north-east to south-west was a brick wall (1244) (Plate 4 and Plate 5) which was dated to the 16th-17th century. The bricks of this structure are very similar in dimensions of the Phase 1 chimney (Plate 10) as discussed in the building recording below, though it is entirely possible that they salvaged them from the Phase 1 building when the house was largely rebuilt in the 18th century. This wall survived to a depth of nine courses and 0.60m depth. It is noticeable that this followed closely the alignment of a boundary wall and walls of a structure illustrated for the first time in 1841.

Brick wall (1250) was constructed on top of (1244) in north-west to south-east direction and stopped on top of (1244) at its north-west end (Plate 4 and Plate 5), though may turn to run north-east to south-west along (1244) to the north-east. Along the north-west side of wall (1244), an arched brick culvert at least 0.55m wide and 0.30m deep was constructed. This was in turn built upon by two small stretches of brick walls running in the same direction (1251 and 1252) which ran together for a length of approximately 2.50m.

Three small post-holes were located next to wall (1244) (Plate 6). Their relationship to the wall was not clear due to later truncation by [1257 and [1259] truncated the earlier [1262]. Their alignment suggests they relate to two post-holes [1266 and 1249], located to the north though these are clearly much later than wall (1244) as [1266] truncates it and [1249] truncates wall (1250). The function of these was not obvious but are likely to have been internal to the building illustrated in 1841. To the north of culvert (1240) was a small pit [1231] (Plate 7), sub-square in shape 0.85m across and 0.18m deep. The function of this was unclear. The dating for this is between 1600-1900 and the is the earliest dated discreet feature recorded on the site.

The culvert was partially rebuilt using up turned u shaped ceramic sections (1238). The construction cut for this [1239] truncated wall (1244) and its backfill (1237) contained material of 19th to 20th century date.

A further L shaped section of wall (1234) was constructed above drain rebuild (1238) (Plate 3) and extended 3.30m in a north-west to south-east direction, turning to run to the north-east from its north-west end. This remained to a depth of two courses only and was also identified during the evaluation.

5.1.3 Phase 3: Modern deposits

A brick boundary wall (1203) extended into the excavation area along with a contemporary concrete footing (1204). Further intrusive features consisted of a modern rubbish dump [1210], a drain [1223] and post hole [1213], the latter of which cut post hole [1215] which is likely to be broadly contemporary given its similarity of position.

A series of further small postholes were present across the site, some of which retained elements of their wooden post and further modern material. These are likely to relate to modern garden features [1217, 1219, 1221, 1225, 1227 and 1229] along with a further modern pit feature [1233] None of these features were excavated.

Modern sealing deposits consisted of a made ground deposit (1202), an overlaying a topsoil layer (1207) and tarmac layers (1200 and 1201).

6 Artefactual Analysis

6.1 Artefacts from the evaluation (P4809), by Laura Griffin

The site assemblage totalled 87 finds (weighing 7491g) from 21 contexts (Tables 1 and 2). Level of preservation, on the whole, was good with pottery sherds displaying low levels of surface abrasion and having an exceptionally high average weight of 44.8g.

The majority of the finds assemblage recovered comprised domestic refuse dating to the post-medieval and modern periods. Small amounts of residual medieval and late medieval/early post medieval transitional material were also identified, hinting at earlier activity in the vicinity.

period	material class	object specific type	count	weight (g)
medieval	ceramic	pot	2	99
medieval	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	5	283
late medieval/early post-medieval	ceramic	pot	2	98
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	9	214
post-medieval	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	7	509
post-medieval	ceramic	brick	1	3000
post-medieval	ceramic	pipe	2	5
modern	ceramic	brick	8	745
modern	ceramic	pot	33	1652
modern	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	1	145
modern	glass	vessel	11	718
modern	glass	window	6	23
Totals			87	7491

Table 1: Quantification of the evaluation assemblage

6.1.1 Summary artefactual evidence by period

All material has been spot-dated and quantified. For the finds from individual features, see Table 4a.

6.1.2 Medieval

Material of medieval date consisted of two sherds of pottery and 5 pieces of flat roof tile.

The pottery consisted of the rim of a jug (context 824) provisionally identified as being of Chilvers Coton A (fabric WW01). The sherd was decorated with a patchy olive green glaze. The top of the strap handle was decorated with a series of distinctive vertical slashes. The remaining sherd in a reduced sandy fabric was undiagnostic and thought to come from a cooking pot (context 501).

All flat roof tile of this period was undiagnostic but in a distinctive sandy fabric type.

6.1.3 Post-medieval

Five contexts (824, 827, 834, 1003 and 1103) could be dated to the post-medieval period on the basis of the finds.

There were two sherds of pottery commonly classified as 'transitional' (ie late medieval–early post-medieval). The sherds (contexts 824 and 827) were both from flared bowl forms in a sandy, oxidised fabric (SLM41) with a thin green internal glaze and dated 15th-16th century.

Remaining sherds of this period were identified as Midlands blackwares (MB02) and were dated to the 17th-18th century. Identifiable forms included a pancheon/flared bowl (context 824) and a butter pot (context 829).

Other finds of post-medieval date included flat roof tile, clay pipe stems and a distinctive brick. The brick (context 834) was roughly formed and the dimensions (10 x 4¾ x 2") indicated a 16th-17th century date.

6.1.4 Modern

All remaining finds were of late 18th to 20th century date and consisted primarily of domestic pottery and bottle glass. The pottery included a variety of sherds of modern glazed wares (MGW), creamware (CRW), porcelain, pearlware (PLW01) and English stoneware (STE, STE02 and STE03). Where diagnostic, these sherds largely came from domestic tablewares, primarily plates and dishes. The majority of china was transfer-decorated, whilst the pearlware was hand-painted.

Vessel glass consisted primarily of shards from bottles of 19th-20th century. Two particularly nice free-blown bases in a dark greenish brown were retrieved from context 809. One of these was of particular note for having a pronounced kick and a pontil scar with a distinctive bluish colouration resulting from the type of pontil rod used. The other had a lower kick with a mamelon (Lindsey 2016, <http://www.sha.org/bottle/glossary.htm>). Both were of 19th century date.

Other glass included fragments from a white pearlescent vessel (context 606) and small pieces thought to be window glass.

Remaining material of modern date consisted of abraded ceramic building material.

6.2 Artefacts from the excavation and watching brief (P5150), by Rob Hedge

The artefactual assemblage recovered is summarised in Tables 2 and 4b. A total of 48 artefacts weighing 2018g were retrieved from nine contexts within the excavated area. Artefact condition was good; pottery sherds displayed low levels of surface abrasion. The mean sherd weight, at 32.5g, was considerably above average, reflecting the robust nature of the post-medieval earthenwares present. The assemblage comprised domestic refuse and building material dating to the post-medieval and modern periods.

period	material class	object specific type	count	weight(g)
medieval/post-medieval	ceramic	roof tile	5	321
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	16	771
post-medieval	glass	bottle	1	23
post-medieval	glass	vessel	2	381
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	brick	1	57
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	pot	16	269
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	roof tile	1	16
post-medieval/modern	glass	vessel	2	58
post-medieval/modern	organic	wood	1	5
modern	ceramic	drainage tile	1	100
modern	plastic	lens	1	5
Modern	stone	tile	1	12
Totals			48	2018

Table 2: Quantification of the excavation/watching brief assemblage

6.2.1 Pottery

All sherds have been grouped and quantified according to fabric type (Table 2). Sherds were dated by fabric type to their general period or production span.

Broad period	fabric code	Fabric common name	count	weight(g)
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Broad period	fabric code	Fabric common name	count	weight(g)
Post-medieval	MB02	Post-medieval red ware	11	559
Post-medieval	STE02	Nottingham stoneware	2	178
Post-medieval	CRW	Creamware	3	34
Post-medieval/modern	MGW	Porcelain	1	7
Post-medieval/modern	STE	Late stoneware	1	99
Post-medieval/modern	MGW	Modern china	14	163
Totals			32	1040

Table 3: Quantification of the excavation/watching brief pottery by period and fabric-type

6.2.2 Summary of artefactual evidence by period

All material has been spot-dated and quantified. For the finds from individual features, see Table 4b.

6.2.3 Medieval/post-medieval

Fragments of undiagnostic flat roof tile, in a sandy fabric with a sanded base, were not closely dateable but may be medieval in origin.

6.2.4 Post-medieval

The earliest closely-dateable artefacts from the excavation phase were sherds of late-17th to 18th century Nottingham stoneware (STE02), including a large teapot lid. Robust local black-glazed earthenwares (MB02) of 18th to 19th century date were also present, in a range of forms including large pancheons. A small quantity of late 18th century creamware (CRW) was recovered. Several large fragments of a large 18th century glass bottle were observed, along with a small dip-molded green glass bottle likely to be of early to mid-19th century date.

6.2.5 Post-medieval/modern

Porcelain (MGW) and stone china (MGW) of 19th to early 20th century date were present. A fragment of a late stoneware (STE) blacking bottle is likely to be late 19th or early 20th century.

Several pieces of brick and roof tile of 19th or 20th century date were retained, along with a sample of 20th century building material.

6.2.6 Context dating tables

Phase of works	context	material class	object specific type	Count	weight(g)	start date	end date	finds spot date
Evaluation (P4809)	102	ceramic	brick	2	20			modern
	105	ceramic	brick	1	453			L18-20C
		ceramic	pot	1	10	L18C	20C	
		ceramic	roof tile(flat)	1	80			
		glass	vessel	1	3			
		glass	window	2	2			
	107	ceramic	brick	3	204			modern
	402	ceramic	pipe	2	5			19-20C
		ceramic	pot	1	135	19C		
		ceramic	pot	3	33	19C	20C	
		ceramic	pot	3	24	19C	20C	
		glass	vessel	1	2			
	500	glass	window	2	8			19-20C
		ceramic	pot	1	33	19C	20C	
	ceramic	pot	2	252	19C	20C		
501	ceramic	pot	1	14			medieval	

Phase of works	context	material class	object specific type	Count	weight(g)	start date	end date	finds spot date
	600	ceramic	brick	1	3			19-20C
		ceramic	pot	1	7	19C	20C	
		glass	vessel	2	38			
	604	ceramic	pot	1	3			19-20C
		glass	window	1	3			
	606	ceramic	pot	1	8	L19C	20C	19C
		glass	vessel	2	4		19C	
		glass	window	1	10			
	705	ceramic	pot	3	7	19C	20C	19-20C
		ceramic	pot	4	20	L18C	E19C	
	804	glass	vessel	1	37	19C	20C	19-20C
		glass	vessel	1	85	19C	20C	
		glass	vessel	1	2			
	808	ceramic	pot	1	18	1720	1780	L18C
		ceramic	pot	3	23	M18C	L18C	
	809	ceramic	brick	1	65			E19C
		glass	vessel	1	166			
		glass	vessel	1	381		E19C	
	823	ceramic	pot	2	14	1750	1820	E19C
		ceramic	roof tile(flat)	1	145			
	824	ceramic	pot	1	85	1250	1300	18C
		ceramic	pot	2	44		18C	
		ceramic	pot	1	40	15C	16C	
		ceramic	roof tile(flat)	4	207			
		ceramic	roof tile(flat)	3	189			
	827	ceramic	pot	4	124	L17C	18C	L17-18C
		ceramic	pot	1	58	15C	16C	
ceramic		roof tile(flat)	1	76	13C	16C		
829	ceramic	pot	1	42	L17C	18C	M-L18C	
	ceramic	pot	3	18	M18C	L18C		
	ceramic	pot	2	29	1750	1900		
	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	2	162				
834	ceramic	brick	1		16C	17C	16-17C	
1000	ceramic	pot	1	1018	19C	20C	modern	
1003	ceramic	pot	1	2			post-medieval	
1003	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	1	78		18C	18C	
1103	ceramic	pot	1	2	L17C	18C	L17-18C	

Table 4a: Summary of evaluation context dating based on artefacts

Phase of works	context	material class	object specific type	count	weight(g)	start date	end date	TPQ date range
Excavation and watching brief (DE450)	1209	organic	wood	1	5	1800	2000	AD1950 - 2000
		ceramic	drainage tile	1	100	1900	2000	
		ceramic	roof tile	1	16	1800	2000	
		stone	tile	1	12	1900	2000	
		plastic	lens	1	5	1950	2000	

Phase of works	context	material class	object specific type	count	weight(g)	start date	end date	TPQ date range
	1216	glass	bottle	1	23	1800	1875	AD1800 - 1950
		ceramic	pot	1	166	1690	1900	
		ceramic	pot	3	25	1800	1950	
	1226	ceramic	roof tile	4	229	1200	1800	AD1200 - 1800
	1230	ceramic	brick	1	57	1600	1900	AD1600 - 1900
	1232	ceramic	pot	1	1	1800	1950	AD1800 - 1950
	1237	ceramic	pot	3	303	1700	1900	AD1850 - 1950
		ceramic	pot	3	114	1800	1950	
		ceramic	pot	2	27	1760	1790	
		ceramic	pot	1	99	1850	1950	
		ceramic	pot	1	23	1600	1800	
		glass	vessel	2	381	1700	1800	
	1255	ceramic	pot	1	7	1760	1790	AD1760 - 1790
		ceramic	pot	1	12	1690	1900	
	1256	ceramic	pot	1	51	1600	1900	AD1800 - 2000
		ceramic	pot	1	7	1750	1950	
		ceramic	pot	2	8	1800	2000	
ceramic		roof tile	1	92	1200	1800		
1260	ceramic	pot	6	182	1600	1900	AD1800 - 2000	
	ceramic	pot	5	15	1800	2000		
	glass	vessel	1	4	1800	2000		

Table 4b: Summary of excavation/watching brief context dating based on artefacts

6.2.7 Assessment of potential

The finds assemblage of 16th century date onwards is largely domestic waste, presumably directly associated with the house. Although largely residual, the small assemblage of medieval material possibly hints at the presence of earlier activity or settlement on the site.

6.3 Recommendations

6.3.1 Further analysis and reporting

No further analysis is required.

6.3.2 Discard and retention

A small proportion of the assemblage — the medieval and transitional pottery and a sample of the building material — warrants retention. The remainder should be considered for discard, although the final decision rests with the receiving museum.

7 Building Recording

7.1 Building description

The building currently comprises of a largely brick built structure, visually dominated by the buildings' façade on the south-east side (**Plate 8**). This façade is aligned north-east to south-west and is complete with two bay windows which run from the ground to second floors. A further bay window was added to a later extension, continuing the same style. The windows of the front are

complete with rubbed brick lintels and central quoin stones, visually joined by stone string courses running around the building. The corners of the front of the building also contain quoin stones at the corners and the roof is bounded by a small parapet, with the brickwork also raised above the tile roof at the gable ends.

The rear of the building (**Plate 9**) displays a great deal more complexity with two phases of primarily timber framed structures visible, one complete with a double brick chimney stack of a star shaped profile. The rooflines of the majority of the structures at the rear run at 90 degrees to that of the façade in a north-west to south-east direction. A flat roofed structure of 20th century date has also been added to this side of the building.

The building is Grade II listed (NHL 1184144) and described as follows within the listing

House, now hotel. Mid C18, incorporating some earlier structure. Stone ashlar plinth; red brick, with stone quoins; old plain-tile roof; various brick stacks. 3-storey, 3-bay range. 4-panel part-glazed door to centre with overlight; having stone architrave surround and cornice with pulvinated frieze and keystone. 3-storey angled bay windows to left and right with 4-pane sashes to each face of each floor, all having flat brick arches with stone keystones. 4-pane sashes to first and second floors centre with flat brick arches with stone keystones. Stone cornice to base of brick balustrade. Open balustrade over angled bays, plain balustrade to rest. Hipped roofs to bay windows, gabled main roof. Interior not inspected but likely to be of interest. Probably early C20 addition to left. Red brick; old plain-tile roof. 2-storey, 2-bay range. French window to ground floor right. Sash door to balcony at first floor right. 2-storey angled bay window to left with 12-pane horned sashes to each face of each floor.

7.2 Historical information

The most relevant historical information pertinent to the building is derived from a detailed plan of the house in 1841. This covers all three floors and names each room with a label such as dining room, chamber or kitchen. The detail of this plan could be clearly related to many of the phases of remaining building. Subsequent mapping of the late 19th and early 20th centuries further highlight some of the broad phases of development. The specific features of the maps will be discussed in relation to the phasing as outlined below.

7.3 Building development

Eight phases were identified during the investigation of the building which are described as follows:-

- Phase 1: Late 16th to 17th century
- Phase 2: 17th century
- Phase 3: Mid-18th century
- Phase 4: late 18th century to 1841
- Phase 5: 1841-1888
- Phase 6: 1905-1921
- Phase 7: Post 1953- late 20th century
- Phase 8: Late 20th century

7.4 Phase 1: Late 16th to 17th century

The remaining elements of this phase consisted largely of only two gable frames, Frame 1 (Plate 10 to Plate 13 and Figure 8) and Frame 2 (Plate 14 and Plate 15 and Figure 7) along with a chimney breast and stack (Plate 10).

Frame 1 consisted of a tie beam, posts and collar, with the framing for a small window above the collar. A wood mullion is still visible at this position from the exterior (Plate 10). The principle rafters had a single position for purlins on each side and a position for a central ridge purlin. Below the tie beam, a central post is jointed in which ran to ground floor and to its east is a gap in the framing in which the chimney breast is located, strongly suggesting the frame and chimney breast are contemporary. To the west of the central post was some irregular, broadly square, framing, though at ground floor level there is evidence for close studding.

Frame 2 consisted of broadly the same arrangement of timbers above the tie beam, including a possible small window above the collar. Two straight braces are also visible on this frame running from the tie beam to jowl posts. There is also some evidence for a further small window below the tie beam, with a further as shown by clear evidence below the mid-rail level with evidence for former close studding at this point. On the south east side of the frame, some of the close studding remained intact along with its original wattle infill.

The similarity of the frames above tie beam level suggests that they are contemporary, and allows a degree of reconstruction of the house. They were broadly aligned, with their central ridge purlins running north-east to south-west. It is likely that there was a linking element between these two, potentially creating a H shaped building, though there is no remaining direct evidence for this. One problem with this is a slight height discrepancy between the two frames, with Frame 1 being circa 7.20 or a little more in height from ridge purlin to the base of the cill beam, whilst the same measurement on Frame 2 is 6.60m. How this was resolved within the building could not be ascertained with certainty though a reconstruction of the rear of the building at this time is suggested (Figure 10).

The framing does clearly show that the building consisted of ground, first, and second floors, the latter within the roof space above the tie beams. It is likely that the living spaces of the building would have been at the location of the chimney, with that behind Frame 2 at the "lower" end of the building. In terms of dating, this H shaped layout is suggestive of a date in the 16th century, though the star shaped chimney predominates in the 17th century in the west-midlands. A date of around 1600 or after seems likely overall but could only be supported by other methods such as dendrochronology or archival search.

7.5 Phase 2: 17th century

Frame 3 was added parallel to frame 1 to its north-west (Plate 16, Plate 17 and Figure 9). This frame consisted of two posts below the collar either side of a modern window and raking V struts above. Scotchies for single purlins were visible on each side of the principle rafters. Below the tie beam were two braces running from the tie beam to the jowl posts, with otherwise broadly square framing. At ground floor level, the cill beam is interrupted for a door position, an arrangement likely to be original. This arrangement is not closely dateable as it was favoured throughout the 17th century, particularly the raking V struts above the collar. No wall or roof framing remained having been replaced in the 20th century so the function of the structure is not obvious. The 1841 plan of the building shows this structure as a single room with no first floor so an ancillary function is probable as opposed to a further living space.

7.6 Phase 3: Mid-18th century

The largest single element of the building dates to this phase and dominates the appearance of the building from its front (Plate 8), though the bay windows and parapet above were added in Phase 5. The central doorway retains its original position and it is likely that the windows of the frontage were constructed with rubbed brick and central quoin stones as they remain. The gable ends of the

north-east to south-west aligned frontage of the building (Plate 18 and Plate 19) show the simpler nature of the original design with a general brick construction and quoins stone at the corners of the buildings as well as three relatively unembellished stone string course and segmental arch headed windows. The raised and stepped brickwork at the gable end is likely also to be original, though a change in its construction would suggest it was at least partially rebuilt in Phase 5. The general style continues to an extension at the rear (Plate 20), with the roofline turning to run north-west to south-east, 90 degrees to the frontage. At its gable, a roof truss of this phase is visible above Frame 1 of Phase 1 and consisting of a tie beam, post, collar and principle rafters. It is noticeable that this truss is constructed of hardwood and traditionally carpentered using wood pegs at the joints. It is probable that some elements in the northern corner of the building also date to this time (Plate 21) though some parts are rebuilt.

Internally on the ground floor, the building consisted of a central hall flanked by two dining rooms (Plate 22 to Plate 24), a parlour to the rear (Plate 25) as well as a kitchen (Plate 26) as stated on the plan of 1841. It is possible that the some elements of the brewhouse to the north of the kitchen (Plate 27) date to this time, but this is far from clear due to wall coverings and later alterations.

The access to the first and second floors at this time is likely to have been from the position of a staircase which remained until recently, next to the kitchen. This position is certainly consistent with the door positions on the first and second floors. It is not obvious what covered this area at this time as the structure which encased the large remaining staircase date to Phase 4. It is possible that some elements of the Phase 1 building remained at this time.

On the first floor, the layout consisted of four chambers (Plate 28 to Plate 30) which had dressing rooms and closets leading from them. It is possible that the "back room" as labelled in 1841 was also present at this time. A feature of interest visible on the underside of the second floor joists was a series of carpenters marks in the two chambers at the front of the building, marking the joints between the principle and common joists (Plate 31 and Figure 11). Similar carpenters marks were visible on the underside of the ground floor joists, but were not as consistently visible.

The second floor appeared to continue with broadly the same layout as the first though without the "back room" as previously mentioned. This floor was not accessed.

One discrepancy between the remaining building and that illustrated in 1841 is the second floor room above the kitchen, which is labelled as a further "back room". This room was not present within the remaining building, suggesting a change in floor levels. It is possible that this room was the attic room above the tie beam of the Phase 1 building, Frame 2, and that the floor joists visible in the kitchen, potentially along with those of the fireplace, were inserted after this point in the 19th century or later. It is probable that the tie beam of frame 2 was also cut at this time to accommodate the change in floor heights. This change in heights is difficult identify from the light stud divisions (Plate 32), though is partially shown from a redundant fragment of staircase visible within the kitchen (Plate 26).

7.7 Phase 4: late 18th c to 1841

The main addition at this time a brick structure which contained the central staircase between the ground and first floors, with a further second floor room above (Plate 33 to Plate 35). The second floor room was not accessed.

The external appearance continued that of Phase 3 with a raised and stepped gable end, with a tall fanlight window lighting the stairs of a style typical of this date. The second floor room contained a square headed window as visible externally. This layout is clearly visible on the 1841 plan of the building.

7.8 Phase 5: 1841-1886

The bay windows at the front of the house complete with rubbed brick window lintels, stone string courses and parapet were added at this time. The windows are four pane sashes with particularly large panes of glass. The technology for rolling such large sheets of glass was not developed until

the mid-19th century. This dating is further confirmed by the absence of the bay windows on the 1841 plan and their presence on the 1886 map.

7.9 Phase 6: 1905-1921

Between the maps of 1905 and 1921, a further brick structure was added onto the south west corner of the house, consisting of a ground and first floor (Plate 36 to Plate 39). The dominant feature at the front of this was a further bay window which continued the style of those added in Phase 5. With this addition a new front door to the building was created and the ground floor knocked through from the Phase 3 building to create a large space. On the first floor, a new chamber was created. Both the ground and first floor rooms were complete with fireplaces at their south-west end.

Though not particularly closely dateable, it is likely that the rebuild of the Phase 2 structure walls occurred at about this time (*Plate 40*).

7.10 Phase 7: Post 1953- late 20th century

A further brick structure was added onto the northern corner of the building (*Plate 41 to Plate 44*), adding a ground and first floor. This building is not visible on an aerial photograph of 1953 (Britain from Above EAW050010)

7.11 Phase 8: Late 20th century

A flat roofed ground floor only structure were added to the rear of the building in the late 20th century (Plate 45) which comprised internally mostly of toilets and a service room. These were not recorded internally.

8 Synthesis

Documentary evidence suggested the potential presence of the of the Aylesbury family on the site of Aylesbury House from the 14th century. The earlier evaluation of the site found no intact medieval deposits, though the presence of pottery from the 13th century within later post-medieval features strongly suggested some activity of this date within the vicinity. An excavation area was opened over the features identified during the evaluation, though no deposits of a medieval date were identified.

The excavation built upon the results of the evaluation with a single wall potentially dating to the 16th or 17th century, though it is more likely that all of the activity dates to the 18th century and later. The features remaining features took the form of walls, drain, post-holes and pits, all of which related to outbuildings shown on a map of 1841 and later.

The earliest direct evidence of activity on site was derived from within the building itself where timber framed elements were identified surviving within the later structure. These elements potentially date from the second half of the 16th century, but are more likely to have originated in the early 17th century. This appeared to have taken the shape of an H shaped house, of which only two north-west facing gables remained. The available window evidence suggested the building was constructed over three floors. A further small addition was built to the rear of the house in the later 17th century, of which only a single frame remained.

By the middle of the 18th century, a large part of the earliest timber framed building was removed to be replaced by a substantial brick structure which still dominates the appearance of the front of the house, as well as its internal character. This consisted of rooms set over three floors at the frontage as well as further rooms at the rear, partially reusing the earlier buildings. It is likely that the outbuildings recorded as part of the excavation at the rear of the building relate to this phase.

A further structure was added in the later 18th or early 19th century to incorporate the remaining central staircase position. Various further structures were added throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, largely at the rear and sides of the buildings to add further rooms, as well as the bay windows which continued to visually dominate the façade of the building.

8.1 Research frameworks

Few specific research frameworks apply to the type of building recorded here. Documents such as the Archaeology of the West Midlands: A Framework for Research (Watt 2011) state that standing buildings are an important part of the Historic Environment and should be recorded. It also states that the recording of standing structures is important in understanding below ground stratigraphy and features.

9 Publication summary

Worcestershire Archaeology has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, Worcestershire Archaeology 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 excavation and recording of a historic building was undertaken on behalf of CgMs Consulting at Aylesbury House, Hockley Heath, Warwickshire (NGR SO 415723 273245).

The site comprises a former hotel and grounds situated to the north-east of the village of Hockley Heath in the Borough of Solihull. Documentary evidence suggested the potential presence of the of the Aylesbury family on the site of Aylesbury House from the 14th century. Whilst this was not confirmed by the earlier evaluation of the site, the presence of pottery from the 13th century within later post-medieval features strongly suggested some activity of this date. An excavation area was opened over the features identified during the evaluation, though no deposits of a medieval date were identified. All the walls, drains and further features identified during the excavation related to outbuildings illustrated on historic mapping from 1841 onwards, though a single wall retained the potential to be contemporary with the earliest phase of the house.

The building recording identified a timber framed house with a brick chimney stack potentially dating from the second half of the 16th century, though more likely from the early 17th century. The overall character of this building was difficult to define the house was rebuilt in brick in the middle of the 18th century, leaving only two partial gable frames of the earliest phase. The brick with stone detailing of the 18th century rebuild continued to dominate the external character of the house, a style that was reused in subsequent additions of the 19th and 20th centuries, the addition at the rear of the building had a more utilitarian character. The 18th century structure also dominated the internal space of the building over all of its three floors with its living spaces and chambers remaining, though reusing the earlier structures at the rear of the building.

10 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Phil Bethell of CgMs Consulting and John Robinson of Warwickshire County Council.

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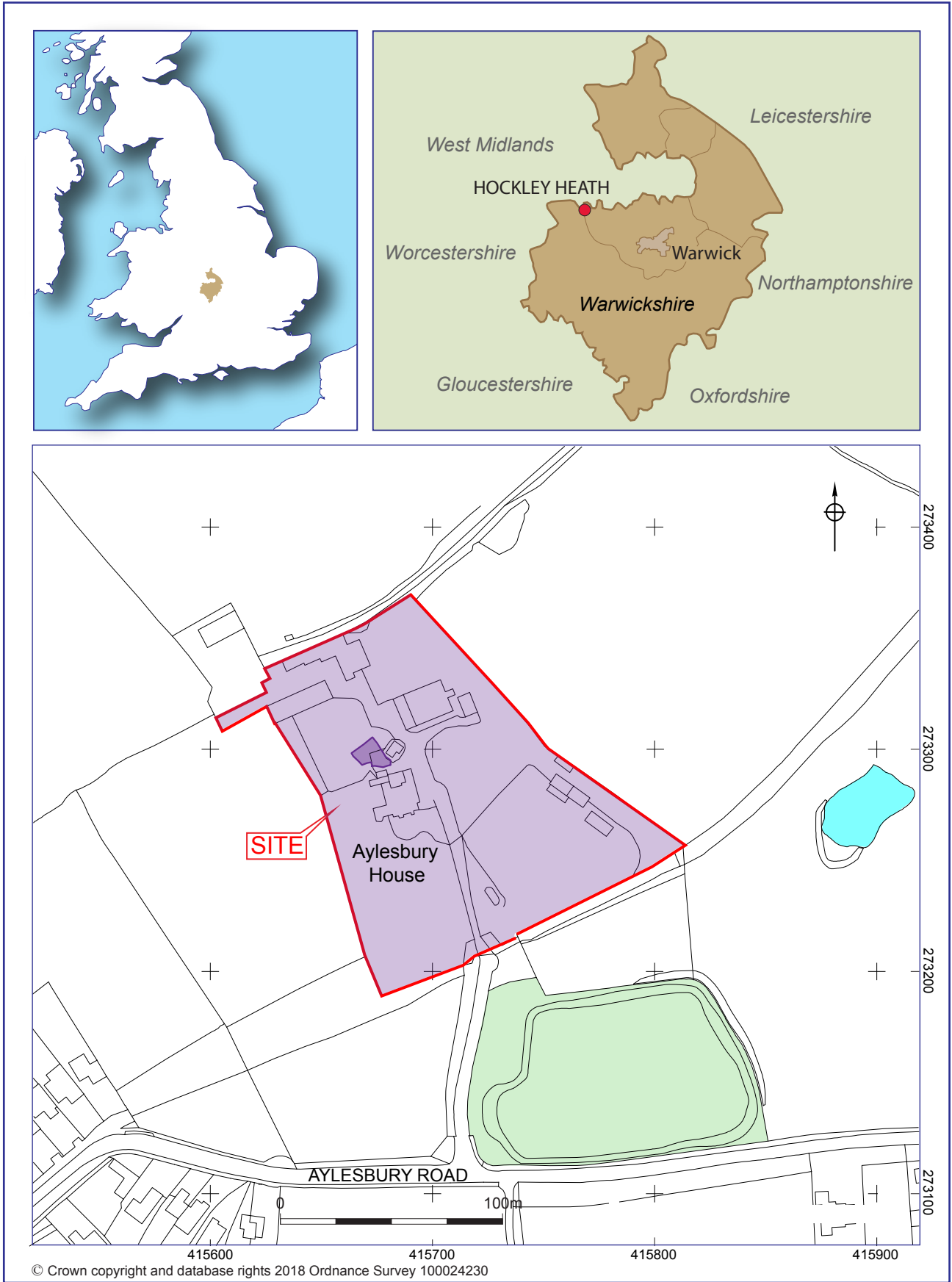
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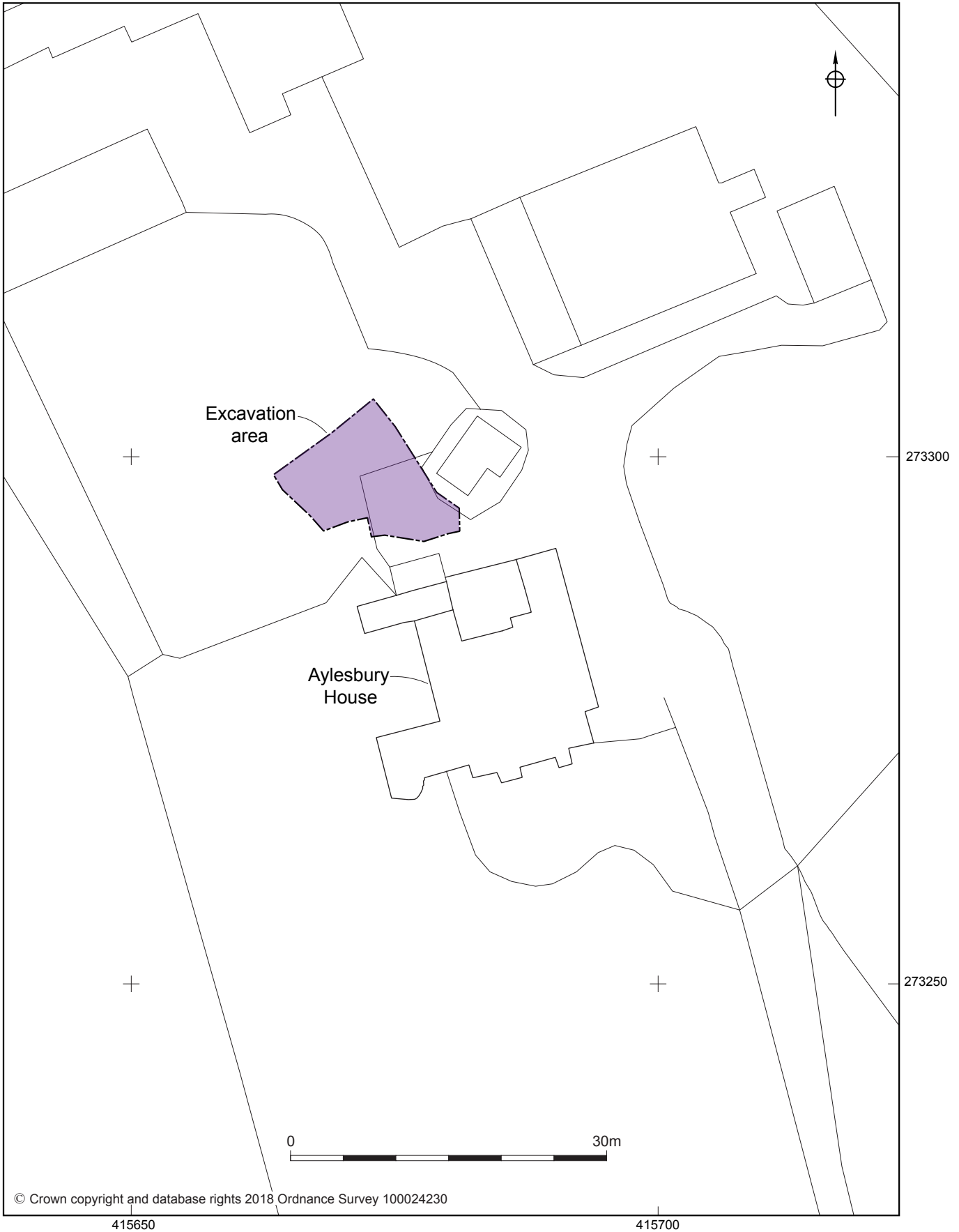
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Figures



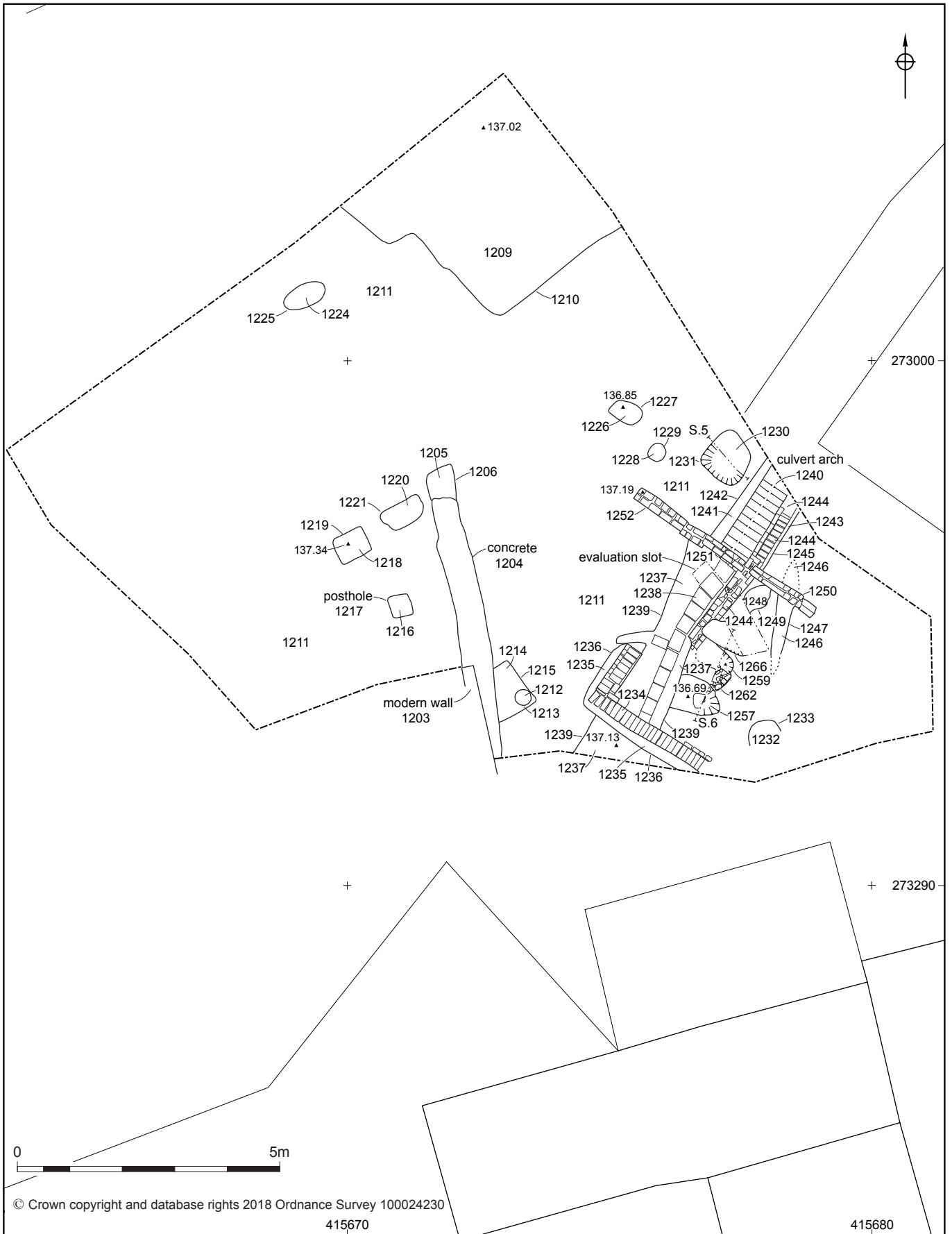
Location of the site

Figure 1



Trench location plan

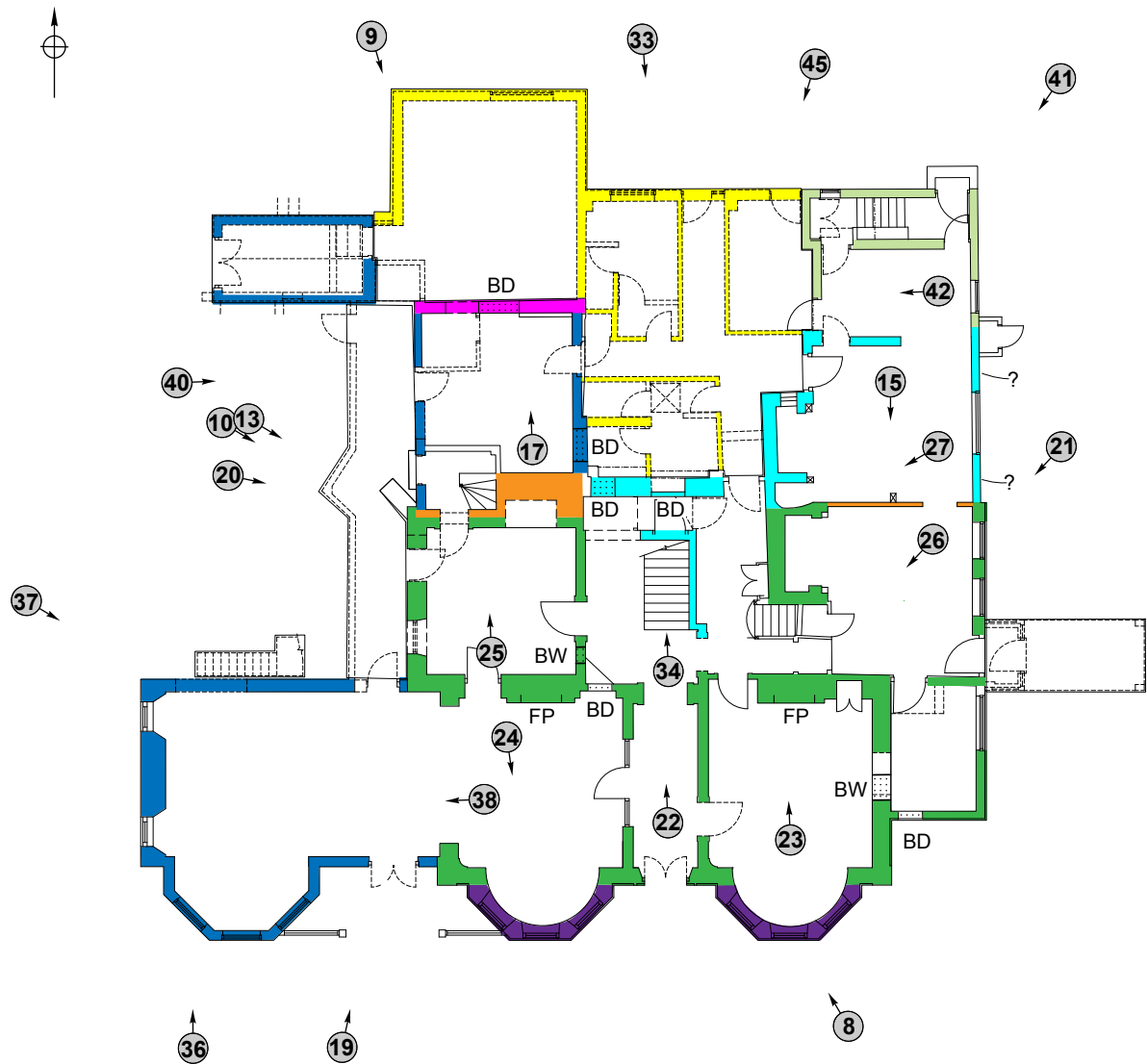
Figure 2



Trench plan

Figure 3

GROUND FLOOR PLAN

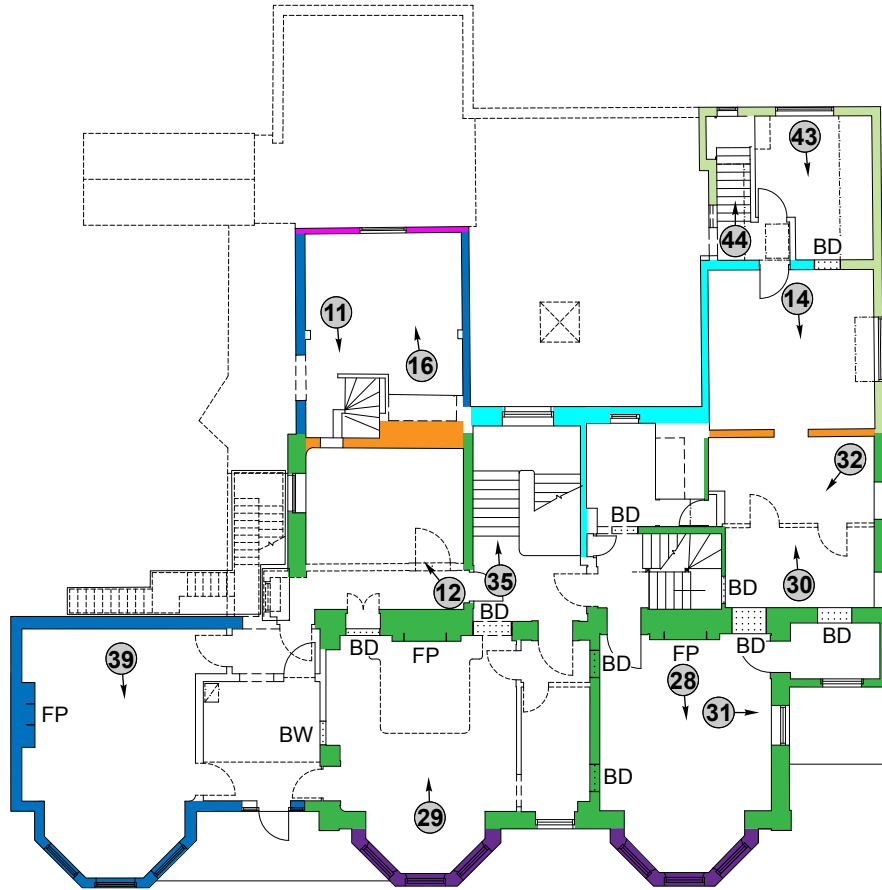


KEY	
■ Phase 1: 16th - 17thc.	■ Phase 6: 1905 - 1921c.
■ Phase 2: 17thc.	■ Phase 7: 1921 - late 20thc.
■ Phase 3: 1st half of 18thc.	■ Phase 8: late 20thc.
■ Phase 4: late 18thc. - 1841	BD Blocked doorway/window
■ Phase 5: 1841 - 1886	FP Fireplace











Phased Ground Floor Plan (based upon FB Architecture Dwg No 1300/06)

Figure 4

FIRST FLOOR PLAN



KEY

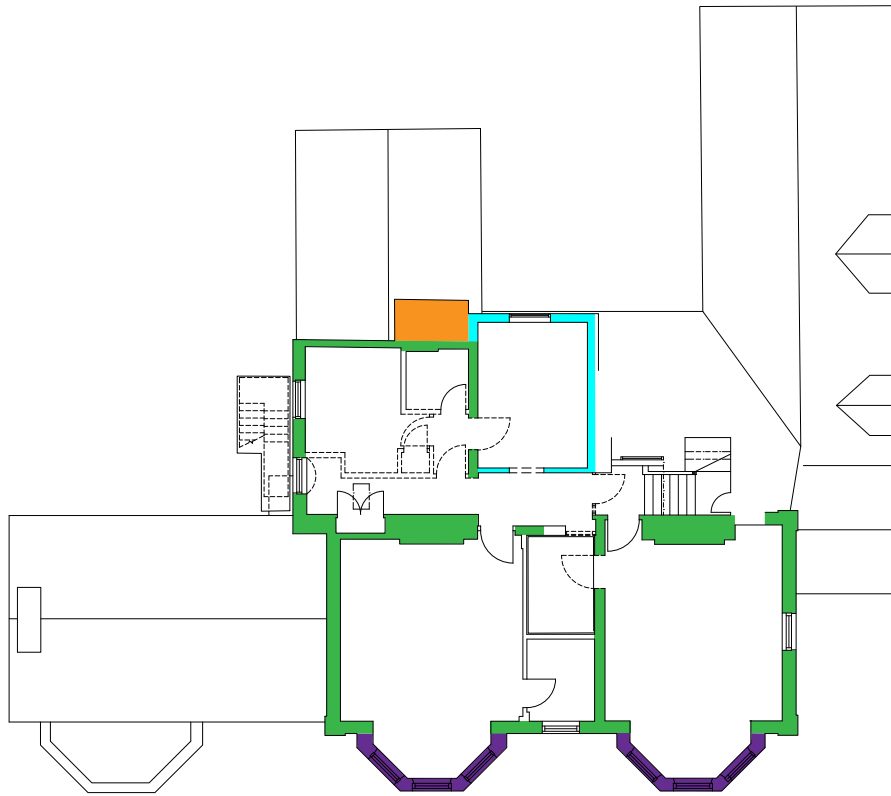
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|  Phase 2: 17thc. |  Phase 7: 1921 - late 20thc. |
|  Phase 3: 1st half of 18thc. |  Phase 8: late 20thc. |
|  Phase 4: late 18thc. - 1841 |  BD Blocked doorway/window |
|  Phase 5: 1841 - 1886 |  FP Fireplace |

0 10m

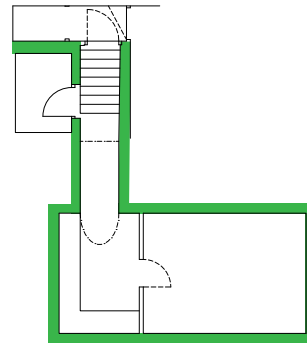
Phased First Floor Plan (based upon FB Architecture Dwg No 1300/06)

Figure 5











SECOND FLOOR PLAN



CELLAR



KEY

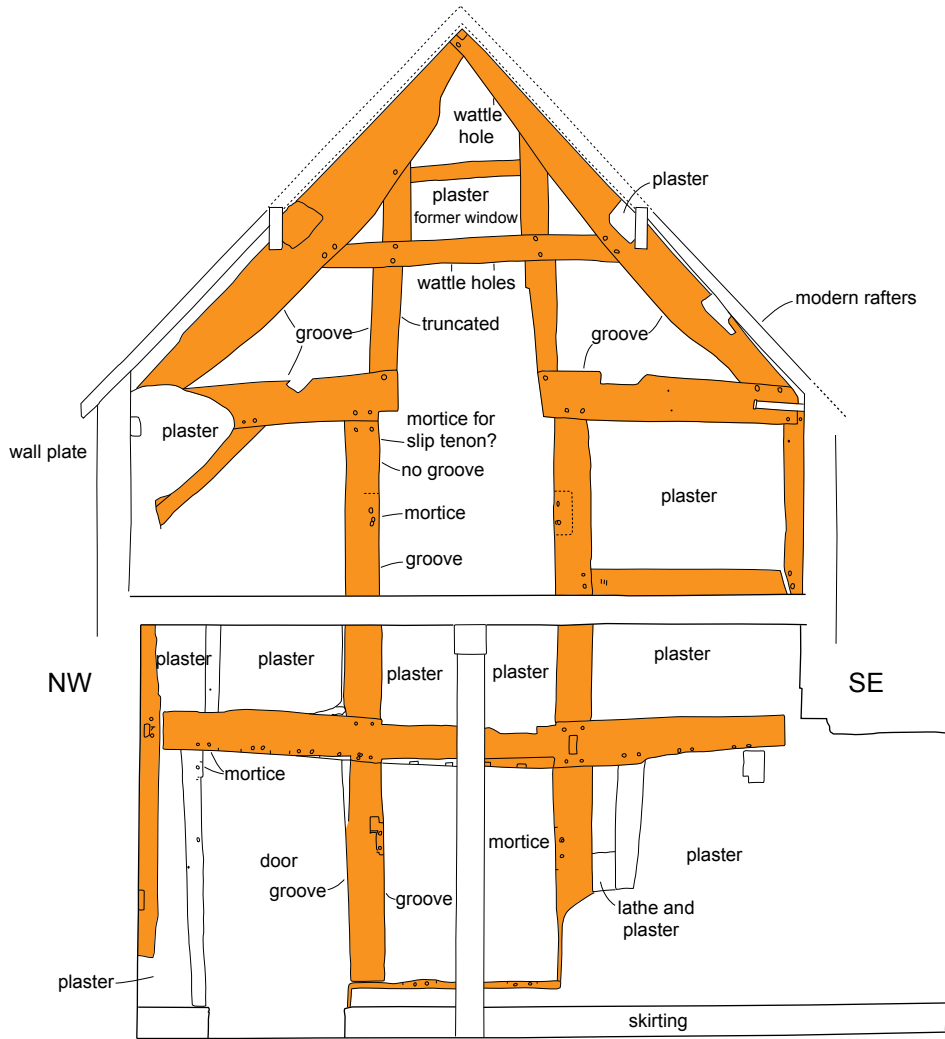
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|  Phase 2: 17thc. |  Phase 7: 1921 - late 20thc. |
|  Phase 3: 1st half of 18thc. |  Phase 8: late 20thc. |
|  Phase 4: late 18thc. - 1841 |  BD Blocked doorway/window |
|  Phase 5: 1841 - 1886 |  FP Fireplace |



Phased Second Floor Plan (based upon FB Architecture Dwg No 1300/06)

Figure 6

PHASE 1 GABLE



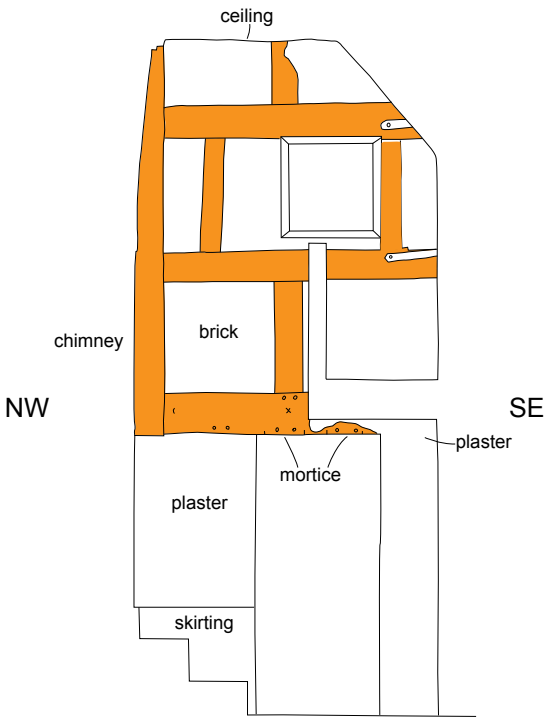
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Phase 1: 16th - 17thc.

Phase 1: gable

Figure 7

PHASE 1 STAIRWELL GABLE



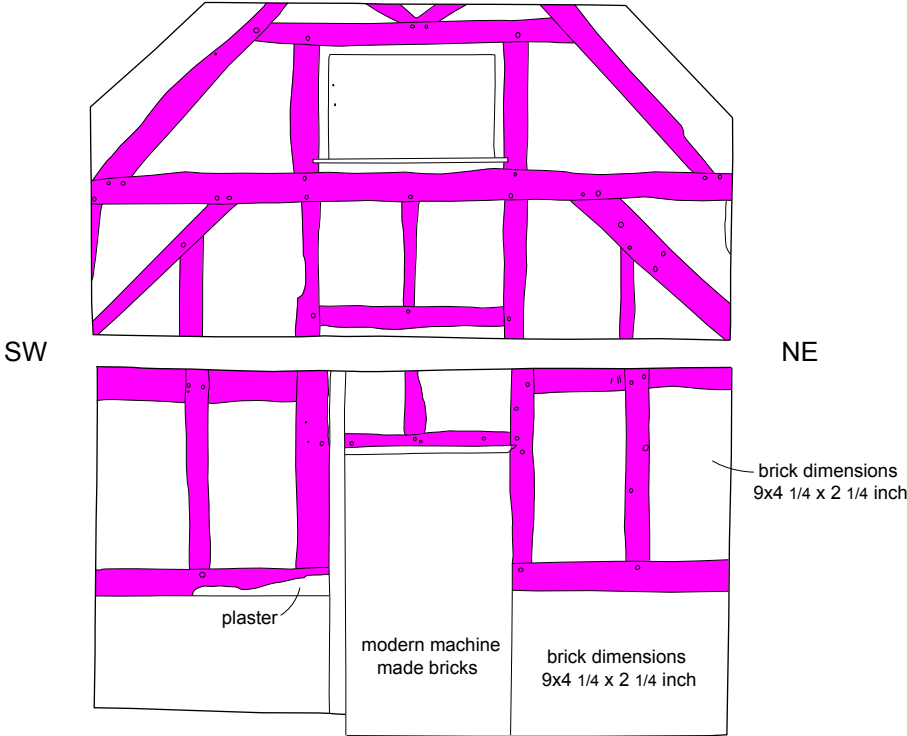
KEY

Phase 1: 16th - 17thc.

Phase 1: stairwell gable

Figure 8

PHASE 2 GABLE



KEY
Phase 2: 17thc.

Phase 2: gable

Figure 9

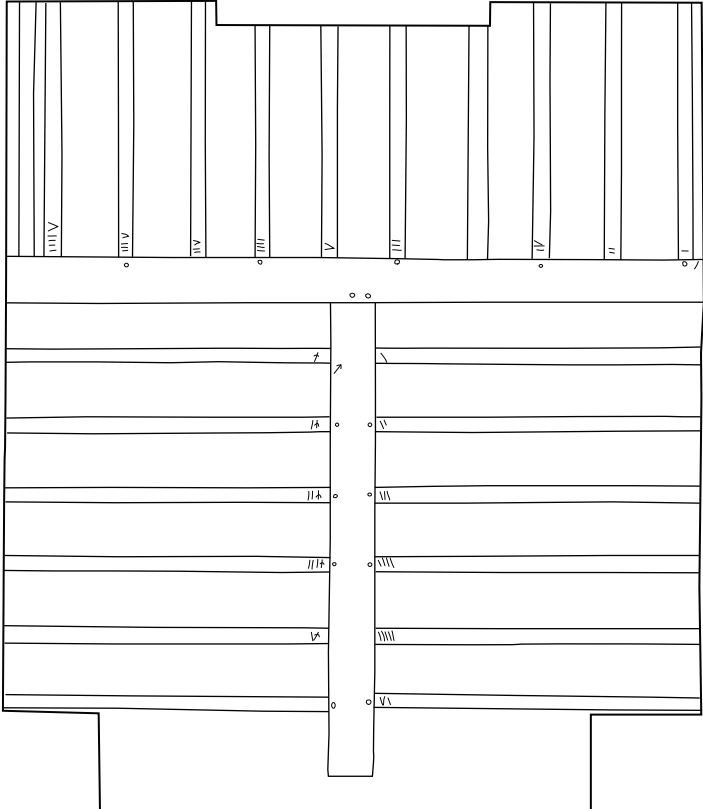
PHASE 1 RECONSTRUCTION



Phase 1 reconstruction

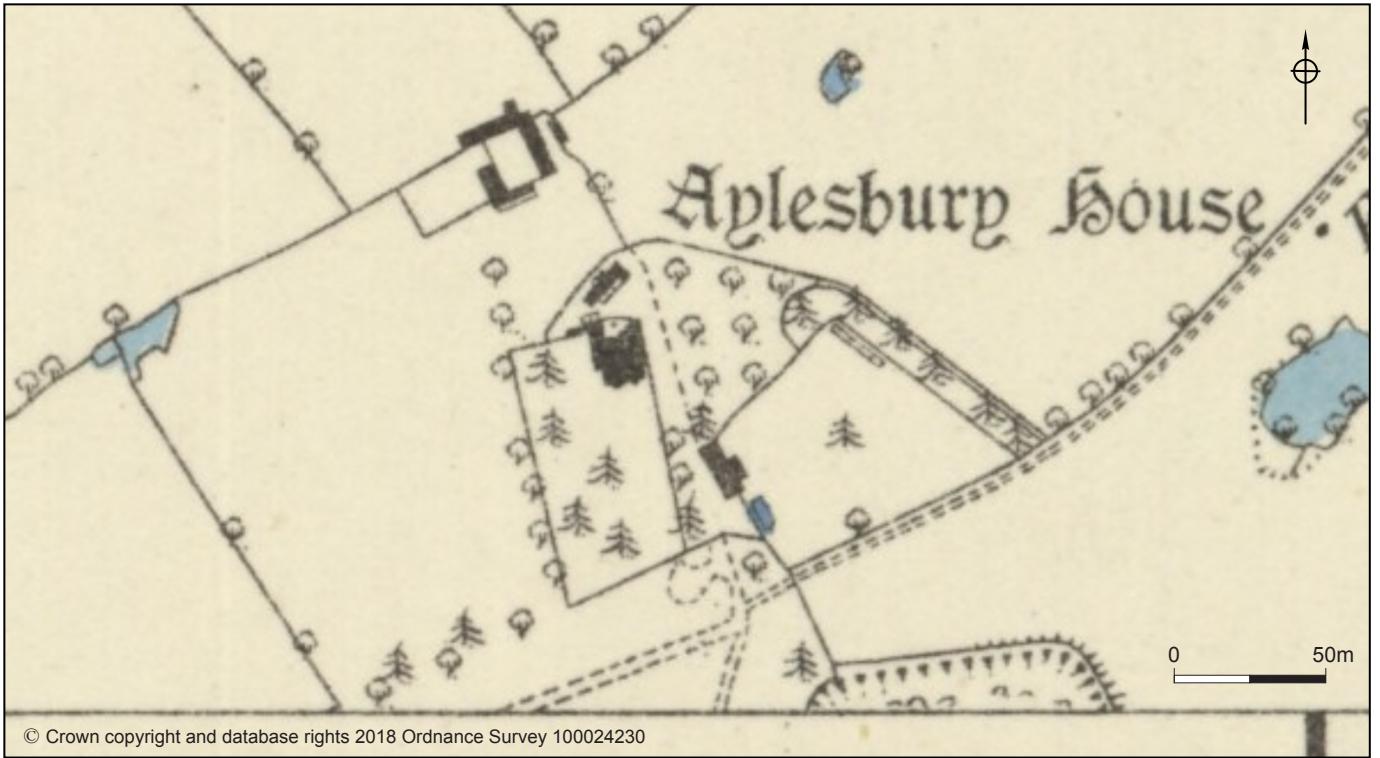
Figure 10

PHASE 3: FLOOR TIMBERS PLAN, SW ROOM FIRST FLOOR



Phase 3: Timber plan, SW Room first floor

Figure 11



Extract of 1st Edition OS map, 1884

Figure 12

Plates



Plate 1 Excavation area with natural deposits visible, looking south-east (2x1m scale)



Plate 2 Excavation area with natural deposits visible, looking north (2x1m scale)



Plate 3 Excavation area overview with wall (1234) in the foreground, looking north-east (2m scale)



Plate 4 Walls (1244, 1250, 1251, 1252) and culvert (1238), looking north-east (2x1m scales)



Plate 5 Walls (1244, 1250, 1251, 1252) and culvert (1240), looking south-west (2x1m scales)



Plate 6 Postholes [1257, 1262, 1259 and 1266], looking north-west (1m scale)



Plate 7 Pit [1231], looking north-east (0.50m scale)



Plate 8 Aylesbury House facade, looking north-west (2m scale)



Plate 9 Aylesbury House rear view, looking south-east (2m scale)



Plate 10 Phase 1 Frame 1, looking east (2m scale)



Plate 11 Phase 1 Frame 1, looking south-east (2m scale)



Plate 12 Phase 1 Frame 1 rear, looking north-west



Plate 13 Phase 1 Frame 1 with window mullion visible, looking east



Plate 14 Phase 1 Frame 2, looking south-east (2m scale)



Plate 15 Phase 1 Frame 2, looking south-east (2m scale)



Plate 16 Phase 2 Frame 3, looking north-west (2m scale)



Plate 17 Phase 2 Frame 3, looking north-west (2m scale)



Plate 18 Phase 3 gable end, looking west (2m scale)



Plate 19 Phase 3 gable end, looking north (2m scale)



Plate 20 Phase 3 rear gable, looking east (2m scale)



Plate 21 Potetial Phase 3 structure, looking south (2m scale)



Plate 22 Phase 3 groundfloor hallway, looking north-west (2m scale)



Plate 23 Phase 3 groundfloor dining room, looking north-west (2m scale)



Plate 24 Phase 3 groundfloor dining room, looking south-east (2m scale)



Plate 25 Phase 3 groundfloor parlour, looking north-west (2m scale)



Plate 26 Phase 3 kitchen, looking south-west (2m scale)



Plate 27 Phase 3 brewhouse, looking south-west (2m scale)



Plate 28 Phase 3 first floor chamber, looking south-east (2m scale)



Plate 29 Phase 3 first floor chamber, looking north-west (2m scale)



Plate 30 Phase 3 first floor chamber, looking north-west (2m scale)



Plate 31 Phase 3 carpenters mark on a floor joist



Plate 32 Possible Phase 3 light stud division, looking south-west (2m scale)



Plate 33 Phase 4 staircase housing structure, looking south-east



Plate 34 Phase 4 staircase, looking north-west (2m scale)



Plate 35 Phase 4 staircase, looking north-west (2m scale)



Plate 36 Phase 6 addition, looking north-west (2m scale)



Plate 37 Phase 6 addition, looking east (2m scale)



Plate 38 Phase 6 addition ground floor, looking south-west (2m scale)



Plate 39 Phase 6 addition first floor, looking south-east (2m scale)



Plate 40 Phase 6 rebuild of the Phase 2 structure, looking north-east (2m scale)



Plate 41 Phase 7 addition, looking south (2m scale)



Plate 42 Phase 7 addition ground floor, looking south-west (2m scale)



Plate 43 Phase 7 addition first floor, looking south-east (2m scale)



Plate 44 Phase 7 addition stairs, looking north-west (2m scale)



Plate 45 Phase 8 addition, looking south (2m scale)

Appendix 1 Trench description

Main deposit descriptions

Maximum dimensions: Length: 14.90m Width: 12.10m Depth: 0.77m

Context	Feature Type	Context type	Description	Height/ Depth	Interpretation
1200	Modern Layer	Layer	Tarmac and hardcore forming car park surface at rear of hotel building. 20th century in date.	0.17m	Hard greyish black Tarmac
1201	Modern Layer	Layer	Hardcore bedding layer below (1200	0.13M	Hard pinky grey Hardcore
1202	Modern Layer	Layer	Made ground layer, modern in origin. Dark soil, possibly hydrocarbon contaminated.	0.3M	Soft blackish grey silty clay
1203	Wall	Structure	Modern brick retaining wall at rear of hotel. Sat on concrete foundation (1204).	1M	
1204	Wall	Structure	Concrete footing, foundation for wall [1203].	0.09m	
1205	Foundation trench	Fill	Infill of foundation cut [1206], packing bed for concrete footing.	unexc	
1206	Foundation trench	Cut	Foundation trench cut for wall construction. Contains concrete foundation.	unexc	
1207	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil layer, partly overlain by car park. Part of scrub grass area at rear of hotel.	0.26M	Loose blackish grey sandy silty clay
1208	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil layer. Seals features away from buildings but cut by modern pit [1210].	0.18m	Loose brownish grey sandy silt
1209	Pit	Fill	Fill and of modern rubbish dump. See cut [1220].	unexc	Loose Brown sandy silt
1210	Pit	Cut	Cut of modern rubbish dump. Appears to be a square pit but extends beyond L.O.E. Partly sealed by regrowth of topsoil. Late 20th century, if not 21st.	unexc	
1211	Natural	Layer	Natural substrate - quite variable and changes from light grey yellow gravel-clay to pinkish blue clay further SE.		Compact greyish yellow clay
1212	Posthole	Fill	Circular posthole with void left from rotted post. Cut into clay pad 1214/1215.	0.3M+	Soft greyish Brown clay silt
1213	Posthole	Cut	Cut of posthole.	0.3M+	
1214	Pit	Fill	Fill of pit [1215]. Clay packed pit feature, cut by posthole [1213]. Under concrete foundation (1204). Possible post/foundation pad?	unexc	Firm pinky grey clay
1215	Pit	Cut	Cut of clay packed pit feature. Possible post/foundation pad?	unexc	
1216	Posthole	Fill	Fill of posthole [1217].	unexc	Loose Brownish grey sandy silt
1217	Posthole	Cut	Small square posthole feature. Very modern . Probably had wooden fence post in it. Close to line of wall (1203) and concrete footing (1204).	unexc	
1218	Pit	Fill	Fill of pit or small post pad/posthole [1219]. Contains brick.	unexc	Loose Brownish grey clay silt
1219	Pit	Cut	Cut of pit or small post pad/posthole. Contained brick. 19th or 20th century in date. Comparable to [1221] adjacent. Not excavated.	unexc	

Context	Feature Type	Context type	Description	Height/ Depth	Interpretation
1220	Pit	Fill	Pit of possible small post-pad. Contains brick. 19th or 20th century in date. Very close to concrete foundation (1204).	unexc	Loose Brownish grey clay silt
1221	Pit	Cut	Cut of pit or possible small post-pad. See fill (1220).	unexc	
1222	Drain	Fill	Fill of modern drain. See cut [1223].	0.2M	Loose greyish Black clay silt
1223	Drain	Cut	Cut of modern drain (not in use). Machined out but still visible in plan and in section, so unfortunately I decided to record it. Contained circular ceramic pipe.	0.2M	
1224	Pit	Fill	Oval pit or posthole feature, probably modern, with remnants of wooden post in it. Likely part of fenceline.	unexc	Loose brownish grey silty clay
1225	Pit	Cut	Oval pit or posthole feature, probably modern, with remnants of wooden post in it. Likely part of fenceline.	unexc	
1226	Pit	Fill	Fill of pit [1227].	unexc	Loose brownish grey silty clay
1227	Pit	Cut	Cut of oval pit, 19th - 20th century in date. Found close to walls of outbuildings. Appears to contain dump of building waste.	unexc	
1228	Posthole	Fill	Fill of posthole [1229].	unexc	Loose Brownish Grey silty clay
1229	Posthole	Cut	Cut of posthole feature, with residue of wooden post within. Very modern in date, likely 20th century and cut from near surface. Similar to 1216/1217.	unexc	
1230	Pit	Fill	Single homogenous backfill of pit [1231]. Contained some white china fragments, so late post-med or modern.	0.18M	Soft Brownish grey sandy silt
1231	Pit	Cut	Cut for a late post-med or modern pit feature.	0.18M	
1232	Pit	Fill	Fill of modern pit feature. Unexcavated.	0.35M	grey silty clay
1233	Pit	Cut	Cut of modern pit feature. Unexcavated.	0.35M	
1234	Wall	Structure	Wall footing probably of 19th/20th century date. Part of an outbuilding as seen on the OS maps and in 1841.	0.15M	
1235	Construction Cut	Fill	Fill of construction cut for wall 1234.		blackish Brown clay silt
1236	Construction Cut	Cut	Construction cut for wall 1234 with backfill around it.		
1237	Drain	Fill	Backfill around a modern drain 1238, in drain cut 1239. Mixed deposit.	0.4M	greyish brown sandy silty clay
1238	Drain	Structure	Modern drain, potentially running to the back of the house along the alignment seen on the 1841 map.	0.25M	
1239	Drain	Cut	Modern drain cut, shows same alignment as a boundary wall illustrated in 1841.	0.4M	
1240	Drain	Structure	Brick arch drain/culvert. Maintains alignment of a boundary wall shown on the map of 1841.	0.3M	
1241	Drain	Fill	Backfill around culvert [1240], within cut [1242].		greyish Brown clay silt
1242	Drain	Cut	Cut for culvert [1240].	0.3M	
1243	Construction Cut	Fill	Backfill around wall 1244, the earliest wall in this part of site. Packed into cut [1245], only seen on SE side.	unknown	Loose Brown sandy clay

Context	Feature Type	Context type	Description	Height/ Depth	Interpretation
1244	Wall	Structure	Earlier wall, quite well built. Ne-sw aligned, butted by parallel culvert 1240. Overlain by walls 1250 and 1251. Truncated at SW end by [1266] and cut by drain [1239]. Likely 18th century in date with re-use of earlier bricks. See eval report for further	0.6M	
1245	Construction Cut	Cut	Construction cut for earlier wall 1244. Cuts into natural. Likely 18th century in date. Truncated by later features to south-west.	unknown	
1246	Ditch	Fill	Fill of small ditch [1247].	unknown	Moderately Compact greyish Brown sandy silt
1247	Ditch	Cut	Cut of small ditch visible under wall 1250. Runs parallel to earlier wall 1244. Possibly on earlier drainage ditch. Found in eval as 824/825. Included medieval pot but also 17th - 18th century material during eval, so no cbm retained at this stage. Visibl	unknown	Moderately Compact greyish Brown sandy silt
1248	Posthole	Fill	Fill of posthole [1249]. 19th - 20th century.	0.42M	Soft grey clay silt
1249	Posthole	Cut	Cut for a 19th - 20th century posthole. Not excavated.		
1250	Wall	Structure	Probably a small partition structure, prt of the outbuilding seen on this area in 1841 OS.	0.4M	
1251	Wall	Structure	Small section of wall built above the end of culvert 1240.	0.4M	
1252	Wall	Structure	Brick wall, part of outbuilding complex. Within a construction cut [1254], seems to be an extension to wall 1251 which is built around culvert 1240. Probably early to mid-19th century in date, acting as a foundation for walls of buildings to rear of main	0.13m	
1253	Construction Cut	Fill	Bedding layer in construction cut [1254], below wall (1252). Found in eval and recorded as 816. Seen only in section at this stage, where eval tr, has been re-machined.	0.09M	Loose greyish Brown silty clay
1254	Construction Cut	Cut	Construction cut for wall extension/addition 1252. Cuts edge of wall 1251.	0.09M	
1255	Posthole	Fill	Fill of postpipe once the post was removed/rotted.	0.24M	Soft Brown silt
1256	Posthole	Fill	Excavated largely natural material packed in around post pipe.	0.24M	Moderately Compact pinky Grey silty clay
1257	Posthole	Cut	Posthole cut.	0.24M	
1258	Posthole	Fill	Fill of posthole [1259].	0.29M	Brown sandy silt
1259	Posthole	Cut	Post hole cut.	0.29M	
1260	Posthole	Fill	Fill of posthole 1260. This fill probably represents the position of a former post.	0.3M	pinky Brown sandy silty clay
1261	Posthole	Fill	Packing within posthole [1262].	0.3M	
1262	Posthole	Cut	Post hole cut.	0.3M	
1263	Pit	Fill	Fill of pit [1266].	0.1M	Pinky clay
1264	Pit	Fill	Fill of pit [1266].	0.06M	grey sandy silt
1265	Pit	Fill	Fill of pit [1266].	0.14M	pinky clay
1266	Pit	Cut	Cut of pit.	0.24M	

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive

The archive consists of:

- 50 Context records AS1
- 8 Building Phase Records AS45
- 4 Field progress reports AS2
- 5 Photographic records AS3
- 299 Digital photographs
- 2 Drawing number catalogues AS4
- 17 Scale drawings
- 1 Context number catalogues AS5
- 1 Levels records AS19
- 1 Box of finds
- 1 Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Market Hall Museum

Market Place

Warwick

CV34 4SA

Tel: 01926 412 132 or 01926 412 500
