

# Building Recording at The Former Gaol, Upper Arley

*for*

The Roger and Douglas Turner Charitable Trust April 2019



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# Building Recording at The Former Gaol, Upper Arley, Worcestershire



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Archive and Archaeology Service  
The Hive, Sawmill Walk,  
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WR1 3PD



Local planning authority:	Wyre Forest District Council
Planning reference:	18/0105/FULL
Central NGR:	SO 76565 80182
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1	26 April 2019	Draft for comment	Tim Cornah	Tom Rogers

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## **Building recording at The Former Gaol, Upper Arley, Worcestershire**

Tim Cornah

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

### **Summary**

Building recording was undertaken of timber structures and a window within the Former Gaol (NGR SO 76564 80176), Upper Arley, Worcestershire. It was commissioned by David Vice of EMMAUS Consulting Limited and behalf of the Roger and Douglas Turner Charitable Trust, in advance of conversion of the former gaol to two apartments for tourist accommodation. Planning applications have been approved by Wyre Forest District Council subject to archaeological conditions.

The Former Gaol is a brick built structure with its gable and wide ground floor access facing the road and river. The building was connected with the current tea shop to its east in terms of both fabric and internal access. Its ground floor consisted of two rooms, with a further large single room on the floor above. This was spanned by upper cruck trusses typical of a broadly 18<sup>th</sup> century date and integral to the remainder of the brick structure. The function of this structure was that of warehouse storage though some evidence for partial domestic use was present.





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## Report

### 1 Background

#### 1.1 Reasons for the project

Recording of timber structures and a window was undertaken at The Former Gaol (NGR SO 76564 80176), Arley, Worcestershire. It was commissioned by David Vice of EMMAUS Consulting Limited on behalf of the Roger and Douglas Turner Charitable Trust, in advance of proposed changing the Former Gaol to two apartments for tourist accommodation. Planning applications have been approved subject to archaeological conditions (18/0105/FULL). The Former Gaol condition 6 states that building recording to Historic England Level 2 should be carried out.

The Former Gaol is registered with the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (Former Gaol which is registered as part of the Old Bakehouse WSM69537).

No Brief was prepared for the project but it conforms to the generality of briefs. A detailed project specification was produced (WA 2019).

The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (ClfA 2014) and *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire* (WCC 2010).

### 2 Aims

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, ACIfA); who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2006. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers (BA (hons.); MSc, MClfA). Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt (BSc (hons.); PG Cert; MClfA).

#### 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*

- 1838 Tithe Map of Upper Arley (WRO 760-14)
- 1884 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey Map 1:10,560
- 1904 Ordnance Survey Map 1:10,560
- 1929 Ordnance Survey Map 1:10,560

##### *Aerial photographs*

- EAW046199 ENGLAND (1952). Arley Castle, St Peter's Church and the village, Upper Arley, 1952 (Britain from Above)

##### *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 2019).

Fieldwork was undertaken on 11<sup>th</sup> of April 2019. The site reference number used by the Historic Environment Record to record archaeological "events", and site code used in the archive is WSM71557.

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. The photographic survey was carried out with a Canon EOS 200D digital SLR camera. All photographs were recorded on a pro-forma Photographic Record Sheet. Annotation of existing ground plans and elevations complemented the photographic record.

The project conformed to the specification for a level 2 survey as defined in the Historic England document *Understanding historic buildings: a guide to good recording practice* (HE 2016). A level 2 record is a descriptive record. This is a visual record supplemented by the minimum of information needed to identify the building's location, age and type. The record will produce enough information to produce conclusions about the buildings development and use.

The record will include the following elements of survey:

#### Photography

- General view or views of the building in its wider setting or landscape
- External appearance of the building, using oblique and right angle shots
- Overall appearance of the principal rooms and circulation areas

#### Drawings

- Roughly dimensioned sketched plan, section, or elevation
- Measured plans as existing
- Measured drawings recording the form or location of other significant detail (when required)
- Measured cross-sections, long sections or elevational sections illustrating the vertical relationships within the building (when required)
- Measured drawings showing the form of any architectural decoration (when required)
- Measured elevations (when required)

#### Written account

- A summary of the building's form, function, date and sequence of development, including builders, architects, owners or patrons names where known

### 3.5 Building analysis

Analysis of the building was based on the study of the photographic record, building recording forms and annotated 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 Plates 1-13. Ground plans, phase plans, elevations and sections have been reproduced as Figures 2-3.

### 3.6 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.

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## 4 Context

The village of Upper Arley is located on the immediate northern bank of the River Severn about 7.5km to the north-west of Kidderminster town centre. The village slopes upwards towards the north and the location of both St Peters Church and Arley Castle. The underlying geology is Halesowen Formation - Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone with no superficial deposits recorded (BGS 2019)

The Historic Environment Record data has little in terms of pre-medieval data, excepting areas of Palaeolithic potential. The parish record indicates that Romano-British period coins have been found within the parish though with no clear area of settlement, though some earthworks within Arley Wood (WSM08154) may be of this period.

The earliest suggested settlement may have been Saxon, as the village is mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1086. This is (WSM15023) is suggested to have been located at the northern end of the village, to the south of the church on the opposite side of the road to The Grange. The earliest physical suggestion of settlement comes from Norman decorative elements in the Church of St Peter (WSM04029) at the north-west end of the village, though the main fabric of the building dates to the 14<sup>th</sup> century onwards. The medieval settlement is considered to have had a ferry landing stage to cross the river (WSM07084) as well as a fish weir (WSM23800).

The former Arley Castle (WSM00276) contained elements of 16<sup>th</sup> century date though these were largely demolished and rebuilt in the 1840s. This whole structure was itself demolished in the 1960s and replaced by Arley House. Arley Cottage is a 16<sup>th</sup> century house to the north-east of the village (WSM09658). The Old Bakehouse, shop and post office (WSM69537) in the village centre and fronting towards the river is thought to have 17<sup>th</sup> century elements behind the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century frontage. The Former Gaol forms the western part of this range of structures and is recorded as having c18th century half crucks on its upper floor which may have been reused from an earlier structure.

18<sup>th</sup> century development continues to be a dominant part of the fabric of the village in, with the most notable buildings being the Valencia Arms Hotel (WSM34851) which is a brick and stone structure of 18<sup>th</sup> century date. Arley Grange (WSM09659) is thought to date to the early 18<sup>th</sup> century and is a fairly typical house built in the Queen Anne style.

The village further expanded through the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with Wells Court (Home Farm) (WSM53896), Skeets Farm (WSM53894) and Sandhouse Farm (WSM53895) demonstrating a broadly agricultural economy. The school was built at this time (WSM66851) as well as Arley Tower (32528) and the lodge associated with Arley House (WSM35728). On the southern side of the river, the Severn Valley Railway was constructed from 1858, though this would only have been accessible by boat across the river until a foot bridge was added in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## 5 The building

### 5.1 Building description

The Former Gaol is described in the HER data as follows

*An undesignated heritage asset situated facing the River Severn at Upper Arley. It is externally a late 18th/early 19<sup>th</sup> century brick structure which may have served as a workshop or semi-industrial premises, as evidenced by the photograph on display in St. Peter's Church which shows the metal industrial casement window facing the river and a large chimney sited mid-way along its length. The building now forms part of a range which also includes the village post office and tea room. Only the first floor of the building was visited, access being from the rear raised yard. On entering the building the most prominent features of note are the two timber half-crucks supporting massive purlins which in turn support the (fairly recently renewed) roof. It is likely that these half-crucks date from the early C18 or earlier, and may be evidence of a former timber-framed barn on this site, which was subsequently been extended with a wing to the east (now the tea-shop) and the framing replaced with load-bearing brickwork*

## 5.2 Historical information

At the time of the 1838 tithe apportionment, the Former Gaol is listed as parcel 497a which is listed as both belonging to and being owned and occupied by Earl Mountnorris of Arley Castle. This map and subsequent available maps show the building within its current form.

## 5.3 Building development

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

- Phase 1: 18<sup>th</sup> century
- Phase 2: 19<sup>th</sup> century
- Phase 3: 20<sup>th</sup> century

## 5.4 Phase 1: 18<sup>th</sup> century

This phase makes up the majority of the existing structure, and of an 18<sup>th</sup> century date. It consisted of a rectangular brick structure covered with a tile roof aligned broadly north-south with its gable facing both the road and river to the south. Its eaves were dentilled with stepped brickwork below the gable eaves

This structure and the house, now a tea room, to its east were part of the same building. The domestic element was primarily within what is now the tea room, with the former Gaol mostly making up warehousing (Plate 1 to Plate 3).

The single ground floor had a large opening onto the street, with a further small pedestrian door into what is now the tea room, and a further to the exterior on the west of the structure. This room was lit by five segmental arch headed windows on its west side and spanned by five oak floor beams and joists

The first floor also consisted of a single room (Plate 9) was divided by two upper cruck trusses that supported the roof. These had a high collar that allowed access through the truss. No evidence that the upper cruck blades were reused was present, they were clearly made for these structures specifically, as evident by iron strapping that joined the upper cruck blades and the wall plates in the place of what would traditionally have been a jointed timber cruck spur on a full cruck truss. The upper cruck blades were jointed by a high collar and supported a single purlin on each side of the roof, which in turn supported rafters largely nailed together at the apex. All of the timbers were of oak and both hand hewn and sawn.

The first floor had two low window openings on its western side and a wider segmental arch headed window on its southern gable, as well as a door to the higher ground level on its northern gable. It had a further internal door to the room above the tea room (Plate 11). A slight change in the wall alignment next to the eastern side of the southern upper cruck truss may suggest that the northern wall of the tea room was that of an earlier structure, but the exterior street side elevation shows the Former Gaol and the tea room to be contemporary. The flat laid rafters above the tea room are typical of the construction style of a pre 18<sup>th</sup> century building but are nailed at the apex, a typically 18<sup>th</sup> century and later method.

Curiously only part of the western side of the first floor room was lime rendered with lath and plaster added to the height of the upper cruck truss collars, though no evidence for this was present on the eastern side. Lime wash on the collars suggests an inserted ceiling to that height. Some graffiti was present next to door to the room above the tea room (Plate 12).

## 5.5 Phase 2: 19<sup>th</sup> century

The ground floor room was spilt in two with a wall across its middle. This could not be closely dated be likely to be contemporary with the change of windows and door in the southern room. No Phase 1 doors or windows remained; all appear to be 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards.

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## 5.6 Phase 3: 20<sup>th</sup> century

A metal frame window was added to the first floor gable window (Plate 6). This consisted of 48 small rectangular panes, 4 of which on its western side swung open horizontally from a central axis. These types of window are typical of the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, though it is likely that this one was inserted during the latter part of the range or later as it was clearly not designed for this window. This could be seen from its having wooden packers around three sides only as well as a layer of tile above the window sill for the same purpose. ,

The small protrusion of the Phase 1 building on the north-east corner was partly rebuilt with a variety of brick and reroofed using machine cut softwood (Plate 13).

## 6 Discussion

The building as likely to have been constructed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century was characteristic of a warehouse type structure, being formed of single rooms on each of its two floors that would have had access throughout and spanned by distinctive upper cruck trusses which were designed specifically for this building. The structure was connected to the domestic buildings to its east by their frontage walls as well as two internal doorways. Some suggestion of domestic use was present on the first floor. No evidence relating to the building's use as a gaol was present.

## 7 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.

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## 8 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, David Vice of Emmaus Consulting, Sarah Smith of Weedon Architects and Emma Hancox of Worcestershire County Council.

## 9 Bibliography

ClfA 2014 *Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

DCLG 2018 *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department for Communities and Local Government

Historic England 2015 *The Setting of Heritage Assets Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3*

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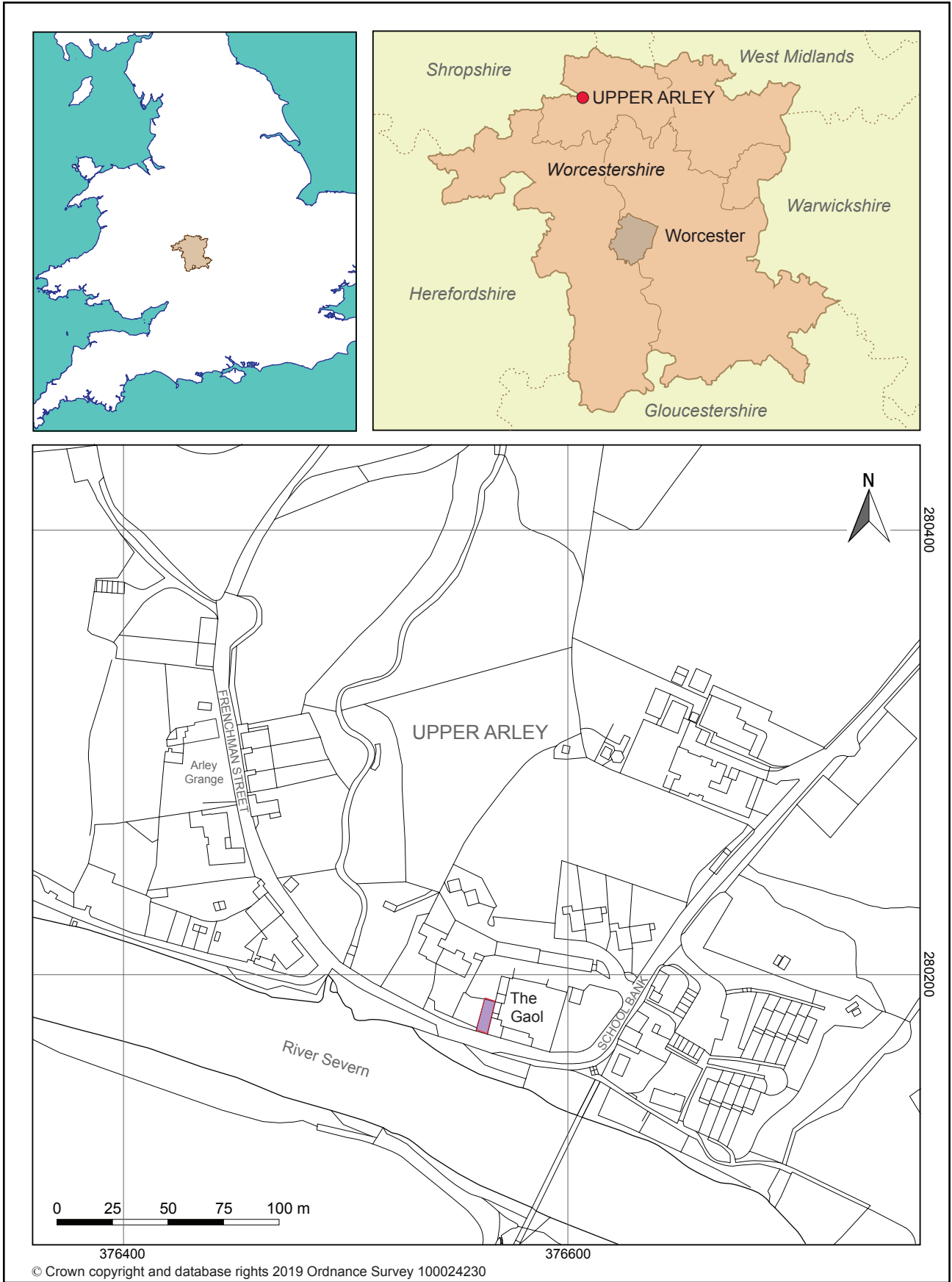
WA 2019 *Written Scheme of Investigation for recording of historic buildings and watching brief at Grange Court and The Gaol, Arley, Worcestershire*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019, P5461

WCC 2010 *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire*, Planning Advisory Section, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council unpublished report **604**, amended March 2016



## Figures

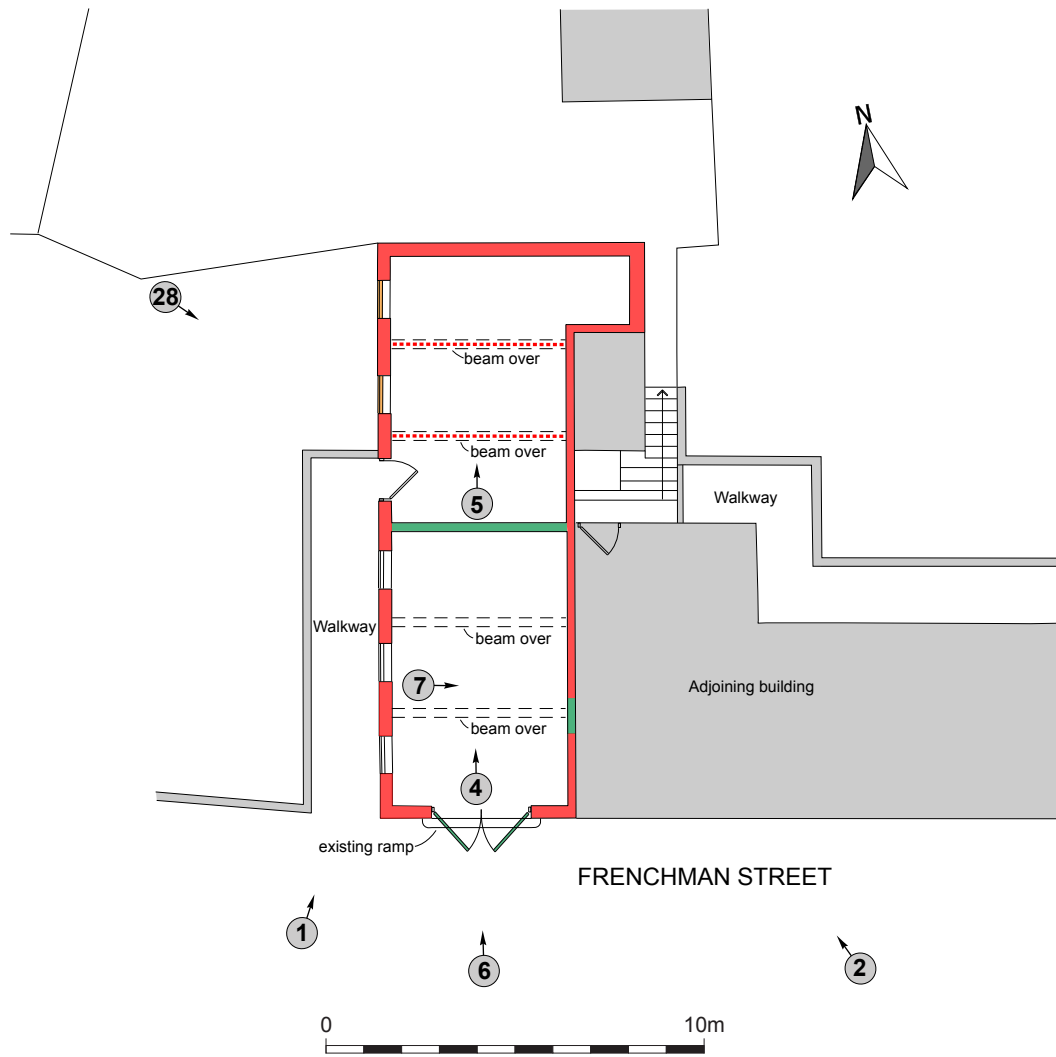




Location of the site

Figure 1

THE GAOL: GROUND FLOOR

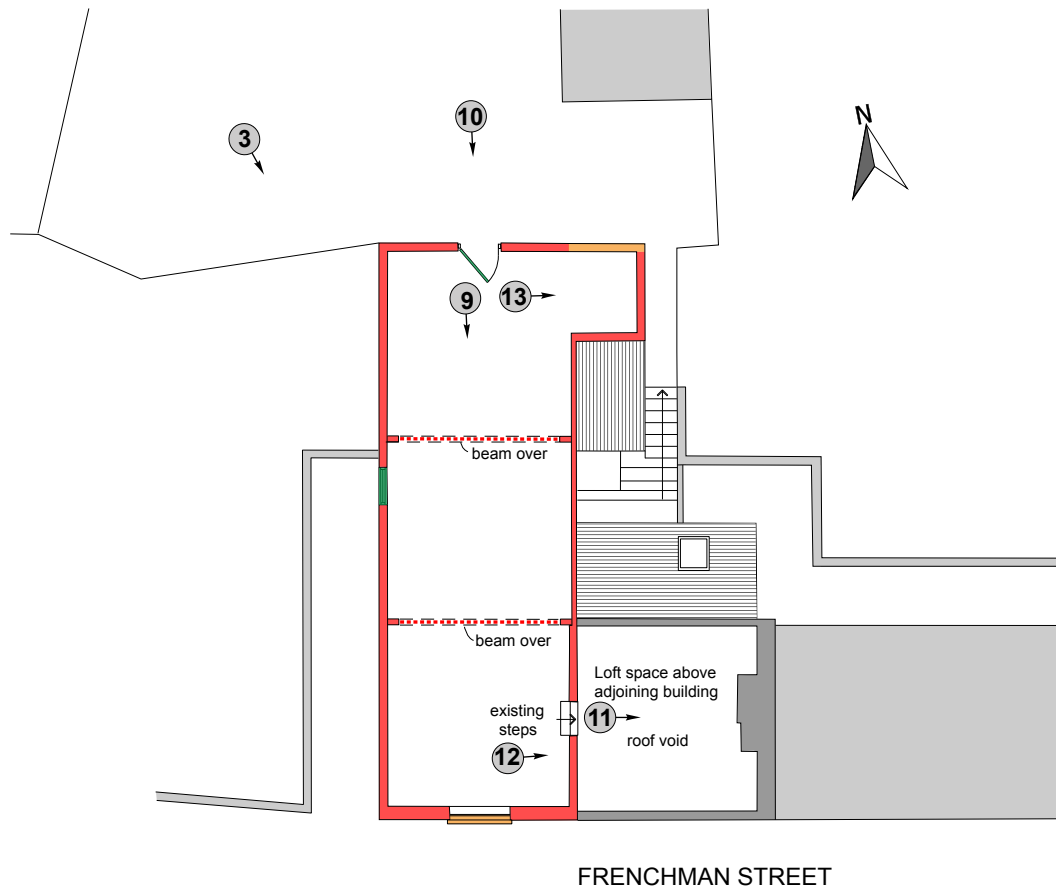


Key	
<span style="color: red;">■</span>	Phase 1: 18th century
<span style="color: green;">■</span>	Phase 2: 19th century
<span style="color: orange;">■</span>	Phase 3: 20th century

The Gaol Ground Floor Plan with plate locations  
(based upon Weedon Architects Dwg. 16103 A0810-B)

Figure 2

# THE GAOL: FIRST FLOOR



0 10m

Key

- Phase 1: 18th century
- Phase 2: 19th century
- Phase 3: 20th century

The Gaol First Floor Plan with plate locations  
(based upon Weedon Architects Dwg. 16103 A0811-B)

Figure 3

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## Plates



*Plate 1 The building, looking north-east*



*Plate 2 The building, looking north-west*

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*Plate 3 The building, looking south*



*Plate 4 The building ground floor, looking north*

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*Plate 5 The building ground floor, looking north, scale 1m*

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*Plate 6 The building, looking north, scale 1m*



*Plate 7 The building ground floor, looking east*





*Plate 8 The building, looking south-east, scale 1m*



*Plate 9 The building first floor, looking south, scale 1m*

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*Plate 10 The building first floor entrance, looking south, scale 1m*



*Plate 11 The building first floor, room over the cafe, looking east*



*Plate 12 The building first floor, next to the door to the room over the cafe looking east, 0.20m of scale 1m visible*





Plate 13 The building first floor, looking east, scale 1m

## **Appendix 1 Technical information**

### **The archive (site code: WSM71557)**

The archive consists of:

- 1 Field progress reports AS2
- 1 Photographic records AS3
- 72 Digital photographs
- 1 Scale drawings
- 1 Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

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